

Deloitte BusinessNZ Election Survey

August 2017





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The Deloitte BusinessNZ Election Survey reveals the potential business landscape after this year's General Election.

It provides a unique comparison between the views of the business community and those of political parties contesting the election.

Every election year the views of hundreds of New Zealand businesses are compared with political parties' policies, giving an indication of what might happen with tax, government spending, regulation, trade and other policies for business and the economy.

In an MMP environment, party commitments are likely to change during post-election negotiations; knowing the policy positions of all parties gives the best sense of what might emerge after the election.

The Deloitte BusinessNZ Election Survey presents key insights into potential policy directions for business and the economy over the next Parliamentary term.

We hope you find the report informative and of value for your business.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirk Hope'.

Kirk Hope

**Chief Executive
BusinessNZ**

About the Deloitte BusinessNZ 2017 Election Survey



The Deloitte BusinessNZ 2017 Election Survey consisted of two related questionnaires

The first was sent to BusinessNZ members. It was in the field during April-June 2017. There were 575 responses across a broad range of business sizes, regions and industries.

A similar questionnaire was sent to New Zealand's eight main political parties. All eight parties responded.

Given space restrictions, the responses from the political parties have been summarised where necessary.

These responses are as up to date as when we received them. When possible we have tried to include further policies as they have been announced, but there will still be some that are not included due to the timing of our print deadline.

When possible we have paired the similar questions sent to members and the political parties. However, as the two questionnaires differed slightly, there are some questions that were only asked of BusinessNZ members and others that were only asked of the political parties.

All percentages have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Document Key

- ① All questions directed at BusinessNZ members are on a grey background

**Business question
and response from
BusinessNZ Survey**



- ② All questions directed at New Zealand's political parties are on white



ACT

ACT New Zealand



Green

Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand



Labour

New Zealand Labour Party



Māori

Māori Party



National

New Zealand National Party



NZ First

New Zealand First



TOP

The Opportunities Party

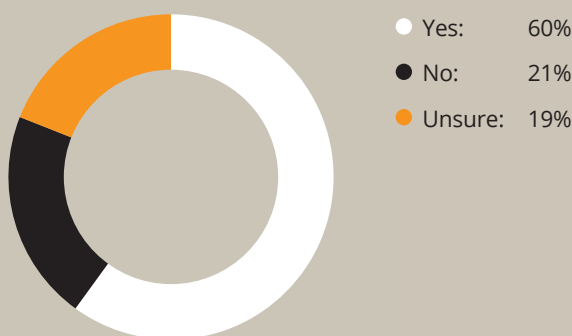


United Future

United Future New Zealand

1 Economic environment

Do you consider the Government currently has a coordinated plan of action focused on raising New Zealand's economic performance?



1.1

Are current policies and programmes already achieving economic growth to New Zealand's full potential?

ACT	No, we want a more ambitious approach that promotes more efficient government spending, lower flatter taxes, and less red tape.
Green	No. Per capita growth has been sluggish, despite headline GDP looking good. Productivity is notoriously low and we have skyrocketing property prices.
Labour	No. After 9 years, the economy is going backwards on a per person basis, the export sector is in recession and now construction is falling too. Relying on population growth and an overheated housing market to prop up the economy is a dangerously complacent approach.
Māori	There remains scope for further policies and programmes to help NZ's economy grow to its full potential.
National	Current policies and programmes, when fully implemented, will help achieve economic growth to NZ's full potential. NZ is currently growing faster than most developed countries and the Business Growth Agenda's focus on skills, innovation, market access, competitiveness and infrastructure will help lift our productivity and maintain strong growth into the future.
NZ First	No. Most importantly, wealth and income inequality, as pointed out by the OECD, means that our most vulnerable are struggling and NZ businesses are missing out on billions of dollars.
TOP	No definitely not. NZ's productivity has been woeful for decades now. We are working harder, not smarter. There are many reasons for this, but the main one is that our tax system incentivises investment in the pursuit of capital gain (particularly in land and housing) rather than investment for yield.
United Future	NZ's economy is growing well, and much of that has to do with the Government's consistent effort to create an economic environment that is supportive of businesses and communities, to be innovative and to invest in their enterprises. There is always more we could do, especially in an environment which is rapidly changing with technology.

**What do you think
are the indicators
of higher economic
performance?**



1.2

Are there areas other than economic growth that should be focused on, and if so what?

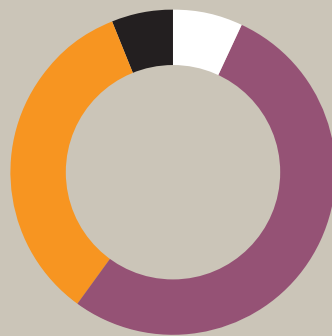
ACT	Economic growth should be the Government's main priority – to enable all New Zealanders to have a high standard of living.
Green	Focus on decoupling economic activity from carbon emissions, as the EU has achieved with economic growth but emissions reduction. The biggest economic opportunity of the century is the transition to low carbon economies, where NZ could lead the world. Government also has a role ensuring social outcomes.
Labour	Government should be focusing on growing the productive side of the economy. Will invest in our regions, in building, in infrastructure, and in training our young people for the future of work.
Māori	The Māori economy, recently estimated to be worth \$50 billion, has the potential to grow further as more Treaty settlements are completed and the asset base becomes more diversified.
National	Building a more productive and competitive economy must remain the main focus. A strong and growing economy benefits all New Zealanders and allows the Government to take further steps to raise incomes, protect the environment, improve public services and invest in infrastructure.
NZ First	The current government is playing the catchup game regarding infrastructure and our regions need more focused and direct investment.
TOP	The goal of government is to improve wellbeing, and economic growth is just one part of that. A cohesive society and clean environment are also important.
United Future	Two additional areas should be looked at, namely productivity and the wellbeing of our communities.

Is it important for the Government to have a clearly articulated consistent set of principles to guide all fiscal and regulatory decision-making?



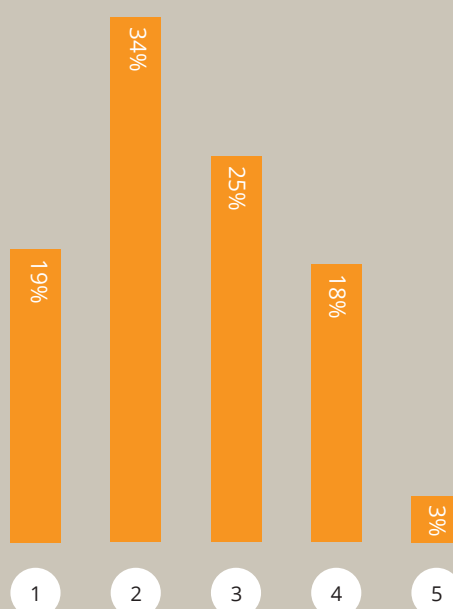
● Yes: 96%
● No: 2%
● Unsure: 2%

Please rank the effectiveness of current Government spending:



● Excellent: 7%
● Good: 53%
● Average: 34%
● Poor: 6%

Are the economic and social conditions that have led to Brexit, Trump and the rise of the right in Europe becoming an increasing issue in New Zealand?



1–5 where 1 is 'absolutely' and 5 is 'not at all'

Should New Zealand have a reasonably flat tax structure, with no/few exemptions or tax breaks?



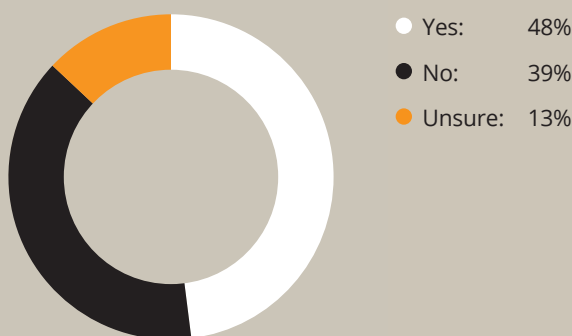
● Yes: 55%
● No: 30%
● Unsure: 16%

1.3

Should New Zealand's tax system have a reasonably flat tax structure, with no/few exemptions or tax breaks?

ACT	Yes.
Green	We favour a relatively broad based system, to avoid over reliance on income tax. Tax can be a tool for rebalancing the economy. We also favour tax breaks for good things we want more of, like electric cars, and higher taxes for things we want less of, like fossil fuels.
Labour	We believe in a progressive taxation system that is fair, balanced, and promotes the long term sustainability and productivity of the economy.
Māori	Yes.
National	Yes.
NZ First	No. We believe in a fair and transparent system that is easy to comply with and unavoidable, especially for multi-national corporates operating in NZ.
TOP	Yes. The goal should be a flat rate, with progressivity ensured by including the income from non-financial assets and providing an Unconditional Basic Income.
United Future	In so far as it is possible, yes. Would like to see income sharing tax credits introduced to better reflect the value families add to our communities.

Would you support decreasing the business tax rate to 20%?



1.4a

What is your tax policy in relation to: Company tax rate

ACT	ACT will cut the corporate tax rate to 25%. With further reductions in the future.
Green	To be announced.
Labour	We're not proposing substantive tax reforms this election but will establish a tax working group with the specific mandate to create a better balanced tax system.
Māori	No change at this stage, but we believe that we should be harder on large multi-nationals who don't pay tax in NZ, yet reap obvious financial benefits.
National	There are no current plans to change our company tax rate. We believe in operating a competitive company tax rate relative to our comparator countries, notably Australia and the US.
NZ First	Develop an SME package which will include short term tax breaks for Kiwi firms, capital depreciation settings and incentives to employ and train staff. Will amend Capital Limitation to treat seismic strengthening works as repairs and maintenance.
TOP	Our goal is to align the top personal, company and trust tax rates.
United Future	We have no policy on raising. Possibly review in light of changes in Australia.

1.4b

What is your tax policy in relation to: GST

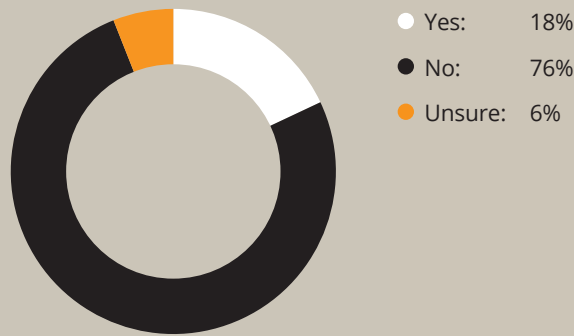
ACT	Keep GST at 15% - with no exemptions for certain products.
Green	No change.
Labour	We're not proposing substantive tax reforms this election but we will establish a tax working group with the specific mandate to create a better balanced tax system.
Māori	We believe GST should be removed from fresh fruit and vegetables.
National	GST is currently set at the right level.
NZ First	The National party broke its promise when it raised the rate to 15%. GST from international tourists should be returned back to the regions from whence it came.
TOP	GST is effective in its current form and would not be changed.
United Future	No change.

