



Governments Misspend More Than Half of Our Taxes—Global Poll

September 27, 2010

People believe that their government misspends more than half the money they pay in tax, according to the findings of a new BBC World Service global poll across 22 countries—but many are still looking to government to play a more active economic role.

The poll of more than 22,000 people, conducted by GlobeScan/PIPA, found that people estimated on average that 52 per cent of the money they pay in tax is not used in ways that serve the interests and values of the people of their country.

Despite this lack of trust in government to spend tax money responsibly, the poll found on some measures there is a near global consensus for increased government action. Nearly four in five around the world (78%), and majorities in all but one of 22 countries polled, think that government should subsidise food to keep prices for the consumer down, with only 18 per cent disagreeing. Two-thirds overall (67%), and majorities in 19 out of 22 countries, think that government regulation and oversight of their national economy needs to be increased—the US, Turkey and Spain are the only exceptions.

Other government interventions achieve slim majority support. In 14 of 22 countries most people—on average 56 per cent—favour an increase in government spending to stimulate the economy. This includes large majorities of Egyptians (91%), Mexicans (80%), Russians and Indonesians (both 78%), and Nigerians (73%). But majorities are opposed in a number of industrialised countries that had large stimulus programmes—Germany (66%), France (63%) and the US (58%).

On average 51 per cent also want their government to take steps now to address their deficit and debt, while 39 per cent are opposed. The United Kingdom is among the countries where support for deficit reduction measures is higher, at 60 per cent. Asked whether they would prefer their government to focus on tax rises or service cuts in dealing with their country's deficit and debt, in every country but Egypt more people said they preferred a focus on cutting services (on average 54%) than on increasing taxes (14%).

The results show that people who think a large proportion of their taxes are misspent are also less supportive of their government taking steps to address the deficit. While among those who estimate a third or less is misspent, a majority of 57 per cent is in favour of taking action on the deficit and debt, those who estimate that two-thirds or more of their taxes are misspent are divided (45% in favour, 45% opposed).

Providing financial support to banks in trouble is only supported by forty-four per cent on average of those polled – lower than for any other government action measured in the poll. A total of 14 countries have majorities opposing more bank bailouts, but eight countries are in favour.

The results are drawn from a survey of 22,783 adult citizens across 22 countries. It was conducted for BBC World Service by the international polling firm GlobeScan together with

the Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA) at the University of Maryland. GlobeScan coordinated fieldwork between June and September 2010. Full-sample results are considered accurate within +/- 2.1 to 3.5 per cent 19 times out of 20. Some questions were asked of half samples.

Doug Miller, GlobeScan Chairman comments, "As countries struggle to achieve economic recovery, citizens want more active government, but also more effective government intervention in the economy to meet the real needs of citizens, including stabilising food prices."

Steven Kull, PIPA's Director, adds: "Beliefs that the government misspends public moneys may arise from perceptions of corrupt government officials, from perceptions of special interests having undue influence, or from repeatedly hearing opposition parties assert that the party in power is wasting their money."

Participating Countries



In Azerbaijan, Brazil, China, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines, and Turkey urban samples were used.

Detailed Findings

The countries with the lowest average estimate of misspent tax money were Spain (average 34% misspent), Indonesia (40%), Azerbaijan and Egypt (both 42%). The highest were in Columbia (74% misspent) and Pakistan (69%). In the world's two largest economies, Americans estimate on average that 55 per cent of their taxes are misspent, while in China the figure is 46 per cent.

Despite low overall support, there is strong backing for government bank bailouts in major developing nations like India and Nigeria (77%), the Philippines (75%) and China (59%). But the world's major developed economies have majorities opposed to further government bank bailouts—including Germany (84% opposed), Canada (77%), France and the US (both 68%).

As well as being less likely to support action to address the deficit, those who have the highest estimates of tax misspending are less likely to support government stimulus spending—among those who think that more than three-quarters of their tax money is misspent, only 47 per cent believe the government should spend to stimulate the economy.

The poll also asked consumers to say whether they expected their nation to experience good or bad economic times over the next year, and reveals that consumer expectations remain subdued, particularly in the world's major economies. On average across 21 countries¹ over the next year only 30 per cent expect good times. Twenty-six per cent expect bad times and 36 per cent expect equally good and bad times. Among the 17 countries polled in 2009 and 2010, there was only a slight increase (two points) in those expecting good times and slight decrease (three points) in those expecting bad times.

In only five countries is the dominant view that in the next 12 months good times will return. All of these are developing countries led by India (62%), Nigeria (61%), and Brazil (57%), as well as China (51%) and the Philippines (43%).

The most pessimistic countries—those predominantly expecting bad times—are led by the developed countries of the United Kingdom (58%), France (54%), and also include the US (44%), and Spain (38%)—although numbers of pessimists in Spain have dropped 19 points since 2009. However some developing countries lean toward a pessimistic view as well—Mexico (54%), Pakistan (45%), and Turkey (41%).

In total 22,783 citizens in 22 countries, were interviewed face-to-face or by telephone between June 24 and September 5, 2010. Some questions were asked of half samples. Polling was conducted for BBC World Service by the international polling firm GlobeScan and its research partners in each country. In nine of the 22 countries, the sample was limited to major urban areas. The margin of error per country ranges from +/-2.1 to 3.5 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

For more details, please visit www.GlobeScan.com or www.WorldPublicOpinion.org as well as the GlobeScan Insights blog at <http://globescaninsights.blogspot.com>.

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¹ The Consumer confidence questions were not asked in Egypt

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The Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA) of the Center for International and Security Studies at the University of Maryland, undertakes research on attitudes in publics around the world on a variety of international issues and manages the international research project WorldPublicOpinion.org.

BBC World Service is an international multimedia broadcaster delivering international, national and regional services in 32 languages. It uses multiple platforms to reach its weekly audience of 180 million globally, including shortwave, AM, FM, digital satellite, and cable channels. It has around 2,000 partner radio stations which take BBC content, and numerous partnerships supplying content to mobile phones and other wireless handheld devices. Its news sites include audio and video content and offer opportunities to join the global debate. For more information, visit bbcworldservice.com. To find out more about the BBC's English language offerings and subscribe to a free e-newsletter, visit bbcworldservice.com/schedules.

