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# Biden Loses Ground With the Public on Issues, Personal Traits and Job Approval

*More support than opposition for infrastructure bills; majorities favor raising taxes on large businesses, high-income households*

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## How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand the public's views on President Joe Biden's job performance, the nation's economy, and proposed infrastructure bills. The study also surveyed adults about Biden's handling of Afghanistan and views about the admittance of thousands of Afghan refugees into the country. For this analysis, we surveyed 10,371 U.S. adults in September 2021. Everyone who took part in this survey 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](#), along with responses, and its [methodology](#).

# Biden Loses Ground With the Public on Issues, Personal Traits and Job Approval

*More support than opposition for infrastructure bills; majorities favor raising taxes on large businesses, high-income households*

With his administration facing multiple challenges at home and abroad, President Joe Biden's job approval rating has fallen sharply in the past two months. Fewer than half of U.S. adults (44%) now approve of the way Biden is handling his job as president, while 53% disapprove. This marks a reversal in Biden's job ratings since July, when a 55% majority approved of his job performance and 43% disapproved.

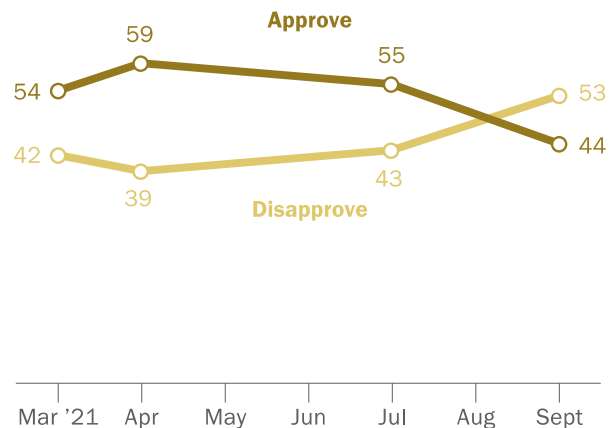
Since spring, public confidence in Biden has declined across several issues. [In March](#), majorities expressed confidence in him across six of seven dimensions, including his handling of the public health impact of [the coronavirus](#), and foreign and economic policies. Today, about half still express confidence in his handling of the coronavirus and the economy – but majorities have little or no confidence in him in four other areas.

Positive evaluations of several of Biden's personal traits and characteristics have shown similar decreases. Compared with March, fewer adults say Biden cares about people like them, and fewer describe him as standing up for his beliefs, honest, a good role model and mentally sharp.

While opinions about Biden remain sharply divided along partisan lines, the decline in his public standing has come among members of both parties. On his job rating, for example, there has been a 13 percentage point decline in the share of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents who approve of Biden's performance (from 88% in July to 75% today); only 9% of Republicans and GOP leaners approve, down from 17% two months ago.

## For the first time, Biden's job approval rating is more negative than positive

% who \_\_\_\_ of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

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The new survey by Pew Research Center, conducted Sept. 13-19 among 10,371 adults on the Center's nationally representative American Trends Panel, finds that Biden is not the only political leader in Washington whose job ratings have fallen. Just 27% of Americans approve of GOP congressional leaders, down 5 percentage points since April. The decline in approval ratings for Democratic leaders in Congress has been even larger, from 50% to 39%.

There also are signs that the public is generally becoming more pessimistic: Just 26% say they are satisfied with the way things are going in the country, down from 33% six months ago. And while views of current economic conditions remain lackluster – 26% rate them as excellent or good – expectations for the economy over the next year have become more negative than they were in the spring.

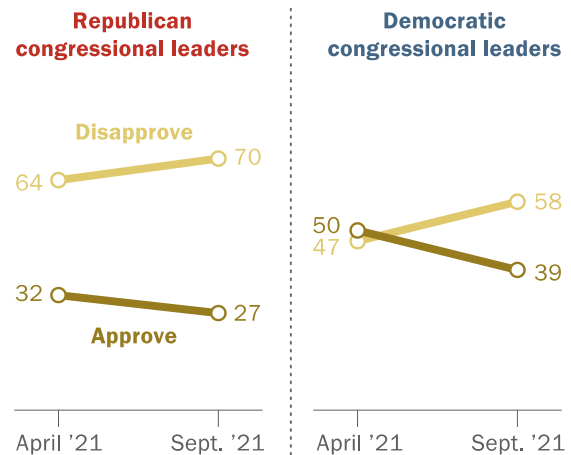
Currently, 37% of Americans say economic conditions will be worse a year from now, while 29% say things will be better; 34% expect little change. In March, more said economic conditions would improve (44%) than get worse (31%) over the next year, while 24% said conditions would be about the same as they are now.

As has been the case since he took office, Biden draws more public confidence for his handling of the public health impact of the coronavirus than other issues.

About half (51%) are very or somewhat confident in his handling of the coronavirus outbreak, but that is down from 65% in March. The shares expressing confidence in Biden's handling of economic policy, foreign policy and immigration policy also have declined.

### Declining job ratings for congressional leaders in both parties

% who approve/disapprove of the job \_\_\_\_\_ are doing



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

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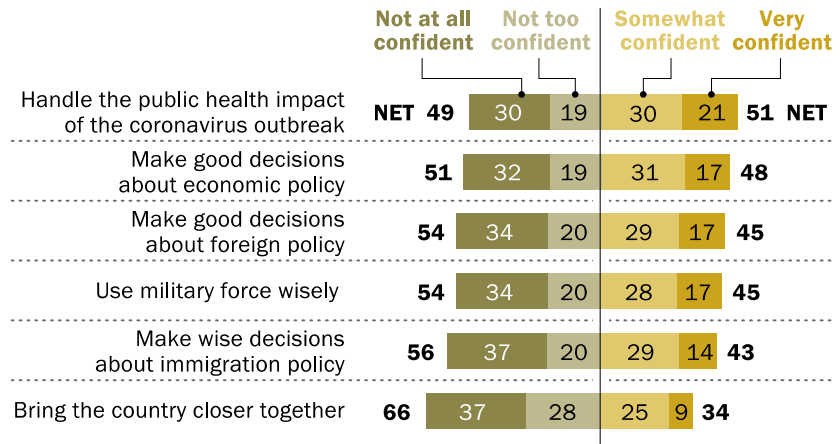
Biden continues to draw less confidence for unifying the country than on dealing with specific issues; only about a third (34%) are confident he can bring the country closer together, a 14 percentage point decline since March.

Assessments of Biden's personal traits also have become less positive. While majorities say he stands up for what he believes in (60%) and cares about the needs of ordinary people (54%), larger shares described Biden in these terms six months ago (66% and 62%, respectively).

Biden receives his least positive assessments for being mentally sharp. Currently, 43% say this describes Biden very or fairly well, an 11-point decline since March.

## Biden draws more confidence for handling pandemic than in other areas, especially unifying the country

% who say they are \_\_\_\_ Joe Biden can do each of the following



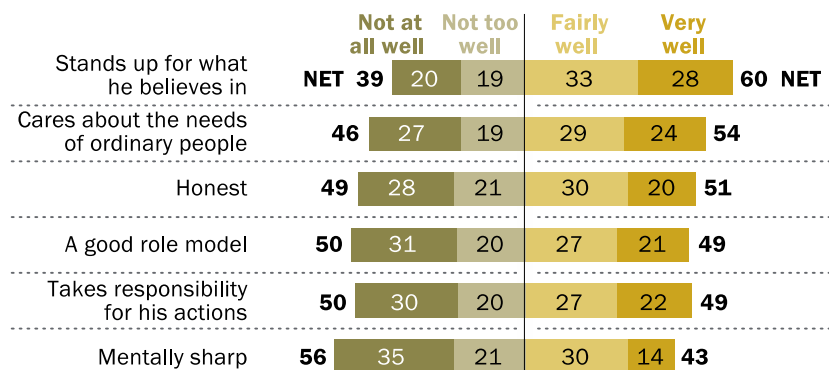
Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

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## Biden widely seen as standing up for his beliefs, but fewer than half describe him as mentally sharp

How well does each of the following describe Joe Biden? (%)



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

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Other important findings from the survey:

**Majority favors admitting Afghan refugees into the U.S.** A 56% majority favors admitting thousands of Afghan refugees into the U.S. while 42% are opposed. There are sizable partisan differences in these attitudes: More than twice as many Democrats (75%) as Republicans (35%) favor admitting refugees who fled Afghanistan. The Biden administration continues to receive negative ratings for its handling of the situation in Afghanistan. Only about a quarter of adults (24%) say the administration has done an excellent or good job in handling the situation with the country; 26% say it has done only fair, while nearly half (48%) rate its performance as poor.

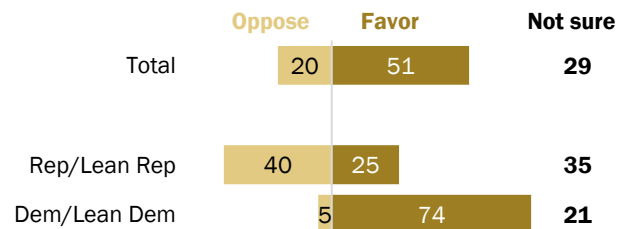
**About half favor each of the congressional infrastructure proposals.** As Congress prepares to take up a pair of infrastructure proposals, more Americans view each one positively than negatively. However, a quarter or more say they are not sure about the proposals (respondents are given the option of saying they are not sure).

About half of adults (51%) say they favor the bill passed by the Senate last month that would provide \$1.2 trillion in funding over the next 10 years for infrastructure improvements, including roads, bridges and internet upgrades. Just 20% oppose the bill, while 29% say they are not sure.

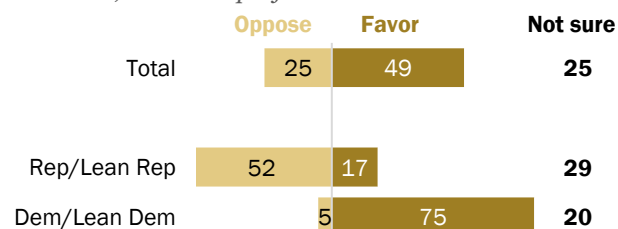
A comparable share (49%) favors a proposed \$3.5 trillion, 10-year package that includes funding for universal pre-K education, expanding Medicare, reducing carbon emissions and other projects. A quarter oppose the spending package, while a quarter are unsure.

