

State of the Facts 2019

Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research
With funding from USAFacts

Interviews: 10/15-28/2019

1,032 adults

Margin of error: +/- 4.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

Q1. Do you think things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019
Right direction	34
Wrong direction	64
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*
N =	1,032

CUR2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

If don't know, skipped, or refused in CUR2.

CUR3. If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approving or disapproving of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

If approve in CUR2.

CUR3A. Would you say you approve of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president strongly or do you approve just somewhat?

If disapprove in CUR2.

CUR3B. Would you say you disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president strongly or do you disapprove just somewhat?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019
Approve NET	37
Strongly approve	20
Somewhat approve	18
Lean toward approving	*
Do not lean either way	1
Disapprove NET	60
Lean toward disapproving	15
Somewhat disapprove	15
Strongly disapprove	44
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIPPED/REFUSED	1
N =	1,032

Q2. Next, how closely do you pay attention to information about each of the following topics?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019	Extremely/ Very closely NET	Extremely closely	Very closely	Somewhat closely	Not too/Not closely at all NET	Not too closely	Not closely at all	DK	SKP /REF
The environment	43	14	29	39	17	11	5	*	*
Natural disasters	49	14	35	36	15	11	3	-	*
Health care	49	16	33	38	13	10	2	-	*
Crime	44	14	30	38	17	13	4	*	*
The economy and jobs	49	14	35	35	15	11	4	*	*
Education	42	14	29	40	18	14	4	-	*
Foreign affairs	38	12	25	38	24	18	6	-	*
Immigration	46	19	27	38	17	13	4	-	*
The federal budget	29	9	21	42	28	21	7	*	*
Infrastructure	24	6	18	41	35	25	10	1	*

N = 1,032

Q3. Next we would like to ask you some questions about where you get information about the government. Thinking about some of the ways you get information about the government these days, how often, if at all, do you get information from ...

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

	Several times a day/Once a day NET	Several times a day	Once a day	At least once a week	Less often/ Never NET	Less often	Never	DK	SKP /REF
AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019									
National newspapers	19	6	13	21	60	29	31	-	1
Federal government agencies	12	3	8	21	67	38	29	-	*
Your state government	14	4	10	25	60	39	21	*	1
Businesses	16	5	11	20	63	34	29	-	1
Members of Congress	14	4	10	16	70	38	32	*	*
Local TV news	52	20	32	21	26	15	11	-	1
Nonpartisan think tanks	9	3	7	14	74	32	42	1	1
The president	28	10	17	22	50	24	26	*	*
National TV news networks such as ABC, CBS, or NBC	50	21	29	21	28	17	11	-	1
Social media	54	33	21	17	28	16	12	-	1
Local newspapers	23	4	18	24	52	26	27	-	*
Cable news networks such as CNN, Fox News, or MSNBC	47	23	24	21	31	17	14	*	1
Public TV or radio such as PBS or NPR	34	14	20	22	44	23	21	-	*

N = 1,032

Q4. Regardless of how often you get information from these sources, how much do you trust information from them about the government?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

	A great deal/ Quite a bit NET	A great deal	Quite a bit	A moderate amount	Only a little/Not at all NET	Only a little	Not at all	DK	SKP /REF
AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019									
National newspapers	19	6	14	33	46	27	19	1	1
Federal government agencies	14	3	10	36	49	34	16	*	1
Your state government	19	4	15	38	42	30	13	*	1
Businesses	8	1	7	34	56	38	17	*	1
Members of Congress	10	3	8	32	57	37	20	*	*
Local TV news	27	7	20	36	36	27	10	*	1
Nonpartisan think tanks	13	3	10	31	53	29	25	1	1
The president	19	7	12	20	61	22	39	-	*
National TV news networks such as ABC, CBS, or NBC	25	7	18	34	41	26	15	*	*
Social media	11	3	8	24	64	40	23	1	*
Local newspapers	20	5	15	39	40	27	12	1	1
Cable news networks such as CNN, Fox News, or MSNBC	23	5	18	32	44	31	13	*	*
Public TV or radio such as PBS or NPR	31	10	21	29	39	26	13	*	*

N = 1,032

Q5. Have you ever used federal government websites (e.g. Census Bureau, IRS, Centers for Disease Control) to look up information?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019
Yes	58
No	42
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*

N = 1,032

Q6. How much do you trust information from the federal government about the following topics?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019	A great deal/ Quite a bit NET	A great deal	Quite a bit	A moderate amount	Only a little/Not at all NET	Only a little	Not at all	DK	SKP /REF
The environment	13	3	10	39	46	31	16	*	1
Natural disasters	36	9	28	34	29	21	8	*	*
Health care	22	5	17	38	40	31	9	*	*
Crime	24	5	19	40	35	26	9	*	1
The economy and jobs	24	5	19	41	34	27	7	*	1
Education	21	5	16	42	37	28	8	*	*
Foreign affairs	16	3	13	37	46	30	16	*	*
Immigration	18	5	13	36	45	30	15	*	*
The federal budget	18	3	14	39	43	30	13	*	*
Infrastructure	16	3	13	43	40	29	11	1	*

N = 1,032

Q7. Thinking about information you consider factual, how important is each of the following factors?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019	Extremely /Very important NET	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too/Not important at all NET	Not too important	Not important at all	DK	SKP /REF
It is accurate	84	62	22	12	4	3	1	-	-
It provides all relevant information	81	44	37	15	5	4	1	*	-
It explains the way the information was gathered	75	37	39	20	4	3	1	*	*
It presents opposing views	59	21	38	30	11	9	2	*	-
It has a high quality presentation	39	13	26	43	18	14	4	*	*
It does not include opinions	54	28	26	32	13	9	3	1	1

