Trust in Italy BR)
Business
Roundtable **Edelman Trust** Barometer 2020 Edelman



# 20<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL EDELMAN TRUST BAROMETER

Methodology

Online survey in 28 markets

34,000+ respondents total

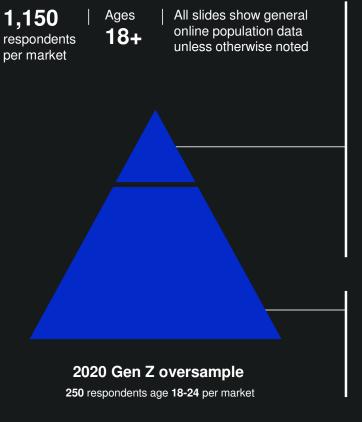
All fieldwork was conducted between October 19 and November 18, 2019

28-market global data margin of error: General population  $\pm$ 0.6% (N=32,200), informed public  $\pm$ 1.2% (N=6,200), mass population  $\pm$ 0.6% (26,000+), half-sample global general online population  $\pm$ 0.8% (N=16,100).

Market-specific data margin of error: General population +/-2.9% (N=1,150), informed public +/-6.9% (N = min 200, varies by market), China and U.S. +/-4.4% (N=500), mass population +/-3.0% to 3.6% (N = min 736, varies by market).

Gen Z MOE: 28-market = +/- 1.5% (N=4,310) Market-specific = +/- 5.3 to 10.5% (N=min 88, varies by market).

### **General Online Population**





#### Informed Public

**500** respondents in U.S. and China; **200** in all other markets

Represents 17% of total global population

Must meet 4 criteria

- ► Ages 25-64
- ► College-educated
- ► In top **25**% of householdincome per age group in each market
- Report significant media consumption and engagement in public policy and business news



#### **Mass Population**

All population not including informed public

Represents **83%** of total global population

# TRUST ESSENTIAL FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

20 years of Edelman research on trust

 $\vdash$ 

- 2M+ respondents
- 400+ companies
- 80k employee reviews
- Interviews with 50+ business leaders
- 23M measures of trust
- Review of 150+ academic articles and 80+ models of trust
- Trust and stock price analysis for 80 companies

Trust matters to...

#### **Consumers**

Trusted companies have stronger consumer buyers and advocates

### **Employees**

Trust drives
workplace
recommendations

### Regulators

Trusted companies have greater license to operate

#### **Investors**

Trusted companies are more likely to receive institutional investment

### Resilience against risk

Trusted companies are more resilient in the face of crisis

### The market

Trusted companies' stock outperform their respective sectors

### Media coverage

Trusted companies are more immune to the media cycle

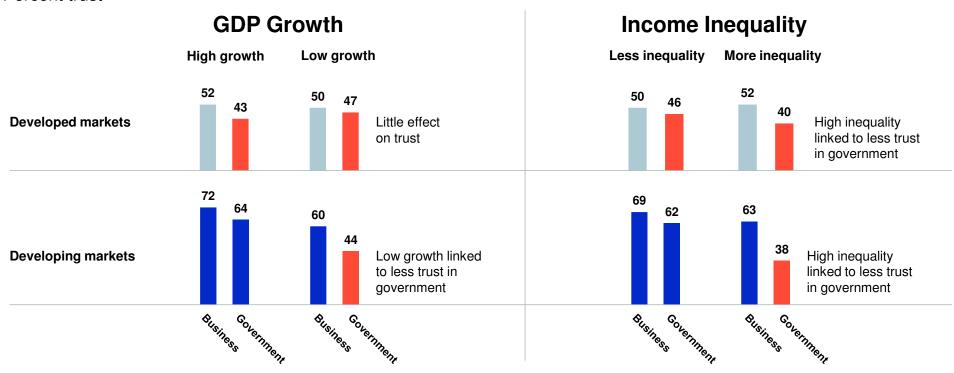
### **20 YEARS OF TRUST**

2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Rising Influence of NGOs	Fall of the Celebrity CEO	Earned Media More Credible Than Advertising	U.S. Companies in Europe Suffer Trust Discount	Trust Shifts from "Authorities" to Peers	A "Person Like Me" Emerges as Credible Spokesperson	Business More Trusted Than Government and Media	Young People Have More Trust in Business	Trust in Business Plummets	Performance and Transparency Essential to Trust
2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Business Must Partner With Government to Regain Trust	Fall of Government	Crisis of Leadership	Business to Lead the Debate for Change	Trust is Essential to Innovation	Growing Inequality of Trust	Trust in Crisis	The Battle for Truth	Trust at Work	Trust: Competence and Ethics

### INCOME INEQUALITY NOW AFFECTS TRUST MORE THAN ECONOMIC GROWTH



Percent trust



**2020 Edelman Trust Barometer.** TRU\_INS. Below is a list of institutions. For each one, please indicate how much you trust that institution to do what is right. 9-point scale; top 4 box, trust. General online population, 23-mkt avg., by developed and developing markets. High-growth economies are those with a Q2 2019 GDP of 1.4% or higher. Developing market high-growth economies: China, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, UAE; low growth economies: Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, S. Africa, Thailand. Developed market high-growth economies: Australia, Canada, France, Ireland, The Netherlands, Spain, U.S.; low-growth economies: Germany, Hong Kong, Japan, Italy, Singapore, S. Korea, U.K.



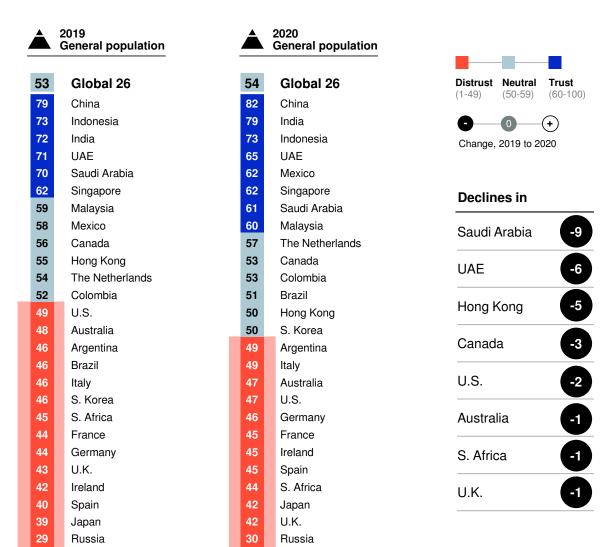
### CONTINUED DISTRUST

Trust Index

Global Trust Index increases 1 pt., with increases in 16 of 26 markets measured

12 of 26 markets are distrusters, down 2 from 2019

**2020 Edelman Trust Barometer.** The Trust Index is the average percent trust in NGOs, business, government and media. TRU\_INS. Below is a list of institutions. For each one, please indicate how much you trust that institution to do what is right. 9-point scale; top 4 box, trust. General population, 26-mkt avg.



