

The Economist/YouGov Poll

December 31, 2022 - January 3, 2023 - 1500 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1500 U.S. Adult citizens
 Conducted December 31, 2022 - January 3, 2023
 Margin of Error ±3.1%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	29%
Off on the wrong track	56%
Not sure	15%

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

Excellent	6%
Good	19%
Excellent / Good	26%
Fair	29%
Poor	39%
Fair / Poor	68%
Don't know	6%

3. Which do you think is a more important problem facing the U.S. today: unemployment or inflation?

Unemployment	8%
Inflation	51%
Both equal	32%
Not sure	9%

4. Do you think the economy is growing or shrinking?

Growing	23%
Shrinking	41%
Staying about the same	21%
Not sure	16%

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

Yes	54%
No	23%
Not sure	23%

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

Very likely	4%
Somewhat likely	19%
Not very likely	10%
Not at all likely	2%
Not sure	12%
Not asked - Already in a recession	54%

7. Six months from now do you think there will be...

Higher gas prices	44%
The same gas prices	25%
Lower gas prices	14%
Not sure	17%

8. Six months from now do you think there will be...

A higher rate of inflation	41%
The same rate of inflation	26%
A lower rate of inflation	17%
Not sure	16%

9. How much have you felt the impact of this high inflation in your own life?

A lot	51%
A little	40%
Not at all	9%

10. Do you personally know anyone who has been laid off from their job in the last 12 months? Check all that apply.

Yes, me	10%
Yes, a family member	13%
Yes, a close friend	17%
No	61%
Prefer not to say	6%

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

	Ally	Friendly	Unfriendly	Enemy	Not sure
Russia	3%	5%	27%	53%	12%
China	4%	10%	35%	35%	16%
Ukraine	28%	39%	12%	5%	17%
Iran	3%	6%	28%	43%	19%

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

Russia	15%
Ukraine	29%
Neither	33%
Not sure	23%

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

Russia	19%
Ukraine	32%
Equally likely	16%
Not sure	33%

14. Looking back at 2022, how would you describe the year for the world?

A very good year	6%
A good year	22%
A bad year	51%
A very bad year	22%

15. Looking back at 2022, how would you describe the year for you and your family?

A very good year	8%
A good year	43%
A bad year	36%
A very bad year	13%

16. Compared to 2021, was the United States more respected or less respected in the world in 2022?

More respected in 2022	25%
No change	33%
Less respected in 2022	41%

17. Compared to 2021, do you think things were better or worse in 2022 when it came to:

	Much better in 2022	Somewhat better in 2022	No change	Somewhat worse in 2022	Much worse in 2022	Not sure
The Middle East	5%	7%	28%	22%	21%	17%
Energy issues	5%	10%	24%	21%	27%	13%
The environment	4%	11%	39%	23%	12%	10%
The economy in your area	5%	14%	22%	29%	23%	8%
Job security	6%	17%	27%	25%	16%	10%
Government spending	5%	12%	20%	16%	35%	12%
Health care coverage	6%	14%	37%	19%	13%	11%
Education	5%	11%	32%	21%	19%	11%
Social Security and Medicare	5%	15%	33%	20%	13%	14%
The U.S. financial system	4%	10%	19%	25%	31%	11%
Wall Street	4%	7%	18%	26%	23%	21%
The national economy	5%	12%	14%	27%	34%	8%
Abortion access	7%	8%	22%	16%	33%	15%
Inflation	4%	5%	10%	26%	48%	7%

18. Compared to 2021, are labor unions in the United States more or less powerful in 2022?

More powerful in 2022	26%
No change	53%
Less powerful in 2022	20%

19. Compared to 2021, did you find politics more or less interesting in 2022?

More interesting in 2022	24%
About the same	44%
Less interesting in 2022	21%
Not sure	11%

20. Compared to 2021, did you think political discussion was more negative or less negative in 2022?

More negative in 2022	44%
About the same	32%
Less negative in 2022	12%
Not sure	12%

21. As a President, how do you think George W. Bush will go down in history?

Outstanding	7%
Above average	13%
Average	37%
Below average	20%
Poor	10%
Not Sure	12%

22. As a President, how do you think Barack Obama will go down in history?

Outstanding	18%
Above average	25%
Average	21%
Below average	12%
Poor	14%
Not Sure	9%

23. As a President, how do you think Donald Trump will go down in history?

Outstanding	15%
Above average	15%
Average	12%
Below average	9%
Poor	39%
Not Sure	9%

24. As a President, how do you think Joe Biden will go down in history?

Outstanding	6%
Above average	16%
Average	23%
Below average	11%
Poor	35%
Not Sure	9%

