

The October 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: 10/21-25/2021

1,083 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.

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 All adults	Very/ Somewhat/ Lean toward good NET	Very good	Some- what good	Lean toward good	Neither good nor poor	Very/ Somewhat/ Lean toward poor NET	Lean toward poor	Some- what poor	Very poor	DK	SKP /REF
10/21-25/2021 (N=1,083)	35	2	20	13	*	65	12	33	19	-	-
9/23-27/2021 (N=1,099)	45	2	27	16	-	54	17	25	12	*	-
7/15-19/2021 (N=1,308)	45	4	28	13	1	54	15	28	11	-	*
6/10-14/2021 (N=1,125)	47	3	27	17	*	53	14	26	13	-	-
3/25-29/2021 (N= 1,166)	46	2	25	19	*	54	16	27	11	-	-
2/25-3/1/2021 (N=1,434)	37	1	22	14	*	63	16	34	12	-	*
1/28-2/1/2021 (N=1,055)	31	1	17	12	*	69	15	37	17	-	-
12/3-7/2020 (N=1,117)	38	5	22	11	*	62	11	34	17	*	-
10/8-12/2020 (N=1,121)	39	6	22	11	*	61	10	31	20	-	*
9/11-14/2020 (N=1,108)	40	6	24	11	*	60	10	33	16	-	-
8/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	37	4	21	12	*	62	12	32	18	-	-
7/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	38	4	22	12	-	62	11	30	21	-	-

	Very/ Somewhat/ Lean toward good NET	Very good	Some- what good	Lean toward good	Neither good nor poor	Very/ Somewhat/ Lean toward poor NET	Lean toward poor	Some- what poor	Very poor	DK	SKP /REF
6/11-15/2020 (N=1,310)	36	5	19	12	*	63	14	28	21	-	1
5/14-18/2020 (N=1,056)	29	3	13	13	*	70	9	31	30	-	*
4/16-20/2020	29	3	15	11	-	71	8	30	33	-	-

(N=1,057)											
03/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	39	9	17	12	*	60	10	29	21	-	-
1/16-21/2020 (N=1,353)	67	21	36	10	*	33	13	15	5	-	*
9/20-23/2019 (N=1,286)	61	18	31	11	*	38	11	19	8	1	*
6/13-17/2019 (N=1,116)	63	15	35	14	*	36	13	16	7	-	1

B2A. And how would you describe the financial situation in your own household these days? Would you say...?

If neither good nor poor, don't know, Skipped, or Refused in B2A:

B2B. If you had to choose, do you lean more toward the financial situation in your own household being good or poor?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC All adults	Very/ Somewhat/Lean toward good NET	Ver y goo d	Somewh at good	Lean towar d good	Neithe r good nor poor	Very/ Somewhat/Le an toward poor NET	Lean towar d poor	Somewh at poor	Ver y poo r	D K	SKP / REF
10/21- 25/2021 (N=1,083)	65	13	33	19	1	34	12	15	7	-	-
2/25- 3/1/2021 (N=1,434)	67	13	37	18	*	32	12	14	6	-	*
10/8- 12/2020 (N=1,121)	65	14	35	16	*	34	12	15	8	-	*
9/11- 14/2020 (N=1,108)	65	15	31	18	*	35	13	17	5	-	*
AP-NORC All adults	Very/ Somewha t/Lean toward good NET	Ver y goo d	Somewh at good	Lean towar d good	Neithe r good nor poor	Very/ Somewhat/Le an toward poor NET	Lean towar d poor	Somewh at poor	Ver y poo r	D K	SKP / REF

