



EVENT BRIEFING

Meeting with the Committee for Auckland Board

Date:	8 May 2025	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	BRIEFING-REQ-0013487

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Simeon Brown Minister for Auckland	Note the contents of this briefing to inform your discussion with the Committee for Auckland Board	9 May 2025

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Andy Hill	Director Auckland	Privacy of natural persons	
Michael Quinn	Head of the Auckland Policy Office		✓

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

Minister's office to complete:

☐ Approved

☐ Declined

☐ Noted

☐ Needs change

☐ Seen

☐ Overtaken by Events

☐ See Minister's Notes

☐ Withdrawn

Comments

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Purpose

You have agreed to meet with the Committee for Auckland Board on Friday 9 May 2025 at the Auckland Policy Office.

The Board wants to discuss the outcome of the 'Auckland at 15' event which you attended on Wednesday 7 May 2025, and to test the idea of a 'New Agenda for Auckland' with you.

At the time of preparing this brief we have limited information on the detail of the Committee for Auckland proposal as it is still being developed.

We have attached talking points (Annex One) and Board profiles (Annex Two).

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

- a **Note** the contents of this briefing ahead of your meeting with the Committee for Auckland Board on 9 May 2025

Noted



Michael Quinn
Head of the Auckland Policy Office

8 May 2025

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister for Auckland

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Logistics

1. You are meeting with the Committee for Auckland Board on Friday 9 May 2025 at the Auckland Policy Office at 11.30 am for 30 minutes.
2. Attendees are:
 - Adithi Pandit - Partner, Deloitte
 - Mark Spencer - Chair Committee for Auckland and BECA Group Director
 - Mark Thomas - Managing Director, Serviceworks
 - Nick Hill - Chief Executive, Tataki Auckland Unlimited
 - Rupert Hodson - Executive Director, Committee for Auckland
 - Tom Irvine - Chief Executive Officer, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Whai Māia
3. Adithi Pandit and Mark Thomas will join the meeting online.

About the Committee for Auckland

4. The Committee for Auckland is an urban policy think tank and advocate for Auckland. It is a well established not for profit organisation drawing on membership from across Auckland communities, including the business and social sectors and Auckland Council.
5. Founded in 2003, the Committee played a prominent role in the contemporary development of the region. It is currently in a period of re-establishment following a hiatus after the implementation of the Auckland governance reforms and development of the Auckland Unitary Plan.
6. The Committee initiated the State of the City benchmarking exercises in 2023, now in its third year. These exercises provide an international benchmark of key metrics and have been a useful tool in identifying targeted action to improve Auckland's competitiveness.
7. The Committee is also active in facilitating key conversations about Auckland's future. Recent activities include the 'Auckland at 15' event held this week.
8. The organisation has recently appointed a full time Executive Director, Rupert Hodson, who will be attending your meeting.

Discussion

9. Board members will present key takeaways from the recent 'Auckland at 15 event' and outline the actions they believe should be progressed. This will be framed as a 'New Agenda for Auckland'. We understand the agenda concept is centred on having a shared direction for the region and the actions that will help deliver it.
10. The Board will take you through a short presentation. At the time of writing this report, the presentation is still being finalised and could not been shared, and so we are not able to comment on it.
11. The Board will also discuss their role in bringing parties together and developing ideas that will improve Auckland's performance. We understand they will offer their assistance to facilitate conversations and ideas.
12. Depending on your discussion, you may wish to signal your interest in the Board's agenda proposal.



Risks and mitigations

13. We have not identified any risks associated with this event.

Communications/Media

14. None planned by the Committee for Auckland.

Annexes

Annex One: Talking Points

Annex Two: Committee for Auckland Board profiles



Free and frank opinions





Annex 2: Committee for Auckland Board

<p>Mark Spencer Chair Committee for Auckland and BECA Group Director</p> <p>Mark is an executive member of the BECA leadership team. He is a Chartered Structural Engineer. He led the design of numerous large scale and complex projects such as the Macau Tower and Entertainment Centre, the redevelopment of Glenfield and Northland Shopping Centres, and the WG Precinct Development at Auckland University of Technology.</p>	
<p>Mark Thomas Director – Serviceworks</p> <p>Mark runs a technology consulting company Serviceworks and during his tenure as Committee for Auckland board member initiated and led the three year State of the City Benchmarking exercise. He is a former Orakei Local Board member.</p>	
<p>Adithi Pandit Government and Public Sector Leader - Deloitte</p> <p>Adithi leads Deloitte's Government and Public Sector, Strategy & Business Design practices and its social innovation and impact services in New Zealand and sits on the Deloitte New Zealand Board.</p>	
<p>Nick Hill Chief Executive – Tataki Auckland Unlimited</p> <p>Nick has led TAU and the former ATEED CCO since 2021. He was previously Auckland lead for MartinJenkins, Chief Executive of the Commerce Commission, and led the formation of Sport and Recreation New Zealand (SPARC, now known as Sport New Zealand).</p>	
<p>Tom Irvine Chief Executive, Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei, Whai Maia</p> <p>Tom's current occupation and governance roles include Auckland Art Gallery Deputy Director, Auckland Art Gallery Toi o Tāmaki Advisory Committee member and Mussel Reef Restoration Trust Trustee. Tom previously held the General Manager Transformation role at Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Whai Māia.</p>	
<p>Rupert Hodson Executive Director – Committee for Auckland</p> <p>Rupert has stepped into the newly created role of Executive Director for the Committee for Auckland, to lead the organisation. He is on a 12-month secondment from BECA, where Rupert was the Regional Manager for Northern New Zealand.</p>	



Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Auckland

For the period Monday 14 April to Sunday 11 May 2025

Date:	9 May 2025	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In confidence	Tracking number:	BRIEFING-REQ-0013260

Ministers	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Simeon Brown Minister for Auckland	Note the contents of this briefing and discuss at the next officials meeting	N/A

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Michael Quinn	Head of the Auckland Policy Office	Privacy of natural persons	
Andy Hill	Director Auckland		✓

The following departments/agencies have contributed content

Ministry of Transport, Department of Internal Affairs and Housing and Urban Development.
Tātaki Auckland Unlimited has provided content relating to Auckland City Centre.

Minister's office to complete:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |

Comments



BRIEFING

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For the period Monday 14 April to Sunday 11 May 2025

Date:	9 May 2025	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	BRIEFING-REQ-0013260

Purpose

To provide you with a fortnightly report for the Auckland Portfolio for the period Monday 14 April to Sunday 11 May 2025.

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) recommends that you:

Note the contents of this briefing and discuss at the next officials meeting.

Noted

Michael Quinn
Head of the Auckland Policy Office
09 / 05 /2025

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister for Auckland
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1. Auckland Portfolio Priorities

Topic/ Contact person	Comment																		
Auckland Recovery																			
Michael Quinn Head of the APO Privacy of natural persons	See Annex One for the Auckland Council’s Recovery Weekly Report (week ending 2 May 2025).																		
Auckland Regional Deal																			
Michael Quinn Head of the APO Privacy of natural persons	Confidential advice to Government																		
Auckland Transport CCO																			
Karen Lyons Auckland Director Ministry of Transport Privacy of natural persons	<p>Auckland Transport Board Meeting 29 April 2025</p> <p>Auckland Transport Performance Against 2024/2025 Statement of Intent Targets</p> <p>In the March quarter data of the 23 metrics in Auckland Transport’s Statement of Intent, 7 were above targets, 5 below and 10 met, with one not recorded. Some key measures are summarised in the table below.</p> <table><tr><th>Measure</th><th>Latest Result</th><th>24/25 Target</th></tr><tr><td>Customer perceptions Auckland Transport listens and responds to Aucklanders’ needs</td><td>30%</td><td>33%</td></tr><tr><td>Local board satisfaction with engagement (November data)</td><td>71%</td><td>47%</td></tr><tr><td>Average travel time across the arterial network (10km journey)</td><td>22.5 min</td><td>24 min</td></tr><tr><td>Arterial productivity Average number of people moving per hour during the morning peak</td><td>29,378</td><td>28,000</td></tr><tr><td>PT utilisation for frequent routes during peak</td><td>44.7%</td><td>49%</td></tr></table>	Measure	Latest Result	24/25 Target	Customer perceptions Auckland Transport listens and responds to Aucklanders’ needs	30%	33%	Local board satisfaction with engagement (November data)	71%	47%	Average travel time across the arterial network (10km journey)	22.5 min	24 min	Arterial productivity Average number of people moving per hour during the morning peak	29,378	28,000	PT utilisation for frequent routes during peak	44.7%	49%
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Measure	Latest Result	24/25 Target
Reliability Percentage of services that start according to schedule	Bus 96% Ferry 97.2% Rail 96.2%	Bus 98% Ferry 98% Rail 85%
Farebox Recovery Ratio the percentage of the total operating cost recovered through fares	33%	34%
Road maintenance Percentage of the sealed local road network that is resurfaced or rehabilitated	5.8%	6.5%
Deaths and serious injuries on the road network in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland – targets are no more than	589	576

While the customer perceptions metric was below target, the March quarter saw an increase of six percentage points, which Auckland Transport have attributed to fewer unplanned disruptions, decreased negative media coverage, the introduction of contactless payments and fewer safety incidents.

Private Revenue Ratio (PRR)

The New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) has confirmed it will recommend its Board accepts finalised PRR targets, based on Auckland Council's Long-Term Plan.

