



# Reimagining progressive political economy

**Global Progress Report**  
**Autumn 2022**

# About the research



**11**  
**Countries**



**3**  
**Continents**

**14,000+**  
**Respondents**

- An opinion poll in eleven countries conducted via an online survey
- Surveys were launched in both English and languages local to the country.
- Fieldwork was conducted across August and September 2022 using Active Sampling
- All surveys were politically representative
- The survey was carried out by YouGov

YouGov®

**Ongoing**  
**& comparative analysis**

This is the fourth edition of the **Global Progress Report** - with previous surveys conducted in both Spring and Autumn 2021 and Spring 2022 - bringing together findings tracking public opinion on key issues including democracy, the economy & security.

# The voters view

1. **People want action on the cost of living** – a crisis that is widely and deeply felt, but understood as having multiple causes
2. **Inflation is as a wrecking ball pulling people apart** – and a priority that government and central banks are expected to tackle
3. **People back a range of responses to the crisis** – many with overwhelming support, although there are some rare and meaningful exceptions
4. **Beyond the crisis, a good economy is one shaped in progressive ideals** – taxing wealth over income, prioritising good jobs and wages, sacrificing economic growth to keep the country together and building pride in local communities

COST OF LIVING

# The everyone, everywhere crisis

# The impact of the rising cost of living is felt deeply

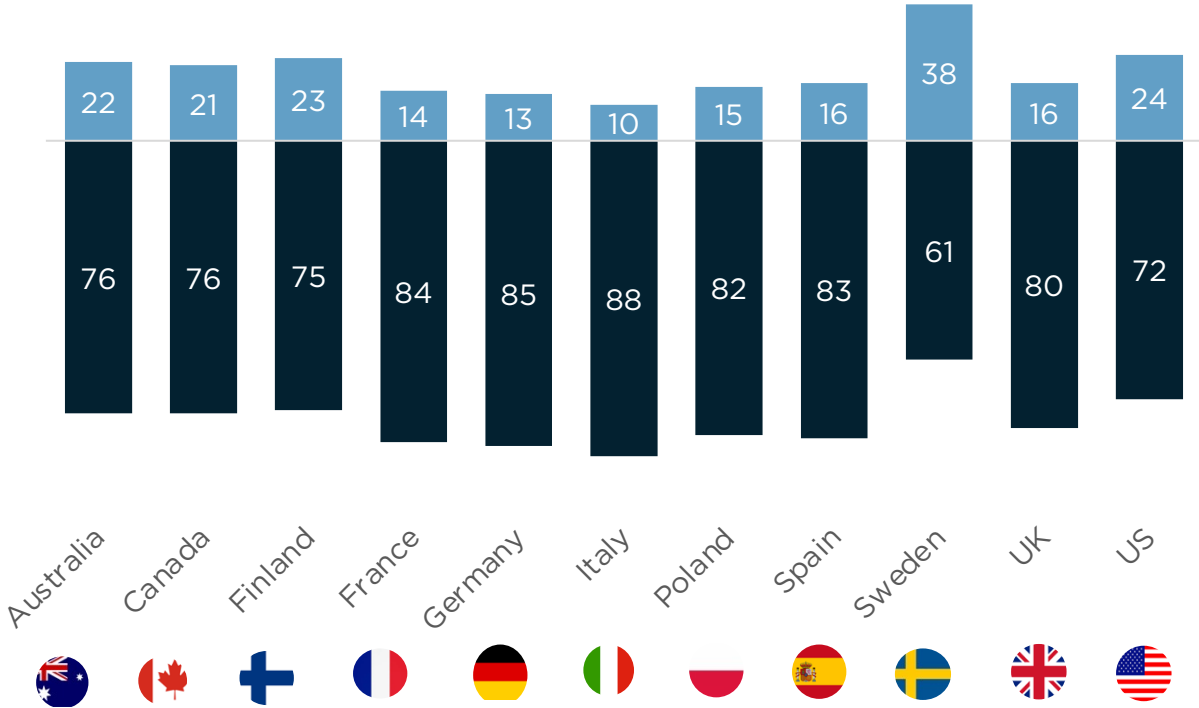
How worried, if at all, are you about the impact of cost-of-living increases for people like you in the next 12 months?

