



# The December 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: 12/2-7/2021*

*1,089 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
12/2-7/2021 (N=1,089)	33	66	1	1
10/21-25/2021 (N=1,083)	32	67	1	*
9/23-27/2021 (N=1,099)	34	64	*	1
8/12-16/2021 (N=1,729)	39	61	*	*
7/15-19/2021 (N=1,308)	44	55	1	1
6/10-14/2021 (N=1,125)	46	53	*	1
4/29-5/3/2021 (N=1,842)	54	44	1	1
3/25-29/2021 (N= 1,166)	50	50	*	*
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	<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
12/2-7/2021 (N=1,089)	<b>48</b>	18	30	*	<b>1</b>	<b>51</b>	*	20	30	-	*
10/21-25/2021 (N=1,083)	<b>48</b>	17	31	*	<b>1</b>	<b>51</b>	*	17	34	*	*
9/23-27/2021 (N=1,099)	<b>50</b>	18	31	1	<b>1</b>	<b>49</b>	*	17	32	*	*
8/12-16/2021 (N=1,729)	<b>54</b>	24	30	*	*	<b>46</b>	*	15	30	*	*
7/15-19/2021 (N=1,308)	<b>59</b>	25	33	1	*	<b>41</b>	1	14	26	-	*
6/10-14/2021 (N=1,125)	<b>55</b>	26	29	*	<b>1</b>	<b>44</b>	1	14	29	-	-
4/29-5/3/2021 (N=1,842)	<b>63</b>	34	29	*	<b>1</b>	<b>36</b>	*	11	25	*	*
3/25-29/2021 (N= 1,166)	<b>61</b>	31	29	*	*	<b>38</b>	*	13	25	-	1
2/25-3/1/2021 (N=1,434)	<b>60</b>	32	28	*	*	<b>40</b>	*	15	24	*	*
1/28-2/1/2021 (N=1,055)	<b>61</b>	35	26	*	<b>1</b>	<b>38</b>	*	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		Approve	Disapprove	DK	SKP/REF
The economy	12/2-7/2021 (N=1,089)	41	57	*	1
	10/21-25/2021 (N=1,083)	41	58	1	1
	9/23-27/2021 (N=1,099)	47	51	1	1
	8/12-16/2021 (N=1,729)	49	49	*	1
	7/15-19/2021 (N=1,308)	52	47	*	*
	6/10-14/2021 (N=1,125)	51	47	*	2
	4/29-5/3/2021 (N=1,842)	57	42	*	2
	3/25-29/2021 (N= 1,166)	60	39	*	1
	2/25-3/1/2021 (N=1,434)	55	44	*	1
	The coronavirus pandemic	12/2-7/2021 (N=1,089)	57	42	*
10/21-25/2021 (N=1,083)		54	45	*	1
9/23-27/2021 (N=1,099)		57	43	*	1
8/12-16/2021 (N=1,729)		54	45	*	1
7/15-19/2021 (N=1,308)		66	33	1	*
6/10-14/2021 (N=1,125)		68	31	*	1
4/29-5/3/2021 (N=1,842)		71	27	*	1
3/25-29/2021 (N= 1,166)		73	26	*	1
2/25-3/1/2021 (N=1,434)		70	29	*	1
Foreign policy	12/2-7/2021 (N=1,089)	44	54	1	2
	9/23-27/2021 (N=1,099)	43	54	1	2
	8/12-16/2021 (N=1,729)	47	51	*	2
	6/10-14/2021 (N=1,125)	50	47	*	3

AP-NORC		Approve	Disapprove	DK	SKP/REF
Foreign policy	4/29-5/3/2021 (N=1,842)	54	41	2	3
	3/25-29/2021 (N= 1,166)	55	43	*	1
Gun policy	12/2-7/2021 (N=1,089)	36	61	1	1
	4/29-5/3/2021 (N=1,842)	48	49	1	2
	3/25-29/2021 (N= 1,166)	45	52	*	2

