

International Trade
Union Confederation

2020 Global Poll



ITUC CSI IGB

International Trade Union Confederation

Research by

YouGov®

Methodology

The 2020 International Trade Union Confederation Global Poll

16 COUNTRIES

3.1 BILLION PEOPLE 18+

**56% OF THE WORLD'S
POPULATION 18+**



On fragile ground

Working people living on the edge

A global wages slump:



75% of people say their income has stagnated or fallen behind.



Almost half (43%) say their household income is falling behind the cost of living.



76% do not believe the minimum wage is enough for a decent life.

Working people are struggling worldwide:



47% of people are barely getting by or do not have enough for essentials.



One in ten say they do not have enough money for basic essentials like housing and food.

Regional findings:



Over half (54%) of people in the Americas (Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, and the USA) are barely getting by or don't have enough money for basic essentials.



Close to half the people living in the BRICS (47%), Asia (47%) and G20 (46%) countries are struggling to provide for their own basic essentials.



On fragile ground

Working people living on the edge

People are feeling a loss of control over their work and pay:



33% of people have experienced less control over their choice of decent work.



28% – more than one in four – have less control over the hours they work.

A global pre-pandemic jobs crisis – pessimism is widespread:

Regional findings:



Over a third (39%) say they or someone in their household has lost their job or working hours in the last two years.



Argentina, Brazil, Chile and South Africa have more than half of households who have experienced unemployment or loss of working hours.



In Europe, more than a quarter of respondents (28%) experienced unemployment or underemployment.



Almost half (42%) of people think it is unlikely the next generation will find a decent job.



On fragile ground

Working people living on the edge

What worries people:



More than two-thirds of people say they are worried about:

- Climate change
- Rising inequality
- The misuse of their personal data online
- People losing their jobs



Democracy and government accountability

Democracy is in crisis.

One in three (36%) people are angry or despairing when asked about how they felt about their government listening to them and the needs of their family.

Business and the wealthy hold too much influence over the global economy and people like themselves far too little.



Two out of three (66%) say people like them have little influence on the global economy.



Almost three-quarters (71%) of people think their country's economic system favours the wealthy.



The majority of people in every country surveyed believe their economic system favours the wealthy

The only way to turn this around is to build government accountability by measuring and reporting on the issues that matter most to people.



Jobs – job creation towards full employment.
Universal social protection.



Living standards with minimum living wages and collective bargaining to ensure a fair share of profits and productivity.



Progressive taxation measures and the elimination of tax havens and tax avoidance with new taxes, including a digital tax and a wealth tax to reduce inequality and fund vital public services.



Human and labour rights with mandated due diligence to endure exposure and remedy of injustice.



Environmental protection and a just transition for climate action.



Engagement of people in democratic consultation beyond the ballot box.

These areas of accountability are central to the need for a new social contract.

A New Social Contract

People know what they want for economic and social security.

The vital need for quality jobs and for social protection is stark. But so too is the demand for those jobs to be decent jobs with guaranteed legal rights.

Support for labour laws

on average **84%** support for all five laws:



Laws that support workers' health and safety.



Laws that establish and protect a decent minimum wage.



Laws that give workers the right to collectively bargain.



Laws that give workers the right to join a union.



Laws that protect the right to strike.

Across the five policy areas that ensure social security – on average **89%** (one in nine) favour government support:



91% favour the government providing access to healthcare.



91% favour the government providing decent retirement incomes.



90% favour access to education.



87% favour support for paid maternity leave.



84% favour government providing unemployment benefits.

And central to a New Social Contract is climate action and Just Transition.

Climate- and Employment-Proof Our Work with Just Transition

Climate action requires jobs, social protection, retraining and reinvestment in communities.



79% of people believe workers should have a right to know what measures their company is planning in order to climate-proof jobs and workplaces.



More than two-thirds of people are worried about climate change.



63% of people think their government should be doing more to promote a Just Transition to a zero-carbon future.



One in three are angry or despairing in regard to their government's action on reducing the impact of climate change.

And Just Transition is also required as we struggle with the choice concerning the best and worst of technology.



Almost one in three (30%) people believe that large technology companies have had a negative impact on workers.



Close to one-third (32%) think large technology companies have a negative impact on society.



Almost half of all respondents (47%) are concerned about protecting their personal data online.



A large majority of people (66%) support increased taxation and regulation of technology companies.



1.0 Executive Summary

A Precarious World on the Brink of Collapse

1. The Social Contract is Broken

Households in financial crisis prior to Covid-19

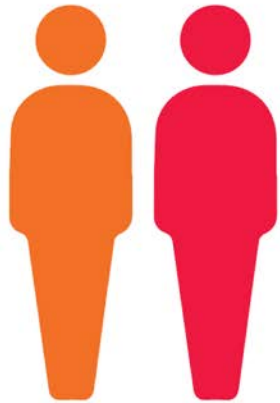


Three quarters of people (75%)
say their income has stagnated
or fallen behind



2. Global Anxiety about the World and Work

A worried world



1 in every 2
people rate their own
country's economic
situation as bad.



3. Building Trust in Government

People want action from their government



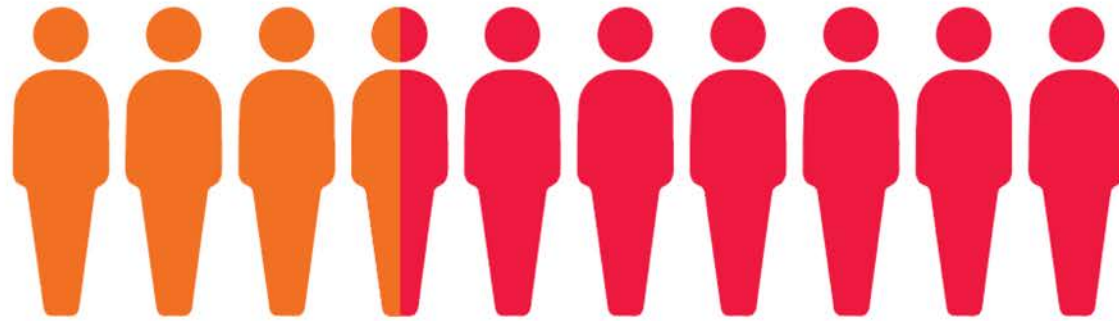
1 in 3

people are angry or despairing when asked how they felt about their government listening to them and the needs of their family



4. Just Transition for Climate Change and Technology Changes

Global shifts – demand for urgent action



**More than two-thirds
of people are worried
about climate change**



5. Labour Laws and Social Protection

Unions and the laws they protect are as important as ever



**2 in every 3
people believe unions
have an important role to
play in society**



The New Social Contract – A global action plan for governments for resilient and sustainable economies

1



Jobs, the care economy and working conditions

- Create jobs by investing in care for the elderly, disabled people and pre-school aged children **(74%)**.
- Government action on lifelong learning **(69%)**.
- Protect secure employment and workers' rights for domestic and migrant workers **(57%)**.

2



Income and social protection

- A pay rise for workers **(70%)**.

3



Taming corporate power OR regulating monopoly power

- Regulating the digital economy **(61%)**.
- Making sure companies pay their fair share of taxes **(73%)**.
- New rules for multinationals to end abuse of workers through their supply chains **(66%)**.
- **66%** want governments to enact an increase in taxes paid by technology companies.
- **66%** would support government increasing regulation of large technology companies.

4



Climate Change

- Taking action on climate change by promoting Just Transition to a zero-carbon future **(63%)**.

5



Peace and security

- Working with other countries to promote peace, jobs and human rights **(64%)**.
- A majority **(53%)** of people say they would trust their government more if it committed to an international treaty to ban nuclear weapons.