# TRUST INEQUALITY SETS NEW RECORDS

Trust Index

Mass population 14 points less trusting

23 markets with double-digit trust gaps

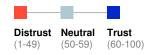
**2020 Edelman Trust Barometer.** The Trust Index is the average percent trust in NGOs, business, government and media. TRU\_INS. Below is a list of institutions. For each one, please indicate how much you trust that institution to do what is right. 9-point scale; top 4 box, trust. Informed public and mass population, 28-mkt avg.

#### 2020 Informed public 65 Global 28 90 China 87 India 82 Indonesia 80 Saudi Arabia 78 Thailand 75 UAE 71 Mexico 71 Singapore 68 Australia 68 Malaysia 67 Canada 67 The Netherlands 64 Germany 64 Italy 63 France 62 Colombia 60 Argentina 60 Brazil 60 Ireland 59 Spain 58 Kenya 57 U.K. 54 Hong Kong 53 Japan 53 U.S. 50 S. Korea 49 S. Africa

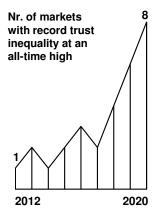
Russia



2020



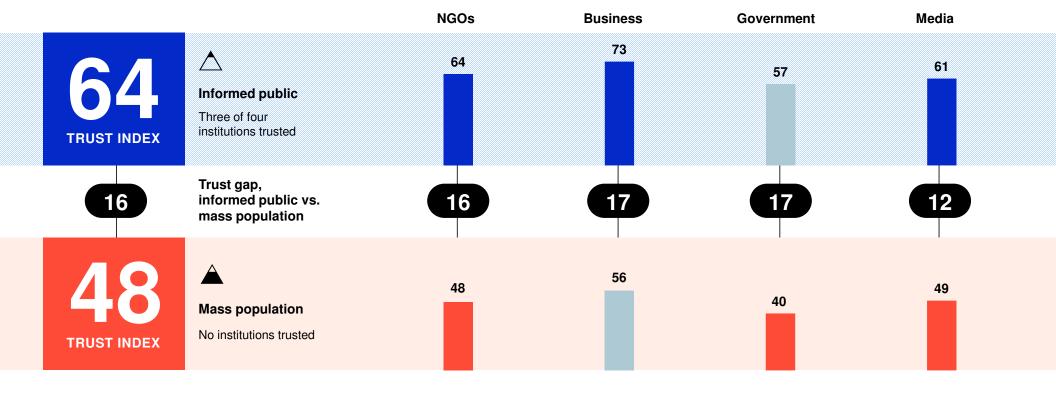
#### Record trust inequality



### TWO DIFFERENT TRUST REALITIES

Percent trust in Italy





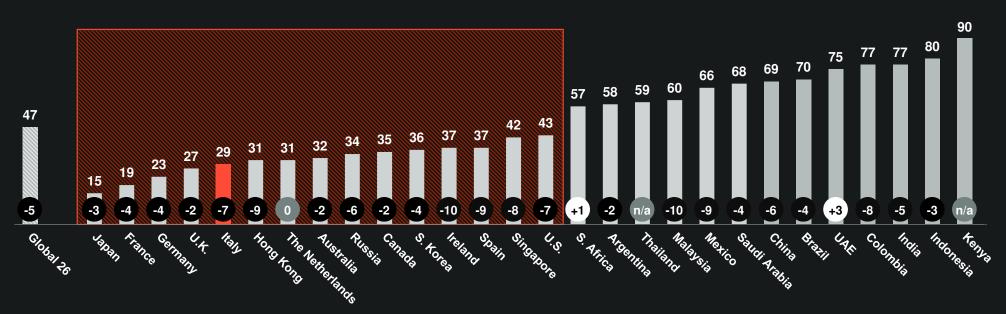
**2020 Edelman Trust Barometer.** TRU\_INS. Below is a list of institutions. For each one, please indicate how much you trust that institution to do what is right. 9-point scale; top 4 box, trust. Informed public and mass population, Italy.

### PESSIMISTIC ABOUT ECONOMIC PROSPECTS

Percent who believe they and their families will be better off in five years' time



Majority pessimistic in 15 of 28 markets



**2020 Edelman Trust Barometer.** CNG\_FUT. Thinking about the economic prospects for yourself and your family, how do you think you and your family will be doing in five years' time? 5-point scale; top 2 box, better off. General population, 26-mkt avg.



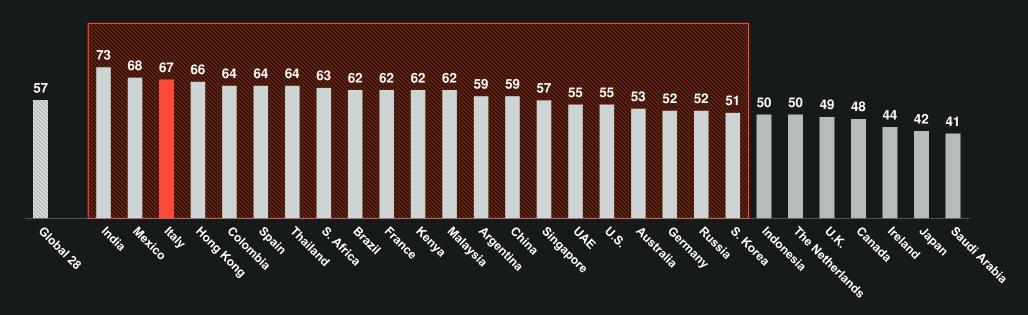
### **FEAR BEING LEFT BEHIND**

Percent who are worried

Majority share concern in 21 of 28 markets

 $\perp$ 

I worry about people like me **losing the respect and dignity** I once enjoyed in this country



2020 Edelman Trust Barometer. POP\_EMO. Some people say they worry about many things while others say they have few concerns. We are interested in what you worry about. Specifically, how much do you worry about each of the following? 9-point scale; top 4 box, worried. General population, 28-mkt avg.

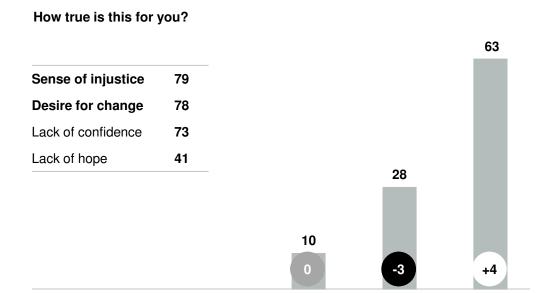
### **CAPITALISM UNDER FIRE**

Percent in Italy who agree

The system is...



