

The Economist/YouGov Poll

October 4 - 6, 2025 - 1648 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1648 U.S. Adult citizens
Conducted October 4 - 6, 2025
Margin of Error $\pm 3.4\%$

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

| | |
|---|-----|
| Generally headed in the right direction | 32% |
| Off on the wrong track | 59% |
| Not sure | 9% |

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Pete Hegseth is handling his job as United States Secretary of Defense?

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Strongly approve | 20% |
| Somewhat approve | 12% |
| Approve | 32% |
| Somewhat disapprove | 8% |
| Strongly disapprove | 34% |
| Disapprove | 41% |
| Not sure | 27% |

3. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement made by Pete Hegseth about the U.S. military? "We also don't fight with stupid rules of engagement. We untie the hands of our warfighters to intimidate, demoralize, hunt and kill the enemies of our country. No more politically correct and overbearing rules of engagement, just common sense, maximum lethality and authority for warfighters."

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| Agree completely | 24% |
| Agree somewhat | 12% |
| Agree | 36% |
| Neither agree nor disagree | 24% |
| Disagree Somewhat | 9% |
| Disagree | 33% |
| Disagree completely | 31% |

4. Should members of the U.S. military be allowed to have beards?

| | |
|----------|-----|
| Yes | 50% |
| No | 26% |
| Not sure | 24% |

5. How serious of a problem are fat generals and admirals in the U.S. military?

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Very serious problem | 13% |
| Somewhat serious problem | 23% |
| Minor problem | 22% |
| Not a problem | 22% |
| Not sure | 19% |

6. Do you favor or oppose sending the military into large cities such as New York, Chicago, or Los Angeles?

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| Favor strongly | 22% |
| Favor somewhat | 16% |
| Favor | 37% |
| Oppose somewhat | 12% |
| Oppose strongly | 40% |
| Oppose | 52% |
| Not sure | 11% |

7. We'd like to know whether you or someone in your immediate family is currently serving or has ever served in the U.S. military. Immediate family is defined as your parents, siblings, spouse, and children. Please check all boxes that apply.

| | |
|---|-----|
| Military Household - I am | 0% |
| Military Household - Family | 5% |
| Military Household - I served previously | 8% |
| Military Household - Family served previously | 34% |
| Military Household - None | 57% |

8. How much do you think you will be personally affected by the government shutdown?

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| A great deal | 12% |
| Somewhat | 28% |
| A little | 30% |
| Not at all | 30% |

9. How long do you think the government shutdown will last?

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Less than a week | 6% |
| One to two weeks | 24% |
| Three to four weeks | 23% |
| More than four weeks | 13% |
| Not sure | 34% |

10. Do you approve or disapprove of how each of the following are handling the current shutdown of the federal government?

| | Approve | Disapprove | Not sure |
|-------------------------|---------|------------|----------|
| Donald Trump | 33% | 54% | 13% |
| Democrats in Congress | 26% | 50% | 24% |
| Republicans in Congress | 30% | 53% | 18% |

11. If you had to choose, which approach would you prefer that members of Congress take when negotiating a federal budget agreement?

| | |
|--|-----|
| Lawmakers should compromise to reach a budget agreement, even if it means sacrificing some priorities that they believe in | 63% |
| Lawmakers should fight for the priorities that they believe in, even if it means risking a government shutdown | 37% |

12. Who do you blame the most for the shutdown of the federal government?

| | |
|--|-----|
| Democrats in Congress | 30% |
| Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress | 41% |
| Both equally | 23% |
| Not sure | 6% |

13. As far as you know, which party currently has majority control of the U.S. Senate?

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| The Democratic Party | 5% |
| The Republican Party | 78% |
| Not sure | 17% |

14. As far as you know, which party currently has majority control of the U.S. House of Representatives?

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| The Democratic Party | 4% |
| The Republican Party | 77% |
| Not sure | 19% |

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

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Strongly approve | 24% |
| Somewhat approve | 15% |
| Approve | 39% |
| Somewhat disapprove | 10% |
| Strongly disapprove | 46% |
| Disapprove | 56% |
| Not sure | 5% |

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

| | |
|--|-----|
| Inflation/prices | 24% |
| Jobs and the economy | 12% |
| Health care | 11% |
| Immigration | 10% |
| Civil rights | 8% |
| Civil liberties | 7% |
| Taxes and government spending | 6% |
| Crime | 5% |
| National Security | 5% |
| Climate change and the environment | 4% |
| Guns | 2% |
| Education | 2% |
| Abortion | 1% |
| Criminal justice reform | 1% |
| Foreign policy | 0% |

