

The Economist/YouGov Poll

August 5 - 8, 2023 - 1500 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1500 U.S. Adult citizens
 Conducted August 5 - 8, 2023
 Margin of Error $\pm 2.8\%$

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

Generally headed in the right direction	22%
Off on the wrong track	66%
Not sure	12%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Greg Abbott	12%	14%	7%	25%	41%
William "Bill" Barr	3%	15%	19%	23%	40%
Ron DeSantis	13%	24%	10%	35%	18%
Merrick Garland	9%	17%	9%	22%	44%
Rudy Giuliani	9%	20%	15%	36%	21%
Mark Meadows	3%	13%	11%	19%	54%
Mike Pence	6%	21%	27%	31%	15%
Jack Smith	14%	11%	6%	15%	53%
Donald Trump	21%	20%	12%	44%	3%
Christopher Wray	3%	12%	8%	15%	63%

3. 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	20%	24%	13%	40%	3%
Kamala Harris	16%	23%	12%	40%	9%
Mitch McConnell	3%	15%	22%	39%	20%

4. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
Jobs and the economy	72%	24%	3%	1%
Immigration	49%	35%	12%	3%
Climate change and the environment	44%	27%	15%	14%
Foreign policy	41%	43%	13%	3%
National Security	65%	26%	7%	2%
Education	63%	29%	6%	2%

continued on the next page ...

continued from previous page

Health care	71%	23%	4%	1%
Taxes and government spending	61%	31%	6%	1%
Abortion	48%	29%	15%	8%
Civil rights	56%	31%	9%	3%
Civil liberties	54%	34%	9%	3%
Guns	57%	26%	11%	6%
Crime	64%	29%	6%	1%
Criminal justice reform	45%	38%	13%	4%
Inflation/prices	74%	21%	4%	1%

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

Inflation/prices	19%
Jobs and the economy	12%
Health care	12%
Climate change and the environment	11%
Civil rights	7%
Taxes and government spending	6%
National Security	6%
Immigration	6%
Guns	5%
Abortion	5%
Education	4%
Crime	3%
Civil liberties	2%
Criminal justice reform	1%
Foreign policy	1%

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

Strongly approve	16%
Somewhat approve	26%
Approve	41%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	40%
Disapprove	53%
Not sure	6%

7. 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	19%	23%	41%	15%	35%	50%	9%
Immigration	9%	25%	33%	14%	40%	54%	12%
Education	14%	27%	41%	13%	31%	44%	15%
Health care	15%	26%	40%	18%	28%	46%	14%
Civil rights	16%	24%	40%	14%	30%	44%	16%
Civil liberties	13%	25%	38%	14%	29%	43%	19%
Crime	10%	25%	36%	13%	36%	50%	15%
Inflation/prices	13%	20%	34%	12%	46%	58%	8%

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

Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	14%
Neither approve nor disapprove	19%
Somewhat disapprove	26%
Strongly disapprove	31%
Not sure	7%

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

Strongly approve	14%
Somewhat approve	25%
Somewhat disapprove	20%
Strongly disapprove	29%
Not sure	13%

10. If the election for president were held today, who would you vote for?

Asked of registered voters

The Democratic Party candidate	42%
The Republican Party candidate	42%
Not sure	14%
I would not vote	2%

11. If the elections for U.S. Congress were being held today, who would you vote for in the district where you live?

Asked of registered voters

The Democratic Party candidate	44%
The Republican Party candidate	42%
Other	1%
Not sure	11%
I would not vote	2%

12. 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	14%	26%	40%	15%	35%	50%	10%
Republicans in Congress	10%	27%	37%	19%	33%	52%	11%

13. 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	9%
Somewhat approve	24%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	25%
Not sure	28%

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

Strongly approve	10%
Somewhat approve	21%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	28%
Not sure	29%

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

Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	17%
Somewhat disapprove	21%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Not sure	23%

16. 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	12%
Somewhat approve	17%
Somewhat disapprove	8%
Strongly disapprove	20%
Not sure	42%

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

Very liberal	4%
Liberal	7%
Moderate	29%
Conservative	21%
Very conservative	22%
Not sure	17%

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

Biden legitimately won the election	64%
Biden did NOT legitimately win the election	36%