Not worried  
Worried

Key result

78%

Across all countries are worried about the impact of cost of living in the year ahead.



# Causes are multiply determined

**To what extent, if at all, do you think the following factors have caused the recent rises in the cost of living?**





COST OF LIVING

# Inflation as a wrecking ball

# Inflation drives us apart

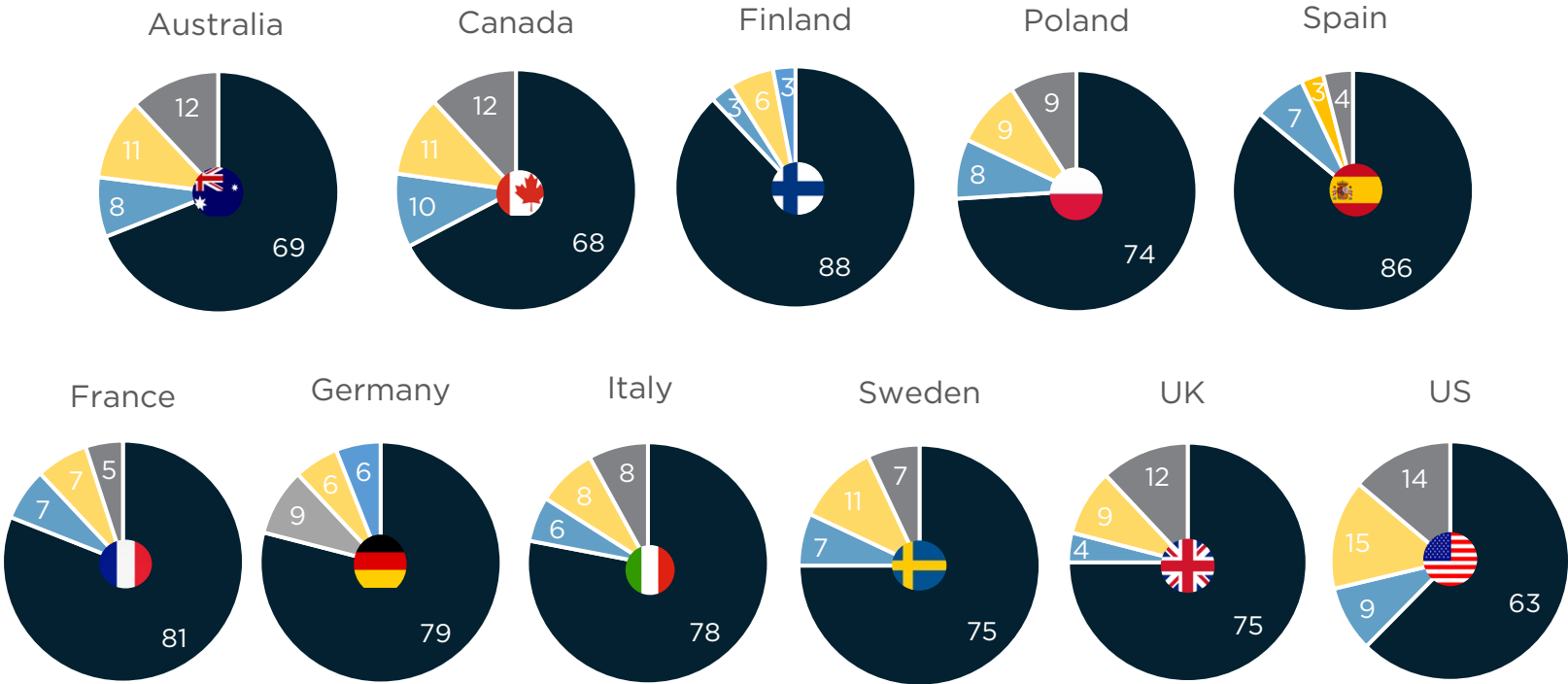
Thinking about inflation and the rising cost of living, do you think rising prices increase or reduce the size of inequalities in society?

