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“What Worries the World?” 55% of respondents around the world say COVID-19 is among the top 3 issues facing their country

London, June 10, 2020 — What Worries the World is a monthly online survey of adults aged under 74 in 27 countries including Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Britain, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Poland, Peru, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United States.

The study finds that most people across the 27 countries surveyed say that their country is still on the wrong track.

- These new findings see COVID-19 cited as the top concern in 18 of the 27 surveyed nations, a drop from the previous month where 24 countries surveyed had mentioned the pandemic as their main concern.
- On average, 55% of respondents around the world say COVID-19 is among the top 3 issues facing their country. This marks a fall since last month when 63% cited the pandemic as the greatest concern.
- The top worries globally are currently (in the following order): COVID-19, Unemployment, Healthcare, Poverty and Social inequality and Financial/Political corruption. This is the same sequence as April.
- Globally, 45% think their country is heading in the wrong direction while 55% say things are on the right track.

Looking at how many say their country is on the wrong track (**55% on average**), we find Chile (**76%**), France (**75%**) Belgium (**71%**) and Hungary (**70%**) **most worried about the direction of travel.**

However, the survey provides some sources of optimism. This month's **45%** “right track” score is 8 percentage points up on the **37%** recorded in April). Australia (**64%**) and South Korea (**63%**) have shown the biggest increases in positivity. This is the first time Australia has been in the **top four.**

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The four major worries globally are:

- 1) **COVID-19 (55%):** Included for the first-time last month, COVID-19 is still the highest scoring global issue this month. Malaysia once more emerges as the nation most worried about this issue with **74%** citing it as their ultimate concern from the 18 issues presented to them. Next are Japan (**73%**) and Great Britain on **71%**. Indeed, this issue is the greatest concern for **18 of the 27 surveyed nations – the nine “outliers”** being; **Argentina** (unemployment), **Hungary** (healthcare), **Italy** (unemployment), **Mexico** (crime and violence), **Russia** (poverty and social inequality), **South Africa** (unemployment), **South Korea** (unemployment), **Spain** (unemployment) and **Turkey** (unemployment).
- 2) **Unemployment (42%):** The highest levels of concern are seen in Spain (**66%**) closely followed by Italy (**65%**) and South Africa (**64%**). A total of **six countries** have now seen unemployment take the place of COVID-19 as the chief worry over the last month.
- 3) **Poverty and Social inequality (31%):** Russia (**scoring 61%**) has the highest number of respondents concerned about this issue, followed by Chile (**50%**).
- 4) **Healthcare (25%):** Following previous trends the greatest levels of worry for this issue are once again reported in Hungary (**59%**), ahead of Poland (**46%**) and Brazil (**44%**).

About the Study

The survey was conducted in **27 countries** around the world via the Ipsos Online Panel system. The 27 countries included are Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, France, Great Britain, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United States of America.

18,505 interviews were conducted between **April 24th, 2020 – May 8th, 2020** among adults aged 18-74 in the US, South Africa, Turkey, Israel and Canada and age 16-74 in all other countries. Data are weighted to match the profile of the population.

In 17 of the 27 countries surveyed internet penetration is sufficiently high to think of the samples as representative of the wider population within the age ranges covered: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Japan, Poland, Serbia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Great Britain and United States. The remaining 11 countries surveyed: Brazil, Chile, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, Russia, Peru, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Turkey have lower levels of internet penetration and so these samples should instead be considered to represent a more affluent, connected population. These are still a vital social group to understand in these countries, representing an important and emerging middle class.



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