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A Decade After the Financial Crisis, Economic Confidence Rebounds in Many Countries

But pessimism about the future lingers, as does a sense that economic conditions were better pre-crisis

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A Decade After the Financial Crisis, Economic Confidence Rebounds in Many Countries

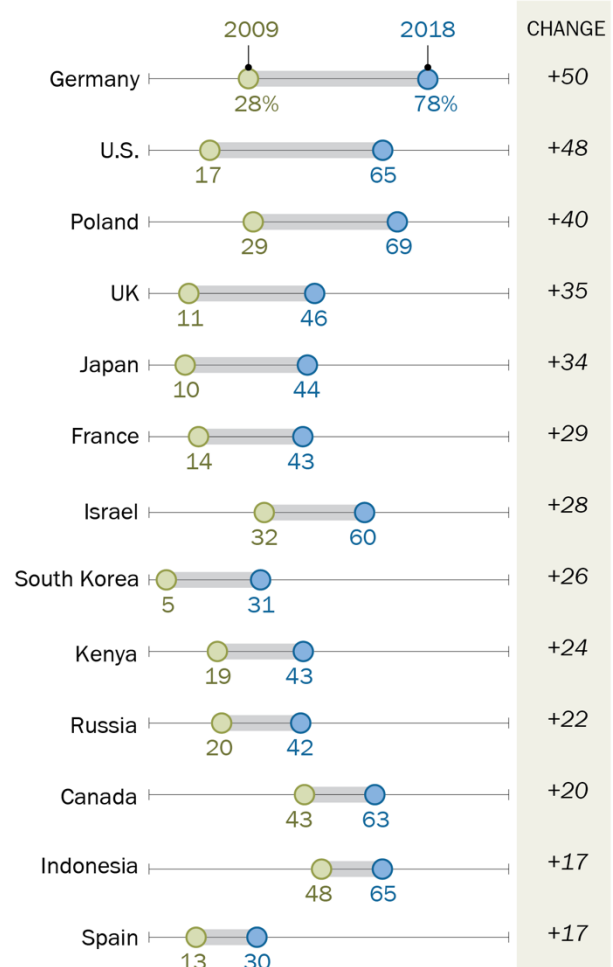
But pessimism about the future lingers, as does a sense that economic conditions were better pre-crisis

“September and October of 2008 was the worst financial crisis in global history, including the Great Depression,” former chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Ben Bernanke has [observed](#). The bottom fell out of the economies in many nations, ushering in widespread malaise. A decade later, economies have gradually recovered and the public mood has rebounded, especially in some of the hardest-hit advanced economies, according to a spring 2018 Pew Research Center survey of 27 countries around the globe.

The change in the public’s economic mood has been dramatic in some nations. In 2018, nearly eight-in-ten Germans (78%) say economic conditions in their country are good, up 50 percentage points from 2009. Nearly two-thirds of Americans (65%) are similarly upbeat about their economy, with their assessment up 48 points. And the economic mood has improved 40 points in Poland, 35 points in the United Kingdom, 34 points in Japan and 24 points in Kenya since the depth of the Great Recession.

In many nations, the economic mood has improved dramatically since the early days of the financial crisis

The current economic situation in our country is good



Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey, Q2.

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More positive public feelings about the current economy have not erased concern about the future, however. In 18 of the 27 nations surveyed, including 80% of the French, 76% of the Japanese and 72% of the Spanish, half or more of the public believes that when children today in their country grow up they will be worse off financially than their parents. In previous Pew Research Center surveys, such worries were largely confined to advanced economies, but now people in emerging markets increasingly express concerns about the financial well-being of the next generation.

Economic nostalgia is also widespread. In roughly half the countries surveyed, a plurality to majority of the public says the financial situation of average people today is worse, compared with the pre-crisis era 20 years ago. This includes 87% of Greeks, 75% of Tunisians and 72% of Italians.

These are among the major findings from a Pew Research Center survey conducted among 30,133 respondents in 27 countries from May 14 to Aug. 12, 2018. The nations included in the survey account for roughly two-thirds of the global gross domestic product.

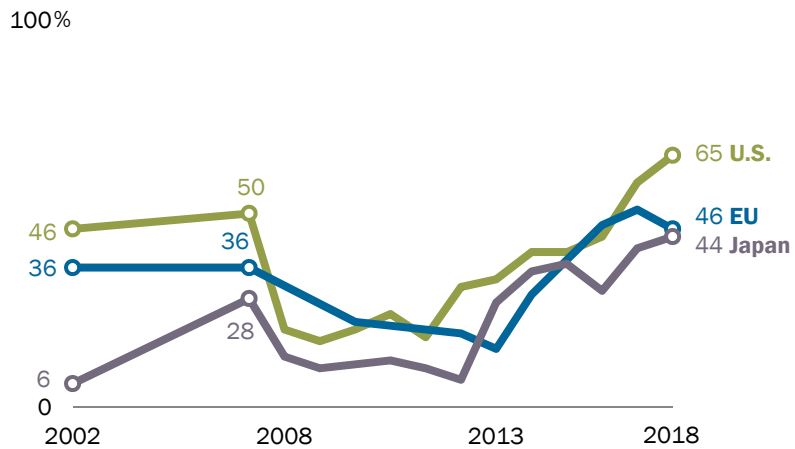
A dramatic recovery

The current uptick in positive economic sentiment has been striking in Europe, Japan and the United States. In the wake of the financial crisis a decade ago, the [U.S.](#) economy shrunk by 2.8%, the [EU](#) economy by 4.2% and the [Japanese](#) economy by 5.4%. Not surprisingly, public assessment of these economies also dropped. But as economic growth has rebounded, so too has public sentiment. Today, American, European and Japanese adults have a more positive view of their own country's economic situation than they have had at any time since 2002.

Roughly two-thirds of Americans (65%) say the U.S. economy is in good shape. The U.S. public's assessment of the American economy is up from 17% in 2009. Across five European nations polled regularly since 2002, a median of 46% believe their own national economies are doing well, compared with 15% as recently as 2013. At the same time, more than four-in-ten Japanese (44%) voice the opinion that their nation's economic situation is good, up from 7% in 2012. (Japanese sentiment was just as low in 2002 (6%), reflecting the fact that Japan's economy had been struggling for years, even before the global financial crisis.)

U.S., EU, Japanese economic sentiment now more positive than at any time since 2002

The current economic situation in our country is good



Note: EU median of France, Germany, Italy, Poland and the UK.
Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey. Q2.

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In most of the nations surveyed, economic confidence plateaued over the past year, with public optimism similarly pronounced in 2017 and 2018. Some exceptions between 2017 and 2018 include significant upward swings in economic confidence in France (up 22 points) and South Korea (up 16 points), as well as a steep downward turn in India (down 27 points). In the latter case, despite this decline, more than half of the public still voices a positive assessment of their economy.

Doubts about the next generation's financial well-being

Despite the dramatic improvement in the public's view of national economic conditions, in many societies people are not that hopeful about what lies ahead for the next generation.

In advanced economies surveyed, a median of just 34% believe that when children today in their country grow up they will be better off financially than their parents. Among the emerging markets polled, slightly more (42%) anticipate a brighter economic future for today's children, but, still far from a majority hold this view.

Pessimism about the future is especially striking in some countries where current conditions are rated positively, as doubts remain about the next generation's financial well-being.

Among advanced economies surveyed, only in Poland does a majority rate both the current economy (69%) and the economic future of today's children (59%) positively. But even there, optimism declines from present to future.

