



# Global Progress Survey by YouGov

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

Matt Browne and Hans Anker

# About the research

This research was conducted by YouGov on behalf of Global Progress.

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 11433 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)

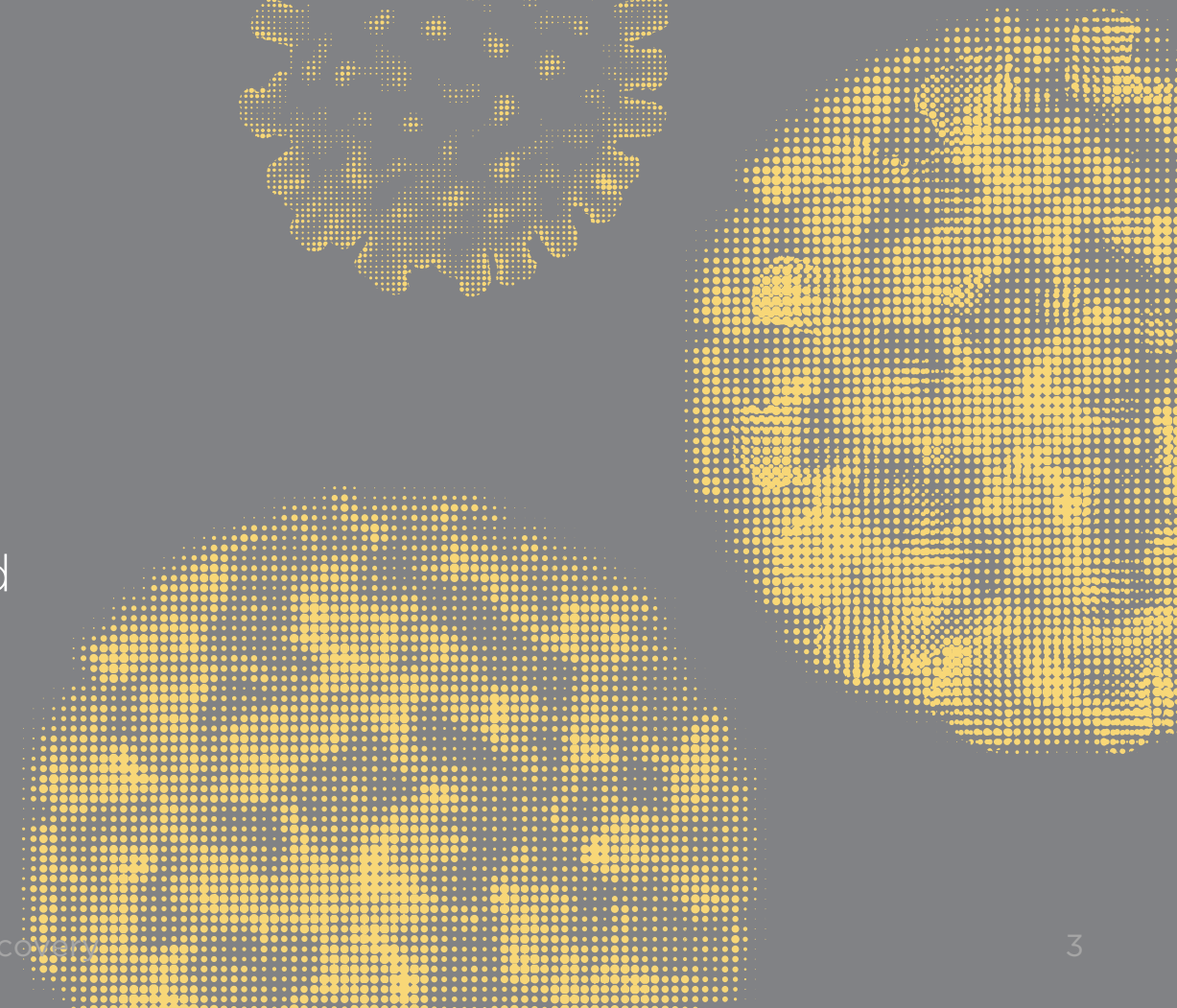
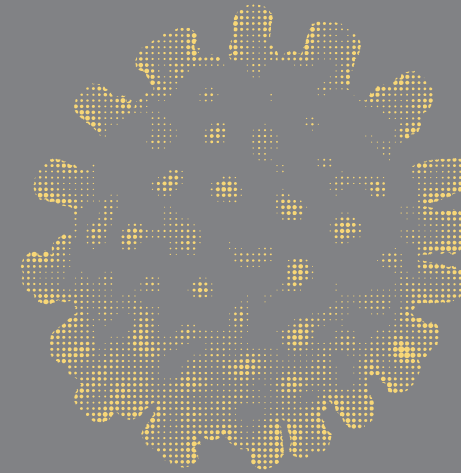
These samples are nationally and politically representative in all countries apart from Japan and Australia where they are just nationally representative.

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# 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.

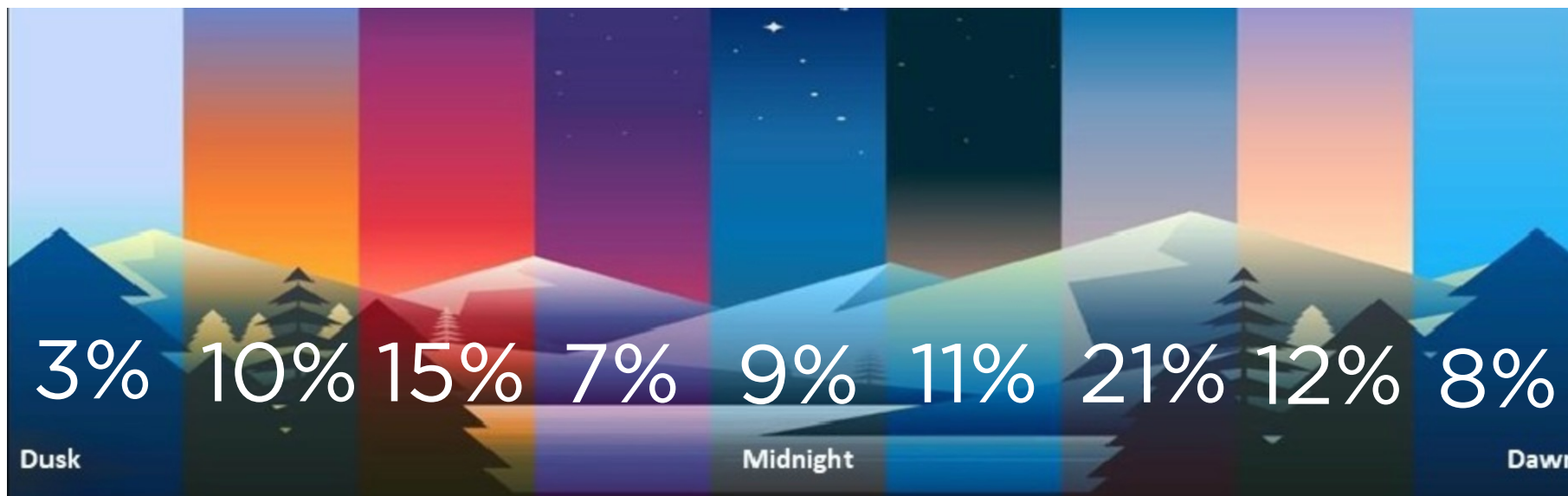


# 1A Dusk or Dawn? People hope, if not fully believe, we are beating the virus

## 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




5% of respondents answered 'Don't Know'

