



Introduction

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



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Survey results are based on a sample of 1,044 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 into condu Acum

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 30th August to 9th September 2025.







About Ipsos B&A

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Against the backdrop of the 2026 budget, confidence for the next 12 months remains muted.

This wave of the Ipsos B&A Consumer Confidence Barometer was conducted from the 30th August until 9th September 2025.

Consumer confidence has improved modestly in September, with a net rating of -49 (those feeling downbeat versus those feeling more upbeat). This compares with -53 last month.

61% believe that the country will be **worse off** in the year ahead, with a mere 12% expecting the country's economy to improve.

Relatively speaking, Dubliners continue to be most upbeat. As seen previously, confidence is lowest among females and C2DEs. Consumer sentiment has not recovered from the shock of a potential US trade war first mooted in April.

Those households who claim to be "coping" with the cost-of-living now stands at 64% similar to August. Many are resilient, but over one in five households (22%) continue to struggle.

Inflation has crept up, driven largely by the essentials; food and non-alcoholic drink purchases are nearly than twice the overall rate of inflation (4.7% versus 2.7%

overall). Inflation is now at an 18-month high.

Over two in five (42%) expect their net income to **decline** in the next 12 months, with just one in five (21%) being positive about the year ahead.

In total, nearly half (49%) think they will **spend less** over the year ahead, with just one in seven (15%) planning to spend more.

This mirrors saving intentions – 46% plan **to save less**, compared to just 22% planning to boost their savings over the next 12 months.

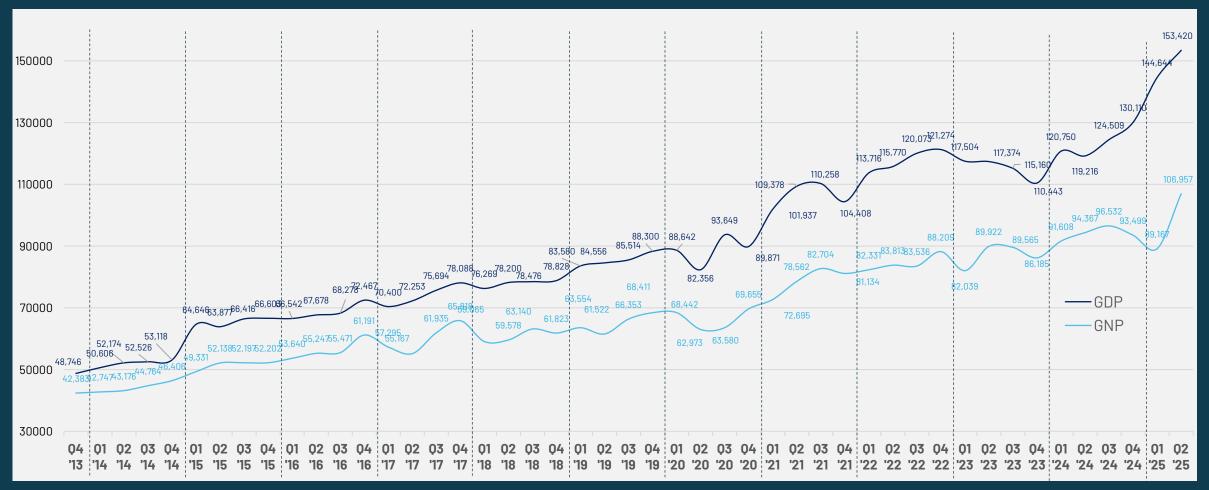
Householders in general do believe that their net asset wealth will increase over the next year. **Projected asset growth over the next 12 months remains broadly optimistic**, with over one in three (37%) believing that the value of their personal assets will increase. The gap (those who think their asset value will increase minus those anticipating a decrease) stands at +19%; a four-point increase since August.

Again, this is largely driven by Dubliners; at 44%, they are significantly more likely to have a positive outlook for the value of their personal assets over the year ahead.





The most recent CSO data highlights continued growth in GDP in Q2 2025, fuelled by the Pharma sector. Tariff avoidance has distorted GDP in H1 2025.

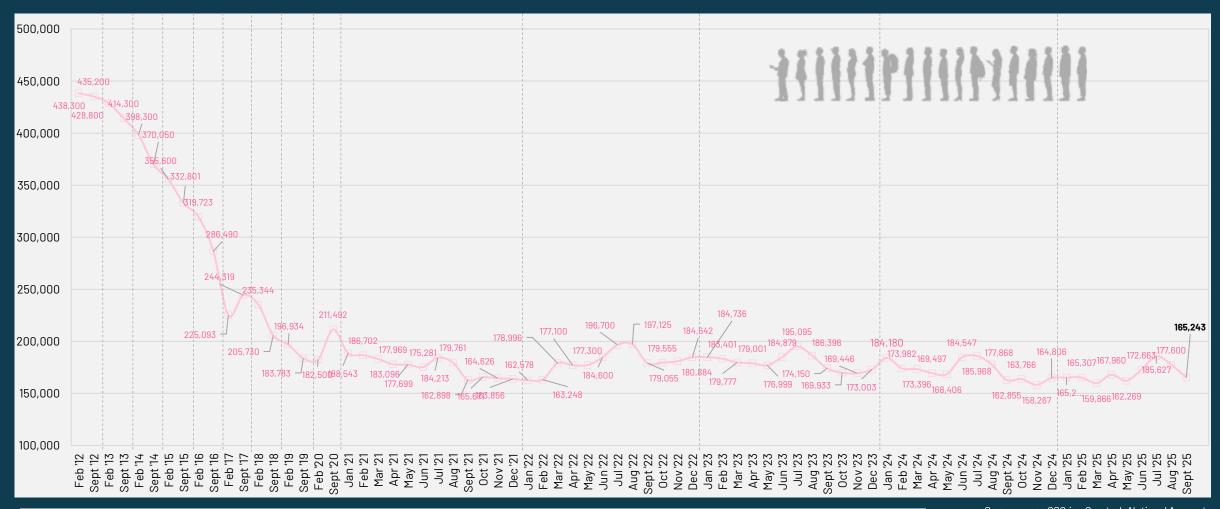


Note: Otr 2 data still to be finalised

Source: www.CSO.ie Quarterly National Accounts



In September 2025, the unadjusted Live Register figures stood at 165,243, relatively similar to the 162,855 seen in September 2024.



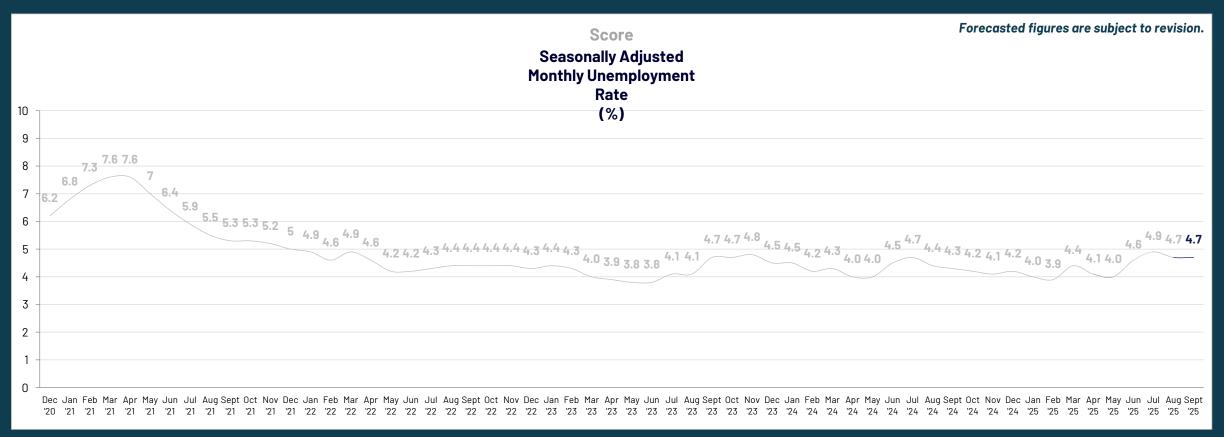
*The Live Register is not designed to measure unemployment. It includes part-time work e.g. seasonal & casual workers who work up to 3 days per week. Note: Based on unadjusted data.