	FY25	FY26	FY27
Initial NZTA Targets	30%	34%	42%
New Targets	29.4%	30.2%	30.5%

Strategic Document Rationalisation

Auckland Transport have reviewed its 28 strategic documents, rationalised these down to 18, and established a hierarchy for these documents.

The number of strategic documents demonstrate the need for transport governance reforms to streamline planning and set clear direction in Auckland.

Time of Use Charging

Auckland Transport are looking to release further papers on their work in May 2025. This includes an Options Report containing descriptions of potential locations that a time of use charge could be applied (the options) and initial analysis on proposed schemes.

Capital Programme Update

Auckland Transport reported a year-to-March capital expenditure of \$879 million, tracking at 90% of budget. A full year forecast is indicating 99% delivery.

For the pre-City Rail Link Level Crossing programme, four crossings have been closed and the remainder are expected to be removed by



	<p>late 2025. Property acquisition is underway for the Church Street East removal programme.</p> <p>The Level Crossing Programme Single Stage Business Case is expected to go to the Auckland Transport Board in June 2025, followed by the NZTA Board in August.</p>
Law and Order	
Michael Quinn Head of the APO Privacy of natural persons	<p>For the year ending February 2025, we can report that monthly victimisations in Auckland City Centre are down from their peak in late 2022 and early 2023, but are still 35% to 40% above pre-pandemic levels.</p> <p>Of note in the past 12 months (February 2024 to February 2025) are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Theft and related offences – minus 28%• Acts intended to cause injury – minus 11%• Unlawful entry – minus 9%• Robbery and extortion – minus 25%• Sexual assault – plus 6% <p>Despite the decreases, City Centre Advisory Group members have reported that crime and anti-social behaviour in the central city appears to have increased. While this feedback is based on anecdotal information, there was a consistency in the messaging across CCAG members. This feedback has been provided to Police and the Auckland Regional Leadership Group for their information.</p>
Economic Growth	
Michael Quinn Head of the APO Privacy of natural persons	<p>City Centre Advisory Group (CCAG)</p> <p>The CCAG met on Monday 5 May 2025. Of note in the CCAG discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crime and anti-social behaviour seem to be increasing based on personal experience of CCAG members despite recorded decreases in victimisations (see above).• The CCAG supports an increase in the city centre residential population which currently sits at around 40,000 residents. The CCAG supports a doubling of the residential population. Key barriers identified by the CCAG include a lack of educational facilities to support population diversity and building codes that restrict the conversion of offices into residential blocks.• The CCAG is concerned about the planned reduction of major events funding by Auckland Council and expects this to be resolved to avoid negative economic impacts of over \$30 million annually. The CCAG was disappointed to hear Auckland's bid for the 2030 Gay Games has been dropped (see separate advice in the following sections).• The CCAG received an update on the economic performance of the city centre (see below). <p>Auckland City Centre Economic Performance and Benchmarking</p> <p>Tātaki Auckland Unlimited has provided an overview of the economic</p>



contribution and recent trends within Auckland's City Centre. The analysis was prepared for the City Centre Advisory Panel. The overview is useful context to the Government's Economic Growth focus given the dominant role the city centre plays in NZ's overall economy.

The City Centre is a key contributor to the Auckland and national economies. In 2024, it generated an estimated \$33.27 billion in gross domestic product, accounting for approximately 21% of the Auckland region's economic output (Auckland's GDP \$160 billion). This area continues to be home to around 159,000 jobs, and if considered as a standalone economy, would rank among the largest in New Zealand.

It remains the most economically dense and productive area in the country, with the highest employment and output per square kilometre. Labour productivity in the City Centre is more than 40% higher than the Auckland average. It is also the heart of New Zealand's financial system, accounting for 37% of NZ's GDP from financial and insurance services.

The City Centre continues to distinguish itself as a multifunctional environment that combines high-value employment with strong cultural, retail, hospitality, education and visitor economies. It accommodates more than 37,000 residents, 44,000 tertiary students, and nearly 8,000 tourism and accommodation workers. The city's universities are a major institutional presence, helping to attract a young, highly educated population. These factors, along with its walkability and urban vibrancy, give the City Centre unique characteristics and economic potential within the New Zealand context.

Despite the disruptions caused by the pandemic, the area's concentration of office-based, high-value service employment has supported strong economic performance. Between 2019 and 2024, the City Centre's GDP grew by nearly 25%, compared with 12% growth for the rest of Auckland. However, this economic resilience has not been matched by consumer activity, which remains subdued.

The report notes a structural shift in working patterns, with many office workers now coming into the City Centre only three days per week. As a result, foot traffic and inflation-adjusted spending remained 25 to 30% below pre-pandemic levels in 2024. While evening and weekend visitation has held up somewhat better, consumer preferences have shifted, with relatively stronger demand for hospitality and recreation, and weaker demand in traditional retail.

The report does not examine the impact of office workers reducing their working week in the office environment. Typically, this is where knowledge spillovers and agglomeration benefits occur within and between firms.

Office vacancy reached 9.9% at the end of 2024, with most vacancies occurring in lower-quality space. Prime office space continues to perform well, with vacancies under 5%. Retail vacancy also remains elevated, although it is trending downward. These indicators reflect ongoing uncertainty about long-term demand but are offset by continued confidence from investors. A pipeline of approximately



	<p>\$6.8 billion in private and public investment is currently under way in the City Centre.</p> <p>The report also includes benchmarking against central business districts in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane. Auckland's City Centre is comparable in structure and composition to Adelaide's, though smaller in scale than Sydney and Melbourne. Its share of regional economic output is consistent with CBDs in other Australasian cities, and its economic growth over the past 20 years has been stronger than most. Like Sydney and Melbourne, Auckland's City Centre is dominated by employment in finance, insurance and professional services, unlike Brisbane and Adelaide where public sector and health services feature more prominently.</p> <p>In terms of post-COVID recovery, Auckland's weekday foot traffic remains weaker than that of Sydney or Melbourne, although weekend activity is comparatively more resilient. Factors such as new metro infrastructure in Sydney and a strong entertainment economy in Melbourne have helped accelerate their recovery. Auckland's office attendance rates are comparable to peer cities but shifts in consumption and use patterns continue to shape demand across both retail and commercial sectors.</p> <p>While Auckland's City Centre population is smaller in absolute terms than Sydney or Brisbane, its share of the regional population is higher. The current population of approximately 37,140 residents continues to grow, reflecting an urban core that is increasingly mixed-use and residential.</p> <p>The report reinforces the City Centre's strategic value and enduring strengths, while highlighting the ways in which long-term shifts in work, travel and consumer behaviour are reshaping demand.</p> <p>We will provide a slide pack in the next Fortnightly Report.</p> <p>Tāmaki Makaurau Business Network (TMBN)</p> <p>The TMBN met on 1 May 2025 to discuss a range of business-related matters. Of note, and connected to the report above, Heart of the City and the Retail Association both advised that foot traffic and spending in the central city has not recovered from post COVID levels. March 2025 foot traffic was 65% of March 2019 levels, and spending in March 2025 was 82% of spending in March 2019.</p> <p>The TMBN observations are consistent with latest data from Tataki Auckland Unlimited and Infometrics which show that real retail sales were down 4.5% in 2024.</p>
Water Reform Update	
<p>Bex Sullivan</p> <p>Deputy Executive Director Water Services, Department of Internal Affairs</p> <p>Privacy of natural persons</p>	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p>



Confidential advice to Government

2. General Auckland Updates

Topic/ Contact person	Comment
Update on Queens Wharf and the Cloud	
Dale Elvy Manager Destinations and Regional Economies MBIE	Confidential advice to Government
Privacy of natural persons	



	Confidential advice to Government
Watercare Board Appointment	
Vanessa Blakelock Partnerships Director, Department of Internal Affairs	Auckland Council has appointed Rukumoana Schaafhausen as director of Watercare Services Limited (Watercare). Cr Maurice Williamson chaired the selection panel and welcomed Rukumoana to the Watercare board. The appointment was approved by the Performance and Appointments Committee on 29 April 2025. The committee is responsible for all appointments to the boards of council-controlled organisations, in accordance with the council’s Appointment and Remuneration Policy for Board Members and the Local Government Act. Rukumoana Schaafhausen is trained commercial and property solicitor who has more than 20 years of board room experience leading iwi organisations, utilities (energy and water), banking, investments and property development. Her current roles include the boards of Contact Energy, Kiwi Group Capital, Alvarium Limited and Tainui Group Holdings.
Privacy of natural persons	
Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area	
Vanessa Blakelock Partnerships Director, Department of Internal Affairs	Following consultation approval decisions by the Waitākere Ranges Local Board and Auckland Council, consultation on a formal agreement between the Crown, tangata whenua and Auckland Council to help protect and manage the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area was consulted on from 24 March – 28 April. The Deed is being developed in line with the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008, a local act administered by the Department of Conservation, passed to protect the area’s natural, cultural and historic values. The deed is a specific vehicle within the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area Act 2008. The proposed Deed of Acknowledgement is intended to outline how these partners might work together to care for and enhance the Waitākere Ranges Heritage Area. The Deed will apply to public land. From May-June Auckland Council will review and analyse public feedback before the Local Board and Council make decisions on the Deed in July-August.
Privacy of natural persons	
Update on New Zealand International Convention Centre	
Dale Elvy Manager Destinations and Regional Economies MBIE	Confidential advice to Government