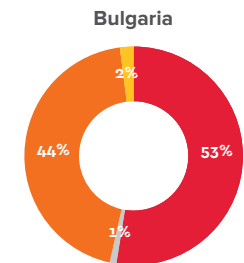
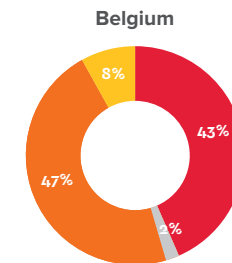
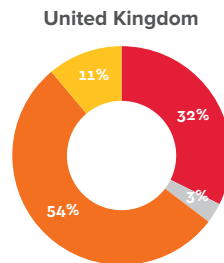
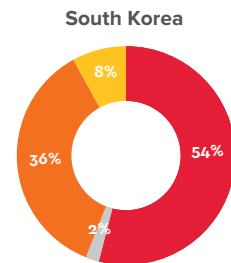
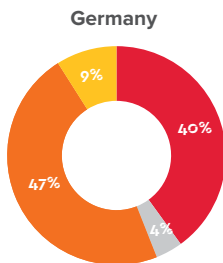
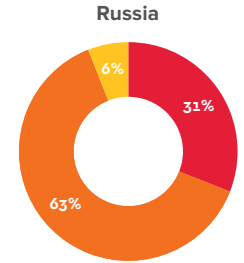
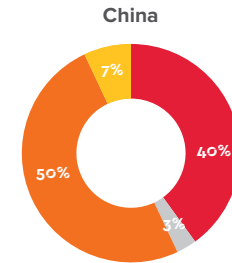
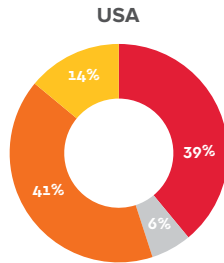
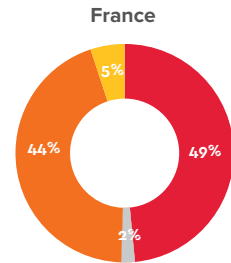
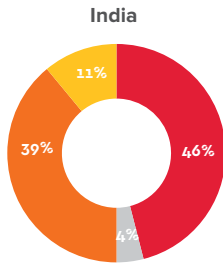
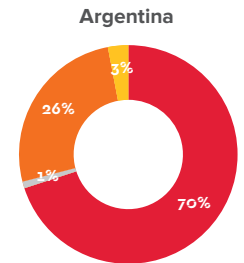
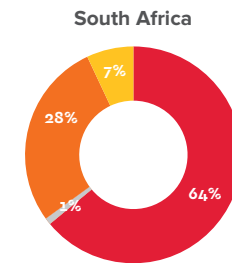
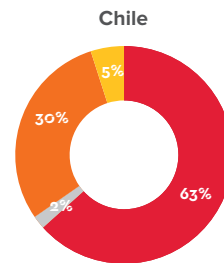
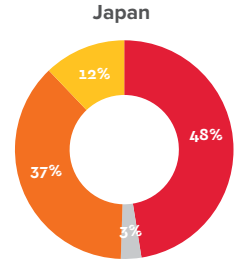
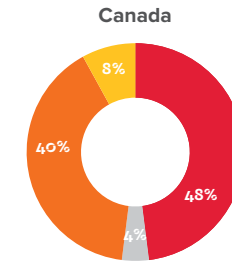
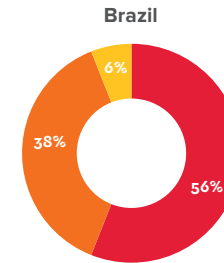
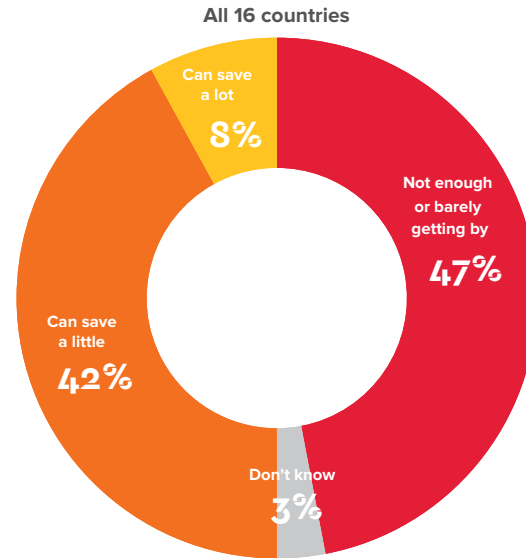


2.0 Key Findings:

The Social Contract is Broken

Working people are struggling worldwide

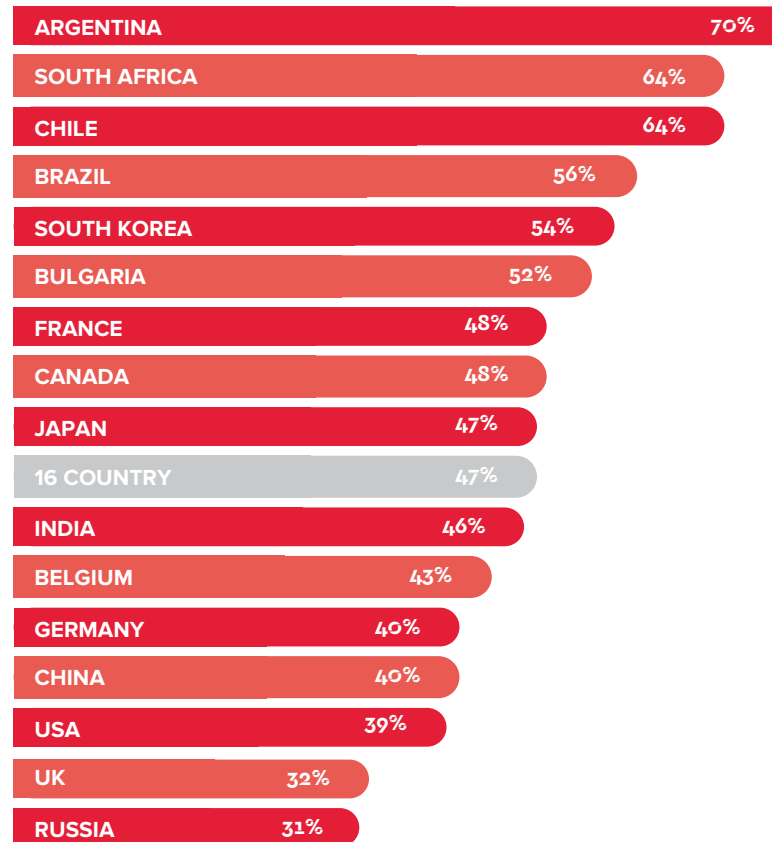
Are you getting by – how would you describe your financial situation?



Working people are struggling worldwide

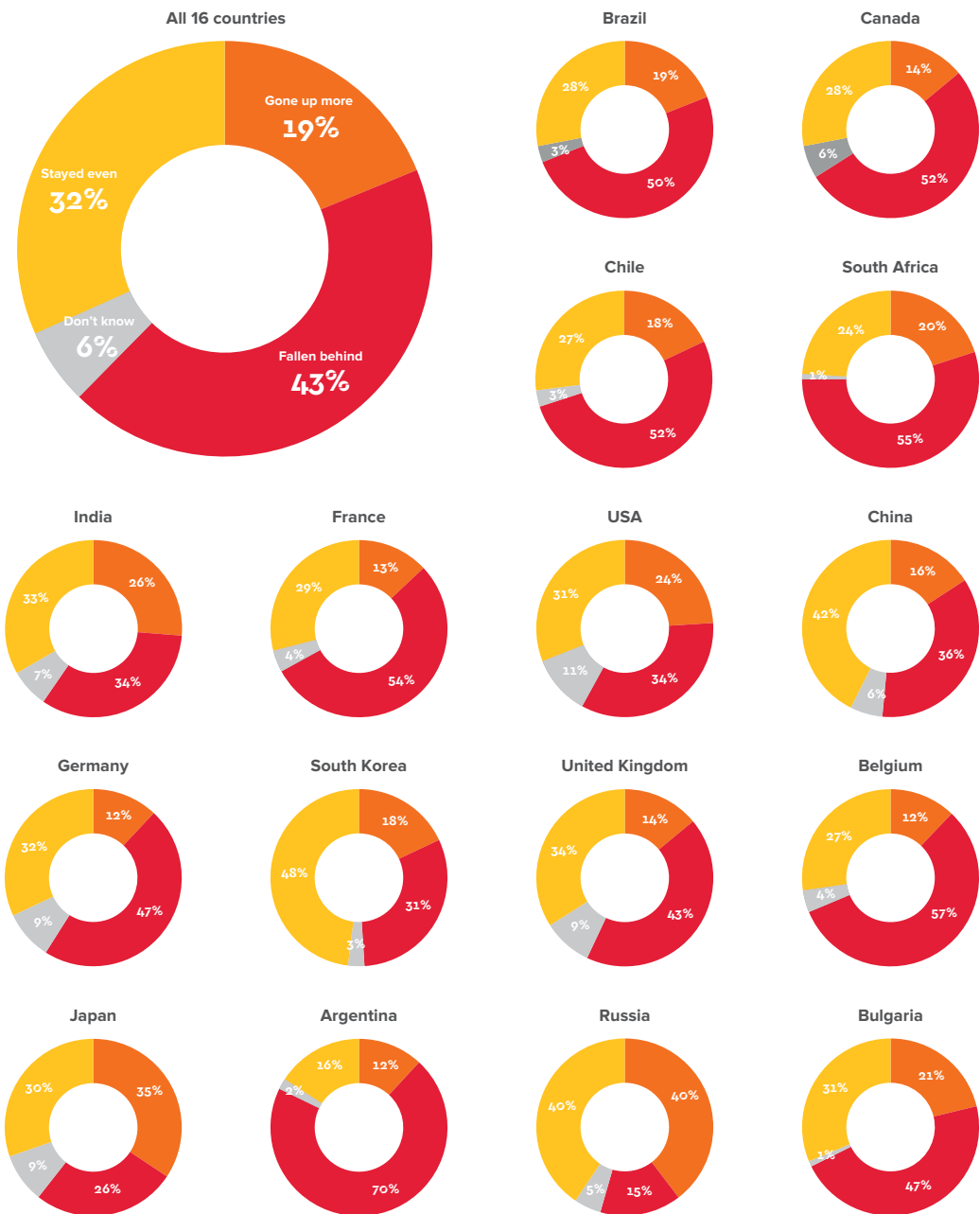
Are you getting by – how would you describe your financial situation?

