

Public Sentiment Study on COVID-19 Australia vs 15 Countries



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FREE INSIGHTS

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In conjunction with our IRIS partners



- This report, compiled by instinct and reason, uses data from the findings of fifteen studies conducted in various countries worldwide.
- The aim of the report is to give a synopsis of key differences between an Australian perspective of the impact of COVID-19 and those of other countries.
- The fieldwork for all studies was undertaken between the 27th March and 15th April 2020.
- All surveys were nationally representative and conducted with adults aged 18+. All fieldwork was undertaken online and managed locally, by our long-term trusted partner agencies.
- We outline the participating countries, and their dates of first infection - of which data was sourced from Worldometer.

Note, that the questions each country chose to cover was optional, therefore slides *typically compare 11 countries*.

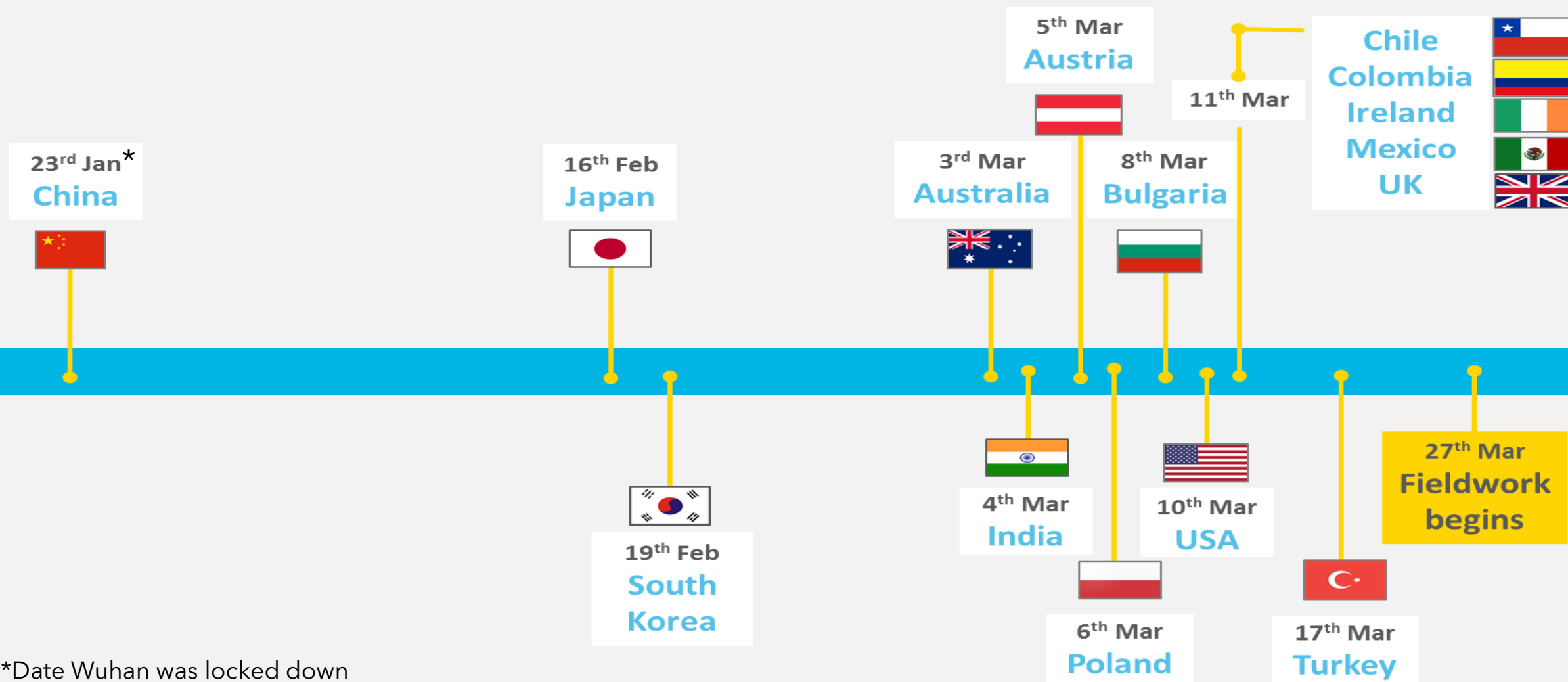
Participating Countries

Austria			Colombia			Poland		
Australia			India			South Korea		
Bulgaria			Ireland			Turkey		
Chile			Japan			United Kingdom		
China			Mexico			United States		

The International Research Institutes (iris) network is present in 34 countries, and works together regularly on syndicated projects, as well as developing joint projects on areas of common interest. At the time of fieldwork some agencies had already initiated their own COVID-related studies; the balance decided that they wanted to participate on this multi country study. Note, that the questions each country chose to cover was optional so some slides *typically compare 11 countries*.

Dates of first infection in participating countries

Source: Worldometer



*Date Wuhan was locked down

The report examines four key themes on which views and concerns differ in Australia

- 1 Confidence in Government
- 2 Confidence in Economy
- 3 Impact & Fears for the Future
- 4 Attitudes & Understanding



Highlights

Confidence in Government

We appear to be among the most confident about our Government's actions and general response to the crisis.

Concerns for the Economy

Conversely, we have one of the most pessimistic perspectives of our economy: half of us fear recession.

Impacts & Fears for the Future

There is no doubt that our country has been hit hard by job losses, but the same is true in other countries. We are not alone.

Understanding & Attitudes

Less than half of us have a clear understanding of what the symptoms of COVID-19 are.



Highlights (2)

Feel socially isolated

We appear to be among the most socially isolated at present - 27% feel this way.

We were struggling before Covid

We appear to have one of the largest struggling populations - 36% felt this way before the pandemic.

We're not keeping fit

Only 67% of Australians are maintaining their mental/physical health during the crisis - low compared to others.

Working from home

25% of Australians are now working from home due to COVID-19.



Highlights (3)

More concerned than other countries

About the speed at which the virus is spreading; recession/global downturn, paying bills, living in isolation and being happy.

Less concerned than other countries

About our own, parents', spouses', and children's health.

Most interested in digital exercise

Australians are the most interested in exercise online; and one of the most interested in social dinners online.

Less interested in digital health

58% of Australians are interested in Digital health - one of the lowest levels and only one-third of Australians are interested in mental health well-being - also one of the lowest countries sampled.



Highlights (4)

Australians are doing more

Avoiding social activities, public transport, switched to online shopping and have bought significantly more non-grocery supplies than usual in anticipation of shortages or a quarantine.

Australians are doing different

Washing of hands, wearing a mask when going out, or other physical protection and wearing gloves when going out are all common.

We are more concerned than the average

There are high levels of concern evident in most countries **about the pandemic**, particularly so in Japan. As many as 4 in 10 Australians are very concerned – above the average.

Our concern is about catching it

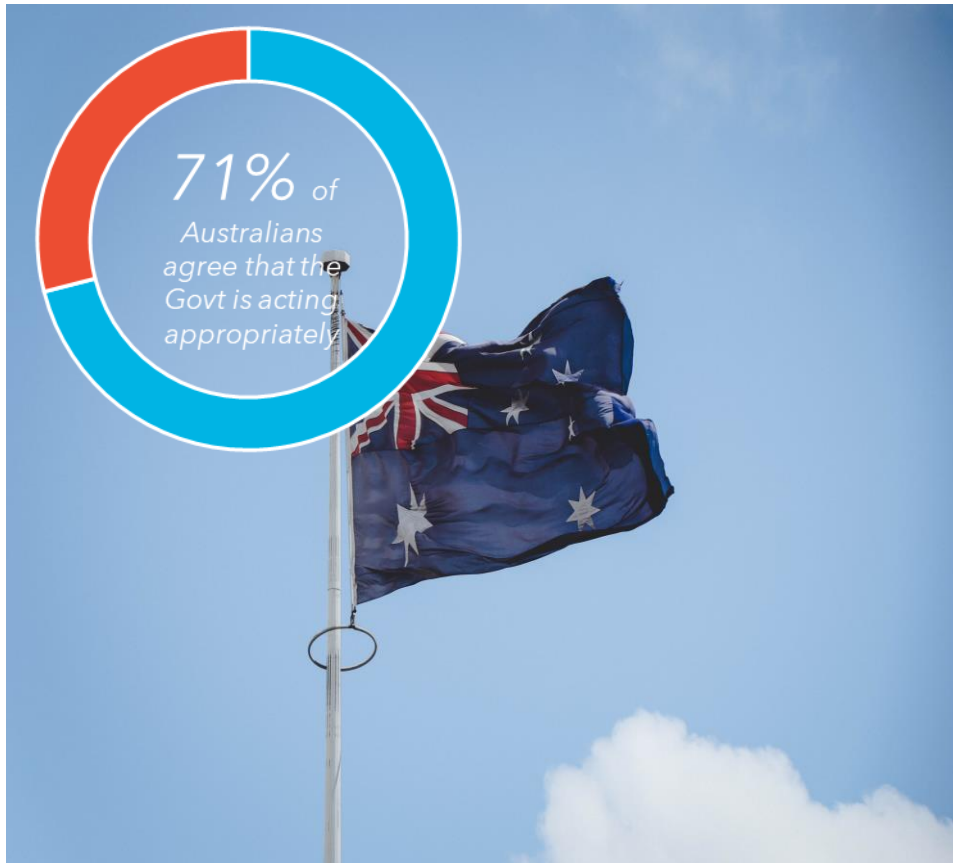
Those in India, Australia and the UK are the most likely to suggest they are extremely concerned about contracting the virus.



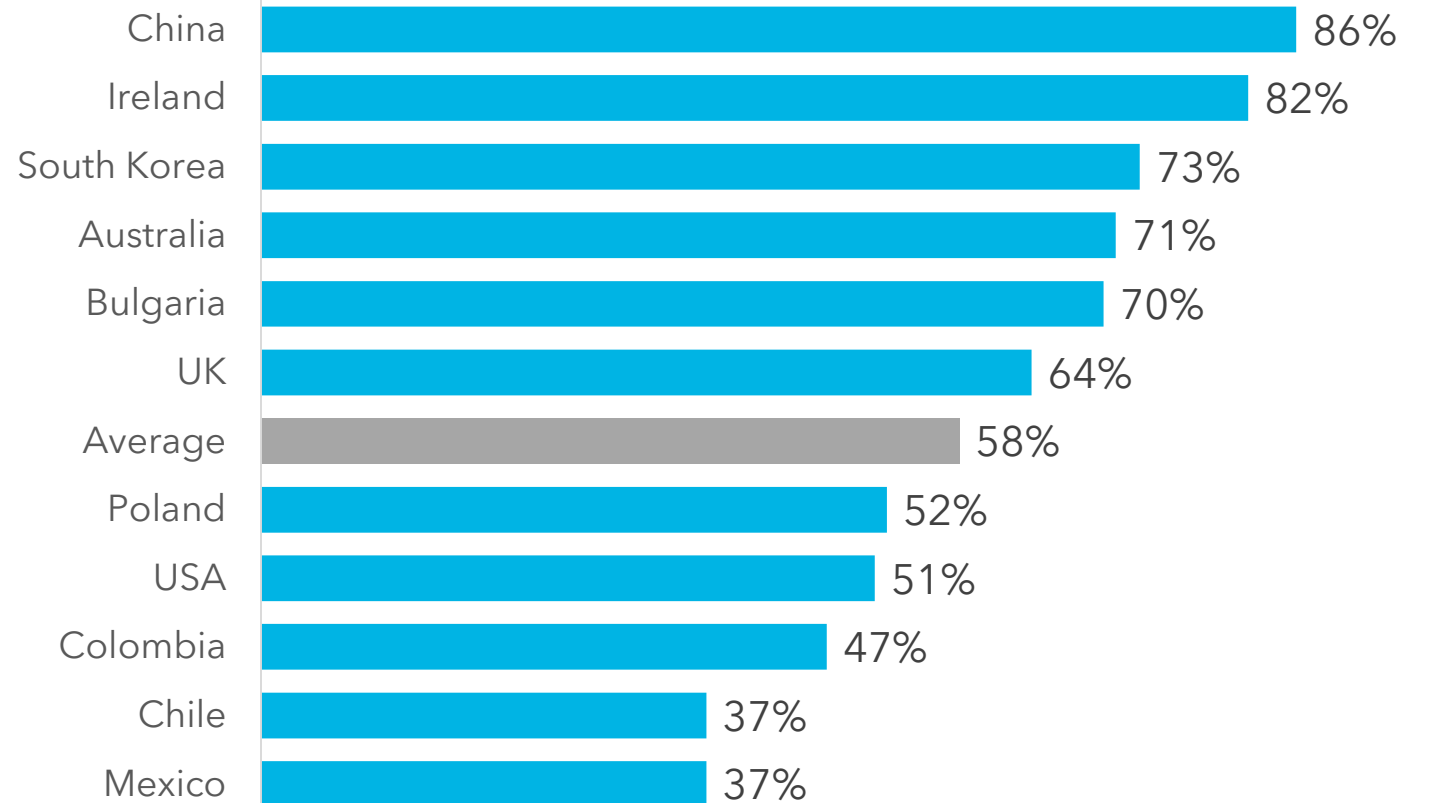
1. Confidence in Government

We appear to be among the most confident about our Government's actions and general response to the crisis

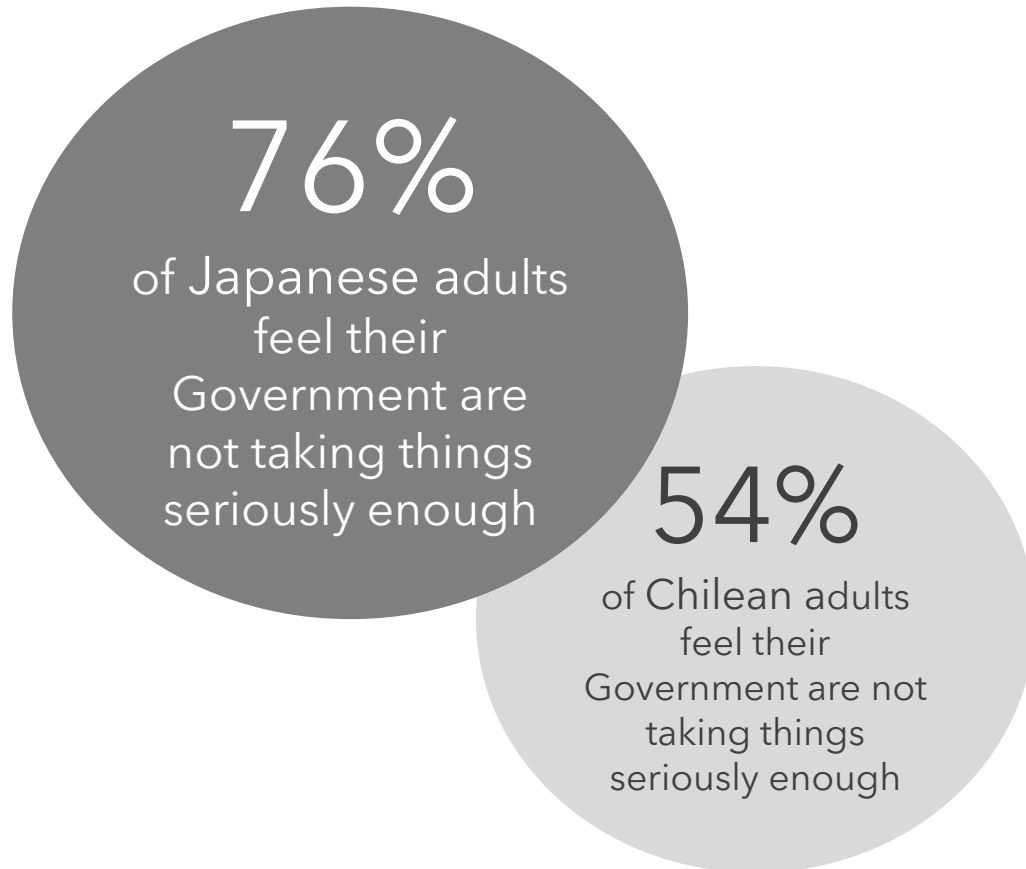
71% of Australians think the Government is acting appropriately, which is above global average



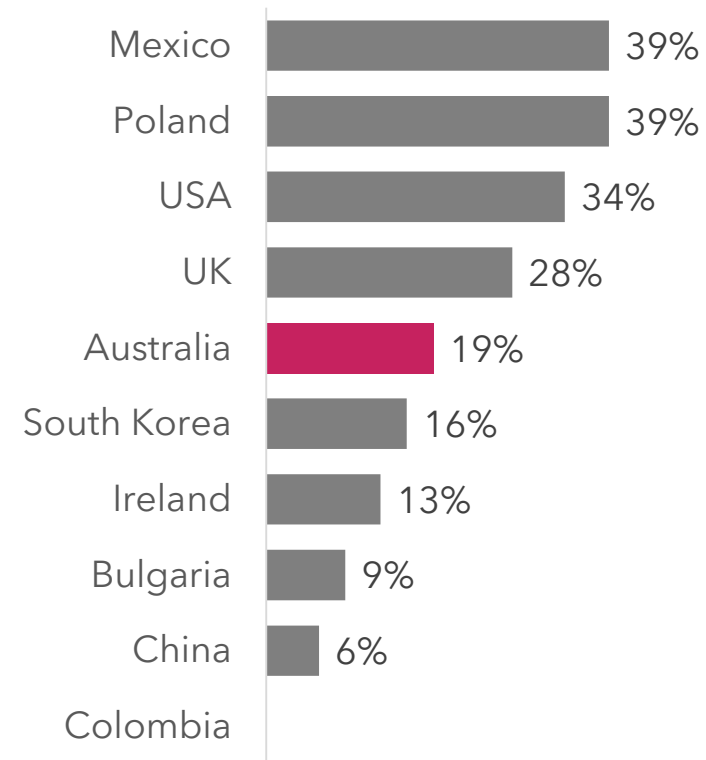
% Feel Government Acting Appropriately



Meanwhile, those in Japan and Chile are the more inclined to feel their Governments are not taking things seriously enough



% Feel Government not taking things seriously enough



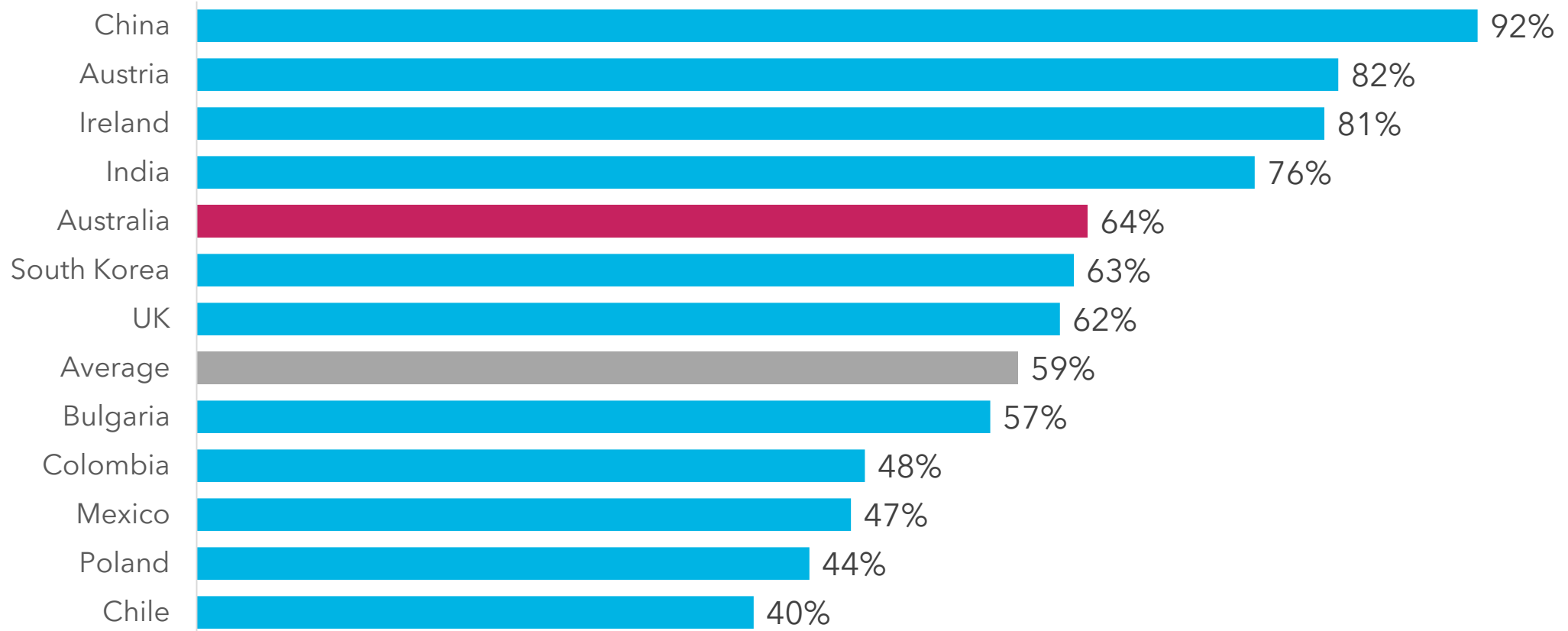
31%
on
average



Q. And do you feel that the authorities/Government in our country are acting appropriately at present, are they treating the current situation too seriously, or are they not taking things seriously enough?

