Deloitte.



Finding opportunity in the midst of uncertainty

Deloitte's 2020 global survey results on the OECD's Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) initiative and the next wave of Global Tax Reset

June 2020

Global Tax Reset —full results of Deloitte's seventh annual multinational survey

Political

Media

Tax

Activist









Deloitte conducted its first OECD Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) survey to gauge the views of **multinational companies** regarding the increased media, political and activist group interests in the Global Tax Reset and BEPS, and the expected impact on their organizations.

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

Annually, from 2015 through 2019, Deloitte conducted follow up surveys on the progression of multinationals views on the changing tax landscape as the BEPS recommendations began to be adopted in jurisdictions. Each year we have increased the focus on the impact of implementation and consequential developments within organisations.

We followed-up, collecting responses from:



296 people

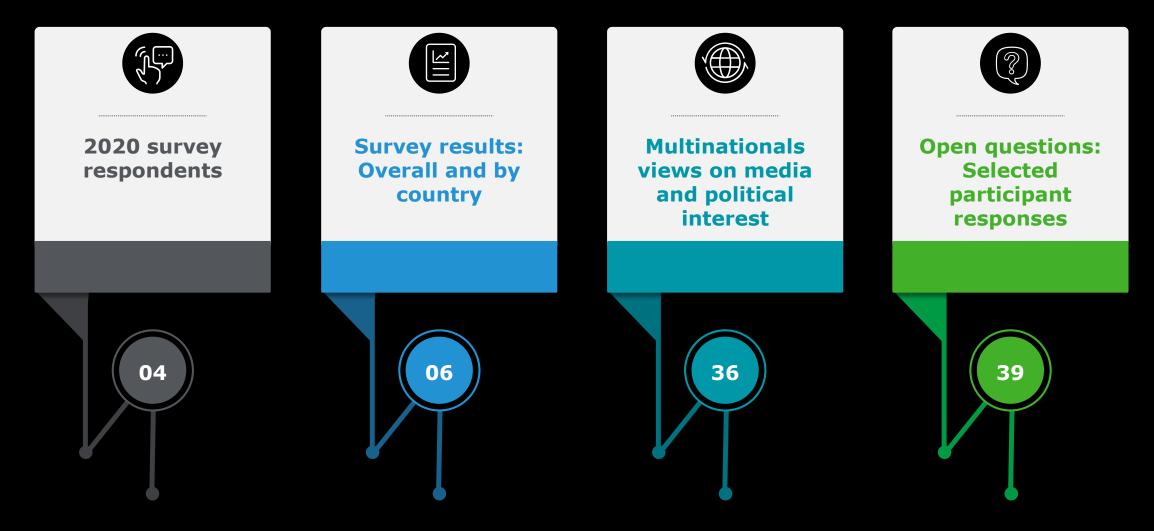


In this latest survey, we were interested in the respondents' views on the topics that were high on the agenda in 2019, such as the OECD Pillar 1/ Pillar 2 project, the Multilateral Instrument and US Tax Reform, in addition to their views on the progress of BEPS related measures.

2020

Note: the 2020 survey was conducted prior to the wide spread of COVID-19 and adoption of related measures globally.

Contents



2020 survey respondents

2020 survey respondents



Survey responses

The survey was conducted from 29 January to 4 March 2020 (i.e. prior to the full global impact of the Covid-19 crisis manifesting), with a target audience of tax and finance managers and executives from multinational companies. 296 people from 38 countries responded to the 2020 survey.



International Tax Manager 43
International Tax Director 41

162

26

Other 24

Respondent's role

Tax Director/Tax VP

Top responses by country

•	United States	93	•	Denmark	12
•	Germany	28	•	France	8
•	Canada	23	•	Japan	7
•	United Kingdom	21	•	Finland	6
•	Switzerland	20	•	Ireland	6
•	Netherlands	12	•	Australia	5
			•	Italy	5
			•	Other	50



Top responses by industry

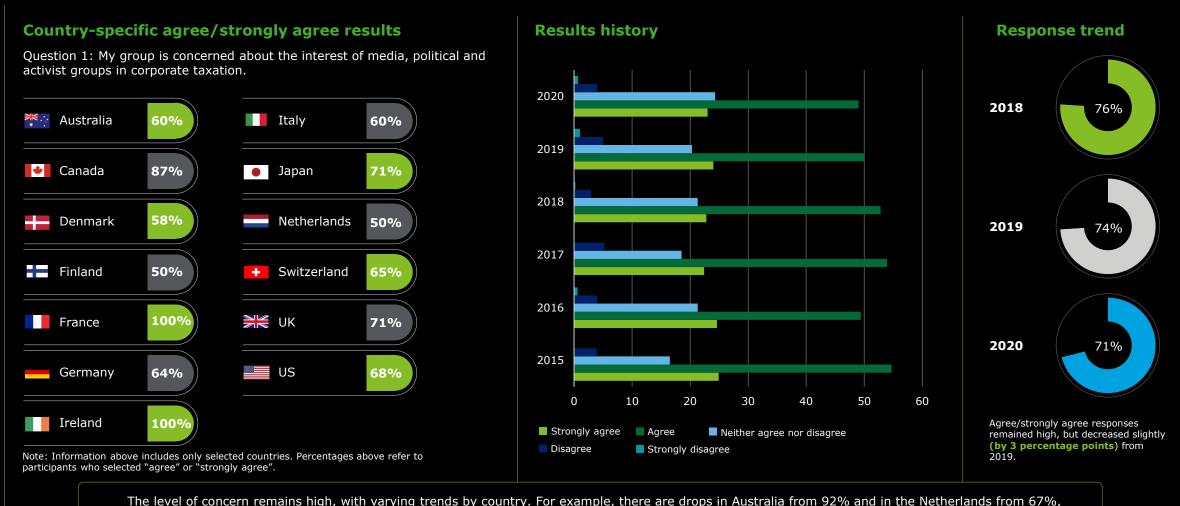
•	Manufacturing	82
•	Telecom/Media/Technology	44
•	Other	38
•	Financial services	29
•	Consumer business	26
•	Energy & Resources (E&R)	26
•	Life Sciences	17
•	Retail	13
•	Health care	12
•	Private equity	5
•	Real estate	4





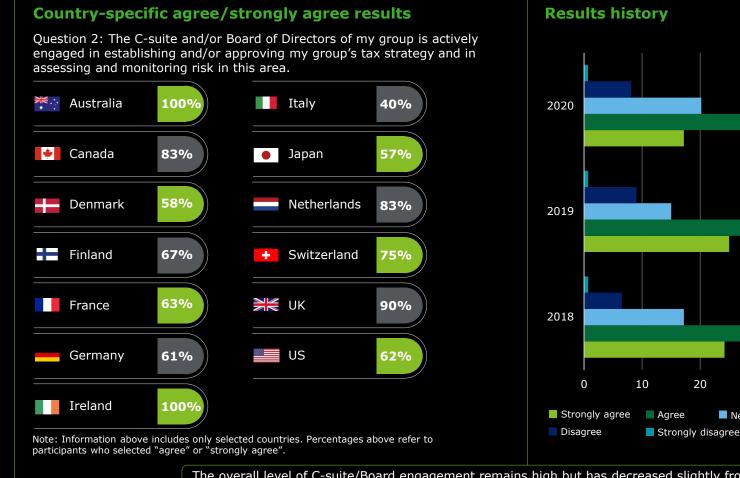
Survey results Overall and by country

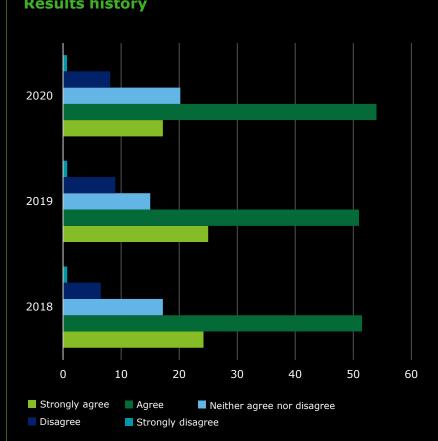
71% agree or strongly agree that their organization is concerned about the continuing high interest of media, political and activist groups in corporate taxation.

