

ZA4982

Flash Eurobarometer 251
(Public attitudes and perceptions in the euro area)

Country Specific Questionnaire
Ireland

Revised questionnaire for euro survey in euro area

[TO ALL]

C1. Generally speaking, do you think that your country's membership in the European Union is ...?

[READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- a good thing 1
- a bad thing 2
- [Can't decide] 3
- [DK/NA] 9

C2. Generally speaking, do you think that having the euro is a good or bad thing for your country?

[READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- a good thing 1
- a bad thing 2
- neither good nor bad 3
- [DK/NA] 9

Q1. Generally speaking, do you think that having the euro is a good or bad thing for Europe?

[READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- a good thing 1
- a bad thing 2
- neither good nor bad 3
- [DK/NA] 9

Q2. Does the euro make you personally feel more European than before or would you say that your feeling of being European has not changed?

[READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- Yes, more European 1
- Nothing has changed 2
- [DK/NA] 9

Q3a. When you pay cash, would you say that it is: very easy, rather easy, rather difficult or very difficult to distinguish and handle bank notes?

[READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- very easy 1
- rather easy 2
- rather difficult 3
- very difficult 4
- [neither easy nor difficult, normal] 5
- [DK/NA] 9

Q3b. When you pay cash, would you say that it is: very easy, rather easy, rather difficult or very difficult to distinguish and handle coins?

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- very easy..... 1
- rather easy..... 2
- rather difficult..... 3
- very difficult..... 4
- [neither easy nor difficult, normal]..... 5
- [DK/NA]..... 9

[IF RATHER OR VERY DIFFICULT IN Q3b ASK Q3BIS]

Q3bis. With which of the coins do you have particular difficulties?

[READ OUT – UP TO TWO ANSWERS]

- 1-cent euro coin..... 1
- 2-cent euro coin..... 2
- 5-cent euro coin..... 3
- 10-cent euro coin..... 4
- 20-cent euro coin..... 5
- 50-cent euro coin..... 6
- 1-euro coin..... 7
- 2-euro coin..... 8
- [DK/NA]..... 9

[TO ALL]

Q4. Do you consider that there are too many or, on the contrary, not enough coins with different values or do you consider that there are just the right number?

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- Too many..... 1
- Not enough..... 2
- Just the right number..... 3
- [DK/NA]..... 9

[IF “TOO MANY” TO Q4 ASK Q4bis]

Q4bis. Please indicate whether any of the euro coin denominations should be removed. If yes, which one or which ones?

[DO NOT READ OUT – SEVERAL ANSWERS POSSIBLE]

- 1-cent euro coin..... 1
- 2-cent euro coin..... 2
- 5-cent euro coin..... 3
- 10-cent euro coin..... 4
- 20-cent euro coin..... 5
- 50-cent euro coin..... 6
- 1-euro coin..... 7
- 2-euro coin..... 8
- [DK/NA]..... 9

[TO ALL]

Q5. Today, when purchasing, do you count mentally: most often in euro, most often in Irish Punt, or as often in euro as in Irish Punt when it concerns:

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY PER ITEM]

- most often in euro 1
- most often in Irish Punt 2
- as often in euro as in Irish Punt 3
- [DK/NA]..... 9

- a) Exceptional purchases such as the purchase of a car or a house for example..... 1 2 3 9
- b) Common purchases such as day-to-day shopping 1 2 3 9

[TO ALL]

Q7. If you compare with the situation in Ireland before the euro was introduced, do you think that inflation, i.e. average price increases from one year to the other is lower or higher than before or about the same?

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- Yes, I agree..... 1
- No, I do not agree 2
- the same 3
- [DK/NA]..... 9

Q8. Do you travel at least once a year outside your country?

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- Yes..... 1
- No 2
- [DK/NA]..... 9

Q9. Do you think that the euro ...

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY PER ITEM]

- Yes..... 1
- No 2
- [DK/NA]..... 9

- a) has made travelling easier and less costly..... 1 2 9
- b) has made it easier for you to compare prices 1 2 9
- c) has reduced cross-border banking charges..... 1 2 9

Q10. From what you know, would you say that in 2002 Ireland had a budgetary surplus meaning that the revenues of the State exceeded its expenditure, a budgetary deficit meaning that the state spent more than it received or had a budget on balance?

[READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- Surplus..... 1
- Deficit..... 2
- Balance 3
- [DK/NA]..... 9

Q11. Personally, have you ever heard of the “Stability and Growth Pact”, which is often called the “Stability Pact”?

[READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- Yes, and I know what it’s about 1
- Yes, but I do not know very well what it’s about..... 2
- No, you have not heard about it..... 3
- [DK/NA]..... 9

Q12. Governments in all euro area countries are implementing various structural changes, often called reforms. Would you agree or disagree with the following statements related to such reforms?

[READ OUT – ONE ANSWER ONLY PER ITEM]

- Yes, I agree..... 1
 - No, I do not agree 2
 - [DK/NA]..... 9
-
- a) There is a need for significant reforms to improve the performance of our economy..... 1 2 9
 - b) I think successful reforms in other euro area countries put pressure on our government to reform. 1 2 9
 - c) Governments need to save more today in order to prepare public finances for the ageing of populations..... 1 2 9
 - d) The government should increase taxes to finance economic reforms. 1 2 9
 - e) The government should reduce expenditures, e.g. social benefits to finance economic reforms..... 1 2 9
 - f) The EU should play an active role in the reform process in Ireland. 1 2 9

Q13. A number of important reforms have been implemented in Ireland in the past years. Could you name a few sectors where you think the most important reforms took place?

