

# Helping the Waikato through COVID-19

## Economic Radar

As at 21 April 2020

As the lockdown continues, Te Waka, with the support of Waikato Regional Council Economist Blair Keenan, continues to collate data to gauge what is happening in the Waikato economy.

Charts in this week's Radar continue to show declines in consumer spending and limited movements (both air and road) under Alert Level 4. This week we showcase more regional data on COVID-19, and enhanced data on job related statistics. Our aim next week is to showcase District level data on Job Seeker Subsidies and Wage Subsidy applications in partnership with MSD.

With the knowledge that on the 28th of April we will move to Alert Level 3 and delivery of 'safe business', what the new normal may be remains uncertain. We will continue to scan for signs of trouble, stabilisation, or sparks of life.

### Note:

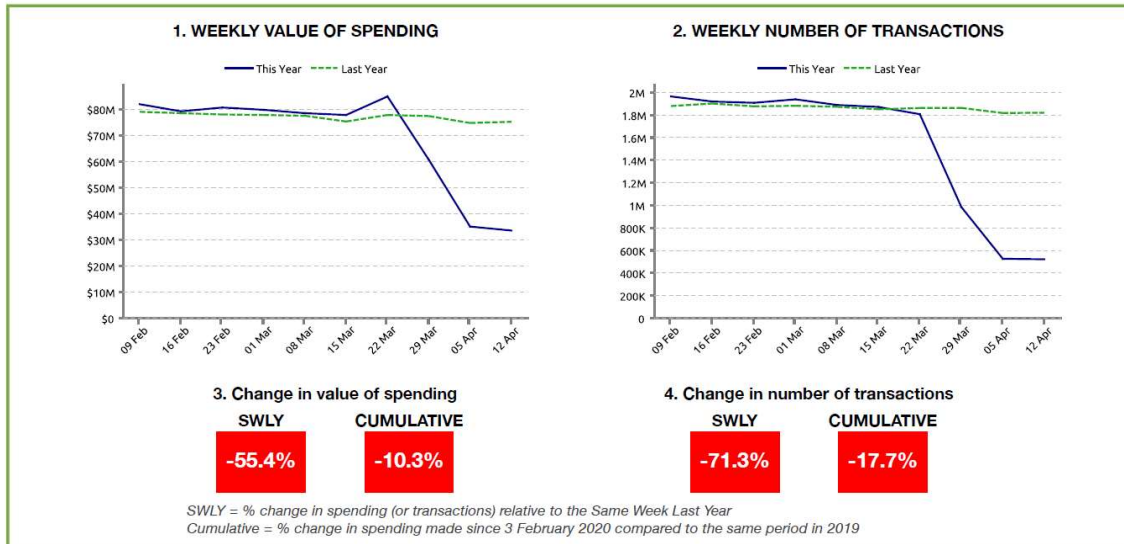
The following report has been compiled to share the Waikato region's COVID-19 recovery progress. In all instances, sources are listed to ensure access to data can be found. Information in this report will be updated weekly, with new measures added either by request or as additional information comes to hand.

District level data can be obtained for some of the information contained in this report. Te Waka wishes to continue to progress conversations on the streamlining of obtaining this data with our ED community and business.

To provide feedback or find out more on the below information please contact:

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### Waikato Weekly Card Transactions



#### 5. WEEKLY SPENDING CHANGE BY CATEGORY

|                                   | SWLY          |               | Cumulative    |               |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                                   | \$            | #             | \$            | #             |
| Food, liquor & pharmacies         | +9.6%         | -41.7%        | +15.1%        | -5.1%         |
| Hospitality & Accommodation       | -98.8%        | -99.4%        | -28.4%        | -30.4%        |
| Fuel & Automotive                 | -73.9%        | -67.7%        | -19.1%        | -17.9%        |
| Clothing, Footwear & Dept. Stores | -100.0%       | -100.0%       | -35.3%        | -35.9%        |
| Home & Recreational Retailing     | -98.2%        | -99.7%        | -16.5%        | -19.0%        |
| All other                         | -98.0%        | -97.3%        | -32.4%        | -29.8%        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                      | <b>-55.4%</b> | <b>-71.3%</b> | <b>-10.3%</b> | <b>-17.7%</b> |

