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Most Americans Say They Are Tuned In to News About the Trump Administration

Far fewer are hearing about the administration's relationship with the media than was the case early in Trump's first term

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How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to track how Americans are paying attention to news about the new Trump administration. For many years we have asked U.S. adults for their views and habits related to news about elections, presidential administrations and policy developments. This study builds on work we did leading up to the [2024 election](#), and on studies in both [2017](#) and [2021](#) during the early stages of the Trump and Biden administrations.

To do this, we surveyed 5,123 adults from Feb. 24 to March 2, 2025. Everyone who took part in this survey is a member of the Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), a group of people recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses who have agreed to take surveys regularly. This kind of recruitment gives nearly all U.S. adults a chance of selection. Interviews were conducted either online or by telephone with a live interviewer. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other factors. Read more about the [ATP's methodology](#).

Here are the [questions used](#) for this report, along with [responses](#), and its [methodology](#).

Most Americans Say They Are Tuned In to News About the Trump Administration

Far fewer are hearing about the administration's relationship with the media than was the case early in Trump's first term

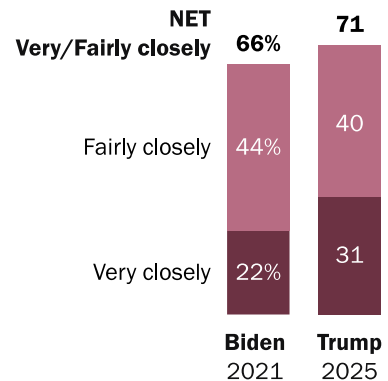
The second Trump administration has started with a rapid [succession of executive orders and policy changes](#), including tariffs, cuts to government agencies and more. Americans are paying attention, but Democrats and Republicans give different reasons for why they are tuning in, according to a new Pew Research Center survey conducted in late February and early March.

As the president and his allies move to reshape the federal government and U.S. foreign policy, about seven-in-ten U.S. adults say they have been following news about the actions and initiatives of the Trump administration very (31%) or fairly (40%) closely.

That's about the same share who said they were [following news about the presidential election](#) last September (69%), and slightly higher than the percentage who said they were following news about the actions and initiatives of the [new Biden administration](#) in 2021 (66%). There is also a gap between now and the early days of the Biden presidency when it comes to the share who are following administration news *very* closely (31% vs. 22%).

About 7 in 10 Americans are following news about the Trump administration

% of U.S. adults who say they have been following news about the actions and initiatives of the ___ administration ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 24-March 2, 2025.

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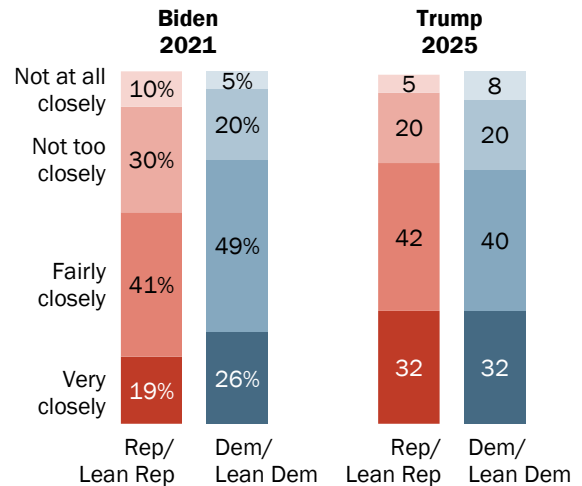
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Both partisan coalitions are paying attention to the actions and initiatives of the administration at similar rates. This is different from the first months of the Biden administration in 2021, when Republicans and Republican-leaning independents were less likely than Democrats and Democratic leaners to say they were following the Biden administration's actions very or fairly closely (60% of Republicans vs. 75% of Democrats).

Now, 74% of Republicans and 71% of Democrats say they are following the Trump administration's actions at least fairly closely.

Republicans and Democrats are equally likely to be paying attention to the actions of the Trump administration

% of U.S. adults who say they have been following news about the actions and initiatives of the ___ administration ...