8/17- 19/2020 (N=1,075)	63	13	34	17	*	36	12	18	6	*	*
7/16- 20/2020 (N=1,057)	65	14	34	17	*	35	14	15	6	-	-
6/11- 15/2020 (N=1,310)	66	14	36	16	1	32	12	14	7	-	1
5/14- 18/2020 (N=1,056)	66	15	32	20	*	33	10	16	7	-	1
4/16- 20/2020 (N=1,057)	64	14	31	18	*	36	10	17	8	-	-
3/26- 29/2020 (N=1,057)	62	11	34	17	*	38	10	19	9	-	*
1/16- 21/2020 (N=1,353)	69	18	37	15	*	31	9	14	7	-	*
9/20- 23/2019 (N=1,286)	64	19	32	14	*	35	13	14	8	*	*
6/13- 17/2019 (N=1,116)	67	15	37	15	*	32	12	15	5	-	1

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

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC		Much/ Somewh at better NET	Much better	Somewh at better	Abo ut the sam e	Much/ Somewh at worse NET	Somewh at worse	Much worse	D K	SKP/ REF
The way things are going in the country overall	10/21- 25/2021 (N=1,083)	26	4	22	24	48	28	21	*	*
	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/ Somewha t better NET	Much better	Somewh at better	Abou t the sam e	Much/ Somewh at worse NET	Somewh at worse	Muc h wors e	D K	SKP/ REF
The national economy	10/21- 25/2021 (N=1,083)	30	4	26	23	47	27	20	*	*
	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	27	9	18	27	44	27	18	1	1

	(N=1,062)									
	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

AP-NORC		Much/ Somewha t better NET	Much better	Somewh at better	Ab out the sam e	Much/ Somewh at worse NET	Somewh at worse	Muc h wors e	D K	SKP/ REF
Your own personal finances	10/21- 25/2021 (N=1,083)	33	7	25	43	24	18	6	-	*
	2/25- 3/1/2021 (N=1,434)	40	7	32	46	13	10	4	*	1
	1/28- 2/1/2021 (N=1,055)	34	6	28	48	18	13	5	*	*
	12/3-7/2020 (N = 1,117)	32	7	25	49	19	15	5	*	*
	9/11- 14/2020 (N = 1,108)	38	11	27	48	13	9	4	-	1
	7/16- 20/2020 (N=1,057)	33	9	24	51	16	12	4	-	1
	6/11- 15/2020 (N=1,310)	38	10	28	46	15	12	3	*	1
	5/14- 18/2020 (N=1,056)	37	10	27	44	17	13	4	1	1
	4/16- 20/2020 (N=1,057)	36	8	28	46	17	15	3	*	1
	3/26- 29/2020 (N=1,057)	39	10	29	42	19	13	6	-	*
	1/16- 21/2020 (N=1,353)	42	11	31	45	12	9	3	*	*
	12/5-9/2019 (N=1,053)	37	12	26	48	14	9	4	*	*
	9/20- 23/2019 (N=1,286)	41	8	33	44	15	10	5	*	1
	6/13- 17/2019 (N=1,116)	37	11	26	48	13	9	4	*	1

	1/16- 20//2019 (N=1,062)	33	8	24	45	21	13	9	-	1
	12/13- 16/2018 (N=1,067)	35	10	25	44	20	14	6	*	*
	6/13- 18/2018 (N=1,109)	37	10	27	45	17	13	4	-	1
	4/11- 16/2018 (N=1,140)	37	11	26	46	18	14	4	-	*
	3/14- 19/2018 (N=1,122)	39	10	29	42	18	13	5	*	*

RELIG. What is your present religion, if any?

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
Protestant	26
Roman Catholic	19
Mormon	2
Orthodox	1
Jewish	1
Muslim	1
Buddhist	1
Hindu	1
Atheist	5
Agnostic	5
Nothing in particular	12
Just Christian	21
Unitarian	1
Something else	4
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N=

1,083

If Religion is Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox, Christian, or something else:

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

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
Yes	38
No	61
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N=

786

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 10/21-25/2021
Democrat NET	43
Strong Democrat	19
Not so strong Democrat	15
Lean Democrat	9
Independent/None – Don't lean	19
Republican NET	37
Lean Republican	10
Not so strong Republican	12
Strong Republican	16
N=	1,083

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 10/21-25/2021
Liberal NET	24
Very liberal	11
Somewhat liberal	12
Moderate	48
Conservative NET	27
Somewhat conservative	16
Very conservative	12
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
N=	1,083

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

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
Urban	25
Suburban	47
Rural	28
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N=

1,083

ECO1. Thinking about your financial situation, how confident are you that...?

