

FOR RELEASE March 17, 2021

Americans See Broad Responsibilities for Government; Little Change Since 2019

Share of adults 'basically content' with federal government rises to highest point since 2004, driven by Democrats

FOR MEDIA OR OTHER INQUIRIES:

Carroll Doherty, Director of Political Research

Jocelyn Kiley, Associate Director, Research

Nida Asheer, Communications Manager

Calvin Jordan, Communications Associate

202.419.4372

www.pewresearch.org

RECOMMENDED CITATION

Pew Research Center, May 2021, "Americans See Broad Responsibilities for Government; Little Change Since 2019 "

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How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand Americans' evaluations and expectations of the federal government. For this analysis, we surveyed 5,109 U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021. Everyone who took part in this survey is a member of Pew Research 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](#), along with responses, and [its methodology](#).

Americans See Broad Responsibilities for Government; Little Change Since 2019

Share of adults ‘basically content’ with federal government rises to highest point since 2004, driven by Democrats

As public trust in the federal government remains low, Americans continue to say the federal government has a responsibility to provide support and services for all Americans in a number of forms.

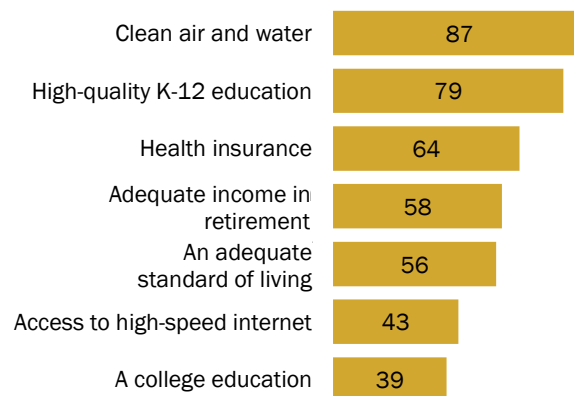
U.S. adults broadly agree that it is the federal government’s role to provide clean air and water (87%) and high-quality K-12 education (79%) for all Americans. More modest majorities say it is the government’s responsibility to provide health insurance (64%), adequate income in retirement (58%) and an adequate standard of living (56%).

Fewer than half – about four-in-ten – say it is a responsibility of the government to provide access to high-speed internet (43%) or a college education (39%).

A new Pew Research Center survey, conducted April 5-11 among a nationally representative sample of 5,109 adults who are members of the Center’s American Trends Panel, finds that public views about the federal government’s responsibilities are little changed since before the start of the [coronavirus outbreak](#). One exception is that the share of Americans who say the government has a responsibility to provide access to high-speed internet has increased by 15 percentage points since September 2019 (from 28% to 43%).

Large majorities say federal government has responsibility for providing clean air and water, high-quality K-12 education

% who say the federal government has a responsibility to provide ____ for all Americans



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

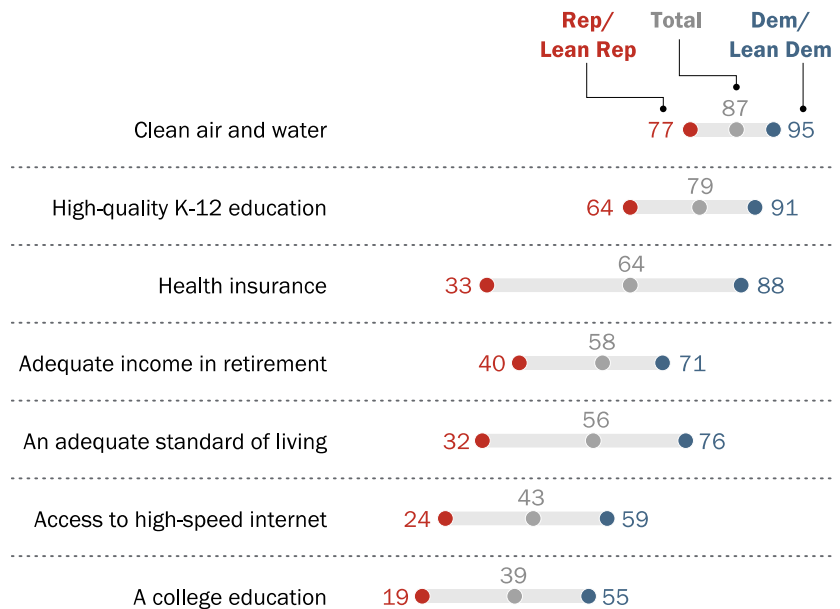
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While majorities of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents say the government should have a role in all seven of the domains included on the survey, majorities of Republicans and Republican leaners see only two as the federal government's responsibility: providing clean air and water (77%) and high-quality K-12 education (64%).

Partisans are furthest apart on whether it is the government's responsibility to provide health insurance for all Americans: Nearly nine-in-ten Democrats (88%) say this is a responsibility of the government, compared with a third of Republicans.

Wide partisan divides on government responsibilities, especially providing health insurance for all

% who say the federal government has a responsibility to provide ___ for all Americans



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

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The survey also finds that the share of the public that says the government should do more to solve problems has declined slightly since last year.

