DEPARTMENT OF THE
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

Proactive Release

The following item has been proactively released by the Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister:

Paper: COVID-19 Weekly Monitoring Report

COVID-19 Weekly Monitoring Report

Tuesday 30 June 2020

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Current strategy: Elimination by keeping it out, finding it and stamping it out.

Current Alert Level: 1

This weekly report responds to COVID-19 Ministerial Group's 9 April directive for All-of-Government officials to develop a set of measures and regular reporting that will inform future decisions on changing Alert Levels or the overall strategy, and to report them regularly.

The report places information about COVID-19 in New Zealand and health system capacity alongside evidence of the effects of the restrictions on the economy and society more broadly, and public attitudes towards, and compliance with, the restrictions.

This report covers:

The contents of this report reflect the principal matters that need to be taken into consideration when determining whether to change alert levels.

There are some gaps in measures and data, and these are noted where applicable. All-of-Government officials will continue to improve the measures.

Key changes and developments from last week

Developments to note:

- There are currently 22 active cases in New Zealand, all of which are imported cases.
- Testing rates continue to increase compared to last week.
- The number of people in managed isolation or quarantine continue to rise due to the increasing rate of returnees arriving in New Zealand.
- As imported cases rise, New Zealanders are increasingly concerned about COVID-19, with metrics indicating apprehension similar to what was observed during Alert Level 2. This has not yet manifested in an observable change in behaviour.

Changes to the report:

- A section on international border trends has been added for this weeks' report.

COVID-19 in New Zealand

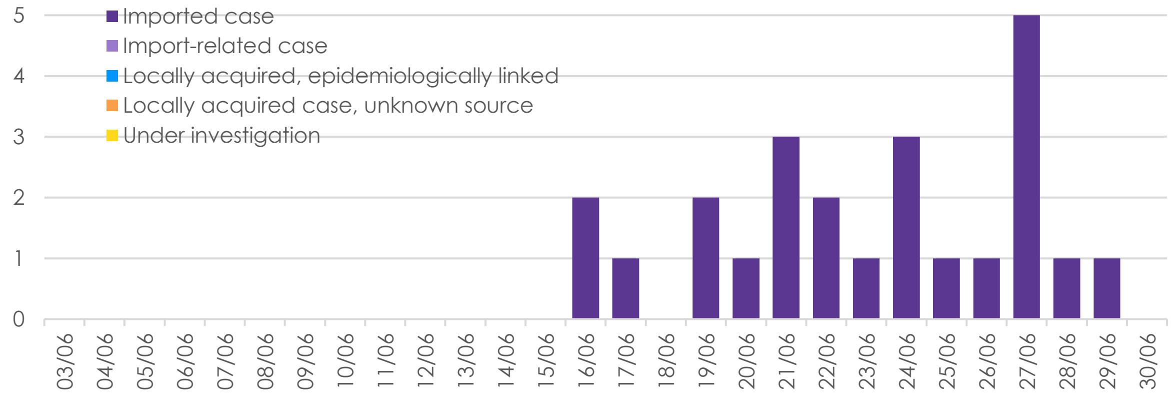
As at 9am 30 June, there are currently 22 active cases in New Zealand. All of these cases have been imported (Figure 1 and 2).

Figure 1: Summary of COVID-19 in New Zealand as at 9am 23 June

22	**Active cases**
1	**Days since last imported case reported**
54	**Days since last import-related case reported**
39	**Days since last locally-acquired epidemiologically-linked case reported**
60	**Days since last locally-acquired, unknown source case reported**
1	**Significant open clusters**[1]
0	**Clusters with a new case reported in the last 14 days**

Source: Ministry of Health

Figure 2: Daily cases by source of transmission (cases reported in the past 28 days)[2]



Source: Ministry of Health (via EpiSurv)

Definitions:

- Imported cases: Cases with a reported history of international travel within 14 days of onset.
- Import-related case: Cases that have a link to an imported case.
- Locally acquired cases, epidemiologically linked: Cases that have a link to a locally acquired case with an unknown source.
- Locally acquired cases, unknown source: Cases that have no link to another case or overseas travel (potential community transmission).

