

The Economist/YouGov Poll

August 21 - 24, 2021 - 1500 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1500 U.S. Adult citizens
Conducted August 21 - 24, 2021
Margin of Error ±2.7%

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	4%
Good	21%
Fair	36%
Poor	33%
Don't know	7%

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

Unemployment	18%
Inflation	30%
Both equal	43%
Not sure	9%

4. How closely are you following the news about the war in Afghanistan?

Very closely	25%
Somewhat closely	44%
Not very closely	22%
Not following at all	10%

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the plan to withdraw all U.S. forces from Afghanistan by September 11, 2021?

Strongly approve	22%
Somewhat approve	23%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	21%
Not sure	18%

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling the war in Afghanistan?

Strongly approve	12%
Somewhat approve	21%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	38%
Not sure	16%

7. Do you think the United States made a mistake sending troops to fight in Afghanistan?

Yes	42%
No	32%
Not sure	26%

8. Do you think the United States made a mistake by recently withdrawing troops from Afghanistan?

Yes	39%
No	38%
Not sure	23%

9. How would you describe the way the evacuation from Afghanistan has been handled?

Very well	4%
Somewhat well	12%
Somewhat badly	25%
Very badly	43%
Not sure	17%

10. Who is responsible for that? Check all that apply.

Joe Biden	59%
The Administration's advisers	40%
The U.S. military	24%
The Afghan army	32%
The former Afghan government	35%
No one	10%

11. Is the resurgence of the Taliban in Afghanistan a threat to the United States?

Yes	58%
No	14%
Not sure	29%

12. Would you support or oppose negotiations with members of the Taliban?

Strongly support	6%
Somewhat support	16%
Neither support, nor oppose	21%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	26%
Not sure	19%

13. Would you support or oppose engaging in trade with the Taliban?

Strongly support	2%
Somewhat support	5%
Neither support, nor oppose	15%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	46%
Not sure	17%

14. What do you think are the chances of a terrorist attack against the United States in the next 12 months?

Very likely (more than 50%)	23%
Somewhat likely (10% to 50%)	30%
Not very likely (1% to 10%)	19%
Very unlikely (less than 1%)	7%
Not sure	22%

15. Are we safer from terrorist attacks now than we were in 2001?

Much more safe	8%
Somewhat more safe	19%
About the same	27%
Somewhat less safe	11%
Much less safe	18%
Not sure	16%

16. Which comes closer to your view?

In the long run, the U.S. will be safer from terrorism if it confronts the countries and groups that promote terrorism	51%
In the long run, the U.S. will be safer from terrorism if it stays out of other countries' affairs	49%

17. Do you think the United States should or should not offer asylum to Afghan refugees who helped US forces in Afghanistan?

Should offer asylum	63%
Should not offer asylum	13%
Not sure	23%

18. Do you think the United States should or should not offer asylum to civilians fleeing violence in Afghanistan?

Should offer asylum	45%
Should not offer asylum	23%
Not sure	31%

19. How closely are you following the news about COVID-19?

Very closely	36%
Somewhat closely	41%
Not very closely	16%
Not following at all	7%

20. Do you personally know anyone who... [has been laid off from work due to covid-19]? Check all that apply.

Yes, me	13%
Yes, a family member	14%
Yes, a close friend	14%
No	64%
Prefer not to say	2%

21. Do you personally know anyone who... [has tested positive for covid-19]? Check all that apply.

Yes, me	10%
Yes, a family member	34%
Yes, a close friend	32%
No	41%
Prefer not to say	2%

22. Do you personally know anyone who... [has died due to complications from covid-19]? Check all that apply.

Yes, a family member	14%
Yes, a close friend	19%
No	68%
Prefer not to say	3%

23. Taking into consideration both your risk of contracting it and the seriousness of the illness, how worried are you personally about experiencing COVID-19?

Very worried	20%
Somewhat worried	36%
Not too worried	25%
Not worried at all	19%

24. In the past seven days, how often have you worn a mask on your face when outside your home?

Always	35%
Most of the time	20%
Some of the time	22%
Never	23%

25. Do you think the number of cases of COVID-19 in the United States is...

Increasing	63%
Not changing	12%
Decreasing	10%
Not sure	15%

26. Do you think the number of cases of COVID-19 in the community where you live is...

Increasing	47%
Not changing	20%
Decreasing	12%
Not sure	21%

27. Looking at the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S., do you believe that...

The pandemic is going to get worse	39%
We are currently in the worst part of the pandemic	14%
The worst part of the pandemic is behind us	26%
Not sure	22%

28. How would you describe your personal situation regarding COVID-19 vaccines?

I have received all the injections required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19	64%
I have started the vaccination process, but need another shot	5%
I plan to get vaccinated	3%
I will not get vaccinated	18%
I'm not sure about getting vaccinated	9%

29. Which vaccine did you receive?

Among people who have been vaccinated

Pfizer-BioNtech	45%
Moderna	41%
Oxford-AstraZeneca	2%
Johnson & Johnson	12%

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

Yes	19%
No	81%

31. Do you have one or more children in grades K-12 living with you who would normally be attending a school in-person this year?

