

Friday, 29 March 2019

Government Confidence rises above 100 pre Federal Budget as more Australians believe the country is going in the right direction than the wrong direction

Roy Morgan's Government Confidence Rating increased by 11pts to 101.5 for the fortnight of March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019 compared to a month ago with 41.5% (up 4.5%) of electors now saying Australia is now heading in the 'right direction' and 40% (down 6.5%) saying Australia is heading in the 'wrong direction'.

Government Confidence is now in positive territory for the first time since Scott Morrison became Prime Minister in August 2018 as the Government prepares to deliver it's pre-election Federal Budget next Tuesday.

Driving the increase over the past month are strong increases in Government Confidence amongst a number of key demographics including L-NP supporters and supporters of Independents/Others, electors in Country Areas, electors in the States of Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania, electors aged between 50-64 years old and electors of both genders.

Government Confidence jumps for L-NP supporters and supporters of Independent/Others

Government Confidence has jumped for L-NP supporters over the past month increasing by a significant 16.5pts to 126.5 with more than half of L-NP supporters 54.5% (up 6.5%) now saying Australia is heading in the 'right direction' and only 28% (down 10%) now saying Australia is heading in the 'wrong direction'.

ALP supporters are also more confident about the country than a month ago with a Government Confidence of 98, up 4pts on late February. Now 40% (up 1.5%) of ALP supporters say Australia is heading in the 'right direction' while 42% (down 2.5%) say Australia is heading in the 'wrong direction'.

Supporters of the Greens have also seen an increase in Government Confidence from a month ago although the rating remains well into negative territory for their supporters at 83, an increase of 8pts on a month ago. Now 30% (up 2.5%) of Greens supporters say Australia is heading in the 'right direction' and 47% (down 5.5%) say Australia is heading in the 'wrong direction'.

Although this group still has a largely negative view of Government Confidence there has been a significant jump over the past month up by 13.5pts to 66.5. Now 24.5% (up 5%) of supporters of Independents/Others (such as One Nation, Katter Party, Centre Alliance, United Australia Party and others) say Australia is heading in the 'right direction' while 58% (down 8.5%) say Australia is heading in the 'wrong direction'.

Government Confidence up strongly in regional Australia and also up in metro areas

Australians in Country Areas are feeling more confident about the direction of the country than a month ago although overall Government Confidence remains negative for Country folk at 92.5, up by 14.5pts on a month ago. Now 38% (up 6.5%) of electors in Country Areas say Australia is going in the 'right direction' compared to 45.5% (down 8%) that say Australia is going in the 'wrong direction'.

Government Confidence has also increased for Australians in Capital Cities and is now in positive territory at 106, up by 7.5pts from a month ago. Now 43% (up 2.5%) of Australians in Capital Cities say Australia is heading in the 'right direction' and 37% (down 5%) now say Australia is heading in the 'wrong direction'.

Government Confidence up strongly for both women and men

Government Confidence has increased strongly for both genders with Women's Government Confidence up 10pts to 93.5 with 38% (up 5.5%) now saying Australia is heading in the 'right direction' and 44.5% (down 4.5%) now saying Australia is heading in the 'wrong direction'.

However, this is still well behind Government Confidence for men which is now well into positive territory at 109.5, up 11pts from a month ago. Now 45% (up 3%) of men say Australia is heading in the 'right direction' and only 35.5% (down 8%) say Australia is heading in the 'wrong direction'.

Government Confidence up for all age groups but up the most for 50-64 year olds

Government Confidence increased strongly for Australians aged 50-64 years old over the past month up by 18.5pts to 95.5. Now 41% (up 8%) of 50-64 year olds say Australia is heading in the 'right direction' and 45.5% (down 10.5%) say Australia is heading in the 'wrong direction'.

However, despite the big increase for 50-64 year olds, Government Confidence remains highest for younger Australians and highest of all for 18-34 year olds at 110.5, up by 3.5pts from a month ago. Now 45% (up 3%) of 18-34 year olds say Australia is heading in the 'right direction' and 34.5% (down 0.5%) say Australia is heading in the 'wrong direction'.

Australians aged 35-49 years old are close behind their younger counterparts and now have a positive Government Confidence of 106, up by 8.5pts from a month ago. Now 42% (up 2%) of Australians aged 35-49 years old say Australia is heading in the 'right direction' and 36% (down 6.5%) say Australia is heading in the 'wrong direction'.

