

Appendix G

International Studies

The following section presents data from international surveys to which comparisons have been made in the main body of this report. The relevant international data are presented with headings referring to the section and page number of this report where the international comparisons can be found.

This report, Section 5, page 22: Areas of concern

Table 29: Eurobarometer – risk issues

	Very likely	Likely	Not very likely	Not at all likely	DK
Base: All respondents (n=24642)	%	%	%	%	%
Being the victim of a crime	6	25	43	21	5
Being the victim of terrorism	3	17	45	30	5
A serious illness	10	39	33	7	10
The food you eat damaging your health	8	34	41	14	3
Being injured in a car accident	9	42	34	8	7
Consumer goods (other than food) damaging your health	9	33	40	13	5
Environmental pollution damaging your health	18	43	28	8	3

Source: Special Eurobarometer 2005 – Risk Issues, European Food Safety Authority, 2005
QB2.1 I will read out a list of potential risks. For each of them please tell me how likely you think they are to happen to you personally.

Table 30: Food Safety Authority of Ireland –issues

	Respondents worried
Base: All respondents (n=800)	%
Drugs and drug abuse	80
The health service	67
The environment	64
The safety of the food you buy and eat	53
Racism	48
Crime in your area	44
The education service	42

Source: Consumer Attitudes to Food Safety in Ireland, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, 2003
Consumers were given a list of seven general issues and asked to rate these in order of concern.

This report, Section 5, page 25: Whether food safety improved/stayed the same/got worse**Table 31: Eurobarometer – whether food safety improved/stayed the same/got worse**

	Total
Base: All respondents (n=24642)	%
Has improved	38
Stayed about the same	29
Has worsened	28
Don't know	5

Source: Special Eurobarometer 2005 – Risk Issues, European Food Safety Authority, 2005
 QB4b Compared to ten years ago, would you say that, overall, food safety has improved, stayed about the same or has gotten worse?

Table 32: Food Safety Authority of Ireland – whether food safety improved

	Total
Base: All respondents (n=800)	%
Much more safe	30
A little more safe	23
About the same	14
A little less safe	18
Much less safe	12
Don't know	3

Source: Consumer Attitudes to Food Safety in Ireland, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, 2003
 Do you think that the food you buy or eat nowadays is more or less safe than it was 10 years ago?

This report, Section 5.1, page 29: Specific food concerns**Table 33: Eurobarometer – spontaneous food related concerns**

	Total
Base: All respondents (n=24642)	%
Poisoning/food poisoning	16
Chemicals/pesticides/toxic substances	14
Obesity, over-weight	13
Illnesses/health problems	9
GMOs	8
Food additives	7
No problems or risk	7
Bacteria	6
Expiry dates/lack of fresh products	6
Lack of quality/bad food	5
Allergies/Allergic reaction to certain food	5

Cholesterol	5
Mad cow disease	5
Cardiovascular problems/circulatory problems	5
Other illnesses	5
Fats	4
Pollution	4
Indigestion/digestive problems	4
Cancer	4
Lack of sanitary controls/hygiene	3
Bad diet	3
Diabetes	3

Source: Special Eurobarometer 2005 – Risk Issues, European Food Safety Authority, 2005
 QB3 What are all the things that come to your mind when thinking about possible problems or risks associated with food?

Table 34: Food Safety Authority of Ireland – specific food safety concerns

	Total Worried
Base: All respondents (n=800)	%
Pesticide and herbicide residues	70
BSE/Mad Cow Disease	67
Food poisoning	65
Antibiotic residues	63
Genetically modified food	62
Food irradiation	62
Additives	62
Animal welfare	60
Microorganisms	55

Source: Consumer Attitudes to Food Safety in Ireland, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, 2003
 The percentage of consumers who expressed concerns in relation to a prompted list of specific food safety concerns.

This report, Section 5.1, page 33: Food poisoning

Table 35: New Zealand Food Safety Authority – incidence of food poisoning

	Total
Base: All respondents (n=750)	%
Yes	22
No	77
Unsure	1

Source: New Zealand Food Safety Authority, A Quantitative Study, May 2005
 Have you experienced food poisoning at any time over the past two years?

