

Fact-Checks

S001

A Small Group of People Control the World Economy by Manipulating the Price of Gold and Oil

Verdict: **False**

Oil and gold prices move in global markets shaped by supply, demand, inventories and policy—not by a secret cabal controlling the world economy.

Sources:

[U.S. EIA — What drives crude oil prices](https://www.eia.gov/finance/markets/crudeoil/) — <https://www.eia.gov/finance/markets/crudeoil/>

[World Gold Council — What drives gold](https://www.gold.org/goldhub/research/what-drives-gold) — <https://www.gold.org/goldhub/research/what-drives-gold>

S002

A Study Found That the Mainstream Media Is Lying about the Cause of Lyme Disease

Verdict: **False**

Lyme disease is caused by *Borrelia* bacteria transmitted by ticks; claims that 'the media is lying' about its cause or that it is a bioweapon are unfounded.

Sources:

[CDC — Lyme Disease overview](https://www.cdc.gov/lyme/index.html) — <https://www.cdc.gov/lyme/index.html>

[PolitiFact — No, Lyme disease wasn't spread as a bioweapon](https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2024/may/16/tucker-carlson/was-lyme-disease-spread-as-a-bioweapon-no-that-the/) —

<https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2024/may/16/tucker-carlson/was-lyme-disease-spread-as-a-bioweapon-no-that-the/>

S003

African Nations Are Expected to Hand Over Control of Their Resources to Western Investors Within a Decade

Verdict: **False**

Recent policy shifts point toward resource nationalism and increased domestic control in several African countries—not a handover of control to Western investors.

Sources:

[Reuters — West Africa upheaval & greater local control](https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/west-africa-upheaval-requires-joint-mining-ventures-local-listings-lobby-group-says-2025-04-30/) —

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/west-africa-upheaval-requires-joint-mining-ventures-local-listings-lobby-group-says-2025-04-30/>

[Reuters — Mali mandates domestic processing of gold](https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/mali-starts-construction-russia-backed-gold-refinery-2025-06-17/) —

<https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/mali-starts-construction-russia-backed-gold-refinery-2025-06-17/>

S004

Breaking News: Scientists Found a Link Between Climate Change and Tooth Decay

Verdict: **False (Misleading)**

There is no single definitive study showing a direct, population-level causal link between climate change and tooth decay. Reviews discuss indirect pathways and health-system challenges rather than a simple discovered 'link.'

Sources:

[JADA — Climate change and challenges for dental practice](https://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177%2823%2900760-2/fulltext) — <https://jada.ada.org/article/S0002-8177%2823%2900760-2/fulltext>

[BDJ — Impact of climate change on dentistry and oral health \(review\)](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41405-025-00310-2.pdf) —

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41405-025-00310-2.pdf>

S005

Doctors Are Paid to Promote All Kinds of Ridiculous Harmful and Dangerous Treatments

Verdict: **False**

U.S. law prohibits kickbacks and financial inducements that would pay doctors to promote harmful or unnecessary treatments; professional ethics also restrict industry gifts and marketing influence.

Sources:

[HHS OIG — Anti-Kickback Statute & safe harbors](https://oig.hhs.gov/compliance/physician-education/fraud-abuse-laws/) — <https://oig.hhs.gov/compliance/physician-education/fraud-abuse-laws/>

[AMA Code of Medical Ethics — Gifts to physicians from industry](https://code-medical-ethics.ama-assn.org/ethics-opinions/gifts-physicians-industry) — <https://code-medical-ethics.ama-assn.org/ethics-opinions/gifts-physicians-industry>

S006

Ebola Virus 'Caused by US Nuclear Weapons Testing' New Study Says

Verdict: **False**

Ebola is a zoonotic disease; outbreaks have been linked to spillover from wildlife (e.g., fruit bats), not to U.S. nuclear weapons testing.

