

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted April 23-26, 2011
Margin of Error $\pm 4\%$

1. Below are some issues facing the country. For each one, indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling that issue.

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
The war in Iraq	10%	28%	22%	26%	14%
The economy	12%	21%	16%	41%	10%
Immigration	7%	23%	16%	38%	16%
The environment	12%	28%	19%	23%	18%
Terrorism	14%	27%	16%	28%	14%
Gay rights	12%	25%	12%	23%	29%
Education	15%	22%	21%	27%	16%
Health care	19%	19%	14%	39%	10%
Social security	12%	21%	17%	33%	16%
The budget deficit	9%	21%	17%	42%	11%
The war in Afghanistan	7%	26%	24%	29%	14%
Taxes	11%	22%	19%	36%	12%

2. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The war in Iraq	35%	43%	17%	5%
The economy	81%	15%	3%	1%
Immigration	45%	33%	17%	6%
The environment	47%	33%	13%	7%
Terrorism	51%	30%	15%	5%
Gay rights	20%	27%	25%	28%
Education	58%	29%	9%	4%
Health care	72%	21%	5%	2%
Social security	64%	26%	8%	1%
The budget deficit	62%	27%	9%	2%
The war in Afghanistan	37%	41%	16%	5%
Taxes	66%	27%	6%	1%

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

The war in Iraq	1%
The economy	37%
Immigration	5%
The environment	3%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	2%
Education	8%
Health care	14%
Social security	13%
The budget deficit	11%
The war in Afghanistan	1%
Taxes	4%

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

Strongly Approve	14%
Somewhat Approve	27%
Somewhat Disapprove	18%
Strongly Disapprove	33%
Not Sure	9%

5. We'd like to get your overall opinion of some members of the British royal family. For each of the following people, please say whether your opinion is favorable, not favorable, undecided, or whether you haven't heard enough about him or her yet to have an opinion?

	Favorable	Not favorable	Undecided	Haven't heard enough about them to have an opinion
Queen Elizabeth	48%	13%	21%	19%
Prince Charles	24%	37%	21%	19%
Prince Charles' wife Camilla	11%	39%	24%	26%
Prince William	52%	8%	20%	20%
Prince Harry	47%	10%	21%	23%
Kate Middleton, Prince William's fiancee	46%	8%	21%	25%
Princess Diana	66%	8%	13%	13%

6. Prince William and Kate Middleton will be getting married later this month. How closely have you been following news about their wedding - very closely, somewhat closely, or not very closely, or not at all?

Very closely	5%
Somewhat closely	17%
Not very closely	40%
Not at all	38%

7. Prince William gave Kate Middleton his mother Princess Diana’s sapphire engagement ring. Do you think that was an appropriate thing to do, or was it inappropriate? Asked if respondent is aware of royal wedding

Appropriate	78%
Inappropriate	6%
Don’t know	16%

8. Kate Middleton has held jobs as a buyer for a women’s clothing store and at her parents’ party supply company. After she and Prince William are married, do you think it would be acceptable for her to hold a job as she did before, or should she focus on her royal duties full time instead? Asked if respondent is aware of royal wedding

Acceptable to hold job	47%
Focus on royal duties full time	32%
Don’t know	22%

9. How interested are you the wedding between Prince William and Kate Middleton? Asked if respondent is aware of royal wedding

Very interested	9%
Somewhat interested	35%
Not very interested	34%
Not at all interested	23%

10. Do you think the news media have given too much or too little attention to the upcoming wedding between Prince William and Kate Middleton? Asked if respondent is aware of royal wedding

Too little attention	1%
About right	34%
Too much attention	57%
Not sure	8%

11. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the current head of the Catholic Church, Pope Benedict the Sixteenth?

Very favorable	8%
Somewhat favorable	18%
Somewhat unfavorable	15%
Very unfavorable	15%
Not sure	44%

12. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the previous head of the Catholic Church, Pope John Paul the Second?

