



The Associated Press-NORC  
Center for Public Affairs Research

# The September 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: 9/11-14/2020*

*1,108 adults*

*Margin of sampling error: +/- 4.0 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
09/11-14/2020 (N = 1,108)	27	72	*	1
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	<b>Approve NET</b>	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Lean toward approv- ing	<b>Do not lean either way</b>	<b>Dis- approve NET</b>	Lean toward disapp- roving	Some- what dis- approve	Strongly dis- approve	DK	SKP /REF
09/11-14/2020 (N = 1,108)	<b>43</b>	25	17	*	<b>1</b>	<b>56</b>	*	11	44	-	*
08/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	<b>35</b>	18	16	*	*	<b>65</b>	1	19	46	*	*
07/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	<b>38</b>	24	14	*	<b>1</b>	<b>61</b>	*	11	50	-	*
06/11-15/2020 (N=1,310)	<b>39</b>	21	17	*	<b>1</b>	<b>60</b>	*	10	49	-	1
05/14-18/2020 (N=1,056)	<b>41</b>	22	19	*	*	<b>58</b>	*	14	44	-	1
04/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	<b>42</b>	22	20	-	-	<b>57</b>	*	16	41	-	1
03/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	<b>43</b>	26	17	-	*	<b>56</b>	*	16	39	-	*
02/13-16/2020 (N=1,074)	<b>43</b>	24	19	*	<b>1</b>	<b>56</b>	*	16	40	-	1
01/16-21/2020 (N=1,353)	<b>41</b>	24	17	1	*	<b>58</b>	*	14	44	-	*
12/5-9/2019 (N=1,053)	<b>40</b>	23	17	*	-	<b>60</b>	*	15	45	-	*
10/24-28/2019 (N=1,075)	<b>42</b>	25	17	*	<b>1</b>	<b>56</b>	*	14	42	-	1
09/20-23/2019 (N=1,286)	<b>40</b>	24	16	*	<b>1</b>	<b>59</b>	*	16	42	-	1

AP-NORC All adults	<b>Approve NET</b>	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Lean toward approv- ing	<b>Do not lean either way</b>	<b>Dis- approve NET</b>	Lean toward disapp- roving	Some- what dis- approve	Strongly dis- approve	DK	SKP /REF
8/15-18/2019 (N=1,060)	<b>36</b>	21	15	*	*	<b>62</b>	-	16	46	*	2
6/13-17/2019 (N=1,116)	<b>38</b>	19	19	*	*	<b>60</b>	*	17	43	-	1
5/17-20/2019 (N=1,137)	<b>38</b>	19	18	*	<b>1</b>	<b>61</b>	1	13	47	*	1
4/11-14/2019 (N=1,108)	<b>39</b>	19	20	*	<b>1</b>	<b>60</b>	*	13	46	-	*
3/14-18/2019 (N=1,063)	<b>40</b>	22	18	*	*	<b>58</b>	1	15	42	-	1
1/16-20/2019 (N=1,062)	<b>34</b>	18	16	*	*	<b>65</b>	1	11	53	*	*
12/13-16/2018 (N=1,067)	<b>42</b>	21	21	*	<b>1</b>	<b>56</b>	*	14	42	-	1
10/11-14/2018 (N=1,152)	<b>40</b>	21	19	*	<b>1</b>	<b>59</b>	*	14	45	-	1
8/16-20/2018 (N=1,055)	<b>38</b>	18	20	-	<b>1</b>	<b>60</b>	1	17	43	-	1
6/13-18/2018 (N=1,109)	<b>41</b>	21	20	*	<b>1</b>	<b>57</b>	*	16	42	*	*
4/11-16/2018 (N=1,140)	<b>40</b>	19	20	*	<b>1</b>	<b>59</b>	*	15	44	-	1
3/14-19/2018 (N=1,122)	<b>42</b>	20	21	*	<b>1</b>	<b>58</b>	*	14	44	-	*
2/15-19/2018 (N=1,337)	<b>35</b>	19	17	-	<b>1</b>	<b>64</b>	*	17	46	*	*
12/7-11/2017 (N=1,020)	<b>32</b>	15	17	*	*	<b>67</b>	*	16	51	-	*
9/28- 10/2/2017 (N=1,150)	<b>32</b>	20	12	*	*	<b>67</b>	*	17	50	*	*
6/8-11/2017 (N=1,068)	<b>35</b>	16	18	*	<b>1</b>	<b>64</b>	*	17	47	*	1
3/23-27/2017 (N=1,110)	<b>42</b>	20	22	*	*	<b>58</b>	*	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	09/11-14/2020 (N = 1,108)	50	49	*	1
	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=1,060)	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	09/11-14/2020 (N = 1,108)	45	54	-	1
	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=1,060)	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	*	*
	03/23-27/2017 (N=1,110)	40	57	*	*
The coronavirus outbreak	09/11-14/2020 (N = 1,108)	39	60	-	1