17. 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 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Jobs and the economy | 21% | 17% | 38% | 11% | 43% | 54% | 9% |
| Inflation/prices | 17% | 15% | 32% | 12% | 49% | 61% | 7% |
| Immigration | 32% | 10% | 43% | 9% | 41% | 51% | 6% |
| Taxes and government spending | 20% | 16% | 36% | 11% | 44% | 56% | 9% |
| Health care | 17% | 16% | 33% | 11% | 46% | 58% | 9% |
| The military | 27% | 14% | 41% | 8% | 41% | 49% | 10% |

18. How would you describe your social class?

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Working class | 43% |
| Middle class | 44% |
| Upper middle class | 12% |
| Wealthy | 2% |

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

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Full-time | 32% |
| Part-time | 12% |
| Temporarily laid off | 1% |
| Unemployed | 10% |
| Retired | 25% |
| Permanently disabled | 8% |
| Homemaker | 6% |
| Student | 5% |
| Other | 2% |

20. Are you currently enrolled as a student?

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Full-time student | 5% |
| Part-time student | 3% |
| Not a student | 92% |

21. Do you have a job outside of school?

Asked of students

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Full-time job | 3% |
| Part-time job | 30% |
| No job outside of school | 67% |

22. How happy are you with your current job?

Asked of those currently employed

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Very happy | 24% |
| Happy | 42% |
| Neither happy nor unhappy | 24% |
| Unhappy | 7% |
| Very unhappy | 2% |

23. In the past 12 months, has your pay from your job increased or decreased?

Asked of those currently employed

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Increased a lot | 5% |
| Increased a little | 38% |
| Stayed about the same | 48% |
| Decreased a little | 5% |
| Decreased a lot | 3% |
| Not sure | 1% |

24. In the next 12 months, do you expect your pay from your job to increase or decrease?

Asked of those currently employed

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Increase a lot | 6% |
| Increase a little | 46% |
| Stay about the same | 38% |
| Decrease a little | 2% |
| Decrease a lot | 1% |
| Not sure | 7% |

25. How worried are you about losing your job?

Asked of those currently employed

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Very worried | 7% |
| Somewhat worried | 29% |
| Not very worried | 64% |

26. 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. | 24% |
| Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much. | 39% |
| Not very hard | 26% |
| Not sure | 11% |

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

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Very easy | 17% |
| Somewhat easy | 19% |
| Somewhat difficult | 24% |
| Very difficult | 21% |
| Impossible | 19% |

28. Do you have plans to purchase any of the following within the next year? Select all that apply.

| | |
|---|-----|
| A home | 5% |
| An automobile | 13% |
| A major home appliance | 11% |
| Furniture (such as a couch or a bed) | 17% |
| Electronics (such as a computer, smartphone, or TV) | 28% |
| None of the above | 55% |

29. Over the next 12 months, do you think the prices for most products will increase or decrease?

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Increase a lot | 36% |
| Increase a little | 32% |
| Stay about the same | 16% |
| Decrease a little | 7% |
| Decrease a lot | 2% |
| Not sure | 7% |

30. In the past 12 months, would you say your household has saved more or less money compared to the previous year?

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Much more | 4% |
| Somewhat more | 13% |
| About the same amount | 32% |
| Somewhat less | 19% |
| Much less | 25% |
| Not sure | 7% |

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

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Good | 25% |
| Bad | 21% |
| Not sure | 54% |

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

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Own | 54% |
| Rent | 36% |
| Other | 10% |

33. Compared to last year, has the value of your home gone up or down?

Asked of those who own their home

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Gone up | 45% |
| Stayed about the same | 32% |
| Gone down | 8% |
| Not sure | 15% |

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

| | |
|---|-----|
| Better off financially than you were a year ago | 20% |
| About the same financially as you were a year ago | 44% |
| Worse off financially than you were a year ago | 31% |
| 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 | 37% |
| Worse off financially | 23% |
| Not sure | 14% |

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

| | |
|------------------|-----|
| Excellent | 4% |
| Good | 20% |
| Fair | 32% |
| Poor | 40% |
| Don't know | 4% |

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

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Getting better | 19% |
| About the same | 21% |
| Getting worse | 53% |
| Not sure | 7% |

38. Which do you think is a bigger problem for the U.S. economy today?

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Unemployment | 4% |
| Inflation | 42% |
| Both equal | 47% |
| Not sure | 7% |

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

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Better off | 13% |
| About the same | 18% |
| Worse off | 49% |
| Not sure | 20% |

