These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted for Thomson Reuters February 27-March 3, 2015. For the survey, a sample of 2,348 Americans, including 901 Democrats, 850 Republicans, and 333 Independents; and 951 men and 1,397 women, 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 2.3 for all adults, 3.7 percentage points for Democrats, 3.8 percentage points for Republicans, 6.1 percentage points for Independents, 3.6 percentage points for males, and 3.0 percentage points for females. 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/.

EQUAL PAY

Q1. Generally speaking, do you believe men and women in this country are paid equally for doing the same job?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
No, men are generally paid more	66%	74%	60%	65%
No, women are generally paid more	3%	4%	3%	*%
Yes, men and women are paid about equally	21%	17%	30%	24%
Don't know	10%	5%	7%	10%

	Total	Males	Females
No, men are generally paid more	66%	54%	77%
No, women are generally paid more	3%	3%	2%
Yes, men and women are paid about equally	21%	30%	13%
Don't know	10%	13%	7%

Q2. And how important to you is the issue of 'equal pay', which is the idea that men and women are paid the same amount for doing the same job?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Very important to me	47%	59%	33%	48%
Somewhat important to me	29%	28%	35%	26%
Not very important to me	13%	8%	20%	14%
Not at all important to me	5%	2%	9%	7%
Don't know	7%	3%	3%	5%
TOTAL IMPORTANT	*76%*	*87%*	*68%*	*74%*
TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT	*18%*	*10%*	*29%*	*22%*

	Total	Males	Females
Very important to me	47%	32%	61%
Somewhat important to me	29%	33%	25%
Not very important to me	13%	20%	6%
Not at all important to me	5%	8%	2%
Don't know	7%	8%	5%
TOTAL IMPORTANT	*76%*	*65%*	*87%*
TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT	*18%*	*27%*	*8%*

Q3. As you may know, on average women earn less money than men. This difference exists even when things like job role, total hours worked, and number of children are taken into account.

In your opinion, why does this occur? You may choose as many or few as apply, and/or write in your own response.

% Yes	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Employers perceive men and women differently in the workplace	51%	59%	48%	52%
Intentional or unintentional sexism affects how employers pay women	42%	51%	33%	39%
Men and women make different choices about balancing work and family	30%	25%	42%	30%
Men and women do different types of jobs	21%	19%	26%	16%
Men are more likely than women to ask for a raise	17%	21%	17%	17%
Other	4%	4%	6%	5%
Don't know	13%	9%	8%	16%

% Yes	Total	Males	Females
Employers perceive men and women differently in the workplace	51%	42%	60%
Intentional or unintentional sexism affects how employers pay women	42%	35%	48%
Men and women make different choices about balancing work and family	30%	31%	30%
Men and women do different types of jobs	21%	26%	16%
Men are more likely than women to ask for a raise	17%	17%	18%
Other	4%	5%	3%
Don't know	13%	16%	11%

Q4. The issue of 'equal pay' for men and women is complex. This is because it can be difficult for employers and the government to define what 'equal pay for equal work' means. There are many things to consider, such as experience, seniority, education, performance, and a range of other factors. There is also the sensitive issue of whether or not intentional or unintentional sexism may occur during decisions about employee pay.

This next question asks about the role that employers and the government should have when it comes to the issue of equal pay. In your opinion, should employers and the government be doing more to encourage equal pay, less to encourage equal pay, or are they doing about the right amount on the issue?

All adults	Employers	The US Government	Your State Government
Should be doing more	70%	51%	54%
Should be doing less	3%	16%	11%
Doing about the right amount	15%	16%	16%
Don't know	13%	17%	19%

Q4. The issue of 'equal pay' for men and women is complex. This is because it can be difficult for employers and the government to define what 'equal pay for equal work' means. There are many things to consider, such as experience, seniority, education, performance, and a range of other factors. There is also the sensitive issue of whether or not intentional or unintentional sexism may occur during decisions about employee pay.

This next question asks about the role that employers and the government should have when it comes to the issue of equal pay. In your opinion, should employers and the government be doing more to encourage equal pay, less to encourage equal pay, or are they doing about the right amount on the issue? (*cont.*)

Democrats	Employers	The US Government	Your State Government
Should be doing more	82%	67%	70%
Should be doing less	2%	10%	5%
Doing about the right amount	10%	14%	14%
Don't know	6%	9%	11%

Republicans	Employers	The US Government	Your State Government
Should be doing more	62%	36%	37%
Should be doing less	5%	30%	23%
Doing about the right amount	22%	21%	22%
Don't know	10%	14%	17%

Independents	Employers	The US Government	Your State Government
Should be doing more	70%	52%	54%
Should be doing less	2%	12%	10%
Doing about the right amount	12%	16%	15%
Don't know	16%	19%	21%

Males	Employers	The US Government	Your State Government
Should be doing more	63%	43%	45%
Should be doing less	4%	21%	15%
Doing about the right amount	20%	19%	20%
Don't know	14%	17%	20%

Females	Employers	The US Government	Your State Government
Should be doing more	77%	59%	62%
Should be doing less	2%	12%	8%
Doing about the right amount	10%	13%	12%
Don't know	12%	16%	18%

Q5. This next question is about child rearing. In your opinion, how important, if at all, is it that one parent stay home (and not work) to look after children from birth until they are in school?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Essential	23%	20%	27%	24%
Important, but not essential	52%	54%	56%	51%
Not very important	11%	15%	11%	8%
Not at all important	5%	6%	2%	5%
Don't know	9%	5%	3%	13%

	Total	Male	Female
Essential	23%	26%	21%
Important, but not essential	52%	48%	55%
Not very important	11%	12%	11%
Not at all important	5%	4%	5%
Don't know	9%	10%	8%

Q6. And, generally speaking, do you believe that the mother or father should stay home? *(Asked of those who thought it was Essential or Important that a parent stay home at Q5, n=1,789)*

	Total	Democrats (n=658)	Republicans (n=718)	Independents (n=257)
The mother should stay home	24%	18%	32%	18%
The father should stay home	2%	4%	1%	1%
It doesn't matter which parent stays home	73%	77%	66%	81%
Don't know	1%	1%	1%	1%

	Total	Males (n=737)	Females (n=1,052)
The mother should stay home	24%	25%	22%
The father should stay home	2%	3%	1%
It doesn't matter which parent stays home	73%	70%	76%
Don't know	1%	2%	1%

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., $Y|\theta \sim Bin(n,\theta)$, 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:

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

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.*