- Reduce inequalities
- Increase inequalities
- No difference
- Don't know

Key result

76%

Across all countries as increasing inequalities





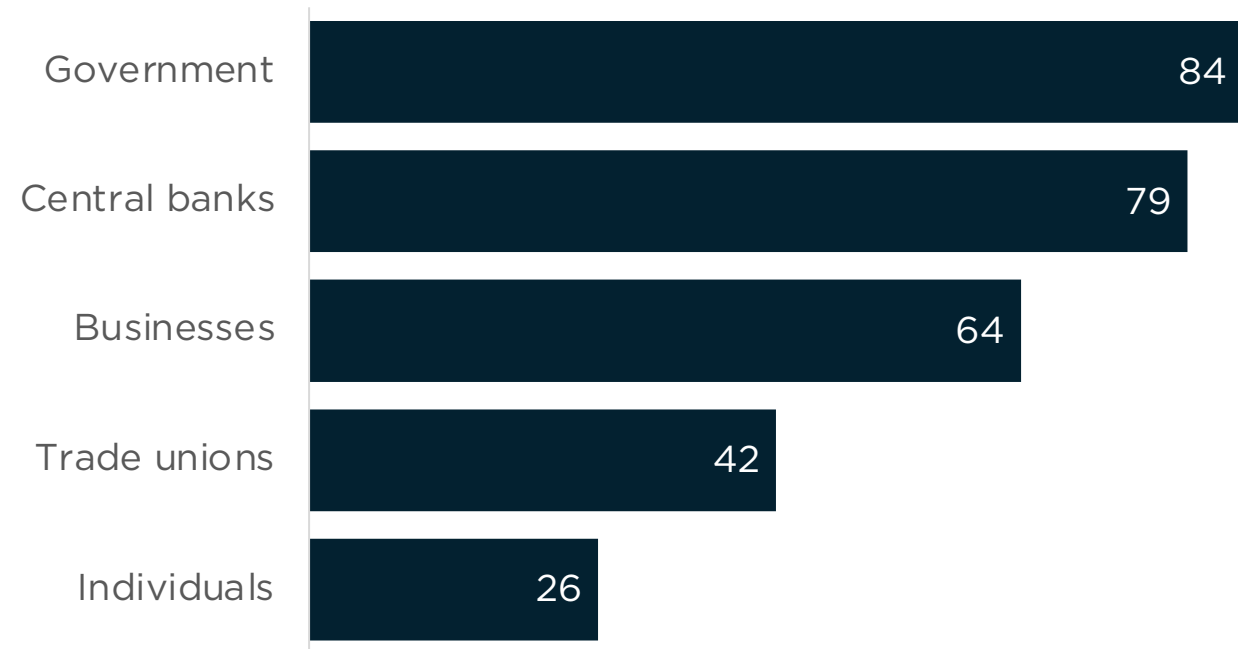
TAKING ACTION

# Solving the crisis



# Government and central banks must take the lead

**How much responsibility, if any, do you think each actor has in helping to keep down inflation?**



# A range of proposals receive strong support

Thinking about measures that government or public institutions could take that might help address the issue of the rising cost of living, do you support or oppose the following?

Policy	Support
<b>Cutting taxes on petrol and diesel</b>	<b>74%</b>
<b>Introducing/lowering the cap on energy prices</b>	<b>72%</b>
<b>Increasing minimum wage</b>	<b>67%</b>
<b>Cutting Sales Tax</b>	<b>61%</b>
<b>Cutting income taxes</b>	<b>61%</b>
<b>Increasing welfare benefits for working people</b>	<b>60%</b>
<b>Introducing controls on supermarket prices</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>Introducing windfall tax on oil and gas companies</b>	<b>52%</b>
<b>Reducing interest rates</b>	<b>52%</b>
Ending COVID19 restrictions	48%
Nationalising gas and electricity companies	47%
Giving everyone a direct payment to help with costs	46%
Increasing benefits for those out of work	43%
Ending Russian sanctions	23%
Increasing interest rates	21%
Nationalising supermarkets	20%

# Exceptions are rare but meaningful

## Energy Nationalisation

France (60/9), UK (62/10)  
Australia (54/13) – back the  
measure.



