Global Progress Survey by YouGov

How people in industrialized countries perceive the outlook for their post-pandemic future

Matt Browne and Hans Anker
This research was conducted by YouGov on behalf of Global Progress. All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 11,433 adults. Fieldwork was undertaken between 13th - 24th May 2021. The survey was carried out online.

United States (N=2,291), UK (N=2,026), Germany (N=2,005), France (N=1,055), Australia (N=1,034), Italy (N=1,010), Canada (N=1,008), Japan (N=1,004)

These samples are nationally and politically representative in all countries apart from Japan and Australia where they are just nationally representative.
No time to celebrate

- People say they have learnt much about themselves and their societies during the pandemic.
- They think inequality is too high and want a fairer society, but overall this combination does not translate into support for progressive parties.
- There is a disconnect between ambitions and policy positions, and much work for progressives to do to win the argument.
Dusk or Dawn? People hope, if not fully believe, we are beating the virus

Dusk to Dawn

Please look at the picture, which is meant to represent the Covid-19 pandemic. Dusk is the beginning of the pandemic; midnight is the worst part of the crisis and dawn is recovery from the crisis. In your opinion, where is your country right now?

Overall % of respondents

- 3%
- 10%
- 15%
- 7%
- 9%
- 11%
- 21%
- 12%
- 8%

5% of respondents answered ‘Don’t Know’

YouGov and Global Progress would like to thank Data Sciences for allowing us to use this image and question in the survey.
Dusk or Dawn? People hope, if not fully believe, we are beating the virus

Another pandemic in next 10 years

How likely, if at all, do you think it is that there will be another pandemic on the scale of Covid-19 in the next ten years?

- 61% Likely
- 23% Unlikely
- 16% Don’t know

Germany: 61% Likely, 23% Unlikely, 16% Don’t know

COVID19 will mutate and return in same scale

How likely, if at all, do you think it is that Covid-19 will mutate and return in the next ten years?

- 54% Likely
- 28% Unlikely
- 17% Don’t know

Germany: 54% Likely, 29% Unlikely, 18% Don’t know
Optimism in the New World: The future is bright for young American, Canadians, and Australians

Would you say things in your country today are going in the right or wrong direction?

Percentage of people who think their country is headed in the right direction, by country excluding don't knows

- Don't know
- Heading in the wrong direction
- Heading in the right direction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
<th>Wrong direction</th>
<th>Right direction</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>17</td>
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<td>Canada</td>
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<td>UK</td>
<td>21</td>
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<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
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<td>France</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>48</td>
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</table>
• Australians (42%) and Americans (40%) stand out as believing that the younger generations have it better than the older generations.

• Italy (55%) and France (52%) are the most pessimistic and the most likely to consider that younger generations have it worse than previous ones.

• 65% of Americans think their country is well place to succeed in the future, placing the United States in the top three countries, followed by Australia (51%) and Canada (43%).
Lessons Learned: The public has learnt what we might hope and expect...

Percentage of people who agree to a great or some extent with each of the following lessons society should learn from the pandemic, overall

To what extent, if at all, do you think each of the following should or should not be a lesson society learns from the Covid-19 pandemic?

- Countries need to **work together** to stop pandemics
- Governments to **act quickly**
- Governments to **prepare** for possibility of pandemics
- Importance and contribution of **key workers**
- Need to **look out for one another** at times of crisis
- Importance of a **safety net** at times of crisis
- How **vulnerable** our normal way of life can be
- The need to listen to **scientific experts**
- Countries to be able to **provide for themselves** at times of crisis
- Government intervention to **support the economy**
- Need to **listen to ordinary citizens**
- Possible for more people to **work more remotely**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lesson</th>
<th>Some extent</th>
<th>Greater extent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Work together to stop pandemics</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>59</td>
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<tr>
<td>Act quickly</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepare for possibility of pandemics</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key workers</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Look out for one another at times of crisis</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety net at times of crisis</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vulnerable our normal way of life can be</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific experts</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>46</td>
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<tr>
<td>Provide for themselves at times of crisis</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support the economy</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listen to ordinary citizens</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work more remotely</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>35</td>
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Untrusting Society: Despite all the talk of the revival of communitarian spirit, people don’t really trust one another.

Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you can't be too careful in dealing with people? (Please select the option that BEST describes your opinion, even if neither are perfect).

**Percentages of respondents who think most people can be trusted**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Most people can be trusted</th>
<th>You can't be too careful in dealing with people</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>60%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Whither Democracy: While the idea of democracy is popular, people think it is working less well in practice.

Is it better to have a strong or more accountable leader?

Which of the following statements best reflects your view?

