

Does Economic Disaffection Affect Consumers' Voting Choices in Australia?

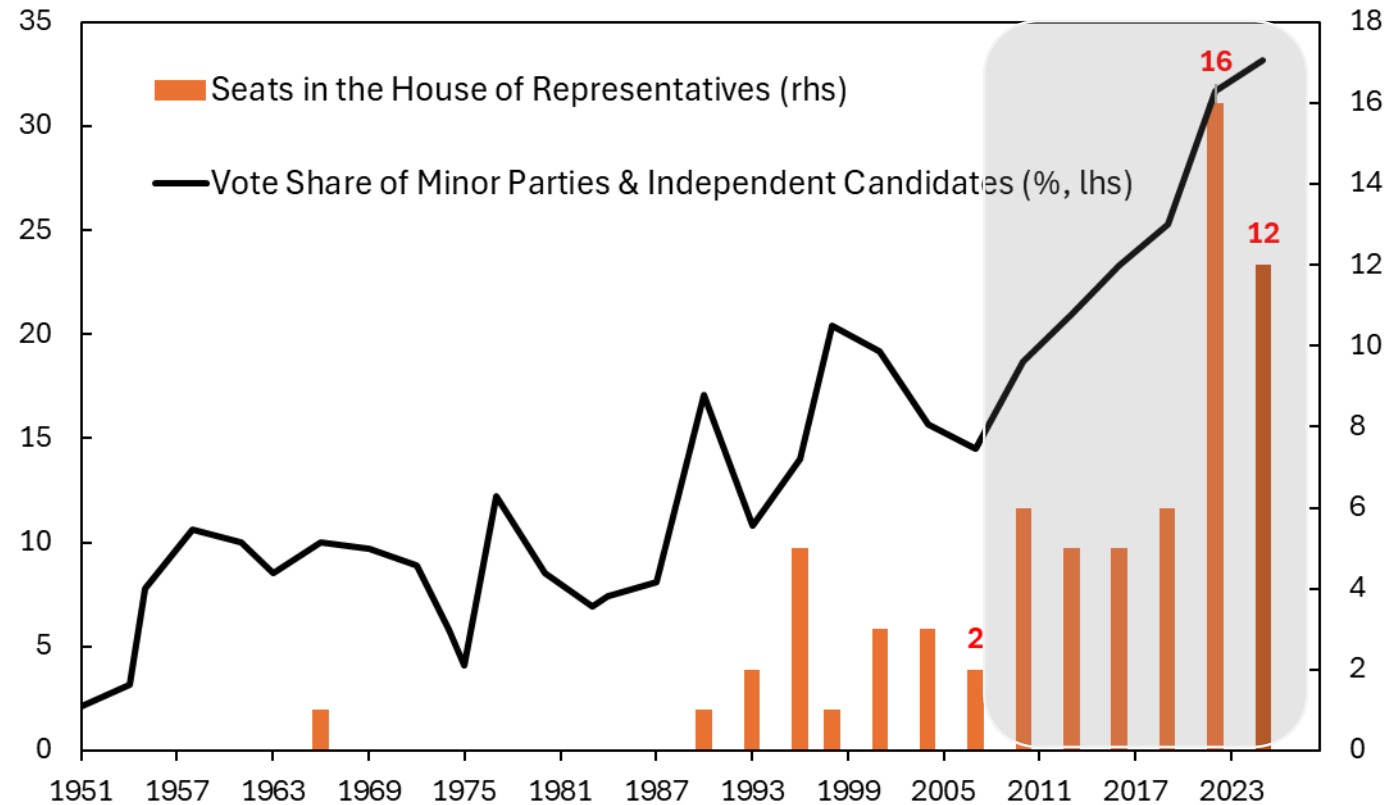
Viet Nguyen

Thursday, 15 May 2025



The Melbourne Institute, as part of The University of Melbourne, acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the unceded land on which we work, learn and live: the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung and Bunurong peoples (Burnley, Fishermans Bend, Parkville, Southbank and Werribee campuses), the Yorta Yorta Nation (Dookie and Shepparton campuses), and the Dja Dja Wurrung people (Creswick campus).

