

Perils of perception, prejudice, and conspiracy theories



Ipsos survey for the 20th edition of the *Entretiens de Royaumont*

Survey conducted among 10,000 people on the Ipsos Digital platform from 22 to 25 November 2023



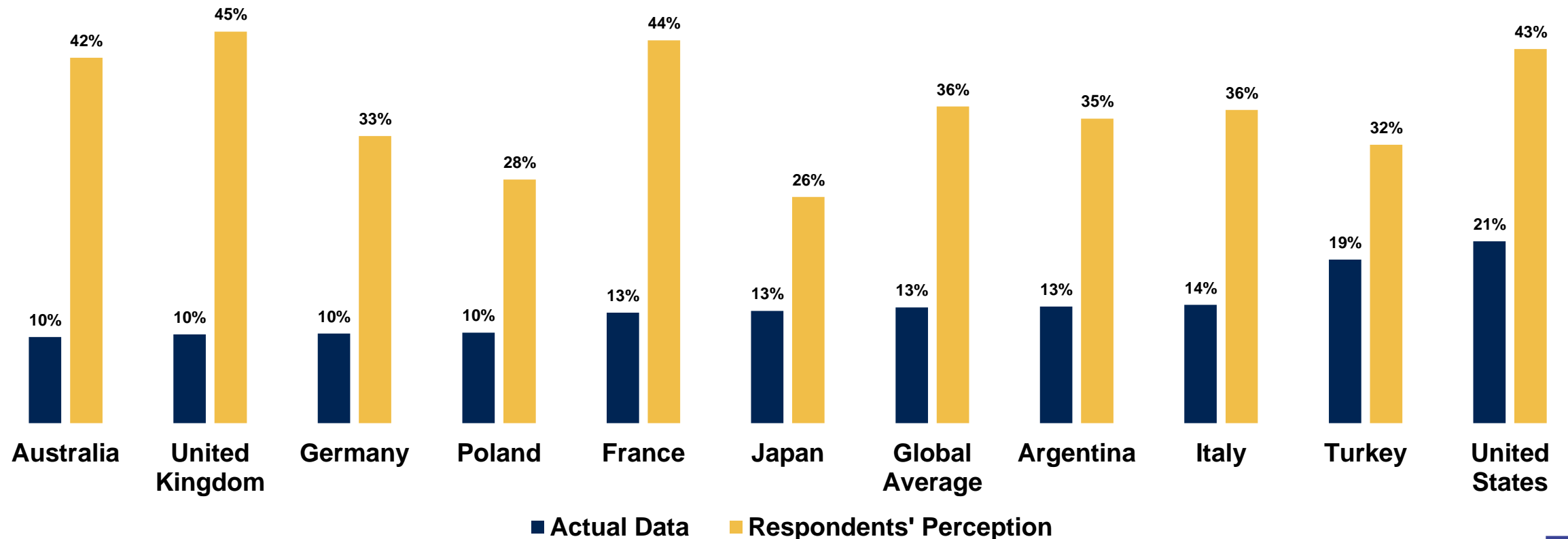
December 2023



**The gap between
reality and perception
is often massive – in