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



The provisional seasonally adjusted monthly unemployment rate remains steady 4.7%; close to what is considered a full employment rate.

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Unemployment Rate

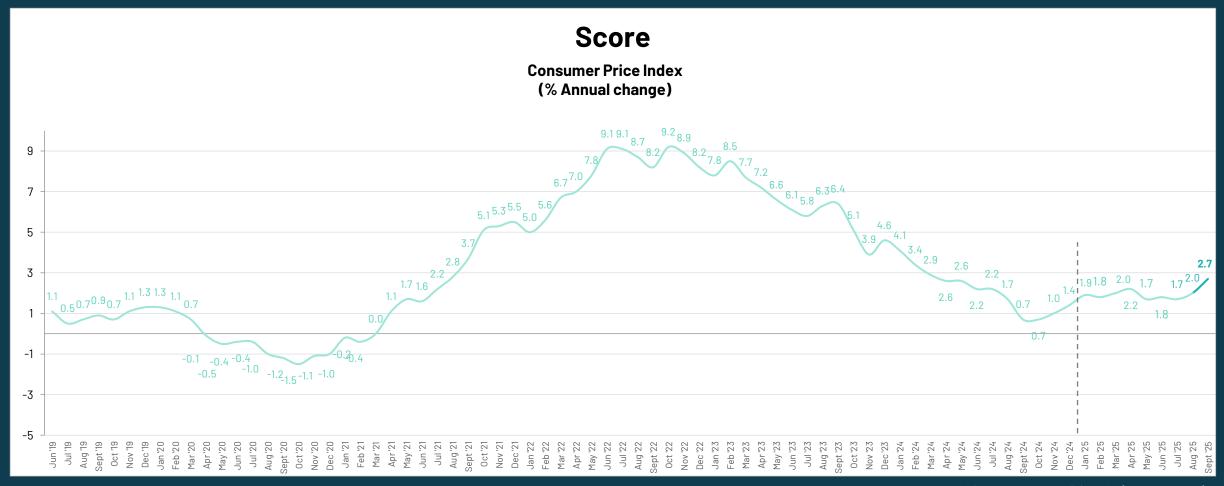


Source: <u>www.CSO.ie</u> Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Unemployment Rate



Inflation has increased quite sharply to 2.7% in September and is at an 18-month high.

Consumer Price Index (% Annual change)

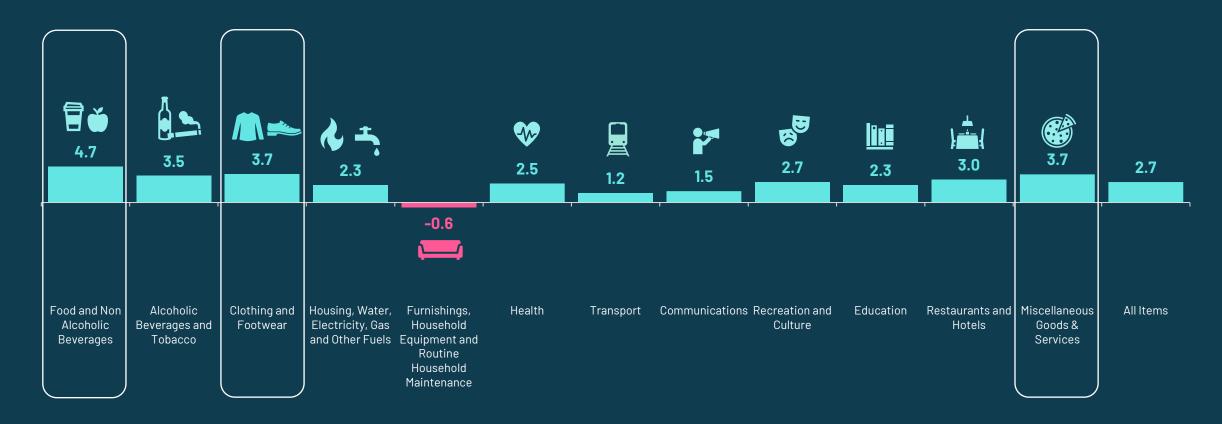


Source: <u>www.CSO.ie</u> Consumer Price Index (% Annual change)



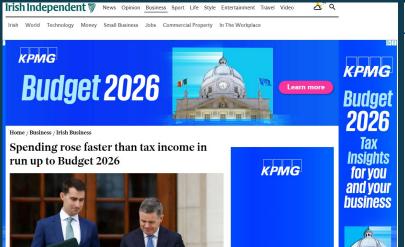
Inflation is highest within Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+4.7%), Clothing and Footwear (3.7%) along with other goods and services (3.7%). Household furnishings (-0.6%) is the only sector seeing deflation.

Consumer Price Index by Sector (% Annual change)





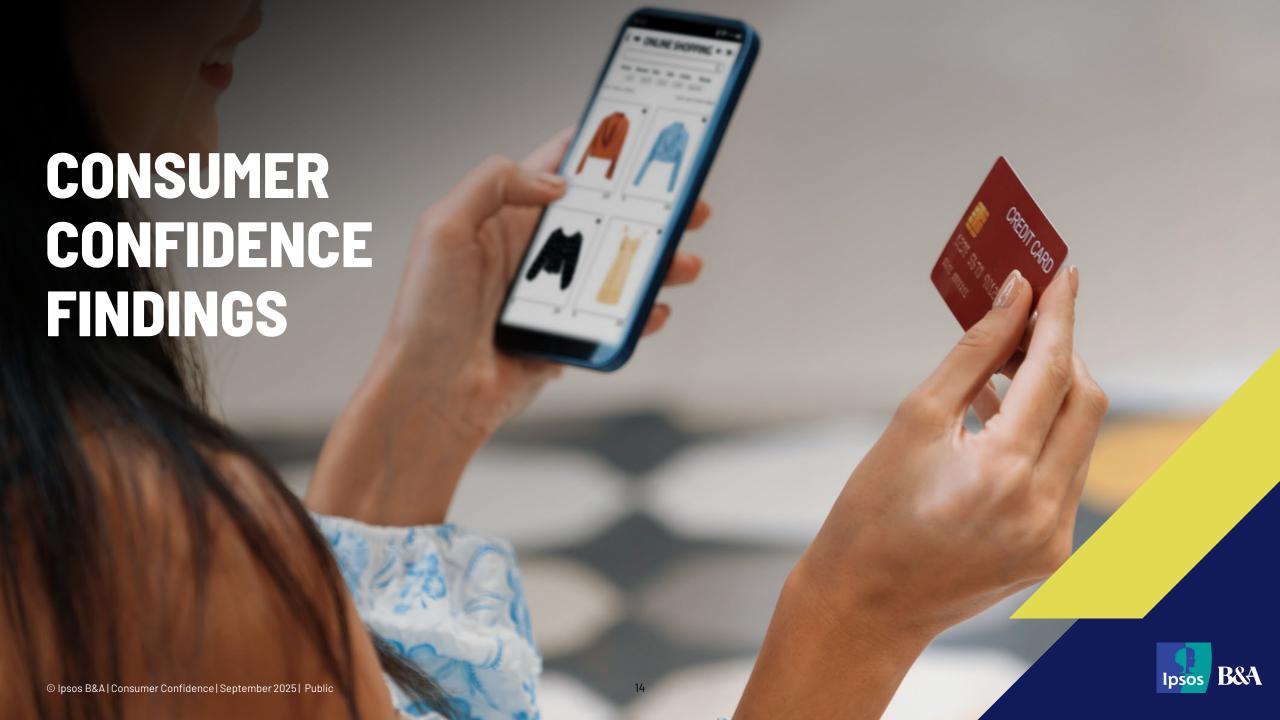
The 2026 Budget and ongoing tariff concerns weigh heavily on consumer's minds



