

Ipsos MORI December 2020 Political Monitor Topline Results

21st December 2020

Fieldwork: 4th – 10th December 2020

Technical Details

Ipsos MORI interviewed a representative sample of 1,027 adults aged 18+ across Great Britain. Interviews were conducted by telephone: 4th – 10th December 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 (758)

	December 2020	October 2020
	%	%
Conservative	41	37
Labour	41	42
Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem)	6	8
Scottish National Party/Plaid Cymru	6	6
Green Party	5	5
The Brexit Party	*	1
Other	1	2
Conservative lead (+%)	0	-5
<i>Would not vote</i>	1	1
<i>Undecided</i>	4	5
<i>Refused</i>	2	1

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	41
Labour	39
Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem)	6
Scottish National Party/Plaid Cymru	5
Green Party	6
The Brexit Party	*
Other	1
Conservative lead (+%)	+2
<i>Would not vote</i>	11
<i>Undecided</i>	7
<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	64
9	4
8	5
7	4
6	2
5	5
4	1
3	2
2	1
1 – absolutely certain not to vote	10
Don't know	*

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) Dec '20	37	53	10	-16
<i>Oct '20</i>	30	61	8	-31
Johnson (Q4) Dec '20	42	50	8	-8
<i>Oct '20</i>	33	59	8	-26
Starmer (Q5) Dec '20	38	33	29	+5
<i>Oct '20</i>	45	30	25	+15
Davey (Q6) Dec '20	15	29	57	-14
<i>Oct '20</i>	20	25	55	-5

- 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?

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

	Base	Satisfied %	Dissatisfied %	Don't know %	Net satisfaction ±
Government (Q3) Oct '20	324	69	21	10	+48
Sept '20	301	65	27	8	+38
Johnson (Q4) Oct '20	324	78	17	4	+61
Sept '20	301	68	26	5	+42
Starmer (Q5) Oct '20	350	56	25	19	+31
Sept '20	358	68	18	14	+50

Economic Optimism Index

- Q7 Do you think that the general economic condition of the country will improve, stay the same, or get worse over the next 12 months?

	Dec '20 %	Oct '20 %
Improve	27	15
Stay the same	7	10
Get worse	63	71
Don't know	4	4
Ipsos MORI Economic Optimism Index (EOI)	-36	-56

Government performance

Q8. Taking everything into account, since Boris Johnson's government was re-elected in December 2019, do you think the government has performed...

	Dec '20 %
Better than expected	15
About the same as expected	48
Worse than you expected	34
Don't know	3

Coronavirus

Q9 Overall, how well or badly do you think each of the following have 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										
Dec 2020	6	31	15	23	24	1	*	37	47	-10
October 2020	5	25	16	24	26	2	1	30	50	-20
Sept 2020	7	25	18	23	27	*	*	32	50	-18
August 2020	9	33	16	20	20	2	*	42	40	+2
June 2020	8	32	14	21	23	1	*	40	44	-4
March 2020	10	39	13	20	15	2	1	49	35	+14
Boris Johnson										
Dec 2020	8	29	15	19	27	*	*	37	46	-9
October 2020	10	22	11	23	33	1	*	32	56	-24
August 2020	12	31	12	17	26	1	*	43	43	0
June 2020	13	32	12	17	25	1	*	45	42	+3
March 2020	13	34	13	17	21	2	1	47	38	+9
Keir Starmer										
Dec 2020	5	26	23	14	9	8	16	31	23	+8
October 2020	5	28	24	13	9	9	12	33	22	+11
August 2020	5	26	30	8	6	9	17	31	14	+17

Government performance

Q10. Since Boris Johnson's government was re-elected in December 2019, do you think the government has done a good or bad job at...? (for trends pre-2011, go to www.ipsos-mori.com)

