



IPSOS / REUTERS POLL DATA

Prepared by Ipsos Public Affairs

Ipsos Poll Conducted for Reuters

Comey Departure Poll 5.15.2017

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted May 10-14, 2017 on behalf Thomson Reuters. For the survey, a sample of roughly 1,541 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 686 Democrats, 515 Republicans, and 199 Independents.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos’s online panel (see link below for more info on “Access Panels and Recruitment”), partner online panel sources, and “river” sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos “Ampario Overview” sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2013 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Post-hoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 2.8 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1,541, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=4.3).

The poll also has a credibility interval plus or minus 4.3 percentage points for Democrats, plus or minus 4.9 percentage points for Republicans, and plus or minus 7.9 percentage points for Independents.

For more information about conducting research intended for public release or Ipsos’ online polling methodology, please visit our [Public Opinion Polling and Communication](#) page where you can download our brochure, see our public release protocol, or contact us.

		<u>Total</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Independent</u>
AB10_258 - Awareness...President Trump firing FBI Director James Comey	Yes	87%	90%	90%	83%
	No	13%	10%	10%	17%
	Total	1541	686	515	199
TM752Y15_7 - Do you agree or disagree that Donald Trump...is honest and truthful?	Agree	29%	10%	61%	23%
	Disagree	51%	79%	17%	54%
	Don't know	19%	10%	23%	23%
	Total	1541	686	515	199
TM1162Y17 - To what extent do you agree or disagree that Congress should launch an independent investigation into communications between the Russian government and the Trump campaign during the 2016 election?	Strongly agree	40%	64%	12%	46%
	Somewhat agree	20%	15%	28%	19%
	Somewhat disagree	14%	9%	22%	9%
	Strongly disagree	14%	5%	29%	16%
	Don't know	12%	7%	9%	11%
Total	1541	686	515	199	
TM1208Y17 - You may have heard that President Donald Trump fired	Trump was unhappy with the way Comey handled the	15%	9%	25%	17%



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FBI Director James Comey on Tuesday. In your opinion, what was the main reason why Trump fired Comey?	investigation into Hillary Clinton's private email server				
	Trump was concerned with Comey's investigation of Trump administration ties to Russia	34%	55%	12%	35%
	A combination of reasons	36%	27%	51%	37%
	Don't Know	15%	10%	13%	11%
	Total	1541	686	515	199
TM1209Y17 - What kind of person should President Trump nominate to head the FBI?	Someone from within the FBI	37%	44%	30%	33%
	Someone outside the FBI with a credible law enforcement resume	31%	26%	42%	29%
	Someone outside the FBI with a credible legal resume	17%	16%	19%	19%
	Someone outside the FBI that is close to the Trump Administration	5%	6%	4%	6%
	Other	9%	7%	5%	13%
Total	1541	686	515	199	
TM1085Y16_1 - Would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in the people running this institution... Executive branch of the federal government?	A great deal of confidence	13%	7%	26%	8%
	Only some confidence	39%	32%	50%	37%
	Hardly any confidence at all	36%	53%	15%	42%
	Don't know	12%	7%	9%	14%
	Total	1541	686	515	199
TM1085Y16_2 - Would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in the people running this institution... Congress?	A great deal of confidence	9%	8%	9%	8%
	Only some confidence	38%	36%	48%	35%
	Hardly any confidence at all	43%	50%	35%	46%
	Don't know	10%	6%	8%	12%
	Total	1541	686	515	199
TM1085Y16_3 - Would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in the people running this institution... The U.S. Supreme Court?	A great deal of confidence	24%	23%	28%	22%
	Only some confidence	46%	45%	53%	44%
	Hardly any confidence at all	20%	25%	12%	24%
	Don't know	10%	7%	7%	10%
	Total	1541	686	515	199
TM1085Y16_4 - Would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in the people running this institution... Press?	A great deal of confidence	14%	22%	6%	9%
	Only some confidence	33%	41%	23%	39%
	Hardly any confidence at all	44%	31%	63%	43%
	Don't know	10%	7%	8%	9%
	Total	1541	686	515	199
TM1085Y16_5 - Would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in the people running this institution... Major companies?	A great deal of confidence	11%	9%	15%	9%
	Only some confidence	47%	44%	57%	38%
	Hardly any confidence at all	32%	40%	21%	40%
	Don't know	10%	7%	7%	14%
	Total	1541	686	515	199



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TM1085Y16_6 - Would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in the people running this institution... Law enforcement?	A great deal of confidence	31%	22%	47%	28%
	Only some confidence	43%	48%	40%	40%
	Hardly any confidence at all	18%	24%	8%	23%
	Don't know	9%	6%	5%	9%
	Total	1541	686	515	199
TM1085Y16_7 - Would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in the people running this institution... Military?	A great deal of confidence	46%	41%	62%	38%
	Only some confidence	34%	40%	30%	37%
	Hardly any confidence at all	10%	14%	2%	15%
	Don't know	9%	5%	6%	10%
	Total	1541	686	515	199
TM1085Y16_8 - Would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in the people running this institution... Universities and research organizations?	A great deal of confidence	23%	33%	15%	20%
	Only some confidence	43%	44%	43%	44%
	Hardly any confidence at all	23%	16%	33%	23%
	Don't know	11%	6%	8%	13%
	Total	1541	686	515	199



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How to Calculate Bayesian Credibility Intervals

The calculation of credibility intervals assumes that Y has a binomial distribution conditioned on the parameter θ , i.e., $Y|\theta \sim \text{Bin}(n, \theta)$, where n is the size of our sample. In this setting, Y counts the number of “yes”, or “1”, observed in the sample, so that the sample mean (\bar{y}) is a natural estimate of the true population proportion θ . This model is often called the likelihood function, and it is a standard concept in both the Bayesian and the Classical framework. The Bayesian ¹ statistics combines both the prior distribution and the likelihood function to create a posterior distribution. The posterior distribution represents our opinion about which are the plausible values for θ adjusted after observing the sample data. In reality, the posterior distribution is one’s knowledge base updated using the latest survey information. For the prior and likelihood functions specified here, the posterior distribution is also a beta distribution ($\pi(\theta/y) \sim \beta(y+a, n-y+b)$), but with updated hyper-parameters.

Our credibility interval for ϑ is based on this posterior distribution. As mentioned above, these intervals represent our belief about which are the most plausible values for ϑ given our updated knowledge base. There are different ways to calculate these intervals based on $\pi(\theta/y)$. Since we want only one measure of precision for all variables in the survey, analogous to what is done within the Classical framework, we will compute the largest possible credibility interval for any observed sample. The worst case occurs when we assume that $a=1$ and $b=1$ and $y=n/2$. Using a simple approximation of the posterior by the normal distribution, the 95% credibility interval is given by, approximately:

$$\bar{y} \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$$

For this poll, the Bayesian Credibility Interval was adjusted using standard weighting design effect $1+L=1.3$ to account for complex weighting²

Examples of credibility intervals for different base sizes are below. Ipsos does not publish data for base sizes (sample sizes) below 100.

Sample size	Credibility intervals
2,000	2.5
1,500	2.9
1,000	3.5
750	4.1
500	5.0
350	6.0
200	7.9
100	11.2