

PUBLIC OPINION MONITORING *at a glance*

February 2021



- **Vaccine acceptance on the rise**

Vaccine acceptance continues to increase in most countries, as an Ipsos survey conducted in 15 countries finds widespread demand for getting vaccinated as soon as possible. At the same time, the survey finds a lack of consensus on whether the COVID-19 vaccine should be mandatory across countries. Whereas in Italy, an outright majority supports such an approach, it is opposed by an outright majority in Germany and France. Across countries, concerns about possible side effects appear among the leading causes of vaccine hesitancy. Even though more people in France would now like to be vaccinated, the country continues to remain one of the most sceptical in the EU, together with Bulgaria and Hungary. Low vaccine acceptance seems to coincide with low levels of trust in the national government. The EU's image in relation to the vaccination roll-out seems to have suffered particularly in Germany and Austria. In addition, a survey in Germany finds a strong preference for the BioNTech vaccine: 84% of respondents would choose the BioNTech vaccine if they could decide for themselves (Moderna 5%, AstraZeneca 3%, Don't know/None of the above: 8%). Around 40% of respondents could imagine cancelling their appointment at the vaccination centre if their preferred brand was not available. Overall, most citizens feel there is room for improvement in the vaccination strategies of their country.

- **Mixed picture when it comes to acceptance of government measures**

In many countries the picture is rather mixed, with about half supporting current government measures and about half opposing them. Within those opposing them, some think they are exaggerated while others judge them as too lax. In the Netherlands, the number of respondents who want to ease the measures has doubled within a month, from 21 percent in January to 45 percent in February.

- **Negative impact of the pandemic on financial situation and overall wellbeing of citizens**

In most countries, respondents have seen a deterioration of their finances and a negative impact of the measures on their mental health. Measures to prevent the uncontrolled spread of COVID-19 seem to impact particularly hard on young people while the elderly continue to be most worried about the situation. As the pandemic continues, significant shares of the public in France, Germany and the UK feel a major impact of the outbreak on their lives. Awareness that the pandemic is not only changing individual aspect of citizens' lives but the overall way of life is growing, a survey in Bulgaria points out.

With this monthly newsletter, DG Communication's Public Opinion Monitoring Unit wishes to inform you about relevant and fresh public opinion insights and analysis focussing on multi-country surveys as well as on individual Member States. Every month we draw on available and published surveys, as well as the analysis of our team in close collaboration with other services within DG COMM, specifically Parliament's Liaison Office in all Member States. We welcome all comments and input to our work.

If you want to know more about what the Public Opinion Monitoring Unit can do for you in this time of crisis, please contact:

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Multi-country surveys

National Pandemic Alarm

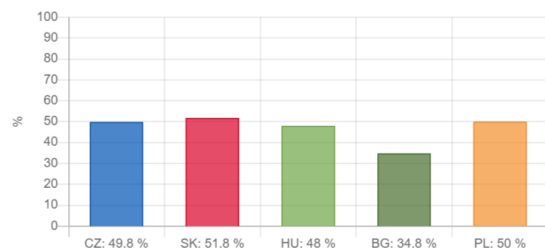
19/02/2021

<https://www.nationalpandemicalarm.eu/en/>

This representative survey monitors public opinion, emotions and experiences with the spread of the Corona virus pandemic in five Central European countries.

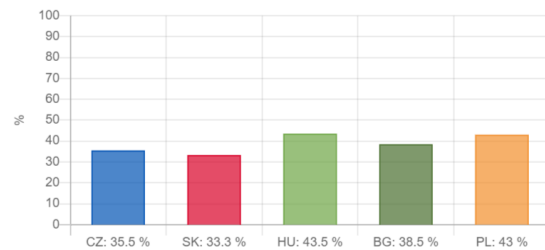
Vaccination Willingness Index

How willing are people to get vaccinated against COVID-19



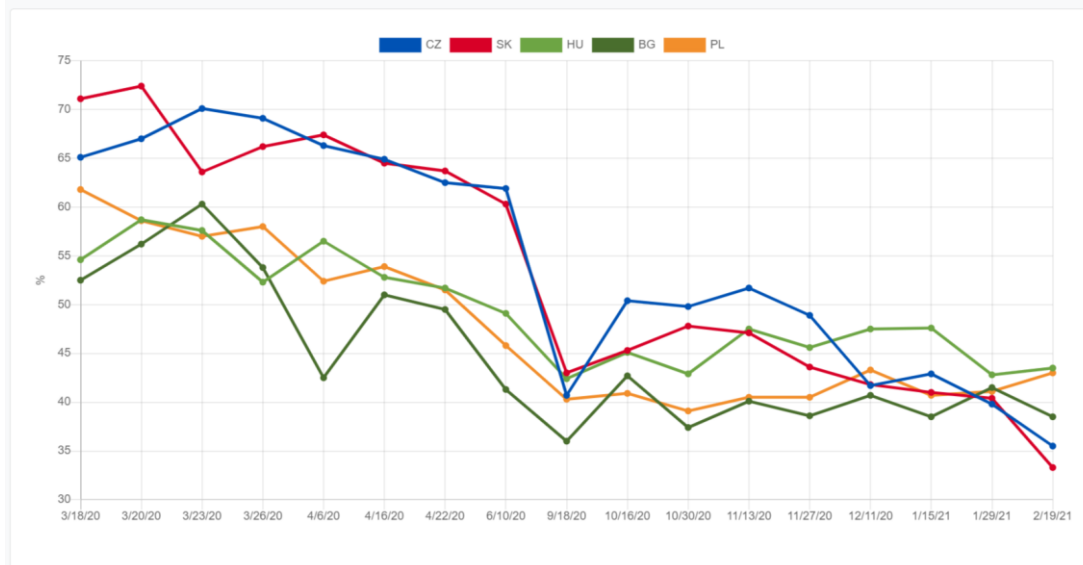
Government Confidence Index

How high the trust in the state and state institutions is in the current situation



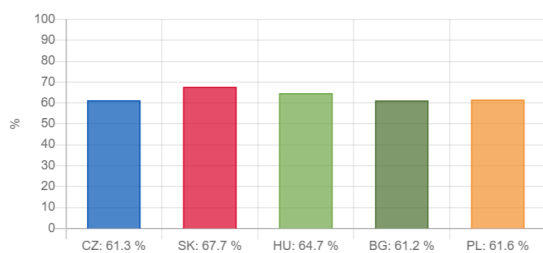
Index values in time

Government Confidence Index ▾



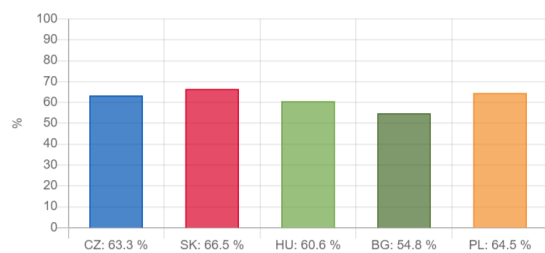
Impact Index

What true impact the current situation has on the society



Panic Index

The degree of fear that people currently feel themselves or around them



As Pandemic Continues, More in U.S. and Europe Feel Major Impact on Their Lives

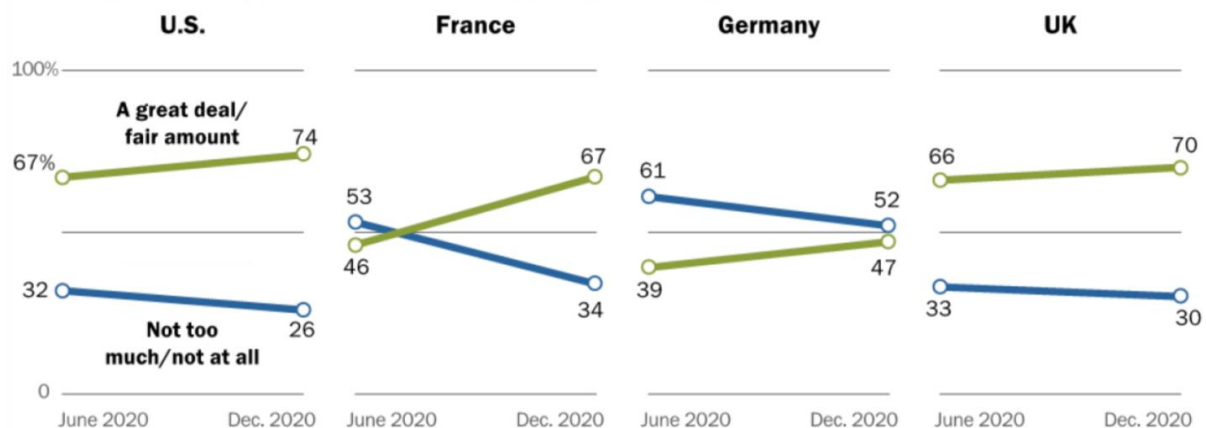
Pew Research, 3/02/2021

<https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2021/02/03/as-pandemic-continues-more-in-u-s-and-europe-feel-major-impact-on-their-lives/>

Significant shares of the public in the United States, France, Germany and the United Kingdom say their **lives have changed because of the outbreak**, according to a Pew Research Center survey conducted from Nov. 10 to Dec. 23, 2020, in these four countries. (...) At the same time (...) publics are largely split on whether their **country has done a good job handling the outbreak**. (...) When looking toward the future, publics in each of the four countries share in the **optimism that their nations are well-prepared should there be a future global public health crisis**. (...) The survey also finds that, prior to the coronavirus vaccine rollouts in each of the four nations surveyed, **many in these countries did not support government-mandated vaccinations** to stop the spread of COVID-19. This is especially true among those with lower levels of trust in their government. (...)