- It is more important for a country to have a leader who is able to take action, without being held back by opposing politicians, judges or media (24%)
- It is more important for a country to have a leader whose decisions can be properly criticised and held to account by opposing politicians, judges or media (54%)
- Neither (10%)
- Don’t know (12%)

How is democracy working in your country?

In general, how well or badly do you think democracy (that is, having people elect politicians to make decisions) is working in your country?

Which of the following statements best reflects your view?

- Badly (47%)
- Well (41%)
- Neither (10%)
- Don’t know (12%)

Germany: 51% Well, 39% Badly, 10% Don’t know
Rising Authoritarianism: A significant minority have sympathy for authoritarian ideal

Which of the following statements best reflects your view?

- It is more important for a country to have a leader who is able to take action, without being held back by opposing politicians, judges, or media.

- It is more important for a country to have a leader whose decisions can be properly criticised and held to account by opposing politicians, judges or media.

12% of respondents answered ‘Don’t Know’.

Percentage of respondents who say it is more important for a country to have a leader who is able to take action, without being held back by opposing politicians, judges, or media, by country:

- Italy: 33%
- Australia: 32%
- United States: 26%
- France: 25%
- Japan: 24%
- United Kingdom: 23%
- Canada: 21%
- Germany: 15%

June 2021
Post-COVID Politics: Lessons learned and priorities for recovery
Priority for Recovery: Faster, Greener, Fairer?

Priorities for economic recovery after Covid

Thinking about how the Government plans for economic recovery after Covid-19, which of the following do you think should be their main priority...

- Quicker: 37%
- Greener: 23%
- Fairer: 28%
- None: 9%
- Don't know: 3%
- Don't know:

Do you think the differences between rich and poor in this country are too large, too small, or about right?

- Too large: 68%
- Too small: 14%
- About right: 5%
- Don't know: 12%
- Don't know:

Germany: 32% Quicker, 30% Greener, 26% Fairer, 3% None, 8% Don’t Know

Germany: 74% Too Large, 5% Too Small, 15% About Right, 6% Don’t know
**Climate Fatalism:** Almost half of respondents believe there is nothing their countries can or should do and that acting risks jobs...

There is little or nothing we can or should do as a country on our own that can make a difference to combatting climate change

Which of the following statements best reflects your view?

- There are actions that your country can take that will make a real difference to combating climate change
- There is little that your country can realistically do to make a difference to combating climate change unless countries like China & India do
- There is nothing that any country can realistically do, and your country should not be doing this

Measures we take to combat climate change over the next few decades, are more likely to destroy jobs

Thinking about the measures that Governments are likely to take to combat climate change over the next few decades, do you think these policies are more likely on balance to create or destroy jobs ...

- More likely to create jobs
- More likely to destroy jobs

June 2021

Post-COVID Politics: Lessons learned and priorities for recovery
Global Green Jobs Race: Investment in green industries and technology will provide a future competitive advantage

Do you think countries who take early action on climate change will...

- Be better off economically, as they will have a head start on environmental technologies
- Be worse off economically, as they will be undercut by countries who put off action till later
- Be no better or worse off economically compared to countries who take action later

Early action on climate change economic advantage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Better off</th>
<th>Worse off</th>
<th>No better or worse off</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>UK</td>
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<td>United States</td>
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<td>24</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

June 2021
Investment in the Balance: Public split on whether to spend more

Percentages of people who support government spending to help recover

Which of these statements comes closest to your view?

- Government should spend whatever it takes to help people and businesses through the economic recovery, even if that means borrowing more money
- Government should be careful how much it borrows and how much debt it builds up, even if that means less money to support people or businesses through the economic recovery
- Neither

Germany: 42% Invest, 36% Save, 11% Neither, 11% Don’t Know

41% Invest
9% Neither
38% Save

13% respondents answered Don’t Know
Paying for the Pandemic: Fairness underpins the public’s views on who should pick up the bill

Percentages of views on perceived fairness on who should face increased taxes

Thinking about how Governments should raise money to fund spending on the economic recovery, do you think it would be fair or unfair to increase taxes on...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Unfair</th>
<th>Fair</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multinational companies currently avoiding taxes through loopholes</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large online retailers</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Companies that increased their profits during the pandemic</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>People with far above average incomes</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>People on above average incomes</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>People on average incomes</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Businesses able to remain open</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small businesses</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Businesses forced to close during the pandemic</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Unfair  Fair  Don’t know
Social Media’s Distortions: Division and self-censorship now common

Social media has given more power to ordinary people...

- A large extent: 16%
- Some extent: 35%
- Not very much: 24%
- Not at all: 14%
- Don’t know: 11%

Social media has made society more divided...

