



Little appetite to move the summer holiday period to February

The topic:

The idea behind daylight saving is that we can get out and about, and enjoy the long summer days. However, climate change has definitely affected when we get to experience the better weather over summer and it is not necessarily during the traditional Christmas-New Year holiday period. Often, the weather improves and stabilises when we return to work in January!

Therefore, in this poll we measure New Zealanders' opinions about the idea of moving the summer holiday period to February. The specific question that was asked was:

Q. Do you believe New Zealand should move its summer holiday period from December to February when the weather is warmer?

Key results:

The key results are as follows:

- ◆ Significantly more respondents stated they did **not** believe New Zealand should move its summer holiday period from December to February when the weather is warmer (52%) than stated that it should (36%).
- ◆ The current results are comparable to the results for 2015 and 2016, although it should be noted that a slightly greater percentage of respondents stated they 'did not know'.

Table 1: Agreement that New Zealand should move the summer holiday period from December to February when the weather is warmer over time

	2018	2016	2015	2014	2010
Base =	1465	272	500	500	500
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes	36	36	38	48	42
No	52	56	53	45	54
Don't know	13	8	10	6	4
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.



Detailed results:

As shown in Tables 2 and 3, opinion about moving the summer holiday period from December to February when the weather is warmer differs by gender and age.

- ◆ Significantly more males did **not** believe New Zealand should move its summer holiday period from December to February when the weather is warmer (60%) compared with females (43%). Females were more in favour of this proposal than males (39% and 32% respectively).
- ◆ Respondents aged 45-64 were significantly **less** likely to believe New Zealand should move its summer holiday period from December to February when the weather is warmer (55%) compared with those aged 65+ for example (47%). Respondents aged 65+ were more in favour of this proposal compared with those aged 45-64 (41% and 33% respectively).

Table 2: Agreement that New Zealand should move the summer holiday period from December to February when the weather is warmer by gender

	Total 2018	Male	Female
Unweighted base =	1465	704	756
	%	%	%
Yes	36	32	39
No	52	60	43
Other	13	8	17
Total	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Table 3: Agreement that New Zealand should move the summer holiday period from December to February when the weather is warmer by age

	Total 2018	18-44	45-64	65+
Unweighted base =	1465	170	591	704
	%	%	%	%
Yes	36	35	33	41
No	52	51	55	47
Other	13	14	11	12
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

Comment:

“Despite the change in the weather, this poll confirms there is no appetite amongst the majority of New Zealanders for moving the summer holiday period to February”, said Research New Zealand Managing Partner, Emanuel Kalafatelis.

This survey of 1,465 respondents aged 18 years and over was conducted online using the Research New Zealand recruitment panel in November 2018. The maximum margin of error is +/- 3.9 percent (at the 95 percent confidence level). The sample has been weighted by gender and age to ensure the results are representative of the population 18 years plus based on these demographic criteria. The survey was not taken on behalf of any organization, but as part of Research New Zealand’s social poll of New Zealanders’ opinions about topical issues.



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