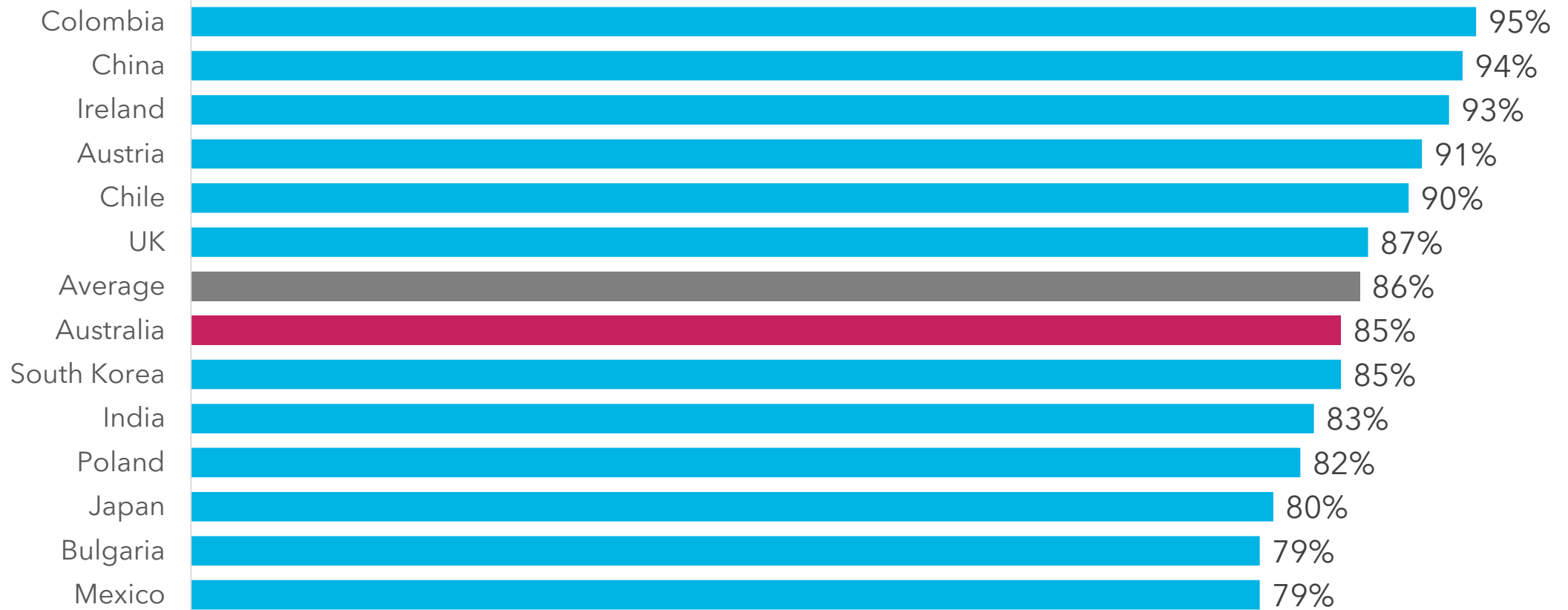
64% of Australians feel their Government is doing a good job in the face of COVID-19 which is slightly above global average

% agree their Government is doing a good job combatting COVID-19

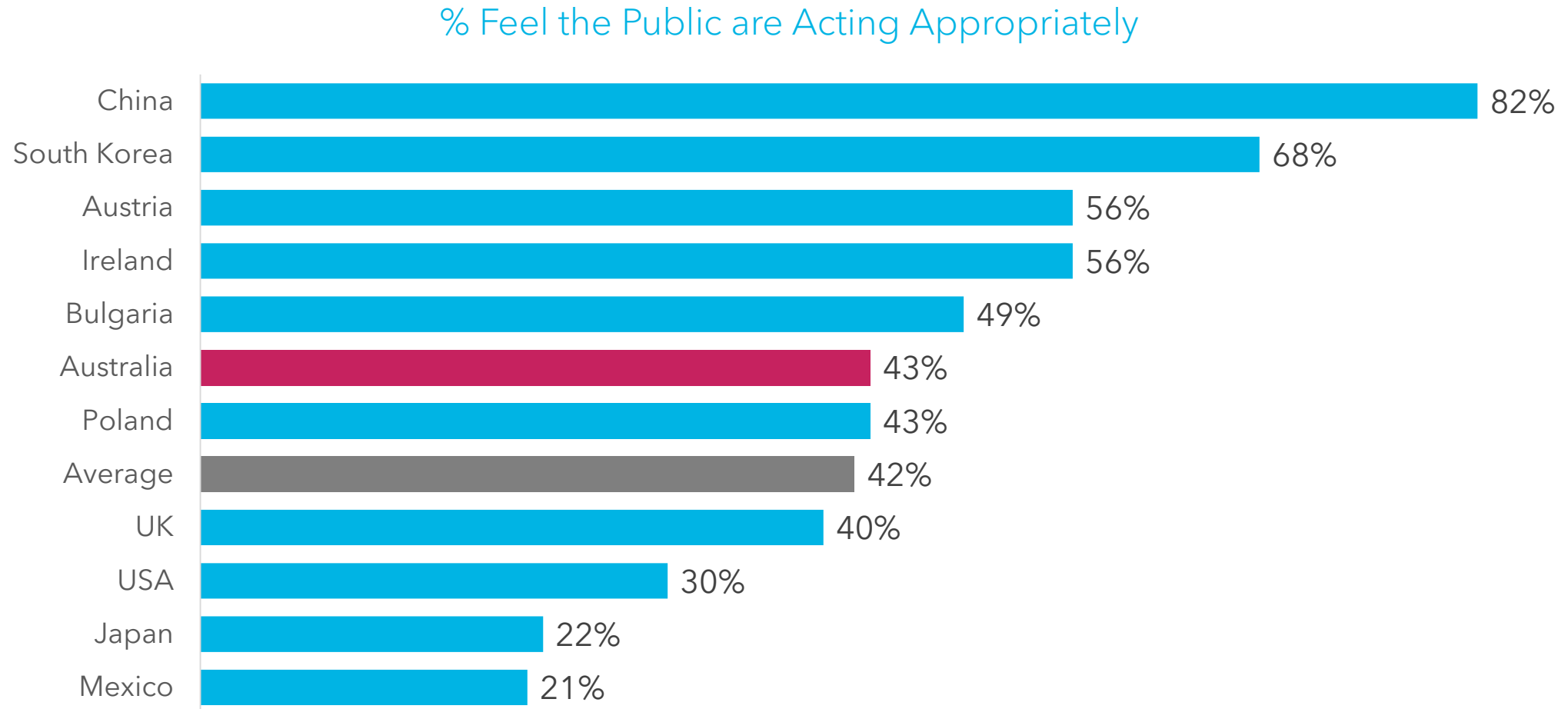


The vast majority are proud of the work of their healthcare workers during this crisis including 85% of Australians

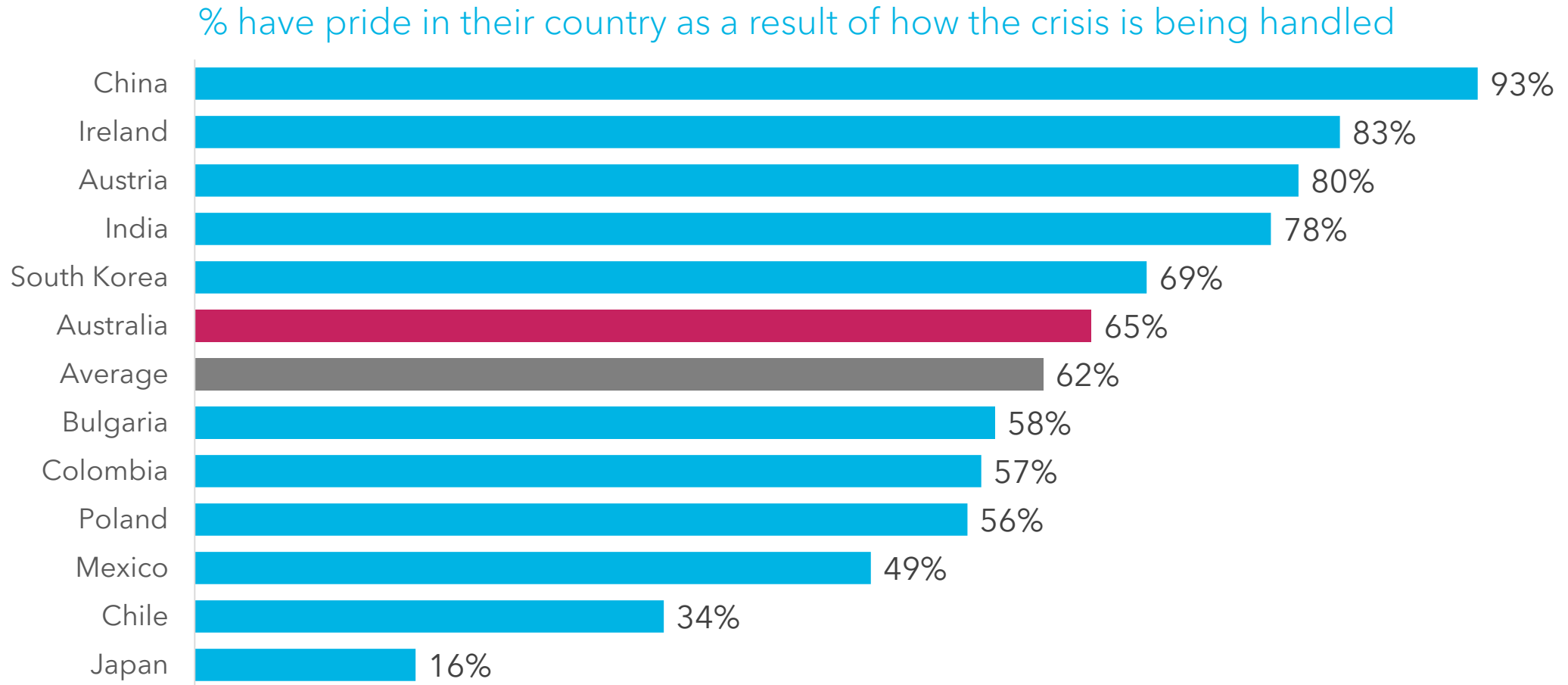
% are proud of their healthcare professionals in this COVID-19 health crisis



Only 4 in 10 Australians feel citizens are acting appropriately



Those in Japan are least inclined to feel pride in their country as a result of how the crisis is being handled and 65% Australians are proud



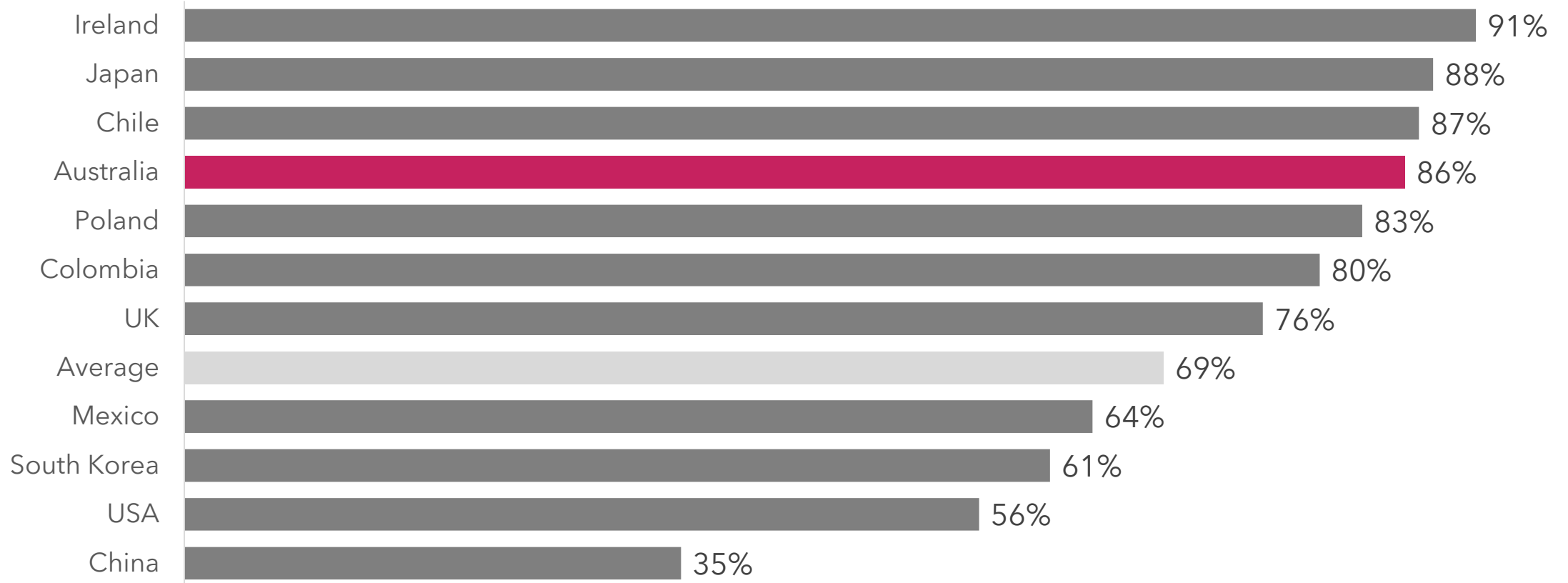


2. Confidence in the Economy

We have one of the most pessimistic perspectives of our economy: half of us fear recession.

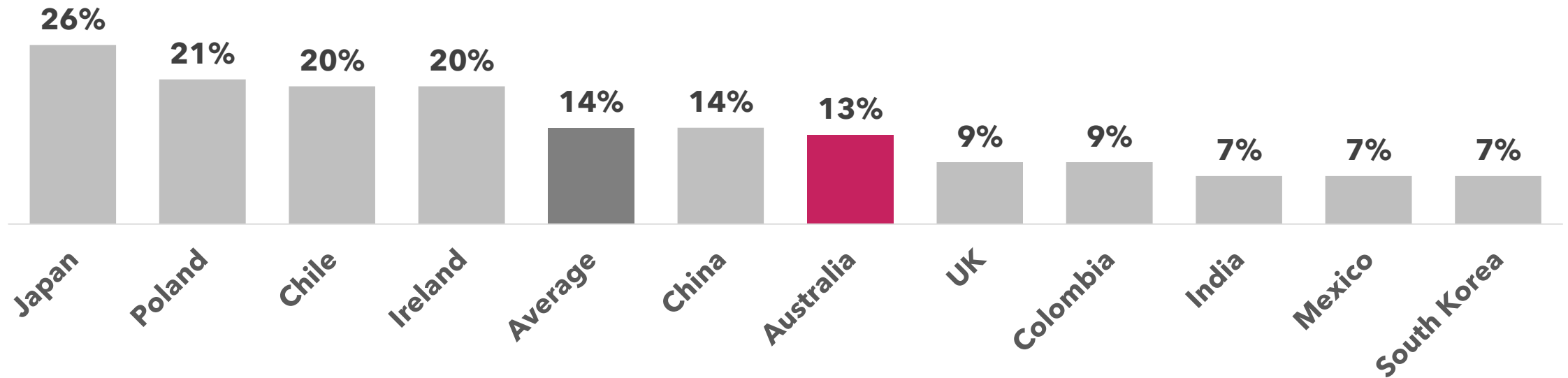
As many as 9 in 10 Australians feel their economy will be worse off in the next 12 months

% Feel the economy will be worse off over the next 12 months



Only 13% Australians feel anxious about an end to prosperity

% feel anxious about an end of prosperity



Japan and Ireland are much more likely to be concerned about an end of prosperity than their closest neighbours.



13%

of Australians adults
are concerned
about an end of
prosperity as a result
of COVID-19
compared to...



only **9%**
concerned in
the UK.



26%

of Japanese adults
are concerned
about an end of
prosperity as a result
of COVID-19
compared to...



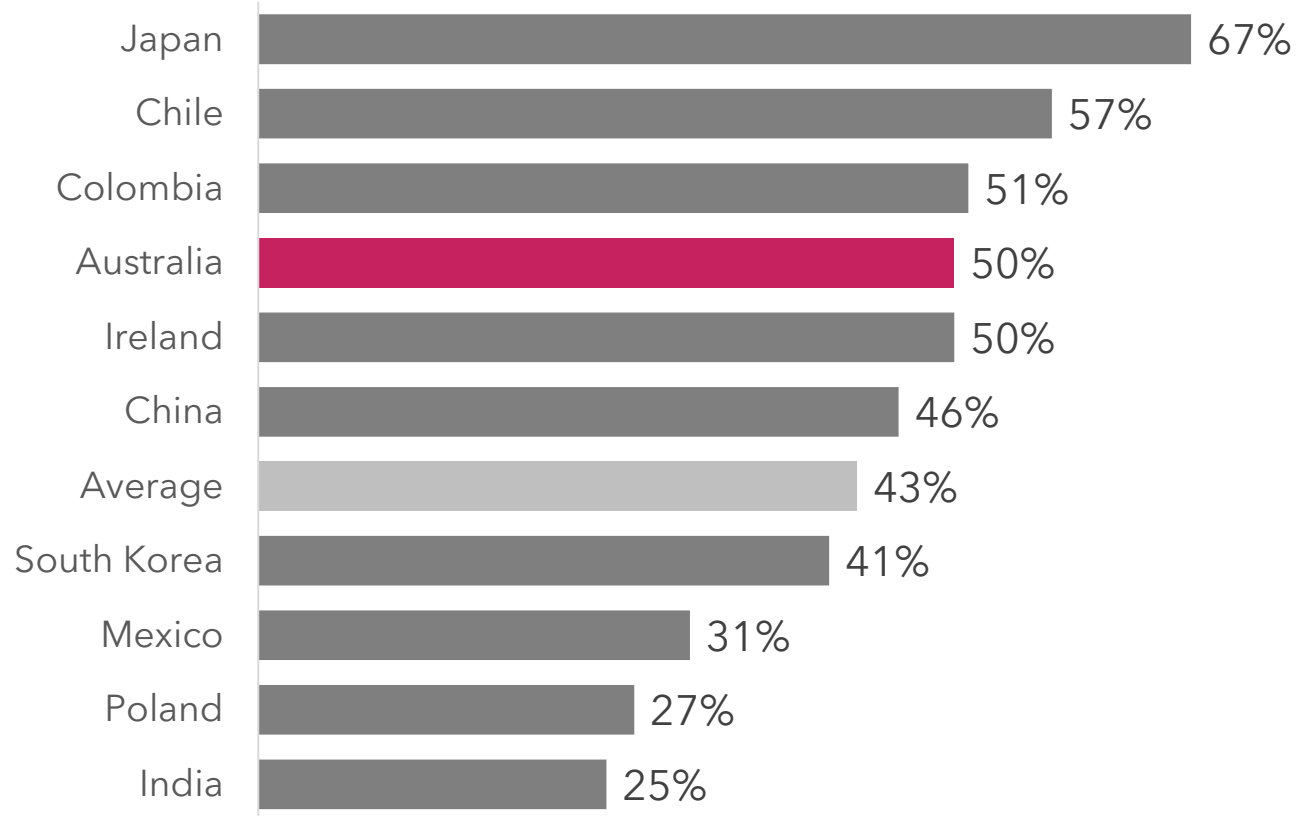
only **7%**
concerned in
South Korea.



only **14%**
concerned in
China.

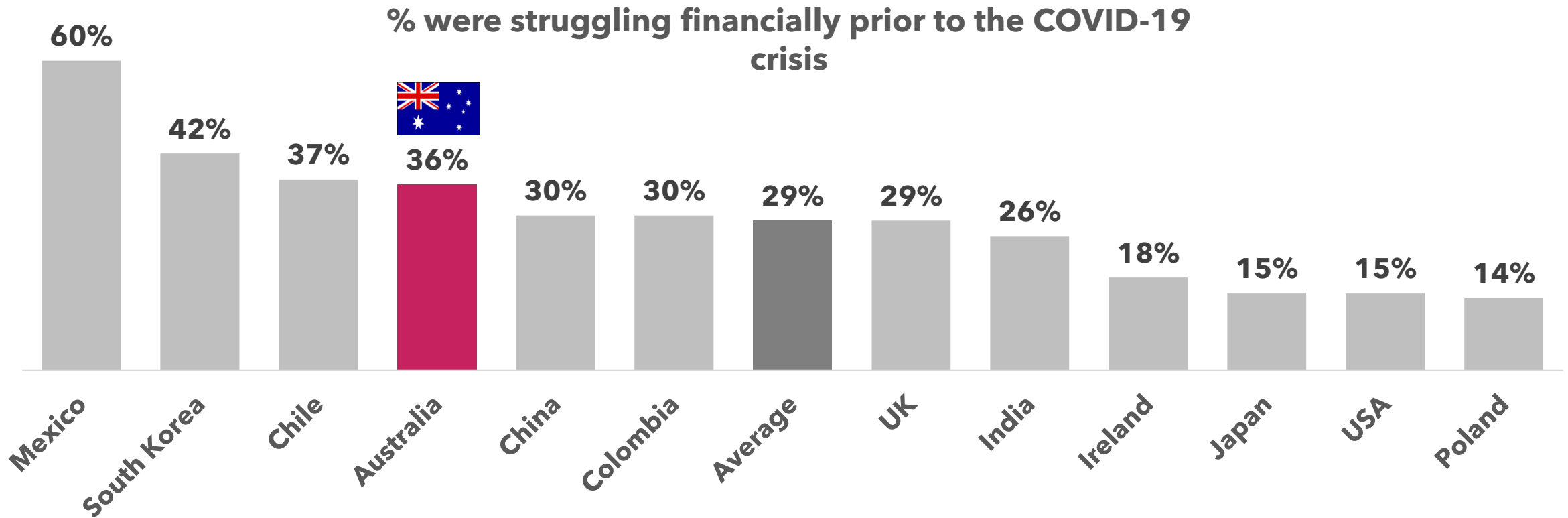
While not as many as in Japan, half of Australians feel anxious about the possibility of a recession/global downturn

% feel anxious about the prospect of a recession/global downturn



Each country is viewing COVID-19 from a different base line in terms of their financial situation prior to the crisis.

36% of Australian were struggling before COVID-19



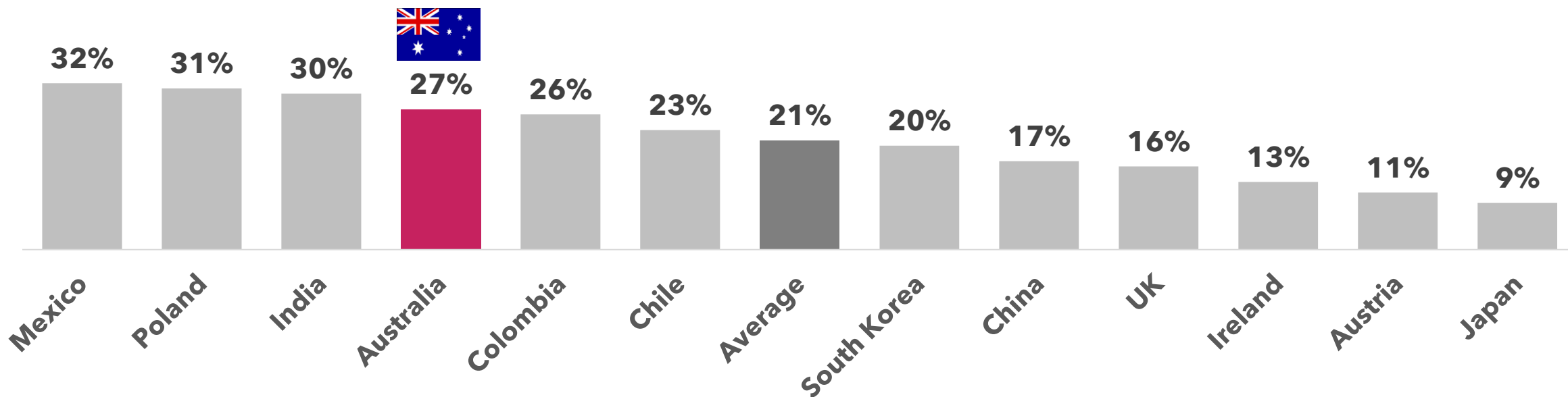


3. Impact & Fears for the Future

There is no doubt that our country has been hit hard by job losses, but the same is true in other countries. We are not alone.