#### 7. Change by Origin of Cardholder

|               | SWLY   |        | Cumulative |        |
|---------------|--------|--------|------------|--------|
|               | \$     | #      | \$         | #      |
| INTERNATIONAL | -81.8% | -87.1% | -12.2%     | -12.0% |
| NZ CARDS      | -54.4% | -70.9% | -10.2%     | -17.9% |

#### 6. WEEKLY SPEND AND TRANSACTION CHANGES

| Week Ending | SWLY   |        | Cumulative |        |
|-------------|--------|--------|------------|--------|
|             | \$     | #      | \$         | #      |
| 09-Feb      | +3.7%  | +4.5%  | +3.7%      | +4.5%  |
| 16-Feb      | +0.9%  | +0.9%  | +2.3%      | +2.7%  |
| 23-Feb      | +3.4%  | +1.7%  | +2.7%      | +2.4%  |
| 01-Mar      | +2.6%  | +3.1%  | +2.6%      | +2.5%  |
| 08-Mar      | +1.3%  | +0.8%  | +2.4%      | +2.2%  |
| 15-Mar      | +3.3%  | +1.1%  | +2.5%      | +2.0%  |
| 22-Mar      | +9.1%  | -2.9%  | +3.5%      | +1.3%  |
| 29-Mar      | -21.6% | -47.1% | +0.3%      | -4.7%  |
| 05-Apr      | -53.1% | -71.0% | -5.4%      | -11.9% |
| 12-Apr      | -55.4% | -71.3% | -10.3%     | -17.7% |

#### 8. WEEKLY VALUE OF SPENDING - ALL OF NZ

|             | SWLY   |        | Cumulative |        |
|-------------|--------|--------|------------|--------|
|             | \$     | #      | \$         | #      |
| New Zealand | -55.9% | -72.9% | -11.0%     | -19.2% |

#### Reading this Report

Charts One and Two – plots the weekly value of spending/volume of transactions at merchants in Waikato Region for the seven days ending on the date shown

