

Consumer Insights Tracker

Area of research interest: [Consumer Interests \(aka Wider Consumer Interests\)](#)

Project status: Ongoing

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.46756/sci.fsa.nfy518>

What is the Consumer Insights Tracker?

The Consumer Insights Tracker is the FSA's monthly tracking survey that monitors changes in consumers' behaviour and attitudes in relation to food.

Each month, the survey is conducted with approximately 2,000 adults (aged 16 or over) in England, Wales and Northern Ireland who are signed up to an online survey panel. The tracker is currently run by YouGov.

The Consumer Insights Tracker complements our flagship [Food and You 2](#) survey, which collects more robust data on a biannual basis, providing longer term monitoring of consumer behaviour and attitudes over time.

The key differences between the two surveys are summarised below.

Topics covered in the Consumer Insights Tracker

The Consumer Insights Tracker monitors trends in consumer behaviour and attitudes in relation to the following topics:

- food insecurity (including food affordability)
- food availability
- consumer concerns in relation to food
- confidence in the food supply chain and the Food Standards Agency (FSA) as a regulator

Background

We have been conducting surveys with consumers monthly since April 2020.

YouGov were appointed as the new supplier of the Consumer Insights Tracker from July 2023, and the survey was relaunched in August 2023 following [an independent review](#) of the survey's methods and content. This webpage provides a monthly report of Consumer Insights tracker data from August 2023 onwards.

Between April 2020 and June 2023, the Consumer Insights Tracker was administered by Ipsos UK (data is available on [our webpage](#)).

Due to the methodological differences between these two suppliers, data collected from Ipsos and YouGov should not be directly compared.

Consumer Insights Tracker reports

- [March 2024](#)

- [February 2024](#)
- [January 2024](#)
- [December 2023](#)
- [November 2023](#)
- [October 2023](#)
- [September 2023](#)

Monthly bulletins for April 2020 to June 2023 are also available via [our historic Consumer Insights Tracker webpage](#). Due to changes in methodology and supplier, users should not directly compare the results of the older surveys with the current survey results.

Data tables

Data tables are available via [the FSA's data catalogue](#).

Related research

- [Food and You 2](#)
- [ACSS Wider Consumer Interests Working Group](#)
- [COVID-19 Consumer Research](#)
- [2022 to 2023 Consumer Insights Tracker page](#)

How the Consumer Insights Tracker differs from Food and You 2

In addition to the Consumer Insights Tracker, the FSA collects more detailed data on a broader range of topics through the FSA's flagship [Food and You 2 survey](#). Whilst both surveys ask questions about food security, food-related concerns, and confidence in food, there are several differences between these surveys that users should be aware of when interpreting the findings, summarised in the table below. Due to these differences, data from these sources are not directly comparable.

Difference	Food and You 2	Consumers Insights Tracker
Purpose	To provide methodologically robust evidence on consumers' attitudes, knowledge and behaviour in areas of strategic interest to the FSA, to inform FSA decision-making and monitor FSA's progress against its strategic objectives.	To provide timely granular insights to a range of FSA and cross-government stakeholders on topics that require regular monitoring and/or up-to-date figures.

Difference	Food and You 2	Consumers Insights Tracker
When to use	For methodologically robust (random probability) evidence, or when more detailed analysis is required (for example, country differences, or differences between sub-groups of the population).	For quick, up-to-date (but still reliable) statistics and monthly granularity, seasonal comparisons and trend analysis , it is recommended that the Consumer Insights Tracker is used. The Consumer Insights tracker is particularly useful for providing a 'national picture' (across England, Wales and Northern Ireland), and due to sample size, for comparing large demographic groups (such as age groups).
Sample size	Approximately 6,000	Approximately 2,000
Sample	Adults 16 and over in private households in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.	From July 2023, sample is comprised of adults aged 16 and over in England, Wales and Northern Ireland
Sampling approach	Random stratified probability sampling using postal address file (PAF).	From July 2023; quota sampling from an online panel.
Method	Push-to-web (online, with postal option).	From July 2023; Online panel survey.
Frequency	Biannually (frequency of each module varies)	Monthly (was fortnightly between November 2021 and January 2022)
Representation	Nationally representative of England, Wales and Northern Ireland with boosted samples in Wales and Northern Ireland.	Nationally representative of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.
Topics covered	Food safety in the home, food shopping, eating out, food allergy (including intolerance, and other hypersensitivities), food security, concerns about food, and trust in the FSA and food supply chain.	Food security, food availability, concerns in relation to food, confidence in the food supply chain and confidence/trust in the FSA.

Difference	Food and You 2	Consumers Insights Tracker
Cognitively tested	Cognitive testing on most survey questions.	No cognitive testing. From July 2023, survey is piloted each month.
Beginning of timeseries	Wave 1 fieldwork conducted between July and October 2020 (some modules / questions introduced in subsequent waves)	<p>Current timeseries available from July 2023</p> <p>Historic timeseries available (April 2020-June 2023)</p> <p>These two distinct timeseries should not be directly compared due to changes in supplier and methodology.</p>
Official statistic	Yes	No

Contact details

You can contact the Consumer Insights Tracker team using the following email address: socialscience@food.gov.uk.