In 13 advanced economies, publics are more likely to say that their country's current economic situation is good than to voice the view that today's children will be better off financially than their parents. This experience-expectation differential is greatest in the Netherlands, Sweden and Germany where roughly eight-in-ten adults or more say their

In many advanced economies, strong economic performance is not enough to convince publics of a bright future

	Current economic situation is good	Children will be better off financially	Diff
Advanced economies	%	%	
Netherlands	85	35	-50
Sweden	81	35	-46
Germany	78	37	-41
Australia	66	29	-37
Canada	63	25	-38
U.S.	65	33	-32
Japan	44	15	-29
France	43	15	-28
UK	46	23	-23
Israel	60	40	-20
Hungary	50	35	-15
Poland	69	59	-10
Spain	30	24	-6
Italy	15	19	+4
Russia	42	51	+9
South Korea	31	41	+10
Greece	4	18	+14
Argentina	17	37	+20
MEDIAN	48	34	
Emerging economies			
Brazil	9	42	+33
Tunisia	8	33	+25
Nigeria	45	65	+20
Indonesia	65	75	+10
India	56	66	+10
Mexico	28	36	+8
South Africa	35	40	+5
Philippines	73	69	-4
Kenya	43	36	-7
MEDIAN	43	42	

Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey. Q2 & Q3.

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economy is doing well, but less than four-in-ten believe the next generation's prosperity will exceed that of their parents.

Among the emerging markets surveyed, only in the Philippines, Indonesia and India do majorities speak positively about both their current economy and anticipate that today's children will be better off than their parents. In a number of emerging markets, people are more optimistic about the future compared with current economic conditions, but overall levels of confidence about their children's financial well-being are not especially high.

Since 2013, the share of the public expecting children's future financial situation to be worse than that of their parents has risen fairly sharply in some emerging economies, up 35 points in Brazil, 28 points in Kenya and 25 points in Tunisia since 2013.

Trend data comparing current economic perspectives with long-term expectations exist for the United States and paint a fairly gloomy picture. The share of U.S. children who grow up to have higher inflation-adjusted incomes than their parents has declined steadily from around 90% for children born in 1940 to 50% for those born in 1984, according to a recent [Brookings Institution study](#). Mirroring these income trends, most Americans expect worse times for the coming generation. For example, today, 65% of adults say the current economic situation is good. But only 33% believe that today's children in the U.S. will be better off financially than their parents. Such pessimism is largely unchanged since 2013.

These views have not improved in light of the U.S. economy's strong economic performance of late. And the gap between satisfaction with the current economy and hope for the finances of the next generation has widened.

The prevalence of economic nostalgia

Along with failure to erase doubts about the future, economic confidence today is dogged by the popular belief that times were better before the Great Recession. Substantial shares in 15 of the 27 nations polled believe that, compared with 20 years ago, the financial situation of average people in their country is worse today. This view is especially pronounced in Greece (87%), Tunisia (75%), Italy (72%), Spain (62%), France (56%) and the UK (53%).

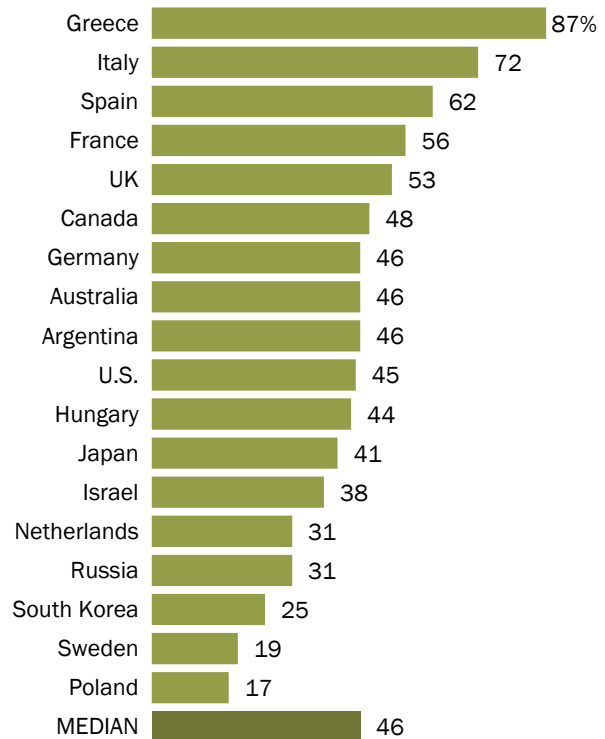
But public perceptions of a more prosperous past often do not mirror real economic change. In Brazil, where a plurality of 43% say personal financial conditions are worse today than 20 years ago, adjusted per capita gross domestic product (GDP) calculated on a purchasing power parity (PPP) basis is actually up 26% since 1998. In Mexico, while 40% say times are worse for average people, per capita GDP is 16% higher. The same is the case in Spain and France, where a majority of the public believes personal finances have deteriorated, but per capita real GDP has improved 25% and 11% respectively.

How one feels about the past may also reflect how one feels about the present. In 26 of the 27 nations surveyed, those who say current economic conditions are bad are also likely to believe that the financial situation of the average person in their country is worse today than it was 20 years ago.

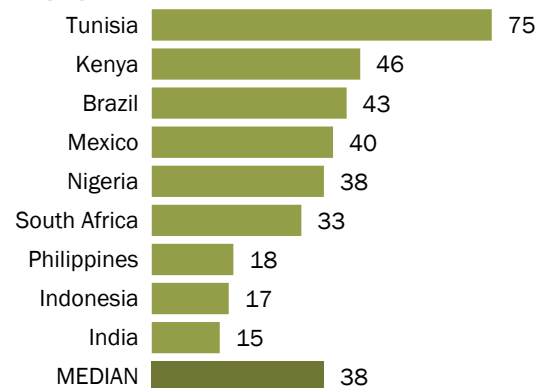
In many countries a majority or plurality say average people's finances are worse today than 20 years ago

The financial situation of average people in our country is worse than it was 20 years ago

Advanced economies



Emerging economies



Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey, Q6.

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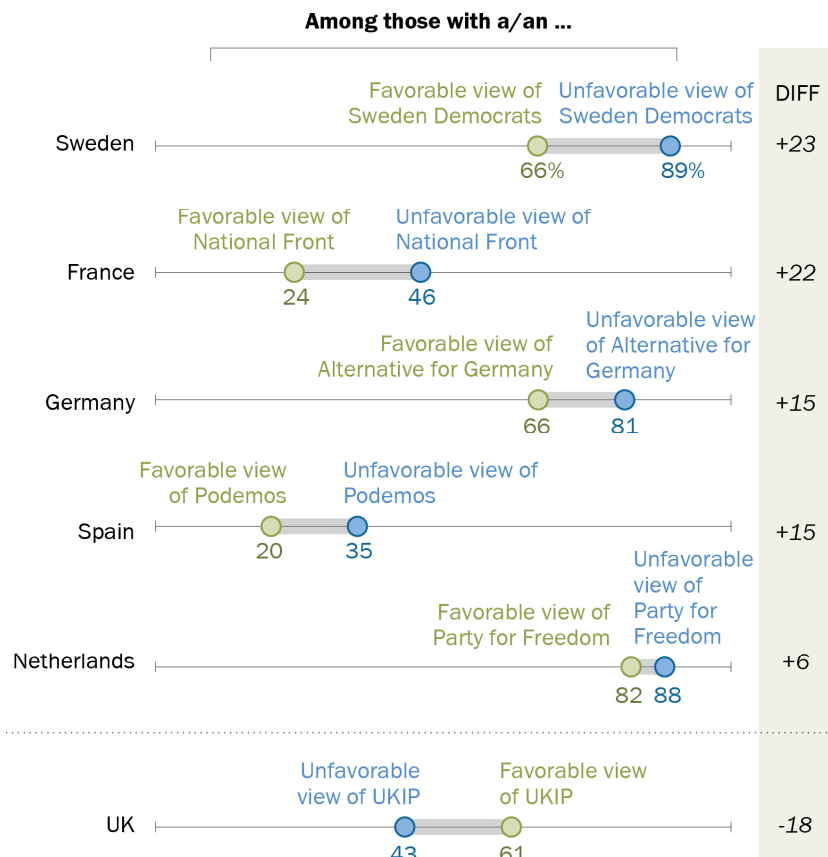
Seeing the economy through a populist lens

In a number of European countries, people sympathetic to populist parties are often more negative about current economic conditions.

