

Safetrak 12 Island of Ireland February 2010



### **Presentation Outline**

- **Project Context**
- Background and Methodology
- **7** The Findings

  - Attitudes towards food safety

  - Attitudes towards healthy eating
  - Ø Dieting & weight loss
  - ∅ Eating out patterns and influencing factors
  - Appendix



**Project Context** 



# Context of Research – what was occupying consumers' minds from 29th November 2010 – 5th January 2011

- In ROI, the country was reeling from the announcement of the full cost (€85bn) of the IMU/EMF "bailout", or financial aid package, announced at the end of November.
- Also in ROI, the government's four year National Recovery Plan was published on November 24<sup>th</sup>, swiftly followed by Budget 2011 on 7<sup>th</sup> December which incorporated a number of changes to tax bands and social welfare payments.
- December was the coldest since records began in both ROI and NI with heavy snowfall causing massive disruption throughout the entire country.
- Political uncertainty continued in ROI with constant speculation about an early election in 2011 featuring prominently throughout December.
- In NI (and to a lesser extent ROI) a severe water shortage resulting from damage to pipes the cold snap caused severe problems to tens of thousands of households.
- NI also faced a rise in VAT rates from 17.5% to 20%, commencing in January 2011.



Background & Methodology



# Background & Methodology - Safetrak 12

#### Total number of interviews:



Sample: Nationally representative sample of adults aged 15-74

**Fieldwork:** In home face-to-face interviews

63 sampling points in the Republic of Ireland

38 sampling points in Northern Ireland

Fieldwork dates: 29<sup>th</sup> November - 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2010 (NI)

24<sup>th</sup> November '10 - 5<sup>th</sup> January '11 (ROI)



The Findings



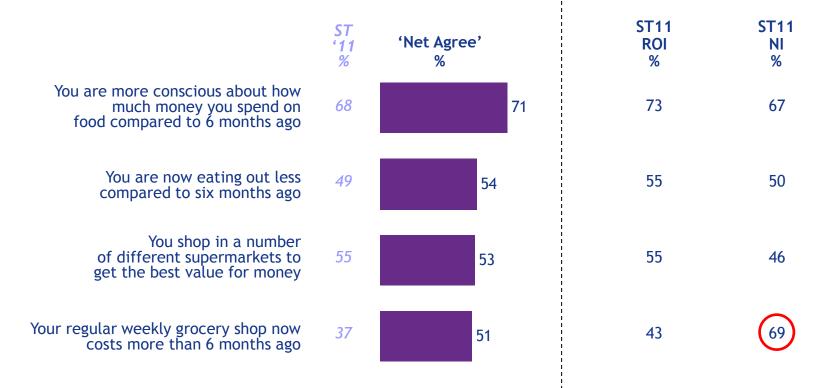


**Food Shopping Behaviour** 



# Price is a key concern for food shoppers

Base: All Respondents (807)

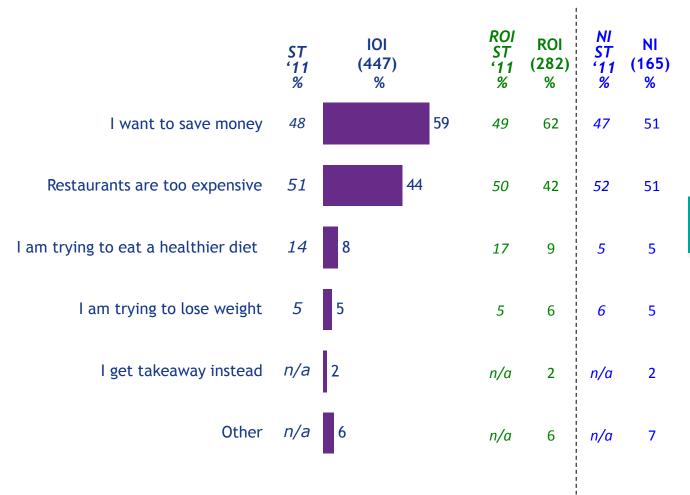


- The trend continues, with IOI adults more likely to be cost conscious when at the grocery till, also less eating out evident than 2009.
- Shopping around for best value is a tactic adopted by over half of ROI shoppers and less than half in NI.
- 7 in 10 NI shoppers say their weekly shop costs more than 6 months ago reflecting an increase in inflation seen in NI in the last 6 months.



# Reasons for eating out less

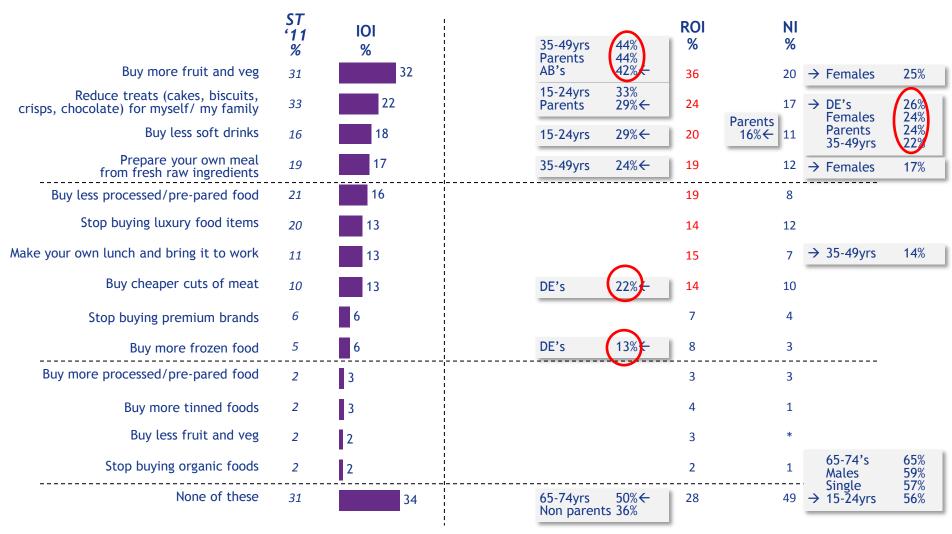
Base: All those who are eating out less (447)



Wanting to save, and expense are the main reasons for reducing eating out.

# Changes in food shopping behaviour

Base: All Respondents (807)





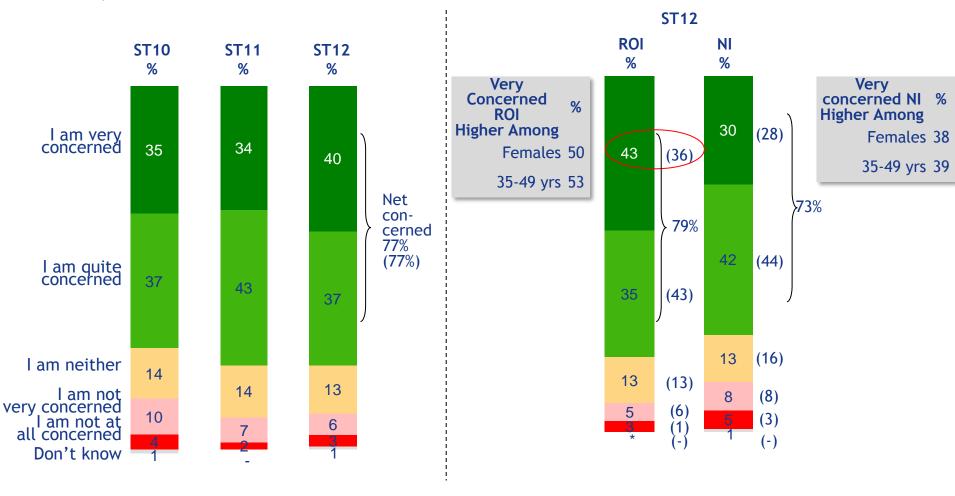
Attitudes towards food safety



# **Food Safety Concerns**

Base: All Respondents (807)





() Bracketed figure denote ST11

## Food Related Issues of Most Concern

Chicken/Pork preparation causing most concern now, also additives/e-numbers and country of origin. Food poisoning and uncooked food, also hygiene causing less concern.

Base: All Respondents (807)

	ST10 %	ST11 %	ST12 %	ROI %	NI %	
Chicken/ Pork - Preparation	75	4	17	15	20	
Additives/ E-numbers/ Dyes*	5	4	13	15	7	
Food not cooked thoroughly/Uncooked food	20	25	10	10	9	
Food poisoning (Salmonella/Listeria/ E.coli)	21	22	10	10	11	
Date marks - Best before date/Use by date/ Freshness	12	<b>6</b>	10	10	11	
Country of origin/Foreign goods/Ensure it's Irish	5	3	8	10	5	
Fat content/ Fatty acids/ Saturated fat	2	4	6	5	8	
Hygiene around food	10	9	5	4	5	
Ensuring balanced/healthy diet	2	1	<b>5</b>	6	2	
Handling/ Cross - Contamination	8	<b>5</b>	3	3	1	
Food storage	3	1	2	1	2	
Hygiene in your kitchen	n/a	3	1	1	2	
Salt content	4	1	1	1	2	
Red meat/ BSE/Brazilian beef	4	1	1	1	*	
Price of food	6	1	1	1	1	
Salmonella/ Eggs	4	1	*	*	1	
Other	4	<b>5</b>	3	3	4	
Don't know	8	4	4	3	8	

\*ST10 \*& ST11: Pesticides also included in code

### **Foods Concerned About**

Base: All Respondents (807)

- Cooked meat/poultry, raw chicken and preservatives/ additives/ colouring are most top of mind. At a total level, the same trend emerges.

  Cooked meat and preservatives/ additives/ colourings have grown as a concern, raw chicken is less significant.
- Bottled waters (9%), baby foods (8%) and duck eggs receive lower level of mention

	ST '11 %	IOI spontaneous %	ST '11 %	Total mentions IOI %	Total ROI %	Total NI %	
Raw chicken	49	26	65	52	52	52	
Cooked meat/poultry	12	36	23	47	49	41	
Food with preservatives, additives or colouring	8	19	25	41	47	26	
Processed meat (sausages, burgers)	9	10	23	34	37	27	
Raw pork	27	14	45	30	31	30	
Raw beef	17	10	30	26	25	27	
Eggs	11	15	23	26	25	28	
Foods with GM ingredients	4	10	15	25	29	17	
Fish	10	11	24	20	20	20	
Shellfish	12	6	31	19	20	16	
Ready made meals	4	6	16	19	22	12	
Raw lamb	12	<b>7</b>	23	15	15	15	
Other raw meat	6	5	9	15	16	14	
Frozen foods	4	6	10	13	15	11	
Irradiated food	1	3	5	10	11	6	

Q. Do you have concerns about the safety of any particular types of foods? Q. Do you have concerns about the safety of any of these types of food?

# **Food Safety Concerns**

Base: All Respondents (807)

	ST '11			ST '11	ST		ST12 NI		
		Spontaneous %	Total %	101 %	Spont %	Total %	Spont %	Total %	
Chip/burger van	26	40	72	61	39	72	41	72	
Take away/fastfood outlets	38	53	67	<i>57</i>	57	70	45	61	
Market stalls	15	28 47		<i>37</i>	28	44	29	53	
Garage forecourt	7	15 35		25	16	36	10	34	
Delis	6	15 24		16	18	28	8	12	
Sandwich bars	5	13 24		15	14	26	10	17	
Restaurants	15	14 19		22	14	20	13	15	
Pubs/winebars	3	10 18		11	10	19	11	18	
Café	4	9 17		10	8	17	10	17	
Supermarkets	6	9 16		10	10	18	6	11	
Butcher	2	4 11		7	4	14	3	6	
Workplace	2	2 6		5	2	7	3	5	
Cinema	1	3 6		4	3	6	4	6	
Friend's home	1	2 6		3	2	7	2	4	
Home	1	2		1	*	2	*	1	
Other	4	10 15		5	7	12	15	22	

- Overall, chip vans and fast food outlets appear to worry consumers most when it comes to food safety - and even more so than was the case in 2009.
- In fact, there are higher levels of mention for the majority of outlets both at a spontaneous and prompted level indicating concerns have grown overall.
- ROI consumers show greater levels of concern about take away/fast food outlets, but NI consumers are more concerned about market stalls.
- At a total level, restaurants feature less strongly than delis or sandwich bars
   a reverse of 2009.
- Concerns re the home are negligible.