1.4c

What is your tax policy in relation to: Trust tax rate

ACT	We want it reduced to 25% so that it is aligned with our new top personal and corporate tax rates.
Green	To be announced.
Labour	We're not proposing substantive tax reforms this election but we will establish a tax working group with the specific mandate to create a better balanced tax system.
Māori	No change.
National	Trust tax rate is currently set at the right level.
NZ First	As is.
TOP	Our goal is to align the top personal, company and trust tax rates.
United Future	We want to ensure it is kept in line with our top tax rate.

Would you support increasing the highest personal marginal tax rate from 33%?



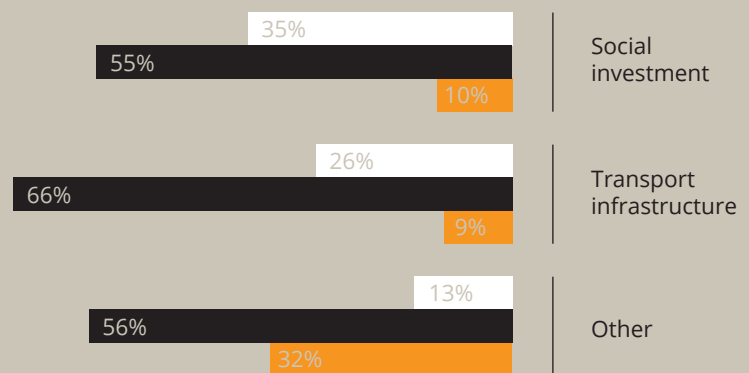
1.4d

What is your tax policy in relation to: Top personal income tax rate and threshold

ACT	Overall, \$0-14,000 (10%), \$14,000-48,000 (15%), \$48,000 + (25%)
Green	Bottom tax rate reduced from 10.5% to 9% for anyone earning less than \$14,000. Anyone earning more than \$150,000 per year will have their tax rate hiked from 33% to 40%.
Labour	We're not proposing substantive tax reforms this election but we will establish a tax working group with the specific mandate to create a better balanced tax system.
Māori	No change.
National	In Budget 2017 we announced a series of changes to tax thresholds, Working for Families and the Accommodation Supplement which will come into force on April 1 next year.
NZ First	Voted for the National government's personal income threshold changes in Budget 2017 and will look to shift the top threshold when the economy is 'up on its foils again'.
TOP	Our goal is to align the top personal, company and trust tax rates.
United Future	No change.

Would you be more likely to support an increase in the highest personal marginal tax rate if the additional tax revenue raised were used to fund:

● Yes ● No ● Unsure



1.4e

What is your tax policy in relation to: Alignment of tax rates (top personal, company and trust rates)

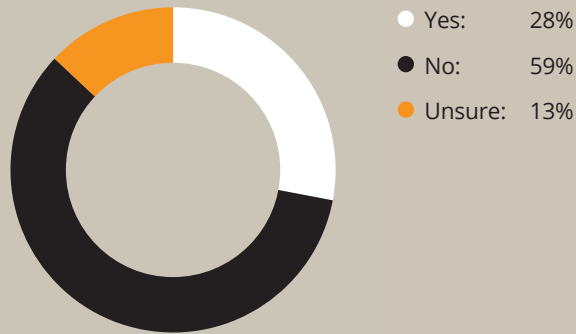
ACT	Align all at 25%.
Green	To be announced.
Labour	We're not proposing substantive tax reforms this election but we will establish a tax working group with the specific mandate to create a better balanced tax system.
Māori	No change.
National	When we have the room to do so we would like to do more to reduce the income tax impact on family incomes over time.
NZ First	Actively looking at the alignment of those rates.
TOP	Our calculations show that if we close this tax loophole we can reduce income tax by a third (including the corporate and trust tax rates). Our goal is to align the top personal, company and trust tax rates.
United Future	Ensure trusts and top income tax rates are aligned. Watch for bracket creep from inflation in other tax brackets.

1.5

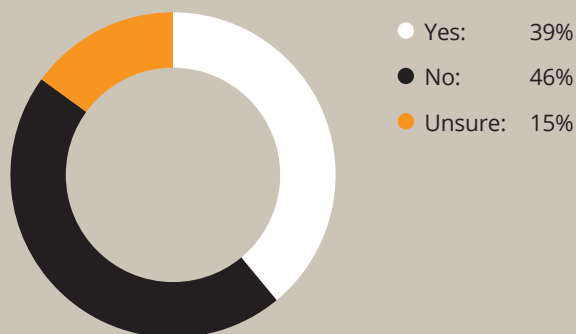
Do you have a policy destination for tax reform? If so, please briefly provide an explanation of this destination.

ACT	Would look to further reduce taxes without cutting Government spending on core services. Would also link income thresholds to inflation to eliminate stealth taxation through bracket creep.
Green	Over time we would like to see tax gradually move off income and onto wealth and resource use. We see capital gains tax as essential (excluding the family home). We'd also like natural resource charges set in a way that is integrated with environmental management strategies.
Labour	We're not proposing substantive tax reforms this election but we will establish a tax working group with the specific mandate to create a better balanced tax system.
Māori	We want to lower the tax bracket for low and middle income NZers; introduce a tourism tax dedicated to preserving Māori heritage, language and culture and we also support a capital gains tax for rental properties. This would be offset by tax credits for landlords who rent homes that meet a minimum WOF standard (currently applied to state owned housing stock) for warm, safe and affordable housing.
National	Yes, we believe it is important to retain NZ's broad-based low tax system. A strong economy on its own lifts incomes but we want to do more next term to reduce taxes for hard-working NZers and increase incomes for families who need it most. NZ's income tax and transfer system has become too complex for many people on low and middle incomes, with a significant number facing very high effective marginal tax rates.
NZ First	An accelerated focus on multi-national corporate compliance, research and development and SME incentives with a specific focus on new export business.
TOP	Want to close the loopholes in our tax system, particularly around the taxation of non-financial assets. We will tax the equity in all property as if it were a bank deposit, by imposing a deemed rate of return on those assets and taxing that deemed income at the marginal rate. This would be implemented over time to hold house prices stable without crashing the housing market. A flat tax rate and Unconditional Basic Income.
United Future	The biggest policy we have around tax reform is to introduce income sharing tax credits. This would allow parents of children to combine their income for tax purposes, essentially taxing the household, rather than the two individuals.

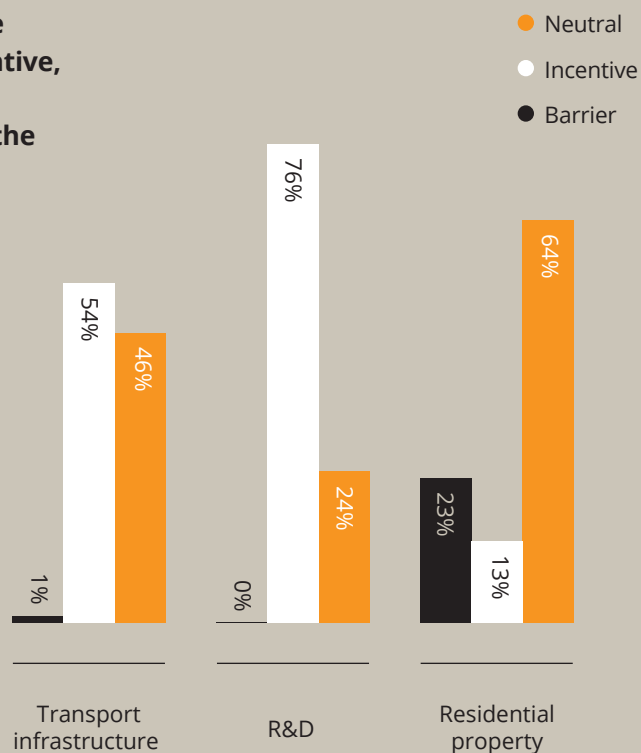
Do you support the introduction of a capital gains tax?



Would you be more likely to support a capital gains tax if there was a corresponding reduction in personal tax rates over time as capital gains tax revenues increase, such that total government tax revenues remain neutral?



Should the tax system be neutral, provide an incentive, or provide a barrier, to investment decisions in the following areas:



Given increasing life expectancy and its implications for the labour market, future health and superannuation costs, do you believe the Government's proposed NZ Superannuation changes that raise the eligibility age to 67 by 2040 are:



● About: right: 46%
● Too fast: 4%
● Too slow: 46%
● Don't know: 4%

1.6

What changes (if any) do you propose to eligibility for New Zealand Superannuation

ACT	Current superannuation scheme is unsustainable. Starting in 2020 ACT will raise the age of entitlement to NZ Super from 65 to 67, at a rate of two months per year, finishing in 2032.
Green	None at present, though we are open to a conversation about it.
Labour	We will retain universal superannuation at age 65. Will restart contributions to the SuperFund to ensure that our superannuation system remains sustainable into the future.
Māori	We support the age of eligibility for superannuation being adjusted for those groups who currently experience lower life expectancy. A lower entitlement age will allow more equitable uptake of NZ Superannuation for all citizens. All those who reach a certain asset threshold will be mean-tested.
National	Earlier this year, we announced that we will progressively lift the age of retirement to 67, starting in 20 years.
NZ First	Committed to keeping NZ Superannuation a universal entitlement at age 65 with NO means testing. NZ Super is currently available to migrants of 10 years residency; those who enter under parent reunion have no requirement to contribute to the economy. NZ First proposes to increase the minimum residency period for NZ Super from 10 years to 25 years while abolishing Section 70, the direct deduction of overseas pensions.
TOP	Propose that only \$10,000 of the current NZ Super remains unconditional. The remaining (roughly) \$10,000 should be income tested. Anyone with no other income will continue to receive the full amount of NZ Super they do now. Those earning \$50,000 or more of other income would only receive the base level of \$10,000. This change means that the age of eligibility can remain at 65.
United Future	Introduce flexi-super, which would allow people to take a reduced rate of super for their whole retirement from age 60-65 if they needed or chose to, with staggered steps each year. There would also be an incentive to stay in work longer by offering a higher rate of super for retirement from ages 66-70.

1.7

What changes (if any) do you propose for KiwiSaver, Working for Families and interest free student loans?

ACT	Working for Families and interest-free student loans was blatant political 'vote buying' rather than good policy. While these schemes aren't an election priority, ACT will in the future look at fairer ways to help taxpayers and students.
Green	Previously proposed kids KiwiSaver package for low income families, with the government incentivising parents to start saving from the birth of their children. Not currently proposing any changes to interest free student loans. Working for Families and benefit reform package is yet to be announced.
Labour	Will release its KiwiSaver policy closer to the election. Every family receiving Working for Families currently will get more with Labour, and 30,000 more families will start to receive payments. Labour's Working Futures Plan provides three years of free post-school education over a person's lifetime.
Māori	No change however the Māori Party wants to explore tax credits for more low to middle income families, and student loans write offs for graduates who stay in NZ and work for longer than five years in a role relevant to the qualification that they have attained.
National	From April next year, Working for Families will increase for those in need. Over time it is our intention to further simplify NZ's tax and transfer system so NZers more clearly see the rewards for their hard work.
NZ First	Would explore reinstating the \$1000 KiwiSaver kick-start payment and we supported the Working for Families changes in Budget 2017. We have one of the largest and most comprehensive education policies of any political party and the tertiary policy deserves much greater exploration; we would get rid of student loans as long as graduates stay and work in NZ.
TOP	Remove the eligibility test for the Working Tax Credit portion of Working For Families so all low income families would receive it.
United Future	Make KiwiSaver compulsory. No changes to Working for Families. Introduce zero-fees tertiary education and abolish student allowance.

