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. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report is drawn from the panel wave conducted June 16 to June 22, 2020. A total of 4,708 panelists responded out of 6,080 who were sampled, for a response rate of 77%. This does not include one panelist who was 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 4.3%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 1.4%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 4,708 respondents is plus or minus 1.8 percentage points.

This study featured a stratified random sample from the ATP. The sample was allocated according to the following strata, in order: tablet households, Mexican-born Hispanics, U.S. born Hispanics, other foreign-born Hispanics, Cuban-born Hispanics, non-internet, high school education or less, not registered to vote, nonvolunteers, people ages 18 to 34, non-Hispanic Black adults, and all other categories not already falling into any of the above.

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 which 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 (ABS) 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 half-sample 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 and 4,720 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. Of the 23,440 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 15,415 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.

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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. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish.

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.

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

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.
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Unweighted sample size</th>
<th>Weighted Percentage</th>
<th>Plus or minus ...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4,708</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.8 percentage points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep/Lean Rep</td>
<td>1,994</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>2.7 percentage points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem/Lean Dem</td>
<td>2,545</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>2.5 percentage points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

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Topline questionnaire

2020 PEW RESEARCH CENTER’S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 69 June 2020
FINAL TOPLINE
June 16-22, 2020
N=4,708

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

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.

Sample size
U.S. adults
4,708

Margin of error at 95% confidence level
+/− 1.8 percentage points

ASK ALL:
TECHPOW
How much power and influence in politics today do social media companies have? [RANDOMIZE 1-2; ITEM 3 ALWAYS LAST]

June 16-22, 2020
72 Too much power and influence
6 Not enough power and influence
21 About the right amount
2 No answer

ASK ALL:
TC5
Thinking about the role of the government in regulating major technology companies, do you think they should be regulated... [RANDOMIZE 1-2; ITEM 3 ALWAYS LAST]

June 16-22, 2020
May 29-June 11, 2018
47 More than they are right now
11 Less than they are right now
39 The same as they are now
3 No answer
51
9
38
1