



Introduction

findings of Ipsos B&A's latest
Consumer Confidence
Barometer, covering
March 2025.

This report presents the



sample of 1,073 adults aged 16+, quota controlled in terms of age, gender, socio-economic class, and region to reflect the profile of the adult population of the Republic of Ireland.



All interviewing was conducted via Ipsos B&A's Acumen Online Barometer.



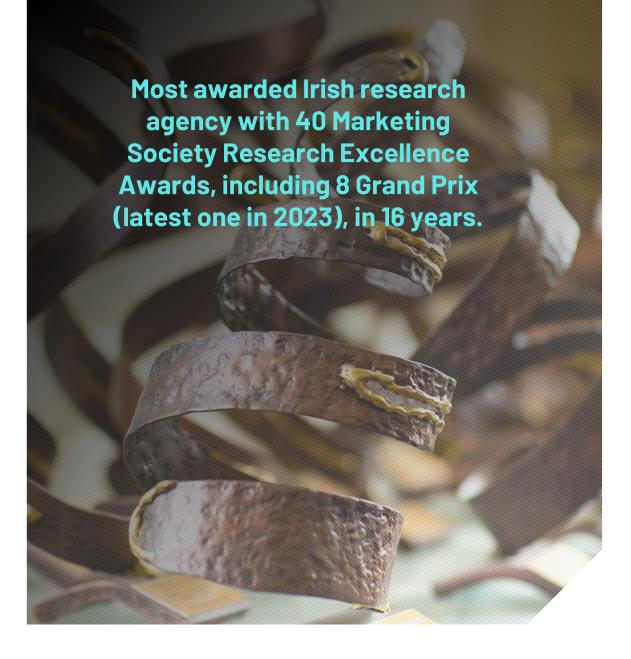
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Fieldwork on the latest wave was conducted from the 7th – 20th March 2025.

Survey results are based on a







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The backdrop of Trump's tariffs weighs heavily on our mood.

This wave of the Ipsos B&A Consumer Confidence Barometer was conducted from the 7th – 20th March 2025.

Consumer confidence has remained stagnant in March, with a net rating of -39 (those feeling downbeat versus those feeling more upbeat). More than half (55%) anticipate that the country to be worse off in the year ahead, with 16% expecting the country to improve in the coming year. Dubliners continue to be most upbeat. However, the net result is that overall sentiment remains deeply anchored in negative territory. Confidence is lowest among females, the oldest age cohort (those aged 55+), and those living outside of Dublin. This is the first time in nearly three years that the generational divide has swung negatively among the eldest cohort.

The proportion of households who claim to be "coping" with the cost-of-living crisis remained relatively steady -

67% are managing vs. 69% in February. One in five (19%) state they are facing difficulties.

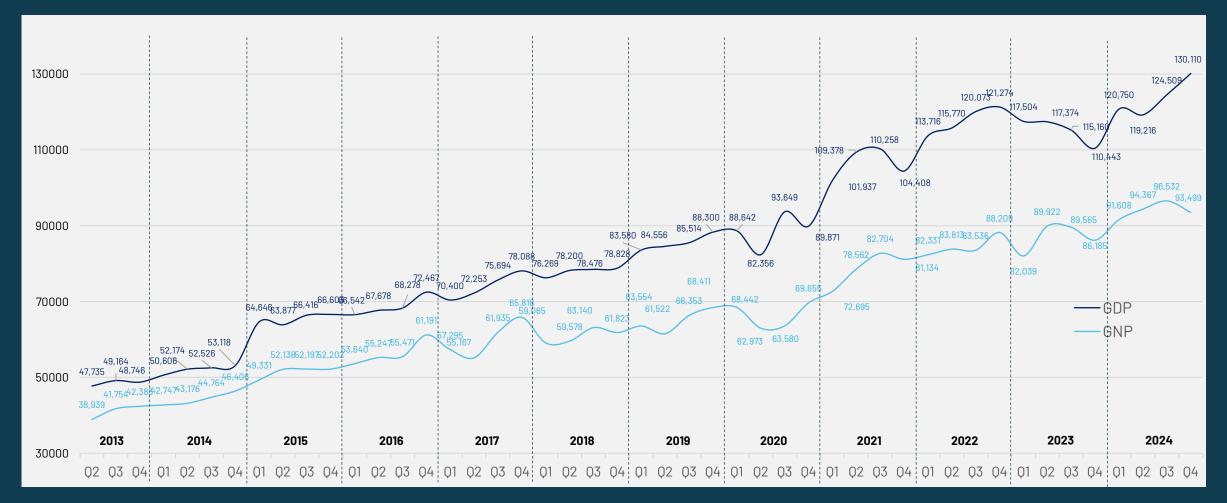
More than 2 in 5 (42%) expect to save less in the coming year, with just one in four (24%) being upbeat in their savings intentions. In addition, 44% think they will spend less over the next 12 months, with 16% thinking that they will purchase more goods and services.

While the population are notably cautious this month, there is still a belief among many that their net worth (in terms of the value of their personal assets) will grow over the next year - 37% believe their assets overall will increase, with just one in five (22%) adopting a more negative outlook. However, reflecting other indicators, sentiment has retreated in March in terms of perceived asset growth over the next 12 months; while we remain in positive territory, there has been a sharp decrease this month.



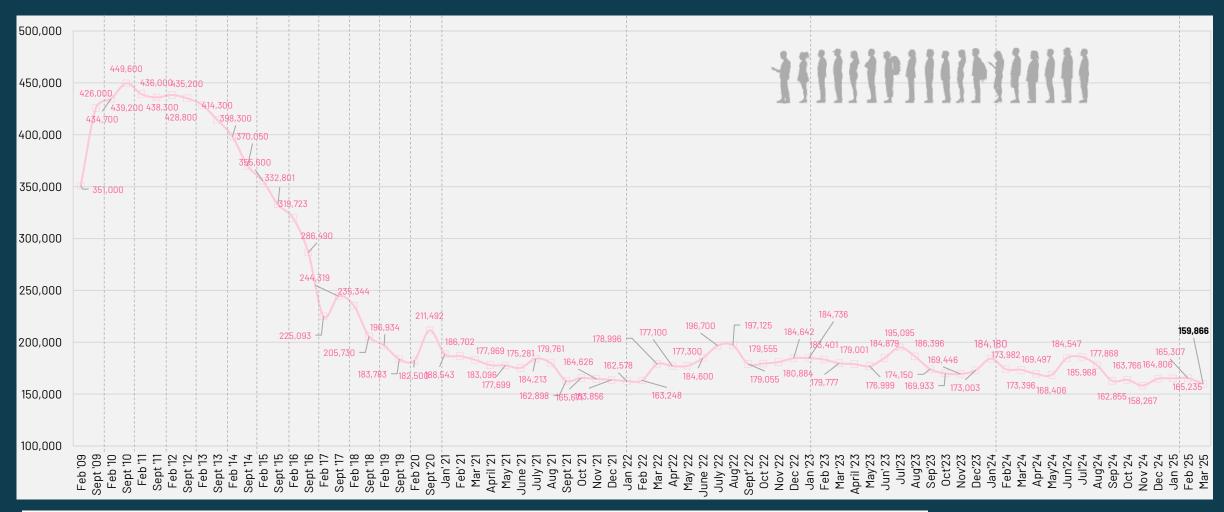


The economy rebounded strongly in Qtr 4 2024 in terms of GDP (up 3.6%), driven by the globalised sectors of the economy – it is at its highest level seen so far. GNP has slipped back however (down 3.4%).





