



ETUC RETHINKING

A progressive narrative of
growth and social
progress

Montepulicano, Italy

September 7, 2021

Matt Browne

About the research: Post-Covid Politics



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)

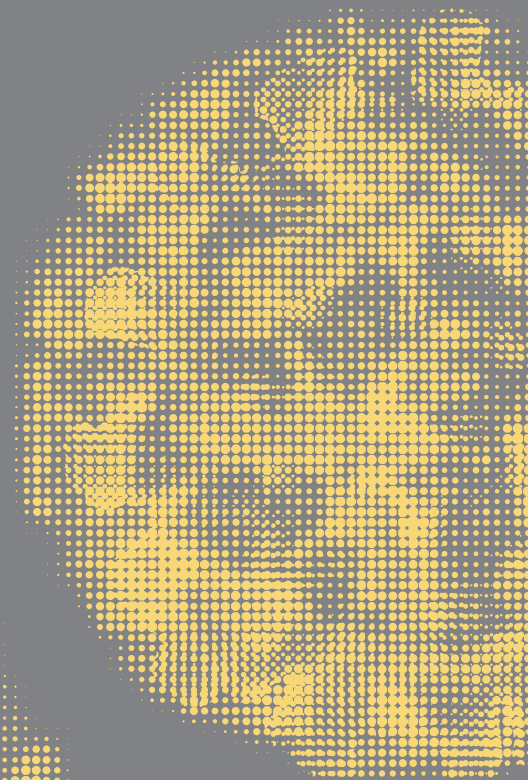
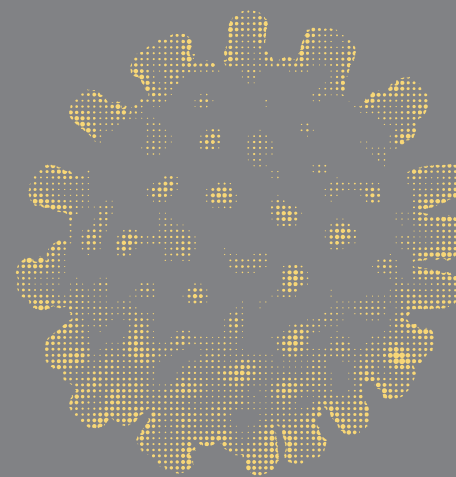
These samples are nationally and politically representative in all countries apart from Japan and Australia where they are just nationally representative.

YouGov[®]



After Progress?

- People say they have learnt much about themselves and their societies during the pandemic.
- They think inequality is too high and want a fairer and greener future.
- Unfortunately, people are sceptical about the ability to achieve such a society, and these ambitions do not automatically translate into support for progressive policies.
- Europeans are pessimistic about future progress, and the geo-economic competition to come.