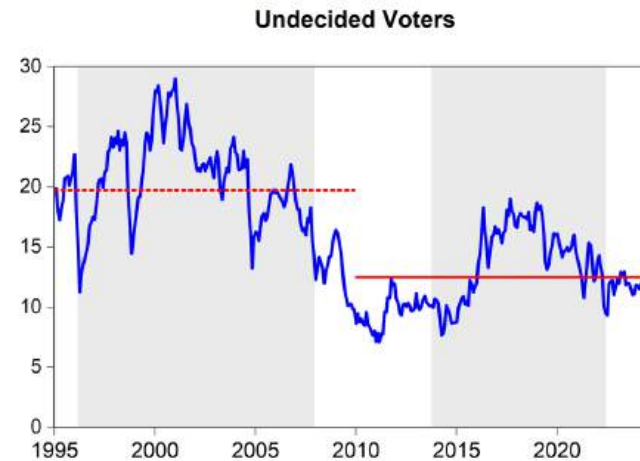
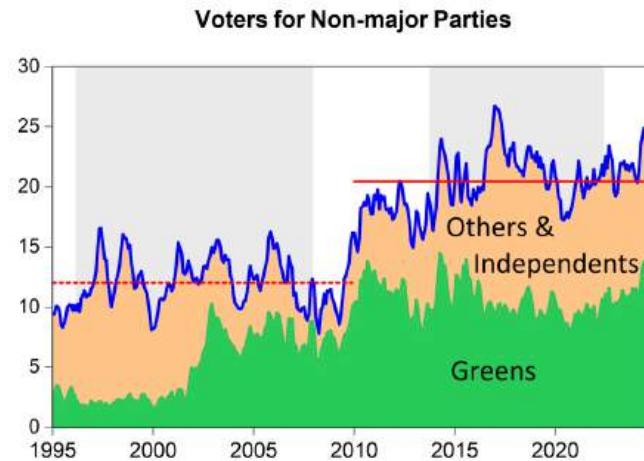
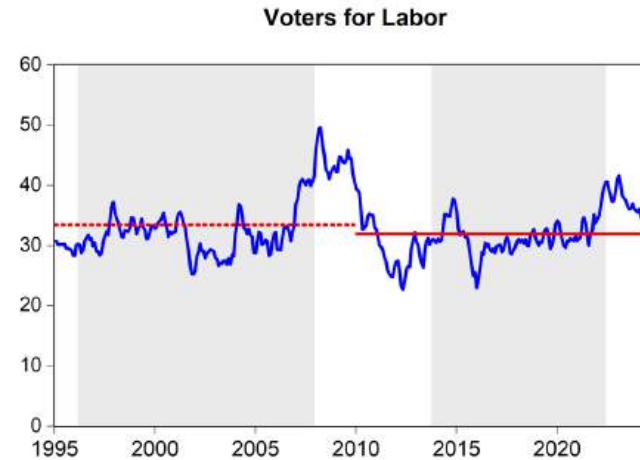
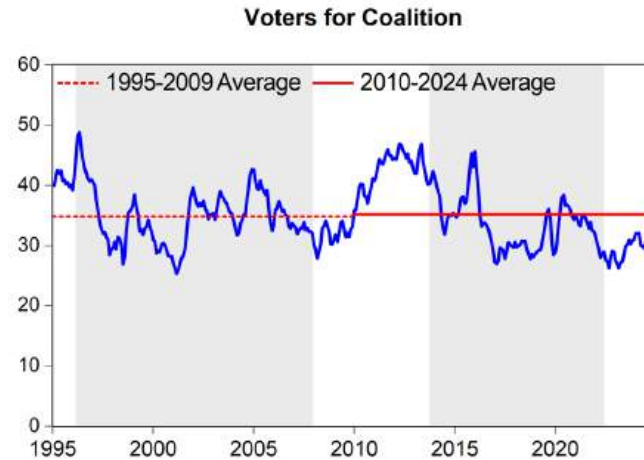
Rising support for minor parties and independents: actual polling



Source: Australian Electoral Commission. Note: Statistics for 2025 election are preliminary.

