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# Americans' Views of Government's Role: Persistent Divisions and Areas of Agreement

*Wide majorities of Biden and Trump supporters oppose cuts to  
Social Security*

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## About Pew Research Center

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## How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand Americans' attitudes about U.S. government, such as its size and role.

This report is based primarily on a survey of 8,709 adults, including 7,166 registered voters, from April 8 to 14, 2024. Some of the analysis in this report is based on a survey of 8,638 adults from May 13 to 19, 2024.

Everyone who took part in these surveys is a member of the Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. This way nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. [Read more about the ATP's methodology.](#)

Here are the [questions used for the report](#) and its [methodology](#).

# Americans' Views of Government's Role: Persistent Divisions and Areas of Agreement

*Wide majorities of Biden and Trump supporters oppose cuts to Social Security*

While the economy, immigration and abortion have emerged as major issues in the 2024 election, Joe Biden and Donald Trump also have [dramatically different ideas](#) about the size and role of government.

These differences reflect decades-old divisions between Democrats and Republicans over the scope of government.

Among registered voters, large majorities of Biden supporters – roughly three-quarters or more – favor a bigger, more activist government.

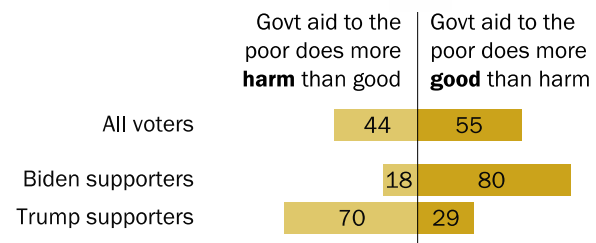
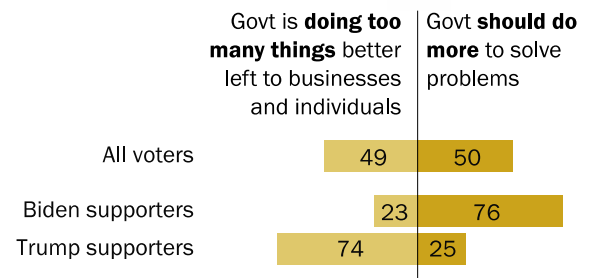
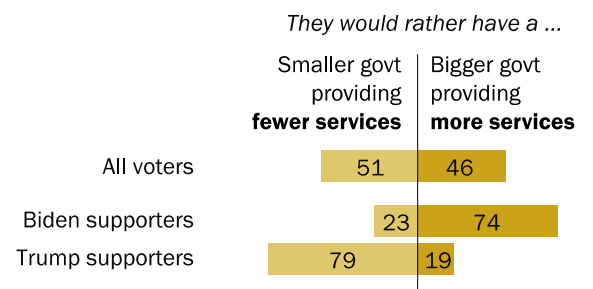
- 74% say they would rather have a bigger government providing more services.
- 76% say government should do more to solve problems.
- 80% say government aid to the poor “does more good than harm.”

Trump supporters, by comparable margins, take the opposing view on all three questions.

The Pew Research Center survey of 8,709 adults – including 7,166 registered voters – conducted April 8-14, 2024, examines [Americans' views of the role and scope of government](#), [the social safety net](#) and long-term trends in [trust in the federal government](#).

## Deep divides between Biden and Trump supporters on size, scope of government

% of registered voters who say ...



Note: Based on registered voters. No answer responses not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 8-14, 2024.

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**Democratic support for bigger government is little changed in the last five years but remains higher than it was a decade ago. Republicans’ views have shifted less over the last 10 years.**

Among all adults, about three-quarters of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents favor a bigger government, up from about six-in-ten in 2014 and 2015. The share of Republicans and Republican leaners who prefer a bigger government has increased only modestly over the same period.

Democratic support for bigger government, while slightly lower than in 2021 (78%), remains at nearly its highest level in five decades. During Bill Clinton’s presidency in the 1990s, fewer than half of Democrats said they preferred a bigger government with more services.

**Voters continue to express very different views about government’s role in specific areas than about the government generally.**

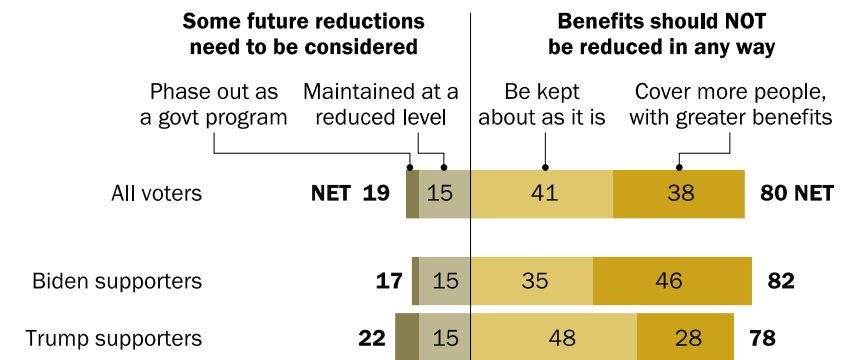
A large majority of voters (80%) – including 82% of Biden supporters and 78% of Trump supporters – say that in thinking about the long-term future of Social Security, benefits should not be reduced in any way.

However, Biden supporters are more likely than Trump supporters to say Social Security should cover more people with greater benefits.

- 46% of Biden supporters favor expanding Social Security coverage and benefits, compared with 28% of Trump supporters.

**By wide margins, Biden and Trump supporters oppose reducing Social Security benefits**

*Thinking about the long-term future of Social Security, % of registered voters who say ...*



Note: Based on registered voters. No answer responses not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 8-14, 2024.

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**Most Americans (65%) continue to say the federal government has a responsibility to make sure all Americans have health care coverage.**

Democrats overwhelmingly (88%) say the federal government has this responsibility, compared with 40% of Republicans.

The share of Republicans who say the government has a responsibility to provide health coverage has increased 8 percentage points since 2021, from 32% to 40%.

There are wide income differences among Republicans in opinions about the government's role in health care:

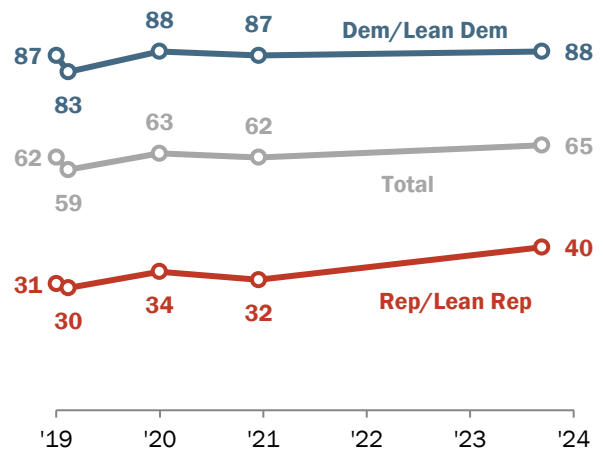
- 56% of Republicans with lower family incomes say the government has a responsibility to provide health coverage for all, compared with 36% of those with middle incomes and 29% of higher-income Republicans.

When asked *how* the government should provide health coverage, 36% of Americans say it should be provided through a single national program, while 28% say it should be through a mix of government and private programs. These views have changed little in recent years.

Democrats continue to be more likely than Republicans to favor a “single payer” government health insurance program (53% vs. 18%).

### Nearly two-thirds of Americans say the federal government has a responsibility to ensure health coverage for all

*% who say it is the federal government's responsibility to make sure all Americans have health care coverage*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 8-14, 2024.

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**Other key findings in this report**

- **Americans' trust in the federal government remains low but has modestly increased since last year.** Today, 22% of American adults say they trust the government to do what is right always or most of the time, which is up from 16% in June 2023.
- **While the public overall is divided over the nation's ability to solve important problems, young adults are notably pessimistic about the country's ability to solve problems.** About half of Americans (52%) say the U.S. can't solve many of its important problems, while 47% say it can find a way to solve problems and get what it wants. Roughly six-in-ten adults under age 30 (62%) say the nation can't solve major problems, the highest share in any age group and 16 points higher than two years ago.

# 1. Government's scope, efficiency and role in regulating business

Americans are evenly divided in their preferences for the size of government. Yet a somewhat greater share wants the government to do more to solve problems than say it is doing too much better left to others.

There is a persistent belief that government is wasteful: 56% say it is “almost always wasteful and inefficient.”

However, a majority of Americans (58%) say government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public good.

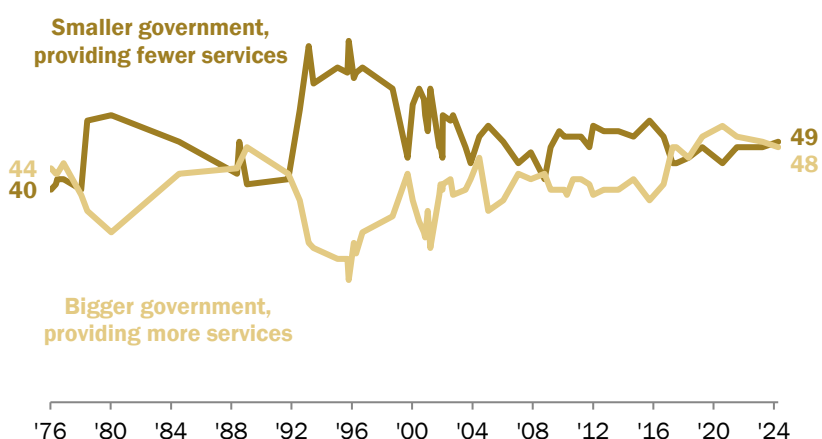
## Divisions on government's size, scope

Overall, 49% say they would prefer a smaller government providing fewer services, while 48% say they would rather have a *bigger* government providing *more* services.

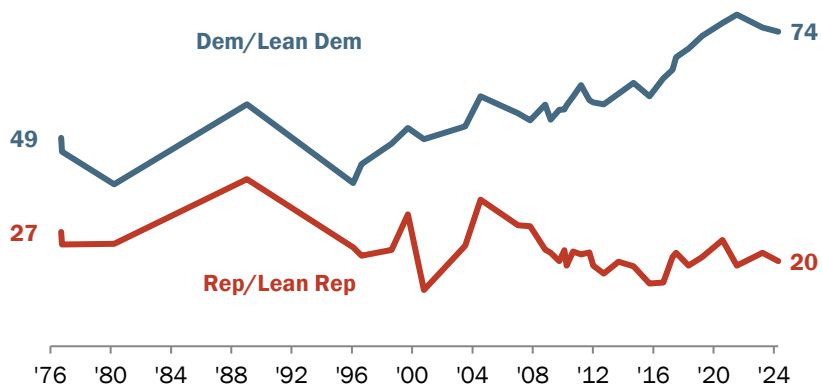
**Most Democrats prefer a larger government.** For nearly half a century, Democrats and Republicans have differed in their preferences for the size of government. Today, those

## Americans are closely divided on size of government, and these views are increasingly partisan

% who say they would rather have a ...



