

## Many worry about health and housing and are willing to pay more in taxes for better services

The OECD's cross-national Risks that Matter survey examines people's perceptions of social and economic risks and how well they feel their government reacts to their concerns. The survey polled a representative sample of 27 000 18-64 year-olds in 27 OECD countries to better understand what citizens want and need from social policy – particularly in the face of the cost-of-living crisis.

The proportion of respondents in Ireland who report concerns about finances and overall social and economic well-being increased to 82% in 2022, from 67% in 2020 (Fig. 1).

When looking ahead at risks over the coming two years, however, more people worry about accessing good-quality healthcare (70%) than not being able to pay all expenses and make ends meet (64%). This is a continuation of a trend in worries about health from previous waves of RTM in Ireland.

At the same time, many young worry about accessing housing in Ireland.

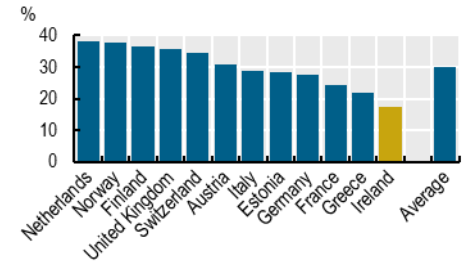
Among 18-29 year-olds, 65% report being worried about this, compared with 17% of 50-65 year-olds and 61% of young people across countries.

Correspondingly, respondents in Ireland are among the least satisfied with public housing services across RTM countries. Just 17% think they have access to good services in this area, compared with 30% across countries (Fig. 2).

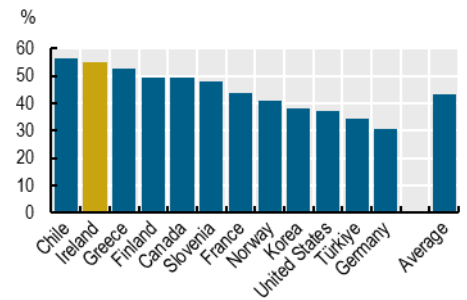
Satisfaction is higher when considering education (53%) and the government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic (64%), where respondents report being happier with their government than on average across countries. Many also report thinking they receive a fair share of public benefits (51%).

When asked about government spending priorities, Ireland are among the most willing to spend more in taxes in return for better provision of public health services across RTM countries. 55% report this, compared with 43% on average cross-nationally (Fig. 3).

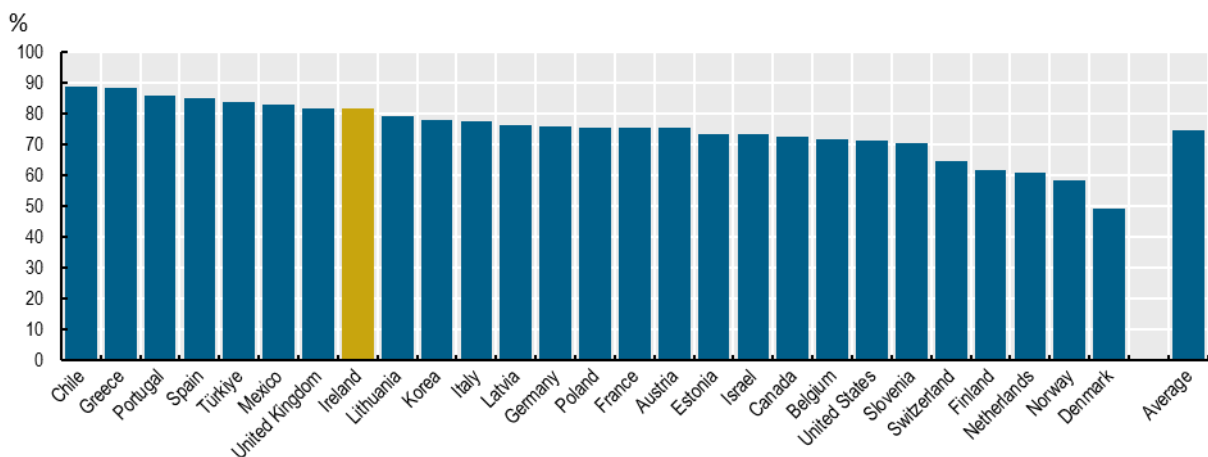
**Fig. 2. Proportion who thinks that they would have access to good quality and affordable public housing services, if needed, by country, 2022**



**Fig. 3. Proportion who would be willing to spend another 2% in taxes in return for better provision of public health services, by country, 2022**



**Fig. 1. Proportion who are concerned about their household's finances and overall social and economic well-being, by country, 2022**



Notes: Average refers to the unweighted average of the 27 OECD countries for which data are available. Respondents were asked: "In general, thinking about the next year or two, how concerned are you about your household's finances and overall social and economic well-being?". They could choose between: "Not at all concerned"; "Not so concerned"; "Somewhat concerned"; "Very concerned"; "Can't choose". Data present the share of respondents who report "somewhat concerned" or "very concerned." For full notes see report.

Source: OECD Risks that Matter Survey 2022, <http://oe.cd/rtm>.

The **OECD Risks That Matter** survey is a cross-national survey examining people's social and economic concerns, how well they think government responds to their needs and expectations, and what policies they would like to see in the future. The survey was conducted for the first time in 2018, to support the OECD Social Policy Ministerial, and subsequently in 2020. The 2022 survey, conducted in October-December 2022, draws on nationally representative samples in Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and the United States.