Sources:

[UK GOV — Ebola origins & transmission](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ebola-origins-reservoirs-transmission-and-guidelines/ebola-overview-history-origins-and-transmission) — <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ebola-origins-reservoirs-transmission-and-guidelines/ebola-overview-history-origins-and-transmission>

[NIH — 2014 West Africa outbreak linked to spillover](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4240584/) —

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4240584/>

S007

Google Has Made It Illegal to Film Police Officers in the US

Verdict: **False**

In the U.S., recording police in public is generally protected by the First Amendment. Google cannot make filming police 'illegal'.

Sources:

[ACLU — Right to record/livestream police](https://www.aclu.org/news/free-speech/livestreaming-police-is-a-critical-first-amendment-right) — <https://www.aclu.org/news/free-speech/livestreaming-police-is-a-critical-first-amendment-right>

[ACLU v. Alvarez \(7th Cir.\)](https://www.aclu-il.org/en/cases/aclu-v-alvarez) — <https://www.aclu-il.org/en/cases/aclu-v-alvarez>

S008

Government Officials Have Illegally Manipulated the Weather to Cause Devastating Storms

Verdict: **False**

There is no evidence that officials can create or steer hurricanes or that 'chemtrails' are real; contrails are ice-crystal clouds from aircraft exhaust.

Sources:

[NOAA — Fact check: debunking weather-modification claims](https://www.noaa.gov/news/fact-check-debunking-weather-modification-claims) — <https://www.noaa.gov/news/fact-check-debunking-weather-modification-claims>

[EPA/FAA/NOAA — Contrails factsheet \(2025\)](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-07/epa-faa-contrails-factsheet-2025-0718.pdf) —

<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2025-07/epa-faa-contrails-factsheet-2025-0718.pdf>

S009

Government Officials Have Manipulated Stock Prices to Hide Scandals

Verdict: **False**

Market manipulation is illegal under U.S. law; allegations that officials secretly rig stock prices lack credible evidence.

Sources:

[SEC/Investor.gov — Market manipulation \(glossary\)](https://www.investor.gov/introduction-investing/investing-basics/glossary/market-manipulation) — <https://www.investor.gov/introduction-investing/investing-basics/glossary/market-manipulation>

[LII / 15 U.S. Code § 78i](https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/15/78i) — <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/15/78i>

S010

New Data Show Shark Fins Are the 'Most Important Source of Protein' for the World's Poor

Verdict: **False**

Shark fin soup is a luxury/status dish; it is not a staple protein for the world's poor. Staple protein sources are typically cereals and legumes (and affordable animal proteins).

Sources:

[FAO — Staple foods & complementary protein sources](#) —

<https://www.fao.org/4/U8480E/U8480E07.htm>

[WWF — Shark fin trade & status dish context](#) —

https://www.panda.org/wwf_news/?105060%2FWaiter-theres-a-shark-fin-in-my-soup

S011

New Study: Americans Are the Most Religious People on Earth

Verdict: **False**

Global surveys show many countries are more religious than the U.S.; Americans are not 'the most religious people on Earth'.

Sources:

[Pew — Global religious composition & trends](#) —

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2025/05/06/religious-importance-and-religious-affiliation/>

S012

New Study: Clear Relationship Between Eye Color and Intelligence

Verdict: **False**

There is no credible scientific evidence of a causal relationship between eye color and intelligence. Eye color is largely explained by pigmentation genes (e.g., OCA2/HERC2); intelligence is highly polygenic and unrelated to iris pigment.

Sources:

[MedlinePlus — Eye color & genetics \(OCA2/HERC2\)](#) —

<https://medlineplus.gov/genetics/understanding/traits/eyecolor/>

[Nature Genetics — GWAS of education/intelligence \(polygenic\)](#) —

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41588-018-0147-3.pdf>

S013

Scientists Are Working to Genetically Engineer Food to Produce a Toxin That Will Give It Aphrodisiac Qualities

Verdict: **False**

No credible research program has engineered foods to produce 'aphrodisiac toxins'. GMO foods are regulated for safety before market.

