



**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 16 June 2020**

[© Crown Copyright, Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International \(CC BY 4.0\)](#)

# COVID-19 Weekly Monitoring Report

Tuesday 16 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:

Key changes and developments from last week	3
COVID-19 in New Zealand	4
Testing, tracing and isolation system	5
Health system capacity	7
Public movement	8
Effects of the measures on society	9
Effects of the measures on businesses	11
Macroeconomic and fiscal effects of the measures	13
Public attitude towards the measures	15
Supplement: International restriction relaxations	16

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:

- The trend of New Zealanders being less concerned about COVID-19 identified in recent reports has continue through the later stages of Level 2 and into Level 1. However, change has halted in several trends suggesting a shift to a new normal, with test rates and mobility stabilising (in the case of mobility, at close to, but below, pre-Covid levels).
- The rebounding economy is evident in several indicators, notably a large increase in job listings. However, most improvements are off very low bases, and many are still consistent with a severe recession.

Changes to the report:

- With the absence of recent and remaining active cases we have removed several of the figures relating to cases and health system capacity. Timeliness data for testing and tracing remains but has not been updated from recent reports due to lack of new data.
- In the coming weeks we will look to revise the report to improve its relevance under Level 1.
- A supplementary section on international restriction relaxation has been added.

# COVID-19 in New Zealand

Two new imported cases were reported in the past day, as a result there are two active cases as at 1pm 16 June (Figure 1). Contact tracing for these cases is now underway.

Figure 1: Summary of COVID-19 in New Zealand as at 1pm 16 June

- 2 Active cases
- 0 Days since last imported case reported
- 40 Days since last import-related case reported
- 25 Days since last locally-acquired epidemiologically-linked case reported
- 46 Days since last locally-acquired, unknown source case reported
- 5 Significant open clusters<sup>1</sup>
- 0 Clusters with a new case reported in the last 14 days

Source: Ministry of Health

---

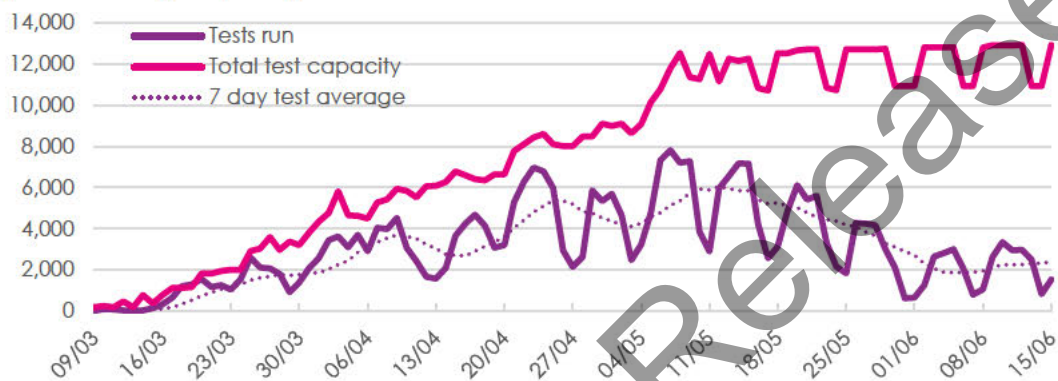
<sup>1</sup> A cluster is considered closed when there have been no new cases for two incubation periods (ie, 28 days) from the date when all cases complete isolation

## Testing, tracing and isolation system

Testing rates have declined very significantly from the previous peak reflecting reduced demand for testing (rather than supply), but the decline appears to have ended. Over the past few weeks the seven-day average has stabilised between 2,000 to 2,500 tests per day.

Our testing capacity is now consistently over 10,000 tests per day (Figure 2). As at 9 June, complete test stock on hand in labs is 296,000, which is 124 days' supply at current (7-day average) levels.