% who say they would rather have a **bigger** government, providing **more** services



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 8-14, 2024.

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differences are as wide as they have ever been:

- Nearly three-quarters of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents (74%) favor a bigger government, providing more services. By comparison, in 2015, a smaller majority of Democrats (59%) said they preferred a bigger government.
- Just 20% of Republicans and Republican leaners prefer a bigger government; nearly four times as many want smaller government with fewer services. Republicans' views of the size of government have changed less than Democrats'. Still, when George W. Bush was running for reelection in 2004, roughly a third of Republicans favored a bigger government.

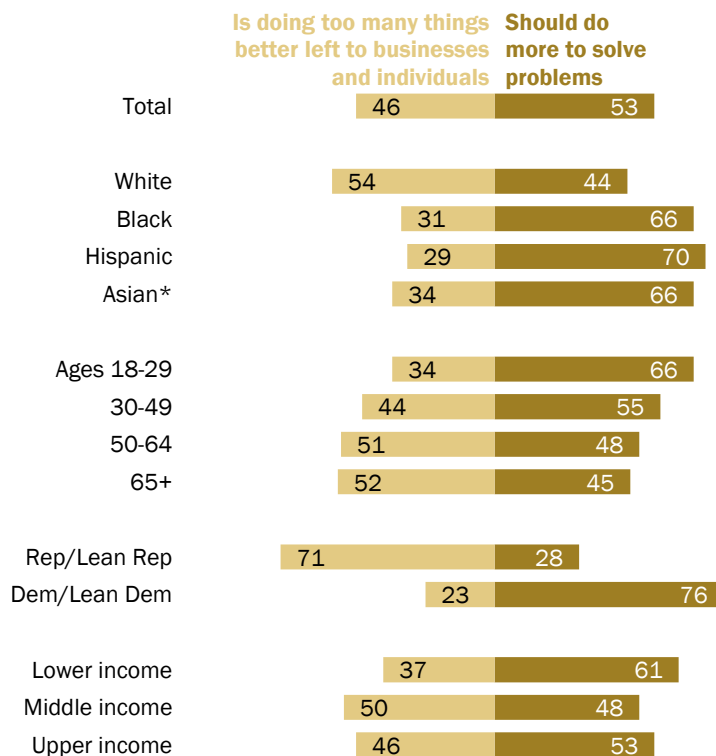
When asked about the proper role of government, about half of Americans (53%) say the government should do more to solve problems, while 46% say the government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals.

An overwhelming share of Democrats (76%) say government should do more to solve problems, while about a quarter (23%) say it is doing too many things better left to individuals and businesses.

By contrast, Republicans prefer a more limited role for government: 71% say government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals, while 28% say government should do more to solve problems.

### Differences by age, race and ethnicity, and family income on government's role in solving problems

% who say government ...



\* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic adults are of any race. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2022 earnings. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 8-14, 2024.

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There are also sizable demographic differences in these views:

- White adults (54%) are the most likely to say government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals, while smaller shares of Asian (34%), Black (31%) and Hispanic (29%) adults say the same.
- Younger adults are more likely than older adults to favor a larger role for government, with adults ages 18 to 29 (66%) being the most likely to say government should do more to solve problems.
- Among income groups, a majority of lower-income adults (61%) say government should do more to solve problems, while smaller shares of upper- and middle-income adults (53% and 48%, respectively) say the same.

**Views among partisans by race, ethnicity and income**

Among partisans, there are wide demographic differences on the preferred role of government – especially among Republicans.

Hispanic Republicans (58%) are much more likely than White Republicans (21%) to favor a larger role for government.

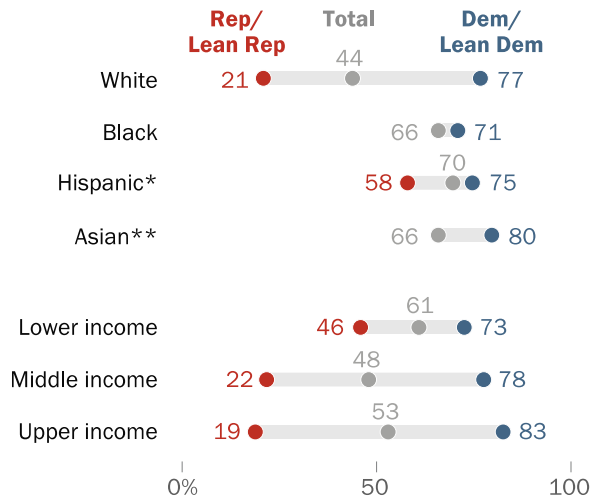
Views among Democrats are much less divided, with at least seven-in-ten Democrats in each racial and ethnic group saying government should do more to solve problems.

Nearly half of lower-income Republicans (46%) say that the government should do more to solve problems, while smaller shares of middle- (22%) and upper-income (19%) Republicans say the same.

Wide majorities of Democrats across income groups say government should do more to solve problems.

**Republicans are divided internally on whether government should do more to solve problems**

*% who say government should do more to solve problems*



\* There are 271 Hispanic Republicans, for an effective sample size of 66 (margin of error of +/- 12.1 percentage points at 95% confidence).

\*\* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic adults are of any race. Insufficient sample to show Black and Asian Republicans. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2022 earnings.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 8-14, 2024.

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## Views on the efficiency of government

In assessments of the efficiency of the government, a majority of Americans (56%) find it to be “almost always wasteful and inefficient.” A smaller share (42%) say government “often does a better job than people give it credit for.”

Overall, views on the efficiency of government have remained somewhat steady since 2019, with views today mirroring those five years ago.

Among partisans, a majority of Democrats (63%) say the government often does a better job than people give it credit for, while a large majority of Republicans (77%) say government is often wasteful and inefficient.

Views on the efficiency of government in both parties have remained steady since 2021.

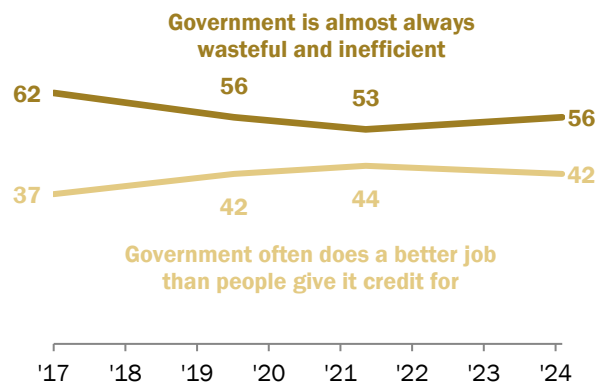
While Democrats are generally more likely than Republicans to say government does not get enough credit, these views vary somewhat depending on which party holds the presidency:

- Democrats are now more likely to give credit to the government than they were during the Trump administration.
- Among Republicans, views of government efficiency were more positive during the Trump administration.

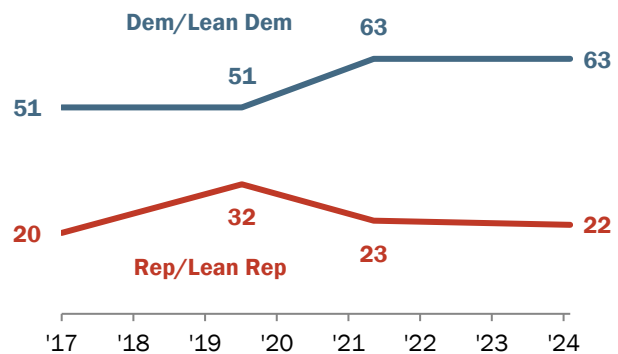
This is consistent with shifts in views during [prior administrations](#).

### Majority of Americans say government is ‘almost always wasteful and inefficient’

% who say ...



% who say *government often does a better job than people give it credit for*



Note: No answer responses not shown.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 8-14, 2024.

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## Views on the government's regulation of business

On the topic of government regulation of business, about six-in-ten Americans (58%) say that government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest. Four-in-ten, however, say government regulation of business usually does more harm than good.

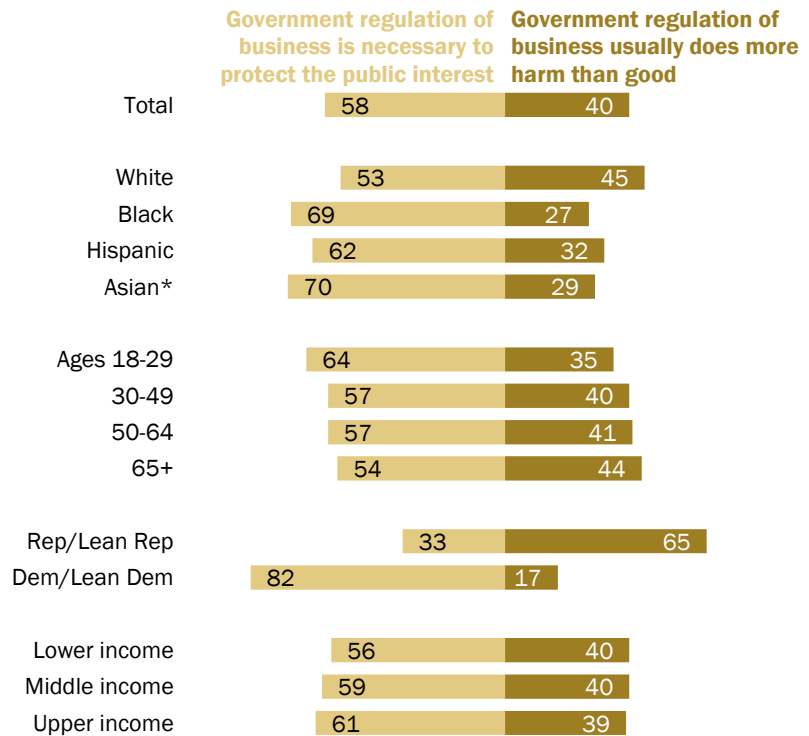
These views have remained largely unchanged since 2017.

As with other attitudes about government, Republicans and Democrats differ on the impact of government regulation of business:

- About two-thirds of Republicans (65%) say government regulation does more harm than good.
- Roughly eight-in-ten Democrats (82%) say government regulation is necessary to protect the public interest.

### Broad support for government regulation of business among Democrats, young adults, and Black, Hispanic and Asian adults

% who say ...



\* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic adults are of any race. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2022 earnings. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 8-14, 2024.

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Among other demographic differences:

- White adults (45%) are the most likely to say government regulation does more harm than good, while smaller shares of Hispanic (32%), Asian (29%) and Black (27%) adults say the same.
- Younger adults are more likely than older adults to say government regulation of business is necessary to protect the public interest, with adults ages 18 to 29 (64%) being the most likely to say this.

## Confidence in the nation’s ability to solve problems

Americans are divided in their views on the country’s ability to solve important problems. About half (52%) of Americans say “this country can’t solve many of its important problems,” while 47% say that “as Americans, we can always find ways to solve our problems and get what we want.”