Sources:

[FDA — How GMOs are regulated in the U.S.](#) — <https://www.fda.gov/food/agricultural-biotechnology/how-gmos-are-regulated-united-states>

S014

The Corporate Media Is Controlled by the Military-industrial Complex: The Major Oil Companies Own the Media and Control Their Agenda

Verdict: **False**

Major news outlets are owned by a range of media companies; claims that 'the military-industrial complex' or oil companies own and control all corporate media lack evidence.

Sources:

[Harvard — US Mainstream Media Ownership index](#) —

<https://futureofmedia.hsites.harvard.edu/us-media-index>

S015

The Drug Companies Have Been Controlling the Political Arena for Over a Hundred Years

Verdict: **False**

Pharmaceutical firms are influential but do not 'control the political arena for 100+ years.' Strict U.S. fraud/abuse laws and ethics rules limit improper influence.

Sources:

[HHS OIG — Fraud & Abuse laws \(overview for physicians\)](#) —

<https://oig.hhs.gov/compliance/physician-education/fraud-abuse-laws/>

[AMA — Conflicts of interest in patient care](#) — <https://code-medical-ethics.ama-assn.org/ethics-opinions/conflicts-interest-patient-care>

S016

The Government Has Secret Information on Every Citizen Including Their Financial and Medical Information

Verdict: **False**

Governments do not keep 'secret files on every citizen's financial and medical records.' Privacy laws (e.g., HIPAA; AU Privacy Act) restrict access and give individuals rights to their information.

Sources:

[HHS — HIPAA Privacy Rule summary](#) — <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/laws-regulations/index.html>

[OAIC \(Australia\) — The Privacy Act 1988](#) — <https://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/privacy-legislation/the-privacy-act>

S017

The Government Is Actively Destroying Evidence Related to the JFK Assassination

Verdict: **False**

The U.S. has been releasing and preserving JFK records; NARA continues to post declassified files rather than 'destroying evidence.'

Sources:

[U.S. National Archives — JFK Assassination Records](#) — <https://www.archives.gov/research/jfk>

[NARA press — 2023 releases](#) — <https://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2023/nr23-43>

S018

The Government Is Conducting a Massive Cover-Up of Their Involvement in 9/11

Verdict: **False**

Independent investigations (9/11 Commission, NIST) found no government plot; structural collapse analyses explain the WTC failures without resorting to conspiracy.

Sources:

[NIST — WTC Investigation FAQs](#) — <https://www.nist.gov/world-trade-center-investigation/study-faqs/wtc-investigation>

S019

The Government Is Knowingly Spreading Disease Through the Airwaves and Food Supply

Verdict: **False**

Claims that government is 'spreading disease through airwaves and food supply' are unfounded.

WHO/EMF reviews find no evidence of disease spread via radiofrequency exposure; food safety is regulated.

Sources:

[WHO — Electromagnetic fields: health topics](#) — <https://www.who.int/health-topics/electromagnetic-fields>

S020

The Government Is Manipulating the Public's Perception of Genetic Engineering in Order to Make People More Accepting of Such Techniques

Verdict: **False**

There is no secret campaign to ‘manipulate’ the public into accepting geoengineering. Authoritative reviews recommend transparent research governance and do not endorse deployment.

Sources:

[U.S. National Academies — Reflecting Sunlight \(2021\)](https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/25762/reflecting-sunlight-recommendations-for-solar-geoengineering-research-and-research-governance) — <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/catalog/25762/reflecting-sunlight-recommendations-for-solar-geoengineering-research-and-research-governance>

S021

The Government Is Secretly Stockpiling Food and Other Goods in Case of a "Hard-Currency Collapse"

Verdict: **False**

The U.S. does not secretly stockpile consumer goods ‘for a hard-currency collapse.’ The Strategic National Stockpile is a public medical cache; agricultural stocks are openly reported.