**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
12/2-7/2021 (N=1,089)	<b>35</b>	3	21	11	*	<b>64</b>	16	33	16	-	*
10/21-25/2021 (N=1,083)	<b>35</b>	2	20	13	*	<b>65</b>	12	33	19	-	-
9/23-27/2021 (N=1,099)	<b>45</b>	2	27	16	-	<b>54</b>	17	25	12	*	-
7/15-19/2021 (N=1,308)	<b>45</b>	4	28	13	<b>1</b>	<b>54</b>	15	28	11	-	*
6/10-14/2021 (N=1,125)	<b>47</b>	3	27	17	*	<b>53</b>	14	26	13	-	-
3/25-29/2021 (N= 1,166)	<b>46</b>	2	25	19	*	<b>54</b>	16	27	11	-	-
2/25-3/1/2021 (N=1,434)	<b>37</b>	1	22	14	*	<b>63</b>	16	34	12	-	*
1/28-2/1/2021 (N=1,055)	<b>31</b>	1	17	12	*	<b>69</b>	15	37	17	-	-
12/3-7/2020 (N=1,117)	<b>38</b>	5	22	11	*	<b>62</b>	11	34	17	*	-
10/8-12/2020 (N=1,121)	<b>39</b>	6	22	11	*	<b>61</b>	10	31	20	-	*
9/11-14/2020 (N=1,108)	<b>40</b>	6	24	11	*	<b>60</b>	10	33	16	-	-
8/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	<b>37</b>	4	21	12	*	<b>62</b>	12	32	18	-	-

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
7/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	<b>38</b>	4	22	12	-	<b>62</b>	11	30	21	-	-
6/11-15/2020 (N=1,310)	<b>36</b>	5	19	12	*	<b>63</b>	14	28	21	-	1
5/14-18/2020 (N=1,056)	<b>29</b>	3	13	13	*	<b>70</b>	9	31	30	-	*
4/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	<b>29</b>	3	15	11	-	<b>71</b>	8	30	33	-	-
03/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	<b>39</b>	9	17	12	*	<b>60</b>	10	29	21	-	-
1/16-21/2020 (N=1,353)	<b>67</b>	21	36	10	*	<b>33</b>	13	15	5	-	*
9/20-23/2019 (N=1,286)	<b>61</b>	18	31	11	*	<b>38</b>	11	19	8	1	*
6/13-17/2019 (N=1,116)	<b>63</b>	15	35	14	*	<b>36</b>	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	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
12/2-7/2021 (N=1,089)	<b>64</b>	12	33	19	<b>1</b>	<b>35</b>	11	16	8	-	*
10/21-25/2021 (N=1,083)	<b>65</b>	13	33	19	<b>1</b>	<b>34</b>	12	15	7	-	-
2/25-3/1/2021 (N=1,434)	<b>67</b>	13	37	18	*	<b>32</b>	12	14	6	-	*
10/8-12/2020 (N=1,121)	<b>65</b>	14	35	16	*	<b>34</b>	12	15	8	-	*
9/11-14/2020 (N=1,108)	<b>65</b>	15	31	18	*	<b>35</b>	13	17	5	-	*
8/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	<b>63</b>	13	34	17	*	<b>36</b>	12	18	6	*	*
7/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	<b>65</b>	14	34	17	*	<b>35</b>	14	15	6	-	-

	<b>Very/ Somewhat/ Lean toward good NET</b>	Very good	Some- what good	Lean toward good	<b>Neither good nor poor</b>	<b>Very/ Somewhat/ Lean toward poor NET</b>	Lean toward poor	Some- what poor	Very poor	DK	SKP/ REF
AP-NORC All adults											
6/11-15/2020 (N=1,310)	<b>66</b>	14	36	16	<b>1</b>	<b>32</b>	12	14	7	-	1
5/14-18/2020 (N=1,056)	<b>66</b>	15	32	20	*	<b>33</b>	10	16	7	-	1
4/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	<b>64</b>	14	31	18	*	<b>36</b>	10	17	8	-	-
3/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	<b>62</b>	11	34	17	*	<b>38</b>	10	19	9	-	*
1/16-21/2020 (N=1,353)	<b>69</b>	18	37	15	*	<b>31</b>	9	14	7	-	*
9/20-23/2019 (N=1,286)	<b>64</b>	19	32	14	*	<b>35</b>	13	14	8	*	*
6/13-17/2019 (N=1,116)	<b>67</b>	15	37	15	*	<b>32</b>	12	15	5	-	1

