



**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

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COVID-19 Weekly Monitoring Report

Tuesday 21 July 2020

Current strategy: Elimination.

Current Alert Level: 1

This weekly report responds to COVID-19 Ministerial Group's 09 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 (AL) or the overall strategy.

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



Key changes and developments from last week

Developments to note:

- The Performance of Manufacturing Index (PMI) and Performance of Services Index (PSI) have returned to pre-COVID-19 levels.
- The number of returnees in Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) has significantly decreased in the last seven days, due to a temporary restriction on ticket sales for incoming flights.
- There are currently 27 active cases in New Zealand, all of which are imported cases.
- Testing rates continue to decrease, whilst capacity remains.

Changes to the report:

- Health and Wellbeing survey graph has been added to the report.
- Social agencies are seeing trends normalise in the post-AL4 environment and are returning to regular monthly or quarterly reporting, as opposed to weekly or fortnightly. This will limit the data available for inclusion in the COVID-19 Weekly Monitoring Report, however Ministry of Social Development (MSD) will report on new social data as it becomes available.
- New Macroeconomic information was not available this week and has been removed from the report. It will be added again as it becomes available.



COVID-19 in New Zealand

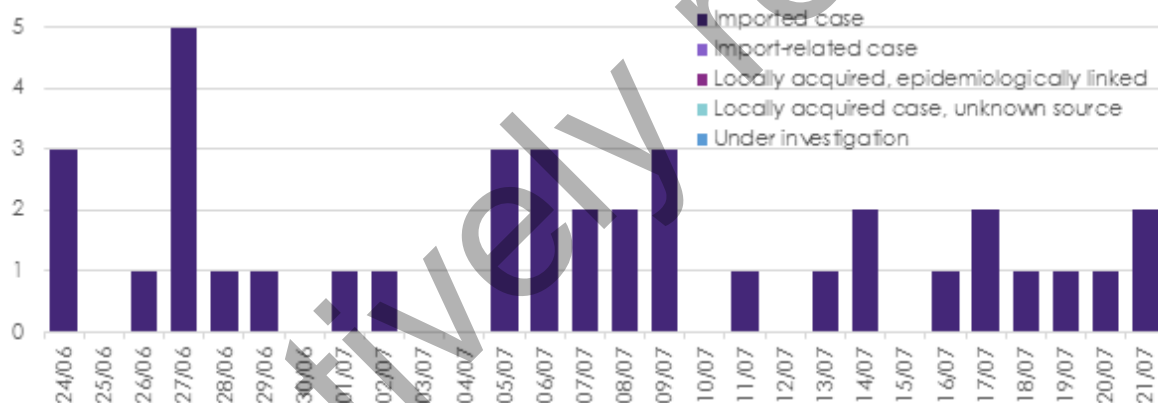
As at 9am 21 July 2020, there are currently 27 active cases in New Zealand. All of these cases have been imported (Figure 1 and 2).

Figure 1: Summary of COVID-19 in New Zealand as at 9am 21 July

- 27** Active cases
- 0** Days since last imported case reported
- 75** Days since last import-related case reported
- 60** Days since last locally-acquired epidemiologically-linked case reported
- 81** Days since last locally-acquired, unknown source case reported
- 0** 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.