I'm barely getting by and don't have enough for basic essentials like housing, food and electricity



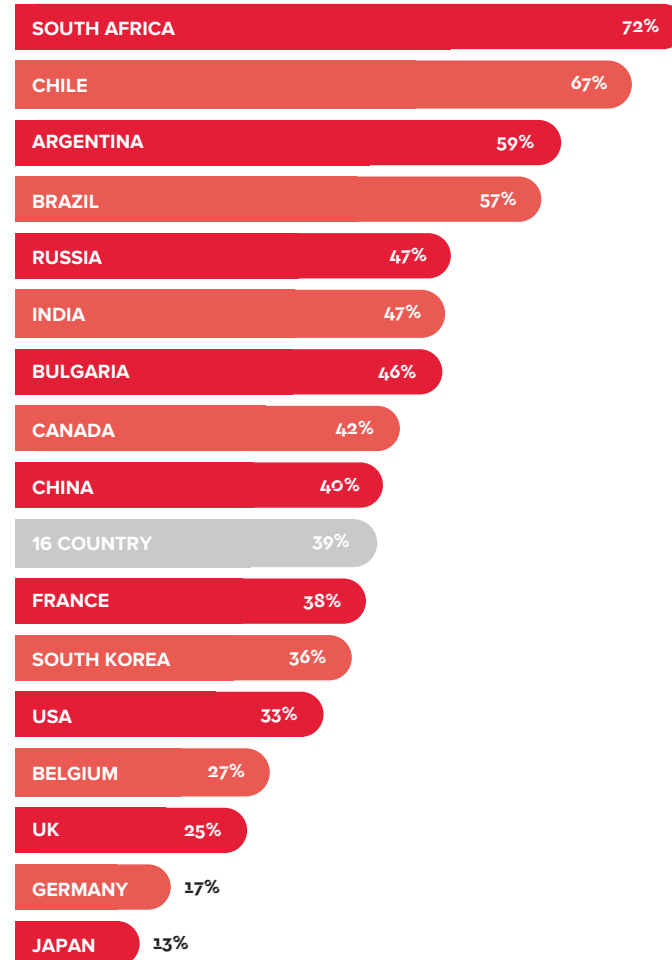
Family incomes in crisis

Has your household income fallen behind the cost of living?
Country comparison.



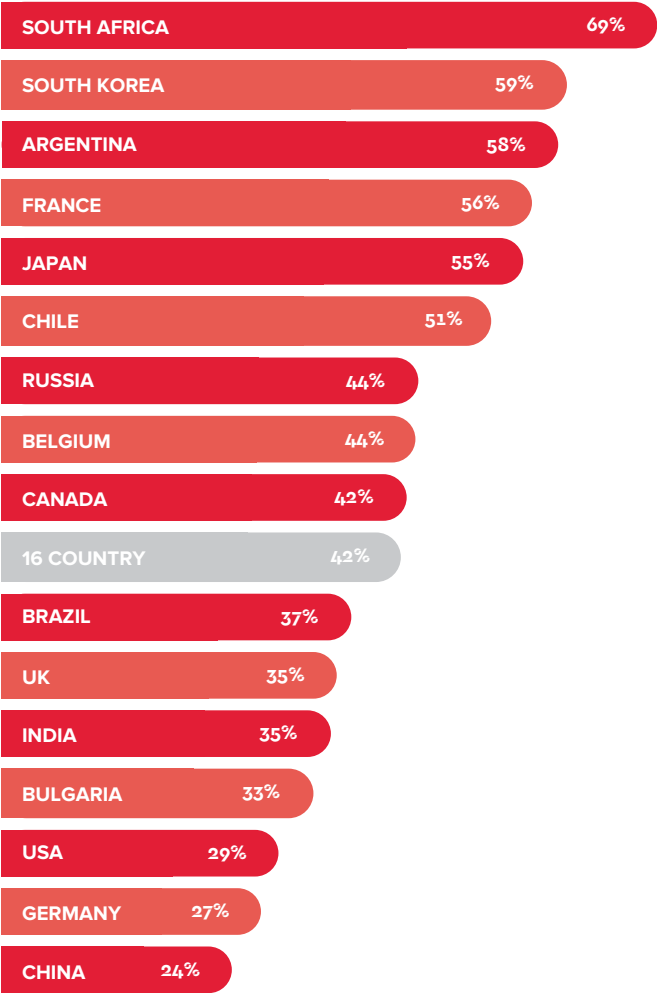
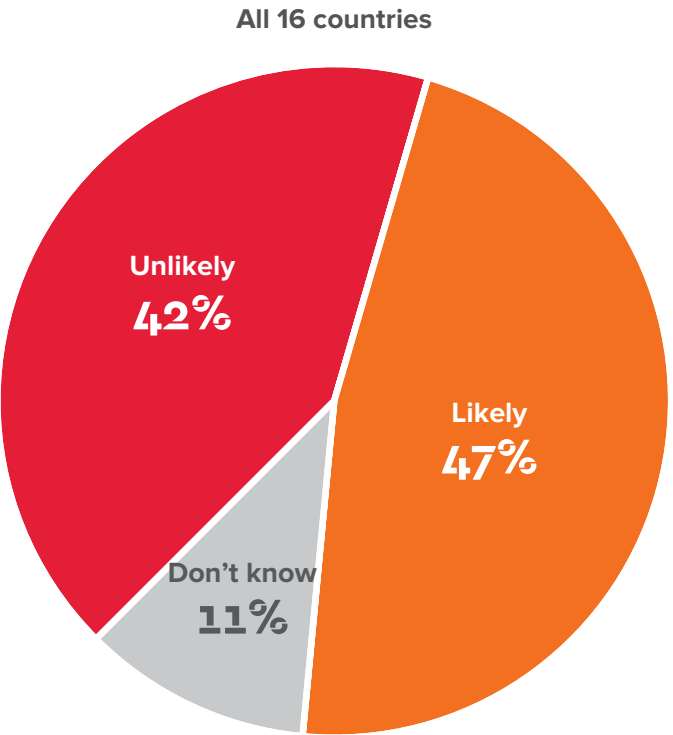
Not enough jobs

Have you or a family member been unemployed?



