



Introduction

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This report presents the findings of Ipsos B&A's latest Consumer Confidence Barometer, covering May 2025.



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Survey results are based on a sample of 1,140 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.

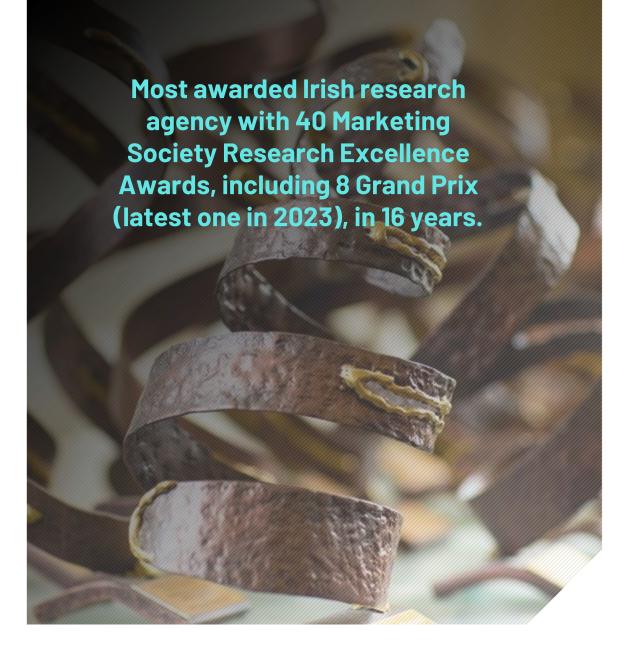


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Fieldwork on the latest wave was conducted from the 5th – 20th May 2025.







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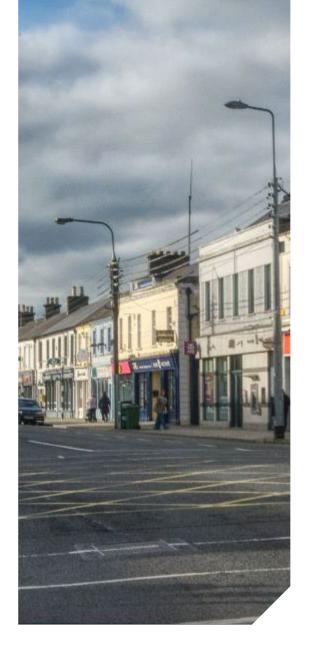
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We are taking a more measured approach towards Trump's threatened tariffs.

- This wave of the Ipsos B&A Consumer Confidence Barometer was conducted from the 5th – 20th May 2025.
- 2. Following on from the shock of the transatlantic tariff announcements in April, the public has taken a more nuanced approach this month.
- 3. Consumer confidence has recovered somewhat in May, with a net rating of -49 (those feeling downbeat versus those feeling more upbeat). This compares to -61% in April. While still deeply in negative territory, it would seem that consumers are more circumspect when interpreting Trump's musings and then subsequent row-backs. Is the TACO effect a reality?
- 4. 63% anticipate that the country to be worse off in the year ahead, with a mere 13% expecting the country's economy to improve in the coming year. Relatively speaking, Dubliners continue to be most upbeat. As seen previously, confidence is lowest among females, those aged 55+, and C2DEs.
- 5. The proportion of households who claim to be

- "coping" with the cost-of-living crisis now stands at 68% vs. 63% in April. Approximately one in six claim to be struggling. While inflation has declined from the high watermark of 2022, it is still an issue, particularly in terms of food inflation.
- 6. Over two in five (43%) expect their net income to decline over the next 12 months, with just one in four having a more positive outlook.
- 7. Similar to last month, 49% think they will spend less over the year ahead, with just 15% thinking that they will purchase more goods and services. Over one in three (36%) feel their spending habits will be unchanged.
- 8. A similar figure (47%) believe they will save less in the next 12 months just one in four think they will save more.
- 9. Following a sharp reversal in April, householders are now more likely to believe that their net asset wealth will increase this year 37% feel that this will be the case, versus one in four (23%) thinking that their assets will diminish.





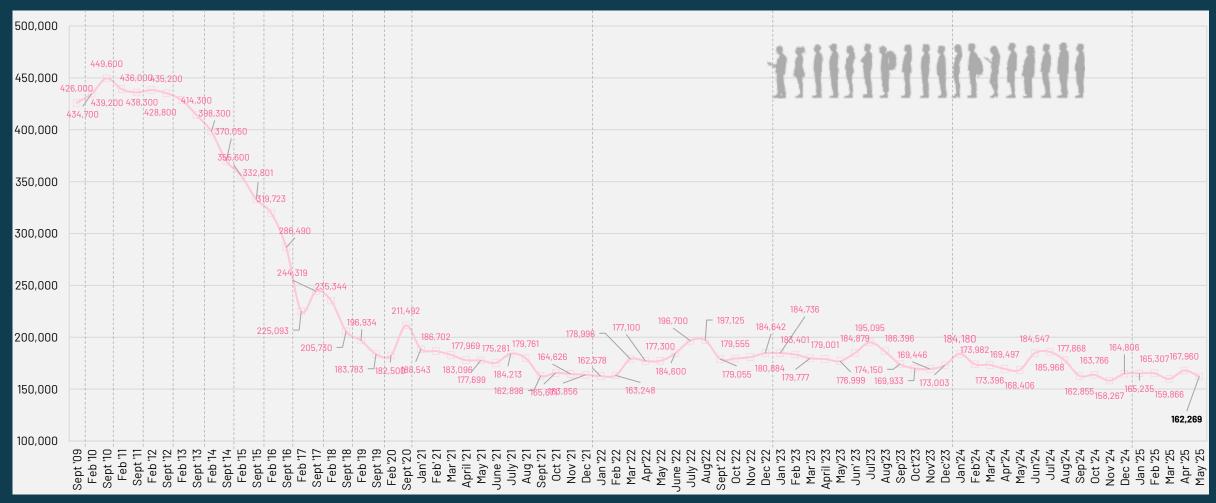
GDP increased dramatically in Quarter One 2025. However, this was largely due to huge increases in globalised sectors of the economy, particularly Pharma, as companies raced to export to the US before tariffs were introduced.



Source: www.CSO.ie Quarterly National Accounts



The unadjusted Live Register total stood at 162,269 in May 2025, compared to 168,406 in May 2024.



