

**2025 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
Wave 184: Role of News Consumers Survey  
December 8-14, 2025**

**TOPLINE  
N=3,560**

**Note: All numbers are percentages unless otherwise noted. 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.**

**"No answer" includes web respondents who do not answer the question as well as telephone respondents who refuse to answer or who say they don't know how to answer. In cases where "Not sure" was offered as an explicit option to web and telephone respondents, the "No answer" category includes only web skips and telephone refusals.**

**This survey was conducted primarily online, with some interviews conducted by live telephone. This topline shows the programming language for online administration. For details on how questions were slightly modified for phone administration, visit the questionnaire.**

**American Trends Panel surveys conducted between October 2016 and June 2024 were conducted fully online (with tablets and data plans provided to adults without home internet). American Trends Panel surveys conducted prior to October 2016 were conducted primarily online, with some respondents completing by mail. For additional details, visit the methodology.**

**PN = Programming note**

	<b>Sample size</b>	<b>Margin of error at 95% confidence level</b>
U.S. adults	3,560	+/- 1.8 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	1,605	2.7 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	1,800	2.6 percentage points
Ages 18-29	565	4.7 percentage points
30-49	1,244	3.0 percentage points
50-64	927	3.5 percentage points
65+	816	3.7 percentage points

**NEWS\_LEVEL****ASK ALL:****[ PN: ASK ITEMS IN ORDER – DO NOT RANDOMIZE ]**

How closely do you follow...

		<u>Very closely</u>	<u>Somewhat closely</u>	<u>Not very closely</u>	<u>Not at all closely</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a	International news					
	Dec 8-14, 2025	11	41	34	14	*
	Mar 10-16, 2025	13	43	32	12	*
	Jan 22-28, 2024	13	41	33	12	*
	Oct 15-Nov 8, 2018	15	43	28	13	1
	Mar 13-27, 2017	17	49	27	6	*
	Jan 12-Feb 8, 2016	19	46	25	9	*
b	National news					
	Dec 8-14, 2025	23	46	22	8	*
	Mar 10-16, 2025	30	45	18	6	*
	Jan 22-28, 2024	22	45	24	9	*
	Oct 15-Nov 8, 2018	31	43	17	8	1
	Mar 13-27, 2017	40	43	14	4	*
	Jan 12-Feb 8, 2016	33	44	16	6	*
c	Local news					
	Dec 8-14, 2025	21	45	26	8	*
	Mar 10-16, 2025	23	47	25	6	*
	Jan 22-28, 2024	22	45	26	7	*
	Oct 15-Nov 8, 2018	31	42	19	7	1
	Mar 13-27, 2017	33	45	18	3	*
	Jan 12-Feb 8, 2016	37	41	16	6	*
d	News about your neighborhood					
	Dec 8-14, 2025	20	40	28	13	*
	Mar 10-16, 2025	22	40	26	12	*
	Jan 22-28, 2024	21	40	26	12	*
	Oct 15-Nov 8, 2018	31	38	20	10	1
	Mar 13-27, 2017	30	39	22	9	*
	Jan 12-Feb 8, 2016	33	37	20	10	*

**[ ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR RELEASE ]**

**NEWSAMTUS****ASK ALL:****[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-3/3-1, HOLDING 4 LAST ]**

In the past 10 years, do you think the amount of news Americans consume has been...

Dec 8-14,

2025

50	Rising
16	Staying about the same
18	Falling

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

15	Not sure
*	No answer

**SEEK****ASK ALL:****[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1 ]**

Which statement best describes how you get news?

Dec 8-14,

2025

50	I mostly get news because I'm looking for it
49	I mostly get news because I happen to come across it
1	No answer

Feb 18-

Mar 2,

2020

52

47

\*

Feb 19-

Mar 4,

2019

60

39

1

**SEEKTYPE****ASK ALL:****[ PN: RANDOMIZE ITEM; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 ]**Which statement best describes how you get each type of news?

