

Ipsos MORI September 2020 Political Monitor Topline Results

21st September 2020

Fieldwork: 11– 18 September 2020

Technical Details

Ipsos MORI interviewed a representative sample of 1,013 adults aged 18+ across Great Britain. Interviews were conducted by telephone: 11 – 18 September 2020. Data are weighted to match the profile of the population.

Where percentages do not sum to 100 this may be due to computer rounding, the exclusion of “don’t know” categories, or multiple answers. An asterisk (*) denotes any value of less than half a per cent. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote, are undecided or refuse to name a party and in the headline figures, are filtered as discussed below. Data are based on all adults unless otherwise stated

Voting Intention

Voting intention polls between elections are a measurement of how a representative sample of the public think they would vote at a given point in time. Voting intentions should be read in conjunction with other political indicators.

Voting intentions: headline indicator

Our headline indicator takes into account past voting behaviour (do people always or usually vote in general elections, or say it depends) as well as stated likelihood to vote in an upcoming election (those who say they are at least 9 out of 10 certain to vote). We continually review our methods, and may make further refinements to our methodology in the future.

As previously, please note that this measure is not based on the assumption that this is the group who will vote at the next general election, as this population is not accurately identifiable at this stage of a parliament. Rather, it includes only those voters whose past behaviour and frame of mind is nearest to those who actually vote at elections.

All polls are subject to a wide range of potential sources of error. On the basis of the historical record of the polls at recent general elections, there is a 9 in 10 chance that the true value of a party’s support lies within 4 points of the estimates provided by this poll, and a 2 in 3 chance that they lie within 2 points. This is especially important to keep in mind when calculating party lead figures.

Q1 How would you vote if there were a General Election tomorrow?

IF UNDECIDED OR REFUSED AT Q1a

Q1b Which party are you most inclined to support?

Base: All 9-10 certain to vote and always/usually/depends vote in General Elections (780)

	September 2020	August 2020
	%	%
Conservative	40	45
Labour	37	37
Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem)	8	6
Scottish National Party/Plaid Cymru	7	5
Green Party	5	5
The Brexit Party	*	1
Other	2	1
Conservative lead (±%)	+3	+8
<i>Would not vote</i>	1	1
<i>Undecided</i>	5	6
<i>Refused</i>	2	2

Voting intentions: all naming a party

The voting intention figures based on all those giving a voting intention is the measure with the longest pedigree; our regular trends on this basis go back to the 1970s. When turnouts were much higher than is usual today, this offered a good approximation to actual voting behaviour; in more recent years however, there have been differing turnout levels among the supporters of the various parties.

Q1a How would you vote if there were a General Election tomorrow?

Q1b Which party are you most inclined to support?

	%
Conservative	39
Labour	38
Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem)	7
Scottish National Party/Plaid Cymru	6
Green Party	7
The Brexit Party	*
Other	2
Conservative lead (+%)	+1
<i>Would not vote</i>	9
<i>Undecided</i>	6
<i>Refused</i>	2

Certainty of voting

- Q2 And how likely would you be to vote in the General Election, on a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 means you would be absolutely certain to vote, and 1 means that you would be absolutely certain not to vote?

	%
10 – absolutely certain to vote	68
9	3
8	6
7	4
6	1
5	6
4	1
3	2
2	1
1 – absolutely certain not to vote	8
Don't know	1

Satisfaction Ratings

Satisfaction among general public aged 18+

- Q3 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the Government is running the country?
- Q4 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Boris Johnson is doing his job as Prime Minister?
- Q5 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Keir Starmer is doing his job as leader of the Labour party?
- Q6 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Ed Davey is doing his job as leader of the Liberal Democrats?

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Don't know	Net satisfaction
	%	%	%	±
Government (Q3) Sept '20	35	57	8	-22
<i>Aug '20</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>-4</i>
Johnson (Q4) Sept '20	40	54	6	-14
<i>Aug '20</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>-1</i>
Starmer (Q5) Sept '20	43	27	31	+16
<i>Aug '20</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>+22</i>
Davey (Q6) Sept '20	17	25	57	-8

- Q3 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the Government is running the country?
- Q4 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Boris Johnson is doing his job as Prime Minister?
- Q5 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Keir Starmer is doing his job as leader of the Labour party?
- Q6 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Ed Davey is doing his job as leader of the Liberal Democrats?

Base: All party supporters (*Government is based on Conservative supporters)

	Base	Satisfied %	Dissatisfied %	Don't know %	Net satisfaction ±
Government (Q3) Sept '20	305	70	24	7	+46
Aug '20	370	80	16	4	+64
Johnson (Q4) Sept '20	305	79	18	3	+61
Aug '20	370	87	11	2	+76
Starmer (Q5) Sept '20	333	69	13	18	+56
Aug '20	320	67	16	17	+51

Economic Optimism Index

- Q8 Do you think that the general economic condition of the country will improve, stay the same, or get worse over the next 12 months?