Italics=ST 11

Q. Do you have any concerns about the safety of food bought or eaten in any particular places?

Q. And what about any of these places?

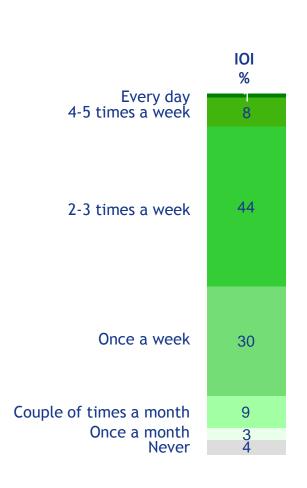


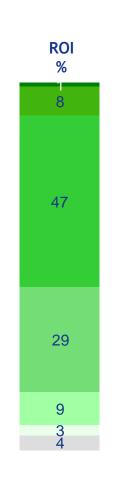
Chicken consumption - frequency, concerns, safety

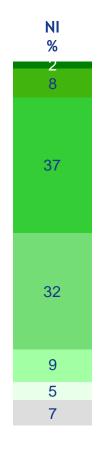
# **Frequency of Eating Chicken**

Base: All Respondents (807)

Over 8 in 10 IOI adults eat chicken at least once a week.



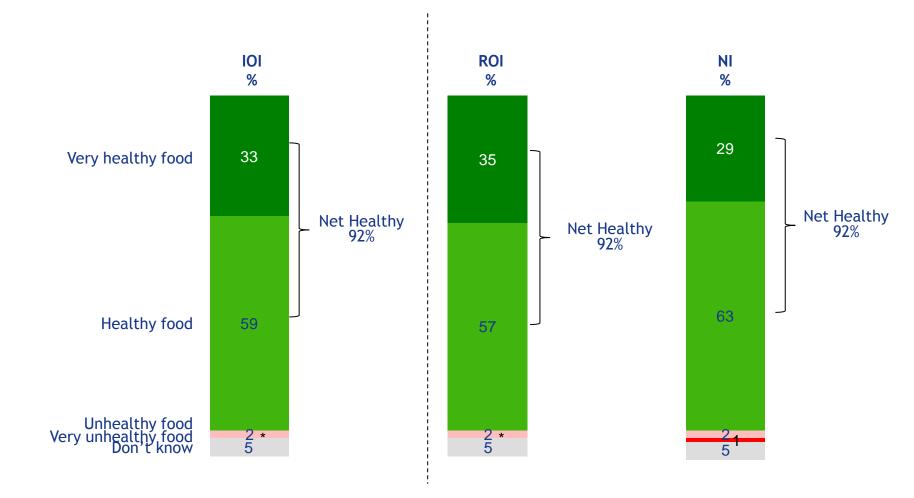




# Health Perceptions: Chicken

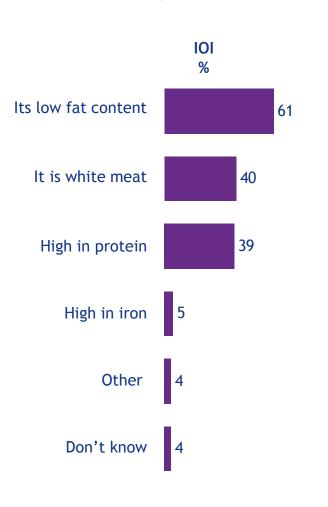
Base: All Respondents (807)

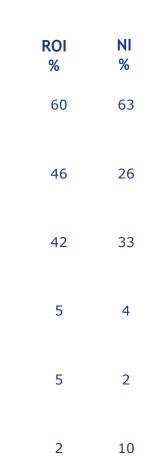
The majority agree that chicken is a healthy food.



# Reasons Chicken is Considered Healthy

Base: All who consider chicken to be healthy (747)





Low fat is by far the most cited reason for thinking chicken is 'healthy', followed by 'white meat' and its high protein content.

# Concerns re Chicken production, preparation and consumption

Base: All Respondents (807)	ST 4 %	101 %		ST 4 %	ROI %	ST 4 %	NI %	
Making sure it's cooked properly			30	i I I	28		32	
How they are reared/conditions they're kept in		15		! ! ! !	17	 	12	
County of origin	13	9		13	11	12	4	
Hygiene, washing hands, spreading germs etc		9		i I I	9		7	
Preparation		8		       	9	       	6	
Salmonella, food poisoning	12	7		13	8	11	6	
Its freshness/best before date		7		1 1 1 1	6	8	10	
Production		3		<del> </del>     	3	     	4	
If it has been treated (with artificial additives, water, steroids etc		3		! ! ! !	4	 	3	
I don't eat chicken		1		1 1 1 1	1	1 1 1 1	1	
Storage and packaging		1		i I I	1		2	
Consumption		*		! ! ! !	1	 	-	
Other		4		F	3	· · · · · · · · · · · ·	7	
Don't know		3		i I I	2		5	
I have no concerns		6		13	6	27	9	
*Note: IOI ST 4 figures: Farmed chickens/battery chickens/what they were fed: 13%				!		 		

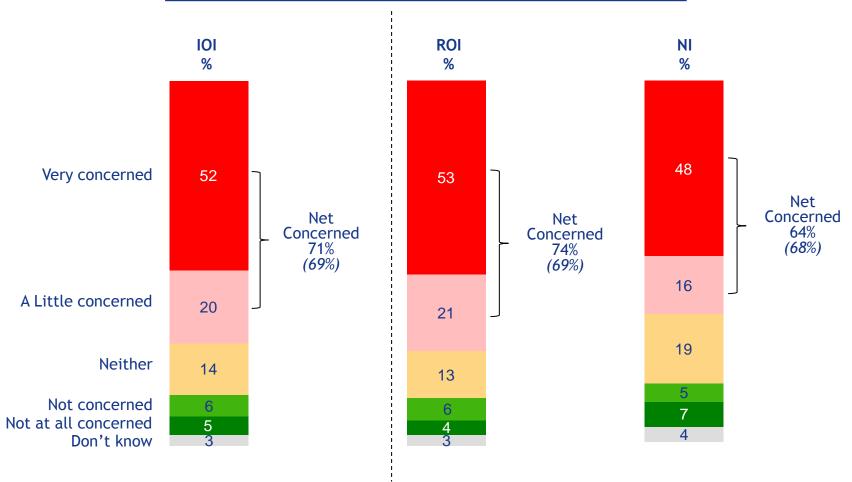
Farmed chickens/battery chickens/what they were fed: 139

Preparing and cooking properly: 17%

## Concerns about chicken - I

Base: All Respondents (807)

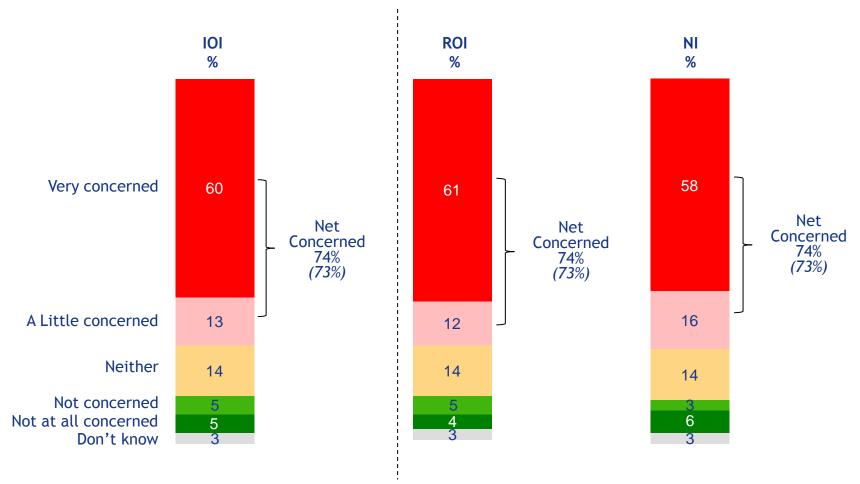
#### THE PRESENCE OF ANTIBIOTICS IN CHICKEN MEAT/CHICKEN PRODUCTS



### Concerns about chicken - II

Base: All Respondents (807)

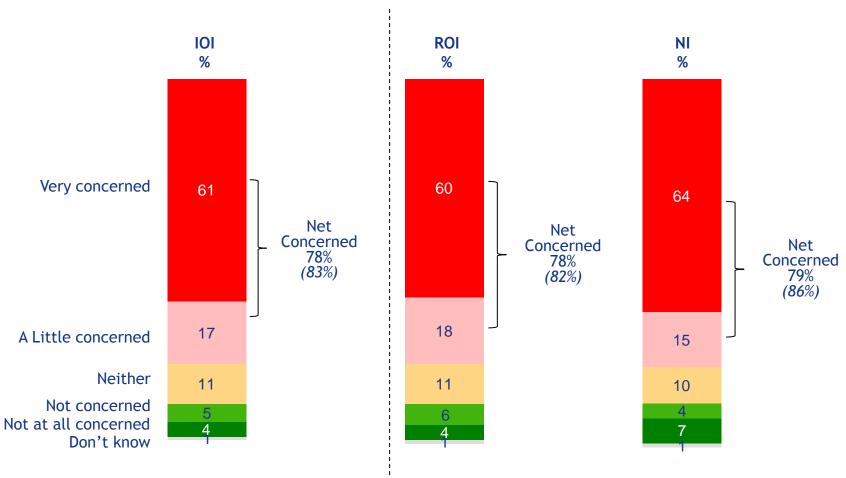
#### THE PRESENCE OF CAMPYLOBACTER, A BACTERIA THAT CAUSES FOOD POISONING IN CHICKEN, CHICKEN MEAT / CHICKEN PRODUCTS



### Concerns about chicken - III

Base: All Respondents (807)

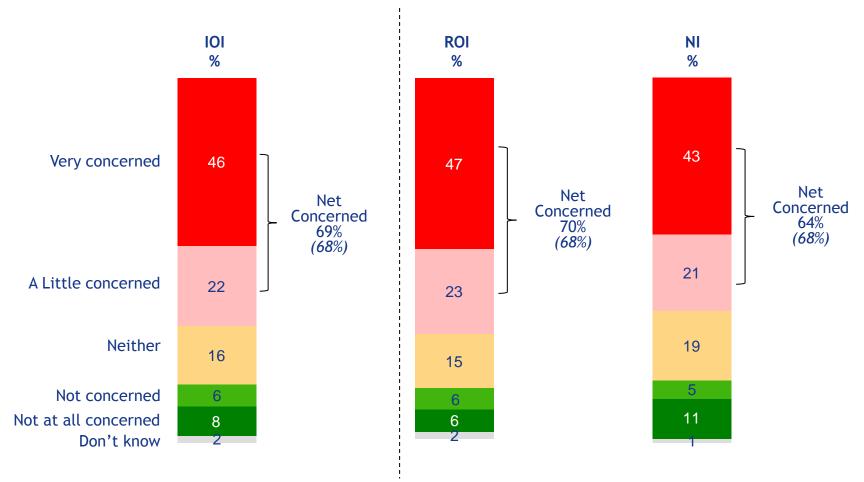




## Concerns about chicken - IV

Base: All Respondents (807)

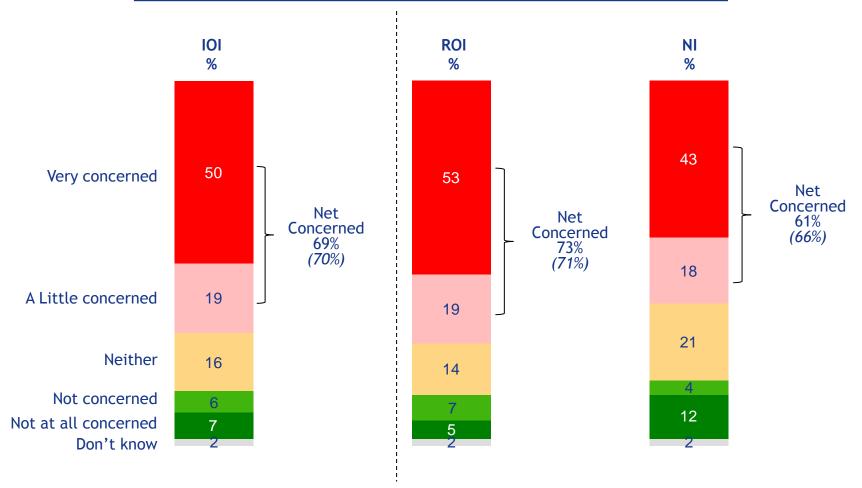




# Concerns about chicken - V

Base: All Respondents (807)