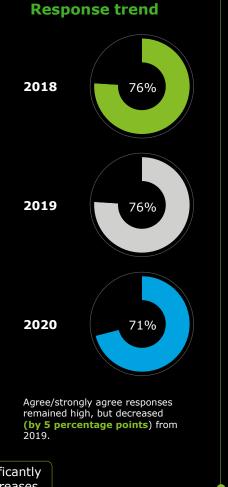


The level of concern remains high, with varying trends by country. For example, there are drops in Australia from 92% and in the Netherlands from 67%, however, there are also increases in the UK from 46%, in France from 71%. Industry-wise, E&R appear to be the most concerned (at 88%), followed by retail (85%), financial services (83%); real estate seems to be least concerned at 25%.

71% agree or strongly agree that C-suite and/or Board of Directors of their organization is actively engaged in establishing and/or approving their organization's tax strategy and in assessing and monitoring risk in this area.

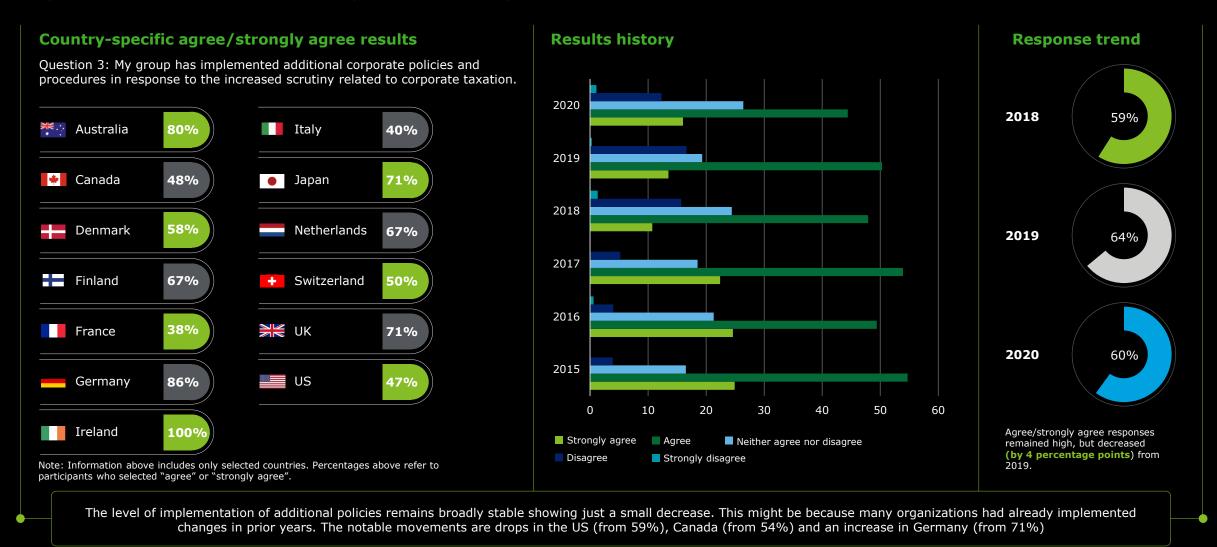






The overall level of C-suite/Board engagement remains high but has decreased slightly from 2018-2019. Results vary fairly significantly by country. Notable movements are drops in the Netherlands (from 100%), the US (from 69%) and France (from 71%) and increases in the UK (from 69%) and Germany (from 43%). Industry-wise, real estate shows the highest level of response at 100% (potentially explaining the lowest concern at the previous question), followed by E&R (85%).

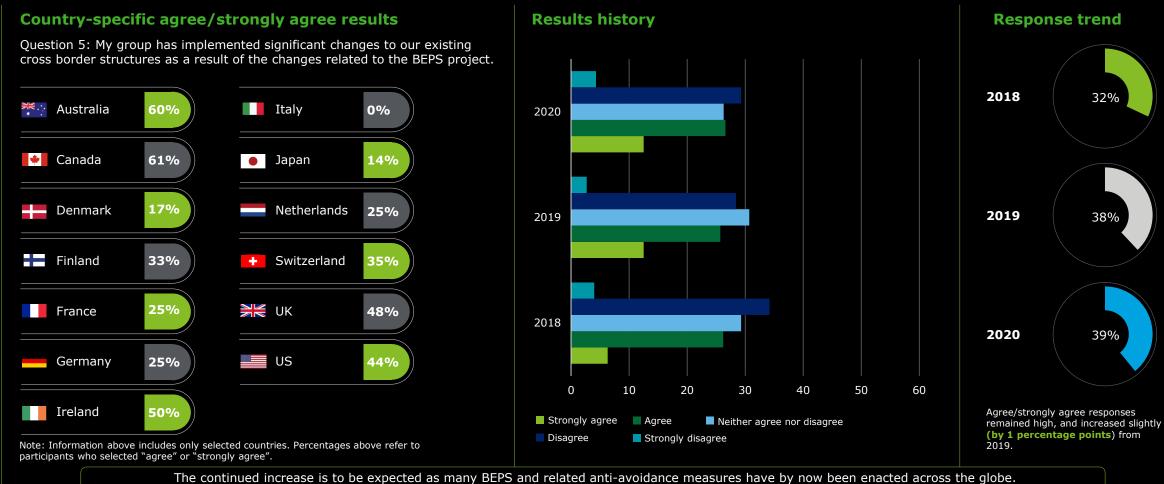
60% agree or strongly agree that their group has implemented additional corporate policies and procedures in response to the increased scrutiny related to corporate taxation.



57% agree or strongly agree that in their organization tax strategy is now part of the corporate responsibility agenda and not just a matter of compliance.



39% agree or strongly agree their group has implemented significant changes to cross border structures as a result of the changes related to the BEPS project.



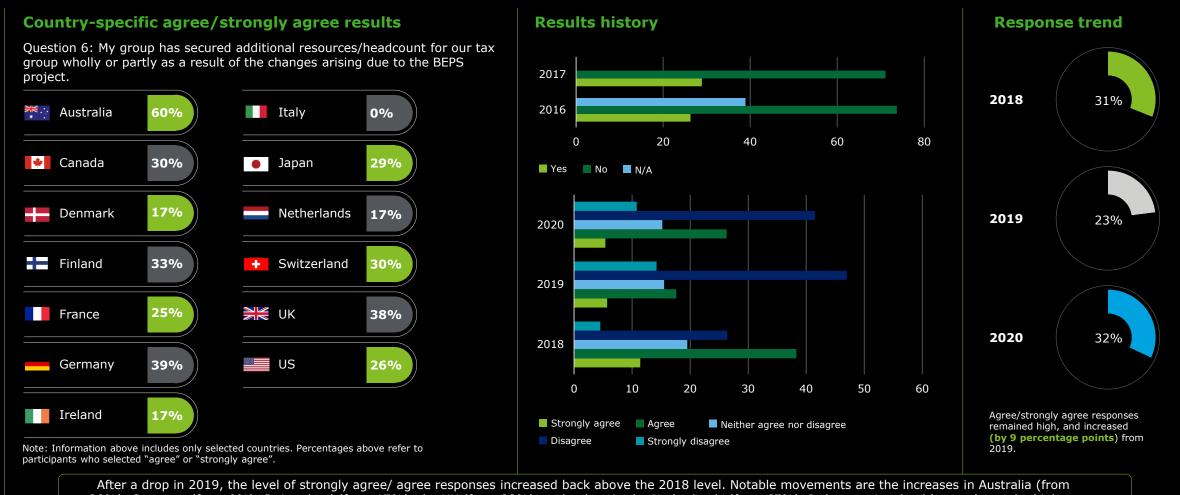
Notable movements are increases in the UK (from 23%), France (from 14%), the Netherlands (from 17%), Germany (from 0%) and Australia (from 36%). The relatively small overall increase is due to the small increases in the largest respondent countries to this question (the US and Canada). Also, in some countries changes to cross border structures may be driven by changes to domestic law and not necessarily related to the BEPS project.

