

Start of Year 2026: Pakistan Records Higher Optimism Than Global Average, Ahead of India on Economy (53% vs 39%), and Peace (52% vs 26%)

A majority of Pakistanis (52%) believe the coming year will be better than the last—an optimism level that is higher than in most years recorded by Gallup Pakistan since 1994, surpassed only during a few peak periods, notably the late 1990s and the mid-2010s.

(01 January 2026, Islamabad - Pakistan)

The End of Year Survey conducted by the Gallup International Association covered 60 countries, including Pakistan, with a total sample size of 59,636 respondents. This annual survey is a long-standing tradition of the association, conducted consistently since 1978, and represents the largest global study of its kind carried out by independent polling organizations. In Pakistan, the survey has been implemented by Gallup Pakistan since 1994, ensuring continuity and comparability of public opinion trends over time.

The global press release for the End of Year 2026 Survey can be accessed [here](#).

Five key findings the End of Year Survey from Pakistan (measured since 1994):

1. More Pakistanis are optimistic (51%) than pessimistic (20%) about the year ahead, indicating a net positive outlook for 2026.
2. A majority of Pakistanis (53%) believe 2026 will be a year of economic prosperity.
3. Nearly 1 in 2 (52%) Pakistanis expect 2026 to be a more peaceful year for the world.
4. Hope about the coming year is among the highest recorded since Gallup Pakistan began tracking in 1994, exceeded in only five years over nearly three decades.
5. Across the three measures, overall hope, economic optimism, and hope for peace, Pakistan ranks ahead of India on two and exceeds the global average on all three.

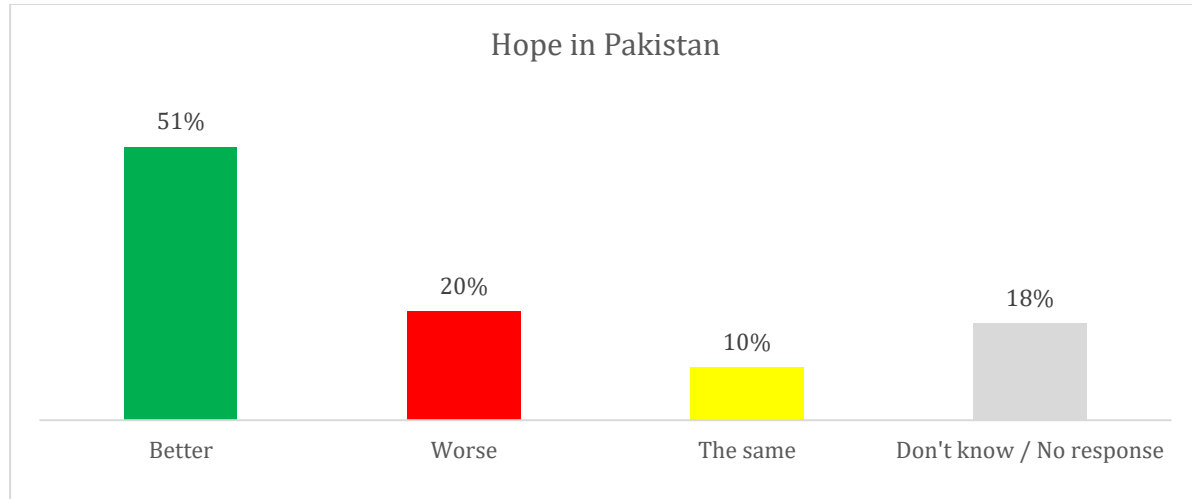
**DETAILED REPORT ON THE THREE STRANDS OF HOPE
(GENERAL HOPE, ECONOMIC HOPE AND HOPE FOR WORLD PEACE),
AHEAD**

DETAILED REPORT

1. Hope for 2026

a. Hopes for 2026 for Pakistan: 51% hopeful 2026 will be a good year.

When Pakistani respondents were asked “*As far as you are concerned, do you think that 2026 will be better, worse or the same as 2025?*”, 51% of them were hopeful that 2026 would be a better year than 2025, while only 20% thought it would be worse. According to 10% of them, 2026 would be the same as 2025.



