



IPSOS PRESS RELEASE :

INFLATION MONITOR 2023

June 2023

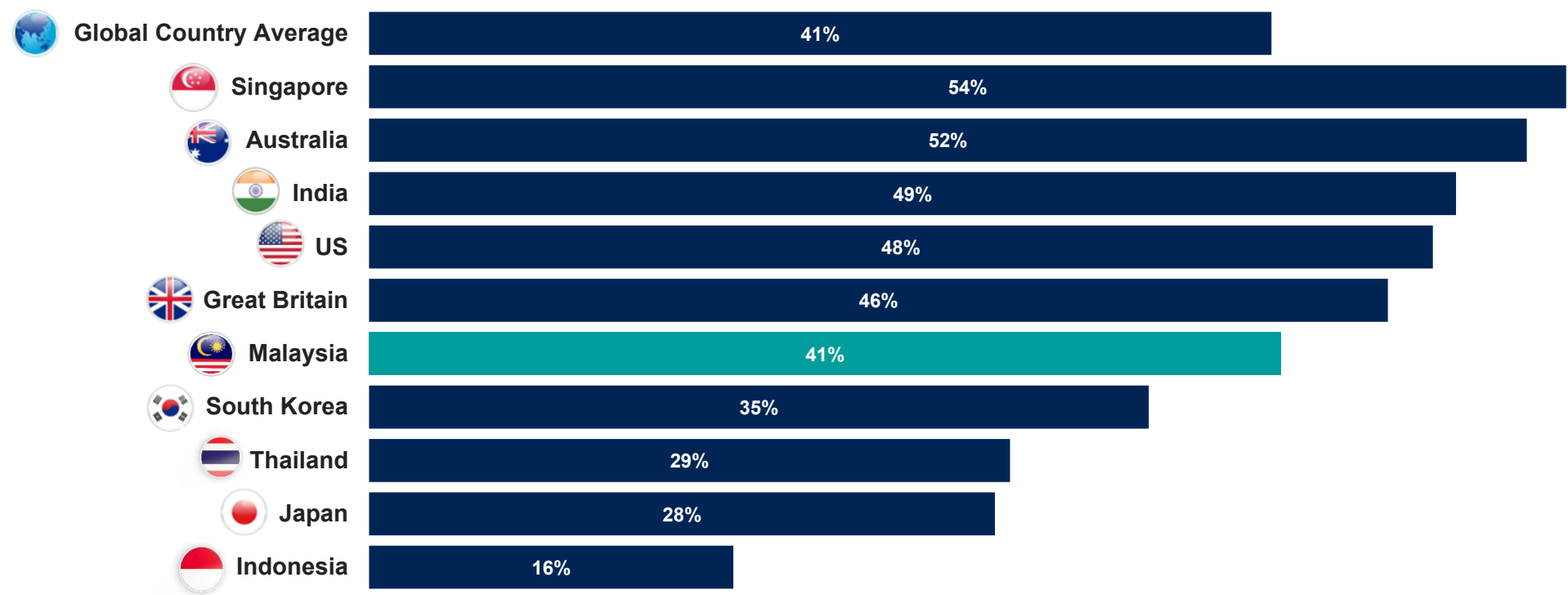
GAME CHANGERS



4 IN 10 MALAYSIANS SAY INFLATION IS ONE OF THE TOP ISSUES AFFECTING THE COUNTRY

In May 2023 share of Malaysians who identify inflation as a top concern has risen from 36% in March 2023 and 39 % in April 2023. This indicator is similar to the global country averages.