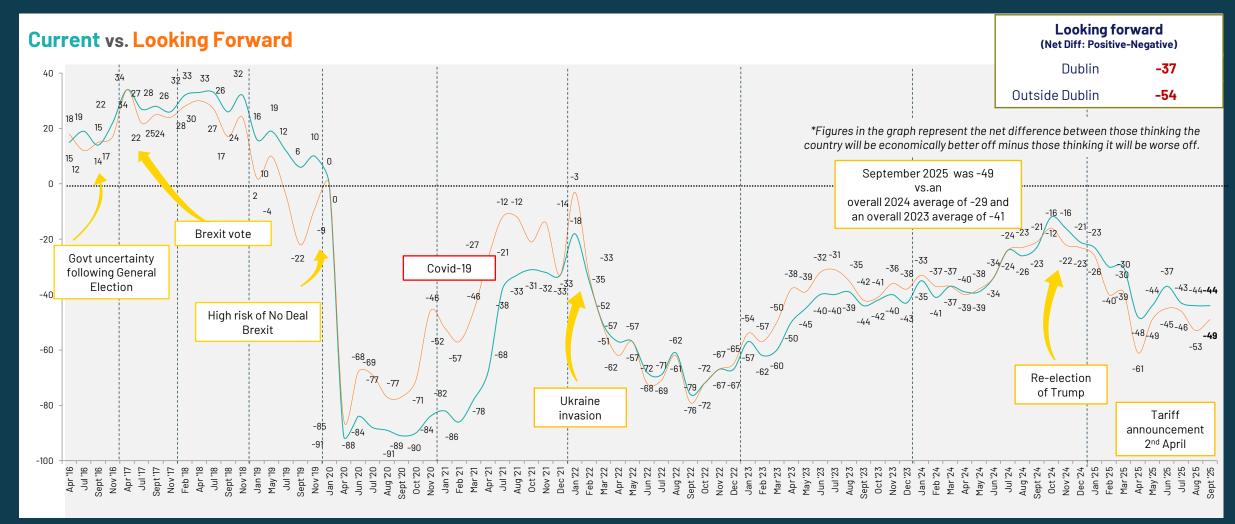








Consumer confidence inched upwards in September and now stands at -49 compared to -53 in August. However, we are still very much in negative territory.





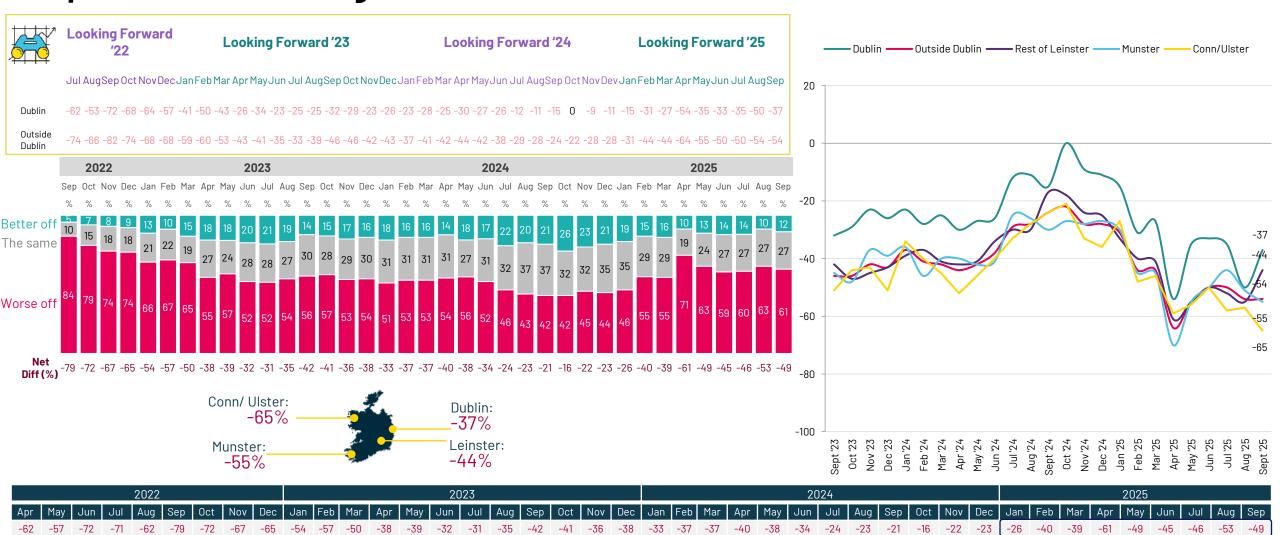
Pessimism for the future is consistently higher among females, C2DEs and those living outside of Dublin. Those aged 35-54 are also more negative about the year ahead.

	-49	-39	-58	-33	-58	-52	-45	(-52)	-37	(-54)	-48	-49
NET DIFF	Total	Male	Female	16-34	35-54	55+	ABC1F	C2DE	Dublin	Outside Dublin	Irish	Non-Irish
Aug '25	-53%	-44%	-62%	-42%	-53%	-62%	-50%	-56%	-50%	-54%	-54%	-50%
Jul '25	-46%	-34%	-58%	-38%	-51%	-47%	-48%	-44%	-35%	-50%	-47%	-42%
Jun '25	-45%	-38%	-52%	-30%	-54%	-49%	-41%	-50%	-33%	-50%	-46%	-42%
May '25	-49%	-42%	-56%	-24%	-56%	-64%	-45%	-54%	-35%	-55%	-51%	-43%
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%
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%
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%