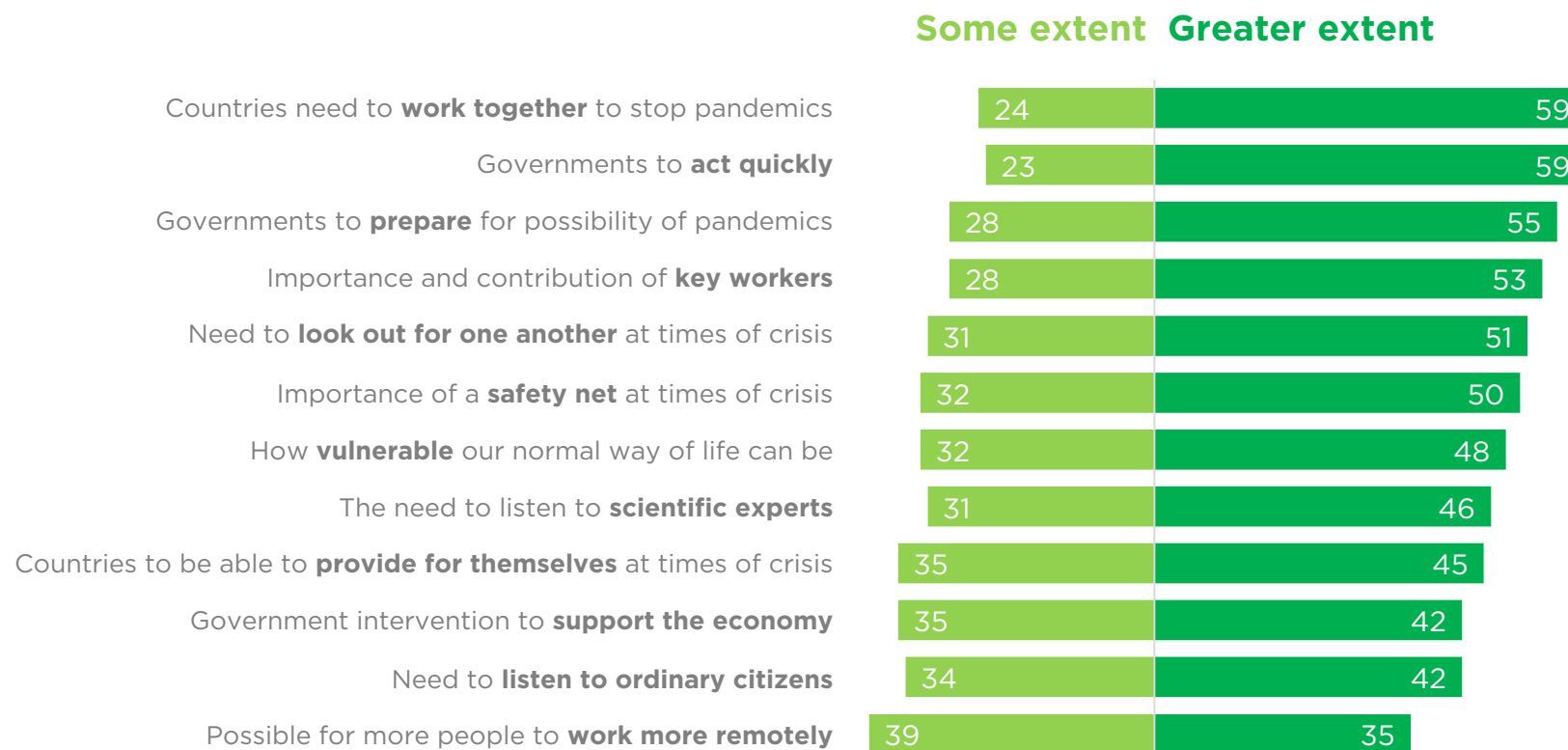
1

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?

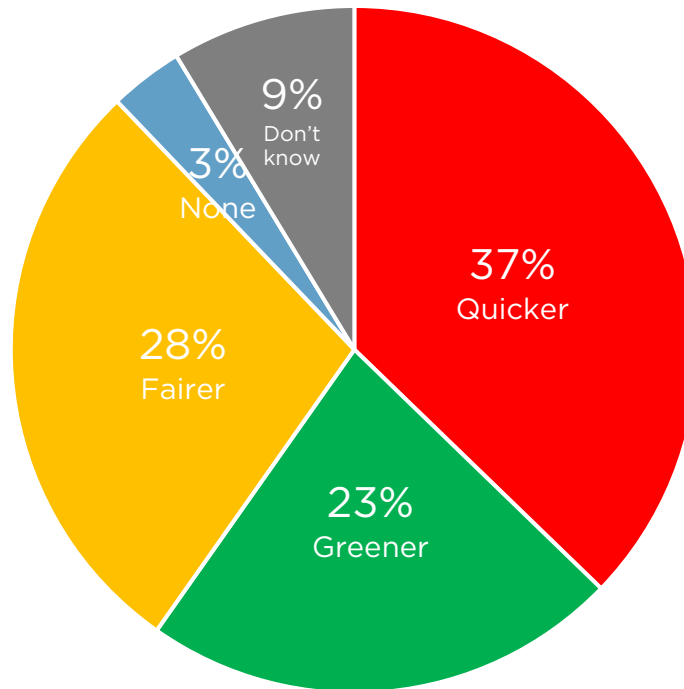


2 Public hopes: Fast action for a greener and fairer society

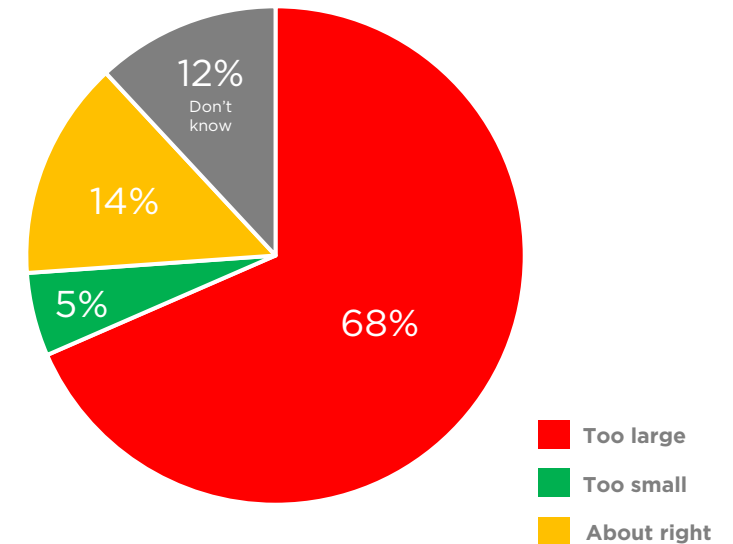
Priorities for economic recovery after Covid

