

Some 57% of high net worth individuals believe managing their finances next year will be as difficult or worse than this year.

In a YouGov poll on behalf of Duncan Lawrie Private Bank 39% of those with over £250,000 of investable assets said 2013 would be more difficult than this year from a financial point of view and a further 18% were unable to make a call either way.

Matthew Parden, managing director of Duncan Lawrie Private Bank, said: "The UK has had an uncertain 2012. The situation in Europe has continued to cause consternation; interest rates have continued to be anchored at rock bottom levels; and crises in the banking industry have caused further deterioration in the trust levels of consumers.

"Clearly, while HNWIs benefit from a certain level of financial security, the results indicate another flat year for the majority of people in the UK who have suffered the same economic challenges in recent years. The results signal a strong need for banks to reconnect with their customers to help and support them through challenging times. Their main aim now should be to work with and help clients plan for a more fruitful 2013."