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 24-March 2, 2025. "Most Americans Say They Are Tuned In to News About the Trump Administration"

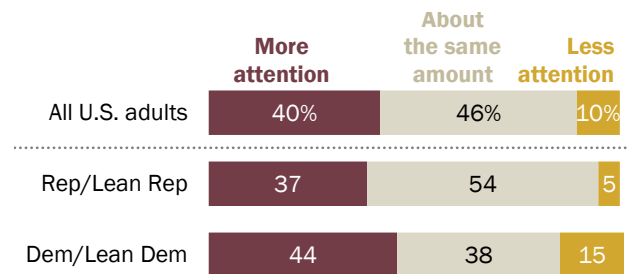
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Four-in-ten Americans say they're now paying more attention to political news than they were before Trump took office, while just 10% say they are paying less attention.

Democrats are slightly more likely than Republicans to say they're paying more attention (44% vs. 37%) and are also more likely to say they're paying *less* attention (15% vs. 5%) than before the inauguration. Republicans, meanwhile, are more inclined to say their attention has been steady.

4 in 10 Americans say they're paying more attention to political news since Trump took office

% of U.S. adults who say they are paying ___ to political news compared with before Donald Trump took office



Note: Respondents who did not answer or said "Not sure" are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 24-March 2, 2025. "Most Americans Say They Are Tuned In to News About the Trump Administration"

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Reasons Americans follow – or don't follow – news about the Trump administration

The survey asked the 71% of Americans who say they are following news about the Trump administration very or fairly closely *why* they are doing this. Respondents were given a list of five possible reasons why they might be following what Trump is doing, and indicated whether each was a major reason, minor reason or not a reason at all.

The most common reasons are concern and relevance.

- About two-thirds of U.S. adults in this group (66%) say “I’m concerned about what the administration is doing” is a major reason they are following its actions.
- And roughly six-in-ten (62%) say its relevance to their life is a major reason.

Smaller shares cite three other potential factors as major reasons they follow news about the Trump administration:

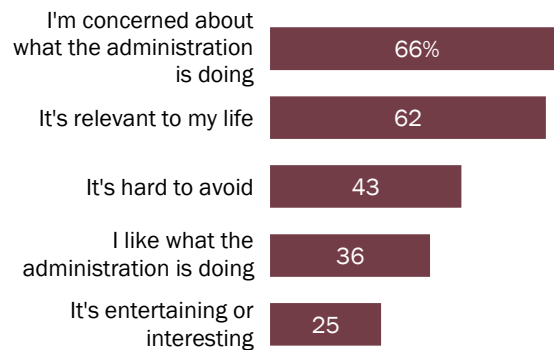
- Because it’s hard to avoid (43%),
- Because they like what the administration is doing (36%) or
- Because they find it entertaining or interesting (25%).

Among the smaller share of Americans who *aren't* closely following news about the administration, **the most common reasons**

for tuning out are fatigue and lack of interest in politics generally.

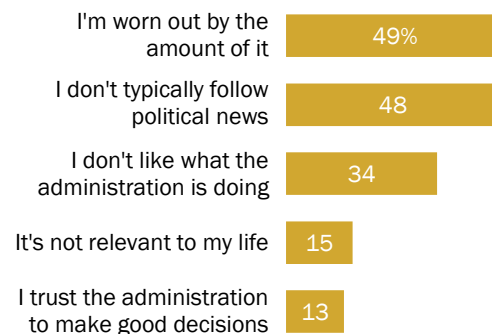
Americans following news about the Trump administration say they do so because it is concerning, relevant ...

Among U.S. adults who say they have been **following** news about the Trump administration very/fairly closely, % who say each is a **major reason** they are doing so



... while those not following news about the administration say they're worn out or they don't follow politics anyway

Among U.S. adults who say they have **not been following** news about the Trump administration very/fairly closely, % who say each is a **major reason** they are not doing so



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 24-March 2, 2025. “Most Americans Say They Are Tuned In to News About the Trump Administration”

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- About half say a major reason for this is that they're worn out by the amount of news (49%) or that they don't typically follow political news (48%).
- Roughly a third say they are tuned out because they don't like what the administration is doing (34%).
- Fewer say a major reason is that the news about the Trump administration is not relevant to their life (15%) or that they trust the administration to make good decisions (13%).