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

		Extremely /Very confident NET	Extremely confident	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not very/ Not at all confi- dent NET	Not very confident	Not at all confident	DK	SKP /REF
AP-NORC										
You would be able to find a good job if you wanted to	10/21-25/2021 (N=1,083)	36	17	20	35	27	16	12	*	1
	03/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	25	7	19	35	39	21	18	*	*
	06/13-17/2019 (N=1,116)	30	12	18	35	33	19	14	*	1
	01/16-20/2019 (N=1,062)	28	8	20	35	35	21	14	1	1
You will have enough savings for retirement	10/21-25/2021 (N=1,083)	26	13	12	31	43	22	20	*	1
	2/25-3/1/2021 (N=1,434)	24	8	15	30	46	23	24	*	*
	03/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	18	7	12	30	52	24	28	-	*
	06/13-17/2019 (N=1,116)	21	8	13	33	44	20	24	1	1
	01/16-20/2019 (N=1,062)	20	7	13	32	47	22	24	1	1
You can keep up with your expenses	10/21-25/2021 (N=1,083)	45	20	25	34	20	13	7	*	*
	2/25-3/1/2021 (N=1,434)	44	16	28	37	19	14	5	*	*
	03/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	36	11	24	40	24	15	9	-	*
	06/13-17/2019	40	16	24	41	19	12	7	-	1
You would be able to pay an unexpected bill of \$1,000	10/21-25/2021 (N=1,083)	49	30	20	19	32	12	19	*	*
	2/25-3/1/2021 (N=1,434)	42	23	19	22	36	18	18	*	*
	03/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	36	20	16	25	39	14	26	-	*
	06/13-17/2019 (N=1,116)	40	23	17	22	37	15	22	*	1
	01/16-20/2019 (N=1,062)	41	23	18	20	39	18	21	*	*

AP-NORC		Extremely /Very confident NET	Extremely confident	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not very/ Not at all confi- dent NET	Not very confident	Not at all confident	DK	SKP /REF
You would be able to pay an unexpected medical expense	10/21-25/2021 (N=1,083)	33	15	18	27	39	21	18	*	*
	2/25-3/1/2021 (N=1,434)	28	11	17	29	43	23	19	*	*
	03/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	24	8	16	31	45	21	24	-	*
	01/16-20/2019 (N=1,062)	23	8	14	34	43	22	21	*	*

AGE

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
18-29	20
30-44	26
45-59	23
60+	30
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,083</i>

GENDER

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
Male	48
Female	52
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,083</i>

RACE/ETHNICITY

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
White	63
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	17
Other	9
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,083</i>

MARITAL STATUS

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
Married	55
Not married	45
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,083</i>

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
Employed	58
Not employed	42
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,083</i>

EDUCATION

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
Less than a high school diploma	10
High school graduate or equivalent	28
Some college	27
College graduate or above	20
Post grad study/professional degree	15
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,083</i>

INCOME

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
Under \$10,000	5
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	8
\$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	20
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	15
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	13
\$150,000 or more	10
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,083</i>

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 October 21st and 25th, with adults aged 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,083 completed the survey—1,008 via the web and 75 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference. The final stage completion rate is 17.4 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 19.1 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 75.1 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 2.5 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 2021 Current Population Survey. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults aged 18 and over. The sample is also adjusted to match the benchmark of the percent of adults who have received at least one dose of a vaccine by Census region as of October 25, 2021, according to the CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker data.

For more information, email info@apnorc.org.

About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, 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. www.ap.org
- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest objective and nonpartisan research institutions in the world. www.norc.org

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. In its 10 years, The AP-NORC Center has conducted more than 250 studies exploring the critical issues facing the public, covering topics like health care, the economy, COVID-19, trust in media, and more. Learn more at www.apnorc.org.