



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE
Manatū Aorere

19 OCTOBER 2026

Weekly Global Economic Report

MARKET INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Trade and economic updates

IMF sees resilient global growth but risks remain elevated

The International Monetary Fund's (IMF) latest [World Economic Outlook](#) finds the global economy has remained more resilient than expected in 2026 despite the ongoing conflict in the Middle East and persistent trade tensions. Strong investment in AI and technology has helped support global activity, while businesses and governments have adapted to repeated shocks through supply chain adjustments, inventory management, and targeted policy support.

The IMF forecasts global growth of 3.1% in 2026 and 3.4% in 2027 but warns the benefits of growth are being felt unevenly. Economies linked to technology investment and AI supply chains are performing relatively strongly, while many energy-importing and lower-income countries face higher import costs, weaker demand, and increased fiscal pressures. Global inflation is expected to rise to 4.7% in 2026 before easing to 4.1% in 2027. The IMF assesses that risks remain tilted to the downside, including escalation in the Middle East, renewed trade tensions, fiscal vulnerabilities, and a potential correction in AI-related investment.

International tourism nears full recovery in August

Stats NZ data show that nearly 250,000 overseas visitors arrived in New Zealand in August 2026, equivalent to 99% of the arrivals recorded in August 2019 before the COVID-19 pandemic. Australia remained New Zealand's largest visitor market in August, accounting for 51% of arrivals and reaching a record number of visitors for an August month. China was the second-largest source market, accounting for 11% of August arrivals, an increase of around 32% compared with August 2025. Record August arrivals were also recorded from Taiwan and Singapore, while visitor numbers from the United States, Malaysia, Indonesia and Japan increased compared with a year earlier. The strong international visitor arrival numbers provide a boost to a sector that is New Zealand's second-largest export earner and directly or indirectly supports one in nine jobs.

For more information see: [International travel: August 2026](#) | [Stats NZ](#)

Viet Nam seeks foreign investment to help reach double digit economic growth

Viet Nam's economy continues to grow at one of the fastest rates in Asia, with GDP expanding 9.95% in quarter three and 9.01% over the first nine months of 2026. The government is pursuing an ambitious goal of sustaining growth at or near 10% through infrastructure investment, industrial upgrading, and higher-value sectors such as technology, AI, and advanced manufacturing. To help finance this expansion, Vietnamese banks are seeking nearly [US\\$7 billion](#) in new capital and authorities are gradually opening the financial sector to greater foreign participation. These reforms may create opportunities for New Zealand investors, financial institutions, education providers, and technology firms seeking exposure to a rapidly growing market.

Upcoming Events and Webinars

Aussie Minds for Kiwi Exporters | Online

Thursday 22 October, 1:00PM

Join The Research Agency (TRA), the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE) for a webinar designed for New Zealand businesses looking to better understand and succeed in the Australian market.

[Register Here](#)

ASEAN Export Success | Online

Wednesday 28 October, 12:30PM-1:30PM

Exporting isn't for the faint of heart – navigating rules of origin, tariff rates, standards, non-tariff barriers and free trade agreements, it can be hard to know where to get the help you need. The ASEAN New Zealand Business Council is hosting a quick-fire panel of the key New Zealand Government agencies that support your export journey.

[Register Here](#)

Exporter Outlook & Leveraging our FTAs | Christchurch

Tuesday 17 November, 7:30AM-9:30AM

Join ExportNZ and the Christchurch Business Club for a briefing from two of New Zealand's leading diplomats. Gain insights into the evolving global trade environment and practical advice on how to leverage New Zealand's suite of free trade agreements to support business growth and export success.

[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

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

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.govt.nz

call 0800 824 605

visit Tradebarriers.govt.nz

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