Table 36: New Zealand Food Safety Authority – source of food poisoning

	Total who have had food poisoning
Base: All respondents who report having food poisoning (n=165)	%
Outside home	83
Contaminated products	6
Food cooked at home	6
Volunteered – other	3
Unsure	2

Source: New Zealand Food Safety Authority, *A Quantitative Study*, May 2005
Thinking of your most recent experience - do you think your food poisoning was caused by food purchased outside your home, from contaminated products you used at home, or from food cooked at home?

This report, Section 6.1, page 35: Awareness of organisations

Table 37: Food Safety Authority of Ireland – spontaneous awareness of organisations

	Total
Base: All respondents (n=800)	%
Bord Bia	22
Food Safety Authority of Ireland	8
Health and Safety Authority	8
Department of Agriculture & Food	6
Health boards	4
Food Safety Promotion Board	3
Bord Iascaigh Mhara	3
Bord Glas	3

Source: *Consumer Attitudes to Food Safety in Ireland*, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, 2003
Can you tell me the names of any organisations that oversee food safety regulation in Ireland?

This report, Section 6.1, page 36: Awareness of organisations

Table 38: Food Standards Agency UK – prompted awareness of organisation

	Total
Base: All respondents (n=3513)	%
Yes	82
No/Don't Know	18

Source: *Consumer Attitudes to Food Standards*, Food Standards Agency UK, 2007
Q44a-d Can I check, have you ever heard of the Food Standards Agency?

Table 39: Food Safety Authority of Ireland – prompted awareness of organisations

	Total
Base: All respondents (n=800)	%
Department of Agriculture & Food	95
Bord Bia	86
Health and Safety Authority	86
Bord Iascaigh Mhara	73
Bord Glas	71
Food Safety Authority of Ireland	60
Food Safety Promotion Board	46

Source: Consumer Attitudes to Food Safety in Ireland, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, 2003
Which of these organisations have you ever heard of?

This report, Section 6.2, page 39: Confidence in organisations regulating and monitoring food

Table 40: Food Standards Agency UK – confidence in organisations involved in food safety

	Total
Base: All respondents (n=3513)	%
Very/fairly confident	62
Neither/not very/not at all confident	38

Source: Consumer Attitudes to Food Standards, Food Standards Agency UK, 2007
Q42 Overall, how confident are you about the current measures taken by all organisations involved in protecting your health with regards to food safety?

Table 41: Eurobarometer – agreement with public authorities are quick to act when a danger to health is identified

	Total
Base: All respondents (n=24642)	%
Totally agree	12
Tend to agree	44
Tend to disagree	25
Totally disagree	8
Don't Know	12

Source: Special Eurobarometer 2005 – Risk Issues, European Food Safety Authority, 2005
QB8.1 For each of the following statements, would you say that you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree, totally disagree?...Public authorities in the European Union are quick to act when a danger to citizens' health is identified

Table 42: Food Safety Authority of Ireland – prompted awareness of organisations

	Total
Base: All respondents (n=800)	%
Confident in food safety measures	61
Not confident in food safety measures	21
Don't know/neither confident or not confident	18

Source: Consumer Attitudes to Food Safety in Ireland, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, 2003
Consumer confidence in the food safety measures currently in place

This report, Section 6.4, page 45: Support for regulation

Table 43: Eurobarometer – Support for food regulation

	Total
Base: All respondents (n=24642)	%
Totally agree	15
Tend to agree	28
Tend to disagree	32
Totally disagree	13
Don't know	13

Source: Special Eurobarometer 2005 – Risk Issues, European Food Safety Authority, 2005
QB8.7 For each of the following statements, would you say that you totally agree, tend to agree, tend to disagree, totally disagree?... There are too many rules and regulation about food

This report, Section 7.1, page 47: Support for regulation

Table 44: Food Standards Agency UK – frequency of referring to food labelling

	Total
Base: All respondents (n=3513)	%
Always	32
Usually	20
Occasionally	18
Rarely	13
Never	13

Source: Consumer Attitudes to Food Standards, Food Standards Agency UK, 2007
Q30. Thinking just about products that you purchase for the first time how frequently, if at all, do you refer to the labelling information

Table 45: Food Safety Authority of Ireland – attention paid to food labels

	Total
Base: All respondents (n=800)	%
A lot	45
A little	38
None at all	16
Don't know	1

Source: Consumer Attitudes to Food Safety in Ireland, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, 2003
In general, how much attention do you pay to the labels on food that you buy in shops or supermarkets?