most countries**

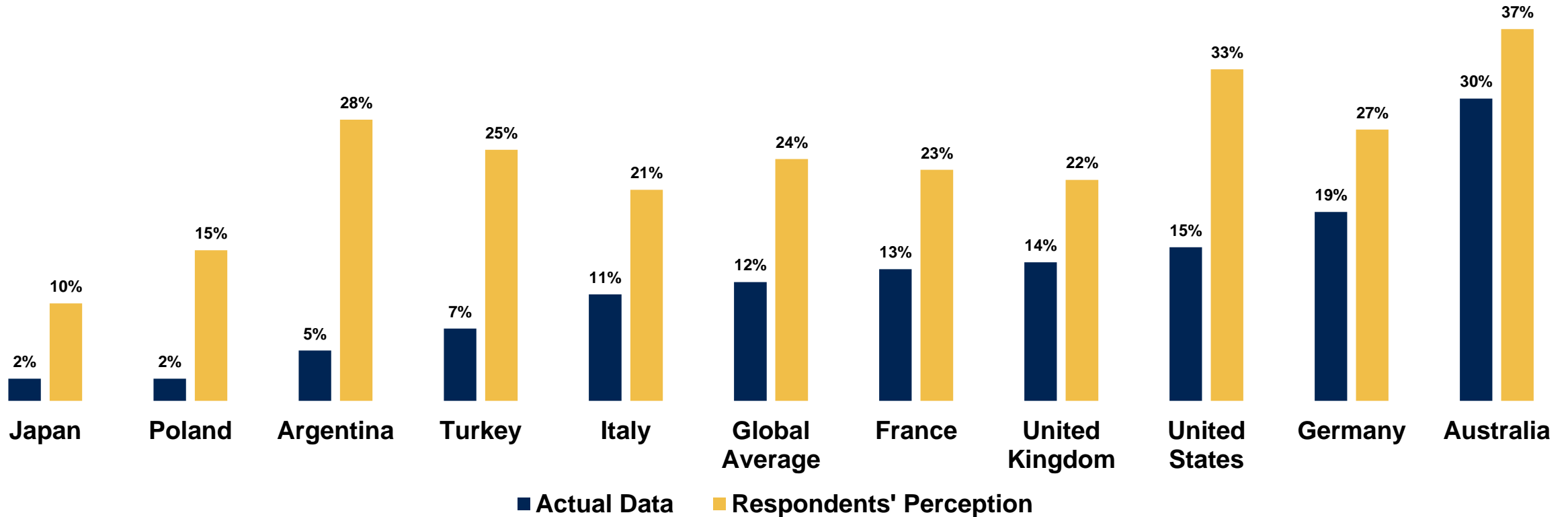
Inequality

What percentage of your country's total household wealth do you think is owned by the top 1% of richest households?



Immigration

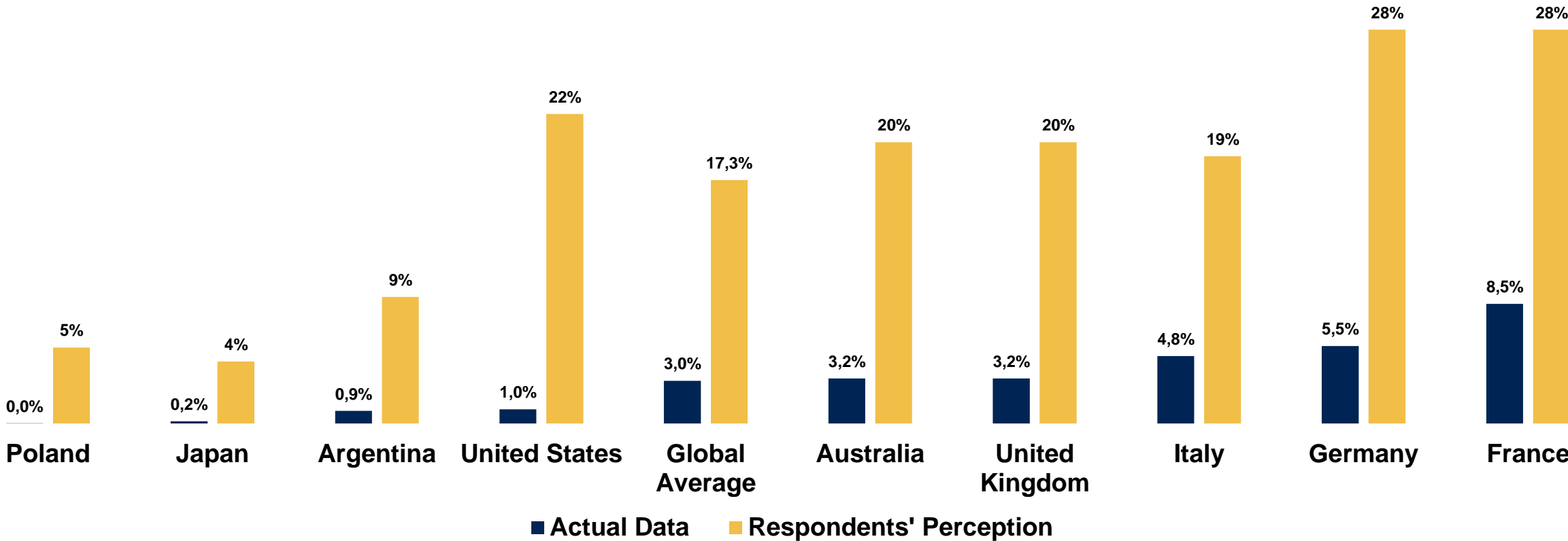
What percentage of your country's population do you think immigrants (i.e., people born in another country) represent?