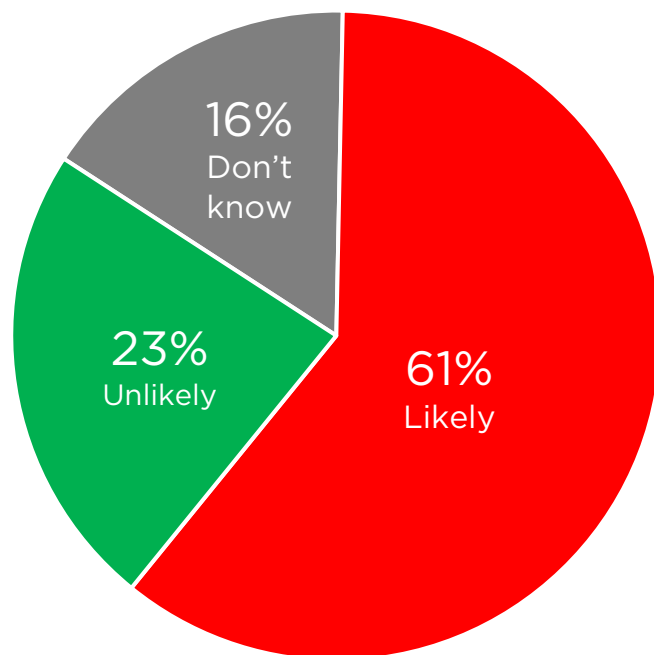
YouGov and Global Progress would like to thank Data Sciences for allowing us to use this image and question in the survey

# 1B 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?

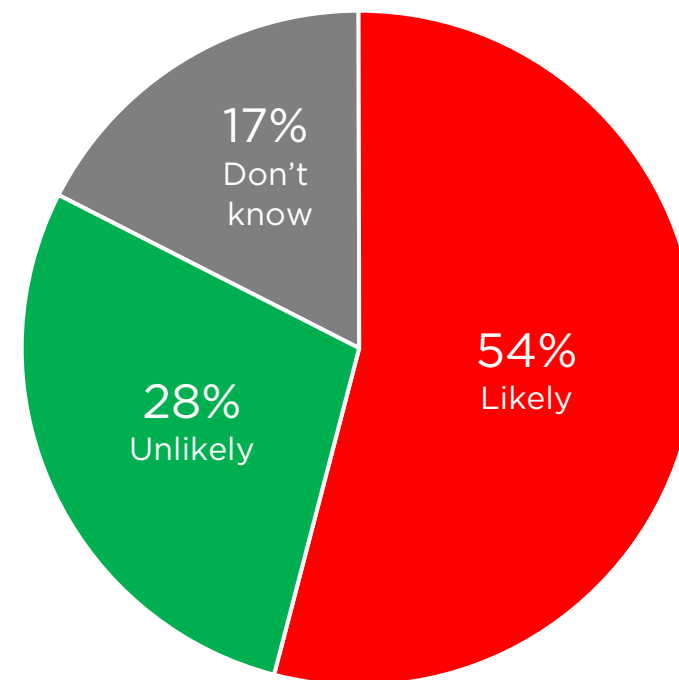
 **Germany:**  
61% Likely, 23% Unlikely,  
16% Don't Know