Almost one third of Australians are inclined to feel socially isolated at the present time

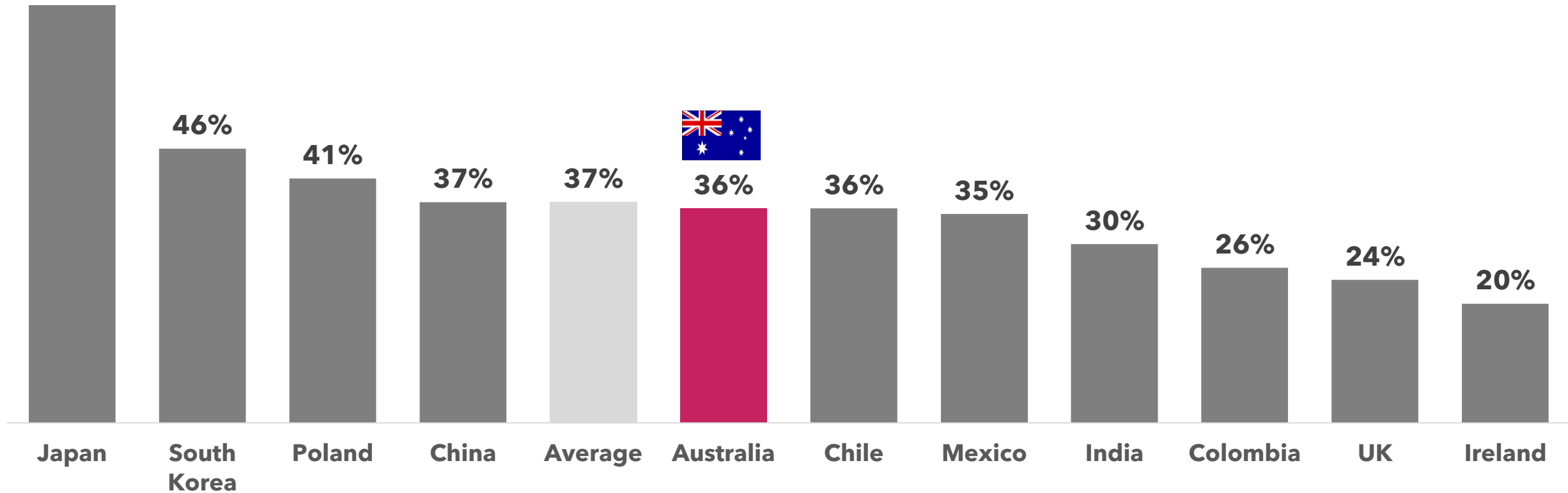
% feeling very socially isolated (i.e. rate 8-10 out of 10)



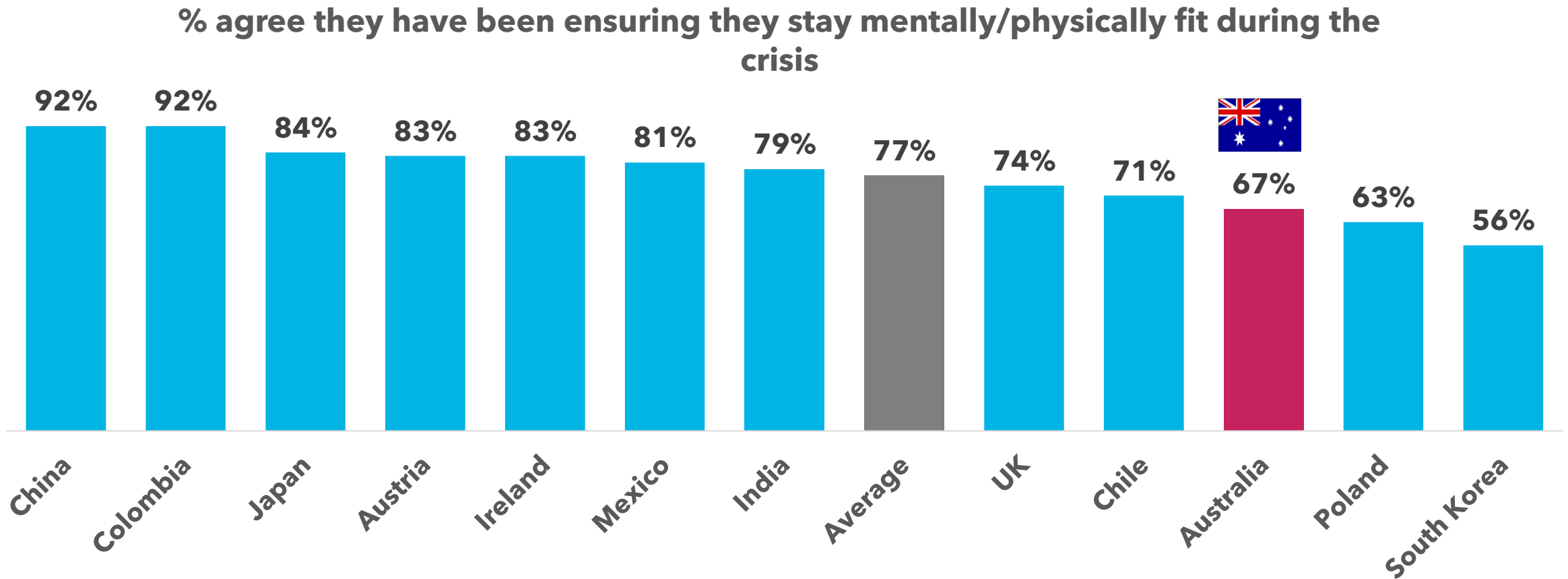
? Q. On a scale of 1-10 how socially isolated or not do you feel currently? 10 means that you feel very isolated and in need social support and 1 means that you are relaxed about your current situation?

36% of Australians are anxious about the lifestyle restrictions imposed

% anxious about the lifestyle restrictions imposed (8-10)

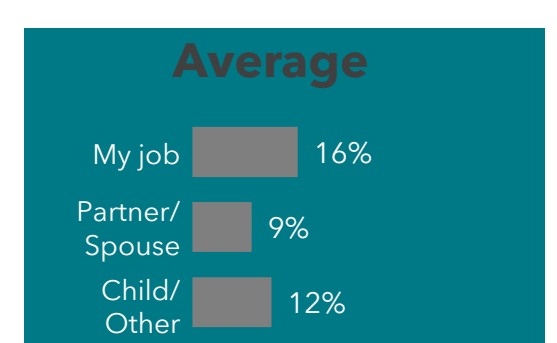
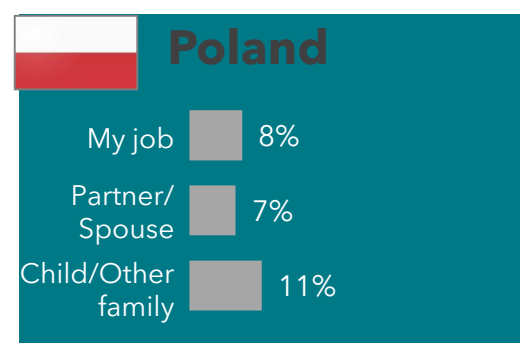
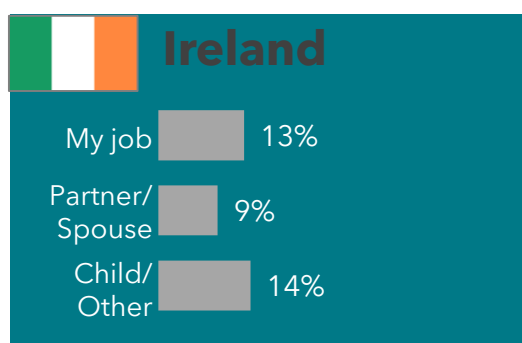
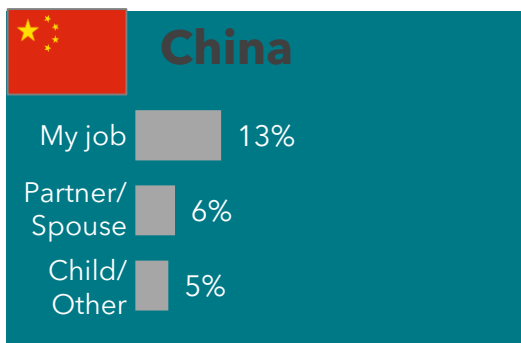
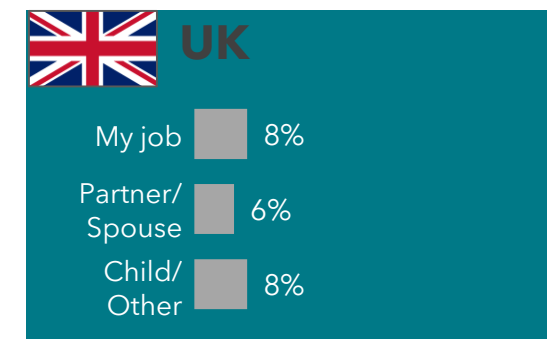
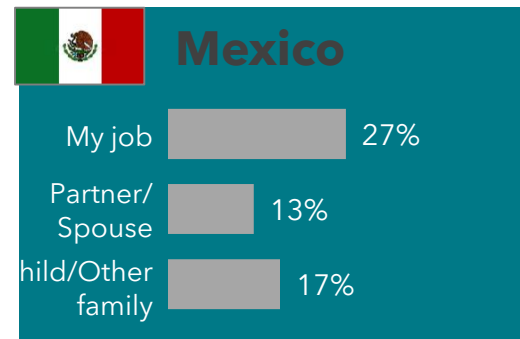
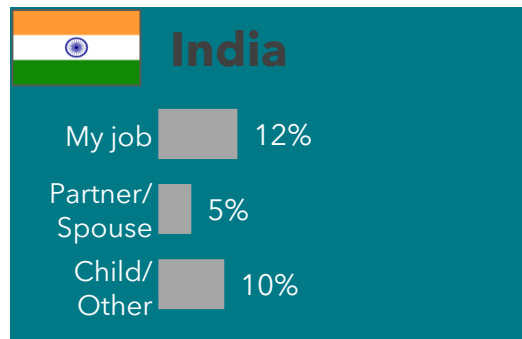
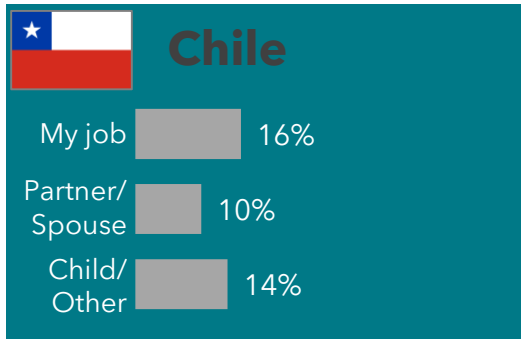
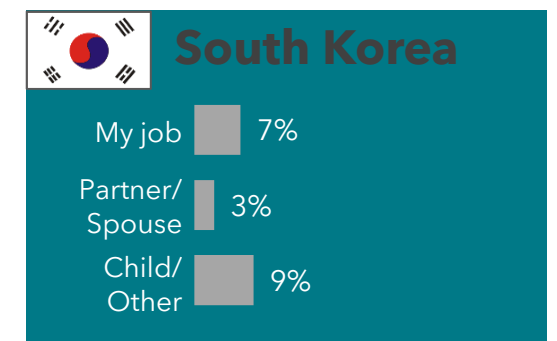
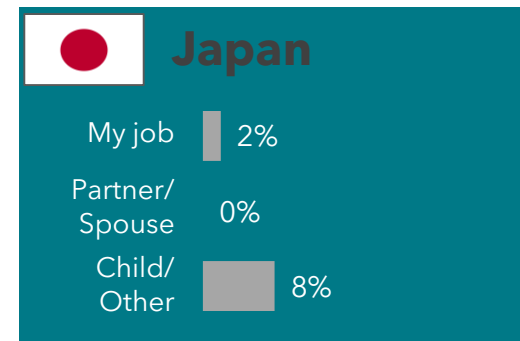
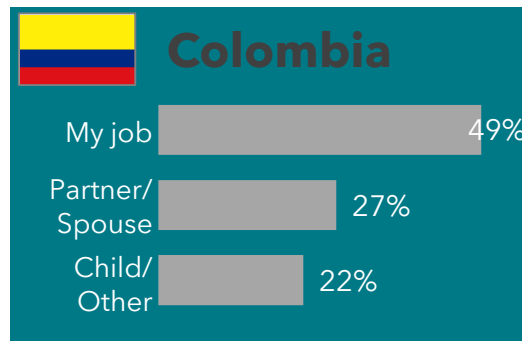
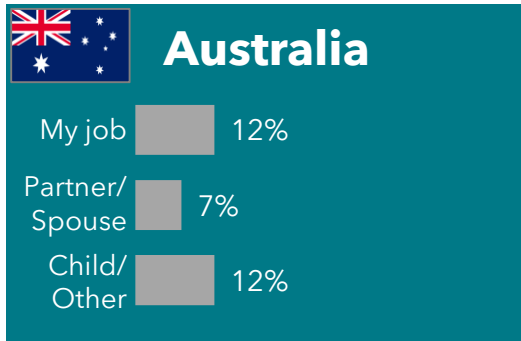


67% of Australians are maintaining their mental/physical health during the crisis, which is low compared to other countries



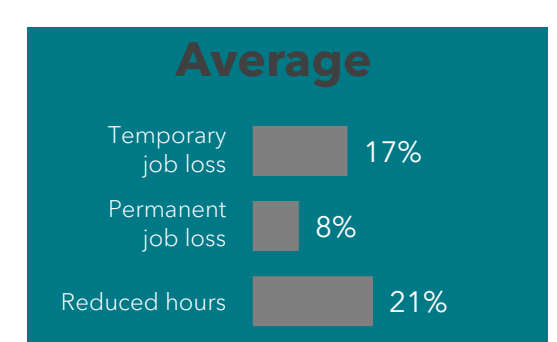
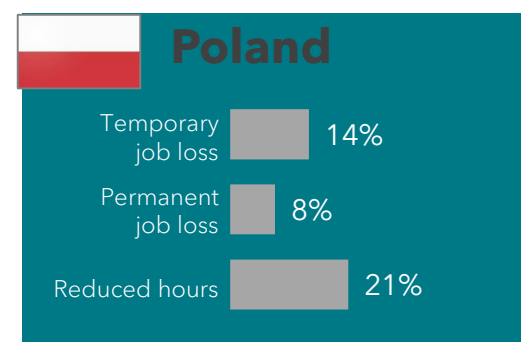
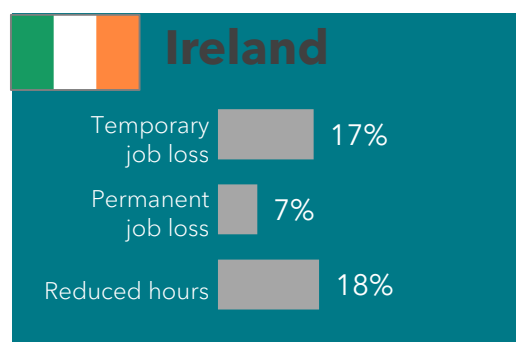
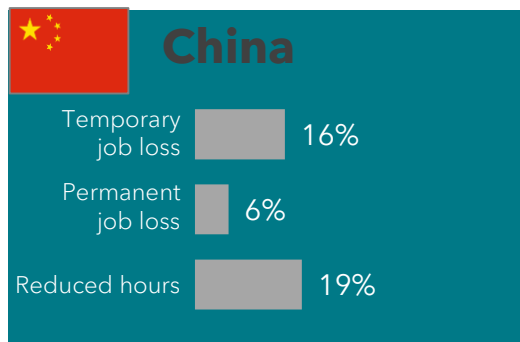
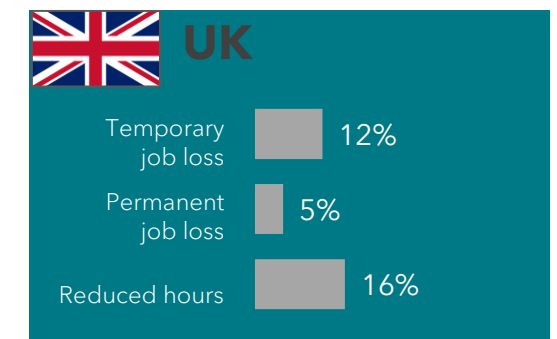
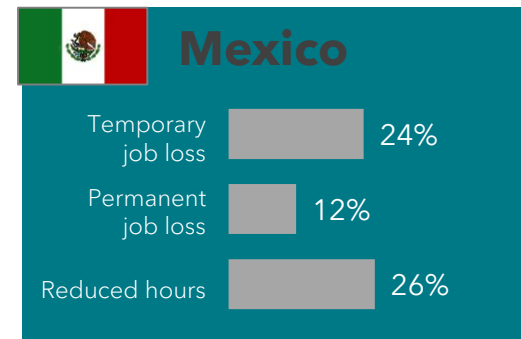
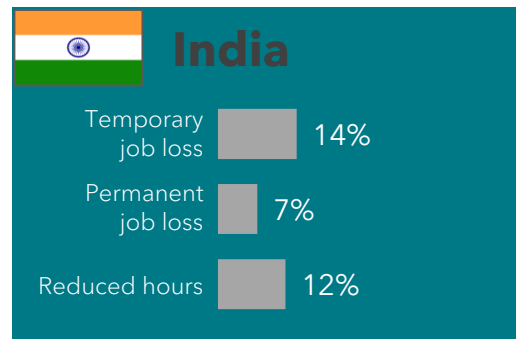
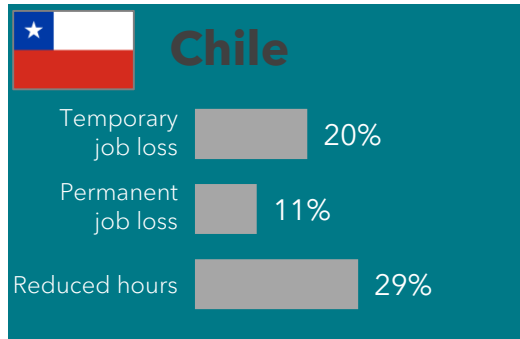
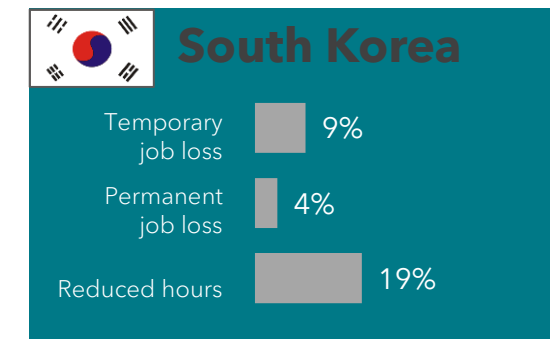
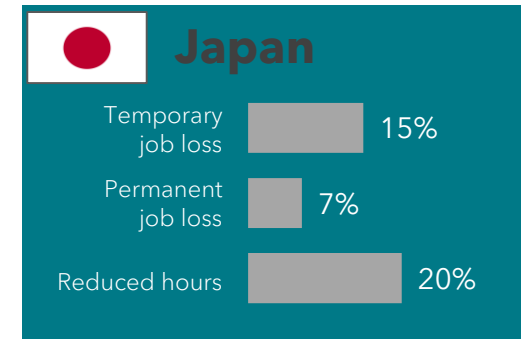
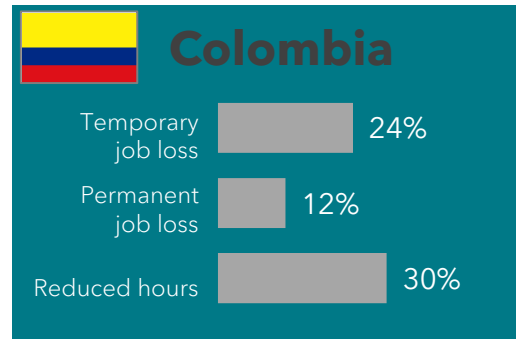
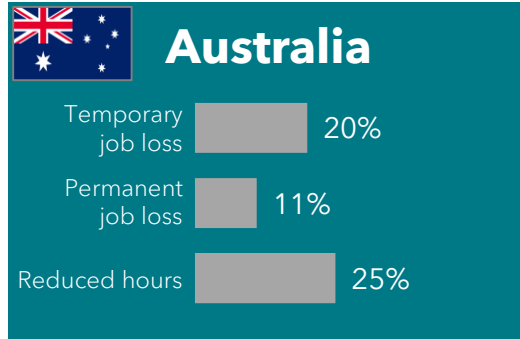
12% of Australians lost their job as a result of COVID-19. As many as 1/3 either lost their own job, or someone has from immediate family

% reported job losses as a result of COVID-19



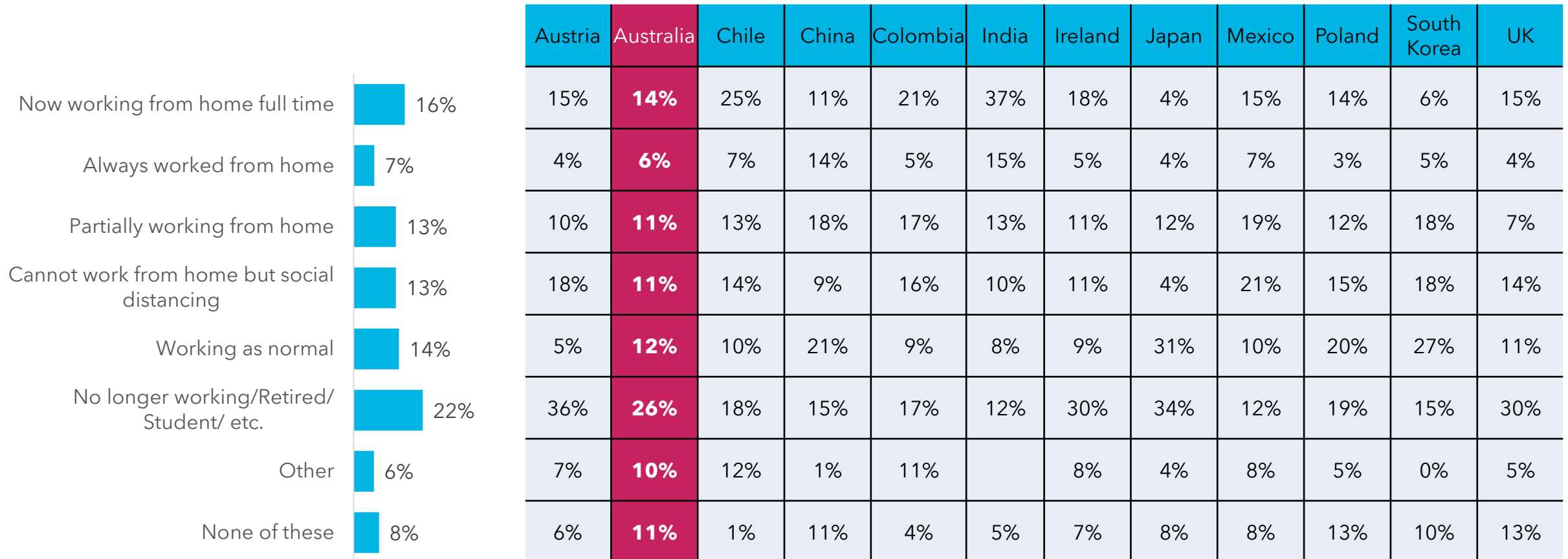
20% of Australians foresee a temporary job loss
11% a permanent job loss and 25% reduced hours

% anticipated personal job loss/reduced hours as
a result of COVID-19



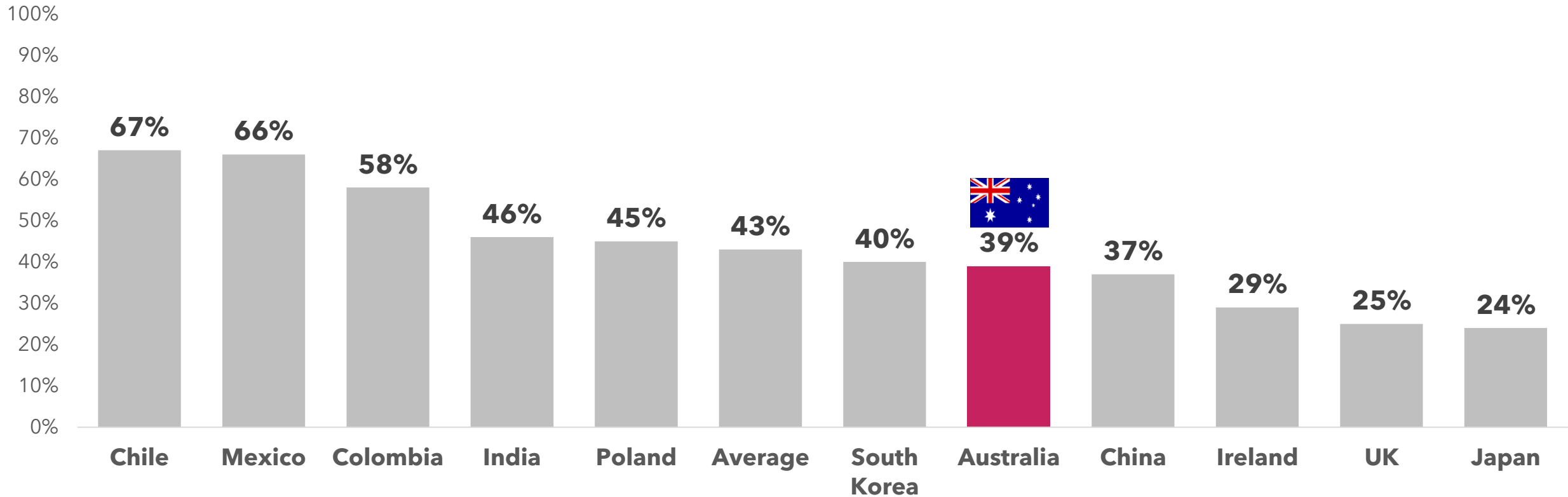
Q. Which if any of the following do you foresee as likely in the near future?

