



**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:

COVID-19 Weekly Monitoring Report, Tuesday 23 June 2020

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COVID-19 Weekly Monitoring Report

Tuesday 23 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.

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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 ten active cases in New Zealand, all of which are imported cases.
- Testing rates have picked up significantly over the past week.
- There has been a sharp rise in the number of people in managed isolation or quarantine since last week.
- New Zealanders are slightly more concerned about COVID-19 this week, however levels of concern are still broadly like levels seen throughout Alert Level 2. This hasn't yet manifested in an observable change in behaviour.

Changes to the report:

- In the coming weeks we will look to revise the report to improve its relevance under Level 1. This includes sourcing relevant performance measurements for the managed isolation and quarantine system.
- The public attitude towards measures section has been removed for this week, due to the lack of COVID-19 measures remaining in place to measure sentiment about, and the lack of independent sources available to measure this in a robust way.

COVID-19 in New Zealand

As at 9am 23 June, there are currently ten active cases in New Zealand. All of these cases have been imported (Figures 1 and 2).

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

- 10** Active cases
- 0** Days since last imported case reported
- 47** Days since last import-related case reported
- 32** Days since last locally-acquired epidemiologically-linked case reported
- 53** Days since last locally-acquired, unknown source case reported
- 1** Significant open clusters¹
- 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 increased very significantly over the past week. This increase coincides with the announcement of new cases in New Zealand last week, and an increase of testing within managed isolation and quarantine facilities. Over the past few days the seven-day average has increased to just over 5,000 tests per day, a level last seen in mid-May.

Our testing capacity is now consistently over 10,000 tests per day (Figure 3). As at 23 June, complete test stock on hand in labs is 280,000, which is 54 days' supply at current (7-day average) levels.

Figure 3: Testing capacity



Source: Ministry of Health

Timeliness of testing system

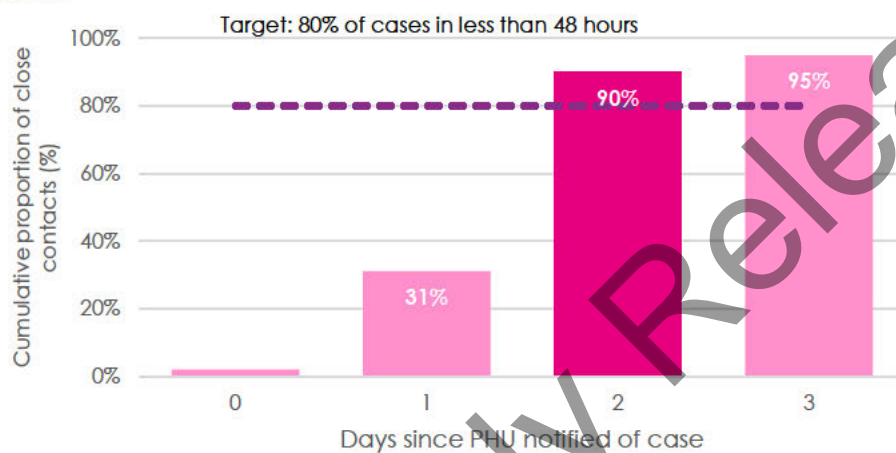
Due to the low number of cases over the past 28 days, we currently do not have a useful set of measures available for the timeliness of the testing system, as these statistics are only updated when positive tests are recorded. However, an update will likely be provided in next weeks report providing the numbers are large enough for meaningful reporting.

Contact tracing

Timeliness measures are the key metric to understanding the performance of contact tracing systems. Figure 4 shows the time between notification of a cases and tracing of all close contacts and the associated target of this being achieved within 48 hours for 80% of cases.

This shows the tracing performance of all the close and casual contacts of cases recorded between 15 to 19 June. This involved in excess of 600 close and casual contacts. Note that previously, this showed only the performance of close contacts, and that going forward, only close contacts will be reported.

