

The Economist/YouGov Poll

May 13 - 16, 2023 - 1500 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1500 U.S. Adult citizens
 Conducted May 13 - 16, 2023
 Margin of Error ±2.8%

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

Excellent	9%
Good	22%
Excellent / Good	31%
Fair	26%
Poor	40%
Fair / Poor	66%
Don't know	3%

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

	Ally	Friendly	Unfriendly	Enemy	Not sure
Russia	3%	7%	26%	54%	10%
Ukraine	31%	42%	9%	6%	13%
China	3%	12%	34%	38%	12%
Mexico	15%	41%	22%	6%	16%
Venezuela	5%	20%	28%	15%	32%

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

Russia	21%
Ukraine	25%
Neither	36%
Not sure	18%

5. Who is more likely to be the eventual winner of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine?

Russia	25%
Ukraine	30%
Equally likely	18%
Not sure	27%

6. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of Vladimir Putin?

Very favorable	6%
Somewhat favorable	10%
Somewhat unfavorable	16%
Very unfavorable	56%
Don't know	11%

7. A year from now, do you think Vladimir Putin will still be the president of Russia?

Yes	39%
No	23%
Not sure	38%

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

Very favorable	27%
Somewhat favorable	30%
Somewhat unfavorable	12%
Very unfavorable	9%
Don't know	22%

9. A year from now, do you think Volodymyr Zelensky will still be the president of Ukraine?

Yes	53%
No	11%
Not sure	36%

10. Do you favor the U.S. increasing, decreasing, or maintaining the same amount of military aid to Ukraine?

Increasing military aid to Ukraine	30%
Decreasing military aid to Ukraine	26%
Maintaining the same amount of military aid to Ukraine	28%
Not sure	16%

11. How likely do you think it is that the Russian invasion of Ukraine will lead to a wider war in Europe?

Very likely	13%
Somewhat likely	39%
Not very likely	25%
Not likely at all	6%
Not sure	17%

12. How likely do you think it is that Russian forces will use nuclear weapons in Ukraine?

Very likely	10%
Somewhat likely	31%
Not very likely	29%
Not likely at all	10%
Not sure	21%

13. How likely do you think it is that Russian forces will use nuclear weapons outside of Ukraine?

Very likely	8%
Somewhat likely	25%
Not very likely	28%
Not likely at all	17%
Not sure	23%

14. How much attention have you been paying to debates around the debt ceiling?

A lot	27%
A little	49%
None at all	24%

15. As you may know, the limit on the country’s overall liabilities, including the federal deficit and other government debts, is called the debt ceiling. In order for the U.S. Treasury to incur debt above the ceiling, Congress needs to vote to raise the ceiling, which it has done regularly in the past. Congress is currently considering whether to raise the debt ceiling, since the current limit has been reached. What is your opinion?

Congress should raise the debt ceiling	43%
Congress should not raise the debt ceiling	34%
Not sure	23%

16. How well do you understand what the effects would be if Congress is not able to come to an agreement over raising the debt ceiling?

Very well	22%
Somewhat well	40%
Not very well	19%
Not at all	7%
Not sure	11%

17. If the debt ceiling is not raised and the U.S. defaults on its debts, would you consider that...

A crisis	34%
A major problem but not a crisis	39%
A minor problem	13%
Not a problem	2%
Not sure	12%

18. Who is more responsible for the current lack of agreement on raising the debt ceiling?

Joe Biden	33%
Republicans in the House	27%
Both equally	32%
Neither	8%

19. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following person?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Dick Durbin	10%	17%	11%	15%	46%
Dianne Feinstein	10%	20%	18%	22%	30%
George Santos	7%	16%	13%	40%	24%
Ron DeSantis	20%	23%	13%	26%	18%

20. Which of the following is more important to you when thinking about your preferred candidate for next year's primary elections?

Their chances of winning the general election	26%
Whether you agree with them on the issues	59%
Not sure	15%

21. Do you want Joe Biden to run for president again in 2024?

Yes	30%
No	55%
Not sure	15%

22. Do you want Donald Trump to run for president again in 2024?

Yes	35%
No	54%
Not sure	10%

23. If you had to choose, who would you rather see as the Republican nominee for president in 2024?

Donald Trump	33%
Ron DeSantis	24%
Someone else	15%
Not sure	28%

24. If an election for president were going to be held now and the Democratic nominee was Joe Biden and the Republican nominee was Donald Trump, would you vote for...