32%

38%

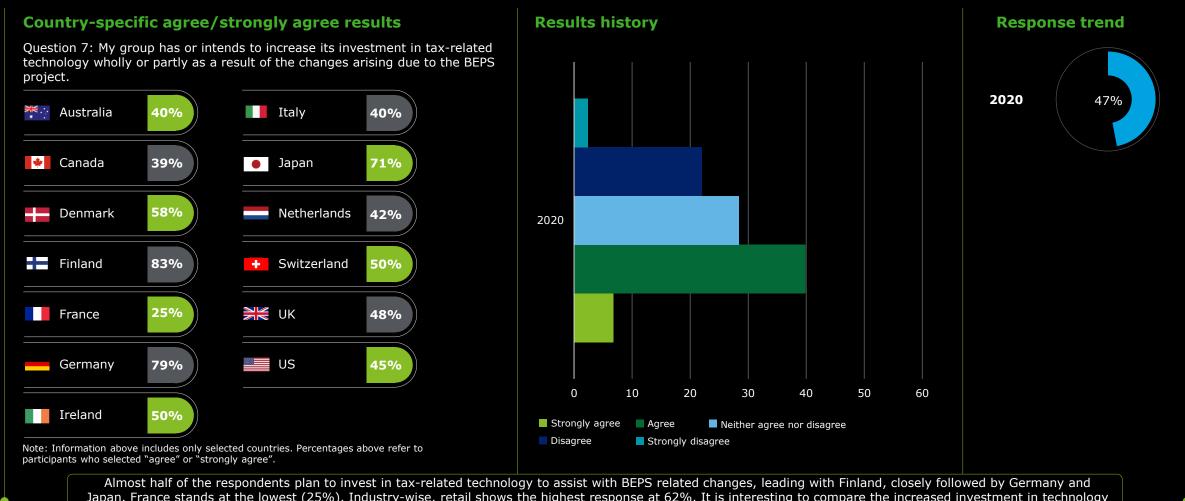
39%

32% agree or strongly agree that their organization has secured additional resources/headcount for their tax group (or is planning to do so) wholly or partly as a result of the changes arising due to the BEPS project.



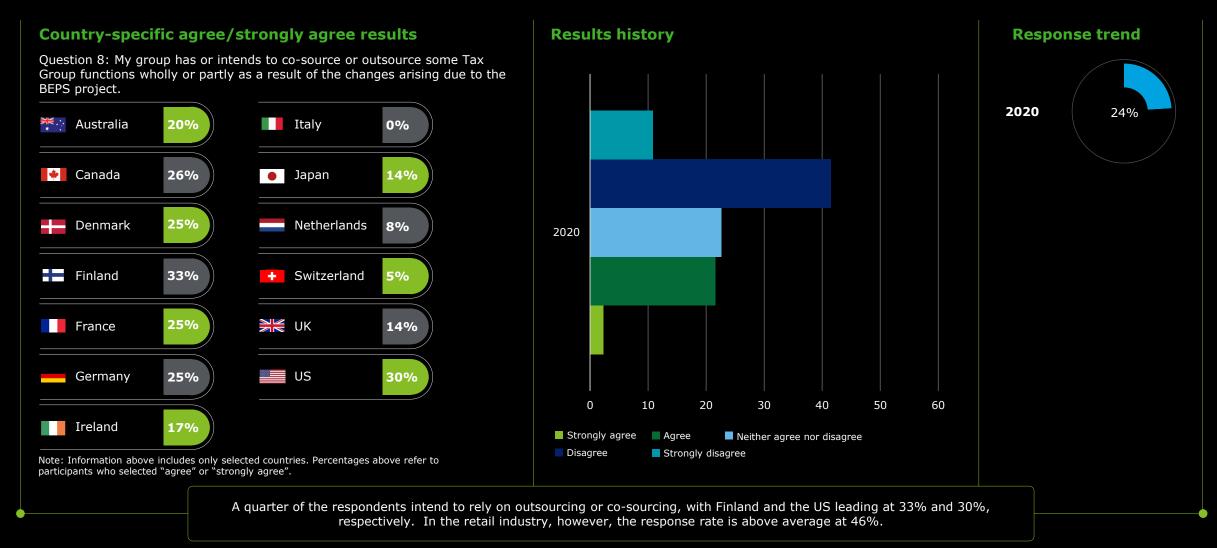
After a drop in 2019, the level of strongly agree/ agree responses increased back above the 2018 level. Notable movements are the increases in Australia (from 20%), Germany (from 0%), Switzerland (from 17%), the UK (from 23%), and a drop in the Netherlands (from 67%). Industry-wise, healthcare shows the highest level of strongly agree/agree at 50%. The increase after a drop in 2019 is interesting and could be due to similar factors that contributed to the increased importance of tax strategy (Question 4).

47% agree or strongly agree their group has or intends to increase its investment in tax-related technology wholly or partly as a result of the changes arising due to the BEPS project.

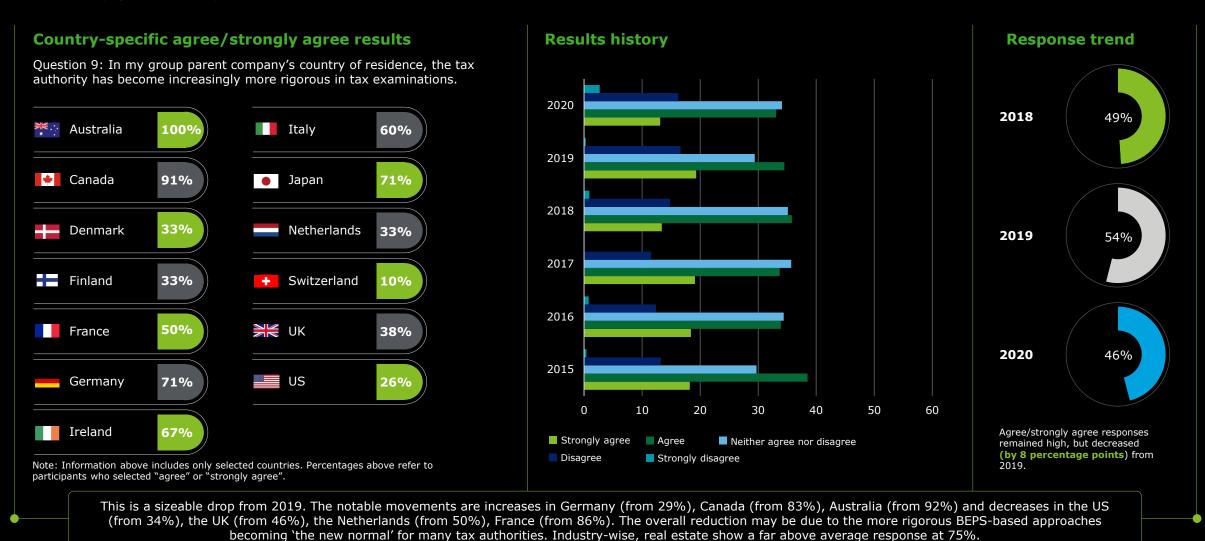


Almost half of the respondents plan to invest in tax-related technology to assist with BEPS related changes, leading with Finland, closely followed by Germany and Japan. France stands at the lowest (25%). Industry-wise, retail shows the highest response at 62%. It is interesting to compare the increased investment in technology with the resourcing for the tax group: e.g. a high proportion of respondents from Finland plan to invest in tax technology but only 33% plan to increase headcount (42% vs 17% for the Netherlands). Australia, on contrary, seems to favor additional headcount (60% vs 40%). France seems indifferent (25% and 25% for both)

