These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted for Thomson Reuters from June 17-19, 2014. For the survey, a sample of 1,019 Americans, including 417 Democrats, 337 Republicans, and 149 Independents 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 3.5 percentage points for all adults, 5.5 percentage points for Democrats, 6.1 percentage points for Republicans, and 9.2 percentage points for Independents. 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.

IRAQ

Q1. From the list below, please choose the topics or issues you have heard or read anything about in the past few days. You can choose as many or few as needed.

	All adults	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
The recent conflict in Iraq involving the organization ISIS/ISIL (Islamic State in Iraq and Syria/the Levant) and the Iraqi cities of Mosul and Tikrit	52%	53%	64%	49%

	Veterans/ Active Duty & Families (n=266)	Non-Veterans/ Active Duty & Families (n=753)
The recent conflict in Iraq involving the organization ISIS/ISIL (Islamic State in Iraq and Syria/the Levant) and the Iraqi cities of Mosul and Tikrit	59%	49%

Q2. As you may know, Iraq is experiencing a wave of conflict as the insurgent group ISIS/ISIL along with other militants opposed to the Iraqi government have taken over the Iraqi cities of Mosul and Tikrit and are battling with government forces. Based on these events, which of the following comes closer to your opinion?

	All adults	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
This is evidence the United States should not have left Iraq.	37%	26%	61%	38%
This is evidence of that withdrawing American forces from Iraq was the right decision.	63%	74%	39%	62%

	Veterans/ Active Duty & Families	Non-Veterans/ Active Duty & Families
This is evidence the United States should not have left Iraq.	51%	33%
This is evidence of that withdrawing American forces from Iraq was the right decision.	49%	67%

Q3. In light of these recent events, should the United States intervene in Iraq, or not?

	All adults	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Veterans/ Active Duty & Families	Non-Veterans/ Active Duty & Families
Should intervene	20%	20%	26%	21%	27%	17%
Should not intervene	55%	59%	53%	53%	53%	55%
Don't know	25%	21%	21%	26%	20%	27%

Q4. In your opinion, what is the best response to the current situation in Iraq? (Select all that apply)

	All adults	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
The United States should not intervene	36%	37%	33%	38%
The United States should provide humanitarian aid to refugees from the conflict areas	21%	25%	23%	20%
The United States should launch air strikes in support of government forces	17%	15%	28%	13%
The United States should send American Special Forces soldiers to support the Iraqi government	11%	10%	15%	10%
The United States should fund and support a multi-national intervention in Iraq	11%	12%	13%	13%
The United States should provide weapons to government troops	7%	6%	10%	8%
The United States should send American troops to support the Iraqi government	7%	5%	11%	7%
Don't know	21%	17%	14%	22%

	Veterans/ Active Duty & Families	Non-Veterans/ Active Duty & Families
The United States should not intervene	35%	36%
The United States should provide humanitarian aid to refugees from the conflict areas	21%	22%
The United States should launch air strikes in support of government forces	28%	13%
The United States should send American Special Forces soldiers to support the Iraqi government	17%	9%
The United States should fund and support a multi-national intervention in Iraq	16%	10%
The United States should provide weapons to government troops	7%	6%
The United States should send American troops to support the Iraqi government	11%	5%
Don't know	14%	23%

Q5. President Obama recently said that the United States will not militarily intervene in Iraq until the Shia dominated Iraqi government is ready to make reforms including power sharing with other groups in Iraq including Sunnis and Kurds. Do you personally think...

	All adults	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
The U.S. needs to get involved no matter what to keep extremists from taking power.	21%	15%	36%	20%
President Obama is setting appropriate conditions for U.S. Involvement.	34%	51%	17%	32%
The U.S. Should not get involved in the current conflict in Iraq no matter what.	45%	34%	47%	48%

	Veterans/ Active Duty & Families	Non-Veterans/ Active Duty & Families
The U.S. needs to get involved no matter what to keep extremists from taking power.	30%	18%
President Obama is setting appropriate conditions for U.S. Involvement.	27%	36%
The U.S. Should not get involved in the current conflict in Iraq no matter what.	43%	46%

Q6. What do you think is more responsible for the current conflict in Iraq:

	All adults	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
The invasion and occupation of Iraq under President George W. Bush	34%	50%	23%	22%
The gradual withdrawal from Iraq under President Barack Obama	27%	20%	40%	35%
Neither of these	39%	30%	37%	44%

	Veterans/ Active Duty & Families	Non-Veterans/ Active Duty & Families
The invasion and occupation of Iraq under President George W. Bush	38%	33%
The gradual withdrawal from Iraq under President Barack Obama	30%	26%
Neither of these	32%	41%

PARTY ID	All Adults
Strong Democrat	14%
Moderate Democrat	19%
Lean Democrat	6%
Lean Republican	6%
Moderate Republican	12%
Strong Republican	11%
Independent	16%
None of these	10%
Don't know	5%
Total Democrat	*40%*
Total Republican	*29%*

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|θ~Bin(n,θ), 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 (π(θ/y)~β(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 π(θ/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:

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

For this poll, the Bayesian Credibility Interval was adjusted using standard weighting design effect 1+L=1.3 to account for complex weighting[2]

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.