



Proactive Release

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

COVID-19 Weekly Monitoring Report, Tuesday 2 June 2020

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant section of the Act that would apply has been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction code:

- 9(2)(b)(ii), to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information

COVID-19 Weekly Monitoring Report

Tuesday 2 June 2020

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

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

Current Alert Level: 2

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 were no new cases reported over the past fortnight.
- Overall, much of the data points to the same overall trend; a New Zealand population increasingly less concerned about COVID. Only 16% of individuals report being concerned about their personal risk of infection. This low level of concern is manifesting in lower demand for testing, very few public complaints and movement that is approaching pre-COVID levels.
- Demand for testing in particular is significantly reduced, with the trend in testing rates at the lowest levels since early to mid-April.
- Employment and investment intentions reported by businesses have seen a modest improvement as restrictions on activity have reduced and as businesses observe the ongoing reduction in case numbers. However, indicators remain consistent with a severe recession.

Changes to the report:

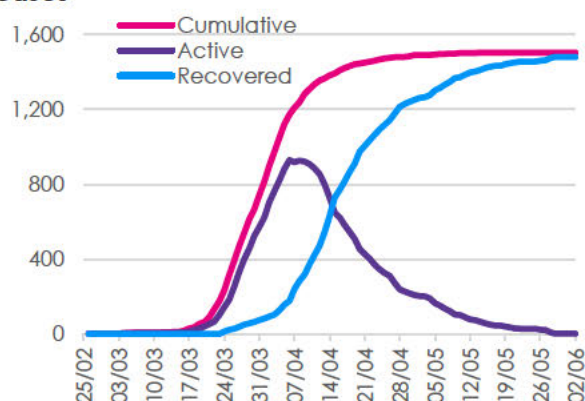
- Timeliness data for testing and contact tracing have not been updated as there have been no new cases to provide additional data.

COVID-19 in New Zealand

New case numbers have declined further in recent weeks with no new cases reported in the last fortnight. There is now 1 active case (Figure 1).¹

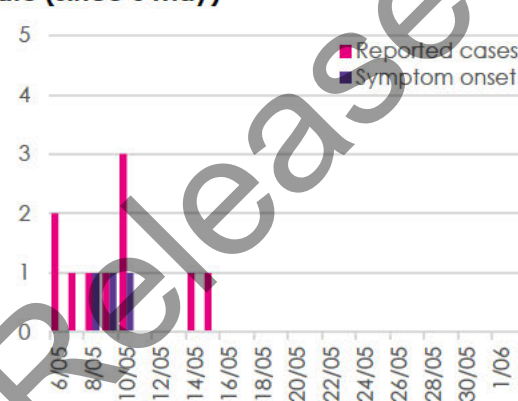
On 22 May one case was publicly announced as confirmed. This case was first reported on 1 May following symptom onset on 27 April and had been under investigation. Because it was reported over 14 days ago, it does not show up in figures 3 and 4.

Figure 1: Cumulative, active and recovered cases



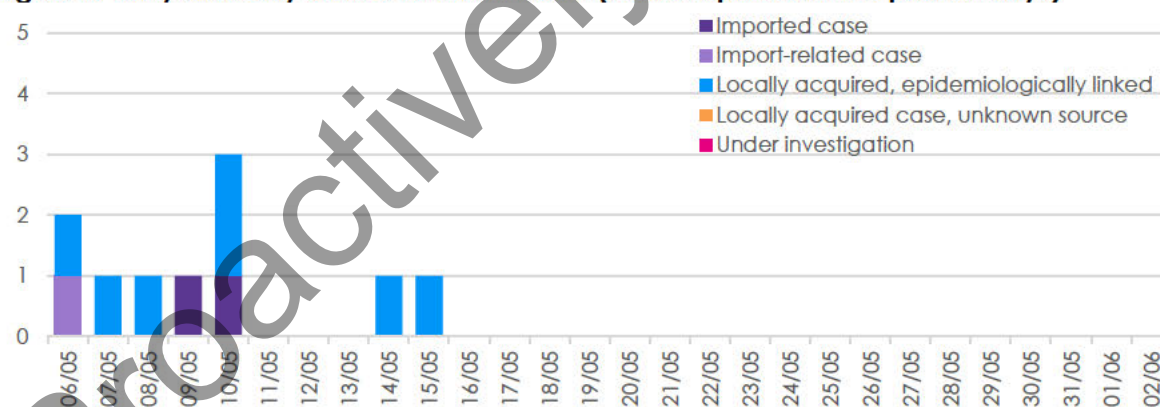
Source: EpiServ via Ministry of Health, Statistics New Zealand

Figure 2: Daily cases and symptom onset date (since 6 May)



Source: EpiServ via Ministry of Health

Figure 3: Daily cases by source of transmission (cases reported in the past 28 days)



Source: EpiServ via Ministry of Health

Definitions:

- 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 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 based on any change in status in the 24 hours to the 9am reporting time. The numbers in this report are based on the actual calendar dates of case reporting and symptom onset.