N = 1,032

Q8. How likely are you to consider information factual if it has each of the following characteristics?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019	Extremely/ Very likely NET	Extremely likely	Very likely	Moderately likely	Not too/Not at all likely NET	Not too likely	Not at all likely	DK	SKP /REF
It is based in data	61	22	38	30	9	7	2	-	*
It comes from a non-partisan source	34	8	26	43	22	16	6	*	*
It is verified by an academic institution	44	12	33	37	18	13	5	*	*
It is verified by federal government agencies	28	7	21	47	24	18	6	*	2
Your friends and family think that it is true	14	4	9	42	44	31	13	*	1
It is verified by a business	13	3	10	48	39	31	8	*	1
It is verified by the media	16	4	12	40	44	27	17	*	*
Most people think that it is true	14	3	11	36	49	32	16	*	1
It is verified by scientists	55	22	33	32	12	8	4	*	*
It comes from someone you agree with politically	19	4	15	54	27	20	7	*	1

N = 1,032

Q9. Next, these days, how easy or difficult is it for you to ...

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019	Very/ Somewhat easy NET	Very easy	Somewhat easy	Neither easy nor difficult	Somewhat /Very difficult NET	Somewha t difficult	Very difficult	DK	SKP /REF
Find factual information on the subjects you are interested in	44	12	32	24	32	25	7	*	*
Know if information is true or not	31	9	22	22	47	36	12	*	*
Understand the difference between fact and opinion	50	20	30	20	29	23	6	-	*

N = 1,032

Q10. How often do you feel like you ...

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019	Always /Often NET	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely /Never NET	Rarely	Never	DK	SKP /REF
Get conflicting information from different sources	58	12	45	34	8	6	2	*	*
Come across sources that include only one side	64	12	52	27	9	7	2	*	*

N = 1,032

Q11. How often do you think each of the following are based on factual information?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019	Always /Often NET	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely /Never NET	Rarely	Never	DK	SKP /REF
Political candidates' campaign messages	9	2	7	43	47	35	11	*	*
Debates between political candidates	13	2	12	47	39	32	7	*	1
Voting choices made by Americans	14	3	11	53	32	26	6	*	*
Reporting from the media	21	3	18	47	31	24	7	*	*
Decisions made by policymakers	14	2	12	55	30	24	7	1	*

N = 1,032

Q12. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

Political division in the United States is more a result of Americans ...

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019
<u>Having different beliefs</u> about how to address major problems facing the country	60
<u>Relying on different facts</u> about major problems facing the country	37
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIPPED/REFUSED	2

N =

1,032

Q13. How much influence do you think the political beliefs of each of the following have over information provided by the federal government?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019	A great deal/ Quite a bit NET	A great deal	Quite a bit	A moderate amount	Only a little/Not at all NET	Only a little	Not at all	DK	SKP /REF
Members of Congress	45	17	28	33	20	16	4	1	1
The president	54	25	29	27	18	9	9	1	1
Employees in federal agencies	30	8	22	39	30	23	7	1	1

N = 1,032

PID. Combines PID1, PIDI, PIDA, and PIDB.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019
Democrat NET	42
Strong Democrat	14
Moderate Democrat	18
Lean Democrat	10
Independent/None – Don't lean	21
Republican NET	38
Lean Republican	11
Moderate Republican	17
Strong Republican	9

N =

1,032

G11B. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a ...

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019
Liberal	20
Moderate	46
Conservative	31
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED/REFUSED	2

N =

1,032

AGE.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019
18-24	12
25-34	20
35-44	14
45-54	15
55-64	18
65-74	13
75+	8
N =	1,032

GENDER.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019
Male	48
Female	52
N =	1,032

RACE/ETHNICITY.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019
White	63
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	16
Other	9
N =	1,032

MARITAL STATUS.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019
Married	48
Widowed	5
Divorced	10
Separated	2
Never married	24
Living with partner	11
N =	1,032

EMPLOYMENT STATUS.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019
Employed	56
Not employed	44
N =	1,032

EDUCATION.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019
Less than a high school diploma	11
High school graduate or equivalent	28
Some college	28
College graduate or above	33
N =	1,032

INCOME.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019
Under \$10,000	7
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	10
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	15
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	7
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	7
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	17
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	18
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	12
\$150,000 or more	8
N =	1,032

Study Methodology

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and with funding from USAFacts.

Data were collected using the AmeriSpeak Omnibus®, a monthly multi-client survey using NORC’s probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97 percent of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between October 15 and 28, 2019, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,032 completed the survey—888 via the web and 144 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference. The final stage completion rate is 29.1 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 34.2 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 85.6 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 8.5 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 4.2 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and education. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2018 Current Population Survey. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over.

For more information, email info@apnorc.org.

About USAFacts

USAFacts is a not-for-profit, nonpartisan civic initiative providing the most comprehensive and understandable single source of government data. For more information, please visit USAFacts.org.

About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

- The Associated Press (AP) is the world’s essential news organization, bringing fast, unbiased news to all media platforms and formats.
- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest and most respected, independent research institutions in the world.

The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals.

The founding principles of The AP-NORC Center include a mandate to carefully preserve and protect the scientific integrity and objectivity of NORC and the journalistic independence of AP. All work conducted by the Center conforms to the highest levels of scientific integrity to prevent any real or perceived bias in the research. All of the work of the Center is subject to review by its advisory committee to help ensure it meets these standards. The Center will publicize the results of all studies and make all datasets and study documentation available to scholars and the public.