TOPLINE & METHODOLOGY

Ipsos American Malaise Poll

Conducted by Ipsos using KnowledgePanel®
A survey of the American adult general population (ages 18+)
Interview dates: July 8-10, 2022
Number of interviews: 1,019

Margin of error: +/- 3.3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level for all respondents

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled. Reduced bases are unweighted values.

*NOTE: * = less than 0.5%, - = no respondents*

Annotated Questionnaire:

1. Which of the following topics are the most important issues facing the country? (Select up to three)

	Total (N=1,019)
Inflation or increasing costs	49
Gun violence	40
Political extremism or polarization	25
Abortion	19
Climate change	17
Immigration	16
Crime	15
Race and racism	14
Healthcare	14
Government budget and debt	13
Economic inequality	10
COVID-19/coronavirus	9
Election security or fraud	8
Opioid or drug addiction	6
Taxes	6
Education	5
Foreign conflicts or terrorism	4
Unemployment	3
Natural disasters	1
Other	2
None of these	3
Skipped	1

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2. Do you think the country is generally headed in the right direction, or is it off on the wrong track?

	Total
Right direction	16
Wrong track	83
Skipped	1

3. Do you think the following things in the U.S. are generally headed in the right direction, or off on the wrong track?

Right Direction Summary

	Total
Jobs and employment	44
America's leadership in the world	29
Abortion policy	27
Response to climate change	24
The U.S. economy	20
The ability to achieve the American Dream	20
Response to gun violence	11

a. The U.S. economy

	Total
Right direction	20
Wrong track	78
Skipped	2

b. Jobs and employment

	Total
Right direction	44
Wrong track	54
Skipped	2

c. Response to climate change

	Total
Right direction	24
Wrong track	74
Skipped	2

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3. Do you think the following things in the U.S. are generally headed in the right direction, or off on the wrong track? *(Continued)*

    d. Response to gun violence

	Total
Right direction	11
Wrong track	87
Skipped	2

    e. Abortion policy

	Total
Right direction	27
Wrong track	71
Skipped	2

    f. America's leadership in the world

	Total
Right direction	29
Wrong track	70
Skipped	2

    g. The ability to achieve the American Dream

	Total
Right direction	20
Wrong track	78
Skipped	2

4. **[Asked if selected "Right direction" at Q2]** Who do you think is most responsible for the country being headed in the right direction? (Select one)

	Total (N=146)
Democratic leaders and officials	60
Experts and intellectuals	12
Republican leaders and officials	9
The Supreme Court	8
Business persons	2
Artists and entertainers	2
Tech industry leaders	2
Religious leaders	*
Others	4
Skipped	2

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5. **[Asked if selected "Wrong track" at Q2]** Who do you think is most responsible for the country being off on the wrong track?

	Total (N=858)
Democratic leaders and officials	42
Republican leaders and officials	31
The Supreme Court	9
Business persons	2
Experts and intellectuals	2
Religious leaders	1
Artists and entertainers	1
Tech industry leaders	*
Others	12
Skipped	1

6. Which of the following sounds more like what's happened in America over the last 40 years?

	Total
We've followed a path to fragmentation and self-interest, where freedom is the idea that we have the right to grasp for ourselves some advantage over others.	85
We've followed a path of common purpose and the restoration of American values, working together.	13
Skipped	3

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

Total Agree Summary

	Total
The true problems of our nation are much deeper – deeper than gasoline lines or energy shortages, deeper even than inflation or recession.	78
Our people are losing faith, not only in government itself but in the ability as citizens to serve as the ultimate rulers and shapers of our democracy.	73
The people are looking for honest answers, not easy answers; clear leadership, not false claims and evasiveness and politics as usual.	73
Piling up material goods cannot fill the emptiness of lives which have no confidence or purpose.	71
The erosion of our confidence in the future is threatening to destroy the social and political fabric of America.	68
Those who say that we're in a time when there are not heroes, they just don't know where to look. You can see heroes every day.	63
In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem.	60
Our present troubles parallel, and are proportionate to, the intervention and intrusion in our lives that result from unnecessary and excessive growth of government.	47
We're not, as some would have us believe, doomed to an inevitable decline.	43
We are a united people pledged to maintaining a political system which guarantees individual liberty to a greater degree than any other.	32

a. The true problems of our nation are much deeper – deeper than gasoline lines or energy shortages, deeper even than inflation or recession.

