

ITUC Frontlines 2016 Poll

Special Topic: Digital Economy



ITUC International Trade Union confederation
CSI Confédération syndicale internationale
CSI Confederación Sindical International
IGB Internationaler Gewerkschaftsbund



TNS opinion

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Introduction

Technology is not a threat to decent work - it is how it is managed and in who's interest that matters.

The digital revolution provides opportunities for decent jobs and quality services if Governments regulate business behavior as we expect them to do in traditional industries. Businesses that rely on digital platforms must pay tax in the country where they earn income, contribute to social protection where that is the system and be held accountable by law for an employment relationship. This must constitute the social license to operate for all registered business.

People know what is right. 82% agree that companies operating in the digital economy should provide workers with the same rights and protections - sick leave, paid holidays, pensions and rights to union representation – as other workers in the economy.

The future of work starts now. Workers' rights must be respected, minimum wages on which workers can live with dignity must be guaranteed, and collective bargaining rights for all workers and social protection must be ensured. Decent work requires the rule of law.



Sharan Burrow

General Secretary, International Trade Union Confederation

Commentary

In the ITUC Frontlines Poll of 2016, the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) looked into the 'Digital Economy' and support for workers' rights in this expanding sector.

This question was asked across nine G20 economies in the poll (Argentina, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, South Korea, the UK and the USA). Together, the populations of these countries represent an estimated 45% of the world's population and 55% of global GDP.

Each respondent was asked if they agreed or disagreed that companies that provide services on internet platforms should provide their workers with the same rights and protections as other workers.

Across all countries, the majority of people agree that all workers – including those working in the Digital Economy – should be provided the same rights and protections.

82% of those included in this poll agreed that companies who provide services using internet platforms should provide their workers with the same rights and protections – sick leave, paid holidays, pensions and union protections – as other workers receive. [\[CHART 1\]](#)

Support was universal across the countries, with a majority of each population agreeing that workers in the Digital Economy should be provided the same rights and protections as other workers in their country.

Agreement was highest in those countries from Asia; China (91%), South Korea (87%) and India (86%).

Although slightly lower in other countries, the large majority of each population agreed with the statement; 84% in Argentina, 81% in Germany and the UK, 78% in France and Canada and 70% in the USA. [\[CHART 2\]](#)

There was little difference across demographics, highlighting the very high level of support for providing workers in the Digital Economy with the same rights and protections as other workers in each country.

There was little difference across demographics, highlighting the very high level of support for providing workers in the Digital Economy with the same rights and protections as other workers in each country.

There was no significant difference between males (82% agree) and females (81% agree). [\[CHART 3\]](#)

