

The Economist/YouGov Poll
January 3 - 5, 2021 - 1500 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1500 U.S. Adult citizens
 Conducted January 3 - 5, 2021
 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	64%
Not sure	16%
2. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future of the country?	
Optimistic	37%
Pessimistic	40%
Not sure	23%
3. Are you better off now than you were four years ago?	
Better off now	45%
Better off four years ago	34%
Not sure	21%
4. Is the country better off now than it was four years ago?	
Better off now	29%
Better off four years ago	52%
Not sure	18%
5. Right now, do you think the 2020 election...	
United the U.S. more	11%
Divided the U.S. more	63%
Has not made any difference	17%
Not sure	10%
6. Are you optimistic or pessimistic that Americans of different political views can still come together and work out their differences?	
Optimistic	28%
Pessimistic	52%
Not sure	20%
7. How much confidence do you have that the 2020 presidential election was held fairly?	
A great deal	35%
Quite a bit	13%
A moderate amount	10%
Only a little	9%
None at all	27%
Not sure	6%

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

Enthusiastic	25%
Satisfied but not enthusiastic	24%
Dissatisfied but not upset	17%
Upset	25%
Not sure	9%

9. 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	46%
Keep the current system where the candidate who wins the most votes in the Electoral College wins the election	36%
Not sure	18%

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

He should concede	64%
He should NOT concede	36%

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

A lot	34%
A little	26%
None	30%
Not sure	10%

12. 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	56%
Did not change who won any of the states	44%

13. Do you think Congress should or should not certify Joe Biden's victory in the Electoral College?

Should certify Biden's win	56%
Should not certify Biden's win	31%
Not sure	14%

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

Strongly Approve	33%
Somewhat Approve	20%
Somewhat Disapprove	9%
Strongly Disapprove	22%
Not Sure	16%

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

Strongly Approve	20%
Somewhat Approve	12%
Somewhat Disapprove	14%
Strongly Disapprove	46%
Not Sure	9%

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

Very likely	15%
Somewhat likely	28%
Not very likely	26%
Not likely at all	17%
Not sure	14%

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

Yes	64%
No	13%
Not sure	23%

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

Very closely	41%
Somewhat closely	40%
Not very closely	12%
Not following at all	7%

19. 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	20%
Yes, a close friend	23%
No	49%
Prefer not to say	3%

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

Yes, me	7%
Yes, a family member	32%
Yes, a close friend	36%
No	37%
Prefer not to say	3%

21. 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	20%
No	70%
Prefer not to say	3%

22. 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	28%
Somewhat worried	35%
Not too worried	23%
Not worried at all	15%

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

Always	64%
Most of the time	18%
Some of the time	12%
Never	6%

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

Increasing	50%
Not changing	21%
Decreasing	11%
Not sure	18%

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

Increasing	69%
Not changing	11%
Decreasing	7%
Not sure	13%

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

The pandemic is going to get worse	41%
We are currently in the worst part of the pandemic	29%
The worst part of the pandemic is behind us	15%
Not sure	15%

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

Fewer than 100,000 Americans	16%
100,000-150,000 Americans	9%
150,000-200,000 Americans	8%
200,000-250,000 Americans	12%
250,000-500,000 Americans	37%
500,000-750,000 Americans	6%
750,000-1 million Americans	4%
More than 1 million Americans	8%

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

Increasing	54%
Staying the same	19%
Decreasing	12%
Not sure	15%

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

Better than most other countries	17%
About as well as most other countries	27%
Worse than other countries	46%
Not sure	10%

30. 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	4%
In a month or so	6%
In several months	26%
In about a year or longer	31%
Not sure	17%

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

Yes	45%
No	27%
Not sure	26%
I have already been vaccinated	2%

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

Yes	38%
No	33%
Not sure	29%

33. 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	4%
By the spring of 2021	36%
By the summer of 2021	27%
By the end of 2021	16%
2022 or later	4%
Not sure	13%

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

Very concerned	28%
Somewhat concerned	36%
Not very concerned	18%
Not concerned at all	11%
Not sure	7%

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

Strongly approve	23%
Somewhat approve	16%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	43%
Not sure	7%

36. 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	31%
It would not be a violation of civil liberties	58%
Don't know	12%

37. What's your feeling about the year ahead? Generally speaking, are you optimistic or pessimistic about what kind of year 2021 will be for the world?

