

MEDIA RELEASE

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Majority support Government's handling of the recession

Almost two-thirds of New Zealanders believe the Government is taking the right steps to manage the effects of the recession, the latest Research New Zealand polling shows.

Research New Zealand Director Emanuel Kalafatelis said that the poll showed that 61 percent of those asked agreed, or strongly agreed, that the Government was taking the right steps to manage the recession.

"The result shows a high level of support for the Government's actions to date with only 15 percent of those asked disagreeing, or strongly disagreeing, that the Government is taking the right steps," Mr Kalafatelis said.

"There was a group of 9 percent who neither agreed nor disagreed with what the Government was doing and another 15 percent who did not have an opinion," Mr Kalafatelis said.

Support for the Government was uniform across most demographic groups. However, those who did not believe the Government had taken the right steps to manage the recession were more likely to claim the recession was having a negative effect on their lives.

"Two thirds (67 percent) of those who do not believe the Government has taken the right steps to manage the recession describe their current financial situation as being worse, or a lot worse, than it was 12 months ago," Mr Kalafatelis said.

"This compares with 43 percent for those who do believe the Government has taken the right steps."

Support for the Government's handling of the recession may also be reflected in the fact that about three-quarters of workers feel secure in their current jobs, Mr Kalafatelis said.

Research New Zealand polling was conducted between 5 and 15 February.



The Research New Zealand poll of 502 people aged 15 and over was conducted by telephone between the 5 and 15 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: *How much do you agree or disagree that the Government is taking the right steps to manage the impact of the recession?*

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

Given the economic downturn and expected predictions of rising unemployment, do you feel confident that your job is secure?

Table 1: Support for Government in taking right steps to manage the recession

How much do you agree or disagree that the Government is taking the right steps to manage the impact of the recession?

	Total 502 %
Strongly agree	14
Agree	47
Neither agree or disagree	9
Disagree	11
Strongly disagree	4
Don't know	15
Total	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Table 2: Current financial situation compared to last year

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

	Total	Those who agree that the Govt. is taking the right steps to manage the recession	Those who disagree that the Govt. is taking the right steps	Neither agree or disagree/ Don't know
Base =	502	313	72	117
	%	%	%	%
A lot worse	10	7	16	13
Somewhat worse	39	36	51	38
Somewhat better	13	16	5	10
A lot better	5	6	3	6
No change	32	34	24	33
Don't know	0	0	0	1
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 3: Confidence in job security

Given the economic downturn and expected predictions of rising unemployment, do you feel confident that your job is secure?

	November 2008 Sub-sample	February 2009 Sub-sample
Base =	345*	291*
	%	%
Yes, I do feel confident	73	76
No, I do not feel confident	24	21
Don't know	3	4
Total	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

*Sub-sample based on respondents who are employed.

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