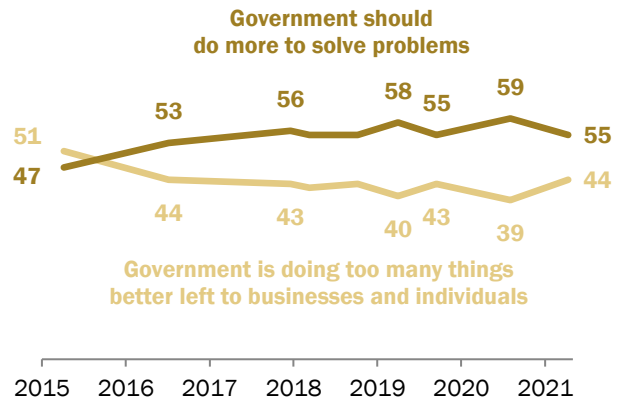
In August 2020, about six-in-ten (59%) Americans said the government should do more to solve problems. Today, 55% hold this view, while 44% say the government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals.

The share of Republicans who say the government should do more has dropped from 32% last year to 23% today. About three-quarters of Republicans (77%) say the government is doing too many things better left to business and individuals.

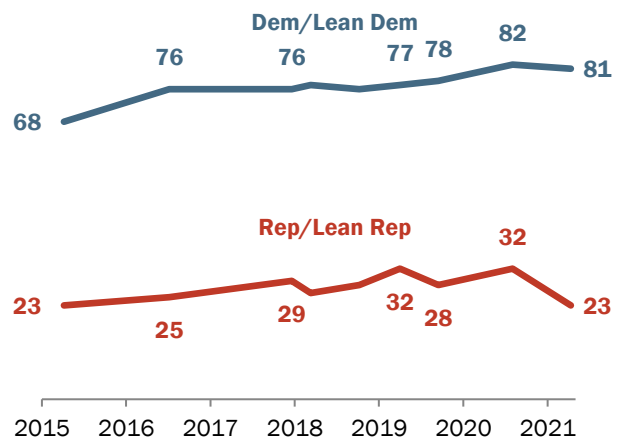
By comparison, the share of Democrats who say the government should do more to solve problems is essentially unchanged over the last year: 81% Democrats say the government should do more to solve problems today, compared with 82% in August.

Slight decline in share of public saying government should do more to solve problems

% who say ...



% who say government should do more to solve problems



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

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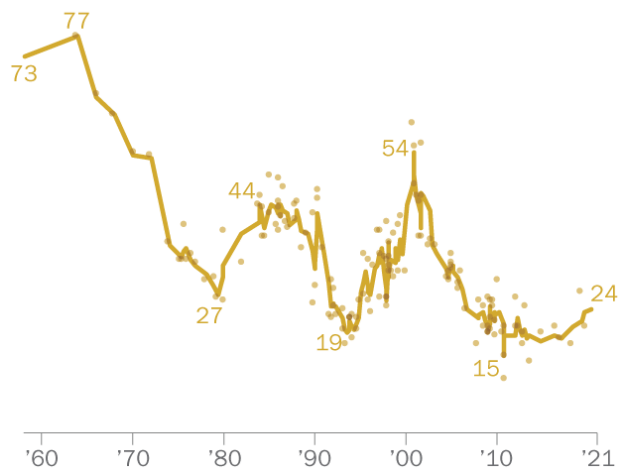
Other findings from the survey

Public trust in the government remains low

Today, about a quarter of Americans (24%) say they trust the federal government to do what is right just about always or most of the time. The share of Democrats who say they trust the government just about always or most of the time has increased substantially since before the presidential election: More than a third (36%) now say this, compared with 12% in August 2020. Conversely, GOP trust in government has sharply declined over the same period: Last year, 28% of Republicans and Republican leaners said they trusted the federal government to do what is right all or most of the time; just 9% say this today.

Public trust in federal government remains low

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



Note: From 1976-2020 the trend line represents a three-survey moving average.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020-2021), 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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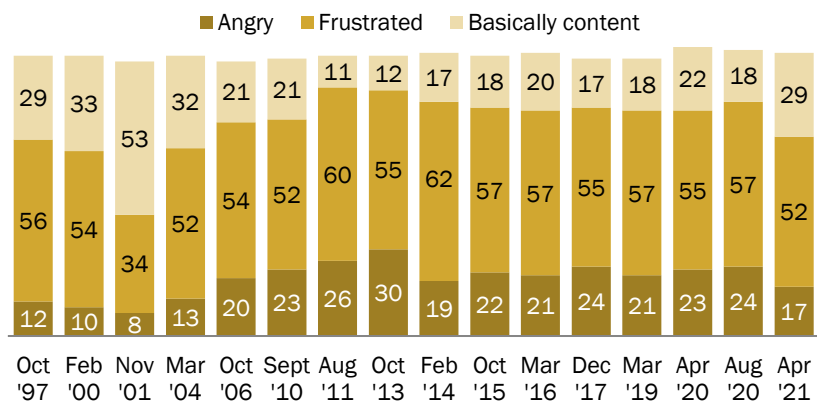
More Americans are “basically content” than “angry” with the federal government.

The share of Americans who say they are basically content with the federal government is now higher than at any point since 2004, while the share saying they feel angry with the government is lower than it has been in recent years. Still, far more say they feel frustrated with the government (52%) than either angry (17%) or content (29%).

This change in feelings about government is mostly driven by a shift among Democrats. Fully 43% of Democrats say they are content with the federal government – the highest share of Democrats expressing contentment with the government in nearly 20 years. By comparison, just 13% of Republicans say they feel content toward the federal government.

A higher share of Americans say they feel ‘basically content’ with the federal government, as fewer express anger

% who say they feel ____ toward the federal government



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020-2021), Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier).

