IPSOS WORLD AFFAIRS & SECURITY REPORT 2026



Release 3: The Threat of Technology

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Global threat assessment*

Q: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months — a very real threat, a somewhat real threat, not much of a real threat or not a real threat at all?

% very real threat/ somewhat real threat

20-country average

*Change for 20-country average is based on the countries which were in all editions of the Ipsos for the Halifax Security Forum report over the past decade.

Base: 17,017 online adults under the age of 75 across 20 countries, interviewed 25 September – 9 October 2026.

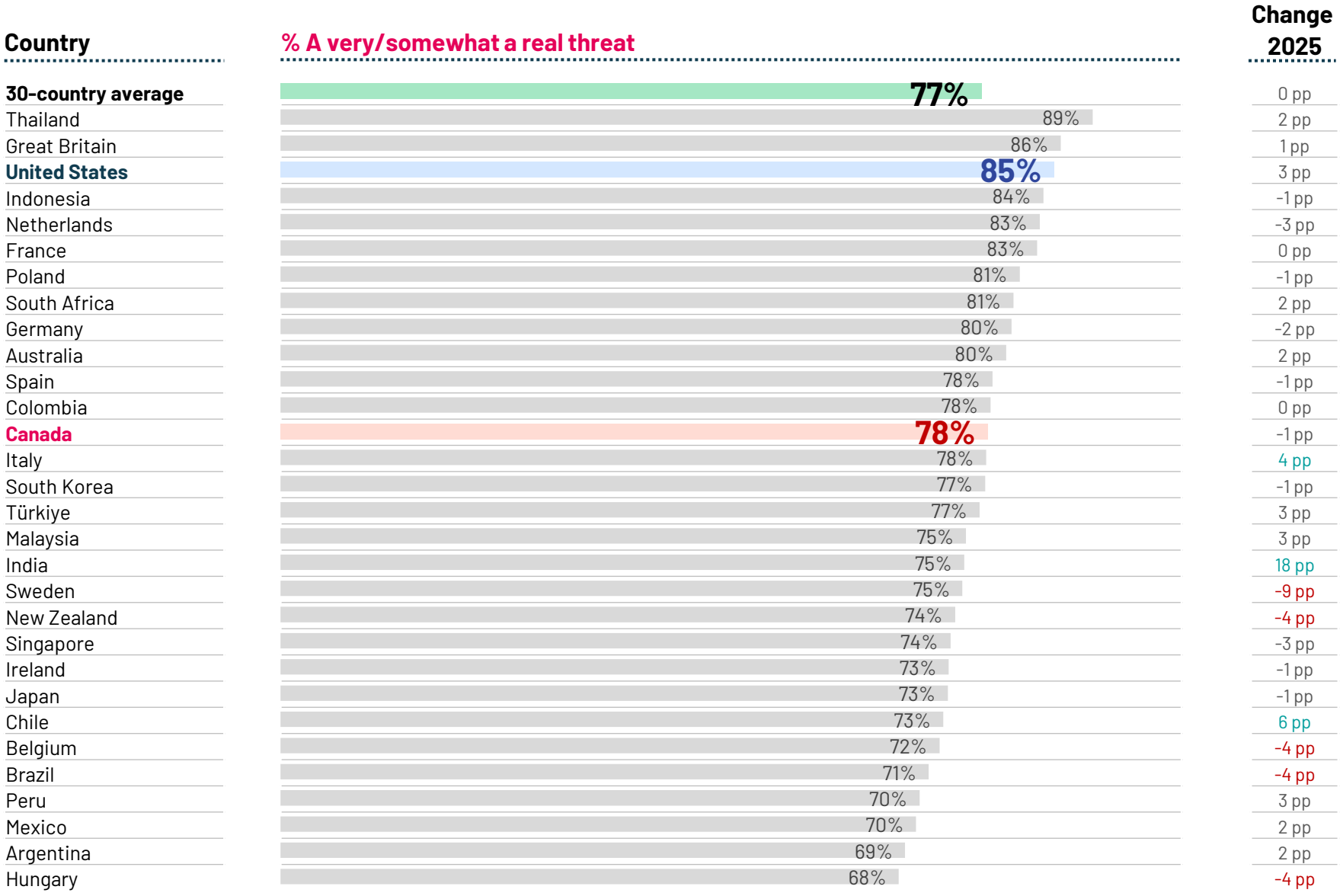
Global	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Some person, organization, or country deliberately spreading disinformation to influence public opinion	77%	76%	76%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from previous year	1 pp	n/c	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Being hacked for fraudulent or espionage purposes	76%	76%	76%	72%	74%	75%	74%	75%	70%	75%
Change from previous year	n/c	n/c	4 pp	-2 pp	-1 pp	1 pp	-1 pp	5 pp	-5 pp	1 pp
Nuclear / chemical attack in the world	67%	69%	71%	70%	74%	65%	66%	68%	63%	72%
Change from previous year	-2 pp	-2 pp	1 pp	-4 pp	9 pp	-1 pp	-2 pp	5 pp	-9 pp	4 pp
