

The Economist/YouGov Poll

July 31 - August 3, 2026 - 1609 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1609 U.S. Adult citizens
Conducted July 31 - August 3, 2026
Margin of Error $\pm 3.6\%$

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

Generally headed in the right direction	30%
Off on the wrong track	64%
Not sure	7%

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	61%
Not too significant	18%
Not sure	21%

3. All things considered, in our society today, do you think there are more advantages in being a man or a woman?

More advantages in being a man	50%
More advantages in being a woman	13%
No difference	36%

4. If either option were available, would you pursue a career outside the home or stay home to care for your family?

Pursue a career outside the home	47%
Stay home to care for your family	37%
Not sure	17%

5. Which comes closer to your view?

Men and women are equally capable of taking on all roles	51%
Men are more suited for some roles and women more suited for other roles	45%
Not sure	4%

6. Which comes closer to your view?

Most differences between men and women are the result of biology	46%
Most differences between men and women are the result of society and culture	45%
Not sure	9%

7. Has the country gone too far or not far enough in promoting equality between men and women?

Too far	17%
About the right amount	37%
Not far enough	46%

8. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of feminism?

Favorable	49%
Unfavorable	31%
Very favorable	21%
Somewhat favorable	28%
Somewhat unfavorable	19%
Very unfavorable	12%
Don't know	20%

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

Approve	36%
Disapprove	60%
Strongly approve	22%
Somewhat approve	15%
Somewhat disapprove	10%
Strongly disapprove	49%
Not sure	4%

10. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the following things?

	Approve	Disapprove	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
The economy	30%	65%	14%	16%	14%	52%	5%
Inflation	25%	69%	12%	14%	17%	52%	6%
Taxes	31%	60%	15%	16%	14%	46%	9%
Government spending	29%	64%	13%	16%	13%	52%	7%

11. Do Democrats in Congress challenge Donald Trump too much, too little, or about the right amount?

Too much	32%
Too little	40%
About the right amount	14%
Not sure	14%

12. Do Republicans in Congress go along with Donald Trump too much, too little, or about the right amount?

Too much	51%
Too little	16%
About the right amount	19%
Not sure	14%

13. How much do you know about President Trump's "anti-weaponization fund" and settlement with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS)?

A lot	11%
Some	20%
A little	23%
Nothing	47%

14. Do you support or oppose creating a \$1.776 billion anti-weaponization fund to compensate people who were convicted of January 6-related crimes and who claim they were unfairly treated by the government?

Support	20%
Oppose	56%
Not sure	24%

15. Should the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) agree to stop auditing the tax returns of Donald Trump, his family, and his companies?

Yes	19%
No	63%
Not sure	19%

16. Do you think the U.S. Senate should confirm Todd Blanche's appointment as U.S. Attorney General?

Yes	20%
No	32%
Not sure	48%

17. Do you think the federal government should increase or decrease what it spends on...?

	Increase a lot	Increase slightly	Keep the same	Decrease slightly	Decrease a lot	Not sure
National defense	21%	18%	24%	13%	17%	6%
Veterans	45%	30%	16%	2%	2%	5%
Education	46%	22%	17%	5%	6%	4%
The environment	36%	24%	19%	8%	9%	5%
Foreign aid	11%	12%	21%	20%	29%	7%

18. Favorability of Respondent's Congressperson

Favorable	35%
Unfavorable	30%
Very favorable	14%
Somewhat favorable	21%
Somewhat unfavorable	11%
Very unfavorable	19%
No opinion	35%

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

The Democratic candidate	41%
The Republican candidate	33%
Other	1%
Not sure	9%
I would not vote	16%

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

Total Excellent/Good	27%
Total Fair/Poor	71%
Excellent	6%
Good	21%
Fair	27%
Poor	43%
Don't know	2%

21. Have you heard mostly positive or mostly negative news stories about the economy, or have you not heard much news at all about the economy?

Mostly positive	4%
Equally positive and negative	27%
Mostly negative	56%
Not heard much news about the economy at all	13%

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

Getting better	16%
About the same	20%
Getting worse	57%
Not sure	6%

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

Unemployment	4%
Inflation	46%
Both equal	45%
Not sure	5%

24. In your experience, have prices of the following goods gone up or down in the last 12 months?

	Gone up a lot	Gone up a little	Not changed	Gone down a little	Gone down a lot	Not sure
Gas	70%	21%	2%	3%	1%	3%
Cars	51%	22%	8%	1%	0%	17%
Food	64%	27%	4%	3%	0%	2%
Housing	61%	22%	6%	3%	0%	8%

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

Higher	58%
About the same	17%
Lower	10%
Not sure	15%

26. Do you believe the United States is currently in an economic recession?

Yes	40%
No	33%
Not sure	28%

27. How likely do you think it is that there will be an economic recession during the next 12 months?

Very likely	4%
Somewhat likely	17%
Not very likely	16%
Not at all likely	6%
Not sure	18%
Not asked - Already in a recession	40%

