

**2018 PEW RESEARCH CENTER SOCIAL & DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS
AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL WAVE 41 DECEMBER 2018
FINAL TOPLINE
DECEMBER 11 – 23, 2018
TOTAL N=2,524**

NOTE: ALL NUMBERS ARE PERCENTAGES. 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 HAVE EITHER BEEN PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE.

	Sample size	Margin of error at
U.S. adults	2,524	95% confidence level
		+/- 2.5% points

ASK ALL:

OPTIMIST Please think about what things will be like in 2050, about 30 years from now.

Thinking about the future of the United States, would you say you are ...

Dec 11-23

2018

12	Very optimistic
44	Somewhat optimistic
31	Somewhat pessimistic
13	Very pessimistic
*	No answer

ASK ALL:

AVGFAM Over the next 30 years, do you think that the average American family will see its standard of living ... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 3, WITH OPTION 2 ALWAYS IN THE MIDDLE]**

Dec 11-23

2018

20	Get better
35	Stay about the same
44	Get worse
*	No answer

ASK ALL:

HAPPEN Still thinking ahead 30 years, which do you think is more likely to happen in the U.S.? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS, SPLIT OVER THREE SCREENS]**

a.

Dec 11-23

2018

38	The U.S. economy will be STRONGER
54	The U.S. economy will be WEAKER
8	No answer

HAPPEN CONTINUED ...

- b.
Dec 11-23
2018
34 Health care will be MORE affordable
58 Health care will be LESS affordable
9 No answer
- c.
Dec 11-23
2018
51 Race relations will IMPROVE
40 Race relations will GET WORSE
9 No answer
- d.
Dec 11-23
2018
31 The U.S. will be MORE important in the world
60 The U.S. will be LESS important in the world
9 No answer
- e.
Dec 11-23
2018
73 The gap between the rich and the poor will GROW
19 The gap between the rich and the poor will GET SMALLER
8 No answer
- f.
Dec 11-23
2018
38 The public education system will IMPROVE
52 The public education system will GET WORSE
9 No answer
- g.
Dec 11-23
2018
50 Religion will become LESS important
42 Religion will be ABOUT AS important as it is now
9 No answer

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,249]:

h.F1

- Dec 11-23
2018
34 People 65 and older will have a BETTER standard of living
57 People 65 and older will have a WORSE standard of living
8 No answer

HAPPEN CONTINUED ...**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,275]:**

i.F2

Dec 11-23

2018

42	Children will have a BETTER standard of living
50	Children will have a WORSE standard of living
9	No answer

j.

Dec 11-23

2018

65	The country will be MORE politically divided
26	The country will be LESS politically divided
9	No answer

ASK ALL:

HAPPEN2

How likely do you think it is that each of the following will happen in the next 30 years?

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS, SPLIT OVER TWO SCREENS]

		<u>Will definitely happen</u>	<u>Will probably happen</u>	<u>Will probably not happen</u>	<u>Will definitely not happen</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a.	There will be a terrorist attack on the U.S. as bad as or worse than 9/11 Dec 11-23, 2018	12	48	35	4	1
b.	The world will face a major energy crisis Dec 11-23, 2018	21	46	29	4	*
c.	There will be a cure for Alzheimer's disease Dec 11-23, 2018	9	50	36	4	1
d.	China will overtake the U.S. as the world's main superpower Dec 11-23, 2018	13	41	38	8	1
e.	A woman will be elected U.S. president Dec 11-23, 2018	30	56	11	2	*
f.	A Hispanic person will be elected U.S. president Dec 11-23, 2018	13	53	28	6	1

HAPPEN CONTINUED ...

		Will definitely <u>happen</u>	Will probably <u>happen</u>	Will probably not <u>happen</u>	Will definitely not <u>happen</u>	No <u>answer</u>
g.	Most Americans will work into their 70s to have enough resources to retire					
	Dec 11-23, 2018	34	50	13	3	*

ASK ALL:

NATDEBT

Which do you think is most likely to occur over the next 30 years?

