

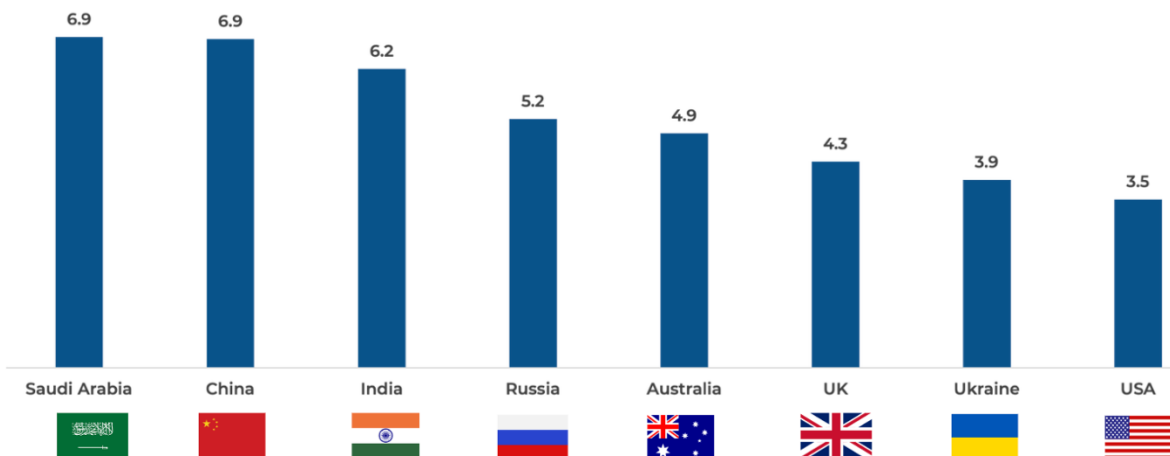
Maldivians Most Positive Towards Saudi, China, Findings of Opinion Poll Show

1 March, 2026, MALE: Maldivians are most favourably disposed towards Saudi Arabia and China, and think least of the United States, according to the results of the Baani Centre's latest opinion poll.

The Baani Centre for International Policy, a Maldives-based think tank, asked Maldivian adults to rank from 0-10 a shortlist of countries. A score of 10 meant someone felt very positively towards the country, and a score of 0 meant the opposite.

Saudi Arabia and China topped the list of countries, with an average score of 6.9 out of 10, followed closely by India with a score of 6.2

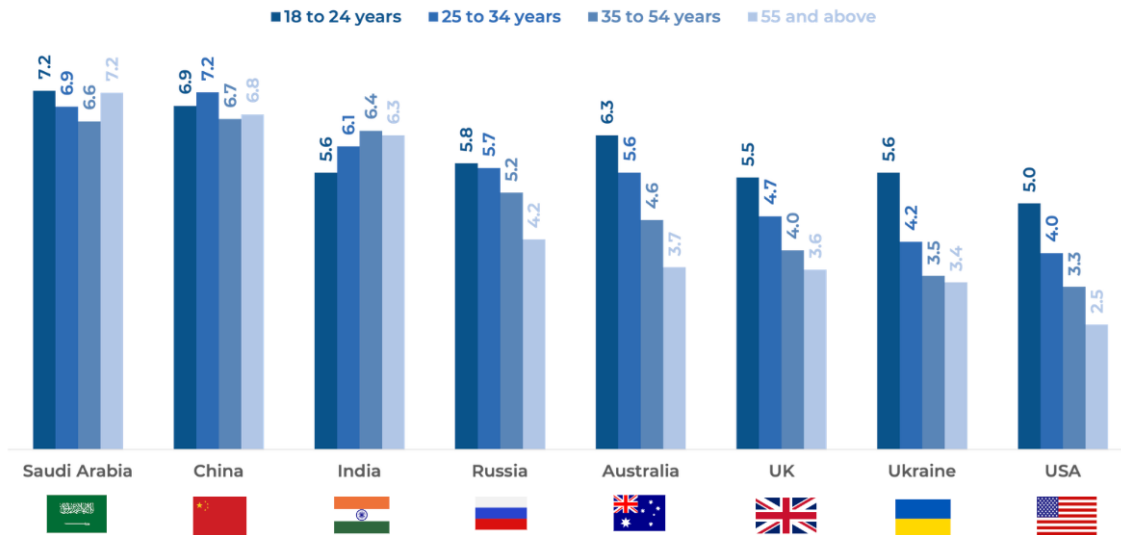
Russia and Australia scored 5.2 and 4.9 respectively. The United Kingdom garnered a score of 4.3, Ukraine 3.9, and the United States came last with a score of 3.5 out of 10.



