



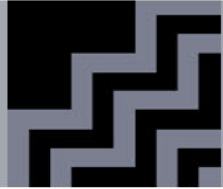
**DEPARTMENT OF THE  
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**  
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

## Proactive Release

The following item has been proactively released by the Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister:

**Paper: COVID-19 Weekly Monitoring Report, Tuesday 28 July 2020**

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# COVID-19 Weekly Monitoring Report

**Tuesday 28 July 2020**

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**Current strategy: Elimination.**

## **Current Alert Level: 1**

This weekly report responds to COVID-19 Ministerial Group's 09 April directive for All-of-Government officials to develop a set of measures and regular reporting that will inform future decisions on changing Alert Levels (AL) or the overall strategy.

The report places information about COVID-19 in New Zealand alongside evidence of the effects of restrictions on the economy and society more broadly, and public attitudes towards, and compliance with, restrictions.

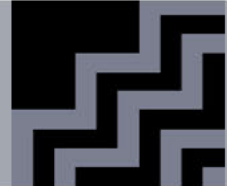
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### **This report covers:**

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The contents of this report reflect the principal matters that need to be taken into consideration when determining whether to change alert levels.

There are some gaps in measures and data, and these are noted where applicable.



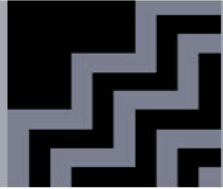
## Key changes and developments from last week

### Developments to note:

- Air New Zealand has implemented a renewed freeze on tickets sales for flights returning to New Zealand until 09 August 2020. The number of returnees in Managed Isolation & Quarantine (MI&Q) is forecast to increase by 50% in the next seven days.
- Reporting from the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) indicates public mental well-being has stabilised at levels lower than Alert Level Three (AL3) and Four (AL4) since early June.
- There are currently 21 active cases in New Zealand, all of which are imported cases.
- Testing rates have stabilised over the last 14 days.

### Changes to the report:

- There was an error in the testing and tracing capacity graph last week displaying testing capacity at weekday levels. This has now been corrected.
- Electronic card spending has been observed to have settled at a new normal.
- The effects of the measures on society and businesses is truncated this week, as data becomes less frequent.
- The timeliness of testing graph has been removed due to the low numbers in the data. This graph will be reintroduced when more appropriate data becomes available.
- The public movement section has been removed from the report this week, as there is insufficient data available. This section will be reviewed for the next report.
- New Episurv data was not made available for this report.



## COVID-19 in New Zealand

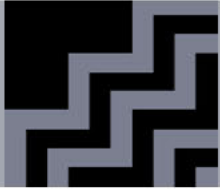
As at 9am 28 July 2020, there are currently 21 active cases in New Zealand. All of these cases have been imported (Figure 1 and 2).

Figure 1: Summary of COVID-19 in New Zealand as at 9am 28 July 2020

- 21** Active cases
- 0** Days since last imported case reported
- 82** Days since last import-related case reported
- 67** Days since last locally-acquired epidemiologically-linked case reported
- 88** Days since last locally-acquired, unknown source case reported
- 0** Significant open clusters<sup>1</sup>
- 0** Clusters with a new case reported in the last 14 days

Source: Ministry of Health

<sup>1</sup> A cluster is considered closed when there have been no new cases for two incubation periods (i.e. 28 days) from the date when all cases complete isolation.

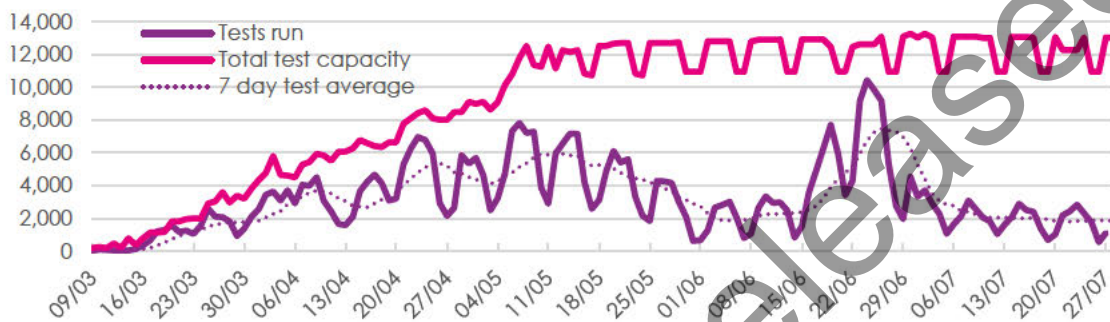


## Testing, tracing and isolation system

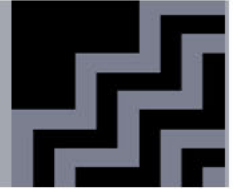
As at 28 July 2020, test stock is 159 days of supply at current testing levels, with testing capacity sitting consistently around 13,000 tests per day (Figure 2). The seven-day average testing rate remained steady at 1,880 tests per day compared to 1,845 last week.

