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### Forecast updates

Recent ANZ NZ Forecast Updates can be found here.

- NZ OCR call change and CPI forecast update
- NZ farmgate milk price forecast revised over \$8
- NZ Economic Outlook: Two steps forward, one step back
- NZ Property Focus: Rent is due

Our other recent publications are on page 2.

#### What's the view?

- GDP constrained by supply more than demand
- Labour market very tight
- Inflation well-above target
- Further OCR hikes towards 2.0% by end of 2022 needed to contain inflation.

Our forecasts are on page 3.

#### Key risks to our view



Ongoing COVID restrictions could damage consumer and business sentiment.



Housing is at a turning point. Momentum could fade faster as rates rise, or have more significant economic impacts.



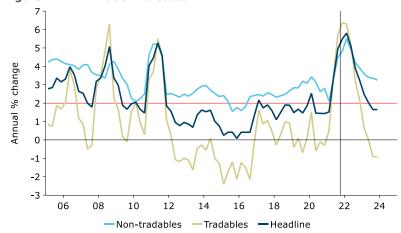
Conversely, an overheated economy and surging inflation expectations could be hard to rein in.

## What happened this week?

The surprisingly strong lift in consumer prices in Q3 stole the headlines this week. Consumer prices rose 2.2% q/q (4.9% y/y) in September – stronger than our expectation of a 4.5% y/y lift, and well ahead of the RBNZ's forecast of 4.1% (made back in August). The rise in prices was broad based, with all groups in the CPI seeing price rises, except for communication. And more concerning for the RBNZ was the sharp lift in measures of core inflation. Some of these measures may struggle to distinguish between a broad-based supply shock (ie COVID) versus genuine underlying inflation pressure, but the big lift in the RBNZ's own sectoral factor model of core inflation, to 2.7% y/y, suggests there is a very strong underlying inflation impulse.

The strength in core inflation means that the RBNZ can no longer afford to be as cautious with OCR hikes – inflation is too strong to be consistent with the inflation side of the dual mandate. And the worst is yet to come. With energy prices around the world spiking, and stretched supply chains struggling to catch up with Christmas demand, we're expecting that inflation will increase to a peak of 5.8% y/y in Q1 2022 (figure 1). It's extremely uncertain exactly how high inflation will peak and when, but there's no question that it's high enough that without swift action, it could get out of hand. We're now forecasting that the RBNZ will lift the OCR by 25bp at every opportunity up to and including the August 2022 MPS – bringing the OCR to 2.00% (and 50bps above our estimate of neutral, at 1.50%). That's an additional two hikes at the April and July Monetary Policy Reviews respectively. Given how sensitive highly indebted households will be to higher interest rates, we expect OCR hikes will be effective at containing the domestic inflation impulse. And supply chain disruptions won't last forever.

Figure 1. ANZ inflation forecast



Source: Stats NZ, Macrobond, ANZ Research

#### Key data summary

**Performance of Services Index – September.** Increased to 46.9 from 35.4 previously. Still in contractionary territory, in contrast with the PMI, which was back in expansion. But that makes sense given that services tend to be more impacted by Alert Level restrictions, which limit in-person activity.

**CPI – Q3.** Consumer prices rose 2.2% q/q (4.9% y/y) in Q3. See our Review.

**GlobalDairyTrade auction.** The GDT price index rose 2.2% in the latest auction – a little stronger than expected. The strong result makes our latest forecast for an \$8.20/kg MS farmgate payout look more likely to be achieved.



# Looking ahead



# Recent Publications

ANZ produces a range of in-depth insights.

- NZ Property Focus: Rent is due
- NZ Insight: RBNZ Speech Review
- Not just rugby: NZ beating Australia on wage growth
- NZ Insight: Increasing the contingency fund
- NZ Insight: What would it take to derail OCR hikes?
- NZ Insight: A quick look at the high-frequency data
- NZ Insight: Lockdown and the economic outlook
- NZ Insight: Finding neutral
- NZ Agri Focus: Springing into action
- NZ Insight: Carbon markets 101
- NZ Insight: Quarterly income GDP
- NZ Insight: Māori employment during COVID / Hunga Māori Kore whaimahi i te wā Mate Urutā

Click here for more.