Questionnaire

M1. For every hundred [NATIONAL CURRENCY UNITS—E.G. DOLLARS, PESOS, ROUBLES] that you pay in taxes, how many do you think are used in ways that do not serve the interests and values of the [COUNTRY] people?
RECORD ACTUAL NUMBER FROM 0 TO 100:

M2t. In our current economic conditions, do you favour or oppose the [COUNTRY] government doing each of the following?
READ AND ROTATE, CODE ONE FOR EACH

- a) Giving financial support to banks in trouble
- b) Lowering the price of basic food items through government subsidies
- c) Significantly increasing government spending to stimulate the economy
- dt) Increasing government regulation and oversight of the national economy
- e) Taking steps to reduce the government's budget deficit and debt, by cutting some spending or increasing some taxes
- ft) Giving international institutions more power to regulate the global economy

- 01 - Strongly favour
- 02 - Somewhat favour
- 03 - Somewhat oppose
- 04 - Strongly oppose
- VOLUNTEERED
- 05 - Depends/neither/both
- 99 - DK/NA

M4. Which approach to reducing [COUNTRY]'s deficit and debt would you prefer to see the government focus on more?
READ AND ROTATE. CODE ONE

- 01 - Increasing taxes
- 02 - Cutting spending on government services, including ones you use
- VOLUNTEERED
- 03 - Neither
- 04 - Other
- 05 - Both
- 06 - DK/NA

Q12Bt. Now turning to business conditions in the country as a whole—do you think that during the next twelve months we'll have [READ AND ROTATE SCALE] good times financially, mostly good times, about equally good and bad times, mostly bad times or bad times? CODE ONE

- 01 - Good times
- 02 - Mostly good times
- 03 - About equally good and bad times
- 04 - Mostly bad times
- 05 - Bad times
- VOLUNTEERED
- 99 - Don't know/not applicable

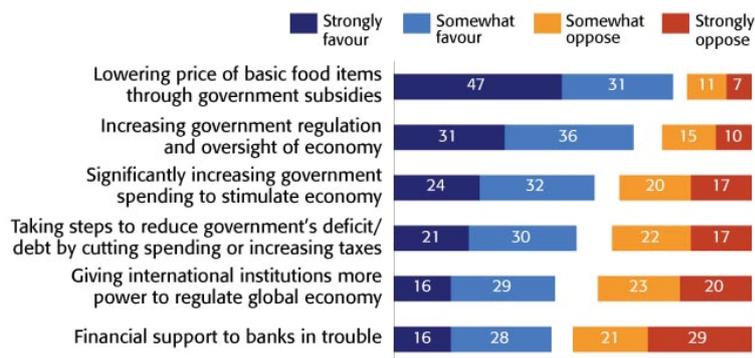
Q13Bt. And looking ahead, which would you say is more likely—that in the country as a whole over the next five years we'll have [READ AND ROTATE SCALE] continuous good times financially, mostly good times, about equally good and bad times, mostly bad times or continuous bad times? CODE ONE

- 01 - Continuous good times
- 02 - Mostly good times
- 03 - About equally good and bad times
- 04 - Mostly bad times
- 05 - Continuous bad times
- VOLUNTEERED
- 99 - Don't know/not applicable

Key Findings

Support for Government Actions in Current Economic Conditions

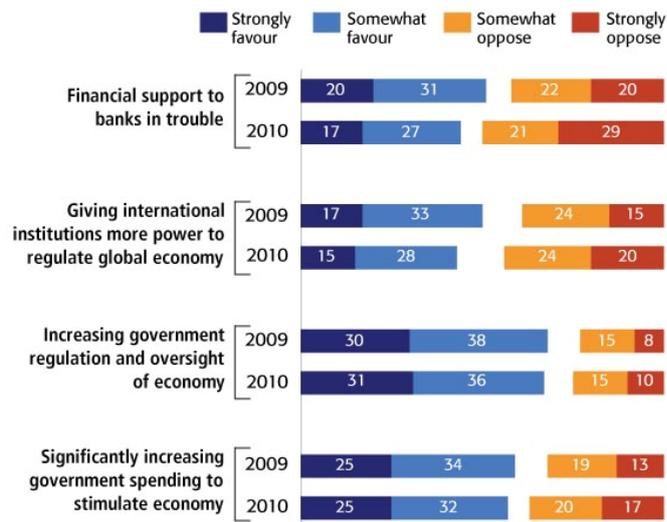
Average of 22 Countries, 2010



The white space in this chart represents "Depends/neither/both" and "DK/NA."
 Asked of half of sample

Support for Government Actions in Current Economic Conditions

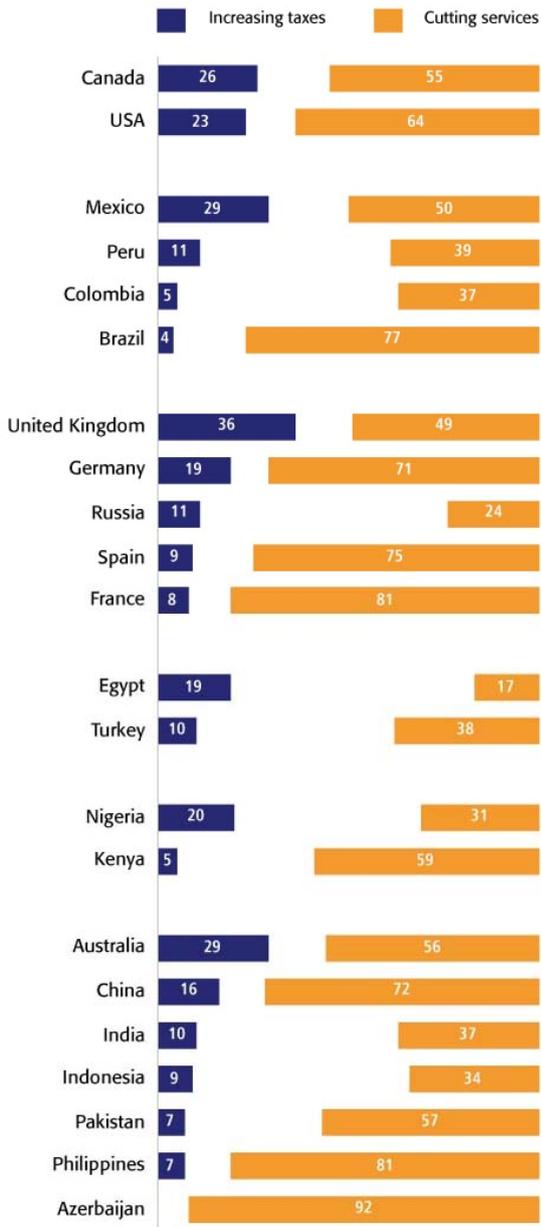
Average of 19 Tracking Countries,* Trends: 2009–2010



The white space in this chart represents "Depends/neither/both" and "DK/NA."
 *Tracking countries include Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the USA.
 Asked of half of sample in 2009 and 2010

Preferred Focus for Government Approach to Reducing Deficit

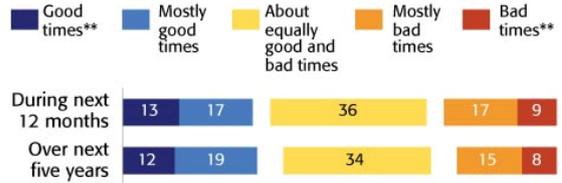
By Country, 2010



The white space in this chart represents "Neither," "Other," "Both," and "DK/NA."

Predicted Business Conditions in Country As a Whole

Average of 21 Countries,* 2010



*Average of 20 countries for "Predicted business conditions over next five years"

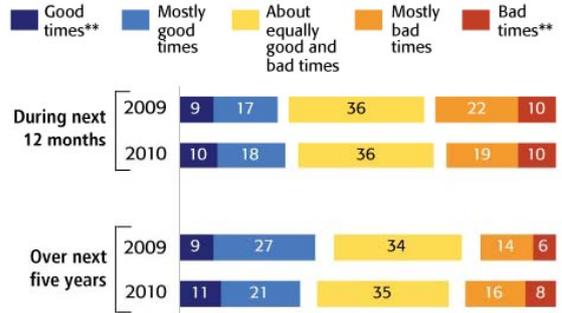
**"Continuous" good/bad times over the next five years

The white space in this chart represents "DK/NA."