In Sweden, for instance, those who have a favorable view of the Sweden Democrats are less likely to have a positive view of economic conditions than are those who have an unfavorable view of the anti-immigrant party. In France, about a quarter of supporters of the National Front think the French economy is good, while just under half of other French adults are positive about the economy. There is also a difference between how backers of the AfD in Germany and other Germans see their economy. And in Spain, supporters of the left-wing populist party Podemos assess economic conditions less favorably than the rest of the Spanish public.

Supporters of European populist parties tend to have more negative views of the economy

The current economic situation in our country is good



Note: All differences shown are statistically significant.

Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey, Q2.

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CORRECTION (December 2018): The data in this report and the accompanying topline have been corrected to reflect a revised weight for Australia in 2018. The changes due to this adjustment are very minor and do not materially change the analysis of the report.

1. The current economic mood

A decade ago, there was pervasive economic gloom in advanced economies. The mood then rebounded, and, by 2017, a median of 45% in 27 nations said their economy was good. Positive economic assessments have leveled off since then, but the improvement in public views of the economy have been dramatic over the course of the decade.

In Germany, 78% of adults today view economic conditions in their country as good, up 50 points since 2009. Approval of the economy is up 48 points in the U.S. and 35 points in the UK over the same period.

In only a few of the advanced economies surveyed is the public particularly down beat about economic conditions. In Greece, only 4% say their economy is good, essentially unchanged since the first Pew Research survey there in 2012. Just 15% in Italy give their economy a thumbs-up. Italy is the only advanced economy surveyed in both 2016 and 2018 where the economic mood has soured over that two-year period.

The post-Great Recession rebound in economic sentiment slowed in 2018

The current economic situation in our country is good

	2009	2017	2018	'09-'18 Change	'17-'18 Change
Advanced economies	%	%	%		
France	14	21	43	+29	+22
South Korea	8	15	31	+23	+16
Hungary	6	42	50	+44	+8
Australia	-	60	66	-	+6
U.S.	17	58	65	+48	+7
Poland	29	64	69	+40	+5
Canada	43	59	63	+20	+4
Japan	10	41	44	+34	+3
Greece	-	2	4	-	+2
Spain	13	28	30	+17	+2
Italy	22	15	15	-7	0
Netherlands	-	87	85	-	-2
Israel	32	62	60	+28	-2
Sweden	-	84	81	-	-3
Russia	20	46	42	+22	-4
UK	11	51	46	+35	-5
Argentina	20	23	17	-3	-6
Germany	28	86	78	+50	-8
MEDIAN		49	48		
Emerging economies					
Nigeria	-	41	45	-	+4
Indonesia	48	63	65	+17	+2
Mexico	30	28	28	-2	0
Kenya	19	43	43	+24	0
Philippines	-	78	73	-	-5
Brazil	-	15	9	-	-6
South Africa	-	45	35	-	-10
Tunisia	-	19	8	-	-11
India	-	83	56	-	-27
MEDIAN		43	43		

Note: Significant changes shown in **bold**.
Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey. Q2.

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Long-term public opinion data on the economic mood in emerging markets is less comprehensive, but it suggests good feelings about the economy may have peaked in some cases. In India, 83% thought the economy was good in 2017; 56% think things are going well in 2018. In Nigeria, 57% gave their economy a good rating in 2015; 45% do so in 2018. In Mexico, 40% thought the economy was doing well in 2014, but just 28% say that in 2018.

Current economic perceptions are often filtered through a partisan lens based on who is in power and the respondent's political leanings. The differences can be quite substantial.

In 20 of the 27 nations, those who support the governing party or parties are more likely than those who do not to say their country's current economic situation is good. This is the case in France, where 69% of those with a favorable opinion of the ruling party, En Marche, now known as La Republique En Marche, voice the view that the French economy is doing well, while 36% of those who do not back En Marche say economic conditions are good. The same dichotomy exists in Hungary: 65% of those who support Fidesz give their economy a thumbs-up, while 40% of those who do not support Fidesz think the economy is doing well. In Nigeria, 60% of supporters of All Progressives Congress, the ruling party, are pleased with economic conditions, but only 34% of those who do not back the party agree.

Those who support their governing parties are more likely to say their national economic situation is good

The current economic situation in our country is good

	Among those who ...		Diff
	Do not support the governing party/parties	Support the governing party/parties	
	%	%	
U.S.*	52	85	+33
France	36	69	+33
UK	39	69	+30
Russia	30	60	+30
Nigeria	34	60	+26
Hungary	40	65	+25
Canada	57	81	+24
India	48	72	+24
Japan	36	58	+22
Poland	66	81	+15
Kenya	35	50	+15
Brazil	7	22	+15
Mexico	26	40	+14
Netherlands	80	93	+13
Israel	53	66	+13
Germany	74	85	+11
Sweden	78	88	+10
Indonesia	61	70	+9
South Africa	30	39	+9
Australia	63	69	+6
Spain	32	24	-8

* U.S. figures show Republicans and Republican-leaning independents as supporters of the governing party. Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents are represented as not supporting the governing party.

Note: Only statistically significant differences shown.

Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey. Q2.

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2. Expectations for the future

From 1990 to 2017 the inflation-adjusted per capita gross domestic product (GDP) calculated by purchasing power parity (PPP) improved dramatically in most nations, [according to World Bank data](#).

But in many advanced economies, expectations that such economic good fortune will continue into the next generation are notably absent. A median of 56% in the 18 relatively well-off nations surveyed actually expect their country's children to be worse off financially than their parents. Just 34% think they will be better off.