Major natural disaster in your country	67%	65%	69%	68%	67%	68%	65%	65%	61%	62%
Change from previous year	2 pp	-4 pp	1 pp	1 pp	-1 pp	3 pp	n/c	4 pp	-1 pp	3 pp
An artificial intelligence(AI)-based defense system becoming a threat to humanity by breaking free of human control	66%	59%	58%	57%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from previous year	7 pp	1 pp	1 pp	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Terrorist attack in your country	65%	65%	66%	62%	61%	61%	58%	65%	64%	71%
Change from previous year	n/c	-1 pp	4 pp	1 pp	0 pp	3 pp	-7 pp	1 pp	-7 pp	-1 pp
The personal safety and security for you or your family members being violated	59%	60%	60%	61%	59%	58%	60%	60%	57%	62%
Change from previous year	-1 pp	n/c	-1 pp	2 pp	1 pp	-2 pp	n/c	3 pp	-5 pp	0 pp
A violent conflict breaking out between ethnic or minority groups in your country	59%	59%	58%	59%	58%	59%	60%	60%	57%	61%
Change from previous year	n/c	1 pp	-1 pp	1 pp	-1 pp	-1 pp	0 pp	3 pp	-4 pp	0 pp
Major health epidemic in your country	55%	58%	60%	60%	61%	71%	79%	51%	49%	51%
Change from previous year	-3 pp	-2 pp	n/c	-1 pp	-10 pp	-8 pp	28 pp	2 pp	-2 pp	1 pp
Your country entering armed conflict with another country	53%	53%	52%	52%	51%	45%	44%	48%	46%	53%
Change from previous year	n/c	1 pp	n/c	1 pp	6 pp	1 pp	-4 pp	2 pp	-7 pp	0 pp