## Russian Sanctions

Italy – has a plurality of  
support for ending  
sanctions on Russia



## Supermarket price caps

Finland – is the only  
country against introducing  
caps on supermarket prices



TAKING ACTION

# How do we pay for this?



# Tax the rich... but nothing else

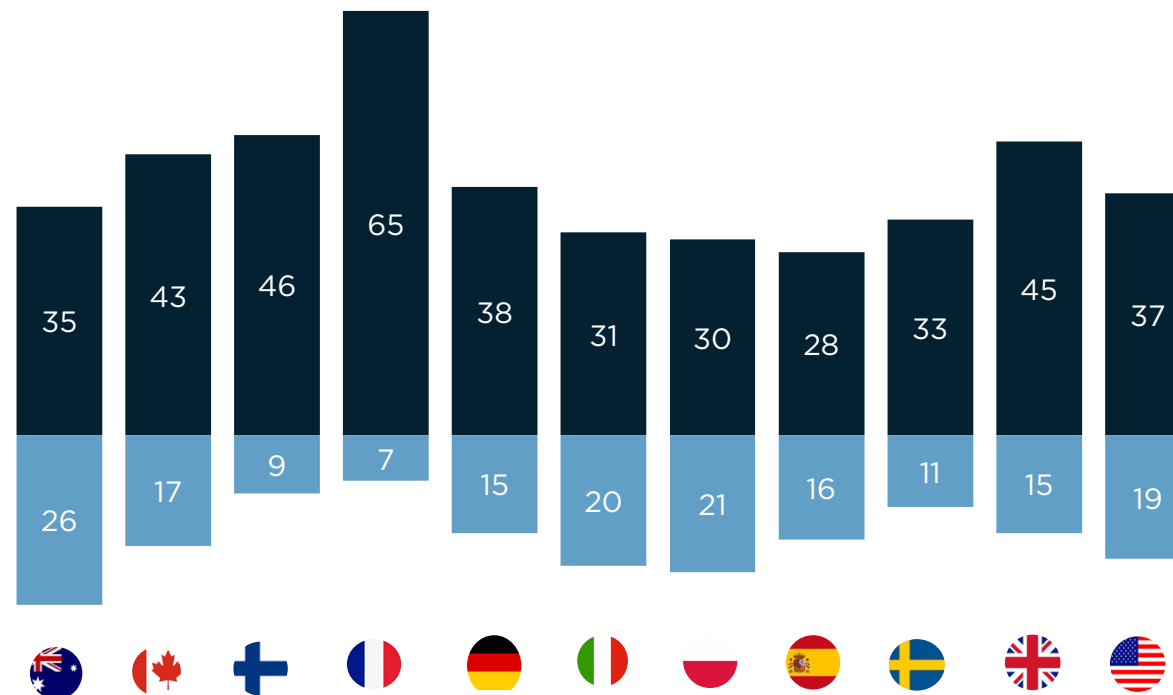
Would you support or oppose the government taking more action to keep prices down if it means...

Policy	Support
<b>That rich people pay more taxes instead</b>	<b>67%</b>
That the Government has less to spend on public services	27%
That interest rates increases instead	22%
That the Government borrows more and increases the national debt	20%
That society becomes more politically divided	16%
That taxes overall increase instead	15%
That the return on people's pension investments are lower	15%
That taxes paid by people like you increase instead	13%
That unemployment increases instead	13%
That rent and mortgage payments increase instead	11%

# Tax wealth, not income

Do you think we should tax base on income or on wealth?