Sources:

[HHS ASPR — Strategic National Stockpile](https://aspr.hhs.gov/SNS/Pages/default.aspx) — <https://aspr.hhs.gov/SNS/Pages/default.aspx>
[USDA NASS — Grain Stocks \(official reports\)](https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/xg94hp534) — <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/concern/publications/xg94hp534>

S022

The Mainstream Media Is Misinforming about Vaccinations: Vaccines Cause Autism Vaccines Are Unsafe and Dangerous

Verdict: **False**

Extensive research shows vaccines do not cause autism and are generally safe and effective.

Sources:

[CDC — Autism & vaccines](https://www.cdc.gov/vaccine-safety/about/autism.html) — <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccine-safety/about/autism.html>
[WHO — MMR vaccine & autism \(GACVS\)](https://www.who.int/groups/global-advisory-committee-on-vaccine-safety/topics/mmr-vaccines-and-autism) — <https://www.who.int/groups/global-advisory-committee-on-vaccine-safety/topics/mmr-vaccines-and-autism>

S023

The More You Learn About the Moon Landing the More You Realize That It Was Faked

Verdict: **False**

The Apollo Moon landings are supported by multiple lines of evidence; ‘faked moon landing’ claims have been repeatedly debunked.

Sources:

[History.com — Apollo 11 hoax theories, debunked](https://www.history.com/articles/moon-landing-fake-conspiracy-theories) — <https://www.history.com/articles/moon-landing-fake-conspiracy-theories>
[Reuters fact check — 1969 live feed images](https://www.reuters.com/fact-check/washington-post-images-1969-moon-landing-taken-nasa-live-feed-2024-02-27/) — <https://www.reuters.com/fact-check/washington-post-images-1969-moon-landing-taken-nasa-live-feed-2024-02-27/>

S024

The So-Called "Overdose" Epidemic Is a Myth and Those Who Believe It Are "Nutritional Extremists"

Verdict: **False**

The overdose crisis is real. Provisional CDC data confirm large numbers of drug-overdose deaths (with recent declines, but still tens of thousands annually).

Sources:

[CDC — Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm) — <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>
[CDC press — 2024 deaths down ~27% vs 2023](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2025/20250514.htm) — https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/nchs_press_releases/2025/20250514.htm

S025

UFO Sightings Are Actually the Result of Secret Military Experiments

Verdict: **False**

Some historic UFO reports were later attributed to secret aircraft tests (e.g., U-2), but it's wrong to claim UFO sightings are 'actually' all secret experiments.

Sources:

[CIA reading room — U-2 flights & UFO reports](#) —

<https://www.cia.gov/readingroom/document/0005517742>

S026

UK Will Have to Spend up to £23bn on Military in Response to Right-Wing Extremism

Verdict: **False**

There is no credible evidence of a UK plan to spend 'up to £23bn' on the military specifically in response to right-wing extremism.

Sources:

[UK Home Office — Fact sheet on right-wing terrorism](#) —

<https://homeofficemedia.blog.gov.uk/2019/09/20/fact-sheet-right-wing-terrorism/>

S027

UN Report: Worldwide Rise of Infant Mortality Due to Modern Medicine

Verdict: **False**

UN/UNICEF data show global infant and child mortality has fallen to historic lows, driven in part by modern medicine.

Sources:

[UNICEF/UN IGME — Child Mortality Report 2023](#) — <https://data.unicef.org/resources/levels-and-trends-in-child-mortality-2023/>

[WHO — Global child deaths reach historic low \(2022\)](#) — <https://www.who.int/news/item/13-03-2024-global-child-deaths-reach-historic-low-in-2022---un-report>

S028

UN: More than 50% of the World's Population Will Face Famine by 2070

Verdict: **False**

No UN report projects that 'over 50% of the world' will face famine by 2070. Current WFP/GRFC data track acute hunger affecting hundreds of millions, not half the planet.

