

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 would like to be added to the weekly distribution list for this report, please also email us at exports@mfat.net.

Domestic Updates

- The **New Zealand Government** has **reduced the COVID-19 alert level settings outside Auckland** to Alert Level 2 from Tuesday the 7th of August at 11:59 pm. The Auckland Region will remain at Alert Level 4. Decisions on further changes will be made on Monday the 13th of September. For further information, please refer to the New Zealand government COVID-19 website <https://covid19.govt.nz/>, including information about [doing business at different Alert Level settings](#) and [financial support for businesses](#).
- On 1 September, the Minister for COVID-19 Response Hon Chris Hipkins announced an **extension to the pause on future Managed Isolation Allocation System (MIAS) room releases** and a “**virtual lobby**” pilot for the next MIAS release. The MIQ system is currently under significant pressure due to the need to provide isolation and quarantine facilities for the New Zealand domestic COVID-19 outbreak. The Government is actively looking to ease that pressure with the current pause as well as via deferring or downsizing some large group arrivals. MIQ have also announced **changes to the categories for Emergency allocations**, including a new category for those who have suffered the bereavement of a close relative.

Regional Updates

Australia and the Pacific

- **Passengers were not permitted** on the most recent passenger flight from New Zealand to Niue on 6 September (Niue time, 7 Sept NZ time). The flight carried cargo and a small number of outbound passengers to New Zealand. Niue's Cabinet has also confirmed all inbound travellers are now required to be **vaccinated**.

Asia

- **China's Maritime Safety Authority** notified a **new regulation** on 27 August that requires **certain vessels to report in advance** before passing through China's “territorial sea” (a maritime zone extending 12 nautical miles from the baseline of a coastal state) and declare certain dangerous cargo. The regulation came into effect on 1 September. Agencies are analysing the new regulation and will provide further information as we complete that analysis.

Americas

- Prior to the Delta surge there were widespread expectations that **following Labor Day** (6 September) **economic recovery in the US** would kick into a higher gear. Instead, economists are noting event cancellations, reduced consumer spending, a hiring slow-down, travel restrictions and renewed mask mandates are indicative of a wider economic downturn. The **pace of hiring has dropped**, down from 1 million in June and July to 235,000 in August. Apple, Amazon, Wells Fargo, Chevron and Prudential Finance have all reversed plans to reopen in-person offices.
- On 7 September, **Canada reopened its border to non-essential travel for fully vaccinated international travellers** after a 17-month border closure (US travellers have been able to enter Canada for the past month). This permits quarantine-free entry into Canada (including for tourism or other non-essential purposes) for those who have received a negative COVID-19 PCR test and have proof of full vaccination at least 14 days prior to entry. Children up to the age of 12 are exempt from the requirement to be vaccinated. Further details are on the [Arrive Can](#) website.

- During the first semester of 2021, **Mexican airline passenger numbers grew** at an annual rate of 35.4%, reaching pre-pandemic levels. According to official data, the airlines transported 23.1 million passengers in the first six months of 2021, only 9.85% less than in 2019 for the same period. In 2020, the airlines lost over USD\$9.3 billion, with a decrease of 47% of national passengers and 59% of foreign passengers.
- On 31 August the **Argentine Government** announced the **extension of beef export restrictions** until the end of October. Exports will remain limited to half of the 2020 average monthly volumes, with some existing exceptions retained, including the sale of some cuts to the United States and Israel. Rural sector representatives remain in discussions on how to respond to this announcement.
- **Ecuador** President Guillermo Lasso publicly announced the **beginning of Free Trade Agreement (FTA) negotiations with China**, with the ambitious aim of signing an agreement by March 2022 – when Lasso indicated he would visit China at the invitation of Xi Jinping to attend the Winter Olympics. The FTA with China falls within Lasso’s aim to fast track agreements with major economies during his four year term. Lasso also reiterated Ecuador’s objective to conclude the process to join the **Pacific Alliance**.

Middle East and Africa

- **Qatar is introducing new shelf-life requirements** for a range of products in order to protect the domestic dairy industry, including UHT cream and cream. Qatar issued a similar circular in 2019 reducing the shelf life for UHT milk and mozzarella cheese to 45 days. In this latest measure issued in August, Qatar has extended the scope of the 2019 requirements to **include more dairy products** as well requiring that **at least 80% of the shelf life of the product is remaining** at the time the product arrives in market. With the significant freight distance, this will likely have some impact on New Zealand dairy exports into the country. MFAT and MPI are clarifying these requirements and considering any further actions. **Further information will be provided in due course**. The measure also prohibits the import of products from countries deemed to have **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)** as reported by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), which includes Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Morocco.

Market reports released this week

- The previous global economic and trade update can be found [here](#).
- A report on [Opportunities in Thailand for New Zealand Agritech](#), prepared by the New Zealand Embassy in Bangkok, with input from NZTE, has been published.
- A report is now available on [German Businesses Keen to Diversify their Sources of Supply](#), prepared by the New Zealand Embassy Berlin, in consultation with NZTE Berlin.
- A report on [Singapore’s Construction Industry](#) was prepared by the New Zealand Embassy in Singapore.

External links

The following links may provide useful information to businesses:

- [NZTE](#) has a website focused on providing COVID-19 information for exporters. They’ve also launched [myNZTE](#), an interactive digital portal of insights and tools available to all 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.
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More reports

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