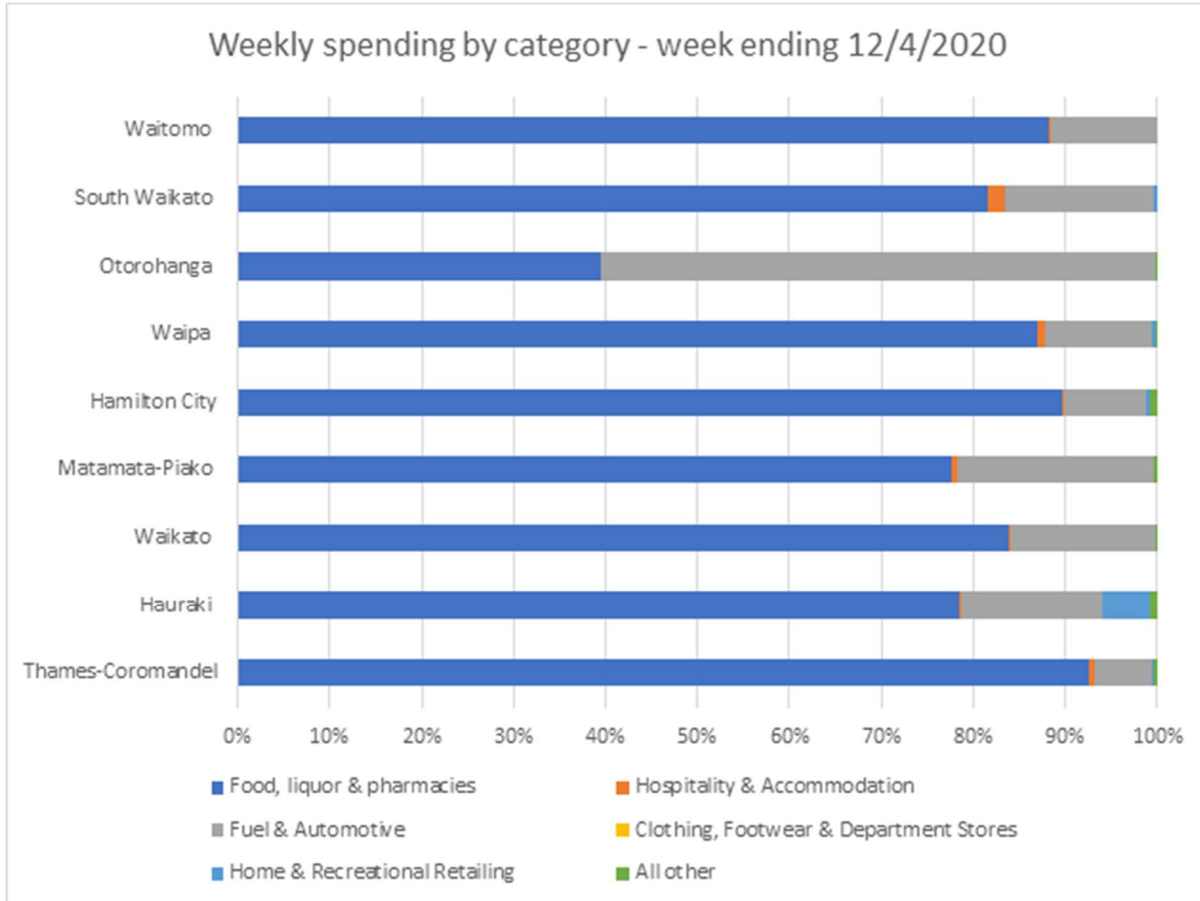
Tables Three and Four – highlights the percentage change in total spending / transactions compared to the Same Week Last Year and the Cumulative total spending / transactions since 3 February 2020

Table Five – provides a change spending / transactions breakdown by key category within Waikato Region

Table Six – provides both a week by week and the cumulative change in spending / transactions from 3 February 2020

Table Seven – provides the change in spending / transactions within Waikato Region, by origin of cardholder

Table Eight – provides the change in spending / transactions for our national sample.

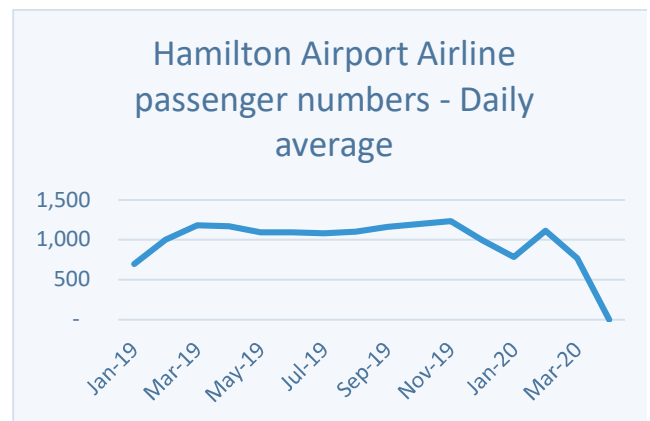
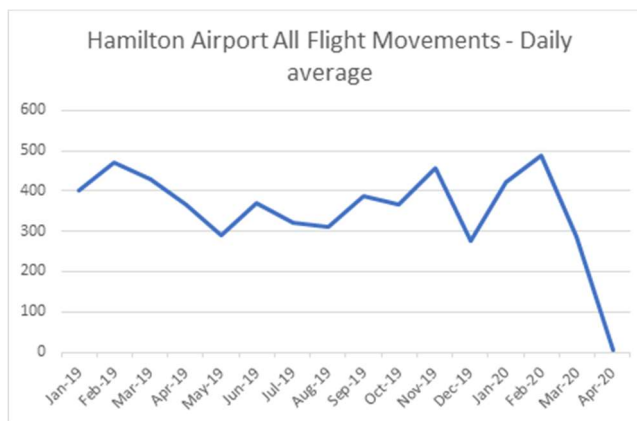


Source: Marketview using Paymark data

## Waikato Travel Indicators

### Flight Data

With Hamilton Airport closed, the skies above our main city are very quiet. The last commercial passenger flight was on 2 April.

