



# Four-Day-Week Public Attitude Study

*Quantitative Research*

September 2020

Prepared by  
Larry Ryan & Cathy Glennon

J.202108



RESEARCH  
& INSIGHT



# Introduction

- There is ongoing dialogue about the potential introduction of a 4-Day working week.
- It is the focus of greater debate and discussion in the UK perhaps, with parallel UK research having been released within the past week.
- This Irish research was undertaken by Behaviour & Attitudes for Fórsa/FourDayWeek Ireland.
- A definition of a 4-Day week was provided during the interview, referencing ‘same job, same goals, same salary but over 4-Days rather than 5’.
- The research was undertaken on Behaviour & Attitudes August face-to-face Barometer between 18<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August, 2020.
- A face-to-face, in-home quota controlled survey: gender, age, social class, region and area of residence quotas all applied (based on latest census data.)



# The questionnaire used

The questionnaire below was included as one element of a multi-topic survey. The questionnaire is interviewer-administered and the data is recorded on a tablet computer and stored and transmitted in encrypted format.

Q.1 'Given advancements in technology, do you believe a four-day week is a realistic and achievable ambition in the medium term?' (By a four day week we mean doing the same job, achieving the same goals and being paid the same salary, but doing this over 4 days rather than 5)

Strongly believe it is achievable 1	Broadly believe it is achievable 2	Not really sure 3	Don't really believe it is achievable 4	Don't at all believe it is achievable 5
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Q.2 Do you believe that trialling a four-day week in your own place of work -without loss of pay or productivity- would be both desirable for employees and feasible for the employer? Probe for each

	YES	NO
Desirable for employees	1	2
Achievable for employers	1	2

Q.3 "To what extent would you support or oppose the government exploring the introduction of a four day working week?"

Would strongly support 1	Would generally support 2	Would neither support nor oppose 3	Would generally oppose 4	Would strongly oppose 5
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Q.4 And finally could you describe the nature of your role under the following headings

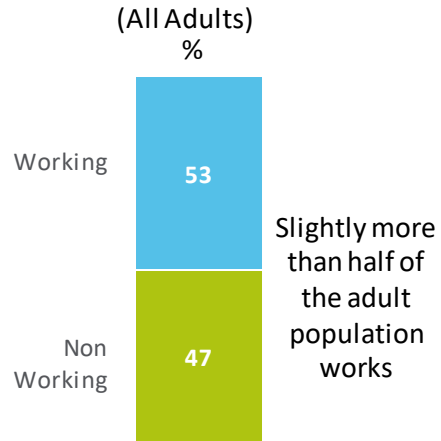
<b>Public or private sector (indicate one)</b>	Public sector/state/semi state	1
	Private	2
<b>Tenure (indicate one)</b>	Full time	1
	Part time	2
	Other	3
<b>Responsibility (indicate one)</b>	Employer/owner/self employed	1
	Employee	2
<b>Sector (indicate one)</b>	Manufacturing	1
	Office based/administrative	2
	Retail/shops/distribution	3
	Education	4
	Services	5
	Other	6
<b>Grade (indicate one)</b>	Professional	1
	Technical	2
	Skilled	3
	Semi-skilled	4
	Unskilled	5

