

ING DIRECT Financial Wellbeing Index (FWI) – Q1 2012

Overall summary

Overall

- Household Financial Wellbeing Index is 106.9 (up slightly from 105.6 in Q4).
- All dimensions show an improvement with their index besides credit card debt
- 46% of households' income increased in the past twelve months
- 24% of households said their income has decreased over the past 12 months
 - 35% of those households put the decrease down to less work hours and 26% say their salary decreased
- Of those whose income increased, the main avenues of gaining extra income were selling goods (9%), doing odd jobs for cash (8%) or working more hours part-time (8%).

Credit cards (personal debt)

- Households across Australia have on average 1.9 credit cards (up from 1.7 Q4)
- Approximately one in ten households (13%) have no credit card
- The median outstanding balance on credits cards is \$1,854, (up from \$1,686 Q4)
- 62% (up from 58% in Q4) say that they typically pay off their credit cards each month
- 16% of households currently owe nothing on their credit cards
- Only 17% of households report having a personal loan, down from 21% in Q 4

Savings

- Across all Australian households the median savings level is \$7,577
- 20% of households have no savings at all
- The average rating of their level of comfort with their household's savings holds at 3.4 out of 7
- Thirteen per cent of households with \$100,000 or more annual household income also have no savings

Mortgages

- The proportion of mortgage free households in Australia is 26% this quarter (up from 23% in Q4)
- A further one in four (28%) are renting (down from 38% in Q4); 43% own their home with a mortgage (up from 38%)
- 40% of households are paying down mortgages ahead of time; 56% are paying as due (up from 54% Qtr4) while 4% are getting behind in their mortgage.
- The median outstanding mortgage balance is \$182,581, slightly lower than recent quarters (\$219,747 Q4)

Household income and bills

- The median annual household income is \$69,164
- Eight per cent of households say that their household income is not enough to cover immediate bills and debts
- Seven per cent of households say that it is almost impossible to pay all the monthly bills on time

Investments

- One in four (31%) of households have share-market investments (up from 24% in Q4)
- 51% of households have no assets or investments outside of the family home
- The median value of total assets in each household (including equity in the family home) is \$306,993
- One in five (21%) households say that they don't have any investments/ assets at all

For a full copy of the report, please visit the [ING DIRECT Online Newsroom](#)

Contact: Caroline Thomas, PR Manager, ING DIRECT, 02 9018 5160 or 0413 317 225.