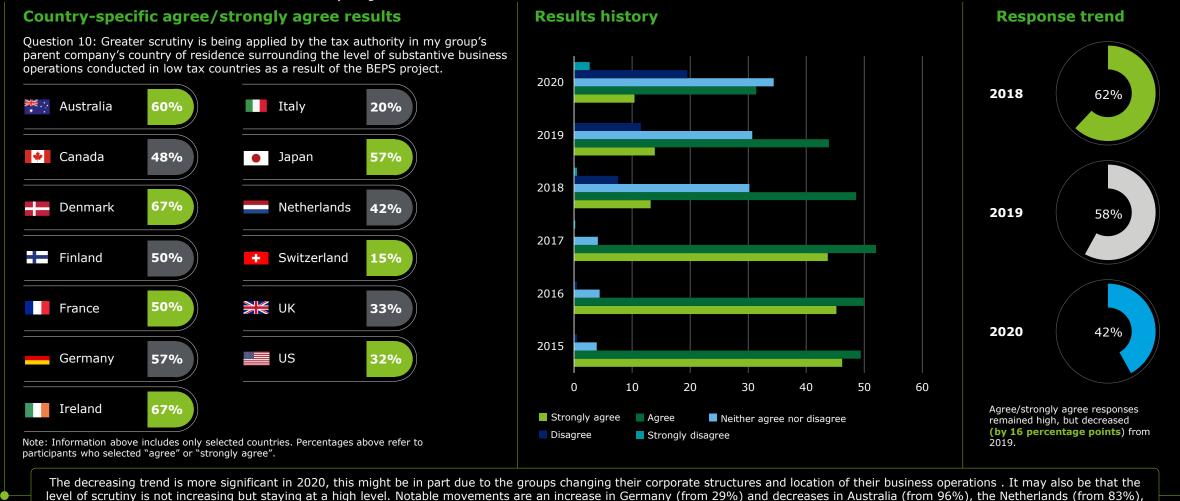
24% agree or strongly agree their group has or intends to co-source or outsource some tax group functions wholly or partly as a result of the changes arising due to the BEPS project.



46% agree or strongly agree that the tax authority in their organization's country of residence has become increasingly more rigorous in tax examinations.

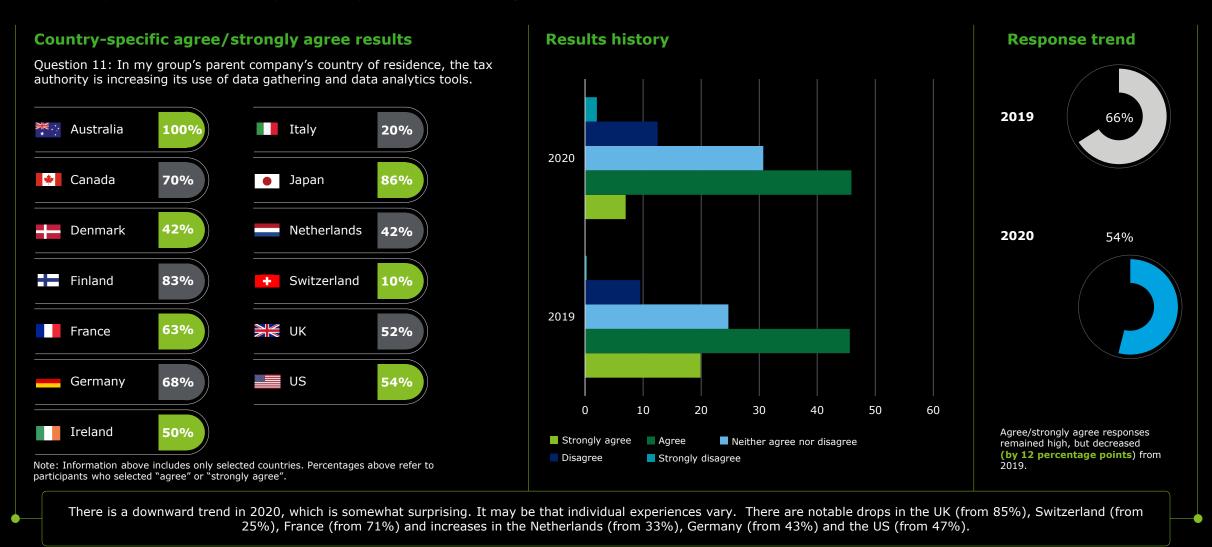


42% agree or strongly agree that greater scrutiny is being applied by the tax authority in my group's parent company's country of residence surrounding the level of substantive business operations conducted in low tax countries as a result of the BEPS project.

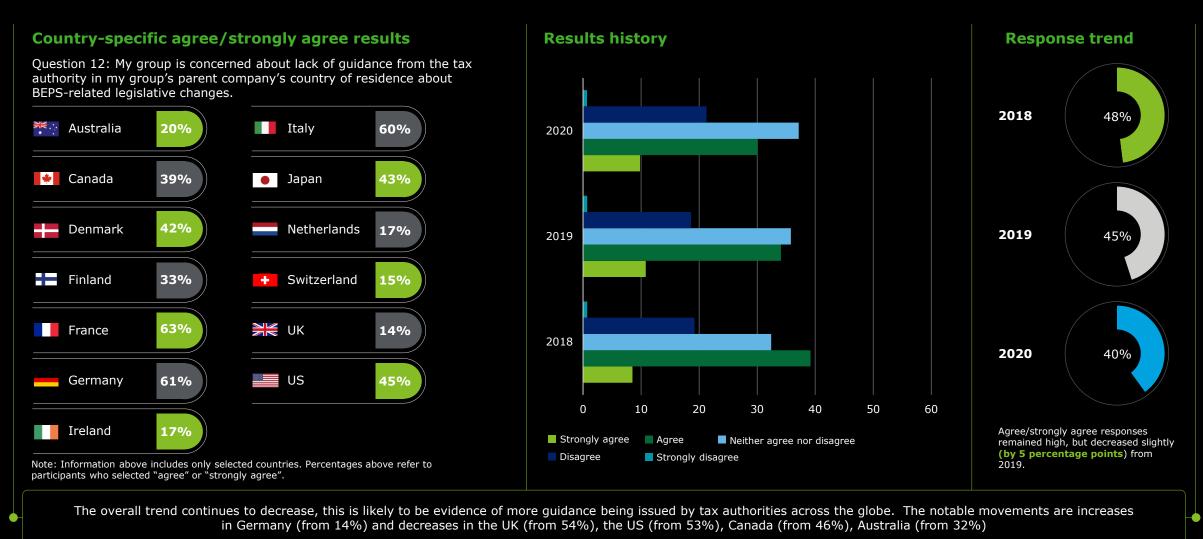


the UK (from 54%), Switzerland (from 67%), France (from 86%)

54% agree or strongly agree that in their group's parent company's country of residence, the tax authority is increasing its use of data gathering and data analytics tools.



40% agree or strongly agree that their group is concerned about lack of guidance from the tax authority in my group's parent company's country of residence about BEPS-related legislative changes.



