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In Taiwan, Views of Mainland China Mostly Negative

Closer Taiwan-U.S. relations largely welcomed, especially economically

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How we did this

Data for this report on public opinion in Taiwan is drawn from a telephone survey of 1,562 respondents conducted Oct. 16 to Nov. 30, 2019, representative of the adult population of Taiwan. Fieldwork was completed prior to the January presidential election and the start of the coronavirus outbreak in mainland China. The report also contains comparative data points from six Asia-Pacific countries: Australia, India, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines and South Korea. This data comes from the 2019 Global Attitudes Survey of 7,778 adults conducted from May 18 to Oct. 2, 2019. The surveys were conducted on the phone in Australia, Japan and South Korea and face-to-face in India, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Here are the [questions](#) used for this report, along with responses, and its [methodology](#).

In Taiwan, Views of Mainland China Mostly Negative

Closer Taiwan-U.S. relations largely welcomed, especially economically

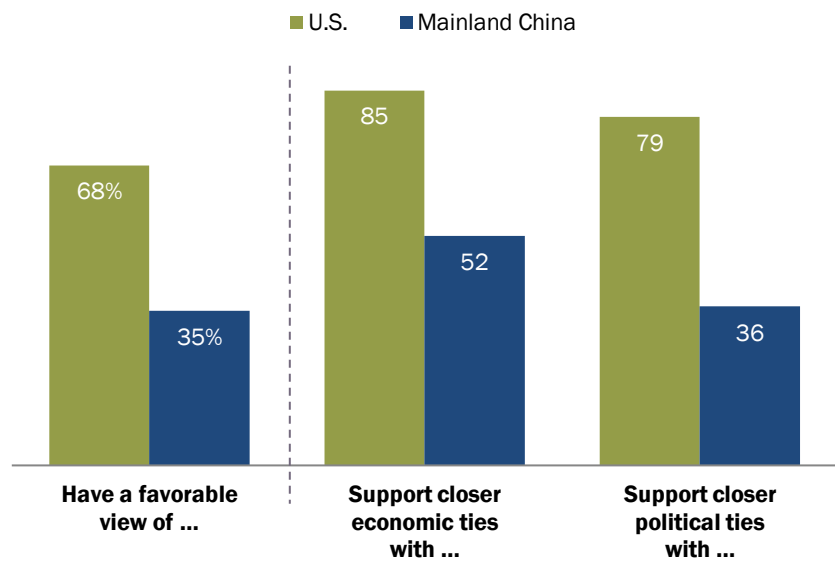
Last fall, as the United States Senate unanimously passed [the first round of the TAIPEI Act](#) – legislation aimed at strengthening U.S. support for Taiwan’s global standing and diplomatic ties with other nations – the Taiwan public overwhelmingly supported closer economic and political ties with the U.S., according to a Pew Research Center survey.

By a nearly two-to-one margin, people in Taiwan rate the U.S. more favorably than mainland China. There is widespread support for increased economic and political ties with Washington; enthusiasm for similar relations with mainland China is much more muted. Still,

even as people are skeptical about closer political relations, half would embrace closer *economic* ties with mainland China. Younger people are particularly likely to support closer relations with the U.S., and they are less likely to embrace closer relations with China.

In Taiwan, more positive attitudes toward U.S. than mainland China, particularly on political relations

% who ...



Source: Survey of adults in Taiwan conducted Oct. 16-Nov. 30, 2019. QT1a-b, QT2a-b & QT3a-b.