Figure 4: Time between notification of case and tracing of close and casual contacts, 15 to 19 June



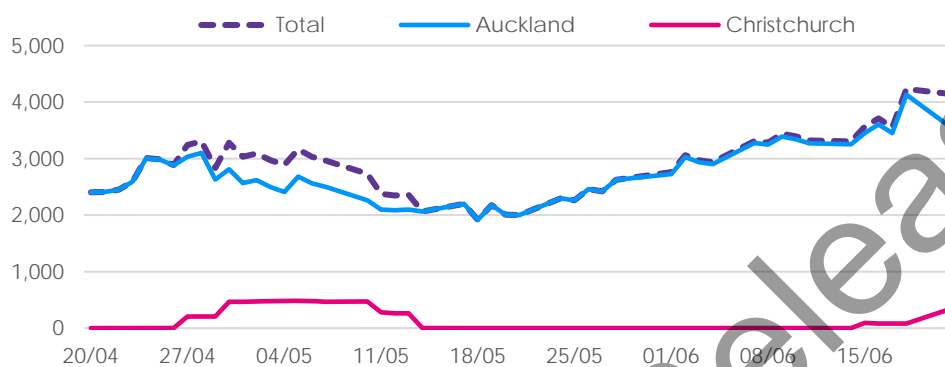
Source: Ministry of Health

Isolation

As at June 23rd, we currently have the capacity to manage up to 5,340 people in managed isolation or quarantine in Auckland, Christchurch and Rotorua.

Over the past week the number of people in managed isolation or quarantine has increased significantly (Figure 5). The number of people in managed isolation or quarantine is expected to continue to increase over the coming weeks.

Figure 5: Number of people in managed isolation or quarantine³



Source: Isolation, Quarantine and Repatriation SITREP, AoG calculation

All of Government officials are working to source appropriate performance measures and will include them in this report when they become available.

³ Rotorua figures counted in total, but not displayed on graph until more data points are available.

Health system capacity

PPE

We currently have sufficient PPE stocks for the health and disability workforce, 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 significantly reduced recently. The sourcing and distribution of PPE is being managed at a national level, however global supply chain challenges remain. Potential future challenges in mask supply relating to ongoing global demand and shortages in some sizes are being managed through utilising alternative sourcing options and ensuring that demand across DHBs is well managed.

A small number of mask shipments have been placed on hold pending further quality assurance which is being progressed with urgency.

Figure 6: 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 (15 June)	National Reserves (17 June)		Expected in Next Fortnight	Total on Order
N95 Mask (or equivalent)	1,181,839	20,978,792	10,000	0	1,000,000
Procedure Mask (or equivalent)	5,935,696	36,458,300	501,850	16,592,050	83,936,350
Isolation Gown (or equivalent)	430,692	1,069,720	82,800	779,000	3,728,840
Disposable Apron	1,026,211	837,350	8,850	900,000	1,800,000
Glasses/goggles (or equivalent)	120,185	704,338	0	400,000	400,001
Face shield (or equivalent)	165,560	763,700	600	160,000	292,040
Nitrile Gloves (all sizes, Each)	14,019,708	4,669,700	1,330,000	65,400,000	255,400,000
Hand Sanitiser (500ml equivalents)	56,326	299,850	0	20,000	40,010
Hand Sanitiser (2L equivalents)		150,004	0	0	0
Detergent Wipe (or equivalent)	462,850	0	0	0	0
Disinfectant wipe (or equivalent)	3,746,038	12,410,100	1,242,100	34,238,400	138,906,400

Source: MoH PPE data as at 17 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 7 and 8). However, even at Level 1, where no domestic restrictions apply, movement remains somewhat below pre-COVID-19 baselines suggesting some lingering effects.

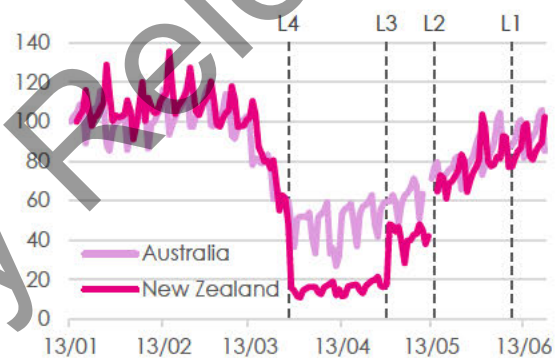
While further increases in movement are likely as more people begin to return to working outside the home, the perceived personal and family threat of COVID-19 increased over the past week, likely due to new cases being reported, and concerns around managed isolation and quarantine (Figure 9), which could possibly have a renewed negative impact on public movement if this perceived threat was to increase further.

