

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted for Thomson Reuters from November 24-26, 2013. For the survey, a sample of 591 Americans ages 18+ were interviewed online. The precision of the Reuters/Ipsos online polls is measured using a [credibility interval](#). In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 4.9 percentage points. For more information about credibility intervals, please see the appendix.

The data were weighted to the U.S. current population data by gender, age, education, and ethnicity. Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Figures marked by an asterisk (*) indicate a percentage value of greater than zero but less than one half of one per cent. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. To see more information on this and other Reuters/Ipsos polls, please visit <http://polling.reuters.com/>.

IRAN

Q1. Which of the following Middle Eastern countries do you think treats its citizens best? Please choose only one.

Israel	33%
Turkey	5%
Egypt	4%
Saudi Arabia	3%
Iran	2%
Iraq	*%
Syria	*%
None of these	20%
Not sure	33%

Q2. Which of the following Middle Eastern countries do you believe poses the biggest threat to the United States and its allies? Please choose only one.

Iran	42%
Iraq	11%
Syria	9%
Israel	3%
Saudi Arabia	2%
Turkey	1%
Egypt	*%
None of these	6%
Not sure	26%

Q3. Diplomatic relations between the United States and Iran are substantively improving. Which of the following statements comes closer to your personal view?

The US is right to improve its diplomatic relations with Iran	36%
The US should hold a hard line with Iran and maintain or expand current sanctions	37%
Unsure	28%

Q4. Thinking about Iran's nuclear program, do you think that it is for...

Peaceful purposes (e.g. energy)	6%
Weapons development (e.g. nuclear bomb)	63%
Unsure	31%

Q5. When it comes to preventing Iran from developing a nuclear bomb, do you think the US should...

Use diplomatic channels	32%
Use military force	6%
Both	39%
Neither	4%
Unsure	18%

Q6. The United States and other world powers have reached an interim deal with Iran to freeze on the nation's nuclear program in exchange for lifting some sanctions on the country. Do you support or oppose this deal?

Support	44%
Oppose	22%
Not sure	34%

Q7. If this deal fails, should the US..?

Continue diplomatic efforts	31%
Increase economic sanctions	49%
Use military force	20%
Not sure	25%

Q8. If Israel were to launch military strikes on Iran to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, would you approve or disapprove this action?

I would approve of it as long as it was supported by the US government	15%
I would approve of it even if the US government did not support it	25%
I would disapprove of it if the US government didn't support it	6%
I would disapprove of it even if the US government supported it	17%
Not sure	37%
TOTAL APPROVE	40%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	23%

Q9. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure	TOTAL AGREE	TOTAL DISAGREE
The United States should use its military power to defend Israel against threats to its security, no matter where they come from.	22%	29%	18%	13%	19%	50%	31%
The United States should not become involved in any military action in the Middle East unless America is directly threatened.	34%	32%	9%	11%	14%	65%	21%

Q10. In your view, which of the following political events in the Middle East in recent memory was most damaging to the United States' global reputation?

The Iraq War that began in 2003	25%
The killing of the US ambassador in Benghazi, Libya in 2012	17%
The treatment of Iraqi prisoners at the Abu Ghraib prison in during the Iraq war which began in 2003	9%
The War against the Taliban in Afghanistan that began in 2001	7%
The seizure of American hostages at the US embassy in Iran in 1979	6%
The Gulf War following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990	2%
Unsure	33%

How to Calculate Bayesian Credibility Intervals

The calculation of credibility intervals assumes that Y has a binomial distribution conditioned on the parameter θ , i.e., $Y|\theta \sim \text{Bin}(n, \theta)$, where n is the size of our sample. In this setting, Y counts the number of “yes”, or “1”, observed in the sample, so that the sample mean ($\bar{y}$) is a natural estimate of the true population proportion θ . This model is often called the likelihood function, and it is a standard concept in both the Bayesian and the Classical framework. The Bayesian ¹ statistics combines both the prior distribution and the likelihood function to create a posterior distribution. The posterior distribution represents our opinion about which are the plausible values for θ adjusted after observing the sample data. In reality, the posterior distribution is one’s knowledge base updated using the latest survey information. For the prior and likelihood functions specified here, the posterior distribution is also a beta distribution ($\pi(\theta/y) \sim \beta(y+a, n-y+b)$), but with updated hyper-parameters.

Our credibility interval for ϑ is based on this posterior distribution. As mentioned above, these intervals represent our belief about which are the most plausible values for ϑ given our updated knowledge base. There are different ways to calculate these intervals based on $\pi(\theta/y)$. Since we want only one measure of precision for all variables in the survey, analogous to what is done within the Classical framework, we will compute the largest possible credibility interval for any observed sample. The worst case occurs when we assume that $a=1$ and $b=1$ and $y=n/2$. Using a simple approximation of the posterior by the normal distribution, the 95% credibility interval is given by, approximately:

$$\bar{y} \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$$

For this poll, the Bayesian Credibility Interval was adjusted using standard weighting design effect $1+L=1.3$ to account for complex weighting²

Examples of credibility intervals for different base sizes are below. Ipsos does not publish data for base sizes (sample sizes) below 100.

Sample size	Credibility intervals
2,000	2.5
1,500	2.9
1,000	3.5
750	4.1
500	5.0
350	6.0
200	7.9
100	11.2

¹ *Bayesian Data Analysis, Second Edition, Andrew Gelman, John B. Carlin, Hal S. Stern, Donald B. Rubin, Chapman & Hall/CRC | ISBN: 158488388X | 2003*

² Kish, L. (1992). *Weighting for unequal Pi*. *Journal of Official, Statistics*, 8, 2, 183200.