
MYOB Australian Small Business Survey

Special Focus Report: Red Tape Compliance, Industrial Relations and Federal Budget

August 2007

Small Business Survey Report

Prepared for MYOB Australia

MYOB Contact:

Natasha Levy

Corporate Communications Manager

Tel: (03) 9222 9877

Email: natasha.levy@myob.com

Web: www.myob.com.au

Address: 12 Wesley Crt, Burwood East, VIC 3151



© 2007 Copyright strictly enforced



Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
List of Charts.....	3
About the Study	4
Change in “Red Tape” in the Last Three Years	6
Awareness of Fairness Test Policy	7
Fairness Test Policy and Intention to Vote for Liberal Party	9
Awareness of Fair Work Australia Policy	10
Fair Work Australia Policy and Intention to Vote for Labor Party	12
Awareness of Federal Budget for 2007-2008.....	13
Source of Information on Federal Budget	15
Impact of Federal Budget on Business Performance.....	16
Impact of Specific Budget Initiatives on Business Performance	17
Better Treasurer.....	18
Preference for Political Party	19
Interest in Measuring Energy Consumption at Home.....	21
Interest in Measuring Energy Consumption at Work.....	22
Appendix 1 – Change in “Red Tape” in the Last Three Years	23
Appendix 2 – Fairness Test Policy and Intention to Vote for Liberal Party	24
Appendix 3 – Fair Work Australia Policy and Intention to Vote for Labor Party	25
Appendix 4 – Source of Information on Federal Budget	26
Appendix 5 – Impact of Federal Budget on Business Performance.....	27
Appendix 6 – Better Treasurer	28
Appendix 7 – Interest in Measuring Energy Consumption at Home	29
Appendix 8 – Interest in Measuring Energy Consumption at Work.....	30
Appendix 9 – Special Focus Questions.....	31

List of Charts

Figure 1: Change in the amount of “red tape” compliance over the last 3 years (%).....	6
Figure 2: Proportion of small businesses that knew the Fairness Test policy (%).....	7
Figure 3: Likelihood to vote for the Coalition/Liberal Party under the Fairness Test policy (%).....	9
Figure 4: Proportion of small businesses that knew the “Fair Work Australia” policy (%).....	10
Figure 5: Likelihood to vote for the Labor Party under the “Fair Work Australia” policy (%)..	12
Figure 6: Proportion of small businesses that knew the new Federal Budget for the 2007- 2008 year (%)	13
Figure 7: Sources used by small businesses to research the new 2007-2008 Federal Budget (%)	15
Figure 8: Impact of the new Federal Budget on small businesses’ performance in general (%).....	16
Figure 9: Impact of specific budget initiatives on small businesses’ performance in general (%).....	17
Figure 10: Small businesses’ preferred Treasurer (%).....	18
Figure 11: Small businesses’ preferred party for different areas (%).....	19
Figure 12: Level of interest in measuring energy consumption at home (%).....	21
Figure 13: Level of interest in measuring energy consumption at work (%)	22

About the Study

This report presents the findings of the Special Focus Questions from the MYOB Small Business Survey. The survey comprised a national sample of 2,352 small business proprietors and general managers, conducted between June and July 2007. These small businesses are defined as both non-employing and employing businesses with fewer than 20 employees. Results have been weighted to reflect the small business population distribution according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) for company size, length of time operating, and selected ANZSIC Industry divisions (refer to ABS publications *Characteristics of Small Business*, 8127.0, 2001 and *Small Business in Australia*, 1321, 2001).

The special focus areas presented in this report include:

Red tape compliance

- Change in the amount of “red tape” over the last three years

Industrial Relations

- Awareness of the Federal Government's new Fairness Test policy and the impact of the policy on small businesses' voting for the Liberal Party at the next Federal election
- Awareness of the Labor Party's new Fair Work Australia policy and the impact of the policy on small businesses' voting for the Labor Party at the next Federal election

Federal Budget

- Awareness of the new Federal Budget for the 2007-2008 year
- Information sources used by small businesses to review the new Federal Budget
- Overall impact of the Federal Budget on small business performance
- Impact of specific Budget initiatives on small business performance

Other questions

- Small businesses' preferred Treasurer
- Preferred political party for different policy areas (eg: economy, health, etc)
- Interest in measuring energy consumption at both home and work

The findings of the research are reported by Industry type:

Industry	Sample
Agriculture	120
Manufacturing	162
Construction	254
Wholesale Trade	98
Retail Trade	369
Accommodation, Café and Restaurants	78
Transport and Storage	93
Communication, Media and Marketing Services	143
Finance and Insurance	167
Property and Business Services	256
Education	81
Health and Community Services	170
Cultural and Recreational Services	52
Personal and Other Services	243
Information & Communications Technology	49*
Tourism	17*
Total	2352

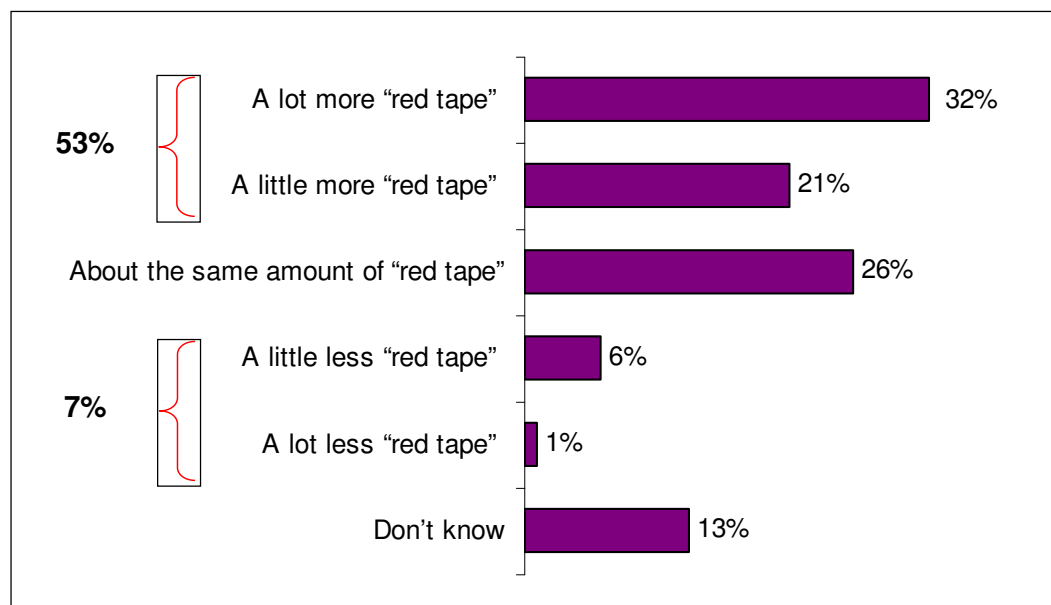
Note:

* Information & Communications Technology and Tourism are included in the total statistics reported but are not reported at an industry level due to a very low sample size.

Change in “Red Tape” in the Last Three Years

Over half of small businesses believe “red tape” has increased

Figure 1: Change in the amount of “red tape” compliance over the last 3 years (%)



Base: Online small businesses

Q: Thinking back over the last 3 years, do you feel that the amount of “red tape” (i.e. compliance with government regulations such as BAS and GST reporting, OH&S, etc) you encounter in your business has increased or decreased?