- We should increase the amount of tax based on income and reduce taxes on wealth
- We should increase tax based on wealth and reduce taxes on income



A GOOD ECONOMY

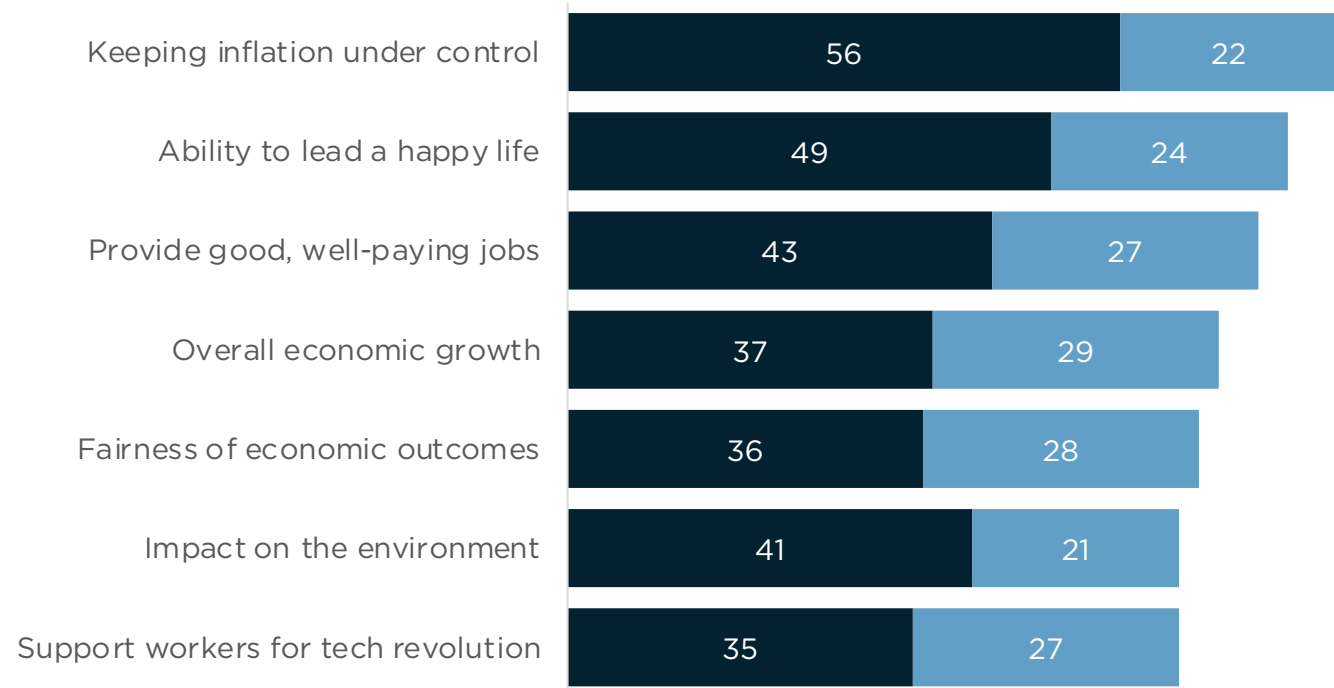
# Beyond the crisis

**JOBS**

# The economy people want to see

When thinking about the health of the economy, how important are each of the following?

■ Important  
■ Very important



A GOOD ECONOMY

# How we get there



# Enable good jobs through education & employability

Would you support or oppose the following as ways of helping to build a successful economy?