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

Good time	24%
Bad time	29%
Not sure	48%

29. 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	36%
No	64%

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

No money invested	64%
Under \$50,000	13%
\$50,000 - \$100,000	5%
\$100,000 - \$250,000	4%
\$250,000 - \$500,000	3%
Over \$500,000	6%
Not sure	5%

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

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

32. 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	40%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	38%
Not sure	4%
Not sure (1)	0%

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

Better off financially	28%
Just about the same as now	34%
Worse off financially	24%
Not sure	14%

34. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

Full-time	37%
Part-time	12%
Temporarily laid off	1%
Unemployed	11%
Retired	21%
Permanently disabled	7%
Homemaker	4%
Student	5%
Other	1%

35. How happy are you with your current job?

Asked of those currently employed

Very happy	16%
Happy	44%
Neither happy nor unhappy	24%
Unhappy	9%
Very unhappy	7%

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

Less than \$10,000	8%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	8%

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\$20,000 - \$29,999	11%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	9%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	6%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	7%
\$60,000 - \$69,999	5%
\$70,000 - \$79,999	7%
\$80,000 - \$99,999	8%
\$100,000 - \$119,999	6%
\$120,000 - \$149,999	5%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	6%
\$200,000 - \$249,999	3%
\$250,000 - \$349,999	1%
\$350,000 - \$499,999	0%
\$500,000 or more	0%
Prefer not to say	9%

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

Under \$50K	42%
\$50-100K	27%
\$100K or more	22%
Prefer not to say	9%

38. 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	6%
Slightly more	32%
About the same	43%
Slightly less	5%
Much less	5%
Not sure	8%

39. How worried are you about losing your job?

Asked of those currently employed

Very worried	8%
Somewhat worried	27%
Not very worried	65%

40. 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.	26%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	39%
Not very hard	23%
Not sure	12%

41. 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	58%
Should not	22%
Not sure	21%

42. How would you describe your social class?

Working class	50%
Middle class	39%
Upper middle class	11%
Wealthy	1%

43. 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	15%
About the same	18%
Worse off	51%
Not sure	16%

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

How hard they work	19%
Whether they come from a privileged background	40%
Equally important	33%
Not sure	8%

45. Do you think the Federal Reserve should raise or lower interest rates?

Lower interest rates	46%
Raise interest rates	8%
Not change interest rates	14%
Not sure	32%

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

Inflation/prices	34%
Jobs and the economy	13%
Health care	12%
Immigration	7%
Climate change and the environment	6%
Taxes and government spending	6%
Civil rights	5%
Crime	3%
Civil liberties	3%
National Security	3%
Education	2%
Abortion	2%
Foreign policy	2%
Guns	1%
Criminal justice reform	1%

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

Total Liberal	31%
Total Conservative	32%
Very liberal	15%
Liberal	16%
Moderate	28%
Conservative	21%
Very conservative	11%
Not sure	9%

48. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	74%
Not registered	26%

49. 2024 Presidential Vote

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

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

Democrat	31%
Republican	32%
Independent	22%
Other	5%
Not sure	9%

51. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	22%
Not very strong Democrat	9%
Lean Democrat	8%
Independent	19%
Lean Republican	6%
Not very strong Republican	11%
Strong Republican	22%
Not sure	3%

52. Are you a MAGA supporter?

Yes	23%
No	67%
Not sure	10%

53. Are you... ?

Male	48%
Female	52%

54. Respondent age by category

Under 30	21%
30-44	24%
45-64	32%
65+	22%

55. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	67%
Black	13%
Hispanic	13%
Other	6%

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

HS or less	37%
Some college	30%
College grad	21%
Postgrad	12%

57. What is your marital status?

Married	38%
Separated	2%
Divorced	13%
Widowed	6%
Never married	37%
Domestic / civil partnership	4%

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

Yes	24%
No	76%

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

Calculated from respondent's state of residence

Northeast	18%
Midwest	22%
South	38%
West	23%

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

More than once a week	8%
Once a week	18%
Once or twice a month	5%
A few times a year	10%
Seldom	19%
Never	38%
Don't know	2%

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

Yes	31%
No	69%

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

Several times a day	27%
Once a day	13%
A few times a week	10%
Once a week	2%
A few times a month	5%
Seldom	15%
Never	24%
Don't know	4%

63. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	27%
Roman Catholic	21%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	0%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	7%
Agnostic	7%
Nothing in particular	22%
Something else	11%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	July 31 - August 3, 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	2,098 started the survey after screenouts. 226 were deleted due to breakoffs, 47 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 10 were removed for attention check failures, and 127 were removed for data quality control. The reporting is based on the remaining 1,688 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 6.577, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.061.
Number of respondents	1609 1473 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 3.6% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3.3% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	9 questions not reported.