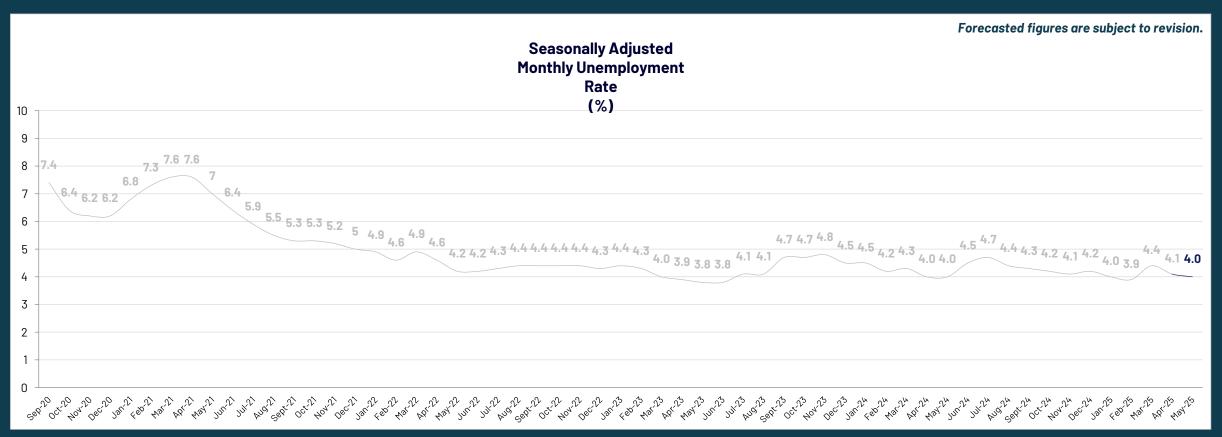
*The Live Register is not designed to measure unemployment. It includes part-time work e.g. seasonal & casual workers who work up to 3 days per week. Note: Based on unadjusted data.

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



The Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Unemployment Rate in May stood at 4.0% - marginally down since April and more or less at full employment.

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Unemployment Rate

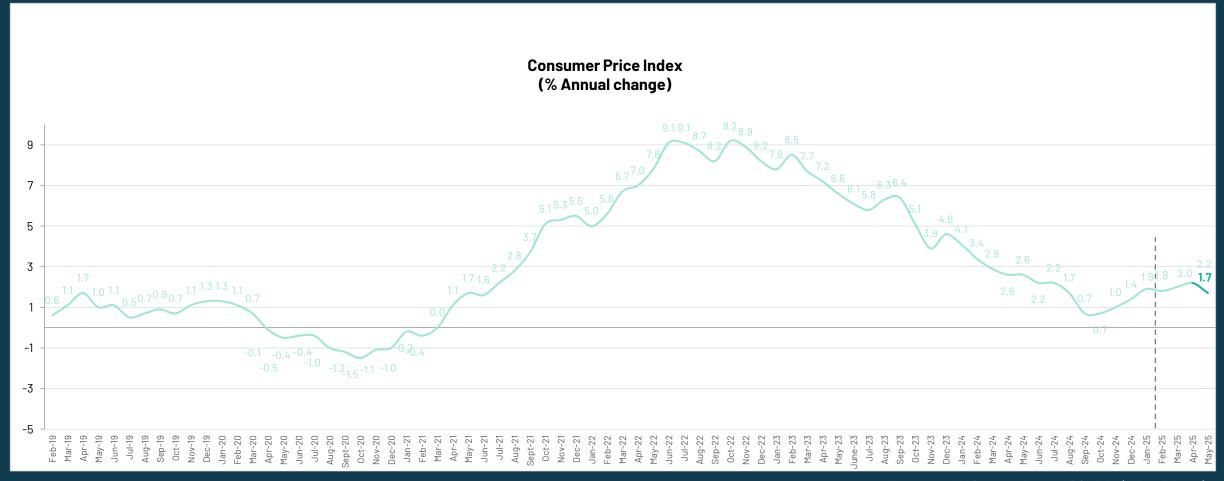


Source: <u>www.CSO.ie</u> Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Unemployment Rate



Inflation has dropped noticeably in May to 1.7%, down from 2.2% in April.

Consumer Price Index (% Annual change)



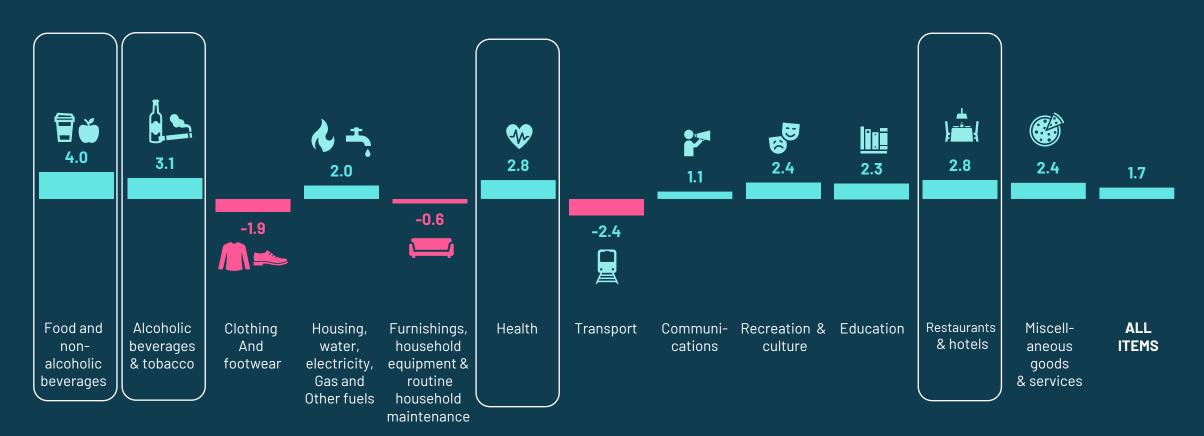
Source: <u>www.CSO.ie</u>

Consumer Price Index (% Annual change)

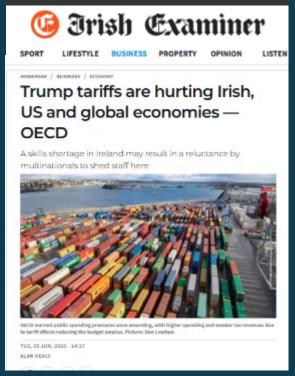


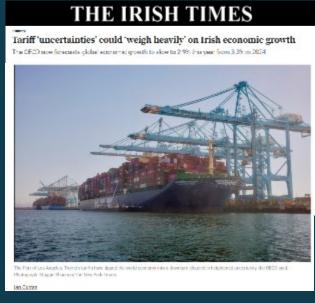
Inflation is highest within the Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+4.0%) and Alcoholic beverages and Tobacco (+3.1%). Hospitality and Health sectors (both at +2.8%) remain stubbornly high. Transport (-2.4%) has seen the largest drop.

Consumer Price Index by Sector (% Annual change)

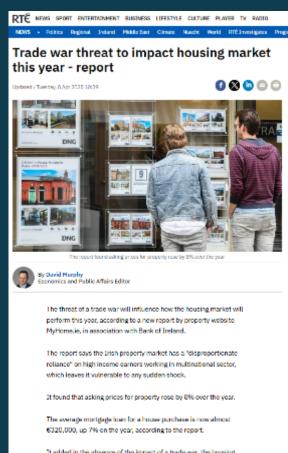


The potential of a trade war featured greatly in the media and are also weighing heavily in the eyes of the population at large.





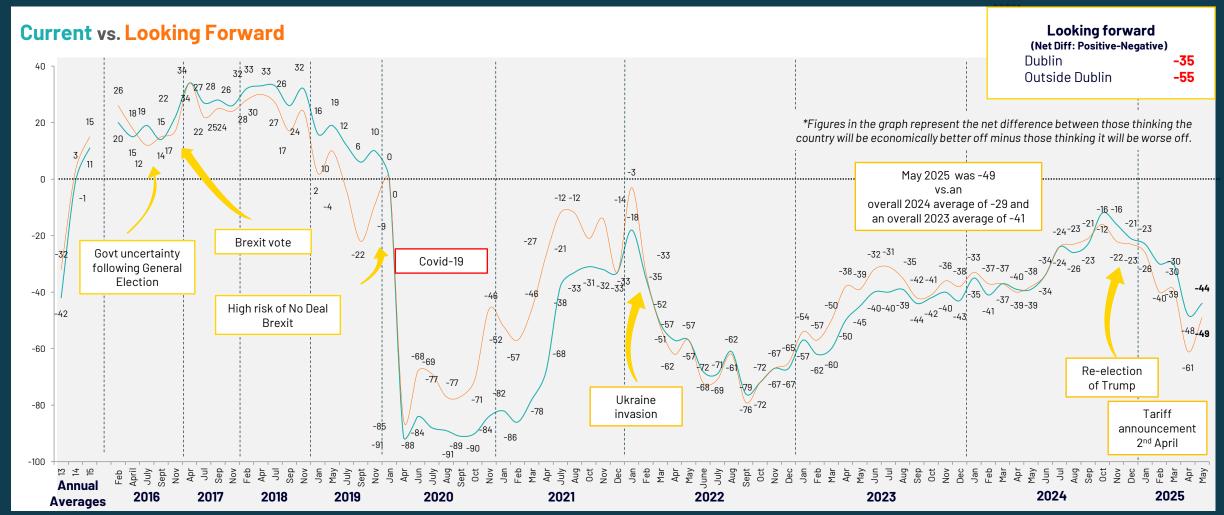


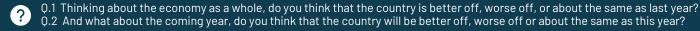






In light of Donald Trump's row-back on Tariffs during May, consumer confidence recovered somewhat, from -61 in April to -49 this month, albeit still in deep negative territory.







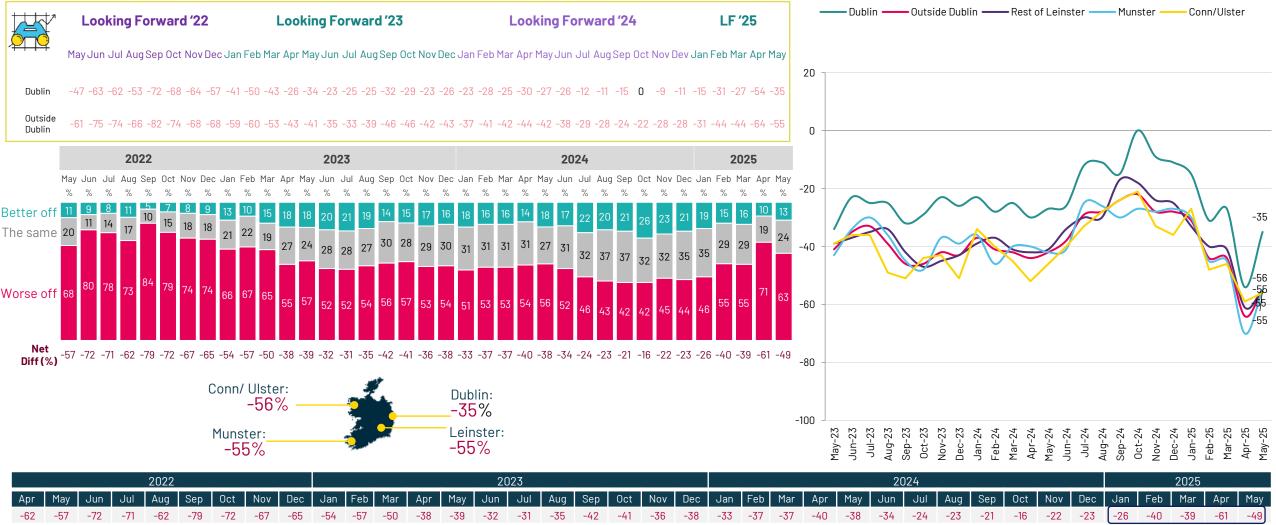
Pessimism about the year ahead is consistently higher among females, C2DEs and those living outside of Dublin. Those aged 35+ are most downbeat, and especially those aged 55+.

	-49	-42	-56	-24	-56	-64	-45	-54	-35	-55	-51	-43
NET DIFF	Total	Male	Female	16-34	35-54	55+	ABC1F	C2DE	Dublin	Outside Dublin	Irish	Non-Irish
Apr '25	-61%	-55%	-67%	-61%	-66%	-42%	-64%	-75%	-57%	-65%	-54%	-64%
Mar '25	-39%	-30%	-48%	-24%	-41%	-50%	-36%	-43%	-27%	-44%	-42%	-29%
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%
0ct'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%
Jul'24	-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%

Base: All Adults 16+

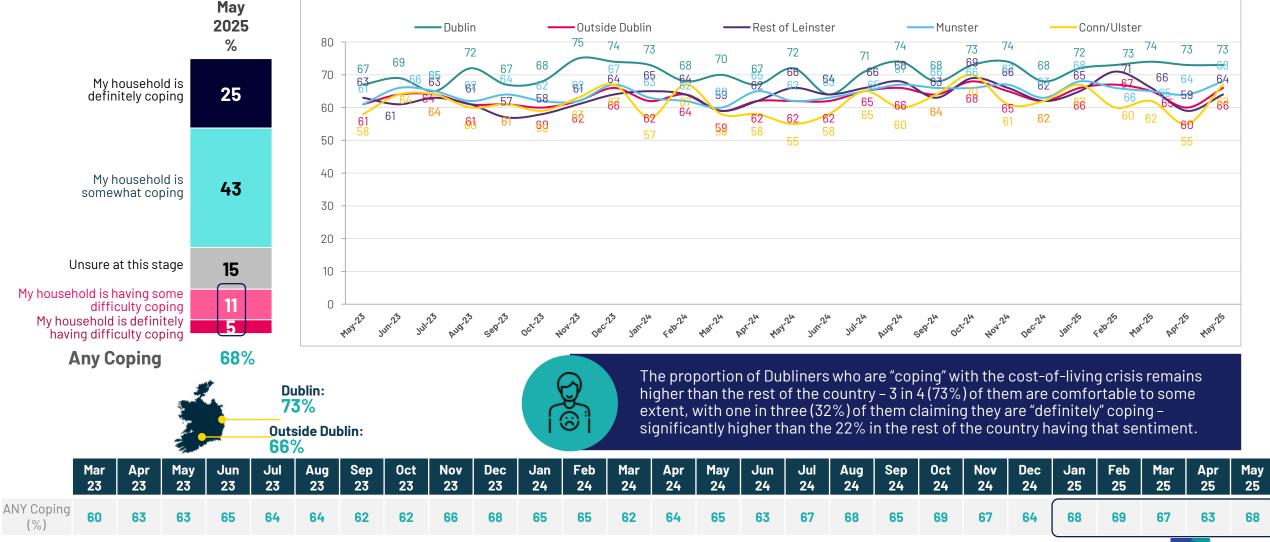


Two in three believe that the nation will be worse off over the year ahead. While this represents an improvement since April, it still indicates a deep sense of pessimism not seen in over two years.