This report, Section 7.2, page 51: Labelling information

Table 46: Food Safety Authority of Ireland – information looked for on food labels

	Total
Base: All respondents (n=800)	%
Best before date	36
Additives	31
Fat content	25
Where it's produced	21
Preservatives	16
Guaranteed Irish	14
Price	12
Calorie content	11
Manufacturers name	10
Ingredients	6
Sugar content	4
Monosodium Glutamate/colourings/E numbers	3
Gluten free	3

Source: Consumer Attitudes to Food Safety in Ireland, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, 2003
What if anything, do you look for on the labels of food you buy in shops or supermarkets?

This report, Section 7.4, page 57: Behaviour and attitudes to labelling**Table 47: Food Safety Authority of Ireland – amount of information on food labels**

	Total
Base: All respondents (n=800)	%
The right amount of information	50
Too little information	31
Too much information	11
Don't know	7

Source: Consumer Attitudes to Food Safety in Ireland, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, 2003
Opinions of labels on food

Table 48: Food Safety Authority of Ireland – whether labels are clear or confusing

	Total
Base: All respondents (n=800)	%
Information on labels is clear	51
Information on labels is confusing	41
Neither clear nor confusing	6
Don't know	4

Source: Consumer Attitudes to Food Safety in Ireland, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, 2003
Opinions of labels on food

Table 49: Food Standards Agency UK – amount of information on food labels

	Total
Base: All respondents (n=3513)	%
Too much information	9
About right	58
Not enough information	24
Don't know	8

Source: Consumer Attitudes to Food Standards, Food Standards Agency UK, 2007
Q32 What do you think about the amount of information that is provided for on food labels?

This report, Section 9.1, page 76: Concern about food safety and hygiene outside of the home

Table 50: Food Standards Agency UK – food hygiene concerns

	Total
Base: All respondents (n=3513)	%
Takeaway/fast food outlets	28
Restaurants/cafes/pubs and wine bars	21
Supermarkets	11
Market stalls	9
Local butchers	7
Other shops	4
Others	1

Source: Consumer Attitudes to Food Standards, Food Standards Agency UK, 2007
Q37 Have you been concerned about hygiene in any of the following places in the last 12 months?

Table 51: Eurobarometer – concern about unhygienic conditions

	Total
Base: All respondents (n=24642)	%
Very worried	25
Fairly worried	43
Not very worried	24
Not at all worried	6
Don't know	1

Source: Special Eurobarometer 2005 – Risk Issues, European Food Safety Authority, 2005
QB5.13 For each of the following issues, please tell me if you are very worried, fairly worried, not very worried or not at all worried by it?...Unhygienic conditions in food handling outside home like in food processing plants, shops or restaurants

This report, Section 9.1, page 77: Concern about food safety and hygiene outside of the home

Table 52: Food Safety Authority of Ireland – concern for food safety outside of the home

	Total
Base: All respondents (n=800)	% worried
Food produced on Irish farms	36
Food that you buy in shops and supermarkets	37
Food you get in restaurants, cafes or hotels	49

Source: Consumer Attitudes to Food Safety in Ireland, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, 2003
How worried are you about the safety of food that's produced on Irish farms nowadays?
How worried are you about the safety of food that you buy in shops and supermarkets nowadays?
How worried are you about the safety of food you get in restaurants, cafes or hotels nowadays?

This report, Section 9.2, page 77: Whether food concerns are reported**Table 53: Food Standards Agency UK – where reported food safety concerns**

	Total
Base: All respondents concerned about food hygiene (n=1502)	%
Yes – staff at outlet	18
Yes – council etc	4
Yes – somewhere else	1
No – did not report concern	76

Source: *Consumer Attitudes to Food Standards, Food Standards Agency UK, 2007*
 Q37 And the last time you were concerned about hygiene did you report your concerns to anyone?

Table 54: Food Safety Authority of Ireland – whether made a complaint about food hygiene

	Total
Base: All respondents (n=800)	%
Yes	40
No	60

Source: *Consumer Attitudes to Food Safety in Ireland, Food Safety Authority of Ireland, 2003*
 Whether ever made a complaint about food hygiene in a supermarket, shop, hotel, restaurant or bar.