Figure 7: Light vehicle traffic volumes in main centres



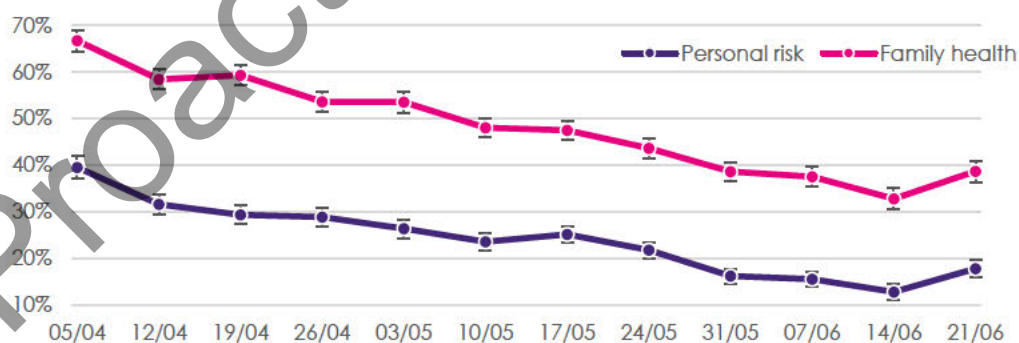
Source: NZTA

Figure 8: Volume of driving direction requests on Apple Maps (13/01=100)



Source: Apple Mobility Trends

Figure 9: 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

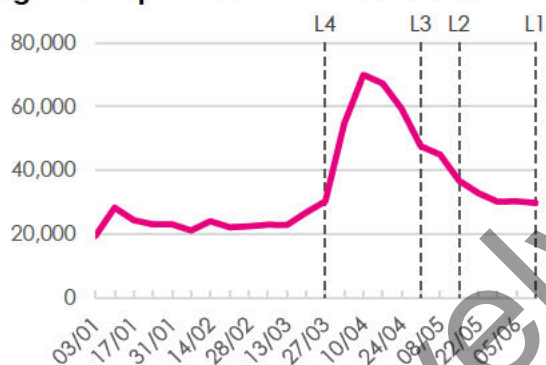
Effects of the measures on society

Demand for Special Needs Grants for food was slightly lower compared to last week and has broadly stabilised since the start of Alert Level 2 (Figure 10). It is difficult to gauge the impact of COVID-19 on demand for Special Needs Grants, over and above other factors, such as the start of Winter Energy Payments and operational changes that took place at the start of Alert Level 4.

Police data continues to show family harm calls for service staying at close to pre-lockdown levels and following a similar weekly pattern to pre-lockdown (Figure 11). While there has been slight weekly variation since lockdown, sexual violence calls for service have not changed significantly when compared to pre-lockdown levels.

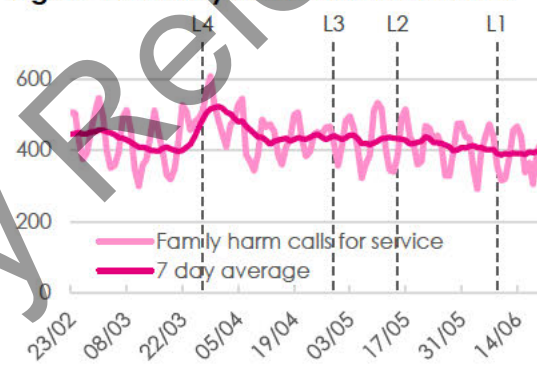
Since Alert Level 4, Reports of Concern (ROC) have averaged 1,200 per week. This is substantially lower than typical levels from last year (24% lower), however not too dissimilar to levels seen during the school holiday periods last year (Figure 12).