While testing is generally lower on the weekends, it is also likely less testing facilities are open. The reduction in testing capacity over weekend periods is likely due to a smaller number of technicians working in testing labs.

Figure 2: Testing capacity



Source: Ministry of Health



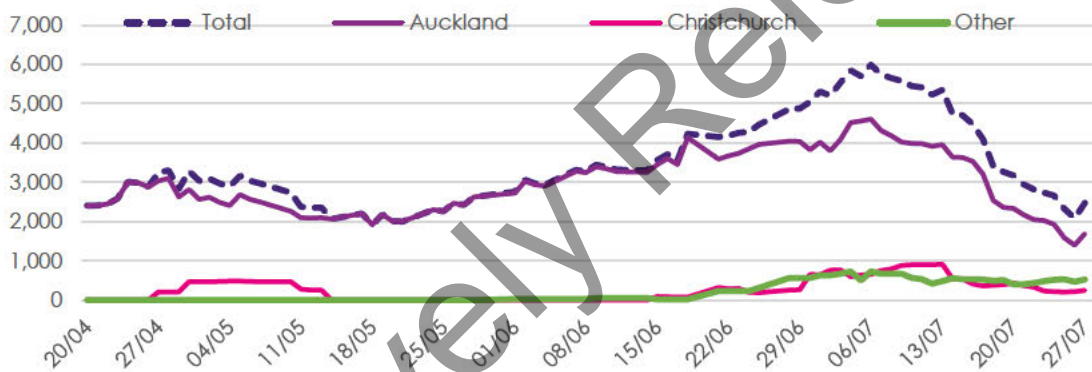
## Isolation

As at 28 July 2020, there is total effective capacity to accommodate 6,730 returnees in MI&Q in Auckland, Christchurch, Wellington, Hamilton and Rotorua. Total effective capacity allows for a 24 hour room turn-around for sanitisation. 4,261 beds are currently vacant.

During the last reporting period, the number of individuals in MI&Q has decreased from 3,173 to 2,469 (Figure 3), due to a three week ticket freeze which ended 26 July 2020. Despite an additional freeze implemented until 09 August 2020, there is likely to be a 50% surge, increasing to 4,590 returnees over the next seven days, with a forecast effective capacity of 6,832.<sup>2</sup>

The Managed Isolation Allocation System (MIAS) currently in development, enables returnees to book a place in MI&Q, prior to booking a plane ticket. The launch date for this system is still to be confirmed. The current airline quota system allocates a maximum of 90% capacity, with 10% capacity for contingency planning.

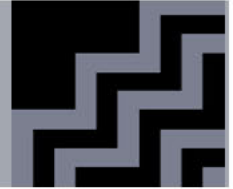
Figure 3: Number of people in managed isolation or quarantine<sup>3</sup>



Source: Isolation, Quarantine and Repatriation SITREP, AoG calculation

<sup>2</sup> The forecast capacity fluctuates and is based on actual capacity available at the time of the report. The numbers are determined by the number of available rooms provided by the hotels.

<sup>3</sup> "Other" includes Rotorua, Wellington and Hamilton. These will be displayed individually when numbers increase.



# Health system capacity

## PPE

Ministry of Health (MoH) currently have sufficient PPE stocks for the health and disability workforce, however, ongoing vigilance is required. There is good stock of all PPE supplies in the country, both from the MoH national and DHB reserves. Demand has stabilised over recent weeks, despite some additional requirements to support border and managed isolation activity (Figure 4).

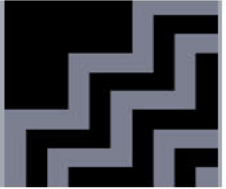
Sourcing and distribution of PPE continues to be managed at a national level. Global supply chain challenges remain, with potential future issues in glove supply identified, which correlates to ongoing global demand and concerns over labour practises of one of the largest glove manufacturers. A small number of mask shipments remain on hold pending further quality assurance, which is being progressed with urgency. The estimated time of arrival of test results for the masks is mid-August.

