Saudi Arabia Report







2023 Edelman Trust Barometer

Methodology

Annual online survey in its 23rd year

Fieldwork conducted: Nov 1 – Nov 28, 2022

Countries

32,000+

Respondents

1,150+/-

UAE

UK

U.S.

Respondents per country**

Argentina Colombia Australia France Brazil Germany India Canada China

Ireland Italy Japan Kenya Indonesia Malaysia

Mexico Nigeria Saudi Arabia

Singapore S. Africa

S. Korea Spain *Sweden Thailand

The Netherlands

Russia, part of the Edelman Trust Barometer from 2007 to 2022, was not included in this wave

**The sample size varies by country from 1,082 to 1,500. 27-market global data margin of error: General population +/- 0.6 percentage points (n=31,171) Country-specific data margin of error: General population +/- 2.5 to 3.0 percentage points (varies by country based on sample size, n=1,082 to n=1,500)

Global averages

These vary based on the number of countries surveyed each year:

GLOBAL 27

*To protect the stability of the global average, Sweden will not be included in the average until there are at least two years of recent data

GLOBAL 25 Excludes China and Thailand

The sensitive nature of the question prevented this data from being collected in these countries

Statistical significance





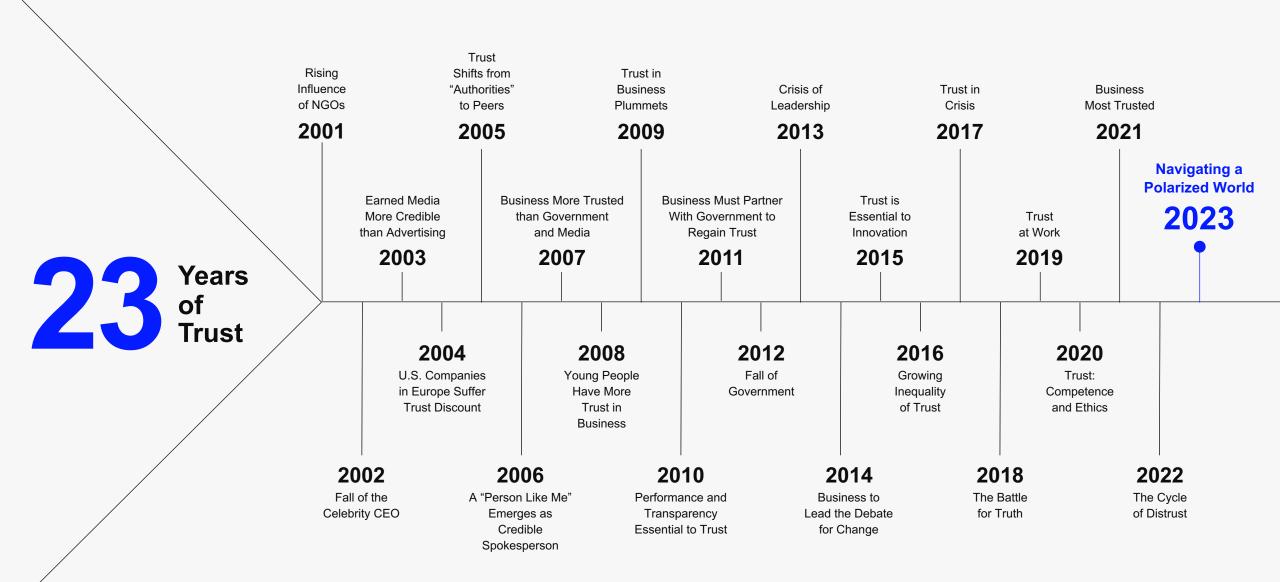


All indicated year-over-year significant changes were determined using a t-test set at a 99%+ confidence level

For more details on global averages and country-specific methodology, please refer to the Technical Appendix

Due to a translation inconsistency, the France data measuring trust in government, as well as competence and ethics was removed from certain slides. For more details contact the Trust Barometer research team







Four Forces That Lead To Polarization

Economic Anxieties



Economic optimism is collapsing around the world, with 24 of 28 countries seeing all-time lows in the number of people who think their families will be better off in five years.

Institutional Imbalance



Business is now the sole institution seen as competent and ethical; government is viewed as unethical and incompetent. Business is under pressure to step into the void left by government.

Mass-Class Divide



People in the top quartile of income live in a different trust reality than those in the bottom quartile, with 20+ point gaps in Thailand, the United States, and Saudi Arabia.

The Battle for Truth



A shared media environment has given way to echo chambers, making it harder to collaboratively solve problems. Media is not trusted, with especially low trust in social media.

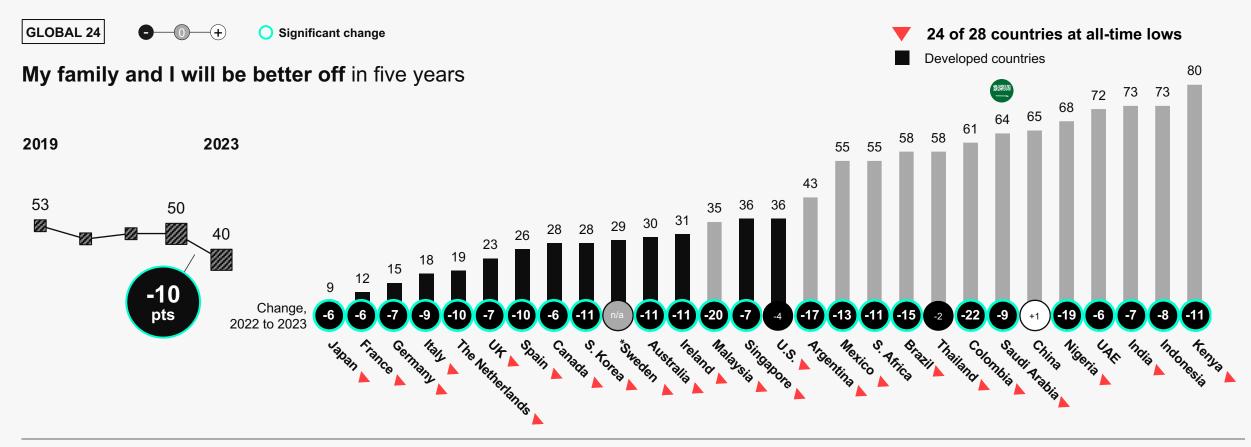


Facing Economic Fears Without a Trust Safety Net



Economic Optimism Collapses

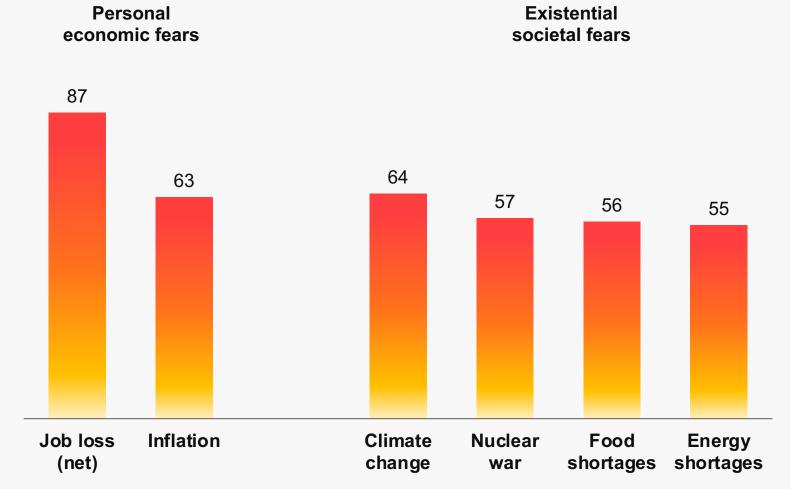
Percent who say





Personal Anxieties On Par With Existential Fears

Percent who worry about each, in Saudi Arabia



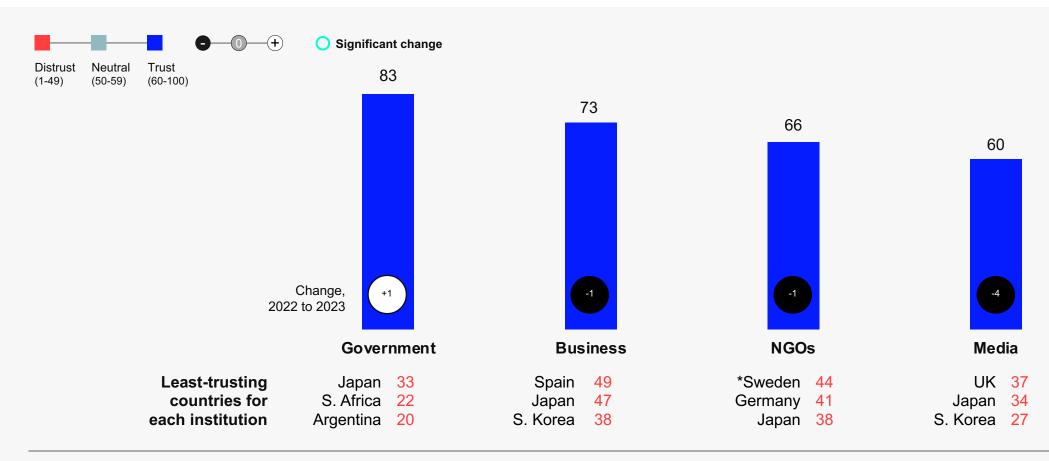


2023 Edelman Trust Barometer. POP_EMO. Some people say they worry about many things while others say they have few concerns. We are interested in what you worry about. Specifically, how much do you worry about each of the following? 9-point scale; top 4 box, worry. Some attributes asked of half of the sample. General population, Saudi Arabia. Job loss asked of those who are an employee of an organization (Q43/1). Job loss is a net of attributes 1-3, 5, and 22-24.



