

Measuring Public Opinion for over 80 Years

Tuesday, 7 June 2022

Potential National/Act NZ coalition (50%) strengthens its clear lead over Labour/Greens (43%) in May

Today's Roy Morgan New Zealand Poll shows support for a potential National/Act NZ coalition increasing by 2.5% points to 50% in May and stretching its lead over the Labour/Greens on 43%, down 1% point. This is a lead of 7% points for National/Act NZ, the largest since the Jacinda Ardern-led Government came to office over four years ago in October 2017.

Support for National increased by 2.5% points in May to 40% while support for fellow right-leaning party Act NZ was unchanged at 10%. Support for the Maori Party was down 0.5% points to 1%.

Support for New Zealand's Labour/Greens 'coalition' government was down by 1% point to 43% in May. Support for Labour was down by 2% points to 31.5% while support for the Greens increased by 1% point to 11.5%.

A minority of 6% of electors (down 1% point) support other minor parties outside Parliament with support for New Zealand First up 0.5% points to 3%, The Opportunities Party down 1% point to 1% and support for the New Conservative Party unchanged at 0.5% in May.

This latest New Zealand Roy Morgan Poll on voting intention was conducted by telephone – both landline and mobile – with a New Zealand-wide cross-section of 934 electors during May. Electors were asked: "If a New Zealand Election were held today which party would receive your party vote?" Of all electors surveyed only 3%, down 1.5% points, did not name a party.

New Zealand Government Confidence Rating falls 3.5pts to 90 in May

The [Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating fell by 3.5pts in May to 90](#). The indicator is now a massive 44pts from a year ago in May 2021, and down 35pts from September 2021.

In May only 40% (down 3% points) of electors said New Zealand was 'heading in the right direction' compared to 50% (up 0.5% points) who said New Zealand was 'heading in the wrong direction'.

The latest [ANZ-Roy Morgan Consumer Confidence Rating for New Zealand fell by 2.1pts to 82.3](#) and is still well below the latest [Consumer Confidence figure in Australia of 90.7 on May 23-29, 2022](#).

Women continue to favour Labour/Greens while men firmly support National and Act NZ

Support for the Labour/ Greens coalition is strongest amongst young women aged 18-49 at 55.5% compared to only 38% support for National/ Act NZ. However, for women aged 50+ support is at 50% for National/Act NZ and now ahead of Labour/Greens on 46.5%.

The smallest Parliamentary Opposition, the Maori Party, attracts the support of 1% of women including 1% of women aged 18-49 and 1% of women aged 50+.

There is a stark difference for men with 56.5% supporting National or Act NZ. In May 48% of men aged 18-49 supported National/ Act NZ compared to 43% that supported Labour/ Greens. For men aged 50+ there were 65.5% supporting National/ Act NZ compared to only 26% supporting Labour/ Greens.

The Maori Party attracts only 0.5% support from men including 1% support from men aged 18-49 but only 0.5% support of men aged 50+.

Support for the Greens is far higher amongst both younger women and younger men than their older counterparts. Over one-in-five women aged 18-49 (21%) and one-in-eight men aged 18-49 (12.5%) support the Greens compared to only 6% of women aged 50+ and just 5.5% of men aged 50+.

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Party vote analysis by Gender & Age

	<u>Total</u>	<u>Women</u>			<u>Men</u>		
		<u>All</u>	<u>18-49</u>	<u>50+</u>	<u>All</u>	<u>18-49</u>	<u>50+</u>
		%	%	%	%	%	%
Labour	31.5	37.5	34.5	40.5	25.5	30.5	20.5
Greens	11.5	13.5	21	6	9.5	12.5	5.5
Labour/ Greens	43	51	55.5	46.5	35	43	26
National	40	37.5	34	41.5	42.5	34	52
Act NZ	10	6.5	4	8.5	14	14	13.5
Maori Party	1	1	1	1	0.5	1	0.5
National/ Act NZ/ Maori Party	51	45	39	51	57	49	66
Others	6	4	5.5	2.5	8	8	8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating

Right Direction	40	43	43	43.5	36.5	42.5	29.5
Wrong Direction	50	47	45.5	48.5	53	48.5	58.5
Government Confidence Rating	90	96	97.5	95	83.5	94	71
Can't say	10	10	11.5	8	10.5	9	12
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

*The Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating is 100 plus the difference between the percentage of Kiwis who say the country is "heading in the right direction" and the percentage who say the country is "seriously heading in the wrong direction".

Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating dipped in May, down for both women and men

The Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating fell for both genders in May and is now back below the neutral level of 100 for women at 96, down 4.5pts on a month ago. There was a similar deterioration among men, although at a significantly lower level, down 2pts to 83.5.

Amongst women there are now only 43% who say New Zealand is 'heading in the right direction' compared to 47% that say New Zealand is 'heading in the wrong direction'.

In contrast a clear majority of men, 53% now say New Zealand is 'heading in the wrong direction' while just over a third of men, 36.5%, say New Zealand is 'heading in the right direction'.

The Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating is highest for women aged 18-49 at 97.5 while for women aged 50+ it is slightly lower at 95. There is a larger difference for men with those aged 18-49 having a Government Confidence Rating of 94 and only 71 for men aged 50+.

Michele Levine, CEO Roy Morgan, says the potential National/Act NZ coalition (50%) has increased its lead over the governing Labour/Greens government (43%) in May with support for National increasing to 40% - its highest for over two years since January 2020:

"Today's Roy Morgan New Zealand Poll shows the lead for a potential National/Act NZ (50%) coalition over the governing Labour/Greens government (43%) increasing to 7% points – the largest lead for National/Act NZ since Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern came to office in October 2017.

"The increase in support for National, up 2% points to 40%, came at the expense of Ardern's Labour Party, down 2% points to 31.5% - a gap of 8.5% points in favour of National and easily the largest gap in favour of the leading Opposition Party since it lost office in 2017.

“The month of May was not a good one for Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and the Government. Ardern contracted COVID-19 in mid-May which led to a forced week in isolation and as well as falling further behind National there were also negative moves on key indicators.

“Now just 40% of electors (down 3% points since April) say the country is ‘heading in the right direction’ while 50% of electors (up 0.5% points) say the country is ‘heading in the wrong direction’. This leads to a Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating of 90 – below the neutral level of 100.

“While the Government Confidence Rating for women is higher than the national average at 96 it is at only 83.5 for men and only 36.5% of men say the country is ‘heading in the right direction’.

“In addition to the deterioration of Government Confidence there has also been a further drop in the latest [ANZ-Roy Morgan Consumer Confidence Rating, which was down 2.1pts to 82.3](#). A big driver of the low Consumer Confidence is clearly the increasing interest rates in New Zealand.

“The Reserve Bank of New Zealand (RBNZ) raised interest rates by 0.50% in May to 2% - the highest official interest rates have been for nearly six years since November 2016. The RBNZ has now increased official interest rates on five separate occasions by a total of 1.75%.

“Although the five interest rate increases by the RBNZ since October 2021 are clearly having a negative impact on confidence within New Zealand; the RBNZ’s own forecasts show that official interest rates will be around 3.9% by this time next year – a further increase of nearly 2% points.

“The prospect of interest rates doubling again from their current level in an effort to get control of inflation within New Zealand will not be welcome news for many New Zealand mortgage holders – nor for the Ardern Government which faces re-election later next year.

“If this month’s Roy Morgan New Zealand Poll results are converted into a distribution of seats at next year’s New Zealand Election a National-Act NZ coalition would win 64 seats compared to 55 seats for a Labour-Greens combination.”

