NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE
Manatū Aorere

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Weekly Global Economic Report

MARKET INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Trade and economic updates

International

Korea deepens energy and minerals cooperation with Central Asia

Korea agreed to expand cooperation on critical minerals, energy and industrial investment at its first summit with five Central Asian countries in Seoul on 16 September. Meetings with Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan over 14–16 September produced more than 70 agreements and memorandums of understanding. The agenda extends beyond importing raw materials: industry ministers agreed to pursue local refining, smelting and advanced materials production, combining Central Asian resources, including lithium and rare earths, with Korean technology. They also supported greater Korean participation in industrial complexes, infrastructure and factory modernisation. Leaders agreed to hold summits every two years, with Kazakhstan hosting in 2028.

Costa Rica joins the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA)

Costa Rica has officially become the fifth member of the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement (DEPA), marking the further expansion of the groundbreaking digital trade agreement originally established by New Zealand, Chile and Singapore in 2020. The DEPA commits Parties to ambitious disciplines on digital trade to advance the growth of an inclusive, innovative, and rules-based digital economy. It also provides a platform for collaboration on projects of mutual interest.

The expansion of DEPA to include Costa Rica, an economy which meets all of the Agreement's high standards, will strengthen the Agreement and provide Parties with greater opportunities to collaborate on digital economy initiatives.
See the joint press release: Joint Press Release on the successful accession of Costa Rica to the Digital Economy Partnership Agreement

New Zealand goods exports to China in financial year 2026

Total New Zealand goods exports to China were up 4.3% to NZ$19.8 billion in the year to June 2026 (FY26), compared to a 10% overall increase in New Zealand's global goods exports in the same period. This is almost back up to the 2023 peak (NZ$20.4 billion). Two-way trade has totalled a new record of NZ$44 billion. The growth in goods exports has been driven by food and beverage (F&B) exports, up from a recent low of $12.9 billion in FY24 to $15.5 billion in FY26. Non-F&B has continued in the $4.1-5.6 billion band since 2017, with $4.5 billion exported in FY26.

The "Big Four" (dairy, forestry, meat and fruit) categories make up nearly 88% of New Zealand's total exports to China: dairy (51.1%); forestry (16.7%); meat (12.7%), and fruit (7.1%). Several small but prominent categories – including wine, wool, petfood, health supplements, honey, etc – make up the remaining 12%.

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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