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Local economic effects of COVID-19 Rotorua Lakes District Council

Rob Heyes – Senior Economist Brad Olsen – Senior Economist Andrew Whiteford – Managing Director

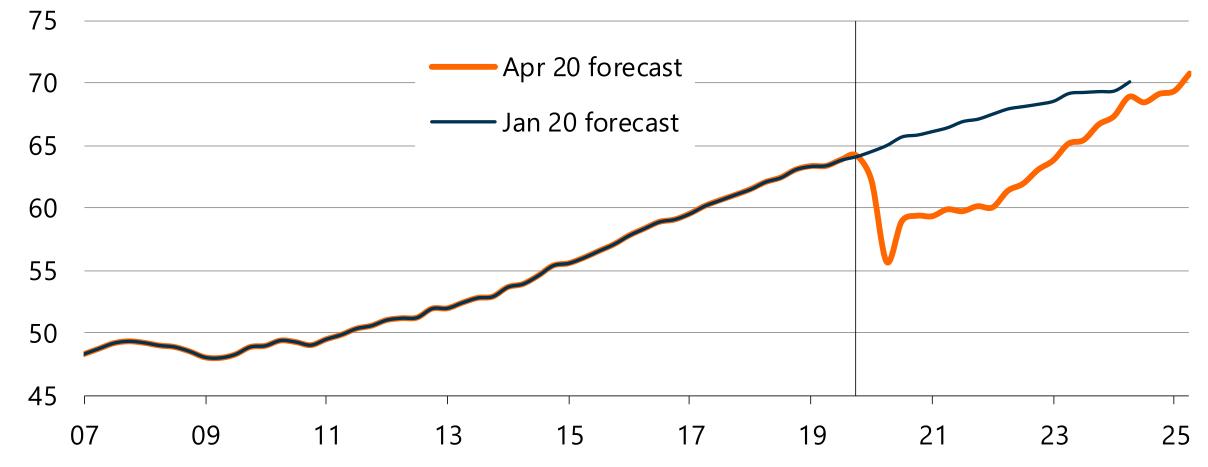
27 May 2020

Macro-economic overview



This recovery will take time

GDP forecast comparison, quarterly seasonally adjusted, 2009/10 \$b





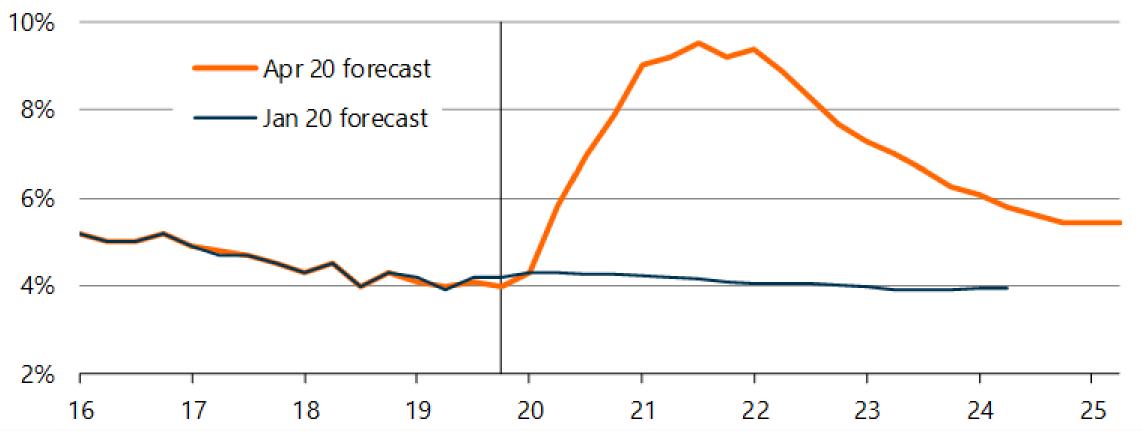
Our assumptions

- Lockdown: is 4¹/₂ weeks at Level 4 and 2 weeks at Level 3
- Economic activity: 65% under Level 4, 82% under level 3
- **Exports:** global demand for food OK but non-food exports will take a hit
- **Tourism: 91%** fall in foreign tourism this year, **21%** decline in domestic tourism
- International education: revenue halves this year
- **Domestic education: 8%** increase this year
- House prices: 11% drop by the end of 2021
- Construction: residential and non-residential construction work down 20% this year, prospects for civil construction are positive
- **Government: \$10b** wage subsidy scheme and **\$2.5b** increase in social welfare benefits of \$25 per week.