Change, 2019 to 2020



Working for me

Capitalism as it exists today does more harm than good in the world

61%

**2020 Edelman Trust Barometer.** "System failing" measure. For full details on how the "system failing" measure was calculated, please refer to the Technical Appendix. POP\_MDC. Below is a list of statements. For each one, please rate how true you believe that statement is. 9-point scale; top 4 box, true. General population, Italy. Sense of injustice is an average of POP\_MDC/12,3,8; Desire for change is POP\_MDC/9; Lack of confidence is POP\_MDC/10; Lack of hope is an average of POP\_MDC/18,19,20 [reverse scored]. TMA\_SIE\_SHV. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements. 9-point scale; top 4 box, agree. Question asked of half of the sample. General population, Italy.

Not sure

Failing me





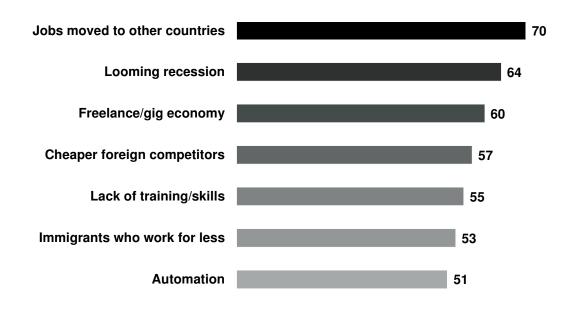
### WORRY ABOUT THE FUTURE OF WORK

Percent of employees in Italy who worry about job loss due to each issue

I worry about **losing my job** due to one or more of these causes

 $\bot$ 

87%



### WORRY TECHNOLOGY IS OUT OF CONTROL

Percent in Italy who agree

The pace of change in technology is **too fast** 

I worry technology will make it impossible to know if **what people are seeing or hearing is real**  Government does not understand emerging technologies enough to regulate them effectively

Trust in technology 2019-2020

Global 26

-4

Largest declines in:

France

-10

Canada, Italy, Russia, Singapore -8

U.S.

**-7** 

Australia

-6

67%

59%

80%

2020 Edelman Trust Barometer. CNG\_POC. For the statements below, please think about the pace of development and change in society today and select the response that most accurately represents your opinion. 9-point scale; top 4 box, fast. Italy. ATT\_MED\_AGR. Below is a list of statements. For each one, please rate how much you agree or disagree with that statement. 9-point scale; top 4 box, agree. Italy. PER\_GOV. How well do you feel the government is currently doing each of the following? 5-point scale; bottom 3 box, not doing well (data excludes DK responses). Italy. TRU\_IND. Please indicate how much you trust businesses in each of the following industries to do what is right. 9-point scale; top 4 box, trust. 26-mkt avg. All questions asked of half of the sample among the general population.

### **WORRY ABOUT QUALITY INFORMATION**

Percent in Italy who agree

The media I use are contaminated with untrustworthy information

I worry about false information or **fake** news being used as a weapon

 $\perp$ 

63%

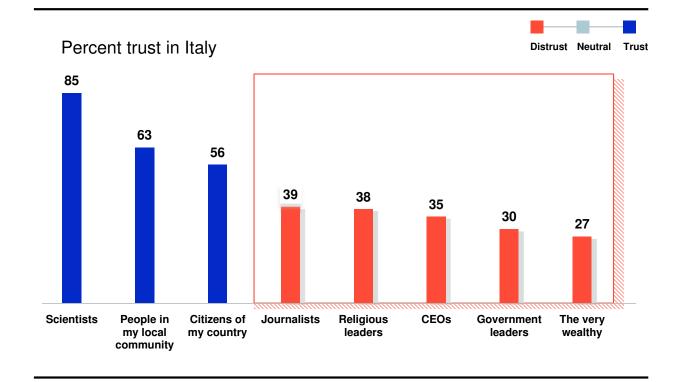
76% +6 pts Change, 2018 to 2020

### SOCIETAL LEADERS NOT TRUSTED TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES

I do not have confidence that our current leaders will be able to successfully address our country's challenges