Sources: International Organisation for Migration (IOM), *World Migration Report 2022*. Ipsos

Culture and religion

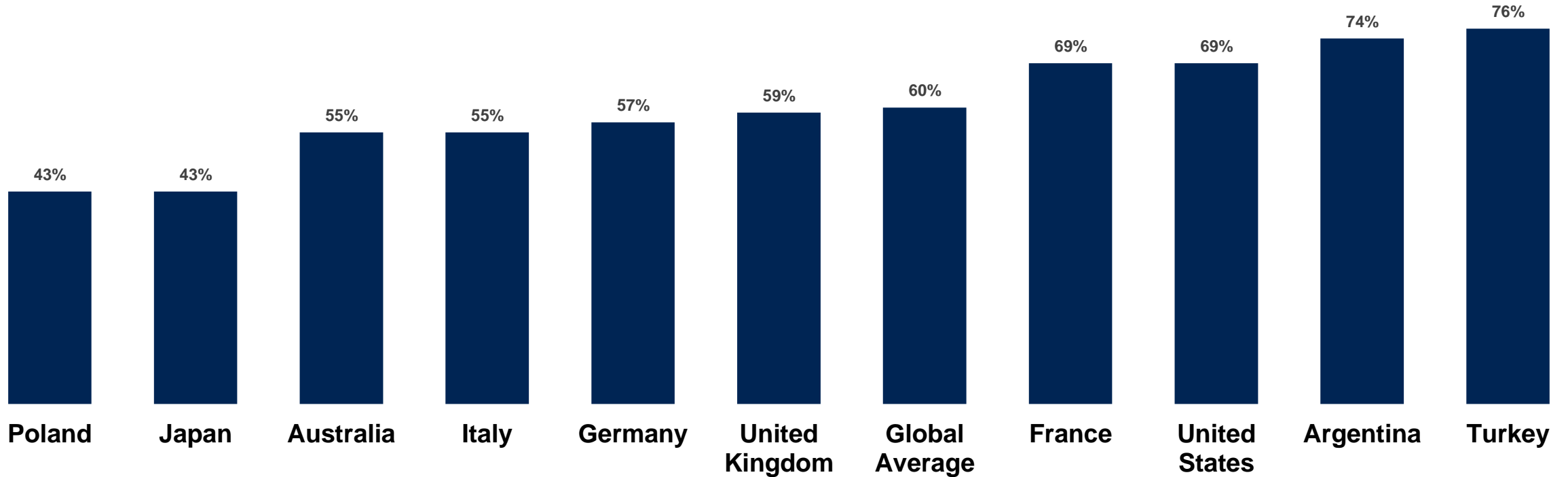
In your country, out of 100 people, how many do you think are Muslim?



Sources: World Population Review, Ipsos.

Crime

*Share of respondents thinking that the homicide rate in their country is higher than in 2000**



Sources: World Bank, Ipsos. Question: *Do you think the homicide rate in your country is higher, lower, or about the same as in 2000?*

* Homicide rates have gone down significantly in all these countries – except the United States