### More favor than oppose infrastructure bills, but many say they are unsure

*% who \_\_\_ a \$1.2 trillion bill passed by the Senate last month that would provide new funding over the next 10 years for improvements to the country's infrastructure*



*% who \_\_\_ a proposed \$3.5 trillion reconciliation package in funding over the next 10 years for universal pre-K education, expanding Medicare, reducing carbon emissions, and other projects*



Notes: See topline for full question wording. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

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**Broad support for raising taxes on large businesses, high-income households.** About two-thirds of Americans (66%) favor raising taxes on large businesses and corporations, including 37% who say taxes should be raised “a lot.” A somewhat smaller majority (61%) says tax rates should be raised

on household income over \$400,000; 26% say these tax rates should be raised a lot, while 35% favor raising them a little.

**Rising prices a leading economic concern.** A majority of adults (63%) say they are very concerned about rising prices for food and consumer goods. That is larger than the shares citing other economic issues – employers being unable to hire workers (42% very concerned), people facing eviction or foreclosure (35%) or people who want to work being unable to find jobs (29%). Republicans are more likely than Democrats to cite rising prices and a shortage of workers as top concerns; Democrats are more likely to be very concerned over evictions and foreclosures and people who want to work struggling to find jobs.

## 1. Views of Biden and congressional leaders

Over the past several months, Joe Biden's approval rating has dipped among most demographic and political groups. Today, 44% of U.S. adults overall say they approve of the way he is handling his job as president, down from 55% in July.

Biden's approval rating among men and women has declined by about the same margin (9 and 12 percentage points, respectively).

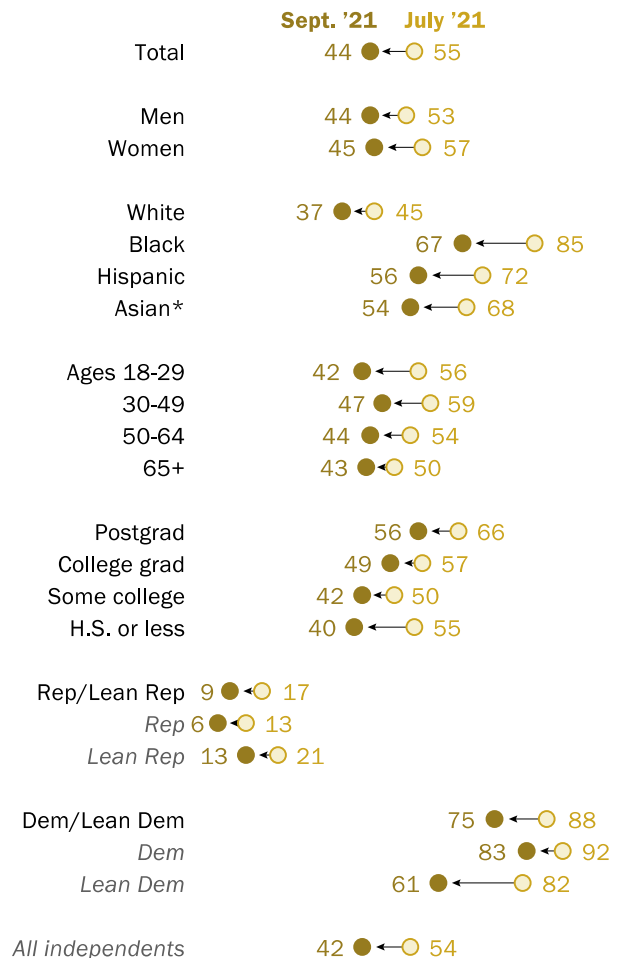
The share of White adults saying they have a positive view of his job performance has dropped from 45% in July to 37% today. Roughly six-in-ten White adults (61%) now say they disapprove.

Though majorities of Black, Hispanic and Asian American adults continue to hold more positive than negative views of Biden's job performance, approval ratings among each group have dipped significantly over the past two months. For example, among Black adults, 67% say they strongly or somewhat approve of the way he is handling his job – down from 85% three months ago.

Among Republicans, already negative views of the president have grown even more so since July. Then, 17% said they approved of the way he was handling his job; today, just 9% say this. There have been comparable declines in Biden approval among both those who identify as Republicans and those who lean toward the Republican Party.

### Biden's job approval rating drops among most groups – including Democrats

% who *somewhat/strongly* approve of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president



\*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Notes: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

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There also has been a sizable change among members of Biden's own party. In July, 88% of Democrats and Democratic leaners said they approved of the way he was handling his job as president. Today, 75% approve, a 13 percentage point drop.

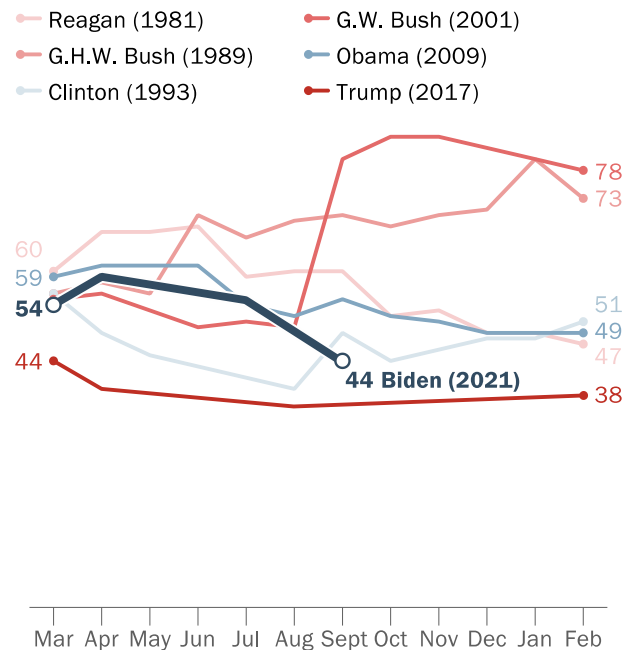
Two months ago, 92% of adults who identify as Democrats said they had a positive view of Biden's job performance. Today, 83% approve of his job performance. There has been a steeper decline among those who lean toward the Democratic Party: 61% of Democratic leaners approve of the way Biden is handling his job as president, down from 82% in July.

Independents as a whole – those who say they do not identify as belonging to either major party, but most of whom lean toward one party or the other – are now more likely to say they disapprove rather than approve of Biden's job performance. Two months ago, 54% had positive views; today, 42% say they approve.

Biden's job approval ratings today are higher than Trump's were at a similar point, but lower compared with other previous presidents.

### Biden's current job rating is higher than Trump's, lower than most other recent presidents' ratings at similar points

% who approve of the way \_\_\_\_ is/was handling his job as president



Source: Survey data from Pew Research Center (Biden through Clinton) and the Gallup organizations (G.H.W. Bush and Reagan). Current data on Biden approval from survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

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While Biden's approval rating remains more positive than negative among several groups, Biden enjoys more tepid support today than he did [in March](#).

Overall, 27% of adults say they strongly approve of his job performance – down from 38% six months ago. Similarly, the share who say they strongly disapprove of the job he is doing has risen (38% today vs. 29% in March).

This pattern is evident across several demographic groups – including among men and women and across age groups.

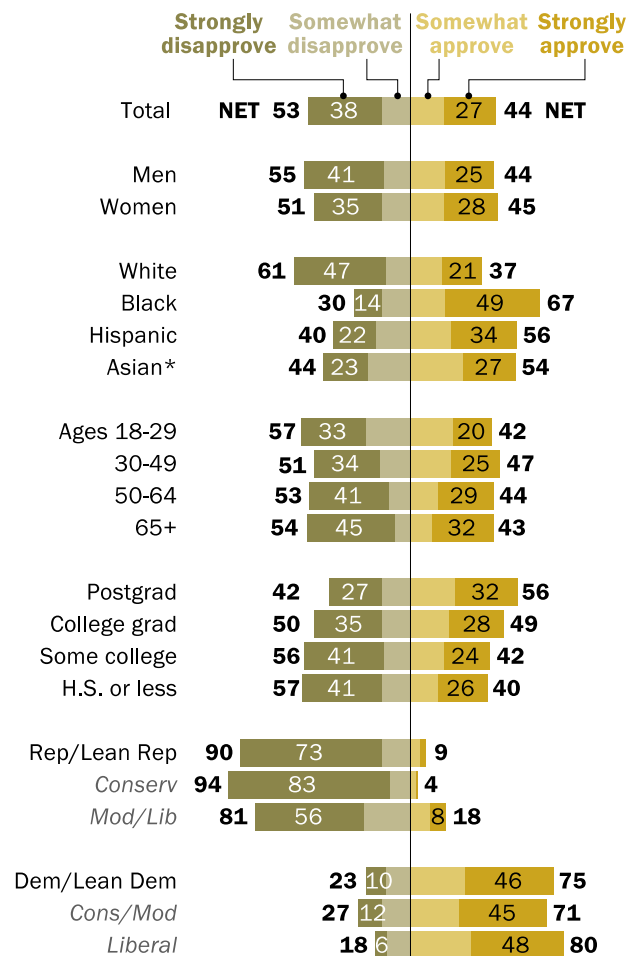
While a large majority of Black adults said they *strongly* approved of the job Biden was doing as president in March (71%), only about half say they strongly approve today. Only about a third of Hispanic (34%) and about a quarter of Asian adults (27%) say the same.

Among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, large majorities say they *strongly* disapprove of Biden's job performance (73% overall). Conservative Republicans are particularly likely to say this (83% strongly disapprove).

While majorities of Democrats across ideological groups say they approve of the job Biden is doing, this support is not as strong as it was earlier in Biden's presidency. Today, 46% say they strongly approve of the job he is doing, down from 65% who said this in March.

## Most Republicans strongly disapprove of Biden's job performance; just under half of Democrats strongly approve

% who \_\_\_\_ of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president



\*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Notes: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

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## Confidence in Biden on key issues facing the country and views of his personal traits

Mirroring the decline in Biden's job rating over the past few months, public confidence in the president to handle various issues – including the coronavirus pandemic and foreign policy – also has slipped.

