

MEDIA RELEASE

17 June 2008

Struggling Kiwis want tax cuts on food, petrol

Four out of five Kiwis think the Government should consider lowering tax on food and petrol, Research New Zealand polling shows.

Further evidence of the pressure on households was that 50 percent of Kiwis said their current financial situation was worse than 12 months ago.

The poll found 80 percent of New Zealanders thought the taxes should be cut on food and 81 percent thought tax on petrol should be lowered. Two-thirds (67 percent) also thought that taxes should be cut on electricity and gas.

When asked about their financial situation, 37 percent of Kiwis it was 'somewhat worse', and an additional 13 percent considered it 'a lot worse' than at the same time last year.

Research New Zealand director Emanuel Kalafatelis said the polling demonstrated that Kiwis were really feeling the pinch of rising prices and a slowing economy.

"Times are tough for the average Kiwi, and those on lower incomes are obviously harder hit. Only one in five of us feel we are better off than we were 12 months ago and we're looking for some respite from the rising costs we're experiencing at the supermarket and petrol station," he said.

Mr Kalafatelis said the percentage of people wanting tax cuts on food and petrol was even higher when household income was considered. Of those with a combined household income of under \$40,000, 89 percent thought the Government should consider lowering taxes on food, compared to 73 percent of those who earned over \$70,000.

"Females felt more strongly that taxes should be lowered than males with 85 percent of females, thought taxes should be lowered on food compared to 73 percent of males and 85 percent of women thought they should be lowered on petrol, compared with 77 percent of males.

Research New Zealand polling was conducted between 3 June and 6 June.



The Research New Zealand poll of 503 people aged 15 and over was conducted by telephone between 3 and 6 June. The maximum margin of error is +/- 4.6 % (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: Compared to your financial situation at about the same time last year, would you say your current financial situation is 'a lot worse', 'somewhat worse', 'the same', 'somewhat better' or 'a lot better'?

They were also asked: Do you think the government should consider lowering the taxes on food, petrol and electricity?

Table 1: Should the Government consider lowering taxes on... - by household income

Do you think the Government should consider lowering the taxes on...?

	Total	Under \$40,000	40,000 - \$69,999	\$70,000 plus	Don't know/refused
Base =	503	185	98	182	38
	%	%	%	%	%
Food	80	89	75	73	78
Petrol	81	88	75	76	84
Electricity and gas	67	77	63	60	69

Total may exceed 100% due to multiple response.

Table 2: Should the Government consider lowering taxes on... - by gender

Do you think the Government should consider lowering the taxes on...?

	Total	Male	Female
Base =	503	248	255
	%	%	%
Food	80	73	85
Petrol	81	77	85
Electricity and gas	67	60	74

Total may exceed 100% due to multiple response.



Table 3: Current financial situation - by household income

Compared to your financial situation at about the same time last year, would you say your current financial situation is...?

	Total	Under \$40,000	40,000 - \$69,999	\$70,000 plus	Don't know/refused
Base =	503	185	98	182	38
	%	%	%	%	%
A lot worse	13	19	16	8	12
Somewhat worse	37	38	33	36	45
The same	29	26	32	31	28
Somewhat better	15	13	15	18	6
A lot better	5	4	3	6	5
Don't know /Refused	1	1	1	1	3
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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