Should local government primarily focus on providing local public goods and services that businesses, individuals or voluntary groups cannot provide more efficiently?



● Yes: 65%
● No: 21%
● Unsure: 14%

1.8

Should local government be restricted to the provision of local public goods and services that businesses, individuals or voluntary groups cannot provide more efficiently?

ACT	Yes. ACT strongly believes that local government should be required to stick to their core business.
Green	No. Within reason and environmental limits, local government activities should reflect the priorities of the people who give councils their democratic mandate.
Labour	Local government should be focused on delivering the four wellbeings: economic, social, environmental and cultural.
Māori	Yes, with certain conditions.
National	Yes.
NZ First	No. It is for the ratepayer to determine the level and extent of their authority's investment in economic development, growth and in social infrastructure. We also recognise that local government has been given more and more burdens by central government without commensurate funding. We believe that they need much greater support to do the jobs they've been given and a higher degree of autonomy.
TOP	Up to local communities to decide what their local government provides.
United Future	No. Local government should be given more authority to enable it to reach out to their communities, as their knowledge of what the community needs is often better informed than that of central government.

Should water, wastewater and roading services be subject to greater commercial discipline and user charges?



● Yes: 57%
● No: 33%
● Unsure: 10%

1.9

Should water, wastewater and roading services be subject to greater commercial discipline and user charges?

ACT	Yes.
Green	Commercial water use should definitely be subject to greater environmental and economic discipline. Most commercial water users do not pay a fair resource rental or use charge that reflects the value of the water to their business. Major infrastructure projects should also be subject to better commercial discipline.
Labour	Important these services are delivered as efficiently as possible. Will introduce a freshwater royalty on water bottlers and other large commercial water users, and set the royalty at a fair and affordable level. Open to the use of new ways of funding transport and other infrastructure.
Māori	Those who use water for commercial gain should be charged appropriately for accessing that resource.
National	Want to partner with local government and the private sector to provide more of these needed investments in local infrastructure. Open to using all available financing and funding mechanisms to get more infrastructure projects done.
NZ First	No.
TOP	Would ensure commercial water users pay the market price for the water they use. For residential water users it is up to local communities to decide how their local government charges for water. Clearly water metering is working in some areas and is preventing the need for expensive new infrastructure. Also favours increased use of congestion charging as long as the revenue is invested in providing public transport alternatives.
United Future	Yes.

Do you think that the Resource Management Act:



- Is fundamentally broken and should be replaced: 36%
- Can be made to work if it constrains what local councils can regulate in its name: 30%
- Would be fine if planning processes were shortened: 28%
- Does not require any further changes: 5%

1.10

What changes, if any, would you make to the current Resource Management Act?

ACT	RMA is one of the greatest obstacles to economic development in NZ, so will replace the RMA to make it easier for businesses to operate and grow. ACT would also create separate urban development legislation for NZ's large cities, prioritising land supply and reducing red tape on developers.
Green	Changes to ensure the RMA adequately protects the environment. Examples include strengthening the RMA's ability to protect groundwater and deal with climate change issues. We are open to changes that facilitate housing development, provided adequate checks and balances remain.
Labour	Will retain the RMA and reverse objectionable changes made to it by National. Will convene a panel of resource management, process and public participation experts to evaluate the collective outcome of amendments to the RMA since it was passed in 1991, and to advise on how to ensure the Act remains fit for purpose. Will introduce a National Policy Statement on Affordable Housing, remove urban growth boundaries, and free up density restrictions in Auckland.
Māori	The Māori Party has supported amendments to the RMA under the Resource Legislation Amendment Bill and negotiated increased iwi participation rights in the resource consent process. We support, within RMA decision-making process, consideration of development on the impact of climate change. We would further limit the powers of the Minister under s360 and review appeals.
National	The Resource Legislation Amendment Bill passed its third reading in April this year, signalling the largest shake up of the Resource Management Act since its inception in 1991. The 40 changes in our resource management reforms will help streamline the current Act, making it easier to build more homes and create more jobs.
NZ First	Recent changes to the RMA have made it more complicated and given race-based privileges to a select few which we adamantly oppose.
TOP	We can get better outcomes for the environment and the economy through better National Policy Statements, greater consistency across the country and the use of quality assured environmental offsets to ensure there is no net loss of biodiversity.
United Future	We would repeal the sections of the RMA that allow Ministerial override powers, introduce new sections to balance the property rights of land owners in how local government tests their district and regional plans.

1.11

Which, if any, major central government assets would your party seek to sell/part-privatise?

ACT	Privatisation of state-owned enterprises including, TVNZ, Landcorp, New Zealand Post, KiwiRail, Air New Zealand and the remaining stake in the electricity generators.
Green	None.
Labour	Does not propose to sell or part-privatise any major central government assets.
Māori	Any decision about the privatisation of state assets especially natural resources or strategic assets, should be made on a case by case basis. The test for us is whether private ownership increases or decreases our rangatiratanga – our national sovereignty and our control over our own society and economy.
National	No current plans to sell or part-privatise any major central government assets.
NZ First	None. We think it might be worth buying some major central government assets back.
TOP	Would like to see Housing NZ stock transferred (not sold) to the community housing sector. They are more effective at delivering services. We would sell TVNZ as there is no need for the government to be in such an industry particularly given the dynamic change happening. We would reinvest that money in public interest journalism.
United Future	None.

1.12

Which, if any, major business assets would your party seek to purchase?

ACT	None.
Green	None, though have previously proposed establishing a public-private Green Investment Bank to kick-start investment in the green economy.
Labour	Not proposing the purchase of any major business assets.
Māori	The Māori Party believes that people are our greatest asset and to that extent, we believe that much more needs to be done to grow our human capital.
National	No current plans to purchase any major business assets.
NZ First	Long term strategy is to buy back the shares of the state owned energy companies sold by the National government.
TOP	We would reinvest the NZ Super Fund in infrastructure and business R&D, as it would no longer be needed due to partial means testing of NZ Super.
United Future	None.

Do you believe that the Government should have an overarching Regional Economic Development Strategy to balance economic activity as far as possible throughout NZ?



● Yes: 77%
● No: 12%
● Unsure: 11%

1.13

Do you have a Regional Economic Development Strategy to balance as far as possible economic activity throughout NZ?

ACT

The government's role isn't to 'balance economic activity throughout NZ'. It is to create a business friendly environment for all businesses regardless of location. This means low taxes and less red tape. One powerful way to help the regions is to give them more freedom – by allowing local authorities opting out of particular central government regulations entirely.

Green

The shift to a low carbon economy will have regional aspects, such as forestry.

Labour

Has a comprehensive strategy to invest in our regions including a \$200 million Regional Development Fund to support projects in our regions. Examples of this we have already committed to include establishing a Centre of Digital Excellence in Dunedin, a prefabricated housing plant in Gisborne, and supporting the port revitalisation in Whanganui.

Māori

The Māori economy is largely based in the regions and we see strong regions as a foundation for a strong economy. To that end, as Minister for Māori Development and Associate Minister for Economic Development, regional economic growth remains a core priority. Hon Flavell has championed the He Kai Kei Aku Ringa (Māori Economic Development Strategy) which sets out targets for the next five years which include lifting median income, raising the number of small and medium enterprises and boosting exports.

National

Yes. The Regional Growth Programme works with local communities to develop and implement economic growth action plans in Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, Manawatu-Whanganui, Canterbury, Southland, Gisborne and the West Coast.

NZ First

Yes - soon to be released.

TOP

At the moment tax loopholes favour those with non-financial assets, which tend to be people in cities. By taxing assets and cutting income taxes, our tax policy would ensure a substantial redistribution of income to the regions.

United Future

Not specifically. However, we would introduce a new test to our immigration system that would seek to better pair new migrants to job opportunities.

**Which of the following
government-related issues
do you consider is currently
most important?**



1.14

What do you consider the single most important government-related issue?

ACT	The housing crisis in Auckland is creating poverty, diverting investment away from businesses and putting the entire NZ economy at risk. It is squarely a government failure. This crisis could be solved by opening more land up for development and cutting red tape.
Green	Trust and transparency.
Labour	Fixing the housing crisis.
Māori	Housing. Everyone deserves the opportunity to have access to warm, safe and affordable accommodation.
National	Important that any political party considers carefully the impact of their proposed policies on medium-term economic growth. Too many political parties propose policies that would slow or stall growth. We will keep the performance of the NZ economy front and centre in all policy considerations.
NZ First	Neo-liberalism is dying; the NZ economy must be a mixed economy.
TOP	Closing the tax loophole for non-financial assets (especially property) so that it is taxed at the same rate as a bank deposit.
United Future	Ensuring a better deal for future generations. Our government must be looking towards the way changing technology, climate and economies will affect our small island nation. They need to invest in infrastructure and policies that will be resilient to the ongoing changes we are facing.

2 Investment, Innovation and Sustainability

Do you think that the government is doing enough to attract foreign direct investment into New Zealand?



- Yes, about right: 53%
- No, they could do more: 10%
- Foreign direct investment should be more, not less: 23%
- Unsure: 14%

2.1

What are your party's policies towards encouraging (or limiting) foreign direct investment into New Zealand?

ACT	Supports foreign direct investment into NZ. We would look to reform Overseas Investment Office.
Green	Foreign investment needs to be a win-win for both sides. We would restrict the ability for overseas investors to purchase land in NZ, but we're open to other forms of investment that creates jobs and aligns with our other goals like reducing carbon emissions.
Labour	Welcomes investment in NZ. The process is too complicated and the criteria irreconcilable and Labour has proposed to look at it. However we have concerns when it comes to farmland that the Overseas Investment Office is being used as a rubber stamp with many commitments that overseas investors are making are not being followed through on – so we will strengthen the OIO requirements. We will also prevent the sale of sensitive and iconic land - we have concerns about investment in our housing market taking place for purely speculative purposes.
Māori	Any decision about foreign investment in NZ, especially natural resources or strategic assets, should be made on a case-by-case basis, but we must protect and preserve what is ours.
National	Welcome foreign direct investment where it helps create jobs, contributes to our growing economy and adds value to new markets. Our Investment Attraction Strategy aims to attract more high-quality foreign business investment to NZ.
NZ First	We are about protecting the interests of New Zealanders. We will put the brakes on the wholesale sale of our land and resources to foreigners. For New Zealand First foreign investment will mean just that; new investment in productive assets, not just the transfer of ownership offshore.
TOP	We have no problem with Foreign Direct Investment provided businesses pay their fair share of tax. Our tax reform will help ensure that happens.
United Future	We do not want to see FDI limited in NZ.

