

TOPLINE & METHODOLOGY

Trusted Professions

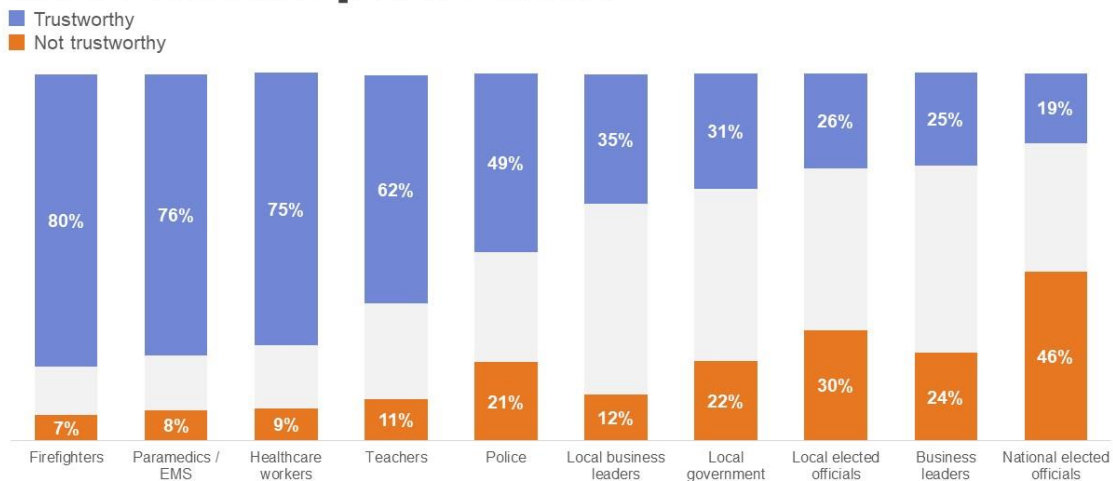
Firefighters, healthcare workers and first responders top list of most trusted professions

Local actors garner more trust than the national, underscoring the degree to which proximity conditions trust

Washington, DC, May 7, 2021 – A majority of Americans say that they trust firefighters, first responders, healthcare workers and teachers. National elected officials are the least trusted of all, with 46% saying that they are untrustworthy.

Just under half of all Americans (49%) say that they trust the police. There is significant partisan divide on this question (67% of Republicans trust the police vs. 37% of Democrats).

Most trusted professions



Source: Ipsos survey of 1,000 Americans, conducted May 4-5, 2021. Q. Please look at this list of different types of people. In general, do you think each is trustworthy or untrustworthy in the United States?

Americans tend to favor the local more than the national, agreeing that local political and business leaders handled 2020 better than their national counterparts did. This also applies to perceptions of everyday Americans, with just 48% agreeing that “Americans in general” handled 2020 well, compared to the 70% who believe that “regular people” in their community handled the past year well.

Eight in ten Americans believe that firefighters and police deserve a publicly funded pension if they have served 20 years or more, and just 42% believe that guaranteed pensions are a “luxury” that the nation cannot afford. Just one in five Americans believe that pensions for teachers, firefighters and police should be cut as a consequence of budget shortfalls.

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Annotated Questionnaire:

1. Please look at this list of different types of people. In general, do you think each is trustworthy or untrustworthy in the United States? Please use a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is very trustworthy and 5 is very untrustworthy.

a. Healthcare workers

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
1 - Very trustworthy	39%	36%	45%	36%
2	35%	38%	33%	36%
3	17%	17%	14%	19%
4	6%	6%	7%	6%
5 - Very untrustworthy	3%	4%	2%	3%
<i>Trustworthy (net)</i>	<i>75%</i>	<i>74%</i>	<i>78%</i>	<i>72%</i>
<i>Untrustworthy (net)</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>8%</i>	<i>9%</i>

b. Paramedics / EMS

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
1 - Very trustworthy	47%	51%	46%	46%
2	29%	29%	29%	29%
3	15%	12%	17%	17%
4	5%	4%	5%	6%
5 - Very untrustworthy	3%	4%	3%	3%
<i>Trustworthy (net)</i>	<i>76%</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>75%</i>	<i>75%</i>
<i>Untrustworthy (net)</i>	<i>8%</i>	<i>8%</i>	<i>8%</i>	<i>8%</i>

c. Firefighters

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
1 - Very trustworthy	51%	57%	49%	50%
2	28%	27%	28%	29%
3	13%	10%	17%	13%
4	4%	3%	4%	5%
5 - Very untrustworthy	3%	4%	2%	3%
<i>Trustworthy (net)</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>84%</i>	<i>77%</i>	<i>79%</i>
<i>Untrustworthy (net)</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>8%</i>

