



New Zealanders not confident about the outlook for the economy and their own financial circumstances

Confidence in the economy has taken a battering since the recession.

Research New Zealand recently polled 500 New Zealanders to find out whether they felt the outlook for the economy would get better or worse in the next 12 months and whether they expect their own financial circumstance get better or worse over the same period.

About the same proportions (27 percent vs. 28 percent) felt that the economy would get better, respectively worse, in the next 12 months, while 39 percent felt there would be no change. Males were rather more confident than females that the economy would get better in the next 12 months at 38 percent versus 17 percent. This represents a net 17 percent of males that are optimistic as against a net 17 percent of females that are pessimistic about the outlook for the economy over the next 12 months.

Young people, those in the age group 15-24 years, are also optimistic about the outlook for the economy at 36 percent, compared 25 percent who felt it would get worse, representing a net 11 percent of optimists. South Islanders were rather more pessimistic, 25 percent felt the economy would get better over the next 12 months as against 37 percent who felt it would get worse, a net 12 percent of pessimists.

In general people are also pessimistic about their own financial circumstances in the next 12 months. Some 23 percent believe they will get better and 29 percent believe they will get worse; 44 percent believe they will stay the same. Those in the 65 + age group are particularly pessimistic in that only 5 percent feel their financial circumstances will get better in the next 12 months, as against 30 percent that feel they will get worse, a net 25 percent who are pessimists.

Again, South Islanders are more pessimistic than those in other parts of the country with 16 percent believing their financial circumstances will improve in the next 12 months and 32 percent that believe they will get worse, a net 16 percent of pessimists. Those on incomes of \$40,000 or less are also more pessimistic than others. Some 20 percent believe their financial circumstances will get better, as against 38 percent that believe they will get worse, a net 18 percent of pessimists.

Taking the two questions together, we find that of those who believe the outlook for the New Zealand economy will be better over the next 12 months, only 40 percent felt that this would translate into an improvement in their own financial circumstances, while 45 percent felt their own financial circumstances would not change. "One might say that the mood at the moment is fairly pessimistic", said Research New Zealand Director, Emanuel Kalafatelis.



The Research New Zealand poll of 500 people aged 15 and over was conducted by telephone between 13 and 16 October. The maximum margin of error for the sample as a whole is +/- 4.8 % (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 organization, but as part of Research New Zealand's monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.

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Table 1:

Q5f. Thinking of the outlook for the New Zealand economy as a whole for the next 12 months. Do you think the economy will be better or worse or stay the same?

	Total	Male	Female
Base =	500	251	249
	%	%	%
Better	27	38	17
Stay the same	39	35	43
Worse	28	21	34
Don't know/no response	5	5	5
Total	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 2:

Q5f. Thinking of the outlook for the New Zealand economy as a whole for the next 12 months. Do you think the economy will be better or worse or stay the same?

	Total	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65+
Base =	500	41	143	186	130
	%	%	%	%	%
Better	27	36	26	27	22
Stay the same	39	29	44	36	44
Worse	28	25	27	33	26
Don't know/no response	5	10	3	4	8
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 3:

Q5f. Thinking of the outlook for the New Zealand economy as a whole for the next 12 months. Do you think the economy will be better or worse or stay the same?

	Total	Upper North Island	Lower/Central North Island	South Island
Base =	500	204	127	169
	%	%	%	%
Better	27	30	26	25
Stay the same	39	42	42	35
Worse	28	23	26	37
Don't know/no response	5	6	6	4
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Table 4:

Q5f. Thinking of the outlook for the New Zealand economy as a whole for the next 12 months. Do you think the economy will be better or worse or stay the same?

	Total	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 - \$69,999	\$70,000 plus	Don't know/refused
Base =	500	167	122	150	61
	%	%	%	%	%
Better	27	30	29	28	13
Stay the same	39	33	37	46	45
Worse	28	32	32	23	25
Don't know/no response	5	5	3	3	17
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 5:

Q5f. Thinking of the outlook for the New Zealand economy as a whole for the next 12 months. Do you think the economy will be better or worse or stay the same?

	Total	NZ		
		European/Pakeha	Maori/Pacific	Other
Base =	500	372	49	79
	%	%	%	%
Better	27	26	20	36
Stay the same	39	41	38	34
Worse	28	29	32	22
Don't know/no response	5	4	10	8
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 6:

Q5g. And thinking about your own financial circumstances for the next 12 months. Do you think they will be better, the same or worse?

	Total	Male	Female
Base =	500	251	249
	%	%	%
Better	23	32	15
Stay the same	44	41	48
Worse	29	25	32
Don't know/no response	4	2	5
Total	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Table 7:

Q5g. And thinking about your own financial circumstances for the next 12 months. Do you think they will be better, the same or worse?

	Total	15 to 24	25 to 44	45 to 64	65+
Base =	500	41	143	186	130
	%	%	%	%	%
Better	23	20	29	26	5
Stay the same	44	43	40	41	60
Worse	29	30	26	31	30
Don't know/no response	4	6	4	2	5
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 8:

Q5g. And thinking about your own financial circumstances for the next 12 months. Do you think they will be better, the same or worse?

	Total	Upper North Island	Lower/Central North Island	South Island
Base =	500	204	127	169
	%	%	%	%
Better	23	28	24	16
Stay the same	44	42	44	48
Worse	29	25	29	32
Don't know/no response	4	4	3	4
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 9:

Q5g. And thinking about your own financial circumstances for the next 12 months. Do you think they will be better, the same or worse?

	Total	Under \$40,000	\$40,000 - \$69,999	\$70,000 plus	Don't know/refused
Base =	500	167	122	150	61
	%	%	%	%	%
Better	23	20	27	25	19
Stay the same	44	38	42	52	50
Worse	29	38	29	20	25
Don't know/no response	4	4	2	4	7
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Table 10:

Q5g. And thinking about your own financial circumstances for the next 12 months. Do you think they will be better, the same or worse?

Base =	Total	NZ		
		European/Pakeha	Maori/Pacific	Other
	500	372	49	79
	%	%	%	%
Better	23	22	21	27
Stay the same	44	48	36	36
Worse	29	28	31	30
Don't know/no response	4	2	12	7
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 11:

Q5g. And thinking about your own financial circumstances for the next 12 months. Do you think they will be better, the same or worse?

Base =	Total	The NZ economy will	The NZ economy will	The NZ economy will	Don't know
		get better	stay the same	get worse	
	500	132	199	142	27
	%	%	%	%	%
Better	23	40	21	10	19
Stay the same	44	45	54	34	31
Worse	29	11	24	52	28
Don't know/no response	4	4	1	5	21
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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