2.2

Do you believe current Government procurement practices encourage enough innovation and participation of small to medium sized firms? If not, what policy changes would your party make?

ACT	Yes.
Green	No. We need to simplify the paperwork to make procurement more accessible to SMEs. We also need to champion local ICT companies by requiring government departments to report how much of their ICT spend stays in NZ.
Labour	No, the current procurement process shuts out many NZ businesses. Labour would reform procurement rules so the Government considers the impact on job creation in NZ of its procurement decision and to require it to structure tenders in a way that businesses that will create jobs in NZ have a fair chance of competing.
Māori	Yes.
National	Yes. We have introduced a number of changes to Government procurement practices to encourage innovation, wider participation and better access to skills and knowledge held by the private sector.
NZ First	No, as they favour fewer but larger centrally managed contracts. Introduce a government procurement policy that gives preference for NZ firms and products, as one example, in taxpayer funded buildings wool and natural fibres as floorcoverings where they are specified.
TOP	Existing Trade and Enterprise expertise should be redirected to help small and medium businesses participate in upcoming public sector contracts. This approach has been successful overseas.
United Future	Instigate a review of the current procurement strategy to make sure that it is as competitive as possible, keeping in mind that the bottom line for government procurement must be to get the best deal for taxpayers.

2.3

Do you have any policies directed at improving innovation and entrepreneurship in New Zealand?

ACT	The best way is to create a business friendly environment. This means a tax cut for every business and less red tape, not having politicians and bureaucrats picking winners via corporate welfare.
Green	STEM scholarships, R&D tax credits and grants, increased government R&D spending.
Labour	Yes. In addition to the policies mentioned above Labour will introduce a Young Entrepreneurs Plan that will allow a small number of smart and innovative young NZers to apply to cash in their three free years of education and instead receive a start-up business grant, training and a business mentor.
Māori	The Māori Party has secured Ministerial portfolios in Māori Development and Economic Development to improve innovation and entrepreneurship in NZ. Through a refresh of the Māori Economic Strategy, we have oriented our focus and priority towards greater innovation and entrepreneurship.
National	Yes. The Business Growth Agenda is the Government's programme of micro-economic reform to keep building a sustainable and growing economy that will deliver more jobs, higher incomes and higher living standards for NZers. It is focussed on the six key inputs for businesses - exports, investment, innovation, skills, natural resources and infrastructure.
NZ First	Our tertiary education policy focuses on entrepreneurship and we believe in R&D tax credits with central government being a more active participant in supporting innovative practices.
TOP	An Unconditional Basic Income is our ultimate goal for welfare reform – it will support people in an increasingly uncertain job market as they retrain and start businesses. Our education policy is aimed at reducing testing and spending more time on learning, particularly the soft skills that modern businesses need.
United Future	See answers above.

If the Government were to increase investment into Research and Development, where should more resources should be allocated?

58%

Better connections between science and business

52%

Practical development /assistance

41%

R&D project funding/grants /soft loans

40%

R&D tax credits

29%

Pure research

3%

Other

2.4

What do you see as the major steps needed to increase both public and private R&D in New Zealand?

ACT

Would cut the corporate tax rate to 25%, with further reductions in the future.

Green

Government should lead and set an example, including through tax credits and even taking equity stakes.

Labour

Government needs to lay the foundations to set the environment in which innovation and great design can flourish. The restoration of R&D tax credits coupled with properly resourcing public science spend through universities and crown research institutes are key parts of this.

Māori

Establish a priority investment fund for Māori Research and Development. We will promote collaboration between Māori entrepreneurs, scientists and innovators to improve opportunities, jobs and incomes. Create and resource a real and virtual incubation hub for hapū and iwi to test the economic viability of new ideas on the local and global market and to mentor researchers.

National

Currently investing heavily in growing both public and private R&D in NZ. As a result of the Innovative NZ packages in Budget 2016 and 2017, cross government R&D expenditure will reach \$1.7 billion annually by 2020/21. National intends to keep increasing that investment over time as funds become available.

NZ First

Increasing publicly funded R&D to 2% of GDP over 10 years. A review of NZ's increasingly fragmented public science ecosystem and incentives, we are yet to announce, for private sector R&D.

TOP

Closing the loopholes in our tax system, particularly around property, and an investment from government to kickstart business investment.

United Future

Flexible and permissive legislation that allows businesses to invest and see clearer paths towards rewards for those investments. In the environmental sphere, we want to see a contestable fund opened up for environmental R&D to encourage specific investment in an area that will provide benefit to present and future NZers.

2.5

Do you support the re-introduction of an R&D tax credit?

ACT	No, does not support ad hoc tax credits that complicate the tax system.
Green	Yes.
Labour	Yes. The decision to remove the R&D tax credit was short sighted and reduces the incentive to invest in innovation.
Māori	Yes.
National	No. The latest Statistics NZ R&D survey showed that Callaghan Innovation's Growth Grants are a much more effective way of lifting Business R&D activity than tax credits which just encourage firms to reclassify existing expenditure.
NZ First	Yes.
TOP	No – government R&D investments should be in exchange for an equity stake.
United Future	No.

2.6

Do you support closer working relationships between science based organisations and business? If so, why?

ACT	Yes, but this shouldn't involve politicians trying to 'pick winners' using corporate welfare.
Green	Yes. Commercialising our science helps build a smart, green economy. Would work with universities to support science and business students who work together.
Labour	Yes. Too often our Crown Research Institutes, universities and businesses are disconnected from each other, despite there being clear national advantage from collaboration.
Māori	Successfully aligning investments in science and innovation with Māori business potentially will lead to 150,000 additional jobs per year in the NZ economy by 2060; and an additional \$12b pa in GDP from the Māori economy.
National	Yes. Industry involvement in science is a vital indicator of the confidence that industry has in the excellence and impact of science in public institutions, and promotes the commercialisation of science.
NZ First	Yes. Science based decision making and investment into good science is imperative.
TOP	Of course. It is clear that NZ is poor at commercialising our innovation.
United Future	Yes. This is the best way to connect the ideas of the scientific world with the capital and business sectors.

What should Government do to support sustainable business practice in New Zealand?



2.7

What, if anything, do you believe could be done to enhance sustainable business practices?

ACT	Supports market-based pricing. For example, demand-based road pricing to control congestion, and tradeable water rights that would provide incentives to conserve and find more valuable ways to use water.
Green	Government to show leadership, e.g. government could save about \$80 million a year through energy efficiency. Business needs stability and predictability, would see a clear direction of travel. Flexible about how to achieve goals for 100% renewable electricity by 2030 and overall carbon neutrality by 2050.
Labour	Will implement a programme within government that establishes benchmarks and standards for what sustainable businesses look like and modifies the government contract tendering system to identify green businesses that comply with those benchmarks and standards and which want to tender for government contracts.
Māori	The Māori Party recognises the urgency in establishing alternative sources of energy that are environmentally friendly and do not depend on fossil fuels. We support the adoption of e-vehicles, solar panels and believe business, and government, should take the lead.
National	A matter primarily for businesses to address. However, we can help facilitate sustainability by ensuring the settings are right, for example, with the Emissions Trading Scheme.
NZ First	See answers 2.6 and 2.8.
TOP	Make polluters pay and use the money collected to reward sustainable businesses. Commercial water users should pay for the water they use.
United Future	Would like to encourage business to enter into sustainable energy use through opening up government funds for renewable energy generation and electric vehicles.

How will climate change impact your business?



2.8

With regard to climate change, what changes would you make from current Government policy?

ACT	Dump the ETS. It has been a public policy disaster and highly ineffective at reducing emissions.
Green	ETS has been ineffective at reducing carbon emissions. Emissions have risen, so need to put a clear price on carbon – whether that's a carbon tax or a price floor in the ETS. Agricultural emissions will need to be priced, but open to exactly how to manage this and transition farmers. Prioritise clean transport investments like rail, and aim for 100% renewable electricity by 2030.
Labour	Labour will implement an independent Climate Commission to properly budget and plan for how we address climate change, and strengthen the Emissions Trading Scheme.
Māori	We believe NZ has time to transition to a low-emission economy but there are benefits to taking strategic action and signalling long-term intentions now. We support an afforestation programme and want to see the planting of 100,000 hectares of new forests over the next 10 years.
National	Think the current policy is broadly right. NZ has now operated a steady consistent emissions trading scheme for nine years with the current carbon price around \$18 per tonne.
NZ First	Exit the ETS and replace it with a UK-style Climate Change Act. Integral to this new Climate Change Act will be a new Parliamentary Commission for Climate Change to be established as an Office of Parliament. The Parliamentary Commission for Climate Change will be legally responsible for reporting against both the Kyoto and Paris Agreements. It will work with the government to set a three-yearly 'Carbon Budget' designed to reach these commitments such as forestry, with NZ First committed to reestablishing the Forestry Service.
TOP	Close the ETS to international trade and make our 2030 Paris target a domestic emissions reduction target. Reinvest the revenue from the ETS into a massive business and home energy efficiency programme over the next decade. Plant our 1.1m ha of erosion prone land.
United Future	Direct Government incentives promoting electric vehicles. A fund to encourage renewable energy generation in homes and business. Government action on using their vacant land to plant native forests to act as carbon sinks. Opening a government fund to encourage environmental R&D.

2.9

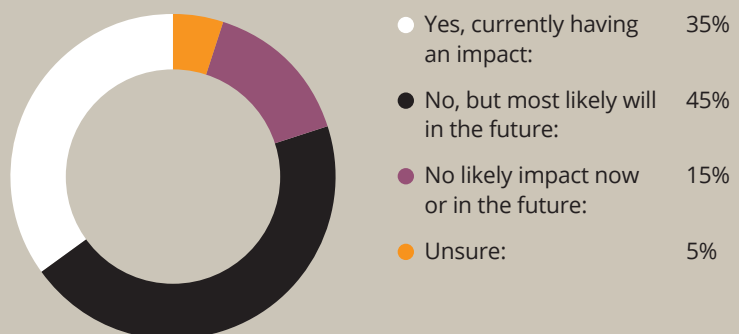
What policies, if any, do you believe should be introduced to reduce business carbon emissions?

ACT	Better to have a simple low carbon tax, offset by tax cuts. We could gradually increase the tax over time if the science suggested that the risks of global warming were rising, or reduce it if, as the science develops, the likely risks seemed lower.
Green	As above for climate change. Also, incentivise businesses to buy electric vehicles through fringe benefit tax exemptions.
Labour	Believe the ETS is the right way to signal to businesses to reduce emissions, we will support businesses to reduce emissions, and we will as a Government lead by example in reducing our emissions.
Māori	See answer 2.8.
National	Have introduced the ETS, which we think is working well by providing certainty and a price signal for most businesses.
NZ First	See answer 2.8.
TOP	We should use the carrot and stick. There should be a higher carbon price to encourage long-term investment, with the revenue going into energy efficiency programmes in businesses. We need to phase out the use of free allowances for energy intensive exporters.
United Future	Nothing specific.