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Little change in views of government responsibilities

For the most part, opinions about what Americans say the federal government is responsible for have remained relatively stable since 2019.

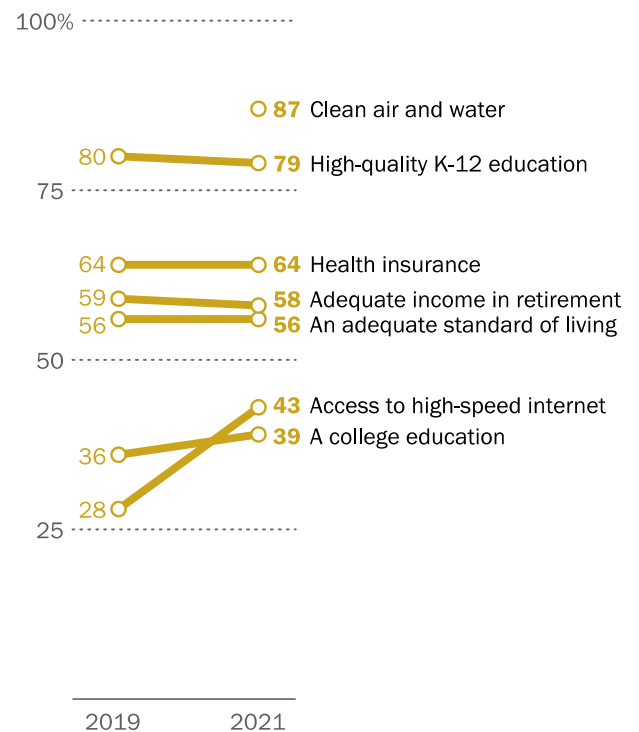
There has been no significant change in the share of Americans saying the federal government has a responsibility to provide four of six items asked about in both 2019 and 2021: high-quality K-12 education, health insurance, adequate income in retirement and an adequate standard of living.

Americans are now slightly more likely to say the federal government has a responsibility to provide a college education to all Americans than they were in 2019 (39% today vs. 36% then).

The only item to see a significant change since 2019 asks whether the federal government has a responsibility to provide access to high-speed internet for all Americans. Today, about four-in-ten Americans (43%) say the federal government does have this responsibility; 28% said this two years ago.

Views of government responsibilities little changed since 2019, except for access to high-speed internet

% who say the federal government has a responsibility to provide ___ for all Americans



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

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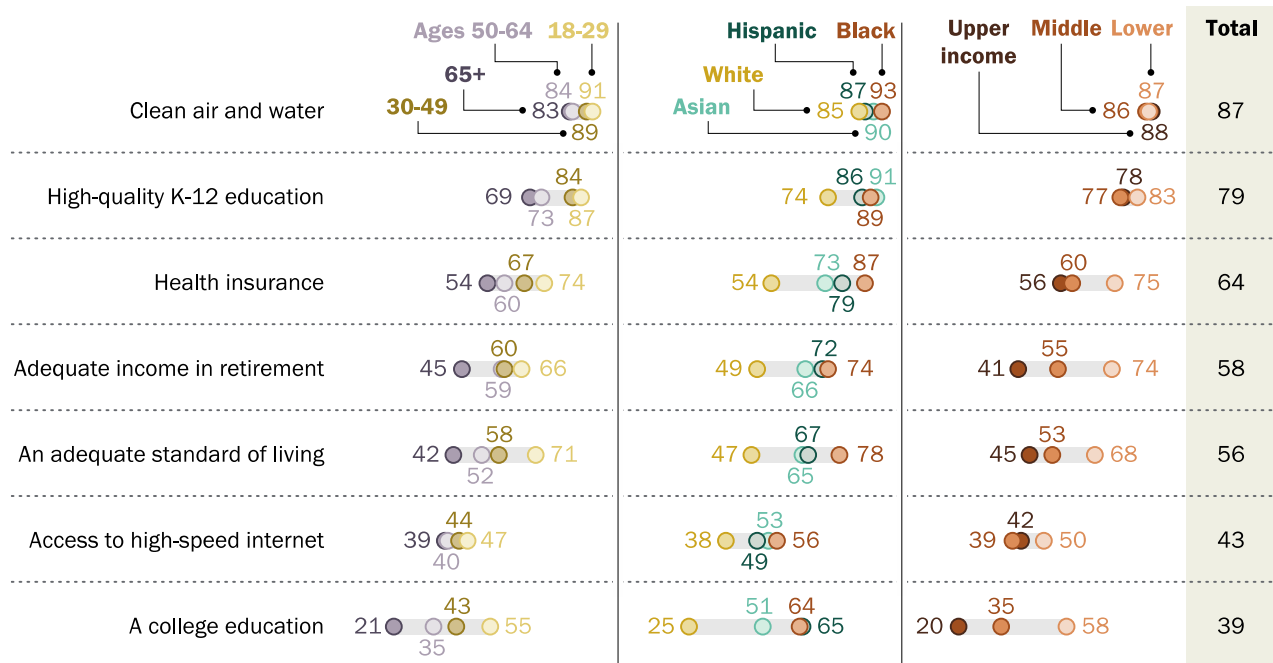
Wide age, race and income differences in views of government responsibilities

As was the case two years ago, there are wide demographic differences in what is seen as in the domain of the federal government’s responsibilities.

There is broad agreement across demographic groups that the federal government should be responsible for providing clean air and water, as well as high-quality K-12 education. On five of the other seven measures asked on this survey, White adults, those ages 65 and older and people with higher incomes are far less likely than those in other groups to say the government has a responsibility to provide these services to all Americans.