Emerging second-wave pandemic models are providing indicators for areas where additional supplies will need to be sourced, to ensure appropriate contingency. MoH is acquiring where needed, with a current focus on gloves and gowns.

**Figure 4: PPE availability for the health sector and non-health essential services**

Product Description	Stock on Hand		Distribution over the last fortnight	PPE on Order	
	DHBs (20 July)	National Reserves (22 July)		Expected in Next Fortnight	Total on Order (20 July)
N95 Mask (or equivalent)	1,271,774	21,631,092	7,025	0	1,070,000
Procedure Mask (or equivalent)	6,470,865	76,648,200	390,075	27,929,100	53,333,149
Isolation Gown (or equivalent)	492,234	2,339,990	103,300	1,573,500	2,926,330
Disposable Apron	1,032,119	2,337,700	11,175	220,000	220,000
Glasses/goggles (or equivalent)	127,257	1,099,001	0	0	1
Face shield (or equivalent)	184,622	1,039,180	1,500	87,360	87,560
Nitrile Gloves (all sizes, Each)	13,917,009	28,299,900	1,968,100	13,600,000	222,346,800
Hand Sanitiser (500mL equivalents)	55,382	337,161	75	0	14
Hand Sanitiser (2L equivalents)	0	155,854	0	0	0
Detergent Wipe (or equivalent)	466,650	0	0	0	0
Disinfectant wipe (or equivalent)	4,237,167	101,648,100	895,550	0	39,728,100

Source: MoH PPE data as at 23 July 2020.

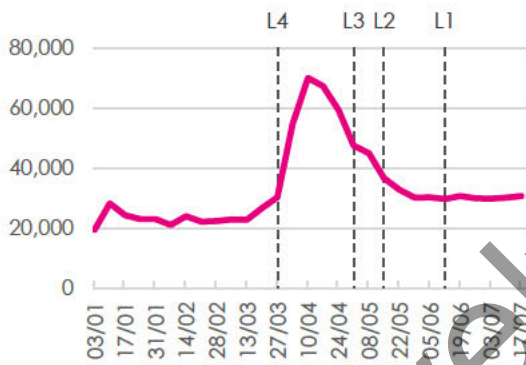


## Effects of the measures on society

The number of Special Needs Grants for food remains largely unchanged since mid-June, with 30,674 reported for the week ending 17 July 2020. While the number of individuals and families requiring grants has remained stable, the number is higher than compared to pre-COVID-19 and 2019 figures (Figure 7), likely attributable to elevated levels of unemployment. It is likely this figure will stabilise as the new normal in the immediate future.

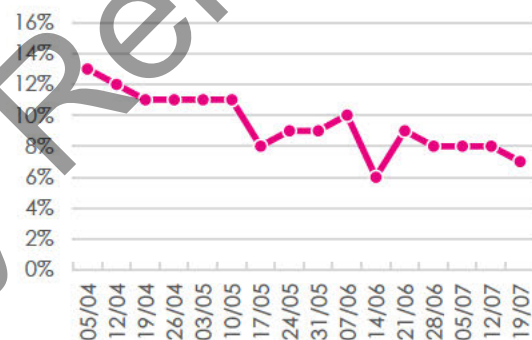
Findings from the latest COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey, week ending 19 July 2020, showed no significant changes in depression and anxiety symptoms, with around 7% of respondents reporting symptoms (Figure 8). Reported nervousness about current circumstances was 25% and has remained stable since late June 2020 (Figure 9). Around 20% of respondents reported experiencing feelings of loneliness and isolation (Figure 10). These figures have remained similar since early June and continue to remain lower than those reported during AL3 or AL4 (generally 30 – 40%).