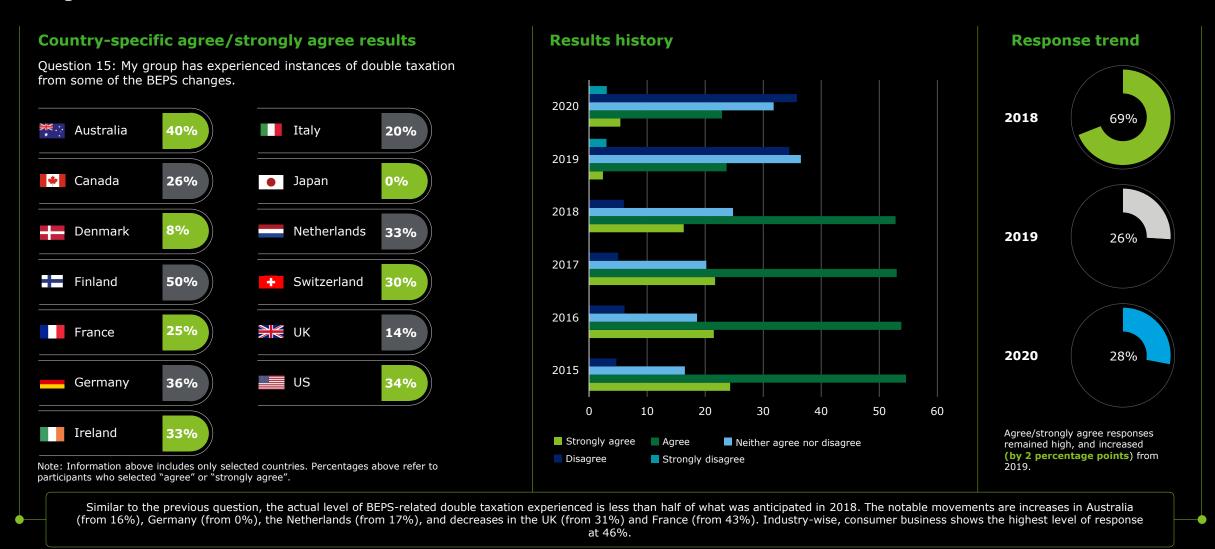
23% agree or strongly agree that given the changing landscape, their group is obtaining more bilateral advance pricing agreements (APAs).



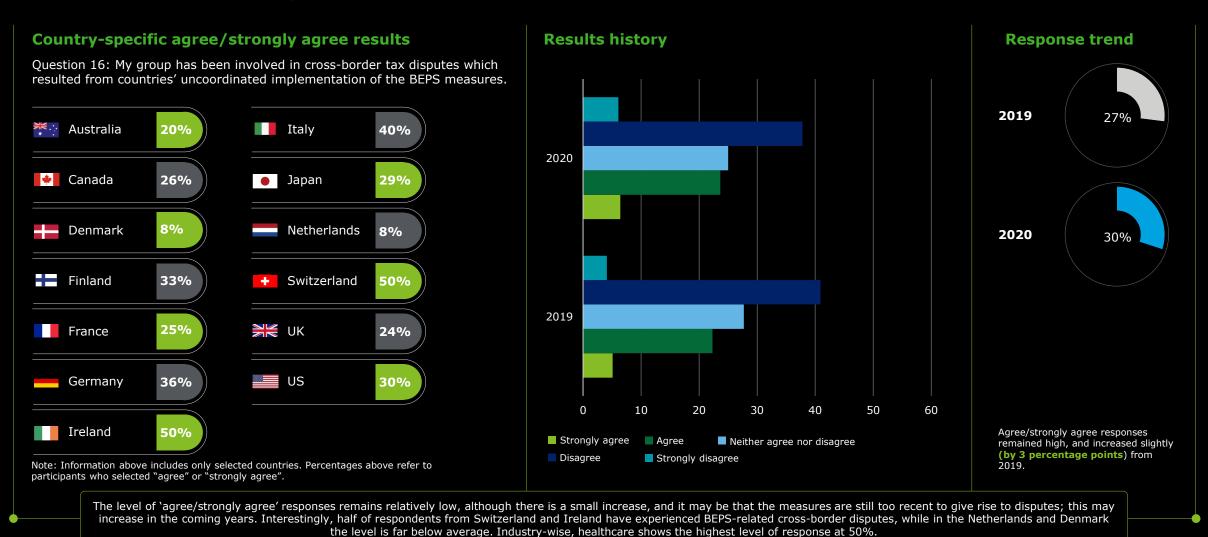
44% agree or strongly agree that their group has experienced instances of double taxation as a result of unilateral tax law changes.



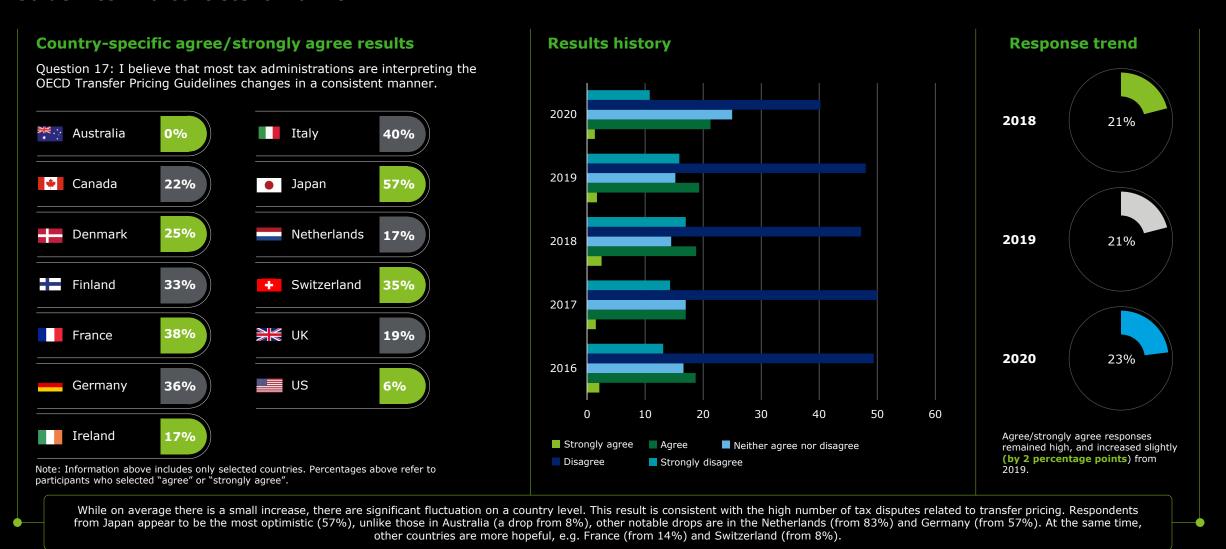
28% agree or strongly agree that their group has experienced instances of double taxation from some of the BEPS changes.



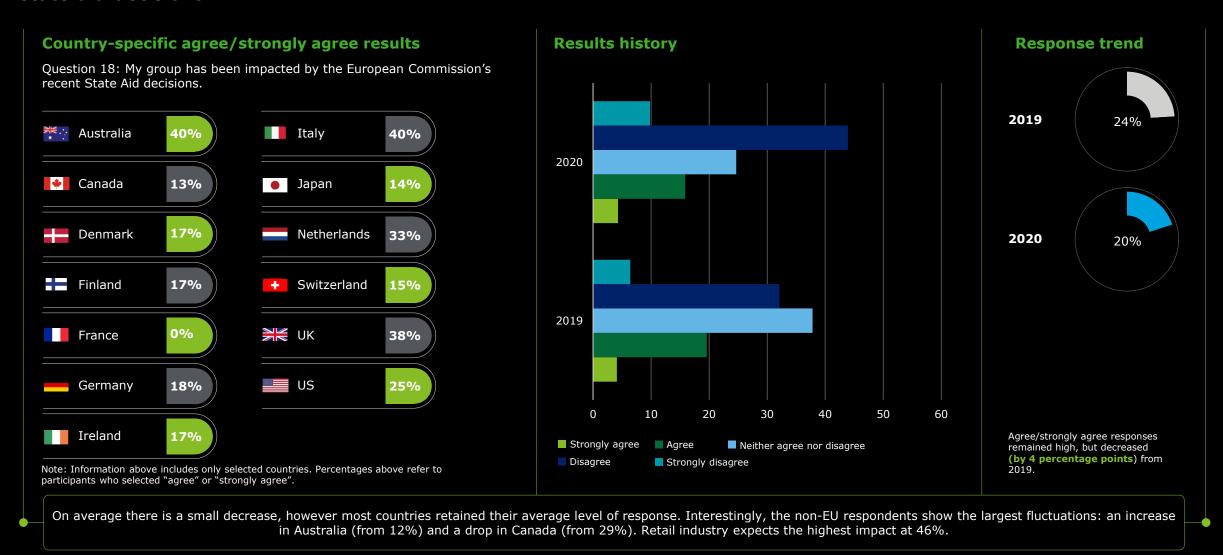
30% agree or strongly agree that their group has been involved in cross-border tax disputes which resulted from countries' uncoordinated implementation of the BEPS measures.