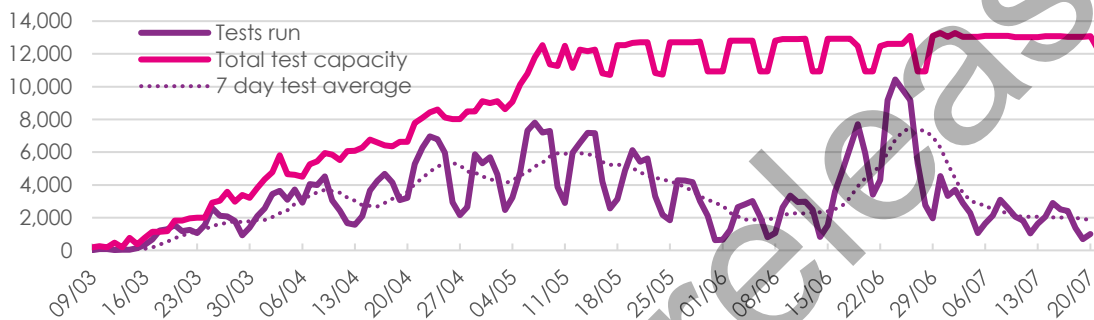


Testing, tracing and isolation system

Testing rates increased last week before decreasing sharply on Sunday (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The Ministry of Health (MOH) has announced they are reviewing their testing criteria, with the intent to increase the number conducted to maintain confidence in the assessment NZ has no community transmission.

The seven-day average testing rate has decreased from 2,048 to 1,845 tests per day since last week. Testing capacity remains over 12,000 tests per day (Figure 3). As at 21 July, test stock is 170 days' supply at current (7-day average) levels.

Figure 3: Testing capacity

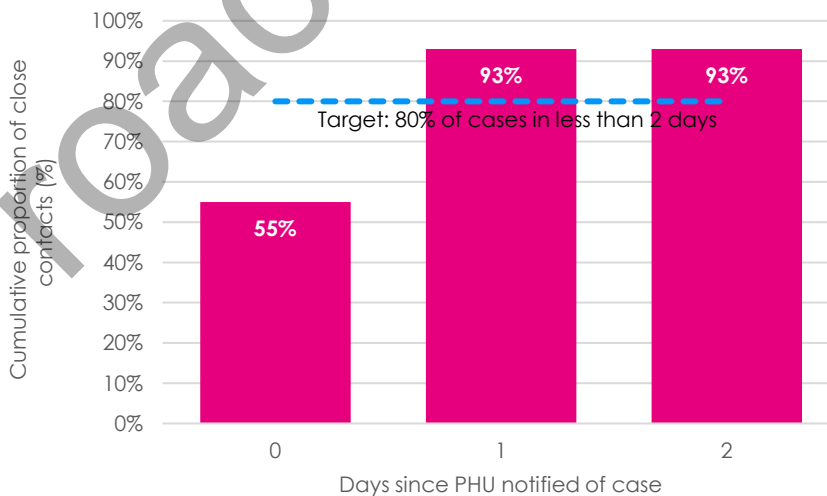


Source: Ministry of Health

Contact tracing

The time between notification of a case and tracing of all close contacts, paired against the goal of this being achieved within 48 hours for 80% of cases. **Figure 4** relates to imported cases only, processed through MIQ facilities. Therefore, due to effective border control measures, the success of contact tracing is currently significantly higher than what would be observed should a community outbreak occur.

Figure 4: Time between notification of case and tracing of close and casual contacts, 04 June to 11 July (n=[29] with two cases outstanding)