Base: All Adults 16+

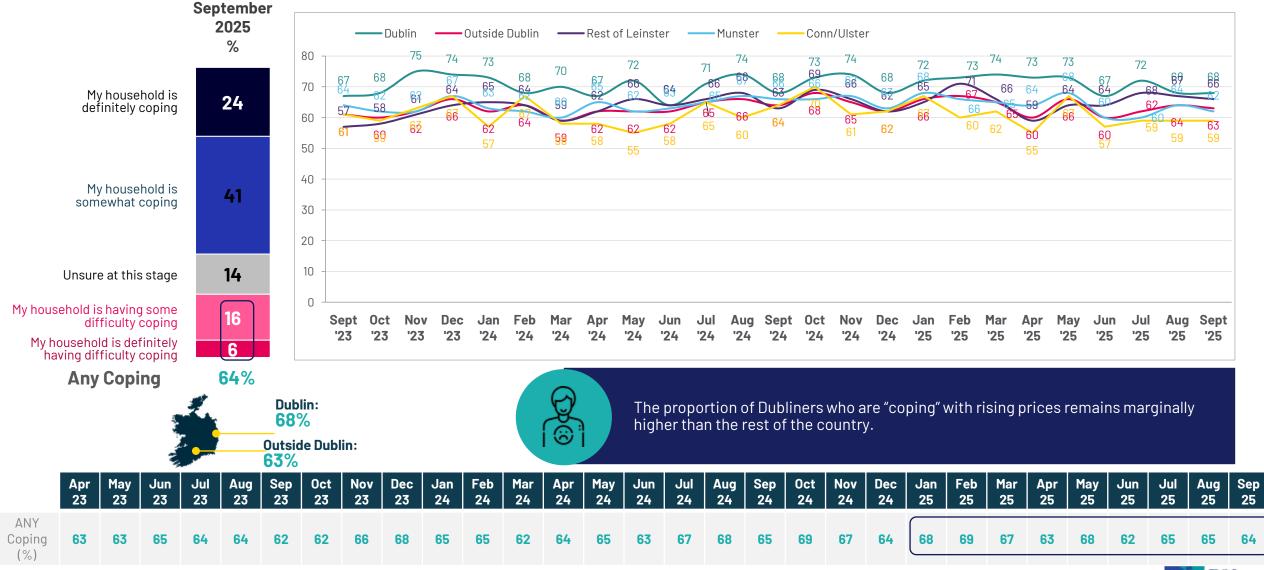


Three in five believe that the nation will be worse off over the year ahead, with just one in eight more upbeat, leading to a new difference of -49; a marginal improvement since August.



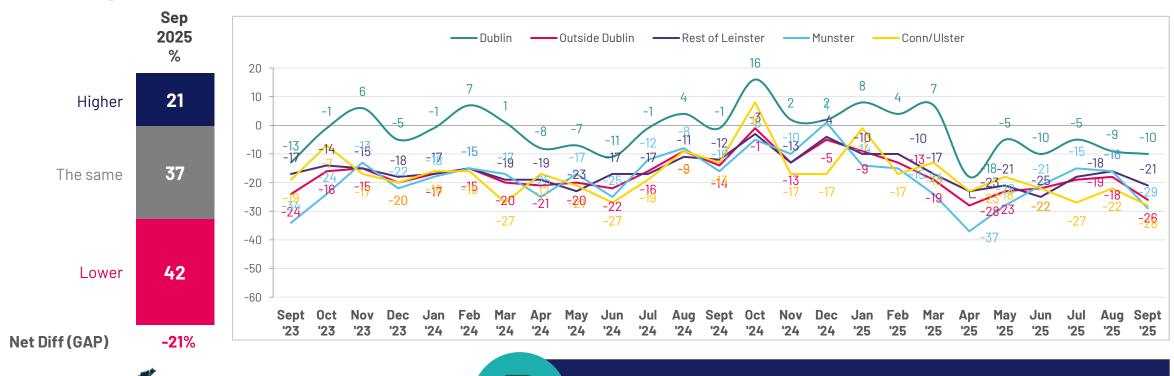


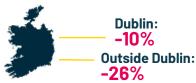
Despite low consumer confidence, consumers remain somewhat resilient – nearly two in three (64%) are coping with the cost-of-living. However, 22% are struggling.





Over one in five (21%) believe their disposable income will improve in the next 12 months, but 42% see storm clouds ahead. As a result, the net gap (higher vs lower) has disimproved.







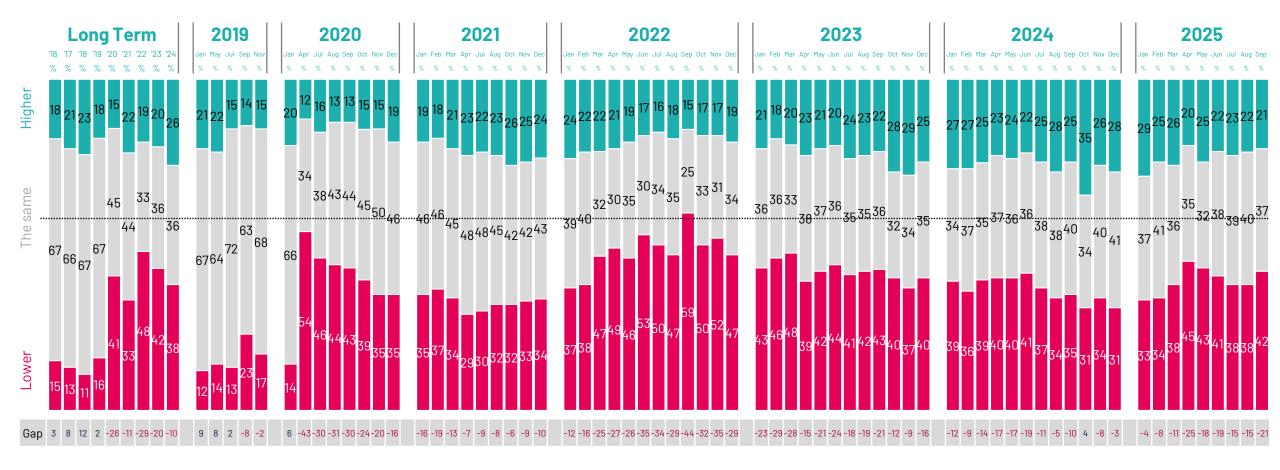
Those living outside of Dublin continue to be more pessimistic, along with females (-30) and those aged 55+ (-31). However, 36% of younger respondents (16–34-year-olds) feel their income will **increase**.

	2021 2022											2023												2024												2025															
	Apr	Jul	Aug	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	/ Jur	n Ju	ıl Au	ug Se	o Oc	t Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
Gap (%)	-7	-9	-8	-6	-9	-10	-12	-16	-25	-27	-26	6 -35	5 -34	4 -2	29 -4	4 -3:	2 -35	-29	-23	-29	-28	-15	-21	-24	-18	-19	-21	-12	-9	-16	-12	-9	-14	-17	-17	-19	-11	-5	-10	+4	-8	-3	-4	-8	-11	-25	-18	-19	-15	-15	-21



Income Projections - Looking Forward YOY

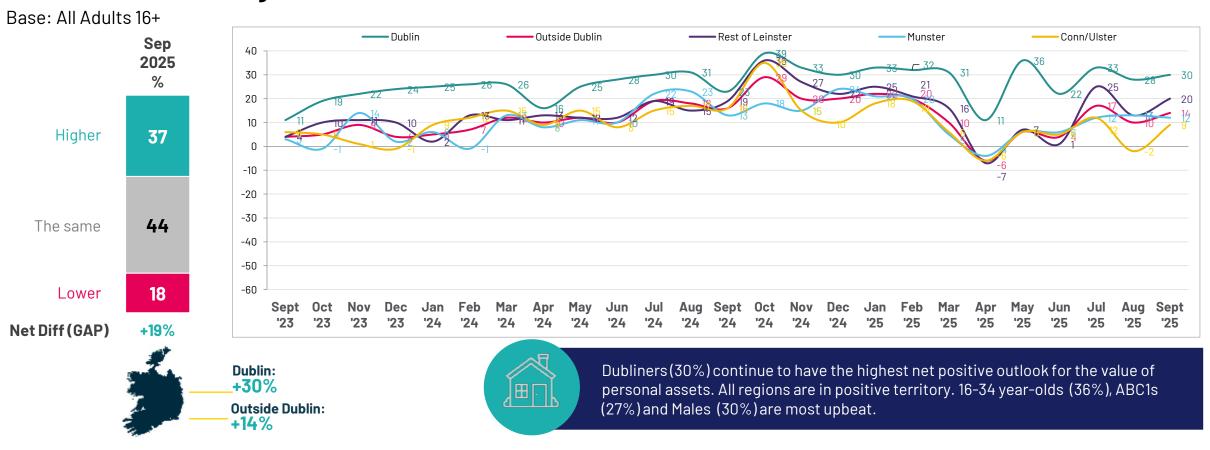
Expect it to be...

