

# The TUC's Middle Britain Poll



All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 1,195 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 14th to 19th Jan 2009. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+).

Here are more details of the poll that forms the basis of the TUC Touchstone Pamphlet *Life in the Middle - the Untold Story of Britain's Middle Earners*

		Quintiles based on equivalised income					
		1st Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	5th Quintile	
<b>All GB Adults</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1195</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>253</b>
Unweighted Sample		1195	239	239	239	239	239
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

## Social grade

AB	<b>26</b>	11	12	20	29	55
C1/C2	<b>50</b>	53	57	54	55	32
DE	<b>24</b>	36	31	26	17	13

## Newspaper Type

Express / Mail	<b>16</b>	13	17	16	16	18
Sun / Star	<b>22</b>	30	25	26	20	10
Mirror / Record	<b>16</b>	22	21	18	12	8
Guardian / Independent	<b>4</b>	3	2	3	5	6
FT / Times / Telegraph	<b>10</b>	5	5	8	7	21
Other Paper	<b>13</b>	9	12	14	15	12
No Paper	<b>20</b>	18	18	15	24	24

## Headline Voting Intention

[Excluding Don't Knows and Wouldn't Vote]

Con	<b>44</b>	38	34	44	42	57
Lab	<b>35</b>	35	44	37	37	22
Lib Dem	<b>13</b>	17	11	10	15	13
Other	<b>9</b>	11	11	8	6	8

## Non Voters

Would Not Vote	<b>8</b>	14	8	10	5	5
Don't know	<b>13</b>	15	16	13	12	12

## Generally speaking do you think of yourself as left wing right wing or in the centre?

Left wing	<b>7</b>	8	7	11	6	4
Left of centre	<b>15</b>	14	14	13	18	18
Centre	<b>33</b>	26	36	30	40	33
Right of centre	<b>13</b>	8	9	11	11	24
Right wing	<b>6</b>	5	5	5	6	6
Don't know	<b>26</b>	39	29	30	19	14

## How many adults are there living in your household?

1	<b>18</b>	19	31	14	14	14
2	<b>56</b>	44	51	61	55	68
3	<b>15</b>	16	11	14	21	13
4	<b>8</b>	13	8	9	9	4
5 or more	<b>2</b>	8	0	1	2	0

		Quintiles based on equivalised income				
Total		1st Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	5th Quintile
<b>All GB Adults</b>	<b>1195</b>	222	226	236	259	253
Unweighted Sample	1195	239	239	239	239	239
	%	%	%	%	%	%

How many children under the age of 18 do you have living at home with you?

None	73	63	69	65	82	85
1	11	14	12	14	7	9
2	11	16	12	16	9	5
3	3	7	4	4	1	1
4	1	1	2	1	1	0
5 or more	0	0	0	0	0	0

Do you have any children aged 18 or older (whether living at home with you or not)?

Yes	43	38	51	42	43	42
No	57	62	49	58	57	58

Which of the following best describes your home?

Owned outright	28	23	33	28	29	24
Buying with a mortgage/ loan	40	18	23	49	46	57
Rented from local authority or housing association	15	32	24	9	8	3
Rented from private landlord	12	16	16	8	11	10
Live rent-free (including rent-free in relative/ friend's property)	5	7	3	4	5	5
Other	1	3	1	1	1	1
Don't know	0	1	0	1	0	0

		Quintiles based on equivalised income				
Total		1st Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	5th Quintile
<b>All homeowners</b>	<b>801</b>	93	127	182	195	205
Unweighted Sample	820	105	141	186	187	201
	%	%	%	%	%	%

Did you buy your home through the Right to Buy scheme?

Yes	8	6	12	12	5	4
No	92	91	88	87	94	96
Don't know	1	2	0	1	1	0

		Quintiles based on equivalised income				
Total		1st Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	5th Quintile
<b>All GB Adults</b>	<b>1195</b>	222	226	236	259	253
Unweighted Sample	1195	239	239	239	239	239
	%	%	%	%	%	%

Which of these best applies to you?