## 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?

 **Germany:**  
54% Likely, 29% Unlikely,  
18% Don't know



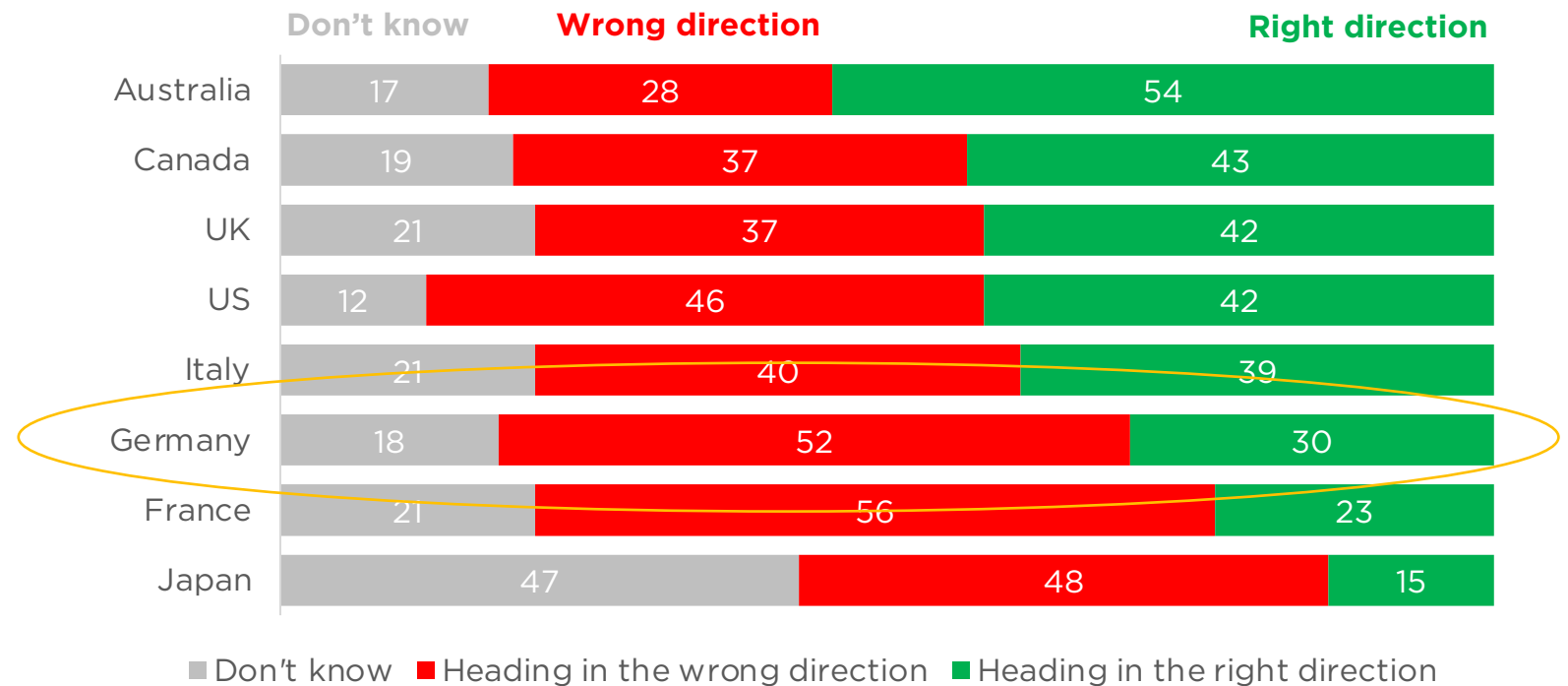
# 2A

## 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



# 2B

## **Optimism in the New World:** The future is bright for young American, Canadians, and Australians

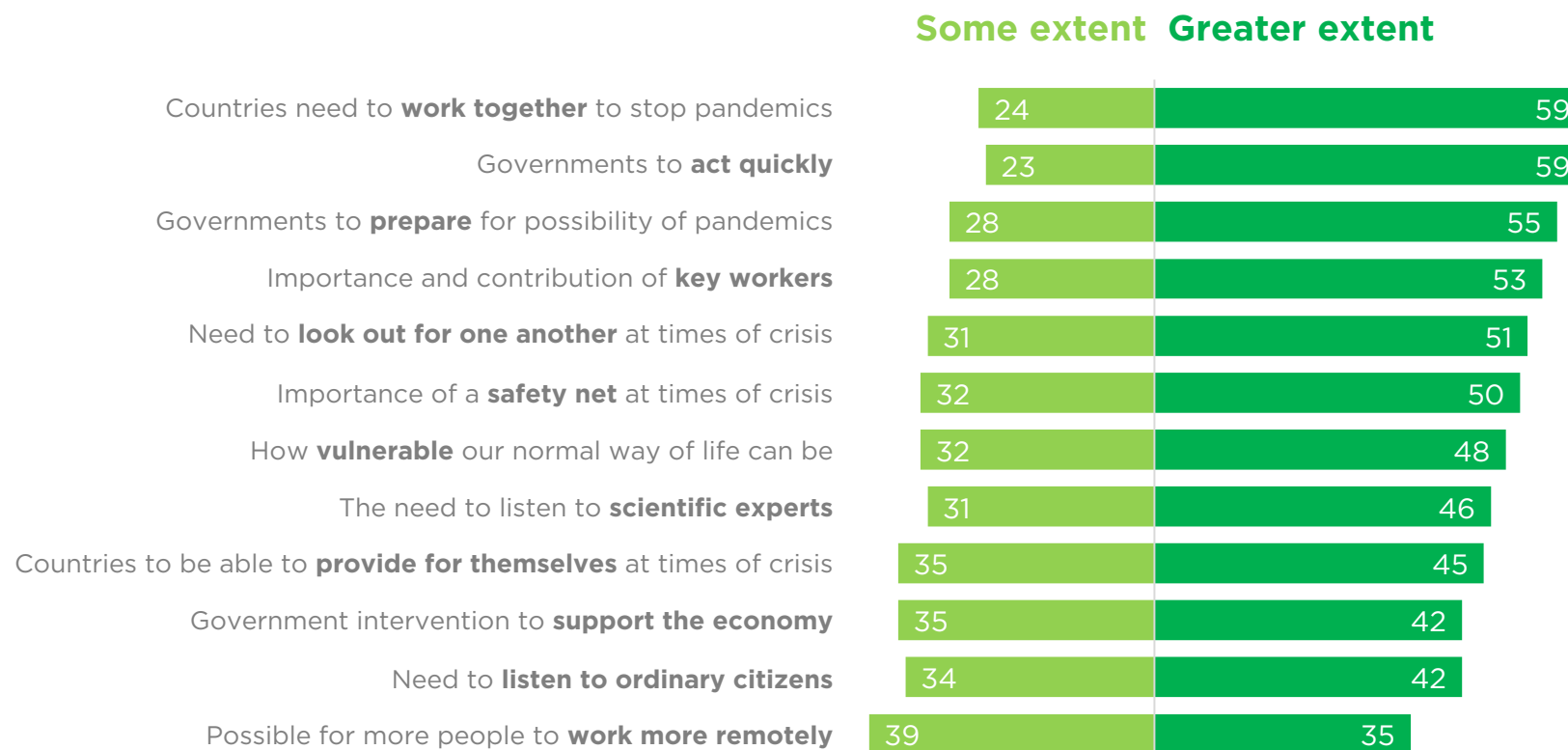


- Australians (42%) and Americans (40%) stand out as believing that the younger generations have it better than the older generations.
- Italy (55%) and France (52%) are the most pessimistic and the most likely to consider that younger generations have it worse than previous ones.
- 65% of Americans 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%).

# 3 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?



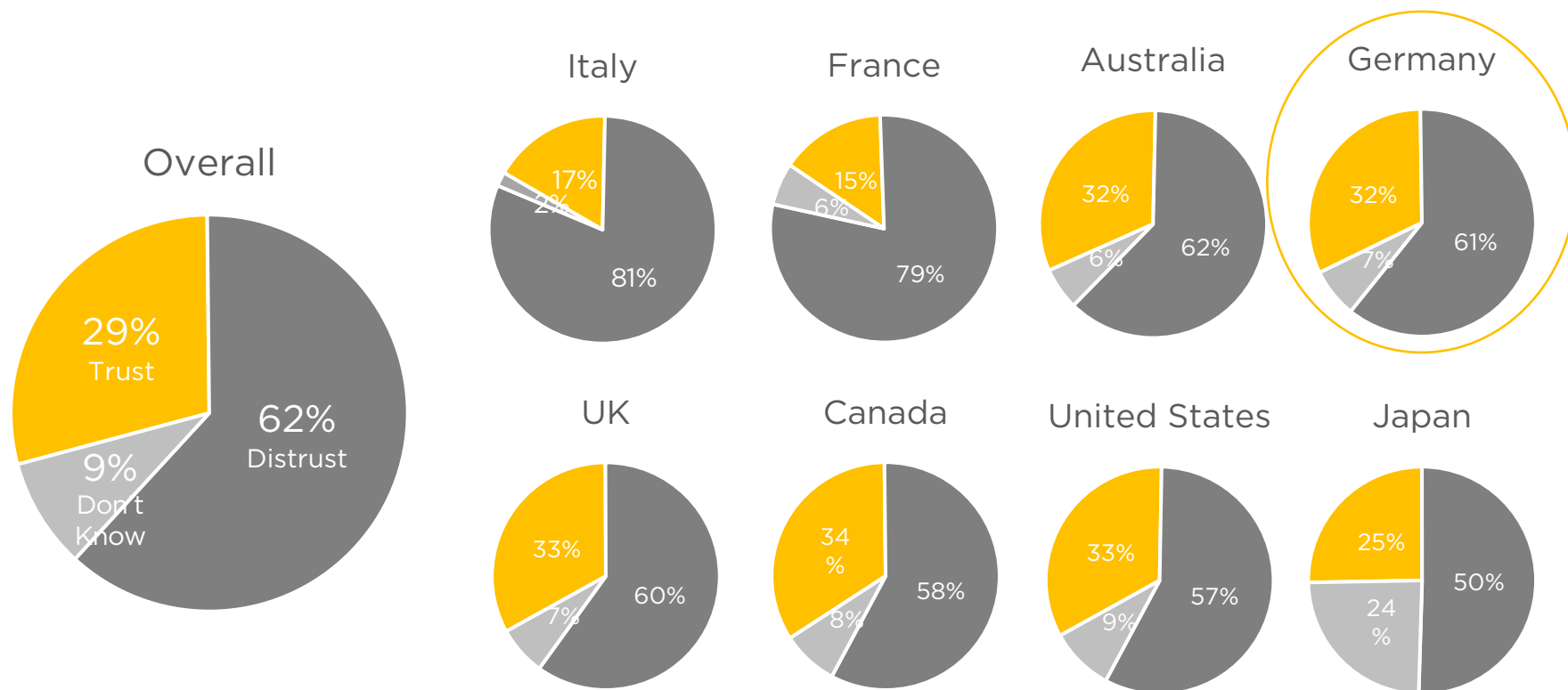
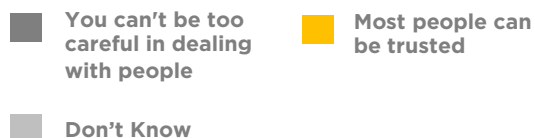


