

YouGov Report

# Energy Prices

Consumers' fears for the future and opinions in  
10 European countries regarding the evolving  
energy prices

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# Opinions on current energy prices in Europe are diverse

The recent exploding energy prices caused by supply shortages and geopolitical tensions affect countries in Europe and worldwide. European consumers face the effects everywhere in their daily lives, from the cost of fuel to electricity and food. Inflation varies across EU countries.

In this report, based on current survey data from ten European countries (Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, France, Spain, and Italy), we identify the worries that currently prevail among the population in the respective countries due to the current energy prices, which concrete effects are already being experienced in the everyday lives of consumers and what the greatest fears for the future are.

[If you are interested in the data, individual analyses, or questions about our research solutions, please click here to contact us.](#)

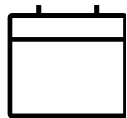
# The data behind this paper



Online survey on YouGov panel



National representative sample of adults (over 18y/o) in each country



Fieldwork: 14 and 31 March 2022



Interview:

Austria (n=1.078)

Denmark (n=1.051)

Finland (n=1.089)

France (n=1.067)

Germany (n=2.111)

Italy (n=1.031)

Norway (n=1.020)

Spain (n=1.060)

Sweden (n=1.037)

Switzerland (n=1.083)

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▶ **83%**

**of Europeans are personally  
concerned about the price  
level of energy costs**

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this further?  
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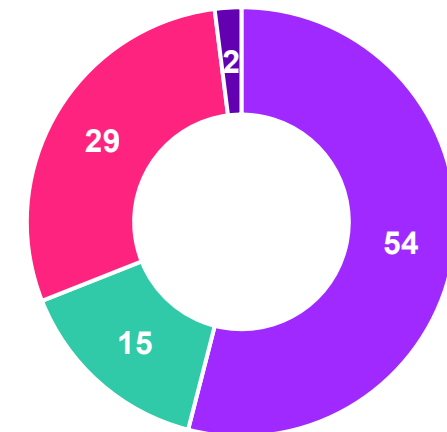
# 8 out of 10 Europeans are concerned regarding actual energy prices

In the last few months, energy prices worldwide have risen substantially, and in several European countries, consumer prices have reached record highs, especially in the energy sector.

The majority of consumers in Europe are concerned by these price developments (83%), of which 54% are very or highly concerned. But if you take a closer look at the individual countries, you will notice that they are split into two groups: It is mainly Spaniards (82%), Germans (67%), Austrian (63%), and French (59%) who are very or highly concerned.

Consumers in Northern Europe and Switzerland are less worried. The people in Denmark (32%), Sweden (33%), Norway (37%), Finland (38%), and Switzerland (40%) are much less concerned than in the other markets.

