

As part of a series of polls to understand the effects of COVID-19 on people, businesses and institutions, APCO Worldwide surveyed Americans on April 17, 2020. In this latest polling, APCO, a global advisory and advocacy communications firm, explored how COVID-19 is affecting American's outlook on the pandemic's global impact on trade, politics and the economy.

Americans are pessimistic about the country's global standing over the next three years.

58% believe COVID-19 will weaken the strength of the U.S. economy over the next three years

and half (48%) see the United States' image as a global leader weakening.

58% of Americans believe the COVID-19 crisis will make countries more self-reliant and independent.

Most Americans believe global commerce and trade will be harmed by the pandemic.

Three-in-five (59%) believe there will be a decrease in global trade over the next three years.

65% believe it's likely the pandemic will cause a reduction in international travel over the next three years.

59% also believe the crisis will harm businesses that operate in multiple countries.

46% of people are not confident in companies that manufacture essential products in China

like medical supplies, drugs and technology.

Just 4% of people believe multinational businesses will play a role in helping the United States return to what it was like before the crisis,

compared to 40% looking to state and local governments.

Mistrust will be a defining characteristic of U.S. relationships with other countries, including key allies.

A two-thirds majority (66%) believe COVID-19 will cause mistrust in U.S. relationships with China and Russia over the next three years.

44% say the pandemic will cause long term mistrust with U.S. allies, like the UK and Japan.

Yet, two-thirds (67%) believe the crisis will change our collaboration with other countries, and more see this as positive (42%) than negative (24%).

Negative views of China are intensifying.

A plurality of Americans (42%) blame the Chinese government for harm caused to the American people by the COVID-19 pandemic; followed by President Trump, who is blamed by one-third of Americans (32%). 20% of people believe “no one specifically” is to blame for the pandemic.

China is overwhelmingly seen as a competitor to the United States (71% agree) that puts its own interests and people first (68%).

Nearly half of Americans view China is “an enemy of the United States” (48%), with only 18% disagreeing with this statement.

However, 46% view China as a necessary partner to the United States.



APCO Worldwide is an advisory and advocacy communications consultancy helping leading public and private sector organizations build and protect organizational reputations, relationships and brands, and act with agility in handling dynamic marketplace and social issues. APCO has more than 800 employees based in more than 30 global markets. More information can be found at apcoworldwide.com.

Methodology note: APCO Worldwide conducted a poll of n=1,000 American adults on April 17, 2020. The study is based on a national sample balanced by age, gender and region. Visit apcoworldwide.com/coronavirus for more information.