Source: Gallup International End of Year Survey 2025

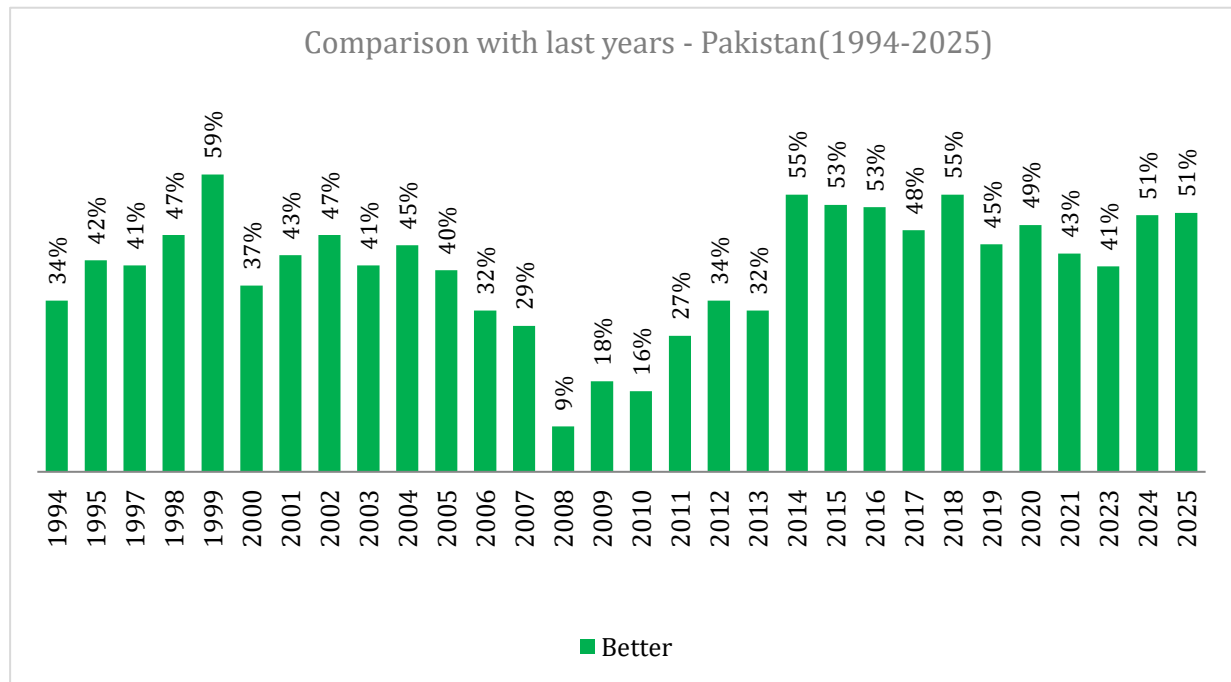
Compared to last year, optimism about the year ahead remains unchanged. Just over half of Pakistanis (51%) believe that 2026 will be a better year than 2025, the same proportion who believed in 2024 that 2025 would be better than 2024.

Historically, optimism in Pakistan has shown considerable fluctuation. In the mid-to-late 1990s, optimism rose steadily, increasing from 34% in 1994 to 42% in 1995, 41% in 1997, and 47% in 1998, before peaking at a high of 59% in 1999. The early 2000s were marked by relatively stable but gradually declining optimism, with levels ranging from 43% in 2001 to 45% in 2004, before dropping to 32% in 2006 and 29% in 2007. This downward trend culminated in a sharp low of just 9% in 2008, followed by a modest recovery to 18% in 2009.

The early 2010s saw optimism remain subdued, standing at 16% in 2010 and rising gradually to 34% in 2012. This was followed by a strong rebound in the mid-2010s, with optimism jumping to 55% in 2014 and remaining elevated through 2016 (53% in 2015 and 52% in 2016). Sentiment moderated somewhat thereafter, falling to 47% in 2017 and 45% in 2019, though optimism remained comparatively higher than in the early 2010s.

Key trends:

- A significant spike in optimism in the late 1990s, peaking at 59% in 1999
- A decline in optimism in the 2010s, followed by an increase in the mid-2010s
- Fluctuations in optimism in the 2020s, with a recent increase to 51% in 2025
- Historical highs in optimism in 1999 (59%) and 2014 (55%)
- A decline in pessimism in the late 1990s, with a low of 10% in 1999
- Historical highs in pessimism in 2008 (40%)
- Variations in pessimism in the late 2010s and 2020s

