Ipsos MORI December 2021 Political Monitor
Topline Results

16th December 2021

Fieldwork: 3rd – 10th December 2021

Technical Details

Ipsos MORI interviewed a representative sample of 1,005 adults aged 18+ across Great Britain. Interviews were conducted by telephone: 3rd – 10th December 2021. 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. Data are based on all adults unless otherwise stated

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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 (654)	December 2021	*November 2021*
	%	*%*
Conservative	**34**	*35*
Labour	**39**	*36*
Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem)	**11**	*9*
Scottish National Party/Plaid Cymru	**6**	*6*
Green Party	**7**	*11*
Other	**5**	*3*
Conservative lead (+%)	**-5**	*-1*
Would not vote	**1**	***
Undecided	**3**	*3*
Refused	**3**	*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	**33**
Labour	**40**
Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem)	**12**
Scottish National Party/Plaid Cymru	**5**
Green Party	**6**
Other	**3**
Conservative lead (+%)	**-7**
Would not vote	**12**
Undecided	**7**
Refused	**4**

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	**62**
9	**4**
8	**7**
7	**3**
6	**2**
5	**6**
4	**1**
3	**1**
2	**1**
1 – absolutely certain not to vote	**11**
Don't know	**2**

<u>Satisfaction Ratings</u>

Satisfaction among general public aged 18+

Q6 **Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the Government is running the country?**

Q7 **Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Boris Johnson is doing his job as Prime Minister?**

Q8 **Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Keir Starmer is doing his job as leader of the Labour party?**

Q9 **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 (Q6) **Dec '21**	**25**	**65**	**10**	**-40**
Nov '21	*29*	*62*	*9*	*-33*
Johnson (Q7) **Dec '21**	**28**	**65**	**7**	**-37**
Nov '21	*34*	*61*	*5*	*-27*
Starmer (Q8) **Dec '21**	**28**	**49**	**24**	**-21**
Nov '21	*29*	*50*	*22*	*-21*
Davey (Q9) **Dec '21**	**19**	**33**	**48**	**-14**
Nov '21	*20*	*37*	*43*	*-17*

Q6   **Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the Government is running the country?**

Q7   **Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Boris Johnson is doing his job as Prime Minister?**

Q8   **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 (Q6) **Dec '21**	**250**	**61**	**29**	**10**	**+32**
Nov '21	*281*	*61*	*28*	*10*	*+33*
Johnson (Q7) **Dec '21**	**250**	**67**	**28**	**5**	**+39**
Nov '21	*281*	*72*	*22*	*6*	*+50*
Starmer (Q8) **Dec '21**	**325**	**44**	**40**	**16**	**+4**
Nov '21	*293*	*42*	*42*	*16*	*0*

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?**

	Dec '21 %	Nov '21 %
Improve	**25**	*28*
Stay the same	**19**	*17*
Get worse	**52**	*54*
Don't know	**4**	*2*
Ipsos MORI Economic Optimism Index (EOI)	**-27**	*-26*

Q9. **Taking everything into account, since Boris Johnson's government was re-elected in December 2019, do you think the government has performed...**

	Dec '21 %	Dec '20 %
Better than expected	**11**	*15*
About the same as expected	**41**	*48*
Worse than you expected	**43**	*34*
Don't know	**4**	*3*

Coronavirus

Q10 **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 2021	**9**	**25**	**16**	**23**	**26**	**1**	*****	**34**	**49**	**-15**
Nov 2021	*7*	*29*	*16*	*23*	*25*	*1*	***	*36*	*48*	*-12*
Sept 2021	*8*	*36*	*18*	*17*	*19*	***	***	*44*	*36*	*+8*
August 2021	*8*	*36*	*18*	*18*	*19*	*1*	*-*	*44*	*37*	*+7*
July 2021	*9*	*32*	*15*	*22*	*21*	*1*	***	*41*	*43*	*-2*
June 2021	*15*	*29*	*16*	*18*	*20*	*2*	***	*44*	*38*	*+6*
Apr 2021	*12*	*33*	*9*	*23*	*22*	***	*-*	*45*	*45*	*0*
Mar 2021	*10*	*31*	*13*	*22*	*22*	*1*	***	*41*	*44*	*-3*
Feb 2021	*10*	*28*	*15*	*18*	*28*	*1*	***	*38*	*46*	*-8*
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*

Government performance

Q11. **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 full trends go to www.ipsos-mori.com)