False-belief

Fear



Public opinion is often a disturbing reality

Illiteracy



Anxiety



Immaturity

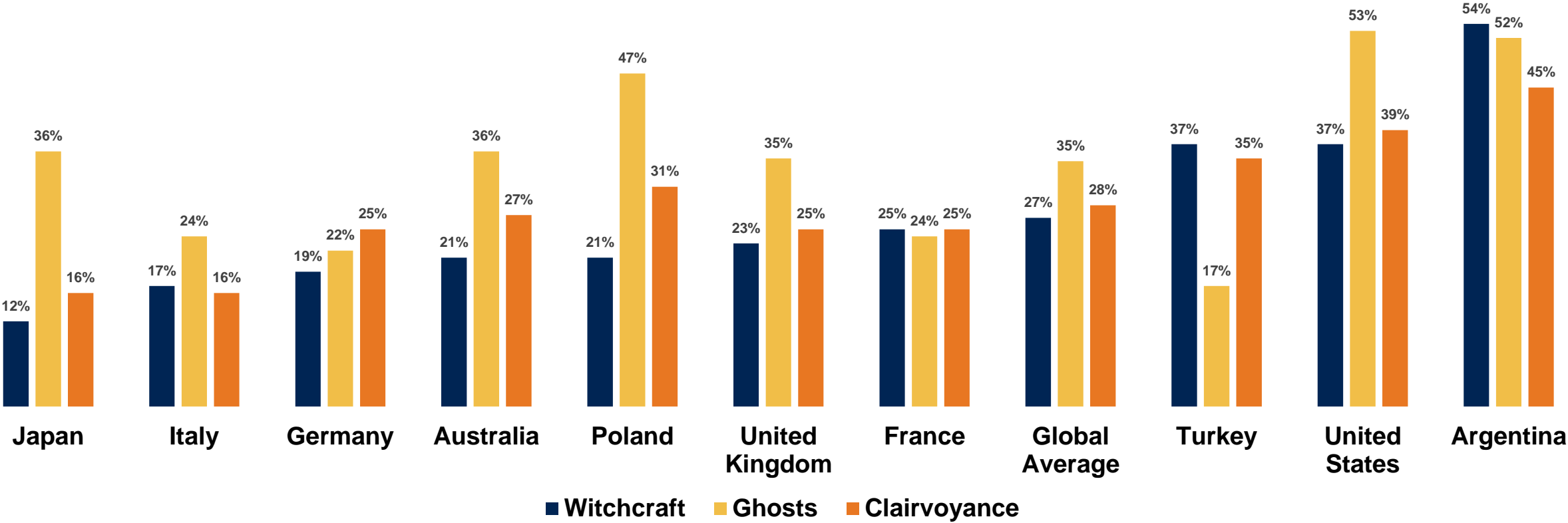


Ritual



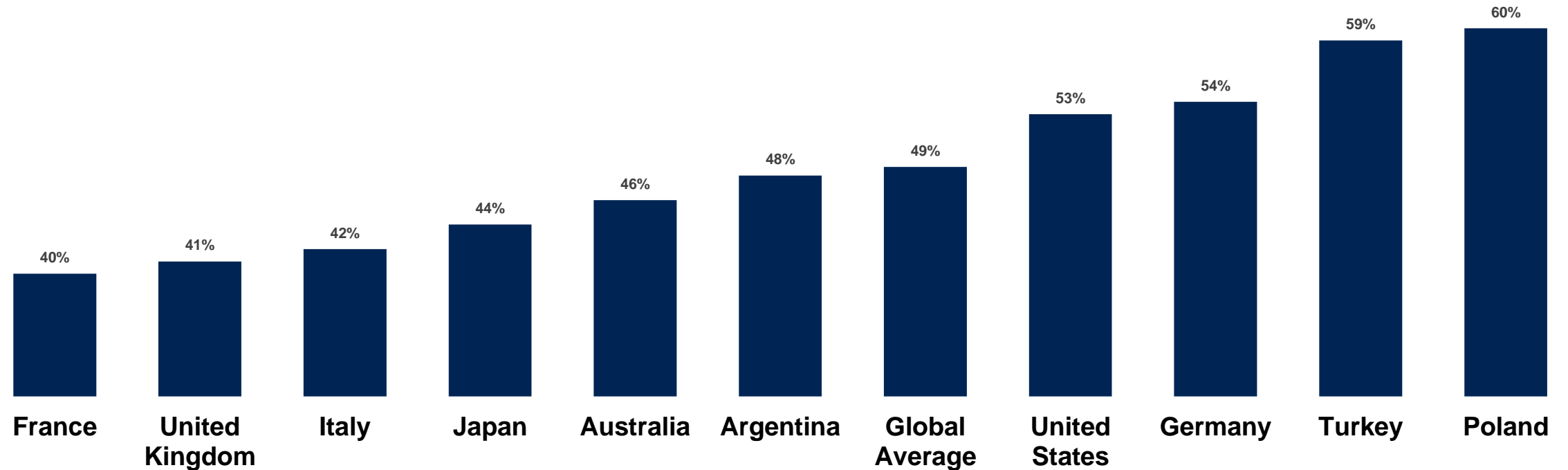
The most irrational beliefs remain a largely minority view – but they still attract more than a quarter of the population

Do you personally believe in (i) witchcraft, (ii) ghosts, (iii) clairvoyance?



