

October 2025

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Introduction

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



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Survey results are based on a sample of 1,040 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.



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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 16th – 28th October 2025







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A lacklustre budget leaves the public underwhelmed as we inch towards the winter months

This wave of the Ipsos B&A Consumer Confidence Barometer was conducted from the 16th – 28th October 2025.

Consumer confidence has **retreated** in October, with a net rating of -54 (those feeling downbeat versus those feeling more upbeat). This compares with -49 last month.

65% believe that the country will be **worse off** in the year ahead (up four points), with just 11% 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 61%. This is the lowest that we have seen this year – in addition, one in five (19%) say that they are struggling to some extent.

Inflation has crept up, driven largely by the essentials. Leaving aside education costs, food and non-alcoholic drink purchases are outpacing the overall rate of inflation (4.5% versus 2.9% overall). Inflation is now at a 19-month high.

Over two in five (41%) expect their net income to **decline** in the next 12 months, with just one in five being positive about the year ahead.

In total, nearly half (47%) think they will **spend less** over the year ahead, with just one in seven (14%) planning to spend more.

This parallels with saving intentions – 47% plan **to save less**, compared to just 21% planning to boost their savings over the next 12 months.

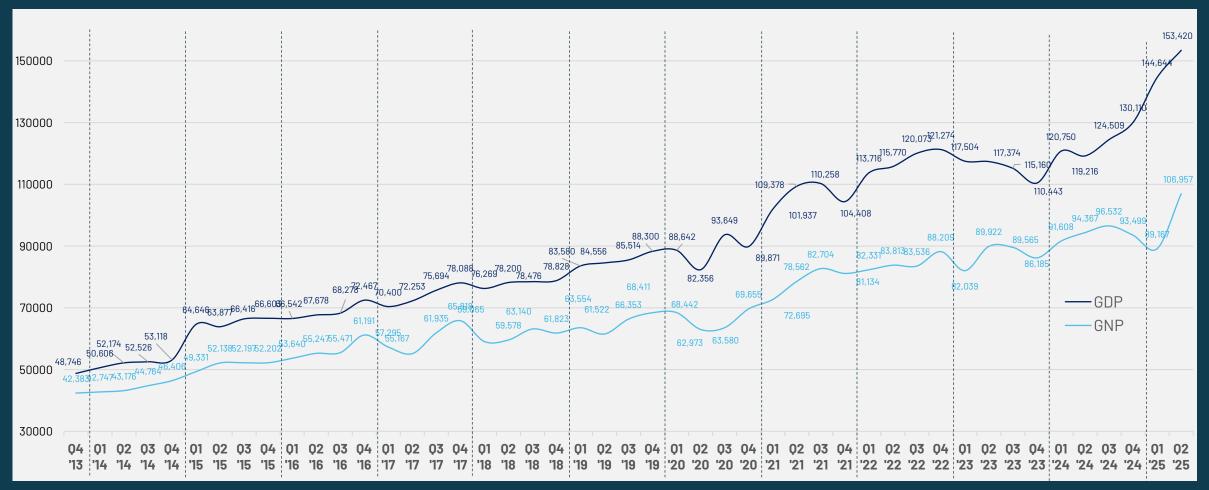
While householders still feel that their **net asset wealth** will increase over the next year, their sentiment toward asset growth over the next 12 months has softened in October - over one in three (35%) believing that the value of their personal assets will be boosted.

The gap (those who think their **asset value will increase minus those anticipating a decrease**) stands at +15%; a four-point decrease since September.





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.

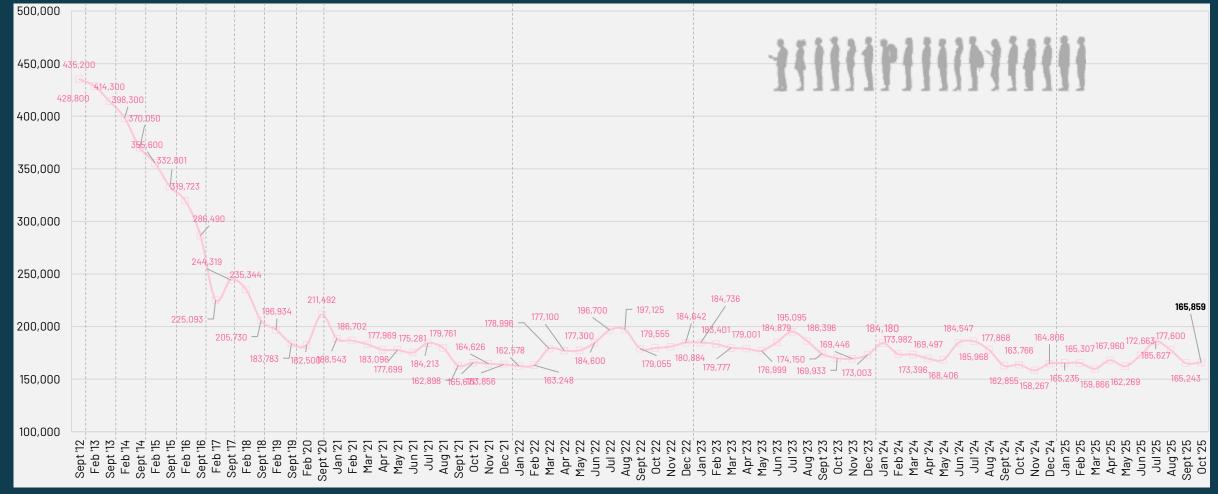


Note: Otr 2 data still to be finalised

Source: www.CSO.ie Quarterly National Accounts



The unadjusted Live Register figures remained stable compared to September but has increased marginally YOY, rising from 163,766 in October 2024 to 165,859 in October 2025.



*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 unemployment rate has edged upwards this year. While still strong, there are certain watch-outs; especially youth unemployment.

Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Unemployment Rate

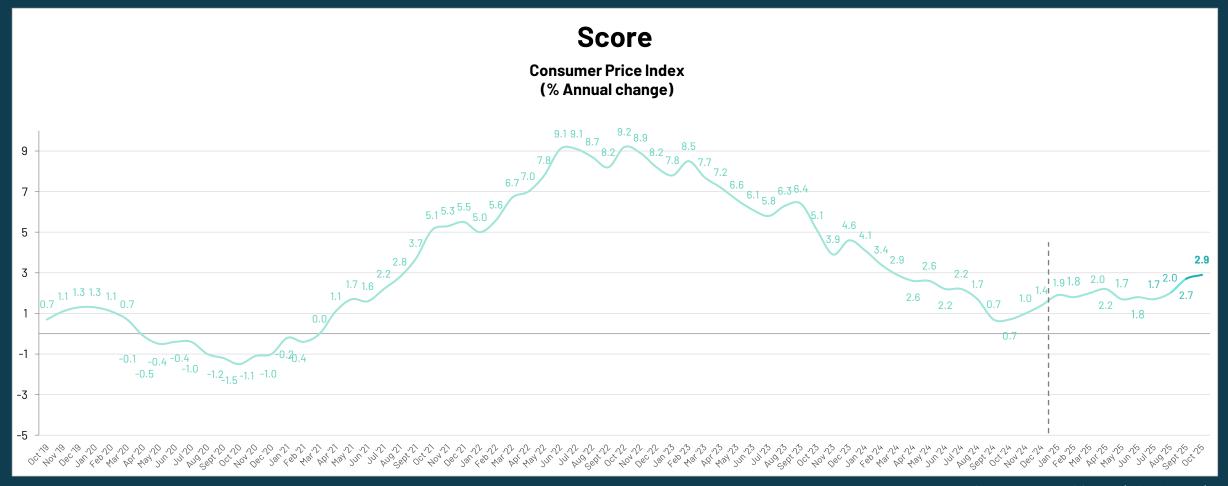


Source: <u>www.CSO.ie</u> Seasonally Adjusted Monthly Unemployment Rate



Furthermore, inflation edged up to 2.9% in October, the highest level recorded this year.

Consumer Price Index (% Annual change)



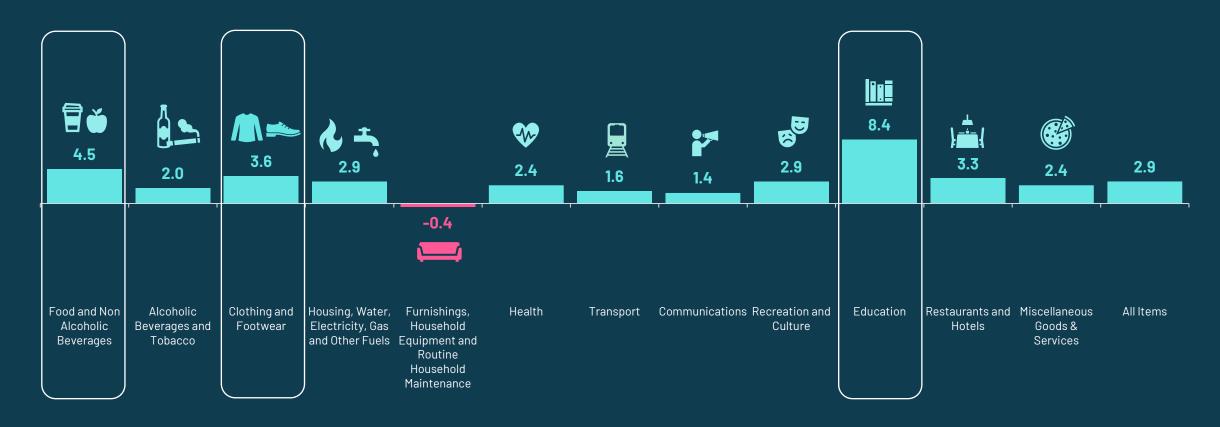
Source: www.CSO.ie

Consumer Price Index (% Annual change)

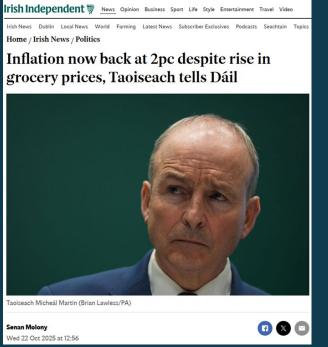


Inflation is highest within the Education (+8.4%) sector, followed by Food & Non-Alcoholic Beverages (+4.5%). Furnishings, Household Equipment & Routine Household Maintenance (-0.4%) is the only division in negative territory.

Consumer Price Index by Sector (% Annual change)



Stories about the cost of living dictate the narrative.







THE IRISH TIMES

Why are Irish energy prices so high?

Irish households are paying about €350 more a year for electricity compared to other EU countries

🔀 Expand



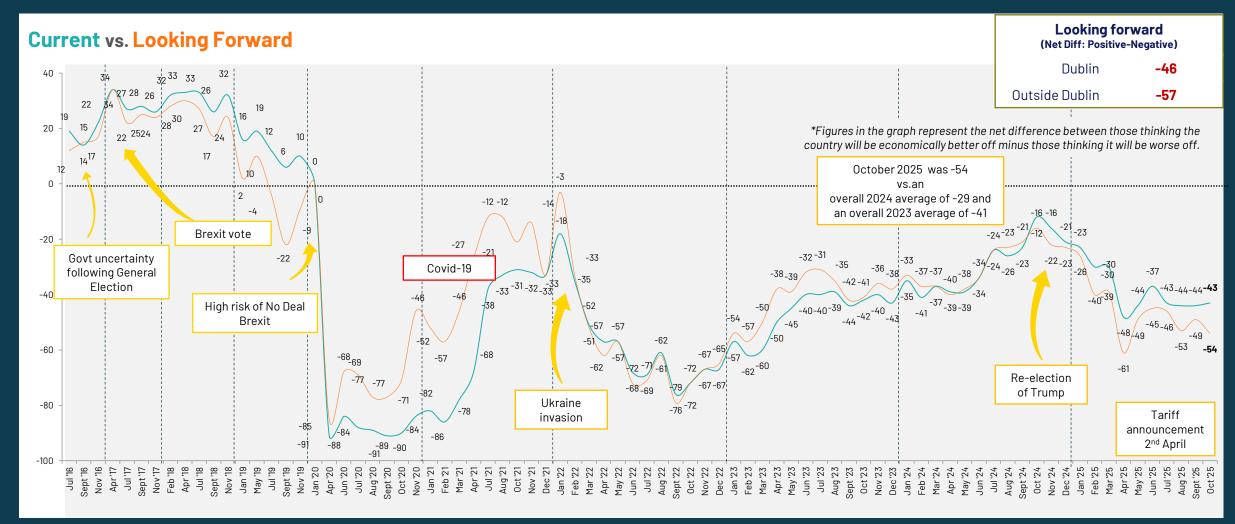
Heating a home in Ireland typically accounts for around 60% of a domestic energy bill, with the balance spilt evenly between heating water and electricity. Photograph: iStock



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Consumer confidence softened from -49 in September to -54 in October, likely reflecting growing concerns about the global economic outlook and a lacklustre budget for many.