Very optimistic	10%
Somewhat optimistic	27%
Neither optimistic, nor pessimistic	29%
Somewhat pessimistic	20%
Very pessimistic	15%

38. How do you feel about your family's future in the upcoming year?

Very optimistic	13%
Somewhat optimistic	33%
Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	34%
Somewhat pessimistic	14%
Very pessimistic	7%

39. In the year ahead, will the United States become more respected or less respected in the world?

More respected	32%
No change	34%
Less respected	34%

40. In 2021, do you think things will be better off or worse off than they were in 2020 when it comes to:

	Much better	Somewhat better	No change	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Not sure
The Middle East	5%	12%	29%	16%	16%	22%
The war in Afghanistan	5%	11%	37%	12%	11%	24%
Energy issues	9%	23%	26%	14%	13%	16%
The environment	11%	20%	30%	12%	12%	14%
The economy in your area	7%	21%	24%	20%	15%	12%
Job security	9%	20%	22%	19%	18%	12%
Government spending	6%	14%	21%	18%	27%	14%
Health care coverage	9%	21%	26%	16%	15%	13%
Education	10%	21%	25%	16%	16%	12%
Social Security and Medicare	8%	16%	32%	17%	13%	14%
The U.S. financial system	8%	18%	20%	23%	18%	13%
Wall Street	8%	15%	28%	17%	14%	19%
The national economy	9%	22%	14%	22%	21%	12%

41. In the year ahead, do you think politics will be more or less interesting?

More interesting	21%
About the same	40%
Less interesting	24%
Not sure	15%

42. In the year ahead, do you think political discussion will become more negative or less negative?

More negative	34%
About the same	33%
Less negative	20%
Not sure	13%

43. Do you think the US will be more or less safe from terrorist attacks this time next year?

Much more safe next year	6%
Somewhat more safe next year	12%
About the same	38%
Somewhat less safe next year	13%
Much less safe next year	15%
Not sure	16%

44. In the year ahead, do you think your community will be more or less safe from terrorist attacks this time next year?

Much more safe next year	6%
Somewhat more safe next year	9%
About the same	55%
Somewhat less safe next year	9%
Much less safe next year	7%
Not sure	14%

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

Very likely (more than 50%)	10%
Somewhat likely (10% to 50%)	31%
Not very likely (1% to 10%)	25%
Very unlikely (less than 1%)	10%
Not sure	24%

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

Outstanding	19%
Above Average	13%
Average	11%
Below Average	12%
Poor	38%
Not Sure	8%

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

Outstanding	9%
Above Average	18%
Average	23%
Below Average	10%
Poor	25%
Not Sure	16%

48. In 2021, do you think the new Congress will accomplish more or less than Congress usually does?

More than usual	14%
About the same	40%
Less than usual	24%
Not sure	22%

49. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
Jobs and the economy	67%	25%	6%	3%
Immigration	44%	35%	17%	5%
Climate change and the environment	42%	26%	18%	14%
National Security and foreign policy	53%	34%	10%	3%
Education	56%	29%	12%	3%
Health care	68%	23%	7%	2%
Taxes and government spending	52%	35%	10%	3%
Civil rights and civil liberties	55%	28%	12%	5%
Gun control	47%	24%	18%	11%
Crime and criminal justice reform	54%	30%	11%	4%

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

Jobs and the economy	20%
Immigration	6%
Climate change and the environment	9%
National Security and foreign policy	7%
Education	7%
Health care	23%
Taxes and government spending	8%
Civil rights and civil liberties	10%
Gun control	4%
Crime and criminal justice reform	4%

51. 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	29%	13%	8%	45%	5%
Joe Biden	21%	24%	14%	32%	9%
Mike Pence	22%	16%	13%	36%	13%
Kamala Harris	22%	19%	9%	38%	12%
Nancy Pelosi	13%	21%	14%	41%	11%
Mitch McConnell	3%	17%	17%	49%	14%

52. 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	18%	24%	15%	35%	8%
The Republican Party	14%	21%	19%	38%	9%

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

Strongly approve	27%
Somewhat approve	15%
Somewhat disapprove	10%
Strongly disapprove	42%
Not sure	5%

54. 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	33%	17%	12%	31%	8%
Immigration	30%	13%	8%	42%	6%
Climate change and the environment	22%	15%	9%	42%	14%
Terrorism	31%	15%	10%	36%	9%
Education	21%	19%	12%	35%	13%
Health care	22%	18%	12%	37%	10%
Taxes and government spending	22%	19%	13%	36%	9%
Civil rights and civil liberties	22%	17%	11%	40%	10%
Gun control	28%	14%	9%	37%	12%
Crime and criminal justice reform	25%	16%	12%	36%	11%

55. Would you say Donald Trump is...

Very liberal	5%
Liberal	3%
Moderate	16%
Conservative	26%
Very conservative	24%
Not sure	26%

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

A lot	27%
Some	11%
Not much	14%
Doesn't care at all	43%
Not sure	5%

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

Like a lot	17%
Like somewhat	12%
Neither like nor dislike	15%
Dislike somewhat	8%
Dislike a lot	41%
Not sure	6%