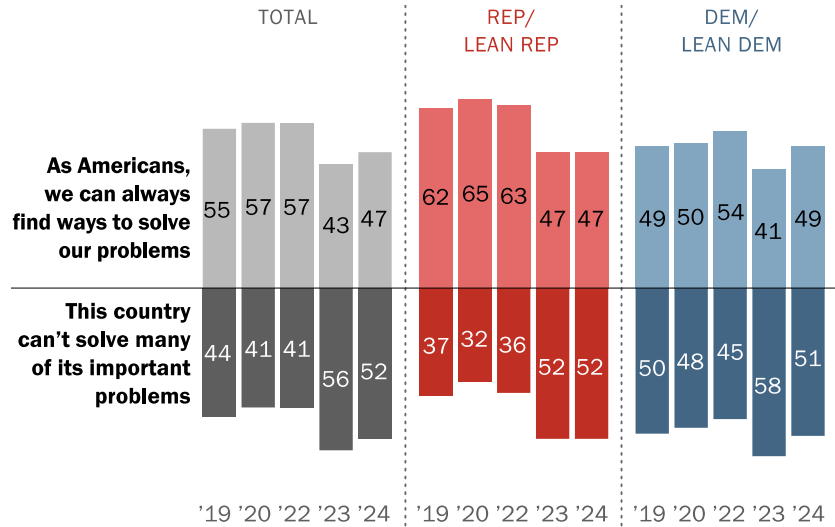
More Americans express confidence in the country’s ability to solve problems now than a year ago (47% now, 43% then). Still, the share saying this is lower than it was from 2019 to 2022.

Unlike assessments of government, there are no partisan differences in views on the country’s ability to solve its important problems.

In both parties, about half say the U.S. can’t solve many of its important problems, while slightly narrower shares say Americans can always find ways to solve the country’s problems.

### Americans are evenly divided on whether the U.S. can solve many of its important problems

% who say ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 8-14, 2024.

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**Views among age groups**

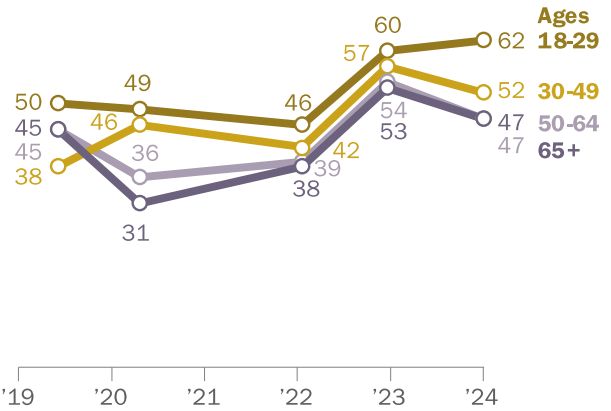
Among age groups, younger adults are the most likely to express skepticism in the country’s ability to solve its important problems. About six-in-ten adults ages 18 to 29 (62%) say the U.S. can’t solve many of its important problems, while smaller shares of older adults say the same.

Overall, the shares of adults in each age group who voice skepticism on the country’s ability to solve its problems remain higher than they were in 2022.

However, older adults have grown slightly more optimistic on this issue in the past year. Views among the youngest adults are relatively unchanged from 2022.

**Age differences over whether the U.S. can solve its important problems**

*% who say this country can’t solve many of its important problems*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 8-14, 2024.

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## 2. Americans' views of government aid to poor, role in health care and Social Security

Majorities of Americans see a role for government on several safety net issues.

- 65% say the government has a responsibility to ensure all Americans have health care coverage.
- 55% say government aid to the poor does more good than harm.
- 79% say Social Security benefits should not be reduced in any way.

### Views on the effect of government aid to the poor

A majority of Americans (55%) say that, overall, government aid to the poor does more good than harm, while about four-in-ten (43%) say it does more harm than good.

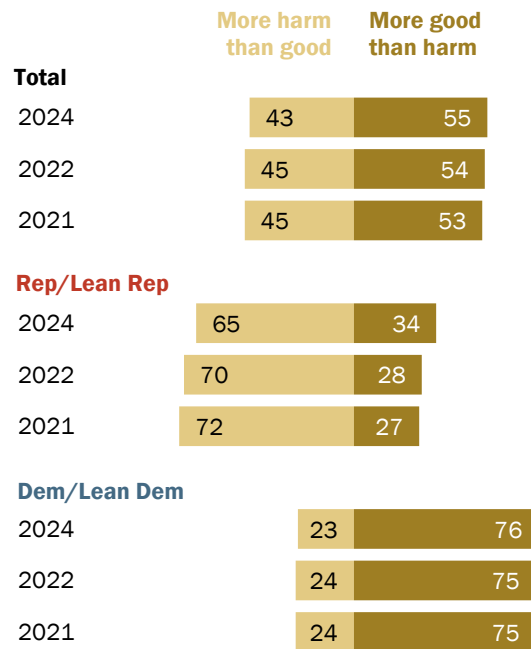
Republicans and Republican-leaning independents continue to be critical of government aid to the poor:

- 65% say government aid does more harm than good, while 34% say it does more good than harm.
- However, the share of Republicans saying government aid has a positive effect is up 6 percentage points since 2022.

As in past years, about three-quarters of Democrats (76%) say government aid to the poor has an overall positive effect (23% say it does more harm).

### Republicans and Democrats continue to diverge over government aid to poor

*% who say government aid to the poor does ...*



Note: No answer responses not shown.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 8-14, 2024.

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About half of Americans (52%) now say the government should do more to help the needy, even if it means going deeper into debt. By comparison, 45% say the government can't afford to do much more to help the needy.

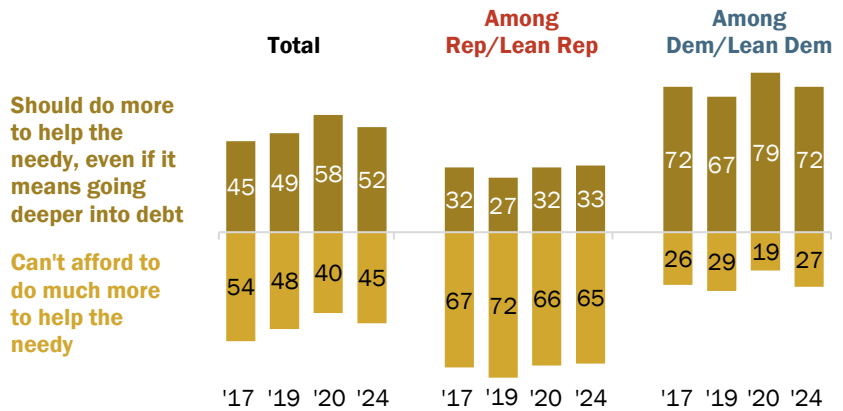
Support for doing more to help those in need, even if the debt increases, is 6 percentage points lower than it was in June 2020, in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- About seven-in-ten Democrats (72%) say the government should do more to help the needy, down from 79% who said the same in 2020.

- A far smaller share of Republicans – 33% – say the government should do more even if it leads to additional debt. Views among Republicans are largely unchanged since 2020.

**Support for additional aid to the needy, even if it adds to the national debt, drops off from pandemic levels**

*% who say the government ...*



Note: No answer responses not shown.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 8-14, 2024.

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## Government assistance to people in need

About four-in-ten Americans (41%) say the government should provide *more* assistance to people in need, while about a quarter say it should provide *less* (27%). Three-in-ten say the government is providing about the right amount of assistance.

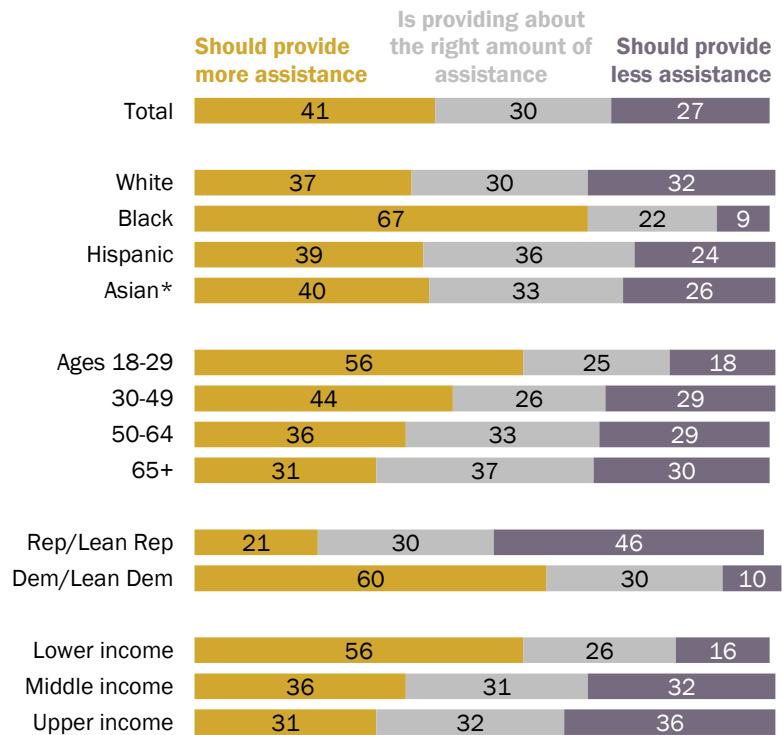
Like other attitudes about social safety net policies, there are wide partisan differences.

**Six-in-ten Democrats say the government should provide more assistance to people in need.** Just one-in-ten say it should provide less, while three-in-ten say the current level is about right.

By comparison, **46% of Republicans say the government should provide less assistance,** while 21% say it should provide more. Three-in-ten say the government is providing the right amount of assistance.

### Younger adults, Black Americans and Democrats are most likely to say government should provide more assistance to people in need

*Thinking about the assistance the government provides to people in need, do you think the government ... (%)*



\* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.  
 Note: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic adults are of any race. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2022 earnings. No answer responses not shown.  
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 8-14, 2024.

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There are other demographic differences:

- Two-thirds of Black adults say the government should provide more assistance to people in need, while smaller shares of Asian (40%), Hispanic (39%) and White (37%) adults say the same.

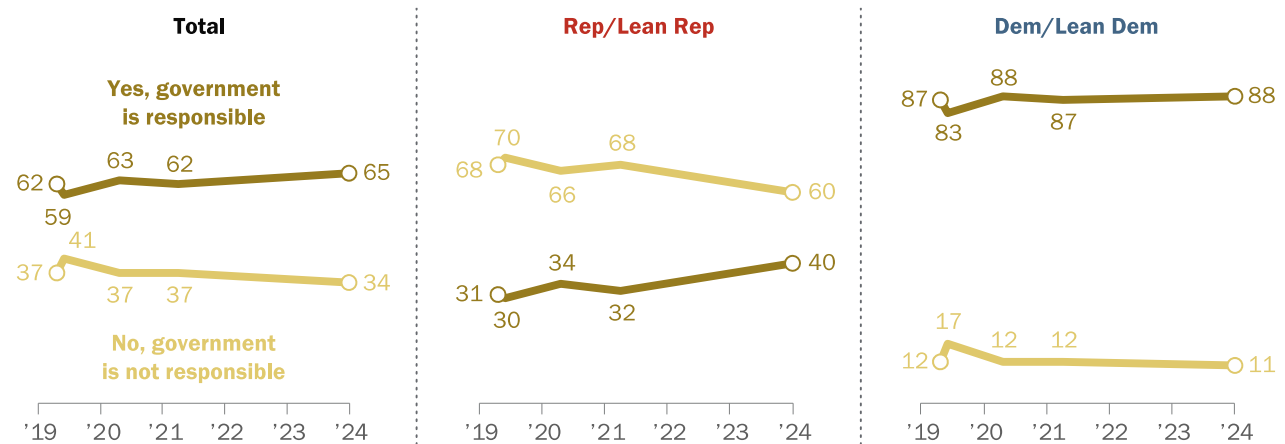
- Younger adults are more likely than older adults to say the government should provide more assistance.
- A majority of lower-income adults (56%) say the government should provide more assistance. Smaller shares of middle- (36%) and upper-income (31%) adults say the same.