25% of Australians are now working from home due to COVID-19



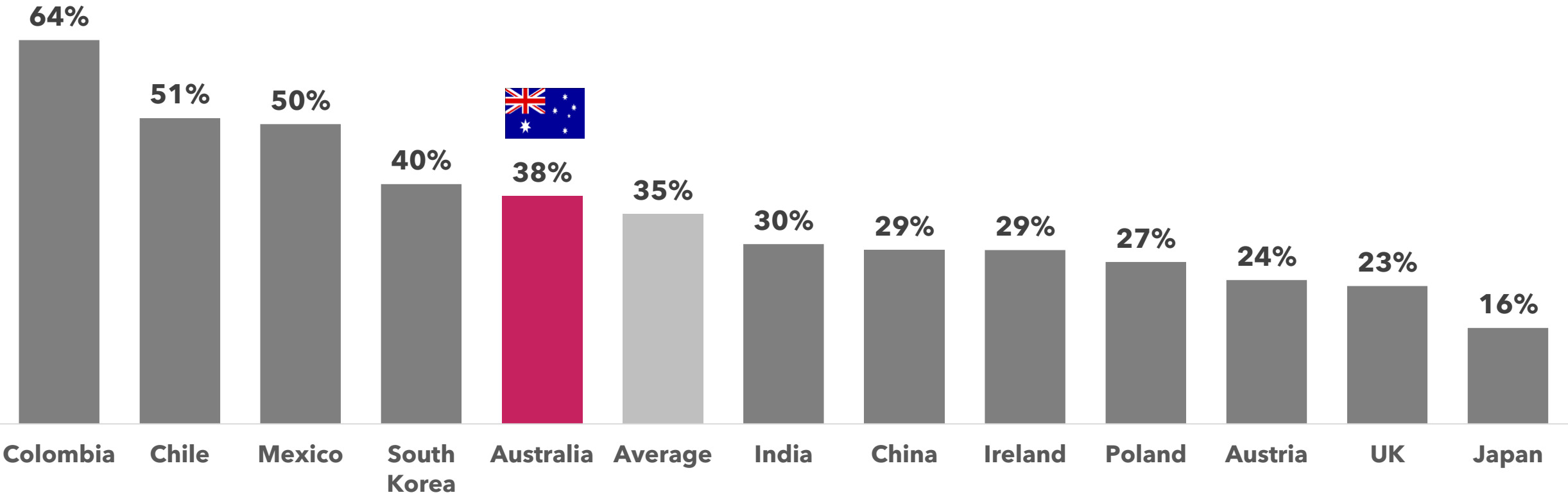
39% of Australians fear for their jobs or those of their partner/spouse

% concerned about job security for themselves or a partner/spouse (8-10)



38% of Australians are reducing their spending in anticipation of reduced incomes

% reduced spending in anticipation of reduced income



45% of Australians have started shopping locally as a result of the pandemic

Base: All adults aged 18+

	Average	Austria	Australia	Chile	China	Colombia	India	Ireland	Japan	Mexico	Poland	South Korea	UK
Shopped locally to show my support of local community and businesses	37%	56%	45%	27%	16%	66%	35%	52%	12%	50%	33%	20%	34%
Reduced spending or made other financial changes because of/in anticipation of the virus impacting your income or finances	35%	24%	38%	51%	29%	64%	30%	29%	16%	50%	27%	40%	23%
None of the above	22%	22%	19%	21%	24%	5%	7%	17%	53%	10%	34%	25%	28%
Increased spending on internet products and services including streaming	22%	8%	23%	20%	37%	22%	46%	21%	7%	18%	13%	28%	18%
Increased spending on home entertainment equipment (i.e., TVs, home audio, smartphones, tablet/e-reader, computer equipment)	21%	8%	22%	14%	37%	14%	66%	21%	8%	12%	10%	18%	22%
Faced layoff or reduced employment hours that will impact your earnings	19%	18%	20%	22%	15%	31%	12%	21%	15%	32%	14%	13%	14%
Helping elderly neighbour (not related to me)	15%	19%	14%	17%	7%	26%	26%	19%	2%	16%	13%	3%	17%
Purchased investments to take advantage of lower markets	7%	7%	9%	2%	8%	4%	14%	4%	10%	2%	5%	11%	5%
Sold investments to avoid further declines in value	5%	3%	6%	2%	6%	5%	10%	2%	2%	2%	4%	8%	5%

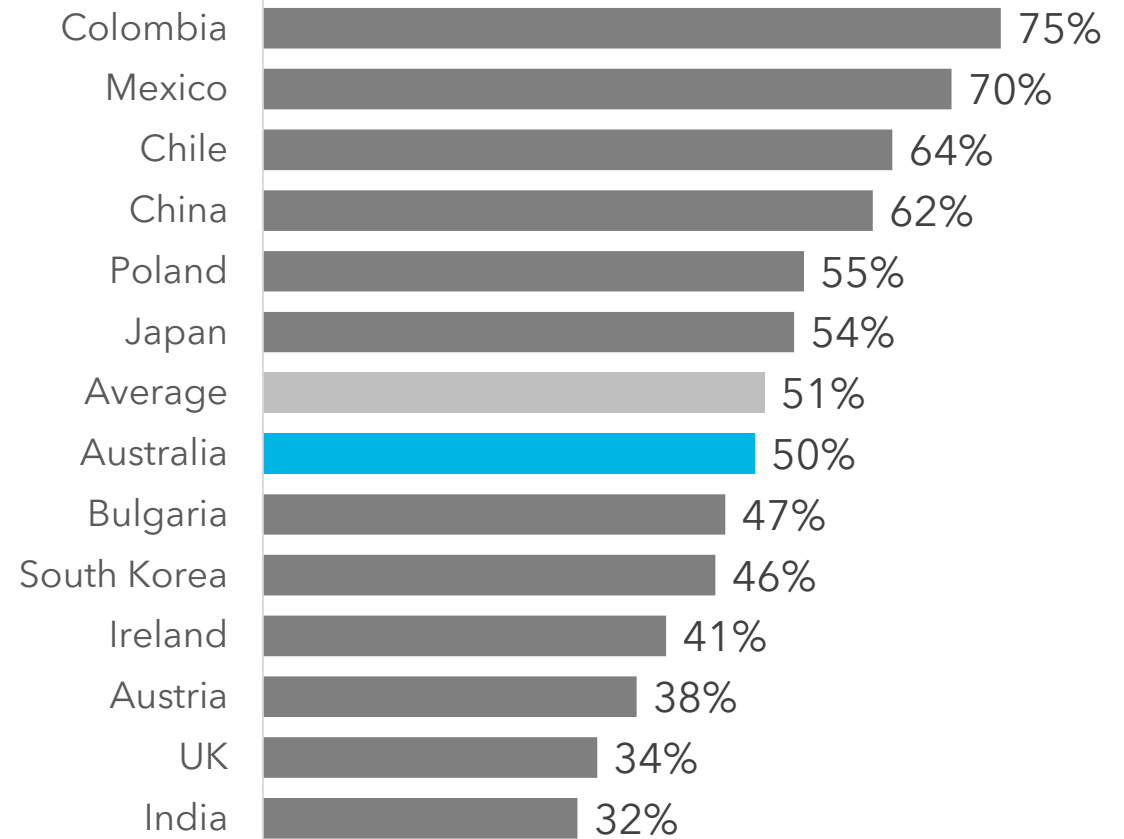


Q.8b And which of the following actions have you taken as a result of the COVID-19 crisis?

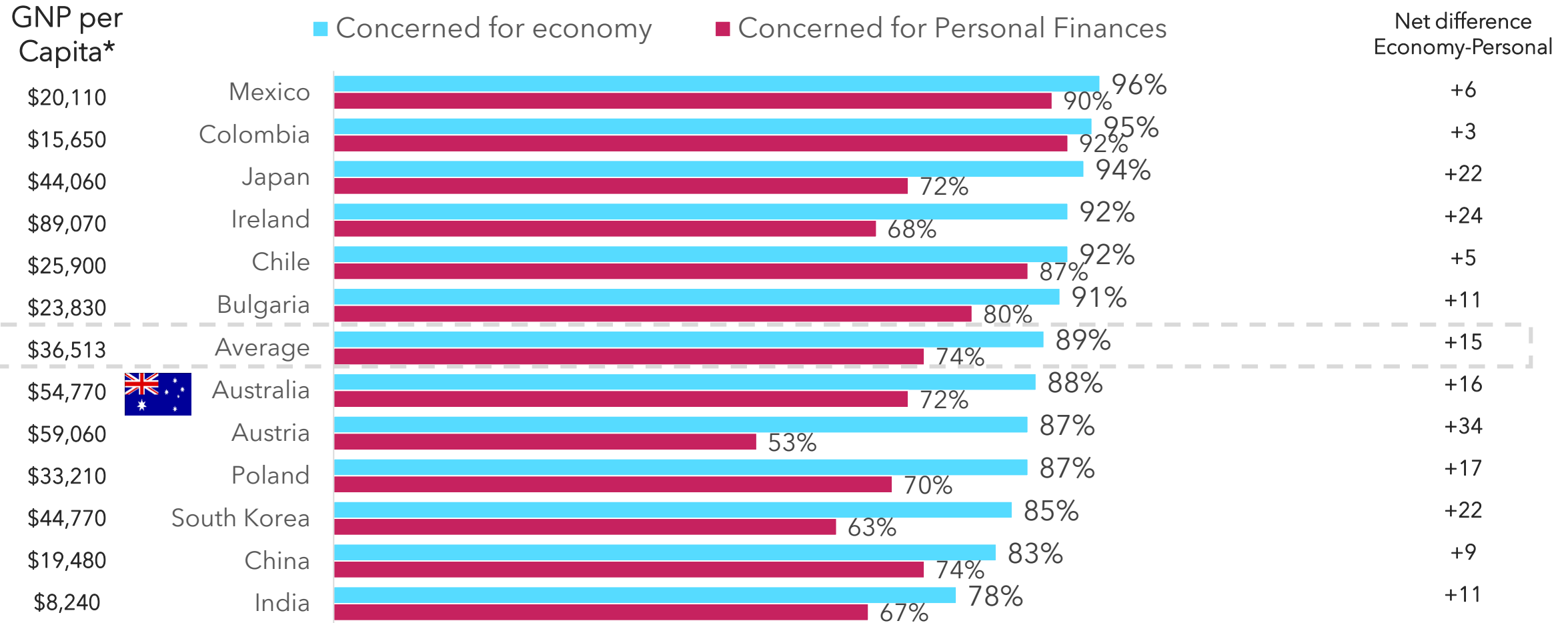
50% of Australians expect to see a reduction in salary this year (average globally)



% expect their salary to decrease this year



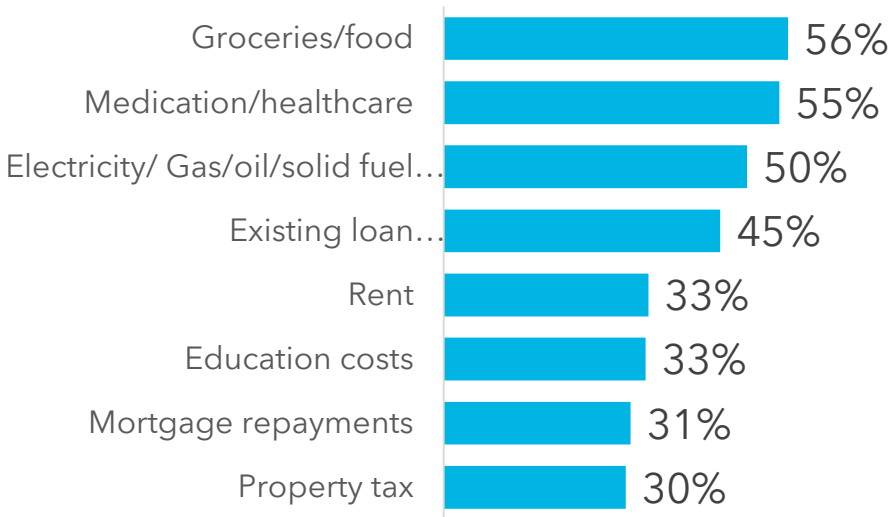
People are more concerned about the economy than they are about their personal finances



Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements...I am worried about the impact of COVID-19 on the economy
Q. To what extent do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements...I am worried about the impact of COVID-19 on my personal finances

*Source: World Bank

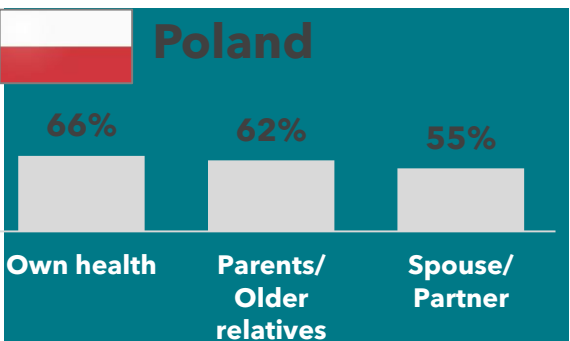
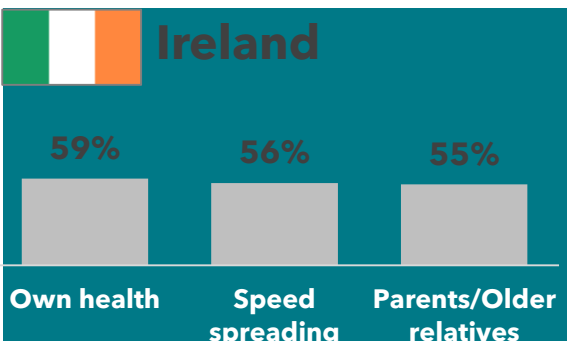
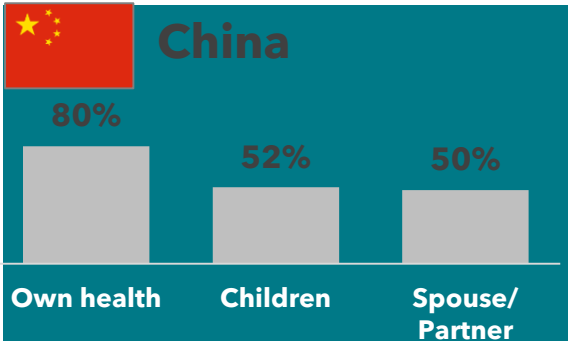
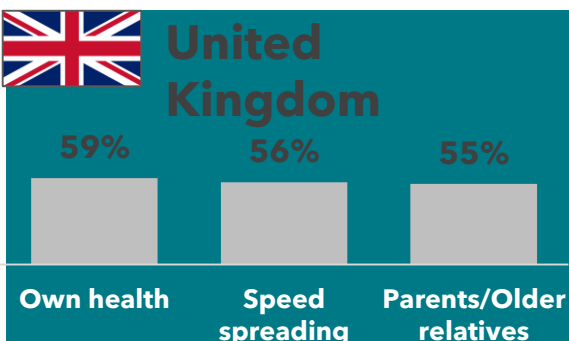
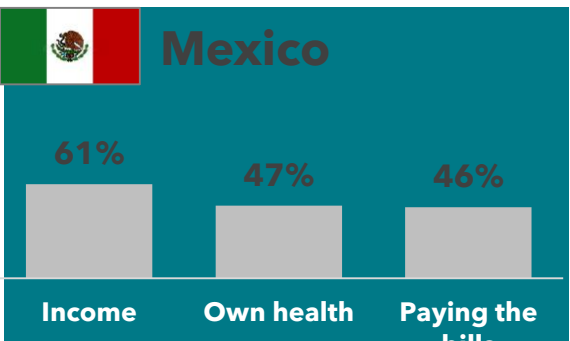
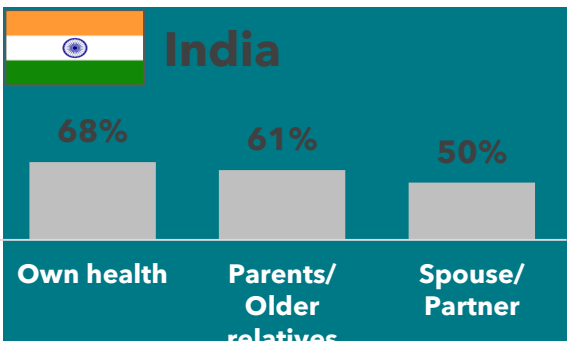
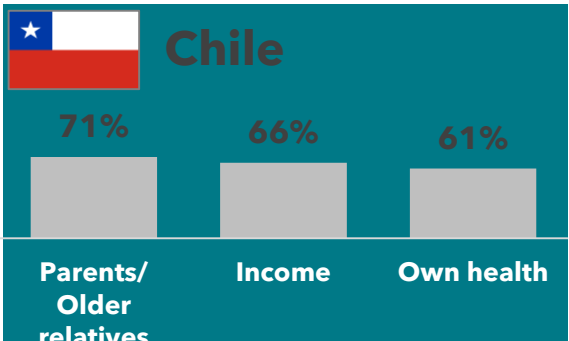
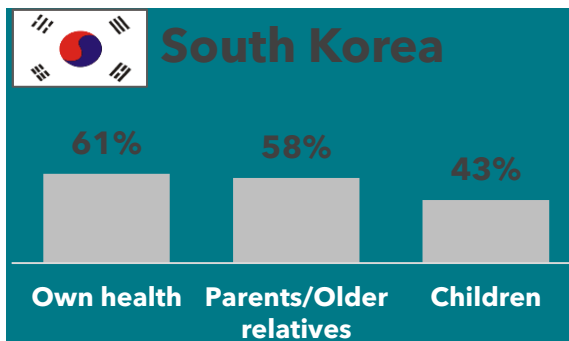
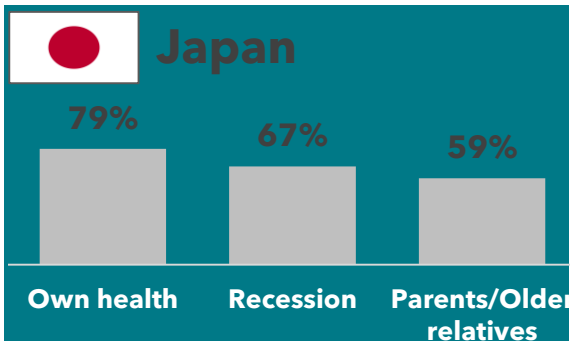
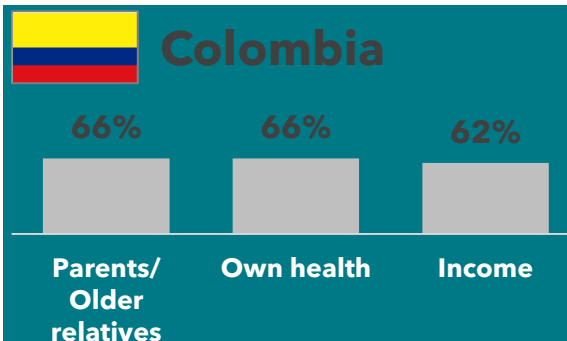
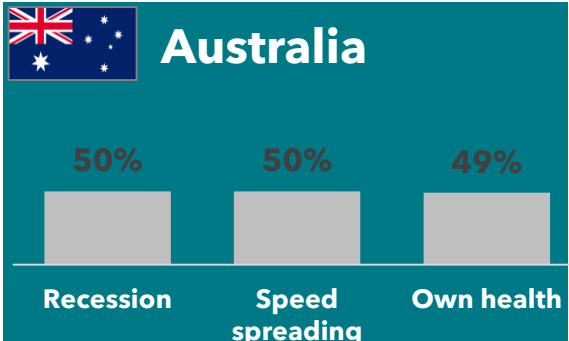
57% of Australians are concerned about not affording Groceries and 51% concerned about medication/healthcare costs (similar to global views)



Australia	Chile	China	Colombia	India	Ireland	Japan	Mexico	Poland	South Korea	UK
57%	63%	43%	73%	64%	34%	49%	83%	49%	54%	50%
51%	67%	48%	64%	70%	37%	49%	76%	54%	49%	38%
51%	58%	31%	60%	58%	37%	39%	78%	44%	42%	47%
41%	65%	40%	71%	51%	30%	23%	65%	41%	40%	30%
35%	31%	28%	44%	38%	21%	24%	43%	34%	40%	30%
29%	38%	42%	50%	45%	18%	18%	50%	24%	34%	15%
31%	29%	45%	33%	46%	23%	17%	34%	23%	31%	24%
23%	22%	25%	41%	38%	17%	24%	47%	27%	34%	29%

Half of Australians are most concerned about the potential of a recession, speed of virus spreading and their own health