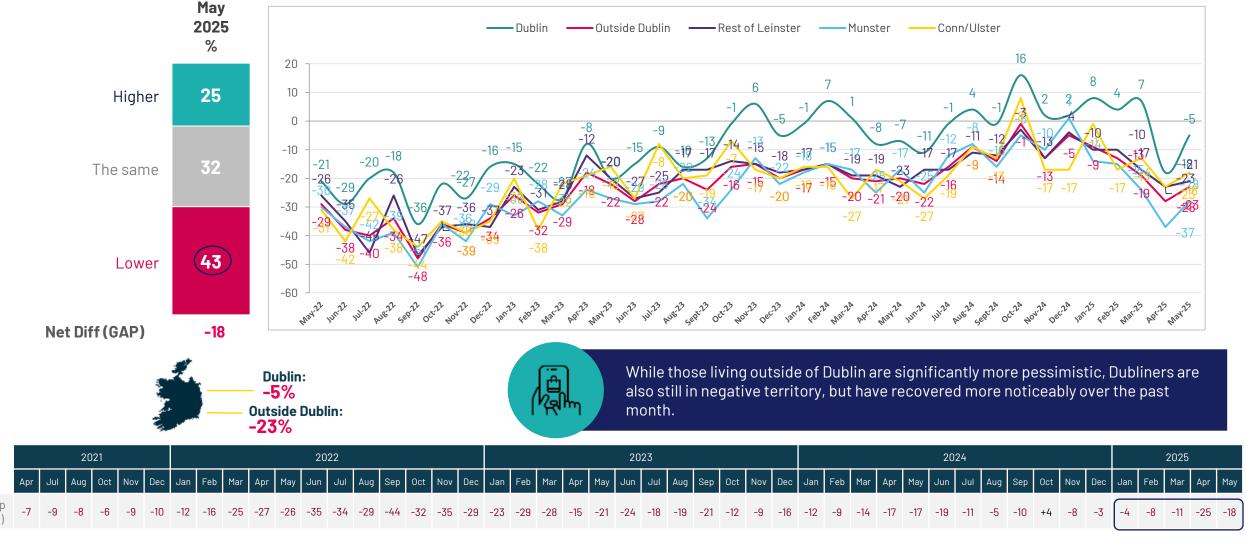


Just over two in three consumers state that their households are coping with rising prices. Around one in six are struggling. Again, we have recovered from April's slump.





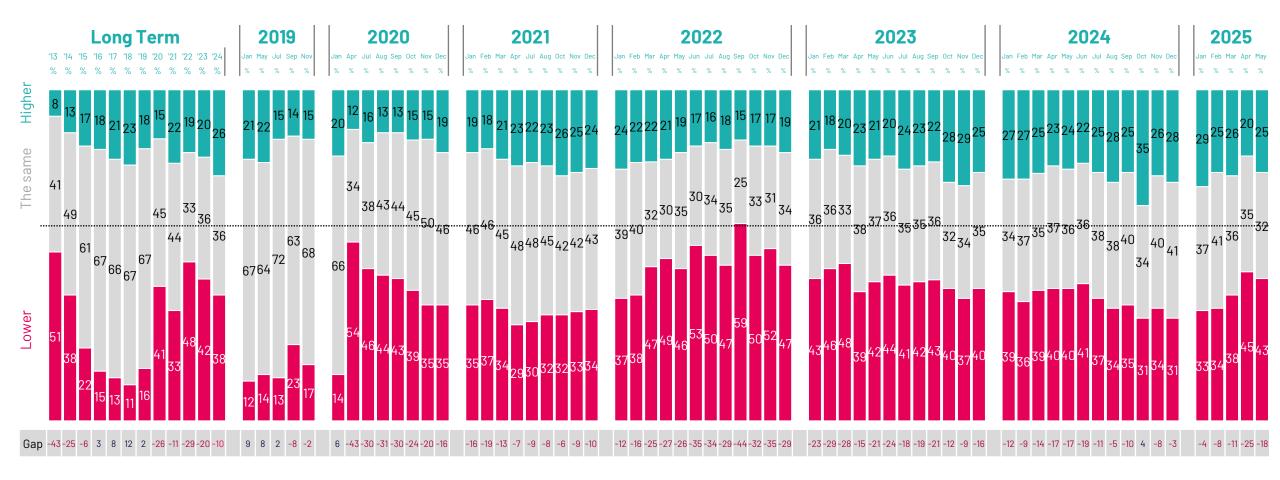
Over two in five (43%) expect their net income to decline in the next 12 months. Just one in four are optimistic about the next year.





Income Projections - Looking Forward YOY

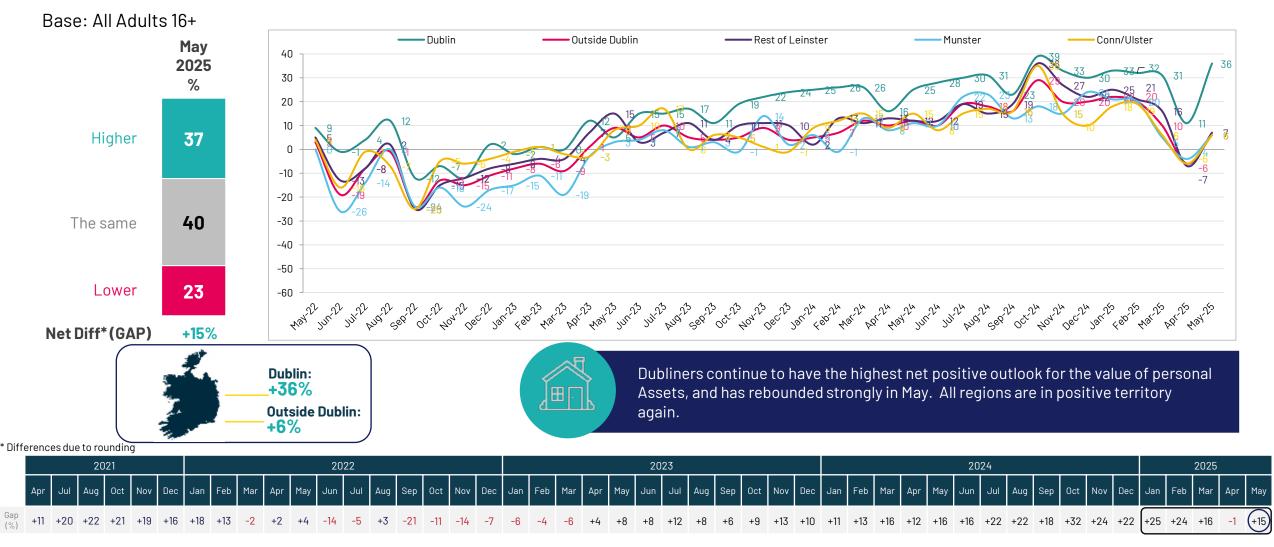
Expect it to be...





