

Public Opinion on Food Security

ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences

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The *ANUpoll* on food security was designed to address public opinion concerning three aspects of food security, namely: (1) eating out habits among the Australian population; (2) public attitudes towards junk food advertising during children's programmes; (3) public attitudes towards genetically modified foods; (4) food affordability. Public opinion about food security is important for several reasons. First, the attitudes of the public may affect the desire and ability of governments to implement legislation relating to the regulation of food advertising and food safety. For example, the regulation of junk food advertising has not been as stringent as regulation on alcohol and cigarette advertising even though there is now a heightened public awareness of the long term health risks of childhood obesity. The prevalence of childhood obesity in Australia is now amongst the highest in the world and is rapidly increasing (CFAC). According to the Coalition on Food Advertising to Children (CFAC) which was formed in 2002, current Australian regulations and codes of practice are ineffective at protecting children from large volumes of TV advertisements for junk food.¹

Second, food safety becomes a public concern when certain food products are inadequately labelled. Food safety and truthful food labelling is a responsibility for local, state and federal governments. Even though food that is imported into Australia must meet certain safety standards set out in the Food Standards Code, there has been considerable public debate about the appropriate labelling of food products, particularly on imported foods that are regarded as high risk foods and foods that are genetically modified. In terms of food labelling, a recent bill on the mandatory labelling of palm oil on all food products was passed in the senate by independent senator Nick Xenophon, the Greens and the Coalition. This particular bill was not directly related to food safety². However, the passing of this bill shows that public concerns about food labelling do occasionally impact on legislation. Genetically modified foods in particular are a concern for many Australians. Investigating public opinion on these issues is important as certain attitudes and beliefs about food safety may influence not only consumer behaviour but also calls for amendments to pieces of legislation covering food safety.

Third, food security relates to whether people have enough money to eat healthily and provide enough food for their families. Food security is normally discussed in terms of Australia's international Aid development obligations and the decline in agricultural biodiversity. However, food security is also an important issue for a minority of households in Australia. Finding out about the extent of food insecurity in Australia is important for policy makers involved in welfare organisations, food transport and food production. Experiences of financial hardship associated with

¹ See CFAC report at http://www.cancercouncil.com.au/cfac/downloads/briefing_paper.pdf

² This Bill was related to the poor treatment of orangutans in Indonesia and Malaysia. Public opinion towards the inhumane treatment of animals can also impact on trade imports of certain food products.

rising food prices is likely to have an impact on attitudes towards other policies involving higher household costs such as the carbon tax.

Eating Out Habits

Key points

- A total of 8 per cent of the population eat takeaway more than 3 times a week.
- Among those who eat takeaway 3 or more times a week, men are 50 percent more likely than women to eat takeaway food.
- Despite warnings of a downturn in the economy and rising household costs, 37 percent of respondents eat out at restaurants more than once a week.

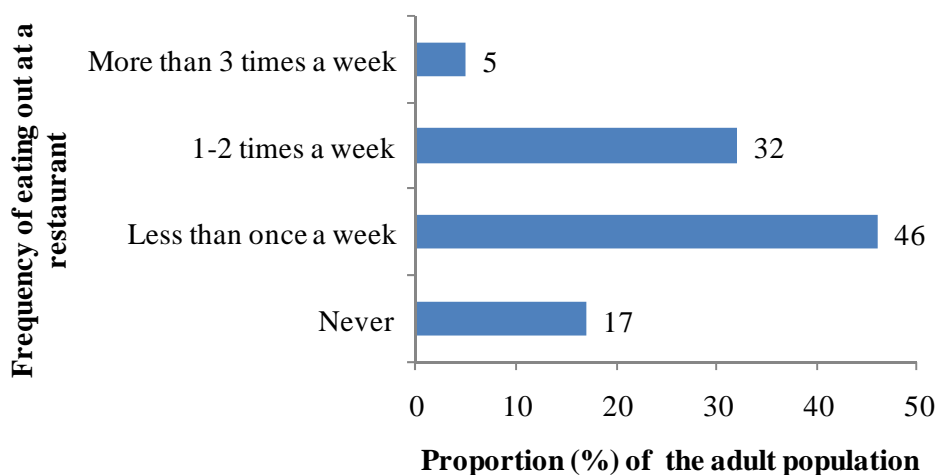
A goal of the *ANUpoll* on food security was to investigate general eating habits of Australians as a background to wider concerns about food security. In order to assess eating out habits, respondents were asked about eating out either with takeaway or in a restaurant or cafe. In relation to takeaway, they were asked, ‘How many times each week do you usually eat fast food or takeaway food?’ People were also asked ‘How many times each week do you usually eat at a sit-down restaurant or cafe?’ A total of 8 per cent of the population eat takeaway more than 3 times a week, and less than 1 percent eat takeaway more than 7 times a week. At the other end, up to 19 per cent of the adult population did not eat takeaway at all each week and 37 per cent said they eat takeaway less than once a week. In terms of eating out at restaurants, a significant population (37 per cent) can still afford to eat out a restaurant at least once a week.

