Overview of results concerning savings attitude

To what extent do international attitudes differ?
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Graphical illustrations of notable differences

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Consumers in Luxembourg and the Netherlands feel most comfortable in Europe with their savings

Looking at countries that feel (very) comfortable with their level of accumulated savings, it shows that consumers in Luxembourg and the Netherlands feel most comfortable. Discomfort is noticeably high in Spain.

Due to the low internet penetration rates in China, India and Thailand, results in these countries should be interpreted with caution.
Large differences between countries in readily accessible money

Eastern European countries seem to have low amounts of readily accessible money. India and Thailand also have low levels.

How much money could you readily access in case of an emergency within one week to pay for a sudden expense such as a car break down or repair of a home heating system?

*For countries not using the Euro, equivalent local currency amounts were used.

Due to the low internet penetration rates in China, India and Thailand, results in these countries should be interpreted with caution.
Asian nations plus Germany and the Netherlands are least affected by the current economic situation

Inflation seems to be the main reason for weakened finances in all countries. The relatively large share of respondents of Spain and Romania who report a weakened financial position due to losing their jobs is disturbing. More than half respondents in Asia, the Netherlands and Germany report no great effect or an improved financial position.

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Thinking about the current economic situation - has this affected your finances? (select all that apply)

- My financial position has improved
- My financial position has weakened as I am supporting children or relatives who are facing difficulties
- My financial position has weakened because my partner has lost a job or has had their pay reduced
- My financial position has weakened because I have lost a job or my pay has been reduced
- My financial position has been weakened because prices are rising more quickly than my income
- It has not affected me greatly
- None of the above

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Overview of results concerning savings attitude > Economic effects on personal finance
Saving behaviour has changed, lowering saving in all countries

In all countries there are more respondents saying they are saving less than more. Nine of the 19 countries in the survey report more than half respondents saying they are saving less.

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Overview of results concerning savings attitude > Economic effects on savings behaviour

- I am saving more than previously
- It has had no effect on how much I save
- I am saving less than previously
Large differences between countries concerning attitude towards spending

Besides feeling the least comfortable with regard to their saving behaviour, Italian consumers also feel least comfortable with their spending behaviour.
Housing & food are the largest regular monthly spending items

Housing and food are most often considered to be consumers largest regular monthly spending items. There are some striking differences regarding the distribution of these. In the Netherlands, people spend by far the most on housing, while Italians report spending more on food. Also the Eastern European countries, China and India report spending relatively more on education.

What are your biggest personal regular monthly spending items?

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Family is most trusted for financial decision making. Trust in professional financial advisors and banks varies greatly between countries. Only a small numbers of Europeans have confidence in government information sites.

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