



## PRESS RELEASE

### While still dominant, broken-system sentiment is receding in many countries

Trends suggest elections have a dampening effect on anti-establishment feeling

**December 5, 2022** — The prevailing view among citizens of most of the countries recently surveyed by Ipsos is that their political and economic system is broken. On average across 28 countries, 64% feel the economy of their country is rigged to advantage the rich and powerful and 63% say that traditional parties and politicians don't care about people like them.

The survey conducted from September to early November among more than 26,000 online adults finds that, among all countries surveyed, anti-establishment feelings are most widespread in Romania, Turkey, Thailand, and South Africa, and least so in Sweden and Germany.

However, broken-system sentiment has receded since March-April 2021 when Ipsos conducted a similar survey in 24 of the 28 countries. It has declined steeply in Chile, Colombia, South Korea, Italy, Brazil, and Peru – all countries where elections resulted in a change of governing party. The only countries showing a significant increase in broken-system sentiment are Great Britain and Turkey.

#### Anti-establishment sentiment indicators

To measure the magnitude of anti-establishment sentiment, Ipsos has developed the Broken-System Index, a peer-reviewed composite metric based on the level of agreement or disagreement with five statements.

### RANGE OF BROKEN-SYSTEM SENTIMENT – SEPT-NOV 2022

| % agree   | 28-country average | Highest:                         | Lowest:  |
|---|--------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| [Country's] <b>economy is rigged</b> to advantage the rich and powerful                           | 64%                | Romania (78%)<br>Hungary (75%)   | Sweden (45%)<br>Netherlands (55%)<br>Germany (55%) |
| Traditional <b>parties and politicians don't care about</b> people like me                        | 63%                | Romania (79%)<br>Turkey (70%)    | Sweden (44%)<br>Netherlands (45%)                  |
| [Country] needs a <b>strong leader to take</b> the country <b>back from the rich and powerful</b> | 59%                | Romania (74%)<br>Indonesia (70%) | Germany (37%)<br>Sweden (38%)                      |
| <b>Experts</b> in this country <b>don't understand</b> the lives of people like me                | 59%                | Peru (70%)<br>Turkey (69%)       | Sweden (42%)<br>Netherlands (45%)                  |
| To fix [Country], we need a <b>strong leader</b> willing to <b>break the rules</b>                | 45%                | Thailand (74%)<br>Turkey (70%)   | Sweden (27%)<br>Germany (29%)                      |



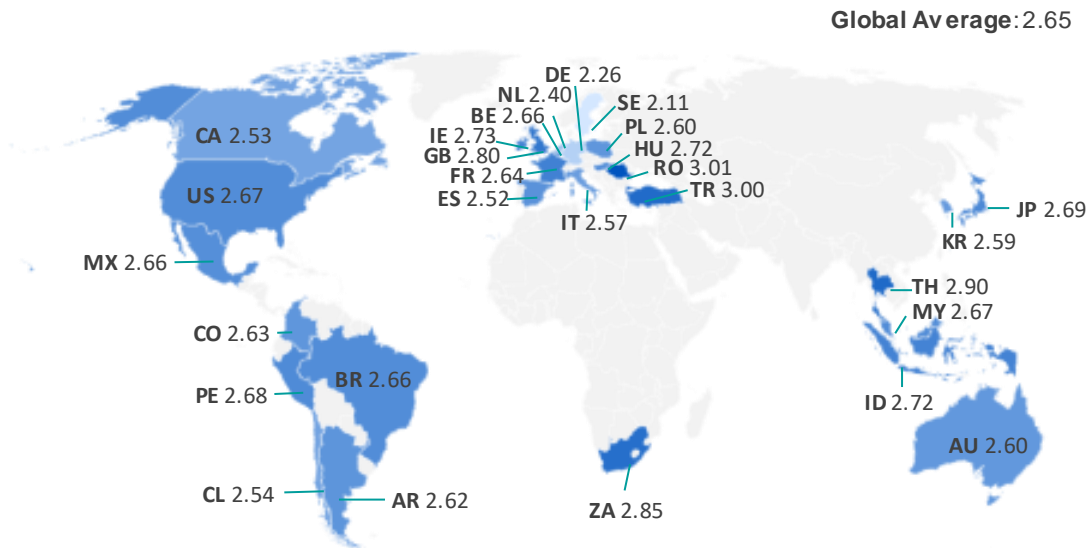
## PRESS RELEASE

On average across 28 countries, about six in ten adults surveyed agree that their country's economy is rigged to favor the rich and powerful, that traditional parties and politicians don't care about people like them, that their country needs a strong leader to take the country back from the rich and powerful, and that experts don't understand the lives of people like them. Just under half agree that, to fix it, their country needs a strong leader willing to break rules