**Figure 2: Testing capacity**



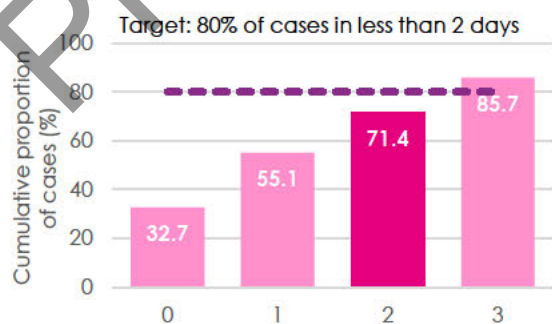
Source: Ministry of Health

### Timeliness of testing system

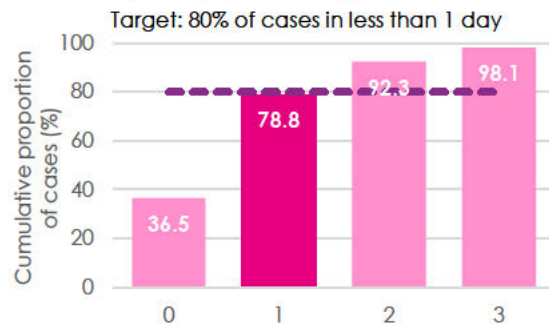
Figures 3 and 4 have not been updated recently as new data is only made available when there are positive tests or new cases.

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 3), and the time between the swab being received and the notification of the test result (Figure 4).

**Figure 3: Time between symptom onset and a swab being received by the lab, 13 April - 11 May**



**Figure 4: Time between a swab being received by the lab and notification of the test result, 13 April - 11 May**



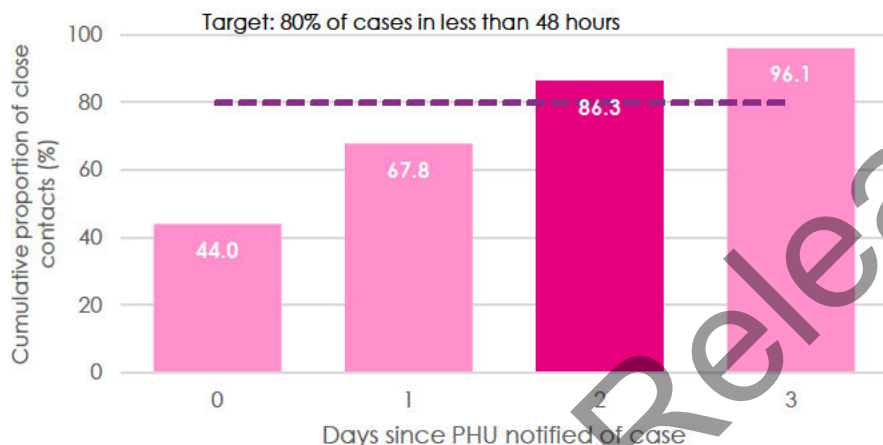
Source: Ministry of Health

## Contact tracing

Figure 5 has not been updated recently as new data is only made available when there are positive tests or new cases.

Timeliness measures are the key metric to understanding the performance of contact tracing systems. 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 contact, 13 April to 15 May**



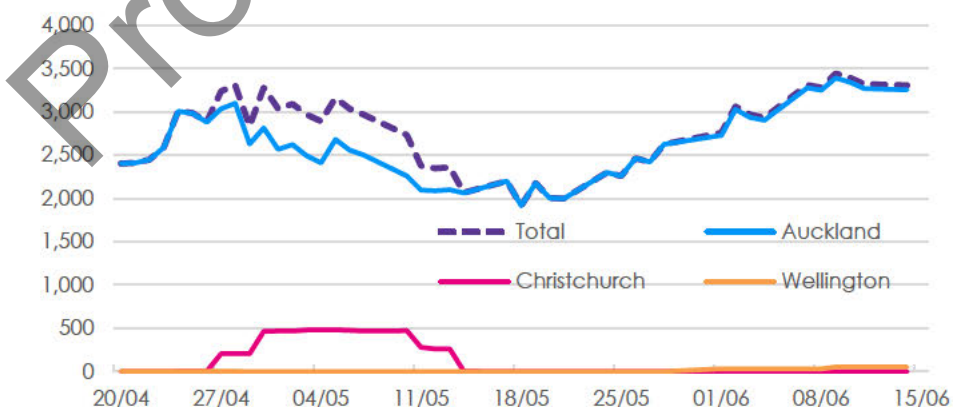
Source: Ministry of Health

## Isolation

As at June 16th, we currently have the capacity to manage up to 4,408 people in managed isolation or quarantine at the New Zealand border.