Why are sustainability issues important for your business?



Have consumer demands for evidence of sustainable business practices impacted on how your business operates?



3 Infrastructure

Will the Government's current infrastructure spending plans deliver the best economic outcomes for New Zealand?

● Yes: 19%
● No: 31%
● Unsure: 50%



Is the current and planned level of infrastructure spending by the Government sufficient to relieve the economic constraints that have emerged from increased growth?

● Yes: 12%
● No: 60%
● Unsure: 29%



3.1

What are your major infrastructure issues your party will focus on?

ACT	Let councils collect half the GST from construction in their area, for use on vital infrastructure. This means March's \$2 billion in new consents would signal an extra \$150 million for roads, public transport, stormwater etc.
Green	Rail – urban light rail and intercity freight, including electrification. Also, infrastructure to help with climate resilience, including water infrastructure.
Labour	NZ has an infrastructure deficit. Will invest throughout the country in infrastructure projects that unlock growth and create jobs in the regions. Will invest in our critical infrastructure like housing and transport and look at new ways of funding infrastructure such as infrastructure bonds repaid through targeted rates.
Māori	The party wants to see regional rail infrastructure moved out of 'mothball' status to help regional economies move their products, including logs, more efficiently to export markets.
National	Current total investment in new infrastructure over the next 4 years is \$32.5 billion – a record investment in the infrastructure we need for a growing economy. The planned investment is 40% larger than the actual spend over the last four years, and about double the rate of infrastructure investment of a decade ago.
NZ First	Rail freight regeneration (Northland and spur to Northport) as well as Gisborne-Wairoa. Freeze Ports of Auckland growth and designate Northport as its successor. National Grid and Energy (generation, reliability and distribution). Broadband speeds (especially rural and provincial). Properly funded State Highways and Local Roads. Full reinstatement of South Island SH1 and rail as well as SH3/Manawatu Gorge.
TOP	Transport funding needs to be on the basis of return on investment, which will probably result in a boost for rail spending.
United Future	Quickening the pace of building light rail in Auckland. Introducing a ten year population survey to direct Government investment towards where infrastructure is going to be the most needed in the future.

Please rank each of the following types of New Zealand's infrastructures in terms of which has the most potential to contribute to New Zealand's business growth

1-5 where
5 has the highest
potential and
1 has the least
potential

Transport (roads, rail & ports)



Telecommunications/broadband



Water



Energy (electricity & gas)



3.2

What is your party's policy regarding the future of energy supply in New Zealand?

ACT	Favours competitive market with privately owned electricity generators; generation investment decisions based on market signals; reform of the RMA to make building new generation easier; no government subsidies for chosen technologies; real-time pricing.
Green	Developed a comprehensive electricity policy called Empowering New Zealand. We'd set an ambitious target for 100% renewable energy by 2030 (under normal hydro conditions) and largely leave it up to the industry to find the best way to achieve that. We'd require lines companies to work together more to find cost savings and embrace new technologies. We'd promote more time of use pricing, to incentivise lower peak demand. The future is a more distributed system with distributed generation, batteries, solar, and peer to peer energy trading. Would also require greater transparency from the gentailers and conduct a review of liquidity in wholesale electricity markets to ensure the market is working well.
Labour	Will work to ensure a secure energy supply that provides for the country's energy needs now and into the future, while reducing the impact on the environment through increased use of renewable sources of energy.
Māori	We believe there must be continued investment in energy infrastructure and renewable sources to help move to a fossil fuel free economy. We want to provide solar power solutions to low income families in remote area communities and provide solar power to important community facilities including Marae, Schools, hospitals, government departments, sports clubs, community halls, civic centres and residential villages for the elderly. We want to promote solar power as a replacement for coal generated energy and we want the government to set up a trading platform to enable families, community organisations and businesses to sell their unused solar energy. We want to encourage a partnership between iwi and the government to manage the trading platform; to reduce carbon emissions by using solar energy, we want to launch a subsidised national solar energy installation plan with a minimum of 200,000 homes to be completed in the first three years.
National	Continue to promote renewable energy, with a target of reaching 90% renewable energy by 2025, up from 81% in 2015. We are progressing our work to set renewable energy targets beyond electricity.
NZ First	We consider the electricity sector to be a strategic asset. We have started discussions with some of the lines companies and despite their reticence we believe there is a need for some form of amalgamation. There will also be a progressive buy-back of generator assets.
TOP	The existing energy market works well but could do with some tweaks to ensure everyone faces the best possible incentives to generate locally and reduce demand, as appropriate.
United Future	Security of supply and competitive pricing are key policy goals. We support the current regulatory structure. One key change would be to introduce a national energy strategy to better navigate a changing world where we are moving away from fossil fuel based energy.

3.3

Do you believe that future energy prices is an issue to be concerned about, and if so, how will you address it?

ACT	Biggest concern is energy policy of the opposition parties who would distort price signals, favour certain energy technologies, and nationalise generation.
Green	Yes, but only if Government allows prices to become an issue. Requiring lines companies to cooperate for cost savings can help keep future costs down.
Labour	Will ensure that demand side and local energy solutions are given a serious footing up against supply side and centralised energy solutions for meeting energy demand.
Māori	Yes. See above in 3.2
National	Believe in operating a competitive market for energy production and will continue to promote competition in the electricity market to help keep downward pressure on power prices.
NZ First	Absolutely. We would get rid of the Electricity Authority and empower the Commerce Commission. There will also be a public inquiry into high retail electricity prices, which have become disconnected from wholesale prices.
TOP	There are challenges in providing an alternative to fossil fuels – for example peak electricity load, and airplane fuel. However with the right incentives in place we trust that the market will deliver solutions. In the meantime there is much that we can do to reduce energy use (and therefore emissions) and save money at the same time.
United Future	Not at this election.

Do you think the use of private-public partnerships (PPPs) will deliver infrastructure that is better value for money and within a shorter timeframe?



● Yes: 64%
● No: 13%
● Unsure: 23%

3.4

Do you support supplying major infrastructure services through public-private partnerships?

ACT	Yes, we will continue to look for opportunities to expand their use, including in health, education and roading.
Green	On a case by case basis we're open to innovative funding options, such as through a Green Investment Bank modelled on successes in the UK and some USA states. At the time of writing, we're updating our 2014 Green Investment Bank policy. Opposed to PPPs where the government carries all or most of the risk while the private sector reaps the rewards.
Labour	Open to new ways of financing infrastructure. The key new approach Labour would look to introduce is to have the Government issue infrastructure bonds for people to invest in at a fixed rate of return, the local council would then recover the cost over a period of a few decades through a targeted rate on the properties which benefit from the infrastructure.
Māori	Yes. Iwi up and down the country are eager to explore the potential they see in public-private partnerships. Many iwi consider opportunities for infrastructure investment as an intergenerational asset to benefit the generations to come.
National	Yes – where appropriate.
NZ First	More than any other political party.
TOP	Where appropriate – the devil is in the detail of all such contracts.
United Future	Yes.

4 Trade

Please rank the supportive Government policies and programmes provided to New Zealand businesses in regards to international trade.

1-5
where 5 is
excellent and
1 is poor

Trade agreements



Trade missions



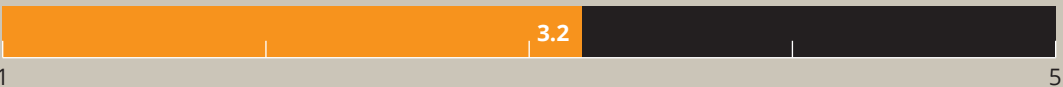
NZ Trade & Enterprise in market assistance



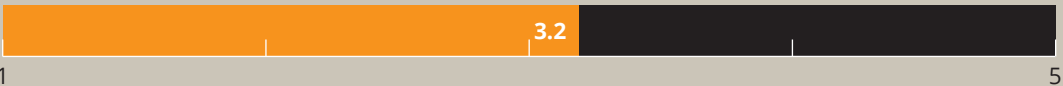
Non trade barriers



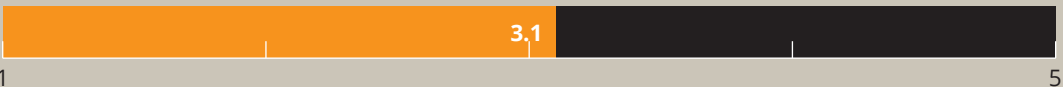
Information, advice & guidance



Market intelligence



NZ Export Credit Office



Funding assistance



4.1

What are your party's policies for supporting New Zealand businesses in terms of international trade?

ACT	Strongly supports free trade agreements.
Green	Rather than focus on trade deals, would focus on helping NZ exporters develop high-value products that are appealing to consumers overseas. That means living up to our clean green image. We'd work through the WTO to push for overseas agricultural subsidies to be reduced, to give our agricultural exporters a more level playing field, because trade deals have proved ineffectual at that.
Labour	Will adopt a strategic approach that sees trade as an important part of a high-value economy. Will diversify our export base, support our exporters through strategic interventions, and ensure market access and preserve regulatory sovereignty through trade agreements.
Māori	The Māori economy is worth around \$50 billion and has huge potential to grow the country's exports and boost the country's prosperity. Cultural and trade missions to markets such as South Korea, Japan and Malaysia are helping strengthen those international relationships.
National	Actively growing the international markets for NZ businesses at every opportunity. We believe NZers can compete and succeed with the best in the world. That is why we have set the ambitious target of having 90% of our export goods covered by a free trade agreement by 2030.
NZ First	Free trade agreements that remove tariff barriers from what we export, as opposed to some, like the Korea FTA and abandoned TPPA, which entrenched them as a huge disbenefit.
TOP	The existing approach is working well.
United Future	Strongly pro-free trade deals that open up markets for NZ businesses.

Should the Government continue work towards achieving the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) without the United States?



● Yes: 64%
● No: 23%
● Unsure: 13%

4.2

Do you believe New Zealand should continue work towards achieving the Trans Pacific Partnership without the United States?

ACT	Yes.
Green	Not in its current form. We support trade deals with Asia-Pacific states in principle, with appropriate safeguards for the right to regulate for public and environmental interests in NZ. Many of the less appealing parts of the TPPA are there because the US insisted, so it's strange to pursue that kind of deal without the USA.
Labour	Yes, but we should correct the mistakes made by National such as limiting a future Government controlling who we sell our houses to.
Māori	Yes, but the concerns we raised over the Crown's ability to fulfil its obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi when voting against the TPPA need to be addressed.
National	Yes.
NZ First	No. It is not a trade deal and would disadvantage Kiwi businesses here at home.
TOP	It seems crazy to grant concessions on pharmaceuticals when the USA is no longer part of the agreement. Removing the investor dispute procedures would also make the agreement more palatable to the public.
United Future	Yes.

Should the Government devote any resources towards achieving a Free Trade Agreement with the United States, given their Administration's sentiments towards free trade?



