

**2019 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 54 SEPTEMBER
FINAL TOPLINE
SEPTEMBER 16-SEPTEMBER 29, 2019
TOTAL N=6,878**

NOTE: ALL NUMBERS ARE PERCENTAGES UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. THE PERCENTAGES LESS THAN 0.5% ARE REPLACED BY AN ASTERISK (*). ROWS/COLUMNS MAY NOT TOTAL 100% DUE TO ROUNDING.

THE QUESTIONS PRESENTED BELOW ARE PART OF A LARGER SURVEY CONDUCTED ON THE AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL. THE OTHER QUESTIONS ON THIS SURVEY ARE HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE.

	Sample size	Margin of error at 95% confidence level
U.S. adults	6,878	+/- 1.6 percentage points
Low income	1,645	+/- 3.3 percentage points
Middle income	3,351	+/- 2.2 percentage points
High income	1,614	+/- 3.0 percentage points

ASK ALL:

FIN_SIT		How would you describe your household's financial situation?		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
	29	8	28	72
	41	36	52	25
	22	39	17	2
	7	17	3	*
	*	*	*	0

TREND:

	<u>Live comfortably</u>	<u>Meet your basic expenses with a little leftover for extras</u>	<u>Just meet your basic expenses</u>	<u>Don't even have enough to meet basic expenses</u>	<u>No Answer</u>
Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014 ¹	25	36	24	14	1

ASK IF DOES NOT LIVE COMFORTABLY OR NO ANSWER (FIN_SIT=2-99) [n=4,408]:

FIN_SITFUT		In the future, do you think your household will have enough money to live comfortably?		
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
	63	56	68	84
	36	43	31	16
	1	1	1	0

¹ In 2014, n=2,811 respondents took the survey via web and n=343 respondents completed this survey via paper questionnaire delivered by mail.

ASK ALL:

FIN_SITMOST How would you describe the financial situation of MOST AMERICANS?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
5	Live comfortably	7	4	4
38	Meet their basic expenses with a little left over for extras	36	38	41
47	Just meet their basic expenses	43	49	49
9	Don't even have enough to meet basic expenses	14	8	4
1	No answer	1	*	1

ASK ALL:

FIN_SITGROWUP Now thinking about when you were growing up, how would you describe your family's financial situation for most of the time WHEN YOU WERE GROWING UP?

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
22	Lived comfortably	23	21	26
36	Met basic expenses with a little left over for extras	32	37	42
29	Just met their basic expenses	30	30	23
12	Didn't even have enough to meet basic expenses	15	12	8
*	No answer	*	*	*

ASK ALL:

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

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
10	Excellent	6	11	17
46	Good	37	49	54
35	Only fair	43	34	26
8	Poor	15	6	3
*	No answer	*	*	0

TREND:

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>No answer</u>
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>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
20	Better	20	21	18
32	Worse	33	30	38
48	About the same	47	49	44
*	No answer	*	*	*

TREND:

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>About the same</u>	<u>No answer</u>
July 22-Aug 4, 2019 ²	28	28	44	*

ASK ALL:

ECON3

How much, if at all, do you think each of the following is contributing to your opinion about how the economy is doing? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]**

a. The availability of jobs

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
45	A great deal	43	45	48
39	A fair amount	38	40	40
13	Not too much	14	13	10
3	Not at all	4	2	2
1	No answer	1	*	1

b. How the stock market is doing

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
25	A great deal	21	25	29
45	A fair amount	41	45	49
22	Not too much	26	21	17
8	Not at all	10	8	4
1	No answer	1	1	1

ASK FORM 1 [n=3,442]:

c. Prices for food and consumer goods

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
37	A great deal	44	38	24
45	A fair amount	35	48	56
15	Not too much	15	13	17
3	Not at all	6	1	3
1	No answer	*	*	1

² In the survey conducted from July 22- August 4, 2019, response options for this question were not randomized.

ECON3 CONTINUED ...**ASK FORM 1 [n=3,442]:**

d. The cost of health care

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
43	A great deal	48	44	32
30	A fair amount	27	30	35
19	Not too much	16	18	24
8	Not at all	8	7	8
1	No answer	*	1	1

ASK FORM 1 [n=3,442]:

d. The cost of health care

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
43	A great deal	48	44	32
30	A fair amount	27	30	35
19	Not too much	16	18	24
8	Not at all	8	7	8
1	No answer	*	1	1

ASK FORM 1 [n=3,442]:

e. Real estate values

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
27	A great deal	28	28	23
46	A fair amount	40	49	53
20	Not too much	21	19	20
6	Not at all	10	4	3
1	No answer	1	1	*

