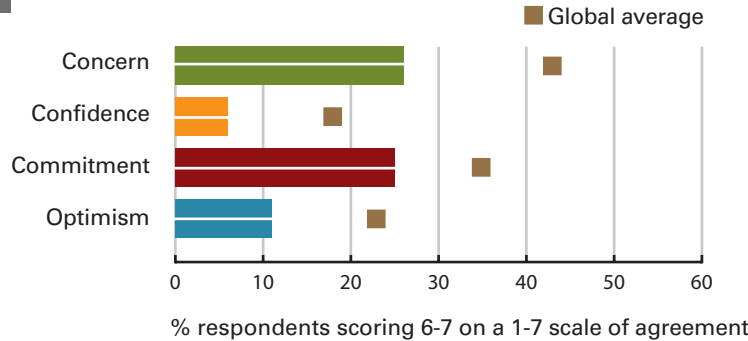


HSBC Climate Confidence Index 2007: country profile

Germany

The HSBC Climate Confidence Index 2007 shows Germany in the middle of the range of developed economies on each of the four index scores. German attitudes are the most fatalistic of any of the economies surveyed, with the emergence of a 'post-green' generation which has the lowest level of concern anywhere.

Figure 1
HSBC Climate Confidence Index: Germany



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>

Germany shares with the UK and France the profile of a sceptical pessimist (Figure 1): moderate concern and commitment, but little confidence in what is being done today or optimism about the outcome.

Among other world issues tested, climate change is the number three concern, close behind terrorism and

children's future, and slightly ahead of planning for later retirement. But this concern is polarised, with a significant number of people in Germany taking a fatalistic attitude.

Some 38% of people – a similar proportion to elsewhere – say that 'we should make a big change to all of our lifestyles today to

reduce climate change'. But only 21% – a smaller proportion than anywhere else surveyed – say that 'if we all act now we can help stop climate change for very little cost or disruption.' A greater number, 25%, say that 'the problem of climate change is impossible for us to try to stop', and a further 11% say we should adapt to

Figure 2

One-quarter of all respondents say climate change is impossible for us to stop

'Which best describes your view on how we should respond to climate change?'

'We should not individually try to stop climate change' (various responses)

4%
'Scientists will find a technological solution'

11%
'We should adapt'/'Not our role to interfere'/'The earth will self-regulate'

25%
'The problem of climate change is impossible for us to try to stop'

21%
'If we act now we can help stop climate change for very little cost or disruption'

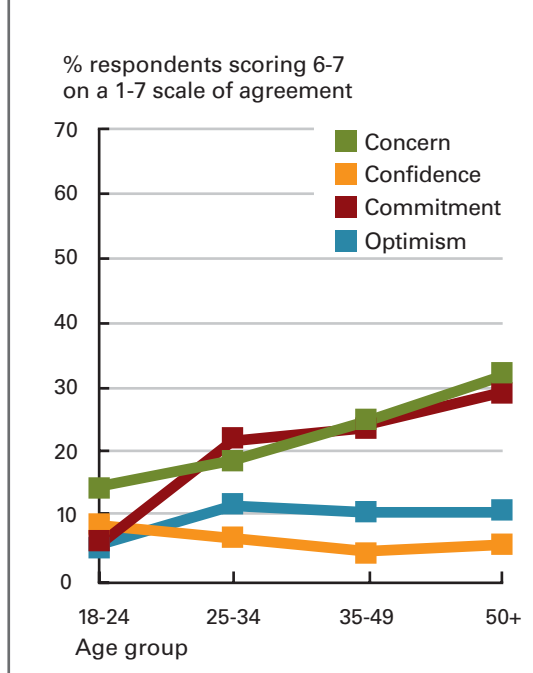
38%
'We should make a big change to all of our lifestyles today to reduce climate change'

the changes rather than trying to interfere with the earth's climate (Figure 2).

While optimism about climate change is relatively constant across generations, engagement with the issue, seen through the level of concern and personal commitment, differs markedly (Figure 3). The over-50s show a big gap between their relatively high engagement and pessimistic view of the outcome. This is unsurprising: for almost all generations in every economy we surveyed, more people are personally committed to making the effort than are optimistic that we will stop climate change. What is surprising is that the under-24s are as optimistic as they are personally committed. While older Germans are as concerned as their peers in other developed economies, younger Germans are much less concerned than their peers.

Compared with other economies surveyed, Germans are least likely to assign the leading role to

Figure 3
Index scores by age group
 Engagement with the issue increases sharply with age, while confidence in the outcome is constant



either business or individuals, and the most likely to assign it to NGOs although here, as elsewhere, people overwhelmingly assign the leading role to governments. At a macro level, Germans are also the strongest in assigning the leading role to the developed economies, with 93% saying developed

economies should play the leading role (compared with 88% across the other developed economies surveyed, and 82% across the developing economies).

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