# Sample profile

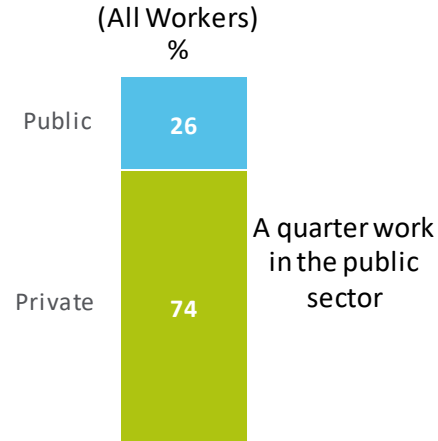
Base: All Adults 1,020/3,839,000



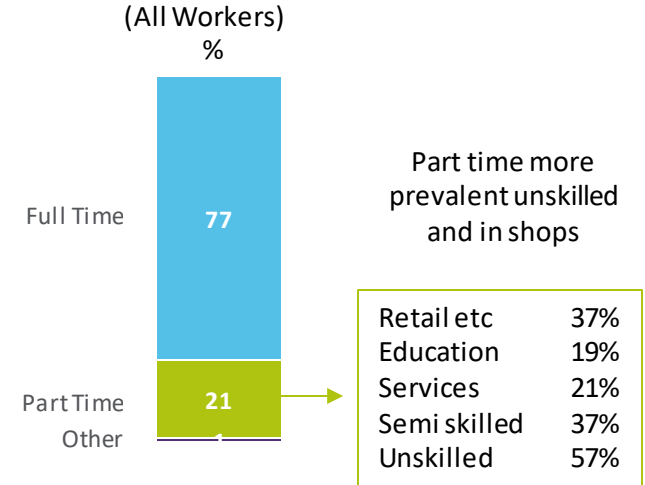
## EMPLOYMENT



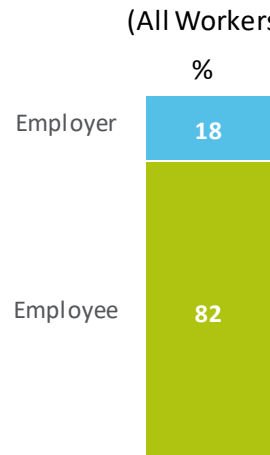
## SECTOR



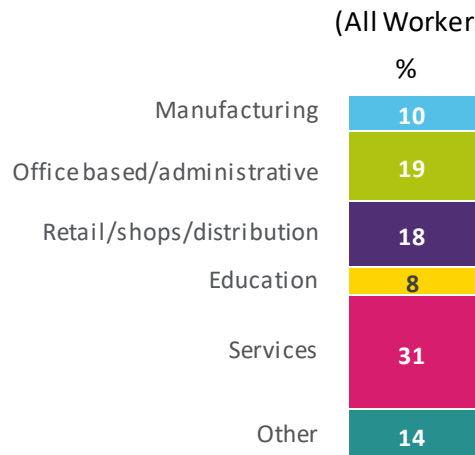
