EUROBAROMETER

Social Climate

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Social Climate

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2.5 Affordability of housing (QB2_9; QB3_10; QB4_10[16])

The scores relating to **affordability of housing in the EU** are also negative, with similar levels of dissatisfaction and lowered expectations as we have seen in other instances relating to the general situation. Furthermore, the positive evolution noticed in last year's report has been undone by overall negative evolutions in this wave of analysis.

The EU27 average for the current situation for this question is -3.3. The situation as it compares to that of five years ago receives a score of -60 on the better/worse index and the expectations for the next twelve months are set at -33.

The current situation score has decreased by -0.6, following on from last year's positive evolution of +0.4. The score for the five-year comparison has changed by -8, and the score for the twelve-month expectations by -6.

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[16] QB2.9 How would you judge the current situation of… How affordable housing is in (our country), QB3.10 What are your expectations for the next twelve months; will the next twelve months be better, worse or the same, when it comes to…? How affordable housing is in (our country), QB4.10 Compared with five years ago, would you say things have improved, gotten worse or stayed about the same when it comes to…? How affordable housing is in (our country).

Figure 23: QB2.9, QAB.10 and QB4.10 – Score cards (index tables, showing evolutions)

	COUNTRY RANKING: How affordable housing is in (OUR COUNTRY)							
	EVALUATION OF THE CURRENT SITUATION		SITUATION COMPARED WITH FIVE YEARS AGO			EXPECTATIONS FOR THE COMING 12 MONTHS		
			Better-worse index	% The same	Better-worse index	Better-worse index	% The same	Better-worse index
	EB 75.4	EB 75.4 - EB 73.5	EB 75.4		EB 75.4 - EB 73.5	EB 75.4		EB 75.4 - EB 73.5
EU27	-3,3	-0,6	-60	25%	-8	-33	42%	-6
DK	0,9	-0,7	-33	44%	-15	-23	65%	-10
AT	0,8	+0,2	-43	40%	-2	-25	47%	-7
EE	0,6	-1	-16	39%	-9	+4	61%	+2
DE	0,6	+0,1	-34	47%	-3	-29	56%	-5
SE	0,1	-0,6	-53	31%	-24	-39	46%	-10
LV	0	-0,5	-15	51%	-9	-1	72%	-1
NL	-0,6	-0,4	-58	24%	-2	-40	41%	-3
CZ	-1	+0,2	-33	43%	-2	-30	53%	-2
BG	-2	-0,8	-52	28%	-20	-8	56%	=
IE	-2,2	+0,9	-3	18%	+11	-1	37%	-4
FI	-2,8	-1,1	-73	20%	-16	-57	37%	-20
BE	-2,8	-0,7	-77	16%	-14	-43	38%	-9
IT	-3,3	+0,3	-50	32%	-2	-17	44%	=
UK	-4,4	-1,3	-70	14%	-8	-41	35%	-11
SK	-4,7	-1,3	-62	20%	-29	-42	35%	-20
FR	-4,8	-1,5	-79	13%	-8	-40	35%	-6
PT	-5	-0,7	-79	15%	-15	-65	24%	-17
HU	-5	+0,1	-75	18%	+6	-50	33%	-32
LU	-5,2	-1	-80	11%	-10	-47	29%	-16
SI	-5,2	-0,8	-73	19%	-12	-45	37%	-12
EL	-5,3	-0,2	-75	18%	-4	-59	30%	-5
PL	-5,5	-0,2	-64	23%	-7	-31	43%	-4
MT	-5,6	-1	-70	17%	-3	-44	33%	-3
ES	-5,8	-1,7	-81	12%	-17	-33	40%	-5
LT	-6	-0,1	-60	19%	+11	-30	48%	+11
RO	-6,1	-0,4	-68	15%	-10	-33	32%	+12
CY	-7,3	-0,8	-90	5%	=	-53	32%	+4

The current situation index is measured on a scale from -10 to +10.

The better-worse indexes are measured on a scale from -100 to +100.

Regarding the **affordability of housing current situation**, only six Member States gave positive answers, all countries scoring below 1. Denmark gave the highest score, with 0.9 – it was followed by Austria with 0.8, Estonia and Germany with 0.6, and Sweden with 0.1. Latvia records a score of 0. The most negative responses came from Cyprus (-7.3), Romania (-6.1), Lithuania (-6), Spain (-5.8) and Malta (-5.6). Eleven Member States returned scores of -5 or lower.

Despite these low scores, there were some positive evolutions. The most obvious of these can be found in Ireland's result, where a low score of -2.2 marks an increase of +0.9 on last year's figure. Positive evolutions were also noticed in Austria, Germany, the Czech Republic, Italy and Hungary. Several negative evolutions were noticed – in Spain (-1.7), France (-1.5), Slovakia, the UK (both -1.3), Finland (-1.1), Estonia, Malta and Luxembourg (all -1).

No positive comparisons **with the affordability of housing situation of five years ago** were made, with Ireland's score of -3 in this situation being the least negative. It was followed by Latvia with -15 and Estonia with -16. The most negative responses here came from Cyprus (-90), Spain (-81) and Luxembourg (-80).

Some positive evolutions were observed here, although they were for the most part negative. Lithuania and Ireland recorded increases of +11 from last year's data and Hungary's score increased by +6. Cyprus's score remained the same. Major negative evolutions were observed in Slovakia (-29), Sweden (-24) and Bulgaria (-20).