The unadjusted Live Register total stood at 159,866 in March 2025, a decrease of 13,530 (-7.8%) from March 2024



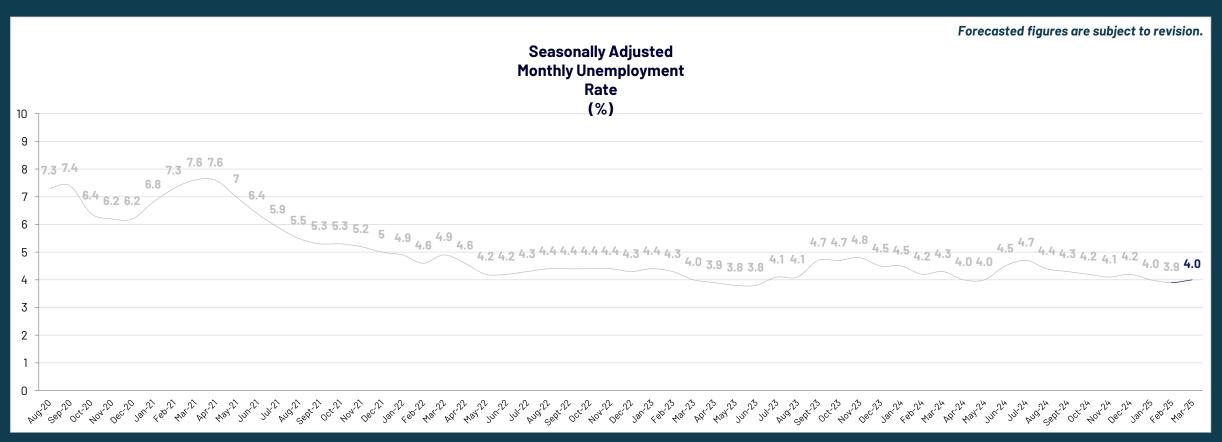
*The Live Register is not designed to measure unemployment. It includes part-time work e.g. seasonal & casual workers who work up to 3 days per week. Note: Based on unadjusted data.

Source: <u>www.CSO.ie</u> Quarterly National Accounts



The Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Unemployment Rate in March has crept up to 4.0%, although it is still close to full employment.

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Unemployment Rate

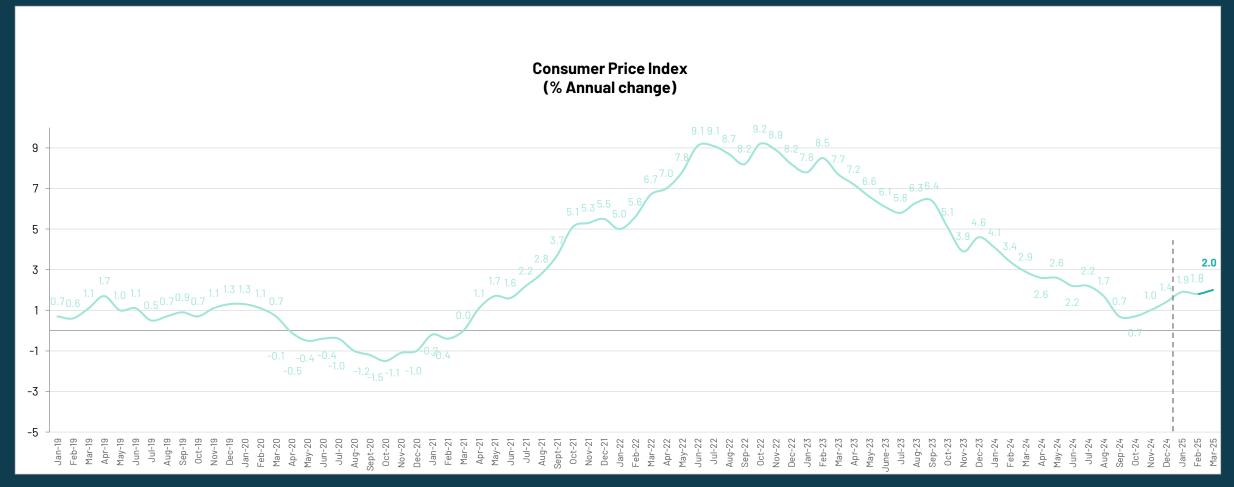


Source: <u>www.CSO.ie</u> Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Unemployment Rate



Furthermore, inflation inched upward to 2.0% in March, yet it is still below the levels witnessed during the same period last year. This is the first time that inflation has been at, or above, 2.0% since July 2024.

Consumer Price Index (% Annual change)

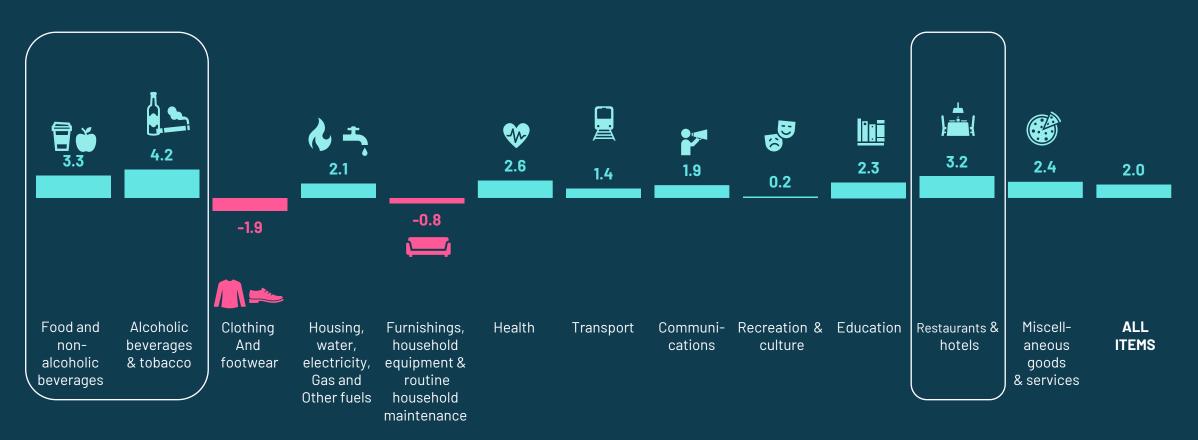


Source: <u>www.CSO.ie</u> Consumer Price Index(% Annual change)



Inflation is highest within Alcoholic Beverages & Tobacco (+4.2%), Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+3.3%), and Hospitality (+3.2%) sectors. Clothing and footwear (-1.9%) remain in negative territory, as do household furnishings (-0.8%).

Consumer Price Index by Sector (% Annual change)



Inflation has been climbing from a low point of 0.7% in October of last year.



THE IRISH TIMES



about 54 per cent of households found the basic cost of housing to be a 'heavy burden', says CSO. Photograph: iStock

e Mar 11 2025 - 13:55

THE IRISH TIMES Grocery prices in Irish supermarkets on the way up again, new figures show Households shopping bills have now risen by well over 20% when compared with late 2021, says Kantar Worldpanel

Grocery prices have started to climb again despite optimism last year that the cost of living crisis was coming to an end.