	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
	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	09/11-14/2020 (N = 1,108)	41	57	*	1
	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=1,060)	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	*	*
Race relations	09/11-14/2020 (N = 1,108)	38	60	*	1
	06/11-15/2020 (N=1,310)	32	67	*	1
	09/20-23/2019 (N=1,286)	33	65	*	1
	02/15-19/2018 (N=1,337)	31	67	*	*
	09/28-10/2/2017 (N=1,150)	31	67	*	*
Policing	09/11-14/2020 (N = 1,108)	45	54	*	1
The military	09/11-14/2020 (N = 1,108)	50	50	*	*

## Race relations

AP-NORC 09/11-14/2020	Approve	Disapprove	DK	SKIP/REF
All adults, <i>N</i> =1,108	38	60	*	1
Whites, <i>N</i> =738	46	53	*	1
Blacks, <i>N</i> =111	7	93	-	-
AP-NORC 06/11-15/2020	Approve	Disapprove	DK	SKIP/REF
All adults, <i>N</i> =1,310	32	67	*	1
Whites, <i>N</i> =634	37	62	*	*
Blacks, <i>N</i> =377	7	93	-	*
AP-NORC 09/20-23/2019	Approve	Disapprove	DK	SKIP/REF
All adults, <i>N</i> =1,286	33	65	*	1
Whites, <i>N</i> =699	43	55	1	1
Blacks, <i>N</i> =245	5	92	*	3
AP-NORC 02/15-19/2018	Approve	Disapprove	DK	SKIP/REF
All adults, <i>N</i> =1,337	31	67	*	*
Whites, <i>N</i> =855	40	58	*	*
Blacks, <i>N</i> =158	8	91	*	-

## Policing

AP-NORC 09/11-14/2020	Approve	Disapprove	DK	SKIP/REF
All adults, <i>N</i> =1,108	45	54	*	1
Whites, <i>N</i> =738	51	47	*	1
Blacks, <i>N</i> =111	18	82	-	-

**INST1.** Next we will ask you about some institutions in this country. As far as the people running these institutions are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?

**[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]**

		A great deal of confidence	Only some confidence	Hardly any confidence at all	DK	SKP /REF
AP-NORC						
Congress	09/11-14/2020 (N = 1,108)	5	47	48	*	1
	02/13-16/2020 (N=1,074)	8	49	43	-	*
	6/8-11/2017 (N=1,068)	6	53	40	*	1
	5/12-15/2016 (N=1,108)	4	48	46	*	1
	2/18-3/6/2016 (N=2,014)	4	46	50	*	1
Supreme Court	09/11-14/2020 (N=1,108)	21	61	17	*	1
	02/13-16/2020 (N=1,074)	28	58	14	-	*
	6/8-11/2017 (N=1,068)	24	59	15	*	1
	5/12-15/2016 (N=1,108)	24	58	17	*	1
	2/18-3/6/2016 (N=2,014)	26	59	14	1	1
The executive branch of the federal government						
	09/11-14/2020 (N=1,108)	18	46	35	*	1
	02/13-16/2020 (N=1,074)	17	48	35	*	1
	6/8-11/2017 (N=1,068)	14	48	37	1	*
	5/12-15/2016 (N=1,108)	15	50	33	*	1
Banks and financial institutions						
	09/11-14/2020 (N=1,108)	22	60	17	-	1
	02/13-16/2020 (N=1,074)	19	61	19	*	*
	6/8-11/2017 (N=1,068)	12	57	30	*	1
	2/18-3/6/2016 (N=2,014)	17	59	24	-	1
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or CDC						
	09/11-14/2020 (N=1,108)	27	51	22	*	*