ASK FORM 2 [n=3,436]:

f. Gas prices

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
23	A great deal	34	21	12
40	A fair amount	37	42	36
28	Not too much	21	29	41
7	Not at all	6	7	10
1	No answer	1	1	1

ASK FORM 2 [n=3,436]:

g. The federal budget deficit

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
32	A great deal	40	29	27
34	A fair amount	32	36	31
24	Not too much	19	25	31
8	Not at all	7	8	9
1	No answer	2	1	2

ECON3 CONTINUED ...

h. Wages and incomes

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High Income</u>
48	A great deal	52	47	46
40	A fair amount	32	42	45
9	Not too much	11	8	8
3	Not at all	5	1	1
1	No answer	*	1	1

i. The country's tax system

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
36	A great deal	39	36	32
40	A fair amount	36	41	41
18	Not too much	18	18	21
5	Not at all	5	4	5
1	No answer	1	1	1

ASK ALL:

ECON4

Not all people face the same financial pressures. Thinking about YOUR own household's financial situation, how much, if at all, does each of the following affect YOUR household's financial situation? **[SHOW ITEMS IN SAME ORDER AS ECON3; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]**

a. The availability of jobs in your area

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
28	A great deal	36	25	20
30	A fair amount	29	30	29
27	Not too much	22	30	31
15	Not at all	13	15	20
*	No answer	1	*	*

b. How the stock market is doing

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
16	A great deal	13	14	25
28	A fair amount	22	28	39
34	Not too much	34	36	26
21	Not at all	30	21	9
1	No answer	1	1	*

ASK FORM 1 [n=3,442]:

c. Prices for food and consumer goods

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
45	A great deal	57	46	22
35	A fair amount	26	36	43
16	Not too much	11	16	30
4	Not at all	5	2	5
*	No answer	*	*	1

ECON4 CONTINUED ...**ASK FORM 1 [n=3,442]:**

c. Prices for food and consumer goods

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
45	A great deal	57	46	22
35	A fair amount	26	36	43
16	Not too much	11	16	30
4	Not at all	5	2	5
*	No answer	*	*	1

ASK FORM 1 [n=3,442]:

d. The cost of health care

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
43	A great deal	49	46	28
30	A fair amount	25	31	38
21	Not too much	18	19	28
5	Not at all	7	4	6
*	No answer	1	*	*

ASK FORM 1 [n=3,442]:

e. Real estate values in your area

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
29	A great deal	31	29	24
32	A fair amount	27	33	39
26	Not too much	25	26	29
12	Not at all	16	12	7
1	No answer	1	*	*

ASK FORM 2 [n=3,436]:

f. Gas prices

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
29	A great deal	42	26	14
35	A fair amount	34	39	27
26	Not too much	15	27	44
9	Not at all	9	8	15
*	No answer	1	*	*

ASK FORM 2 [n=3,436]:

g. The federal budget deficit

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
16	A great deal	26	12	10
23	A fair amount	25	21	19
38	Not too much	32	42	43
22	Not at all	16	24	27
1	No answer	2	1	1

ECON4 CONTINUED ...

h. Wages and incomes

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
51	A great deal	57	51	42
30	A fair amount	26	31	33
13	Not too much	10	13	18
6	Not at all	7	5	7
1	No answer	1	*	*

i. The country's tax system

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
35	A great deal	34	35	33
40	A fair amount	37	41	44
19	Not too much	19	20	20
5	Not at all	8	4	3
1	No answer	1	*	*

ASK ALL:

ECON5

Do you think the country's current economic conditions are helping or hurting the following groups? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS; SHOW RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4 IN REVERSE FOR ALL ITEMS FOR A RANDOM ½ OF RESPONDENTS WITH 5 ALWAYS LAST]**

a. You and your family

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
8	Helping a lot	5	7	16
23	Helping a little	17	24	31
31	Hurting a little	32	32	25
16	Hurting a lot	28	12	3
22	Neither helping nor hurting	17	25	24
1	No answer	1	1	*

ASK FORM 1 [n=3,442]:

b. People who are wealthy

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
53	Helping a lot	49	54	64
16	Helping a little	13	16	17
6	Hurting a little	7	6	5
4	Hurting a lot	6	3	2
19	Neither helping nor hurting	24	20	11
1	No answer	*	1	1

ECON5 CONTINUED ...**ASK FORM 1 [n=3,442]:**

c. The middle class

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
10	Helping a lot	7	10	14
22	Helping a little	23	21	24
31	Hurting a little	31	30	33
27	Hurting a lot	27	29	23
10	Neither helping nor hurting	11	10	7
1	No answer	1	1	*

ASK FORM 1 [n=3,442]:

d. People who are poor

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
11	Helping a lot	7	11	15
16	Helping a little	14	17	18
14	Hurting a little	12	16	12
50	Hurting a lot	58	46	47
8	Neither helping nor hurting	8	8	8
1	No answer	1	1	1