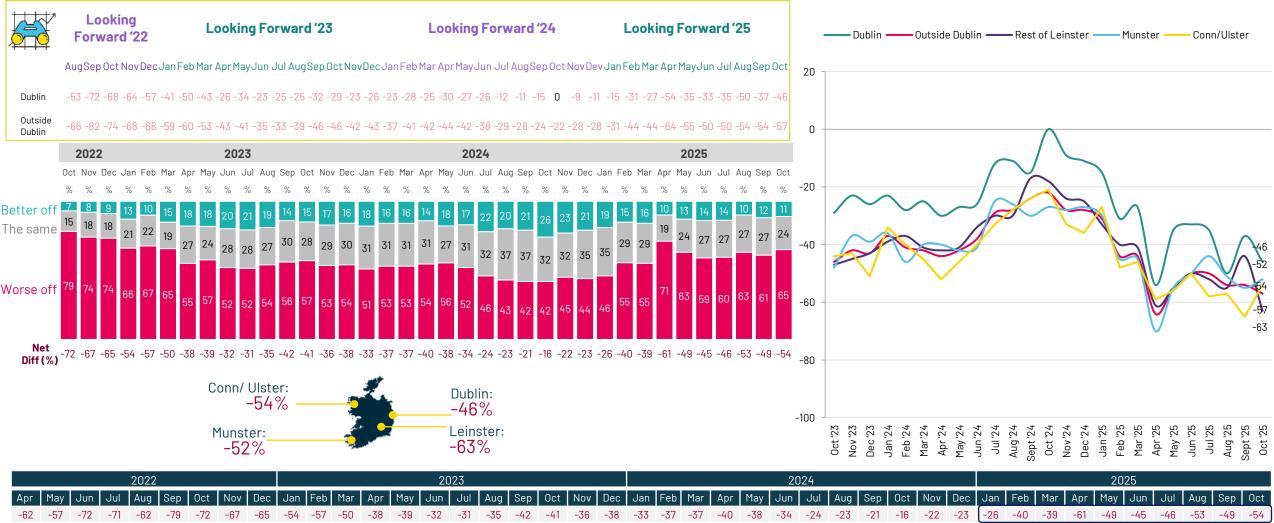
Females and residents living outside the capital are the most pessimistic in their outlook. Those aged 55+ were also more downbeat in October.

	-54	-42	-65	-46	-55	-60	-52	-56	-46	<u>-57</u>	-55	-50
NET DIFF	Total	Male	Female	16-34	35-54	55+	ABC1F	C2DE	Dublin	Outside Dublin	Irish	Non-Irish
Sep '25	-49%	-39%	-58%	-33%	-58%	-52%	-45%	-52%	-37%	-54%	-48%	-49%
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%
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%

Base: All Adults 16+

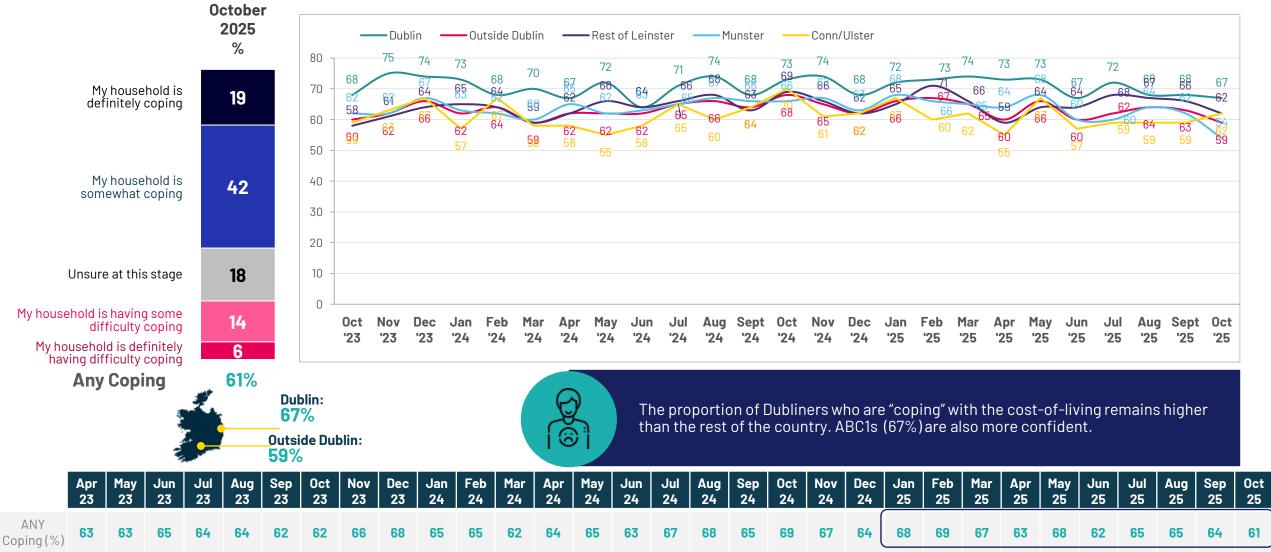


Two in three feel that the country will be worse off over the next 12 months; just one in 10 are optimistic.



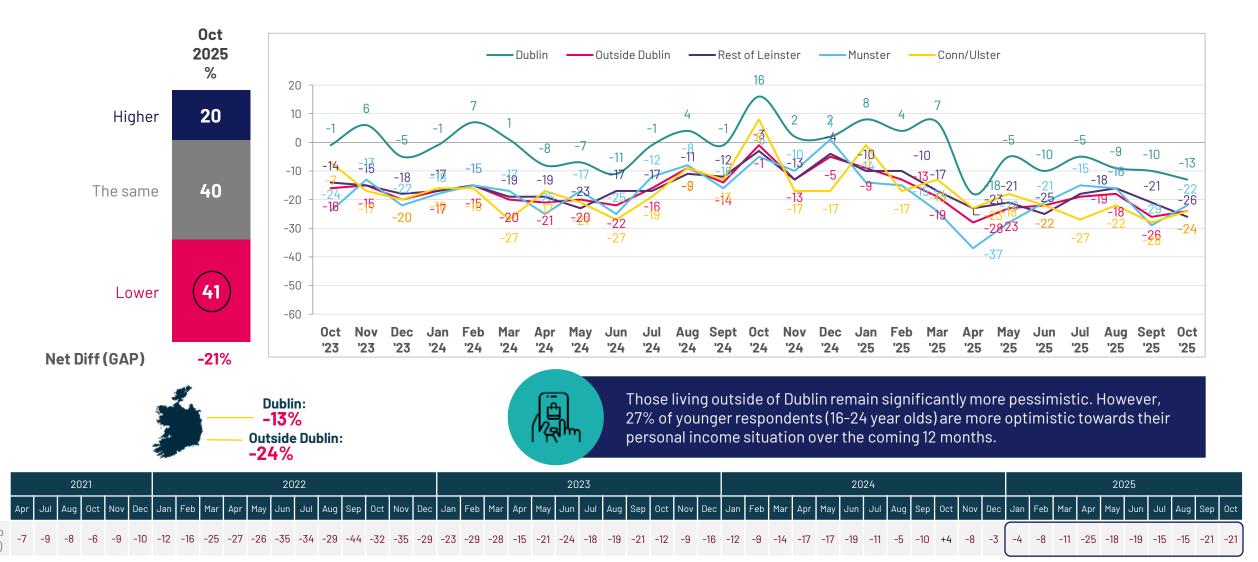


Despite lower consumer confidence, consumers continue to remain resilient, with three in five being "coping" with rising prices. Nevertheless, 19% are struggling.