## Views on government's role in health care

About two-thirds of Americans (65%) say it is the federal government's responsibility to make sure all Americans have health care coverage, while roughly a third (34%) say it does not.

### Higher shares of Republicans now say health care is up to the federal government

*Is it the federal government's responsibility to make sure all Americans have health care coverage? (%)*



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 8-14, 2024.

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Americans are slightly more likely to say it is the government's responsibility to ensure health care coverage for all than they were a few years ago (62% in 2021). While Democratic opinion has not changed over this period, the share of Republicans who say government has this responsibility has grown.

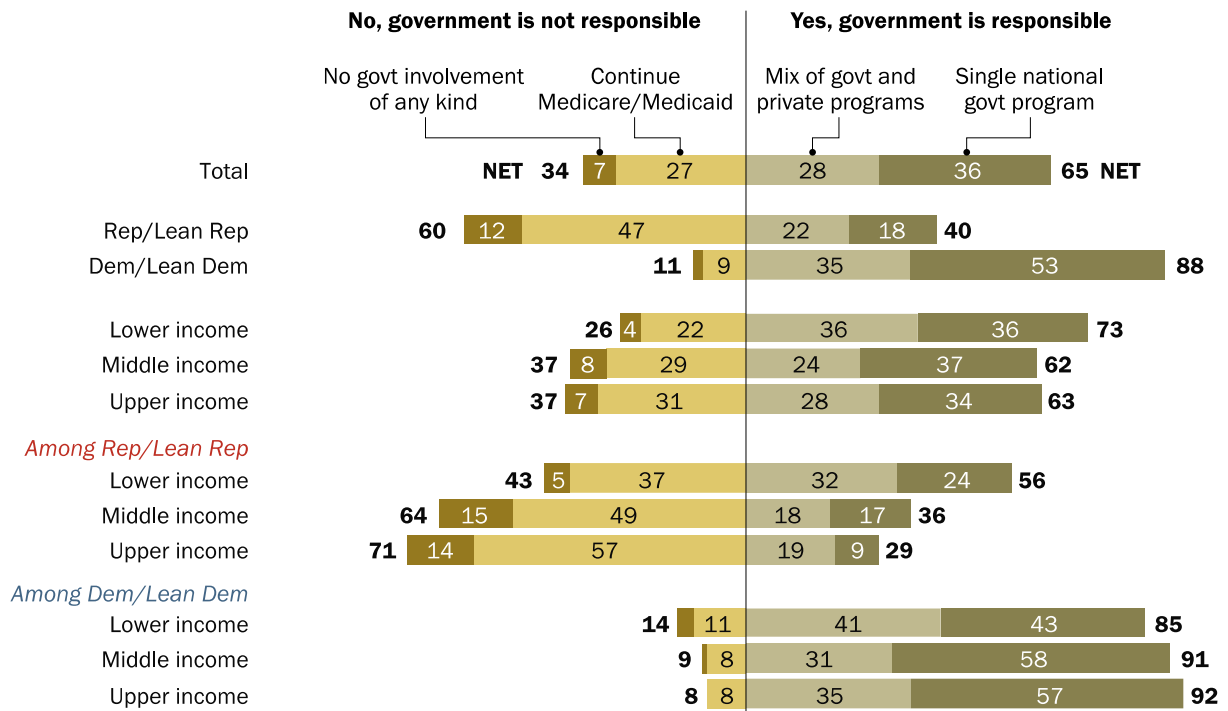
- Four-in-ten Republicans and Republican-leaning independents now say it is the government's responsibility to ensure health care coverage for all, up from 32% who said this in 2022. Six-in-ten say it is *not* the government's responsibility, down from 68% who said the same three years ago.
- Democrats and Democratic leaners overwhelmingly hold the view that the government has a responsibility to ensure health care coverage: 88% say this. Democrats' views on this question are largely unchanged in recent years.

### Views by party and income

Majorities of adults at all income levels say the government is responsible for ensuring health care coverage. However, lower-income adults (73%) are more likely than upper- (63%) or middle-income (62%) adults to say this.

### Wide income gap among Republicans in views of government’s responsibility to ensure health care coverage

Is it the federal government’s responsibility to make sure all Americans have health care coverage? (%)



Note: Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2022 earnings. No answer responses not shown.  
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 8-14, 2024.

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Among Republicans, there are differences within income groups on whether government is responsible for ensuring all Americans have health care coverage:

- 56% of lower-income Republicans say it is the government’s responsibility to make sure all Americans have health care coverage, including about a quarter (24%) who say this should be done through a single national government program.

- Middle-income (36%) and upper-income Republicans (29%) are far less likely to say the government has a responsibility to ensure people have health care coverage. Majorities in both of these groups say it is *not* the government's responsibility.

By comparison, more than eight-in-ten Democrats across all income levels say the government is responsible for ensuring all Americans have health care coverage.

- Overall, about half of Democrats (53%) say this should be done through a single national government program. About six-in-ten upper-income (57%) and middle-income (58%) Democrats say this, compared with about four-in-ten lower-income Democrats (43%).

## Views on the future of Social Security

Americans overwhelmingly (79%) say Social Security benefits should not be reduced in any way, including four-in-ten who say it should cover more people with greater benefits. Roughly two-in-ten (19%) say some future reductions need to be considered.

**Wide majorities of both Republicans and Democrats do not support Social Security benefit reductions:** 77% of Republicans and 83% of Democrats say Social Security benefits should not be reduced in any way.

However, Democrats (51%) are more likely than Republicans (29%) to say Social Security should be expanded.

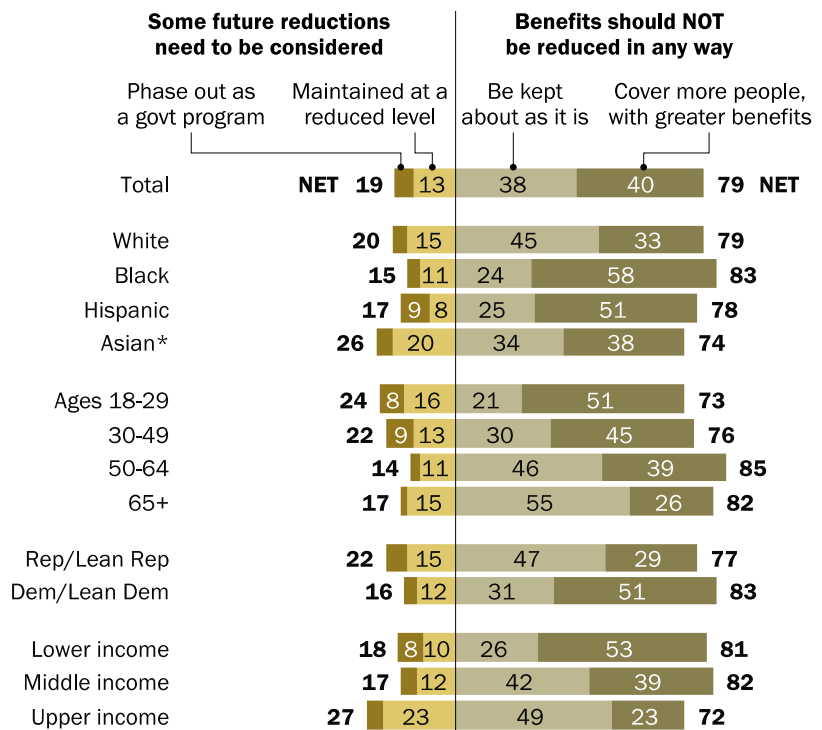
Across demographic groups

there is broad opposition to Social Security benefit cuts. But there are more sizable differences in support for expanding benefits:

- Black (58%) and Hispanic (51%) adults are more likely than White (33%) and Asian (38%) adults to say benefits should be expanded.
- Older adults are less likely than those in other age groups to say benefits should be *expanded* to cover more people with greater benefits: 26% of those 65 and older say this. By comparison, adults under 30 (51%) are most likely to favor expansion.

### Overwhelming majority of Americans are against reducing Social Security benefits

Thinking about the long-term future of Social Security, % who say ...



\* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic adults are of any race. Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2022 earnings. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 8-14, 2024.

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- Lower-income adults are the most supportive of expanding Social Security benefits: 53% say this, compared with 39% of those in middle-income families and 23% of upper-income adults.

### 3. Americans' trust in federal government and attitudes toward it

Americans' trust in the federal government, which has hovered at or near record lows for nearly 20 years, has modestly increased over the last year. Still, only about two-in-ten Americans say they trust the government in Washington to do what is right.

Frustration also remains the dominant feeling among the public, as it has for two decades – with a 60% majority now saying this. Far smaller shares say the federal government makes them feel either content or angry.

#### Trust in government

Roughly two-in-ten Americans (22%) say they trust the government in Washington to do what is right just about always or most of the time.

A majority of Americans say they trust the federal government “only some of the time” (59%), while 17% say they never trust it.

Trust in the federal government is up from a year ago, when 16% said they trusted the government at least most of the time.

Trust in the federal government has been consistently low for the last several decades, and today's level is comparable to levels of trust in 2022 and 2021.

*For more on trust in the federal government over the last 70 years, please visit our [trust interactive](#).*

#### Trust in the federal government: 1958-2024

*% who say they trust the government in Washington to do what is right **just about always/most of the time***



Note: From 1976 to 2023, the trend line represents a three-survey moving average.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted May 13-19, 2024.

Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020-24). Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier). National Election Studies. Gallup. ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times and CNN polls.

