

FOR RELEASE March 19, 2014

Emerging and Developing Nations Want Freedom on the Internet

*Young Especially Opposed to
Censorship*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON THIS REPORT:**

Richard Wike, Director of Global Attitudes Research

Jacob Poushter, Research Associate

Russ Oates, Communications Manager

202.419.4372

www.pewresearch.org

About the Report

This report examines whether people in emerging and developing economies think it is important that people have access to the internet without government censorship. The results are based on surveys conducted among 21,847 people in 24 countries from March 3, 2013 to May 1, 2013. All interviews were conducted face-to-face.

The report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

Richard Wike, *Director of Global Attitudes Research*

Jacob Poushter, *Research Associate*

James Bell, *Director of International Survey Research*

Claudia Deane, *Director, Research Practice*

Bruce Drake, *Senior Editor*

Katie Simmons, *Senior Researcher*

Neha Sahgal, *Senior Researcher*

Kat Devlin, *Research Assistant*

Aaron Ponce, *Research Associate*

Steve Schwarzer, *Visiting Research Methodologist*

Bruce Stokes, *Director of Global Economic Attitudes*

About Pew Research Center

Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world. It does not take policy positions. It conducts public opinion polling, demographic research, media content analysis and other empirical social science research. The center studies U.S. politics and policy views; media and journalism; internet and technology; religion and public life; Hispanic trends; global attitudes and U.S. social and demographic trends. All of the center's reports are available at www.pewresearch.org. Pew Research Center is a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Alan Murray, *President*

Michael Dimock, *Vice President, Research*

Elizabeth Mueller Gross, *Vice President*

Paul Taylor, *Executive Vice President, Special Projects*

Andrew Kohut, *Founding Director*

© Pew Research Center 2014

Emerging and Developing Nations Want Freedom on the Internet

Young Especially Opposed to Censorship

There is widespread opposition to internet censorship in emerging and developing nations. Majorities in 22 of 24 countries surveyed say it is important that people have access to the internet without government censorship. In 12 nations, at least seven-in-ten hold this view.

Support for internet freedom is especially strong in countries where a large percentage of the population is online. And, in most of the countries polled, young people are particularly likely to consider internet freedom a priority.

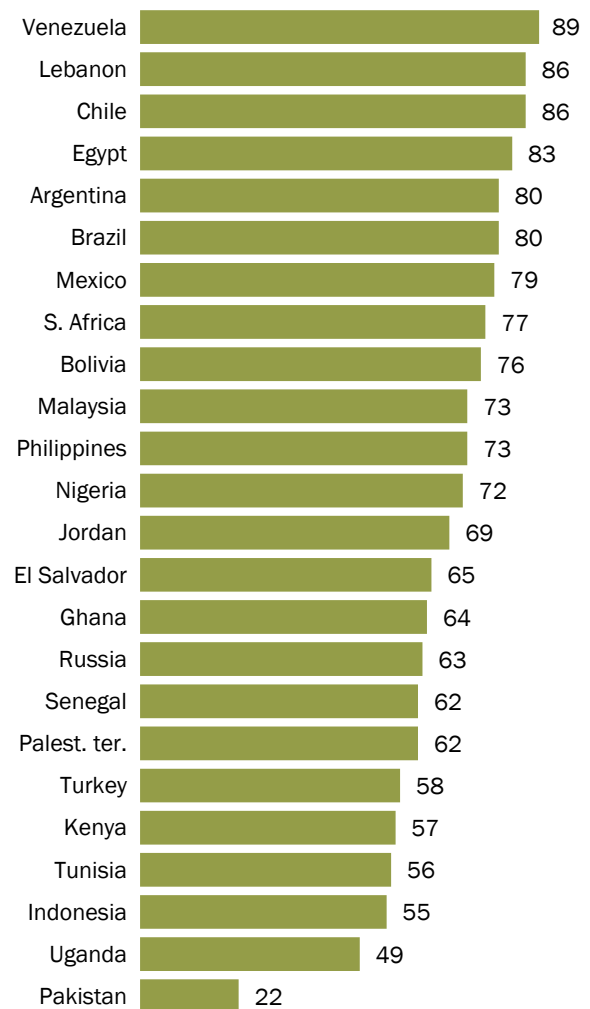
These are among the main findings of a Pew Research Center survey conducted among 21,847 people in 24 emerging and developing economies from March 3, 2013 to May 1, 2013. All interviews were conducted face-to-face.