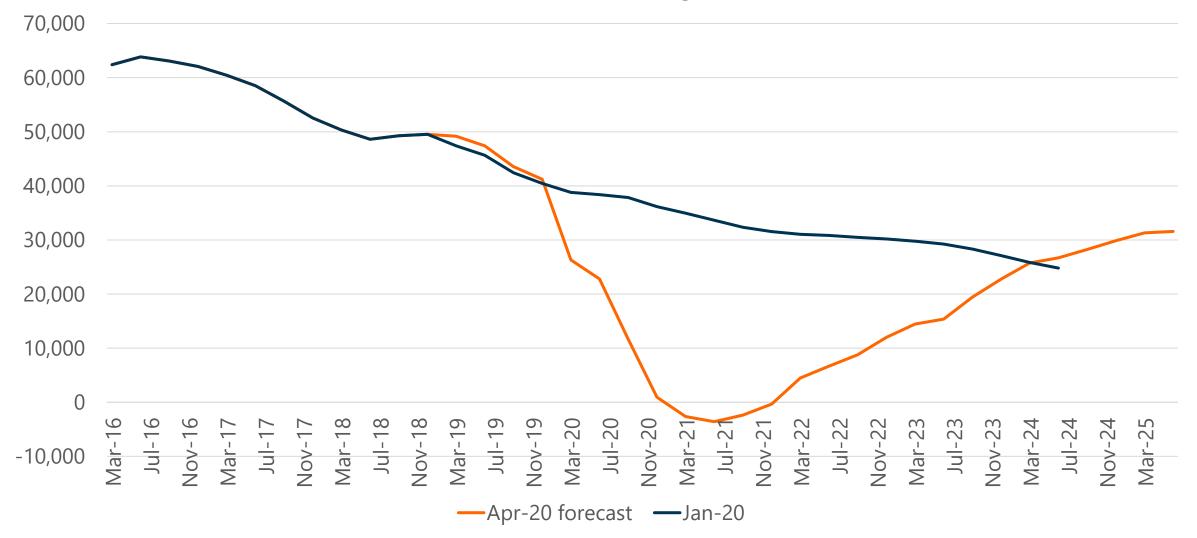
The labour market has a mountain to climb

Forecast comparison of the unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted

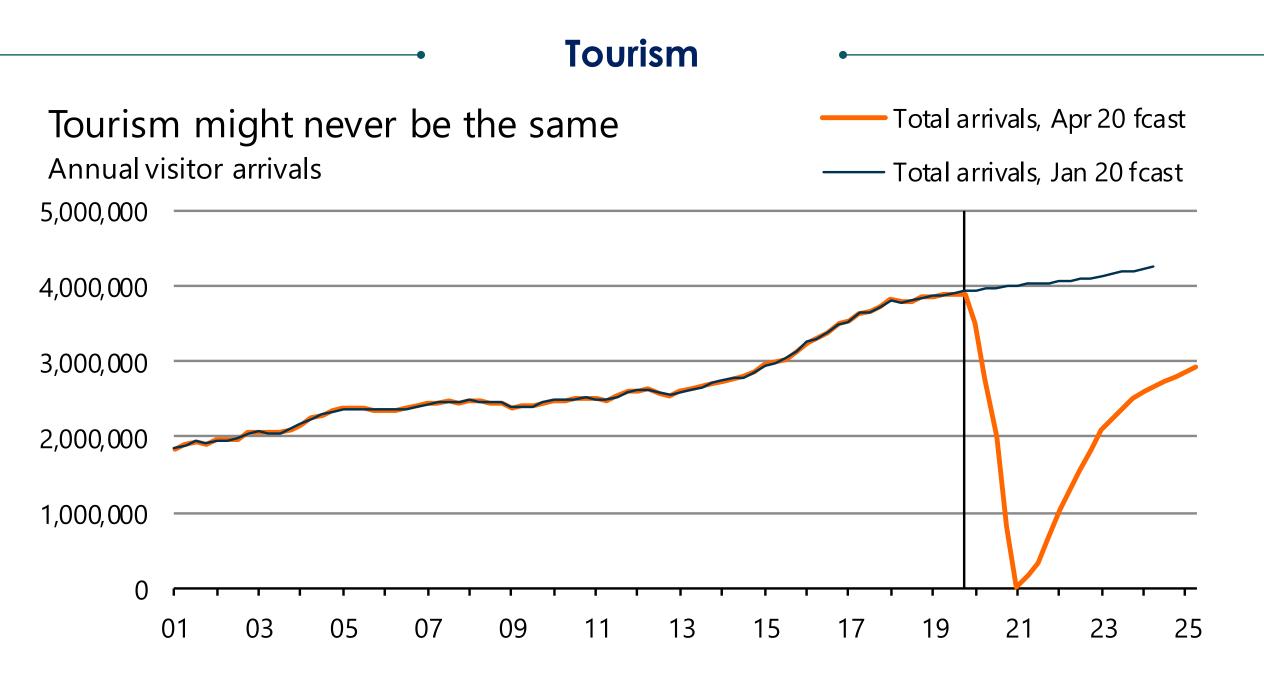




International net migration

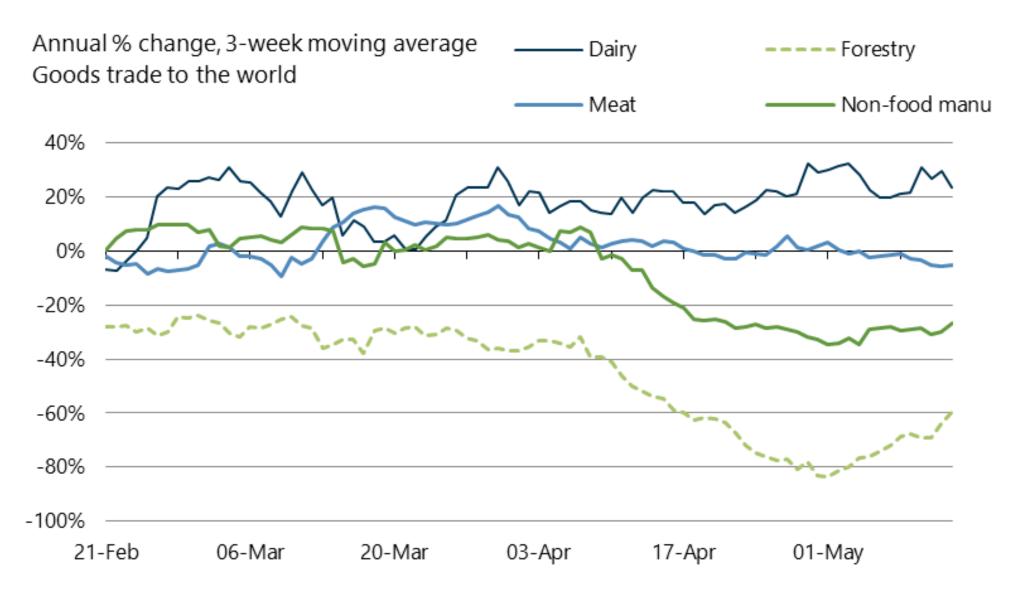


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Dairy exports show strength





Forestry isn't as flash

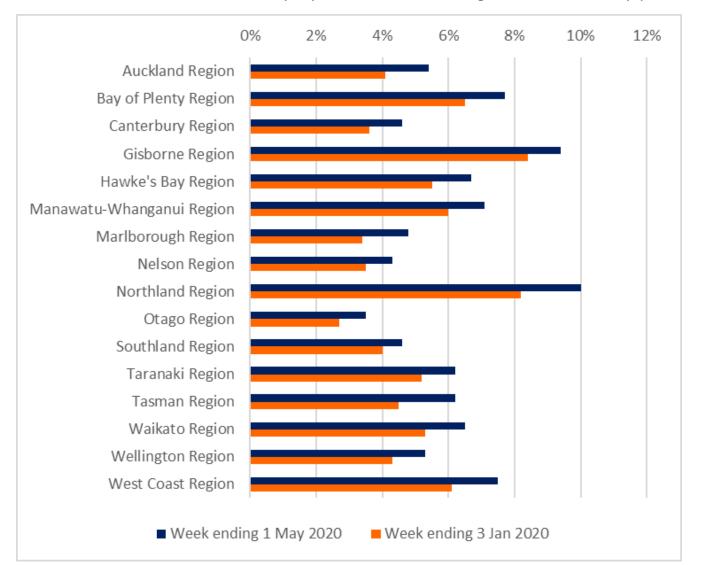
PF Olsen Index, log prices





Rising Jobseeker Support •

% of the estimated 15 - 64 population receiving Jobseeker Support





- Rotorua -



Rotorua's economic outlook

- GDP decline of **7.8%** for the March 2021 year
 - Smaller than the 8.0%pa drop for NZ
- Employment decline of **10.5%** for March 2021 year
 - 3,700 jobs expected to go
