

The Economist/YouGov Poll
December 19 - 22, 2020 - 1500 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1500 U.S. Adult citizens
 Conducted December 19 - 22, 2020
 Margin of Error ±3.3%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	20%
Off on the wrong track	60%
Not sure	19%

2. Do you consider the countries listed below to be an ally or an enemy of the United States?

	Ally	Friendly	Unfriendly	Enemy	Not sure
Canada	49%	33%	4%	2%	11%
China	3%	11%	32%	37%	17%
France	36%	39%	8%	2%	14%
Germany	31%	36%	9%	4%	20%
Iran	2%	6%	27%	46%	18%
Israel	37%	27%	9%	5%	22%
Japan	34%	36%	9%	4%	17%
North Korea	2%	6%	22%	54%	16%
South Korea	30%	32%	11%	9%	19%
Mexico	19%	45%	15%	4%	18%
Russia	4%	10%	30%	38%	19%
United Kingdom	52%	29%	4%	2%	14%
Ukraine	8%	33%	15%	6%	38%

3. Do you think United States relations with each of the following countries will get better or worse with Joe Biden as president?

	Better	Worse	No change	Not sure
China	34%	32%	16%	18%
Iran	24%	35%	20%	21%
Russia	15%	43%	21%	22%
North Korea	14%	40%	26%	21%

4. How much have you heard about a recent cyber-attack on multiple government and commercial organizations?

A lot	28%
A little	49%
Nothing at all	23%

5. Do you think Russia was responsible for this cyberattack, or do you think someone else is to blame?

Among those who have heard at least a little about the cyberattack

Russia is responsible	51%
Someone else is to blame	20%
Not sure	29%

6. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future of the country?

Optimistic	35%
Pessimistic	41%
Not sure	24%

7. Are you better off now than you were four years ago?

Better off now	41%
Better off four years ago	39%
Not sure	20%

8. Is the country better off now than it was four years ago?

Better off now	29%
Better off four years ago	51%
Not sure	20%

9. Right now, do you think the 2020 election...

United the U.S. more	12%
Divided the U.S. more	61%
Has not made any difference	15%
Not sure	12%

10. Are you optimistic or pessimistic that Americans of different political views can still come together and work out their differences?

Optimistic	31%
Pessimistic	47%
Not sure	22%

11. How much confidence do you have that the 2020 presidential election was held fairly?

A great deal	35%
Quite a bit	10%
A moderate amount	11%
Only a little	8%
None at all	29%
Not sure	8%

12. How do you feel about the next 4 years with Joe Biden as president?

Enthusiastic	25%
Satisfied but not enthusiastic	22%
Dissatisfied but not upset	15%
Upset	27%
Not sure	11%

13. When it comes to U.S. presidential elections which would you prefer?

Amend the Constitution so the candidate who receives the most total votes nationwide wins the election	43%
Keep the current system where the candidate who wins the most votes in the Electoral College wins the election	37%
Not sure	20%

14. Do you think Donald Trump should concede the election, or not?

He should concede	61%
He should NOT concede	39%

15. How much voter fraud do you think occurred in this election?

A lot	36%
A little	24%
None	29%
Not sure	11%

16. Do you think the amount of voter fraud in the election caused Donald Trump to lose any of the states he lost in the election this year, or did it not change who won those states?

Among those who think some voter fraud might have occurred

Enough fraud to change who won the election	60%
Did not change who won any of the states	40%

17. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President-Elect Joe Biden is handling the post-election period?

Strongly Approve	32%
Somewhat Approve	18%
Somewhat Disapprove	13%
Strongly Disapprove	22%
Not Sure	16%

18. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Trump is handling the post-election period?

Strongly Approve	19%
Somewhat Approve	15%
Somewhat Disapprove	12%
Strongly Disapprove	43%
Not Sure	11%

19. How likely do you think it is that there will be a peaceful transition of power in January?

Very likely	18%
Somewhat likely	27%
Not very likely	24%
Not likely at all	17%
Not sure	14%

20. Do you think that Joe Biden will be inaugurated President in January 2021?

Yes	62%
No	15%
Not sure	23%

21. Do you think the way President Trump has used the power to pardon or commute the sentences of people convicted of federal crimes has been appropriate or inappropriate?

Appropriate	40%
Inappropriate	40%
Not sure	20%

22. Do you think the President has the power to pardon himself?

Yes	19%
No	51%
Not sure	30%

23. Do you think President Trump has the power to pardon members of his team (such as his family or Rudy Giuliani) before they have been charged with a federal crime?