Asked of half of sample

Predicted Business Conditions in Country As a Whole

Average of 17 Tracking Countries,* Trends: 2009–2010



*Tracking countries include Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the USA.

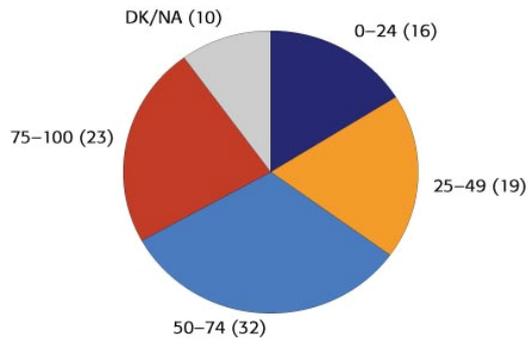
**"Continuous" good/bad times over the next five years

The white space in this chart represents "DK/NA."

Asked of half of sample in 2010

Percentage of Taxes Used in Ways Considered Not Serving People's Interests

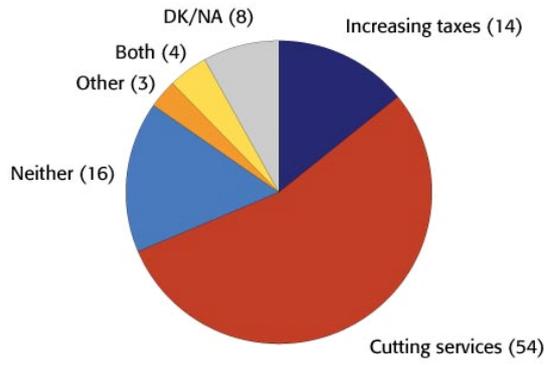
Distribution of Answers Across Four Bands,
Average of 22 Countries, 2010



Mean answer: 52%

Preferred Focus for Government Approach to Reducing Deficit

Average of 22 Countries, 2010



Backgrounder: Country-by-Country Results

NORTH AMERICA

Canada

Canadians think that 51 per cent of the taxes they pay are not spent in the public interest. One in two want their government to take steps to reduce the country's deficit, and prefer cutting spending (55%) over tax increases (26%) as a way to do it.

Just over one-fifth of Canadians still favour government bank bailouts (21%) compared to 39 per cent in 2009. This is significantly below the global average (44%). Canadians are also less favourable to increasing government spending to stimulate the economy than in 2009 (52%, down 16 points). However, Canadian support for increasing government regulation of the economy is still high (63%) and close to the global average (67%). On the other hand, support to give more power to international institutions to regulate the economy has dropped eight per cent (41% in 2010).

Despite a ten per cent drop since last year, Canada is more optimistic than almost all other Western countries about business conditions: 26 per cent predict good times over the next five years.

The United States

Americans consider that 55 per cent of the taxes they pay are not spent in the public interest, slightly above the global average (52%). Over half of Americans (52%) support their government taking steps to reduce the deficit, but they strongly prefer a focus on cutting spending (64%) over tax increases (23%).

Fewer Americans are favourable to increasing government spending to stimulate the economy this year (38%, down ten points since 2009) and fewer favour increasing government regulation and oversight of the economy (36%, down 14 points and the smallest proportion in any country other than in Turkey). Both figures are significantly below the global averages. They have become more pessimistic about the economic outlook, particularly over the next five years: half as many predict good business conditions (17% in 2010).

Americans are also the least supportive of giving more power to international institutions to regulate the economy (24%, down 17 points since 2009).

EUROPE

France

The proportion of taxes that the French think is not spent in the public interest (53%) is similar to the global average (52%). A great majority of the French (81%) prefer the approach of cutting spending rather than increasing taxes in order to tackle the country's deficit.

Support for government spending to stimulate the economy has dropped eight per cent since 2009; but when it comes to lowering the price of food items, 75 per cent favour subsidies (the highest support in Europe behind Russia). Support for government regulation of the economy increased to 78 per cent (up 12%). This is the only western country to have increased support and is more than in any other occidental country. They also favour giving more power to international institutions more than in other European countries although support has fallen to 47 per cent (down 9 points).

France is one of the most pessimistic countries about business conditions. Fifty-four per cent of French people predict bad times over the next five years (up 23 points since 2009)

Germany

Germans consider that 58 per cent of the taxes they pay are spent in ways that are not in the public interest. This is the highest percentage in Europe after that of Russia (61%). A clear majority prefer a government focus on spending cuts over tax rises as a way of reducing the budget deficit (71% versus 19%).

They are the least supportive of government bank bailouts in Europe (13%, down 10 points and far below the 44% global average). They are also the least supportive European country of increases in government spending to stimulate the economy (30%). Germany is the only surveyed country where a majority oppose government subsidies to lower the price of food items (50%). Along with the British, the Germans are in Europe the most willing to support their government taking steps to reduce the deficit (51%).

Optimism in Germany regarding business conditions in the next 12 months has markedly increased (22%, up 8 points) and echoes the strong recovery of the German economy in 2010; but only 20 per cent predict good times over the next five years (down 13 points).

United Kingdom

British people are somewhat below both the global and European average in terms of the proportion of tax they pay that they estimate is not spent in the public interest (46%). This may explain in part their relatively greater willingness to see a focus on tax rises as a way of reducing the budget deficit: 36 per cent of British prefer this approach, which is the highest proportion among all the countries surveyed.

While 37 per cent of Britons are receptive to further government bank bailouts, 51 per cent are supportive for an increase in government regulation and oversight of the economy. This is lower than both the global (67%) and European (58%) average. Support for the government taking steps to cut the deficit is higher than in any other European country (60%).

The United Kingdom is also the most pessimistic country about economic conditions, with 58 per cent expecting bad times over the next year (up 14% since 2009).

Spain

The proportion of taxes that the Spanish estimate is spent contrary to the public interest is the lowest among all surveyed countries (34%). This does not make them more willing to see a focus on tax rises to reduce the deficit, as the strongly favoured approach is cutting spending (75%), like the French and the Germans.

Support for increasing government regulation of the economy dramatically dropped 23 per cent since 2009: only 39 per cent favour more regulation now, strongly below both the European and global averages (58% and 67% respectively). Spanish support for giving more power to international institutions also decreased (39%, down ten points).

Only 38 per cent of Spanish predict bad business conditions in the next twelve months, compared to 57 per cent a year ago. Although it dropped 13 points, the percentage (52%) of those who predict good times over the next five years is still higher than in all other Western countries.

Russia

Russians estimate that 61 per cent of the taxes they pay are misspent, which is the highest proportion in Europe. Support for both cutting services (24%) and for increasing taxes (11%) to deal with the national deficit and debt is very small, while almost four in ten (37%) do not favour either of the two approaches.

Russians' low support for the government taking steps to reduce deficit in the current economic conditions (36%, the lowest in Europe) suggests a lower priority for the issue at present, as also reflected in very high levels of support for increasing government spending

to stimulate the economy (78%), and for lowering the price of food through subsidies (85%). Russians are the strongest supporters in Europe of increasing government regulation of the economy (84% in favour), but are the least supportive of giving more power to international institutions to do so (27%, down 14 points since 2009).

Along with Germany and Spain, Russia is the only European country where optimism regarding business conditions over the next 12 months has increased (21%, up nine points).

