

## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE UNDER THE HOUSEHOLD BUDGET SURVEY IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2023

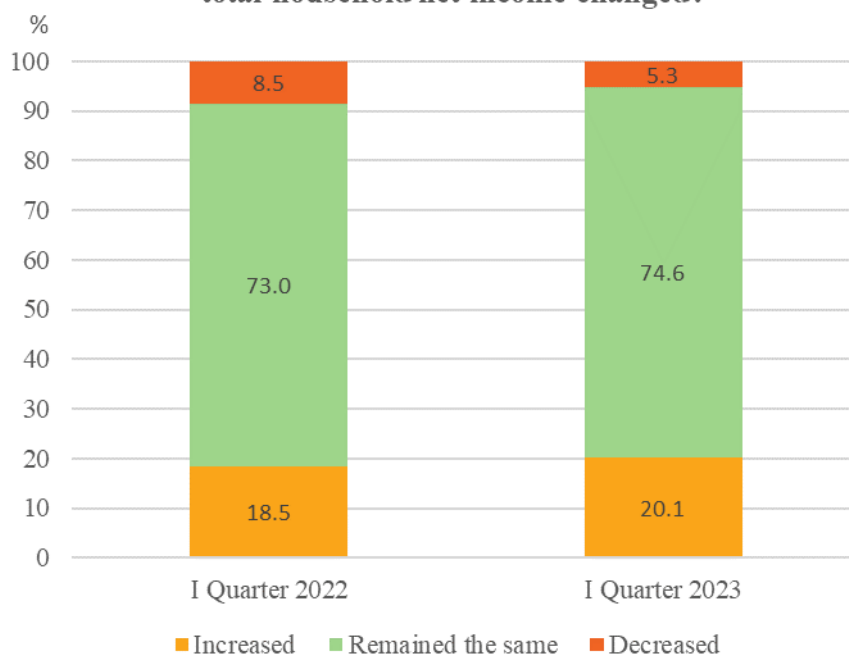
In the first quarter of 2023, the National Statistical Institute continued conducting an additional survey to the Household Budget Survey, which aims to carry out quarterly monitoring of changes in the living conditions of households. For the study, 5 682 persons aged 16 years and over from 3 053 households were surveyed.

### The share of households with unchanged incomes remains high

During the first quarter of 2023, for 74.6% of the persons, household income remained unchanged compared to the last 12 months. This share increased by 1.6 percentage points compared to the same quarter of 2022.

An increase in income was indicated by 20.1% of the persons, which is 1.6 percentage points more compared to the first quarter of 2022, when 18.5% of the persons had an increase.

**Figure 1. In the past 12 months, how has your total household net income changed?**

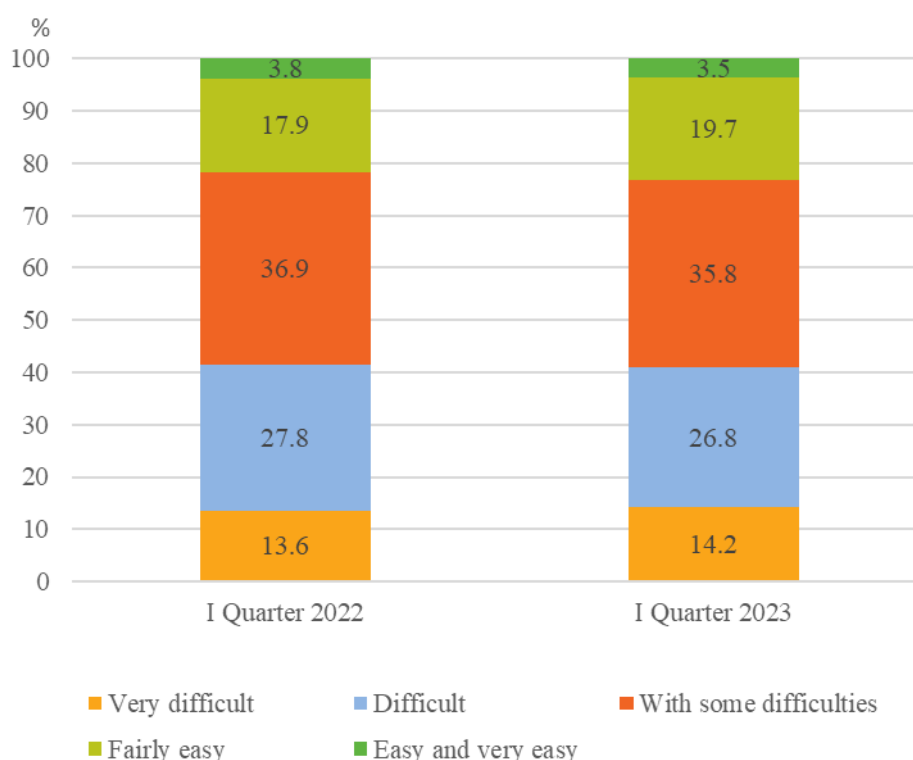


A decrease in income for the last 12 months was indicated by 5.3% of the persons, which is 3.2 percentage points less compared to the first quarter of 2022.

