# ATTITUDES TO THE TOKYO 2020 SUMMER OLYMPICS

A 28-country Global Advisor survey

**July 2021** 

https://www.ipsos.com/en/2020-summer-olympics-perceptions

**GAME CHANGERS** 



# INTRODUCTION

With the approach of the postponed 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics, we asked people in 28 countries their view on the event: Should it go ahead? How interested are they personally? What is the impact of the Games on wider society?

#### **SUPPORT**

Overall, support for the Olympics taking place in summer 2021 is muted, in part due to concerns over Covid-19. Less than half (43%, global country average) agree that it should go ahead. 57% disagree.

People in host nation Japan are among the most doubtful: 22% say the Olympics should go ahead while 78% say it shouldn't.

However, 62% worldwide agree that the Olympics will be an important opportunity for **the world to come together** following the pandemic.

#### **INTEREST**

Levels of interest in the Olympics vary across the world. India, South Africa and China are most interested while Belgium, South Korea and Japan are least.

Football/soccer emerges as the most popular Olympic event, with Saudi Arabia the most interested.

Athletics is #2 (South Africa is most interested), then Aquatics (Hungary).

Majorities in 13 countries are very/ somewhat interested in the Olympics, but majorities in 15 countries are not very/not at all interested.

#### **IMPACT**

On average, 80% worldwide say that the Olympics **inspire younger generations** to participate in sport.

Two-thirds (65%) agree with the **uniting power** of the Olympics. This falls to one-third (36%) in Japan.

Approval of using **government funding** to support Olympic athletes is at 67% globally, but ranges widely.

Opinion is split regarding whether there is **too much nationalism** on display at the Olympics (55% agree, 45% disagree).



# **KEY FINDINGS**

#### Most popular Olympic events





Football/soccer





Athletics/Track & field





**Aquatics** 





**Gymnastics** 



On average across the 28 countries,

eight in ten (80%) agree that the Olympics inspire tomorrow's generation to participate in sport.



# **Over half (57%)**

worldwide say that the Olympics should not go ahead at this time.



In Japan, only **22%** of the host nation's citizens support the Olympics going ahead.

#### Who is most interested in the Olympics?

#### **Top 5 countries (% interested)**



South Africa 59%

China **57%** 

Poland 56%

Turkey 56%

#### **Bottom 5 countries (% interested)**

Belgium 28%

South Korea 30%

Japan 32%

France 32%

Germany 33%



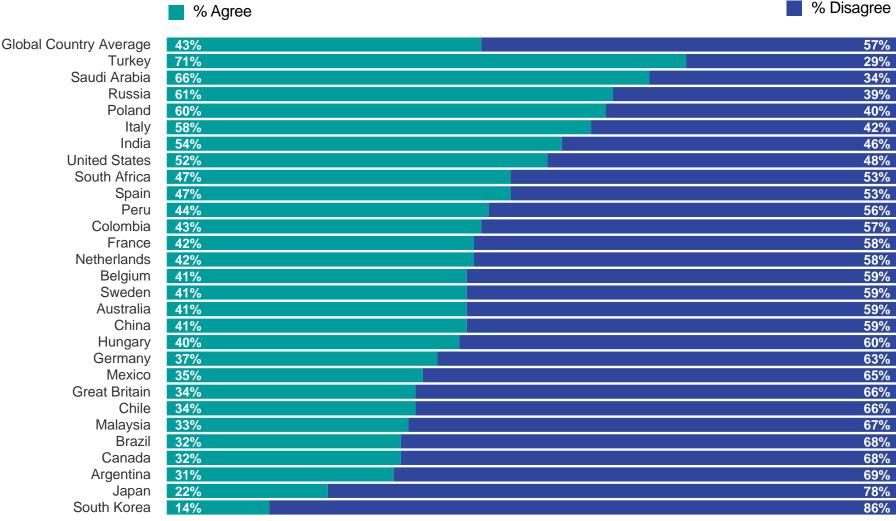


# SHOULD THE TOKYO OLYMPICS GO AHEAD?

Our 28-country survey finds that, on average, four in ten (43%) agree that the postponed 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo should go ahead, even if the pandemic isn't over yet. A greater proportion (57%) disagree.

