

Universal Basic Income Research

- Fieldwork dates: 4th – 9th August 2017
- All figures in percentages
- Base: All adults aged 18-75 in the United Kingdom
- Data have been weighted to the known population profile
- Interviews conducted online
- An asterisk represents a percentage less than 0.5 but greater than 0
- Numbers may not always add up to 100% due to computer rounding or multiple answers

Q1

As you may be aware, some countries are considering introducing a basic income.

If introduced in the United Kingdom, this would provide a regular income paid in cash to every individual adult in the UK, regardless of their working status and income from other sources.

In other words, it would be:

- **Universal** (i.e. paid to all),
- **Unconditional** (i.e. paid without a requirement to work); and
- **Paid to individuals** (rather than to a household)

Assuming the level would be set roughly at the amount the UK government judged to be necessary to cover basic needs, e.g. food and clothing (but not housing costs), to what extent would you support or oppose the UK Government introducing a basic income...

	In general? %	If it meant an increase in taxes from their current levels? %	If it meant cuts in welfare benefits spending from their current levels? %	If it meant both an increase in taxes and cuts in welfare benefits spending from their current levels? %
Strongly support	15	6	11	5
Tend to support	33	23	26	17
Neither support nor oppose	19	25	26	23
Tend to oppose	16	25	18	25
Strongly oppose	9	16	13	21
Don't know	6	5	7	8
NET Support	49	30	37	22
NET Oppose	26	40	30	47

Base: All adults aged 18-75 in the United Kingdom (n = 1,111)

Q2A
 Regardless of whether you support or oppose the UK Government introducing a basic income, which of the following, if any, would be your most preferred way of mainly funding a basic income, if it was introduced?

	%
Mainly funding it by increasing taxes on wealth	34
Mainly funding it by cutting existing welfare benefits	28
Mainly funding it by raising income tax	12
Other	3
None of these	9
Don't know	14

Base: All adults aged 18-75 in the United Kingdom (n = 1,111)

Q2B
 The previous questions asked you about a basic income scheme that was universal, unconditional and with an equal amount paid to all individuals.
 To what extent would you support or oppose a basic income scheme that was...

	Only paid to those who are in work, in training, doing voluntary work or pensioners? %	Only paid to those on low incomes? %	Only paid to young people (those aged 18- 24) who are in work, in full time education or in training? %
Strongly support	12	13	8
Tend to support	40	44	27
Neither support nor oppose	24	21	26
Tend to oppose	12	11	23
Strongly oppose	6	6	10
Don't know	7	5	6
NET Support	52	57	35
NET Oppose	18	17	33

Base: All adults aged 18-75 in the United Kingdom (n = 1,111)



Poll Conducted for University of Bath – Institute for Policy Research Universal Basic Income Research

Q3

Below are some arguments people have made in favour of introducing a basic income.

Regardless of whether you support or oppose the UK Government introducing a basic income, how convincing, if at all, do you personally find each of these?

	Very %	Fairly %	Not very %	Not at all %	Don't know %	NET Convincing %	NET Not convincing %
Job security is increasingly a problem for many people. A basic income would provide income security to all who feel insecure about their job.	23	44	19	7	7	67	26
Advances in technology and automation will mean that, in the future, many people might lose their jobs and may be unable to find another job easily. A basic income would be a good way of dealing with this by providing a guaranteed income.	22	41	22	7	9	63	28
Conditions attached to welfare benefits and penalties for not meeting these are unfair and harsh. A basic income would ensure nobody fell below an adequate standard of living.	21	42	21	8	8	63	29
The current welfare system is very bureaucratic with programmes that help the wrong people or no one at all. A basic income would reduce bureaucracy and make the system more transparent.	22	40	22	7	10	62	29
Many people do very important work that is unpaid, such as caring or other voluntary work. A basic income would be a way of rewarding and encouraging others to do this type of work.	35	44	10	5	7	79	15
Many unemployed people do not have an incentive to find a job because benefits they may currently be receiving are withdrawn. As everyone would receive it, a basic income would encourage unemployed people to get a job by allowing them to keep that basic income if they find work.	17	40	22	13	8	57	35

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