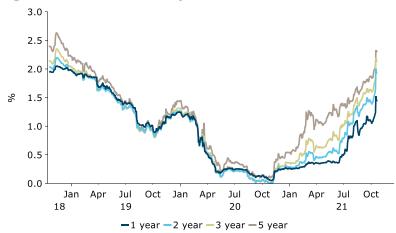
### Data calendar

Date	Data/event
Wed 27 Oct (10:45am)	Merchandise Trade – Sep
Wed 27 Oct	ANZ Business
(1:00pm)	Outlook – Oct F
Fri 29 Oct	ANZ-RM Consumer
(10:00am)	Confidence – Oct
Fri 29 Oct	RBNZ Sectoral
(3:00pm)	Lending - Sep
Tue 2 Nov (10:45am)	Building Permits – Sep
Wed 3 Nov	GlobalDairyTrade
(early am)	auction
Wed 3 Nov (10:45am)	Labour Market - Q3
Thu 4 Nov	ANZ Commodity
(1:00pm)	Price Index – Oct
Tue 9 Nov	ANZ Truckometer
(10:00am)	- Oct
Thu 11 Nov	Food Price Index -
(10:45am)	Oct
Thu 11 Nov	Rental Price Index
(10:45am)	-Oct
Fri 12 Nov (10:30am)	BusinessNZ Manuf PMI – Oct

### What are we watching?

As markets digested the implications of this week's monster CPI print, we saw swap rates surge, with the 2-year swap posting its largest one-day move in over 20 years (figure 2). That's going to put pressure on mortgage rates and deposit rates in the economy – with both already rising in recent months as expectations for OCR hikes solidified. Rising interest rates will be tough for households who have taken on piles of debt in a year where house prices went up over 30%. That's likely going to feed into lower consumer spending than otherwise, as mortgage repayments begin to eat up a larger share of households' paycheques (especially as people roll off fixed mortgage rates in coming months). To some extent this is all part of the plan for the RBNZ – the economy is running too hot relative to its hobbled supply capacity, and without some slowing in demand, we'll likely see domestic inflation pressures continuing to get out of hand.

Figure 2. New Zealand swap rates



Source: Bloomberg, Macrobond, ANZ Research

The challenge is that the housing market is looking fragile. As we've noted before, there're a lot of factors pointing to house price inflation slowing markedly in coming months. Mortgage rates are rising, loan-to-value ratio restrictions have been tightened, new housing supply is rapidly eroding the shortage, tax changes have reduced investment incentives, and affordability is so stretched that it's very difficult to see prices surging much further. The risk is that we see a harder landing for the housing market than we've anticipated – especially as higher mortgage rates start to bite. A sharp drop in house prices, plus rising mortgage rates eroding disposable incomes, could see a more significant reduction in domestic demand than anticipated. Housing related prices were the biggest driver of Q3 inflation, adding 0.7ppts to the 2.2% quarterly rise in consumer prices. So a sharp correction could easily see the domestic inflation pulse drop away too far – causing the RBNZ to hold off on further hikes, or even reverse them in time. This remains a risk, rather than our central view – but highlights that a lot still needs to go right for the RBNZ to be able to lift the OCR to 2.00%.

### The week ahead

Overseas Merchandise Trade – September (Wednesday 27 October, 10:45am). Weekly Stats NZ data suggests a monthly trade deficit of NZD2.17bn, as imports remain elevated.

ANZ Business Outlook - October (Wednesday 27 October, 1:00pm).

ANZ Roy Morgan Consumer Confidence – October (Friday 29 October, 10:00am).

**RBNZ** sectoral lending data – September (Friday 29 October, 3:00pm). Lending slowed or fell across all sectors in August. With the country still at heightened Alert Levels in September, that's unlikely to reverse guickly, if at all.