Agreement is highest in Turkey (71%), Saudi Arabia (66%), Russia (61%) and Poland (60%). Support is lowest in South Korea (14%) and Japan (22%).

Q: The Olympics should go ahead in 2021, even if the COVID pandemic isn't over yet.





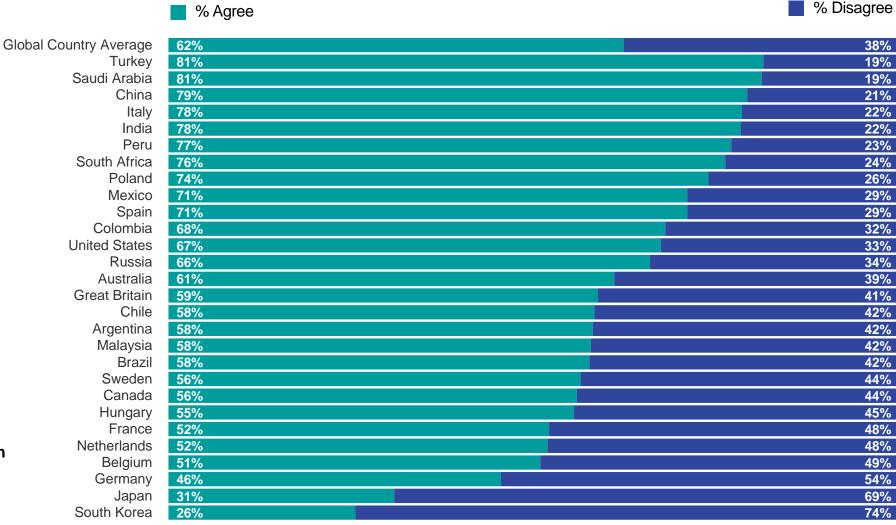
# AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAL?

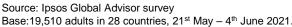
However, on average, 62% say that the Olympics will be an important opportunity for the world to come together following the pandemic.

Turkey and Saudi Arabia once again show the highest levels of agreement.

South Korea, Japan and Germany are the only countries where fewer than 50% say this is the case.

Q: The Tokyo Olympic Games will be an important opportunity for the world to come together following the pandemic.









# INTEREST IN THE OLYMPICS

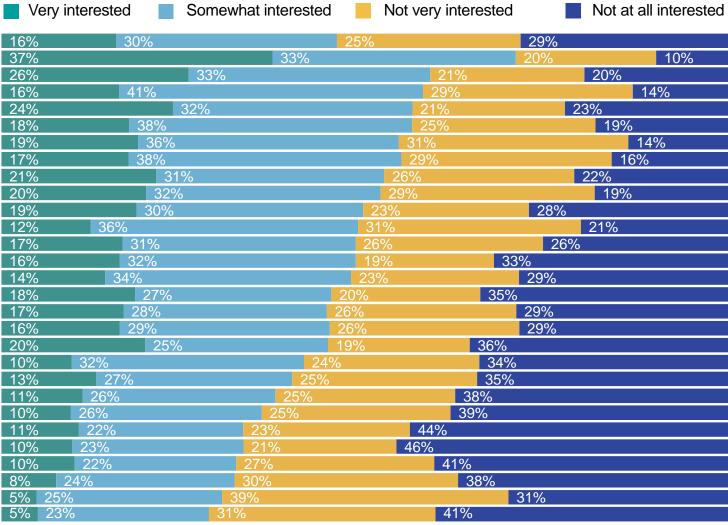
On average across 28 countries, more say they are *not* interested (54%) in the Olympics than *are* interested (46%).

