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#### Forecast updates

Recent ANZ NZ Forecast Updates can be found here.

- NZ Economic Outlook: Two steps forward, one step back
- NZ Property Focus: Turning point
- RBNZ MPS Review: Case sensitive
- NZ Forecast Update: Inflation with a 4-handle

Our other recent publications are on page 2.

#### What's the view?

- GDP constrained by supply more than demand
- Labour market very tight
- Inflation above target
- OCR to lift from Oct 2021

Our forecasts are on page 3.

#### Key risks to our view



The outbreak takes longer to eliminate, and doubts rise that we can do it, leading to sharp drops in consumer and business sentiment.



Housing is at a turning point.

Momentum could fade faster as rates rise, or have more significant economic impacts.



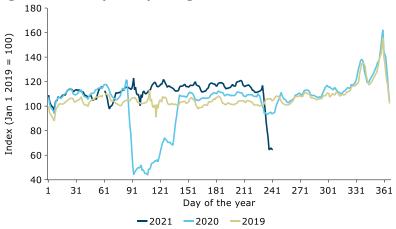
Conversely, an overheated economy and surging inflation expectations could be hard to rein in.

### What happened this week?

With all of New Zealand except for Auckland now moving down to Alert Level 3, we're starting to see the light at the end of the Lockdown tunnel. Daily COVID case numbers look like they may have peaked (although the day-to-day movement can be pretty volatile). Responses to our Business Outlook received after lockdown (about 25% of the sample) showed that business sentiment has been encouragingly robust, especially compared with the drop we saw in April 2020. And, we've clearly gotten better at spending money during lockdown – daily card spending hasn't dropped as far as it did during the first lockdown (figure 1).

So far, it's looking like October is still game on for the RBNZ to begin the OCR hiking cycle that was so rudely delayed by the current outbreak. Although as we note in our recent Quarterly Economic Outlook, there's still a lot that has to keep going right between now and October before hikes are locked in. And there are still question marks about whether the economy can bounce back as quickly without the raging housing market that we saw in 2020. We're optimistic that it can – growth was pretty broad based in Q1 (and looks to have continued strongly in Q2) – but we won't take a V-shaped recovery for granted until we see it.

Figure 1. ANZ daily card spending data



Source: Macrobond, ANZ Research

International trade data released by Stats NZ this week showed how increased global demand for commodities has supported the New Zealand economy, despite difficulties with supply chains and cost increases. Our terms of trade increased 3.3% q/q in the June quarter – driven by a stonking 8.3% rise in export prices, which more than offset a 4.9% rise in import prices.

#### Key data summary

**Building Permits – July.** New dwelling consents rose 2.1% m/m in July. Expect these data to be disrupted by lockdown in August.

**ANZ Business Outlook – August.** Initial responses after level 4 lockdown look encouragingly robust, but it's early days. Business confidence fell 10 points; own activity 7.

**RBNZ sectoral lending data – July.** Housing lending continued to rise, now up 12.1% y/y. Business and agriculture lending did edge up a tad, but remain below 2019 levels. Personal consumer spending continued to fall.

Overseas Trade Indices - Q2. The terms of trade rose 3.3% q/q.



# Looking ahead



### Recent Publications

ANZ produces a range of in-depth insights.

- NZ Insight: A quick look at the high-frequency data
- NZ Property Focus: Turning point
- NZ Insight: Lockdown and the economic outlook
- NZ Insight: Finding neutral
- NZ Agri Focus: Springing into action
- NZ Insight: Carbon markets 101
- NZ Property Focus: Headwinds gathering
- NZ Insight: Quarterly income GDP
- NZ Insight: Māori employment during COVID / Hunga Māori Kore whaimahi i te wā Mate Urutā
- NZ Insight: RBNZ vs RBA policy divergence – inflation persistence key
- NZ Insight: The RBNZ can tick the labour market box
- NZ Insight: The last days of the LSAP
- NZ Insight: Freight challenges

Click here for more.