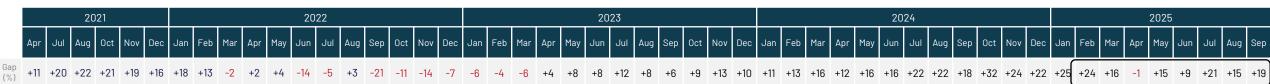


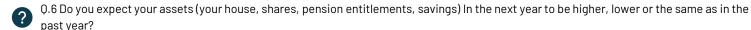




Despite pessimism on certain indicators, sentiment towards asset value remains broadly optimistic-one in five believing that the value of their personal assets will increase, driven by Dubliners.

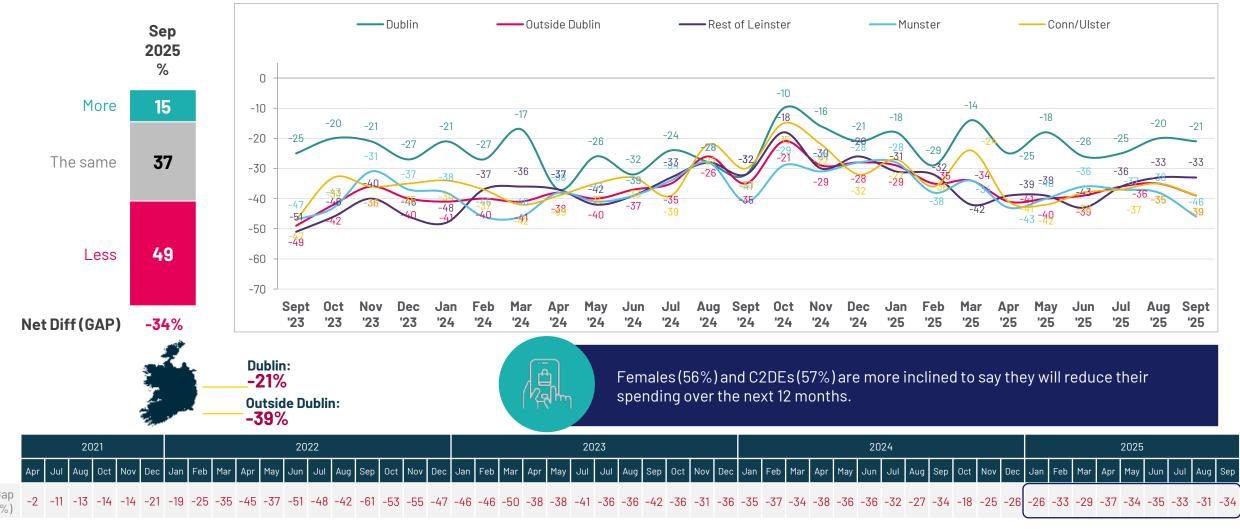






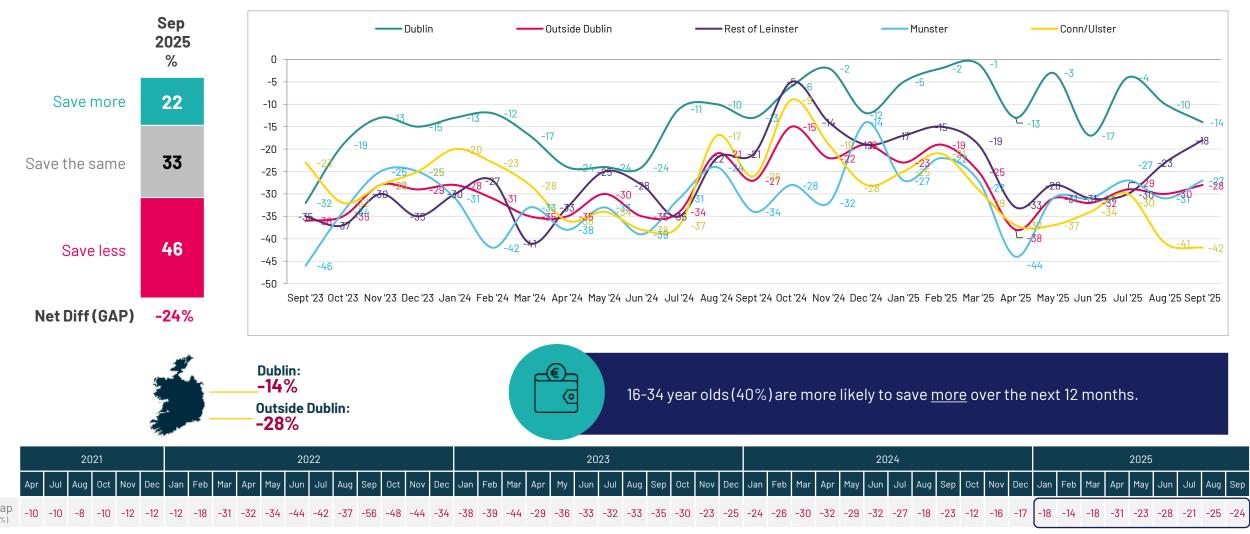


While one in seven (15%) anticipate increasing in their expenditure over the next year, nearly half (49%) think they will spend less.





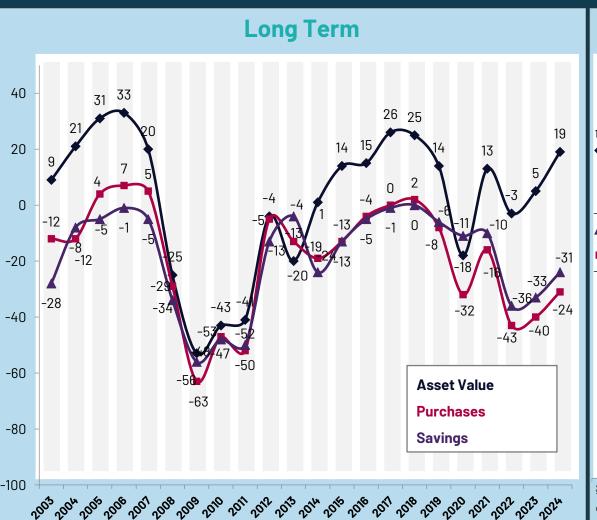
Nearly half (46%) anticipate saving less over the next twelve months, with just over one in five (22%) expecting to increase their savings.