## TENURE



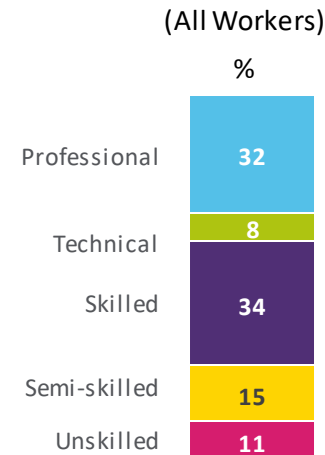
## RESPONSIBILITY



## SECTOR



## GRADE



# Analysis of working sample

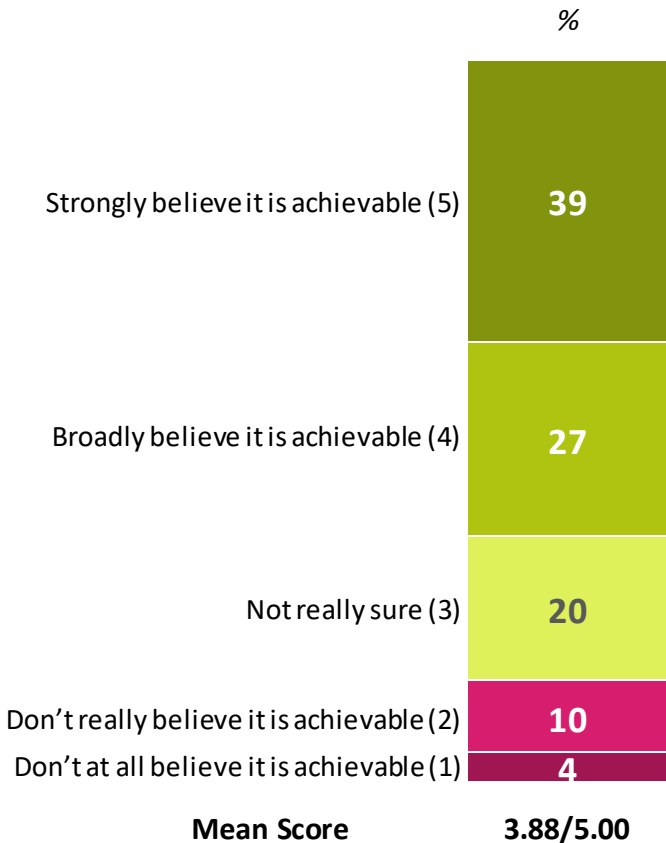
Base: Working Adults – 554/2,042,000



\*Small base sizes

