



# Australia

Lowy Institute for International Policy/Market Focus International

## Globalization and Trade

Most Australians view globalization favorably and believe that protecting Australian jobs should be an important foreign policy goal.

- 65% say that globalization is “mostly good” for the country.
- An extraordinarily high 98% say that protecting the jobs of Australians workers should be an important foreign policy goal and 83% say it should be a “very important” goal.

## Climate Change

Australians express very high concern about the international environment. Australia has one of the largest majorities (second only to France) that say they are willing to accept high costs to address global warming. Nearly all of those polled believe that global warming poses a threat and that their country should make improving the global environment an important foreign policy goal.

- Nine in 10 Australians (92%) agree that climate change requires action. Of these seven in 10 (69%) support immediate steps “even if this involves significant costs.” Only 23% say the effects of climate change will be gradual and that it can be dealt with “by taking steps that are low in cost” and a mere 8% oppose taking any steps.
- An overwhelming majority (95%) feels that global warming could threaten Australia’s vital interests in the next decade and 69% consider it a “critical threat.”
- Nearly all Australians polled (99%) say that improving the global environment should be an important foreign policy goal; 88% consider it “very important.”

## Future of the United Nations

Australians show unusually wide support for making efforts to strengthen the United Nations a priority.

- 91% see strengthening the UN as a very (64%) or somewhat (27%) important foreign policy goal, the highest level of support for this among the eight countries asked.

## US Leadership

Australia has the second largest majority saying that the United States acts as a world policeman more often than it should. At the same time, they also have one of the largest majorities believing that the United States can be trusted to act responsibly in the world.

- 80% of Australians think the United States plays the role of world policeman more than it should, and 70% reject the idea that the United States has the “responsibility” to do so.
- Nearly three out of five (59%) Australian respondents trust the United States to act responsibly in the world.
- Half (50%) say Australia’s relationship with the United States is improving, while 41% say it remains unchanged. Only 8% say it is getting worse.
- The United States is seen as having more influence in the world than either Japan or China—but not much. The three powers are given ratings of 6.1, 5.7 and 5.5, respectively, on a 0-10 scale.
- Australians on average express fairly warm feelings about the United States (62°), though sentiments toward Great Britain (74°) are warmer.

## Rise of China

Australians trust China to act responsibly in the world, though far less than they trust Japan. They also tend to believe that their relations with China are improving.

- Three out of five Australians (59%) say they trust China to act responsibly in the world; only Indonesia (also 59%) expresses the same level of confidence. But even more Australians say they trust Japan (72%).
- Australians see China as the dominant power in Asia. On average, they give Chinese influence in Asia a 7.5 on a 10-point scale. The United States and Japan are both given 6.6.
- A majority of Australians (59%) think their country’s relations with China are improving, while a majority (56%) believes that relations with Japan are staying about the same.
- Australians on average have somewhat warm feelings toward China (61°), though they feel a bit warmer toward Japan (64°). They feel a bit cooler toward South Korea (56°).