25. Generally speaking, are you optimistic or pessimistic about what kind of year 2023 will be for the world?

Very optimistic	11%
Somewhat optimistic	26%
Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	27%
Somewhat pessimistic	20%
Very pessimistic	15%

26. Generally speaking, are you optimistic or pessimistic about what kind of year 2023 will be for your family?

Very optimistic	14%
Somewhat optimistic	31%
Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	31%
Somewhat pessimistic	14%
Very pessimistic	10%

27. In 2023, do you think the United States will be more respected or less respected in the world than it was in 2022?

More respected in 2023	25%
No change	41%
Less respected in 2023	33%

28. In 2023, do you think things will be better or worse than they were in 2022 when it comes to:

	Much better in 2023	Somewhat better in 2023	No change	Somewhat worse in 2023	Much worse in 2023	Not sure
The Middle East	5%	9%	30%	21%	17%	18%
Energy issues	6%	17%	24%	21%	18%	14%
The environment	6%	15%	38%	18%	10%	12%
The economy in your area	7%	17%	28%	21%	15%	12%
Job security	6%	18%	30%	20%	13%	13%
Government spending	6%	12%	26%	18%	25%	14%
Health care coverage	6%	16%	37%	16%	12%	13%
Education	6%	14%	34%	18%	14%	13%
Social Security and Medicare	7%	18%	33%	18%	13%	13%
The U.S. financial system	6%	14%	22%	21%	21%	16%
Wall Street	6%	15%	24%	19%	14%	22%
The national economy	6%	18%	20%	21%	24%	12%
Abortion access	7%	11%	32%	14%	19%	17%
Inflation	5%	22%	16%	22%	24%	10%

29. Compared to 2022, do you think labor unions in the United States will be more or less powerful in 2023?

More powerful in 2023	26%
No change	55%
Less powerful in 2023	19%

30. Compared to 2022, do you think politics will be more or less interesting in 2023?

More interesting in 2023	25%
About the same	45%
Less interesting in 2023	15%
Not sure	15%

31. Compared to 2022, do you think political discussion will be more negative or less negative in 2023?

More negative in 2023	38%
About the same	35%
Less negative in 2023	12%
Not sure	15%

32. Compared to 2022, do you think the U.S. will be more or less safe from terrorist attacks in 2023?

Much more safe in 2023	5%
Somewhat more safe in 2023	9%
About the same	39%
Somewhat less safe in 2023	15%
Much less safe in 2023	19%
Not sure	12%

33. Compared to 2022, do you think the U.S. will be more or less safe from mass shootings in 2023?

Much more safe in 2023	6%
Somewhat more safe in 2023	8%
About the same	38%
Somewhat less safe in 2023	17%
Much less safe in 2023	19%
Not sure	12%

34. What do you think are the chances of a mass shooting in the United States occurring in 2023?

Very likely	47%
Somewhat likely	28%
Not very likely	7%
Not likely at all	4%
Not sure	14%

35. Would you consider the following date to be...?

	A great day for America	A good day for America	Neither a good nor a bad day for America	A bad day for America	A tragic day for America	Not sure
July 4, 1776	52%	19%	10%	3%	2%	14%
June 19, 1865	18%	15%	14%	5%	7%	39%
December 7, 1941	5%	5%	10%	12%	46%	22%
June 6, 1944	18%	18%	14%	8%	9%	32%
November 22, 1963	4%	4%	10%	12%	39%	30%
July 16, 1969	22%	13%	13%	6%	5%	41%
September 11, 2001	3%	3%	8%	9%	70%	7%
January 6, 2021	5%	6%	22%	22%	30%	15%

36. Do you support or oppose the ability of Americans to protest against what they see as unjust political practices?

Strongly support	50%
Somewhat support	25%
Somewhat oppose	7%
Strongly oppose	4%
Not sure	14%

37. Do you approve or disapprove of the Trump supporters taking over the Capitol building in Washington, D.C., on January 6, 2021 to stop Congressional proceedings?

Strongly approve	8%
Somewhat approve	12%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	52%
Not sure	16%

38. Did Donald Trump urge his supporters to engage in violence on January 6, 2021?

Yes	45%
No	37%
Not sure	18%

39. How much responsibility does Donald Trump have for the takeover of the Capitol on January 6, 2021?

A lot	39%
Some	14%
A little	13%
None	25%
Not sure	11%

40. Do you think Donald Trump did anything illegal around the events of January 6, 2021?

Yes	42%
No	36%
Not sure	22%

41. If President Biden is not re-elected in the 2024 presidential election, how likely do you think it is that there will be a peaceful transition of power?

Very likely	40%
Somewhat likely	20%
Not very likely	11%
Not likely at all	9%
Not sure	19%

42. Do you approve or disapprove of the House Select Committee’s handling of the investigation of the takeover of the Capitol on January 6, 2021?