	Sept '20 %	Aug '20 %
Improve	21	20
Stay the same	10	69
Get worse	66	68
Don't know	3	2
Ipsos MORI Economic Optimism Index (EOI)	-45	-48

Coronavirus

Q9 Overall, how well or badly do you think the Government has handled the coronavirus outbreak so far?

	Very well	Fairly well	Neither well nor badly	Fairly badly	Very badly	Don't know	Don't know who they are	Very/fairly well	Very/fairly badly	Net well
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
The Government										
September 2020	7	25	18	23	27	*	*	32	50	-18
<i>August 2020</i>	9	33	16	20	20	2	*	42	40	+2
<i>June 2020</i>	8	32	14	21	23	1	*	40	44	-4
<i>March 2020</i>	10	39	13	20	15	2	1	49	35	+14

Party leaders

Q11 I am going to read out some things both favourable and unfavourable that have been said about various politicians. Which of these, if any, do you think apply to...

	<i>Jeremy Corbyn (Sept 2019)</i> %	<i>Keir Starmer (Sept 2020)</i> %	<i>Boris Johnson (June 2019)</i> %	<i>Boris Johnson (Sept 2019)</i> %	<i>Boris Johnson (Sept 2020)</i> %	<i>Rishi Sunak (Sept 2020)</i> %
A capable leader	21	44	33	36	37	41
Good in a crisis	20	31	27	32	32	54
Has sound judgement	25	43	27	31	30	49
Understands the problems facing Britain	43	50	40	43	43	55
Out of touch with ordinary people	45	27	62	60	58	31
Has got a lot of personality	25	25	79	76	67	33
Gives me confidence for Britain's future	19	29	28	30	30	39
Patriotic	36	43	64	63	68	48
More honest than most politicians	37	36	25	27	27	41
More style than substance	27	21	54	56	46	22
A good representative for Britain on the world stage	20	42	28	30	30	47
None of these	10	3	4	1	1	2
Don't know	3	20	3	2	1	17

Q12 Which of these statements comes closest to your views of Boris Johnson, and the Conservative Party?

	September 2015 (David Cameron) %	September 2016 (Theresa May) %	September 2017 (Theresa May) %	September 2018 (Theresa May) %	November 2019 (Boris Johnson) %	September 2020 (Boris Johnson) %
I like Boris Johnson and I like the Conservative Party	31	32	25	24	30	30
I like Boris Johnson but I do not like the Conservative Party	13	28	13	15	14	15
I do not like Boris Johnson but I like the Conservative Party	10	6	13	14	12	12
I do not like Boris Johnson and I do not like the Conservative Party	42	27	43	43	42	39
Don't know	4	7	5	5	2	5
Like Boris Johnson	44	60	38	39	44	45
Like the Conservative Party	41	38	38	38	42	42
Do not like Boris Johnson	52	33	56	57	54	51
Do not like the Conservative party	55	55	56	58	56	54

Q12 Which of these statements comes closest to your views of Keir Starmer, leader of the Labour Party, and the Labour Party?

	September 2015 (Jeremy Corbyn) %	September 2016 (Jeremy Corbyn) %	September 2017 (Jeremy Corbyn) %	September 2018 (Jeremy Corbyn) %	November 2019 (Jeremy Corbyn) %	September 2020 (Keir Starmer) %
I like Keir Starmer and I like the Labour Party	23	23	33	25	20	26
I like Keir Starmer but I do not like the Labour Party	14	14	13	7	3	25
I do not like Keir Starmer but I like the Labour Party	17	23	21	32	29	12
I do not like Keir Starmer and I do not like the Labour Party	38	31	27	32	44	23
Don't know	9	8	5	5	4	14
Like Keir Starmer	37	37	46	32	23	51
Like the Labour Party	40	46	54	57	49	38
Do not like Keir Starmer	55	54	48	64	73	35
Do not like the Labour Party	52	45	40	39	47	48

Q14 Can you tell me whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Rishi Sunak is doing his job as Chancellor of the Exchequer? (only selected trends shown – see www.ipsos-mori.com for full list)

	Satisfied %	Dissatisfied %	Don't know %
Clarke December 1993	31	49	20
Brown July 1997	52	20	28
Darling March 2008	28	44	28
Osborne June 2010	40	23	37
Osborne March 2016	27	60	13
Hammond Nov 2016	39	28	34
Hammond March 2017	34	46	20
Hammond Nov 2017	36	45	19
Hammond Nov 2018	30	43	27
Sajid Javid Oct 2019	37	32	30
Sunak March 2020	45	17	37
Sunak Sept 2020	64	21	15