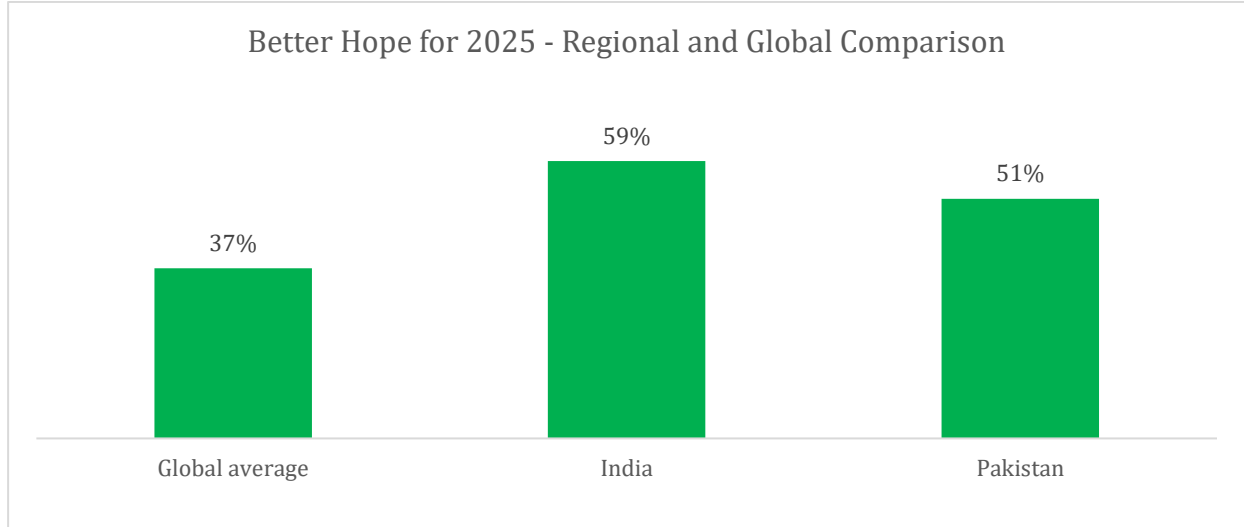


Source: Gallup International End of Year Survey 2025

b. Comparison of Pakistan's hope with regional countries and global average: India Leads in Hope for the Year Ahead, While Pakistan Remains Above the Global Average

A snapshot of public sentiment shows varying levels of hope across the countries compared. Just over half of respondents in Pakistan (51%) believe that 2026 will be better than 2025, placing Pakistan above the global average but below India.

India records the highest level of optimism, with 59% of respondents expecting an improvement in the year ahead, while the global average lags at 37%. Overall, the findings indicate that Pakistan's outlook remains more positive than global sentiment, though it trails the higher optimism observed in India.



Source: Gallup International End of Year Survey 2025

c. Net hope score: Pakistan trails India but exceeds the global average

The net hope score calculated by subtracting the share of pessimists from optimists shows a broadly positive outlook in Pakistan. Just over half of Pakistanis (51%) believe that 2026 will be better than 2025, while 20% expect conditions to worsen, resulting in a net hope score of +31%.

This score stands well above the global average of +11%, where optimism (37%) only slightly outweighs pessimism (25%). However, Pakistan's net hope score remains lower than India's, which records a higher level at +44%, driven by a larger share of optimists (59%) and fewer pessimists (16%).

Overall, the findings suggest that while Pakistanis are more hopeful than the global public, optimism remains stronger in India.

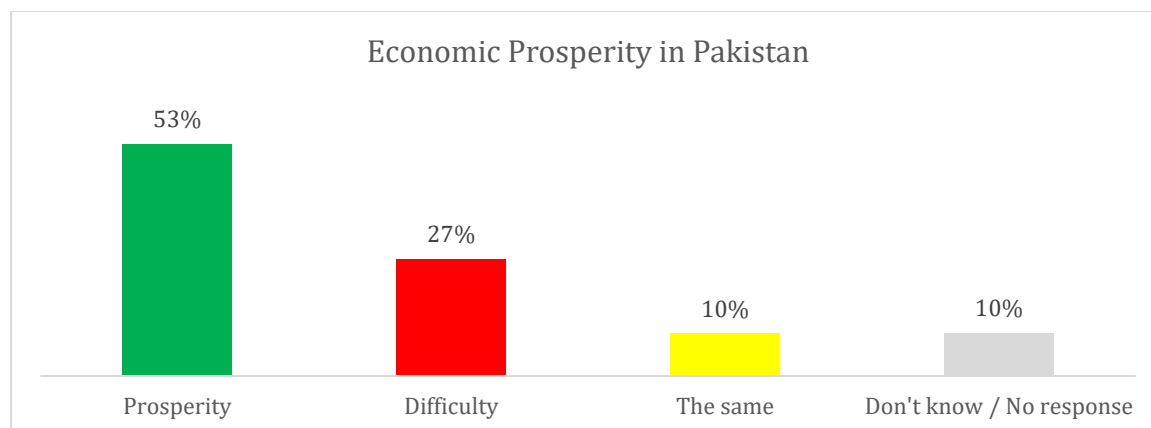
<i>Country</i>	<i>Optimists</i>	<i>Pessimists</i>	<i>Neutrals</i>	<i>DK/NR</i>	<i>NET score</i>
<i>Global Average</i>	37%	25%	31%	7%	+11%
<i>India</i>	59%	16%	18%	7%	+44%
<i>Pakistan</i>	51%	20%	10%	18%	+31%