# 4

## Untrusting Society: Despite all the talk of the revival of communitarian spirit, people don't really trust one another

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

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).



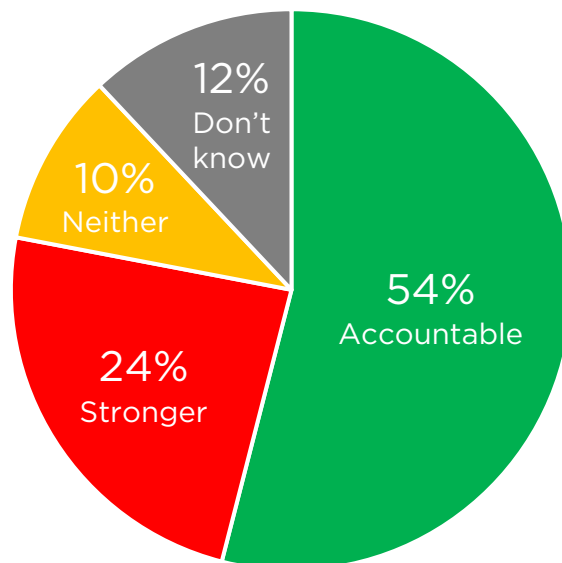
# 5

## 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
- 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



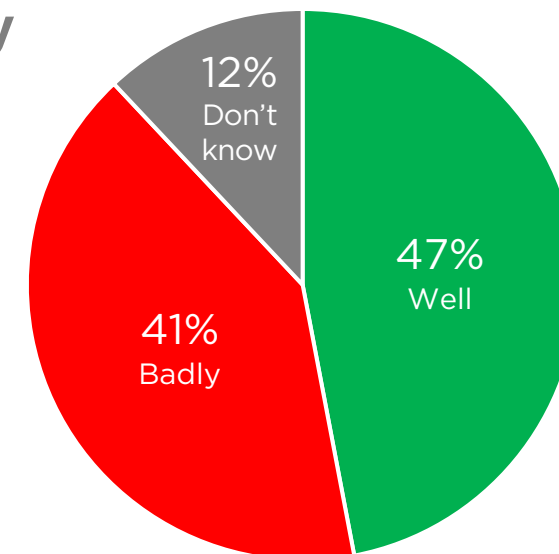
### How is democracy working in your country?

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 Well Don't know

**Germany:**  
51% Well, 39% Badly, 10% Don't know



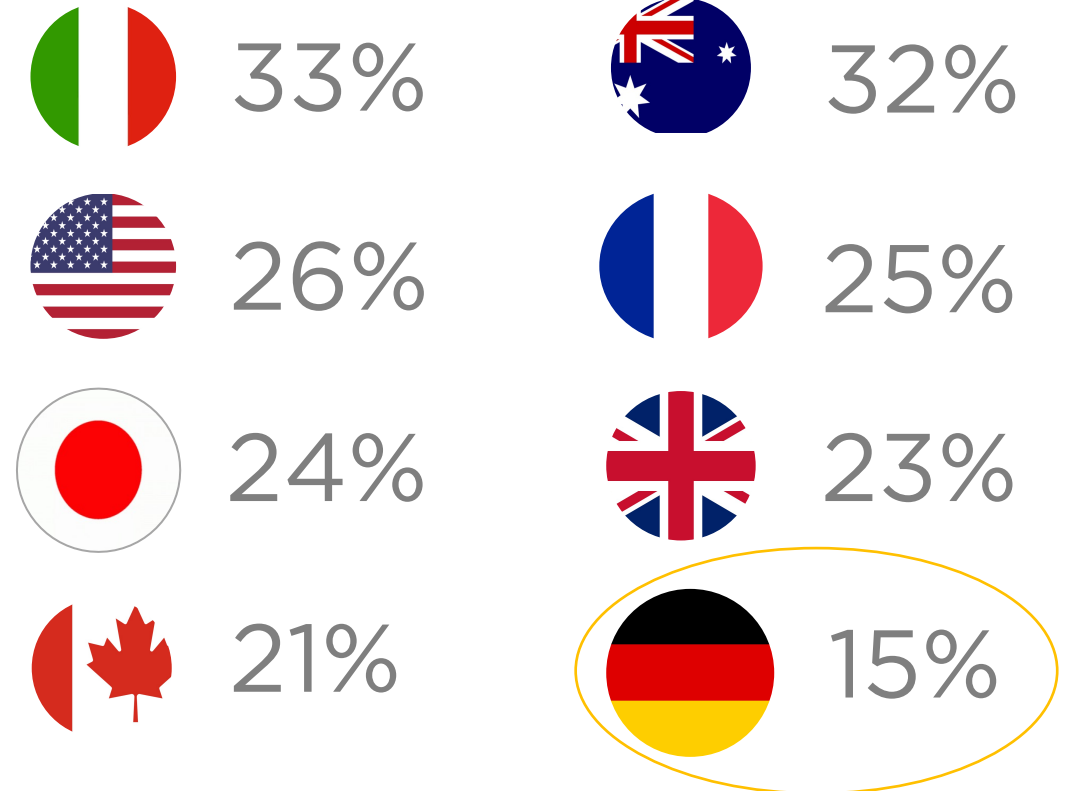
# 6 **Rising Authoritarianism:** A significant minority have sympathy for authoritarian ideal

**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**

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'