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d. Police

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
1 - Very trustworthy	22%	37%	14%	17%
2	27%	30%	22%	29%
3	30%	20%	37%	32%
4	12%	9%	16%	11%
5 - Very untrustworthy	9%	5%	11%	11%
<i>Trustworthy (net)</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>37%</i>	<i>46%</i>
<i>Untrustworthy (net)</i>	<i>21%</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>27%</i>	<i>22%</i>

e. Teachers

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
1 - Very trustworthy	27%	21%	34%	23%
2	36%	34%	37%	35%
3	27%	28%	21%	31%
4	8%	11%	7%	6%
5 - Very untrustworthy	4%	5%	1%	5%
<i>Trustworthy (net)</i>	<i>62%</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>71%</i>	<i>58%</i>
<i>Untrustworthy (net)</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>8%</i>	<i>11%</i>

f. Local business leaders

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
1 - Very trustworthy	9%	11%	7%	8%
2	27%	30%	28%	22%
3	52%	47%	53%	56%
4	9%	8%	10%	10%
5 - Very untrustworthy	3%	4%	3%	3%
<i>Trustworthy (net)</i>	<i>35%</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>35%</i>	<i>30%</i>
<i>Untrustworthy (net)</i>	<i>12%</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>12%</i>	<i>13%</i>

g. Business leaders

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
1 - Very trustworthy	8%	8%	8%	7%
2	18%	22%	17%	16%
3	51%	48%	53%	51%
4	16%	14%	18%	16%
5 - Very untrustworthy	8%	8%	5%	10%
<i>Trustworthy (net)</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>29%</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>23%</i>
<i>Untrustworthy (net)</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>26%</i>

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h. Local government workers

Local government workers	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
1 - Very trustworthy	8%	8%	10%	6%
2	23%	24%	27%	19%
3	47%	43%	49%	48%
4	14%	17%	11%	15%
5 - Very untrustworthy	7%	8%	4%	11%
<i>Trustworthy (net)</i>	31%	32%	37%	25%
<i>Untrustworthy (net)</i>	22%	25%	14%	26%

i. Local elected officials

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
1 - Very trustworthy	7%	9%	7%	6%
2	19%	19%	21%	16%
3	44%	41%	49%	42%
4	19%	19%	16%	21%
5 - Very untrustworthy	11%	12%	7%	15%
<i>Trustworthy (net)</i>	26%	28%	28%	21%
<i>Untrustworthy (net)</i>	30%	31%	23%	37%

j. National elected officials

National elected officials	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
1 - Very trustworthy	7%	7%	8%	6%
2	13%	11%	17%	9%
3	35%	29%	41%	32%
4	25%	29%	23%	24%
5 - Very untrustworthy	21%	25%	10%	29%
<i>Trustworthy (net)</i>	19%	18%	26%	15%
<i>Untrustworthy (net)</i>	46%	54%	33%	53%

2. Do you think the following have handled 2020 well or poorly?

a. Police

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
Very well	23%	41%	15%	17%
Somewhat well	33%	38%	29%	35%
Somewhat poorly	21%	10%	29%	22%
Very poorly	18%	8%	25%	19%
Don't know	5%	4%	3%	7%
<i>Well (net)</i>	56%	78%	44%	52%
<i>Poorly (net)</i>	39%	18%	54%	42%

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b. Health care professionals

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
Very well	65%	64%	72%	58%
Somewhat well	24%	27%	20%	26%
Somewhat poorly	6%	6%	5%	7%
Very poorly	3%	2%	1%	5%
Don't know	3%	2%	3%	4%
<i>Well (net)</i>	<i>89%</i>	<i>90%</i>	<i>91%</i>	<i>84%</i>
<i>Poorly (net)</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>8%</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>12%</i>

c. National elected officials

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
Very well	9%	7%	11%	7%
Somewhat well	26%	25%	30%	23%
Somewhat poorly	32%	36%	32%	30%
Very poorly	31%	30%	26%	36%
Don't know	3%	2%	2%	4%
<i>Well (net)</i>	<i>34%</i>	<i>32%</i>	<i>41%</i>	<i>30%</i>
<i>Poorly (net)</i>	<i>63%</i>	<i>66%</i>	<i>57%</i>	<i>66%</i>

d. Firefighters and first responders

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
Very well	64%	69%	68%	57%
Somewhat well	27%	23%	25%	33%
Somewhat poorly	3%	2%	3%	4%
Very poorly	1%	1%	1%	2%
Don't know	4%	5%	4%	4%
<i>Well (net)</i>	<i>92%</i>	<i>93%</i>	<i>92%</i>	<i>90%</i>
<i>Poorly (net)</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>6%</i>

e. National business leaders

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
Very well	11%	12%	13%	10%
Somewhat well	42%	45%	47%	34%
Somewhat poorly	26%	26%	26%	27%
Very poorly	12%	9%	8%	19%
Don't know	9%	8%	7%	11%
<i>Well (net)</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>57%</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>43%</i>
<i>Poorly (net)</i>	<i>38%</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>34%</i>	<i>45%</i>

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f. Americans in general

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
Very well	12%	15%	12%	10%
Somewhat well	37%	39%	38%	33%
Somewhat poorly	32%	31%	33%	33%
Very poorly	16%	12%	16%	20%
Don't know	3%	3%	1%	5%
<i>Well (net)</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>43%</i>
<i>Poorly (net)</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>52%</i>

