

# WHAT WORRIES THE WORLD?

April 2021



**GAME CHANGERS**



<https://www.ipsos.com/en/what-worries-world-april-2021>

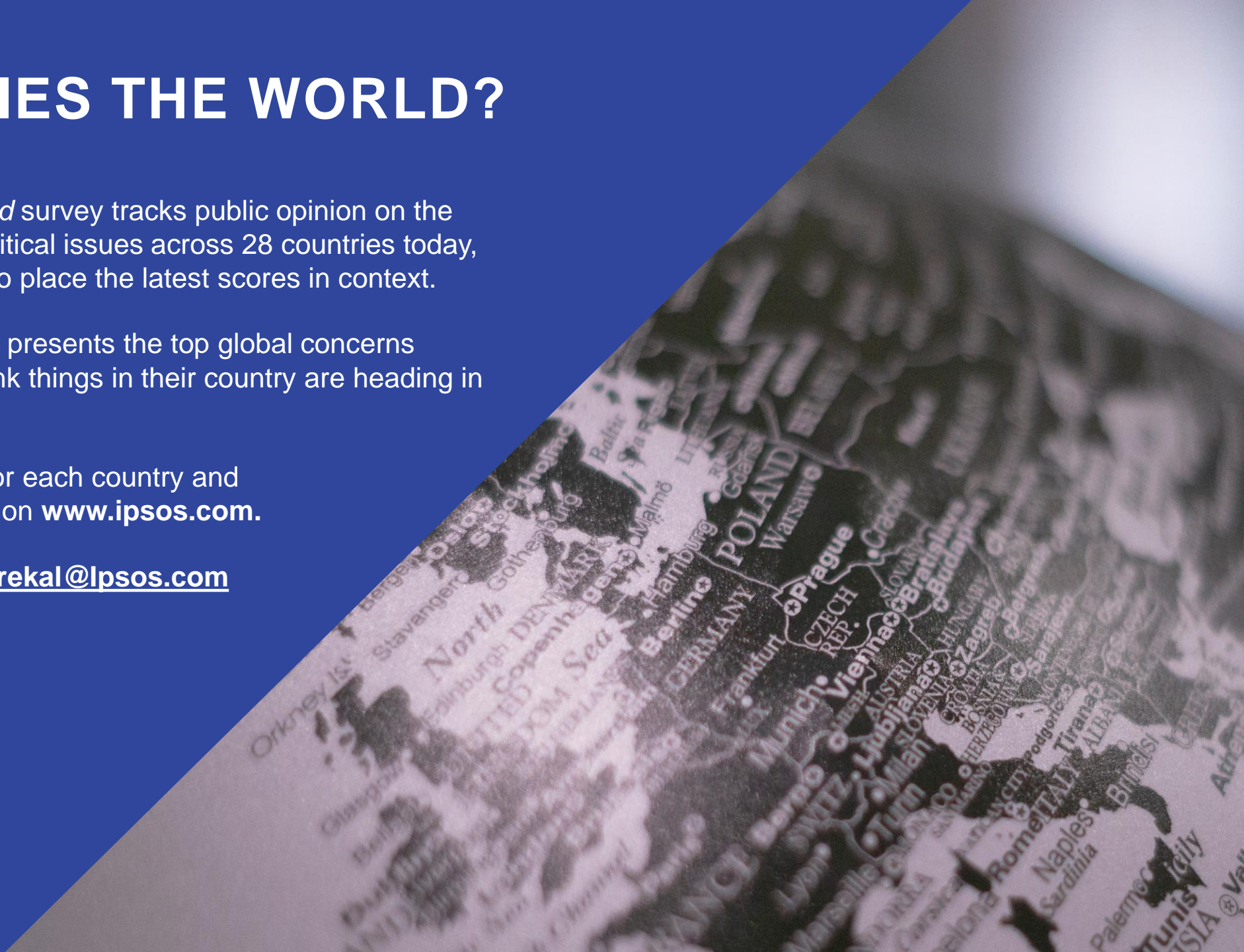
# WHAT WORRIES THE WORLD?

Ipsos' *What Worries the World* survey tracks public opinion on the most important social and political issues across 28 countries today, drawing on 10 years of data to place the latest scores in context.

This **global summary report** presents the top global concerns alongside whether people think things in their country are heading in the right or wrong direction.

Full breakdowns of findings for each country and each issue are also available on **[www.ipsos.com](http://www.ipsos.com)**.

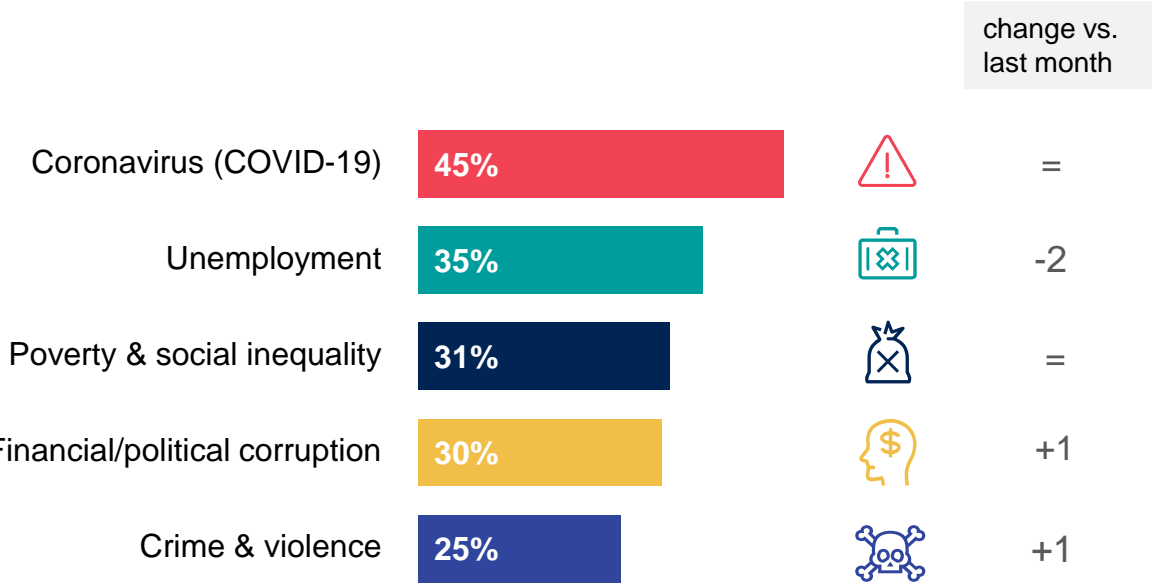
Please contact **[Teodros.Gebrekal@ipsos.com](mailto:Teodros.Gebrekal@ipsos.com)** for more information.