Detailed transmission information

The table below provides more detailed information of the source of transmission for cases in the last fortnight. At this stage the only non-imported cases with symptom onset after 1 May are healthcare staff or household contacts.

The most recent symptom onset for any case is 10 May.

More than a month after the shift to Alert Level 3, we are not aware of any cases attributable to relaxed restrictions or non-compliance under Level 3 or 2.

Figure 4: Detailed transmission source for cases reported in the past 14 days (from 12 May) excluding historical cases

Case transmission category	Number in last 14 days	Symptom onset date for most recent case ²
<i>Imported</i>		
Travelers to New Zealand	0	
<i>Import-related</i>		
Household contact of a traveller or air or ship staff	0	
People infected in other settings, where the case is linked to an imported case	0	
<i>Locally acquired (cannot be traced back to an imported case)</i>		
People infected in health care setting (staff)	0	
People infected in health care setting (resident)	0	
People who were infected as a household contact of a known case	0	
People who were infected from a known case in the community (non-household non-health care)	0	
<i>Unknown source</i>		
People whose source of infection is unknown and no longer under investigation	0	
People whose source of infection is unknown but investigations are still proceeding	0	
Total	0	

Source: Ministry of Health via EpisSurv

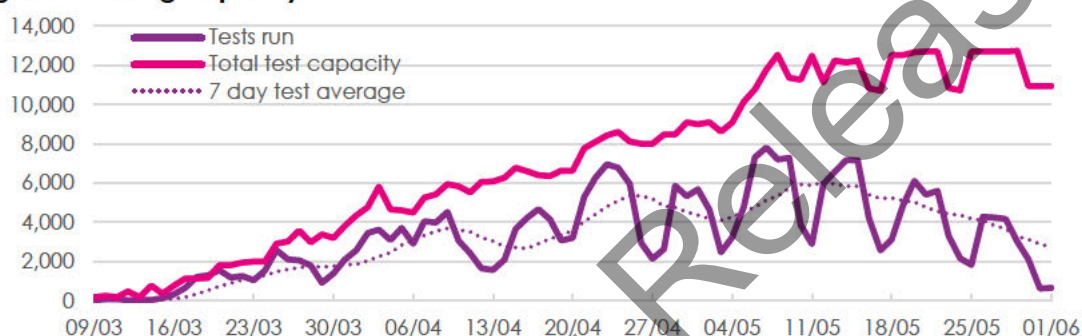
² Cases identified through asymptomatic testing often do not have an onset date and are not reflected in this column.

Testing, tracing and isolation system

Testing rates have begun to significantly decline reflecting reduced demand for testing (rather than supply). Some of this decline is a result of the recent holiday weekend, but there is a broader trend underway and the seven-day average is at the lowest level since early to mid-April. This is likely a result of the sustained low cases reducing the sense of urgency to seek testing and having a greater number of people returning to work and school, increasing competing demands on time.

Our testing capacity is now consistently over 10,000 tests per day (Figure 5). As at 2 June, complete test stock on hand in labs is 249,000, which is 91 days' supply at current (7-day average) levels.

Figure 5: Testing capacity



Source: Ministry of Health

Timeliness of testing system

The charts below assess the timeliness of the testing system. This includes the time between symptom onset and a swab being received by a lab (Figure 6), and the time between the swab being received and the notification of the test result (Figure 7).

At this stage neither target is being fully met, but most of the data is from April given the small number of cases in May. Systems will likely have improved since that time.

Figure 6: Time between symptom onset and a swab being received by the lab, 13 April - 11 May

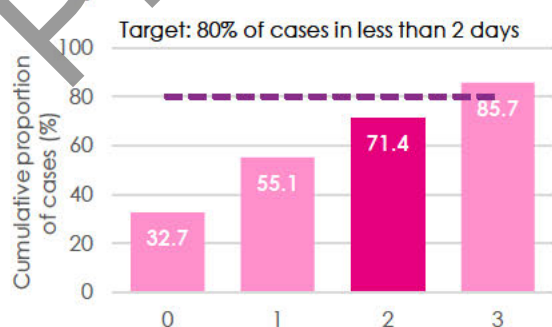
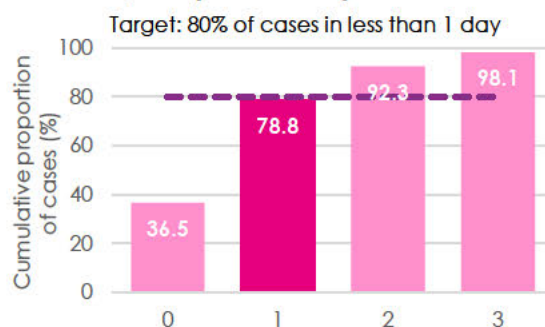


Figure 7: Time between a swab being received by the lab and notification of the test result, 13 April - 11 May