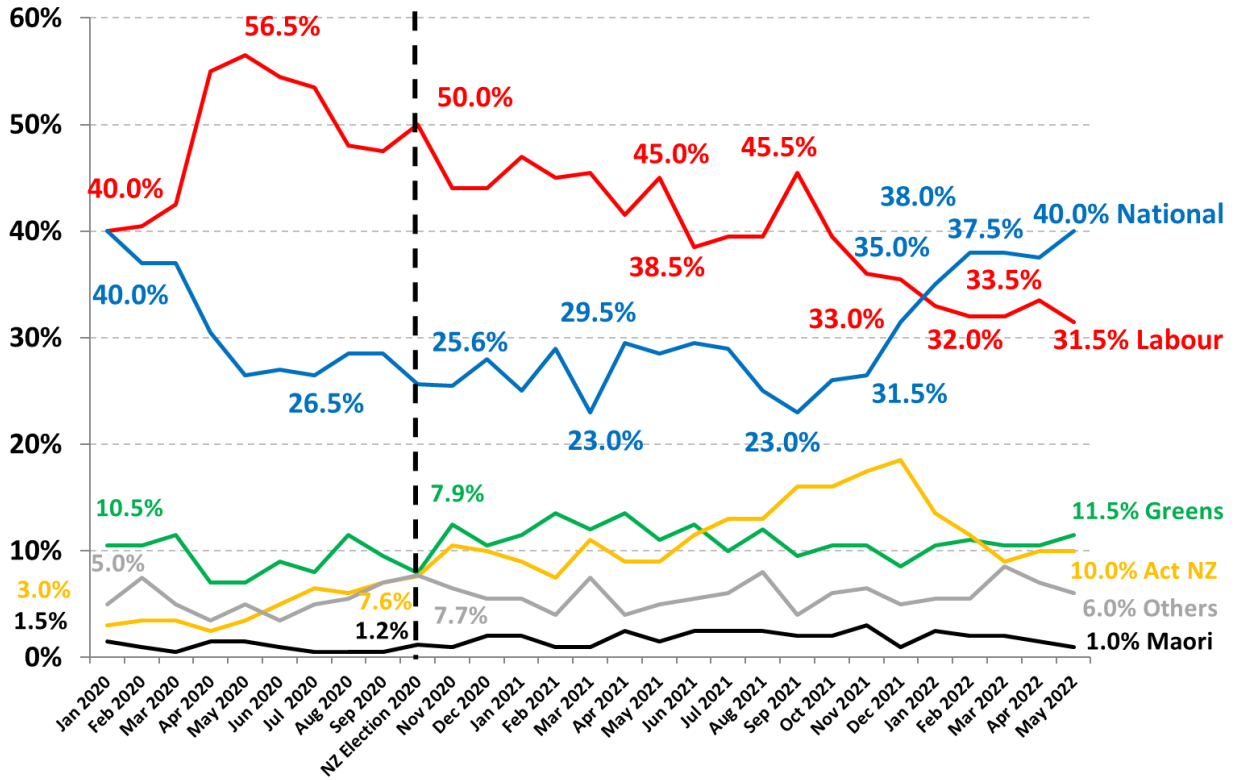
For comments or more information about Roy Morgan’s New Zealand Voting Data and profiles of supporters of Labour, National and other parties, please contact:

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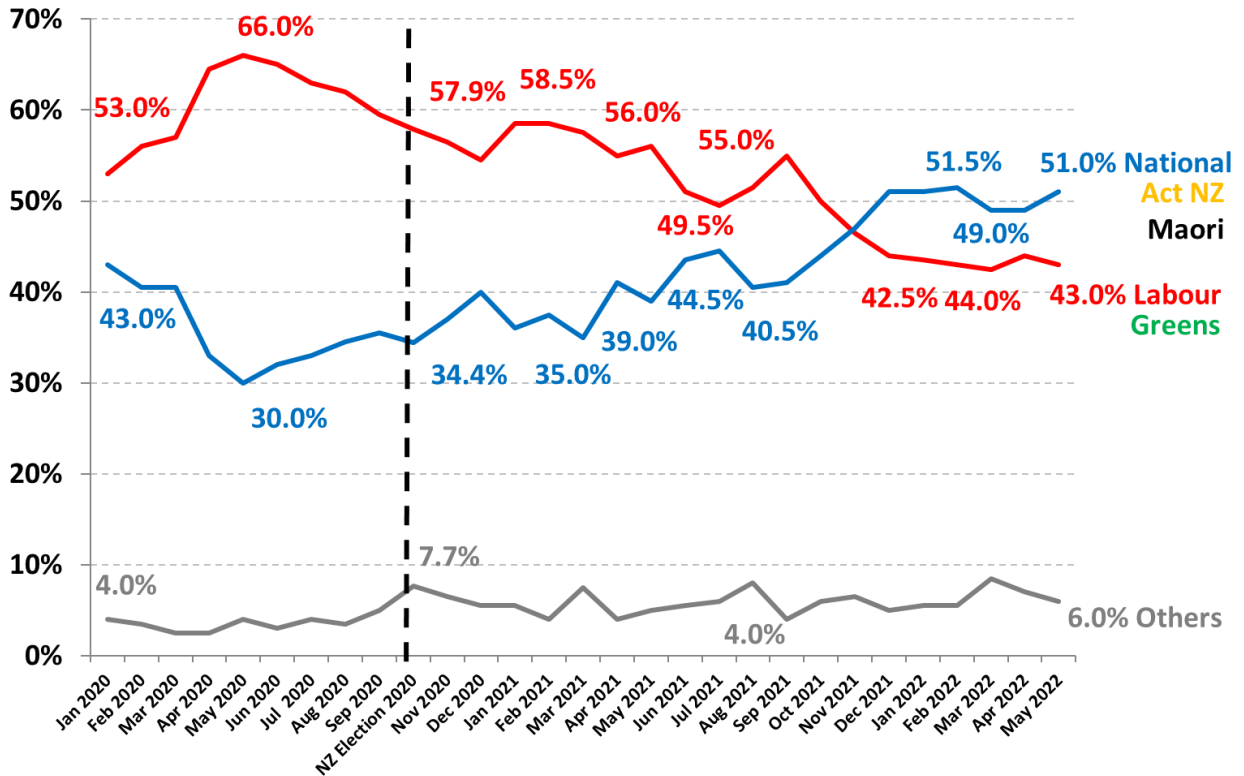
askroymorgan@roymorgan.com