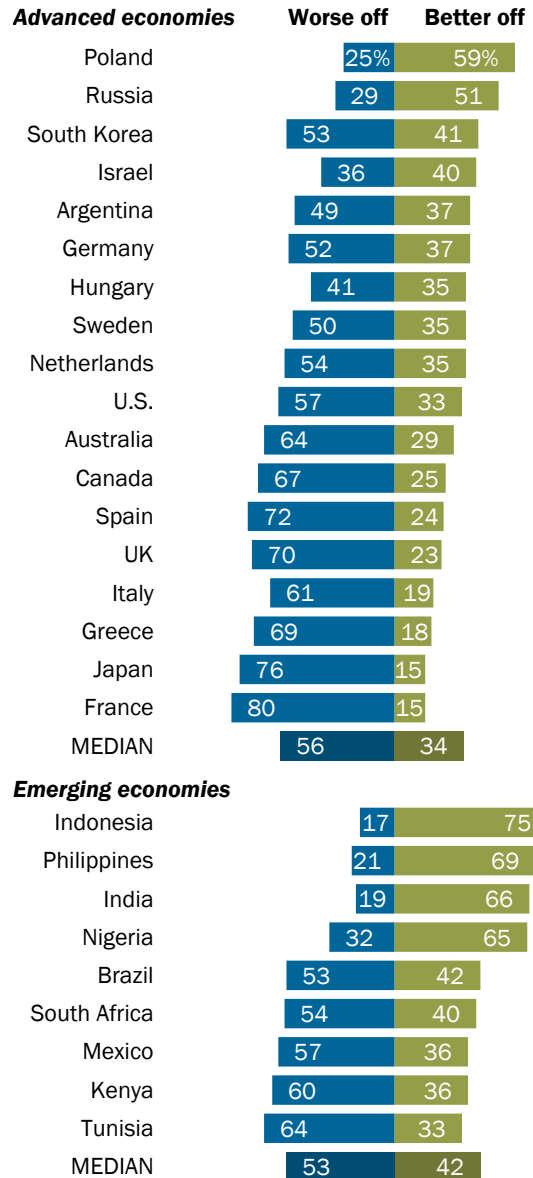
The dichotomy between recent personal experience and future expectations is strikingly evident in key countries. Per capita GDP on a PPP basis grew 56% in Australia in the last quarter-century, 46% in the United States, 45% in Germany, 41% in Canada, 31% in France and 28% in Japan. But in 2018, nearly two-thirds of Australians (64%), more than half of Americans (57%) and Germans (52%), two-thirds of Canadians (67%), about three-quarters of Japanese (76%) and eight-in-ten French (80%) hold the view that children today in their country will *not* grow up to be better off financially than their parents. One of the greatest disparities between experience and expectations is in South Korea, where per capita GDP grew 209% since 1990, but 53% of adults say today's children will not fare as well as their parents.

Among the advanced economies surveyed, only Poles and Russians are even mildly optimistic.

Nearly six-in-ten Poles (59%) and roughly half of Russians (51%) expect their young to grow up to

Pessimism about children's future is widespread in most economies

When children today in our country grow up they will be ___ financially than their parents



Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey. Q3.

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be better off. The Poles may have some reason for such optimism; their incomes have grown 165% since 1990. Russians have less reason to be optimistic; their per capita GDP has grown by only 20%.

Such optimism or pessimism about prospects for the next generation is largely unchanged in many advanced economies since last year, with a notable exception of Poland, where the portion of those who expect children to be better off has gone up 11 points.

In only a few countries do young adults see the future more positively than their elders. In Kenya, the young (43%) are more likely than their elders (21%) to be hopeful about the future. In Sweden, those ages 18 to 29 are more likely — by 21 points — than those ages 50 and older to expect today’s children to be better off financially than their parents. There is also a similar 20-point generation gap in the Netherlands. And in South Africa, it is the young (50%) who are more positive about the financial prospects of today’s children than are older South Africans (31%)

Pessimism about children’s future is a partisan issue in some advanced economies. In the U.S., 45% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents believe today’s kids will be better off than their parents; just 24% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents agree. In Sweden, 21% of those with a favorable view of the right-wing populist Sweden Democrats say young people will be better off financially in the future, while 43% of those who do not see the Sweden Democrats positively are optimistic.

Notably, in Poland and the UK, those with favorable views of right-wing populist parties are more optimistic. Among Law and Order (PIS) supporters, 68% see the future as bright for Poland’s young people, compared with 52% of the rest of the public. In the UK, 36% of UKIP backers are upbeat; just 20% of others share that optimism.

Generations divided over children’s financial prospects

When children today in our country grow up they will be better off financially than their parents

	18-29	30-49	50+	Youngest-oldest gap
Advanced economies	%	%	%	
Sweden	49	36	28	+21
Netherlands	51	33	31	+20
Greece	31	19	14	+17
Germany	51	32	35	+16
Australia	39	27	24	+15
Spain	32	24	19	+13
Argentina	42	39	31	+11
Emerging economies				
Kenya	43	32	21	+22
South Africa	50	38	31	+19

Note: Only statistically significant differences shown.
Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey. Q3.

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In emerging economies, recent economic experience has buoyed hope for the future among some. Indian GDP per capita has increased 266% since 1990, and such good fortune in about a generation may explain why two-thirds of adults (66%) believe young Indians will grow up to be better off financially than their parents. In the Philippines, per capita GDP has grown by 90%, and 69% of Filipinos are optimistic about the economic prospects of the next generation.

Such optimism is not universal in emerging economies, however. Nearly two-thirds of Tunisians (64%) are pessimistic about the financial future of their younger generation, despite a 93% increase in per capita GDP. Roughly half of Brazilians (53%) say kids today in their country will be worse off in the future, possibly reflecting a more modest 36% improvement in per capita income over the last quarter-century.

3. Is the present better than the past?

The past often exerts a powerful hold on human imagination. In 15 of the 27 nations surveyed, a plurality says the financial situation of average people in their country is worse today than it was 20 years ago. Pluralities in seven countries believe things are better today.

Among the advanced economies surveyed, only in Poland, Sweden and South Korea do majorities believe that average people's finances are better off today than they were two decades ago. At the same time, majorities in Greece, Italy, Spain and France say personal finances are not as good.

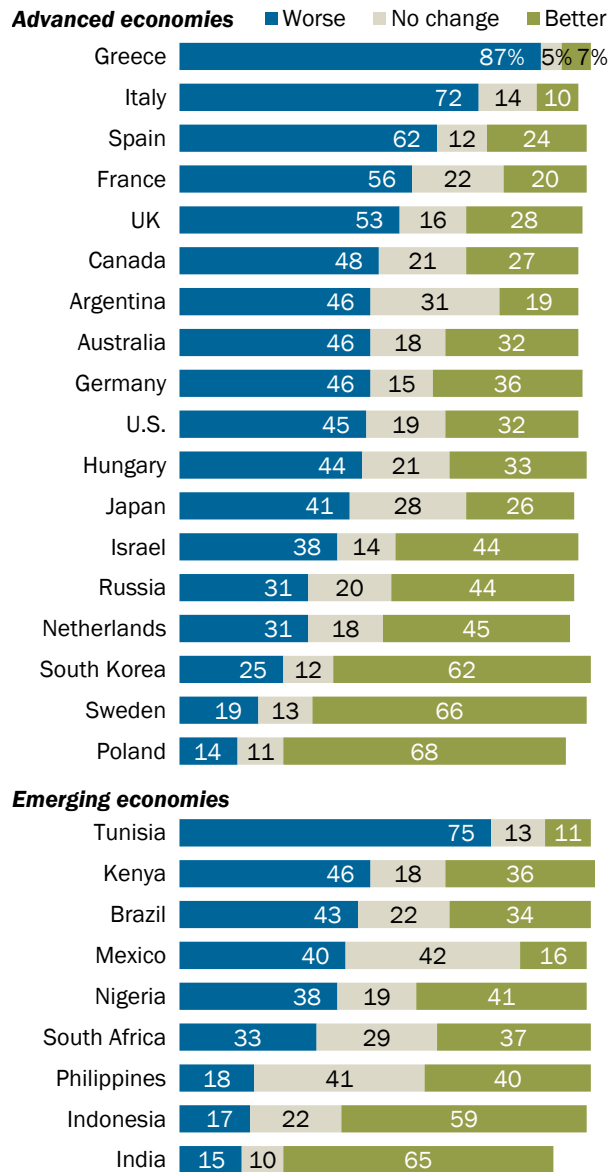
Sentiment in emerging markets is not much better. Only in India and Indonesia does the public express the view that average people's financial situation is better today. Three-quarters of Tunisians and four-in-ten or more Kenyans, Brazilians and Mexicans say things are worse.

Economic nostalgia is a frequently shared sentiment among Europeans who hold a favorable view of right-wing populist parties. In Germany, 64% of AfD backers believe the financial situation of average people is worse today than it was 20 years ago. In Hungary, 54% of Jobbik supporters say things are worse today.

