## Pew Research Center

FOR RELEASE SEPTEMBER 14, 2020

# Americans' Views of Government: Low Trust, but Some Positive Performance Ratings 

Majorities in both parties say federal government should play a major role on public health, economy, many other areas

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, September, 2020,
"Americans’ Views of Government: Low Trust, but
Some Positive Performance Ratings"

## About Pew Research Center

Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping the world. It does not take policy positions. The Center conducts public opinion polling, demographic research, content analysis and other data-driven social science research. It studies U.S. politics and policy; journalism and media; internet, science and technology; religion and public life; Hispanic trends; global attitudes and trends; and U.S. social and demographic trends. All of the Center's reports are available at www.pewresearch.org. Pew Research Center is a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts, its primary funder.

[^0]
## How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand Americans' evaluations of the federal government's performance in a variety of areas, as well as their attitudes about the proper size and role of government. For this analysis, we surveyed U.S. adults online and by telephone.

We surveyed 11,001 U.S. adults online in July and August 2020. Everyone who took part 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.

We also surveyed 1,750 U.S. adults by telephone in July and August 2020. The surveys were conducted in both English and Spanish over the phone under the direction of Abt Associates. Respondents to this survey were randomly selected via a combination of landline and cellphone random-digit-dial samples. To ensure that the results of this survey reflect a balanced crosssection of the nation, the data are weighted to match the U.S. adult population by gender, age, education, race and ethnicity and other categories.

Here are the questions used for the report, along with responses, and its methodology.

## Americans' Views of Government: Low Trust, but Some Positive Performance Ratings <br> Majorities in both parties say federal government should play a major role on public health, economy, many other areas

For years, public trust in the federal government has hovered at near-record lows. That remains the case today, as the United States struggles with a pandemic and economic recession. Just 20\% of U.S. adults say they trust the government in Washington to "do the right thing" just about always or most of the time.

Yet Americans also have long expressed positive views of the federal government's performance in several specific areas. And majorities want the government to play a major role on everything from keeping the country safe from terrorism to ensuring access to health care and alleviating poverty.

Attitudes about the appropriate role for government and its performance have changed only modestly since 2017, though Democrats have become more critical of government performance in some areas since then.

Among the public overall, majorities say the government

## Positive views of government's handling of terrorism, disasters; negative views on public health, poverty

$\%$ who say the federal government is doing a $\qquad$ job in each area


Note: Don't know responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 23-Aug. 4, 2020.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER does a very good or somewhat good job keeping the country safe from terrorism (72\%), responding to natural disasters (62\%),
ensuring safe food and medicine (62\%), strengthening the economy (54\%) and maintaining infrastructure (53\%).

Americans are far more critical of how the government handles several other issues, including managing the immigration system (just $34 \%$ say it does a good job), helping people get out of poverty (36\%) and effectively handling threats to public health (42\%).

Partisanship continues to be a major factor in attitudes about the government's performance and its role. Republicans and Republican-leaning independents are broadly positive about the government's performance in most areas. Still, while substantial majorities of Republicans say the government is doing well in dealing in addressing natural disasters (89\%), terrorism (87\%) and the economy ( $80 \%$ ), far fewer rate the government's performance positively when it comes to helping people get out of poverty (59\%) or managing the immigration system (58\%).

Democrats and Democratic leaners are far more negative; for example, just $18 \%$ say the government does a good job assisting people to get out of poverty, while $17 \%$ give the government positive ratings for dealing with public health threats.

There is more common ground among partisans in views of the role the government should play. Large majorities of Democrats (no fewer than about three-quarters) say the government should play a major role in all 10 areas included in the survey. Republicans are less uniformly supportive of a significant government role, but half or more say it should play a major role in nine of 10.

These are among the findings of Pew Research Center's study of attitudes about government, which updates studies from $\underline{2019, ~ \underline{2017}}$ and $\underline{2015}$. This study is based on two national surveys by Pew Research Center: A survey conducted July 27-Aug. 2 among 11,001 U.S. adults, including 9,114 registered voters, on the Center's American Trends Panel; and a separate survey, conducted July 23-Aug. 4 on cellphones and landlines among 1,750 U.S. adults, including 1,455 registered voters.

## Other findings from the surveys

Just 20\% trust the federal government. During the last three presidencies - through the final years of the George W. Bush administration and the presidencies of Barack Obama and Donald Trump, the share of Americans who say they trust the government just about always or most of the time has been below 30\%. Today, 20\% say they trust the government. While the share of Republicans who trust the government has increased during Trump's time as president, only $28 \%$ say they trust the government, compared with $12 \%$ of Democrats.

## Democrats' anger at federal government rises.

Among both Democrats and Republicans, the dominant feeling toward the federal government is frustration, rather than anger or contentment. Still, roughly a third of Democrats (34\%) say they are angry with the federal government, the highest share in more than two decades. Among Republicans, anger at the federal government decreased sharply when Trump became president. Today, $14 \%$ say they are angry with the federal government.

## Public trust in federal government near historic lows for over 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.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.
Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020), Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier), National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times, and CNN polls.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Majority continues to say that Americans can solve problems. Despite the pandemic and the grim national mood, a majority of adults (57\%) continue to say that, as Americans, we can always find ways to solve our problems and get what we want. This is essentially unchanged since September 2019, when $55 \%$ expressed optimism in the country's ability to solve its problems.