Privacy of natural persons	Confidential advice to Government
General Auckland Transport Updates	
Karen Lyons Auckland Director Ministry of Transport	The trains have reopened following a two-week shut down over the Easter school holidays. The Minister of Transport announced funding for pre-consenting work on the Northwest Busway and design work and consenting for Mill Road. Also announced was the emerging preferred route for the Northland Expressway.
Privacy of natural persons	
Governing Body decisions 1 May 2025	
Vanessa Blakelock Partnerships Director, Department of Internal Affairs	On 1 May the Governing Body met and made the following key decisions: Auckland Future Fund - this agenda item was about opportunities to make further capital contributions to the Auckland Future Fund. Council requested the Board of Directors of Port of Auckland Limited to consider paying Auckland Council a special dividend equivalent to the net proceeds from the sale of Marsden Maritime Holdings Limited shares. Council also approved that those proceeds be transferred to the Auckland Future Fund if the Board of Directors of Port of Auckland Limited resolve to pay Auckland Council a special dividend equivalent to the net proceeds from the sale of Marsden Maritime Holdings Limited shares and delegate the Auckland Council Chief Executive to effect that transfer as a capital contribution to the Auckland Future Fund in a manner consistent with the terms of the Auckland Future Fund Trust Deed and the committee report. It was noted that council staff will continue to look for opportunities to further capitalise the Auckland Future Fund, with advice to the new Governing Body following the local government election in October 2025. Western Springs Stadium - Council received Tātaki Auckland Unlimited's report on the EOI process on the future use of Western Spring Stadium and agreed to publicly consult on the three identified options for the future use of the Western Springs Stadium: Auckland Arena, Western Springs Bowl and Neither Option. These options are outlined in the box below. Council also agreed to a communication and engagement plan for the consultation process, noting that public consultation will run from 19 May to 15 June 2025; general feedback can be provided through the AK Have Your Say website; Regional Organisations and Interest Groups (ROIGs) will be invited to speak directly to the Governing Body on 30 May and 9 June 2025; whenua and local boards will be invited to submit feedback through this process and their views will be reflected in the subsequent Governing Body report in July 2025. A summary of the findings will be analysed and provided as part of the final recommendations brought back to governing body in July 2025, and that, following consultation, the Governing Body intends to adopt a
Privacy of natural persons	



	<p>preferred option for Western Springs Stadium. Any final implementation of a decision by Tātaki Auckland Unlimited will be subject to a business case, due diligence and agreement of commercial terms.</p> <p>The three options noted in the report are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 1: Auckland Arena <p>Proponent: MWF NewCo (Anna Mowbray, Ali Williams, Bill Foley, Bennett Rosenthal)</p> <p>Multi-purpose sports and entertainment precinct centred on a football-focused 12,500-seat stadium (25,000+ capacity for concerts), including: high-performance facilities, 8 indoor basketball courts, 4 padel courts and related commercial activity (hospitality and sports/health-related services).</p> <p>Funded by private investment (\$200-\$300 million initial investment and ongoing opex and capex), with no upfront or ongoing costs to ratepayer, in exchange for a long-term discounted or community lease.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 2: Western Springs Bowl <p>Proponents: CRS Records, Eccles Entertainment and Ponsonby Rugby Club.</p> <p>Multi-purpose sports and entertainment facilities including permanent music/festival infrastructure (capacity of 50,000), a broadcast-capable boutique stadium (5,000+ seats) and a multisport community hub as the home for Ponsonby Rugby Club and other clubs.</p> <p>Funded by a mix of private investment (\$30 million) and ratepayer funding (\$18-20 million upfront investment and ongoing operational and capital costs), as well as long-term discounted and/or community leases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option 3: Neither option <p>Do nothing or explore other ideas</p> <p>Under this option existing arrangements could be retained (including extending the lease with Ponsonby Rugby Club and managing the venue for concerts/festivals); or the council and Tātaki could explore other ideas for the venue.</p> <p>For comparison purposes, Tātaki modelled two scenarios under option 3 that involve retaining a lease with Ponsonby Rugby Club – option 3a (extending the existing lease) & option 3b (Tātaki funding a new clubroom).</p>
Fast-track portfolio advice process	
<p>Andy Hill Director Auckland MBIE</p> <p>Privacy of natural persons</p>	<p>Under the Fast-track approvals process, the Minister for Infrastructure has the ability to invite relevant portfolio Ministers for comment on applications. The requested advice supports the Minister for Infrastructure's decision to refer applications to the Expert Panel for a substantive decision. As Minister for Auckland, you may be invited for comment on Auckland focussed applications. The Fast Track Approvals Act legislates 20 working days in which to respond.</p>



	<p>The purpose of the Fast-track Approvals Act (the Act) is “to facilitate the delivery of infrastructure and development projects with significant regional or national benefits”. Section 22 of the Act specifies the criteria for assessing the referral of an application and includes consideration as to whether the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Is on any central or local govt priority lists, sector plans, or strategies• Will deliver new significant infrastructure or enable continued functioning of significant infrastructure• Will increase housing supply• Will deliver significant economic benefits• Will support primary industries (including aquaculture)• Will support development of natural resources (including minerals and petroleum)• Will support climate change mitigation• Will support climate adaptation or reduce risks from natural hazards, or support recovery from natural hazard events• Will address significant environmental issues• Is consistent with local or regional planning docs <p>While there are no specific requirements for portfolio advice, the approach across other MBIE portfolios has been for advice to be high level, factual and concise, focussing on government aspirations for the portfolio and including economic impact and any spillover benefits. An in-depth assessment of the financial case or environmental impacts of each proposal are more appropriately considered at the substantive Expert Panel stage.</p> <p>For each proposal that is forwarded to you for comment, MBIE will provide you with a high-level appraisal of whether the application meets section 22 criteria for referral from an Auckland regional perspective. Advice will be provided using the approved template which you will be able to review, amend as necessary and sign before forwarding to the Minister for Infrastructure.</p> <p>Confidential advice to Government</p>
New Zealand Sail Grand Prix 2026 Update	
<p>Kylie Hawker-Green Manager, New Zealand Major Events MBIE Privacy of natural persons</p>	<p>Sail GP have officially announced its 2026 global series calendar on Thursday 17 April 2025.</p> <p>While Auckland hosted a successful event in 20 January 2025, a New Zealand event was not included in the preliminary schedule announcement. NZ Government has an existing agreement with Sail GP [NZ Sail Grand Prix Season 3 – 6] for an event to be delivered in Auckland in 2026, Confidential advice to Government</p>



	<p>Confidential advice to Government</p> <p>Reactive media statements can be provided to your office should there be any media queries.</p>
2030 Gay Games bid withdrawn	
<p>Kylie Hawker-Green Manager, New Zealand Major Events MBIE Privacy of natural persons</p>	<p>Tātaki Auckland Unlimited (TAU) has withdrawn Auckland's bid to host the 2030 Gay Games due to funding uncertainties. In December 2024, Auckland's bid was shortlisted alongside Perth and Denver, Colorado with a final bid book due for submission at the end of May 2025. TAU's bid had assumed a sustainable funding model would be introduced to replace the Accommodation Provider Targeted Rate (APTR) that previously funded major event activity. TAU were not able to identify an alternate funding option to allow them to remain in the Gay Games bid process.</p> <p>Confidential advice to Government</p>

3. Ministerial items on hand

3.1 Upcoming significant meetings

Date and venue	Meeting and info
9 May 2025, 11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Committee for Auckland
12 May 2025, 4:30-5:00 pm	Auckland Officials Meeting
28 May 2025, 8:00- 8:30 am	Auckland City Mission

3.2 Other Ministerial engagements related to Auckland

Date	Minister	Meeting Info
tbc	Hon Nicola Willis	Waterman Capital



3.3 Upcoming significant media and announcements

Timing	Announcement
None	

3.4 Upcoming briefings and aide memoire

Title	Date to Minister	Action for Minister	Key contact	Summary of paper/comment
BRIEFING-REQ-0013724 Event Briefing for Meeting with Auckland City Mission	26 May 2025		Andy Hill Privacy of natural persons	To provide background information for your meeting



3.5 Upcoming Cabinet papers

Title	Committee	Expected committee date	Key contact	Summary of paper/comment
Six-monthly report on the cross-government work programme in Auckland	ECO	tbc	Andy Hill Privacy of natural persons	Cabinet report back on the of consolidated central government work programme in Auckland


3.6 Official Information Act requests (Ministerial and Departmental for consultation)

Due to Minister's office	Statutory due date to requester	Ref	Requester	Organisation	Summary of request
16 May 2025		DOIA-REQ-0011008	Privacy of natural persons	Office of Hon. Carmel Sepuloni MP – Deputy Leader of the Opposition	Clarified request on 19 March 2025: <i>Requesting for all the fortnightly reports from October 2023 onwards.</i> Requested for 20-day extension on 15 April 2025
21 May 2025		MOIA-REQ-0013491	Privacy of natural persons	Labour Leader's Office	Requesting copies of: All letters, emails, reports, briefings, aide-memoires, memos, or any other documents regarding the Auckland Convention Centre. All letters, emails, reports, briefings, aide-memoires, memos, or any other documents regarding the City Rail Link.