Since the move to Alert Level 1, the number of people in managed isolation or quarantine has remained broadly stable (Figure 6). However, the number of people in managed isolation or quarantine is expected to increase over the coming weeks.

**Figure 6: Number of people in managed isolation or quarantine**



Source: Isolation, Quarantine and Repatriation SITREP, AoG calculation



## Health system capacity

### PPE

We have 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 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 are being worked through, including through exploring alternative sourcing options and ensuring that demand across DHBs is well managed

**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 (9 June)	National Reserves (10 June)		Expected in Next Fortnight	Total on Order
N95 Mask (or equivalent)	1,184,398	10,705,920	21,250	8,350,000	11,000,000
Procedure Mask (or equivalent)	5,406,757	34,379,250	915,600	31,846,000	85,948,344
Isolation Gown (or equivalent)	455,843	1,266,160	175,000	779,000	3,770,240
Disposable Apron	1,045,388	861,100	0	1,800,000	1,800,000
Glasses/goggles (or equivalent)	119,612	704,338	0	400,000	495,101
Face shield (or equivalent)	166,435	729,200	200	250,000	395,720
Nitrile Gloves (all sizes, Each)	14,099,158	2,669,000	2,343,800	68,400,000	258,400,000
Hand Sanitiser (500mL equivalents)	53,174	300,006	0	0	40,010
Hand Sanitiser (2L equivalents)	0	99,534	0	0	0
Detergent Wipe (or equivalent)	529,850	0	0	0	0
Disinfectant wipe (or equivalent)	3,767,371	13,624,450	2,067,950	37,118,400	138,906,400

Source: MoH PPE data as at 11 June

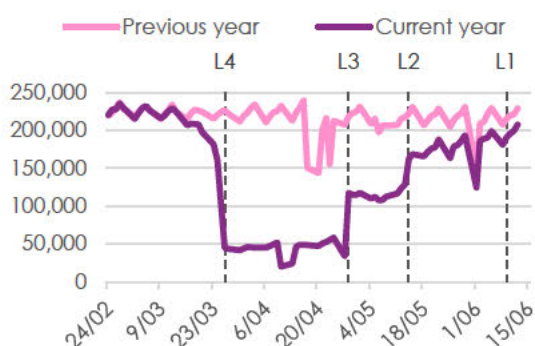


## Public movement

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 levels (Figures 8, and 9). However, even at Level 1, where no domestic restrictions apply, movement remains somewhat below pre-COVID baselines suggesting some lingering effects.

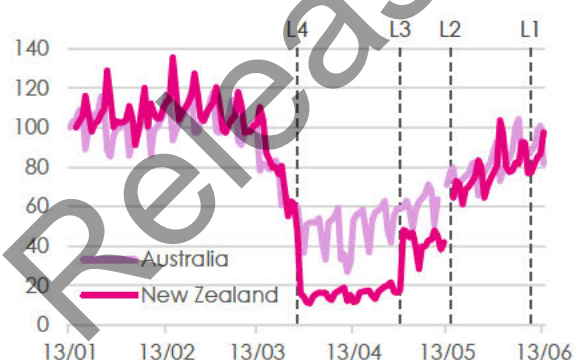
Further increases in movement is likely as more people begin to return to working outside the home, and as the perceived personal and family threat of COVID-19 continues to abate (Figure 10).