When considering eating out habits across socio-demographic groups, among those who eat takeaway 3 or more times a week, men were 50 percent more likely than women to eat takeaway food. In terms of age groups, people aged 25-34 and 45-54 were the biggest consumers of takeaway food. Education also seems to make a difference. Those with a tertiary education were 26 percent more likely than those without education to eat takeaway food 3 or more times a week.

	Never eat takeaway food %	Eat takeaway less than 2 times a week %	Eat takeaway 3 or more times a week %
Gender			
Male	42	48	75
Female	58	52	25
Total	100	100	100
Age			
18-24	11	12	18
25-34	4	21	35
35-44	9	18	9

45-54	14	22	27
55-64	25	13	7
65-74	20	10	3
75 or over	18	4	1
Total	100	100	100
Educational qualifications			
Primary, secondary	53	40	20
Trade, diploma	19	27	34
Tertiary	28	33	46
Total	100	100	100
(N)	(224)	(873)	(104)

Focusing on eating out at restaurants, despite warnings of a downturn in the economy and rising household costs, 37 percent of respondents eat out at restaurants more than once a week. At the other end 17 percent of respondents never eat out at restaurants and 46 percent eat out at restaurants infrequently or less than once a week.



‘How many times each week do you usually eat at a sit-down restaurant or cafe?’

When it comes to spending habits, males are up to 52 percent more likely to spend more than \$100 a week on eating out. Women account for only 24 percent of those who spend more than \$100 a week. In terms of age, the two age groups most likely to spend more than \$100 a week on eating out are those who are in the 25-34 or 45-54 age categories. It is possible that these times are peak stages in careers for many people, when people are either first starting or moving into more senior management roles. In both cases, respondents may have less time to prepare meals at home. Those aged 65 and over are the least likely to spend more than \$100 on eating out. Education also makes a difference to how much people spend out. For example, among those who spend \$40-\$100 per week on eating out, 38 percent have a tertiary education and 29 percent completed their education at the end of secondary school. The differences are even more obvious among those who spend more

than \$100 a week. Among those who spend more than \$100 a week, 24 percent completed their education at the secondary level and 63 percent completed their education at the tertiary level.

	0-\$40	\$40-\$100	More than \$100
Gender	%	%	%
Male	46	60	76
Female	54	40	24
Total	100	100	100
Age			
18-24	14	19	15
25-34	21	26	25
35-44	19	16	8
45-54	21	19	32
55-64	11	12	15
65-74	9	5	4
75 or over	5	3	1
Total	100	100	100
Educational qualifications			
Primary, secondary	44	29	24
Trade, diploma	25	33	13
Tertiary	31	38	63
Total	100	100	100
(N)	(344)	(200)	(42)

'And overall, how much do you usually spend on eating out each week? This does not including food paid for by somebody else'.

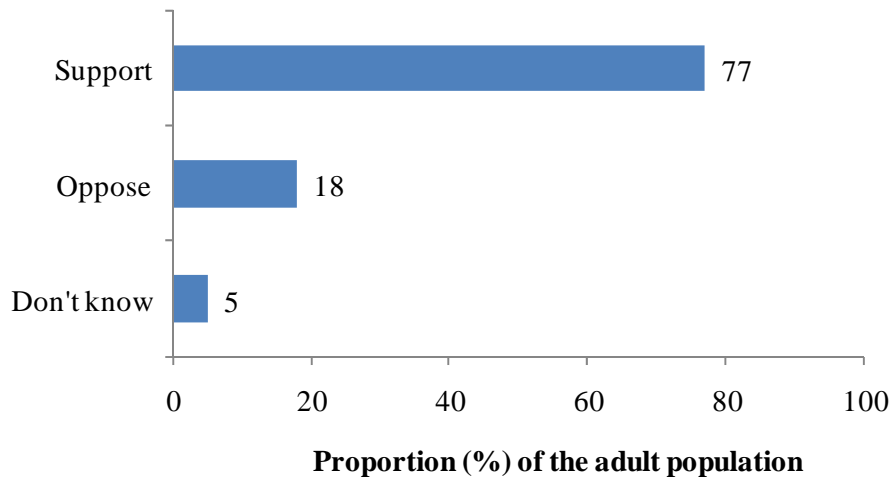
In summary, these findings demonstrate that it is not lower socioeconomic groups who tend to eat more unhealthy takeaway food but rather those in age categories which tend to have the least amount of time to prepare home cooked meals and those higher levels of education. Males are also more likely than females to spend more than \$100 a week on takeaway food. One possible explanation is that women tend to see eating out as a social activity and are less likely to eat out on their own.