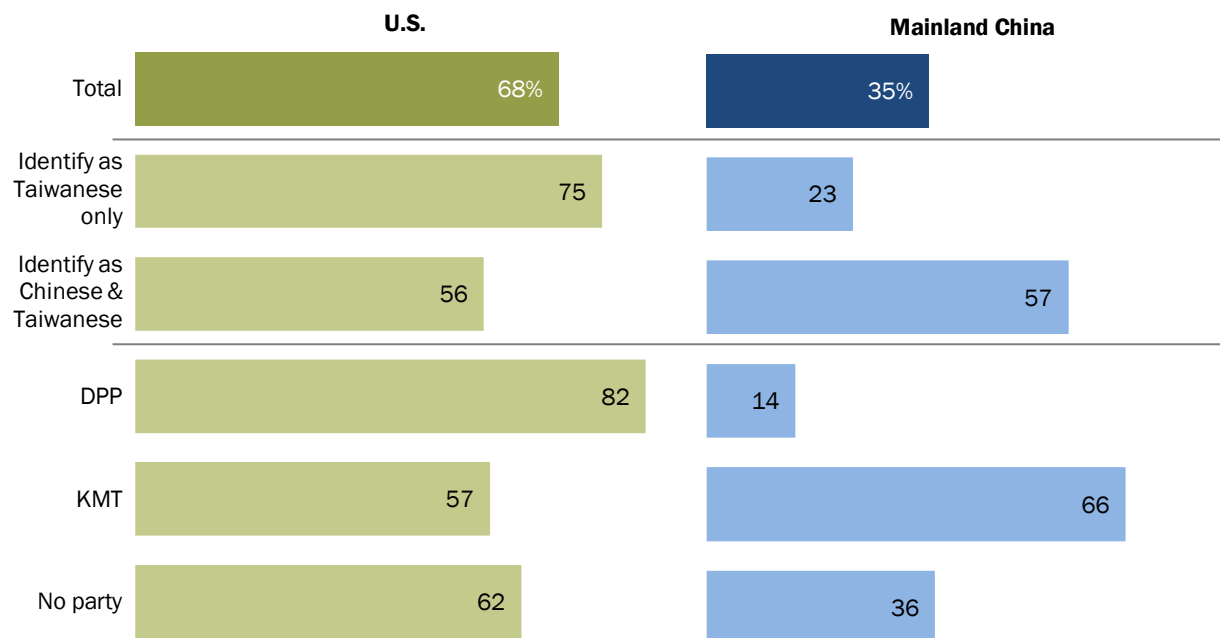
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Part of this story relates to political and national identity. Those who align with Taiwan’s incumbent Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), which asserts that there is a [Taiwanese national identity](#) separate from Chinese identity, show more support for increased ties with the U.S. than with Beijing. Supporters of the Kuomintang (KMT), the opposition party that ruled Taiwan for decades prior to 2000 and favors closer relations with the mainland, favor mainland China. Many in Taiwan do not feel particularly close to any major political party, however, and among this group positive feelings for the U.S. are much stronger than favorable attitudes toward mainland China.

DPP supporters more positive toward U.S. than mainland China

% who have a favorable view of...



Source: Survey of adults in Taiwan conducted Oct. 16-Nov. 30, 2019. QT1a-b.
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Among those who identify solely as Taiwanese, there is little enthusiasm about the mainland. Favorable views of the U.S. among this group are three times higher than toward mainland China (75% vs. 23%). But, among those who identify as both Chinese and Taiwanese, majorities have favorable views of both the U.S. and mainland China.

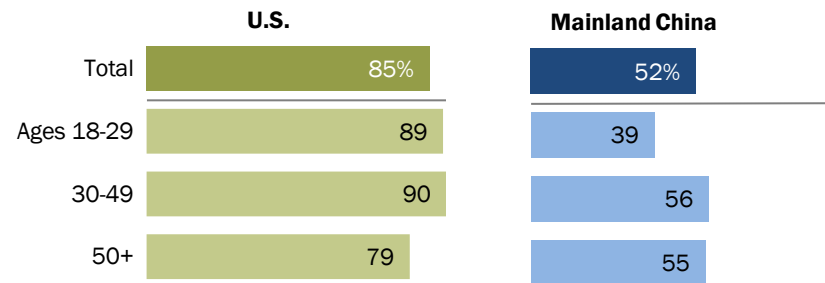
Younger adults in Taiwan tend to favor economic relations with the U.S. over relations with the mainland more than their older counterparts, and they are more supportive when it comes to closer relations with the U.S. For example, roughly eight-in-ten or more of each age group favor closer U.S.-Taiwan ties in economic matters. Only about four-in-ten adults ages 18 to 29 say they would

support closer economic ties with mainland China, while 55% of those 50 and older say the same. Among younger people, there is a 50 percentage point difference in support for economic relations with the two countries. A similar pattern exists when it comes to political relations with the U.S. and mainland China.