In Saudi Arabia, All Institutions Trusted

Percent trust, in Saudi Arabia

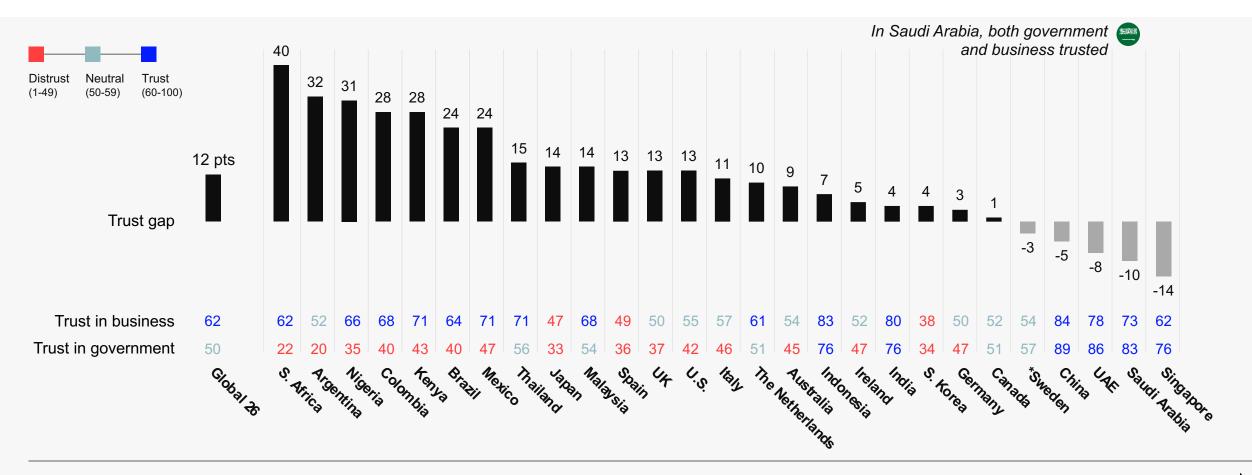






Institutions Out of Balance: Globally, Government Less Trusted than Business

Percent trust, and the percentage-point difference between trust in business vs government







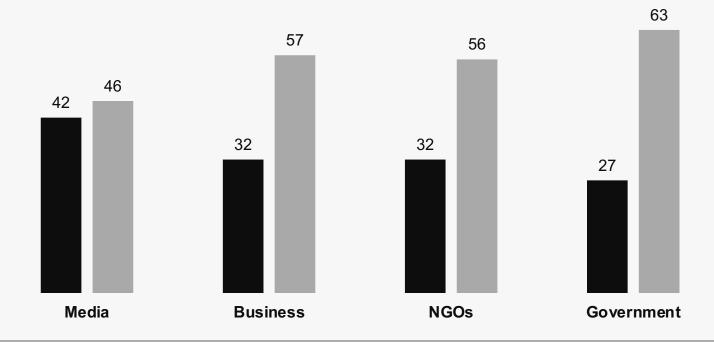
Institutions Seen as Reliable Sources of Information

Percent who say, in Saudi Arabia

These institutions are

a source of **false or misleading** information

a reliable source of **trustworthy** information

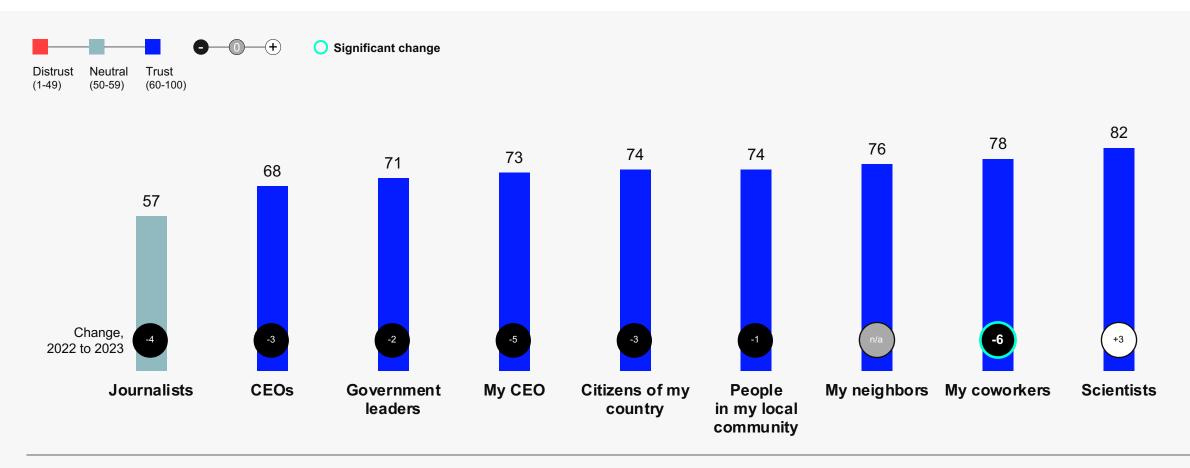






In Saudi Arabia, Institutional Leaders Trusted

Percent trust, in Saudi Arabia







37pts

23pts

20pts

19pts

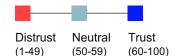
19pts

19pts

Mass-Class Divide: **Income-Based Inequality Creates Two Trust Realities**

Trust Index

(average percent trust in NGOs, business, government, and media)



2023 Edelman Trust Barometer. The Trust Index is the average percent trust in NGOs, business, government and media. TRU_INS. Below is a list of institutions. For each one, please indicate how much you trust that institution to do what is right. 9-point scale; top 4 box, trust. General population, 26-mkt avg., by income. *Sweden is not included in the global average. Due to a translation inconsistency, the France data was removed from this slide. For more details contact the Trust Barometer research team.

Income quartiles were determined separately for each country based on the distribution of household incomes among respondents from that country.

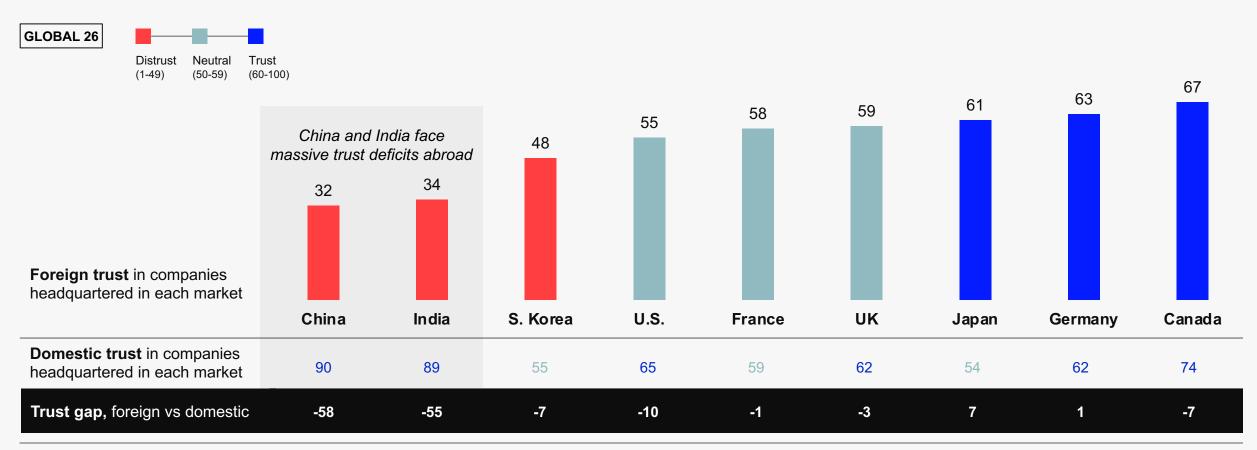
High income (top 25%) Low income (bottom 25%) 49 Global 26 Global 26 China China 85 70 Thailand India 84 Saudi Arabia 68 Indonesia 82 Saudi Arabia Indonesia 82 UAE 63 Kenya 15pts trust inequality globally; 76 63 UAE India double-digits in 20 of 27 countries 73 56 Singapore Mexico 70 Kenya 56 Nigeria Greatest income-based 66 Malaysia 55 Malaysia trust inequality in: Mexico 55 Singapore U.S. 63 48 Brazil Thailand 62 Nigeria 48 Thailand 62 The Netherlands 47 Canada U.S. 60 Germany 46 Italy Saudi Arabia 60 Ireland The Netherlands 59 Italy 44 Colombia China 56 Brazil 43 Australia 54 Australia 42 Germany Japan 54 Colombia 42 Ireland UAE 53 Canada 41 S. Africa 52 S. Africa 41 *Sweden 52 *Sweden 40 Spain 51 UK 40 U.S. 49 Spain 37 Argentina 48 Japan 35 UK 47 Argentina Japan S. Korea S. Korea

2023

2023

Trust at Home Does Not Guarantee Trust Abroad

Percent trust in companies headquartered in each country

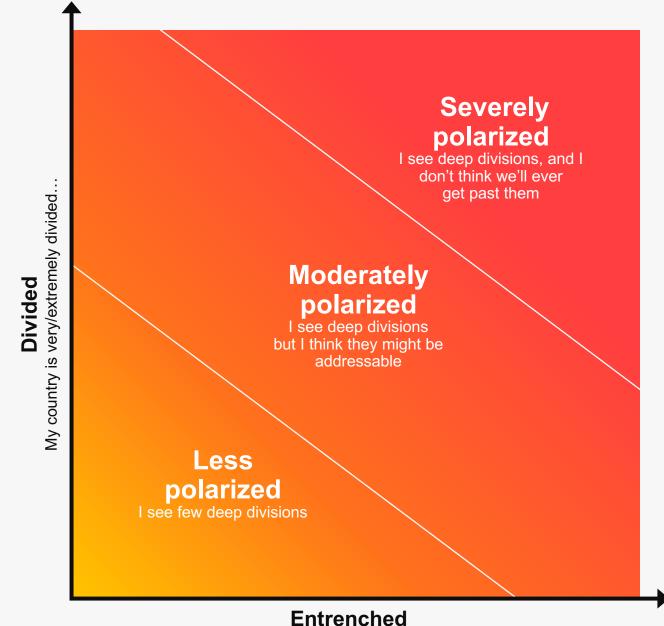








Polarization Most Severe When Deep Divisions Become Entrenched





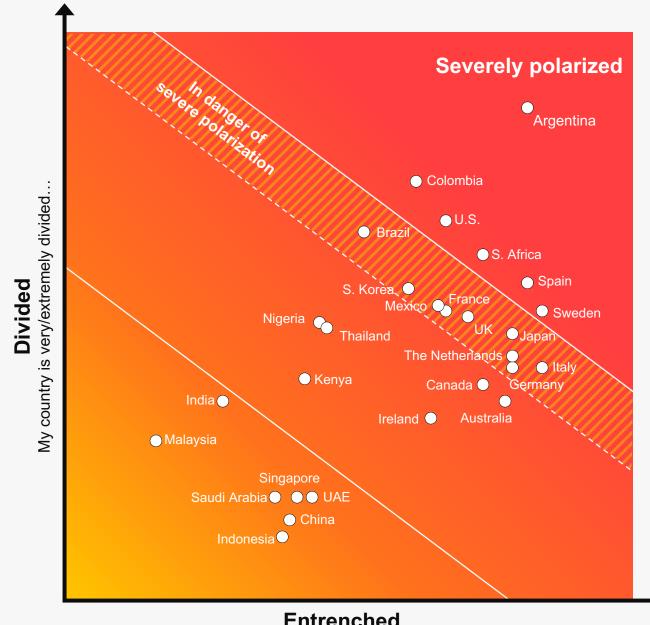
... and I do not feel these divisions can be overcome



Six Countries Severely Polarized



2023 Edelman Trust Barometer. POL_DEG. Using the scale below, please indicate how divided on key societal issues you believe your country is today. 5point scale; top 2 box, very/extremely divided. POL PROG. How likely or unlikely do you think it is that your country will be able to work through or overcome its ideological divisions and lack of agreement on key issues and challenges? 8-point scale; codes 2-5, divisions can't be overcome. General population, by market. Data for "entrenched" is POL_PROG/2-5 filtered by those who feel their country is very/extremely divided (POL DEG/4-5). All data is rebased to exclude those that said. "don't know."