Republicans are somewhat more likely than Democrats to say that Americans can always find ways to solve our problems. Nearly two-thirds of Republicans say this (65\%), compared with half of Democrats.

Majority of Americans say the country 'can always find ways to solve our problems'
\% who say ...


Note: No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Majorities of both Republicans and Democrats see a major role for the federal government in many areas

Majorities of adults say that the federal government should play a major role on a wide variety of issues. Roughly nine-in-ten say the government should play a major role in keeping the country safe from terrorism (91\%), responding to natural disasters (87\%) and ensuring safe food and medicine ( $87 \%$ ). Smaller majorities say it should play a major role in helping people get out of poverty ( $62 \%$ ) and ensuring access to health care ( $65 \%$ )

Across the board, substantial majorities of Democrats and Democratic leaners say that government should play a major role in addressing these issues. There is greater variance in opinions among Republicans and GOP leaners. While 95\% of Republicans say the government should have a major role in keeping the country safe from terrorism, and a sizable majority says the same about managing the immigration system ( $85 \%$ ), only about half say the government should play a major role in protecting the environment (52\%) or helping people get out of poverty (50\%). And just four-in-ten Republicans (42\%) say the federal government should play a major role in ensuring access to health care.

Republicans and Democrats are farthest apart in how they view government's role in ensuring access to health care, with a 43 percentage point gap between the share in each party who say the federal government should have a major role. There is also a 38 -point gap on the issue of protecting the environment and a 24 -point gap on helping people out of poverty, with Democrats more likely to say the government should have a major role in each case.


Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 23-Aug. 4, 2020.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Republicans are slightly more likely than Democrats to say the federal government should have a major role in managing the U.S. immigration system ( $85 \%$ of Republicans vs. $78 \%$ of Democrats) and keeping the country safe from terrorism ( $95 \%$ vs. $89 \%$ ). Nearly identical shares of Republicans ( $77 \%$ ) and Democrats ( $79 \%$ ) say the government should play a major role in strengthening the economy.

## More want government to play a major role than say it does a good job

Majorities of adults say the federal government should play a major role in 10 issue areas included on the survey, including protecting the environment, maintaining infrastructure and helping people get out of poverty. And yet the shares who say the federal government is doing a good job on each of these issues are consistently much lower than the shares who want it to play a major role.

This gap is largest when it comes to managing the U.S. immigration system. About eight-inten adults (81\%) say the federal government should play a major role in managing the U.S. immigration system, though about one-third (34\%) say it is doing a good job of this. And nearly eight-in-ten (78\%) say the federal government should play a major role in handling threats to public health, while $42 \%$ say it is doing a good job.

## Sizable gap between public's views of government's role and its performance

$\%$ who say the federal government ...

| Is doing |
| :---: |
| Keeping the country |
| safe from terrorism |


| Responding to |
| :---: |
| natural disasters |


| Ensuring safe food |
| :---: |
| and medicine |

a major role

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 23-Aug. 4, 2020.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Republicans much more likely to say the government is doing a good job of handling threats to public health, responding to natural disasters

More than three years into the Trump administration, the partisan divides over assessments of the federal government's performance in a number of issue areas have grown, with Republicans much more likely than Democrats to provide a positive assessment of the job the federal government is doing.

Republicans are especially positive in their assessments of the government's performance in responding to natural disasters, with nearly nine-in-ten Republicans (89\%) saying the government is doing a very or somewhat good job of this. Large majorities of Republicans also say the government is doing a very or somewhat good job of keeping the country safe from terrorism (87\%) and strengthening the economy (80\%).

The only area in which a majority of Democrats say the federal government is doing a very or somewhat good job is in keeping the country safe from terrorism, with 61\% of Democrats saying this. Half of Democrats also say the government is doing a good job of ensuring safe food and medicine.

Amid national concerns over the coronavirus outbreak, $70 \%$ of Republicans say the federal government is doing a very or somewhat good job of effectively handling threats to public health, compared with just $17 \%$ of Democrats.

## Largest partisan gaps in views of government performance on handling public health, disasters, environment

\% who say the federal government is doing a very/somewhat good job

|  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Dem/ <br> Responding to <br> natural disasters | Rep/ <br> Lean Rep | Diff. |

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 23-Aug. 4, 2020. PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Republicans and Democrats are similarly divided in their assessments of the job the federal government is doing in protecting the environment and in responding to natural disasters.

Republicans are at least 50 percentage points more likely than Democrats to say the government is doing a good job in each case.

On several issues, the gap between Republicans' and Democrats assessments of the federal government's performance has increased since December 2017, shortly after Donald Trump's election as president.

And the differences have increased even more since 2015, when Barack Obama was president.

On protecting the environment, for example, comparable shares of Republicans (62\%) and Democrats (58\%) said the government was doing a good job in 2015.

In 2017, more than twice as many Republicans ( $71 \%$ ) as Democrats (28\%) gave the government positive ratings. Today, the gap is even wider ( $73 \%$ of Republicans, $18 \%$ of Democrats).