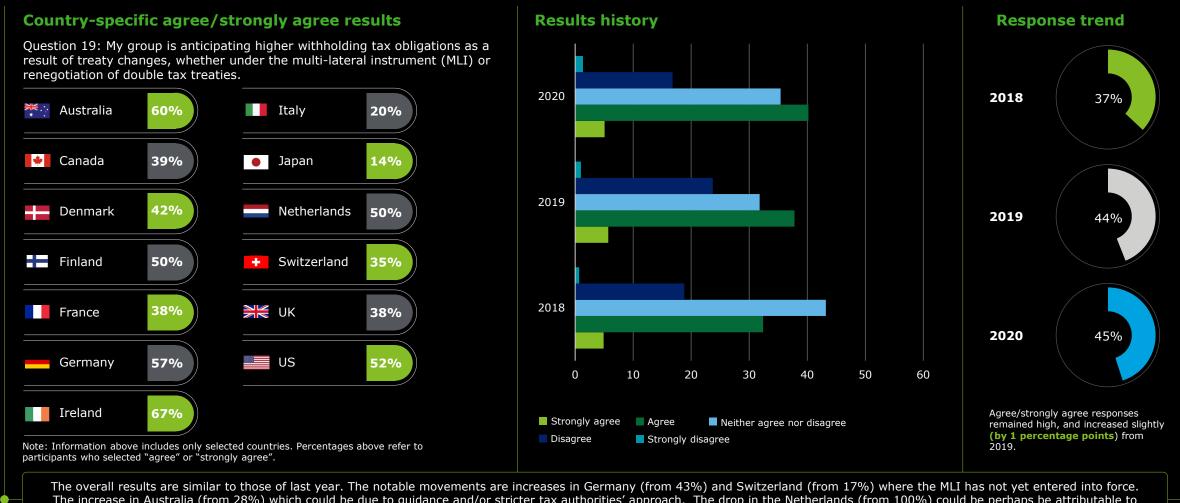
23% agree or strongly agree that most tax administrations are interpreting the changes to the Transfer Pricing Guidelines in a consistent manner.



20% agree or strongly agree that their organization will be impacted by the European Commission's recent state aid decisions.



45% agree or strongly agree that their organization is anticipating higher withholding tax obligations as a result of treaty changes, whether under the MLI or renegotiation of double tax treaties.

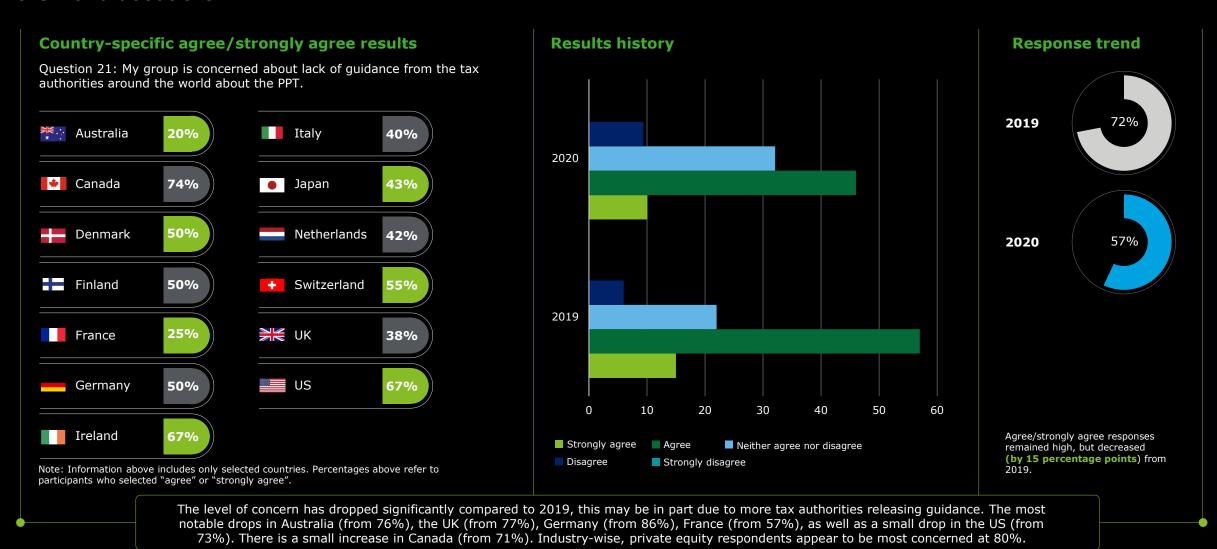


The increase in Australia (from 28%) which could be due to guidance and/or stricter tax authorities' approach. The drop in the Netherlands (from 100%) could be perhaps be attributable to obtaining some reassurance from foreign tax authority input regarding application of the MLI. Industry-wise, the expectation is the highest in real estate at 75%.

23% agree or strongly agree that as a result of the principal purpose test (PPT) in the MLI their group is planning to restructure holding companies.



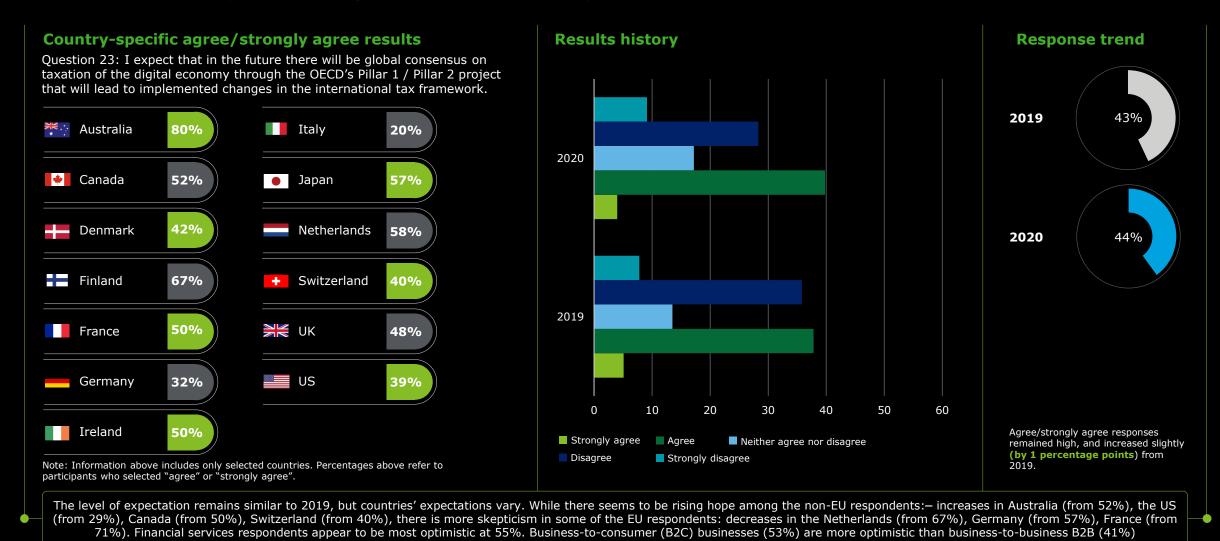
57% agree or strongly agree that their group is concerned about lack of guidance from the tax authorities around the world about the PPT.



