

The Economist/YouGov Poll
 January 2 - 5, 2026 - 1551 U.S. Adult citizens

YouGov

Sample 1551 U.S. Adult citizens
 Conducted January 2 - 5, 2026
 Margin of Error ±3.3%

1. Would you say things in this country today are...

Generally headed in the right direction	33%
Off on the wrong track	58%
Not sure	9%

2. At various times, there have been turning points in American politics, where things could have gone in a very different direction. At other times, things that seemed important turned out not to be significant. What does this moment feel more like to you?

A significant turning point	67%
Not too significant	15%
Not sure	18%

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

Strongly approve	22%
Somewhat approve	17%
Approve	39%
Somewhat disapprove	10%
Strongly disapprove	47%
Disapprove	56%
Not sure	4%

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling these specific issues?

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Disapprove	No opinion
The economy	19%	17%	36%	12%	45%	57%	7%
Inflation	16%	16%	32%	13%	46%	59%	9%
Taxes	18%	19%	36%	13%	39%	52%	12%
Government spending	16%	18%	34%	14%	44%	58%	8%
Investigation of Jeffrey Epstein	12%	12%	25%	11%	46%	56%	19%

5. How much, if anything, have you heard in the news about the Department of Justice releasing a trove of documents related to its investigation of Jeffrey Epstein?

A lot	44%
A little	45%
Nothing at all	12%

6. Should the U.S. government release all of its files from the investigation of Jeffrey Epstein?

Yes	77%
No	7%
Not sure	16%

7. Do you think Donald Trump is trying to cover up Jeffrey Epstein's crimes?

Yes	49%
No	30%
Not sure	21%

8. Do you think the United States should take an active part in world affairs or stay out of world affairs?

Active part	44%
Stay out	33%
Not sure	23%

9. How often do you think the U.S. should use military force to advance its policy goals?

Often	6%
Sometimes	30%
Rarely	35%
Never	17%
Not sure	12%

10. Do you think that U.S. foreign military interventions more often improve or worsen situations in the countries where they occur?

Improve	21%
Worsen	43%
Neither improve nor worsen	17%
Not sure	19%

11. Do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. military enforcing a complete blockade of sanctioned oil tankers in and out of Venezuela?

Strongly approve	21%
Somewhat approve	15%
Approve	36%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	27%
Disapprove	41%
Not sure	23%

12. Would you support or oppose the U.S. using military force to invade Venezuela?

Strongly support	13%
Somewhat support	13%
Support	26%
Somewhat oppose	16%
Strongly oppose	39%
Oppose	56%
Not sure	18%

13. If President Trump wants to use military force in Venezuela, should he first seek authorization from the U.S. Congress?

Yes	66%
No	19%
Not sure	15%

14. Do you support or oppose the U.S. using military force to overthrow Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro?

Strongly support	17%
Somewhat support	15%
Support	33%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	31%
Oppose	44%
Not sure	23%

15. Do you think the situation in Venezuela is a "national emergency" for the U.S.?

Yes	22%
No	52%
Not sure	26%

16. Do you approve or disapprove of how Donald Trump is handling Venezuela?

Strongly approve	19%
Somewhat approve	14%
Approve	32%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	37%
Disapprove	49%
Not sure	18%

17. How serious of a threat do you think the Islamic State (ISIS) poses to the United States?

An immediate and serious threat to the U.S.	27%
A somewhat serious threat to the U.S.	37%
A minor threat to the U.S.	17%
Not a threat to the U.S.	5%
Not sure	13%

18. Do you approve or disapprove of the recent U.S. military strikes targeting ISIS in Nigeria?

Strongly approve	27%
Somewhat approve	20%
Approve	47%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	17%
Disapprove	29%
Not sure	24%

19. Do you approve or disapprove of how Donald Trump is handling terrorism?

Strongly approve	26%
Somewhat approve	19%
Approve	45%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	29%
Disapprove	40%
Not sure	15%

20. How would you describe the current state of the American economy?

Excellent	4%
Good	22%
Fair	33%
Poor	38%
Don't know	3%

21. Overall, do you think the economy is getting better or getting worse?

Getting better	24%
About the same	21%
Getting worse	52%
Not sure	4%

22. Thinking ahead to 12 months from now, will prices be higher or lower than they are today?

Higher	57%
About the same	18%
Lower	15%
Not sure	11%

23. Which do you think is a more important problem facing the U.S. today?

Unemployment	7%
Inflation	37%
Both equal	48%
Not sure	7%

24. Do you think the amount that billionaires are currently taxed in the U.S. is too high or too low?

Much too high	3%
Somewhat too high	4%
About right	16%
Somewhat too low	16%
Much too low	46%
Not sure	14%