Similarly, five years ago majorities of Democrats (82\%) and Republicans (78\%) said the federal government did a good job responding to natural disasters. The share of Democrats who express
positive views of the government's handling of natural disasters declined to $51 \%$ in 2017 and $39 \%$ today. Republicans have remained overwhelmingly positive ( $89 \%$ currently).

The partisan gap in the government's handling of immigration has increased markedly after Trump's election. The share of Republicans saying the government is doing a good job of this has increased from $38 \%$ to $58 \%$ since 2017, while the share of Democrats saying the government is doing a good job has decreased from $29 \%$ to $14 \%$.

## Public trust in government remains low

Since the onset of the Great
Recession in 2007, the share of Americans who say they trust the federal government to do what is right just about always or most of the time has hovered near 20\%. This remains true today, with $2 \%$ saying they trust the government just about always and $18 \%$ saying they trust the government most of the time. Nearly eight-in-ten (79\%) say they trust the federal government to do what is right either some of the time ( $65 \%$ ) or never ( $14 \%$ ).

Public trust in the federal government has been low for more than a decade
\% who say they trust the federal government to do what is right just about always/most of the time


```
'58'60'64 '68'72 '76 '80 '84 '88 '92 '96 '00 '04 '08 '12 '16 20
```

Note: From 1976-2020 the trend line represents a three-survey moving average.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.
Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020), Pew Research
Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier), National Election Studies, Gallup,
ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times, and CNN polls. See Appendix for details.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Among Republicans, trust in the federal government has increased since the end of Barack Obama's presidency. A within-administration moving average places the average share of Republicans who trusted the federal government just about always or most of the time at $11 \%$ shortly before the 2016 presidential election. The average share of Republicans expressing trust in the federal government increased to $25 \%$ in April 2017 and currently stands at $28 \%$.

## Republicans' trust in the federal government has increased since the beginning of Trump's term in office

\% 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 July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.
Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020), Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier), National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times, and CNN polls.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Today, just $12 \%$ of Democrats trust the federal government to do what is right - an historic low. Prior to Trump's inauguration, the lowest average share of Democrats saying they trusted the government always or most of the time over the more than 60 years since the question was first asked, was $17 \%$, towards the end of George W. Bush's administration (and prior to the 2008 election) in 2008. More Democrats now say they never trust the federal government to do what is right (17\%) than say they can trust it always or most of the time.

Overall feelings about the federal government are little different than they were in March 2019. About a quarter (24\%) say they feel angry toward the federal government today ( $21 \%$ said this in March 2019). A $57 \%$ majority reports frustration, while $18 \%$ say they are basically content.

Overall feelings toward the federal government have been remarkably stable over the past five years. The shares who say they are angry (24\%), frustrated (57\%) and content (18\%) with the government are each identical or nearly identical to October 2015.

## Overall feelings toward the federal government have been steady in recent years

Feeling toward the federal government (\%)
$■$ Angry $\quad$ Frustrated $\quad$ Basically content


Note: No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.
Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020), Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier).
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

While the overall share who are angry is unchanged, Republicans and Democrats have moved in opposite directions since 2015. A year before the 2016 presidential election, one-third of Republicans said they were angry with the government, compared with about one-in-ten Democrats (11\%). About a year after Trump's inauguration, the share of Republicans saying they were angry had declined to $19 \%$, while the share of Democrats saying this had increased to 29\%. Today, about one-third of Democrats (34\%) say they are angry, compared with just $14 \%$ of Republicans.

## About a third of Democrats now say they feel angry toward the government

\% who say they feel 'angry' toward the federal government


Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.
Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020), Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Partisan divisions persist over size, role of government

Nearly six-in-ten U.S. adults (59\%) say the government should do more to solve problems, compared with about four-in-ten (39\%) who say government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals.

The share who say government should do more to solve problems has increased slightly, by 4 percentage points, since September 2019. The share who say this is 12 points higher than it was in April 2015.

While two-thirds of Republicans (66\%) say that government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals, the share of Republicans and Republican leaners who say government should do more to solve problems has increased - from $23 \%$ to $32 \%$ - since 2015.

Among Democrats and Democratic leaners, the share who say government should do more to solve problems has increased from about twothirds (68\%) in 2015 to about eight-in-ten (82\%) today.

## Nearly six-in-ten say government should do more to solve problems

```
% who say ...
Government should do more to solve problems
```



Government is doing too many things better left to businesses and individuals

| 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

\% who say government should do more to solve problems


Rep/Lean Rep

23
$20152016 \quad 2017 \quad 2018 \quad 2019 \quad 2020$

Note: No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

About half of Americans (52\%) say they prefer a bigger government providing more services, while $45 \%$ say they prefer a smaller government providing fewer services.
(Americans'views on this question about the size of government have held relatively steady over the past four years. However, there are modest mode differences on this question. Therefore, caution should be used in comparing responses to this question from the current online American Trends Panel survey to the long-term phone trend. Please see the appendix for more details.)

Men are nearly evenly divided, with about half (51\%) preferring a smaller government and a similar share

## Large partisan gap in views of size of government

$\%$ who say they would rather have a ...


Notes: White and Black 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 July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER
(48\%) preferring a larger government. Among women, a majority (56\%) prefer a bigger government, while four-in-ten prefer a smaller government.