People increasingly say the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting their everyday lives

% who say as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, their life has changed ...



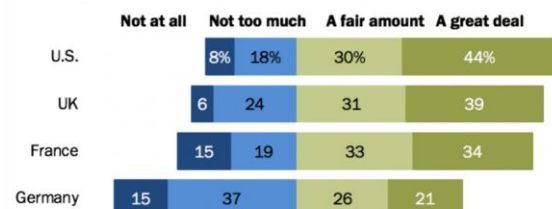
Source: Fall 2020 Global Attitudes Survey. Q15.

"As Pandemic Continues, More in U.S. and Europe Feel Major Impact on Their Lives"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Except in Germany, two-thirds or more say life has changed because of COVID-19

% who say their life has changed ___ as a result of the coronavirus outbreak



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

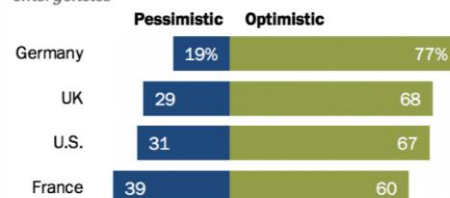
Source: Fall 2020 Global Attitudes Survey. Q15.

"As Pandemic Continues, More in U.S. and Europe Feel Major Impact on Their Lives"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Optimism in four countries' ability to handle future health crises is high

% who say they feel generally ___ about their own country's ability to deal with future global health emergencies



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

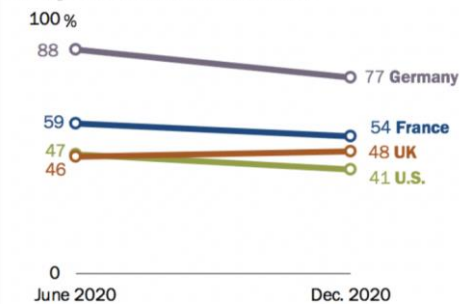
Source: Fall 2020 Global Attitudes Survey. Q31c.

"As Pandemic Continues, More in U.S. and Europe Feel Major Impact on Their Lives"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

In U.S. and Germany, favorable assessments of national COVID-19 response in decline

% who say their own country has done a **good job** dealing with the coronavirus outbreak

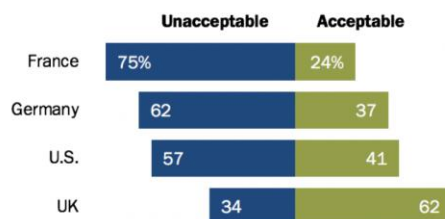


Source: Fall 2020 Global Attitudes Survey. Q16.
 "As Pandemic Continues, More in U.S. and Europe Feel Major Impact on Their Lives"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Most are against a government requirement to get a COVID vaccine, except in the UK

% who say if a safe and effective coronavirus vaccine is developed, it is ___ for the national government to require people to get the vaccine

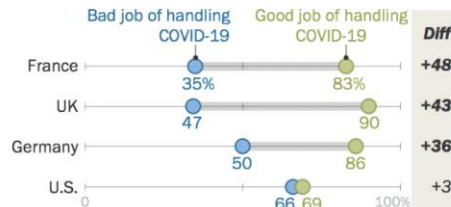


Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.
 Source: Fall 2020 Global Attitudes Survey. Q18.
 "As Pandemic Continues, More in U.S. and Europe Feel Major Impact on Their Lives"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Those happy with national COVID-19 response more optimistic on handling future health crises, except in U.S.

% who say they feel generally **optimistic** about their own country's ability to deal with future global health emergencies, among those who think their own country has done a ...

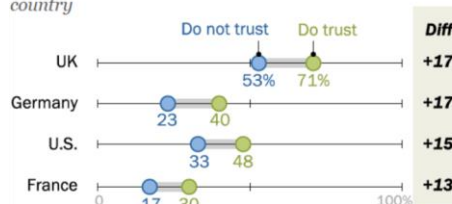


Note: Statistically significant differences in **bold**.
 Source: Fall 2020 Global Attitudes Survey. Q31c.
 "As Pandemic Continues, More in U.S. and Europe Feel Major Impact on Their Lives"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Those more trusting of government are more likely to accept required vaccines

% who say if a safe and effective coronavirus vaccine is developed, it is **acceptable** for the national government to require people to get the vaccine, among those who ___ the national government to do what is right for their country



Note: All differences shown are statistically significant.
 Source: Fall 2020 Global Attitudes Survey. Q18.
 "As Pandemic Continues, More in U.S. and Europe Feel Major Impact on Their Lives"

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Global attitudes : COVID-19 vaccines

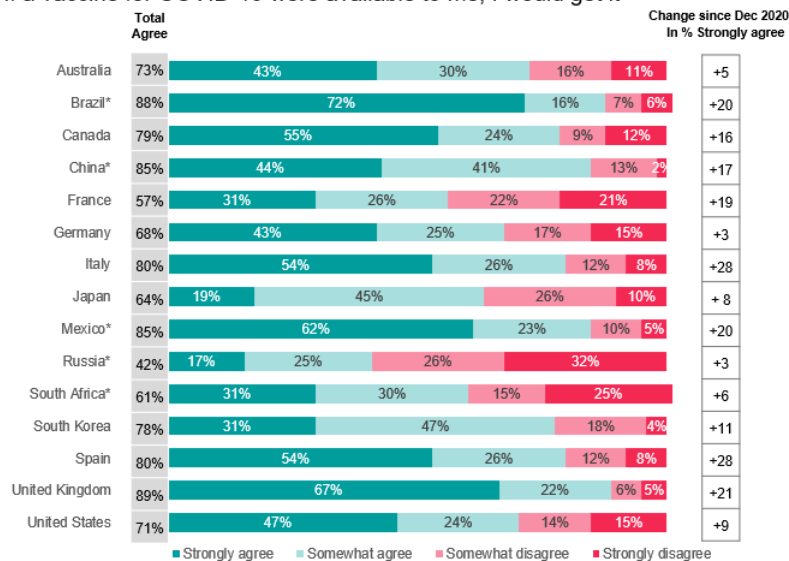
IPSOS, 9/02/2021

<https://www.ipsos.com/en/global-attitudes-covid-19-vaccine-january-2021>

An Ipsos survey conducted in 15 countries on January 28-31, 2021, in partnership with the World Economic Forum, points to a general uptick in COVID-19 vaccine intent across the world, compared to six weeks ago. The main survey findings are:

- Widespread **demand for getting vaccinated as soon as possible**;
- A **lack of consensus on whether the COVID-19 vaccine should be mandatory** across countries;
- **Concern about the side effects and the speed of clinical trials** to be the leading causes of vaccine hesitancy.

"If a vaccine for COVID-19 were available to me, I would get it"



Since the last survey, the highest uptick in vaccine intent is seen in Italy and Spain (by 28 percentage points to 54% who strongly agree in both countries), (...) France (by 19 points to 31%). (...)

Views about making COVID-19 vaccination mandatory vary across countries. Whereas in Italy, an outright majority supports such an approach, it is opposed by an outright majority in Germany and France

Trust in COVID vaccines is growing

Nature, 10/02/2021

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-00368-6>

Attitudes towards COVID-19 vaccines seem to be improving in some parts of the world, a survey of thousands of people in 15 countries has found.

The survey is part of the COVID-19 behaviour tracker, and it ran from November 2020 to January 2021.

In January, more than half the respondents agreed that they would get a vaccine if it was available during the week of the survey. (...) In Spain, for example, the proportion of respondents willing to be immunized had increased from 28% in November 2020 to 52% by mid-January. (...)