3. Do you think the following have handled 2020 well or poorly?

a. Police in your community

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
Very well	36%	55%	27%	31%
Somewhat well	37%	32%	41%	36%
Somewhat poorly	11%	6%	15%	12%
Very poorly	9%	4%	12%	11%
Don't know	7%	4%	5%	11%
<i>Well (net)</i>	<i>73%</i>	<i>87%</i>	<i>68%</i>	<i>67%</i>
<i>Poorly (net)</i>	<i>20%</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>27%</i>	<i>22%</i>

b. Health care professionals in your community

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
Very well	60%	58%	68%	53%
Somewhat well	27%	31%	23%	29%
Somewhat poorly	6%	7%	5%	8%
Very poorly	2%	1%	1%	4%
Don't know	4%	3%	3%	7%
<i>Well (net)</i>	<i>87%</i>	<i>89%</i>	<i>91%</i>	<i>82%</i>
<i>Poorly (net)</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>8%</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>11%</i>

c. Local community elected officials

Local community elected officials	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
Very well	17%	19%	20%	12%
Somewhat well	43%	45%	47%	37%
Somewhat poorly	23%	21%	23%	26%
Very poorly	10%	11%	4%	15%
Don't know	7%	4%	6%	10%
<i>Well (net)</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>65%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>49%</i>
<i>Poorly (net)</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>32%</i>	<i>27%</i>	<i>41%</i>

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d. Firefighters and first responders in your community

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
Very well	63%	67%	65%	56%
Somewhat well	27%	26%	27%	28%
Somewhat poorly	3%	2%	3%	4%
Very poorly	2%	1%	1%	3%
Don't know	5%	4%	4%	8%
<i>Well (net)</i>	<i>90%</i>	<i>93%</i>	<i>92%</i>	<i>85%</i>
<i>Poorly (net)</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>8%</i>

e. Local business leaders

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
Very well	19%	26%	20%	13%
Somewhat well	51%	50%	51%	52%
Somewhat poorly	17%	14%	19%	18%
Very poorly	5%	4%	5%	7%
Don't know	8%	5%	6%	11%
<i>Well (net)</i>	<i>70%</i>	<i>76%</i>	<i>71%</i>	<i>64%</i>
<i>Poorly (net)</i>	<i>22%</i>	<i>18%</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>25%</i>

f. Regular people in your community

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
Very well	21%	27%	22%	16%
Somewhat well	49%	49%	49%	48%
Somewhat poorly	19%	17%	20%	20%
Very poorly	8%	6%	6%	11%
Don't know	4%	2%	3%	6%
<i>Well (net)</i>	<i>70%</i>	<i>76%</i>	<i>71%</i>	<i>64%</i>
<i>Poorly (net)</i>	<i>27%</i>	<i>22%</i>	<i>27%</i>	<i>30%</i>

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

- a. Police and firefighters deserve to have a secure retirement income if they've served 20 years or more

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
Strongly agree	48%	54%	49%	42%
Somewhat agree	35%	34%	34%	37%
Somewhat disagree	7%	6%	7%	8%
Strongly disagree	3%	1%	3%	4%
Don't know	8%	5%	7%	10%
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>83%</i>	<i>88%</i>	<i>83%</i>	<i>79%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>7%</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>11%</i>

- b. Public employee pensions are more generous than most people's retirements

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
Strongly agree	28%	30%	30%	25%
Somewhat agree	35%	39%	30%	35%
Somewhat disagree	11%	9%	15%	10%
Strongly disagree	4%	2%	5%	5%
Don't know	22%	20%	21%	24%
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>63%</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>61%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>20%</i>	<i>15%</i>

- c. Guaranteed pensions are a luxury Americans society cannot afford

	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
Strongly agree	17%	19%	18%	13%
Somewhat agree	25%	26%	21%	30%
Somewhat disagree	22%	26%	23%	18%
Strongly disagree	19%	17%	23%	18%
Don't know	17%	12%	15%	22%
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>43%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>41%</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>36%</i>

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

If the government in your local area had a budget shortfall, how do you think they should balance their budget?	All Americans	Republicans	Democrats	Independents /Other
Raise taxes	37%	29%	48%	31%
Reduce spending on infrastructure like roads or sewers	30%	42%	19%	30%
Lower the amount of money going to teacher, firefighter, and police pensions	20%	17%	20%	23%
Reduce spending on services like schools or police	14%	11%	14%	16%



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About the Study

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted May 4-5, 2021. For this survey, a sample of 1,000 adults age 18-65 from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 290 Republicans, 360 Democrats, and 350 Independents/Other.

The sample was randomly drawn from Ipsos' [online panel](#), partner online panel sources, and ["river" sampling](#) 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 2018 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Posthoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability 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=1,000, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/-5.0 percentage points).

About Ipsos

Ipsos is the world's third largest Insights and Analytics company, present in 90 markets and employing more than 18,000 people.

Our passionately curious research professionals, analysts and scientists have built unique multi-specialist capabilities that provide true understanding and powerful insights into the actions, opinions and motivations of citizens, consumers, patients, customers or employees. We serve more than 5000 clients across the world with 75 business solutions.

Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos is listed on the Euronext Paris since July 1st, 1999. The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).

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