Figure 10: Special Needs Grants for food



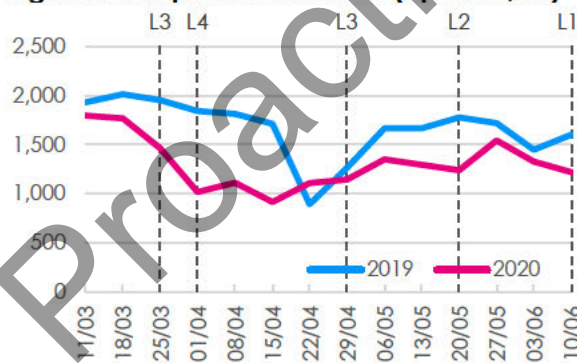
Source: MSD

Figure 11: Family harm calls for service



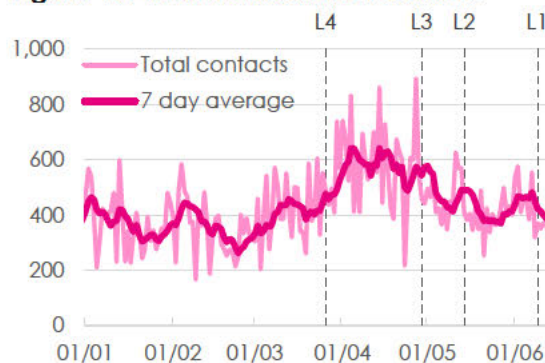
Source: NZ Police (see note)

Figure 12: Reports of Concern (up to 10/06)



Source: Oranga Tamariki, not official statistics

Figure 13: 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 13) 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 averages). Over the week ended June 14 (compared to the week prior), overall contacts were down slightly. There was a slightly higher proportion of presenting issues being about suicide, and a slightly lower proportion being about abuse and violence.

There are multiple factors that could influence the recent decrease in contacts as compared to the recent peak, this could include: reduced demand for support or due to young people being able to access support from other sources now that Alert Level restrictions have relaxed.

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 15). 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.

However, COVID-19 related nervousness increased noticeably over the past week though it remains at levels comparable to late May/early June and much lower than levels seen during Alert Levels 3 and 4 (Figure 14). 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 14: Percentage of survey respondents reporting COVID related nervousness

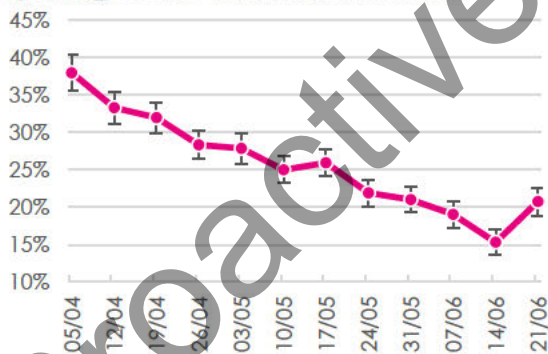
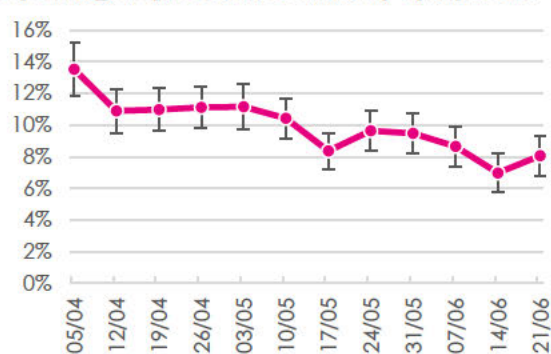


Figure 15: Percentage of survey respondents reporting depression or anxiety symptoms