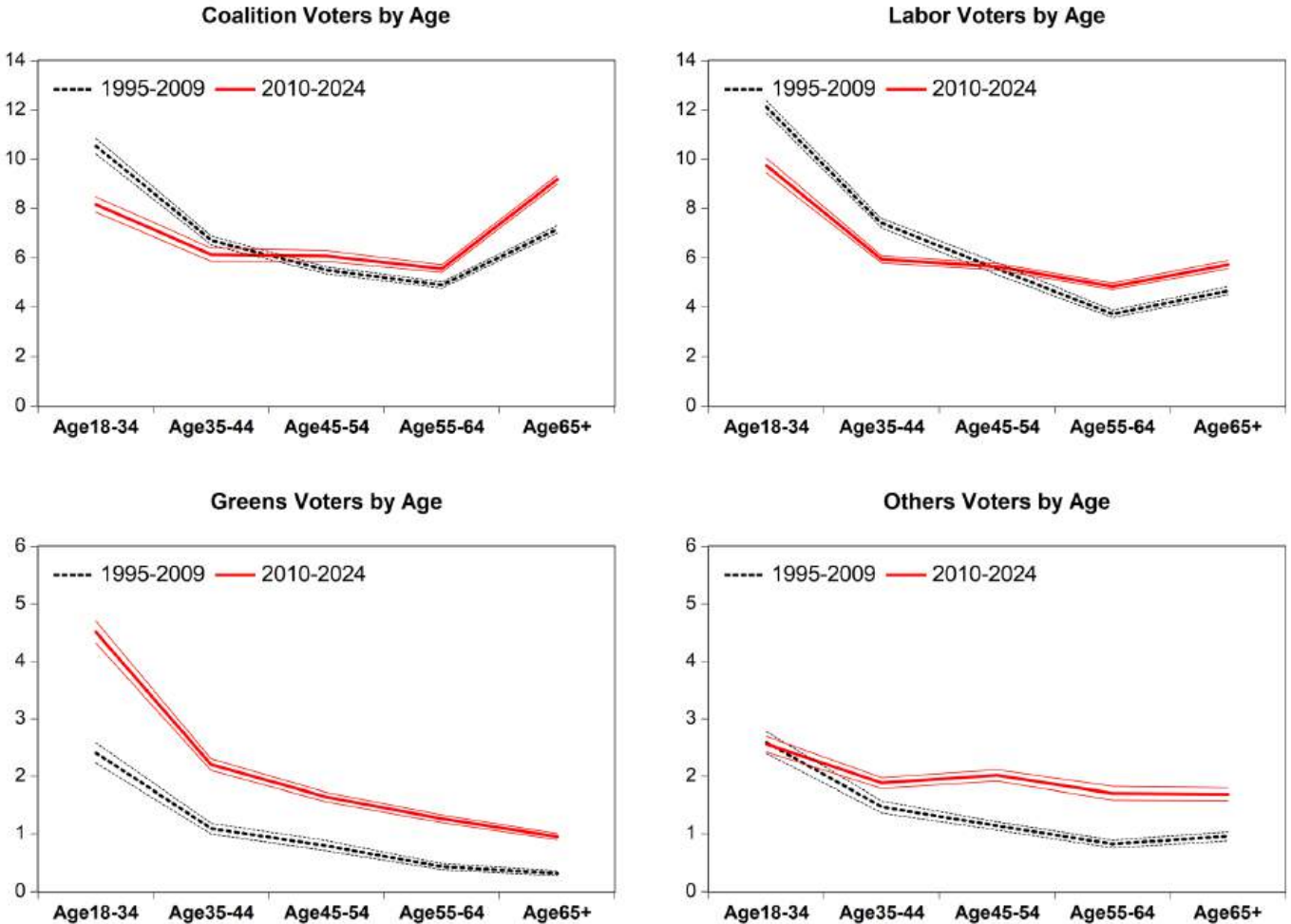
Rising support for minor parties and independents: survey data

Q: If a Federal election was held today, could you please tell me which party you personally would vote for?