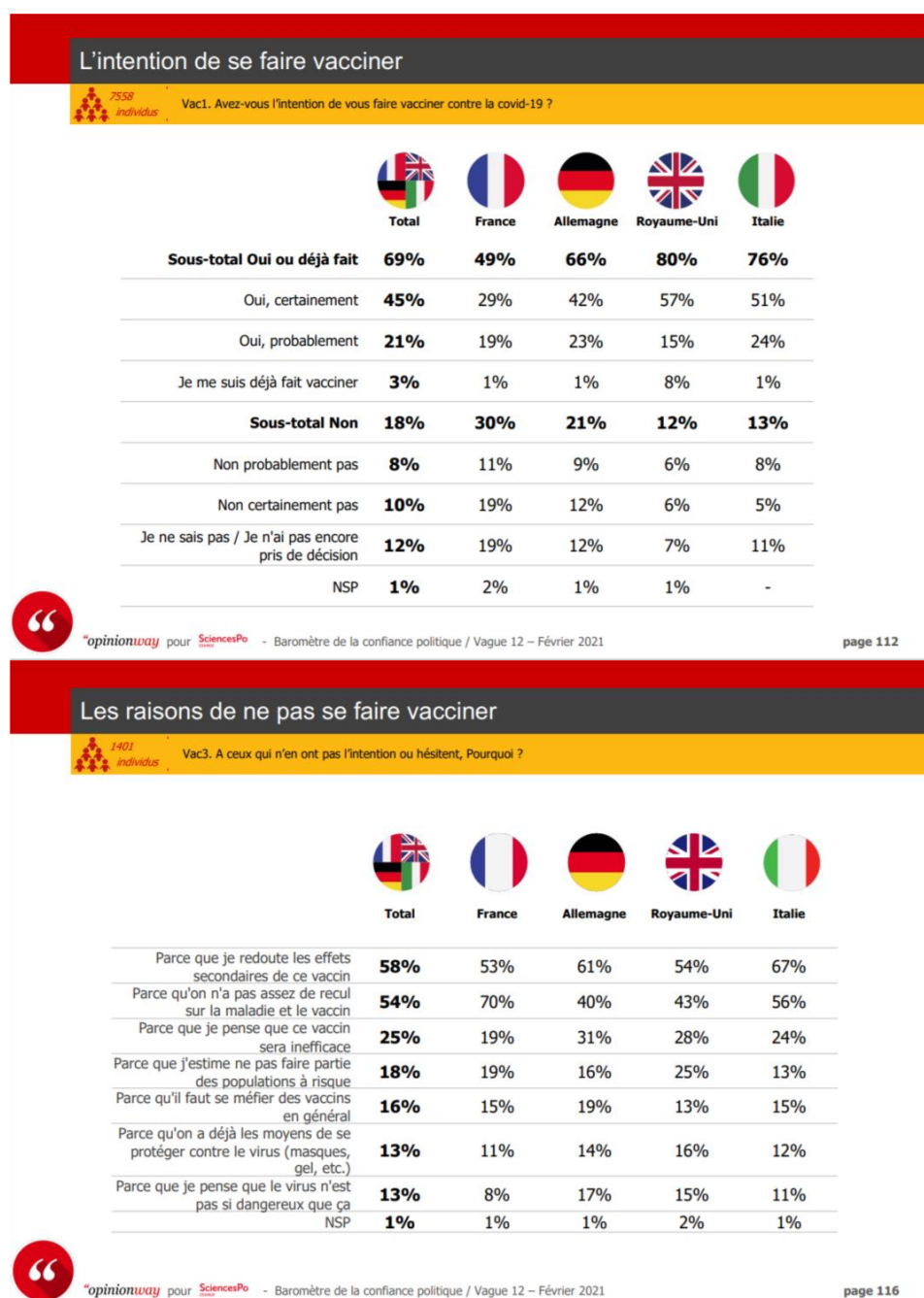
Although the situation looks increasingly positive on a global scale, the results for some individual countries paint a more complicated picture (...). Among those surveyed in France, for example, 44% are still unwilling to receive COVID immunizations. (...)

Le baromètre de la confiance politique

Cevipof, 22/02/2021

<https://www.sciencespo.fr/cevipof/sites/sciencespo.fr/cevipof/files/Round%2012%20-%20Barome%CC%80tre%20de%20la%20confiance%20en%20politique%20-%20vague12-1.pdf>






Ten months after the last vast cross-border survey carried out in February and then updated in April 2020, Sciences Po's Cevipof asked the OpinionWay institute to survey the inhabitants of France, Germany, the United Kingdom and Italy on their state of mind, in particular with regard to the management of the epidemic situation. Through the results of this "Political Confidence Barometer", the fatigue of Europeans but also their capacity for resilience can be seen.



La gestion de la crise par le gouvernement

7538
individus

Cov1. Etes-vous tout à fait d'accord, plutôt d'accord, plutôt pas d'accord ou pas du tout d'accord avec chacune des affirmations ?

	 Total	 France	 Allemagne	 Royaume-Uni	 Italie
Sous-total D'accord	49%	37%	56%	48%	52%
Tout à fait d'accord	11%	7%	14%	12%	9%
Plutôt d'accord	38%	30%	42%	36%	43%
Sous-total Pas d'accord	48%	58%	42%	49%	47%
Plutôt pas d'accord	27%	27%	27%	25%	27%
Pas du tout d'accord	21%	31%	15%	24%	20%
NSP	3%	5%	2%	3%	1%



opinionway pour SciencesPo - Baromètre de la confiance politique / Vague 12 - Février 2021

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The survey was conducted by OpinionWay between 20 January and 11 February, with the precise dates depending on the given country.

National surveys

Restriction measures and effects of the pandemic

The national studies included in this edition show a similarity in attitudes towards the measures imposed to tackle the pandemic, with a rather split public. While in many countries these measures are still accepted and seen as necessary, a notable share of the population even in these countries wants these measures to be eased. Common to all monitored countries is the fact that the pandemic has taken its toll on personal income and on citizens' well-being: in most countries respondents have seen a deterioration of their finances and a negative impact of the measures on their mental health.

Vaccines and vaccination process

When it comes to vaccines, in almost all countries a growing number of respondents and/or a majority of them would like to get the vaccine: 61% in France (+19 pp compared to December 2020), 72% in Greece, 40% in Hungary (compared to 15% in December 2020), 66% in the Netherlands (versus 29% in November 2020), 75% in Portugal (against 20% in November 2020), 55% in Romania, 83% in Spain (double the share observed in December 2020) and 86% in Sweden. In Bulgaria, 52% of respondents do not intend to get vaccinated; 37% hesitate and their decision will depend precisely on the course of the vaccination campaign.

Europeans are overall dissatisfied with the vaccination process in their countries and some put parts of the blame on the EU. In Austria, respondents see the EU (34%) and the manufacturers (28%) as responsible for the problems with the procurement of vaccines and the slow progress in vaccinating the population. Three quarters of French respondents consider the national strategy neither clear (74%) nor effective (72%). For around two-thirds of German respondents, the image of the European Union has suffered because of the vaccine procurement: 22% say it has 'rather worsened' and 42% that it has 'definitely worsened'. Criticism of the EU comes from all political parties. In Italy, 49% judge negatively the country's vaccination campaign against 39% who judge it positively. 42% of Latvians fully agree that the government does not know how to minimise the spread of the virus. In the Netherlands, despite the increasing acceptance rate for vaccines, only 15% of respondents are positive about the vaccine strategies of the government. Half of Romanian respondents believe that the information related to the vaccine and the national vaccination campaign offered by the authorities is insufficient, while citizens' faith in Sweden's way of handling the pandemic has decreased since the start of the second wave. On a positive note, 50% of Portuguese citizens agree that the resources for the vaccination program are adequate and 55% agree that the government is organising the distribution in an efficient way.

Austria

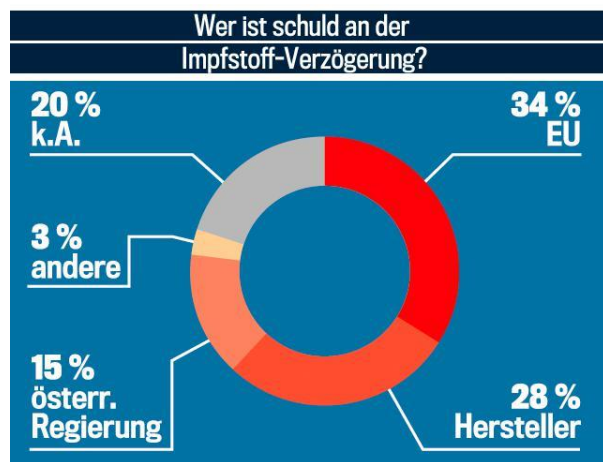
Poor grades for Austrian pandemic management

15/02/2021

<https://www.trend.at/politik/umfrage-schlechte-noten-pandemie-management-11896494>

As far as the problems with the procurement of vaccines and the slow progress in vaccinating the population are concerned, the Austrian federal government still has some breathing space. Here, the **majority of Austrians (62%) see the EU [34%]** and the manufacturers [28%] as **responsible**.

Q: **Whose fault is the delay of vaccination?**



Fewer and fewer Austrians are satisfied with the Corona measures

Profil, 13/02/2021

<https://www.profil.at/oesterreich/umfrage-immer-weniger-oesterreicherinnen-sind-mit-den-corona-massnahmen-zufrieden/401187202>

In a survey conducted for profil by Unique research, **only 43% say that the government is acting "with a sense of proportion"**; in March 2020 the figure was still 75%. In the ÖVP camp, approval remained unbroken (75%), but among FPÖ voters it fell to 18%. Dissatisfaction grew at both ends of the scale: 27% of respondents consider the measures "exaggerated" (March 2020: 8%); 24% find them "too lax" (March 2020: 13%).