Working full time (30 or more hours per week)	46	20	31	45	60	68
Working part time (8 - 29 hours per week)	13	12	15	16	14	11
Working part time (Less than 8 hours a week)	2	4	2	3	3	1
Full time student	5	14	3	4	1	4
Retired	19	14	32	20	16	13
Looking after family full time	4	11	5	2	3	2
Unemployed	3	6	4	3	2	0
Not working for health reasons	6	15	7	6	1	0
Not working for other reasons	2	4	1	1	1	1

		Quintiles based on equivalised income					
		1st Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	5th Quintile	
<b>All those working</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>736</b>	80	107	150	197	203
	Unweighted Sample	706	91	105	147	176	187
		%	%	%	%	%	%

In which of the following sectors do you work?

Private sector	<b>51</b>	45	45	49	52	56
Public sector	<b>41</b>	39	47	42	41	39
Not-for-profit (e.g. charities NGOs)	<b>4</b>	4	4	4	2	4
Other	<b>4</b>	12	3	6	5	1

		Quintiles based on equivalised income					
		1st Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	5th Quintile	
<b>All GB Adults</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1195</b>	222	226	236	259	253
	Unweighted Sample	1195	239	239	239	239	239
		%	%	%	%	%	%

Have you been unemployed for any period of time in the last TEN years?

Yes have been unemployed	<b>32</b>	46	37	32	29	21
No have not	<b>68</b>	54	63	68	71	79

		Quintiles based on equivalised income					
		1st Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	5th Quintile	
<b>All those working</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>736</b>	80	107	150	197	203
	Unweighted Sample	706	91	105	147	176	187
		%	%	%	%	%	%

Do you pay standard or higher rate income tax?

Standard rate	<b>82</b>	79	85	93	92	66
Higher rate	<b>11</b>	3	2	2	6	29
Don't know	<b>7</b>	18	13	6	2	5

	Quintiles based on equivalised income					
Total	1st Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	5th Quintile	
<b>All those working/unemployed</b>	<b>1195</b>	222	226	236	259	253
Unweighted Sample	1195	239	239	239	239	239
	%	%	%	%	%	%

**Union membership (recoded)**

Yes	<b>20</b>	13	18	22	22	23
No	<b>80</b>	87	82	78	78	77

**All GB Adults**

Unweighted Sample

**Which of the following best describes the highest level of educational qualification you have?**

Higher degree or equivalent	<b>9</b>	2	4	6	8	22
Degree or equivalent	<b>24</b>	18	13	22	24	39
A Level or equivalent	<b>26</b>	28	20	26	30	25
GCSE level or equivalent	<b>28</b>	30	38	33	32	11
Below GCSE level or equivalent	<b>5</b>	6	10	3	3	3
No qualifications	<b>9</b>	17	16	9	4	0

**How many cars does your household have the use of for private motoring?**

None	<b>16</b>	27	25	12	13	7
1	<b>46</b>	51	54	50	42	36
2 or more	<b>37</b>	22	21	38	46	57

**Which, if any, of the following types of pension scheme do you have? [Please tick all that apply]**

Employer pension (salary related)	<b>42</b>	20	35	44	48	58
Employer pension (money purchase)	<b>6</b>	1	8	6	6	10
Personal/ private pension scheme (including stakeholder)	<b>19</b>	9	16	22	18	29
Other	<b>4</b>	2	5	7	4	4
Don't have a pension scheme	<b>37</b>	62	42	33	33	18
Don't know	<b>3</b>	8	3	2	3	2

		Quintiles based on equivalised income					
		1st Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	5th Quintile	
<b>All those working</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>736</b>	80	107	150	197	203
Unweighted Sample		706	91	105	147	176	187
		%	%	%	%	%	%

How confident are you about your future job/ career prospects?

Very confident	11	5	6	9	13	16
Fairly confident	56	52	52	51	56	64
Not very confident	23	24	28	29	24	17
Not confident at all	7	14	12	9	5	3
Don't know	2	5	2	2	3	1

		Quintiles based on equivalised income					
		1st Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	5th Quintile	
<b>All GB Adults</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1195</b>	222	226	236	259	253
Unweighted Sample		1195	239	239	239	239	239
		%	%	%	%	%	%

Thinking about your standard of living would you describe yourself as...

Very well off	1	1	0	1	0	4
Well off	12	6	3	4	11	34
About average	66	51	63	70	83	60
Poor	18	32	31	22	6	3
Very poor	3	8	3	2	0	0
Don't know	1	2	0	1	0	0

		Quintiles based on equivalised income					
		1st Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	5th Quintile	
<b>All GB Adults</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1195</b>	222	226	236	259	253
Unweighted Sample		1195	239	239	239	239	239
		%	%	%	%	%	%

To your knowledge how does your standard of living compare with that of your parents when they were around the same age as you are now?