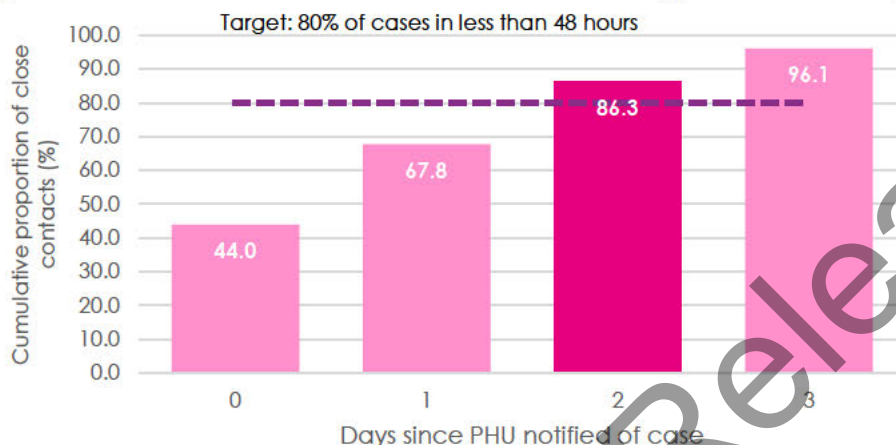


Source: Ministry of Health

Contact tracing

Timeliness measures are the key metric to understanding the performance of contact tracing systems. Figure 8 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. At this stage, the data overwhelmingly reflects those infected under Alert Levels 3 and 4 when most people had few close contacts.

Figure 8: Time between notification of case and tracing of close contact, 13 April–15 May

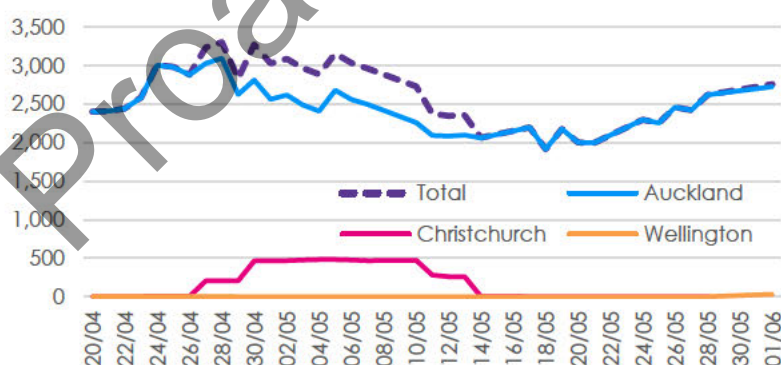


Source: Ministry of Health

As at June 2nd, we currently have the capacity to manage up to 3,632 people in managed isolation or quarantine at the New Zealand border.

Since the move to Alert Level 2, there has been an increase of people in managed isolation or quarantine (Figure 9). These numbers are expected to increase over the coming month as more New Zealanders and approved entrants are expected to be travelling to New Zealand over the coming month.

Figure 9: Number of people in managed isolation or quarantine



Source: Isolation, Quarantine and Repatriation SITREP, AoG calculation

Note: June 1 figures are provisional and may be subject to a small amount of change.

Health system capacity

Our health system is not currently under significant strain due to cases of COVID-19 (Figures 10, 11, 12, 13). This week, several DHB's were unable to supply information regarding availability in time for this report. This is being investigated.

Figure 10: Availability of ventilators, by DHB³

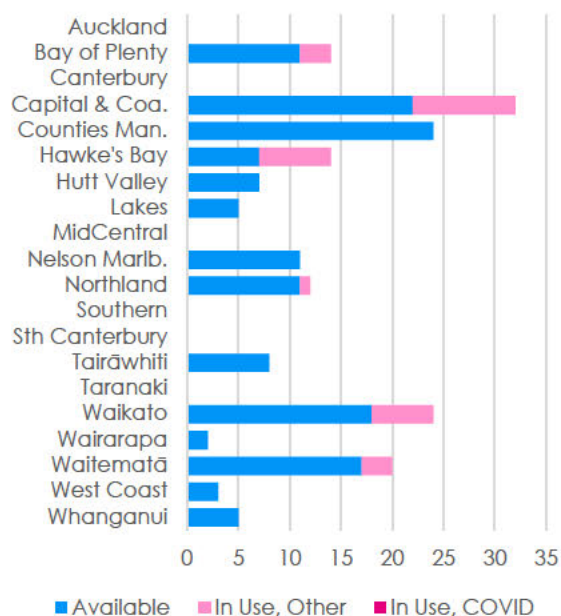
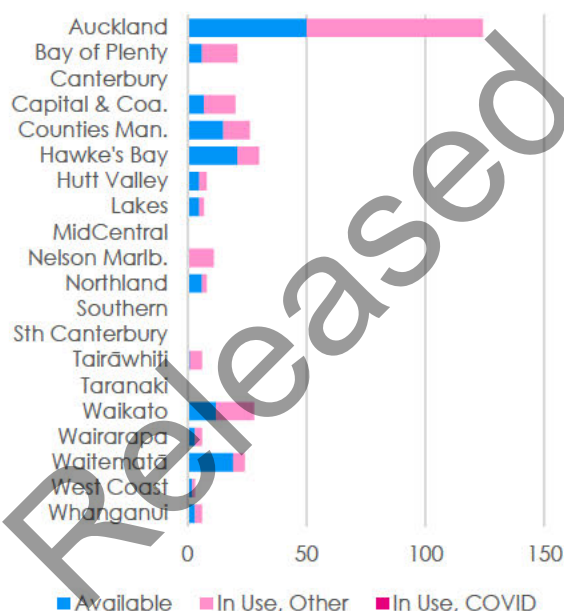


