

Feedback

We welcome feedback from New Zealand exporters on this report and invite requests for reporting from New Zealand's [network of Embassies and High Commissions](#). If you would like to be added to the weekly distribution list for this report, please also email us at exports@mfat.net.

Domestic Updates

- On 8 April, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern [announced](#) that **New Zealand** would **temporarily suspend arrivals from India**, with effect from 4:00pm Sunday 11 April 2021 NZT, and will remain in place until Wednesday 28 April 2021. This suspension applies to New Zealand citizens, residents, temporary entry visa holders, and transit visa holders who have been in India within the past 14 days. This is a temporary suspension until we are able to better manage the current situation. Agencies are investigating options to manage this risk moving forward.

Global & Multilateral Updates

- Public consultations** were launched on Thursday 1 April **requesting feedback from New Zealanders** on additional economies joining **the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)**. This follows **the United Kingdom's** formal request to join. In view of potential interest from other economies in joining, submissions are sought regarding accession in general. Any economy wanting to join the CPTPP will need to show how it will comply with the existing obligations contained in the agreement and how it will meet the high standards of market access agreed by CPTPP members. Accession negotiations can be expected to focus on ensuring that the commitments new members make on market access for goods, services, investment, government procurement and temporary entry for business persons meet the high standards already agreed by existing CPTPP members. Submissions can be made [here](#) and close on 2 May.

Regional Updates

Asia

- Singapore** has become the first participating country to **ratify the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)** and deposit its ratification instrument with the ASEAN Secretary-General. The announcement follows figures from Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry confirming Singapore's economy grew by 0.2% on a year-on-year basis in the first quarter of 2021; the economy's first quarterly growth since the first quarter of 2019 and a turnaround from the 2.4% contraction recorded in the previous quarter.
- On 7 April, **Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte** announced the **reduction of import tariffs on pork** in order to encourage pork imports. The Philippines is currently facing a domestic pork shortage due to the impacts of COVID on the domestic labour force, however ongoing international freight pricing is likely to continue to be a factor in the viability of exports to the Philippine market.
- Minister of State for Trade and Export Growth, Phil Twyford** was a **keynote international speaker** at the Sri Ram College of Commerce 2021 Business Conclave on 3-4 April, one of the most highly regarded commerce and education forums in **India**. Other speakers included the Indian Ministers of Environment, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Finance as well as prominent Indian companies. Minister Twyford provided a pre-recorded speech for the virtual event, which was expected to reach an audience of over 25,000 people (mainly in India). Minister Twyford spoke about about New Zealand's COVID response, and aspirations for the New Zealand-India relationship.

Europe

- This week, as a result of the **easing of the lockdown restrictions** in line with the **UK Government's Roadmap**, shops, hairdressers, and restaurants/pubs with outdoor dining facilities have reopened for the first time since the latest lockdown commenced in 2020. The next few months will provide a sense of the UK's next steps in major areas like international travel, vaccine certification and long term social distancing measures.
- Earlier this week the **British Chambers of Commerce** released their **Trade Confidence Outlook** for the first quarter of the year. The report can be read [here](#).
- On 10 April, **French** lawmakers voted to **ban domestic flights** on routes **that can be covered by train in under two-and-a-half hours**. The measure is part of a broader 'climate and resilience' bill that aims to cut French carbon emissions by 40% in 2030 from 1990 levels. The planned measures will face a further vote in the Senate before becoming law.

Americas

- On 12 April, **US President Joe Biden** attended a [virtual White House CEO summit on semiconductor and supply chain resilience](#) with CEOs from industries (e.g. tech and auto) affected by the semiconductor shortage.
- On 7 April, the **US Treasury** [released](#) its "**Made in America Tax Plan Report**," a tax proposal that would help fund the initiatives within the Biden Administration's [American Jobs Plan](#). The tax plan's goal is to make American companies and workers more competitive by eliminating incentives to offshore investment, substantially reducing profit shifting, countering tax competition on corporate rates, and providing tax preferences for clean energy production.

Middle East and Africa

- On 7 April, **New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE)** hosted a virtual '**Taste New Zealand Conference and Exhibition**' in **Saudi Arabia** to connect New Zealand exporters with leading Saudi distributors and key government agencies, as well as promote New Zealand's food and beverage industry. 19 guest speakers from a range of Saudi ministries, distributors, and retailers presented to the conference, while New Zealand companies were able to showcase their products and meet with potential clients in 'virtual booths.'
- On 13 April NZTE and MFAT participated in a webinar '**Entering Ethiopia: Demystifying investment opportunities in Ethiopia**' co-hosted by the Ethiopian Embassy to New Zealand (in Canberra) and the Africa-New Zealand Business Council. The event garnered good attendance from a diverse pool of stakeholders and highlighted a range of business and investment opportunities in Ethiopia, including in the agriculture and renewable energy sectors.

Market reports released this week

- The previous global economic and trade update can be found [here](#).

External links

The following links may provide useful information to businesses:

- [NZTE](#) has a website focused on providing COVID-19 information for exporters. They've also launched [myNZTE](#), an interactive digital portal of insights and tools available to all New Zealand exporters.
 - The Treasury releases a [weekly economic update](#) every Friday. Stats NZ has published a [data portal](#) with near real-time economic indicators.
 - MBIE publishes a [sector reports series](#) which provides regularly updated reports on all industry sectors that make up the New Zealand economy. These include official economic data and the challenges and opportunities that face New Zealand's industry sectors.
 - [Business.govt.nz](#) provides tools and advice from across government to save small businesses' time and help make the business a success.
 - MFAT has created a [tariff finder](#) which is designed to help goods exporters and importers maximise benefits from New Zealand's Free Trade Agreements and compare tariffs in 136 other markets.
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More reports

View full list of market reports from MFAT at www.mfat.govt.nz/market-reports

If you would like to request a topic for reporting please email exports@mfat.net

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