

YouGov / TUC Survey Results

Fieldwork: 11th - 12th December 2012

Total	Voting intention			Knowledge (based on open ended) 2		
	Con	Lab	Lib Dem*	Most accurate	Middle	Least accurate
1805	443	634	170	542	616	646
1805	423	614	138	600	601	603

% % % % % % %

In general, do you think that welfare benefits are...?

Too generous

42 69 25 25 31 40 53

About right

28 18 35 43 37 26 23

Not high enough

18 5 30 18 22 20 12

Don't know

12 8 11 14 11 13 12

The government's welfare budget pays for pensions, tax credits, benefits for the unemployed, the disabled and other groups. Out of every £100 of this welfare budget, how much do you think is spent on benefits for the unemployed? (For example, if you think that half of the budget is spent on benefits for unemployed people, then please write in '50'. Even if you are not sure, please just give your best guess and answer in whole numbers, you do not need to include the £ sign.)

AVERAGE

41 44 40 34 25 39 56

Out of every £100 spent from the welfare budget, can you tell me how much of that is claimed fraudulently (i.e. people who dishonestly claim more benefits than they are entitled to)? (Even if you are not sure, please just give your best guess and answer in whole numbers, you do not need to include the £ sign.)

AVERAGE

27 29 24 20 10 23 46

The next question is about Jobseeker's Allowance, the benefit you claim if you are unemployed.

Out of every 100 people who sign on to make a claim for Jobseeker's Allowance, approximately how many do you think go on to receive it for more than a year? (For example, if you think that half of people who make a claim for Jobseeker's Allowance then go on to claim it for more than a year, your answer would be 50. Even if you are not sure, please just give your best guess and answer in whole numbers)

AVERAGE 48 48 47 47 34 46 61

Please imagine an unemployed couple with two children, aged 6 and 10. Excluding housing costs, approximately how much money do you think they need to live on per week? (By 'enough to live on', we mean money required to keep themselves properly fed, warm, clothed etc. but without luxuries. Even if you are not sure, please just give your best guess and answer in whole numbers, you do not need to include the £ sign.)

AVERAGE 202 193 200 198 195 182 200

Thinking again of the unemployed couple with two children, aged 6 and 10. Excluding any other benefits such as housing, council tax or child benefits, approximately how much do you think they would receive in unemployment benefit (Jobseeker's Allowance) per week? (Even if you are not sure, please just give your best guess and answer in whole numbers, you do not need to include the £ sign.)

AVERAGE 147 162 148 154 114 149 188

Thinking again of the unemployed couple with two children, aged 6 and 10, if one of the parents got a job paying the minimum wage for 30 hours a week, in general, do you think they would be financially better or worse off or would there be no difference?

Better off	21	24	21	22	23	21	19
Worse off	51	49	54	40	44	50	59
No difference	18	14	17	30	23	18	14
Don't know	10	13	8	7	10	11	8

Approximately, by how much do you think that they would BETTER off per week? (Even if you are not sure, please just give your best guess and answer in whole numbers, you do not need to include the £ sign.)

[Asked to those who thought the unemployed couple would be better off after getting a minimum paid job n=358]

AVERAGE	59	61	70	47	56	64	67
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Approximately, by how much do you think that they would WORSE off per week? (Even if you are not sure, please just give your best guess and answer in whole numbers, you do not need to include the £ sign.)

[Asked to those who thought the unemployed couple would be worse off after getting a minimum paid job n=949]

AVERAGE	54	86	67	42	47	83	67
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Which one of the following statements comes closest to your view?

<i>Britain's current welfare system has created a culture of dependency, whereby many people, and often whole families, get used to living off state benefits; the system needs to be radically changed to get such people to take more responsibility for their lives and their families</i>	59	86	41	47	46	57	71
<i>Most people who rely on welfare benefits are victims of circumstances beyond their control. The benefits they receive are far from generous, and are the least a civilised society should provide in order to help them and their families avoid abject poverty</i>	29	8	47	36	42	30	18
Neither	7	4	8	10	9	7	5
Don't know	5	2	4	7	4	6	6

Which ONE of the following statements comes closest to your view?

<i>On the whole, the media gives accurate information about welfare benefits and the people who claim them</i>	19	25	12	17	14	19	22
<i>On the whole, the media does NOT give accurate information about welfare benefits and the people who claim them</i>	54	45	67	52	64	54	47
Neither	12	14	9	17	11	13	10
Don't know	15	16	12	15	11	14	21

The government is limiting the increase in many benefits to one percent which is less than the current rate of inflation (i.e. the level of prices) for at least the next three years. To what extent do you support or oppose this move?

Strongly support	21	43	9	14	15	21	26
Tend to support	27	37	20	28	26	26	28
TOTAL SUPPORT	48	80	29	42	41	47	54
Neither support nor oppose	15	8	15	24	12	15	17
Tend to oppose	18	7	27	23	25	19	12
Strongly oppose	14	3	25	9	20	13	9
TOTAL OPPOSE	32	10	52	32	45	32	21
Don't know	5	3	4	2	2	6	7

Which one of the following groups do you think will be most affected by this move to limit many benefits to one percent?

People who are unemployed	64	68	67	61	63	67	62
People who are employed	21	17	21	23	22	20	22
Don't know	15	14	11	15	15	13	16

Some of the benefits which will be affected by the one percent cap go to people who are in work but have low paid jobs. This can help their families have enough money for the basics. To what extent do you support or oppose a cap on benefits for people with jobs?

Strongly support	9	15	5	6	6	7	12
Tend to support	21	32	13	22	19	24	20
TOTAL SUPPORT	30	47	18	28	25	31	32
Neither support nor oppose	23	21	20	28	22	21	25
Tend to oppose	25	21	30	26	27	25	23
Strongly oppose	15	4	26	11	21	14	9
TOTAL OPPOSE	40	25	56	37	48	39	32
Don't know	8	7	6	6	4	9	10

Which one of the following statements comes closest to your view about how benefits should generally change each year?

Benefits should be raised by less than either wages or prices	25	43	15	11	18	24	32
Benefits should be raised in line with prices	34	25	41	36	41	35	27
Benefits should be raised in line with wages	15	16	14	28	18	14	13
Benefits should be raised in line with prices or wages, whichever is higher	15	7	21	15	17	14	13
Don't know	12	10	9	10	7	13	14

*Any percentages calculated on bases fewer than 50 respondents do not represent a wide enough cross-section of the target population to be considered statistically reliable. These figures will be italicised.