Three Most Common Concerns in relation to COVID-19



Q. In relation to the Corona Virus which of these aspects do you feel anxious about?

41% of Australians are concerned about the lack of vaccine



	Average level of concern	Australia	Chile	China	Colombia	India	Ireland	Japan	Mexico	Poland	South Korea	UK
Own health	63%	49%	61%	80%	66%	68%	59%	79%	47%	66%	61%	59%
Health of parents/older relatives	56%	38%	71%	73%	66%	61%	55%	59%	35%	62%	58%	41%
Income	47%	40%	66%	52%	62%	42%	36%	43%	61%	47%	38%	32%
The speed at which the virus is spreading.	45%	50%	59%	40%	46%	39%	56%	53%	32%	44%	35%	43%
Health of spouse/partner	44%	32%	46%	50%	43%	50%	48%	55%	22%	55%	41%	40%
Recession/global downturn	43%	50%	57%	46%	51%	25%	50%	67%	31%	27%	41%	24%
Health of children	42%	30%	45%	52%	48%	43%	39%	42%	32%	53%	43%	35%
The ease at which the virus seems to get passed from one person to another	41%	39%	59%	30%	48%	31%	49%	58%	22%	41%	38%	37%
The lack of a vaccine.	39%	41%	49%	38%	47%	35%	49%	36%	29%	45%	25%	35%



Q. In relation to the Corona Virus which of these aspects do you feel anxious about?

38% are concerned about paying the bills (higher than the global average) and 32% job security



	Average level of concern	Australia	Chile	China	Colombia	India	Ireland	Japan	Mexico	Poland	South Korea	UK
Paying the bills	31%	38%	51%	24%	51%	21%	26%	12%	46%	32%	12%	28%
The chances of my friend or high-risk groups being infected.	31%	28%	48%	42%	37%	28%	34%	25%	18%	32%	23%	24%
Job security	29%	32%	23%	38%	37%	29%	26%	31%	36%	33%	10%	20%
Losing my job	21%	26%	36%	24%	24%	11%	15%	16%	25%	30%	12%	13%
The requirement for isolation	21%	28%	16%	15%	17%	17%	24%	29%	15%	35%	13%	23%
Ability to pay mortgage/rent	18%	24%	31%	20%	30%	15%	18%	9%	21%	11%	6%	16%
Being unhappy	18%	26%	14%	21%	n/a	14%	20%	26%	9%	23%	9%	19%
Stability of family unit/relationships	18%	20%	23%	10%	46%	11%	17%	14%	11%	14%	18%	13%
Ability to pay loans	18%	19%	31%	20%	37%	19%	12%	5%	23%	15%	10%	6%
Future short to medium term plans (holidays)	16%	17%	15%	25%	16%	8%	23%	19%	6%	16%	10%	16%
End of prosperity	14%	13%	20%	14%	9%	7%	20%	26%	7%	21%	7%	9%
Longer term plans (retirement),	9%	15%	19%	5%	12%	5%	7%	11%	4%	7%	7%	4%
Other specify	2%	2%	3%	0%	3%	1%	2%		4%	2%	1%	1%
None of these	2%	3%	0%	3%	1%	1%	1%	-	2%	2%	1%	3%

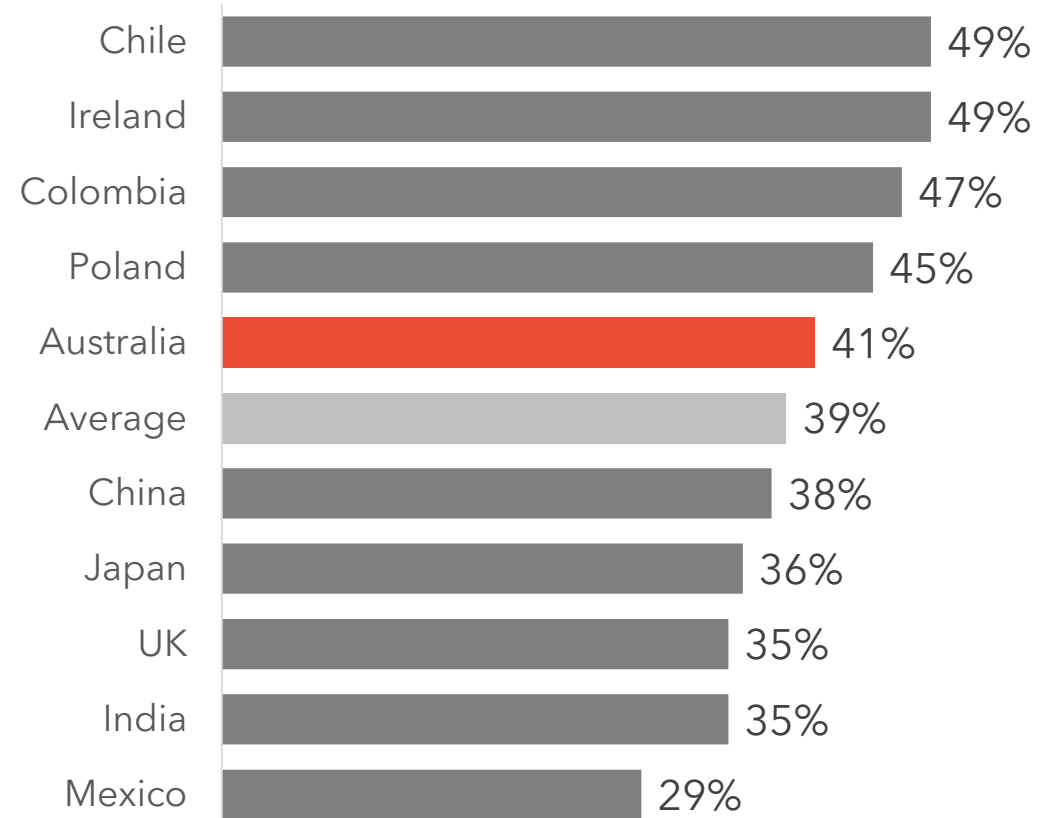


Q. In relation to the Corona Virus which of these aspects do you feel anxious about?

41% of Australians are anxious about the lack of a vaccine

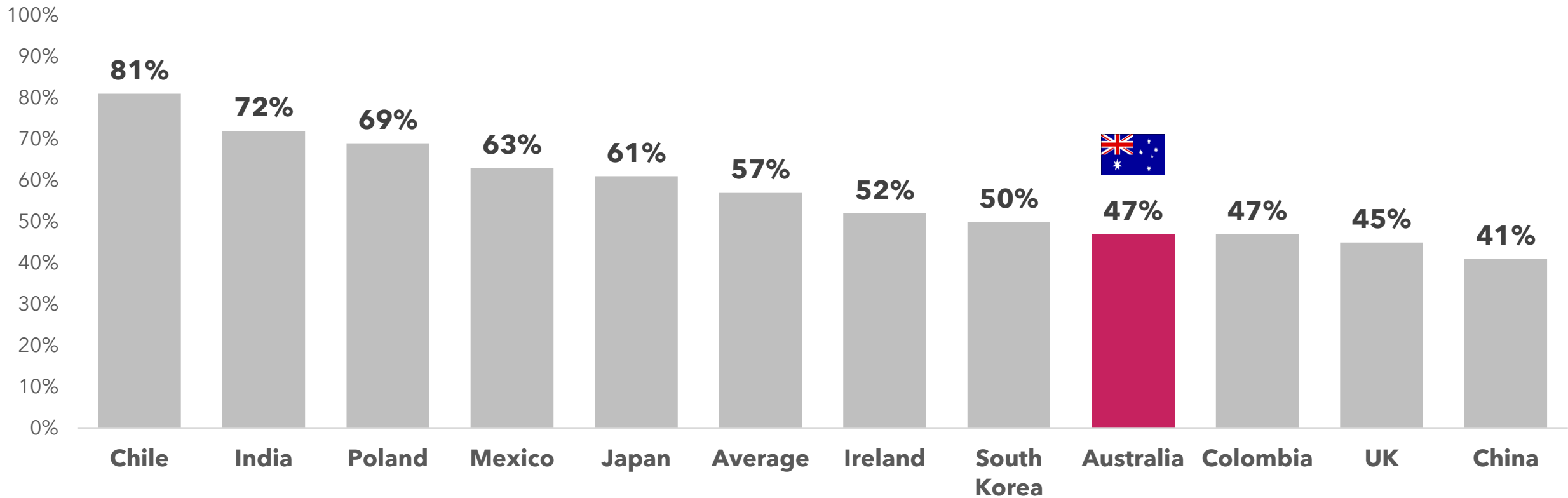


% feel anxious about the lack of a vaccine



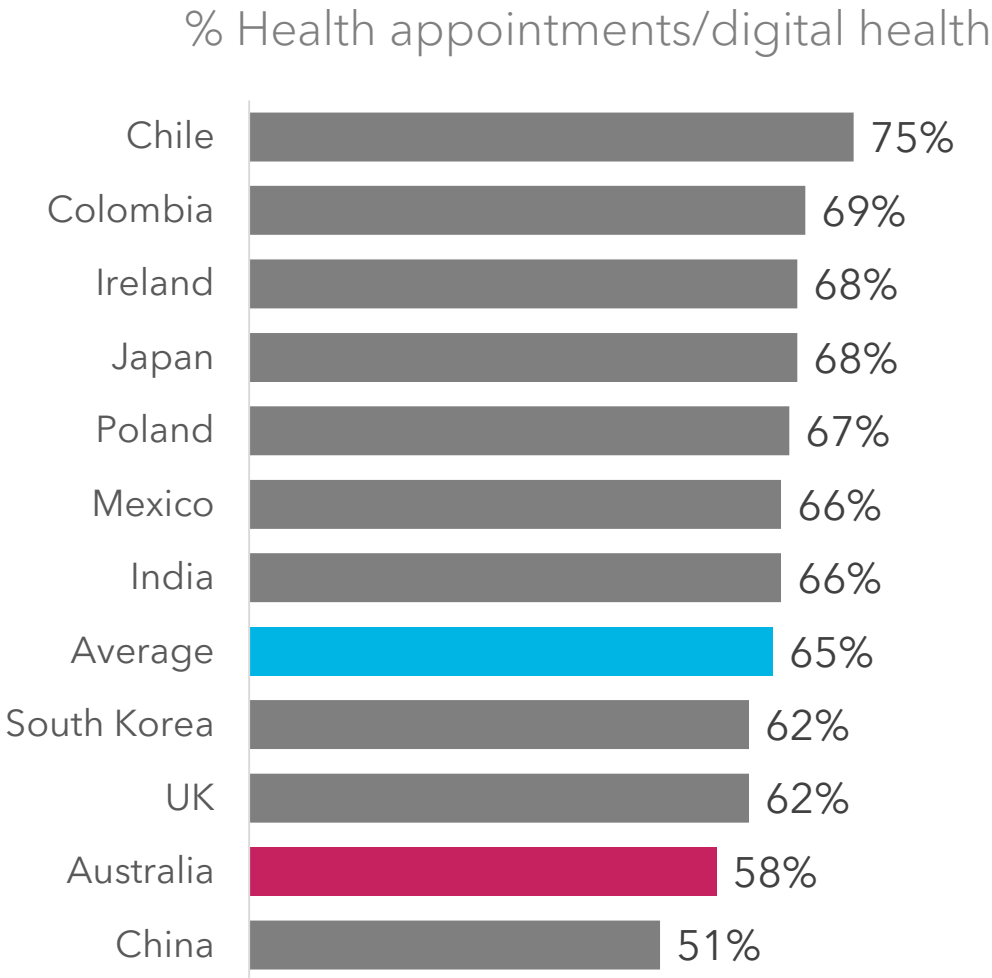
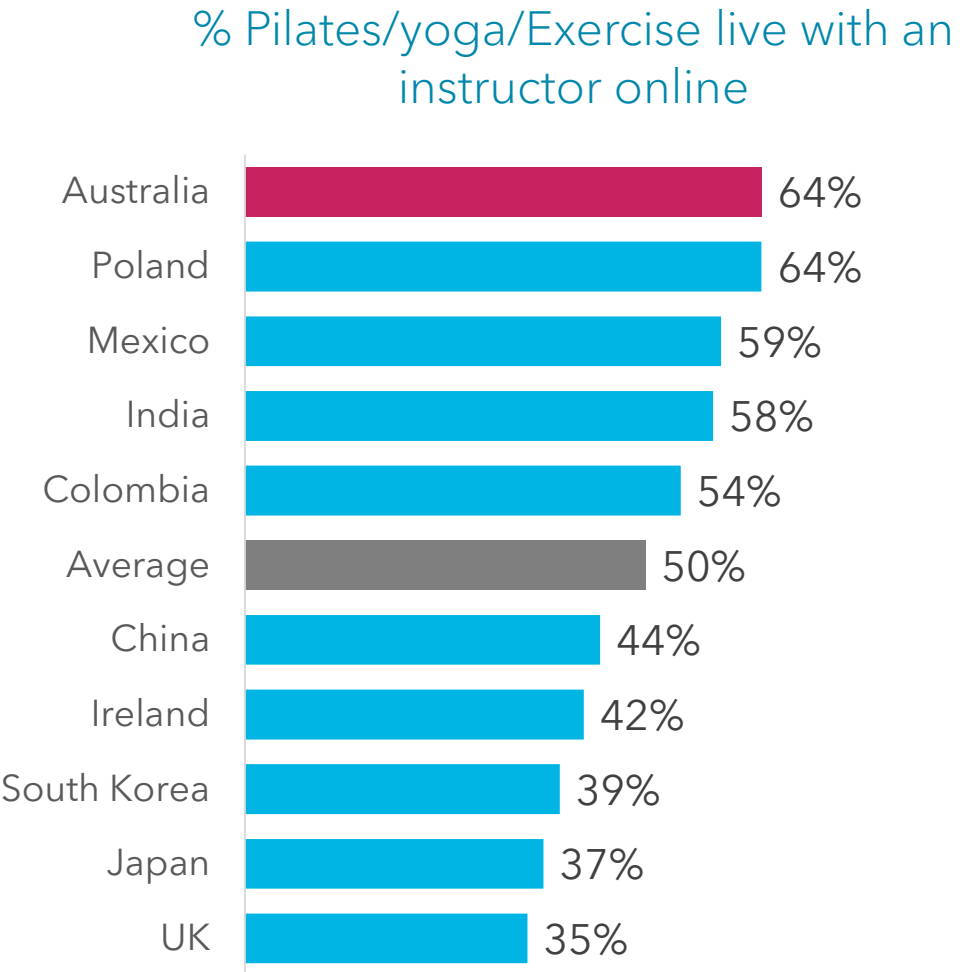
Only 47% of Australians are very concerned about the health of people they care about

% concerned about physical & mental health of the people they care about (8-10)



Interest in exercise online:
Australians are likely to be interested,
in fact more than other countries

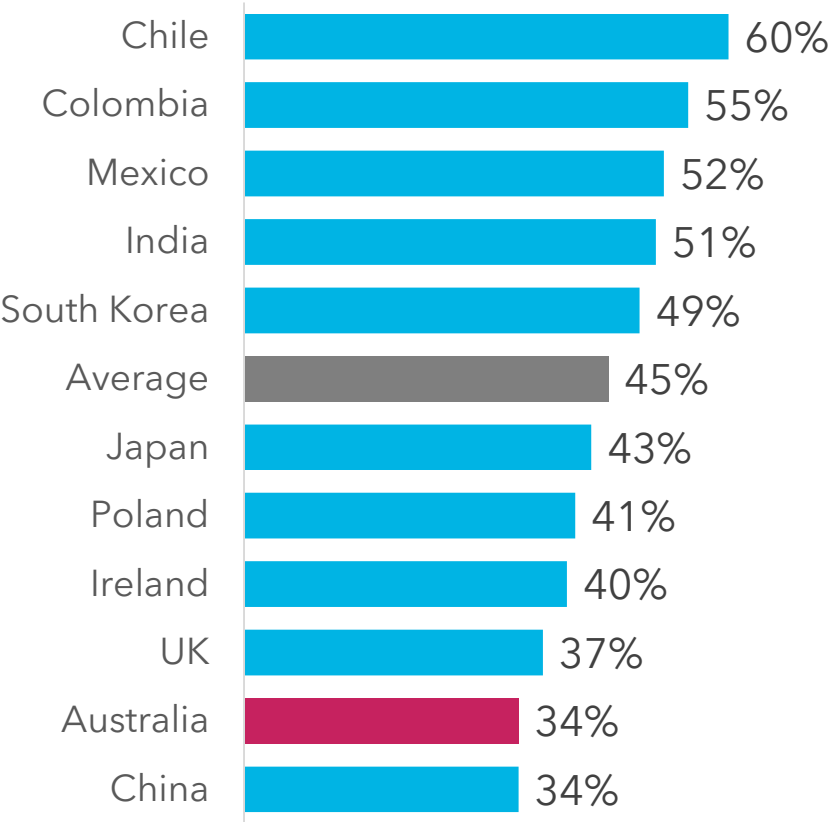
58% of Australians are likely to be
interested in Digital health - which is
one of the lowest countries sampled



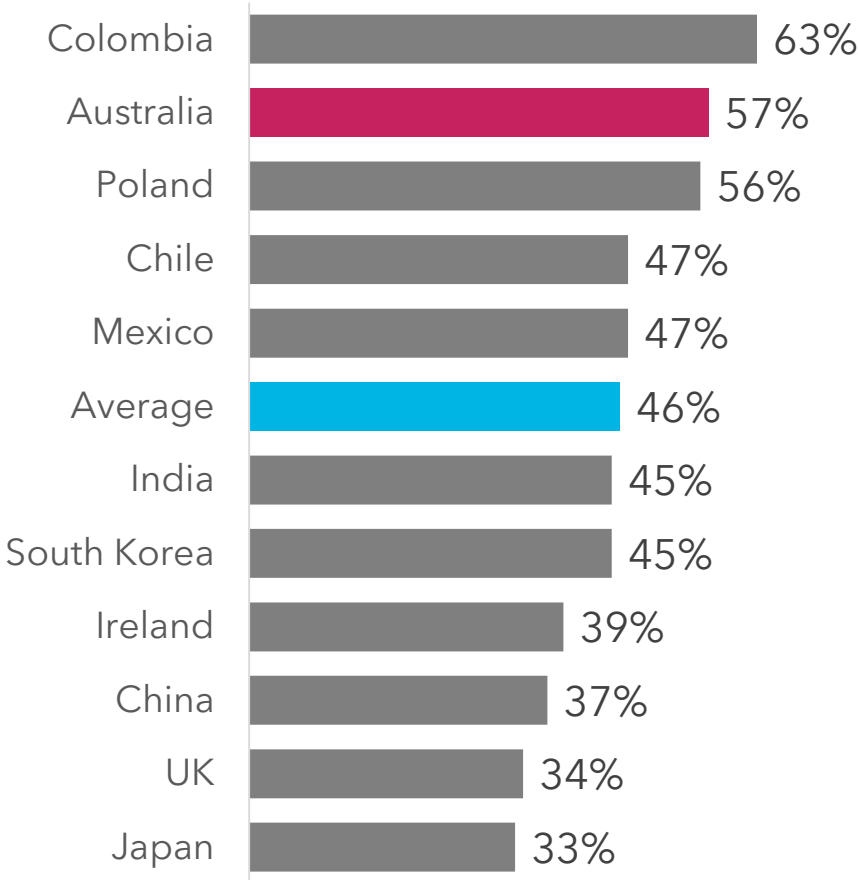
Q.21 How willing or otherwise are you to participate in each of the following activities ONLINE over the next 3-4 months?

Only one-third of Australians are interested in mental health well-being online which is one of the lowest countries sampled ...however they are interested in social dinners online

% Stress counselling /mental health

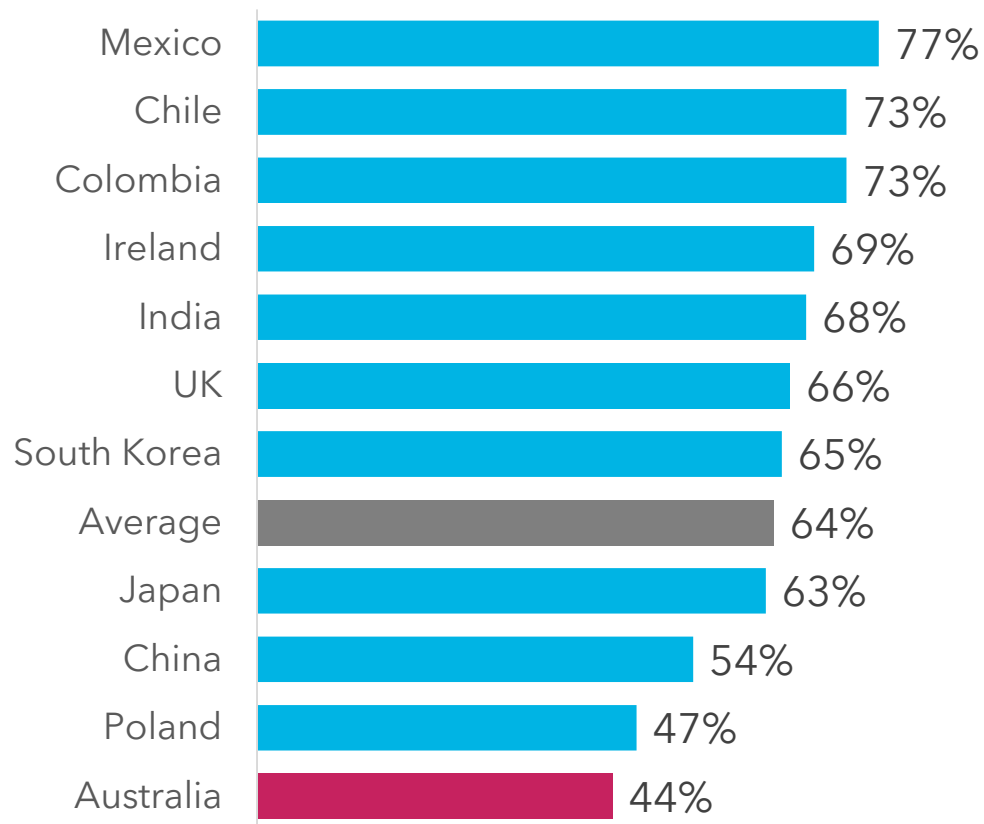


% Dinner with extended family online

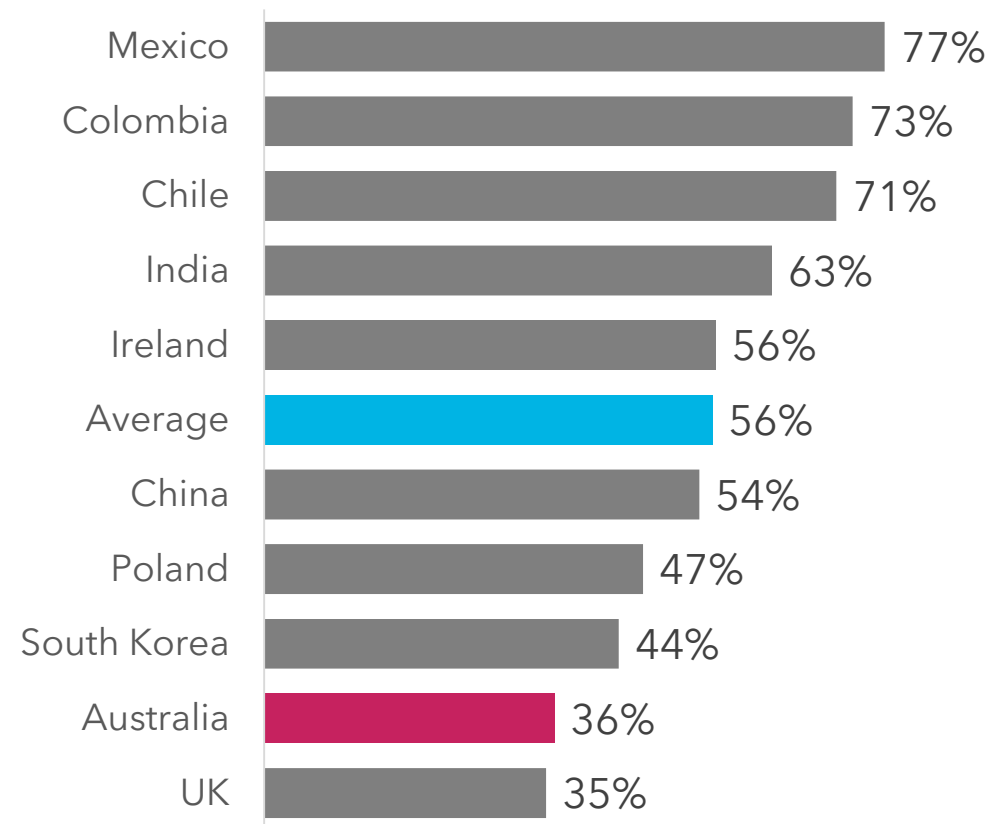


About 4 in 10 of Australians are interested in grocery shopping & classes/education online, which is low compared to other countries