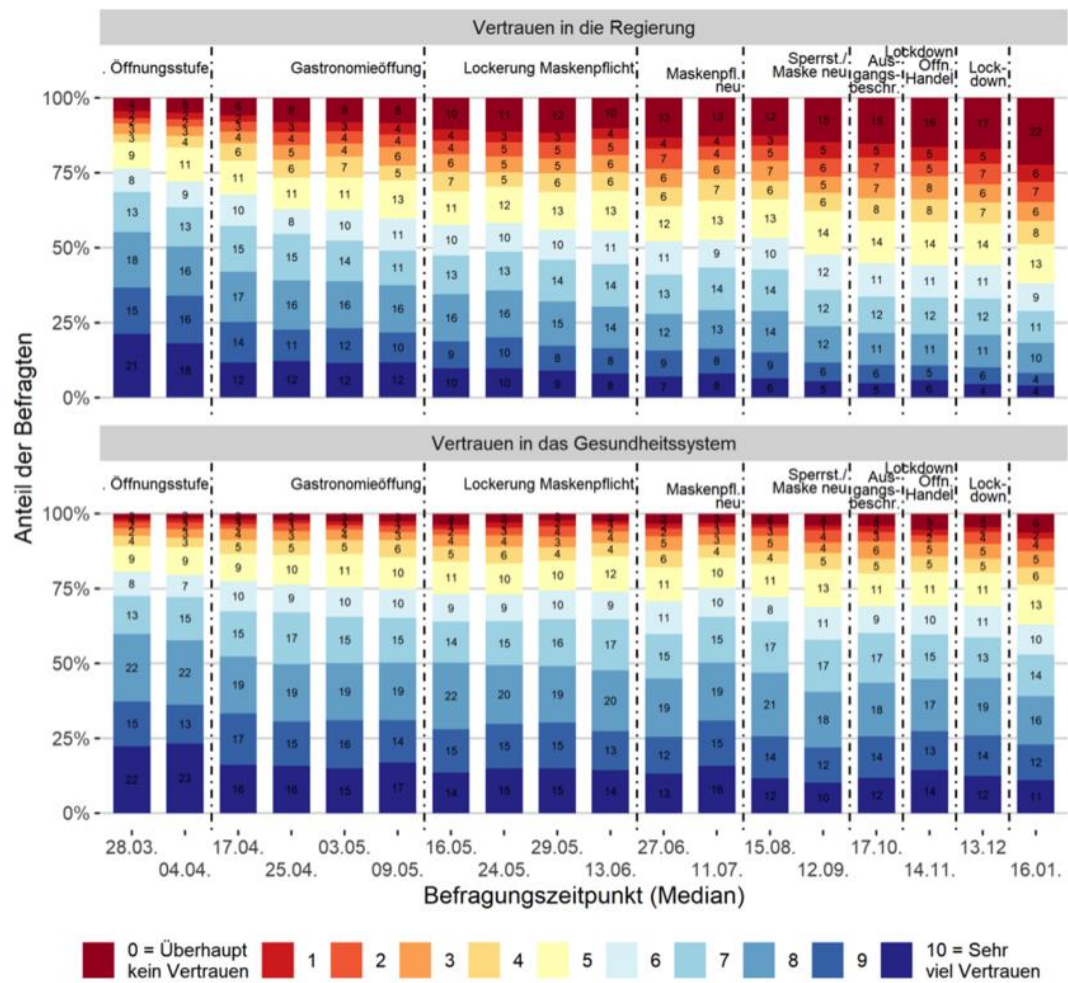
Vienna Center for Electoral Research

<https://viecer.univie.ac.at/corona-blog/corona-blog-beitraege/corona-dynamiken22/>

The pattern of trust is reminiscent of the so-called **"rally-around-the-flag" effect: at the beginning of the crisis**, a particularly high level of trust was recorded, which continuously declined in the course of the following 10 months. At the end of March 2020, only around 4% of respondents testified to having no trust in the federal government at all. By mid-January 2021, this share had increased almost fivefold (22%).

[The table] illustrates the dynamics of **trust in the Austrian federal government** in the period **from the end of March 2020 to mid-January 2021**.

[Top: Trust in Government | Bottom: Trust in public health system]



Bulgaria

A year after the beginning of the pandemic - how has our lives changed?

Alpha Research, 18/2/2021 (conducted on 8-15/2/2021)

<https://alpharesearch.bg/post/976-godina-sled-nachaloto-na-kovid-pandemiata-kak-se-promeni-jivotut-ni.html>

Nearly a year after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, **almost every second Bulgarian (44%)** believes that **it has changed** not just individual aspects of the daily life, but the **overall way of life**.

After nearly ten months of social isolation, **over a third of people (37.2%)** say they experience **psychological and emotional discomfort** due to limited contacts with their loved ones, fear of the virus, serious transformations in their usual lifestyle and work.

[...] For the majority of Bulgarians, the vaccination campaign did not start convincingly: only 1.5% say they had received at least one dose of vaccine to date and **only 10% show willingness for a vaccination** - a drop of 4% compared to December.

51.9% do not intend to get vaccinated, 36.8% hesitate and their decision will depend precisely on the course of this campaign.

Possible levels of coronavirus dissemination and willingness to vaccinate

Gallup International, 18/2/2021

<https://www.gallup-international.bg/44426/possible-levels-of-coronavirus-dissemination-and-willingness-to-vaccinate/>

Direct readiness for vaccination is close to a third - **27% say they would get vaccinated** and 48% would not. However, there are 24% hesitant. There are also about 1% who claim to have already been vaccinated.

Attitudes of Bulgarians towards vaccination against COVID-19

Trend, 2/2/2021

<https://rctrend.bg/project/%d0%bd%d0%b0%d0%b3%d0%bb%d0%b0%d1%81%d0%b8-%d0%bd%d0%b0-%d0%b1%d1%8a%d0%bb%d0%b3%d0%b0%d1%80%d0%b8%d1%82%d0%b5-%d1%81%d0%bf%d1%80%d1%8f%d0%bc%d0%be-%d0%b2%d0%b0%d0%ba%d1%81%d0%b8%d0%bd%d0%b8%d1%80/>

Only **28% of adult Bulgarians would rather get vaccine** against Covid-19, while 43% would not. 29% are those who do not know or have not yet decided whether they would be vaccinated.

The **lack of certainty that the vaccine is safe (22%) and concerns about side effects (12%) are among the main reasons** why Bulgarians do not want to get vaccine. Conflicting information about the vaccine or lack of information (9%) also appears as a reason not to be vaccinated.

Czechia

Half of Czechs will not stay at home despite the symptoms

IPSOS, 10/02/2021

https://www.idnes.cz/zpravy/domaci/koronavirus-covid-19-priznaky-nakaza-pruzkum.A210210_112004_domaci_remy

(...) **45 % of Czechs consider the epidemic to be a media bubble**, compared to 57% in August.

Only 18 % of respondents consider the disease to be a high risk. According to 40% of Czechs, the anti-epidemic measures restrict their personal freedom. (...) One third of people trust controversial doctors who are not experts, but publicly comment on the epidemic. These are most often younger and educated people living more in urban areas.

According to this survey, **76% of people do not trust the government**, 66 % do not believe in the Ministry of Health. By contrast, over 80% of people trust health professionals.

The results show a growing willingness of Czechs to be vaccinated. While 47% wanted the vaccine in August, it was only 38% in November, but 53% in January.

Interest in vaccinations is rising

STEM / MARK, fieldwork 16 – 19/01/2021

58 percent of people would be vaccinated against covid-19, mainly because of the fear for the health of their loved ones. About a quarter of respondents would not get the vaccine, mostly because they do not trust it.

One in six respondents would make vaccination compulsory. Three out of five research participants would be willing to contribute at least partially to the vaccination price. 18 percent of respondents would pay for the entire vaccine. Two-fifths of respondents demand that the vaccine be free.

Two-thirds of respondents also said they had encountered misinformation about vaccination.

Denmark

The Danes behavior and opinions about corona epidemic

19/02/2021

https://github.com/mariefly/HOPE/raw/master/Danskernes_Adf%C3%A6rd_Og_Holdning_Til_Corona-epidemien__20210219.pdf

Since the last survey, both the concern for the hospitals' ability to help the sick and the concern for society's opportunity to help the vulnerable fall again. The concern for the country economy is thus again the biggest concern.

Estonia

People less concerned about the COVID-19 situation

ERR, 31.01.2021

<https://news.err.ee/1608092983/people-less-concerned-about-the-covid-19-situation>

Concern for the coronavirus situation is slowly becoming less acute, while people are still observing prevention and safety precautions, a survey carried out by pollster Turu-uuringute AS reveals.

Insecurity peaked in mid-December when 75 percent of people found the situation critical. The figure dropped to 66 percent in the first half of January and lands on **57 percent in the recent survey** round, the Ministry of Social Affairs communicated.

At the same time, the number of people who feel that while the crisis is past its prime, one needs to stay vigilant and observe safety rules has grown from 9 percent in December to 27 percent now. The **situation is still found critical by 79 percent of people 75 or older** but only by 45 percent of those in the 25-49 age group.

39 percent of people questioned support tougher measures, while many are in favor of keeping current ones. Around 18 percent would like to see measures relaxed. 63 percent of people questioned are either satisfied or rather satisfied with how the situation has been handled, up 10 percent from December.

43 percent of residents said that the coronavirus situation has had a negative impact on income. There is no change since the start of January.

France

Les Français sont de plus en plus nombreux à vouloir être vaccinés contre le Covid

18/02/2021

<http://www.odoxa.fr/sondage/lintention-de-vaccination-progresse-bien-politique-vaccinale-gouvernement-ninspire-toujours-confiance-aux-francais/>

En deux mois, **l'intention de vaccination a progressé de près de moitié: les Français sont désormais 61% à consentir à la piqûre**, selon un sondage Odoxa-Backbone Consulting pour *Le Figaro* et *France Info*. **C'est 19 points de plus qu'en décembre 2020.**

Mais si la campagne de vaccination poursuit son cours, la confiance envers le gouvernement ne convainc pas. **Les trois quarts des Français estiment que la stratégie n'est ni «claire» (74%), ni «efficace» 72%).**

Les retards à l'allumage du mois de janvier, conjugués aux rebondissements de l'actualité du vaccin AstraZeneca ont laissé des traces: **68% des sondés jugent que l'action du gouvernement «n'inspire pas confiance», qu'elle n'est «pas cohérente» (71%), ni «menée à bon rythme» (79%).** Impossible, pour les trois quarts d'entre eux, qu'Emmanuel Macron tienne sa promesse de vacciner «tous les Français adultes qui le souhaitent d'ici la fin de l'été».