[DO NOT READ OUT - SEVERAL ANSWERS POSSIBLE]

- mentioned 1
 - did not mention..... 2
 - [DK/NA]..... 9
-
- a) Labour market..... 1 2 9
 - b) Health system..... 1 2 9
 - c) Pension system..... 1 2 9
 - d) Social security system..... 1 2 9
 - e) Market reforms, as in telecom, gas/electricity (e.g. opening sectors for free competition, privatisation) 1 2 9
 - f) Taxation..... 1 2 9
 - g) Education systems 1 2 9
 - h) Reforms in general..... 1 2 9

i) Reforms in other specific areas..... 1 2 9

Q14a. Please tell me about each of these reform areas you mentioned if they affected you personally in any way, and if yes, did they affect you rather positively or rather negatively on balance?

[READ OUT ONLY IF MENTIONED IN Q13 – ONE ANSWER PER LINE]

- personally not affected 1
- affected rather positively 2
- affected rather negatively 3
- [DK/NA]..... 9

a) Labour market..... 1 2 3 9
b) Health system..... 1 2 3 9
c) Pension system..... 1 2 3 9
d) Social security system..... 1 2 3 9
e) Market reforms, as in telecom, gas/electricity (e.g. opening sectors for free competition, privatisation) 1 2 3 9
f) Taxation..... 1 2 3 9
g) Education systems 1 2 3 9
h) Reforms in general..... 1 2 3 9
i) Reforms in other specific areas..... 1 2 3 9

Q14b. Please also tell me about the reform areas you mentioned if you consider them to have any significant effect on the national economy in general, and if yes, did they affect it rather positively or rather negatively on balance?

[READ OUT ONLY IF MENTIONED IN Q13 – ONE ANSWER PER LINE]

- no significant effect 1
- rather positive effect 2
- rather negative effect 3
- [DK/NA]..... 9

a) Labour market..... 1 2 3 9
b) Health system..... 1 2 3 9
c) Pension system..... 1 2 3 9
d) Social security system..... 1 2 3 9
e) Market reforms, as in telecom, gas/electricity (e.g. opening sectors for free competition, privatisation) 1 2 3 9
f) Taxation..... 1 2 3 9
g) Education systems 1 2 3 9
h) Reforms in general..... 1 2 3 9
i) Reforms in other specific areas..... 1 2 3 9

Q15a. What do you think: How high was the inflation rate, i.e. the average increase in consumer prices in Ireland last year?

[READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- Below 1.5% 1
- between 1.5 and 2.5%..... 2
- between 2.5 and 4%..... 3
- between 4 and 10%..... 4

- above 10% 5
- [DK/NA]..... 9

Q15b. What is your expectation about the inflation rate this year. Compared to last year, will it be

[READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- Higher 1
- Lower..... 2
- Equal..... 3
- [DK/NA]..... 9

Q16a. How has your household income changed since last year? Did it

[READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- increase 1
- decrease, or 2
- stay the same 3
- [DK/NA]..... 9

Q16b. When looking into the future, how do you expect your household income change this year? Will it

[READ OUT - ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- increase 1
- decrease, or 2
- stay the same 3
- [DK/NA]..... 9

D1. Gender [DO NOT ASK - MARK APPROPRIATE]

- [1] Male
- [2] Female

D2. How old are you?

- [][] years old
- [99] [REFUSAL/NO ANSWER]

D3. How old were you when you stopped full-time education?

[Write in THE AGE WHEN EDUCATION WAS TERMINATED]

- [][] years old
- [00] [STILL IN FULL TIME EDUCATION]
- [01] [NEVER BEEN IN FULL TIME EDUCATION]
- [99] [REFUSAL/NO ANSWER]

D4. As far as your current occupation is concerned, would you say you are self-employed, an employee, a manual worker or would you say that you are without a professional activity? Does it mean that you are a(n)...

[IF A RESPONSE TO THE MAIN CATEGORY IS GIVEN, READ OUT THE RESPECTIVE SUB-CATEGORIES - ONE ANSWER ONLY]

- Self-employed

- i.e. : - farmer, forester, fisherman 11
- owner of a shop, craftsman 12
- professional (lawyer, medical practitioner, accountant, architect,...) 13
- manager of a company 14
- other..... 15

- Employee	
→ i.e. :	
- professional (employed doctor, lawyer, accountant, architect)	21
- general management, director or top management	22
- middle management.....	23
- Civil servant	24
- office clerk	25
- other employee (salesman, nurse, etc...).....	26
- other.....	27
- Manual worker	
→ i.e. :	
- supervisor / foreman (team manager, etc...).....	31
- Manual worker.....	32
- unskilled manual worker	33
- other.....	34
- Without a professional activity	
→ i.e. :	
- looking after the home	41
- student (full time).....	42
- retired	43
- seeking a job	44
- other.....	45
- [Refusal]	99

D6. Would you say you live in a ...?

- metropolitan zone.....	1
- other town/urban centre	2
- rural zone.....	3
- [Refusal].....	9