

FY2 Wave 3-4 NI: Chapter 2 Concerns about food

The FSA's role, set out in law, is to safeguard public health and protect the interests of consumers in relation to food. In Northern Ireland, the FSA is also responsible for nutrition policy. The FSA uses the Food and You 2 survey to monitor consumers' concerns about food issues, such as food safety, nutrition, and environmental issues.

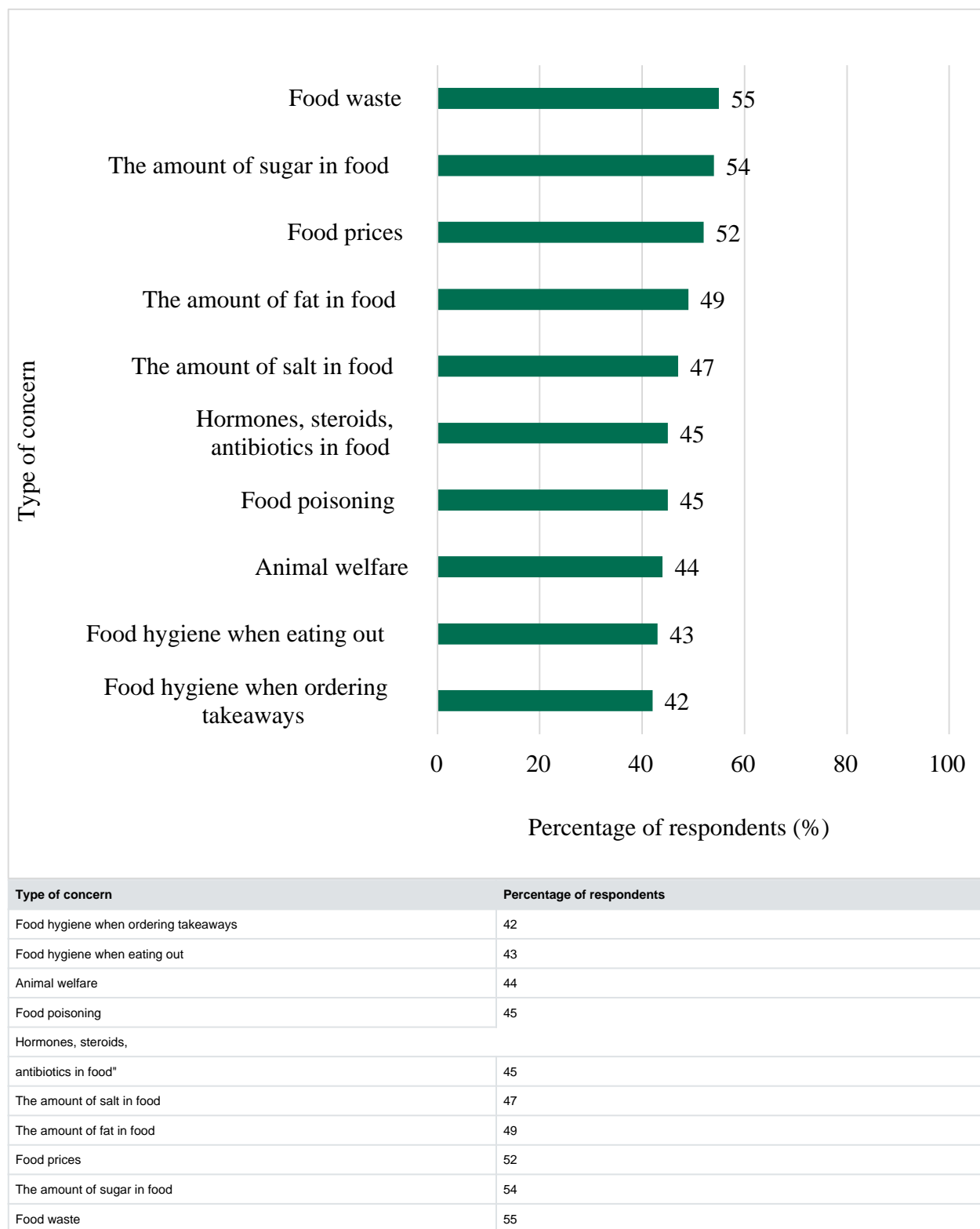
Common concerns

Respondents were asked to report whether they had any concerns about the food they eat. Most respondents (88%) had no concerns about the food they eat, and 12% of respondents reported that they had a concern [\(footnote 1\)](#).