25. Do you think the rich have too much political power in the U.S.?

Yes	80%
No	8%
Not sure	12%

26. How big a problem is the gap between the rich and the poor in the U.S. today?

Very big problem	52%
Somewhat big problem	28%
Minor problem	14%
Not a problem	6%

27. Do you think the federal government should or should not pursue policies that try to reduce the gap in wealth between the richest and poorest Americans?

Should	59%
Should not	21%
Not sure	20%

28. When children today in the U.S. grow up, do you think they will be better off or worse off financially than their parents?

Better off	13%
About the same	17%
Worse off	54%
Not sure	16%

29. What do you think is the more important factor in determining why some people are richer than others?

How hard they work	18%
Whether they come from a privileged background	40%
Equally important	32%
Not sure	10%

30. Is now a good or a bad time to invest in the stock market?

Good time	.....	26%
Bad time	.....	19%
Not sure	.....	54%

31. Do you personally (or jointly with a spouse), have any money invested in the stock market right now, either in an individual stock or in a mutual fund?

Yes	.....	41%
No	.....	59%

32. About how much in total do you have invested in stocks and mutual funds?

No money invested	.....	59%
Under \$50,000	.....	14%
\$50,000 - \$100,000	.....	6%
\$100,000 - \$250,000	.....	6%
\$250,000 - \$500,000	.....	4%
Over \$500,000	.....	6%
Not sure	.....	5%

33. How would you describe your social class?

Working class	.....	47%
Middle class	.....	41%
Upper middle class	.....	11%
Wealthy	.....	1%

34. Would you say that you and your family are...

Better off financially than you were a year ago	.....	18%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	.....	42%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	.....	35%
Not sure	.....	5%

35. Looking ahead, do you think that A YEAR FROM NOW you and your household will be...

Better off financially	.....	26%
Just about the same as now	.....	36%
Worse off financially	.....	23%
Not sure	.....	15%

36. How happy are you with your current job?

Asked of those currently employed

Very happy	18%
Happy	44%
Neither happy nor unhappy	29%
Unhappy	6%
Very unhappy	3%

37. Thinking about the total amount you earn from your job, including bonuses, commissions, and tips, do you expect to earn more or less in the next 12 months than you did in the previous 12 months?

Asked of those currently employed

Much more	8%
Slightly more	34%
About the same	42%
Slightly less	6%
Much less	4%
Not sure	8%

38. How worried are you about losing your job?

Asked of those currently employed

Very worried	8%
Somewhat worried	26%
Not very worried	66%

39. If you lost your job, how hard would it be for you to find a new job that paid as much as you are making now?

Asked of those currently employed

Very hard – I would probably have to take a pay cut.	22%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	44%
Not very hard	23%
Not sure	10%

40. How easy would it be for you to pay an unexpected \$1,000 expense?

Very easy	17%
Somewhat easy	22%
Somewhat difficult	23%
Very difficult	20%
Impossible	18%

41. In your experience, have prices of the following goods gone up or down in the last year?

	Gone up a lot	Gone up a little	Not changed	Gone down a little	Gone down a lot	Not sure
Gas	15%	24%	13%	29%	12%	7%
Cars	43%	22%	9%	3%	0%	22%
Food	56%	26%	7%	8%	1%	3%
Housing costs (such as rent or mortgage payments)	47%	26%	12%	3%	1%	12%

42. Have you put off any of the following this year in order to save money? Select all that apply.

- Doing home repairs or maintenance 30%
- Doing car repairs or maintenance 23%
- Receiving medical care 19%
- Buying new clothes or other personal items 42%
- Going on a vacation or taking time off 39%
- Buying a gift for someone else 31%
- None of the above 31%
- Not sure 5%

43. Do you own or rent the place you currently live?

- Own 52%
- Rent 37%
- Other 10%

44. Has [the value of your home / your rent] increased or decreased over the past year?

- Increased a lot 17%
- Increased a little 38%
- No change 27%
- Decreased a little 6%
- Decreased a lot 2%
- Not sure 10%

