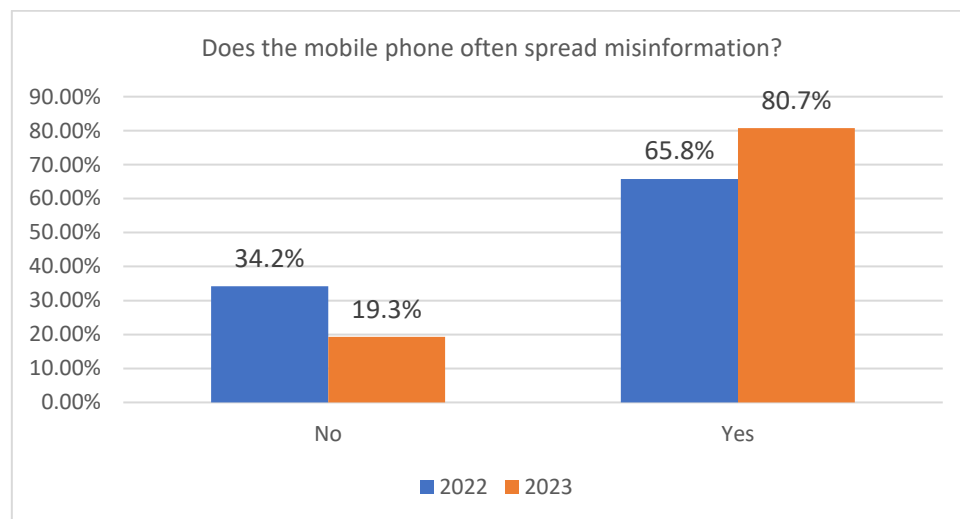


Observation of Taiwanese Opinions on Misinformation in 2023

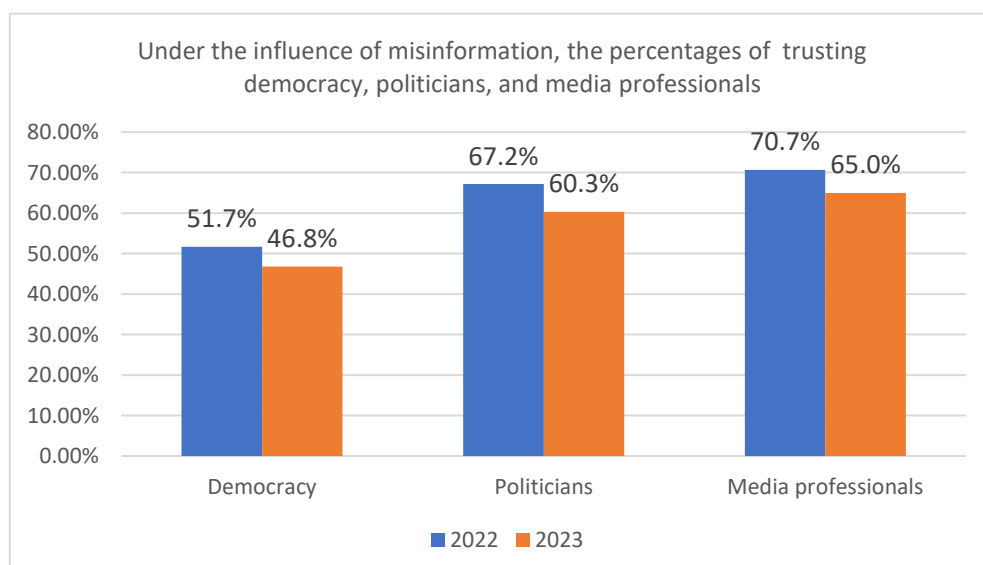
Roger Kuo, Senior Observer Coordinator, Ipsos Taiwan

Following the [survey](#) in 2022, we investigate the Taiwanese opinions on misinformation once again this year. Like the results in 2022, the spread of misinformation is still a common phenomenon. Most respondents believe misinformation is detrimental to our society. Nearly 90% of the respondents have met misinformation in their daily lives and they are also gradually alert to its influence on our society. The main sources of misinformation are media workers, politicians, and foreign powers and the main channels of spreading it are the internet, mobile phones, and televisions & radios.

Compared with the survey in 2022, 80.7% of the respondents say the mobile phone is the main channel of spreading misinformation, larger than 65.8% in 2022. The mobile phone and the internet have become the two largest channels of spreading misinformation in Taiwan.



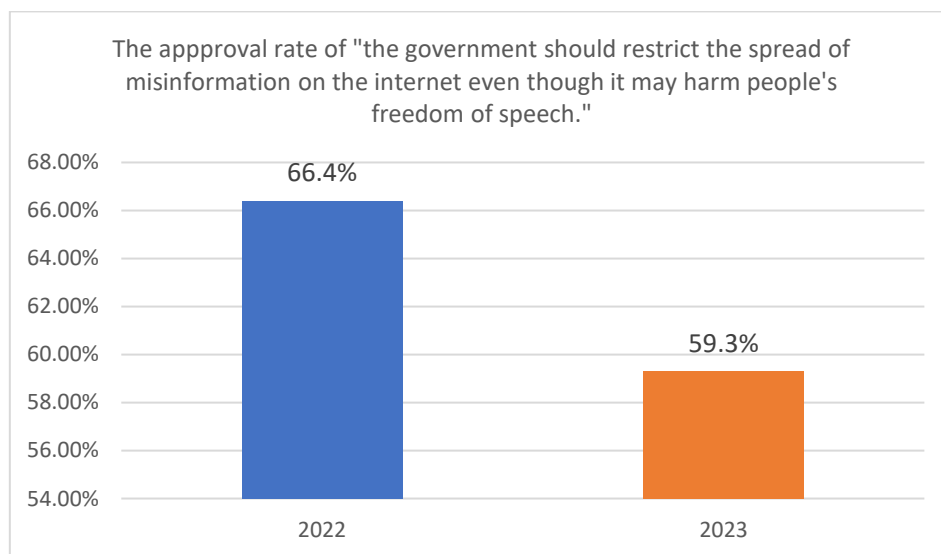
Besides, under the influence of misinformation, the levels people trust democracy, politicians, and media professionals are less than the results in 2022. The percentages decrease from 51.7% to 46.8% (democracy), from 67.2% to 60.3% (politicians), and from 70.7% to 65.0% (media professionals).