Source: Ministry of Health

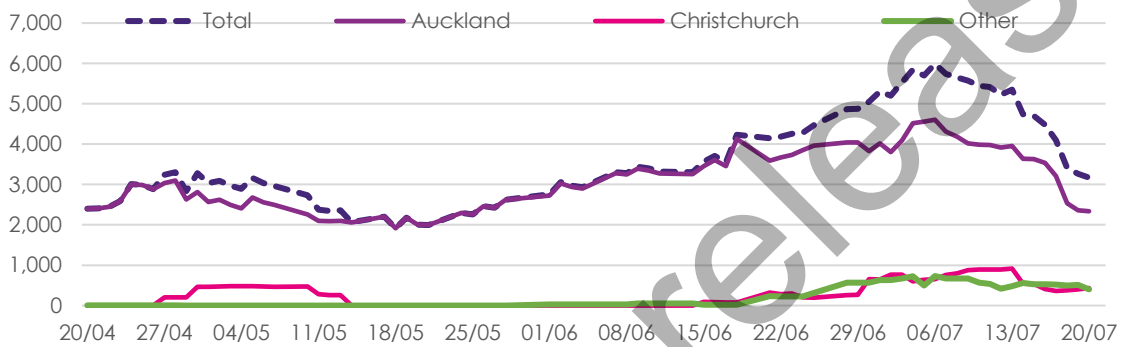


Isolation

As at 21 July, there is increased capacity to accommodate returnees MIQ facilities in Auckland, Christchurch, Wellington, Hamilton and Rotorua; with a potential total capacity of up to 7,200, compared with 7,128 last week. Total effective capacity is 6,696, which allows for a 24 hour room turn-around for sanitisation. 3,523 beds are currently vacant.

Over the past week the number of individuals in MIQ has decreased from 5,990 to 3,173 (Figure 4). This number is expected to increase to 3,733 over the next seven days, with a forecast capacity of 6,980.

Figure 4: Number of people in managed isolation or quarantine³



Source: Isolation, Quarantine and Repatriation SITREP, AoG calculation

³ "Other" includes Rotorua, Wellington and Hamilton. These will be displayed individually when numbers increase.



Health system capacity

PPE

Ministry of Health (MOH) 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, both from the MOH national and DHB reserves. Demand has stabilised over recent weeks, despite some additional requirements to support border and managed isolation activity (Figure 5).

Sourcing and distribution of PPE continues to be managed at a national level. Global supply chain challenges remain, with potential future issues in mask and glove supply. A small number of mask shipments remain on hold pending further quality assurance, which is being progressed with urgency.

Emerging second-wave pandemic models are providing indicators for areas where additional supplies will need to be sourced, to ensure appropriate contingency. MOH is acquiring where needed, with a current focus on gloves and gowns.

Figure 5: 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 (13 July)	National Reserves (15 July)		Expected in Next Fortnight	Total on Order (15 July)
N95 Mask (or equivalent)	1,273,366	21,632,342	10,750	0	1,070,000
Procedure Mask (or equivalent)	6,615,251	66,719,050	383,375	35,769,200	63,613,249
Isolation Gown (or equivalent)	463,595	2,287,530	121,000	1,200,000	3,417,830
Disposable Apron	1,002,147	2,360,200	9,300	0	220,000
Glasses/goggles (or equivalent)	126,344	1,097,001	0	0	1
Face shield (or equivalent)	164,246	970,660	1800	156,480	156,680
Nitrile Gloves (all sizes, Each)	13,896,899	13,374,200	1,604,300	39,800,000	240,118,800
Hand Sanitiser (500mL equivalents)	56,453	317,553	390	0	14
Hand Sanitiser (2L equivalents)	0	155,854	0	0	0
Detergent Wipe (or equivalent)	500,300	0	0	0	0
Disinfectant wipe (or equivalent)	4,154,110	72,837,300	1,073,700	0	62,547,300

Source: MoH PPE data as at 17 July

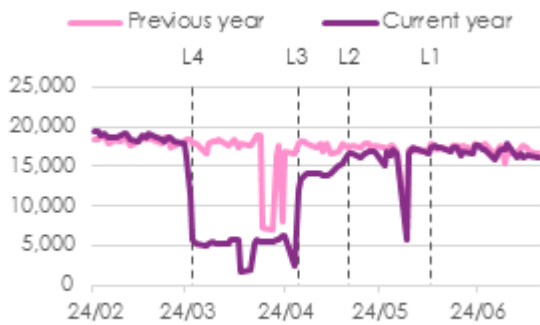


Public movement

Over the last reporting period, requests on Apple Maps show direction requests have returned to pre-COVID-19 levels (Figure 8).

