

Monday, 20 December 2021

## Only 37% of Australians expect 2022 will be 'better' than 2021 – down 22% points on a year ago

A special Roy Morgan web survey taken in late November shows only 37% of Australians think 2022 will be 'better' than 2021, down a large 22% points from when the same question was asked a year ago in late 2020.

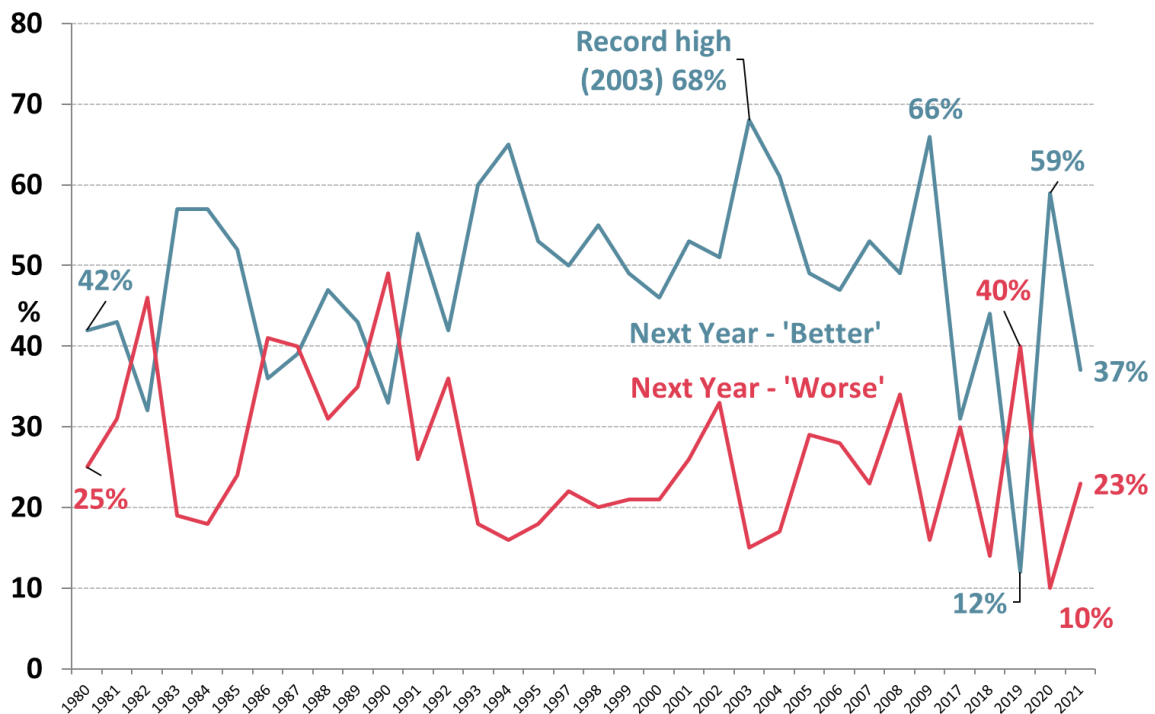
However, fewer than a quarter of Australians, 23%, think 2022 will be 'worse' than 2021, although this is up 13% points on a year ago. Nearly a third of Australians are hedging their bets on next year with 31% (up 14% points on a year ago) who say 2022 will be 'the same' and 9% (down 5% points) don't know.

Analysing by State shows people in Victoria (46%) and New South Wales (44%) are easily the most positive about the new year with clear pluralities in both States expecting 2022 will be 'better' than 2021.

However, this optimism is not as widespread in other States with only 29% of people in Queensland, 24% of people in Western Australia, 22% of people in South Australia and 20% of people in Tasmania who say 2022 will be 'better' than 2021. In three States, Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania, more people say 2022 will be 'worse' than 2021.

This special Roy Morgan web survey was conducted in late November with a cross-section of 1,184 Australians aged 18+.

### Do you think next year will be 'Better' or 'Worse' – long-term trend (1980-2021)



**Source:** Roy Morgan telephone, SMS and web surveys in Australia 1980-2020 with an average of 1,000 Australians aged 18+ interviewed each year. **Question:** "As far as you are concerned, do you think that 2022 will be better, worse, or the same as 2021?"