**JJ** -----

**73**%



### TAKING THE FUTURE INTO THEIR OWN HANDS

### **Climate Change**



Students protest to draw attention to climate change

### **Automation**



Unions protest a Géant automated supermarket

### **Income Inequality**

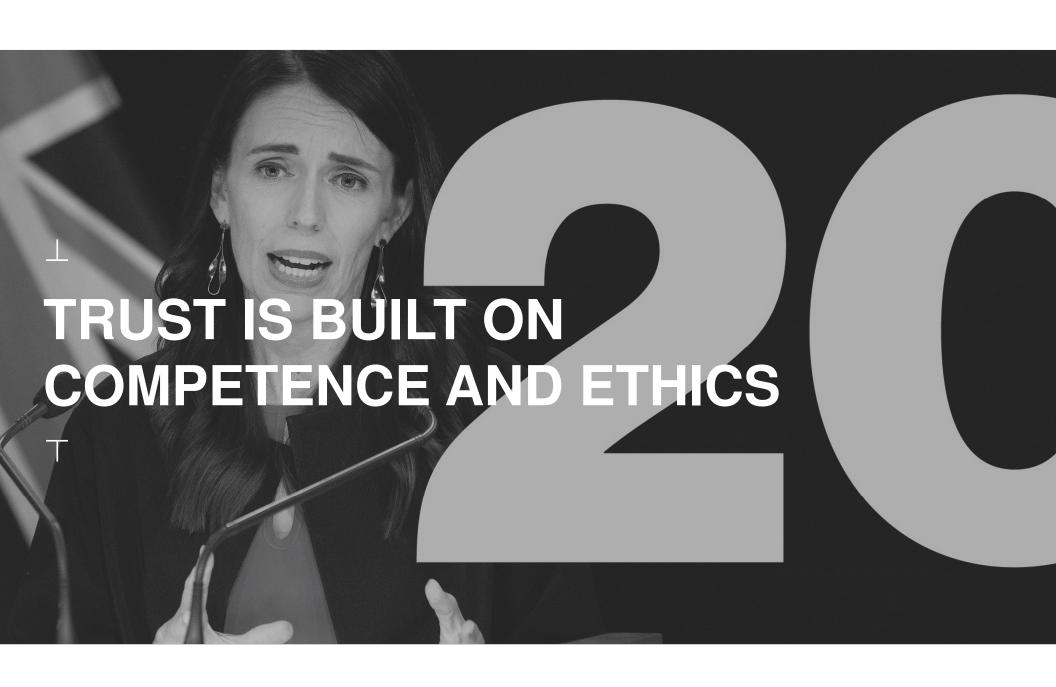


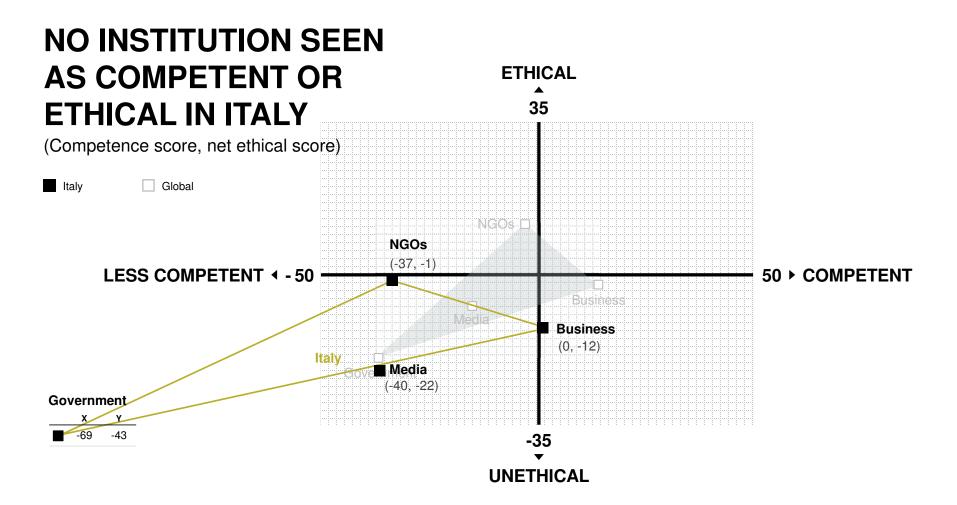
McDonald's employees protest for higher wages

### #MeToo

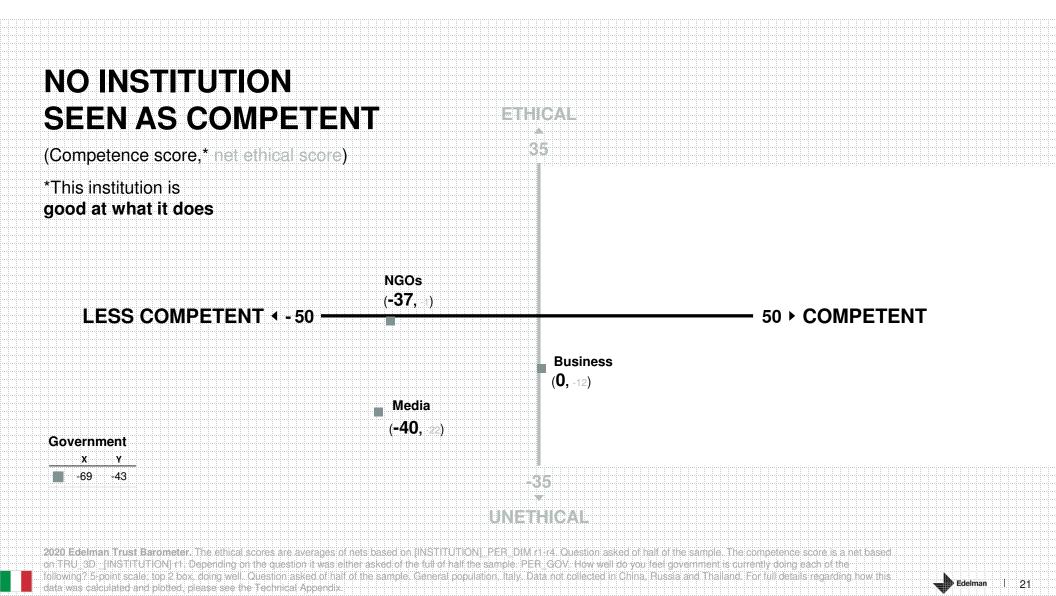


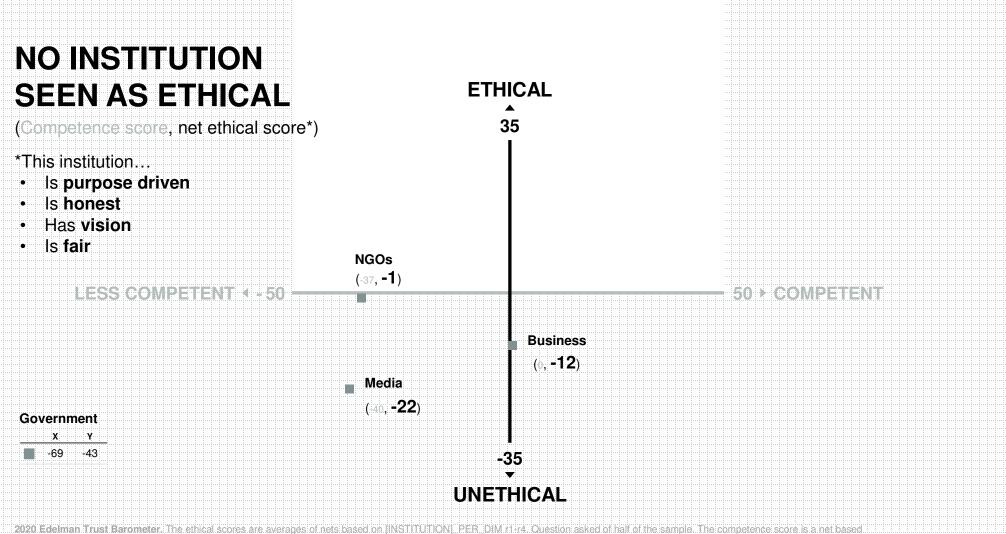
Nike employees protest company's treatment of women





2020 Edelman Trust Barometer. The ethical scores are averages of nets based on [INSTITUTION]\_PER\_DIM r1-r4. Question asked of half of the sample. The competence score is a net based on TRU\_3D \_[INSTITUTION] r1. Depending on the question it was either asked of the full of half the sample. General population, 25-mkt avg and Italy. Data not collected in China, Russia and Thailand. For full details regarding how this data was calculated and plotted, please see the Technical Appendix.





2020 Edelman Trust Barometer. The ethical scores are averages of nets based on [INSTITUTION] PER\_DIM r1-r4. Question asked of half of the sample. The competence score is a net based on TRU 3D [INSTITUTION] r1. Depending on the question it was either asked of the full of half the sample. PER\_NGO. How well do you feel NGOs are currently doing each of the following? 5-point scale; top 2 box, doing well. Question asked of half of the sample. General population, Italy. Data not collected in China, Russia and Thalland. For full details regarding how this data was calculated and plotted, please see the Technical Appendix.