Estonia is the only Member State to record a positive score on the better/worse index relating to **expectations for the next twelve months**, with +4. The least negative responses are found in Ireland and Latvia, with a marginally negative score of -1. The lowest scores were seen in Portugal (-65), Greece (-59) and Finland (-57). Cyprus, the Member State which scored lowest on the current situation ranking, gave a score of -53.

Again, there are some individual positive evolutions related to the expectations for the near future, although they are found on Member States which have negative scores for the affordability of housing current situation (except Estonia which has a positive score for the current situation). The strongest were noted from results from Romania (+12) and Lithuania (+11). Cyprus followed with an evolution of +4, and Estonia with +2. The situation remained the same in Bulgaria and Italy, both of which have relatively low negative scores on the index. The most striking negative evolutions were noticed in Hungary (-32), Slovakia and Finland (both -20).

Figure 24: QB2.9, QB3.10 and QB4.10 – SD tables (index tables, showing evolutions)

	SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC TABLE: How affordable housing is in (OUR COUNTRY)							
	EVALUATION OF THE CURRENT SITUATION		SITUATION COMPARED WITH FIVE YEARS AGO			EXPECTATIONS FOR THE COMING 12 MONTHS		
			Better-worse index	% The same	Better-worse index	Better-worse index	% The same	Better-worse index
	EB 75.4	EB 75.4 - EB 73.5	EB 75.4		EB 75.4 - EB 73.5	EB 75.4		EB 75.4 - EB 73.5
EU27	-3,3	-0,6	-60	25%	-8	-33	42%	-6
Gender								
Male	-3,1	-0,6	-58	26%	-7	-34	42%	-8
Female	-3,6	-0,7	-62	23%	-7	-34	42%	-4
Age								
15-24	-3	-0,7	-50	24%	-8	-22	43%	-5
25-39	-3,5	-0,4	-62	24%	-9	-30	43%	-3
40-54	-3,6	-0,6	-62	23%	-5	-37	42%	-6
55 +	-3,1	-0,7	-62	27%	-9	-38	42%	-6
Education (End of)								
15-	-3,7	-0,7	-65	24%	-9	-39	39%	-6
16-19	-3,5	-0,6	-61	25%	-6	-34	42%	-4
20+	-3	-0,4	-60	25%	-8	-33	43%	-6
Still studying	-2,7	-0,8	-43	26%	-4	-19	46%	-7
Respondent occupation scale								
Self-employed	-3,5	-0,6	-60	24%	-7	-32	42%	-3
Managers	-2,5	-0,2	-56	27%	-2	-30	45%	-4
Other white collars	-3	=	-59	26%	-8	-30	43%	-1
Manual workers	-3,7	-0,8	-65	22%	-9	-37	40%	-10
House persons	-4,2	-1,1	-64	24%	-10	-34	42%	=
Unemployed	-4,6	-0,9	-66	21%	-7	-34	39%	-5
Retired	-3,1	-0,6	-62	27%	-10	-38	42%	-6
Students	-2,7	-0,8	-43	26%	-4	-19	46%	-7
Difficulties paying bills								
Most of the time	-5,3	-0,4	-74	16%	-5	-43	34%	-3
From time to time	-4,2	-0,6	-66	22%	-9	-36	39%	-3
Almost never	-2,7	-0,7	-56	27%	-8	-31	45%	-7

The current situation index is measured on a scale from -10 to +10.
The better-worse indexes are measured on a scale from -100 to +100.

Regarding the socio-demographic breakdowns, women respond with more negative answers than men – with scores of -3.6 and -3.1 respectively for the **affordability of housing current situation**. Education also has an impact on scores – with a similar pattern to that which has been observed in several other questions in this section. Those who finished their education before the age of 16 returned a score of -3.7, followed by -3.5 from those who finished between 16 and 19, -3 from those who finished at age 20 or over, and -2.7 from those who are still studying.

Regarding the results relating to occupation, those who are employed in roles which typically carry a higher degree of remuneration are less negative about the situation than, for example, those without jobs (-2.5 for managers compared to -4.6 for the unemployed). Respondents' difficulty in paying bills has an understandable impact as well, with a score of -5.3 from those who frequently experience financial difficulties compared to -2.7 from those who almost never do.

These figures have almost all fallen compared to last year's survey, with only the answer from other white collars remaining the same. The most severe negative evolution can be seen in answers from house persons – with a change of -1.1. The unemployed reported a downward evolution of -0.9. Those who reported almost no difficulty in paying their bills saw their score decrease by a greater degree than those who report frequent financial difficulties (-0.7 compared to -0.4).

When considering the affordability of housing situation now compared to that of **five years ago**, younger respondents are more likely to give a less negative response – with the youngest age group scoring -50 compared to -62 from the other three groups. We see the levels of negativity falling as respondents' level of education increases, and as their financial difficulties drop. Students remain least negative about the situation, with a score of -43. People with frequent financial difficulties are the most negative about the comparison, with a score of -74. The highest negative evolutions here came from house persons and the retired, whose scores both fell by -10.

Students are also least pessimistic about the **twelve-month expectations**, with a score of -19 relating to this section of the question. The 15-24 age group follows, with a score of -22. Almost every single group reported some decline in score compared to the last wave of analysis, with the exception of house persons, whose score of -34 was the same as in the last report.