

The Economist/YouGov Poll



Sample 1000 General Population Respondents
Conducted January 12-14, 2013
Margin of Error $\pm 4.6\%$

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

Generally headed in the right direction	34%
Off on the wrong track	53%
Not sure	14%

2. Since taking office, do you think Barack Obama has accomplished...

More than I expected	14%
About what I expected	44%
Less than I expected	35%
Not sure	7%

3. As a President, how do you think Barack Obama will go down in history?

Outstanding	12%
Above Average	24%
Average	15%
Below Average	14%
Poor	27%
Not Sure	8%

4. Would you say Barack Obama is a strong or a weak leader?

Very strong	23%
Somewhat strong	29%
Somewhat weak	19%
Very weak	28%

5. How much progress has Barack Obama made in achieving the following campaign promises?

	A lot	Some	Only a little	None	Not sure
Changing the partisan tone in Washington	6%	16%	18%	51%	10%
Improving the U.S. image in the world	22%	17%	16%	39%	6%
Improving the economy	14%	23%	20%	41%	3%

6. How much progress do you think Barack Obama will make in achieving these campaign promises in the year 2013?

	A lot	Some	Only a little	None	Not sure
Changing the partisan tone in Washington	9%	19%	17%	47%	9%
Improving the U.S. image in the world	20%	20%	12%	40%	8%
Improving the economy	18%	22%	16%	39%	6%

7. How do you think the U.S. compares to other wealthy countries (such as Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Spain)?

	Lower in U.S.	About the same	Higher in U.S.	Don't know
The proportion of newborn babies who die before they are one year old	35%	24%	19%	21%
The proportion of persons who are obese	4%	13%	72%	11%
The proportion of persons who are homicide victims	12%	22%	47%	18%
The proportion of people who die in car accidents	9%	31%	38%	22%
Average life expectancy	28%	38%	20%	14%
The proportion of persons who are illiterate	23%	28%	29%	19%
Average family income	27%	27%	28%	18%
Income tax rates	35%	21%	26%	18%

8. What's more important?

The right of people to own guns	16%
Protecting people from gun violence	32%
Both are equally important	49%
Not sure	3%

9. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the NRA?

Very favorable	21%
Somewhat favorable	22%
Somewhat unfavorable	13%
Very unfavorable	23%
Not sure	20%

10. Do you think gun control laws should be made more or less strict than they are now?

More strict	55%
No change	29%
Less strict	9%
Not sure	7%

11. Do you or anyone else in your household own a gun?

I personally own a gun	21%
I don't personally but someone in household does	15%
No	63%

12. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
The economy	83%	14%	2%	0%
Immigration	43%	37%	15%	5%
The environment	43%	35%	17%	5%
Terrorism	52%	30%	14%	4%
Gay rights	18%	22%	25%	35%
Education	64%	27%	8%	1%
Health care	68%	26%	4%	2%
Social security	64%	30%	5%	1%
The budget deficit	59%	26%	10%	5%
The war in Afghanistan	24%	43%	24%	8%
Taxes	64%	29%	6%	1%
Medicare	57%	33%	8%	1%
Abortion	35%	31%	21%	13%

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

The economy	35%
Immigration	4%
The environment	5%
Terrorism	2%
Gay rights	1%
Education	7%
Health care	11%
Social security	11%
The budget deficit	10%
The war in Afghanistan	0%
Taxes	6%
Medicare	3%
Abortion	5%

14. Who do you think should be the Republican nominee for President in 2016?

Mitch Daniels	2%
Chris Christie	13%
Marco Rubio	9%
Jeb Bush	4%
Condoleezza Rice	5%
Paul Ryan	6%
Bobby Jindal	2%
Rick Santorum	2%
Sarah Palin	6%
Rand Paul	3%
Rick Perry	2%
Other	6%
Not sure	40%

15. Do you think the Republican Presidential nominee in 2016 should be more conservative or less conservative than Mitt Romney?