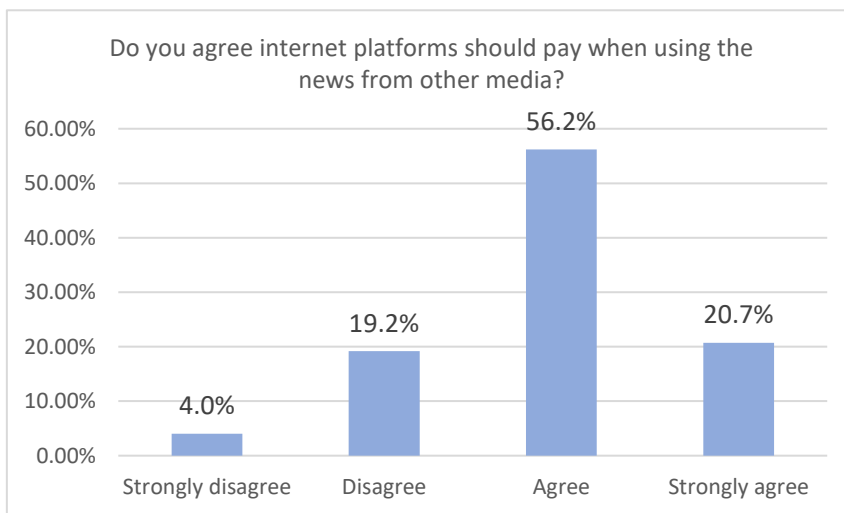
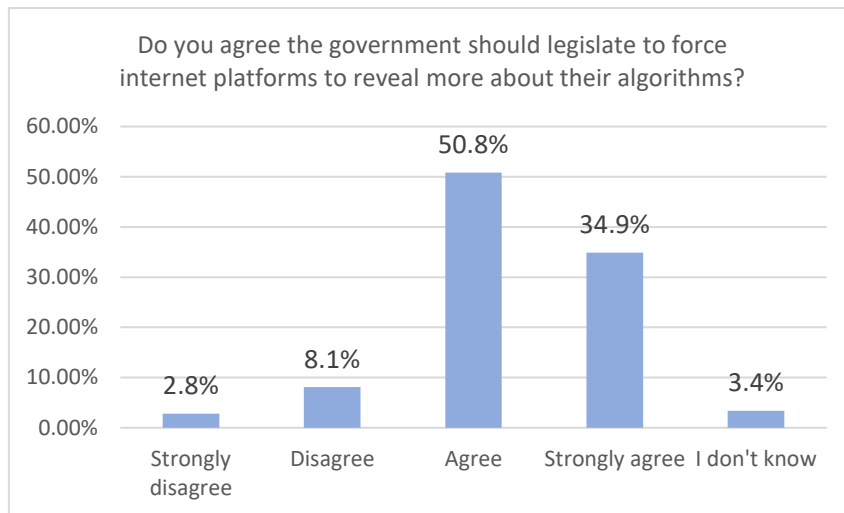
Like the results in 2022, more than half of respondents think they are not influenced by misinformation. However, they are not confident in others because more than 90% of them think others will be influenced. Discussing with family and friends, listening to professionals' judgment, checking books or other printed information, and using the services provided by fact-checking organizations are the first four ways of identifying misinformation. Reminding family and friends to notice fake news and sharing articles on debunking are most frequent actions people took when they met misinformation. More than 90% believe we should strengthen our abilities of identifying fake news through education and keeping reminding people to notice misinformation.

Most respondents think the people fabricating and disseminating fake news, the media, government officials, the internet and social media platforms, and the general public all should take the responsibility to decrease spreading misinformation. Among them, media should take the largest responsibility. Nearly 90% agree using legislation to force social media to establish self-discipline mechanisms to prevent misinformation.

Compared with the survey in 2022, the approval rate of "the government or ISPs (internet service providers) and social media platforms should restrict the spread of misinformation on the internet even though it may harm people's freedom of speech" decreases from 66.4% to 59.3% (government) and from 68.0% to 63.3% (ISPs and social media platforms). It shows that on the one hand, people hope the government or ISPs and social media platforms should take the responsibility, but on the other hand, some people worry their freedom of speech will be affected by the restriction.



The survey this year shows that total 86% of respondents agree the government should legislate to force internet platforms to reveal more about their algorithms. Total 77% think internet platforms should pay when using the news from other media. The best ways to stop misinformation are more legislation, increasing correctness of news coverage, propelling education for media for higher quality and ethics, promoting fact-checking services, and requiring media to have more self-discipline about the content on their platforms.



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