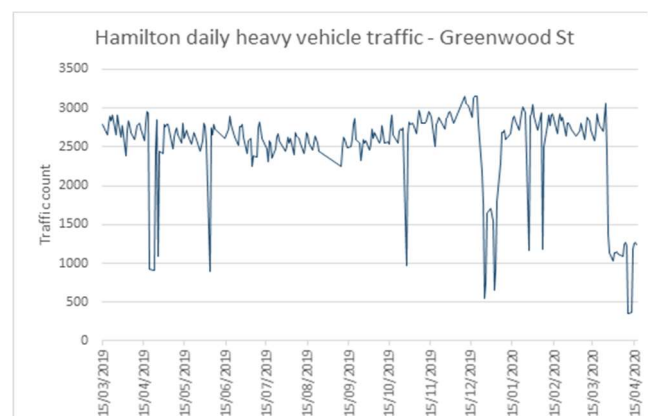
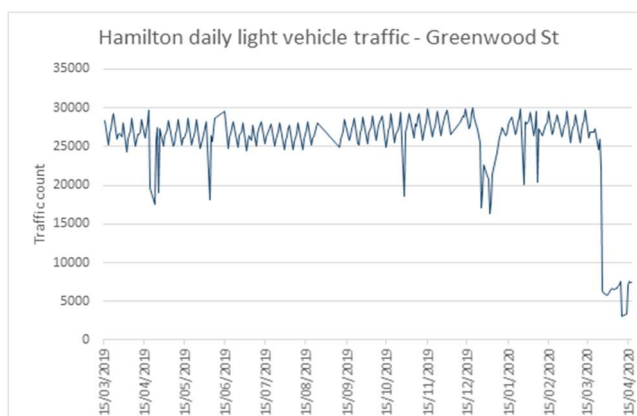


Source: Hamilton Airport

### Traffic Data

In the third full week of Level 4 restrictions, Hamilton had a 4% increase in light traffic and a 2.5% increase for heavy traffic, when compared with the previous week. This was the greatest overall increase (3.8%) of the five main cities, with the others experiencing between 1% and a decrease of 1.9%.

Compared with last year, Hamilton traffic was down 73.4%. This is the lowest decrease of the five main cities, with the others experiencing between 74.3% and 82% decrease.

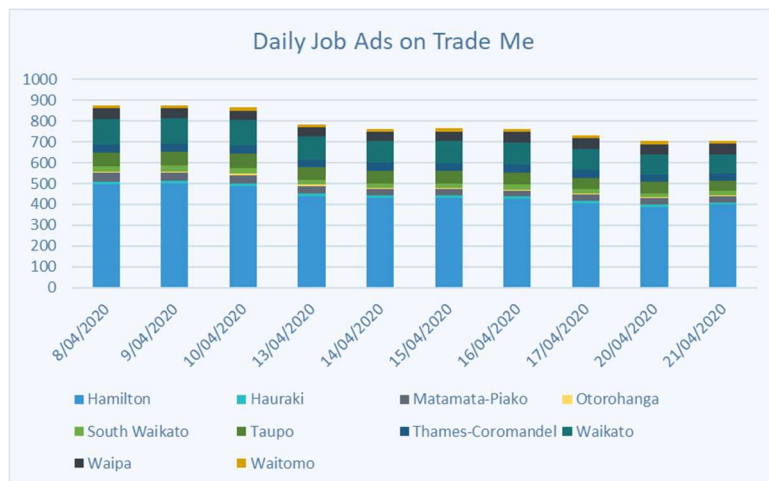


Source: <https://www.nzta.govt.nz/about-us/coronavirus-disease-covid-19-services-update/weekly-traffic-count-information/>

