



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE
Manatū Aorere

17 MARCH 2025

Weekly Global Economic Report

MARKET INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Trade and economic updates

Domestic

Government Export focused Roadshow

- All of Government Roadshow 2025 begins this week. MFAT is participating in this Export NZ event which brings together representatives from government agencies and government-funded programmes for a country roadshow. This free series of events is designed to give exporters and businesses the opportunity to hear from government partners about how they are supporting exporters and an opportunity to engage directly. The events run between the 17 March and 2 April, in Dunedin, Cromwell, Christchurch, Wellington, Hawke's Bay, Tauranga, Hamilton, and Auckland. More details about the events and to register can be found [here](#).

NZTE Board appointment

- Trade and Investment Minister, Todd McClay, has announced the appointment of Charles Finny as Chair of the Board of New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE).
- NZTE is the Government's international business development agency tasked with supporting Kiwi businesses to export more and grow international markets. Mr Finny has more than 40 years of experience in the trade and export sector. He was the chief executive of the Wellington Regional Chamber of Commerce, a former diplomat and trade negotiator who helped to achieve trade agreements with Singapore, China and Taiwan, and a former chair of Education New Zealand. He previously served on the NZTE Board from 2009 to 2021. Cabinet has agreed to refocus the work of NZTE to drive greater export value and open more markets for New Zealand export businesses.

APEC

- The APEC Secretariat, based in Singapore, recently released a [report](#) that highlights growing economic challenges, with slowing growth and rising fiscal pressures, aggravated by ageing populations. While near-term prospects are stable, risks affecting the medium-term outlook are intensifying due to persistent trade barriers, geopolitical tensions, and structural constraints. Strengthening resilience requires bold policy action, including advancing structural reforms to boost productivity and innovation, while maintaining sound fiscal and monetary policies to ensure economic stability. Deepening regional cooperation is essential to mitigate trade vulnerabilities and navigate global uncertainties.
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South and South East Asia

Prime Minister Luxon visits Viet Nam

- From 25 to 28 February, Prime Minister Luxon visited Viet Nam accompanied by Minister of State for Trade and Investment, Nicola Grigg, and a delegation of New Zealand business leaders.
 - The Prime Minister's visit to Viet Nam on the 50th anniversary of our diplomatic relationship reinforced our thriving bilateral relationship, reaffirmed our commitment to increasing trade and economic integration, and uncovered some new opportunities for collaboration.
 - The highlight of the visit was the formal upgrade of New Zealand's bilateral relationship with Viet Nam to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, the highest diplomatic status accorded by Viet Nam.
 - A suite of education and commercial initiatives were announced during the visit, including the VietJet's announcement of a new flight route connecting Viet Nam and New Zealand.
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Europe

European Central Bank Macroeconomic Projections

- Last week, the European Central Bank (ECB) released its latest macroeconomic projections, highlighting a cautiously optimistic outlook for the Eurozone in 2025. The ECB forecasts a modest recovery with a growth rate of 1.3%, driven by strengthening domestic demand and easing inflation. Additionally, the ECB's projection of stabilizing inflation and favourable credit conditions may encourage renewed European investment. This projected economic stability in Europe provides a positive backdrop for businesses looking to expand their market presence and attract European investors.

Ireland's Foreign Direct Investment Settings

- Ireland is a global leader in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI) and serves as a model for New Zealand, especially as the country places growing importance on securing investment for its economy and infrastructure projects.
 - Yet, Ireland itself is being [urged to deliver urgent](#) reforms in infrastructure and business in order to remain attractive to international investors.
 - Ireland's housing shortage, airport congestion, and energy supply limitations are all areas experts draw attention to in order for the country to remain competitive.
 - While transatlantic trade wars risk hurting Ireland's strong position as a gateway between Europe and the US, experts argue the country should do more to also attract investment from outside of the US.
 - For more information on the driver's behind Ireland's success, refer to MFAT's [Market Intelligence Report](#) on FDI.
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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 have suggestions on a topic you would like to hear more about, or to subscribe to this weekly update, you can sign up [here](#) or email us at exports@mfat.net

External links

The following links may provide useful information to businesses:

- [NZTE's website](#) and [myNZTE](#) provide a range of insights and tools available to support 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.
- The all of government [Trade Barriers](#) website can be used to register any trade barriers experienced or issues exporting to an offshore market. Queries can be sent via the website or through the MFAT Exporter Helpline 0800 824 605. Enquiries will be sent to the government agency best placed to answer.
- Tatauranga Aotearoa Stats NZ provides official data on the value of New Zealand's exports and imports of both goods and services, by commodity type via the [New Zealand Trade Dashboard](#). This interactive dashboard is updated every quarter and allows for filtering by country and by commodity type.

More info

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

To get email alerts when new reports are published, go to our [subscription page](#).

To learn more about exporting to this market, New Zealand Trade & Enterprise's comprehensive [market guides](#) cover export regulations, business culture, market-entry strategies and more.

To contact the Export Helpdesk

email exports@mfat.net

call 0800 824 605

visit Tradebarriers.govt.nz

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