# Two out of three feel that a 4-Day week is a realistic and achievable ambition

Base: All Adults 16+ - 1,020/3,839,000



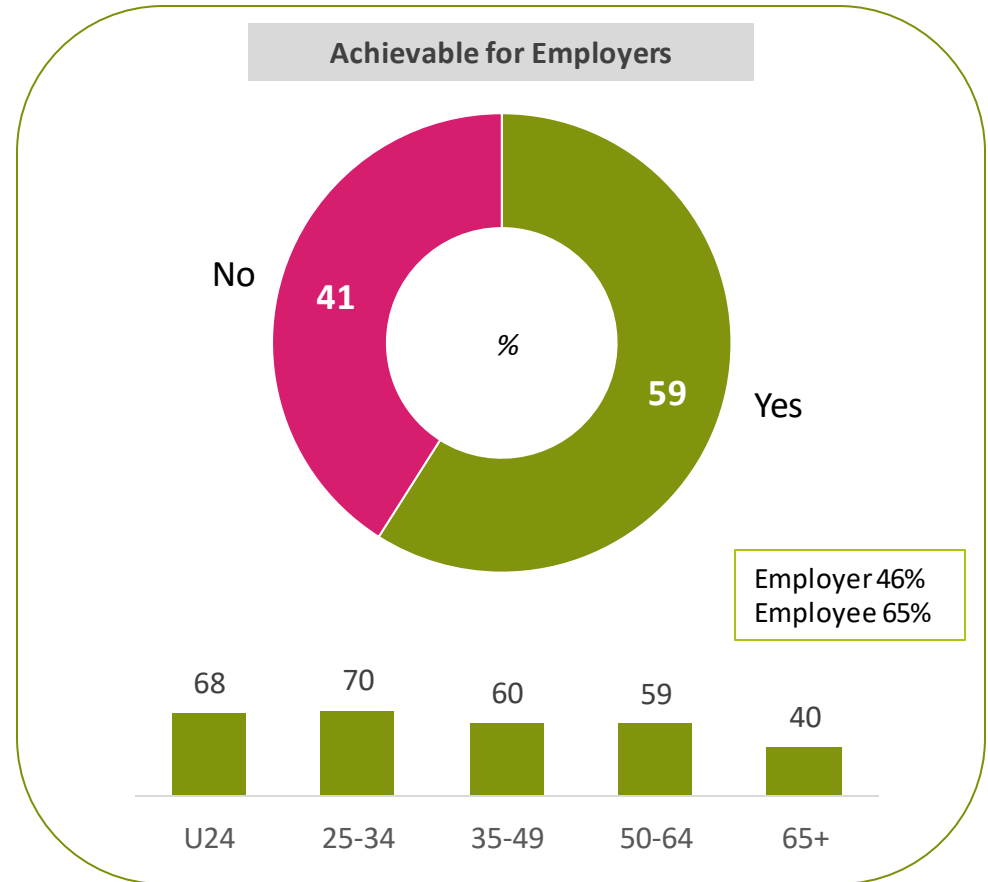
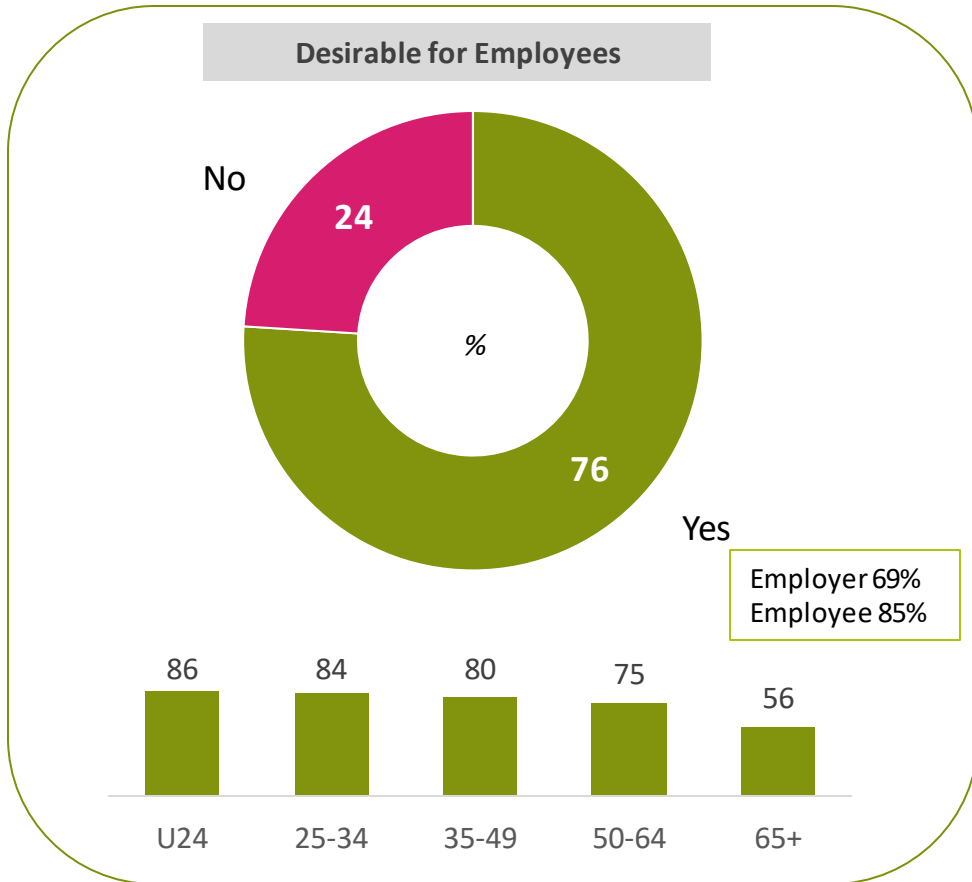
## Any Achievable