The national debt will ... **[REVERSE RESPONSE OPTIONS FOR HALF OF SAMPLE]**

Dec 11-23

2018

63	Grow larger
21	Stay about the same
14	Be reduced
2	Be eliminated
*	No answer

ASK ALL:

ENVC

By the year 2050, do you think the overall condition of the environment will be ...

[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2, WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]

Dec 11-23

2018

16	Better than it is now
59	Worse than it is now
25	About the same as it is now
*	No answer

ASK ALL:

POPPROB

In 2050, do you think population growth in the U.S. will be a ...

Dec 11-23

2018

45	Major problem
36	Minor problem
18	Not a problem
*	No answer

ASK ALL:

FTRWORRY

Still thinking about the future of our country, how worried are you, if at all, about each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; SPLIT OVER TWO SCREENS]**

		Very <u>worried</u>	Fairly <u>worried</u>	Not too <u>worried</u>	Not at all <u>worried</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a.	The overall soundness of our economic system Dec 11-23, 2018	29	45	22	3	1
b.	The ability of public schools to provide a quality education Dec 11-23, 2018	40	37	19	4	*
c.	The way the government in Washington works Dec 11-23, 2018	49	37	11	2	1
d.	The ability of political leaders to solve the country's biggest problems Dec 11-23, 2018	48	39	10	2	*
e.	The moral values of Americans Dec 11-23, 2018	43	34	19	5	*
f.	Climate change Dec 11-23, 2018	41	28	21	10	*

ASK ALL:

ELDCARE

Thinking ahead 30 years from now, which do you think is more likely to happen?

Adults ages 65 and older will be ... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS]**

Dec 11-23

2018

27	BETTER prepared financially for retirement than older adults are today
72	LESS prepared financially for retirement than older adults are today
1	No answer

ASK FORM 1 [N=1,249]:

ELDFINANCEF1 Who do you think will be mostly responsible for paying for the long-term care older Americans may need? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS]**

Dec 11-23

2018

35	Family members
28	Government
36	Older Americans themselves
1	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,275]:

ELDFINANCEF2 Who do you think should be mostly responsible for paying for the long-term care older Americans may need? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS]**

Dec 11-23

2018

14	Family members
55	Government
28	Older Americans themselves
2	No answer

ASK ALL:

GOVPRIO

If you were deciding what the federal government should do to improve the quality of life for future generations, what priority would you give to each of the following?

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS, SPLIT OVER THREE SCREENS]

		A top <u>priority</u>	An important, but not a top <u>priority</u>	A lower <u>priority</u>	Should not be <u>done</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a.	Reducing the national debt Dec 11-23, 2018	49	41	8	1	1
b.	Increasing spending for education Dec 11-23, 2018	54	33	8	5	*
c.	Providing high-quality, affordable health care to all Americans Dec 11-23, 2018	68	20	7	5	*
d.	Increasing spending on scientific research Dec 11-23, 2018	34	48	16	2	*
e.	Reducing the gap between the rich and the poor Dec 11-23, 2018	44	36	14	5	*
ASK FORM 1 [N=1,249]:						
f.F1	Reducing military spending Dec 11-23, 2018	23	32	23	21	1
ASK FORM 1 [N=1,249]:						
g.F1	Reducing the number of undocumented immigrants coming into the U.S. Dec 11-23, 2018	38	29	24	10	*
ASK FORM 1 [N=1,249]:						
h.F1	Reducing spending on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid Dec 11-23, 2018	20	23	17	39	*

GOVPRIO CONTINUED ...