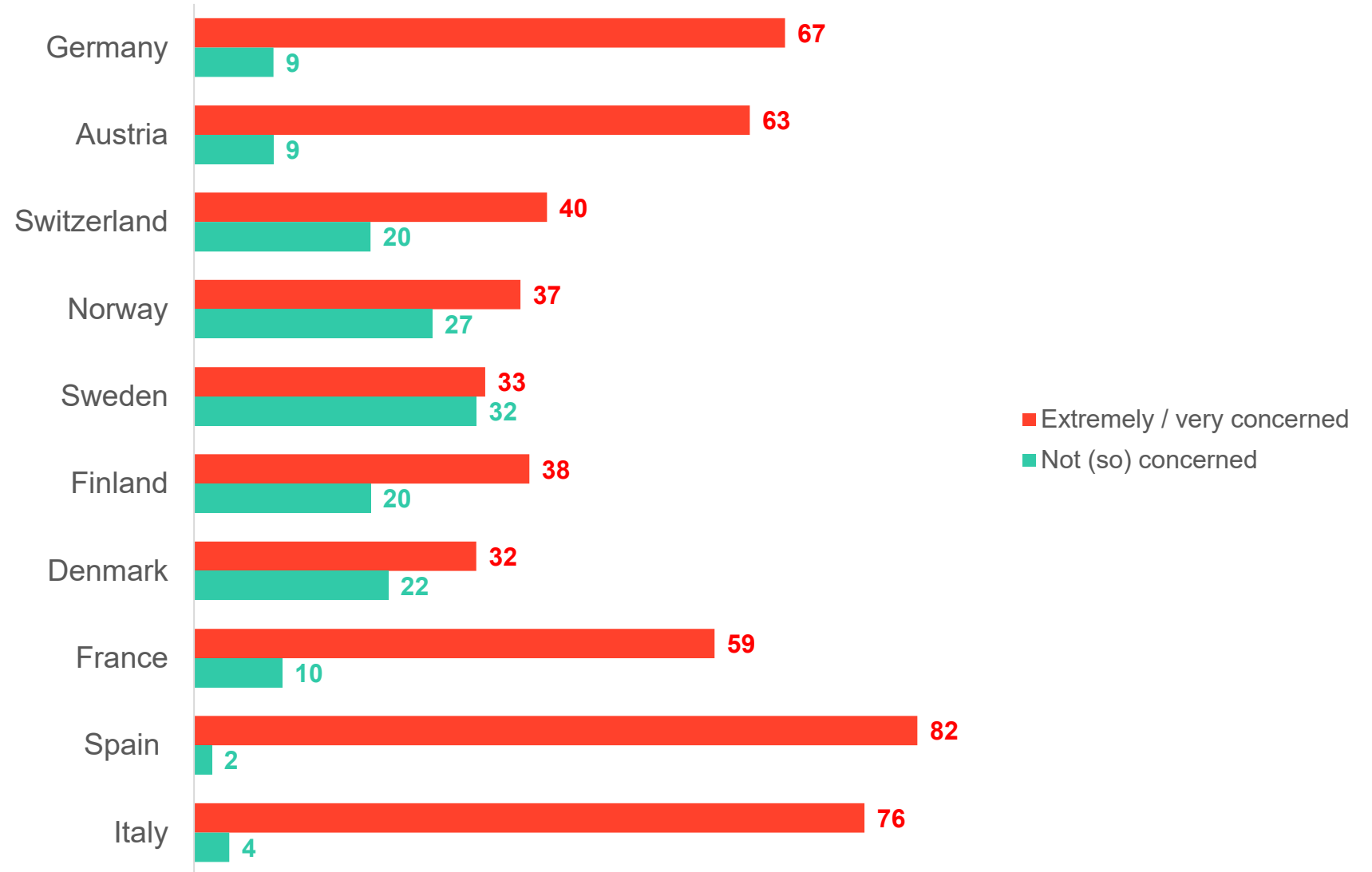
**In the last few months, energy prices have risen substantially or are at a very high level. How concerned are you personally about the rising/high energy prices (in %)**



- Extremely / very concerned
- Not (so) concerned
- Concerned
- Don't know / Prefer not to say

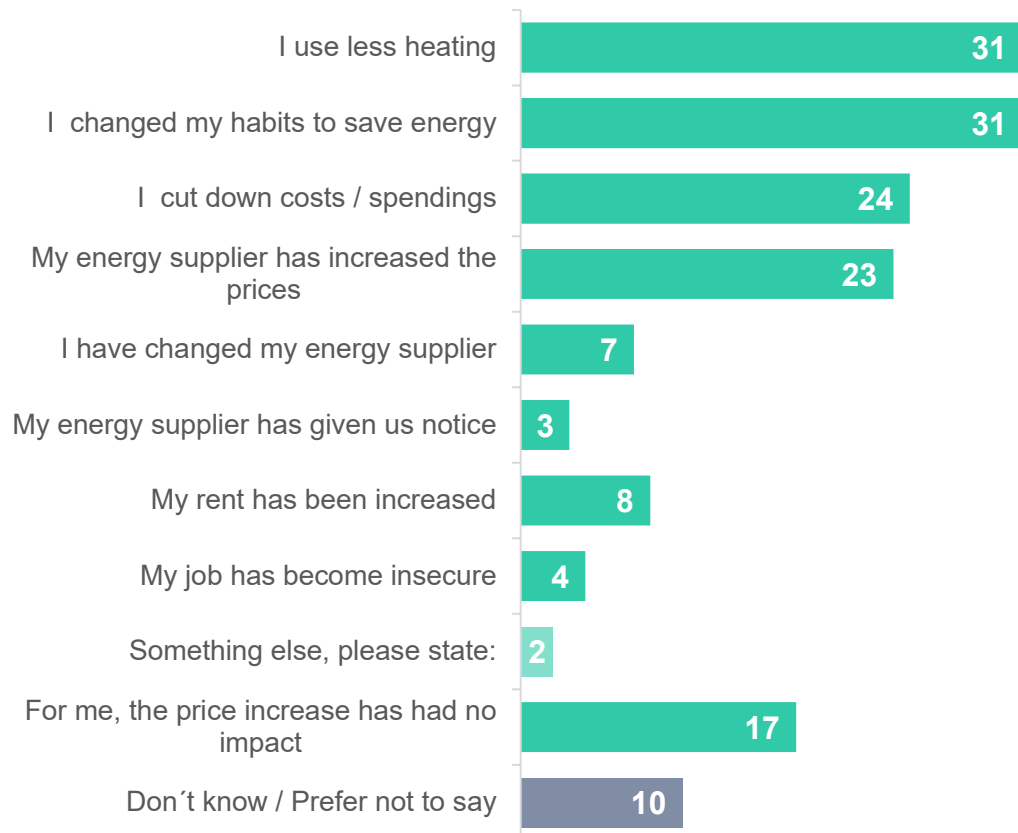
## People in Spain are most worried about actual energy prices

