

AP

NORC
at the UNIVERSITY of CHICAGO

The Associated Press-NORC
Center for Public Affairs Research

The March 2018 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: 3/14-19/2018

1,122 adults

Margin of error: +/- 4.2 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 All adults	Right direction	Wrong direction	DON'T KNOW	SKIP/ REFUSED
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 Donald Trump 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 Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

If approve in CUR2

CUR3A. Would you say you approve of the way Donald Trump 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 Donald Trump is handling his job as president strongly or do you disapprove just somewhat?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	Approve NET	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Lean toward approving	Do not lean either way	Dis-approve NET	Lean toward disapproving	Some-what dis-approve	Strongly dis-approve	DK	SKP /REF
AP-NORC All adults											
3/14-19/2018 (N=1,122)	42	20	21	*	1	58	*	14	44	-	*
2/15-19/2018 (N=1,337)	35	19	17	-	1	64	*	17	46	*	*
12/7-11/2017 (N=1,020)	32	15	17	*	*	67	*	16	51	-	*
9/28-10/2/2017 (N=1,150)	32	20	12	*	*	67	*	17	50	*	*
6/8-11/2017 (N=1,068)	35	16	18	*	1	64	*	17	47	*	1
3/23-27/2017 (N=1,110)	42	20	22	*	*	58	*	14	43	-	1

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

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018	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	32	8	24	22	45	26	19	1	*
The national economy	37	11	26	30	32	24	8	*	1
Your own personal finances	39	10	29	42	18	13	5	*	*

N=1,122

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	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	28	10	18	24	47	27	20	*	*
The national economy	34	12	23	32	33	21	12	*	*
Your own personal finances	38	12	27	45	16	11	5	*	*

N=1,337

BB2B. In the next year, do you think each of the following will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018	Much/ Somewhat better NET	Much better	Somewhat better	About the same	Much/ Somewhat worse NET	Somewhat worse	Much worse	DK	SKP/ REF
U.S. national security	35	14	21	30	34	21	13	*	1
U.S. influence around the world	27	10	16	25	48	25	22	*	1
Respect for the U.S. around the world	26	11	16	20	53	25	28	*	*

N=1,122

CURY2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling...?

If Don't know, skipped, or refused in CURY2

CURYX. If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approving or disapproving of the way Donald Trump is handling ...?

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

AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018	Approve NET	Approve	Lean toward approve	Don't lean either way	Disapprove NET	Lean toward disapprove	Disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
The economy	47	46	1	1	52	*	51	*	*
Taxes	46	45	1	1	53	1	52	*	*
Gun control	39	39	*	1	59	*	58	*	*
The federal budget deficit	35	34	1	2	62	*	62	*	*
Opioid addiction, which includes prescription pain medications like Vicodin and OxyContin as well as street drugs like heroin and fentanyl	40	39	*	2	57	1	56	1	1
North Korea	42	41	1	1	56	*	56	*	*
Trade negotiations with other countries	41	40	*	1	58	*	57	*	*

N=1,122

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	Approve NET	Approve	Lean toward approve	Don't lean either way	Disapprove NET	Lean toward disapprove	Disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
The economy	45	45	-	*	54	*	53	-	*

N=1,337

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AP-NORC 12/7-11/2017	Approve/ lean toward approve NET	Approve	Lean toward approve	Don't lean either way	Disapprove/ lean toward disapprove NET	Lean toward disapprove	Disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
The economy	40	40	*	1	59	*	59	*	-
Taxes	33	32	*	1	66	1	65	*	-

N=1,020

AP-NORC 10/12-16/2017	Approve/ lean toward approve NET	Approve	Lean toward approve	Don't lean either way	Disapprove/ lean toward disapprove NET	Lean toward disapprove	Disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
The economy	41	41	*	1	58	1	57	*	*
Taxes	39	38	1	1	59	1	58	1	*
Gun control	40	39	1	1	59	*	58	*	*
North Korea	34	34	*	1	65	*	64	*	*

N=1,054

AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017	Approve NET	Approve	Lean toward approve	Don't lean either way	Disapprove NET	Lean toward disapprove	Disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
The economy	42	42	*	1	56	1	56	*	*
North Korea	36	35	1	1	63	*	63	*	*

