

Measuring Public Opinion for over 75 Years

Monday, 5 July 2021

Is the COVID-19 ‘honeymoon’ over for PM Jacinda Ardern?

Support for New Zealand’s Labour/Greens government dropped 5% points to 51% in June – the lowest for the Government since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Support for the Labour Party was down 6.5% points to 38.5% while support for the Greens was up 1.5% points to 12.5%.

The governing parties are now just 7.5% points ahead of the Parliamentary opposition National/Act NZ/ Maori Party on 43.5%, up 4.5% points since May. Support for National was up 1% point to 29.5% in June and support for Act NZ was up 2.5% points to a record high of 11.5%. Support for the Maori Party support increased by 1% point to 2.5%.

A small minority of 5.5% of electors support other minor parties outside Parliament with support for NZ First down 0.5% points to 1.5% and The Opportunities Party (TOP) up 0.5% points to 2% in June.

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 951 electors during June. Electors were asked: “If a New Zealand Election were held today which party would receive your party vote?” Of all electors surveyed there were 4.5% (up 0.5% points) who didn’t name a party.

New Zealand Government Confidence Rating drops 10pts to pandemic low of 124 in June

The Roy Morgan Government Confidence Rating dropped by 10pts in June to 124 – the lowest it has been since October 2019 prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In June a reduced majority of 57% (down 5.5% points) of New Zealand electors said New Zealand was ‘heading in the right direction’ compared to nearly a third, 33% (up 4.5% points) who said New Zealand was ‘heading in the wrong direction’ – the highest figure for this indicator since Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern came to power in October 2017.

The latest monthly [ANZ-Roy Morgan Consumer Confidence Rating was virtually unchanged in June](#) at 114.1, up 0.1pts from May (114.0) and is now just above the corresponding [Consumer Confidence figure in Australia of 112.2 on June 26/27, 2021](#).

Michele Levine, CEO Roy Morgan, says Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern’s long COVID-19 ‘honeymoon’ appears to be ending as Government Confidence is down and support for the Labour-led Government is at its lowest since October 2017:

“Today’s Roy Morgan New Zealand Poll shows the Labour-led Government has the support of 51% of New Zealand electors with support for the Labour Party at 38.5% and a further 12.5% supporting the Greens.

“Support for the Government is down 5% points on May 2021 and represents the lowest support for the Labour-led Government since coming to power in October 2017 and the lowest support for Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern’s Labour Party since December 2019.

“The latest results appear to show the long COVID ‘honeymoon’ enjoyed by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern for her excellent handling of the pandemic since March 2020 has finally ended. In addition, Roy Morgan Government Confidence has dropped 10pts to 124 in June – its lowest mark since the beginning of the pandemic.

“The slow pace of New Zealand’s vaccine rollout may be hitting confidence in the Government. By the end of June around [1.15 million doses of COVID-19](#) had been administered and around 9% of the population have been fully vaccinated – well below countries such as the UK and the USA which have fully vaccinated about 50% of their citizens.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“One of the favourable comparisons to be made is to near-neighbours Australia which has fully vaccinated only around 5% of its population. The consequence of the slow vaccination rate in Australia is on display now with small outbreaks of the ‘Delta strain’ of COVID-19 causing nearly half of the Australian population to be placed into new lockdowns.

“Support for the Opposition Parties in Parliament has increased to 43.5% (up 4.5% points) with National on 29.5% (up 1% point), the Maori Party on 2.5% (up 1% point) and Act NZ on 11.5% (up 2.5% points) – and at a new record high for the right-leaning libertarian party.