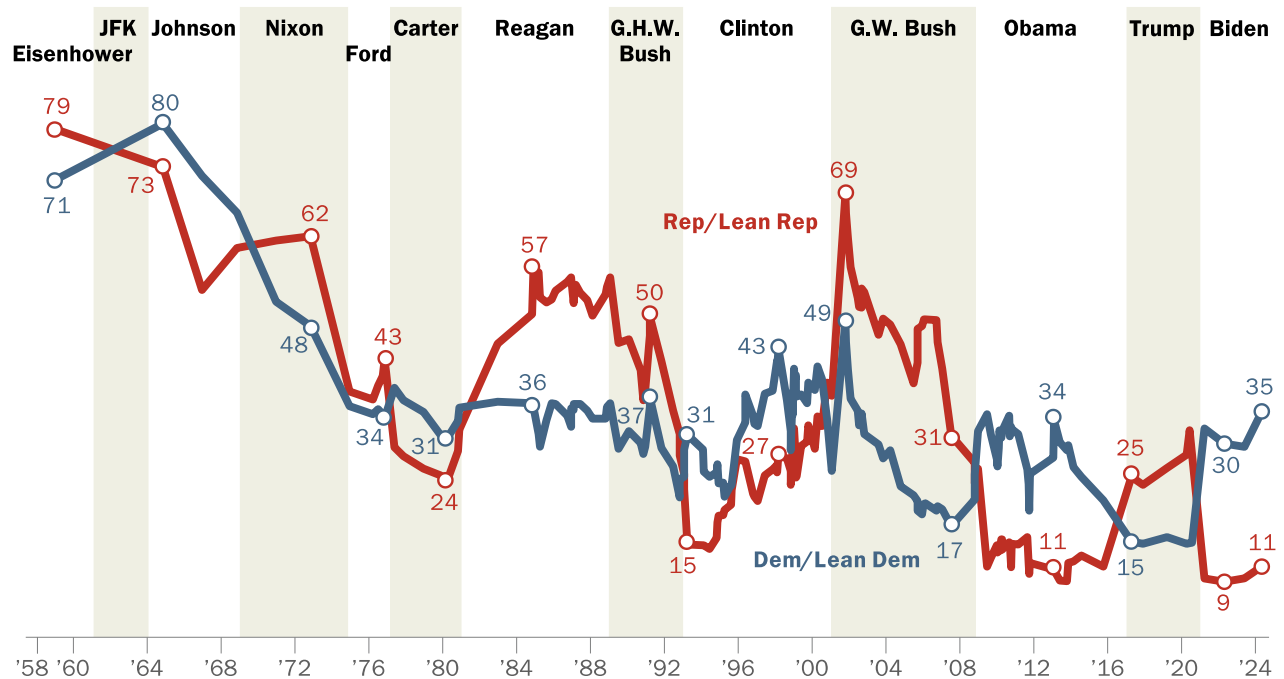
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## Partisan and demographic differences in trust in government

Americans tend to trust the federal government more when the party they associate with holds the White House. Today, 35% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents say they trust the government almost always or most of the time, a somewhat larger share than in recent years. As has been the case since the beginning of Joe Biden's administration, only about one-in-ten Republicans and Republican leaners say they trust the government to do what is right.

### Trust in the federal government has increased among Democrats

% who say they trust the government in Washington to do what is right *just about always/most of the time*



Note: From 1976 to 2023, the trend line represents a three-survey moving average. For all surveys prior to 1976 and a limited number of surveys through 2013, data shown among partisans (not including leaners).

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted May 13-19, 2024.

Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020-24). Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier). National Election Studies. Gallup. ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times and CNN polls.

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- Throughout Biden's presidency, Democrats have been more likely than Republicans to trust the federal government.
- During Donald Trump's administration, Republicans expressed higher levels of trust than Democrats did.

- 7% of conservative Republicans trust the government all or most of the time, compared with 17% of moderate and liberal Republicans.
- There are no substantial ideological differences among Democrats on this question.

Asian (36%), Hispanic (30%) and Black (27%) adults are more likely than White adults (19%) to say they trust the government all or most of the time.

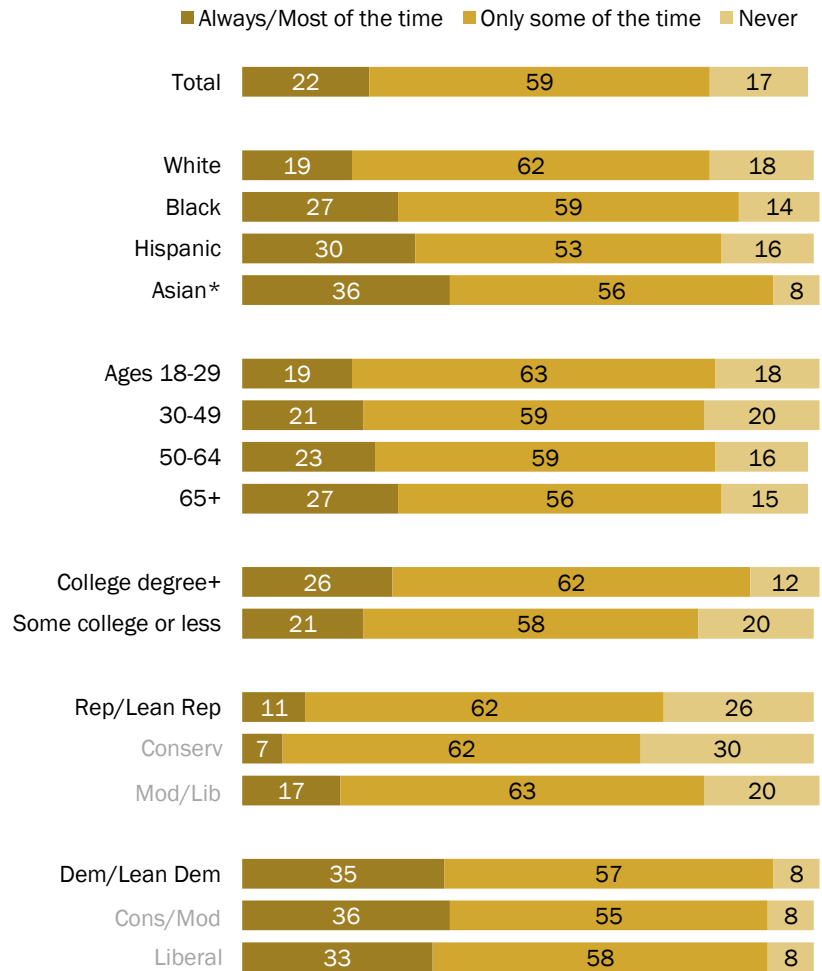
Age and educational differences in trust in government are relatively modest.

Adults under age 50 express somewhat less trust in the federal government than those who are older (20% always/most of the time vs. 25%).

Americans without a college degree (21%) are somewhat less likely than those with a college degree (26%) to say they trust the federal government all or most of the time.

### Trust in the federal government by race, ethnicity, age, education and political partisanship

% who say they trust the government in Washington to do what is right ...



\* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.  
 Note: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic adults are of any race. No answer responses not shown.  
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted May 13-19, 2024.

## Feelings toward the federal government

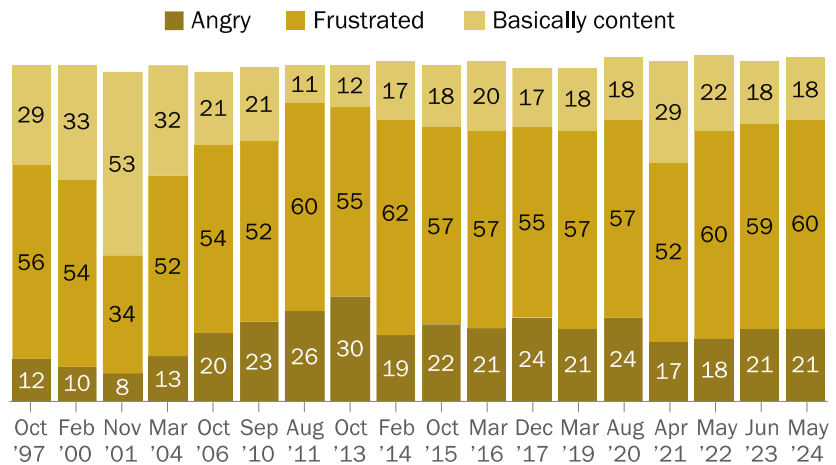
A majority of Americans say they feel frustrated – rather than angry or content – with the federal government. This has been the dominant emotion for much of the last several decades – with the sole exception being the period shortly after Sept. 11, 2001.

Today, six-in-ten Americans say they feel frustration toward the federal government, while 21% say they feel anger and 18% say they feel basically content.

The balance of Americans' feelings toward the federal government have been largely unchanged in the last few years.

### Most Americans remain frustrated with the federal government; fewer are content or angry

% who say they feel \_\_\_\_ toward the federal government



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted May 13-19, 2024.

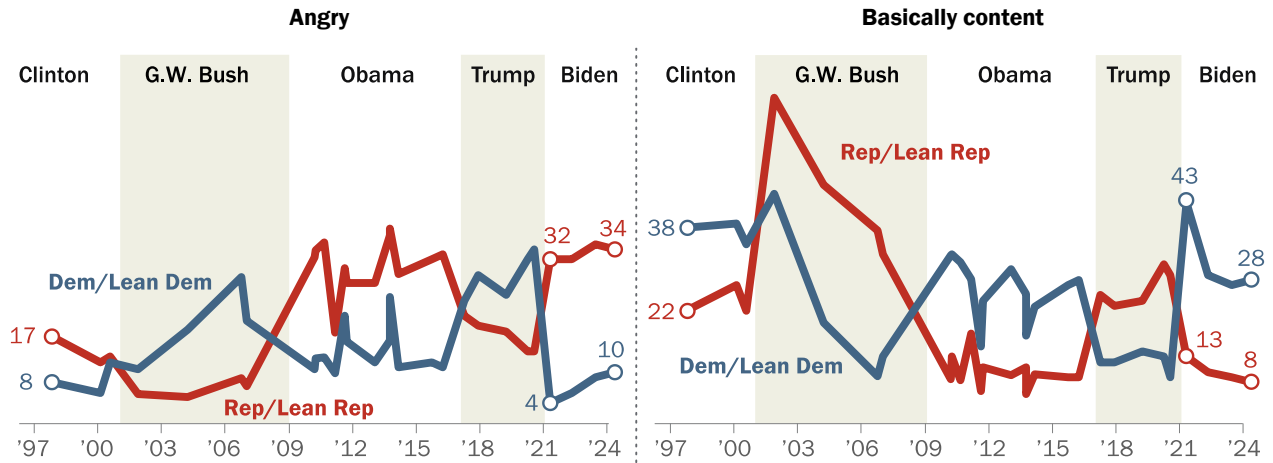
Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020-24), Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier).

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**Partisans' feelings toward the federal government shift with the occupants of the White House**

**Democrats are more likely to be content with federal government, Republicans are more likely to be angry**

% who say they feel \_\_\_ toward the federal government



Note: Question wording is “Some people say they are basically content with the federal government, others say they are frustrated and others say they are angry. Which of these best describes how you feel?” “Frustrated” not shown in this graphic. In 2024, 57% of Republicans and Republican leaners and 62% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say they are frustrated with the government.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted May 13-19, 2024.

Trend sources: Pew Research Center’s American Trends Panel (2020-24), Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier).

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Frustration toward the federal government is the dominant emotion for both Republicans and Democrats, regardless of which party is in control of the White House. But partisans’ anger with government is higher when administrations from the other party are in power. Contentment is higher among people who favor the party of the president.