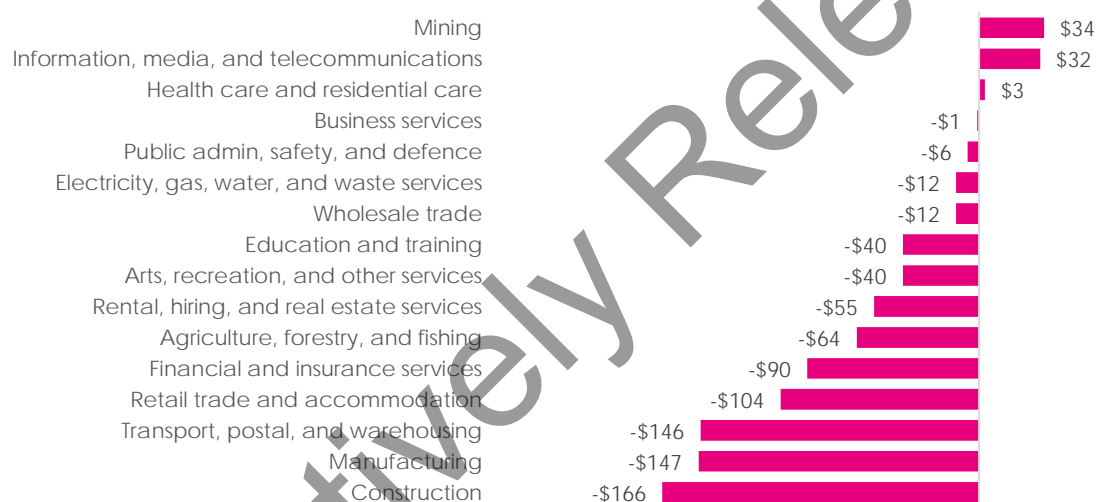
Source: Provisional data from the COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey, Ministry of Health, note that data reported is dated as at week end of the survey week

Effects of the measures on businesses

GDP in the March 2020 quarter recorded its largest quarterly fall since 1991. Eight of the 11 service industries experienced falls, reflecting the decline in international visitors and the impacts of the lockdown measures on domestic activity.

A 5.2 percent fall in transport, postal, and warehousing services was led by declines in air transport and transport support services. Retail, accommodation, and restaurants fell 2.2 percent, driven by a 7.8 percent decline in accommodation and food services. Education fell 1.7 percent due to the impact of the lockdown on delivery of some education services, such as early childhood education, and reduced international student numbers. Construction activity declined 4.1 percent in the quarter as most construction activity was not deemed essential during the alert level 4 lockdown (Figure 16).

Figure 16: GDP change by industry (\$ millions)



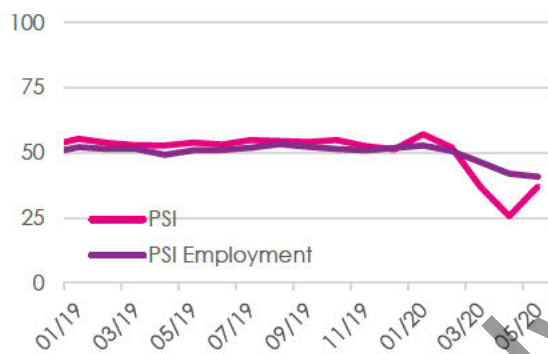
Source: StatsNZ

Westpac released its regional report last week showing that the lockdown was felt most severely in urban areas, tourism and foreign-education centres, manufacturing hubs, and forestry-related areas. Overall, the more populous regions like Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury and Otago were hardest hit. The substantial parts of New Zealand that have a greater focus on food production, such as Bay of Plenty, were hurt less by the lockdown because food production was deemed essential while those exposed to tourism fared worse.

As with last week's Performance of Manufacturing Index (PMI), the Performance of Services Index (PSI) has rebounded somewhat in the latest survey. New orders expectations more than doubled while activity expectations tripled though remain at levels similar to the GFC. Employment expectations slipped again but remain relatively high given the low level of activity (Figure 17).

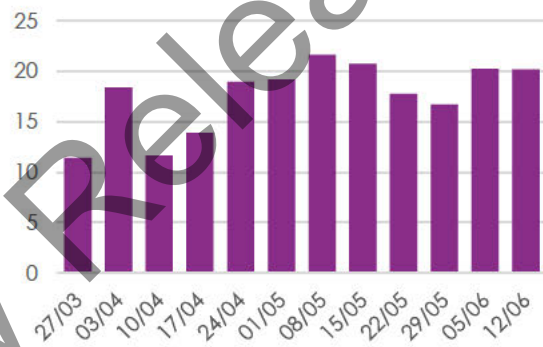
The level of missed payments on loans remains at about the level seen prior to Alert Level 4. Apart from a small decrease during the first few weeks of lockdown, the number of missed payments has remained remarkably stable (Figure 18). However, there was a tick up in the amount of missed payments last week, especially on business loans suggesting the tapering of the wage subsidy may be having some effect. If layoffs rise the likelihood of the number and value of missed payments on mortgages and personal loans are likely to increase.