Two thirds believe that a 4-Day week could be realistic and achievable, with stronger conviction younger, among employees and more particularly those working in the public sector. The self-employed, farmers and older adults are somewhat more skeptical, although even a majority of employers (53%) suspect it may be realistic and achievable.

# Perspectives of trialling a 4-Day week - without loss of pay or productivity - in own workplace

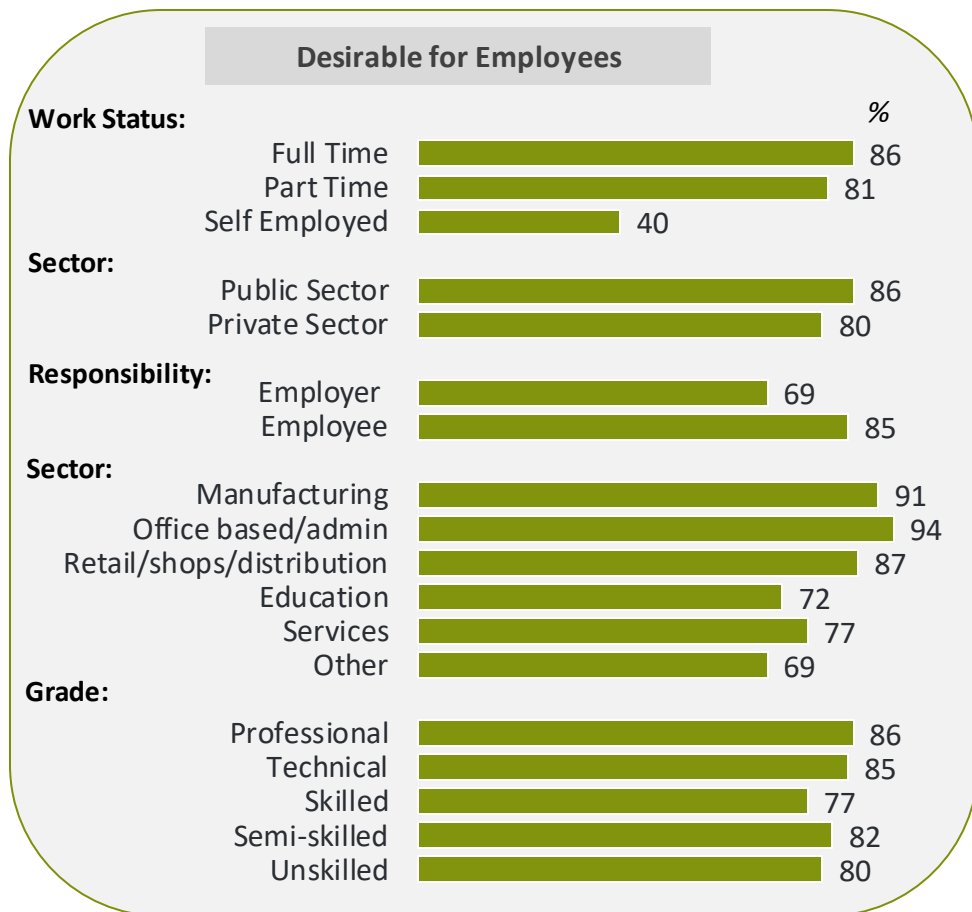
Base: All Adults 16+ - 1,020/3,839,000



**Three out of four believe that trialling a 4-Day week would be desirable for employees while three in five feel that it should be achievable for employers. Just over half of employers (54%) doubt that it would be achievable for them (although margin of error wider.)**

# Working adults view of a 4-Day week trial in their own workplace

Base: All Working Adults – 554/2,042,000



The vast majority of workers, irrespective of grade or sector, are enthusiastic about a potential trial. Stronger support among the more skilled grades and those office based. Less than half of employers feel it may be achievable, while recognizing that almost 7 in 10 of their employees would find it desirable.