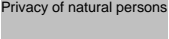


Due to Minister's office	Statutory due date to requester	Ref	Requester	Organisation	Summary of request
22 May 2025		DOIA-REQ-0013177	<small>Privacy of natural persons</small> 	Labour Leader's Office	Requesting for copies of the following documents: BRIEFING-REQ-0010971 Auckland Proceeds of Crime Fund announcement BRIEFING-REQ-0010861 Minister for Auckland Fortnightly Report 3 March to 16 March 2025 BRIEFING-REQ-0010940 Meeting with the Tamaki Makaurau Business Network BRIEFING-REQ-0010923 Auckland Officials Meeting Agency Options BRIEFING-REQ-0010941 Meeting with the Employers and Manufacturers Association (EMA) BRIEFING-REQ-0011831 Auckland Officials Forum BRIEFING-REQ-0011465 Minister for Auckland Fortnightly Report 17 March to 30 March 2025 BRIEFING-REQ-0009669
23 May 2025		MOIA-REQ-0013601	<small>Privacy of natural persons</small> 	Labour Leader's Office	Requesting copies of: All correspondence, including letters, emails, and text messages sent or received by your Office regarding Council bed night visitor levies or an Auckland Council bed night visitor levy All correspondence, including letters, emails, and text messages sent or received by you regarding Council bed night visitor levies or an Auckland Council bed night visitor levy All advice, aide-memoire, briefings, memos, or any other documents regarding Council bed night visitor levies or an Auckland Council bed night visitor levy



Due to Minister's office	Statutory due date to requester	Ref	Requester	Organisation	Summary of request
26 May 2025		MOIA-REQ-0013725	Privacy of natural persons 	Labour Leader's Office	Requesting copies of all letters, emails, text messages, briefings, memos, aide-mémoire, and notes relating to the following meetings: MEET: Hon Chris Bishop 5/03/2025 MEET: Hon James Meager 11/03/2025 MEET: Tamaki Makaurau Business Network 18/03/2025 MEET: EMA 18/03/2025 18/03/2025 MEET: Auckland Transport 18/03/2025 MEDIA: Auckland Announcement 18/03/2025 ATTEND: Project Auckland Luncheon 26/03/2025 MEET: Auckland Officials 26/03/2025

3.7 Ministerial correspondence

Due to Minister's office	Ref	Correspondent	Organisation	Summary of Correspondence
None	MC-REQ-0013826	Privacy of natural persons 		A concerned Aucklander and business owner, proposing to re-open the apartment market to foreign buyers — particularly in central Auckland where there is currently an oversupply of unsold or under-occupied apartments.



3.8 Proactive release

Date	Title	Comment
13 March 2025	BRIEFING-REQ-0010672 Proactive release of Auckland fortnightly reports and event briefings from 27 January 2025 to 28 February 2025	Requesting your approval to proactively release the proposed redactions of fortnightly reports and event briefings from 27 January 2025 to 28 February 2025. MBIE will release the information on the date your office will advise. <i>Documents in this briefing are within the scope of DOIA-REQ-0011008</i>
10 April 2025	BRIEFING-REQ-0012400 Proactive release of Auckland fortnightly reports and event briefings from 1 March to 30 March 2025	Requesting your approval to proactively release the proposed redactions of fortnightly reports and event briefings from 1 March to 30 March 2025. MBIE will release the information on the date your office will advise. <i>Documents in this briefing are within the scope of DOIA-REQ-0013177 & MOIA-REQ-0013725</i>

3.9 Fast-Track Approvals- Auckland

Project Name	Unique Ref No.	Applicant Organisation	Theme/ sector	Ministers / agencies invited to comment by the Minister for Infrastructure or Panel	Date Received	Due Date to send Comments
Auckland Surf Park - Stage 2	FTAA-2502-1012	AW Holdings Ltd Partnership	Infrastructure - other	Ministers: Environment, Housing, Climate Change, Economic Growth, Regional Development, Auckland, Science Innovation and Technology	24 April 2025	14 May 2025
Waitākere District Court – New Courthouse Project	FTAA-2503-1032	Minister of Justice	Infrastructure - other	Ministers: Environment, Economic Growth, Regional Development, Auckland, Courts, Police, Corrections Administering agencies: MfE	11 April 2025	14 May 2025



4 Auckland dashboards

Transport environmental scan																				
<div>Karen Lyons</div> <div>Director, Auckland, Ministry of Transport</div> <div>Privacy of natural persons</div>	Public transport patronage update																			
	For the fortnight 31 March – 13 April 2025, public transport patronage totalled just under 3.8 million boardings across the city’s public transport network.																			
	Patronage increased across all modes for this fortnight compared to the same period last year, with an overall 12% increase. The largest increase was rail patronage which increased by 16%, followed by bus patronage at 12% and ferry patronage at 7%.																			
	Public transport patronage for the year to 31 March is 89 million boardings which has increased on the previous year’s total of 84 million boardings. Across all modes, bus and rail patronage saw the largest annual increase of 6%, whereas ferry patronage had a smaller annual increase, at 2%.																			
	At 89 million boardings, current annual patronage reaches 89% of Auckland Transport’s latest SOI target of 94.7 million annual PT trips for 2024/25.																			
	<table><tr><th colspan="3">PT fortnightly patronage</th></tr><tr><th>Mode</th><th>31 March – 13 April 2025</th><th>31 March – 13 April 2024</th></tr><tr><td>Bus</td><td>3,082,215</td><td>2,757,880</td></tr><tr><td>Rail</td><td>602,066</td><td>518,255</td></tr><tr><td>Ferry</td><td>113,592</td><td>106,167</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>3,797,873</td><td>3,382,302</td></tr></table>		PT fortnightly patronage			Mode	31 March – 13 April 2025	31 March – 13 April 2024	Bus	3,082,215	2,757,880	Rail	602,066	518,255	Ferry	113,592	106,167	Total	3,797,873	3,382,302
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PT annual patronage																				
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Bus	70,183,100	65,942,900																		
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Ferry	4,944,100	4,863,200																		
Total	89,253,800	84,099,200																		
Data: AT Metro daily patronage report.																				
Note: Numbers in the monthly and annual patronage numbers may not add up to the total exactly due to rounding.																				



Auckland housing update

Natasha Tod

Director, Auckland,
Ministry of Housing
and Urban
Development

Privacy of natural persons

House price index and median house price (REINZ)

- The House price index shows a slight movement (down 0.7% on March 2024)
- Number of sales is up 9.8% since March 2024.
- Median House Price is \$1,040,000, which is up 3.8% in the month of March 2025, and down 2.8% since March 2024.

HUD commentary:

Auckland house prices have remained stable over the past year, in line with the national trend. Prices have shown more variability in recent months as falling lending rates attract some buyers back into the market.

The available inventory of houses for sale continues to grow in 2025 and remains high. This abundance of available homes allows buyers to be more selective, facing less competition. As a result, house prices are not rising significantly, even with increased buying interest due to interest rate cuts.

New dwelling building consents (Stats NZ)

- New dwelling consents are down 12.0% compared to February 2024.
- Total new dwellings consented annually since February 2024 is 13,773, which is down 9.7% compared to the previous year.

HUD commentary:

Building intentions in Auckland have remained stable over the last year. Construction activity is yet to rebound, with the actual value of total building work in Auckland for the December 2024 quarter was down 13% compared with the December 2023 quarter.

Existing projects are being completed faster than new projects are starting, and construction employment continues to fall. This will be exacerbated by the lag between consenting, financing and getting new projects underway.

Longer term optimism in the sector is mounting, with an anticipated increase in building intentions and activity in the medium-term. The pace at which intentions and activity increases will depend on how much interest rates fall and how quickly existing newly built stock clears.

Dwelling completions and new land parcels (Auckland Council)

- 17,495 dwellings received code compliance certificates (CCC) annually since January 2024.
- 1,001 new residential land parcels (under 5000m²) were created in February 2025 (down 4.6% compared to February 2024)

HUD commentary:

Annual CCC issuance has decreased over the past few months. This is expected to continue over the short-term, as building activity is expected to tighten further.

	<p>Rental price index</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.6% decrease annually since November 2023 <p>HUD commentary: RPI growth remains minimal. Low demand in rental properties influenced by declining net immigration is inhibiting growth in rental prices. This is particularly prevalent in Auckland.</p> <p>The Rental Price Index (Flow Measure) has not been updated since November 2024 data was released due to upgrades to MBIE's tenancy bond-lodgement system. Work to integrate the new system's data is ongoing.</p>
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Annexes

Annex One: Auckland Council's Recovery Weekly Report

Confidential advice to Government

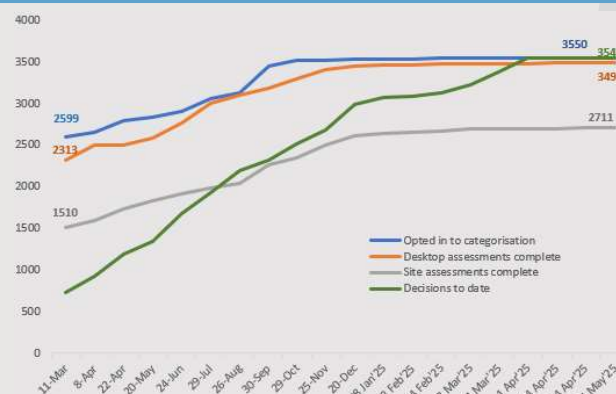
Confidential advice to Government

Confidential advice to Government

Categorisation Stages

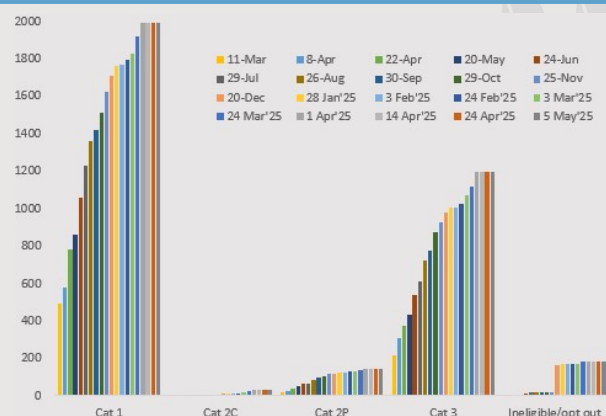
Stages	Initial Impacted properties	Opted in to Categorisation	Desktop Assessments Complete	Site Assessments Complete
Number of properties	7,389	3,550	3,491	2,711
Change from last week	no change	0	3	1