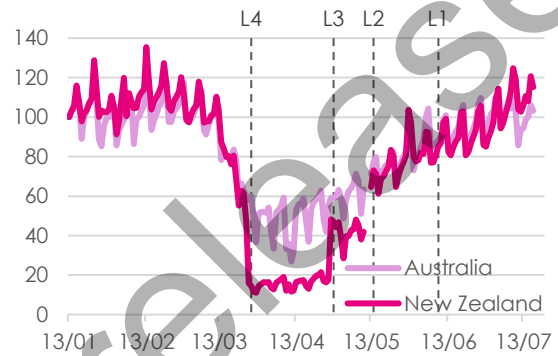
Light vehicle traffic volumes indicate mobility remains slightly below pre-COVID-19 levels (Figure 6 and Figure 7). Normal traffic volumes will likely return gradually, as economic sectors recover.

Figure 6: Light vehicle traffic volumes in main centres



Source: NZTA

Figure 7: Volume of driving direction requests on Apple Maps (13/01=100)



Source: Apple Mobility Trends

Proactively released



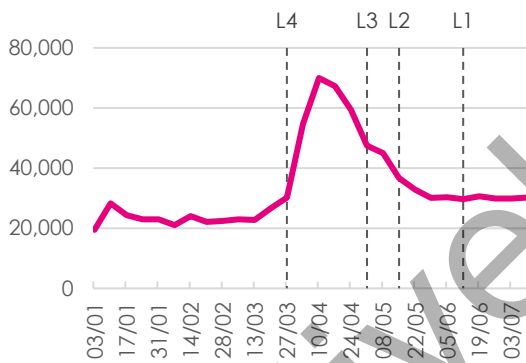
Effects of the measures on society

Since mid-June, there has been little change in the number of weekly Special Needs Grants for food issued by MSD. This likely reflects a new normal that is higher than pre-COVID-19 and 2019 figures (Figure 8).

Food prices increased 4.1% in the year ending June 2020, led by a 10% increase in the price of fruit and vegetables when compared to June 2019 (Figure 9). It is possible increased fruit and vegetable prices will have negative impacts for households experiencing financial hardship.

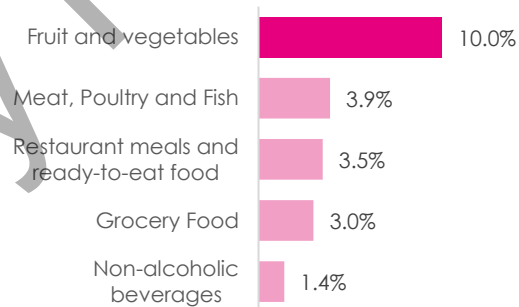
The latest results from the COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey (Figure 10 and Figure 11) show that depression and anxiety symptoms did not significantly change over the past week (around 8% of respondents) and are slightly lower than observed during AL3 and AL4. Levels of nervousness concerning the global COVID-19 pandemic are comparable to early-May. One-fifth of respondents felt lonely or isolated, however these levels are significantly lower compared to AL3 or AL4 (generally between 30 – 40%).

Figure 8: Special Needs Grants for food



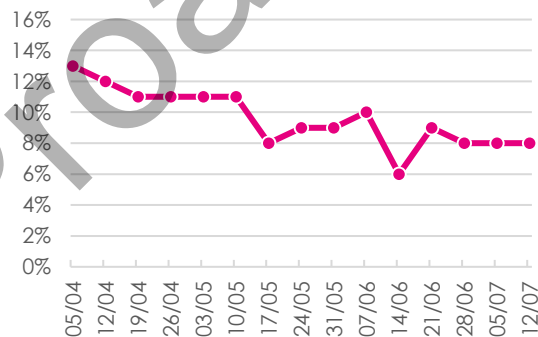
Source: MSD

Figure 9: Yearly percentage change in food prices (June 2019 to June 2020), by category