Le consentement à la vaccination reste toujours conditionné par l'âge, le sexe et le milieu social des sondés. **Les plus de 65 ans souhaitent davantage se faire vacciner (77%),** tous comme les hommes (68%) et les urbains (66%).

Les Français et l'épidémie de Covid-19

ELABE, 17/02/2021

https://elabe.fr/epidemie_covid-19_vague31/

La défiance sur la capacité de l'état à vacciner tous les adultes d'ici la fin de l'année reste élevée. 68% (stable en une semaine) des Français estiment que *l'Etat ne parviendra pas à tenir l'objectif de proposer le vaccin à tous les Français adultes d'ici la fin de l'été (22 septembre 2021)*, dont 49% (+1) *probablement pas* et 19% (-1) *certainement pas*. A l'inverse, 31% (=) pensent que cet objectif sera atteint, dont 26% (+1) *probablement* et 5% (-1) *certainement*.

Des Français maintenant partagés sur le « passeport vaccinal ». 52% (-6 en un mois) des Français sont opposés à la mise en place d'un « passeport vaccinal », dont 29% (-7) très opposés et 23% (+1) assez opposés. A l'inverse, 48% (+6) y sont favorables, dont 19% (+3) très favorables et 29% (+3) assez favorables.

Le baromètre des deux crises

IFOP, 17/02/2021

<https://www.ifop.com/publication/le-barometre-des-deux-crisis-vague-4/>

72% des Français se disent prêts à accepter un nouveau confinement dans les prochaines semaines si cette voie était finalement privilégiée par l'Exécutif. Ce résultat permet de relativiser l'ampleur du mouvement de contestation des restrictions sanitaires.

Si l'inquiétude vis-à-vis de la situation économique supplante l'inquiétude sanitaire (**55% des Français craignent plus les conséquences économiques de la crise, et 62%** jugent qu'il s'agit de

la plus grande menace pour la France), les Français ne sont tout de même pas prêts à relâcher complètement les précautions sanitaires pour accélérer un retour à la normale

Germany

Large majority for Corona measures

Tagesschau, 19/02/2021

<https://www.tagesschau.de/inland/deutschlandtrend/deutschlandtrend-2519.html>

Corona-Restrictions

- More than half of Germans (54%) consider the Corona restrictions to be appropriate (+3% compared to the last survey from beginning of February)
- 27 percent of respondents think the measures are too far-reaching (+5%)
- 16 percent think the measures do not go far enough (-8%)

Almost half of Germans put a lot of stress on the Corona requirements

Frankfurter Allgemeine, 22/02/2021

<https://www.faz.net/aktuell/gesellschaft/gesundheit/coronavirus/fast-die-haelfte-der-deutschen-belasten-die-corona-auflagen-17159028.html>

Burden due to corona measures

- 49% of Germans perceive the current rules to combat the Corona pandemic as a very strong or strong burden. In the week before Christmas, it was still 36 percent
- Younger people in particular have a hard time with the Corona measures
- Among those under 40, six out of ten (59%) speak of strong to very strong burden
- Among the over-65s, only 37% say this is the case

Acceptance of crisis management

- The acceptance of crisis management is declining
- While in mid-December 57% of those surveyed were still positive about crisis management, only 46% of Germans are now satisfied with it

More than a third would attend the vaccination appointment only if their preferred brand is available

Spiegel, 18/02/2021

www.spiegel.de/wissenschaft/medizin/corona-impfung-viele-wuerden-impftermin-absagen-wenn-das-bevorzugte-mittel-nicht-angeboten-wird-a-76b03086-18da-4c25-9258-bc80b03d668b

- 84% of respondents would choose the BionTech vaccine if they could decide for themselves (Moderna 5%, AstraZeneca 3%, Don't know/None of the above: 8%)
- Around 40% of respondents could imagine cancelling their appointment at the vaccination centre if their preferred brand was not available. After all, almost 50% would rather not or definitely not cancel their appointment

General willingness to get vaccinated

- with 74%, it is higher than ever before. Though, the representative SPIEGEL survey also found that almost 20% still refuse vaccination

The EU suffers massively because of vaccine procurement

Spiegel, 11/02/2021

www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/umfrage-ansehen-der-eu-leidet-massiv-wegen-impfstoffbeschaffung-a-06324c7a-b3be-4284-b226-3382756eb394

- For a total of around two-thirds of German respondents, the image of the European Union has suffered because of vaccine procurement
- 22% answered that it had "rather worsened"
- Almost twice as many (42%) stated that it had "definitely worsened"
- Criticism of the EU comes from all political parties

Majority against lifting restrictions for vaccinated citizens

Tagesschau, 4/02/2021

<https://www.tagesschau.de/inland/deutschlandtrend/deutschlandtrend-2503.html>

- 68% of respondents oppose lifting Corona restrictions for vaccinated citizens (-5% compared to January 2021)
- 28% (+5) are in favour

Greece

Surveys on voters attitudes towards Covid / vaccination

Alco poll, 15/18 Feb 2021 for Open TV / ethnos.gr newsportal

<https://www.newsit.gr/ellada/dimoskopisi-Alco-pou-zitoun-allagi-nomothesias-oi-polites-i-diaxeirisi-tis-mideias-kai-i-diafora-nd-kai-syriza/3225671/>

48% (+12 pp compared to January 2021) are satisfied with the government's plan regarding the national vaccination and its handling so far, compared to 41% (-3 pp) who are not. In general, more Greeks are not satisfied with the measures taken by the government to fight the pandemic: **50% not satisfied against 44% who are satisfied.**

Interview poll, 15/17 Feb for VerginaTV

<https://www.newsbeast.gr/politiki/arthro/7118715/dimoskopisi-vergina-tv-i-diafora-nd-me-syriza-posoi-echoun-paraviasei-ta-metra-tou-koronoiou>
<https://www.voria.gr/article/dimoskopisi-7-stous-10-ellines-tha-emvoliasoun---ti-fovounte-i-arnites>

72% of Greek respondents plan to certainly or probably get vaccinated when their age-group's turn arrives. 15% say they would probably or certainly not get the vaccine. Among the latter, the main reason for not taking the vaccine is a distrust of these types of vaccines (77%), followed by the conviction that there are no risks for their age-group (11%) and other reasons (7%). 3% say they are anti-vaxxers and 2% believe the coronavirus doesn't exist.

Hungary

National Statistics Service' monitor

KSH, 18/02/2021

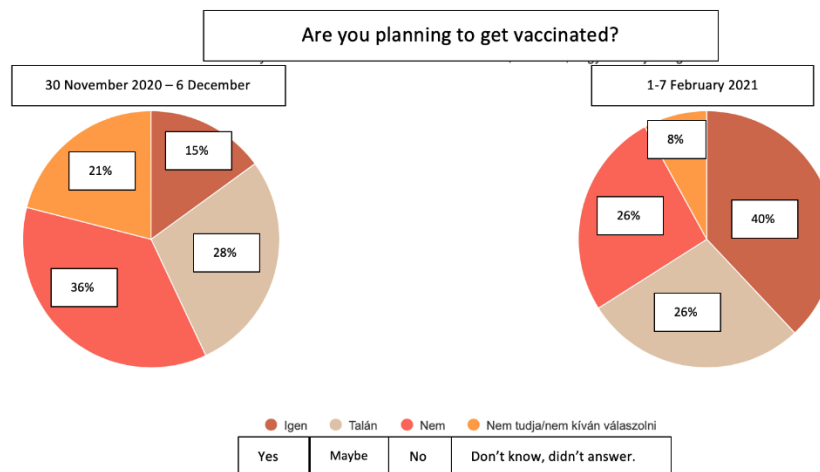
<https://www.ksh.hu/heti-monitor/index.html>

In December only 15% reported to surely get vaccinated, this rose to 40% in February. However, **26% are unsure whether they want to get vaccinated or not.**

The following variables influence Hungarians' opinions on the vaccines:

83% is influenced by the death and infections rates, 80% influenced by the government's communication channels, 79% influenced by news in media, 67% influenced by news on social media. 50% reported not to be influenced by websites and groups that are spreading anti-vaccination conspiracy theories.

The elderly (63%) and those with higher education degrees (57%) are the most supportive of the vaccines.