Entrenched

... and I do not feel these divisions can be overcome



Drivers Of Polarization: Distrust, Weak Social Fabric, Unfairness

Size of impact on respondent's perception of polarization

+ Less than .20 ++ .20 to .30 +++ More than .30

Only significant drivers of polarization are shown

Distrust in government

Lack of shared identity

Systemic unfairness

Economic pessimism

Societal fears

Distrust in media

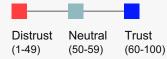




Both Cause and Consequence: Polarization Itself Leads to Further Distrust

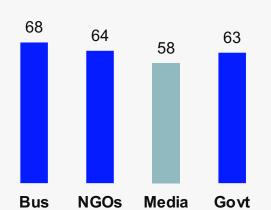
Percent trust among those who say



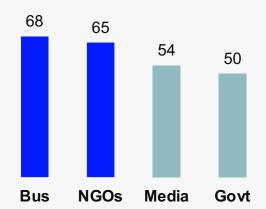


My country is ...



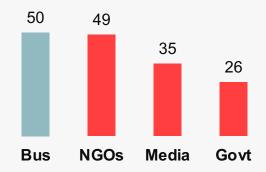


... divided, not entrenched



... polarized: divisions are entrenched

When we see our country as polarized, we don't trust









Globally, More Divided Today Than in the Past

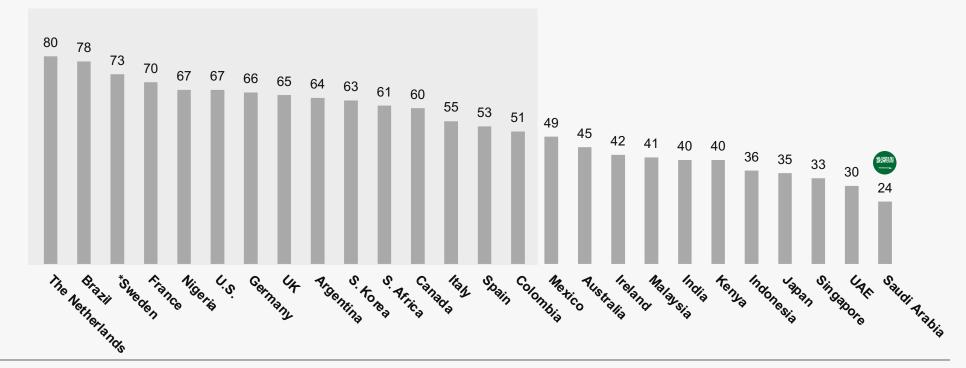
Percent who say

Our country is **more divided today** than in the past

Majority in 15 of 26 countries agree

GLOBAL 25 Excludes China and Thailand

53%





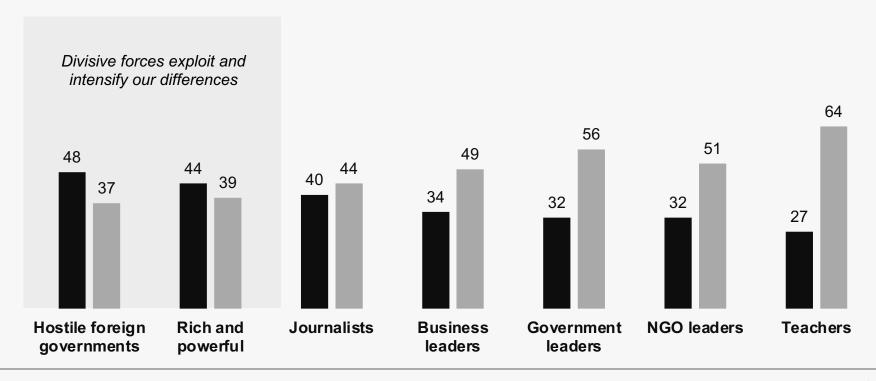
Institutional Leaders and Teachers More Likely To Be Seen As Unifiers

Percent who say, in Saudi Arabia

These groups are

a dividing force that pulls people apart

a unifying force that brings people together







In Saudi Arabia, 1 in 2 Say Social Fabric Weakens

Percent who say, in Saudi Arabia

The lack of civility and mutual respect today is the **worst I have ever seen**

The social fabric that once held this country together has **grown too weak** to serve as a foundation **for unity and common purpose**

47%

47%

Ideology Becomes Identity: Few Would Help, Live, or Work With the Other Side

Among those who feel strongly about an issue, percent who say, in Saudi Arabia

If a person strongly disagreed with me or my point of view, I would ...

Help them if they were in need

34%

Be willing to live in the same neighborhood

22%

Be willing to have them as a coworker

23%



Polarization Worsens Fears

Among those who say their country is divided on key issues, percent who say, in Saudi Arabia

If our divisions are not addressed, this is likely to be a consequence

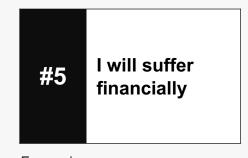
Top 5 of 13:









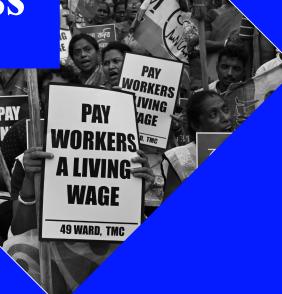


Economic consequence









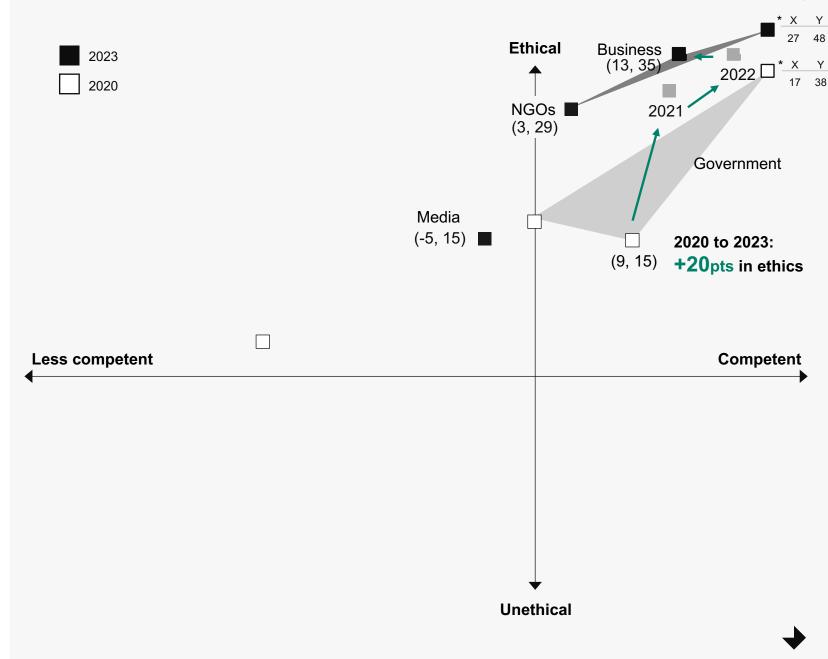


(Competence score, net ethical score)



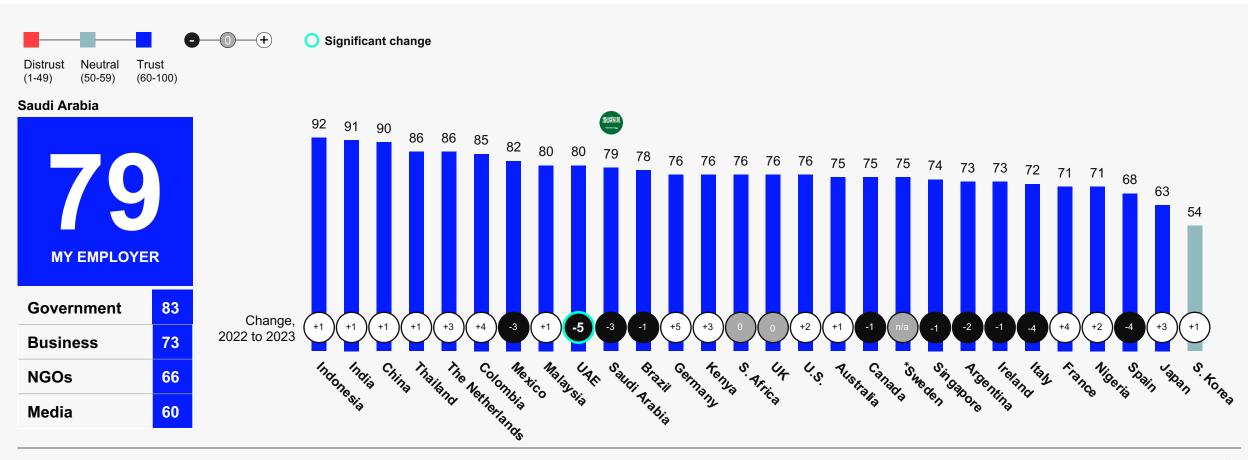
2023 Edelman Trust Barometer. The ethical scores are averages of nets based on [INS]_PER_DIM/1-4. Government and Media were only asked of half of the sample. The competence score is a net based on TRU_3D_[INS]/1. Government and Media were only asked of half of the sample. General population, Saudi Arabia. For full details regarding how this data was calculated and plotted, please see the Technical Appendix.

*Coordinates provided for reference: government points not shown to scale



In Saudi Arabia, My Employer Trusted

Percent trust



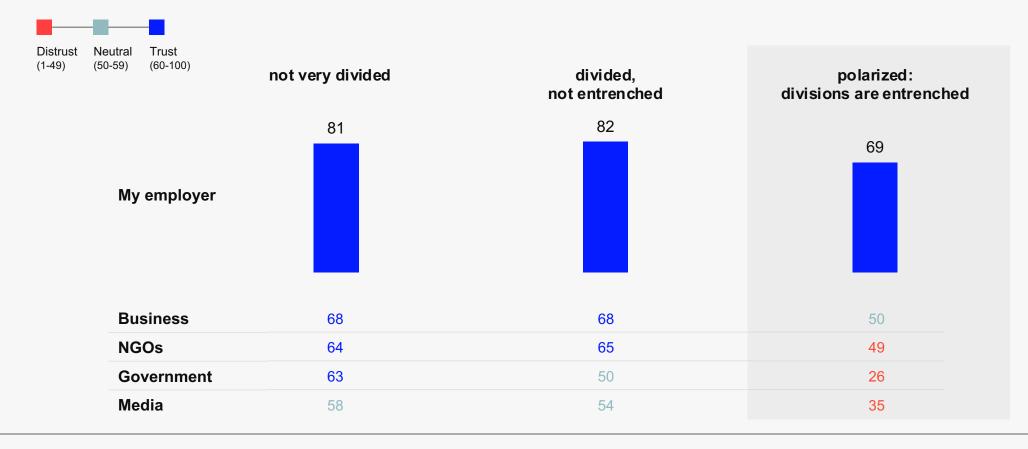




Among Those Who Feel Polarized, Employer Is Only Trusted Institution

Percent trust among those who say their country is ...