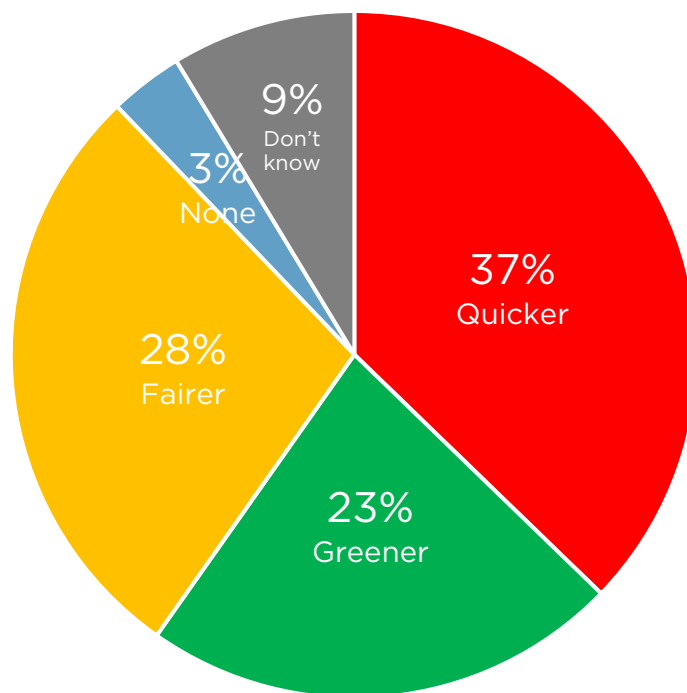


# 7 Priority for Recovery: Faster, Greener, Fairer?

## Priorities for economic recovery after Covid

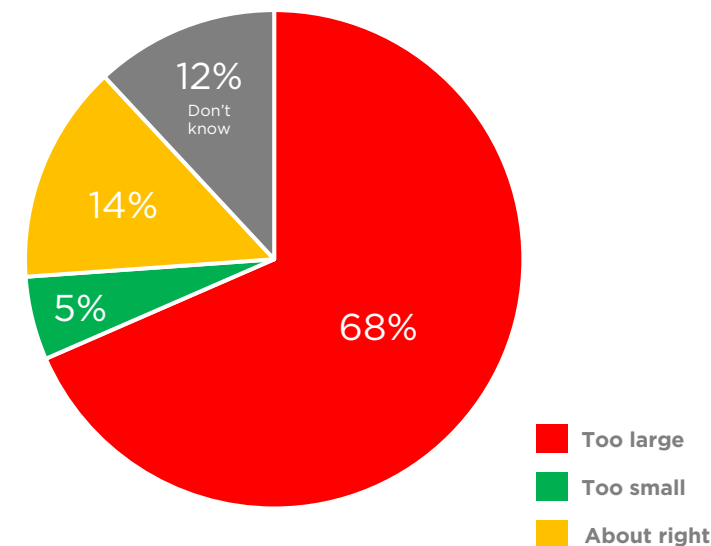
Thinking about how the Government plans for economic recovery after Covid-19, which of the following do you think should be their main priority...

- Quicker
- Greener
- Fairer
- None of these



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

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



**Germany:**  
74% Too Large, 5% Too Small, 15% About Right, 6% Don't know

# 8

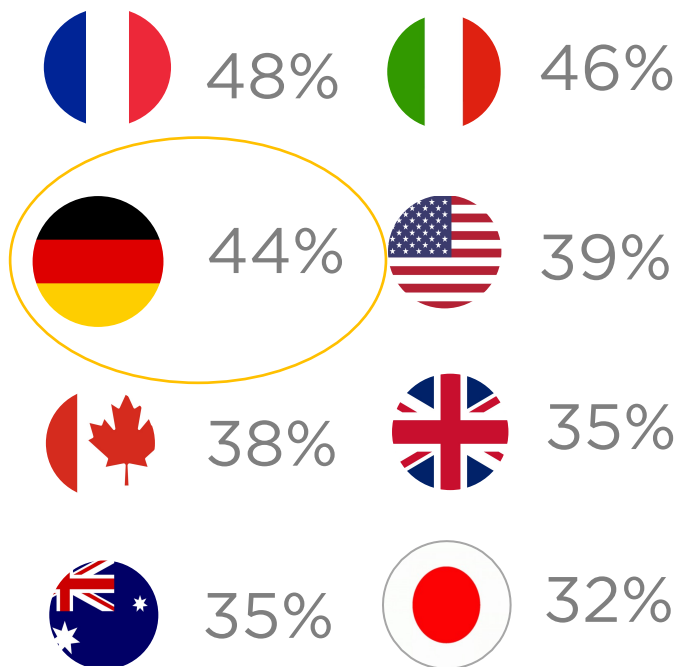
## Climate Fatalism: Almost half of respondents believe there is nothing their countries can or should do and that acting risks jobs...



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?

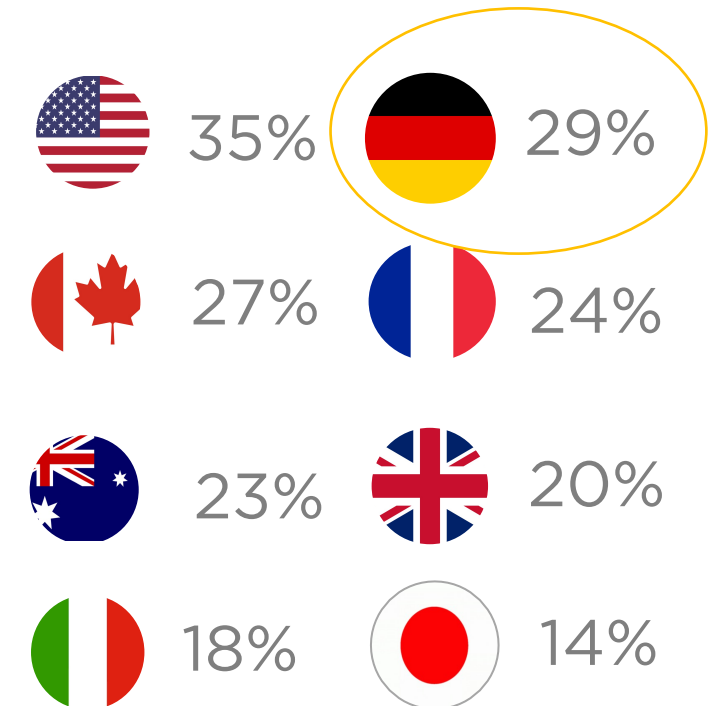
- There are actions that your country can take that will make a real difference to combating climate change
- There is little that your country can realistically do to make a difference to combating climate change unless countries like China & India do
- There is nothing that any country can realistically 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 ...

