

Thursday, 8 December 2016

Government/ Public Policy/ Human Rights issues (45%) now clearly biggest problems facing New Zealand while War/Terrorism/Refugees remain biggest problems facing the World (31%)

In July 2016, **Government/ Public Policy/ Human Rights** 45% (up 20% since April 2016) are now clearly the most important problems facing **New Zealand** and the biggest problems facing the **World** today are still **War & Terrorism/Security/Refugee Crisis** 31% (up 2%) according to the latest Roy Morgan New Zealand survey conducted in July 2016 with a representative cross-sample of 1,000 New Zealanders.

New Zealand views on Problems facing New Zealand

When asked about the most important problem facing **New Zealand**, 45% of New Zealanders mention some kind of **Government/ Public Policy/ Human Rights** issue. This is up 20% from April 2016 and is now ahead of Economic issues 32% (down 10%), Social issues 13% (down 3%) and Environmental issues 3% (down 4%).

In terms of **Government/ Public Policy/ Human Rights** issues a large number of New Zealanders mention Housing as a major problem – 29% (House prices/ Housing affordability 17% (up 10%) and Homeless/ Homelessness/ Housing shortage 12% (up 10%) while other important issues include **Government/ Politicians/ Leadership/ Government Spending** 6% (down 3%), **Immigration/ Refugees** 6% (up 3%).

The most important Economic issues facing **New Zealand** include **Poverty / The gap between the rich and the poor** 17% (down 4%), **Unemployment/ Job security** 4% (down 3%), **Economy/ Financial crisis/ Recession/ High dollar** 4% (unchanged), the **Need to increase exports** 2% (down 6%) and **Cost of living/ Inflation/ Financial hardship/ Household debt** 2% (down 2%).

Housing Prices are a major problem of New Zealanders of all age groups – led by those aged 25-34yrs old (19%) and those aged 35-49yr old (20%). New Zealanders of all age groups are likely to mention the **Homeless/ Homelessness/ Lack of Housing** as the biggest problem – 10% of 18-24yr olds compared to 15% of 25-34yr olds; 12% of 35-49yr olds and 12% of those aged 50+yrs old.

New Zealand views on Problems facing the World

The biggest **World** problems according to New Zealanders are still **War & Terrorism/ Security issues / Refugee Crisis** 31% (up 2% since April 2016). Within that group New Zealanders most frequently mention **Terrorism** 16% (unchanged) followed by **Wars & Conflicts/ Unrest** 7% (up 2%), **Refugee/ Migrant Crisis** 3% (down 1%) and **Religious Conflict** 3% (unchanged).

The next biggest **World** problems are Economic issues 27% (up 1% since April 2016). The Economic issues facing the **World** mentioned most often by New Zealanders are **Poverty/ The gap between rich & poor/ Imbalance of wealth** 14% (unchanged), the **Economy/ Financial crisis/ Recession** 5% (up 2%), **Cost of living/ Inflation/ Financial hardship/ Household debt** 3% (up 1%) and **Over-population** 2% (down 2%).

Other important **World** problems mentioned are **Government/ Politicians/ Political Unrest** 8% (up 3%) **Climate change/ Global warming/ Ozone layer/ Greenhouse effect** 6% (down 5%), **Social apathy/ Lack of values/ Lack of empathy towards others/ Intolerance** 6% (down 1%), and **Greed** 3% (down 1%).

Michele Levine, Chief Executive Officer, Roy Morgan says:

*“Government/ Public policy/ Human rights issues 45% (up 20% since April 2016) are now the most important set of problems facing **New Zealand**, overtaking Economic issues 32% (down 10%) for the first time since this question was first surveyed in late 2010. Driving the increase in Government/ Public policy/ Human rights issues are the ‘twinning’ issues of Increasing house prices/ Housing affordability – now at a record 17% (up 10%) and Homeless/ Homelessness/ Housing shortage – now at a record 12% (up 10%).*

“The soaring house prices in New Zealand’s largest city of Auckland are clearly a big factor in the issues surrounding affordable housing and also the increasing concern about homeless New Zealanders due to the accompanying housing shortage – although this issue has risen in importance all around New Zealand in

recent months. Other important Government/ Public policy/ Human rights issues include Government/ Politicians/ Leadership/ Government spending 6% (down 3%) and Immigration/ Refugees 6% (up 3%).

