Report

Canadians' Views on Chinese Electric Vehicles

Survey of Canadians

February 2, 2026

Methodology

This week, we surveyed Canadians on their opinion on Chinese electric vehicles and Canada–U.S.–China trade dynamics.

Method

Online survey among respondents 18 years of age or older. (Canadian sample: **n= 1,570**)

Respondents had the option of completing the survey in French and English and were randomly recruited using LEO's online panel.

Weighting

Results were weighted according to **age, gender, mother tongue, region, education and presence of children in the household** in order to ensure a representative sample of the Canadian population.

❷ **Notes**

A more detailed methodology is presented in the Appendix.

When

Data collection from **January 30 to February 2, 2026**.

Margin of error

For comparison purposes, a probability sample of this size yields a margin of error no greater than **±2.47%**, (19 times out of 20) for the sample.

Significant differences

Data in bold **red** characters indicate a significantly lower proportion than that of other respondents. Conversely, data in bold **green** characters indicate a significantly higher proportion than that of other respondents.

Rounded data

The numbers presented have been rounded up. However, the numbers before rounding were used to calculate the sums presented and might therefore not correspond to the manual addition of these numbers.

Questions

Have questions about the data presented in this report? Please contact one of the following people:

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CANADA 2025

	LEGER POLL Published on April 26, 2025	OFFICIALS RESULTS 2025 Canada Federal Election
L	43%	43.7%
C	39%	41.3%
NDP	8%	6.3%
BQ	6%	6.3%
GREEN PARTY	2%	1.2%
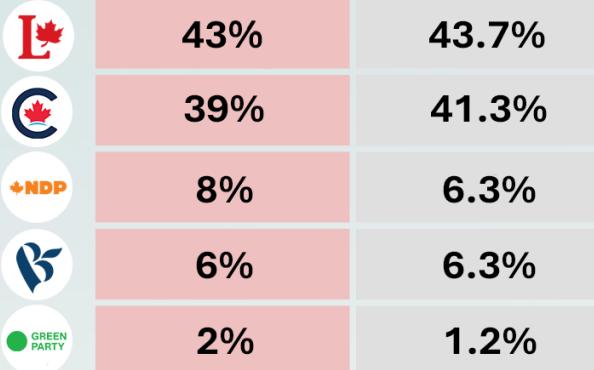
BRITISH COLUMBIA 2024

	LEGER POLL Published on October 18, 2024	OFFICIALS RESULTS 2024 British Columbia Provincial Election
BC NDP	46%	45%
C	42%	43%
greens	9%	8%
Others	3%	4%
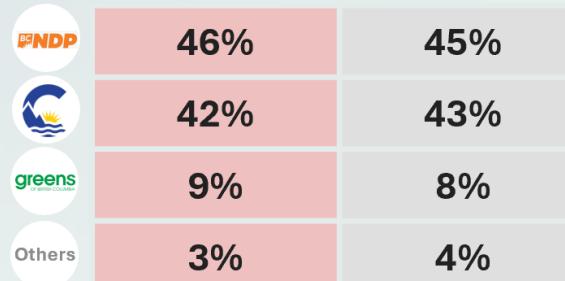
UNITED STATES 2024

	LEGER POLL Published on November 4, 2024	OFFICIALS RESULTS 2024 United States Presidential Election
Trump	49%	50%
Harris	49%	48%
Others	2%	2%
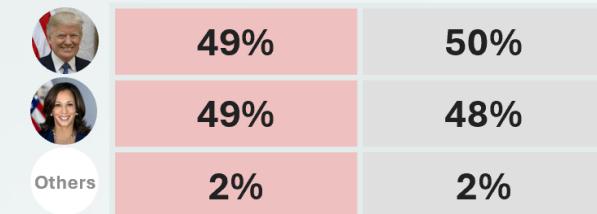
Key Highlights

Some of **the key highlights** of our survey...

