VICTORIA

COMMUNITY PULSE

2018



















Community pulse 2018: the economic disconnect





About this publication

Community pulse 2018: the economic disconnect – Victoria © CEDA 2018

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CEDA's objective in publishing this collection is to encourage constructive debate and discussion on matters of national economic importance. Persons who rely upon the material published do so at their own risk.

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About CEDA

CEDA – the Committee for Economic Development of Australia – is a national, independent, member-based organisation providing thought leadership and policy perspectives on the economic and social issues affecting Australia.

We achieve this through a rigorous and evidence-based research agenda, and forums and events that deliver lively debate and critical perspectives.

CEDA's membership includes more than 750 of Australia's leading businesses and organisations, and leaders from a wide cross-section of industries and academia. It allows us to reach major decision makers across the private and public sectors.

CEDA is an independent not-for-profit organisation, founded in 1960 by leading Australian economist Sir Douglas Copland. Our funding comes from membership fees, events and sponsorship.

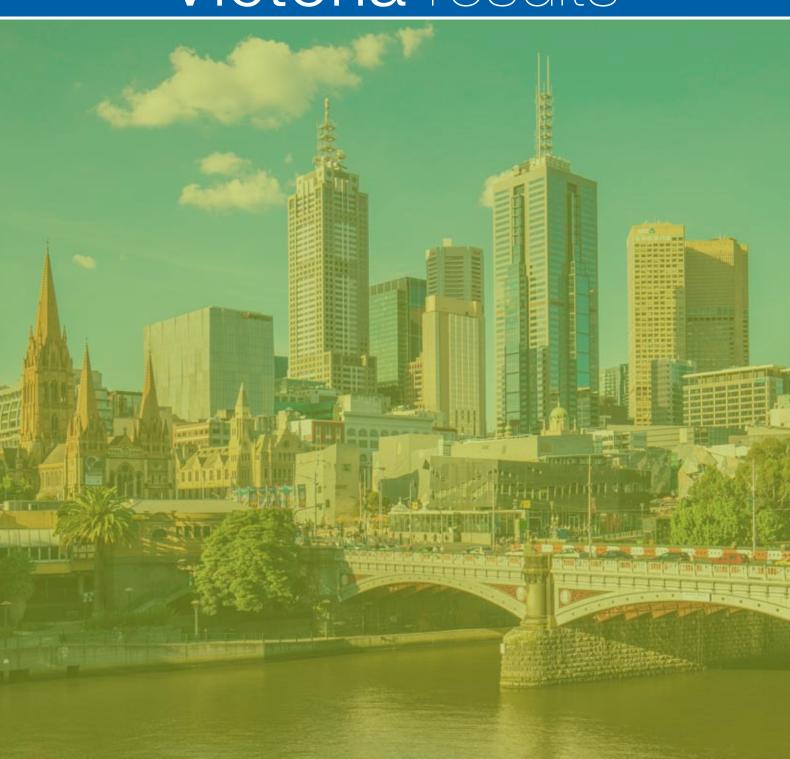
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Victoria results



Introduction

This brief paper summarises Victorian results of nation-wide polling exploring Australians' attitudes to work, education, health, community and the economy.

The full results are contained in the report *Community pulse* 2018: the economic disconnect. This Victorian summary is a companion paper to the main report.

Additional state-specific papers have been produced to summarise results from New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia. *Community pulse* 2018: the economic disconnect and companion reports are available from www.ceda.com.au.

State profile – Victoria

Gross state product (2016–17)	\$406.5 billion		
Percentage of national economy	23.2 per cent		
Average weekly earnings (November 2017)	\$1518.20		
Unemployment rate (May)	5.1 per cent		
Population (September 2017)	6.36 million		
Population in capital city (2016)	4.73 million		
Population growth (2012–17)	Approximately 0.676 million		
Population over 65 years old	0.959 million		
Annual Government Expenditure (2018–19)	\$68.1 billion		
Largest industries	Financial services, manufacturing, professional services, construction, healthcare		

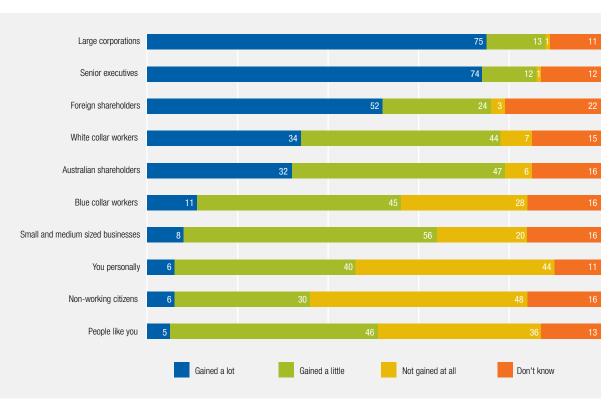
Source: ABS, State Budget papers

Attitudes to recent economic growth and development

Who has benefited from 26 years of economic growth?