Young adults more likely than older people to say federal government has responsibilities in several areas, including providing college education for all

% who say the federal government has a responsibility to provide ___ for all Americans



*Asians interviewed in English only.

Notes: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Family income tiers based on adjusted 2019 earnings.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

For example, solid majorities of Black (87%), Hispanic (79%) and Asian (73%) adults say the federal government has a responsibility to provide health insurance to all Americans, compared with about half of White adults (54%).

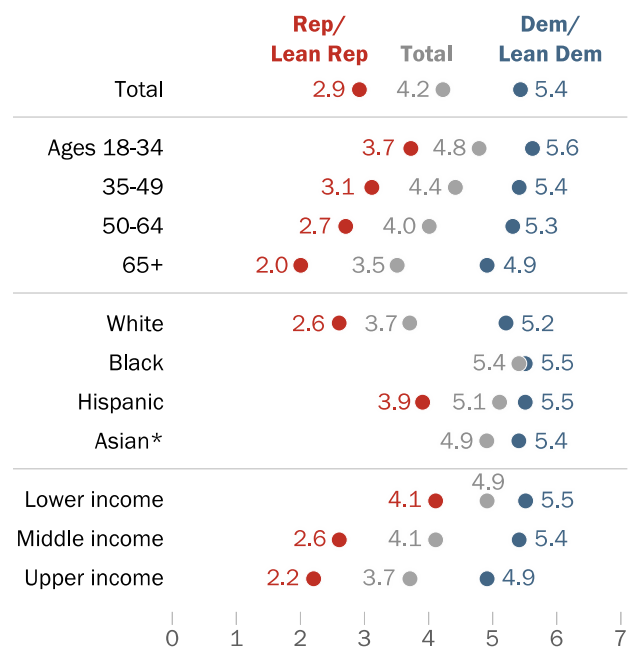
And with few exceptions, lower-income adults take a more expansive view of government’s responsibilities than do middle- and higher-income people. For instance, about seven-in-ten lower-income adults say the government should be responsible for providing all Americans with an adequate standard of living (68%), while smaller similar shares of middle-income (53%) and upper-income (45%) people hold this view.

There also are age differences in views of some government responsibilities. Notably, while more than half of adults under 30 (55%) say the government has a responsibility to provide Americans with a college education, that falls to 43% among those ages 30 to 49 and to 35% among those 50 to 64. Only about two-in-ten adults 65 and older (21%) say this is the responsibility of the federal government.

On average, lower-income, Black, Hispanic, Asian and younger adults designate more of the seven items included in this survey as responsibilities of the federal government than do higher-income, White and older adults. While adults ages 18 to 34, on average, say 4.8 out of the seven should be responsibilities of the federal government, this average decreases steadily with age – with those 65 and older naming an average of 3.5 items. And lower-income adults indicate an average of 4.9 of the listed items should be provided by the federal government for all Americans, compared with an average of 3.7 among upper-income adults. White adults select an average of 3.7 items, compared with an average of around 5 items

Demographic differences, especially among Republicans, in views of government responsibilities

Average number of items (out of seven possible) that those in each group say the federal government has a responsibility to provide for all Americans



* Asian adults were interviewed in English only.
 Notes: Average number out of seven items: clean air and water, high-quality K-12 education, health insurance, adequate standard of living, adequate income in retirement, high-speed internet, a college education. See topline for full question wording. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Black and Asian Republicans not shown due to insufficient sample sizes.
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

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among Black (5.4), Hispanic (5.1) and Asian adults (4.9).

While these patterns by income, race and ethnicity, and age are seen within both partisan coalitions, the gaps are substantially wider among Republicans than they are among Democrats.

Lower-income Republicans indicate it is the government's responsibility to provide an average of 4.1 of the seven items. By contrast, middle-income Republicans select an average of 2.6, while upper-income Republicans see an average of just 2.2 of the seven as the government's responsibility.

Hispanic Republicans see an average of 3.9 of these items as responsibilities of the federal government, while White Republicans identify an average of 2.6 as responsibilities of the government.

Additionally, while Republican adults under the age of 35 say an average of 3.7 of these items are responsibilities of the federal government, Republicans 65 and older view only about half as many items (2.0 of the seven) as the federal government's responsibility.

This pattern is seen across each of the individual items. For instance, while about three-quarters of Republicans under age 35 (76%) say a high-quality K-12 education is the responsibility of the federal government, only about half of those 65 and older (51%) say this.

Among Democrats there also are income, racial and ethnic, and age differences in these views, though they are considerably less pronounced. Overall, Democrats say an average of 5.4 of these seven items should be a responsibility of the government to provide for all Americans. And Democrats under 35 view an average of 5.6 of these as government's responsibility, compared with an average of 4.9 among Democrats 65 and older.

On several of these items there are only slight – or no – differences in the shares of Democrats across income, race and age groups who view each as a responsibility; however, there are wider divides on the question of whether the federal government has a responsibility to provide a college education to all Americans. About seven-in-ten lower-income Democrats (68%) say the government has this responsibility, compared with 32% of upper-income Democrats. There is also a substantial age gap among Democrats on this issue, with younger Democrats more likely to say the government has a responsibility to provide a college education to all.