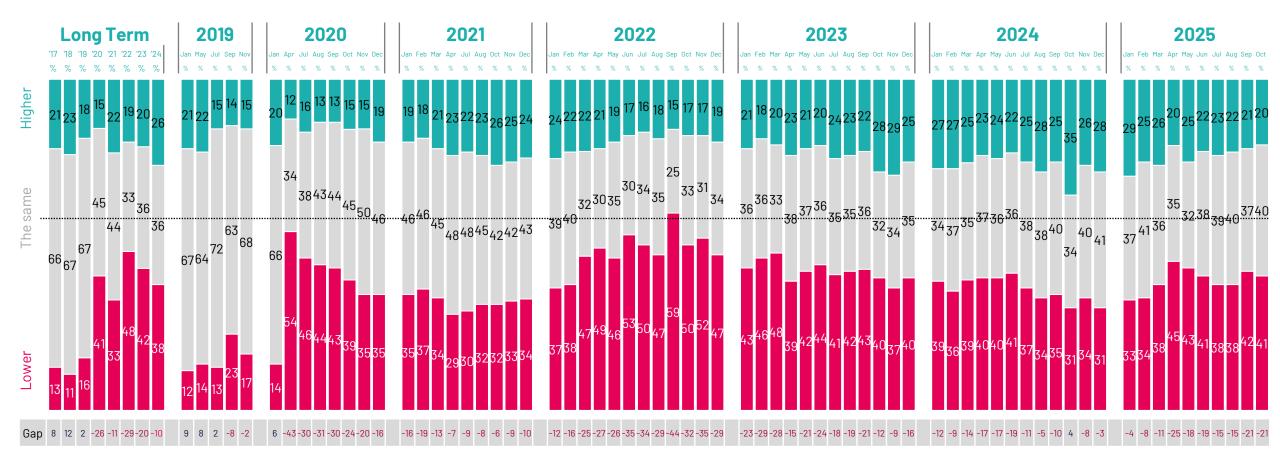
One in five feel their disposable income will improve in the coming year, but the largest proportion are those who are expecting to see a decline.





Income Projections - Looking Forward YOY

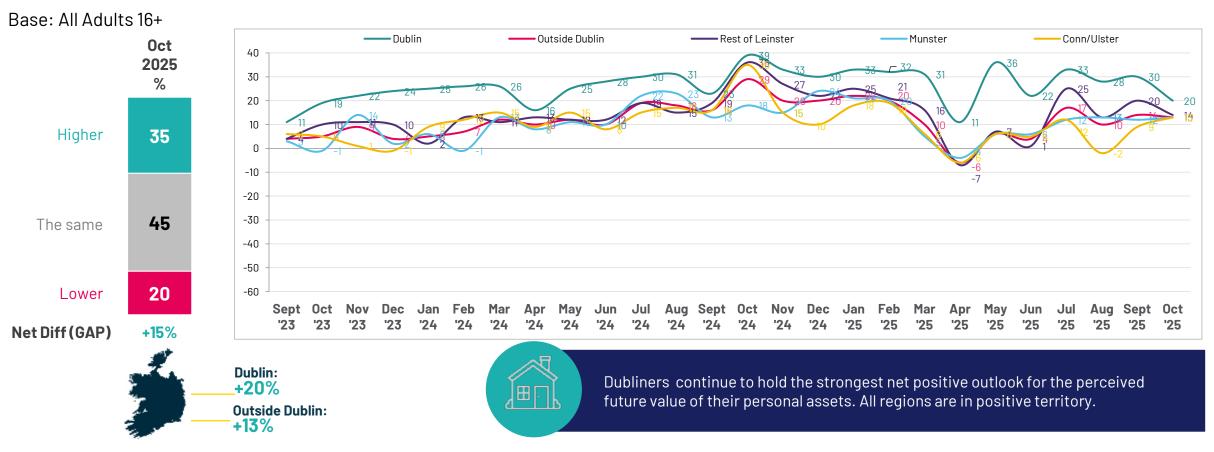
Expect it to be...

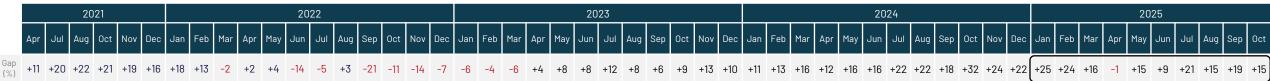






Sentiment toward asset growth over the next 12 months softened in October; while we remain in positive territory, there has been a decrease overall this month.