N=1,150

AP-NORC 6/8-11/2017	Approve NET	Approve	Lean toward approve	Don't lean either way	Disapprove NET	Lean toward disapprove	Disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
The economy	43	43	1	1	55	*	55	*	*

N=1,068

AP-NORC 3/23-27/2017	Approve NET	Approve	Lean toward approve	Don't lean either way	Disapprove NET	Lean toward disapprove	Disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
The economy	50	49	1	1	48	1	47	-	*
Taxes	44	43	1	2	54	1	53	1	*
The federal budget deficit	43	42	1	2	54	1	53	1	*

N=1,110

TAX1. How much have you heard or read about the new tax law that was passed by Congress in December?

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
A lot/Some/Only a little NET	86
A lot	15
Some	43
Only a little	28
Nothing at all	13
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N= 1,122

If a lot, some, or only a little in TAX1

TAX2. Do you think the new tax law will help, hurt, or have no impact on each of the following?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018	Help a lot/ somewhat NET	Help a lot	Help somewhat	Have no impact	Hurt a lot/ somewhat NET	Hurt somewhat	Hurt a lot	DK	SKP/ REF
Large corporations	77	52	25	12	9	7	2	1	1
Wealthy individuals and families	73	44	29	18	8	6	2	1	*
Small businesses	53	15	38	15	31	22	9	1	*
Middle income individuals and families	42	11	32	15	41	27	14	1	*
Lower income individuals and families	39	14	25	16	44	23	22	1	*
You	36	9	28	26	36	27	10	1	1

N=977

If a lot, some, or only a little in TAX1

TAX3. What effect do you think the new tax law will have on the federal budget deficit?

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
Increase it a lot/a little NET	59
Increase it a lot	29
Increase it a little	31
No effect	22
Decrease it a lot/a little NET	17
Decrease it a little	13
Decrease it a lot	4
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

977

If a lot, some, or only a little in TAX1

TAX4. What effect has the new tax law had on your take-home pay, that is, the amount of money in your paycheck? Did it increase or decrease, stay the same, or don't you get a regular paycheck?

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
Increase it a lot/a little NET	34
Increase it a lot	3
Increase it a little	31
Stay the same	29
Decrease it a lot/a little NET	10
Decrease it a little	8
Decrease it a lot	2
No paycheck	26
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

977

TRADE1. How important should each of the following be when the United States negotiates trade agreements with other countries?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018	Not at all/slightly important NET	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very/ extremely important NET	Very important	Extremely important	DK	SKP/ REF
The effect on U.S. jobs	9	*	8	19	71	43	28	*	1
American competitiveness with other countries	12	2	10	29	57	37	19	1	1
The environmental impact	15	3	12	27	56	32	24	1	1
The effect on troubled U.S. industries	13	2	12	28	55	37	19	1	1
Keeping consumer prices low	13	2	11	32	54	35	19	*	1
Wages and working conditions in other countries	29	9	19	31	38	26	12	1	2
Profits for American corporations	26	4	22	35	37	27	10	*	1

N=1,122

TRADE2. Do you favor, oppose or neither favor nor oppose placing a tariff, that is an import tax, on steel and aluminium that is brought into the United States from other countries?

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
Strongly/Somewhat favor NET	38
Strongly favor	13
Somewhat favor	25
Neither favor nor oppose	32
Strongly/Somewhat oppose NET	29
Somewhat oppose	15
Strongly oppose	14
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,122

[HALF SAMPLE SHOWN TRADE3 THEN TRADE4; OTHER HALF SHOWN TRADE4 THEN TRADE3]

TRADE3. Regardless of what you personally support, do you think placing a tariff on steel and aluminium that is brought into the United States from other countries will lead to an increase in jobs, a decrease or have no effect?

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
Increase a lot/somewhat NET	32
Increase a lot	5
Increase somewhat	27
Have no effect	31
Decrease a lot/somewhat NET	36
Decrease somewhat	28
Decrease a lot	7
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,122

TRADE4. Regardless of what you personally support, do you think placing a tariff on steel and aluminium that is brought into the United States from other countries will lead to an increase in the price of consumer goods, a decrease or have no effect?