Very favorable	21%
Somewhat favorable	24%
Somewhat unfavorable	9%
Very unfavorable	10%
Not sure	35%

13. Would you approve or disapprove of the Catholic Church declaring Pope John Paul the Second a saint?

Strongly approve	12%
Somewhat approve	10%
Somewhat disapprove	8%
Strongly disapprove	14%
No opinion	57%

14. Pope John Paul the Second will be beatified on May 1st. This is the first step that the Catholic Church takes toward declaring someone a saint. In your opinion, is the process of Pope John Paul the Second's beatification and sanctification happening... Asked if respondent approves of or has no opinion on sanctification of Pople John Paul II

Too quickly	6%
At about the right pace	18%
Too slowly	4%
No opinion	72%

15. What is the more important priority?

Protecting the environment	7%
Growing the economy	45%
Equally important	47%

16. In recent years, do you think the natural environment has gotten better or worse?

Environment has improved	15%
Stayed the same	25%
Environment has gotten worse	46%
Not sure	14%

17. Generally speaking, do you think nuclear power plants are safe or not safe?

Safe	38%
Not safe	39%
Not sure	23%

18. Would you approve or disapprove of building more nuclear power plants to generate electricity?

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

19. Would you approve or disapprove if a nuclear power plant to generate electricity were built in your community ?

Strongly approve	16%
Somewhat approve	20%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	16%

20. How much have you heard or read about accident at Japan’s Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant caused by the earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan on March 11th?

A lot 66%
 A little 28%
 Nothing at all 6%

21. Compared to the 1986 nuclear accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power plant in Ukraine, do you think the nuclear accident at Japan’s Fukushima Daiichi plant is more or less serious?
Asked if respondent is aware of nuclear accident in Japan

More 28%
 About the same 39%
 Less 18%
 Not sure 15%

22. Thinking about the kinds of people who run for U.S. President, how likely would you be to vote for someone who...

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not too likely	Not at all likely	Not sure
Has never held public office but was successful in business?	15%	29%	23%	14%	18%
Has held public office and was successful in business?	31%	43%	7%	4%	15%
Has held public office and had once been an ordained minister?	10%	28%	23%	18%	21%
Has held public office and hosted a television program?	6%	25%	25%	21%	23%
Spent 20 years in Congress and was a member of his party’s leadership?	19%	39%	14%	11%	17%

23. How much trust do you have in each of the following to make the right decisions about the federal budget?

	A great deal	Quite a bit	Only some	Very little	None at all	Not sure
President Obama	15%	14%	14%	14%	34%	9%
Republicans in Congress	6%	9%	21%	18%	36%	10%
Democrats in Congress	7%	11%	21%	17%	32%	10%

24. How concerned are you about the size of the federal budget deficit?

Very concerned	52%
Somewhat concerned	37%
Not very concerned	9%
Not at all concerned	3%

25. When, if ever, do you think the federal budget should be balanced, so that the amount the government spends is equal to the amount it collects in taxes?

Immediately	37%
Next year	11%
In a few years	40%
Not necessary to balance the budget	12%

26. Overall, do you think that the federal government should increase or decrease the amount it spends?

Increase	5%
Keep the same	11%
Decrease	70%
Not sure	14%

27. Would you rather cut more from defense spending or domestic spending? Asked if respondent favors cutting government spending

Entirely from defense spending	7%
More from defense	23%
About equally from both	38%
More from domestic	23%
Entirely from domestic spending	9%

28. Do you think that the federal government should increase or decrease taxes?

Increase	25%
Keep the same	28%
Decrease	34%
Not sure	13%

29. As you may know, the limit on the country’s overall liabilities, including the federal deficit and other government debts, is called the debt ceiling. In order for the U.S. Treasury to incur debt above the ceiling, Congress needs to vote to raise the ceiling. Congress is currently considering whether to raise the debt ceiling, since the current limit may be reached as early as May. What is your opinion?

Congress should raise the debt ceiling	28%
Congress should not raise the debt ceiling	41%
Not sure	32%

30. Which of these statements about raising the debt ceiling comes closer to your opinion, even if neither is exactly right:

Congress should raise the debt ceiling because otherwise the government will default on its current debt payments and be unable to pay for a range of federal benefits, including military salaries and Social Security.	48%
Congress should not raise the debt ceiling, even if it means the government will not be able to pay its debt or make payments, because that will force the government not to borrow in order to finance its activities. It sends a sign that the country will live within its means and not pass on debt to future generations.	52%

31. U.S. treasury bonds have long been considered one of the safest investments in the world, because they are backed by the U.S. government. Recently, a ratings agency warned that it could downgrade the AAA rating on U.S. debt if the U.S. doesn't cut its budget deficit. Do you think investing in U.S. treasury bonds is safe or not?

