

NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE
Manatū Aorere

17 NOVEMBER 2026

Weekly Global Economic Report

MARKET INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Trade and economic updates

US Lamb Investigation to proceed to remedy phase

The United States International Trade Commission section 201 safeguard investigation into lamb imports will proceed to the remedy phase, after an evenly split vote on injury on Saturday 14 November (NZT).

The investigation will now move to consideration of possible safeguard measures. New Zealand government and industry will continue to advocate that our exports of lamb are not causing harm to the U.S. domestic industry and therefore should not be subject to trade restrictive measures.

New Zealand will participate in the ITC's hearing on remedy on 1 December. Following the hearing, the Commission will make its recommendation to the U.S. President, who will ultimately decide whether to impose safeguard measures or not. The investigation is currently expected to conclude in late March 2027, following the President's determination.

China: AI-driven exports help offset weak domestic demand

China's economy grew 4.5% year-on-year in Q3 2026, keeping it on track to achieve the lower end of its annual growth target. Growth remains heavily reliant on external demand with weak consumption and an ongoing property downturn continuing to weigh on domestic activity.

China's trade surplus exceeded US$1 trillion in the first ten months of 2026, supported by strong exports of AI-related products, including semiconductors and other high-tech goods. Exports rose 35.2% year-on-year in October, while the value of semiconductor exports increased 111.1% over the first ten months of the year, reflecting robust global demand linked to investment in AI infrastructure.

Thailand seeks earlier OECD accession, eyes investment from major US corporations.

Thailand is seeking to accelerate its accession to the OECD by two years from its initial goal or membership by 2030. As a part of this push, recent government efforts have focused on promoting Thailand as a destination for foreign investment and managing

technological development. These efforts have included promotion of Thailand's new investment initiative, Thailand FastPass (launched June 2026), as a method to simplify investment procedures and reduce the need for businesses to deal separately with multiple government agencies, while addressing obstacles and discriminatory treatment during investment approvals. It aims to lessen approval times for qualifying projects by up to 50%. New Zealand businesses with regional interests may wish to monitor further developments in the investment environment.

Upcoming Events and Webinars

Global Trade Breakfast: Growing Canterbury's Global Reach | Christchurch

Wednesday 18 November, 7:30AM-9:30AM

Join Business Canterbury for its final Global Trade Breakfast of 2026, featuring an update on Lyttelton Port's $821 million Te Awaparahi Bay expansion and practical insights into exporting to Germany and the EU. Hear from industry experts on market opportunities, trade pathways, and the future of Canterbury's international trade connections, with opportunities for networking and discussion.

Note: this is a non-government event hosted by Business Canterbury

Register Here

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

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