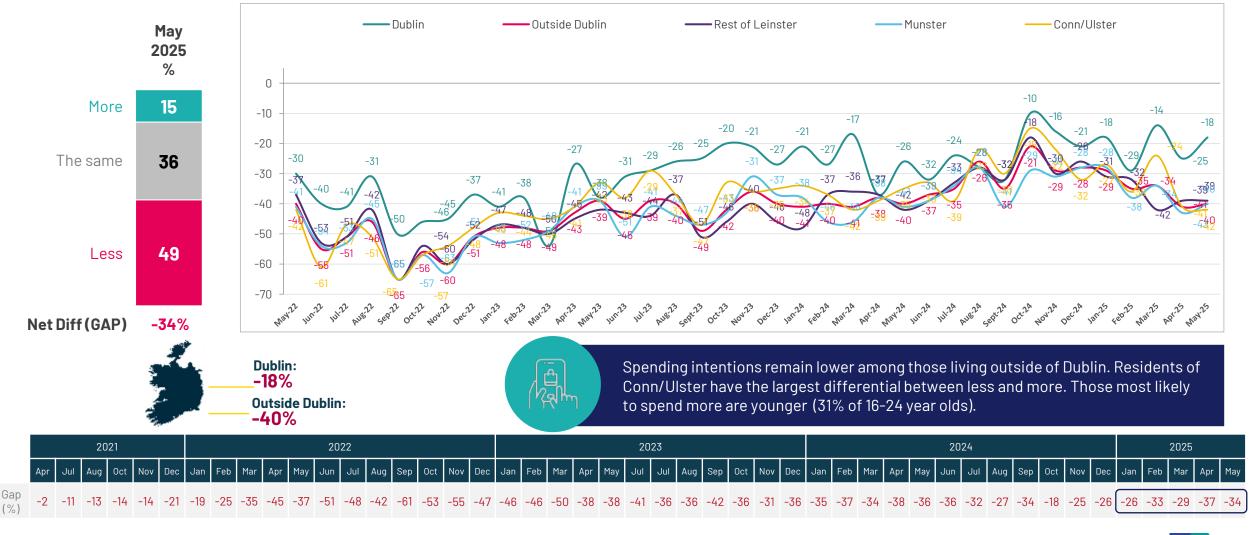


Perceived asset growth over the next 12 months has recovered somewhat since April, reflecting the initial knee-jerk reaction to the Tariff announcements.



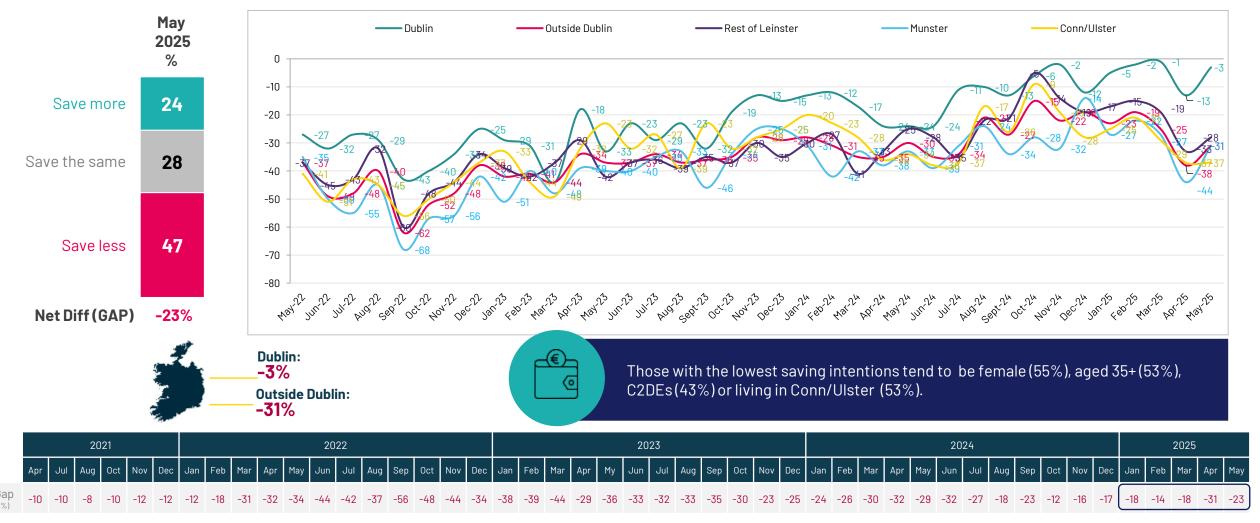


Just one in seven (15%) believe they will spend more in the year ahead, with half expecting to cut back.





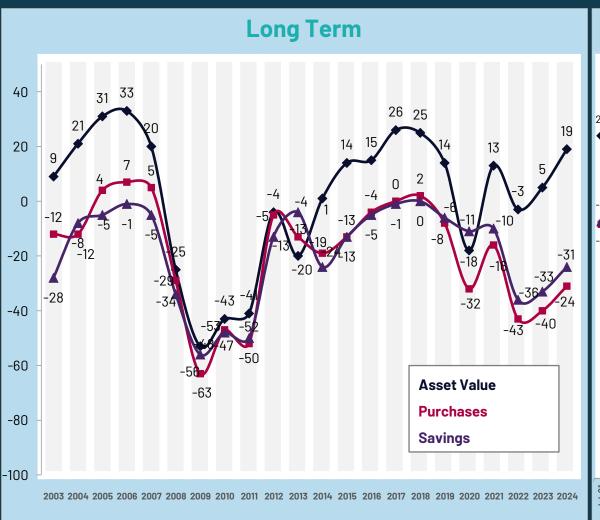
Reflecting this, nearly half (47%) say they will save less, with less than one in four (24%) being in a position, or willing, to save more.

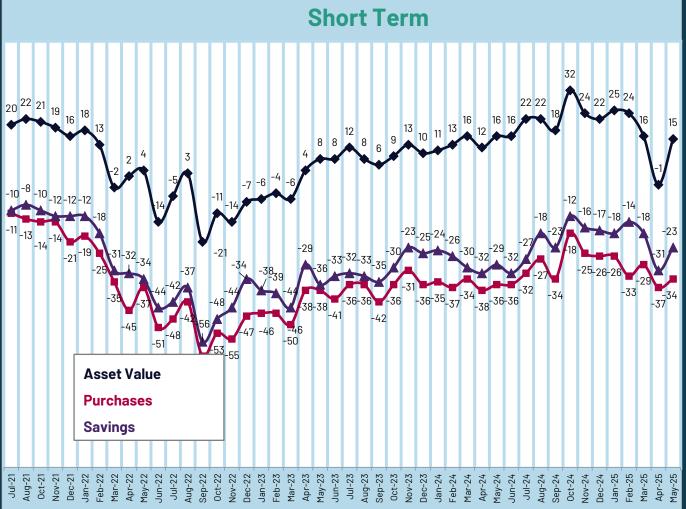


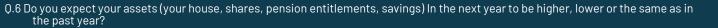


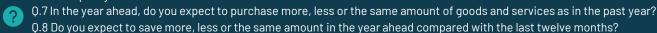
Balance Of Opinion in Summary - The Year Ahead

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









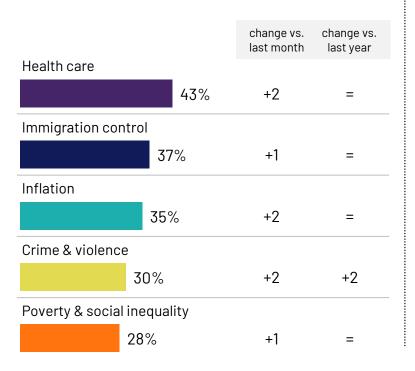




IRELAND SUMMARY: MAY 2025

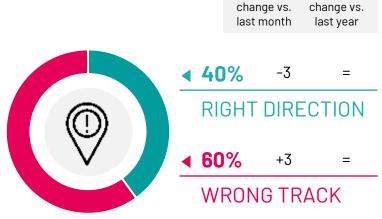
Top five worries

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



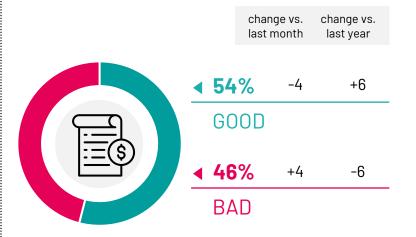
State of the country

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.