ASK FORM 1 [n=3,442]:

e. Older adults

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
8	Helping a lot	6	8	12
18	Helping a little	17	19	21
28	Hurting a little	28	26	33
34	Hurting a lot	38	35	23
10	Neither helping nor hurting	9	12	11
1	No answer	1	1	1

ASK FORM 1 [n=3,442]:

f. Young adults

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
10	Helping a lot	8	11	14
17	Helping a little	17	18	17
31	Hurting a little	32	31	31
30	Hurting a lot	31	29	28
10	Neither helping nor hurting	10	10	10
1	No answer	2	1	1

ECON5 CONTINUED ...**ASK FORM 2 [n=3,436]:**

g. People who are white

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
21	Helping a lot	21	20	26
25	Helping a little	20	25	29
16	Hurting a little	17	16	16
7	Hurting a lot	13	5	3
29	Neither helping nor hurting	27	32	25
2	No answer	2	2	*

ASK FORM 2 [n=3,436]:

h. People who are black

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
13	Helping a lot	10	12	20
17	Helping a little	15	19	15
23	Hurting a little	24	24	19
25	Hurting a lot	32	22	25
20	Neither helping nor hurting	18	22	20
1	No answer	1	2	1

ASK FORM 2 [n=3,436]:

i. People who are Hispanic

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
14	Helping a lot	14	13	18
16	Helping a little	14	17	17
25	Hurting a little	23	27	23
22	Hurting a lot	29	18	23
21	Neither helping nor hurting	20	22	19
2	No answer	1	2	1

ASK FORM 2 [n=3,436]:

j. People without college degrees

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
9	Helping a lot	6	8	14
15	Helping a little	13	15	15
30	Hurting a little	26	33	30
32	Hurting a lot	41	27	28
14	Neither helping nor hurting	12	16	12
1	No answer	1	1	*

ASK FORM 2 [n=3,436]:

k. People with college degrees

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
18	Helping a lot	16	17	24
32	Helping a little	29	32	38
21	Hurting a little	22	21	19
9	Hurting a lot	15	6	4
19	Neither helping nor hurting	17	22	14
1	No answer	1	1	1

ECON5 CONTINUED ...**ASK FORM 2 [n=3,436]:**

k. People with college degrees

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
18	Helping a lot	16	17	24
32	Helping a little	29	32	38
21	Hurting a little	22	21	19
9	Hurting a lot	15	6	4
19	Neither helping nor hurting	17	22	14
1	No answer	1	1	1

DISPLAY TO ALL:

The next few questions are about your financial situation and how you are getting along these days. This information is used by researchers to answer questions like how do views on economic policies differ, if at all, for people at different income levels. You can skip any question that you are not comfortable answering.

ASK ALL:WORRY2 How often, if ever, do you worry about each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

a. The amount of debt you have

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
24	Every day	39	21	9
16	Almost every day	19	17	10
26	Sometimes	22	29	26
16	Rarely	9	17	24
16	Never	10	16	30
1	No answer	1	1	*

ASK IF EMPLOYED (F_E3=1,2) [n=4,317]:

b. Losing your job

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
12	Every day	21	10	5
8	Almost every day	14	7	5
29	Sometimes	29	30	27
29	Rarely	22	30	35
21	Never	13	21	28
1	No answer	1	1	*

c. Paying your bills

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
25	Every day	44	19	7
16	Almost every day	21	16	7
28	Sometimes	22	32	24
18	Rarely	8	21	32
12	Never	4	12	30
1	No answer	1	1	*

WORRY2 CONTINUED ...

d. The cost of health care for you and your family

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
22	Every day	36	18	8
17	Almost every day	19	19	10
35	Sometimes	29	36	41
15	Rarely	8	17	26
9	Never	7	9	14
1	No answer	1	1	*

e. Being able to save enough for your retirement

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
26	Every day	42	22	12
19	Almost every day	18	20	14
32	Sometimes	23	35	40
12	Rarely	9	11	18
10	Never	8	9	15
2	No answer	1	2	1

ASK ALL:**FINANCE**

Do you have any of the following types of savings or investment accounts?