### *Broken-System Index rankings*

Among the 28 countries surveyed, those with the highest Broken-System Index scores are Romania (3.01), followed by Turkey (3.00), Thailand (2.90), South Africa (2.85), and Great Britain (2.80). Those with the lowest scores are Sweden (2.11), Germany (2.26), and the Netherlands (2.40). The index averages at 2.65 across all countries.

## IPSOS BROKEN-SYSTEM INDEX



### *Do elections restore trust in the system?*

Across the 24 countries already surveyed in March-April 2021, the Broken-System Index has receded by an average of 0.12 points.

Only four of the 24 countries show any uptick in their index score: one too small to be significant in the case of Belgium and the Netherlands, but a significant one in the case of Great Britain (+0.19 points) and Turkey. None of these countries underwent a general or presidential election since the last survey.



## PRESS RELEASE

In contrast, 20 countries show a drop – albeit a very small one in several cases. All but three of them had a major national election in the past 18 months. Furthermore, in all six countries showing a drop of more than 0.35 points – Chile, Colombia, South Korea, Italy, Brazil, and Peru – the election brought in a new head of government hailing from a different party than their incumbent.

This suggests that national elections may act as a pressure valve for anti-establishment sentiment and help restore trust in the system.

## BROKEN-SYSTEM INDEX AND ELECTIONS

|               | Broken-System Index change since March-April 2021 | National election since April 2021 (or campaign in progress) | Type of election             | Change of head of government's party |
|---------------|---|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Chile         | -0.49   | Yes  | Presidential and General     | Yes                                  |
| Colombia      | -0.48   | Yes  | Presidential                 | Yes                                  |
| Italy         | -0.38   | Yes  | General                      | Yes                                  |
| South Korea   | -0.38   | Yes  | Presidential                 | Yes                                  |
| Brazil        | -0.37   | Yes  | Presidential and General     | Yes                                  |
| Peru          | -0.36   | Yes  | Presidential and General     | Yes                                  |
| Spain         | -0.19   |  |                              |                                      |
| Argentina     | -0.18   | Yes  | Legislative                  | No                                   |
| Mexico        | -0.17   | Yes  | Legislative                  | N/A                                  |
| Poland        | -0.15   |  |                              |                                      |
| Hungary       | -0.15   | Yes  | Parliamentary                | No                                   |
| United States | -0.14   | Yes (after survey)   | Midterm                      | N/A                                  |
| South Africa  | -0.13   |  |                              |                                      |
| France        | -0.11   | Yes  | Presidential and legislative | No                                   |
| Australia     | -0.09   | Yes  | Federal                      | Yes                                  |
| Malaysia      | -0.09   | Yes (after survey)   | General                      | N/A                                  |
| Germany       | -0.08   | Yes  | Parliamentary                | Yes                                  |
| Japan         | -0.06   | Yes  | General                      | No                                   |
| Canada        | -0.04   | Yes  | Federal                      | No                                   |
| Sweden        | -0.04   | Yes  | General                      | Yes                                  |
| Belgium       | +0.05   |  |                              |                                      |
| Netherlands   | +0.08   |  |                              |                                      |
| Great Britain | +0.19   |  |                              |                                      |
| Turkey        | +0.20   |  |                              |                                      |

### *Corruption and distrust*

Broken-system sentiment and perceptions of widespread corruption tend to go hand in hand.

A comparison of Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (CPI) with the Broken-System Index in each of the 28 countries surveyed by Ipsos finds them strongly correlated. Among them, Sweden, Germany, and the Netherlands both show the highest CPI scores (meaning they have the lowest levels of perceived corruption) and the lowest scores on Ipsos's Broken-System Index.