New Zealand Party Vote: 2020-22



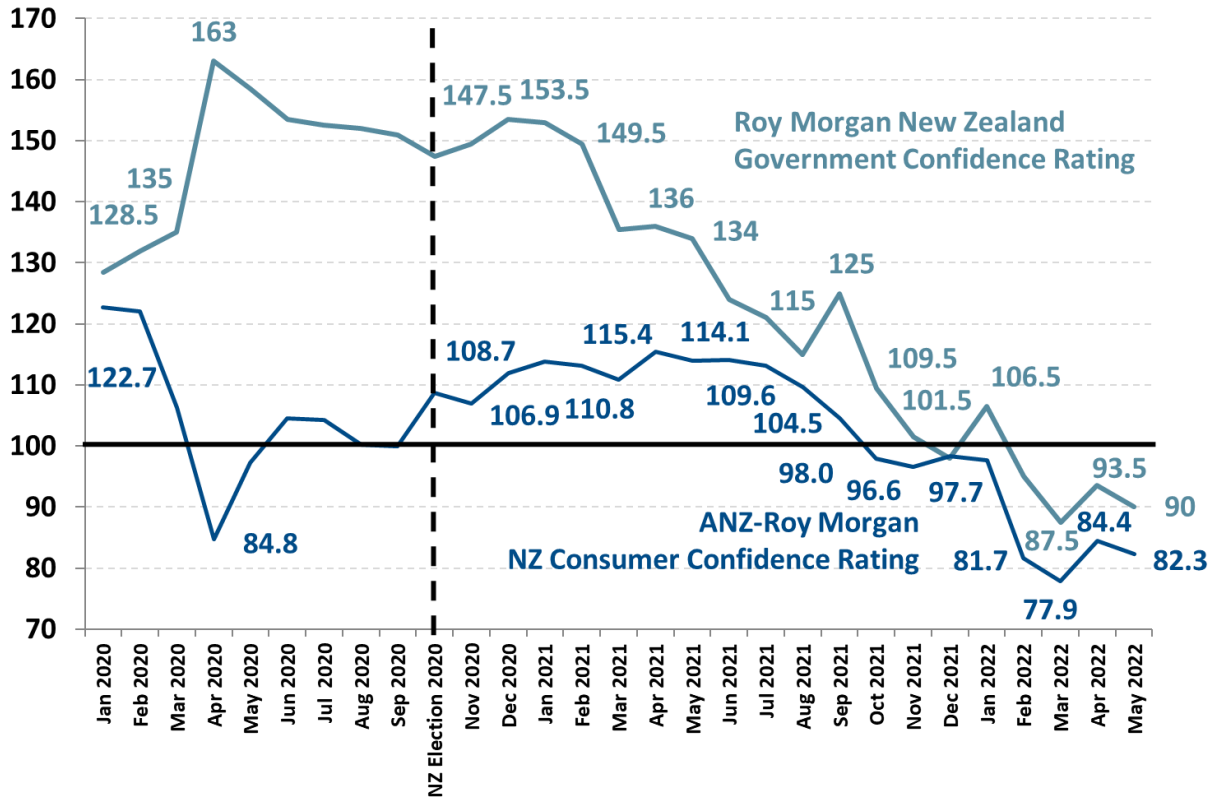
Source: Roy Morgan New Zealand Single Source. January 2020 – May 2022.
Base: New Zealand electors aged 18+. Average interviews per month = 933.