Source: Gallup International End of Year Survey 2025

2. Economic Prosperity

a. Economic Prosperity for 2026 for Pakistan: 53% hopeful 2026 will be a prosperous year.

When Pakistani respondents were asked “*Compared to this year, in your opinion, will the next year be a year of economic prosperity, economic difficulty or remain the same for your country?*”, 53% believed 2026 would be a year of economic prosperity, while only 27% thought 2026 would bring economic difficulty, another 10% said it will be the same as 2025.



Source: Gallup International End of Year Survey 2025

The perception of economic prosperity among Pakistanis has fluctuated considerably over time, reflecting changing economic and political conditions. In the most recent findings, optimism has strengthened: while 46% of Pakistanis believed that 2025 would be better than 2024, a higher share (53%) now believe that 2026 will be more economically prosperous than 2025.

Historically, economic optimism peaked in the late 1990s, reaching 58% in 1999, following already elevated levels in 1998 (43%) and 1997 (35%). The early 2000s, however, marked a prolonged period of declining optimism. After moderate levels in 2000–2004 (ranging between 31% and 40%), optimism fell sharply, reaching a low of just 10% in 2008 amid economic turbulence, before recovering slightly to 15% in 2009.

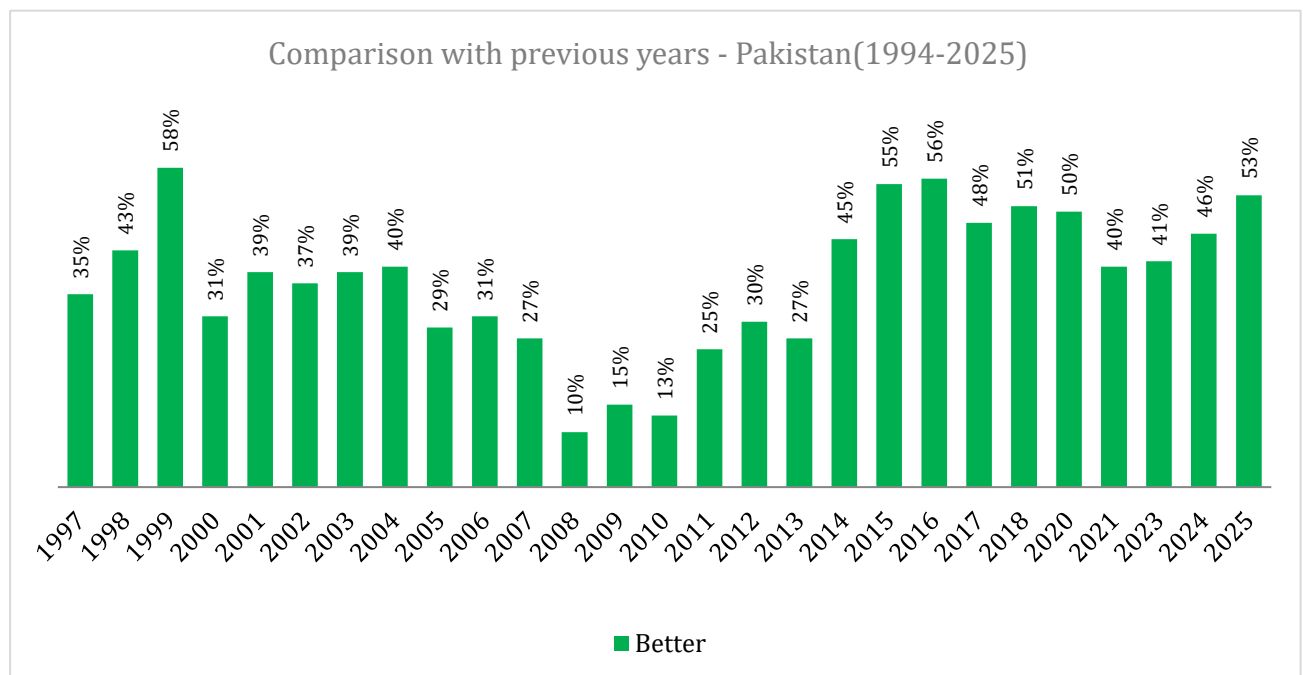
The 2010s saw a gradual but sustained recovery in sentiment. Optimism rose from 13% in 2010 to 30% in 2012, dipped slightly in 2013 (28%), and then increased sharply, reaching 45% in 2014 and peaking again at 56% in 2016. Although optimism moderated thereafter, it remained relatively elevated, standing at 48% in 2017 and 51% in 2018, suggesting a period of renewed confidence in the economy.