White adults are much more likely than Black or Hispanic adults to prefer a smaller government providing fewer services. There are notable differences among age groups, as well: More than six-in-ten adults ages 18 to 29 (64\%) prefer a bigger government, as do a narrower majority of 30 - to 49-year-olds (56\%). Adults ages 50 to 64 are evenly divided, while those 65 and older are the only age group in which a majority ( $55 \%$ ) prefer a smaller government.

Republicans and Democrats are sharply divided in their views of the size of government. About three-quarters of Republicans (74\%) say they prefer a smaller government providing fewer services. A nearly identical share of Democrats (76\%) say they prefer a bigger government
providing more services. Among conservative Republicans, more than eight-in-ten (83\%) prefer a smaller government that provides fewer services; an identical share of liberal Democrats prefer a larger government that provides more services.

## Appendix

In recent years, Pew Research Center has transitioned from probability-based telephone surveys to the American Trends Panel, a probability-based online panel. The transition from phone surveys conducted with an interviewer to online self-administered surveys brings with it the possibility of mode differences - differences arising from the method of interviewing.

This appendix includes opinion measures about trust in the federal government, feeling toward the federal government and views of the size of government. These questions, which have longstanding telephone trends, were included on an American Trends Panel (ATP) survey conducted at the end of July and the beginning of August and on a roughly contemporaneous telephone survey.

## About eight-in-ten U.S. adults trust the federal government only some of the time or never



Note: No answer responses not shown.
Source: American Trends Panel online survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020. Phone survey conducted July 23-Aug. 4, 2020.

## PEW RESEARCH CENTER

In the online survey, $20 \%$ say they trust the federal government to do what is right just about always or most of the time, while $79 \%$ say they trust the federal government some of the time or never. This is nearly identical to views on the phone survey ( $20 \%$ to $78 \%$ ). This consistency between the telephone and online surveys is also the case within partisan groups.

Because trust in government as measured on the ATP has closely tracked trust measured on phone surveys since the Center began asking about trust online nearly six years ago, we are transitioning from using phone data to track this key trend to using ATP data beginning with surveys conducted during the current year.

Feeling toward the federal government has also been highly consistent on contemporaneous surveys conducted online and by phone. In the most recent ATP survey, $18 \%$ of U.S. adults say they are basically content with the federal government, compared with $57 \%$ who say they are frustrated and $24 \%$ who say they are angry. In the phone survey conducted at the same time, $19 \%$ say they are basically content, $54 \%$ say they are frustrated and $24 \%$ say they are angry. Views on this question are also nearly identical within partisan groups across the two survey modes.

Another long-standing phone trend asks whether U.S. adults prefer a smaller government providing fewer services or a bigger government providing more services. The American Trends Panel survey finds that $52 \%$ say they prefer a bigger government, compared with $45 \%$ who prefer a smaller government.

## Americans remain closely divided over preferred size of government

\% who say they would rather have a ...

> Bigger government, more services
> Smaller government, fewer services


Note: No answer responses not shown
Source: American Trends Panel online survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020. Phone survey conducted July 23-Aug. 4, 2020.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The contemporaneous phone survey shows a closer divide, with $45 \%$ saying they prefer a bigger government and $48 \%$ saying they prefer a smaller government. Both Republicans and Democrats are somewhat more likely to say they prefer a bigger government that provides more services online than on the phone. One-quarter of Republican American Trends Panel members say they prefer a bigger government, compared with $19 \%$ of Republicans in the phone survey. Among Democrats, $76 \%$ say they prefer a bigger government in the online survey versus $69 \%$ in the phone survey.

## 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
Andrew Daniller, Research Associate
Bradley Jones, Research Associate
Hannah Hartig, Research Associate
Amina Dunn, Research Analyst
Hannah Gilberstadt, Research Assistant
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
Sara Atske, Associate Digital Producer
Travis Mitchell, Digital Producer

## Methodology

Nick Bertoni, Senior Panel Manager

## Methodology

## The American Trends Panel survey methodology

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 July 27 to Aug. 2, 2020. A total of 11,001 panelists responded out of 14,407 who were sampled, for a response rate of $76 \%$.
This does not include 10 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 $4.2 \%$. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and

## American Trends Panel recruitment surveys

| Recruitment dates | Mode <br> Landline/ | Invited | Joined | Active <br> panelists <br> remaining |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014 | cell RDD | 9,809 | 5,338 | 2,303 |
| Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015 | Landline/ <br> cell RDD | 6,004 | 2,976 | 1,335 |
| April 25 to June 4, 2017 | Landline/ | cell RDD | 3,905 | 1,628 |
| Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018 | ABS/web | 9,396 | 8,778 | 684 |
| Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019 | ABS/web | 5,900 | 4,720 | 4.681 |
|  | Total | $\mathbf{3 5 , 0 1 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 3 , 4 4 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 5 , 4 0 6}$ |

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.
PEW RESEARCH CENTER completed at least one item is $1.3 \%$. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 11,001 respondents is plus or minus 1.5 percentage points.