AMR Interactive, July 2007 (n=2352)

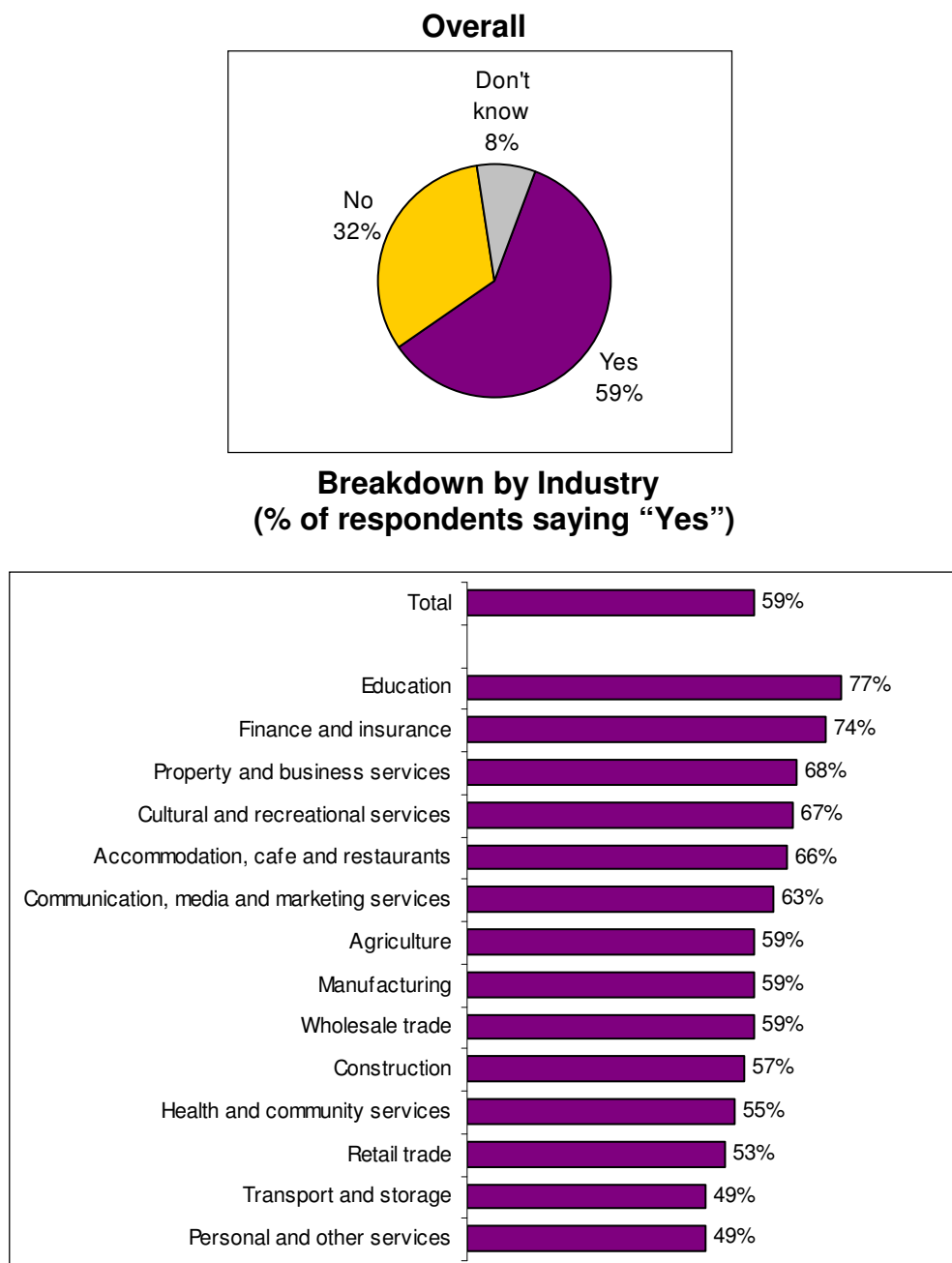
More than half (53%) of small businesses believe that the amount of “red tape” has increased over the last three years, with around a third (32%) indicating that they have had a lot more “red tape” compared with three years ago.

Around a quarter (26%) of small businesses believe that the amount of “red tape” has remained the same.

Awareness of Fairness Test Policy

Around three-fifths of small businesses have heard of the Fairness Test policy

Figure 2: Proportion of small businesses that knew the Fairness Test policy (%)



Base: Online small businesses

Q: The Federal Government recently announced a change to the IR/Work Choices policy by introducing a new **fairness test** policy, which states that workers earning less than \$75,000 per year must be fairly and adequately compensated for trading away protected award conditions when moving to Australian Workplace Agreements. Before today, had you heard about this new fairness test policy?

AMR Interactive, July 2007 (n=2352)

Overall, around three-fifths (59%) of small businesses were aware of the new Fairness Test policy recently announced by the Federal Government.

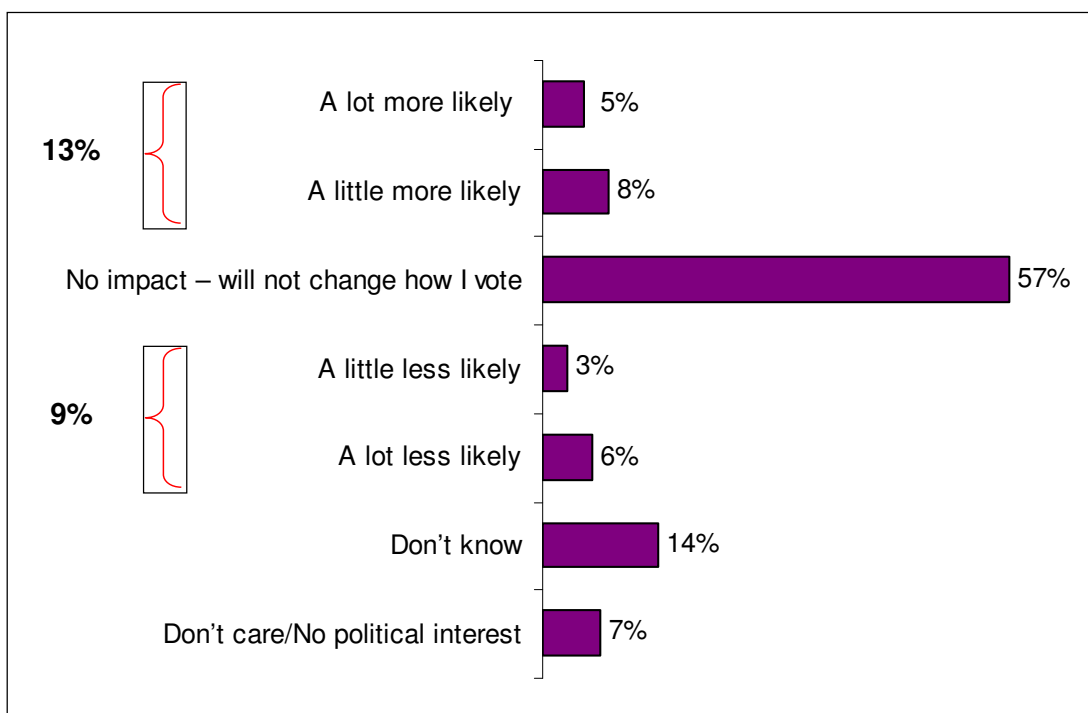
By Industry, small businesses from the Education (77%) sector were most likely to be aware of the policy, while those from the Transport and Storage (49%) and Personal and Other Services (49%) sectors were least likely.



Fairness Test Policy and Intention to Vote for Liberal Party

Over half of small businesses will not change how they vote under the Fairness Test policy

Figure 3: Likelihood to vote for the Coalition/Liberal Party under the Fairness Test policy (%)



Base: Online small businesses

Q: Does this new fairness test policy for workers make you more or less likely to vote for the **Coalition/Liberal Party** at the next Federal election??