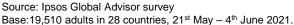
India, South Africa and China are most interested, while Belgium, South Korea and Japan are least engaged.

Male respondents are split 50:50 while more women say they are not interested (59% vs. 41%). Older generations also express less interest in the Games.

Q: How interested are you in the 2021 Summer Olympic Games in Tokyo, Japan?

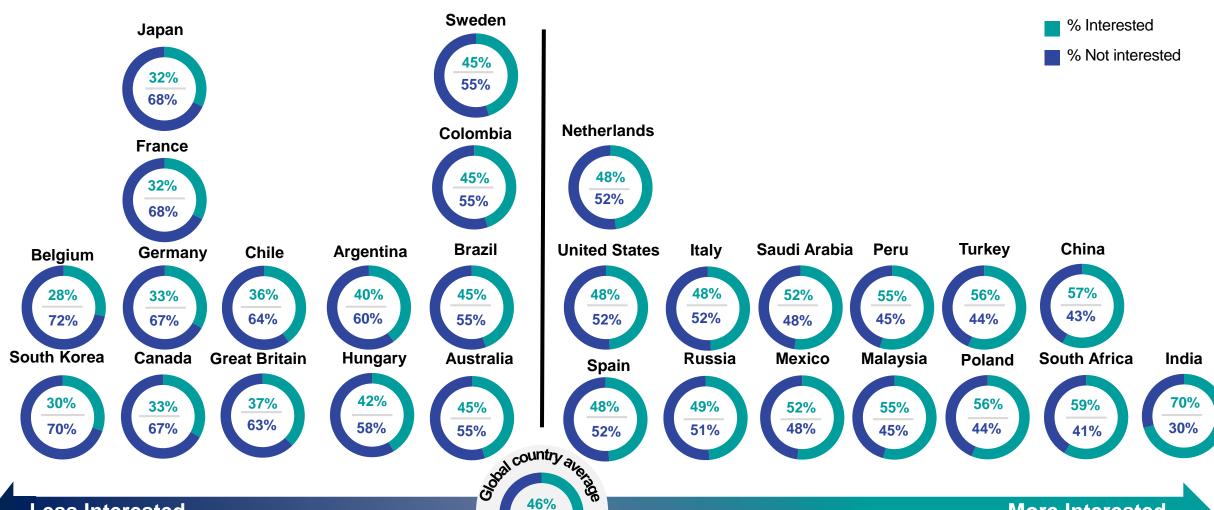








# **GLOBAL INTEREST IN THE TOKYO OLYMPICS: AT A GLANCE**



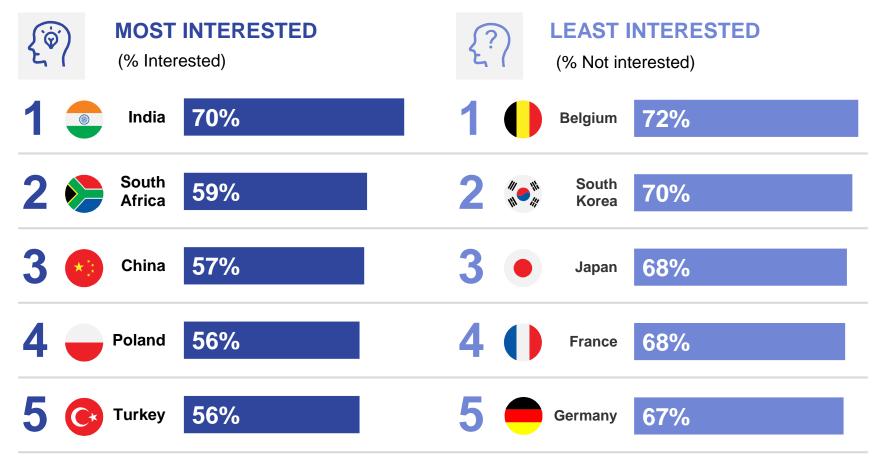
**Less Interested** 

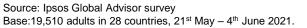
**More Interested** 



# WHICH COUNTRIES ARE MOST INTERESTED IN THE OLYMPICS?









# **MOST POPULAR OLYMPIC SPORTS (1-10)**

Q: From this list of Olympic events, which three are you most interested in following this year?