 - Slightly higher than the NZ drop of 9.8%
- Unemployment rate expected to increase to **10.7%** in March 2021 quarter
 - Up from 5.9% at present
 - Slightly higher than national rate of 9.0%
- Lost earnings of \$186m

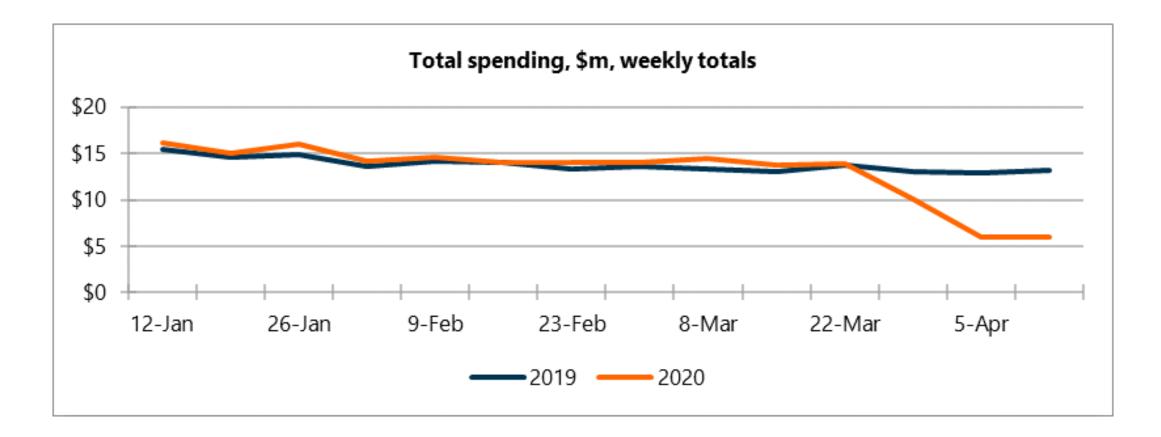


Rotorua's economic outlook

- At Level 3, 73% of the workforce can work (NZ=74%), after having only 49% working at Level 4 (NZ=53%)
- Highly exposed to international tourism
- Forestry facing supply and demand constraints
- International education larger than in many other TAs
- Health care will continue to be a major employer
- Food exports are holding up