#### Data calendar

Date	Data/event
Mon 6 Sep (10:45am)	Building Work Put in Place – Q2
Mon 6 Sep (1:00pm)	ANZ Commodity Price Index – Aug
Wed 8 Sep (early am)	GlobalDairyTrade auction
Thu 9 Sep (10:00am)	ANZ Truckometer - Aug
Thu 9 Sep (10:45am)	Manufacturing Activity - Q2
Fri 10 Sep (10:45am)	Net Migration – Jul
Fri 10 Sep (10:45am)	Electronic Card Transactions – Aug
Mon 13 Sep (10:45am)	Food Prices – Aug
Mon 13 Sep (10:45am)	Rental Price Index – Aug
Mon 13 Sep (1:00pm)	ANZ Business Outlook – Sep P
Wed 14 Sep (10:45am)	Current Account – Q2

### What are we watching?

The construction sector played a crucial role in the economic recovery from COVID over 2020 – and from what we can see in timelier indicators, it's showing no signs of slowing down. Even this week, Stats NZ released building consents data which showed another 2.1% m/m increase in new dwellings being consented in July. The surge in housing activity has been broad based too, with Auckland, Canterbury, and Waikato all seeing consent issuance significantly above average, and most regions at or slightly above average (figure 2).

Figure 2. July monthly dwelling consents by region (ANZ seasonal adjustment)

	Number								
	Q	250	500	750	1000	1250	1500	1750	
Auckland				•					
Canterbury		•							
Waikato		•							
Wellington	•	•							
Otago	•								
Bay of Plenty	•								
Manawatu-Wanganui	•								
Northland	•								
Hawke's Bay									
Taranaki	•								
Tasman	•								
Marlborough									
West Coast	-								
Nelson									
Gisborne	-								
Southland	<b>&gt;</b>								

■ Current ◆ Post-2000 average

Source: Stats NZ, Macrobond, ANZ Research

Next week we get another partial indicator for Q2 GDP – building work put in place. Right now, the construction sector is facing extremely high levels of demand, with monthly consents data showing that there's still plenty of work in the pipeline. The challenge is to work out how much of this demand is going to result in activity, and how much is going to result in higher prices – given shortages of everything from labour to raw materials. Just because lots of new dwellings are being consented doesn't mean we'll actually be able to build them. But we have seen Q2 strength in other indicators like concrete poured, and construction intentions in our Business Outlook. All up, our indicator models suggest that building activity rose 4% q/q in the June quarter. The risks around this are balanced – on the upside, it's possible that construction increased by more, given the surge in consents. On the downside, it's possible that capacity constraints were more of an anchor on building activity than we have assumed, leading to lower activity (and yet higher prices).

#### The week ahead

**Building Work Put in Place – Q2 (Monday 6 September, 10:45am).** We've pencilled in a 4% q/q rise in building activity in the June quarter.

ANZ Commodity Price Index - August (Monday 6 September, 1:00pm).

**GlobalDairyTrade auction (Wednesday 8 September, early am).** Futures market prices indicate a 2% lift in the GDT Price Index is likely, supported by a reduction in the volume of WMP forecast on offer in Q4.

ANZ Truckometer - August (Thursday 9 September, 10:00am).

Economic Survey of Manufacturing – Q2 (Thursday 9 September, 10:45am). Very high PMI bodes well for manufacturing over Q2.

Net Migration - July (Friday 10 September, 10:45am). Will remain low.

**Electronic Card Transactions – August (Friday 10 September, 10:45am).** Will show lockdown impact – our ANZ spending data suggests something in the vicinity of a 20% m/m fall.