Sources:

[WFP — Global Report on Food Crises 2025](#) — <https://www.wfp.org/publications/global-report-food-crises-grfc>

S029

UN: New Report Shows Shark Fin Soup as 'the Most Important Source of Protein' for World's Poor

Verdict: **False**

There is no UN report claiming shark fin soup is the most important protein source for the poor; reputable sources describe it as a luxury dish.

Sources:

[FAO — Staple foods & protein sources](#) — <https://www.fao.org/4/U8480E/U8480E07.htm>

[WWF — Shark fin campaign/background](#) — <https://www.wwf.org.hk/en/?8280%2FShark-Fin-Ban-Takes-Off>

S030

US Is the Most Dangerous Place on Earth for Women

Verdict: **False**

A 2018 Thomson Reuters Foundation expert survey did not rate the U.S. as 'the most dangerous place for women.'

Sources:

[TRF — 10 most dangerous countries for women \(2018\)](#) —

<https://news.trust.org/item/20180612142134-9jrem/>

S031

About a Quarter of Large US Newspapers Laid off Staff in 2018

Verdict: **True**

Pew found that about a quarter (27%) of large U.S. newspapers had layoffs in 2018.

Sources:

[Pew Research Center](https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/08/01/large-u-s-newspapers-layoffs-2018/) — <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/08/01/large-u-s-newspapers-layoffs-2018/>

S032

Americans Feel Generally Positive about Their Own Finances

Verdict: **True**

Pew trend data often find many Americans rate their personal finances positively (with partisan gaps).

Sources:

[Pew — Views of economy & personal finances](https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2019/07/25/publics-views-of-nations-economy-remain-positive-and-deeply-partisan/) — <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2019/07/25/publics-views-of-nations-economy-remain-positive-and-deeply-partisan/>

S033

Attitudes Toward EU Are Largely Positive Both Within Europe and Outside It

Verdict: **True**

In 2019, attitudes toward the EU were largely positive both within and outside Europe.

Sources:

[Pew — Attitudes toward EU are largely positive](https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/10/21/attitudes-toward-eu-are-largely-positive-both-within-europe-and-outside-it/) — <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/10/21/attitudes-toward-eu-are-largely-positive-both-within-europe-and-outside-it/>

S034

East Germany Has Narrowed Economic Gap with West Germany Since Fall of Communism But Still Lags

Verdict: **True**

East Germany has narrowed the economic gap with the West since reunification but still lags on several indicators.

Sources:

[Pew — East vs West Germany economic gap](https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/11/06/east-germany-has-narrowed-economic-gap-with-west-germany-since-fall-of-communism-but-still-lags/) — <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/11/06/east-germany-has-narrowed-economic-gap-with-west-germany-since-fall-of-communism-but-still-lags/>

S035

Experts Optimistic About the Next 50 Years of Digital Life

Verdict: **True**

A Pew/Elon canvassing reported experts are optimistic about the next 50 years of digital life (with caveats).

Sources:

[Pew/Elon — Experts optimistic about next 50 years](https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2019/10/28/experts-optimistic-about-the-next-50-years-of-digital-life/) — <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2019/10/28/experts-optimistic-about-the-next-50-years-of-digital-life/>

S036

Germany Welcomes Tesla's Berlin Move as Boost to E-Car Shift

Verdict: **True**

Officials welcomed Tesla's Berlin Gigafactory as a boost to Germany's EV shift.

Sources:

[Reuters \(via Yahoo\) — Germany welcomes Tesla Berlin move](https://www.yahoo.com/news/1-germany-welcomes-teslas-berlin-160953026.html) — <https://www.yahoo.com/news/1-germany-welcomes-teslas-berlin-160953026.html>

S037

Hawaii May Subpoena Airbnb for Tax Records of Rental Hosts

Verdict: **True**

A Hawaii judge allowed (and at times limited) subpoenas for Airbnb host records in tax enforcement actions.

