

April 22, 2011

Worldwide, Blame for Climate Change Falls on Humans

Americans among least likely to attribute to human causes

by Julie Ray and Anita Pugliese

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- World residents are more likely to blame human activities than nature for the rise in temperatures associated with climate change. Thirty-five percent of adults in 111 countries in 2010 say global warming results from human activities, while less than half as many (14%) blame nature. Thirteen percent fault both.

Temperature rise is a part of global warming or climate change. Do you think rising temperatures are ... ?

Sorted by "a result of human activities"

	A result of human activities	A result of natural causes	Both*	Don't know/Refused	Not aware of global warming
World	35%	14%	13%	2%	36%
Developed Asia	76%	12%	7%	1%	4%
Latin America	56%	10%	8%	2%	23%
Canada	54%	24%	18%	1%	4%
Western Europe	49%	23%	20%	2%	6%
Eastern and Southern Europe	46%	12%	22%	3%	17%
Commonwealth of Independent States	36%	22%	15%	4%	23%
United States	34%	47%	14%	1%	4%
Developing Asia	27%	11%	12%	2%	48%
Middle East and North Africa	25%	13%	12%	1%	49%
Sub-Saharan Africa	22%	14%	10%	0%	54%

*Volunteered response

2010

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People nearly everywhere, including majorities in developed Asia and Latin America, are more likely to attribute global warming to human activities rather than natural causes. The U.S. is the exception, with nearly half (47%) -- and the largest percentage in the world -- attributing global warming to natural causes.

Americans are also among the least likely to link global warming to human causes, setting them apart from the rest of the developed world. Americans' attitudes in 2010 mark a sharp departure from 2007 and 2008, when they were more likely to blame human causes.

The world has not reached consensus as to whether it acknowledges at least some human contribution to climate change. Nearly half of adults worldwide (48%) say climate change results from human activities or volunteer that both natural and human activities cause climate change. In Europe and the United States, belief in human contribution to global warming has declined since 2007 and 2008.

Human Contribution to Global Warming Worldwide

2007-2008 vs. 2010

	A result of human activities + both in 2007-2008	A result of human activities + both in 2010	Difference (percentage points)
World	43%	48%	+5
Canada	72%	72%	0
Developed Asia	88%	83%	-5
Western Europe	76%	69%	-7
Eastern and Southern Europe	74%	68%	-6
Latin America	59%	65%	+6
Commonwealth of Independent States	51%	51%	0
United States	60%	48%	-12
Developing Asia	34%	39%	+5
Middle East and North Africa	40%	37%	-3
Sub-Saharan Africa	24%	32%	+8

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Implications

People nearly everywhere are more likely to believe humans cause global warming. In the United States, where residents are less likely to blame humans for global warming [and to see it as a threat](#), residents could potentially feel less empowered to act as stewards of the environment in the future.

See full results on page 2.

For complete data sets or custom research from the more than 150 countries Gallup continually surveys, please contact SocialandEconomicAnalysis@gallup.com or call 202.715.3030.

Survey Methods

Results are based on face-to-face and telephone interviews conducted in 2010 with approximately 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, in 111 countries. For results based on the total sample in each country, one can say with 95% confidence that the maximum margin of sampling error ranges from

±1.7 percentage points to ±5.7 percentage points. The margin of error reflects the influence of data weighting. In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

Temperature rise is a part of global warming or climate change. Do you think rising temperatures are ... ?

Sorted by "a result of human activities"

	A result of human activities	A result of natural causes	Both*	Don't know/Refused	Not aware of global warming
Japan	82%	10%	5%	1%	2%
South Korea	79%	10%	3%	1%	7%
Hong Kong	75%	7%	9%	3%	6%
Taiwan	74%	5%	12%	2%	6%
Greece	74%	4%	13%	1%	9%
Thailand	73%	13%	10%	2%	2%
Brazil	67%	7%	6%	2%	18%
Slovenia	61%	12%	19%	2%	6%
Costa Rica	60%	5%	9%	0%	25%
Uruguay	58%	11%	9%	1%	20%
Germany	58%	18%	20%	1%	3%
Argentina	58%	7%	6%	1%	28%
Cyprus	57%	6%	8%	1%	28%
Colombia	57%	14%	6%	1%	22%
Chile	55%	15%	10%	0%	19%
Mexico	55%	7%	13%	2%	23%
Spain	54%	13%	17%	2%	15%
Canada	54%	24%	18%	1%	4%
Finland	54%	19%	22%	2%	3%
France	53%	18%	17%	2%	10%
Peru	52%	14%	10%	1%	22%
Singapore	51%	12%	26%	1%	10%
Ecuador	51%	18%	17%	1%	13%
Lebanon	51%	10%	12%	1%	25%
Malaysia	50%	13%	12%	2%	24%
Venezuela	50%	17%	14%	0%	18%
Slovakia	50%	20%	17%	1%	13%
Luxembourg	49%	18%	22%	2%	8%
Portugal	49%	10%	19%	3%	20%
Philippines	49%	14%	1%	0%	35%
Hungary	49%	9%	36%	2%	4%
Lithuania	49%	24%	19%	4%	5%
Austria	49%	15%	26%	2%	8%
Guatemala	48%	13%	3%	1%	35%
Mongolia	48%	16%	18%	1%	18%
Ukraine	48%	14%	15%	2%	21%