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
Increase a lot/somewhat NET	40
Increase a lot	7
Increase somewhat	33
Have no effect	19
Decrease a lot/somewhat NET	39
Decrease somewhat	31
Decrease a lot	9
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	2

N=

1,122

NK1. How personally concerned are you that North Korea's nuclear weapons program poses a direct threat to:

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

AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018	Extremely/ very concerned NET	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Moder- ately concerned	Not very concerned /not concerned at all NET	Not very concerned	Not concerned at all	DK	SKP /REF
The United States in general	50	24	26	32	17	11	5	*	1
Where you live specifically	29	14	14	33	37	24	13	*	1
U.S. allies, such as Japan or South Korea	53	23	30	33	13	9	4	*	1
U.S. overseas territories, such as Guam	47	20	26	36	16	11	5	1	1

N=1,122

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AP-NORC 9/28- 10/2/2017	Extremely/ very concerned NET	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Moder- ately concerned	Not very concerned /not concerned at all NET	Not very concerned	Not concerned at all	DK	SKP /REF
The United States in general	67	41	26	21	12	7	5	*	*
Where you live specifically	41	25	17	26	32	21	11	*	*
U.S. allies, such as Japan or South Korea	69	41	28	20	10	5	5	*	*
U.S. overseas territories, such as Guam	68	39	29	20	11	6	5	1	*

N=1,150

NK2. Do you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose President Trump taking part in direct negotiations with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un about North Korea’s nuclear weapons program?

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
Strongly/Somewhat favor NET	48
Strongly favor	21
Somewhat favor	27
Neither favor nor oppose	21
Strongly/Somewhat oppose NET	29
Somewhat oppose	13
Strongly oppose	16
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,122

NK3. Which of the following comes closer to your opinion about negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea? Do you think the U.S. should...

[HALF SAMPLE SHOWN RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
Only consider a deal if North Korea completely gives up its nuclear weapons program	44
Consider a deal if North Korea makes progress toward giving up its nuclear weapons program	40
Not consider a deal with North Korea at all	13
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	2

N=

1,122

GUN1. Should gun laws in the United States be made more strict, left as they are, or made less strict?

	Much/ Somewhat more strict NET	Much more strict	Somewhat more strict	Left as they are	Much/ Somewhat less strict NET	Somewhat less strict	Much less strict	DK	SKP/ REF
AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018 (N=1,122)	69	45	24	22	9	5	4	-	1
AP-NORC 10/12-16/2017 (N=1,054)	61	36	25	27	11	7	5	*	1
AP-GfK 7/7-11/2016 (N=1,009)	64	34	30	23	11	7	5	-	2
AP-GfK 12/3-7/2015 (N=1,007)	58	33	26	25	14	7	7	-	3
AP-GfK 10/15-19/2015 (N=1,027)	58	36	23	27	12	8	5	-	3
AP-GfK 12/5-9/2013 (N=1,367)	52	29	23	31	15	8	7	-	2
AP-GfK 10/3-7/2013 (N=1,227)	55	34	21	28	14	8	6	-	3

GUN2. Regardless of what you personally support, what do you think is mostly likely to happen in the next year? Will gun laws be made more strict, left as they are, or made less strict?

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018	AP-GfK 7/7-11/2016
Much/Somewhat more strict NET	51	47
Much more strict	10	12
Somewhat more strict	41	35
Left as they are	42	47
Much/Somewhat less strict NET	6	4
Somewhat less strict	4	2
Much less strict	3	1
DON'T KNOW	*	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	2
N=	1,122	1,009

GUN3. Do you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose each of the following policies?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018	Strongly/ Somewhat favor NET	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Neither favor nor oppose	Strongly/ Somewhat oppose NET	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	DK	SKP/ REF
A nationwide ban on the sale of AR-15 rifles and similar semiautomatic weapons	58	47	11	12	29	8	21	*	1
A nationwide ban on devices that convert semi-automatic guns to function like automatic guns, also known as "bump stocks"	70	55	14	12	17	6	10	*	1
A federal law requiring background checks on all potential gun buyers, including private sales and gun shows	84	69	15	8	7	3	5	*	1
A law in your state allowing trained	38	21	17	12	49	15	33	*	1