These are among the major findings of a Pew Research Center survey of 1,562 adults conducted in Taiwan from Oct. 16 to Nov. 30, 2019, prior to Taiwan's general elections, in which the DPP's Tsai Ing-wen was reelected president. Fieldwork also predates the outbreak of the coronavirus global pandemic. Additionally, this analysis includes results from Pew Research Center's spring 2019 Global Attitudes Survey, conducted among 7,778 adults in six Asia-Pacific nations from May 18 to Oct. 2, 2019.

Younger people more keen on economic ties with U.S.

% who support closer economic relations with ...



Source: Survey of adults in Taiwan conducted Oct. 16-Nov. 30, 2019. QT2a-b. "In Taiwan, Views of Mainland China Mostly Negative"

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While many in Taiwan welcome greater economic relations with Beijing, few support closer political ties with mainland China

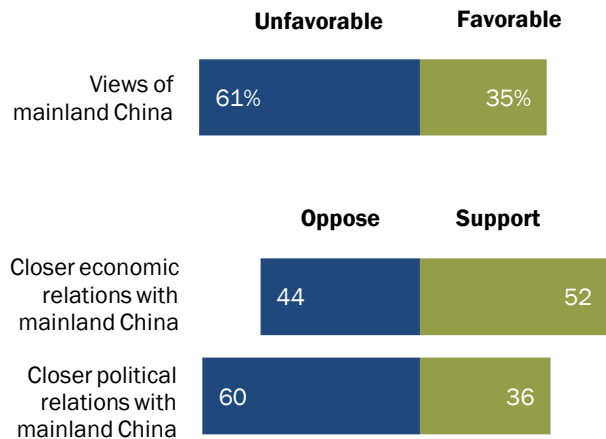
In Taiwan, people tend to have negative views when it comes to mainland China. Just 35% of adults give positive marks to mainland China, while about six-in-ten hold unfavorable views. Still, when it comes to financial ties, about half say they support closer economic relations with the mainland; 44% oppose this idea.

The prospects of closer political relations are much less popular. Roughly a third (36%) support closer collaboration with Beijing, while about six-in-ten oppose.

These opinions are in part related to partisan identification, age and whether people identify solely as Taiwanese. Those who feel closest to the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) – Taiwan’s liberal ruling party that takes a [stronger pro-independence stance](#) – hold much less positive views than do those who are partial to the Kuomintang (KMT), Taiwan’s more conservative opposition party that advocates for friendlier relations with mainland China. In fact, those who most identify with the KMT hold favorable opinions toward mainland China at more than four times the rate of those who feel closest to the DPP. Among people who report feeling no strong affiliation with any political party, just 36% have favorable views of mainland China.

While just 23% of those who feel mostly Taiwanese have favorable views of mainland China, a majority (57%) of those who consider themselves both Chinese and Taiwanese feel this way. Those under age 50 hold less favorable views of mainland China, as do men and those with lower levels of education.

Little appetite in Taiwan for closer political relations with Beijing



Note: Don't know responses not shown.