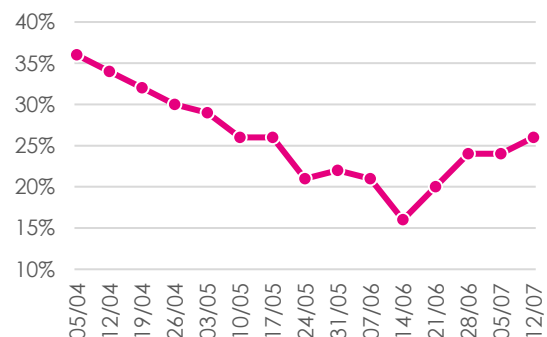
Source: StatsNZ

Figure 10: Percentage of survey respondents reporting depression or anxiety symptoms



Source: COVID-19 health and Wellbeing Survey [provisional published results 12 July]

Figure 11: Percentage of survey respondents reporting feeling nervous about current circumstances





Effects of the measures on businesses

The PMI rose to 56.3 in June from 39.8 in May and 26.0 in April. The strongest reading since April 2018, was observed in June, driven by stronger new orders and production, while employment remained the exception (**Error! Reference source not found.**). Despite some improvement in new orders and production from the extreme lows observed during AL3 and AL4 restrictions, recovery activity has not been strong enough to stop the sector planning to reduce staff levels. However, the indicated pace of staff reduction has slowed significantly since May.

The PMI is currently higher than the global average, including Australia, the United States and China, after being significantly below the global average throughout AL3 and AL4 restrictions. The turnaround coincides with the reopening of the economy, after what were tighter restrictions than most other countries.

The PSI also grew, rising 16.6 points to 54.1 in June (**Error! Reference source not found.**). The rise was driven by new orders and sales, reflecting the post-AL3 and AL4 growth seen across economic sectors. Employment intentions declined, at 45.1 the employment index remains at levels which haven't been observed since the Global Financial Crisis. While the Wage Subsidy Scheme and Wage Subsidy Extension mitigated redundancies, the service sector – which includes tourism-related businesses – remains in flux, with borders effectively closed.

Figure 12: PMI order and employment

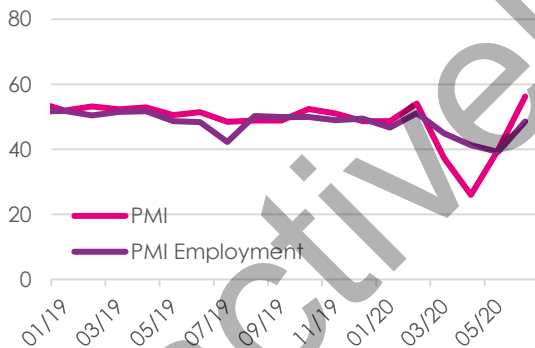
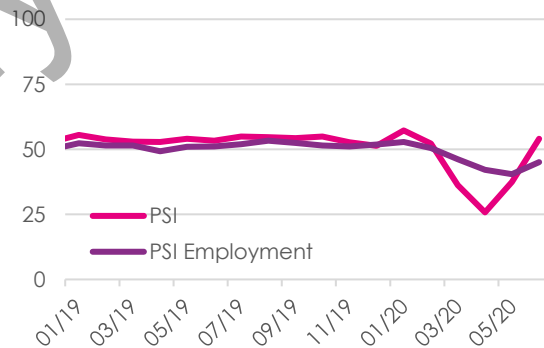


Figure 13: PSI orders and employment



Source: BNZ

Despite the poor results from the Employment Outlook Survey, weekly paid job data shows that employment levels in the goods-producing sector (incorporating manufacturing and construction) and the services sector are stabilising. Both have experienced significant volatility over AL3 and AL4, but have been observed at levels higher than 2019. In the week ending 14 June 2020, there were 1.64 million service industry paid jobs compared to 1.59 million in 2019. Paid jobs in the goods producing sector have stabilised around 410,000 in comparison to 400,000 in 2019.

The primary sector has been on a downward trend since the start of 2020, although this is likely a normal seasonal shift, as the total number of paid jobs is slightly higher than 2019.



