

# The Economist/YouGov Poll

## May 15 - 18, 2026 - 1549 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1549 U.S. Adult citizens  
Conducted May 15 - 18, 2026  
Margin of Error  $\pm 3.3\%$

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

Generally headed in the right direction	26%
Off on the wrong track	65%
Not sure	9%

### 2. Among the world's countries, would you say that the United States is...?

The greatest	22%
Among the greatest	19%
Better than average	13%
About average	13%
Worse than average	12%
Among the worst	9%
The worst	4%
Not sure	8%

### 3. Which comes closest to your view?

Our lives are threatened by terrorists, criminals, and illegal immigrants and our priority should be to protect ourselves.	36%
It's a big, beautiful world, mostly full of good people, and we must find a way to embrace each other and not allow ourselves to become isolated.	51%
Not sure	13%

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

Active part	47%
Stay out	31%
Not sure	22%

### 5. In general, do you think the U.S. has a responsibility to actively promote democracy around the world?

Has responsibility	43%
Does not have responsibility	35%
Not sure	22%

### 6. Do you think the U.S. should increase or decrease trade with foreign countries?

Increase	38%
Decrease	14%
Keep it the same	28%
Not sure	20%

7. Do you think that tariffs on foreign goods imported into the U.S. should be increased or decreased?

Increased .....	13%
Kept the same .....	24%
Decreased .....	47%
Not sure .....	16%

8. In February, the Supreme Court ruled that \$166 billion in tariffs imposed by President Trump were invalid. Should the government refund these tariffs to the companies that paid them?

Yes .....	52%
No .....	28%
Not sure .....	20%

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

<b>Approve</b> .....	<b>37%</b>
<b>Disapprove</b> .....	<b>57%</b>
Strongly approve .....	19%
Somewhat approve .....	18%
Somewhat disapprove .....	9%
Strongly disapprove .....	49%
Not sure .....	6%

10. Donald Trump has sued the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) for \$10 billion for an unauthorized release of his tax returns. Do you think the IRS should pay Trump \$10 billion?

Yes .....	19%
No .....	64%
Not sure .....	17%

11. Do you think President Trump is using his office for personal gain?

Yes .....	59%
No .....	30%
Not sure .....	11%

12. Do you think President Trump is focused too much or too little on foreign policy?

Too much .....	38%
About the right amount .....	31%
Too little .....	12%
Not sure .....	19%

13. Do you think America's standing in the world has improved or worsened since Donald Trump became president again in 2025?

Improved .....	26%
Stayed about the same .....	11%
Worsened .....	53%
Not sure .....	9%

14. 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
Foreign policy	<b>36%</b>	<b>56%</b>	18%	18%	11%	45%	8%
Tariffs	<b>31%</b>	<b>60%</b>	16%	15%	13%	47%	9%
National security	<b>42%</b>	<b>49%</b>	25%	17%	8%	41%	9%

15. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Xi Jinping?

<b>Favorable</b> .....	<b>16%</b>
<b>Unfavorable</b> .....	<b>52%</b>
Very favorable .....	3%
Somewhat favorable .....	12%
Somewhat unfavorable .....	26%
Very unfavorable .....	25%
Not sure .....	33%

16. This past week, Trump held a summit with Xi Jinping. Who do you think got more out of this summit?

Donald Trump .....	11%
Xi Jinping .....	28%
Both got an equal amount out of the summit .....	24%
Not sure .....	36%

17. President Trump told President Xi, "You are a great leader." Do you agree?

Yes .....	22%
No .....	39%
Not sure .....	39%

18. Do you think trade with China makes the U.S. better off or worse off?

Much better off .....	13%
Somewhat better off .....	31%
Neither better nor worse off .....	26%
Somewhat worse off .....	10%
Much worse off .....	5%
Not sure .....	16%

<b>19. Should U.S. companies share artificial intelligence research with Chinese companies?</b>	
Yes .....	16%
No .....	51%
Not sure .....	33%
<b>20. Should Chinese companies share artificial intelligence research with U.S. companies?</b>	
Yes .....	29%
No .....	35%
Not sure .....	36%
<b>21. Which country has the lead in artificial intelligence?</b>	
China .....	24%
U.S. ....	25%
About the same .....	21%
Not sure .....	30%
<b>22. How likely is China to invade Taiwan during the next 12 months?</b>	
Extremely unlikely .....	6%
Unlikely .....	19%
Neither likely nor unlikely .....	44%
Likely .....	25%
Extremely likely .....	6%
<b>23. Should the U.S. sell military weapons to Taiwan?</b>	
Yes .....	37%
No .....	32%
Unsure .....	31%
<b>24. Which is more important for the U.S.?</b>	
To prevent China from taking over Taiwan .....	35%
To maintain good relations with China .....	36%
Unsure .....	29%
<b>25. Should the U.S. be willing to use military force to protect Taiwan from being invaded by China?</b>	
Should be willing .....	35%
Should not be willing .....	24%
Not sure .....	41%