Opposition to government restrictions on the internet is especially common in several of the Latin American nations surveyed, including Venezuela, Chile, Argentina, Brazil, Mexico and Bolivia. It is also widespread in the Middle Eastern nations of Lebanon and Egypt.

Support for internet freedom tends to be strong in nations with high rates of internet penetration, such as Chile and Argentina, where roughly two-thirds of the population is online. It is less common in nations with lower penetration rates, like Indonesia and Uganda.

Most Want Uncensored Internet Access

% saying it is important that people have access to the internet without government censorship

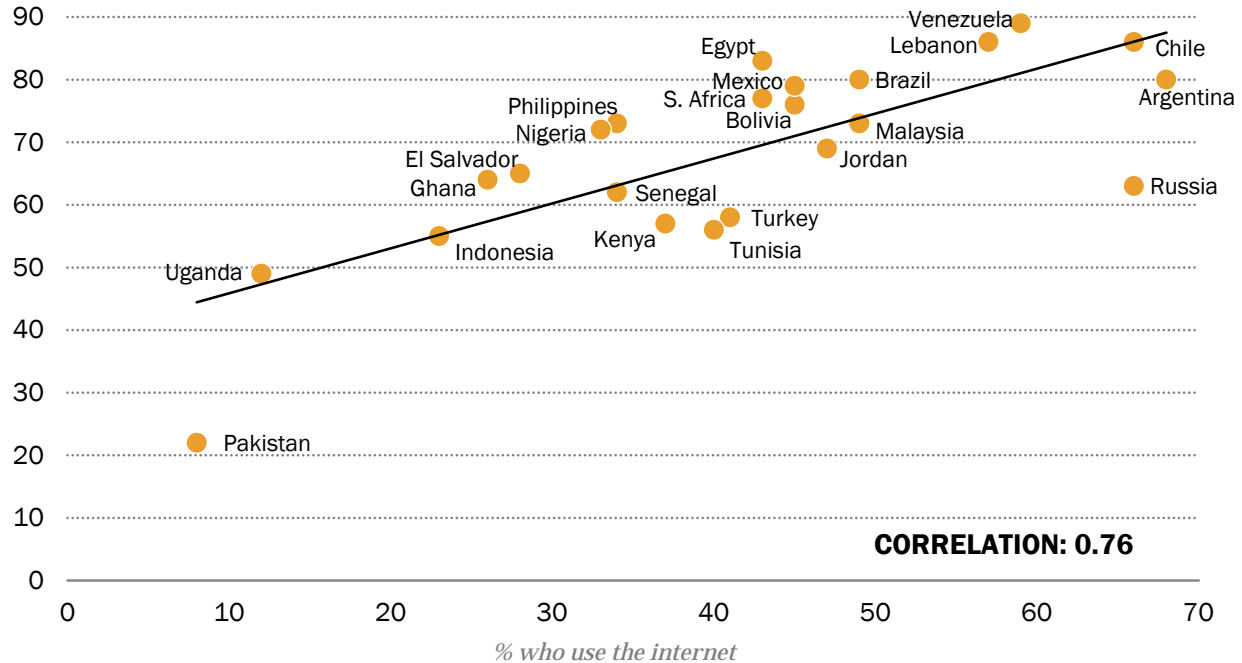


Source: Spring 2013 Global Attitudes survey. Q71.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Support for Internet Freedom Linked to Internet Usage

% saying it is important that people have access to the internet without government censorship



Source: Spring 2013 Global Attitudes survey. Q71.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Some nations, such as Venezuela and Egypt, have higher levels of support for internet freedom than might be anticipated, given the degree of online penetration in the country. Meanwhile, support is lower than might be expected in Russia and Pakistan, given the percentage of people who use the internet in those two nations. Other Pew Research surveys have also found relatively low support for democratic rights and institutions in Russia and Pakistan.¹ Another caveat in interpreting the results for Pakistan is that a large percentage of respondents (62%) offer no opinion on this question.