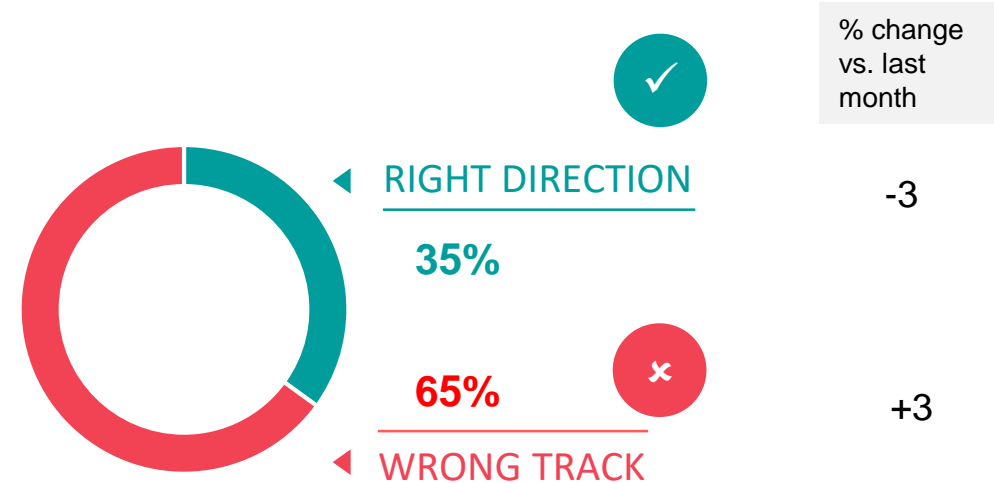
# WHAT WORRIES THE WORLD? APRIL 2021

Coronavirus remains the top concern since we started tracking it one year ago (April 2020). Level with last month, 45% say Covid-19 is one of the most worrying issues facing their country today. Meanwhile, two-thirds (65%) across all nations say things in their country are on the “wrong track”.

**Q** Which three of the following topics do you find the most worrying in your country?



**Q** Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?



**Base:** Representative sample of 20,524 adults aged 16-74 in 28 participating countries, March 26<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021.  
**Source:** Ipsos Global Advisor. *Global score is a Global Country Average. See methodology for details.*