Q: In the last few months, energy prices have risen substantially or are at a very high level. How concerned are you personally about the rising/high energy prices (in %)



# The increase in energy prices has very diverse affects in each country

In which concrete ways, if any, has the increase in prices for electricity, gas and heating affected you so far? Please select all that apply. (in %)



The impact of the current high energy costs on people's everyday lives is reflected in behavioral changes in the daily lives of Europeans. For example, about one-third (31%) say that they adjust their habits - such as duration of TV/computer/shower - to save energy. Also, less heating (31%) and saving elsewhere (24%), like going out to eat or leisure activities, are most frequently mentioned by respondents.

However, the direct effects of higher energy prices on consumers in the individual countries are also quite diverse. More Swiss' state that the price increase has no direct impact on them (31% vs. 17% overall). In Austria (36%), Sweden (31%), Spain, and Finland (27% each), consumers indicated that their energy supplier had increased prices.

YouGov Omnibus, population representative from 18+ in the respective country, survey period: March 14th till 31st 2022, n= 11.627 (Germany n= 2.111, Austria n= 1.078, Switzerland n= 1.083, France n=1.067, Italy n= 1.031, Spain n= 1.060, Denmark n= 1.051, Norway n= 1.020, Sweden n= 1.037, Finland n= 1.089).





78%

of Europeans approve  
reduction of taxes and fiscal  
charges.

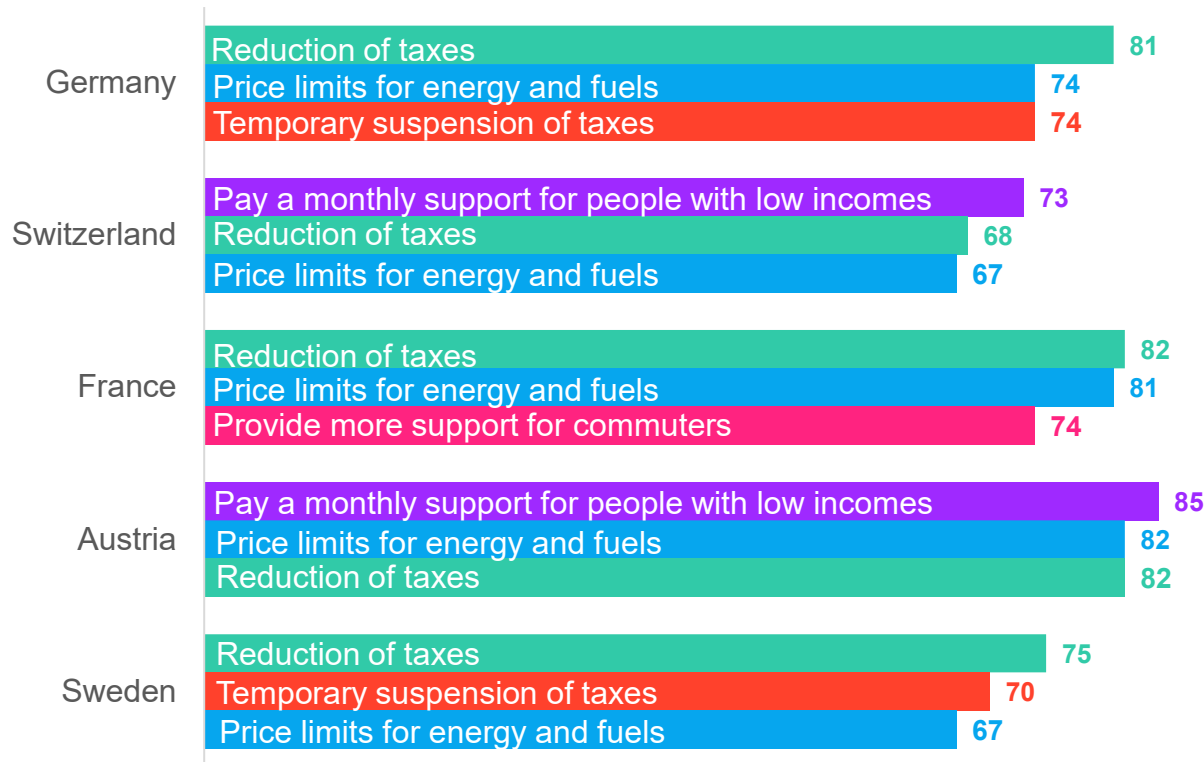
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# Europeans support government interventions to stabilise energy prices