Figure 11: Availability of ICU beds, by DHB³



Source: Daily COVID DHB SITREP as at midnight 31 May

Figure 12: Available ventilators and ICU beds, nationally³

National ventilators		National ICU beds	
In use, COVID	0	In use, COVID	0
In use, other	30 (16.6%)	In use, other	173 (52.7%)
Available	151 (83.4%)	Available	155 (47.3%)
Total	181	Total	328

Source: Daily COVID DHB SITREP as at midnight 31 May

Figure 13: Health workforce surge availability

Total registrations in surging workforce database (available to support the COVID-19 effort if required)	3,386
Total registrations in surging workforce database (available, unavailable or availability unknown)	9,938
Registrations deployed into roles	29
Number of current demand requests	3

Source: MoH COVID-19 recruitment database as at 29 May

³ Data missing:

- Canterbury, MidCentral, Southern, South Canterbury, Taranaki (ventilators and ICU beds)
- Auckland (ventilators)

PPE

PPE stocks are generally stable with stock in the national reserves exceeding recent distributions for most products and large orders due in the next fortnight (Figure 14). The data below only includes PPE for the health sector and non-health essential services. Efforts have continued to build up stocks in the national reserve to provide security against any future disruptions in supply or a significant increase in cases.

Figure 14: 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 (26 May)	National Reserves (27 May)		Expected in Next Fortnight	Total on Order
N95 Mask (or equivalent)	1,174,821	10,283,170	151,850	10,000,000	11,000,000
Procedure Mask (or equivalent)	5,135,383	24,385,850	1,334,150	15,562,044	97,364,044
Isolation Gown (or equivalent)	483,256	897,610	257,500	499,000	4,680,550
Disposable Apron	1,091,712	900,000	0	900,000	1,800,000
Glasses/goggles (or equivalent)	110,117	363,513	2,000	650,000	745,101
Face shield (or equivalent)	148,767	660,800	42,000	240,000	464,840
Nitrile Gloves (all sizes, Each)	14,371,950	4,026,400	2,904,750	3,000,000	243,000,000
Hand Sanitiser (500mL equivalents)	55,783	0	0	300,006	300,016
Hand Sanitiser (2L equivalents)	0	0	0	150,012	150,012
Detergent Wipe (or equivalent)	624,550	0	0	457,828	457,828
Disinfectant wipe (or equivalent)	2,821,965	10,642,800	1,857,850	2,880,000	116,188,000

Source: MoH PPE data as at 27 May

Assessment of current PPE issues provided by the Ministry of Health

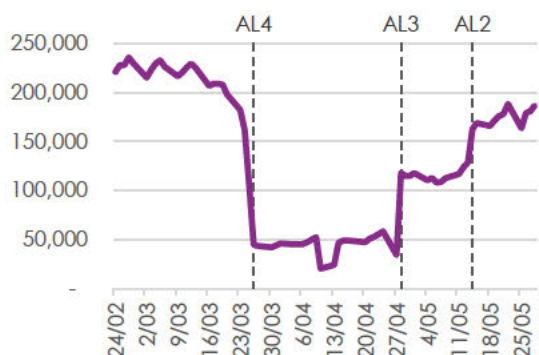
- There is good stock of all PPE gear in the country right now (both from the Ministry of Health national reserves and DHB reserves). The sourcing and distribution of PPE are being managed at a national level, however global supply chain challenges remain. Potential future challenges in mask and glove supply are being worked through, including through exploring alternative sourcing options and ensuring that demand across DHBs is well managed.

Public and business compliance and movement

Direction requests on Apple Maps, light vehicle traffic volumes and mobile phone movement data all suggest that mobility has increased significantly under Alert Level 2, but still remains below pre-COVID levels (Figures 15, 16 and 17). Unlike the shift to Alert Level 3, which involved a single one-off increase, movement continues to increase as Level 2 continues.

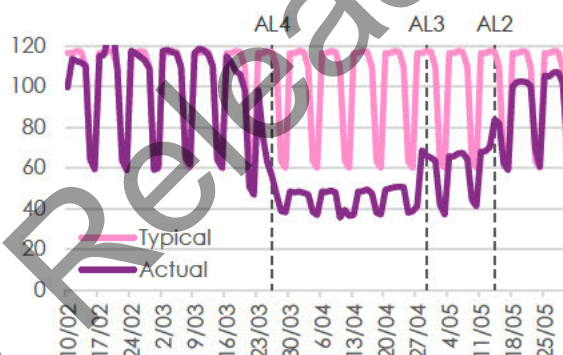
Further increases in movement is likely as more people begin to return to working outside the home, and as the perceived personal and family threat of COVID-19 continues to abate (Figure 18).