[1] A cluster is considered closed when there have been no new cases for two incubation periods (i.e. 28 days) from the date when all cases complete isolation

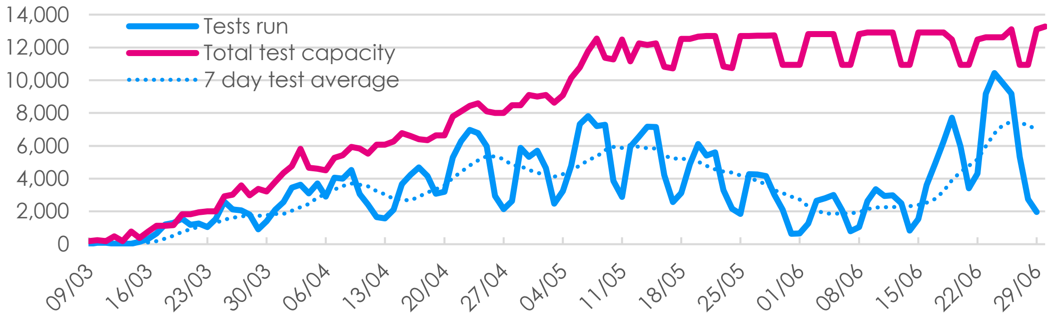
[2] Please note that the daily case numbers used in this report differ slightly from the figures reported each day by the Ministry of Health. The Ministry's figures are usually based on the change in the 24 hours to the 9am reporting time. The numbers in this report are based on the actual calendar dates of case reporting.

Testing, tracing and isolation system

Testing rates have continued to increase over the past week. This increase coincides with the announcement of new cases in New Zealand over the past fortnight, and an increase of testing within managed isolation and quarantine facilities. Over the past few days the seven-day average has increased to just under 8000 tests per day, a new high since testing commenced from March.

Testing capacity is now over 12,000 tests per day (Figure 3). As at 30 June, test stock on hand in labs is 253,000, which is 36 days' supply at current (7-day average) levels, which reflects the increased testing rate.

Figure 3: Testing capacity

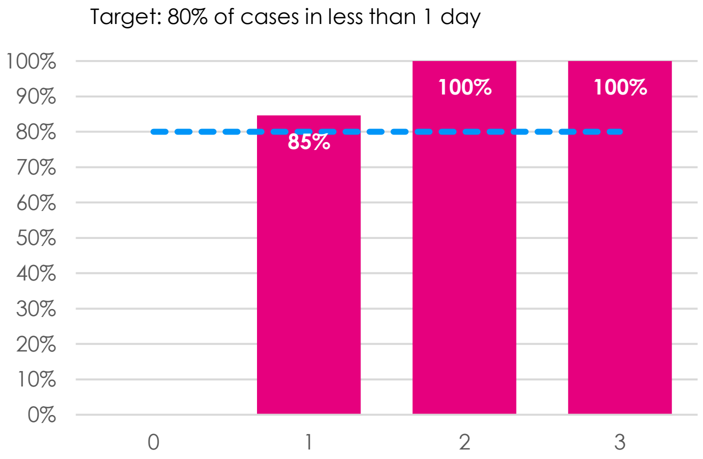


Source: Ministry of Health

Timeliness of testing system

Timeliness is the key metric to understanding the performance of contact tracing systems. Figure 4 shows the time from the test sample being taken to the time a patient is notified of a positive test result. All positive results are notified within 48 hours, noting that this metric is from a small snapshot of cases.

Figure 4: Time from test sample taken to notification of positive result over the period 21 – 27 June

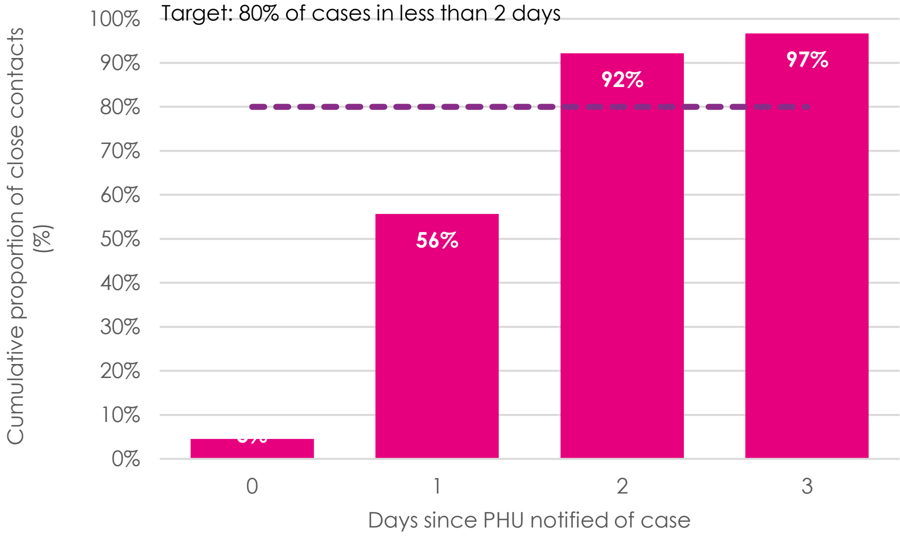


Source: Ministry of Health

Contact tracing

Figure 5 shows the time between notification of a case and tracing of all close contacts and the associated target of this being achieved within 48 hours for 80% of cases.