## Difficulties in meeting daily expenses remain significant

In the first quarter of 2023, the share of individuals who have difficulty covering their daily expenses is relatively high - over 75%. 35.8% of individuals have some difficulties, 26.8% define covering daily expenses as difficult, and 14.2% - as very difficult. The share of persons who cover their daily expenses with great difficulty increased by 0.6 percentage points compared to the first quarter of 2022.

**Figure 2. How would you rate 'making ends meet' i.e. can you cover your daily expenses?**



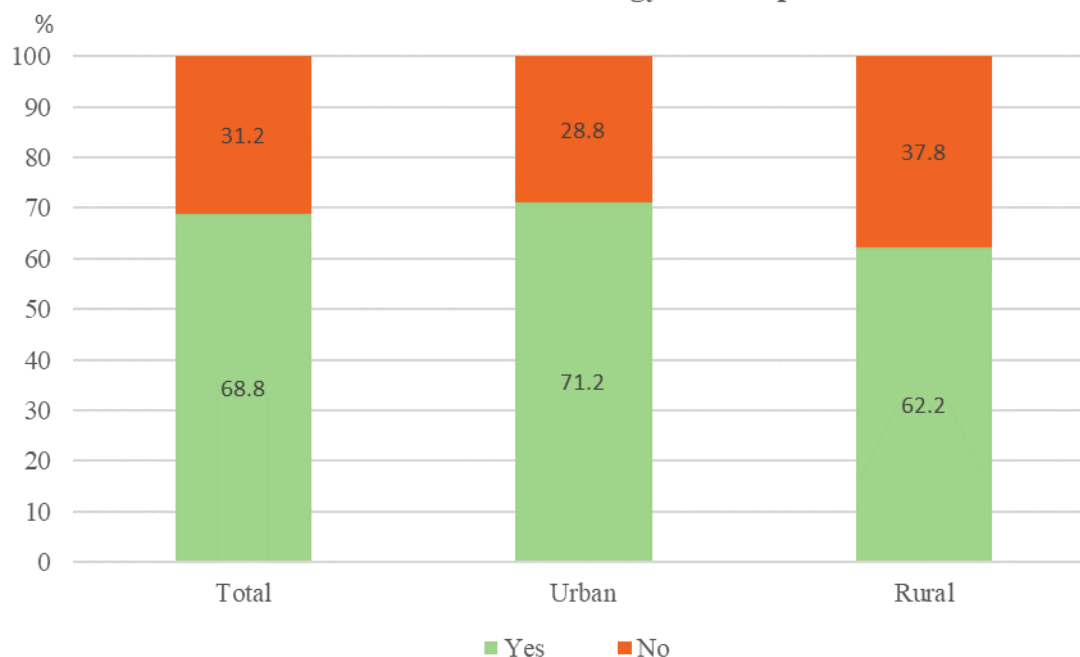
19.7% of individuals can fairly easy cover their daily expenses, and only 3.5% do not experience any difficulties. In total, the share of persons without difficulties in the first quarter of 2023 increased by 1.5 percentage points compared to the first quarter of 2022.

## About 1/3 of the respondents limit their energy consumption

In the first quarter of 2023, an additional question was added to the household questionnaire - *During the previous quarter, has your household been able to afford sufficient level of energy consumption at home? (Energy consumption is used, amongst others, for heating, hot water, cooking, cooling, lighting and electric appliances)*. 31.2% of individuals answered that they limited their energy consumption.

28.8% of people living in urban areas indicated that they could not afford sufficient level of energy consumption. In villages, the share of persons with energy consumption restrictions is 37.8% - 9 percentage points more than in cities.

**Figure 3. During the previous quarter, has your household been able to afford sufficient level of energy consumption at home?**



### **The satisfaction of the persons increases slightly**

The respondents gave a relatively high score regarding their satisfaction with personal relationships with family, friends, neighbours and other persons - an average of 7.17 in the first quarter of 2022 and 7.20 in the first quarter of 2023, on a scale of measurement from 0 to 10.

The lowest is the average satisfaction of persons aged 16 years and over with the financial situation of their households. This satisfaction increased slightly from 4.51 in the first quarter of 2022, to 4.63 in the same quarter of 2023. For the 20 percent of households with the highest net incomes, the average satisfaction of individuals in surveyed quarters is about 6, and for the 20 percent of households with the lowest net incomes, the satisfaction of individuals with the financial situation is about 3.