% Grocery Shopping

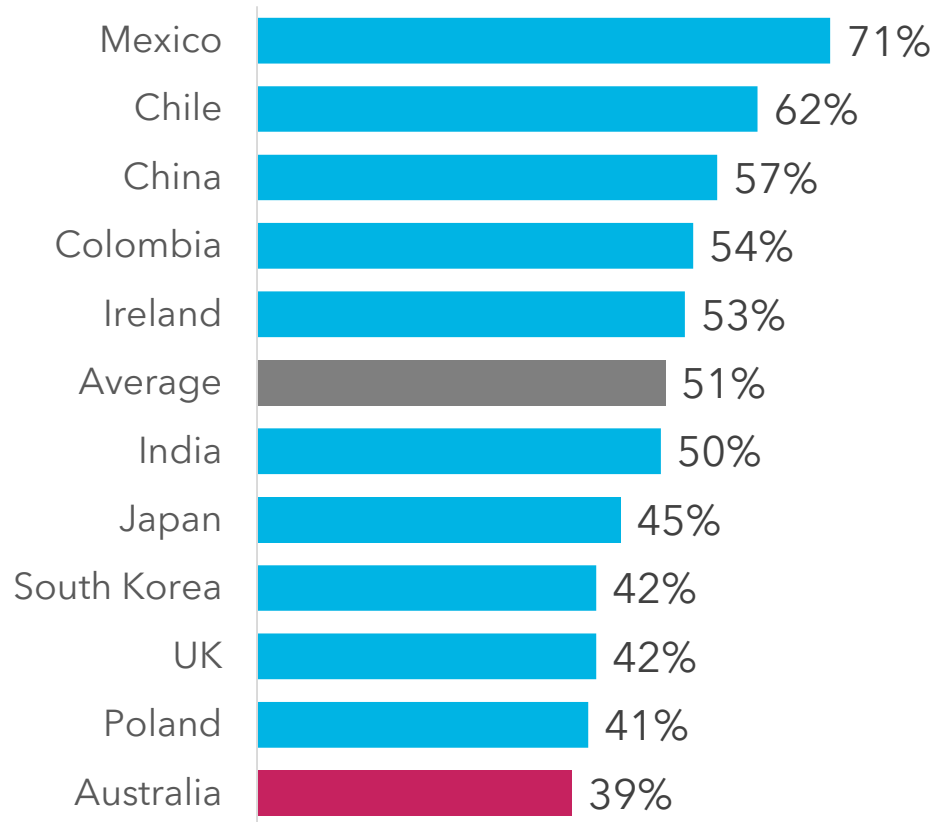


% Classes/Education

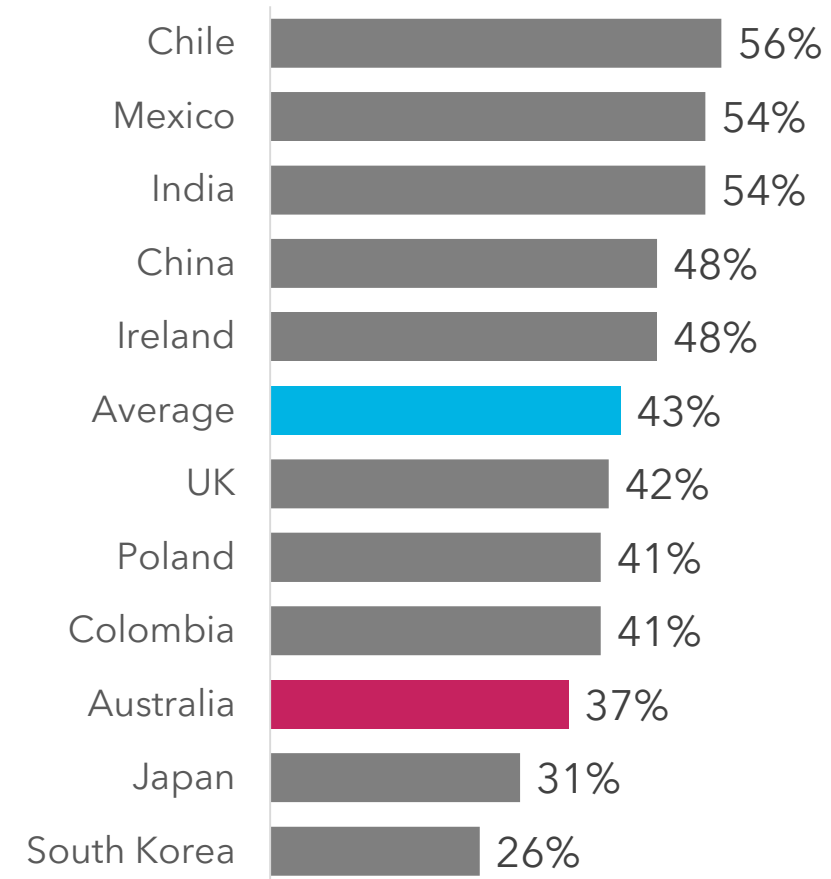


About 4 in 10 Australians are interested in cooking & baking online

% Cooking

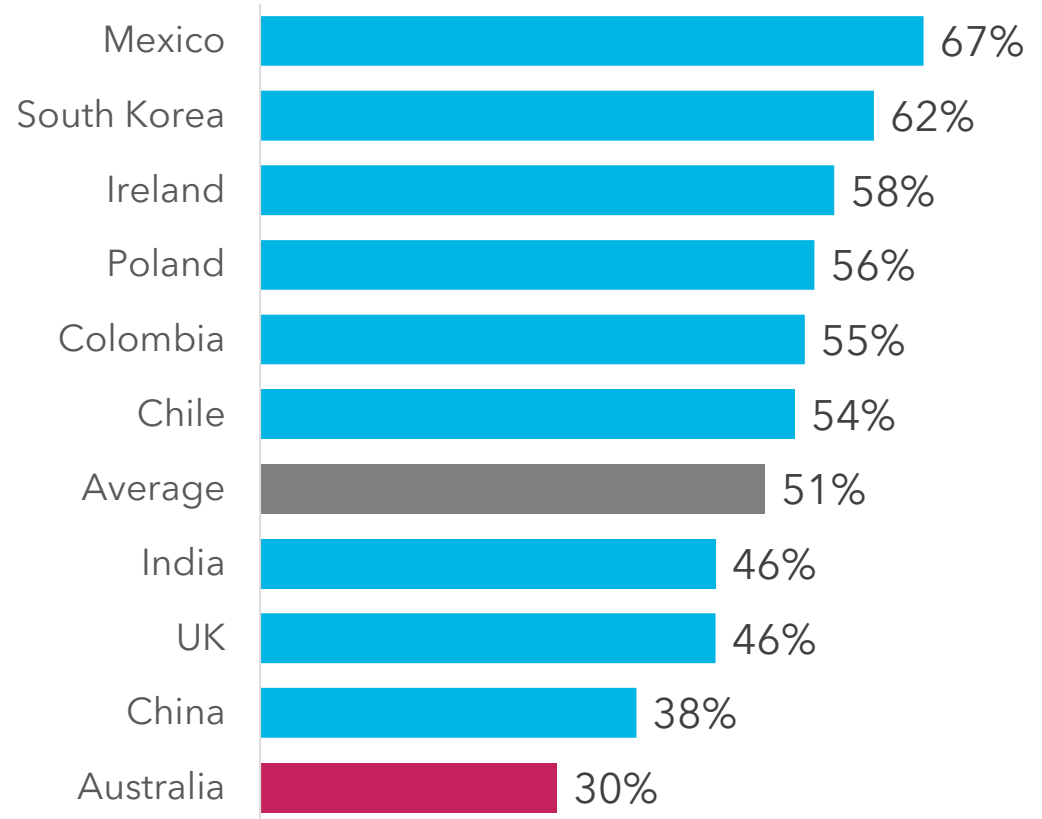


% Baking



Only 30% of Australians are interested in ordering take-out online in the next 3 months

% Order take-away instead of dining out





COVID19

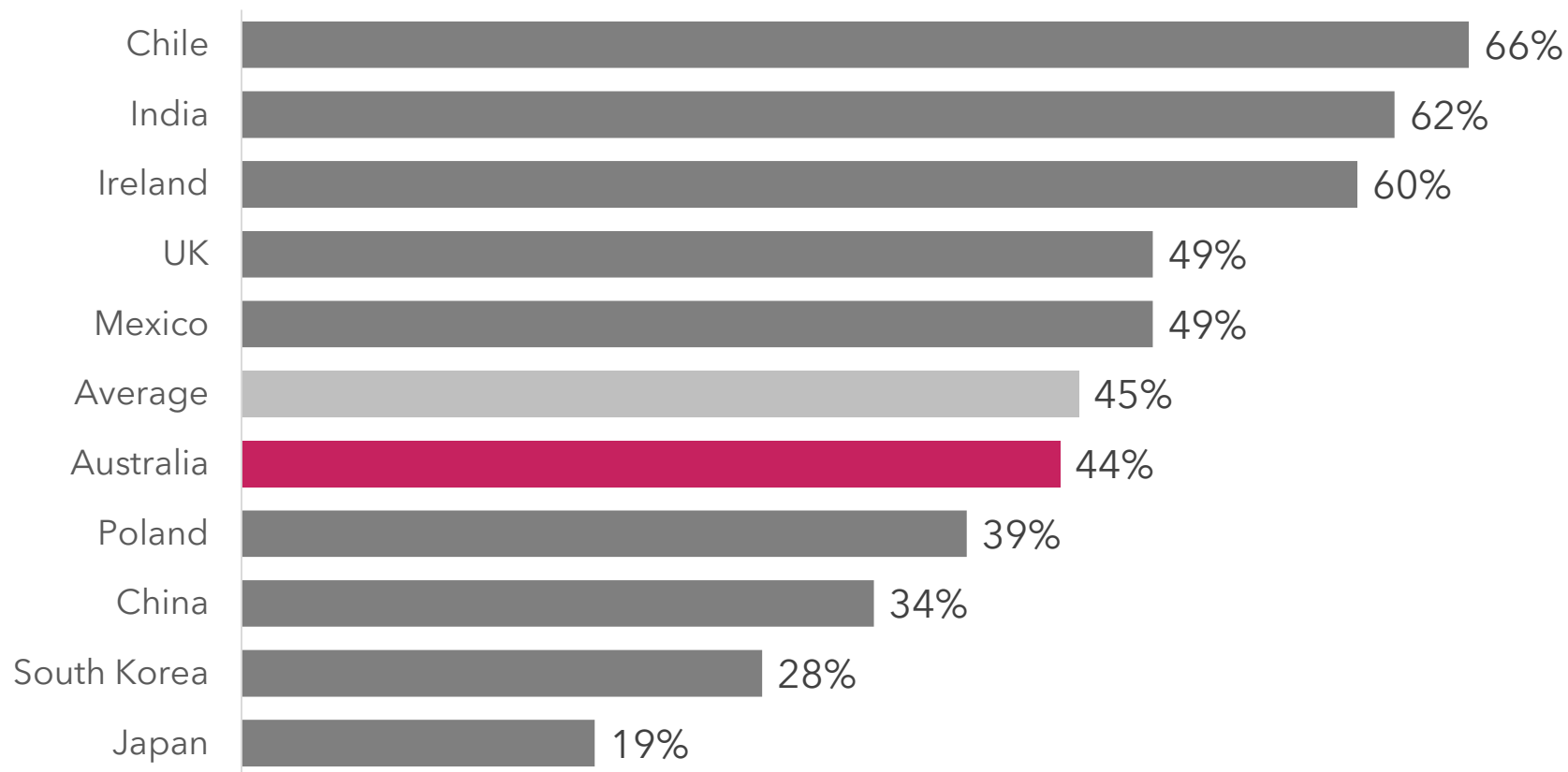
4. Understanding & attitudes

Less than half of us have a clear understanding of what the symptoms of COVID-19 are.

More clarity on what the symptoms of COVID-19 are is needed for many in most countries

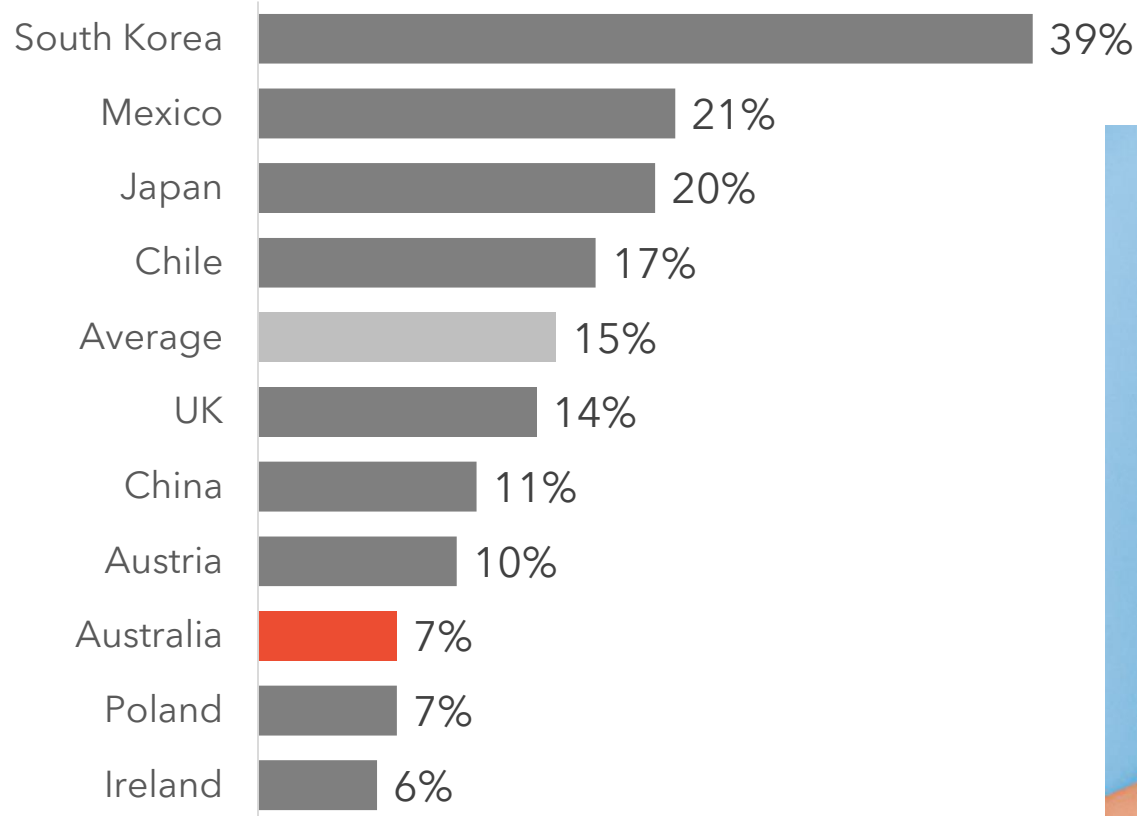
Only 44% of Australians are very clear

% indicate they are very clear on what the symptoms of COVID-19 are



Only 7% of Australians are concerned they may have contracted the virus and not know

% indicate are worried they have the virus although have not been tested



As many as 44% of Australians saw others not keeping their distance when out and about the day before

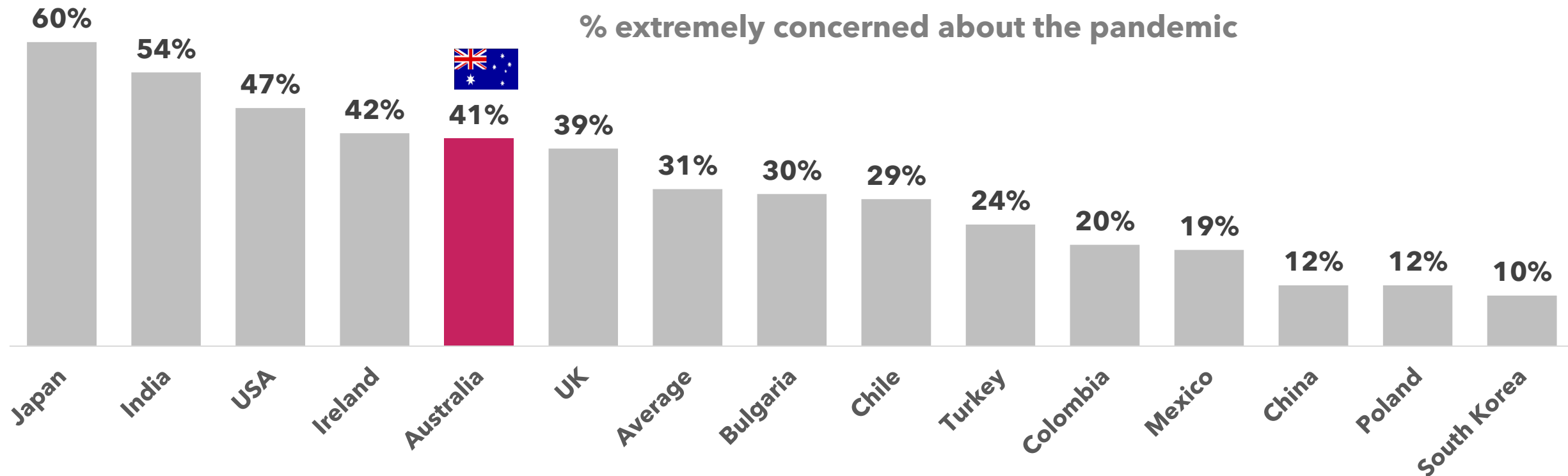


	Average	Austria	Australia	Chile	China	Ireland	Japan	Mexico	Poland	South Korea	UK
Not keeping their distance from people they are with (1-2 meters)	44%	41%	44%	48%	23%	51%	56%	60%	41%	28%	43%
Group gatherings outside recommended number	24%	21%	29%	26%	12%	26%	14%	40%	28%	20%	23%
Other activities that are thought to be risky with regard to passing on the virus	20%	16%	19%	31%	5%	15%	30%	35%	13%	19%	14%
Coughing without covering their mouths	17%	14%	20%	21%	10%	14%	23%	32%	13%	12%	15%
Shaking hands with people they meet	11%	5%	9%	16%	5%	3%	3%	36%	16%	7%	5%
Hugging with people	7%	4%	8%	11%	2%	4%	2%	21%	7%	5%	6%



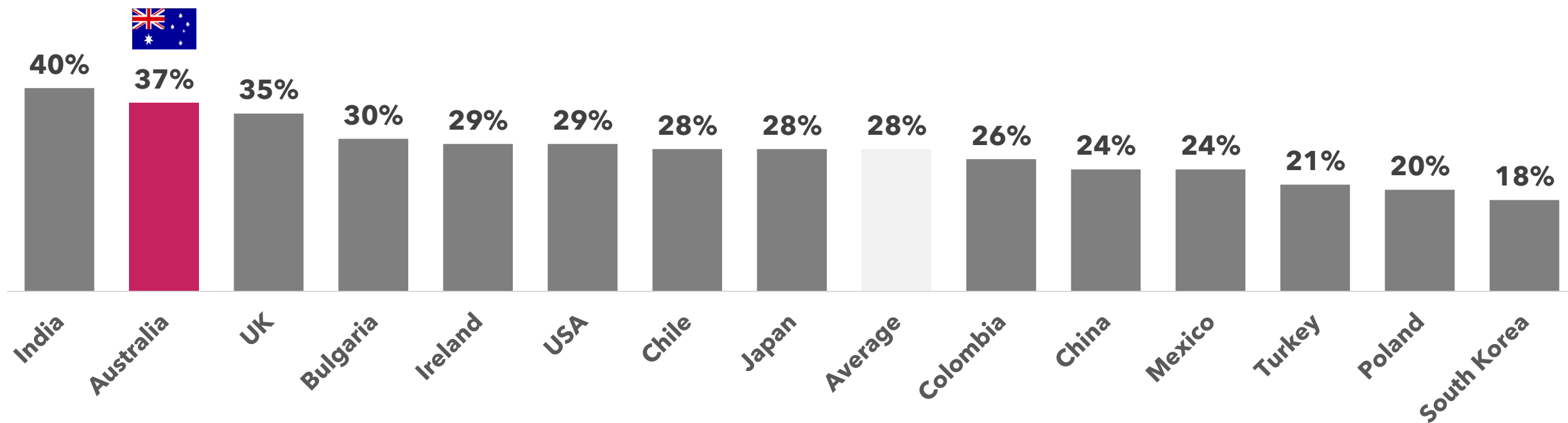
Q. Thinking about yesterday, did you notice people still doing any of these things?