- Compared to the national results, Victorians are slightly more likely to believe that Australian shareholders have gained (either a little or a lot) from recent economic growth 79 per cent vs 77 per cent nationally.
- Around 45 per cent of Victorians believe they have gained (either a little or a lot) from recent economic growth, which is in line with the national average.
- Fewer Victorians believe that the gap between rich and poor in Australia is an
 acceptable consequence of economic growth 19 per cent vs 21 per cent
 nationally.

FIGURE 1
WHO HAS GAINED FROM 26 YEARS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH? (% OF RESPONDENTS)*



*Please note numbers have been rounded and may not equal 100 per cent

Personal issues of greatest importance to Victoria

Issues of greatest importance

- In addition to the top six personal issues nationally (basic health services, essential services, affordable housing, chronic disease services, job security and reduced violence), Victorians place increased importance on:
 - mental health services
 - higher minimum wage.

Issues that are most contested

- Victorians are most divided over the importance of regular pay rises (19 per cent most important vs 20 per cent least important).
- This is in contrast to the national level where people were most divided over access to affordable private health insurance and a robust social safety net.

National issues of greatest importance to Victoria

Issues of greatest importance

• In addition to the top national issues across the population (public hospitals, limiting foreign ownership, aged care and increased pensions) Victorians place increased importance on tough criminal laws and criminal sentences.

Issues that are most contested

· Victorians are most divided over lower immigration and foreign working visas.

Least important Most important Net 40 20 Reliable, low cost essential services -4 Reliable, low cost basic health services Affordable, high quality mental health services -6 Affordable, high quality chronic disease services Job security — Access to stable and affordable housing -8 Reduced violence in homes and communities Strong govt support for regional development -11 Clear employment opportunities for young adults -11 Higher minimum wage -14 Enhanced primary school outcomes in reading, writing and maths Strong protection of human rights -17 Strong protection of consumer rights -18 Access to new skills and training throughout working life -19 A robust social safety net Work/life balance -20 Regular pay rises Access to career opportunities and advancement Accesss to high quality information and communications technologies -2 Strong regulation to stop welfare fraud Strong regulation to stop tax avoidance -28 Affordable, high quality private health insurance -28 High quality and accessible childcare and preschool Reduced greenhouse gas emissions Reduced commuting times -32 Improved sustainability Strong regulation of new technologies to protect people 34 Ability to move between jobs/sectors with ease -0 -40 Increased competition from new entrants in key consumer sectors Access to exercise and recreation facilities INDIFFERENT / CONTESTED WIDELY UNIMPORTANT WIDELY IMPORTANT

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT AND LEAST IMPORTANT TO YOU PERSONALLY? (RESPONSE RATE) FIGURE 2

National Victoria Access to new skills/training throughout working life Ability to move between jobs/sectors with ease Increased competition from new entrants in key consumer sectors Access to exercise and recreation facilities Reliable, low cost basic health services Reliable, low cost essential services Affordable, high quality mental health services Clear employment opportunities for young adults finishing school/TAFE Strong govt support for regional development A robust social security safety net Affordable, high quality private health insurance Access to career opportunities and advancement Reduced greenhouse gas emissions Strong regulation to stop tax avoidance Access to high quality information and communication technologies High quality and accessible childcare and preschool education Reduced commuting times Strong regulation of new technologies to protect people Access to stable and affordable housing Affordable, high quality chronic disease services Reduced violence in homes and communities Job security Work/life balance Higher minimum wage Strong protection of human rights Enhanced primary school outcomes in reading, writing and maths Regular pay rises Strong regulation to stop welfare fraud Improved sustanability Strong protection of consumer rights AVERAGE IMPORTANCE HIGH IMPORTANCE LOW IMPORTANCE

FIGURE 3
RELATIVE IMPORTANCE SCORES FOR PERSONAL ISSUES IN VICTORIA

Least crucial Most crucial Net 40 20 High quality and accessible public hospitals High quality and choice of aged care services -9 Protection of workers' rights High quality and choice of university / TAFE __12 High quality and accessible public schools Increased pension payments -12 Strong regulation for energy security -13 Strong protection for national parks, oceans, wildlife etc. Strong links between education and the workplace Strong regulation to limit foreign ownership of Australian land/assets Business investment in new technologies and training Tough criminal laws and criminal sentences High quality and extensive road networks Low cost access to university / TAFE High quality and accessible public transport services Strong security to combat terrorism -17 A strong NDIS Lower personal taxes Protection of penalty rates —19 Strong govt support for renewable energy -20 Lower taxation of superannuation Strong govt support for new industry investing in Australia 28 Strong limitations on foreign worker visas A strong private hospital system ____ Less restrictions on using our natural resources -30 Less business regulation Lower immigration == Increased humanitarian intake of refugees -38 40 Lower company taxes -45 A strong private school system __55 INDIFFERENT / CONTESTED WIDELY UNIMPORTANT WIDELY IMPORTANT

WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING ARE THE MOST CRITICAL AND LEAST CRITICAL PATHS FOR THE NATION? (RESPONSE RATE)

National Victoria Less business regulation A strong private school system Strong regulation to limit foreign ownwership of Australian land / assets Low cost access to university / TAFE High quality and accessible public transport services Lower immigration Business investment in new technologies and training Protection of penalty rates Lower company taxes High quality and accessible public hospitals Tough criminal laws and criminal sentences Increased pension payments High qualiaty and choice of aged care services Protection of workers rights High quality and accessible public schools Strong protection for national parks, oceans, wildlife etc Lower personal taxes Strong security to combat terrorism Strong links between education and the workplace Strong govt support for renewable energy High quality and choice of university / TAFE Strong regulation for energy security A strong NDIS Lower taxation of superannuation High quality and extensive road networks Strong limitations on foreign working visas Strong government support for new industry investing in Australia Increased humanitarian intake of refugees Less restrictions on using our natural resources A strong private hospital system AVERAGE IMPORTANCE HIGH IMPORTANCE LOW IMPORTANCE

FIGURE 5 RELATIVE IMPORTANCE SCORES FOR NATIONAL ISSUES IN VICTORIA

Victorians' attitudes to work

Work satisfaction

- 50 per cent of Victorians are satisfied with their level of pay and 40 per cent with opportunities for career progression. This is slightly lower than the national population (53 per cent and 42 per cent respectively).
- 62 per cent of Victorians are satisfied with their travel time to and from work.

Hours of work

- Victorian respondents to this survey work relatively fewer hours than the national average (Figure 6).
- Victorian respondents were also more likely to want to work fewer hours, even if it means earning less (Figure 7).

Commuting

• 83 per cent of Victorians have a commute to work of less than an hour. Nationally this was 81 per cent.

FIGURE 6
HOW MANY HOURS DO YOU WORK IN A TYPICAL WEEK? (%)

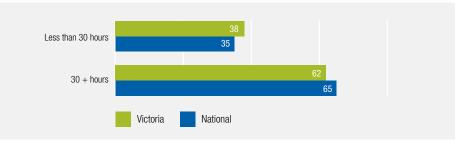
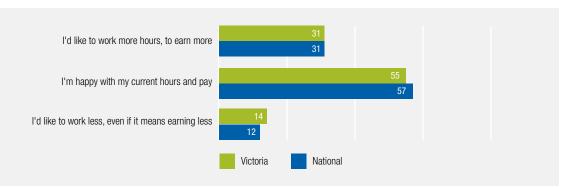


FIGURE 7
WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK MORE OR LESS? (%)



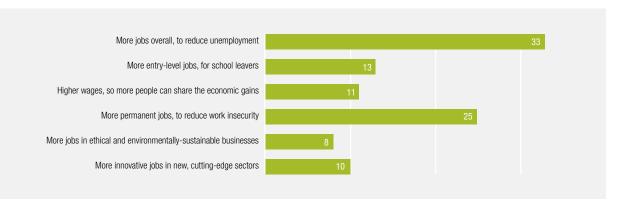
Technology

- Victorians are more optimistic than the general population about the impact of technology on their job.
- 73 per cent would welcome new technology in their job (71 per cent nationally) and 10 per cent are worried it would replace them (12 per cent nationally).

Future jobs

- Like most Australians, Victorians place greatest priority on more jobs overall and more permanent jobs for future job creation. Victorians place slightly greater importance on entry-level jobs (13 per cent vs 11 per cent nationally).
- When looking for a job, consistent with national trends, conditions in the workplace are the most important factor. However, Victorians place greater importance on job training and development (93 per cent vs 89 per cent) and flexible conditions (85 per cent vs 81 per cent).

FIGURE 8
WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING IS MOST CRITICAL FOR FUTURE JOB CREATION?



Notes on methodology and sample

- Total sample; Weight: VIC Weight; base n = 600; total n = 3000.
- For Victoria, the margin of error at the 95 per cent confidence interval is +/-4.0 per cent.
- This Victorian results profile is supplementary to *Community Pulse 2018: the economic disconnect*. A full description of the methodology and sample is available in this report at pages 47 to 55.

Acknowledgements

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