Reasons by party

Among U.S. adults who are closely following news about the Trump administration's actions and initiatives, identical shares of Democrats and Republicans (62% each) say that the personal relevance to their life is a major reason they are doing so. But on other reasons, there are substantial gaps between the two parties.

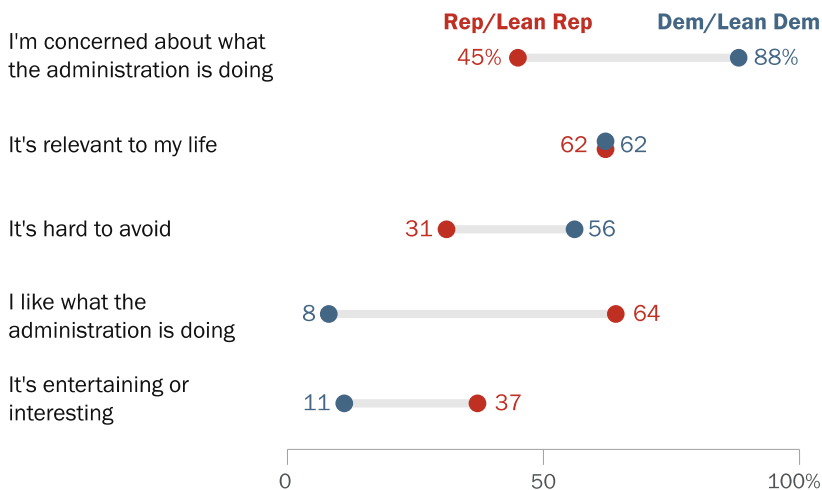
Democrats are much more likely to say concern about what the administration is doing is a major factor in why they are following news about it (88%), though nearly half of Republicans also cite concern about the administration's activities as a major reason for paying attention to the news (45%).

At the same time, most Republicans (64%) say a major reason they follow this news is that they like what the administration is doing, compared with just 8% of Democrats.

Democrats are more likely to say they're keeping up with this news because that it's hard to avoid, while more Republicans than Democrats say it's because the news is entertaining.

Most Democrats following news about the Trump administration cite concern as a major reason

Among U.S. adults who say they have been *following* news about the Trump administration very/fairly closely, % who say each is a *major reason* they are doing so



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 24-March 2, 2025.
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Republicans respond differently to these questions based on their ideology. Republicans who describe themselves as conservative are much more likely than moderate or liberal Republicans to say that approval of what the administration is doing is a major reason they're following the news (75% vs. 41%). And conservative Republicans are *less* likely than their more moderate counterparts to cite concern about what Trump is doing as a major reason for following White House actions (42% vs. 53%).

About a quarter (27%) of Republicans who are following the news give both reasons – they like what the administration is doing, and they are concerned about what the administration is doing.

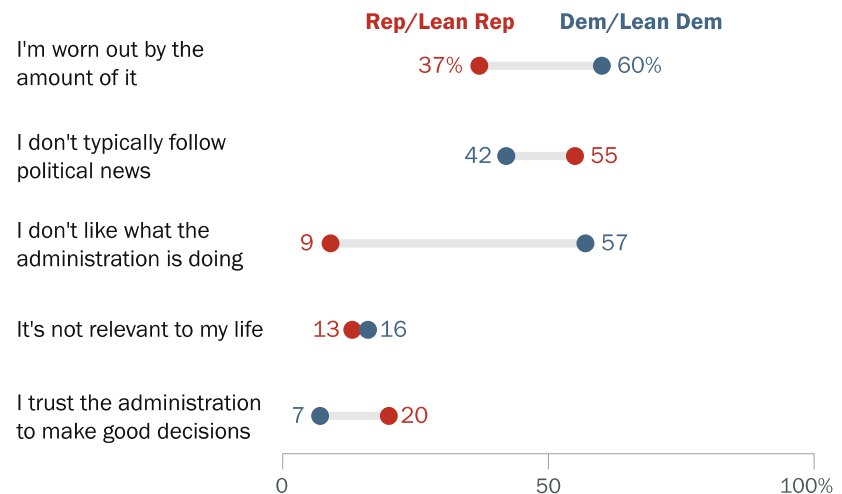
Republicans and Democrats also have different reasons for *not* following news about the Trump administration.