AMR Interactive, July 2007 (n=2352)

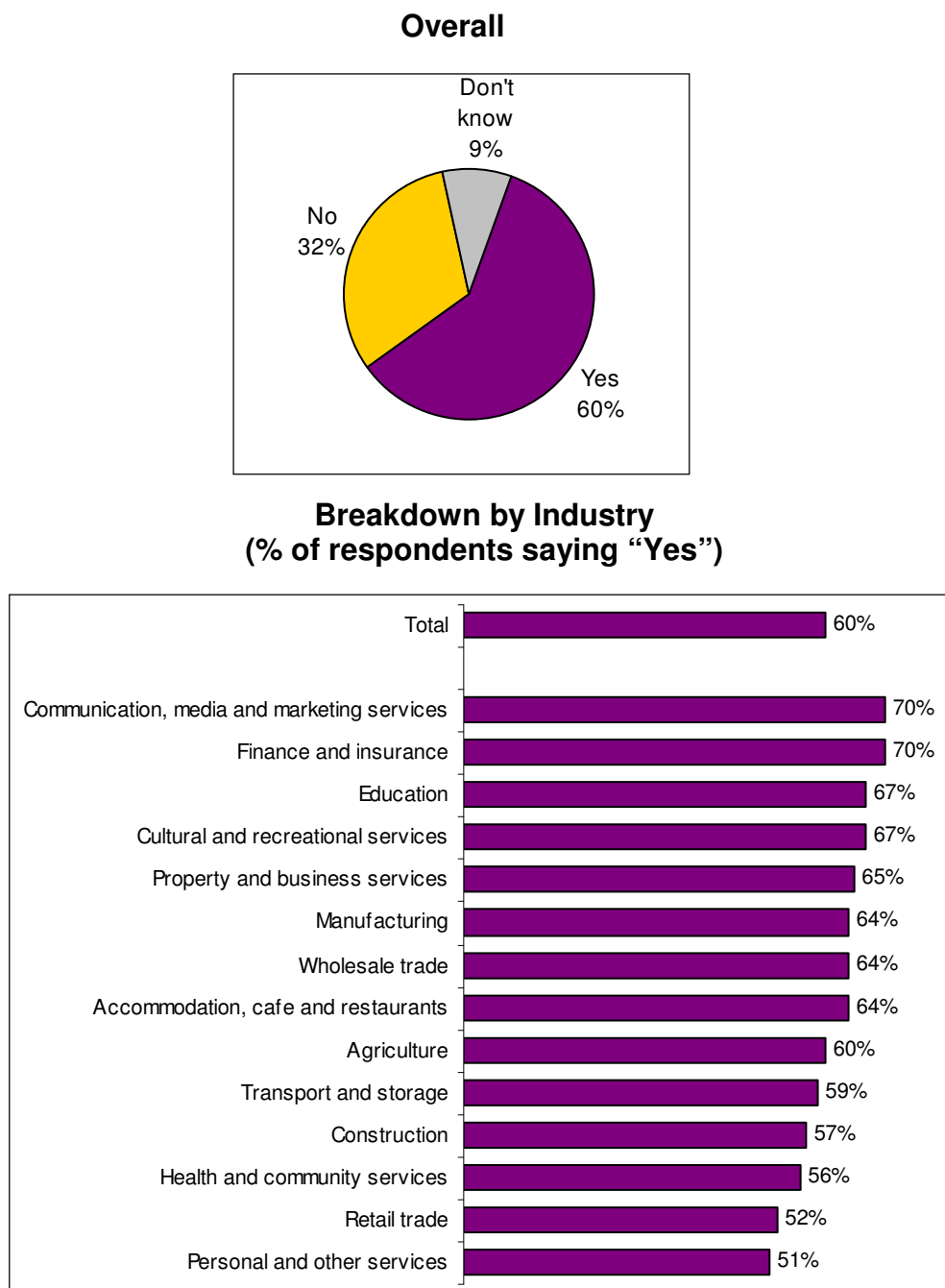
Over half (57%) of small businesses indicated that the Federal Government's new Fairness Test policy for workers would not affect how they vote at the next Federal election.

13% of small businesses were more likely (ie: "a little more likely" and "a lot more likely") to vote for the Coalition/Liberal Party under the Fairness Test policy.

Awareness of Fair Work Australia Policy

Three-fifths of small businesses have heard of the Fair Work Australia policy

Figure 4: Proportion of small businesses that knew the "Fair Work Australia" policy (%)



Base: Online small businesses

Q: The opposition leader, Kevin Rudd, recently announced a Federal Labor policy that would roll back Work Choices, remove Australian Workplace Agreements and replace this with **10 guaranteed minimum conditions** to be administered by a body called "**Fair Work Australia**"? Before today, had you heard about this policy?

AMR Interactive, July 2007 (n=2352)

Overall, 60% of small businesses were aware of the “Fair Work Australia” policy recently announced by the Australian Labor Party.

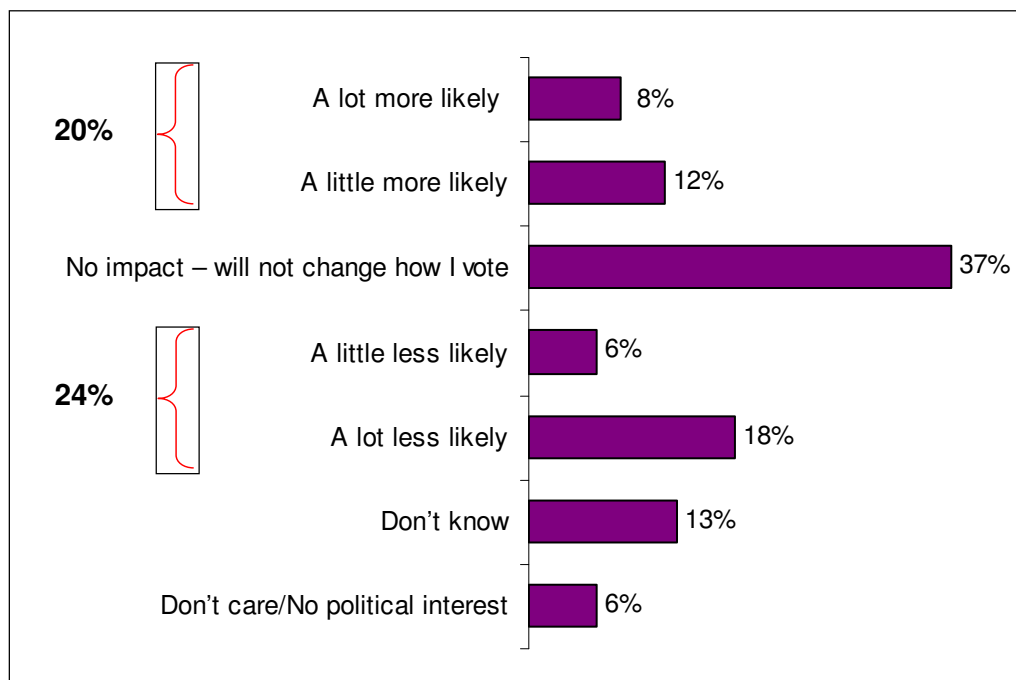
By Industry, small businesses from the Communication, Media and Marketing Services (70%) and Finance and Insurance (70%) sectors were most likely to be aware of the policy, while those from the Personal and Other Services (51%) and Retail Trade (52%) sectors were least likely.



Fair Work Australia Policy and Intention to Vote for Labor Party

Around a quarter of small businesses are less likely to vote for the Labor Party under the Fair Work Australia policy

Figure 5: Likelihood to vote for the Labor Party under the “Fair Work Australia” policy (%)



Base: Online small businesses

Q: Does this new “**Fair Work Australia**” policy make you more or less likely to vote for **Labor Party** at the next Federal election?

AMR Interactive, July 2007 (n=2352)

Around a quarter (24%) of small businesses were less likely (ie: “a little less likely” and “a lot less likely”) to vote for the Labor Party at the next Federal election under the Party’s new “Fair Work Australia” policy.