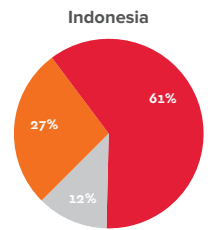
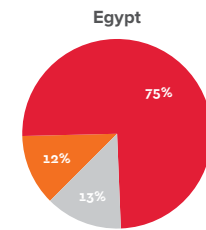
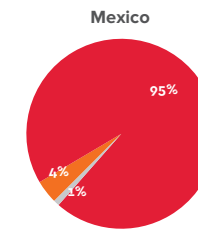
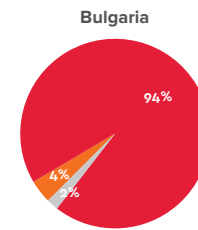
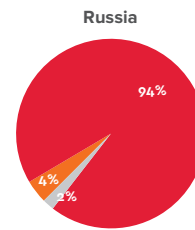
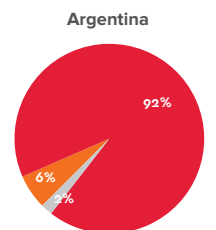
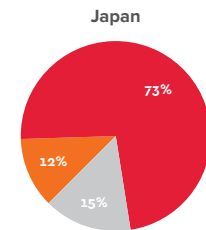
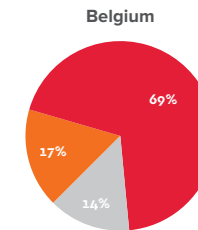
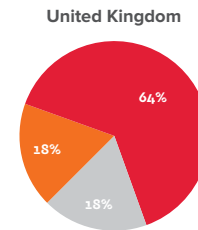
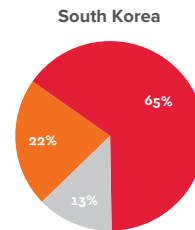
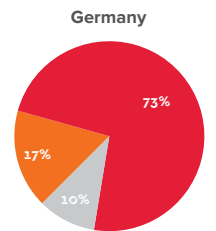
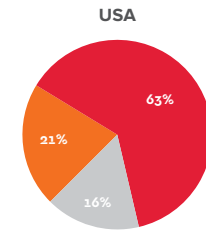
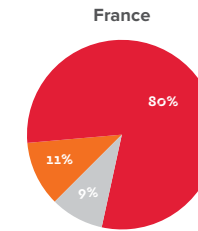
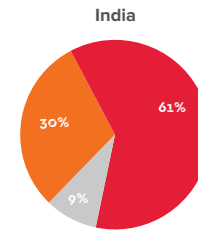
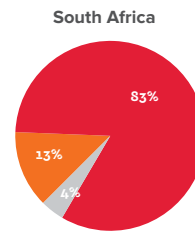
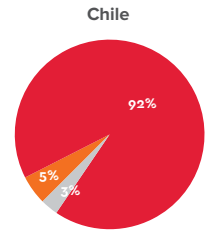
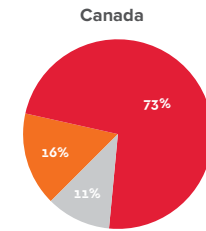
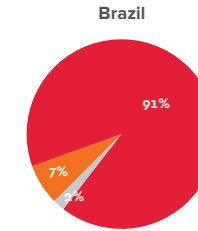
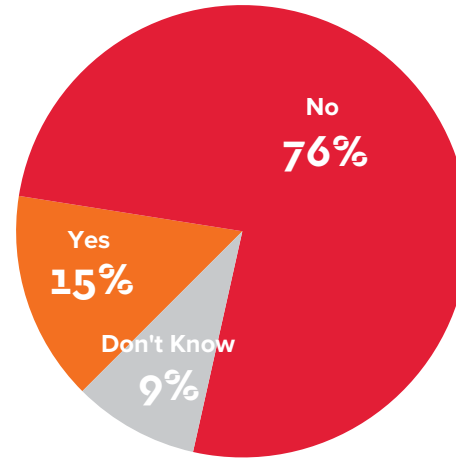
Not enough jobs for the next generation

Will the next generation find a decent job?



Wage Despair

Is the minimum wage
enough for a decent life?



Weekends are now for work

Are you doing more weekend work?

“More people are working on the weekend.”



Globally, almost one in five (17%) respondents are doing more paid work on the weekends than they were five years ago.



The majority (60%) of respondents say that there is no difference to their working arrangements (either they do the same amount of paid weekend work or they do not and have not worked on weekends).

“This trend is more apparent in some BRICS countries.”



This figure is slightly higher in two of the BRICS countries, with those in India (25%) and Russia (22%) being more likely to say that they are doing more paid work on the weekend.



It is significantly lower in South Korea (9%), Belgium (10%) and Japan (10%).

“Young people are increasingly undertaking paid work on the weekends.”



Younger people are more likely to be doing more paid weekend work with 21% of those under 40 saying they are doing more than five years ago compared to 13% of those aged 40+.



Those with fewer years of education are also more likely to be doing more weekend work than five years ago, with 29% – or almost one in three – of those with fifteen years or less of education doing more paid weekend work. This figure is even higher than for those who are still studying (23% of whom are doing more paid weekend work than five years ago).

Note: This question was only asked of those respondents who said they were employed (n=9800).

A grayscale photograph of a person wearing a wide-brimmed hat and long sleeves, bending over to harvest potatoes in a field. The person's hands are on the ground, near a row of harvested potatoes. The background is filled with dense foliage.

3.0 Key Findings:

















Global Anxiety about the World and Work

People are worried

What worries you?