Conor Pone

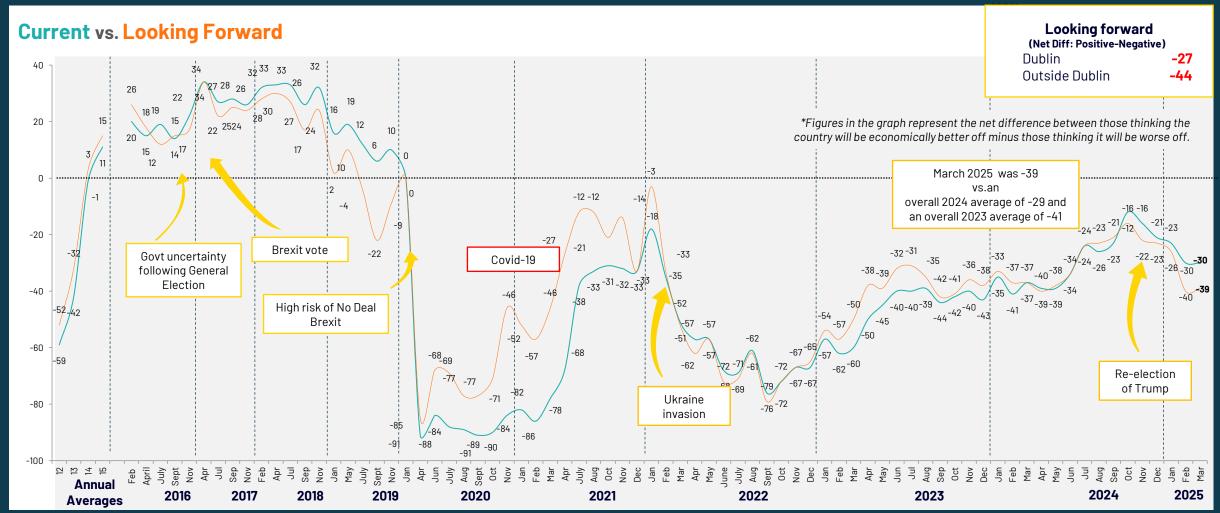
THE IRISH TIMES New supports needed as energy bills set to rise further, officials warn Official source notes 10% and 24% of electricity and gas customers respectively in arrears

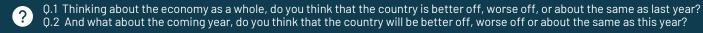


About 230,000 electricity customers and 162,000 gas customers are in arrears. Photograph: Bryan O'Brien/The Irish Times
Kevin O'Sullivan



Consumer confidence remains in the doldrums in March and reflects the uncertainty over the global economy.







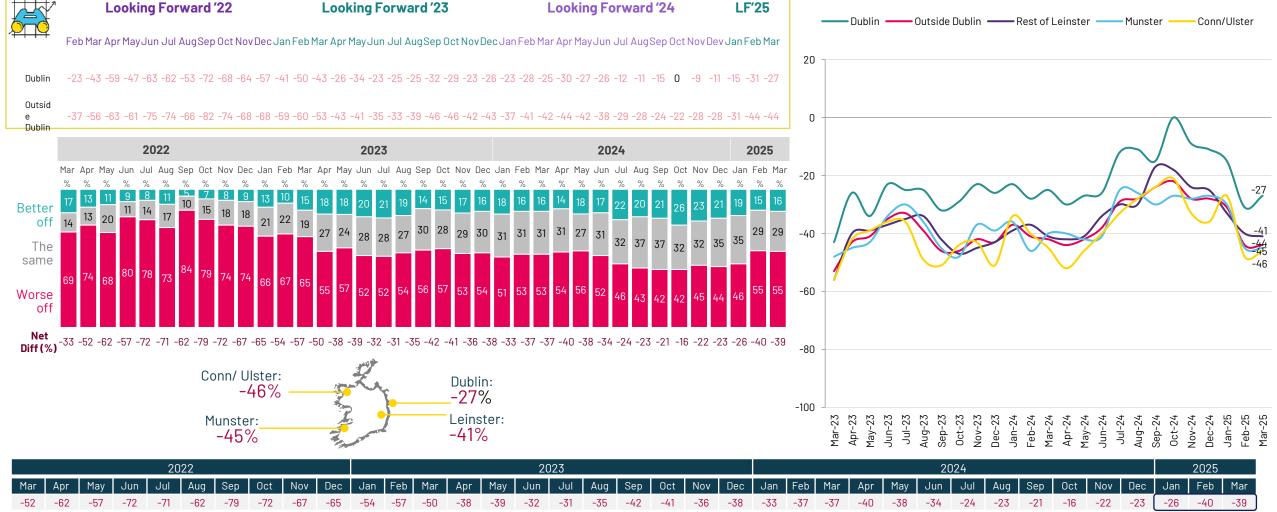
Those most downbeat about the year ahead consistently tend to be female, C2DEs and those living outside of Dublin. The oldest age cohort is most pessimistic for the first time in nearly three years (June 2022).

| | -39 | -30 | -48 | -24 | -41 | -50 | -36 | -43 | -27 | -44 | -42 | -29 |
|----------|--------------|--------------|--------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|--------|----------------|-------|-----------|
| NET DIFF | Total | Male | Female | 16-34 | 35-54 | 55+ | ABC1F | C2DE | Dublin | Outside Dublin | Irish | Non-Irish |
| Feb'25 | -40% | -33% | -47% | -35% | -45% | -39% | -35% | -46% | -31% | -44% | -43% | -32% |
| Jan'25 | -26% | -7% | -38% | -21% | -34% | -21% | -23% | -30% | -15% | -31% | -29% | -16% |
| Dec'24 | -23% | -15% | -31% | -26% | -22% | -22% | -18% | -29% | -11% | -28% | -23% | -23% |
| Nov'24 | -22% | -11% | -33% | -23% | -24% | -19% | -18% | -27% | -9% | -28% | -25% | -14% |
| Oct'24 | -16% | -7% | -24% | -4% | -24% | -17% | -8% | -24% | 0 | -22% | -14% | -23% |
| Sep'24 | -21% | -9% | -33% | -19% | -30% | -14% | -15% | -28% | -15% | -24% | -21% | -22% |
| Aug'24 | -23% | -10% | -35% | -15% | -32% | -21% | -17% | -30% | -11% | -28% | -24% | -21% |
| Juľ24 | -24% | -8% | -39% | -24% | -30% | -17% | -16% | -33% | -12% | -29% | -24% | -24% |
| Jun'24 | -34% | -23% | -46% | -39% | -38% | -26% | -30% | -39% | -26% | -38% | -34% | -35% |
| May'24 | -38% | -30% | -46% | -31% | -50% | -32% | -35% | -41% | -27% | -42% | -37% | -42% |
| Apr'24 | -40% | -24% | -55% | -35% | -50% | -33% | -34% | -46% | -30% | -44% | -39% | -41% |
| Mar'24 | -37% | -28% | -45% | -37% | -41% | -32% | -29% | -45% | -25% | -42% | -37% | -36% |
| Feb'24 | -37% | -29% | -46% | -33% | -46% | -33% | -31% | -44% | -28% | -41% | -37% | -42% |
| Jan'24 | -33% | -21% | -44% | -17% | -40% | -38% | -22% | -44% | -23% | -37% | -33% | -30% |
| Dec'23 | -38% | -28% | -48% | -27% | -46% | -40% | -33% | -44% | -26% | -43% | -39% | -37% |
| Nov'23 | -36% | -26% | -46% | -27% | -46% | -34% | -28% | -45% | -23% | -42% | -37% | -33% |
| Oct'23 | -41% | -33% | -50% | -42% | -46% | -36% | -39% | -44% | -29% | -46% | -43% | -33% |
| Sep'23 | -42% | -28% | -55% | -40% | -50% | -34% | -38% | -45% | -32% | -46% | -41% | -45% |
| Aug'23 | -35% | -23% | -46% | -20% | -46% | -35% | -24% | -47% | -25% | -39% | -35% | -32% |
| Jul'23 | -32% | -15% | -48% | -33% | -38% | -24% | -30% | -34% | -23% | -35% | -31% | -35% |
| Jun'23 | -32% | -15% | -48% | -33% | -38% | -24% | -30% | -34% | -23% | -35% | -31% | -35% |
| May'23 | -39% | -22% | -54% | -38% | -52% | -25% | -33% | -45% | -34% | -41% | -38% | -41% |
| Apr'23 | -38% | -23% | -52% | -30% | -43% | -39% | -34% | -42% | -26% | -43% | -38% | -36% |
| Mar '23 | -50% | -38% | -62% | -44% | -58% | -47% | -47% | -54% | -43% | -53% | -51% | -41% |
| Feb '23 | -57% | -51% | -63% | -57% | -60% | -55% | -51% | -63% | -50% | -60% | -58% | -50% |
| Jan '23 | -54% | -44% | -62% | -48% | -56% | -56% | -50% | -57% | -41% | -59% | -55% | -44% |
| Dec '22 | -65% | -61% | -69% | -65% | -65% | -65% | -62% | -68% | -57% | -68% | -66% | -55% |
| Nov '22 | -67% | -61% | -72% | -56% | -75% | -67% | -68% | -66% | -64% | -68% | -68% | -58% |
| Oct '22 | -72% | -67% | -77% | -65% | -73% | -78% | -72% | -72% | -68% | -74% | -73% | -67% |
| Sept '22 | -79% | -73% | -85% | -74% | -82% | -80% | -80% | -78% | -72% | -82% | -81% | -64% |
| Aug '22 | -62% | -56% | -69% | -54% | -69% | -63% | -61% | -64% | -53% | -66% | -64% | -53% |
| Jul '22 | -71% -72% | -65% -67% | -77% | -59% | -77% | -75% | -73% | -68% | -62% | -74% | -72% | -63% |
| Jun'22 | -12% | -b/% | -77% | -59% | -74% | -80% | -69% | -75% | -63% | -75% | -73% | -60% |