**BIZ1. In recent months, would you say you have been doing each of the following more than usual, less than usual or about the same as usual?**

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

AP-NORC 12/2-7/2021	More than usual	Less than usual	About the same as usual	DON'T KNOW	SKIPPED/ REFUSED
Shopping for non-essential items	7	36	55	*	1
Buying meat	8	29	62	*	1
Driving	13	32	53	*	1
Drawing from savings	29	20	50	*	2
Finding the lowest price for items	31	14	53	*	2
Delaying big purchases	31	17	51	*	*
Using heat or air conditioning	15	15	69	-	1
Going to restaurants or ordering takeout	11	39	48	*	1

*N=1,089*

**BIZ2. In general, have you experienced higher prices than usual for each of the following in recent months, or not?**

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 12/2-7/2021	Yes, higher	No, not higher	Did not purchase	DON'T KNOW	SKIPPED/ REFUSED
Groceries	85	13	1	-	1
Gas	85	8	7	*	1
Electricity	57	35	7	*	1
Holiday gifts	58	20	21	*	1
Appliances	37	12	51	*	1
Services	62	18	20	*	*

*N=1,089*

**BIZ3. Overall, would you say that recent increases in the prices of goods and services are having a major impact, a minor impact or no impact on your current household financial situation?**

	AP-NORC 12/2-7/2021
Major impact	41
Minor impact	48
No impact	11
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*

*N=*

*1,089*

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

	AP-NORC 12/2-7/2021
Protestant	26
Roman Catholic	20
Mormon	1
Orthodox	*
Jewish	2
Muslim	1
Buddhist	*
Hindu	1
Atheist	6
Agnostic	6
Nothing in particular	14
Just Christian	18
Unitarian	1
Something else	3
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

*N=*

*1,089*



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 12/2-7/2021
Yes	37
No	63
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N=

762

**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 12/2-7/2021
<b>Democrat NET</b>	<b>46</b>
Strong Democrat	20
Not so strong Democrat	16
Lean Democrat	10
<b>Independent/None – Don't lean</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Republican NET</b>	<b>37</b>
Lean Republican	11
Not so strong Republican	12
Strong Republican	14

N=

1,089

**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 12/2-7/2021
<b>Liberal NET</b>	<b>22</b>
Very liberal	11
Somewhat liberal	11
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Conservative NET</b>	<b>25</b>
Somewhat conservative	15
Very conservative	10
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N=

1,089

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

	AP-NORC 12/2-7/2021
Urban	28
Suburban	43
Rural	28
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N=

1,089

**VIRUS14. Is each of the following higher, lower or about the same as it was on March 1, 2020?**

**[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]**

AP-NORC 12/2-7/2021	Higher	Lower	About the same	DON'T KNOW	SKIPPED/ REFUSED
Your household income	24	26	50	-	*
Your household expenses	67	6	26	*	*

N=1,089

**AGE**

	AP-NORC 12/2-7/2021
18-29	20
30-44	26
45-59	23
60+	30
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,089</i>

**GENDER**

	AP-NORC 12/2-7/2021
Male	48
Female	52
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,089</i>

**RACE/ETHNICITY**

	AP-NORC 12/2-7/2021
White	63
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	17
Other	9
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,089</i>

**MARITAL STATUS**

	AP-NORC 12/2-7/2021
Married	53
Not married	47
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,089</i>

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

	AP-NORC 12/2-7/2021
Employed	56
Not employed	44
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,089</i>

**EDUCATION**

	AP-NORC 12/2-7/2021
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

*N=**1,089***INCOME**

	AP-NORC 12/2-7/2021
Under \$10,000	7
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	11
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	11
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	11
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	7
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	17
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	14
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	15
\$150,000 or more	7

*N=**1,089*

## 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 December 2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, with adults aged 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,089 completed the survey—1,012 via the web and 77 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference. The final stage completion rate is 16.1 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 17.1 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 75.6 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 2.1 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 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. The sample is also weighted to match the average of self-identified party identification in the previous two waves of the AmeriSpeak Omnibus survey and this current survey.

For more information, email [info@apnorc.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://www.apnorc.org).