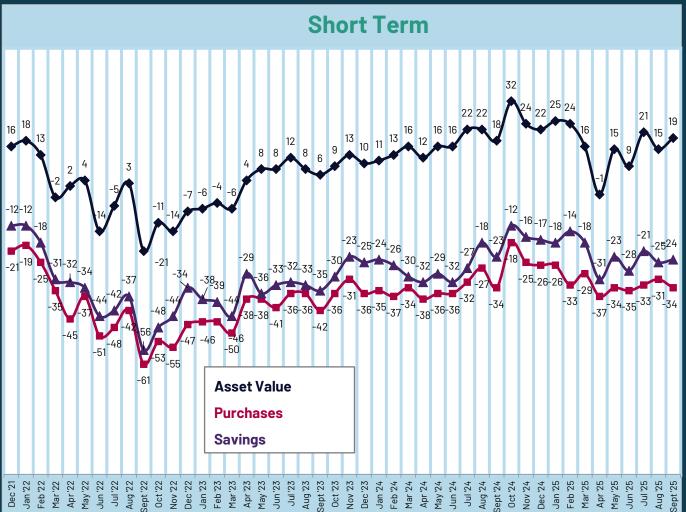




Balance Of Opinion in Summary – The Year Ahead

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







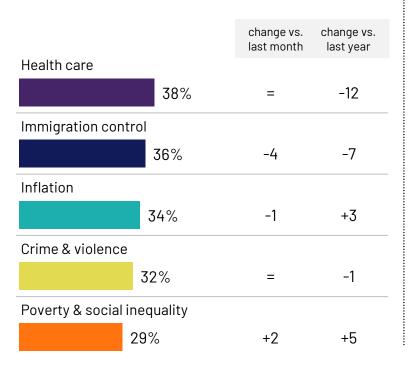




IRELAND SUMMARY: SEPTEMBER 2025

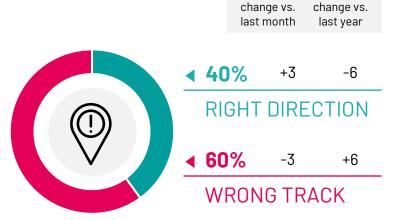
Top five worries

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



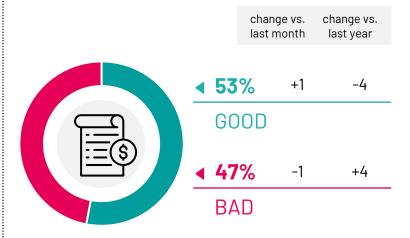
State of the country

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

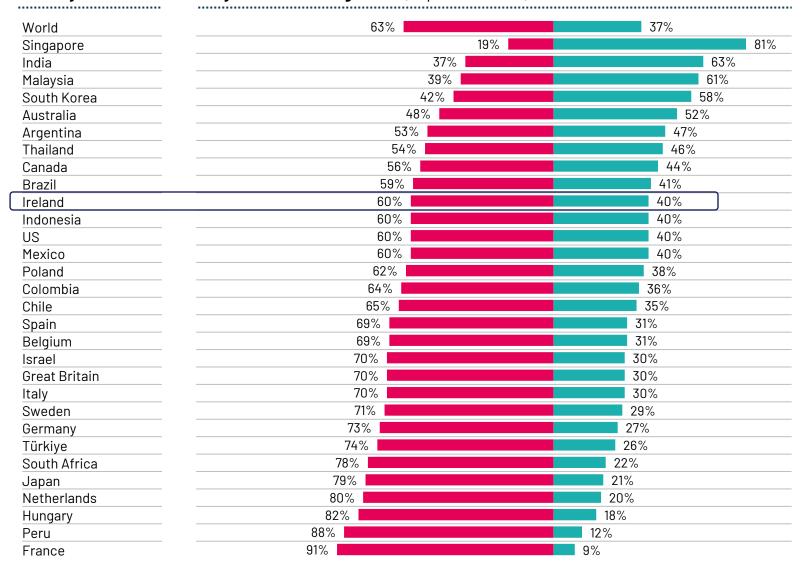
Two in five (40%) feel that the country is going in the right direction, up from 37% in August.

We are marginally more upbeat than the global average and are the most positive among European nations.

Base: Representative sample of 25,775 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, August 22nd 2025 - September 5th 2025.

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

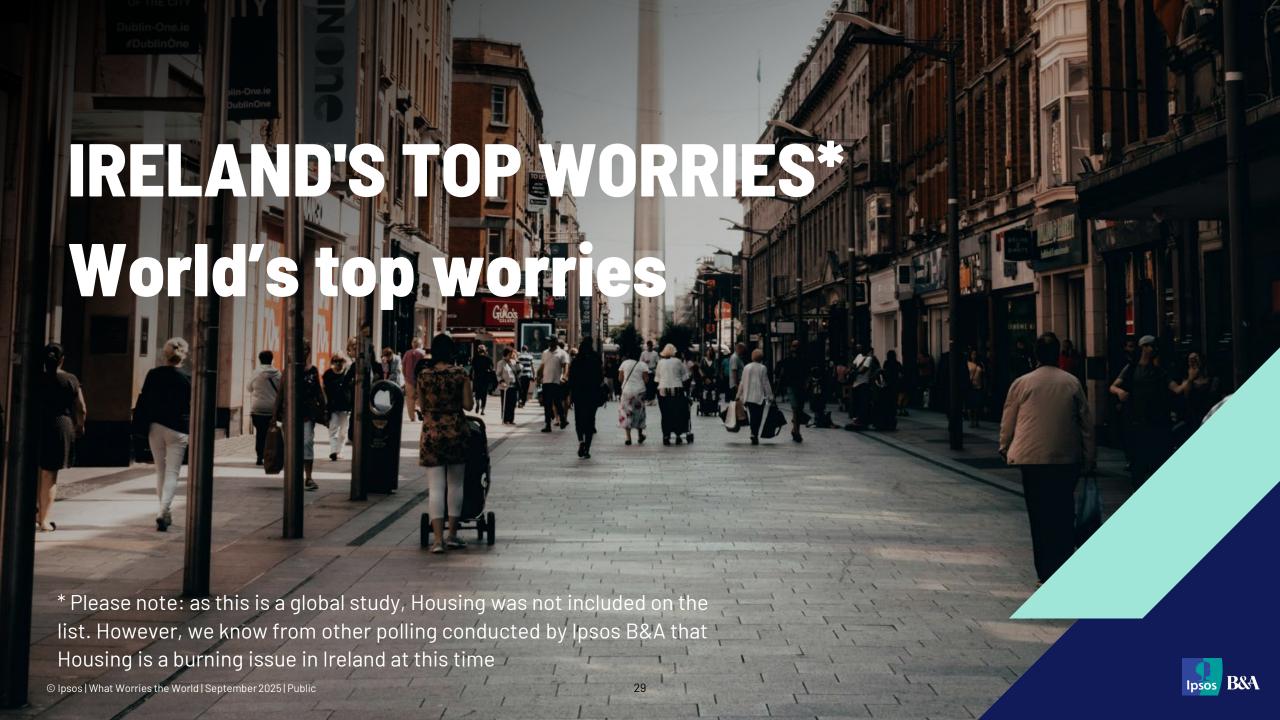
Q: Would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track? (September 2025)





Wrong Track





Ireland's Worries*

Healthcare has leapfrogged Immigration control as the most pressing issue in Ireland.