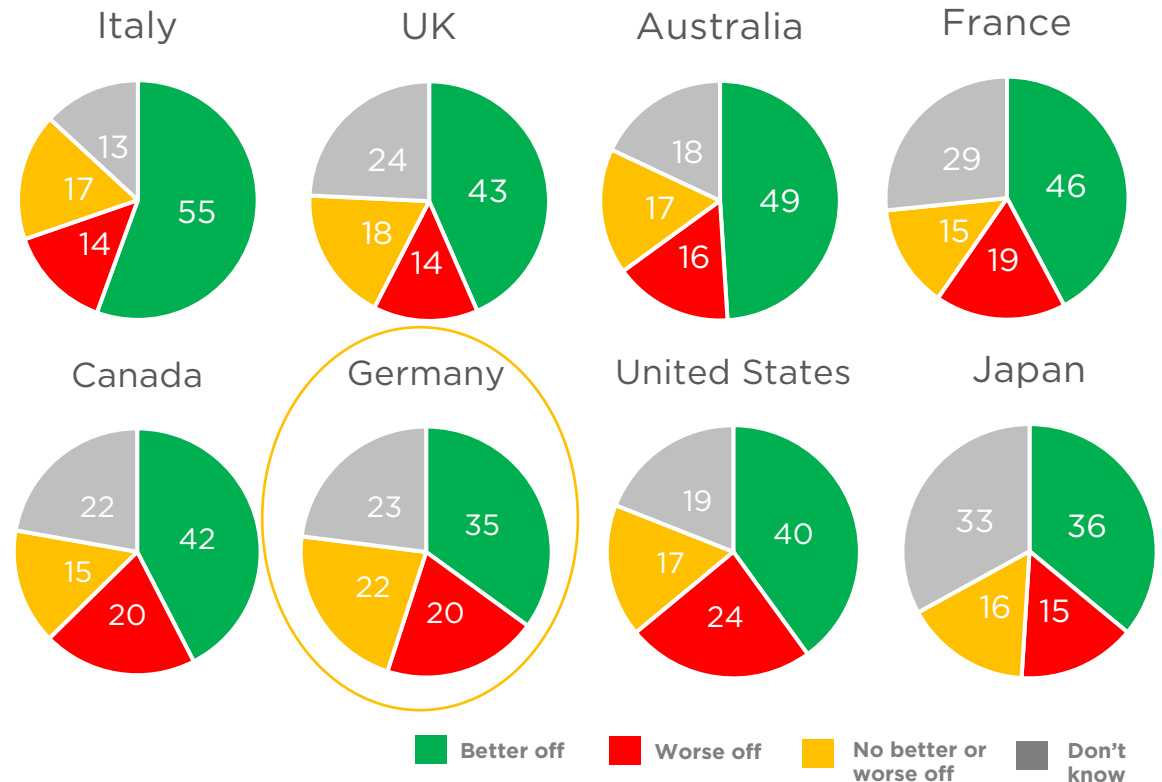
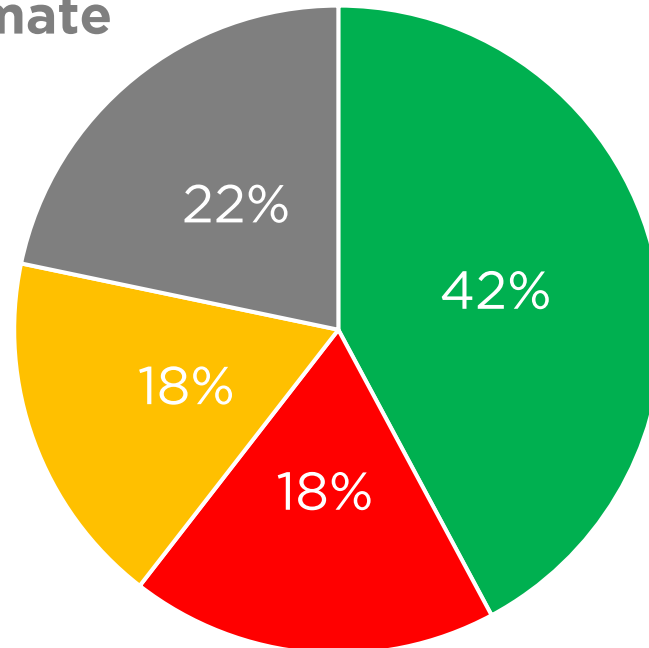
- More likely to create jobs
- More likely to destroy jobs



## Early action on climate change economic 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



# 10


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

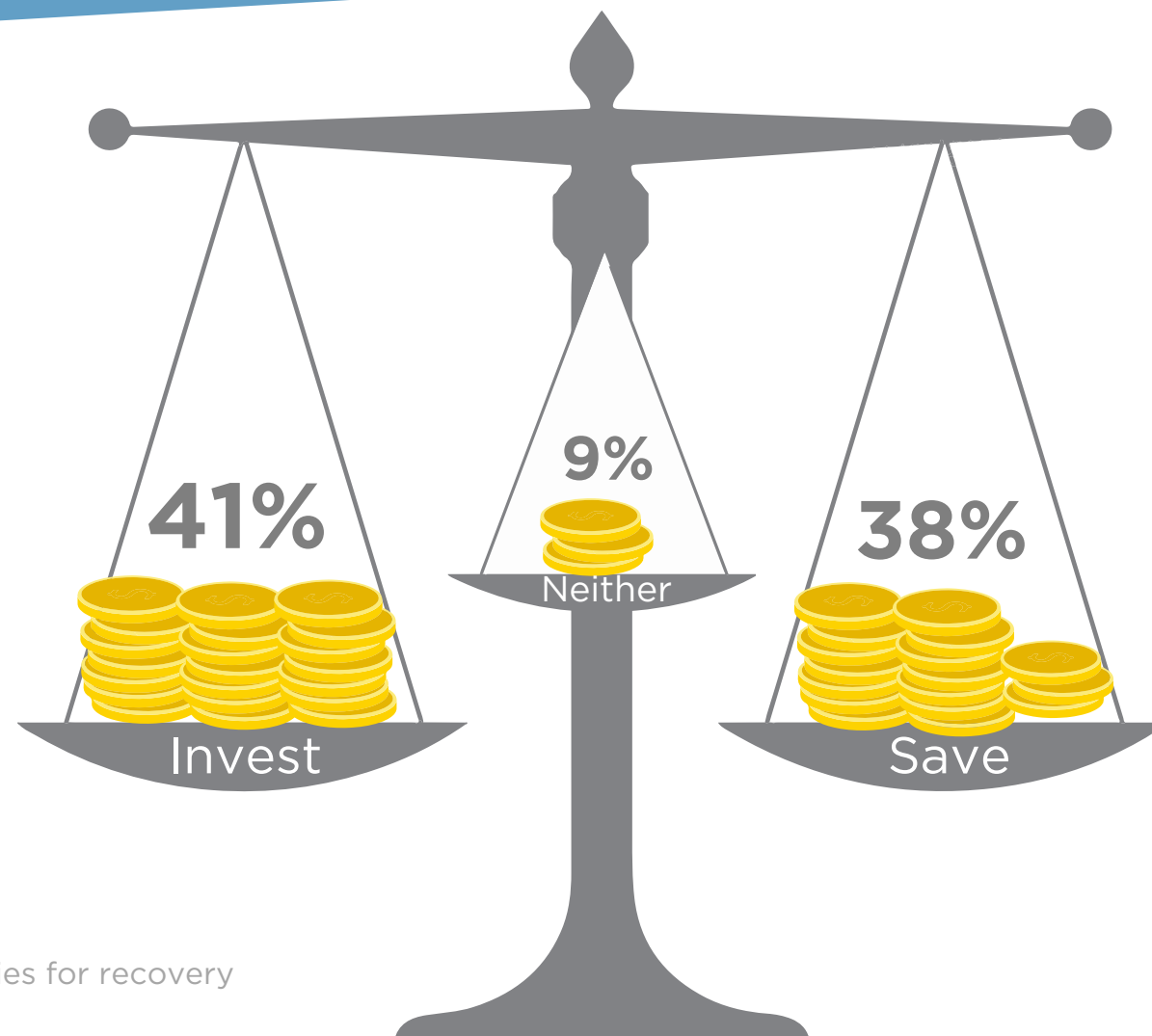
### Percentages of people who support government spending to help recover