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Some person, organisation/ organization, or country deliberately spreads disinformation to influence public opinion

Q: How real do you feel the threat is of some person, organisation/ organization, or country deliberately spreading disinformation to influence public opinion in the next twelve months?

Base: 22,526 online adults under the age of 75 across 30 countries, interviewed 25 September – 9 October 2026.

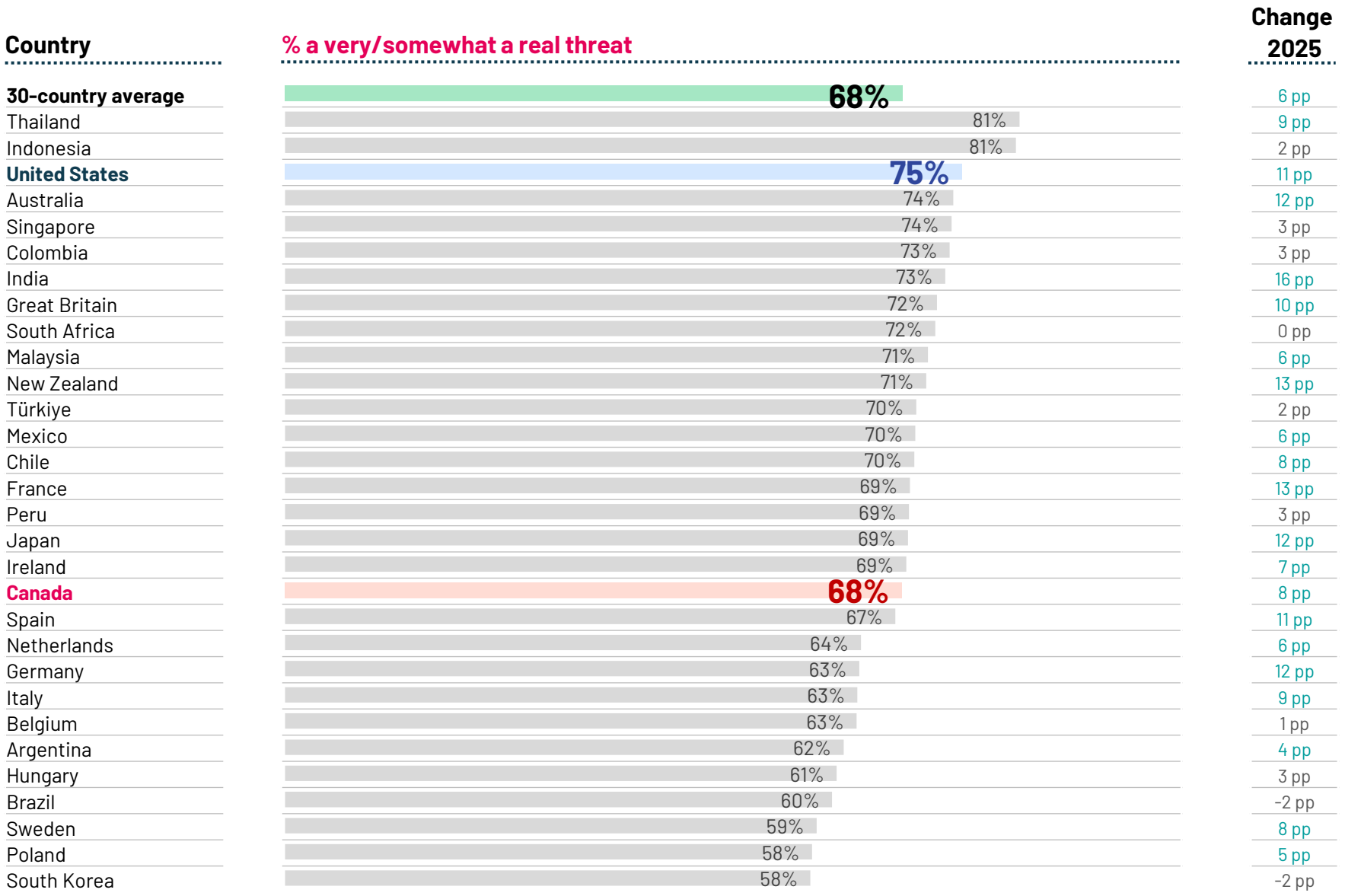


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An AI-based defense system becoming a threat to humanity by breaking free of human control

Q: How real do you feel the threat is of an AI-based defense system becoming a threat to humanity by breaking free of human control?

Base: 22,526 online adults under the age of 75 across 30 countries, interviewed 25 September – 9 October 2026.



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Canada threat assessment

Q: How real do you feel the threat is of any of the following happening in the next twelve months — a very real threat, a somewhat real threat, not much of a real threat or not a real threat at all?

(% very real threat/ somewhat real threat)

Base: 1,001 online adults under the age of 75 in Canada, interviewed 25 September – 9 October 2026.