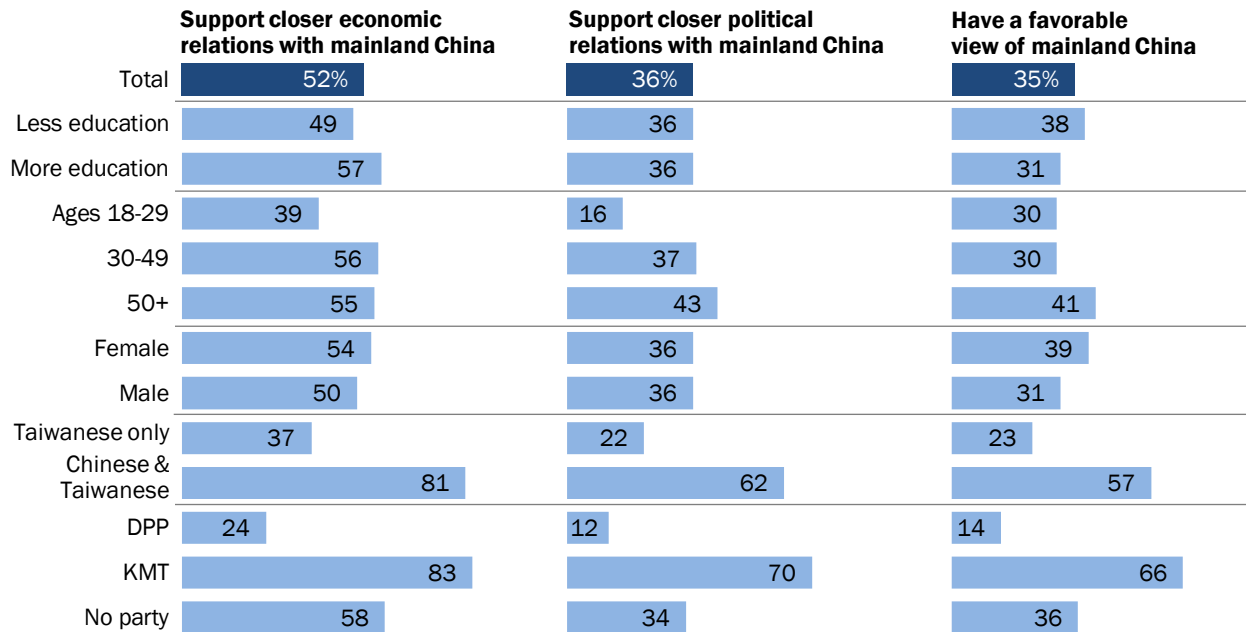
Source: Survey of adults in Taiwan conducted Oct. 16-Nov. 30, 2019. QT1b, QT2b & QT3b.

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Supporters of the KMT more willing to increase ties with mainland China

% who ...



Source: Survey of adults in Taiwan conducted Oct. 16-Nov. 30, 2019. QT1b, QT2b & QT3b.
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Opinions differ by age, national identification and political party when it comes to closer relations with mainland China. Younger people (ages 18 to 29) are less likely than their older counterparts to support closer economic or political ties. Those who consider themselves both Taiwanese and Chinese offer much more support (81%) for closer economic ties than those who feel only Taiwanese (37%); the gap is smaller on the idea of closer Taipei-Beijing political relations (62% vs. 22%, respectively).

Party affiliation also plays a role: More than eight-in-ten KMT supporters feel positively about closer cross-strait economic ties, but just about a quarter of DPP backers share this sentiment. A majority of those who do not feel close to any party welcome the idea of greater Taiwan-mainland economic relations. Seven-in-ten of those who feel an affinity for the KMT (a party that has traditionally [encouraged closer ties to mainland China](#)) embrace the idea of closer political ties with Beijing, compared with 34% of those who don't favor any Taiwanese political party; just 12% of DPP adherents want to see more political connectedness with the mainland.

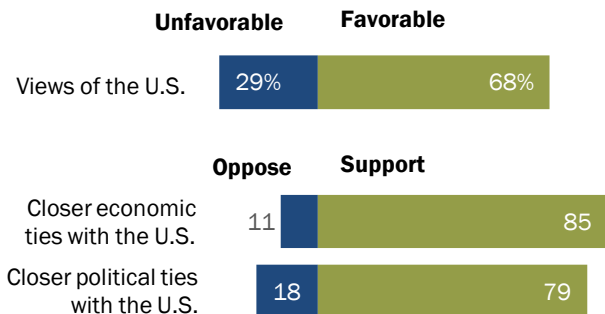
People in Taiwan give U.S. positive marks, support closer bilateral ties

In stark contrast with China, the United States is seen quite favorably by adults in Taiwan. Nearly seven-in-ten say they hold favorable views of the U.S., while just about three-in-ten have negative opinions, much more positive than views toward mainland China.