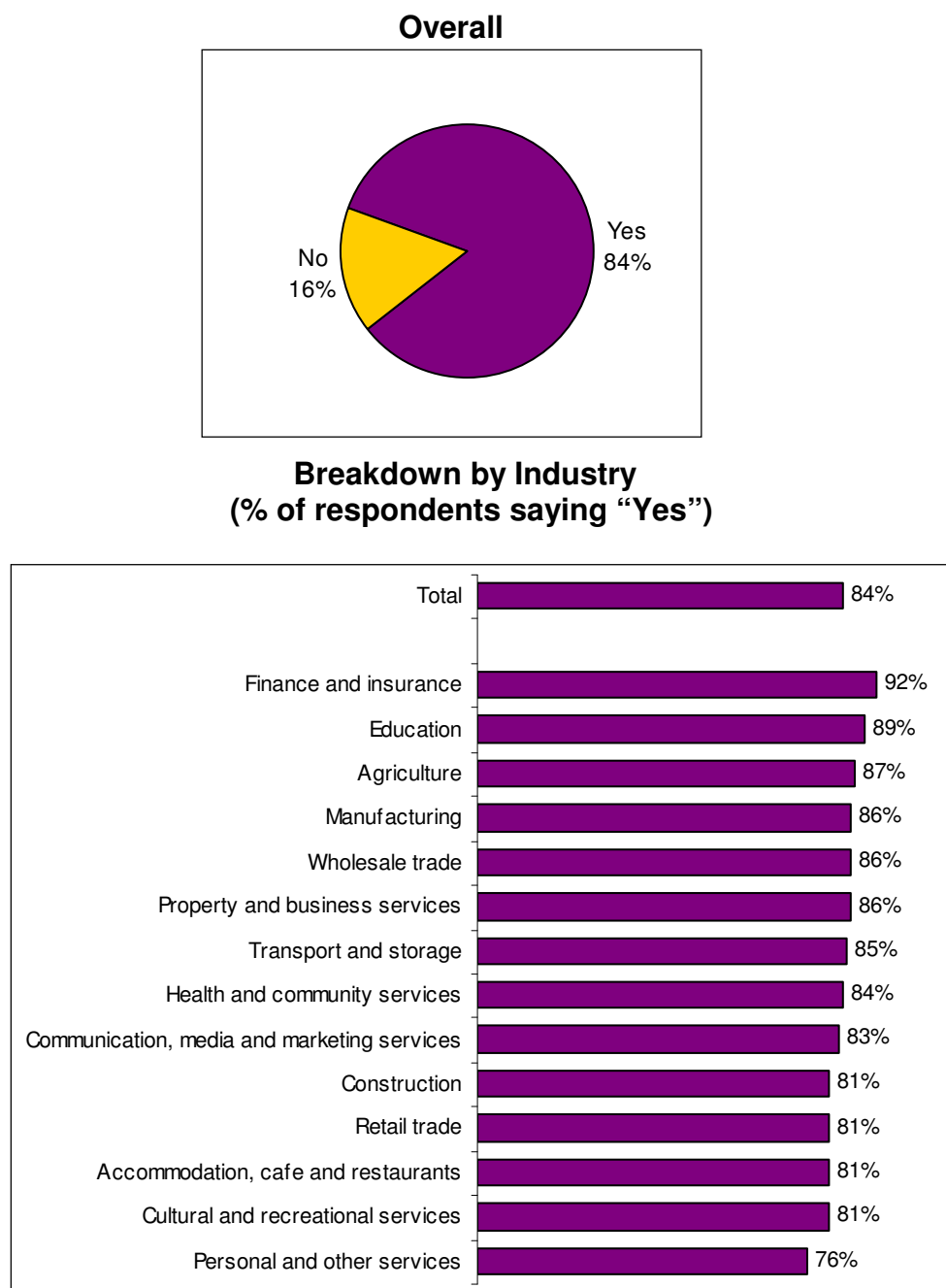
On the other hand, one-fifth (20%) of small businesses were more likely (ie: “a little more likely” and “a lot more likely”) to vote for the Labor Party because of the policy.

Over one-third (37%) of the respondents expressed that the policy would not change how they vote at the next Federal election.

Awareness of Federal Budget for 2007-2008

Most small businesses are aware of the new Federal Budget

Figure 6: Proportion of small businesses that knew the new Federal Budget for the 2007-2008 year (%)



Base: Online small businesses

Q: Before today, were you aware that a new Federal Budget was recently announced for the 2007-2008 year?

AMR Interactive, July 2007 (n=2352)

More than four in five (84%) small businesses were aware of the new Federal Budget recently announced for the 2007-2008 year.

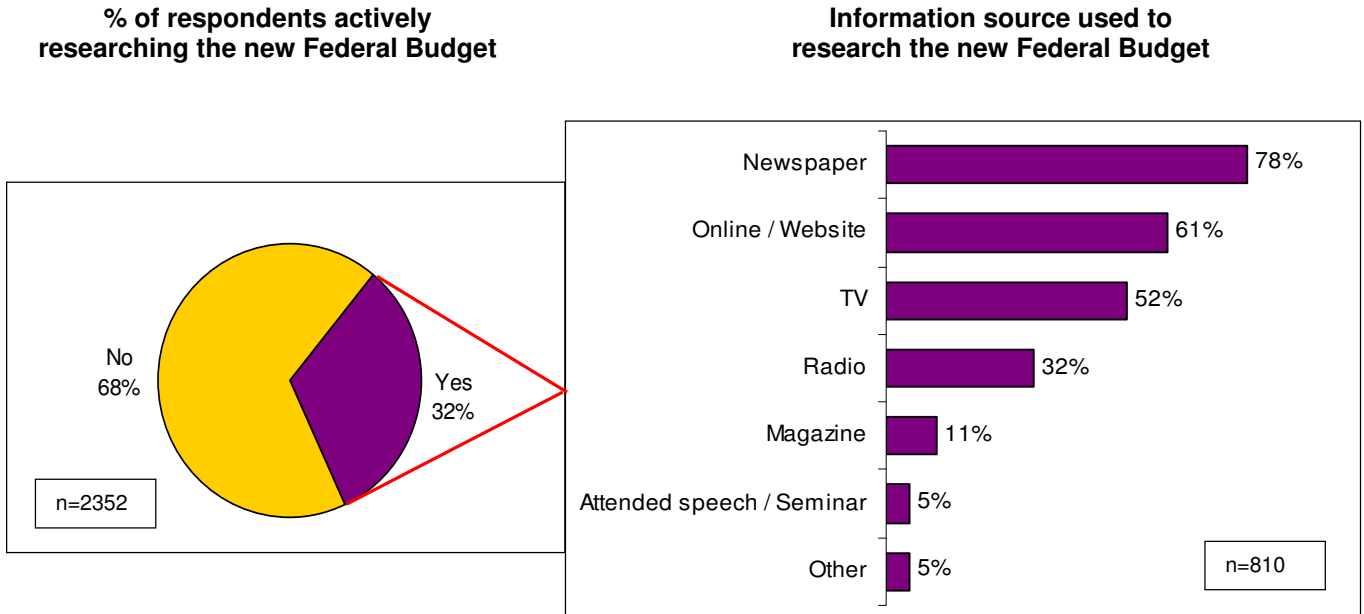
By Industry, small businesses from the Finance and Insurance (92%) sector were most likely to be aware of the new Budget, while those from the Personal and Other Services (76%) sector were least likely.



Source of Information on Federal Budget

Newspaper being the most frequently used information source

Figure 7: Sources used by small businesses to research the new 2007-2008 Federal Budget (%)



Base: Online small businesses

Q: Before today, had you actively looked into, reviewed or researched the new 2007-2008 Federal Budget in any way? (Yes/No)

(If yes) Which of the following information sources did you use to look into the new 2007-2008 Federal Budget? (Multiple response)

AMR Interactive, July 2007

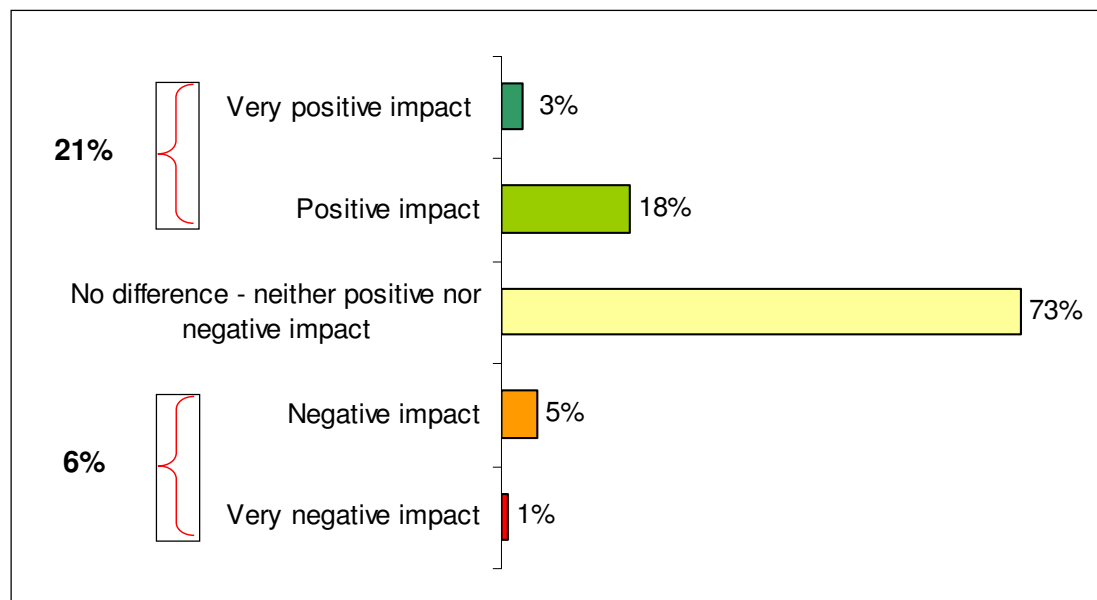
Around one-third (32%) of small businesses had actively looked into, reviewed or researched the new Federal Budget for the 2007-2008 year.