Awareness of the Canada–China EV agreement and Support for allowing more Chinese EVs

- Seven in ten Canadians (70%) were aware of the recent Canada–China agreement allowing more Chinese electric vehicles into Canada. Awareness is significantly higher among Canadians aged 55 and over (85%) and men (76%).

- A majority of Canadians support allowing more Chinese electric vehicles into the Canadian market (61%), including 24% who strongly support the decision and 38% who somewhat support it. Support is significantly higher in Quebec (72%), among men (68%), and Canadians aged 55 and over (67%).

Concerns About Chinese EVs

- While most Canadians support allowing more Chinese electric vehicles into the Canadian market, three quarters (75%) report at least one concern about them. The most common concerns about Chinese electric vehicles relate to vehicle quality and durability (38%) and impacts on the Canadian auto industry (38%), followed by data security and privacy (33%), vehicle safety (29%), and geopolitical or national security concerns related to China (27%). Canadians opposed to allowing more Chinese EVs are significantly more likely to cite concerns across all dimensions, while supporters are more likely to report having no particular concerns (24%). Concerns about impacts on the Canadian auto industry are significantly higher in Ontario (45%).

Concern about U.S. trade retaliation and Limiting trade with China to protect U.S. relations

- Nearly two thirds of Canadians (63%) are concerned about potential U.S. retaliation if Canada strengthens trade ties with China. Concern is significantly higher among Canadians who oppose allowing more Chinese EVs (71%). In Ontario, nearly a third (30%) of residents are very concerned about Trump's threat.

- Most Canadians (57%) oppose limiting trade with China to avoid U.S. economic retaliation. Opposition is significantly stronger among those who support allowing more Chinese EVs (75%), among Canadians not concerned about U.S. tariff threats (73%), among older respondents (68%), among those from British Columbia (68%), and men (62%).

Realism of the 2035 EV Sales Mandate

- Two-thirds of Canadians (67%) believe it is unrealistic that only electric vehicles will be sold by 2035. Skepticism is significantly higher among Canadians aged 55 and over (79%) , while younger Canadians (18 to 34) are significantly more likely to see the target as realistic (41%)

Detailed Results

Awareness of the Canada–China EV Tariff Agreement

Q1. Earlier this month, the Canadian government announced a new agreement with China that will allow a limited number of Chinese electric vehicles to be sold in Canada at a lower tariff rate. Before today, had you heard about this agreement?
Base: All respondents (n=1,570)

Leger

6%

24%

■ Yes
■ No
■ DK / Refusal

70%
YES

	Total CANADA	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Weighted n=	*1,570*	*106*	*363*	*608*	*101*	*175*	*218*	*765*	*805*	*418*	*505*	*646*
Unweighted n=	*1,570*	*102*	*416*	*617*	*128*	*143*	*164*	*786*	*784*	*409*	*435*	*726*
Yes	**70%**	68%	72%	70%	70%	73%	67%	**76%**	**65%**	**53%**	**66%**	**85%**
No	**24%**	27%	23%	24%	25%	21%	26%	**19%**	**28%**	**37%**	27%	**12%**
Don't know / Refusal	**6%**	6%	5%	7%	5%	6%	7%	**5%**	**7%**	**9%**	7%	**3%**

Support for Canada's Decision to Allow More Chinese Electric Vehicles Into the Market (1/2)

Q2. Overall, do you support or oppose the Canadian government's decision to allow more Chinese electric vehicles into the Canadian market?
Base: All respondents (n=1,570)