		<u>A top priority</u>	<u>An important, but not a top priority</u>	<u>A lower priority</u>	<u>Should not be done</u>	<u>No answer</u>
ASK FORM 1 [N=1,249]:						
i.F1	Increasing spending for roads, bridges and other infrastructure Dec 11-23, 2018	36	52	12	1	0
ASK FORM 1 [N=1,249]:						
j.F1	Avoiding tax increases Dec 11-23, 2018	39	36	17	8	0
ASK FORM 2 [N=1,275]:						
k.F2	Increasing military spending Dec 11-23, 2018	23	39	20	17	1
ASK FORM 2 [N=1,275]:						
l.F2	Allowing more immigrants into the U.S. who come here legally Dec 11-23, 2018	17	40	31	11	*
ASK FORM 2 [N=1,275]:						
m.F2	Increasing spending on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid Dec 11-23, 2018	47	38	9	4	1
ASK FORM 2 [N=1,275]:						
n.F2	Reducing spending for roads, bridges and other infrastructure Dec 11-23, 2018	14	29	18	38	1
ASK FORM 2 [N=1,275]:						
o.F2	Dealing with climate change Dec 11-23, 2018	48	28	16	7	*
ASK ALL:						
GNATPROB	Over the next 30 years, which of the following worries you more about the federal government?					
Dec 11-23 2018						
60	That the government will do too little to solve problems facing the country					
39	That the government will be too involved in problems that should be left to businesses and individuals					
1	No answer					

ASK FORM 1 [N=1,249]:

WRKTRN1F1 Over the next 30 years, who should be MOST responsible for making sure American workers have the right skills and training to get a good job? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS]**

Dec 11-23

2018

11	Government
11	Employers
39	The education system
39	Individuals themselves
*	No answer

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,275]:

WRKTRN1F2 Over the next 30 years, who should be MOST responsible for making sure young adults have the right skills and training to get a good job? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS]**

Dec 11-23

2018

10	Government
5	Employers
53	The education system
32	Individuals themselves
1	No answer

ASK FORM 1 [N=1,249]:

WRKTRN2F1 And of these, who should be the SECOND-MOST responsible for making sure American workers have the right skills and training to get a good job? **[LIST WITH R'S ANSWER TO WRKTRN1F1 OMITTED; SHOW REMAINING RESPONSE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER AS WRKTRN1F1]**

Dec 11-23, 2018

<u>First Choice¹</u>	<u>Second Choice²</u>	<u>Total³</u>	
11	11	22	Government
11	25	36	Employers
39	34	73	The education system
39	30	69	Individuals themselves
*	*	1	No answer

¹ Percentages for first choice are from WRKTRN1F1, "Over the next 30 years, who should be MOST responsible for making sure American workers have the right skills and training to get a good job?"

² Percentages for second choice are based on those who provided an answer to WRKTRN1F1 (WRKTRN1F1=1-4) [N=1,246]

³ Total does not sum to 100% due to multiple response.

ASK FORM 2 [N=1,275]:

WRKTRN2F2 And of these, who should be the SECOND-MOST responsible for making sure young adults have the right skills and training to get a good job? **[LIST WITH R'S ANSWER TO WRKTRN1F2 OMITTED; SHOW REMAINING RESPONSE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER AS WRKTRN1F2]**

<u>Dec 11-23, 2018</u>			
<u>First Choice⁴</u>	<u>Second Choice⁵</u>	<u>Total⁶</u>	
10	14	23	Government
5	17	21	Employers
53	33	86	The education system
32	36	68	Individuals themselves
1	1	1	No answer

ASK ALL:

JOBSECURITY By the year 2050, will the average working person in this country have ... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2, WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

<u>Dec 11-23</u>		
<u>2018</u>		
14	More job security	
49	Less job security	
36	About the same	
1	No answer	

ASK ALL:

JOB BENEFITS And will the average working person in this country have employee benefits, such as health insurance, paid vacations and retirement plans that are ... **[SHOW RESPONSE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER AS JOBSECURITY: MORE/BETTER AND LESS/NOT AS GOOD]**

<u>Dec 11-23</u>		
<u>2018</u>		
22	Better than they are now	
41	Not as good as they are now	
36	About the same as they are now	
1	No answer	

ASK ALL:

AUTOWKPLC Overall, has the automation of jobs through new technology in the workplace ... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2, WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

<u>Dec 11-23</u>		
<u>2018</u>		
22	Mostly helped American workers	
48	Mostly hurt American workers	
28	Neither helped nor hurt	
1	No answer	

⁴ Percentages for first choice are from WRKTRN1F2, "Over the next 30 years, who should be MOST responsible for making sure young adults have the right skills and training to get a good job?"