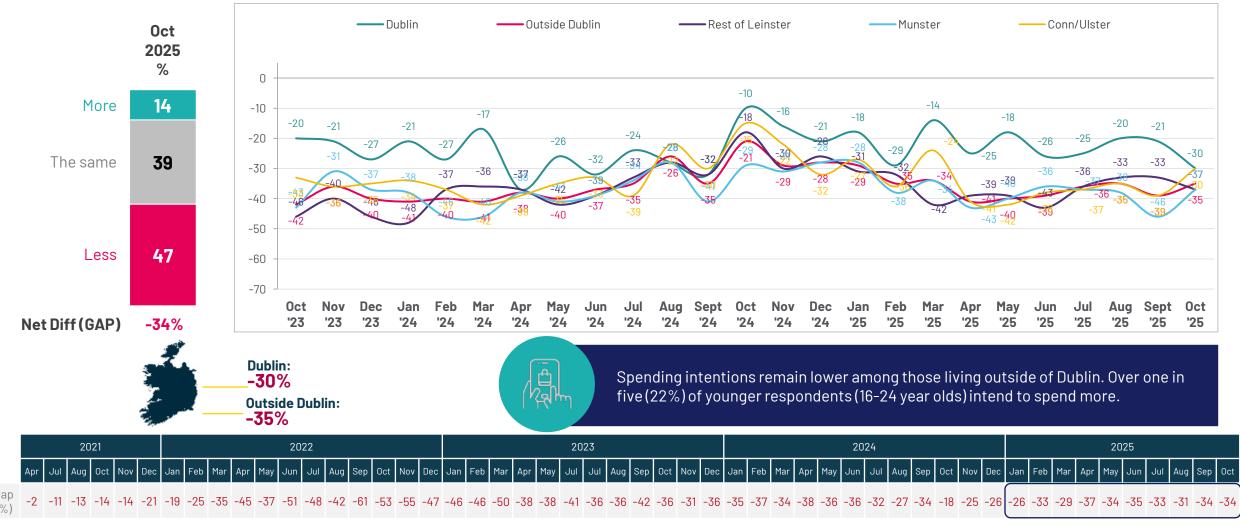






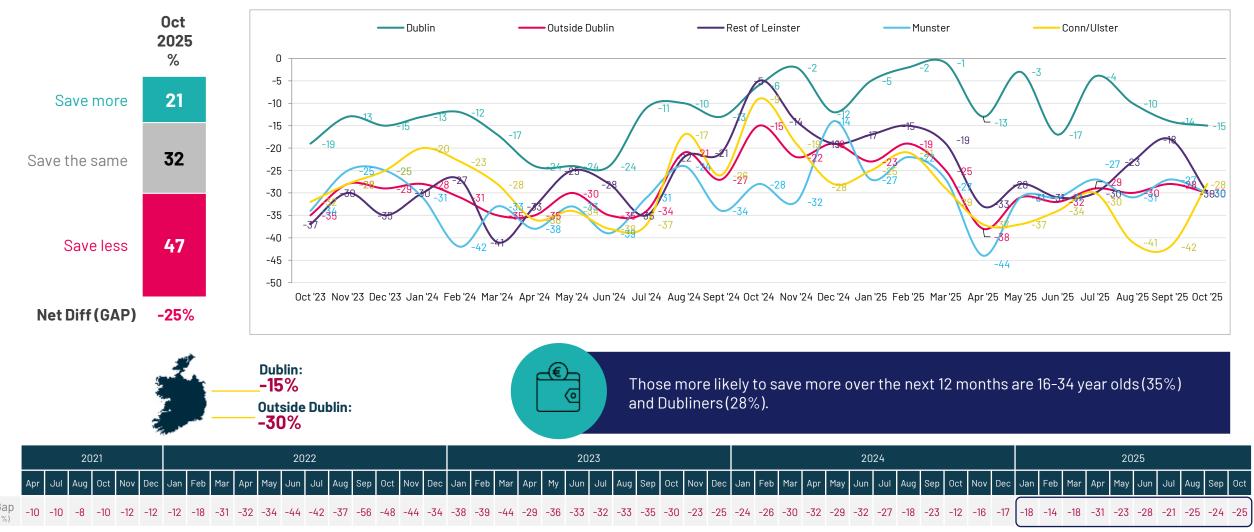


Spending intentions remains relatively stable. However, nearly half expect to spend less in the coming year.





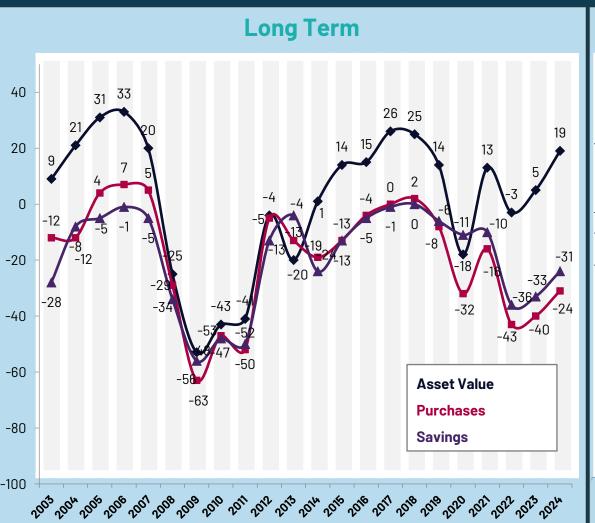
Nearly half (47%) say they will save less, with just over one in five (21%) planning to boost their savings.

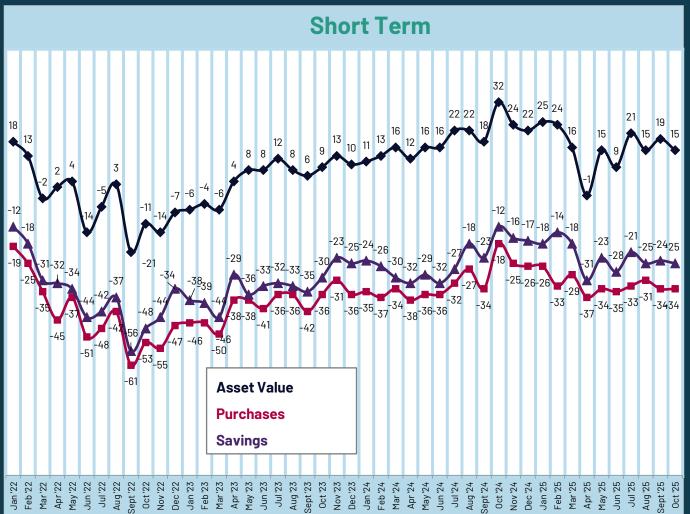




Balance Of Opinion in Summary - The Year Ahead

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









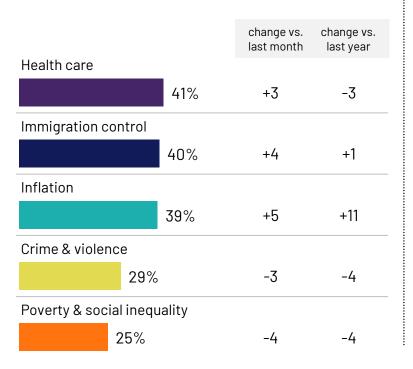
Q.8 Do you expect to save more, less or the same amount in the year ahead compared with the last twelve months?