## Employment

### Job Ads

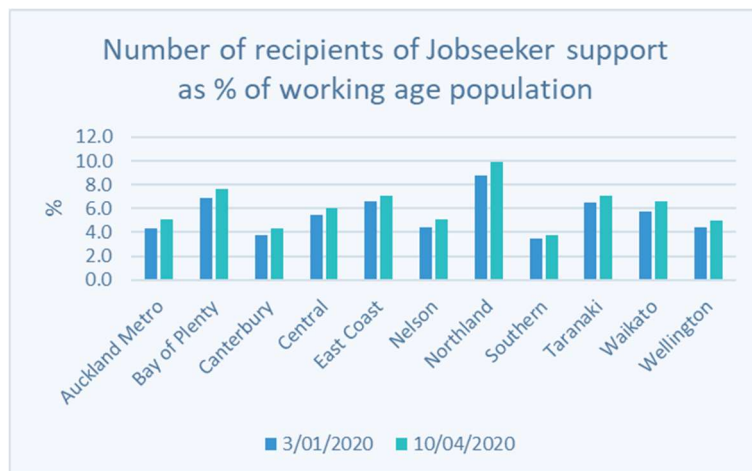
The number of jobs advertised on Trade Me in the Waikato region has fallen by 20 percent since we started monitoring this data two weeks ago. While we have too little data to show conclusive trends, the decline is consistent with what could be expected given the lockdown in Alert Level 4.



Source: [www.trademe.co.nz](http://www.trademe.co.nz)

### Job Seeker Support

The number of people registering for Jobseeker support has risen sharply as the lockdown has taken effect. The total number in New Zealand has increased by nearly 21,000, with around 2,000 of those in the Waikato Region. As a proportion of the working age population, the Waikato region has seen the third largest increase (up 15.8 percent since the start of the year). Over the next week we will work with MSD to provide District level data.

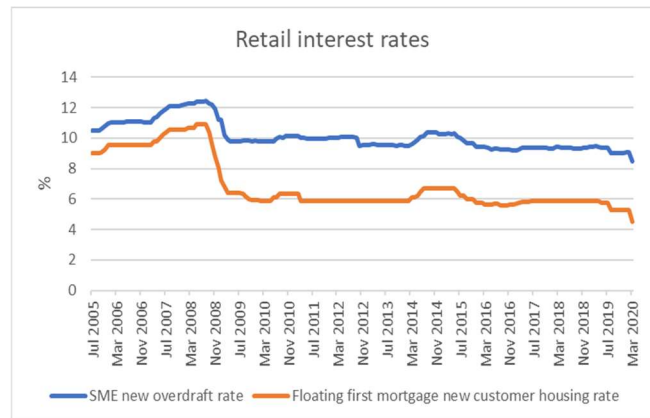
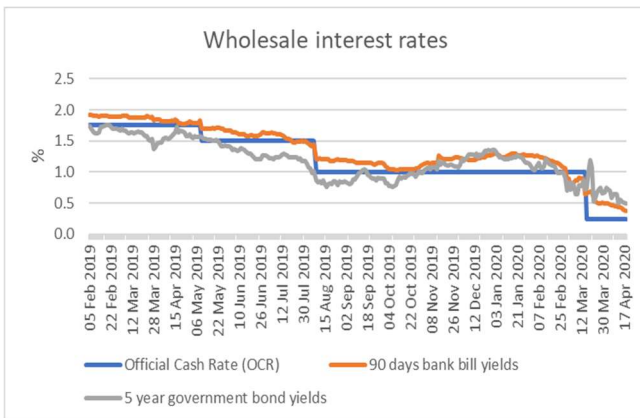


Source: [www.msd.govt.nz](http://www.msd.govt.nz)