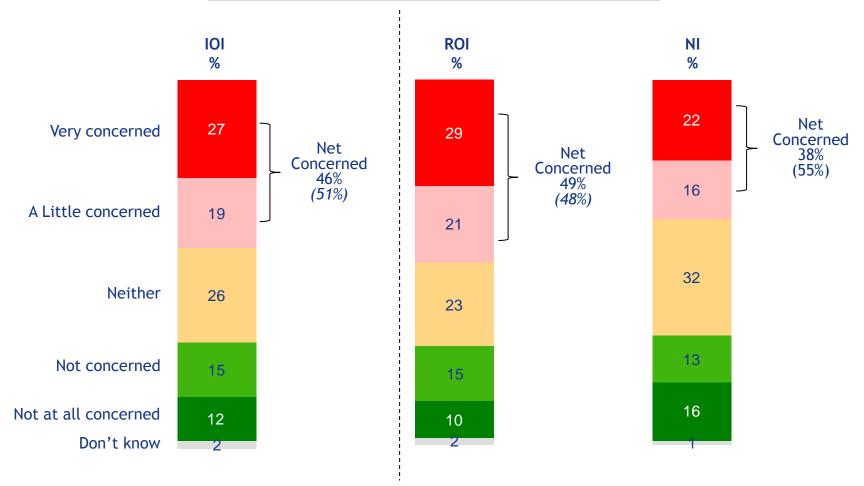
#### THE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN/TRACEABILITY OF CHICKEN MEAT/CHICKEN PRODUCTS



# Concerns about chicken - VI

Base: All Respondents (807)

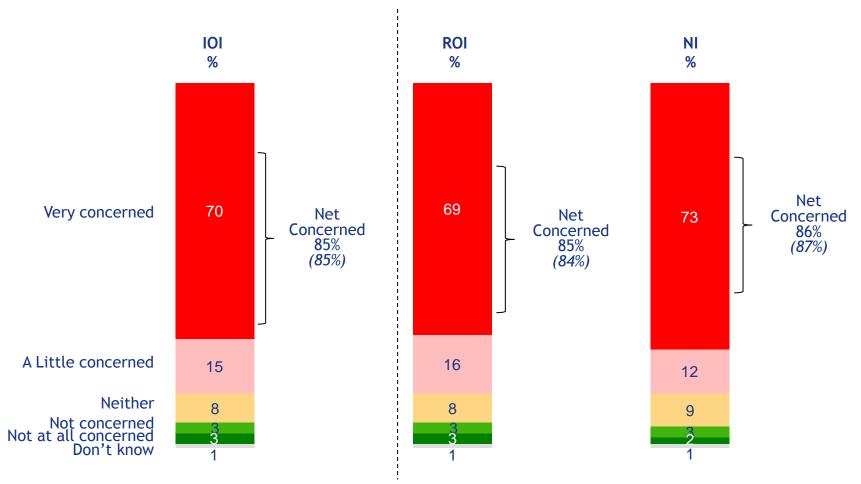




### Concerns about chicken - VII

Base: All Respondents (807)

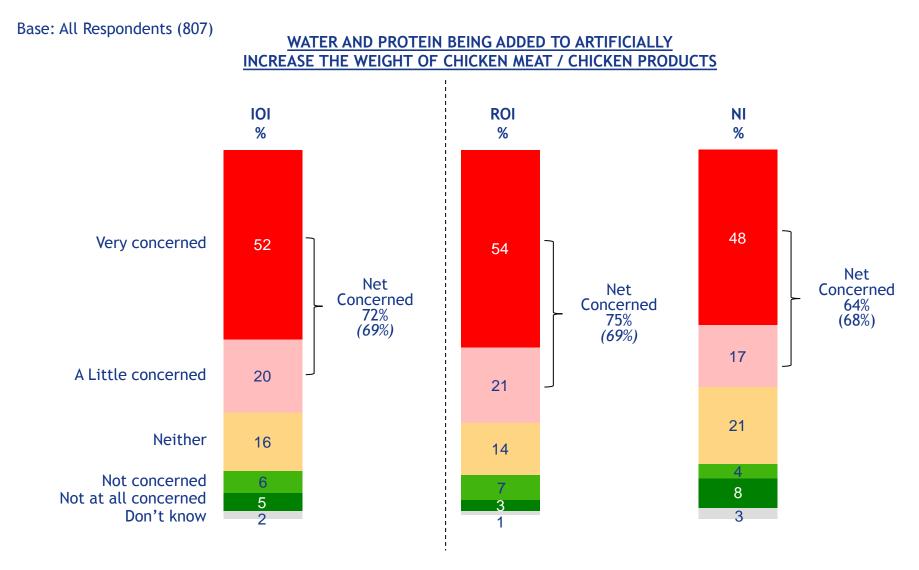




Italics=ST 4 Italics=ST 4

Q.

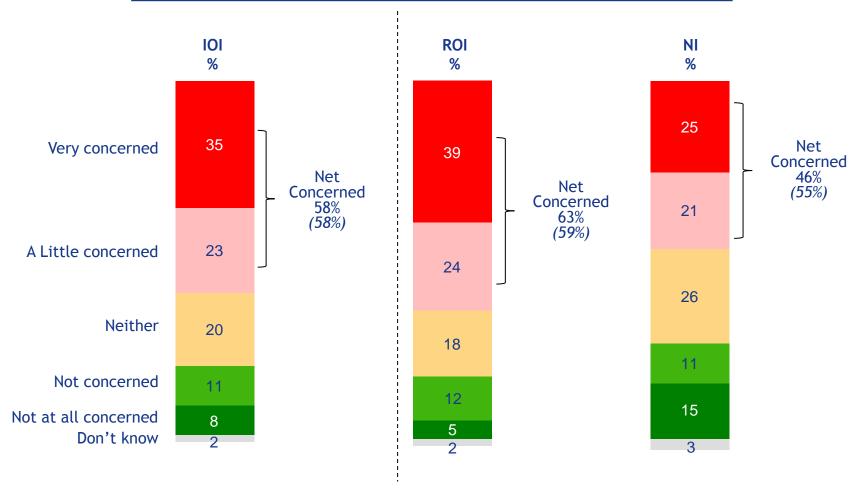
## Concerns about chicken - VIII



# Concerns about chicken - IX

Base: All Respondents (807)

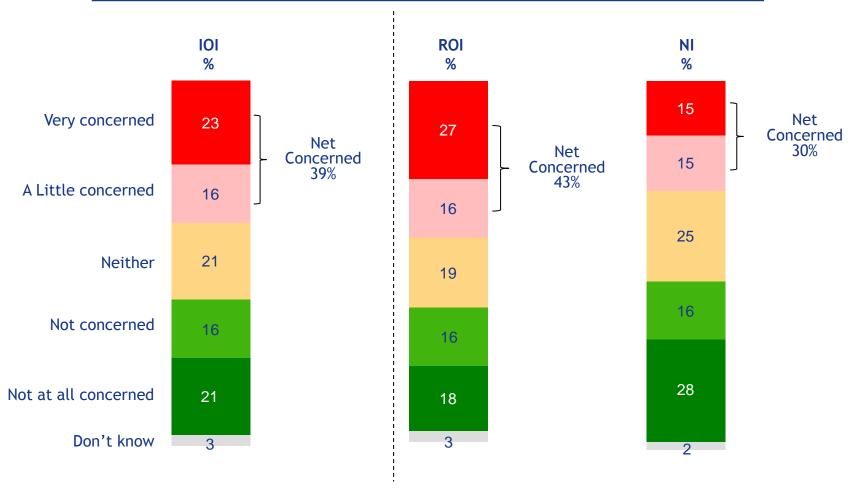
#### THE INFORMATION AVAILABLE ON LABELS OF CHICKEN MEAT/CHICKEN PRODUCTS



## Concerns about chicken - X

Base: All Respondents (807)

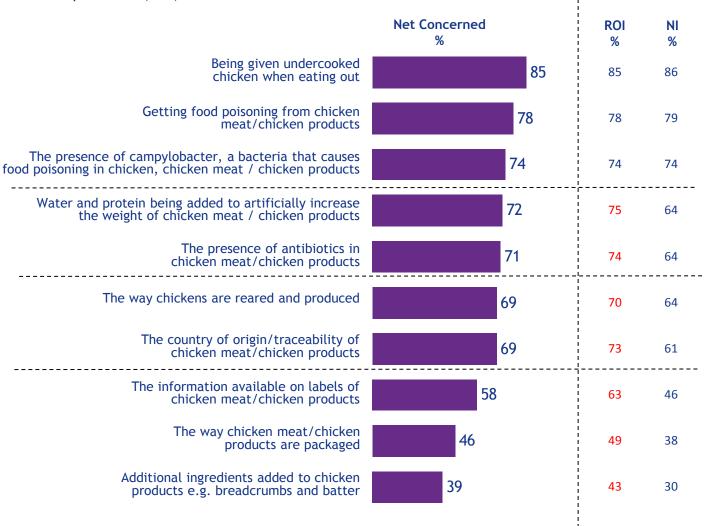
#### ADDITIONAL INGREDIENTS ADDED TO CHICKEN PRODUCTS E.G. BREADCRUMBS AND BATTER



# Summary of concerns in relation to chicken production and preparation (prompted)



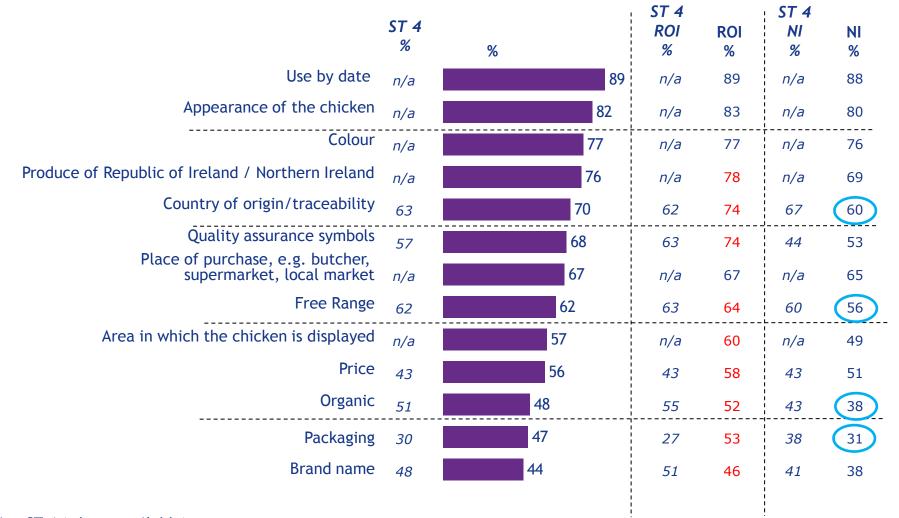
Q.



- Consumers express significant levels of concern regarding most aspects of chicken production and preparation.
- Getting food poisoning is the most concerning factor, be it from undercooking or due to the presence of bacteria.
- Additives such as protein and antibiotics are next most important, followed by how and where they are reared.
- Packaging and labelling are relatively low on the list of concerns.