Total Support: 61%

- Strongly support: 24%
- Somewhat support: 38%

Total Oppose: 23%

- Somewhat oppose: 11%
- Strongly oppose: 11%

Don't know: 16%
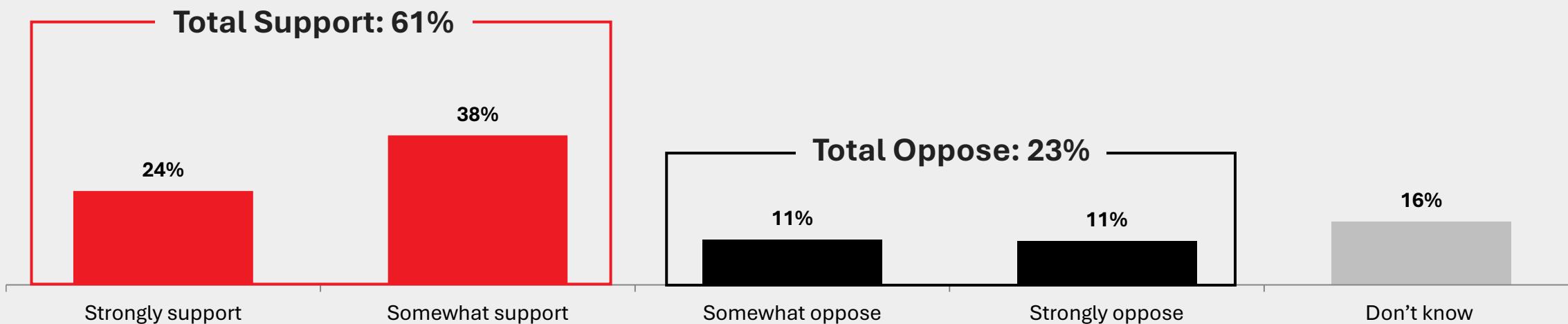
Support for Canada's Decision to Allow More Chinese Electric Vehicles Into the Market (2/2)

Q2. Overall, do you support or oppose the Canadian government's decision to allow more Chinese electric vehicles into the Canadian market?
Base: All respondents (n=1,570)

	Total CANADA	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+
Weighted n=	*1,570*	*106*	*363*	*608*	*101*	*175*	*218*	*765*	*805*	*418*	*505*	*646*
Unweighted n=	*1,570*	*102*	*416*	*617*	*128*	*143*	*164*	*786*	*784*	*409*	*435*	*726*
TOTAL SUPPORT	**61%**	51%	**72%**	59%	53%	55%	63%	**68%**	**55%**	58%	**56%**	**67%**
Strongly support	**24%**	24%	28%	**20%**	29%	21%	26%	**29%**	**19%**	**19%**	23%	**27%**
Somewhat support	**38%**	**28%**	**45%**	39%	**24%**	34%	37%	39%	36%	39%	**34%**	40%
TOTAL OPPOSE	**23%**	29%	**12%**	25%	30%	30%	21%	20%	25%	23%	26%	20%
Somewhat oppose	**11%**	**20%**	**7%**	12%	**21%**	13%	8%	11%	12%	**16%**	11%	**8%**
Strongly oppose	**11%**	9%	**5%**	13%	10%	17%	12%	9%	13%	**6%**	**14%**	12%
Don't know	**16%**	20%	16%	15%	17%	15%	17%	**11%**	**20%**	19%	18%	**13%**

Top Public Concerns Regarding Chinese EVs in the Canadian Market (1/2)

Q3. Which of the following, if any, are your main concerns about Chinese electric vehicles?

Base: All respondents (n=1,570)

Concern	Percentage
Vehicle quality and durability	38%
Impact on the Canadian auto industry	38%
Data security and privacy	33%
Vehicle safety	29%
Geopolitical or national security concerns related to China	27%
Other	3%
I do not have any particular concerns	19%
I don't know	6%