Figure 15: Light vehicle traffic volumes in main centres



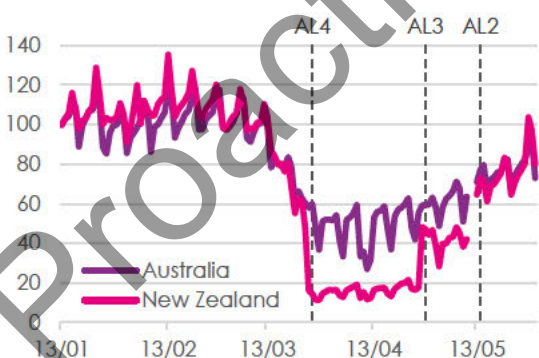
Source: NZTA

Figure 16: People movement (between neighbourhoods) based on mobile phone location



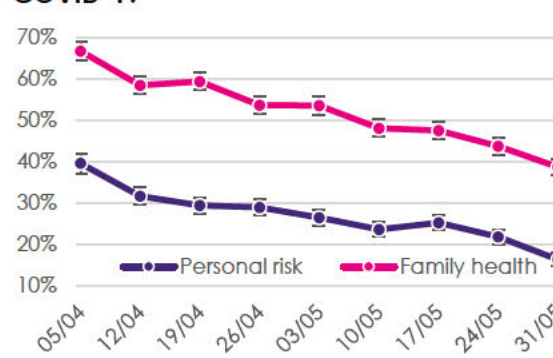
Source: Data Ventures, AoG calculation – st. dev. of SA2 hourly populations

Figure 17: Volume of driving direction requests on Apple Maps (13/01=100)



Source: Apple Mobility Trends

Figure 18: Proportion of people who were worried about the health of their family members, or their personal risk of getting COVID-19



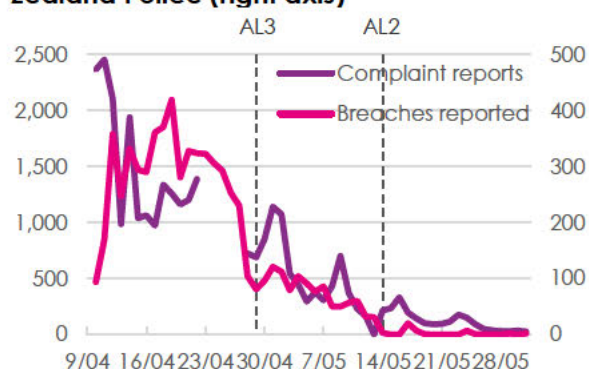
Source: Provisional data from the COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey, Ministry of Health

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

COVID related compliance

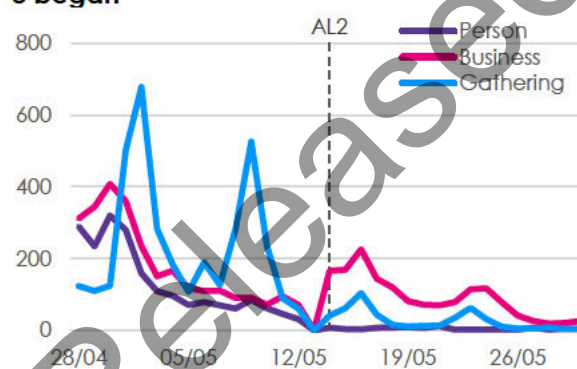
Online public reports of breaches and Police recorded breaches have continued to reduce with the move to Alert Level 2 (Figure 19) and are now nearly zero. Given the relatively few restrictions under Alert Level 2, there are far fewer activities that could lead to a breach. Public complaints for all categories are now very low (Figure 20). This more likely reflects a change in people's propensity to make complaints rather than a significant increase in compliance over previous weeks.

Figure 19: Complaints from public (left axis) and lockdown breaches reported by New Zealand Police (right axis)



Source: NZ Police

Figure 20: Complaints from the public about different types of breaches since Alert Level 3 began



Source: NZ Police

COVID related workplace compliance

In general, the pace of workplace compliance concerns and enforcement has remained stable, and potentially somewhat slowed between Alert Level 3 and 2 despite the greater number of businesses operating.

Worksafe has conducted 750 COVID-19 related assessments of workplaces under Level 2. A total of 940 assessments were undertaken across the whole of Alert Level 3.

A total of 36 Covid related actions have been taken under Alert Level 2, of which 31 were verbal directions.⁴ A total of 42 actions were taken across the whole of Alert Level 3.

Worksafe has received 203 COVID-related notifications of concern under Alert Level 2. A total of 328 notifications were received under the whole of Alert Level 3.

⁴ WorkSafe Activity Daily Report Tuesday 2 June

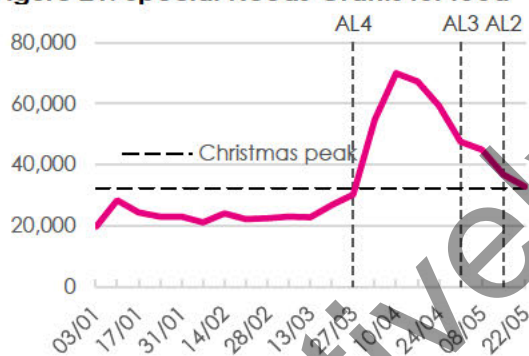
Effects of the measures on society

Demand for Special Needs Grants for food continues to slow. Levels are now similar to other peak times of the year, such as Christmas 2019 (Figure 21). 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 recent operational changes.

