

**2026 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL**  
**Wave 191: Religion & Public Life**  
**April 6-12, 2026**

**TOPLINE**  
**N=3,592**

**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	3,592	+/- 1.9 percentage points

**OPTIMIST  
ASK ALL:**

Please think about what things will be like in 2050, about 25 years from now.<sup>1</sup>

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

Apr 6-12, <u>2026</u>		Dec 11-23, <u>2018</u>
10	Very optimistic	12
38	Somewhat optimistic	44
33	Somewhat pessimistic	31
18	Very pessimistic	13
1	No answer	*

<sup>1</sup> In December 2018, the question was worded "Please think about what things will be like in 2050, about 30 years from now."

[ PN: RANDOMIZE ORDER OF HAPPEN\_ECON, HAPPEN\_IMPT, HAPPEN\_POL, HAPPEN\_RACE, HAPPEN\_GOV, AND HAPPEN\_SAFE ON SAME SCREEN WITH A VISUAL LINE SEPARATOR BETWEEN EACH ]

**HAPPEN  
ASK ALL:**

Still thinking ahead to 2050, about 25 years from now, which do you think is more likely to happen in the U.S.?<sup>2</sup>

**ECON**

Apr 6-12, <u>2026</u>		Mar 27-Apr 2, <u>2023</u>	Dec 11-23, <u>2018</u>
43	The U.S. economy will be <u>stronger</u>	32	38
55	The U.S. economy will be <u>weaker</u>	66	54
2	No answer	2	8

**PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON**

Q.53a		Apr 21-26, <u>2010</u>	May <u>1999</u> <sup>3</sup>	Dec <u>1996</u>
	The U.S. economy will be stronger than today	56	64	53
	The U.S. economy will be weaker than today	39	31	42
	Neither/No change <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	2	2
	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	4	3	3

**IMPT**

Apr 6-12, <u>2026</u>		Mar 27-Apr 2, <u>2023</u>	Dec 11-23, <u>2018</u>
40	The U.S. will be <u>more</u> important in the world	27	31
58	The U.S. will be <u>less</u> important in the world	71	60
2	No answer	2	9

**PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON**

Q.53d		Apr 21-26, <u>2010</u>
	The United States will be more important in the world than it is now	40
	The United States will be less important in the world than it is now	53
	Neither/No change <b>(VOL.)</b>	5
	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	3

<sup>2</sup> In March-April 2023, the question was worded "Please think about what things will be like in 2050, a little more than 25 years from now. For each of the following, which do you think is more likely to happen in the U.S.?" In December 2018, the question was worded "Still thinking ahead 30 years, which do you think is more likely to happen in the U.S.?" In April 2010, the question was worded "Still thinking ahead 40 years, as I read the following pairs, please tell me which is more likely to happen here in the U.S." In May 1999, the question was worded "Thinking ahead over the next 50 years, as I read the following pairs, please tell me which is more likely to happen here in the U.S." In December 1996, the question was worded "Thinking ahead to the year 2000, as I read the following pairs, please tell me which is more likely to happen."

<sup>3</sup> In May 1999 and before the statements read: "The U.S. economy will be stronger [OR] the U.S. economy will be weaker."

## POL

Apr 6-12, <u>2026</u>		Mar 27-Apr 2, <u>2023</u>	Dec 11-23, <u>2018</u>
66	The country will be <u>more</u> politically divided	77	65
33	The country will be <u>less</u> politically divided	21	26
2	No answer	2	9

## RACE

Apr 6-12, <u>2026</u>		Dec 11-23, <u>2018</u>
50	Race relations will <u>improve</u>	51
48	Race relations will <u>get worse</u>	40
2	No answer	9

**PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON**

Q.53c	Apr 21-26, <u>2010</u>	May <u>1999</u>	Dec <u>1996</u>
Race relations will improve	68	68	54
Race relations will get worse	23	28	40
Neither/No change <b>(VOL.)</b>	4	3	3
Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	5	1	3

## GOV

Apr 6-12, <u>2026</u>	
45	The U.S. system of government will work <u>better</u> than today
54	The U.S. system of government will work <u>worse</u> than today
2	No answer

## SAFE

Apr 6-12, <u>2026</u>	
41	The U.S. will be a <u>safer</u> place to live
56	The U.S. will be a <u>more dangerous</u> place to live
2	No answer

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