Conversely, if a respondent's party is in power, they often feel better about the present than about the past. In the United States, Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (48%) are more likely than Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents (22%)

Many say average people are worse off

Compared with 20 years ago, the financial situation of average people in our country is ...



Source: Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey. Q6.

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to say that people's financial conditions are better today than they were two decades ago. In Poland, supporters of PiS, the governing party, are more likely (80%) than others (64%) to believe that Poles' current financial situation is better. In Hungary, supporters of Fidesz are more likely than members of other parties to voice the view that the personal financial situations today are better than they were 20 years ago (50% vs. 23%).

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Methodology

About the Pew Research Center's Spring 2018 Global Attitudes Survey

Results for the survey are based on telephone and face-to-face interviews conducted under the direction of D3 Systems, Inc., Kantar Public UK, Kantar Public Korea and Langer Research Associates. The results are based on national samples, unless otherwise noted. More details about our international survey methodology and country-specific sample designs are [available here](#).

[Detailed information on survey methods for this report](#)

[General information on international survey research](#)

Appendix A: Economic categorization

For this report we grouped countries into two economic categories: “advanced” and “emerging and developing.” In the report, this category is referred to as “emerging.” These categories are fairly common in specialized and popular discussions and are helpful for analyzing how public attitudes vary with economic circumstances. However, no single, agreed-upon scheme exists for placing countries into these three categories. For example, even the World Bank and International Monetary Fund do not always agree on how to categorize economies.

In creating our economic classification of the 27 countries in our survey, we relied on multiple sources and criteria. Specifically, we were guided by: World Bank income classifications; classifications of emerging markets by other multi-national organizations, such as the International Monetary Fund; per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP); total size of the country’s economy, as measured by GDP; and average GDP growth rate between 2013 and 2017.

Below is a table that outlines the countries that fall into each of the two categories. The table includes for each country the World Bank income classification, the 2017 GDP per capita based on purchasing power parity (PPP) in current prices, the 2017 GDP in current U.S. dollars and the average GDP growth rate between 2013 and 2017.

Appendix A: Economic categorization

	World Bank income group	2017 GDP per capita (PPP)	2017 GDP (current US\$ billions)	Average GDP growth (%) (2013-2017)	
Advanced economies	Argentina	High income	20,787	638	0.7
	Australia	High income	47,047	1,323	2.5
	Canada	High income	46,378	1,653	2.2
	France	High income	42,779	2,583	1.1
	Germany	High income	50,716	3,677	1.7
	Greece	High income	27,809	200	-0.3
	Hungary	High income	28,375	139	3.2
	Israel	High income	38,413	351	3.6
	Italy	High income	39,817	1,935	0.3
	Japan	High income	43,876	4,872	1.3
	Netherlands	High income	52,941	826	1.8
	Poland	High income	29,291	525	3.2
	Russia	Upper middle	25,533	1,578	0.2
	South Korea	High income	38,260	1,531	3.0
	Spain	High income	38,091	1,311	1.9
	Sweden	High income	50,070	538	2.8
	United Kingdom	High income	43,877	2,622	2.2
United States	High income	59,532	19,391	2.2	
Emerging and developing economies	Brazil	Upper middle	15,484	2,056	-0.5
	India	Lower middle	7,056	2,597	7.1
	Indonesia	Lower middle	12,284	1,016	5.1
	Kenya	Lower middle	3,286	75	5.5
	Mexico	Upper middle	18,149	1,150	2.5
	Nigeria	Lower middle	5,861	376	2.7
	Philippines	Lower middle	8,343	314	6.6
	South Africa	Upper middle	13,498	349	1.5
	Tunisia	Lower middle	11,911	40	2.0

Source: World Bank, accessed August 15, 2018.

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Appendix B: Political categorization

For this report, we grouped people into two political categories: those who support the governing political party (or parties) and those who do not. These categories were coded based on the party or parties in power at the time the survey was fielded, and on respondents' answers to a question asking them which political party, if any, they identified with in their country.¹

In countries where multiple political parties govern in coalition (as in many European countries), survey respondents who indicated support for any parties in the coalition were grouped together. In Germany, for example, where the center-right CDU/CSU governed with the center-left SPD at the time of the survey, supporters of all three parties were grouped together. In countries where different political parties occupy the executive and legislative branches of government, the party holding the executive branch was considered the governing party.

Survey respondents who did not indicate support for any political party, or who refused to identify with one, were considered to be *not* supporting the government in power.

In some countries, no respondents identified with one or more of the parties currently in a coalition government. For example, the National Democratic Alliance in India officially consists of dozens of political parties, but many of those were not identified by any respondent as the party they felt closest to. Countries where an insufficient number of people identified with any party in government have been excluded from the analysis. Below is a table that outlines the governing political parties in each country; only political parties mentioned by respondents are shown.

¹ Governing parties were not updated to account for elections that occurred after the survey was fielded and resulted in a new party (or parties) serving in government. Language used to measure party identification varied country by country.

Appendix B: Political categorization

Countries	Governing political party(ies)
Australia	Liberal Party, Liberal-National Party, Country-Liberal Party, Labor Party
Brazil	PMDB, PSDB, PP, PTB, PRB, PV, PSD
Canada	Liberal Party
France	En Marche
Germany	CDU, CSU, SPD
Greece	SYRIZA, Independent Greeks
Hungary	Fidesz, Christian Democratic People's Party
India	National Democratic Alliance: BJP, Shiv Sena, Lok Janshakti, Akali Dal, Janata Dal (United)
Indonesia	PDI-P, PPP, Golkar, PKB, People's Conscience Party, National Democratic Party (Nasdem), PAN
Israel	Likud, Yisrael Beitenu, Jewish Home, Kulanu, United Torah Judaism, Shas, Degel Hatorah, Agodat Yisrael
Italy	Northern League, Five Star Movement*
Japan	Liberal Democratic Party, Komeito
Kenya	Jubilee Party, New FORD–Kenya
Mexico	Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI)
Netherlands	People's Party for Freedom and Democracy, Christian Democratic Appeal, Democrats 66, Christian Union
Nigeria	All Progressives Congress
Poland	Law and Justice (PiS)
Russia	United Russia
South Africa	African National Congress
Spain	Spanish Socialist Workers' Party**
Sweden	Social Democratic Party, the Green Party
Tunisia	Nidaa Tounes, Ennahdha Movement, Free Patriotic Union, Afek Tounus, Republican Party, Social Democratic Path, People's Movement
United Kingdom	Conservative Party

* In Italy, the coalition government was not formally formed and sworn in until during the fieldwork period. Supporters of either party are considered supporters of the ruling party for the entirety of fieldwork.

** In Spain, a vote of no confidence was held during fieldwork, causing a transition to a government led by the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party. Supporters of the Spanish Socialist Workers' Party are considered supporters of the ruling party for the entirety of fieldwork.

Note: South Korea was excluded from this analysis. Argentina and the Philippines are not shown due to insufficient sample size.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Topline Questionnaire

**Pew Research Center
Spring 2018 Survey
September 18, 2018 Release**

Methodological notes:

- Survey results are based on national samples. For further details on sample designs, see Methodology section and our [international survey methods database](#).
- Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%. The topline “total” columns show 100%, because they are based on unrounded numbers.
- Since 2007, the Pew Research Center has used an automated process to generate toplines for its Global Attitudes surveys. As a result, numbers may differ slightly from those published prior to 2007.
- For some countries, trends for certain years are omitted due to differences in sample design or population coverage. Omitted trends often reflect less representative samples than more recent surveys in the same countries. Trends that are omitted include:
 - India prior to Winter 2013-2014
 - Brazil prior to 2010
 - South Africa in 2007
 - Indonesia prior to 2005
- Not all questions included in the Spring 2018 survey are presented in this topline. Omitted questions have either been previously released or will be released in future reports.