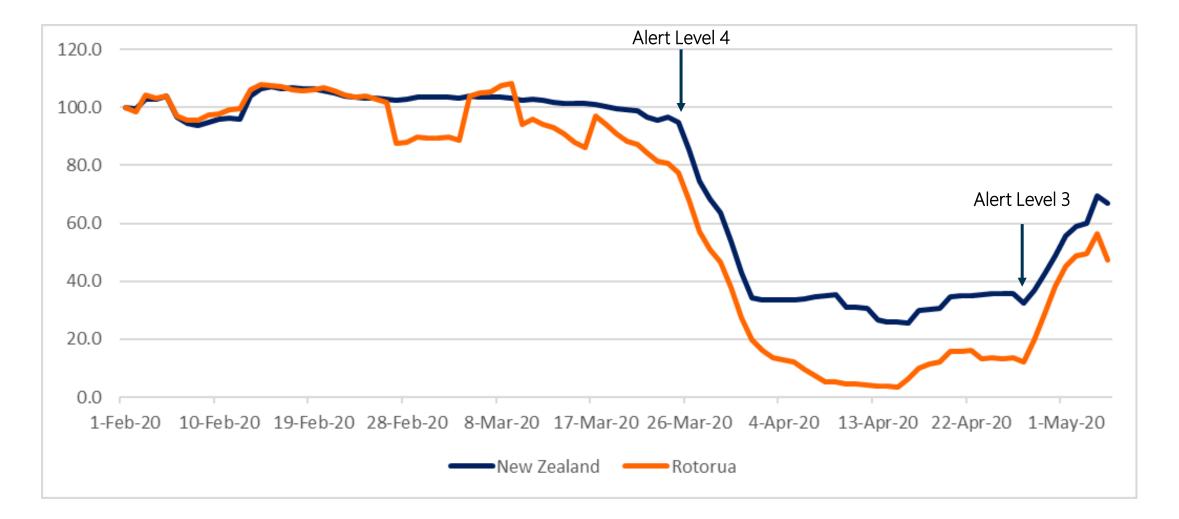
Spending dropped during lockdown •





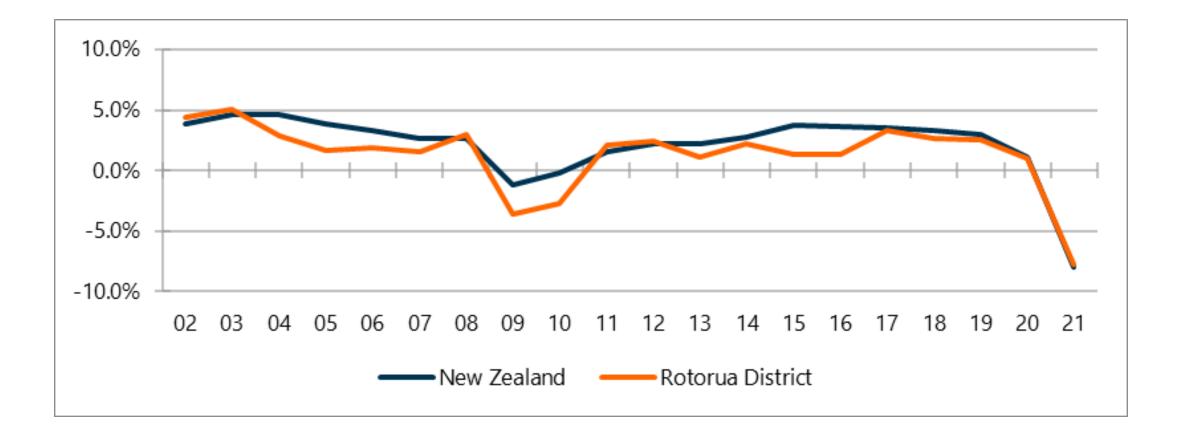
Still moving, but not as much •

Heavy traffic flows, Index, 1 Feb 2020 = 100, 7-day moving average

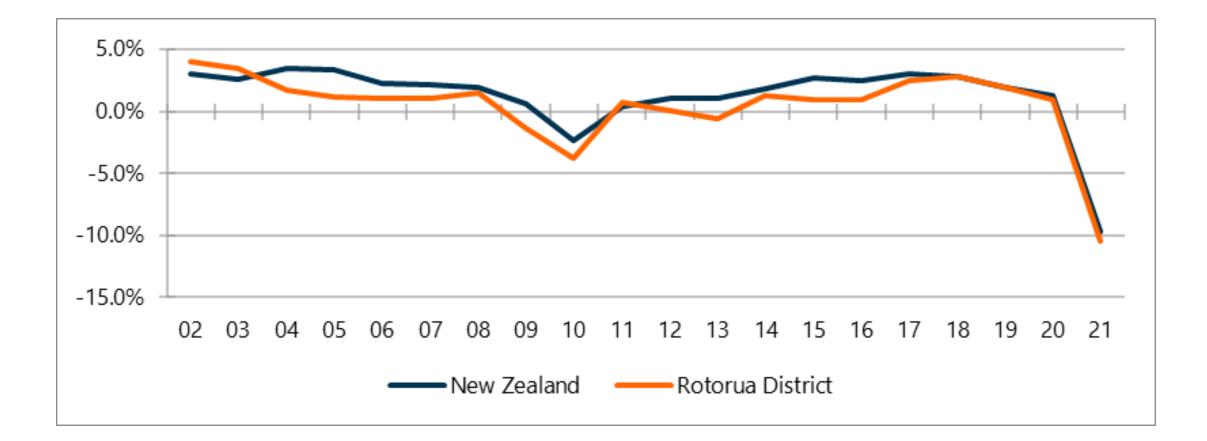




Economic activity outlook