Yes	35%
No	38%
Not sure	27%

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

Very closely	43%
Somewhat closely	38%
Not very closely	13%
Not following at all	7%

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

Yes, me	17%
Yes, a family member	22%
Yes, a close friend	23%
No	44%
Prefer not to say	4%

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

Yes, me	5%
Yes, a family member	30%
Yes, a close friend	31%
No	40%
Prefer not to say	3%

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

Yes, a family member	9%
Yes, a close friend	14%
No	72%
Prefer not to say	5%

28. 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	26%
Somewhat worried	35%
Not too worried	25%
Not worried at all	14%

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

Always	61%
Most of the time	19%
Some of the time	12%
Never	7%

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

Increasing	53%
Not changing	21%
Decreasing	9%
Not sure	16%

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

Increasing	69%
Not changing	13%
Decreasing	6%
Not sure	12%

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

The pandemic is going to get worse	36%
We are currently in the worst part of the pandemic	33%
The worst part of the pandemic is behind us	16%
Not sure	16%

33. How many Americans, in total, do you think will have died this year due to complications from COVID-19?

Fewer than 100,000 Americans	14%
100,000-150,000 Americans	10%
150,000-200,000 Americans	7%
200,000-250,000 Americans	12%
250,000-500,000 Americans	43%
500,000-750,000 Americans	5%
750,000-1 million Americans	4%
More than 1 million Americans	5%

34. Do you believe that the number of American deaths due to COVID-19 per day is increasing, decreasing, or staying the same?

Increasing	57%
Staying the same	16%
Decreasing	12%
Not sure	14%

35. Do you think the United States is handling the coronavirus outbreak:

Better than most other countries	16%
About as well as most other countries	30%
Worse than other countries	42%
Not sure	12%

36. When do you think it will be safe to end social distancing measures and reopen businesses as normal?

It is safe right now	16%
In about two weeks	3%
In a month or so	6%
In several months	27%
In about a year or longer	29%
Not sure	18%

37. When a coronavirus vaccine becomes available to you, will you get vaccinated?

Yes	43%
No	30%
Not sure	26%
I have already been vaccinated	2%

38. Do you believe there will be enough doses to vaccinate everyone in the U.S. who needs it?

Yes	38%
No	34%
Not sure	28%

39. How long do you think it will be before a vaccine for COVID-19 is available for you?

Among those who definitely will, or might get vaccinated

By the end of 2020	6%
By the spring of 2021	40%
By the summer of 2021	30%
By the end of 2021	9%
2022 or later	2%
Not sure	13%

40. Coronavirus vaccines are being fast-tracked through the approval process. How concerned are you about the safety of coronavirus vaccines?

Very concerned	30%
Somewhat concerned	30%
Not very concerned	20%
Not concerned at all	11%
Not sure	8%

41. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump has handled COVID-19?

Strongly approve	26%
Somewhat approve	15%
Somewhat disapprove	10%
Strongly disapprove	40%
Not sure	9%

42. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion Anthony Fauci?

Very favorable	30%
Somewhat favorable	19%
Somewhat unfavorable	13%
Very unfavorable	16%
Don't know	22%

43. Do you believe that a federal mask mandate would be a violation of your civil liberties, or not?

It would be a violation of civil liberties	33%
It would not be a violation of civil liberties	50%
Don't know	17%

44. Do you usually celebrate Christmas?

Yes	81%
No	14%
Not sure	5%

45. Are you celebrating Christmas with others this year?

Yes	58%
No	37%
Not sure	5%

46. Do you plan on celebrating New Year's with others this year?

Yes	24%
No	62%
Not sure	13%

47. How are you celebrating Christmas this year?

Among those celebrating Christmas with others this year

With members of my household only	35%
With household and friends	10%
With household, friends, and extended family	11%
With household and extended family	44%

48. Is anyone you are celebrating with traveling for Christmas?

Among those celebrating Christmas with others this year

Yes, from another state	17%
Yes, from another town or city	18%
No	66%

49. How do you plan on celebrating New Year's this year?

Among those celebrating New Year this year

With members of my household only	39%
With household and friends	19%
With household, friends, and extended family	19%
With household and extended family	23%

50. Is anyone you plan on celebrating with traveling for New Year's?

Among those celebrating New Year this year

Yes, from another state	17%
Yes, from another town or city	19%
No	64%

51. Do you plan on going out for New Year's, to a bar or other public place?

Among those celebrating New Year this year

Yes	20%
No	70%
Not sure	10%

52. Are there currently COVID-19 restrictions in your community?

Yes	68%
No	18%
Not sure	14%

53. Should COVID-19 restrictions (closing bars, restaurants, limiting travel) be more strict, less strict, or stay the same for New Year's?