Joe Biden	40%
Donald Trump	41%
Other	5%
Not sure	4%
I would not vote	10%

25. Regardless of who you prefer, who do you think would win the presidential election if Joe Biden were the Democratic candidate and Donald Trump were the Republican candidate?

Joe Biden	41%
Donald Trump	39%
Not sure	19%

26. If an election for president were going to be held now and the Democratic nominee was Joe Biden and the Republican nominee was Ron DeSantis, would you vote for...

Joe Biden	38%
Ron DeSantis	38%
Other	5%
Not sure	8%
I would not vote	12%

27. Regardless of who you prefer, who do you think would win the presidential election if Joe Biden were the Democratic candidate and Ron DeSantis were the Republican candidate?

Joe Biden	38%
Ron DeSantis	39%
Not sure	23%

28. How much have you heard about Congressman George Santos of New York being charged with 13 financial crimes in a federal court in New York?

A lot	30%
A little	49%
Nothing at all	21%

29. Congressman George Santos of New York was recently charged with 13 financial crimes in a federal court in New York, including defrauding his donors, using their money for his personal benefit, and wrongfully claiming unemployment benefits. Do you think he is guilty of these things?

Yes	56%
No	8%
Not sure	36%

30. Do you think George Santos should resign from Congress?

Yes	63%
No	14%
Not sure	24%

31. If George Santos does not resign, do you think he should be removed from Congress?

Yes	60%
No	16%
Not sure	24%

32. In 2019, writer E. Jean Carroll accused Donald Trump of raping her in the mid-1990s, an allegation which Trump denied. Carroll sued Trump for defamation, claiming that he damaged her reputation by denying the assault. A jury found Trump liable for sexual abuse and defamation, but not rape. Do you agree or disagree with the verdict?

Strongly agree	22%
Somewhat agree	24%
Somewhat disagree	14%
Strongly disagree	23%
Not sure	17%

33. Which of the following comes closest to your view of why you disagree with the verdict?

Trump should have been found liable for rape	7%
Trump should not have been found liable for sexual abuse and defamation	26%
Not sure	4%
Not asked - Agree with the verdict or not sure	63%

34. Do you think that Donald Trump being found liable for sexual abuse and defamation... ?

Disqualifies him from the presidency	34%
Is relevant to this election, but does not disqualify him from the presidency	26%
Is not relevant to this election	29%
Not sure	12%

35. Which is more important?

The right of people to own guns	15%
Protecting people from gun violence	38%
Both are equally important	44%
Not sure	4%

36. Do you or does anyone in your household own a gun?

Personally own a gun	24%
Don't personally own a gun, but someone in the household owns a gun	15%
No one in the household owns a gun	53%
Not sure	7%

37. In general, do you feel the laws covering the sale of handguns should be made more strict than they are now?

Make gun laws more strict	57%
No change	24%
Make gun laws less strict	12%
Not sure	8%

38. Do you favor or oppose any of the following?

	Favor strongly	Favor somewhat	Oppose somewhat	Oppose strongly	Not sure
Preventing people with a history of mental illness from owning guns	60%	21%	7%	4%	8%
Banning semi-automatic weapons	43%	18%	9%	20%	10%
Preventing people from carrying a concealed gun in public	35%	16%	14%	25%	10%
Raising the age limit for buying a semi-automatic weapon from 18 to 21	56%	18%	7%	12%	7%
Creating red flag laws that allow a court to temporarily remove guns from people that are believed to pose a danger to themselves or others	52%	21%	9%	11%	7%

39. In the future, how likely do you think it is that a mass shooting could happen in your community?

Very likely	24%
Somewhat likely	35%
Not very likely	20%
Not likely at all	7%
Not sure	14%

40. Have you been personally affected by a mass shooting in your community?

Yes	13%
No	81%
Not sure	5%

41. How much have you heard about the outlet mall shooting on May 6 in Allen, Texas?

A lot	33%
A little	55%
Nothing at all	12%

42. How much of a problem do you think white supremacy is in the U.S. today?

A major problem	42%
A minor problem	33%
Not a problem	25%

43. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
Jobs and the economy	73%	22%	4%	1%

