**Quirk's London Conference** 



## Navigating the impacts of the rising cost of living: The AXA Customer Lifestyle Report

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## Navigating cost of living pressures

funds now than I was 3 years ago."

We wanted to listen to our customers and find out what it feels to live in these uncertain times

"We're both retired on pension. Never been big spenders but now feel we're running on the spot to afford things." "I dread the future if financial matters worsen." "I'm more conscious of what I buy." "I recognize the challenges posed by the rising cost of living. It **puts pressure on my** budget and makes it harder to maintain a comfortable standard of living." "I really **hope rising costs slow down**." "I tend to worry slightly about my future as a "The rising cost of living is affecting the amount young adult, house prices are very high, of money I can save for my retirement. I am salaries remain low and unemployment is rife." putting about £3000 a year less into retirement

### The AXA Customer Lifestyle Report

We conducted 3 waves of research which tracks consumers' financial decisions

**3** Waves of research since May 2023 6,625 Total respondents

### 20+

Newspapers across the UK featuring key stats from the report

3 million

People reached across the UK from newspaper coverage



### **Key takeaways**

We conducted 3 Waves of research to track consumers' financial decisions



1) Consumers are being more intentional about their spending habits, as they don't want to sacrifice their future goals



2) The rising cost of living impacts mental health and overall well-being



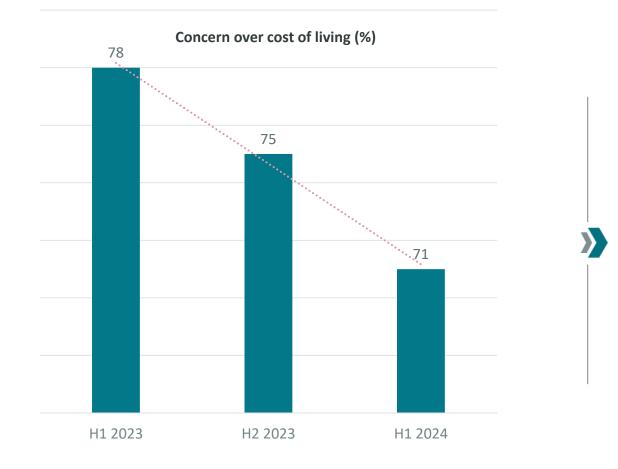
3) There is cautious optimism as more consumers continue to take control of their finances and are increasingly aware of how they could influence their situation



## Consumers are being more intentional about their spending habits, as they don't want to sacrifice their future goals

### **Concern over the rising costs of living**

Overall concern over rising costs remain high but seems to be going down, except for 25- to 34-year-olds



7 in 10 people (71%) are concerned over the rising cost of living, down from 78% last year



### **Spending reductions and further cuts**

Consumers are being intentional with spend wherever they can

74%

Have reduced their spending due to rising costs

(H1 2024)

**50%** 

Are likely to further reduce their spending in the next 3 months

(H1 2024)

# 1 in 5

Completely stopped spending on holidays, charity donations and magazines

(H1 2024)

9 in 10

Reduced spending on clothes and shoes

(H1 2024)

# **8 in 10**

Cut spend on days and evenings out, food shopping and heating

(H1 2024)

**50%** 

Reduced insurance spend

(H1 2024)

### **Behavioural changes**

People are engaging in behaviours that enable them to maximise their hard-earned cash



People are **engaging in recessionary behaviour**, consistent with high levels of concern with the cost of living





# The rising cost of living impacts mental health and overall well-being

### Finances and its impact on mental health

Personal finances influence mental health, with women and poorer households more likely to feel the strain

**72%** 

Say that their finances impact their mental health

(H1 2024)

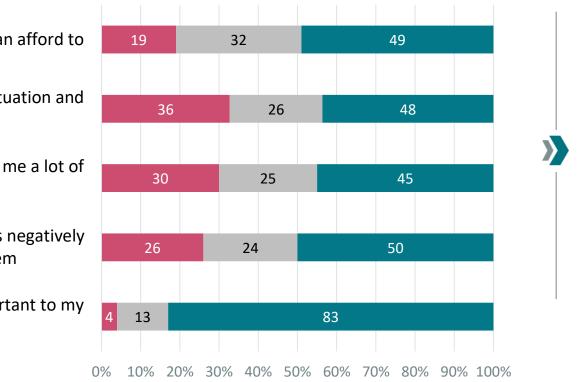
**39%** Say that this impact is negative (H1 2024)

- Women are more likely than men to score that their financial situation impacts negatively upon their mental health
- The larger the household income, the more positive impact finances have on mental health



### **Finances and overall well-being**

Financial security is important to well-being and finances can place additional burdens on mental health



Many are still understandably concerned over their future, despite being more intentional with their finances

Statements linking finances and well-being

I'd better take care of myself if I can afford to

I have fear over my financial situation and future

Bills and financial matters cause me a lot of additional stress

Not being able to afford things negatively impacts my self-esteem

Being financially secure is important to my sense of well-being

■ Disagree ■ Neutral ■ Agree





## There is cautious optimism as more consumers continue to take control of their finances and are increasingly aware of how they could influence their situation

### **Managing money**

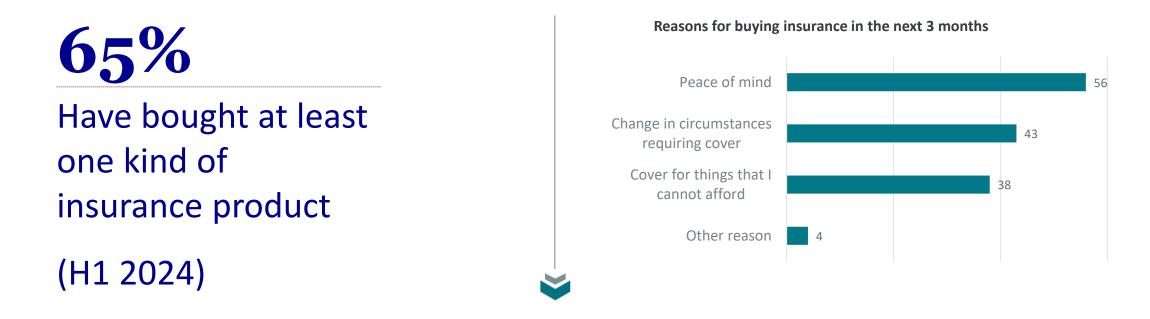
Many are engaging in more positive behaviours which help manage daily spend better

Talking to my partner or loved ones about my financial situation				
17%		More likely		
20%		Less likely		
Ignoring or avoiding thinking abo	noring or avoiding thinking about my financial s		») n	Consumers are being more proactive about
	30%	Less likely		their personal finances
Researching financial or money saving advice				
	29%	More likely		
14%		Less likely		



### **Perceptions of insurance**

Many buy insurance to achieve peace of mind but are open to flexible payments and policy changes to reduce their premiums, helping manage costs



# Many buy insurance to manage risks, with 2 in 3 people buying at least 1 product



## **Reiterating key takeaways**

#### **Key takeaways**



1) Consumers are being more intentional about their spending habits, as they don't want to sacrifice their future goals



2) The rising cost of living impacts mental health and overall well-being

3) There is cautious optimism as more consumers continue to take control of their finances and are increasingly aware of how they could influence their situation



# Thank you!