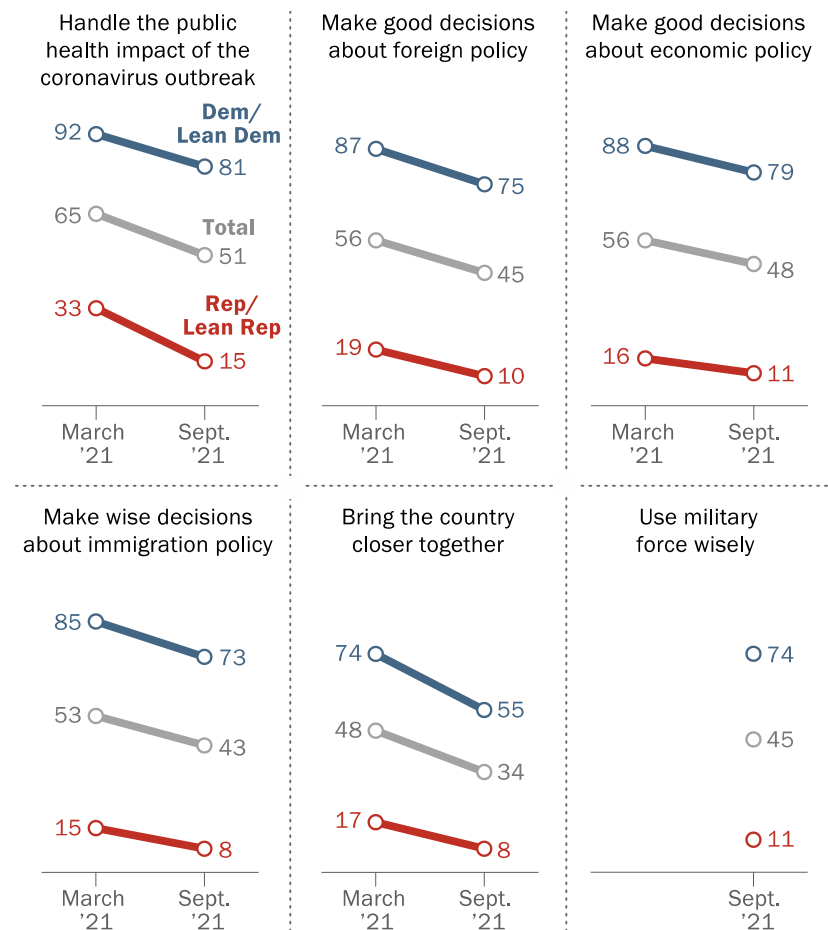
In March, nearly two-thirds of adults expressed confidence in Biden to handle the public health impact of the coronavirus outbreak; today, 51% say this. Only about half as many Republicans now say they have confidence (33% then, 15% today), while the share of Democrats expressing confidence in Biden to handle COVID-19 has declined from 92% then to 81% today.

This pattern is also evident across other issues – including Biden's ability to make good decisions about foreign policy, economic policy and immigration.

Republicans' confidence in Biden to handle several issue areas was already low at the beginning of his term, and it has dipped even lower today. For example, in March, just 19% of Republicans said they had at least some confidence in Biden to make good decisions about foreign policy. Today, just 10% say this – a 9 percentage point decline.

### Confidence in Biden to handle several issues – including COVID-19 and foreign policy – declines

% who say they are *very/somewhat confident* Joe Biden can do each of the following



Note: See topline for full trend details.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

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Smaller majorities of Democrats today express confidence in Biden to handle most issues compared with six months ago – and the drop has been particularly pronounced in views of his ability to bring the country closer together. In March, 74% of Democrats expressed optimism that Biden could do this; today, only about half say so (55%).

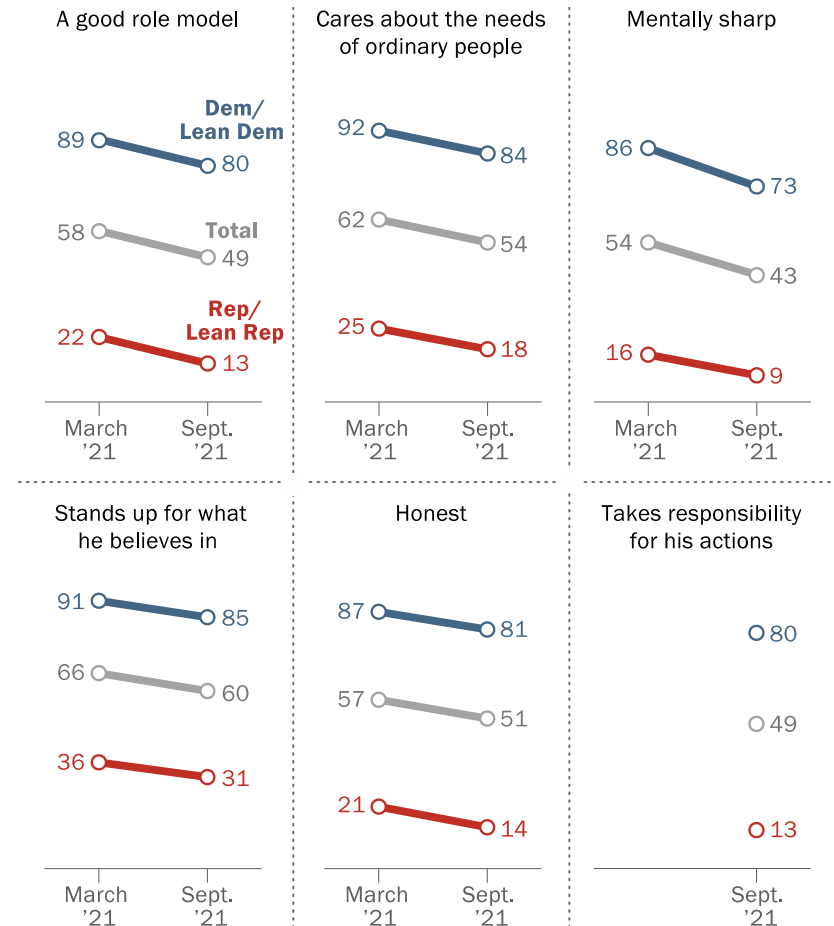
In March, majorities of Americans said Biden embodied several positive traits – including being a good role model, caring about the needs of ordinary people and standing up for what he believes in.

Today, about half of adults say Biden is described very or somewhat well by these terms. And while six-in-ten say he stands up for what he believes in, 66% said this in March.

There have been similar declines in the shares saying he is mentally sharp (54% then, 43% now) and honest (57% then, 51% now).

## Smaller shares of Americans have positive views of Biden's personal traits

% who say each describes Joe Biden *very/somewhat well*



Note: See topline for full trend details.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

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While there continue to be large partisan gaps in views of Biden's traits, there has been a decline in the shares of both Republicans and Democrats who describe Biden positively.

For example, while 89% of Democrats said Biden was a good role model in March, that share has declined to 80% today.

And while six months ago, 86% of Democrats said “mentally sharp” described Biden at least somewhat well, that has dropped to 73% today.

Republicans also offer more negative assessments of Biden’s traits and characteristics than they did in March. For example, in March, 21% of Republicans said “honest” described Biden at least somewhat well. Today, that has declined to 14%.

On whether Biden takes responsibility for his actions – a trait not asked about in the March survey – there is a sizable partisan divide. Only about half of adults overall say this describes Biden well. This includes eight-in-ten Democrats and just 13% of Republicans.

## Views of congressional leaders in both parties more negative than positive

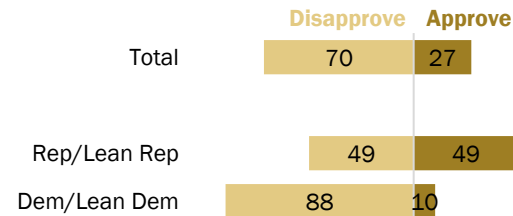
Today, 70% of adults say they disapprove of the job Republican leaders in Congress are doing. A somewhat smaller majority (58%) say they disapprove of the job Democratic leaders in Congress are doing.

Republicans are divided in views about how their own party's congressional leaders are doing: 49% say they approve, while 49% say they disapprove. In contrast, a majority of Democrats say they approve of the job their party's leaders are doing in Congress (67%).

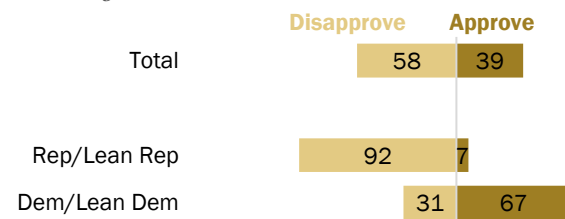
Large majorities of Democrats and Republicans give the opposing party's congressional leaders poor job ratings: 88% of Democrats say they disapprove of the job Republican leaders are doing, while 92% of Republicans disapprove of Democratic congressional leaders' performances.

### Approval of congressional leadership in both parties more negative than positive

% who \_\_\_\_ of the job **Republican leaders** in Congress are doing



% who \_\_\_\_ of the job **Democratic leaders** in Congress are doing



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

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## 2. National economic ratings and concerns

As the country continues to struggle with the coronavirus and its effects on public health and the economy, only about a quarter of U.S. adults (26%) rate national economic conditions positively. About three-quarters (74%) say current economic conditions are only fair or poor.

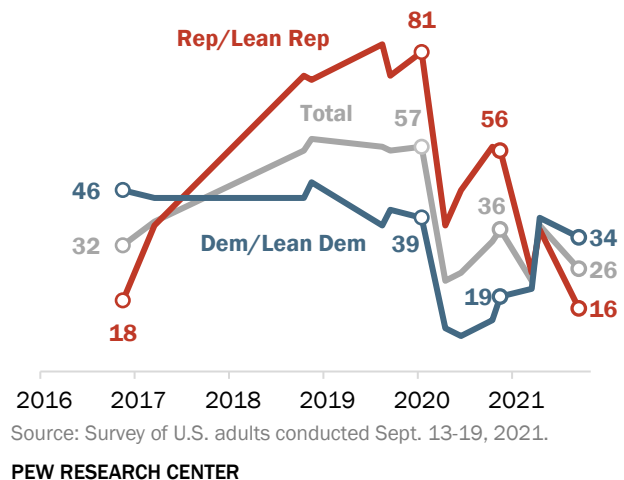
Overall, the share who say economic conditions are excellent or good is roughly on par with the share who said this in April 2020 (23%) – shortly after the coronavirus began spreading throughout the United States – but slightly lower than they were earlier this year.