In the early 2020s, optimism showed renewed volatility, declining to 50% in 2020 and 40% in 2021, before stabilizing and rising again in recent years. By 2024, optimism had recovered to 46%, and increased further to 53% in 2025, indicating a renewed belief among Pakistanis that economic conditions are improving.

The trend suggests that Pakistanis have become less pessimistic about the economy in recent years. The decline in economic pessimism from 45% in 2021 to 30% in 2024 may indicate improving economic conditions or increased optimism about the future.

Key trends:

- Economic optimism peaked in 1999, with 58% expecting a better year ahead.
- The 2000s were marked by declining optimism, reaching a historic low of 10% in 2008.
- The 2010s saw a sustained recovery, with optimism rising from 13% in 2010 to 56% in 2016.
- Recent years show renewed improvement, with optimism increasing from 40% in 2021 to 53% in 2025.
- Economic pessimism rose sharply during the 2000s, peaking at 46% in 2008.
- In the 2020s, pessimism has steadily declined, falling from 45% in 2021 to 27% in 2025.

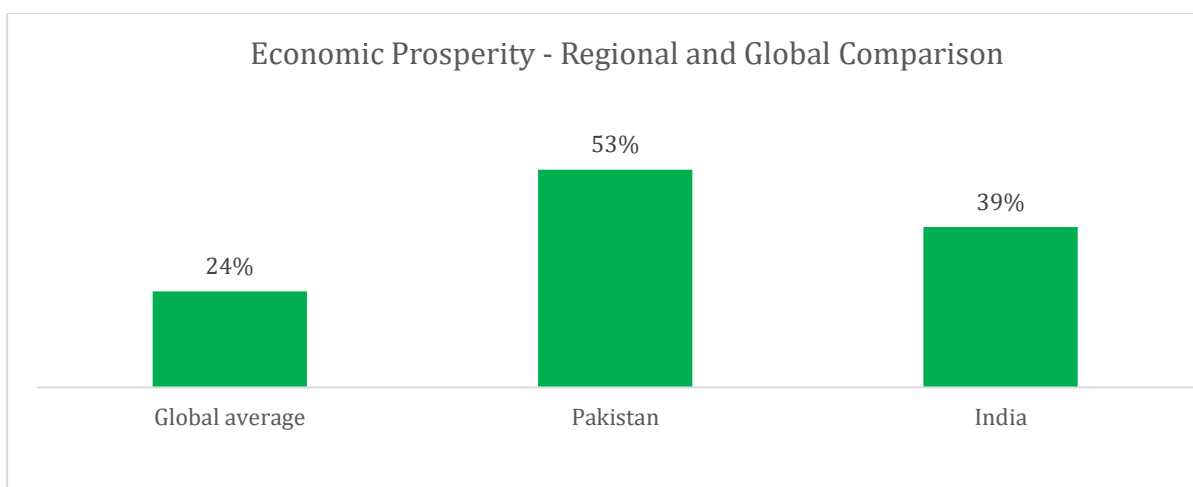


Source: Gallup International End of Year Survey 2025

b. Comparison of Views on Economic Prosperity: Pakistan Leads India and Outpaces the Global Average

A snapshot of public sentiment on economic prosperity shows that Pakistanis are more optimistic than both Indians and the global public. A majority of respondents in Pakistan (53%) believe that 2026 will be more economically prosperous than 2025. India follows at a distance, with 39% expressing optimism about improved economic conditions in the coming year.

In contrast, optimism at the global level remains considerably lower, with just 24% expecting an improvement in economic prosperity. Overall, the findings indicate that while both Pakistan and India display stronger optimism than the global average, sentiment in Pakistan stands out as notably higher than in India.



Source: Gallup International End of Year Survey 2025

c. Net economic optimism score: Pakistan Records Net Economic Optimism, Outperforming the Global Average, and India

The net economic optimism score calculated by subtracting pessimists from optimists shows that Pakistan maintains a clearly positive outlook on the year ahead. While 53% of Pakistanis believe that 2026 will be more economically prosperous than 2025, 27% expect conditions to worsen, resulting in a net optimism score of **+26%**.