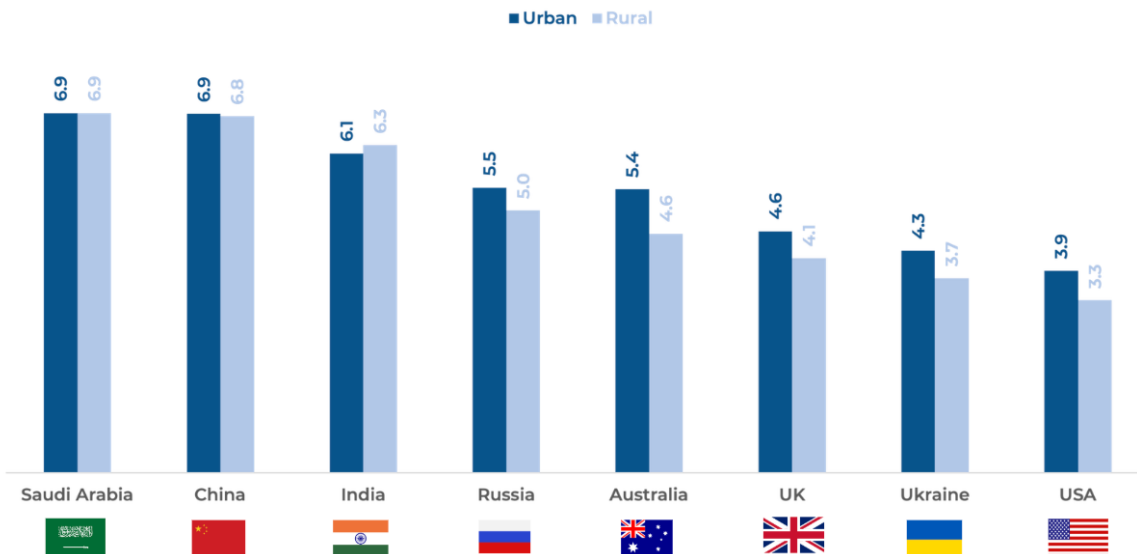
The results were not all bad for the United States, however. When we break down the results by age, there is a striking difference between young and older peoples' views of the USA, and Western countries in general.

Maldivians aged 55 and above gave the USA a score of 2.5 out of 10. By contrast, voters aged 18-24 gave the United States a score of 5 out of 10. Similar sentiments were seen for all Western countries, and Russia, with younger Maldivians more positively disposed.

Saudi Arabia and China score similarly across age groups, whereas India scored better among older people, than younger ones.



Similar sentiments were seen based on where Maldivians are from. Maldivians, regardless of where they are from, thought well of Saudi Arabia and China. When it came to Western countries, though, Maldivians from urban areas were more favourable compared to those from rural islands.

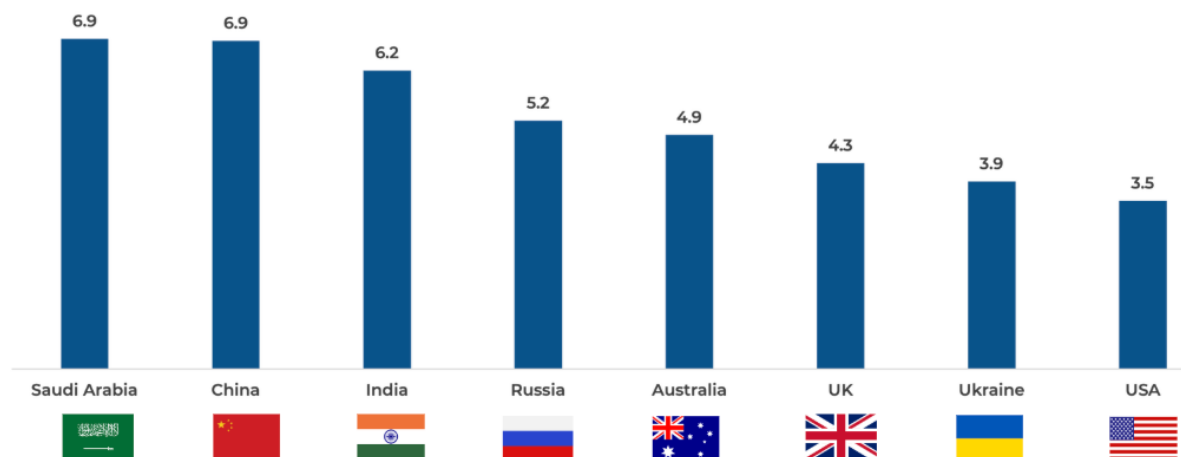




The telephone poll was carried out between 23 November and 1 December 2025, using random telephone interviews. We collected 391 responses, which is slightly above the target required for a population size of Maldives to conduct a statistically significant poll with a 5% margin of error and 95% confidence level. The results have been weighted to ensure a representative sample of voters.

See the full polling report here: <https://baanicentre.org/research/>

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