Base: All Adults 16+

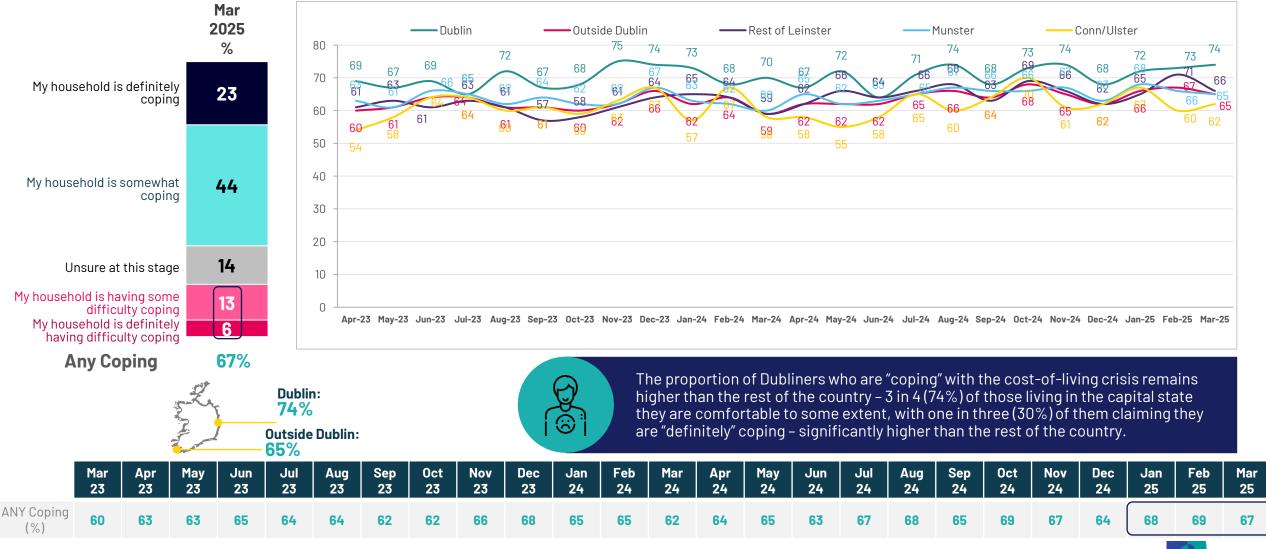


Similar to February, more than half believe that the nation will be worse off over the year ahead. Overall sentiment remains anchored in negative territory and given the threatened trade war, may well disimprove. Confidence has improved in Dublin.



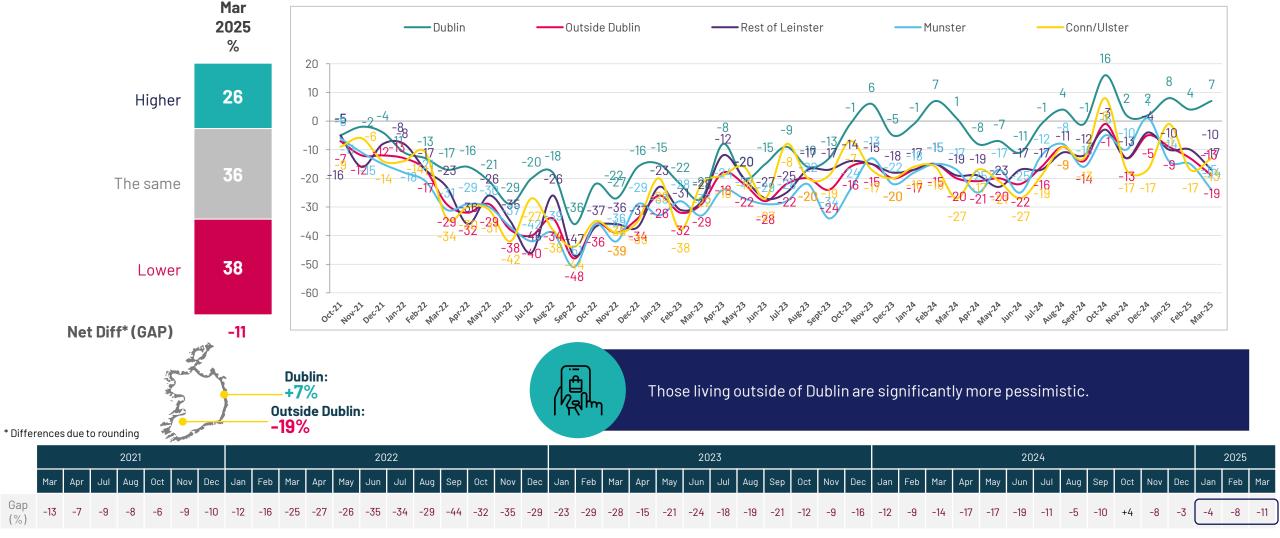


Two in three consumers remain resilient, stating that their households are coping with rising prices. As with previous months, around one in five are struggling.





One in four feel their disposable income will improve in the coming year, but nearly two in five (38%) expect a decline. The net gap between lower and higher expectations is at a nine-month high.