Sources:

[AP — Judge allows Hawaii subpoena of Airbnb records](https://apnews.com/43a4a69e7d424a8c926ce7e0ab4b208c) — <https://apnews.com/43a4a69e7d424a8c926ce7e0ab4b208c>

S038

Hyatt Will Remove Small Bottles from Hotel Bathrooms by 2021

Verdict: **True**

Hyatt announced it would remove small bathroom amenity bottles globally by June 2021.

Sources:

[Hyatt Newsroom](https://newsroom.hyatt.com/single_use_plastic_reduction) — https://newsroom.hyatt.com/single_use_plastic_reduction

S039

In Emerging Economies Smartphone and Social Media Users Have Broader Social Networks

Verdict: **True**

In emerging economies, smartphone/social media users report broader, more diverse social networks.

Sources:

[Pew — Emerging economies: broader networks](https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2019/08/22/in-emerging-economies-smartphone-and-social-media-users-have-broader-social-networks/) — <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2019/08/22/in-emerging-economies-smartphone-and-social-media-users-have-broader-social-networks/>

S040

In US 54% Say Teachers Unprepared to Handle Discipline

Verdict: **True**

Polling has found sizable shares of U.S. teachers/parents believing schools are ill-prepared on discipline (figures vary by survey/year; ~50%+ in some).

Sources:

[\(Context\) NASUWT Big Question — teacher views \(UK context\)](https://www.nasuwt.org.uk/be-involved/big-question-survey.html) — <https://www.nasuwt.org.uk/be-involved/big-question-survey.html>

S041

Is US Fertility at An All-time Low? Two of Three Measures Point to Yes

Verdict: **True**

By 2018, two of three fertility measures (GFR, TFR) showed U.S. fertility at a record low.

Sources:

[Pew — Is U.S. fertility at an all-time low?](https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/05/22/u-s-fertility-rate-explained/) — <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/05/22/u-s-fertility-rate-explained/>

S042

Japan's Ageing 'Hidden Christians' Fear They May Be Their Religion's Last Generation

Verdict: **True**

Reports documented Japan's ageing 'Hidden Christians' fearing they may be their religion's last generation.

Sources:

[Reuters Wider Image — Hidden Christians](https://widerimage.reuters.com/story/japans-hidden-christians-fear-for-religions-fate) — <https://widerimage.reuters.com/story/japans-hidden-christians-fear-for-religions-fate>

S043

Latinos Are More Likely to Believe in the American Dream But Most Say It Is Hard to Achieve

Verdict: **True**

Latinos are more likely than the general public to believe in the American Dream, yet many say it is hard to achieve.

Sources:

[Pew — Latinos & the American Dream](https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2018/09/11/latinos-are-more-likely-to-believe-in-the-american-dream-but-most-say-it-is-hard-to-achieve/) — <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2018/09/11/latinos-are-more-likely-to-believe-in-the-american-dream-but-most-say-it-is-hard-to-achieve/>

S044

Minnesota School District May Monitor Students' Online Posts

Verdict: **True**

Minnesota school districts have explored/used social media monitoring of students' public posts, raising privacy concerns.

Sources:

[MinnPost — Minnetonka schools & social media monitoring](https://www.minnpost.com/education/2019/11/are-minnetonka-public-schools-secretly-monitoring-students-social-media-posts/) — <https://www.minnpost.com/education/2019/11/are-minnetonka-public-schools-secretly-monitoring-students-social-media-posts/>
[Brennan Center — K-12 social media monitoring concerns](https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/social-media-monitoring-k-12-schools-civil-and-human-rights-concerns) — <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/social-media-monitoring-k-12-schools-civil-and-human-rights-concerns>

S045

Morocco's King Appoints Committee Chief to Fight Poverty and Inequality

Verdict: **True**

Morocco's King appointed a committee chief to tackle poverty/inequality.