	Global Country Average	∆rgentina	Australia	Belgium	Brazil	Canada	Chile	China	Colombia	France	Germany	Great Britain	Hungary	India	Italy	Japan	Malaysia	Mexico	Netherlands	Peru	Poland	Russia	Saudi Arabia	South Africa	South Korea	Spain	Sweden	Turkey	United States
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Football/ Soccer	30%	49%	12%	17%	40%	14%	33%	19%	35%	18%	21%	15%	21%	37%	26%	7%	32%	40%	20%	45%	36%	33%	56%	35%	49%	36%	29%	41%	10%
Athletics/ Track and field	27%	18%	27%	27%	14%	22%	29%	21%	32%	29%	22%	36%	15%	26%	32%	23%	28%	30%	28%	36%	34%	26%	14%	48%	13%	23%	41%	30%	21%
Aquatics*	22%	16%	36%	8%	18%	27%	26%	28%	23%	16%	8%	22%	37%	9%	30%	24%	25%	34%	19%	24%	6%	21%	22%	28%	9%	18%	16%	29%	32%
Gymnastics	21%	21%	25%	20%	29%	24%	41%	19%	27%	17%	6%	22%	9%	15%	25%	14%	22%	40%	13%	35%	11%	32%	9%	26%	10%	21%	10%	18%	39%
Volleyball	13%	17%	5%	4%	38%	9%	9%	19%	10%	4%	3%	4%	3%	10%	24%	9%	7%	15%	9%	31%	41%	15%	11%	5%	11%	4%	3%	20%	12%
Tennis	12%	20%	12%	20%	5%	7%	20%	10%	9%	14%	6%	10%	8%	28%	17%	8%	5%	5%	11%	13%	14%	13%	12%	15%	4%	26%	7%	11%	7%
Basketball	12%	27%	10%	6%	13%	9%	9%	26%	9%	7%	5%	4%	6%	10%	8%	5%	6%	14%	4%	14%	9%	14%	18%	8%	8%	28%	6%	29%	13%
Cycling	10%	7%	9%	20%	7%	4%	12%	6%	41%	14%	5%	14%	6%	14%	9%	1%	17%	6%	17%	10%	7%	5%	9%	7%	1%	11%	8%	9%	3%
Boxing	8%	11%	7%	6%	4%	6%	6%	5%	10%	5%	4%	8%	8%	17%	5%	2%	4%	20%	4%	9%	12%	12%	9%	12%	1%	7%	8%	14%	9%
Badminton	6%	1%	3%	3%	1%	3%	0%	27%	1%	4%	2%	4%	1%	36%	1%	5%	63%	0%	1%	0%	2%	2%	3%	1%	7%	3%	3%	2%	2%

<sup>\*</sup> Includes diving, swimming, synchronized swimming and water polo



# MOST POPULAR OLYMPIC SPORTS (11-21)

Q: From this list of Olympic events, which three are you most interested in following this year?