More conservative	28%
About the same	23%
Less conservative	32%
Not sure	18%

16. Who do you think should be the Democratic nominee for President in 2016?

Elizabeth Warren	2%
Hillary Clinton	32%
Rahm Emanuel	0%
Joe Biden	9%
Martin O'Malley	1%
Mark Warner	1%
Julian Castro	1%
Andrew Cuomo	3%
Amy Klobuchar	0%
Evan Bayh	3%
Tammy Baldwin	0%
Other	6%
Not sure	43%

17. Do you think the Democratic Presidential nominee in 2016 should be more liberal or less liberal than Barack Obama?

More liberal	13%
About the same	33%
Less liberal	37%
Not sure	17%

18. Looking back at 2012, how would you describe the year for the world?

A very good year	3%
A good year	31%
A bad year	49%
A very bad year	17%

19. Looking back in terms of your family alone, how would you describe your 2012 as having been?

A very good year	5%
A good year	48%
A bad year	34%
A very bad year	12%

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

Very optimistic	13%
Somewhat optimistic	31%
Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	28%
Somewhat pessimistic	19%
Very pessimistic	8%

21. Which describes your views on the U.S. economy in the new year?

Very optimistic	8%
Somewhat optimistic	26%
Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	24%
Somewhat pessimistic	25%
Very pessimistic	17%

22. Are you personally or is someone in your household a member of a labor union?

I personally belong to a union	7%
I don't but someone in household does	7%
No	86%

23. Right-to-work laws permit employees to work without joining a union, or having to pay union dues, even if a union represents other workers at the same place of employment. Do you favor or oppose right-to-work laws?

Strongly favor	37%
Somewhat favor	21%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	14%
Not sure	19%

24. Looking forward, still on labor: do you see changes on the horizon in the next 30 years?

Yes and I think the level of influence wielded by labor unions will go up	10%
No, I see it staying constant	16%
Yes and I think this change will be a loss of influence held by labor unions, not a gain	45%
Not sure	29%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Barack Obama	34%	14%	10%	37%	5%
Sarah Palin	12%	22%	14%	41%	11%
John McCain	11%	30%	25%	23%	11%
Joe Biden	23%	21%	14%	32%	10%
Mitch Daniels	7%	12%	10%	11%	59%
Julian Castro	5%	11%	9%	11%	64%
Hillary Clinton	35%	21%	18%	20%	6%

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

Strongly Approve	23%
Somewhat Approve	24%
Somewhat Disapprove	11%
Strongly Disapprove	38%
Not Sure	4%

27. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling these specific issues?

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
The economy	20%	21%	14%	37%	8%
Immigration	16%	22%	16%	33%	13%
The environment	15%	24%	18%	25%	17%
Terrorism	23%	27%	12%	26%	12%
Gay rights	19%	20%	11%	28%	22%
Education	21%	24%	17%	23%	15%
Health care	26%	16%	12%	39%	8%
Social security	17%	20%	20%	29%	14%
The budget deficit	16%	18%	16%	40%	10%
The war in Afghanistan	20%	26%	16%	23%	14%
Taxes	18%	22%	15%	37%	8%
Medicare	19%	20%	18%	30%	13%
Abortion	17%	20%	10%	29%	24%

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

Strongly approve	2%
Somewhat approve	8%
Neither approve nor disapprove	14%
Somewhat disapprove	26%
Strongly disapprove	43%
Not sure	7%

29. If you had to choose, would you rather have a member of Congress who...

Compromises to get things done. 68%
 Sticks to their principles, no matter what. 32%

30. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly	Not sure
It makes me angry when I see Democratic and Republican leaders arguing with each other.	28%	26%	27%	10%	6%	4%
Disagreement about policy is healthy in a democracy.	19%	45%	23%	4%	4%	5%
Democrats and the Republicans generally argue over things that are not very important.	27%	30%	20%	10%	7%	5%
I would like Democrats and the Republicans to come together and compromise.	44%	27%	16%	5%	5%	4%

31. How would you feel if you had a son or daughter who married a Democrat?

Asked of Republicans and Independents

Very upset 7%
 Somewhat upset 9%
 Not upset at all 63%
 Not sure 21%

32. How would you feel if you had a son or daughter who married a Republican?

Asked of Democrats and Independents

Very upset	12%
Somewhat upset	11%
Not upset at all	57%
Not sure	21%

33. Which of the following words would you use to describe people who are Republicans?

Check all that apply.

Patriotic	44%
Closed-minded	39%
Intelligent	36%
Hypocritical	34%
Honest	26%
Selfish	31%
Generous	20%
Open-minded	18%
Mean	17%
None of the above	13%

34. Which of the following words would you use to describe people who are Democrats?

Check all that apply.