Partisan views of the economy have shifted since Joe Biden became president. Today, Democrats hold more positive ratings of the economy than do Republicans – a reversal from when Trump was in office.

In November 2020, shortly after the presidential election, more than half of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (56%) said that the economic conditions of the country were either excellent or good. Today, just 16% say the same; 84% of Republicans say the economy is only fair or poor.

### Narrower partisan gap in economic ratings today than during Trump era

*% who rate economic conditions in the United States as excellent/good today*



Conversely, Democratic views of the economy are more positive today than they were in November 2020. Then, roughly two-in-ten Democrats and Democratic leaners (19%) said that economic conditions were either excellent or good. Now, about a third of Democrats (34%) rate the economy positively.

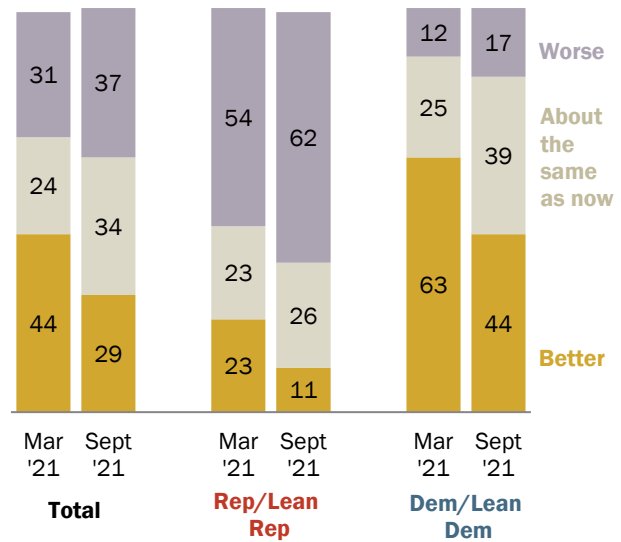
Today, Americans are less optimistic than they were in March that economic conditions in the country as a whole will improve over the next year.

Just 29% of adults say they expect that economic conditions a year from now will be better than they are at present. This is lower than the share that said this in March (44%). Currently, about a third (34%) say the economy will be about the same, while 37% say that the economy will be worse a year from now.

Positive expectations for the economy have declined among members of both parties. The share of Democrats who say economic conditions will be better a year from now has fallen 19 percentage points since March, from 63% to 44%. And just 11% of Republicans now expect conditions to improve in a year, down from 23% in March.

## Americans' economic expectations have turned less positive since March

% who say they expect economic conditions in the country will be \_\_\_\_ a year from now



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

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## Wide partisan split in views of impact of Biden's policies on economy

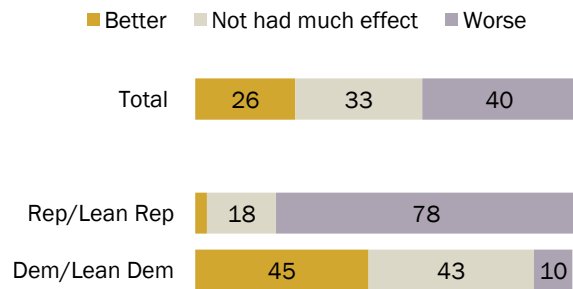
About a quarter of Americans (26%) say that, since Biden took office, his policies have made the economy better, while 40% say they have made economic conditions worse; a third say they have not had much of an effect

An overwhelming share of Republicans (78%) say that Biden's policies have made the economy worse since he has taken office; just 3% say that his policies have made the economy better, while 18% say they have not had much of an effect.

Democrats are evenly divided between those who say Biden's policies have made economic conditions better (45%) and those who say his policies have not had much of an effect (44%). One-in-ten Democrats say his policies have made conditions worse.

### More Americans say Biden's policies have made economy worse than better

*% who say, since taking office, Joe Biden's policies have made economic conditions ...*



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

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## Rising prices top list of public's economic concerns

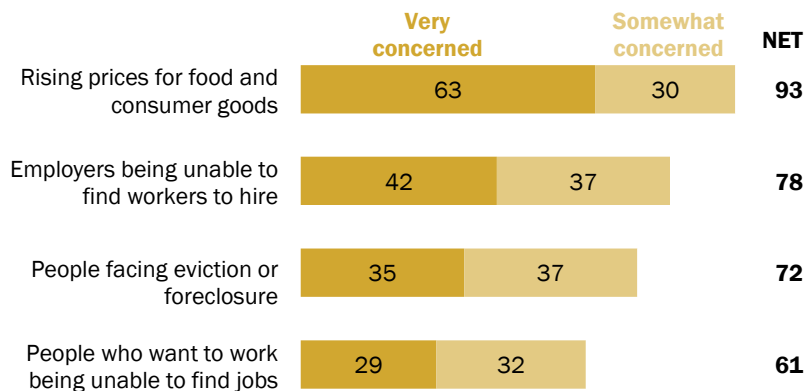
While substantial shares of Americans express concern about several economic issues – including a shortage of workers and people facing eviction and foreclosure – more say they are very concerned about rising prices than say this about other economic problems.

A 63% majority say they are very concerned about rising prices for food and consumer goods (another 30% are somewhat concerned). Smaller shares say they are very

concerned about employers being unable to find workers to hire (42%), people facing eviction or foreclosure (35%), and people who want to work being unable to find jobs (29%).

### Majority of Americans are very concerned about rising prices; less concern over other economic issues

*% who say they are **very/somewhat concerned** about ...*



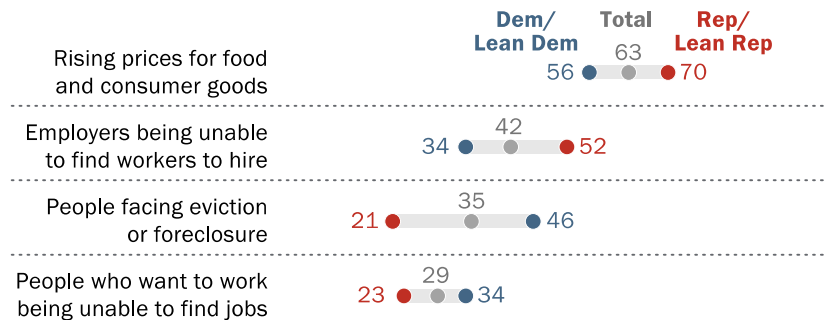
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

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Economic concerns differ by both party and family income. Majorities in both parties say they are very concerned about rising prices, but Republicans are more likely than Democrats to say this (70% vs. 56%). A larger share of Republicans (52%) than Democrats (34%) also are very concerned about employers not being unable to find workers. By contrast, more Democrats than Republicans say they are very concerned about people facing eviction or foreclosure (46% of Democrats, 21% of Republicans) and about people who want to work being unable to find jobs (34% of Democrats, 23% of Republicans).

### Rising prices is top economic concern among both Republicans and Democrats

% who say they are *very concerned* about ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

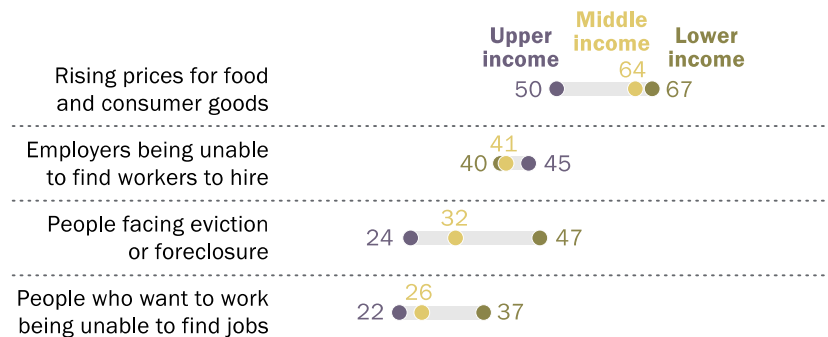
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Across income levels, Americans express broad concern with rising prices for food and consumer goods. At least half of upper-income (50%), middle-income (64%) and lower-income (67%) adults are *very* concerned about rising prices.

However, lower-income adults are more likely than middle- and upper-income adults to be very concerned about people facing eviction or foreclosure (47%) and about people who want jobs being unable to find work (37%). Fewer than a quarter of upper-income adults are very concerned about either economic issue.

### Adults with lower incomes more likely to be very concerned about evictions and foreclosures, job availability

% who say they are *very* concerned about ...



Notes: Family income tiers based on adjusted 2020 earnings; see appendix for details .

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

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Roughly similar shares of upper- (45%), middle- (41%) and lower-income (40%) Americans say that they are very concerned about employers being unable to find workers to hire.

## Wide partisan divides over raising taxes on wealthy Americans, large businesses and corporations

About six-in-ten Americans (61%) say tax rates on household income over \$400,000 should be raised either a lot (26%) or a little (35%). Just 13% say that these rates should be lowered. About a quarter (24%) say tax rates on household income over \$400,000 should be kept the same as they are now.