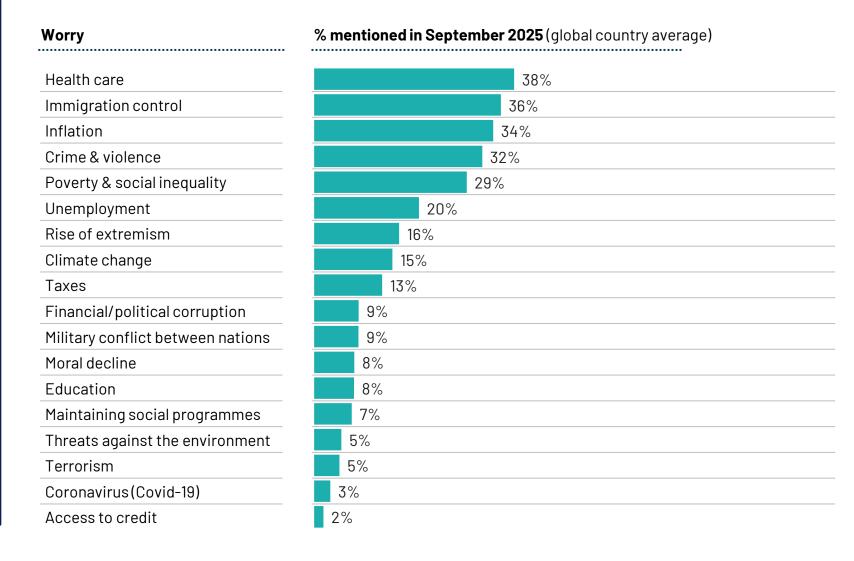
Inflation and the cost of living ranks 3rd.

Worldwide, healthcare is ranked 6th and is mentioned by 23% globally, while immigration is ranked 8th overall, and is cited by 18%.

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: Sep 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 a burning issue in Ireland at this time.



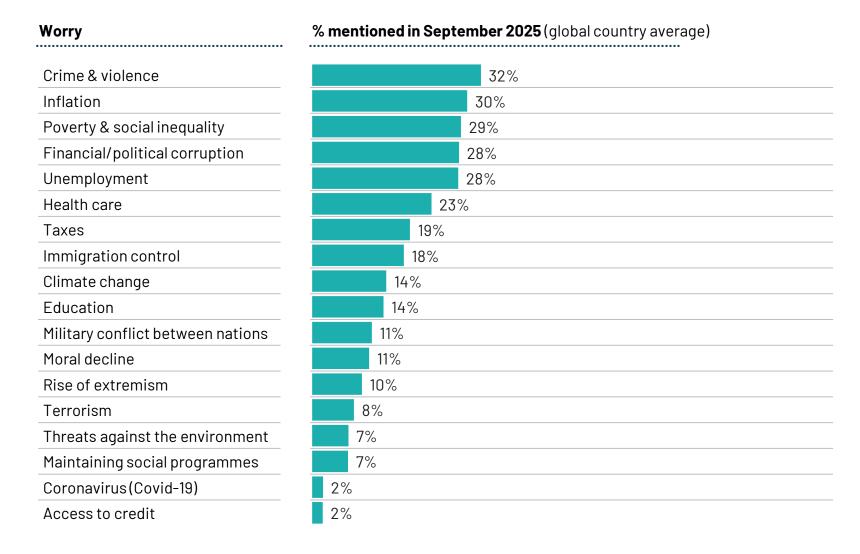
World Worries

Globally, crime and violence and inflation were the key concerns in September, closely followed by followed by poverty/social inequality, corruption and unemployment.

Base: Representative sample of 25,775 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, August 22nd 2025 - September 5th 2025.

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

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





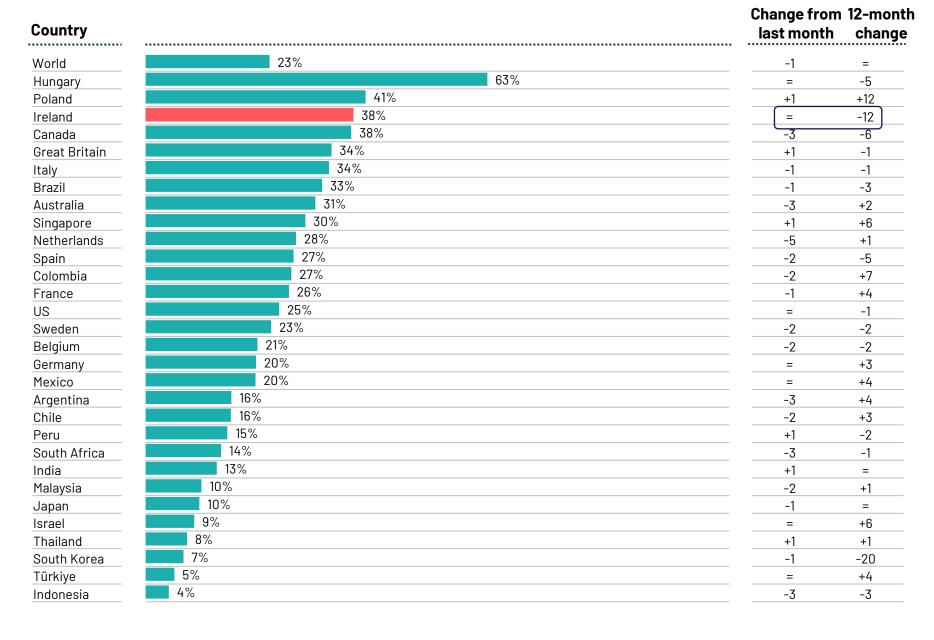


1. Health care

Healthcare is the most pressing issue in Ireland, and we exceed the global average significantly.

However, year-on-year the importance we attach to this issue has fallen sharply.

Base: Representative sample of 25,775 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, August 22nd 2025 - September 5th 2025.



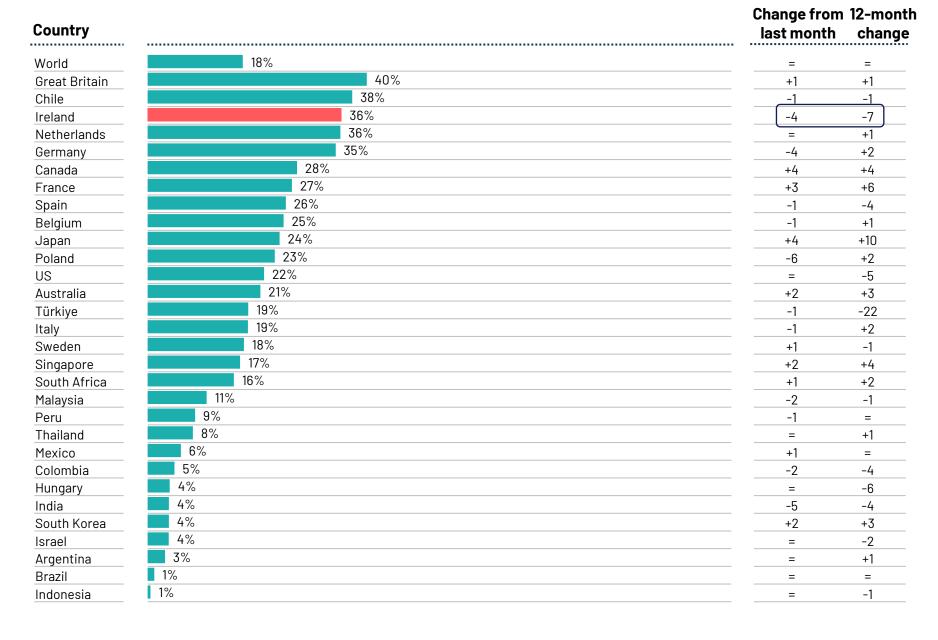


2. Immigration control

In terms of immigration, we are in the upper echelons globally in terms of our concern about this this issue - We are twice the global average.