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 agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based recruitment. Invitations were sent to a random, address-based sample of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. 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. For a random halfsample of invitations, households without internet access were instructed to return a postcard. These households were contacted by telephone and sent a tablet if they agreed to participate. A total of 9,396 were invited to join the panel, and 8,778 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. The same recruitment procedure was carried out on August 19, 2019, from which a total of 5,900 were invited to join the panel, 4,720 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. Of the 23,440 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 15,406 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.

[^1]
## Weighting

The ATP data was weighted in a multistep process that begins with a base weight incorporating the respondents' original selection probability. The next step in the weighting uses an iterative technique that aligns the sample to population benchmarks on the dimensions listed in the accompanying table.

Sampling errors and test of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

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.

| Weighting dimensions |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Variable | Benchmark |
| Gender | 2018 American |
| Age | Community Survey |
| Education |  |
| Race/Hispanic origin |  |
| Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Asians |  |
| Country of birth among Hispanics |  |
| Years lived in the United States |  |
| Home internet access |  |
| Region x Metropolitan status | 2019 CPS March Supplement |
| Volunteerism | 2017 CPS <br> Volunteering \& Civic Life Supplement |
| Voter registration | 2018 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement |
| Party affiliation | Average of the three most recent Pew Research Center telephone surveys. |

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.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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:

| Group | Unweighted sample size | Weighted \% | Plus or minus ... |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total sample | 11,001 |  | 1.5 percentage points |
| Half sample | At least 5,500 |  | 2.1 percentage points |
| Rep/Lean Rep | 4,507 | 45 | 2.2 percentage points |
| Half sample | At least 2,230 |  | 3.1 percentage points |
| Dem/Lean Dem | 6,132 | 51 | 2.0 percentage points |
| Half sample | At least 3,033 |  | 2.8 percentage points |

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.
© Pew Research Center, 2020

## Telephone survey conducted July 23-Aug. 4, 2020

Some of the analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted July 23-Aug. 4, 2020, among a national sample of 1,750 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia ( 350 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,400 were interviewed on a cellphone, including 955 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers under the direction of Abt Associates. A combination of landline and cellphone random-digit-dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Dynata. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. The weighting procedure corrected for the different sampling rates. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see http://www.pewresearch.org/methodology/u-s-survey-research/.

The combined landline and cellphone sample is weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey one-year estimates and population density to parameters from the decennial census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status (landline only, cellphone only, or both landline and cellphone), based on extrapolations from the 2019 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cellphones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. The margins of error reported and statistical tests of significance are adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, a measure of how much efficiency is lost from the weighting procedures.

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 conducted July 23-August 4, 2020 |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Group | Unweighted sample size | Weighted \% | Plus or minus ... |
| Total sample | 1,750 |  | 2.7 percentage points |
| Half sample | At least 849 |  | 3.9 percentage points |
| Rep/Lean Rep | 788 | 42 | 4.1 percentage points |
| Half sample | At least 386 |  | 5.8 percentage points |
| Dem/Lean Dem | 811 | 48 | 4.0 percentage points |
| Half sample | At least 390 |  | 5.8 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.

Pew Research Center undertakes all polling activity, including calls to mobile telephone numbers, in compliance with the Telephone Consumer Protection Act and other applicable laws.

Pew Research Center is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization and a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts, its primary funder.
© Pew Research Center, 2020

# 2020 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL <br> WAVE 71 JULY 2020 <br> FINAL TOPLINE <br> JULY 27-AUGUST 2, 2020 <br> N=11,001 

## ADDITIONAL QUESTONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

## 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?

|  | Basically <br> content | Frustrated |  | Angry | No <br> answer |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| July 27-Aug 2, 2020 | 22 | 57 |  | 24 | 1 |
| Apr 7-12, 2020 | 20 | 55 | 23 | 1 |  |
| Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017 |  | 57 | 22 | $*$ |  |

## PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:

| July 23-Aug 4, 2020 | 19 |
| :--- | :--- |
| Mar 20-25, 2019 | 18 |
| Nov 29-Dec 4,2017 | 17 |
| Apr 5-11, 2017 | 19 |
| Mar 17-26, 2016 | 20 |
| Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015 | 18 |
| Feb 12-26, 2014 | 17 |
| Oct 9-13,2013 | 12 |
| Sep 25-29, 2013 | 17 |
| Jan 9-13, 2013 | 20 |
| Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011 | 17 |
| Aug 17-21, 2011 | 11 |
| Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011 | 22 |
| Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 | 21 |
| Apr 1-5, 2010 | 23 |
| Mar 11-21, 2010 | 19 |
| Early January, 2007 | 21 |
| Early October, 2006 | 21 |
| March, 2004 | 32 |
| Mid November, 2001 | 53 |
| June, 2000 | 28 |
| February, 2000 | 33 |
| October, 1997 | 29 |


| Frustrated | Angry | DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 54 | 24 | 3 |
| 57 | 21 | 4 |
| 55 | 24 | 5 |
| 55 | 22 | 3 |
| 57 | 21 | 2 |
| 57 | 22 | 3 |
| 62 | 19 | 2 |
| 55 | 30 | 3 |
| 51 | 26 | 5 |
| 58 | 19 | 3 |
| 58 | 21 | 3 |
| 60 | 26 | 3 |
| 59 | 14 | 5 |
| 52 | 23 | 4 |
| 52 | 21 | 4 |
| 56 | 21 | 5 |
| 58 | 16 | 5 |
| 54 | 20 | 5 |
| 52 | 13 | 3 |
| 34 | 8 | 5 |
| 53 | 13 | 6 |
| 54 | 10 | 3 |
| 56 | 12 | 3 |