26. Do you consider the following to be an ally or an enemy of the United States?

	Ally	Friendly	Unfriendly	Enemy	Not sure
Russia	3%	10%	30%	40%	18%
Ukraine	30%	38%	8%	4%	20%
China	5%	25%	33%	15%	21%
Taiwan	30%	39%	5%	1%	24%
Japan	42%	33%	4%	2%	20%
India	13%	44%	11%	3%	29%
Vietnam	10%	40%	12%	4%	34%
North Korea	2%	6%	23%	51%	18%
South Korea	36%	34%	6%	4%	20%

27. Do you support or oppose the war with Iran?

<b>Support</b> .....	<b>30%</b>
<b>Oppose</b> .....	<b>60%</b>
Strongly support .....	14%
Somewhat support .....	16%
Somewhat oppose .....	14%
Strongly oppose .....	46%
Not sure .....	10%

28. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the situation in Iran?

<b>Approve</b> .....	<b>31%</b>
<b>Disapprove</b> .....	<b>59%</b>
Strongly approve .....	15%
Somewhat approve .....	15%
Somewhat disapprove .....	12%
Strongly disapprove .....	48%
No opinion .....	10%

29. How much more time do you think the war in Iran will last?

The war is already over .....	6%
A week or less .....	2%
More than a week but less than a month .....	10%
More than a month but less than a year .....	46%
A year or more .....	37%

30. In the war between the U.S. and Iran, who do you think [is currently winning / has won]?

The U.S. ....	32%
Iran .....	16%
Neither .....	38%
Not sure .....	15%

31. Who do you think will win the war between the U.S. and Iran?

The U.S. ....	37%
Iran ....	13%
Neither ....	29%
Not sure ....	21%

32. In the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, who do you sympathize with more?

Russia ....	4%
Ukraine ....	65%
Neither ....	20%
Not sure ....	12%

33. Do you favor the U.S. increasing or decreasing military aid to Ukraine?

Increasing military aid to Ukraine ....	33%
Maintaining the same amount of military aid to Ukraine ....	24%
Decreasing military aid to Ukraine ....	10%
Stopping all military aid to Ukraine ....	12%
Not sure ....	21%

34. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the situation with Russia and Ukraine?

<b>Approve</b> ....	<b>28%</b>
<b>Disapprove</b> ....	<b>51%</b>
Strongly approve ....	10%
Somewhat approve ....	19%
Somewhat disapprove ....	13%
Strongly disapprove ....	39%
Not sure ....	20%

35. In the war between Russia and Ukraine, who do you think is currently winning?

Russia ....	21%
Ukraine ....	16%
Neither ....	40%
Not sure ....	24%

36. Last year, Trump held a summit with Vladimir Putin. Who do you think got more out of this summit?

Donald Trump ....	9%
Vladimir Putin ....	33%
Both got an equal amount out of the summit ....	23%
Not sure ....	34%

37. 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 .....	40%
The Republican Party candidate .....	35%
Other .....	1%
Not sure .....	9%
I would not vote .....	14%

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

<b>Total Excellent/Good .....</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Total Fair/Poor .....</b>	<b>75%</b>
Excellent .....	4%
Good .....	18%
Fair .....	30%
Poor .....	45%
Don't know .....	3%

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

Getting better .....	15%
About the same .....	17%
Getting worse .....	63%
Not sure .....	6%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago .....	13%
About the same financially as you were a year ago .....	39%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago .....	41%
Not sure .....	6%

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

Better off financially .....	24%
Just about the same as now .....	30%
Worse off financially .....	30%
Not sure .....	15%

42. Are the prices of the following going up or going down where you live?

	Going up a lot	Going up a little	Not changing	Going down a little	Going down a lot	Not sure
Gas	76%	16%	4%	2%	0%	1%
Groceries	58%	29%	8%	2%	0%	2%
Housing	51%	24%	11%	3%	0%	11%

**43. Do you think Social Security benefits should be increased or decreased?**

Increased .....	67%
Kept the same .....	19%
Decreased .....	2%
Not sure .....	12%