“The most important Economic issues facing **New Zealand** include most prominently Poverty/ The gap between the rich and poor/ Imbalance of wealth 17% (unchanged) and followed by Economy/ Financial crisis/ Recession/ Exchange rate/ High dollar 4% (unchanged) and Unemployment/ Job security 4% (down 3%). Only 13% (down 3%) of New Zealanders now mention Social issues – the lowest for this set of problems since June 2015 while only 3% (down 4%) now mention Environmental issues – including 2% (unchanged) that mention Climate change/ Global warming.

“Once again Kiwis mention War/ Terrorism/ Security/ Refugee crisis 31% (up 2%) as the biggest problem facing the **World**, once again just ahead of Economic issues 27% (up 1%). Well behind these two large groups of issues are Social issues 16% (up 2%), Environmental Issues 9% (down 7%) and Government/ Public policy/ Human rights issues 9% (up 3%).

“The biggest War/Terrorism/Security/Refugee crisis issue is once again Terrorism 16% (unchanged) which follows several incidents of terrorism in many parts of the world in recent months, well ahead of Wars and conflicts/Unrest 7% (up 2%) and Religion/Religious conflict 3% (unchanged).

“The biggest Economic issues facing the **World** are Poverty/The gap between the rich & poor/Imbalance of wealth 14% (unchanged) and Economy/Financial crisis/Recession 5% (up 2%). Other notable issues mentioned include Government/ Politicians/ Political unrest/ Instability/ Greedy & corrupt Governments 8% (up 3%) and Global warming/Climate change/Ozone layer/Greenhouse effect 6% (down 5%).”

These findings come from a special New Zealand Roy Morgan survey conducted with New Zealanders aged 14+ asked what are the most important issues facing **New Zealand** and the **World** today.

In New Zealand, a cross-section of 1,000 men and women aged 14 or over were interviewed by telephone in July 2016. Respondents were asked: “Firstly, what do you think is the most important problem facing the **World** today?” and “What do you think is the most important problem facing **New Zealand** today?” The research conducted was both **qualitative** (in that people were asked to use their own words) and **quantitative** (in that the ‘open-ended’ responses were analysed and ‘coded’ so that the results could be counted and reported as percentages).