# Effectiveness of key factors in ensuring safety of chicken/ chicken products

Base: All who eat chicken (769)

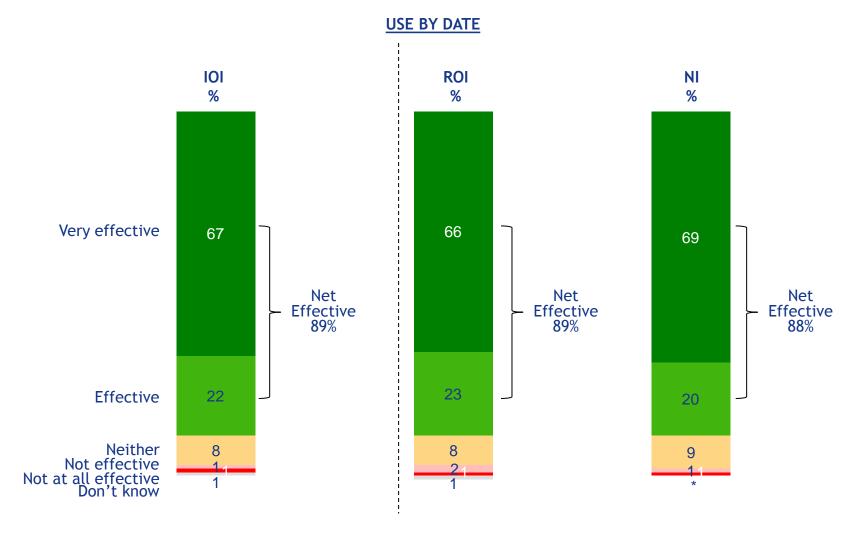


Italics=ST 4 (where available)



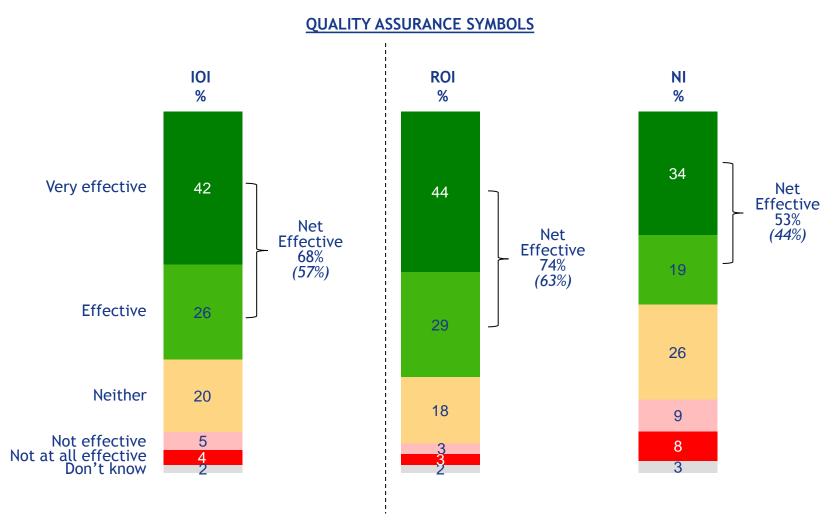
# Effectiveness of factors in assuring of safety of chicken (I)

Base: All who eat chicken (769)



# Effectiveness of factors in assuring of safety of chicken (II)

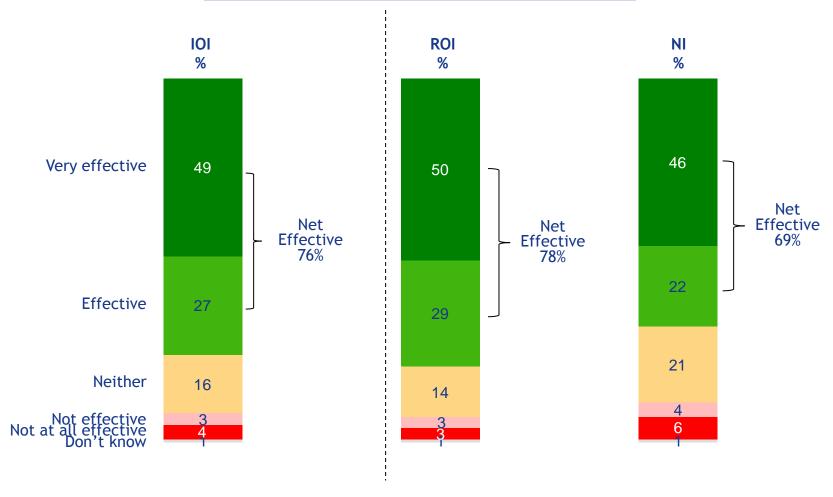
Base: All who eat chicken (769)



# Effectiveness of factors in assuring of safety of chicken (III)

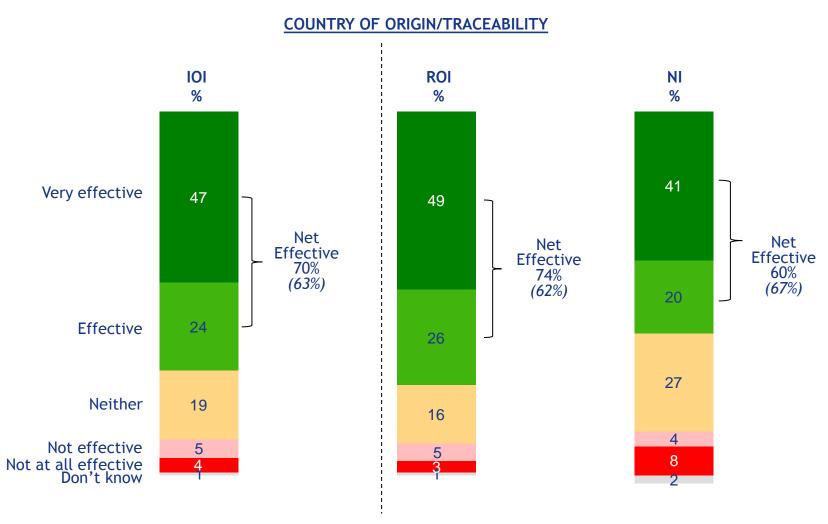
Base: All who eat chicken (769)

#### PRODUCE OF REPUBLIC OF IRELAND / NORTHERN IRELAND



### Effectiveness of factors in assuring of safety of chicken (IV)

Base: All who eat chicken (769)



Italics=ST 4 (ST 4 refers to just 'Country of Origin')



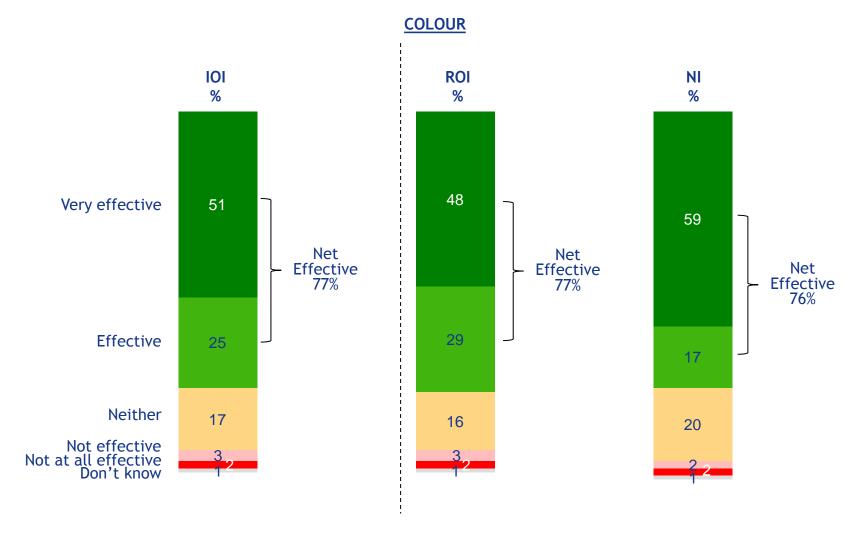
### Effectiveness of factors in assuring of safety of chicken (V)

Base: All who eat chicken (769)



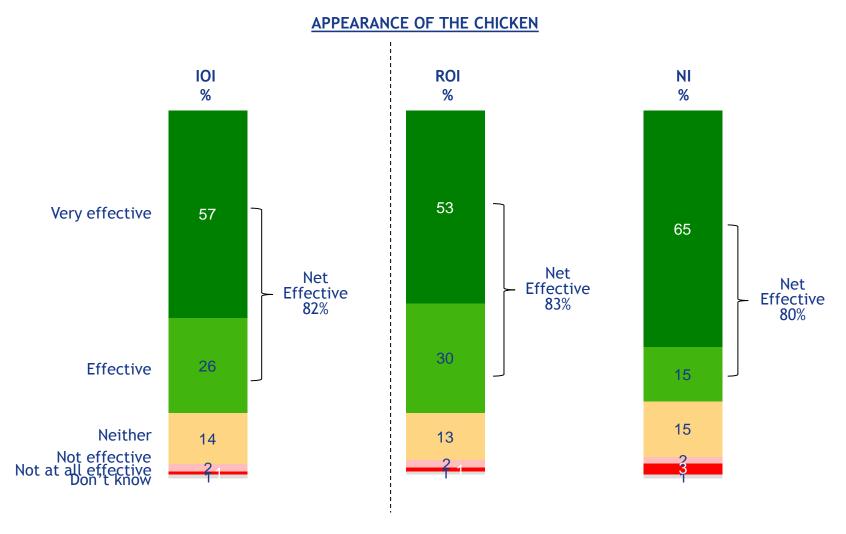
### Effectiveness of factors in assuring of safety of chicken (VI)

Base: All who eat chicken (769)



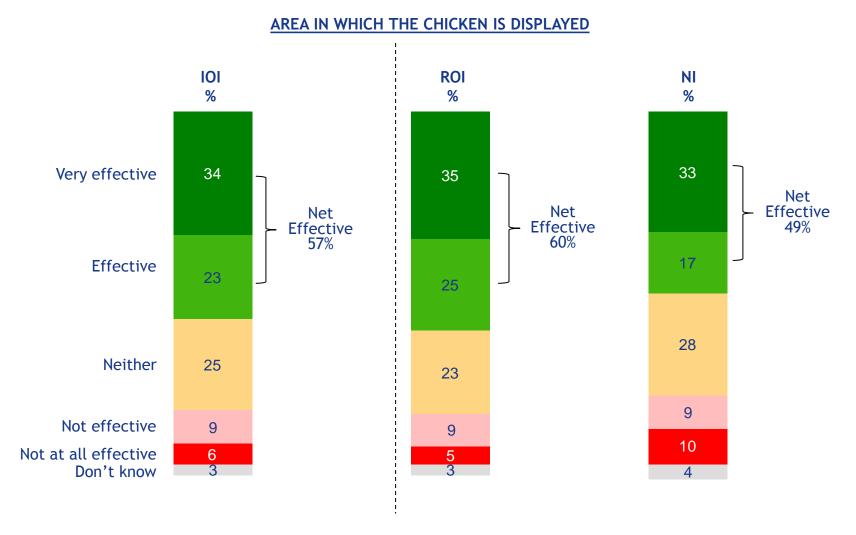
### Effectiveness of factors in assuring of safety of chicken (VII)

Base: All who eat chicken (769)



### Effectiveness of factors in assuring of safety of chicken (VIII)

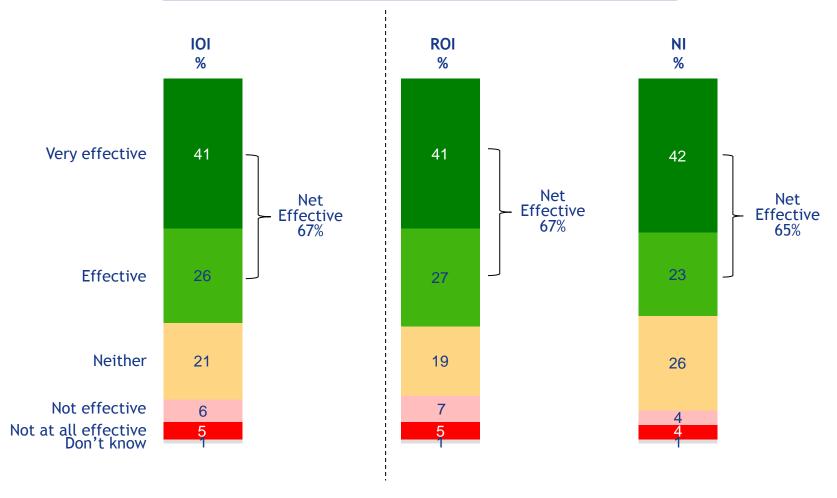
Base: All who eat chicken (769)



### Effectiveness of factors in assuring of safety of chicken (IX)

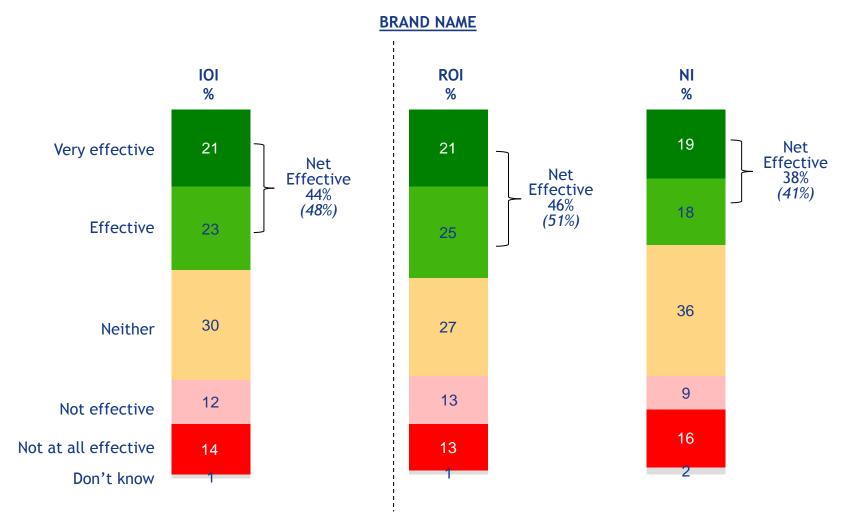
Base: All who eat chicken (769)