**Michele Levine, Chief Executive Officer, Roy Morgan, says the emergence of the highly infectious 'Omicron variant' in recent weeks has unfortunately put paid to hopes that 2022 would be the year Australians returned to a pre-pandemic sense of 'normality':**

*"Australians are set to enter 2022 in a mixed state-of-mind with new outbreaks of COVID-19 spreading rapidly in New South Wales and Victoria over the last week as restrictions have been eased in both States in the run-up to Christmas.*

*"A bare plurality of 37% of Australians say 2022 will be 'better' than 2021, down 22% points from a year ago. Just under a quarter of Australians, 23% (up 13% points), expect 2022 will be 'worse' than 2021 while just under a third, 31%, say it will be 'the same' and only 9% don't know.*

*"The numbers are less encouraging than a year ago as Australia enjoyed a relatively COVID-free summer in 2020/21 and with new vaccines set to arrive from February 2021 it appeared the COVID-19 pandemic might soon be over. That hope proved not to be the case with extended lockdowns this year in New South Wales, Victoria and the ACT.*

*"Perhaps unsurprisingly, these States are the most positive about 2022 being 'better' than 2021 and nearly half of the people in Victoria (46%) and New South Wales (44%) say next year will be 'better' than this year. However, in the four smaller States there are more people inclined to say next year will be 'worse' than this year – especially in South Australia and Tasmania which have been largely COVID-free throughout the pandemic.*

*"There are considerable uncertainties about the economic outlook for next year with [Inflation Expectations now at a seven-year high of 4.9% in November](#). The threat of inflation looms over 2022 as supply chain issues, as well as strong demand worldwide as we – hopefully – emerge from the pandemic put upward pressure on prices. In Australia there is also the added uncertainty of a Federal Election with campaigning set to dominate the first half of next year and the country's first 'Hung Parliament' for a decade remains a clear possibility.*

*"One of the most interesting aspects of the research is the breakdown by age. The most positive Australians are the oldest with a majority of 52% of people aged 65+ saying they expect 2022 will be 'better' than 2021. This compares to 42% of those aged 18-24 and only around a third of people in the middle: 25-34 (29%), 35-49 (33%) and 50-64 (31%).*

*"Older Australians are the most heavily vaccinated cohort and perhaps this helps underlie their confidence about the year ahead, however the new outbreaks of COVID-19 in NSW, Victoria and elsewhere suggest they may also have the most to worry about.*

*"To deal with these new outbreaks Australians are being advised to book in a 'booster shot' five months after receiving their second dose. Already over 1 million Australians have now received their first 'booster shot' which will significantly restore their immunity levels.*

*"During the past two years the only 'certainty' we have had during the pandemic has been dealing with uncertainty. Unfortunately for those who believed that achieving a high vaccination rate of over 90% of the population would lead to a return to normality as we knew it pre-pandemic, the last few weeks with the emergence of the 'Omicron variant' shows there will still be a large degree of uncertainty going forward into 2022."*

Finding No. 8884– This special Roy Morgan web survey was conducted with a representative cross-section of 1,184 Australians on November 25 – 28, 2021. They were asked "Do you think that 2022 will be better, worse, or the same as 2021?"

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## Next Year – Better or Worse? (Australia)

“As far as you are concerned, do you think that 2022 will be better, worse, or the same as 2021?”

	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Better	42	43	32	57	57	52	36	39	47	43	33	54
Same	33	26	22	24	25	24	23	21	22	22	18	20
Worse	25	31	46	19	18	24	41	40	31	35	49	26
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996*	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Better	42	60	65	53	n/a	50	55	49	46	53	51	68
Same	22	22	19	29	n/a	28	25	30	33	21	16	17
Worse	36	18	16	18	n/a	22	20	21	21	26	33	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Better	61	49	47	53	49	66	31	44	12	59	37
Same	22	22	25	24	17	18	39	32	41	17	31
Worse	17	29	28	23	34	16	30	14	40	10	23
Don't know	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	7	14	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

\*This survey wasn't conducted in 1996 and from 2010-2016.

### About Roy Morgan

Roy Morgan is the largest independent Australian research company, with offices in each state of Australia, as well as in the United States and the United Kingdom. A full-service research organisation specialising in omnibus and syndicated data, Roy Morgan has over 80 years' experience in collecting objective, independent information on consumers.

### 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. Margin of error 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. 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
50,000	±0.4	±0.4	±0.3	±0.2