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



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



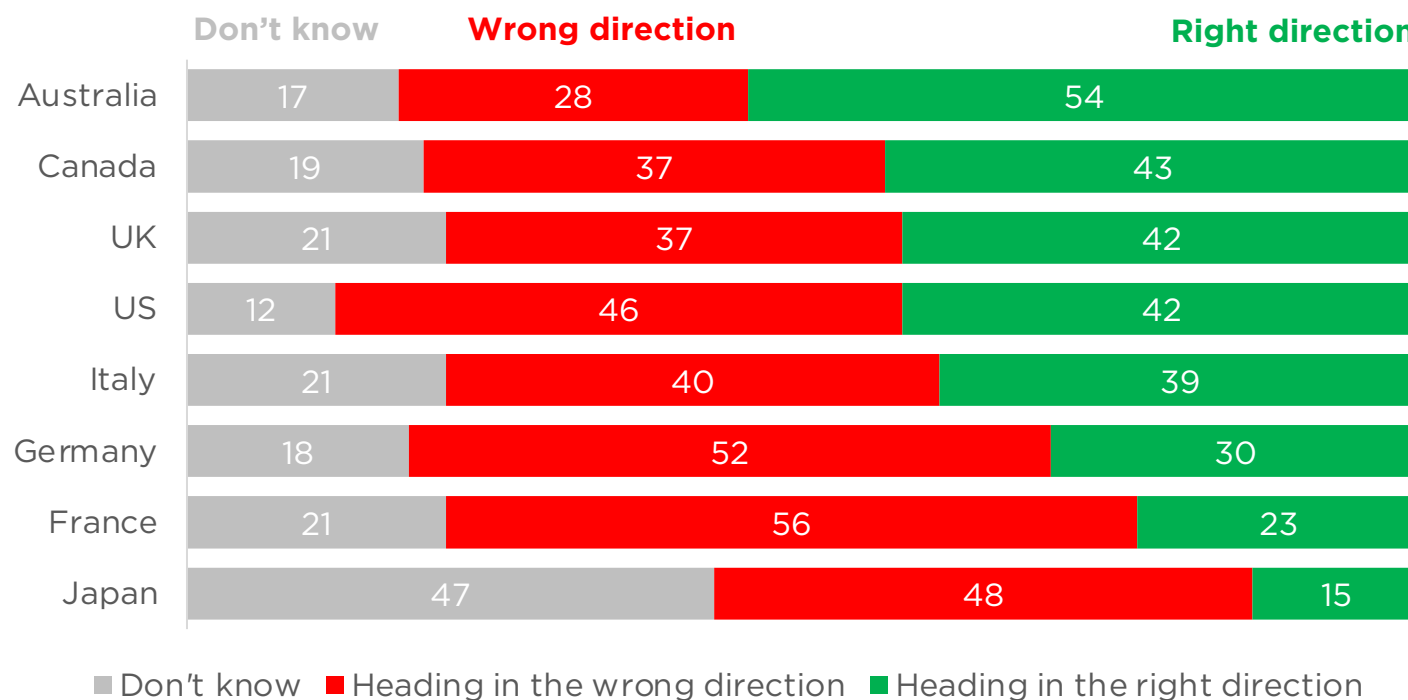
3

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



4

Pessimism in the Old World: Europeans more sceptical about their ability to “win the future”



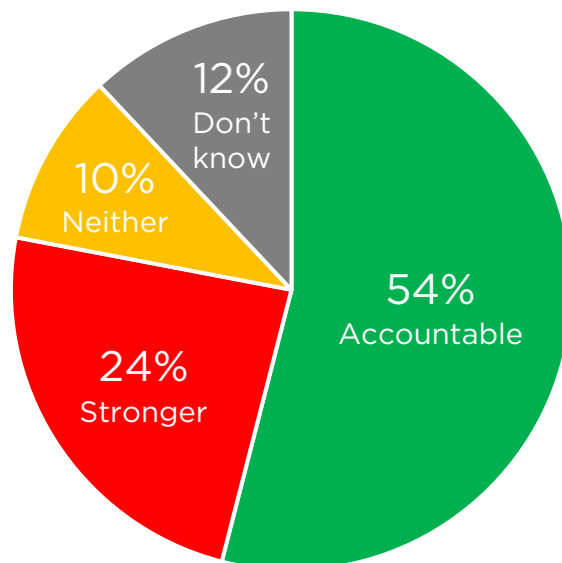
- Australians (42%) and Americans (40%) stand out as believing that the younger generations have it better than the older generations.
- Italy (55%) and France (52%) are the most pessimistic and the most likely to consider that younger generations have it worse than previous ones.
- 65% of Americans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

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

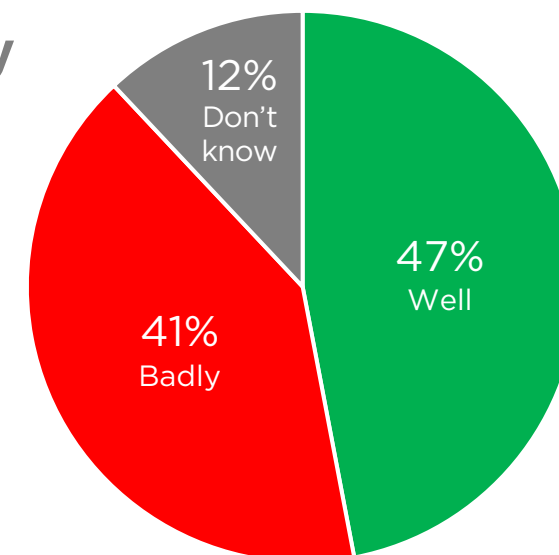


How is democracy working in your country?