Among Americans who are not closely following the administration's actions, Democrats are much more likely than Republicans to say a major reason is that they don't like what the administration is doing (57% vs. 9%). Democrats also are more inclined to say they are worn out by the amount of news about the administration (60% vs. 37%).

The most common reason among Republicans who are not engaged with this news is that they usually don't follow politics (55%), while about four-in-ten Democrats cite this as a major reason (42%).

Among those tuned out of Trump administration news, Democrats are more likely to say it's because they're worn out

Among U.S. adults who say they have *not been following* news about the Trump administration closely, % who say each is a *major reason* they are not doing so



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 24-March 2, 2025.
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Views on the Trump administration’s relationship with the news media

A much smaller share of Americans say they have heard about the relationship between the Trump administration and the media in Donald Trump’s second term compared with his first.

- In [March of 2017](#), nearly three-quarters of Americans (72%) said they had heard *a lot* about the relationship between the Trump administration and the U.S. news media.
- As of this year’s survey, conducted Feb. 24-March 2, just half that share (36%) say they’ve heard a lot about this relationship, although an additional 44% say they have heard a little about it.
- Still, about one-in-five Americans (19%) now say they’ve heard nothing at all about the relationship, up from 6% in 2017.

Before the survey was conducted, there had already been several recent points of tension between the Trump administration and news outlets, including [CBS News](#), [The Des Moines Register](#) and [The Associated Press](#).

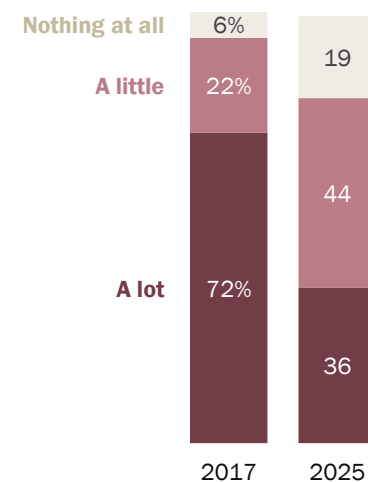
And while the survey was being conducted, [the administration announced](#) that it would decide which outlets are part of the White House press pool, rather than the White House Correspondents’ Association making these choices.

Both Republicans and Democrats are less likely to say they have heard about this relationship than they were eight years ago. In 2017, similar majorities of Republicans (74%) and Democrats (72%) had heard a lot about Trump’s relationship with the media. In 2025, far smaller shares of both Republicans (35%) and Democrats (40%) say this.

Younger people are less likely to have heard a lot about this relationship, mirroring the pattern in [general attention to the news](#). Three-in-ten U.S. adults under 50 have heard a lot about it, compared with 44% of those 50 and older.

Fewer Americans now say they’ve heard a lot about Trump’s relationship with the news media

% of U.S. adults who say they have heard ___ about the relationship between the Trump administration and the U.S. news media



Note: Respondents who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 24-March 2, 2025.

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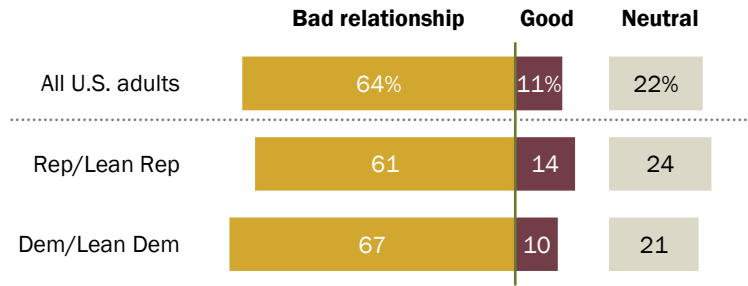
Most Americans say that Trump and the media have a bad relationship

There is a widespread belief among Americans that the relationship between the Trump administration and the U.S. news media is a bad one: 64% of U.S. adults say the relationship is bad, while just 11% say it's good. And 22% say that this relationship is neutral.