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

13% respondents answered Don't Know

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



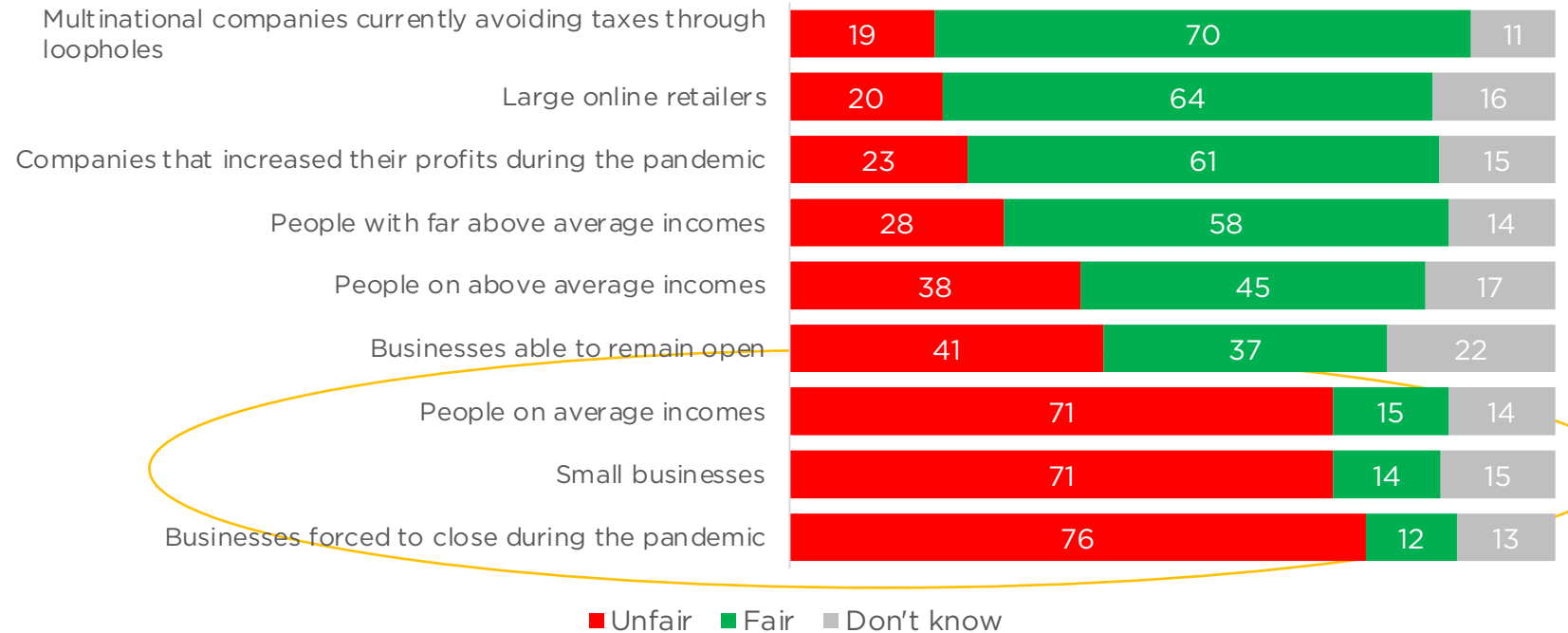
# 11

## 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...

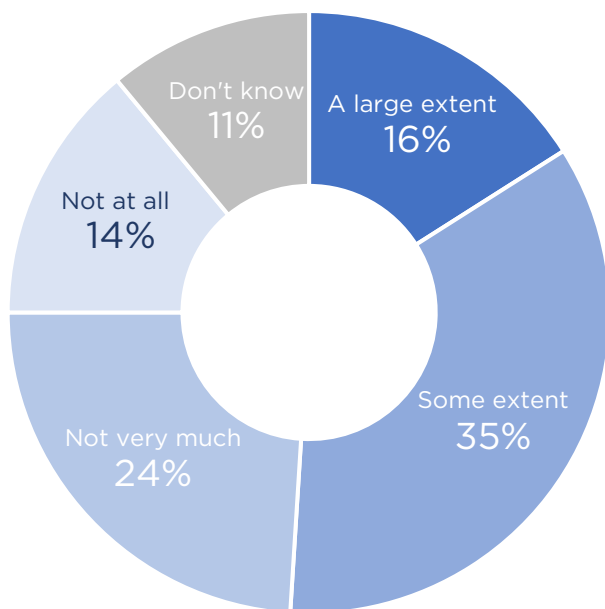




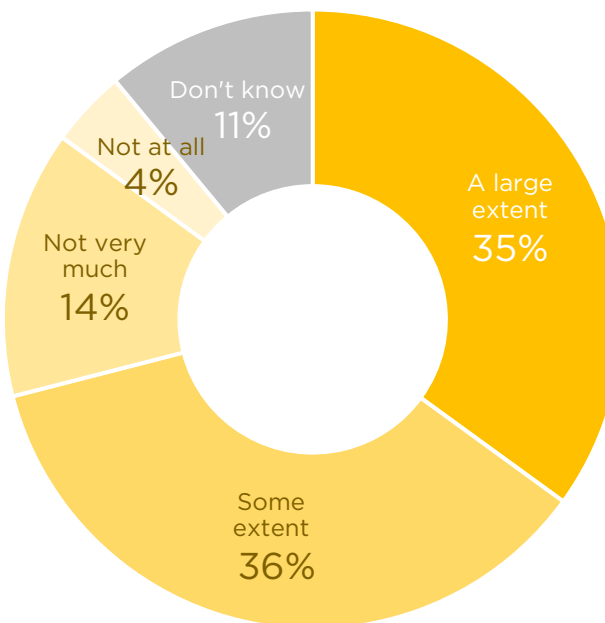
# 12

## Social Media's Distortions: Division and self-censorship now common

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

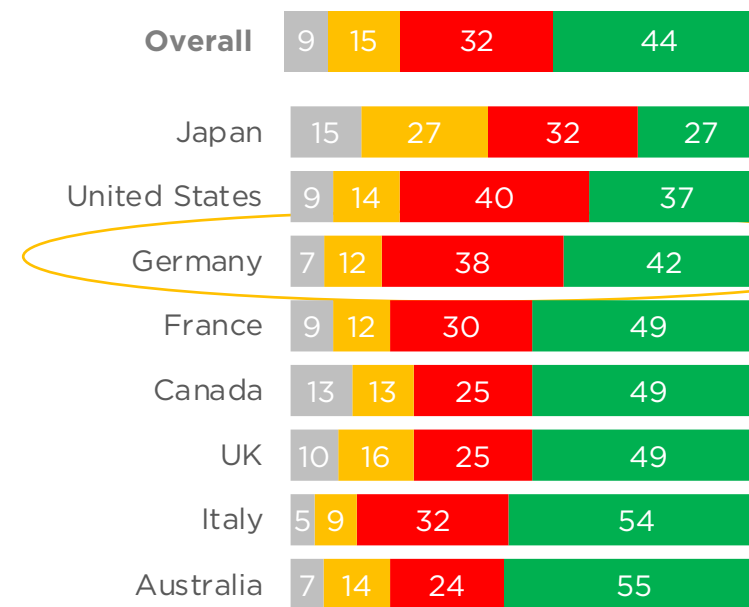


### Social media has made society more divided...



### Self censorship by country...

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



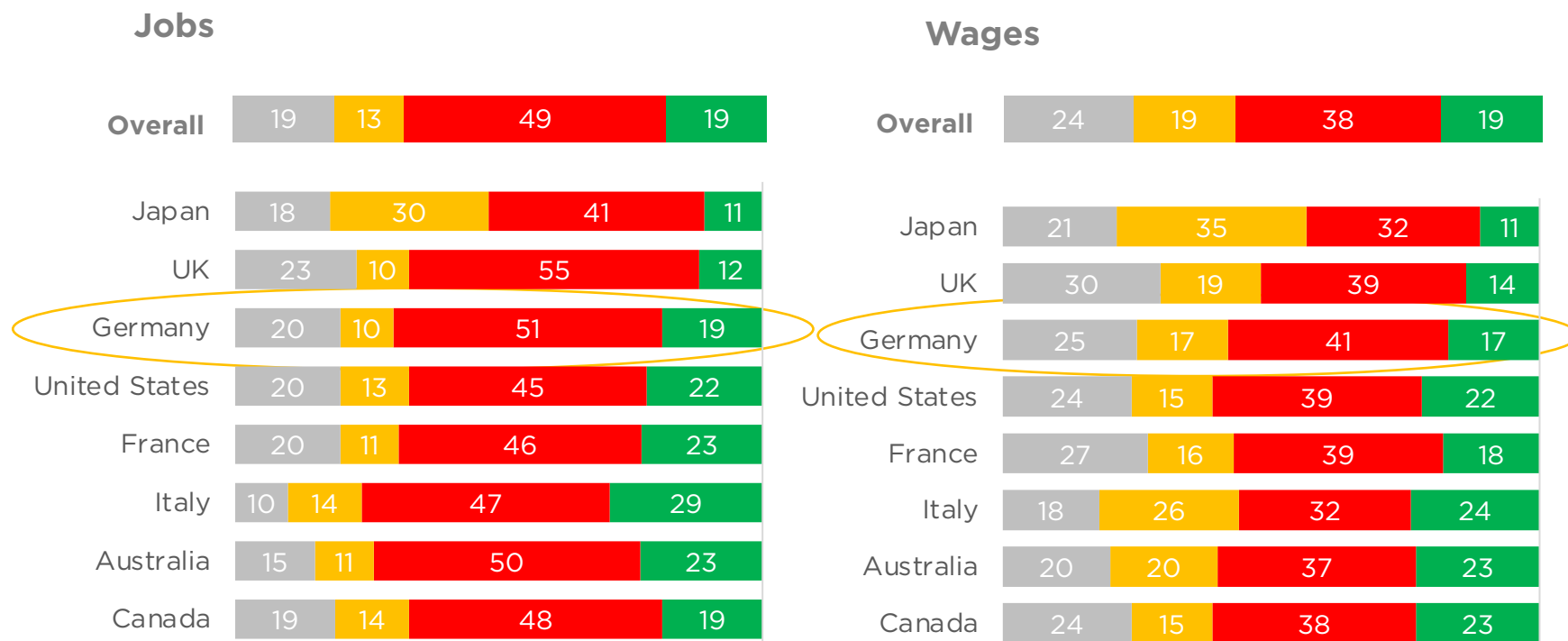
# 13

## 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...

■ Negative
 ■ Positive
 ■ No effect
 ■ Don't know




