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### World Divided on Whether COVID Is Contained, but Increasing Optimism We Are Turning the Corner

*Ipsos poll for Halifax International Security Forum finds New Zealand, Canada, Germany and Sweden seen as providing best leadership on COVID, while China and U.S. underperformed; support growing for opening borders*

**Toronto, ON, November 20, 2021** – Nearly two years into the pandemic, global citizens are divided on whether the COVID-19 outbreak has been contained, but signal increasing optimism the world is turning the corner on the pandemic, according to new Ipsos polling conducted on behalf of the Halifax International Security Forum. Across 28 countries surveyed, an average of 45% say that the COVID-19 outbreak has been contained and will soon be over, up 12 percentage points since last year. New Zealand (73%), Canada (73%), Germany (71%) and Sweden (70%) are the countries most widely viewed as having shown good leadership in handling the pandemic. Average support for closing domestic borders to control the virus stands at 56%, down 12 points since last year. This suggests global citizens on average are feeling less threatened today by the pandemic compared to the same time last year and are gradually coming around to the need for more open borders.

These are some of the findings of a survey of more than 22,000 adults conducted on Ipsos' Global Advisor online platform between September 24 and October 8, 2021.

#### Almost half feel the COVID-19 outbreak is contained and will soon be over

More than a year and half after the World Health Organization declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global pandemic, the public is sharply divided as to whether it is under control. A global country average of 45% indicates that the virus has been contained and the pandemic will soon be over. This is up 12 points from last year when 33% said the same. Citizens of Saudi Arabia (79%), India (77%), and Malaysia (69%), are the most likely to view the outbreak as being contained, while those of Canada (28%), Japan (28%), Australia (29%), and the U.S. (30%) are the least likely to hold this view.

#### Increasing views of COVID-19 containment found in nearly all countries

A year ago, COVID-19 cases were surging globally. In contrast, at the time of this year's survey, more than 6 billion COVID-19 vaccine doses had been administered, according to Oxford University's [Our World in Data](#). Perhaps, as a result, views that the pandemic is contained have risen in nearly every country surveyed. The proportion of those saying the pandemic is contained increased since last year in 24 of the 28 countries surveyed, with gains of ten points or more in 18 of them. Those showing the largest increases are Spain (+31 points to 49%), Chile (+26 to 47%), South Korea (+23 to 52%), and Peru (+21 to 47%). The only country showing a significant decrease is Russia (-11 to 41%), where daily new cases are at their highest since the beginning of the pandemic.

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## Improved views of Global Leadership on COVID-19

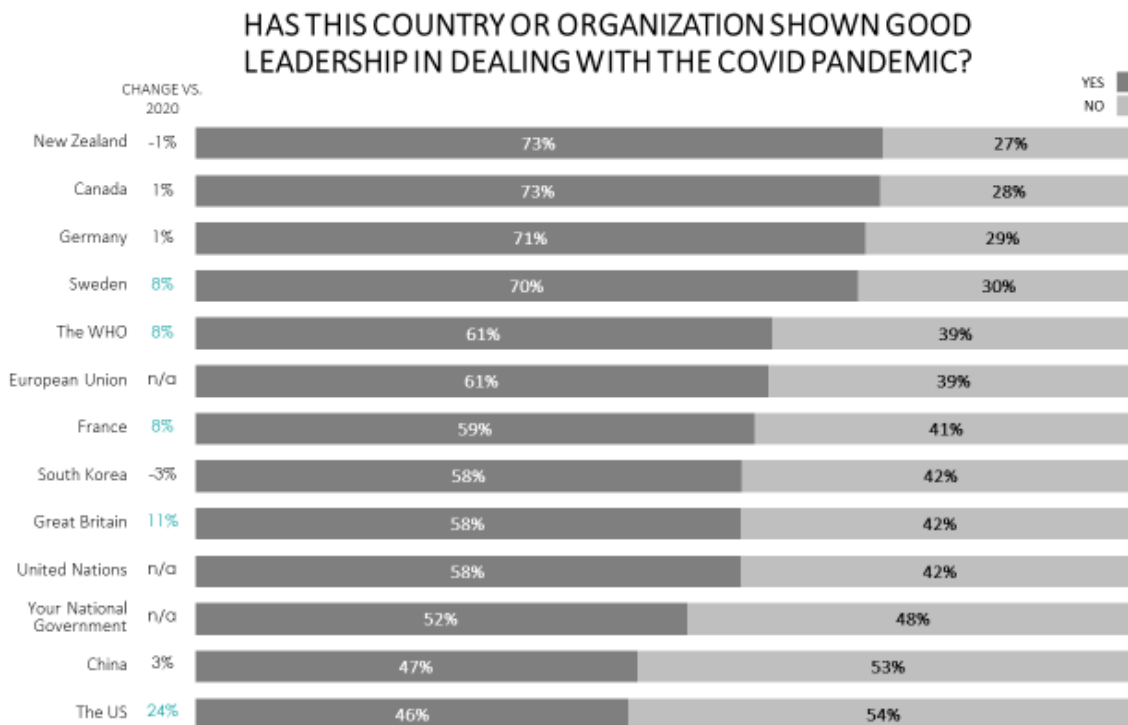
Among the 13 countries and institutions whose performance dealing with the COVID pandemic was evaluated, five see an increase in the average percentage of people indicating it has shown good leadership in dealing with the outbreak: the U.S. (+24 points to 46%), Great Britain (+11 to 58%), Sweden (+8% to 70%), France (8% to 59%), and the W.H.O. (8% to 61%). All other countries and organizations show changes of no more than +/- 3 points.