The view that Trump and the media have a bad relationship is widely held in both parties: 61% of Republicans and 67% of Democrats say this.

Majorities of both parties say that the relationship between the Trump administration and the news media is bad

% of U.S. adults who say the relationship between the Trump administration and the U.S. news media is a very/somewhat ...



Note: Responses include "Very bad," "Somewhat bad," "Neutral," "Somewhat good" and "Very good." Respondents who did not answer or said "Don't know" are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 24-March 2, 2025.

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However, there are stark differences when it comes to how the two parties assess Trump and the media's role in the relationship.

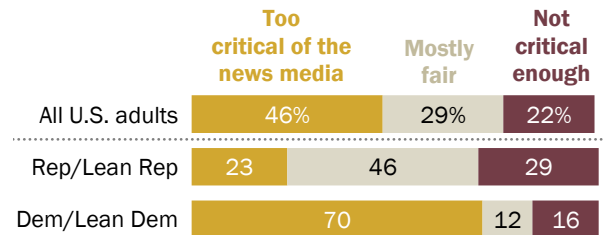
- Democrats are much more likely to say the Trump administration has been too critical of the news media:** Seven-in-ten Democrats say this, about triple the share of Republicans who say the same (23%). Republicans are much more likely than Democrats to say the administration has been mostly fair toward the media (46% vs. 12%) or not critical enough (29% vs. 16%).
- Republicans, meanwhile, are more likely to say the media are too critical of Trump.** About seven-in-ten Republicans say this (69%), while just 12% of Democrats agree. Instead, roughly six-in-ten Democrats (62%) say the media have *not been critical enough* of Trump, while just one-in-ten Republicans say this.

Overall, similar shares of Americans say the U.S. news media have been too critical of the Trump administration (39%) and that they have been not critical enough (36%).

But the share of U.S. adults who say the Trump administration has been too critical of the media is about double the share who say the administration has not been critical enough (46% vs. 22%).

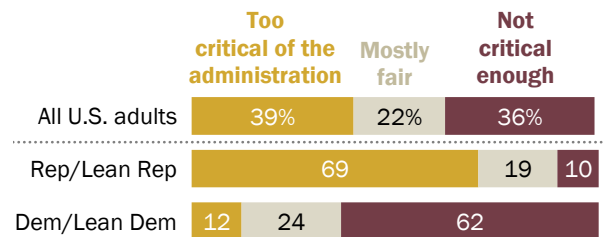
Democrats say Trump is too critical of the news media

% of U.S. adults who say that when it comes to the U.S. news media, the **Trump administration** has been ...



Republicans say the media are too critical of the Trump administration; Democrats say not critical enough

% of U.S. adults who say when it comes to the Trump administration, the **U.S. news media** have been ...



Note: Respondents who did not answer or said "Don't know" are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Feb. 24-March 2, 2025. "Most Americans Say They Are Tuned In to News About the Trump Administration"

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Methodology

The American Trends Panel survey methodology

Overview

Data in this report comes from Wave 164 of the American Trends Panel (ATP), Pew Research Center’s nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. The survey was conducted from Feb. 24 to March 2, 2025. A total of 5,123 panelists responded out of 5,737 who were sampled, for a survey-level response rate of 89%.

The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 3%. 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 5,123 respondents is plus or minus 1.5 percentage points.

The survey includes an [oversample](#) of non-Hispanic Asian 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.

SSRS conducted the survey for Pew Research Center via online (n=4,939) and live telephone (n=184) interviewing. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish.

To learn more about the ATP, read “[About the American Trends Panel](#).”

