Multi-Country Survey for Avaaz.org

These are findings from four Ipsos surveys conducted for www.Avaaz.org from December 5th-6th, 2013. For the survey, a sample of 1,640 Americans, 505 Australians, 504 New Zealanders, and 503 Chileans were interviewed online. Each survey was conducted separately via Ipsos' Online Omnibus vehicles in each country. The US Omnibus is based on all Americans age 18 and over; Australia and New Zealand Omnibuses are based on the relative populations of each country between the ages of 16-64; and the Chilean Omnibus is based on the Chilean population age 16-64 with at least a primary level education (i.e. excludes the 7% of the 16-64 population with no education or education below the primary level only).

The precision of the Reuters/Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the US survey has a credibility interval of plus or minus 2.8 percentage points, and the Australia, New Zealand, and Chile surveys have a credibility interval of plus or minus 5.0 percentage points. For more information about credibility intervals, please see the appendix.

The data were weighted to the national population profiles of the target populations of each country, based on Census data in each country. Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Figures marked by an asterisk (*) indicate a percentage value of greater than zero but less than one half of one per cent. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding.

SURVEY FINDINGS, BY COUNTRY

Q1. (INSERT COUNTRY) and 11 other countries are currently negotiating the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a free trade agreement. It has a proposal that would allow foreign corporations to sue our governments if national regulations threaten their profits. Would you support or oppose your government agreeing to this proposal?

	United States	Australia	New Zealand	Chile
Strongly support	4	7	7	22
Somewhat support	10	16	17	14
Somewhat oppose	16	19	26	12
Strongly oppose	40	29	30	40
Don't know	30	30	20	12
TOTAL SUPPORT	*14*	*23*	*25*	*36*
TOTAL OPPOSE	*56*	*47*	*56*	*52*

Multi-Country Survey for Avaaz.org

Q2. Another proposal in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement would limit access to cheaper generic medicines, in favour of branded medicines which are usually more expensive.
ROTATE NEXT TWO SENTENCES:
Supporters say that this protects businesses who have invested in developing these drugs. Opponents say that this would deprive vulnerable people of affordable medicines.

Would you support or oppose a proposal to limit access to generic medicines?

	United States	Australia	New Zealand	Chile
Strongly support	4	6	4	13
Somewhat support	11	15	14	10
Somewhat oppose	19	22	27	11
Strongly oppose	43	41	44	64
Don't know	23	16	12	2
TOTAL SUPPORT	*15*	*21*	*18*	*23*
TOTAL OPPOSE	*62*	*63*	*70*	*75*

Q3. The full contents of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (TPP) will not be made public until the negotiations are concluded and the agreement is signed. The draft agreement that has reached the public has been through leaks, and not through official releases of the information. Which of the following statements comes closest to your own personal opinion?

	United States	Australia	New Zealand	Chile
It is acceptable if the TPP is not made public until negotiations are finished and an agreement is signed	11	14	10	22
It is unacceptable if the TPP is not made public until negotiations are finished and an agreement is signed	61	64	71	70
Don't know	28	22	18	8

Q4. Based on the information from the previous three questions, which of the following statements comes closer to your own personal opinion?

	United States	Australia	New Zealand	Chile
The TPP infringes on the rights of citizens for the protection of corporate profits, and undermines democracy	51	49	51	67
The TPP promotes free trade and economic cooperation, benefiting the participating countries and the global economy	12	18	21	19
Don't know	37	33	28	14

Appendix

How to Calculate Bayesian Credibility Intervals

The calculation of credibility intervals assumes that Y has a binomial distribution conditioned on the parameter θ\, i.e., Y|θ~Bin(n,θ), where n is the size of our sample. In this setting, Y counts the number of "yes", or "1", observed in the sample, so that the sample mean ($\bar{y}$) is a natural estimate of the true population proportion θ. This model is often called the likelihood function, and it is a standard concept in both the Bayesian and the Classical framework. The Bayesian [1] statistics combines both the prior distribution and the likelihood function to create a posterior distribution. The posterior distribution represents our opinion about which are the plausible values for θ adjusted after observing the sample data. In reality, the posterior distribution is one's knowledge base updated using the latest survey information. For the prior and likelihood functions specified here, the posterior distribution is also a beta distribution (π(θ/y)~β(y+a,n-y+b)), but with updated hyper-parameters.

Our credibility interval for ϑ is based on this posterior distribution. As mentioned above, these intervals represent our belief about which are the most plausible values for ϑ given our updated knowledge base. There are different ways to calculate these intervals based on π(θ/y). Since we want only one measure of precision for all variables in the survey, analogous to what is done within the Classical framework, we will compute the largest possible credibility interval for any observed sample. The worst case occurs when we assume that a=1 and b=1 and y=$n/2$. Using a simple approximation of the posterior by the normal distribution, the 95% credibility interval is given by, approximately:

$$\bar{y} \mp \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$$

For this poll, the Bayesian Credibility Interval was adjusted using standard weighting design effect 1+L=1.3 to account for complex weighting[2]

Examples of credibility intervals for different base sizes are below. Ipsos does not publish data for base sizes (sample sizes) below 100.

Sample size	Credibility intervals
2,000	2.5
1,500	2.9
1,000	3.5
750	4.1
500	5.0
350	6.0
200	7.9
100	11.2

[1] Bayesian Data Analysis, Second Edition, Andrew Gelman, John B. Carlin, Hal S. Stern, Donald B. Rubin, Chapman & Hall/CRC | ISBN: 158488388X | 2003
[2] Kish, L. (1992). Weighting for unequal Pi . Journal of Official, Statistics, 8, 2, 183200.