40. Do you think the gap between the richest and poorest Americans is increasing or decreasing?

| | |
|------------------------------|-----|
| Increasing | 67% |
| Staying about the same | 21% |
| Decreasing | 3% |
| Not sure | 9% |

41. 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 | 8% |
| Equally positive and negative | 24% |
| Mostly negative | 48% |
| Not heard much news about the economy at all | 21% |

42. Is the U.S. economy doing better or worse than other countries in the world?

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Much better | 11% |
| Somewhat better | 23% |
| About the same | 17% |
| Somewhat worse | 17% |
| Much worse | 13% |
| Not sure | 18% |

43. How much do you trust the data reported about the economy by the federal government?

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Completely trust | 5% |
| Somewhat trust | 27% |
| Somewhat distrust | 27% |
| Completely distrust | 24% |
| Don't know | 16% |

44. Who do you think is more responsible for the current state of the U.S. economy?

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Joe Biden | 24% |
| Donald Trump | 57% |
| Neither | 7% |
| Not sure | 12% |

45. 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 | 33% |
| Other | 1% |
| Not sure | 14% |
| I would not vote | 13% |

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

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Very liberal | 12% |
| Liberal | 17% |
| Total Liberal | 29% |
| Moderate | 30% |
| Conservative | 19% |
| Very conservative | 13% |
| Total Conservative | 31% |
| Not sure | 10% |

47. Are you registered to vote?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Registered | 74% |
| Not registered | 26% |

48. 2024 Presidential Vote

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Kamala Harris | 31% |
| Donald Trump | 33% |
| Other | 1% |
| Did not vote for President | 35% |

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

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Democrat | 30% |
| Republican | 32% |
| Independent | 28% |
| Other | 4% |
| Not sure | 6% |

50. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Strong Democrat | 20% |
| Not very strong Democrat | 10% |
| Lean Democrat | 10% |
| Independent | 18% |
| Lean Republican | 7% |
| Not very strong Republican | 10% |
| Strong Republican | 22% |
| Not sure | 2% |
| Don't know | 0% |

51. Do you identify as a MAGA Republican?

Asked of Republicans

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes | 52% |
| No | 37% |
| Not sure | 11% |

52. Are you...?

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Male | 48% |
| Female | 52% |

53. Respondent age by category

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Under 30 | 21% |
| 30-44 | 24% |
| 45-64 | 33% |
| 65+ | 23% |

54. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| White | 67% |
| Black | 13% |
| Hispanic | 13% |
| Other | 7% |

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

| | |
|--------------------|-----|
| HS or less | 35% |
| Some college | 30% |
| College grad | 23% |
| Postgrad | 12% |

56. What is your marital status?

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Married | 39% |
| Separated | 2% |
| Divorced | 10% |
| Widowed | 7% |
| Never married | 36% |
| Domestic / civil partnership | 6% |

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

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Yes | 19% |
| No | 81% |

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

Calculated from respondent's state of residence

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Northeast | 18% |
| Midwest | 22% |
| South | 38% |
| West | 22% |

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

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Under \$50K | 42% |
| \$50-100K | 26% |
| \$100K or more | 22% |
| Prefer not to say | 11% |

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

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| More than once a week | 6% |
| Once a week | 16% |
| Once or twice a month | 8% |
| A few times a year | 10% |
| Seldom | 21% |
| Never | 38% |
| Don't know | 2% |

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

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Yes | 30% |
| No | 70% |

62. 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 | 13% |
| A few times a week | 10% |
| Once a week | 3% |
| A few times a month | 6% |
| Seldom | 16% |
| Never | 23% |
| Don't know | 2% |

63. What is your present religion, if any?

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Protestant | 30% |
| Roman Catholic | 20% |
| Mormon | 1% |
| Eastern or Greek Orthodox | 0% |
| Jewish | 3% |
| Muslim | 1% |
| Buddhist | 1% |
| Hindu | 0% |
| Atheist | 6% |
| Agnostic | 6% |
| Nothing in particular | 25% |
| Something else | 7% |

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| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Sponsorship | <i>The Economist</i> |
| Fieldwork | YouGov |
| Interviewing Dates | October 4 - 6, 2025 |
| 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 | 2,011 started the survey after screenouts. 162 were deleted due to breakoffs, 164 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 8 were removed for attention check failures, and 29 were removed for data quality control. The reporting is based on the remaining 1,648 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 6.636, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.974. |
| Number of respondents | 1648 1490 (Registered voters) |
| Margin of error | ± 3.4% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3.1% (Registered voters) |
| Survey mode | Web-based interviews |
| Questions not reported | 3 questions not reported. |