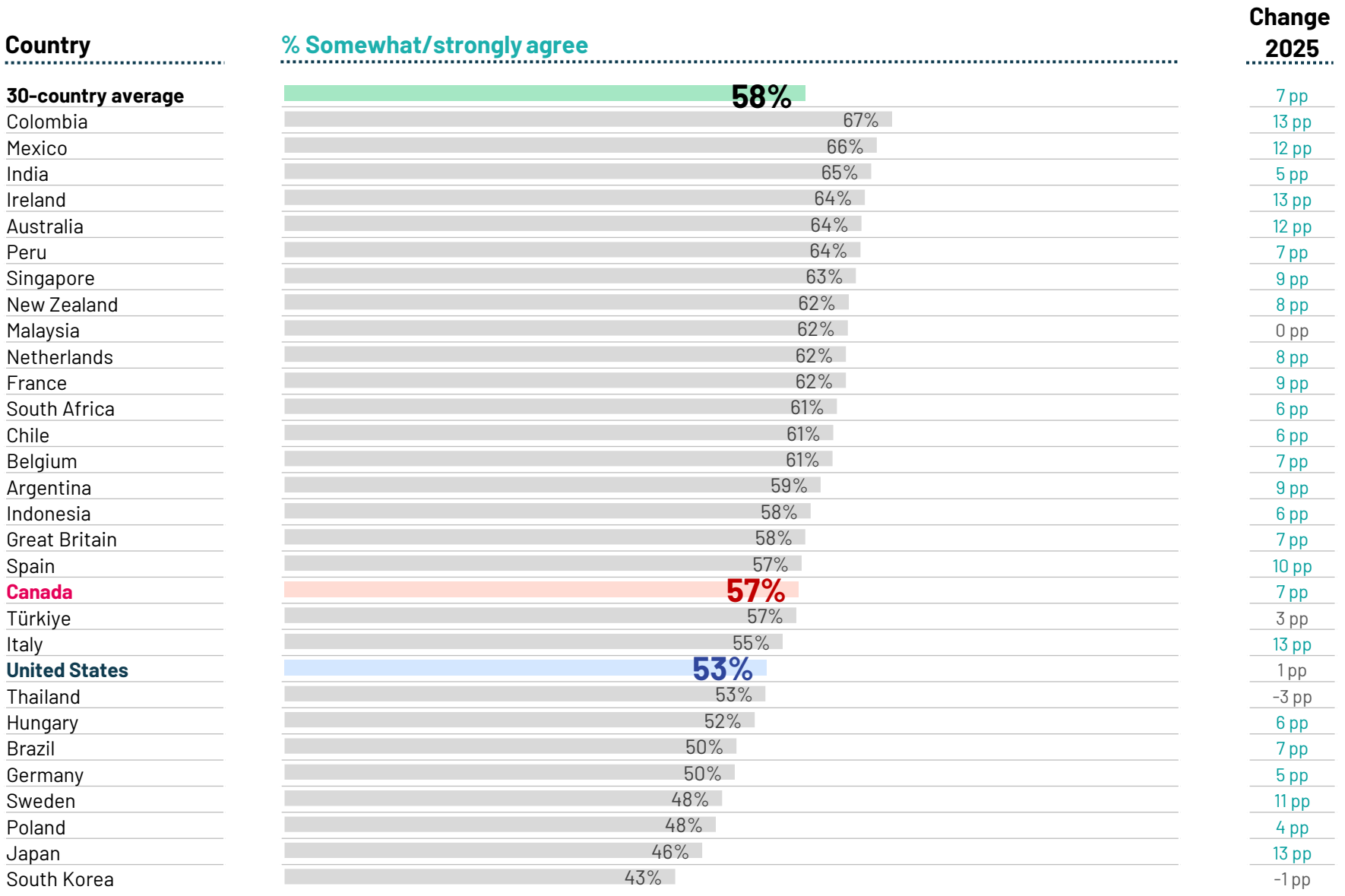
Canada	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Some person, organization, or country deliberately spreading disinformation to influence public opinion	78%	79%	77%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from previous year	-1 pp	2 pp	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Being hacked for fraudulent or espionage purposes	77%	79%	78%	74%	74%	75%	74%	75%	70%	74%
Change from previous year	-2 pp	1 pp	4 pp	n/c	-1 pp	1 pp	-1 pp	5 pp	-4 pp	1 pp
Nuclear / chemical attack in the world	70%	70%	74%	71%	75%	66%	67%	68%	63%	71%
Change from previous year	n/c	-4 pp	3 pp	-4 pp	9 pp	-1 pp	-1 pp	5 pp	-8 pp	5 pp
An AI-based defense system becoming a threat to humanity by breaking free of human control	68%	60%	56%	59%	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Change from previous year	8 pp	4 pp	-3 pp	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Major natural disaster in your country	67%	64%	68%	70%	66%	69%	65%	66%	62%	63%
Change from previous year	3 pp	-4 pp	-2 pp	4 pp	-3 pp	4 pp	-1 pp	4 pp	-1 pp	4 pp
Terrorist attack in your country	64%	61%	66%	63%	61%	62%	58%	65%	64%	72%
Change from previous year	3 pp	-5 pp	3 pp	2 pp	-1 pp	4 pp	-7 pp	1 pp	-8 pp	1 pp
A violent conflict breaking out between ethnic or minority groups in your country	59%	57%	57%	60%	59%	60%	61%	60%	57%	60%
Change from previous year	2 pp	n/c	-3 pp	1 pp	-1 pp	-1 pp	1 pp	3 pp	-3 pp	n/c
Major health epidemic in your country	57%	60%	63%	63%	60%	70%	78%	51%	49%	53%
Change from previous year	-3 pp	-3 pp	n/c	3 pp	-10 pp	-8 pp	27 pp	2 pp	-4 pp	2 pp
The personal safety and security for you or your family members being violated	54%	53%	55%	63%	61%	60%	61%	61%	58%	62%
Change from previous year	1 pp	-2 pp	-8 pp	2 pp	1 pp	-1 pp	n/c	3 pp	-4 pp	1 pp
Your country entering armed conflict with another country	50%	46%	49%	49%	50%	46%	43%	48%	48%	53%
Change from previous year	4 pp	-3 pp	n/c	-1 pp	4 pp	3 pp	-5 pp	n/c	-5 pp	-1 pp