Turkey

Turkish people are in line with the global average in terms of the proportion of the taxes they estimate are not spent in the public interest (51% compared to 52% globally). When asked which approach they would prefer to reducing the deficit, they largely say cutting spending (38%) over increasing taxes (10%), but 37 per cent of them want neither of these options. This might explain why the Turkish are the least likely in Europe—along with the Russians—to want their government taking steps to tackle the deficit in the current economic conditions (38% in favour).

Turkish people are more opposed than favourable to increased government spending (51 compared to 42%) although support increased ten points since 2009. They are the least supportive country of increasing government regulation of the economy (33%), and in their support for government control of food prices through subsidies they are lower than the global average (67% compared to 77% globally).

While the number of Turkish people who predict good business conditions during the next year increased ten points to 23 per cent, the proportion who believes so over the next five years decreased slightly (20%, down five points).

AFRICA

Kenya

Kenyans are slightly above the global average in terms of the proportion of tax they pay that they estimate is not spent in the public interest (58%). A majority is favourable to cutting services (59%) as a preferred approach to reducing the country's deficit rather than to increasing taxes.

One year ago, Kenyans were largely in favour of increasing government spending to stimulate the economy (70%), however in 2010 their opinion echoes that of the rest of world, as now only 55 per cent favour increased spending—a 15 per cent drop from 2009. However, 81 per cent want their government to subsidise the price of food. Kenyans' support for increased government regulation of the economy has remained high and stable (79%) and—like other African countries—they are above the global average to favour giving more power to international institutions to regulate the global economy (57% versus 45% globally).

More Kenyans predict good business conditions will prevail in the next twelve months than a year ago (31%, up 11 points), but this level of optimism is half that of Nigeria (61%).

Nigeria

Nigerians are somewhat below the global average in terms of the proportion of tax they pay that they estimate is not spent in the public interest (46%). While 71 per cent of Nigerians support the government taking steps to reduce the deficit, they show moderate support for both increasing taxes (20%) and cutting services (31%) as the favourite approach to doing so.

Like in Kenya, Nigerian support for increasing government spending—while still largely above the global average—has significantly decreased (73%, down 13 points), but 82 per cent of people want their government to lower the price of food through subsidies. Like the other African countries, Nigeria is highly favourable to increasing government regulation of

the economy (75%), and almost seven in ten (68%) support the idea of giving more power to international institutions to regulate the global economy.

Nigerians are markedly more optimistic than Kenyans about business conditions, both during the next 12 months (61% versus 31%) and over the next five years (63% versus 36%).

Egypt

Egyptians' estimate of the proportion of tax money not spent in the public interest is below the global average (42% versus 52%). Sixty-five per cent of Egyptians support taking action to lower the deficit. Yet the opinion is divided on the preferred approach: 19 per cent prefer increasing taxes while 17 per cent favour cutting services, but an overwhelming 61 per cent volunteer that they want neither of these options.

Support for increased government spending to stimulate the economy went up eight points since 2009 and is now favoured by 91 per cent of people. Egyptians are the most willing of all polled countries to support government subsidies to lower the price of food (95%). However their support for government bank bailouts is lower than a year ago—even if still at a high level—and dropped 16 per cent (69%). Egypt is the second most favourable country to increasing government regulation to regulate the economy (90%) and to giving more power to international institutions to do the same (69%).

ASIA-PACIFIC

Australia

Australians' estimate of the proportion of tax money not spent in the public interest is somewhat lower than the global average (46% versus a 52% global average). A majority (55%) support taking action to lower the deficit. When asked to choose, 56 per cent would prefer to cut services and 29 per cent to increase taxes.

Roughly half of Australians (52%) oppose bank bailouts, with 44 per cent in favour. They are slightly more favourable than opposed to increased government oversight of the economy (47% versus 42% opposed). This is significant variation from the global average (67% in favour) and represents a 19-point drop compared to a year ago. While they were divided in 2009, they are now more opposed than favourable to giving more power to international institutions to regulate the economy (56% opposed, 37% favourable).

China

The Chinese public is slightly below the global average in terms of their estimate of the proportion of taxes that are not spent in the public interest (46% compared to 52%). Fifty-seven per cent favour action to reduce the budget deficit and debt, above the global average of 51 per cent. Chinese would rather their government cut services (72%) than increase taxes in order to reduce the budget deficit, a number significantly higher than the global average (54%).

The Chinese public overall supports their government taking an active role in the economy. Fifty-nine per cent of Chinese favour government bail outs, while the global average on this position is just 44 per cent. An overwhelming majority (87%) support increased government regulation of the economy, again significantly higher than the global average (67%). However Chinese support for increased government spending dropped 17 points since 2009 and is now at 45 per cent—the lowest in Asia.

China is the most optimistic Asian country after India about business conditions in the next 12 months (51% good times) and the most optimistic among all the countries surveyed for business conditions over the next five years (66% good times).

India

Indians are in line with the global average in terms of the proportion of their taxes they estimate are not spent in the public interest (54% compared to 52%). Almost two-thirds (64%) support their government working to reduce the budget deficit and debt, a number significantly higher than the global average of 51 per cent. Consistent with the global tendency more Indians favour cutting services (37%) than increasing taxes (10%).

Indians show robust support for government intervention with 61 per cent favouring more government regulation and an overwhelming 77 per cent favouring financial bailouts for banks—the highest in the world and well above the global average of 44 per cent. They are less favourable than a year ago to giving more power to international institutions to regulate the economy (42%, down 16 points).

India is very optimistic about economic conditions, both during the next 12 months and over the next five years. The proportions of those who predict good times significantly increased in both cases (62% and 57%, respectively).

Indonesia

The Indonesian public is below the global average in terms of the proportion of their taxes they believe are not spent in the public interest (40% compared to 52%). A majority of Indonesians (54%) oppose efforts to reduce the budget deficit through tax increases or spending cuts, in contrast to a global average in favour (51%). When asked to choose between increasing taxes or cutting services to cut the deficit more favour cutting services (34%) than increasing taxes (9%), but even more (37%) volunteer the response of neither.

Indonesians have the highest level of support (92%) for increasing government regulation of any other country polled, compared to the global average of 67 per cent. Despite supporting increased government regulation, 75 per cent of Indonesians oppose bank bailouts (up 30% since 2009), which is significantly higher than the global average of 50 per cent.

Optimism regarding business conditions markedly decreased in Indonesia. Thirty-five per cent predict good times in the next 12 months (down 23%), and 38 per cent when asked the question over the next five years (down 22%).

Pakistan

Pakistanis have one of the highest average estimates of the proportion of their taxes they believe are not spent in the public interest (69% compared to global average of 52%). A plurality (45%) opposes a measure to cut some spending or increase some taxes to decrease the deficit and debt, while globally a majority favours it (51%).

Pakistanis' responses are similar to the global average on two positions: on preferring reduced services over increased taxes to address the deficit and debt (57% compared to 54%), and on supporting increased government regulation (62% compared to 67%). However, Pakistanis are significantly more receptive to financial support to banks (67%) compared to the global average (44%).

Pakistanis are the most pessimistic in Asia about the economic conditions. Forty-five per cent predict bad times in the next 12 months and they are 42 per cent when asked the question over the next five years. This is significantly more than the global averages (26% and 23%, respectively).