However, this represents a decrease of four points since August, and a seven-point decrease year on year.

Base: Representative sample of 25,775 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, August 22nd 2025 - September 5th 2025.



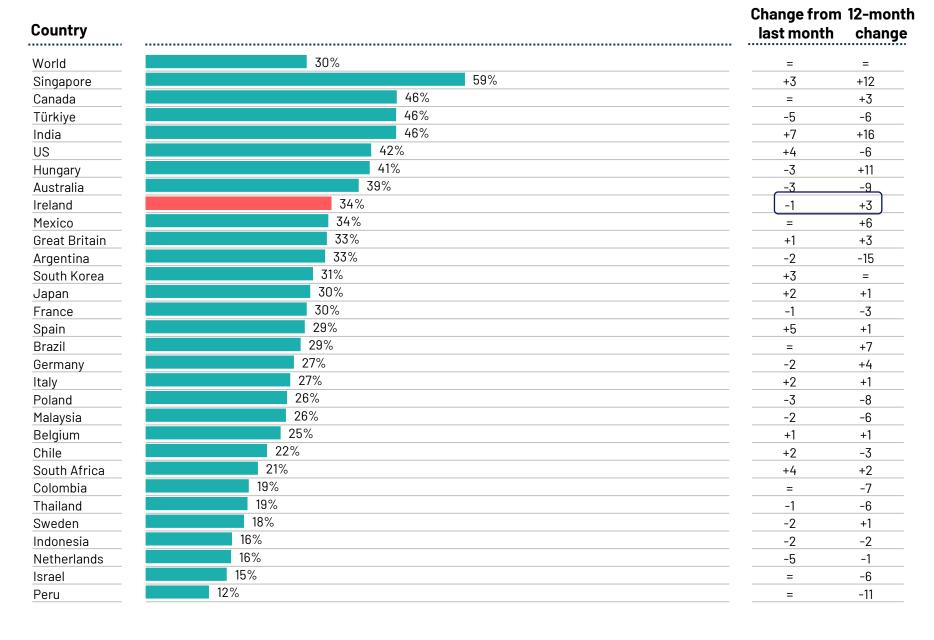


3. Inflation

We are slightly above midtable globally regarding our concerns about inflation/the cost of living.

Compared to this time last year, concerns about inflation have increased by three points.

Base: Representative sample of 25,775 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, August 22nd 2025 - September 5th 2025.



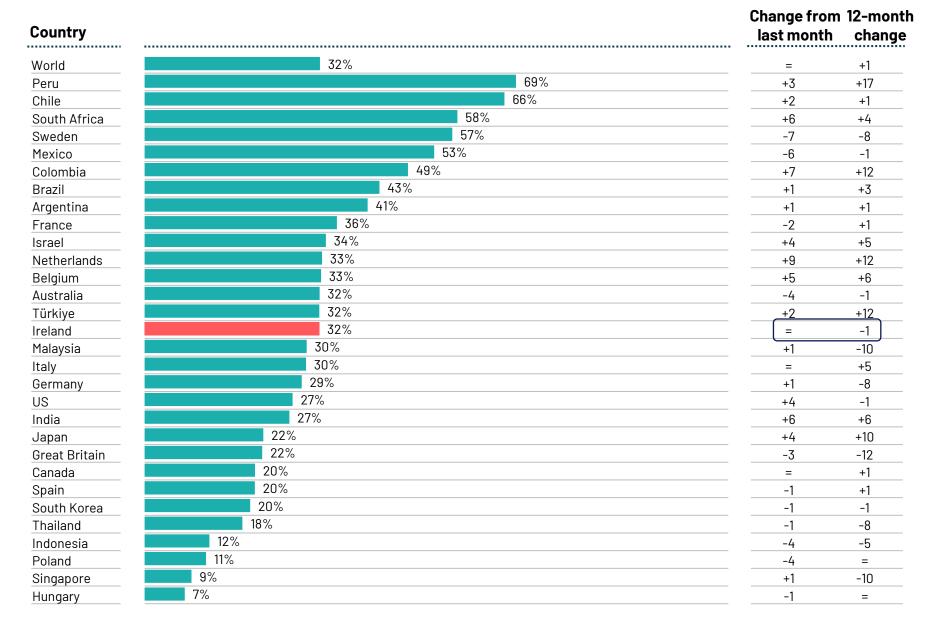


4. Crime & violence

We mirror the global average in terms of attitudes towards crime and violence.

Our concerns towards crime and violence have remained stable over the past 12 months.

Base: Representative sample of 25,775 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, August 22nd 2025 - September 5th 2025.



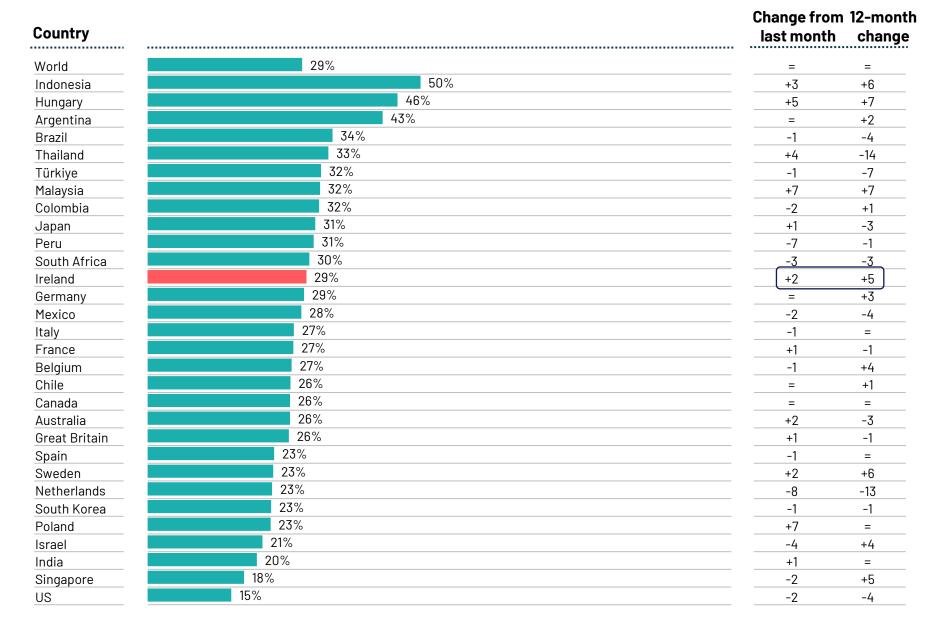


5. Poverty & social inequality

Nearly three in ten identify poverty and social inequality as a source of concern, mirroring the global average.

On an annual basis, concern about this issue has risen five points.

Base: Representative sample of 25,775 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, August 22nd 2025 - September 5th 2025.





THANK YOU



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