		Q2. Now thinking about our economic situation, how would you describe the current economic situation in (survey country) – is it very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad, or very bad?					
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
United States	Spring, 2018	17	48	20	12	3	100
	Spring, 2017	9	49	27	13	2	100
	Spring, 2016	5	39	33	21	2	100
	Spring, 2015	4	36	32	24	4	100
	Spring, 2014	2	38	34	24	2	100
	Spring, 2013	2	31	35	30	2	100
	Spring, 2012	3	28	38	30	2	100
	Spring, 2011	1	17	38	42	1	100
	Spring, 2010	1	23	41	34	1	100
	Fall, 2009	1	19	44	34	2	100
	Spring, 2009	2	15	42	41	1	100
	Spring, 2008	2	18	41	36	3	100
	Spring, 2007	9	41	32	16	3	100
	Summer, 2002	4	42	39	13	2	100
Canada	Spring, 2018	7	56	24	10	3	100
	Spring, 2017	5	54	28	10	2	100
	Spring, 2016	3	45	35	13	4	100
	Spring, 2015	7	50	32	7	4	100
	Spring, 2013	6	61	26	6	1	100
	Spring, 2009	4	39	42	14	2	100
	Spring, 2007	19	61	13	5	2	100
	Summer, 2002	12	58	24	4	2	100
France	Spring, 2018	1	42	42	15	1	100
	Spring, 2017	0	21	55	23	0	100
	Spring, 2016	2	10	50	36	1	100
	Spring, 2015	1	13	56	29	1	100
	Spring, 2014	1	11	54	34	0	100
	Spring, 2013	0	9	53	38	0	100
	Spring, 2012	1	18	52	29	0	100
	Spring, 2011	0	17	52	31	0	100
	Spring, 2010	1	12	56	31	0	100
	Fall, 2009	1	15	60	24	0	100
	Spring, 2009	0	14	58	27	0	100
	Spring, 2008	0	19	61	20	0	100
	Spring, 2007	1	29	53	17	0	100
	Summer, 2002	1	44	47	6	2	100
Germany	Spring, 2018	21	57	16	4	1	100
	Spring, 2017	31	55	12	1	1	100
	Spring, 2016	15	60	18	4	3	100
	Spring, 2015	15	60	20	3	2	100
	Spring, 2014	14	71	13	2	1	100
	Spring, 2013	10	65	22	3	1	100
	Spring, 2012	12	61	22	5	0	100
	Spring, 2011	9	58	27	5	1	100
	Spring, 2010	2	42	47	8	1	100
	Fall, 2009	1	27	58	12	1	100
	Spring, 2009	1	27	54	16	2	100
	Spring, 2008	4	49	39	7	1	100
	Spring, 2007	8	55	25	11	1	100
	Summer, 2002	1	26	55	16	1	100

		Q2. Now thinking about our economic situation, how would you describe the current economic situation in (survey country) – is it very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad, or very bad?					
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
Greece	Spring, 2018	0	4	32	64	0	100
	Spring, 2017	0	2	26	72	0	100
	Spring, 2016	0	2	20	77	0	100
	Spring, 2014	0	2	30	67	0	100
	Spring, 2013	0	1	27	72	0	100
	Spring, 2012	0	2	20	78	0	100
Hungary	Spring, 2018	3	47	40	8	2	100
	Spring, 2017	1	41	43	13	3	100
	Spring, 2016	2	35	47	15	1	100
	Fall, 2009	1	5	44	50	1	100
Italy	Spring, 2018	2	13	50	34	1	100
	Spring, 2017	1	14	51	32	1	100
	Spring, 2016	4	29	34	32	1	100
	Spring, 2015	1	11	45	43	0	100
	Spring, 2014	0	3	38	58	0	100
	Spring, 2013	0	3	38	58	0	100
	Spring, 2012	1	5	37	56	1	100
	Fall, 2009	3	19	48	28	2	100
	Spring, 2007	1	24	56	14	5	100
	Summer, 2002	0	36	51	11	2	100
Netherlands	Spring, 2018	18	67	9	4	2	100
	Spring, 2017	19	68	9	3	1	100
	Spring, 2016	5	57	28	10	1	100
Poland	Spring, 2018	5	64	20	6	4	100
	Spring, 2017	3	61	25	6	5	100
	Spring, 2016	3	46	38	8	6	100
	Spring, 2015	1	37	46	13	3	100
	Spring, 2014	1	28	52	16	3	100
	Spring, 2013	2	25	51	19	2	100
	Spring, 2012	3	26	46	23	3	100
	Spring, 2011	1	25	49	22	3	100
	Spring, 2010	5	48	36	8	3	100
	Fall, 2009	2	36	47	12	3	100
	Spring, 2009	2	27	50	15	6	100
	Spring, 2008	3	49	36	6	6	100
	Spring, 2007	0	36	48	13	3	100
	Summer, 2002	0	7	40	51	2	100
Spain	Spring, 2018	3	27	36	33	1	100
	Spring, 2017	3	25	37	34	1	100
	Spring, 2016	1	12	36	50	1	100
	Spring, 2015	2	16	37	44	1	100
	Spring, 2014	1	7	30	63	0	100
	Spring, 2013	1	3	17	79	1	100
	Spring, 2012	1	5	22	72	0	100
	Spring, 2011	1	9	27	62	0	100
	Spring, 2010	1	12	40	48	0	100
	Fall, 2009	1	11	43	45	1	100
	Spring, 2009	1	12	38	47	2	100
	Spring, 2008	1	34	43	19	3	100
	Spring, 2007	9	56	29	5	1	100

		Q2. Now thinking about our economic situation, how would you describe the current economic situation in (survey country) – is it very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad, or very bad?					
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
Sweden	Spring, 2018	15	66	14	4	1	100
	Spring, 2017	17	67	10	5	1	100
	Spring, 2016	9	67	17	6	1	100
	Spring, 2007	25	59	11	2	3	100
United Kingdom	Spring, 2018	4	42	35	15	4	100
	Spring, 2017	6	45	33	12	3	100
	Spring, 2016	4	43	33	14	5	100
	Spring, 2015	5	47	29	16	3	100
	Spring, 2014	2	41	37	18	2	100
	Spring, 2013	2	13	44	39	2	100
	Spring, 2012	1	14	47	37	1	100
	Spring, 2011	1	14	45	40	1	100
	Spring, 2010	2	18	40	39	1	100
	Fall, 2009	2	14	45	38	2	100
	Spring, 2009	1	10	38	49	2	100
	Spring, 2008	2	28	47	20	2	100
	Spring, 2007	13	56	20	8	3	100
	Summer, 2002	8	57	24	8	4	100
Russia	Spring, 2018	5	37	38	14	5	100
	Spring, 2017	6	40	39	10	5	100
	Spring, 2015	1	23	54	19	3	100
	Spring, 2014	3	41	41	9	6	100
	Spring, 2013	2	31	46	15	6	100
	Spring, 2012	4	28	49	15	5	100
	Spring, 2011	5	24	46	19	6	100
	Spring, 2010	3	30	49	16	4	100
	Fall, 2009	3	25	50	18	4	100
	Spring, 2009	2	18	55	21	5	100
	Spring, 2008	5	47	37	6	4	100
	Spring, 2007	3	35	45	11	6	100
	Summer, 2002	0	13	57	26	4	100
Australia	Spring, 2018	7	59	23	8	2	100
	Spring, 2017	6	54	30	10	1	100
	Spring, 2016	5	52	31	9	3	100
	Spring, 2015	7	48	33	9	4	100
	Spring, 2013	13	54	20	10	3	100
	Spring, 2008	11	58	22	6	3	100
India	Spring, 2018	21	35	15	15	13	100
	Spring, 2017	30	53	8	4	5	100
	Spring, 2016	35	45	11	6	3	100
	Spring, 2015	27	47	16	8	2	100
	Spring, 2014	10	54	19	11	5	100
	Winter, 2013-2014	10	47	24	18	2	100

