

## How the Survey was Conducted

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### **Nature of the Sample: Exclusive *Point Taken*-Marist Poll of 622 National Adults**

This survey of 622 adults was conducted March 29<sup>th</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016 by The Marist Poll sponsored and funded in partnership with WGBH's *Point Taken*. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the contiguous United States were contacted on landline or mobile numbers and interviewed in English by telephone using live interviewers. Landline telephone numbers were randomly selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation from ASDE Survey Sampler, Inc. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. Respondents in the household were randomly selected by first asking for the youngest male. This landline sample was combined with respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers from Survey Sampling International. Assistance was provided by Luce Research for data collection. After the interviews were completed, the two samples were combined and balanced to reflect the 2013 American Community Survey 1-year estimates for age, gender, income, race, and region. Each percentage point represents 3.2 million people including children or 2.4 million adults 18 years of age and older. Results are statistically significant within  $\pm 3.9$  percentage points. The error margin was not adjusted for sample weights and increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample		
		National Adults
		Col %
National Adults		100%
National Registered Voters		82%
Party Identification^	Democrat	32%
	Republican	31%
	Independent	35%
	Other	1%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal	8%
	Liberal	19%
	Moderate	32%
	Conservative	31%
	Very conservative	9%
Gender	Men	49%
	Women	51%
Age	Under 45	47%
	45 or older	53%
Age	18 to 29	22%
	30 to 44	26%
	45 to 59	27%
	60 or older	26%
Generation	Millennials (18-34)	31%
	Gen X (35-50)	24%
	Baby Boomers (51-69)	30%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 69)	15%
Race	White	62%
	African American	11%
	Latino	14%
	Other	12%
Region	Northeast	18%
	Midwest	22%
	South	37%
	West	23%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	47%
	\$50,000 or more	53%
Education	Not college graduate	60%
	College graduate	40%
Marital Status	Married	52%
	Not married	48%
Parents		27%
Interview Type	Landline	40%
	Cell phone	60%

Exclusive *Point Taken* -Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted March 29th through March 31st, 2016, n=622  
 MOE +/- 3.9 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

^Asked only of Registered Voters.

How to Read Banners

'Banners' are a simple way to display tabular data. The following provides an explanation of how to read the banners.

1. Thinking of the entire table as a grid of cells, each cell contains a number. This number gives the *percentage* of respondents in a column in each cell.
2. Columns read vertically down the page.
3. The table headings present the people, or subgroup, each column represents. They are each noted with a letter.
4. The remaining rows present the column percentages for each valid response category to a question.
5. The banners include notations for statistical significance testing between columns. Each column is labeled with letters. If a letter is below a percent, it notes that this percent is statistically different from the percent of the lettered column. For example in the table below, the 31% in column D is statistically different from the 20% in column E.
6. Please note totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

[Table AM160329PTR](#)

Exclusive Point Taken -Marist Poll  
April 2016

The idea of the American Dream can be described as the ability for anyone to go as far as their talents and hard work will take them and to do at least as well or better than the generation before them. For you, yourself, is the idea of the American Dream dead or alive?

	Gender		Race		Age		Education		Income		
	National Adults	Men	Women	White	Non-white	Under 45	45 or older	Not college graduate	College graduate	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 or more
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Total Answering	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
American Dream is alive	69%	68%	71%	66%	76%	69%	70%	64%	77%	64%	75%
American Dream is dead	27%	30%	25%	31%	20%	28%	27%	32%	20%	31%	24%
Unsure	4%	2%	5%	3%	4%	3%	3%	4%	3%	5%	1%

Comparison Groups: BC/DE/FG/HI/JK

T-Test for Means, Z-Test for Percentages

Uppercase letters indicate significance at the 95% level.

Lowercase letters indicate significance at the 90% level.

