



The Associated Press-NORC
Center for Public Affairs Research

The August 2020 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: 8/17-19/2020

1,075 adults

Margin of sampling error: +/- 4.1 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	SKIPPED ON WEB/ REFUSED
08/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	23	75	1	*
07/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	20	80	*	*
06/11-15/2020 (N=1,310)	24	74	1	1
05/14-18/2020 (N=1,056)	33	65	1	1
04/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	36	63	1	-
03/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	42	58	*	*
02/13-16/2020 (N=1,074)	41	59	*	*
01/16-21/2020 (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
09/20-23/2019 (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 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]

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
08/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	35	18	16	*	*	65	1	19	46	*	*
07/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	38	24	14	*	1	61	*	11	50	-	*
06/11-15/2020 (N=1,310)	39	21	17	*	1	60	*	10	49	-	1
05/14-18/2020 (N=1,056)	41	22	19	*	*	58	*	14	44	-	1
04/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	42	22	20	-	-	57	*	16	41	-	1
03/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	43	26	17	-	*	56	*	16	39	-	*
02/13-16/2020 (N=1,074)	43	24	19	*	1	56	*	16	40	-	1
01/16-21/2020 (N=1,353)	41	24	17	1	*	58	*	14	44	-	*
12/5-9/2019 (N=1,053)	40	23	17	*	-	60	*	15	45	-	*
10/24-28/2019 (N=1,075)	42	25	17	*	1	56	*	14	42	-	1
09/20-23/2019 (N=1,286)	40	24	16	*	1	59	*	16	42	-	1
8/15-18/2019 (N=1,058)	36	21	15	*	*	62	-	16	46	*	2

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
6/13-17/2019 (N=1,116)	38	19	19	*	*	60	*	17	43	-	1
5/17-20/2019 (N=1,137)	38	19	18	*	1	61	1	13	47	*	1
4/11-14/2019 (N=1,108)	39	19	20	*	1	60	*	13	46	-	*
3/14-18/2019 (N=1,063)	40	22	18	*	*	58	1	15	42	-	1
1/16-20/2019 (N=1,062)	34	18	16	*	*	65	1	11	53	*	*
12/13-16/2018 (N=1,067)	42	21	21	*	1	56	*	14	42	-	1
10/11-14/2018 (N=1,152)	40	21	19	*	1	59	*	14	45	-	1
8/16-20/2018 (N=1,055)	38	18	20	-	1	60	1	17	43	-	1
6/13-18/2018 (N=1,109)	41	21	20	*	1	57	*	16	42	*	*
4/11-16/2018 (N=1,140)	40	19	20	*	1	59	*	15	44	-	1
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

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

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

AP-NORC		Approve	Disapprove	DK	SKP/REF
The economy	08/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	47	52	*	1
	07/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	48	51	*	*
	06/11-15/2020 (N=1,310)	49	50	*	1
	05/14-18/2020 (N=1,056)	49	50	*	1
	04/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	52	47	*	1
	03/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	56	43	*	1
	01/16-21/2020 (N=1,353)	56	43	1	1
	10/24-28/2019 (N=1,075)	54	44	*	*
	09/20-23/2019 (N=1,286)	51	47	1	1
	08/15-18/2019 (N=1,058)	46	51	1	2
	06/13-17/2019 (N=1,116)	47	51	1	1
	01/16-20/2019 (N=1,062)	44	55	-	1
	10/11-14/2018 (N=1,152)	50	48	*	1
	08/16-20/2018 (N=1,055)	51	49	*	-
	03/14-19/2018 (N=1,122)	46	51	*	*
	02/15-19/2018 (N=1,337)	45	53	-	*
	12/07-11/2017 (N=1,020)	40	59	*	-
	10/12-16/2017 (N=1,054)	41	57	*	*
	09/28-10/2/2017 (N=1,150)	42	56	*	*
	06/08-11/2017 (N=1,068)	43	55	*	*
	03/23-27/2017 (N=1,110)	50	47	-	*
Foreign policy	08/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	36	62	1	1
	05/14-18/2020 (N=1,056)	43	55	1	1
	04/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	39	60	*	1
	03/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	41	57	*	1
	01/16-21/2020 (N=1,353)	39	59	*	1
	10/24-28/2019 (N=1,075)	38	59	*	2
	09/20-23/2019 (N=1,286)	39	58	2	1
	08/15-18/2019 (N=1,058)	36	61	1	1
	01/16-20/2019 (N=1,062)	35	63	1	2
	10/11-14/2018 (N=1,152)	39	59	*	1
	08/16-20/2018 (N=1,055)	36	62	*	*
	02/15-19/2018 (N=1,337)	34	64	*	*
	12/07-11/2017 (N=1,020)	30	68	*	-
	09/28-10/2/2017 (N=1,150)	34	64	*	*
	06/08-11/2017 (N=1,068)	34	63	*	*
The coronavirus outbreak	03/23-27/2017 (N=1,110)	40	57	*	*
	08/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	31	68	*	1
	07/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	32	68	*	*
	06/11-15/2020 (N=1,310)	37	62	*	1