Strongly approve	26%
Somewhat approve	14%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	27%
Not sure	21%

43. Do you think the Congressional investigation of the January 6th events has been a serious attempt to find out what really happened or a politically-motivated attempt to embarrass Donald Trump?

A serious attempt to find out what really happened	34%
A politically-motivated attempt to embarrass Donald Trump	34%
Equally motivated by both of these	15%
Not sure	17%

44. Do you approve or disapprove of Congress sending a referral to the Department of Justice for a criminal indictment of Donald Trump for his role in the events of January 6, 2021?

Strongly approve	34%
Somewhat approve	11%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	26%
Not sure	18%

45. Has Congress accomplished more, less, or about the same amount over the past two years than it had in the prior two years (2018-2020)?

Accomplished more than it did in the prior two years	22%
Accomplished about the same amount as it did in the prior two years	22%
Accomplished less than they it did in the prior two years	31%
Not sure	25%

46. Will Congress accomplish more, less, or about the same amount over the ****next**** two years than it did in the past two years?

Will accomplish more	16%
Will accomplish about the same amount	29%
Will accomplish less	29%
Not sure	27%

47. Over the next year, do you think the Supreme Court of the United States will be more liberal, more conservative, or about the same as it was last year?

More liberal	11%
About the same	44%
More conservative	23%
Not sure	21%

48. Compared to 2021, do you think this country became more or less politically divided in 2022?

Much more divided in 2022	32%
Somewhat more divided in 2022	20%
About the same in 2022	24%
Somewhat less divided in 2022	8%
Much less divided in 2022	4%
Not sure	14%

49. Compared to 2022, do you think the amount of political division in this country is more likely to increase, decrease, or stay the same in 2023?

Increase a lot in 2023	21%
Increase a little in 2023	23%
Stay the same in 2023	27%
Decrease a little in 2023	7%
Decrease a lot in 2023	5%
Not sure	17%

50. Compared to 2021, do you think political violence in this country has increased, decreased, or stayed the same in 2022?

Increased a lot in 2022	19%
Increased a little in 2022	22%
Stayed the same in 2022	24%
Decreased a little in 2022	12%
Decreased a lot in 2022	6%
Not sure	16%

51. Compared to 2022, do you think the amount of political violence in this country is more likely to increase or decrease or stay the same in 2023?

Increase a lot in 2023	15%
Increase a little in 2023	20%
Stay the same in 2023	29%
Decrease a little in 2023	11%
Decrease a lot in 2023	4%
Not sure	22%

52. Looking ahead to the next 10 years, how likely do you think it is that there will be a civil war in this country?

Very likely	12%
Somewhat likely	27%
Not very likely	24%
Not likely at all	14%
Not sure	23%

53. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
Jobs and the economy	59%	32%	6%	3%
Immigration	44%	33%	18%	5%
Climate change and the environment	39%	27%	18%	16%
Foreign policy	38%	42%	13%	7%
National Security	59%	30%	8%	3%
Education	52%	34%	10%	5%
Health care	58%	31%	9%	3%
Taxes and government spending	55%	31%	11%	3%
Abortion	40%	29%	18%	12%
Civil rights	51%	31%	14%	4%
Civil liberties	51%	32%	11%	5%
Guns	52%	25%	14%	9%
Crime	58%	29%	9%	4%
Criminal justice reform	45%	34%	15%	6%
Inflation/prices	65%	25%	7%	3%

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

Inflation/prices	20%
Health care	11%
Climate change and the environment	10%
Jobs and the economy	10%
Immigration	8%
Taxes and government spending	7%
National Security	7%
Abortion	6%
Guns	5%
Civil rights	5%
Education	4%
Crime	3%
Civil liberties	2%
Foreign policy	1%
Criminal justice reform	1%

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

	Very favorable	Some-what favorable	Favorable	Some-what unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Unfavorable	Don't know
Joe Biden	21%	24%	45%	11%	38%	49%	6%
Kamala Harris	17%	24%	41%	11%	37%	48%	12%
Donald Trump	21%	19%	40%	11%	43%	54%	6%

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

	Very favorable	Some-what favorable	Favorable	Some-what unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Unfavorable	Don't know
The Democratic Party	19%	25%	43%	13%	35%	48%	9%
The Republican Party	15%	24%	39%	20%	32%	52%	9%

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

Strongly approve	17%
Somewhat approve	27%
Approve	44%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	34%
Disapprove	46%
Not sure	10%

58. Would you say Joe Biden is...

Very liberal	28%
Liberal	20%
Moderate	27%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	4%
Not sure	16%

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

Very strong	13%
Somewhat strong	30%
Somewhat weak	20%
Very weak	36%

60. Do you think Joe Biden is honest and trustworthy, or not?

Honest and trustworthy	42%
Not honest and trustworthy	39%
Not sure	19%

61. How much do you think Joe Biden cares about the needs and problems of people like you?

A lot	21%
Some	24%
Not much	13%
Doesn't care at all	33%
Not sure	9%

62. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like or dislike Joe Biden as a person?