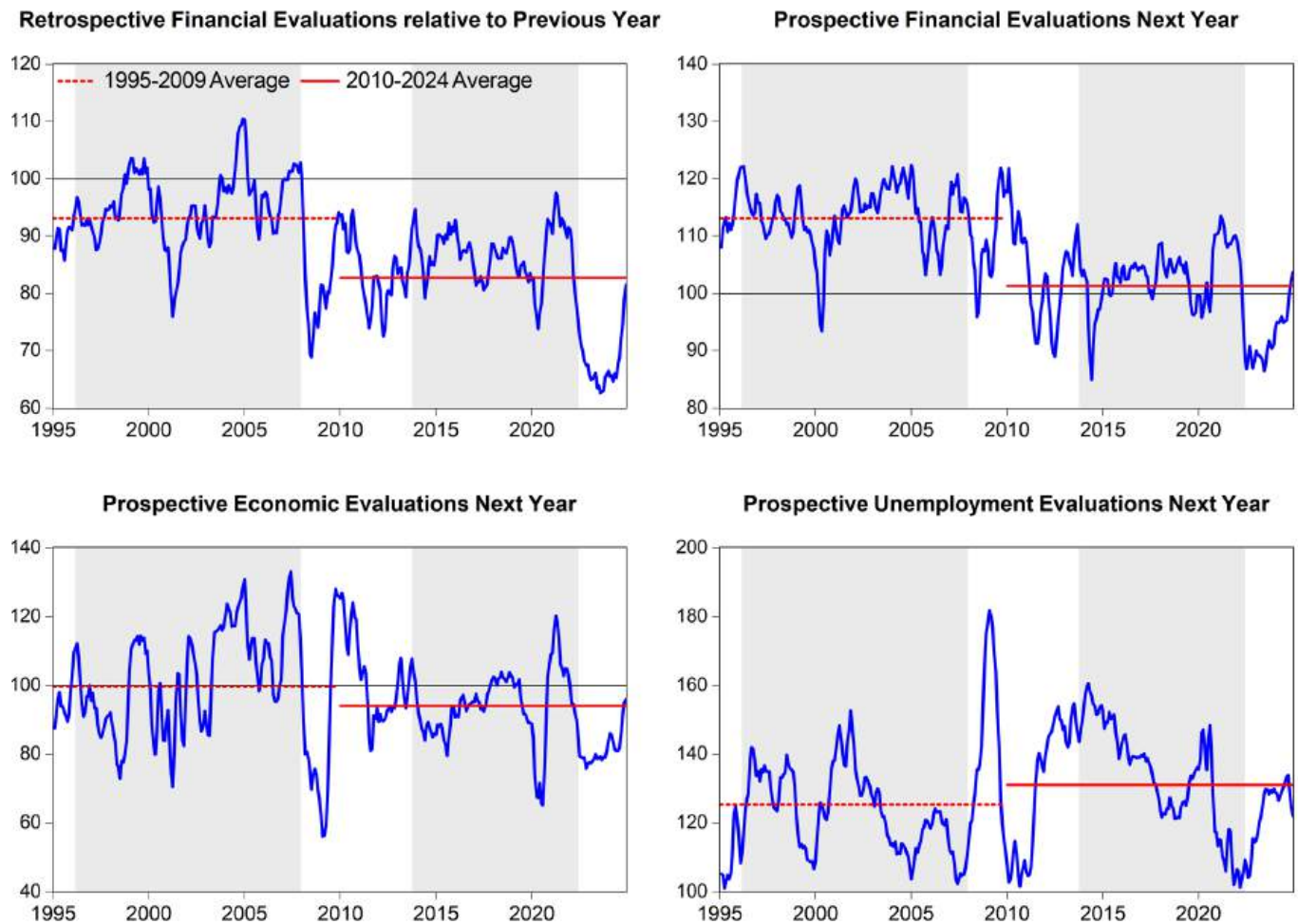
Source: Melbourne Institute

Rising support for minor parties and independent candidates by age