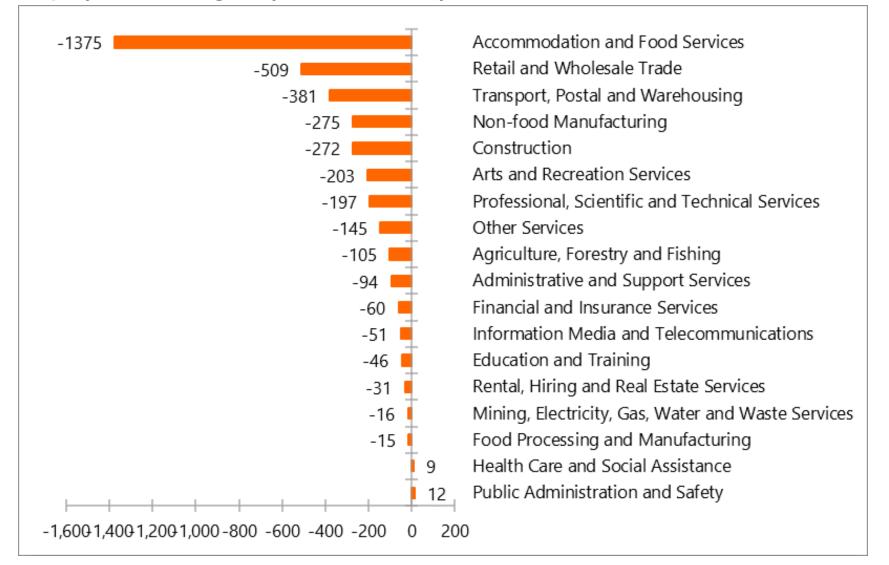






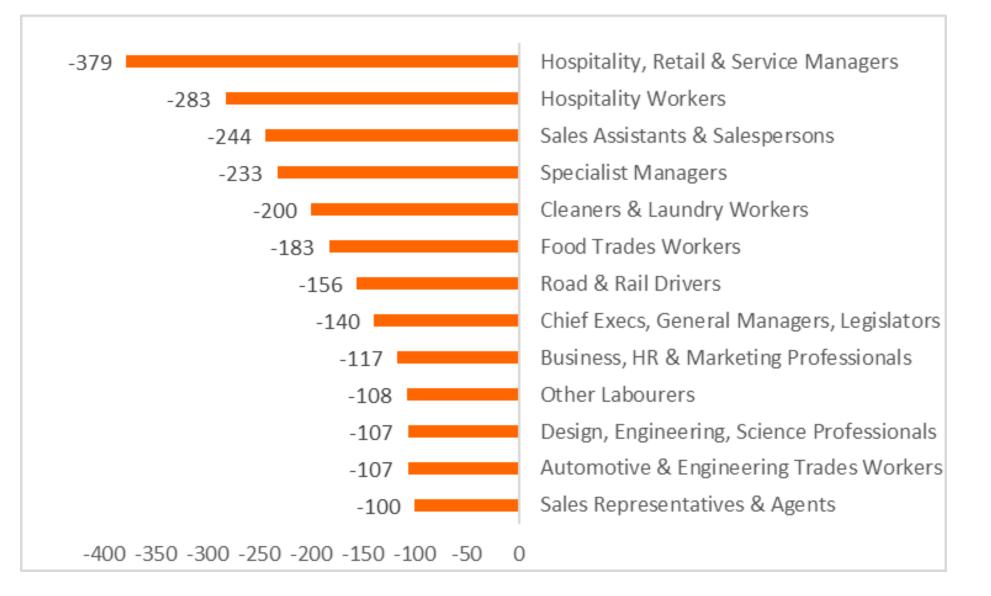
Employment changes by industry, 2020-21

Employment changes by broad industry, 2020-2021



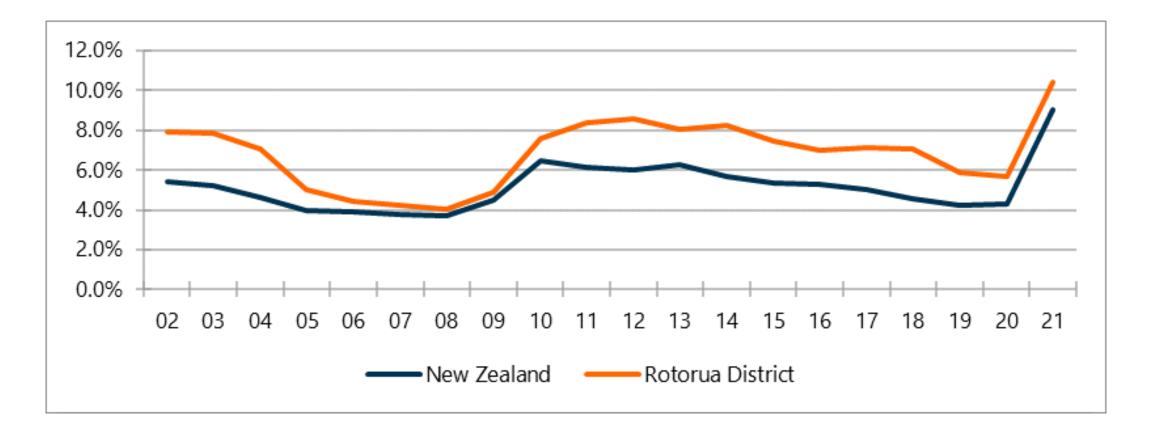
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• Employment changes by occupation, 2020-21