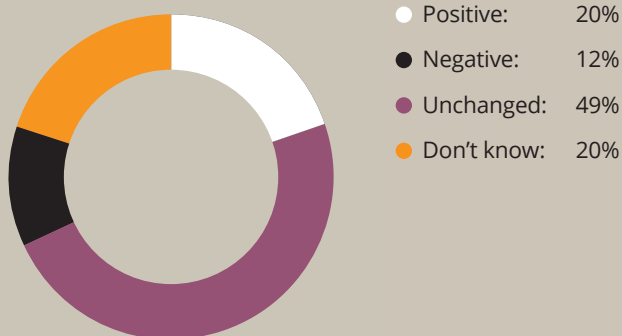
● Yes: 47%
● No: 34%
● Unsure: 19%

4.3a

Do you agree that New Zealand should pursue Free Trade Agreements with other countries?

ACT	Yes.
Green	Yes, provided they are fair, negotiated transparently, have a clear net benefit for NZ, and protect NZ's right to regulate for public and environmental interests. Trade agreements need to be seen in the context of the global climate change challenge.
Labour	Yes, committed to developing new free trade agreements where there are clear net advantages to NZ as a whole.
Māori	Yes. We are not anti-trade, we understand the benefits more open trade arrangements have for the economy but we want to ensure that free trade equals fair trade and all of society benefits from the gains.
National	Yes.
NZ First	Yes we do based on intelligent bilateral and beneficial multilateral agreements.
TOP	Absolutely.
United Future	Yes.

Overall, what effect do you believe Brexit will have on your future business activities?

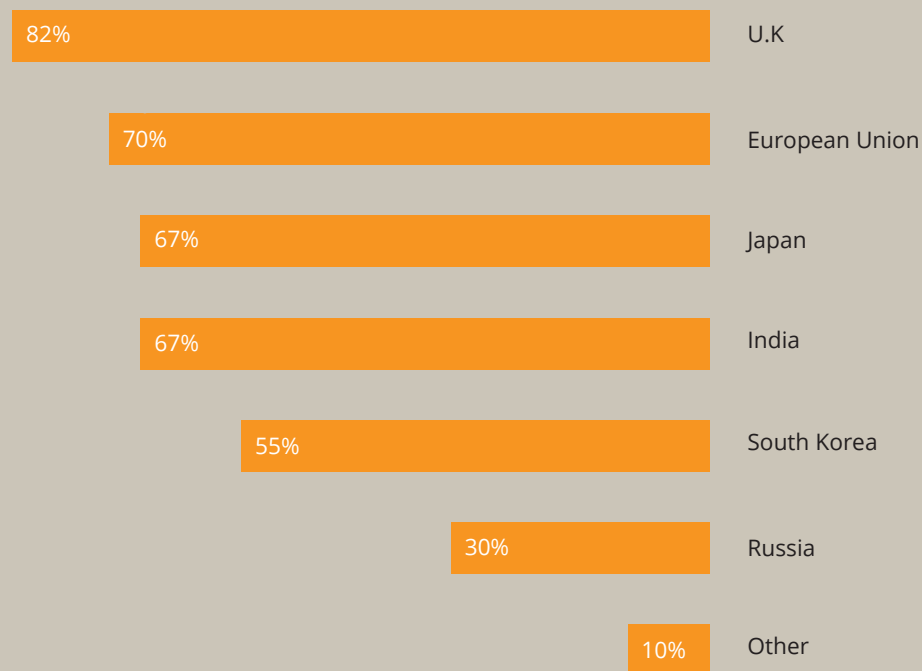


4.3b

If so, what other countries/regions do you believe should be first priority(ies)?

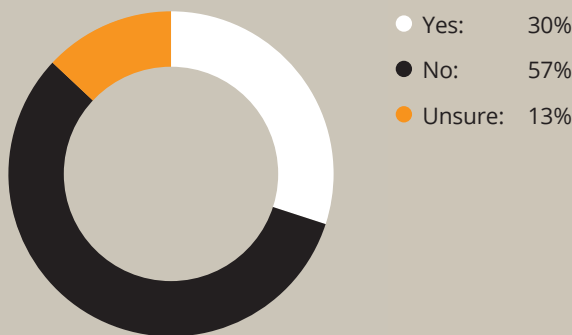
ACT	Brexit provides new options as Britain pivots away from European Union. In the long term, we could even negotiate a broader free trade 'CANZUK' zone. Britain, NZ, Australia and Canada – all English-speaking, industrialised Commonwealth nations.
Green	Fair trade with our Pacific neighbours would be good for the region. The EU shares many values with NZ and has shown a more enlightened approach to twenty-first century trade deals. An EU-NZ trade deal that is explicitly framed in the context of the Paris Climate Agreement would be beneficial to all parties.
Labour	The TPP and GCC agreements have failed to come to fruition. It is time to put more focus on other agreements such as the Pacific Alliance with South American countries, the agreement with the European Union, the agreement with the UK post-Brexit, and the extension of ASEAN.
Māori	We see India as a priority outside of a revised TPPA deal which includes Japan.
National	Currently working on new trade arrangements with the EU, TPP 11, the UK (following Brexit), the Pacific Alliance, and the Gulf states. An upgrade is currently being negotiated for the China FTA, and we are working on developing other opportunities across Asia.
NZ First	Russia/Belarus/Kazakhstan; Closer Commonwealth Economic Relations (NZ/Australia/Singapore at launch); United Kingdom; and European Union (subject to EU subsidies and our primary access).
TOP	This is a question for officials – they are the experts and should know where the greatest return on investment is. The latest discussion over South America seems to make sense.
United Future	The USA and Britain are obvious examples but as the Asian markets grow in capacity and their demand for goods, NZ should be looking at where we can open up new trade links within Asia.

**With which of the following
other countries do you think
NZ should pursue a Free Trade
Agreement?**



5 Skills And Human Capital

Is the education sector doing enough to deliver the hard skills/technical skills needed for your business?



5.1

What would your party do to ensure the education sector is doing enough to deliver the hard skills/technical skills needed by the business community?

ACT

NZ has one of the most unequal education systems in the Western World. To solve this, ACT's successful Partnership Schools Policy allows communities, iwi, philanthropists and business organisations to partner with educators to open new innovative schools.

Green

The smart green economy requires more STEM graduates, but also more critical thinkers. We'd investigate bonding for students who are learning the skills that are in high demand. Would cap fees and bring them down over time, as well as reviewing student support to ensure it's a reasonable reflection of rising living costs.

Labour

Will establish an NZ Skills Strategy covering areas such as workplace literacy and numeracy, skills matching, and global labour supply. Will restore skills leadership role to industry training organisations and reinstate the Skills Leadership Group.

Māori

We support partnership schools to help cater for our young who do not succeed in the traditional educational environment and provide motivated school leavers ready for work, further education or training. We also support a greater focus on more students, especially Māori and Pacific students, succeeding at level 3. We also believe that greater subsidies should be offered in the STEM subjects to attract greater number of students in to the hard/technical skills areas, needed by the business community.

National

Strong focus on delivering the skills needed for a growing economy, and the current Tertiary Education Strategy has a core focus on delivering the skills needed by industry. We have supported major increases in the number of young people studying in areas of skill shortages, notably in the engineering, ICT and science professions. Will continue working towards our target of 50,000 people in apprenticeships by 2020. We are also taking a number of steps to ensure our school-aged students emerge with the skills they need to take them into the 2020s, as well as introducing a new digital curriculum.

NZ First

Workforce planning alongside enhanced careers and transition advice. Refer to our policy regarding Business Linked Internship Scheme.

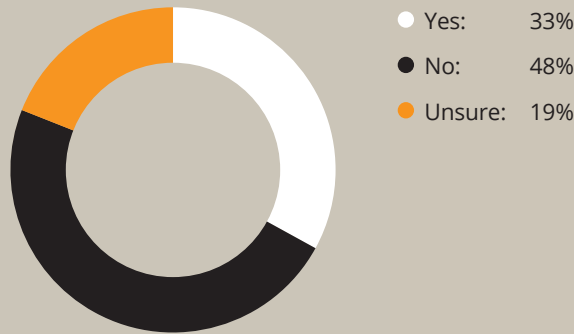
TOP

Parts of the post-school education and training sector are out of touch with business and not fit for purpose in the 21st century. Before we throw more money at the problem we need a bottom up review.

United Future

Remove current barriers to study that students feel by removing fees from tertiary education. This allows them a greater flexibility in choosing what they study and how they retrain, if needed. Rather than feeling locked into a single degree, students can now feel much more flexibility to switch halfway through a study programme.

Is the education and training sector doing enough to deliver the soft skills/workplace competencies needed in your business?



5.2

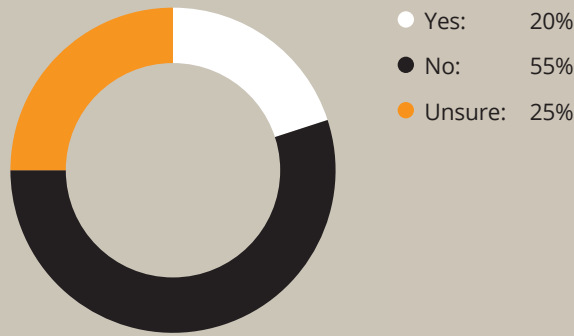
What would your party do to ensure the education and training sector is doing enough to deliver the soft skills/workplace competencies needed by the business community?

ACT	See 5.1.
Green	That kind of learning starts very young. Giving kids the best possible start in life (e.g. through our Budget for all Mothers policy package) pays off. We'd unfreeze schools' operations grant and increase funding for learning support.
Labour	Will develop a School Leavers Toolkit that will provide all secondary school students with the opportunity to gain a drivers licence, improve their financial literacy, and demonstrate to prospective employers the competencies that they have that might not be obvious from the qualifications that they've obtained.
Māori	We have championed the revival of the Māori trades training programme and the Māori and Pasifika Trade Training which has helped students progress into apprenticeships, jobs, further education and training.
National	Encouraging universities, polytechs and PTEs to work more closely with industry, including through new initiatives like the ICT Graduate Schools. Looking at new models that encourage more active internships during study.
NZ First	The compulsory sector consistently focuses on developing soft skills through delivery of the NZ Curriculum. New Zealand First policy is more focused on transferable skills and competencies rather than specific skills, attributes or behaviours for specific jobs.
TOP	Greater investment in early childhood education – that is where the best returns are. In the compulsory sector we would reduce testing so teachers have more time to teach and encourage a shift to learning the soft skills (creativity, communication skills, collaboration and critical thinking) that businesses are demanding. Teacher quality is also vital.
United Future	See above.

5.3

OECD suggests that NZ workers' qualifications and fields of study are poorly matched to their occupations, what are your policies to address this?