New Zealand Party Vote: NZ Govt. v Parliamentary Opposition



Source: Roy Morgan New Zealand Single Source. January 2020 – May 2022.
Base: New Zealand electors aged 18+. Average interviews per month = 933.

Roy Morgan NZ Government Confidence Rating vs. ANZ-Roy Morgan NZ Consumer Confidence



Source: Roy Morgan New Zealand Single Source. January 2020 – May 2022.
 Base: New Zealand electors aged 18+. Average interviews per month = 933.

Two-Party Preferred: Labour Party-led Government vs. Parliamentary Opposition Parties

	Labour Party-led Government (Labour, Greens)	Parliamentary Opposition Parties (National, Act NZ & Maori)
NZ Election, October 17, 2020*	57.87	34.33

ROY MORGAN NEW ZEALAND POLL

Labour wins the NZ Election and, despite securing a majority of seats in Parliament, signs a 'Cooperation Agreement' with the Greens – October 31, 2020

Year	Labour Party-led Government (Labour, Greens)	Parliamentary Opposition Parties (National, Act NZ & Maori)
2021		
January 2021	58.5	36
February 2021	58.5	37.5
March 2021	57.5	35
April 2021	55	41
May 2021	56	39
June 2021	51	43.5
July 2021	49.5	44.5
August 2021	51.5	40.5
September 2021	55	41
October 2021	50	44
November 2021	46.5	47
December 2021	44	51
2022		
January 2022	43.5	51
February 2022	43	51.5
March 2022	42.5	49
April 2022	44	49
May 2022	43	51

*At the 2020 NZ Election the Labour party secured 50.01% of the vote which was enough to govern in their own right but Labour opted to sign a 'Cooperation Agreement' with the Greens, who won 7.86% of the vote. There were three Parties elected to Parliament not in Government led by National (25.58%), Act NZ (7.59%) and the Maori Party (1.17%).

Voting Intention Summary

The following table compares the latest New Zealand Roy Morgan Polls on Voting Intention with the result from the October 17, 2020, General Election:

National-led Governments (& supporting parties) are highlighted in Blue.

Labour-led Governments (& supporting parties) are highlighted in Red.

PARTY VOTE ELECTIONS	Labour %	Green Party* %	National %	ACT NZ %	Maori Party** %	TOP** %	NZ First %	Other %
October 12, 1996*	28.19	10.10	33.87	6.10	n/a	n/a	13.35	8.39
November 27, 1999	38.74	5.16	30.50	7.04	n/a	n/a	4.26	14.30
July 27, 2002	41.26	7.00	20.93	7.14	n/a	n/a	10.38	13.29
September 17, 2005	41.10	5.30	39.10	1.51	2.12	n/a	5.72	5.15
November 8, 2008	33.99	6.72	44.93	3.65	2.39	n/a	4.07	4.25
November 26, 2011	27.48	11.06	47.31	1.07	1.43	n/a	6.59	5.06
September 20, 2014	25.13	10.70	47.04	0.69	1.32	n/a	8.66	6.46
September 23, 2017	36.89	6.27	44.45	0.50	1.18	2.44	7.20	1.07
October 17, 2020	50.01	7.86	25.58	7.59	1.17	1.51	2.60	3.70
ROY MORGAN POLL								
December 2020	44	10.5	28	10	2	2	2	1.5
2021								
January 2021	47	11.5	25	9	2	1.5	2	2
February 2021	45	13.5	29	7.5	1	1	1.5	1.5
March 2021	45.5	12	23	11	1	2	2.5	3
April 2021	41.5	13.5	29.5	9	2.5	0.5	1	2.5
May 2021	45	11	28.5	9	1.5	1.5	2	1.5
June 2021	38.5	12.5	29.5	11.5	2.5	2	1.5	2
July 2021	39.5	10	29	13	2.5	3	2	1
August 2021	39.5	12	25	13	2.5	2	2.5	3.5
September 2021	45.5	9.5	23	16	2	1.5	1.5	1
October 2021	39.5	10.5	26	16	2	1	2.5	2.5
November 2021	36	10.5	26.5	17.5	3	1.5	2.5	2.5
December 2021	35.5	8.5	31.5	18.5	1	1	2	2
2022								
January 2022	33	10.5	35	13.5	2.5	1.5	2.5	1.5
February 2022	32	11	38	11.5	2	1	2	2.5
March 2022	32	10.5	38	9	2	1.5	4	3
April 2022	33.5	10.5	37.5	10	1.5	2	2.5	2.5
May 2022	31.5	11.5	40	10	1	1	3	2

*The 1996 Election was the first New Zealand Election contested via MMP (Mixed Member Proportional). At the 1996 Election the Greens Party contested as part of the "Alliance" political grouping with four other political parties.

