

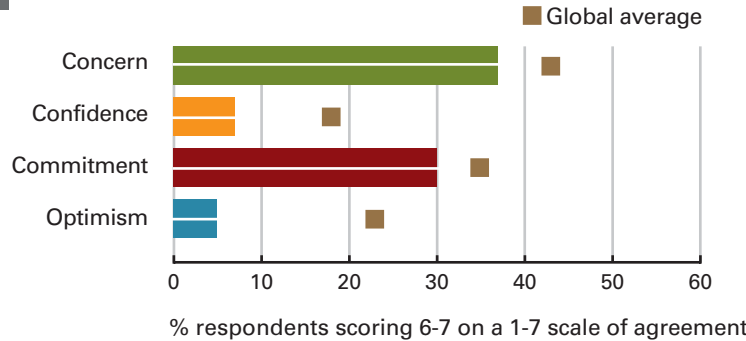
HSBC Climate Confidence Index 2007: country profile

France

The HSBC Climate Confidence Index 2007 shows France as one of the developed economies most engaged in the issue of climate change, but also the most pessimistic, reflecting a widespread belief that a big change in lifestyle is needed.

Figure 1

HSBC Climate Confidence Index: France



Concern	Confidence	Commitment	Optimism
<i>'Climate change and how we respond to it are among the biggest issues I worry about today.'</i>	<i>'The people and organisations who should be doing something about climate change are doing what is needed.'</i>	<i>'I am personally making a significant effort to help reduce climate change through how I live my life today.'</i>	<i>'I believe we will stop climate change.'</i>

France shares with the UK and Germany the profile of a sceptical pessimist (Figure 1). The French show the greatest concern and personal commitment of any of the developed economies researched. But they have little confidence in what is being done today to address the issue, and are the most pessimistic of the nine

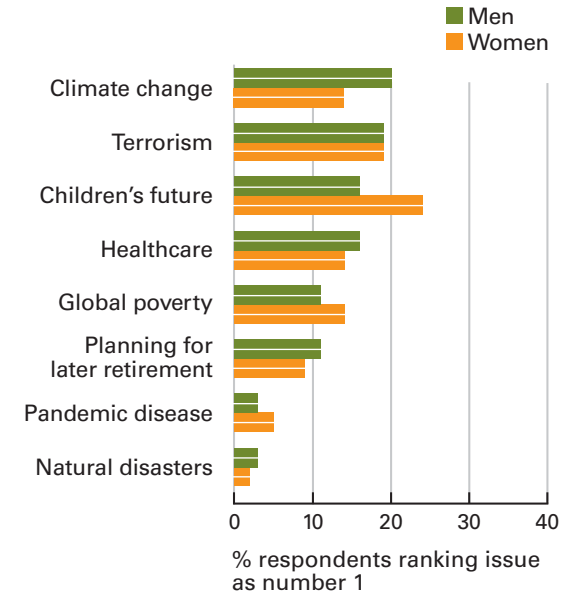
economies researched about the overall outcome.

Among other world issues tested, climate change is the number three concern in France, after children's future and terrorism. For men, climate change is the number one concern (Figure 2).

Engagement with the climate change issue increases strongly with age

Figure 2

Climate change ranks third among world issues in France overall, but first among men



(Figure 3). Among 18- to 24-year-olds, only 23% are concerned, compared with 41% for the over-50s. Unusually among the economies researched, it is not only concern about the issue that shows this trend, but also confidence in how we are addressing it, and optimism that we will succeed. Both confidence and

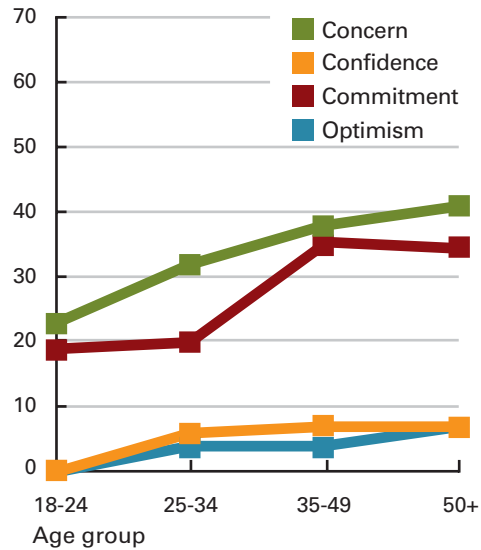
optimism score close to zero for the 18- to 24- age group in France. In almost all the other economies, the young are among the most confident.

Reflecting their high level of concern, and perhaps setting the standard against which their confidence is assessed, the French are the least fatalistic of the developed economies. A

Figure 3

Index scores by age group

% respondents scoring 6-7 on a 1-7 scale of agreement



greater proportion of people than in any other country, 49%, say that 'we should make a big difference to all of our lifestyles today to reduce climate change'. This aspiration contrasts sharply with what people say they are actually prepared to do: 44%, a greater proportion than in any other of the developed economies researched, say they already do as much as they can.

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