Panel recruitment

Since 2018, the ATP has used address-based sampling (ABS) for recruitment. A study cover letter and a pre-incentive are mailed to a stratified, random sample of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service’s Computerized Delivery Sequence File. This Postal Service file has been estimated to cover 90% to 98% of the population.¹ Within each sampled household, the adult with the next birthday is selected to participate. Other details of the ABS recruitment protocol have changed over time but are available upon request.² Prior to 2018, the ATP was recruited using landline and cellphone random-digit-dial surveys administered in English and Spanish.

A national sample of U.S. adults has been recruited to the ATP approximately once per year since 2014. In some years, the recruitment has included additional efforts (known as an “oversample”)

¹ AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. “[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling](#).”

² Email pewsurveys@pewresearch.org.

to improve the accuracy of data for underrepresented groups. For example, Hispanic adults, Black adults and Asian adults were oversampled in 2019, 2022 and 2023, respectively.

Sample design

The overall target population for this survey was noninstitutionalized persons ages 18 and older living in the United States. It featured a stratified random sample from the ATP in which 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 SSRS. The web program used for online respondents was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the SSRS project team and Pew Research Center researchers. The SSRS project 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 gift code to Amazon.com, Target.com or Walmart.com. 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 Feb. 24 to March 2, 2025. Surveys were conducted via self-administered web survey or by live telephone interviewing.

For panelists who take surveys online:³ Postcard notifications were mailed to a subset on Feb. 24.⁴ Survey 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 Feb.

³ The ATP does not use routers or chains in any part of its online data collection protocol, nor are they used to direct respondents to additional surveys.

⁴ Postcard notifications for web panelists are sent to 1) panelists who were recruited within the last two years and 2) panelists recruited prior to the last two years who opt to continue receiving postcard notifications.

24. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking sampled online panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on Feb 25.

**Invitation and reminder dates for web respondents,
ATP Wave 164**

	Soft launch	Full launch
Initial invitation	Feb. 24, 2025	Feb. 25, 2025
First reminder	Feb. 27, 2025	Feb. 27, 2025
Final reminder	March 1, 2025	March 1, 2025

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Panelists participating online were sent an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. ATP panelists who consented to SMS messages were sent an SMS invitation with a link to the survey and up to two SMS reminders.

For panelists who take surveys over the phone with a live interviewer: Prenotification postcards were mailed on Feb. 21, 2025. Soft launch took place on Feb. 24, 2025, and involved dialing until a total of three interviews had been completed. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking sampled phone panelists' numbers were dialed throughout the remaining field period. Panelists who take surveys via phone can receive up to six calls from trained SSRS interviewers.

Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, Center researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for whether respondents left questions blank at very high rates or always selected the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, two ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

Weighting

The ATP data is weighted in a process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the panel survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of recruitment into the panel. These weights are then 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.

Among the panelists who completed the survey, this weight is then calibrated again to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table and trimmed at the 1st and 99th percentiles to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and tests of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

American Trends Panel weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age (detailed)	2023 American Community Survey (ACS)
Age x Gender	
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Race/Ethnicity x Gender	
Race/Ethnicity x Age	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metropolitan status	
Volunteerism	2023 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2020 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Frequency of internet use	2024 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Religious affiliation	
Party affiliation x Race/Ethnicity	
Party affiliation x Age	
Party affiliation among registered voters	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on noninstitutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population.

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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.

Sample sizes and margins of error, ATP Wave 164

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	5,123	1.5 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	2,361	2.2 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	2,604	2.1 percentage points

Note: This survey includes oversamples of 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.

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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 164

	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	5,123
Logged in (web) / Contacted (CATI), but did not complete any items	2.11	102
Started survey; broke off before completion	2.12	32
Never logged on (web) / Never reached on phone (CATI)	2.20	478
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	0
Other non-interview	2.30	0
Completed interview but was removed for data quality	2.90	2
Total panelists sampled for the survey		5,737
Completed interviews	I	5,123
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	134
Non-contact	NC	478
Other	O	2
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
Total		5,737
AAPOR RR1 = $I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)$		89%

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Cumulative response rate, ATP Wave 164

	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	11%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	73%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 164	35%
Response rate to Wave 164 survey	89%
Cumulative response rate	3%

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