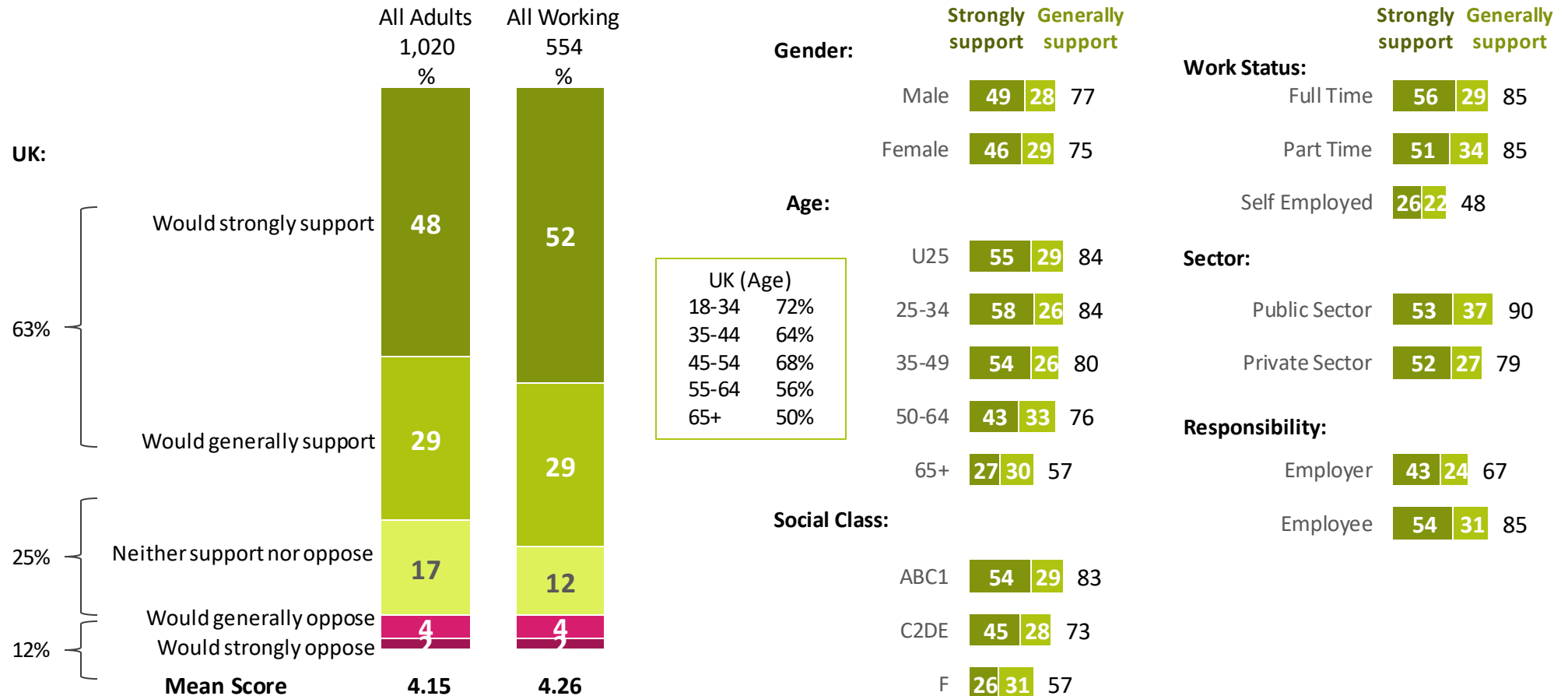


# Should Government explore introduction of a 4-Day week?



Base: All Adults 16+ - 1,020/3,839,000

## Support (All Adults)

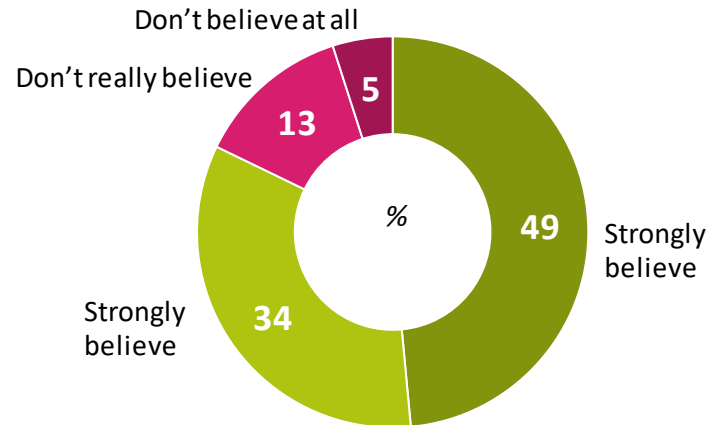
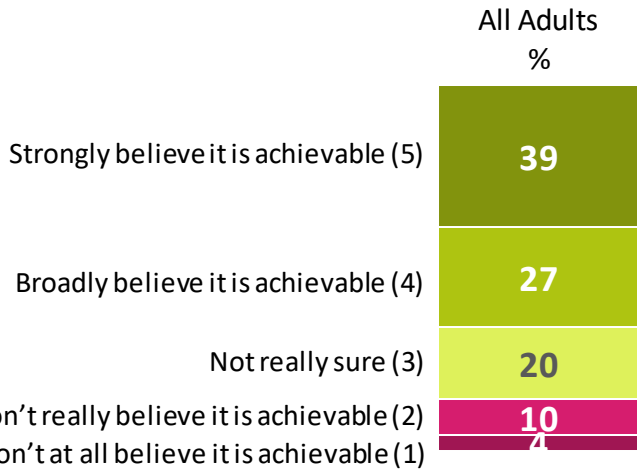


More than three in four are supportive of the Government exploring the potential introduction of a 4-Day week, surpassing the level recorded in the UK, although mirroring the pattern of response by age in particular. Even among employers more than three out of four are enthusiastic and only the self-employed seem notably dubious.