### PLACE OF PURCHASE, E.G. BUTCHER, SUPERMARKET, LOCAL MARKET



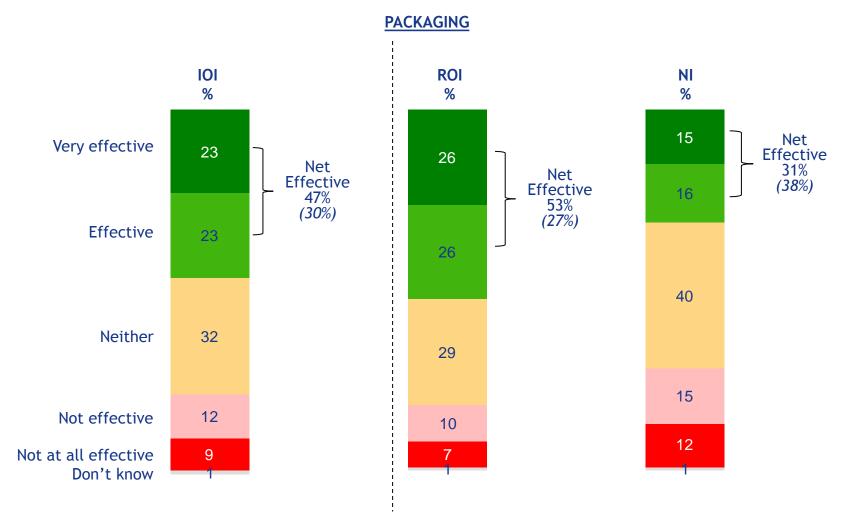
### Effectiveness of factors in assuring of safety of chicken (X)

Base: All who eat chicken (769)



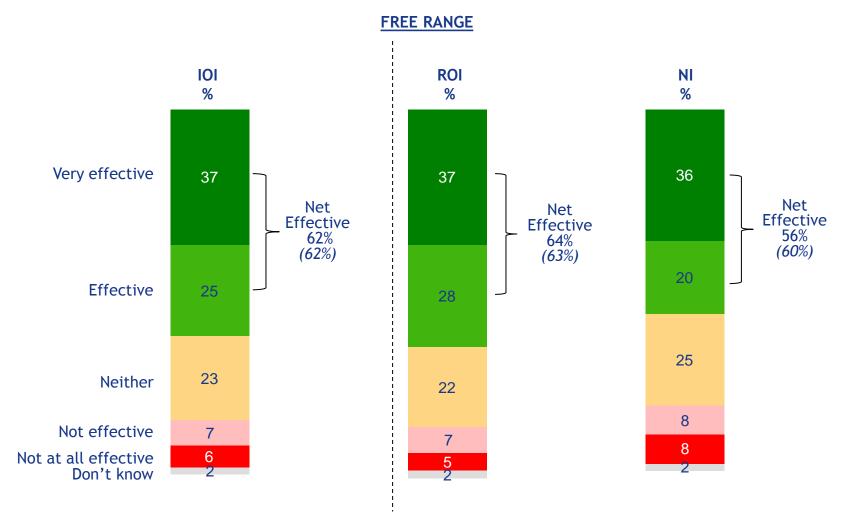
### Effectiveness of factors in assuring of safety of chicken (XI)

Base: All who eat chicken (769)



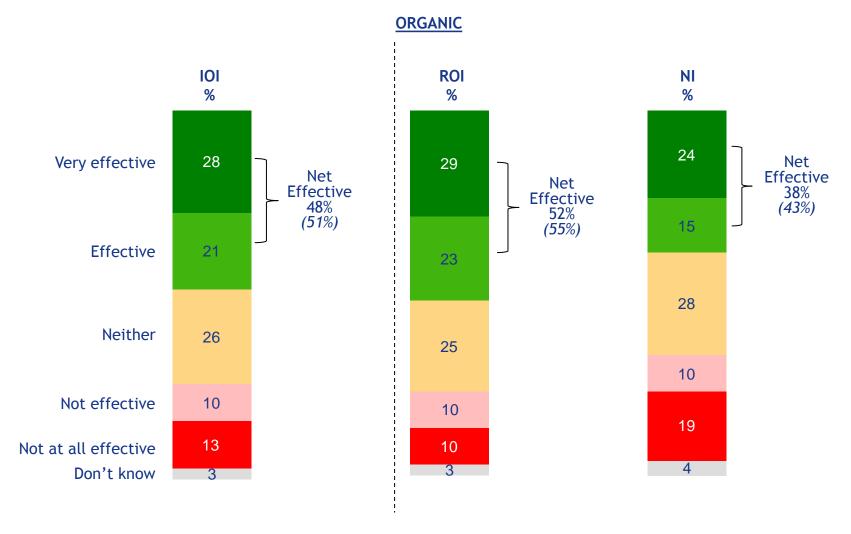
### Effectiveness of factors in assuring of safety of chicken (XII)

Base: All who eat chicken (769)



### Effectiveness of factors in assuring of safety of chicken (XIII)

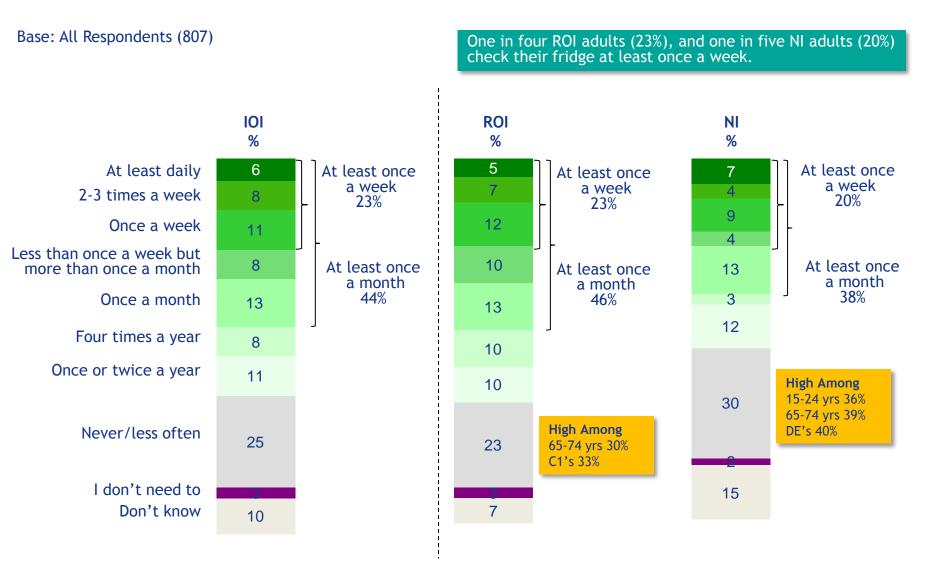
Base: All who eat chicken (769)





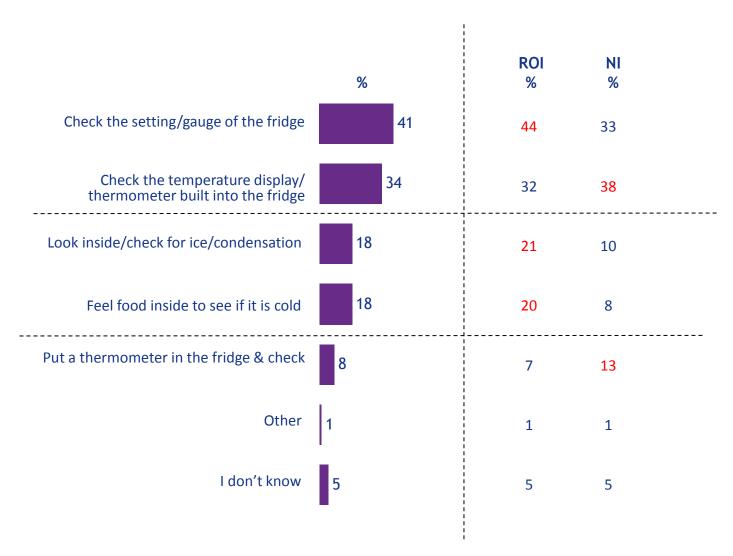
Fridges - checks & maintenance

### Frequency of checking fridge temperature



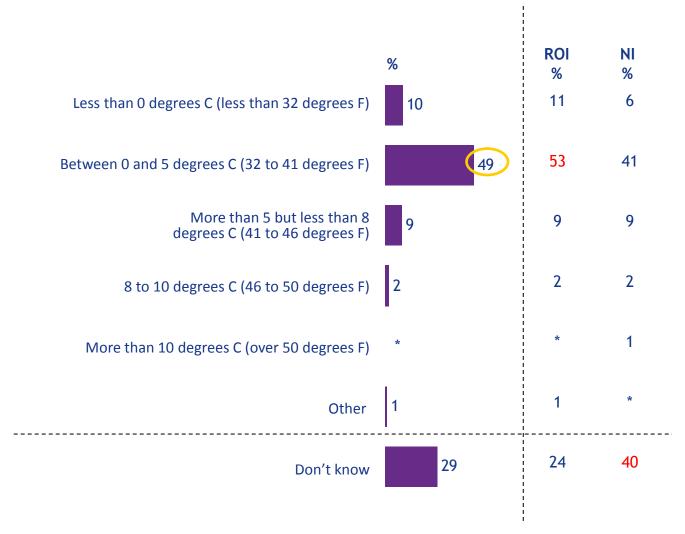
### How the temperature is checked in practice

Base: All who check the temperature of their fridge (501)



Most adhere to standard practice of checking the gauge or temperature display.

### Correct temperature of fridge

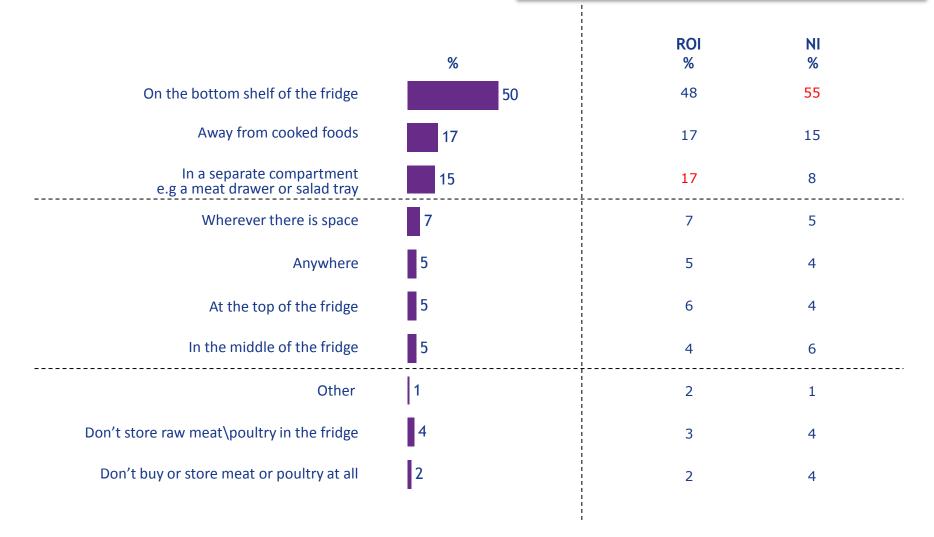


- In NI, ABC1's (47%), parents (49%) and married couples (46%) are more likely to get this right.
- In ROI, those aged 25-34 (61%) and 35-49 (58%), as well as married people (58%) and AB's (63%) are more likely to get it right.

### Storage of raw meat and poultry

Base: All Respondents (807)

High level of mention of correct storage behaviour.
NI adults more likely to favour the bottom shelf, whereas ROI adults more likely to use a separate compartment.



