

Helping the Waikato through COVID-19



Economic Radar as at 15.4.2020

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

From this week, Te Waka will begin publishing a range of indicators from a variety of sources to track our region's progress.

It will be no surprise that many of the charts paint a painful picture. Consumer spending in the region has crashed, with only supermarkets, pharmacies and fuel sales allowed to continue to operate, albeit with new physical distancing requirements. Movement around the region – both by air and by road – has also slumped. One brighter spot for the region is agriculture. Most of our dairy and meat produce is exported, and provisional data for New Zealand to the end of March shows that both of these have held up well – even increasing in terms of value compared with the previous year. Forestry exports, on the other hand, are well down on a year ago, although total exports remain strong. A decline in the New Zealand dollar against the key US and Chinese currencies since the beginning of the year should help on this front too.

As we wait to find out when we will be able to begin a move out of Alert Level 4 and what the new normal may be, we will continue to scan for signs of trouble, stabilisation, or sparks of life.

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.

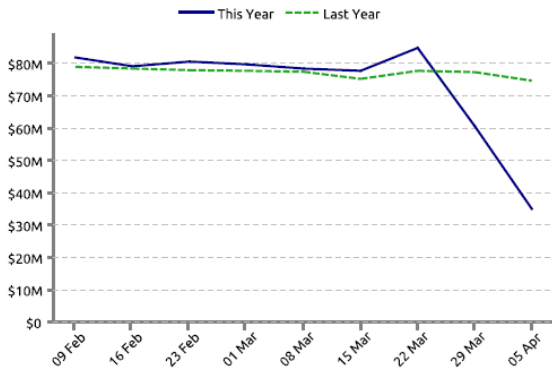
District level data can be obtained for some of the information contained in this report. Te Waka wishes to continue to progress conversations on the streamlining of obtaining this data with our ED community and business.

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

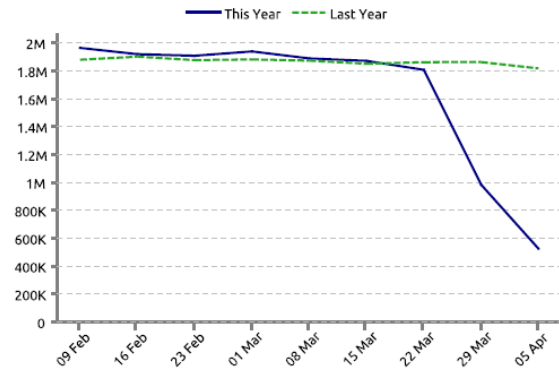
Michelle Hollands michelle.hollands@tewaka.nz

Waikato Weekly Card Transactions

1. WEEKLY VALUE OF SPENDING



2. WEEKLY NUMBER OF TRANSACTIONS



3. Change in value of spending

SWLY	CUMULATIVE
-53.1%	-5.4%

4. Change in number of transactions

SWLY	CUMULATIVE
-71.0%	-11.9%

SWLY = % change in spending (or transactions) relative to the Same Week Last Year
 Cumulative = % change in spending made since 3 February 2020 compared to the same period in 2019

5. WEEKLY SPENDING CHANGE BY CATEGORY

	SWLY		Cumulative	
	\$	#	\$	#
Food, liquor & pharmacies	+13.4%	-41.4%	+15.7%	-1.2%
Hospitality & Accommodation	-98.4%	-99.4%	-21.0%	-22.9%
Fuel & Automotive	-73.1%	-67.6%	-13.2%	-12.7%
Clothing, Footwear & Dept. Stores	-99.8%	-100.0%	-27.1%	-28.1%
Home & Recreational Retailing	-97.9%	-99.7%	-7.5%	-9.8%
All other	-97.8%	-97.2%	-25.4%	-22.6%
TOTAL	-53.1%	-71.0%	-5.4%	-11.9%

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%

7. Change by Origin of Cardholder

	SWLY		Cumulative	
	\$	#	\$	#
INTERNATIONAL	-77.0%	-84.5%	-6.8%	-6.1%
NZ CARDS	-52.2%	-70.7%	-5.3%	-12.1%