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Immigration	52%	32%	12%	4%
Climate change and the environment	46%	25%	15%	14%
Foreign policy	46%	41%	10%	3%
National Security	70%	23%	5%	2%
Education	65%	26%	7%	2%
Health care	69%	25%	5%	1%
Taxes and government spending	62%	31%	6%	1%
Abortion	45%	29%	17%	9%
Civil rights	57%	28%	12%	3%
Civil liberties	55%	30%	11%	4%
Guns	57%	28%	10%	5%
Crime	68%	24%	5%	2%
Criminal justice reform	51%	33%	11%	5%
Inflation/prices	72%	21%	5%	1%

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

Inflation/prices	15%
Jobs and the economy	12%
Health care	12%
Climate change and the environment	11%
National Security	9%
Guns	7%
Immigration	7%
Taxes and government spending	6%
Crime	5%
Abortion	5%
Education	4%
Civil rights	4%
Civil liberties	2%
Criminal justice reform	1%
Foreign policy	1%

45. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following people?

	Very favorable	Some-what favorable	Favorable	Some-what unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Unfavorable	Don't know
Joe Biden	25%	22%	47%	12%	38%	50%	4%
Kamala Harris	17%	27%	44%	12%	36%	48%	8%
Kevin McCarthy	14%	26%	40%	14%	23%	36%	24%
Mitch McConnell	8%	22%	30%	21%	31%	52%	18%
Chuck Schumer	14%	26%	40%	12%	27%	40%	21%
Hakeem Jeffries	14%	21%	35%	12%	16%	28%	37%
Donald Trump	26%	20%	46%	10%	39%	49%	5%

46. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the political parties?

	Very favorable	Some-what favorable	Favorable	Some-what unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Unfavorable	Don't know
The Democratic Party	22%	25%	47%	15%	32%	47%	7%
The Republican Party	19%	28%	47%	15%	30%	46%	7%

47. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as President?

Strongly approve	18%
Somewhat approve	28%
Approve	45%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	37%
Disapprove	49%
Not sure	5%

48. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling these specific issues?

	Strongly approve	Some-what approve	Approve	Some-what disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Disapprove	No opinion
Jobs and the economy	21%	24%	45%	13%	34%	48%	8%
Climate change and the environment	19%	26%	45%	13%	28%	42%	13%
Foreign policy	19%	26%	45%	13%	30%	44%	11%
National Security	21%	24%	45%	13%	31%	44%	11%
Education	21%	25%	46%	13%	28%	41%	13%
Health care	20%	27%	48%	15%	26%	41%	11%
Guns	14%	24%	37%	20%	34%	54%	9%
Inflation/prices	15%	22%	37%	16%	40%	56%	7%

49. Would you say Joe Biden is a strong or a weak leader?

Very strong	17%
Somewhat strong	24%
Somewhat weak	20%
Very weak	38%

50. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the next few years with Joe Biden as President?

Optimistic	36%
Pessimistic	45%
Not sure	19%

51. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the United States Congress is handling its job?

Strongly approve	9%
Somewhat approve	18%
Neither approve nor disapprove	18%
Somewhat disapprove	21%
Strongly disapprove	26%
Not sure	8%

52. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following groups in Congress?

	Very favorable	Some-what favorable	Favorable	Some-what unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Unfavorable	Don't know
Democrats in Congress	18%	26%	44%	15%	31%	47%	9%
Republicans in Congress	15%	29%	44%	18%	30%	47%	9%

53. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Kevin McCarthy is handling his job as the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives?

Strongly approve	15%
Somewhat approve	27%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	22%
Not sure	24%

54. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chuck Schumer is handling his job as Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate?

Strongly approve	16%
Somewhat approve	25%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	25%
Not sure	23%

55. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mitch McConnell is handling his job as Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate?

Strongly approve	9%
Somewhat approve	24%
Somewhat disapprove	19%
Strongly disapprove	27%
Not sure	21%

56. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Hakeem Jeffries is handling his job as Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives?

Strongly approve	15%
Somewhat approve	24%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	17%
Not sure	33%

57. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Supreme Court of the United States is handling its job?