Patriotic	23%
Closed-minded	28%
Intelligent	29%
Hypocritical	31%
Honest	22%
Selfish	24%
Generous	29%
Open-minded	41%
Mean	11%
None of the above	15%

35. Do you think the outcome of the Presidential election last November will have much impact on you personally?

Yes, a big impact	28%
Yes, some impact	38%
No, not much impact	18%
No impact at all	8%
Not sure	8%

36. In the future, in what circumstances, if any, should the U.S. take military action against another country?

Whenever it feels it is in the interests of the United States to do so, regardless of whether other countries or the United Nations approve	20%
Only if the U.S. can act jointly with its allies	23%
Only if the United Nations approves	7%
The U.S. should never take military action against another country, other than in response to a military attack on the U.S.	35%
Don't know	15%

37. Do you regard homosexuality as a sin or not?

Yes, it is a sin	40%
No, it is not a sin, but it is not generally desirable	21%
No, it is perfectly acceptable behavior	27%
Don't know	12%

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

Very liberal	10%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	26%
Conservative	30%
Very Conservative	10%
Not sure	7%

39. Would you say Barack Obama is...

Very liberal	37%
Liberal	26%
Moderate	21%
Conservative	4%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	9%

40. Do you think Barack Obama...

Says what he believes	43%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	48%
Not sure	9%

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

Like a lot	34%
Like somewhat	25%
Dislike	34%
Not sure	7%

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

	Yes	No Opinion	No
Arrogant	38%	31%	31%
Bold	32%	54%	14%
Effective	25%	46%	29%
Exciting	17%	64%	19%
Experienced	23%	52%	25%
Honest	35%	33%	32%
Hypocritical	31%	42%	27%
Inspiring	34%	44%	22%
Intelligent	57%	31%	12%
Partisan	26%	57%	17%
Patriotic	29%	43%	28%
Religious	16%	60%	24%
Sincere	35%	38%	27%
Steady	25%	60%	15%
Strong	34%	48%	19%

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

Getting better	27%
About the same	33%
Getting worse	35%
Not sure	5%

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

Higher	20%
About the same	34%
Lower	20%
Not sure	26%

45. Do you approve or disapprove of the recent legislation passed by Congress and signed by President Obama that raises taxes and averts the "fiscal cliff"?

Approve strongly	8%
Approve somewhat	26%
Neither approve nor disapprove	16%
Disapprove somewhat	19%
Disapprove strongly	20%
Not sure	11%

46. How much do you expect your taxes to increase because of the deal on the "fiscal cliff"?

A lot	15%
Some	41%
A little	26%
None	18%

47. There is talk in Washington about spending cuts and further tax increases to cut the deficit. What do you think Congress and the President should do?

Cut spending and raise taxes	24%
Only cut spending	47%
Only raise taxes	9%
Neither cut spending nor raise taxes	7%
Not sure	12%

48. Congress recently raised taxes on people earning over \$400,000 per year. Do you favor or oppose a further increase in taxes on people earning over \$400,000?

Favor an additional increase	53%
Oppose an additional increase	31%
Not sure	16%

49. How about families earning between \$250,000 and \$400,000 per year? Do you favor or oppose increasing their taxes?

Favor increasing their taxes	50%
Oppose increasing their taxes	35%
Not sure	15%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	19%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	45%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	32%
Not sure	4%

51. Gender

Male	49%
Female	51%

52. Education

No high school	8%
High school graduate	35%
Some college	23%
2-year college	10%
4-year college	15%
Post-graduate	9%

53. Age

18-29	25%
30-44	27%
45-64	34%
65+	15%

54. Race

White	67%
Black	14%
Hispanic	12%
Other	7%

55. Region

Northeast	21%
Midwest	21%
South	36%
West	21%

56. Party Identification

Democrat	41%
Lean Democrat	5%
Independent	16%
Lean Republican	9%
Republican	29%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	January 12-14, 2013
Target population	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in Internet panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by age, gender, race, education, and region) was selected from the 2010 American Community Study. Voter registration was imputed from the November 2010 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement. Religion, political interest, minor party identification, and non-placement on an ideology scale, were imputed from the 2008 Pew Religion in American Life Survey.
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 0.2 to 7.2, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.11.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 4.6% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	16 questions not reported.