How do you feel about government intervention to reduce or stabilise energy and / or fuel costs? How strongly do you approve or disapprove the following measures? (in %)

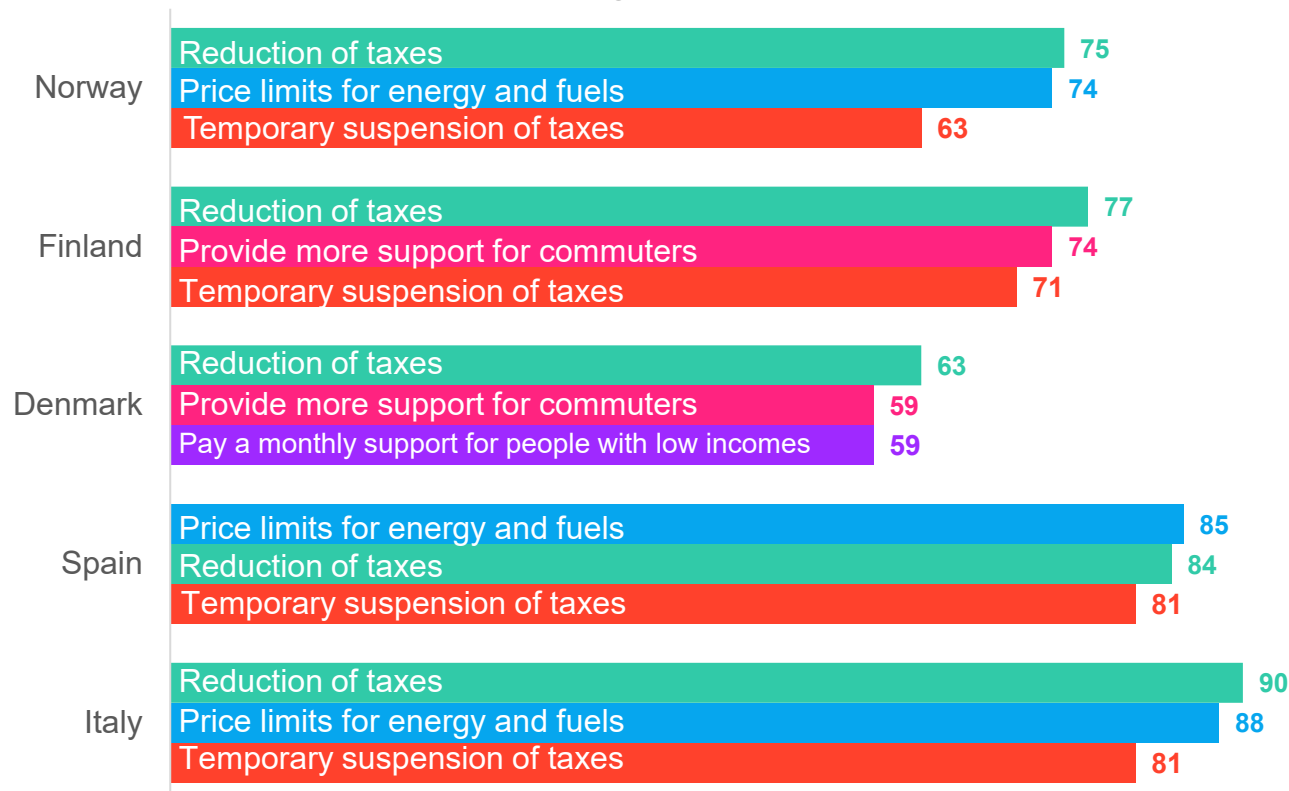


Consumers in Europe favor reducing taxes and levies to stabilize energy prices (78%). Furthermore, price caps for energy and fuels (75%) and the temporary suspension of taxes (71%) are seen as measures that countries should take.