		Q2. Now thinking about our economic situation, how would you describe the current economic situation in (survey country) – is it very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad, or very bad?					
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
Indonesia	Spring, 2018	15	50	28	7	1	100
	Spring, 2017	14	49	32	5	1	100
	Spring, 2015	6	36	42	14	1	100
	Spring, 2014	6	47	38	7	2	100
	Spring, 2013	2	35	45	17	1	100
	Spring, 2011	3	35	43	18	0	100
	Spring, 2010	9	41	41	9	0	100
	Spring, 2009	4	44	41	9	1	100
	Spring, 2008	1	19	44	35	0	100
	Spring, 2007	2	21	52	25	1	100
Japan	Spring, 2018	2	42	46	9	2	100
	Spring, 2017	2	39	47	9	3	100
	Spring, 2016	1	29	53	15	3	100
	Spring, 2015	1	36	46	14	2	100
	Spring, 2014	1	34	50	13	2	100
	Spring, 2013	1	26	55	16	1	100
	Spring, 2012	0	7	44	49	0	100
	Spring, 2011	1	9	46	42	1	100
	Spring, 2010	1	11	49	39	0	100
	Spring, 2009	1	9	47	43	1	100
	Spring, 2008	1	12	57	28	1	100
	Spring, 2007	1	27	54	17	2	100
	Summer, 2002	0	6	42	51	0	100
Philippines	Spring, 2018	18	55	17	8	1	100
	Spring, 2017	19	59	15	5	1	100
	Spring, 2015	10	53	28	9	1	100
	Spring, 2014	6	57	28	9	0	100
	Spring, 2013	7	61	24	7	0	100
	Summer, 2002	4	34	38	21	3	100
South Korea	Spring, 2018	2	29	49	19	2	100
	Spring, 2017	1	14	53	31	1	100
	Spring, 2015	1	15	56	27	1	100
	Spring, 2014	0	33	51	14	2	100
	Spring, 2013	0	20	59	20	1	100
	Spring, 2010	0	18	63	17	1	100
	Spring, 2009	0	5	71	23	1	100
	Spring, 2008	0	7	66	26	1	100
	Spring, 2007	0	8	63	28	1	100
	Summer, 2002	1	19	72	7	1	100
Israel	Spring, 2018	12	48	32	8	1	100
	Spring, 2017	14	48	31	7	1	100
	Spring, 2015	6	43	41	9	1	100
	Spring, 2014	20	39	24	17	0	100
	Spring, 2013	3	40	42	14	1	100
	Spring, 2011	7	47	32	14	1	100
	Spring, 2009	7	25	45	23	1	100
	Spring, 2007	5	41	40	13	2	100
Tunisia	Spring, 2018	1	7	25	67	1	100
	Spring, 2017	3	16	20	59	1	100
	Spring, 2014	0	11	32	56	1	100
	Spring, 2013	1	10	35	53	1	100
	Spring, 2012	1	16	43	40	1	100

		Q2. Now thinking about our economic situation, how would you describe the current economic situation in (survey country) – is it very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad, or very bad?					
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
Kenya	Spring, 2018	9	34	27	30	0	100
	Spring, 2017	7	36	24	32	2	100
	Spring, 2016	6	40	27	26	1	100
	Spring, 2015	11	36	26	27	0	100
	Spring, 2014	10	30	27	33	1	100
	Spring, 2013	12	40	27	20	0	100
	Spring, 2011	5	21	20	55	0	100
	Spring, 2010	7	36	26	30	1	100
	Spring, 2009	5	14	21	59	0	100
	Spring, 2007	7	53	27	12	1	100
	Summer, 2002	0	7	26	66	0	100
Nigeria	Spring, 2018	21	24	15	39	1	100
	Spring, 2017	21	20	18	41	0	100
	Spring, 2016	6	23	22	49	1	100
	Spring, 2015	26	31	17	25	0	100
	Spring, 2014	11	28	25	36	1	100
	Spring, 2013	6	26	30	37	1	100
	Spring, 2010	10	24	31	35	0	100
South Africa	Spring, 2018	12	23	17	47	1	100
	Spring, 2017	13	32	23	29	3	100
	Spring, 2016	10	18	25	45	3	100
	Spring, 2015	20	39	18	20	3	100
	Spring, 2014	14	37	29	16	3	100
	Spring, 2013	17	36	25	20	1	100
	Spring, 2008	12	27	29	28	4	100
	Summer, 2002	6	23	28	42	1	100
Argentina	Spring, 2018	3	14	40	43	1	100
	Spring, 2017	5	18	44	29	4	100
	Spring, 2015	5	33	47	13	2	100
	Spring, 2014	4	22	45	27	2	100
	Spring, 2013	6	33	43	15	3	100
	Spring, 2010	3	21	47	25	4	100
	Spring, 2009	2	18	48	30	2	100
	Spring, 2008	1	22	49	25	2	100
	Spring, 2007	3	42	42	8	5	100
	Summer, 2002	0	1	26	72	0	100
Brazil	Spring, 2018	1	8	42	48	1	100
	Spring, 2017	0	15	47	35	3	100
	Spring, 2015	1	12	46	41	0	100
	Spring, 2014	1	31	49	18	0	100
	Spring, 2013	3	56	34	7	0	100
	Spring, 2012	8	57	27	8	1	100
	Spring, 2011	3	51	32	13	1	100
	Spring, 2010	4	58	29	7	2	100

		Q2. Now thinking about our economic situation, how would you describe the current economic situation in (survey country) – is it very good, somewhat good, somewhat bad, or very bad?					
		Very good	Somewhat good	Somewhat bad	Very bad	DK/Refused	Total
Mexico	Spring, 2018	3	25	27	43	2	100
	Spring, 2017	1	27	35	35	1	100
	Spring, 2015	4	30	39	27	1	100
	Spring, 2014	6	34	33	27	1	100
	Spring, 2013	5	33	32	30	1	100
	Spring, 2012	2	33	37	25	2	100
	Spring, 2011	4	26	40	28	2	100
	Spring, 2010	2	22	37	38	1	100
	Spring, 2009	5	25	36	33	1	100
	Spring, 2008	6	30	35	27	2	100
	Spring, 2007	7	44	29	18	1	100
	Summer, 2002	3	28	36	30	3	100

		Q3. When children today in (survey country) grow up, do you think they will be better off or worse off financially than their parents?				
		Better off	Worse off	Same (DO NOT READ)	DK/Refused	Total
United States	Spring, 2018	33	57	3	7	100
	Spring, 2017	37	58	2	3	100
	Spring, 2015	32	60	4	3	100
	Spring, 2014	30	65	2	3	100
	Spring, 2013	33	62	1	4	100
Canada	Spring, 2018	25	67	4	5	100
	Spring, 2017	24	69	3	5	100
	Spring, 2015	27	64	2	7	100
	Spring, 2013	27	64	3	6	100
France	Spring, 2018	15	80	3	2	100
	Spring, 2017	9	71	18	2	100
	Spring, 2015	14	85	1	0	100
	Spring, 2014	13	86	1	0	100
	Spring, 2013	9	90	1	0	100
Germany	Spring, 2018	37	52	7	4	100
	Spring, 2017	36	52	6	6	100
	Spring, 2015	34	58	3	4	100
	Spring, 2014	38	56	2	4	100
	Spring, 2013	28	64	3	5	100
Greece	Spring, 2018	18	69	8	4	100
	Spring, 2017	20	72	4	3	100
	Spring, 2014	25	65	8	3	100
	Spring, 2013	21	67	8	5	100
Hungary	Spring, 2018	35	41	20	4	100
	Spring, 2017	41	46	3	10	100
Italy	Spring, 2018	19	61	12	8	100
	Spring, 2017	23	65	5	7	100
	Spring, 2015	15	66	13	5	100
	Spring, 2014	15	67	10	7	100
	Spring, 2013	14	73	6	7	100

