

# Declining Majority of Online Adults Say the Internet Has Been Good for Society | Pew Research Center

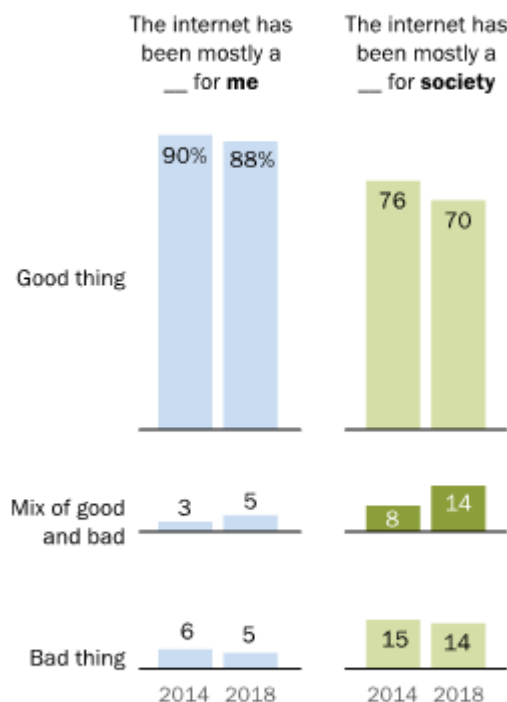
By Aaron Smith and Kenneth Olmstead

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Americans tend to view the impact of the [internet](#) and other [digital technologies](#) on their own lives in largely positive ways, Pew Research Center surveys have shown over the years. A survey of U.S. adults conducted in January 2018 finds continuing evidence of this trend, with the vast majority of internet users (88%) saying the internet has, on balance, been a mostly good thing for them personally.

## Growing share of online adults say the internet has been a mixed blessing for society

*% of online U.S. adults who say the following ...*



Source: Survey conducted Jan. 3-10, 2018.

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But even as they view the internet's

personal impact in a positive light, Americans have grown somewhat more ambivalent about the impact of digital connectivity on society as a whole. A sizable majority of online adults (70%) continue to believe the internet has been a good thing for society. Yet the share of online adults saying this has declined by a modest but still significant 6 percentage points since early 2014, when the Center first asked the question. This is balanced by a corresponding increase (from 8% to 14%) in the share of online adults who say the internet's societal impact is a mix of good and bad. Meanwhile, the share saying the internet has been a mostly bad thing for society is largely unchanged over that time: 15% said this in 2014, and 14% say so today.

[Source: Declining Majority of Online Adults Say the Internet Has Been Good for Society](#)