[^2]
## 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 <br> always | Most of <br> the time | Only some <br> of the time | $\frac{\text { Never }}{}$ | No <br> answer |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| July 27-Aug 2, 2020 | $\frac{2}{2}$ | 18 | 65 | 14 | 1 |
| Apr 7-12, 20203 | 2 | 24 | 60 | 12 | 1 |
| Apr 4-18, 2017 | 3 | 25 | 61 | 10 | 1 |
| Nov 17-Dec 15, 20144 | 3 | 21 | 56 | 19 | 2 |

## PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:

|  |  |
| :---: | :---: |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

[^3]
## ASK FORM 2 [ $\mathrm{N}=5,501$ ]

GOVSIZE1 If you had to choose, would you rather have... [RANDOMIZE]
uly 27-Aug 2, 2020
Mar 18-Apr 1, 2019

| Smaller government <br> providing <br> fewer services | Bigger government <br> providing <br> more services | No <br> answer |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 45 | 52 | 2 |
| 48 | 50 | 2 |

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:

July 23-Aug 4, 2020
Sep 5-16, 2019
Mar 20-24, 2019
Jun 27-Jul 9, 2017
Apr 5-11, 2017
Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016
Sep 22-27, 2015
fewer service
48
Bigger government, $\underline{\text { more services }}$
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { (VOL.) } & \text { (VOL.) } \\ \text { Depends } & \text { DK/Ref }\end{array}$

Sep 2-9, 2014
Sep 4-8, 2013
Sep 12-16, 2012
Jan 4-8, 2012
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011
Mar 8-14, 2011
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010
Apr 1-5, 2010
Feb 3-9, 2010
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009
Mar 9-12, 2009
Late October 2008
48
47
47

November 2007
January 2007
LA Times/Bloomberg: January 2006
LA Times: January 2005

| 45 | 3 | 4 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 46 | 3 | 3 |
| 47 | 4 | 2 |

ABC/Wash Post: June 2004
CBS/NYT: November 2003
CBS/NYT: July 2003
ABC: November 2002 (Likely voters)
Wash Post: September 2002
46
45

45
50
53
50
51
51
52
48
50
50
50
50
4

ABC/Wash Post: July 2002
ABC/Wash Post: January 2002
CBS/NYT: January 2002
LA Times: November 2001
CBS/NYT: October 2001
LA Times: March 2001
CBS: January 2001
CBS: November 2000
CBS: October 2000
ABC/Wash Post: October 2000 (RV)
ABC/Wash Post: Early October 2000 (RV)
LA Times: September 2000 (RV)
ABC/Wash Post: July 2000
ABC/Wash Post: April 2000
CBS: September 1999

## Q46 CONTINUED:

| Smaller government, |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| fewer services |, | Bigger government, |
| :---: |
| more services |, | (VOL.) |
| :---: |
| Depends | (VOL.) | (VK/Ref |
| :---: |

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=5,500]:
GOVT_ROLE Which statement comes closer to your own views - even if neither is exactly right? [RANDOMIZE]

|  | Government should <br> do more to solve problems | Government is doing too <br> many things better left to <br> businesses and individuals | No <br> answer |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 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 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

[^4]
## ASK ALL:

USASOLVE
Which statement comes closer to your own views - even if neither is exactly right? [RANDOMIZE]

July 27-Aug 2, 2020
Sep 3-15, 2019

As Americans, we can always find ways to solve our problems and get what we want

57
55

This country

| can't solve many of its <br> important problems | No <br> answer |
| :---: | :---: |
| 41 | 2 |
| 44 | 2 |

## PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON

July 23-Aug 4, 2020
Sep 5-16, 2019
As Americans, we can always find ways to solve our problems and get what we want

Aug 9-16, 2016

## 62

Aug 9-16, 201663
Feb 27-Mar 162014
63
Dec 7-11, 2011
47
60
This country can't solve many of its important problem
34
(VOL.)

Feb 22-Mar 1, 201157
57
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs) 54
December, 200868
October, 2008
December, 2004
September, 2000
64

August, 199963
63
52
52
37 /Neither/ DK/Ref 4

July, 1994
$50 \quad 3$
$36 \quad 3$
$37 \quad 6$
$42 \quad 5$
$27 \quad 5$
$29 \quad 7$
$36 \quad 5$
$\begin{array}{ll}36 & 5 \\ 36 & 5\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{ll}36 & 5 \\ 32 & 5\end{array}$
$45 \quad 3$

## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

## 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:
PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to... ${ }^{8}$

| Republican | Democrat | Independent | Something else | No answer | Lean <br> Rep | Lean Dem |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 28 | 29 | - 27 | 14 | 1 | $\frac{17}{}$ | 21 |

[^5]
## PEW RESEARCH CENTER JULY 2020 POLITICAL SURVEY FINAL TOPLINE JULY 23-AUG 4, 2020 N=1,750

## QUESTIONS 1-2, 9, 12, 40, 50-51 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 3-8, 10-11, 18-19, 23, 26-33, 35-39, 41-45, 47, 49, 52

## QUESTIONS 13-14, 46 RELEASED IN ACCOMPANYING W71 TOPLINE

## CAMPNII, THOUGHT, QUESTIONS 17, 20-22, 24-25, 34, 48 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:
Q. 53 Now thinking about the job the federal government is doing in some different areas. Is the federal government doing a very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad or very bad job [INSERT ITEM;
RANDOMIZE]? How about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: Is the federal government doing a very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad or very bad job [ITEM]?]