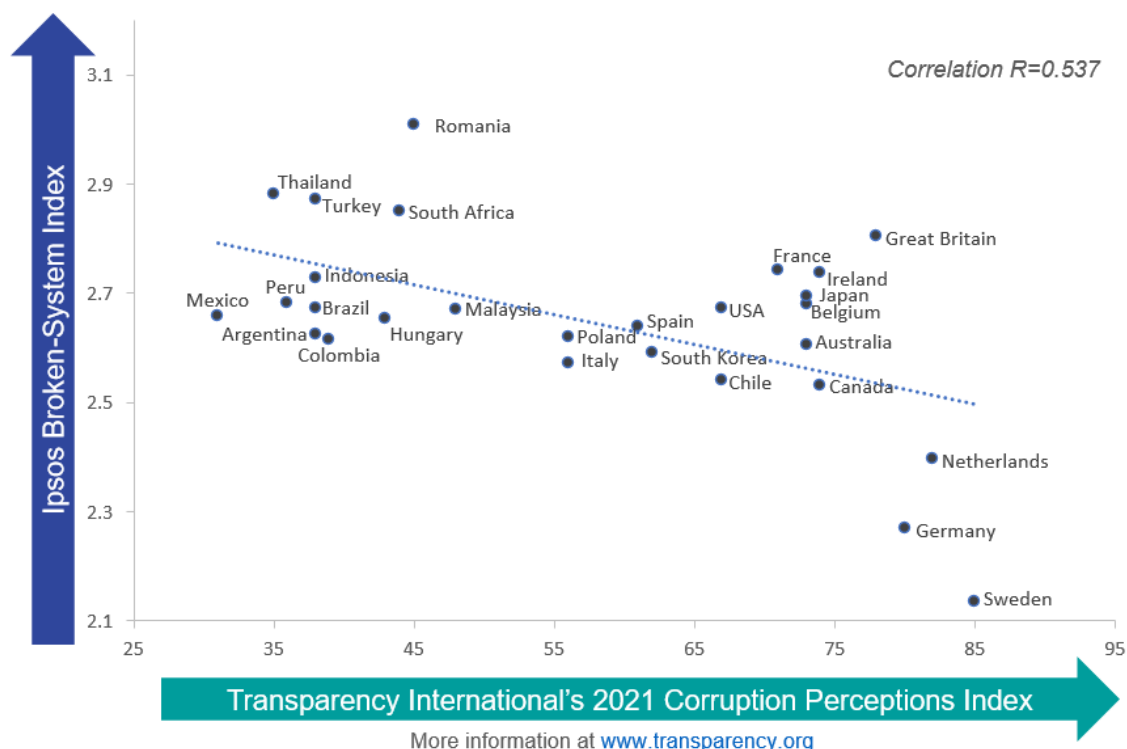


## PRESS RELEASE

In contrast, the four countries with the highest scores on Ipsos' Broken-System Index have a relatively low CPI score.

This suggests that the sentiment that corruption is commonplace triggers feelings that the system is broken – unless distrust of the system encourages corrupt practices by making them seem justified.

### BROKEN-SYSTEM INDEX VS. CORRUPTION PERCEPTIONS INDEX





## PRESS RELEASE

### About the Study

These are the findings of a 28-country Ipsos survey conducted September 23 – November 4, 2022, among 26,007 adults aged 18-74 in Canada, Malaysia, South Africa, Turkey, and the United States, 20-74 in Thailand, 21-74 in Indonesia, and 16-74 in 21 other countries, via Ipsos's Global Advisor online survey platform.

Each country's sample consists of ca. 1,000 individuals in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Romania, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Thailand and the U.S., and ca. 500 individuals in Belgium, Hungary, Ireland (Republic), and Turkey.

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

The samples in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, South Africa, Thailand, 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 their 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 +/- 4.8 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.

### For more information on this news release, please contact:

Nicolas Boyon  
Senior Vice President, Public Affairs, U.S.  
[Nicolas.Boyon@ipsos.com](mailto:Nicolas.Boyon@ipsos.com)



## PRESS RELEASE

### About Ipsos

Ipsos is one of the largest market research and polling companies globally, operating in 90 markets and employing over 18,000 people.

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. Our 75 solutions are based on primary data from our surveys, social media monitoring, and qualitative or observational techniques.

Our tagline "Game Changers" sums up our ambition to help our 5,000 customers move confidently through a rapidly changing world.

Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos has been listed on the Euronext Paris since July 1, 1999. The company is part of the SBF 120 and Mid-60 indices and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD). ISIN code FR0000073298, Reuters ISOS.PA, Bloomberg IPS:FP [www.ipsos.com](http://www.ipsos.com)