Like a lot	22%
Like somewhat	19%
Neither like nor dislike	19%
Dislike somewhat	10%
Dislike a lot	23%
Not sure	8%

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

Optimistic	36%
Pessimistic	40%
Not sure	24%

64. 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	15%	26%	41%	16%	31%	46%	13%
Climate change and the environment	14%	25%	40%	16%	27%	43%	17%
Health care	15%	26%	41%	16%	24%	41%	18%
Abortion	15%	22%	36%	14%	29%	44%	20%

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

Strongly approve	8%
Somewhat approve	13%
Neither approve nor disapprove	20%
Somewhat disapprove	19%
Strongly disapprove	29%
Not sure	12%

66. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable of the following groups in Congress?

	Very favorable	Some-what favorable	Favorable	Some-what unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Unfavorable	Don't know
Democrats in Congress	17%	24%	42%	12%	34%	46%	12%
Republicans in Congress	12%	22%	34%	23%	32%	55%	11%

67. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nancy Pelosi is handling her job as the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives?

Strongly approve	21%
Somewhat approve	18%
Somewhat disapprove	10%
Strongly disapprove	34%
Not sure	17%

68. 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	17%
Somewhat disapprove	10%
Strongly disapprove	31%
Not sure	25%

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

Strongly approve	7%
Somewhat approve	13%
Somewhat disapprove	21%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Not sure	23%

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

Strongly approve	9%
Somewhat approve	20%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	28%
Not sure	29%

71. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Supreme Court of the United States is handling its job?	
Strongly approve	16%
Somewhat approve	24%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	25%
Not sure	19%
72. In general, how would you describe the political viewpoint of the Supreme Court of the United States?	
Very liberal	5%
Liberal	6%
Moderate	27%
Conservative	22%
Very conservative	20%
Not sure	19%
73. Overall, do you think the economy is getting better or worse?	
Getting better	15%
About the same	26%
Getting worse	47%
Not sure	12%
74. Do you think the stock market will be higher or lower 12 months from now?	
Higher	19%
About the same	27%
Lower	26%
Not sure	28%
75. Would you say that you and your family are...	
Better off financially than you were a year ago	15%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	37%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	38%
Not sure	10%
76. How worried are you about losing your job?	
Very worried	11%
Somewhat worried	29%
Not very worried	60%
77. 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?	
Very hard – I would probably have to take a pay cut.	29%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	31%
Not very hard	25%
Not sure	15%

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

Very happy	24%
Happy	43%
Neither happy nor unhappy	23%
Unhappy	8%
Very unhappy	2%

79. 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	40%
Some of the time	28%
Only now and then	14%
Hardly at all	9%
Don't know	8%

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

Democrats	34%
Independents	36%
Republicans	30%

81. 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%

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

Very liberal	11%
Liberal	16%
Moderate	28%
Conservative	21%
Very conservative	13%
Not sure	11%

83. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	73%
Not registered	27%

84. 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%

85. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	22%
Not very strong Democrat	12%
Lean Democrat	6%
Independent	14%
Lean Republican	8%
Not very strong Republican	11%
Strong Republican	19%
Not sure	8%
Don't know	0%

86. Are you... ?

Male	49%
Female	51%

87. Respondent age by category

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

88. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

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

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

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

90. What is your marital status?

Married	47%
Separated	2%
Divorced	8%
Widowed	7%
Never married	29%
Domestic / civil partnership	6%

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

Yes	22%
No	78%

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

Calculated from respondent's state of residence

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

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

Under \$50K	39%
\$50-100K	29%
\$100K or more	19%
Prefer not to say	13%

94. How important is religion in your life?

Very important	38%
Somewhat important	25%
Not too important	16%
Not at all important	20%

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

More than once a week	10%
Once a week	17%
Once or twice a month	8%
A few times a year	10%
Seldom	22%
Never	27%
Don't know	6%

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

Yes	35%
No	65%

97. 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	14%
A few times a week	12%
Once a week	5%
A few times a month	6%
Seldom	14%
Never	16%
Don't know	7%

98. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	31%
Roman Catholic	21%
Mormon	2%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	2%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	1%
Atheist	3%
Agnostic	5%
Nothing in particular	22%
Something else	8%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	December 31, 2022 - January 3, 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 June 1, 2022, and is weighted to the estimated distribution at that time (34% Democratic, 31% Republican). The weights range from 0.085 to 6.505, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.724.
Number of respondents	1500 1301 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 3.1% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	43 questions not reported.