### **INSTITUTIONS SEEN AS UNFAIR**

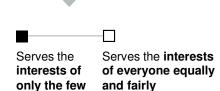
Percent in Italy who cite each as a reason they trust or distrust each institution

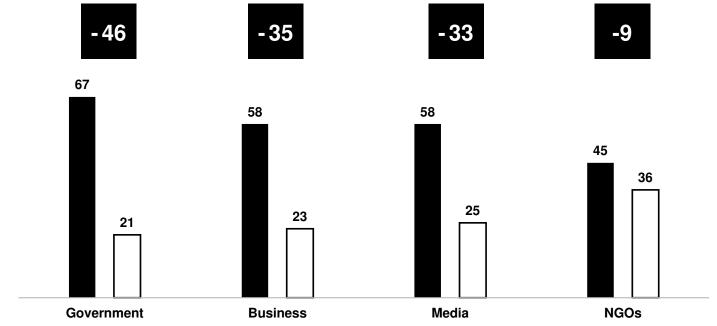
This institution...

• Is purpose-driven



Is fair

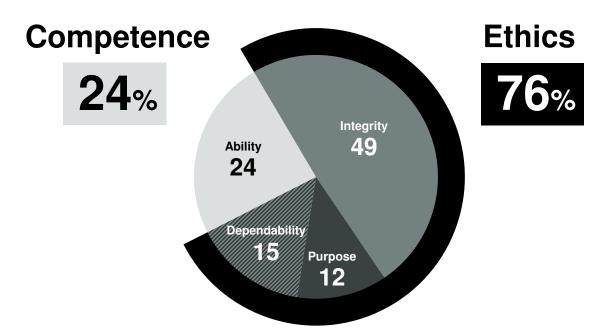






# ETHICAL DRIVERS 3X MORE IMPORTANT TO COMPANY TRUST THAN COMPETENCE

Percent of predictable variance in trust explained by each dimension



Washington, August 2019

The Business Roundtable redefines the purpose of a corporation



Biarritz, August 2019

Business for Inclusive Growth (B4IG) coalition forms to address inequality and diversity



New York, September 2019

Coalition of business, civil society and UN leaders pledge to set climate targets to 1.5 ℃



New York, January 2020

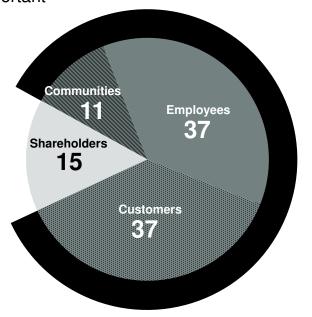
BlackRock shifts investment strategy to focus on sustainability





### SERVE THE INTERESTS OF ALL STAKEHOLDERS

Percent in Italy who ranked each group as most important



85%

Stakeholders, not shareholders, are most important to long-term company success Percent in Italy who agree

74%

a company can take actions that both increase profits and improve conditions in communities where it operates

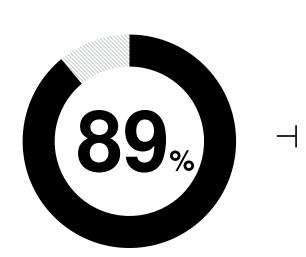
**2020 Edelman Trust Barometer.** PPL\_RNK. Please rank the following four groups of people in terms of their importance to a company achieving long-term success. Give the most important group a rank of 1 and the least important a rank of 4. Stakeholders is a net of "Communities," "Customers," and "Employees". TMA\_SIE\_SHV. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements. 9-point scale; top 4 box, agree. Question asked of half of the sample. General population, Italy.

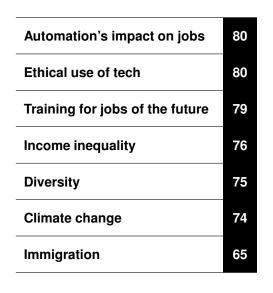


### **CEOS MUST LEAD**

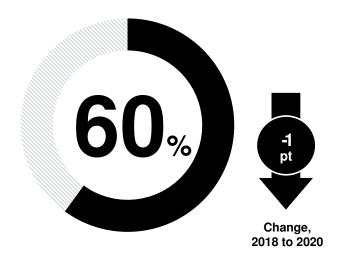
Percent in Italy who agree

### It is important that **my employer's CEO speak out** on one or more of these issues

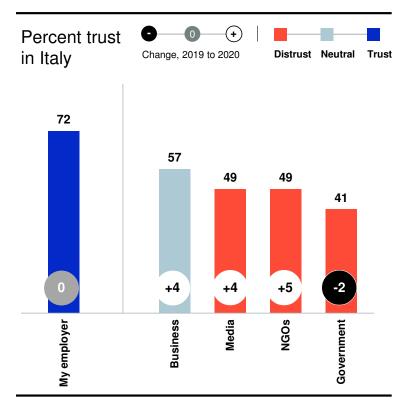




### CEOs should take the lead on change rather than waiting for government to impose it



### TRUST IS LOCAL: EMPLOYEES EXPECT TO BE HEARD



Percent of employees in Italy who expect each from a prospective employer



Opportunity to **shape the future** of society



Employees included in planning

**2020 Edelman Trust Barometer.** EMP\_IMP. When considering an organization as a potential place of employment, how important is each of the following to you in deciding whether or not you would accept a job offer there? 3-point scale; sum of codes 1 and 2, important. Question asked of those who are an employee (Q43/1). TRU\_INS. Below is a list of institutions. For each one, please indicate how much you trust that institution to do what is. 9-point scale; top 4 box, trust. "Your employer" asked of those who are an employee (Q43/1). General population, Italy.



### **CONSUMERS EXPECT BRANDS TO ACT**

Percent of customers who are belief-driven buyers

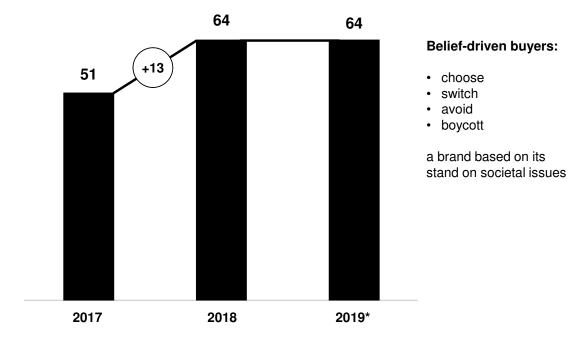


### **Brand Democracy**

I believe brands can be a powerful force for change.

I expect them to represent me and solve societal problems.

My wallet is my vote.