# 14

**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**

 **Germany:**  
45% Threat, 20% Opportunity, 24% Neither, 11% Don't Know

## 65%

**would be uncomfortable taking Chinese developed vaccine**

 **Germany:**  
63% Uncomfortable, 24% Comfortable, 13% Don't Know

## 32%

**rank China most likely to lead future**

# 15

## Biden's Leadership Opportunity (and Challenge): Outside of the US, which remains divided, Biden's agenda is the example to follow



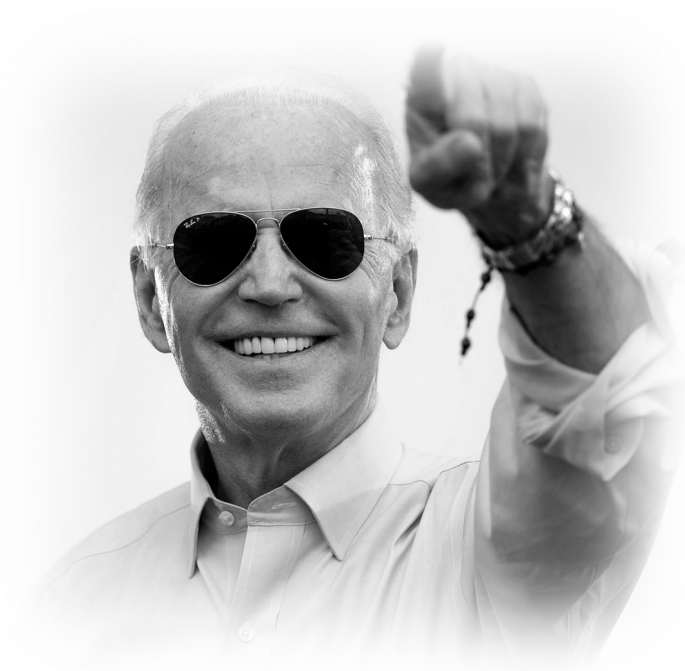
# 69%

**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 VoltItalia (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.



# For more information

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.



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## 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>

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