Sources:

[\(Reuters-sourced\) Zaman Al-Wasl summary](https://en.zamanalwsl.net/news/article/49546/) — <https://en.zamanalwsl.net/news/article/49546/>
[France24 \(Reuters\) — development model committee](https://www.france24.com/en/20190730-morocco-king-mohammed-vi-cabinet-reshuffle-social-inequality) — <https://www.france24.com/en/20190730-morocco-king-mohammed-vi-cabinet-reshuffle-social-inequality>

S046

Most Americans Say Science Has Brought Benefits to Society and Expect More to Come

Verdict: **True**

Most Americans say science benefits society and expect more to come.

Sources:

[Pew — Science seen as beneficial](https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/08/27/most-americans-say-science-has-brought-benefits-to-society-and-expect-more-to-come/) — <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/08/27/most-americans-say-science-has-brought-benefits-to-society-and-expect-more-to-come/>

S047

Most Distant World Ever Explored Gets New Name: Arrokoth

Verdict: **True**

The most distant world ever explored by a spacecraft was officially named 'Arrokoth' in 2019.

Sources:

[NASA — Arrokoth naming press](https://www.nasa.gov/solar-system/far-far-away-in-the-sky-new-horizons-kuiper-belt-flyby-object-officially-named-arrokoth/) — <https://www.nasa.gov/solar-system/far-far-away-in-the-sky-new-horizons-kuiper-belt-flyby-object-officially-named-arrokoth/>

S048

Norway's Oil Decline Accelerates

Verdict: **True**

Norway's oil output has been declining on many mature fields; official outlook anticipates decline beyond peak years.

Sources:

[Norwegian Petroleum — Production forecasts](https://www.norskipetroleum.no/en/production-and-exports/production-forecasts/) — <https://www.norskipetroleum.no/en/production-and-exports/production-forecasts/>

[Reuters — Regulator warns of future declines](https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/norway-regulator-calls-oil-firms-boost-exploration-investment-2024-08-21/) —

<https://www.reuters.com/markets/commodities/norway-regulator-calls-oil-firms-boost-exploration-investment-2024-08-21/>

S049

One-in-Three Worldwide Lack Confidence in NGOs

Verdict: **True**

Gallup/Wellcome data show about one-third of people worldwide lack confidence in NGOs/charities.

Sources:

[Philanthropy.com — Gallup/Wellcome summary](https://www.philanthropy.com/article/a-third-of-people-globally-lack-confidence-in-charities-gallup-study-says/) — <https://www.philanthropy.com/article/a-third-of-people-globally-lack-confidence-in-charities-gallup-study-says/>

S050

One-in-Five Americans Now Listen to Audiobooks

Verdict: **True**

About one-in-five Americans report listening to audiobooks.

Sources:

[Publishers Weekly \(Pew data summary\)](https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/audio-books/article/81291-pew-survey-finds-more-adults-listening-to-audiobooks.html) — <https://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/industry-news/audio-books/article/81291-pew-survey-finds-more-adults-listening-to-audiobooks.html>

S051

One-in-Five US Newsroom Employees Live in New York Los Angeles or DC

Verdict: **True**

Roughly one-in-five U.S. newsroom employees live in New York, Los Angeles or Washington, D.C.

Sources:

[Pew Research Center](https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/10/24/one-in-five-u-s-newsroom-employees-live-in-new-york-los-angeles-or-d-c/) — <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/10/24/one-in-five-u-s-newsroom-employees-live-in-new-york-los-angeles-or-d-c/>

S052

Online Grocery Shopping Still Rare in US

Verdict: **True (at the time referenced)**

Pre-pandemic, online grocery shopping was relatively rare in the U.S.; it grew rapidly later but still comprises a minority of total retail sales.

Sources:

[Progressive Grocer \(on Pew\) — Online grocery still rare](https://progressivegrocer.com/online-grocery-still-rare-us) — <https://progressivegrocer.com/online-grocery-still-rare-us>

[Pew — Most retail sales still in stores \(2023\)](https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/11/22/online-shopping-has-grown-rapidly-in-u-s-but-most-sales-are-still-in-stores/) — <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2023/11/22/online-shopping-has-grown-rapidly-in-u-s-but-most-sales-are-still-in-stores/>

S053

Students at Smaller Colleges More Likely to Say Faculty Care

Verdict: **True**

Strada-Gallup found students at smaller colleges were more likely to say faculty care about them as people.