## Markets and forecasts

#### Markets outlook

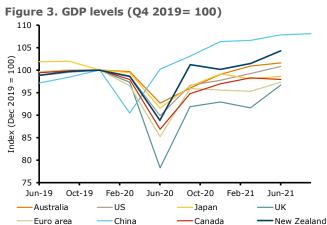
Local interest rates have risen sharply over the past week, extending earlier rises. The short end has been particularly hard hit, with the bellwether 2-year swap rate up over 30bps (intraday) on Monday in the wake of this week's large upside CPI surprise. This move coincided with a rise in global long-term interest rates too; alongside the move higher in local short-end interest rates, that has driven local long-end interest rates higher. The 10-year Government bond yield is now at 2.50%, a level not seen since late 2018, when the OCR was 1.75%. As we have detailed on page 1, we now expect the RBNZ to hike by 25bps at every meeting between now and August, taking the OCR to 2.00%. Market expectations for the OCR remain shy of this, and that's despite markets still toying with the idea that the RBNZ may hike by 50bps (rather than 25bs) in either November or February. We don't expect 50bp hikes - doing so would create enormous uncertainty and volatility, and have no more meaningful impact than a 25bp hike and projections of more hikes to come, as we expect. That being the case, although there may be some relief when a 25bp hike is delivered next month, with market pricing in late-2022 still a bit light, we see limited scope for short-end rates to correct lower. Markets have a tendency to overshoot, and if anything, shortend rates could go further if we see a rush of mortgage fixing. Our higher OCR forecasts have also seen us revise up all of our interest rate forecasts, recognising the mechanical impact that this will have on short-end rates, and the psychological impact it will have on NZ/US bond spreads. We also expect a higher OCR to benefit the NZD as markets re-focus on carry, mindful of the RBNZ's still-strong inflation credentials.

	Actual				Forecast (end month)				
FX rates	Aug-21	Sep-21	Today	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23
NZD/USD	0.706	0.686	0.716	0.720	0.720	0.720	0.720	0.720	0.720
NZD/AUD	0.964	0.955	0.958	0.960	0.960	0.960	0.960	0.960	0.960
NZD/EUR	0.597	0.593	0.615	0.610	0.600	0.585	0.590	0.590	0.590
NZD/JPY	77.6	76.9	81.6	80.6	80.6	80.6	80.6	80.6	80.6
NZD/GBP	0.513	0.511	0.519	0.518	0.511	0.503	0.493	0.486	0.483
NZ\$ TWI	74.9	73.7	75.9	75.8	75.3	74.8	74.7	74.5	74.3
Interest rates	Aug-21	Sep-21	Today	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23
NZ OCR	0.25	0.25	0.50	0.75	1.00	1.50	2.00	2.00	2.00
NZ 90 day bill	0.46	0.65	0.74	1.00	1.52	2.02	2.10	2.10	2.10
NZ 10-yr bond	1.82	2.09	2.50	2.50	2.65	2.75	2.75	2.80	2.80

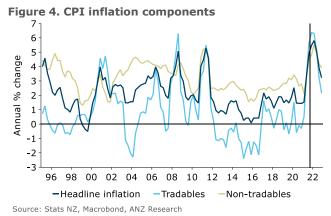
#### **Economic forecasts**

	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23
GDP (% qoq)	2.8	-7.0	7.5	0.2	1.0	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.6
GDP (% yoy)	17.4	-4.2	4.1	2.9	1.2	9.8	2.9	3.4	3.0
CPI (% qoq)	1.3	2.2	1.0	1.2	0.6	1.0	0.4	0.4	0.2
CPI (% yoy	3.3	4.9	5.5	5.8	5.1	3.9	3.2	2.5	2.0
Employment (% qoq)	1.0	-0.1	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3
Employment (% yoy)	1.7	2.2	2.3	2.4	1.8	2.3	2.0	1.7	1.6
Unemployment Rate (% sa)	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8	3.9	3.9

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



Source: Macrobond, Statistics NZ, ANZ Research



Source: Statistics NZ, Macrobond, ANZ Research



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