- Registrations have reached 3,550, exceeding the January 2025 forecast of 3,548 by 2 properties.
- This increase includes one property due to a late entry and one property resulting from data cleansing.
- Two properties are pending final risk assessment categorisation



Summary of Categorisation Progress

Final Categories 3,548 properties	Category 1	Category 2C	Category 2P	Category 3 Eligible for buyout	Ineligible/opt out
Number of properties categorised	1,989	32	146	1,197	184
Change from last week	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Final Categories 3,548 (Jan'25)	1,984	38	141	1,215	170
% Decisions to date	100%	84%	104%	99%	

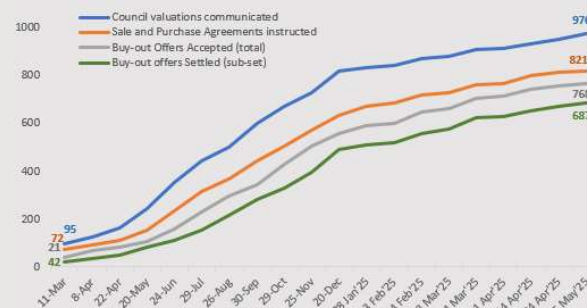


Category 3 Buy-outs in Progress

Stages	Council valuations communicated	Sale and Purchase Agreements instructed	Buy-out Offers Accepted	Buy-out Offers Settled
Number of properties	976	821	768	687
Change from last week	23	7	9	16
Buyout offers % based on 1,215 category 3 properties	80%	68%	63%	57%

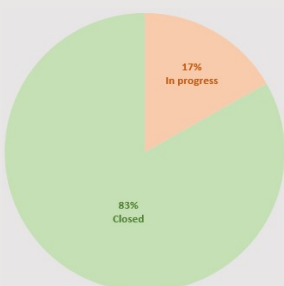
NB: % based on revised Category 3 forecast number of 1,215 properties

1,100 property owners opted in to buyout programme



Special circumstances applications, Disputes / Category reviews

Case status – 429 total requests

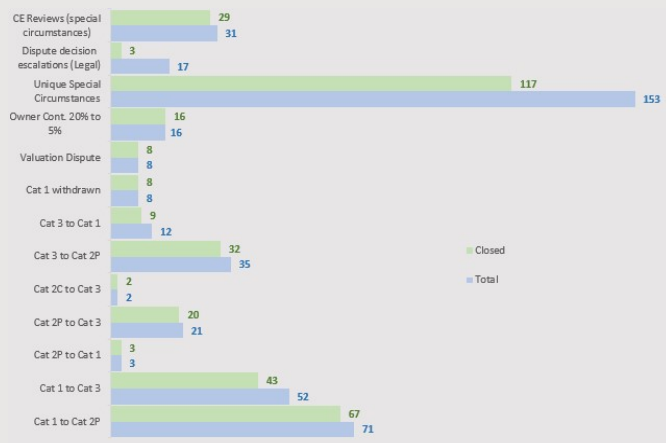


Reporting approach updated:
Total requests now treats a CE review as a new case

Monthly – total vs open and closed cases



Total vs closed cases – 429 requests breakdown to date



Confidential advice to Government



AIDE MEMOIRE

Government appointments in Auckland

Date:	22 May 2025	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	BRIEFING-REQ-0014558

Information for Minister(s)

Hon Simeon Brown

Minister for Auckland

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Michael Quinn	Head of the APO	Privacy of natural persons	
Andy Hill	Director Auckland		✓

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

Ministry of Transport and Department of Internal Affairs

Minister's office to complete:

☐ Approved

☐ Declined

☐ Noted

☐ Needs change

☐ Seen

☐ Overtaken by Events

☐ See Minister's Notes

☐ Withdrawn

Comments



AIDE MEMOIRE

Government appointments in Auckland

Date:	22 May 2025	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	BRIEFING-REQ-0014558

Purpose

To provide you with information on process and timing for central government appointments to selected Auckland-based governance boards.

Michael Quinn

Head of the Auckland Policy Office

22 / 05 / 2025

Background

1. You have requested information on the process and timing of central government appointments to the following Auckland-based governance Boards:
 - Eden Park Trust Board
 - Foundation North
 - Hauraki Gulf Forum
 - Lottery Auckland Community Committee
 - South Auckland Social Wellbeing Board
2. A short summary of the purpose of each Board and existing membership has also been included.

Board appointment information

Eden Park Trust Board

Purpose

3. The Eden Park Trust is a Charitable Trust, established under the Eden Park Trust Act 1955, as amended by the Eden Park Trust Act 2009, and registered under the Charities Act 2005.
4. The primary purpose of the Eden Park Trust Board (the Trust) is to promote, operate, and develop Eden Park as a high-quality, multi-purpose stadium for the benefit of the Auckland region, broader community, and global audiences. This includes hosting rugby, cricket, and other sporting events, as well as recreational, musical, and cultural events.
5. The Trust also aims to ensure Eden Park is a successful and financially autonomous community asset.

Board appointment process

6. The Eden Park Trust Deed specifies that the Board membership includes five government appointees, and two appointees each from Auckland Cricket and Auckland Rugby Union.
7. The Minister for Sport and Recreation appoints the five government appointees for three-year terms.

Current government appointees

8. The five government appointees are Kereyn Smith (Chair), Simon Bridges, Marama Royal, Bill Birnie and Graham Child.
9. Marama Royal and Simon Bridges were both appointed to the Board by Hon Mark Mitchell in April 2025, with Keryn Smith and Bill Birnie reappointed for another three-year term at the same time. Graham Child was appointed in November 2024.

Foundation North

Purpose

10. Community Trusts are governed by the Community Trusts Act 1999, which makes provision for the operation of the Community Trusts established under the Trustee Banks Restructuring Act 1988.
11. Trusts carry the complete authority for managing large investments and formulating and carrying out policies to ensure the distribution of grants for charitable, cultural, philanthropic, recreational, and other purposes beneficial to the communities specified in the Trust deed.
12. Foundation North's purpose is to enhance lives through responsible funding and investment in communities in Auckland and Northland. They achieve this by providing grants, impact investments, and other forms of support to not-for-profit organizations and community initiatives. Foundation North supports initiatives that address issues like increased equity, social inclusion, regenerative environments, and community support.

Board appointment process

13. Up to a maximum of 15 Trustees are appointed to the Foundation North Board by the Minister of Finance (delegated to the Associate Minister of Finance, Hon Shane Jones) under the Community Trusts Act 1999.
14. The maximum term of office for Trustees must not exceed four years, but a Trustee may hold office on more than one occasion. Trustees must be resident in the region of the Foundation.
15. Appointments are administered by the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA). When Trustee positions become available, DIA calls for self-nominations by way of an online 'Expressions of Interest' form.
16. Appointments seek to ensure that the Foundation North Boards reflect the communities that it serves, including tangata whenua, Pacific communities, people from a diversity of ethnic and cultural backgrounds and with a range in age and a variety of lived experiences. Trustees are expected to have a broad understanding of the issues and aspirations of the communities of Auckland and Northland.

Current government appointees

17. The current Foundation North Trustees are Michelle Tsui (Chair), Ngare Rae (Deputy Chair), Nicholas Albrecht, Sara-Jane Erika, Tevita Funaki, Vijay Goel, Ling Ling Liang, Hana Maihi, Stephen Park, Maxine Shortland, Stephen Titter, Romy Udanga, Walter Wells, David Whyte and Nurian Janah.
18. Tevita Funaki, Hana Maihi, Sara-Jane Erika and Stephen Park all complete their current terms on 31 July 2025. A nomination process for Trustee appointments is currently open and closes on 23 May at 5:00pm. Existing Trustees may be reappointed.

Hauraki Gulf Forum

Purpose

19. The Hauraki Gulf Forum (the Forum) is a statutory body, created under the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act 2000. The Forum plays a key role in implementing the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Act which establishes objectives for the Hauraki Gulf, its islands, and its catchments.
20. The Forum's purpose is to promote and facilitate the integrated management, protection, and

enhancement of the Hauraki Gulf. This includes overseeing the sustainability of the Hauraki Gulf's natural resources, promoting communication and collaboration among various stakeholders, and recognizing the cultural significance of the Hauraki Gulf to tangata whenua.

Board appointment process

21. The Hauraki Gulf Forum membership is made up of:

- representatives of the Ministers of Conservation, Fisheries and Māori Development;
- elected representatives of Auckland Council, Waikato Regional Council, Thames-Coromandel, Hauraki, Waikato and Matamata-Piako District Councils; and
- six representatives of the tangata whenua of the Hauraki Gulf and its islands appointed by the Minister of Conservation.

22. The process for appointing the six tangata whenua members is run by the Department of Conservation (DOC). When positions are available, DOC puts out an open call to all iwi and hapū in Auckland and Coromandel. Advice is then provided to the Minister of Conservation for a decision, following a conversation with the Minister for Māori Development (noting that Hon Tama Potaka currently holds both portfolios).