## Financial Indicators

### Interest Rates

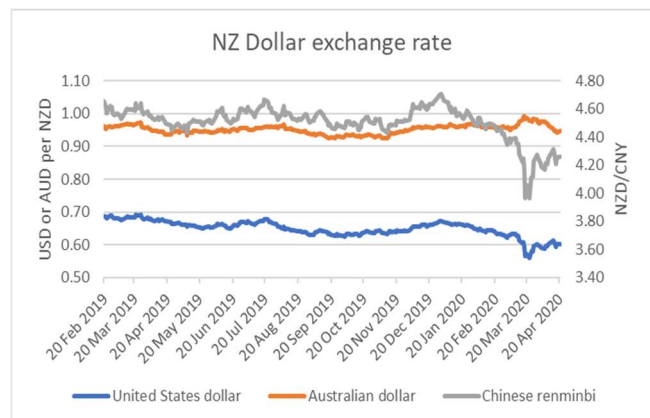
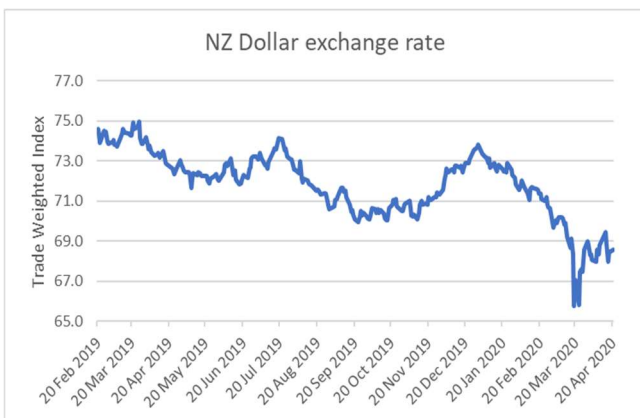
Interest rates continue to reflect a subdued economic outlook. While there may not be much prospect of a further cut in the Official Cash Rate (according to the Reserve Bank, which indicated that it would remain at its current level for the next 12 months), yields for bills and bonds continue to edge lower.



Source: <https://www.rbnz.govt.nz/>

### Exchange Rates

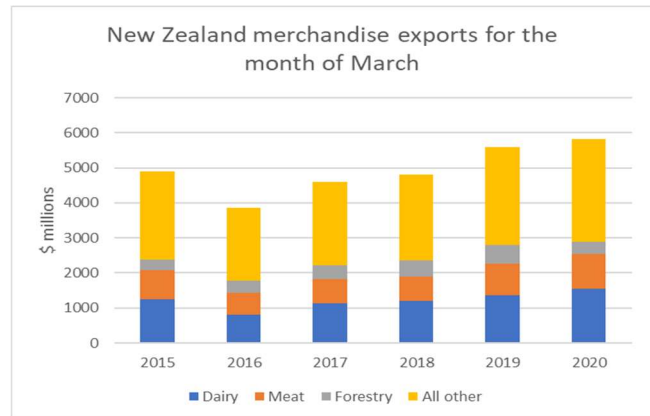
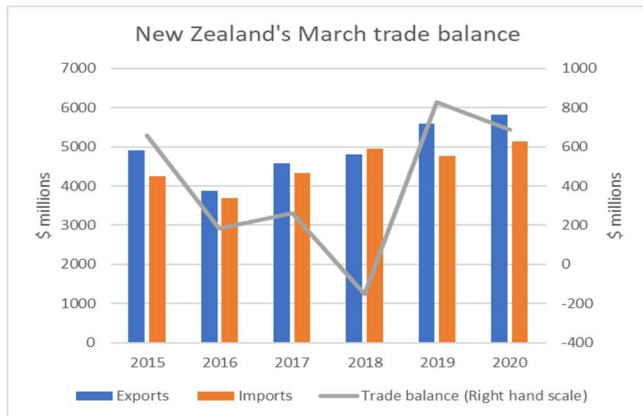
The New Zealand dollar remains relatively steady having risen slightly after reaching lows in mid-March. The NZD/AUD has returned to levels last seen in November last year.