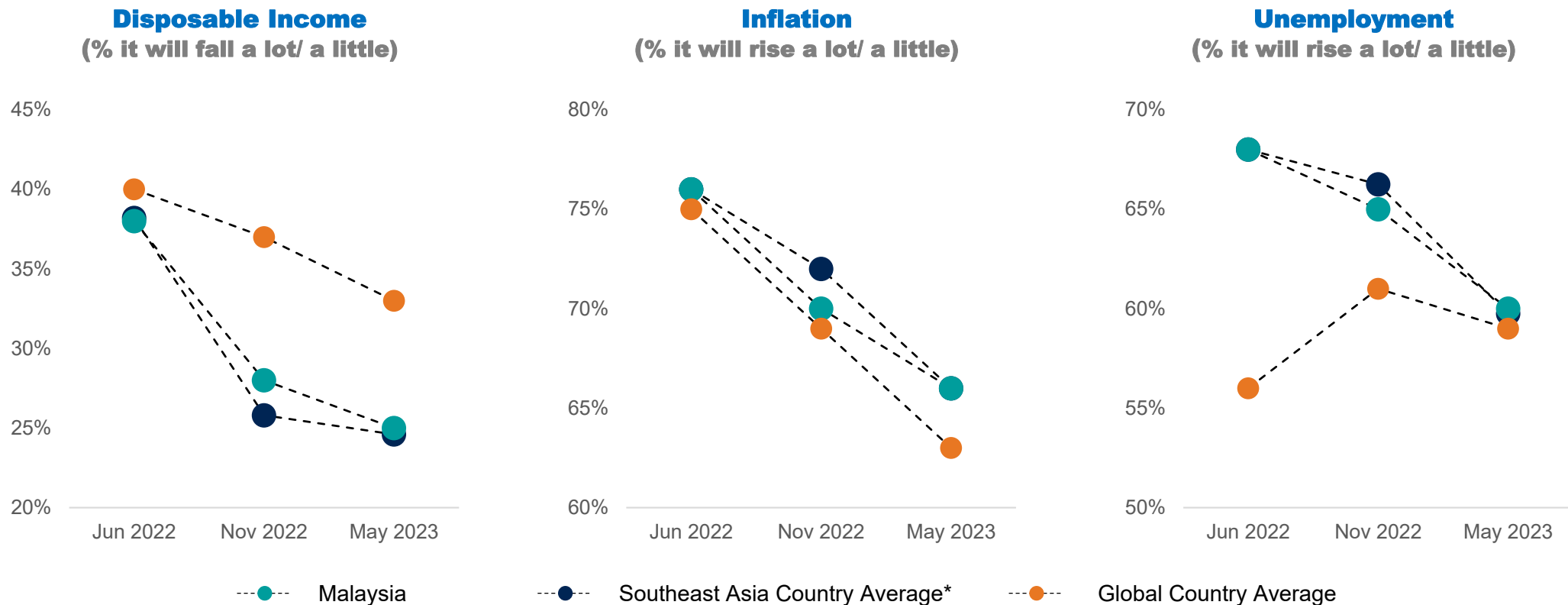
Which three of the following topics do you find the most worrying in your country?
(%)



MALAYSIANS ARE LESS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THEIR FUTURE...

Fewer Malaysians talked about rise of inflation in May 2023 compared to June 2022, when data started being collected. Similar trends are observed for concerns about changes in disposable income and unemployment over the same period.

Over the next year, do you think each of the following will rise, decline, or stay at about the same level?



Base: 21,231 online adults aged under 75 across 29 countries

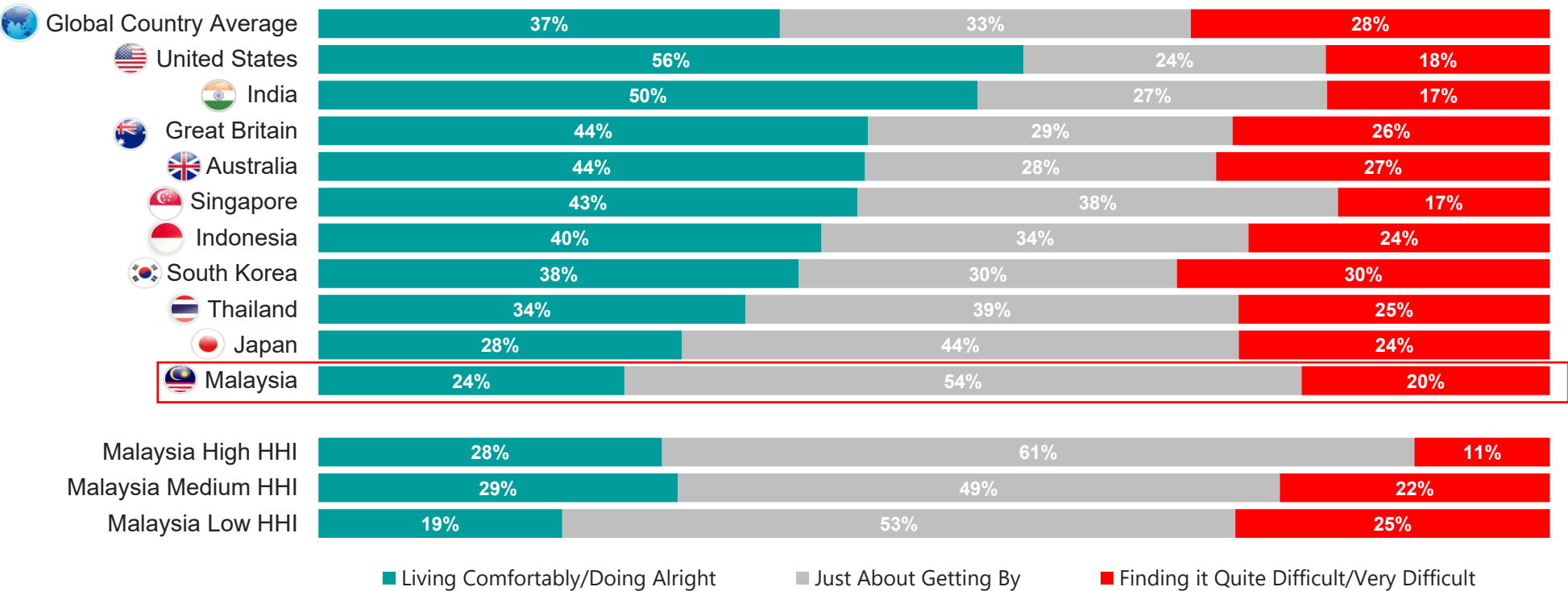
Malaysia sample: 500, between 24th March 2023 – 7th April 2023