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



6

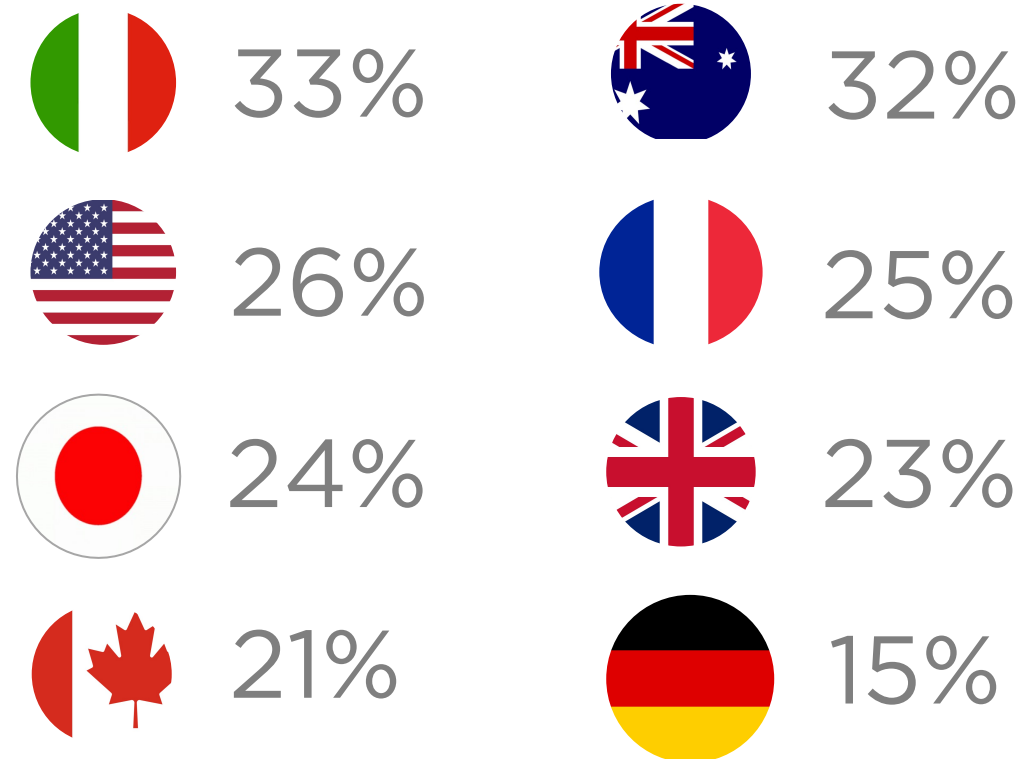
Rising Authoritarianism: A significant minority have sympathy for authoritarian ideal

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

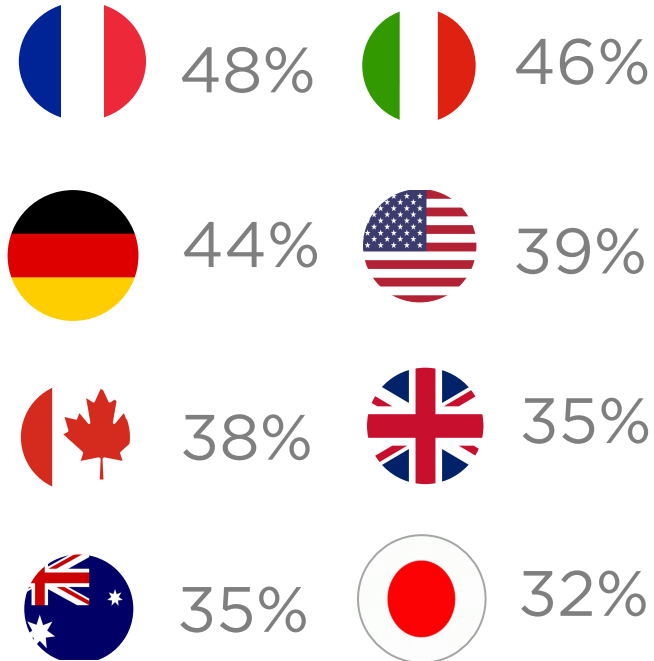
Climate Fatalism: Almost half of respondents believe there is nothing their countries can or should do and that acting risks jobs...



