

Thursday, 10 April 2014

## Employed Australians think ‘finding a new job’ is the hardest since 1992 recession while clear majority (61%) think unemployment will rise in the next 12 months

### Finding a new job

In Australia, 49% (up 6% – **the highest since 1992 and Australia’s last recession**) of employed Australians say it might take longer to find a new job if they were to become unemployed compared to 44% (down 7% from February 2012 – **the lowest since 1992**) of workers that say if they became unemployed they’d be able to find a new job fairly quickly while 4% (up 1%) wouldn’t look and 3% (unchanged) don’t know.

### Unemployment to increase / decrease

Now 61% (up 12% since February 2012) of Australians expect unemployment to increase in the next 12 months while 17% (down 5% – **the lowest since 2007**) say that unemployment will fall, 18% (down 7%) say unemployment will remain the same and 4% (unchanged) don’t know according to a special telephone Morgan Poll conducted over the last two nights, April 8/9, 2014.

### Job security

A decreasing majority of employed Australians (74%, down 6% since February 2012 – **the lowest since 1999**) say their present job is safe, while 22% (up 5% – **the highest since 2001**) say there is a chance they may become unemployed and only 4% (up 1%) don’t know.

### Gary Morgan says:

*“Today’s special Morgan Poll shows only 44% (down 7% since February 2012) of employed Australians think if they were to become unemployed they’d be able to find a new job fairly quickly – the lowest since November 1992 when Australia was just emerging from the last recession. Now more employed Australians (49%, up 6%) say it may take longer to find a new job – the highest since November 1992.*

*“In addition a clear majority of Australians (61%, up 12%) expect unemployment to increase over the next 12 months compared to only 17% (down 5%) that expect unemployment to fall. The rise in this index is not surprising given the high number of prominent job losses announced in recent months by companies including Qantas, Toyota, Holden, Alcoa, Telstra, IBM, Phillip Morris, Shell and others.*

*“When it comes to how secure employed Australians feel in their jobs, there is still a great majority who feel their present job is safe (74%, down 6%). Even so, this is the lowest majority for 15 years since November 1999. Now a high 22% (up 5%) feel there is a chance they may become unemployed – the highest figure since November 1999.*

*“These figures strongly suggest that the ABS – which today announced [Australian unemployment at 5.8% \(down 0.3%\)](#) – massively understates Australia’s real unemployment. The more accurate [Roy Morgan March unemployment figure \(11.6%\)](#) provides a truer picture of the state of the Australian labour market. The understatement of unemployment by the ABS creates its own problems. Government policies and RBA decisions **must be based on the real level of unemployment and underemployment in Australia** not based on the **clearly wrong artificially low ABS figure**. Tragically for unemployed Australians, by relying on the inaccurate ABS figure the Reserve Bank of Australia justifies keeping Australian interest rates amongst the highest in the developed world.”*

These findings come from a Morgan Poll conducted over the last two nights, April 8-9, 2014 with an Australia-wide cross-section of 562 men and women aged 14 or over on attitudes towards employment in the coming 12 months.

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## Unemployment

Respondents were first asked: "In the next 12 months, do you expect the number of unemployed in Australia to increase a lot, to increase slightly, remain the same, fall slightly, or fall a lot?"

Well over half (61%, up 12% since February 2012) of Australians expect unemployment to increase in the next 12 months. 17% (down 5%) expect unemployment to fall, while 18% (down 7%) believe there will be no change and (4%, unchanged) don't know.

<u>Expect Unemployment to...</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Fall</u>	<u>No change</u>	<u>Don't know*</u>
Year	%	%	%	%
1975	64	21	15	*
1976	60	19	21	*
1977	64	20	16	*
1978	73	10	17	*
1979	69	10	21	*
1980	67	11	22	*
Dec '82	88	5	7	*
Oct '83	54	23	23	*
Nov '84	44	30	26	*
Nov '85	49	27	24	*
Nov '86	63	13	24	*
Dec '87	59	16	25	*
Nov '88	48	22	30	*
Nov '89	50	18	32	*
Nov '90	81	10	9	*
Aug '91	65	17	18	*
Nov '91	62	22	16	*
Jul '92	54	24	22	*
Nov '92	55	22	23	*
Nov '93	44	27	29	*
Nov '94	32	42	26	*
Nov '95	49	23	28	*
Jul '97	47	25	28	*
Nov '97	45	26	29	*
Nov '98	53	20	27	*
Nov '99	38	29	33	*
Dec '00	50	20	30	*
Dec '01	60	16	24	*
Dec '02	44	19	37	*
Dec '03	39	22	39	*
Dec '04	36	24	40	*
Nov '05	40	21	39	*
Nov '06	40	24	32	4
Oct '07	26	17	47	10
Nov '08	70	20	8	2
Jun '09	70	18	11	1
Nov '09	52	24	22	2
Feb '12	49	22	25	4
Apr '14	61	17	18	4

\*"Don't know" result included in "No change" Australia 1975-2005.

