



## France's current economic concerns overshadow fears for longer-term issues, according to landmark risk perception survey

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- **74% of the French population rank a poorly-performing economy as the top risk facing the country**
- **63% say high prices prevent renewable energy being used more widely**
- **45% fear that the access to good food will become more difficult in 20 years from now**
- **Around half of the French population expects to be working beyond the age of 65**

**Paris, 10 October 2013 – Out of a total of 19 markets surveyed, France has more people concerned about the economy than any other surveyed country. These concerns for the short term mask longer-term fears, including the costs of energy, the quality of food and the financial burden of an ageing population.**

Swiss Re's global Risk perception survey, presented in Paris today, was conducted by The Gallup Organisation – Europe, interviewing nearly 22 000 citizens across five continents and generations, aged 15 and above. Celebrating its 150 year anniversary under the theme of 'Open minds connecting generations', Swiss Re is encouraging a dialogue about risks and how future generations are prepared to tackle them. In France, nearly three-quarters (74%) select "the economy not performing well" as one of the top risks facing France. This is higher than in any other market surveyed. But the French are also very concerned about the cost of renewable energy, with 63% saying it's too expensive.

In addition, French respondents are very concerned about food, with 45% saying that it will be more difficult to maintain a healthy diet in 20 years' time. Only Mexico has a higher proportion of respondents who are concerned about this topic.

Ivo Hux, CEO Swiss Re France says: "While the economic situation currently weighs heavily on the minds of the people, their concerns for things that were once taken for granted – such as the quality of food – are seen as being under threat as well." As part of the survey, the respondents were asked on what concerns them most about ageing, climate change, natural disasters, energy and food supplies.

Despite the ongoing debate about retirement ages, nearly half (47%) of the respondents expect to work to 65 and beyond or even never retire. In addition, the French are more sceptical than their neighbours about the impact of climate change on their community. 18% say



climate change has no effect on the likelihood of a natural catastrophe, whereas just 10% see a link "to a great extent".

Hux adds: "Whether talking about retirement, the effects of climate change or a simple case of eating well, France has a unique perception of risk. It's only through public and private partnerships that we will be able to provide people with the resilience they need to address the risks they face and protect our way of living."

### **Economy still an immediate concern**

- 74% select "the economy not doing well" as one of their top risks facing their France
- This is higher than in any other market surveyed, including Italy, (60%), Germany (33%) or Switzerland (29%)

### **Renewable energy is too expensive**

- 63% say high prices are a barrier to renewable energy being used more widely – only Hong Kong (70%) has a higher proportion of people selecting this option
- 67% of French respondents are willing to use renewable power, but 56% of them say they can't afford to pay more for it
- 91% want the French government to do more to promote efficient energy use

### **Concerns over healthy, nutritious food**

- 45% fear that the access to a healthy and nutritious food supply will become more difficult 20 years ahead, a close second to Mexico (46%) and far beyond the global average (28%)
- 93% in France agree that many people around the world do not have access to enough food and 88% cite waste as the cause – more than any other market surveyed

### **Longer working lives expected**

- The average age at which French workers expect to retire is 63, but 47% of respondents expect to retire beyond the age of 65 or never retire
- 38% of French are willing to take out long-term care insurance on a loved one's behalf. Only Indonesia (51%), Singapore (50%), South Africa and Mexico (46%) are more supportive of private insurance

### **Connection between climate change and natural catastrophes**

- 64% of French respondents expect to see more extreme natural catastrophes 20 years from now
- 76% link climate change to a greater risk of natural disasters in the future. But just 10% say this link exists to "a great extent" whereas 18% say there is no connection between the two phenomena



## Notes to editors

### About the Risk perception survey

Swiss Re's *Risk perception survey* was carried out in April and May 2013 by The Gallup Organisation – Europe.

Results are based on telephone and online interviews with more than 1 000 people per country, aged 15 and older, conducted in 19 markets. The samples are representative of the total population aged 15 and older in most countries; in five countries, interviews were only conducted in urban areas. The 19 markets selected for this study were:

- Canada, the United States, Brazil (only urban areas) and Mexico
- France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and South Africa (only urban areas)
- Australia, China (only urban areas), Hong Kong, India (only urban areas), Indonesia (only urban areas), Japan, Singapore and South Korea

**The results of Swiss Re's Risk perception survey can be explored online at [riskwindow.swissre.com](http://riskwindow.swissre.com)**

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