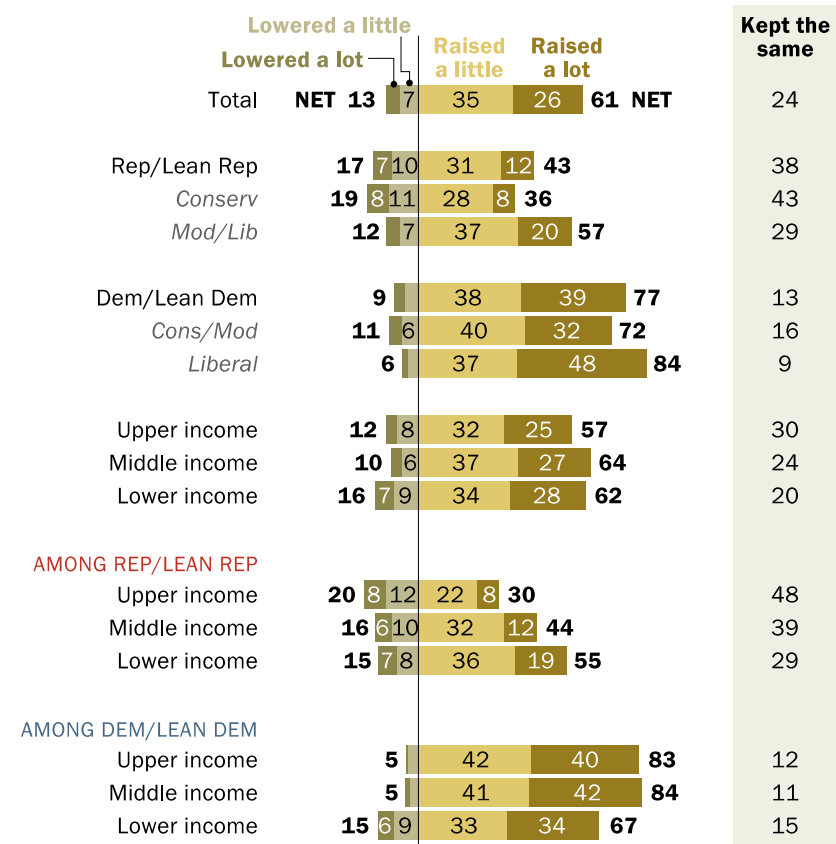
Democrats are largely in favor of raising taxes on household income over \$400,000: 77% say these tax rates should be increased, including 39% who say they should be increased a lot. Only 9% of Democrats say these tax rates should be lowered, while 13% say they should be kept the same.

Liberal Democrats (84%) are more likely than their conservative and moderate counterparts (72%) to say taxes on household income over \$400,000 should be raised, though this is the clear majority view in both groups.

Views among Republicans are more mixed: 43% say tax rates on household income over \$400,000 should be increased, while 38% say they should be kept the same. Only about two-in-ten (17%) say tax rates on these household incomes should be lowered.

### Majority of Americans say taxes on household income over \$400,000 should be increased

% who say tax rates on household income over \$400,000 should be...



Notes: Family income tiers based on adjusted 2020 earnings; see appendix for details. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

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A majority of moderate and liberal Republicans (57%) say tax rates on household income over \$400,000 should be raised at least a little. By contrast, 36% of conservative Republicans hold this view. About four-in-ten conservative Republicans say these tax rates should be kept the same.

Among the general public, majorities of adults across income tiers say taxes on household income over \$400,000 should be raised. But there are substantial differences in views by household income within partisan groups.

Republicans with lower incomes are much more likely than middle- or high-income Republicans to say tax rates on household income over \$400,000 should be raised: 55% of lower-income Republicans hold this view, compared with 44% of middle-income Republicans and 30% of upper-income Republicans. About half of upper-income Republicans (48%) and about four-in-ten middle-income Republicans (39%) say tax rates for households with incomes over \$400,000 should be kept the same as they are now.

Among Democrats, those with lower incomes are the least likely to say that tax rates on household income over \$400,000 should be increased – though majorities across income groups say rates should be raised. While about eight-in-ten upper- (83%) and middle-income Democrats (84%) say tax rates for these households should increase, about two-thirds of lower-income Democrats hold this view.

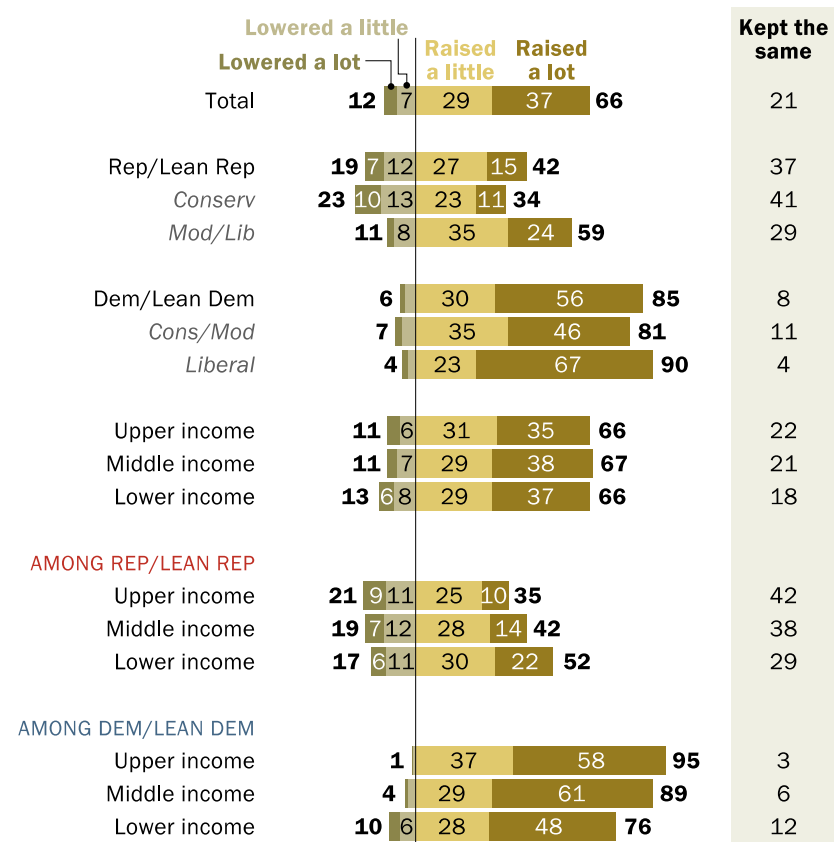
The public also broadly supports raising taxes on large business and corporations. Roughly two-thirds of Americans (66%) say tax rates on large business and corporations should be raised a lot or a little. Only 12% say tax rates for these businesses should be lowered, while about two-in-ten (21%) say tax rates should be kept the same as they are now. Views on this issue are largely unchanged [since 2019](#).

A large majority of Democrats (85%) say taxes on large businesses and corporations should be increased, including more than half (56%) who say taxes on these groups should be increased a lot. Just 6% of Democrats say tax rates on large businesses should be lowered, while just 8% say they should be kept the same as they are now.

While a majority of Democrats across income tiers say that tax rates on businesses and corporations should be increased, Democrats with lower incomes (76%) are less likely than middle- (89%) and upper-income Democrats (95%) to say these tax rates should be raised.

### Republicans have mixed views on raising tax rates on large businesses; Democrats largely in favor

% who say tax rates on large businesses and corporations should be ...



Notes: Family income tiers based on adjusted 2020 earnings; see appendix for details. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept 13-19, 2021.

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By contrast, about four-in-ten Republicans (42%) say tax rates on large businesses and corporations should be raised, while a slightly smaller share (37%) say they should be kept the same as they are now. About two-in-ten Republicans say that these taxes should be lowered.

Among Republicans, there are wide differences in views by ideology and family income. A majority of moderate and liberal Republicans (59%) say taxes on large businesses and corporations should be increased, compared with about a third of conservative Republicans (34%). And while about half of lower-income Republicans (52%) say tax rates on large businesses and corporations should be raised, middle-income (42%) and upper-income Republicans (35%) are less likely to say this.

### 3. Biden administration's handling of Afghanistan and views of accepting Afghan refugees in the U.S.

A few weeks after the United States withdrew its last troops from Afghanistan, the Biden administration continues to receive low marks for its handling of the situation there.

About a quarter of Americans (24%) say the administration has done an excellent or good job in dealing with the situation in Afghanistan; 26% say it has done an only fair job, while 48% say it has done a poor job.

These views are little changed [from late August](#), when the U.S. military withdrawal from Afghanistan was in progress.

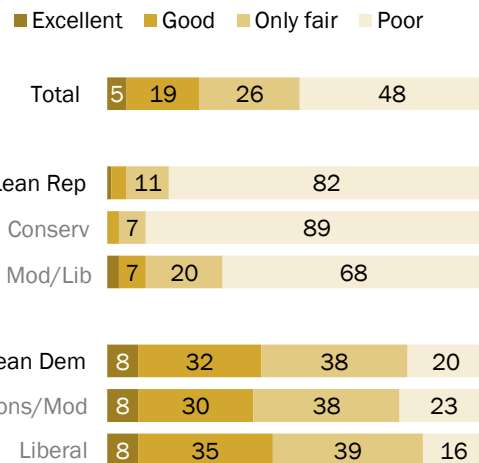
As was the case in August, Republicans assess the administration's handling of the situation in Afghanistan more negatively than Democrats.

Democrats remain divided over the administration's performance: Four-in-ten say the administration has done an excellent or good job on the situation in Afghanistan; a similar share (38%) say it has done an only fair job, while 20% say it has done a poor job.

In contrast, a large majority of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (83%) say the Biden administration has done a poor job handling the situation in Afghanistan. Conservative Republicans are 20 percentage points more likely than moderate and liberal Republicans to say this.

#### Majority of Democrats say Biden administration has done only fair or poor job of dealing with Afghanistan

% who rate the job that the Biden administration has done handling the situation in Afghanistan as ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

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The U.S. evacuated thousands of Afghans from the country in the last weeks of August. Most Americans (91%) say they have heard at least a little about Afghans fleeing their country and coming to the U.S.; 39% say they have heard a lot about this.