Opinions are also strongly related to age. In 14 nations, people ages 18-29 are more likely than those 50 or older to believe an uncensored internet is important. Age gaps of 20 percentage points or more are found in Russia, Lebanon, Tunisia, Bolivia and Senegal. These age differences suggest that support for internet freedom will only become more widespread with the passage of time.

¹ See [Two Decades After the Wall's Fall: End of Communism Cheered but Now with More Reservations](#), released November 2, 2009, and [Most Muslims Want Democracy, Personal Freedoms, and Islam in Political Life: Few Believe U.S. Backs Democracy](#), released July 10, 2012.

Nonetheless, people ages 50 and older do tend to support internet freedom. In most countries surveyed, a majority of this age group says having internet access without government interference is important.

In several countries, internet freedom has especially strong backing among the well-educated. For example, 73% of Tunisian college graduates say it is important to have internet access without government censorship, compared with 54% of those without a college degree. Double-digit gaps are also found in six other countries.

And in several nations, those with higher incomes are particularly likely to consider this a priority. For instance, 71% of high-income Kenyans say internet freedom is important, compared with 44% of people in the low-income category. Nearly eight-in-ten Russians in the high-income category (78%) believe it is important, while only 52% of those with low incomes hold this view.

Young More Likely to Call for Internet Freedom

% saying it is important that people have access to the internet without government censorship

	18-29	30-49	50+	Youngest-oldest gap
	%	%	%	
Russia	80	72	44	+36
Lebanon	95	91	68	+27
Tunisia	66	55	44	+22
Bolivia	84	75	63	+21
Senegal	71	59	51	+20
S. Africa	79	85	60	+19
Malaysia	81	74	63	+18
Nigeria	76	73	58	+18
Philippines	80	73	64	+16
Pakistan	26	19	11	+15
Chile	92	89	79	+13
Brazil	85	82	72	+13
Mexico	85	77	75	+10
Venezuela	92	89	86	+6

Source: Spring 2013 Global Attitudes survey. Q71.

Palestinian territories and Kenya not shown due to insufficient sample size.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Survey Methods

About the 2013 Spring Pew Global Attitudes Survey

Results for the survey are based on face-to-face interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. Survey results are based on national samples. For further details on sample designs, see below.

The descriptions below show the margin of sampling error based on all interviews conducted in that country. For results based on the full sample in a given country, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling and other random effects is plus or minus the margin of error. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Country: **Argentina**
 Sample design: Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by locality size
 Mode: Face-to-face adults 18 plus
 Languages: Spanish
 Fieldwork dates: March 6 – March 26, 2013
 Sample size: 819
 Margin of Error: ± 4.7 percentage points
 Representative: Adult population (excluding dispersed rural population, or 8.8% of the population)

Country: **Bolivia**
 Sample design: Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by department and urbanity
 Mode: Face-to-face adults 18 plus
 Languages: Spanish
 Fieldwork dates: March 12 – April 18, 2013
 Sample size: 800
 Margin of Error: ± 4.5 percentage points
 Representative: Adult population (excluding dispersed rural population, or 10% of the population)

Country: **Brazil**
Sample design: Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by Brazil's five regions and size of municipality
Mode: Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages: Portuguese
Fieldwork dates: March 4 – April 21, 2013
Sample size: 960
Margin of Error: ±4.1 percentage points
Representative: Adult population

Country: **Chile**
Sample design: Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by region and urbanity
Mode: Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages: Spanish
Fieldwork dates: March 4 – March 19, 2013
Sample size: 800
Margin of Error: ±5.2 percentage points
Representative: Adult population (excluding Chiloe and other islands, or 3% of the population)

Country: **Egypt**
Sample design: Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by governorates and urbanity
Mode: Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages: Arabic
Fieldwork dates: March 3 – March 23, 2013
Sample size: 1,000
Margin of Error: ±4.3 percentage points
Representative: Adult population (excluding Frontier governorates, or about 2% of the population)