A recent report by the Commission for Financial Capacity found that as a consequence of COVID-19 and Alert Level restrictions, most New Zealand households are in financial difficulty or are at risk of tipping into hardship (Figure 22). Māori, Pacific Peoples and young people were among the worst affected. Additionally, 10% of households across the country had already missed a rent or mortgage payment, with housing stress being the highest in Auckland.

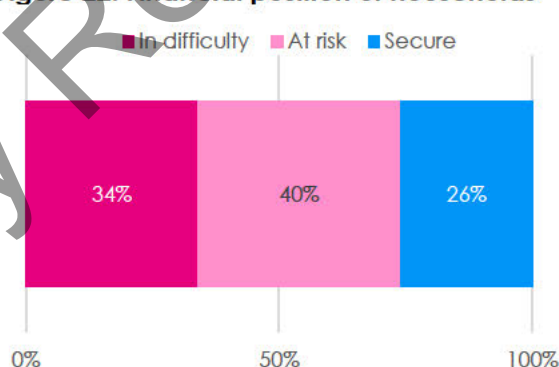
Police data provides a consistent picture of family harm stabilising close to pre-lockdown levels (Figure 23). Sexual attack calls for service have not changed significantly since the start of Alert Level 2.

Figure 21: Special Needs Grants for food



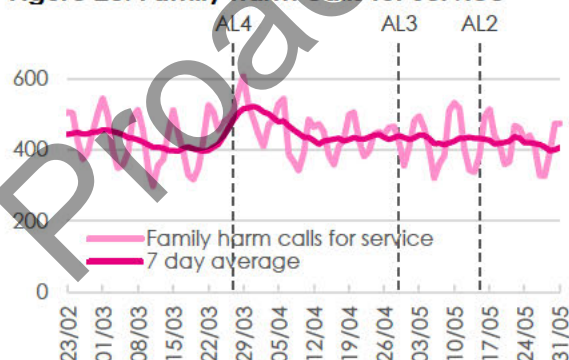
Source: MSD

Figure 22: Financial position of households



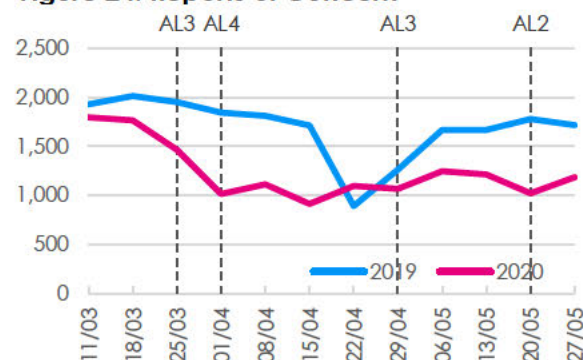
Source: Commission for Financial Capacity

Figure 23: Family harm calls for service



Source: NZ Police provisional data, subject to change

Figure 24: Reports of Concern



Source: Oranga Tamariki, please note – not official statistics

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 is statistics for April will be published on last working day of May 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.

Reports of Concern (RoC) were 16% higher in the week ending 27 May compared to the previous week (Figure 24). Since Alert Level 4, these have averaged 1,150 per week. This is substantially lower than typical levels from last year, however not too dissimilar to levels seen during the school holidays last year.

There was a slight increase in the number of unique clients, and a slight decrease in the number of contacts to Youthline for the week ending 24 May. Suicide was the main presenting issue, contacts about sexual abuse were high compared to pre-COVID levels.

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. COVID related nervousness was stable over the past week, but much lower than during Alert Levels 3 and 4 (Figure 25). Depression and anxiety symptoms, while not significantly changed over the past fortnight, are lower than at the beginning of Alert Level 4.

Overall rates of self-reported loneliness or isolation are significantly lower compared to any time during Alert Levels 3 or 4. This decrease in rates of loneliness may not be the same for all groups. For example, the proportion of disabled people experiencing loneliness, although lower than its peak during Alert level 3, remains at a similar level to what was observed in early April (Figure 26).

