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Majority of people want borders closed as fear about COVID-19 escalates – Ipsos study

More of us now believe someone close to us will be infected by the coronavirus pandemic

Sydney, March 19, 2020 — The key findings for Australia from this latest Ipsos study show that:

- we are among the most likely to agree with closing the boarders, seven in ten (69%) agreeing with this measure;
- we are also among the most likely to think someone close to us will get the coronavirus (51%, which is up 29 points from the previous poll on February 28-29);
- our concern regarding our job being under threat remains relatively low (35%) although it is on the rise. In the February 14-15 poll it was at 17% then rose to 25% in the February 28-29 poll; and
- our perceptions about the threat to our country are also relatively low, with 46% viewing it as very high or high, as many other countries are in the 60 to 70% range.

The Ipsos survey also found that the majority of people across 12 nations think the borders of their country should be closed until the coronavirus outbreak is contained.

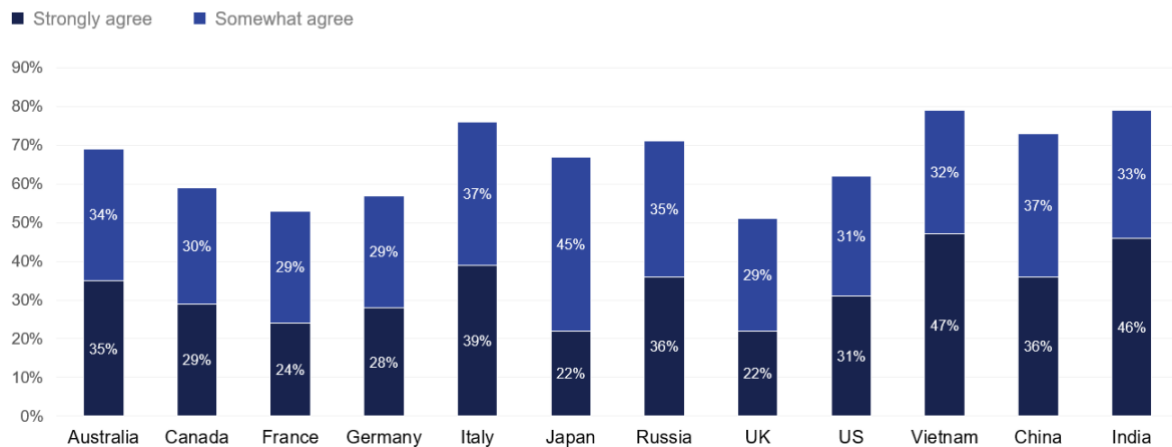
In a survey of 12,000 people across 12 major countries from March 12 to 15, countries in the Asia-Pacific region are most supportive of border closures – led by India (79%) and Vietnam (78%) – which is not surprising, given where the disease was first encountered.

More than three in four people in the world's other hot spot, Italy (76%), are also in agreement of this drastic measure followed by those in China (73%), Russia (70%) and Australia (69%).

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Majorities agree with the closing of borders

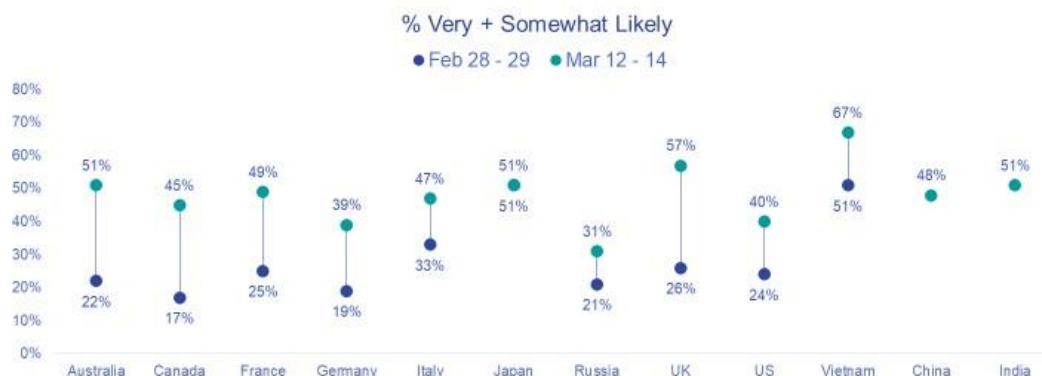
Who **agrees** that we should close the borders of my country and not allow anyone in or out until the virus is proven to be contained



A significant driver in the growth for concern about COVID-19 is that more of us now believe someone close to us will be infected by the virus. The majority of people in Vietnam (67%), the United Kingdom (57%), India, Australia and Japan (51%) think someone close to them will get the coronavirus.

Meanwhile, the countries that saw the biggest jump in this measure from a previous poll conducted on February 28-29 are all developed markets – the U.K. (+31 points), Australia (+29), and Canada (+28).

Significant increase in perception that someone close will be infected.



In addition to this, there's been an increase of people who think their job is under threat as the pandemic spreads. There's been a significant rise on this measure from previous polling done in Italy

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(63%, up 36 points) – considering closures in its economy, followed by France (44%, up 14 points) and the U.K. (33%, up 13 points).

Perceived threat to your **job or business** is growing in most countries.



Overall, the perception of the threat the pandemic poses to a country has increased with a majority of people citing it as least as a high threat in all countries, except for in Canada (32%), Russia (37%), the U.K. (45%) and Australia (46%).

Ipsos Australia Director, David Elliott, said: “One of the hardest things about these surveys is that things are changing so quickly. It doesn’t surprise me that last weekend we were less concerned than most in regard to the likely impact on our jobs and country. Clearly the Government’s messaging around ‘business as usual’ but taking precautions and using common sense has been having an impact. However, with the quick change in messaging and measures such as shutting down major sporting events, Anzac day events, and in fact all events of 500 people or more; international travel restrictions; and the continued discussion around whether to close schools or not, it is likely that we see these measures move drastically when we interview again this weekend.”

About the Study

These are the results of an Ipsos survey conducted March 12 to 14, 2020 on the Global Advisor online platform among 10,000 adults aged 18-74 in Canada and the United States and 16-74 in Australia, China, France, Germany, Italy, India, Japan, Russia, Vietnam and the United Kingdom. Where available, tracking results from Wave 3, conducted February 28-29, February 14-15, and February 7-9 are presented. Sample sizes are consistent wave to wave.

The sample consists of approximately 1,000 individuals in each country. The samples in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the U.K. and the U.S. can be taken as representative of these countries’ general adult population under the age of 75. The sample in China, India, Russia and Vietnam is more urban, more educated and/or more affluent than the general population and should be viewed as reflecting the views of the more “connected” segment of the population. The data is weighted so that each market’s sample composition best reflects the demographic profile of



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the adult population according to the most recent census data.

Where results do not sum to 100 or the 'difference' appears to be +/-1 more/less than the actual, this may be due to rounding, multiple responses or the exclusion of don't knows or not stated responses. The precision of Ipsos online polls are calculated using a credibility interval with a poll of 1,000 accurate to +/- 3.5 percentage points. For more information on the Ipsos use of credibility intervals, please visit the Ipsos website (www.ipsos.com).

More information at: <https://www.ipsos.com/en-au/majority-people-want-borders-closed-fear-about-covid-19-escalates>

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About Ipsos

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Our passionately curious research professionals, analysts and scientists have built unique multi-specialist capabilities that provide true understanding and powerful insights into the actions, opinions and motivations of citizens, consumers, patients, customers or employees. We serve more than 5000 clients across the world with 75 business solutions.

Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos is listed on the Euronext Paris since July 1st, 1999. The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).

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