AP | NORC
*at the* UNIVERSITY *of* CHICAGO

# The February 2021 AP-NORC Center Poll

**Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research**
**With funding from The Associated Press and NORC at the University of Chicago**

*Interviews: 2/25-3/1/2021*
*1,434 adults*
*Margin of sampling error: +/- 3.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults*

*NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.*

**CUR1. Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the…**

**[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

| AP-NORC<br>All adults | Right direction | Wrong direction | DON'T<br>KNOW | SKIPPED<br>ON WEB/<br>REFUSED |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *2/25-3/1/2021 (N=1,434)* | 48 | 51 | * | 1 |
| 1/28-2/1/2021 (N=1,055) | 49 | 49 | 1 | 1 |
| 12/3-7/2020 (N=1,117) | 37 | 62 | 1 | 1 |
| 10/8-12/2020 (N=1,121) | 25 | 74 | 1 | 1 |
| 9/11-14/2020 (N = 1,108) | 27 | 72 | * | 1 |
| 8/17-19/2020 (N=1,075) | 23 | 75 | 1 | * |
| 7/16-20/2020 (N=1,057) | 20 | 80 | * | * |
| 6/11-15/2020 (N=1,310) | 24 | 74 | 1 | 1 |
| 5/14-18/2020 (N=1,056) | 33 | 65 | 1 | 1 |
| 4/16-20/2020 (N=1,057) | 36 | 63 | 1 | - |
| 3/26-29/2020 (N=1,057) | 42 | 58 | * | * |
| 2/13-16/2020 (N=1,074) | 41 | 59 | * | * |
| 1/16-21/2020 (N=1,353) | 38 | 62 | * | * |
| 12/5-9/2019 (N=1,053) | 36 | 63 | * | * |
| 10/24-28/2019 (N=1,075) | 39 | 60 | 1 | 1 |
| 9/20-23/2019 (N=1,286) | 38 | 60 | 1 | 1 |
| 8/15-18/2019 (N=1,059) | 33 | 66 | * | 1 |
| 6/13-17/2019 (N=1,116) | 36 | 63 | * | 1 |
| 5/17-20/2019 (N=1,137) | 35 | 62 | 2 | 1 |
| 4/11-14/2019 (N=1,108) | 37 | 62 | * | * |
| 3/14-18/2019 (N=1,063) | 35 | 63 | * | 1 |
| 1/16-20/2019 (N=1,062) | 28 | 70 | 1 | * |
| 12/13-16/2018 (N=1,067) | 39 | 59 | * | 1 |
| 10/11-14/2018 (N=1,152) | 39 | 60 | * | 1 |
| 8/16-20/2018 (N=1,055) | 38 | 62 | * | * |
| 6/13-18/2018 (N=1,109) | 40 | 58 | 1 | 1 |
| 4/11-16/2018 (N=1,140) | 39 | 60 | * | * |
| 3/14-19/2018 (N=1,222) | 37 | 62 | 1 | 1 |
| 2/15-19/2018 (N=1,337) | 32 | 68 | * | * |
| 12/7-11/2017 (N=1,020) | 30 | 69 | 1 | * |
| 9/28-10/2/2017 (N=1,150) | 24 | 74 | 1 | * |
| 6/8-11/2017 (N=1,068) | 34 | 65 | 2 | * |
| 3/23-27/2017 (N=1,110) | 37 | 62 | 1 | * |

**CUR2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president?**

*If don't know, skipped, or refused in CUR2*
**CUR3. If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approving or disapproving of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president?**

*If approve in CUR2*
**CUR3A. Would you say you approve of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president strongly or do you approve just somewhat?**

*If disapprove in CUR2*
**CUR3B. Would you say you disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president strongly or do you disapprove just somewhat?**

**[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

| AP-NORC All adults | **Approve NET** | Strongly approve | Somewhat approve | Lean toward approv-ing | **Do not lean either way** | **Dis-approve NET** | Lean toward disapp-roving | Some-what dis-approve | Strongly dis-approve | DK | SKP /REF |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2/25-3/1/2021 *(N=1,434)* | **60** | 32 | 28 | * | * | **40** | * | 15 | 24 | * | * |
| 1/28-2/1/2021 *(N=1,055)* | **61** | 35 | 26 | * | **1** | **38** | * | 11 | 26 | * | |

**CURY2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling…?**

**[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

| AP-NORC 2/25-3/1/2021 *(N=1,434)* | Approve | Disapprove | DK | SKP/REF |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| The economy | 55 | 44 | * | 1 |
| The coronavirus pandemic | 70 | 29 | * | 1 |
| Health care | 58 | 41 | * | 1 |
| Race relations | 61 | 38 | * | 1 |