Consumers and Employees Pressure Business to Stand Up for Them

Percent who say

2022 Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report:

The New Cascade of Influence

I buy or advocate for brands based on my beliefs and values

Saudi Arabia



73%

2022 Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report:

Trust In the Workplace

Having societal impact is a strong expectation or deal breaker when considering a job (avg)

GLOBAL 7

Among employees

69

Business reflects my values
Has a greater purpose
Meaningful work that shapes society
Opportunities to address social problems
Stops specific business practices if employees object
CEO addresses controversial issues I care about



Want More Societal Engagement from Business, Not Less

Percent who say, in Saudi Arabia

On addressing each **societal issue**, business is



Climate Energy Economic Healthcare Trustworthy Workforce change shortages inequality access information reskilling

















Societal Engagement Puts Business at Risk of Being Politicized

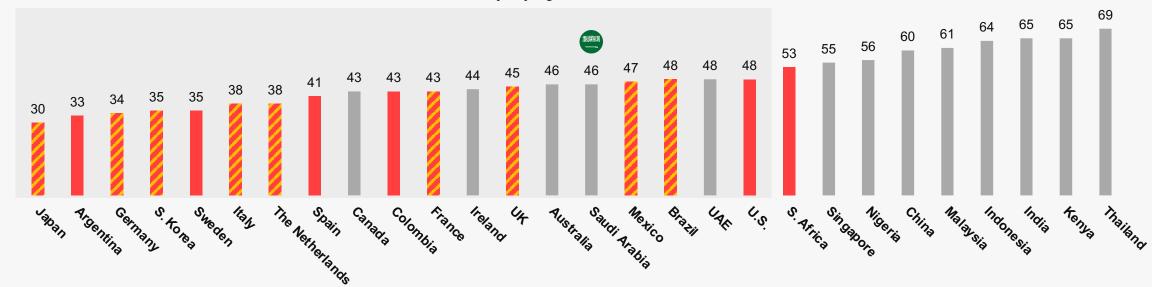
Percent who agree

I think **business can avoid being political** when it addresses contentious societal issues

At risk of becoming severely polarized

Severely polarized

Less than majority agree in 19 of 28 countries









In Saudi Arabia, CEOs Most Expected To Act on Employees, Climate, and Discrimination

Percent who say, in Saudi Arabia

I expect CEOs to take a public stand on this issue:







Best Societal Outcomes When Government and Business Work Together

Percent who say, in Saudi Arabia

Approach most likely to result in **constructive action**

averaged across climate change, discrimination, immigration, employee treatment, and income inequality

> Government and business working in **partnership**

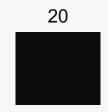
> > more likely to yield partnership than business alone

Both working independently **Government only** working alone

Business only working alone









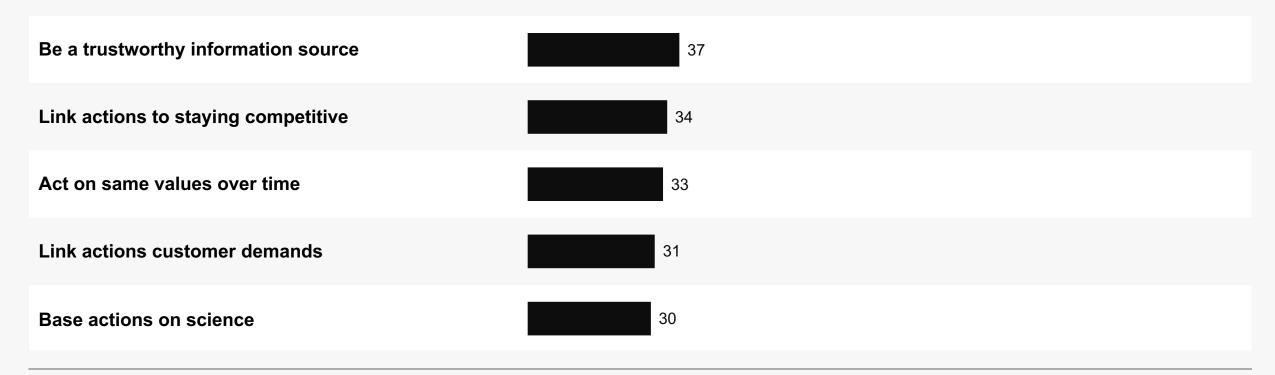




Trustworthy Information Insulates Business Action from Politicization

Among the 46% who say it is possible for a business to address societal issues without being seen as politicized, percent who say, in Saudi Arabia

To avoid being seen as politically motivated when taking a stand:







Improve Economic Optimism: Invest in Fair Compensation, Local Communities, Skills Training

Percent who say, in Saudi Arabia

CEOs are obligated to ...







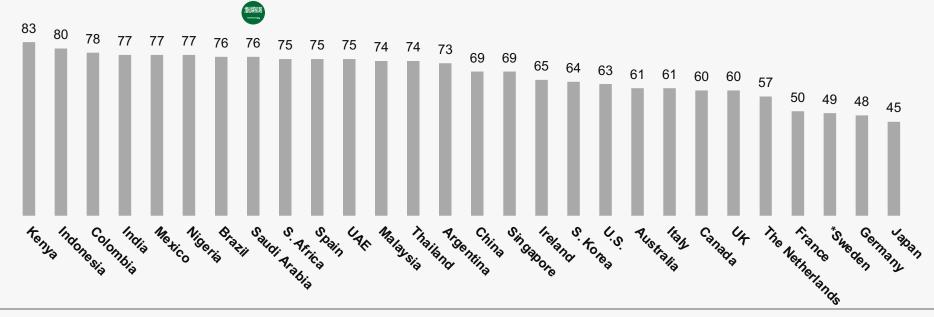
Use the Power of Brands To Create a Shared Identity

Percent who say

Brands celebrating what brings us together and emphasizing our common interest would strengthen the social fabric

GLOBAL 27

68%





Hold Divisive Forces Accountable

Percent who say, in Saudi Arabia

I believe CEOs are obligated to ...

Defend facts and **expose questionable science** used to justify bad social policy

Pull advertising money from platforms that spread misinformation

Companies could strengthen the social fabric if they

Support politicians and media that build consensus and cooperation (avg)

7 7 %

75%

65%





Navigating a Polarized World

1

Business must continue to lead

As the most trusted institution, business holds the mantle of greater expectation and responsibility. Leverage your comparative advantage to inform debate and deliver solutions across climate, diversity and inclusion, and skill training.

2

Collaborate with government

The best results come when business and government work together, not independently. Build consensus and collaborate on policies and standards to deliver results that push us toward a more just, secure, and thriving society.

3

Restore economic optimism

A grim economic view is both a driver and outcome of polarization. Invest in fair compensation, training, and local communities to address the mass-class divide and the cycle of polarization. 4

Advocate for the truth

Business has an essential role to play in the information ecosystem. Be a source of reliable information, promote civil discourse, and hold false information sources accountable through corrective messaging, reinvestment, and other action.



Trust Index: Trust Stable Amid Economic Headwinds

Trust Index

(the average percent trust in NGOs, business, government and media)



2023 Edelman Trust Barometer. The Trust Index is the average percent trust in NGOs, business, government and media. TRU_INS. Below is a list of institutions. For each one, please indicate how much you trust that institution to do what is right. 9-point scale; top 4 box, trust. General population, 26-mkt avg. *Sweden is not included in the global average.

Due to a translation inconsistency, the France data was removed from this slide. For more details contact the Trust Barometer research team.

2022 General population

| 57 | Global 26 |
|----|-----------------|
| 83 | China |
| 76 | UAE |
| 75 | Indonesia |
| 74 | India |
| 72 | Saudi Arabia |
| 66 | Malaysia |
| 66 | Singapore |
| 66 | Thailand |
| 60 | Kenya |
| 59 | Mexico |
| 57 | The Netherlands |
| 56 | Nigeria |
| 54 | Canada |
| 53 | Australia |
| 53 | Italy |
| 51 | Brazil |
| 51 | Ireland |
| 48 | Colombia |
| 48 | S. Africa |
| 46 | Germany |
| 45 | Argentina |
| 45 | Spain |
| 44 | UK |
| 43 | U.S. |
| 42 | S. Korea |
| 40 | Japan |

2023 General population

| 5 | 5 | Global 26 | |
|----|---|-----------------|--|
| 8 | 3 | China | |
| 75 | | Indonesia | |
| 7 | 4 | UAE | |
| 7 | 3 | India | |
| 7 | 1 | Saudi Arabia | |
| 6 | 6 | Singapore | |
| 6 | 6 | Thailand | |
| 6 | 3 | Kenya | |
| 6 | 2 | Malaysia | |
| 6 | 1 | Mexico | |
| 5 | 6 | Nigeria | |
| 5 | 4 | The Netherlands | |
| 5 | 3 | Brazil | |
| 5 | 2 | Canada | |
| 5 | 1 | Colombia | |
| 5 | 0 | Italy | |
| 4 | 8 | Australia | |
| 4 | 8 | Ireland | |
| 4 | 8 | U.S. | |
| 4 | 7 | S. Africa | |
| 4 | 6 | Germany | |
| 4 | 4 | Spain | |
| 4 | 3 | UK | |
| 4 | 2 | Argentina | |
| 3 | 8 | Japan | |
| 3 | 6 | S. Korea | |



Biggest gainers:

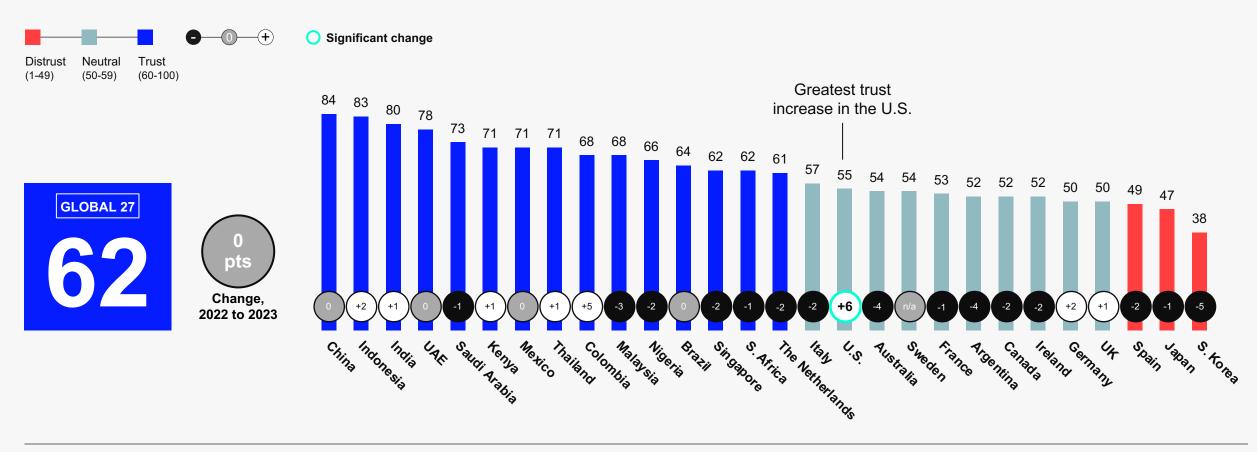
| U.S. | +5 |
|----------|----|
| Colombia | +3 |
| Kenya | +3 |