8. WEEKLY VALUE OF SPENDING - ALL OF NZ

New Zealand	SWLY		Cumulative	
	\$	#	\$	#
	-54.1%	-72.3%	-6.1%	-13.3%

Source: Marketview using Paymark data

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

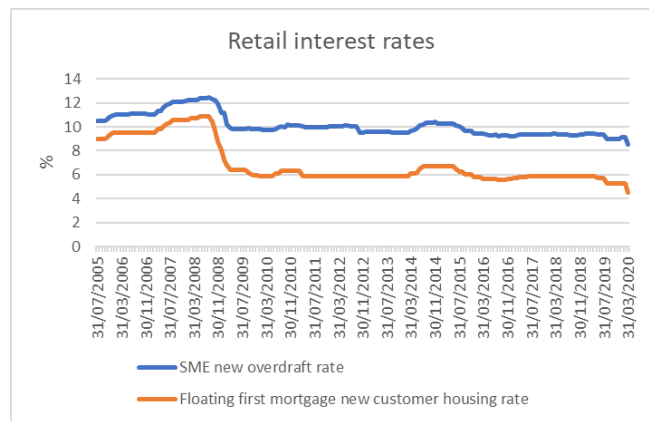
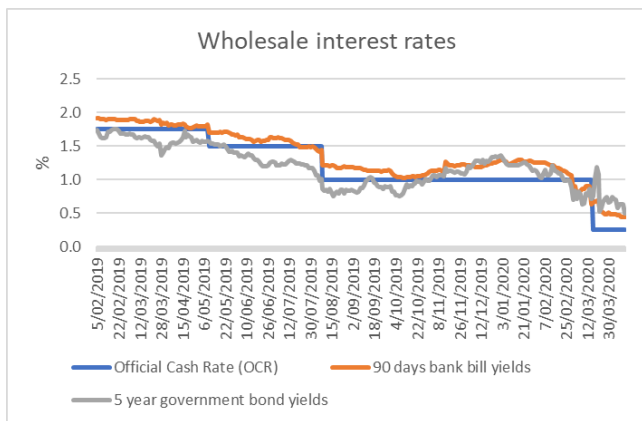
Table Five – provides a change spending / transactions breakdown by key category within Waikato Region

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

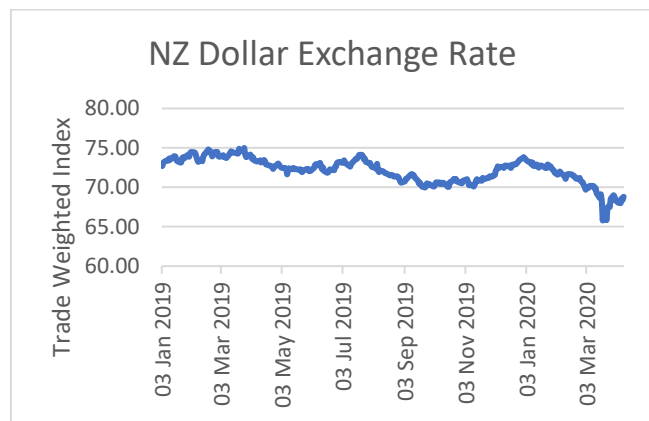
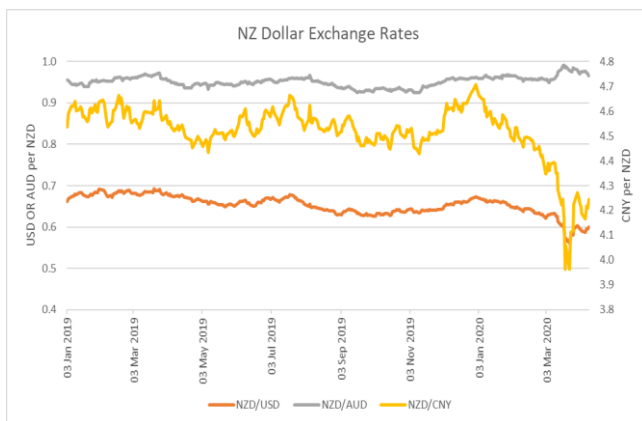
Table Eight - provides the change in spending / transactions for our national sample.