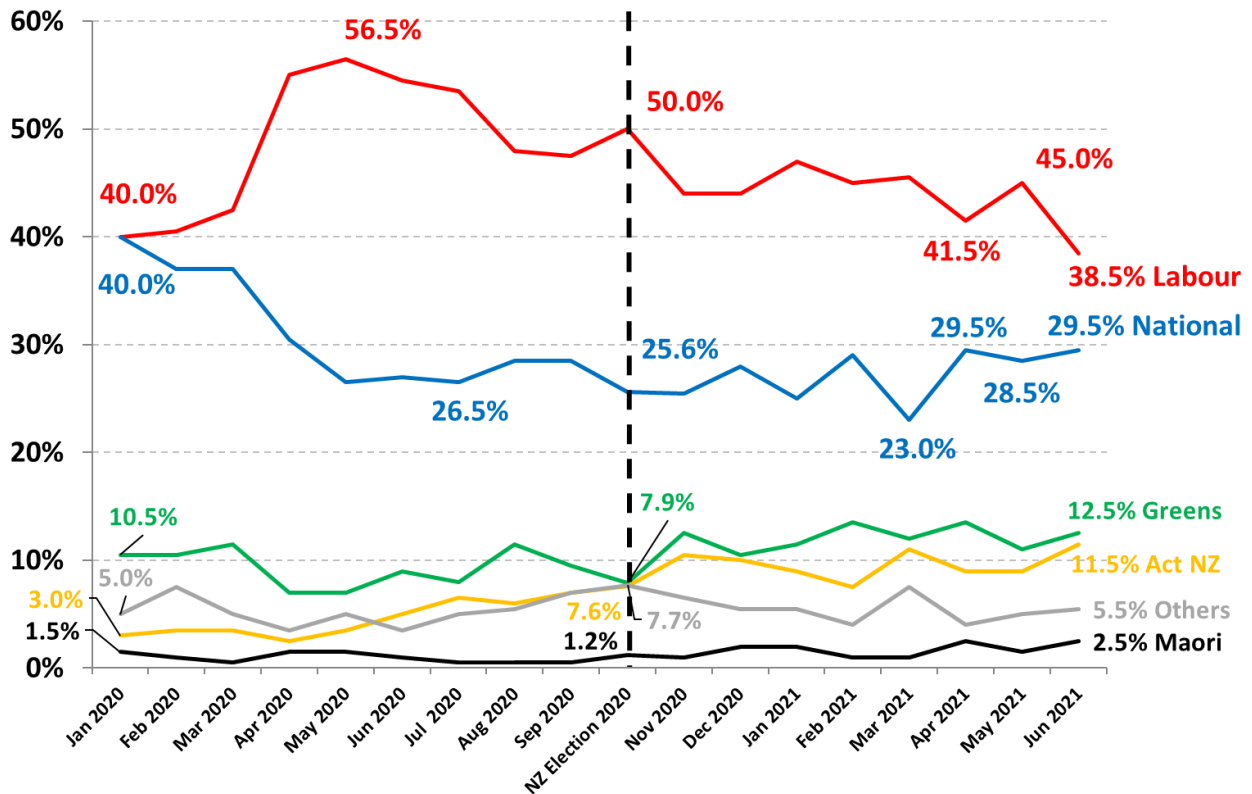
“The Labour-led Government’s lead over the Opposition is now 7.5% points, the narrowest gap between the two since Prime Minister Ardern’s election in 2017. The tightening race gives new hope for Opposition Leader Judith Collins that as the focus shifts beyond the initial response to COVID-19 the public are increasingly willing to listen to National’s policies.

“One factor that is in the Opposition’s favour is the economic performance of New Zealand compared to Australia. Over the year to March 2021 the [New Zealand economy’s GDP shrank by 2.3%](#) while in [Australia there was an increase to GDP of 1.1% compared to a year earlier](#) despite the bigger impact from the pandemic.”

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:

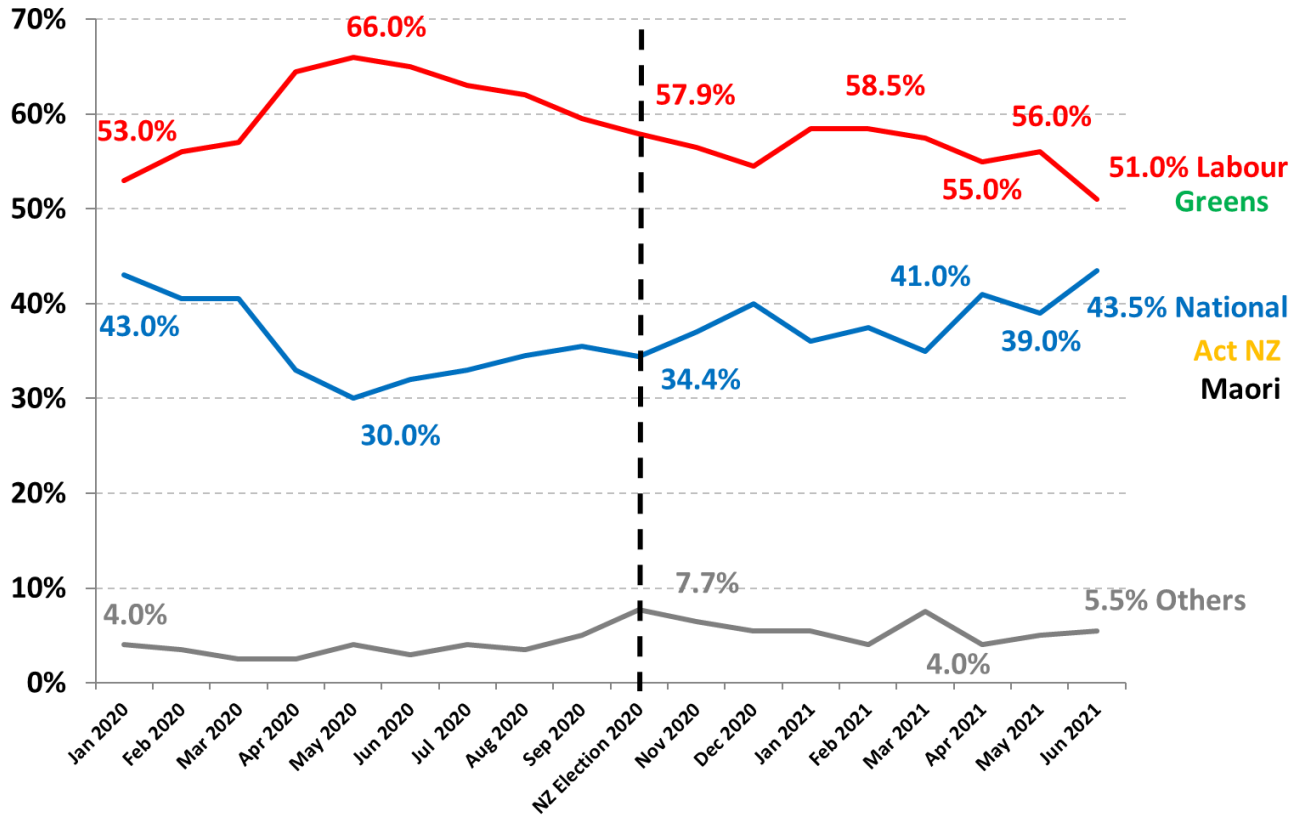
Roy Morgan Enquiries
 Office: +61 (3) 9224 5309
askroymorgan@roymorgan.com

New Zealand Party Vote: 2020-21



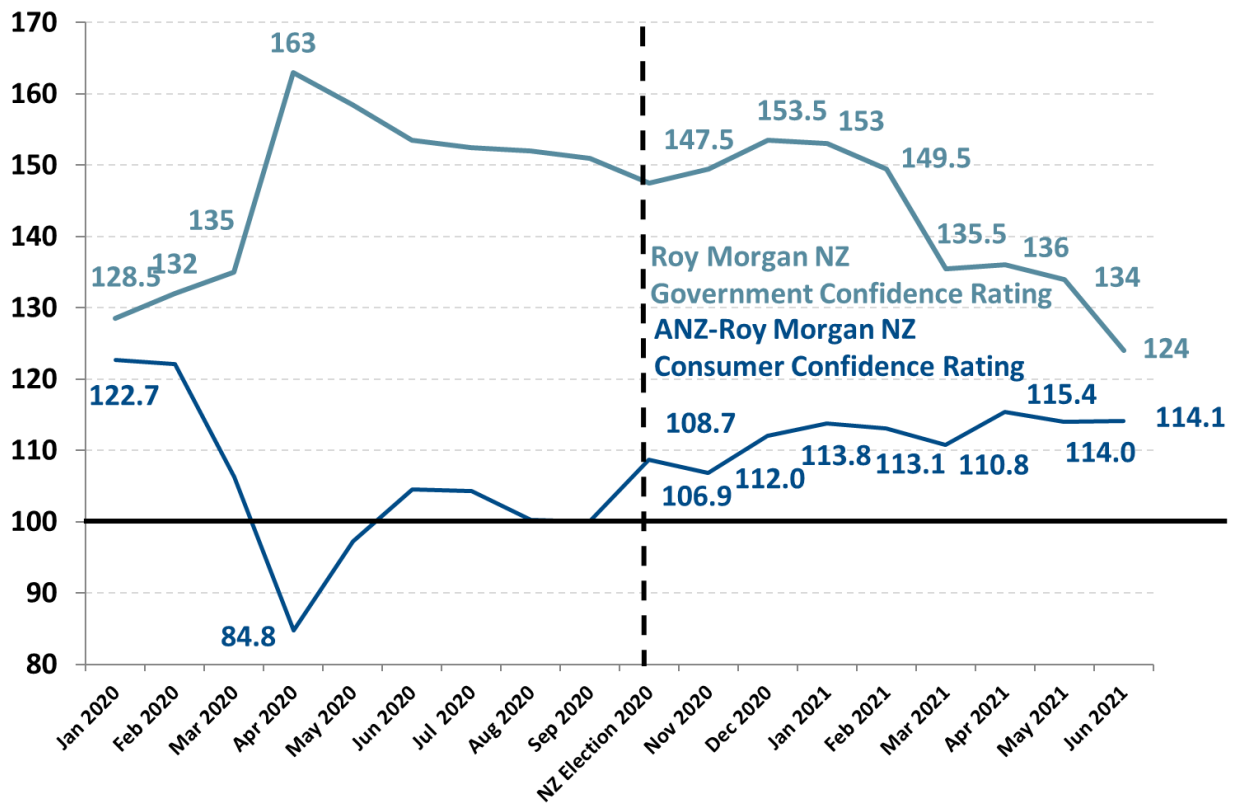
Source: Roy Morgan New Zealand Single Source. January 2020 – June 2021.
 Base: New Zealand electors aged 18+. Average interviews per month = 927.