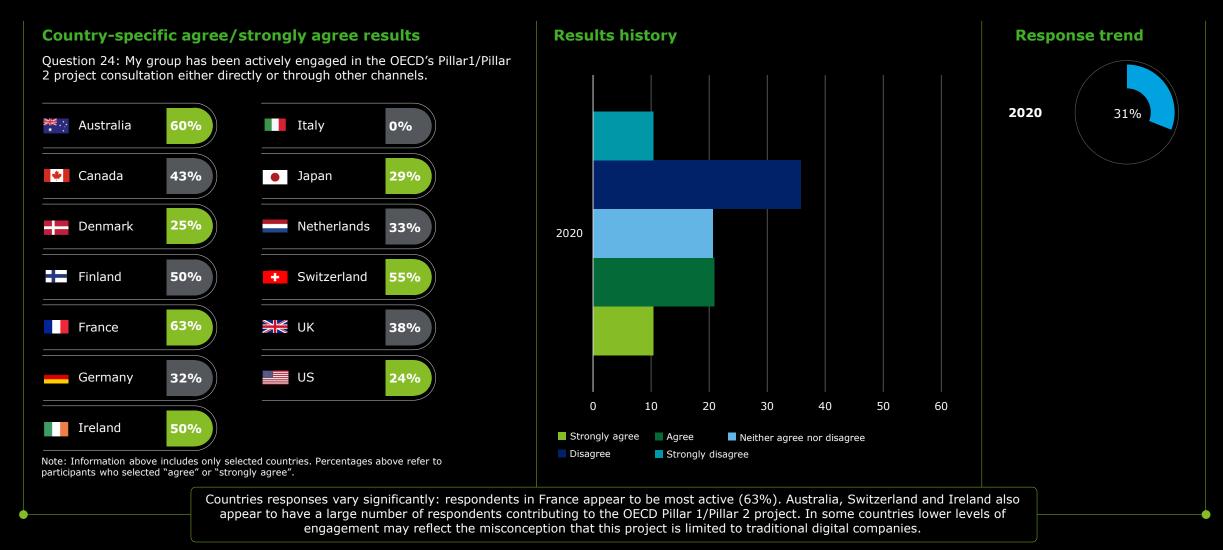
39% agree or strongly agrees that their organization will be affected if a revenue-based digital services tax (DST) is introduced in the country where their users/customers are located.



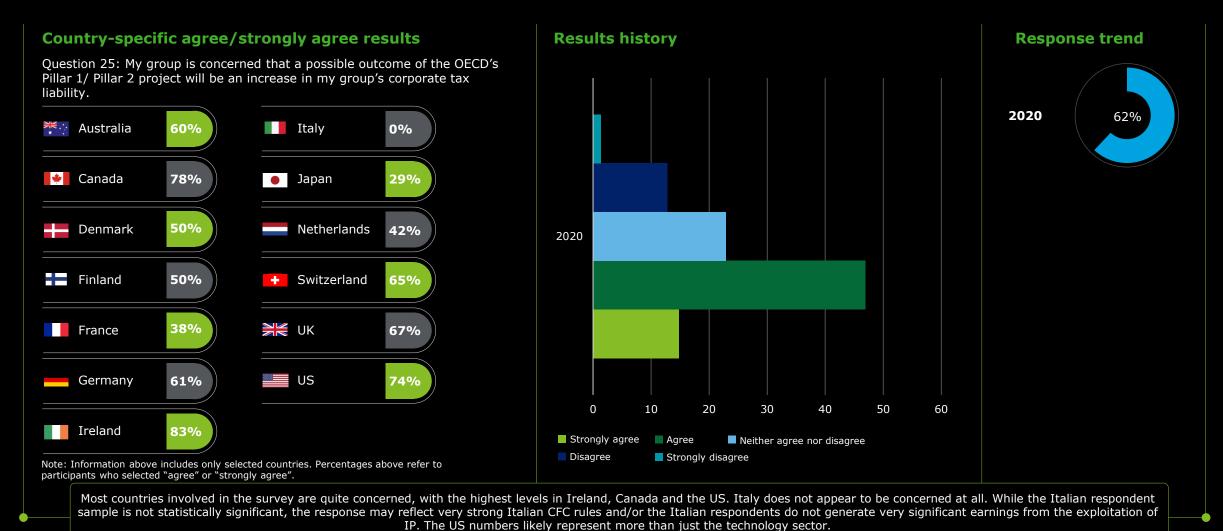
44% agree or strongly agrees that through the OECD Pillar 1/Pillar 2 project there will be a global consensus on taxation of the digital economy that will lead to changes.



31% agree or strongly agree that their group has been actively engaged in the OECD's Pillar1/Pillar 2 project consultation either directly or through other channels.



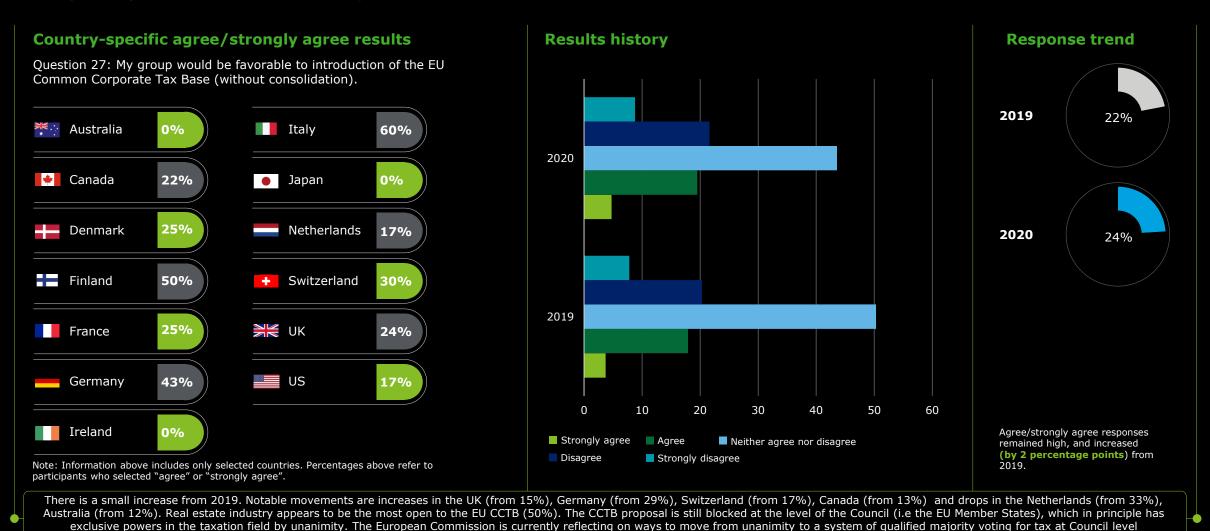
62% agree or strongly agree that group is concerned that a possible outcome of the OECD's Pillar 1/ Pillar 2 project will be an increase in their group's corporate tax liability.



71% agree or strongly agree that public reporting of country-by-country type information will occur over the next few years.



24% agree or strongly agree that their group would be favorable to introduction of the EU Common Corporate Tax Base (CCTB) without consolidation.



accompanied with a majority vote at the EU Parliament. If achieved, this might revitalize the debate on CCTB at European level.

41% agree that the impact of the US Tax Reform on their organization is expected to be positive.



51% agree or strongly agree that their group has implemented structural and/or operational changes as a result of US Tax Reform.



changes

Multinationals views on media and political interest

Additional analysis of respondents to question 1

Respondents details for question 1:

My organization is concerned about the increased media, political and activist group interest in corporate taxation.

Strongly agree or agree

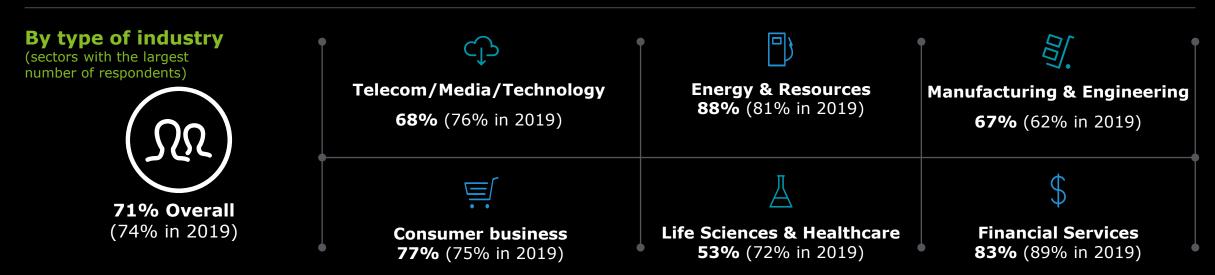
By role in the organization

Overall (74% in 2019)

Tax Director/ Tax VP (75% in 2019)

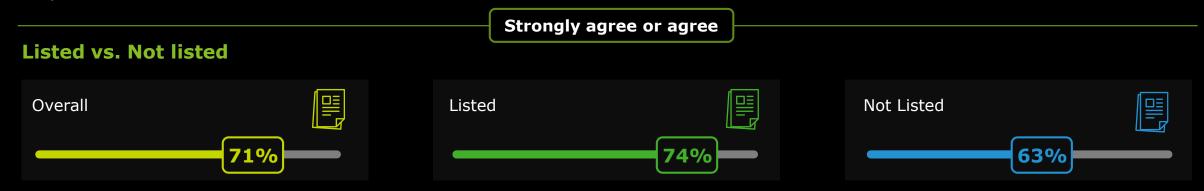
Controller/ CFO (52% in 2019)

The survey shows that the level of concern remains high.