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

**[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]**

AP-NORC		<b>Extremely / very worried</b>	Extremely worried	Very worried	<b>Some- what worried</b>	<b>Not too/ not at all worried</b>	Not too worried	Not at all worried	DK	SKP/ REF
The coronavirus	09/11-14/2020 (N = 1,108)	<b>38</b>	19	19	<b>31</b>	<b>31</b>	22	9	-	*
	08/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	<b>42</b>	20	22	<b>31</b>	<b>26</b>	17	9	*	*
	07/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	<b>49</b>	25	24	<b>31</b>	<b>19</b>	11	8	*	*
	06/11-15/2020 (N=1,310)	<b>32</b>	16	16	<b>36</b>	<b>32</b>	22	9	-	1
	05/14-18/2020 (N=1,056)	<b>42</b>	21	21	<b>31</b>	<b>25</b>	18	7	*	1
	04/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	<b>43</b>	23	20	<b>35</b>	<b>22</b>	17	5	*	-
	03/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	<b>50</b>	28	22	<b>34</b>	<b>16</b>	13	3	-	*
	03/12-16/2020 (N=1,003)	<b>31</b>	14	17	<b>35</b>	<b>33</b>	23	10	*	1
	02/13-16/2020 (N=1,074)	<b>22</b>	11	11	<b>23</b>	<b>55</b>	37	19	-	*
The flu	09/11-14/2020 (N = 1,108)	<b>21</b>	8	12	<b>33</b>	<b>46</b>	32	14	-	*
	08/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	<b>16</b>	7	9	<b>31</b>	<b>52</b>	37	15	-	1
	07/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	<b>19</b>	9	10	<b>34</b>	<b>47</b>	33	15	-	*
	06/11-15/2020 (N=1,310)	<b>15</b>	7	9	<b>27</b>	<b>56</b>	41	16	-	1
	05/14-18/2020 (N=1,056)	<b>17</b>	7	10	<b>28</b>	<b>54</b>	38	15	-	1
	04/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	<b>22</b>	10	13	<b>30</b>	<b>47</b>	35	12	-	*
	03/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	<b>22</b>	11	12	<b>35</b>	<b>43</b>	34	8	-	*
	03/12-16/2020 (N=1,003)	<b>15</b>	6	9	<b>33</b>	<b>50</b>	37	13	-	1
	02/13-16/2020 (N=1,074)	<b>23</b>	10	14	<b>40</b>	<b>37</b>	29	7	-	*

**OREG. Are you currently registered to vote at your address, or not?**

	AP-NORC
Yes	85
No	14
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,108</i>

**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 09/11-14/2020
<b>Democrat NET</b>	<b>43</b>
Strong Democrat	16
Moderate Democrat	17
Lean Democrat	10
<b>Independent/None – Don't lean</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Republican NET</b>	<b>43</b>
Lean Republican	11
Moderate Republican	17
Strong Republican	14
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,108</i>

**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 09/11-14/2020
<b>Liberal NET</b>	<b>21</b>
Very liberal	10
Somewhat liberal	11
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Conservative NET</b>	<b>31</b>
Somewhat conservative	17
Very conservative	14
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	2
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,108</i>

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

	AP-NORC 09/11-14/2020
Urban	24
Suburban	46
Rural	29
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,108</i>

**AGE**

	AP-NORC 09/11-14/2020
18-29	21
30-39	17
40-59	32
60-64	8
65 +	21
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,108</i>

**GENDER**

	AP-NORC 09/11-14/2020
Male	48
Female	52
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,108</i>

**RACE/ETHNICITY**

	AP-NORC 09/11-14/2020
White	63
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	17
Other	9
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,108</i>

**MARITAL STATUS**

	AP-NORC 09/11-14/2020
Married	60
Not married	40
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,108</i>

**EDUCATION**

	AP-NORC 09/11-14/2020
Less than a high school diploma	10
High school graduate or equivalent	28
Some college	28
College graduate or above	34
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,108</i>

## INCOME

	AP-NORC 09/11-14/2020
Under \$10,000	5
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	8
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	9
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	11
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	8
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	22
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	13
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	15
\$150,000 or more	8

*N=*

*1,108*

## 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 September 11 and 14, 2020, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,108 completed the survey—1,050 via the web and 58 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference. The final stage completion rate is 17.7 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 21.0 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 80.4 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 3.0 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/-4.0 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](mailto: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](http://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.