

MEDIA RELEASE

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Economic uncertainty curbs Kiwis' spending

More than half of Kiwis plan to tighten their belts this year following reports about the uncertainty of the global economy, Research New Zealand polling shows.

Research New Zealand director Emanuel Kalafatelis said the poll showed how 54% of Kiwis believed their spending in 2008 would be influenced by current concerns with the state of the international economy.

"Kiwis' are often warned about their high levels of credit card and personal debt, but it seems many of us do worry about money and what we should spend it on," Mr Kalafatelis said.

The poll showed little variation between males and females or household income, but there was some variation in opinion among age groups. People aged 40 to 49 years, were more likely to state their spending would be influenced (63%) than were, for example, over-60s (39%).

Polling was conducted between 12 February and 18 February.

The Research New Zealand poll of 501 people aged 15 and over was conducted by telephone between the 12 and 18 February. The maximum margin of error is +/- 4.7 % (at the 95% confidence level). The data has been weighted to ensure it is an accurate representation of New Zealand's general population. The poll was not taken on behalf of any organisation but as part of Research New Zealand's monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.

Participants were asked: *There is quite a bit of uncertainty about the global economy and how this might affect New Zealand. Other than food, clothing and other basics, is this likely to impact what you spend your money on in 2008?*

Table 1: Impact of economic conditions on personal spending (by gender)

	Total	Male	Female
Base =	501	250	251
	%	%	%
Yes	54	52	57
No	43	46	40
Don't know	3	2	3
Refused	0	0	0
Total	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 2: Impact of economic conditions on personal spending (by age)

	Total	15 to 29	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60+
Base =	501	76	76	111	108	130
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	54	58	58	63	54	39
No	43	39	42	32	44	57
Don't know	3	3	0	4	2	4
Refused	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 3: Impact of economic conditions on personal spending (by household income)

	Total	Under \$40,000	40,000 - \$69,999	\$70,000 plus	Don't know/refused
Base =	501	167	113	174	47
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	54	57	56	54	44
No	43	40	41	46	48
Don't know	3	3	2	1	8
Refused	0	0	1	0	0
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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