IRELAND SUMMARY: OCTOBER 2025

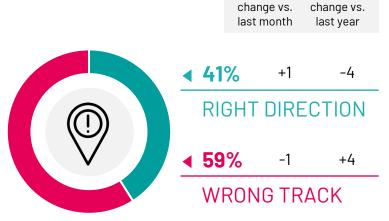
Top five worries

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



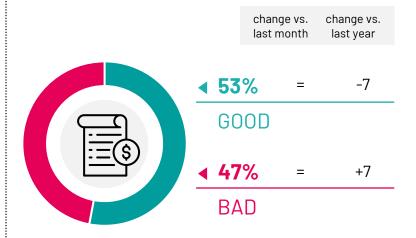
State of the country

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

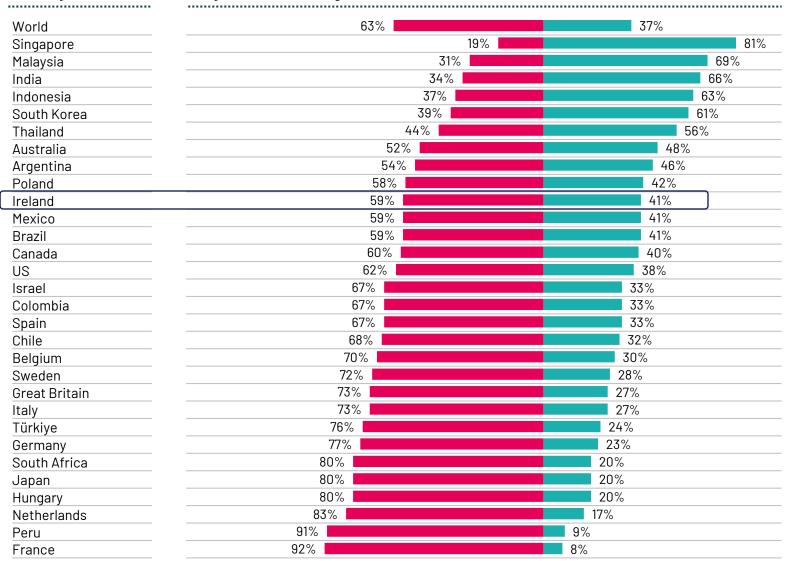
Two in five (41%) feel that the country is going in the right direction, marginally up from 40% in September.

We are more upbeat than the global average and alongside Poland, are the most positive among European nations.

Base: Representative sample of 25,589 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, September 19th 2025 - October 3rd 2025.

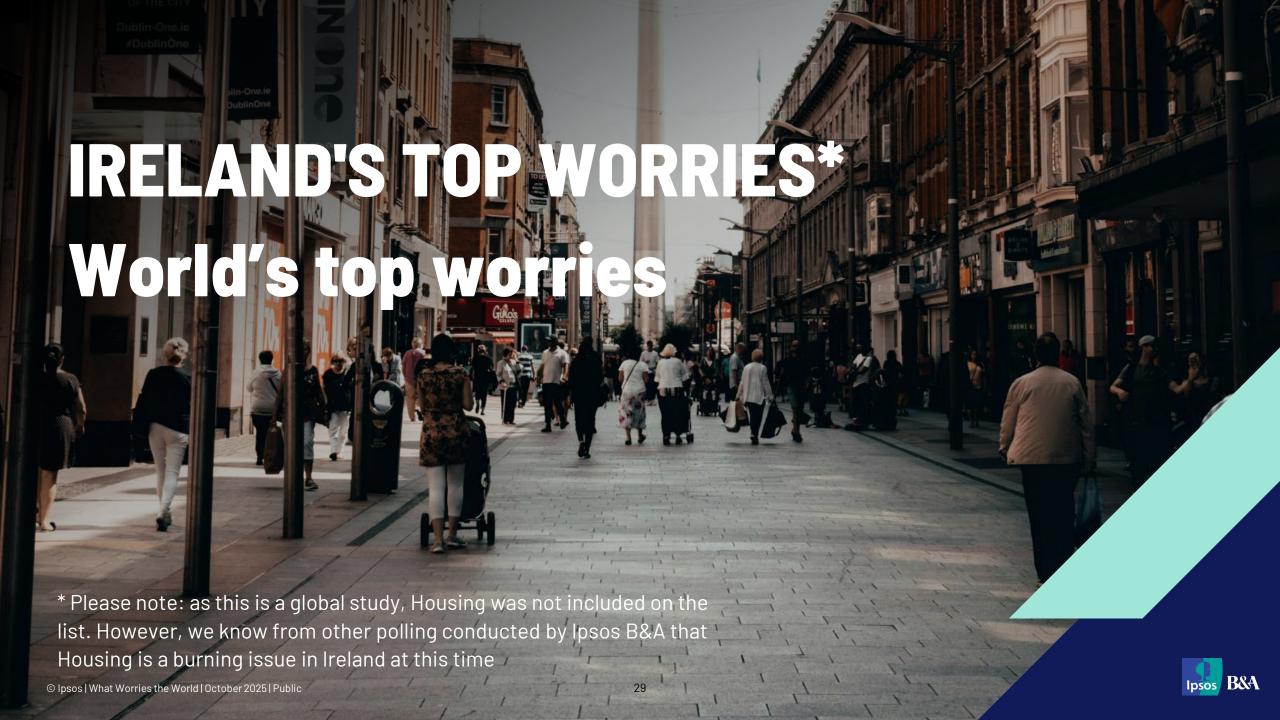
Source: Ipsos Global Advisor. Global score is a Global Country Average. See methodology for details. **Filter:** Country: World | Current Wave: Oct 25

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









Ireland's Worries*

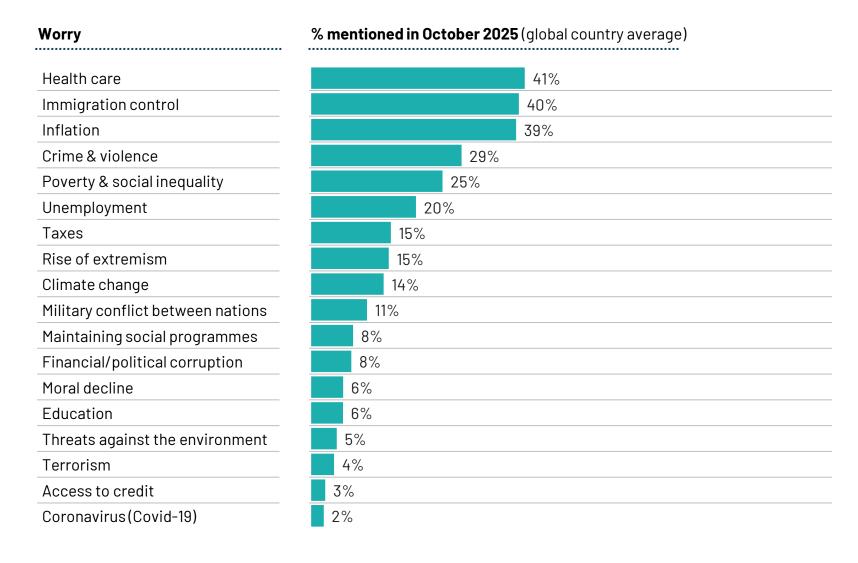
Healthcare remains the most pressing issue in Ireland, closely followed by Immigration control and Inflation / the cost of living.