## Q. 53 CONTINUED...



## ASK ALL:

Q. 54 For each of these same areas, please tell me how much of a role, if any, the federal government should play. Should the federal government play a major role, a minor role or no role at all [INSERT ITEM;
RANDOMIZE]? How about [INSERT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: Should the federal government play a major role, a minor role, or no role at all [ITEM]?]

|  |  | Major role | Minor role | No role at all | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ASK FORM 1 [ $\mathrm{N}=849$ : |  |  |  |  |  |
| a.F1 | Strengthening the economy |  |  |  |  |
|  | July 23-Aug 4, 2020 | 78 | 17 | 4 | 2 |
|  | Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017 | 75 | 18 | 4 | 2 |
|  | Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015 | 74 | 20 | 4 | 1 |
| b.F1 | Keeping the country safe from terrorism |  |  |  |  |
|  | July 23-Aug 4, 2020 | 91 | 5 | 2 | 1 |
|  | Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017 | 94 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
|  | Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015 | 94 | 5 | 1 | 1 |
| c.F1 | Protecting the environment |  |  |  |  |
|  | July 23-Aug 4, 2020 | 73 | 21 | 5 | 1 |
|  | Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017 | 76 | 19 | 3 | 1 |
|  | Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015 | 75 | 22 | 3 | 1 |
| d.F1 | Effectively handling threats to public health |  |  |  |  |
|  | July 23-Aug 4, 2020 | 78 | 18 | 3 | 2 |
| e.F1 | Helping people get out of poverty |  |  |  |  |
|  | July 23-Aug 4, 2020 | 62 | 31 | 5 | 2 |

Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015

| Major <br> role | Minor <br> role | No role <br> at all | (VOL.) <br> 67 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\frac{26}{\text { DK/Ref }}$ |  |  |  |
| 55 | 38 | 6 | 1 |
|  | 38 | 5 | 1 |

## ASK FORM 2 ONLY [ $\mathbf{N = 9 0 1 ] : ~}$

f.F2 Maintaining roads, bridges and other infrastructure

| July 23-Aug 4, 2020 | 67 | 29 | 3 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017 | 75 | 21 | 2 | 3 |
| Aug 27-Sep 13, 2015 | 76 | 20 | 3 | 1 |

g.F2 Managing the nation's immigration system
July 23-Aug 4, 202081

Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017 80
Aug 27-Sep 13, 201581

| 14 | 4 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| 15 | 4 | 1 |
| 15 | 2 | 1 |

h.F2 Ensuring access to health care

| July 23-Aug 4, 2020 | 65 | 25 | 9 | 1 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017 | 69 | 21 | 9 | 2 |

Nuv 29-Dep 13, 2015
$61 \quad 28$
Aug 27-Sep 13, 2015
i.F2 Responding to natural disasters

July 23-Aug 4, 202087
Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017
87
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015
88

| 11 | 1 | 1 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 9 | 1 | 1 |
| 10 | 1 | 1 |

j.F2 Ensuring that food and medicine are safe July 23-Aug 4, 2020
Nov 29-Dec 4, 201787
Aug 27-Oct 4, 201587
87

| 11 | 2 | $*$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 9 | 3 | 1 |
| 10 | 2 | 1 |

## NO QUESTIONS 55-56, 59-65

QUESTIONS 57, 66 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE
QUESTION 58 RELEASED IN ACCOMPANYING W71 TOPLINE

ASK ALL:
PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?
ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):
PARTYLN
As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?
(VOL.) (VOL.)
No Other (VOL.) Lean Lean

|  | Republican | Democrat | Independent preference | party | DK/Ref | Rep | Dem |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| July 23-Aug 4, 2020 | 26 | 30 | 39 2 | 1 | 2 | 16 | 18 |
| Jan 8-13, 2020 | 27 | 27 | 39 3 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 18 |
| Sep 5-16, 2019 | 26 | 29 | 39 2 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 18 |
| July 10-15, 2019 | 28 | 30 | 36 3 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 17 |
| Mar 20-25, 2019 | 26 | 30 | 37 3 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 19 |
| Jan 9-14, 2019 | 25 | 31 | 40 2 | 1 | 2 | 16 | 18 |
| Sep 18-24, 2018 | 25 | 32 | 37 3 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 18 |
| Jun 5-12, 2018 | 25 | 31 | 38 3 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 18 |
| Apr 25-May 1, 2018 | 27 | 28 | 38 4 | 1 | 2 | 14 | 19 |
| Mar 7-14, 2018 | 26 | 28 | 41 3 | * | 1 | 17 | 18 |
| Jan 10-15, 2018 | 26 | 33 | 34 3 | 1 | 3 | 12 | 18 |