The various possible measures are assessed differently in the individual countries. Support for tax reduction is particularly high among Italian (90%), Spanish (84%), French, Austrian (82% each), and German (81%) consumers. In Denmark, only 63% approve of that intervention.

# Europeans are split on their position on state interventions

How do you feel about government intervention to reduce or stabilise energy and / or fuel costs? How strongly do you approve or disapprove the following measures? (in %)



Europeans are also split on interventions such as price limits for energy and fuels and temporary suspension of taxes: Consumers in Northern Europe and Switzerland are significantly less likely to approve of government intervention.

For example, 58% of Danes and 67% of Swedes and Switzs approve of price limits for energy and fuel, which is significantly lower than in Italy (88%), Spain (85%), Austria (82%), and France (81%).

A similar picture emerges when asked about the temporary suspension of taxes and duties. People in Spain and Italy (81% each) favor such a measure. In Norway (63%), Switzerland (62%), and Denmark (56%), the figure is again significantly lower.



► **50%**

of Europeans are afraid that the economy in their country is going to decline in general.

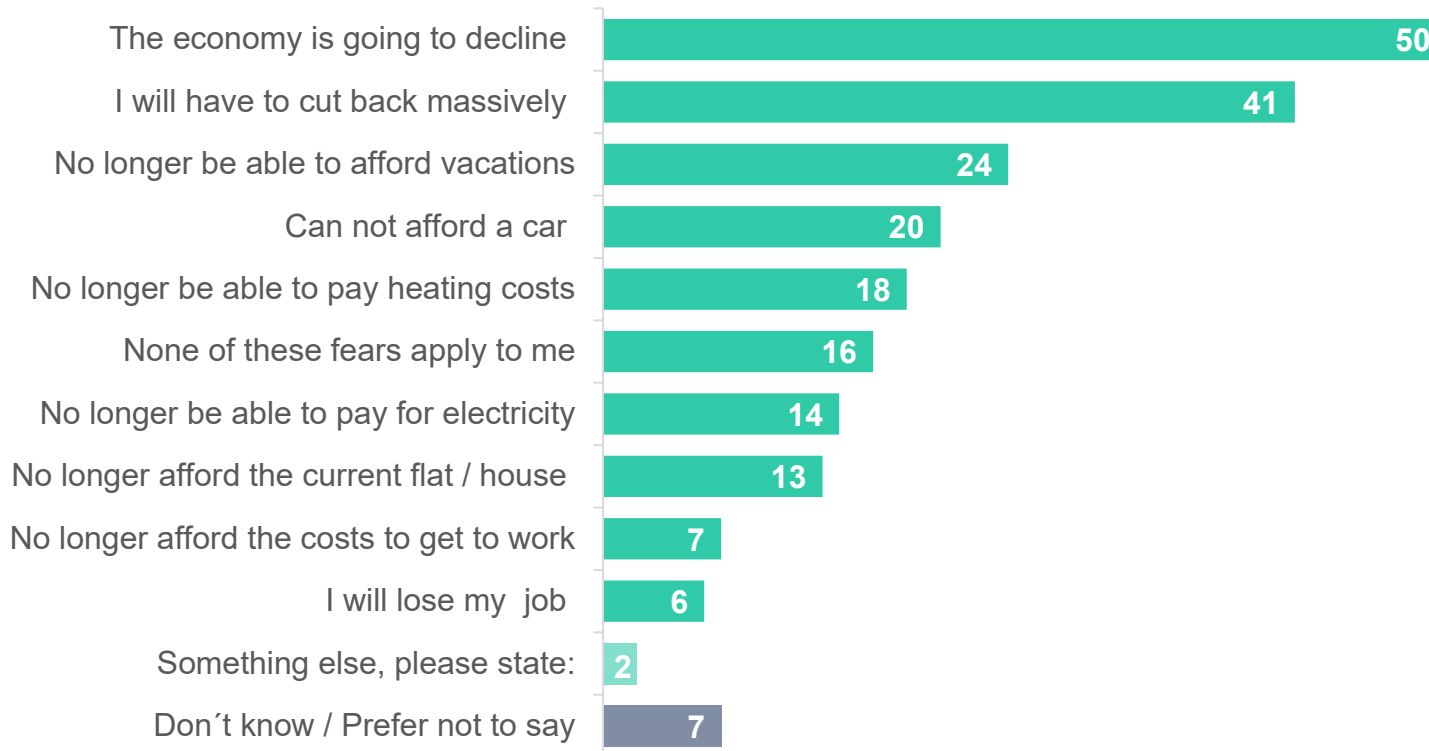
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# 4 out of 10 Europeans are afraid of not being able to maintain their standard of living

