

Friday, 18 December 2020

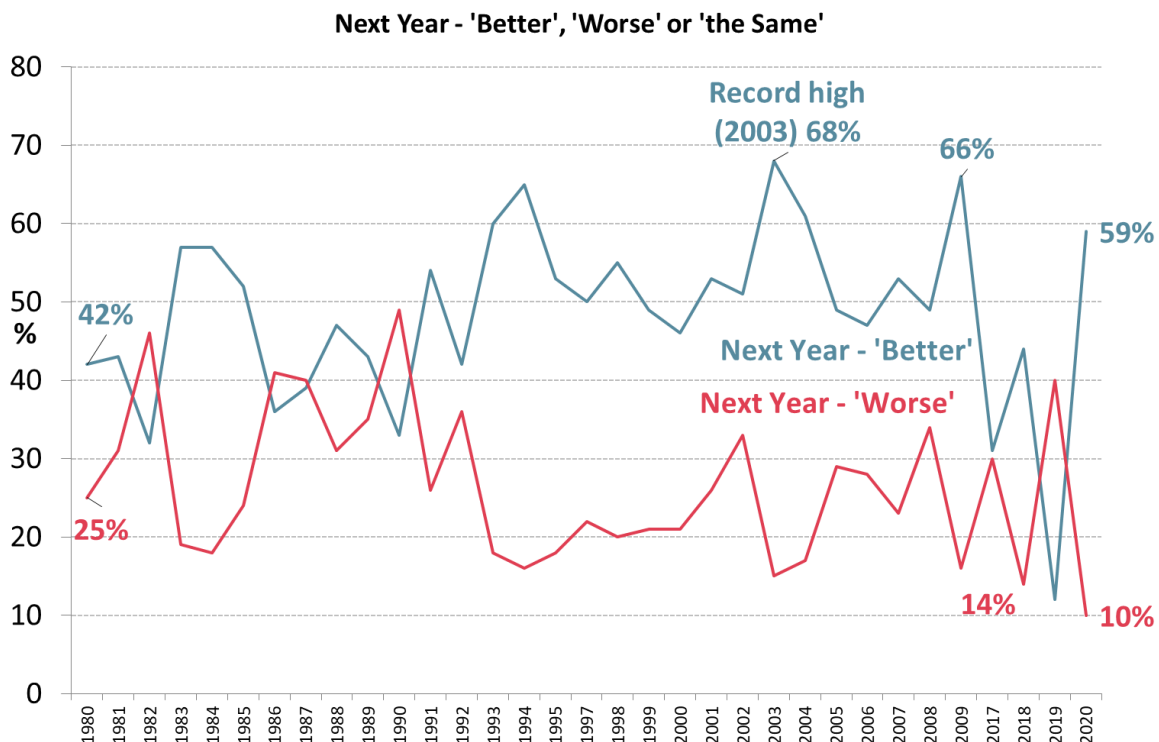
## Now 59% of Australians expect 2021 will be 'better' than 2020, as Australia returns to normal

Of all Australians 59% now think 2021 will be 'better' than 2020 – the highest positive view on the year ahead since 2009 following the Global Financial Crisis, a special Roy Morgan web survey conducted in November finds. A further 17% say 2021 will be 'the same', an all-time record low of 10% say 2021 will be 'worse' than 2020 and 14% don't know.

Australians are far more positive about 2021 than they were a year ago about 2020 when only 12% said 2020 would be 'better' than 2019 and a large 40% said the year ahead would be 'worse'. This comes as little surprise as people hope for a return to normality after the Covid-19 pandemic.

This special Roy Morgan web survey was conducted in November with a cross-section of 1,008 Australians aged 18+.