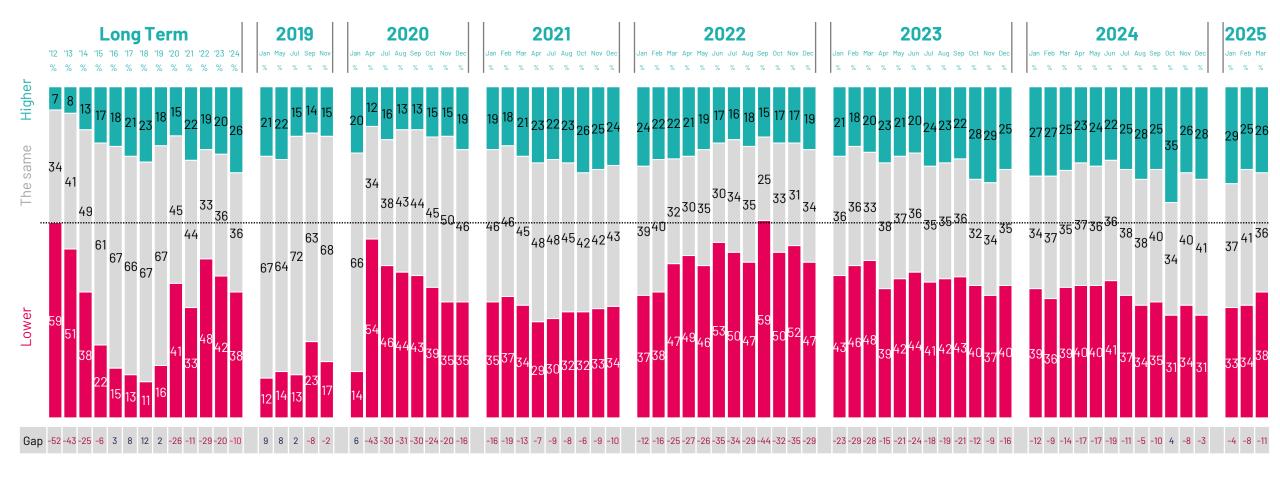






Income Projections - Looking Forward YOY

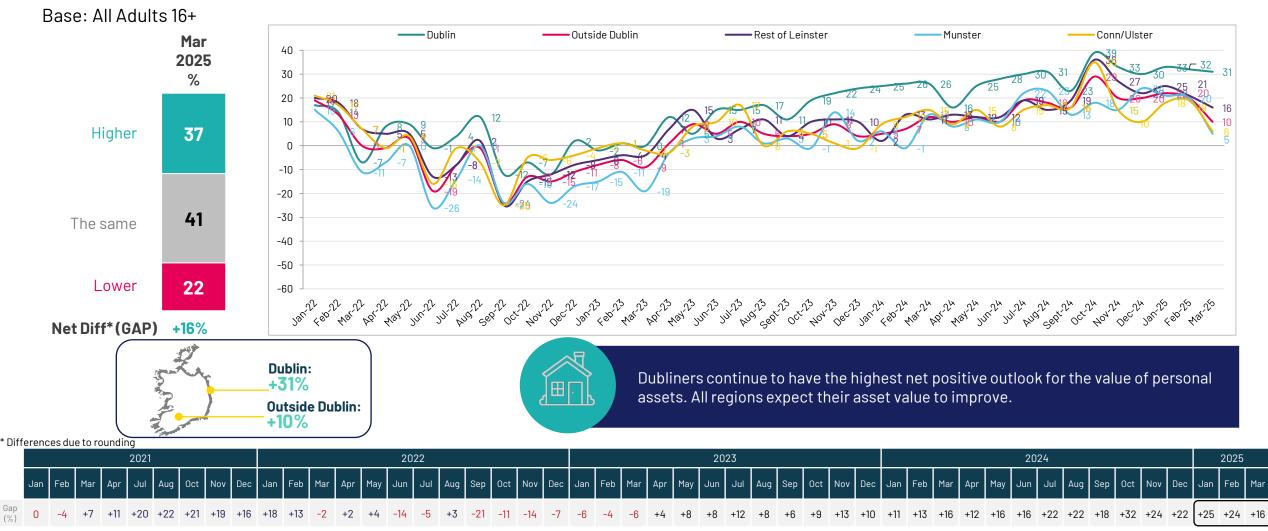
Expect it to be...







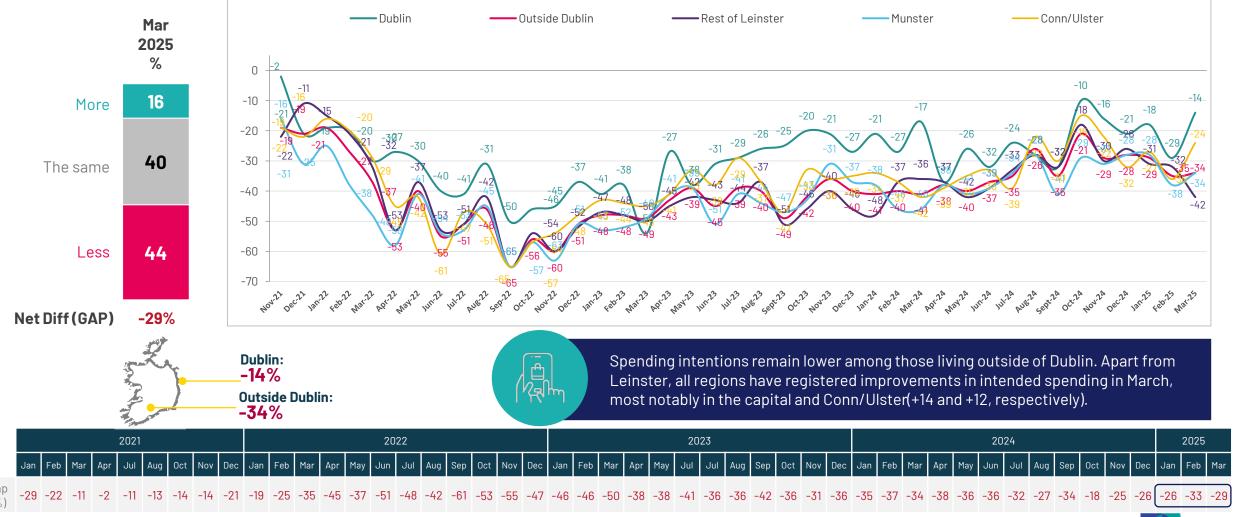
Reflecting other indicators, sentiment has retreated in March in terms of perceived asset growth over the next 12 months; while we remain in positive territory, there has been a sharp decrease this month.







Future spending intentions remain relatively stable. One in six (16%) believe they will spend more with a further 40% believing they will spend the same. Over two in five (44%) plan to spend less.





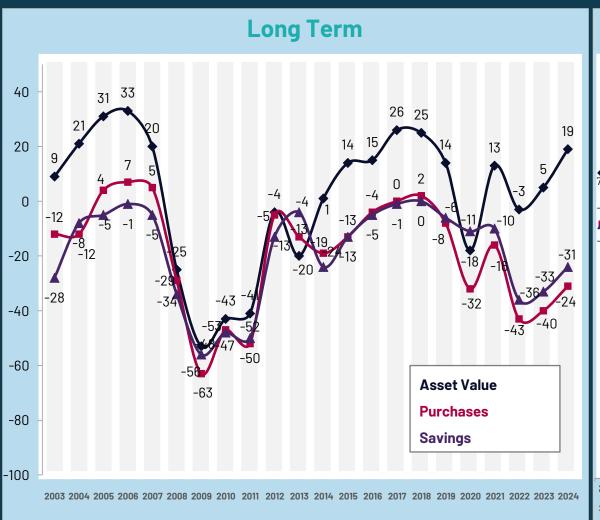
Over two in five (42%) expect to save less in the next twelve months, with just a quarter of the population (24%) thinking they will save more.