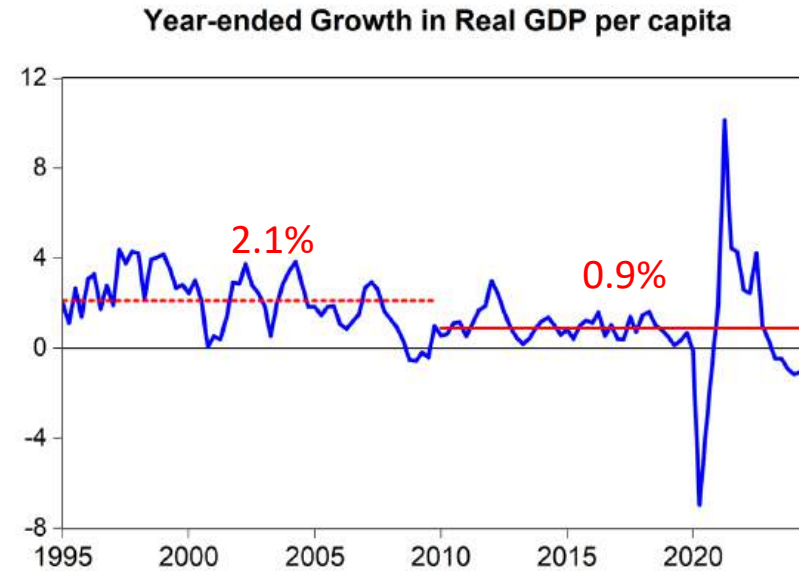
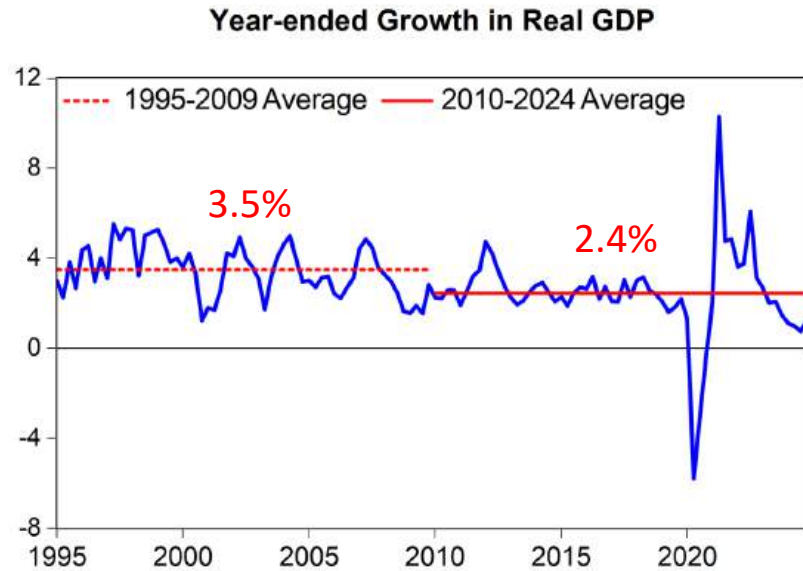
Source: Melbourne Institute