## PARTYLN CONTINUED...

|  | Republican | Democrat | Independent | (VOL.) <br> No preference | (VOL.) <br> Other <br> party | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref | Lean <br> Rep | Lean Dem |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Yearly Totals |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2019 | 26.4 | 30.2 | 37.9 | 2.5 | 1.0 | 2.1 | 15.1 | 18.0 |
| 2018 | 25.7 | 30.8 | 37.6 | 3.0 | . 8 | 2.0 | 14.7 | 18.3 |
| 2017 | 23.6 | 31.4 | 39.4 | 3.3 | . 6 | 1.7 | 15.8 | 18.7 |
| 2016 | 25.4 | 32.0 | 36.5 | 3.4 | . 5 | 2.2 | 14.6 | 17.0 |
| 2015 | 23.7 | 30.4 | 40.1 | 3.6 | . 4 | 1.8 | 16.4 | 17.3 |
| 2014 | 23.2 | 31.5 | 39.5 | 3.1 | . 7 | 2.0 | 16.2 | 16.5 |
| 2013 | 23.9 | 32.1 | 38.3 | 2.9 | . 5 | 2.2 | 16.0 | 16.0 |
| 2012 | 24.7 | 32.6 | 36.4 | 3.1 | . 5 | 2.7 | 14.4 | 16.1 |
| 2011 | 24.3 | 32.3 | 37.4 | 3.1 | . 4 | 2.5 | 15.7 | 15.6 |
| 2010 | 25.2 | 32.7 | 35.2 | 3.6 | . 4 | 2.8 | 14.5 | 14.1 |
| 2009 | 23.9 | 34.4 | 35.1 | 3.4 | . 4 | 2.8 | 13.1 | 15.7 |
| 2008 | 25.7 | 36.0 | 31.5 | 3.6 | . 3 | 3.0 | 10.6 | 15.2 |
| 2007 | 25.3 | 32.9 | 34.1 | 4.3 | . 4 | 2.9 | 10.9 | 17.0 |
| 2006 | 27.8 | 33.1 | 30.9 | 4.4 | . 3 | 3.4 | 10.5 | 15.1 |
| 2005 | 29.3 | 32.8 | 30.2 | 4.5 | . 3 | 2.8 | 10.3 | 14.9 |
| 2004 | 30.0 | 33.5 | 29.5 | 3.8 | . 4 | 3.0 | 11.7 | 13.4 |
| 2003 | 30.3 | 31.5 | 30.5 | 4.8 | . 5 | 2.5 | 12.0 | 12.6 |
| 2002 | 30.4 | 31.4 | 29.8 | 5.0 | . 7 | 2.7 | 12.4 | 11.6 |
| 2001 | 29.0 | 33.2 | 29.5 | 5.2 | . 6 | 2.6 | 11.9 | 11.6 |
| 2001 Post-Sept 11 | 30.9 | 31.8 | 27.9 | 5.2 | . 6 | 3.6 | 11.7 | 9.4 |
| 2001 Pre-Sept 11 | 27.3 | 34.4 | 30.9 | 5.1 | . 6 | 1.7 | 12.1 | 13.5 |
| 2000 | 28.0 | 33.4 | 29.1 | 5.5 | . 5 | 3.6 | 11.6 | 11.7 |
| 1999 | 26.6 | 33.5 | 33.7 | 3.9 | . 5 | 1.9 | 13.0 | 14.5 |
| 1998 | 27.9 | 33.7 | 31.1 | 4.6 | . 4 | 2.3 | 11.6 | 13.1 |
| 1997 | 28.0 | 33.4 | 32.0 | 4.0 | . 4 | 2.3 | 12.2 | 14.1 |
| 1996 | 28.9 | 33.9 | 31.8 | 3.0 | . 4 | 2.0 | 12.1 | 14.9 |
| 1995 | 31.6 | 30.0 | 33.7 | 2.4 | . 6 | 1.3 | 15.1 | 13.5 |
| 1994 | 30.1 | 31.5 | 33.5 | 1.3 | -- | 3.6 | 13.7 | 12.2 |
| 1993 | 27.4 | 33.6 | 34.2 | 4.4 | 1.5 | 2.9 | 11.5 | 14.9 |
| 1992 | 27.6 | 33.7 | 34.7 | 1.5 | 0 | 2.5 | 12.6 | 16.5 |
| 1991 | 30.9 | 31.4 | 33.2 | 0 | 1.4 | 3.0 | 14.7 | 10.8 |
| 1990 | 30.9 | 33.2 | 29.3 | 1.2 | 1.9 | 3.4 | 12.4 | 11.3 |
| 1989 | 33 | 33 | 34 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 1987 | 26 | 35 | 39 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |


[^0]:    (C) Pew Research Center 2020

[^1]:    ${ }^{1}$ AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. "AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling."

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

[^3]:    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.
    8 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?"

[^4]:    7 In 1989 and earlier, CBS/NYT question read, "In general, government grows bigger as it provides more services. If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing less services or a bigger government providing more services?"

[^5]:    8 Party and Partyln asked in a prior survey.