There are high levels of concern evident in most countries about the pandemic overall, particularly so in Japan. As many as 4 in 10 Australians are very concerned



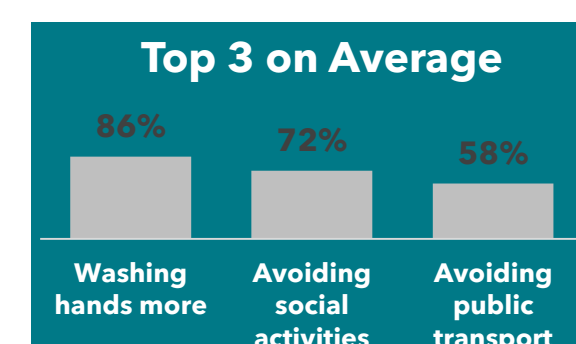
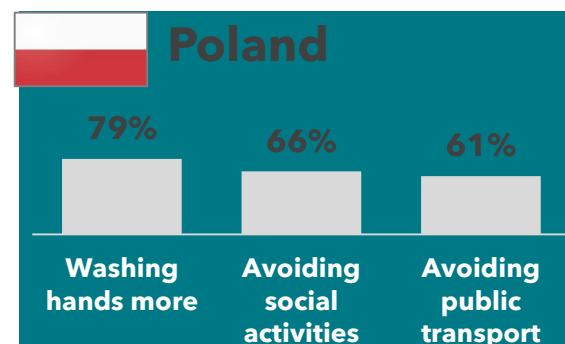
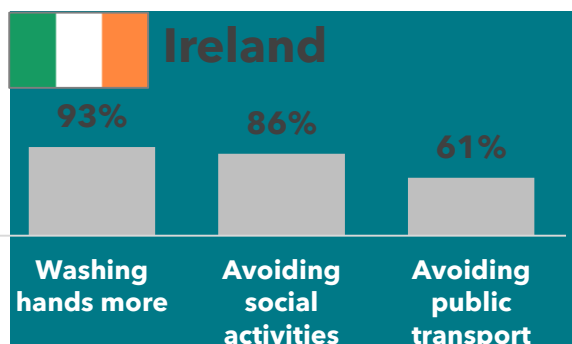
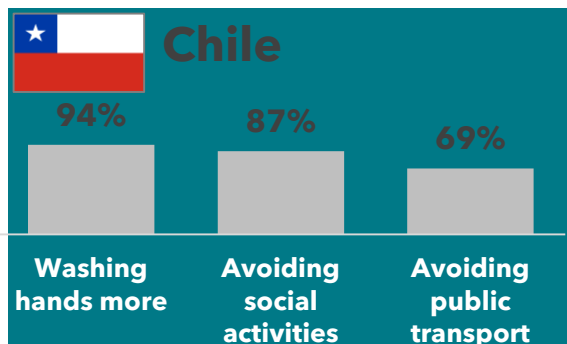
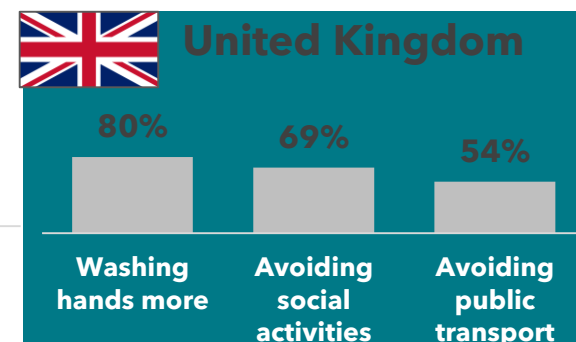
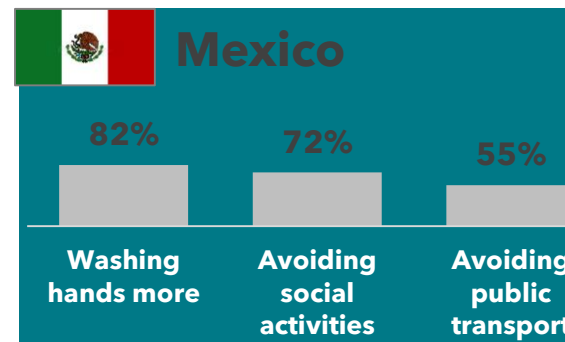
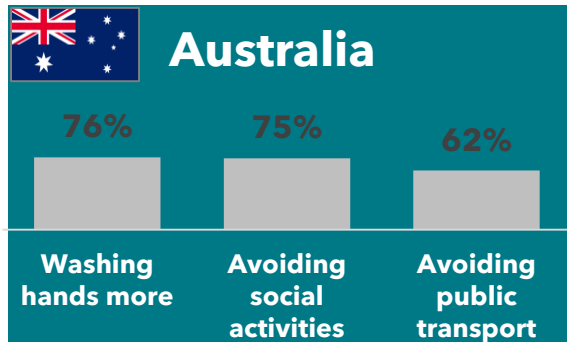
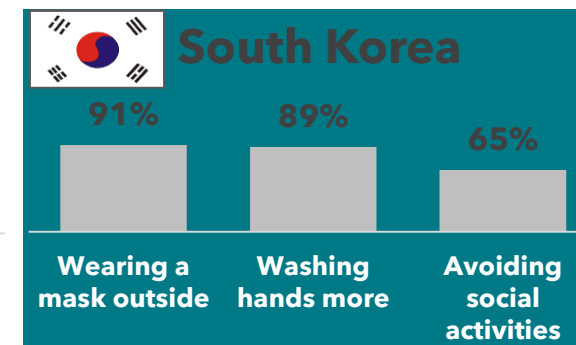
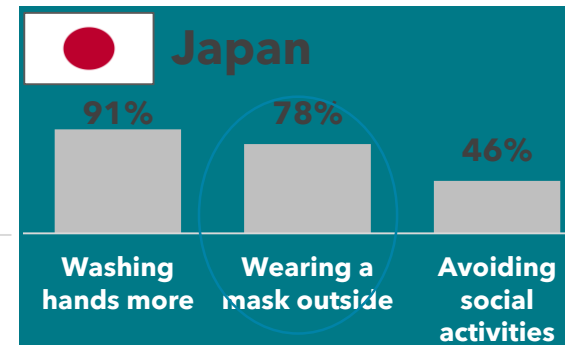
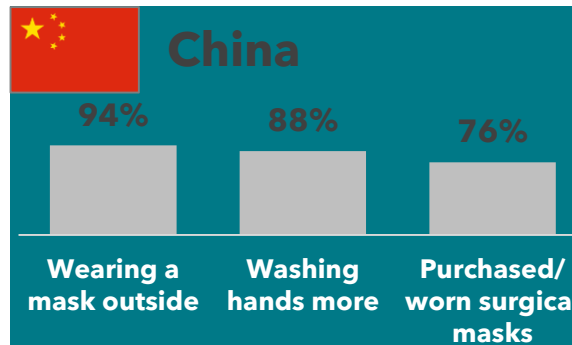
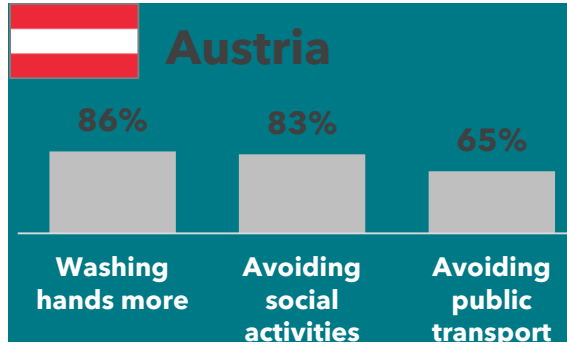
Those in India, Australia and the UK are the most likely to be extremely concerned about contracting the virus

% extremely concerned about contracting the virus



Masks are much more common in Asian countries.
76% of Australians are washing hands and avoiding social activities

% Most common actions taken to avoid
infection/impact of COVID-19



Increased frequency or intensity of hand washing is the most common action taken in most countries as is in Australia (as well as avoiding 'socials')

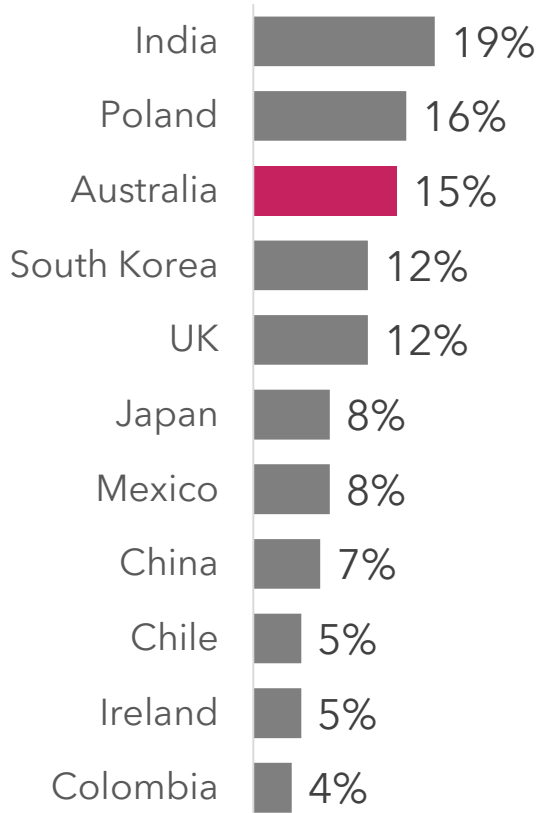
	Average	Austria	Australia	Chile	China	India	Ireland	Japan	Mexico	Poland	South Korea	UK
Increased frequency or intensity of washing hands	86%	86%	76%	94%	88%	89%	93%	91%	82%	79%	89%	80%
Avoided social activities that would put you in contact with others	72%	83%	75%	87%	62%	76%	86%	46%	72%	66%	65%	69%
Am avoiding public transport/reduced usage of public transport	58%	65%	62%	69%	63%	68%	61%	40%	55%	61%	40%	54%
Wearing a mask when going out	49%	14%	19%	65%	94%	75%	12%	78%	50%	25%	91%	15%
Cancelled vacation or travel plans	48%	43%	50%	44%	59%	64%	52%	40%	43%	37%	55%	39%
Worked remotely (from home or other location)	32%	31%	27%	48%	44%	55%	34%	12%	37%	26%	13%	23%
Purchased or worn surgical masks or other physical protection	30%	9%	18%	37%	76%	47%	17%	7%	47%	25%	31%	11%
Bought significantly more groceries than usual in anticipation of shortages or a quarantine	27%	29%	30%	36%	36%	36%	24%	19%	23%	35%	12%	22%
Wearing gloves when going out	26%	21%	19%	34%	33%	27%	39%	6%	16%	49%	11%	28%
Made a significant switch to online shopping or purchasing, above what I normally do	21%	15%	27%	27%	40%	15%	16%	12%	10%	21%	31%	15%
Bought significantly more non-grocery supplies than usual in anticipation of shortages or a quarantine	15%	12%	21%	18%	18%	16%	14%	16%	9%	23%	7%	13%
None of the above	2%	2%	6%	0%	1%	1%	1%	3%	2%	6%	0%	3%



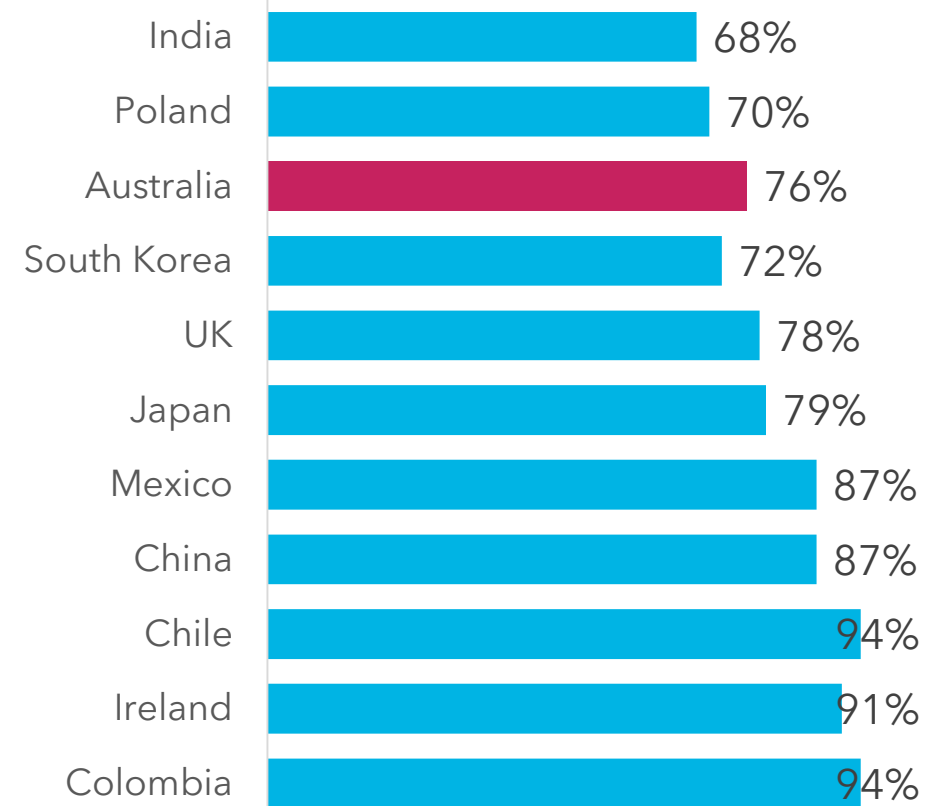
Q.8 What actions are you currently taking in order to avoid being infected with or impacted by COVID-19/Coronavirus?

Most Australians disagree with the view 'I don't know what everyone is so worried about, its just a mild form of flu'

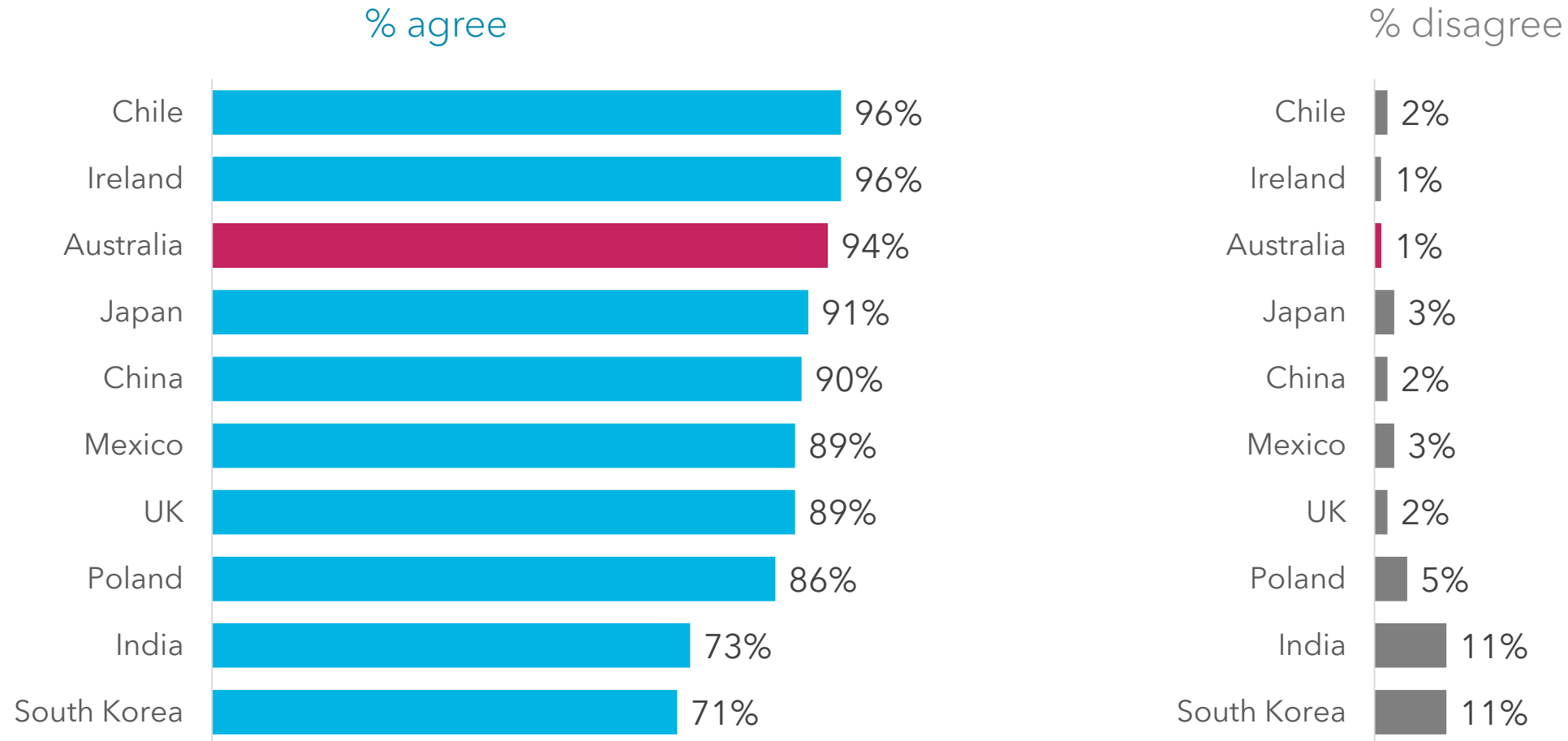
% agree



% disagree

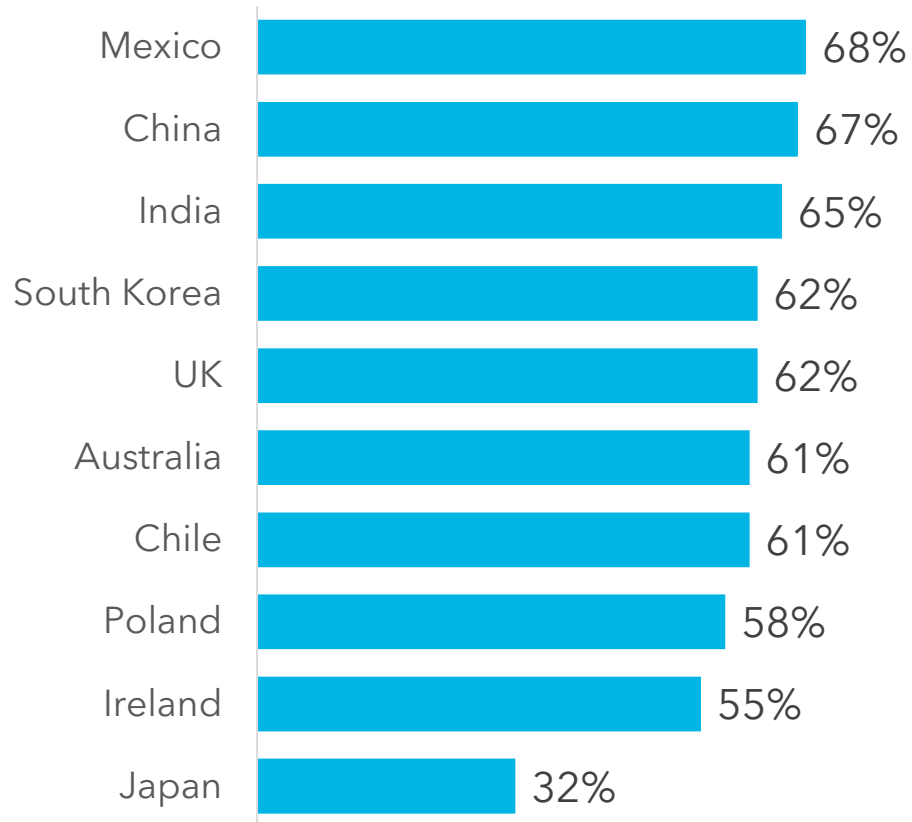


94% of Australians agree 'People who may have COVID-19 but who are not experiencing symptoms can pass on the virus just as easily as those who have symptoms'

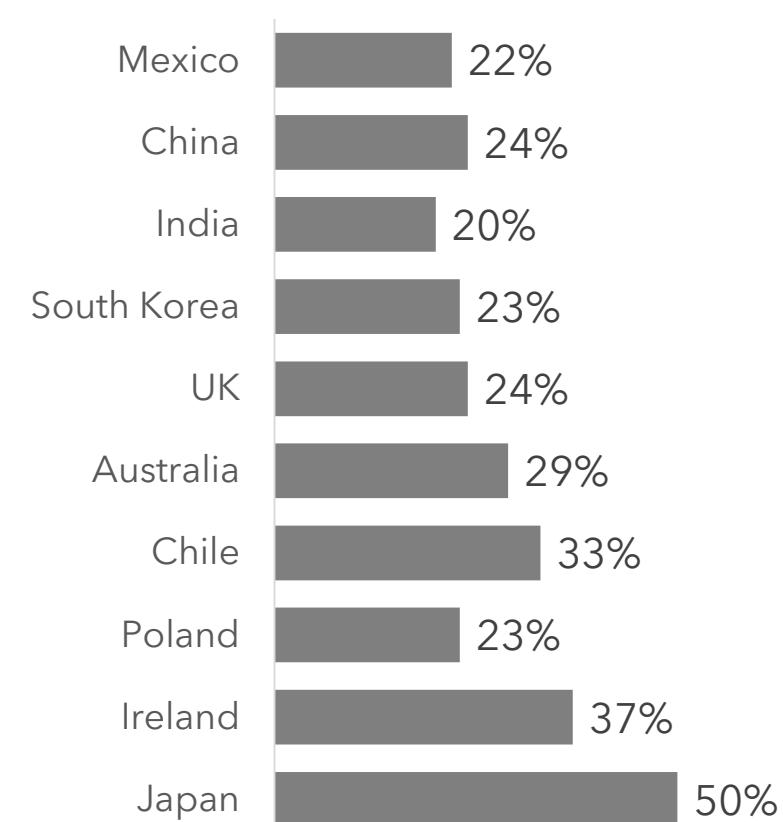


61% of Australians agree 'The virus can only be passed on through close contact – particularly if that person coughs near you.'