* Covers Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand, June 2022 data for Southeast Asia Country excludes Indonesia, Singapore, and Thailand

...DESPITE 1 IN 5 MALAYSIANS ARE FACING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, ESPECIALLY LOWER INCOME HOUSEHOLDS

Malaysians are feeling the financial pressure, a sentiment highest compared to Malaysia's neighbors in APAC.

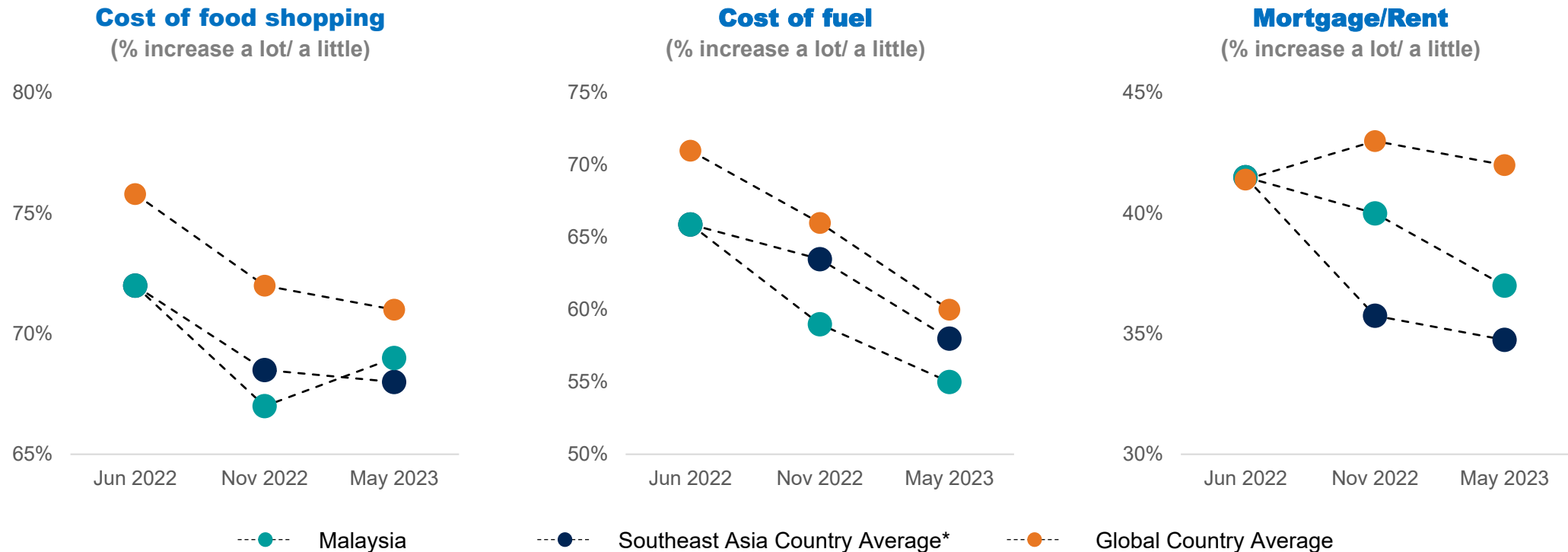
How well would you say you are managing financially these days? Would you say you are...?
(%)



FEWER MALAYSIANS THINK COST OF LIVING IS LIKELY TO INCREASE COMPARED TO 2022

Although nearly 7 out of 10 Malaysians expect the cost of food shopping to increase, this share has decreased compared to June 2022. Similar downward trends are observed with regards to rise of costs of fuel and mortgage/rent.

