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 ATP Wave 123, conducted from March 13 to March 19, 2023, and includes an oversample of Asian, Black and Hispanic adults in order to provide more precise estimates of the opinions and experiences of these smaller demographic subgroups. These oversampled groups are weighted back to reflect their correct proportions in the population. A total of 10,701 panelists responded out of 11,986 who were sampled, for a response rate of 89%. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 4%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 10,701 respondents is plus or minus 1.4 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recruitment dates</th>
<th>Mode</th>
<th>Invited</th>
<th>Joined</th>
<th>Active panelists remaining</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014</td>
<td>Landline/ cell RDD</td>
<td>9,809</td>
<td>5,338</td>
<td>1,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015</td>
<td>Landline/ cell RDD</td>
<td>6,004</td>
<td>2,976</td>
<td>881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25 to June 4, 2017</td>
<td>Landline/ cell RDD</td>
<td>3,905</td>
<td>1,628</td>
<td>434</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018</td>
<td>ABS</td>
<td>9,396</td>
<td>8,778</td>
<td>4,116</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019</td>
<td>ABS</td>
<td>5,900</td>
<td>4,720</td>
<td>1,472</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 1 to July 19, 2020;</td>
<td>ABS</td>
<td>3,197</td>
<td>2,812</td>
<td>1,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 10 to March 31, 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 29 to July 7, 2021;</td>
<td>ABS</td>
<td>1,329</td>
<td>1,162</td>
<td>788</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 16 to Nov. 1, 2021</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 24 to Sept. 29, 2022</td>
<td>ABS</td>
<td>3,354</td>
<td>2,869</td>
<td>1,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>42,894</td>
<td>30,283</td>
<td>12,433</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: RDD is random-digit dial; ABS is address-based sampling. 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.
In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based recruitment. Invitations were sent to a stratified, random sample of 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. In 2020 and 2021 another stage was added to the recruitment. Households that did not respond to the online survey were sent a paper version of the questionnaire, $5 and a postage-paid return envelope. A subset of the adults who returned the paper version of the survey were invited to join the ATP. This subset of adults received a follow-up mailing with a $10 pre-incentive and invitation to join the ATP.

Across the five address-based recruitments, a total of 23,176 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 20,341 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. In each household, one adult was selected and asked to go online to complete a survey, at the end of which they were invited to join the panel. Of the 30,283 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 12,433 remained active panelists and continued to receive survey invitations at the time this survey was conducted.

The U.S. Postal Service’s Delivery Sequence File has been estimated to cover as much as 98% of the population, although some studies suggest that the coverage could be in the low 90% range.¹ The American Trends Panel never uses breakout routers or chains that direct respondents to additional surveys.

Sample design
The overall target population for this survey was non-institutionalized persons ages 18 and older living in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii. It featured a stratified random sample from the ATP in which Hispanic adults, non-Hispanic Black adults and non-Hispanic Asian adults were selected with certainty. The remaining panelists were sampled at rates designed to ensure that the share of respondents in each stratum is proportional to its share of the U.S. adult population to the greatest extent possible. Respondent weights are adjusted to account for differential probabilities of selection as described in the Weighting section below.

Questionnaire development and testing
The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with Ipsos. The web program was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the Ipsos project management team and Pew Research Center researchers. The Ipsos project management team also populated

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 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 March 13-19, 2023. Postcard notifications were mailed to all ATP panelists with a known residential address on March 13.

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 March 13. 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 March 14.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Invitation and reminder dates, ATP Wave 123</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Soft launch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Initial invitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First reminder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final reminder</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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, no ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

**Weighting**

The ATP data is 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. These weights are then rescaled and adjusted to account for changes in the design of ATP recruitment surveys from year to year. Finally, the weights are calibrated to align with the population benchmarks in the accompanying table to correct for nonresponse to recruitment surveys and panel attrition. If only a subsample of panelists was invited to participate in the wave, this weight is adjusted to account for any differential probabilities of selection.

**American Trends Panel weighting dimensions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Benchmark source</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age (detailed)</td>
<td>2021 American Community Survey (ACS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age x Gender</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education x Gender</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education x Age</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race/Ethnicity x Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Years lived in the U.S.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Census region x Metro/Non-metro</td>
<td>2021 CPS March Supplement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteerism</td>
<td>2021 CPS Volunteering &amp; Civic Life</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Volunteerism</td>
<td>Supplement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter registration</td>
<td>2018 CPS Voting and Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Party affiliation</td>
<td>Supplement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frequency of internet use</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious affiliation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional weighting dimensions applied within Black adults</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age</td>
<td>2021 American Community Survey (ACS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic ethnicity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voter registration</td>
<td>2018 CPS Voting and Registration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Party affiliation</td>
<td>Supplement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious affiliation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sample sizes and margins of error, ATP Wave 123

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Unweighted sample size</th>
<th>Weighted%</th>
<th>Plus or minus ...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total sample</td>
<td>10,701</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.4 percentage points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current or recent Twitter users</td>
<td>3,083</td>
<td></td>
<td>2.8 percentage points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men current or recent Twitter users</td>
<td>1,543</td>
<td></td>
<td>4.0 percentage points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women current or recent Twitter users</td>
<td>1,496</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.8 percentage points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rep/Lean Rep current or recent Twitter users</td>
<td>1,237</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>4.3 percentage points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dem/Lean Dem current or recent Twitter users</td>
<td>1,785</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>3.6 percentage points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: This survey includes oversamples of Hispanic, non-Hispanic Black and non-Hispanic Asian respondents. Unweighted sample sizes do not account for the sample design or weighting and do not describe a group’s contribution to weighted estimates. See the Sample design and Weighting sections above for details.

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.
## Dispositions and response rates

### Final dispositions, ATP Wave 123

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>AAPOR code</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Completed interview</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>10,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logged on to survey; broke off</td>
<td>2.12</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Logged on to survey; did not complete any items</td>
<td>2.1121</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never logged on (implicit refusal)</td>
<td>2.11</td>
<td>1,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Survey completed after close of the field period</td>
<td>2.27</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Completed interview but was removed for data quality</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screened out</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total panelists in the survey** 11,986

| Completed interviews   | I          | 10,701 |
| Partial interviews     | P          | 0      |
| Refusals               | R          | 1,279  |
| Non-contact            | NC         | 6      |
| Other                  | O          | 0      |
| Unknown household      | UH         | 0      |
| Unknown other          | UO         | 0      |
| Not eligible           | NE         | 0      |

**Total** 11,986

AAPOR RR1 = I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO) 89%

### Cumulative response rate as of ATP Wave 123

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 123</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Response rate to Wave 123 survey</td>
<td>89%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cumulative response rate</strong></td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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