Health and Food Safety

Key points

- Up to 77 percent of the respondents support a ban on junk food advertising during children's television programmes and 18 percent oppose junk food advertising.
- While 81 percent of respondents reported that food products in general are safe to eat, nearly two thirds of respondents did not feel confident with the safety of food products imported from Asia.

A primary health and food safety concern in Australia is childhood obesity. Childhood obesity is an increasing problem in societies such as Australia where parents are often time poor and where children spend many hours inactive in front of computers and televisions. One childhood obesity prevention strategy has been to limit children's exposure to junk food advertising during children's programming. Respondents were asked to give their opinion on whether they would be supportive of banning junk food advertising during children's television programmes. Up to 77 percent of the respondents support a ban on junk food advertising during children's television programmes and 18 percent oppose junk food advertising. A significant majority (68 percent) believe that putting a ban on advertising junk food during children's television programming would have a positive impact on children's eating habits.



'Would you support or oppose a ban on advertising junk food during children's programming?'

The ANUpoll also asked a series of statements about whether respondents feel food products are safe to eat. Most respondents (81 percent) reported that food products in general are safe to eat. However, respondents were not always confident with the safety of imported food products. Nearly two thirds of respondents did not feel confident with the safety of food products imported from Asia. Respondents felt more confident with food products imported from the United States and the United Kingdom. Up to 78 percent felt confident with food products from the United States and 82 percent felt confident with food products from the United Kingdom.

General beliefs	Confident... (%)	(n)	Not confident (%)	(n)
How confident are you that the following food products are safe to eat.				
Food products in general.	81	(971)	19	(225)
Food products imported from Asia to Australia	43	(512)	57	(668)
Food products imported from United States to Australia	78	(898)	22	(259)
Food products imported from the United Kingdom to Australia	82	(937)	18	(206)

'Next I have a few questions about food safety...' (N=1180)

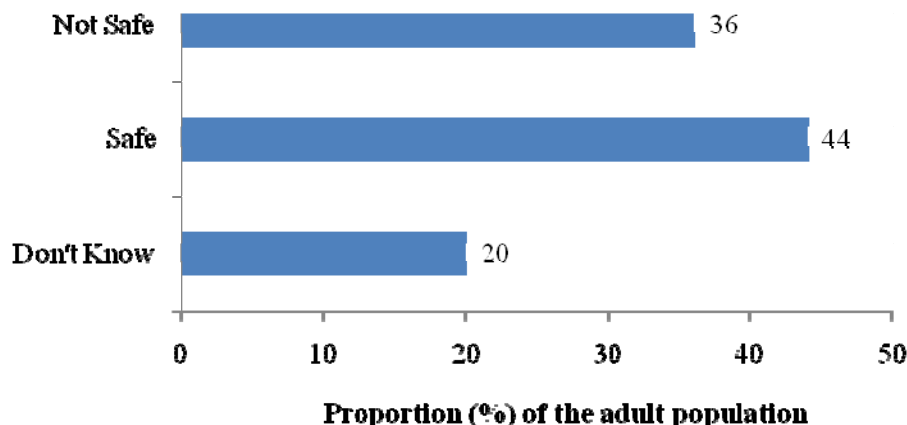
In terms of health and food safety, the findings indicate that the public would like to see evidence of tighter regulation on foods imported from Asia. While all foods must comply with requirements under the *Imported Food Control Act 1992* which is implemented through the Australian Government's Imported Food Inspection Scheme (IFIS), there appears to be less public confidence in the safety of foods imported from parts of Asia compared to the United Kingdom and the United States. While the United Kingdom and the United States are geographically further away, both are developed countries which would have higher standards of food safety than many poorer countries in the immediate region.

Genetically Modified Foods

Key points

- Up to 44 percent of respondents felt that GM foods are safe to eat and 36 percent of respondents felt that GM foods are not safe to eat.
- The results show that among those who read a lot about GM foods 49 percent felt GM foods were safe and 41 percent felt that GM foods were not safe.
- In terms of buying genetically modified foods, 46 percent of respondents said that it was very likely or somewhat likely that they would buy foods that are labelled as genetically modified. Another 54 percent said that it was not very likely or not at all likely that they would buy foods that are labelled as genetically modified.