Asked of parents of children under 18

Yes	75%
No	25%

32. Do you have any children under the age of 12?

Asked of parents of children under 18

Yes	72%
No	28%

33. Do you have any children currently aged 12 to 18?

Asked of parents of children under 18

Yes	47%
No	53%

34. Which of the following best describes the COVID-19 vaccination status of your children aged 12 to 18?

Asked of parents of children aged 12 and over

My children have received all the injections required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19	41%
My children have started the vaccination process, but need another shot	5%
I plan to get my children vaccinated	9%
I will not get my children vaccinated	25%
I'm not sure about getting my children vaccinated	19%

35. When your children under 12 become eligible for vaccination, will you get them vaccinated?

Asked of parents of children under 12

Yes, I will get them vaccinated	46%
No, I will not get them vaccinated	30%
Not sure	23%

36. K-12 Child Status

No school-age children	82%
Children under 12	9%
Children 12-18	4%
Both	5%

37. This year, are your children going to learn in-person, remotely, or in a hybrid learning environment?

Among those with K-12 age children

In-person learning	80%
Remote learning	10%
Hybrid learning	11%

38. Do you want your children to return to in-person learning, to keep remote learning, or to have hybrid learning?

Among those with K-12 age children

In-person learning	74%
Remote learning	13%
Hybrid learning	13%

39. Taking into consideration your children’s risk of contracting it and the seriousness of the illness, how worried are you personally about your children experiencing COVID-19 from in-person schooling?

Asked of parents of children attending in-person or hybrid learning this year

Very worried	24%
Somewhat worried	32%
Not too worried	19%
Not worried at all	25%

40. Do you think students in K-12 schools should be required to wear masks in school?

Should	56%
Should not	28%
Not sure	15%

41. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling COVID-19?

Strongly approve	24%
Somewhat approve	23%
Somewhat disapprove	10%
Strongly disapprove	31%
Not sure	12%

42. Are most new cases of COVID-19 among people who are...

Vaccinated	11%
Unvaccinated	53%
Equally split between vaccinated and unvaccinated	23%
Not sure	13%

43. How much, if anything, have you heard in the news recently about the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus?

A lot	56%
A little	37%
Nothing at all	7%

44. A variant of the COVID-19 virus known as the Delta variant, first identified in India, is spreading rapidly in some regions, and now makes up the majority of COVID-19 cases in the United States. Taking into consideration both your risk of contracting it and the seriousness of the illness, how worried are you personally about experiencing this new variant?

Very worried	21%
Somewhat worried	37%
Not too worried	24%
Not worried at all	17%

45. How long do you think it will take until the economy has recovered all the ground lost during the pandemic?

Has already recovered	6%
Less than a year	4%
About a year	16%
Two years	22%
More than two years	52%

46. In your opinion, when do you think the COVID-19 pandemic will finally end?

The pandemic has already ended	8%
Before the end of the summer 2021	2%
Before the end of 2021	5%
In 2022	24%
After 2022	36%
Never	24%

47. In general, do you think immigration has made the U.S. better off or worse off, or has it not made much difference?

Better off	35%
Worse off	32%
Hasn't made much difference	17%
Not sure	17%

48. Do you think the federal government should increase or decrease the level of LEGAL immigration into the United States, or leave the level the same?

Increase LEGAL immigration	28%
Decrease LEGAL immigration	23%
Not change the level of LEGAL immigration	31%
Not sure	18%

49. How serious a problem is illegal immigration in the U.S. as a whole?

Very serious	38%
Somewhat serious	21%
A minor problem	21%
Not a problem	8%
Not sure	11%

50. How serious a problem is illegal immigration in your LOCAL community?

Very serious	14%
Somewhat serious	14%
A minor problem	21%
Not a problem	29%
Not sure	23%

51. Do you personally know anyone who is an illegal immigrant?

Yes 23%
 No 59%
 Not sure 18%

52. Which comes closest to your view about illegal immigrants who are living in the U.S.?

They should be allowed to stay in the U.S. and apply for citizenship. 50%
 They should be allowed to stay in the U.S., but not become citizens. 10%
 They should be required to leave the U.S. 40%

53. If you had to choose, what do you think should happen to illegal immigrants?

They should be given a chance to keep their jobs and eventually apply for legal status. .. 50%
 They should be deported back to their native country. 37%
 Not sure 13%

54. Overall, do you think the United States should or should not offer asylum to people who come to the US to escape violence or political persecution in their home country?