### Markets and forecasts

#### Markets outlook

Global bond yields have drifted broadly sideways this week, with the US 10yr Treasury bond yield holding steady around the 1.3% mark ahead of key US nonfarm payroll data tonight. While this data has the potential to shape market sentiment into next week, the bigger picture remains more neutral. In his keynote speech just after our previous Data Wrap, Fed chair Powell signalled that the Fed would likely taper its bond purchases this year, but stressed that the decision is independent of any future decision to raise interest rates. Bond markets read that as reassuring, mindful of the long gap between tapering and tightening between 2014 and 2017. The Fed is also not yet convinced that high inflation will persist, and that should contain where policy rates - and by extension bond yields - can go. The short end is pricing in all-but-certain odds that the RBNZ will hike by 25bps on 6 October. That seems reasonable, but it's not guaranteed, and with around 22bps of hikes priced in for each of the RBNZ meetings in October, November and February, the bigger risk would seem to be disappointment. To be clear, we also expect hikes at those three dates, but we see it as more conditional on solid COVID elimination progress than the RBNZ is willing to sound. With each decision almost fully priced in, it's difficult to see short-end yields moving higher, but they could move lower. FX markets have been much more interesting, with the NZD finding its legs this week. This has been partly a weak USD story and partly the market taking a glass-half-full view of NZ's Delta outbreak. Given the AUD's poor performance and stretched levels on NZD/AUD, we have downgraded our NZD forecasts slightly. We still expect to see appreciation, but we now see it getting to 0.72 (rather than 0.75).

		Actual							
FX rates	Jul-21	Aug-21	Today	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22
NZD/USD	0.697	0.706	0.711	0.710	0.720	0.720	0.720	0.720	0.720
NZD/AUD	0.949	0.964	0.961	0.959	0.960	0.960	0.960	0.960	0.960
NZD/EUR	0.588	0.597	0.599	0.597	0.600	0.585	0.576	0.576	0.576
NZD/JPY	76.5	77.6	78.2	78.8	80.6	80.6	80.6	80.6	80.6
NZD/GBP	0.502	0.513	0.514	0.511	0.507	0.493	0.480	0.480	0.480
NZ\$ TWI	74.2	74.9	75.3	75.3	75.6	75.0	74.5	74.3	74.1
Interest rates	Jul-21	Aug-21	Today	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22
NZ OCR	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.75	1.00	1.25	1.50	1.50
NZ 90 day bill	0.48	0.46	0.49	0.75	1.04	1.31	1.57	1.65	1.65
NZ 10-yr bond	1.65	1.82	1.93	1.80	2.00	2.20	2.40	2.50	2.50

#### **Economic forecasts**

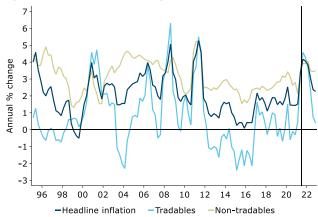
	Mar-21	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23
GDP (% qoq)	1.6	1.5	-6.0	7.0	0.5	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7
GDP (% yoy)	2.4	16.5	-4.0	3.8	2.6	2.1	9.6	3.2	3.4
CPI (% qoq)	0.8	1.3	1.5	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.8	0.3	0.3
CPI (% yoy	1.5	3.3	4.2	4.1	3.8	3.0	2.4	2.3	1.9
Employment (% qoq)	0.6	1.0	-0.1	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4
Employment (% yoy)	0.3	1.7	2.2	2.3	2.4	1.8	2.3	2.0	1.7
Unemployment Rate (% sa)	4.6	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.9

Figures in bold are forecasts. mom: Month-on-Month; qoq: Quarter-on-Quarter; yoy: Year-on-Year

Figure 3. GDP levels (Q4 2019= 100) 110 105 100 95 Index 90 85 80 75 Jun-19 Oct-19 Feb-20 Jun-20 Oct-20 Feb-21 Jun-21 Australia Japan Euro area Canada New Zealand

Source: Macrobond, Statistics NZ, ANZ Research

Figure 4. CPI inflation components



Source: Statistics NZ, Macrobond, ANZ Research



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#### Meet the team

We welcome your questions and feedback. Click here for more information about our team.



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