Figure 5: Time between notification of case and tracing of close and casual contacts, 21 to 27 June



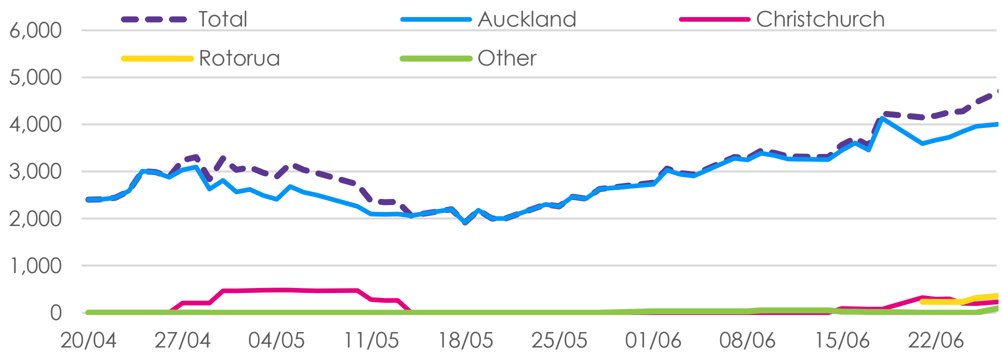
Source: Ministry of Health

Isolation

As at June 29th, there is capacity to manage up to 5,369 people in managed isolation or quarantine in Auckland, Christchurch, Wellington, Hamilton and Rotorua.

Over the past week the number of people in managed isolation or quarantine has increased significantly by almost 1,000 (Figure 6) to 4,873 people. The number of people in managed isolation or quarantine is expected to outgrow forecasted capacity by 200 people in the next seven days.

Figure 6: Number of people in managed isolation or quarantine[3]



Source: Isolation, Quarantine and Repatriation SITREP, AoG calculation

[3] Rotorua figures counted in total, but not displayed on graph until more data points are available. Other includes Hamilton and Wellington until more data is available.

Health system capacity

PPE

There is sufficient PPE stocks for the health and disability workforce currently however ongoing vigilance is required. There is good stock of all PPE supplies in the country right now (both from the Ministry of Health national reserves and DHB reserves) and demand has stabilised over recent weeks, despite some additional demand to support border related activity.

Sourcing and distribution of PPE continues to be managed at a national level. However global supply chain challenges remain with potential future issues concerning mask and glove supply. A small number of mask shipments remain on hold pending further quality assurance, which is being progressed with urgency. Stock of Nitrile gloves remains a potential issue. Work is underway to determine if future shipments are expected to meet demand and identify any potential supply risk.

Second wave pandemic modelling is alerting us to areas where we may need to secure additional supply as a risk management strategy and we are sourcing additional supplies where needed.

Figure 7: PPE availability for the health sector and non-health essential services

Product Description	Stock on Hand		Distribution over the last fortnight	PPE on Order	
	DHBs (22 June)	National Reserves (24 June)		Expected in Next Fortnight	Total on Order
N95 Mask (or equivalent)	1,179,437	21,145,392	10,150	0	1,000,000
Procedure Mask (or equivalent)	6,067,311	50,431,800	719,800	9,800,000	83,936,350
Isolation Gown (or equivalent)	471,467	1,294,980	212,500	974,440	3,728,840
Disposable Apron	1,013,590	1,733,150	28,600	900,000	1,800,000
Glasses/goggles (or equivalent)	120,193	1,097,038	0	0	400,001
Face shield (or equivalent)	165,780	763,300	0	240,000	292,040
Nitrile Gloves (all sizes, Each)	14,019,070	5,610,000	1,114,100	0	255,400,000
Hand Sanitiser (500mL equivalents)	57,262	300,006	0	20,000	40,010
Hand Sanitiser (2L equivalents)	0	150,000	0	0	0
Detergent Wipe (or equivalent)	417,800	0	0	0	0
Disinfectant wipe (or equivalent)	3,901,908	31,220,600	1,338,650	4,320,000	138,906,400