Much higher	22	12	12	18	31	32
A little higher	34	25	32	32	35	43
About the same	23	28	27	28	20	16
A little lower	11	17	14	10	9	4
Much lower	6	8	13	7	1	3
Don't know	4	10	2	6	3	1

In general how do you think the overall standard of living in Britain NOW compares with the standard of living ten years ago?

Much higher	11	10	7	6	14	16
A little higher	36	26	33	38	34	48
About the same	20	17	23	19	24	18
A little lower	21	27	25	23	20	13
Much lower	9	16	10	9	7	3
Don't know	3	5	2	4	2	1

Over the next five years do you expect your standard of living to...

Rise a lot	3	4	4	3	3	4
Rise a little	22	20	19	19	23	26
Stay the same	35	26	34	38	38	39
Fall a little	26	26	28	26	28	25
Fall a lot	10	17	11	10	6	5
Don't know	4	7	5	5	3	1

		Quintiles based on equivalised income					
		1st Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	5th Quintile	
<b>All GB Adults</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>1195</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>253</b>
	Unweighted Sample	1195	239	239	239	239	239
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

**How important a goal is it for you to improve you/ your family's quality of life over the next ten years?**

Very important	<b>36</b>	32	41	40	35	32
Fairly important	<b>41</b>	47	36	35	43	46
Neither important nor unimportant	<b>18</b>	14	19	21	19	18
Fairly unimportant	<b>2</b>	2	2	1	1	3
Very unimportant	<b>1</b>	1	0	2	0	0
Don't know	<b>2</b>	4	2	1	1	1

**How important do you consider it is for YOU to achieve more in life than your parents have/ did?**

Very important	<b>17</b>	15	20	17	14	21
Fairly important	<b>29</b>	25	25	29	35	28
Neither important nor unimportant	<b>41</b>	42	43	41	37	41
Fairly unimportant	<b>7</b>	9	8	7	7	5
Very unimportant	<b>4</b>	5	2	4	6	4
Don't know	<b>2</b>	3	2	2	1	0

		Quintiles based on equivalised income					
		1st Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	5th Quintile	
<b>All with children under 18</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>38</b>
	Unweighted Sample	302	85	66	75	43	33
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%

**How important is it to you that they achieve more in life than you have been able to do?**

Very important	<b>34</b>	44	30	36	24	29
Fairly important	<b>39</b>	31	46	38	52	32
Neither important nor unimportant	<b>23</b>	19	18	26	22	36
Fairly unimportant	<b>2</b>	2	7	0	0	3
Very unimportant	<b>1</b>	2	0	1	2	0
Don't know	<b>1</b>	2	0	0	0	0

**On balance do you think it is likely or unlikely that one or more of them will go to university in the future?**

Likely	<b>66</b>	54	56	72	79	83
Unlikely	<b>18</b>	22	26	14	10	10
Don't know	<b>16</b>	24	18	14	10	8

		Quintiles based on equivalised income				
Total	1st Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	5th Quintile	
<b>All with children 18 and over</b>	515	85	115	99	110	106
Unweighted Sample	515	93	118	106	98	100
	%	%	%	%	%	%

**Thinking about your children going to university which one of the following statements BEST applies to you?**

One or more of my children has been to university OR is likely to go to university in the future	51	45	42	47	51	71
My children have not been to university and are not likely to go in the future	44	42	51	50	47	28
Don't know	5	13	6	3	2	1

		Quintiles based on equivalised income				
Total	1st Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	5th Quintile	
<b>All GB Adults</b>	1195	222	226	236	259	253
Unweighted Sample	1195	239	239	239	239	239
	%	%	%	%	%	%

**If everyone's income was arranged in order from lowest to highest, where do you think your income would be on this scale?**

Towards the bottom (lowest income)	28	56	47	26	12	6
Below the middle	32	24	33	45	38	18
In the middle	25	12	13	22	38	36
Above the middle	10	4	3	4	9	31
Towards the top (highest income)	2	1	0	0	2	7
Don't know	3	4	4	2	1	2