	Global Country Average	Argentina	Australia	Belgium	Brazil	Canada	Chile	China	Colombia	France	Germany	Great Britain	Hungary	India	Italy	Japan	Malaysia	Mexico	Netherlands	Peru	Poland	Russia	Saudi Arabia	South Africa	South Korea	Spain	Sweden	Turkey	United States
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Judo and karate	6%	9%	3%	4%	9%	3%	6%	3%	6%	13%	1%	2%	2%	4%	9%	11%	4%	12%	4%	11%	2%	6%	5%	5%	5%	8%	3%	10%	4%
Table tennis	5%	2%	4%	2%	3%	2%	3%	38%	4%	2%	4%	4%	3%	13%	3%	9%	8%	1%	1%	2%	2%	5%	7%	5%	7%	2%	3%	4%	3%
Weightlifting	5%	3%	6%	2%	0%	6%	10%	4%	15%	1%	2%	3%	4%	12%	2%	1%	5%	6%	2%	6%	6%	4%	11%	6%	2%	2%	4%	12%	5%
Handball	5%	1%	2%	1%	4%	1%	1%	2%	1%	10%	8%	1%	23%	2%	4%	1%	2%	1%	4%	2%	13%	2%	16%	2%	6%	5%	13%	1%	1%
Baseball and softball	4%	3%	2%	1%	1%	6%	4%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	2%	17%	1%	7%	1%	4%	1%	0%	0%	2%	29%	1%	1%	0%	13%
Rowing	3%	3%	6%	3%	2%	7%	4%	2%	2%	2%	6%	7%	16%	1%	6%	0%	1%	1%	4%	2%	5%	1%	3%	2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Surfing	3%	2%	5%	2%	5%	5%	4%	4%	1%	3%	2%	2%	1%	3%	2%	1%	4%	2%	4%	10%	1%	6%	5%	5%	1%	3%	3%	1%	4%
Rugby (sevens)	3%	8%	8%	2%	1%	3%	1%	2%	2%	5%	1%	5%	0%	2%	3%	3%	1%	1%	3%	1%	2%	1%	1%	27%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Skateboarding	3%	2%	4%	2%	7%	4%	2%	4%	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	3%	3%	3%	3%	5%	0%	5%
Golf	3%	1%	3%	1%	1%	5%	2%	3%	2%	2%	1%	2%	0%	4%	1%	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	1%	3%	3%	9%	3%	5%	1%	4%
Sport climbing	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%	1%	3%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	3%	4%	1%	2%	1%	2%	5%	2%







#### **Most interested**

(% choose sport as one of the top 3 most interested in)

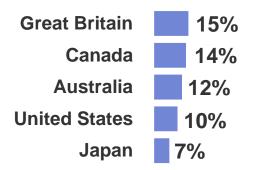


#### **Least interested**

(% choose sport as one of the top 3 most interested in)

#### Football/soccer

Saudi Arabia	56%
South Korea	49%
Argentina	49%
Peru	45%
Turkey	41%



### **Athletics (track and field)**



South Africa	48%
Sweden	41%
<b>Great Britain</b>	36%
Peru	36%
Poland	34%

Argentina 18%
Hungary 15%
Saudi Arabia 14%
Brazil 14%
South Korea 13%







#### **Most interested**

(% choose sport as one of the top 3 most interested in)



#### **Least interested**

(% choose sport as one of the top 3 most interested in)

### Aquatics (swimming, diving, synchronized swimming, water polo)

Hungary	37%
Australia	36%
Mexico	34%
<b>United States</b>	32%
Italy	30%

South Korea	9%
India	9%
Belgium	8%
Germany	8%
Poland	6%

# **Gymnastics**

Chile	41%
Mexico	40%
<b>United States</b>	39%
Peru	35%
Russia	32%

South Korea 10%
Sweden 10%
Hungary 9%
Saudi Arabia 9%
Germany 6%





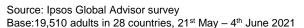
% Agree

#### % Disagree

"The Olympics inspire tomorrow's generation to participate in sport"