Diffe Ctito is going in the right direction, but 60%

Monitor pn the wrong track. Positivity is marginally better than the worldwide average, and leaves us in an above mid-table position

Country

Base: Representative sample of 24,737 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, April 25th 2025 - May 9th 2025.

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

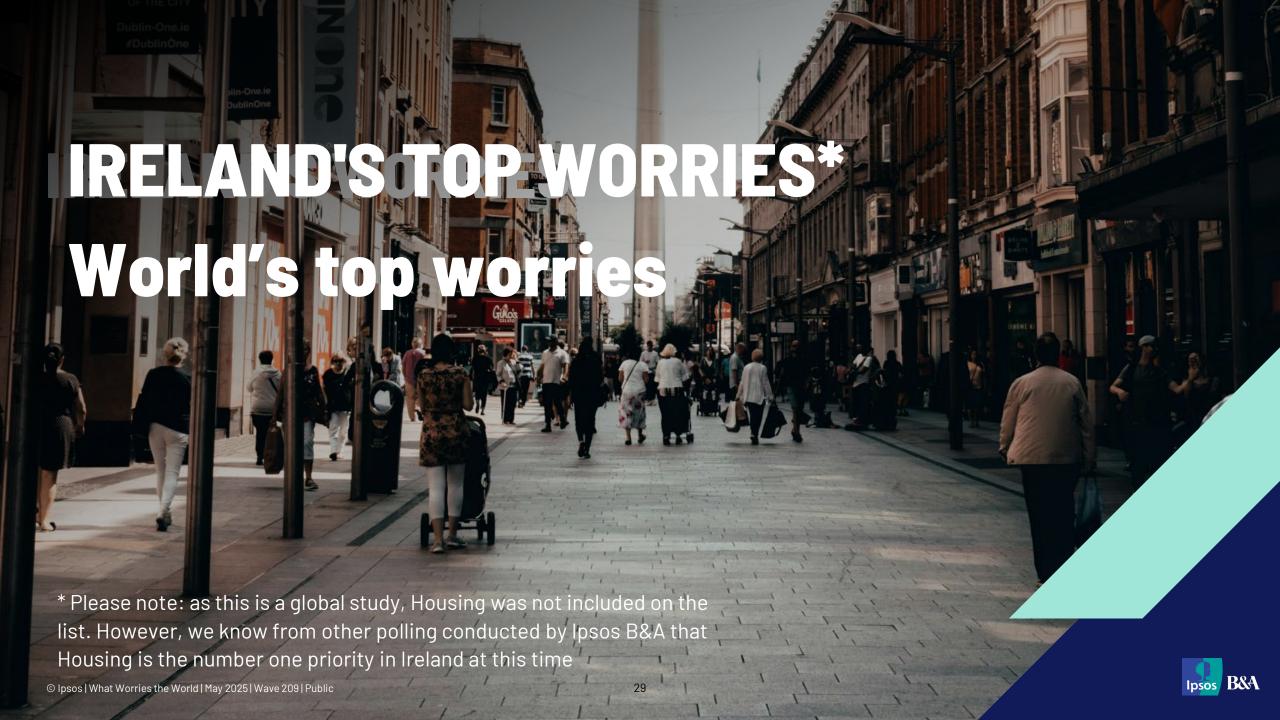
Q: Would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track? (May 2025)





Right Direction

Wrong Track



Ireland's Worries*

Similar to previous waves, healthcare remains the number one issue that Irish respondents agreed with when prompted with a issue of global issues.

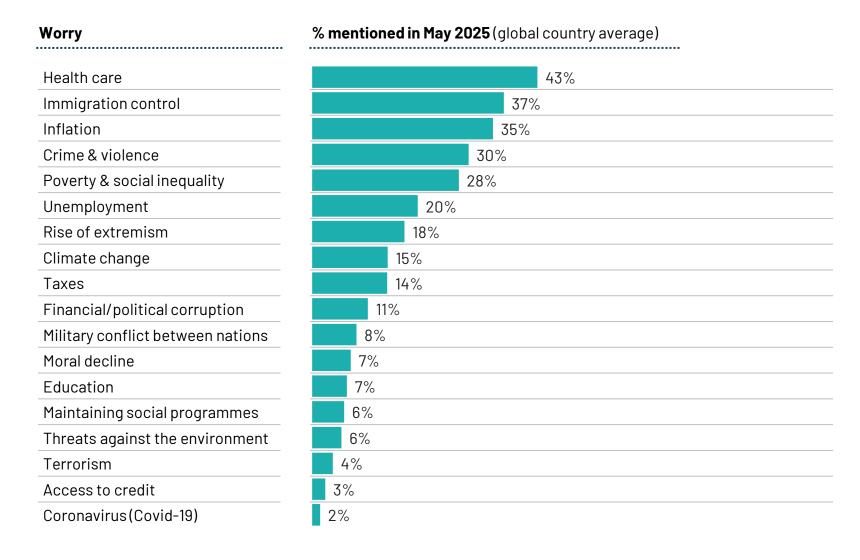
Likewise, immigration remains in second position in terms of order of priority.

Worldwide, the cost of living (33%) is the number one issue, whereas Healthcare ranks sixth and is mentioned 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: May 25

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



^{*} Please note: as this is a global study, Housing was not included on the list. However, we know from other polling conducted by Ipsos B&A that Housing is the number one priority in Ireland at this time.

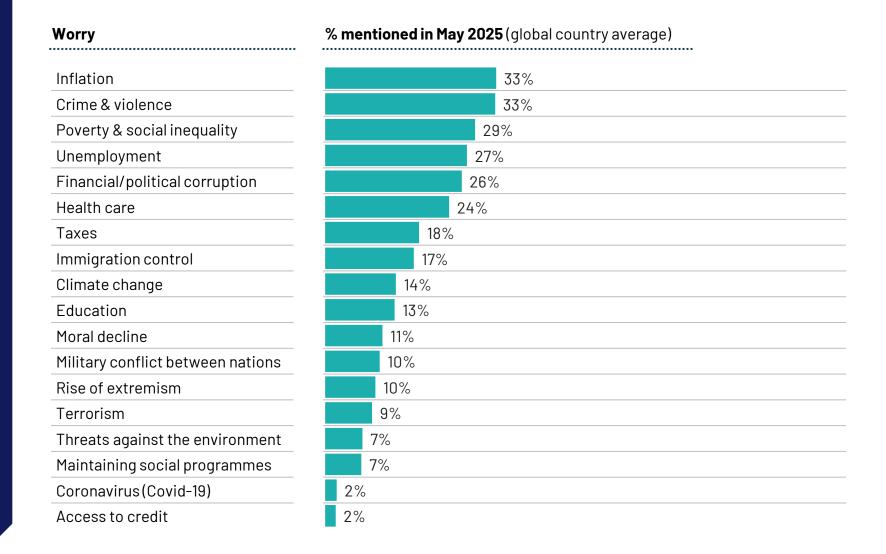


World Worries

Internationally, inflation and crime and violence are the top two issues, followed by poverty and social equality.

