

**2025 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL**  
**Wave 182: Trust in Science**  
**October 20 – 26, 2025**

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Note:** The questions presented below are part of a larger survey conducted on the American Trends Panel. For all questions, the 98 ("don't know" in phone mode) and 99 (refusal in phone mode and no answer in web mode) codes are combined in the data for analytical purposes.

**PN = Programming note**

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**\*CODEBOOK FOR ATP SAMPLE VARIABLES TO BE USED IN SURVEY PROGRAMMING LOGIC\***

**X\_FORM**

- 1 Form 1
- 2 Form 2

Note: Flag to randomly assign panelists to one of two forms (Form 1, Form 2) and weight within form  
Source: Randomly assigned for each survey.

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 -----**MAIN QUESTIONNAIRE BEGINS HERE**-----  
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**BAT: CONF**

**ASK ALL:**

[ PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS ACROSS TWO SCREENS; INCLUDE RANDOMIZATION IN DATA FILE ]

[ PN: SHOW "READ FOR FIRST ITEM" AND "READ FOR SUBSEQUENT ITEMS" ON THE FIRST SCREEN; ON THE FIRST SCREEN, BETWEEN THE QUESTION TEXT AND THE GRID, INCLUDE AN INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: "[**INTERVIEWER NOTE: QUESTION CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE**]" ; ONLY SHOW "READ FOR SUBSEQUENT ITEMS" ON THE SECOND SCREEN ]

[ PN: IF WEB: ] How much confidence, if any, do you have in each of the following to act in the best interests of the public?

[ PN: IF CATI: **READ FOR FIRST ITEM:** ] How much confidence, if any, do you have in each of the following to act in the best interests of the public?

[ PN: IF CATI: **READ FOR FIRST ITEM:** ] First, (**INSERT ITEM**). How much confidence do you have in them to act in the best interests of the public? (**READ LIST**)

[ PN: IF CATI: **READ FOR SUBSEQUENT ITEMS:** ] How about (**INSERT ITEM**)? (**READ AS NECESSARY:** How much confidence do you have in them to act in the best interests of the public? (**READ LIST**))

**BATTERY ITEMS:**

- a Elected officials
- b Journalists
- c The military
- d Religious leaders
- e Business leaders
- f [ PN: ASK IF FORM 1 (X\_FORM=1) ]: Medical scientists
- g [ PN: ASK IF FORM 2 (X\_FORM=2) ]: Scientists
- [ PN: NO ITEM h ]
- i Public school principals for grades K-12
- j Police officers

**RESPONSE CATEGORIES:**

- 1 A great deal of confidence
- 2 A fair amount of confidence
- 3 Not too much confidence
- 4 No confidence at all
- 98 [ PN: IF CATI: ] (**DO NOT READ**) Don't know
- 99 [ PN: IF WEB: ] Web blank / [ PN: IF CATI: ] (**DO NOT READ**) Refused

**QUE: SCI\_EFFECT****ASK ALL:**

Overall, would you say science has had a mostly positive effect on our society or a mostly negative effect on our society?

[ PN: IF CATI: ] (READ LIST)

- 1 Mostly positive
- 2 Mostly negative
- 3 Equal positive and negative effects
- 98 [ PN: IF CATI: ] (DO NOT READ) Don't know
- 99 [ PN: IF WEB: ] Web blank / [ PN: IF CATI: ] (DO NOT READ) Refused

**QUE: SCI\_WORLDLEADER****ASK ALL:**

Thinking about all the important goals for the United States, how important do you think it is for the U.S. to be a world leader in scientific achievements?

[ PN: IF CATI: ] (READ LIST)

- 1 Very important
- 2 Somewhat important
- 3 Not too important
- 4 Not at all important
- 98 [ PN: IF CATI: ] (DO NOT READ) Don't know
- 99 [ PN: IF WEB: ] Web blank / [ PN: IF CATI: ] (DO NOT READ) Refused

**QUE: SCI\_INVESTMENTS****ASK ALL:**

[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1 HOLDING 98 AND 99 LAST; INCLUDE ROTATION IN DATA FILE ]

Do you think government investments in scientific research aimed at advancing knowledge are usually...

[ PN: IF CATI: ] (READ LIST)

- 1 Worthwhile investments for society over time
- 2 Not worth the investments
- 98 [ PN: IF CATI: ] (DO NOT READ) Don't know
- 99 [ PN: IF WEB: ] Web blank / [ PN: IF CATI: ] (DO NOT READ) Refused

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**QUE: SCI\_GOVPRIV**

**ASK ALL:**

**[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1 HOLDING 98 AND 99 LAST; INCLUDE ROTATION IN DATA FILE ]**

Which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

**[ PN: IF CATI: ] (READ LIST)**

- 1 Government investment in research is essential for scientific progress
- 2 Private investment will ensure that enough scientific progress is made, even without government investment
- 98 **[ PN: IF CATI: ] (DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 99 **[ PN: IF WEB: ]** Web blank / **[ PN: IF CATI: ] (DO NOT READ)** Refused

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**QUE: SCI\_WORLDCOMP**

**ASK ALL:**

**[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1 HOLDING 3, 98, AND 99 LAST; INCLUDE ROTATION IN DATA FILE ]**

When it comes to scientific achievements, compared with other countries around the world, do you think the United States is...

**[ PN: IF CATI: ] (READ LIST)**

- 1 Gaining ground
- 2 Losing ground
- 3 Staying in about the same place
- 98 **[ PN: IF CATI: ] (DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 99 **[ PN: IF WEB: ]** Web blank / **[ PN: IF CATI: ] (DO NOT READ)** Refused

**BAT: SCICONTRIB****ASK ALL:**

**[ PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1 HOLDING 6 AND 99 LAST; INCLUDE RANDOMIZATION AND ROTATION IN DATA FILE ]**

**[ PN: IF WEB: ]** How much do you think each of the following contributes to scientific achievements in the U.S.?

**[ PN: IF CATI: READ FOR FIRST ITEM: ]** How much do you think each of the following contributes to scientific achievements in the U.S.? First, **(INSERT ITEM)**. How much do you think they contribute to scientific achievements in the U.S.? **(READ LIST)**

**[ PN: IF CATI: READ FOR SUBSEQUENT ITEMS: ]** Next, **(INSERT ITEM)**. **(READ AS NECESSARY:)** How much do you think they contribute to scientific achievements in the U.S.? **(READ LIST)**

**BATTERY ITEMS:**

- a Colleges and universities
- b Private companies
- c Federal government agencies
- d Charitable foundations

**RESPONSE CATEGORIES:**

- 1 A great deal
- 2 Quite a bit
- 3 Some
- 4 Not too much
- 5 Not at all

**[ PN: INSERT A LINE OF SPACE ]**

6 **[ PN: IF WEB: ]** Not sure **[ PN: IF CATI: ]** Or are you not sure?

99 **[ PN: IF WEB: ]** Web blank / **[ PN: IF CATI: ] (DO NOT READ)** Refused

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**