

NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE
Manatū Aorere

27 OCTOBER 2026

Weekly Global Economic Report

MARKET INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Trade and economic updates

New Zealand-India Free Trade Agreement enters into force

The New Zealand–India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) entered into force on Tuesday 20 October, meaning exporters can now begin accessing tariff reductions and other benefits in one of the largest and fastest-growing global markets.

- 57% of New Zealand's current exports to India are now able to enter duty free.
- This will rise to 82% when the agreement is fully implemented within 10 years.
- In addition, a further 13% of exports will benefit from sharp tariff cuts following full implementation.

This means, in time, 95% of current exports will benefit from tariff preferences under the FTA.

Key exports such as forestry products, wool, sheepmeat, kiwifruit and apples, as well as most industrial products, will benefit from improved market access, creating meaningful new opportunities for New Zealand exporters. In addition, more streamlined customs processes and greater transparency are also intended to reduce friction and give exporters more certainty.

Resources for exporters include Using the NZ–India FTA to Grow Your Business, which includes a cross-agency e-booklet: New Zealand-India Free Trade Agreement – unlocking a market of 1.4 billion customers

For more information, visit www.mfat.govt.nz/indiafta and find FTA tariff rates on the Tariff Finder.

Public consultation opens on electronic trade documents

MBIE is seeking feedback on options for New Zealand to adopt the UNCITRAL Model Law on Electronic Transferable Records (MLETR), which provides a framework for the legal recognition and use of electronic trade documents.

The six-week consultation, running from 23 October to 6 December 2026, seeks views on four options for reform:

- Option 1: Regulatory amendment

- Option 2: New CCLA Part based on the UK model (preliminary preferred option)
- Option 3: New CCLA Part based on the Singapore model
- Option 4: Amend multiple statutes

MBIE invites anyone with an interest in electronic trade documents or digital trade to submit. This could include exporters and importers, industry associations, freight and shipping operators, legal professionals, export support providers, technology providers, and banks and trade finance providers.

More information is available on MBIE's website here: Give feedback on options to enable electronic trade documents in New Zealand | Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment.

New Zealand and Brazil establish Trade and Investment Dialogue

New Zealand and Brazil have agreed to establish a Trade and Investment Dialogue aimed at strengthening economic engagement and expanding opportunities for trade and investment. The new mechanism will provide a platform for cooperation on trade and economic issues, including multilateral trade matters and WTO reform, while also supporting discussions on ways to deepen the broader bilateral trade relationship. Two-way trade between New Zealand and Brazil was worth NZ$528 million in the year to March 2026, including NZ$205 million in New Zealand exports and NZ$323 million in imports from Brazil. Initial discussions under the Dialogue are expected to take place following the completion of both countries' election processes, with dates yet to be confirmed.

Read more here: New Zealand and Brazil agree Trade and Investment Dialogue | Beehive.govt.nz

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New Zealand and Canada establish annual Trade and Investment Dialogue

New Zealand and Canada have agreed to establish an annual Trade and Investment Dialogue to strengthen economic ties and identify opportunities to increase trade and investment. The Dialogue will provide a dedicated forum for senior officials to discuss bilateral trade issues, coordinate on international trade developments, and explore ways to expand commercial opportunities between the two countries.

Canada is New Zealand's tenth-largest export market and a significant economic partner as a fellow member of both the CPTPP and the WTO. Two-way trade totalled NZ$3.46

billion in the year ending June 2026, including NZ$2.18 billion in New Zealand exports and NZ$1.28 billion in imports from Canada. The Dialogue will take place annually at officials' level and will support broader efforts to deepen the trade relationship and promote export growth.

Read more here: Canada, NZ agree to boost trade and investment | Beehive.govt.nz

Upcoming Events and Webinars

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

Intellectual property and global trade discussion with Buddle Findlay and MFAT | Auckland & Online
Thursday 12 November, 1.00PM - 2.00PM

Join New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade's intellectual property experts Kate Neilson and Bernadine Eves, alongside Buddle Findlay intellectual property specialists Hamish Selby and Sophie Thoreau, to understand the international agreements and diplomatic efforts that help protect your intellectual property in international markets. Get an understanding of the foundational Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), learn how the New Zealand government negotiates intellectual property chapters in international Free Trade Agreements (including the most recent FTA with India), and find out what role Geographical Indications play.

Hamish and Sophie will bring this to life from a client perspective, sharing how they work directly with businesses day-to-day to protect and commercialise their intellectual property domestically and in international markets, and translate these international frameworks into practical, on-the-ground protection strategies.

Online: Register Here

In-Person: 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

Disclaimer

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