



PRESS RELEASE

“What Worries the World” 13 of the 27 surveyed nations cited COVID-19 as the top concern.

On average, 47% of respondents around the world now say COVID-19 is among the top 3 issues facing their country. This marks a fall since last month when 55% had cited the pandemic as the greatest concern.

London, 23 June 2020 - This month's score is 16 percent points down from the 63% registered in April, the month COVID-19 was first introduced into the survey. At that point, the coronavirus was the top issue in 24 of the 27 countries measured.

What Worries the World is a monthly online survey of adults aged under 74 in 27 countries comprising 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. Globally, 58% think their country is heading in the wrong direction while 42% say things are on the right track.

Looking at how many say their country is on the wrong track (**58% on average**), we find Belgium (**77%**), Hungary/Chile (**75%**) and Brazil (**73%**) **most worried about the direction of travel.**

Just **six nations** have seen an increase in national optimism from last month with **19 nations** showing a drop. **Two nations** remain the same in their sentiments about national direction.

This month has seen Financial/Political corruption overtake Healthcare. The four major worries globally are:

- 1) **COVID-19 (47%):** Included for the first-time in April, COVID-19 is still the highest scoring global issue this month. Great Britain is now the nation most worried about this issue with **69%** citing it as one of their main concerns from the 18 issues presented to them. Next are Chile, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia (**65%**). The pandemic is the *single* greatest concern for **13 of the 27 surveyed nations – the thirteen “outliers”** being; **Argentina** (Unemployment), **Belgium** (Poverty and social inequality), **France** (Unemployment), **Hungary** (Healthcare), **Israel** (Unemployment), **Italy** (unemployment), **Mexico** (Crime and violence), **Russia** (Poverty and social inequality), **South Africa** (unemployment), **South Korea** (Unemployment), **Spain** (unemployment), **Sweden** (Crime and Violence) and **Turkey** (Unemployment). COVID-19 and Healthcare are the collective leading worries for **Poland**.
- 2) **Unemployment (42%):** The highest levels of concern are seen in Italy (**66%**) closely followed by Spain (**65%**) and South Korea (**63%**). A total of **eight countries** have now seen unemployment take the place of COVID-19 as the chief worry since April, an increase of **two nations** from May: France and Israel.





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- 3) **Poverty and Social inequality (31%):** Once more Russia (**scoring 61%**) has the highest number of respondents concerned about this issue, followed by Chile (**50%**).
- 4) **Financial/Political Corruption (26%):** South Africa (**52%**), is now the most concerned nation about this issue ahead of Hungary (**50%**) and Russia (**48%**).

Technical Note

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Full results available from www.ipsos.com.

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 **May 22nd, 2020 – June 5th, 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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ISIN code FR0000073298, Reuters ISOS.PA, Bloomberg IPS:FP www.ipsos.com