**The Maori Party was launched in July 2004. The Opportunities Party (TOP) was launched in November 2016.

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Roy Morgan New Zealand Seat Predictor

The following table compares the projected seats to be won by the various New Zealand political parties based on the latest New Zealand Roy Morgan Polls on Voting Intention with the results from previous MMP Elections:

National-led Governments (& supporting parties) are highlighted in Blue.

Labour-led Governments (& supporting parties) are highlighted in Red.

<u>SEAT COUNT ELECTIONS</u>	<u>Labour</u> %	<u>Green Party*</u> %	<u>National</u> %	<u>ACT NZ</u> %	<u>Maori Party**</u> %	<u>NZ First</u> %	<u>Other</u> %
October 12, 1996*	37	0	44	8	0	17	14*
November 27, 1999	49	7	39	9	0	5	11*
July 27, 2002	52	9	27	9	0	13	10*
September 17, 2005	50	6	48	2	4	7	4*
November 8, 2008	43	9	58	5	5	0	2*
November 26, 2011	34	14	59	1	3	8	2*
September 20, 2014	32	14	60	1	2	11	1*
September 23, 2017	46	8	56	1	0	9	0
October 17, 2020	65	10	33	10	2	0	0
ROY MORGAN SEAT PREDICTOR							
2021							
January 2021	60	15	32	11	2	0	0
February 2021	56	17	36	10	1	0	0
March 2021	59	16	30	14	1	0	0
April 2021	52	17	37	11	3	0	0
May 2021	57	14	36	11	2	0	0
June 2021	49	16	37	15	3	0	0
July 2021	50	13	37	17	3	0	0
August 2021	51	16	33	17	4	0	0
September 2021	57	12	29	20	2	0	0
October 2021	51	13	33	20	3	0	0
November 2021	46	14	34	22	4	0	0
December 2021	45	11	40	23	1	0	0
2022							
January 2022	42	13	45	17	3	0	0
February 2022	41	14	48	15	2	0	0
March 2022	42	14	50	12	2	0	0
April 2022	43	13	49	13	2	0	0
May 2022	40	15	51	13	1	0	0

*Other seats won at elections from 1996 - 2014 include: 1996 – 14 seats: Alliance (13 seats) & United NZ (1 seat); 1999 – 11 seats: Alliance (10 seats) & United NZ (1 seat); 2002 – 10 seats: United Future (8 seats) & Progressive (2 seats); 2005 – 4 seats: United Future (3 seats) & Progressive (1 seat); 2008 – 2 seats: Progressive (1 seat) & United Future (1 seat); 2011 – 2 seats: United Future (1 seat) & Mana Party (1 seat); 2014 – 1 seat: United Future (1 seat).

Fourth National Government (1990 – 1999): 1996 NZ Election: National (44 seats) wins the NZ Election and governs in coalition with NZ First (17 seats) for a total of 61 seats in the 120 seat Parliament.

Fifth Labour Government (1999-2008): 1999 NZ Election: Labour (49 seats) wins the NZ Election and governs in coalition with Alliance (10 seats) and the support of the Greens (7 seats) for a total of 66 seats in the 120 seat Parliament. **2002 NZ Election:** Labour (52 seats) wins the NZ Election and governs in coalition with the Progressive Coalition (2 seats) and confidence and supply from United Future (8 seats) for a total of 62 seats in the 120 seat Parliament. **2005 NZ Election:** Labour (50 seats) wins the NZ Election and governs in coalition with the Progressive Coalition (1 seat) and confidence and supply from New Zealand First (7 seats) and United Future (3 seats) for a total of 61 seats in the 121 seat Parliament (including 1 'overhang' seat).

