



Do Americans Believe Trump Has Made America Great Again?

Yes – if you are Republican.

Washington, DC, September 25, 2018 – Nearly two years into his presidency, President Trump is seen to have played an active role in both federal taxes decreasing, and the federal deficit increasing. According to a new Ipsos poll, among Americans that believe these events have taken place, a majority believe President Trump is the main reason federal taxes for the wealthy and middle have decreased (87% and 84%, respectively), the federal deficit has increased (61%), and the stock market has reached record highs (56%). However, most Americans are unsure about whether these events have taken place; for example, just 29% say federal taxes for the middle class have decreased in 2018, and 45% believe the same to be true for the wealthy.

Overall, less than one in five Americans (18%) believes the aftermath to last year’s Hurricane Maria was handled well by the government. Only 7% of Democrats and 15% of Independents agree, while Republicans are evenly split on whether the government handled it well (39%) or not (37%). Furthermore, most Americans (56%) agree that President Trump’s response to Hurricane Maria has been very inadequate, including a third of Republicans (32%), half of independents (48%), and 84% of Democrats.

Looking back at the economy, a plurality of Americans (44%) believe the U.S. economy has not fully recovered from the Great Recession. Among the third of Americans (35%) that believe the economy has recovered from the Great Recession, more tend to be Republicans; 50% of Republicans agree with this sentiment, compared to 31% of Democrats and 33% of Independents. One in three Americans (34%) agrees that Donald Trump is responsible for the strongest American economy since the 1990s, while 43% disagree. With Democrats and Republicans evenly split on this sentiment (69% of Democrats disagree, 71% of Republicans agree), it’s Independents that tip the balance: 31% of Independents agree that Trump is responsible for a strong economy, while 45% disagree. Americans overall are evenly split on whether recent Republican tax cuts are the main thing driving the current strength in the U.S. economy (30% agree, 31% disagree).

1. In your opinion, are the following headed in the right direction or are they off on the wrong track? (Select one for each)

	Right direction	Wrong track	Don't know
The United States of America	34%	52	14
The U.S. economy	43%	41	16
U.S. relations with the rest of the world	28%	58	14
Healthcare in the U.S.	22%	63	15
How people like you are treated in America	33%	48	20

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a. The United States of America

	Total (N=1,004)	Democrats (N=344)	Republicans (N=361)	Independents (N=197)
Right direction	34%	16%	67%	25%
Wrong track	52	74	24	57
Don't know	14	10	9	19

b. The U.S. economy

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Right direction	43%	27%	73%	44%
Wrong track	41	57	19	38
Don't know	16	16	8	18

c. U.S. relations with the rest of the world

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Right direction	28%	9%	59%	24%
Wrong track	58	85	26	61
Don't know	14	5	16	15

d. Healthcare in the U.S.

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Right direction	22%	17%	39%	12%
Wrong track	63	74	46	69
Don't know	15	10	15	19

e. How people like you are treated in America

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Right direction	33%	21%	55%	29%
Wrong track	48	61	32	48
Don't know	20	18	13	22

2. Please answer each of the following? (Select one for each) (*An asterisk denotes the correct answer)

	Yes	No	Don't know
Has North Korea destroyed its stockpile of nuclear weapons in the last year?	6%	68	26
Has the U.S. federal deficit increased since January 2017?*	56%	12	32
Has the Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare, been fully repealed?	6%	70	23
Has the stock market reached record highs in 2018?*	51%	18	31
Have federal taxes for the middle class decreased in 2018?*	29%	44	27
Have federal taxes for the wealthy decreased in 2018?*	45%	28	28
Was the aftermath to last year's Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico handled well by the government?	18%	60	22
Has the U.S. economy fully recovered from the Great Recession?	35%	44	21

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a. Has North Korea destroyed its stockpile of nuclear weapons in the last year?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Yes	6%	6%	10%	4%
No	68	76	66	63
Don't know	26	18	24	33

b. Has the U.S. federal deficit increased since January 2017?*

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Yes	56%	63%	53%	60%
No	12	10	17	10
Don't know	32	28	30	30

c. Has the Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare, been fully repealed?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Yes	6%	8%	7%	2%
No	70	76	75	68
Don't know	23	16	18	30

d. Has the stock market reached record highs in 2018?*

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Yes	51%	44%	67%	57%
No	18	25	10	15
Don't know	31	31	23	28

e. Have federal taxes for the middle class decreased in 2018?*

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Yes	29%	17%	50%	27%
No	44	61	24	42
Don't know	27	22	25	31

f. Have federal taxes for the wealthy decreased in 2018?*

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Yes	45%	53%	40%	41%
No	28	30	29	26
Don't know	28	17	31	32

g. Was the aftermath to last year's Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico handled well by the government?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Yes	18%	7%	39%	15%
No	60	81	37	58
Don't know	22	12	23	27