**Figure 8: Light vehicle traffic volumes in main centres**



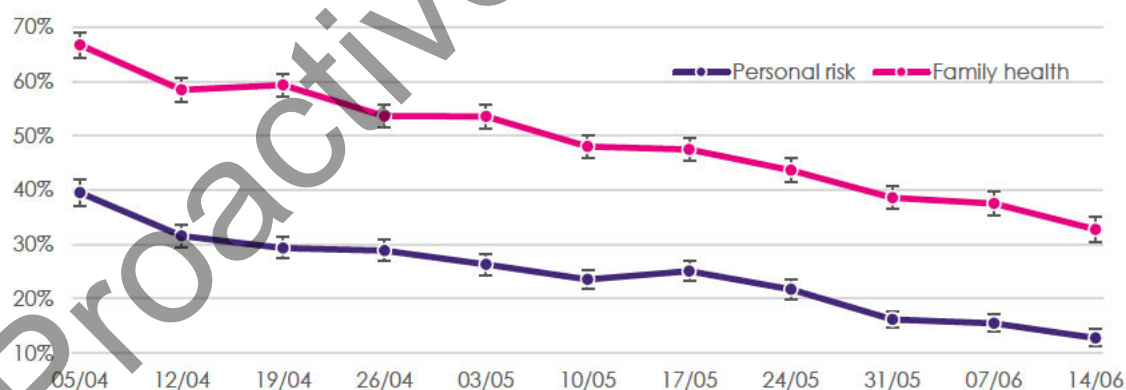
Source: NZTA

**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

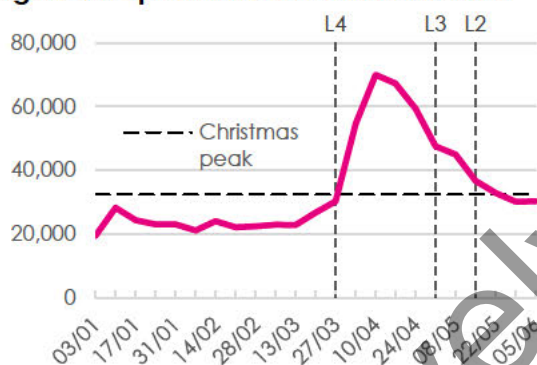
## Effects of the measures on society

Demand for Special Needs Grants for food was similar compared to last week. Levels are now slightly below other peak times of the year, such as Christmas 2019 (Figure 11). 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.

Police data shows family harm calls for service stabilising close to pre-lockdown levels and following a similar weekly pattern to pre-lockdown (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.

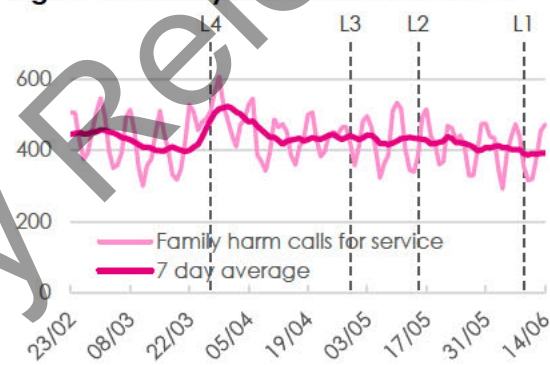
Since Alert Level 4, Reports of Concern (ROC) have averaged 1,200 per week. This is substantially lower than typical levels from last year (24% lower), however not too dissimilar to levels seen during the school holidays last year (Figure 13).

**Figure 11: Special Needs Grants for food**



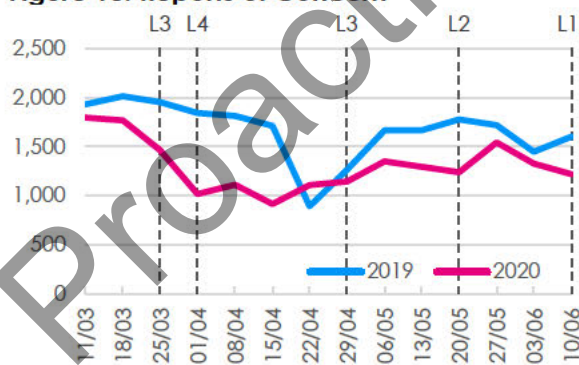
Source: MSD

**Figure 12: Family harm calls for service**



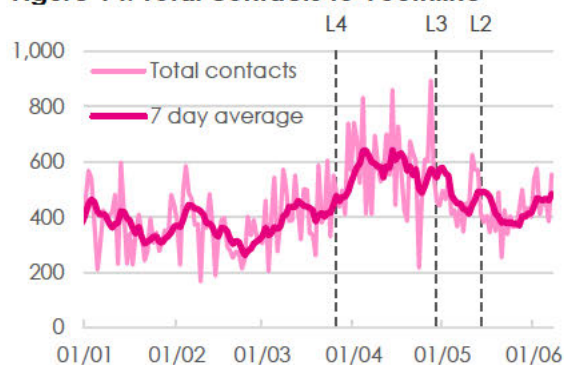
Source: NZ Police (see note)