Exclusive *Point Taken* -Marist Poll  
April 2016

Table of contents

Banner 1: Gender, Race, Age, Education, Income

<a href="#"><u>Table AM160329PTR</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>The idea of the American Dream can be described as the ability for anyone to go as far as their talents and hard work will take them and to do at least as well or better than the generation before them. For you, yourself, is the idea of the American Dream dead or alive?</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Table A1160329PTR</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>What about for other people, is the idea of the American Dream dead or alive?</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Table A2160329PT</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Comparing your present family circumstances with those when you were a child, would you say you are better off, or worse off, than your parents were then?</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Table A3160329PT</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Looking to the future, when your children grow up do you think they will be better off or worse off than you are now?</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Table A4160329PT</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Looking to the future, do you think most children in this country will grow up to be better off or worse off than their parents?</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Table A7160329PT</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Which one comes closer to your view: There is still a strong middle class in this country or The middle class in this country has disappeared, instead there are only those who are struggling and those who are well off?</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Table A8160329PT</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Which one comes closer to your view: There are lots of good entry level jobs, but young people just don't want to work their way up or There are not enough good entry level jobs which makes it difficult for young people to find work?</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Table A9160329PTR</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Which one comes closer to your view: Good jobs are available, but people don't want to work hard or It's hard to find a job that pay enough to support a family?</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Table A5160329PT2</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Do you or your family struggle or not struggle to meet your monthly bills and expenses?</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Table A6160329PT2</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>Do you or your family struggle or not struggle to get a good paying job or raise in pay?</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Table A0160329PTR</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>How often do you worry that your total family income will not be enough to meet your family's expenses and bills: Always, sometimes, seldom, or never?</u></a>

[Table AM160329PTR](#)

Exclusive *Point Taken* -Marist Poll  
April 2016

The idea of the American Dream can be described as the ability for anyone to go as far as their talents and hard work will take them and to do at least as well or better than the generation before them. For you, yourself, is the idea of the American Dream dead or alive?

	Gender		Race		Age		Education		Income		
	=====		=====		=====		=====		=====		
	National Adults	Men	Women	White	Non-white	Under 45	45 or older	Not college graduate	College graduate	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 or more
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Total Answering	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
American Dream is alive	69%	68%	71%	66%	76%	69%	70%	64%	77%	64%	75%
					D				H		J
American Dream is dead	27%	30%	25%	31%	20%	28%	27%	32%	20%	31%	24%
				E				I			
Unsure	4%	2%	5%	3%	4%	3%	3%	4%	3%	5%	1%
										K	

Comparison Groups: BC/DE/FG/HI/JK

T-Test for Means, Z-Test for Percentages

Uppercase letters indicate significance at the 95% level.

Lowercase letters indicate significance at the 90% level.

[Table A1160329PTR](#)

Exclusive *Point Taken* -Marist Poll  
April 2016

What about for other people, is the idea of the American Dream dead or alive?

		Gender		Race		Age		Education		Income	
		=====		=====		=====		=====		=====	
	National Adults	Men	Women	White	Non-white	Under 45	45 or older	Not college graduate	College graduate	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 or more
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Total Answering	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
American Dream is alive	58%	58%	58%	57%	60%	58%	58%	55%	62%	54%	64%
American Dream is dead	32%	33%	31%	33%	29%	36%	28%	35%	29%	34%	30%
Unsure	10%	9%	12%	10%	11%	6%	14%	10%	9%	12%	6%
						g	F			k	

Comparison Groups: BC/DE/FG/HI/JK

T-Test for Means, Z-Test for Percentages

Uppercase letters indicate significance at the 95% level.

Lowercase letters indicate significance at the 90% level.

[Table A2160329PT](#)

Exclusive *Point Taken* -Marist Poll  
April 2016

Comparing your present family circumstances with those when you were a child, would you say you are better off, or worse off, than your parents were then?

	Gender		Race		Age		Education		Income	
	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====	=====
National Adults	Men	Women	White	Non-white	Under 45	45 or older	Not college graduate	College graduate	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 or more
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Total Answering	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Better off	72%	73%	72%	67%	80%	68%	75%	69%	77%	63%
				D				h		J
Worse	20%	19%	21%	23%	15%	24%	17%	24%	14%	29%
				E		g		I		K
About the same (vol.)	7%	7%	6%	9%	2%	6%	7%	6%	8%	8%
				E						
Unsure	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%
										j
Chi-Square	<-----1 .53----->		<-----18 .233----->		<-----6. 533----->		<-----9. 312----->		<-----30 .355----->	
Significance	3	2%	1	00%	9	1%	9	7%	1	00%

Comparison Groups: BC/DE/FG/HI/JK

T-Test for Means, Z-Test for Percentages

Uppercase letters indicate significance at the 95% level.