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?

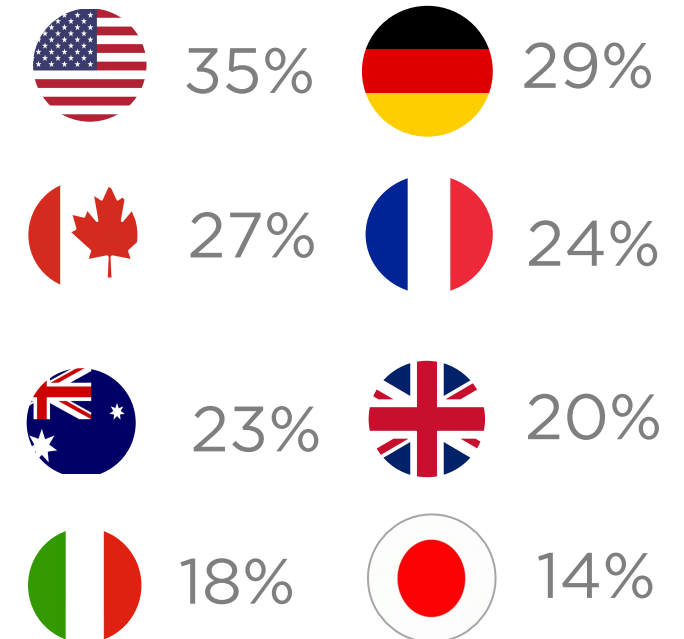
- There are actions that your country can take that will make a real difference to combating climate change
- There is little that your country can realistically do to make a difference to combating climate change unless countries like China & India do
- There is nothing that any country can realistically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



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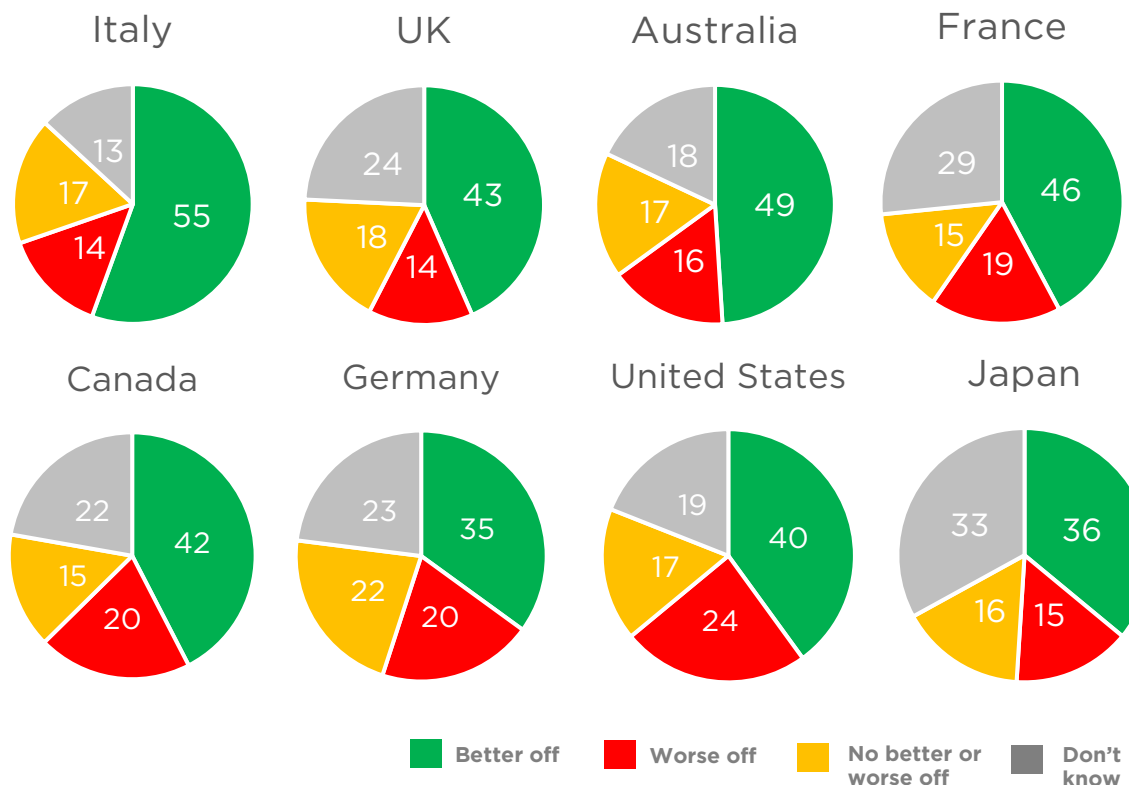
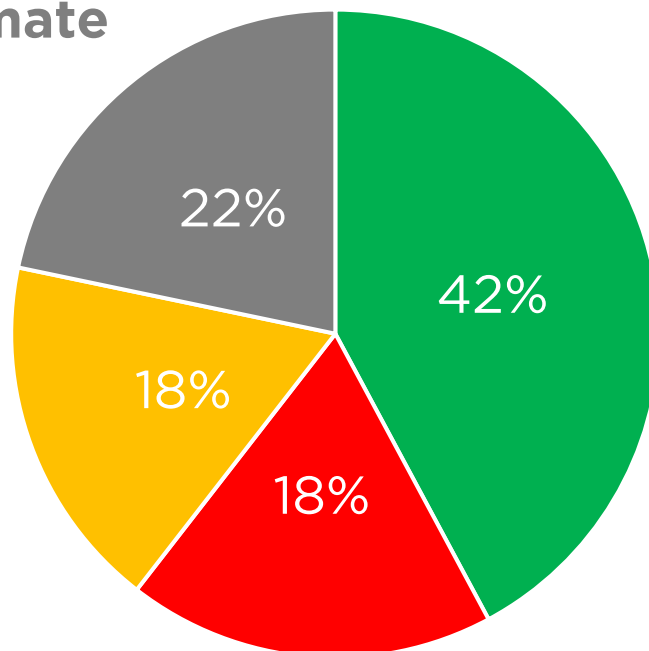
Global Green Jobs Race: Investment in green industries and technology will provide a future competitive advantage