Should offer asylum 53%
 Should not offer asylum 20%
 Not sure 27%

55. On the subject of climate change do you think:

The world's climate is changing as a result of human activity 54%
 The world's climate is changing but NOT because of human activity 23%
 The world's climate is NOT changing 9%
 Not sure 14%

56. Do you think the severity of the weather events listed below are the result of climate change or do these kind of events just happen from time to time?

	Result of climate change	Just happen from time to time	Not sure
Western drought emergency	49%	35%	16%
Rising sea levels	57%	29%	15%
Pacific Northwest heat wave in 2021	50%	33%	17%
Severe hurricanes (e.g. Katrina, Harvey)	44%	40%	17%
Western wildfires	47%	37%	16%

57. Would you say that you personally have felt the effects of climate change, or not?

Yes, I have	43%
No, I have not	35%
Not sure	22%

58. Do you think that you personally will feel the effects of climate change in your lifetime, or not?

Yes, I will	57%
No, I will not	22%
Not sure	21%

59. Do you think governments and countries can take actions that will make a significantly slow the speed of climate change?

Yes	46%
No	32%
Not sure	21%

60. How much of an impact can humans have on slowing climate change?

A large impact	31%
A reasonable impact	25%
Not very much of an impact	20%
No impact at all	12%
Not sure	12%

61. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
Jobs and the economy	66%	28%	4%	2%
Immigration	43%	35%	17%	5%
Climate change and the environment	44%	24%	17%	15%
Foreign policy	38%	42%	15%	5%
National Security	62%	28%	7%	3%
Education	57%	30%	9%	4%
Health care	67%	24%	6%	3%
Taxes and government spending	58%	32%	7%	3%
Abortion	40%	27%	20%	13%
Civil rights	58%	27%	9%	6%
Civil liberties	59%	29%	8%	4%
Guns	51%	27%	13%	9%
Crime	59%	30%	8%	3%
Criminal justice reform	50%	33%	12%	5%

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

Jobs and the economy	13%
Immigration	6%
Climate change and the environment	14%
Foreign policy	1%
National Security	9%
Education	6%
Health care	19%
Taxes and government spending	8%
Abortion	3%
Civil rights	8%
Civil liberties	3%
Guns	5%
Crime	3%
Criminal justice reform	2%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Joe Biden	26%	21%	9%	38%	6%
Kamala Harris	21%	21%	9%	38%	11%
Nancy Pelosi	16%	21%	10%	42%	11%
Kevin McCarthy	6%	16%	13%	31%	35%
Mitch McConnell	4%	16%	18%	44%	19%
Chuck Schumer	12%	21%	11%	34%	23%
Donald Trump	25%	14%	8%	47%	6%
Barack Obama	35%	18%	11%	31%	6%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
The Democratic Party	16%	27%	11%	36%	10%
The Republican Party	10%	20%	19%	40%	11%

65. Do you think the current Congress has accomplished more or less than Congress usually does at this point in its two-year term?

More than usual	15%
About the same	28%
Less than usual	34%
Not sure	23%

66. Who is more to blame for Congress achieving less than usual?

Democrats in Congress	47%
Republicans in Congress	16%
Both equally	33%
Neither	1%
Not sure	2%

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

Strongly approve	22%
Somewhat approve	24%
Somewhat disapprove	8%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Not sure	10%

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

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
Jobs and the economy	21%	25%	11%	33%	10%
Civil rights	18%	26%	12%	30%	15%
Civil liberties	17%	25%	11%	31%	16%
Crime	12%	24%	11%	34%	19%
Criminal justice reform	12%	23%	14%	32%	20%

69. Would you say Joe Biden is...

Very liberal	29%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	28%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	16%

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

A lot	25%
Some	20%
Not much	12%
Doesn't care at all	34%
Not sure	9%

71. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like or dislike Joe Biden as a person?	
Like a lot	27%
Like somewhat	16%
Neither like nor dislike	16%
Dislike somewhat	7%
Dislike a lot	24%
Not sure	10%
72. Would you say Joe Biden is a strong or a weak leader?	
Very strong	17%
Somewhat strong	30%
Somewhat weak	14%
Very weak	39%
73. Do you think Joe Biden is honest and trustworthy, or not?	
Honest and trustworthy	42%
Not honest and trustworthy	41%
Not sure	18%
74. Are you confident in Joe Biden's ability to deal wisely with an international crisis, or are you uneasy about his approach?	
Confident	36%
Uneasy	48%
Not sure	16%
75. Do you think Joe Biden...	
Says what he believes	39%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	43%
Not sure	18%
76. Do you think that Joe Biden will be able to bring the country together as President?	
Yes	20%
No	53%
Not sure	27%
77. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the next four years with Joe Biden as President?	
Optimistic	37%
Pessimistic	43%
Not sure	20%