Another food safety concern involves the production and sale of genetically modified foods. This was evidenced when in 2011, alleged Greenpeace activists destroyed crops of genetically modified wheat at a CSIRO experimental station in the ACT. While scientists around the world are working on how to improve the nutritional value of foods and increase food security for an increasing world population, a significant proportion of the population remain fearful of the impact genetically modified foods will have on long term health. Up to 44 percent of respondents felt that GM foods are safe to eat and 36 percent of respondents felt that GM foods are not safe to eat.

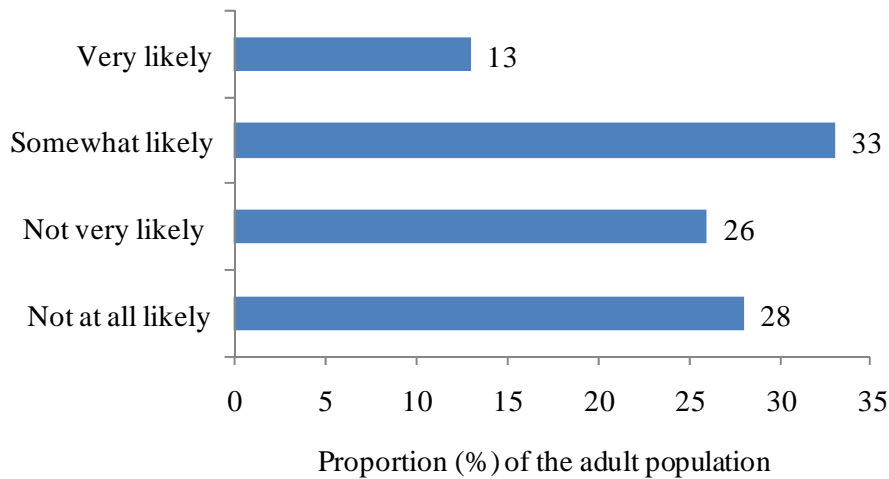


Do you think genetically modified foods are safe or not safe to eat?

In some cases, becoming more informed on a topic can lessen the concerns that people may have. Therefore, the ANUpoll asked respondents whether before today, they had you heard or read about genetically modified foods. The results show that among those who read a lot about GM foods 49 percent felt GM foods were safe and 41 percent felt that GM foods were not safe. Among those who have read very little about GM foods 43 percent felt that GM foods are safe and 31 percent felt that GM foods are not safe. Therefore, reading more about GM foods doesn't necessarily lead to greater public support. Public support would depend on whether the content that is being read is positive or negative. Where there is agreement is in the labelling of GM food. Up to 96 percent of the population think that GM food should be labelled.

	Read a lot (%)	Read Some (%)	Not much (%)	Nothing at all (%)
Safe	49	46	43	18
Not safe	41	37	31	29
Don't know	10	17	26	53
(%)	(100)	(100)	(100)	(100)
(N)	(274)	(498)	(356)	(69)

To find out whether people are likely to buy and eat food that is labelled as having been genetically modified, respondents were asked, 'How likely is it that you would buy food that is labelled as having been genetically modified?' In terms of buying genetically modified foods, 46 percent said that it was very likely or somewhat likely that they would buy foods that are labelled as genetically modified. Another 54 percent said that it was not very likely or not at all likely that they would buy foods that are labelled as genetically modified. Similar responses were found when respondents were asked 'And how likely would you be to eat genetically modified foods?' Up to 48 percent said that it was either very likely or somewhat likely that they would eat foods that are genetically modified and a slightly higher 53 percent said that it was not very likely or not at all likely that they would eat foods that are labelled as genetically modified.



How likely is it that you would buy food that is labelled as having been genetically modified

In summary, these findings suggest the Australian public is fairly divided on whether GM foods are safe to eat. Continue....

Household Food Security

Key points

- Up to 16 percent of the respondents said that they often or sometimes worried that their food would run out before they had enough money to buy more
- A minority of respondents (8 percent) said that the food had often or sometimes run out and they didn't have enough money to buy more food.

Food security also concerns whether people have enough food to eat. The ANUpoll asked a series of questions about whether people could afford to eat and had concerns about their food running out. Up to 16 percent of the respondents said that they often or sometimes worried that their food would run out before they had enough money to buy more. Another 13 percent said that they often or sometimes couldn't afford to eat balanced meals and 8 percent said that the food had often or sometimes run out and they didn't have enough money to buy more food. A small minority of respondents (4 percent) said that they needed emergency food assistance from a charity, food bank, soup kitchen, or some other source. In order to keep food costs down, 33 percent of the respondents have grown own food at home or in a community garden to reduce spending on food.

