

The Opinion across the Globe is Equally Divided on Whether Life Will Return to Normal in 2021 or Not

Despite almost six months of intense media scrutiny, fears of the coronavirus infection remain high; people across the globe are largely still supportive to their governments but not at the levels registered at the beginning of the crisis; while opinion is equally divided on whether life will return to normal in 2021.

These are some of the findings from the third wave of global polling, carried out by the world's leading Gallup International Association – in 19 countries, including the USA, Russia, UK, India, Italy, Japan etc. The first wave was in March and the second – in April. *See more at www.gallup-international.com.*

The fear of coronavirus infection remains high in the world, but some symptoms of decrease are to be found. Despite the US, UK and Italy having 40% of all deaths worldwide, the curve in each country is now under control and lockdowns being lifted. Yet the shock remains high – 71%, 70% and 79% respectively in each country agreeing that they are afraid that either themselves or someone in their families may actually catch COVID 19. Across all 19 countries surveyed 67% fear catching it, 30% are not afraid.

Two countries where the curve does not appear to have flattened are Philippines and India – and it is these two countries that show the highest level of fear – 53% and 49% respectively ‘strongly agreeing’ that they are afraid of a family member catching it.

There is however a slightly softer view when respondents were asked whether the threat from the virus was ‘exaggerated’. While 54% feel that it is not, 41% feel that it is exaggerated. Perceptions of an exaggeration are highest in Bosnia and Herzegovina (66%), Kazakhstan (61%), Bulgaria (58%) and Moldova (58%). But perhaps there is a lesson here to be learnt from recent history? Just 15% of those in Republic of South Korea (recently experiencing the SARS pandemic) believe the Coronavirus threat is exaggerated.

Support for Government handling of the crisis remains high – 63% approve, 34% disapprove. Yet there are some significant shifts in opinion since Wave 1.

In countries such as Republic of South Korea, Malaysia and Switzerland support for government action on the coronavirus handling seems to be growing. In Kazakhstan and Bulgaria, the values reached between March and April remain broadly the same today.

Meanwhile Japan (33%), Bosnia and Herzegovina (36%) and the UK (38%) show significantly lower levels of Government approval. And how about President Trump? 40% continue to approve, 55% disapprove.

Clear Government approval is impacted in part by a perception on whether the virus is under control. Opinion globally here is split – 44% say it is now under control, 49% that it is not. But the scale of opinion for a global pandemic is striking – ranging from 15% of those in Japan thinking it is under control to 95% in Georgia.

One issue where majorities in most countries surveyed agree on is the financial impact. In 14 of the 19 countries polled, a majority say their household income has decreased. Families in the Philippines (88%) and Pakistan (87%) are hardest hit.

But how about prospects for the future? There is no clear expectation on the prospect of life returning to normal. More than two out of five 41% believe that by the end of the year things will return to normal, while 47% disagree. Those in Kazakhstan (65%), Bulgaria (61%), Malaysia (60%) and Pakistan (59%) are the more optimistic while three of the G7 members in Japan (11%), USA (28%) and UK (20%) are the most concerned.

Kancho Stoychev, president of Gallup International Association:

‘There is no doubt that globally the return to normal started without the proclaimed ‘new normal’. People are on the streets, shops are open, planes are in the sky and borders are crossed, even if not all of them. The old new virus has not gone and, in a way, will never disappear because viruses are a part of our life on the Planet. Many argue that we overreacted and caused much bigger damages (including deaths) than the disease itself. Years will follow to understand why and years will follow to recover. Something new is happening not in our bodies but in our heads and it very much resembles a new religion – a new egalitarian cult.’

Methodology:

Almost 19 000 adult persons were interviewed globally. In each country a representative sample of men and women was interviewed in the first weeks of June 2020 either online, via CATI and CAPI. The margin of error for the survey is between 3-5% at 95% confidence level. Details on methodology by country are listed in the table below.

About Gallup International

Gallup International Association (GIA) is the leading global independent association in market research and polling.

For over 70 years Gallup International Members have demonstrated their expert ability to conduct multi-country surveys on a comparable basis and deliver the highest quality. Our more than 100 Members and partners are leading national institutes with a profound local knowledge of research methods and techniques, statistical sources, customs and culture differences of its own country and carefully selected by the Association Board. With only one



Member agency per country, Members work together on a daily basis to share knowledge, new research techniques and tools, as well as to provide the most appropriate solutions to international research projects and service our clients to the best of our abilities.

For more information:

Kancho Stoychev (in Sofia), +359 88 8611025

Johnny Heald (in London), +44 7973 600308

For further details see website:

www.gallup-international.com

G

I

A “CORONAVIRUS Snap Poll – Wave 3” Participants

(GIA Members and Partners presented in alphabetical order)

Country	Vendor Company	Sample size	Fieldwork Dates	Method	Survey Universe
AUSTRIA	Österreichisches Gallup Institut	1 000	10-15 June 2020	Online	National, 16+
B&H	TNS MIB	1 000	07-15 June 2020	Online/CATI	National, 18+
BULGARIA	Gallup International Balkan	850	02-07 June 2020	CATI	National, 18+
GEORGIA	GORBI	1003	07-12 June 2020	CATI	National, 18+
HONG KONG	CSG (CONSUMER SEARCH GROUP)	510	08-10 June 2020	Online	National, 18-65
INDIA	Impetus Research Pvt. Ltd	1 030	02-11 June 2020	CATI	National, 18-65
ITALY	DOXA	1 000	02-11 June 2020	Online	National, 18-47
JAPAN	NRC (Nippon Research Center)	1 126	09-13 June 2020	Online	National, 18-69
KAZAKHSTAN	BISAM - CENTRAL ASIA	500	05-15 June 2020	CATI/CAPI	National, 18-65
MALAYSIA	C Force	755	03-13 June 2020	CATI	National, 18+
MOLDOVA	CBS – AXA S.R.L., I.M.	601	04-06 June 2020	CATI	National, 18+

NORT MACEDONIA	BRIMA	1203	04-14 June 2020	CATI	National, 15+
PAKISTAN	Gallup Pakistan	1087	14-15 June 2020	CATI	National, 18+
PHILIPPINES	Philippine Survey and Research Center, Inc.	1023	09-15 June 2020	Online/CATI	National, 18+
REPUBLIC OF KOREA	Gallup Korea	1 015	08-10 June 2020	Online	National, 19-69
RUSSIA	Romir	750	02-07 June 2020	Online	Urban 18+
SWITZERLAND	Gallup Switzerland	1000	18-23 June 2020	Online	National 16+
UK	ORB INTERNATIONAL	2090	03-09 June 2020	Online	National, 18+
USA	D3 Systems	1 192	10-11 June 2020	Online	National, 18+