	Total
Strongly agree	49
Somewhat agree	29
Neither agree nor disagree	14
Somewhat disagree	5
Strongly disagree	2
Don't know	2
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*78*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*6*

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7. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? *(Continued)*

b. The erosion of our confidence in the future is threatening to destroy the social and political fabric of America.

	Total
Strongly agree	30
Somewhat agree	38
Neither agree nor disagree	21
Somewhat disagree	5
Strongly disagree	2
Don't know	4
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*68*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*7*

c. Our people are losing faith, not only in government itself but in the ability as citizens to serve as the ultimate rulers and shapers of our democracy.

	Total
Strongly agree	36
Somewhat agree	36
Neither agree nor disagree	18
Somewhat disagree	4
Strongly disagree	2
Don't know	3
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*73*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*6*

d. Piling up material goods cannot fill the emptiness of lives which have no confidence or purpose.

	Total
Strongly agree	42
Somewhat agree	29
Neither agree nor disagree	20
Somewhat disagree	2
Strongly disagree	2
Don't know	4
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*71*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*4*

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7. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? *(Continued)*

    e. The people are looking for honest answers, not easy answers; clear leadership, not false claims and evasiveness and politics as usual.

	Total
Strongly agree	49
Somewhat agree	24
Neither agree nor disagree	14
Somewhat disagree	7
Strongly disagree	4
Don't know	2
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*73*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*11*

    f. We are a united people pledged to maintaining a political system which guarantees individual liberty to a greater degree than any other.

	Total
Strongly agree	10
Somewhat agree	22
Neither agree nor disagree	25
Somewhat disagree	19
Strongly disagree	19
Don't know	4
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*32*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*38*

    g. In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem.

	Total
Strongly agree	36
Somewhat agree	24
Neither agree nor disagree	20
Somewhat disagree	9
Strongly disagree	7
Don't know	3
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*60*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*16*

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7. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? *(Continued)*

h. Those who say that we're in a time when there are not heroes, they just don't know where to look. You can see heroes every day.

	Total
Strongly agree	27
Somewhat agree	35
Neither agree nor disagree	24
Somewhat disagree	7
Strongly disagree	3
Don't know	3
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*63*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*9*

i. We're not, as some would have us believe, doomed to an inevitable decline.

	Total
Strongly agree	17
Somewhat agree	27
Neither agree nor disagree	29
Somewhat disagree	15
Strongly disagree	8
Don't know	4
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*43*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*23*

j. Our present troubles parallel, and are proportionate to, the intervention and intrusion in our lives that result from unnecessary and excessive growth of government.

	Total
Strongly agree	23
Somewhat agree	24
Neither agree nor disagree	26
Somewhat disagree	9
Strongly disagree	11
Don't know	5
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*47*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*20*

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8. Did that series of statements you just read about the challenges facing America generally ring true or did they sound false?