	Good job %	Bad job %	Don't know %	Net good job
Managing the economy				
December 2020	44	43	13	+1
<i>October 2019</i>	40	41	19	-1
<i>November 2016</i>	51	30	20	+21
<i>May 2016</i>	42	47	11	-5
<i>March 2015</i>	56	37	7	+19
<i>March 2014</i>	47	46	8	-1
<i>October 2011</i>	36	55	9	-19
Handling taxation and public expenditure				
December 2020	37	44	18	-7
<i>October 2019</i>	32	47	22	-15
<i>March 2015</i>	37	54	9	-17
<i>March 2014</i>	35	56	9	-21
<i>October 2011</i>	32	60	8	-28
Keeping unemployment down				
December 2020	41	46	12	-5
<i>March 2015</i>	49	43	8	+6
<i>March 2014</i>	44	48	8	-4
<i>October 2011</i>	15	77	8	-62
Handling Britain's exit from the European Union				
December 2020	28	63	8	-35
<i>October 2019</i>	18	76	6	-68
<i>March 2019</i>	9	85	6	-76
<i>March 2018</i>	38	54	8	-16
<i>July 2017</i>	31	58	12	-27
<i>March 2017</i>	36	52	12	-16
<i>December 2016</i>	33	53	14	-20
<i>November 2016</i>	37	48	15	-11
Reducing inequalities between different regions of the country, also known as "levelling-up"				
December 2020	21	58	22	-37
Ensuring the UK has a coronavirus vaccine				
December 2020	80	13	8	+67
Maximising Britain's influence in the world				
December 2020	33	49	18	-16
Delivering for the north of England				
December 2020	23	50	27	-27
Developing a test and trace system to test those who have the symptoms of coronavirus and track those who have been in close contact with anyone who has coronavirus				
December 2020	24	70	6	-46

Chancellor and the economy

Q11. How much, if anything, do you feel you know about...?

	Rishi Sunak, Chancellor of the Exchequer %	Anneliese Dodds, Shadow Chancellor of the Exchequer %
A great deal	11	2
A fair amount	35	9
Not very much	27	22
Heard of, but know nothing	13	23
Never heard of them	12	41
Don't know	3	2

Q12 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 %
<i>Osborne March 2016</i>	27	60	13
<i>Hammond Nov 2016</i>	39	28	34
<i>Hammond March 2017</i>	34	46	20
<i>Hammond Nov 2017</i>	36	45	19
<i>Hammond Nov 2018</i>	30	43	27
<i>Sajid Javid Oct 2019</i>	37	32	30
<i>Sunak March 2020</i>	45	17	37
<i>Sunak Sept 2020</i>	64	21	15
Sunak Dec 2020	61	19	21

Base: Conservative party supporters (324)

	Satisfied %	Dissatisfied %	Don't know %
<i>Osborne March 2016</i>	58	31	10
<i>Hammond Nov 2016</i>	61	12	27
<i>Hammond March 2017</i>	60	26	14
<i>Hammond Nov 2017</i>	62	22	17
<i>Hammond Nov 2018</i>	51	31	18
<i>Sajid Javid Oct 2019</i>	66	9	25
<i>Sunak March 2020</i>	63	7	30
<i>Sunak Sept 2020</i>	83	8	9
Sunak Dec 2020	82	6	12

Q13 Who do you think would make the most capable Chancellor, the Conservative's Rishi Sunak, or Labour's Anneliese Dodds?

<i>Osborne vs Ed Balls March 2015 %</i>	<i>Osborne vs John McDonnell February 2016 %</i>	<i>Hammond vs McDonnell November 2016 %</i>	<i>Hammond vs McDonnell November 2017 %</i>	<i>Sajid Javid vs McDonnell October 2019 %</i>		Rishi Sunak vs Anneliese Dodds Dec 2020 %
41	46	46	41	45	Rishi Sunak	48
30	29	28	32	24	Anneliese Dodds	17
18	10	8	8	11	Neither	6
10	15	18	19	20	Don't know	29