

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. How would you describe your social class?

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

18. 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%

19. Are you currently enrolled as a student?

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

20. 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%

21. 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%

22. 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%

23. 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%

24. How worried are you about losing your job?

Asked of those currently employed

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

25. 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%

26. 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%

27. 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%

28. 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%

29. 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%

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

Good	25%
Bad	21%
Not sure	54%

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

Own	54%
Rent	36%
Other	10%

32. 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%

33. 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%

34. 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%

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

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

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

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

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

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

38. 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%

39. 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%

40. 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%

41. 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%

42. 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%

43. 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%

44. 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%

45. 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%

46. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	74%
Not registered	26%

47. 2024 Presidential Vote

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

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

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

49. 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%

50. Do you identify as a MAGA Republican?

Asked of Republicans

Yes	52%
No	37%
Not sure	11%

51. Are you...?

Male	48%
Female	52%

52. Respondent age by category

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

53. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

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

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

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

55. What is your marital status?

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

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

Yes	19%
No	81%

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

Calculated from respondent's state of residence

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

58. 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%

59. 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%

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

Yes	30%
No	70%

61. 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%

62. 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	4 questions not reported.