



PRESS RELEASE

Earth Day 2022: Global attitudes to climate change

Awareness of government actions to combat climate change is low in most countries despite high level of concern

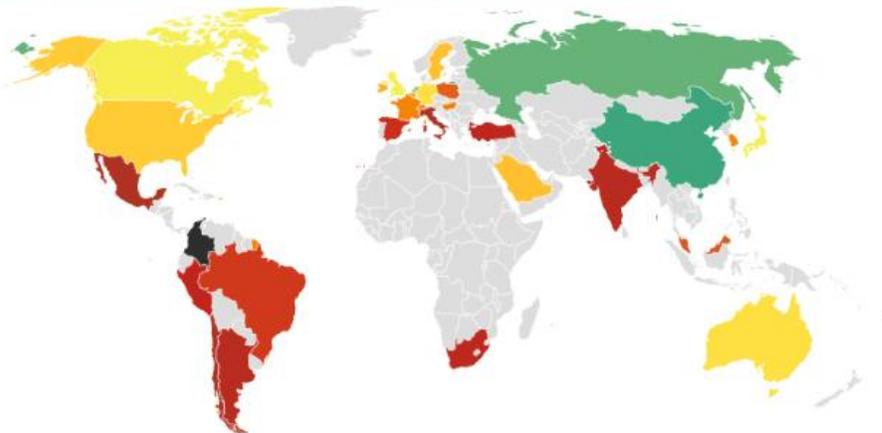
Washington, DC, April 18, 2022 — A new global Ipsos surveys find that, on average across 31 countries, half of adults (48%) worry about climate change. In Colombia, Chile, Mexico, Argentina, and Italy, more than two-thirds say that they have worried a great deal or a fair amount about climate change in the past two or three weeks, but fewer than three in 10 in China and Russia say so. In the United States, 38% report worrying at least a fair amount about climate change, but 29% say do not worry about it at all – a higher percentage than in any of the other 30 countries.

Key findings

- People are about equally likely to say that of their country's **government**, of its **businesses**, and of **individuals** that they **need to act now or risk failing future generations** (68%-70% globally; 61%-62% in the U.S.)
- Only **39% on average across 31 countries**, and **27% of Americans** agree that **their government has a clear plan in place to tackle climate change**
- People across the world, including Americans, are **split on whether** their country and other countries will make **significant progress** to mitigate climate change in this next decade
- The public see **high-profile sectors associated with carbon emissions** as having a **greater responsibility for reducing their contribution to climate change** – particularly energy companies, sectors associated with transportation, and household goods

Climate change: a regular concern for half of people globally

To what extent, if at all, have you worried about climate change in the last 2-3 weeks?





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While climate change may not regularly be on people’s minds, it is not unrecognized. Seven in 10 globally (68%) are concerned about the impacts already being seen in their country, especially in South Africa and Chile, while a similar proportion (70%) worry about effects already seen in other countries. Among Americans, 61% are concerned about its effects in the U.S. and 60% about its effect in other countries.

The public recognizes that the onus to reduce carbon emissions sits firmly on the shoulders of the individual. Nearly three-quarters (74% globally, 71% in the U.S.) agree that individuals are responsible for reducing their contribution to climate change by reducing carbon emission. The highest proportions are found in South Africa (87%), Colombia (86%), Peru (84%) and Chile (84%). However, this does not excuse governments and businesses from doing their part: 77% globally and 73% in the U.S. say a great deal or a fair amount of responsibility lies with government while 76% globally and 73% in the U.S. say the same for businesses.

Who is responsible for reducing carbon emissions - Global country average

How much responsibility, if any do each of the following have to reduce their contribution to climate change by reducing carbon emissions?



Some business sectors are seen as having a greater responsibility for reducing their contribution to climate change – particularly energy companies (82% globally, 79% in the U.S.), auto manufacturers (80%, 77%), airlines (77%, 76%), public transportation providers (77%, 75%), and household goods manufacturers (74%, 70%).

While the responsibility of governments is recognized by many, few are aware of any actions being taken. Only 39% on average globally and 27% in the U.S. agree that their country’s government has a clear strategy to tackle climate change. There is little difference in countries who already have legally binding commitments to achieving net zero such as Great Britain (39%), France (34%), Hungary (29%) and Sweden (38%).

Mallory Newall, Vice President, Ipsos Public Affairs said: "While some Americans appreciate the threat that climate change represents, it is less of an urgent concern relative to broader economic or health concerns. And while a majority believe that people, businesses, and government all have a responsibility to tackle this issue, few Americans see our government as having a clear plan in place to do so."

About the Study

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These are the findings of a 31-country Ipsos survey conducted February 18 – March 4, 2022, among 23,577 adults aged 18-74 in the United States, Canada, Ireland (Republic), Malaysia, South Africa, and Turkey, 16+ in Norway, and 16-74 in 24 other countries, via Ipsos's Global Advisor online survey platform.

Each country's sample consists of ca. 1,000 individuals in each of Australia, Brazil, Canada, mainland China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Norway, Spain, and the United States and ca. 500 individuals in each of Argentina, Belgium, Chile, Colombia, Hungary, India, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, and Turkey.

The samples in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States can be taken as representative of these countries' 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 data is weighted so that each market's sample composition best reflects the demographic profile of the adult population according to the most recent census data.

The Global average reflects the average result of all the countries and markets where the survey was conducted that year. 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 knows 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's use of credibility intervals, please visit the Ipsos website.

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

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ISIN code FR0000073298, Reuters ISOS.PA, Bloomberg IPS:FP

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