### Key result

**Priority 1: Good jobs**

**Priority 2: Local jobs**

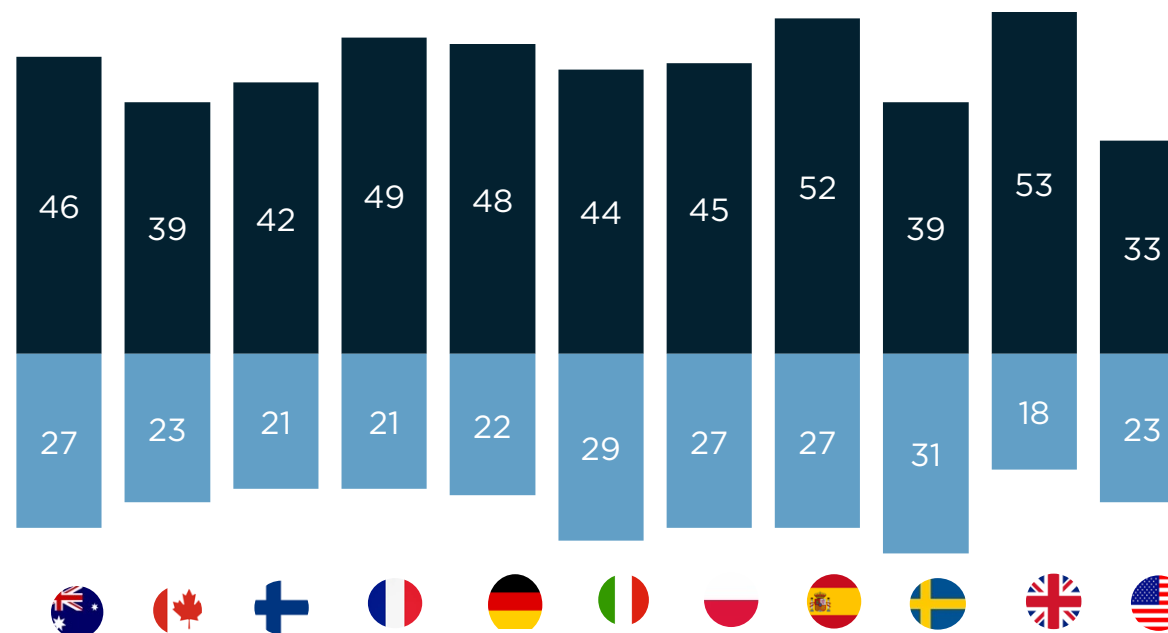
An economy where people can get good jobs in their local areas, rather than having to move elsewhere

Policy	Support
A good quality education system that provides skilled workers	80
Government backed apprenticeship and training schemes	70
Providing tax incentives or loans for businesses setting up in depressed areas	64
Building a positive relationship between trade unions and business	62
Government building a positive relationship with business leaders	56
Free trade deals with other countries	54
An immigration system with clear rules that allows workers to easily come and work here	50
Providing government loans to businesses	44
Reducing taxes on business	38
Reducing the regulations that businesses have to follow	38
Limiting trade union rights	25
Keeping wages down	11

# Prioritise less well-off regions over chasing national growth

Which of the following best reflects your view about how government should maximize its efforts?

- Build a successful economy even if that means growth favors regions that are already well off
- Build a successful economy in less well-off regions, even if that means less growth overall