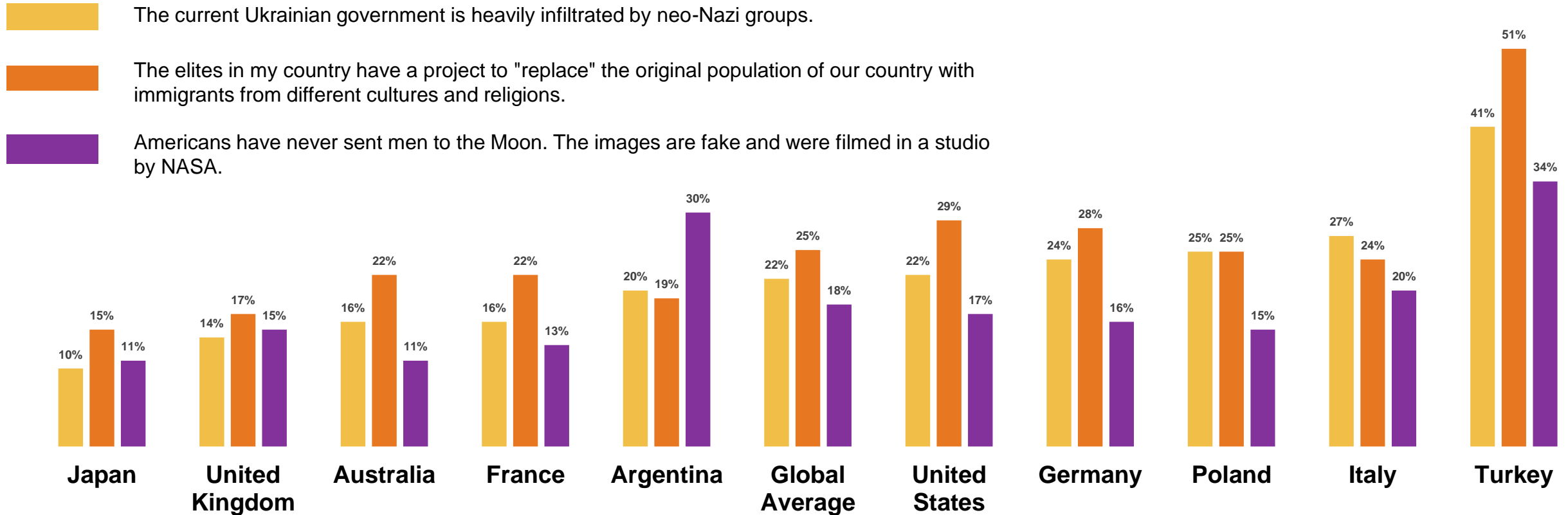
Source: Ipsos. Share of respondents answering “yes, somewhat” or “yes, I completely believe in this”

On a more serious note, almost half of the population say they do not trust scientists



Source: Ipsos. Question: "Personally, do you agree with the following statement? To determine if a fact is scientifically true or false, I trust my own experience and personal research more than scientists' explanations". Share of respondents answering "Yes, I definitely agree with this statement" or "Yes, I somewhat agree with this statement".

A lie can travel halfway around the world before the truth has a chance to get its pants on



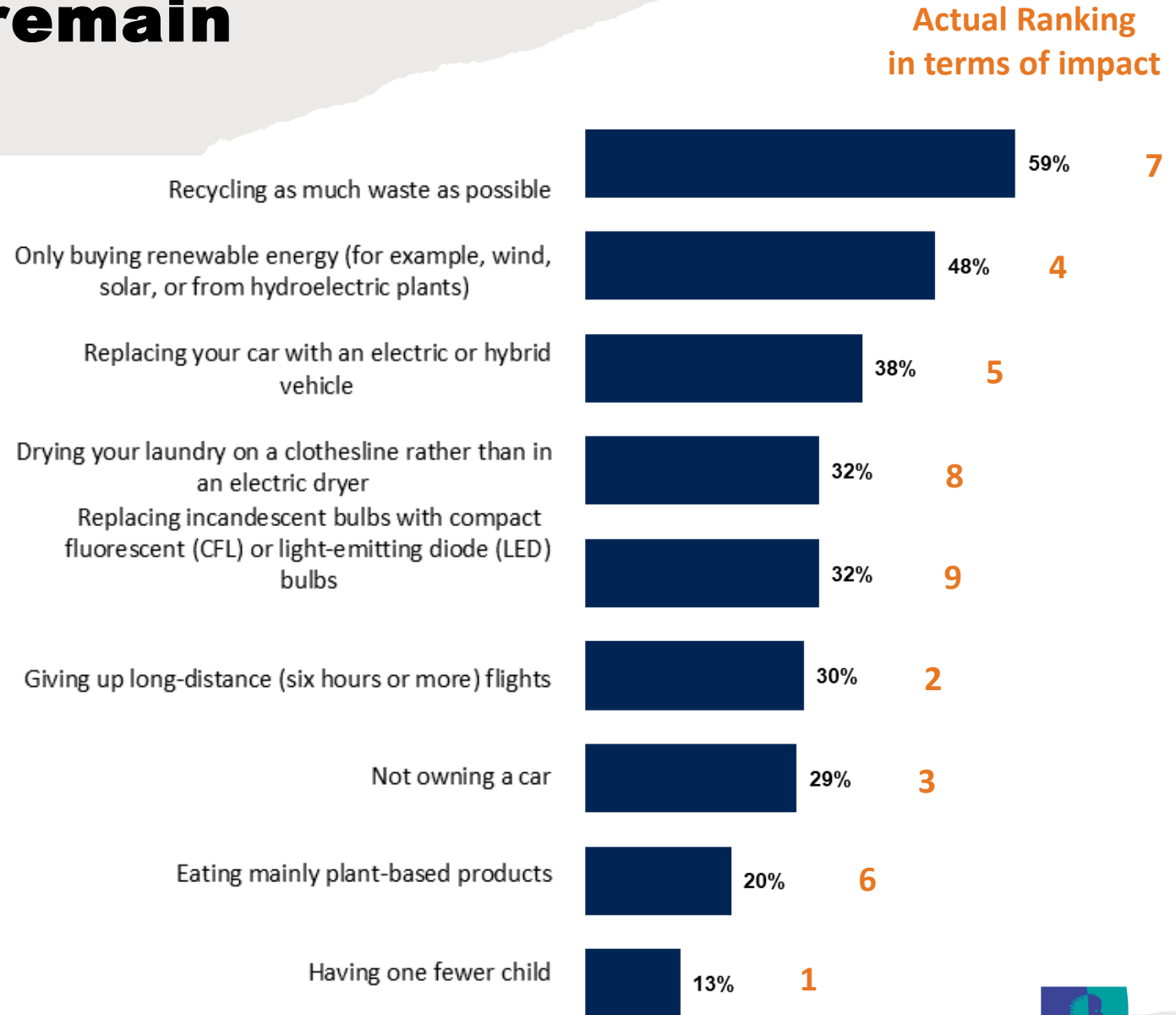
Source: Ipsos. Question: "Do you think the following statements are true or false?" Share of respondents answering "entirely true" or "mostly true".