Thinking now about your household spend in the next 6 months, for each of the following types of spend, please say whether you expect it to increase, decrease or stay the same as it is now.



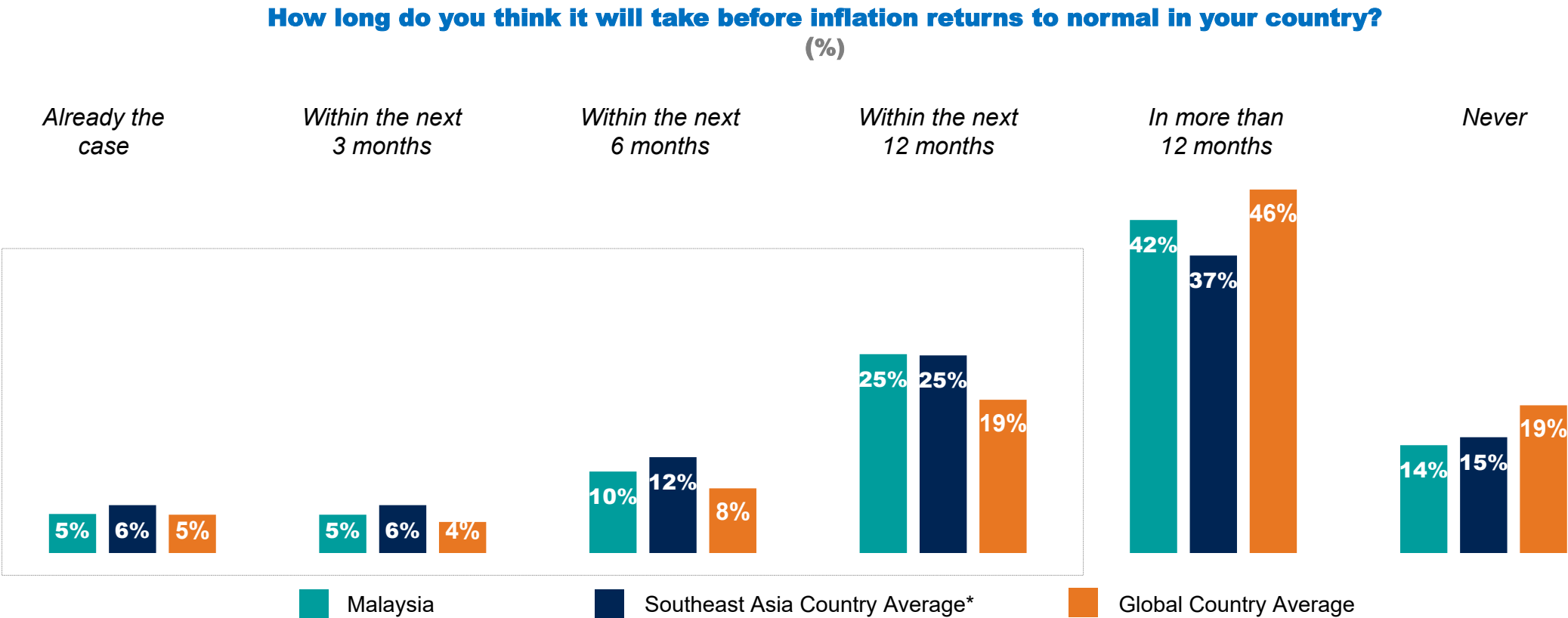
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LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL?

45% of Malaysians think that inflation rates will return back to normal within 1 year. These sentiments echo global and regional country averages. For comparison, only 17% of Japanese – lowest in the study – share this optimism, while Indonesians are the most optimistic with 61%.



Inflation Monitor 2023

Inflation has been the second most worrying concern in Malaysia on a monthly basis in 2023 as the country is experiencing a post-pandemic economic recovery. 40% of Malaysians are worried about inflation, while concerns about corruption and financial or political scandals stand at 47% in May 2023.

Signs of recovery and improving consumer sentiment are visible in falling pessimism about rising inflation and unemployment rates, as well as changes in disposal incomes. Improved outlook in Malaysia is in sync with optimism in the region and globally.

Improved optimism is still accompanied with daily hardships, with 1 in 5 Malaysians is facing financial difficulties and over half just getting by. These perceptions is shared among different income groups in the country.

On 17th of May 2023 the Department of Statistics of Malaysia (DOSM) reported that Malaysia's inflation rate of 3.3% for 2022 was lower than its neighbors in ASEAN, as 45% of Malaysians are hopeful that inflation levels will return to normal within one year.



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ISIN code FR0000073298, Reuters ISOS.PA, Bloomberg
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