This contrasts sharply with the **global average**, which remains net negative at **-16%**, where pessimism (40%) outweighs optimism (24%). India, by comparison, also records a positive but more modest net optimism score of **+13%**, reflecting a less confident outlook than Pakistan.

Overall, the findings indicate that economic sentiment in Pakistan is notably stronger than both the global average and India, despite widespread global economic pessimism.

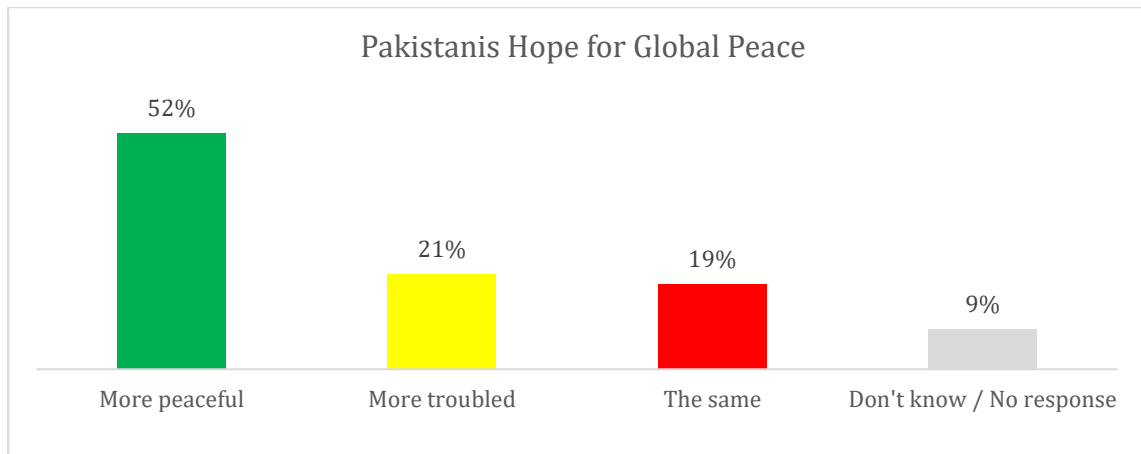
<i>Country</i>	<i>Prosperity</i>	<i>Difficulty</i>	<i>The same</i>	<i>DK/NR</i>	<i>NET score</i>
<i>Global Average</i>	24%	40%	31%	6%	-16%
<i>Pakistan</i>	53%	27%	10%	10%	+26%
<i>India</i>	39%	26%	28%	6%	+13%

Source: Gallup International End of Year Survey 2025

3. Hope for Global Peace

a. Pakistanis Expectations for Global Peace in 2026: 52% of Pakistani people expect a more peaceful world.

When Pakistani respondents were asked, “Do you expect the coming next year 2026 to be for the world a more peaceful one, a more troubled one or the same?”, 52% said they expect the world to be more peaceful, 21% believe it will be more troubled, 19% think it will remain the same.



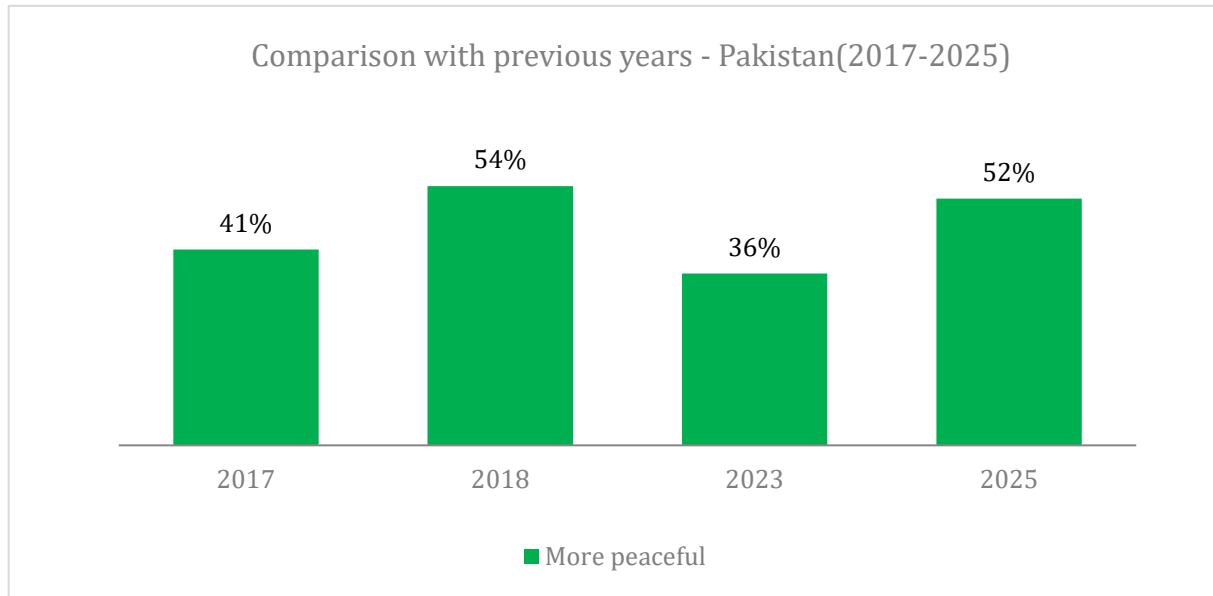
Source: Gallup International End of Year Survey 2025