More in Taiwan support closer economic ties with the U.S. than with China. Fully 85% favor more U.S.-Taiwan economic relations, while just 11% do not. When it comes to closer political ties, people in Taiwan largely welcome the prospect of more dealings with Washington, with about eight-in-ten endorsing this idea.

Support for closer economic and political ties with the U.S. prevails across most demographic groups in Taiwan. About three-quarters or more in each group analyzed are in favor of increased economic relations with the United States. The largest variation is in party affiliation: Those who feel closest to the KMT are less likely than DPP supporters to want more U.S.-Taiwan economic dealings. Those younger than 50 and those with more education offer more approval of strengthening the economic relationship than those ages 50 and older and those with less education. Still, roughly eight-in-ten or more across age and education levels support greater economic ties. Those who consider themselves Taiwanese are also more likely than those who feel both Chinese and Taiwanese to want stronger economic relations with the U.S.

Closer relations with the U.S. a welcomed prospect in Taiwan



Note: Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Survey of adults in Taiwan conducted Oct. 16-Nov. 30, 2019. QT1a, QT2a & QT3a.

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Closer ties with the U.S. welcomed across the board in Taiwan

% who ...

	Support closer economic relations with the U.S.	Support closer political relations with the U.S.	Have a favorable view of the U.S.
Total	85%	79%	68%
Less education	81	76	67
More education	91	81	68
18-29	89	82	73
30-49	90	81	70
50+	79	75	63
Female	84	76	67
Male	87	81	67
Taiwanese only	89	84	75
Chinese & Taiwanese	81	70	56
DPP	97	91	82
KMT	77	70	57
No party	81	74	62

Source: Survey of adults in Taiwan conducted Oct. 16-Nov. 30, 2019. QT1a, QT2a & QT3a.
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Likewise, most adults in Taiwan would welcome closer political ties with the United States. Nearly eight-in-ten overall support more Taipei-Washington political interactions, and at least seven-in-ten or more in each of the groups analyzed say they would favor more bilateral political relations. The highest level of enthusiasm for this comes from those who support the DPP (91%), those who identify solely as Taiwanese (84%) and those ages 18 to 29 (82%).

Taiwan's views of the U.S. and China compared with others in the Asia-Pacific

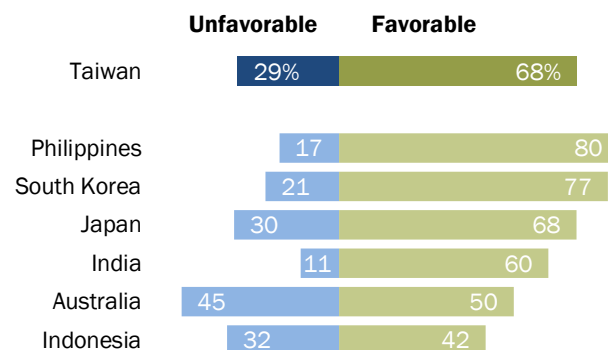
Views of the U.S. in Taiwan echo the views in six countries in the Asia-Pacific region included in a [separate 2019 Pew Research Center survey](#). Around seven-in-ten or more hold favorable attitudes toward the U.S. in the Philippines, South Korea, Taiwan and Japan. Australians offer more tempered views, though half still hold the U.S. in a positive regard. More in India and Indonesia have favorable than unfavorable assessments, though sizable portions do not offer an opinion.

As in Taiwan, younger adults in Japan, South Korea, India and Indonesia are more likely to hold a favorable view of the U.S.¹

While global [views of China are somewhat mixed](#), attitudes throughout much of the Asia-Pacific – including Taiwan – tend to be more negative. Like in Taiwan, only about a third of Filipino, Indonesian, Australian and South Korean adults hold positive opinions of China.² Though 23% of Indians share this view, a sizable percentage do not answer this question.

Views in Asia-Pacific toward U.S.

% who have a ___ opinion of the U.S.



Note: Don't know responses not shown.