Figure 3 Ten most common prompted food-related concerns

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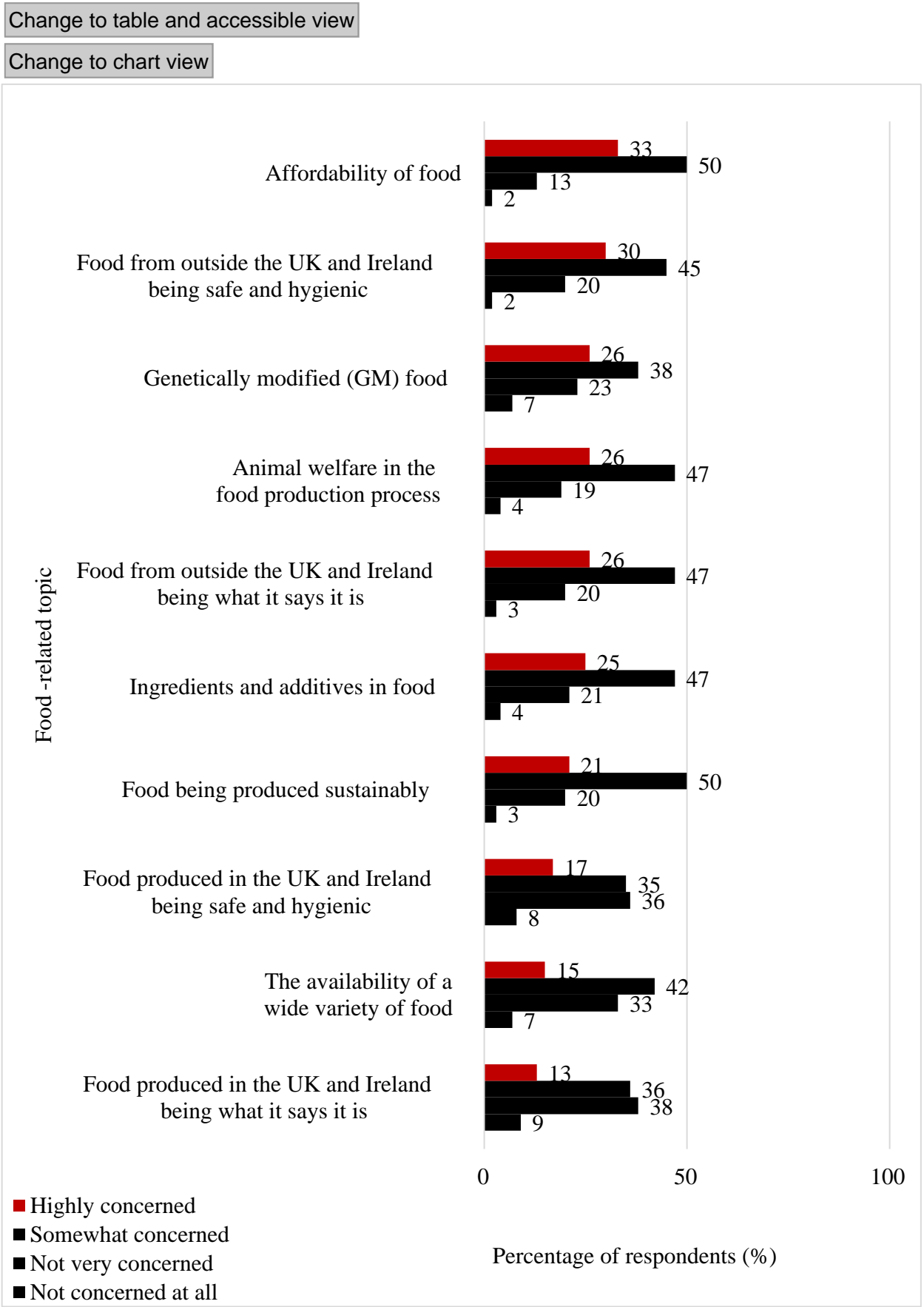
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Source: Food and You 2: Wave 4