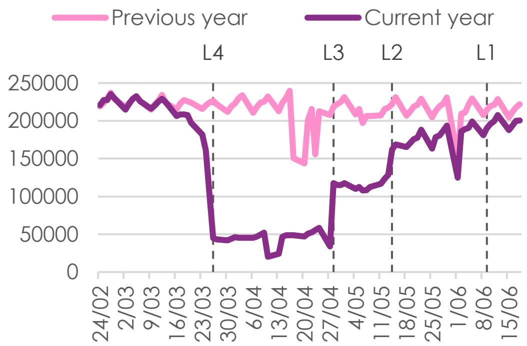
Source: MoH PPE data as at 29 June

Public movement

Direction requests on Apple Maps and light vehicle traffic volumes suggest that mobility has continued to increase since the shift to Alert Level 1, and is close to pre-COVID-19 levels (Figures 8 and 9). However, even at Level 1, where no domestic restrictions apply, movement remains somewhat below pre-COVID-19 baselines suggesting some lingering effects.

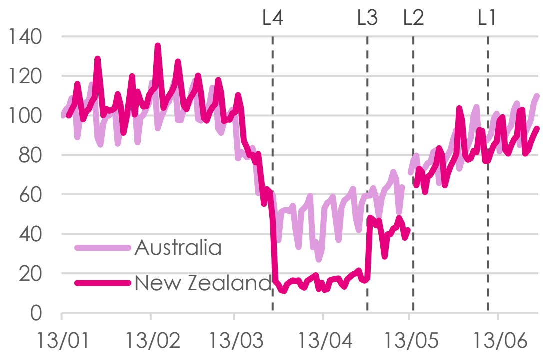
While further increases in movement are likely, as more people begin to return to workplaces, the perceived threat of COVID-19 is likely to have increased with the recent confirmation of cases arriving at the border. It is possible the perception of this threat will impact current volumes utilising public transport (Figure 10).

Figure 8: Light vehicle traffic volumes in main centres



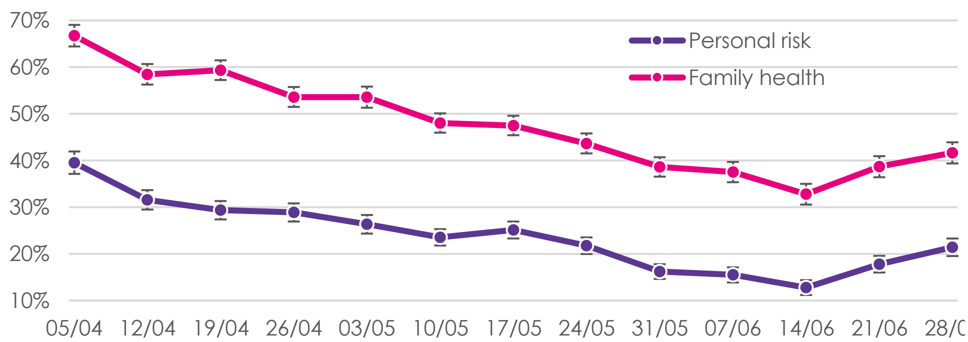
Source: NZTA

Figure 9: Volume of driving direction requests on Apple Maps (13/01=100)



Source: Apple Mobility Trends

Figure 10: Proportion of people who were worried about the health of their family members, or their personal risk of getting COVID-19



Source: Provisional data from the COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey, Ministry of Health

Note: Provisional data from the COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey is dated as at week end of the survey week

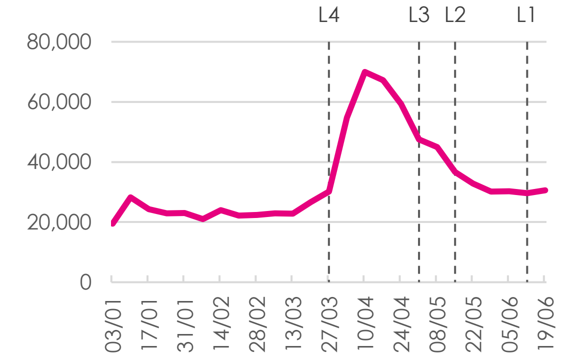
Effects of the measures on society

Demand for Special Needs Grants for food was slightly higher compared to last week, however remains broadly similar to levels observed since the start of Alert Level 2 (Figure 11).

Police data continues to show family harm calls for service staying at close to pre-lockdown levels (Figure 12). While there has been slight weekly variation since lockdown, sexual violence calls for service have not changed significantly when compared to pre-lockdown levels. Going forward, Police will be providing monthly updates on family and sexual harm calls for service, unless there is a significant shift in incidence or in Alert Level restrictions.