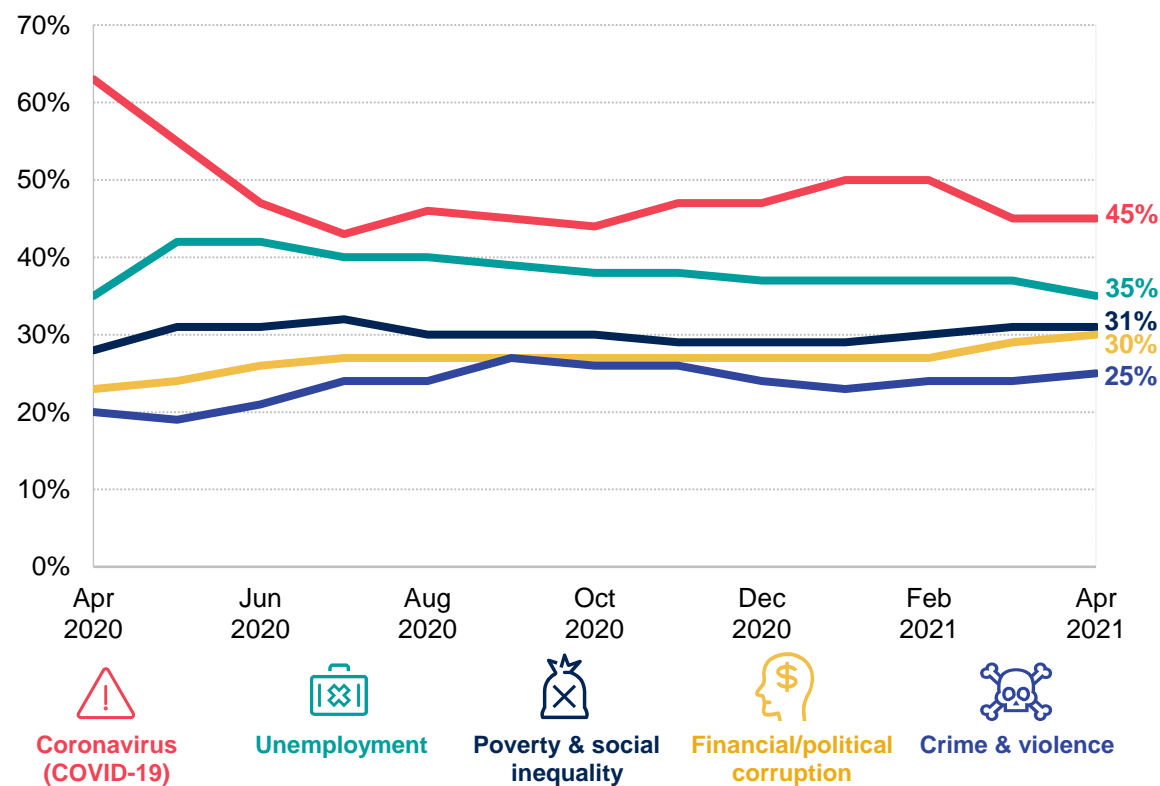




# WHAT WORRIES THE WORLD? 12-MONTH TREND

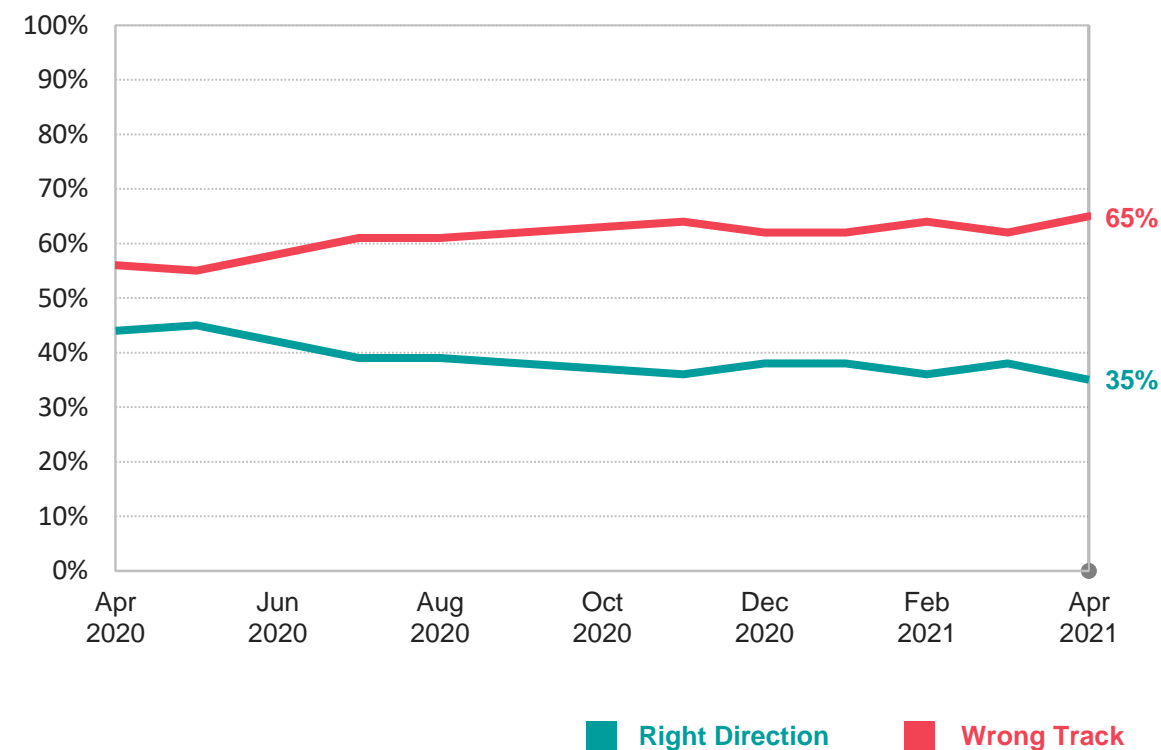
Q

Which three of the following topics do you find the most worrying in your country?



Q

Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?



Base: Representative sample of c.19,000 adults aged 16-74 in 28 participating countries, March 26<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

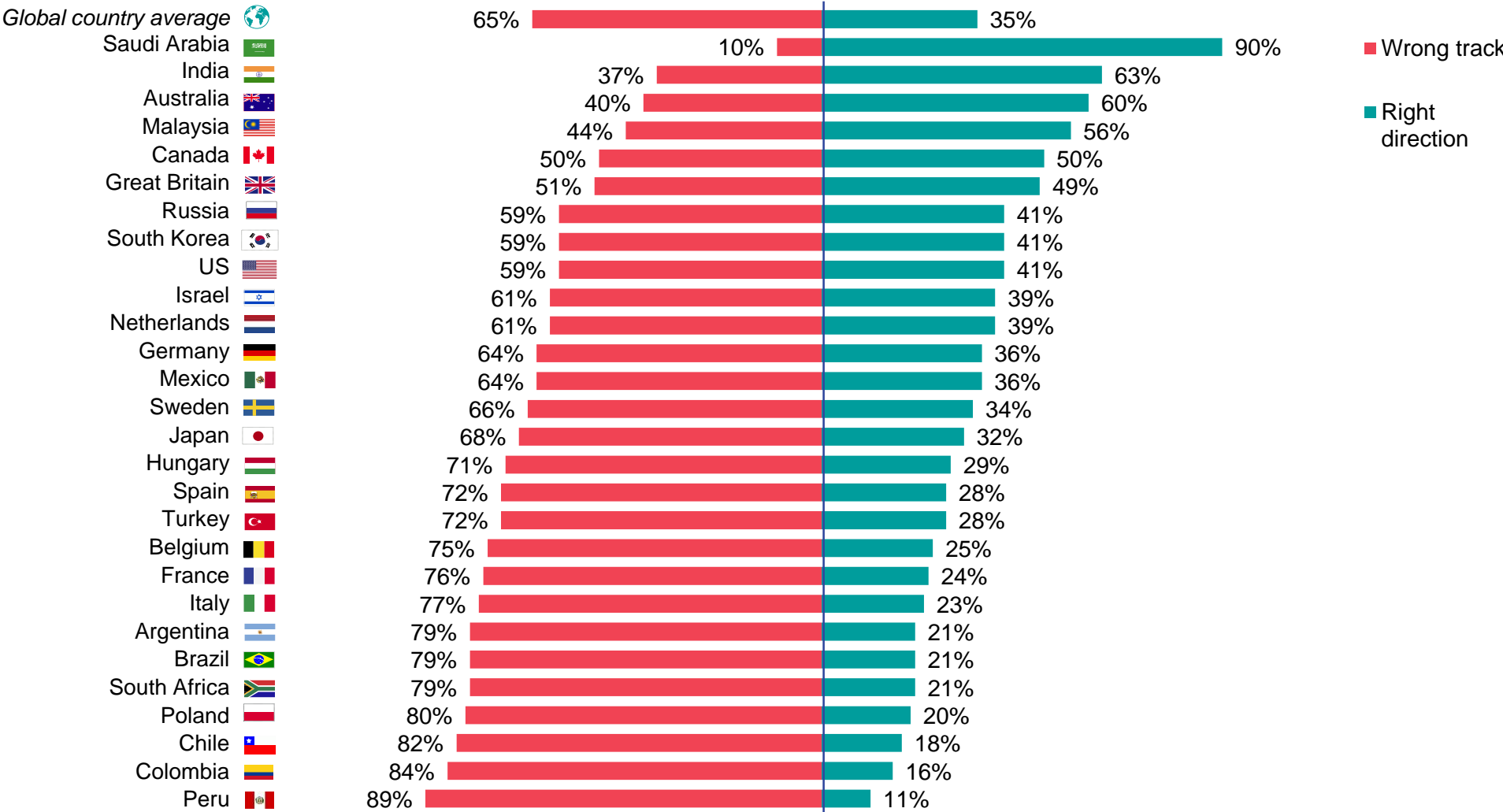
Source: Ipsos Global Advisor. Global score is a Global Country Average. See methodology for details.

# DIRECTION OF TRAVEL **ALL COUNTRIES**



# RIGHT DIRECTION VS. WRONG TRACK MONITOR

**Q** Would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?



Across the 28 nations surveyed, two-thirds (65%) on average say that things in their country are on the wrong track.