Biggest losers:

| S. Korea | -6 |
|-----------|----|
| Australia | -5 |
| Malaysia | -4 |

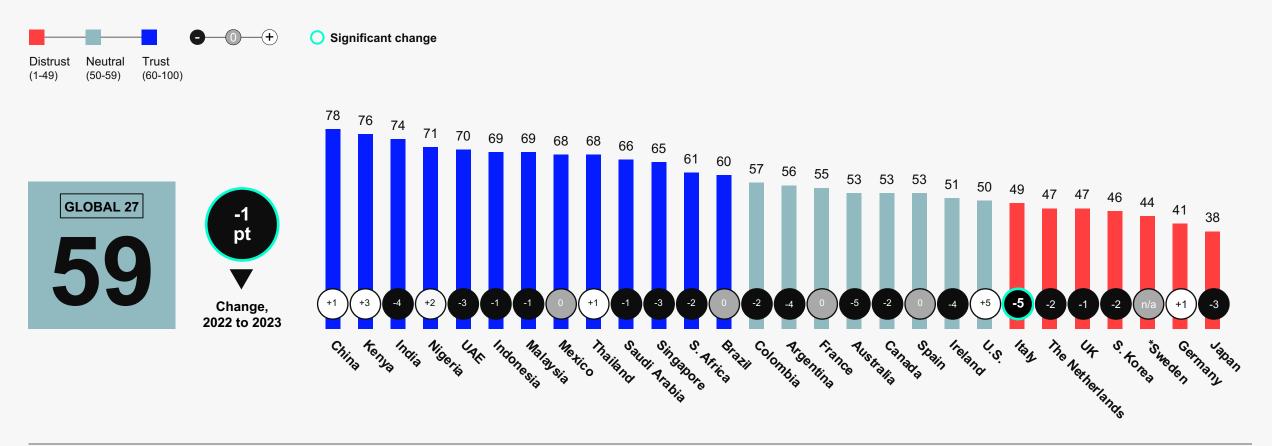


Trust in Business Declines in 15, Gains in 8 of 27 Countries





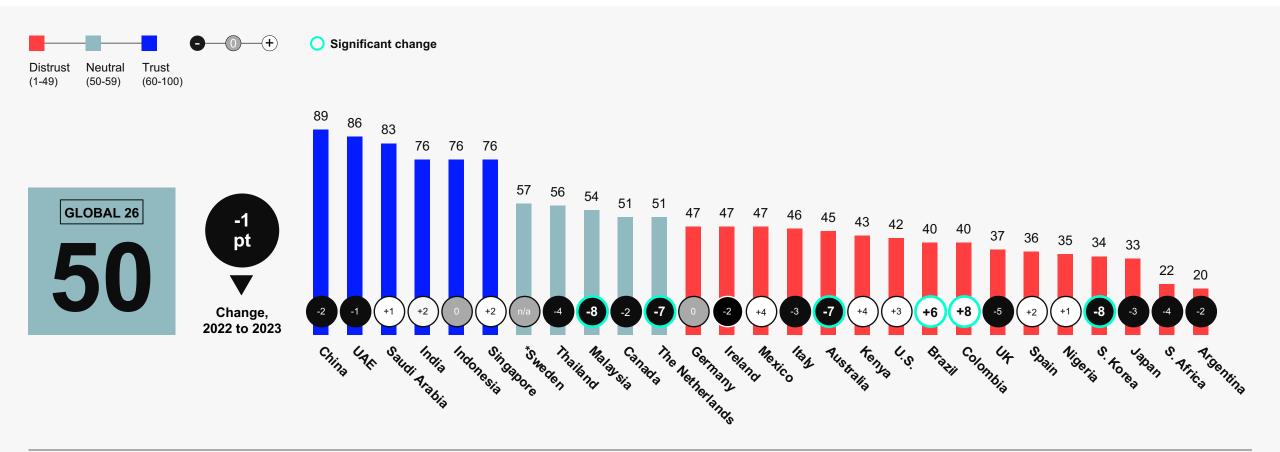
Trust in NGOs Declines in 17, Gains in 6 of 27 Countries





Trust in Government Declines in 14, Gains in 10 of 26 Countries

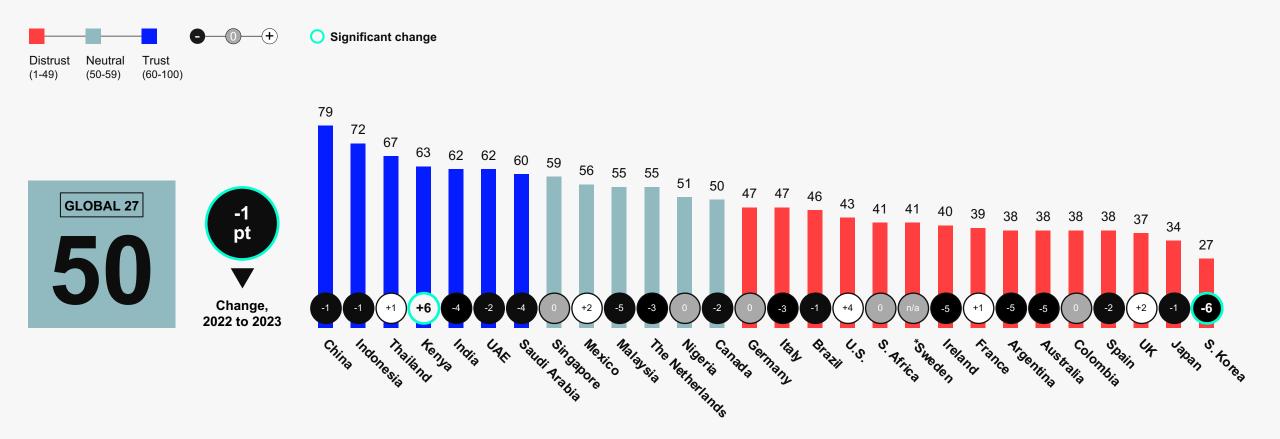
Percent trust

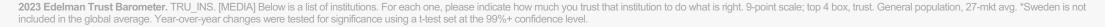


2023 Edelman Trust Barometer. TRU_INS. [GOVERNMENT] Below is a list of institutions. For each one, please indicate how much you trust that institution to do what is right. 9-point scale; top 4 box, trust. General population, 26-mkt avg. *Sweden is not included in the global average. Year-over-year changes were tested for significance using a t-test set at the 99%+ confidence level.