# Recognise the importance of pride and strength of feeling in local areas

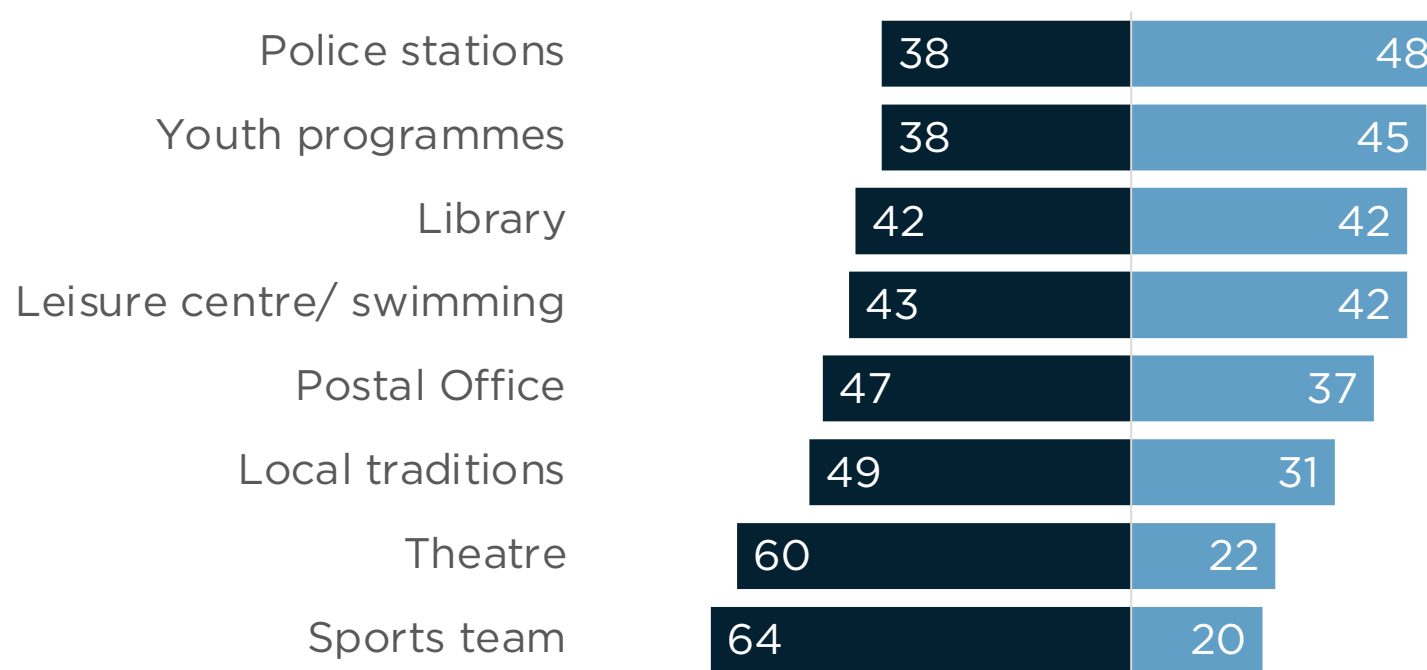
**Now, thinking about your local area. Which is most important to make people proud of their local area?**



# With people even, finally, willing to pay extra

**Would you be willing to pay more in local taxes if that meant the following facilities were provided or retained in your local area?**

 Would be willing  
 Would not be willing



# The building blocks of a progressive political economy:

1. Tackle inflation and the cost of living crisis
2. Tax wealth not income
3. Create good, well-paying, local jobs
4. Be willing to sacrifice economic growth to keep the country together
5. Build pride in our communities



# The opportunity for action

- What does this mean politically – for progressives in and out of power?
- How do we prioritise action on the cost of living in the short term; given the public are not prepared to deal in consequences other than the irresistible attraction of taxing the rich?
- Is there a progressive trade-off in relation to the economy vs the environment or is there a green response to the crisis on the table?
- What is possible when it comes to shifting the tax burden from income to wealth?
- What would it mean to prioritise the success of less well off regions over national growth? Is the reality harder than the rhetoric?
- How do we channel pride in local areas into tangible investment in green spaces, local services and facilities? Do people really mean it when they say they are prepared to pay more?
- How do we take this forward and build on the global trends laid out in the report?

# About



## The Report

This Autumn 2022 edition of the Global Progress Report was produced ahead of and presented at the Global Progress Summit, held in Toronto on September 16-17, 2022, hosted in partnership with the Center for American Progress and Canada 2020.

It was authored and edited by Hans Anker, Matt Browne, Jonny Will Chambers, Amy Dacey and Marcus Roberts.

## About Global Progress

Global Progress is an international network of progressive foundations, think tanks and leaders committed to the exchange of ideas, research, and best practices that help promote shared prosperity and an inclusive approach to politics. Over the last decade, Global Progress has convened workshops and seminars in over twenty countries across four continents - from Santiago to Sydney, Montreal and New York to Madrid and Berlin - and hosted an annual summit that brings together progressive leaders from across the globe.

## About YouGov

YouGov is an international, full-service market research agency, pioneering the use of the Internet and technology to collect high quality, interconnected data for research and analytics. YouGov operates an online panel of 8 million panelists across 44 countries covering the UK, USA, Europe, the Nordics, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia Pacific. These panels are pro-actively recruited to ensure representativeness from all demographic groups within each country, allowing us to create nationally representative online samples and access hard to reach groups, in both consumer and professional markets.