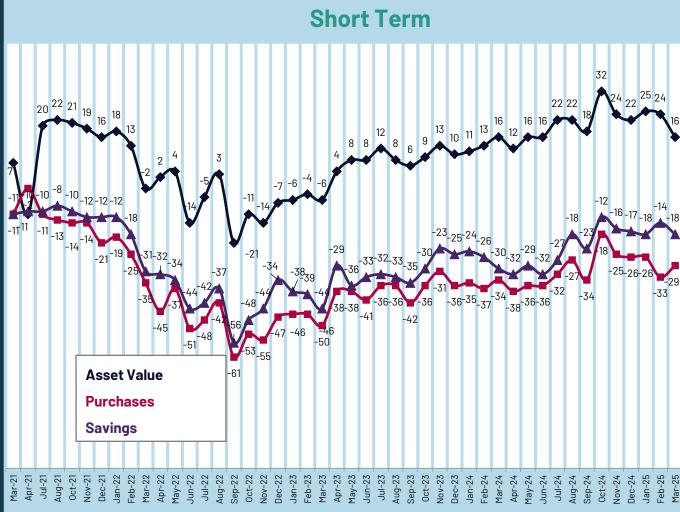


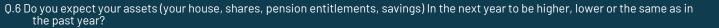


Balance Of Opinion in Summary – The Year Ahead

An overview of expectations towards asset value, purchases, and savings









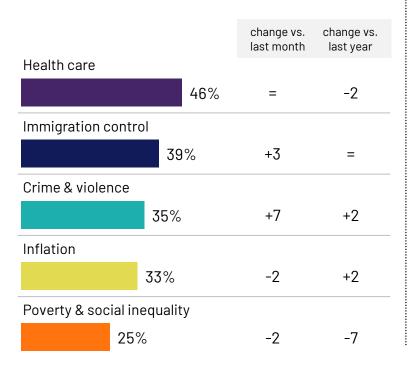




IRELAND SUMMARY: MARCH 2025

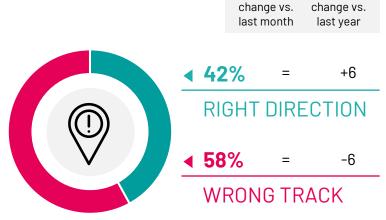
Top five worries

Q: Which three of the following topics do you find the most worrying in your country?



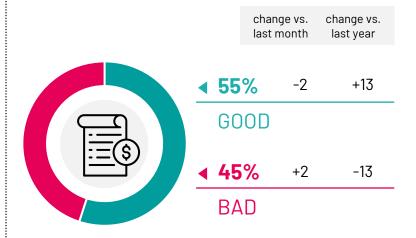
State of the country

Q: Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?



State of the economy

Q: How would you describe the current economic situation in your country?



Base: Representative sample of Ireland adults aged 16-74. c.500 per month





Right vs. Wrong Direction Monitor

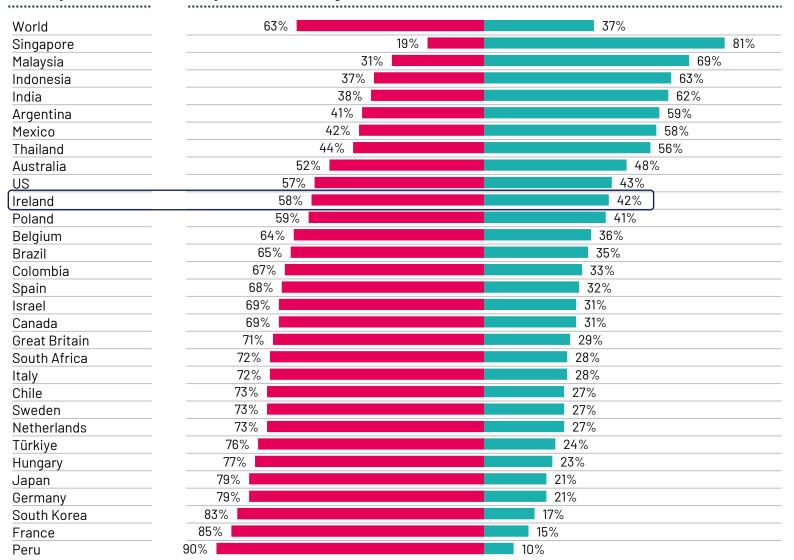
Country

Over two in five of the population feel that the country is going in the right direction, with 58% feeling we are on the wrong track. This is marginally better than the worldwide average, and leaves us in an above midtable position

Base: Representative sample of 25,231 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, February 21st 2025 - March 7th 2025.

Source: Ipsos Global Advisor. Global score is a Global Country Average. See methodology for details. **Filter:** Country: World | Current Wave: Mar 25

Q: Would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track? (March 2025)





Wrong Track





- Ireland's top worries
- World's top worries

Ireland's Worries

Health care is the top issue of concern in Ireland, with immigration control also ranking highly.

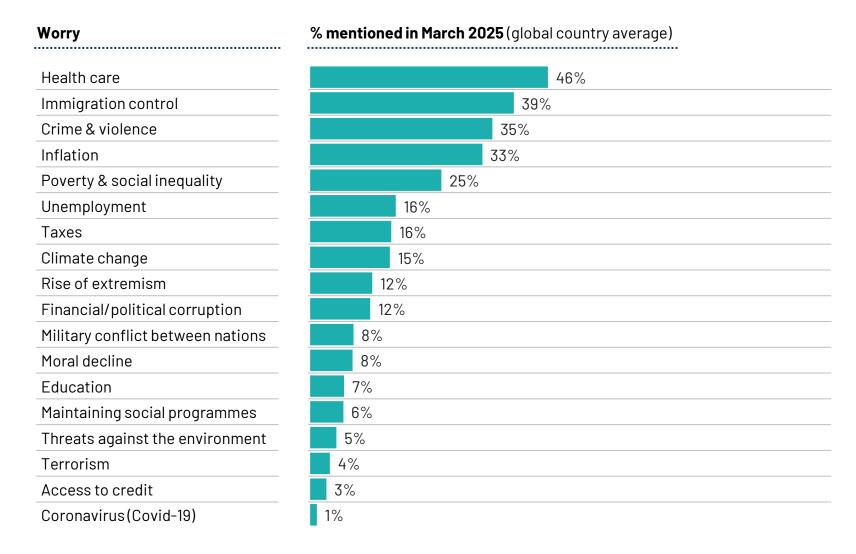
Other issues of concern are crime, the cost-of-living and general poverty & social inequality.

Worldwide, The cost of living (also 33%) is the number one issue, whereas Healthcare ranks sixth, and is cited by 24% globally

Base: Representative sample of Ireland adults aged 16-74. c.500 per month

Source: Ipsos Global Advisor. Global score is a Global Country Average. See methodology for details. **Filter:** Country: Ireland | Current Wave: Mar 25

Q: Which three of the following topics do you find the most worrying in your country?