AP-NORC		Approve	Disapprove	DK	SKP/REF
	05/14-18/2020 (N=1,056)	39	60	-	1
	04/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	41	58	1	1
	03/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	44	55	*	*
Health care	08/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	36	62	*	1
	07/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	36	63	*	*
	06/11-15/2020 (N=1,310)	40	59	1	1
	05/14-18/2020 (N=1,056)	42	56	1	1
	04/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	39	60	1	1
	03/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	42	57	*	1
	01/16-21/2020 (N=1,353)	38	61	*	1
	10/24-28/2019 (N=1,075)	43	55	*	1
	8/15-18/2019 (N=1,058)	37	61	1	2
	6/13-17/2019 (N=1,116)	35	62	*	2
	1/16-20/2019 (N=1,062)	35	62	1	2
	10/11-14/2018 (N=1,152)	37	62	*	1
	8/16-20/2018 (N=1,055)	36	63	*	-
	12/7-11/2017 (N=1,020)	29	70	*	-
	9/28-10/2/2017 (N=1,150)	31	68	*	*
	6/8-11/2017 (N=1,068)	32	65	*	*
	3/23-27/2017 (N=1,110)	36	62	*	*

VIRUS2. How worried are you about you or someone in your family being infected with ...

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC		Extremely / very worried	Extremely worried	Very worried	Some- what worried	Not too/ not at all worried	Not too worried	Not at all worried	DK	SKP/ REF
The coronavirus	08/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	42	20	22	31	26	17	9	*	*
	07/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	49	25	24	31	19	11	8	*	*
	06/11-15/2020 (N=1,310)	32	16	16	36	32	22	9	-	1
	05/14-18/2020 (N=1,056)	42	21	21	31	25	18	7	*	1
	04/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	43	23	20	35	22	17	5	*	-
	03/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	50	28	22	34	16	13	3	-	*
	03/12-16/2020 (N=1,003)	31	14	17	35	33	23	10	*	1
	02/13-16/2020 (N=1,074)	22	11	11	23	55	37	19	-	*
The flu	08/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	16	7	9	31	52	37	15	-	1
	07/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	19	9	10	34	47	33	15	-	*
	06/11-15/2020 (N=1,310)	15	7	9	27	56	41	16	-	1
	05/14-18/2020 (N=1,056)	17	7	10	28	54	38	15	-	1
	04/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	22	10	13	30	47	35	12	-	*
	03/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	22	11	12	35	43	34	8	-	*
	03/12-16/2020 (N=1,003)	15	6	9	33	50	37	13	-	1
	02/13-16/2020 (N=1,074)	23	10	14	40	37	29	7	-	*

VIRUS6. Do you approve, disapprove, or neither approve nor disapprove of how each of the following is handling the coronavirus outbreak?