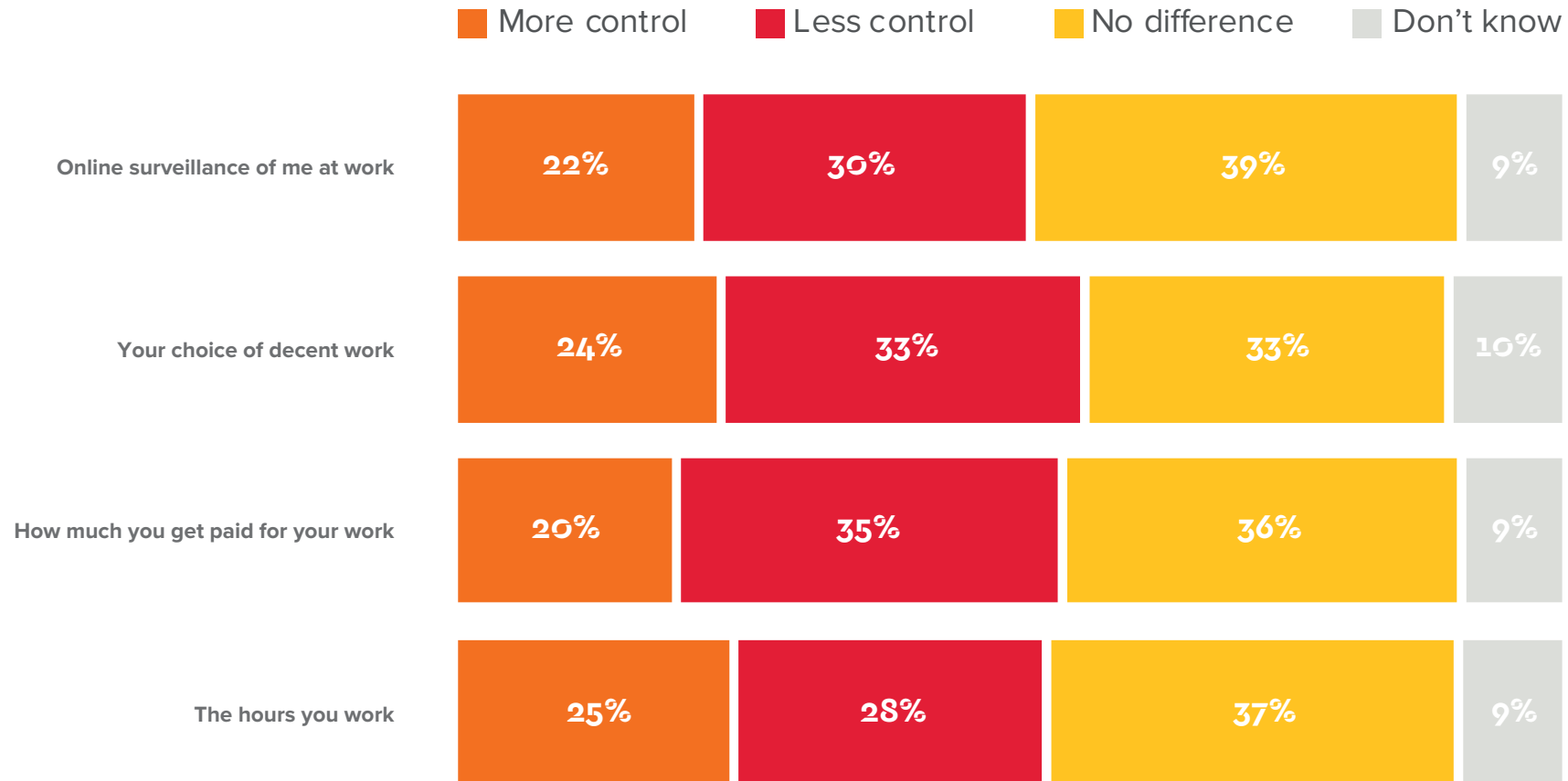


People are worried

Country (Most to Least Worried)	Top Concern
 South Africa (74%)	People losing their jobs (94%)
 Bulgaria (74%)	People losing their jobs (86%)
 India (72%)	People losing their jobs (82%)
 Brazil (72%)	People losing their jobs (85%)
 Chile (70%)	People losing their jobs (87%)
 Japan (67%)	Climate change (84%)
 Argentina (62%)	People losing their jobs (86%)
 France (61%)	Climate change (77%)
 Russia (59%)	Rising inequality (79%)
 South Korea (55%)	People losing their jobs (74%)
 Canada (52%)	Rising inequality (67%)
 Belgium (49%)	Rising inequality (64%)
 Germany (49%)	Rising inequality (66%)
 USA (48%)	The misuse of my personal data online (65%)
 China (48%)	The misuse of my personal data online (70%)
 UK (43%)	Climate change (64%)

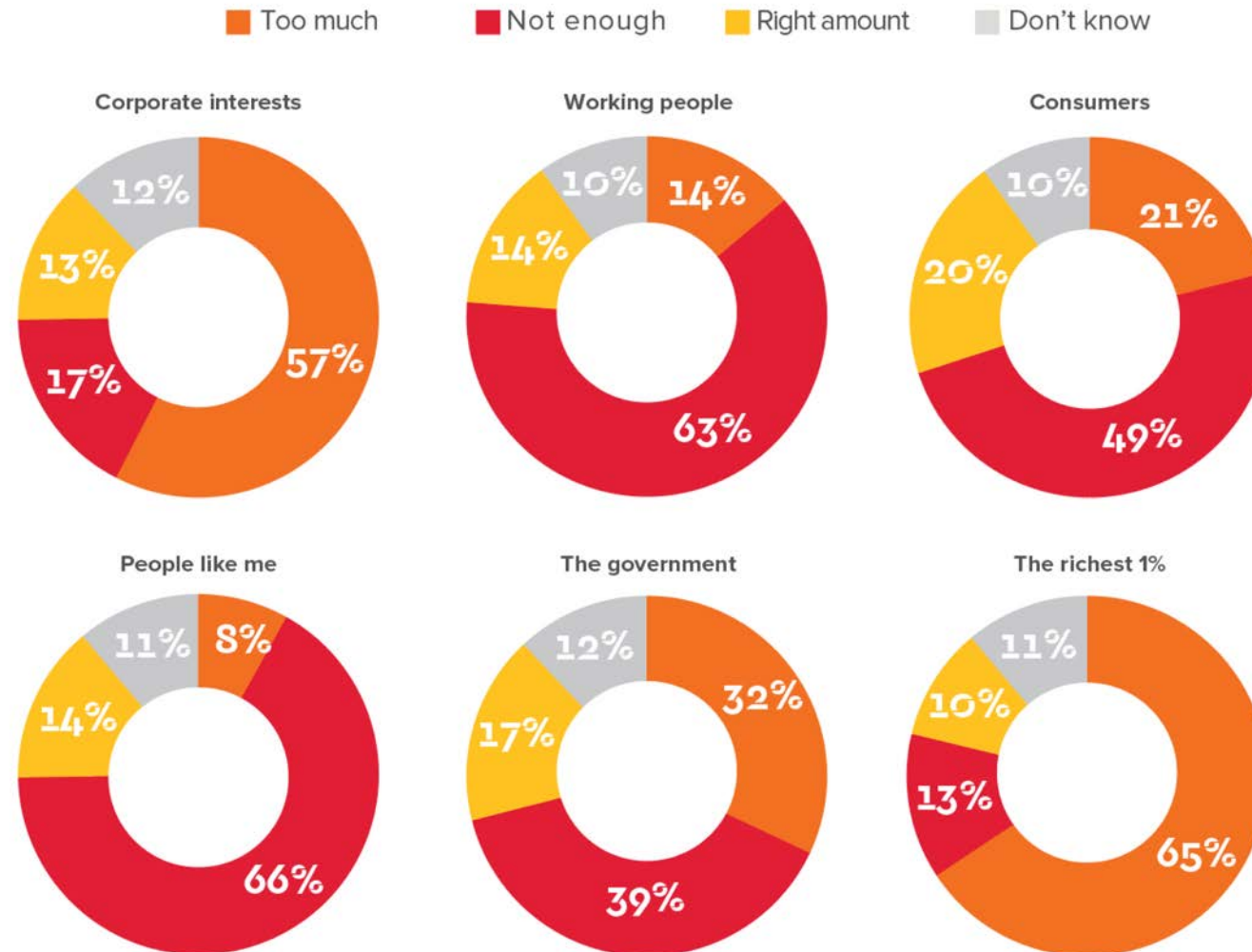
A loss of control

Do you have control over your work and pay?



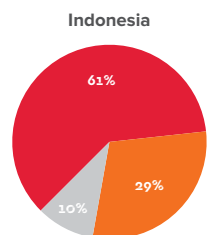
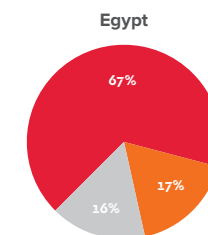
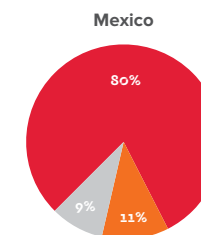
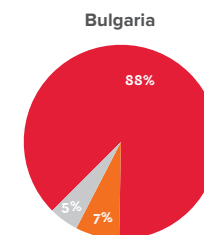
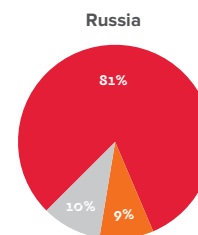
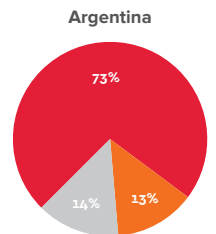
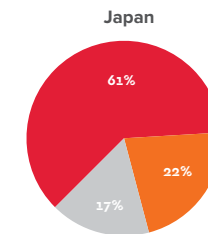
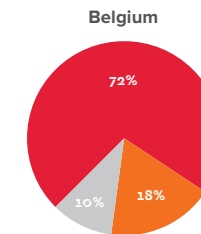
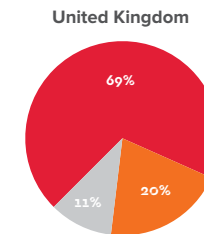
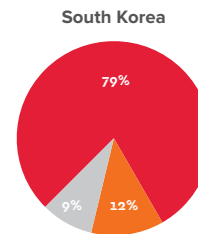
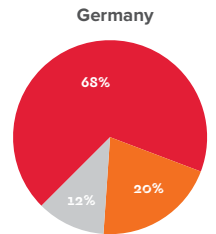
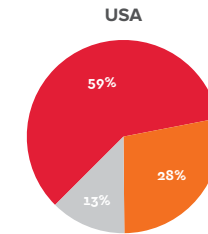
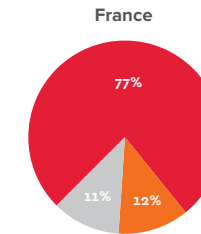
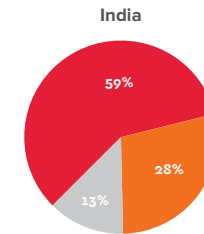
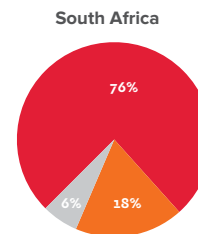
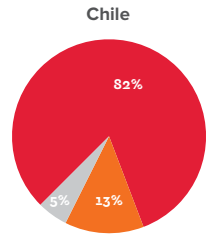
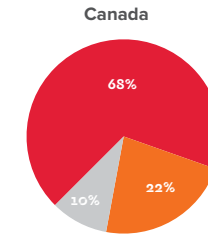
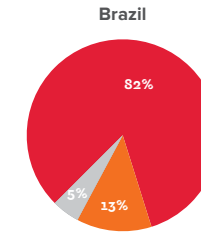
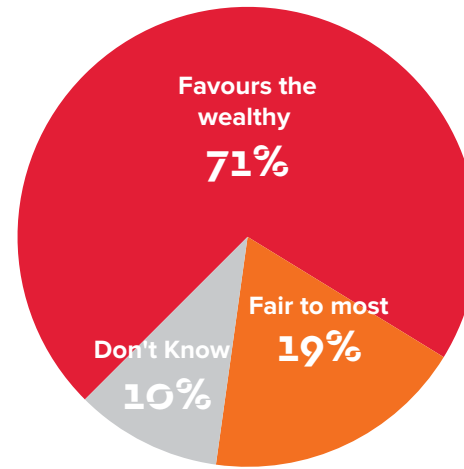
Corporates and elites hold the power