Worldwide, healthcare is ranked 6th and is mentioned by 23% globally, while immigration is ranked 7th 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: Oct 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.



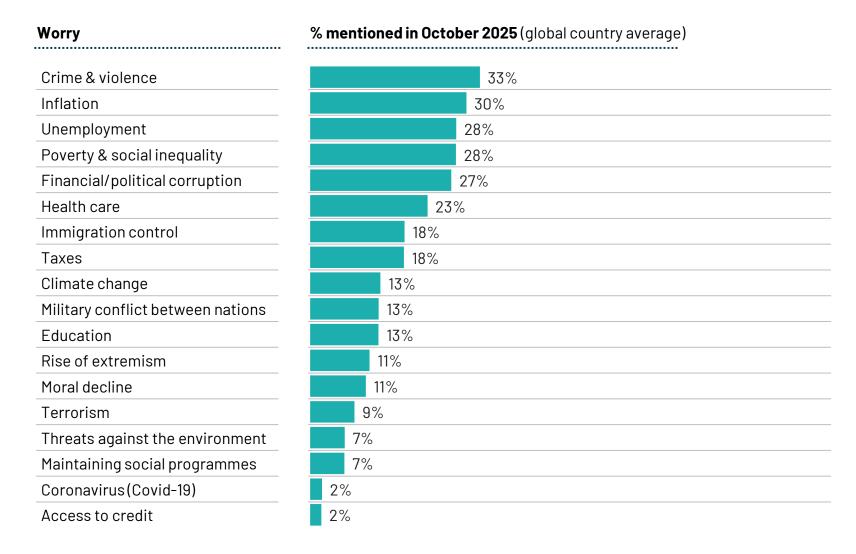
World Worries

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

Base: Representative sample of 25,589 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, September 19th 2025 - October 3rd 2025.

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

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





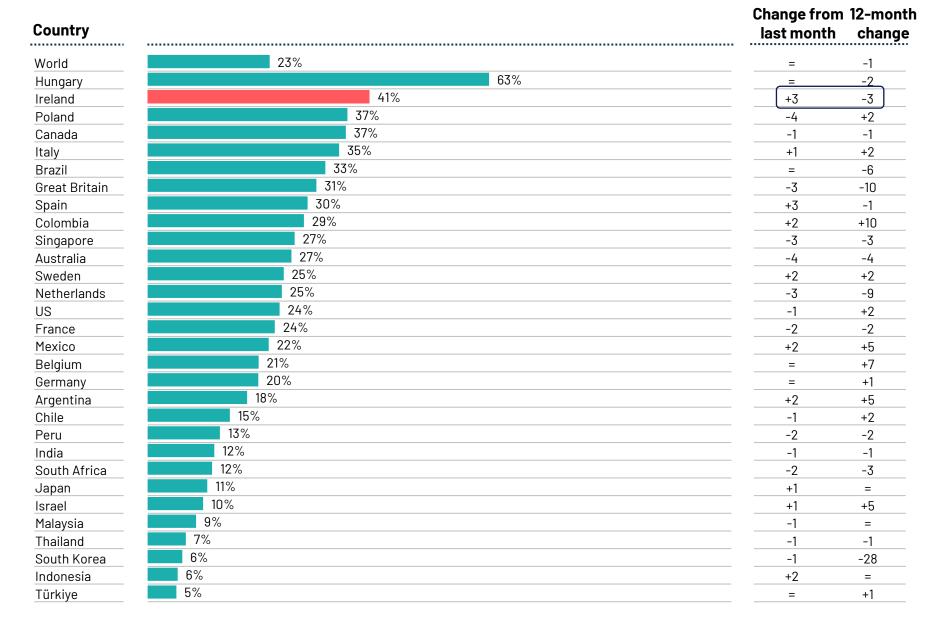


1. Health care

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

We are second only to Hungary in terms of our concern for this issue.

Base: Representative sample of 25,589 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, September 19th 2025 - October 3rd 2025.



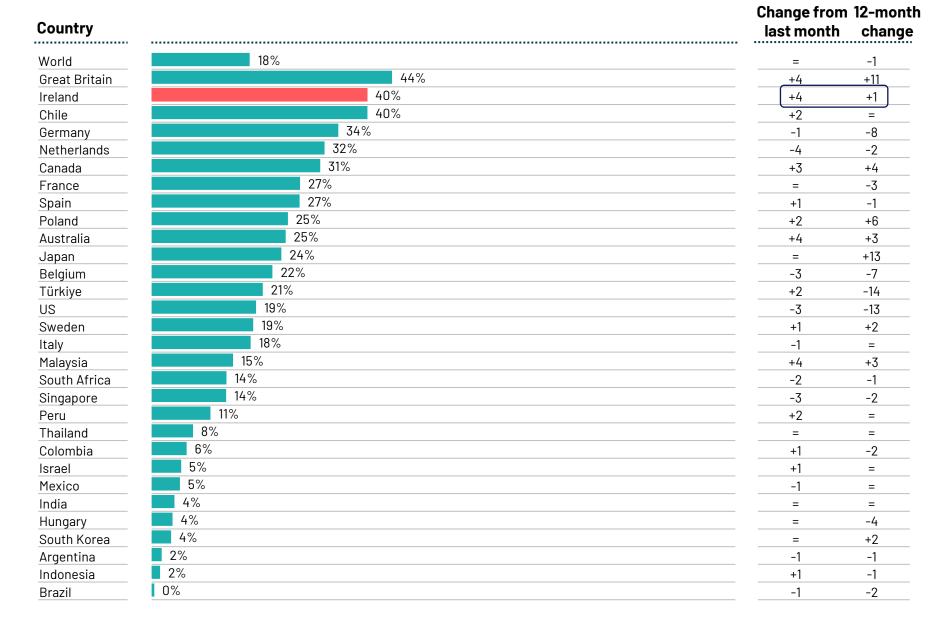


2. Immigration control

We are over twice the global average regarding our concerns about immigration and are second only to the UK.

This represents an increase of four points since September, and coincides with an upsurge in demonstrations and violence more recently.

Base: Representative sample of 25,589 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, September 19th 2025 - October 3rd 2025.