**Figure 13: Reports of Concern**



Source: Oranga Tamariki, not official statistics

**Figure 14: Total contacts to Youthline**



Source: Youthline

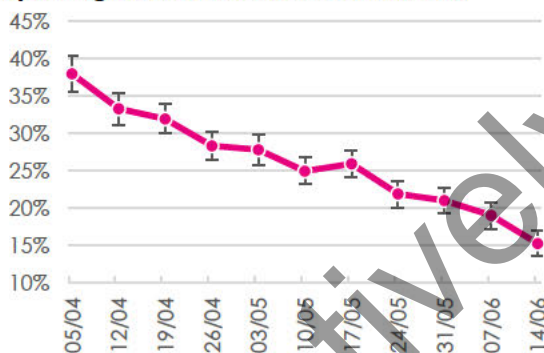
Note: To ensure the quality and accuracy of data, Police statistics on Family Harm Investigations and other Official Crime Statistics are updated monthly, one month in arrears. That means statistics for May will be published on last working day of June 2020. To support the effort to supply timely information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



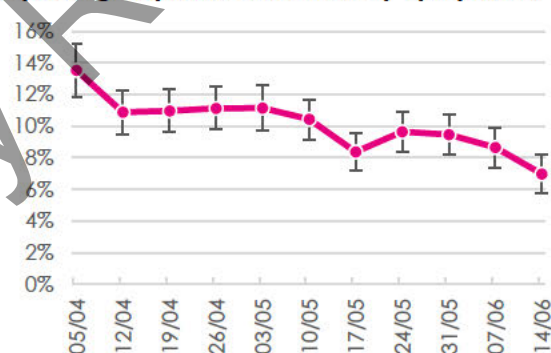
Data from Youthline is a potential indicator of young people's help-seeking. From late March there was a rise in the number of contacts received weekly, peaking during mid-April, before steadily reducing since the start of Alert Level 3 (to levels comparable to 2019 averages). During this time, a greater proportion of the presenting issues were related to depression & sadness, and self-harm, compared to pre-lockdown. 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. (Figure 14 (previous page)).

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 decreased slightly over the past week and remains at levels much lower than during Alert Levels 3 and 4 (Figure 15). 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 significantly lower than last week and compared to any time during Alert Levels 3 or 4.

**Figure 15: Percentage of survey respondents reporting COVID related nervousness**



**Figure 16: Percentage of survey respondents reporting depression or anxiety symptoms**



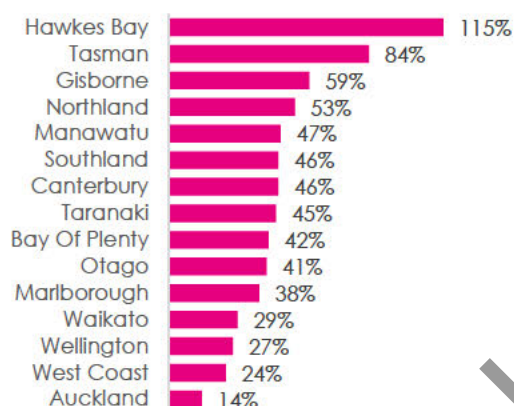
Source: Provisional data from the COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey, Ministry of Health, note that data reported is dated as at week end of the survey week

## Effects of the measures on businesses

Job advertisements rebounded in May, though remain well below pre-COVID levels. The total number of job ads rose 72% nationally, though after the large falls in March and April job ads remain around 58% below the level of May last year.

All regions and industries saw a precipitous fall in job ads following the introduction of COVID restrictions, though the rebound has been more pronounced outside the main centres, particularly in fruit growing regions (Figure 17). Hospitality saw the greatest increase in job ads, nearly tripling in May over April as the prospect of loosening restrictions saw a bounce from very low levels during Alert Level 4 (Figure 18).

