



Americans' Views on Immigration and Refugees Mirror Global Unease: Ipsos 25-country Study

Both in the U.S. and worldwide, nearly half say there are too many immigrants in their country and four in ten support closing borders to refugees entirely

Washington, DC, September 13, 2017 — Among nearly 18,000 adults under the age of 65 from 25 countries surveyed by Ipsos, 48% agree that “there are too many immigrants” in their country. The proportion of those in the United States who share this view is also 48%.

Turkey, which has seen a huge influx of Syrian refugees, is the country where the perception that there are too many immigrants is most widespread (83%). It is also where this opinion has increased the most since Ipsos started tracking global attitudes towards immigration in 2011. In contrast, during the same period, this view has declined in the U.S. (by 11 points) and, to an even larger extent, in Great Britain (by 26 points).

The new Ipsos Global @dvisor survey also finds that, on average, 39% of citizens from 25 countries surveyed by Ipsos want to close borders to refugees entirely, while a slim majority of 51% disagree and 10% are not sure. A nearly identical opinion divide is seen in the U.S. with 40% in favor of closing borders to refugees altogether and 53% against it.

Countries most supportive of not letting in any more refugees are Turkey (63%), Hungary (61%) and India (60%). Those with the lowest level of support for closing the door to all refugees are Japan (21%), Mexico (22%), Peru (25%) and Canada (25%).

Perceptions about immigration are downbeat in many countries, but less so in the U.S. and other English-speaking countries.

- Globally, one in five (21%) of those surveyed say that immigration has had a positive effect on their country, compared with two in five (42%) who say it has had a negative impact.
 - Saudi Arabia, India, Britain, Canada, and Australia are the most positive countries with about two in five saying immigration has had a positive impact.
 - Britain and the U.S. have seen the biggest increase in positive opinions since 2011. In Britain, 40% now say immigration has had a positive impact, up from 19% in 2011. In the U.S., 35% say so, up from 18% in 2011.
 - Hungary, Serbia, Turkey, Russia, Italy, Argentina, and Mexico are the least upbeat about immigration with 10% or fewer saying it has had a positive impact.

Address: 2020 K Street NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: +1 202 463-7300

Contact: **Chris Jackson**
Vice President, U.S., Ipsos Public Affairs
Email: chris.jackson@ipsos.com
Tel: +1 202 420-2025



- Sweden has seen the largest shift toward negative perceptions with only 25% now saying immigration has been positive, compared with 37% in 2011.
- Globally, 44% say that immigration is causing their country to change in ways that they do not like.
 - Again, those in Turkey and Italy are most likely to say this (77% and 63% respectively) while people in Brazil and South Korea are the least likely (23% and 24% respectively).
 - At 46%, the proportion of Americans who share this view is close to the world average.
- Half (48%) on average think that there are too many immigrants in their country.
 - After Turkey (83%), countries with the highest number of people thinking this are Italy (66%), Russia (62%), South Africa (62%), and Belgium (61%).

Many have a dim view of immigration's impact on public services, the economy and jobs