75%
of Canadians have a least one concern.
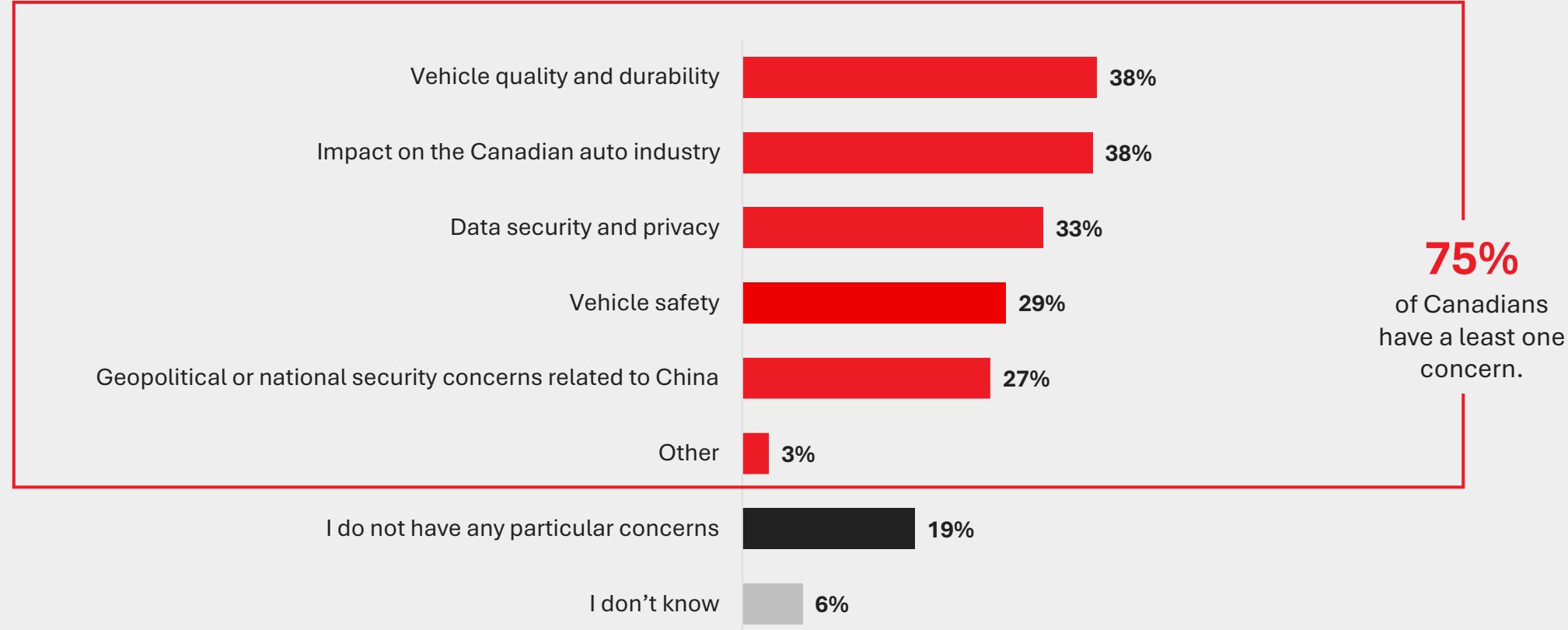
Top Public Concerns Regarding Chinese EVs in the Canadian Market (2/2)

Q3. Which of the following, if any, are your main concerns about Chinese electric vehicles?

Base: All respondents (n=1,570)

	Total CANADA	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Support to allow more Chinese electric vehicles into the market	
													Support	Oppose
Weighted n=	*1,570*	*106*	*363*	*608*	*101*	*175*	*218*	*765*	*805*	*418*	*505*	*646*	*965*	*353*
Unweighted n=	*1,570*	*102*	*416*	*617*	*128*	*143*	*164*	*786*	*784*	*409*	*435*	*726*	*1,025*	*327*
TOTAL AT LEAST ONE CONCERN	**75%**	68%	71%	78%	74%	**82%**	71%	76%	74%	78%	75%	73%	75%	**94%**
Vehicle quality and durability	**38%**	36%	40%	38%	34%	40%	37%	38%	39%	36%	38%	40%	38%	**46%**
Impact on the Canadian auto industry	**38%**	34%	**29%**	**45%**	37%	46%	**29%**	36%	39%	**33%**	36%	**42%**	**32%**	**61%**
Data security and privacy	**33%**	26%	29%	35%	29%	**42%**	28%	35%	30%	32%	31%	34%	**29%**	**53%**
Vehicle safety	**29%**	27%	**21%**	31%	25%	33%	33%	27%	30%	**34%**	25%	28%	27%	**37%**
Geopolitical or national security concerns related to China	**27%**	**17%**	**22%**	**30%**	26%	33%	25%	27%	26%	27%	26%	28%	**23%**	**45%**
Other	**3%**	3%	3%	3%	**1%**	3%	4%	4%	2%	3%	3%	3%	**2%**	**5%**
I do not have any particular concerns	**19%**	24%	22%	17%	14%	15%	21%	20%	17%	**14%**	17%	**23%**	**24%**	**3%**
I don't know	**6%**	8%	7%	6%	11%	**3%**	8%	**4%**	**9%**	8%	8%	**5%**	**2%**	**3%**

