COMMUNITY PULSE

2018



















Community pulse 2018: the economic disconnect

WESTERN AUSTRALIA



About this publication

Community pulse 2018: the economic disconnect – Western Australia © 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.

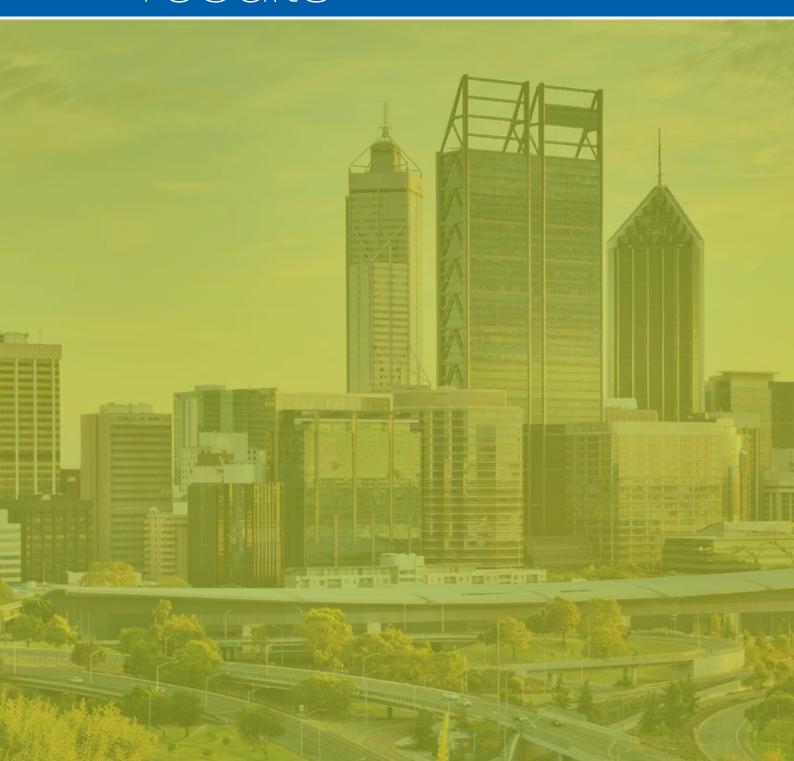
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Western Australia results



Introduction

This brief paper summarises Western Australian 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 Western Australian 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 Victoria. *Community pulse 2018: the economic disconnect* and companion reports are available from www.ceda.com.au.

State profile - Western Australia

Gross State Product (2016–17)	\$247.7 billion		
Percentage of national economy	14.1 per cent		
Average weekly earnings (November 2017)	\$1,742.80		
Unemployment rate (May)	6.4 per cent		
Population (September 2017)	2.59 million		
Population in greater capital city	2.02 million		
Population growth (2012–17)	0.141 million		
Population over 65 years old	0.36 million		
Annual Government Expenditure (2018–19)	\$30.5 billion		
Largest industries	Mining, professional and scientific services, construction, healthcare and social assistance, manufacturing		

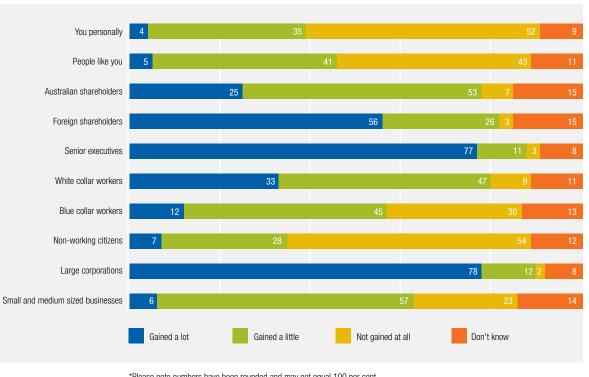
Source: ABS, State Budget papers

Attitudes to recent economic growth and development

Who has benefited from 26 years of economic growth?

- · Compared to the national results, West Australians are more likely to believe that foreign shareholders have gained (either a little or a lot) from recent economic growth – 82 per cent vs 75 per cent nationally.
- Around 40 per cent of WA respondents believe they have gained personally (either a little or a lot) from recent economic growth, which is less than the national average of 45 per cent.
- 80 per cent of WA respondents believe that the gap between rich and poor in Australia is an unacceptable consequence of economic growth - compared to 79 per cent nationally.

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



Personal issues of greatest importance to West Australians

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), WA respondents also place increased importance on mental health services.

Issues that are most contested

- WA respondents are most divided over access to affordable private health insurance and prevention of welfare fraud.
- At the national level people were also most divided over access to affordable private health insurance.

National issues of greatest importance to West Australians

Issues of greatest importance

 In addition to the top national issues across the population (public hospitals, limiting foreign ownership, aged care and increased pensions) West Australians place increased importance on tough criminal laws and strong security to combat terrorism.

Issues that are most contested

 West Australians are most divided over lower immigration and foreign working visas, in line with national trends.

