

Ipsos MORI November 2016 Political Monitor

Topline Results

15 November 2016

Fieldwork: 11th – 14th November 2016

Technical Details

Ipsos MORI interviewed a representative sample of 1,013 adults aged 18+ across Great Britain. Interviews were conducted by telephone: 11th – 14th November 2016. 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 in “peacetime” (non-election periods, such as this one) should be regarded as useful indicators of the political mood rather than predictions of a future electoral result. Voting intentions should be read in conjunction with other political indicators.

Voting intentions: headline indicator

In recent years, Ipsos MORI’s headline indicator has been based on what voters told us about their likely turnout, in order to account for differing levels of turnout among different groups. Following on from the 2015 General Election, however, in which our final prediction poll placed all other parties within the margin of error but over-estimated Labour voters’ likelihood to vote, Ipsos MORI is carrying out an internal review into improving the accuracy of our polls. As an interim measure, and to preserve our long-term trends on voting intentions, our headline indicator is now changed to take 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). This method would have given us the most accurate results in the 2015 General Election. As our internal review continues, however, and as we learn from the British Polling Council’s own enquiry, we anticipate we will 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.

Please also note that the ‘margin of error’ on these figures is c.±3-5% for each figure; this means that a party share figure of 30% could actually fall anywhere between 26% and 34%, though it is far more likely to fall at 30% than at the extreme ends of this range. This is especially important to keep in mind when calculating party lead figures.

Q1a **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 (772) Q1a/b %

Conservative	42
Labour	33
Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem)	10
Scottish/Welsh Nationalist	5
Green Party	3
UK Independence Party	7
Other	*
Conservative lead (±%)	+9
<i>Would not vote</i>	*
<i>Undecided</i>	6
<i>Refused</i>	*

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 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?**
IF UNDECIDED OR REFUSED AT Q1a

Q1b **Which party are you most inclined to support?**

	%
Conservative	41
Labour	33
Liberal Democrats (Lib Dem)	10
Scottish/Welsh Nationalist	3
Green Party	3
UK Independence Party	8
Other	*
Conservative lead (±%)	+8
<i>Would not vote</i>	7
<i>Undecided</i>	6
<i>Refused</i>	*

Certainty of voting

- Q2 And how likely would you be to vote in an immediate 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	69
9	4
8	6
7	3
6	2
5	6
4	1
3	1
2	1
1 – absolutely certain not to vote	5
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 Theresa May is doing her job as Prime Minister?
- Q5 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Jeremy Corbyn is doing his job as leader of the Labour party?
- Q6 Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Tim Farron is doing his job as leader of the Liberal Democrats?

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Don't know	Net satisfaction
	%	%	%	±
Government (Q3)	43	47	10	-4
May (Q4)	54	30	16	+24
Corbyn (Q5)	28	57	14	-29
Farron (Q6)	23	36	41	-13

BASE: PARTY SUPPORTERS ONLY

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

	Base	Satisfied %	Dissatisfied %	Don't know %	Net satisfaction ±
Government* (Q3)	361	75	15	10	+60
May (Q4)	361	87	4	9	+83
Corbyn (Q5)	286	47	41	12	+6
Farron** (Q6)	102	60	19	21	+41

***Due to small base size please treat with caution*

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?

	Improve	26
	Stay the same	23
	Get worse	47
	Don't know	5
Ipsos MORI Economic Optimism Index (EOI)		-21

Autumn Statement and Brexit

Q9 Since the government under Theresa May was formed in July, do you think the government has done a good job or a bad job at ...?
... managing the economy

	Good job %	Bad job %	Don't know %
November 2016	51	30	20
May 2016*	42	47	11
March 2015*	56	37	7

* Asked as 'Since it was elected last year, do you think the government has done a good job or a bad job at managing the economy?'

Q9 Since the government under Theresa May was formed in July, do you think the government has done a good job or a bad job at ...?
...handling Britain's exit from the European Union

	Good job %	Bad job %	Don't know %
...handling Britain's exit from the European Union	37	48	15

Q10 Can you tell me whether you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the way Philip Hammond is doing his job as Chancellor of the Exchequer?

	Clarke December 1993 %	Brown July 1997 %	Darling March 2008 %	Osborne June 2010 %	Osborne March 2016 %	Hammond November 2016 %
Satisfied	31	52	28	40	27	39
Dissatisfied	49	20	44	23	60	28
Don't know	20	28	28	37	13	34

Q10 Who do you think would make the most capable Chancellor, the Conservative's Phillip Hammond, or Labour's John McDonnell?

	<i>Osborne vs Ed Balls March 2015 %</i>	<i>Osborne vs John McDonnell February 2016 %</i>	Hammond vs McDonnell November 2016 %
Phillip Hammond	41	46	46
John McDonnell	30	29	28
Neither	18	10	8
Don't know	10	15	18

Q12 And on balance, do you think that George Osborne’s economic policies when he was Chancellor between 2010 and 2016 were good or bad for the country?

	%
Good	40
Bad	49
Don't know	11

Q13 Now I'd like you to think about public spending and the deficit.

Which one of these, if any, comes closest to your opinion on cutting public spending to reduce the deficit?

	November 2015 %	November 2016 %
It is still necessary to reduce the deficit by cutting public spending	34	33
It was necessary in the last parliament to reduce the deficit by cutting public spending, but it is not necessary any more	32	31
It was never necessary to reduce the deficit by cutting public spending	27	27
Other	1	2
None of these	1	1
Don't know	6	6

Q14 As you may know, there is a benefit cap that applies to people aged 16-64, who are not working or who work less than 16 hours a week. It applies to benefits such as child tax credit, housing benefit, jobseeker's allowance and income support, but excludes others such as disability living allowance.

Earlier this month the maximum amount a household could receive was reduced from £26,000 per year to £20,000 outside London (and £23,000 inside London). To what extent, if at all, do you support or oppose reducing the maximum amount of benefits a household can receive from £26,000 per year to £20,000?

	%
Strongly support	27
Tend to support	24
Neither support nor oppose	12
Tend to oppose	12
Strongly oppose	22
Don't know	3
Support	51
Oppose	34

Now I'd like to ask you about Britain leaving the European Union

Q15 As you may know, formal negotiations over Britain's exit from the European Union cannot begin until Britain gives official notice that it intends to leave, under Article 50 of the treaty.

Recently, the High Court has said that the government may not trigger Article 50 without a vote in favour from parliament. Some MPs and peers also want the vote to be about the terms of Britain's future relationship with the EU, while others think the Government should be left to negotiate the terms as it sees best.

If there is a vote in parliament, which of the following options is closest to your view:

	%
Parliament should just vote on whether to trigger Article 50, while letting the Government negotiate the terms of Britain's future relationship with the EU	44
Parliament should also tell the Government what terms of Britain's future relationship with the EU to negotiate	37
There should be no vote in Parliament at all (not read out)	12
Don't know	6