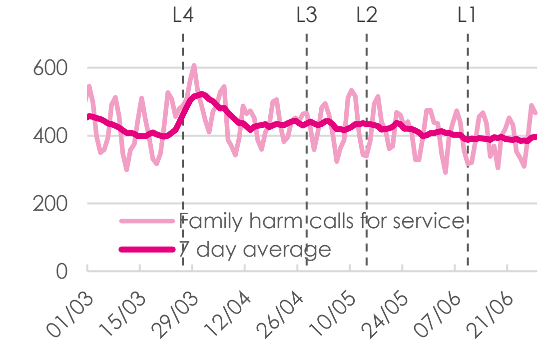
Over the past few weeks, Reports of Concern (ROC) have begun to return to normal levels, with some weeks exceeding last year's figures (Figure 13).

Figure 11: Special Needs Grants for food



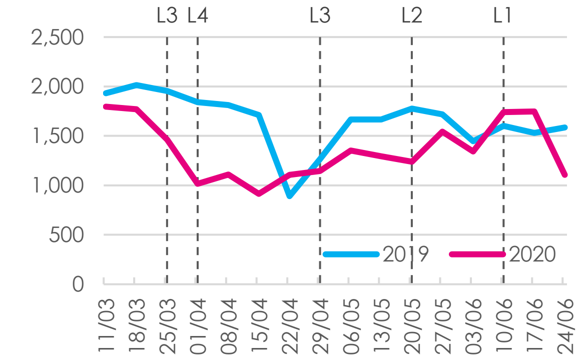
Source: MSD

Figure 12: Family harm calls for service



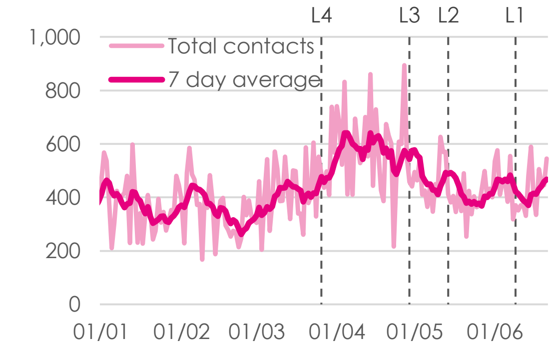
Source: NZ Police (see note)

Figure 13: Reports of Concern



Source: Oranga Tamariki, not official statistics

Figure 14: Total contacts to Youthline



Source: Youthline

Note: To ensure the quality and accuracy of data, Police statistics on Family Harm Investigations and other Official Crime Statistics are updated monthly, one month in arrears. That means statistics for May will be published on last working day of June 2020. To support the effort to supply timely information and establish daily trends relating to the COVID-19 pandemic, the data supplied are sourced from provisional and operational databases for operational use only.

Data from Youthline (Figure 14) shows that from late March there was a rise in the number of contacts received weekly, peaking during mid-April, before steadily reducing since the start of Alert Level 3 (to levels comparable to 2019). Over the week ended June 21 (compared to the week prior), overall contacts were up slightly. There was a higher proportion of presenting issues about abuse and violence, and a lower proportion about fear, anxiety & stress, depression & sadness and self-harm.

Provisional results from the Health and Wellbeing Survey suggest that, overall, New Zealanders' psychological wellbeing is stabilising at an improved level compared to Alert Level 4. Depression and anxiety symptoms, while not significantly changed over the past fortnight, are lower than findings from Alert Levels 3 and 4 (Figure 16). Overall rates of self-reported loneliness or isolation are similar to the past few weeks and significantly lower compared to any time during Alert Levels 3 or 4.

COVID-19 related nervousness has increased over the past fortnight and at levels comparable to late May. These levels are much lower than levels seen during Alert Levels 3 and 4 (Figure 15). This is likely due to the emergence of new cases in New Zealand, and recent concerns about the robustness of the managed isolation system.

Figure 15: Percentage of survey respondents reported COVID related nervousness

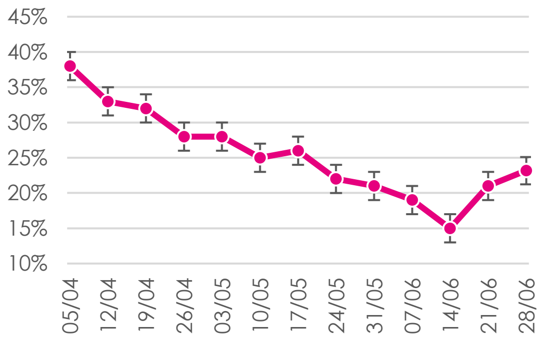
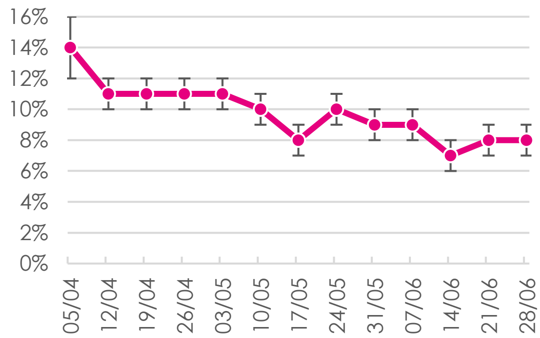