	Good job %	Bad job %	Don't know %	Net good job
Managing the economy				
December 2021	**39**	**49**	**11**	**-10**
August 2021	*49*	*40*	*11*	*+9*
December 2020	*44*	*43*	*13*	*+1*
October 2019	*40*	*41*	*19*	*-1*
November 2016	*51*	*30*	*20*	*+21*
May 2016	*42*	*47*	*11*	*-5*
March 2015	*56*	*37*	*7*	*+19*
March 2014	*47*	*46*	*8*	*-1*
October 2011	*36*	*55*	*9*	*-19*
April 2010	*37*	*59*	*4*	*-22*
May 2007	*59*	*32*	*9*	*+27*
April 2005	*62*	*28*	*10*	*+34*
May 2001	*71*	*16*	*13*	*+55*
November 2000	*52*	*32*	*15*	*+29*
November 1999	*60*	*24*	*16*	*+36*
November 1998	*50*	*29*	*21*	*+21*
April 1998	*60*	*24*	*16*	*+36*

Handling taxation and public expenditure			
December 2021	**28**	**58**	**14**	**-30**
August 2021	*33*	*50*	*18*	*-17*
December 2020	*37*	*44*	*18*	*-7*
October 2019	*32*	*47*	*22*	*-15*
March 2015	*37*	*54*	*9*	*-17*
March 2014	*35*	*56*	*9*	*-21*
October 2011	*32*	*60*	*8*	*-28*
April 2010	*32*	*63*	*5*	*-31*
May 2007	*31*	*59*	*9*	*-28*
April 2005	*42*	*47*	*10*	*-4*
May 2001	*52*	*33*	*15*	*+19*
January 2001	*45*	*40*	*15*	*+5*
November 2000	*34*	*51*	*15*	*-17*
November 1999	*36*	*44*	*20*	*-8*
November 1998	*44*	*36*	*20*	*+8*
April 1998	*43*	*36*	*21*	*+7*
Handling Britain's exit from the European Union			
December 2021	**33**	**57**	**10**	**-24**
August 2021	*35*	*57*	*9*	*-22*
December 2020	*28*	*63*	*8*	*-35*
October 2019	*18*	*76*	*6*	*-68*
March 2019	*9*	*85*	*6*	*-76*
March 2018	*38*	*54*	*8*	*-16*
July 2017	*31*	*58*	*12*	*-27*
March 2017	*36*	*52*	*12*	*-16*
December 2016	*33*	*53*	*14*	*-20*
November 2016	*37*	*48*	*15*	*-11*
Reducing inequalities between different regions of the country, also known as "levelling-up"			
December 2021	**17**	**66**	**17**	**-49**
August 2021	*22*	*55*	*23*	*-33*
December 2020	*21*	*58*	*22*	*-37*
Ensuring the public are vaccinated as soon as possible			
December 2021	**84**	**11**	**5**	**+73**
August 2021	*87*	*9*	*3*	*+78*
Jun 2021	*82*	*10*	*8*	*+72*
Apr 2021	*86*	*10*	*4*	*+76*
Mar 2021	*88*	*7*	*5*	*+81*
Feb 2021	*78*	*16*	*6*	*+62*
Improving the National Health Service			
December 2021	**21**	**70**	**9**	**-49**
August 2021	*26*	*65*	*9*	*-39*
May 2007	*28*	*64*	*8*	*-36*
April 1998	*31*	*49*	*20*	*-18*
Improving the Education system			
December 2021	**21**	**55**	**24**	**-34**
August 2021	*23*	*57*	*20*	*-34*
May 2007	*42*	*46*	*12*	*-4*
April 1998	*47*	*33*	*20*	*+14*
Dealing with crime			
December 2021	**21**	**59**	**19**	**-38**
August 2021	*26*	*58*	*16*	*-32*
May 2007	*34*	*58*	*8*	*-24*
Managing immigration			
December 2021	**14**	**73**	**12**	**-59**

Dealing with climate change				
December 2021	31	52	16	-21

Party leaders

Q12 **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…**

	Keir Starmer (Sept 2020) %	Keir Starmer (June 2021) %	**Keir Starmer (Dec 2021)** %	Boris Johnson (June 2019) %	Boris Johnson (Sept 2019) %	Boris Johnson (Sept 2020) %	Boris Johnson (June 2021) %	**Boris Johnson (Dec 2021)** %
A capable leader	44	26	**33**	33	36	37	40	**26**
Good in a crisis	31	18	**23**	27	32	32	35	**26**
Has sound judgement	43	26	**38**	27	31	30	28	**18**
Understands the problems facing Britain	50	37	**46**	40	43	43	43	**34**
Out of touch with ordinary people	27	41	**33**	62	60	58	56	**63**
Has got a lot of personality	25	16	**17**	79	76	67	61	**60**
Gives me confidence for Britain's future	29	15	**22**	28	30	30	34	**17**
Patriotic	43	38	**45**	64	63	68	60	**59**
More honest than most politicians	36	29	**36**	25	27	27	22	**18**
More style than substance	21	28	**26**	54	56	46	41	**45**
A good representative for Britain on the world stage	42	25	**34**	28	30	30	34	**19**
None of these	3	5	**6**	4	1	1	3	**4**
Don't know	20	19	**14**	3	2	1	3	**4**