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Digital technology impact

Q: The revolution in digital technology will undermine and destroy the democratic freedoms that exist in the world today

Base: 22,526 online adults under the age of 75 across 30 countries, interviewed 25 September – 9 October 2026.



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Methodology



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METHODOLOGY

These are the results of a 30-country survey conducted by Ipsos on its Global Advisor online platform, between Friday, September 25, and Friday, October 9, 2026. For this survey, Ipsos interviewed a total of 22,526 adults aged 18 years and older in India, 18-74 in Canada, Republic of Ireland, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa, Türkiye, the United States, and Vietnam, 20-74 in Thailand, 21-74 in Indonesia and Singapore, and 16-74 in all other countries.

The sample consists of approximately 2,000 individuals in Japan, 1,000 individuals each in Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, India, Italy, New Zealand, Spain, and the U.S., and 500 individuals each in Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, Thailand, and Türkiye.

Samples in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, and the U.S. can be considered representative of their general adult populations under the age of 75. Samples in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, and Türkiye 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 the composition of each country's sample best reflects the demographic profile of the adult population according to the most recent census data. In Great Britain, the data was weighted by age, gender, and education. "The Global Country Average" reflects the average result for all the countries and markets in which 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.

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When percentages do not sum up to 100 or the 'difference' appears to be +/-1 percentage point more/less than the actual result, 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 where N=1,000 being accurate to +/- 3.5 percentage points and of where N=500 being 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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For more information

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