Country: **El Salvador**
Sample design: Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by department and urbanity
Mode: Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages: Spanish
Fieldwork dates: April 18 – May 1, 2013
Sample size: 792
Margin of Error: ±5.3 percentage points
Representative: Adult population

Country:	Ghana
Sample design:	Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by region and settlement size
Mode:	Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages:	Akan (Twi), English, Dagbani, Ewe
Fieldwork dates:	March 20 – April 3, 2013
Sample size:	799
Margin of Error:	±4.7 percentage points
Representative:	Adult population
Country:	Indonesia
Sample design:	Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by province and urbanity
Mode:	Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages:	Bahasa Indonesian
Fieldwork dates:	March 9 – March 27, 2013
Sample size:	1,000
Margin of Error:	±4.0 percentage points
Representative:	Adult population (excluding Papua and remote areas or provinces with small populations, or 12% of the population)
Country:	Jordan
Sample design:	Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by Jordan's 12 governorates and urbanity
Mode:	Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages:	Arabic
Fieldwork dates:	March 4 – March 23, 2013
Sample size:	1,000
Margin of Error:	±4.5 percentage points
Representative:	Adult population
Country:	Kenya
Sample design:	Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by province and settlement size
Mode:	Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages:	Kiswahili, English
Fieldwork dates:	March 13 – March 30, 2013
Sample size:	798
Margin of Error:	±4.3 percentage points
Representative:	Adult population

Country: **Lebanon**
Sample design: Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by Lebanon's seven regions and urbanity
Mode: Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages: Arabic
Fieldwork dates: March 4 – March 22, 2013
Sample size: 1,000
Margin of Error: ±4.0 percentage points
Representative: Adult population (excluding a small area in Beirut controlled by a militia group and a few villages in the south of Lebanon, which border Israel and are inaccessible to outsiders, or about 2% of the population)

Country: **Malaysia**
Sample design: Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by state and urbanity
Mode: Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages: Malay, Mandarin Chinese, English
Fieldwork dates: March 4 – April 3, 2013
Sample size: 822
Margin of Error: ±4.3 percentage points
Representative: Adult population (excluding difficult to access areas in Sabah and Sarawak, or about 7% of the population)

Country: **Mexico**
Sample design: Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by region and urbanity
Mode: Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages: Spanish
Fieldwork dates: March 4 – March 17, 2013
Sample size: 1,000
Margin of Error: ±4.1 percentage points
Representative: Adult population

Country: **Nigeria**
Sample design: Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by region and urbanity
Mode: Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages: English, Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo
Fieldwork dates: March 6 – April 4, 2013
Sample size: 1,031
Margin of Error: ± 4.0 percentage points
Representative: Adult population (excluding Borno, Yobe and some areas in Taraba, or about 5% of the population)

Country: **Pakistan**
Sample design: Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by province and urbanity
Mode: Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages: Urdu, Pashto, Punjabi, Saraiki, Sindhi
Fieldwork dates: March 11 – March 31, 2013
Sample size: 1,201
Margin of Error: ± 4.3 percentage points
Representative: Adult population (excluding the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, Gilgit-Baltistan, Azad Jammu and Kashmir for security reasons as well as areas of instability in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa [formerly the North-West Frontier Province] and Baluchistan, or roughly 18% of the population). Disproportionately urban. The data were weighted to reflect the actual urbanity distribution in Pakistan.

Country: **Palestinian territories**
Sample design: Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by region and urban/rural/refugee camp population
Mode: Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages: Arabic
Fieldwork dates: March 29 – April 7, 2013
Sample size: 810
Margin of Error: ± 4.4 percentage points
Representative: Adult population (excluding Bedouins who regularly change residence and some communities near Israeli settlements where military restrictions make access difficult, or roughly 5% of the population)