Macroeconomic and fiscal effects of the measures

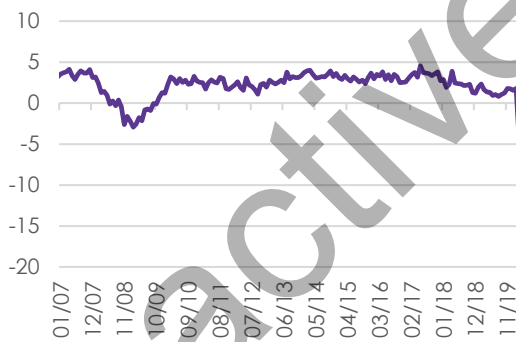
The New Zealand Activity Index (Figure 15), showed a continuing recovery in June, with economic activity 0.9% below the same time last year, improving from the unprecedented low in April. The June recovery was driven by electronic card spending and heavy traffic movements, and has continued in July, with economic activity stabilising over recent weeks. Treasury estimates that activity is still reduced by 5 – 10% under AL1. 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.

Growing global COVID-19 numbers weigh on the global economic outlook, with weak global and domestic demand expected to persist over the next 12 months.

Preliminary results from the ANZ Business Outlook Survey (Figure 18) for July show improvements across indicators. No new data has become available since last week.

The Wage Subsidy Scheme has supported around 1.7 million jobs, with the Wage Subsidy Extension continuing to support over 435,000 jobs. Total expenditure for both schemes is currently approximately \$13 billion. The total number of Jobseeker and COVID-19 Income Relief Payment (CIRP) recipients continues to increase, with an increase of over 64,000 since March. As at 17 July, the CIRP has provided \$32.4 million in support. The Small Business Cashflow Scheme has disbursed almost \$1.5 billion to support over 88,000 applicants as at 20 July.

Figure 15: NZ Activity Index



Source: Treasury

Figure 16: Jobseeker Support recipients



Source: MSD

Figure 17: Heavy traffic volumes in main centres

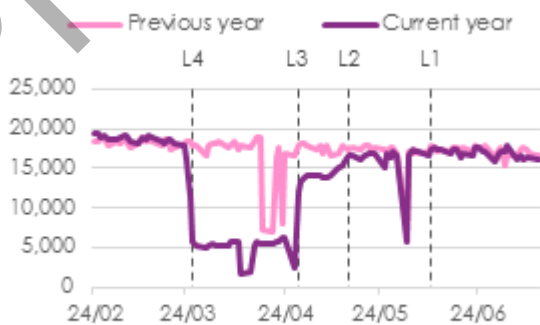
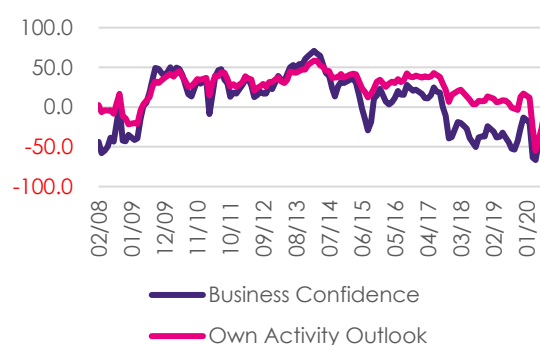


Figure 18: ANZ Business Outlook





Source: NZTA

Source: ANZ

Fiscal measures

New Zealand's fiscal response packages for COVID-19 announced to date approx \$47.7 billion in committed spending. As at 20 July, around \$14.4 billion remained in the CRRF. There has been no change in the last week.

Figure 19: Fiscal costs of commitments and programmes already announced

Spending package	Total impact on net core Crown debt (\$m), period to 2023/24
Infrastructure	4709.184
Education, Skills and Training	4578.477
Business and Firm	9921.459
Income Support	20697.132
Health	2484.092
Housing	1065.468
Other	4263.983
Total Allocated Spend to date	47719.795
Unallocated CRRF remaining	14485.735