**Figure 7: Special Needs Grants for food**



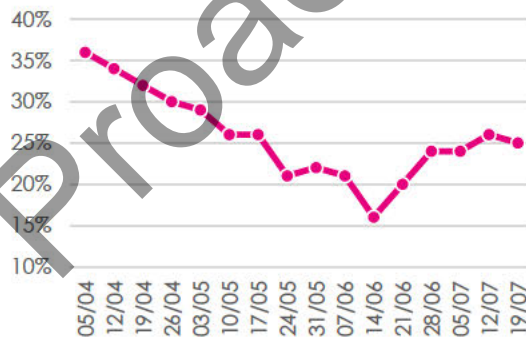
Source: MSD

**Figure 8: Percentage of survey respondents reporting depression or anxiety symptoms**



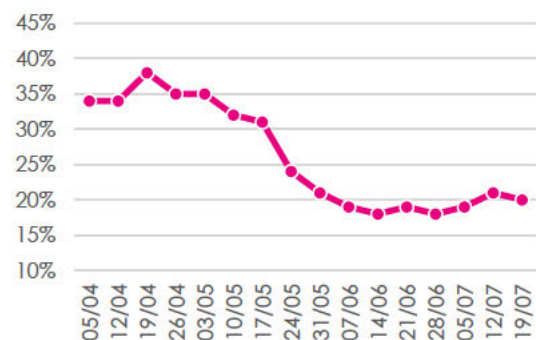
Source: Covid-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey

**Figure 9: Percentage of survey respondents reporting feeling nervous about current circumstances**

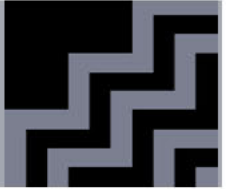


Source: COVID-19 health and Wellbeing Survey

**Figure 10: Percentage of survey respondents reporting feeling lonely or isolated**







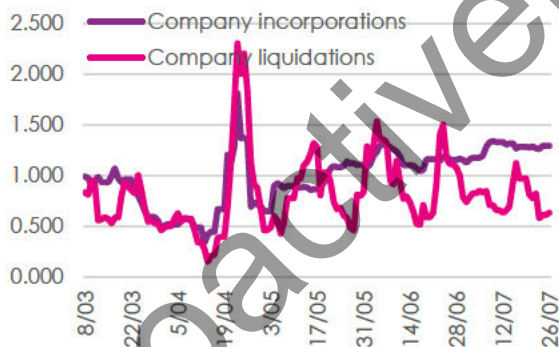
## Effects of the measures on businesses

Companies Office data show that activity appears to be in a new-normal. Most indicators are at, or above levels compared to the same time last year. Liquidations are still less than last year's figures (Figure 11). Registrations for the New Zealand Business Number (NZBN) are up compared to last year, likely due to this being mandatory requirement for the Small Business Loan application. In addition, An NZBN is also required for businesses to use the MoH COVID-19 contact tracing app.

Additionally, electronic card spending has been observed to have settled to a new normal. Although overall spending is similar to June 2019, there are significant changes in which sector consumers are currently spending. Transport and accommodation spending has decreased significantly, though spending at hardware, furniture and recreation stores has increased (Figure 12).

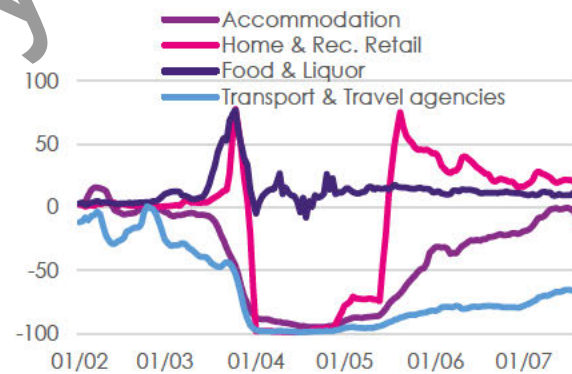
It is likely there has been a behavioural shift concerning spending, with a decrease in the use of cash, and a higher use of contactless payment. Historically, card payments account for approximately two-thirds of retail transactions. As cash payments are not included in the data, it is possible an elevated proportion of card to cash payments won't be reflected. Therefore, data indicating similar levels of card spending will not represent the subsequent decrease in cash spending, and an overall decrease in spending when compared to 2019. The extent of this will not be observable until a full retail trade survey in August 2020 is available.