# Factoring out the undecided, the result is unambiguous

## A realistic & achievable ambition

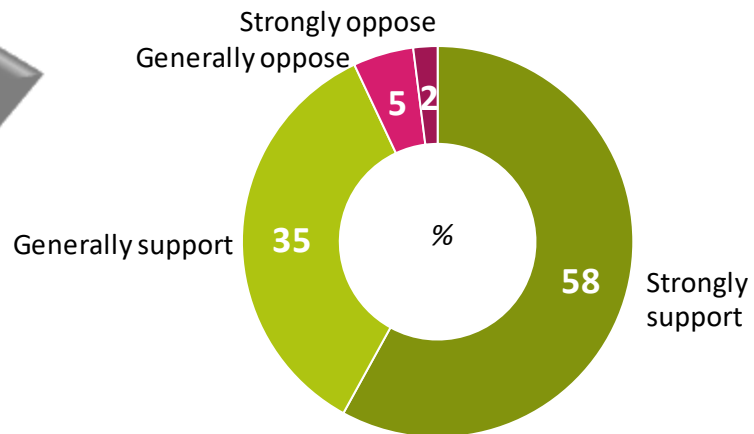
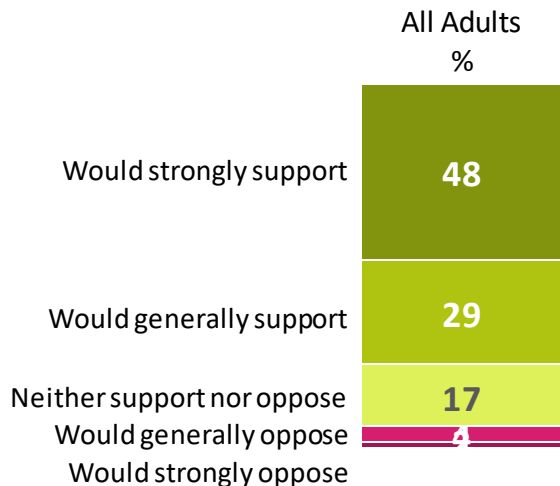
## Excluding those undecided



More than 4 in 5 of those expressing an opinion feel it is a realistic & achievable ambition

## Should it be trialled

## Excluding those undecided



Of those with an opinion, 93% would favour a trial

Q.1 'Given advancements in technology, do you believe a four-day week is a realistic and achievable ambition in the medium term?' (By a four day week we mean doing the same job, achieving the same goals and being paid the same salary, but doing this over 4 days rather than 5)  
 Q.3 To what extent would you support or oppose the government exploring the introduction of a four day working week?"





## Summary & Conclusions

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- A very enthusiastic response to the prospect of a 4-Day week, with two out of three feeling that it is *realistic and achievable* in the medium term and only 14% doubting this. Even a majority of employers suspect that it might be achievable.
- A substantial majority of the population (3 out of 4) believe that a 4-Day week would be desirable for employees, with a majority (59%) feeling it should be achievable for employers as well.
- An almost even division among employers, with 46% feeling that it is manageable.
- Consistently throughout the survey, the response to a 4-Day week is stronger amongst younger adults and those working full-time. Professional and technical grades and those working in manufacturing, office or administration-based roles, or indeed retail or distribution, are the most enthusiastic.
- 77% support the Government exploring the introduction of a 4-Day working week with almost half (48%) strongly supporting such an initiative. Even amongst employers a substantial majority are enthusiastic and supportive of the Government exploring the introduction of a 4-Day week.



# Thank you.



RESEARCH  
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*Milltown House  
Mount Saint Annes  
Milltown, Dublin 6 - D06 Y822  
+353 1 205 7500 | [www.banda.ie](http://www.banda.ie)*

## Delve Deeper