2018 Edelman Earned Brand. Belief-driven buying segments. Italy. Belief-driven buyers choose, switch, avoid or boycott a brand based on its stand on societal issues.

\*2019 Edelman Trust Barometer Special Report: In Brands We Trust? Mobile Survey. Belief-driven buying segments. Italy. See Technical Appendix for a detailed explanation of how the Belief-driven buying score was calculated.



### **OVERCOME SKEPTICISM THROUGH ACTION**

Percent in Italy who agree

Business has a duty to do this

Retrain employees
affected by automation
or innovation

Pay everyone a decent
wage, even if that means
I must pay more

I trust business will do this

### PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT ESSENTIAL ON JOBS

Percent who say each institution is the one they trust most to address each challenge (global data in background)





### ADDRESSING GREATEST FAILURES GETS EVERY INSTITUTION TO TRUST

Percent who think each institution is doing well/very well on the issue, and the potential trust gains associated with doing each well

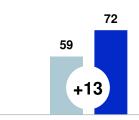


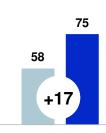
NGOs				
Transparency about funding	35			
Expose corruption	35			
Avoid becoming politicized				
Partner with government				
Partner with business				

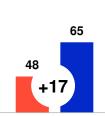
Business				
Partner with NGOs	33			
Jobs that pay a decent wage	35			
Partner with government	37			
Partner with government  Deal fairly with suppliers	<b>37</b>			

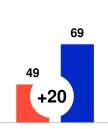
Government		
Reduce partisanship		
Partner with NGOs		
Community-level problems	31	
Social services for the poor		
Partner with business		

Media				
Keep social media clean	34			
Being objective	35			
Information quality	38			
Important vs sensationalized	38			
Differentiate opinion and fact	39			











**2020 Edelman Trust Barometer.** Regression analysis. PER\_[INSTITUTION]. How well do you feel [institution] is currently doing each of the following? 5-point scale; top 2 box, doing well. Question asked of half of the sample. General population, 25-mkt avg. Data not collected in China, Russia and Thailand. TRU\_INS. Below is a list of institutions. For each one, please indicate how much you trust that institution to do what is right. 9-point scale; top 4 box, trust. General population, 25-mkt avg (excluding CN, RU, and TH). For a full explanation of how this data was calculated, please see the Technical Appendix.

### ADDRESS GREATEST FAILURES TO IMPROVE TRUST IN ITALY

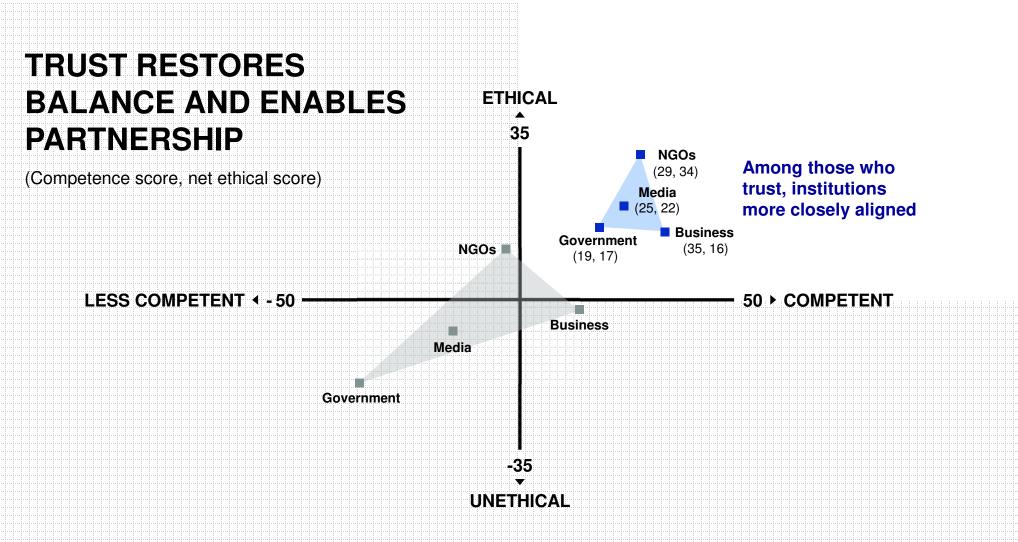
Percent in Italy who think each institution is doing well/very well on the issue, showing five greatest areas for improvement

NGOs				
Expose corruption				
Partner with government	25			
Partner with business				
Transparency about funding	26			
Avoid becoming politicized	28			

Business				
Partner with NGOs	19			
Jobs that pay a decent wage	21			
Sustainable business practices	24			
Partner with government	25			
Deal fairly with suppliers	27			

Government		
Reduce partisanship		
Partner with business		
Partner with NGOs		
Safe and modern infrastructure		
Community-level problems	15	

Media	
Keep social media clean	20
Being objective	24
Exposing corruption	25
Important vs sensationalized	25
Differentiate opinion and fact	26

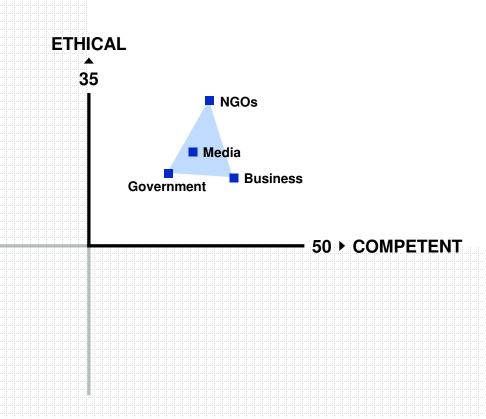


2020 Edelman Trust Barometer. The ethical scores are averages of nets based on (INSTITUTION) PER\_DIM (1-r4. Question asked of the sample. The ethical scores are averages of nets based on TRU\_3D \_\_INSTITUTION) r1. Depending on the question it was either asked of the full of half the sample. General population, 25-mkt avg. Data not collected in China. Russia and Thailand.

Data for blue triangle is among those who trust each institution (TRU\_INS top 4 box, trust). For full details regarding how this data was calculated and plotted, please see the Technical Appendix.