Following occurred....

%

a) We worried that our food would run out before we got money to buy more.	16
b) We couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.	13
c) The food that we had ran out and we didn't have money to buy more.	8
d) Needed emergency food assistance from a charity, food bank, soup kitchen, or some other source.	4
e) Have grown own food at home or in a community garden to reduce spending on food.	33

For a), b) and c) 'Now I'm going to read you several statements that people have made about their food situation. For these statements, please tell me whether the statement was OFTEN true, SOMETIMES true, RARELY true, or NEVER true for your household in the last 12 months....' Estimates include 'Sometimes' and 'often'.

For d) 'In the last 12 months, did anyone in your household ever get emergency food assistance from a charity, food bank, soup kitchen, or some other source?' Estimate includes 'Yes'.

For e) 'In the last 12 months, have you grown your own food at home or in a community garden to reduce your spending on food?' Estimate includes 'Yes'.

In looking at which socio-demographic groups are most at risk of food insecurity, it appears that those without a tertiary education are most at risk. Among those who often worried that food would run out before they got enough money to buy more, 74 percent had completed their education at the secondary level. Similarly among those who often couldn't afford to eat balanced meals, 64 percent had no post school education and 21 percent had a tertiary education. In terms of those who actually couldn't afford to buy more food when their food ran out, the differences between those with a tertiary education and those without a tertiary education are even more pronounced. Up to 86 percent of those who often cannot afford to buy more food when their food runs out do not have a post schooling education. These findings indicate that a tertiary education may lower the risk of experiencing food insecurity throughout difficult economic times.

Household type is another indicator of who may be more at risk of food insecurity. For example, couples with children are more likely than couples without children to experience food insecurity. For all three statements on food insecurity, couples with children were consistently more likely than other household types to either worry that their food would run out, have not enough money to eat balanced meals or have not enough money to buy more food when their food ran out. Couples without children were least at risk of food insecurity. For example, among those who sometimes

worried that their food would run out before they got money to buy more, 18 percent were couples without children and 54 percent were couples with children.

‘We worried that our food would run out before we got money to buy more’

	Often %	Sometimes %	Rarely %	Never %
Educational qualifications				
Primary, secondary	74	39	44	37
Trade, diploma	18	31	24	26
Tertiary	8	21	32	37
Total	100	100	100	100
(N)	(61)	(126)	(173)	(831)
Household type				
Couple without children	15	18	25	32
Couple with children	33	54	39	45
1 parent family	14	12	4	5
1 person household	31	14	22	15
Other	7	2	10	3
Total	100	100	100	100
(N)	(58)	(125)	(170)	(814)

‘We couldn’t afford to eat balanced meals’

	Often %	Sometimes %	Rarely %	Never %
Educational qualifications				
Primary, secondary	64	51	38	41
Trade, diploma	15	20	27	26
Tertiary	21	29	35	33
Total	100	100	100	100
(N)	(52)	(98)	(910)	(1189)
Household type				
Couple without children	17	13	27	31
Couple with children	25	55	40	45
1 parent family	25	12	3	5
1 person household	15	18	25	15
Other	19	2	5	4
Total	100	100	100	100
(N)	(48)	(96)	(126)	(893)

‘The food that we had ran out and we didn’t have money to buy more’

	Often %	Sometimes %	Rarely %	Never %
Educational				

qualifications				
Primary, secondary	86	54	45	39
Trade, diploma	0	26	25	27
Tertiary	14	20	30	35
Total	100	100	100	100
(N)	(22)	(76)	(112)	(980)
Household type				
Couple without children	11	12	19	31
Couple with children	39	55	43	44
1 parent family	6	17	7	6
1 person household	28	11	25	16
Other	17	5	7	4
Total	100	100	100	100
(N)	(18)	(75)	(108)	(964)

Key Trends: Most Important Problems and Political Mood

Key points

- Immigration and the economy/jobs are viewed by the public as the most important problems facing Australia, with 20 percent mentioning immigration and 18 percent mentioning the economy/jobs.
- A large majority of Australians are satisfied with the way the country is heading.
- Dissatisfaction with the country's direction is most associated with concerns about better government and immigration, while satisfaction is most associated with concerns about the environment.