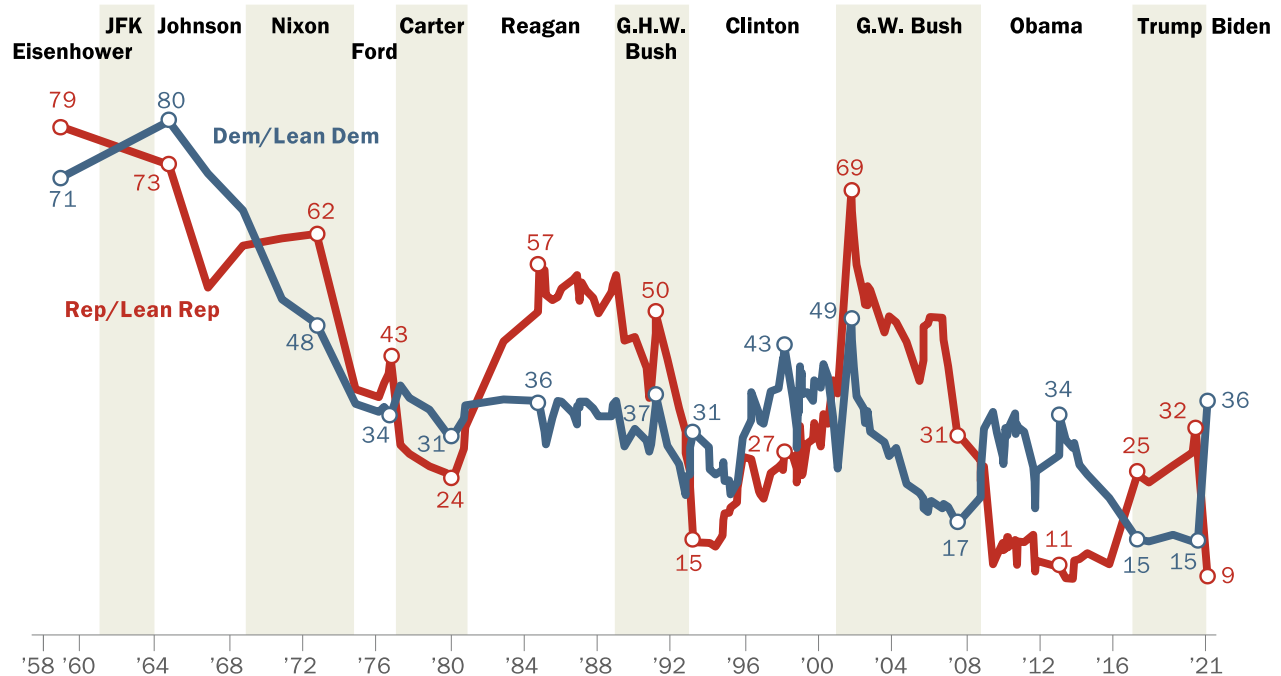
Public trust in government remains low

While trust in the federal government among both Republicans and Democrats remains low compared with previous decades, there has been some movement among partisans over the last year. As in the past, partisans who are associated with the party holding the presidency are more likely to say they trust the federal government than those who are affiliated with the opposing party.

Today, just 9% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents say they trust the federal government to do what is right at least most of the time. This is roughly on par with GOP trust in government throughout the Obama administration, though considerably lower than the roughly

Trust in government has fluctuated, but no more than about a third of Democrats or Republicans have expressed trust in government in more than a decade

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



Note: From 1976-2020 the trend line represents a three-survey moving average within each administration.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020-2021), 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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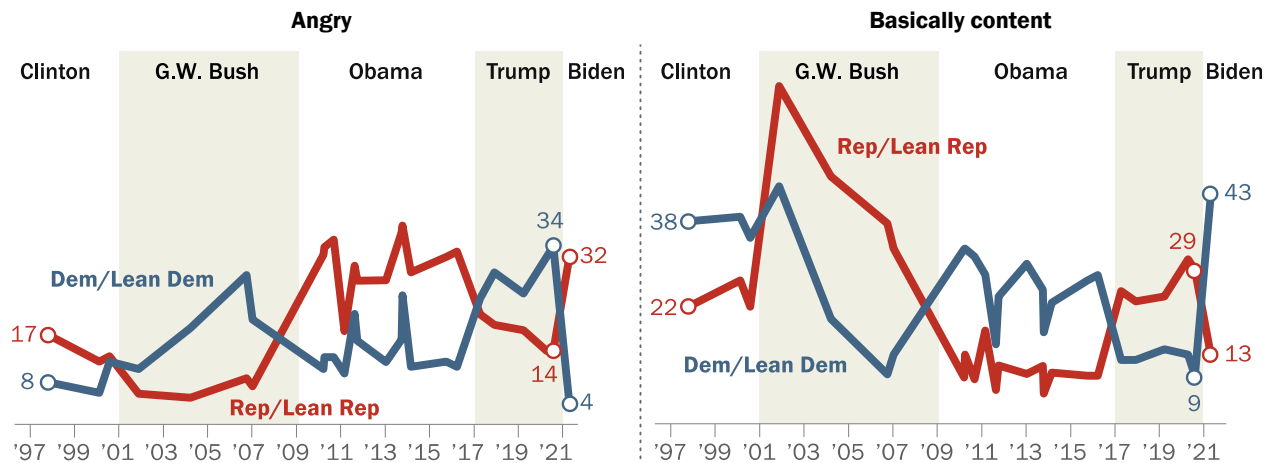
three-in-ten Republicans who expressed trust in government last year, during the Trump administration’s last year in office.