Q13 **Who do you think would make the most capable Prime Minister, Boris Johnson or Keir Starmer?**

	Boris Johnson /PM %	Keir Starmer /LoTO %	Neither %	No difference %	Other %	Don't know %
Dec 2021	**31**	**44**	**13**	**1**	**1**	**10**
Sept 2021	*38*	*38*	*13*	***	*1*	*9*
March 2021	*47*	*37*	*6*	***	*1*	*10*
June 2020	*43*	*38*	*5*	*1*	*1*	*12*
Boris Johnson v Jeremy Corbyn						
11 Dec 2019	*43*	*29*	*19*	***	*2*	*6*
6 Dec 2019	*47*	*31*	*13*	*1*	***	*6*
Nov 2019	*49*	*30*	*14*	*1*	*2*	*5*
Sept 2019	*50*	*29*	*16*	***	*1*	*3*
July 2019	*52*	*27*	*14*	*1*	***	*6*
June 2019	*51*	*33*	*11*	*1*	***	*4*
Theresa May v Jeremy Corbyn						
Sep 2018	46	37	12	*	*	4
July 2017	*46*	*38*	*8*	*1*	*2*	*5*
7 June 2017	*47*	*36*	*7*	*1*	***	*8*
1 June 2017	*50*	*35*	*6*	***	***	*8*
May 2017	*56*	*29*	*7*	***	*1*	*6*
Apr 2017	*61*	*23*	*6*	*1*	*1*	*7*
David Cameron v Jeremy Corbyn						
Sept 2015	*57*	*28*	*2*	***	*2*	*9*
David Cameron v Ed Miliband						
Apr 2015	*52*	*31*	*12*	*-*	*-*	*4*
Apr 2011	*45*	*25*	*-*	*-*	*7*	*23*
Sep 2010	*50*	*19*	*-*	*-*	*12*	*19*
Gordon Brown v David Cameron						
May 2010	*29*	*33*	*-*	*-*	*19*	*19*
Apr 2010	*28*	*32*	*-*	*-*	*17*	*23*
Feb 2010	*29*	*38*	*12*	*-*	*12*	*8*
Sept 2009	*24*	*41*	*14*	*-*	*16*	*5*
Jan 2008	*37*	*33*	*17*	*-*	*-*	*12*
Oct 2007	*45*	*29*	*16*	*-*	*-*	*9*
Sept 2007	*58*	*17*	*17*	*-*	*-*	*8*
June 2007	*40*	*22*	*14*	*-*	*5*	*19*

NHS

Q14 **Overall, what do you see as the biggest problems facing the NHS? What else?** *Results 10% or above shown – more details in computer tables*

	Dec 2021 %
Lack of resources /investment	46
Not enough doctors/nurses/understaffed	33
Long waiting lists / times	25
Poor pay for NHS staff	20
COVID-19/coronavirus	17
Overworked staff	17
Bureaucracy / top heavy management	16
Not enough GPs	11
Staff retention	10
Privatisation	10
Don't know	1
None of these	1

Q15. **How confident, if at all, would you say you are that….?**

	Very confident %	Fairly confident %	Not very confident %	Not at all confident %	Don't know %	Confident %	Not confident %
I can get an appointment with a GP at a time when I want one	12	18	29	40	1	**30**	**69**
If I needed an ambulance, one would arrive quickly	12	32	30	24	2	**44**	**54**
If I needed emergency care in A&E I would be seen quickly	14	33	28	24	1	**47**	**52**

Q16. **Please tell me whether on the whole you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:**

	Strongly agree %	Tend to agree %	Tend to disagree %	Strongly disagree %	Don't know %	Agree %	Disagree %
NHS waiting times for emergency treatment and care are too long							
2021	**45**	**33**	**12**	**5**	**5**	**78**	**17**
2016	*32*	*42*	*16*	*2*	*8*	*74*	*18*
2015	*33*	*39*	*16*	*3*	*10*	*72*	*19*
NHS waiting times for non-emergency treatment and care are too long							
2021	**57**	**30**	**7**	**3**	**4**	**87**	**10**
2016	*31*	*45*	*16*	*2*	*6*	*76*	*18*
2015	*31*	*39*	*18*	*3*	*9*	*70*	*21*