The individual actions most likely to combat climate change remain relatively unknown

From the following list, which three actions do you think would most significantly reduce a person's greenhouse gas emissions?

The steps that are easiest to implement and closest to everyday life are perceived as having the greatest impact

Sources: Ipsos, Institute of Physics, 2017. The most effective individual steps to tackle climate change aren't being discussed (<https://phys.org/news/2017-07-effective-individual-tackle-climate-discussed.html>)

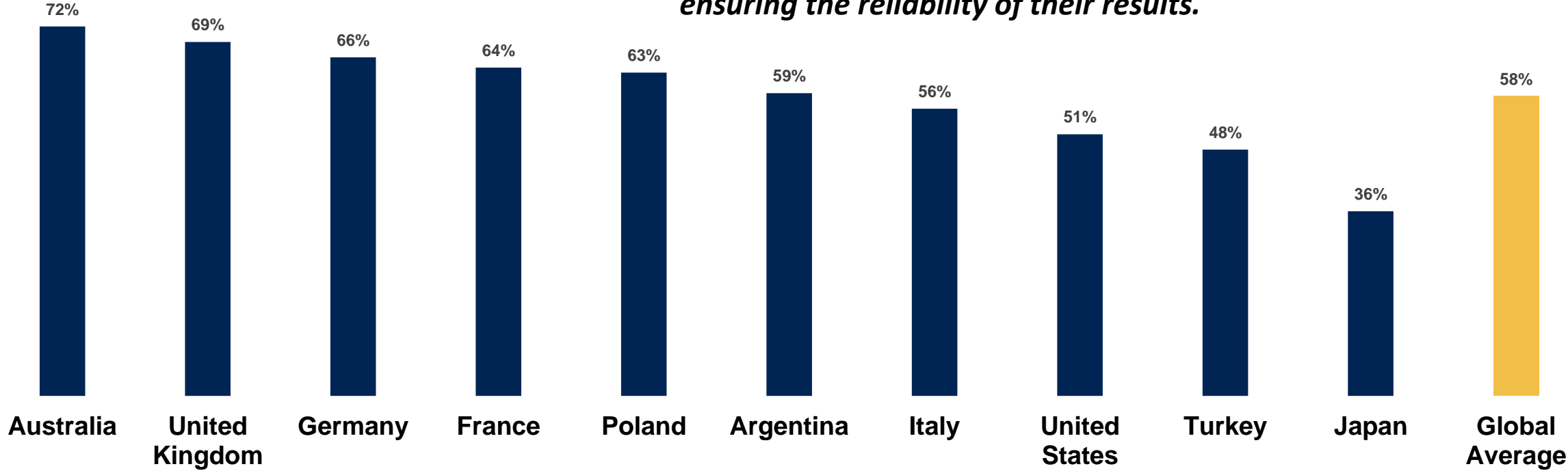


**The democratic process is
not entirely immune to this
climate of suspicion**



Trust in electoral democracy remains a majority view – but not by a wide margin

Elections in my country are organized in a secure and transparent way, ensuring the reliability of their results.