Figure 16: Percentage of survey respondents reported depression or anxiety symptoms



Source: Provisional data from the COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey, Ministry of Health, note that data reported is dated as at week end of the survey week

Effects of the measures on businesses

Most regions have seen card spending, at a higher level than at the same time last year (Figure 17). Outside of the largest cities there have been significant increases with more than 5% higher retail sales seen in Northland, Gisborne, Hawkes Bay, Taranaki, and most of the South Island; while Canterbury, Bay of Plenty and Waikato saw small increases. Three regions saw declines in spending compared to the same time last year – Auckland, Wellington and Otago. All rely heavily on travel-related spending either from international tourists or domestic business travellers.

Transport and travel remains the most negatively affected retail sector with sales 75% below the same time last year. Accommodation services are also faring poorly. Conversely, domestic-based retailers, such as home and recreational retailing and repair services have seen significant increases (Figure 18).

Figure 17: Percentage change in card spending by selected region

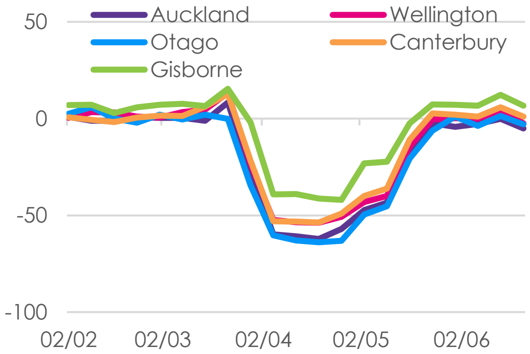
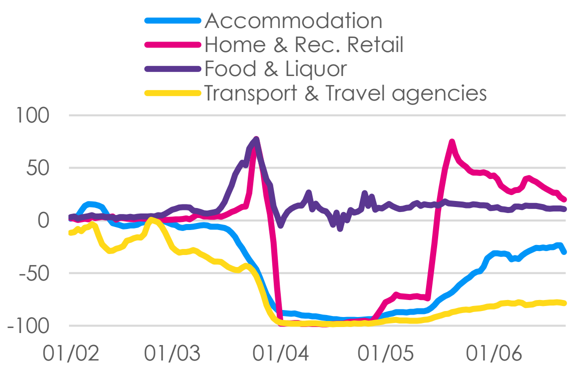


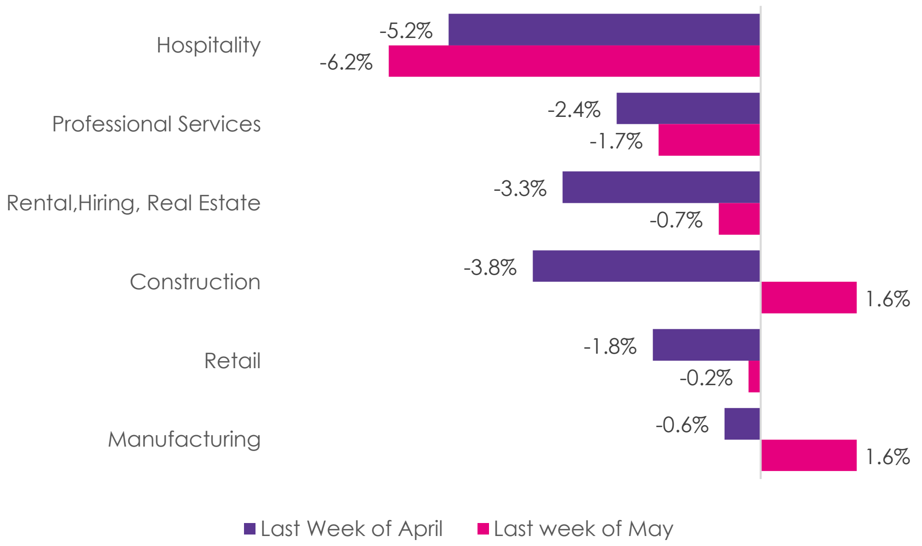
Figure 18: Percentage change in card spend by selected industry



Source: MBIE/Marketview

Xero have released a report on small business effects of COVID-19 to the end of May. As in previous reports, it shows job losses in New Zealand are smaller than Australia despite a larger fall in revenue. It also shows that overall job losses in May compared to the same time last year were smaller than in April, whereas in Australia and the United Kingdom job losses continued to grow through May. In May, most regions reversed job losses, with many near or even above the number of pre-crisis jobs by the end of May (Figure 19). Construction, retail and manufacturing have fully recovered job numbers, while Hospitality continues to decline.

