

**2026 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 198: Views of Economic Inequality
August 24-30, 2026**

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

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.

CODEBOOK FOR GENERIC ROTATION VARIABLE TO BE USED IN SURVEY PROGRAMMING LOGIC

ROTATION_GEN

- 1 Scale in ascending order (1-5)
- 2 Scale in descending order (5-1)

Note: Flag created by programmers to assign panelists' rotation orders for the following questions:
AISUM, AISUM2, AISUMUSEFUL, NEWSSRCH_SOURCE, NEWSSRCH_NOTICE, CHATBOTACC,
PERSFINFEEL, ECONSUS_CONF, MUSICIMP, MUSICLISTWHY
Source: Created by programmers and randomly assigned to all sampled panelists.

 -----**MAIN QUESTIONNAIRE BEGINS HERE**-----

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

QUE: INEQ1

ASK ALL:

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

Thinking about the level of economic inequality in the country these days, would you say there is...

[PN: IF CATI:] (READ LIST)

- 1 Too much economic inequality
 - 2 Too little economic inequality
 - 3 About the right amount of economic inequality
 - 98 **[PN: IF CATI:] (DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 - 99 **[PN: IF WEB:]** Web blank / **[PN: IF CATI:] (DO NOT READ)** Refused
-

QUE: INEQ2

ASK IF THINKS THERE IS TOO MUCH ECONOMIC INEQUALITY (INEQ1=1):

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

Do you think that...

[PN: IF CATI:] (READ LIST)

- 1 Some amount of economic inequality is acceptable
 - 2 No amount of economic inequality is acceptable
 - 98 **[PN: IF CATI:] (DO NOT READ)** Don't know
 - 99 **[PN: IF WEB:]** Web blank / **[PN: IF CATI:] (DO NOT READ)** Refused
-

QUE: INEQ3

ASK IF THINKS THERE IS TOO MUCH ECONOMIC INEQUALITY (INEQ1=1):

In order to address economic inequality in this country, do you think our economic system...

[PN: IF CATI:] (READ LIST)

- 1 Requires only minor changes
- 2 Requires major changes
- 3 Needs to be completely rebuilt
- 98 **[PN: IF CATI:] (DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 99 **[PN: IF WEB:]** Web blank / **[PN: IF CATI:] (DO NOT READ)** Refused

QUE: ECONSUS_CONF

ASK IF SYSTEM REQUIRES MAJOR CHANGES OR NEEDS TO BE COMPLETELY REBUILT

(INEQ3=2,3):

[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1 IN SAME ORDER AS ROTATION_GEN, HOLDING 98, AND 99 LAST; INCLUDE ROTATION IN DATA FILE]

How confident are you that our economic system can be effectively changed to address economic inequality?

[PN: IF CATI:] (READ LIST)

1 Extremely confident

2 Very confident

3 Somewhat confident

4 Not too confident

5 Not at all confident

98 **[PN: IF CATI:] (DO NOT READ)** Don't know

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

BAT: INEQ4**ASK IF THINKS THERE IS TOO MUCH ECONOMIC INEQUALITY (INEQ1=1):****[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; INCLUDE RANDOMIZATION IN DATA FILE]**

[PN: IF WEB:] How much responsibility, if any, should each of the following have in reducing economic inequality in our country?

[PN: IF CATI: READ FOR FIRST ITEM:] How much responsibility, if any, should each of the following have in reducing economic inequality in our country? First, **(INSERT ITEM)**. **(READ LIST)**

[PN: IF CATI: READ FOR SUBSEQUENT ITEMS:] Next, **(INSERT ITEM)**. **(READ AS NECESSARY:)** How much responsibility should they have in reducing economic inequality in our country? **(READ LIST))**

BATTERY ITEMS:

- a The federal government
- b State governments
- c Large businesses and corporations
- d Churches and other religious organizations
- e Wealthy individuals

RESPONSE CATEGORIES:

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 Only a little
- 4 None
- 98 **[PN: IF CATI:] (DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 99 **[PN: IF WEB:]** Web blank / **[PN: IF CATI:] (DO NOT READ)** Refused

BAT: INEQ5**ASK ALL:**

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

[PN: IF WEB:] How much, if at all, do you think each of the following contributes to economic inequality in this country?

[PN: IF CATI: READ FOR FIRST ITEM:] How much, if at all, do you think each of the following contributes to economic inequality in this country? First, **(INSERT ITEM)**. **(READ LIST)**

[PN: IF CATI: READ FOR SUBSEQUENT ITEMS:] Next, **(INSERT ITEM)**. **(READ AS NECESSARY: How much do you think this contributes to economic inequality in this country? (READ LIST))**

BATTERY ITEMS:

- a **ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1):** The outsourcing of jobs to other countries
- b **ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2):** Our current trade policies with other countries
- c **ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2):** The automation of jobs
- [PN: NO ITEM d]**
- e **ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1):** Not enough regulation of major corporations
- f **ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1):** Some people work harder than others
- g **ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2):** Our tax system
- h **ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2):** The different life choices people make
- i **ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1):** Some people start out with more opportunities than others
- j **ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2):** Problems with our educational system
- k **ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1):** Discrimination against racial and ethnic minorities
- [PN: NO ITEM l]**
- [PN: NO ITEM m]**
- n **ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2):** The number of immigrants working in the U.S.
- o **ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1):** **[PN: IF WEB:]** The growing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in jobs **[PN: IF CATI:]** The growing role of artificial intelligence, or AI, in jobs

RESPONSE CATEGORIES:

- 1 Contributes a great deal
- 2 Contributes a fair amount
- 3 Contributes not too much
- 4 Contributes not 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

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE