

YouGov Survey Results

Sample Size: 2107 GB Adults
Fieldwork: 4th - 5th February 2026

	Vote in 2024 GE						EU Ref 2016		Gender		Age				Socio-economic classification (NS-SEC)			Country			Region in England				
	Total	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Reform UK	Green	Remain	Leave	Male	Female	18-24	25-49	50-64	65+	Higher	Intermediate	Routine	England	Wales	Scotland	North	Midlands	London	Rest of South	
Weighted Sample	2107	379	542	194	228	110	740	752	1020	1087	221	870	520	495	714	472	630	1823	101	183	499	346	255	723	
Unweighted Sample	2107	368	567	198	233	110	784	778	911	1196	198	772	553	584	800	442	556	1838	92	177	515	357	217	749	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

17 - 18 Oct '24 4 - 5 Feb '26

How well or badly do you think the police are currently dealing with shoplifting?

Very well	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	0	1	1	1	1
Fairly well	7	11	11	8	10	4	11	10	6	11	11	21	12	8	7	9	10	12	11	9	16	10	13	8	11
TOTAL WELL	8	12	11	9	10	4	12	11	6	12	12	22	13	9	7	9	10	13	12	13	16	10	14	9	12
Fairly badly	31	31	33	35	34	24	28	32	30	28	34	37	29	30	33	32	30	29	31	31	27	31	32	32	31
Very badly	43	35	45	32	29	63	20	31	50	43	28	13	29	45	46	38	38	38	35	41	36	35	35	37	34
TOTAL BADLY	74	66	78	67	63	87	48	63	80	71	62	50	58	75	79	70	68	67	66	72	63	66	67	69	65
Don't know	19	22	12	25	27	9	40	26	13	17	26	28	29	16	14	21	23	20	22	15	21	23	19	22	23

Have you ever shoplifted?

I have shoplifted as an adult	3	2	2	3	2	3	6	2	2	3	2	4	3	2	1	3	1	2	3	2	1	2	2	5	3
I have not shoplifted as an adult, but did as a child (i.e. aged under 16)	15	15	12	18	12	15	24	17	16	17	13	15	16	15	15	14	14	17	15	17	12	14	15	17	16
I have never shoplifted	78	77	82	75	83	78	63	77	78	74	80	75	74	81	81	78	78	77	77	78	84	79	78	70	77
Prefer not to say	3	3	3	3	2	3	4	3	2	4	3	3	5	2	2	3	5	2	4	2	1	4	4	6	3
Don't know	2	2	1	2	1	0	3	1	2	2	2	2	3	0	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	3	2

How serious a crime, if at all, would you say shoplifting is?

Very serious	18	18	26	13	13	24	16	15	27	18	18	5	10	25	30	13	21	24	18	14	16	19	23	14	17
Fairly serious	55	56	62	55	62	64	36	58	60	56	56	30	55	63	62	60	58	55	56	58	56	54	54	53	59
TOTAL SERIOUS	73	74	88	68	75	88	52	73	87	74	74	35	65	88	92	73	79	79	74	72	72	73	77	67	76
Not very serious	22	21	10	27	24	9	38	23	11	21	22	54	29	9	6	23	17	16	21	24	22	22	19	25	21
Not serious at all	3	2	0	2	0	2	3	2	1	3	2	7	2	2	0	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	1	4	2
TOTAL NOT SERIOUS	25	23	10	29	24	11	41	25	12	24	24	61	31	11	6	25	19	18	23	26	25	24	20	29	23
Don't know	2	3	1	3	0	1	6	2	1	2	3	5	3	1	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	2

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

Do you think it can sometimes or can never be acceptable to shoplift in the following circumstances?

Shoplifting food if you are starving

It can sometimes be acceptable	51	47	28	57	50	37	67	53	34	45	49	69	53	41	31	49	41	41	46	48	56	45	43	54	44
It can never be acceptable	41	45	63	35	43	58	26	39	58	48	42	21	38	52	59	44	50	50	45	46	40	46	46	37	47
Don't know	8	9	9	9	7	5	7	8	9	7	10	10	9	7	10	7	9	10	9	6	5	8	11	9	9

Shoplifting baby products if you are a parent who cannot afford them

It can sometimes be acceptable	44	39	20	49	42	26	59	45	25	38	41	71	47	29	21	41	33	34	39	36	48	42	38	44	35
It can never be acceptable	47	52	72	40	51	67	31	46	67	55	49	21	44	60	70	52	57	57	52	54	48	51	52	45	55
Don't know	9	9	8	10	7	7	10	9	8	7	11	8	9	10	9	7	11	9	10	5	5	8	10	11	10

Shoplifting items from a large company

It can sometimes be acceptable	19	17	6	20	17	8	40	17	8	18	16	47	23	7	4	18	13	12	17	12	19	18	15	22	15
It can never be acceptable	73	74	88	70	79	88	47	73	86	75	74	40	67	86	90	74	78	79	74	79	71	73	76	67	77
Don't know	8	9	6	10	4	5	13	10	6	7	10	13	10	7	6	7	9	10	9	9	10	9	9	11	8