Concern About Donald Trump's Tariff Threats if Canada Strengthens Trade Ties With China (1/2)

Q4. Donald Trump has threatened to impose new tariffs on Canadian goods if Canada strengthens trade relations with China. How concerned are you about this threat?
Base: All respondents (n=1,570)

Total Concerned: 63%

- Very concerned — 25%
- Somewhat concerned — 37%

Total Not Concerned: 30%

- Not very concerned — 18%
- Not at all concerned — 12%

Don't know — 7%
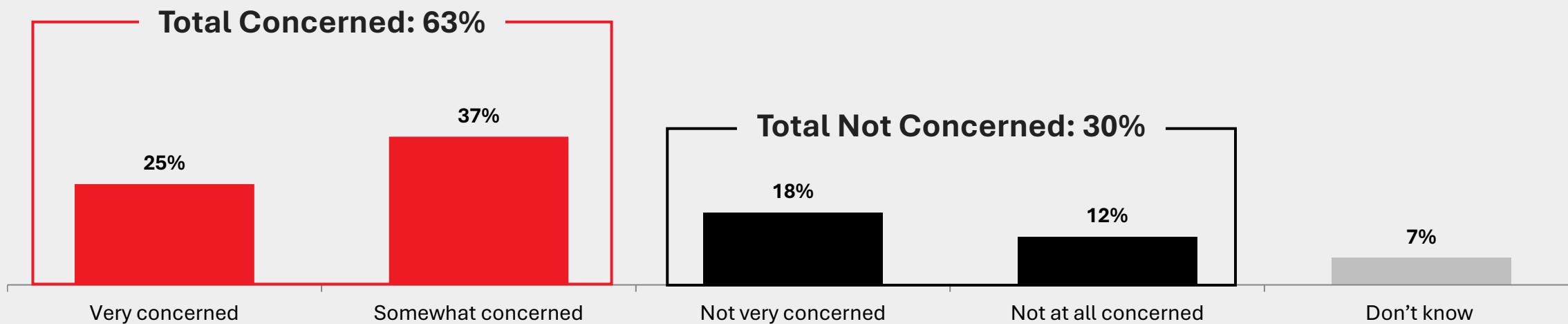
Concern About Donald Trump's Tariff Threats if Canada Strengthens Trade Ties With China (2/2)

Q4. Donald Trump has threatened to impose new tariffs on Canadian goods if Canada strengthens trade relations with China. How concerned are you about this threat?

Base: All respondents (n=1,570)