Philippines

Filipinos' estimate of how much of their tax money is not spent in the public interest is similar to the global average (51% compared to 52%). More than half (57%) of Filipinos favour cutting some spending or increasing some taxes to help alleviate the deficit, a number slightly above the global average of 51 per cent. Asked to choose they overwhelmingly prefer (81%) cutting services rather than increasing taxes, which is significantly higher than the global average of 54%.

Filipinos are generally favourable on their government taking an active role in the economy. Eight in ten support increasing government regulation (80%, up 12 points since 2009), which is significantly higher than the global average of 67 per cent. Filipinos are overwhelmingly supportive of lowering the price of food through subsidies (95%, highest proportion among all countries surveyed). Three-quarters (75%) of them favour government financial support for troubled banks, a number that is considerably higher than the global average of 44 per cent.

Filipinos became significantly more optimistic about the economic conditions in their country, both in the next 12 months and over the next five years (43% and 51% good times, respectively).

Azerbaijan

Azerbaijanis are below the global average in their estimate of the proportion of taxes that are not spent in the public interest (42%, compared to the global 52%). A large majority (63%) favours taking steps to reduce the government's deficit and debt, while Azerbaijanis overwhelmingly prefer cutting services (92%) as a means of reaching this end.

Azerbaijanis are far more open to the idea of bailing out banks in trouble (70%) than are most countries polled, and also have a larger majority than the global average in favour of increasing government regulation and oversight of the economy (78%). They are the most favourable among polled countries to giving more power to international institutions to regulate the economy (82%), highly above the 45 per cent global average.

LATIN AMERICA

Brazil

Brazilians are quite high in global terms when they estimate what proportion of taxes is not spent in the public interest, at 63 per cent. A majority of Brazilians oppose taking steps to reduce the deficit and debt, (51% to 42%), but when required to choose, a large 77 per cent prefer cutting services to increasing taxes.

Six in ten Brazilians also oppose the idea of bank bailouts (60% to 37%), This represents a 14 point decrease since 2009. But they are still strong supporters of increasing government oversight of the economy (64%), although support dropped 11 points. Thirty-seven per cent are favourable to giving more power to international institutions to regulate the economy. This is below the global average and 13 point less than in 2009.

Brazilians are the third most optimistic about business conditions in the next 12 months. Almost six in ten (57%) predict good times, significantly higher than the global average (30%).

Colombia

Colombians have the highest estimate of all countries polled when asked their estimate of the proportion of taxes that are not spent in the public interest (74% compared to the global mean of 52%). A majority (56%) oppose taking steps to reduce the government's deficit, contrary to the global average in which 51% support such steps. Asked to choose, more Colombians favour cutting services (37%) to address the deficit, than favour raising taxes (5%), but 45 per cent volunteer that they want neither of these options.

A large number (63%) oppose their government giving financial support to banks in trouble, a number significantly higher than the global average (50%), but similar to the South American average (65%). However, more than half (57%) favour increased government regulation and oversight of the economy, although this is slightly below the global average of 67%. Colombians are also overwhelmingly supportive of lowering the price of food through subsidies (93%).

Mexico

Mexicans are in line with the global average in their estimate of the proportion of taxes that are not spent in the public interest (51% compared to the global of 52%). Only 28 per cent favour their government taking steps to reduce the budget deficit, a number significantly below the global average of 51%. Half (50%) prefer focusing on cutting services rather than increasing taxes in order to reach this end.

Mexicans overwhelmingly support an increase in government regulation (82%), a level of support much higher than the global average (67%). However, an overwhelming majority (83%) oppose their government giving financial support to banks in trouble, significantly higher than the global average (50%). In South America, they are the most favourable to increased government spending to stimulate the economy (80%, significantly above the 56% average).

Mexicans are markedly among the least optimistic about the business conditions. Only 11 per cent predict good times in the next 12 months, and ten per cent when asked the question over the next five years.

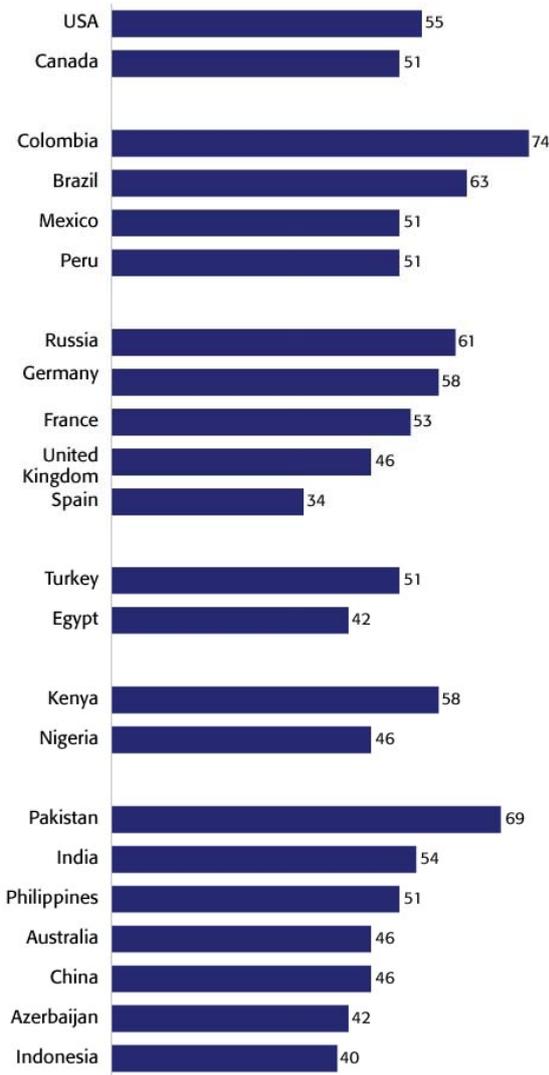
Peru

In Peru, people's estimate of the proportion of their taxes not spent in the public interest is about the same as the global average (51% versus 52% globally). A plurality (47%) of Peruvians wants their government taking steps to reduce the deficit, which is similar to the global average (51%). Asked to choose, more favour cutting services (39%) to address the deficit, than favour raising taxes (11%).

They are less likely to support bailing out the financial industry (35%) than the global average (44%). Though a majority favour increased regulation and oversight of the economy (60%), their support is somewhat less than the global average (67%). Peruvians are in line with the global average when asked about the economic conditions. Twenty-seven per cent predict good times compared to 30 per cent globally.