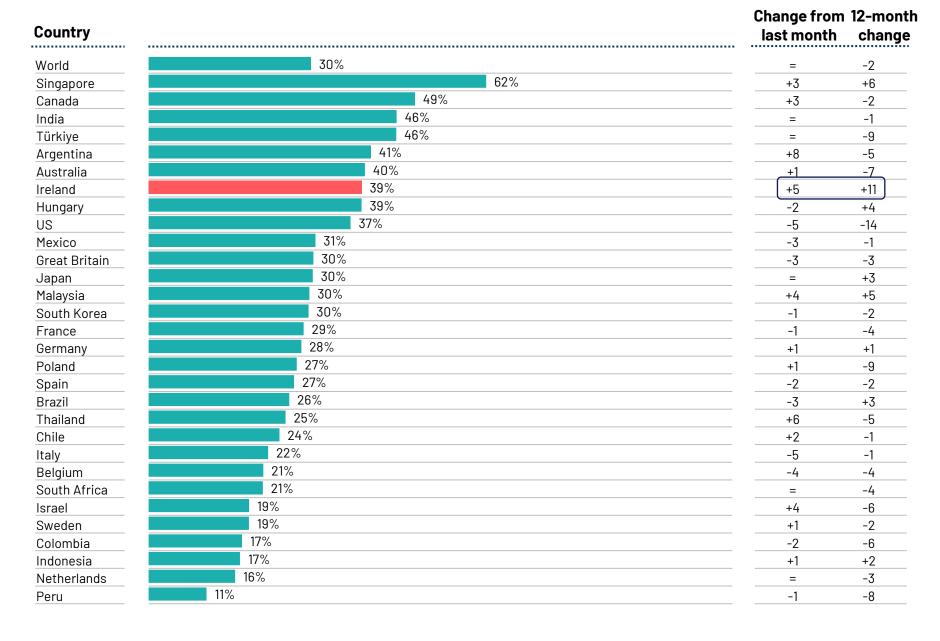


3. Inflation

Our concerns about inflation/the cost of living has risen sharply versus the corresponding month last year.

We are in the upper echelons compared to our global counterparts.

Base: Representative sample of 25,589 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, September 19th 2025 - October 3rd 2025.



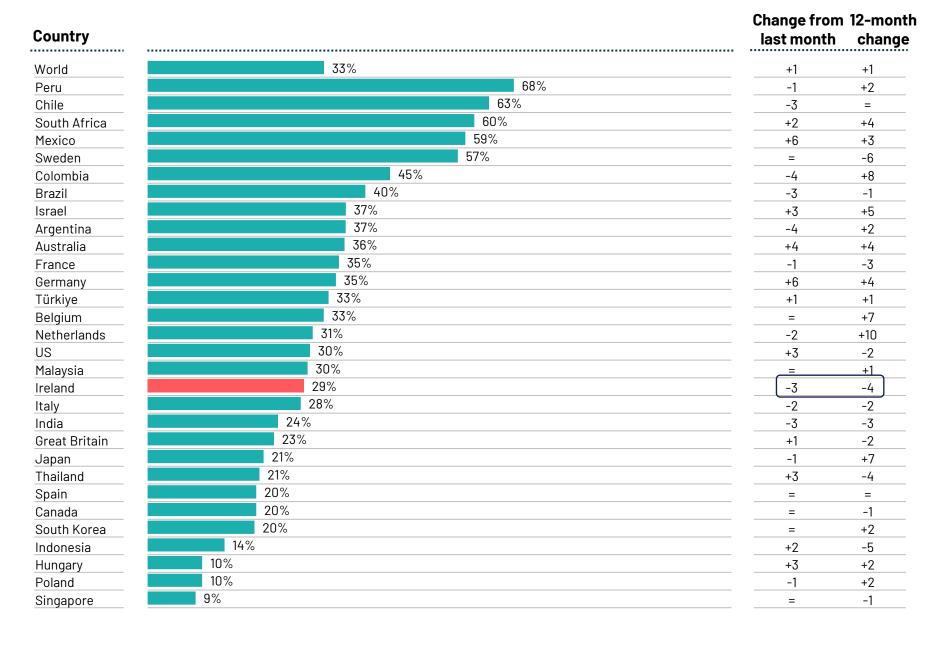


4. Crime & violence

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

Our concerns about crime and violence have subsided over the past 12 months.

Base: Representative sample of 25,589 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, September 19th 2025 - October 3rd 2025.

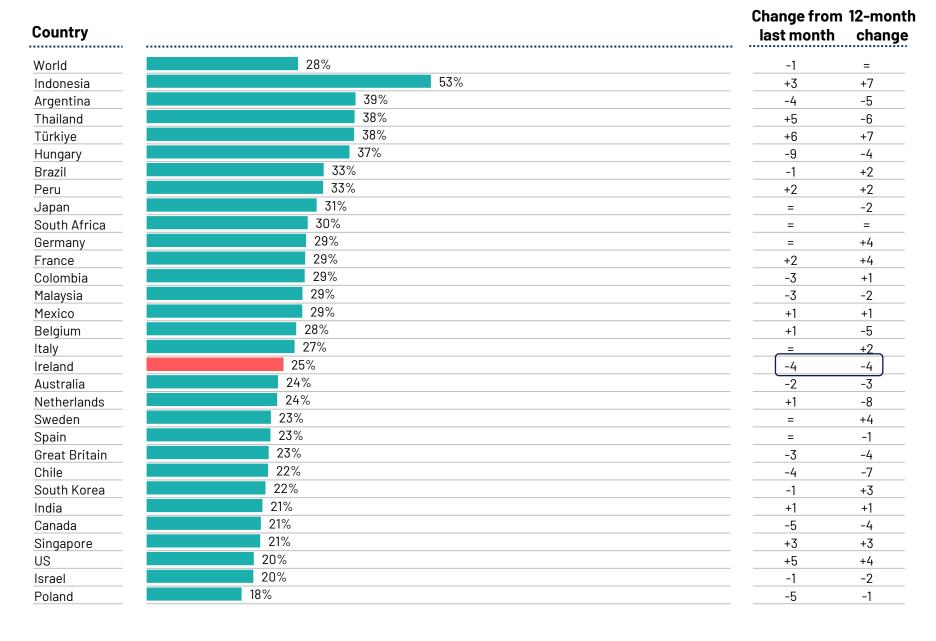




5. Poverty & social inequality

One in four identify poverty and social inequality as a source of alarm, slightly below the global average.

Base: Representative sample of 25,589 adults aged 16-74 in 30 participating countries, September 19th 2025 - October 3rd 2025.





THANK YOU



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