**B1A. How would you describe the nation's economy these days? Would you say…**

*If neither good nor poor, Don't know, Skipped, or Refused in B1A.*
**B1B. If you had to choose, do you lean more toward the nation's economy being good or the nation's economy being poor?**

**[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

| AP-NORC<br>All adults | Very/<br>Some-<br>what/<br>Lean<br>toward<br>good NET | Very<br>good | Some-<br>what<br>good | Lean<br>toward<br>good | Neither<br>good<br>nor<br>poor | Very/<br>Some-<br>what/<br>Lean<br>toward<br>poor<br>NET | Lean<br>toward<br>poor | Some-<br>what<br>poor | Very<br>poor | DK | SKP/<br>REF |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2/25-3/1/2021<br>(N=1,434) | **37** | 1 | 22 | 14 | * | **63** | 16 | 34 | 12 | - | * |
| 1/28-2/1/2021<br>(N=1,055) | **31** | 1 | 17 | 12 | * | **69** | 15 | 37 | 17 | - | - |
| 12/3-7/2020<br>(N=1,117) | **38** | 5 | 22 | 11 | * | **62** | 11 | 34 | 17 | * | - |
| 10/8-12/2020<br>(N=1,121) | **39** | 6 | 22 | 11 | * | **61** | 10 | 31 | 20 | - | * |
| 9/11-14/2020<br>(N=1,108) | **40** | 6 | 24 | 11 | * | **60** | 10 | 33 | 16 | - | - |
| 8/17-19/2020<br>(N=1,075) | **37** | 4 | 21 | 12 | * | **62** | 12 | 32 | 18 | - | - |
| 7/16-20/2020<br>(N=1,057) | **38** | 4 | 22 | 12 | - | **62** | 11 | 30 | 21 | - | - |
| 6/11-15/2020<br>(N=1,310) | **36** | 5 | 19 | 12 | * | **63** | 14 | 28 | 21 | - | 1 |
| 5/14-18/2020<br>(N=1,056) | **29** | 3 | 13 | 13 | * | **70** | 9 | 31 | 30 | - | * |
| 4/16-20/2020<br>(N=1,057) | **29** | 3 | 15 | 11 | - | **71** | 8 | 30 | 33 | - | - |
| 03/26-29/2020<br>(N=1,057) | **39** | 9 | 17 | 12 | * | **60** | 10 | 29 | 21 | - | - |
| 1/16-21/2020<br>(N=1,353) | **67** | 21 | 36 | 10 | * | **33** | 13 | 15 | 5 | - | * |
| 9/20-23/2019<br>(N=1,286) | **61** | 18 | 31 | 11 | * | **38** | 11 | 19 | 8 | 1 | * |
| 6/13-17/2019<br>(N=1,116) | **63** | 15 | 35 | 14 | * | **36** | 13 | 16 | 7 | - | 1 |

**BB2. In the next year, do you think each of the following <u>will</u> get better, get worse, or stay about the same?**

**[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]**

| AP-NORC | | Much/ Somewhat better NET | Much better | Somewhat better | About the same | Much/ Somewhat worse NET | Somewhat worse | Much worse | DK | SKP/ REF |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| The way things are going in the country overall | 2/25-3/1/2021 (N=1,434) | **43** | 11 | 33 | **23** | **34** | 20 | 14 | * | * |
| | 1/28-2/1/2021 (N=1,055) | **45** | 10 | 36 | **19** | **36** | 21 | 14 | * | * |
| | 12/3-7/2020 (N = 1,117) | **45** | 8 | 37 | **20** | **35** | 23 | 12 | * | * |
| | 9/11-14/2020 (N = 1,108) | **41** | 11 | 30 | **29** | **29** | 19 | 10 | 1 | 1 |
| | 7/16-20/2020 (N=1,057) | **36** | 9 | 27 | **24** | **40** | 26 | 14 | * | * |
| | 6/11-15/2020 (N=1,310) | **36** | 9 | 28 | **24** | **38** | 25 | 13 | * | 1 |
| | 5/14-18/2020 (N=1,056) | **36** | 9 | 27 | **24** | **38** | 25 | 13 | 1 | 1 |
| | 4/16-20/2020 (N=1,057) | **42** | 13 | 29 | **19** | **38** | 28 | 10 | 1 | * |
| | 3/26-29/2020 (N=1,057) | **39** | 12 | 27 | **24** | **37** | 23 | 14 | * | * |
| | 1/16-21/2020 (N=1,353) | **30** | 7 | 23 | **35** | **34** | 24 | 11 | * | * |
| | 12/5-9/2019 (N=1,053) | **28** | 8 | 20 | **30** | **42** | 29 | 13 | * | * |
| | 9/20-23/2019 (N=1,286) | **30** | 9 | 21 | **28** | **41** | 27 | 14 | * | 1 |
| | 6/13-17/2019 (N=1,116) | **27** | 9 | 19 | **28** | **44** | 29 | 15 | * | 1 |
| | 1/16-20/2019 (N=1,062) | **22** | 6 | 17 | **25** | **52** | 30 | 22 | * | 1 |
| | 6/13-18/2018 (N=1,109) | **32** | 9 | 23 | **25** | **42** | 25 | 17 | * | * |
| | 6/13-18/2018 (N=1,109) | **30** | 10 | 20 | **25** | **45** | 31 | 15 | * | * |
| | 4/11-16/2018 (N=1,140) | **32** | 9 | 22 | **22** | **46** | 29 | 17 | - | * |
| | 3/14-19/2018 (N=1,122) | **32** | 8 | 24 | **22** | **45** | 26 | 19 | 1 | * |