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

AP-NORC		Strongly/ somewhat approve NET	Strongly approve	Some what approve	Neither approve nor dis- approve	Somewhat /strongly disapprove NET	Some what dis- approve	Strongly dis- approve	DK	SKP/ REF
Your state government	08/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	44	14	31	15	40	21	19	1	*
	07/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	48	19	29	17	34	18	15	*	1
	05/14-18/2020 N=1,056	51	18	33	15	33	19	13	-	1
	04/16- 20/2020 N=1,057	63	28	35	17	20	12	8	*	*
	03/26-29/2020 N=1,057	57	19	38	20	23	14	9	-	*
Your city or local government	08/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	48	13	35	21	31	19	12	1	*
	07/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	52	16	35	22	25	16	10	*	1
	05/14-18/2020 N=1,056	51	16	35	25	22	16	6	*	1
	04/16-20/2020 N=1,057	63	23	40	21	16	11	5	*	1
	03/26-29/2020 N=1,057	54	18	36	26	20	14	6	*	*
The federal government	08/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	23	4	19	19	57	23	34	1	*
	07/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	24	5	19	20	55	20	35	*	1
	05/14-18/2020 N=1,056	31	5	25	21	48	22	26	*	1
	04/16-20/2020 N=1,057	40	12	28	22	37	21	16	*	1
	03/26-29/2020 N=1,057	38	12	27	21	41	23	18	*	*
Leaders in Congress	08/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	13	1	12	21	65	33	32	1	*
	07/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	15	3	12	25	58	33	25	*	1
	05/14-18/2020 N=1,056	23	3	20	27	49	27	21	1	1

AP-NORC		Strongly/ somewhat approve NET	Strongly approve	Some what approve	Neither approve nor dis- approve	Somewhat /strongly disapprove NET	Some what dis- approve	Strongly dis- approve	DK	SKP/ REF
	04/16-20/2020 N=1,057	28	5	23	33	38	22	16	*	1
	03/26-29/2020 N=1,057	31	6	25	28	41	28	13	*	*

VIRUS8. In response to the coronavirus outbreak, do you think the government is doing too much, not enough, or about the right amount to help the financial situation of each of the following?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC		Too much	Not enough	About the right amount	DK	SKP/ REF
Small businesses	08/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	6	66	26	*	1
	04/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	5	58	34	1	1
Large corporations	08/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	44	24	30	1	1
	04/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	39	15	44	2	1
Individual Americans	08/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	10	66	23	*	1
	04/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	5	53	41	*	1
Public Schools	08/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	8	64	26	*	1

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 moderate Democrat?

If Republican:

PIDB. Do you consider yourself a strong or moderate 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 8/17-19/2020
Democrat NET	48
Strong Democrat	16
Moderate Democrat	20
Lean Democrat	13
Independent/None – Don't lean	16
Republican NET	35
Lean Republican	11
Moderate Republican	15
Strong Republican	10

N=

1,075

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 8/17-19/2020
Liberal NET	22
Very liberal	10
Somewhat liberal	13
Moderate	45
Conservative NET	31
Somewhat conservative	18
Very conservative	12
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	2
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,075</i>

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

	AP-NORC 8/17-19/2020
Urban	26
Suburban	48
Rural	25
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,075</i>

AGE

	AP-NORC 8/17-19/2020
18-29	20
30-39	17
40-59	33
60-64	8
65 +	22
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,075</i>

GENDER

	AP-NORC 8/17-19/2020
Male	48
Female	52
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,075</i>

RACE/ETHNICITY

	AP-NORC 8/17-19/2020
White	63
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	16
Other	8
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,075</i>

MARITAL STATUS

	AP-NORC 8/17-19/2020
Married	53
Not married	47
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,075</i>

EDUCATION

	AP-NORC 8/17-19/2020
Less than a high school diploma	9
High school graduate or equivalent	28
Some college	28
College graduate or above	35
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,075</i>

INCOME

	AP-NORC 8/17-19/2020
Under \$10,000	5
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	9
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	11
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	9
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	18
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	14
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	16
\$150,000 or more	8

N=

1,075

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 August 17 and 19, 2020, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,075 completed the survey—962 via the web and 113 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference. The final stage completion rate is 14.5 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 23.6 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 84.8 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 2.9 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/-4.1 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.