The top three sources that small businesses used to review the new Federal Budget were newspaper (78%), the Internet (i.e. online/website, 61%) and television (52%).

Impact of Federal Budget on Business Performance

Most small businesses believe the new Federal Budget will not affect their business performance

Figure 8: Impact of the new Federal Budget on small businesses' performance in general (%)



Base: Online small businesses

Q: Overall, how do you feel the new Federal Budget will affect your business performance in general?

AMR Interactive, July 2007 (n=2352)

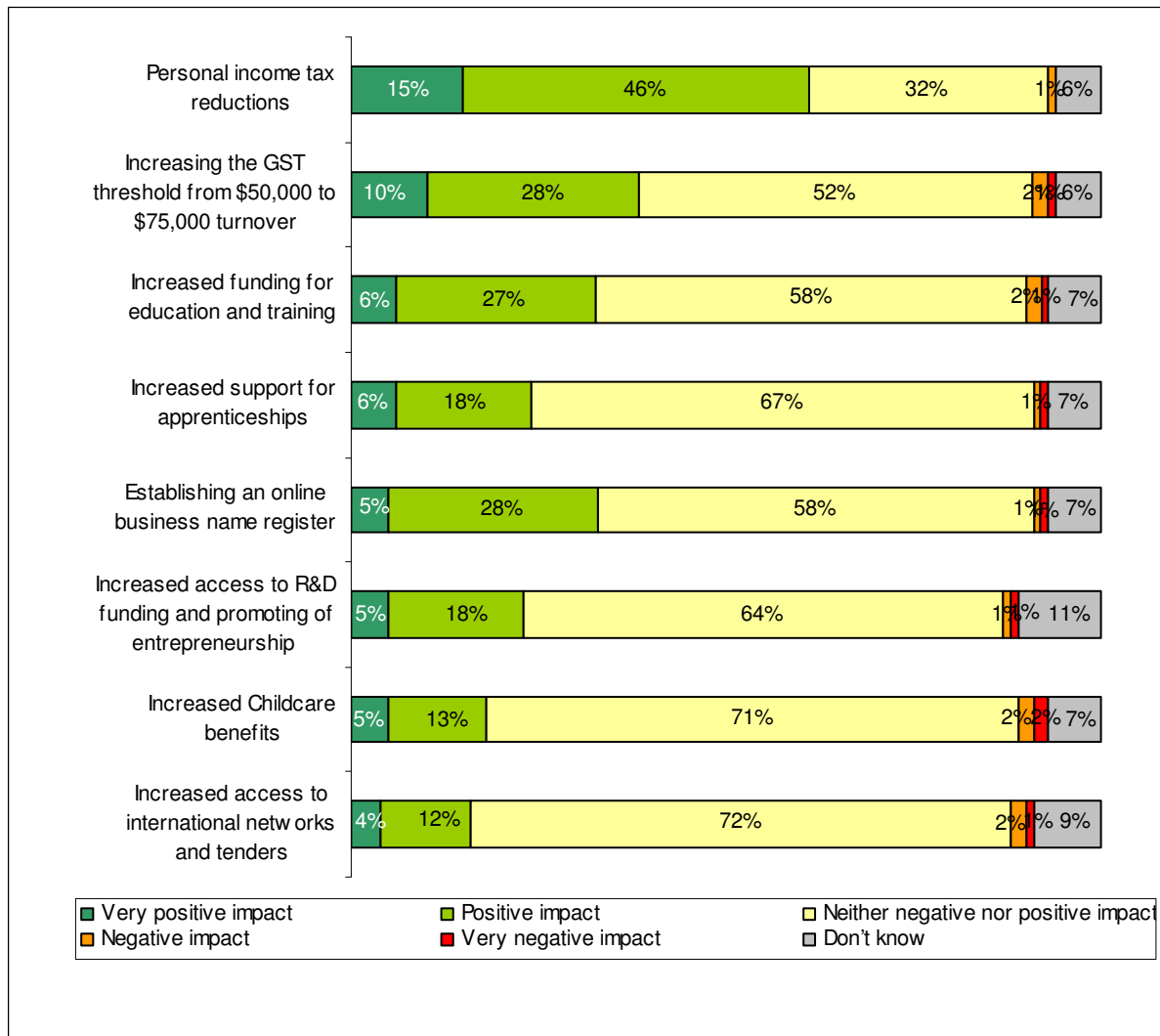
Nearly three-quarters (73%) of small businesses believed that the new 2007-2008 Federal Budget would not affect their business performance in general.

Around one in five (21%) small businesses believed that the new Federal Budget would have positive impact (ie: "very positive impact" and "positive impact") on their business performance.

Impact of Specific Budget Initiatives on Business Performance

“Personal income tax reductions” are believed to have the most positive impact on small business

Figure 9: Impact of specific budget initiatives on small businesses’ performance in general (%)



Base: Online small businesses

Q: What, if any, impact do you feel each of the following budget initiatives (recently announced as part of the Federal Budget for 2007-2008) will have on your business performance in general?

AMR Interactive, July 2007 (n=2352)

Small businesses were asked to rate the impact of various budget initiatives (announced as part of the new Federal Budget recently) on their business performance.

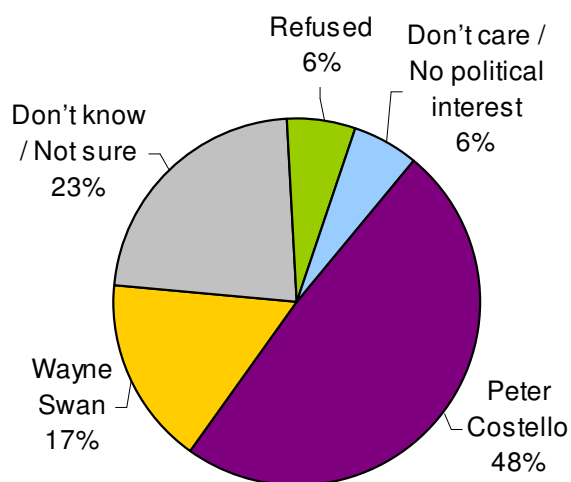
In general, small businesses were likely to perceive the Federal Budget initiatives to affect their business positively.

Of all budget initiatives, “personal income tax reductions” was rated most positively, with over three in five (61%) small businesses believing it would have a positive impact on their business performance (ie: “very positive impact” and “positive impact”).

Better Treasurer

Costello is the preferred Treasurer

Figure 10: Small businesses' preferred Treasurer (%)



Base: Online small businesses

Q: Who do you think would make the better Treasurer out of Peter Costello and Wayne Swan?

AMR Interactive, July 2007 (n=2352)

Small businesses were asked if they think Peter Costello or Wayne Swan would make the better Treasurer.

Nearly half (48%) of the respondents believed that Peter Costello would make the better Treasurer, compared with Wayne Swan.