ACT	Open to the Productivity Commission's original proposal for a Student Education Account – which would replace all tertiary subsidies with individual student accounts for all NZers when they turn 16 – which they could use to purchase approved training from licensed providers.
Green	Better government resourcing of careers advice and more work experience programmes.
Labour	Will transform careers advice in schools to ensure every student has a personalised career development plan. Would professionalise careers advice and integrate it into learning. Every secondary school will have highly trained, skilled careers advice teachers. We would support partnerships between schools, businesses and training providers to provide young people with hands on experience in schools encouraging flexible approaches like the Gateway programme.
Māori	We believe there needs to be greater alignment in the Tertiary Education Strategy between what fields of study students enter, and what qualifications they need. We are against the notion that students will undertake studies that have little or no prospect of jobs at the end of gaining their qualification, especially where they are burdened with a student loan.
National	Encouraging universities, polytechs and PTEs to work more closely with industry, including through new initiatives like the ICT Graduate Schools. Looking at new models that encourage more active internships during study.
NZ First	Refer to our Up Front Investment tertiary education policy; workforce planning, vocational pathways and better careers and transition advice.
TOP	Young people need better information on the labour market outcomes of different courses.
United Future	See above.

Is the government doing enough to address skills shortages and labour market constraints?

5.4

What are your party's policies to address skills shortages and labour market shortages?

ACT	Make it easier for businesses to employ skilled migrants. See 5.3 above.
Green	No one size fits all approach here – different skills need different approaches. No silver bullet, but would develop a strategy to reduce that number by training people up to fill skills shortages.
Labour	Will invest more in our tertiary education sector providing three years free post-school education and training, and implementing a dole to apprenticeships policy which will pay the equivalent of the unemployment benefit to an employer to take on a new apprentice.
Māori	The Māori and Pasifika Trade Training flagship programme and Cadetships led by TPK are helping to address a shortage of workers in trades-related sectors. We back specific training to meet skills shortages but where it is not possible we support bringing in highly-skilled workers to meet demand.
National	Are investing heavily to meet skills shortages across the country, and we are also open to well-managed immigration where it can help meet the needs of our growing economy.
NZ First	New Zealand First will dramatically reduce net migration from 73,000 to around 10,000. This will still allow genuine skills shortages to be met. Too many NZers are underemployed and not engaged in employment, education and training. It should be noted that when NZ First was last in government, we introduced the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme. With modification, this provides a template to help industry meet periodic needs.
TOP	Our training system needs to be more responsive to the modern economy. That means more modular training that is integrated with workplaces.
United Future	Allow more flexibility in tertiary training and reform our immigration system to allow more streamlined residencies for new migrants who enter into a job offer.

Does your business have the skills and talent needed to provide the products and services consistent with customer demand?



● Yes: 69%
● No: 26%
● Unsure: 5%

If no, are the talent gaps widening or closing?



● Widening: 23%
● Closing: 77%

Is the government doing enough to improve the skills and workplace competencies of young people?



● Yes: 22%
● No: 61%
● Unsure: 17%

Does ImmigrationNZ have the balance right in allowing skilled people into New Zealand?



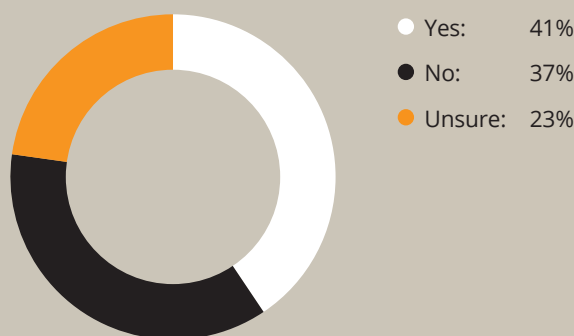
- Yes, the balance is right: 33%
- No, they let too many people in: 28%
- No, they don't let enough people in: 19%
- Unsure: 21%

5.5

What is your view on the role of immigration in a productive and competitive economy?

ACT	Many businesses need continued access to skilled migrant workers. We welcome migrants that embrace our values and positively contribute to NZ.
Green	Immigration is a good thing, for economic and other reasons, and we'd plan to deliver the infrastructure and housing needed to keep up with reasonable levels of immigration.
Labour	NZ is a country built on immigration. Migrants bring to NZ the skills we need to grow our economy and vibrant cultures that enrich our society, and an important part of ensuring genuine skills needs are met. However, it also places pressure on our infrastructure and it is important we ensure migration levels are managed so we can deliver the housing, infrastructure, and public services people expect.
Māori	We believe in a fair, diverse and inclusive Aotearoa and support Māori inclusion in all aspects of immigration planning. We believe immigrants have an important role to play in helping the economy fulfil its potential.
National	NZ has a small domestic population and it needs appropriate immigration to support economic growth and provide employers with access to the international labour market so they can keep growing their businesses. We continually review our immigration setting to ensure they meet that need.
NZ First	See answer to 5.4.
TOP	The test for immigration should be whether it makes the country better off. We will make it easier for highly skilled migrants to come here. Permanent low skilled labour needs should generally be met locally.
United Future	It is extremely helpful for both economic productivity and competition.

Are NZ's Immigration processes effective in delivering against skills shortages for your industry?



5.6

What, if any, changes would you make to ensure the immigration system responds to and meets business and industry needs?

ACT	Would make it easier for businesses to employ skilled immigrants.
Green	The current system for determining skills shortages lacks transparency.
Labour	Ensure that businesses are able to get genuinely skilled migrants when they need them. This will include introducing an Exceptional Skills Visa for highly skilled or talented people and introducing a KiwiBuild Visa for residential construction firms who train a local when they hire a worker from overseas. Also, strengthen the Labour Market Test for work visas so they are not being used for jobs Kiwis can do. Last, require courses for international students to be high-quality, remove the ability to work for international students in low-level courses except where the work is approved as part of their study, and remove the ability to get a work visa without a job for those who have completed study below university level.
Māori	The immigration system needs to be easily adjustable to be able to cope with the ever-changing needs of the country but believe we should encourage more immigrants into the regions to ease pressure on core services such as infrastructure, roading, housing in major centres.
National	Have made some recent changes to ensure the immigration system responds better to business and industry needs and believe we have struck the right balance in immigration.
NZ First	See answer to 5.4.
TOP	We need a greater investment in the information needed to plan future workforce needs. That said, the picture is so dynamic that flexibility in the system is also needed. Like education, transferable soft skills are becoming more important and our immigration system needs to reflect that.
United Future	Allow more streamlined residencies for new migrants who enter into job offer agreements.

Which of the following skills and human capital issues should Government focus on?



5.7

What are your policies to make vocational education, technical and trades training a more attractive study option?

ACT	See 5.3 above.
Green	Fund more apprenticeships.
Labour	Will pay the equivalent of the unemployment benefit to an employer to take on a new apprentice. Through enhanced careers advice, we will ensure that young NZers receive much better information about the full range of careers options that are available to them.
Māori	The Māori and Pasifika Trade Training and Cadetships programme is helping address a shortage of workers in trades-related sectors. We back specific training to meet skills shortages.
National	Target of 50,000 people training in apprenticeships by 2020. In 2011 introduced Trades Academies across NZ, which not only lift student achievement, but help students into further education or careers in industries such as building and construction or the primary industries. Also, have a number of intensive regionally-led employment programmes that are working to get young people at risk of long-term unemployment into employment and keeping them there.
NZ First	Refer Up Front Investment tertiary education policy and the Business Linked Internship Scheme.
TOP	University education tends to favour those from more affluent backgrounds. We think the system needs to be tilted away from university toward other forms of training.
United Future	See above.

6 Employment environment

Which of the following employment issues is currently of greatest importance to you?



Have you experienced any difficulty in terminating an unsatisfactory employee's employment?



● Yes: 42%
● No: 55%
● Unsure: 3%

6.2

What major changes, if any, would your party make to the Employment Relations Act?

ACT

1. Extend employment-at-will trial periods from 90 days to 12 months
2. Allow workers paid more than \$100,000 to opt out of the ERA's personal grievance provisions
3. Abolish reinstatement as a remedy for unfair dismissal
4. Repeal Part 6A of the ERA which regulates the continuity of employment when there is a transfer of undertakings.

Green

Like to see NZ move towards more of a high-performance, partnership employment relations model. Ideally, employment relations would be less oppositional and more collaborative.

Labour

Will replace the current Government's 'fire at will' law with fair trial periods that provide both protection against unjustified dismissal and a simple, fair, and fast referee service. Will also introduce Fair Pay Agreements that enable employers and workers to agree fair, basic employment conditions across an industry based on the employment standards that apply in that industry.

Māori

Repeal the 90-day trial period.

National

No significant changes currently planned.

NZ First

To be announced.

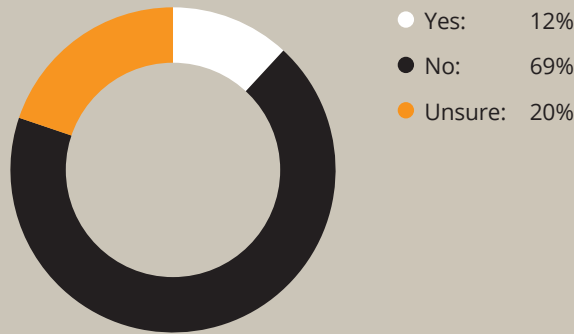
TOP

None.

United Future

None.

Should employment relations legislation favour bargaining for collective employment agreements over bargaining for individual employment agreements?

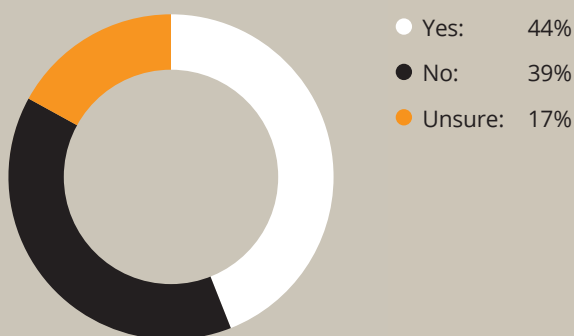


6.3

Do you agree that the Employment Relations Act's current preference for collective bargaining is the right approach?

ACT	No.
Green	Yes. The IMF has found a clear correlation between collective bargaining, positive economic performance, and good social outcomes. However, we'd like to see more options to collaboratively resolve collective bargaining issues, like more dispute resolution tools and processes and potentially government-funded bargaining facilitators.
Labour	Yes, support collective bargaining.
Māori	Yes.
National	The overall balance in the Employment Relations Act is about right and there are no changes currently planned.
NZ First	Yes.
TOP	We are an evidence-based party, and we aren't aware of any strong evidence to change the current system. We oppose Labour's proposed Fair Pay Agreements.
United Future	We believe the balance is about right.

Has the 90-day trial period assisted your business operations?



6.4

If not already outlined above, would you support the 90-day trial period provision as it currently stands?

ACT	Yes.
Green	No.
Labour	Would replace the current trial period with trial periods that provide both protection against unjustified dismissal and a simple, fair, and fast referee service.
Māori	Repeal the 90-day trial period.
National	Yes.
NZ First	To be announced.
TOP	Yes.
United Future	Yes.

Are you able to easily calculate holiday leave and pay for your staff under the Holidays Act?



● Yes: 54%
● No: 34%
● Unsure: 12%

6.5

What changes, if any, would you make to the current Holidays Act?