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



9

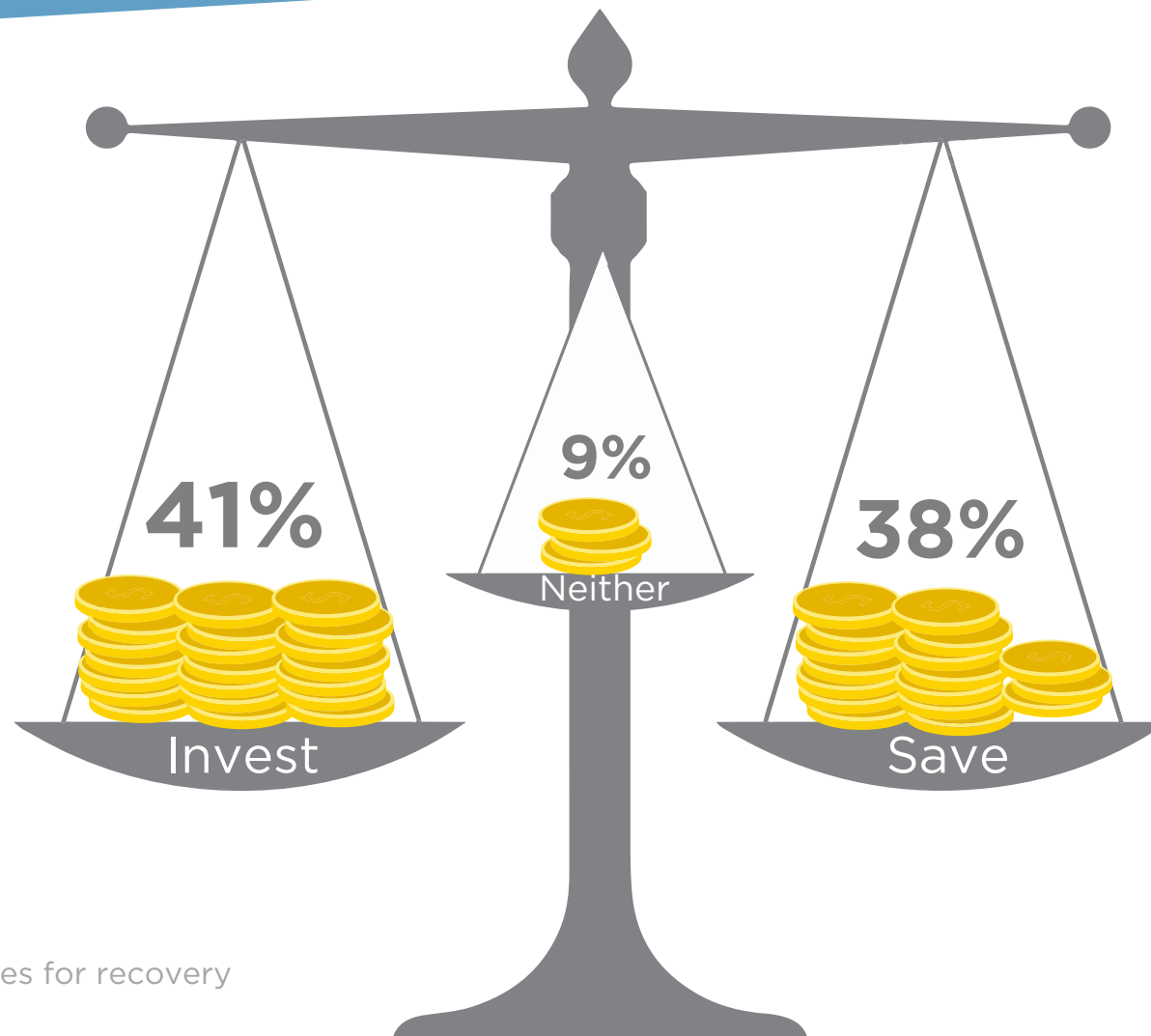
Investment in the Balance: Public split on whether to spend more

