

- Overall Savings Index now stands at 103, unchanged versus last month.
- Savings Attitude Sub Index decreased by 2 points since last month to 104.
- Savings Environment Sub-Index increased by 1 point since last month to 102.

Savings Index

- In April 2019, the Savings Index is unchanged versus last month and a year ago.
- In April, the Savings Attitude sub-index fell for the second consecutive month to 104. This decline is driven by an increase in the proportion of people who say they are saving less than they think they should to 47% from 44% last month. This increase is most apparent amongst those aged over 50 where 36% of this group now express this view, compared to 30% last month. However, not saving enough is also an issue for those aged under-50, with 53% of this group saying they are saving a less than they think they should. Regionally, this trend is being expressed most strongly in the Border, Midlands and West where there has been a 13 percentage point increase in the proportion of people expressing this view to 49%, from 36% last month.
- However, the incidence of regular saving remains strong, with 50% of people saying they are saving regularly, up from 49% last month. Regular saving remains slightly more prevalent amongst those aged under 50 at 54% of this cohort compared to 44% amongst those aged over 50.
- In the Savings Environment sub-index, negative sentiment towards saving has declined with 24% of people expressing the view that now is a bad time to save, a decrease from 29% last month while positive sentiment remains unchanged with 43% of people saying that now is a good time to save.

For media queries or interview opportunities, please contact:
Mark Leech, Media Relations Manager @ Bank of Ireland
Tel: +353 (0)76 623 4773
E: Mark.Leech@boi.com

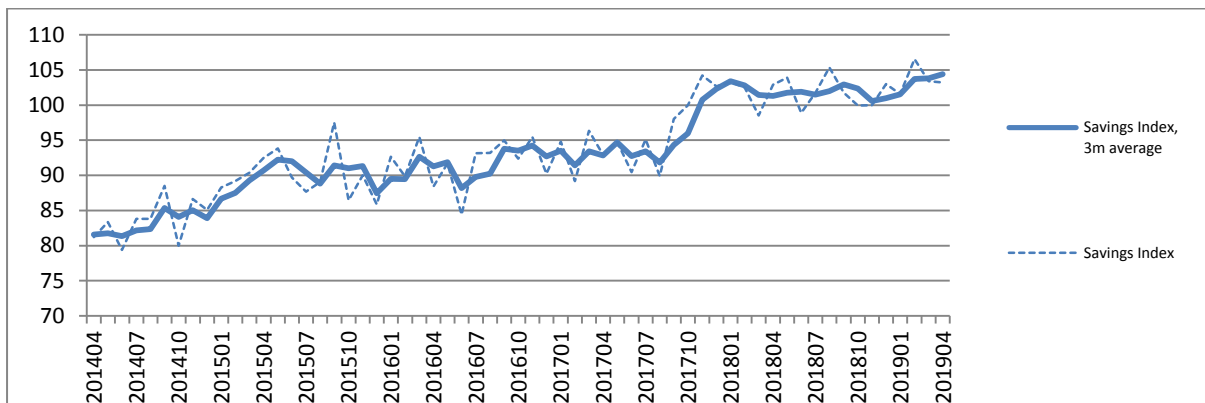
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Appendix:

Figure 1- Savings Index and sub-indexes, monthly (Base=October 2017)