**Figure 17: Job ad trends, by region**



**Figure 18: Job ad trends, by top industries**



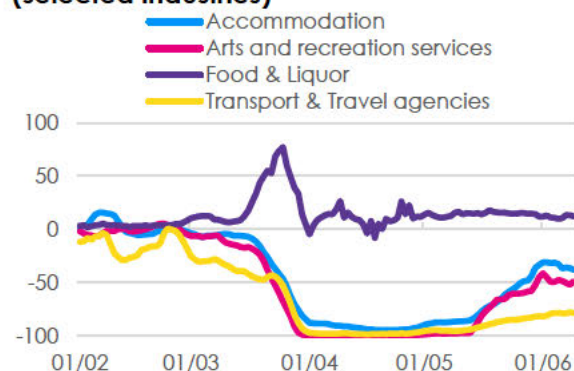
Source: BNZ/SEEK Employment Report

**Figure 19: Performance of Manufacturing Index**



Source: BNZ

**Figure 20: Electronic card transactions (selected industries)**



Source: Marketview/MBIE

The Performance of Manufacturing Index (PMI) also showed a significant bounce in May (Figure 19 (previous page)). However, these indicators still remain at low levels, analogous to the GFC, and employment expectations continued to slide as firms likely weighed up the prospect of the wage subsidy ending. Stats New Zealand data showed that prior to the COVID-19 outbreak manufacturing activity was reasonably strong. Despite New Zealand being in Alert levels 3 and 4 for around 9% of the March quarter and very limited activity taking place during that time manufacturing sales volumes fell only 1.7% in the quarter.

Electronic cards transactions from Marketview show that some industries are still realising sales well below this time last year, with transport and travel being the worst affected (Figure 20 (previous page)).

Proactively Released



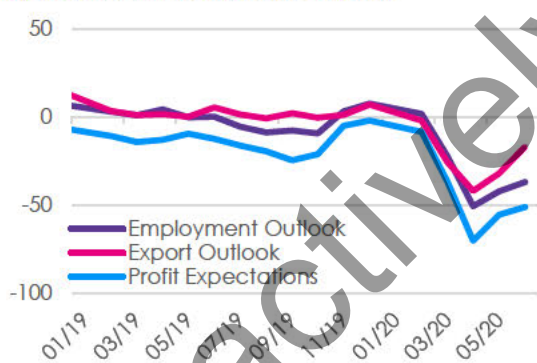
## Macroeconomic and fiscal effects of the measures

As we have moved through Alert Levels, economic activity has increased substantially, with consumer card spending and traffic levels nearing last year's levels. Uncertainty remains whether this is a temporary rebound of pent up demand, or the 'new normal' level of activity. New Zealand's trade weighted index has been increasing over the past three weeks, and the total value of merchandise exports and imports remains below levels at the same time last year.

Treasury estimates that output is reduced 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.

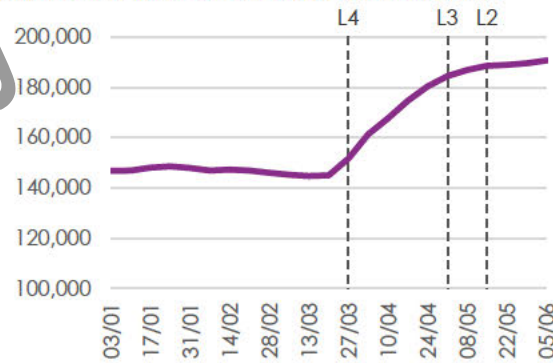
The preliminary ANZ Business Outlook Survey results for June show improvement across all indicators compared to the record low April results, but outlook remains poor. A net 29% of firms expect lower activity in the coming year ahead, compared with a net 39% in April, while a net 17% expect to export less, a net 51% expect profits to decrease and a net 37% expect to lay off staff. Job losses are underway, with the number of Jobseeker Support recipients increasing by over 45,000 since 20 March.

**Figure 21: ANZ Business Outlook**



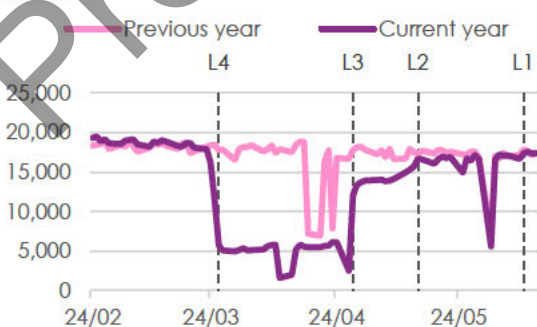
Source: ANZ

**Figure 22: Jobseeker Support recipients**



Source: MSD

**Figure 23: Heavy traffic volumes in main centres**



Source: NZTA

**Figure 24: Trade Weighted Exchange Index**



Source: RBNZ



## Fiscal measures

New Zealand's fiscal response packages for COVID-19 announced to date amount to around \$44 billion in committed spending, \$15.9 billion of which was announced on budget day. As at 15 June, around \$18.3 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 \$1.33 billion to over 79,000 applicants as at 8 June.