ACT	The Holidays Act should be reviewed and simplified.
Green	10 days sick leave, to better enable parents to look after sick children.
Labour	Not committed to any specific changes to the Holidays Act.
Māori	Review the Holiday Act to ensure all employers keep account of fluctuating hours and payments and calculate holiday entitlements correctly; and repeal zero hours contracts.
National	No changes currently planned.
NZ First	For non-permanent staff create a 'casual loading' so a range of entitlements are rolled into one.
TOP	None.
United Future	None.

6.6

What changes, if any, would you make to the proposed Health and Safety framework?

ACT	The most important aspect of going to work that really matters is that you come home safely. We believe the current framework is balanced about right, but will always monitor for excessive and petty bureaucracy impinging on our personal freedoms.
Green	Enforce regular break times, especially for physical jobs where fatigue can be a serious H&S issue.
Labour	Will extend the right for workers to elect a health and safety representative from amongst their own to all workplaces, regardless of size or industry.
Māori	We want to include livestock farming in the high-risk category and dairy should be included too in the Health and Safety framework. We also want a comprehensive review of the Health and Safety Act in so far as it supports a safer forestry sector.
National	No changes currently planned.
NZ First	We opposed the Health and Safety at Work Bill because we foresaw its pratfalls. As such we would make significant changes to resolve significant unintended consequences (during the Bill's Committee Stage, we advanced seven substantial amendments).
TOP	We would support an evidence-based evaluation of how the new legislation is working in terms of cost per quality adjusted life year saved.
United Future	None.

6.7

What changes, if any, would you make to ACC?

ACT	Would open ACC to competition.
Green	No major changes currently planned.
Labour	Will maintain ACC as a publicly administered and delivered social insurance scheme which provides comprehensive and universal personal injury coverage for all NZers. Make the ACC system fairer and more transparent for claimants, by implementing the findings of the Dean report. Relieve legislative restrictions to allow for fairer compensation and better rehabilitation.
Māori	The Māori Party would review, among other things, ACC's policy settings to ensure that funds available for victims of sexual violence reach those that need them most in a much more timely manner.
National	Will continue to work with ACC to support people back into work. We have driven major efficiency gains in ACC in recent years which have been passed onto business and workers. This includes annual ACC levies falling by more than \$2 billion since 2012 as the result of better rehabilitation initiatives, and strong performance by ACC.
NZ First	New Zealand First has a comprehensive ACC policy which includes the introduction of an ACC Ombudsman.
TOP	None.
United Future	Introduce more significant discounts on employer levies for those who undertake workplace safety regimes, and give more responsibility to industry sector groups to ensure safe practices (such as the independent forestry safety review panel).

Over the next 5-10 years, do you believe there will be significant impacts on the size and composition of your workforce as a result of emerging technology (i.e. Artificial Intelligence/Robotics)?



● Yes: 41%
● No: 51%
● Unsure: 9%

6.8

What major changes, if any, would you introduce to address the possible significant impacts on the size and composition of the workforce as a result of emerging technology (i.e. A.I/Robotics)?

ACT

Best way to prepare for the impact of new technology on employment is to ensure that the NZ education system is open and innovative so that people can quickly retrain.

Green

Will require a shift away from relying so much on income tax. Government can help through moving to a more "flexicurity" style income support system, to keep people going who are in increasingly precarious work.

Labour

Conducted a two year Future of Work Commission to look at this issue which has produced over 60 recommendations.

Māori

The Māori Party does not have a specific policy statement about this issue, however we would likely take our lead from industry professionals on this point.

National

NZ's flexible labour market is our first best protection to manage changes in the labour market brought about by technology change. We are experiencing rapid technological change already and yet NZ currently has the second highest employment rate in the OECD and the highest employment rate amongst adults that we have ever recorded. In addition, we will continue to invest heavily in education, particularly in digital and technological areas and the so-called soft skills.

NZ First

While the nature of jobs will change it will not extinguish work. It is important to have open pathways into education to allow continual reskilling (in tandem with Workforce Planning).

TOP

Over time we want to transition to an Unconditional Basic Income. We will be trialling it with some groups first, including young families with children under 3 and school leavers.

United Future

Fees free tertiary will be most needed in a world where diverse and flexible skills are needed. Tertiary education is an excellent place to gain these skills and retrain if necessary.

Do you support the concept of a living wage (i.e. paying workers \$20.20 per hour?)

- Yes: 44%
- No: 43%
- Unsure: 14%

**If yes, would you be prepared to pay the living wage as a minimum in your business in the near future?**

- Yes: 91%
- No: 3%
- Unsure: 7%



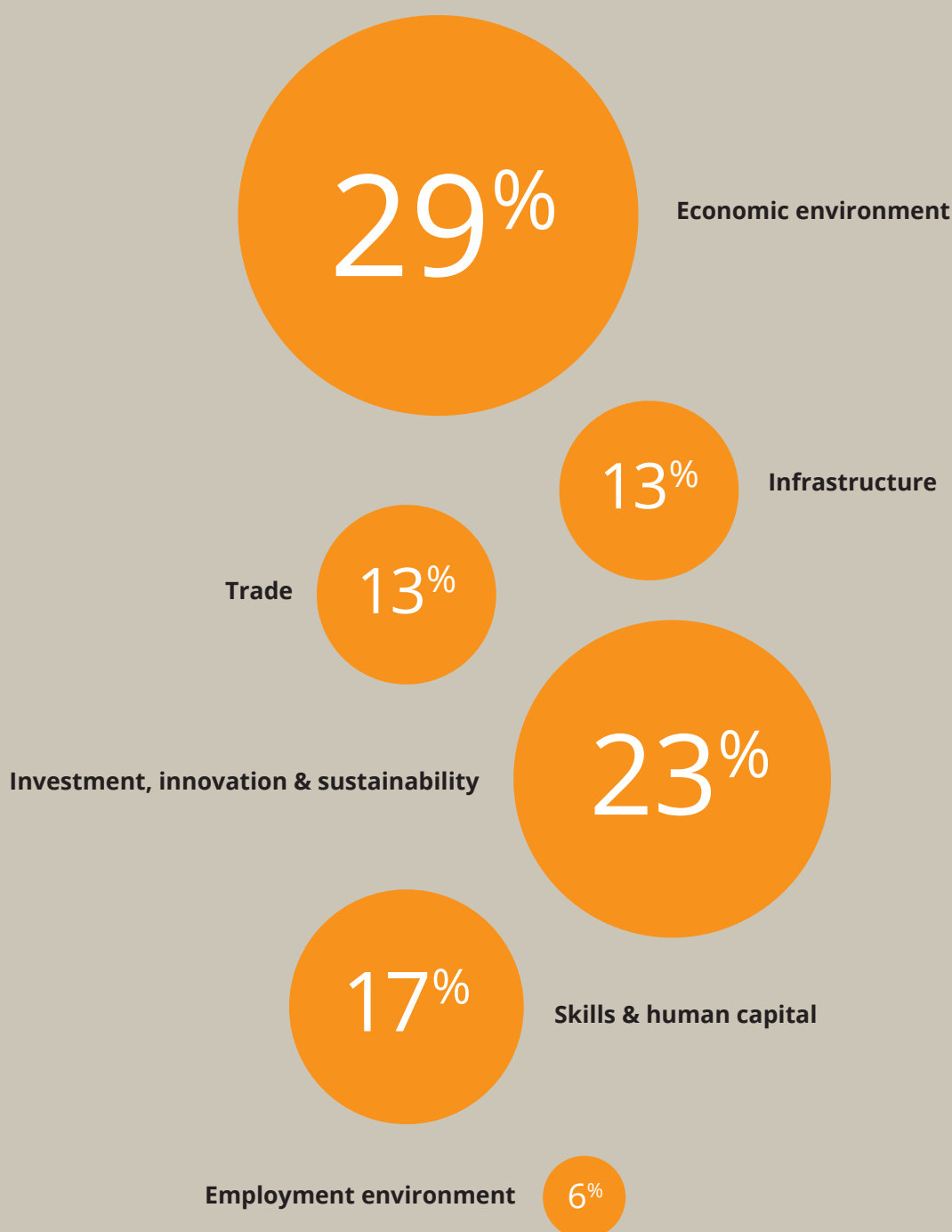
6.9

What are your policies regarding the minimum wage and the living wage?

ACT	Does not support increasing the minimum wage or introducing a living wage as it would reduce employment.
Green	Over time, the goal should be for the minimum wage to be 66% of the average wage. We'd pay all government staff and contractors the living wage.
Labour	Will increase the minimum wage to \$16.50 an hour and base future increases on the real cost of living for people on low incomes. This includes working towards a minimum wage equal to two-thirds of the average wage as economic conditions allow. Will ensure all workers in the core public service are paid at least the living wage and begin work with organisations that have regular and ongoing service contracts with the core public service to ensure they are living wage employers. Envisage the lowest-paid workers will make significant moves towards the living wage during the first term of Government.
Māori	The Māori Party wants to increase the minimum wage to \$19.90 per hour and we support the living wage campaign.
National	Will continue to increase the minimum wage annually. Will be careful to increase it by an amount each year that does not create significant job losses, as that would not help minimum wage workers.
NZ First	We believe in a fair day's pay for a fair days work with sustainable family incomes for all NZers. For the detail watch this space.
TOP	Our minimum wage (as a % of average wage) is already very high by international standards.
United Future	We support the current approach of raising the minimum wage over time that are fair to employees while meeting the needs of business to not have sudden increases in wage costs.

7 Summary

Of the six topics you have provided responses to, which is currently most important for achieving sustained economic growth?



8 About Your Business

Please indicate the number of staff employed by your enterprise:

Value	Frequency	Percent
1-5 employees	266	46.3
6-9 employees	71	12.3
10-49 employees	148	25.7
50-99 employees	30	5.2
100-499 employees	41	7.1
500+ employees	19	3.3
Total	575	100.0

Please indicate the main region your company is based in:

Value	Frequency	Percent
Northland	20	3.5
Auckland	117	20.3
Waikato	60	10.4
Bay of Plenty	44	7.7
Gisborne	5	.9
Hawkes Bay	11	1.9
Taranaki	20	3.5
Manawatu-Wanganui	32	5.6
Wellington	37	6.4
Nelson-Tasman	11	1.9
Marlborough	4	.7
West Coast	3	.5
Canterbury	87	15.1
Otago	74	12.9
Southland	50	8.7
Total	575	100.0

Please indicate the industry sector your enterprise operates in:

Value	Frequency	Percent
Accommodation, cafes & restaurants	49	8.5
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	246	42.8
Communication services	12	2.1
Construction	21	3.7
Cultural & recreational services	25	4.3
Education	6	1.0
Electricity, gas & water supply	7	1.2
Finance & insurance	17	3.0
Government administration & defence	10	1.7
Health & community services	23	4.0
Manufacturing	54	9.4
Mining	2	.3
Personal services	12	2.1
Property & business services	39	6.8
Retail trade	17	3.0
Transport & storage	18	3.1
Wholesale trade	17	3.0
Total	575	100.0

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