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

Very strong	34%
Somewhat strong	18%
Somewhat weak	13%
Very weak	36%

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

Honest and trustworthy	32%
Not honest and trustworthy	55%
Not sure	13%

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

Confident	38%
Uneasy	50%
Not sure	11%

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

Appropriate	28%
Inappropriate	61%
Not sure	12%

62. Would you say Joe Biden is...

Very liberal	24%
Liberal	21%
Moderate	32%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	15%

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

A lot	24%
Some	25%
Not much	16%
Doesn't care at all	28%
Not sure	7%

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

Like a lot	22%
Like somewhat	17%
Neither like nor dislike	21%
Dislike somewhat	9%
Dislike a lot	22%
Not sure	8%

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

Very strong	16%
Somewhat strong	32%
Somewhat weak	20%
Very weak	32%

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

Honest and trustworthy	41%
Not honest and trustworthy	39%
Not sure	20%

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

Confident	41%
Uneasy	43%
Not sure	15%

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

Better	43%
Worse	31%
No change	10%
Not sure	16%

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

Confident	43%
Uneasy	40%
Not sure	18%

70. 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	34%
Get worse	37%
Stay the same	15%
Not sure	14%

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

Yes	24%
No	48%
Not sure	29%

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

Optimistic	43%
Pessimistic	40%
Not sure	17%

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

Strongly approve	4%
Somewhat approve	9%
Neither approve nor disapprove	15%
Somewhat disapprove	23%
Strongly disapprove	37%
Not sure	11%

74. 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	13%
Somewhat approve	21%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	38%
Not sure	14%

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

Strongly approve	5%
Somewhat approve	16%
Somewhat disapprove	18%
Strongly disapprove	46%
Not sure	16%

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

Strongly approve	11%
Somewhat approve	31%
Somewhat disapprove	22%
Strongly disapprove	14%
Not sure	22%

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

Very liberal	3%
Liberal	10%
Moderate	30%
Conservative	25%
Very conservative	10%
Not sure	22%

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

Getting better	13%
About the same	31%
Getting worse	42%
Not sure	13%

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

Higher	21%
About the same	24%
Lower	26%
Not sure	28%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	21%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	45%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	25%
Not sure	8%

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

More jobs	26%
The same amount of jobs	25%
Fewer jobs	29%
Not sure	20%

82. How worried are you about losing your job?

Very worried	10%
Somewhat worried	34%
Not very worried	56%

83. 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.	32%
Not very hard	24%
Not sure	15%

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

Very happy	25%
Happy	36%
Neither happy nor unhappy	29%
Unhappy	7%
Very unhappy	3%

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

Very liberal	10%
Liberal	14%
Moderate	33%
Conservative	20%
Very conservative	13%
Not sure	11%

86. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	70%
Not registered	30%

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

Joe Biden	30%
Donald Trump	27%
Other	1%
Did not vote for President	43%

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

Democrat	33%
Republican	27%
Independent	30%
Other	3%
Not sure	7%

89. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?	
Strong Democrat	20%
Not very strong Democrat	12%
Lean Democrat	7%
Independent	19%
Lean Republican	9%
Not very strong Republican	10%
Strong Republican	18%
Not sure	4%
90. Are you... ?	
Male	49%
Female	51%
91. Respondent age by category	
Under 30	20%
30-44	24%
45-64	34%
65+	22%
92. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?	
White	67%
Black	13%
Hispanic	13%
Other	8%
93. What is the highest level of education you have completed?	
HS or less	37%
Some college	29%
College grad	22%
Postgrad	12%
94. What is your marital status?	
Married	43%
Separated	2%
Divorced	12%
Widowed	5%
Never married	32%
Domestic / civil partnership	6%
95. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under the age of 18?	
Yes	22%
No	78%

96. Calculated from respondent's state of residence

Northeast	17%
Midwest	21%
South	38%
West	23%

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

Under \$50K	44%
\$50-100K	26%
\$100K or more	19%
Prefer not to say	11%

98. How important is religion in your life?

Very important	39%
Somewhat important	25%
Not too important	15%
Not at all important	21%

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

More than once a week	8%
Once a week	18%
Once or twice a month	7%
A few times a year	12%
Seldom	20%
Never	32%
Don't know	3%

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

Yes	30%
No	70%

101. 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	13%
A few times a week	11%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	7%
Seldom	14%
Never	19%
Don't know	4%

102. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	33%
Roman Catholic	19%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	2%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	2%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	1%
Atheist	7%
Agnostic	7%
Nothing in particular	20%
Something else	6%

Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	January 3 - 5, 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 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 0.072 to 5.145, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.84.
Number of respondents	1500 1278 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 3.3% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3.4% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	47 questions not reported.