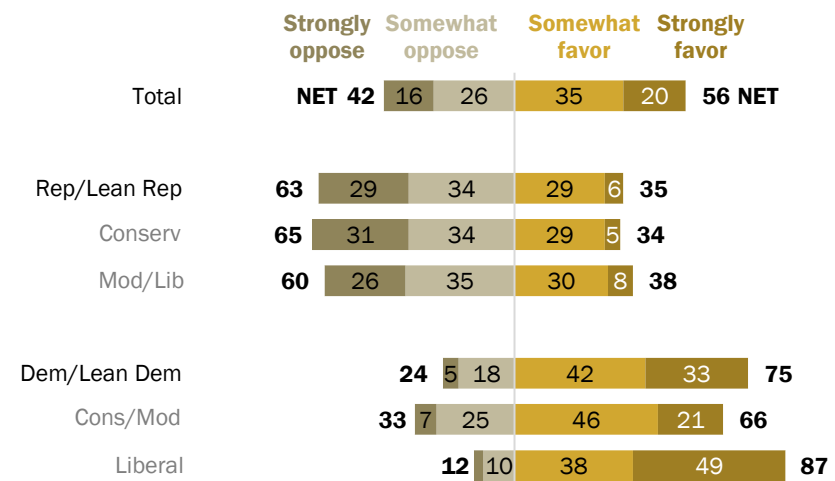
A majority of the public (56%) say they favor admitting thousands of Afghan refugees to the U.S., while 42% are opposed. These views are deeply divided by partisanship.

More than six-in-ten Republicans (63%) either strongly (29%) or somewhat (34%) oppose the U.S. admitting thousands of refugees from Afghanistan into the country. About a third (35%) say they favor admitting these refugees.

Democrats largely favor the U.S. admitting thousands of Afghan refugees. Three-quarters are in favor, including a third who say they strongly favor this. Liberal Democrats (87%) are more likely than conservative and moderate Democrats (66%) to favor this. About half of liberal Democrats (49%) say they *strongly* favor admitting these refugees.

### Liberal Democrats most likely to favor admitting refugees from Afghanistan

% who \_\_\_\_ the U.S. admitting thousands of refugees from Afghanistan into the country



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

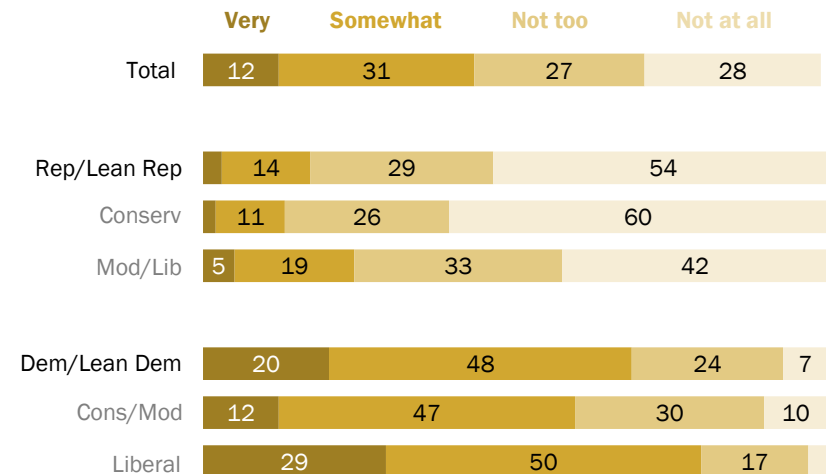
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There are also wide partisan gaps in views of whether the U.S. government is conducting sufficient security screening of refugees from Afghanistan.

Overall, about one-in-ten Americans say they are very confident that the government is conducting adequate security screening of refugees arriving in the U.S. from Afghanistan; 31% say they are somewhat confident, 27% say they are not too confident and 28% say they are not at all confident that the government is adequately screening refugees.

### Majority of Americans lack confidence that U.S. is doing adequate security screenings of Afghan refugees arriving in this country

% who say they are \_\_\_\_\_ confident the government is conducting adequate security screening of refugees from Afghanistan who arrive in the U.S.



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

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Republicans are broadly skeptical of the job the government is doing: 54% say they are not at all confident that the U.S. government is conducting adequate security screening of refugees. This includes six-in-ten conservative Republicans. Moderate and liberal Republicans are slightly more confident in the screening process, though three-quarters say they are not too (33%) or not at all confident (42%) the government is providing adequate screening.

Two-thirds of Democrats say they are at least somewhat confident that the government is conducting adequate security screening of refugees from Afghanistan. About three-in-ten liberal Democrats say they are very confident in this, compared with 12% of moderate and conservative Democrats.

*CORRECTION (Aug. 16, 2022): A previous version of this report misstated the share of Republicans who rated the Biden administration's handling of the situation in Afghanistan as poor (82%), as well as the difference between conservative Republicans and moderate/liberal Republicans who gave this rating (21 points). The figures in the chart were correct. This change does not affect the report's substantive findings.*

## Acknowledgments

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

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## Appendix: Defining income tiers

To create upper-, middle- and lower-income tiers, respondents' 2020 family incomes were adjusted for differences in purchasing power by geographic region and 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 household size). The middle-income range for the American Trends Panel is about \$42,000 to \$125,900 annually for an average family of three. Lower-income families have incomes less than roughly \$42,000, and upper-income families have incomes greater than roughly \$125,900 (all figures expressed in 2020 dollars).

Based on these adjustments, 31% of respondents are lower income, 47% are middle income and 16% fall into the upper-income tier. An additional 6% 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](#).

## 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 from Sept. 13 to Sept. 19, 2021. A total of 10,371 panelists responded out of 11,505 who were sampled, for a response rate of 90%. 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 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 10,371 respondents is plus or minus 1.6 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. Invitations were sent to a stratified, random sample of

#### 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	1,605
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	939
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	470
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS	9,396	8,778	4,434
Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019	ABS	5,900	4,720	1,627
June 1 to July 19, 2020; Feb. 10 to March 31, 2021	ABS	3,197	2,812	1,702
May 29 to July 7, 2021	ABS	1,085	947	728
<b>Total</b>		<b>39,296</b>	<b>27,199</b>	<b>11,505</b>

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. The 2021 recruitment survey was ongoing at the time W95 was conducted. The counts reflect completed recruitment interviews up through July 7, 2021.

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households selected from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. Sampled households receive mailings asking a randomly selected adult to complete a survey online. A question at the end of the survey asks if the respondent is willing to join the ATP. Starting in 2020 another stage was added to the recruitment. Households that do not respond to the online survey are sent a paper version of the questionnaire, \$5 and a postage-paid return envelope. A subset of the adults returning the paper version of the survey are invited to join the ATP. This subset of adults receive a follow-up mailing with a \$10 pre-incentive and invitation to join the ATP.

Across the four address-based recruitments, a total of 19,578 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 17,257 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 27,199 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 11,505 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.<sup>1</sup> 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 non-institutionalized persons ages 18 and older, living in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii.

### **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

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<sup>1</sup> AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. "[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling](#)."

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 Sept. 13 to Sept. 19, 2021. Postcard notifications were mailed to all ATP panelists with a known residential address on Sept. 13, 2021.

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 Sept. 13, 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 Sept. 14, 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.

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#### Invitation and reminder dates

	Soft Launch	Full Launch
Initial invitation	Sept. 13, 2021	Sept. 14, 2021
First reminder	Sept. 16, 2021	Sept. 16, 2021
Final reminder	Sept. 18, 2021	Sept. 18, 2021

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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 very high rates of leaving questions blank, as well as always selecting the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, 2 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. Among respondents to this survey, the base weights for panelists recruited in different years were scaled to be proportionate to the effective sample size for all respondents in their cohort. These base weights were then calibrated to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table and trimmed at the 1st and 99th percentiles to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and test of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

## Weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age x Gender	2019 American Community Survey (ACS)
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	2020 CPS March Supplement
Volunteerism	2019 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2018 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	2021 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Frequency of internet use	
Religious affiliation	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on non-institutionalized 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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Some of the population benchmarks used for weighting come from surveys conducted prior to the coronavirus outbreak that began in February 2020. However, the weighting variables for panelists recruited in 2021 were measured at the time they were recruited to the panel. Likewise, the profile variables for existing panelists were updated from panel surveys conducted in July or August 2021.

This does not pose a problem for most of the variables used in the weighting, which are quite stable at both the population and individual levels. However, volunteerism may have changed over the intervening period in ways that made their 2021 measurements incompatible with the available (pre-pandemic) benchmarks. To address this, volunteerism is weighted using the profile variables that were measured in 2020. For all other weighting dimensions, the more recent panelist measurements from 2021 are used.

For panelists recruited in 2021, plausible values were imputed using the 2020 volunteerism values from existing panelists with similar characteristics. This ensures that any patterns of change that were observed in the existing panelists were also reflected in the new recruits when the weighting was performed.

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.

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Weighted %</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	10,371		1.6 percentage points
Half sample	At least 5,172		2.2 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	4,915	42	2.2 percentage points
Half sample	At least 2,454		3.2 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	5,199	51	2.2 percentage points
Half sample	At least 2,589		3.1 percentage points

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**

<b>Final dispositions</b>	<b>AAPOR code</b>	<b>Total</b>
Completed interview	1.1	10,371
Logged onto survey; broke-off	2.12	127
Logged onto survey; did not complete any items	2.1121	75
Never logged on (implicit refusal)	2.11	921
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	9
Completed interview but was removed for data quality		2
Screened out		0
<b>Total panelists in the survey</b>		<b>11,505</b>
Completed interviews	I	10,371
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	1,125
Non-contact	NC	9
Other	O	0
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>11,505</b>
AAPOR RR1 = $I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)$		90%

<b>Cumulative response rate</b>	<b>Total</b>
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	12%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	69%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 95	42%
Response rate to Wave 95 survey	90%
<b>Cumulative response rate</b>	<b>3%</b>

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*Correction: An earlier version of this document incorrectly said that imputation was used to address pandemic-related changes to population benchmarks used in the weighting on volunteerism and political party affiliation. The corrected text now clarifies that this imputation was done only for volunteerism in this survey.*

**2021 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
WAVE 95 SEPTEMBER 2021  
FINAL TOPLINE  
SEPTEMBER 13-19, 2021  
N=10,371**

**ASK ALL:**

SATIS All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Sep 13-19, 2021	26	74	*
Mar 1-7, 2021	33	66	1
Nov 12-17, 2020	22	77	1
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	18	82	1
July 27-August 2, 2020	12	87	1
June 16-22, 2020	12	87	1
Apr 7-12, 2020	31	68	1
Mar 19-24, 2020	33	66	1
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	31	69	1
Oct 1-13, 2019	28	71	1
July 22-Aug 4, 2019	27	72	1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	34	65	1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	36	63	1
Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017 <sup>2</sup>	32	68	0
Sep 27-Oct 10, 2016	23	75	2
Jun 7-Jul 5, 2016	19	80	1
Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014	25	75	0

**ASK ALL:**

POL1JB Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president?