Shoplifting toiletries if you cannot afford them

It can sometimes be acceptable	30	29	10	36	30	16	54	31	16	27	31	65	36	19	9	30	22	24	28	29	35	29	26	35	26
It can never be acceptable	62	62	82	54	62	79	33	60	77	66	59	26	53	73	84	62	69	67	63	63	60	62	63	53	66
Don't know	8	9	7	10	8	4	13	10	7	7	10	8	10	8	7	8	9	9	9	8	5	10	11	12	8

Shoplifting food if you cannot afford it

It can sometimes be acceptable	40	36	18	46	38	21	56	42	22	33	38	62	43	27	20	37	32	30	35	34	45	36	33	43	33
It can never be acceptable	51	54	73	44	54	71	29	49	68	58	50	27	45	63	72	55	59	58	54	55	50	55	56	44	57
Don't know	9	10	9	10	8	8	15	9	10	9	12	11	11	10	7	8	9	12	11	11	6	10	11	13	10

Shoplifting items from a small company

It can sometimes be acceptable	3	2	2	2	1	1	3	3	1	3	2	3	4	1	0	2	3	2	3	2	1	3	2	7	1
It can never be acceptable	91	91	94	91	93	96	84	90	94	91	91	84	87	95	96	93	91	91	91	90	95	91	91	84	92
Don't know	6	7	4	7	5	3	13	7	4	6	7	13	8	4	4	5	6	7	7	8	4	6	7	9	6

Shoplifting luxury goods

It can sometimes be acceptable	3	3	2	4	1	1	9	4	1	4	3	9	5	1	0	2	3	3	3	5	3	5	2	3	3
It can never be acceptable	93	93	97	92	96	98	84	93	96	93	93	79	90	97	99	95	93	94	93	92	93	91	93	92	94
Don't know	4	4	1	4	2	1	8	3	2	4	4	12	5	2	1	3	5	3	4	3	4	4	5	5	3

Shoplifting clothes if you cannot afford them

It can sometimes be acceptable	20	17	6	20	18	7	32	17	8	16	18	47	22	9	5	16	13	15	17	18	22	17	13	21	17
It can never be acceptable	72	73	89	69	73	87	46	73	86	74	72	39	66	83	90	76	77	76	73	73	74	72	76	64	75
Don't know	8	10	5	11	9	6	21	10	6	9	10	14	12	7	5	8	10	9	10	9	4	10	11	14	8

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	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

How many times, if at all, have you witnessed each of the following in the last 12 months?

Someone shoplifting

Never	57	54	58	66	46	58	60	56	56	57	50	53	57	65	57	58	54	55	74	68	53	59	44	57
Once	13	18	15	13	10	10	15	12	12	14	14	14	12	14	16	12	12	14	7	10	14	13	14	15
Two or three times	13	13	12	9	21	14	13	14	13	13	11	14	14	9	12	13	14	13	10	12	14	12	14	12
Four or five times	3	2	3	1	5	5	2	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	3	3	3	1	0	4	3	4	3
More often than this	4	5	3	4	5	3	3	4	5	4	8	5	4	2	4	4	5	4	1	3	3	5	9	3
Don't know / can't recall	10	7	10	8	13	10	8	10	11	9	14	11	11	7	9	9	12	11	8	5	12	8	14	10

Someone behaving violently in a shop towards staff

Never	56	61	56	64	46	48	59	57	53	59	41	51	56	71	55	60	56	55	65	62	55	55	46	58
Once	15	14	15	15	16	15	15	15	15	15	18	15	14	15	16	15	12	15	15	14	13	15	13	17
Two or three times	14	13	15	12	17	16	12	14	15	13	23	15	14	8	16	10	14	14	9	14	15	14	20	12
Four or five times	3	2	2	3	5	4	3	3	4	2	3	4	3	1	2	4	4	3	3	1	4	4	3	2
More often than this	3	4	1	2	2	7	2	3	3	2	4	4	2	0	4	3	2	3	0	4	2	3	7	2
Don't know / can't recall	10	6	10	3	14	9	8	9	10	9	11	11	11	5	8	8	12	10	7	5	12	8	12	9

Who do you think should bear more of the responsibility for preventing shoplifting?

The authorities, i.e. government, police etc	33	32	34	32	40	33	34	31	35	31	40	39	28	25	37	31	29	33	38	28	36	33	37	30
Retailers themselves, i.e. companies and store owners, staff	11	12	10	10	6	9	10	10	11	10	15	10	10	10	11	12	10	11	10	13	11	9	11	11
Both equally	50	54	48	55	52	46	50	56	50	50	35	43	58	62	47	52	55	50	45	52	45	51	47	54
Neither	2	1	3	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	4	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	3	1	2	1	1
Don't know	4	1	4	2	2	9	5	2	3	6	6	7	2	2	3	4	5	4	5	4	7	5	4	3

*Any percentages calculated on bases fewer than 100 respondents do not represent a wide enough cross-section of the target population to be considered statistically reliable. These figures should not be used.