



Armenia

Armenian Center for National and International Studies

Globalization and Trade

A majority of Armenians view globalization favorably and feel that international trade has a positive impact on their economy and on individual well-being.

- 65% of Armenians say that globalization is “mostly good” for Armenia.
- Three-quarters (75%) view international trade as good for the economy and nearly two-thirds (64%) view it as good for Armenian companies.
- Majorities believe that international trade is good for Armenians as individuals: 60% say it is positive for their standard of living and 56% for them as consumers.
- A majority (61%) thinks international trade helps create Armenian jobs but only a slim majority thinks it is good for their job security (52%).
- Most (79%) think “minimum standards for working conditions” should be part of trade agreements.
- Attitudes about international trade’s effect on the environment are mixed: 37% believe it is good, while 36% say it is bad, and 27% decline to answer.
- Four out of five Armenians (82%) think environmental protections should be incorporated into trade agreements.
- Opinion is mixed about whether the Armenian government should comply with adverse rulings from the World Trade Organization: 35% say it should not, 26% think it should, and 24% say it depends.

Climate Change

Majorities in Armenia think that global warming threatens their country and are willing to take steps to address it. However, they are divided about whether they are willing to take steps with significant costs.

- Three-quarters of those polled in Armenia (73%) say that climate change could threaten their “vital interests” within the next 10 years. This includes 47% who consider it a “critical” threat.
- Seven in 10 Armenians (69%) say global warming is a problem but they are divided about the level of costs they are willing to accept: 37% say it requires prompt action “even if this involves significant costs” but 32% say it is happening gradually and should be dealt with by “taking steps that are low in cost.” Only

- 19% think that action should be postponed “until we are sure that global warming is really a problem.”
- A majority of Armenians (63%) believe that developed countries should provide aid to less developed countries that agree to limit greenhouse gas emissions, though 16% are unsure.
- Most Armenians (86%) think “improving the global environment” should be an important foreign policy goal and more than half (54%) think it should be “very important.”

Genocide and Darfur

A majority of Armenians believe the UN Security Council has the responsibility to authorize the use of military force to stop crimes such as genocide. A plurality favors action in Darfur, though large numbers are uncertain.

- Two-thirds of Armenians (66%) feel the UN Security Council has the responsibility to approve military action to protect people from severe human rights violations “even against the will of their government.”
- On Darfur: 44% say the UN Security Council has either the responsibility to authorize intervention to stop the killings (29%) or the right to do so (15%). Only 9% say it does not have this right. But nearly half (46%) of those polled declined to answer, which suggests many Armenians are uninformed about the situation in western Sudan.
- Armenians tend to oppose (45% to 27%) sending their own troops to join an international peacekeeping force in Darfur.

Future of the United Nations

Large majorities of Armenians favor new powers for the United Nations, though only a minority is willing to accept adverse UN decisions.

- Four in five Armenians (80%) believe that “strengthening the United Nations” is a very (41%) or somewhat (39%) important foreign policy goal.
- Strong majorities favor giving the UN the power to create a standing UN peacekeeping force (75%), to go into countries in order to investigate violations of human rights (67%) and to regulate the international arms trade (58%).
- A plurality (46% to 28%) supports allowing the UN to fund its activities by imposing a small tax on the international sale of arms or oil.
- Two-thirds (66%) believe that the UN Security Council has the “responsibility” to authorize the use of force to prevent severe human rights violations such as genocide “even against the will of their government.”
- Only a minority (36%) says that Armenia should make more decisions within the United Nations even if this means agreeing to policies that are not its first choice: 45% believe it should not and 19% are undecided.
- Armenians have warm feelings about the United Nations on average (72°) and the World Health Organization (75°) and the World Court (61°).

US Leadership

Armenians see the United States as playing the role of world policeman more than it should and would prefer that it work more cooperatively with other countries. Trust in the US is low, though feelings toward the United States itself are fairly warm.

- A majority of Armenians (58%) think the “US should do its share in efforts to solve international problems together with other countries.” Just 27% say the United States should withdraw from most international efforts. Very few (7%) believe it should continue to be the world’s preeminent leader.
- 63% agree that “the United States is playing the role of world policeman more than it should be.” Most also reject the idea that United States has the “responsibility” to play such a role (70%).
- Three out of five (58%) do not trust the United States to act responsibly in the world.
- Attitudes toward the United States’ overseas military bases are mixed: 37% believe the US should decrease the number of these bases, 26% say it should keep about the same number, and just 16% believe the number of bases should be increased.
- Armenians feel somewhat warmly toward the United States on average (62°). That’s warmer than their attitudes toward Germany (55°) or Great Britain (53°) but not nearly as warm as sentiments about France (85°).
- Nearly half of those polled (48%) believe Armenian relations with the United States are getting better; 40% say they are staying the same and only 8% think they are getting worse.
- The Armenian public considers the United States to have more global influence than other countries. It gets 9.4 on average out of a possible 10 points, compared to 8.7 for Russia, 7.2 for France, 6.3 for Great Britain, and 5.9 for Germany. The EU gets an 8.

Rise of China

Armenians tend to agree with most other publics that China’s economy will eventually catch up with the US economy and show little concern about this prospect. While they doubt China can be trusted to act responsibly, they believe their own country’s relations with China are improving.

- A plurality of Armenians believe that China’s economy will grow to be as large as the United States’ (47%), though 30% feel “the US economy will always stay larger than China’s.”
- Armenians are not concerned about the prospect of China catching up to the US: 37% say it would be “equally positive and negative” and 31% say it would be mostly positive. Only 12% say it would be mostly negative.
- Armenians are evenly divided (46% to 46%) about whether China can be trusted to act responsibly in the world. In contrast, a majority (58%) says the United States cannot be trusted to do so.
- Armenians do not believe China has a great deal of global influence, giving it a 5.6 on a 10-point scale. That’s about the same as Japan (5.8) but much more than India (3.3).
- Armenians express relatively chilly feelings toward China (on average 47 degrees). But they don’t feel much more warmly toward Japan (49°) and feel less warmly about India (44°).
- About half of Armenians (49%) feel that their relations with China are staying about the same, while one-third (34%) believe they are improving and only 6% think they are worsening. A majority sees relations with Japan as stable (54%).