Very safe	14%
Somewhat safe	19%
Neutral	25%
Not very safe	18%
Not at all safe	5%
Not sure	18%

32. Do you think the cost of government entitlement programs, including Social Security and Medicare, is a major economic problem for the U.S.?

Yes	45%
No	33%
Not sure	23%

33. Should the government raise taxes or cut entitlements in order to address the economic problem caused by the cost of major entitlement programs? Asked if respondent thinks entitlement programs pose a major economic problem

Raise taxes	10%
Cut benefits	44%
Both	28%
Neither	18%

34. Last year Congress extended the tax cuts enacted in 2001 under President George W. Bush for two more years. Do you favor making the tax cuts permanent or letting them expire after two years?

Make tax cuts permanent	35%
Let tax cuts expire	39%
Not sure	25%

35. Overall, how fair do you think the U.S. tax system is?

Very fair	2%
Somewhat fair	14%
Somewhat unfair	29%
Very unfair	42%
Not sure	12%

36. Do you feel you pay more than your fair share in federal income taxes, less than your fair share, or is the amount you pay about right?

More than fair share	40%
About right	44%
Less than fair share	7%
I don't file taxes	9%

37. Do you think the following groups pay too much or too little in federal taxes? Asked of half of respondents

	Too much	About the right amount	Too little	Not sure
The Rich	9%	14%	66%	11%
The middle class	50%	35%	5%	9%
The poor	42%	25%	20%	12%

38. Do you think the following groups pay too much or too little in federal taxes? Asked of half of respondents

	Too much	About the right amount	Too little	Not sure
Families earning less than \$30,000	42%	28%	12%	18%
Families earning between \$30,000 and \$60,000	36%	40%	8%	17%
Families earning between \$60,000 and \$100,000	22%	50%	12%	17%
Families earning between \$100,000 and \$250,000	12%	32%	42%	14%
Families earning over \$250,000	11%	10%	63%	16%

39. Income taxes for 2010 were due on April 18th, 2011. Did you file your 2010 federal income tax return?

Filed 2010 taxes	71%
Asked for an extension of time to file 2010 taxes	7%
Didn't file 2010 taxes	6%
I'm not required to pay income taxes	16%

40. Do you know which federal tax form you used? Asked if respondent filed 2010 taxes

Form 1040 (the "long" form)	47%
Form 1040A or Form 1040EZ (the "short" form)	35%
Not sure	18%

41. Did you itemize your tax deductions? Asked if respondent filed 2010 taxes using Form 1040

Yes 77%
No 18%
Not sure 5%

42. Did you take a deduction for mortgage interest? Asked if respondent filed 2010 taxes

Yes 36%
No 56%
Not sure 9%

43. Did you have any long term capital gains? Asked if respondent filed 2010 taxes

Yes 9%
No 81%
Not sure 10%

44. How familiar are you with Social Security and Medicare taxes?

Very familiar 14%
Somewhat familiar 38%
Somewhat unfamiliar 27%
Very unfamiliar 22%

45. Which of the following statements are true or false?

	True	False	Not sure
The more that someone pays in Social Security taxes over their lifetime, the greater their benefit when they retire.	43%	26%	31%
Social security taxes are only paid on the first \$106,800 in annual earnings.	32%	13%	55%
Medicare taxes are only paid on the first \$106,800 in annual earnings.	20%	18%	62%
The maximum amount paid by an employee in Social Security taxes in 2010 was \$6,622.	18%	16%	66%
Self-employed persons pay the same amount of Social Security taxes as employees.	19%	32%	49%

46. Have you heard or read about President Obama’s proposal to eliminate the cap on the amount of income that is subject to Social Security taxes?

Yes	23%
No	58%
Not sure	20%

47. Currently, Social Security taxes are paid on earnings up to \$106,800. So a family with \$150,000 of gross yearly income and a family with \$200,000 of gross yearly income both owe \$6,622 in Social Security taxes. Would you favor or oppose lifting that cap so that Social Security taxes are paid on all income, not just income under \$106,800?

