ANZ-Roy Morgan NZ Consumer Confidence

30 July 2021



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Sharon Zollner for more details.

See page 5.

The next issue of the ANZ-Roy Morgan Consumer Confidence is scheduled for release on 27 August 2021 at 10am.

It's risky to bet against the house

Key points

- Consumer confidence eased 1 point to 113 in July.
- The proportion of people who believe it is a good time to buy a major household item, a key retail indicator, rose 2 points to +24.
- Inflation expectations remain extremely high at 4.9%, while house price inflation expectations lifted from 5.8% to 6.4%.

The ANZ-Roy Morgan Consumer Confidence Index was little changed at 113 in July.





Source: ANZ Research, Roy Morgan

Turning to the detail:

- Perceptions of current financial situations dropped 6 points to +8%.
- A net 23% expect to be better off this time next year, up 1.
- A net 24% think it is a good time to buy a major household item, up 2 points to a fresh post-COVID high. This is the single best retail indicator in the survey.
- Perceptions regarding the next year's economic outlook fell 5 points to -2%. The five-year outlook rose 2 points to +12%.
- House price inflation expectations rose from 5.8% to 6.4%. They lifted again in Auckland (from 6.2% to 6.9%) and also rose in the South Island outside Canterbury from 5% to 6.7%.
- CPI inflation expectations eased from 5.1% to 4.9%, still extremely high versus a more typical historical reading of around 31/2%.

Figure 2 shows that households' confidence about buying major items continues to lift. This likely reflects wealth effects from the housing boom for those lucky enough to own a house, as well as excellent job security in an exceptionally tight labour market.

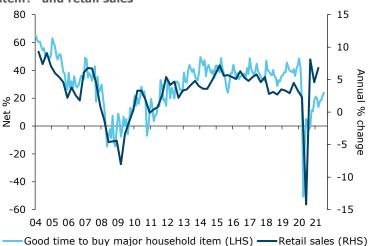
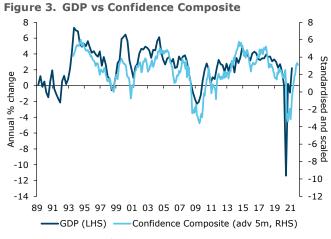


Figure 2. ANZ Consumer Confidence "Good time to buy a major household item?" and retail sales

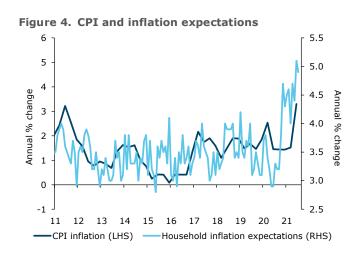
Our confidence composite gauge is a GDP growth indicator created by combining lagged business expectations and intentions with consumer sentiment. The composite is now well above pre-COVID levels (figure 3).

Meanwhile, households continue to expect high inflation (figure 4). This will make it easier for retailers to raise prices without fear of customer backlash, and can also impact wage demands if the labour market is tight, like it clearly is now.

The famously nine-lives New Zealand housing market is also refusing to roll over, with house price expectations ticking higher after four months of falls. Higher mortgage rates are set to provide a stiffer test, but it's fair to say that the notion that the housing market is unstoppable seems to be fairly well ingrained.



Source: ANZ Research, Roy Morgan, Statistics NZ



Source: Statistics NZ, Roy Morgan, ANZ Research.

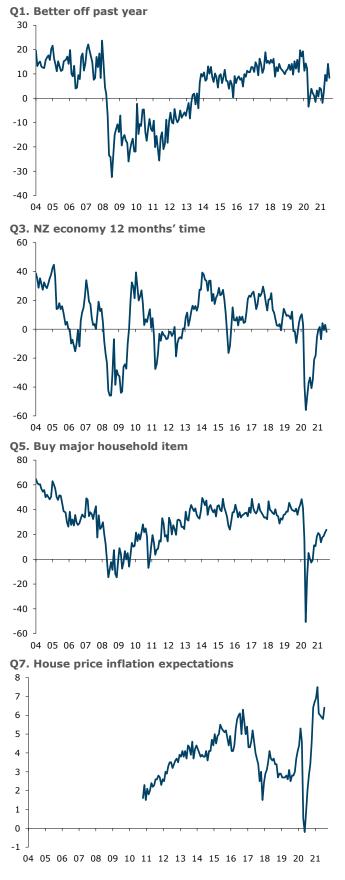


Tables and charts

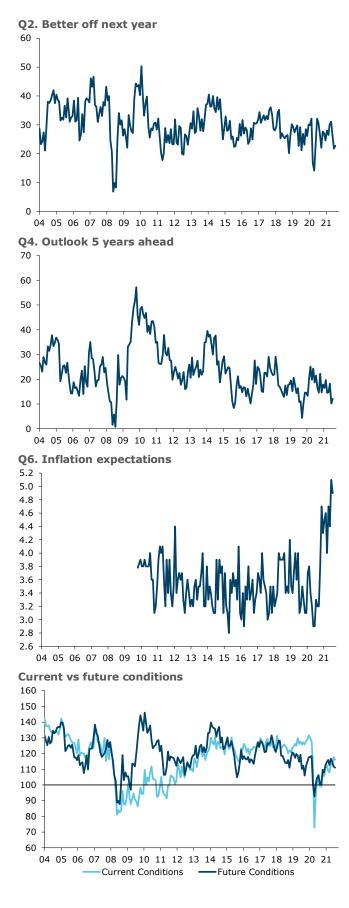
Survey Summary	Dec-20	Jan-21	Feb-21	Mar-21	Apr-21	May-21	Jun-21	Jul-2
No. of Interviews	1,004	1,001	1,004	1,002	1,004	1,001	1,008	1,00
					66 - 1			
Q1. Would you say you	-	-						
Better Off	28	28	26	28	32	31	35	35
Worse Off	23	24	28	26	22	24	21	27
Net Balance	4	4	-2	3	10	7	14	8
Q2. This time next year	r do vou and v	our family e	xpect to be b	oetter off fina	ancially or wo	orse off than	vou are now	?
Better Off	40	43	42	43	45	43	40	42
Worse Off	15	14	15	13	14	16	18	19
Net Balance	25	28	27	30	31	27	22	23
Q3. Thinking of econom				le, in the nex	kt 12 months	s, do you exp	pect we'll hav	/e good
times financially, bad ti Good Times	23	24	27	23	29	26	28	28
Bad Times	23	24	25	30	29	26	25	30
		-1	23	-7	4	-1	3	-2
Not Ralanco	-6		<u> </u>	-/		- T	5	- 2
Q4 . Looking ahead, wh		ay is more li				e we'll have c	continuous go	ood time
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Q4 . Looking ahead, wh during the next five yea Good Times	at would you s ars or so, we'll 32	ay is more li have bad tir 32	nes, or some 33	e good and s 30	ome bad? 33	34	29	31
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ANZ Roy Morgan Consumer Confidence Rating (100 plus the unweighted average of the net balances of Q1-5)											
Overall Index	112.0	113.8	113.1	110.8	115.4	114.0	114.1	113.1			
Current Conditions	111.4	112.4	109.0	108.2	113.7	112.9	117.9	116.1			
Future Conditions	112.3	114.7	115.9	112.6	116.7	114.7	111.7	111.0			





Source: ANZ Research, Roy Morgan



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