Priorities unsurprisingly oscillate from country to country.

Base: Representative sample of 24,737 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, April 25th 2025 - May 9th 2025.







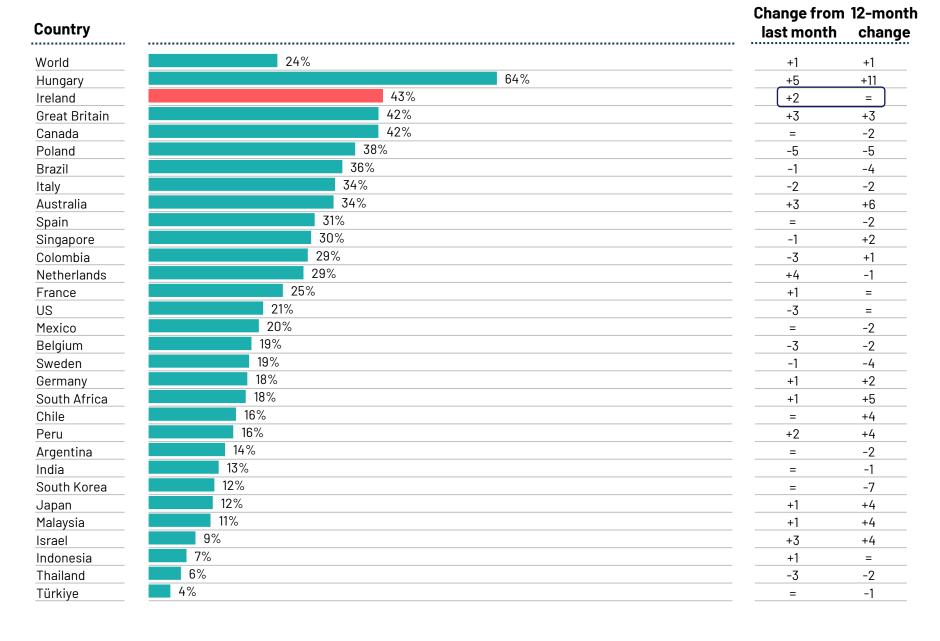
1. Health care

We are second only to Hungary in terms of our concerns about health care, with over two in five expressing disquiet on this issue.

Year on year, we have remained consistent in our attitudes.

Our unease is nearly twice the global average.

Base: Representative sample of 24,737 adults åged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, April 25th 2025 - May 9th 2025.





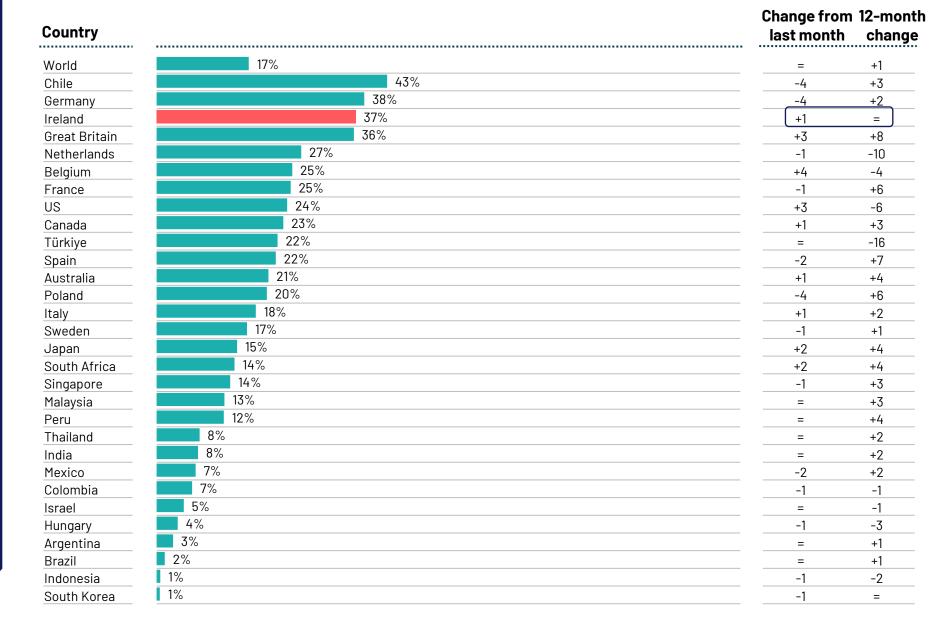
2. Immigration control

We rank third globally in terms of our worries about immigration and are marginally ahead of our nearest neighbours.

Again, these sentiments have remained consistent over the last year.

Overall, our fears are over double the global average.

Base: Representative sample of 24,737 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, April 25th 2025 - May 9th 2025.



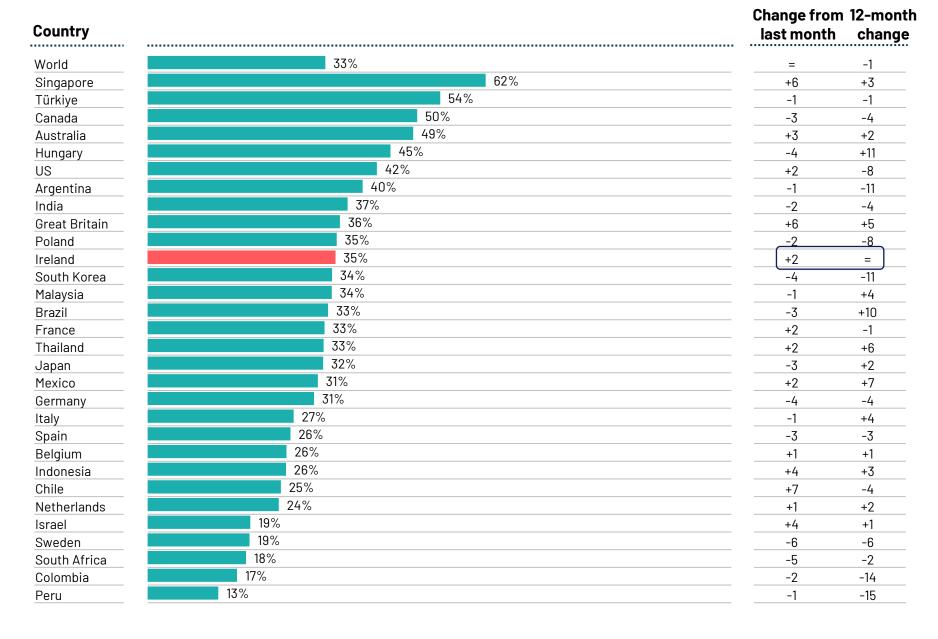


3. Inflation

We are mid-table globally with regards to our attitudes towards inflation/the cost of living.