Who has the power to set economic rules?



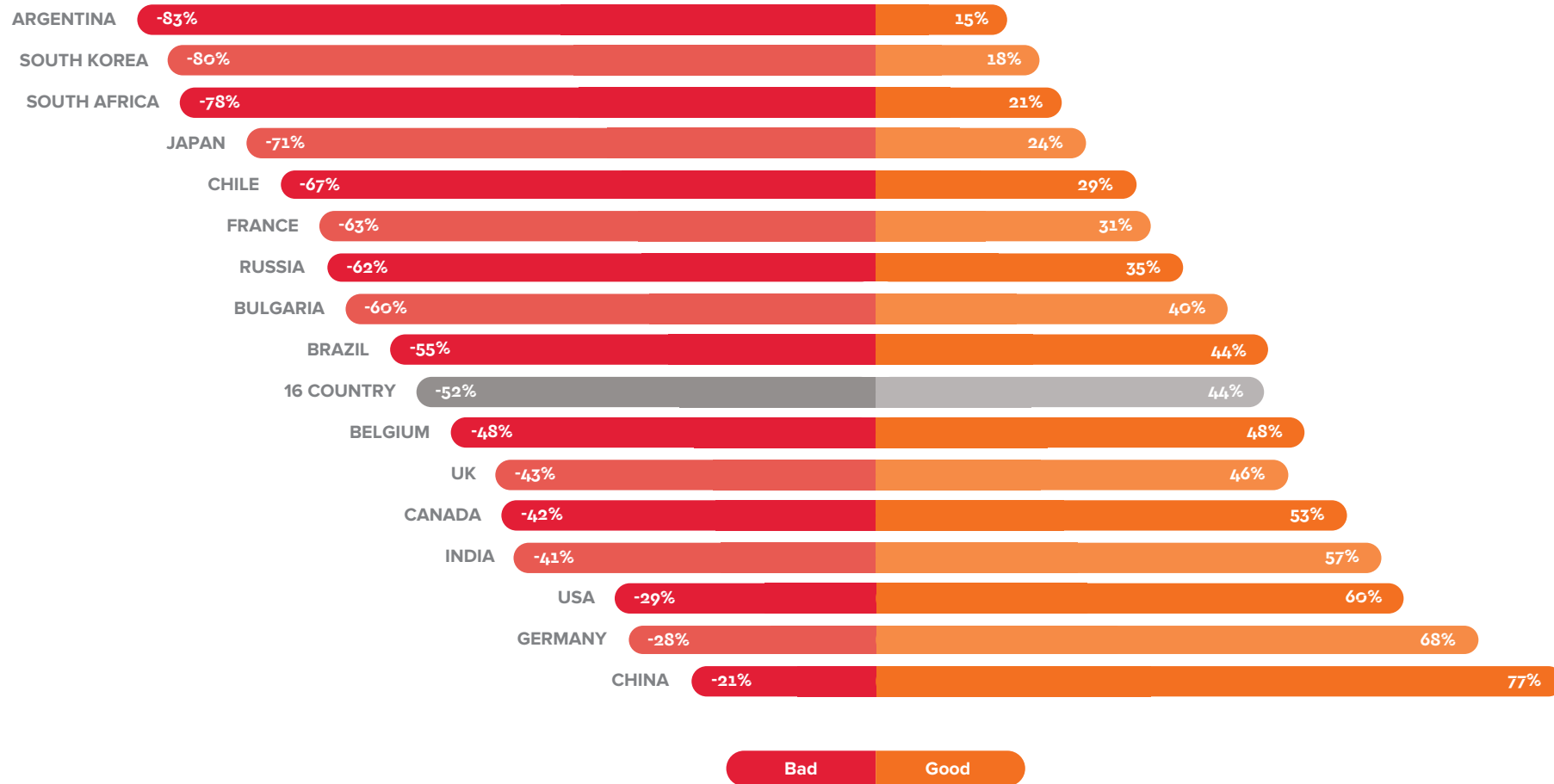
The 1% set the rules of the global economy

Is the economic system fair to most people?



Globalization under challenge

Is the economic system good or bad?

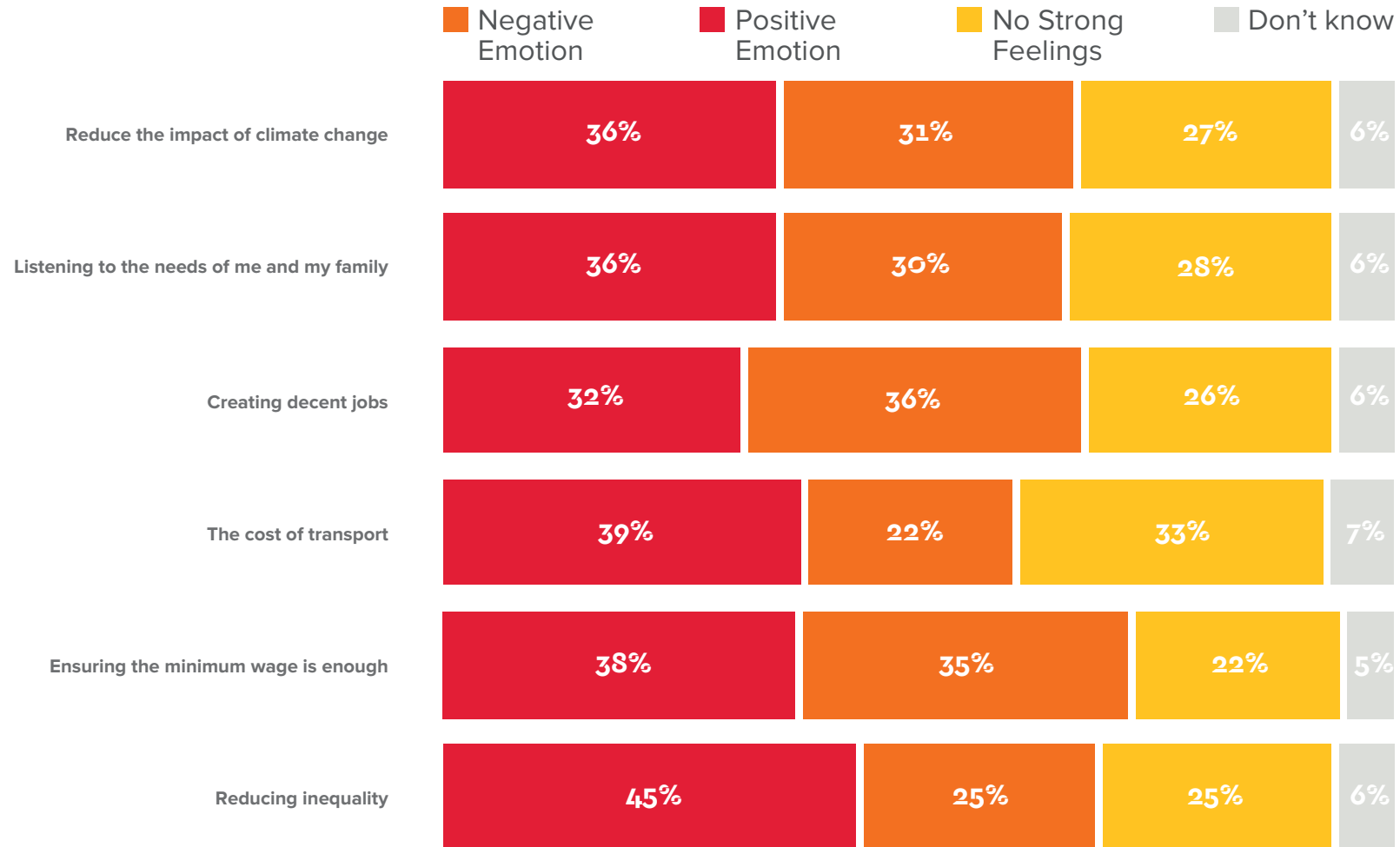




4.0 Key Findings: Building Trust in Government

The age of anger and despair

How does government action make you feel?