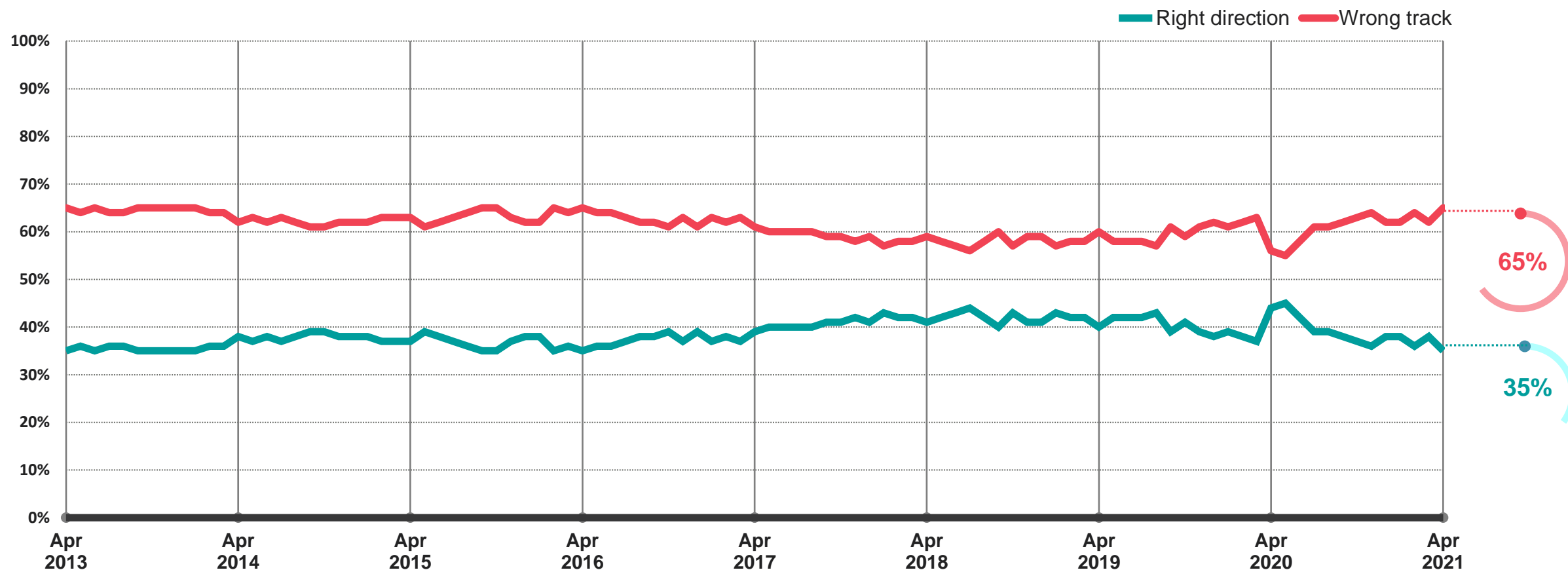
This rises to 89% in Peru (which held a general election shortly after fieldwork was conducted), making it the most pessimistic nation in terms of where things are heading for the fourth consecutive month. Its Latin American neighbours Colombia and Chile make up the three countries feeling least positive about the current situation.

We see the largest month-on-month increases in people saying things are on the “wrong track” in Germany (+12 points), Belgium (+8), Chile (+7) and Brazil (also +7).



# GLOBAL: RIGHT DIRECTION/WRONG TRACK

**Q** Would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?  
(Global country average score)



**Base:** Representative sample c. 20,000 adults aged 16-74 in 28 participating countries, 2013 - 2021.  
**Source:** Ipsos Global Advisor. *Global score is a Global Country Average. See methodology for details.*

# WORRIES THE WORLD? TOP ISSUES RANKED

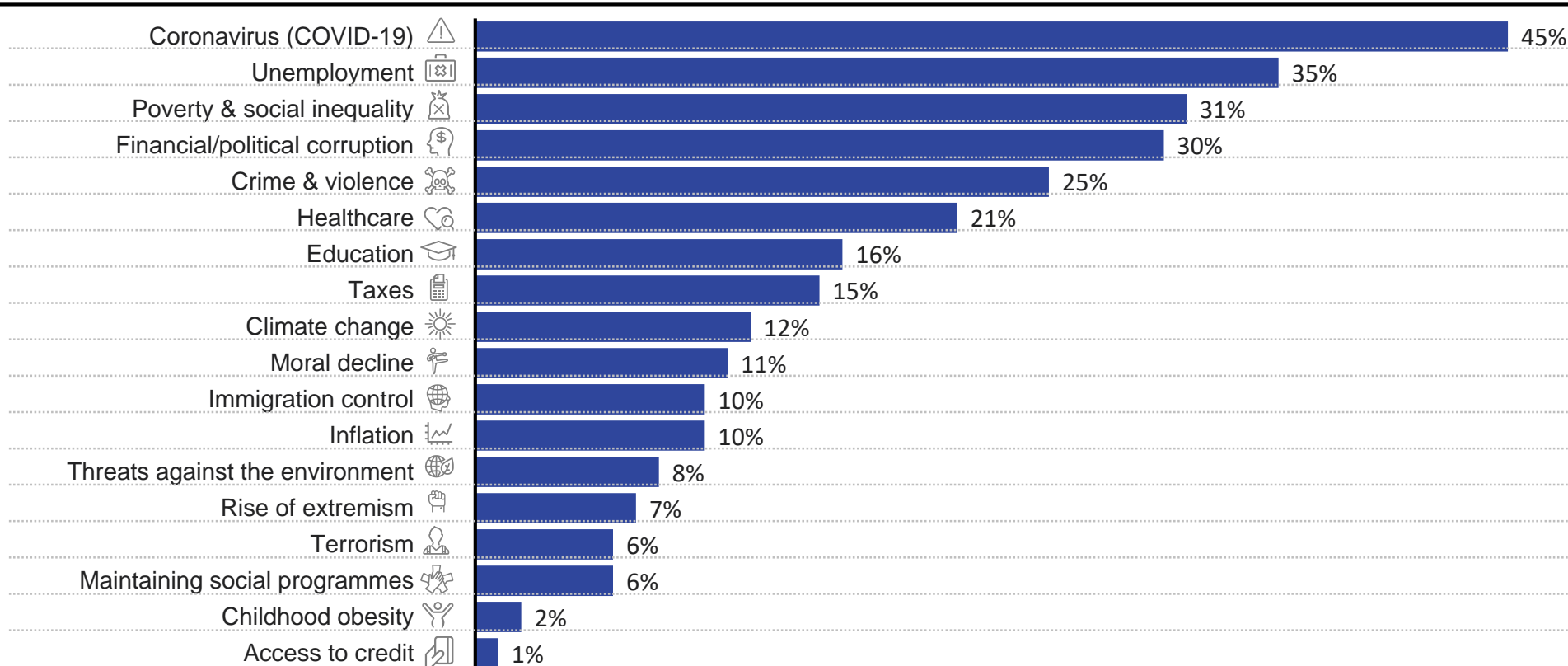




# WORLD WORRIES: THE FULL LIST

**Q** Which three of the following topics do you find the most worrying in your country?

% mentioned in April 2021 (global country average)



Our full ranking of the 18 issues in our survey gives an overview of what people in 28 countries worry about today.

Nearly one in two of our respondents worldwide (45%) say that Covid-19 is one of the top issues facing their country, level with last month – although there are differences at country level.