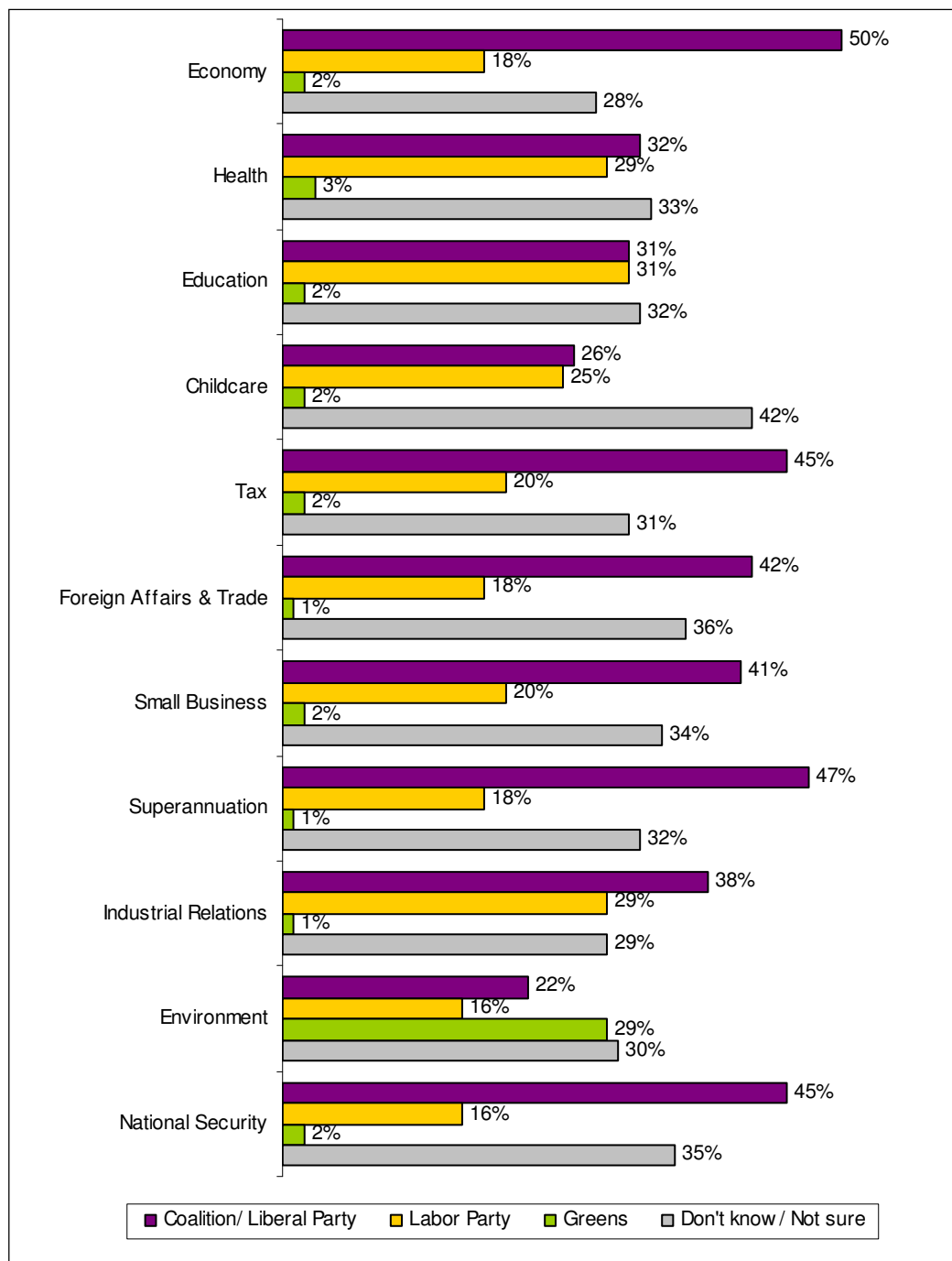
17% of small businesses supported Wayne Swan as the better Treasurer.

Around a quarter (23%) of the respondents were unsure who would make the better Treasurer.

Preference for Political Party

Small businesses prefer the Liberal Party to the Labor Party for most policy areas

Figure 11: Small businesses' preferred party for different areas (%)



Base: Online small businesses

Q: For each of the areas below (e.g. health, education, etc), please select which Australian political party **you personally** feel has the most to offer you.

AMR Interactive, July 2007 (n=2352)

Small businesses were asked to choose *one* political party in Australia that they personally feel has the most to offer them.

In general, small businesses were likely to perceive the Liberal Party to have the most to offer them for the areas of economy (50%), tax (45%), foreign affairs and trade (42%), small business (41%), superannuation (47%), industrial relations (38%) and national security (45%).

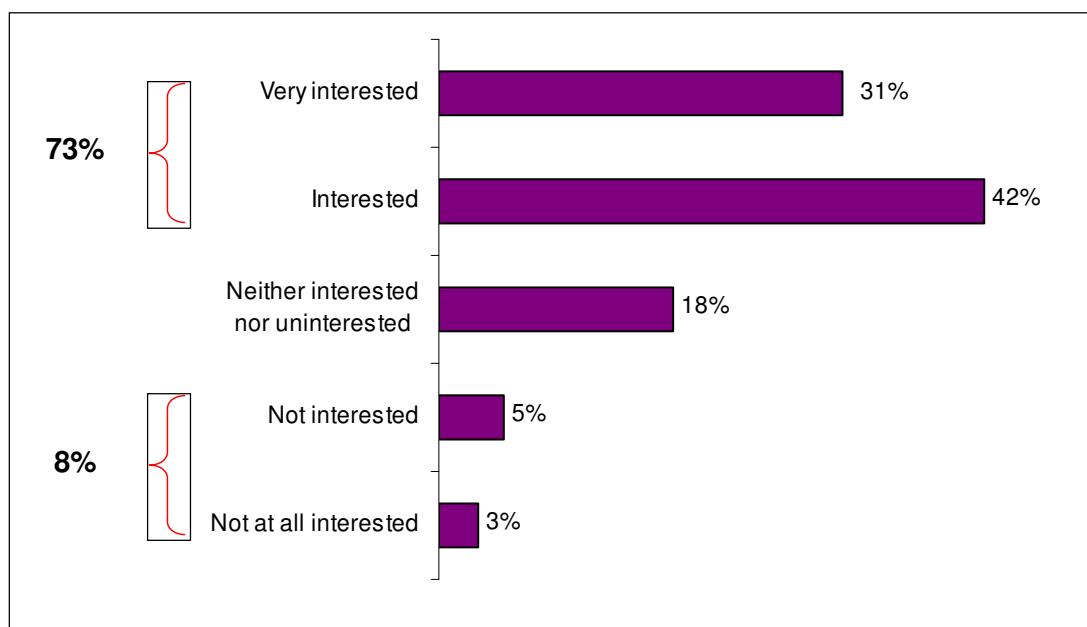
The Australian Greens was most preferred for the area of environment (29%).

Many small businesses remained undecided (ie: "don't know/not sure") about the question.

Interest in Measuring Energy Consumption at Home

Around three quarters of small businesses are interested

Figure 12: Level of interest in measuring energy consumption at home (%)



Base: Online small businesses

Q: How interested would you be in measuring energy consumption *at home* (e.g. in your house)?

AMR Interactive, July 2007 (n=2352)

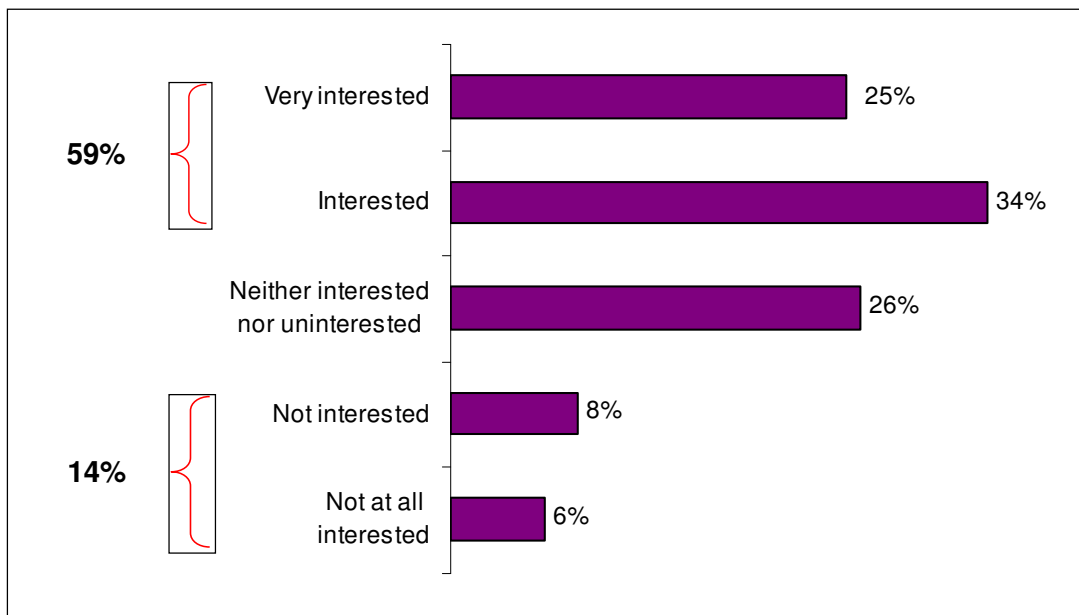
Around three quarters (73%) of the respondents would be interested (ie: “very interested” and “interested”) in measuring energy consumption at home.