⁵ Percentages for second choice are based on those who provided an answer to WRKTRN1F2 (WRKTRN1F2=1-4) [N=1,267].

⁶ Total does not sum to 100% due to multiple response.

ASK ALL:

ROBWRK Overall, how likely do you think it is that 30 years from now robots and computers will do much of the work currently done by humans? Do you think this will ...

Dec 11-23

2018

30	Definitely happen
52	Probably happen
16	Probably not happen
2	Definitely not happen
*	No answer

ASK IF SAYS ROBOTS/COMPUTERS WILL DEFINITELY/PROBABLY DO MUCH OF THE WORK CURRENTLY DONE BY HUMANS (ROBWRK=1-2) [N=2,077]:

ROBWRK2 If robots and computers do much of the work currently done by humans, do you think this would be ... **[REVERSE RESPONSE OPTIONS FOR HALF OF SAMPLE]**

Dec 11-23

2018

7	A very good thing for the country
24	A somewhat good thing for the country
40	A somewhat bad thing for the country
29	A very bad thing for the country
*	No answer

ASK IF EMPLOYED (F_E3=1-2) [N=1,499]:

AUTOLKLY Within the next 30 years, how likely do you think it is that the type of work that you do will be done by robots or computers? Do you think this will ...

Dec 11-23

2018

11	Definitely happen
25	Probably happen
38	Probably not happen
24	Definitely not happen
*	No answer

ASK ALL:

ROBIMPACT If robots and computers perform most of the jobs currently being done by humans, do you think it is likely or not that ... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

- a. Inequality between the rich and the poor would increase

Dec 11-23

2018

76	Yes, likely
23	No, not likely
1	No answer

- b. The economy would create many new, better-paying jobs for humans

Dec 11-23

2018

33	Yes, likely
66	No, not likely
1	No answer

ASK ALL:
LEGALIMG

In order to maintain the strength of the U.S. economy over the next 30 years, do you think that LEGAL immigration will need to be ... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 3, WITH OPTION 2 ALWAYS IN THE MIDDLE]**

Dec 11-23
2018

27	Increased
50	Maintained at current levels
22	Decreased
1	No answer

ASK ALL:
FUTRCLASS

Over the next 30 years, do you think the share of Americans who are in each of the following groups will **[RANDOMIZE: increase, decrease, / decrease, increase,]** or stay about the same? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS A AND C, WITH ITEM B ALWAYS IN THE MIDDLE; RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 TO MATCH ORDER IN STEM, WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST, KEEP ORDER THE SAME FOR EACH RESPONDENT FOR ALL ITEMS]**

		<u>Increase</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Stay about the same</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a.	Upper class Dec 11-23, 2018	33	22	44	*
b.	Middle class Dec 11-23, 2018	28	46	26	*
c.	Lower class Dec 11-23, 2018	62	18	19	*

ASK ALL:

ETHNCMAJMOD According to the U.S. Census Bureau, by the year 2050, a majority of the population will be made up of blacks, Asians, Hispanics, and other racial minorities.

In terms of its impact on the country, do you think this will be ... **[REVERSE RESPONSE OPTIONS 4-1 FOR HALF OF SAMPLE WITH 5 ALWAYS LAST]**

Dec 11-23
2018

17	A very good thing
18	A somewhat good thing
15	A somewhat bad thing
8	A very bad thing
42	Neither a good nor bad thing
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

ETHNCMAJ3 Do you think this change in the U.S. population will lead to ... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2, WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

Dec 11-23

2018

49	More conflicts between racial and ethnic groups
26	Fewer conflicts between racial and ethnic groups
23	Not much of an impact
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

ETHNCMAJ4 Do you think this change in the U.S. population will ... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2, WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

Dec 11-23

2018

30	Strengthen American customs and values
38	Weaken American customs and values
31	Not much of an impact
2	No answer

ASK ALL:

AGEMAJ According to the U.S. Census Bureau, by the year 2050, the number of people in the population who are 65 or older will outnumber people younger than 18. In terms of its impact on the country, do you think this will be ... **[REVERSE RESPONSE OPTIONS 4-1 FOR HALF OF SAMPLE WITH 5 ALWAYS LAST, KEEP ORDER THE SAME AS ETHNCMAJMOD FOR EACH RESPONDENT]**

Dec 11-23

2018

4	A very good thing
13	A somewhat good thing
42	A somewhat bad thing
14	A very bad thing
26	Neither a good nor bad thing
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

INTRMAR According to the U.S. Census Bureau, more people of different races are marrying each other these days than in the past. In terms of its impact on the country, do you think this is ... **[REVERSE RESPONSE OPTIONS 4-1 FOR HALF OF SAMPLE WITH 5 ALWAYS LAST, KEEP ORDER THE SAME AS ETHNCMAJMOD FOR EACH RESPONDENT]**

Dec 11-23

2018

30	A very good thing
19	A somewhat good thing
7	A somewhat bad thing
3	A very bad thing
40	Neither a good nor bad thing
1	No answer

ASK IF NOT RETIRED (E1_RF3=2) [N=1,796]:

SSMONEY Thinking about what the Social Security system will look like when you are ready to retire, do you think there will be enough money to provide benefits to older Americans?

Dec 11-23

2018

16	Yes, at current levels
42	Yes, but at reduced levels
42	No
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

SSCUT Thinking about the long-term future of Social Security, which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right? **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS]**

Dec 11-23

2018

25	Some reductions in benefits for future retirees will need to be made
74	Social Security benefits should not be reduced in any way
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

FUTR_ABR Thinking again about the year 2050, or 30 years from now, do you think abortion will be ... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS FOR HALF OF SAMPLE]**

Dec 11-23

2018

22	Legal with no restrictions
55	Legal but with some restrictions
16	Illegal except in certain cases
5	Illegal with no exceptions
2	No answer

ASK ALL:

FUTR_DIV By 2050, do you expect that people who are married will be ... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2, WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

Dec 11-23

2018

29	More likely to get divorced than people are now
12	Less likely to get divorced than people are now
58	About as likely to get divorced as people are now
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

FUTR_M By 2050, do you expect that people will be ... **[SHOW RESPONSE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER AS FOR FUTR_DIV]**

Dec 11-23

2018

7	More likely to get married than people are now
53	Less likely to get married than people are now
39	About as likely to get married as people are now
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

FUTR_K

By 2050, do you expect that people will be ... **[SHOW RESPONSE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER AS FOR FUTR_DIV]**

Dec 11-23

2018

10	More likely to have children than people are now
46	Less likely to have children than people are now
43	About as likely to have children as people are now
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

SOLVPROB

In the future, what kind of impact do you think each of the following will have in solving the biggest problems facing the country? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS; REVERSE RESPONSE OPTIONS FOR HALF OF SAMPLE, KEEP ORDER THE SAME FOR EACH RESPONDENT FOR ALL ITEMS, SPLIT ACROSS TWO SCREENS]**

		A very positive <u>impact</u>	A somewhat positive <u>impact</u>	A somewhat negative <u>impact</u>	A very negative <u>impact</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a.	Science and technology Dec 11-23, 2018	43	44	8	3	2
b.	Major corporations Dec 11-23, 2018	9	41	32	16	2
c.	Religious groups Dec 11-23, 2018	15	44	26	14	2
ASK FORM 1 [N=1,249]:						
d.F1	The government in Washington Dec 11-23, 2018	7	37	36	19	1
ASK FORM 2 [N=1,275]:						
e.F2	State and local government Dec 11-23, 2018	11	52	27	8	2
f.	The news media Dec 11-23, 2018	11	31	31	26	1
g.	The military Dec 11-23, 2018	21	50	19	8	2
h.	Colleges and universities Dec 11-23, 2018	24	50	16	8	1
i.	Public K-12 schools Dec 11-23, 2018	25	53	17	4	1