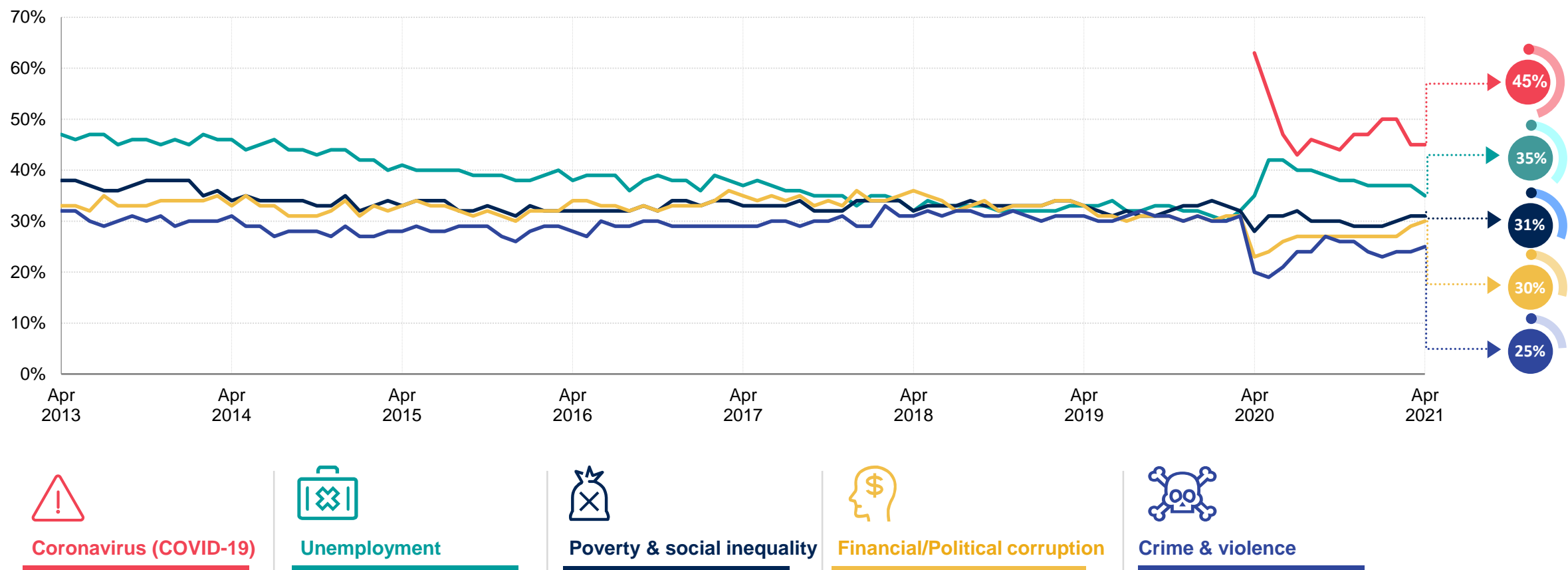
Unemployment is the second biggest issue across all countries at 35%, followed by Poverty & social inequality (31%), Financial/political corruption (30%) and Crime & violence (25%).

**Base:** Representative sample of 20,524 adults aged 16-74 in 28 participating countries, March 26<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021 .

**Source:** Ipsos Global Advisor. *Global score is a Global Country Average. See methodology for details.*

# WORLD WORRIES: LONG-TERM TREND

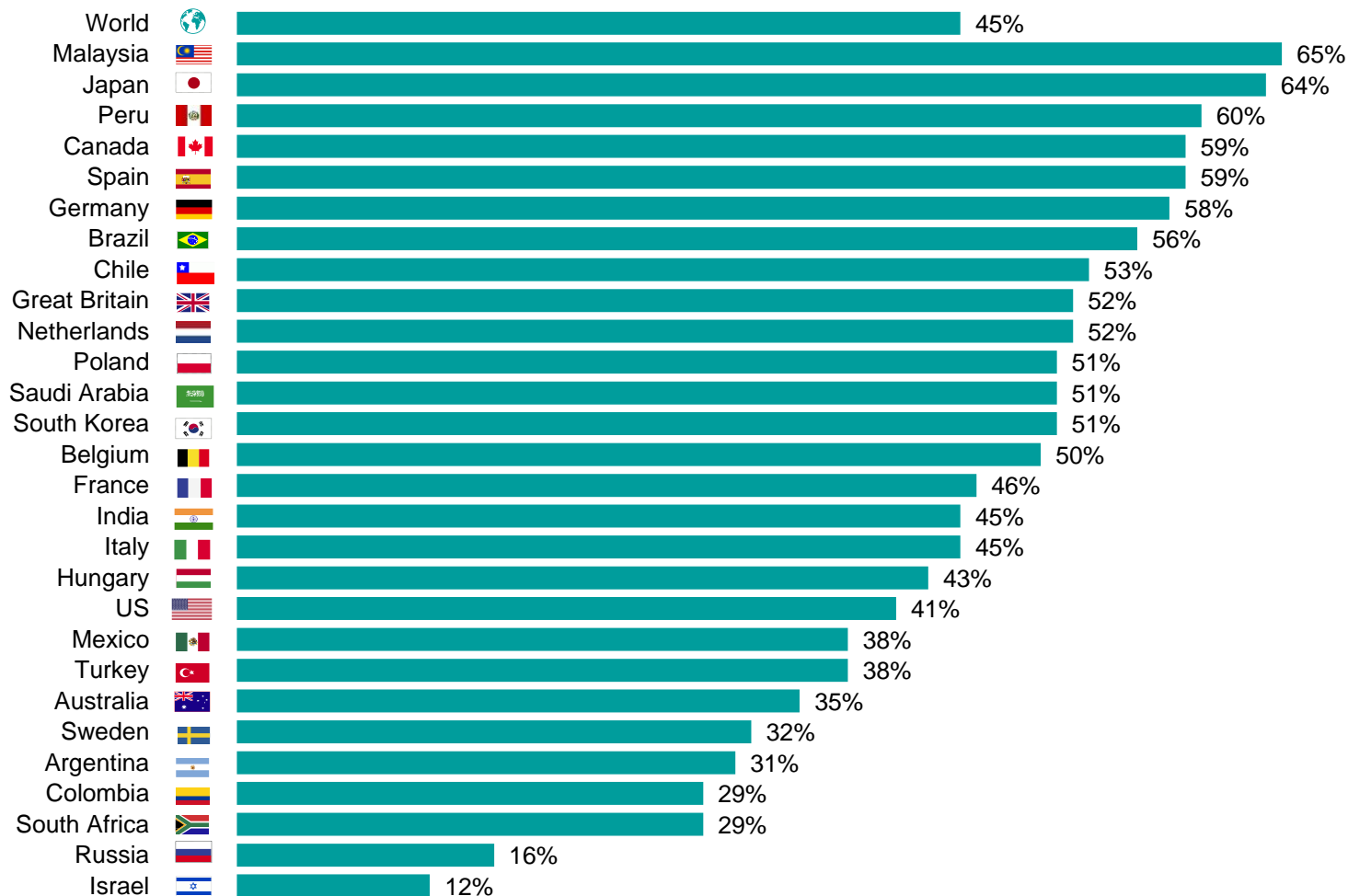
**Q** Which three of the following topics do you find the most worrying in your country?



