

Tax Foundation
2006 Annual Survey of U.S. Attitudes on Tax and Wealth – Top Line Results
 March 17, 2006

Fielded: March 8 – 13, 2006
 Base size: 2,017
 Audience: U.S. adults 18+
 Sampling error: +/- 2% (95 percent confidence)

Q635 How would you rate the value you personally get from the taxes you pay to the federal government?

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
27%	25%	TOP 2 BOX (NET)
2%	3%	Excellent
24%	23%	Pretty good
65%	66%	BOTTOM 2 BOX (NET)
40%	39%	Only fair
25%	27%	Poor
8%	9%	Not sure

Q645 Do you consider the amount of federal income tax you have to pay as...?

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
59%	55%	Too high
30%	33%	About right
1%	2%	Too low
9%	10%	Not sure

Q650 What is the maximum percentage of a person's income that should go to taxes – that is, all taxes, state, federal, and local? Please enter a whole number amount only; do not enter a percent sign. If you are not sure, please give your best estimate.

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
0%	0%	100%
*	0%	90% - 99%
*	0%	80% - 89%
*	0%	70% - 79%
*	0%	60% - 69%
1%	2%	50% - 59%
1%	3%	40% - 49%
6%	7%	30% - 39%
22%	23%	20% - 29%
43%	41%	10% - 19%
24%	20%	1% - 9%
1%	3%	0%
15	16	MEAN percentage

Q670 Some taxes are paid to the federal government in Washington and some are paid to state and local governments. Of the following federal taxes, which do you think is the worst tax -- that is, the least fair?

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
31%	30%	The federal estate tax
25%	26%	Federal income tax
14%	15%	Social Security payroll tax
7%	8%	Federal corporate income tax
21%	21%	Not sure

Q675 Of the following state and local taxes, which do you think is the worst tax -- that is, the least fair?

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
39%	38%	Local property tax
20%	19%	State income tax
18%	18%	Sales tax
7%	7%	State corporate income tax
16%	17%	Not sure

Q685 How complex do you think the current federal income tax is?

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
80%	81%	TOP 2 BOX (NET)
48%	46%	Very complex
32%	35%	Somewhat complex
10%	11%	BOTTOM 2 BOX (NET)
9%	9%	Not too complex
1%	2%	Not complex at all
10%	8%	Not sure

Q690 Which of the following statements best describes your opinion of the federal tax system?

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
16%	18%	TOP 2 BOX (NET)
2%	2%	It is fine the way it is.
14%	16%	It needs minor changes.
80%	77%	BOTTOM 2 BOX (NET)
40%	42%	It needs major changes.
40%	35%	It should be completely overhauled.
4%	6%	None of these

Q695 If you could choose one plan to collect all federal taxes, of these listed, which federal tax plan would you prefer?

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
33%	37%	A flat-rate income tax with no deductions.
21%	19%	The current graduated income tax with deductions.
20%	19%	A national sales tax.
26%	25%	Not sure

Q700 Would you be willing to give up some deductions to make the tax system simpler?

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
52%	54%	Yes
22%	21%	No
27%	25%	Not sure

Q715 Do you personally favor or oppose completely eliminating the estate tax – that is, the tax on property left by people who die?

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
68%	68%	Favor
19%	17%	Oppose
14%	15%	Not sure

Q725 Last year 42.5 million Americans -- that's one-third of all taxpayers – paid no federal income tax after deductions and credits. Thinking about your own tax burden, do you think this is fair, or do you feel everyone should be required to pay some minimum amount of tax to help fund government?

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
63%	59%	Everyone should be required to pay minimum amount of tax to help fund government
21%	21%	This is fair
16%	20%	Not sure

Q727 This year the U.S. budget deficit will be \$340 billion, or \$2,470 per individual tax return. Some people say it is important to balance the budget. Thinking about your own situation, would you be willing to pay an additional \$2,470 in federal taxes to eliminate the deficit and balance the budget?