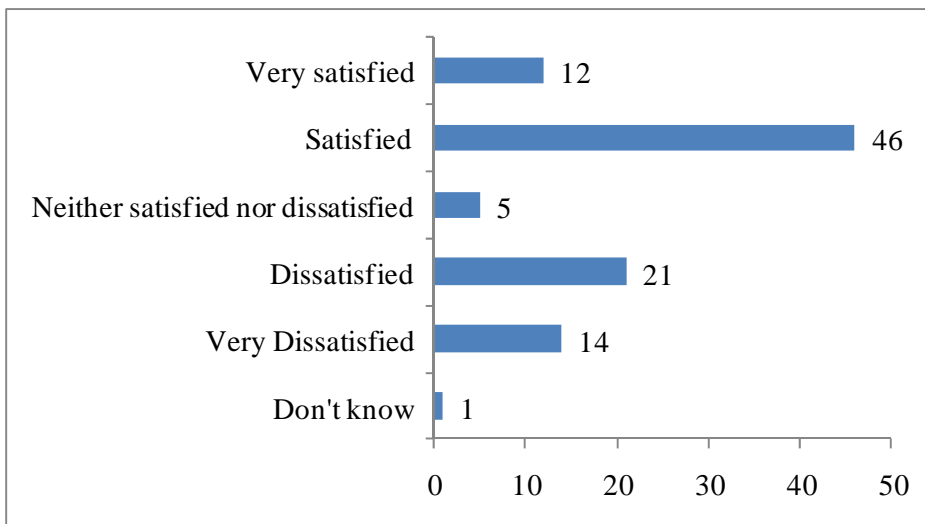
Since the ANUpoll started in early 2008, the economy has been the most frequently mentioned problem by the survey respondents. Concern about the economy peaked at over half the respondents in early 2009, at the height of the global financial crisis, and has declined thereafter, bottoming at around one in five respondents in early 2010. In this poll, 18 percent mentioned the economy and jobs and their first concern, with 12 percent mentioning it as their second concern.

In the last ANUpoll the first mentioned issue was immigration where 20 percent mentioned immigration as their first concern and 11 percent nominating it as their second concern. However, in this poll, only 12 percent mentioned immigration as the most important issue and 11 percent mentioned immigration as the second most important issue. In this poll, immigration was ranked third. Better government was ranked second with 17 percent of respondents mentioning better government as the most important problem. The environment and global warming were ranked fourth, with 11 percent mentions.

Rank	Issue	Percent mentioned	(Change May 11-July 11)
1	Economy/jobs	18	(0)
2	Better government	17	(+8)
3	Immigration	12	(-8)
4	Environment/global warming	11	(0)

'What do you think is the most important problem facing Australia today?'

The ANUpolls have also been marked by a remarkably high and consistent proportion saying that they are satisfied with the direction in which Australia is heading. This poll is no exception, and a total of 58 percent were either 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with the direction the country is headed, with 35 percent dissatisfied. Since the last poll conducted in April, there has been a 6 percent increase in those who are dissatisfied.



'All things considered, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the country is heading?'

ANUpoll Questions

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the country is heading?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Very satisfied	144	12.0
	Satisfied	524	43.7
	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	56	4.7
	Dissatisfied	269	22.4
	Very dissatisfied	192	16.0
	Don't know / Not sure	14	1.2
	Refused	1	.1
	Total	1200	100.0

What do you think is the most important problem facing Australia today?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Economy/jobs	211	17.6
	Industrial relations	3	.3
	Interest rates	6	.5
	Housing affordability	17	1.4
	Health care	40	3.3
	Education	11	.9
	Defence/national security	4	.3
	Terrorism	1	.1
	Afghan war	1	.1
	Environment/global warming	153	12.8
	Water management	13	1.1
	Immigration	136	11.3
	Indigenous affairs	9	.8
	Taxation	24	2.0
	Better government	209	17.4
	Law and order/crime/justice system	13	1.1
	Ageing population	24	2.0
	Values/morals/respect for others	47	3.9

Poverty/social exclusion/inequality	19	1.6
Other	39	3.3
None/ no other	2	.2
Trade balance/ loss of jobs to overseas	12	1.0
Rural/farming issues	6	.5
Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc.)	11	.9
Infrastructure/ planning/ innovation	6	.5
Alcohol and drug use	2	.2
Young people's behaviour/attitudes	5	.4
Foreign influence/australia's position in world	10	.8
Family/community/societal breakdown	2	.2
Carbon tax	96	8.0
Don't Know / Can't Say	64	5.3
Refused	4	.3
Total	1200	100.0

A2A What do you think is the most important problem facing Australia today?