**Base:** Representative sample c. 20,000 adults aged 16-74 in 28 participating countries, 2013 - 2021.  
**Source:** Ipsos Global Advisor. *Global score is a Global Country Average. See methodology for details.*

# 1 | CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

## (%) worried in April 2021 in each country



On average, almost half (45%) worldwide say Coronavirus is one of the biggest issues facing their country today. This is level with last month's score and down from the 50% recorded in Jan and Feb 2021.

However, Coronavirus is the number one ranked concern in more countries this month as Chile, India, Poland and South Korea take the total to 17/28.

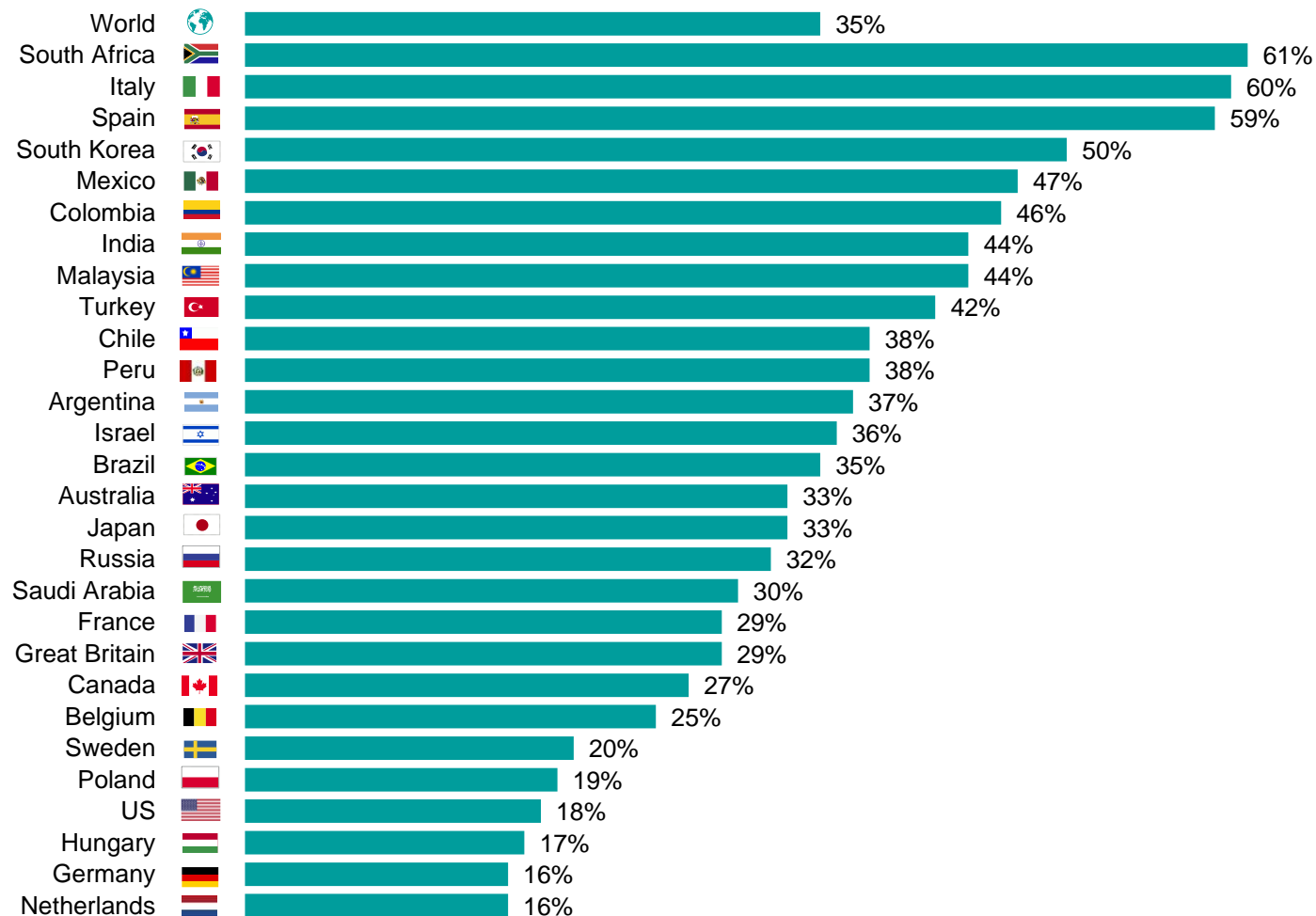
There have also been month-on-month increases in concern in many countries, most significantly Chile (+23 points to 53%), Argentina (+13 to 31%) and Turkey (+11 to 38%).

Compared to last month, we see a huge fall in concern about Coronavirus in Israel (-31 points), and significant drops in Great Britain (-8 points), Italy (-7 points) and Saudi Arabia (-6 points).

Malaysia remains the most worried nation for the seventh consecutive month, Japan's score increases 6 points to 64%, and Peru joins the top 3 most worried nations with 60%.

## 2 | UNEMPLOYMENT AND JOBS

(%) worried in April 2021 in each country



Unemployment is currently the second greatest worry worldwide with 35% selecting it as one of the most important issues facing their country today, down 2-points since last month. This is the lowest percentage recorded since April 2020, following elevated concern about jobs during the pandemic months.

