



Press Release

New global poll finds Americans most worried about terrorism, crime, and healthcare – while unemployment tops list of global citizens' worries

- Almost two-thirds (64%) of Americans think things in this country are “on the wrong track,” in line with the global average (63%)
- Global Ipsos study finds unemployment is the biggest worry of the world, although it is fourth (following terrorism, crime/violence, and healthcare) in the US

London, 13th October 2016 – The new Ipsos study “**What Worries the World**” is an online survey of adults in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Britain, Germany, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Poland, Peru, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United States. Its premise is simple: it asks global citizens whether they think things in their country are headed in the right direction or on the wrong track, and what the issues are which most worry them.

In the U.S., **terrorism** is the number one worry causing stress to 35% of the population. Crime and violence is the second largest concern (33%) followed by healthcare at 29%. The top global concern, unemployment, comes 4th in the US at 23% concerned.

Right track or wrong direction?

This global study finds that, overall, people across all countries are more likely to think things in their country are off on the wrong track (63%), than headed in the right direction (37%.) Most pessimistic are the French, 88% of whom think things are going wrong, with only 12% feeling that things are going well. Closely following France are Mexico, Brazil, Italy, and Spain – countries which are seeing significant challenges regarding crime (Mexico), corruption (Brazil), and economic woes (Italy and Spain). The most optimistic are countries are China, where 90% say things are headed in the right direction, Saudi Arabia (71%), and India (67%).

Americans are in the middle of the pack with about two thirds (64%) say they think things are going in the wrong direction.

Worries of the world



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When it comes to what issues most worry people around the world, the single biggest issue across all countries is unemployment, which is mentioned by 38% globally. This is a modest (2 point) increase compared to last month, but over the longer term, concern about unemployment has been decreasing since 2010 when more than half across all countries said this worried them.

Concern about **terrorism** is highest in Turkey (76%), and this is also the highest level of worry about any issue across all of the countries surveyed. Countries with recent or ongoing exposure to incidents of terror are among the most worried about terrorism: Israel (45%), France (55%) and Belgium (38%).

Healthcare, the fifth most frequently mentioned issue globally, is a significant concern in Hungary (where 59% mention it) and Brazil (50%). Healthcare is the second most frequently cited issue among Britons (34%) and has seen an increase of 7% month on month, possibly fuelled by an ongoing industrial dispute between junior doctors and the government.

Crime and violence is a big and growing concern in Mexico (60% say this is a worry up 19% month on month) and Argentina (now 56%, up 11%). In Peru, crime and violence is the primary worry, with 74% saying this worries them - the highest level of concern about the issue among any country in the study.

China is most worried about **climate change** (21%) and **threats against the environment** (38%) out of all countries.

Top five global issues

- 1) Unemployment (38%)
- 2) Financial/Political Corruption (34%)
- 3) Poverty/Social Inequality (33%)
- 4) Crime & Violence (31%)
- 5) Healthcare (22%)

Top five US issues

- 1) Terrorism (35%)
- 2) Crime and Violence (33%)
- 3) Healthcare (29%)
- 4) Unemployment (23%)
- 5) Immigration control (22%)

Commenting on the findings, Clifford Young, President of Ipsos Public Affairs in the United States, said:

"To remain in the good graces of public opinion, governments and policymakers need to have concrete, efficacious solutions to jobs and the economy."

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Technical note

18,014 interviews were conducted between August 26th – September 9th 2016 among adults aged 18-64 in the US and Canada, and adults aged 16-64 in all other countries. The survey was conducted in 25 countries around the world via the Ipsos Online Panel system. Data are weighted to match the profile of the population.

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