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

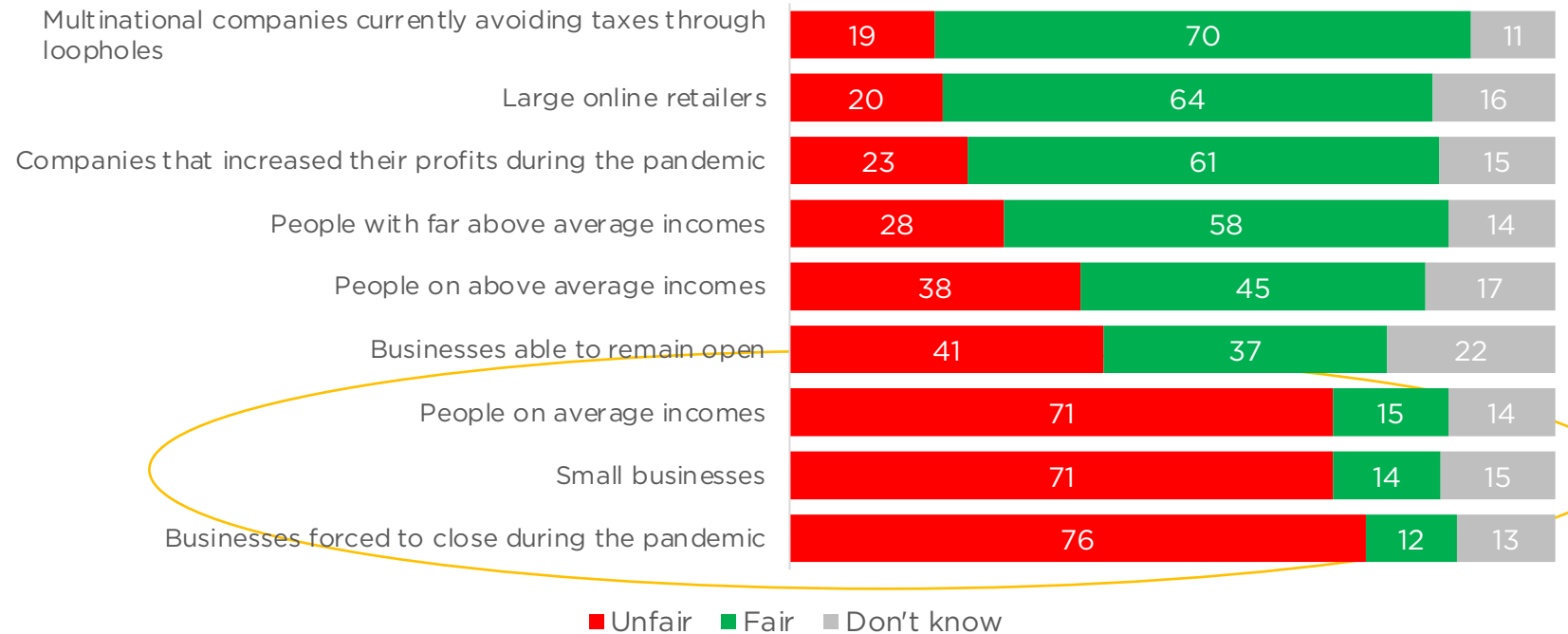
13% respondents answered Don't Know



10 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...