Among those with COVID-19 restrictions in their communities

More strict	43%
Stay the same	34%
Less strict	23%

54. Should restrictions still be eased even if less strict restrictions result in increased infections?

Among those who would support COVID-19 restrictions becoming less strict

Yes, even if it causes a large increase in infections	40%
Yes, even if it causes a small increase in infections	52%
No	9%

55. Looking back at 2020, how would you describe the year for the world?

A very good year	3%
A good year	8%
A bad year	34%
A very bad year	54%

56. Looking back at 2020, how would you describe the year for you and your family?

A very good year	3%
A good year	29%
A bad year	45%
A very bad year	23%

57. In the last year, has the United States become more respected or less respected in the world?

More respected	14%
No change	35%
Less respected	52%

58. Do you think things are better off or worse off than they were a year ago when it comes to:

	Much better	Somewhat better	No change	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Not sure
The Middle East	11%	11%	30%	17%	11%	19%
The war in Afghanistan	9%	14%	35%	11%	9%	23%
Energy issues	6%	10%	36%	18%	15%	14%
The environment	6%	12%	33%	19%	22%	9%
The economy in your area	5%	9%	17%	36%	24%	9%
Job security	4%	6%	13%	27%	43%	7%
Government spending	4%	5%	18%	23%	37%	12%
Health care coverage	4%	11%	34%	21%	22%	8%
Education	3%	6%	16%	29%	37%	8%
Social Security and Medicare	3%	11%	39%	20%	14%	14%
The U.S. financial system	5%	9%	19%	29%	28%	10%
Wall Street	12%	18%	24%	18%	9%	19%
The national economy	6%	7%	13%	26%	39%	9%

59. Compared to a year ago, do you find politics more or less interesting?

More interesting	23%
About the same	46%
Less interesting	20%
Not sure	10%

60. Compared to a year ago, do you think political discussion has become more negative or less negative?

More negative	65%
About the same	19%
Less negative	6%
Not sure	11%

61. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
Jobs and the economy	71%	22%	5%	2%
Immigration	42%	33%	18%	6%
Climate change and the environment	43%	27%	18%	12%
National Security and foreign policy	53%	34%	9%	4%
Education	55%	33%	8%	4%
Health care	66%	25%	6%	3%
Taxes and government spending	50%	36%	9%	4%
Civil rights and civil liberties	57%	30%	9%	4%
Gun control	45%	27%	17%	10%
Crime and criminal justice reform	50%	37%	10%	2%

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

Jobs and the economy	23%
Immigration	6%
Climate change and the environment	10%
National Security and foreign policy	6%
Education	7%
Health care	22%
Taxes and government spending	7%
Civil rights and civil liberties	12%
Gun control	4%
Crime and criminal justice reform	3%

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
Donald Trump	31%	12%	9%	43%	5%
Joe Biden	23%	23%	14%	35%	6%
Mike Pence	25%	17%	12%	32%	13%
Kamala Harris	23%	19%	9%	37%	11%
Nancy Pelosi	12%	19%	13%	43%	13%
Mitch McConnell	6%	20%	17%	36%	21%

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	17%	23%	15%	36%	9%
The Republican Party	14%	23%	18%	35%	10%

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

Strongly approve	27%
Somewhat approve	14%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	40%
Not sure	8%

66. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling these specific issues?

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
Jobs and the economy	31%	18%	13%	29%	9%
Immigration	32%	12%	9%	38%	8%
Climate change and the environment	20%	17%	10%	38%	15%
Terrorism	30%	14%	10%	34%	11%
Education	20%	19%	12%	34%	16%
Health care	21%	19%	12%	36%	12%
Taxes and government spending	22%	19%	13%	35%	11%
Civil rights and civil liberties	23%	17%	12%	37%	11%
Gun control	28%	16%	10%	33%	13%
Crime and criminal justice reform	26%	17%	11%	34%	12%

67. Would you say Donald Trump is...

Very liberal	3%
Liberal	4%
Moderate	14%
Conservative	28%
Very conservative	20%
Not sure	30%

68. How much do you think Donald Trump cares about the needs and problems of people like you?

A lot	29%
Some	12%
Not much	13%
Doesn't care at all	39%
Not sure	7%

69. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like or dislike Donald Trump as a person?

Like a lot	18%
Like somewhat	14%
Neither like nor dislike	14%
Dislike somewhat	8%
Dislike a lot	39%
Not sure	7%

70. Would you say Donald Trump is a strong or a weak leader?

Very strong	34%
Somewhat strong	18%
Somewhat weak	14%
Very weak	34%

71. Do you think Donald Trump is honest and trustworthy, or not?

Honest and trustworthy	33%
Not honest and trustworthy	53%
Not sure	14%

72. Are you confident in Donald Trump's ability to deal wisely with an international crisis, or are you uneasy about his approach?

Confident	39%
Uneasy	49%
Not sure	12%

73. Do you think the way Donald Trump uses Twitter is appropriate or inappropriate for the President of the United States?