Lowercase letters indicate significance at the 90% level.

[Table A3160329PT](#)

Exclusive *Point Taken* -Marist Poll  
April 2016

Looking to the future, when your children grow up do you think they will be better off or worse off than you are now?

		Gender		Race		Age		Education		Income	
		=====		=====		=====		=====		=====	
	National Adults							Not college graduate	College graduate	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 or more
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Total Answering	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Better off	58%	58%	58%	49%	72%	64%	52%	55%	61%	64%	55%
					D	G				k	
Worse	33%	34%	32%	41%	21%	31%	35%	35%	31%	28%	38%
				E							J
About the same (vol.)	2%	3%	2%	3%	1%	1%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%
				E							
Unsure	7%	5%	8%	7%	6%	4%	10%	8%	6%	6%	5%
							F				
Chi-Square	<-----3. 528----->		<-----34 .048----->		<-----14 .704----->		<-----2. 062----->		<-----6. 959----->		
Significance	6 8%		1 00%		1 00%		4 4%		9 3%		



[Table A4160329PT](#)

Exclusive *Point Taken* -Marist Poll  
April 2016

Looking to the future, do you think most children in this country will grow up to be better off or worse off than their parents?

	Gender		Race		Age		Education		Income		
	=====		=====		=====		=====		=====		
	National Adults	Men	Women	White	Non-white	Under 45	45 or older	Not college graduate	College graduate	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 or more
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Total Answering	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Better off	43%	43%	42%	35%	54%	44%	42%	41%	43%	47%	41%
					D						
Worse	48%	48%	48%	55%	38%	46%	50%	48%	50%	45%	51%
				E							
About the same (vol.)	2%	1%	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%
Unsure	7%	7%	7%	8%	7%	8%	7%	9%	5%	7%	7%
Chi-Square	<-----1. 307----->		<-----21 .995----->		<-----1. 067----->		<-----3 .5----->		<-----2. 605----->		
Significance	2		7%		1		00%		2		

[Table A7160329PT](#)

Exclusive *Point Taken* -Marist Poll  
April 2016

Which one comes closer to your view: There is still a strong middle class in this country or The middle class in this country has disappeared instead there are only those who are struggling and those who are well off?

		Gender		Race		Age		Education		Income	
		=====		=====		=====		=====		=====	
	National Adults	Men	Women	White	Non-white	Under 45	45 or older	Not college graduate	College graduate	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 or more
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Total Answering	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
There is still a strong middle class in this country	44%	45%	44%	40%	52%	48%	42%	39%	52%	36%	52%
					D				H		J
The middle class in this country has disappeared instead there are only those who are struggling and those who are well off	53%	53%	53%	57%	46%	51%	54%	58%	46%	60%	47%
				E				I		K	
Unsure	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%	1%	4%	3%	1%	4%	1%
							F				
Chi-Square	<-----. 026----->		<-----7. 875----->		<-----8. 337----->		<-----11 .696----->		<-----16 .383----->		
Significance	1%		9		9		1		1		
			8%		8%		00%		00%		

Comparison Groups: BC/DE/FG/HI/JK

T-Test for Means, Z-Test for Percentages

Uppercase letters indicate significance at the 95% level.

Lowercase letters indicate significance at the 90% level.

[Table A8160329PT](#)

Exclusive *Point Taken* -Marist Poll  
April 2016

Which one comes closer to your view: There are lots of good entry level jobs, but young people just don't want to work their way up or There are not enough good entry level jobs which makes it difficult for young people to find work?

		Gender		Race		Age		Education		Income	
		=====		=====		=====		=====		=====	
	National Adults	Men	Women	White	Non-white	Under 45	45 or older	Not college graduate	College graduate	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 or more
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Total Answering	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
There are lots of good entry level jobs, but young people just don't want to work their way up	50%	57% C	44%	49%	52%	55% g	46%	53%	47%	47%	55%
There are not enough good entry level jobs which makes it difficult for young people to find work	45%	40%	49% b	46%	44%	40%	49% f	43%	47%	50% k	41%
Unsure	5%	3%	7% b	5%	5%	5%	5%	4%	7%	4%	5%
Chi-Square	<-----12.454----->		<-----38----->		<-----4.722----->		<-----3.563----->		<-----4.992----->		
Significance	1		1		9		8		9		
	00%		7%		1%		3%		2%		

Comparison Groups: BC/DE/FG/HI/JK

T-Test for Means, Z-Test for Percentages

Uppercase letters indicate significance at the 95% level.