Very few respondents (8%) would have no interest in doing so (ie: “not interested” and “not at all interested”).

Interest in Measuring Energy Consumption at Work

Around three-fifths of small businesses are interested

Figure 13: Level of interest in measuring energy consumption at work (%)



Base: Online small businesses

Q: How interested would you be in measuring energy consumption *at work* (e.g. in your business)?

AMR Interactive, July 2007 (n=2352)

Fewer small businesses (59%) expressed interest (ie: “very interested” and “interested”) in measuring energy consumption at work, when compared with doing it at home (73%, refer to Figure 12 for comparison).

Few respondents (14%) indicated that they would not be interested to do so (ie: “not interested” and “not at all interested”).

Appendix 1 – Change in “Red Tape” in the Last Three Years

Breakdown by Industry

Change in the amount of “red tape” (comparing now with 3 years ago)

	A lot more “red tape”	A little more “red tape”	About the same amount of “red tape”	A little less “red tape”	A lot less “red tape”	Don't know
Total	32%	21%	26%	6%	1%	13%
Breakdown by Industry						
Agriculture	34%	20%	29%	4%	1%	11%
Manufacturing	28%	17%	33%	10%	1%	10%
Construction	40%	19%	23%	7%	1%	10%
Wholesale trade	30%	16%	32%	5%	1%	16%
Retail trade	28%	18%	27%	7%	1%	19%
Accommodation, cafe and restaurants	27%	22%	32%	4%	3%	12%
Transport and storage	38%	24%	28%	4%	1%	6%
Communication, media and marketing services	33%	15%	34%	7%	0%	11%
Finance and insurance	32%	26%	24%	11%	1%	7%
Property and business services	29%	27%	23%	7%	2%	11%
Education	35%	17%	30%	4%	1%	13%
Health and community services	34%	22%	22%	4%	2%	16%
Cultural and recreational services	27%	26%	21%	9%	2%	14%
Personal and other services	27%	21%	25%	5%	1%	21%

Base: Online small businesses

Q: Thinking back over the last 3 years, do you feel that the amount of “red tape” (i.e. compliance with government regulations such as BAS and GST reporting, OH&S, etc) you encounter in your business has increased or decreased?

AMR Interactive, July 2007 (n=2352)

Appendix 2 – Fairness Test Policy and Intention to Vote for Liberal Party

Breakdown by Industry

Likelihood to vote for the Liberal Party under the Fairness Test Policy

	A lot more likely	A little more likely	No impact	A little less likely	A lot less likely	Don't know	Don't care/No political interest
Total	5%	8%	57%	3%	6%	14%	7%
Breakdown by Industry							
Agriculture	7%	6%	56%	1%	7%	15%	7%
Manufacturing	4%	9%	57%	2%	5%	13%	10%
Construction	4%	9%	61%	2%	6%	12%	7%
Wholesale trade	6%	8%	58%	4%	5%	8%	12%
Retail trade	4%	6%	53%	3%	7%	17%	9%
Accommodation, cafe and restaurants	5%	9%	54%	3%	8%	14%	6%
Transport and storage	4%	11%	46%	7%	5%	24%	4%
Communication, media and marketing services	5%	7%	53%	5%	9%	12%	7%
Finance and insurance	5%	7%	68%	4%	2%	10%	4%
Property and business services	7%	10%	62%	2%	4%	11%	4%
Education	2%	4%	51%	10%	19%	11%	3%
Health and community services	7%	9%	51%	2%	9%	18%	5%
Cultural and recreational services	3%	5%	63%	3%	8%	11%	6%
Personal and other services	8%	7%	53%	3%	8%	15%	6%

Base: Online small businesses

Q: Does this new fairness test policy for workers make you more or less likely to vote for the **Coalition/Liberal Party** at the next Federal election??

AMR Interactive, July 2007 (n=2352)

Appendix 3 – Fair Work Australia Policy and Intention to Vote for Labor Party

Breakdown by Industry

Likelihood to vote for the Labor Party under the Fair Work Australia Policy

	A lot more likely	A little more likely	No impact	A little less likely	A lot less likely	Don't know	Don't care/No political interest
Total	8%	12%	37%	6%	18%	13%	6%
Breakdown by Industry							
Agriculture	8%	12%	33%	9%	16%	16%	6%
Manufacturing	6%	10%	40%	6%	17%	13%	7%
Construction	6%	11%	36%	8%	20%	14%	6%
Wholesale trade	6%	12%	39%	6%	20%	8%	9%
Retail trade	6%	12%	39%	4%	14%	16%	9%
Accommodation, cafe and restaurants	10%	10%	36%	4%	20%	11%	10%
Transport and storage	10%	10%	34%	9%	15%	17%	4%
Communication, media and marketing services	14%	19%	37%	2%	13%	8%	7%
Finance and insurance	7%	10%	44%	5%	22%	8%	4%
Property and business services	8%	11%	42%	3%	23%	10%	3%
Education	17%	11%	38%	6%	18%	8%	2%
Health and community services	11%	13%	34%	4%	18%	15%	5%
Cultural and recreational services	12%	19%	39%	4%	13%	10%	4%
Personal and other services	9%	14%	33%	4%	19%	13%	8%

Base: Online small businesses

Q: Does this new "**Fair Work Australia**" policy make you more or less likely to vote for **Labor Party** at the next Federal election?

AMR Interactive, July 2007 (n=2352)

Appendix 4 – Source of Information on Federal Budget

Breakdown by Industry

	Source of information					
	Newspaper	Online / Website	TV	Radio	Magazine	Attended speech / seminar
Total	78%	61%	52%	32%	11%	5%
Breakdown by Industry						
Agriculture	83%	64%	55%	32%	18%	0%
Manufacturing	67%	62%	62%	35%	5%	1%
Construction	78%	54%	64%	29%	9%	4%
Wholesale trade	82%	48%	60%	36%	8%	0%
Retail trade	84%	56%	57%	41%	5%	3%
Accommodation, cafe and restaurants	82%	52%	49%	34%	20%	10%
Transport and storage	78%	52%	57%	41%	17%	11%
Communication, media and marketing services	69%	79%	45%	28%	16%	9%
Finance and insurance	83%	63%	50%	36%	19%	11%
Property and business services	82%	66%	39%	26%	12%	6%
Education	76%	64%	62%	29%	7%	6%
Health and community services	66%	72%	42%	32%	2%	11%
Cultural and recreational services	68%	75%	34%	26%	7%	14%
Personal and other services	76%	57%	55%	30%	12%	5%

Base: Online small businesses

Q: Which of the following information sources did you use to look into the new 2007-2008 Federal Budget?
(Multiple response)

AMR Interactive, July 2007 (n=810)

Appendix 5 – Impact of Federal Budget on Business Performance

Breakdown by Industry

	Impact of Federal Budget				
	Very positive impact	Positive impact	Neither positive nor negative impact	Negative impact	Very negative impact
Total	3%	18%	73%	5%	1%
Breakdown by Industry					
Agriculture	6%	14%	68%	12%	0%
Manufacturing	1%	15%	75%	8%	0%
Construction	2%	19%	74%	3%	2%
Wholesale trade	3%	29%	64%	4%	0%
Retail trade	2%	16%	76%	6%	0%
Accommodation, cafe and restaurants	4%	16%	75%	5%	0%
Transport and storage	1%	15%	74%	9%	0%
Communication, media and marketing services	3%	14%	78%	3%	2%
Finance and insurance	6%	26%	60%	6%	1%
Property and business services	5%	22%	69%	3%	1%
Education	1%	18%	75%	5%	0%
Health and community services	3%	22%	71%	2%	1%
Cultural and recreational services	6%	10%	83%	1%	0%
Personal and other services	2%	20%	74%	4%	1%

Base: Online small businesses

Q: Overall, how do you feel the new Federal Budget will affect your business performance in general?