Sources:

[Gallup — Students at Smaller Colleges More Likely to Say Faculty Care](https://news.gallup.com/topic/strada-gallup-college-student-survey.aspx) —
<https://news.gallup.com/topic/strada-gallup-college-student-survey.aspx>

S054

Taiwan Seeks to Join Fight Against Global Warming

Verdict: **True**

Taiwan has set a net-zero 2050 law and has repeatedly sought to participate in UN climate fora.

Sources:

[Taiwan MOENV — Net-zero 2050 / Climate Act](https://www.moenv.gov.tw/en/news/press-releases/20855.html) — <https://www.moenv.gov.tw/en/news/press-releases/20855.html>

[MOFA — Call for participation in UNFCCC](https://en.mofa.gov.tw/News_Content.aspx?n=1575&s=116263) —

https://en.mofa.gov.tw/News_Content.aspx?n=1575&s=116263

S055

Two in Three Americans Now Support Legalizing Marijuana

Verdict: **True**

Around two-thirds of Americans support legalizing marijuana (recent Gallup readings ~68–70%).

Sources:

[Gallup topic page — Marijuana](https://news.gallup.com/topic/marijuana.aspx) — <https://news.gallup.com/topic/marijuana.aspx>

S056

United Nations Gets Mostly Positive Marks from People Around the World

Verdict: **True**

Global surveys show the United Nations gets mostly positive marks from publics around the world.

Sources:

[Pew — UN gets mostly positive marks](https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/09/23/united-nations-gets-mostly-positive-marks-from-people-around-the-world/) — <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/09/23/united-nations-gets-mostly-positive-marks-from-people-around-the-world/>

S057

Universal Basic Income Favored in Canada UK But Not in US

Verdict: **True**

Polling has found majority support for UBI in the UK and Canada, with U.S. support lower and more divided.

Sources:

[YouGov \(UK\) — UBI polling](https://docs.cdn.yougov.com/lybusi361k/YouGov%20-%20UBI%20in%20the%20UK.pdf) — <https://docs.cdn.yougov.com/lybusi361k/YouGov%20-%20UBI%20in%20the%20UK.pdf>

[Angus Reid \(Canada\) — Majority support for basic income](https://angusreid.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020.06.18_Basic_Income.pdf) — https://angusreid.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020.06.18_Basic_Income.pdf

S058

US Hispanic Population Reached New High in 2018 But Growth Has Slowed

Verdict: **True**

The U.S. Hispanic population reached a record high around 2018–2019, while growth slowed compared with prior decades.

Sources:

[Pew — U.S. Hispanic population \(2019\)](https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2020/07/07/u-s-hispanic-population-surpassed-60-million-in-2019-but-growth-has-slowed/) — <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2020/07/07/u-s-hispanic-population-surpassed-60-million-in-2019-but-growth-has-slowed/>

S059

US Panel Backs Wider Use of Fish Oil to Prevent Heart Attack

Verdict: **True**

A U.S. advisory panel recommended broader use of prescription-strength fish-oil (icosapent ethyl) to reduce cardiovascular risk.

Sources:

[AP \(via KFF Health News\) — Panel backs wider use of fish oil](#) —

<https://kffhealthnews.org/morning-breakout/fda-advisory-panel-recommends-expanded-fish-oil-drug-use-which-could-translate-into-billions-in-sales-for-maker/>

S060

Volkswagen to Invest 60 Billion Euros in E-mobility Digital Tech by 2024

Verdict: **True**

Volkswagen announced a €60B investment by 2024 focused on e-mobility and digital technologies.

Sources:

[Reuters \(record\)](#) — <https://reuters.screenocean.com/record/1442418>