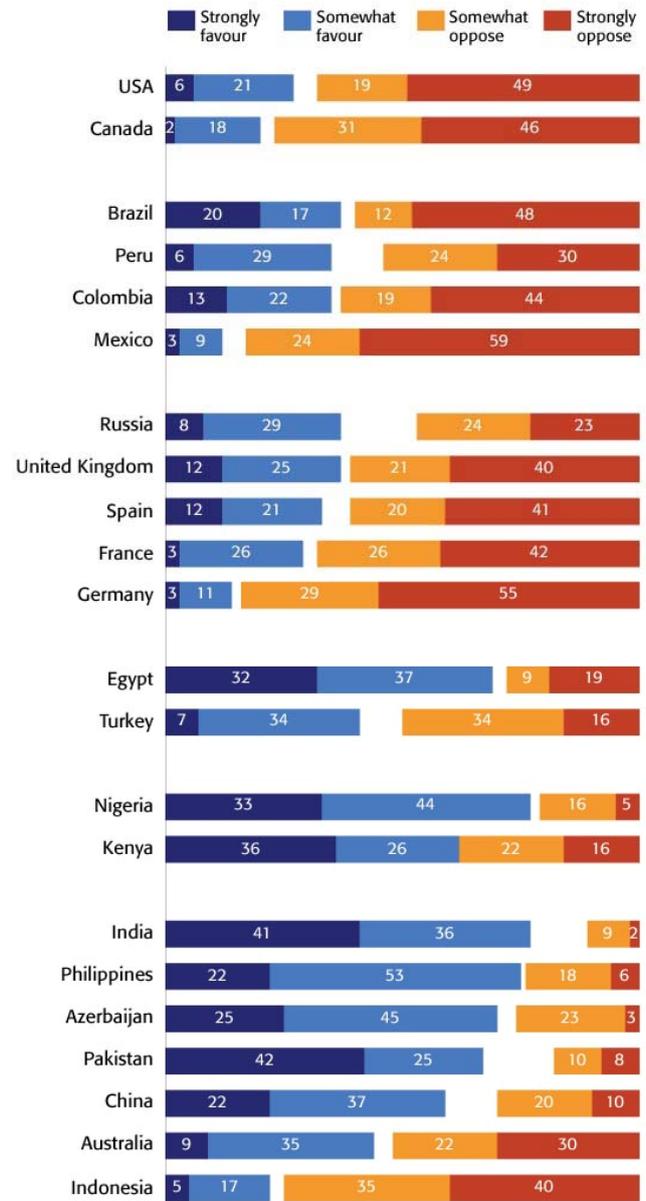
Average Percentage of Tax Money Not Used in Public Interest

By Country, 2010



Support for Government Actions in Current Economic Conditions: Financial Support to Banks in Trouble

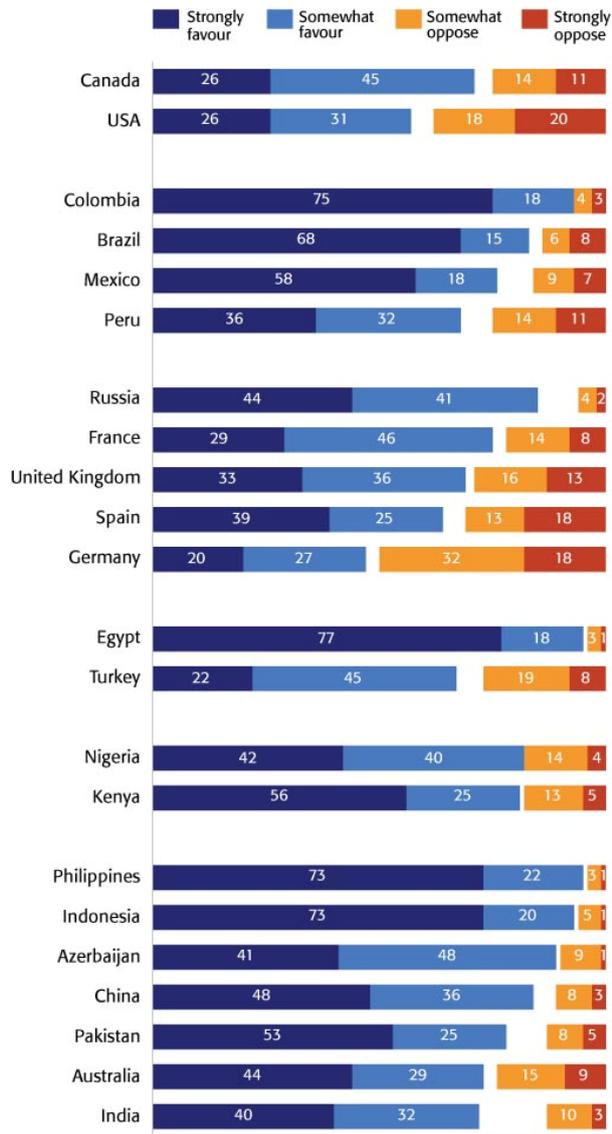
By Country, 2010



The white space in this chart represents "Depends/neither/both" and "DK/NA." Asked of half of sample

Support for Government Actions in Current Economic Conditions: Lowering Price of Basic Food Items through Subsidies

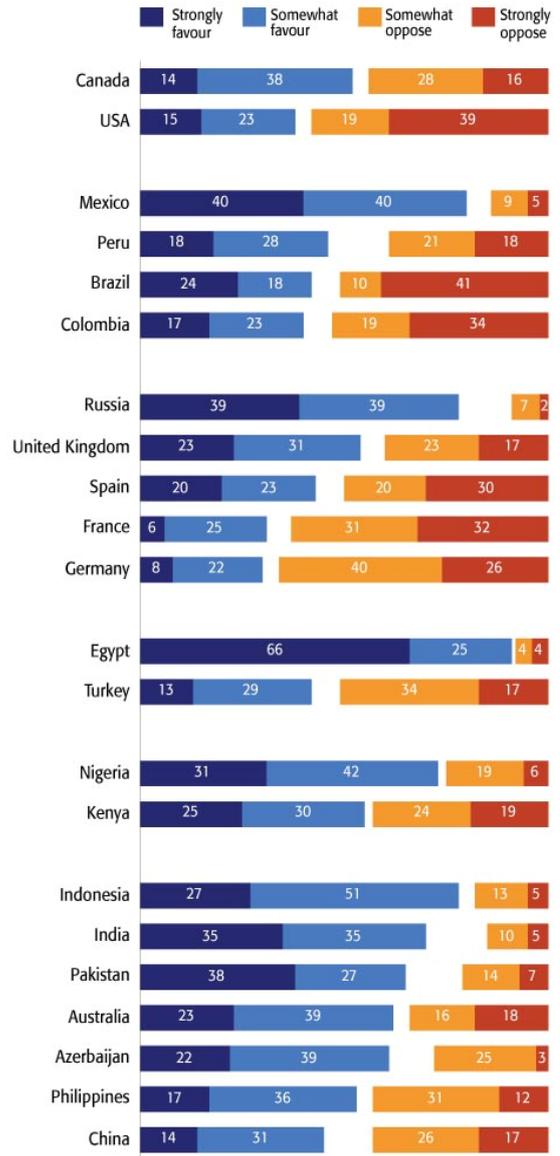
By Country, 2010



The white space in this chart represents "Depends/neither/both" and "DK/NA." Asked of half of sample

Support for Government Actions in Current Economic Conditions: Significantly Increasing Government Spending

