

The Public’s Views on the Value of Federal Statistics: 2026

* TOPLINE RESULTS *

Interviews for this study were conducted on the SSRS Opinion Panel Omnibus, **March 19 – 22, 2026**, among a nationally representative sample of **1,030 adults**. The margin of error for total respondents is +/- 3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The design effect is 1.26.

The SSRS Opinion Panel Omnibus is a multi-client probability-based survey that fields twice a month. It delivers a nationally representative sample of 1000+ adults age 18 or older in English with a Spanish-language option. Data collection is conducted online and via phone (for non-internet and web-reluctant respondents) using the SSRS Opinion Panel. More information about SSRS is available at www.ssrs.com.

Trend data are from SSRS Opinion Panel Omnibus, June 6 – 10, 2025. National adults (n=1,029).

FEDS1. How much confidence do you have in each of the following? A great deal, quite a lot, some very little, none at all?

a. The mass media, such as newspapers, radio, and television

	2025	2026
	%	%
A great deal/quite a lot (NET)	18	15
A great deal	3	3
Quite a lot	15	12
Some	35	37
Very little/none at all (NET)	48	48
Very little	31	33
None at all	17	15
Refused/web blank	-	-

b. Influencers on social media

	2025	2026
	%	%
A great deal/quite a lot (NET)	6	4
A great deal	2	1
Quite a lot	4	3
Some	23	22
Very little/none at all (NET)	71	74
Very little	36	39
None at all	35	35
Refused/web blank	*	-

c. The Federal government

	2025	2026
	%	%
A great deal/quite a lot (NET)	14	10
A great deal	3	3
Quite a lot	11	7
Some	37	37
Very little/none at all (NET)	49	54
Very little	33	35
None at all	16	19
Refused/web blank	*	-

d. Federal statistics, such as the unemployment rate, the population count, or obesity statistics

	2025	2026
	%	%
A great deal/quite a lot (NET)	27	20
A great deal	6	4
Quite a lot	22	16
Some	43	44
Very little/none at all (NET)	29	36
Very little	22	28
None at all	7	8
Refused/web blank	*	-

e. Your state government

	2025 %	2026 %
A great deal/quite a lot (NET)	21	16
A great deal	4	4
Quite a lot	16	12
Some	40	42
Very little/none at all (NET)	39	42
Very little	27	29
None at all	12	13
Refused/web blank	*	-

Combo Table: FEDS1a-e

Ranked by % A great deal + Quite a lot of confidence in 2026

	A great deal/ quite a lot %	Some %	Very little/ none at all %
Federal statistics, such as the unemployment rate, the population count, or obesity statistics			
2025	27	43	29
2026	20	44	36
Your state government			
2025	21	40	39
2026	16	42	42
The mass media, such as newspapers, radio, and television			
2025	18	35	48
2026	15	37	48
The Federal government			
2025	14	37	49
2026	10	37	54
Influencers on social media			
2025	6	23	71
2026	4	22	74

FEDS2. Numbers like the unemployment rate, the population count and obesity statistics are statistics produced by agencies of the federal government. These are called “federal statistics.” Have you used or talked about federal statistics for school, work, or for any other purpose?

	2025	2026
	%	%
Yes, have used or talked about federal statistics	40	39
No	60	61
Refused/web blank	-	-

FEDS3. Personally, how much trust do you have in federal statistics in the United States?

	2025	2026
	%	%
Tend to trust federal statistics	53	47
Tend not to trust federal statistics	47	53
Refused/web blank	*	*

FEDS4. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about federal statistics on topics like unemployment, population and health?

a. Federal statistics are important for understanding our society.

	2025	2026
	%	%
Strongly/somewhat agree (NET)	68	68
Strongly agree	27	27
Somewhat agree	42	42
Neither agree nor disagree	22	22
Strongly/somewhat disagree (NET)	9	9
Somewhat disagree	7	7
Strongly disagree	2	3
Refused/web blank	-	-

b. Public officials need federal statistics to make good decisions about things like funding and where to locate hospitals and schools.

	2025	2026
	%	%
Strongly/somewhat agree (NET)	71	70
Strongly agree	29	27
Somewhat agree	42	43
Neither agree nor disagree	21	20
Strongly/somewhat disagree (NET)	8	10
Somewhat disagree	6	8
Strongly disagree	2	2
Refused/web blank	-	-

c. Statistics provided by the federal agencies are generally accurate.

	2025	2026
	%	%
Strongly/somewhat agree (NET)	46	42
Strongly agree	11	7
Somewhat agree	35	35
Neither agree nor disagree	31	33
Strongly/somewhat disagree (NET)	23	25
Somewhat disagree	18	20
Strongly disagree	5	5
Refused/web blank	-	*

d. The collection of federal statistics should continue regardless of politics.

	2025	2026
	%	%
Strongly/somewhat agree (NET)	71	72
Strongly agree	35	38
Somewhat agree	36	35
Neither agree nor disagree	22	22
Strongly/somewhat disagree (NET)	7	6
Somewhat disagree	6	5
Strongly disagree	2	2
Refused/web blank	-	-

e. The people who work for federal statistical agencies are honest and professional.

	2025	2026
	%	%
Strongly/somewhat agree (NET)	38	35
Strongly agree	12	8
Somewhat agree	26	26
Neither agree nor disagree	41	44
Strongly/somewhat disagree (NET)	21	21
Somewhat disagree	15	16
Strongly disagree	6	5
Refused/web blank	-	-

**FEDS5. (If web) Which of the following is your main source of news? (Select one)
(If CATI) What is your main source of news?**

	2025	2026
	%	%
Fox News	12	13
Online news, news aggregators, or newsletters	12	12
Social media or podcasts	14	12
Your local TV news or newspaper	12	12
CNN	6	5
ABC News	4	5
NPR or PBS	5	5
Friends or family	6	5
The New York Times	3	3
CBS News	3	3
Conservative media	2	3
NBC News	3	3
The Associated Press or Reuters	2	3
MSNBC	2	2
News talk radio	1	1
Wall Street Journal	1	1
Washington Post	*	1
USA Today	1	1
None of these	9	9
Other	1	1
Refused/web blank	-	-