23. Terms of appointment are generally for a period of 3 years. The current tangata whenua members were appointed from early 2024 through to early 2027. The next call for appointments is expected in the second half of 2026.

24. The elected representatives are political appointees by the relevant local authority. Crown representatives are typically senior Auckland-based officials from DOC, Fisheries New Zealand and Te Puni Kokiri.

Current government appointees

25. The six tangata whenua representatives on the Forum are Nicola Rata-MacDonald (co-chairperson – tangata whenua), Dean Ogilvie, Terrence Hohneck, Charmaine Bailie, Tom Irvine and Joe Davis.

Lottery Auckland Community Committee

Purpose

26. Lottery distribution committees were established under the Gambling Act 2003 to distribute the profits of New Zealand lotteries for community purposes. There are eleven Committees distributed nationally, including the Lottery Auckland Community Committee.

27. The amount of funding allocated to each committee is determined by the Lottery Grants Board. The Lottery Grants Board has allocated \$82,260,871 to the lottery regional distribution committees for the 2024/25 financial year, with \$24,571,513 allocated to Auckland.

28. Community funding is available for projects, activities, resources or services that have a community or social service focus, and which help communities and improve well-being and the quality of peoples' lives. The Lottery Auckland Community Committee makes grants to locally based projects within its boundaries.

29. In making distribution decisions, Lottery Community distribution committees must have regard to the needs of Māori, Pacific peoples and other ethnic communities, women, youth, older people and people with disabilities. The Lottery Auckland Community Committee priorities for the 2024/25 financial year are:

- Māori communities have strong connections, are living well and supporting themselves and others to succeed.
- Pasifika communities are connected and empowered to support young people, elders and families.
- The welfare and resilience of diverse, local communities and groups are supported.
- Lower priority will be given to organisations that are receiving government funding and are unable to demonstrate community need and benefits over and above their contracts.

Board appointment process

30. Lottery Community Committee members are appointed by the Minister of Internal Affairs for terms of up to three years and may be reappointed.
31. When positions become vacant, the Department of Internal Affairs puts out a call for nominations. Applicants must provide a completed application form and provide an up-to-date CV. Preferred candidates will be asked to provide a declaration that includes any actual or perceived conflict of interest, or any other matter that may affect their suitability for appointment.
32. A mix of first-hand experience in a community group or groups, management skills, and/or extensive business knowledge, and grant distribution experience is desirable. In general, appointees to community distribution committees should be residents of the regions concerned. There may be exceptions to this to ensure that committees have an appropriate balance of gender, ethnicity, skills and experience.

Current government appointees

33. Current members of the Lottery Auckland Community Committee are Therese Marie Lanigan-Behrent, Grace Ryi, Richard Pamatatau and Richard Leung. There is currently one vacant position and the terms of Therese Marie Lanigan-Behrent, Grace Ryi both expire in November 2025.

South Auckland Social Wellbeing Board

Purpose

34. The South Auckland Social Wellbeing Board (SASWB) is a place-based initiative established by Cabinet in 2016. It was implemented to improve outcomes for at-risk children and young people in South Auckland by 'bringing key South Auckland government decision-makers together in an across-agency governance structure to take collective responsibility for outcomes'.
35. SASWB is designed to have collective accountability to the lead government Minister, the Minister for Social Development and Employment, through an Independent Chair. The Board is comprised of the Independent Chair and senior Auckland-based officials from member agencies.¹
36. The Chair of the Board is a non-voting position; its role is to lead sound consensus decision-making and ensure members are held to account for their agencies' contributions to SASWB's

¹ Government agencies represented on the SASWB are ACC, Auckland Council, Health New Zealand, Kāinga Ora, Ministry of Corrections, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice, Ministry for Pacific Peoples, Ministry of Social Development, New Zealand Police, Oranga Tamariki and Te Puni Kōkiri.

objectives. The Chair also has lead responsibility for representing Board advice to Ministers, Cabinet and Parliament where appropriate.

Board appointment process

37. The Independent Chair is appointed by the lead Minister following consultation with the Cabinet Appointment and Honours Committee. The appointment is for a three-year term, which can be extended with mutual consent.
38. The other members of the board are appointed by the member agencies. They must be at an appropriate level of seniority to exercise delegated authority and influence programmes and services relating to the remit of SASWB.

Current government appointees

39. The current Independent Chair is Dr Julie Wharewera-Mika who was appointed in January 2025.



Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Auckland

For the period Monday 12 May to Sunday 25 May 2025

Date:	23 May 2025	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In confidence	Tracking number:	BRIEFING-REQ-0014171

Ministers	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Simeon Brown Minister for Auckland	Note the contents of this briefing and discuss at the next officials meeting	N/A

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Michael Quinn	Head of the Auckland Policy Office	Privacy of natural persons	
Andy Hill	Director Auckland		✓

The following departments/agencies have contributed content
Ministry of Transport and Department of Internal Affairs.

Minister's office to complete:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |

Comments



BRIEFING

Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Auckland

For the period Monday 12 May to Sunday 25 May 2025

Date:	23 May 2025	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	BRIEFING-REQ-0014171

Purpose

To provide you with a fortnightly report for the Auckland Portfolio for the period Monday 12 May to Sunday 25 May 2025.

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) recommends that you:

Note the contents of this briefing and discuss at the next officials meeting.

Noted

Michael Quinn
Head of the Auckland Policy Office
23 / 05 /2025

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister for Auckland
..... / /



1. Auckland Portfolio Priorities

Topic/ Contact person	Comment
Auckland Recovery	
Michael Quinn Head of the APO Privacy of natural persons	Confidential advice to Government
Auckland Regional Deal	
	No updates available for this report
Auckland Transport CCO	
Karen Lyons Auckland Director Ministry of Transport Privacy of natural persons	Transport, Resilience and Infrastructure Committee (TRIC) Meeting 8 May 2025 At the 3 April 2025 TRIC meeting, the Auckland Transport Board Chair, Richard Leggat, presented the draft Auckland Transport Statement of Intent (SOI) 2025-2028 to the Committee responding to the direction in the February 2025 letter of expectation. Auckland Council provided feedback to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater detail and milestones to be included in the SOI, including for the City Rail Link.• A focus on preparing for transport reform, including delivery of any early reform actions.• More emphasis on engagement with elected members, particularly in the lead up to reform changes.• Specific deliverables for improving how Auckland Transport listens to and responds to Aucklanders.• More ambitious deliverables and targets. Councillors requested Auckland Transport and Auckland Council staff provide a joint report to the committee on what they believe are realistic measures to implement to meet emissions targets.



Economic Growth	
<p>Andy Hill Director Auckland, MBIE</p> <p>Privacy of natural persons</p>	<p>Auckland Economic Update May 2025</p> <p>Auckland Council has published its monthly economic update for Auckland. The full report is attached at Annex One.</p> <p>Highlights this month include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• median house price for the month of March 2025 was \$1,040,000 (in real* dollars: slightly above recent months; below nine years ago (March 2016); 5% lower than a year ago; 31% below the 2021 peak)• number of houses sold for the year ended March 2025 was 22,473: rising continuously for six months, 23% above the May 2023 trough, similar to 2017-2020, but 38% below the July 2021 peak• average weekly rent for the month of February 2025 was \$685 (in real* dollars: similar to the last two months, similar to one and two years ago; below 2017 to 2021). For the rest of New Zealand, the figure was \$643: a 1% rise since January (whereas most Februarys fall due to seasonality), but only 2% annual average increase in the last five years• number of new dwellings consented in the year ended March 2025 was 14,049: 2% above February - largest monthly rise since 2022; 36% below the September 2022 peak; 7% below the 2019 pre-Covid peak• real* value of new non-residential buildings consented in the year ended March 2025 was \$2,389 million: just above February, after six falls in a row; 22% below a year ago; similar to the 2020 trough and among the lowest since 2016; 31% below the 2022 peak• real* value of imports by Auckland seaports for the year ended March 2025 was \$30.5 billion, rising gradually since October 2024, still 9% below April 2023, but 16% higher than the 2020 Covid trough. For the rest of New Zealand, the figure was \$31.0 billion: 20% above late 2020, and 25% lower than their 2023 post-Covid rebound peak• business confidence (NZIER QSBO) for the March 2025 quarter showed a net 31% of businesses expecting the general business situation to improve over the next three months – the third rise in a row, to well above pre-Covid levels, reaching the highest level in ten years, since late 2014. <p><i>*Note: real dollars/values are after adjusting for the effects of inflation each quarter, so a similar 'real' level means that a value rose at a similar rate to inflation.</i></p>
Law and Order	
<p>Andy Hill Director Auckland, MBIE</p>	<p>Update on the Proceeds of Crime Fund</p> <p>Auckland Council convened a Local Crime Fund Workshop last week with Police and the central city BIDS and Waitemata Local Board that have received funding from your application to the Proceeds of Crime</p>