Trust in Media Declines in 16, Gains in 6 of 27 Countries

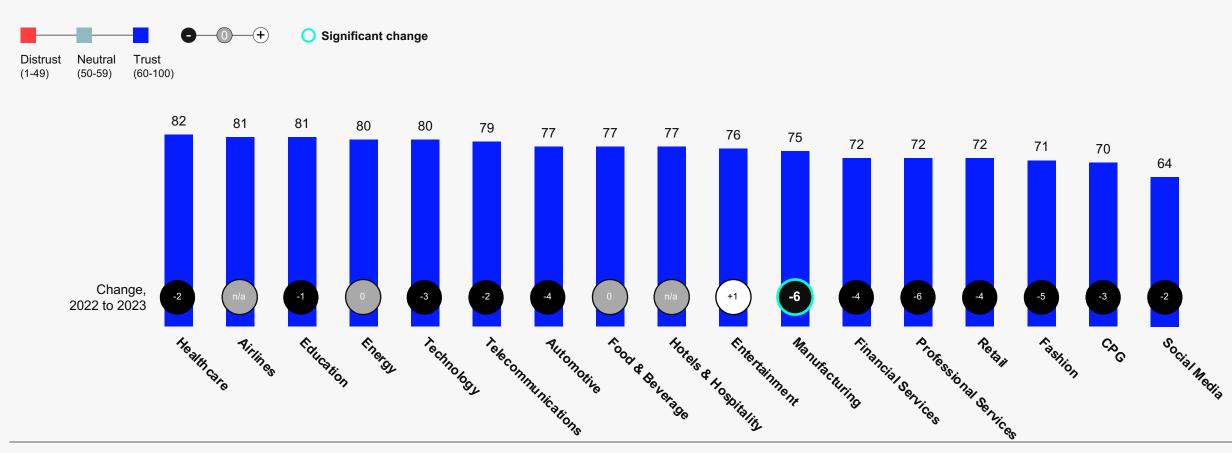






In Saudi Arabia, All Industry Sectors Trusted

Percent trust, in Saudi Arabia

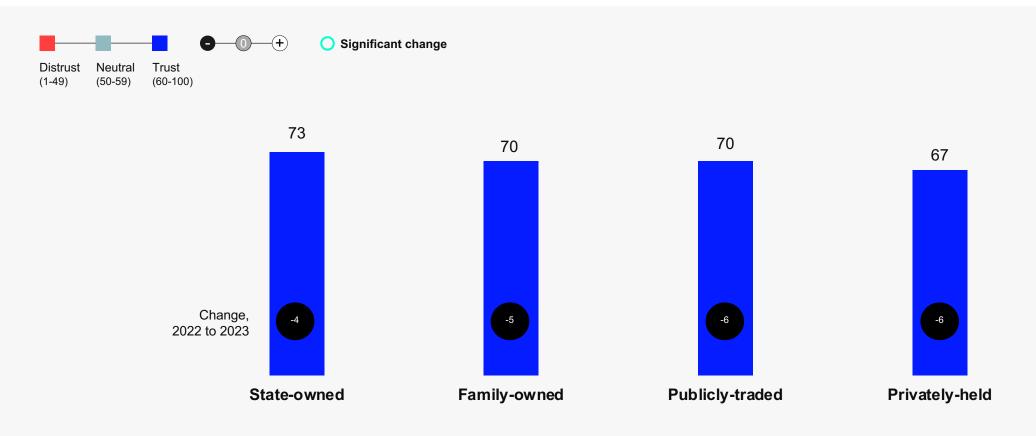






In Saudi Arabia, All Types of Businesses Trusted

Percent who trust each type of business to do what is right, in Saudi Arabia

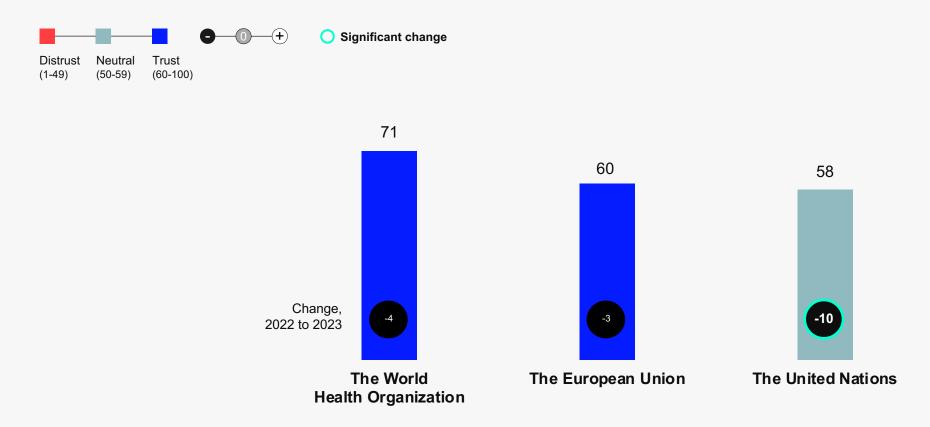






In Saudi Arabia, WHO Most Trusted Multinational Organization

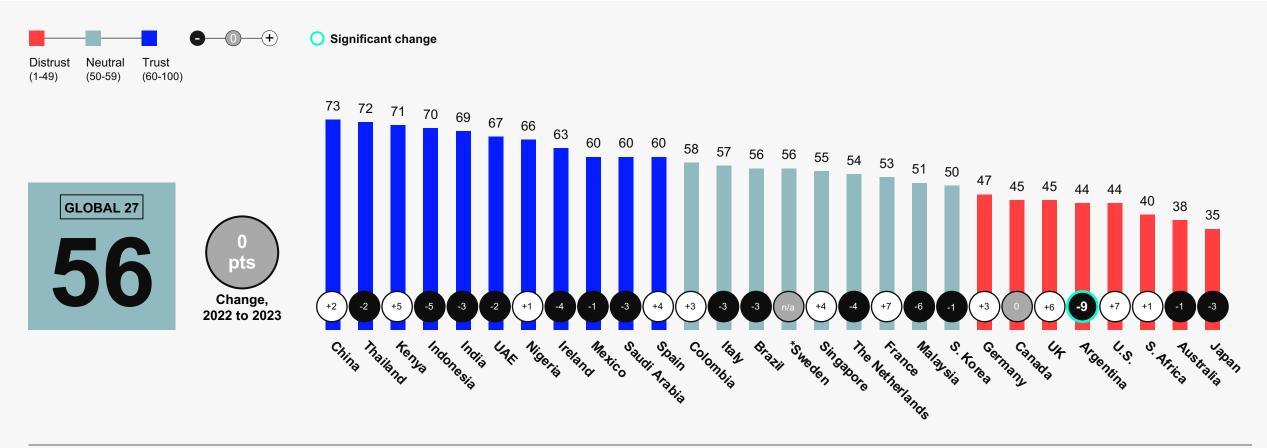
Percent trust, in Saudi Arabia





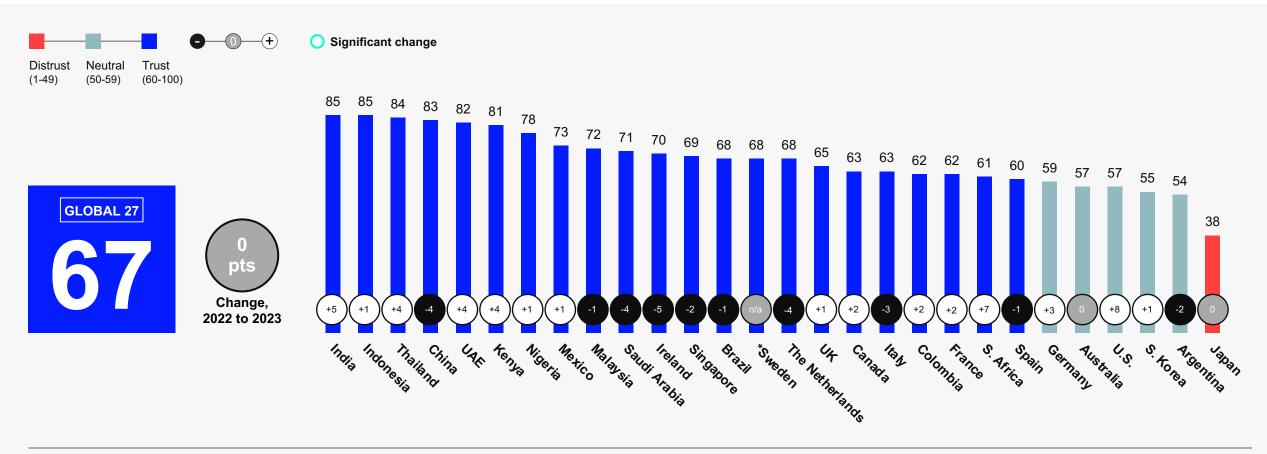


Trust in the European Union Increases in 11 of 27 Countries



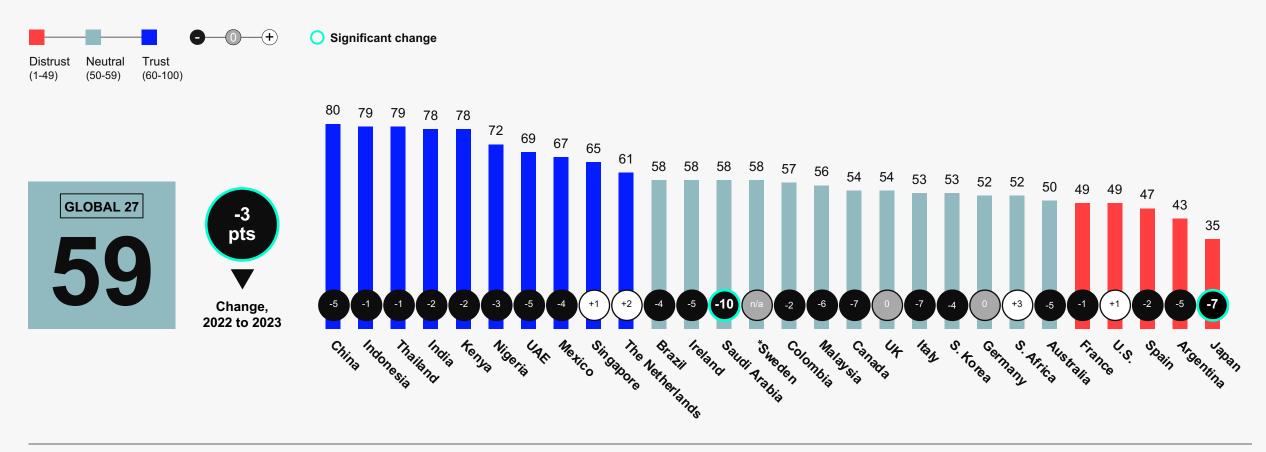


Trust in the World Health Organization Increases in 15 of 27 Countries





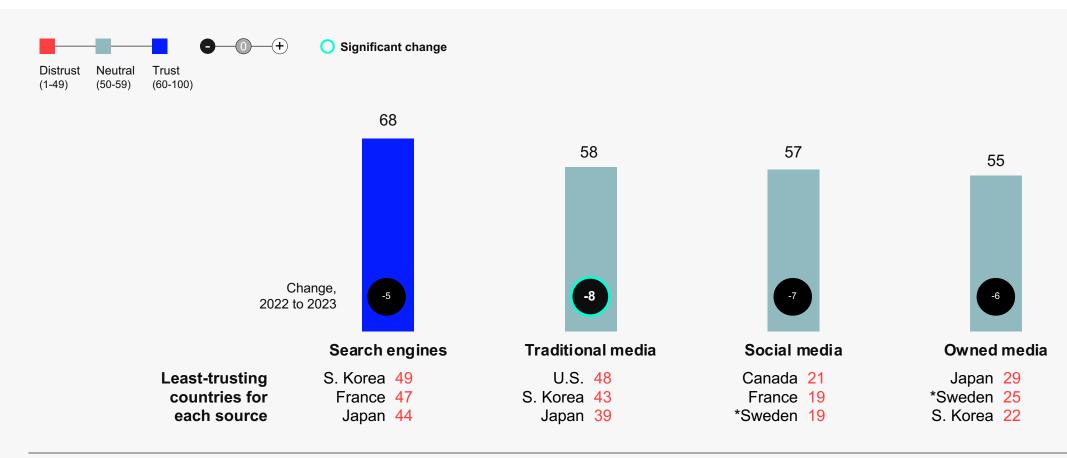
Trust in the United Nations Decreases in 21 of 27 Countries





Search Engines Only Trusted News Source in Saudi Arabia

Percent trust, in Saudi Arabia









2023 Edelman Trust Barometer: Sample

Sample Size, Quotas and Margin of Error

| Market | Weighed Sample Size ¹ | Unweighted Sample Size | Margin of Error – Total Sample ² | Margin of Error – Half Sample ² | Quotas Set On ³ |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Global 27 | 31,050 | 31,171 | +/- 0.6 percentage points total sample | +/- 0.8 percentage points half sample | Quotas set at the market level |
| Argentina | 1,150 | 1,120 | | | |
| Australia | 1,150 | 1,152 | +/- 2.9 pct pts. total sample | +/- 4.1 pct pts. half sample | |
| Brazil | 1,150 | 1,150 | | | |
| Canada | 1,150 | 1,500 | +/- 2.5 pct pts. total sample | +/- 3.6 pct pts. half sample | |
| China4 | 1,150 | 1,149 | | | |
| Colombia | 1,150 | 1,151 | | | |
| France | 1,150 | 1,151 | | | |
| Germany | 1,150 | 1,150 | | | |
| India | 1,150 | 1,145 | | | |
| Indonesia | 1,150 | 1,118 | | | |
| Ireland | 1,150 | 1,150 | +/- 2.9 pct pts. total sample | +/- 4.1 pct pts. half sample | |
| Italy | 1,150 | 1,151 | | | Age, Gender, Region |
| Japan | 1,150 | 1,150 | | | |
| Kenya | 1,150 | 1,150 | | | |
| Malaysia | 1,150 | 1,120 | | | |
| Mexico | 1,150 | 1,150 | | | |
| Nigeria | 1,150 | 1,142 | | | |
| Saudi Arabia | 1,150 | 1,082 | +/- 3.0 pct pts. total sample | +/- 4.2 pct pts. half sample | |
| Singapore | 1,150 | 1,135 | | | |
| S. Africa | 1,150 | 1,153 | | | |
| S. Korea | 1,150 | 1,150 | | | |
| Spain | 1,150 | 1,150 | | | |
| Sweden | 1,150 | 1,150 | +/ 2.0 not nto total cample | +/ 4.1 not nto half cample | |
| Thailand | 1,150 | 1,133 | +/- 2.9 pct pts. total sample +/- 4.1 pct pts. half sample | T/- 4.1 pct pts. naii sample | |
| The Netherlands | 1,150 | 1,142 | | | |
| UAE | 1,150 | 1,143 | | | |
| UK | 1,150 | 1,150 | | | |
| U.S. | 1,150 | 1,134 | | | |

^{1.} Data reported on slides is weighted to the same total base size to ensure each market has an equal effect on the global total. Some questions were asked of only half of the sample. Please refer to the footnotes on each slide for details



^{2.} Margin of error is calculated on the unweighted sample sizes collected.

^{3.} There were additional quotas on ethnicity in the UK and U.S., and on nationality in the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

^{4.} All data collected in China is from the mainland. Regions of Greater China were not surveyed.