## New Zealand and Canada viewed as Global Leaders on COVID-19

New Zealand and Canada remain the two countries most widely viewed as showing good leadership in dealing with the pandemic – both by global country averages of 73%. They are followed closely by Germany (71%) and Sweden (70%). These four countries had the same rankings in last year’s study, despite having followed different approaches in managing the pandemic.

## The U.S., China, and one’s own government not so much

The U.S. (global country average of 46%) and China (47%) are the two countries measured in the survey that are least widely viewed as having shown good leadership in dealing with the pandemic. However, the average for one’s own national government is barely higher – 52%.



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### Canadians and Americans hold divergent views on Global Leadership

All but two of the 13 countries and organizations evaluated are perceived by majorities of Canadians to have exhibited good leadership. In contrast, only about one in four Canadians think so of China and the U.S. (27% in both cases). However, compared with last year, this represents a 15-point increase for the U.S. In contrast, the percentage of Canadians who give good marks to their own country (68%) is down by 14 points.

In the U.S., views on how many countries and organizations managed the pandemic are less rosy than they were a year ago. The only country that more Americans rate as having shown good leadership compared to last year is their own – up by 7 points to 46%. On the other hand, seven of the ten countries and organizations previously evaluated see a decrease of at least 9 points – most of all Canada (-15 points to 69%), South Korea (-15 to 49%), New Zealand (-14 to 67%), and Germany (-14 to 62%).

### COVID-19 border closure still supported by a majority, but a smaller one

Averaging at 56% across the 28 countries surveyed, those who say that their country's borders should be closed until the pandemic is proven to be contained make up a majority in 19 of them. Citizens of Malaysia (85%), India (75%), and Turkey (70%) are the most likely to support this policy, while those in the Netherlands (34%), Belgium (40%), Italy (42%), Poland (42%), and Germany are the least likely to do so.

As belief that the virus has been contained has grown since last year by 12 points, support for closing borders has receded accordingly – from 67% to 56%. The proportion of those in favor of closing borders has decreased by at least 4 points in 25 of the 28 countries surveyed – and by 10 points or more in 18 of them. Countries showing the largest decreases from last year are Italy (-25 points to 42%), Argentina (-21 to 61%), Canada (-21 to 54%), Spain (-19 to 47%), and Peru (-19 to 62%).

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### About the Study

These are the results of a 28-market survey conducted by Ipsos on its Global Advisor online platform. Ipsos interviewed a total of 22,016 adults aged 18-74 in the United States, Canada, Malaysia, South Africa, and Turkey, and adults aged 16-74 in 23 other markets between Friday, September 24 and Friday, October 8, 2021.

The sample consists of approximately 1,000 individuals in each of Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, mainland China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Spain, and the U.S., and 500 individuals in each of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Hungary, India, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, 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 U.S. can be taken as representative of their general adult population under the age of 75.

The samples in Brazil, Chile, mainland China, 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 countries should be viewed as reflecting the views of the more “connected” segment of their 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.

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

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 know” or not stated responses.

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

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

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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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