Today, 28% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents say they are content. Just 8% of Republicans and Republican leaners say this.

Conversely, 34% of Republicans currently say they feel anger toward the government in Washington. Only one-in-ten Democrats say they are angry.

## Acknowledgments

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

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## Methodology

### The American Trends Panel survey methodology

#### Overview

The American Trends Panel (ATP), created by Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. Panelists participate via self-administered web surveys. Panelists who do not have internet access at home are provided with a tablet and wireless internet connection. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report is drawn from ATP Wave 146, conducted from April 8 to April 14, 2024. It includes [oversamples](#) of non-Hispanic Asian adults, non-Hispanic Black adults, Hispanic adults, and adults ages 18 to 29 in order to provide more precise estimates of the opinions and experiences of these smaller demographic subgroups. It also included an oversample of validated 2016 and 2020 “vote switchers,” who either voted for Donald Trump in 2020 but not in 2016, or who voted for Joe Biden in 2020 but not for Hillary Clinton in 2016. These oversampled groups are weighted back to reflect their correct proportions in the population.

A total of 8,709 panelists responded out of 9,527 who were sampled, for a response rate of 91%. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 3%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is less than 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 8,709 respondents is plus or minus 1.5 percentage points.

#### Panel recruitment

The ATP was created in 2014, with the first cohort of panelists invited to join the panel at the end of a large, national, landline and cellphone random-digit-dial survey that was conducted in both English and Spanish. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Across these three surveys, a total of 19,718 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 9,942 (50%) agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based sampling (ABS) recruitment. A study cover letter and a pre-incentive are mailed to a stratified, random sample of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service’s Delivery Sequence File. This Postal Service file has been estimated to cover as much as 98% of the population, although some studies suggest that the



coverage could be in the low 90% range.<sup>1</sup> Within each sampled household, the adult with the next birthday is asked to participate. Other details of the ABS recruitment protocol have changed over time but are available upon request.<sup>2</sup>

We have recruited a national sample of U.S. adults to the ATP approximately once per year since 2014. In some years, the recruitment has included additional efforts (known as an “oversample”) to boost sample size with underrepresented groups. For example, Hispanic adults, Black adults and Asian adults were oversampled in 2019, 2022 and 2023, respectively.

### American Trends Panel recruitment surveys

Recruitment dates	Mode	Invited	Joined	Active panelists remaining
Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014	Landline/ cell RDD	9,809	5,338	1,390
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	831
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	404
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS	9,396	8,778	3,842
Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019	ABS	5,900	4,720	1,385
June 1 to July 19, 2020; Feb. 10 to March 31, 2021	ABS	3,197	2,812	1,438
May 29 to July 7, 2021; Sept. 16 to Nov. 1, 2021	ABS	1,329	1,162	731
May 24 to Sept. 29, 2022	ABS	3,354	2,869	1,448
April 17 to May 30, 2023	ABS	686	576	433
	<b>Total</b>	<b>43,580</b>	<b>30,859</b>	<b>11,902</b>

Note: RDD is random-digit dial; ABS is address-based sampling. Approximately once per year, panelists who have not participated in multiple consecutive waves or who did not complete an annual profiling survey are removed from the panel. Panelists also become inactive if they ask to be removed from the panel.

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Across the six address-based recruitments, a total of 23,862 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 20,917 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. Of the 30,859 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 11,902 remained active panelists and continued to receive survey invitations at the time this survey was conducted.

The American Trends Panel never uses breakout routers or chains that direct respondents to additional surveys.

<sup>1</sup> AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. “AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling.”

<sup>2</sup> Email [pewsurveys@pewresearch.org](mailto:pewsurveys@pewresearch.org).

## Sample design

The overall target population for this survey was noninstitutionalized persons ages 18 and older living in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii. It featured a stratified random sample from the ATP in which the following groups were selected with certainty:

- Non-Hispanic Asian adults
- Non-Hispanic Black adults
- Hispanic adults
- Adults ages 18-29
- Validated 2016 and 2020 voters<sup>3</sup> who voted for Donald Trump in 2020 but voted for a different candidate in 2016
- Validated 2016 and 2020 voters who voted for Joe Biden in 2020 but did not vote for Hillary Clinton in 2016.

The remaining panelists were sampled at rates designed to ensure that the share of respondents in each stratum is proportional to its share of the U.S. adult population to the greatest extent possible. Respondent weights are adjusted to account for differential probabilities of selection as described in the Weighting section below.

## Questionnaire development and testing

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with Ipsos. The web program was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the Ipsos project management team and Pew Research Center researchers. The Ipsos project management team also populated test data that was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

## Incentives

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or a gift code to Amazon.com or could choose to decline the incentive. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$20 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

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<sup>3</sup> A validated voter is a citizen who told us that they voted in an election *and* have a record for voting in that election in a commercial voter file. A voter file is a list of adults that includes information such as which elections they have voted in. Federal law requires states to maintain voter files, and businesses assemble these files to create a nationwide list of adults along with their voter information.

## Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was April 8 to April 14, 2024. Postcard notifications were mailed to a subset of ATP panelists<sup>4</sup> with a known residential address on April 8.

Invitations were sent out in two separate launches: soft launch and full launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on April 8. The ATP panelists chosen for the initial soft launch were known responders who had completed previous ATP surveys within one day of receiving their invitation. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking sampled panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on April 9.

All panelists with an email address received an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. All ATP panelists who consented to SMS messages received an SMS invitation and up to two SMS reminders.

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### Invitation and reminder dates, ATP Wave 146

	<b>Soft launch</b>	<b>Full launch</b>
Initial invitation	April 8, 2024	April 9, 2024
First reminder	April 11, 2024	April 11, 2024
Final reminder	April 13, 2024	April 13, 2024

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## Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, the Center's researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing clear patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for whether respondents left questions blank at very high rates or always selected the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, three ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

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<sup>4</sup> Postcard notifications are sent to 1) panelists who have been provided with a tablet to take ATP surveys, 2) panelists who were recruited within the last two years, and 3) panelists recruited prior to the last two years who opt to continue receiving postcard notifications.

## Weighting

The ATP data is weighted in a multistep process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the survey process.

First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of selection for their initial recruitment survey.

These weights are then rescaled and adjusted to account for changes in the design of ATP recruitment surveys from year to year. Finally, the weights are calibrated to align with the population benchmarks in the accompanying table to correct for nonresponse to recruitment

surveys and panel attrition. If only a subsample of panelists was invited to participate in the wave, this weight is adjusted to account for any differential probabilities of selection.

Among the panelists who completed the survey, this weight is then calibrated again to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table and trimmed at the 2nd and 98th percentiles to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. This trimming is performed separately among non-Hispanic Black, non-Hispanic Asian, Hispanic and all other respondents. Sampling errors and tests of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

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### American Trends Panel weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age (detailed)	2022 American Community Survey (ACS)
Age x Gender	
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Black (alone or in combination) x Hispanic	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	2021 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Census region x Metropolitan status	
Volunteerism	
Party affiliation x Voter registration	2022 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation x Race/Ethnicity	2023 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Frequency of internet use	
Religious affiliation	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on noninstitutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population.

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The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey.

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### Sample sizes and margins of error, ATP Wave 146

Group	Unweighted sample size	Weighted %	Plus or minus ...
All adults	8,709		1.5 percentage points
Half form	At least 4,349		2.2 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	3,746	45	2.2 percentage points
Half form	At least 1,856		3.2 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	4,659	48	2.1 percentage points
Half form	At least 2,322		3.0 percentage points
All registered voters	7,166		1.6 percentage points
Half form	At least 3,558		2.2 percentage points
Trump supporters	3,182		2.3 percentage points
Half form	At least 1,557		3.3 percentage points
Biden supporters	3,818		2.2 percentage points
Half form	At least 1,900		3.2 percentage points

Note: This survey includes oversamples of non-Hispanic Asian adults, non-Hispanic Black adults, Hispanic adults, adults ages 18-29, validated voters who did not vote for Donald Trump in 2016 and voted for Trump in 2020, and validated voters who did not vote for Hillary Clinton in 2016 and voted for Joe Biden in 2020. Unweighted sample sizes do not account for the sample design or weighting and do not describe a group's contribution to weighted estimates. See the Sample design and Weighting sections above for details.

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Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

### Additional wave methodology

This report also features questions fielded in a later survey, ATP Wave 148. Further information for those questions can be [found here](#).

## Dispositions and response rates

### Final dispositions, ATP Wave 146

	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	8,709
Logged on to survey; broke off	2.12	38
Logged on to survey; did not complete any items	2.1121	81
Never logged on (implicit refusal)	2.11	695
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	1
Completed interview but was removed for data quality		3
Screened out		0
<b>Total panelists sampled for the survey</b>		<b>9,527</b>
Completed interviews	I	8,709
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	814
Non-contact	NC	1
Other	O	3
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>9,527</b>
AAPOR RR1 = I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)		91%

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### Cumulative response rate as of ATP Wave 146

	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	11%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	71%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 146	45%
Response rate to Wave 146 survey	91%
<b>Cumulative response rate</b>	<b>3%</b>

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## How family income tiers are calculated

Family income data reported in this study is adjusted for household size and cost-of-living differences by geography. Panelists then are assigned to income tiers that are based on the median adjusted family income of all American Trends Panel members. The process uses the following steps:

1. First, panelists are assigned to the midpoint of the income range they selected in a family income question that was measured on either the most recent annual profile survey or, for newly recruited panelists, their recruitment survey. This provides an approximate income value that can be used in calculations for the adjustment.
2. Next, these income values are adjusted for the cost of living in the geographic area where the panelist lives. This is calculated using price indexes published by the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. These indexes, known as [Regional Price Parities \(RPP\)](#), compare the prices of goods and services across all U.S. metropolitan statistical areas as well as non-metro areas with the national average prices for the same goods and services. The most recent available data at the time of the annual profile survey is from 2021. Those who fall outside of metropolitan statistical areas are assigned the overall RPP for their state's non-metropolitan area.
3. Family incomes are further adjusted for the number of people in a household using the methodology from Pew Research Center's previous work on [the American middle class](#). This is done because a four-person household with an income of say, \$50,000, faces a tighter budget constraint than a two-person household with the same income.
4. Panelists are then assigned an income tier. "Middle-income" adults are in families with adjusted family incomes that are between two-thirds and double the median adjusted family income for the full ATP at the time of the most recent annual profile survey. The median adjusted family income for the panel is roughly \$71,800. Using this median income, the middle-income range is about \$47,900 to \$143,600. Lower-income families have adjusted incomes less than \$47,900 and upper-income families have adjusted incomes greater than \$143,600 (all figures expressed in 2022 dollars and scaled to a household size of three). If a panelist did not provide their income and/or their household size, they are assigned "no answer" in the income tier variable.