Strongly approve	15%
Somewhat approve	30%
Somewhat disapprove	18%
Strongly disapprove	21%
Not sure	16%

58. In general, how would you describe the political viewpoint of the Supreme Court of the United States?

Very liberal	4%
Liberal	9%
Moderate	32%
Conservative	18%
Very conservative	20%
Not sure	17%

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

Getting better	18%
About the same	29%
Getting worse	47%
Not sure	6%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	17%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	40%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	38%
Not sure	5%

61. How worried are you about losing your job?

Asked of those currently employed

Very worried	12%
Somewhat worried	36%
Not very worried	52%

62. 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.	41%
Not very hard	26%
Not sure	9%

63. How happy would you say you are with your current job?

Asked of those currently employed

Very happy	24%
Happy	48%
Neither happy nor unhappy	22%
Unhappy	4%
Very unhappy	2%

64. Do you think the Supreme Court is more liberal or more conservative than the American public in general?

Supreme Court is more liberal than the American public 17%
 Supreme Court is more conservative than the American public 40%
 The Supreme Court is about in line with the American public 19%
 Not sure 23%

65. Which one of the following statements is closer to your point of view, even if neither is exactly right?

The current US Supreme Court justices often let their own personal or political views influence their decisions 58%
 The current US Supreme Court justices usually decide their cases based on legal analysis without regard to their own personal or political views 42%

66. How much trust and confidence do you have in the three branches of the U.S. federal government?

	A great deal	A fair amount	Not very much	None at all
The Executive Branch - The President and the federal agencies	15%	31%	27%	27%
The Legislative Branch - The U.S. Congress	10%	30%	45%	15%
The Judicial Branch - The Supreme Court of the United States and other federal courts	15%	35%	33%	17%

67. Which of these is closest to your view?

I trust the Supreme Court more than other branches of the federal government 32%
 I trust the Supreme Court less than other branches of the federal government 27%
 I trust the Supreme Court about the same as other branches of the federal government 41%

68. Some people seem to follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there's an election going on or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs ...

Most of the time 45%
 Some of the time 27%
 Only now and then 14%
 Hardly at all 9%
 Don't know 4%

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

Democrats 34%
 Independents 36%
 Republicans 31%

70. Would you say that Joe Biden legitimately won the 2020 election, or not?

Biden legitimately won the election 65%
 Biden did NOT legitimately win the election 35%

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

Very liberal	8%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	34%
Conservative	19%
Very conservative	11%
Not sure	10%

72. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	84%
Not registered	16%

73. Who did you vote for in the election for President in 2020?

Joe Biden	35%
Donald Trump	32%
Other	1%
Did not vote for President	33%

74. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	23%
Not very strong Democrat	11%
Lean Democrat	8%
Independent	16%
Lean Republican	8%
Not very strong Republican	12%
Strong Republican	18%
Not sure	4%
Don't know	0%

75. Are you... ?

Male	49%
Female	51%

76. Respondent age by category

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

77. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

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

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

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

79. What is your marital status?

Married	46%
Separated	2%
Divorced	11%
Widowed	5%
Never married	32%
Domestic / civil partnership	5%

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

Yes	27%
No	73%

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

Calculated from respondent's state of residence

Northeast	17%
Midwest	22%
South	38%
West	23%

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

Under \$50K	40%
\$50-100K	27%
\$100K or more	21%
Prefer not to say	12%

83. How important is religion in your life?

Very important	40%
Somewhat important	28%
Not too important	14%
Not at all important	17%

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

More than once a week	13%
Once a week	17%
Once or twice a month	9%
A few times a year	12%
Seldom	18%
Never	27%
Don't know	4%

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

Yes	37%
No	63%

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

Several times a day	31%
Once a day	16%
A few times a week	14%
Once a week	4%
A few times a month	6%
Seldom	12%
Never	16%
Don't know	3%

87. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	27%
Roman Catholic	26%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	3%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	5%
Agnostic	5%
Nothing in particular	20%
Something else	8%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	May 13 - 16, 2023
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.
Weighting	The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race, education, 2020 election turnout and Presidential vote, baseline party identification, and current voter registration status. Demographic weighting targets come from the 2019 American Community Survey. Baseline party identification is the respondent's most recent answer given prior to November 1, 2022, and is weighted to the estimated distribution at that time (33% Democratic, 31% Republican). The weights range from 0.125 to 5.534, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.46.
Number of respondents	1500 1302 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 2.8% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	43 questions not reported.