45. In the United States, how easy or difficult is it for families to find housing they can afford?

- Very easy 2%
- Somewhat easy 8%
- Somewhat difficult 39%
- Very difficult 40%
- Not sure 10%

46. In your community, how easy or difficult is it for families to find housing they can afford?

Very easy	2%
Somewhat easy	13%
Somewhat difficult	37%
Very difficult	34%
Not sure	13%

47. Which of these is the most important issue for you?

Inflation/prices	30%
Jobs and the economy	13%
Health care	11%
Immigration	9%
Taxes and government spending	7%
Civil rights	6%
Climate change and the environment	5%
National Security	4%
Crime	3%
Civil liberties	3%
Abortion	3%
Guns	2%
Education	2%
Foreign policy	1%
Criminal justice reform	1%

48. Are you a MAGA supporter?

Yes	23%
No	65%
Not sure	12%

49. If the elections for U.S. Congress were being held today, who would you vote for in the district where you live?

The Democratic Party candidate	39%
The Republican Party candidate	32%
Other	2%
Not sure	14%
I would not vote	14%

50. In general, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?

Very liberal	12%
Liberal	17%
Total Liberal	29%
Moderate	30%
Conservative	21%
Very conservative	11%
Total Conservative	32%
Not sure	10%

51. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	73%
Not registered	27%

52. 2024 Presidential Vote

Kamala Harris	31%
Donald Trump	32%
Other	1%
Did not vote for President	36%

53. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?

Democrat	30%
Republican	32%
Independent	27%
Other	5%
Not sure	7%

54. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	20%
Not very strong Democrat	10%
Lean Democrat	8%
Independent	19%
Lean Republican	8%
Not very strong Republican	13%
Strong Republican	19%
Not sure	2%

55. Are you...?

Male	48%
Female	52%

56. Respondent age by category

Under 30	.....	20%
30-44	.....	24%
45-64	.....	33%
65+	.....	22%

57. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	.....	67%
Black	.....	13%
Hispanic	.....	13%
Other	.....	7%

58. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

HS or less	.....	36%
Some college	.....	29%
College grad	.....	22%
Postgrad	.....	13%

59. What is your marital status?

Married	.....	40%
Separated	.....	1%
Divorced	.....	13%
Widowed	.....	5%
Never married	.....	37%
Domestic / civil partnership	.....	5%

60. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under the age of 18?

Yes	.....	23%
No	.....	77%

61. In what region of the country do you reside?

Calculated from respondent's state of residence

Northeast	.....	16%
Midwest	.....	23%
South	.....	36%
West	.....	24%

62. Thinking back over the last year, what was your family's annual income?

Under \$50K	.....	41%
\$50-100K	.....	25%
\$100K or more	.....	23%
Prefer not to say	.....	10%

63. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?

More than once a week	6%
Once a week	14%
Once or twice a month	8%
A few times a year	12%
Seldom	23%
Never	35%
Don't know	2%

64. Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

Yes	29%
No	71%

65. People practice their religion in different ways. Outside of attending religious services, how often do you pray?

Several times a day	26%
Once a day	12%
A few times a week	10%
Once a week	2%
A few times a month	7%
Seldom	17%
Never	23%
Don't know	3%

66. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	30%
Roman Catholic	18%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	0%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	7%
Agnostic	5%
Nothing in particular	25%
Something else	9%

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YouGov®

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	January 2 - 5, 2026
Target population	U.S. Citizens, age 18 and over
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in panel to be representative of adult U.S. citizens.
Sample composition	1,883 started the survey after screenouts. 194 were deleted due to breakoffs, 92 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 6 were removed for attention check failures, and 40 were removed for data quality control. The reporting is based on the remaining 1,551 respondents.
Weighting	The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race, education, U.S. region of residence, 2024 election turnout and presidential vote, 2020 election turnout and presidential vote, baseline party identification, and current voter registration status. 2024 presidential vote, at time of weighting was estimated to be 48% Harris and 50% Trump. Demographic weighting targets come from the 2019 American Community Survey. Baseline party identification is the respondent's most recent answer given around November 8, 2024, and is weighted to the estimated distribution at that time (31% Democratic, 33% Republican). The weights range from 0.052 to 6.57, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.878.
Number of respondents	1551 1389 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 3.3% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3.1% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	3 questions not reported.