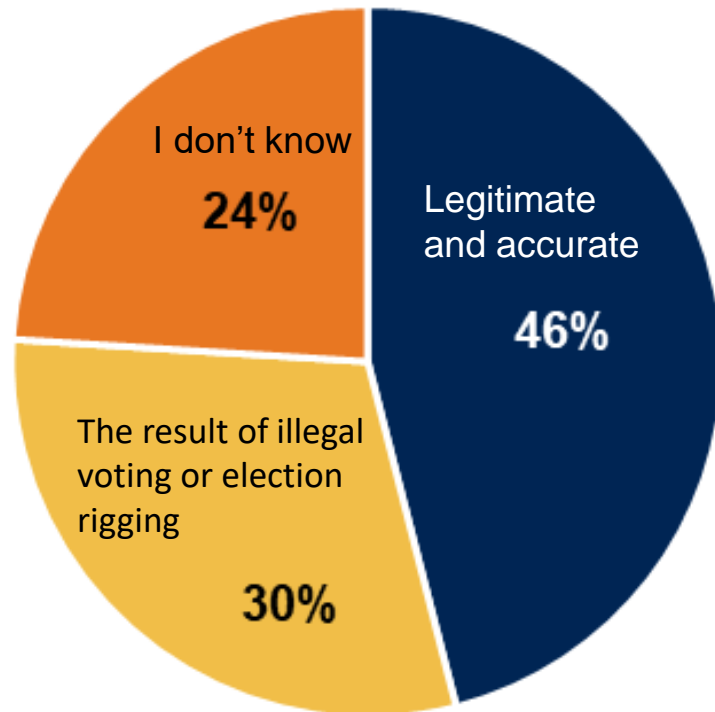


Source: Ipsos. Question: "Do you think the following statements are true or false? Elections in my country are organized in a secure and transparent way, ensuring the reliability of their results. Share of respondents answering "entirely true" or "mostly true".

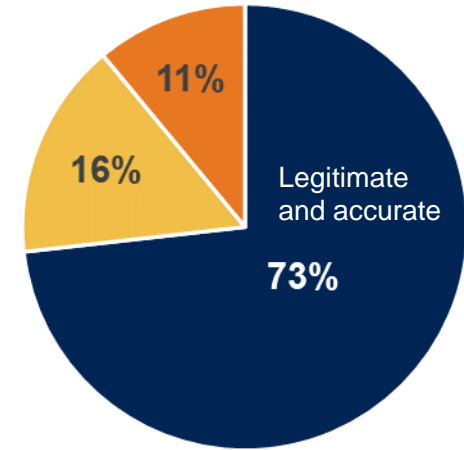
And the results of the 2020 US presidential election are still controversial

What comes close to your view of the 2020 presidential election? It was...