2023 Edelman Trust Barometer: Sample

Countries Included in the Various Global Averages

| 28 countries surveyed | Global 27 average | Global 26 Excludes France | Global 25 Excludes China and Thailand | Global 24 Excludes China and Thailand | Global 24 |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|--|---------------------------|
| | Used for current year averages and tracking to 2022 | Used for current year averages; excludes France ² | Used for tracking to 2022; excludes sensitive markets ¹ | Used for tracking to 2020; excludes sensitive markets ¹ | Used for tracking to 2019 |
| Argentina | Argentina | Argentina | Argentina | Argentina | Argentina |
| Australia | Australia | Australia | Australia | Australia | Australia |
| Brazil | Brazil | Brazil | Brazil | Brazil | Brazil |
| Canada | Canada | Canada | Canada | Canada | Canada |
| China | China | China | | | China |
| Colombia | Colombia | Colombia | Colombia | Colombia | Colombia |
| France | France | | France | France | France |
| Germany | Germany | Germany | Germany | Germany | Germany |
| India | India | India | India | India | India |
| Indonesia | Indonesia | Indonesia | Indonesia | Indonesia | Indonesia |
| Ireland | Ireland | Ireland | Ireland | Ireland | Ireland |
| Italy | Italy | Italy | Italy | Italy | Italy |
| Japan | Japan | Japan | Japan | Japan | Japan |
| Kenya | Kenya | Kenya | Kenya | Kenya | |
| Malaysia | Malaysia | Malaysia | Malaysia | Malaysia | Malaysia |
| Mexico | Mexico | Mexico | Mexico | Mexico | Mexico |
| Nigeria | Nigeria | Nigeria | Nigeria | | |
| Saudi Arabia | Saudi Arabia | Saudi Arabia | Saudi Arabia | Saudi Arabia | Saudi Arabia |
| Singapore | Singapore | Singapore | Singapore | Singapore | Singapore |
| S. Africa | S. Africa | S. Africa | S. Africa | S. Africa | S. Africa |
| S. Korea | S. Korea | S. Korea | S. Korea | S. Korea | S. Korea |
| Spain | Spain | Spain | Spain | Spain | Spain |
| Sweden | | | | | |
| Thailand | Thailand | Thailand | | | |
| The Netherlands | The Netherlands | The Netherlands | The Netherlands | The Netherlands | The Netherlands |
| UAE | UAE | UAE | UAE | UAE | UAE |
| UK | UK | UK | UK | UK | UK |
| U.S. | U.S. | U.S. | U.S. | U.S. | U.S. |

^{1.} Because some of the content we ask is deemed politically sensitive there are several countries where we take special precautions in order to avoid putting our respondents, or ourselves, in a position to break any local laws. We work closely with our sample partner and its legal team to identify which questions, and in what countries, we should refrain from asking. The two countries where we removed questions and/or answer options were China and Thailand.





2023 Edelman Trust Barometer: Sample

Survey Languages Used and Internet Penetration by Country

| | Languages | Internet Penetration* | | Languages | Internet Penetration* | | Languages | Internet Penetration* |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------|--|--------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Global | - | 87% | Indonesia | Indonesian | 76% | S. Africa | Localized English, Afrikaans | 63% |
| Argentina | Localized Spanish | 91% | Ireland | Localized English | 89% | S. Korea | Korean | 97% |
| Australia | Localized English | 89% | Italy | Italian | 91% | Spain | Spanish | 92% |
| Brazil | Portuguese | 83% | Kenya | Localized English | 84% | Sweden | Localized English, Swedish | 97% |
| Canada | Localized English, Canadian French | 93% | Japan | Japanese | 93% | Thailand | Thai | 88% |
| China | Simplified Chinese | 70% | Malaysia | Malay | 94% | The Netherlands | Localized English, Dutch | 95% |
| Colombia | Localized Spanish | 83% | Mexico | Localized Spanish | 77% | UAE | Localized English, Arabic | 100% |
| France | French | 92% | Nigeria | Localized English | 68% | UK | Localized English | 95% |
| Germany | German | 94% | Saudi Arabia | Localized English, Arabic | 89% | U.S. | English, Localized Spanish | 94% |
| India | Localized English, Hindi | 60% | Singapore | Localized English, Simplified Chinese | 92% | | | |





Data Analyses Explained:

How We Plotted Countries by Polarization Levels

To visualize country-level polarization, we plotted countries based on the percentage of respondents in each country who see deep divisions and feel those divisions are entrenched.

Depth of Division forms the y-axis. A country's Division score is the percent who believe their country is very/extremely divided, using **POL_DEG**.*

POL_DEG. Using the scale below, please indicate how divided on key societal issues you believe your country is today. 5-point scale; top 2 box = very/extremely divided.*

A country's Entrenchment score is on the x-axis. It's the percent who do not believe that their country will be able to work through its divisions, using **POL_PROG**. This score was measured *only among respondents who believe their country is very/extremely divided* (**POL_DEG**/4-5).

POL_PROG. How likely or unlikely do you think it is that your country will be able to work through or overcome its ideological divisions and lack of agreement on key issues and challenges? 8-point scale; codes 2-5 = unlikely/neutral, among POL_DEG/4-5 = Entrenched

The table to the right shows each country's Division and Entrenchment score, as well as the total Polarization score. Cut-points were then determined that would allow us to group countries based their level of polarization. The first step in the cut-point determination process was to look for natural gaps in the scores. We then further tested these cut-points by profiling countries in each of the 4 resulting groupings to make sure that they displayed differences along key polarization-related dimensions. The final cut points used to characterize a country's level of Polarization is shown below.

- Severely polarized: sum of 130 or higher
- In danger of severe polarization: sum between 115 to 129
- Moderately polarized: sum between 80 to 114
- Not polarized: sum less than 80

| Country | Division (y-axis) | Entrenchment (x-axis) | Polarization score (sum) |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Argentina | 87 | 77 | 164 |
| Colombia | 74 | 62 | 136 |
| U.S. | 67 | 66 | 133 |
| Spain | 56 | 77 | 133 |
| S. Africa | 61 | 71 | 132 |
| Sweden | 51 | 79 | 130 |
| Japan | 47 | 75 | 122 |
| Italy | 41 | 79 | 120 |
| Brazil | 65 | 55 | 120 |
| UK | 50 | 69 | 119 |
| The Netherlands | 43 | 75 | 118 |
| France | 51 | 66 | 117 |
| Mexico | 52 | 65 | 117 |
| S. Korea | 55 | 61 | 116 |
| Germany | 41 | 75 | 116 |
| Australia | 35 | 74 | 109 |
| Canada | 38 | 71 | 109 |
| Thailand | 48 | 50 | 98 |
| Nigeria | 49 | 49 | 98 |
| Ireland | 32 | 64 | 96 |
| Kenya | 39 | 47 | 86 |
| India | 35 | 36 | 71 |
| UAE | 18 | 48 | 66 |
| Singapore | 18 | 46 | 64 |
| Saudi Arabia | 18 | 43 | 61 |
| China | 14 | 45 | 59 |
| Malaysia | 28 | 27 | 55 |
| Indonesia | 11 | 44 | 55 |



Data Analyses Explained:

How We Defined Polarization Groups

To measure perceptions of societal polarization, we asked two questions, shown at the right. First, we measured the degree of perceived division on key societal issues within each country. Then, among only those who reported their country is very or extremely divided, we measured respondents' belief that their country can work through Based on their responses to these two questions, respondents were assigned to one of the three groups described here:

- Not very divided (code 0): respondents who say their country isn't very divided (POL DEG/1-3).
- **Divided, not entrenched** (code 1): respondents who see their country as very or extremely divided (POL_DEG/4-5), but believe these divisions <u>can be</u> overcome or are not an issue (POL_PROG/1, 6-8).
- Polarized: our divisions are entrenched (code 2): respondents who see their country as very or extremely divided (POL_DEG/4-5), AND who also believe these divisions can not be overcome (POL_PROG/2-5).

These categories also defined a three-point polarization scale which was used as the outcome variable in a linear regression we used to identify the drivers of perceptions of polarization as detailed on the regression page.

Questions related to polarization

POL_DEG: Using the scale below, please indicate how divided on key societal issues you believe your country is today.

- 1. Not at all divided
- 2. A little divided
- 3. Somewhat divided
- 4. Very divided
- 5. Extremely divided
- 99. Don't know / Not sure

POL_PROG: How likely or unlikely do you think it is that your country will be able to work through or overcome its ideological divisions and lack of agreement on key issues and challenges?

- 1. Ideological divisions and a lack of agreement on key issues are not a problem in this country
- 2. It will never happen
- 3. Very unlikely
- 4. Unlikely
- 5. Neither likely nor unlikely
- 6. Likely
- 7. Very likely
- 8. It will definitely happen
- 99. Don't know / Not sure



2023 Edelman Trust Barometer Global Report

How We Calculated the Determinants of Polarization

We also wanted to know what leads to polarization. We found that distrust, identity, unfairness, and pessimism were significant drivers.

The factors depicted in the report are significant drivers of polarization as determined by a linear regression. Polarization refers to the 3-pt scale described on the polarization definition slide. The full model, depicted below, accounts for 17.71% of the observed variance in polarization scores.

Polarization=

(0.2351)+(.3380)DistrustInGovernment+(.3068)LackOfSharedIdentity+(.2478)SystemI nequality +(.1465)EconomicPessimism+(.1431)SocietalFears+(.1062)DistrustInMedia

The coefficient listed next to each factor indicates the increase in the polarization score associated with that factor being present, holding all other factors constant. This standardized value allowed us to rank the importance of each predictor variable and determine what factors drive polarization the most. All coefficients were significant at a p<.001 level.

| Drivers | Coefficient |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Distrust in government | .3380 |
| Lack of shared identity | .3068 |
| Systemic unfairness | .2478 |
| Economic pessimism | .1465 |
| Societal fears | .1431 |
| Distrust in media | .1062 |
| Constant | .2351 |

| Drivers | Question text and scoring |
|-------------------------|---|
| Distrust in government | TRU_INS. [GOVERNMENT] Below is a list of institutions. For each one, please indicate how much you trust that institution to do what is right using a 9-point scale where one means that you "do not trust them at all" and nine means that you "trust them a great deal". 9-point scale; bottom 4 box = distrust in government |
| Lack of shared identity | SOC_FAB_STR. How true is each of the following statements regarding the current situation in your country? For each one, please rate how true you believe that statement is using a nine-point scale where one means it is "not at all true" and nine means it is "completely true". 9-point scale; (r1,3,6,7), average score between 1-5 = lack of shared identity |
| Systemic unfairness | POP_MDC. Below is a list of statements. For each one, please rate how true you believe that statement is using a nine-point scale where one means it is "not at all true" and nine means it is "completely true". 9-point scale; (r2,3,18*,19*), average score of 6 or greater = systemic unfairness *reverse scored |
| Economic pessimism | CNG_FUT. Thinking about the economic prospects for yourself and your family, how do you think you and your family will be doing in five years' time? Select one response. 5-point scale, codes 4,5 = economic pessimism |
| Societal fears | POP_EMO. Some people say they worry about many things while others say they have few concerns. We are interested in what you worry about. Specifically, how much do you worry about each of the following? Please indicate your answer using a nine-point scale where one means "I do not worry about this at all" and nine means "I am extremely worried about this". 9-point scale; top 4 box at a majority of items (r14, 27, 43, 30, 31, 32, 33) = societal fears |
| Distrust in media | TRU_INS. [MEDIA] Below is a list of institutions. For each one, please indicate how much you trust that institution to do what is right using a 9-point scale where one means that you "do not trust them at all" and nine means that you "trust them a great deal". 9-point scale; bottom 4 box = distrust in media |



Data Analyses Explained:

How We Plotted the Institutional Competence and Ethics Scores

We define trust as the combination of competence and ethics. The report features a chart depicting how competent and ethical each of the institution are rated to be. Here's how we calculated each score.