Country:	Philippines
Sample design:	Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by region and urbanity
Mode:	Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages:	Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilonggo, Ilocano, Bicolano
Fieldwork dates:	March 10 – April 3, 2013
Sample size:	804
Margin of Error:	±4.5 percentage points
Representative:	Adult population
Country:	Russia
Sample design:	Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by Russia's eight regions plus Moscow and St. Petersburg and urbanity
Mode:	Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages:	Russian
Fieldwork dates:	March 5 – March 21, 2013
Sample size:	996
Margin of Error:	±3.6 percentage points
Representative:	Adult population (excluding High North regions, the Chechen Republic, and the Ingush Republic, or about 3% of the population)
Country:	Senegal
Sample design:	Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by region and urbanity
Mode:	Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages:	Wolof, French
Fieldwork dates:	March 6 – March 30, 2013
Sample size:	800
Margin of Error:	±4.1 percentage points
Representative:	Adult population
Country:	South Africa
Sample design:	Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by metropolitan area, province and urbanity
Mode:	Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages:	English, Zulu, Xhosa, South Sotho, Afrikaans
Fieldwork dates:	March 18 – April 12, 2013
Sample size:	815
Margin of Error:	±4.1 percentage points
Representative:	Adult population

Country:	Tunisia
Sample design:	Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by governorate and urbanity
Mode:	Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages:	Tunisian Arabic
Fieldwork dates:	March 4 – March 19, 2013
Sample size:	1,000
Margin of Error:	±4.0 percentage points
Representative:	Adult population
Country:	Turkey
Sample design:	Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by the 26 regions (based on geographical location and level of development (NUTS 2)) and urbanity
Mode:	Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages:	Turkish
Fieldwork dates:	March 5 – March 24, 2013
Sample size:	1,000
Margin of Error:	±7.7 percentage points
Representative:	Adult population
Country:	Uganda
Sample design:	Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by region and urbanity
Mode:	Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages:	Luganda, English, Runyankole/Rukiga, Luo, Runyoro/Rutoro, Ateso, Lugbara
Fieldwork dates:	March 15 – March 29, 2013
Sample size:	800
Margin of Error:	±4.3 percentage points
Representative:	Adult population
Country:	Venezuela
Sample design:	Multi-stage cluster sample stratified by region and parish size
Mode:	Face-to-face adults 18 plus
Languages:	Spanish
Fieldwork dates:	March 15 – April 27, 2013
Sample size:	1,000
Margin of Error:	±3.5 percentage points
Representative:	Adult population (excluding remote areas, or about 4% of population)

Topline Results

**Pew Research Center
Spring 2013 survey
March 19, 2014 Release**

Methodological notes:

- Survey results are based on national samples. For further details on sample designs, see Survey Methods section.
- Due to rounding, percentages may not total 100%. The topline “total” columns show 100%, because they are based on unrounded numbers.
- Not all questions included in the Spring 2013 survey are presented in this topline. Omitted questions have either been previously released or will be released in future reports.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

		Q71 How important is it to you that people have access to the internet without government censorship – very important, somewhat important, not too important or not important at all?					
		Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not important at all	DK/Refused	Total
Russia	Spring, 2013	30	33	13	15	10	100
Turkey	Spring, 2013	31	27	13	6	23	100
Egypt	Spring, 2013	36	47	8	4	4	100
Jordan	Spring, 2013	32	37	23	8	1	100
Lebanon	Spring, 2013	69	17	5	3	6	100
Palest. ter.	Spring, 2013	37	25	15	13	10	100
Tunisia	Spring, 2013	34	22	12	17	14	100
Indonesia	Spring, 2013	31	24	23	10	12	100
Malaysia	Spring, 2013	37	36	13	5	9	100
Pakistan	Spring, 2013	12	10	5	12	62	100
Philippines	Spring, 2013	35	38	18	6	4	100
Argentina	Spring, 2013	46	34	11	5	3	100
Bolivia	Spring, 2013	46	30	8	3	12	100
Brazil	Spring, 2013	51	29	13	5	2	100
Chile	Spring, 2013	60	26	7	2	4	100
El Salvador	Spring, 2013	34	31	22	11	2	100
Mexico	Spring, 2013	40	39	13	6	2	100
Venezuela	Spring, 2013	53	36	6	3	1	100
Ghana	Spring, 2013	33	31	15	9	14	100
Kenya	Spring, 2013	32	25	16	9	18	100
Nigeria	Spring, 2013	47	25	11	8	8	100
Senegal	Spring, 2013	46	16	5	9	24	100
South Africa	Spring, 2013	49	28	9	7	7	100
Uganda	Spring, 2013	25	24	11	6	35	100