

**ING DIRECT Financial Wellbeing Index (FWI) – Q4 2011**  
***Around the Nation***

**Nationally**

- The Household Financial Wellbeing Index for the fourth quarter of 2011 is 105.6 (down from 105.9 in Q3)
- 65% of households maintained or improved their financial position in 2011 following an increase in household savings (38%) and less spending on unnecessary purchases (38%)
- 32% of households say their financial wellbeing deteriorated last year,
- 35% of households expect the Australian economy to deteriorate in 2012
- 22% believe their personal financial wellbeing will worsen in 2012
- 17% of Australians no longer have a credit card compared to 11% in the first quarter of 2011.

**NSW**

- NSW leads the nation with an Index score of 109.1 compared to national score of 105.6.
- Only 21% of NSW households saw their financial situation deteriorate in 2011 compared to 32% nationally.
- One in five NSW households say their financial wellbeing declined in 2011 however 74% say their personal finances improved or remained stable throughout the year.
- 31% of NSW residents expect the economy to struggle in 2012
- 78% believe their own financial position will improve or hold ground in 2012

**VIC**

- In 2011 only 27% of Victorians gained ground with their personal finances
- 36% fell behind, financially, in 2011
- 25% expect their personal finances to deteriorate further in 2012
- Higher taxes/levies and rising living costs are the chief financial concerns for 2012 cited by 32% of Victorians, followed by fears of job losses (20%).
- Although 40% of Victorians expect the economy to deteriorate in 2012, 73% expect an improvement or no change to their financial wellbeing.

**QLD**

- The state's Index rose from 97.4 in Q3 to 103.8 in Q4
- 56% of Queenslanders believe the economy will deteriorate in 2012
- 74% expect their own financial wellbeing to improve or hold steady in 2012
- 35% of Qld households believe the economy will slow down and 22% expect their personal financial wellbeing to decline as a result.
- One in three (36%) Queenslanders fear higher taxes and living costs will impact their financial situation in 2012.

**WA**

- The state's Index score rose from 105.9 in Q3 2011 to 108.8 in Q4 – above the national score of 105.6.
- 62% of WA households say their financial wellbeing remained stable or improved in 2011
- 79% of WA residents expect their financial wellbeing to remain the same or improve this year
- 35% say their financial wellbeing fell behind in 2011
- 34% believe the economy will deteriorate in 2012

**SA**

- The state's Index score rose from 97.4 in Q3 to 103.8 in Q4
- 44% of SA households say their financial wellbeing deteriorated in 2011
- 54% of SA residents say their personal financial situation picked up or stabilised last year
- 27% of SA households expect the economy to worsen in 2012 with 41% saying their personal finances are also likely to slide this year
- Fears of higher living costs (32%) dominate the list of household concerns for 2012

**For a full copy of the report, please visit <http://ingdirect.wieck.com/>**

**Contact: Caroline Thomas, PR Manager, ING DIRECT, 02 9018 5160 or 0413 317 225.**