The competence score (the x-axis of the plot): An institution's competence score is a net of the top 3 box (AGREE) minus the bottom 3 box (DISAGREE) responses to the question "To what extent do you agree with the following statement? [INSTITUTION] in general is good at what it does". The resulting net score was then subtracted by 50, which means that for an institution to qualify as competent, it would require a net difference of 51 points or more in its percentage of top 3-box ratings versus its bottom 3-box ratings. This ensures that an institution could not be considered competent unless there is a majority who rate it as such.

The net ethical score (the y-axis of the plot): The ethics dimension is defined by four separate items. For each item, a net score was calculated by taking the top 5 box percentage representing a positive ethical perception minus the bottom 5 box percentage representing a negative ethical perception. The y-axis value is an average across those 4 net scores. Scores higher than zero indicate an institution that is perceived as ethical.

Respondents were asked:

In thinking about why you do or do not trust [INSTITUTION], please specify where you think they fall on the scale between the two opposing descriptions. (Please use the slider to indicate where you think [INSTITUTION] falls between the two extreme end points of each scale.)

| Dimension | Ethical Perception | Unethical Perception |
|----------------|--|---|
| Purpose-Driven | Highly effective agents of positive change | Completely ineffective agents of positive change |
| Honest | Honest and fair | Corrupt and biased |
| Vision | Have a vision for the future that I believe in | Do not have a vision for the future that I believe in |
| Fairness | Serve the interests of everyone equally and fairly | Serve the interests of only certain groups of people |



2023 Edelman Trust Barometer: Analyses

How We Calculated Belief-Driven Buyers

In the June 2022 Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report: The New Cascade of Influence, respondents were asked a series of questions regarding the role their values, opinions about social issues, and political beliefs played in their purchasing decisions. The Belief-Driven Buyer (BDB) scale was created by averaging respondents' answers to the seven 9-pt agree/disagree scale items, shown in the table to the right.

- Non-belief-driven buyers were those that scored between 1 4.99
 on the BDB scale, meaning on average they disagreed with these
 statements.
- Respondents who scored between 5.00 9.00 on the BDB scale were classified as belief-driven buyers, meaning on average they saw themselves reflected at least to some extent in these statements

Respondents were asked:

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements

| 1. | Even if a company makes the product that I like most, I will not buy it if I disagree with the company's stand on important social issues |
|----|---|
| 2. | If a brand offers the best price on a product, I will buy it even if I disagree with the company's stand on controversial social or political issues |
| 3. | I have bought a brand for the first time for the sole reason that I appreciated its position on a controversial societal or political issue |
| 4. | I have stopped buying one brand and started buying another because I liked the politics of one more than the other |
| 5. | I have strong opinions about many societal and political issues. The brands I choose to buy and not buy are one important way I express those opinions. |
| 6_ | I have stopped buying a brand solely because it remained silent on a controversial |

societal or political issue that I believed it had an obligation to publicly address



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2023 Edelman Trust Barometer: Full Text For Answer Choices Abbreviated

Personal Economic and Societal Fears

POP_EMO. Some people say they worry about many things while others say they have few concerns. We are interested in what you worry about. Specifically, how much do you worry about each of the following? Please indicate your answer using a nine-point scale where one means "I do not worry about this at all" and nine means "I am extremely worried about this".

| Shortened | Full | |
|------------------|--|--|
| Job loss (net) | Automation and/or other innovations taking your job away Your job being moved to other countries where workers are paid less Cheaper foreign competitors driving companies like yours out of business Not having the training and skills necessary to get a good paying job International conflicts about trade policies and tariffs hurting the company you work for Losing your job as a result of a looming recession Permanent jobs with benefits being replaced by freelance, gig-economy or short-term jobs that do not offer benefits | |
| Inflation | Your pay increases not keeping up with the inflation rate causing you to lose ground financially | |
| Climate change | Climate change leading to drought, rising sea levels and other natural disasters | |
| Nuclear war | International conflicts escalating into nuclear war | |
| Food shortages | Food shortages leading to hoarding, riots, and hunger | |
| Energy shortages | An energy shortage that makes it difficult for you to heat your home, power your appliances, or keep your car fueled | |



2023 Edelman Trust Barometer: Full Text For Answer Choices Abbreviated

Polarization Fears

NAT_POL_CONS. What do you see as the likely consequences of these divisions within your country if they are not addressed?

| Shortened | Full |
|--|--|
| Worsening prejudice and discrimination | The worsening of prejudice and discrimination |
| Slower economic development | Our rate of economic development will slow, and we will not be well positioned for future prosperity |
| Violence in the streets | Violence in the streets |
| Inability to address societal challenges | An inability to adequately address our societal challenges |
| I will suffer financially | I will suffer financially |
| End of our democracy | The end of our democracy |
| Government gridlock | Paralysis of the government and an inability to get any legislation passed |
| Lack of cooperation with authorities | Increased lack of cooperation with the recommendations and guidance of national authorities |
| Disruptions in the workplace | Disruptions in the workplace due to disputes between groups of employees |
| Loss of our country's influence | Our country will lose its influence in the world |
| Greater personal safety risk | My personal safety will be at greater risk |
| Damaged personal relationships | My relationship with some of my friends and family members will be further damaged |
| Lost career opportunities | I will lose advancement opportunities at work |



2023 Edelman Trust Barometer: Full Text For Answer Choices Abbreviated

Business Engagement on Societal Issues

BUS_BND. Think about business as an institution, and its current level of engagement in addressing societal needs and issues. When it comes to each of the following areas, please indicate if you think business is going too far and overstepping what it should be doing, is doing just the right amount in regard to this activity, or is not going far enough in its actions and should be doing more.

| Shortened | Full |
|-------------------------|--|
| Climate change | Addressing climate change |
| Economic inequality | Redressing economic inequality, narrowing the opportunity gaps between the richest and poorest in this country, and lifting people out of poverty |
| Energy shortages | Addressing global energy shortages and increasing energy costs |
| Healthcare access | Increasing access to good quality healthcare |
| Trustworthy information | Controlling the malicious spreading of misleading and false information and ensuring the availability of trustworthy information |
| Workforce reskilling | Doing the workforce reskilling and retraining necessary to keep people employable whose jobs are being eliminated or greatly altered by automation and artificial intelligence |



2023 Edelman Trust Barometer: Full Text For Answer Choices Abbreviated

Expectations for CEOs on Societal Issues

CEO_ISS_EXP. For each of the following issues, please indicate what you expect CEOs to do.

| Shortened | Full |
|----------------------|---|
| Treatment of workers | Treatment of workers |
| Climate change | Climate change |
| Discrimination | Discrimination and the treatment of minority groups |
| Wealth gap | How to address the gap between the rich and poor |
| Immigration | Immigration, refugees, and guest workers |



2023 Edelman Trust Barometer: Full Text For Answer Choices Abbreviated

Business Can Avoid Being Seen As Politically Motivated

ENG_ISS_HOW. You just said that it is possible for a business to engage in addressing contentious societal issues in ways that you would not consider to be political or politically motivated. Which of the following would be ways that a company could do that?

| Shortened | Full | |
|---|--|--|
| Be a trustworthy information source | Be a trustworthy information source regarding an issue but don't take sides | |
| Base actions on science | Show that their actions are based on generally agreed upon facts or well-established scientific evidence | |
| Don't align with only one political party | Show how their engagement on societal issues over time does not consistently align with one political party or another | |
| Act on same values over time | Tie their actions to a set of values that they have consistently supported over time | |
| Link actions to staying competitive | Link their actions to the needs of their business and their ability to stay competitive in the marketplace | |



2023 Edelman Trust Barometer: Full Text For Answer Choices Abbreviated

CEO Obligations

CEO_PLAY_BK. How obligated do you believe CEOs are to take the following actions?

| Shortened | Full | |
|--|--|--|
| Pay a fair wage | Pay a fair wage to all employees and work to ensure that their suppliers are doing the same | |
| Ensure their home community is safe and thriving | Work to ensure that the community in which their organization is headquartered is safe, strong, and thriving | |
| Pay fair corporate taxes | Make sure that their organization pays its fair share of local taxes to help fund government programs meant to improve the education system, increase access to good quality healthcare, expand public services, and provide job retraining to displaced workers | |
| Retrain employees | Retrain workers whose jobs are eliminated due to technology and automation | |
| Defend facts and expose questionable science used to justify bad social policy | Defend facts and expose questionable or fraudulent science being used to justify bad law or social policy | |
| Pull advertising money from platforms that spread misinformation | Pull the organization's advertising money out of media platforms and news outlets that do not adequately control the spread of misinformation | |



2023 Edelman Trust Barometer:
Full Text For Answer Choices Abbreviated

Business Strengthening the Social Fabric

POL_SOL. How important do you feel each of the following would be to increasing civility among people in your country and strengthening the social fabric that binds people together?

Shortened

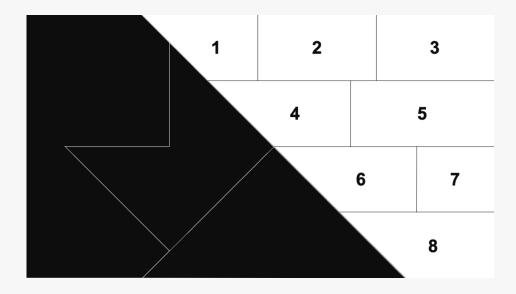
Full

Support politicians and media that build consensus and cooperation (avg)

Companies using their power and influence to get politicians to engage in consensus building and cooperation

Companies spending their advertising money on media channels and news programs that emphasize cooperation, moderation, and consensus building, and not on those which worsen divisions among different groups of people and support extreme positions





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Slide 4 Four Forces That Lead To Polarization

Economic Anxieties: Don't Pay UK protest Over Rising Fuel Bills in London, England: Guy Smallman via Getty Images

Institutional Imbalance: U.S. Capital building: Douglas Rissing via iStock/Getty Images; Low angle of high-rise buildings in Toronto, Canada: Sean Pollock via Unsplash

Mass-Class Divide: Activists' Groups, The Poor People's Campaign And Low-Wage Workers' Assembly March On Wall Street: Michael M. Santiago via Getty Images

The Battle for Truth: Woman reading news on smartphone and laptop in Thailand: Oatawa via iStock/ Getty Images

Slide 5 Facing Economic Fears Without a Trust Safety Net

Woman Checking Her Bill At The Supermarket in Serbia: LordHenriVoton via Getty Images

Slide 14 Distrust Breeds Polarization

Supporters of Brazilian former President Jair Bolsonaro invade Planalto Presidential Palace on Jan 8 in Brazil: Sergio Lima / AFP via Getty Images

Slide 25 Great Expectations, Heightened Risk for Business

Activists of Trinamool Congress in Kolkata, India display banners and slogans against government policies Dibyangshu sarkar / AFP via Getty Images

Slide 31 Navigating a Polarized World

Volunteers picking up plastics at lakeshore in Germany: Maskot via Getty Images



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