		I mostly get this type of news because I'm <u>looking for it</u>	I mostly get this type of news because I happen to <u>come across it</u>	I don't get this type of <u>news</u>	No <u>answer</u>
NEW	The most up-to-date information about an issue or event Dec 8-14, 2025	55	38	6	1
DEEP	In-depth information or deep dives into an issue or event Dec 8-14, 2025	58	31	11	*
OPIN	People expressing opinions about an issue or event Dec 8-14, 2025	21	64	14	1
FUN	Funny posts that reference an issue or event Dec 8-14, 2025	14	66	20	*

**BREAKINGREACT****ASK ALL:****[ PN: RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS ]**When a breaking news event happens, where do you typically go first to get more information?Dec 8-14,  
2025

36	Your preferred news organization
19	Social media
28	A search engine (such as Google or Bing)
5	Friends, family or acquaintances
1	AI chatbots (such as ChatGPT or Gemini)

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

5	Some other source (please specify): <b>[PN: INSERT SINGLE LINE TEXT BOX]</b>
5	You don't look for more information
*	No answer

**[ PN: RANDOMIZE ORDER OF NEWSNFM, NEWSTIME, NEWSUND, NEWSREL AND NEWSWORN;  
DISPLAY ON SAME SCREEN WITH A LINE SEPARATING EACH SET OF RESPONSES ]**

**NEWSNFM**

**ASK ALL:**

**[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST ]**

Which of the following statements comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

Dec 8-14,

2025

47 I can stay informed even when I don't actively follow the news

42 I can only stay informed if I actively follow the news

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

11 Not sure

\* No answer

**NEWSTIME**

**ASK ALL:**

**[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST ]**

Which of the following statements comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

Dec 8-14,

2025

55 I have enough time to follow the news

35 I don't have enough time to follow the news

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

10 Not sure

\* No answer

**NEWSUND**

**ASK ALL:**

**[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST ]**

Which of the following statements comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

Dec 8-14,

2025

73 It's easy for me to understand the news I come across

14 It's hard for me to understand the news I come across

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

12 Not sure

\* No answer

**NEWSREL****ASK ALL:****[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST ]**

Which of the following statements comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

Dec 8-14,

2025

- 35 Most of the news I come across is relevant to my life  
 48 Most of the news I come across is not relevant to my life

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

- 16 Not sure  
 1 No answer

**NEWSWORN****ASK ALL:****[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST ]**

Which of the following statements comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

Dec 8-

14,

2025

- 52 I am worn out by the amount of news there is these days  
 34 I am not worn out by the amount of news there is these days

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

- 14 Not sure  
 \* No answer

**NEWSACTIONS****ASK ALL:****[ PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS ]**

How much does the news help you...

		<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
DISCUSS	Discuss current events with others Dec 8-14, 2025	35	51	13	*
DECIDE	Make decisions in your daily life Dec 8-14, 2025	14	52	34	*
VOTE	Make voting decisions Dec 8-14, 2025	40	39	21	1
INFORM	Feel more informed about what's happening Dec 8-14, 2025	46	45	9	*
COMM	Make things better in your community Dec 8-14, 2025	12	50	37	1
JOB	<b>[ PN: ASK IF EMPLOYED (EMPLSIT=1,2) ]</b> Be better at your job <sup>1</sup> Dec 8-14, 2025	5	17	36	*

**WHYFOLLOW****ASK ALL:****[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 AND 4 LAST ]**

Which best describes you?

Dec 8-14,  
2025

9	I follow the news because I enjoy it
24	I follow the news because I feel I should
51	A mix of both
16	I don't follow the news
*	No answer

<sup>1</sup> This question was only asked of those who answered "work full time for pay" or "work part time for pay" when asked about their employment status. 42% of Americans are not currently employed or did not answer the employment question and are excluded from this question.

**INFORMRESP****ASK ALL:****[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST ]**

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

Dec 8-14,  
2025

80	Americans have a responsibility to be informed about the news when they vote
7	Americans <u>do not</u> have a responsibility to be informed about the news when they vote
13	Not sure
*	No answer

**[ PN: INSERT A LINE OF SPACE ]****CIVICDUTIES****ASK ALL:****[ PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1 ]**

Thinking about what it means to be a good member of society, how important is it to...

		<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>	<u>No answer</u>
VOTE	Vote in elections Dec 8-14, 2025	49	27	16	4	3	1
NEWS	Follow the news Dec 8-14, 2025	11	30	41	12	6	1
VOL	Volunteer to help others Dec 8-14, 2025	18	36	36	6	2	*
JURY	Serve jury duty if you are called Dec 8-14, 2025	25	32	28	8	6	1
TAX	Pay taxes Dec 8-14, 2025	28	37	23	6	5	1
PROT	Attend rallies or protests on issues you think are important Dec 8-14, 2025	5	11	32	28	23	1
RESP	Respect the opinions and beliefs of those you disagree with Dec 8-14, 2025	26	36	29	5	3	1

**CONF\_b****ASK ALL:****[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1 ]**

How much confidence, if any, do you have in journalists to act in the best interests of the public?