Two examples of how a given area's cost-of-living adjustment was calculated are as follows: the Anniston-Oxford metropolitan area in Alabama is a relatively inexpensive area, with a price level that is 16.2% less than the national average. The San Francisco-Oakland-Berkeley metropolitan

area in California is one of the most expensive areas, with a price level that is 19.8% higher than the national average. Income in the sample is adjusted to make up for this difference. As a result, a family with an income of \$41,900 in the Anniston-Oxford area is as well off financially as a family of the same size with an income of \$59,900 in San Francisco.



**2024 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
WAVE 146 APRIL 2024  
FINAL TOPLINE  
APRIL 8-14, 2024  
N=8,709**

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,360]:**GOVSIZE1 If you had to choose, would you rather have... **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>A smaller government providing fewer services</u>	<u>A bigger government providing more services</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Apr 8-14, 2024	49	48	3
Mar 27-Apr 2, 2023	48	49	3
Jul 8-18, 2021	48	50	2
Jul 27-Aug 2, 2020	45	52	2
Mar 18-Apr 1, 2019	48	50	2

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,349]:**GOVT\_ROLE Which of the following statements comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right?  
**[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>Government should do more to solve problems</u>	<u>Government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Apr 8-14, 2024	53	46	2
Mar 27-Apr 2, 2023	52	46	2
Apr 25-May 1, 2022	53	45	2
Apr 5-11, 2021	55	44	1
Jul 27-Aug 2, 2020	59	39	2
Sep 3-15, 2019	55	43	1
Mar 18-Apr 1, 2019	58	40	2
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	55	43	2
Feb 26-Mar 11, 2018	55	42	2
Dec 4-Dec 18, 2017	56	43	1
Jun 7-Jul 5, 2016	53	44	2
Mar 10-Apr 6, 2015	47	51	2

**ADDITIONAL QUESTION PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**[DISPLAY REGULATE, ALLIES, DISCRIM, USASOLVE, GOVWASTE AND RELIG\_GOV ON ONE PAGE WITH SOME SORT OF VISUAL DIVIDER BETWEEN ITEMS]**

Please choose the statement that comes closer to your own views – even if neither is exactly right.

**[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF PAIRS ON EACH PAGE AND RANDOMIZE STATEMENTS WITHIN PAIRS]**

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,349]:**

REGULATE	Government regulation of business is necessary to <u>protect the public interest</u>	Government regulation of business usually does <u>more harm than good</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Apr 8-14, 2024	58	40	2
Oct 10-16, 2022	55	43	2
Sep 13-19, 2021	55	43	2
Sep 3-15, 2019	58	41	2
Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017 <sup>5</sup>	55	43	2
			<b>(VOL.)</b>
<i>Phone trend for comparison:</i>			Both/Neither/ <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 5-16, 2019	48	44	7
Sep 18-24, 2018	49	43	8
Jun 8-Jul 9, 2017	50	45	5
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	45	48	7
Aug 9-16, 2016	44	51	5
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	45	50	5
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	47	47	5
Feb 8-12, 2012 <sup>6</sup>	40	52	7
Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011	47	45	8
December, 2008	47	43	10
October, 2008	50	38	12
January, 2008	41	50	9
December, 2004	49	41	10
July, 2002	54	36	10
February, 2002	50	41	9
August, 1999	48	44	8
October, 1996	45	46	9
October, 1995	45	50	5
April, 1995	43	51	6
October, 1994	38	55	7
July, 1994	41	54	5

**ADDITIONAL QUESTION HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ADDITIONAL QUESTION PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

<sup>5</sup> The W24.5 Mode Study survey was administered by web and phone. Results reported here are from web mode only.

<sup>6</sup> In Feb 8-12, 2012, survey, question was asked as a standalone item.

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,360]:**

## USASOLVE

	As Americans, we can always find ways to solve our problems <u>and get what we want</u>	This country can't solve many of its <u>important problems</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Apr 8-14, 2024	47	52	1
Mar 27-Apr 2, 2023	43	56	1
Apr 25-May 1, 2022	57	41	1
Jul 27-Aug 2, 2020	57	41	3
Sep 3-15, 2019	55	44	2
			<b>(VOL.)</b>
			Both/Neither
<i>Phone trend for comparison:</i>			<u>/DK/Ref</u>
Sep 5-16, 2019	59	37	4
Aug 9-16, 2016	63	33	3
Feb 27-Mar 16 2014	47	50	3
Dec 7-11, 2011	60	36	3
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	57	37	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	54	42	5
December, 2008	68	27	5
October, 2008	64	29	7
December, 2004	59	36	5
September, 2000	59	36	5
August, 1999	63	32	5
July, 1994	52	45	3

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,360]:**

## GOVWASTE

	Government is almost always <u>wasteful and inefficient</u>	Government often does a better job than people <u>give it credit for</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Apr 8-14, 2024	56	42	2
Jul 8-18, 2021	53	44	2
Sep 3-15, 2019	56	42	2
Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017 <sup>7</sup>	62	37	1
			<b>(VOL.)</b>
			Both/Neither/
<i>Phone trend for comparison:</i>			<u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 5-16, 2019	55	39	6
Jun 8-18, 2017	56	40	4
Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016	54	40	6
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	57	39	4
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	56	40	4
Dec 3-8, 2013	55	39	6
Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011	55	39	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	61	35	4
December, 2008	53	40	7
October, 2008	57	35	8

<sup>7</sup> The W24.5 Mode Study survey was administered by web and phone. Results reported here are from web mode only.

<b>GOVWASTE PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED ...</b>	Government is almost always <u>wasteful and inefficient</u>	Government often does a better job than people <u>give it credit for</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> Both/Neither/ <u>DK/Ref</u>
September, 2005	56	39	5
December, 2004	47	45	8
June, 2003	48	46	6
September, 2000	52	40	8
August, 1999	51	43	6
June, 1997	59	36	5
October, 1996	56	39	5
April, 1995	63	34	3
October, 1994	64	32	4
July, 1994	66	31	3

### ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

#### ASK ALL:

POLICY3MOD In general, would you say experts who study a subject for many years are...  
**[DO NOT RANDOMIZE]**

Apr 8-14, <u>2024</u>		Jul 8-18, <u>2021</u>
59	Usually <u>better</u> at making good policy decisions about that subject than other people	61
6	Usually <u>worse</u> at making good policy decisions about that subject than other people	5
34	Neither better nor worse at making good policy decisions about that subject than other people	32
1	No answer	1

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****DISPLAY OPENIDEN, NECCGOD, BUSPROFIT, GAINS, ACTIVE, GOVNEEDY AND MARRFAM ON ONE PAGE WITH SOME SORT OF VISUAL DIVIDER BETWEEN ITEMS**

Please choose the statement that comes closer to your own views – even if neither is exactly right.

**[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF PAIRS ON EACH PAGE AND RANDOMIZE STATEMENTS WITHIN PAIRS]**

**QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK FORM 1 ONLY[N=4,349]:**

BUSPROFIT	Business corporations <u>make too much profit</u>	Most corporations make a fair and reasonable <u>amount of profit</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Apr 8-14, 2024	67	32	1
Apr 25-May 1, 2022	67	32	2
Jul 8-18, 2021	64	34	2
Sep 3-15, 2019	65	33	2
Mar 18-Apr 1, 2019	64	35	1
Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017 <sup>8</sup>	63	35	2
			<b>(VOL.)</b>
<i>Phone trend for comparison:</i>			Both/Neither/ <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 5-16, 2019	56	38	6
Mar 20-25, 2019	56	39	5
Jun 8-Jul 9, 2017	59	36	5
Mar 17-26, 2016	58	37	5
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	57	38	5
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	56	39	4
Mar 13-17, 2013	53	41	6
Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011	54	39	7
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	54	39	6
December, 2008	58	35	7
October, 2008	59	33	8
December, 2005	61	33	6
December, 2004	53	39	8
June, 2003	51	42	7
July, 2002	58	33	9
February, 2002	54	39	7
September, 2000	54	38	8
August, 1999	52	42	6
June, 1997	51	43	6
October, 1996	51	42	7
October, 1995	53	43	4
April, 1995	51	44	5
October, 1994	50	44	6
July, 1994	52	43	5

**ADDITIONAL QUESTION PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

<sup>8</sup> The W24.5 Mode Study survey was administered by web and phone. Results reported here are from web mode only.

**ADDITIONAL QUESTION HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,360]:**

GOVNEEDY	The government should do more to help needy Americans, even if it means going deeper into debt	The government today can't afford to do much more to help the needy	No answer
Apr 8-14, 2024	52	45	2
Jun 16-22, 2020	58	40	2
Sep 3-15, 2019	49	48	3
Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017 <sup>9</sup>	54	45	2

*Phone trend for comparison:*

			(VOL.) Both/Neither /DK/Ref
Sep 5-16, 2019	52	40	7
Jun 8-18, 2017	50	43	7
Aug 9-16, 2016	49	45	5
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	46	47	7
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	43	51	6
Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011	41	51	8
December, 2008	55	35	10
October, 2008	51	37	12
April, 2007	63	28	9
December, 2004	57	33	10
August, 1999	57	35	8
October, 1996	46	44	10
April, 1996	49	44	7
October, 1995	47	47	6
April, 1995	46	47	7
October, 1994	50	43	7
July, 1994	48	47	5

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,349]:**

BUSPOWER3 All in all, do you think major corporations in this country today have... [RANDOMIZE  
OPTIONS 1-2 WITH 3 ALWAYS LAST]

Apr 8-14, <u>2024</u>		Sep 3-15, <u>2019</u>
4	Too little power	4
74	Too much power	73
21	About the right amount of power	22
1	No answer	1

<sup>9</sup> The W24.5 Mode Study survey was administered by web and phone. Results reported here are from web mode only.

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,360]:**

POORASSIST Thinking about assistance the government provides to people in need, do you think the government... **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2, WITH 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

	Should provide more <u>assistance</u>	Should provide less <u>assistance</u>	Is providing about the right <u>amount of assistance</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Apr 8-14, 2024	41	27	30	2
Mar 27-Apr 2, 2023	43	26	30	1
Oct 10-16, 2022	39	30	29	1
Jul 8-18, 2021	38	32	29	1
Sep 3-15, 2019	40	26	33	1

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

FIN\_SIT How would you describe your household's financial situation?

Apr 8-14, <u>2024</u>		Sep 16-29, <u>2019</u>	Sep 15-Oct 3 <u>2014</u> <sup>10</sup>
27	Live comfortably	29	25
39	Meet your basic expenses with a little left over for extras	41	36
25	Just meet your basic expenses	22	24
7	Don't even have enough to meet basic expenses	7	14
1	No answer	*	1

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****DISPLAY LAW COST, ECONFAIR, WOMENOBS, GOVAID, SUCCINLIFE AND GOODEVIL ON ONE PAGE WITH SOME SORT OF VISUAL DIVIDER BETWEEN ITEMS**

Please choose the statement that comes closer to your own views – even if neither is exactly right.