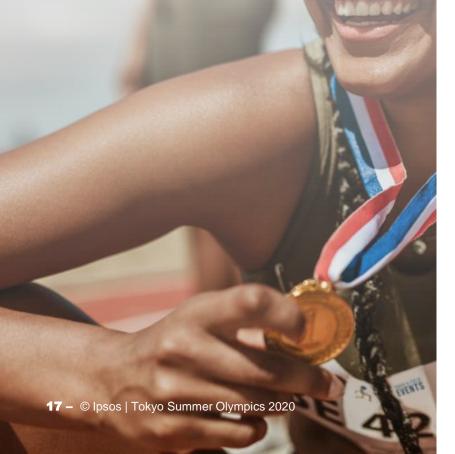


Global Country Average	80%	20%	6
China	92%	8%	6
Turkey	92%	8%	6
India	90%	10%	6
Peru	90%	10%	6
South Africa	89%	11%	6
Colombia	87%	13%	6
Mexico	86%	14%	6
Malaysia	86%	14%	6
Saudi Arabia	85%	15%	6
Chile	85%	15%	6
Argentina	85%	15%	6
Poland	84%	16%	6
Italy	82%	18%	6
Spain	82%	18%	6
Russia	81%	19%	6
Brazil	80%	20%	6
United States	80%	20%	6
Canada	79%	21%	6
Great Britain	78%	22%	6
Sweden	77%	23%	6
Australia	77%	23%	6
Hungary	76%	24%	6
South Korea	73%	27%	6
Netherlands	72%	28%	6
Belgium	66%	34%	6
France	62%	38%	6
Japan	59%	41%	6
Germany	54%	46%	6



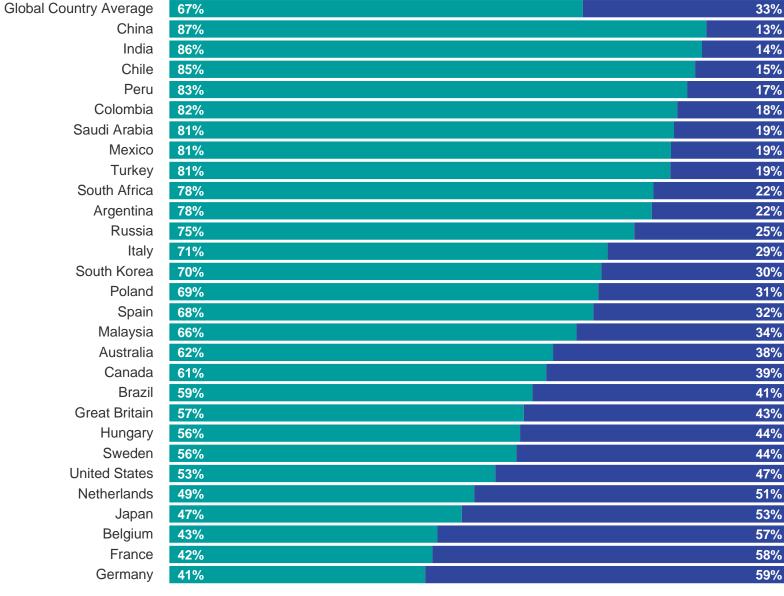


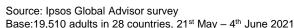
"Government funding should be used to support my country's athletes at the Olympics"



% Agree

% Disagree







Global Country Average	65%
China	
	92%
India	84%
Saudi Arabia	80%
Turkey	80%
Peru	78%
Malaysia	77%
Italy	75%
Russia	74% 26%
South Korea	73% 27%
South Africa	73%
Canada	70% 30%
Spain	69% 31%
United States	66% 34%
Australia	65% 35%
Mexico	64% 36%
Sweden	62%
Great Britain	62% 38%
Argentina	61%
Colombia	59% 41%
Brazil	59% 41%
Hungary	58% 42%
Netherlands	57% 43%
Chile	
Belgium	55% 45%
France	54% 46%
Poland	43% 57%
Germany	37% 63%
Japan	36% 64%

Source: Ipsos Global Advisor survey

Base:19,510 adults in 28 countries, 21st May – 4th June 2021





"There is too

the Olympics"