Figure 19: Job growth in selected industries compared to the first week of March.[4]



Source: Xero

[4] Xero considers this information to be sensitive.

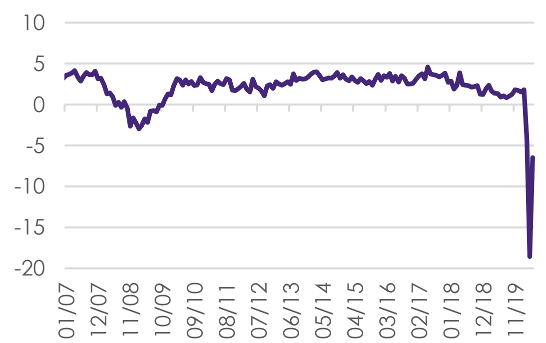
Macroeconomic and fiscal effects of the measures

Economic activity as measured by the New Zealand Activity Index (NZAC), which summarises changes in several monthly activity indicators, was down 19% in April on the same month last year; as activity indicators plummeted across the board over the lockdown. Activity rebounded sharply in May, however, finishing the month 6.5% down on May 2019. This was driven by sharp bounces in consumer card spending and traffic flows, which are nearing pre-COVID levels. Other contributing indicators, such as electricity grid demand, the BNZ-Business NZ Performance of Manufacturing Index and the ANZ activity outlook also saw an uptick in May.

New Zealand's trade weighted index has stabilised over the past weeks and the total value of merchandise exports and imports remains below levels at the same time last year. Volatility in equity markets is declining but remains elevated.

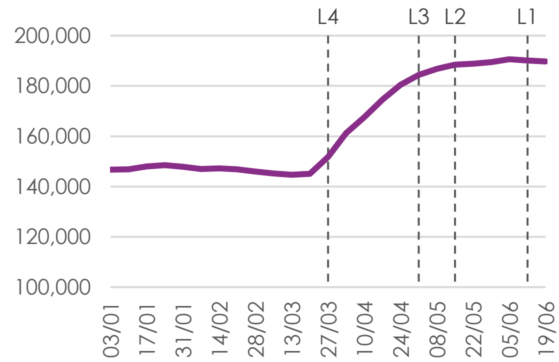
Over the past few weeks, the number of Jobseeker recipients has decreased, partly due to transfers of around 2,300 recipients to the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment Scheme (CIRP), but the total number of Jobseeker recipients remains almost 45,000 higher than 20 March. As at 28 June, over 11,000 people had been granted the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment, with over $9.5 million paid out.

Figure 20: NZ Activity Index



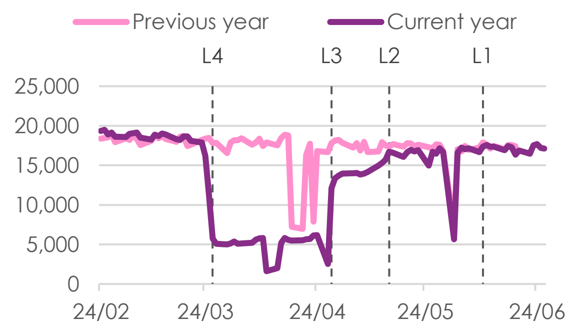
Source: Treasury

Figure 21: Jobseeker Support recipients



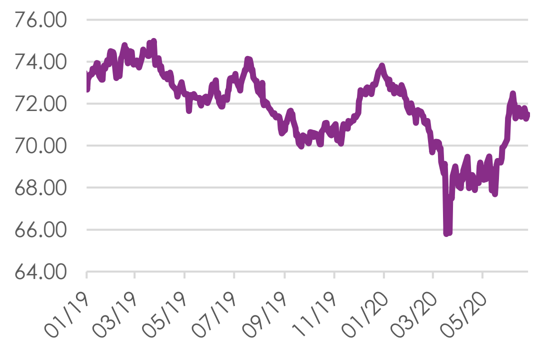
Source: MSD

Figure 22: Heavy traffic volumes in main centres



Source: NZTA

Figure 23: Trade Weighted Exchange Index



Source: RBNZ

Fiscal measures

New Zealand's fiscal response packages for COVID-19 announced to date amount to around $44.4 billion in committed spending, $15.9 billion of which was announced on budget day. As at 29 June, around $17.8 billion remained in the CRRF.