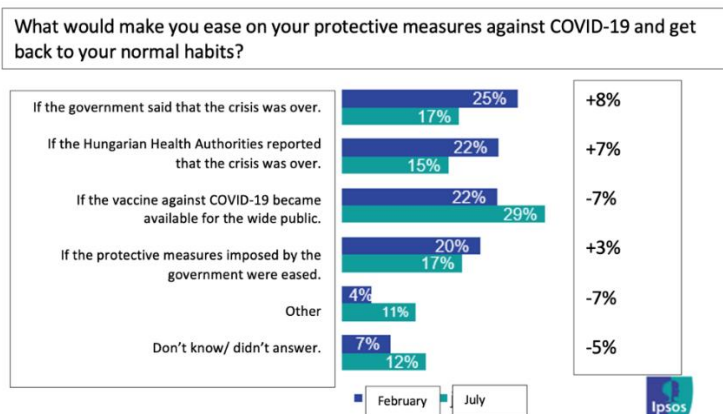
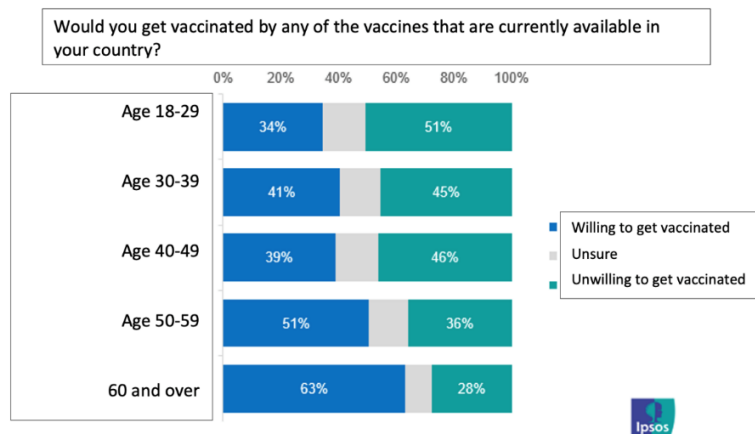


Hungarians socialise more often than before.

IPSOS, 16/02/2021:

<https://www.ipsos.com/hu-hu/gyakrabban-jarunk-kozossegebe>

22% of the respondents believe that the pandemic will end once vaccines become widely available. 47% is willing to get vaccinated. 63% of the elderly is willing to get vaccinated, while only 34% of young people (between age 18-30) is willing to do so.



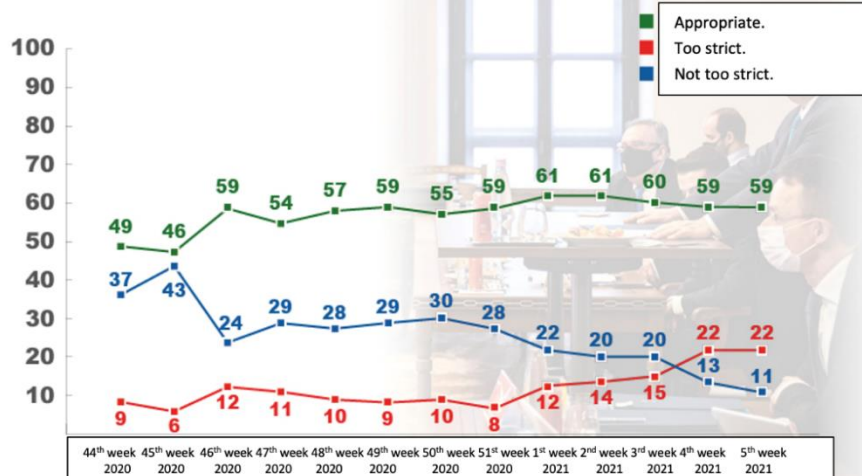
Hungarians do not support the re-opening of restaurants and other public places

Nézőpont, 10/02/2021:

<https://nezopont.hu/meg-nem-akarnak-nyitast-a-magyarok/>

70% of Hungarians do not support the possible re-opening of restaurants and other public places. 11% among them are expecting further restrictive and protective measures against COVID-19, while 59% are happy with the current restrictions in place. This is a significant decrease in comparison with last fall, when 40% of Hungarians demanded further protective measures and restrictions from the government.

In your opinion, the Hungarian Government's current COVID-19-related actions are....?



This recent study was conducted by asking 1000 people via phone between the 2nd and 3rd of February 2021. The sample is representative of the adult Hungarian population based on age, sex, region, type of residence and education. Margin of error is 3.1%.

The majority of Hungarians judge politicians who do not respect the order of the vaccination programme

Századvég, 01/02/2021

<https://szazadvég.hu/hu/kutatasok/az-alapitvány-kutatasai/piackutatás-kozelemeney-kutatas/a-magyarok-tobbsege-eliteli-az-oltasi-rendet-megszego-politikusokat>

- 80% agrees that everyone should respect the vaccination programme. 16% disagrees.
- 84% of Fidesz-voters, and 77% of opposition voters believe that everyone should respect the order of the vaccination programme.

Our habits change, our attitude doesn't – environmental awareness during the pandemic

WWF Hungary, 01/02/2021

<https://tudatosvasarlo.hu/szokasaink-valtoztak-a-hozzaallasunk-nem-a-magyarok-kornyezettudatossaga-a-virushelyzetben/?fbclid=IwAR3pGNca6URnYaYKUgEPBEu8cUlvAtXYQgsjlDh7IR4TpmWdeXCFwZ5AUxY>

WWF Hungary studied the habits and opinions of Hungarians towards the environment during the pandemic:

- 4% of the respondents rejected climate change altogether. 2/3 is willing to actively do something for the environment.
- During the second wave of the pandemic, 14% reported to entirely change their habits and become more environmentally friendly. 52% changed some habits but kept their diet unchanged. And 34% did not change anything in their lifestyle.
- 26% of the respondents use environment-friendly detergents. 27% of the respondents have a meat-free day on a regular basis.

Italy

Vaccination campaign

EMG, 17/02/2021

Q: How do you judge the vaccination campaign in your country?

- Positively: 39
- Negatively: 49
- I prefer not to answer: 12

COVID-19 variants

EMG, 16/02/2021

Are you worried about the COVID-19 variants?

- Yes: 80%
- No: 19%
- I do not know: 1%

Pandemic in Italy

IPSOS, 15/02/2021

Q: Concerning the pandemic, in your opinion in Italy

- The current restrictions should be kept: 47%
- A new general lock-down should be planned soon: 22%
- I do not know: 13%

Reopening

Termometro Politico, 9-11/02/2021

Q: Would you be in favour of the reopening of gyms, bars and restaurants also in the evenings in regions which are in the yellow zone?

- Yes, I would be in favour of a reopening: 55,3%
- Yes, but only for bars and restaurants: 8,6%
- Yes, but only for gyms: 3,1%
- No, I think it is still too risky: 29,8%
- I do not know: 3,2%

Economic situation and Recovery Plan

WinPoll, 10-11/02/2021

Q: Do you know the Italian recovery Plan funded with 209 billion of European funds?

- I know it quite well and I think it is ok: 21%
- I know it quite well and I think it is too weak on the side of reforms: 13%
- I do not have a clear idea of it: 66%

Q: In 2021 the economic situation of your family will...

- Improve: 13
- Will not change: 64
- Will get worse: 23

Q: In 2021 the economic situation of your country will...

- Improve: 35
- Will not change: 27
- Will get worse: 38

Herd Immunity and Vaccination campaign

EMG, 9/02/2021

Q: In your opinion, by the end of autumn will we reach the herd immunity (42 million vaccinated people)?

- Yes: 30
- No: 58
- I prefer not to answer: 12

Q: How do you judge the vaccination campaign in your country?

- Positively: 43
- Negatively: 40
- I prefer not to answer: 17

Latvia

Citizens' opinion on the health crisis management and their perceptions of the pandemic development

http://petijumi.mk.gov.lv/sites/default/files/title_file/Janv_skds_Covid_01_2021.pdf

Latvian public opinion company SKDS conducted in mid January a survey about various Covid-19 related topics, including citizens' opinion on the health crisis management and their perceptions of the pandemic development.

On the statement **"The government doesn't know what to do to minimise Covid-19 expansion"**, 42% have answered with 5 (fully agree), 19% with 4, 16% with 3, 11% with 2 and 5 % with 1 (do not agree); 7% didn't know.

On the statement **"I believe, that the government does everything to decrease society problems"**, 31% answered with 1 (do not agree), 17% with 2, 22% with 3, 16% with 4 and 8% with 5 (fully agree); 6% didn't know.

Priorities for 2021

<https://skaties.lv/zinas/latvija/sabiedriba/aptauja-iedzivotaji-par-galveno-prioritati-nosauc-veselibas-nozari/>

Kantar TNS has asked Latvian citizens which domains the **government should focus on in 2021: 62% answered that it should be health care**, 44% - economics, 38% - welfare, 32% - education and science.

Lithuania

How many Lithuanians would agree to be vaccinated

Spinter Research, fieldwork: 25 January – 7 February 2021.

<https://www.delfi.lt/sveikata/sveikatos-nauijenos/tyrimas-parode-kiek-lietuvos-gyventoju-sutiktu-skiepytis-nuo-koronaviruso.d?id=86515225>

A majority would get the vaccine. The survey revealed that **41% of Lithuanians** say they **will definitely get the vaccine against COVID-19, while another 23% will probably get it**. The majority of those who will definitely get it are men and those with higher education. Middle age respondents are more likely to say that they most probably will get vaccinated.

20% of the respondents are either **definitely not getting the vaccine or probably not**. Most of them are those with lower education or living in the smaller towns. Women are more likely to say they will definitely not get vaccinated. The remaining **16%** – mostly youth – **are still undecided**.

Making the vaccine decision: common fears. Respondents who decided not to get vaccinated indicate that they **do not want to be “guinea-pigs” (26%), do not trust the vaccine (18%) and are worried about possible side effects (16%)**.

Meanwhile the decision to get the vaccine is mostly driven by the **fear of getting coronavirus and infecting others (17%), the belief that it is the only effective way to fight the pandemic (15%), the absence of doubt in its effectiveness and trusting science (14%)**.

The common concerns of the undecided respondents are the fear of the side effects and the short testing period. 13% of them also indicate that before getting the vaccine they would like to receive more feedback and opinions.