Dec 8-14, 2025		Oct 20-26, 2025	Apr 14-20, 2025	Oct 21-27, 2024	Sep 25-Oct 1, 2023	Sep 13-18, 2022	Nov 18-29, 2020	Apr 20-26, 2020
6	A great deal of confidence	8	5	7	6	6	9	9
37	A fair amount of confidence	39	39	38	36	38	37	39
40	Not too much confidence	36	40	37	37	36	31	33
17	No confidence at all	17	14	19	21	19	23	19
1	No answer	*	1	*	*	*	*	*

[ ADDITIONAL QUESTION HELD FOR RELEASE ]

**GOODNEWSCONS**

**ASK ALL:**

[ PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1 IN SAME ORDER AS CIVICDUTIES ]

How important do you think it is for people to...

		Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important	No answer
REG	Get news on a regular basis Dec 8-14, 2025	14	33	40	9	3	1
MULT	Get news from multiple sources Dec 8-14, 2025	25	39	29	5	2	*
POL	Get news from sources with a range of political views Dec 8-14, 2025	18	34	36	8	3	1
FALSE	Avoid sharing inaccurate information Dec 8-14, 2025	55	29	11	2	2	1

**ACCHECK****ASK ALL:****[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1 ]**

If you wanted to check the accuracy of a news story, how confident are you that you would know what steps to take?

Dec 8-14, <u>2025</u>		Feb 19-Mar 4, <u>2019</u>
29	Very confident	29
50	Somewhat confident	46
16	Not too confident	17
4	Not at all confident	6
*	No answer	1

**ACCHECK\_OTHERS****ASK ALL:****[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1 IN SAME ORDER AS ACCHECK ]**

How confident are you that other people know what steps to take to check the accuracy of a news story?

Dec 8-14, <u>2025</u>	
3	Very confident
22	Somewhat confident
53	Not too confident
20	Not at all confident
2	No answer

**NEWSCHANGE****ASK ALL:****[ PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS ]**

Have you ever done any of the following?

		Yes, I have <u>done this</u>	No, I have not <u>done this</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	No <u>answer</u>
STOP	Stopped getting news from a specific source Dec 8-14, 2025	67	24	9	*
REDUCE	Reduced the amount of news you get overall Dec 8-14, 2025	60	30	9	*

**NEWSDYOR****ASK ALL:****[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1 ]**

How often do you do your own research to check the accuracy of a news story?

Dec 8-14,  
2025

8	Extremely often
29	Very often
44	Sometimes
14	Rarely
4	Never
*	No answer

**CHECKRESP****ASK ALL:****[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1 IN SAME ORDER AS CIVICDUTIES ]**

How important is it for people to do their own research to check the accuracy of the news they get?

Dec 8-14,  
2025

24	Extremely important
41	Very important
29	Somewhat important
4	Not too important
1	Not at all important
1	No answer

**CHECKDYOR****ASK ALL:****[ PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS ]**

People understand the phrase "doing your own research" in different ways. When you hear about someone "doing their own research," which of the following do you usually think of?

		Yes, I think of this as "doing your own <u>research</u> "	No, I do not think of this as "doing your <u>own research</u> "	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>No answer</u>
COMPARE	Comparing information from different sources Dec 8-14, 2025	84	7	8	1
SEARCH	Searching on Google or another search engine Dec 8-14, 2025	72	15	12	1
SCIENCE	Looking at scientific studies Dec 8-14, 2025	77	11	12	1
NEWS	Questioning what major news organizations are reporting Dec 8-14, 2025	70	17	12	1

**CHECKDYOR CONTINUED...**

		Yes, I think of this as "doing your own <u>research</u> "	No, I do not think of this as "doing your <u>own research</u> "	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>No answer</u>
OFFICIAL	Questioning what official or government sources say Dec 8-14, 2025	68	18	14	1
EXP	Looking for firsthand experiences or personal stories Dec 8-14, 2025	63	22	15	1
FRIENDS	Discussing it with friends or family Dec 8-14, 2025	38	48	12	1

**CHECKTEACH****ASK ALL:**

[ PN: RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5, HOLDING 6 AND 7 LAST ]

Who do you think should be most responsible for making sure Americans know how to check if news is accurate?