| AP-NORC | | Much/ Somewhat better NET | Much better | Some what better | About the same | Much/ Somewhat worse NET | Some what worse | Much worse | DK | SKP/ REF |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| The national economy | 2/25-3/1/2021 (N=1,434) | **44** | 7 | 37 | **23** | **32** | 19 | 12 | * | * |
| | 1/28-2/1/2021 (N=1,055) | **44** | 6 | 38 | **19** | **36** | 22 | 14 | * | * |
| | 12/3-7/2020 (N = 1,117) | **41** | 7 | 34 | **23** | **35** | 24 | 12 | * | * |
| | 9/11-14/2020 (N = 1,108) | **43** | 12 | 32 | **27** | **28** | 21 | 8 | * | 1 |
| | 7/16-20/2020 (N=1,057) | **41** | 13 | 28 | **23** | **35** | 25 | 10 | * | 1 |
| | 6/11-15/2020 (N=1,310) | **43** | 13 | 29 | **21** | **35** | 26 | 1 | * | 1 |
| | 5/14-18/2020 (N=1,056) | **41** | 14 | 27 | **17** | **40** | 27 | 14 | 1 | 1 |
| | 4/16-20/2020 (N=1,057) | **45** | 14 | 31 | **17** | **37** | 24 | 13 | * | * |
| | 3/26-29/2020 (N=1,057) | **40** | 13 | 27 | **22** | **37** | 23 | 14 | * | * |
| | 1/16-21/2020 (N=1,353) | **34** | 9 | 25 | **41** | **24** | 18 | 6 | * | * |
| | 12/5-9/2019 (N=1,053) | **31** | 10 | 21 | **36** | **32** | 24 | 8 | * | * |
| | 9/20-23/2019 (N=1,286) | **33** | 11 | 22 | **30** | **35** | 24 | 11 | 1 | 1 |
| | 6/13-17/2019 (N=1,116) | **28** | 9 | 19 | **37** | **34** | 25 | 9 | * | 1 |
| | 1/16-20/2019 (N=1,062) | **27** | 9 | 18 | **27** | **44** | 27 | 18 | 1 | 1 |
| | 12/13-16/2018 (N=1,067) | **33** | 11 | 22 | **31** | **35** | 26 | 10 | * | * |
| | 6/13-18/2018 (N=1,109) | **36** | 12 | 25 | **31** | **31** | 24 | 8 | * | 1 |
| | 4/11-16/2018 (N=1,140) | **36** | 11 | 25 | **31** | **33** | 23 | 10 | * | 1 |
| | 3/14-19/2018 (N=1,122) | **37** | 11 | 26 | **30** | **32** | 24 | 8 | * | 1 |

**RELIG. What is your present religion, if any?**

| | AP-NORC 2/25-3/1/2021 |
|---|---|
| Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah's Witness, etc.) | 27 |
| Roman Catholic (Catholic) | 20 |
| Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints/LDS) | 2 |
| Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church) | * |
| Jewish (Judaism) | 2 |
| Muslim (Islam) | 1 |
| Buddhist | 1 |
| Hindu | * |
| Atheist (do not believe in God) | 5 |
| Agnostic (not sure if there is a God) | 4 |
| Nothing in particular | 16 |
| Just Christian | 17 |
| Unitarian (Universalist) | * |
| Something else –please specify: | 5 |
| *N=* | *1,434* |


**BORN. Would you describe yourself as a 'born-again' or evangelical Christian, or not?**

| | AP-NORC 2/25-3/1/2021 |
|---|---|
| Yes | 33 |
| No | 67 |
| DON'T KNOW | - |
| SKIP/REFUSED | 1 |
| *N=* | *1,036* |

**PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent or none of these?**

*If Democrat:*
**PIDA. Do you consider yourself a strong or not so strong Democrat?**
*If Republican:*
**PIDB. Do you consider yourself a strong or not so strong Republican?**
*If independent, none of these, don't know, skipped, or refused:*
**PIDI. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?**

**Combines PID1, PIDI, PIDA, and PIDB.**

|  | AP-NORC 2/25-3/1/2021 |
|---|---|
| **Democrat NET** | **44** |
| Strong Democrat | 19 |
| Not so strong Democrat | 14 |
| Lean Democrat | 11 |
| **Independent/None – Don't lean** | **17** |
| **Republican NET** | **39** |
| Lean Republican | 11 |
| Not so strong Republican | 13 |
| Strong Republican | 15 |
| *N=* | *1,434* |

**D3. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be a liberal, moderate, or conservative?**
*If liberal:*
**D4. Do you consider yourself very liberal or somewhat liberal?**
*If conservative:*
**D5. Do you consider yourself very conservative or somewhat conservative?**

**Combines D3, D4, D5:**

|  | AP-NORC 2/25-3/1/2021 |
|---|---|
| **Liberal NET** | **21** |
| Very liberal | 10 |
| Somewhat liberal | 11 |
| **Moderate** | **47** |
| **Conservative NET** | **30** |
| Somewhat conservative | 18 |
| Very conservative | 12 |
| DON'T KNOW | * |
| SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED | * |
| *N=* | *1,434* |

**DM5. How would you describe the community you live in now?**

|  | AP-NORC 2/25-3/1/2021 |
|---|---|
| Urban | 22 |
| Suburban | 50 |
| Rural | 26 |
| DON'T KNOW | * |
| SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED | 1 |
| *N=* | *1,434* |

**AGE**

|  | AP-NORC 2/25-3/1/2021 |
|---|---|
| 18-29 | 21 |
| 30-39 | 17 |
| 40-59 | 32 |
| 60-64 | 8 |
| 65 + | 22 |
| *N=* | *1,434* |

**GENDER**

|  | AP-NORC 2/25-3/1/2021 |
|---|---|
| Male | 48 |
| Female | 52 |
| *N=* | *1,434* |

**RACE/ETHNICITY**

|  | AP-NORC 2/25-3/1/2021 |
|---|---|
| White | 63 |
| Black or African American | 12 |
| Hispanic | 17 |
| Other | 9 |
| *N=* | *1,434* |

**MARITAL STATUS**

|  | AP-NORC 2/25-3/1/2021 |
|---|---|
| Married | 56 |
| Not married | 44 |
| *N=* | *1,434* |


**EDUCATION**

|  | AP-NORC 2/25-3/1/2021 |
|---|---|
| Less than a high school diploma | 10 |
| High school graduate or equivalent | 28 |
| Some college | 28 |
| College graduate or above | 20 |
| Post grad study/professional degree | 15 |
| *N=* | *1,434* |


**INCOME**

|  | AP-NORC 2/25-3/1/2021 |
|---|---|
| Under $10,000 | 5 |
| $10,000 to under $20,000 | 9 |
| $20,000 to under $30,000 | 11 |
| $30,000 to under $40,000 | 8 |
| $40,000 to under $50,000 | 9 |
| $50,000 to under $75,000 | 22 |
| $75,000 to under $100,000 | 14 |
| $100,000 to under $150,000 | 13 |
| $150,000 or more | 9 |
| *N=* | *1,434* |

**Study Methodology**

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and with funding from The Associated Press and NORC at the University of Chicago.

Data were collected using the AmeriSpeak Omnibus®, a monthly multi-client survey using NORC's probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97 percent of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between February 25th and March 1st, 2021, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,434 completed the survey—1,352 via the web and 82 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference. The final stage completion rate is 18.7 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 19.5 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 75.0 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 2.7 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/-3.4 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and education. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2020 Current Population Survey. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over.

For more information, email info@apnorc.org.

**About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research**
The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

- The Associated Press (AP) is an independent global news organization dedicated to factual reporting. Founded in 1846, AP today remains the most trusted source of fast, accurate, unbiased news in all formats and the essential provider of the technology and services vital to the news business. More than half the world's population sees AP journalism every day. Online: www.ap.org
- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest and most respected, independent research institutions in the world.

The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals.
The founding principles of The AP-NORC Center include a mandate to carefully preserve and protect the scientific integrity and objectivity of NORC and the journalistic independence of AP. All work conducted by the Center conforms to the highest levels of scientific integrity to prevent any real or perceived bias in the research. All of the work of the Center is subject to review by its advisory committee to help ensure it meets these standards. The Center will publicize the results of all studies and make all datasets and study documentation available to scholars and the public.