	Total CANADA	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Support to allow more Chinese electric vehicles into the market	
													Support	Oppose
Weighted n=	1,570	106	363	608	101	175	218	765	805	418	505	646	965	353
Unweighted n=	1,570	102	416	617	128	143	164	786	784	409	435	726	1,025	327
TOTAL CONCERNED	**63%**	67%	64%	65%	61%	66%	51%	60%	66%	66%	61%	62%	64%	71%
Very concerned	**25%**	20%	23%	30%	26%	30%	16%	22%	29%	23%	24%	28%	24%	34%
Somewhat concerned	**37%**	47%	41%	35%	35%	37%	35%	37%	37%	42%	37%	34%	39%	37%
TOTAL NOT CONCERNED	**30%**	25%	30%	28%	33%	29%	42%	36%	25%	24%	31%	33%	34%	26%
Not very concerned	**18%**	13%	20%	17%	16%	17%	25%	22%	15%	17%	18%	19%	20%	16%
Not at all concerned	**12%**	12%	10%	11%	17%	12%	17%	14%	11%	7%	13%	15%	14%	10%
Don't know	**7%**	9%	7%	7%	6%	5%	7%	5%	9%	10%	7%	5%	2%	3%

Restricting Canada–China Trade to Maintain U.S. Relations

Q5. Do you think Canada should limit its trade agreements with China in order to avoid economic retaliation from the United States?

Base: All respondents (n=1,570)

22%

57%

21%
YES

- ■ Yes
- ■ No
- ■ DK
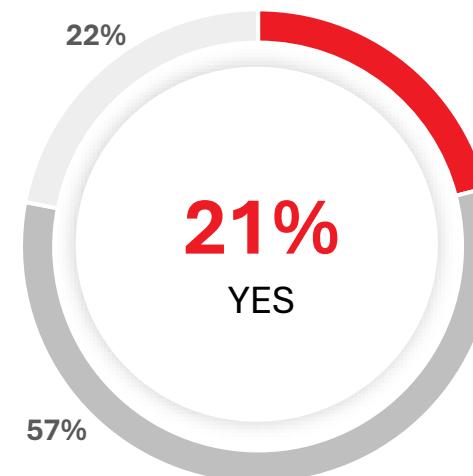
	Total CANADA	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Support to allow more Chinese electric vehicles into the market		Concern About Donald Trump's Tariff Threats	
													Support	Oppose	Concerned	Not concerned
Weighted n=	1,570	106	363	608	101	175	218	765	805	418	505	646	965	353	986	477
Unweighted n=	1,570	102	416	617	128	143	164	786	784	409	435	726	1,025	327	1,001	474
Yes	21%	23%	20%	21%	24%	31%	14%	22%	20%	24%	23%	17%	12%	52%	26%	15%
No	57%	62%	60%	55%	53%	49%	68%	62%	53%	50%	50%	68%	75%	27%	54%	73%
Don't know	22%	16%	21%	25%	23%	20%	18%	16%	27%	26%	27%	15%	13%	21%	20%	12%

Perceived Realism of Canada's 2035 Electric Vehicle Sales Target (1/2)

Q6. The government of Canada currently has a policy in place that requires all new vehicles purchased in Canada after 2035 must be fully electric. The only new vehicles for sale 9 years from now will be vehicles that are fully electric. How realistic do you think it is that no new gas-powered vehicles will be sold by 2035?

Base: All respondents (n=1,570)

Total Realistic: 24%

Total Not Realistic: 67%

Very realistic	Somewhat realistic	Not very realistic	Not at all realistic	Don't know
5%	19%	30%	36%	9%

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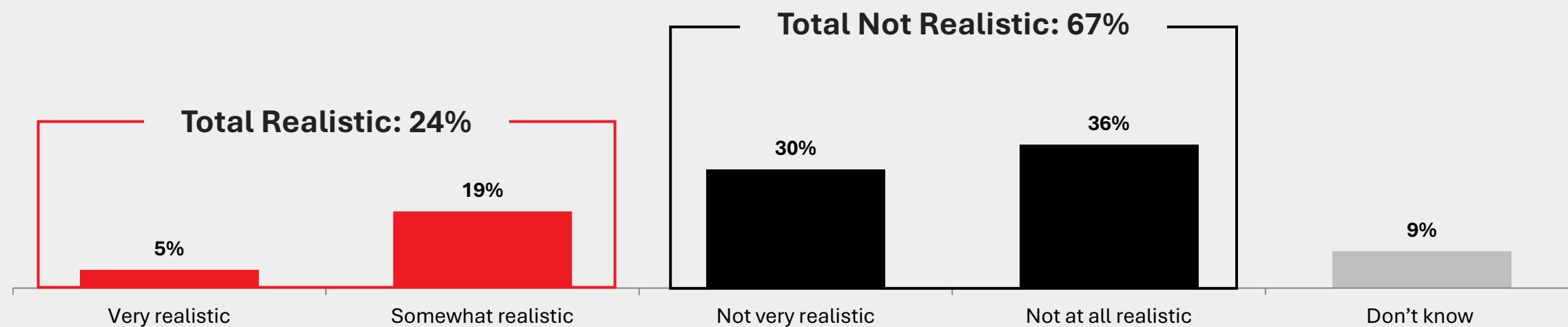
Perceived Realism of Canada's 2035 Electric Vehicle Sales Target (2/2)

