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# New Zealand Election Result

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## New Zealand Election Result

As expected, Saturday's election in New Zealand resulted in no party gaining a majority of seats in the Parliament. However, on the results from votes counted on the night, it is very unlikely that the National Party could form a government making the return of Helen Clark's Labour led government the most likely outcome.

The final result will be determined by:

- 218,000 absentee and other votes yet to be counted
- possible coalition arrangements
- agreement from minor parties to support the government on supply and confidence motions

### Votes yet to be counted

There remain approximately 218,000 absentee and other votes not counted on election night outstanding. These include many votes cast in Australia.

These absentee and postal votes could have an impact on the result, with Labour holding three electorate seats by less than 1000 votes. There could also be an impact on the list seats from these votes. It is considered likely, based on past elections, that the Greens and Progressives will gain most from the special votes, which would generally benefit Labour (although if Progressive gains a list seat it is likely to be at the expense of Labour).

### Seats to Watch

**Table 1: Close Electorate Seats**

Seat	In the lead	Election night margin
East Coast	National	1,284
Hamilton West	Labour	688
Otaki	Labour	266
Rotorua	Labour	532
Taupo	Labour	1,199
Tauranga	National (from NZ First)	568

**Note:** This table shows electorate seats held by less than 1500 votes on election night results

Neither Labour with 50 seats nor National with 49 have an outright majority in the 122 seat Parliament. However, on the figures from election night, the National Party does not appear able to form Government. Over the next two weeks, Labour will engage in negotiations with the minor parties to determine the make up of the new Government.

The 218,000 votes yet to be counted could alter:

- the marginal seats in the table above
- other seats with higher margins
- the number of list seats held by major and minor parties

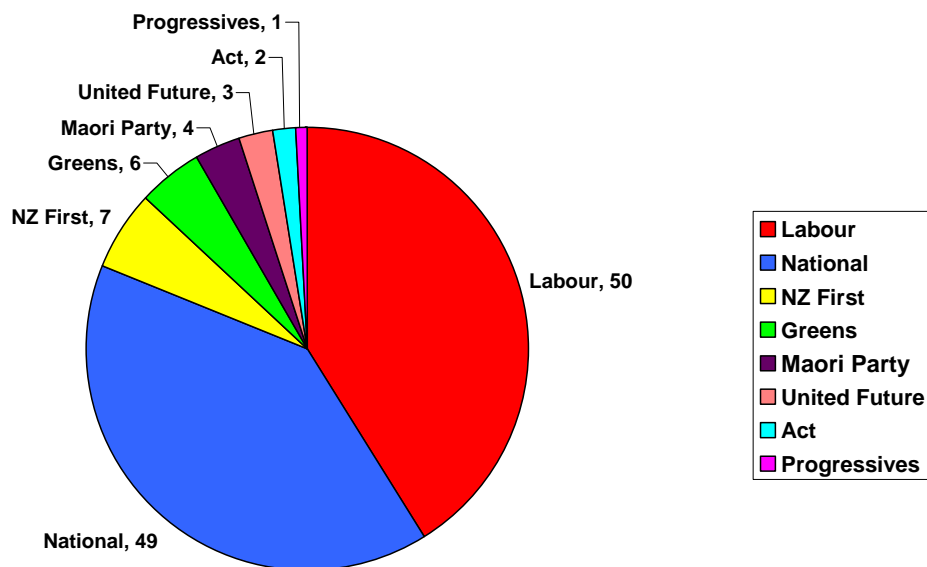
## Preliminary results

Table Two: Election night results summary

Party	Previous Parliament	Total Seats	List Seats	Electorate Seats	% Party Vote
Labour	51	50	19	31	40.74%
National	27	49	18	31	39.63%
NZ First	13	7	7	0	5.84%
Act	9	2	1	1	1.52%
Greens	9	6	6	0	5.07%
United Future	8	3	2	1	2.72%
Progressive	2	1	0	1	1.21%
Maori Party	1	4	0	4	1.98%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>69</b>	