19 - © Ipsos | Tokyo Summer Olympics 2020

% Disagree % Agree Global Country Average 55% 45% Saudi Arabia 80% 20% 79% Turkey 21% 75% India 25% Malaysia 74% 26% Brazil 71% 29% Spain 67% 33% South Korea 65% 35% Mexico 64% 36% China 63% 37% Colombia 63% 37% Peru 63% 37% Argentina 62% 38% South Africa 58% 42% Netherlands 57% 43% Chile 57% 43% 52% Japan 48% Australia 48% 52% Hungary 48% 52% Belgium 46% 54% 45% 55% Canada Russia 43% 57%



59%

60%

61%

62%

63%

65%

Source: Ipsos Global Advisor survey Base:19,510 adults in 28 countries, 21st May - 4th June 2021

41%

40%

39%

38%

37%

35%

30%

Italy

France

Germany

Sweden

Poland

**Great Britain** 

**United States** 



% Agree

Global Country Average	71% 29%
China	92% 8%
Saudi Arabia	89% 11%
India	88% 12%
Turkey	87% 13%
South Korea	86%
Malaysia	85% 15%
Colombia	83%
Peru	80%
Chile	79% 21%
South Africa	77% 23%
Mexico	76%
Italy	75% 25%
Poland	69% 31%
United States	69% 31%
Spain	68% 32%
Brazil	68% 32%
Japan	68% 32%
Russia	67% 33%
Argentina	67% 33%
Australia	66% 34%
France	66% 34%
Canada	59% 41%
Sweden	58% 42%
Hungary	57% 43%
Netherlands	56% 44%
Belgium	54% 46%
Great Britain	52% 48%
Germany	50% 50%



% Disagree

Source: Ipsos Global Advisor survey
Base:19,510 adults in 28 countries, 21st May – 4th June 2021

# **METHODOLOGY**

These are the results of a 28-market survey conducted by Ipsos on its Global Advisor online platform. Ipsos interviewed a total of 19,510 adults aged 18-74 in the United States, Canada, Malaysia, South Africa, and Turkey, and 16-74 in 23 other markets between 21st May and 4th June, 2021.

The sample consists of approximately 1,000 individuals in each of Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, mainland China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Spain, and the U.S., and 500 individuals in each of Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Hungary, India, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Sweden, and Turkey.

The samples in Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Poland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, and the U.S. can be taken as representative of their general adult population under the age of 75.

The samples in Brazil, mainland China, Chile, Colombia, India, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa and Turkey 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 each market's sample composition best reflects the demographic profile of the adult population according to the most recent census data.

"The Global Country Average" reflects the average result for all the countries and markets where the survey was conducted. It has <u>not</u> been adjusted to the population size of each country or market and is <u>not</u> intended to suggest a total result.

Where results do not sum to 100 or the 'difference' appears to be +/-1 more/less than the actual, 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 are calculated using a credibility interval with a poll of 1,000 accurate to +/- 3.5 percentage points and of 500 accurate to +/- 5.0 percentage points. For more information on the 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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Our research professionals, analysts and scientists have built unique multi-specialist capabilities that provide powerful insights into the actions, opinions and motivations of citizens, consumers, patients, customers or employees. Our 75 business solutions are based on primary data coming from our surveys, social media monitoring, and qualitative or observational techniques.

"Game Changers" – our tagline – summarises our ambition to help our 5,000 clients to navigate more easily our deeply changing world.

Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos is listed on the Euronext Paris since July 1st, 1999. The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).

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# **GAME CHANGERS**

In our world of rapid change, the need for reliable information to make confident decisions has never been greater.

At Ipsos we believe our clients need more than a data supplier, they need a partner who can produce accurate and relevant information and turn it into actionable truth.

This is why our passionately curious experts not only provide the most precise measurement, but shape it to provide True Understanding of Society, Markets and People.

To do this we use the best of science, technology and know-how and apply the principles of security, simplicity, speed and substance to everything we do.

So that our clients can act faster, smarter and bolder. Ultimately, success comes down to a simple truth: You act better when you are sure.



# THANK YOU

**GAME CHANGERS** 