Interest Rates (retail and wholesale)



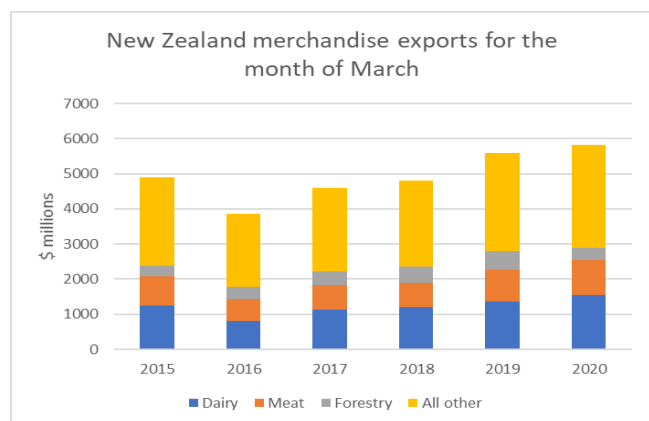
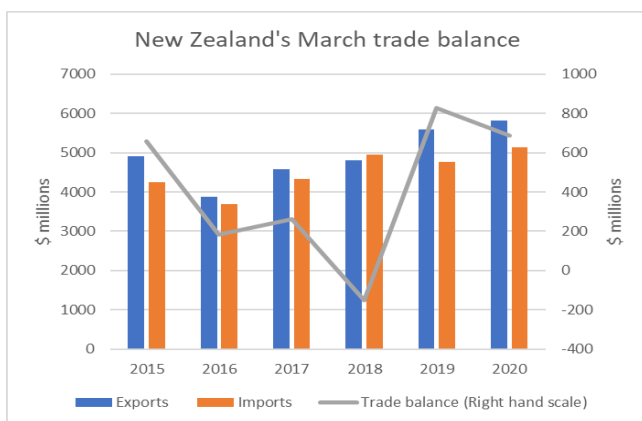
Source: <https://www.rbnz.govt.nz/statistics/>

Exchange Rates



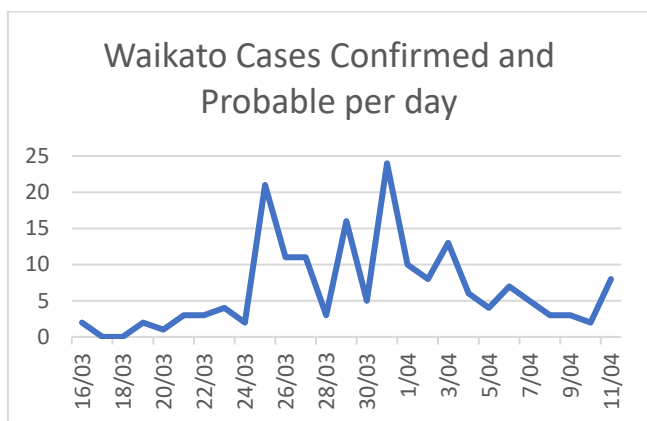
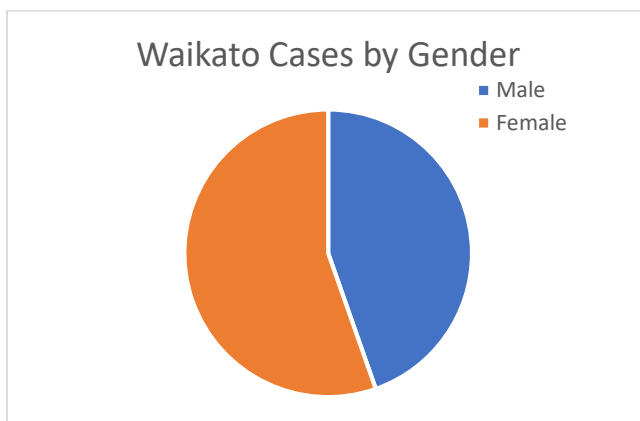
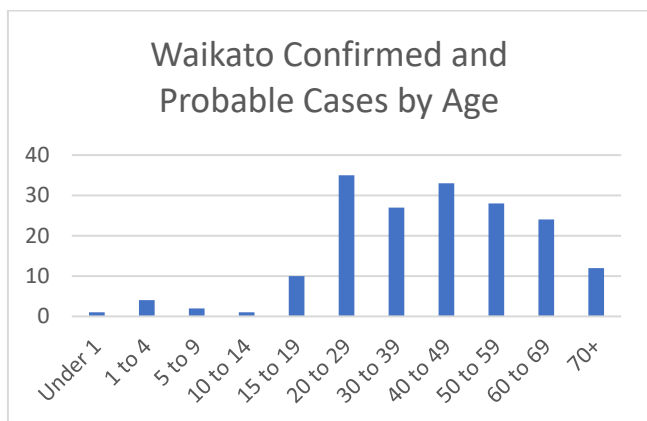
Source: <https://www.rbnz.govt.nz/statistics/b1>

Merchandise Trade



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

COVID-19 in the Waikato as at 14.4.2020



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