Least important Most important Net | 40 20 Reliable, low cost basic health services Reliable, low cost essential services -2 Affordable, high quality chronic disease services -6 Reduced violence in homes and communities -6 Access to stable and affordable housing -8 Clear employment opportunities for young adults -10 Job security -9 Affordable, high quality mental health services -11 Enhanced primary school outcomes in reading, writing and maths -1 Strong govt support for regional development -14 Work/life balance -14 Higher minimum wage -1 Access to career opportunities and advancement -1 Strong protection of human rights -18 Affordable, high-quality private health insurance -19 A robust social safety net -20 -50 Strong protection of consumer rights Strong regulation to stop welfare fraud -2 Regular pay rises -2 Access to new skills and training throughout working life Strong regulation to stop tax avoidance Improved sustainability –20 Reduced greenhouse gas emissions Accesss to high quality information and communications technologies -29 High quality and accessible childcare and preschool Strong regulation of new technologies to protect people -3 Increased competition from new entrants in key consumer sectors = 34 Reduced commuting times -4 -40 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)

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

FIGURE 3 RELATIVE IMPORTANCE SCORES FOR PERSONAL ISSUES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Least crucial Most crucial Net | 40 20 High quality and accessible public hospitals Protection of workers' rights Strong links between education and the workplace -12 Tough criminal laws and criminal sentences -13 High quality and choice of aged care services Strong regulation to limit foreign ownership of Australian land/assets -14 Increased pension payments High quality and accessible public schools Business investment in new technologies and training —14 High quality and choice of university / TAFE -14 Strong security to combat terrorism —15 A strong NDIS -15 Strong protection for national parks, oceans, wildlife etc. Strong govt support for renewable energy High quality and accessible public transport services Lower taxation of superannuation -17 Strong regulation for energy security Low cost access to university / TAFE High quality and extensive road networks Lower personal taxes -50 Strong limitations on foreign worker visas A strong private hospital system -23 Protection of penalty rates -24 Strong govt support for new industry investing in Australia Less restrictions on using our natural resources Lower immigration -3% Less business regulation 4 Lower company taxes A strong private school system -49 Increased humanitarian intake of refugees INDIFFERENT / CONTESTED WIDELY UNIMPORTANT WIDELY IMPORTANT

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

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

FIGURE 5
RELATIVE IMPORTANCE SCORES FOR NATIONAL ISSUES IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA

West Australians' attitudes to work

Work satisfaction

• 61 per cent of WA workers are satisfied with their level of pay and 59 per cent with other benefits (Figure 6). This is higher than the national population (53 per cent and 57 per cent respectively).

Work/life balance

- WA workers were more satisfied (very + somewhat) than the national population across a number of aspects of work/life balance (Figure 7):
 - Flexibility to work from home (38 per cent vs 34 per cent nationally)
 - Flexibility to take personal leave (69 per cent vs 67 per cent nationally)
 - Flexibility to take holidays when desired (68 per cent vs 65 per cent nationally).

Commuting

• 87 per cent of WA workers have a commute to work of less than an hour (nationally this was 81 per cent).

FIGURE 6
SATISFACTION WITH DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF WORK (%, VERY + SOMEWHAT SATISFIED)

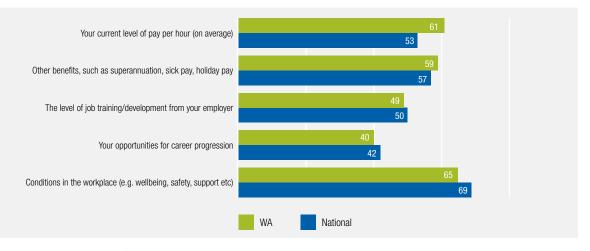
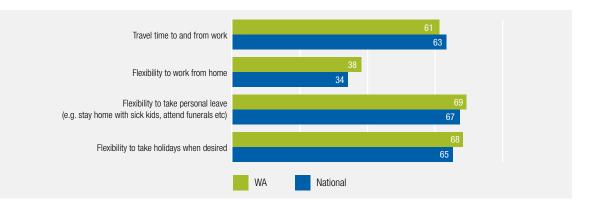


FIGURE 7
SATISFACTION WITH DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF WORK/LIFE BALANCE (%)



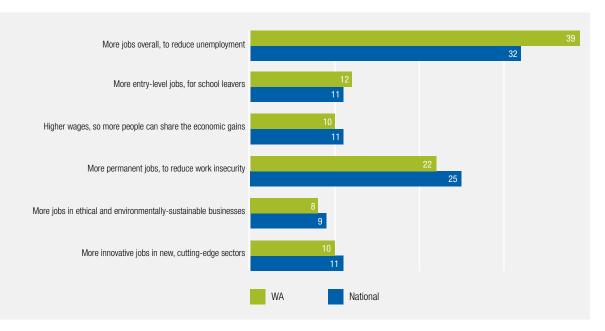
Technology

- West Australians are slightly less optimistic than the general population about the impact of technology on their job.
- 70 per cent would welcome new technology in their job (71 per cent nationally) and 16 per cent are worried it would replace them (12 per cent nationally).

Future jobs

- West Australians placed even greater priority on more jobs overall to reduce unemployment than the national population (Figure 8).
- When looking for a job, consistent with national trends conditions in the workplace are the most important factor.
- However, West Australians placed less importance on pay, training and career progression than the national population.

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



Notes on methodology and sample

- Total sample; Weight: WA Weight; base n = 400; total n = 3000.
- For Western Australia, the margin of error at the 95 per cent confidence interval is +/-4.9 per cent.
- This Western Australian 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 pp. 47 to 55.

Acknowledgements

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