**Do you think of yourself as belonging to a particular class?**

Do not think of myself as belonging to a particular class	27	38	25	23	29	20
Working class	32	34	45	40	29	16
Lower middle class	13	10	11	20	13	13
Middle class	21	9	16	14	22	39
Upper middle class	3	3	1	0	2	8
Upper class	0	0	0	0	1	0
Other	0	1	0	1	0	0
Don't know	3	4	3	3	2	3

**Which class would you say your parents belong(ed) to?**

Do not see them as belonging to a particular class	<b>12</b>	18	9	12	13	7
Working class	<b>52</b>	53	61	56	52	39
Lower middle class	<b>13</b>	10	12	12	14	14
Middle class	<b>17</b>	11	12	14	15	31
Upper middle class	<b>4</b>	3	4	4	4	7
Upper class	<b>0</b>	1	0	0	1	0
Other	<b>0</b>	1	0	0	0	0
Don't know	<b>2</b>	3	2	1	1	2

		Quintiles based on equivalised income				
Total		1st Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	5th Quintile
<b>All those working</b>	<b>736</b>	80	107	150	197	203
Unweighted Sample	<b>706</b>	91	105	147	176	187
	%	%	%	%	%	%

**How do you think your job compares with the one your father had when he was the same age you are now. Would you say the level/ status of your job is...**

Much higher	<b>10</b>	7	8	6	7	18
Higher	<b>26</b>	16	14	23	31	34
About equal	<b>30</b>	31	39	27	31	26
Lower	<b>19</b>	11	20	30	19	15
Much lower	<b>8</b>	17	13	10	5	4
Don't know	<b>5</b>	18	5	3	3	2
Father wasn't working at that age	<b>2</b>	0	0	2	4	1

		Quintiles based on equivalised income				
Total		1st Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	5th Quintile
<b>All GB Adults</b>	<b>1195</b>	222	226	236	259	253
Unweighted Sample	<b>1195</b>	239	239	239	239	239
	%	%	%	%	%	%

**Ordinary working people do not get their fair share of the nation's wealth**

Strongly agree	<b>26</b>	37	31	28	20	18
Agree	<b>42</b>	32	46	45	50	36
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>24</b>	26	17	22	22	32
Disagree	<b>7</b>	5	4	3	7	14
Strongly disagree	<b>1</b>	0	1	2	1	0



**Government should redistribute income from the better off to those who are worse off**

Strongly agree	<b>17</b>	24	18	24	11	9
Agree	<b>32</b>	30	38	31	34	26
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>30</b>	29	30	32	32	27
Disagree	<b>17</b>	13	10	11	18	31
Strongly disagree	<b>4</b>	5	4	2	4	7

**Which of the following do you consider to be MORE important for society?**

Making Britain more equal	<b>44</b>	54	52	46	45	25
Encouraging people to better themselves even if it makes for more inequality	<b>45</b>	34	36	44	45	65
Don't know	<b>11</b>	12	12	10	10	10

**"It is the responsibility of Government to reduce inequality in society"**

Strongly agree	<b>12</b>	17	14	15	11	6
Agree	<b>38</b>	33	39	43	42	36
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>27</b>	27	26	23	28	32
Disagree	<b>15</b>	16	14	13	13	21
Strongly disagree	<b>2</b>	1	1	0	1	4
Don't know	<b>5</b>	7	6	5	5	2

**Do you support or oppose this idea?**

Support strongly	<b>7</b>	12	7	9	7	3
Support	<b>15</b>	12	15	16	19	14
Neither support nor oppose	<b>26</b>	27	27	29	25	20
Oppose	<b>26</b>	25	27	23	28	28
Oppose strongly	<b>21</b>	17	17	20	17	33
Don't know	<b>5</b>	6	7	4	4	2

	Quintiles based on equivalised income					
	Total	1st Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	5th Quintile
<b>All GB Adults</b>	<b>1195</b>	222	226	236	259	253
Unweighted Sample	1195	239	239	239	239	239
	%	%	%	%	%	%

**Britain's super-rich mostly...**

Deserve their wealth because they have become rich through merit and/ or hard work	<b>37</b>	35	32	32	36	47
Don't deserve their wealth because they have become rich through unfairly exploiting other people	<b>31</b>	31	32	37	32	24
Don't know	<b>32</b>	34	36	31	31	29