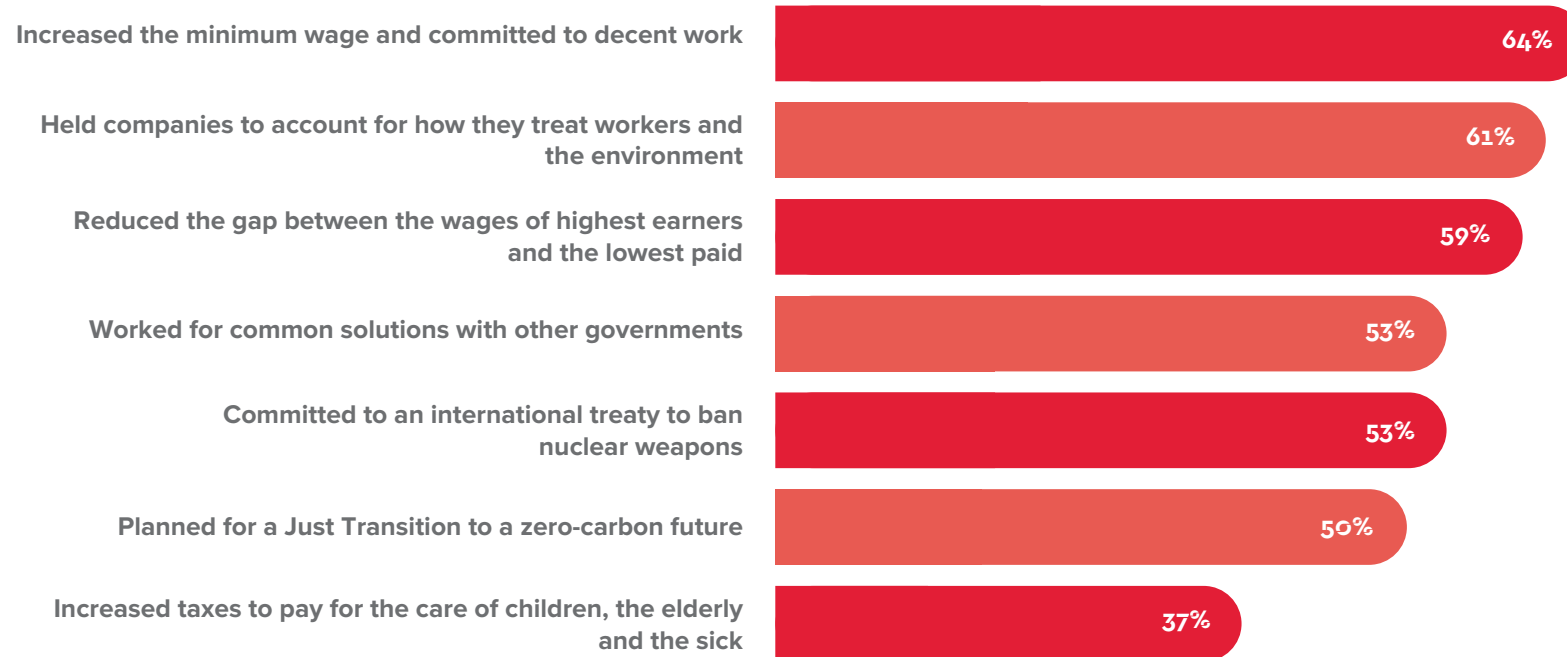
An action plan for government

Should your government do more on jobs, wages, working conditions, climate change?



Rebuild trust to secure democracy

Would you trust a government more or less if they took action on the following?