### **BUILDING TRUST**FOR THE FUTURE

- Pay fair wages
- Focus on education and retraining
- Embrace an all-stakeholders model
- Partner across institutions





# TECHNICAL **APPENDIX**

### **Edelman Trust Barometer 2020**

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**Technical Appendix** 

- 1. Methodology
- 2. Sample sizes and margin of error
- 3. Markets covered and languages used
- 4. How we measured belief in the system
- 5. How we plotted the institutional competence and ethics scores
- 6. How we measured the importance of competence and ethics in determining trust in a company
- 7. How we measured belief-driven buying
- 8. How we calculated the trust gains associated with improved institutional performance

# 20<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL EDELMAN TRUST BAROMETER

Methodology

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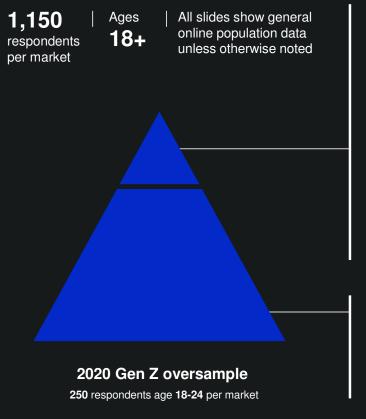
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Gen Z MOE: 28-market = +/- 1.5% (N=4,310) Market-specific = +/- 5.3 to 10.5% (N=min 88, varies by market).

### **General Online Population**





#### Informed Public

**500** respondents in U.S. and China; **200** in all other markets

Represents 17% of total global population

Must meet 4 criteria

- ► Ages 25-64
- ► College-educated
- ► In top 25% of householdincome per age group in each market
- ► Report significant media consumption and engagement in public policy and business news



#### **Mass Population**

All population not including informed public

Represents **83%** of total global population

### 2020 EDELMAN TRUST BAROMETER SAMPLE SIZE, QUOTAS AND MARGIN OF ERROR

	General Population			Informed Public		
	Sample Size*	Quotas Set On**	Margin of Error	Sample Size*	Quotas Set On***	Margin of Error
Global	32,200	Age, Gender, Region	+/- 0.6% total sample +/- 0.8% half sample	6200	Age, Education, Gender, Income	+/- 1.2% total sample +/- 1.8% split sample
China and U.S.	1,150	Age, Gender, Region	+/- 2.9% total sample +/- 4.1% half sample	500	Age, Education, Gender, Income	+/- 4.4% total sample +/- 6.2% split sample
All other markets	1,150	Age, Gender, Region	+/- 2.9% total sample +/- 4.1% half sample	200	Age, Education, Gender, Income	+/- 6.9% total sample +/- 9.8% split sample

NOTE: Questions that afforded respondents the opportunity to criticize their government were not asked in China, Russia and Thailand.

<sup>\*</sup> Some questions were asked of only half of the sample. Please refer to the footnotes on each slide for details.

<sup>\*\*</sup> In the U.K. and U.S. there were additional quotas on ethnicity.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> In the UAE and Saudi Arabia there were additional quotas on nationality.

### 2020 EDELMAN TRUST BAROMETER

### LANGUAGES AND INTERNET PENETRATION BY MARKET

The Edelman Trust Barometer is an online survey. In developed markets, a nationally-representative online sample closely mirrors the general population. In markets with lower levels of internet penetration, a nationally-representative online sample will be more affluent, educated and urban than the general population.

	Languages	Internet Penetration*
Global	-	59%
Argentina	Localized Spanish	93%
Australia	English	87%
Brazil	Portuguese	71%
Canada	English & French Canadian	93%
China	Simplified Chinese	60%
Colombia	Localized Spanish	63%
France	French	92%
Germany	German	96%
Hong Kong	English & Traditional Chinese	89%

	Languages	Internet Penetration*
India English & Hindi		41%
Indonesia	Indonesian	64%
Ireland	English	92%
Italy	Italian	93%
Kenya	English & Swahili	90%
Japan	Japanese	94%
Malaysia	Malay	81%
Mexico	Localized Spanish	65%
Russia	Russian	81%
Saudi Arabia	English & Arabic	93%

	Languages	Internet Penetration*
Singapore	English & Simplified Chinese	88%
South Africa	English & Afrikaans	56%
South Korea	Korean	96%
Spain	Spanish	93%
Thailand	Thai	82%
The Netherlands	English & Dutch	96%
UAE	English & Arabic	98%
U.K.	English	95%
U.S.	English	89%

<sup>\*</sup>Data source: http://www.internet worldstats.com/stats.htm

## 2020 EDELMAN TRUST BAROMETER HOW WE MEASURED BELIEF IN THE SYSTEM

Four dimensions were examined to determine whether or not respondents believe the system is failing them:

- 1) A **sense of injustice** stemming from the perception that society's elites have co-opted the system to their own advantage at the expense of regular people,
- 2) A lack of hope that the future will be better for you and your family,
- 3) A **lack of confidence** in the leaders of societal institutions to solve the country's problems, and
- 4) A **desire for** forceful reformers in positions of power that are capable of bring about much-needed **change**.

Overall scores were calculated by taking the average of the nine item scores.

Respondents were categorized into one of three segments based their mean score:

- Those who averaged 6.00 or higher believe the system is failing them
- Those who averaged between 5.00 and 5.99 were labelled as uncertain
- Those who averaged less than 5.00 believe the system is working

### Respondents were asked:

For each one, please rate how true you believe that statement is using a nine-point scale where one means it is "not at all true" and nine means it is "completely true".

#### Sense of Injustice Items

- "The elites who run our institutions are out of touch with regular people" *POP MDCr8*
- "The elites who run our institutions are indifferent to the will of the people" *POP MDCr1*
- "As regular people struggle just to pay their bills, the elites are getting richer than they deserve" POP\_MDCr2
- "The system is biased against regular people and in favor of the rich and powerful" POP\_MDCr3

#### Lack of Hope Items

- "My hard work will be rewarded" (reverse scored) POP MDCr18
- "My children will have a better life than I do" (reverse scored) POP\_MDCr19
- "The country is moving in the right direction" (reverse scored) POP\_MDCr20

#### **Lack of Confidence Items**

"I do not have confidence that our current leaders will be able to address our country's challenges" POP\_MDCr10

#### **Desire for Change Items**

"We need forceful reformers in positions of power to bring about much-needed change" *POP MDCr9* 

### 2020 EDELMAN TRUST BAROMETER

### HOW WE PLOTTED THE INSTITUTIONAL COMPETENCE AND ETHICS SCORES

The competence score (the x-axis of the plot): An institution's competence score is a net of the top 3 box (AGREE) minus the bottom 3 box (DISAGREE) responses to the question "To what extent do you agree with the following statement? [INSTITUTION] in general is good at what it does". The resulting net score was then subtracted by 50 so that the dividing line between more competent and less competent institutions crossed the Y-axis at zero.

The net ethical score (the y-axis of the plot): The ethics dimension is defined by four separate items. For each item, a net score was calculated by taking the top 5 box percentage representing a positive ethical perception minus the bottom 5 box percentage representing a negative ethical perception. The Y-axis value is an average across those 4 net scores. Scores higher than zero indicate an institution that is perceived as ethical.