In contrast, Democrats and Democratic leaners now express more trust in government than they did last year. Today, 36% say they trust the federal government to do what is right, comparable to the share of Democrats saying this early in the Obama administration, and Democratic trust in government is now considerably higher than it was during the Trump presidency.

Similarly, while there has been a relatively modest overall change in Americans’ *feelings* toward the federal government since 2020, Democrats are now far more likely to express contentment with government than to say they feel angry – a stark shift from last year. The reverse is true among Republicans. As in the past, frustration with government is more widespread than either anger or contentment. Today, just over half of both Republicans (55%) and Democrats (52%) say they feel frustrated toward the federal government.

After Biden’s election, the share of Democrats ‘basically content’ with government reaches two-decade high; more Republicans are ‘angry’ at federal government

% who say they feel ____ toward the federal government



Notes: Question wording was: “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 graphic. In 2021, 55% of Republicans and Republican leaners, 52% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say they are frustrated with the government.
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.
 Trend sources: Pew Research Center’s American Trends Panel (2020-2021), Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier).

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The share of Democrats who say they are basically content with government has increased dramatically since the fall of 2020 – from 9% to 43% – and now stands at its highest level in roughly two decades.

Among Republicans, by contrast, the share saying they are content with the government has declined, while the share saying they are angry has increased. Today, about a third of Republicans (32%) say they feel angry with the government, compared with just 14% who said the same in August of last year. The share of Republicans who say they are angry with the federal government is comparable to the share who said the same during the end of the Obama administration.

Partisan divisions over the role of government

Overall, a 55% majority of Americans say that the government should be doing more to solve problems, while 44% say the government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals.

Women are slightly more likely than men to say that government should do more to solve problems (58% vs. 52%).

About three-quarters of Black adults (76%) and roughly seven-in-ten Hispanic (67%) and Asian adults (69%) say that government should do more to solve problems.

By comparison, White adults are about as likely to say that government should do more (47%) as they are to say government is doing too much better left to businesses and individuals (52%).

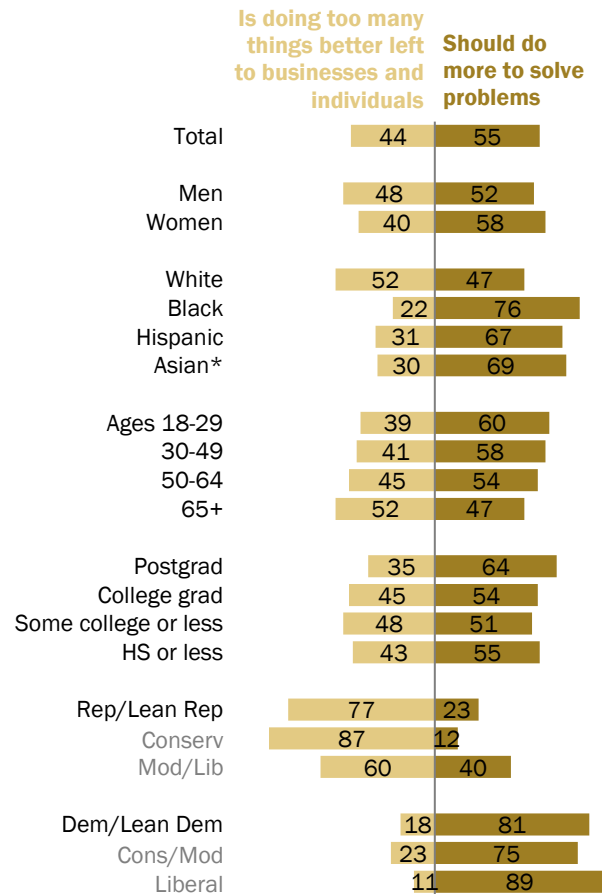
Younger adults are somewhat more likely than older adults to say that government should do more to solve problems. About six-in-ten adults under 50 (59%) say that government should do more; 54% of those ages 50 to 64 and 47% of those 65 and older say the same.

While about half or more of adults across all levels of education say the government should do more to solve problems, those with postgraduate experience are more likely to say this.

There are deep partisan divides on the role of government. About three-quarters of Republicans (77%) say that government is doing too many things that would be better left to individuals and businesses, while 81% of Democrats say government should do more.

Black, Hispanic and Asian adults more likely to say government should do more

% who say government ...



*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Notes: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

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There are also ideological differences within each party. An overwhelming 87% of conservative Republicans say the government does too many things, while a narrower majority (60%) of moderate and liberal Republicans say the same. Differences among Democrats are less pronounced. About nine-in-ten liberal Democrats (89%) say the government should do more, as do three-quarters of conservative and moderate Democrats (75%).

Democratic confidence in the future of the U.S. rises as GOP confidence drops

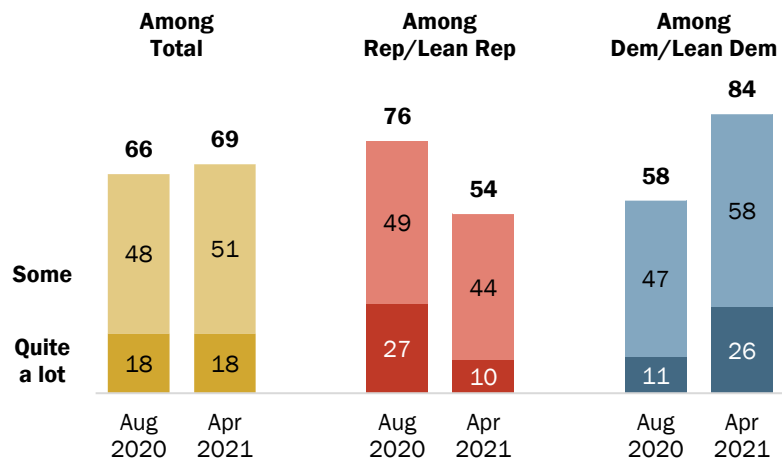
When it comes to their confidence in the future of the United States, about seven-in-ten Americans (69%) say they have either “quite a lot” or “some.” These overall views are little different than in August of 2020, when 66% said this. However, Democratic confidence is now considerably higher than it was last year, while GOP confidence is considerably lower.