Older Australians aged 65+ years old are also more positive than a month ago and their Government Confidence is up 7.5pts to 92. Now 37% (up 2.5%) of Australians aged 65+ years old say Australia is heading in the 'right direction' and 45% (down 5%) say Australia is heading in the 'wrong direction'.

Michele Levine, CEO, Roy Morgan says, the increase in Government Confidence over the past month is a good sign for the Morrison Government as it prepares to deliver a Federal Budget on Tuesday designed to bolster its chances of re-election:

"Roy Morgan Government Confidence has increased into positive territory over the past month, up by 11pts to 101.5 for the last two weekends of March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019. This is the first time the leading indicator has been above the neutral level of 100 since Scott Morrison became Prime Minister in late August 2018.

"The increases were broad based with strong increases for L-NP supporters up 16.5pts to 126.5, supporters of Independents/Others up 13.5pts to a still low 66.5, for Australians in Country Areas an increase of 14.5pts to 92.5 and for Australians aged 50-64 years old an increase of 18.5pts to 95.5.

"There were strong increases in Government Confidence for both genders with women's Government Confidence increasing 10pts to 93.5 and men's Government Confidence up 11pts to 109.5.

"Analysing the geographic spread of the increase revealed the strongest increases were in Queensland, up 21pts to 102, in Victoria in which Government Confidence increased 12pts to 103 and Tasmania in which Government Confidence increased 28.5pts to 101.

"There was little change in New South Wales although this poll was taken during the last week of the New South Wales Election campaign with significant uncertainty about who would form the State Government following the election.

"The increasing Government Confidence on the eve of a Federal Budget expected to deliver a surplus for the first time in over a decade may reflect anticipation of several stimulatory measures expected in the Budget. Stimulatory measures are likely to include taxation reform including income tax cuts and increased spending on infrastructure and essential services such as health and education.

"As we noted a month ago it is vital for Government Confidence to be moving in the right direction and above the neutral level if the Morrison Government is to have any chance of re-election. The final [Morgan Poll prior to the 2016 Federal Election](#) showed Government Confidence at just above neutral at 102pts. At that election the Turnbull Government lost 14 seats to win with a majority of only 1 seat."

Electors were asked: *"Generally speaking, do you feel that things in Australia are heading in the right direction or would you say things are seriously heading in the wrong direction?"*

Finding No. 7931 – This Roy Morgan Poll on Roy Morgan Government Confidence was conducted via face-to-face interviewing during the month of March. Roy Morgan interviewed 1,549 Australian electors aged 18+ on the weekends of March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019. Visit the Roy Morgan Online Store to browse our range of [Voter Profiles](#) by electorate, detailed [Voting Intention Demographics Reports](#) and [Most important Political Issue Reports](#) (all 151 electorates ranked by an issue).

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Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating

Electors	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Government Confidence Rating	Can't say	Total
	%	%	GCR	%	%
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	37	46.5	90.5	16.5	100
March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	41.5	40	101.5	18.5	100
Change	+4.5	-6.5	+11pts	+2	

Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating – by Federal Voting Intention

Voting Intention	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Government Confidence Rating	Can't say	Total
	%	%	GCR	%	%
L-NP					
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	48	38	110	14	100
March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	54.5	28	126.5	17.5	100
Change	+6.5	-10	+16.5pts	+3.5	
ALP					
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	38.5	44.5	94	17	100
March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	40	42	98	18	100
Change	+1.5	-2.5	+4pts	+1	
Greens					
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	27.5	52.5	75	20	100
March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	30	47	83	23	100
Change	+2.5	-5.5	+8pts	+3	
Independents/Others					
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	19.5	66.5	53	14	100
March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	24.5	58	66.5	17.5	100
Change	+5	-8.5	+13.5pts	-3	
Can't say					
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	29	40	89	31	100
March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	42.5	37	105.5	20.5	100
Change	+13.5	-3	+16.5	+5	

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Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating – by Region

Region	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Government Confidence Rating	Can't say	Total
	%	%	GCR	%	%
Capital Cities					
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	40.5	42	98.5	17.5	100
March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	43	37	106	20	100
Change	+2.5	-5	+7.5pts	+2.5	
Country Areas					
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	31.5	53.5	78	14.5	100
March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	38	45.5	92.5	16.5	100
Change	+6.5	-8	+14.5pts	+2	

Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating – by State

State	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Government Confidence Rating	Can't say	Total
	%	%	GCR	%	%
NSW					
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	40	43.5	96.5	16.5	100
March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019*	37.5	37.5	100	25	100
Change	-2.5	-6	+3.5pts	+8.5	
Victoria					
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	37.5	46.5	91	16	100
March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	44	41	103	15	100
Change	+6.5	-5.5	+12pts	-1	
Queensland					
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	30.5	49.5	81	20	100
March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	41.5	39.5	102	19	100
Change	+11	-10	+21pts	-1	
WA					
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	43.5	46	97.5	10.5	100
March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	49.5	41	108.5	9.5	100
Change	+6	-5	+11pts	-1	
SA					
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	39	44	95	17	100
March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	35	47.5	87.5	17.5	100
Change	-4	+3.5	-7.5pts	+0.5	
Tasmania					
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	25.5	53	72.5	21.5	100
March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	47	46	101	7	100
Change	+21.5	-7	+28.5pts	-14.5	

*The high 'Don't know' in New South Wales is likely due to the NSW State Election held on Saturday March 24, 2019.

Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating – by Gender

Gender	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Government Confidence Rating	Can't say	Total
	%	%	GCR	%	%
Women					
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	32.5	49	83.5	18.5	100
March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	38	44.5	93.5	17.5	100
Change	+5.5	-4.5	+10pts	-1	
Men					
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	42	43.5	98.5	14.5	100
March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	45	35.5	109.5	19.5	100
Change	+3	-8	+11pts	+5	

Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating – by Age

Age	Right Direction	Wrong Direction	Government Confidence Rating	Can't say	Total
	%	%	GCR	%	%
18-34					
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	42	35	107	23	100
March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	45	34.5	110.5	20.5	100
Change	+3	-0.5	+3.5pts	-2.5	
35-49					
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	40	42.5	97.5	17.5	100
March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	42	36	106	22	100
Change	+2	-6.5	+8.5pts	+4.5	
50-64					
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	33	56	77	11	100
March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	41	45.5	95.5	13.5	100
Change	+8	-10.5	+18.5pts	+2.5	
65+					
February 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	34.5	50	84.5	15.5	100
March 16/17 & 23/24, 2019	37	45	92	18	100
Change	+2.5	-5	+7.5pts	+2.5	

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
2,000	±2.2	±1.9	±1.3	±1.0

Morgan Poll Accuracy — Recent Elections State & Federal (2006 – 2015)

The Morgan Poll has proven to be consistently the most accurate regular poll in recent Australian Elections — including the 2013 Federal Election, 2010 Federal Election, 2007 Federal Election, 2010 Victorian State Election & 2012 Queensland State Election.

The Morgan Poll was the most accurate of all polling companies at [the 2013 Federal Election](#) for the two-party preferred vote (L-NP: 53.5% cf. ALP 46.5%) (sample 4,937 electors).

The Morgan Poll was the most accurate of all polling companies at [the 2007 Federal Election](#) for both primary vote and two-party preferred predictions (sample 2,115 electors).

The Morgan Poll accurately predicted [that the ALP would win the 2006 Queensland Election with a reduced majority](#) (sample 604 electors).

The Morgan Poll accurately predicted [that the ALP would win the 2006 Victorian Election with a reduced majority](#) (sample 956 electors). The Morgan Poll was also the most accurate on the primary vote of the major parties for the Victorian election.

Note: The [discussion on Possum Pollytics](#) regarding Morgan and Newspoll is well worth reading.

The following included comment says it all: “I find it interesting that for the only poll in the last five years for which there is any ‘real’ figure with which to compare, i.e. the polls immediately before the 2004 election, Morgan (45.5%) was closer to the actual Coalition Primary (46.7%) than Newspoll (45%) or Nielsen (49%), and Morgan (38.5%) was also closer to the ALP actual primary (37.6%) than Newspoll (39%), and only marginally further away than Nielsen (37%). Since we have no idea of how far away the ongoing polls are from ‘reality’ (whatever that means), surely we should just go with what we know, that in the most recent testable case, Morgan was better at forecasting the actual primary vote than Newspoll. On what possible basis should we decide that the Newspoll or Nielsen primary vote estimate is ‘better’ than Morgan’s.”

[View Federal Voting Intention Trend](#)