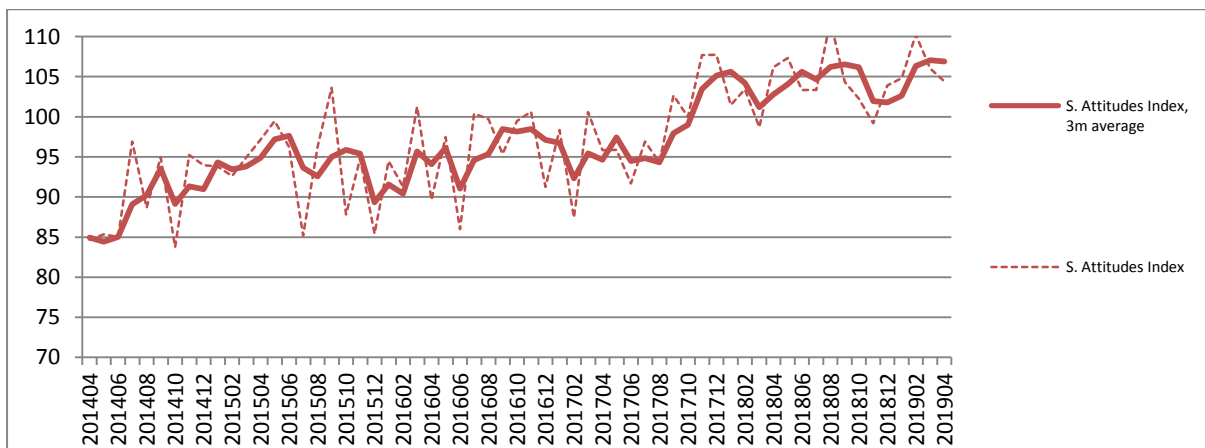
Month	Savings Index		
	Overall	Attitudes	Environment
May-18	104	107	100
Jun-18	99	103	94
Jul-18	102	103	100
Aug-18	105	112	99
Sep-18	102	104	99
Oct-18	100	102	98
Nov-18	100	99	101
Dec-18	103	104	102
Jan-19	102	105	98
Feb-19	107	110	103
Mar-19	103	106	101
Apr-19	103	104	102

Figure 2 - Savings Index



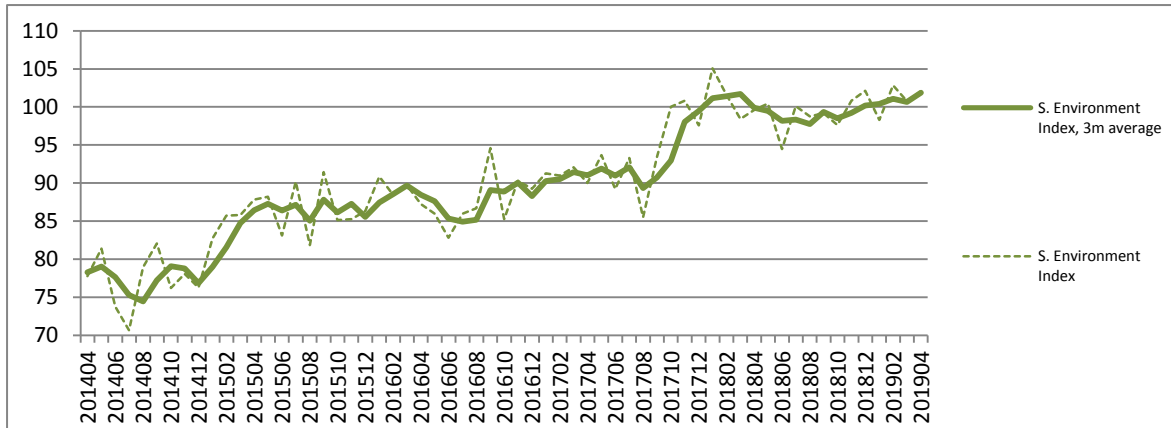
- The Savings Index is an overall measure of consumer sentiment towards saving. It is composed of two sub-indices: Savings Attitudes and Savings Environment. In April 2019 the overall monthly Savings Index is unchanged versus last month

Figure 3 - Savings Attitudes Sub-Index



- The Savings Attitude sub-index is built on two questions which ask respondents about their saving behaviour and how they feel about the amount they save. In April 2019, the sub-index decreased by 2 points as fewer people are happy with the amount they are saving.

Figure 4 - Savings Environment Sub- Index



- The Savings Environment Index is built on two questions which ask whether or not respondents believe that the current period is a good time to save and whether or not they believe that in 6 months' time it will be a good time to save. This sub-index increased by 1 point versus last month.

About the Savings Index: The Bank of Ireland/ESRI Savings Index tracks household views on attitudes towards savings as well as understanding their perspectives on the current and future savings environment. Understanding savings behaviour provides insight into how households smooth consumption, plan to make big purchases and build up buffers which can be drawn down in times of economic stress.

The Bank of Ireland Savings Index is produced monthly from a minimum sample of 800 consumers aged 15 years and above. The ESRI carries out the Savings and Investment Index research to ensure the indices represent a national sample.

For further information contact:

Tom McCabe – Bank of Ireland – tom.mccabe2@boi.com

or

Conor O'Toole – ESRI – conor.otoole@esri.ie