There has been a marginal uplift in concern for this issue since April.

Base: Representative sample of 24,737 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, April 25th 2025 - May 9th 2025.



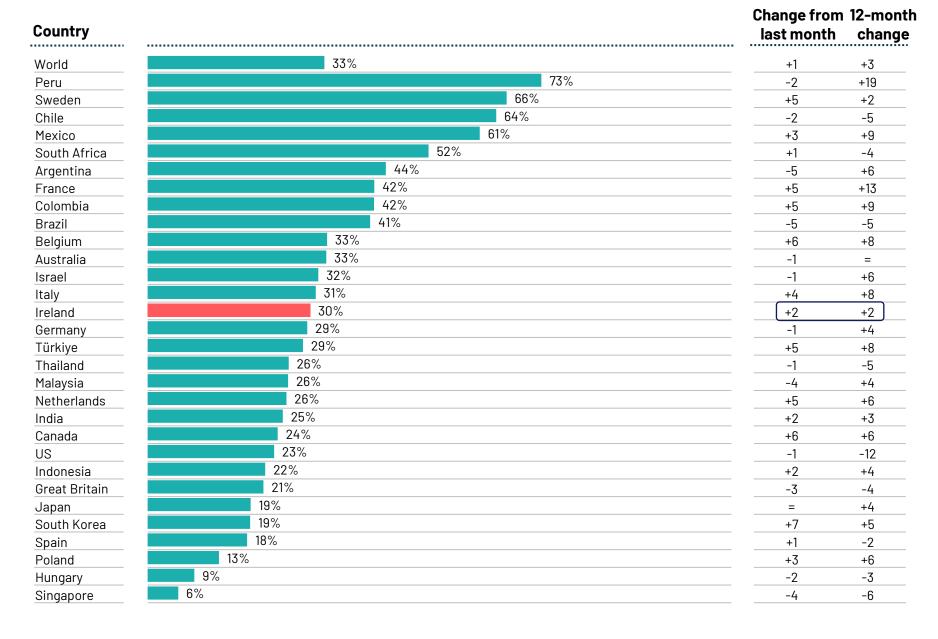


4. Crime & violence

We are slightly below the average compared to the global average in terms of attitudes towards crime and violence.

Year on year, attitudes towards this issue have edged upwards.

Base: Representative sample of 24,737 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, April 25th 2025 - May 9th 2025.



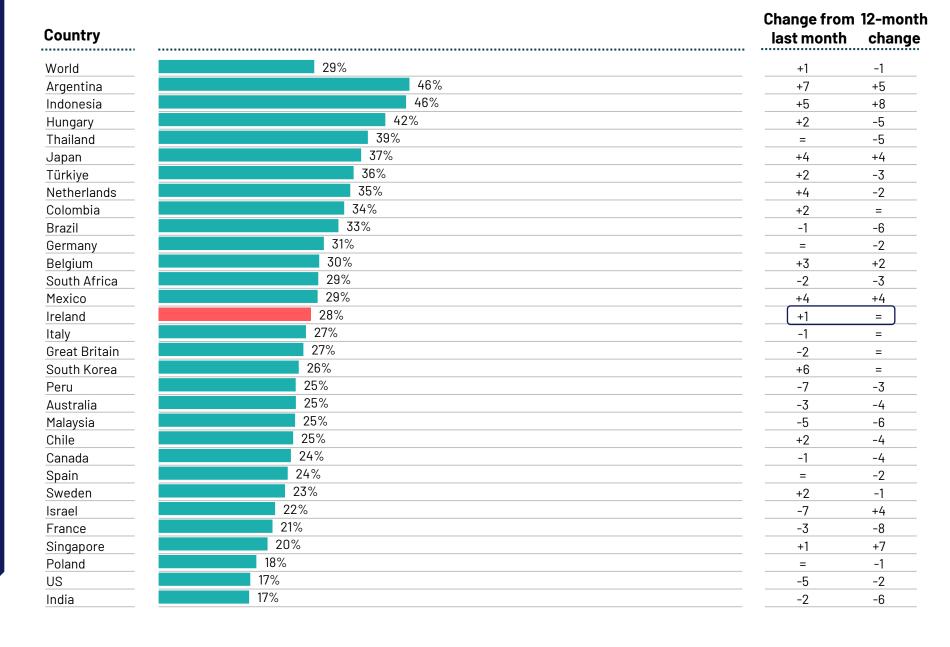


5. Poverty & social inequality

Close to three in ten cite poverty and social inequality as a source of alarm, which is on a par with the global average.

This issue has remained stable over the past year.

Base: Representative sample of 24,737 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, April 25th 2025 - May 9th 2025.



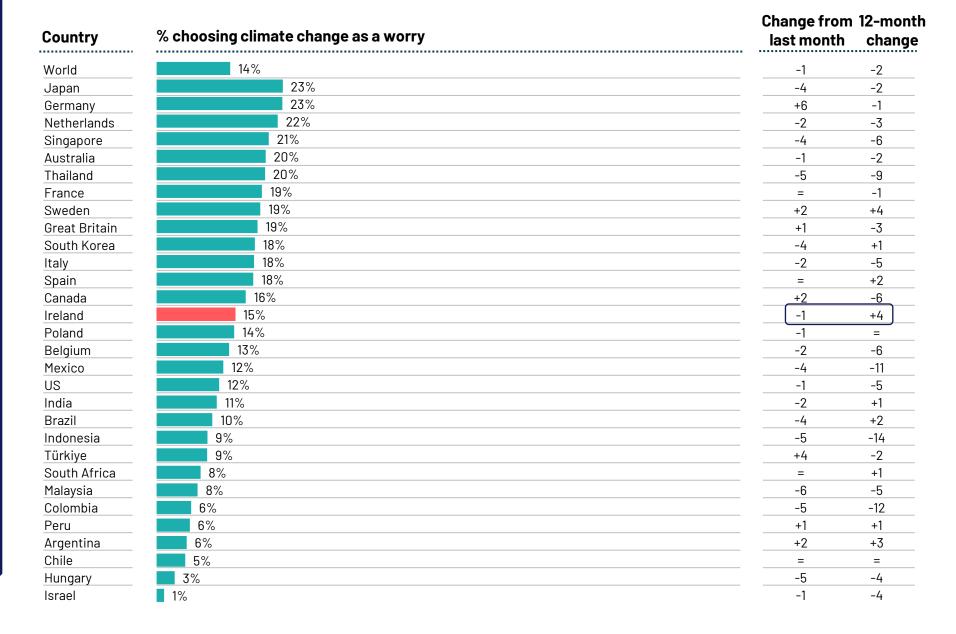


6. Climate Change

Just one in seven are concerned about climate change (again on a par with the global average).

Climate change as an issue increased by four percentage points since May of 2024.

Base: Representative sample of 24,737 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, April 25th 2025 - May 9th 2025.





THANK YOU



Ipsos B&A



@banda_ie

NAME:

Paul Moran

DETAILS:

paul.moran@lpsos.com

NAME:

Jimmy Larsen

DETAILS:

jimmy.larsen@lpsos.com

NAME:

Pooja Sankhe

DETAILS:

pooja.sankhe@lpsos.com