The overall life satisfaction average for respondents was 5.71 in the first quarter of 2022 and increased to 5.99 in the first quarter of 2023, measured on the same 0 to 10 scale.



### **Methodological notes**

Household Budget Survey is a quarterly sample survey on a sample of 3 060 randomly selected households divided into three sub-samples each containing 1 020 households. Each sub-sample is being monitored for 1 month every quarter. Information from the additional questionnaire is collected monthly in the sub-sample active for the respective month, in parallel with the main observation forms of the survey, and is aggregated and processed quarterly.

The additional questionnaire includes two groups of questions: household questions answered by only one member of the household and individual questions answered by each household member aged 16 and over.

The household questions aim to monitor on a quarterly basis the changes in the current income of the households and possible financial difficulties in paying for some of the basic household expenses. The individual questions refer to the subjective judgments of the respondents about the level of their life satisfaction.

During the additional survey, the Household Budget Survey interviewers personally interview persons aged 16 and over and fill out a paper form. Basic socio-economic characteristics of the monitored persons, registered with the regular forms of the Household Budget Survey, are added to the collected information. Due to the sample nature of the survey, the collected data are weighed and calibrated to obtain the actual number of persons in the country and their structure by sex and age groups (16 - 17 years; 18 - 34 years; 35 - 64 years; 65 - 74 years; 75 years and older).



## Annex

### Distributions of persons aged 16 and over according to the answers to the survey questions

In the past 12 months, how has your total household net income changed?	I Quarter 2022	I Quarter 2023
Increased	18.5	20.1
Remained the same	73.0	74.6
Decreased	8.5	5.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
How would you rate 'making ends meet' i.e. can you cover your daily expenses?		
Very difficult	13.6	14.2
Difficult	27.8	26.8
With some difficulties	36.9	35.8
Fairly easy	17.9	19.7
Easy	3.4	3.2
Very easy	0.4	0.3
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
During the previous quarter, was there a situation where your household has been in arrears, i.e. has been unable to pay on time the loan/mortgage/rent/housing costs for the main dwelling due to financial difficulties?		
Yes	15.3	14.8
No	84.7	85.2
<i>Total</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>
During the previous quarter, has your household been able to afford sufficient level of energy consumption at home?		
Yes	.	68.8
No	.	31.2
<i>Total</i>	.	<i>100.0</i>

### Level of satisfaction on average per person for the persons aged 16 and over on a scale of 0 to 10

Satisfaction with the financial situation of the household	I Quarter 2022	I Quarter 2023
	Average value	
<b>Total for the persons aged 16 and over</b>	<b>4.51</b>	<b>4.63</b>
<i>Activity status</i>		
Employed	4.97	5.09
Unemployed	3.10	3.35
Retired	4.17	4.33
Other	4.41	4.14
<i>Education</i>		
Primary	3.64	3.81
Secondary	4.45	4.62
Higher	5.45	5.35



<i>Quantile income groups</i>		
Q1 20% households	2.92	2.85
Q2 20% households	3.83	3.94
Q3 20% households	4.35	4.66
Q4 20% households	4.83	5.01
Q5 20% households	6.01	6.01

<b>Satisfaction with life these days</b>	<b>I Quarter 2022</b>	<b>I Quarter 2023</b>
	Average value	
<b>Total for the persons aged 16 and over</b>	<b>5.71</b>	<b>5.99</b>
<i>Sex</i>		
Male	5.82	6.01
Female	5.61	5.98
<i>Age</i>		
Persons aged 16 - 64	5.94	6.86
Persons aged 65 and over	5.05	5.76
<i>Activity status</i>		
Employed	6.14	6.42
Unemployed	4.65	4.99
Retired	5.02	5.32
Other	6.22	6.46
<i>Education</i>		
Primary	5.17	5.44
Secondary	5.68	6.01
Higher	6.25	6.42

<b>Satisfaction with personal relationships with family, friends, neighbours and other people</b>	<b>I Quarter 2022</b>	<b>I Quarter 2023</b>
	Average value	
<b>Total for the persons aged 16 and over</b>	<b>7.17</b>	<b>7.20</b>
<i>Sex</i>		
Male	7.15	7.16
Female	7.17	7.24
<i>Age</i>		
Persons aged 16 - 64	7.31	7.73
Persons aged 65 and over	6.75	7.05
<i>Activity status</i>		
Employed	7.42	7.43
Unemployed	6.80	6.73
Retired	6.73	6.81
Other	7.37	7.46
<i>Education</i>		
Primary	6.78	7.10
Secondary	7.14	7.17
Higher	7.57	7.35