Figure 25: Percentage of survey respondents reporting COVID related nervousness

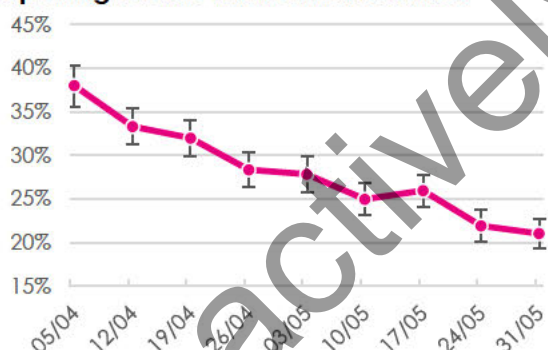
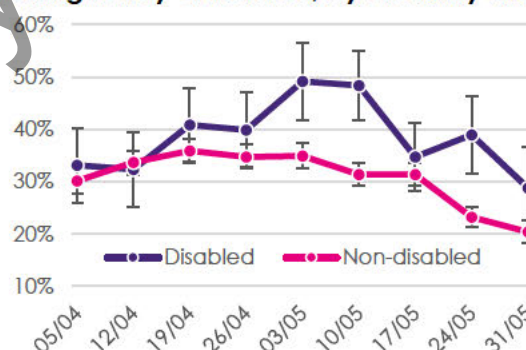


Figure 26: Percentage of survey respondents feeling lonely or isolated, by disability status



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

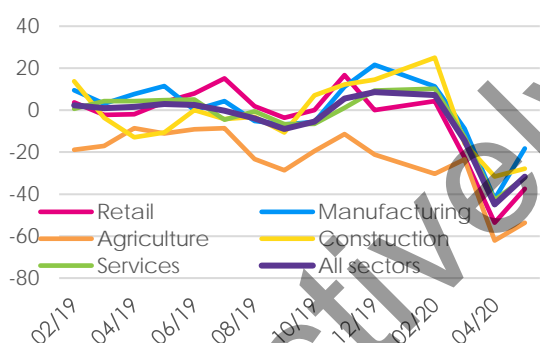
Note: Data reported is dated as at week end of the survey week

Effects of the measures on businesses

The full-month May ANZ Business Outlook Survey showed slight improvements in most indicators versus the preliminary results, likely reflecting the continued loosening of restrictions on economic activity and ongoing reduction in COVID-19 case numbers. However, it's a long way back to 'normal' and at current levels most indicators remain consistent with a recession deeper than that experienced through the GFC. For example, employment intentions show a net 42% of businesses intend to cut staff – that compares to low of -29.2% during the GFC and a series average of a net 8.1% expecting to take on staff (Figure 27). Meanwhile, a net 36% of businesses continue to say they have fewer employees than a year ago, with most of those in retail and services (a net 56% of firms in these sectors say they have cut staff numbers). In contrast, only a net 4% of agricultural firms report having cut staff numbers.

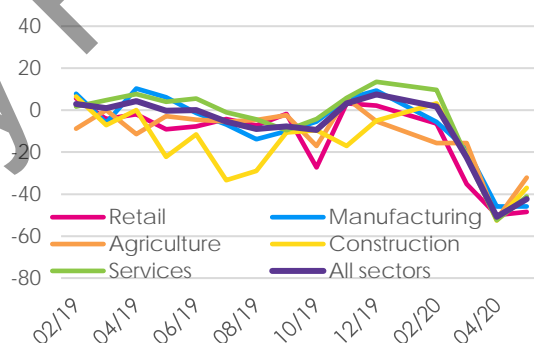
Investment intentions remain very low with a net 32% of businesses expecting to reduce investment over the coming year. Again that compares to a low of -18.6% during the GFC and a series average of a net 13.1% of businesses expecting to increase investment. The manufacturing sector is the least pessimistic about investment at -18% while agriculture is the most pessimistic at -54% (Figure 28).

Figure 27: Employment intentions (by sector)



Source: ANZ

Figure 28: Investment intentions (by sector)



Source: ANZ

This week Xero⁵ have provided us with a series of employment insights on New Zealand small businesses who use the Xero payroll product s9(2)(b)(ii) as well as an analysis of revenue for New Zealand small businesses who subscribe to Xero s9(2)(b)(ii)

Note that the data used for these insights is based on anonymised and aggregated data from Xero subscribers. The key insights are as follows:

- **Employment**

- Jobs in small businesses declined 4% between the first week of March and the last week of April. s9(2)(b)(ii)

As a result, they are likely to be a conservative estimate of the true decline.

- Hospitality and real estate have been hardest hit; small businesses in manufacturing and retail have been less impacted.
- Auckland appears to have experienced employment impacts earlier than other regions; by April, all regions in NZ saw declines in jobs.

- **Revenue**

- Revenue by New Zealand small businesses fell on average by 34% in April compared to a year ago, following a 10% fall in March.
- Impacts appear to have been broad based across industries with the industry groups covered suffering falls of between 22% (rental, hiring and real estate) and 60% (hospitality).

- s9(2)(b)(ii)

s9(2)(b)(ii)

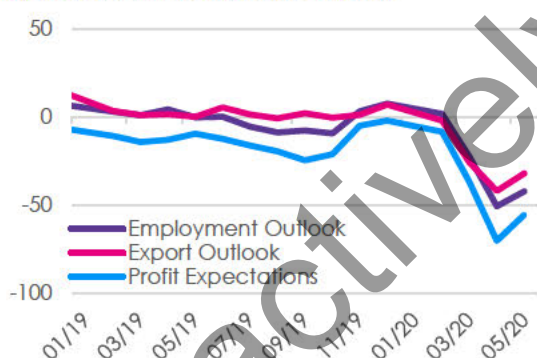
Macroeconomic and fiscal effects of the measures

New Zealand has now been at Alert Level 2 for three weeks, with almost all of the economy open. As we have moved through Alert Levels, activity has increased substantially. Heavy traffic volumes have returned to normal levels, down only 6% on the same time last year. The total value of exports and imports remains below last year's levels. New Zealand's trade weighted index is relatively steady, though last week risk appetite improved and equities gained as economies continued to ease social distancing restrictions and restart businesses.