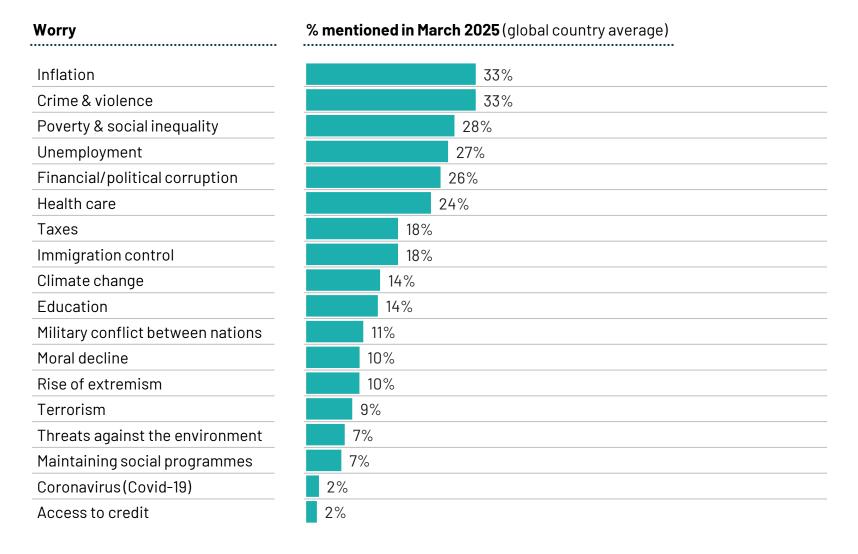


World Worries

Base: Representative sample of 25,231 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, February 21st 2025 - March 7th 2025.

Source: Ipsos Global Advisor. Global score is a Global Country Average. See methodology for details. **Filter:** Country: World | Current Wave: Mar 25

Q: Which three of the following topics do you find the most worrying in your country?





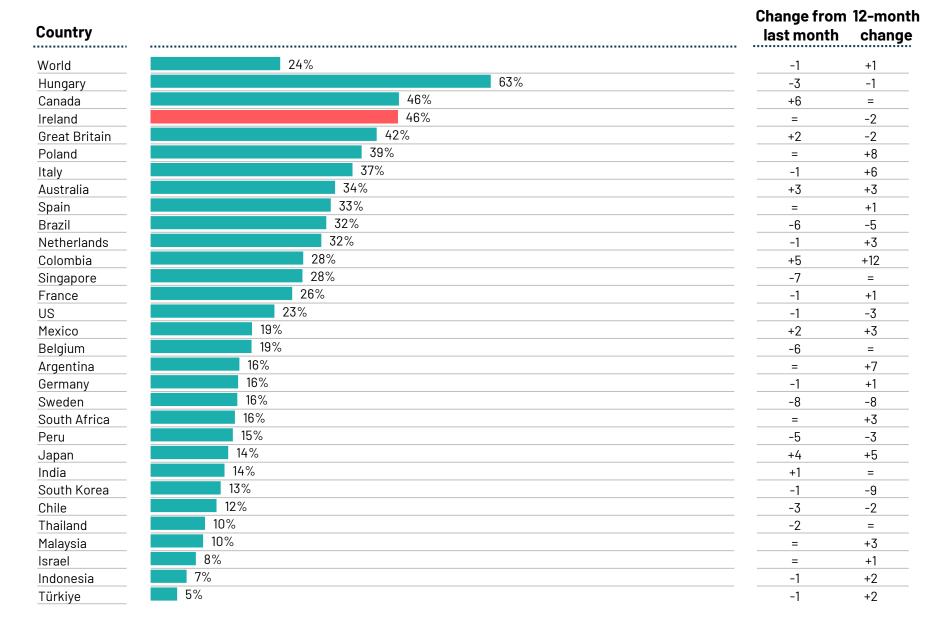


1. Health care

We are ranked joint second in terms of our concerns about health care, on a par with Canada, and behind Hungary.

Our concerns are nearly double the global average.

Base: Representative sample of 25,231 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, February 21st 2025 - March 7th 2025.



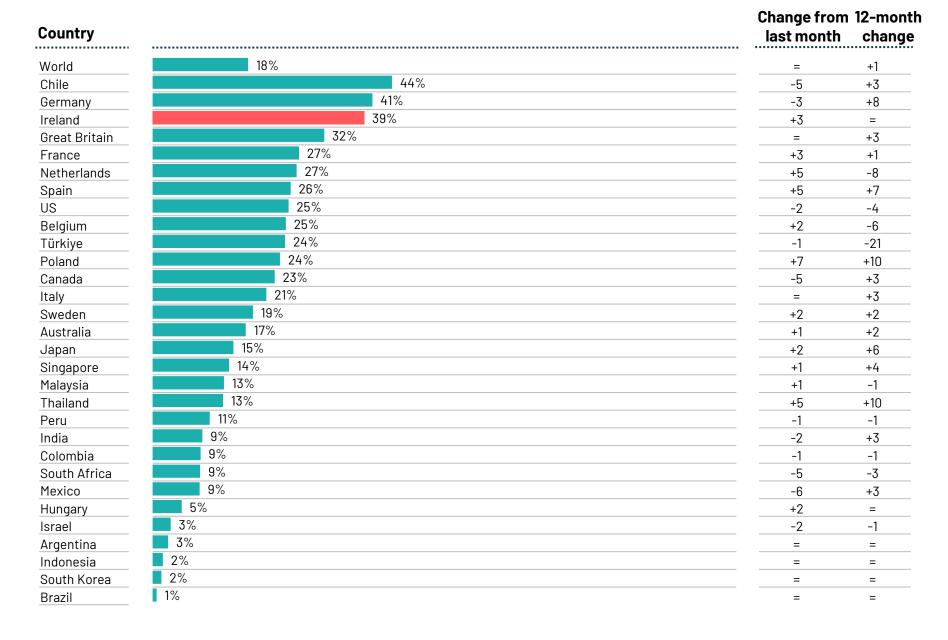


2. Immigration control

We rank third for having concerns about immigration control – and are more than double the global average.

Interestingly, we are seven points ahead of the UK, where much political discourse has been made on this issue.

Base: Representative sample of 25,231 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, February 21st 2025 - March 7th 2025.

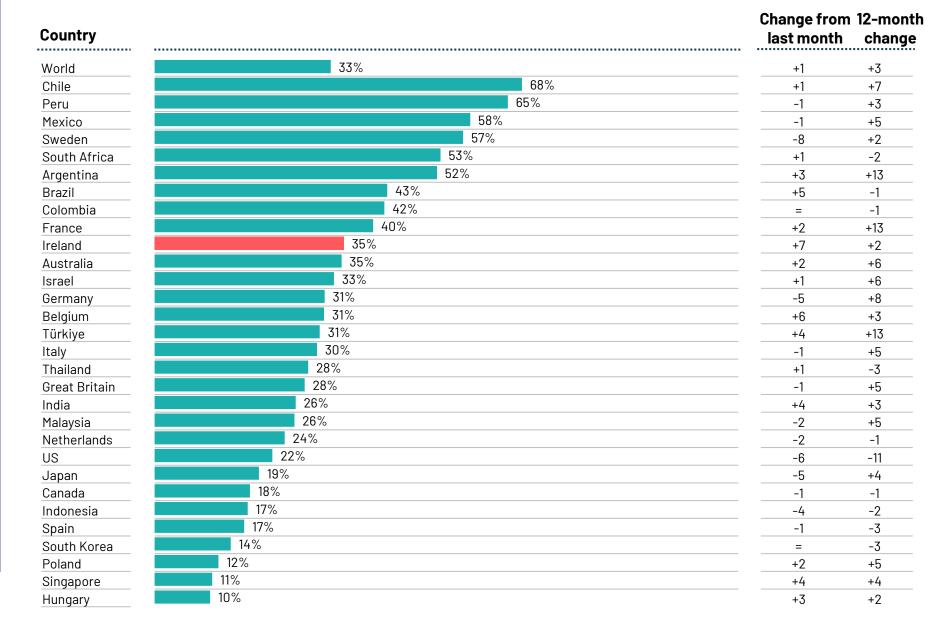




3. Crime & violence

We are slightly higher than average compared to our peers in terms of attitudes towards crime and violence but have seen a sharp increase in March compared to February.