**ASK IF ANSWERED POL1JB (POL1JB=1,2) [N=10,168]:**

POL1JBSTR Do you [IF POL1JB=1: approve; IF POL1JB=2: disapprove] of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president...

	<b>NET</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>Not so</i>	<i>No</i>	<b>NET</b>	<i>Very</i>	<i>Not so</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>
	<b><u>Approve</u></b>	<i>strongly</i>	<i>strongly</i>	<i>answer</i>	<b><u>Disapprove</u></b>	<i>strongly</i>	<i>strongly</i>	<i>answer</i>	<i>answer</i>
Sep 13-19, 2021	<b>44</b>	27	17	*	<b>53</b>	38	15	1	3
July 8-18, 2021	<b>55</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>43</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	2
Apr 5-11, 2021	<b>59</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>39</b>	n/a	n/a	n/a	2
Mar 1-7, 2021	<b>54</b>	38	15	1	<b>42</b>	29	12	1	4

**See past presidents' approval trends:** [Donald Trump](#), [Barack Obama](#), [George W. Bush](#), [Bill Clinton](#)

<sup>1</sup> The W24.5 Mode Study survey was administered by web and phone. Results reported here are from web mode only.

**[SHOW RLEADAPP AND DLEADAPP ON SAME SCREEN; RANDOMIZE ORDER]****ASK ALL:**

RLEADAPP Do you approve or disapprove of the job the REPUBLICAN leaders in Congress are doing?

Sep 13-19 <u>2021</u>		Apr 5-11 <u>2021</u>	Mar 18- Apr 1 <u>2019</u>	Nov 17- Dec 15 <u>2014</u>	Oct 9-27 <u>2014</u>	May 30- June 30 <u>2014</u>
27	Approve	32	30	29	23	22
70	Disapprove	64	67	70	76	77
3	No answer	4	3	1	1	1

**PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Republican leaders in Congress			
Sep 5-16, 2019	32	59	9
Mar 20-25, 2019	31	63	6
Jun 5-12, 2018	29	63	8
Oct 25-30, 2017	22	71	8
Feb 7-12, 2017	34	60	6
Sep 22-27, 2015	19	73	8
May 12-18, 2015	22	72	6
Feb 18-22, 2015	26	66	8
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	23	68	10
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	21	72	7
Oct 9-13, 2013	20	72	8
Sep 4-8, 2013	24	68	8
May 1-5, 2013	22	68	10
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	25	67	9
Dec 5-9, 2012	25	67	8
Dec 7-11, 2011	21	68	11
Nov 9-14, 2011	23	67	10
Aug 17-21, 2011	22	69	9
Jul 20-24, 2011	25	66	10
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	30	61	9
Feb 24-27, 2011	36	45	19
Sep 30-Oct 3, 2010	24	60	16
Jul 22-25, 2010	33	53	14
Jun 16-20, 2010	31	55	14
Apr 8-11, 2010	30	56	14
Mar 10-14, 2010	25	59	16
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	57	16
Dec 9-13, 2009	29	51	20
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	24	60	17
Jun 10-14, 2009	29	56	15
Mar 9-12, 2009	28	51	21
Feb 4-8, 2009	34	51	15
Early October, 2006	33	56	11
June, 2006	30	53	17
March, 2006	32	50	18
January, 2006	33	52	15
Early November, 2005	33	50	17
Early October, 2005	32	52	16
Mid-September, 2005	36	49	15

**RLEADAPP PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED ...**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Mid-May, 2005	35	50	15
Mid-March, 2005	39	44	17
Early February, 2004	41	42	17
January, 2003	48	37	15
June, 2002	50	34	16
May, 2002	49	34	17
February, 2002	56	24	20
Early September, 2001	43	39	18
June, 2001	40	40	20
May, 2001	45	36	19
April, 2001	45	30	25
January, 2001	43	36	21
July, 2000	36	46	18
May, 2000	40	42	18
July, 1999	36	45	19
June, 1999	37	46	17
May, 1999	38	44	18
March, 1999	38	47	15
February, 1999	37	51	12
January, 1999	38	50	12
Early December, 1998	38	49	13
November, 1998	41	48	11
Early September, 1998	44	37	19
Early August, 1998	43	37	20
June, 1998	42	38	20
May, 1998	40	41	19
April, 1998	41	40	19
March, 1998	43	39	18
January, 1998	43	41	16
November, 1997	41	43	16
August, 1997	42	44	14
June, 1997	33	50	17
May, 1997	40	44	16
April, 1997	40	44	16
February, 1997	44	42	14
January, 1997	38	47	15
July, 1996	38	48	14
June, 1996	36	50	14
April, 1996	39	46	15
March, 1996	35	51	14
February, 1996	33	53	14
January, 1996	36	54	10
October, 1995	36	51	13
September, 1995	36	50	14
August, 1995	38	45	17
June, 1995	41	45	14
April, 1995	44	43	13
March, 1995	43	39	18
December, 1994 <sup>3</sup>	52	28	20

<sup>3</sup> In December 1994, the question was worded: "As best you can tell, do you approve or disapprove of Republican Congressional leaders' policies and plans for the future?"

**ASK ALL:**

DLEADAPP

Do you approve or disapprove of the job the DEMOCRATIC leaders in Congress are doing?

Sep 13-19 2021		Apr 5-11 2021	Mar 18- Apr 1 2019	Nov 17 - Dec 15 2014	Oct 9-27 2014	May 30- June 30 2014
39	Approve	50	41	35	36	38
58	Disapprove	47	55	64	63	61
3	No answer	3	3	1	1	1

**PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Democratic leaders in Congress			
Sep 5-16, 2019	31	59	10
Mar 20-25, 2019	33	59	8
Jun 5-12, 2018	31	59	10
Oct 25-30, 2017	29	62	9
Feb 7-12, 2017	37	55	8
Sep 22-27, 2015	34	60	6
May 12-18, 2015	33	60	6
Feb 18-22, 2015	36	58	7
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	32	60	8
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	34	58	8
Oct 9-13, 2013	31	62	7
Sep 4-8, 2013	33	59	7
Nov 9-14, 2011	30	61	9
Aug 17-21, 2011	29	63	9
Jul 20-24, 2011	30	60	10
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	31	60	9
Feb 24-27, 2011	33	48	19
Sep 30-Oct 3, 2010	30	53	17
Jul 22-25, 2010	35	56	10
Jun 16-20, 2010	35	53	12
Apr 8-11, 2010	38	51	11
Mar 10-14, 2010	31	57	12
Jan 6-10, 2010	35	53	11
Dec 9-13, 2009	36	47	17
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	33	53	15
Jun 10-14, 2009	42	45	13
Mar 9-12, 2009	47	35	18
Feb 4-8, 2009	48	38	14
August, 2008	31	58	11
January, 2008	31	53	16
November, 2007	35	50	15
October, 2007	31	54	15
July, 2007	33	54	13
June, 2007	34	49	17
April, 2007	36	43	21

**DLEADAPP PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED ...**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
March, 2007 <sup>4</sup>	37	42	21
February, 2007	41	36	23
Mid-January, 2007	39	34	27
Early October, 2006	35	53	12
June, 2006	32	50	18
March, 2006	34	46	20
January, 2006	34	48	18
Early November, 2005	36	44	20
Early October, 2005	32	48	20
Mid-September, 2005	36	45	19
Mid-May, 2005	39	41	20
Mid-March, 2005	37	44	19
Early February, 2004	38	42	20
January, 2002	54	24	22
June, 2002	47	36	17
May, 2002	42	37	21
February, 2002	49	30	21
Early Sept, 2001	49	30	21
June, 2001	50	28	22

**ASK FORM 1 [N=5,172]:**

JBCONF Thinking about Joe Biden's ability to handle a number of things, how confident are you that Joe Biden can do each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

		<u>Very</u> <u>confident</u>	<u>Somewhat</u> <u>confident</u>	<u>Not too</u> <u>confident</u>	<u>Not at all</u> <u>confident</u>	<u>No</u> <u>answer</u>
PUBH	Handle the public health impact of the coronavirus outbreak					
	Sep 13-19, 2021	21	30	19	30	*
	Mar 1-7, 2021	32	33	16	19	*
	Nov 12-17, 2020	26	32	18	24	1
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	23	31	20	25	1
	June 16-22, 2020	15	37	21	26	1
FRGN	Make good decisions about foreign policy					
	Sep 13-19, 2021	17	29	20	34	*
	Mar 1-7, 2021	25	31	17	26	1
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	22	30	18	29	1
	June 16-22, 2020	16	33	21	28	1
ECON	Make good decisions about economic policy					
	Sep 13-19, 2021	17	31	19	32	1
	Mar 1-7, 2021	24	32	17	27	*
	Nov 12-17, 2020	21	31	19	28	1
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	17	33	19	30	1
	June 16-22, 2020	12	35	23	29	1

<sup>4</sup> In March 2007 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Democratic leaders in Congress?"