Below you can see some of the fears for the future that others have mentioned to us about rising energy prices. Which of these also apply to you? Please select all that apply. (in %)

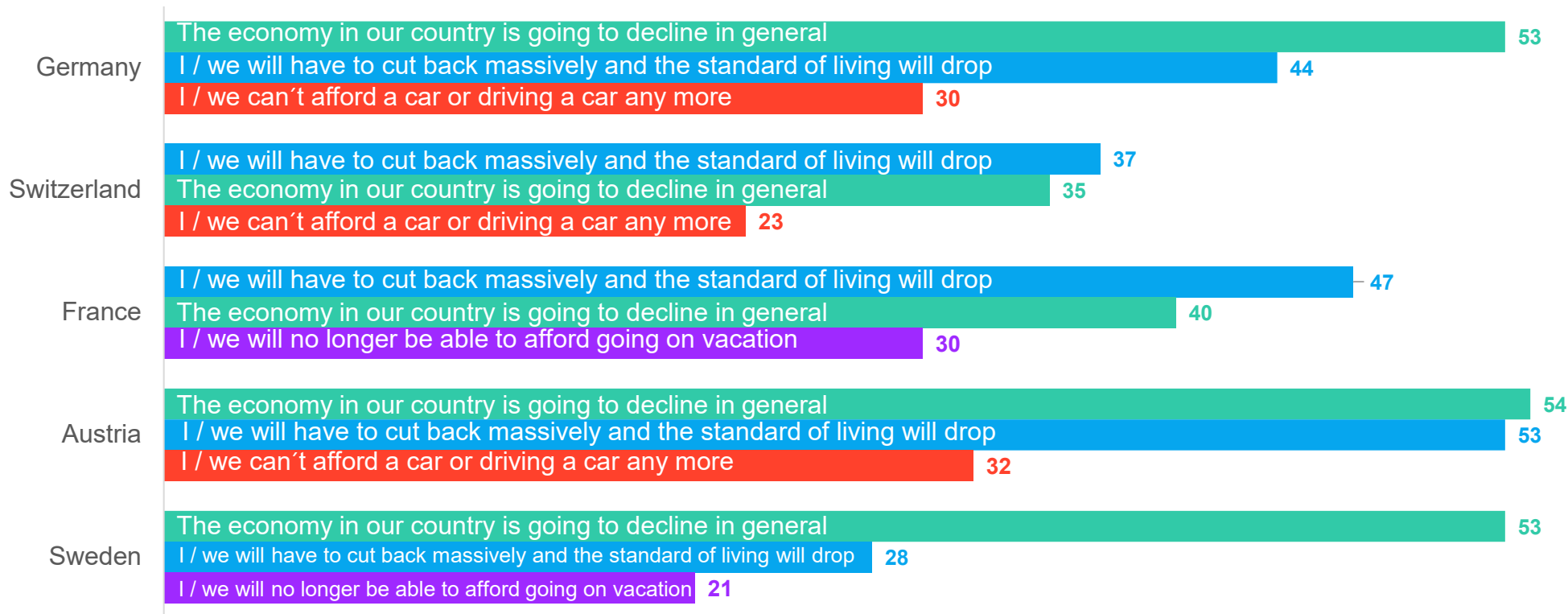


The majority of Europeans are afraid that the economy in their country will suffer from high energy prices (50%). The second most cited fear among respondents in the ten countries is that they will have to cut back massively and that their standard of living will fall (41%). Nearly a quarter (24%) say they are worried that they will no longer be able to afford a holiday.