- Globally, half (49%) agree that immigration has placed too much pressure on public services in their country, while just one in five (19%) disagree. It is a majority opinion in 17 of the 25 countries surveyed.
 - The U.S., as well as Britain and Australia, show notable decreases in the proportion of people agreeing to this since 2011: down 18 points in Britain to 58% now, down 13 points in Australia to 51% and down 10 points in the U.S. to 56%.
 - The largest increases are seen in Turkey, now at 73% (up 28 points since 2011), and in Sweden, now at 56% (up 16 points).
- When considering the economy, 28% across the 25 countries surveyed agree that immigration has had a positive impact (no change from 2016 or 2011).
 - Except for Saudi Arabia (50%), all countries where immigration is most widely seen as being good for their economy are largely English-speaking: Britain (47%), New Zealand (47%), India (46%), Canada (43%), the U.S. (42%) and Australia (41%).
 - Countries where immigration is least often seen as good for the country's economy are Serbia (8%), Russia (9%), Hungary (9%), and Turkey (11%).
 - More Americans have a positive view of immigration's economic impact than at any time since 2011.
- Over four in ten globally (41%) blame immigration for making it more difficult for people of their nationality to get jobs.
 - People in Turkey (78%), Russia (64%), and South Africa (58%) are most likely to agree that immigrants have made it more difficult for their country's nationals to find jobs. Those in Sweden (21%), Serbia (21%), and Japan (26%) the least likely to agree to this.
 - In the U.S., 45% agree -- down from 49% in 2016 and 60% in 2011.
- Overall two in five (40%) say they agree priority should be given to immigrants with higher education and qualifications who can fill shortages among certain professions (no change from 2016). However, opinions vary widely across countries.
 - Majorities in New Zealand (58%), Saudi Arabia (56%), Britain (55%), South Africa (54%), Australia (51%), Canada (51%) and India (50%) support giving priority to high-skilled immigrants to fill shortages.
 - In the U.S., 43% agree, up from 33% in 2011.
- Only three in ten (31%) globally believe immigrants make their country a more interesting place to live.
 - The highest scores are all seen in largely English-speaking countries, including Britain (49%), New Zealand (49%), Australia (48%), Canada (48%), India (48%) and the United States (47%).

Address: 2020 K Street NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: +1 202 463-7300

Contact: **Chris Jackson**
Vice President, U.S., Ipsos Public Affairs
Email: chris.jackson@ipsos.com
Tel: +1 202 420-2025



- Since 2011, Britain and the U.S. have shown significant upticks in the opinion that immigration makes the country more interesting (up 16 points and 11 points, respectively).
- Serbia (8%), Russia (10%), and Hungary (10%) are the countries with the lowest proportions of people showing positive attitudes towards immigration's cultural impact.

As the refugee crisis continues, a narrow majority still believe their country's borders should remain open to refugees, but many have serious concerns about their motivations, the security risk they represent, and their ability to integrate in their new society.

- Globally, 52% think "foreigners who want to get into their country as refugees "really aren't refugees" and "want to come here for economic reasons, or to take advantage of our welfare services".
 - In 18 of 25 countries surveyed, more agree than disagree that most refugees are really economic migrants.
 - It is the case in the U.S. where 51% agree while 40% disagree and 10% are not sure.
- An even larger majority of global citizens (58%) believe that "there are terrorists pretending to be refugees who will enter my country to cause violence and destruction."
 - This opinion is most prevalent in Turkey and Russia (82% both), India (79%), Germany (77%) and Hungary (75%).
 - It is shared by 65% of Americans surveyed.
 - It is least common in Spain (19%) and Serbia (34%). *[Note: the survey was conducted before the terrorist attacks in Barcelona and its region.]*
- Opinions on whether refugees will successfully integrate in their new society vary widely across countries.
 - Confidence is highest in Serbia (69%) and lowest in Japan (16%).
 - Americans are more likely to be confident they will do so than not (48% vs 42%).

Commenting on the findings, Nicolas Boyon, Ipsos Public Affairs, said:

Although the US is a country of immigrants, current attitudes towards immigration and refugees are strikingly similar to those we see in much of the world. One notable difference is that despite or possibly in reaction to the political climate or because of an improved economy Americans views towards immigration are somewhat more positive than they were six years ago – or even just last year.

Address: 2020 K Street NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: +1 202 463-7300

Contact: **Chris Jackson**
Vice President, U.S., Ipsos Public Affairs
Email: chris.jackson@ipsos.com
Tel: +1 202 420-2025



About the Study

These are the findings of the Global @dvisor Immigration tracker 2011-2017. In total 17,903 interviews were conducted between June 24 and July 8, 2017 among adults aged 18-64 in the US and Canada, and adults aged 16-64 in all other countries.

The survey was conducted in 25 countries around the world via the Ipsos Online Panel system. The countries reporting herein are: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, United States, Serbia, Peru and New Zealand.