Shift in consumers' economic expectations and evaluations



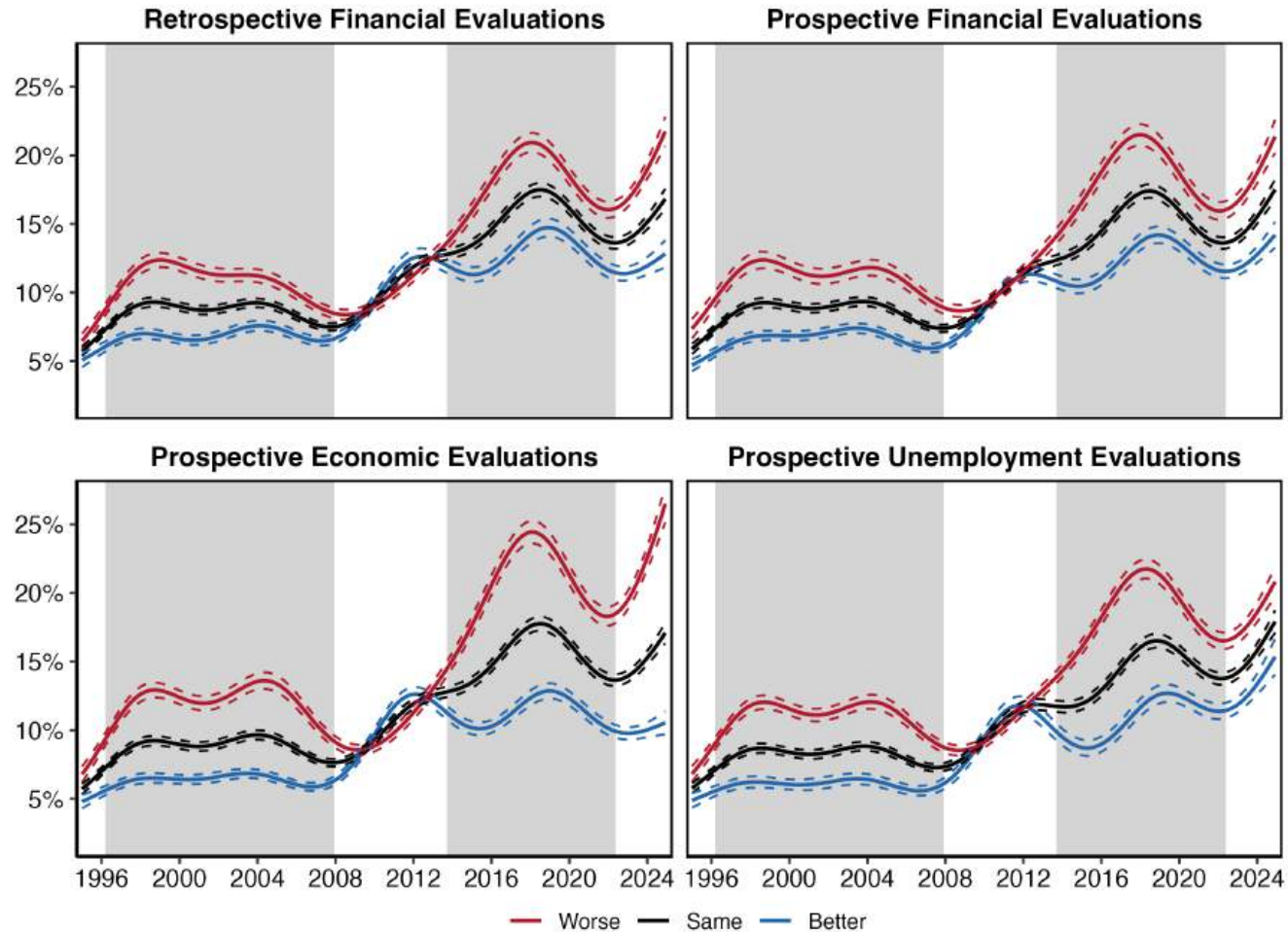
Source: Melbourne Institute

Shift in actual economic activity



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics and authors' calculations

Economic pessimism is behind a shift to minor parties and independents



Source: Melbourne Institute & authors' calculations

- Declining economic prosperity—both real and perceived—has played an important role in Australia's post-GFC shift away from the two major parties.
- This is consistent with the view that voters are responding rationally to unmet policy demands and long-standing dissatisfaction with government performance.