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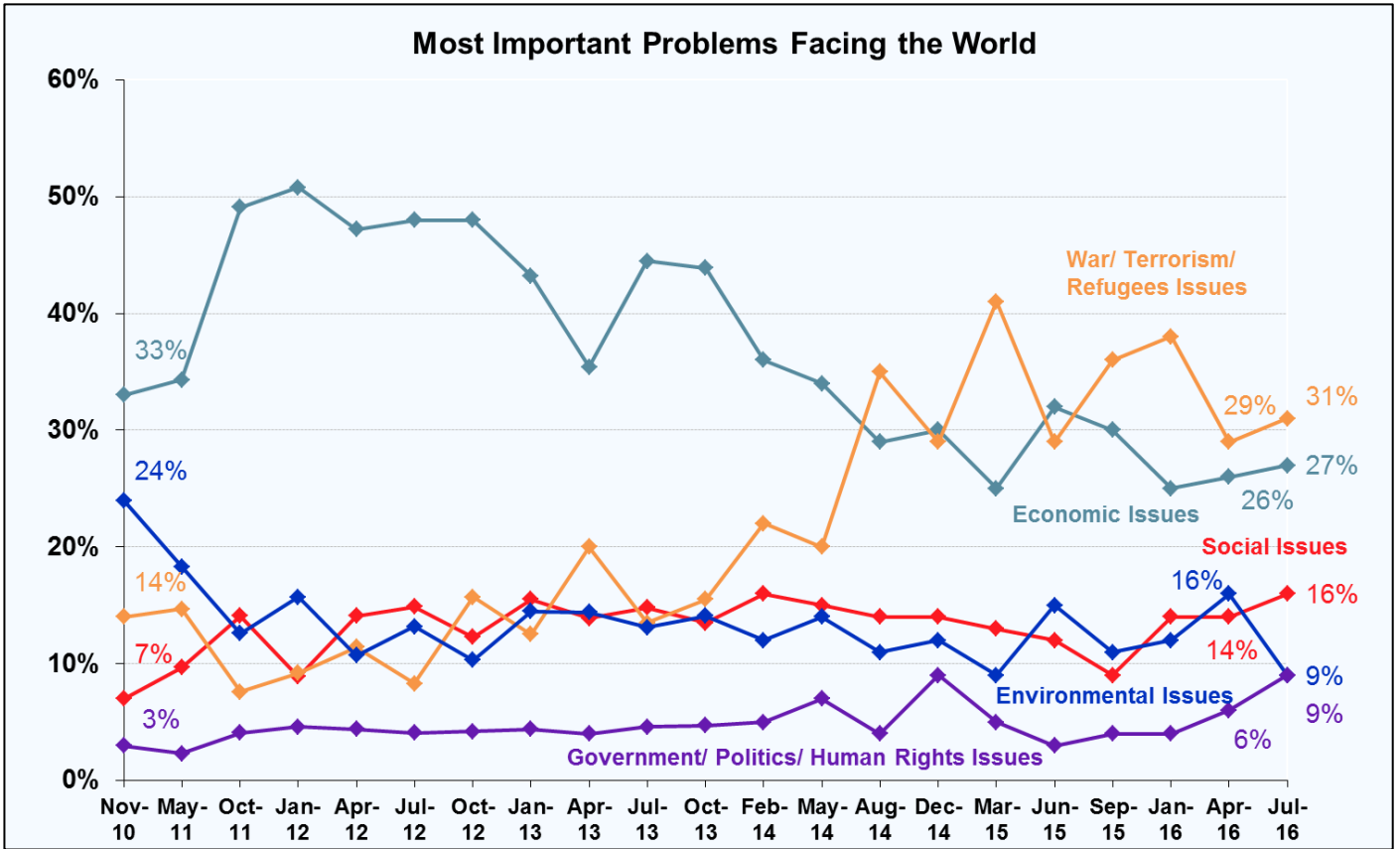
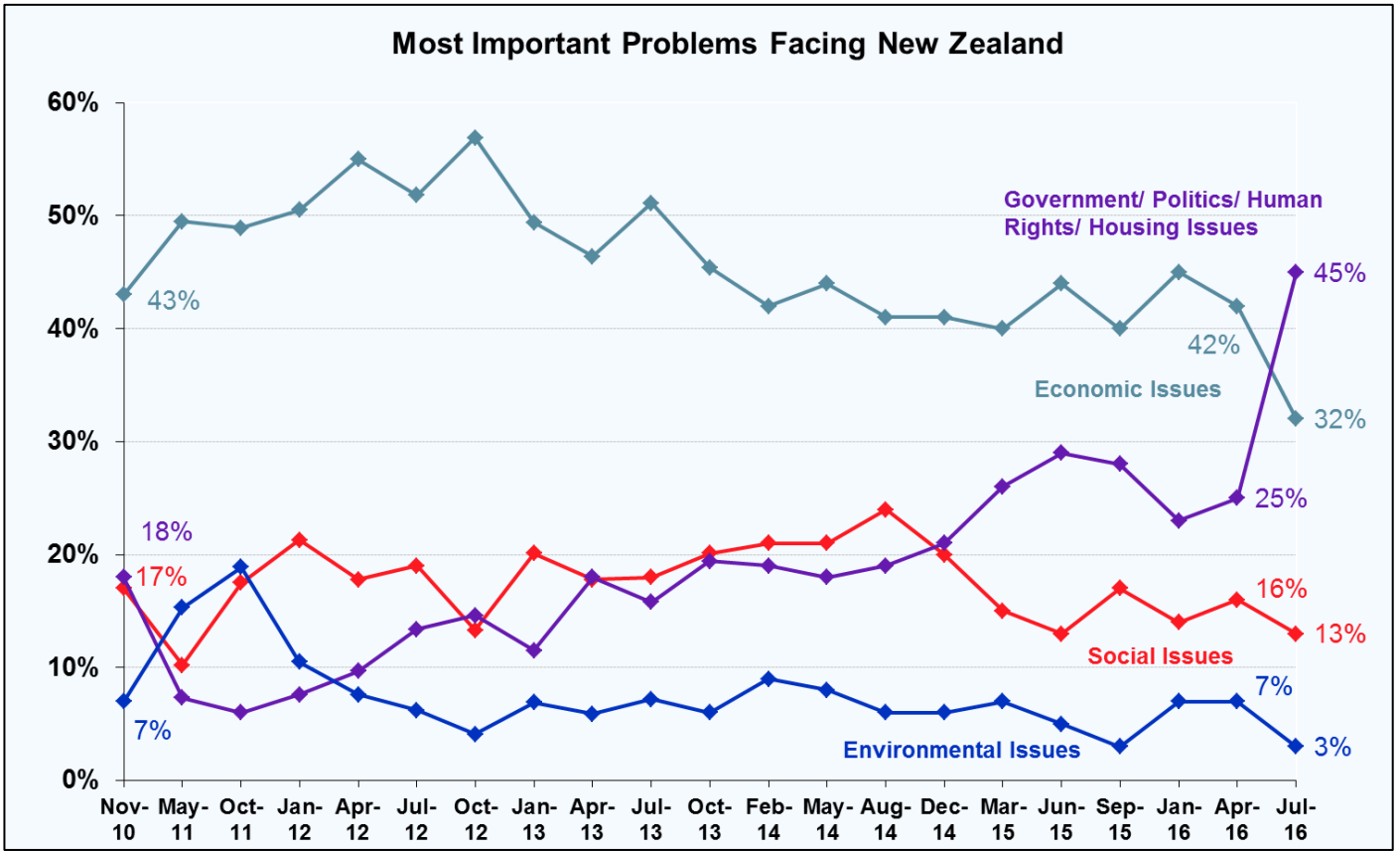
Roy Morgan New Zealand Electorate Profiles