Today, 54% of Republicans say they have at least some confidence in the future of the country, with one-in-ten saying they have a lot of confidence. This is down significantly from last summer, when 76% expressed at least some confidence, including 27% who said they had quite a lot of confidence.

The pattern is reversed among Democrats. More than eight-in-ten Democrats (84%) now say they have at least some confidence in the future of the U.S.; in August 2020 a much narrower majority of Democrats (58%) said this.

Modest overall change in confidence in the future of U.S. since 2020, but partisans' views shift

% who express ___ confidence in the future of the United States ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

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Appendix: Defining income tiers

To create upper-, middle- and lower-income tiers, respondents' 2019 family incomes were adjusted for differences in purchasing power by geographic region and for household size. "Middle-income" adults live in families with annual incomes that are two-thirds to double the median family income in the panel (after incomes have been adjusted for the local cost of living and for household size). The middle-income range for the American Trends Panel is about \$38,900 to \$116,800 annually for an average family of three. Lower-income families have incomes less than roughly \$38,900, and upper-income families have incomes greater than roughly \$116,800 (all figures expressed in 2019 dollars).

Based on these adjustments, 32% are lower income, 45% are middle income and 19% fall into the upper-income tier. An additional 4% either didn't offer a response to the income question or the household size question.

For more information about how the income tiers were determined, please see [here](#).

Acknowledgments

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

Research team

Carroll Doherty, *Director, Political Research*
Jocelyn Kiley, *Associate Director, Political Research*
Baxter Oliphant, *Senior Researcher*
Andrew Daniller, *Research Associate*
Bradley Jones, *Research Associate*
Hannah Hartig, *Research Associate*
Amina Dunn, *Research Analyst*
Ted Van Green, *Research Assistant*
Vianney Gomez, *Research Assistant*

Communications and editorial

Nida Asheer, *Communications Manager*
Calvin Jordan, *Communications Associate*
David Kent, *Senior Copy Editor*

Graphic design and web publishing

Alissa Scheller, *Information Graphics Designer*
Reem Nadeem, *Associate Digital Producer*

Methodology

Andrew Mercer, *Senior Research Methodologist*
Nick Bertoni, *Senior Panel Manager*
Dorene Asare-Marfo, *Research Methodologist*
Arnold Lau, *Research Analyst*

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 the panel wave conducted April 5 to April 11, 2021, and included oversamples of Asian, Black and Hispanic Americans. A total of 5,109 panelists responded out of 5,970 who were sampled, for a response rate of 86%. This does not include two panelists who were removed from the data due to extremely high rates of refusal or straightlining. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 4%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 2%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 5,109 respondents is plus or minus 2.1 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 recruitment.

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	2,183
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	1,243
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	620
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS/web	9,396	8,778	5,895
Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019	ABS/web	5,900	4,720	2,327
June 1 to July 19, 2020	ABS/web	1,865	1,636	1,269
	Total	36,879	25,076	13,537

Note: 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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Invitations were sent to a random, address-based sample of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service’s Delivery Sequence File. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2019 and 2020, respectively. Across these three address-based recruitments, a total of 17,161 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 15,134 (88%) agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. In each household, the adult with the next birthday was asked to go online to complete a survey, at the end of which they were invited to join the panel. Of the 25,076 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 13,537 remained active panelists and continued to receive survey invitations at the time this survey was conducted.

The U.S. Postal Service’s Delivery Sequence 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.¹ The American Trends Panel never uses breakout routers or chains that direct respondents to additional surveys.

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.

This study featured a stratified random sample from the ATP. The sample was allocated according to the following strata, in order: Asian Americans (including those who identify as Asian in combination with another race), Black Americans (including those who identify as Black in combination with another race), U.S.-born Hispanics, foreign-born Hispanics, tablet households, high school education or less, not registered to vote, people ages 18 to 34, uses internet weekly or less, nonvolunteers, and all other categories not already falling into any of the above.

[The Asian, Black, U.S.-born and foreign-born Hispanic strata were oversampled relative to their share of the U.S. adult population.](#) The remaining strata 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

¹ AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. [“AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling.”](#)

test data which 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.

Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was April 5 to April 11, 2021. Postcard notifications were mailed to all ATP panelists with a known residential address on April 5, 2021.

On April 5 and April 6, 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 5, 2021. 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 panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on April 6, 2021.

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 that consented to SMS messages received an SMS invitation and up to two SMS reminders.

Invitation and reminder dates

	Soft Launch	Full Launch
Initial invitation	April 5, 2021	April 6, 2021
First reminder	April 8, 2021	April 8, 2021
Final reminder	April 10, 2021	April 10, 2021

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 very high rates of leaving questions blank as well as always selecting the first or last answer presented. As a result of

this checking, two ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

Weighting

The ATP data was 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 (and the probability of being invited to participate in the panel in cases where only a subsample of respondents were invited). The base

weights for panelists recruited in different years are scaled to be proportionate to the effective sample size for all active panelists in their cohort. To correct for nonresponse to the initial recruitment surveys and gradual panel attrition, the base weights for all active panelists are calibrated to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table to create a full-panel weight.