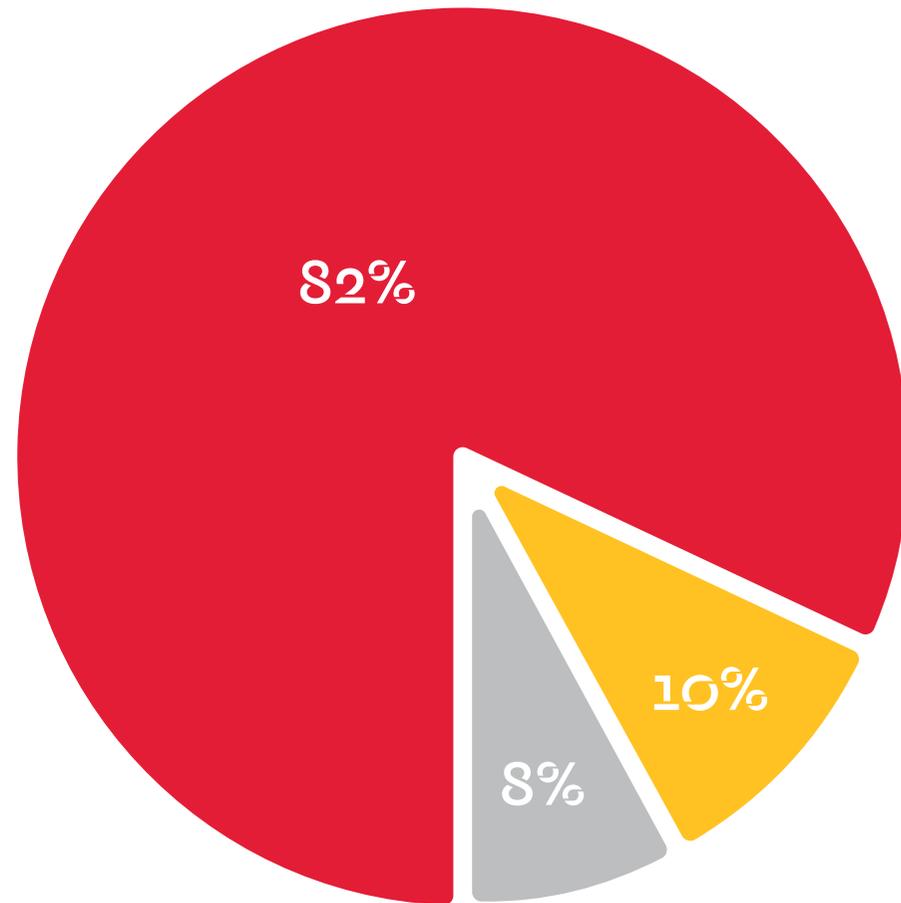
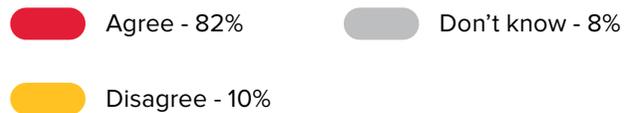
There is also very little difference in terms of the various age segments; 83% of those aged 16-24 agree, but so do 82% of those aged 25-34, 83% of those aged 35-44, 81% of those aged 45-54 and 80% of those aged 55+. [\[CHART 3\]](#)

Chart 01:

Support for workers in the Digital Economy having the same rights as other workers (Global)

Question:

To what extent do you agree or disagree that companies who provide services using Internet platforms should provide their workers with the same rights and protections as other workers in their country might receive (i.e. sick leave, paid holidays, pensions, union representation).



Notes:

Total sample size across the 9 countries is 9187. Sample size for each country is displayed in the methodology.

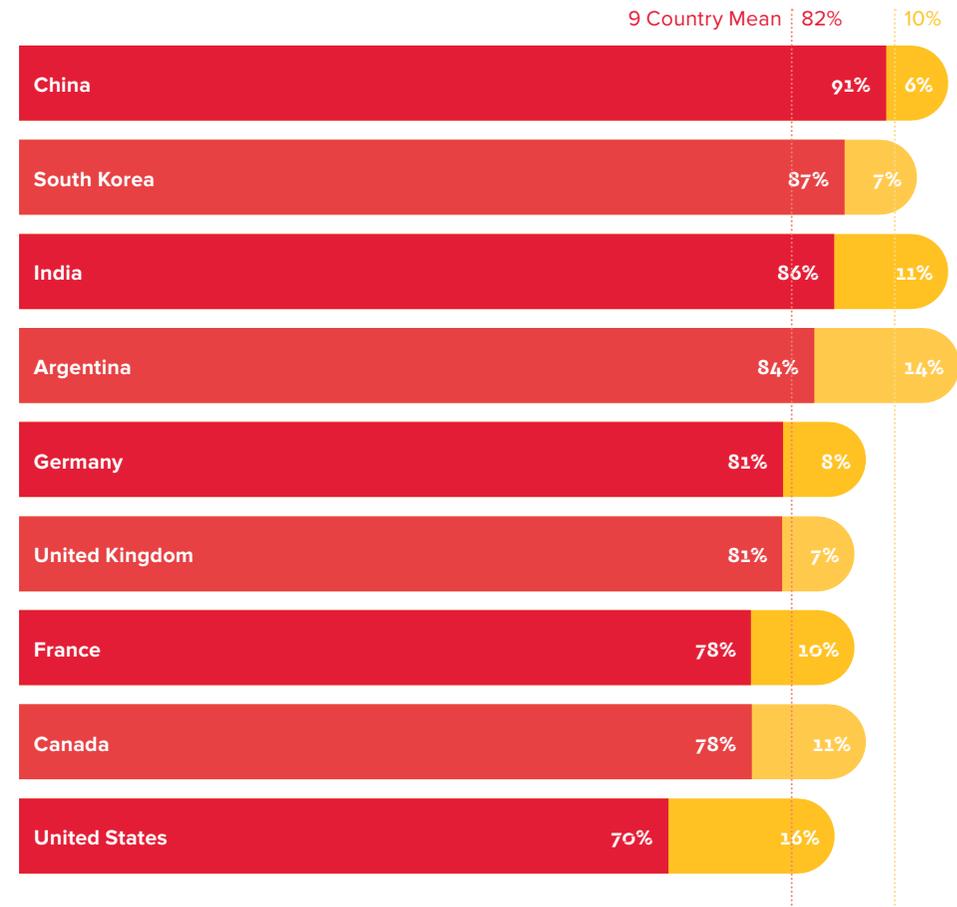
Chart 02:

Support for workers in the Digital Economy having the same rights as other workers (by country)

Question:

To what extent do you agree or disagree that companies who provide services using Internet platforms should provide their workers with the same rights and protections as other workers in their country might receive (i.e. sick leave, paid holidays, pensions, union representation).

 Agree  Disagree



Notes:

Sample size is at least n=1000 per country. Total sample size across the 9 countries is 9187. Sample size for each country is displayed in the methodology. Don't know figure not displayed for ease of reading.

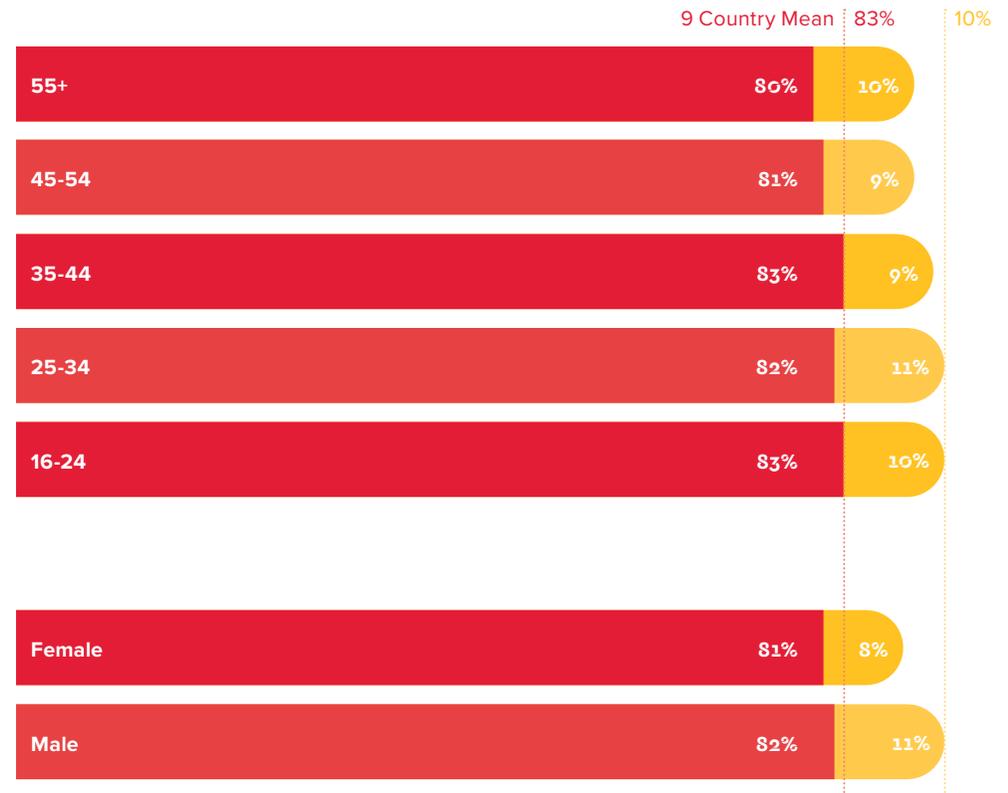
Chart 03:

Support for workers in the Digital Economy having the same rights as other workers (by age & gender)

Question:

To what extent do you agree or disagree that companies who provide services using Internet platforms should provide their workers with the same rights and protections as other workers in their country might receive (i.e. sick leave, paid holidays, pensions, union representation).

● Agree ● Disagree



Notes:

Sample size is at least n=1000 per country. Total sample size across the 9 countries is 9187. Sample size for each country is displayed in the methodology. Don't know figure not displayed for ease of reading.

Table 01:

Workers Rights by country

Question:

To what extent do you agree or disagree that companies who provide services using Internet platforms should provide their workers with the same rights and protections as other workers in their country might receive (i.e. sick leave, paid holidays, pensions, union representation).

	TOTAL	Argentina	Canada	China	France	Germany	India	South Korea	UK	USA
TOTAL Agree	82%	84%	78%	91%	78%	81%	86%	87%	81%	70%
TOTAL Disagree	10%	14%	11%	6%	10%	8%	11%	7%	7%	16%
Totally agree	45%	63%	40%	53%	41%	48%	50%	31%	43%	32%
Tend to agree	37%	21%	38%	38%	37%	33%	36%	56%	38%	38%
Tend to disagree	7%	6%	8%	5%	7%	7%	8%	6%	5%	13%
Totally disagree	3%	8%	3%	1%	2%	1%	3%	1%	1%	4%
Don't know	8%	3%	11%	3%	12%	12%	4%	6%	13%	14%

Table 02:

Workers Rights by age and gender

Question:

To what extent do you agree or disagree that companies who provide services using Internet platforms should provide their workers with the same rights and protections as other workers in their country might receive (i.e. sick leave, paid holidays, pensions, union representation).

	TOTAL	Male	Female	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55+
TOTAL Agree	82%	82%	81%	83%	82%	83%	81%	80%
TOTAL Disagree	10%	11%	8%	10%	11%	9%	9%	10%
Totally agree	45%	45%	44%	44%	45%	45%	44%	48%
Tend to agree	37%	37%	37%	39%	37%	38%	37%	32%
Tend to disagree	7%	8%	6%	7%	8%	6%	7%	7%
Totally disagree	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%
Don't know	8%	7%	11%	8%	8%	8%	10%	10%

Methodology

These conclusions are based on the 2016 International Trade Union Confederation Frontlines Poll.

The results in the document relate to one of four questions asked in this poll via an Internet omnibus survey.

This question was asked in nine countries (Argentina, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, South Korea, the UK and the USA).

The results to the questions not included in this report will be released separately.

In each of the 9 countries, approximately n=1000 respondents were interviewed. Exact sample sizes are listed below:

The sample in each country has been selected by quotas to reflect national proportions in regards to age, gender and region.

SPSS Software and Microsoft Excel were used to analyse the results.

Essential Media Communications were responsible for questionnaire design, data analysis and reporting.

TNS Opinion carried out the fieldwork between the 14th and 22nd April, 2016.

Figures have been rounded so tables may not add to 100%.

Country	Sample Size
Argentina	1015
Canada	1010
China	1041
France	1020
Germany	1029
India	1029
South Korea	1005
UK	1034
USA	1004

Copies of the ITUC Global Poll reports from 2012, 2013 and 2014 are available on the ITUC website:

www.ituc-csi.org

For more information contact:

Gemma Swart gemma.swart@ituc-csi.org