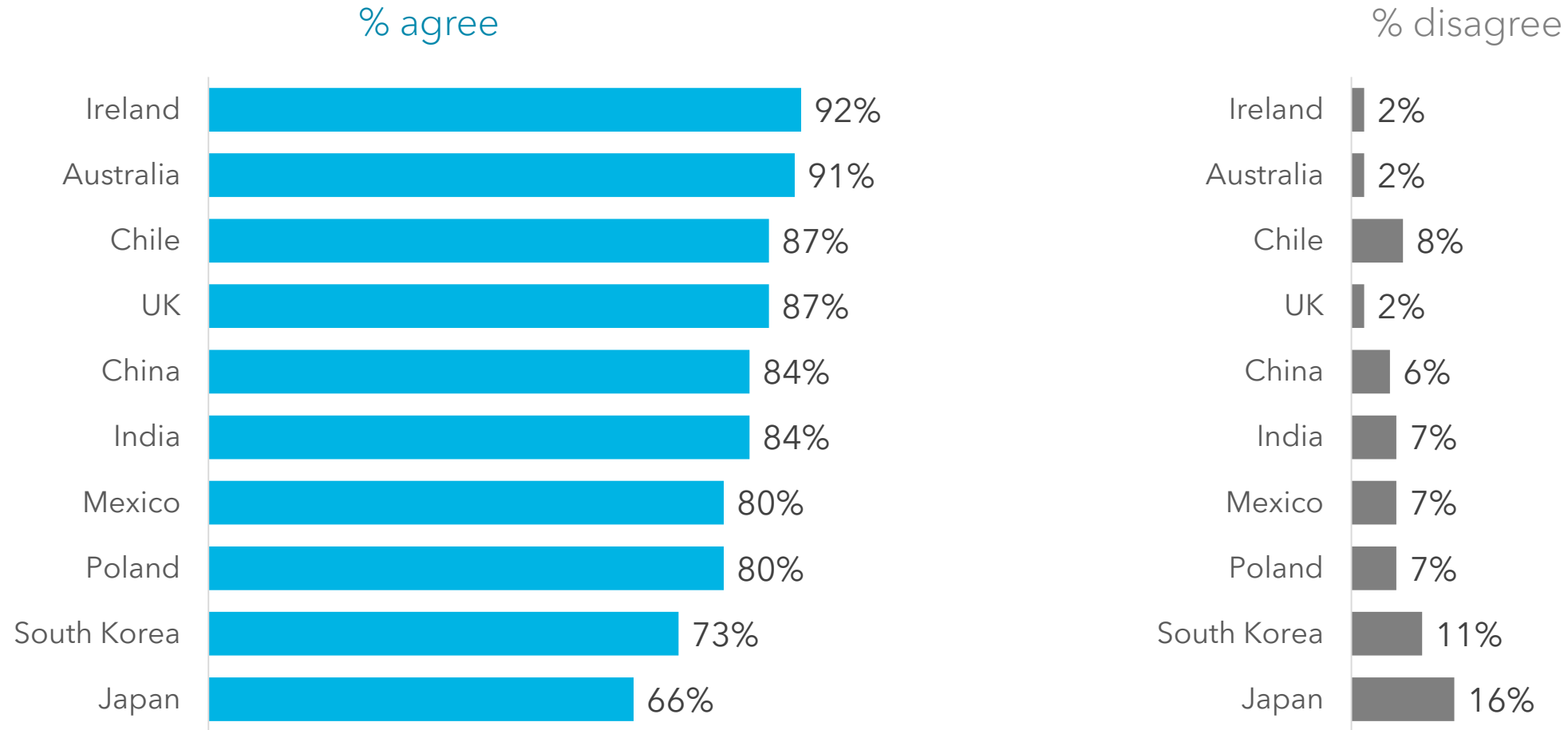
% agree



% disagree

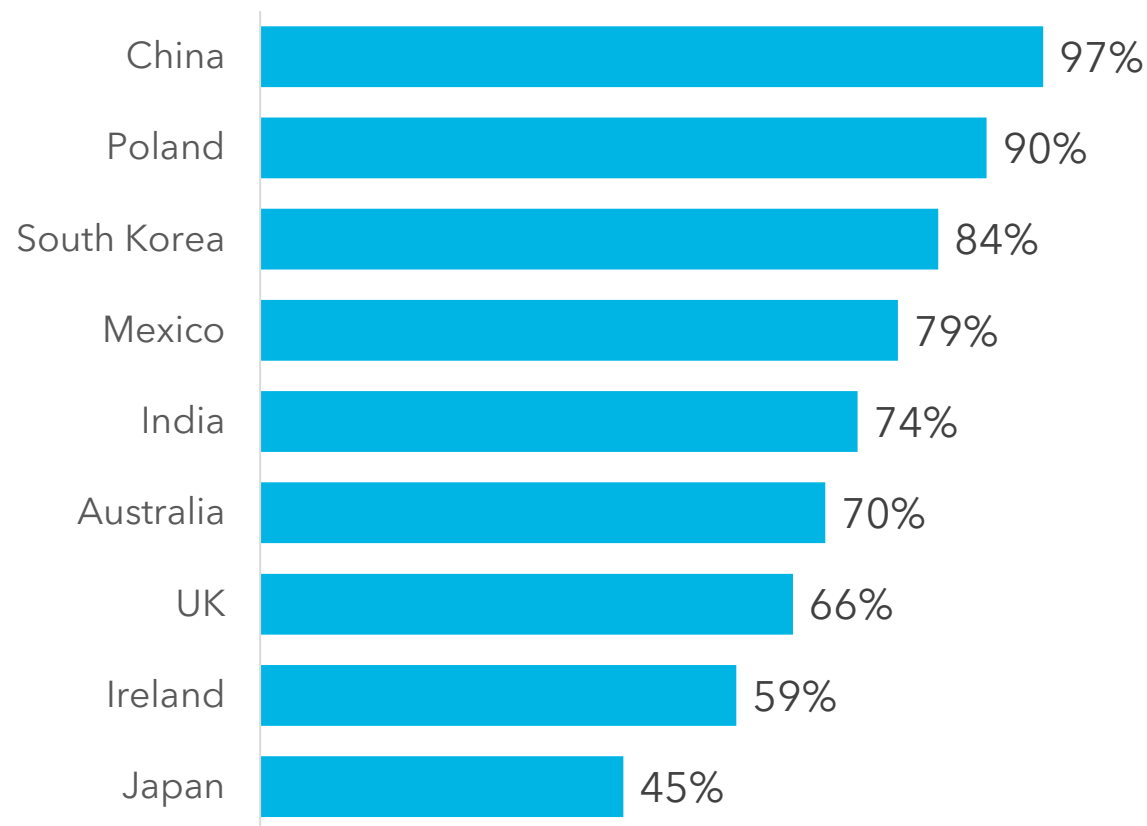


91% of Australians agree 'The virus can be passed on through touching items that people with the virus have touched.'

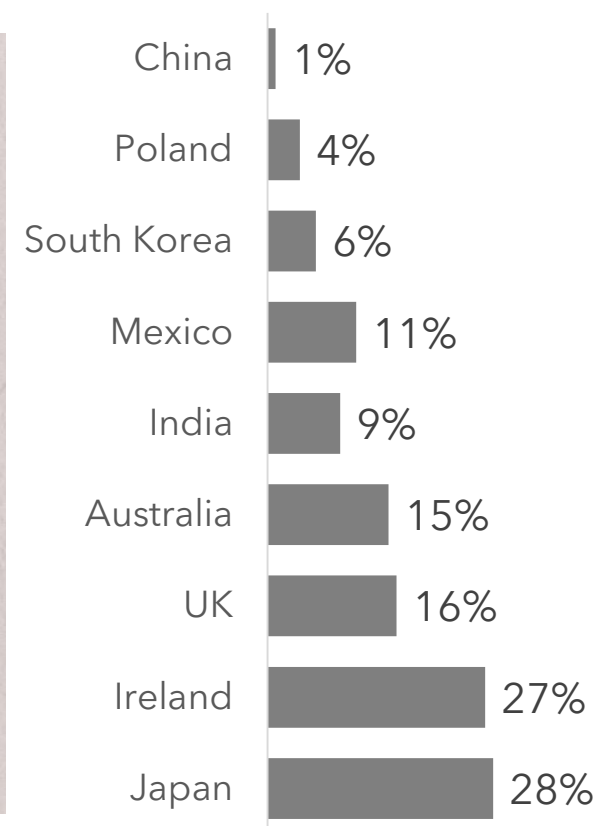


70% of Australians agree 'The virus can be transmitted through droplets. Wearing a mask is the best way to protect yourself and others from being infected.'

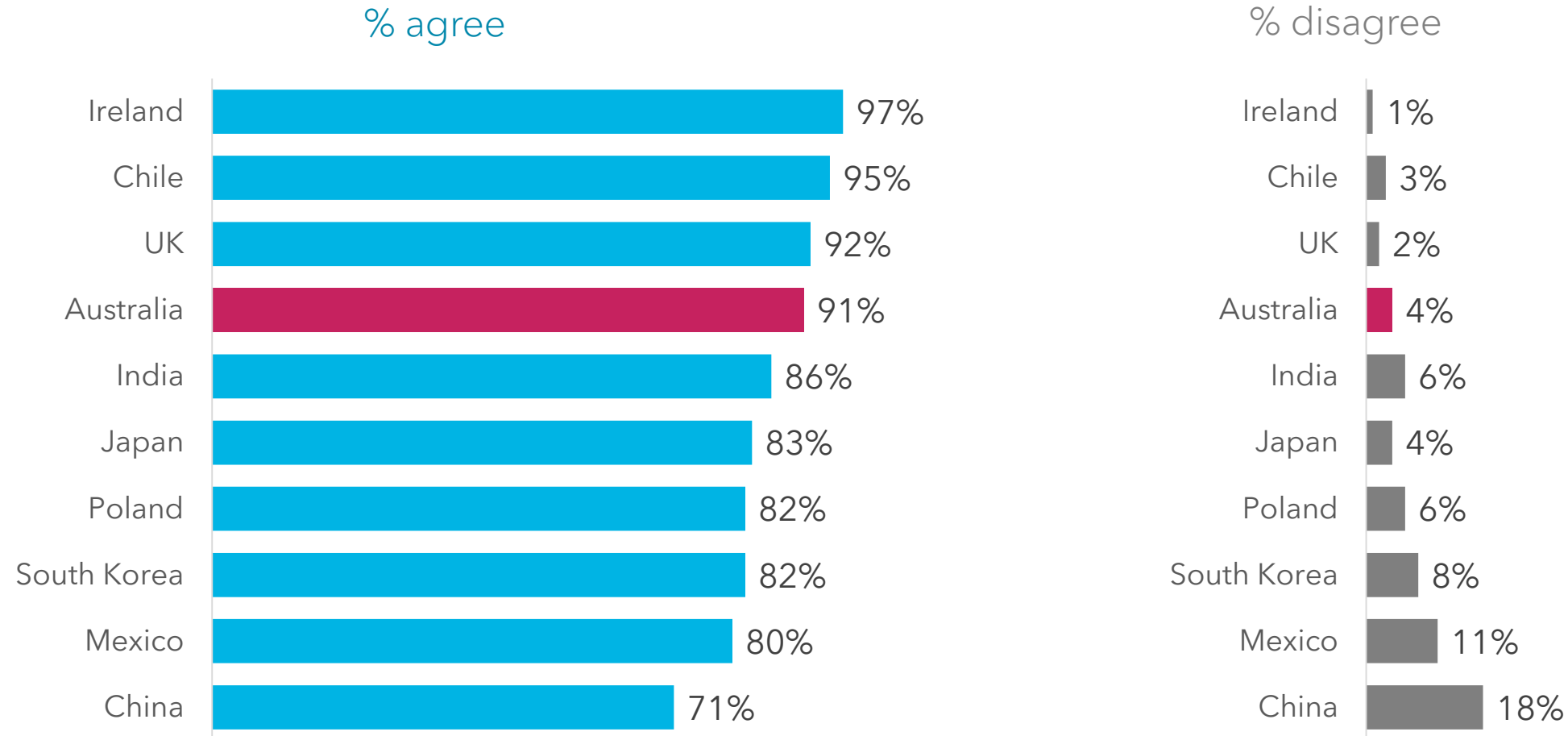
% agree



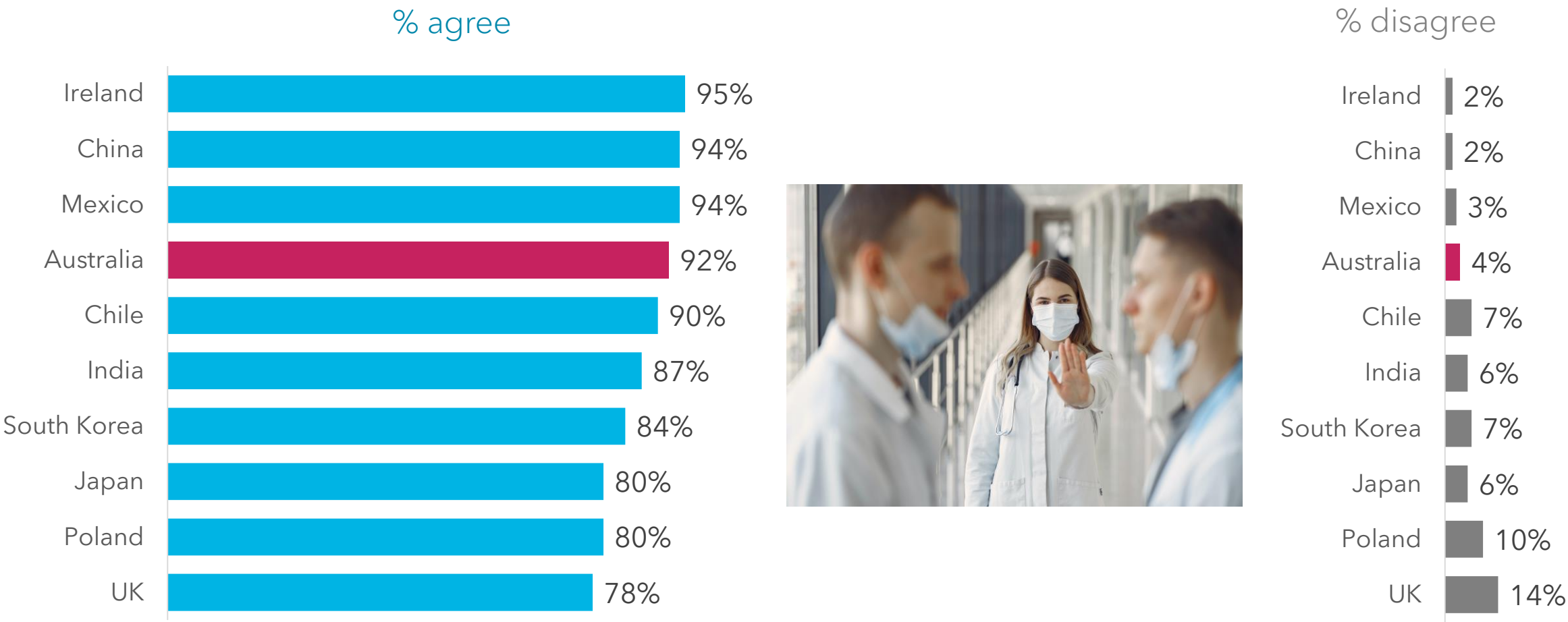
% disagree



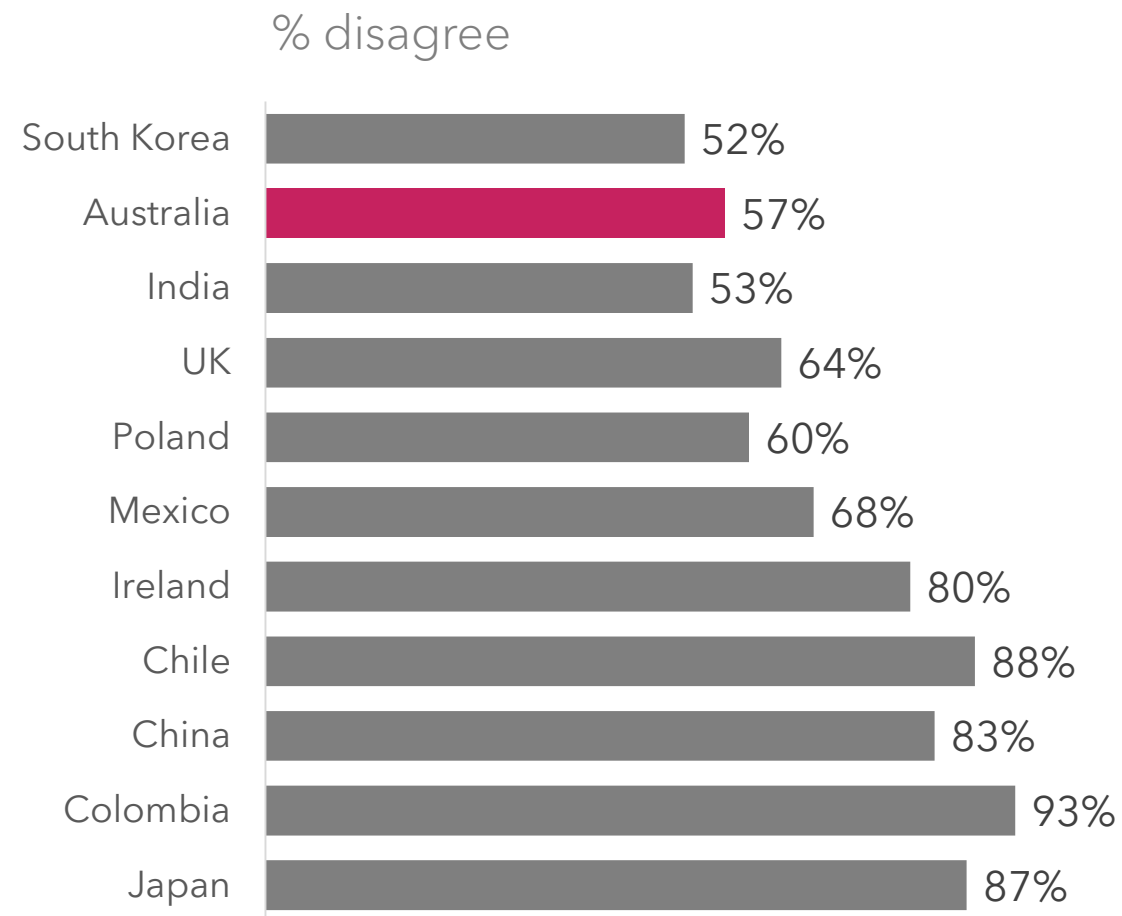
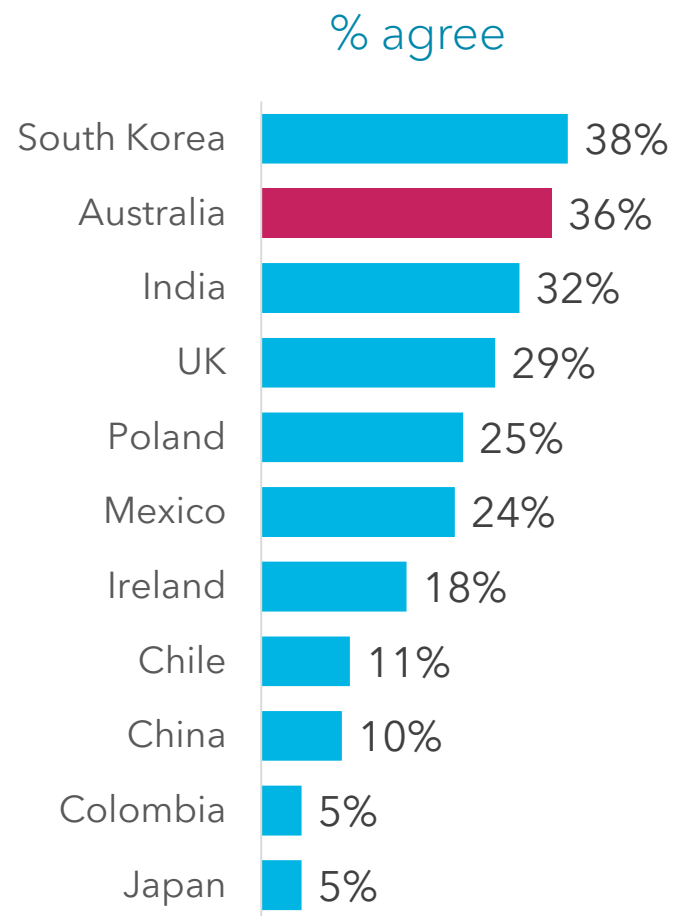
91% of Australians agree 'Everyone needs to act like they have the virus and maintain social distancing.'



92% of Australians agree 'If anyone feels unwell they must isolate themselves and contact their GP.'

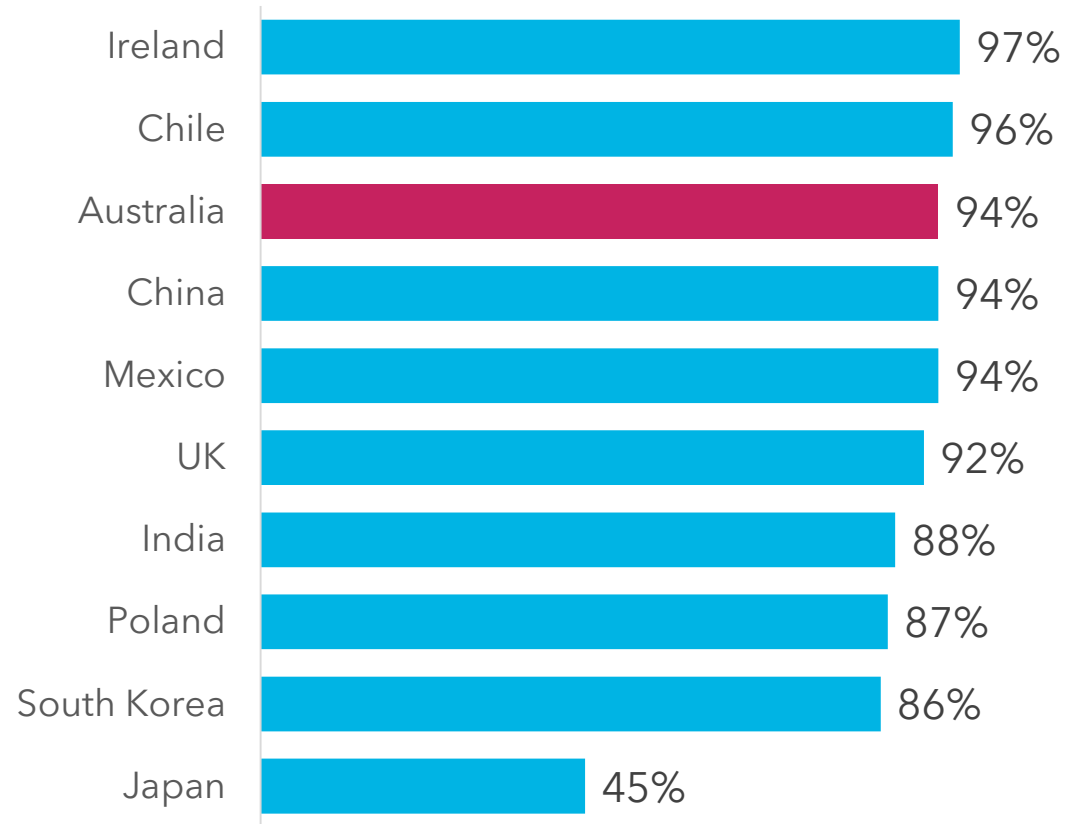


Only 36% of Australians agree 'Only those over 70 or those who have a health issue need be concerned about contracting COVID-19.'

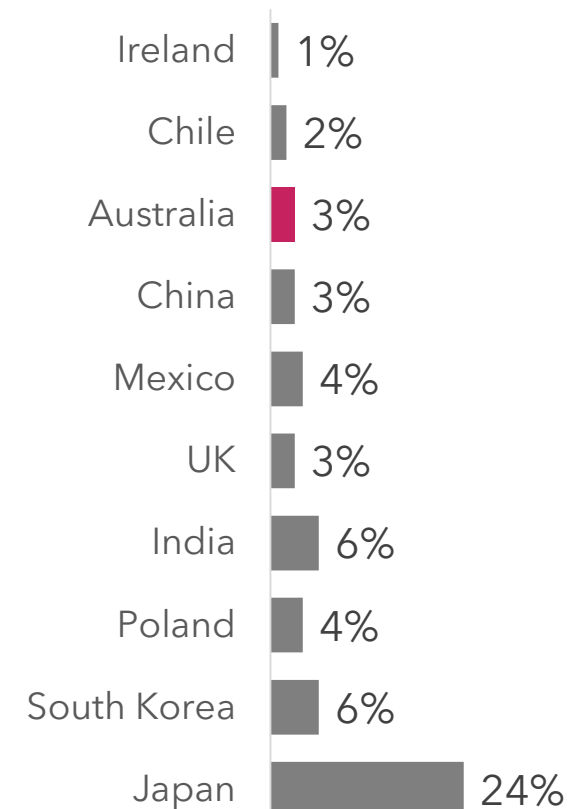


94% of Australians are 'practicing social distancing.'

% agree



% disagree



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