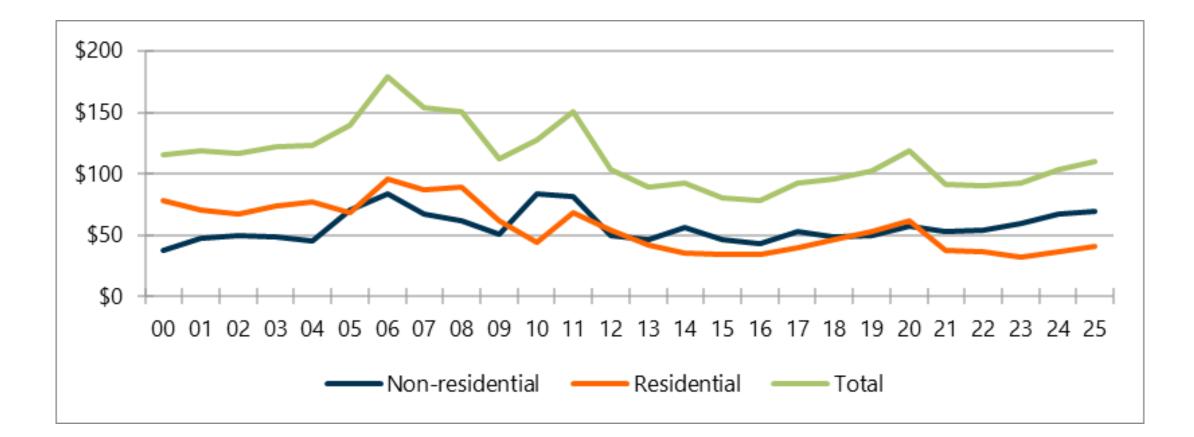


Unemployment outlook



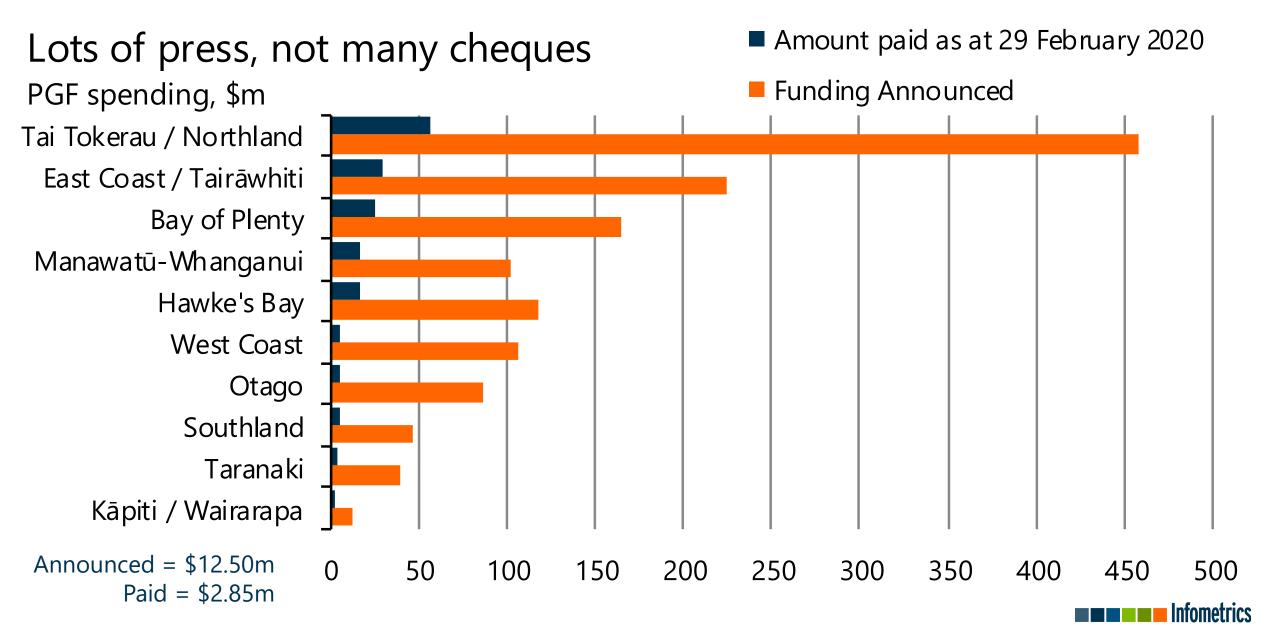


Construction outlook

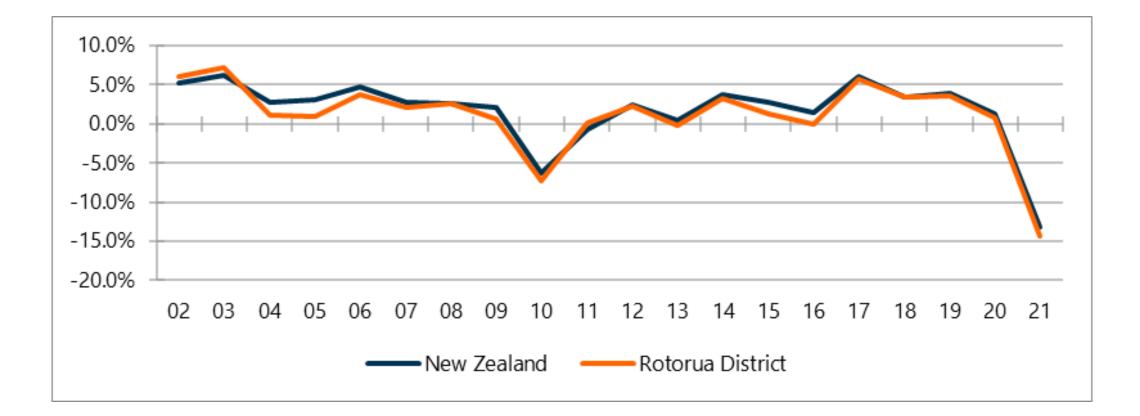




PGF slow to spend

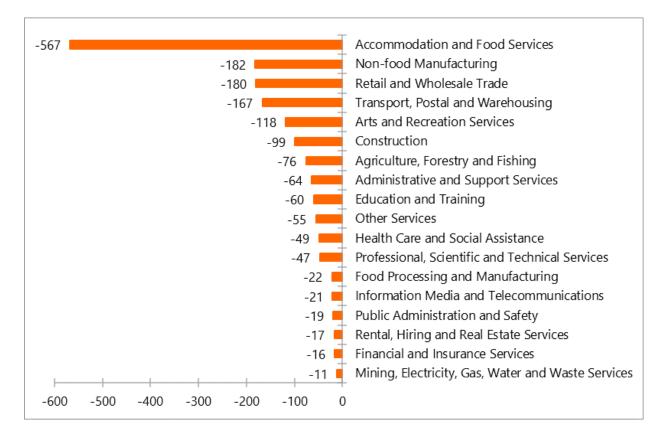


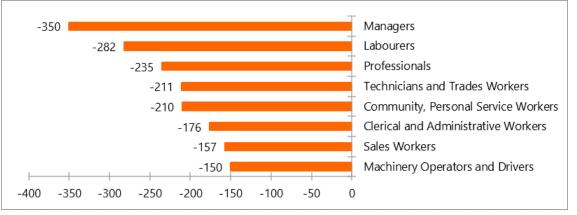
Maori employment outlook •





Maori employment changes







Recovery

- Infrastructure investment
- Skills development and retraining
- Preferential procurement
- Community development
- Destination marketing
- Business support services
- Prudent fiscal policy



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