Base: Conservative party supporters (305)

	Satisfied %	Dissatisfied %	Don't know %
Osborne June 2010	64	7	29
Osborne March 2016	58	31	10
Hammond Nov 2016	61	12	27
Hammond March 2017	60	26	14
Hammond Nov 2017	62	22	17
Hammond Nov 2018	51	31	18
Sajid Javid Oct 2019	66	9	25
Sunak March 2020	63	7	30
Sunak Sept 2020	83	8	9

Brexit

As you may know the United Kingdom left the European Union at the end of January 2020 and is currently in a transition period while it negotiates a longer-term trade relationship with the EU.

Q13. Please tell me how confident, if at all, you are that ... will get a good deal for Britain in negotiations with other European Union leaders?

**Asked in December 2018 as: Please tell me how confident, if at all, you are that Theresa May has got a good deal for Britain in negotiations with other European Union leaders?*

	Very confident %	Fairly confident %	Not very confident %	Not confident at all %	Don't know %	Confident %	Not confident %
Boris Johnson							
Sept '20	9	30	25	33	2	39	58
Sept '19	7	23	26	41	3	30	67
July '19	9	24	26	38	3	33	64
June '19	15	26	17	36	6	41	53
Sep '18	9	24	20	44	3	33	64
Theresa May							
May '19	4	14	29	51	1	18	80
Mar '19	3	15	33	46	2	18	79
Feb '19	2	19	36	41	3	21	77
Dec '18*	3	20	30	39	7	23	69
Oct '18	2	17	35	43	3	19	78
Sep '18	4	24	37	33	2	28	70
Jul '18	4	21	36	36	3	25	72
Jun '18	5	25	34	33	2	30	67
May '18	5	29	33	30	3	34	63
Mar '18	6	31	28	31	4	37	59
Oct '17	5	30	31	29	4	35	60
Jul '17	6	30	31	29	3	36	60
Mar '17	11	33	28	23	5	44	51

Base: Conservative party supporters (305)

	Very confident %	Fairly confident %	Not very confident %	Not confident at all %	Don't know %	Confident %	Not confident %
Boris Johnson							
Sept '20	21	53	19	6	1	74	25
Sept '19	12	43	27	15	3	55	42
July '19	20	40	23	14	3	60	37
June '19	33	29	18	15	5	62	33
Sep '18	15	42	30	10	3	57	40
Theresa May							
May '19	9	27	34	30	*	36	64

Mar '19	5	32	36	24	3	37	60
Feb '19	2	34	41	21	2	36	62
Dec '18	6	33	29	25	7	39	54
Oct '18	4	30	41	23	2	34	64
Sep '18	7	38	40	13	2	45	53
Jul '18	7	40	39	12	3	47	51
Jun '18	11	45	32	11	2	56	43
May '18	10	57	23	9	1	67	32
Mar '18	16	51	23	10	1	67	33
Oct '17	12	54	22	8	4	66	30
Jul '17	14	59	15	11	2	73	26

Q13 And if Keir Starmer was Prime Minister, how confident, if at all, would you be that he would get a good deal for Britain in negotiations with other European Union leaders?

	Very confident %	Fairly confident %	Not very confident %	Not confident at %	Don't know %	Confident %	Not confident %
Keir Starmer							
Sept '20	8	29	28	22	12	37	50
Jeremy Corbyn							
Mar '19	5	16	21	55	3	21	76
Sep '18	4	24	25	42	5	28	67
Mar '18	5	28	29	34	5	33	63
Jul '17	6	23	29	38	5	29	67

Q14. When thinking about the possibility of Britain leaving the transition period with the EU without a deal, do you think the Government has done a good job or a bad job preparing for this situation?

	Sept '20 %	May '19 %	Feb '19 %
Good job	26	13	15
Bad job	63	80	77
Don't know	10	7	8

Q15 And if Britain and other European Union leaders fail to reach an agreement on the new terms of Britain's future relationship with the EU by the time the transition period ends*, which two or three of the following, if any, do you think will be most to blame? (*in 2019 asked as "by the time Britain leaves")

	Sept '20 %	Mar '19 %	Dec '18 %	Oct '18 %
The UK Government	44	48	35	36
The European Union	40	32	27	37
Conservative MPs	35	35	31	37
The Labour Party	13	23	19	16
Other opposition parties	10	10	10	10
Brexit campaigners	31	28	35	32
Remain campaigners	15	23	14	14
No-one	1	*	1	1
Other	*	2	5	3
Don't know	7	6	7	7