**44. Do employers pay Social Security taxes for their employees (in addition to the amounts paid by their employees)?**

Yes .....	45%
No .....	13%
Not sure .....	42%

**45. Do most Social Security recipients [pay more than they receive in benefits / receive more in benefits than they pay in] over their lifetimes?**

Pay more than they receive in benefits .....	34%
Receive more in benefits than they pay in .....	18%
About the same .....	12%
Not sure .....	36%

**46. Will Social Security be able to pay benefits to today's workers when they retire?**

Definitely .....	6%
Probably .....	16%
Maybe .....	26%
Probably not .....	25%
Definitely not .....	7%
Not sure .....	19%

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

Inflation/prices .....	29%
Jobs and the economy .....	13%
Health care .....	10%
Taxes and government spending .....	8%
Civil rights .....	7%
Immigration .....	5%
National Security .....	4%
Climate change and the environment .....	5%
Civil liberties .....	4%
Crime .....	4%
Abortion .....	3%
Education .....	2%
Guns .....	2%
Foreign policy .....	2%
Criminal justice reform .....	1%

48. Who do you think is the best late-night comedian on TV?

Stephen Colbert .....	12%
Jimmy Fallon .....	13%
Jimmy Kimmel .....	11%
Greg Gutfeld .....	12%
Jon Stewart .....	8%
John Oliver .....	5%
James Corden .....	1%
None of the above .....	38%

49. Do you approve or disapprove of CBS's decision to cancel The Late Show with Stephen Colbert?

Approve .....	24%
Disapprove .....	40%
No opinion .....	36%

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

<b>Total Liberal</b> .....	<b>29%</b>
<b>Total Conservative</b> .....	<b>32%</b>
Very liberal .....	13%
Liberal .....	16%
Moderate .....	29%
Conservative .....	20%
Very conservative .....	12%
Not sure .....	11%

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 .....	31%
Independent .....	29%
Other .....	4%
Not sure .....	6%

**54. Political Party Identification**

*Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification*

Strong Democrat .....	22%
Not very strong Democrat .....	8%
Lean Democrat .....	10%
Independent .....	20%
Lean Republican .....	7%
Not very strong Republican .....	9%
Strong Republican .....	21%
Not sure .....	3%

**55. Are you a MAGA supporter?**

Yes .....	23%
No .....	66%
Not sure .....	12%

**56. Are you... ?**

Male .....	49%
Female .....	51%

**57. Respondent age by category**

Under 30 .....	21%
30-44 .....	24%
45-64 .....	33%
65+ .....	22%

**58. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?**

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

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

HS or less .....	36%
Some college .....	29%
College grad .....	22%
Postgrad .....	12%

60. What is your marital status?

Married .....	37%
Separated .....	2%
Divorced .....	14%
Widowed .....	6%
Never married .....	39%
Domestic / civil partnership .....	3%

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

Yes .....	17%
No .....	83%

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

*Calculated from respondent's state of residence*

Northeast .....	16%
Midwest .....	23%
South .....	38%
West .....	23%

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

Under \$50K .....	42%
\$50-100K .....	25%
\$100K or more .....	22%
Prefer not to say .....	11%

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

More than once a week .....	9%
Once a week .....	16%
Once or twice a month .....	5%
A few times a year .....	11%
Seldom .....	19%
Never .....	38%
Don't know .....	3%

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

Yes .....	31%
No .....	69%

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

Several times a day .....	28%
Once a day .....	14%
A few times a week .....	10%
Once a week .....	2%
A few times a month .....	5%
Seldom .....	14%
Never .....	24%
Don't know .....	3%

67. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant .....	26%
Roman Catholic .....	19%
Mormon .....	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox .....	1%
Jewish .....	3%
Muslim .....	1%
Buddhist .....	0%
Hindu .....	0%
Atheist .....	7%
Agnostic .....	6%
Nothing in particular .....	23%
Something else .....	14%

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<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	May 15 - 18, 2026
<b>Target population</b>	U.S. Citizens, age 18 and over
<b>Sampling method</b>	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in panel to be representative of adult U.S. citizens.
<b>Sample composition</b>	2,034 started the survey after screenouts. 273 were deleted due to breakoffs, 16 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 22 were removed for attention check failures, and 96 were removed for data quality control. The reporting is based on the remaining 1,627 respondents.
<b>Weighting</b>	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 0.051 to 6.562, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.884.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1549 1380 (Registered voters)
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 3.3% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3.3% (Registered voters)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	3 questions not reported.