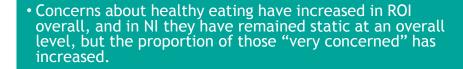


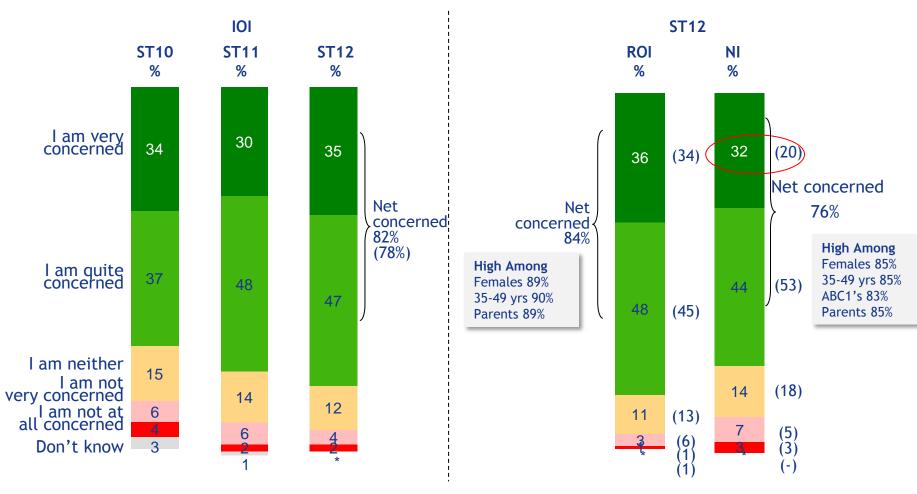




### **Healthy Eating Concerns**

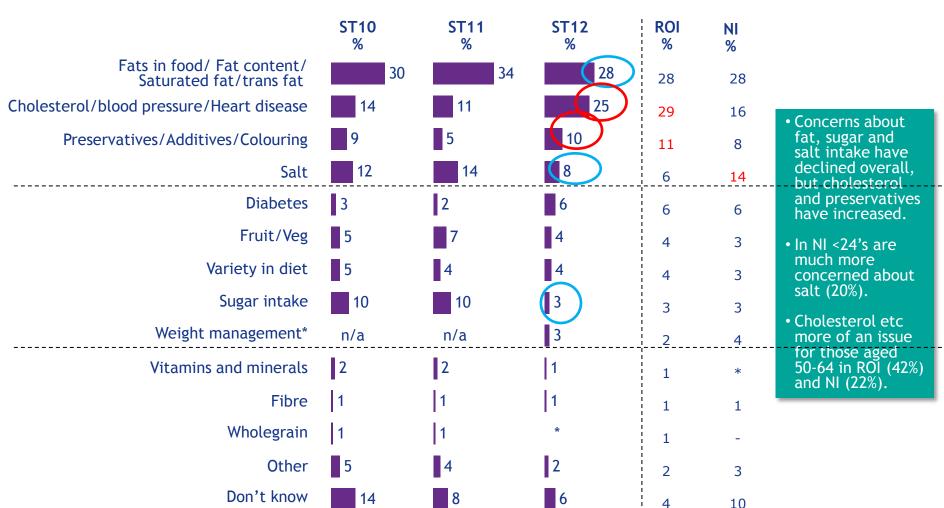
Base: All Respondents (807)





() Bracketed figure denote ST11

### Healthy Eating - Issue of Most Concern

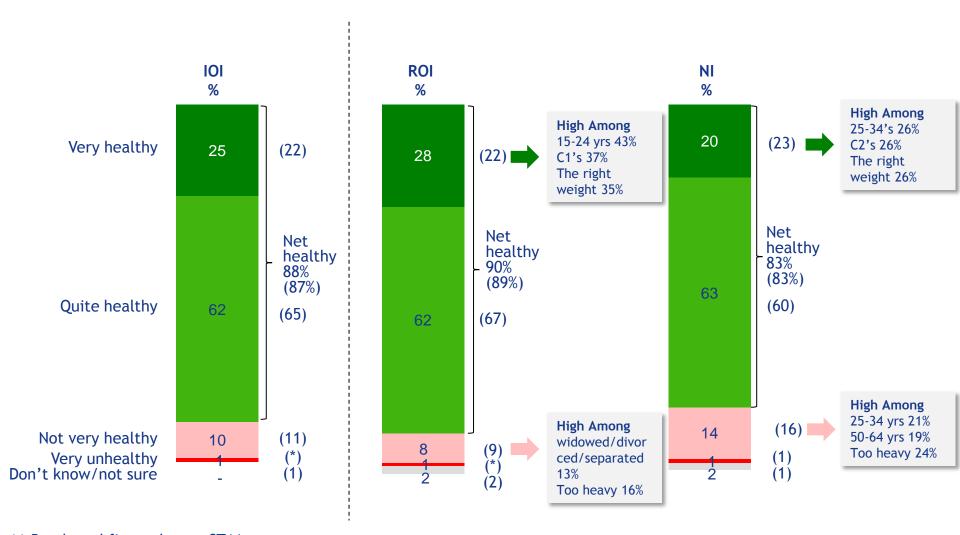


<sup>\*</sup> New answer code added 2010

### Perceptions of personal health

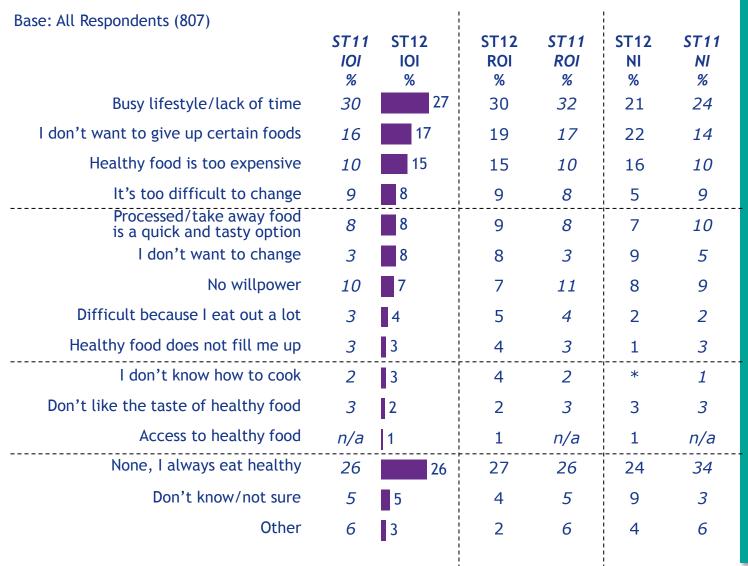
Base: All Respondents (807)

Similar ratings of own personal health since ST11.



( ) Bracketed figure denote ST11

### **Barriers to Healthy Eating**



- Busy lifestyle seen as the greatest barrier to eating healthily.
- In NI, parents (26%), ABC1's (27%) and those 35-49 yrs (31%) are most likely to say busy lifestyle, in ROI it is <35's (39%) and AB's (38%).
- Expense has grown in importance as a barrier in ST12 in both regions in NI higher among DE's (27%) and C2's in ROI (20%).
- One in four say there are no barriers as they always eat healthily: most likely women in NI (29%), those 50+ (29%) and C1's (31%); also C1's in ROI (34%) and 35+ yrs (33%)
- Of those who admit they are 'too heavy' the main barriers in NI are busy lifestyle (30%) and don't want to give up certain foods (22%); the latter is 27% in ROI.
- 10% of 15-24's in ROI say they don't know how to cook.

Q. What do you feel are the main barriers that stop you from eating healthily?

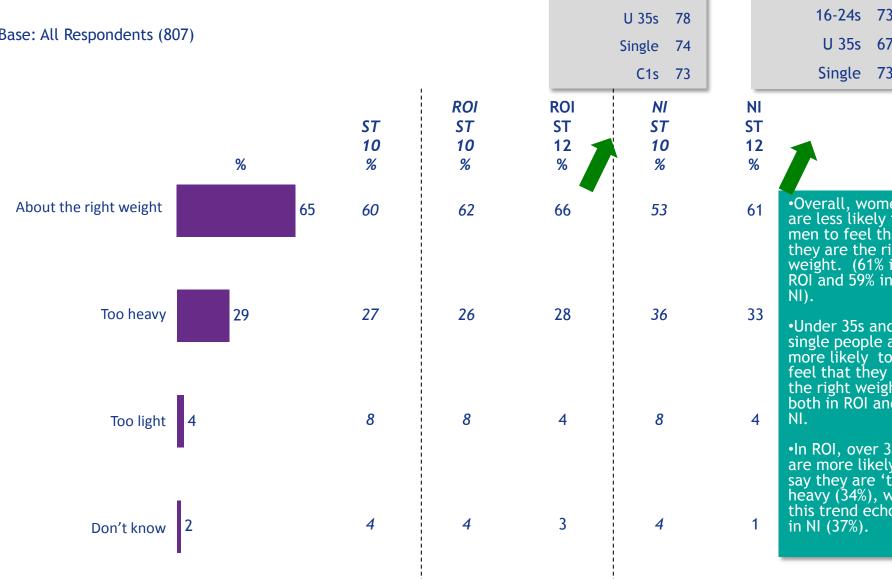
\*New code added 2010





### Perceptions of own weight

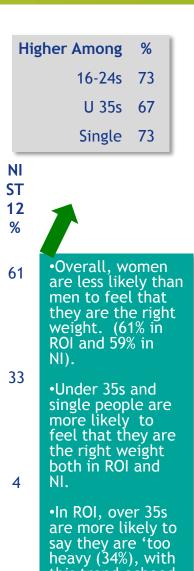
Base: All Respondents (807)



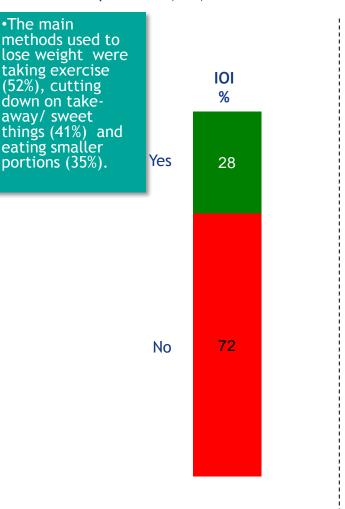
**Higher Among** 

Males

71

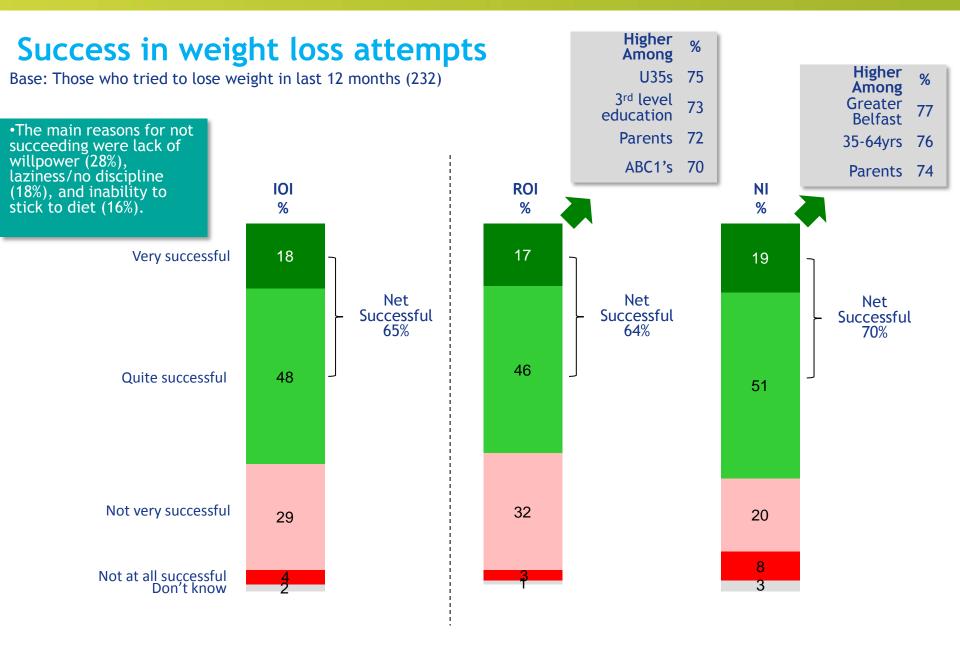


### Attempts to lose weight in past twelve months







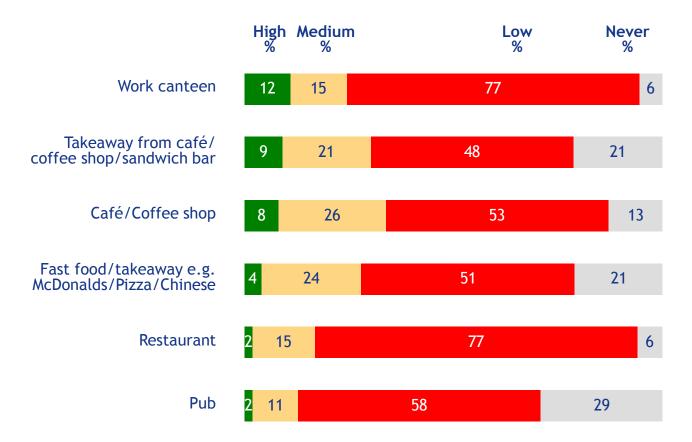




Eating out - patterns & influencing factors

### Frequency of Eating out by Location

Base: All Respondents (807)



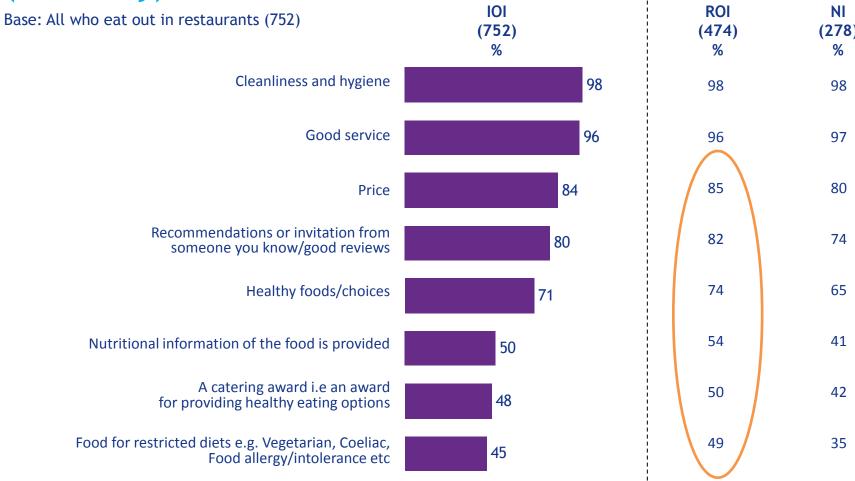
- •The frequency of eating out is low across IOI perhaps something that can be attributed to the current economic climate.
- •The work canteen and café/sandwich bar takeaways are the places with the highest incidences of eating out, indicating that eating out is primarily a work-related activity.