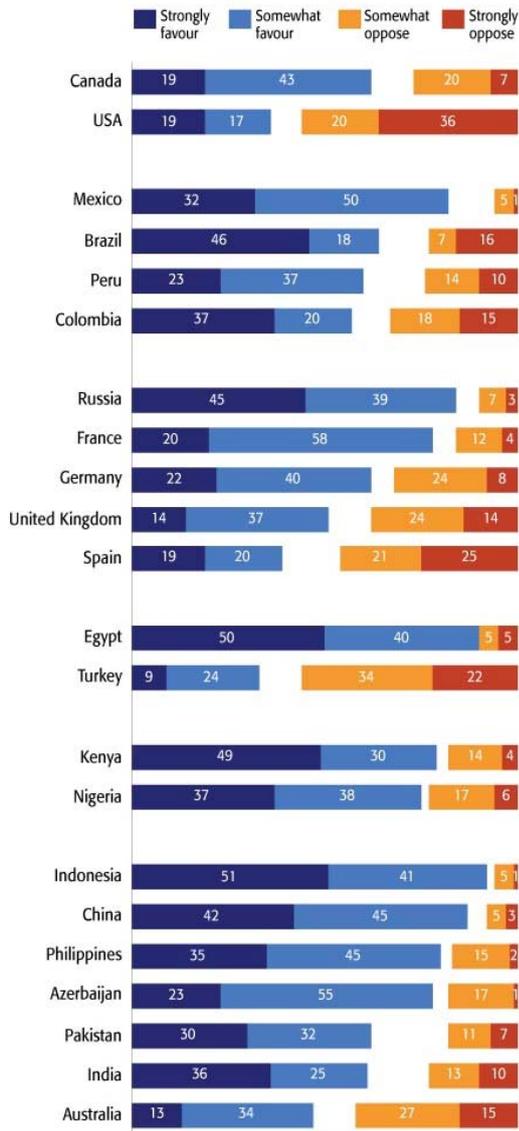
By Country, 2010



The white space in this chart represents "Depends/neither/both" and "DK/NA." Asked of half of sample

Support for Government Actions in Current Economic Conditions: Increasing Government Regulation and Oversight of Economy

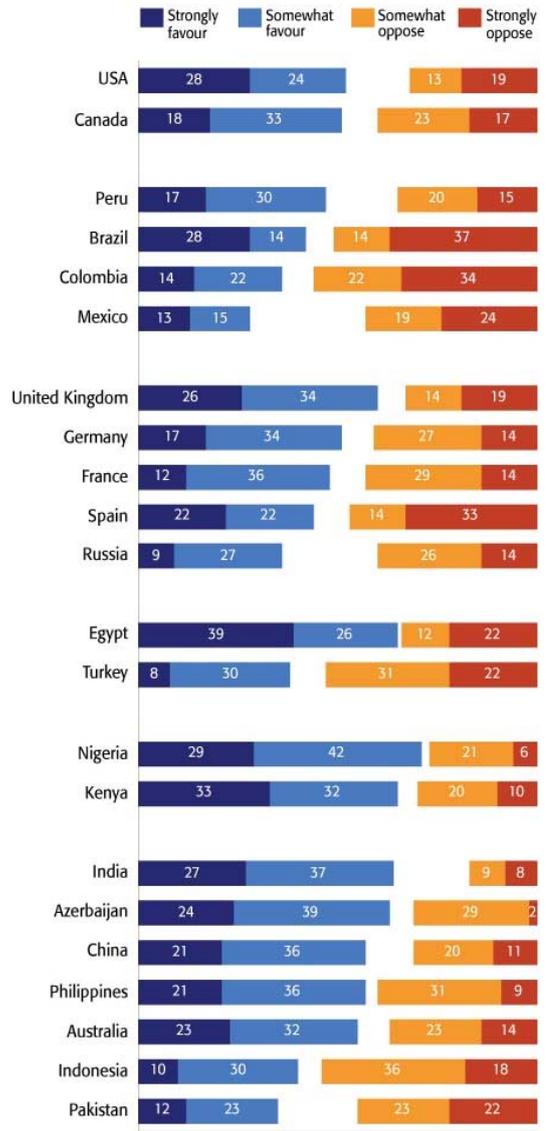
By Country, 2010



The white space in this chart represents "Depends/neither/both" and "DK/NA." Asked of half of sample

Support for Government Actions in Current Economic Conditions: Taking Steps to Reduce Government Deficit/Debt

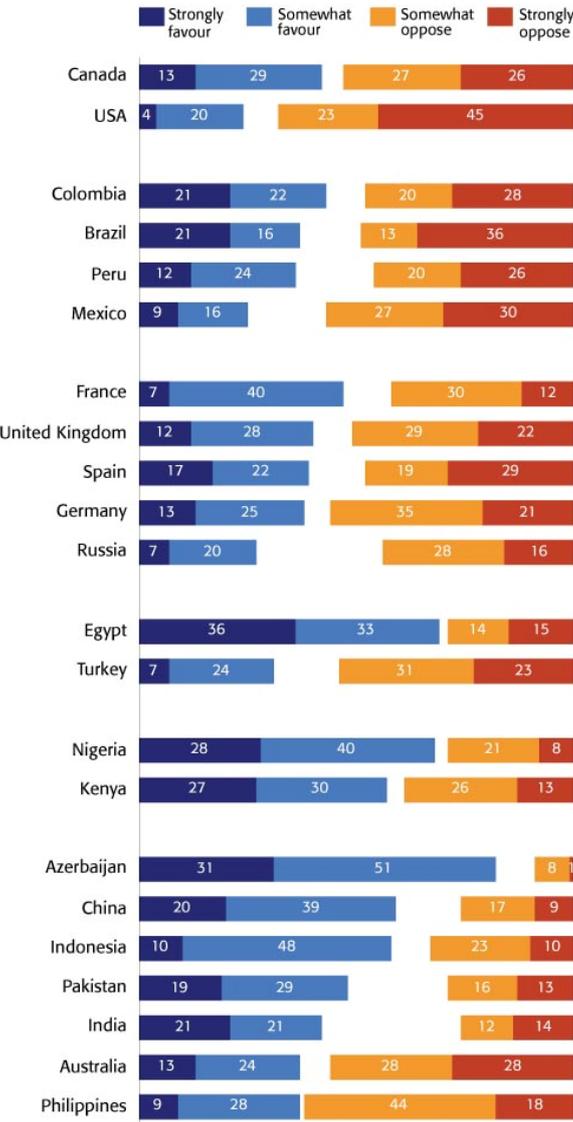
By Country, 2010



The white space in this chart represents "Depends/neither/both" and "DK/NA." Asked of half of sample

Support for Government Actions in Current Economic Conditions: Giving International Institutions More Power to Regulate Global Economy

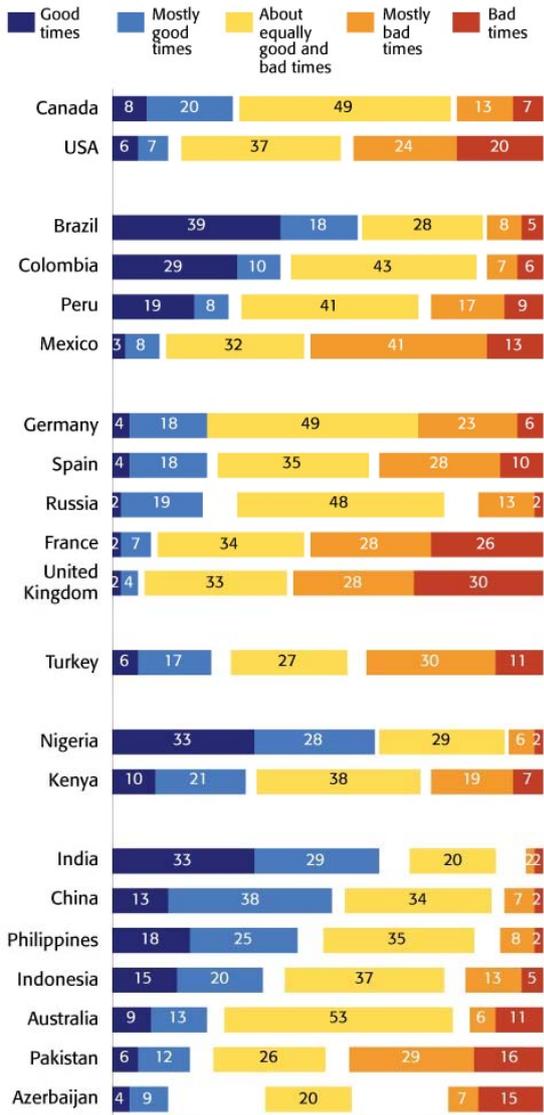
By Country, 2010



The white space in this chart represents "Depends/neither/both" and "DK/NA." Asked of half of sample