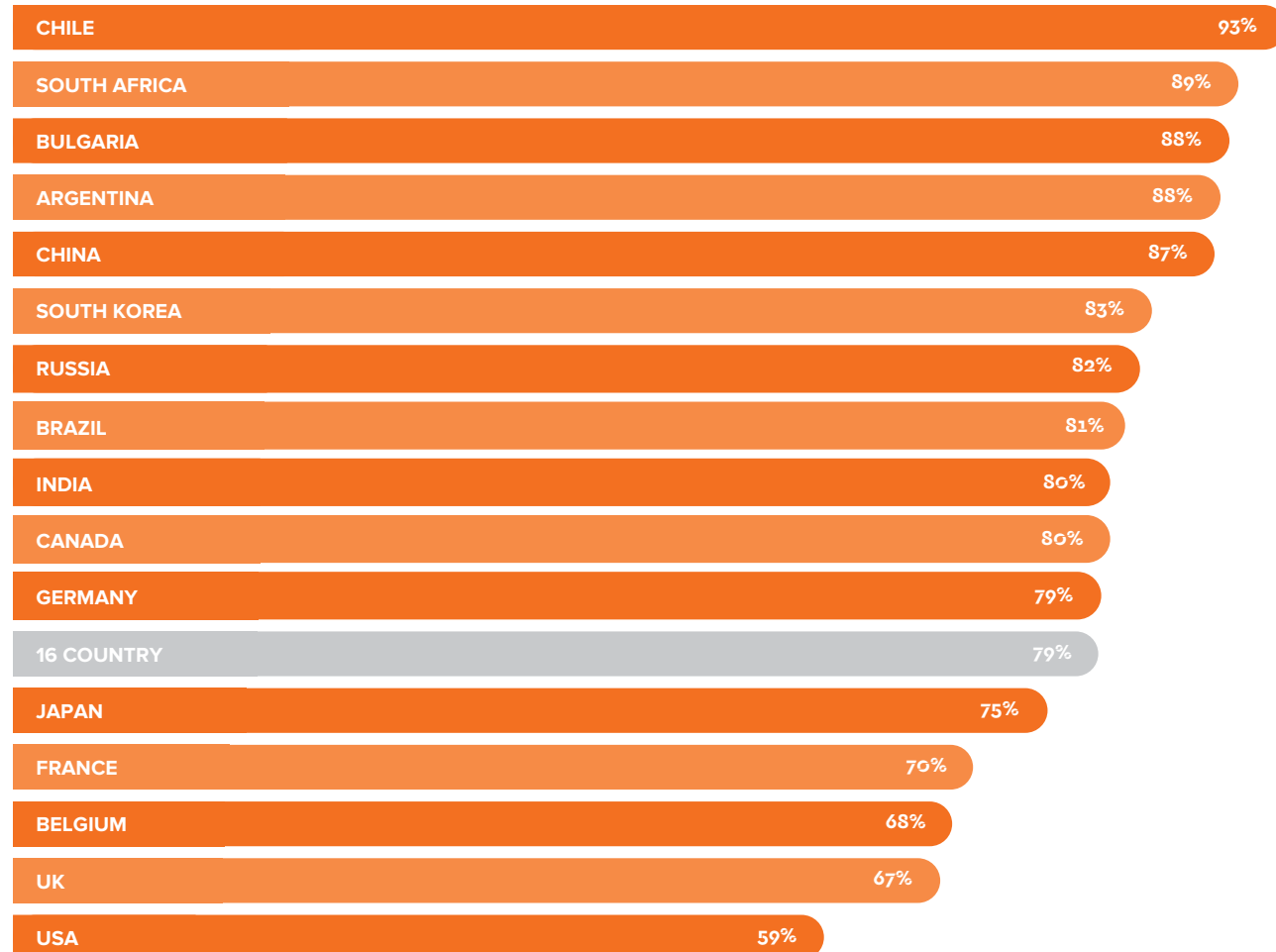


5.0 Key Findings:

Just Transition for
Climate Change and
Technology Changes

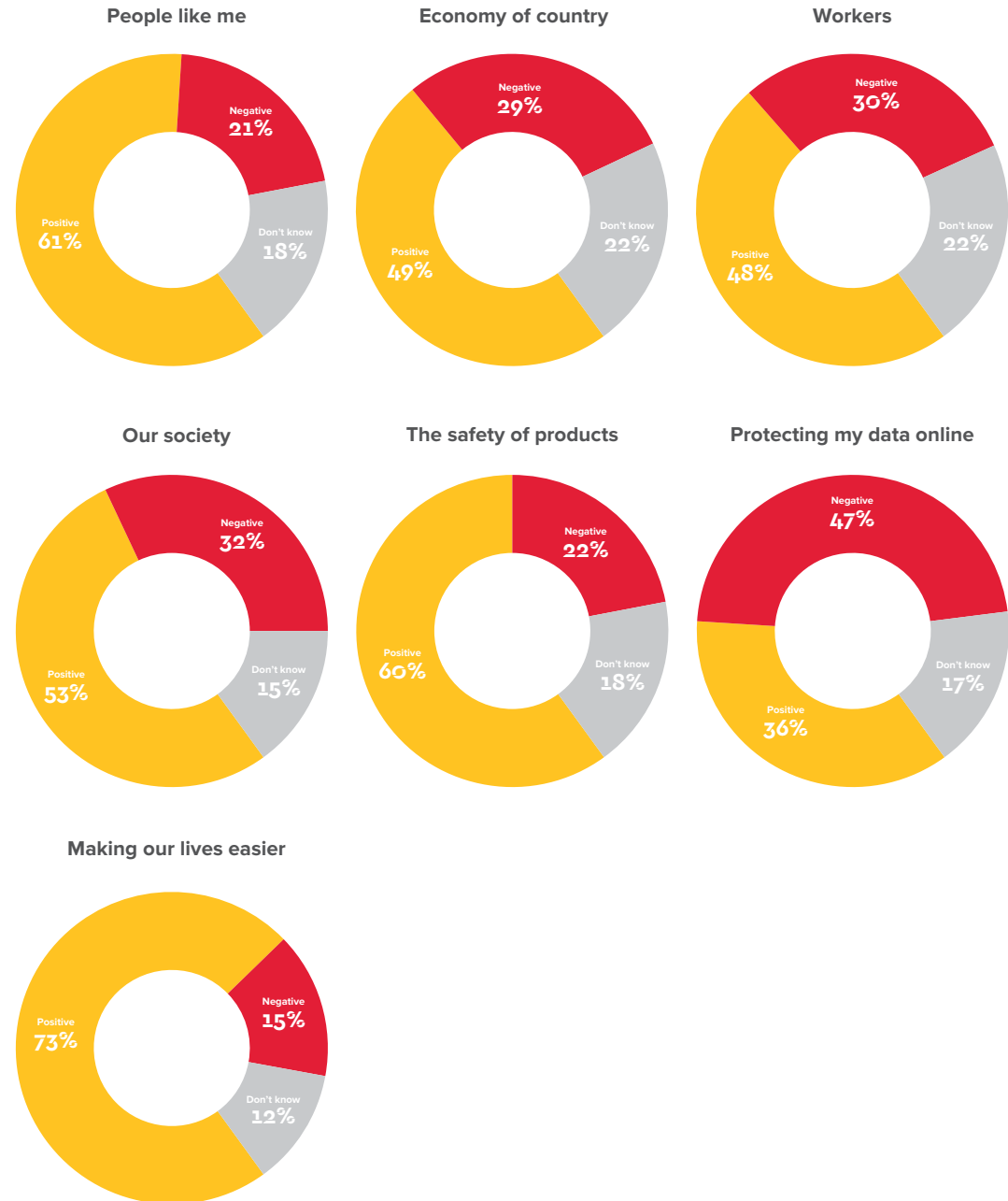
Workers have a right to know

Should employees have a right to know what measures their company is taking to climate-proof their jobs and workplaces?



Big tech threatens personal privacy

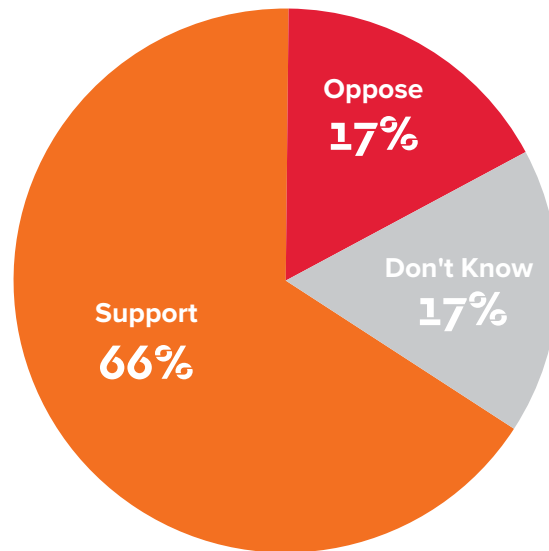
Have large tech companies had a positive or negative impact?



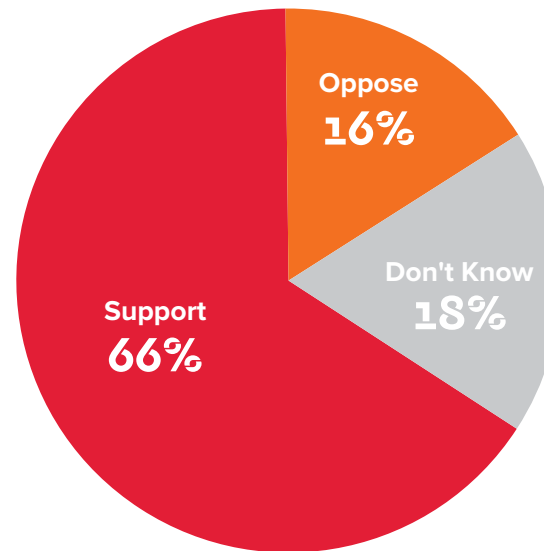
Regulate big tech

Would you support increased tax and regulation on large international tech companies?

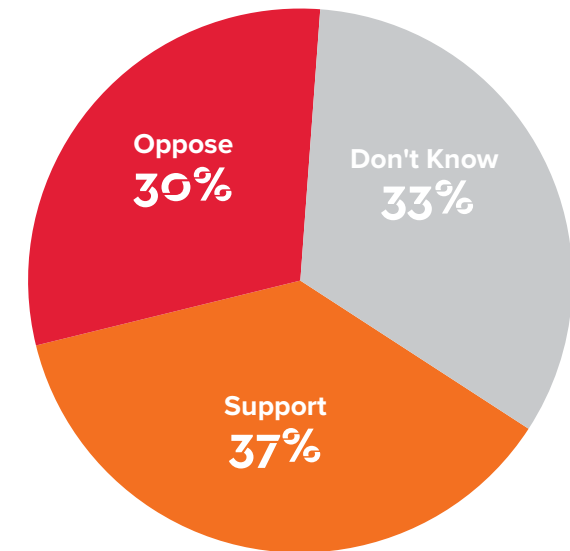
Increasing the taxes paid by international tech companies



Increasing the amount of regulation of international tech companies



Breaking up international tech companies into smaller companies



A black and white photograph of an aircraft tarmac. A large jet engine is the central focus on the left. Three ground crew members in safety gear are visible: two standing near the engine and one walking away in the background wearing a vest with 'ANA' on it.

6.6 Key Findings:

Labour Laws and Social Protection

Public support for labour laws and the right to strike

Do you favour or oppose labour laws and the right to strike?



Social protection is critical

Should the government provide people with education, retirement income, health care, maternity leave and unemployment benefits?



The responsibility of unions: Three quarters of people support unions

Should unions play an active role in society?