Roy Morgan New Zealand provides the most in-depth analysis of each New Zealand electorate with our New Zealand Electorate profiles. Each electorate profile answers the key questions about the electorate. Who are the electors? What are they thinking? What media do they use? Who are they voting for? What are they doing? View a sample Roy Morgan New Zealand Electorate Profile [here](#).

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



Most Important Problem Facing New Zealand

	New Zealand					
	Mar 2015 %	Jun 2015 %	Sep 2015 %	Jan 2016 %	Apr 2016 %	Jul 2016 %
Increasing house prices/ Housing affordability	7	11	10	7	7	17
Homeless/ Homelessness/ Housing shortage	3	3	*	3	2	12
SUB-TOTAL HOUSING RELATED	10	14	10	10	9	29
Government/ Politicians/ Leadership/ Government Spending	9	8	10	7	9	6
Immigration/ Refugees	1	2	5	4	3	6
Health Issues/ Disease/ Obesity/ Poor Health	2	1	1	1	1	2
Education	2	1	1	1	1	1
Health System/ Shortage of Doctors/ Health Services	1	1	1	1	2	1
Benefits Given to the Maori/ Inequality Between Maori and Other Ethnic Groups	1	1	*	*	1	*
Not enough people/ People leaving New Zealand	*	1	1	-	*	*
TOTAL GOVERNMENT/ PUBLIC POLICY/ HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES	26	29	28	23	25	45
Poverty/ The Gap Between Rich & Poor/ Imbalance of Wealth	18	21	14	22	17	17
Economy/ Financial Crisis/ Recession/ Exchange Rate/ High Dollar	5	10	15	6	4	4
Unemployment/ Job Security	8	5	6	7	7	4
Need to Increase Exports	1	1	*	5	8	2
Cost of Living/ Inflation/ Financial Hardship/ Household Debt	5	4	3	3	4	2
Foreign Ownership/ Selling our Assets	1	1	1	1	*	1
Low Wages	3	1	*	1	1	1
^Christchurch Recovery & Rebuilding	1	*	*	-	*	-
TOTAL ECONOMIC ISSUES	40	44	40	45	42	32
Social Apathy/ Lack of Values/ Lack of Empathy Toward Others/ Intolerance	3	3	3	4	4	4
Child Abuse/ Lack of Care of Children/ Bringing up Children Wrongly	3	3	7	1	2	2
Breakdown of Family Unit/ Family Violence	2	1	1	*	1	1
Crime/ Law & Order	2	1	1	1	3	1
Drugs/ Alcohol Issues/ Drink Driving	1	2	1	1	*	1
Greed/ Materialism	1	1	1	1	1	1
Racism/ Racial Tension	1	1	2	2	2	1
Social Welfare System	1	1	1	1	1	1
Violence/ Gangs	1	*	*	1	*	1
Youth Issues such as Behaviour/ Pregnancies/ Crime/ Drinking/ Drugs/ Lack of Discipline	*	1	1	1	1	*
TOTAL SOCIAL ISSUES	15	13	17	14	16	13
Christchurch Earthquake & Damage	*	-	*	*	-	-
^Christchurch Recovery & Rebuilding	1	*	*	-	*	-
TOTAL CHRISTCHURCH ISSUES	1	*	*	*	*	-
Climate Change/ Global Warming	2	2	1	3	2	2
Environmental Issues/ Degradation	2	2	1	3	3	1
Environmental Pollution/ Water Pollution	2	*	*	1	1	1
(Other) Natural Disasters/ Earthquakes/ Tsunamis/ Floods/ Volcanic Eruptions	1	1	-	*	1	*
TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES (INCLUDING CHRISTCHURCH)	7	5	3	7	7	3
Other	1	*	*	-	-	-
Can't say	11	9	12	11	10	7
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100