In each country surveyed, between 500+ and 1000+ individuals participated via the Ipsos Online Panel. The sample was 1000+ in Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Spain and the United States of America. In all other countries, the sample was 500+. The precision of Ipsos online polls is calculated using a credibility interval with a poll of 1,000 accurate to +/- 3.5 percentage points and of 500 accurate to +/- 5.0 percentage points. For more information on Ipsos' use of credibility intervals, please visit the Ipsos website.

In countries where internet penetration is approximately 60% or higher, the data output generally reflects the overall population. Of the 25 countries surveyed online, 17 yield results that are balanced to reflect the general population: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Poland, South Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, Great Britain and the United States. The 5 remaining countries surveyed – Brazil (58%), India (19%), Mexico (44%), South Africa (49%) and Turkey (51%) - have lower levels of internet connectivity and reflect online populations that tend to be more urban and have higher education/income than the general population.

Where results do not sum to 100, this may be due to computer rounding, multiple responses or the exclusion of don't knows or not stated responses.

Data are weighted to match the profile of the population.

For more information about conducting research intended for public release or Ipsos' online polling methodology, please visit our [Public Opinion Polling and Communication](#) page where you can download our brochure, see our public release protocol, or contact us.

For more information on this news release, please contact:

Nicolas Boyon
Senior Vice President, U.S.
Ipsos Public Affairs
+1 646 309 4879
Nicolas.boyon@ipsos.com

Chris Jackson
Vice President, U.S.
Ipsos Public Affairs
+1 202 420-2025
chris.jackson@ipsos.com

Julia Clark
Senior Vice President, U.S.

Address: 2020 K Street NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: +1 202 463-7300

Contact: **Chris Jackson**
Vice President, U.S., Ipsos Public Affairs
Email: chris.jackson@ipsos.com
Tel: +1 202 420-2025



Ipsos Public Affairs
+1 312 526-4919
julia.clark@ipsos.com

About Ipsos Public Affairs

Ipsos Public Affairs is a non-partisan, objective, survey-based research practice made up of seasoned professionals. We conduct strategic research initiatives for a diverse number of American and international organizations, based not only on public opinion research, but elite stakeholder, corporate, and media opinion research.

Ipsos has media partnerships with the most prestigious news organizations around the world. In Canada, the U.S., UK, and internationally, Ipsos Public Affairs is the media polling supplier to Reuters News, the world's leading source of intelligent information for businesses and professionals. Ipsos Public Affairs is a member of the Ipsos Group, a leading global survey-based market research company. We provide boutique-style customer service and work closely with our clients, while also undertaking global research.

About Ipsos

Ipsos is an independent market research company controlled and managed by research professionals. Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos has grown into a worldwide research group with a strong presence in all key markets. Ipsos ranks fourth in the global research industry.

With offices in 88 countries, Ipsos delivers insightful expertise across five research specializations: brand, advertising and media; customer loyalty; marketing; public affairs research; and survey management.

Ipsos researchers assess market potential and interpret market trends. They develop and build brands. They help clients build long-term relationships with their customers. They test advertising and study audience responses to various media and they measure public opinion around the globe.

Ipsos has been listed on the Paris Stock Exchange since 1999 and generated global revenues of €1,782.7 million in 2016.

GAME CHANGERS

« Game Changers » is the Ipsos signature.

At Ipsos we are passionately curious about people, markets, brands and society.
We make our changing world easier and faster to navigate and inspire clients to make smarter decisions.
We deliver with security, speed, simplicity and substance. We are Game Changers.

Ipsos is listed on Eurolist – NYSE-Euronext.
The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index
and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).

Address: 2020 K Street NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: +1 202 463-7300

Contact: **Chris Jackson**
Vice President, U.S., Ipsos Public Affairs
Email: chris.jackson@ipsos.com
Tel: +1 202 420-2025



ISIN code FR0000073298, Reuters ISOS.PA, Bloomberg IPS:FP
www.ipsos.com

Address: 2020 K Street NW, Suite 410
Washington, DC 20006
Tel: +1 202 463-7300

Contact: **Chris Jackson**
Vice President, U.S., Ipsos Public Affairs
Email: chris.jackson@ipsos.com
Tel: +1 202 420-2025