AMR Interactive, July 2007 (n=2352)

Appendix 6 – Better Treasurer

Breakdown by Industry

	Preferred Treasurer	
	Wayne Swan	Peter Costello
Total	17%	49%
Breakdown by Industry		
Agriculture	14%	55%
Manufacturing	16%	48%
Construction	18%	49%
Wholesale trade	15%	57%
Retail trade	17%	43%
Accommodation, café and restaurants	9%	49%
Transport and storage	17%	38%
Communication, media and marketing services	25%	48%
Finance and insurance	14%	63%
Property and business services	18%	55%
Education	27%	42%
Health and community services	19%	39%
Cultural and recreational services	31%	46%
Personal and other services	17%	42%

Base: Online small businesses

Q: Who do you think would make the better Treasurer out of Peter Costello and Wayne Swan?

AMR Interactive, July 2007 (n=2352)

Appendix 7 – Interest in Measuring Energy Consumption at Home

Breakdown by Industry

	Level of interest				
	Very interested	Interested	Neither interested nor uninterested	Not interested	Not at all interested
Total	31%	42%	18%	5%	3%
Breakdown by Industry					
Agriculture	27%	44%	16%	8%	5%
Manufacturing	26%	52%	16%	3%	3%
Construction	28%	40%	23%	5%	3%
Wholesale trade	35%	39%	20%	2%	4%
Retail trade	34%	43%	14%	4%	4%
Accommodation, cafe and restaurants	37%	46%	13%	1%	2%
Transport and storage	31%	48%	13%	7%	2%
Communication, media and marketing services	33%	44%	15%	5%	4%
Finance and insurance	32%	42%	19%	5%	2%
Property and business services	29%	42%	20%	6%	4%
Education	39%	37%	12%	8%	5%
Health and community services	37%	41%	14%	7%	1%
Cultural and recreational services	41%	42%	16%	1%	0%
Personal and other services	35%	35%	20%	6%	4%

Base: Online small businesses

Q: How interested would you be in measuring energy consumption **at home** (e.g. in your house)?

AMR Interactive, July 2007 (n=2352)

Appendix 8 – Interest in Measuring Energy Consumption at Work

Breakdown by Industry

	Level of interest				
	Very interested	Interested	Neither interested nor uninterested	Not interested	Not at all interested
Total	25%	34%	26%	8%	6%
Breakdown by Industry					
Agriculture	22%	39%	24%	9%	6%
Manufacturing	22%	38%	27%	9%	4%
Construction	19%	34%	32%	9%	7%
Wholesale trade	24%	37%	29%	3%	7%
Retail trade	30%	38%	19%	7%	5%
Accommodation, cafe and restaurants	40%	38%	15%	1%	5%
Transport and storage	27%	36%	26%	8%	3%
Communication, media and marketing services	28%	39%	19%	7%	7%
Finance and insurance	26%	34%	25%	12%	4%
Property and business services	24%	31%	29%	11%	5%
Education	30%	28%	25%	9%	8%
Health and community services	29%	34%	24%	10%	4%
Cultural and recreational services	38%	32%	23%	4%	2%
Personal and other services	27%	24%	29%	10%	10%

Base: Online small businesses

Q: How interested would you be in measuring energy consumption *at work* (e.g. in your business)?

AMR Interactive, July 2007 (n=2352)

Appendix 9 – Special Focus Questions

Q. Who do you think would make the better Treasurer out of Peter Costello and Wayne Swan?

1. Wayne Swan
2. Peter Costello
3. Don't know / Not sure
4. Refused
5. Don't care / No political interest

Q. Thinking back over the last 3 years, do you feel that the amount of “red tape” (i.e. compliance with government regulations such as BAS and GST reporting, OH&S, etc) you encounter in your business has increased or decreased?

1. A lot more “red tape” now compared with 3 years ago
2. A little more “red tape” now compared with 3 years ago
3. About the same amount of “red tape” compared with 3 years ago
4. A little less “red tape” now compared with 3 years ago
5. A lot less “red tape” now compared with 3 years ago
6. Don't know / Not sure

Q. The Federal Government recently announced a change to the IR/Work Choices policy by introducing a new fairness test policy, which states that workers earning less than \$75,000 per year must be fairly and adequately compensated for trading away protected award conditions when moving to Australian Workplace Agreements.

Before today, had you heard about this new fairness test policy?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

Q. Does this new fairness test policy for workers make you more or less likely to vote for the Coalition/Liberal Party at the next Federal election?

1. A lot more likely
2. A little more likely
3. No impact – will not change how I vote
4. A little less likely
5. A lot less likely
6. Don't know / Not sure
7. Don't care / No political interest

Q. The opposition leader, Kevin Rudd, recently announced a Federal Labor policy that would roll back Work Choices, remove Australian Workplace Agreements and replace this with 10 guaranteed minimum conditions to be administered by a body called “Fair Work Australia”?

Before today, had you heard about this policy?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Don't know

Q. Does this new “Fair Work Australia” policy make you more or less likely to vote for Labor Party at the next Federal election?

1. A lot more likely
2. A little more likely
3. No impact – will not change how I vote
4. A little less likely
5. A lot less likely
6. Don't know / Not sure
7. Don't care / No political interest

Q. Before today, were you aware that a new Federal Budget was recently announced for the 2007-2008 year?

1. Yes
2. No

Q. Before today, had you actively looked into, reviewed or researched the new 2007-2008 Federal Budget in any way?

1. Yes
2. No

If yes, ask:

Q. Which of the following information sources did you use to look into the new 2007-2008 Federal Budget? (Multi-response)

1. Newspaper
2. Online / website
3. TV
4. Radio
5. Attended speech / seminar
6. Magazine
7. Other (specify)
8. Don't know

Q. Overall, how do you feel the new Federal Budget will affect your business performance in general?

1. Very positive impact
2. Positive impact
3. No difference - neither positive nor negative impact
4. Negative impact
5. Very negative impact
9. Don't know

Q. What, if any, impact do you feel each of the following budget initiatives (recently announced as part of the Federal Budget for 2007-2008) will have on your business performance in general?

(Note: It is your opinion we are interested in. There are no right or wrong answers to this question.)

	Very negative impact on my business	Negative impact on my business	Neither negative nor positive impact	Positive impact on my business	Very positive impact on my business	Don't know / Not sure
Increased support for apprenticeships						
Increased funding for education and training						
Increased Childcare benefits						
Personal income tax reductions						
Increased access to international networks and tenders						
Increased access to R&D funding and promoting of entrepreneurship						
Establishing an online business name register						
Increasing the GST threshold from \$50,000 to \$75,000 turnover						

Q. For each of the areas below (e.g. health, education, etc), please select which Australian political party you personally feel has the most to offer you.

(Note: It is your opinion we are interested in. There are no right or wrong answers to this question.)

	Labor Party	Coalition / Liberal Party	Greens	Democrats	Other (specify)	Don't know / Not sure
Economy						
Health						
Education						
Childcare						
Tax						
Foreign Affairs & Trade						
Small Business						
Superannuation						
Industrial Relations						
Environment						
National Security						

Q. How interested would you be in measuring energy consumption at home (e.g. in your house)?

1. Very interested
2. Interested
3. Neither interested nor uninterested
4. Not interested
5. Not interested at all

Q. How interested would you be in measuring energy consumption at work (e.g. in your business)?

1. Very interested
2. Interested
3. Neither interested nor uninterested
4. Not interested
5. Not interested at all