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h. Has the U.S. economy fully recovered from the Great Recession?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Yes	35%	31%	50%	33%
No	44	51	34	45
Don't know	21	18	16	22

3. Are the actions of President Obama and his administration the main reason the U.S. economy has fully recovered from the Great Recession? **(Asked to half of the sample of respondents)**

	Total (N=168)
Yes	36%
No	50
Don't know	14

4. Are the actions of President Trump the main reason the U.S. economy has fully recovered from the Great Recession? **(Asked to half of the sample of respondents)**

	Total (N=171)
Yes	52%
No	38
Don't know	10

5. For each of the following, is President Donald Trump the main reason it has happened? (Select one for each)

	Total (N=1,004)
North Korea destroying its stockpile of nuclear weapons in the last year	70%
The U.S. federal deficit increasing since January 2017	61%
The full repeal of the Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare	80%
The stock market reaching record highs in 2018	56%
Federal taxes for the middle class decreasing in 2018	84%
Federal taxes for the wealthy decreasing in 2018	87%
The aftermath to last year's Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico being handled well	68%

a. North Korea destroying its stockpile of nuclear weapons in the last year **(Base: Answered 'Yes' to Question 2a)**

	Total (N=49)
Yes	70%
No	23
Don't know	7

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- b. The U.S. federal deficit increasing since January 2017 (**Base: Answered ‘Yes’ to Question 2b**)

	Total (N=562)
Yes	61%
No	28
Don’t know	11

- c. The full repeal of the Affordable Care Act, known as Obamacare (**Base: Answered ‘Yes’ to Question 2c**)

	Total (N=59)
Yes	80%
No	7
Don’t know	13

- d. The stock market reaching record highs in 2018 (**Base: Answered ‘Yes’ to Question 2d**)

	Total (N=522)
Yes	56%
No	36
Don’t know	8

- e. Federal taxes for the middle class decreasing in 2018 (**Base: Answered ‘Yes’ to Question 2e**)

	Total (N=300)
Yes	84%
No	10
Don’t know	5

- f. Federal taxes for the wealthy decreasing in 2018 (**Base: Answered ‘Yes’ to Question 2f**)

	Total (N=422)
Yes	87%
No	8
Don’t know	4

- g. The aftermath to last year’s Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico being handled well (**Base: Answered ‘Yes’ to Question 2g**)

	Total (N=203)
Yes	68%
No	18
Don’t know	14



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6. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements? (Select one for each)

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Donald Trump has made the world safer with his direct negotiations with North Korea.	31%	14	60	29
Republican and Donald Trump’s attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act has made it harder for people to get affordable medical care.	46%	73	19	42
Donald Trump is responsible for the strongest American economy since the 1990s.	34%	10	71	31
Recent Republican tax cuts are the main thing driving the current strength in the U.S. economy.	30%	17	56	23
Donald Trump’s response to Hurricane Maria hitting Puerto Rico last year has been very inadequate.	56%	84	32	48

a. Donald Trump has made the world safer with his direct negotiations with North Korea.

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly agree	13%	5%	27%	13%
Somewhat agree	18	9	33	17
Neither agree nor disagree	20	13	23	26
Somewhat disagree	13	20	6	11
Strongly disagree	27	47	5	24
Don’t know	9	6	5	10
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>31%</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>29%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>35</i>

b. Republican and Donald Trump’s attempts to repeal the Affordable Care Act has made it harder for people to get affordable medical care.

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly agree	26%	47%	7%	18%
Somewhat agree	20	26	12	24
Neither agree nor disagree	17	10	23	19
Somewhat disagree	13	6	26	11
Strongly disagree	13	3	24	13
Don’t know	12	9	8	15
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>73%</i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>42%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>24</i>

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c. Donald Trump is responsible for the strongest American economy since the 1990s.

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly agree	17%	4%	40%	15%
Somewhat agree	17	6	32	16
Neither agree nor disagree	14	15	12	16
Somewhat disagree	11	14	5	13
Strongly disagree	32	54	6	32
Don't know	9	7	5	9
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>34%</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>71%</i>	<i>31%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>69</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>45</i>

d. Recent Republican tax cuts are the main thing driving the current strength in the U.S. economy.

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly agree	9%	5%	17%	7%
Somewhat agree	21	12	40	16
Neither agree nor disagree	21	23	20	22
Somewhat disagree	13	16	9	19
Strongly disagree	18	28	5	18
Don't know	18	16	10	19
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>17%</i>	<i>56%</i>	<i>23%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>37</i>

e. Donald Trump's response to Hurricane Maria hitting Puerto Rico last year has been very inadequate.