**Figure 25: 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	1,664.494
Housing	928.268
Other	3,591.301
<b>Total Allocated Spend to date</b>	<b>43,888.371</b>
Unallocated CRRF remaining	18,317.159

## Public attitude towards the measures

New Zealanders are starting to plan ahead and are asking about travel and quarantine rules, but there is concern about the economy.

While there is a degree of negativity about the economy and some anxiety about when borders will open, positive sentiment has increased when New Zealanders talk about their 'way of life'. There is a sense of optimism and gratitude that the nation has mostly returned to a sense of normality.

Financial support (43%), travel (28%) and health (28%) are the main topics raised on the UAC (now Unite for Recovery) Facebook page and public (news sites) Facebook pages. New Zealanders have questions about the wage subsidy, wondering if it's taxable income and how they can get an extension. Additionally, people have asked about 'helicopter payments' and how we can encourage 'buying local'.

Job cuts by The Warehouse and closures announced by New Zealand-owned brands, such as Max, are contributing to some anxiety. While there is sadness about job losses and concern over the likelihood of high unemployment rates, many are expressing positive sentiment towards businesses making shows of solidarity and other users who are encouraging investing in our country.

There are a significant number of voices suggesting that lockdown was positive for health but will continue to have an enormous impact on the economy.

New Zealanders are happy for a range of reasons - they are making plans, talking about travel, returning to work and education. Users are grateful about being able to gather, commemorate and celebrate births, lives and deaths without restrictions. Sports fans are returning to discuss, and debate matches, and are happy they can go to games again.

## Supplement: International restriction relaxations

Below is a table briefly describing restricting relaxations in a number of countries and the subsequent trend in new cases. This is based on a recent analysis by the All of Government Covid response group.

### Overseas experience of selected countries who began removing lockdown restrictions early

Country	Response to COVID-19	New cases
Denmark	On March 11, Denmark became one of the first European countries to implement a lockdown. A combination of high testing rates and citizen compliance allowed it to reopen small business in April followed by schools, cafes and restaurants in May. Large public facilities such as museums and zoos opened in early June.	Denmark hit a peak of 390 new cases on April 8 before steadily declining to double digits from May to June. In the past 2 weeks up to 15 June, Denmark has seen an average of around 34 new cases per day.
South Korea	Relying primarily on contact tracing, mass testing, and social distancing measures, South Korea did not explicitly implement a lockdown. By early May, as new cases decline, officials considered easing restrictions. This was reversed when several clusters emerged that were linked to night clubs and warehouses, resulting in a surge of new cases. Schools postponed reopening and the government is considering re-imposing social distancing measures.	South Korea's daily new cases peaked at 190 on 2 April before dropping to single digits in early May. New clusters detected meant that average daily cases in June was approximately 44.
Vietnam	Vietnam was one of the first countries to enact restrictions. To date, Vietnam has reported no COVID-19 deaths. After a nationwide isolation of 15 days from 1 to 15 April, the government began lifting social isolation rules in late April. Schools and non-essential services including restaurants were able to reopen. Transitional restrictions include fines for people who do not wear masks outside, a maximum of 20 people in any gathering, and continued closures for some businesses such as bars. From 9 May, cinemas were reopened.	Vietnam's has had only 334 case of COVID-19 total, with 7 new cases occurring in due. It continues to have 1 or 2 new cases in between short burst of days with no new cases.
Germany	Clearly defining Germany's lockdown is challenging due to the mixed decision-making roles of federal and state governments. Broadly speaking, from around mid-March, Germany implemented a strategy of border restrictions, mass testing, and lockdown restrictions. By May shops and schools were allowed to open. Social distancing limitations began to be removed in June.	Germany declined from a peak of 6174 new cases on 2 April and has steadily decline to several hundred case per day. It has an average of 332 new case per day in June.