Base: Representative sample of 25,231 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, February 21st 2025 - March 7th 2025.

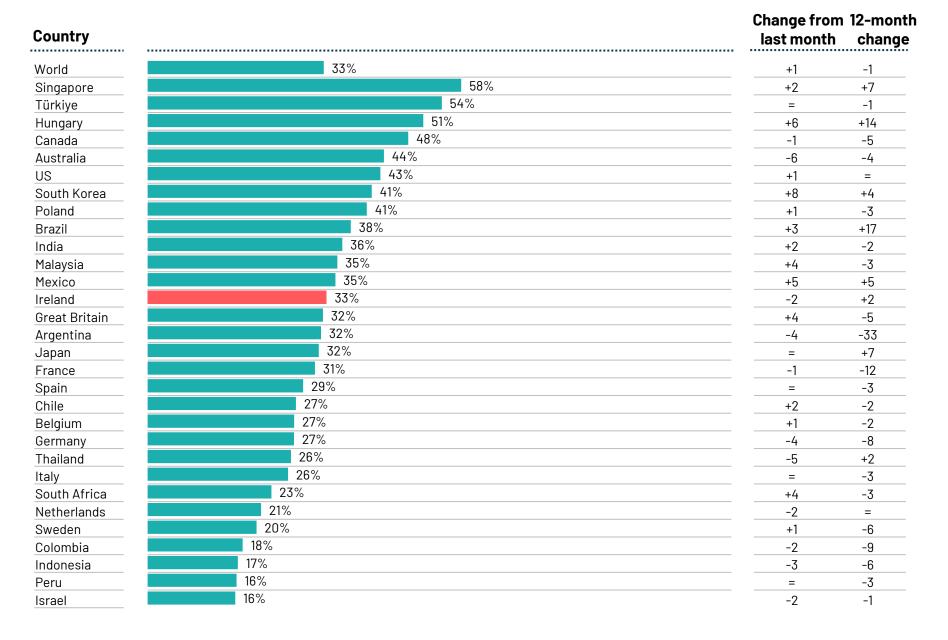




4. Inflation

Again, we are mid-table in terms of our attitudes towards inflation, and have remained relatively stable over the past year.

Base: Representative sample of 25,231 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, February 21st 2025 - March 7th 2025.

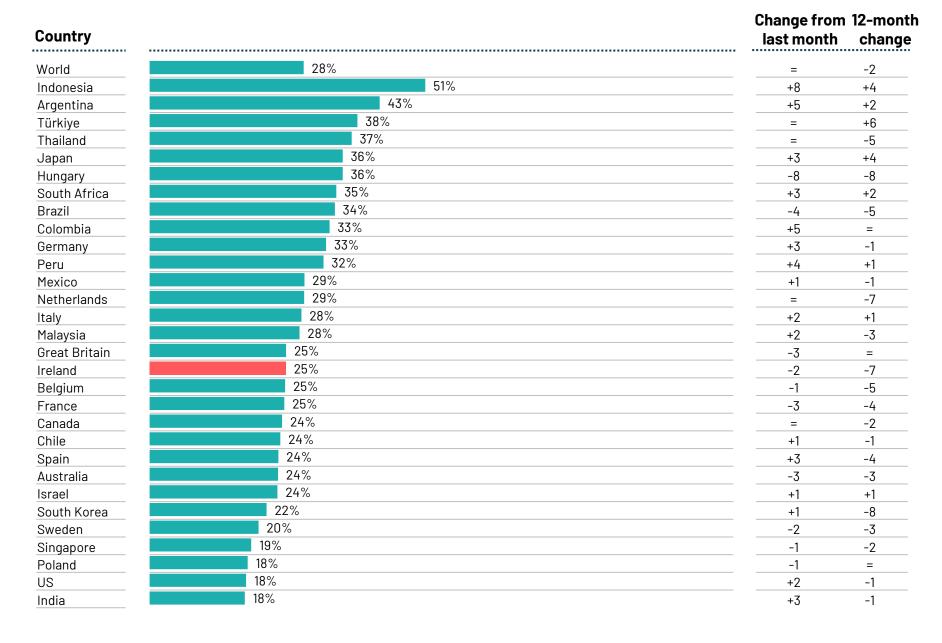




5. Poverty & social inequality

One in four are concerned about Poverty and inequality in Ireland, down sharply compared to this time last year.

Base: Representative sample of 25,231 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, February 21st 2025 - March 7th 2025.

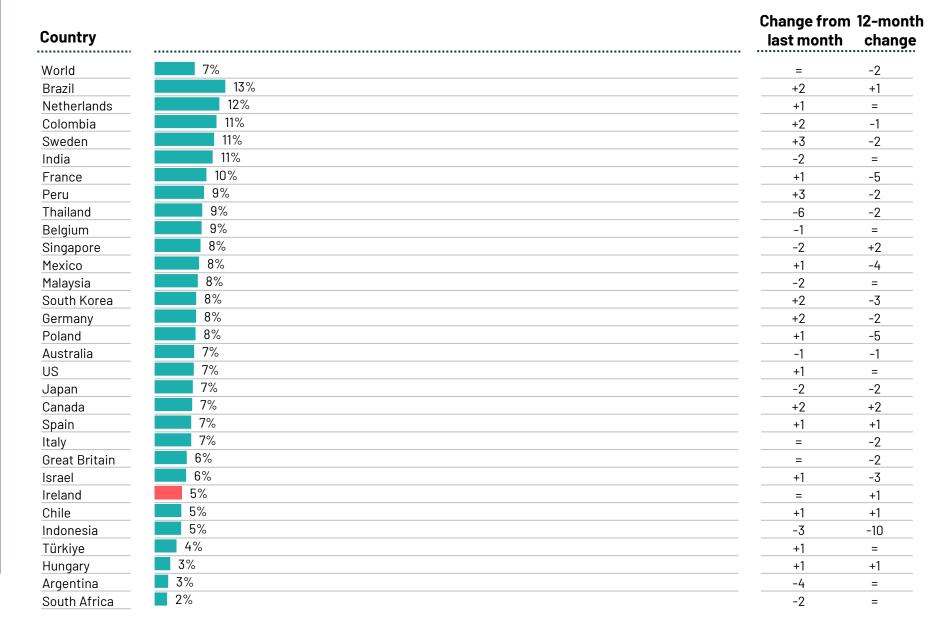




6. Threats against the environment

There continues to be little interest in threats against the environment – we rank quite lowly on this metric.

Base: Representative sample of 25,231 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, February 21st 2025 - March 7th 2025.





THANK YOU



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