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS a AND b WITH ITEM c ALWAYS LAST]

a. A savings account

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
69	Yes, have this	48	78	89
29	No, do not have this	51	20	10
2	No answer	1	1	1

b. An IRA, 401K, or a similar kind of retirement account

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
55	Yes, have this	26	65	87
43	No, do not have this	73	33	12
2	No answer	1	2	1

c. Personal investments in stocks, bonds or mutual funds other than those held in an IRA or 401K

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
35	Yes, have this	14	38	68
63	No, do not have this	85	61	31
2	No answer	1	2	1

ASK ALL:**DEBT**Do you have any of the following types of loans or debt? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

a. Credit card debt

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
52	Yes, have this	51	59	41
46	No, do not have this	48	40	58
1	No answer	1	1	*

b. Car loan

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
40	Yes, have this	30	46	44
59	No, do not have this	68	53	56
2	No answer	1	1	*

c. Student loans

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
23	Yes, have this	26	23	18
76	No, do not have this	74	76	81
1	No answer	1	1	*

d. A mortgage or a home loan

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
41	Yes, have this	19	50	60
57	No, do not have this	80	49	40
2	No answer	1	1	*

e. Debt from medical bills

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
29	Yes, have this	42	28	10
69	No, do not have this	57	71	89
1	No answer	1	1	*

ASK ALL:**BENEFITS**Have you or anyone in your household received any of the following government services and benefits in the past 12 months? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

a. Food assistance, such as SNAP benefits

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
14	Yes, have received this in the past 12 months	36	5	1
85	No, have not received this in the past 12 months	63	94	99
1	No answer	1	1	*

BENEFITS CONTINUED ...

b. Medicaid benefits

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
22	Yes, have received this in the past 12 months	46	13	4
76	No, have not received this in the past 12 months	53	86	96
1	No answer	1	1	*

c. Unemployment benefits

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
5	Yes, have received this in the past 12 months	6	4	3
94	No, have not received this in the past 12 months	93	95	96
1	No answer	1	1	1

ASK ALL:

INC_SDT1

In a previous survey we asked you about your income. The next question asks for slightly more detail for different income levels.

Last year, that is in 2018, what was your total income from all sources, before taxes?

<u>Total</u>	
24	Less than \$30,000
12	\$30,000 to less than \$40,000
9	\$40,000 to less than \$50,000
8	\$50,000 to less than \$60,000
7	\$60,000 to less than \$70,000
6	\$70,000 to less than \$80,000
4	\$80,000 to less than \$90,000
5	\$90,000 to less than \$100,000
19	\$100,000 or more
7	No answer

ASK IF FAMILY INCOME IS \$30,000 OR LESS (INC_SDT1=1) [n=1,310]:

INC_SDT2 And in 2018, would you say that your total family income from all sources, before taxes, was...

<u>Total</u>	
24	Less than \$5,000
16	\$5,000 to less than \$10,000
13	\$10,000 to less than \$15,000
13	\$15,000 to less than \$20,000
17	\$20,000 to less than \$25,000
16	\$25,000 to less than \$30,000
2	No answer

ASK IF FAMILY INCOME IS \$100,000 OR MORE (INC_SDT1=9) [n=1,643]:

INC_SDT3 And in 2018, would you say that your total family income from all sources, before taxes, was...

<u>Total</u>	
31	\$100,000 to less than \$125,000
25	\$125,000 to less than \$150,000
11	\$150,000 to less than \$175,000
9	\$175,000 to less than \$200,000
6	\$200,000 to less than \$225,000
4	\$225,000 to less than \$250,000
11	\$250,000 or more
3	No answer

COMBO TABLE BASED ON INC_SDT1/INC_SDT2/INC_SDT3

<u>Total</u>	
24	Less than \$30,000
6	Less than \$5,000
4	\$5,000 to less than \$10,000
3	\$10,000 to less than \$15,000
3	\$15,000 to less than \$20,000
4	\$20,000 to less than \$25,000
4	\$25,000 to less than \$30,000
*	No answer to INC_SDT2
12	\$30,000 to less than \$40,000
9	\$40,000 to less than \$50,000
8	\$50,000 to less than \$60,000
7	\$60,000 to less than \$70,000
6	\$70,000 to less than \$80,000
4	\$80,000 to less than \$90,000
5	\$90,000 to less than \$100,000
19	\$100,000 or more
6	\$100,000 to less than \$125,000
5	\$125,000 to less than \$150,000
2	\$150,000 to less than \$175,000
2	\$175,000 to less than \$200,000
1	\$200,000 to less than \$225,000
1	\$225,000 to less than \$250,000
2	\$250,000 or more
1	No answer to INC_SDT3
7	No answer to INC_SDT1

ASK ALL³:

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a...

ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4 or REFUSED):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...

<u>Total</u>		<u>Low income</u>	<u>Middle income</u>	<u>High income</u>
27	Republican	17	31	32
31	Democrat	35	29	32
28	Independent	29	28	28
13	Something else	18	11	7
1	No answer to PARTY	2	1	1
17	Lean Rep	16	18	16
21	Lean Dem	25	19	19

³ PARTY and PARTYLN were asked in a prior survey.