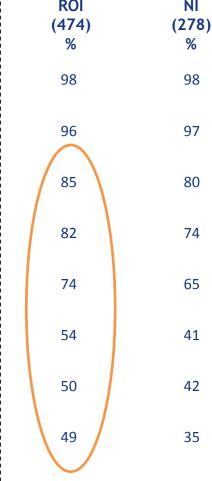
High = At least 3-4 times per week
Medium = Once/twice a week

= A couple times per month/less often

Low

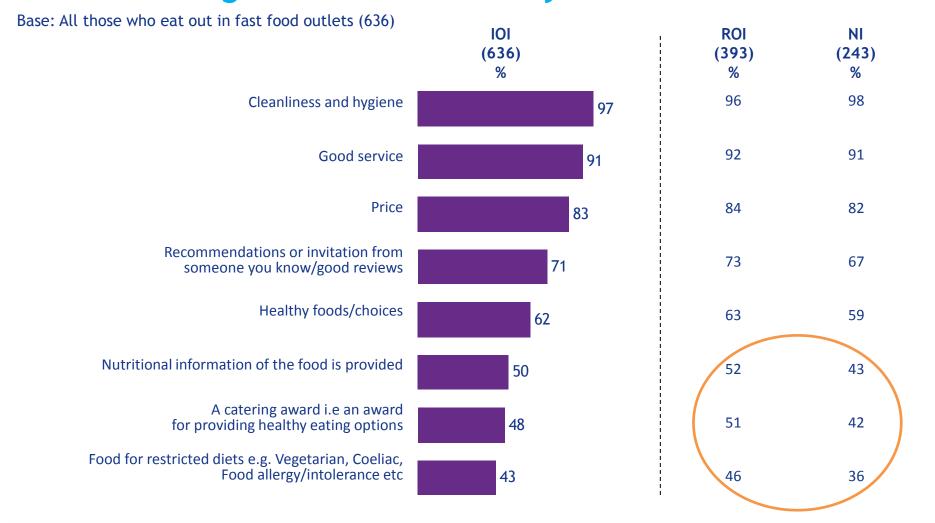
## Restaurants: Important factors in choosing where to eat (Summary)





•Cleanliness and hygiene unsurprisingly are the most important factors when choosing a restaurant to eat out in, closely followed by good service. ROI diners attach a higher level of significance to all of the other factors when choosing a restaurant compared tó those in NI.

## Cleanliness/hygiene is the most important factor to consider when choosing a fast food/takeaway restaurant



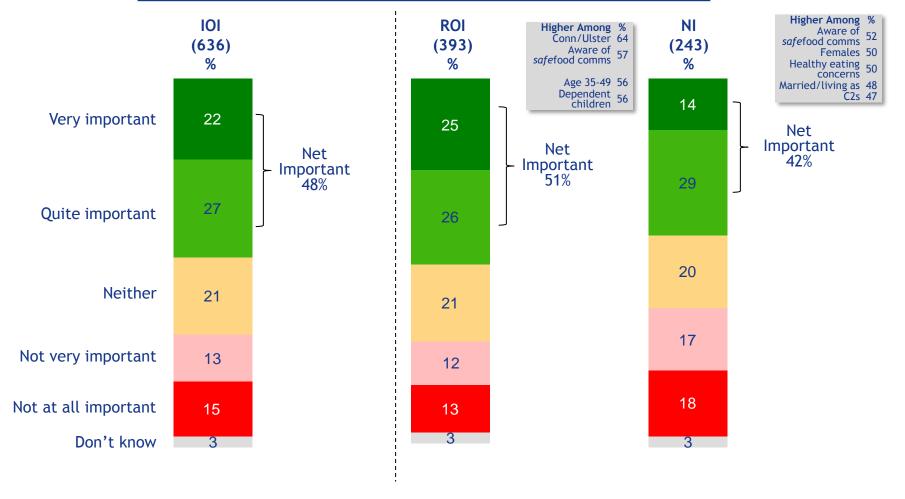
Similarly to choosing a restaurant, cleanliness, hygiene and good service are the key considerations for the consumer when selecting a fast food/takeaway restaurant.



# Important factors in choosing a fast food/takeaway restaurant (VII)

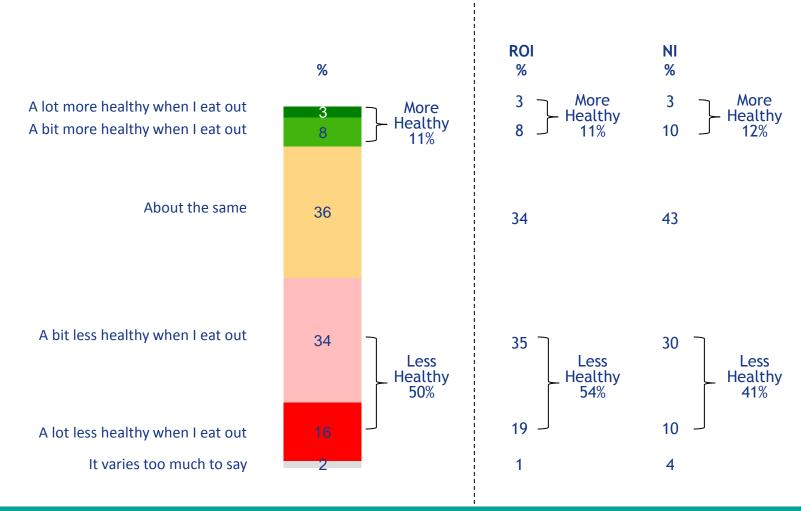
Base: All those who eat out in fast food outlets (636)

#### A CATERING AWARD I.E AN AWARD FOR PROVIDING HEALTHY EATING OPTIONS



### How healthy is eating out of home compared to in-home?

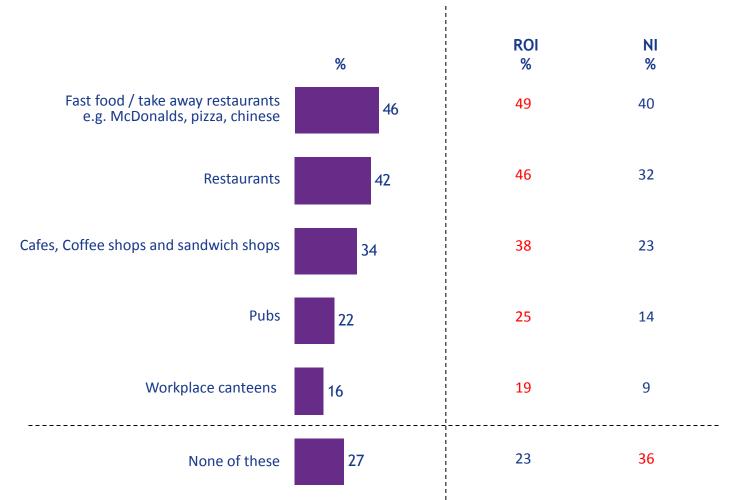
Base: All those who eat out (795)



Just one in ten eat more healthily out of home, the majority say the food out of home is generally less healthy.

### Where info on healthy eating options would be welcomed

Base: All Respondents (807)

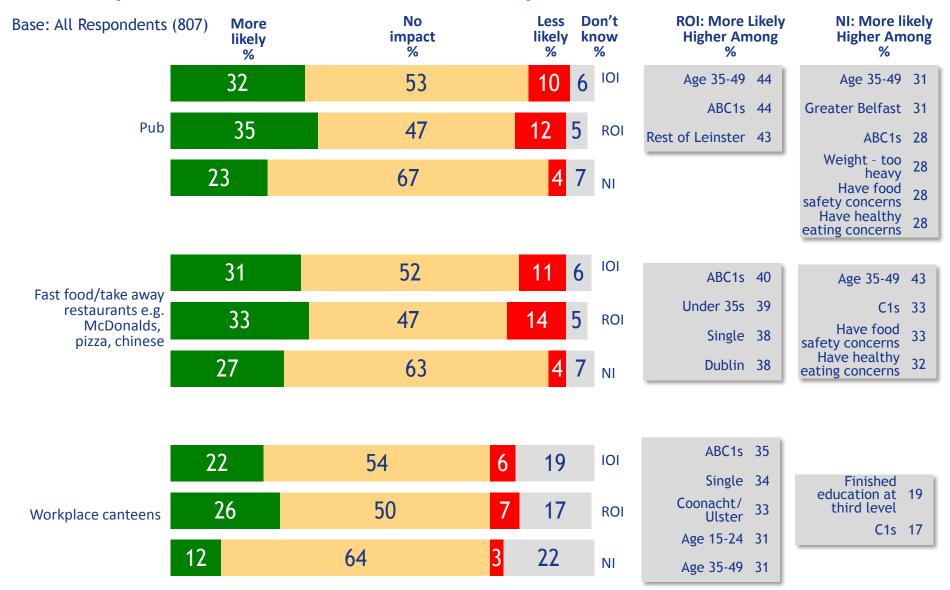


ROI consumers most eager to see info on healthy options displayed, fast-food and regular restaurants seen as most fitting place for this information.

### ROI diners most likely to be influenced by a catering award in all cases. Most impact likely in restaurants.



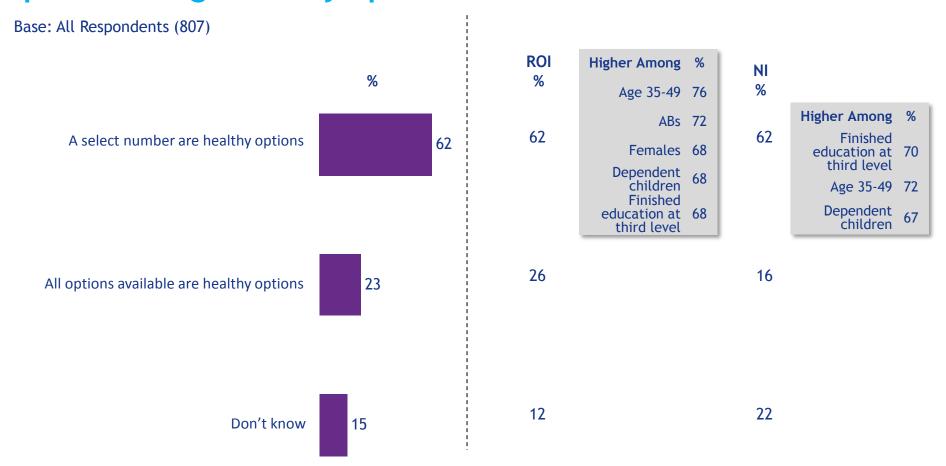
## At least one in two say a catering award will have no impact on eating out in a pub/fast food restaurant or workplace canteen.



If any of the following types of eateries had been given a healthy eating catering award for providing healthy options would it make you more or less likely to eat there or would it have no impact on your decision?

Q.

## Two-thirds of consumers think a healthy eating catering award would be as a result of some, not all, of the menu options being 'healthy options'



Across IOI, 2 in 3 consumers believe that if an eatery had won a healthy eating award, this would indicate that just a select number of options were healthy options.