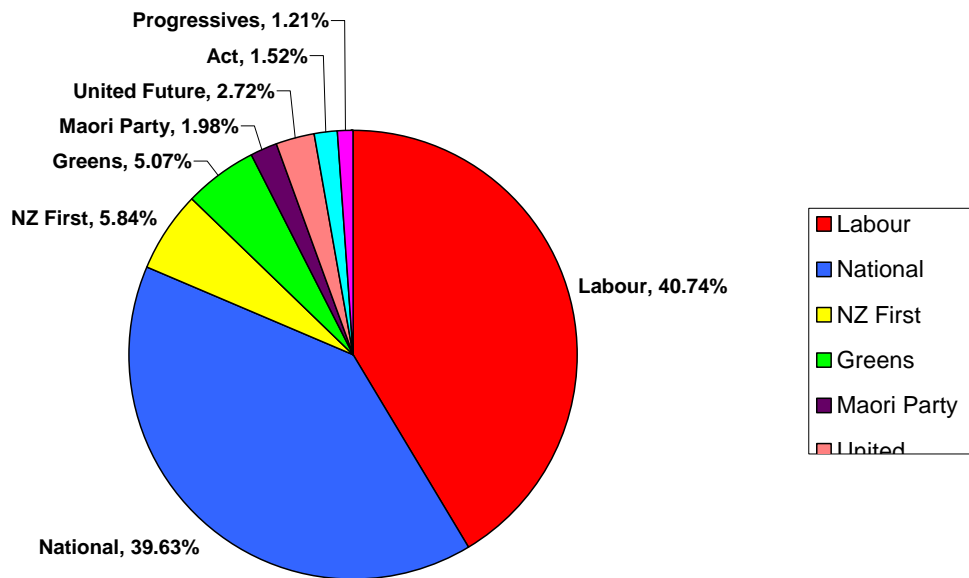
Note: These figures based on election night results – they do not include the 218,000 absentee and other votes to be counted

Chart One: Total Seats Won



Note: Seats won on election night results (electorate and list seats combined)

Chart Two: Percentage of Party Votes



Note: Percentage of party votes counted on election night

## Negotiations with Minor Parties

There are two types of support that the minor parties could grant one of the major parties to allow them to form Government.

Firstly, they could enter into a formal coalition, such between Labour and the Progressives in the previous two Parliaments.

Secondly, the minor parties can sign an agreement to support one of the major parties in votes of supply and confidence to allow them to form a minority Government. In the last Parliament, United Future held such an agreement with Labour.

New Zealand First and United Future both stated prior to the election that, while they would not enter a formal coalition, they would agree to support the largest party in matters of supply and confidence. The largest party, in terms of both votes and seats (on election night results), is Labour. However, United Future, has stated it will not support Labour if it is in a coalition government with the Greens.

## Hawker Britton

Hawker Britton was founded in 1997 by Bruce Hawker and David Britton, former chief of staff and senior media adviser respectively to Premier Bob Carr. From its initial office in Sydney, has grown in the ensuing six years to have five offices in Australia; Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Perth, Brisbane, and three located internationally; Washington, Wellington and London.

Hawker Britton is Australia's only national and international public affairs company providing advice on managing government relations, strategic communications and campaigns.

The firm boasts a wide range of clients in a variety of industries, including banking and finance, film and entertainment, information technology and telecommunications, primary industries, property development, health care and health technology, transport and infrastructure, construction and mining, water and environment, sport, hospitality and gaming.

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- Community campaigns and consultation
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Hawker Britton brings to the corporate boardroom a unique approach to strategy and campaigns, borne out of corporate and political experience. Our specialist consultants are drawn from the ranks of former ministers, members of parliament, chiefs of staff, and senior policy and media advisers. Corporate clients appreciate our political and strategic communications heritage and the value that it brings to corporate planning.

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