Privacy of natural persons	<p>Fund. The workshop was a productive session that reviewed the previous funding and discussed opportunities for the current funding, with a particular focus on collaboration across the central city area.</p> <p>A summary of the key themes and investment areas that emerged included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Technology-Driven Security Enhancements (e.g. CCTV, smart technologies such as AI)• Collaborative Security and Intelligence Sharing (e.g. Cross-precinct collaboration, shared apps)• Crime Trends and Behavioural Concerns (e.g. visible deterrents including security patrols and wardens)• Urban Design and Environmental Safety (e.g. wayfinding and lighting, beautification and vandalism resistance)• Impact of Transport Infrastructure (e.g. CRL Construction and Safety, training to include learnings from cities with subways) <p>Three points that particularly resonated with the group were a focus on safety around the CRL stations, improved communications across the BID areas through a security network, and further utilisation of tech solutions like the AUROR app (focussed on sharing retail crime intelligence).</p> <p>Following the workshop, Auckland Council have requested safety and security specific information (e.g. planned CCTV and security arrangements) around the CRL stations from Auckland Transport and CRL. Police and Council staff are available to work with BIDs and the Local Board providing advice and facilitation.</p> <p>Funding for the 2024/25 year has been transferred from Police to Auckland Council and they are working at pace to agree initiatives with the BIDS and Local Board. Recognising that funds are being released close to the end of the financial year, Auckland Council are proposing to include a 3 to 6 month delivery clause into funding agreements.</p>
Water Reform Update	
<p>Bex Sullivan Deputy Executive Director Water Services, Department of Internal Affairs</p> <p>Privacy of natural persons</p>	Confidential advice to Government



Confidential advice to Government

2. General Auckland Updates

Topic/ Contact person	Comment
Update on New Zealand International Convention Centre name change proposal	
Dale Elvy Destinations and Regional Economies MBIE Privacy of natural persons	Commercial Information
Mayor of Auckland releases his 2025 Auckland Manifesto	
Michael Quinn Head of the APO Privacy of natural persons	Mayor Wayne Brown has released an updated Manifesto for Auckland, "Fix Auckland, Fix New Zealand", which sets out a refreshed plan for the city's future. This version is shorter and more tightly focused than the previous 2023 manifesto, and we understand is primarily aimed at central government and elected local officials. It presents Auckland not



	<p>simply as a local government issue, but as central to New Zealand's wider economic recovery and long-term performance.</p> <p>The document outlines recent progress in key areas such as water reform, the restoration of transport planning powers to the council, and the establishment of the Auckland Future Fund. Building on this momentum, Mayor Brown is calling for a deeper and more devolved partnership with central government that enables Auckland to take greater control over planning, infrastructure, immigration settings and innovation.</p> <p>Auckland is presented as the engine room of the national economy, and the manifesto calls for policy and investment settings that reflect the city's size, complexity and role as New Zealand's global gateway. Key proposals include a city-specific immigration strategy, more flexible planning and funding tools to support housing and growth, support for major events through a bed-night visitor levy and the establishment of an Advanced Technology Institute to position Auckland as a hub for innovation and productivity.</p> <p>The manifesto closely aligns with Auckland Council's City and Regional Deal submission, reinforcing the case for a formal, long-term agreement between central and local government. It is pitched at unlocking Auckland's economic potential in a way that delivers benefits across the country.</p> <p>The manifesto also includes a scorecard assessing the government's performance in key areas such as transport, infrastructure, environment and social development. While recent reforms are acknowledged, the overall grade given is a B+, with the Mayor urging more targeted support for Auckland's priorities.</p> <p>A copy of the manifesto is attached at Annex Three.</p>
Auckland Innovation and Technology Alliance initiative	
<p>Michael Quinn Head of the APO Privacy of natural persons</p>	<p>Mayor Wayne Brown has announced the formation of a new Auckland Innovation and Technology Alliance, aimed at strengthening the city's role as New Zealand's leading hub for innovation and technology. The Alliance will bring together leaders from the private sector, local and central government, research institutions and the investment community to drive capital attraction, improve coordination and boost productivity.</p> <p>The Alliance will provide strategic leadership and develop a Regional Innovation Strategy for Auckland. Central government has been invited to participate.</p> <p>The initiative was launched at the Auckland Innovation Forum during TechWeek 2025 and forms part of the Mayor's broader manifesto to lift Auckland's growth and productivity. It also aligns with Auckland Council's submission for a City and Regional Deal, which includes a request for the establishment of a new Advanced Technology Institute (ATI) in Auckland. The Mayor argues the city is best positioned to support start-ups and commercialisation, and that the ATI could play a critical role in guiding new ventures through the innovation system.</p>



	<p>The initiative builds on the work of the Committee for Auckland, the Tech Council and Auckland Council and responds to concerns raised in the 2023 State of the City report about Auckland's fragmented innovation eco-system.</p> <p>Industry participants welcomed the Alliance's potential.</p>
Auckland Council savings progress for the quarter ended 31 March 2025	
<p>Vanessa Blakelock Partnerships Director, Department of Internal Affairs</p>	<p>Council's Revenue Expenditure and Value for Money Committee on 20 May 2025 noted that Auckland Council has met its full year's savings target for 2024/2025 at the end of quarter three – reaching its \$66 million savings goal three months ahead of schedule with \$23.4 million realised during the third quarter. These savings build on ongoing savings of \$90 million per year previously achieved. Combined, this means \$156.6 million of savings achieved for the current financial year. In a media release, Deputy Mayor Desley Simpson notes that the savings are directly used to keep rates rises down.</p> <p>In the third quarter ended 31 March 2025, Auckland Council achieved the \$23.44 million savings through the following initiatives:</p> <p><u>\$17 million from non-rates revenue improvements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$6.0 million increased revenue from building consenting related activities.• \$4.0 million from higher Pay As You Throw (PAYT) bin tag sales.• \$3.0 million enduring savings in licensing and compliance activities, including dog registrations and environmental licensing.• \$1.0 million from higher user pays refuse transfer station revenue.• \$1.4 million increased LIMs and Property File fees & charges (\$0.4 million enduring).• \$0.9 million improvement in resource consents revenue while controlling costs by improving utilisation and reducing late completion discounts.• \$0.7 million increased revenue from higher private plan change and notice of requirement volumes. <p><u>\$6.4 million in operational cost savings</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$1.5 million National Policy Statement – Urban Development efficiencies through a change in approach enabled by proposed legislative changes.• \$1.0 million lower spend on reactive maintenance costs relating to the stormwater network.• \$1.0 million lower inorganic collection costs from reduced volumes.• \$2.9 million reduction in professional services, marketing and other costs.• \$1.3 million staff-related savings largely due to unfilled vacancies.
Confidential advice to Government	
Kylie Hawker-Green	Confidential advice to Government



Manager, New Zealand Major Events MBIE Privacy of natural persons	Confidential advice to Government
Auckland Regional Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS)	
Andy Hill Director Auckland, MBIE Privacy of natural persons	<p>Auckland Council has leased its quarterly Household Labour Force Survey for March 2025. The full report is attached at Annex Four.</p> <p>Highlights of the survey include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The unemployment rate was 6.4%, higher than 5.3% in December 2024, and highest quarterly rate in ten years, but lower than 2009 to 2016.• The labour force participation rate was similar at 72.7%: among the lowest in three years, but still higher than 1995 to 2021. Rates since 2021 have been at record highs.• The Youth NEET rate (Not in employment, education or training) of 15.9% was above the rest of New Zealand (13.5%), and slightly above December 2024 (14.8%).• Other measures covered: numbers employed, unemployed or not in the labour force, and also youth NEET, all split by age, ethnicity and location – plus related information such as industry, occupation and hours worked.
Office of the Auditor General Report on Auckland Public Transport	
Karen Lyons Auckland Director Ministry of Transport Privacy of natural persons	<p>On 13 May 2025 the Office of the Auditor General released a report on how Auckland Transport ensures it is contributing to reliable and safe public transport services and how well it reports on its performance. Key points included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are good examples of Auckland Transport improving the reliability of the region's public transport, such as addressing bus driver and ferry crew shortages, prioritising late-running buses through intersections, and providing bus replacement services during rail maintenance. In December 2024, passenger satisfaction with their most recent journey on any service reached 60%, the highest rating since 2022.• Auckland Transport could do more to understand passengers' experiences and expectations. The report noted that bus punctuality is measured at the first stop and the last stop of a journey but typically passengers do not ride a bus from the start to end of a route.• Auckland Transport informs the public about planned disruptions well, but its back-office and manual processes make it challenging



to manage and inform people about unplanned disruptions. In some cases, major disruptions have not been communicated to the public at all.

- The accessibility of information available to the public about how Auckland's public transport services are performing needs to be improved.

Quality of Life Report 2024 – Transport Content

Karen Lyons

Auckland Director

Ministry of Transport

Privacy of natural persons

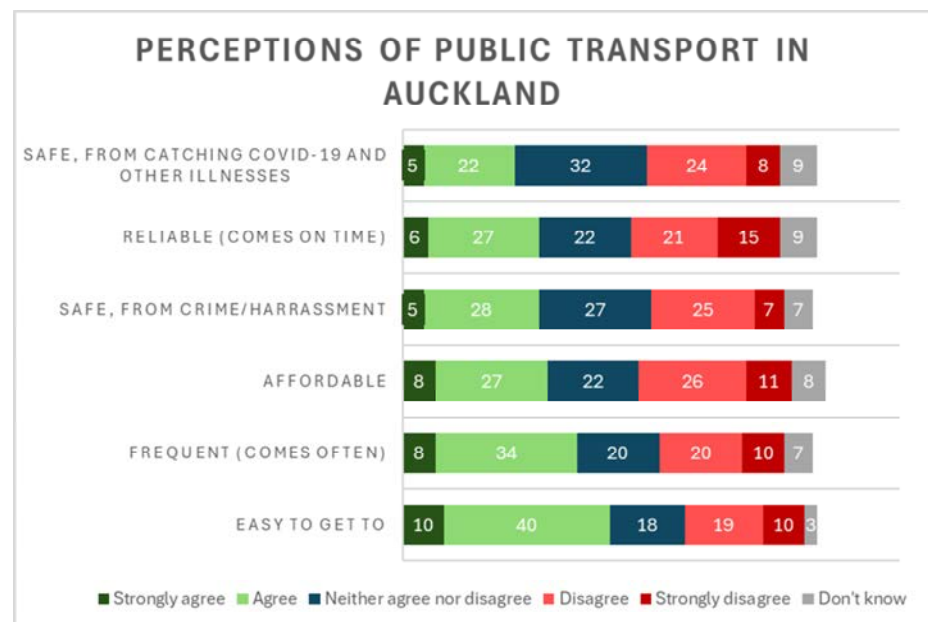
The Quality of Life Project is a partnership between nine New Zealand councils, and measures urban residents' wellbeing and their perceptions of living in large urban areas. The results from the 2024 survey, which included 2,524 Aucklanders, has been released.