Sweden	48%	15%	29%	3%	4%
Bolivia	48%	11%	6%	0%	34%
El Salvador	47%	10%	7%	1%	34%
Malta	47%	9%	13%	1%	29%
Paraguay	46%	12%	5%	1%	36%
Panama	45%	8%	14%	1%	32%
Ireland	45%	30%	15%	4%	6%
Denmark	44%	26%	24%	3%	3%
Australia	44%	31%	21%	2%	2%
Italy	43%	4%	25%	4%	24%
Sri Lanka	43%	22%	10%	1%	24%
Nicaragua	42%	9%	8%	1%	40%
Moldova	42%	21%	20%	3%	13%
Bulgaria	41%	14%	25%	4%	17%
Belarus	41%	22%	18%	3%	16%
Turkey	40%	14%	17%	2%	27%
Jordan	40%	14%	11%	1%	34%
Netherlands	40%	23%	27%	2%	9%
Russia	40%	20%	18%	5%	17%
New Zealand	39%	34%	20%	2%	5%
United Kingdom	37%	39%	18%	3%	3%
Kenya	37%	9%	12%	0%	41%
Romania	37%	18%	24%	3%	18%
Poland	37%	21%	23%	4%	15%
Czech Republic	36%	15%	27%	2%	21%
United States	35%	47%	14%	1%	4%
Belgium	34%	11%	34%	1%	20%
Israel	34%	19%	29%	1%	17%
Syria	33%	19%	9%	1%	38%
Cameroon	33%	17%	7%	0%	43%
Chad	32%	16%	11%	0%	41%
Uganda	32%	15%	13%	1%	39%
Honduras	31%	12%	11%	3%	42%
Morocco	31%	3%	12%	1%	54%
China	31%	13%	18%	3%	35%
Dominican Republic	30%	21%	3%	1%	44%
Kazakhstan	30%	18%	17%	4%	32%
Mali	29%	11%	5%	0%	55%
Georgia	28%	29%	7%	4%	32%
Indonesia	28%	5%	3%	1%	63%
Nepal	27%	15%	3%	1%	54%
Tanzania	27%	9%	15%	0%	49%
Palestinian Territories	27%	14%	14%	1%	44%

Bangladesh	25%	9%	2%	1%	63%
Armenia	24%	33%	15%	4%	25%
Zimbabwe	24%	20%	20%	0%	36%
Burkina Faso	23%	11%	9%	0%	56%
Algeria	23%	18%	17%	0%	42%
Bahrain	23%	23%	18%	0%	36%
Mauritania	23%	11%	10%	0%	56%
Ghana	20%	10%	4%	0%	67%
Iraq	19%	17%	10%	1%	51%
Azerbaijan	19%	21%	11%	1%	48%
United Arab Emirates	19%	14%	32%	1%	34%
Kuwait	19%	18%	20%	0%	43%
Sudan	19%	7%	6%	0%	68%
Somaliland region	19%	18%	11%	0%	52%
Sierra Leone	18%	14%	2%	1%	65%
Central African Republic	18%	7%	2%	0%	73%
India	18%	8%	9%	1%	63%
Nigeria	18%	16%	12%	1%	53%
Comoros	17%	14%	17%	0%	51%
Tunisia	17%	20%	13%	1%	49%
South Africa	15%	16%	9%	0%	60%
Senegal	15%	11%	9%	1%	64%
Saudi Arabia	15%	11%	15%	1%	58%
Libya	14%	17%	30%	2%	37%
Yemen	13%	5%	2%	0%	80%
Pakistan	13%	29%	8%	1%	48%
Egypt	12%	8%	6%	1%	73%
Uzbekistan	10%	38%	7%	1%	43%
Afghanistan	8%	9%	8%	1%	74%
Tajikistan	8%	29%	9%	2%	52%
Liberia	6%	9%	4%	0%	80%
Haiti	3%	13%	0%	6%	78%

*Volunteered response

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