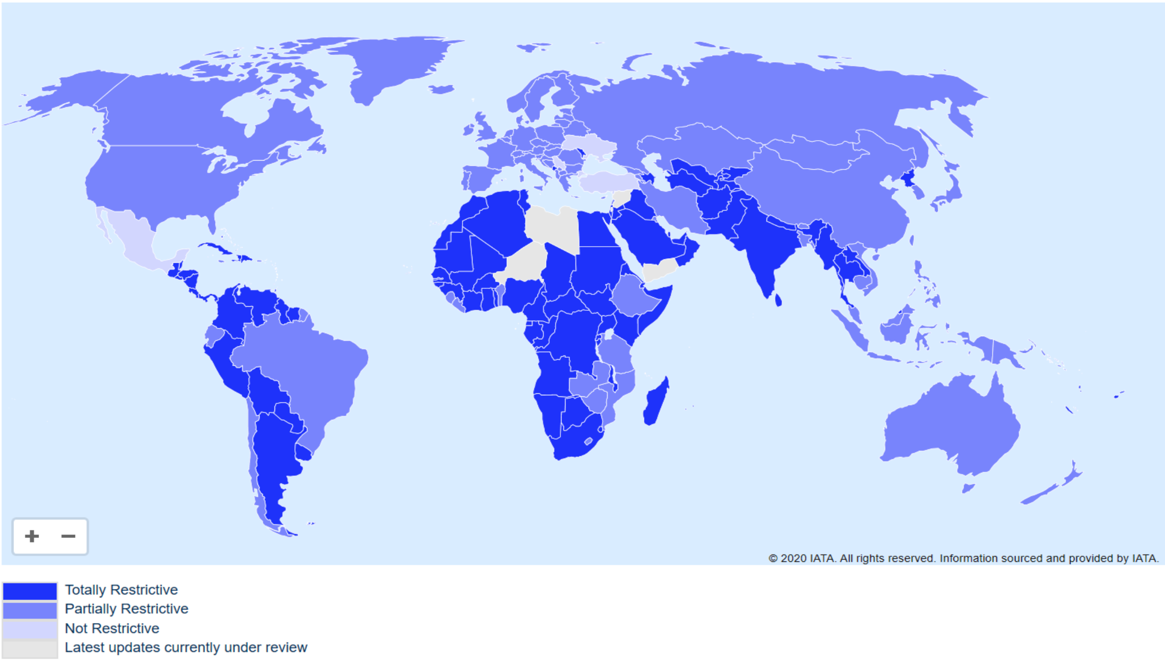
Figure 24: Fiscal costs of commitments and programmes already announced

Spending package	Total impact on net core Crown debt ($m), period to 2023/24
Infrastructure	3200.084
Education, Skills and Training	4293.385
Business and Firm	9692.864
Income Support	20517.975
Health	2159.795
Housing	928.268
Other	3620.006
Total Allocated Spend to date	**44412.377**
Unallocated CRRF remaining	17793.153

International Border Trends

Travel restrictions remain in place in most parts of the world but are slowly lifting. Data from Oxford University, indicates that while strict border measures remain in place globally, they are slowly lifting over time.

Figure 24: COVID-19 Travel Regulations Map as at 23 Jun 2020



Source: International Air Transport Association (via Memorandum – COVID-19 Border Restrictions in Europe and Considerations for New Zealand)

Countries appear to decide their border restrictions based on a multitude of contextual and country-specific factors. Recent announcements in Europe show that countries are opting to take a fragmented approach to reopening their borders. The result is a complicated series of inconsistent and dynamic border arrangements.

The 'Baltic Bubble' was formed by Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania in June. It allows any nationals or residents from the three countries to travel between each other on the condition that they are not ill, have not been in contact with anyone with COVID-19, and have not travelled outside the Baltic states in the past 2 weeks. However, each country also maintains different border and quarantine measures with other European countries that operate in parallel with the bubble.

There is a trend towards testing the less restrictive border controls with tourists. Although provisions vary between each country, Denmark has limited tourists from most countries, Spain is using a popular tourist island to pilot relaxed quarantine requirements, Greece has opened its borders to tourists from selected countries, and Norway has opted to open its border to only a tiny region of Sweden but not the whole country.