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly agree	40%	68%	15%	30%
Somewhat agree	16	16	18	18
Neither agree nor disagree	13	5	22	14
Somewhat disagree	9	5	15	6
Strongly disagree	11	2	23	13
Don't know	11	4	7	19
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>56%</i>	<i>84%</i>	<i>32%</i>	<i>48%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>19</i>

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7. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
When jobs are scarce, employers should prioritize hiring people of this country over immigrants	54%	44	73	58
America needs a strong leader to take the country back from the rich and powerful	67%	80	56	64
The American economy is rigged to advantage the rich and powerful	67%	87	49	62
Traditional parties and politicians don't care about people like me	66%	68	66	73
The mainstream media is more interested in making money than telling the truth	63%	47	83	66
I am proud to be an American right now	56%	43	80	53

a. When jobs are scarce, employers should prioritize hiring people of this country over immigrants

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly agree	32%	22%	49%	32%
Somewhat agree	22	21	24	26
Neither agree nor disagree	25	34	13	24
Somewhat disagree	9	11	6	9
Strongly disagree	5	6	4	2
Don't know	7	5	4	7
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>73%</i>	<i>58%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>

b. America needs a strong leader to take the country back from the rich and powerful

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly agree	47%	60%	37%	40%
Somewhat agree	20	20	19	25
Neither agree nor disagree	17	11	21	20
Somewhat disagree	6	4	11	6
Strongly disagree	4	2	8	6
Don't know	6	4	4	5
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>56%</i>	<i>64%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>11</i>

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c. The American economy is rigged to advantage the rich and powerful

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly agree	37%	57%	18%	30%
Somewhat agree	30	30	31	32
Neither agree nor disagree	14	6	19	18
Somewhat disagree	6	1	12	10
Strongly disagree	6	2	13	4
Don't know	7	4	6	6
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>87%</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>62%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>14</i>

d. Traditional parties and politicians don't care about people like me

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly agree	35%	36%	30%	41%
Somewhat agree	31	31	36	32
Neither agree nor disagree	20	20	18	20
Somewhat disagree	4	4	7	1
Strongly disagree	3	4	4	*
Don't know	7	4	5	5
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>66%</i>	<i>68%</i>	<i>66%</i>	<i>73%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>2</i>

e. The mainstream media is more interested in making money than telling the truth

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly agree	41%	24%	63%	43%
Somewhat agree	22	22	20	23
Neither agree nor disagree	14	18	8	12
Somewhat disagree	9	16	2	12
Strongly disagree	9	17	3	6
Don't know	5	3	4	4
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>63%</i>	<i>47%</i>	<i>83%</i>	<i>66%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>18</i>

f. I am proud to be an American right now

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly agree	32%	17%	58%	27%
Somewhat agree	23	26	22	26
Neither agree nor disagree	18	22	10	18
Somewhat disagree	14	21	5	16
Strongly disagree	9	14	2	10
Don't know	3	1	3	3
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>56%</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>53%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>26</i>

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8. How do you get most of your news? (Select all that apply)

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Television	60%	63	63	60
Online/internet	57%	64	45	58
Social media (Twitter, Facebook)	29%	34	25	25
Print newspapers/magazines	28%	26	29	34
Radio	24%	25	23	27
Mobile News apps	20%	27	12	17
None of the above	5%	2	8	2

9. Of the choices listed below, which is your main source of television news? (Select one)

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
FOX News	19%	8	37	12
ABC	11%	12	10	15
NBC	11%	14	10	10
CNN	11%	19	6	7
CBS	8%	9	7	9
MSNBC	6%	12	1	4
Public Television	4%	3	3	8
NPR	4%	5	2	5
Other	8%	6	7	14
None of the above	17%	12	16	16

10. Thinking about politics and government, do you consider yourself...? (Select one)

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Very conservative	10%	2%	24%	9%
Moderately conservative	18	8	42	8
Lean conservative	15	8	22	29
Lean liberal	16	25	4	21
Moderately liberal	16	32	2	11
Very liberal	10	19	3	4
Don't know/Refuse	15	6	3	18
<i>Conservative (Net)</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>18%</i>	<i>88%</i>	<i>46%</i>
<i>Liberal (Net)</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>75</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>36</i>

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11. How would you describe the area in which you live?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Rural	21%	14%	28%	25%
Suburban	52	53	50	51
Urban	27	34	22	24

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About the Study

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted September 19-20, 2018. For the survey, a sample of roughly 1,004 adults 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii were interviewed online in English. The sample includes 361 Republicans, 344 Democrats, and 197 Independents.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos' 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 a 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 3.5 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=1,004, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/-5 percentage points).

The poll also has a credibility interval plus or minus 5.9 percentage points Republicans, 6.0 percentage points for Democrats, and 8.0 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.

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Ipsos researchers assess market potential and interpret market trends. They develop and build brands. They help clients build long-term relationships with their customers. They test advertising and study audience responses to various media and they measure public opinion around the globe.

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GAME CHANGERS

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