Lowercase letters indicate significance at the 90% level.

[Table A9160329PTR](#)

Exclusive *Point Taken* -Marist Poll  
April 2016

Which one comes closer to your view: Good jobs are available, but people don't want to work hard or It's hard to find a job that pays enough to support a family?

	Gender		Race		Age		Education		Income		
	=====		=====		=====		=====		=====		
	National Adults	Men	Women	White	Non-white	Under 45	45 or older	Not college graduate	College graduate	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 or more
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Total Answering	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Good jobs are available, but people don't want to work hard	39%	46%	32%	37%	41%	39%	38%	40%	38%	30%	46%
		C									J
It's hard to find a job that pays enough to support a family	57%	52%	62%	59%	55%	58%	56%	56%	58%	66%	51%
			B							K	
Unsure	4%	2%	6%	4%	4%	2%	5%	3%	4%	3%	3%
			B				f				

Comparison Groups: BC/DE/FG/HI/JK

T-Test for Means, Z-Test for Percentages

Uppercase letters indicate significance at the 95% level.

Lowercase letters indicate significance at the 90% level.

[Table A5160329PT2](#)

Exclusive *Point Taken* -Marist Poll  
April 2016

Do you or your family struggle or not struggle to meet your monthly bills and expenses?

		Gender		Race		Age		Education		Income	
		=====		=====		=====		=====		=====	
	National Adults	Men	Women	White	Non-white	Under 45	45 or older	Not college graduate	College graduate	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 or more
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Total Answering	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Do not struggle	64%	69%	60%	67%	60%	61%	67%	59%	74%	54%	73%
		c							H		J
Struggle	34%	30%	38%	33%	37%	38%	31%	40%	25%	46%	25%
								I		K	
Unsure	1%	0%	3%	0%	3%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%
			b		d						

Comparison Groups: BC/DE/FG/HI/JK

T-Test for Means, Z-Test for Percentages

Uppercase letters indicate significance at the 95% level.

Lowercase letters indicate significance at the 90% level.

[Table A6160329PT2](#)

Exclusive *Point Taken* -Marist Poll  
April 2016

Do you or your family struggle or not struggle to get a good paying job or raise in pay?

	Gender		Race		Age		Education		Income		
	=====		=====		=====		=====		=====		
	National Adults	Men	Women	White	Non-white	Under 45	45 or older	Not college graduate	College graduate	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 or more
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Total Answering	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Do not struggle	61%	63%	59%	62%	59%	58%	65%	56%	71%	47%	71%
									H		J
Struggle	38%	36%	41%	37%	39%	42%	34%	42%	29%	52%	28%
								I		K	
Unsure	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	-	2%	1%

Comparison Groups: BC/DE/FG/HI/JK

T-Test for Means, Z-Test for Percentages

Uppercase letters indicate significance at the 95% level.

Lowercase letters indicate significance at the 90% level.

[Table A0160329PTR](#)

Exclusive *Point Taken* -Marist Poll  
April 2016

How often do you worry that your total family income will not be enough to meet your family's expenses and bills:  
Always, sometimes, seldom, or never?

		Gender		Race		Age		Education		Income	
		=====		=====		=====		=====		=====	
	National Adults	Men	Women	White	Non-white	Under 45	45 or older	Not college graduate	College graduate	Less than \$50,000	\$50,000 or more
	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
	(A)	(B)	(C)	(D)	(E)	(F)	(G)	(H)	(I)	(J)	(K)
Total Answering	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Seldom-Never	51%	57%	45%	53%	47%	48%	54%	46%	62%	40%	59%
		C							H		J
Always-Sometimes	49%	43%	55%	47%	53%	52%	46%	54%	38%	60%	41%
			B					I		K	

Comparison Groups: BC/DE/FG/HI/JK

T-Test for Means, Z-Test for Percentages

Uppercase letters indicate significance at the 95% level.

Lowercase letters indicate significance at the 90% level.