- A large extent: 35%
- Some extent: 36%
- Not very much: 14%
- Not at all: 4%
- Don’t know: 11%

Self censorship by country...

I watch what I say or think about politics vs. I feel free to speak about politics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Japan</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Germany</th>
<th>France</th>
<th>Canada</th>
<th>UK</th>
<th>Italy</th>
<th>Australia</th>
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</table>

June 2021
Post-COVID Politics: Lessons learned and priorities for recovery

17
Fourth Industrial Revolution? Anxiety that Artificial Intelligence will destroy jobs and damage wages

How people feel about the expected impact of artificial intelligence and other technological innovations

Looking forward, do you think artificial intelligence and other technological innovations will have a positive or negative impact upon…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Jobs</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Positive</th>
<th>No effect</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wages</th>
<th>Overall</th>
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<th>Positive</th>
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<td>Overall</td>
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</table>
China as a Rising power and Threat: Majorities believe China is a threat and don’t trust its vaccines, but they also believe it owns the future.

- 53% see China as more of a threat for their country.
- 65% would be uncomfortable taking Chinese developed vaccine.
- 32% rank China most likely to lead future

Germany:
- 45% Threat, 20% Opportunity, 24% Neither, 11% Don’t Know
- 63% Uncomfortable, 24% Comfortable, 13% Don’t Know
Biden’s Leadership Opportunity (and Challenge): Outside of the US, which remains divided, Biden’s agenda is the example to follow.

69% of other G7 countries support the Biden agenda.

President Biden has said he will spend $2 trillion on infrastructure, health care, renewable energy, paid in large part by a tax on corporate profits, with an aim to make the US economy more environmentally friendly, fairer and more globally competitive. To what extent would you support or oppose this?

Germany: 72% Support, 11% Oppose, 18% Don’t Know

55% of all Americans Back the Biden plan.

90% of Biden voters, 19% of Trump voters, 52% who didn’t vote.
That’s all folks!
About the authors

Matt Browne

Matt Browne is a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress in Washington DC and the founder of Global Progress, an international network of progressive think tanks and leaders. Previously he was the director of Policy Network (London), and now serves on the board of a host of progressive think tanks around the world, including Canada 2020 (Ottawa), and VoltaItalia (Rome). Matt’s research focuses on countering the rise of populism and right-wing nationalism, and the future of democracy in the digital age. He is the co-director of the Berggruen Institute’s task force on the renewal of democracy and a member of the advisory board of Reset.Tech, a new organisation which seeks to counter the negative impact of technology on democracy.

Hans Anker

Hans Anker is a seasoned political consultant with more than 25 years of strategic research and consulting experience in more than 50 countries across five continents. Anker has provided strategic and polling advice to government leaders from across the world, other major candidates for office, and CEOs of private corporations and nongovernmental organizations. Anker currently resides in the Netherlands, after spending 13 years in Washington DC and New York. He received his PhD from the University of Amsterdam and also studied at the University of Michigan.

About Global Progress

Global Progress is an international network of progressive foundations, think tanks and leaders committed to the exchange of ideas, research, and best practices that help promote shared prosperity and an inclusive approach to politics. Over the last decade, Global Progress has convened workshops and seminars in over twenty countries across four continents - from Santiago to Sydney, Montreal and New York to Madrid and Berlin - and hosted an annual summit that brings together progressive leaders from across the globe.
The results of the survey will be presented publicly on the occasion of the upcoming G7 summit at the Progressive Governance Summit taking place in Berlin between June 9-11, 2021.

For German media outlets: Please contact our German partner organization: Das Progressive Zentrum e.V.

About YouGov

YouGov is an international, full-service market research agency, pioneering the use of the Internet and technology to collect high quality, interconnected data for research and analytics. YouGov operates an online panel of 8 million panelists across 44 countries covering the UK, USA, Europe, the Nordics, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia Pacific. These panels are pro-actively recruited to ensure representativeness from all demographic groups within each country, allowing us to create nationally representative online samples and access hard to reach groups, in both consumer and professional markets.

About the "Progressive Governance Summit“ series

The Progressive Governance Series regularly gathers progress-oriented actors to map out a social and economic reform agenda. From Santiago to London, Oslo, Dublin, Copenhagen, Amsterdam and Stockholm to Berlin, Progressive Governance has been held as an international summit since 1999. On changing key topics, decision-makers and thought leaders discuss new ideas, develop strategies and work on alliances for center-left parties and social movements. Das Progressive Zentrum, has been the host of the series since 2017. The Berlin-based think tank aims to provide a platform for an international exchange of ideas, in particular for the next generation of progressive thinkers, researchers and policymakers in Europe. For more information: https://progressive-governance.eu