Fifth National Government (2008-2017): 2008 NZ Election: National (58 seats) wins the NZ Election and governs with the confidence and supply of Act NZ (5 seats), the Maori Party (5 seats) and United Future (1 seat) for a total of 69 seats in the 122 seat Parliament (including 2 'overhang' seats). **2011 NZ Election:** National (59 seats) wins the NZ Election and governs with the confidence and supply of Maori Party (3 seats), Act NZ (1 seat) and United Future (1 seat) for a total of 64 seats in the 121 seat Parliament (including 1 'overhang' seat). **2014 NZ Election:** National (60 seats) wins the NZ Election and governs with the confidence and supply of Maori Party (2 seats), Act NZ (1 seat) and United Future (1 seat) for a total of 64 seats in the 121 seat Parliament (including 1 'overhang' seat).

Sixth Labour Government (2017-?): 2017 NZ Election: Labour (46 seats) 'wins' the NZ Election and governs in coalition with NZ First (9 seats) and the confidence and supply of the Greens (8 seats) for a total of 63 seats in the 120 seat Parliament. **2020 NZ Election:** Labour (65 seats) wins the NZ Election and governs with the cooperation of the Greens (10 seats) for a total of 75 seats in the 120 seat Parliament.

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NEW ZEALAND: HEADING IN “RIGHT” OR “WRONG” DIRECTION?

Electors were asked: “Generally speaking, do you feel that things in New Zealand are heading in the right direction or would you say things are seriously heading in the wrong direction?”

NZ Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating: Interviewing Dates (Labour Party Govt.)

	Nov 2017	Dec 2017	Jan 2020	Feb 2020	Mar 2020	Apr 2020	May 2020	Jun 2020	Jul 2020	Aug 2020	Sep 2020	Oct 2020	Nov 2020	Dec 2020
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Right direction	66.5	68	58	59	60.5	77	76	72	71.5	71	70.5	68.5	69.5	71.5
Wrong direction	20	18	29.5	27	25.5	14	17.5	18.5	19	19	19.5	21	20	18
Roy Morgan GCR#	146.5	150	128.5	132	135	163	158.5	153.5	152.5	152	151	147.5	149.5	153.5
Can't say	13.5	14	12.5	14	14	9	6.5	9.5	9.5	10	10	10.5	10.5	10.5
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

NZ Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating: Interviewing Dates (Labour Party Govt.)

	Jan 2021	Feb 2021	Mar 2021	Apr 2021	May 2021	Jun 2021	Jul 2021	Aug 2021	Sep 2021	Oct 2021	Nov 2021	Dec 2021	Jan 2022	Feb 2022	Mar 2022	Apr 2022
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Right direction	71.5	69.5	61.5	62.5	62.5	57	55.5	52.5	57	48	46	42.5	48.5	42.5	39	43
Wrong direction	18.5	20	26	26.5	28.5	33	34.5	37.5	32	38.5	44.5	44.5	42	47.5	51.5	49.5
Roy Morgan GCR#	153	149.5	135.5	136	134	124	121	115	125	109.5	101.5	98	106.5	95	87.5	93.5
Can't say	10	10.5	12.5	11	9	10	10	10	11	13.5	9.5	13	9.5	10	9.5	7.5
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

NZ Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating: Interviewing Dates (Labour Party Govt.)

	May 2022	Jun 2022	Jul 2022	Aug 2022	Sep 2022	Oct 2022	Nov 2022	Dec 2022	Jan 2023	Feb 2023	Mar 2023	Apr 2023	May 2023	Jun 2023	Jul 2023	Aug 2023
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Right direction	40															
Wrong direction	50															
Roy Morgan GCR#	90															
Can't say	10															
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

#Roy Morgan GCR = Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating (The Roy Morgan GCR is 100 plus the difference between the percentage of Kiwis who say the country is “heading in the right direction” and the percentage who say the country is “seriously heading in the wrong direction”).

The Roy Morgan Poll is conducted by the **ONLY** Australian and NZ member of the Gallup International Association. No other public opinion poll taken in Australia or New Zealand has this qualification.

Margin of Error

The margin of error to be allowed for in any estimate depends mainly on the number of interviews on which it is based. The following table gives indications of the likely range within which estimates would be 95% likely to fall, expressed as the number of percentage points above or below the actual estimate. The figures are approximate and for general guidance only and assume a simple random sample. Allowance for design effects (such as stratification and weighting) should be made as appropriate.

Sample Size	Percentage Estimate			
	40%-60%	25% or 75%	10% or 90%	5% or 95%
1,000	±3.2	±2.7	±1.9	±1.4
1,500	±2.6	±2.2	±1.5	±1.1