For ATP waves in which only a subsample of panelists are invited to participate, a wave-specific base weight is created by adjusting the full-panel weights for subsampled panelists to account for any differential probabilities of selection for the particular panel wave. For waves in which all active panelists are invited to participate, the wave-specific base weight is identical to the full-panel weight.

In the final weighting step, the wave-specific base weights for panelists who completed the survey are again calibrated to match the population benchmarks specified above. These weights are trimmed (typically at about the 1st and 99th percentiles) to reduce the loss in precision stemming

Weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age x Gender	2019 American Community Survey
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metro/Non-metro	2019 CPS March Supplement
Volunteerism	2017 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2016 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	2020 National Public Opinion Reference Survey
Frequency of internet use	
Religious affiliation	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on non-institutionalized adults. The 2016 CPS was used for voter registration targets for this wave in order to obtain voter registration numbers from a presidential election year. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population. The 2020 National Public Opinion Reference Survey featured 1,862 online completions and 2,247 mail survey completions.

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from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and test of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

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.

Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021

Group	Unweighted sample size	Weighted %	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	5,109		2.1 percentage points
Half sample	At least 2,545		3.0 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	1,706	43	3.4 percentage points
Half sample	At least 824		4.8 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	3,253	52	2.8 percentage points
Half sample	At least 1,612		3.9 percentage points
Upper income	1,098		4.2 percentage points
Middle income	2,369		3.1 percentage points
Lower income	1,465		4.2 percentage points

Notes: This survey includes oversamples of Asian, Black and Hispanic respondents. 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.

Dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	5,109
Logged onto survey; broke-off	2.12	85
Logged onto survey; did not complete any items	2.1121	38
Never logged on (implicit refusal)	2.11	736
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	0
Completed interview but was removed for data quality		2
Screened out		0
Total panelists in the survey		5,970
Completed interviews	I	5,109
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	859
Non-contact	NC	2
Other	O	0
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
Total		5,970
AAPOR RR1 = $I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)$		86%

Cumulative response rate	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	12%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	72%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 87	57%
Response rate to Wave 87 survey	86%
Cumulative response rate	4%

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**2021 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 87 APRIL 2021
FINAL TOPLINE
APRIL 5-11, 2021
N=5,109**

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,545]:**USCONF_FUT How much confidence do you have in the future of the United States? [**SHOW IN ORDER**]

Apr 5-11 <u>2021</u>		July 27- Aug 2, <u>2020</u>
18	Quite a lot	18
51	Some	48
25	Very little	29
5	None at all	5
*	No answer	*

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**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>
Apr 5-11, 2021	29	52	17	2
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	18	57	24	1
Apr 7-12, 2020	22	55	23	1
Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017 ²	20	57	22	*

GOVFEEL PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:

	<u>Basically content</u>	<u>Frustrated</u>	<u>Angry</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
July 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

² The W24.5 Mode Study survey was administered by web and phone. Results reported here are from web mode only.

GOVFEEL PHONE TREND CONTINUED

	Basically <u>content</u>	<u>Frustrated</u>	<u>Angry</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
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

ASK ALL:

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

	Just about <u>always</u>	Most of <u>the time</u>	Only some <u>of the time</u>	<u>Never</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Apr 5-11, 2021	2	22	61	14	1
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	2	18	65	14	1
Apr 7-12, 2020 ³	2	24	60	12	1
Apr 4-18, 2017	3	25	61	10	1
Nov 17-Dec 15, 2014 ⁴	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>	(VOL.) <u>Never</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
July 23-Aug 4, 2020	5	15	66	12	2
Mar 20-25, 2019 ⁵	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 ⁶	4	22	61	11	2
February, 1998	5	29	61	4	1
October, 1997	3	36	59	2	*

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

³ 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?"

⁴ 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.

⁴ 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?"

⁶ 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:

GOVT_ROLE Which statement comes closer to your own views – 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 5-11, 2021	55	44	1
July 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-March 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 QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ASK ALL:**

GOVRESP Do you think each of the following is something the federal government has a responsibility to provide for all Americans? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Yes, a responsibility of the federal government to provide for all Americans</u>	<u>No, not the responsibility of the federal government to provide</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. An adequate standard of living			
Apr 5-11, 2021	56	43	1
Sep 16-29, 2019	56	43	1

NO ITEM b

c. High quality K-12 education			
Apr 5-11, 2021	79	20	1
Sep 16-29, 2019	80	19	1
d. A college education			
Apr 5-11, 2021	39	60	1
Sep 16-29, 2019	36	64	1
e. Adequate income in retirement			
Apr 5-11, 2021	58	41	2
Sep 16-29, 2019	59	40	1

NO ITEM f

g. Health insurance			
Apr 5-11, 2021	64	35	1
Sep 16-29, 2019	64	35	1
h. Access to high speed internet			
Apr 5-11, 2021	43	56	1
Sep 16-29, 2019	28	71	1
i. Clean air and water			
Apr 5-11, 2021	87	13	1

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**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 [N=2,016]:

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	Something <u>else</u>	No <u>answer</u>	Lean <u>Rep</u>	Lean <u>Dem</u>
PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to... ⁷	24	32	27	16	1	19	20

⁷ Party and PartyIn asked in a prior survey.