2006	
(2,017)	
9%	Yes, I would be willing to pay the additional tax.
79%	No, I would not be willing to pay the additional tax.
12%	Not sure

Q729 If you paid that extra \$2,470 in additional taxes, which one of the following do you believe today's Congress would do?

Base: Willing to Pay Tax

2006	
(2,017)	
63%	Mostly increase spending and not pay off the deficit
20%	Pay off part of the deficit and increase spending with the rest
17%	Pay off the entire deficit
1%	Not sure

Q735 How are your taxes usually prepared?

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
55%	54%	By me or someone in my house (NET)
22%	24%	By me or someone in my house using tax forms.
33%	30%	By me or someone in my house using computer software like TurboTax or TaxCut.
36%	35%	I pay an outside tax preparer.
5%	6%	By a friend or family member outside my house.
4%	6%	Other

Q740 For your 2005 tax return will you take the standard deduction or will you itemize your deductions?

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
46%	42%	Take the standard deduction
40%	44%	Itemize my deductions
13%	14%	Not sure

Q102 Gender

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
48%	48%	Male
52%	52%	Female

Q106 Age

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
6%	5%	18 to 19
5%	8%	20 to 24
12%	8%	25 to 29
6%	10%	30 to 34
13%	9%	35 to 39
9%	7%	40 to 44
11%	14%	45 to 49
8%	6%	50 to 54
9%	10%	55 to 59
6%	7%	60 to 64
16%	17%	65 and over

Q174 Region

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
22%	22%	East
22%	23%	Midwest
33%	32%	South
23%	23%	West

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
5%	5%	New England
19%	20%	South Atlantic
14%	15%	Mid Atlantic
16%	16%	East North Central
5%	4%	East South Central
7%	7%	West North Central
11%	11%	West South Central
7%	7%	Mountain
16%	16%	Pacific

Q216 Education

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
48%	47%	HS (NET)
1%	0%	Less than high school
3%	4%	Some high school
43%	43%	High school or equivalent
44%	45%	College (NET)
19%	20%	Some college, but no degree
17%	17%	College
8%	8%	Associate's degree
8%	9%	Grad (NET)
2%	3%	Some graduate school, but no degree
7%	6%	Graduate school

Q210 Employment Status

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
45%	43%	Employed full time
14%	14%	Employed part time
7%	9%	Self-employed
3%	6%	Not employed, but looking for work
3%	2%	Not employed and not looking for work
20%	22%	Retired
11%	13%	Student
12%	9%	Homemaker

Q232 Income

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
9%	9%	Less than \$15,000
9%	9%	\$15,000 to \$24,999
9%	9%	\$25,000 to \$34,999
13%	12%	\$35,000 to \$49,999
17%	17%	\$50,000 to \$74,999
11%	11%	\$75,000 to \$99,999
9%	8%	\$100,000 to \$124,999
4%	3%	\$125,000 to \$149,999
3%	2%	\$150,000 to \$199,999
0	1%	\$200,000 to \$249,999
1%	1%	\$250,000 or more
13%	18%	Decline to answer

Q244 Race/Ethnicity

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
71%	72%	White
10%	11%	Black
13%	12%	Hispanic
1%	1%	Asian or Pacific Islander
1%	1%	Native American or Alaskan native
1%	1%	Mixed racial background
1%	0%	Other race

Q202 Marital Status

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
26%	25%	Single, never married
55%	52%	Married
7%	11%	Divorced
1%	2%	Separated
4%	5%	Widowed
6%	6%	Living with partner

Q204 Number of Adults (18+) in Household

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
20%	25%	1
59%	54%	2
16%	16%	3
5%	4%	4
1%	2%	5+
2.2	2	MEAN

Q206 Number of Children (under 18) in Household

2006	2005	
(2,017)	(2,013)	
70%	69%	0
14%	14%	1
11%	12%	2
4%	4%	3
1%	1%	4
0	0%	5+
1.8	2	MEAN (excluding none)

Q209 Kids Ages

2006	2005	
(580)	(514)	
39%	30%	Kids under 6
49%	34%	Kids 6-12
41%	31%	Kids 13-17
0%	5%	Declined