Strongly favor	31%
Somewhat favor	19%
Neither favor, nor oppose	16%
Somewhat oppose	5%
Strongly oppose	9%
Not sure	20%

48. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	29%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	28%
Conservative	5%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	20%

49. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	44%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	56%

50. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like Barack Obama as a person?

Like a lot	31%
Like somewhat	28%
Dislike	26%
Not sure	14%

51. Which of these words would you use to describe Barack Obama?

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Bold	31%	50%	19%
Decisive	22%	48%	29%
Effective	21%	44%	36%
Experienced	14%	45%	40%
Honest	32%	35%	33%
In touch	24%	45%	31%
Inspiring	34%	42%	24%
Intelligent	60%	28%	12%
Partisan	23%	57%	20%
Patriotic	27%	46%	28%
Realistic	31%	39%	31%
Religious	15%	57%	28%
Sincere	35%	37%	29%
Strong	28%	47%	25%
Unifying	15%	50%	35%

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

Strongly approve	1%
Somewhat approve	9%
Neither approve nor disapprove	13%
Somewhat disapprove	26%
Strongly disapprove	38%
Not sure	13%

53. Thinking ahead to the 2012 presidential election, who do you think you would vote for if you had the following choices...

Who do you think you would vote for if it were a contest between Barack Obama and Mitt Romney? Asked of one third of registered voters

Barack Obama	46%
Mitt Romney	37%
Not sure	17%

54. Who do you think you would vote for if it were a contest between Barack Obama and Donald Trump? Asked of one third of registered voters

Barack Obama	49%
Donald Trump	32%
Not sure	19%

55. Who do you think you would vote for if it were a contest between Barack Obama and Sarah Palin? Asked of one third of registered voters

Barack Obama	52%
Sarah Palin	34%
Not sure	15%

56. How likely would you be to vote for the following people if they were the Republican nominee for president in 2012?

	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Not too likely	Not at all likely	Not sure
Sarah Palin	13%	14%	8%	54%	11%
Mitt Romney	14%	16%	14%	32%	23%
Mike Huckabee	14%	16%	12%	38%	21%
Donald Trump	14%	16%	10%	47%	13%
Newt Gingrich	11%	11%	13%	44%	20%
Ron Paul	13%	12%	13%	40%	23%
Michele Bachmann	8%	11%	9%	44%	28%

57. Please tell us whether you think the following statements about Barack Obama are true or false.

	True	False	Not sure
Barack Obama is a socialist	29%	40%	31%
Barack Obama was born in the United States	55%	15%	30%
Barack Obama is a Muslim	23%	47%	30%
Barack Obama shares my values	33%	43%	24%
Barack Obama is a Christian	44%	24%	32%
Barack Obama is a strong leader	35%	43%	21%

58. How much have you heard or read about the political movement known as the Tea Party?

A great deal	32%
A fair amount	35%
Not much	23%
Nothing at all	9%

59. Do you think of yourself as a part of the Tea Party movement? Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement

Yes	17%
No	83%

60. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the goals of the Tea Party movement? Asked if respondent is aware of Tea Party movement

Strongly support	14%
Somewhat support	16%
Neither support, nor oppose	15%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	30%
Not sure	15%

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

Getting better	20%
About the same	30%
Getting worse	41%
Not sure	8%

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

Higher	26%
About the same	31%
Lower	21%
Not sure	22%

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

Better off financially	15%
About the same as now	42%
Worse off financially	36%
Not sure	6%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	April 23-26, 2011
Target population	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's PollingPoint panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by age, gender, race, education, and region) was selected from the 2005–2007 American Community Study. Voter registration, turnout, religion, news interest, minor party identification, and non-placement on an ideology scale, were imputed from the 2008 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement and the Pew Religion in American Life Survey. Matching respondents were selected from the PollingPoint panel, an opt-in Internet panel.
Weighting	The sample was weighted using propensity scores based on age, gender, race, education, news interest, voter registration, and non-placement on an ideology scale. The weights range from 0.5 to 5, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.8.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	27 questions not reported.