Public attitude on COVID-19 vaccine. The survey showed that **60%** of the respondents agree that the **vaccine is likely to be good, however short clinical trial duration raises concerns**. Slightly less – **59%** agree with the statement that “the vaccine against COVID-19 is the **only way to return to life without the restrictions and quarantine**”. 44% agree with the statement that “not enough time has passed since the vaccine was developed for it to be used”. The same part of the respondents believe the promotion of the COVID-19 vaccine only benefits big pharmaceutical companies.

Information about the vaccine. According to the survey results, **respondents who want to get the vaccine are more likely to trust the official information**, while **vaccine scepticism is more common among those who trust the information found on social networks**. Public comments of the experts (62%) and doctors (47%) have the greatest impact on a person's attitude towards the vaccine. For 1 out of 3 respondents (mostly male), the most important is personal knowledge and delving into the information about the vaccine. **The statements of politicians have the lowest impact on the attitude towards the vaccine** (only 8% admitted it).

Who is ready to get vaccinated

Delfi, fieldwork: 15-25 January 2021

<https://www.delfi.lt/news/daily/lithuania/delfi-skaitytoju-apklausa-puikus-visuomenes-veidrodis-kas-is-tiesu-jau-pasiryzes-vakcinuotis.d?id=86348593>

The majority intend to get vaccinated. 78% of the portal visitors are determined to get the coronavirus vaccine: 52% claim they will definitely get it, and 26% – most likely. The remaining 22% say that they most likely will not (12%) or definitely will not (10%) get the vaccine against coronavirus.

Vaccination and age. The survey revealed that determination to get vaccinated increases with the age. 89% of the respondents older than 66 years indicated that they plan to get vaccinated against coronavirus. The lowest number is in the 16-25 age group – 32% would get the vaccine and 23% are not planning to get it.

Safety of the vaccine. 39% of the respondents believe that the COVID-19 vaccine is as safe as other vaccines. 32% claim to believe that the vaccine against coronavirus is less safe than vaccines against other diseases. The rest of the respondents did not have an opinion on this matter.

Education and income determinates attitude towards the vaccine. There is no major difference between residents of the big cities and the regions or between genders when it comes to willingness to get the vaccine. However, respondents with higher education are almost 3 times more likely to get vaccinated (58%) compared to those who have no education at all (19%). The income factor also has an impact – those whose income is the lowest (less than 200€) are least likely to say they will get the coronavirus vaccine (35%). The highest probability is among those whose monthly income is 1001-1200€.

Netherlands

Health crisis management

I&O Research, <https://coronadashboard.government.nl/landelijk/gedrag>

A survey by I&O Research shows that **calls for easing the current lockdown are increasing**, as many people are struggling mentally. The **number of respondents who want to ease the measures has doubled** within a month, from 21 percent in January to 45 percent in February. Meanwhile, the number of respondents that calls for even stricter measures has decreased from 29 percent to 9 percent. At this point, **68 percent of citizens still supports the measures**. The recently installed curfew is one of the most controversial measures, but the survey shows that 81 percent of respondents believe this measure is acceptable. On the other hand, only 40 percent of respondents agree with the measure to allow only one visitor in your home a day.

Meanwhile, the survey shows that the number of **people willing to get a vaccine continues to increase**. The **number of respondents who certainly want to be vaccinated has increased from 29 percent in November to 66 percent in February**, while another 17 percent will 'most likely' get a vaccine. Despite the increasing acceptance rate for vaccines, only 15 percent of respondents are positive about the vaccine strategies of the government.

(...) Surveys of both I&O Research and RIVM show that the limited number of visitors is the measure causing most frustration. This finding is confirmed by a survey of EenVandaag. This survey concludes that **63 percent of respondents support the curfew**, while only 53 percent of respondents agrees with the limited number of visitors. It is worth noting that **25 percent of respondents indicate that the current lockdown harms their mental wellbeing**. In a different survey, EenVandaag shows that 60 percent of respondents still support the curfew - although this number is only 45 percent among youth.

Poland

Majority of Poles oppose tighter COVID-19 restrictions

United Surveys, 23/02/2021

One-third of Poles (33.2 percent) want their country's COVID-19 pandemic-related restrictions eased, 33.7 percent would like to see them left unchanged, and only 21 percent would prefer stricter restrictive measures, a recent poll has shown.

Another 12.1 percent had no opinion on the matter, according to the poll carried out on Feb. 19 by United Surveys.

Asked to specify the restrictions that should be introduced first if the government decided to tighten them, the relative majority, or 45.9 percent, of respondents said an order to wear masks instead of other face coverings, such as helmets, scarves or headscarves, followed by measures including closures of shopping malls, cultural institutions, sports facilities, and the suspension of full-time education in lower grades.

Portugal

Lack of vaccines extends first phase

Público, 09/02/2021

<https://www.publico.pt/2021/02/09/sociedade/noticia/henrique-barros-pressupomos-70-populacao-portuguesa-estara-vacinada-ate-final-setembro-1949903>

Compared to November, **more Portuguese want to be vaccinated as soon as possible (from 20% to 75%); and those who do not trust (or only trust a little bit) on the efficiency of the vaccine has decreased** (55% in November to 12%).

More than three quarters of Portuguese people want to get vaccine

TSF, 04/02/2021

<https://www.tsf.pt/portugal/sociedade/mais-de-tres-quartos-dos-portugueses-quer-tomar-vacina-13314794.html>

A study conducted for Portugal, Spain, Italy and Belgium shows that **77% of Portuguese have intentions to be vaccinated – 55% of these want it as soon as possible**. On another hand, 14% is still uncertain and a small percentage of 9% does not share the same intentions. What leads to this behavior is the fear regarding side effects (67%); distrust of the manufacturing process (45%); and doubts on its efficiency (37%).

On another note, **50% of the Portuguese citizens agrees that the resources for the vaccination program are adequate and 55% agrees that the Government is organizing its distribution in an efficient way**. On respect to the national plan, 72% agrees that priority groups should be the first to get vaccinated.

Regarding the **transparency on information** provided by the Portuguese authorities:

- 43% classifies this information as complete
- 38% believes the Government has been transparent on the purchasing process;
- 34% thinks the same about the pharmaceutical industry

- 36% of the inquired considers themselves to be well informed, against 28% who admit to not be well informed or not informed at all

Although there is a clear **majority available to be immunized**:

- Half of the inquired considers that the development of the vaccine was “too fast” to be safe; but 63% notes that if there was any concern about its safety, the vaccines would never be approved by the European Medicines Agency
- 68% points out that, in any problem occurs as a consequence of the vaccination, the pharmaceutical industry should be held responsible

About the **future**:

- 85% of the Portuguese does not believe in a financial recovery before next year
- 79% thinks the distribution of vaccines will not end the general use of facemasks before 2022
- However, 72% believes the vaccination will help in bringing back the normality and 75% also states it will contribute on lifting hospital pressure.

What is the greatest **virtue of vaccination**?

- Reduce mortality (46%)
- Reduce symptom severity (41%)
- Reduce contagion (37%)

COVID-19 and its repercussions on society:

- 37% has had a family member or a friend infected
- 31% admits the virus has affected their mental state
- 26% has had serious impact in their finances

Romania

Vaccination campaign in the European Union

INSCOP

<http://www.adplayers.ro/articol/Conturi-5/Sondaj-pe-campania-de-vaccinare-56-6-dintre-participanti-a-fost-pregatita-foarte-bine-sau-bine-39-3-a-fost-pregatita-prost-sau-foarte-prost-6781.html>

92.6% of Romanians have heard of the population vaccination campaign against COVID-19 started by European Union countries, including Romania, at the end of December. 7.2% have not heard of this campaign, and 0.3% do not know or answer. **73.2% of survey participants have a good opinion of the European Union's decision to negotiate and purchase anti-COVID vaccines** for vaccination of the population in all EU Member States. 22.5% have a bad opinion about this EU decision. The share of non-responses is 4.3%.

Also, 56.6% of survey participants believe that so far the **national vaccination campaign** against Covid-19 has been **prepared very well** or well, 39.3% that it has been poorly or very poorly prepared.

Over 55% of Romanians want to be vaccinated against COVID

INSCOP

<https://www.g4media.ro/sondaj-inscop-pest-55-dintre-respondenti-vor-sa-se-vaccineze-in-acest-an.html>

55.2% of respondents want to be vaccinated this year (with a very high share among the elderly population). Another 39.4% say they do not intend to do so, and 5.4% do not know or do not answer. Of those who do not intend to be vaccinated, 49% say their decision is a final one, while the same share, 49%, say they could change their minds.

According to the same study, 68.3% of Romanians believe that the coronavirus pandemic is real and dangerous for health, 17.2% that it is real but not dangerous for health, and 10.4% that it is a lie.

Fake news and coronavirus

INSCOP

<https://www.bursa.ro/sondaj-stirile-false-si-slaba-informare-a-publicului-principalele-cauze-ale-scepticismului-privind-vaccinarea-28980241>

34.8% of Romanians consider that the false news and information that appear in the press are the main cause of the skeptical opinion regarding vaccination, 32.6% blame poor information of the public from official sources, 11.5% - poor quality of vaccines and medicines on the Romanian market, 9.1% - the media coverage of people with opinions hostile to vaccination, 5.5% - the influence of people in the group of friends, and 6.4% do not know.

