



**70% OF AMERICANS WANT THE MICROSOFT ANTI-TRUST CASE SETTLED;
ONLY 24% WANT FURTHER COURT ACTION TO PUNISH MICROSOFT**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 11, 2001

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Between December 7 and December 10, 2001, Ipsos Public Affairs interviewed a representative sample of 1000 U.S. adults nationwide by telephone. The margin of error is +/- 3.1%.

70% OF AMERICANS WANT THE MICROSOFT ANTI-TRUST CASE SETTLED AND ONLY 24% WANT FURTHER COURT ACTION TO PUNISH MICROSOFT

A strong majority (70%) of adults say that the US economy and consumers would be better off if the anti-trust case were settled as soon as possible, rather than the court continuing its investigation whether Microsoft should be punished for its business activities (24%).

“Americans feel that the Microsoft case has been settled and that it’s time to move on,” reports Thomas Riehle, President of Ipsos Public Affairs in the U.S. “In a word, enough. A weary public endorses a settlement of the Microsoft case by a wide margin. Only 1-in-4 consumers are even willing to go along with the idea that the courts should continue investigating whether Microsoft’s behavior warrants punishment. Among every age group, at every level of education, in every region, with voters of every political stripe, opinion is the same – settle, by 2-to-1 over investigate.”

The U.S. Government and Microsoft have come to an agreement to settle the anti-trust case. 9 State Attorneys General, however, argue that the anti-trust case against Microsoft should continue. Which of the following two statements comes closer to your opinion? (READ AND RANDOMIZE LIST. ENTER SINGLE RESPONSE. IF UNSURE, ENCOURAGE BEST GUESS.)

	12/7- 10/01 %
US economy and consumers would be better off if this issue were settled as soon as possible.....	70
The court should continue to investigate whether Microsoft should be punished for its business activities	24
Not sure	6



American Opinion on Microsoft Anti-trust Case						
		POLITICAL AFFILIATION			GENDER	
	<u>All</u> %	<u>Republicans</u> %	<u>Democrats</u> %	<u>Independents</u> %	<u>Men</u> %	<u>Women</u> %
Settle issue as soon as possible	70	78	64	65	68	72
Continue investigation	24	18	30	25	28	21
Not sure	6	4	6	10	3	8

Ipsos Public Affairs conducts research on behalf of corporations, governments, industry and professional associations, and the not-for-profit sector in the areas of corporate reputation and issues management on a local and global scale.

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