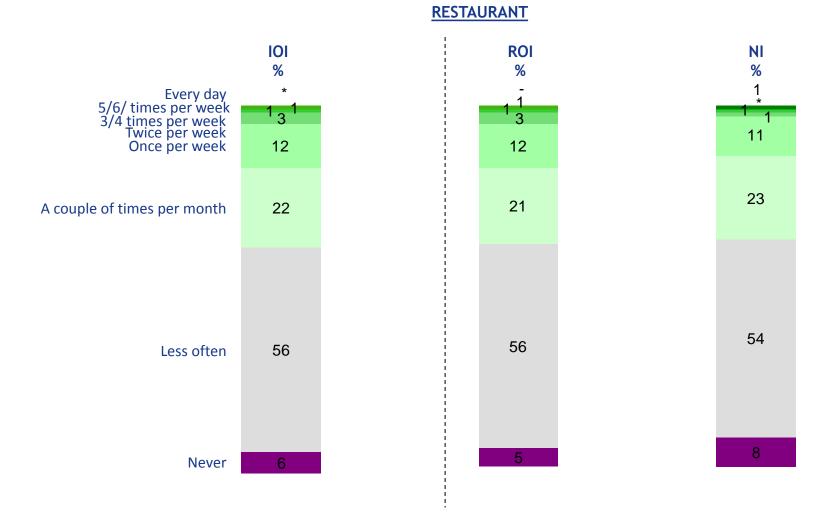




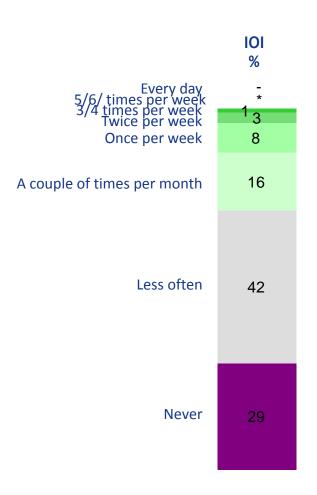
**Eating Out - frequency** 

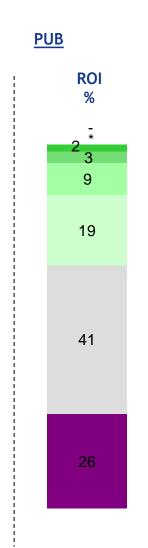


### Frequency of eating out (I)



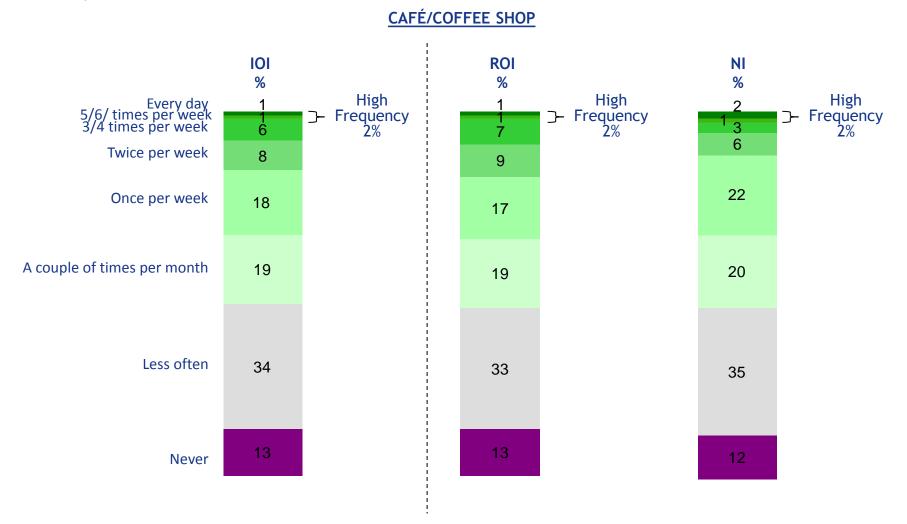
### Frequency of eating out (II)







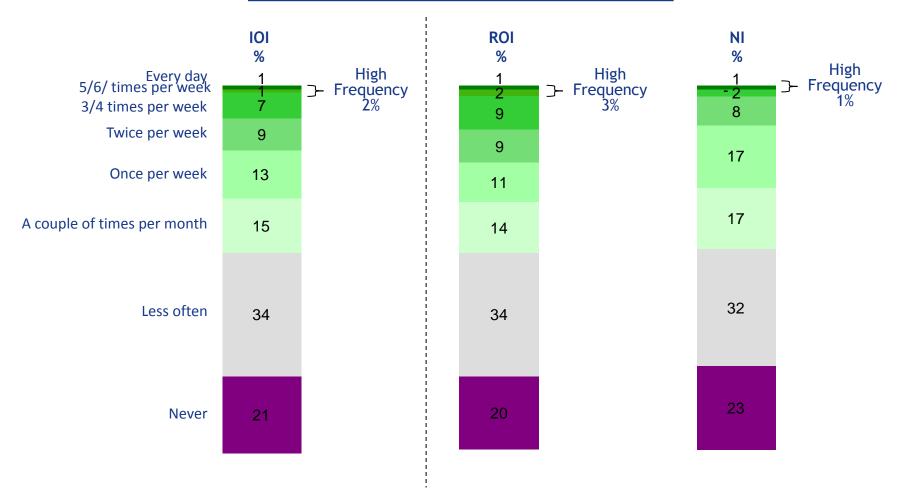
### Frequency of eating out (III)



### Frequency of eating out (IV)

Base: All Respondents (807)

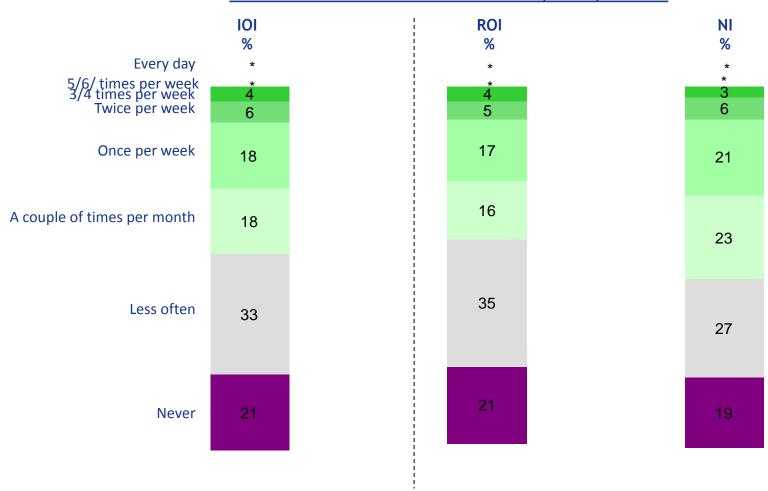
### TAKE AWAY FROM CAFÉ/COFFEE SHOP OR SANDWICH BAR



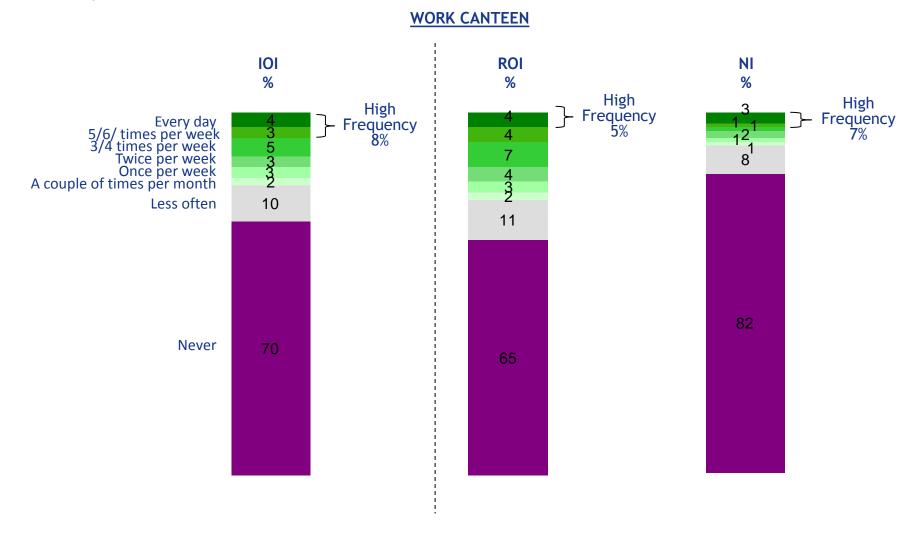
### Frequency of eating out (V)

Base: All Respondents (807)

### FAST FOOD/TAKE AWAY E.G. MC DONALD'S, PIZZA, CHINESE



### Frequency of eating out (VI)

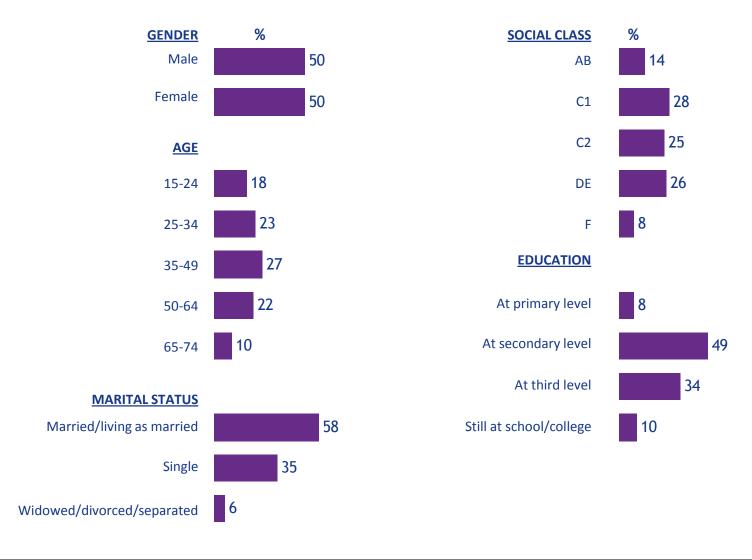




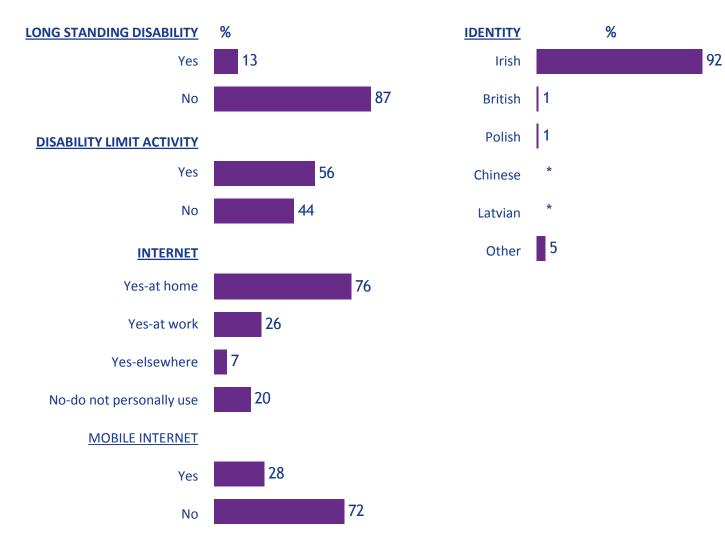
**Demographics of respondents** 



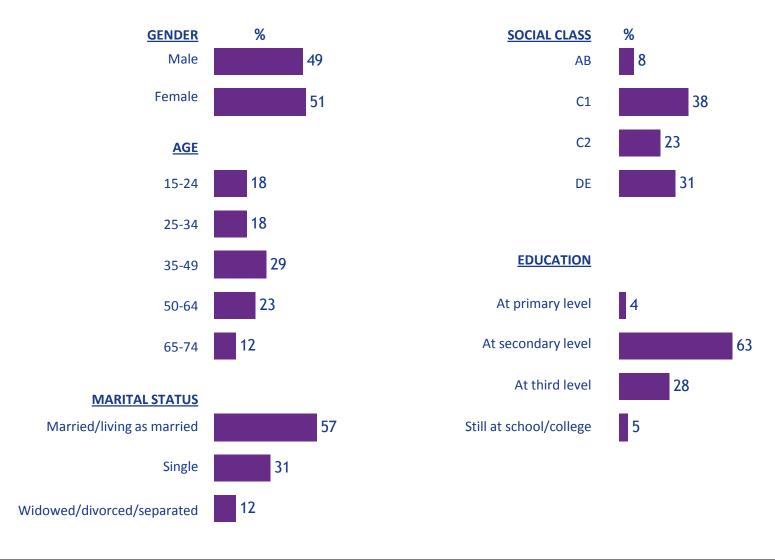
### **Demographics - ROI**



### **Demographics - ROI**



### **Demographics - NI**



### **Demographics - NI**

