

- Overall Savings Index now stands at 107, an increase of 5 points since last month.
- Savings Attitude Sub Index increased by 5 points since last month to 110.
- Savings Environment Sub-Index increased by 5 point since last month to 103.

Savings Index

- In February 2019, the Savings Index is 5 points above the level recorded last month and 4 points above the level achieved a year ago. There has been an improvement in both attitudes towards saving and the environment for saving.
- In the Savings Attitude sub-index, the proportion of people not saving fell to 26% from 29% last month and 32% a year ago while at the same time 51% of people are saving regularly, down slightly on last month but an increase of 2 percentage points versus a year ago.
- The incidence of regular saving is highest in Dublin with 62% of people saying they save regularly. This compares with 44% in the Border, Midlands and West region.
- At the same time, 57% of people say they are saving as much as or more than they think they should, an increase from 54% last month and a year ago.
- This increase is driven by those aged under 50 with 52% of this group saying they are saving as much or more than they think they should, compared to 49% last month.
- In the Savings Environment sub-index, 43% of people say now is a good or very good time to save, an increase from 41% last month. At the same time, fewer people think now is a bad time to save. In February, 26% of people said that now is a bad time to save, compared to 29% last month.
- Those aged over 50 are more positive about the environment for saving with 39% of this group expressing the view that now is a good time to save, an increase from 33% last month.

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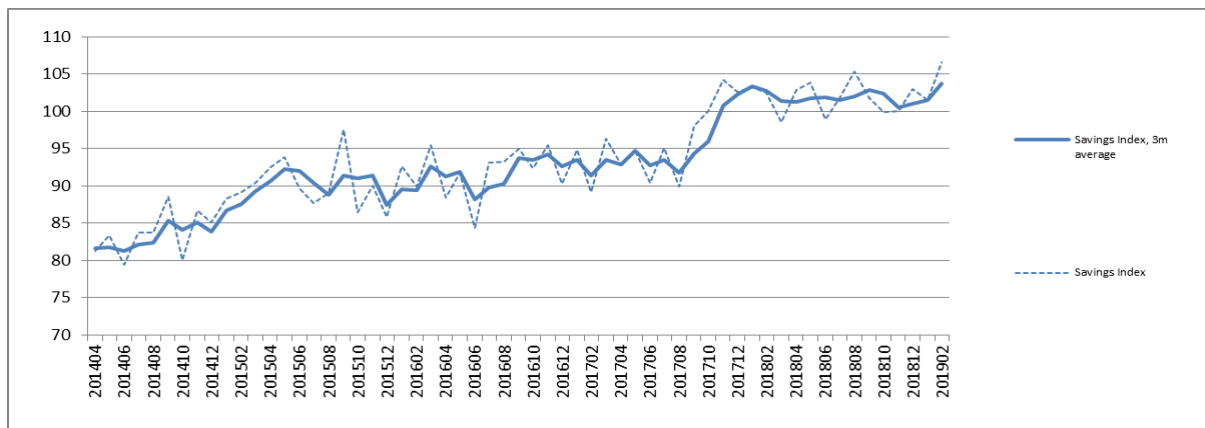
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Appendix:

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

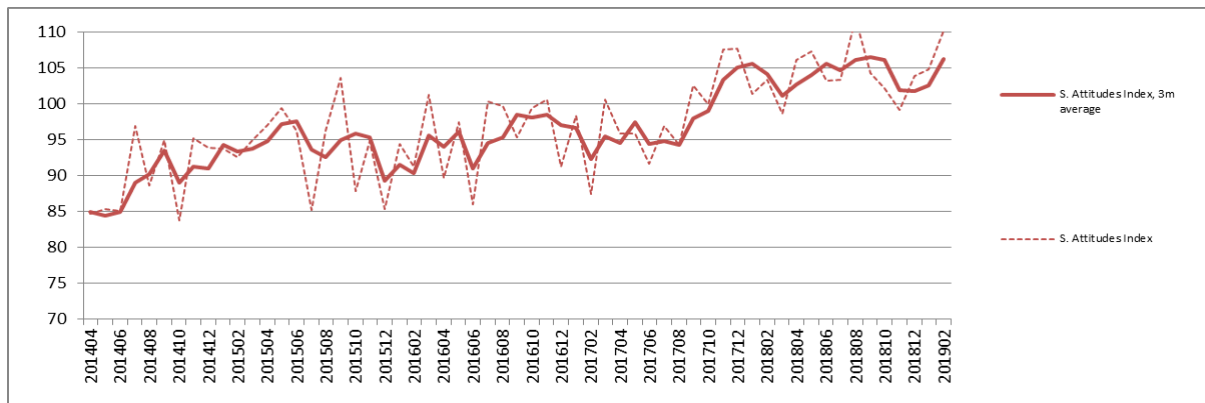
Month	Savings Index		
	Overall	Attitudes	Environment
Feb-18	103	103	102
Mar-18	99	99	98
Apr-18	103	106	100
May-18	104	107	100
Jun-18	99	103	94
Jul-18	102	103	100
Aug-18	105	112	99
Sep-18	102	104	99
Oct-18	100	102	98
Nov-18	100	99	101
Dec-18	103	104	102
Jan-19	102	105	98
Feb-19	107	110	103

Figure 2 - Savings Index



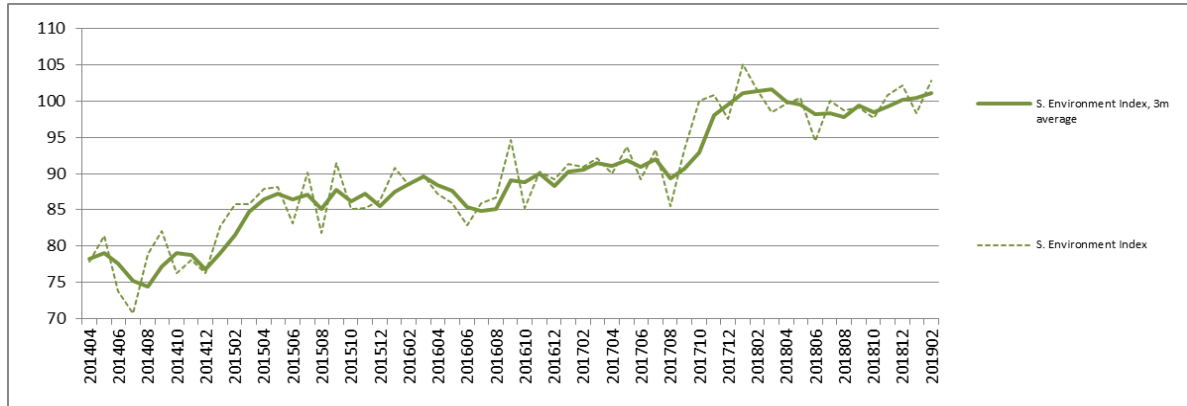
- The Savings Index is an overall measure of consumer sentiment towards saving. It is composed of two sub-indices: Savings Attitudes and Savings Environment. In February 2019 the overall monthly Savings Index increased by 5 points versus last month

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 February 2019, the sub-index increased by 5 points as more people are saving regularly and 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 5 points 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.

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