The perception of global peace among Pakistanis has fluctuated over time, reflecting shifting global conditions and public sentiment. In the latest findings, a majority of Pakistanis (52%) believe that 2026 will be a more peaceful year for the world than 2025.

Historically, expectations for a more peaceful world stood at 41% in 2017, rose sharply to 54% in 2018, declined to 36% in 2023, and have since rebounded to 52% in 2025. The data point to a notable surge in optimism in 2018, followed by a marked downturn in 2023 when expectations reached their lowest level, before recovering strongly in 2025. This rebound suggests renewed optimism among Pakistanis after a period of heightened global uncertainty.

Key trends:

- Fluctuating expectations of a more peaceful world over time.
- Increase in optimism from 41% in 2017 to 54% in 2018.
- Sharp decline in peaceful expectations in 2023 (36%), marking the lowest level of optimism.
- Strong rebound in optimism to 52% in 2025, indicating renewed hope for global peace among Pakistanis.

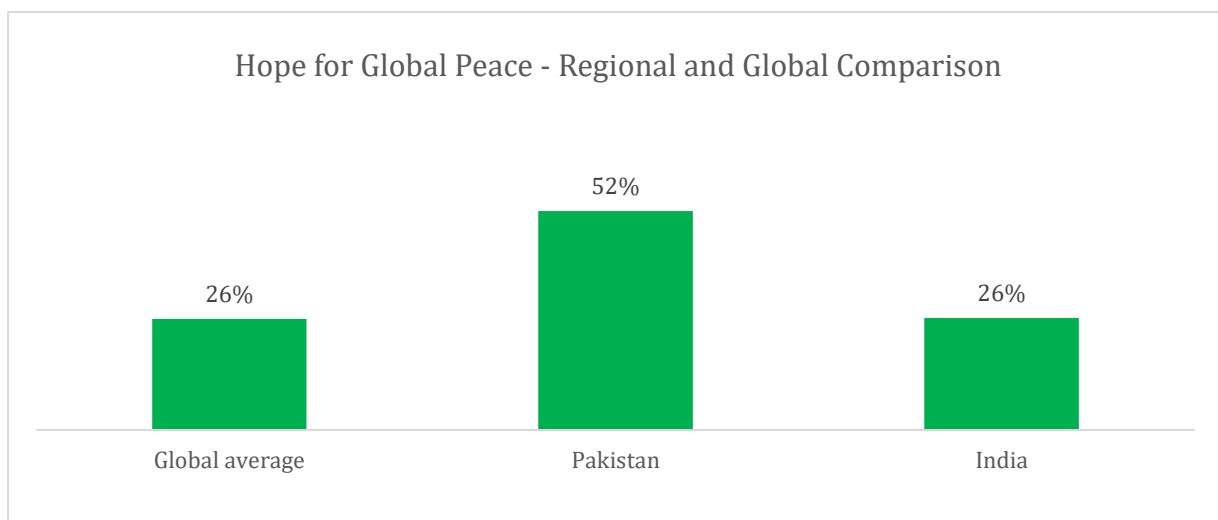


Source: Gallup International End of Year Survey 2025

Comparison with India and the Global Average: Pakistan Leads in Hope for Global Peace

A snapshot of public sentiment on prospects for global peace indicates that Pakistanis are significantly more optimistic than both Indians and the global public. Just over half of respondents in Pakistan (52%) expect the world to be more peaceful in 2026.

By contrast, optimism remains considerably lower elsewhere, with only 26% of respondents in both India and at the global level sharing this expectation. Overall, the findings highlight a clear optimism gap, with hope for global peace substantially stronger in Pakistan than in the other contexts compared, where sentiment remains markedly more cautious.