Figure 17: Performance of Services Index



Source: BNZ/SEEK Employment Report

Figure 18: Missed business loan payments (thousands)



Source: RBNZ

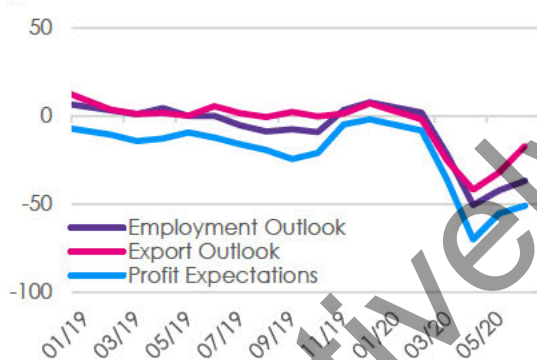
Macroeconomic and fiscal effects of the measures

Economic activity has increased as we have moved through Alert Levels, with consumer card spending and traffic flows nearing what was seen pre-COVID-19.

Treasury estimates that output is reduced by 5 – 10% under Alert Level 1. Without international travel and tourists it is difficult to see how output can return quickly all the way to pre-COVID-19 levels; more time is required to know whether the level of economic activity we are seeing now is the 'new normal' or temporary pent-up demand. New Zealand's trade weighted index has stabilised over the past week 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, and COVID-19 cases continue to increase across the southern US and world.

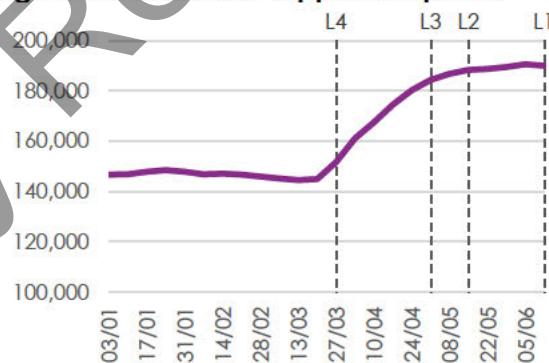
Job losses are underway, with the number of Jobseeker Support recipients increasing by over 45,000 since 20 March. As at 21 June over 7,000 people have been granted the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment and the Wage Subsidy Extension is supporting 205,000 jobs, with over \$872 million paid out.

Figure 19: ANZ Business Outlook



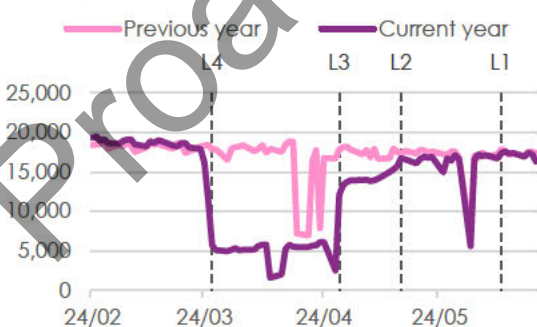
Source: ANZ

Figure 20: Jobseeker Support recipients



Source: MSD

Figure 21: Heavy traffic volumes in main centres



Source: NZTA

Figure 22: Trade Weighted Exchange Index



Source: RBNZ

Fiscal measures

New Zealand's fiscal response packages for COVID-19 announced to date amount to around \$44.3 billion in committed spending, \$15.9 billion of which was announced on budget day. As at 22 June, around \$17.9 billion remained in the CRRF. Over 1.6 million individuals are now covered by the wage subsidy, and over \$11 billion has been paid out. The Small Business Cashflow Scheme has disbursed over \$1.38 billion to over 82,000 applicants as at 22 June.

Figure 23: Fiscal costs of commitments and programmes already announced

Spending package	Total impact on net core Crown debt (\$m), period to 2023/24
Infrastructure	3,200.084
Education, Skills and Training	4,293.385
Business and Firm	9,692.864
Income Support	20,517.975
Health	2,051.694
Housing	928.268
Other	3,620.006
Total Allocated Spend to date	44,304.276
Unallocated CRRF remaining	17,889.959