### Do you think next year will be 'Better' or 'Worse' – long-term trend (1980-2020)

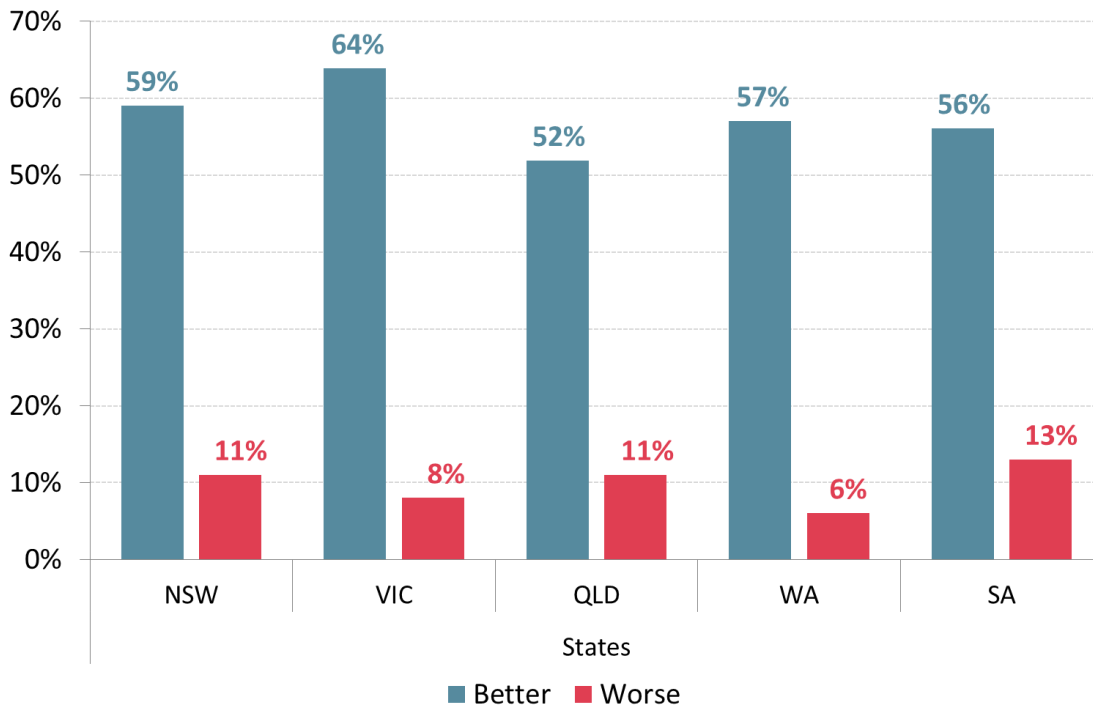


**Source:** Roy Morgan telephone, SMS and web surveys in Australia 1980-2020 with an average of 1,000 Australians aged 18+ interviewed each year. **Question:** "As far as you are concerned, do you think that 2021 will be better, worse, or the same as 2020?"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**Analysis by States & Regions – Next Year ‘Better’ or ‘Worse’**



**Source:** This special Roy Morgan web survey was conducted in early December with a cross-section of 1,008 Australians aged 18+.

**Victorians are the most positive about 2021**

Analysing by State shows respondents in all States are more positive about 2021 compared to 2020 with clear majorities in every State expecting 2021 to be ‘better’ than 2020.

After an extensive lockdown, Victorians are the most optimistic about 2021 with 64% expecting 2021 to be ‘better’ than 2020 ahead 59% of people in New South Wales and Western Australians (57%). Queenslanders are the least optimistic with a slim majority of 52% expecting 2021 to be ‘better’ than 2020.

Respondents in Australia’s Capital Cities (60%) are slightly more positive about 2021 being ‘better’ than 2020 compared to those in Country Regions (56%).

	Total Australia	States					City/ Country	
		NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	Capital Cities	Country Regions
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Better	59	59	64	52	57	56	60	56
Same	18	17	15	20	22	16	17	19
Worse	10	11	8	11	6	13	10	9
Don't know	14	13	13	17	14	15	13	16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Michele Levine, Chief Executive Officer, Roy Morgan, says:**

*“Australians will enter 2021 in a more positive frame of mind than a year ago with 59% expecting 2021 will be ‘better’ than 2020, a record increase of 47% points from a year ago. In late 2019 only 12% of Australians predicted 2020 would be ‘better’ than 2019 in what turned out to be a prescient forecast of the year we’ve all lived through.*”

*“Thankfully only one-in-ten Australians (10%) expect 2021 will be ‘worse’ than 2020, which is well down on a year ago when 40% of respondents expected 2020 would be ‘worse’ than 2019. Consumer Confidence in 2020 has so far averaged only 95.8, its lowest yearly average since 1990.*

*“Somewhat surprisingly younger Australians are the least optimistic about 2021 with 56% of 18-24 years old expecting 2021 will be ‘better’ than 2020 while there is more optimism about the year ahead from older age groups including people aged 25-34 (60%), 35-49 (57%) and 50-64 (61%).*

*“The first half of 2021 is set to be dominated by Covid-19 discussions and returning to normality. The tourism industry will be wondering when international flights will be allowed to once again take place. A large majority of 91% of Australians either ‘Strongly Agree’ or ‘Agree’ that travel restrictions between countries are acceptable in order to fight against the spreading of the Coronavirus.”*

Finding No. 8600– This special Roy Morgan web survey was conducted with a representative cross-section of 1,008 Australians on November 12 – 17, 2020. They were asked *“Do you think that 2021 will be better, worse, or the same as 2020?”*

### Roy Morgan Enquiries

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

*“As far as you are concerned, do you think that 2021 will be better, worse, or the same as 2020?”*

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

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

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

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

### About Roy Morgan

Roy Morgan is the largest independent Australian research company, with offices in each state of Australia, as well as in the United States and the United Kingdom. A full service research organisation specialising in omnibus and syndicated data, Roy Morgan has over 75 years' experience in collecting objective, independent information on consumers.

### Margin of Error

The margin of error to be allowed for in any estimate depends mainly on the number of interviews on which it is based. Margin of error gives indications of the likely range within which estimates would be 95% likely to fall, expressed as the number of percentage points above or below the actual estimate. Allowance for design effects (such as stratification and weighting) should be made as appropriate.

Sample Size	Percentage Estimate			
	40%-60%	25% or 75%	10% or 90%	5% or 95%
50,000	±0.4	±0.4	±0.3	±0.2