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Economy/jobs	211	17.6	17.6	17.6
Industrial relations	3	.3	.3	17.8
Interest rates	6	.5	.5	18.3
Housing affordability	17	1.4	1.4	19.8
Health care	40	3.3	3.3	23.1
Education	11	.9	.9	24.0
Defence/national security	4	.3	.3	24.3
Terrorism	1	.1	.1	24.4
Afghan war	1	.1	.1	24.5
Environment/global warming	153	12.8	12.8	37.3
Water management	13	1.1	1.1	38.3
Immigration	136	11.3	11.3	49.7
Indigenous affairs	9	.8	.8	50.4

Taxation	24	2.0	2.0	52.4
Better government	209	17.4	17.4	69.8
Law and order/crime/justice system	13	1.1	1.1	70.9
Ageing population	24	2.0	2.0	72.9
Values/morals/respect for others	47	3.9	3.9	76.8
Poverty/social exclusion/inequality	19	1.6	1.6	78.4
Other	39	3.3	3.3	81.7
None/ no other	2	.2	.2	81.8
Trade balance/ loss of jobs to overseas	12	1.0	1.0	82.8
Rural/farming issues	6	.5	.5	83.3
Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc.)	11	.9	.9	84.3
Infrastructure/ planning/ innovation	6	.5	.5	84.8
Alcohol and drug use	2	.2	.2	84.9
Young people's behaviour/attitudes	5	.4	.4	85.3
Foreign influence/australia's position in world	10	.8	.8	86.2
Family/community/societal breakdown	2	.2	.2	86.3
Carbon tax	96	8.0	8.0	94.3
Don't Know / Can't Say	64	5.3	5.3	99.7
Refused	4	.3	.3	100.0
Total	1200	100.0	100.0	

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the country is heading?

	Frequency	Percent
Valid Very satisfied	144	12.0
Satisfied	524	43.7
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	56	4.7
Dissatisfied	269	22.4
Very dissatisfied	192	16.0
Don't know / Not sure	14	1.2
Refused	1	.1

Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way the country is heading?

	Frequency	Percent
Very satisfied	144	12.0
Satisfied	524	43.7
Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	56	4.7
Dissatisfied	269	22.4
Very dissatisfied	192	16.0
Don't know / Not sure	14	1.2
Refused	1	.1
Total	1200	100.0

And what do you think is the second most important problem facing Australia today?

	Frequency	Percent
Valid Skipped	70	5.8
Economy/jobs	150	12.5
Industrial relations	12	1.0
Interest rates	5	.4
Housing affordability	19	1.6
Health care	62	5.2
Education	42	3.5
Defence/national security	4	.3
Terrorism	2	.2
Iraq war	1	.1
Afghan war	3	.3
Environment/global warming	99	8.3
Water management	13	1.1
Immigration	141	11.8
Indigenous affairs	8	.7
Taxation	17	1.4
Better government	70	5.8
Law and order/crime/justice system	13	1.1
Ageing population	28	2.3
Values/morals/respect for others	32	2.7
Poverty/social exclusion/inequality	39	3.3
Other	54	4.5
None/ no other	32	2.7

Trade balance/loss of jobs to overseas	11	.9
Rural/farming issues	5	.4
Social services (including aged care, the disabled, etc.)	15	1.3
Infrastructure/ planning/ innovation	19	1.6
Alcohol and drug use	9	.8
Young people's behavior/attitudes	6	.5
Foreign influence/australia's position in world	8	.7
Family/community/societal breakdown	3	.3
Carbon tax	52	4.3
Don't Know / Can't Say	155	12.9
Refused	1	.1
Total	1200	100.0

How many times each week do you usually eat fast food or takeaway food?

	Frequency	Percent
Valid Never eat fast food or takeaway food	282	23.5
Less than once a week	456	38.0
1-2 times	390	32.5
3-5 times	58	4.8
6-7 times	9	.8
Greater than 7 times	5	.4
Total	1200	100.0

How many times each week do you usually eat at a sit-down restaurant or cafe?

	Frequency	Percent
Valid Never eat fast food or takeaway food	223	18.6
Less than once a week	580	48.3
1-2 times	354	29.5
3-5 times	34	2.8
6-7 times	6	.5

	Greater than 7 times	2	.2
	Don't know	1	.1
	Total	1200	100.0

And overall, how much do you usually spend on yourself eating out each week?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Skipped	567	47.3
	None	9	.8
	\$1-\$10	54	4.5
	\$10-\$40	321	26.8
	\$40-\$70	144	12.0
	\$70-\$100	41	3.4
	\$100-\$150	38	3.2
	More than \$150	20	1.7
	Don't know	5	.4
	Refused	1	.1
	Total	1200	100.0

In the last year, has the amount that you usually spend on eating out increased or decreased?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Increased a lot	112	9.3
	Increased a little	298	24.8
	Stayed the same	413	34.4
	Decreased a lot	182	15.2
	Decreased a little	174	14.5
	Don't know	19	1.6
	Refused	2	.2
	Total	1200	100.0

Would you support or oppose a ban on advertising junk food during children's television programming?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Support	966	80.5
	Oppose	175	14.6
	Don't know	57	4.8
	Refused	2	.2

Would you support or oppose a ban on advertising junk food during children's television programming?