Treasury estimates that output is reduced by 10–15% from normal levels under Alert Level 2, and by 5–10% under Alert Level 1. In the main Budget forecasts, real GDP is forecast to fall sharply in the June quarter, resulting in an annual contraction of -4.6% over the June 2020 year, with GDP falling a further 1% by June 2021. The unemployment rate is expected to approach 10% in the September quarter, and reduce to 8% by mid-2021.

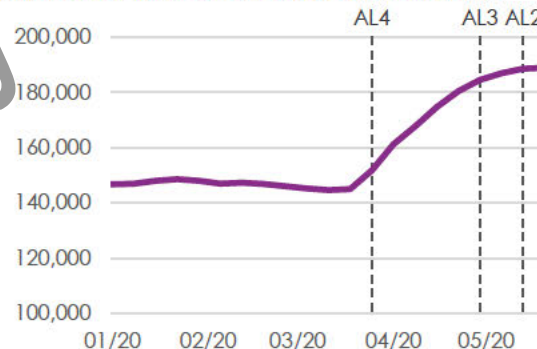
Job losses are underway, with the number of Jobseeker recipients increasing sharply by almost 44,000 since 20 March, though the rate of increase has slowed in the past four weeks. Over 1.6 million individuals are now covered by the wage subsidy, and over \$10.9 billion has been paid out.

Figure 29: ANZ Business Outlook



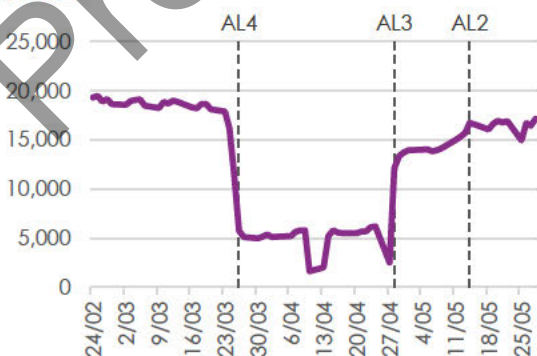
Source: ANZ

Figure 30: Jobseeker Support recipients



Source: MSD

Figure 31: Heavy traffic volumes in main centres



Source: NZTA

Figure 32: Trade Weighted Exchange Index



Source: RBNZ

Fiscal measures

New Zealand's fiscal response packages for COVID-19 announced to date amount to around \$42 billion in committed spending, \$15.9 billion of which was announced on budget day. The focus areas of the announced initiatives were: Education; Training and Jobs; Infrastructure; Housing; Business Support; Environment and Energy; Community Wellbeing; Income Support; and Sector Recovery. As at 14 May, \$20.2 billion remained in the CRRF. The Small Business Cashflow Scheme has disbursed over \$1.14 billion to 62,000 applicants.

Figure 33: Fiscal costs of commitments and programmes already announced

Spending package	Total impact on net core Crown debt (\$m), period to 2023/24
Infrastructure	3,006.084
Education, Skills and Training	4,268.935
Business and Firm	9,692.864
Income Support	19,817.975
Health	1,298.817
Housing	928.268
Other	3,513.701
Total Allocated Spend to date	42,526.644
Unallocated CRRF remaining	19,678.886

Public attitude towards the measures

New Zealanders are wanting clarity about the announced increase of the social gathering limits to 100, in particular; how to ensure safe physical distancing.

Queries about social distancing, capacity on public transport, and whether contracting tracing is needed in certain situation are popular. There are also a lot of questions about cases (27% of questions) and how they are recorded, in light of the classification of the death of Eileen Hunter, who returned 2 negative tests (although she had been a confirmed with a positive test, who was then cleared as no longer infectious, this nuance was likely missed by many).

Traffic on the covid19.govt.nz website (Figure 38) had seen an average of 70,459 users per day during Alert Level 2. This is down from an average of 119,563 users during Alert Level 3, and 209,600 users during Alert Level 4. This may indicate people feel more confident about what they can do at each Alert Level. However, many New Zealanders have also returned to work in offices and getting out more, so may be spending less time browsing the internet.

Covid19.govt.nz web traffic and social media data has reported high interest in the tracer app and Alert Level 1. Twenty-five per cent of the searches in the past seven days on the website related to the app, and there have been 482,000 registrations for the app (as of Tuesday 1pm). 18% of searches relate to Alert Level 1, indicating an interest in how Alert Level 1 may look like and when it may happen.

Social media analysis shows conversations about 'timeframe' have increased by 30 percent due to a differing of opinion on whether the government is being 'over-cautious'. Conversation suggests opinion is split between those wanting to remain patient and eliminate the virus versus those concerned about the economy.

Articles about the Trans-Tasman bubble continued to interest news readers.