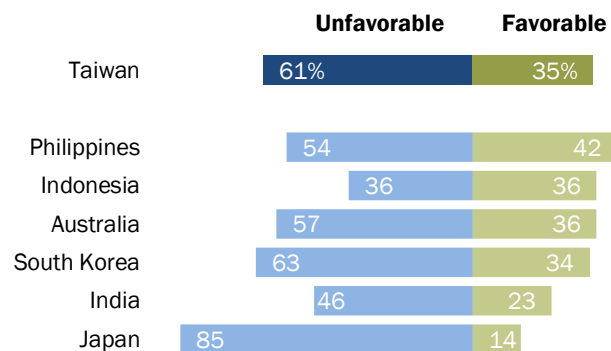
Source: Taiwan data from a survey conducted Oct. 16-Nov. 30, 2019. QT1a. Additional data from the 2019 Spring Global Attitudes Survey.

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Views in Asia-Pacific toward China

% who have a ___ opinion of China



Note: Don't know responses not shown. In Taiwan, question asked about "mainland China."

Source: Taiwan data from a survey conducted Oct. 16-Nov. 30, 2019. QT1b. Additional data from the 2019 Spring Global Attitudes Survey.

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¹ In India, Indonesia and Taiwan, those ages 18-29 are also more likely than those 50 and older to provide a response.

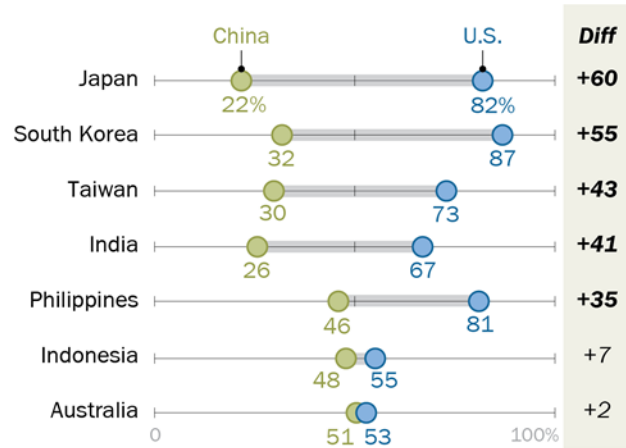
² In Taiwan, this question asked about views of "mainland China." Everywhere else, the question asked about "China."

How different age groups in Taiwan view China stands contrary to patterns elsewhere in Asia. While those ages 50 and older are *more* likely to see China favorably, the opposite is true in Australia, Indonesia and Japan. In these other Asian-Pacific environs, older adults are *less* likely to see China favorably.³

Younger people in particular tend to have more favorable views of the U.S. than China. For example, most Japanese ages 18 to 29 (82%) have a positive opinion of the U.S., while just 22% say the same of China – a 60-point difference. In Taiwan, this difference among young people is 43 percentage points.

Adults ages 18 to 29 in Asia-Pacific more favorable toward U.S. than China, including in Taiwan

% of those ages 18 to 29 who say they have a *favorable* view of ...



Note: In Taiwan, question asked about “mainland China.”
 Source: Taiwan data from a survey conducted Oct. 16-Nov. 30, 2019. QT1a,b. Additional data from the 2019 Spring Global Attitudes Survey.

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³ In Indonesia and Japan, those ages 18-29 are more likely than those 50 and older to provide a response.

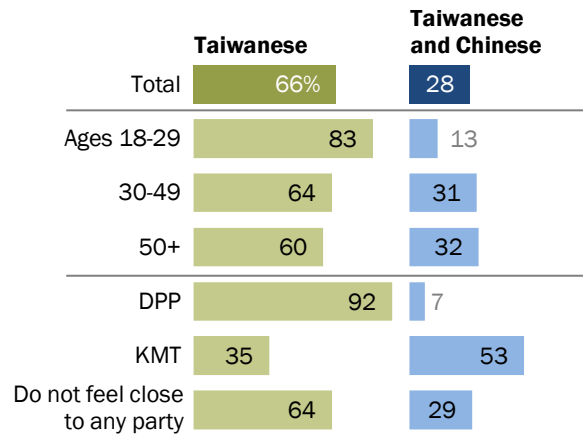
Most in Taiwan see themselves as Taiwanese

Seventy years after the end of the Chinese Civil War, about two-thirds of adults in Taiwan identify as just Taiwanese. On the other hand, about three-in-ten (28%) see themselves as both Taiwanese and Chinese. The question asks respondents whether they consider themselves Taiwanese, Chinese or both. A mere 4% see themselves as only Chinese. These findings are consistent with other polls showing that people in Taiwan [increasingly identify only as Taiwanese](#) as opposed to both Taiwanese and Chinese or solely Chinese.