The majority of respondents (66.9%) believe that the new coronavirus was artificially created in the laboratory, 23.9% that it appeared naturally and 9.2% do not know or did not answer. The research also reveals that 57.8% of respondents disagree with the statement that the coronavirus was intentionally produced and spread to prepare the inoculation of the population with chips by vaccination, 35.7% agree with it, and 6.4% I don't know or they didn't answer.

Almost half of Romanians consider that the information on the COVID vaccine and the national vaccination campaign provided by the authorities is insufficient

INSCOP

<https://psnews.ro/sondaj-cifre-ingrijitoare-pentru-autoritati-ce-spun-romanii-despre-informatiile-legate-de-vaccinul-anti-covid-492798/>

49.5% of Romanians believe that the information related to the anti-COVID vaccine and the national vaccination campaign offered by the authorities is insufficient, 32.6% of the respondents consider that it is useful and sufficient, and 15.1% claim that it is useless.

Almost half of Romanians did not pay some bills last year

<https://www.wall-street.ro/articol/Economie/268166/studiu-aproape-jumatate-dintre-romani-nu-si-au-platit-unele-facturi-anul-trecut.html#gref>

More than half of Romanians say that their bills are higher than their income. Two out of five Romanians admit that last year they did not have the money to pay them or that they simply forgot to do so, according to a recently published study.

For **41% of respondents the income decreased** at some point during the year, while for 34% the income did not change. Only 4% of the interviewed sample managed to increase their income.

Slovenia

84 percent of doctors would be vaccinated

Siolnet, 01.02.2021

<https://siol.net/novice/slovenija/verjetno-ali-zagotovo-bi-se-cepilo-84-odstotkov-zdravnikov-544839>

The greatest interest in vaccination was expressed by doctors, 84 percent, answering that they would probably or definitely get vaccinated. They are followed by medical students (82 percent) and students majoring in health care (61 percent).

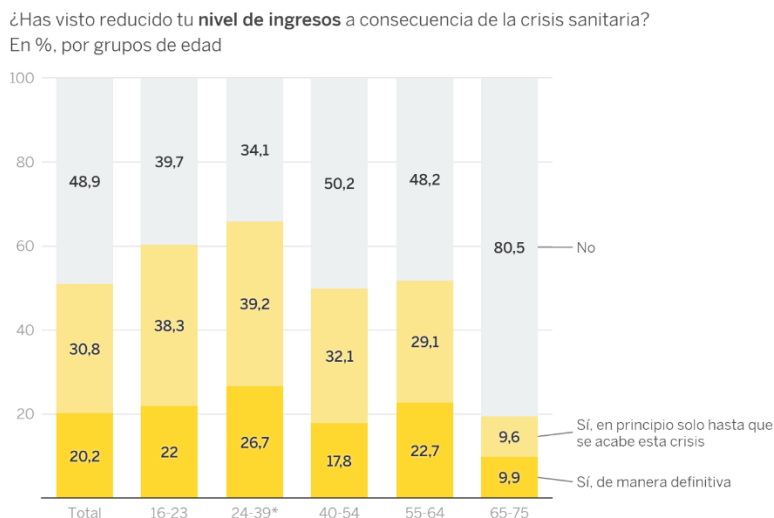
Spain

The millennial generation, the one that loses the most income with the pandemic

40 Db, 22.02.2021

<https://elpais.com/educacion/2021-02-21/los-mileniales-los-que-mas-ingresos-pierden-con-la-pandemia.html>

The millennial generation, the one that loses the most income with the pandemic. 66% of those between 24 and 39 years old claim to receive less salary due to the covid crisis and 49% have seen their working hours reduced, according to a 40dB survey.



Eight out of 10 Spaniards are willing to get vaccinated immediately, twice as much as before starting the campaign

CIS, 18.02.2021

<https://elpais.com/sociedad/2021-02-18/ocho-de-cada-10-espanoles-estan-dispuestos-a-vacunarse-de-inmediato-el-doble-que-antes-de-empezar-la-campana.html>

83% of Spaniards would vaccinate immediately (10.4 points more than last month and more than double than the 40.5% that affirmed this in December).

65% think that harsher social distance measures and restrictions should be put in place due to the spread of the virus.

One in four Spaniards admit that the pandemic is affecting him gravely regarding their personal life (39% say that the affection is important, as well).

The number of people willing to be vaccinated increases from 39 to 72%

Carlos III, 12.02.2021

https://www.anten3.com/noticias/sociedad/aumenta-39-72-personas-dispuestas-vacunarse-segun-encuesta-instituto-carlos-iii_202102126026827aec8b8d0001a89b52.html

72% of Spaniards would vaccinate immediately. Many worry about the pandemic (67%).

Vaccination

Organisation of Consumers and Users, 03/02/2021

<https://www.ocu.org/salud/medicamentos/noticias/encuesta-vacuna-covid>

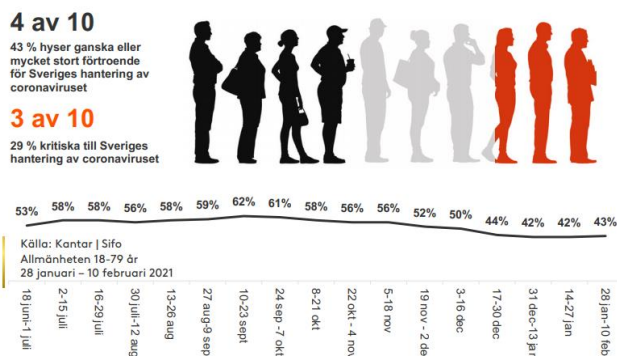
Apart from confirming a similar figure of Spaniards that want vaccination (80%), it also says that at least 43% of Spanish people has had friends or family affected by COVID-19, and that **one in three people thinks that their mental health has been affected.**

Sweden

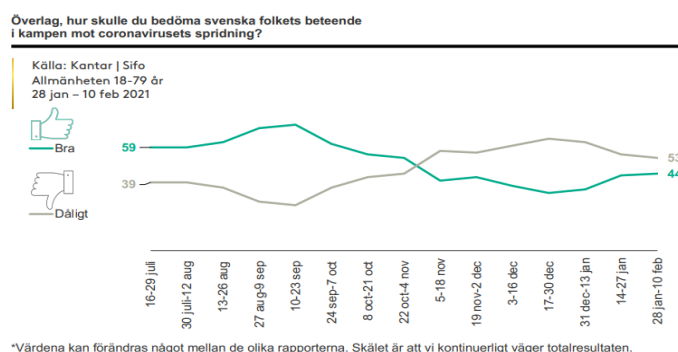
Citizens' faith in Sweden's way of handling the pandemic has decreased

[Kantar/Sifo](#)

Citizens' **faith in Sweden's way of handling the pandemic has decreased** since the start of the second wave, although there has been no notable changes in the past few weeks. 43 % now claim they have "quite a lot" or "a lot" of trust in the strategy.



A majority of the respondents still believe Swedish citizens do not do enough on a personal level to reduce the spread of the virus. 53 % claim that citizens' behaviour is "pretty bad" or "very bad" when it comes to reducing the risk of spreading the virus; however, that number has reduced since Christmas.



45 % claim the restrictions show equal respect between public health and the economy. 27 % believe the restrictions should consider public health more than as of today, while 10 % believe the economy is outweighed by the prioritization on public health. 18 % are uncertain. These numbers have changed since September.

Financial side effects of the pandemic on a personal level:

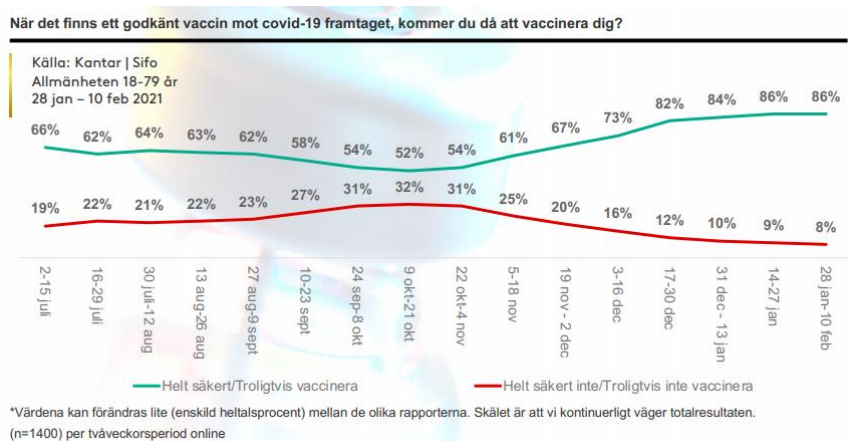
[Kantar/Sifo](#)

7 in 10 people claim their private economy is “about the same”, 2 in 10 claim it is “better” and 1 in 10 claim their economy is now “worse”.

Vaccine

[Kantar/Sifo](#)

The public yet consider the vaccines against covid-19 to be trustworthy. **86 % claim they will take the vaccine**, while 8 % will not. 6 % are indecisive.



Less people seem to feel worried about possible side effects from taking the vaccine. 62 % claim they are not worried about side effects, while 33 % are. 5 % are uncertain.

The pandemic's impact on public health:

[Kantar/Sifo](#)

66 % claim they are worried that the pandemic will “lead to a major mental illness among the public”. 31 % are not worried. Young women aged 18-29 stand out; 8 in 10 claim they feel worried about the mental illness among the public.