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teachers and administrators to be armed in schools									
A federal law preventing mentally ill people from purchasing guns	85	69	16	8	7	3	3	*	1
Increased funding for mental health screening and treatment	85	64	20	11	4	2	1	*	1
Allowing courts to prevent people who are considered a danger to themselves or others, but have not been convicted of a crime, from owning a gun	78	57	21	9	11	6	5	1	1

N=1,122

	Strongly/ Somewhat favor NET	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Neither favor nor oppose	Strongly/ Somewhat oppose NET	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	DK	SKP/ REF
AP-GfK 7/7-11/2016									
A nationwide ban on the sale of AR-15 rifles and similar semiautomatic weapons	57	43	14	15	25	9	17	-	3

N=1,009

GUN4. Do you think that owning a gun does more to protect a person from being a victim of a crime or more to put their safety at risk?

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018	AP-GfK 7/7-11/2016
Protect them from becoming victims of crime	58	62
Put their safety at risk	40	35
DON'T KNOW	1	-
SKIP/REFUSED	1	3

N=

1,122

1,009

GUN5. If it was harder for people to legally obtain guns in the United States, do you think there would be fewer or more of each of the following or wouldn't it make a difference?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018	Many/ somewhat fewer NET	Many fewer	Somewhat fewer	No difference	Many/ Somewhat more NET	Somewhat more	Many more	DK	SKP/ REF
Mass shootings	60	35	25	30	9	3	6	*	1
Suicides	45	16	29	47	7	4	3	1	1
Homicides	51	21	31	38	9	5	5	*	1
Accidental shootings	60	28	32	31	8	5	4	*	1

N=1,122

AP-NORC 10/12-16/2017	Many/ somewhat fewer NET	Many fewer	Somewhat fewer	No difference	Many/ Somewhat more NET	Somewhat more	Many more	DK	SKP/ REF
Mass shootings	49	24	25	43	7	4	3	*	*
Suicides	40	14	26	55	4	3	1	*	1
Homicides	46	18	28	45	9	5	4	*	1
Accidental shootings	53	23	30	41	5	3	2	*	1

N= 1,054

GUN6. Do you happen to have in your home or garage any guns or revolvers?

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
Yes	38
No	59
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	3

N=

1,122

If yes in GUN6

GUN6A. Do any of these guns personally belong to you?

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
Yes	79
No	21
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	-

N=

403

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

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
Democrat	33
Republican	27
Independent	23
None of these	16
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	2

N=

1,122

If Democrat in PID1

PIDa. Do you consider yourself a strong Democrat or a moderate Democrat?

If Republican in PID1

PIDb. Do you consider yourself a strong Republican or a moderate Republican?

If Independent, None of these, or Don't Know/Skip/Refused in PID1

PIDi. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

[PID1, PIDA, PIDB, AND PIDI COMBINED]

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
Democrat NET	45
Strong Democrat	13
Moderate Democrat	20
Lean Democrat	12
Independent/None – Don't lean	17
Republican NET	36
Lean Republican	10
Moderate Republican	17
Strong Republican	10
Unknown	1

N=

1,122

G11B. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a...?

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
Liberal	22
Conservative	35
Moderate	40
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	2

N=

1,122

DM5. Which one of the following best describes where you live?

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
Urban area	27
Suburban area	47
Rural area	23
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	2

N= 1,122

AGE

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
18-24	12
25-34	19
35-44	14
45-54	16
55-64	19
65-74	13
75+	7

N= 1,122

GENDER

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
Male	48
Female	52

N= 1,122

RACE/ETHNICITY

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
White	64
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	16
Other	8

N= 1,122

MARITAL STATUS

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
Married	51
Widowed	5
Divorced	9
Separated	2
Never married	26
Living with partner	7
<i>N</i> =	1,122

EDUCATION

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
Less than a high school diploma	11
High school graduate or equivalent	29
Some college	29
College graduate or above	31
<i>N</i> =	1,122

INCOME

	AP-NORC 3/14-19/2018
Under \$10,000	5
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	10
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	14
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	11
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	10
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	17
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	12
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	14
\$150,000 or more	8
<i>N</i> =	1,122

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% 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 March 14 and 19, 2018, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,122 completed the survey—982 via the web and 140 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference. The final stage completion rate is 23.1 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 33.7 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 88.1 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 6.9 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 4.2 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 2017 Current Population Survey. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over.

For more information, email info@apnorc.org.

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- 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.

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