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

Strongly approve	4%
Somewhat approve	13%
Neither approve nor disapprove	18%
Somewhat disapprove	21%
Strongly disapprove	32%
Not sure	12%

79. 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	15%
Somewhat approve	21%
Somewhat disapprove	10%
Strongly disapprove	39%
Not sure	16%

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

Strongly approve	11%
Somewhat approve	22%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	33%
Not sure	23%

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

Strongly approve	4%
Somewhat approve	14%
Somewhat disapprove	18%
Strongly disapprove	42%
Not sure	22%

82. 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	7%
Somewhat approve	15%
Somewhat disapprove	13%
Strongly disapprove	33%
Not sure	32%

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

Strongly approve	8%
Somewhat approve	30%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	16%
Not sure	24%

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

Very liberal	5%
Liberal	9%
Moderate	30%
Conservative	22%
Very conservative	10%
Not sure	25%

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

Getting better	20%
About the same	27%
Getting worse	41%
Not sure	12%

86. Do you think the stock market will be higher or lower 12 months from now?

Higher	21%
About the same	22%
Lower	24%
Not sure	33%

87. Do you personally (or jointly with a spouse), have any money invested in the stock market right now, either in an individual stock or in a mutual fund?

Yes	41%
No	59%

88. 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	45%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	30%
Not sure	9%

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

More jobs	28%
The same amount of jobs	32%
Fewer jobs	18%
Not sure	22%

90. How worried are you about losing your job?	
Very worried	9%
Somewhat worried	25%
Not very worried	66%
91. 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.	25%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	31%
Not very hard	29%
Not sure	16%
92. How happy would you say you are with your current job?	
Very happy	24%
Happy	35%
Neither happy nor unhappy	30%
Unhappy	7%
Very unhappy	3%
93. In general, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?	
Very liberal	12%
Liberal	14%
Moderate	30%
Conservative	19%
Very conservative	12%
Not sure	12%
94. Are you registered to vote?	
Registered	78%
Not registered	22%
95. Who did you vote for in the election for President in 2020?	
Joe Biden	34%
Donald Trump	31%
Other	1%
Did not vote for President	34%
96. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?	
Democrat	33%
Republican	24%
Independent	30%
Other	4%
Not sure	9%

97. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?	
Strong Democrat	22%
Not very strong Democrat	11%
Lean Democrat	8%
Independent	19%
Lean Republican	10%
Not very strong Republican	8%
Strong Republican	16%
Not sure	6%
98. Would you say that Joe Biden legitimately won the election, or not?	
Biden legitimately won the election	62%
Biden did NOT legitimately win the election	38%
99. How likely or unlikely do you think it is that Donald Trump will be re-instated as President before the end of 2021?	
Very likely	7%
Somewhat likely	8%
Not very likely	12%
Not likely at all	61%
Not sure	12%
100. Are you... ?	
Male	48%
Female	52%
101. Respondent age by category	
Under 30	20%
30-44	23%
45-64	34%
65+	22%
102. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?	
White	67%
Black	13%
Hispanic	12%
Other	7%
103. What is the highest level of education you have completed?	
HS or less	37%
Some college	29%
College grad	22%
Postgrad	12%

104. What is your marital status?

Married	41%
Separated	2%
Divorced	12%
Widowed	6%
Never married	32%
Domestic / civil partnership	6%

105. Calculated from respondent's state of residence

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

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

Under \$50K	46%
\$50-100K	26%
\$100K or more	16%
Prefer not to say	12%

107. How important is religion in your life?

Very important	33%
Somewhat important	25%
Not too important	15%
Not at all important	26%

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

More than once a week	5%
Once a week	15%
Once or twice a month	6%
A few times a year	12%
Seldom	23%
Never	35%
Don't know	3%

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

Yes	28%
No	72%

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

Several times a day	25%
Once a day	14%
A few times a week	10%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	6%
Seldom	15%
Never	23%
Don't know	5%

111. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	27%
Roman Catholic	17%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	2%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	7%
Agnostic	6%
Nothing in particular	25%
Something else	9%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	August 21 - 24, 2021
Target population	US Adult Population
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in Internet panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by gender, age, race, education, and region) was selected from the 2018 American Community Study. Voter registration was imputed from the November 2018 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement.
Weighting	The sample was weighted based on gender, age, race, education, and both 2016 and 2020 Presidential votes (or non-votes). The weights range from 0.241 to 3.763, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.379.
Number of respondents	1500 1242 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 2.7% (adjusted for weighting) ± 2.9% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	40 questions not reported.