Across all countries, fears for the future about the economic consequences and those for one's standard of living are mentioned most frequently. In Austria (32%), Germany (30%), and Switzerland (23%), the third most mentioned fear is not being able to afford a car. In Denmark, it is the fear of not being able to pay the heating costs (24%).

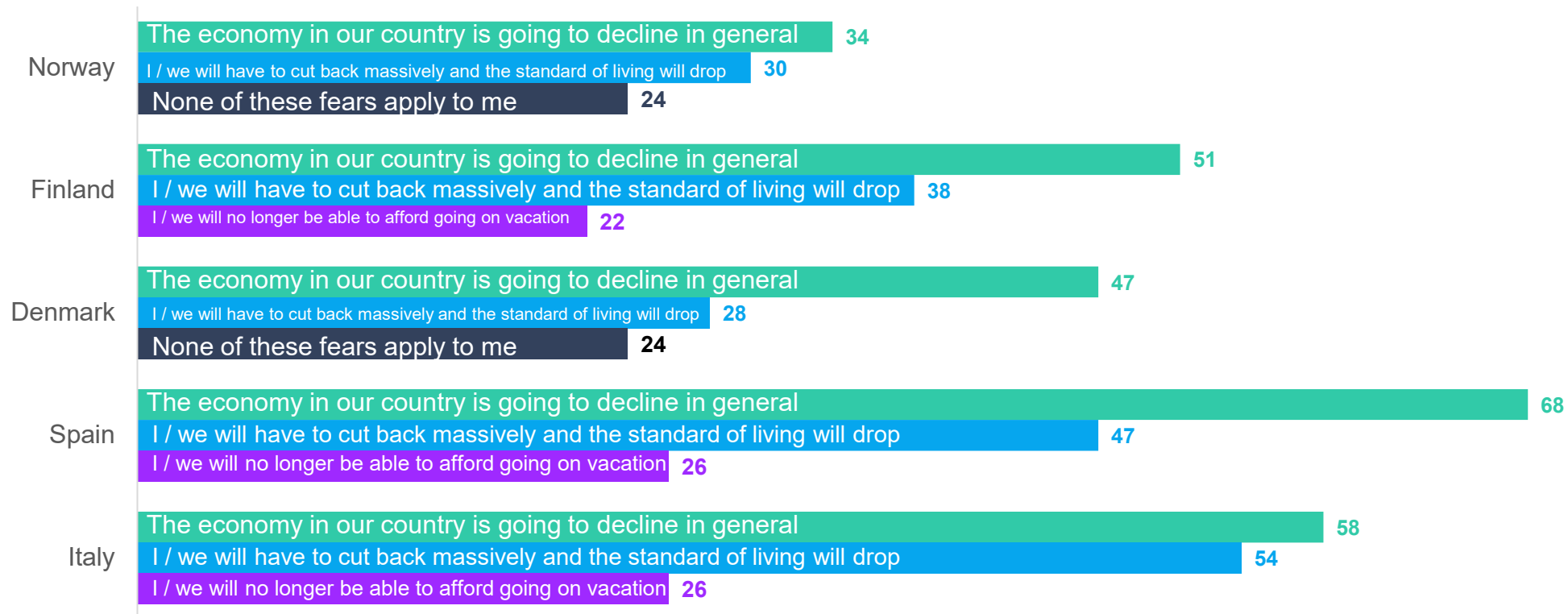
# Division into two groups also for fears of the future

In the last few months, energy prices have risen substantially or are at a very high level. How concerned are you personally about the rising / high energy prices (in %)



# Division into two groups also for fears of the future

In the last few months, energy prices have risen substantially or are at a very high level. How concerned are you personally about the rising / high energy prices (in %)





# Energy price explosions

Most consumers in Europe are worried about the current energy price developments and have already partly adjusted their everyday behavior to the increased prices. Most Europeans support government interventions to stabilize energy prices, as people are concerned about the future, both in the private and public sectors.

The analysis at the country level shows a split – people in Switzerland and the northern European countries of Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden are significantly less worried. This, in turn, is reflected in the lower support for the use of government instruments to stabilize prices, and people's fears for the future are also less strong in these countries.

[If you are interested in the data, individual analyses, or questions about our research solutions, please click here to contact us.](#)

# Contact us

If you are interested in the results shown here or in further analyses, please contact us.

**Contact**

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