	Total
Generally rang true	81
Sounded false	16
Skipped	3

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

Total Agree Summary

	Total
The United States should work to remain the leading democracy in the world	70
The mainstream media is more interested in making money than telling the truth	70
The United States is in decline	68
The American economy is rigged to advantage the rich and powerful	66
Traditional parties and politicians don't care about people like me	65
Expanding trade is a good thing	60
Abortion should be legal	54
Faith and religion are important parts of American life	52
These days I feel like a stranger in my own country	48
When jobs are scarce, employers should prioritize hiring people of this country over immigrants	45
Government should take a more active role in policing private-sector misbehavior	41
People who talk about their conservative beliefs are often disrespected	40
Traditional family structures, with a wage-earning father and home-making mother, best equip children to succeed	35
Social policies, such as affirmative action, discriminate unfairly against white people	30
The U.S. government should cut social programs in order to lower taxes	25
The United States would be stronger if we stopped immigration	23

9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? *(Continued)*

a. Social policies, such as affirmative action, discriminate unfairly against white people

	Total
Strongly agree	12
Somewhat agree	18
Neither agree nor disagree	28
Somewhat disagree	12
Strongly disagree	24
Don't know	5
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*30*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*36*

b. People who talk about their conservative beliefs are often disrespected

	Total
Strongly agree	19
Somewhat agree	21
Neither agree nor disagree	34
Somewhat disagree	12
Strongly disagree	10
Don't know	4
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*40*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*22*

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

	Total
Strongly agree	25
Somewhat agree	21
Neither agree nor disagree	30
Somewhat disagree	9
Strongly disagree	13
Don't know	3
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*45*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*21*

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9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? *(Continued)*

d. The United States would be stronger if we stopped immigration

	Total
Strongly agree	9
Somewhat agree	14
Neither agree nor disagree	25
Somewhat disagree	17
Strongly disagree	32
Don't know	3
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*23*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*49*

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

	Total
Strongly agree	38
Somewhat agree	28
Neither agree nor disagree	18
Somewhat disagree	9
Strongly disagree	5
Don't know	2
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*66*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*14*

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

	Total
Strongly agree	33
Somewhat agree	32
Neither agree nor disagree	22
Somewhat disagree	8
Strongly disagree	2
Don't know	2
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*65*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*10*

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9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? *(Continued)*

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

	Total
Strongly agree	44
Somewhat agree	26
Neither agree nor disagree	16
Somewhat disagree	9
Strongly disagree	4
Don't know	2
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*70*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*13*

h. These days I feel like a stranger in my own country

	Total
Strongly agree	17
Somewhat agree	31
Neither agree nor disagree	28
Somewhat disagree	11
Strongly disagree	11
Don't know	2
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*48*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*22*

i. The United States is in decline

	Total
Strongly agree	31
Somewhat agree	37
Neither agree nor disagree	19
Somewhat disagree	6
Strongly disagree	4
Don't know	2
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*68*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*10*

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9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? *(Continued)*

   j. Faith and religion are important parts of American life

	Total
Strongly agree	29
Somewhat agree	23
Neither agree nor disagree	21
Somewhat disagree	11
Strongly disagree	14
Don't know	2
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*52*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*25*

   k. Traditional family structures, with a wage-earning father and home-making mother, best equips children to succeed

	Total
Strongly agree	17
Somewhat agree	18
Neither agree nor disagree	26
Somewhat disagree	14
Strongly disagree	22
Don't know	3
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*35*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*36*

   l. Abortion should be legal

	Total
Strongly agree	42
Somewhat agree	12
Neither agree nor disagree	20
Somewhat disagree	7
Strongly disagree	16
Don't know	2
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*54*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*23*

9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? *(Continued)*

m. The U.S. government should cut social programs in order to lower taxes

	Total
Strongly agree	9
Somewhat agree	17
Neither agree nor disagree	24
Somewhat disagree	17
Strongly disagree	29
Don't know	5
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*25*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*45*

n. Government should take a more active role in policing private-sector misbehavior

	Total
Strongly agree	17
Somewhat agree	24
Neither agree nor disagree	29
Somewhat disagree	11
Strongly disagree	12
Don't know	6
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*41*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*24*

o. Expanding trade is a good thing

	Total
Strongly agree	23
Somewhat agree	37
Neither agree nor disagree	26
Somewhat disagree	5
Strongly disagree	3
Don't know	6
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*60*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*7*