**Considering this overall do you think the amount of tax you pay is fair or unfair?**

Fair	<b>37</b>	26	33	33	43	45
Unfair	<b>52</b>	50	53	56	51	51
Don't know	<b>11</b>	24	13	11	6	4

**In this country the best people get to the top whatever start they've had in life**

Strongly agree	<b>4</b>	4	5	3	4	4
Agree	<b>30</b>	26	26	32	31	35
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>26</b>	33	23	25	24	24
Disagree	<b>30</b>	27	35	26	33	28
Strongly disagree	<b>8</b>	6	7	12	7	6
Don't know	<b>2</b>	5	2	2	1	2

**People like you have enough opportunities to improve their position in life**

Strongly agree	<b>6</b>	5	4	4	7	9
Agree	<b>43</b>	32	30	42	46	59
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>26</b>	26	29	24	31	19
Disagree	<b>18</b>	23	26	22	13	10
Strongly disagree	<b>5</b>	9	9	7	2	1
Don't know	<b>2</b>	4	2	1	2	3

**If welfare benefits weren't so generous, people would learn to stand on their own two feet**

Strongly agree	<b>22</b>	14	18	28	19	27
Agree	<b>37</b>	24	36	32	44	44
Neither agree nor disagree	<b>15</b>	20	17	13	15	13
Disagree	<b>18</b>	26	19	21	17	9
Strongly disagree	<b>6</b>	11	8	5	2	4
Don't know	<b>2</b>	4	3	1	3	2

**In your view should responsibility for solving social and economic problems lie mainly with Government or with ordinary people?**

Should lie mainly with Government	<b>53</b>	47	52	62	56	48
Should lie mainly with ordinary people	<b>29</b>	25	26	26	27	38
Don't know	<b>18</b>	28	22	12	16	14

**Do you own any stocks or shares?**

Yes	<b>24</b>	12	18	19	25	43
No	<b>74</b>	83	80	80	73	57
Don't know	<b>2</b>	5	2	1	2	0

**Thinking about the total value of your household savings and investments (excluding pensions insurance policies and property) how much would you say you have in savings/ investments?**

Nothing	<b>18</b>	34	26	17	11	5
Less than £500	<b>12</b>	9	19	11	17	3
£500 to £999	<b>6</b>	6	8	7	3	6
£1 000 to £9 999	<b>22</b>	14	18	23	28	24
£10 000 or more	<b>25</b>	8	15	28	23	47
Prefer not to answer	<b>12</b>	18	10	9	13	10
Don't know	<b>6</b>	11	4	5	6	4

**What is your total level of all your household debts (personal loans credit cards store cards overdrafts etc) EXCLUDING mortgages?**

Nothing	<b>26</b>	25	28	23	25	31
Less than £500	<b>11</b>	11	14	9	7	12
£500 to £999	<b>7</b>	7	9	6	10	5
£1 000 to £9 999	<b>24</b>	17	21	32	27	23
£10 000 or more	<b>17</b>	18	19	15	13	19
Prefer not to answer	<b>9</b>	12	6	8	12	7
Don't know	<b>5</b>	11	3	5	6	3

**Equivalised household income - banded**

Up to £5k	<b>9</b>	47	0	0	0	0
£5k to £9,999	<b>11</b>	53	5	0	0	0
£10k to 14,999	<b>16</b>	0	84	0	0	0
£15k to £19,999	<b>14</b>	0	10	62	0	0
£20k to £24,999	<b>14</b>	0	0	38	29	0
£25k to £29,999	<b>10</b>	0	0	0	46	0
£30k to £39,999	<b>14</b>	0	0	0	25	39
£40k to £49,999	<b>5</b>	0	0	0	0	25
£50k a year or more	<b>8</b>	0	0	0	0	36

**Equivalised income ranges for each quintile**

0 to 9600	<b>19</b>	100	0	0	0	0
9600 to 15038	<b>19</b>	0	100	0	0	0
15038 to 22388	<b>20</b>	0	0	100	0	0
22388 to 32000	<b>22</b>	0	0	0	100	0
32000 to 375940	<b>21</b>	0	0	0	0	100

**mean in quintile**

<b>£4,855</b>	<b>£12,497</b>	<b>£18,498</b>	<b>£26,598</b>	<b>£52,675</b>
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