Source: <https://www.rbnz.govt.nz/>

### Trade

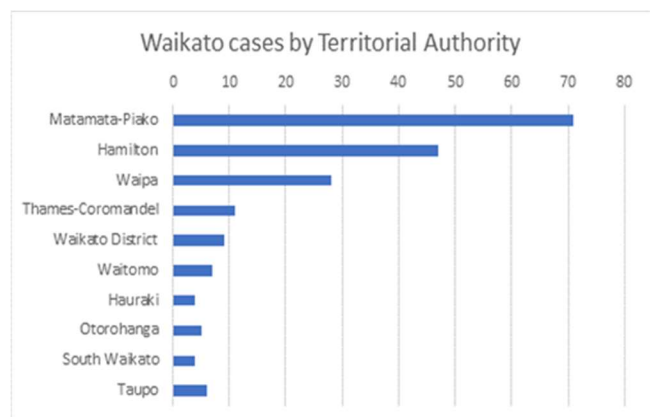
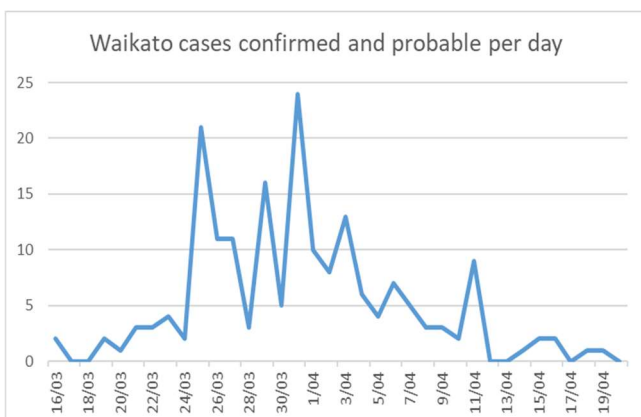
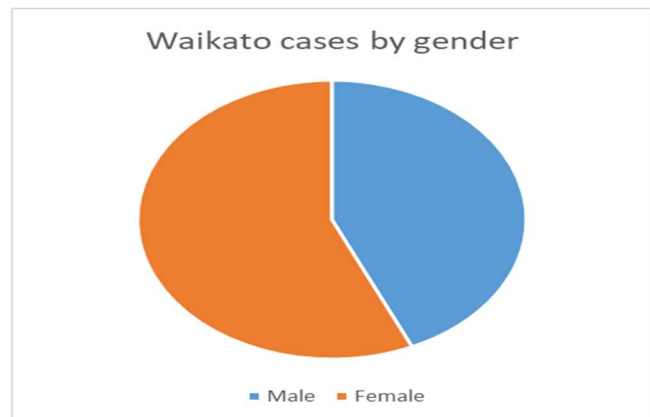
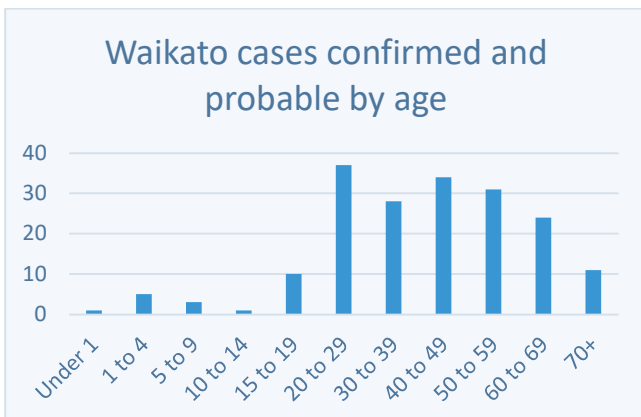
No new trade statistics since last week, provisional data to 15 April will be provided in our next release.



Source: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/>

### COVID-19 in the Waikato as at 21 April 2020

The Waikato DHB has had 185 confirmed and probable cases - 84 active cases, 100 recovered, and one deceased.



Source: <https://www.health.govt.nz/> and <https://waikatodhb.health.nz>