## Job Security in Australia

Those respondents who work full-time or part-time were then asked: "Do you think your present job is safe, or do you think there's a chance you may become unemployed?"

Three quarters of Australians (74%, down 6% since February 2012) who work full or part-time say their present job is safe, while 22% (up 5%) say there is a chance they may become unemployed and 4% (up 1%) don't know.

<u>Job Security</u>	<u>Present job safe</u>	<u>Chance of unemployment</u>	<u>Don't know</u>
Year	%	%	%
1975	76	21	3
1976	78	17	5
1977	82	15	3
1978	79	19	2
1979	77	20	3
1980	73	23	4
Dec '82	72	25	3
Oct '83	79	18	3
Nov '84	82	17	1
Nov '85	79	18	3
Nov '86	80	17	3
Dec '87	80	18	2
Nov '88	81	18	1
Nov '89	82	17	1
Nov '90	70	28	2
Aug '91	70	28	2
Nov '91	69	27	4
Jul '92	69	29	2
Nov '92	65	32	3
Nov '93	73	25	2
Nov '94	74	22	4
Nov '95	74	23	3
Jul '97	73	24	3
Nov '97	77	21	2
Nov '98	81	16	3
Nov '99	74	25	1
Dec '00	75	20	5
Dec '01	75	22	3
Dec '02	79	20	1
Dec '03	78	20	2
Dec '04	79	19	2
Nov '05	83	15	2
Nov '06	81	17	2
Oct '07	80	18	2
Nov '08	80	18	2
Jun '09	77	21	2
Nov '09	82	16	2
Feb '12	80	17	3
Apr '14	74	22	4

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## Finding a New Job If Unemployed

Full-time and part-time workers were then asked: *“If you became unemployed, do you think you'd be able to find a new job fairly quickly – or do you think it might take longer?”*

In Australia, 44% (down 7% since February 2012) of workers say that if they were to become unemployed they'd be able to find a new job fairly quickly. 49% (up 6%) say it might take longer to find a new job, 4% (up 1%) wouldn't look and 3% (unchanged) don't know.

<u>Finding a New Job if Unemployed</u>	<u>New job found quickly</u>	<u>May take longer</u>	<u>Wouldn't look</u>	<u>Don't know*</u>
Year	%	%	%	%
1975	57	33	10	*
1976	57	33	10	*
1977	55	35	10	*
1978	50	41	9	*
1979	54	36	10	*
1980	50	39	11	*
Dec '82	44	46	10	*
Oct '83	51	41	8	*
Nov '84	61	33	6	*
Nov '85	58	34	8	*
Nov '86	61	30	9	*
Dec '87	65	30	5	*
Nov '88	69	26	5	*
Nov '89	68	26	6	*
Nov '90	49	45	6	*
Aug '91	39	53	8	*
Nov '91	39	53	8	*
Jul '92	38	53	9	*
Nov '92	39	54	7	*
Nov '93	50	43	7	*
Nov '94	60	33	7	*
Nov '95	58	32	10	*
Jul '97	52	42	6	*
Nov '97	58	36	6	*
Nov '98	55	38	7	*
Nov '99	63	30	7	*
Dec '00	59	33	8	*
Dec '01	54	39	7	*
Dec '02	66	29	5	*
Dec '03	64	33	3	*
Dec '04	67	28	5	*
Nov '05	62	34	4	*
Nov '06	63	32	5	*
Oct '07	72	21	4	3
Nov '08	63	34	2	1
Jun '09	57	36	4	3
Nov '09	54	39	3	4
Feb '12	51	43	3	3
Apr '14	44	49	4	3

\*“Don't know” result included in “No change” Australia 1975-2005.

## 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%
500	±4.5	±3.9	±2.7	±1.9
1,000	±3.2	±2.7	±1.9	±1.4

## Morgan Poll Accuracy — Recent Elections State & Federal (2006 – 2013)

**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.”

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