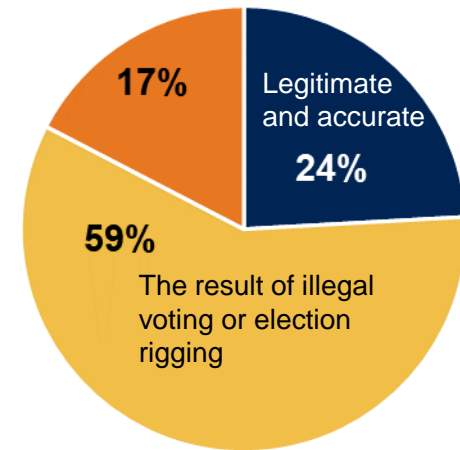
All voters



Democrats



Republicans

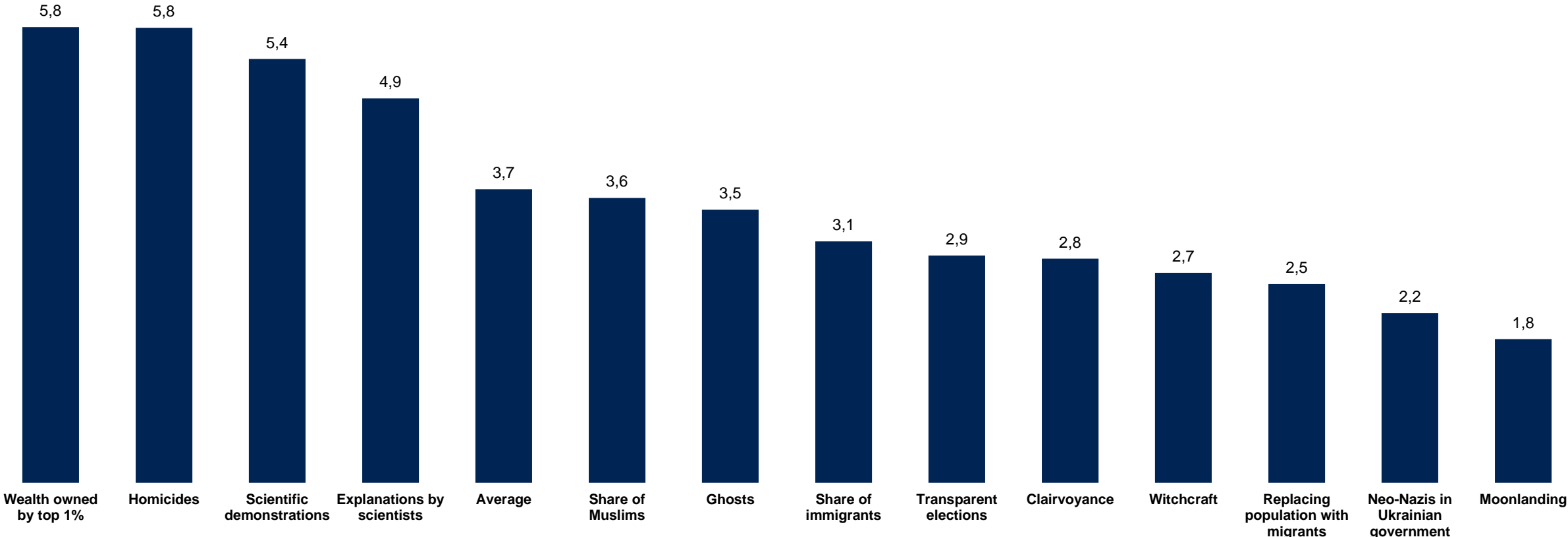


APPENDIX



Misperception Index– by topic

(10 = widest gap between actual data and respondents' perception)

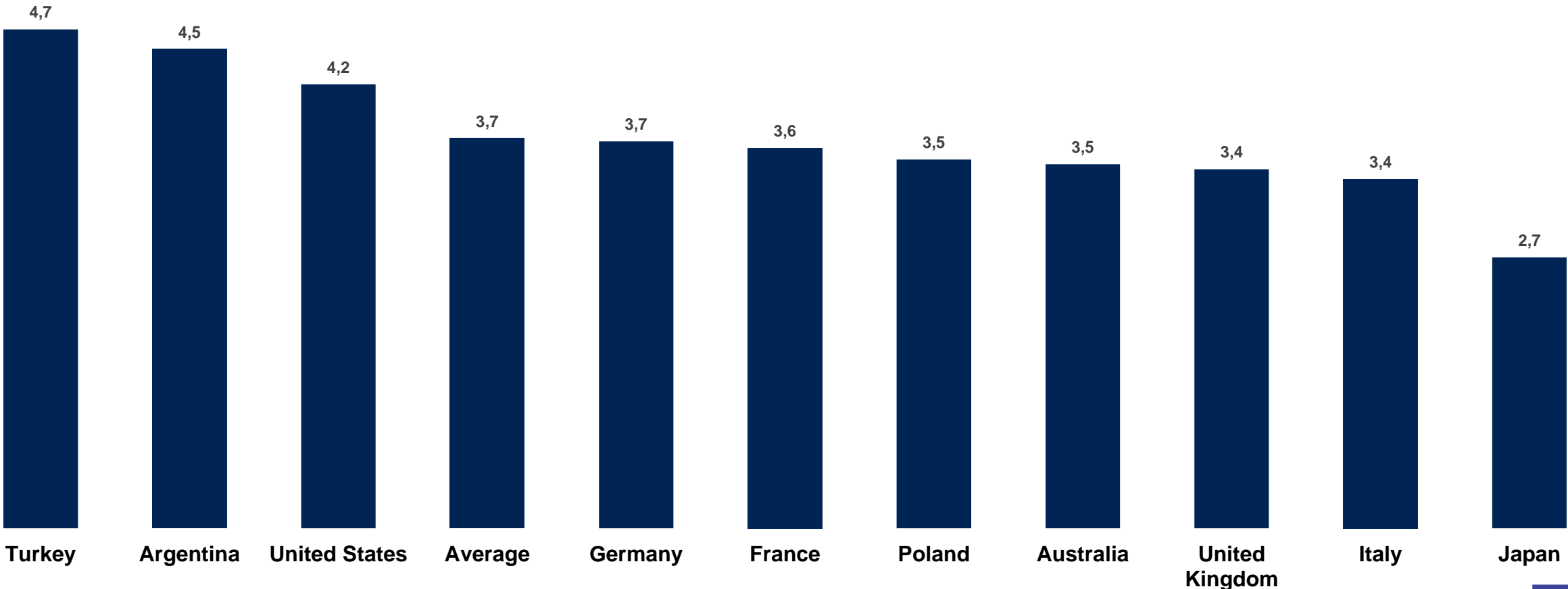


Source: Ipsos, based on answers to the survey



Misperception Index– by country

(10 = widest gap between actual data and respondents' perception)



Source: Ipsos, based on answers to the survey



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