*Less than 1%. ^ (Christchurch Recovery & Rebuilding included in both Economic & Environmental Issues).

Most Important Problem Facing the World

	The World					
	Mar	Jun	Sep	Jan	Apr	Jul
	2015	2015	2015	2016	2016	2016
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Terrorism	23	11	8	21	16	16
Wars & Conflicts/ Unrest	12	12	9	9	5	7
Refugee/ Migrant Crisis	n/a	n/a	15	3	4	3
Religion/ Religious Conflict	3	4	3	4	3	3
Peace/ Lack of World Peace	2	2	1	2	1	1
TOTAL WAR & TERRORISM/ SECURITY/ REFUGEE CRISIS ISSUES	41	29	36	38	29	31
Poverty/ The Gap Between Rich & Poor/ Imbalance of Wealth	14	19	15	15	14	14
Economy/ Financial Crisis/ Recession	3	4	6	4	3	5
Cost of Living/ Inflation/ Financial Hardship/ Household Debt	3	3	3	2	2	3
Food Shortages/ Feeding the People	1	2	1	*	1	2
Over-population	2	3	4	3	4	2
Unemployment/ Job Security	2	1	1	1	2	*
TOTAL ECONOMIC ISSUES	25	32	30	25	26	27
Social Apathy/ Lack of Values/ Lack of Empathy Toward Others/ Intolerance	5	5	4	6	7	6
Greed	3	4	3	3	4	3
Violence	2	*	*	2	1	3
Crime/ Law & Order	1	1	1	1	1	1
Lack of Religious or Spiritual Values	1	1	1	1	1	1
Racism/ Racial Tension	1	*	1	1	1	1
Drug/ Alcohol Issues/ Drink Driving	1	1	*	*	*	*
TOTAL SOCIAL ISSUES	13	12	9	14	14	16
Government/ Politicians/ Political Unrest/ Instability/ Greedy & Corrupt Governments	3	2	3	3	5	8
Education	1	*	*	1	*	1
Health Issues/ Disease/ Obesity/ Poor Health	2	1	1	1	2	1
TOTAL GOVERNMENT/ PUBLIC POLICY/ HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES	5	3	4	4	6	9
Climate Change/ Global Warming/ Ozone Layer/ Greenhouse Effect	5	8	7	8	11	6
Environmental Issues/ Changes/ Degradation	2	2	1	1	2	1
Environmental Pollution	1	1	1	1	2	1
Famine/ Hunger/ Starvation	2	3	2	2	2	1
Natural Disasters – Earthquakes/ Tsunamis/ Floods/ Volcanic Eruptions	-	1	*	*	*	-
TOTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	9	15	11	12	16	9
Shortage of Resources/ Consumption of Resources	1	2	1	*	1	1
Water Shortage/ Clean Water	1	1	1	*	1	1
Energy Crisis/ Fuel Shortage/ Need Renewable Energy Sources	1	1	*	*	-	*
TOTAL ENERGY/ RESOURCE ISSUES	2	3	2	1	1	2
Other	1	*	1	-	-	-
Can't say	4	6	7	6	8	6
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100

*Less than 1%.