New Zealand Party Vote: NZ Govt. v Parliamentary Opposition



Source: Roy Morgan New Zealand Single Source. January 2020 – June 2021.
Base: New Zealand electors aged 18+. Average interviews per month = 927.

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



Source: Roy Morgan New Zealand Single Source. January 2020 – June 2021.
Base: New Zealand electors aged 18+. Average interviews per month = 927.

Voting Intention Summary

The following table compares the latest New Zealand Roy Morgan Polls on Voting Intention with the result from the September 23, 2017 General Election:

<u>PARTY VOTE ELECTIONS</u>	<u>Labour</u> %	<u>Green Party*</u> %	<u>National</u> %	<u>ACT NZ</u> %	<u>Maori Party**</u> %	<u>TOP**</u> %	<u>NZ First</u> %	<u>Other</u> %
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
<u>ROY MORGAN</u>								
January 2020	40	10.5	40	3	1.5	0.5	2.5	2
February 2020	40.5	10.5	37	3.5	1	1.5	5	1
March 2020	42.5	11.5	37	3.5	0.5	1	3	1
April 2020	55	7	30.5	2.5	1.5	0.5	2.5	0.5
May 2020	56.5	7	26.5	3.5	1.5	1	2.5	1.5
June 2020	54.5	9	27	5	1	1.5	1.5	0.5
July 2020	53.5	8	26.5	6.5	0.5	1.5	1.5	2
August 2020	48	11.5	28.5	6	0.5	1	2.5	2
September 2020	47.5	9.5	28.5	7	0.5	1.5	2.5	3
NZ Election 2020	50	7.9	25.6	7.6	1.2	1.5	2.6	3.7
November 2020	44	12.5	25.5	10.5	1	2	1.5	3
December 2020	44	10.5	28	10	2	2	2	1.5
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

*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.

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

	Labour Party-led Government (Labour, Greens)	Parliamentary Opposition Parties (National, Act NZ & Maori)
2020		
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

November 2020	56.5	37
December 2020	54.5	40
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

*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%).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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.)

	Oct 30-Nov 12, 2017	Nov 27-Dec 10, 2017	January 2020	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020	May 2020	June 2020	July 2020	August 2020	Sept. 2020
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Right direction	66.5	68	58	59	60.5	77	76	72	71.5	71	70.5
Wrong direction	20	18	29.5	27	25.5	14	17.5	18.5	19	19	19.5
Roy Morgan GCR#	146.5	150	128.5	132	135	163	158.5	153.5	152.5	152	151
Can't say	13.5	14	12.5	14	14	9	6.5	9.5	9.5	10	10
TOTAL	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

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

	Oct. 2020	Nov. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. 2021	Feb. 2021	Mar. 2021	Apr. 2021	May 2021	June 2021
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Right direction	68.5	69.5	71.5	71.5	69.5	61.5	62.5	62.5	57
Wrong direction	21	20	18	18.5	20	26	26.5	28.5	33
Roy Morgan GCR#	147.5	149.5	153.5	153	149.5	135.5	136	134	124
Can't say	10.5	10.5	10.5	10	10.5	12.5	11	9	10
TOTAL	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