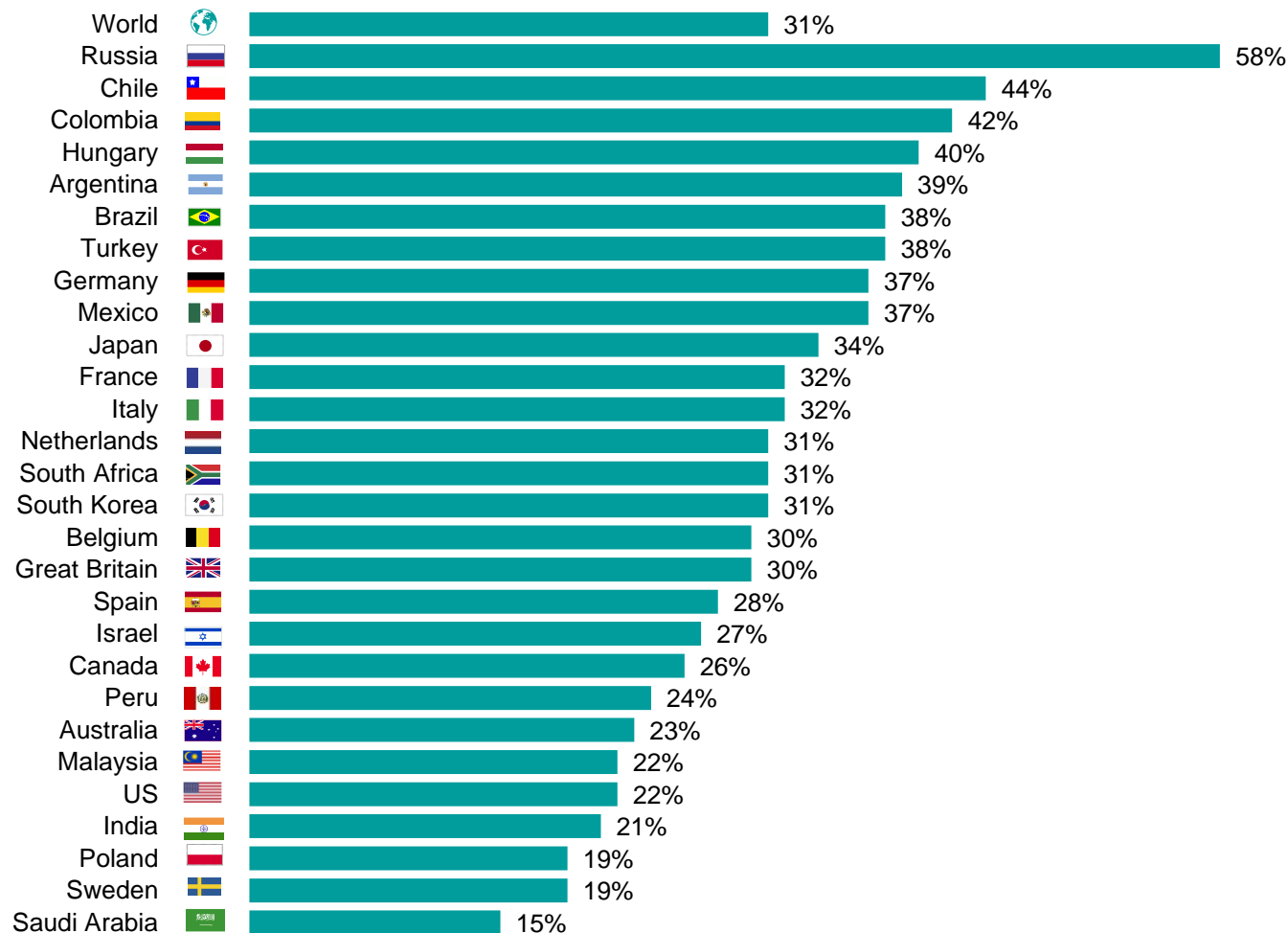
Six in ten in South Africa (61%), Italy (60%) and Spain (59%) count unemployment among the most important issues in their country today. It is also the number one worry in Colombia, Italy, South Africa and Turkey.

The largest month-on-month increase for this issue is seen in Chile (+6 points).



### 3 | POVERTY & SOCIAL INEQUALITY

(%) worried in April 2021 in each country



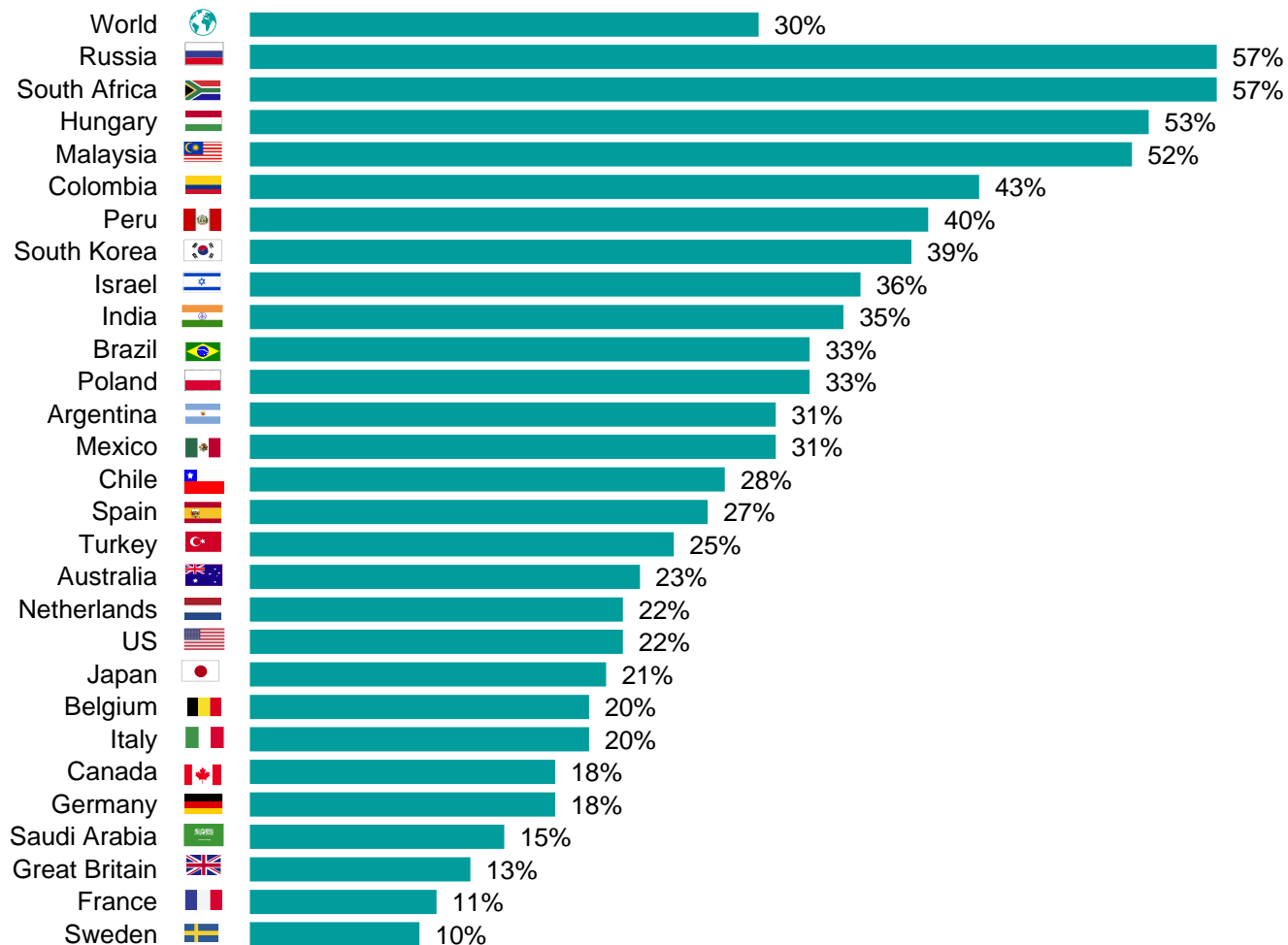
Three in ten (31%) across all countries say Poverty & social inequality is one of the top issues in their country today. This global country average score has remained stable over the past year.

