

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

- **New Zealand's total two-way trade in the first half of 2021** fell 3% on the same period last year, as a decline in total exports was only partially offset by a rebound in total imports. This weak overall performance was dragged down by tourism-related services; outside of tourism and export education, however, trade generally experienced a broad-based recovery. **China's** role as our largest goods trading partner has grown as its economy led the global post-COVID recovery in the first half of 2021. The share of New Zealand's goods exports heading to China rose to 31% in the year to June 2021 – the highest on record.
- **New Zealand's goods exports** grew 1% in the first half of 2021 compared to the same period last year, and were 3% higher than 2019's pre-COVID levels. Exports of dairy, meat, and logs performed well on the back of strong global demand and high prices, although poor weather and labour supply constraints affected exports of wine and some fruit. New Zealand's **goods imports** rebounded strongly, supported by the domestic economic recovery and higher NZD. They were up 14% on the same period last year and 2% higher than 2019. Household demand for consumption goods led to strong growth in imports of furniture and toys and games, while improving business confidence led to a recovery in imports of capital goods like electrical machinery.
- **Services trade** remains severely constrained by border restrictions. Services **exports** were down 43% in the first half of 2021 compared to the same period last year, and 53% lower than 2019 levels. Trade in travel (including tourism) and transportation services is only a fraction of what it was pre-COVID, but ICT services and services related to screen productions provided a couple of bright spots.
- The Government announced that **Auckland** will continue to stay at **COVID-19 Alert Level 4** while the **rest of New Zealand** will remain at **Alert Level 2** for at least a further week. These settings will be reviewed on Monday the 20th of September. For further information, please continue to refer to the New Zealand government COVID-19 website <https://covid19.govt.nz/>, including information about [doing business at different Alert Level settings](#) and [financial support for businesses](#).
- On Wednesday 15 September, Minister for COVID-19 Response Hon Chris Hipkins announced that the **pause on MIQ room releases is to be lifted** on Monday 20 September, including the release of approximately 3000 MIQ vouchers spread across the period from release until and including December. This release will launch and pilot the new 'Virtual Lobby' mechanism. Further information can be found in the MIQ website [here](#).
- On 10 September, the Government [announced](#) that **one-way quarantine-free travel for Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) workers** from **Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu** will start in October. This is the first stage of one-way quarantine-free travel with these three countries, initially for RSE workers. Officials in New Zealand are working with partner Pacific countries and the industry on the final measures that need to be in place, with exact flight dates in October to be confirmed.

Regional Updates

Australia and the Pacific

- The **Australian state of Victoria** has joined **New South Wales** in conceding it will **not eliminate COVID-19**, as daily cases in the state climbed to more than 200 early this week. Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews

said the purpose of the state's lockdown was now to "buy us time" for vaccination rates to increase. **Western Australia** and **Queensland** continue to pursue elimination and are now signaling they may not adhere to a previously agreed national plan to ease restrictions once key vaccination targets are reached. Australian health officials also announced this week that **quarantine-free flights from New Zealand would continue to be paused** until at least 14 September due to the outbreak here.

- It is now a **requirement of entry** for all **travelers to American Sāmoa** to be **fully vaccinated** against COVID-19. This follows the decision by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to issue a full biological license for the Pfizer vaccine for 16 years and older. The American Sāmoa Government's (ASG) Declaration of Ongoing Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency issued on August 13, 2021, made vaccination a condition of entry as soon as the FDA fully approved a vaccine. With a view to possibly easing of border controls later in 2021, the government has introduced a **Safe Travel American Sāmoa (STAS) flight system** which no longer required pre-departure quarantine in Hawaii, but does include pre-departure COVID-19 testing requirements and on-arrival MIQ and testing before release.

Asia

- **Viet Nam's** seven-day **COVID-19** case average is currently 12,706 cases daily, with Ho Chi Minh City and surrounding provinces worst affected. The **economic impact of the lockdown** is being felt, with restrictions on transport movement, domestic travel, and strict operating conditions severely constraining supply chains and business operations. The Government of Viet Nam continues to pursue its two-pronged approach to addressing the pandemic impacts: maintaining the public's health and reducing the economic impacts. The World Bank has cut its GDP growth projection for 2021 by 2 percentage points to around 4.8%.

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

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