Appropriate	27%
Inappropriate	57%
Not sure	16%

74. Would you say Joe Biden is...

Very liberal	25%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	29%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	3%
Not sure	17%

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

A lot	27%
Some	20%
Not much	17%
Doesn't care at all	28%
Not sure	8%

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

Like a lot	22%
Like somewhat	18%
Neither like nor dislike	17%
Dislike somewhat	12%
Dislike a lot	24%
Not sure	8%

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

Very strong	18%
Somewhat strong	29%
Somewhat weak	19%
Very weak	34%

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

Honest and trustworthy	40%
Not honest and trustworthy	42%
Not sure	17%

79. Are you confident in Joe Biden's ability to deal wisely with an international crisis, or are you uneasy about his approach?

Confident	38%
Uneasy	44%
Not sure	17%

80. Do you think United States relations with allied countries will get better or worse with Joe Biden as president?

Better	40%
Worse	33%
No change	10%
Not sure	16%

81. Are you confident in Joe Biden's ability to deal with the COVID-19 outbreak, or are you uneasy about his approach?

Confident	41%
Uneasy	42%
Not sure	17%

82. Do you think the U.S. economy will get better, get worse or will it stay the same with Joe Biden as President?

Get better	33%
Get worse	37%
Stay the same	12%
Not sure	17%

83. Do you think that Joe Biden will be able to bring the country together as President?

Yes	23%
No	49%
Not sure	27%

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

Optimistic	39%
Pessimistic	41%
Not sure	19%

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

Strongly approve	6%
Somewhat approve	7%
Neither approve nor disapprove	18%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Not sure	11%

86. 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	11%
Somewhat approve	18%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	40%
Not sure	16%

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

Strongly approve	6%
Somewhat approve	20%
Somewhat disapprove	17%
Strongly disapprove	37%
Not sure	20%

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

Strongly approve	9%
Somewhat approve	29%
Somewhat disapprove	23%
Strongly disapprove	15%
Not sure	24%

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

Very liberal	3%
Liberal	8%
Moderate	30%
Conservative	23%
Very conservative	9%
Not sure	27%

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

Getting better	13%
About the same	25%
Getting worse	47%
Not sure	15%

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

Higher	24%
About the same	22%
Lower	23%
Not sure	30%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	22%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	36%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	32%
Not sure	10%

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

More jobs	26%
The same amount of jobs	20%
Fewer jobs	32%
Not sure	22%

94. How worried are you about losing your job?

Very worried	14%
Somewhat worried	30%
Not very worried	56%

95. 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.	27%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	37%
Not very hard	19%
Not sure	17%

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

Very happy	21%
Happy	38%
Neither happy nor unhappy	30%
Unhappy	6%
Very unhappy	4%

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

Very liberal	9%
Liberal	14%
Moderate	31%
Conservative	19%
Very conservative	12%
Not sure	14%

98. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	70%
Not registered	30%

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

Joe Biden	29%
Donald Trump	27%
Other	1%
Did not vote for President	43%

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

Democrat	32%
Republican	26%
Independent	28%
Other	4%
Not sure	10%

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

Strong Democrat	20%
Not very strong Democrat	11%
Lean Democrat	9%
Independent	19%
Lean Republican	8%
Not very strong Republican	8%
Strong Republican	18%
Not sure	6%

102. Are you... ?

Male	48%
Female	52%

103. Respondent age by category	
Under 30	20%
30-44	23%
45-64	35%
65+	22%
104. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?	
White	67%
Black	13%
Hispanic	12%
Other	7%
105. What is the highest level of education you have completed?	
HS or less	37%
Some college	29%
College grad	21%
Postgrad	12%
106. What is your marital status?	
Married	42%
Separated	2%
Divorced	12%
Widowed	7%
Never married	31%
Domestic / civil partnership	6%
107. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under the age of 18?	
Yes	22%
No	78%
108. Calculated from respondent's state of residence	
Northeast	18%
Midwest	22%
South	38%
West	23%
109. Thinking back over the last year, what was your family's annual income?	
Under \$50K	45%
\$50-100K	25%
\$100K or more	15%
Prefer not to say	15%

110. How important is religion in your life?

Very important	39%
Somewhat important	24%
Not too important	14%
Not at all important	22%

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

More than once a week	8%
Once a week	14%
Once or twice a month	9%
A few times a year	10%
Seldom	24%
Never	31%
Don't know	5%

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

Yes	32%
No	68%

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

Several times a day	29%
Once a day	12%
A few times a week	12%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	7%
Seldom	15%
Never	18%
Don't know	5%

114. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	30%
Roman Catholic	19%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	3%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	6%
Agnostic	5%
Nothing in particular	24%
Something else	8%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	December 19 - 22, 2020
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 2016 American Community Study. Voter registration was imputed from the November 2016 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement.
Weighting	The sample was weighted based on gender, age, race, education, and 2016 Presidential vote (or non-vote). The weights range from 0.051 to 5.077, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.82.
Number of respondents	1500 1157 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 3.3% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3.6% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	47 questions not reported.