

Topline questionnaire

Pew Research Center
Fall 2020 Survey
March 31, 2021 Release

Methodological notes:

- Survey results are based on national samples. For further details on sample designs, see our [international survey methods database](#).
- 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 United States in the survey:

| Group | Unweighted sample size | Weighted % | Plus or minus ... |
|--------------|------------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Total sample | 1,003 | | 3.7 percentage points |
| Rep/Lean Rep | 426 | 41 | 5.6 percentage points |
| Dem/Lean Dem | 492 | 49 | 5.3 percentage points |

- Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%. The topline “total” columns show 100%, because they are based on unrounded numbers.
- Not all questions included in the Fall 2020 Survey are presented in this topline. Omitted questions have either been previously released or will be released in future reports.

| | | Q1. How much do you trust the national government to do what is right for (survey country) – a lot, somewhat, not too much, or not at all? | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--|----------|----------|------------|------------|-------|
| | | A lot | Somewhat | Not much | Not at all | DK/Refused | Total |
| United States | Fall, 2020 | 13 | 41 | 22 | 21 | 3 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2017 | 15 | 36 | 24 | 23 | 2 | 100 |
| France | Fall, 2020 | 21 | 34 | 26 | 18 | 1 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2017 | 3 | 17 | 36 | 42 | 1 | 100 |
| Germany | Fall, 2020 | 47 | 33 | 10 | 9 | 1 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2017 | 26 | 43 | 19 | 10 | 1 | 100 |
| United Kingdom | Fall, 2020 | 21 | 34 | 28 | 16 | 1 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2017 | 14 | 35 | 28 | 20 | 4 | 100 |

| | | Q2. How satisfied are you with the way democracy is working in our country – very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not too satisfied, or not at all satisfied? | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------|-------|
| | | Very satisfied | Somewhat satisfied | Not too satisfied | Not at all satisfied | DK/Refused | Total |
| United States | Fall, 2020 | 9 | 36 | 29 | 24 | 2 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2020 | 14 | 29 | 28 | 27 | 2 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2019 | 9 | 30 | 32 | 27 | 2 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2018 | 11 | 29 | 31 | 27 | 2 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2017 | 11 | 35 | 28 | 23 | 3 | 100 |
| France | Fall, 2020 | 11 | 44 | 29 | 16 | 0 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2019 | 5 | 36 | 29 | 29 | 1 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2018 | 5 | 43 | 29 | 22 | 1 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2017 | 3 | 31 | 37 | 28 | 1 | 100 |
| Germany | Fall, 2020 | 39 | 41 | 11 | 9 | 1 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2019 | 17 | 48 | 21 | 15 | 0 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2018 | 13 | 43 | 27 | 16 | 1 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2017 | 24 | 49 | 19 | 7 | 1 | 100 |
| United Kingdom | Fall, 2020 | 18 | 42 | 23 | 15 | 2 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2019 | 5 | 26 | 32 | 37 | 0 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2018 | 7 | 35 | 32 | 23 | 2 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2017 | 12 | 40 | 31 | 16 | 2 | 100 |

| | | Q7a. Now I will read you some statements. For each one, please tell me if it describes (survey country) very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not well at all. a. Elected officials care what ordinary people think | | | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--|---------------|--------------|-----------------|------------|-------|
| | | Very well | Somewhat well | Not too well | Not well at all | DK/Refused | Total |
| United States | Fall, 2020 | 7 | 36 | 26 | 30 | 1 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2018 | 8 | 33 | 29 | 29 | 1 | 100 |
| France | Fall, 2020 | 7 | 34 | 34 | 24 | 1 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2018 | 6 | 26 | 39 | 29 | 0 | 100 |
| Germany | Fall, 2020 | 15 | 50 | 23 | 9 | 2 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2018 | 6 | 38 | 39 | 15 | 2 | 100 |
| United Kingdom | Fall, 2020 | 10 | 36 | 32 | 20 | 3 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2018 | 9 | 33 | 31 | 24 | 3 | 100 |

| | | Q7b. Now I will read you some statements. For each one, please tell me if it describes (survey country) very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not well at all. b. Most politicians are corrupt | | | | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | | Very well | Somewhat well | Not too well | Not well at all | DK/Refused | Total |
| United States | Fall, 2020 | 30 | 37 | 19 | 12 | 2 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2018 | 30 | 39 | 17 | 11 | 3 | 100 |
| France | Fall, 2020 | 16 | 30 | 28 | 23 | 3 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2018 | 19 | 29 | 29 | 21 | 1 | 100 |
| Germany | Fall, 2020 | 8 | 21 | 40 | 26 | 4 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2018 | 12 | 21 | 42 | 22 | 2 | 100 |
| United Kingdom | Fall, 2020 | 14 | 31 | 30 | 20 | 6 | 100 |
| | Spring, 2018 | 18 | 29 | 32 | 18 | 3 | 100 |

| | | Q7c. Now I will read you some statements. For each one, please tell me if it describes (survey country) very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not well at all. c. Ordinary people can do a lot to influence the government | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | | Very well | Somewhat well | Not too well | Not well at all | DK/Refused | Total |
| United States | Fall, 2020 | 18 | 35 | 26 | 20 | 1 | 100 |
| France | Fall, 2020 | 12 | 35 | 27 | 24 | 2 | 100 |
| Germany | Fall, 2020 | 13 | 41 | 30 | 13 | 2 | 100 |
| United Kingdom | Fall, 2020 | 15 | 35 | 28 | 20 | 2 | 100 |

| | | Q14a. And, which of the following statements comes closest to your view about the POLITICAL SYSTEM in...? a. (survey country) | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | | It needs to be completely reformed | It needs major changes | It needs minor changes | It doesn't need to be changed | DK/Refused | Total |
| United States | Fall, 2020 | 18 | 47 | 28 | 7 | 1 | 100 |
| France | Fall, 2020 | 21 | 47 | 25 | 6 | 1 | 100 |
| Germany | Fall, 2020 | 4 | 35 | 49 | 11 | 1 | 100 |
| United Kingdom | Fall, 2020 | 14 | 33 | 38 | 12 | 2 | 100 |

| | | Q21b. Thinking about (survey country) today, would you say it is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important for the national government to take the following actions? b. Allow citizens, not members of the [insert appropriate local term for elected officials], to vote directly to decide what becomes law for some key issues | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | | Very important | Somewhat important | Not too important | Not at all important | DK/Refused | Total |
| United States | Fall, 2020 | 42 | 31 | 12 | 13 | 2 | 100 |
| France | Fall, 2020 | 30 | 38 | 19 | 12 | 2 | 100 |
| Germany | Fall, 2020 | 37 | 33 | 19 | 9 | 1 | 100 |
| United Kingdom | Fall, 2020 | 27 | 36 | 17 | 16 | 4 | 100 |

| | | Q21c. Thinking about (survey country) today, would you say it is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important for the national government to take the following actions? c. Create citizen assemblies where citizens debate issues and make recommendations about national laws | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| | | Very important | Somewhat important | Not too important | Not at all important | DK/Refused | Total |
| United States | Fall, 2020 | 43 | 36 | 10 | 11 | 1 | 100 |
| France | Fall, 2020 | 40 | 37 | 13 | 7 | 2 | 100 |
| Germany | Fall, 2020 | 37 | 39 | 20 | 3 | 2 | 100 |
| United Kingdom | Fall, 2020 | 38 | 36 | 12 | 10 | 4 | 100 |