Dec 8-14,  
2025

5	Parents or family members
9	Teachers or schools
22	News organizations
4	Tech or social media companies
9	The government
44	Individuals themselves
5	None of the above
1	No answer

**NEWS\_DISCUSS2****ASK ALL:**

[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1 IN SAME ORDER AS NEWSDYOR ]

How often do you discuss the news with others?

Dec 8-14,  
2025

5	Extremely often
23	Very often
48	Sometimes
20	Rarely
3	Never
*	No answer

**DISCUSSLOC**

**ASK IF DISCUSSES NEWS (NEWS\_DISCUSS2=1-4) [N=3,455] :**  
**[ PN: RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS ]**

Where do you most often discuss the news with others?

Dec 8-14,  
2025

5	Social media posts
8	Text, email or direct messaging
77	In-person conversations
9	Phone or video calls
1	No answer

**DISCUSSOUTCOME**

**ASK IF DISCUSSES NEWS (NEWS\_DISCUSS2=1-4) [N=3,455] :**  
**[ PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1 IN THE SAME ORDER AS NEWSDYOR ]**

How often does each of the following happen when you discuss news with others?

		All of the <u>time</u>	Most of <u>the time</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Never</u>	No <u>answer</u>
LEARN	You learn something new about an issue or event Dec 8-14, 2025	5	20	66	7	1	*
CHANGE	You change your opinion about an issue Dec 8-14, 2025	2	3	57	35	4	*
SHARE	You share your own opinion about an issue Dec 8-14, 2025	10	32	48	8	2	*
CORRECT	You correct information you believe is inaccurate Dec 8-14, 2025	6	19	56	14	3	1
COMMUN	You feel connected with others Dec 8-14, 2025	5	26	52	13	3	1
DISAG	You argue with others Dec 8-14, 2025	1	4	33	43	18	*

**DISCUSSBARRIERS****ASK ALL:****[ PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS ]**

Has any of the following kept you from discussing the news with others?

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>No answer</u>
COMF	Concern about making things uncomfortable Dec 8-14, 2025	58	33	9	*
KNOW	Lack of knowledge about the news Dec 8-14, 2025	57	33	9	*
INT	Lack of interest in talking about the news Dec 8-14, 2025	57	34	9	1

**STOPTALK****ASK ALL:**

Have you ever stopped talking to someone about political and election news, whether in person or online, because of something they said?

Dec 8-14, <u>2025</u>		Sep 16-22, <u>2024</u>	Oct 6-12, <u>2020</u>	Oct 29-Nov 11, <u>2019</u>
56	Yes	45	42	45
43	No	55	58	54
1	No answer	*	1	1

**NEWS\_PAY****ASK ALL:**

In the last 12 months, have you directly paid or given money to any news sources by subscribing, donating, or becoming a member?

Dec 8-14, <u>2025</u>		Mar 10-16, <u>2025</u>
16	Yes	17
83	No	83
1	No answer	*

**NEWSORGFIN****ASK ALL:**

[ **PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1 IN SAME ORDER AS CIVICDUTIES** ]

Overall, how well do you think U.S. news organizations are doing financially?

Dec 8-14,  
2025

11	Extremely well
23	Very well
37	Somewhat well
23	Not too well
4	Not well at all
2	No answer

**NEWSPAYRESP****ASK ALL:**

Do you think individual Americans have a responsibility to pay for news?

Dec 8-14,  
2025

8	Yes, they do
73	No, they do not

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

19	Not sure
1	No answer

**NEWSREV****ASK ALL:**

[ **PN: RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4, HOLDING 5 AND 6 LAST** ]

Which of the following do you think should be the main way U.S. news organizations make money?

Dec 8-14,  
2025

45	Selling ads or sponsorships
11	Charging for subscriptions or memberships
10	Receiving government funding
5	Receiving charitable donations

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

2	Some other way (please specify): [ <b>PN: INSERT SINGLE LINE TEXT BOX</b> ]
25	Not sure
1	No answer

[ **ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR RELEASE** ]