Respondents were asked to indicate if they had concerns about a number of food-related issues, from a list of options. The most common concerns related to food waste (55%), the amount of sugar in food (54%) and food prices (52%). Around half of respondents were concerned about the

amount of fat in food (49%), and the amount of salt in food (47%) (Figure 3) [\(footnote 2\)](#).

Figure 4 Reported concerns about food



| | Not concerned at all | Not very concerned | Somewhat concerned | Highly concerned |
|---|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Food produced in the UK and Ireland being what it says it is | 9 | 38 | 36 | 13 |
| The availability of a wide variety of food" | 7 | 33 | 42 | 15 |
| Food produced in the UK and Ireland being safe and hygienic | 8 | 36 | 35 | 17 |
| Food being produced sustainably | 3 | 20 | 50 | 21 |
| Ingredients and additives in food | 4 | 21 | 47 | 25 |
| Food from outside the UK and Ireland being what it says it is | 3 | 20 | 47 | 26 |
| Animal welfare in the food production process" | 4 | 19 | 47 | 26 |
| Genetically modified (GM) food | 7 | 23 | 38 | 26 |
| Food from outside the UK and Ireland being safe and hygienic | 2 | 20 | 45 | 30 |
| Affordability of food | 2 | 13 | 50 | 33 |

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Source: Food and You 2: Wave 4

Respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they were concerned about a number of specific food-related issues. Respondents were most likely to report a high level of concern about the affordability of food (33%), and food from outside the UK and Ireland being safe and hygienic (30%). Around a quarter of respondents reported a high level of concern around genetically modified (GM) food (26%), animal welfare in the food production process (26%) and food produced outside the UK and Ireland being what it says it is (26%) (Figure 4) [\(footnote 3\)](#).

1. Question: Do you have any concerns about the food you eat? Responses: Yes, No. Base is 1263, all online respondents and all those who completed the 'Eating at Home' paper questionnaire in Northern Ireland. Wave 4.
2. Question: Do you have concerns about any of the following? Responses: The amount of sugar in food, Food waste, Animal welfare, Hormones, steroids or antibiotics in food, The amount of salt in food, The amount of fat in food, Food poisoning, Food hygiene when eating out, Food hygiene when ordering takeaways, The use of pesticides, Food fraud or crime, The use of additives (for example, preservatives and colouring), Food prices, Genetically modified (GM) foods, Chemical contamination from the environment, Food miles, The number of calories in food, Food allergen information, Cooking safely at home, None of these, Don't know. Base is 1017, all online respondents in Northern Ireland. Wave 4.
3. Question: Thinking about food in the UK [question wording variation in Northern Ireland: the UK and Ireland] today, how concerned, if at all, do you feel about each of the following topics? A) Affordability of food B) Food produced in the UK and Ireland being safe and hygienic C) Food from outside the UK and Ireland being safe and hygienic D) Food produced in the UK and Ireland being what it says it is E) Food from outside the UK and Ireland being what it says it is F) Food being produced sustainably G) The availability of a

wide variety of food H) Animal welfare in the food production process I) Ingredients and additives in food J) Genetically modified (GM) food. Base is 1017, all online respondents in Northern Ireland. Wave 4. Please note: some question wording was modified for respondents in England and Wales, question stated 'UK' rather than 'UK and Ireland'.