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

Excellent	5%
Good	21%
Excellent / Good	26%
Fair	27%
Poor	43%
Fair / Poor	70%
Don't know	4%

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

Getting better	18%
About the same	24%
Getting worse	52%
Not sure	6%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	13%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	40%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	43%
Not sure	3%

22. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

Full-time	35%
Part-time	11%
Temporarily laid off	1%
Unemployed	9%
Retired	23%
Permanently disabled	8%
Homemaker	6%
Student	4%
Other	3%

23. Are you currently enrolled as a student?

Full-time student	6%
Part-time student	3%
Not a student	91%

24. Do you have a job outside of school?

Asked of students

Full-time job	5%
Part-time job	32%
No job outside of school	63%

25. Which do you think is a more important problem facing the U.S. today?

Unemployment	4%
Inflation	52%
Both equal	37%
Not sure	6%

26. 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	11%
Equally positive and negative	29%
Mostly negative	43%
Not heard much news about the economy at all	17%

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

Growing	21%
Staying about the same	24%
Shrinking	38%
Not sure	16%

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

Yes	44%
No	31%
Not sure	25%

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

Very likely	3%
Somewhat likely	19%
Not very likely	15%
Not at all likely	4%
Not sure	16%
Not asked - Already in a recession	44%

30. For you personally, which of the following do you consider the best measure of how the national economy is doing?

The stock market index	4%
The unemployment rate and job reports	15%
The prices of goods and services you buy	59%
Your personal finances	8%
Don't know	14%

31. How important is the issue of what happens in the stock market to you?

Very important	20%
Somewhat important	40%
Not very important	25%
Unimportant	15%

32. How serious a problem is unemployment in the U.S.?

Very serious	23%
Somewhat serious	37%
A minor problem	24%
Not a problem	9%
Not sure	7%

33. Since last month, has the unemployment rate increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

Increased	15%
Stayed the same	29%
Decreased	24%
Don't know	32%

34. Are the number of jobs in the United States...

Increasing	34%
Staying the same	40%
Decreasing	25%

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

Higher gas prices	57%
The same gas prices	16%
Lower gas prices	10%
Not sure	16%

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

A higher rate of inflation	47%
The same rate of inflation	24%
A lower rate of inflation	13%
Not sure	16%

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

A lot	59%
A little	37%
Not at all	4%

38. Will you have enough money to pay this month's bills?

Definitely	39%
Probably	36%
Probably not	12%
Definitely not	7%
Not sure	5%

39. How worried are you about losing your job?

Asked of those currently employed

Very worried	11%
Somewhat worried	28%
Not very worried	60%

40. 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.	28%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	40%
Not very hard	23%
Not sure	9%

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

Asked of those currently employed

Very happy	23%
Happy	39%
Neither happy nor unhappy	28%
Unhappy	7%
Very unhappy	3%

42. How much confidence do you have that presidential elections in the U.S. are held fairly?

A great deal	24%
Quite a bit	17%
A moderate amount	18%
Only a little	17%
None at all	18%
Not sure	6%

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

A great deal	32%
Quite a bit	13%
A moderate amount	13%
Only a little	11%
None at all	25%
Not sure	6%

44. How much voter fraud do you think occurred in the 2020 presidential election?

A lot	31%
A little	34%
None	22%
Not sure	14%

45. Was there an attempt to overturn the results of the 2020 election prior to the official certification of electoral votes?

Yes	49%
No	20%
Not sure	31%

46. Was Donald Trump involved in an attempt to overturn the results of the 2020 election prior to the official certification of electoral votes?

Asked of those who believe there was an attempt to overturn the results of the 2020 election

Yes	79%
No	13%
Not sure	7%

47. Do you think Donald Trump committed a crime by attempting to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election?

Among those who believe there was an attempt to overturn the results of the 2020 election

Yes	67%
No	21%
Not sure	11%

48. How serious of a crime do you think Donald Trump committed by attempting to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election?

Very serious	30%
Somewhat serious	3%
Not very serious	1%
Not serious at all	0%
Donald Trump did not commit a crime	4%
Not sure if Donald Trump committed a crime	2%
Donald Trump was not involved in attempt to overturn election	6%
Not sure if Donald Trump was involved in attempt to overturn 2020 election	4%
There wasn't an attempt to overturn the 2020 election	20%
Not sure if there was an attempt to overturn the 2020 election	31%

49. Which comes closer to your view regarding what took place at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021?