Q6. The government of Canada currently has a policy in place that requires all new vehicles purchased in Canada after 2035 must be fully electric. The only new vehicles for sale 9 years from now will be vehicles that are fully electric. How realistic do you think it is that no new gas-powered vehicles will be sold by 2035?

Base: All respondents (n=1,570)

	Total CANADA	ATL	QC	ON	MB/SK	AB	BC	Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	Support to allow more Chinese electric vehicles into the market Support	Oppose	Total Aug. 3rd 2025	Gap
Weighted n=	*1,570*	*106*	*363*	*608*	*101*	*175*	*218*	*765*	*805*	*418*	*505*	*646*	*965*	*353*	*1,617*	
Unweighted n=	*1,570*	*102*	*416*	*617*	*128*	*143*	*164*	*786*	*784*	*409*	*435*	*726*	*1,025*	*327*	*1,617*	
TOTAL REALISTIC	**24%**	12%	24%	26%	23%	23%	27%	28%	20%	41%	21%	15%	32%	14%	26%	-2
Very realistic	5%	2%	4%	5%	7%	5%	3%	6%	3%	7%	5%	3%	7%	1%	6%	-1
Somewhat realistic	19%	10%	20%	20%	16%	18%	24%	22%	17%	34%	16%	12%	25%	13%	20%	-1
TOTAL NOT REALISTIC	**67%**	72%	70%	64%	62%	69%	64%	66%	68%	46%	67%	79%	65%	81%	68%	-1
Not very realistic	30%	29%	34%	30%	25%	30%	29%	30%	31%	29%	28%	33%	36%	22%	30%	=
Not at all realistic	36%	43%	37%	35%	37%	39%	35%	36%	37%	17%	40%	46%	29%	59%	39%	-3
Don't know	9%	16%	6%	10%	15%	8%	9%	7%	12%	13%	11%	6%	3%	6%	6%	+3

Respondent Profile

Respondent profiles

(Base n=1,570)

The table below presents the Canadian distribution of respondents before weighting.

Gender

	Unweighted	Weighted
Male	786	765
Female	784	805

Language (Mother Tongue)

	Unweighted	Weighted
French	352	310
English	1,077	1,115
Other	141	145

Age

	Unweighted	Weighted
18 to 34	409	418
35 to 54	435	505
55+	726	646

Province

	Unweighted	Weighted
British Columbia	164	218
Alberta	143	175
Manitoba/Saskatchewan	128	101
Ontario	617	608
Quebec	416	363
Atlantic	102	106

Our Credentials

Canada

Leger is a member of the Canadian Research Insights Council (CRIC), the industry association for the market/survey/insights research industry.

Europe

Leger is a member of ESOMAR (European Society for Opinion and Market Research), the global association of opinion polls and marketing research professionals.

America

Leger is also a member of the Insights Association, the American Association of Marketing Research Analytics.

International

Leger is a member of the Worldwide Independent Network of Market Research (WIN), a global alliance of leading independent market research and polling firms that collaborate to share expertise, methodologies, and insights across diverse markets.

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employees

185
consultants

8
offices

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