Respondents details for question 1:

My organization is concerned about the increased media, political and activist group interest in corporate taxation.



Public companies continue to be very concerned about reputational risk. Private companies are concerned but less concerned, possibly due to the focus being more on public companies.

By transaction focus

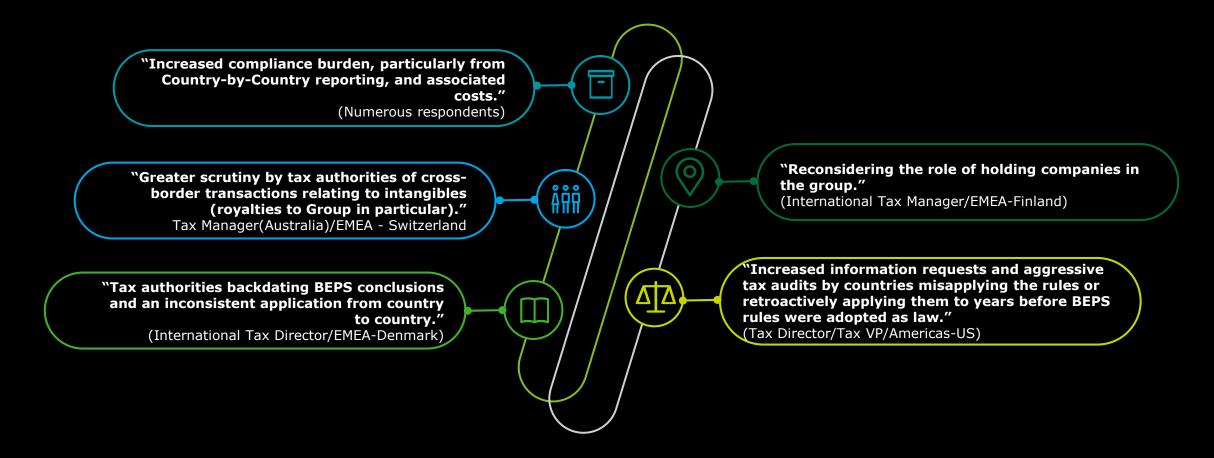


The higher level of concern in the B2C space is not surprising

Open questions Selected participant responses

Question 30: What have been the most significant areas of change for your group's tax function/tax affairs resulting from the BEPS project so far?

Representative responses



Note: 161 respondents answered question 30. The comments listed are representative of the most commonly stated responses.

Question 31: What are your key expectations regarding the impact of the EU Mandatory Disclosure Regime?

Representative responses

"Tax Authorities won't be able to handle all this information" (Tax Director/Tax VP/EMEA - Germany)



"Transactions that do not aim to reduce or eliminate taxation will have to be unnecessarily reported. There will be an increase in tax audits." (Tax Director/Tax VP/Asia Pacific - Japan)



"Additional reporting without any benefit, neither for my group, nor for the tax authorities" (numerous respondents)



"More admin work, more focused tax audits." (International Tax Manager/EMEA - Germany)



Note: 142 respondents answered question 31. The comments listed are representative of the most commonly stated responses.

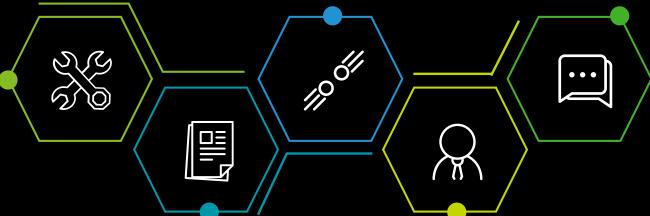
Question 32: What are your thoughts about the OECD's Pillar 1/Pillar 2 project? Representative responses

"The biggest concern is if the OECD guidance is not precise enough and the implementation will be subject to interpretation. This will lead to increased taxation and material workload for the tax team with respect to dispute resolution" (Tax Director/Tax VP/EMEA - Switzerland)

"It's being rushed without proper consultation, which will inevitably have unintended consequences for certain business/transaction types."

(Tax Director/Tax VP/Americas – US)

"OECD's Pillar 2 project will have a bigger impact for our group than the Pillar 1 project." (Tax Director/Tax VP/Asia Pacific – South Korea)



"I understand the reason for the projects and would like to get global consistency, but I'm skeptical that all interested parties can agree due to differing local country impacts"

(Tax Director/Tax VP/Americas – US)

Theoretically possible, but highly impractical to implement as it would require universal agreement on methodology with taxing jurisdictions that have varying mandates. I don't see countries giving up their sovereign right to tax.

(Tax Director/Tax VP/Americas - Canada)

Note: 146 respondents answered question 32. The comments listed are representative of the most commonly stated responses.

Question 33: What are your stay-awake issues concerning the volume of change to tax regimes around the world related to the BEPS project or other tax reform initiatives?

Representative responses



"Listed groups want stability and particularly effective tax rate stability. This is impossible today and the range of impacts is almost impossible to quantify 2-3 years from now let alone 5." (Tax Director/Tax VP/EMEA – Switzerland)



"Having to keep on top of developments/ changing regimes in multiple jurisdictions." (International Tax Manager /Asia Pacific - Australia)



"Rate of change is challenging to keep up with; increased reporting requirements, transparency and cross-border data sharing increase the compliance burden on tax departments while at the same time contending with internal budgetary pressure." (Tax Director/Tax VP/Americas – US)



"Each country start interpreting BEPS-related initiatives in its own and uncoordinated way." (Head of Transfer Pricing /EMEA – Luxembourg)

Note: 148 respondents answered question 33. The comments listed are representative of the most commonly stated responses.

Deloitte.

Deloitte refers to one or more of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited ("DTTL"), its global network of member firms, and their related entities (collectively, the "Deloitte organization"). DTTL (also referred to as "Deloitte Global") and each of its member firms and related entities are legally separate and independent entities, which cannot obligate or bind each other in respect of third parties. DTTL and each DTTL member firm and related entity is liable only for its own acts and omissions, and not those of each other. DTTL does not provide services to clients. Please see www.deloitte.com/about to learn more.

Deloitte is a leading global provider of audit and assurance, consulting, financial advisory, risk advisory, tax and related services. Our global network of member firms and related entities in more than 150 countries and territories (collectively, the "Deloitte organization") serves four out of five Fortune Global 500® companies. Learn how Deloitte's approximately 312,000 people make an impact that matters at www.deloitte.com.

This communication contains general information only, and none of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited ("DTTL"), its global network of member firms or their related entities (collectively, the "Deloitte organization") is, by means of this communication, rendering professional advice or services. Before making any decision or taking any action that may affect your finances or your business, you should consult a qualified professional adviser.

No representations, warranties or undertakings (express or implied) are given as to the accuracy or completeness of the information in this communication, and none of DTTL, its member firms, related entities, employees or agents shall be liable or responsible for any loss or damage whatsoever arising directly or indirectly in connection with any person relying on this communication. DTTL and each of its member firms, and their related entities, are legally separate and independent entities.

© 2020. For information, contact Deloitte Global.