	Frequency	Percent
Support	966	80.5
Oppose	175	14.6
Don't know	57	4.8
Refused	2	.2
Total	1200	100.0

Do you think putting a ban on advertising junk food during children's television programming would have a positive impact on children's eating habits, a negative impact or no impact at all?

	Frequency	Percent
Valid Positive impact	818	68.2
No impact	312	26.0
Negative impact	38	3.2
Don't know	32	2.7
Total	1200	100.0

All things considered, how confident are you that the food you buy is safe to eat?

	Frequency	Percent
Valid Very Confident	378	31.5
Somewhat confident	563	46.9
Not too confident, or	193	16.1
Not at all confident	62	5.2
Don't know	4	.3
Total	1200	100.0

When it comes to food products imported from Asia to Australia, how confident are you that these food products are safe to eat?

	Frequency	Percent
Valid Very Confident	88	7.3
Somewhat confident	359	29.9
Not too confident, or	399	33.3
Not at all confident	330	27.5
Don't know	24	2.0
Total	1200	100.0

How about food products imported from United States to Australia? How confident are you that these food products are safe to eat?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Very Confident	221	18.4
	Somewhat confident	631	52.6
	Not too confident, or	200	16.7
	Not at all confident	97	8.1
	Don't know	48	4.0
	Refused	3	.3
	Total	1200	100.0

And how about food products imported from the United Kingdom to Australia? How confident are you that these food products are safe to eat?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Very Confident	279	23.3
	Somewhat confident	629	52.4
	Not too confident, or	155	12.9
	Not at all confident	76	6.3
	Don't know	60	5.0
	Refused	1	.1
	Total	1200	100.0

Before today, how much had you heard or read about genetically modified foods?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	A lot	307	25.6
	Some	511	42.6
	Not much	334	27.8
	Nothing at all	47	3.9
	Don't know	1	.1
	Total	1200	100.0

Do you think genetically modified foods are safe or not safe to eat?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Safe	493	41.1

	Not Safe	451	37.6
	Don't know	253	21.1
	Refused	3	.3
	Total	1200	100.0

Do you think foods that contain genetically modified ingredients should be labelled?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	1154	96.2
	No	34	2.8
	Don't know	11	.9
	Refused	1	.1
	Total	1200	100.0

How likely is it that you would buy food that is labelled as having been genetically modified?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Very likely	142	11.8
	Somewhat likely	344	28.7
	Not very likely	330	27.5
	Not at all likely	347	28.9
	Don't know	35	2.9
	Refused	2	.2
	Total	1200	100.0

And how likely would you be to knowingly eat genetically modified foods?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Very likely	148	12.3
	Somewhat likely	353	29.4
	Not very likely	336	28.0
	Not at all likely	318	26.5
	Don't know	44	3.7
	Refused	1	.1
	Total	1200	100.0

We worried that our food would run out before we got money to buy more

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Often	49	4.1
	Sometimes	110	9.2
	Rarely	160	13.3
	Never	880	73.3
	Don't know	1	.1
	Total	1200	100.0

We couldn't afford to eat balanced meals.

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Often	48	4.0
	Sometimes	80	6.7
	Rarely	124	10.3
	Never	942	78.5
	Don't know	6	.5
	Total	1200	100.0

The food that we had ran out and we didn't have money to buy more.

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Often	17	1.4
	Sometimes	58	4.8
	Rarely	104	8.7
	Never	1013	84.4
	Don't know	7	.6
	Refused	1	.1
	Total	1200	100.0

In the last 12 months, did anyone in your household ever get emergency food assistance from a charity, food bank, soup kitchen, or some other source?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	38	3.2
	No	1162	96.8
	Total	1200	100.0

In the last 12 months, have you grown your own food at home or in a community garden to reduce your spending on food?

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Yes	378	31.5
	No	819	68.3
	Don't know	3	.3
	Total	1200	100.0

About the Survey

The *ANU Poll* is conducted for The Australian National University by the Social Research Centre, Melbourne. The survey is a national random sample of the adult population aged 18 years and over conducted by telephone. In this survey, 1,200 people were interviewed between 12 July 2011 and 25 July 2011, with a response rate of 40.5 per cent. The results have been weighted to represent the national population. The survey's margin of error is ± 2.5 per cent. Full details of survey can be found at <http://www.anu.edu.au/anupoll/> and the data are available from the Australian Social Science Data Archive (<http://www.assda.edu.au/>)