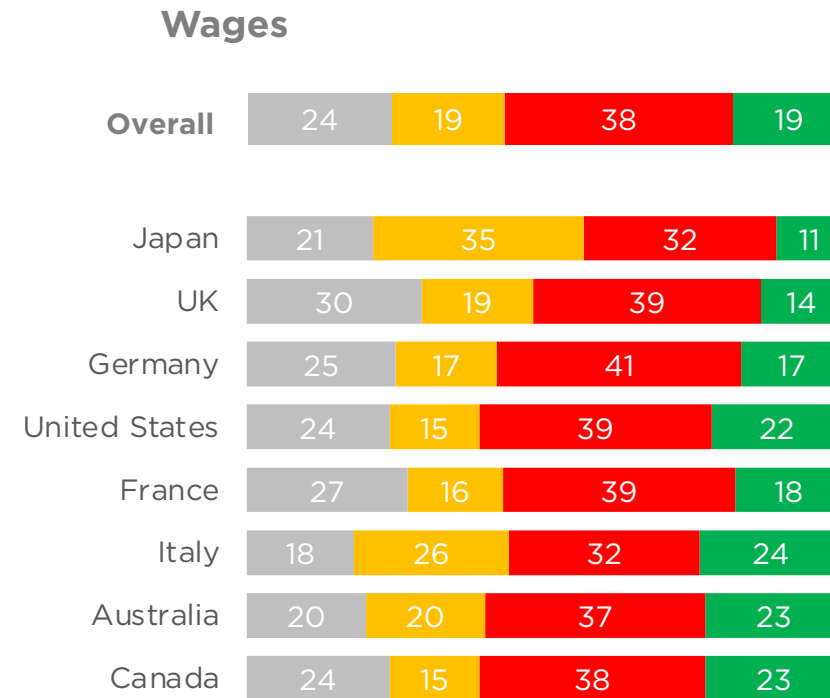
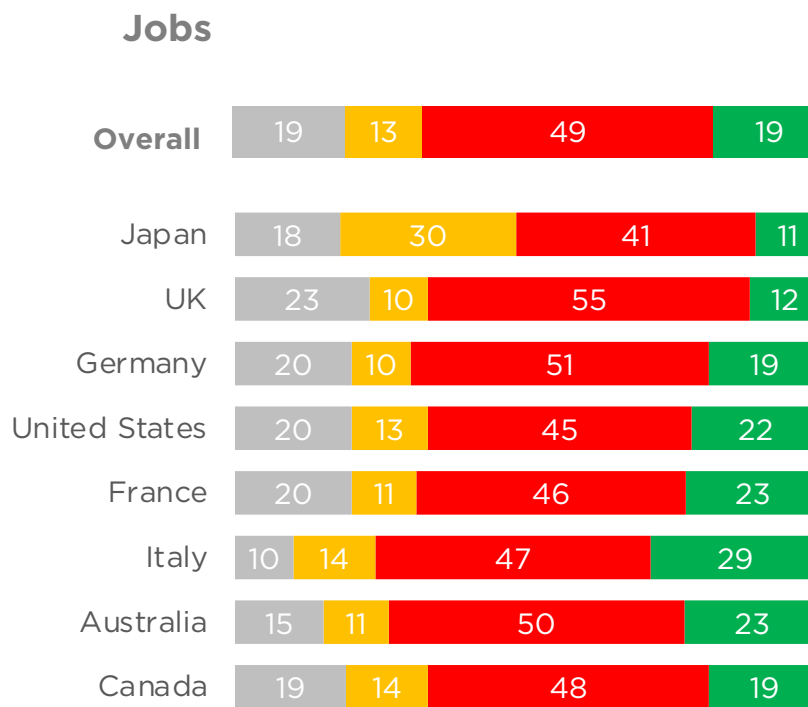
11

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...



12

Rise of China: Majorities believe China is a threat. The public don't trust Chinese vaccines, but they do believe China "owns the future"



53%

see China as more of a threat for their country

65%

would be uncomfortable taking Chinese developed vaccine

32%

rank China most likely to lead future

13

Biden's Leadership Opportunity (and Challenge):

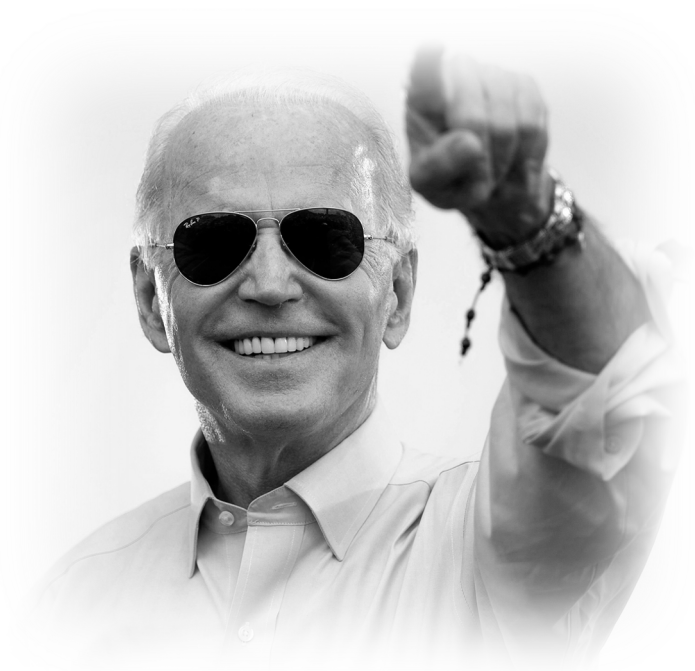
Outside of the US, which remains divided, Biden's agenda is seen as the example to follow



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?



55%

**of all Americans
Back the Biden plan**

90%	19%	52%
of Biden voters	of Trump voters	who didn't vote

About Global Progress



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.

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 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.

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