<b>JBCONF CONTINUED...</b>		<u>Very confident</u>	<u>Somewhat confident</u>	<u>Not too confident</u>	<u>Not at all confident</u>	<u>No answer</u>
IMMI	Make wise decisions about immigration policy					
	Sep 13-19, 2021	14	29	20	37	1
	Mar 1-7, 2021	22	31	15	31	*
CLSR	Bring the country closer together					
	Sep 13-19, 2021	9	25	28	37	1
	Mar 1-7, 2021	15	33	24	28	1
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	17	32	20	29	1
	June 16-22, 2020	14	30	25	30	1
MILI	Use military force wisely					
	Sep 13-19, 2021	17	28	20	34	1
	<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
	<i>Make good decisions about the use of military force</i>					
	Feb 1-7, 2021	29	30	17	23	1

**ASK FORM 2 [N=5,199]:**BIDENDESC How well does each of the following describe Joe Biden? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

		<u>Very well</u>	<u>Fairly well</u>	<u>Not too well</u>	<u>Not at all well</u>	<u>No answer</u>
MDL	A good role model					
	Sep 13-19, 2021	21	27	20	31	1
	Mar 1-7, 2021	29	29	18	23	1
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	22	30	23	23	2
	June 16-22, 2020	14	31	24	28	2
ORD	Cares about the needs of ordinary people					
	Sep 13-19, 2021	24	29	19	27	1
	Mar 1-7, 2021	32	30	15	23	*
	June 16-22, 2020	20	33	22	23	2
MENT	Mentally sharp					
	Sep 13-19, 2021	14	30	21	35	1
	Mar 1-7, 2021	20	34	17	29	*
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	13	33	22	31	1
STND	Stands up for what he believes in					
	Sep 13-19, 2021	28	33	19	20	1
	Mar 1-7, 2021	32	34	17	16	1
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	26	35	21	16	2
HON	Honest					
	Sep 13-19, 2021	20	30	21	28	1
	Mar 1-7, 2021	25	32	20	23	1
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	20	32	23	24	2
	June 16-22, 2020	13	33	25	28	2
	Feb 4-15, 2020	12	24	19	44	1

**BIDENDESC CONTINUED...**

		<u>Very well</u>	<u>Fairly well</u>	<u>Not too well</u>	<u>Not at all well</u>	<u>No answer</u>
RESP	Takes responsibility for his actions					
	Sep 13-19, 2021	22	27	20	30	1

**ASK ALL:**

JBECON Since taking office, have Joe Biden's economic policies made economic conditions...

Sep 13-19

2021

26	Better
40	Worse
33	Not had much of an effect
1	No answer

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**[RANDOMIZE ECON1-ECON1B AND PERSFNC-PERSFNCB IN BLOCKS, SHOWING ITEMS IN ORDER WITHIN BLOCKS (ECON1 AND PERSFNC ALWAYS FIRST). DISPLAY EACH ITEM SEPARATELY ON ITS OWN PAGE.]**

**ASK ALL:**

ECON1 Thinking about the nation's economy...  
How would you rate economic conditions in this country today?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Sep 13-19, 2021	2	24	50	24	*
Apr 20-29, 2021	2	35	49	14	*
Mar 1-7, 2021	2	21	53	24	*
Nov 12-17, 2020	5	31	44	20	*
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	4	29	42	25	*
June 16-22, 2020	4	22	44	30	1
Apr 7-12, 2020	4	19	38	38	1
Jan 6-19, 2020	16	42	33	9	*
Sep 16-29, 2019	10	46	35	8	*
July 22-Aug 4, 2019	14	43	32	11	*
Nov 7-16, 2018	13	46	31	9	1
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	12	45	32	11	*
Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017	2	37	43	17	0
Oct 25-Nov 8, 2016	2	30	47	21	*
Apr 29-May 27, 2014	1	18	50	30	1

**ASK ALL:**

ECON1B A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in the country as a whole will be...

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	About the same as <u>now</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Sep 13-19, 2021	29	37	34	1
Apr 20-29, 2021	45	28	27	1
Mar 1-7, 2021	44	31	24	*
Nov 12-17, 2020	42	32	24	2
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	52	17	30	1
June 16-22, 2020	50	22	27	1
Apr 7-12, 2020	55	22	22	1
Jan 6-19, 2020	29	26	45	1
Sep 16-29, 2019	20	32	48	*
July 22-Aug 4, 2019 <sup>5</sup>	28	28	44	*

**[RANDOMIZE ECON1-ECON1B AND PERSFNC-PERSFNCB IN BLOCKS, SHOWING ITEMS IN ORDER WITHIN BLOCKS (ECON1 AND PERSFNC ALWAYS FIRST). DISPLAY EACH ITEM SEPARATELY ON ITS OWN PAGE.]**

**ASK ALL:**

PERSFNC Thinking about your personal finances...  
How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in...

	<u>Excellent shape</u>	<u>Good shape</u>	<u>Only fair shape</u>	<u>Poor shape</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Sep 13-19, 2021	9	41	36	13	1
Jan 19-24, 2021	12	41	32	14	*
Apr 7-12, 2020	7	40	37	16	*
Jul 22-Aug 4, 2019	10	40	34	15	1

**ASK ALL:**

PERSFNCB A year from now, do you expect that the financial situation of you and your family will be...

Sep 13-19 <u>2021</u>		Apr 7-12 <u>2020</u>	July 22-Aug 4 <u>2019</u>
36	Better	42	43
14	Worse	12	8
49	About the same as now	46	48
*	No answer	*	1

<sup>5</sup> In the survey conducted from July 22- August 4, 2019, response options for this question were not randomized.

**ASK ALL:**

ECONCONC

How concerned, if at all, are you personally about each of the following economic issues in the country today? **[RANDOMIZE]**

		<u>Very concerned</u>	<u>Somewhat concerned</u>	<u>Not too concerned</u>	<u>Not at all concerned</u>	<u>No answer</u>
INFL	Rising prices for food and consumer goods Sep 13-19, 2021	63	30	6	1	*
HOU	People facing eviction or foreclosure Sep 13-19, 2021	35	37	21	7	1
UNEM	People who want to work being unable to find jobs Sep 13-19, 2021	29	32	23	15	*
	Nov 12-17, 2020	21	31	19	28	1
LAB	Employers being unable to find workers to hire Sep 13-19, 2021	42	37	15	6	*

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

INFRASTRUC21A

As you may know, last month the Senate passed an infrastructure bill that the House of Representatives is set to consider later this month.

About half of the \$1.2 trillion bill is new funding over the next ten years for improvements to the country's infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, public transit, and internet access. From what you've seen and heard, do you favor or oppose this bill?

Sep 13-19  
2021

51	Favor
20	Oppose
29	Not sure
*	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

INFRASTRUC21B

And, as you may know, in the next few months House and Senate budget resolutions will be voted on through a process known as reconciliation.

A proposed reconciliation package contains about \$3.5 trillion in funding over the next ten years for universal pre-K education, expanding Medicare, reducing carbon emissions, and other projects. From what you've seen and heard, do you favor or oppose this package?

Sep 13-19  
2021

49	Favor
25	Oppose
25	Not sure
1	No answer

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****RANDOMIZE TAXRATES400 AND TAXRATESBUS****ASK ALL:**

TAXRATES400 Should tax rates on household income over \$400,000 be... **[REVERSE ORDER 4-1 FOR RANDOM HALF SAMPLE AND SHOW IN SAME ORDER FOR TAXRATESBUS, KEEP 5 LAST]**

	<b>NET</b>	<i>Raised</i>	<i>Raised</i>	<b>NET</b>	<i>Lowered</i>	<i>Lowered</i>	Kept the same	No
	<b><u>Raised</u></b>	<u>a lot</u>	<u>a little</u>	<b><u>Lowered</u></b>	<u>a lot</u>	<u>a little</u>	<u>as they are now</u>	<u>answer</u>
Sep 13-19, 2021	<b>61</b>	26	35	<b>13</b>	5	7	24	2

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

*Should tax rates on household income over \$250,000 be...*

	<b>NET</b>	<i>Raised</i>	<i>Raised</i>	<b>NET</b>	<i>Lowered</i>	<i>Lowered</i>	Kept the same	No
	<b><u>Raised</u></b>	<u>a lot</u>	<u>a little</u>	<b><u>Lowered</u></b>	<u>a lot</u>	<u>a little</u>	<u>as they are now</u>	<u>answer</u>
Sep 3-15, 2019	58	22	36	16	11	5	22	4

**ASK ALL:**

TAXRATESBUS Should tax rates on large businesses and corporations be... **[SHOW OPTIONS 1-4 IN SAME ORDER AS TAXRATES400, KEEP 5 LAST]**

	<b>NET</b>	<i>Raised</i>	<i>Raised</i>	<b>NET</b>	<i>Lowered</i>	<i>Lowered</i>	Kept the same	No
	<b><u>Raised</u></b>	<u>a lot</u>	<u>a little</u>	<b><u>Lowered</u></b>	<u>a lot</u>	<u>a little</u>	<u>as they are now</u>	<u>answer</u>
Sep 13-19, 2021	<b>66</b>	37	29	<b>12</b>	5	7	21	2
Sep 3-15, 2019	68	42	27	11	8	3	16	4

**PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

*Thinking about taxes, do you think tax rates on large businesses and corporations should be raised a lot, raised a little, lowered a little, lowered a lot] or should they be kept the same as they are now?*

	<b>NET</b>	<i>Raised</i>	<i>Raised</i>	<b>NET</b>	<i>Lowered</i>	<i>Lowered</i>	Kept the same	<b>(VOL.)</b>
	<b><u>Raised</u></b>	<u>a lot</u>	<u>a little</u>	<b><u>Lowered</u></b>	<u>a lot</u>	<u>a little</u>	<u>as they are now</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
Aug 15-21, 2017	52	25	27	24	10	14	21	3

**ASK ALL:**

AFG\_EGFP How would you rate the job the Biden administration has done handling the situation in Afghanistan?

Sep 13-19		Aug 23-29
<u>2021</u>		<u>2021</u>
5	Excellent	6
19	Good	21
26	Only fair	29
48	Poor	42
2	No answer	2

**ASK ALL:**

AFG21\_1 How much, if anything, have you heard or read about thousands of refugees fleeing Afghanistan and coming to the U.S.?

Sep 13-19

2021

39	A lot
52	A little
9	Nothing at all
1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

AFG21\_2 All in all, do you favor or oppose the United States admitting thousands of refugees from Afghanistan into the country?

Sep 13-19

2021

20	Strongly favor
35	Somewhat favor
26	Somewhat oppose
16	Strongly oppose
2	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

AFG21\_5 How confident, if at all, are you that the government is conducting adequate security screening of refugees from Afghanistan who arrive in the U.S.?

Sep 13-19

2021

12	Very confident
31	Somewhat confident
27	Not too confident
28	Not at all confident
2	No answer

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

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

**ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING [N=3,764]:**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...<sup>6</sup>

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	Something else	No answer	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
	26	32	26	13	2	16	19

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

(U) Pew Research Center/USA Today polls

<sup>6</sup> PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.