Russia continues to occupy the top spot regarding concern about poverty & social inequality. Chile and Colombia (newly added this month) complete the top 3.

The largest increases for this issue compared to last month are seen in Brazil (+8 points), Mexico (+6), the Netherlands (also +6) and Peru (+5).

## 4 | FINANCIAL/POLITICAL CORRUPTION

(%) worried in April 2021 in each country



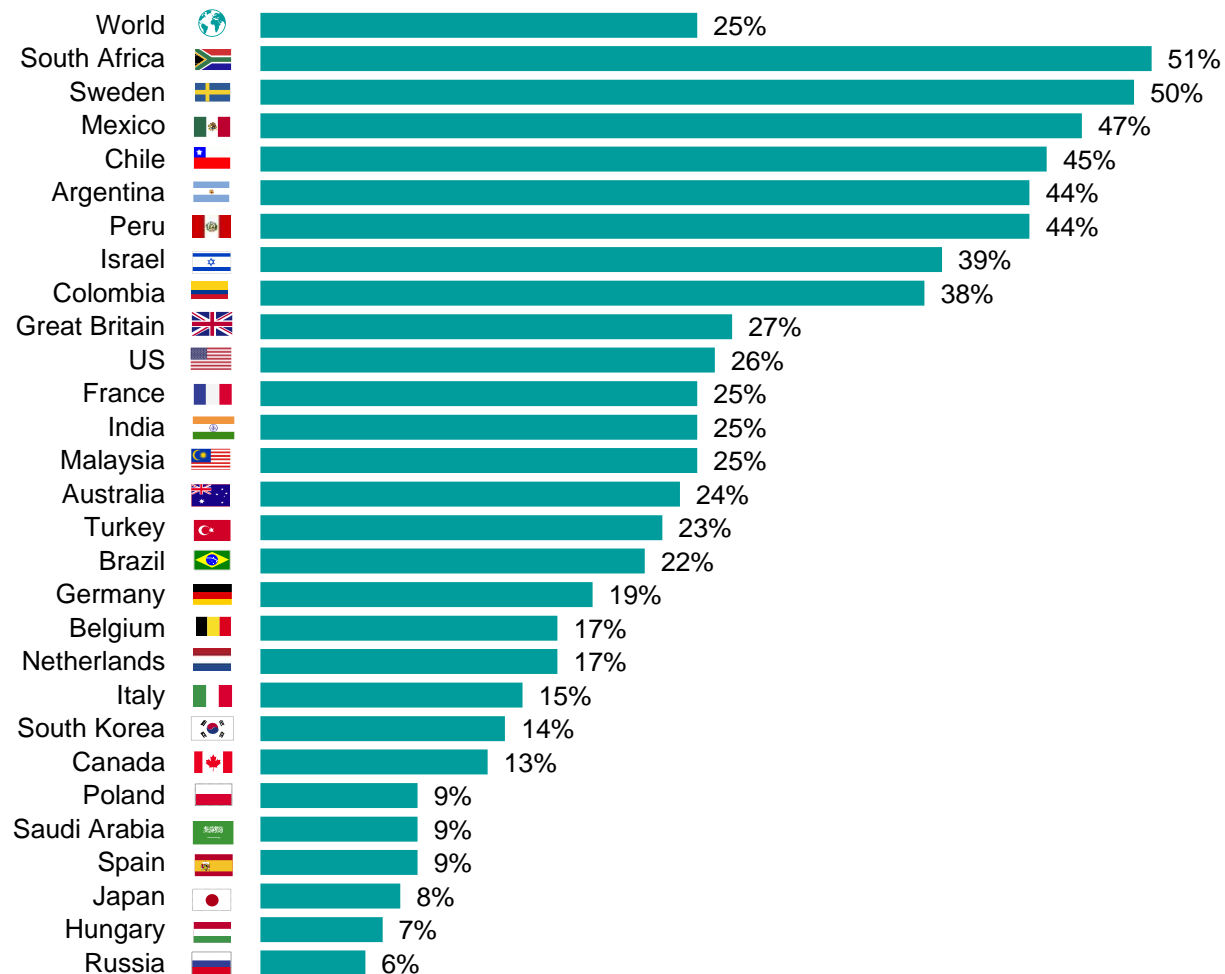
Financial/Political Corruption is the fourth greatest global concern. Our study shows 30% on average count it among the big issues facing their country today.

A 7-point increase in concern in South Africa and a 7-point decline in Russia means that both countries now share the top spot, with 57% of the public in each nation saying they are concerned about corruption.

Notable increases in reported worry about corruption are seen in South Korea (+10 points) and Saudi Arabia (also +10).

## 5 | CRIME & VIOLENCE

(%) worried in April 2021 in each country



Crime & violence is the 5<sup>th</sup> greatest worry in April with one in four across all countries selecting it as one of the most important issues facing their country.

This month, Crime & violence is the number one concern in Argentina, Israel and Sweden, while Mexicans are equally concerned about this and Unemployment.

The largest month-on-month increases in reported worry about Crime & violence are seen in Great Britain (+9), Israel (+8) and the US (+7).

# METHODOLOGY

This 28-country Global Advisor survey was conducted between March 26<sup>th</sup> and April 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 via the Ipsos Online Panel system among 20,524 adults aged 18-74 in Canada, Israel, Malaysia, South Africa, Turkey and the United States, and 16-74 in all 21 other countries. Colombia has been added to the list of countries surveyed for the April 2021 release.

The “Global Country Average” reflects the average result for all the countries where the survey was conducted. It has not been adjusted to the population size of each country and is not intended to suggest a total result.

The sample consists of approximately 1000+ individuals in each of Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Spain, Sweden, and the US, and approximately 500+ individuals in each of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Hungary, India, Malaysia, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, and Turkey.

The samples in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, and the US can be taken as representative of these countries’ general adult population under the age of 75.

The samples in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and Turkey are more urban, more educated, and/or more affluent than the general population. The survey results for these markets should be viewed as reflecting the views of the more “connected” segment of these populations.

Weighting has been employed to balance demographics and ensure that the sample’s composition reflects that of the adult population according to the most recent census data.

The precision of Ipsos online polls are 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 the Ipsos use of credibility intervals, please visit the Ipsos website.

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 publication of these findings abides by local rules and regulations.