**Figure 11: Company incorporations and liquidations**

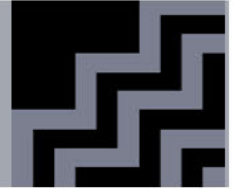


Source: MBIE

**Figure 12: Electronic card transactions**



Source: Marketview

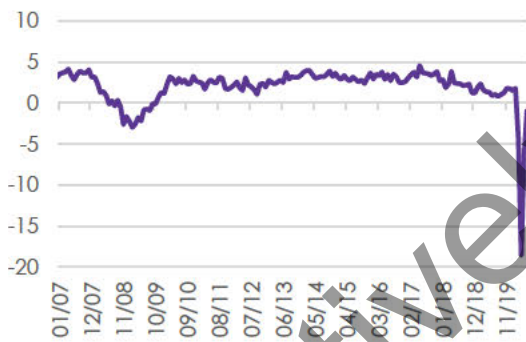


# Macroeconomic and fiscal effects of the measures

The New Zealand Activity Index (Figure 13), highlighted an improving economic outlook in June, with economic activity at 0.9% below the same figure last year. Activity indicators from the BNZ-BusinessNZ Performance of Manufacturing and Services Indexes (PMI and PSI) indicated growth in June. Employment indicators remained contracted, indicating continued recession in the labour market (Figure 15 and Figure 16). Dairy prices remain elevated, prompting Fonterra to lift their milk price forecast for the 2021 dairy season.

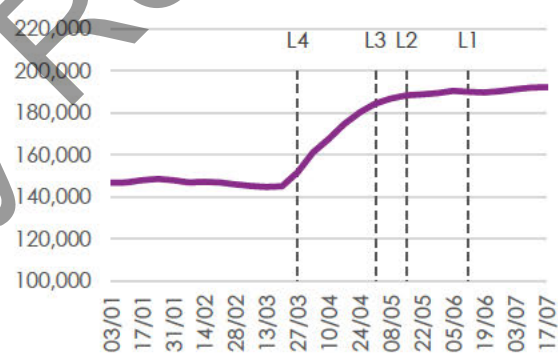
The wage subsidy has supported around 1.7 million jobs, with the wage subsidy extension now supporting over 447,000 jobs, resulting in a combined total of over \$13 billion distributed. Approximately 18,600 people were receiving the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment (CIRP) as of 17 July 2020, up 2,100 on the previous week. The number of Jobseeker Support recipients (Figure 14) increased by nearly 300. The total number of people receiving income support (Jobseeker and CIRP) was 211,000, an increase of 2,300 on the week prior. As at 23 July 2020, the Small Business Cashflow Scheme has disbursed almost \$1.5 billion to over 89,000 applicants.

Figure 13: NZ Activity Index



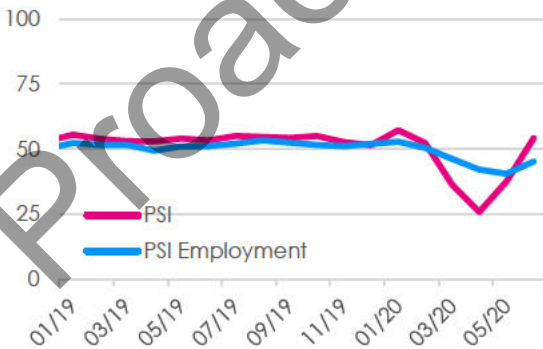
Source: Treasury

Figure 14: Jobseeker Support recipients



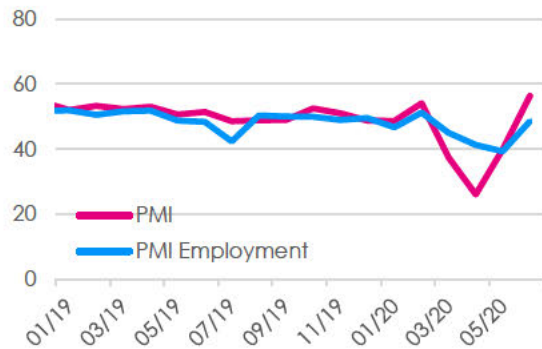
Source: MSD

Figure 15: PSI orders and employment

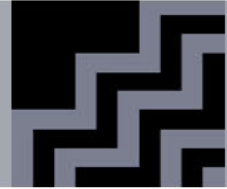


Source: BNZ

Figure 16: PMI orders and employment



Source: BNZ



## Fiscal measures

New Zealand's fiscal response packages for COVID-19 announced to date amount to approximately \$47.7 billion in committed spending. As at 20 July 2020, around \$14.3 billion remained in the CRRF.

**Figure 17: Fiscal costs of commitments and programmes already announced and estimated expenditure**

Spending package	Total impact on net core Crown debt (\$m), period to 2023/24
Infrastructure	4709.184
Education, Skills and Training	4578.477
Business and Firm	10,046.46
Income Support	20697.132
Health	2584.092
Housing	1065.468
Other	4193.983
<b>Total Allocated Spend to date</b>	<b>47874.795</b>
Unallocated CRRF remaining	14330.735

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