Source: Gallup International End of Year Survey 2025

b. Net hope for global peace score: Pakistan records a positive net score (+31%)

Expectations for global peace reveal a notably hopeful outlook in Pakistan. With 52% of respondents expecting the world to become more peaceful, Pakistan records a net hope score of +31%. This stands in sharp contrast to the global average, which remains net negative at 14%, where only 26% are optimistic compared to 40% who expect a more troubled world. India, by comparison, also shows a net negative outlook, posting a net hope score of -9%.

While 26% of Indians expect a more peaceful world, a larger share (35%) believe global conditions will worsen, reflecting a more cautious sentiment. Overall, the findings underscore a clear divide between Pakistan's relatively hopeful outlook and the more pessimistic views prevailing globally and in India.

Country	More peaceful	More troubled	The same	DK/NR	NET score
Global Average	26%	40%	28%	5%	-14%
Pakistan	52%	21%	19%	9%	+31%
India	26%	35%	31%	7%	-9%

Source: Gallup International End of Year Survey 2025

4. Demographic Snapshot: Who Is Optimistic — and Who Is Not

- **Age shows the clearest differences in optimism:** Pakistanis aged **18–34** report relatively high optimism, with **46–57%** saying 2026 will be better than 2025 and net optimism ranging from **+34% to +38%**. In contrast, optimism declines among older age groups; those aged **65 and above** record only **39%** optimism, resulting in **net pessimism (-3%)** on personal hope for the coming year, alongside lower optimism on global peace (Net +10%), despite stronger expectations of economic prosperity (Net +47%).
- **Gender differences remain minimal:** **50% of men** and **53% of women** believe 2026 will be better than 2025, resulting in similar net optimism (**+28% for men and +34% for women**). Expectations regarding economic prosperity (Net +27% for men; +26% for women) and global peace (Net +31% for both) are also closely aligned.
- **Overall, optimism in Pakistan is concentrated among younger and economically active groups:** Students, employed respondents, and those with middle to higher incomes show higher optimism, with net hope reaching **+42% among middle-income groups**. In comparison, older adults and respondents with postgraduate education express lower optimism, particularly regarding global peace and personal hope, highlighting clear generational differences in outlook.

Methodology:

The Gallup International End of Year Survey (EoY) is an annual tradition initiated by and designed under the chairmanship of Dr. George Gallup in 1977. The survey is conducted every year since then. This year it was carried out in 60 countries around the world.

Sample Size and Mode of Fieldwork of the global survey:

A total of 59,636 persons were interviewed globally from 60 countries. In almost each country a representative sample of around 800 men and women was interviewed during October-December 2025 either face to face, via telephone or online. The margin of error for the survey is between $\pm 3\text{-}5\%$ at 95% confidence level.

Of the **60** countries surveyed, 56 employed a national sample, while 4 interviewed Urban only populations. In terms of sample size, 10 countries had a sample size of under 1000, 24 countries had a sample size of 1000, and 26 countries had a sample size exceeding 1000. As for survey modes, 10 countries used CATI (Computer-Assisted Telephone Interviewing), 38 countries used CAWI (Computer-Assisted Web Interviewing), and 12 countries employed face-to-face interviews. In terms of sampling methods, 2 countries utilized a non-probability sample, 33 countries used quota sampling, and 25 countries applied random probability sampling.

Sample Size and Mode of Fieldwork of survey in Pakistan:

A statistically chosen sample of N 1000 men and women were interviewed using Random Digit Dialling (RDD) methodology over the phone. 100+ districts were included and all four provinces were covered including their urban and rural areas. Error margin for the survey is expected at $\pm 2\text{-}3\%$ at 95% Confidence level.

For International Press Release following International Team of Experts can be contacted.

- **Michael Nitsche** (Vienna) – +43 664 1230060
- **Bilal Gilani** (Islamabad) – +92 302 8554656
- **Kancho Stoychev** (Sofia) – +359 88 8611025
- **Johnny Heald** (London) – +44 7973 600308
- **Dr. Munqith Dagher** (Baghdad) – +962 7 9967 2229
- **Antonio Asencio Guillen** (Madrid) – +34 608 191334
- **Torbjörn Sjöström** (Stockholm) – +46 72 0700200
- **Ani Lortkipanidze** (Tbilisi) – +995 591 033311

For further details, please visit:

www.gallup-international.com

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Contact Details:

Email: isb@gallup.com.pk

Website: www.gallup.com.pk