		Q3. When children today in (survey country) grow up, do you think they will be better off or worse off financially than their parents?				
		Better off	Worse off	Same (DO NOT READ)	DK/Refused	Total
Netherlands	Spring, 2018	35	54	5	6	100
	Spring, 2017	35	54	7	5	100
Poland	Spring, 2018	59	25	7	9	100
	Spring, 2017	48	39	4	8	100
	Spring, 2015	34	53	7	7	100
	Spring, 2014	28	58	6	8	100
	Spring, 2013	26	61	5	8	100
Spain	Spring, 2018	24	72	1	3	100
	Spring, 2017	24	69	2	5	100
	Spring, 2015	31	61	4	4	100
	Spring, 2014	30	62	5	3	100
	Spring, 2013	28	65	3	4	100
Sweden	Spring, 2018	35	50	12	3	100
	Spring, 2017	44	46	7	3	100
United Kingdom	Spring, 2018	23	70	2	5	100
	Spring, 2017	24	68	3	5	100
	Spring, 2015	25	68	3	4	100
	Spring, 2014	23	72	2	3	100
	Spring, 2013	17	74	2	7	100
Russia	Spring, 2018	51	29	9	11	100
	Spring, 2017	52	24	14	9	100
	Spring, 2015	48	19	22	11	100
	Spring, 2014	44	21	23	12	100
	Spring, 2013	40	24	23	13	100
Australia	Spring, 2018	29	64	4	3	100
	Spring, 2017	24	69	3	5	100
	Spring, 2015	26	64	4	6	100
	Spring, 2013	39	53	4	4	100
India	Spring, 2018	66	19	3	12	100
	Spring, 2017	76	12	5	7	100
	Spring, 2016	72	20	5	4	100
	Spring, 2015	74	18	4	4	100
	Spring, 2014	67	24	4	4	100
	Winter, 2013-2014	64	23	5	8	100
Indonesia	Spring, 2018	75	17	7	1	100
	Spring, 2017	58	26	15	2	100
	Spring, 2015	51	18	22	9	100
	Spring, 2014	62	19	15	3	100
	Spring, 2013	58	25	13	5	100
Japan	Spring, 2018	15	76	2	6	100
	Spring, 2017	19	72	3	6	100
	Spring, 2015	18	72	4	6	100
	Spring, 2014	14	79	4	3	100
	Spring, 2013	15	76	4	5	100

		Q3. When children today in (survey country) grow up, do you think they will be better off or worse off financially than their parents?				
		Better off	Worse off	Same (DO NOT READ)	DK/Refused	Total
Philippines	Spring, 2018	69	21	8	2	100
	Spring, 2017	61	24	9	7	100
	Spring, 2015	51	26	16	7	100
	Spring, 2014	52	32	12	4	100
	Spring, 2013	63	29	3	4	100
South Korea	Spring, 2018	41	53	4	2	100
	Spring, 2017	34	55	6	5	100
	Spring, 2015	43	52	3	2	100
	Spring, 2014	52	43	4	2	100
	Spring, 2013	56	37	5	2	100
Israel	Spring, 2018	40	36	19	5	100
	Spring, 2017	50	30	15	5	100
	Spring, 2015	51	27	13	9	100
	Spring, 2014	43	30	18	9	100
	Spring, 2013	41	27	22	11	100
Tunisia	Spring, 2018	33	64	1	2	100
	Spring, 2017	42	50	3	5	100
	Spring, 2014	48	44	4	4	100
	Spring, 2013	49	39	4	7	100
Kenya	Spring, 2018	36	60	1	3	100
	Spring, 2017	34	60	2	5	100
	Spring, 2015	43	47	7	4	100
	Spring, 2014	36	55	5	4	100
	Spring, 2013	55	32	8	5	100
Nigeria	Spring, 2018	65	32	1	3	100
	Spring, 2017	72	23	2	3	100
	Spring, 2015	84	11	2	3	100
	Spring, 2014	63	21	8	8	100
	Spring, 2013	65	18	8	9	100
South Africa	Spring, 2018	40	54	3	3	100
	Spring, 2017	44	49	3	3	100
	Spring, 2015	47	33	14	5	100
	Spring, 2014	50	25	19	7	100
	Spring, 2013	39	40	15	6	100
Argentina	Spring, 2018	37	49	4	11	100
	Spring, 2017	45	40	4	10	100
	Spring, 2015	55	34	5	6	100
	Spring, 2014	42	37	8	13	100
	Spring, 2013	44	38	10	8	100
Brazil	Spring, 2018	42	53	2	3	100
	Spring, 2017	56	38	3	4	100
	Spring, 2015	61	35	2	2	100
	Spring, 2014	72	25	1	1	100
	Spring, 2013	79	18	2	1	100

		Q3. When children today in (survey country) grow up, do you think they will be better off or worse off financially than their parents?				
		Better off	Worse off	Same (DO NOT READ)	DK/Refused	Total
Mexico	Spring, 2018	36	57	2	5	100
	Spring, 2017	29	62	4	6	100
	Spring, 2015	41	43	12	5	100
	Spring, 2014	46	39	10	5	100
	Spring, 2013	44	39	8	9	100

		Q6. Compared with 20 years ago, do you think the financial situation of average people in (survey country) is better, worse, or do you think there has been no change?				
		Better	Worse	No change	DK/Refused	Total
United States	Spring, 2018	32	45	19	4	100
Canada	Spring, 2018	27	48	21	4	100
France	Spring, 2018	20	56	22	2	100
Germany	Spring, 2018	36	46	15	3	100
Greece	Spring, 2018	7	87	5	1	100
Hungary	Spring, 2018	33	44	21	2	100
Italy	Spring, 2018	10	72	14	4	100
Netherlands	Spring, 2018	45	31	18	6	100
Poland	Spring, 2018	68	17	11	4	100
Spain	Spring, 2018	24	62	12	2	100
Sweden	Spring, 2018	66	19	13	2	100
United Kingdom	Spring, 2018	28	53	16	3	100
Russia	Spring, 2018	44	31	20	5	100
Australia	Spring, 2018	32	46	18	4	100
India	Spring, 2018	65	15	10	10	100
Indonesia	Spring, 2018	59	17	22	1	100
Japan	Spring, 2018	26	41	28	6	100
Philippines	Spring, 2018	40	18	41	1	100
South Korea	Spring, 2018	62	25	12	0	100
Israel	Spring, 2018	44	38	14	4	100
Tunisia	Spring, 2018	11	75	13	0	100
Kenya	Spring, 2018	36	46	18	0	100
Nigeria	Spring, 2018	41	38	19	2	100
South Africa	Spring, 2018	37	33	29	1	100
Argentina	Spring, 2018	19	46	31	4	100
Brazil	Spring, 2018	34	43	22	2	100
Mexico	Spring, 2018	16	40	42	3	100