Adults in Taiwan across all age groups are likely to see themselves as Taiwanese. At least six-in-ten in each group claim a Taiwanese identity, while no more than about a third hold a mixed or solely Chinese identity. Still, those ages 18 to 29 are more than 20 percentage points more likely than those 50 and older to see themselves as Taiwanese. They are also less than half as likely than the oldest age group to see themselves as both Taiwanese and Chinese.

Most in Taiwan identify as Taiwanese, but there are large partisan differences

% who consider themselves ...



Source: Survey of adults in Taiwan conducted Oct. 16-Nov. 30, 2019. ETHTAI.

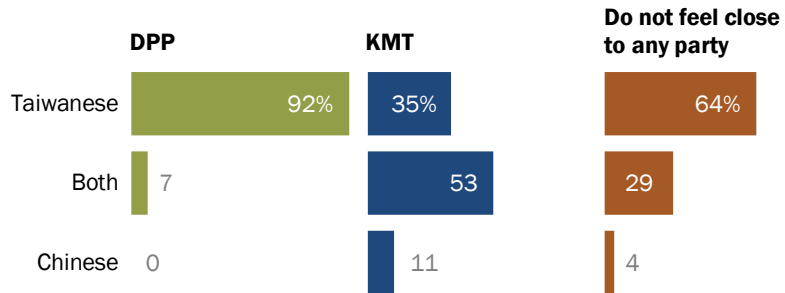
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National identity is additionally split across political affiliation. Those who feel closest to the DPP are most likely to see themselves as Taiwanese. Roughly two-thirds of the politically unaffiliated – those who do not feel close to any party – are also most likely to identify as just Taiwanese, while about three-in-ten consider themselves both Taiwanese and Chinese. Those who identify with the KMT are more likely to say they are both Taiwanese and Chinese than just Taiwanese. Still, about a third of this group identifies as only Taiwanese. No more than about one-in-ten in each political group see themselves as only Chinese.

DPP supporters and independents mostly see themselves as Taiwanese

% who identify with the ___ party, among those who consider themselves ...



Note: Those who identify with other political parties not shown.

Source: Survey of adults in Taiwan conducted Oct. 16-Nov. 30, 2019. ETHAI. "In Taiwan, Views of Mainland China Mostly Negative"

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Methodology

About Pew Research Center's Fall 2019 Survey

Results for the survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Kantar Public UK. The results are based on a representative sample of adults in Taiwan. More details about our international survey methodology and sample designs are available [here](#).

Public:	Taiwan
Year:	2019
Survey:	International Science
Sample design:	Random-digit-dial probability sample of landline households (50% of sample) and mobile phone numbers (50% of sample). Landline samples are stratified by region. Individuals within landline households are selected using the Rizzo method. Interviews in the mobile sample are conducted with the person who answered the phone, if age 18 or older. For both landline and mobile samples, up to seven phone calls are made to complete the interview with the selected respondent.
Mode:	Telephone
Language(s):	Chinese (Mandarin)
Fieldwork dates:	October 16 – November 30, 2019
Sample size:	1,562
Margin of error:	3.2 percentage points
Representative:	Adult population 18 plus
Primary vendor:	Kantar Public UK
Weighting variables:	Gender, age, education, region and probability of selection of respondent
Design effects:	1.68

Topline questionnaire

Pew Research Center
International Science Survey 2019-2020
May 12, 2020 Release

Methodological notes:

- Survey results are based on a representative sample of the adult population of Taiwan. 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.
- Not all questions included in the Fall 2019 Survey are presented in this topline. Omitted questions have either been previously released or will be released in future reports.