Predicted Business Conditions in Country As a Whole

During Next Twelve Months, by Country, 2010

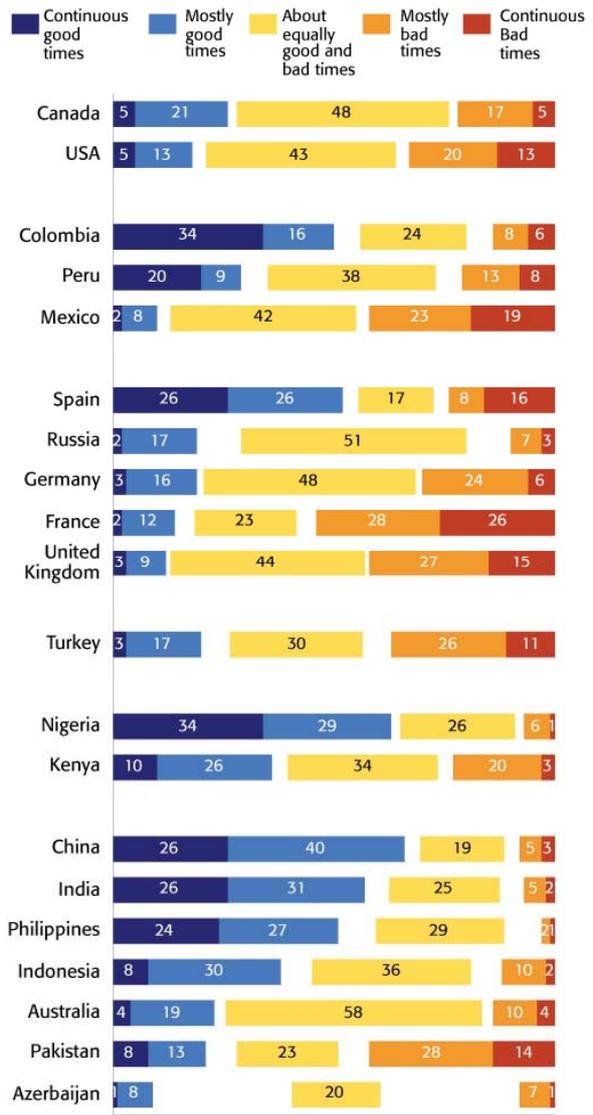


The white space in this chart represents "DK/NA."

Asked of half of sample

Predicted Business Conditions in Country As a Whole

Over Next Five Years, by Country, 2010



The white space in this chart represents "DK/NA."

Asked of half of sample

Not asked in Brazil

Methodology

In total 22,783 citizens in Australia, Azerbaijan, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Egypt, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom, and the United States were interviewed face-to-face or by telephone between June 24, 2009 and September 5, 2010. Polling was conducted for BBC World Service by GlobeScan and its research partners in each country.

In Azerbaijan, Brazil, China, Colombia, Egypt, Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines, and Turkey urban samples were used. The margin of error per country ranges from +/- 2.1 to 3.5 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

Country	Sample Size (unweighted)	Field dates	Sample frame	Survey methodology	Type of sample
Australia	1000	July 9–24, 2010	18+	Telephone	National
Azerbaijan	1051	August 11 – September 5, 2010	18+	Face-to-face	Urban ¹
Brazil	800	August 3–15, 2010	18-69	Telephone	Urban ²
Canada	1006	July 6–19, 2010	18+	Telephone	National
China	1000	July 13–30, 2010	18+	Telephone	Urban ³
Colombia	800	July 22–30, 2010	18+	Face-to-face	Urban ⁴
Egypt	1000	June 28–July 12, 2010	18+	Face-to-face	Urban ⁵
France	1001	June 24–29, 2010	15+	Telephone	National
Germany	1003	July 2–30, 2010	16-70	Telephone	National
India	1094	July 18–29, 2010	18+	Face-to-face	National
Indonesia	1000	July 27–August 12, 2010	18+	Face-to-face	Urban ⁶
Kenya	1040	July 13–August 6, 2010	18+	Face-to-face	National
Mexico	1000	July 5–23, 2010	18+	Telephone	Urban ⁷
Nigeria	1000	July 14–26, 2010	18+	Face-to-face	National
Pakistan	2169	July 4–25, 2010	18+	Face-to-face	National
Peru	1204	August 6–19, 2010	18-69	Face-to-face	National
Philippines	800	July 2–17, 2010	18+	Face-to-face	Urban ⁸
Russia	1014	July 12–August 2, 2010	18+	Face-to-face	National
Spain	801	July 28–August 2, 2010	18+	Telephone	National
Turkey	1000	July 6–22, 2010	15+	Face-to-face	Urban ⁹
United Kingdom	1000	June 28–July 5, 2010	18+	Telephone	National
USA	1000	July 8–22, 2010	18+	Telephone	National

¹ In Azerbaijan the survey was conducted in Ali-Bayramli, Baku, Ganja, Guba, Lankaran, Mingachevir, Shamakhy, Sheki, and Sumgayit, representing 34% of the total national adult population.

² In Brazil the survey was conducted in Belo Horizonte, Brasilia, Curitiba, Goiânia, Porto Alegre, Recife, Rio de Janeiro, Salvador, and São Paulo, representing 18% of the total national adult population.

³ In China the survey was conducted in Beijing, Beiliu, Chengdu, Fenyang, Fuyang, Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Manzhouli, Quanzhou, Qujing, Shanghai, Shenyang, Shuangcheng, Wuhan, Xi'an, Xining, and Zhengzhou, representing 45% of the total national adult population.

⁴ In Colombia the survey was conducted in Barranquilla, Bogota D.C., Cali, and Medellin, representing 33% of the total national adult population.

⁵ In Egypt the survey was conducted in Shubra El-Kheima, Alexandria, Cairo, and Giza, representing 24% of the total national adult population.

⁶ In Indonesia the survey was conducted in Bandung, Jakarta, Makassar, Medan, and Surabaya, representing 27% of the total national adult population.

⁷ In Mexico the survey was conducted in the 16 largest cities and media market regions, constituting 40% of the national adult population and 80% of the residential telephone landlines.

⁸ In the Philippines the survey was conducted in the National Capital Region, representing 27% of the total urban adult population.

⁹ In Turkey the survey was conducted in Adana, Ankara, Antalya, Bursa, Diyarbakir, Erzurum, Istanbul, Izmir, Konya, Samsun, and Zonguldak, representing 56% of the total national adult population.

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