9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? *(Continued)*

   p. The United States should work to remain the leading democracy in the world

	Total
Strongly agree	45
Somewhat agree	25
Neither agree nor disagree	19
Somewhat disagree	3
Strongly disagree	4
Don't know	3
Skipped	1
Strongly/Somewhat agree (net)	*70*
Strongly/Somewhat disagree (net)	*7*

10. Of the choices listed below, which is your main source of television news about current events and politics? (Select one)

	Total
FOX News	16
CNN	11
ABC	11
NBC	7
CBS	6
MSNBC	5
Public Television (e.g. PBS)	4
Newsmax or OAN	2
Other	8
None of the above	30
Skipped	1

11. Did you vote in the 2020 presidential election, and if so, how did you vote?

	Total
Joe Biden	44
Donald Trump	31
Did not vote	18
Someone else	3
Don't know	2
Skipped	2

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12. On average, how many hours a day, if any, do you spend doing the following…

    a. Watching, reading, or listening to cable news

	Total
None or almost none	48
1	27
2-3	18
4-5	5
6-8	2
9 or more hours	1
Skipped	1

    b. Reading online news sites

	Total
None or almost none	38
1	41
2-3	15
4-5	2
6-8	2
9 or more hours	1
Skipped	1

    c. Reading or posting on social media

	Total
None or almost none	37
1	32
2-3	19
4-5	7
6-8	2
9 or more hours	1
Skipped	2

    d. Using a computer or tablet device

	Total
None or almost none	13
1	18
2-3	25
4-5	18
6-8	13
9 or more hours	12
Skipped	1

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12. On average, how many hours a day, if any, do you spend doing the following… *(Continued)*

    e.   Using a smartphone

	Total
None or almost none	12
1	18
2-3	25
4-5	21
6-8	12
9 or more hours	12
Skipped	1

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About the Study

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll—provided exclusively to The American Prospect—conducted between July 8-10, 2022. For this study, a sample of 1,019 adults ages 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English.

The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, for results based on the entire sample of adults. The margin of sampling error takes into account the design effect, which was 1.15. The margin of sampling error is higher and varies for results based on other sub-samples. In our reporting of the findings, percentage points are rounded off to the nearest whole number. As a result, percentages in a given table column may total slightly higher or lower than 100%. In questions that permit multiple responses, columns may total substantially more than 100%, depending on the number of different responses offered by each respondent.

The survey was conducted using KnowledgePanel, the largest and most well-established online probability-based panel that is representative of the adult US population. Our recruitment process employs a scientifically developed addressed-based sampling methodology using the latest Delivery Sequence File of the USPS – a database with full coverage of all delivery points in the US. Households invited to join the panel are randomly selected from all available households in the U.S. Persons in the sampled households are invited to join and participate in the panel. Those selected who do not already have internet access are provided a tablet and internet connection at no cost to the panel member. Those who join the panel and who are selected to participate in a survey are sent a unique password-protected log-in used to complete surveys online. As a result of our recruitment and sampling methodologies, samples from KnowledgePanel cover all households regardless of their phone or internet status and findings can be reported with a margin of sampling error and projected to the general population.

The data for the total sample were weighted to adjust for gender by age, race/ethnicity, education, Census region, metropolitan status, and household income. The demographic benchmarks came from the 2021 March Supplement of the Current Population Survey (CPS).

- Gender (Male, Female) by Age (18–29, 30–44, 45-59 and 60+)
- Race/Hispanic Ethnicity (White Non-Hispanic, Black Non-Hispanic, Other, Non-Hispanic, Hispanic, 2+ Races, Non-Hispanic)
- Education (Less than High School, High School, Some College, Bachelor or higher)
- Census Region (Northeast, Midwest, South, West)
- Metropolitan status (Metro, non-Metro)
- Household Income (Under $25,000, $25,000-$49,999, $50,000-$74,999, $75,000-$99,999, $100,000-$149,999, $150,000+)

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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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