**[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF PAIRS ON EACH PAGE AND RANDOMIZE STATEMENTS WITHIN PAIRS]**

**ADDITIONAL QUESTION HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,349]:**

ECONFAIR	The economic system in this country unfairly <u>favors powerful interests</u>	The economic system in this country is generally <u>fair to most Americans</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Apr 8-14, 2024	74	24	2
Mar 27-Apr 2, 2023	77	23	1
Apr 25-May 1, 2022	74	25	1
Jul 8-18, 2021	71	28	1
Sep 3-15, 2019	70	29	1
Mar 18-Apr 1, 2019	71	28	1

<sup>10</sup> In 2014, n=2,811 respondents took the survey via web and n=343 respondents completed this survey via paper questionnaire delivered by mail.

<b>ECONFAIR CONTINUED ...</b>	The economic system in this country unfairly <u>favours powerful interests</u>	The economic system in this country is generally <u>fair to most Americans</u>	No <u>answer</u>
<i>Phone trend for comparison:</i>			
Sep 5-16, 2019	60	37	3
Mar 20-25, 2019	63	34	3
Sep 18-24, 2018	63	33	4
Jun 8-Jul 9, 2017	65	32	3
Mar 17-26, 2016	66	31	2
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	65	31	3
Feb 18-22, 2015	62	33	4
Jan 29-Feb 9, 2014	62	34	4

**ADDITIONAL QUESTION PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,360]:**

GOVAID	Government aid to the poor does more harm than good, by making people too dependent on <u>government assistance</u>	Government aid to the poor does more good than harm, because people can't get out of poverty <u>until their basic needs are met</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Apr 8-14, 2024	43	55	3
Apr 25-May 1, 2022	45	54	1
Jul 8-18, 2021	45	53	2

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,360]:**

SUCCINLIFE	Success in life is pretty much determined by forces <u>outside of our control</u>	Everyone has it in their <u>own power to succeed</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Apr 8-14, 2024	28	70	2
Sep 13-19, 2021	26	72	1

*Phone trend for comparison:*

			<b>(VOL.)</b> Both/Neither/ <u>DK/Ref</u>
Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016	13	82	5
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	16	80	4
Dec 3-8, 2013	18	76	7
Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011	19	75	5
Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	12	82	6
December, 2004	16	78	6
August, 1999	15	80	5
July, 1994	18	79	3

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ADDITIONAL QUESTION HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**



**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,349]:**

GOVTHC Do you think it is the responsibility of the federal government to make sure all Americans have health care coverage?

**ASK IF GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY (GOVTHC=1) [N=2,905]:**

SNGLPYER Should health insurance... [RANDOMIZE]

**ASK IF NOT GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY (GOVTHC=2) [N=1,411]:**

NOGOVTHC Should the government... [RANDOMIZE]

Apr 8-14, 2024		July 8-18 2021	July 27- Aug 2 2020	Sep 3-15 2019	July 22- Aug 4, 2019
65	Yes, it is	62	63	59	62
36	<i>Be provided through a single national health insurance system run by the government</i>	32	36	30	30
28	<i>Continue to be provided through a mix of private insurance companies and government programs</i>	29	26	28	30
1	<i>No answer</i>	1	1	1	1
34	No, it is not	37	37	41	37
7	<i>Not be involved in providing health insurance at all</i>	7	6	6	6
27	<i>Continue programs like Medicare and Medicaid for seniors and the very poor</i>	30	30	35	31
*	<i>No answer</i>	*	*	*	*
1	No answer	1	1	*	1

**PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

Do you think it is the responsibility of the federal government to make sure all Americans have health care coverage, or is that not the responsibility of the federal government?

	Yes, government responsibility	No, not government responsibility	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Jul 10-15, 2019	53	44	3
Sep 18-24, 2018	60	37	3
Jun 8-18, 2017	60	39	2
Jan 4-9, 2017	60	38	2
Mar 17-26, 2016	51	46	2
Jan 23-Feb 9, 2014	47	50	3
Gallup: Nov 7-10, 2013	42	56	2
Gallup: Nov 15-18, 2012	44	54	2
Gallup: Nov 3-6, 2011	50	46	4
Gallup: Nov 4-7, 2010	47	50	3
Gallup: Nov 5-8, 2009	47	50	3
Gallup: November, 2008	54	41	5
Gallup: November, 2007	64	33	3
Gallup: November, 2006	69	28	3
Gallup: November, 2005	58	38	4
Gallup: November, 2004	64	34	2
Gallup: November, 2003	59	39	2
Gallup: November, 2002	62	35	3
Gallup: November, 2001	62	34	4
Gallup: September, 2000	64	31	5
Gallup: January, 2000	59	38	3

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,360]:**

SOCSEC\_FUT Thinking about the long term future of Social Security, do you think ... **[RANDOMIZE]**

Apr 8-14,  
2024

- 19 Some reductions in benefits for future retirees need to be considered
- 6 *Phased out as a government program*
- 13 *Maintained at a reduced level*
- \* *No answer*
- 79 Social Security benefits should not be reduced in any way
- 40 *Cover more people, with greater benefits*
- 38 *Be kept about as it is*
- 1 *No answer*
- 2 No answer

**PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.125 Thinking about the long term future of Social Security, do you think **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

**ASK IF ACCEPTABLE (Q125=1):**

Q.125a Should Social Security be **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

**ASK IF UNACCEPTABLE (Q125=2):**

Q.125b Should Social Security **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

Jan 23-Feb 9,  
2014

- 31 Some reductions in benefits for future retirees need to be considered
- 6 *Phased out as a government program*<sup>11</sup>
- 24 *Maintained at a reduced level*
- 1 *Don't know/Refused (VOL.)*
- 67 Social Security benefits should not be reduced in any way
- 27 *Cover more people, with greater benefits*
- 37 *Be kept about as it is*
- 3 *Don't know/Refused (VOL.)*
- 3 *Don't know/Refused (VOL.)*

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

**ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING:**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...<sup>12</sup>

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<i>Lean Rep</i>	<i>Lean Dem</i>
28	29	27	14	3	17	19

<sup>11</sup> From Jan. 23 to Jan. 29, 2014, item read: "Phased out completely."  
<sup>12</sup> PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.

**2024 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL**  
**WAVE 148 May 2024**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**MAY 13-19, 2024**  
**N=8,638**

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK ALL:**

USCONF\_FUT How much confidence do you have in the future of the United States? [**SHOW IN ORDER**]

May 13-19, <u>2024</u>		Mar 27- Apr 2, <u>2023</u>	Apr 25- May 1, <u>2022</u>	Apr 5-11, <u>2021</u>	July 27- Aug 2, <u>2020</u>
15	Quite a lot	12	17	18	18
50	Some	48	51	51	48
30	Very little	33	28	25	29
5	None at all	6	4	5	5
*	No answer	*	*	*	*

**ASK ALL:**

GOVFEEL

Some people say they are basically content with the federal government, others say they are frustrated and others say they are angry. Which of these best describes how you feel?

	<u>Basically content</u>	<u>Frustrated</u>	<u>Angry</u>	<u>No answer</u>
May 13-19, 2024	18	60	21	1
Jun 5-11, 2023	18	59	21	1
Apr 25-May 1, 2022	22	60	18	1
Apr 5-11, 2021	29	52	17	2
Jul 27-Aug 2, 2020	18	57	24	1
Apr 7-12, 2020	22	55	23	1
Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017 <sup>13</sup>	20	57	22	*

**PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

	<u>Basically content</u>	<u>Frustrated</u>	<u>Angry</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jul 23-Aug 4, 2020	19	54	24	3
Mar 20-25, 2019	18	57	21	4
Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	17	55	24	5
Apr 5-11, 2017	19	55	22	3
Mar 17-26, 2016	20	57	21	2
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	18	57	22	3
Feb 12-26, 2014	17	62	19	2
Oct 9-13, 2013	12	55	30	3
Sep 25-29, 2013	17	51	26	5
Jan 9-13, 2013	20	58	19	3
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	17	58	21	3
Aug 17-21, 2011	11	60	26	3
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	22	59	14	5
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	21	52	23	4
Apr 1-5, 2010	23	52	21	4
Mar 11-21, 2010	19	56	21	5
Early January, 2007	21	58	16	5
Early October, 2006	21	54	20	5
March, 2004	32	52	13	3
Mid November, 2001	53	34	8	5
June, 2000	28	53	13	6
February, 2000	33	54	10	3
October, 1997	29	56	12	3

<sup>13</sup>

The W24.5 Mode Study survey was administered by web and phone. Results reported here are from web mode only.

**ASK ALL:**

TRUSTFEDGOV How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government to do what is right?

	Just about <u>always</u>	Most of <u>the time</u>	Only some <u>of the time</u>	Never	No <u>answer</u>
May 13-19, 2024	2	21	59	17	1
Jun 5-11, 2023 <sup>14</sup>	1	15	61	22	1
Apr 25-May 1, 2022	2	19	61	17	1
Apr 5-11, 2021	2	22	61	14	1
Jul 27-Aug 2, 2020	2	18	65	14	1
Apr 7-12, 2020 <sup>15</sup>	2	24	60	12	1
Apr 4-18, 2017	3	25	61	10	1
Nov 17-Dec 15, 2014 <sup>16</sup>	3	21	56	19	2

**PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

	Just about <u>always</u>	Most of <u>the time</u>	Only some <u>of the time</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Never</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jul 23-Aug 4, 2020 <sup>17</sup>	5	15	66	12	2
Mar 20-25, 2019	3	14	71	10	2
Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	3	15	67	14	2
Apr 5-11, 2017	4	16	68	11	2
Aug 27- Oct 4, 2015	3	16	67	13	1
Feb 12-26, 2014	3	21	68	7	1
Oct 9-13, 2013	3	16	68	12	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	3	23	67	6	2
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	3	17	72	7	2
Aug 17-21, 2011	3	16	72	8	1
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	4	25	65	4	2
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	3	21	65	10	1
Apr 1-5, 2010	5	20	61	13	1
Mar 11-21, 2010	3	19	65	11	2
January, 2007	3	28	63	5	1
February, 2006	4	30	59	6	1
Mid-September, 2005	3	28	63	4	2
Mid-March, 2004	4	32	59	4	1
February, 2000	5	35	56	3	1
May, 1999	3	28	62	5	2
February, 1999	4	27	64	4	1
November, 1998 <sup>18</sup>	4	22	61	11	2
February, 1998	5	29	61	4	1
October, 1997	3	36	59	2	*

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

<sup>14</sup> In survey waves from July 2020 to June 2023, the question asked "How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government in Washington to do what is right?"

<sup>15</sup> In Wave 65 and earlier surveys, the question asked, "How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government to do what is right?"

<sup>16</sup> In the Wave 9 survey TRUSTFED was asked in a battery that also measured how often you can trust state government and local government to do what is right.

<sup>17</sup> In phone surveys the question asked, "How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right? Just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?"

<sup>18</sup> The November, 1998 survey was conducted Oct. 26-Dec. 1, 1998. The question asked, "How much of the time do you trust the government in Washington to do the right thing? Just about always, most the time, or only some of the time?"

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

**ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING:**PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...<sup>19</sup>

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<i>Lean Rep</i>	<i>Lean Dem</i>
28	30	27	13	3	17	18

**Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:**

(U) Pew Research Center/USA Today polls

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<sup>19</sup> PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.