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Job loss is a concern for half of workers across the world

Job insecurity and ability to learn essential new skills on the job vary widely across countries

New York, NY, October 19, 2020 — A new Ipsos survey of more than 12,000 working adults from 27 countries for the World Economic Forum finds 54% of them expressing concern about losing their job in the next 12 months. Perceived job insecurity varies widely across countries: it is stated by three in four workers in Russia, compared to just one in four in Germany.

Two thirds of workers worldwide say they can learn and develop skills needed for the jobs of the future through their current employer. While nearly nine in ten workers in Spain report being able to gain essential new skills on the job, fewer than half in Japan, Sweden and Russia do.

Concern about job loss

On average, 54% of employed adults from 27 countries say they are concerned about losing their job in the next 12 months (17% are very concerned and 37% somewhat concerned). The prevalence of being concerned about losing one's job in the next year ranges from 75% in Russia, 73% in Spain, and 71% in Malaysia, to just 26% in Germany, 30% in Sweden, and 36% in the Netherlands and the United States.

Ability to acquire new skills

Globally, 67% of employed adults surveyed say they can learn and develop skills needed for the jobs of the future through their current employer (23% are very much able to do so, 44% somewhat able). Across the 27 countries, perceived ability to learn and develop those skills on the job is most widespread in Spain (86%), Peru (84%), and Mexico (83%) and least common in Japan (45%), Sweden (46%), and Russia (48%).

New skill acquisition vs. job insecurity

Globally, workers are more likely to say they can learn and develop skills needed for the jobs of the future through their current employer (67%) than to express concern about losing their job in the next 12 months (54%), a difference of 13 percentage points. The countries where those who can gain new skills on the job outnumber those who are concerned about losing their job by the largest margins are the United States and Germany (by 40 points). In reverse, job loss concern is more prevalent than perceived ability to acquire skills in Russia (by 28 points) and, to a lesser extent in Malaysia, Poland, Japan, Turkey, and South Korea.



PRESS RELEASE

	% concerned about losing their job in next 12 months	% able to learn and develop skills for jobs of the future through current employer	Difference
Total	54%	67%	+13
United States	36%	76%	+40
Germany	26%	66%	+40
Netherlands	36%	65%	+29
Canada	40%	68%	+28
Great Britain	44%	70%	+26
Belgium	37%	62%	+24
Saudi Arabia	57%	80%	+24
India	57%	80%	+24
Australia	48%	71%	+23
Italy	49%	71%	+23
Brazil	63%	79%	+17
South Africa	63%	79%	+16
Sweden	30%	46%	+16
France	41%	57%	+16
Peru	68%	84%	+16
Mexico	68%	83%	+15
China	38%	53%	+15
Spain	73%	86%	+13
Argentina	60%	70%	+10
Chile	66%	74%	+8
Hungary	60%	65%	+5
South Korea	59%	54%	-5
Turkey	64%	58%	-6
Japan	53%	45%	-8
Poland	65%	53%	-12
Malaysia	71%	59%	-13
Russia	75%	48%	-28



PRESS RELEASE

About the Study

These are the results of a 27-country survey conducted by Ipsos on its Global Advisor online platform in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China (mainland), France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, India, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and the United States.

Ipsos interviewed a total of 12,430 employed adults aged 18-74 in United States, Canada, Malaysia, South Africa, and Turkey, and 16-74 in 22 other countries between September 25 and October 9, 2020.

The sample consists of employed individuals. The sample size ranges from 820 in China (mainland) to 247 in Sweden with an average of 460 per country. See table in the report.

The samples in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, and the U.S. can be taken as representative of those who are employed within the general adult population.

The samples in Brazil, Chile, China (mainland), India, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Turkey are more urban, more educated, and/or more affluent than the national population of employed adults. The survey results for these countries should be viewed as reflecting the views of the more "connected" segment of their employed population.

The data is weighted so that each country's sample composition best reflects the demographic profile of 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 N=1,000 accurate to +/- 3.5 percentage points, N=750 to +/- 4.1 points, N=500 accurate to +/- 4.8 points and N=250 to +/- 7.1 points. For more information on the Ipsos use of credibility intervals, please visit the Ipsos website.

The publication of these findings abides by local rules and regulations.



PRESS RELEASE

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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.

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