People participated in legitimate political discourse	27%
People participated in a violent insurrection	53%
Don't know	20%

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

Strongly approve	5%
Somewhat approve	10%
Somewhat disapprove	17%
Strongly disapprove	56%
Not sure	12%

51. How much responsibility does President Trump have for the takeover of the Capitol on January 6th, 2021?

A lot	40%
Some	13%
A little	11%
None	25%
Not sure	10%

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

Yes	45%
No	36%
Not sure	19%

53. Do you think Donald Trump should be charged with any crime in connection with the events of January 6, 2021?

Yes	45%
No	40%
Not sure	15%

54. When Donald Trump says he won the 2020 presidential election, do you think he really believes that he won, or doesn't he?

Trump really believes that he won the 2020 presidential election	54%
Trump does not really believe that he won the 2020 presidential election	27%
Not sure	18%

55. Before January 6, 2021, do you think Donald Trump really believed he had won the 2020 election?

Trump really believed that he won the 2020 presidential election	55%
Trump did not really believe that he won the 2020 presidential election	25%
Not sure	20%

56. On August 1, 2023, Special Counsel Jack Smith charged Donald Trump with committing four federal crimes in an attempt to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election. Those crimes are: conspiracy to defraud the United States, conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding, obstruction of and attempt to obstruct an official proceeding, and conspiracy against rights. Do you approve or disapprove of the decision to charge Donald Trump with these alleged crimes?

Strongly approve	39%
Somewhat approve	10%
Somewhat disapprove	7%
Strongly disapprove	31%
Not sure	13%

57. How likely do you think it is that Donald Trump will be convicted of at least one of the alleged crimes in the case related to attempts to overturn the 2020 presidential election?

Very likely	18%
Somewhat likely	26%
Not very likely	20%
Not likely at all	17%
Not sure	19%

58. Do you think Donald Trump can get a fair trial in Washington, D.C.?

Yes	40%
No	39%
Not sure	21%

59. How would you rate the quality of legal representation that Donald Trump is receiving?

Very good	20%
Somewhat good	21%
Somewhat bad	11%
Very bad	7%
Not sure	42%

60. How closely do you think Donald Trump is following the advice of his legal counsel?

Very closely	11%
Somewhat closely	25%
Not very closely	21%
Not at all closely	15%
Not sure	29%

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

Very liberal	10%
Liberal	16%
Moderate	33%
Conservative	19%
Very conservative	13%
Not sure	9%

62. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	73%
Not registered	27%

63. 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%

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

Democrat	33%
Republican	31%
Independent	24%
Other	3%
Not sure	8%

65. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	21%
Not very strong Democrat	12%
Lean Democrat	9%
Independent	16%
Lean Republican	8%
Not very strong Republican	12%
Strong Republican	20%
Not sure	3%
Don't know	0%

66. Are you...?

Male	49%
Female	51%

67. Respondent age by category

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

68. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

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

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

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

70. What is your marital status?

Married	43%
Separated	3%
Divorced	10%
Widowed	6%
Never married	33%
Domestic / civil partnership	5%

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

Yes	22%
No	78%

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

Calculated from respondent's state of residence

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

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

Under \$50K	42%
\$50-100K	26%
\$100K or more	20%
Prefer not to say	12%

74. How important is religion in your life?

Very important	38%
Somewhat important	26%
Not too important	14%
Not at all important	22%

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

More than once a week	9%
Once a week	18%
Once or twice a month	7%
A few times a year	11%
Seldom	21%
Never	32%
Don't know	3%

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

Yes	32%
No	68%

77. 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	11%
A few times a week	14%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	7%
Seldom	14%
Never	19%
Don't know	4%

78. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	30%
Roman Catholic	20%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	2%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	7%
Agnostic	5%
Nothing in particular	23%
Something else	8%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	August 5 - 8, 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 0.181 to 3.808, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.44.
Number of respondents	1500 1178 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 2.8% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3.1% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	36 questions not reported.