#### Respondents were asked:

In thinking about why you do or do not trust [INSTITUTION], please specify where you think they fall on the scale between the two opposing descriptions. (Please use the slider to indicate where you think [INSTITUTION] falls between the two extreme end points of each scale.)

DIMENSION	ETHICAL PERCEPTION	UNETHICAL PERCEPTION
Purpose-Driven	Highly effective agent of positive change	Completely ineffective agent of positive change
Honest	Honest and fair	Corrupt and biased
Vision	Has a vision for the future that I believe in	Does not have a vision for the future that I believe in
Fairness	Serves the interests of everyone equally and fairly	Serves the interests of only certain groups of people

The plot of trusted institutions: The version of the plot under conditions of trust (the smaller blue triangle) was calculated in exactly the same way as described above. The only difference was that the competence and ethics scores were calculated only among those who said they trusted that institution to do what is right (i.e., they gave that institution a top 4-box rating on the general trust question).

### **EDELMAN TRUST MANAGEMENT**

### HOW WE MEASURED THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPETENCE AND ETHICS IN DETERMINING TRUST IN A COMPANY

The data used was collected across the 12 monthly waves of the 2019 Edelman Trust Management brand tracking study conducted in Germany, the U.K. and the U.S among 23,000+ respondents. For this analysis, we looked at 40 global companies that were common across all three markets.

For each company, respondents were asked whether they trusted it or not to do what is right. They were then asked to evaluate each company across the four trust subdimensions – ability, integrity, dependability and purpose. Ability defined the competence dimension while integrity, dependability and purpose were rolled up to define the ethics dimension.

An ANOVA was performed to measure the proportion of the variance in company trust each of the four subdimensions explained. The data shown on the slide represents the percentage of the total variance explained by all four subdimensions together accounted for by each of the individual subdimensions separately.

### Respondents were asked:

Please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the following statements using a nine-point scale where one means it is "disagree strongly" and nine means it is "agree strongly".

#### COMPETENCE DIMENSION:

ABILITY: [COMPANY] is good at what it does

#### **ETHICS DIMENSION:**

**INTEGRITY:** [COMPANY] is honest

**DEPENDABILITY:** [COMPANY] keeps its promises

PURPOSE: [COMPANY] is trying hard to have a

positive impact on society

### 2019 EDELMAN TRUST BAROMETER SPECIAL REPORT: IN BRANDS WE TRUST

### HOW WE MEASURED BELIEF-DRIVEN BUYING

We classified respondents into three **belief-driven buyer segments** based on their responses to the scale questions:

- Leaders: Have strongly-held, passionate beliefs. The brands they buy are one important way they express those beliefs.
- **2) Joiners:** Depending on the issue and the brand, they will change their buying behavior based on the brand's stand.
- 3) Spectators: Rarely buy on belief or punish brands that take a stand.

Respondents were categorized into one of the three segments based their overall mean score across the six scale items:

- Those who averaged 6.00 or higher were categorized as *Leaders*
- Those who averaged between 5.00 and 5.99 were categorized as *Joiners*
- Those who averaged less than 5.00 were categorized as **Spectators**

### Respondents were asked:

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements using a nine-point scale where one means it is "disagree strongly" and nine means it is "agree strongly".

- Even if a company makes the product that I like most, I will not buy it if I disagree with the company's stand on important social issues
- I have bought a brand for the first time for the sole reason that I appreciated its position on a controversial societal or political issue
- I have stopped buying one brand and started buying another because I liked the politics of one more than the other
- I have strong opinions about many societal and political issues. The brands I choose to buy and not buy are one important way I express those opinions
- If a brand offers the best price on a product, I will buy it even if I disagree with the company's stand on controversial social or political issues [reversed scored]
- I have stopped buying a brand solely because it remained silent on a controversial societal or political issue that I believed it had an obligation to publicly address

# HOW WE CALCULATED THE TRUST GAINS ASSOCIATED WITH IMPROVED PERFORMANCE

Respondents were asked to evaluate the performance of each of the four institutions against 12 expectations. These performance scores were then used to predict trust in the institution using a regression analysis. The results of regression allowed us to identify the percentage point lift in trust associated with the institution doing each individual behavior well or very well.

Next, we looked at the percentage of respondents who currently rate an institution as doing a given behavior well, identifying the five behaviors each of the institutions scored the lowest on.

For each of these five behaviors that the regression determined were significant predictors of trust, we subtracted the percentage of people who currently felt the institution was doing them well from 100%. This gave us a measure of the unrealized potential for performance gain. That percentage was then multiplied by the percentage point lift in trust associated with every respondent rating the institution as doing that behavior well. This yielded an unrealized trust gain for that behavior. These unrealized trust gains were added up across the five behaviors to yield an overall trust gain associated with the institution successfully addressing its five biggest challenges.

### Respondents were asked:

How well do you feel [INST] is currently doing each of the following? Please indicate your answer using the 5-point scale below where 1 means the institution is "failing at this" and 5 means the institution is "doing this very well"

#### **Example List of Business Behaviors**

- 1. Driving the economic prosperity of our country
- Being an engine of innovation and scientific advancement
- 3. Ensuring that there are plenty of good job opportunities available that pay a decent wage
- 4. Contributing to the improvement of the communities in which they do business
- 5. Fostering diversity, inclusion, dignity and mutual respect in the workplace
- 6. Meeting and exceeding their customers' expectations
- 7. Investing in their employees' professional development, including offering training and education that helps them develop new skills for a rapidly changing world
- 8. Forging strong working partnerships with government to develop solutions to our country's problems
- Forging strong working partnerships with NGOs to develop solutions to our country's problems
- Dealing fairly and ethically with their partners and suppliers
- 11. Generating long-term financial benefits and value for their owners and shareholders
- 12. Embracing sustainable practices across their business

### 2020 EDELMAN TRUST BAROMETER TEAM



### **Edelman Intellectual Property**

### **Edelman Intelligence**

Executive Director Tonia E. Ries

tonia.ries@edelman.com

Executive Advisors Richard Edelman

Stephen Kehoe Ed Williams

Executive Editor Joseph Tropiano

VP of Operations Sarah Adkins

Sr. Project Manager Esther Choi

Project Manager Alina Krikunova

Executive Creative Producer David Isaacs

Head of Thought Leadership Research David M. Bersoff, Ph.D.

david.bersoff@edelmanintelligence.com

Sr. Research Manager Cody Armstrong

Statistician Joshua Wu

Research Coordinators

Nick Maxwell

Giuseppe Bovenzi

Assoc. Research Coordinator Abbey Fox

Assoc. Data Processor John Zamites