Frequency of Using Public Transport

Two-thirds of Auckland respondents had used public transport in the previous 12 months, and 26% had used public transport at least weekly. 31% had not used public transport over the last 12 months. This was similar to the eight-city totals¹.

Usage varied across location, age and ethnicity, with those in central Auckland (36%), under 25 (47%) and from Asian backgrounds (34%), more likely to have used public transport at least weekly. On the other hand, those in rural parts of Auckland (46%), between 50 and 64 (40%) and of Pacific backgrounds (35%), were the most likely to not use public transport at all over the past 12 months.

Perceptions of Public Transport



Respondents over 65 and those living in North Auckland, were more likely to agree that public transport was safe from crime and harassment, whereas those living in West Auckland and from Pacific backgrounds were less likely to agree.

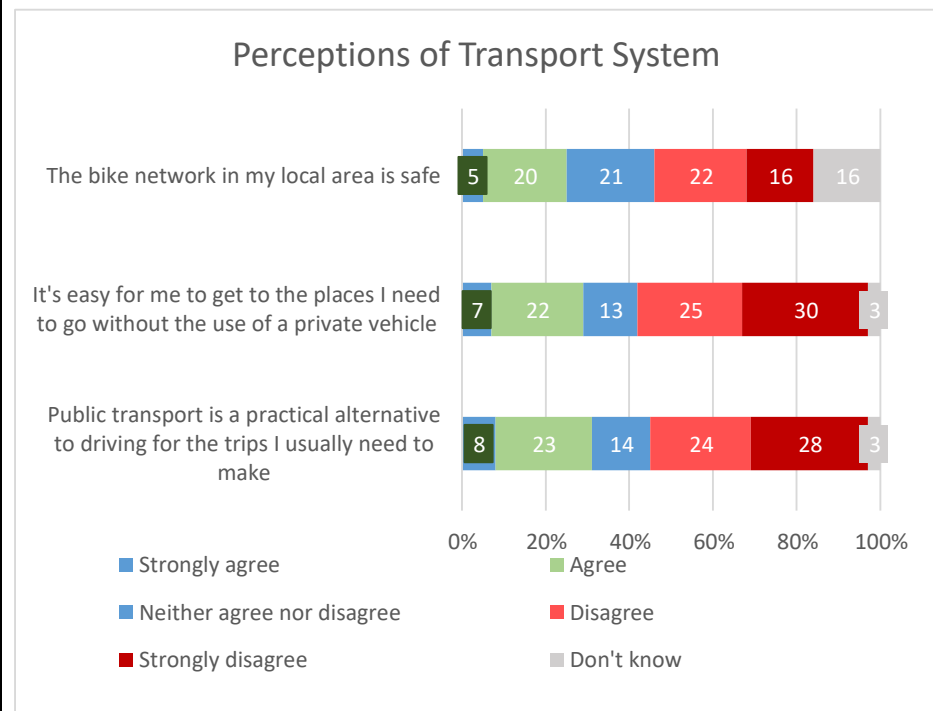
¹ The eight cities included were Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Hutt City, Porirua, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin. Of the 6,194 respondents across the 8 cities, 2,524 were from Auckland.



Respondents living in East Auckland and those from Asian backgrounds were more likely to disagree that public transport was reliable, with 43% disagreeing or disagreeing strongly.

Aucklanders were less likely to agree than the eight-city total across all measures above.

Perceptions of Transport System



Aucklanders were less likely to agree than the eight-city total across all three measures above.

However, those living in Central or South Auckland or under the age of 25, were more likely than other Aucklanders to agree that public transport was a practical alternative and that it was easy to get around without a private vehicle.

Auckland Project Updates

Karen Lyons

Auckland Director

Ministry of Transport

Privacy of natural persons

Mill Road

Recent milestones:

- In April 2025, the New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) Board approved \$91.1M for pre-implementation of Mill Rd Stage 1.

Next steps:

- Seeking indications of interest from industry for one of the first packages of technical works for construction starting in mid-2026.

Northwest Alternative State Highway

Recent milestones:

- Route protection and strategic property acquisition is underway via the Supporting Growth Alliance programme.

Steve Mutton

Director Regional
Relationships, Northland
and Auckland

Privacy of natural persons



	<p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Route protection is expected to be completed by June 2026, delayed from December 2025. <p><i>Northwest Busway</i></p> <p>Recent milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">In April 2025, the NZTA Board endorsed the investment case. The investment case recommends a busway alongside State Highway 16 between Bringham Creek and the city centre, with a park and ride station at Bringham Creek and stations at Westgate, Royal Road, Lincoln Road, Te Atatū, Point Chevalier and Western Springs.Engagement has also been underway with locals and Auckland Council elected members. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The project will be built in stages prioritising benefits to West Aucklanders first. Construction will commence at Westgate Station in June.The project is progressing ecological and groundwater investigations to support the assessments in preparation for lodging under the Fast-track Approvals Act by the end of 2025. <p><i>O Mahurangi - Penlink</i></p> <p>Recent milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Physical works are underway, including to address a slip that occurred in December 2024. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Duck Creek Road Bridge is expected to be completed in June 2025. <p><i>Papakura to Bombay</i></p> <p>Recent milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Physical works for Stage 1B continues with good progress being made on several work fronts, including the Victoria Street intersection with Great South Road, Bremner Road temporary bridge over the Ngakoroa Stream, Flanagan Road realignment and at Otuwairoa Stream/Slippery Creek. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Great South Rd/SH22 intersection was expected to open to traffic in April 2025 <p><i>Waihoehoe Road Upgrade</i></p> <p>Recent milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Work on the detailed design is progressing. Stormwater integration issues with developers in the wider Drury area are near resolution. Enabling works along the rail corridor concluded in April 2025. <p>Next steps:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">All property is due to be acquired by late June 2025, and NZTA are on track to commence physical works in quarter four of 2025. The Main Works tender is expected to be released in August 2025. <p><i>Waitematā Harbour Crossing</i></p> <p>Recent milestones:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Marine geotechnical drilling in the Waitematā Harbour is underway, with other land based physical investigations continuing. Market engagement with potential constructors and potential financiers is also underway. Development of the Auckland Harbour Bridge Assessment Report is also underway. <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Complete market engagement with potential constructors and potential financiers and development of the Auckland Harbour Bridge Assessment Report.
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3. Ministerial items on hand

3.1 Upcoming significant meetings

Date and venue	Meeting and info
26 May 2025, 4:30pm- 5:00pm	Auckland Officials Meeting
27 May 2025, 10:30am- 12:00pm	Visit Eastern Busway Site
27 May 2025, 12:30pm- 1:00pm	Auckland City Mission
19 June 2025, 11:00am to 12:30pm	Ministerial and Mayoral Forum with Auckland Council

3.2 Other Ministerial engagements related to Auckland

Date	Minister	Meeting Info
27 May 2025	Hon Christopher Luxon and Hon Nicola Willis	To visit Griffins' factory

3.3 Upcoming significant media and announcements

Timing	Announcement
None	



3.4 Upcoming briefings and aide memoire

Title	Date to Minister	Action for Minister	Key contact	Summary of paper/comment
BRIEFING-REQ-0013724 Event Briefing for Meeting with Auckland City Mission	26 May 2025		Andy Hill Privacy of natural persons	To provide background information for your meeting


3.5 Upcoming Cabinet papers

Title	Committee	Expected committee date	Key contact	Summary of paper/comment
None				

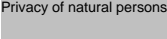
3.6 Official Information Act requests (Ministerial and Departmental for consultation)

Due to Minister's office	Statutory due date to requester	Ref	Requester	Organisation	Summary of request
23 May 2025		MOIA-REQ-0013601	Privacy of natural persons	Labour Leader's Office	Requesting copies of: All correspondence, including letters, emails, and text messages sent or received by your Office regarding Council bed night visitor levies or an Auckland Council bed night visitor levy All correspondence, including letters, emails, and text messages sent or received by you regarding Council bed night visitor levies or an Auckland Council bed night visitor levy All advice, aide-memoire, briefings, memos, or any other documents regarding Council bed night visitor levies or an Auckland Council bed night visitor levy Requested for extension on 23 May 2025



Due to Minister's office	Statutory due date to requester	Ref	Requester	Organisation	Summary of request
26 May 2025		MOIA-REQ-0013725	Privacy of natural persons 	Labour Leader's Office	Requesting copies of all letters, emails, text messages, briefings, memos, aide-mémoire, and notes relating to the following meetings: MEET: Hon Chris Bishop 5/03/2025 MEET: Hon James Meager 11/03/2025 MEET: Tamaki Makaurau Business Network 18/03/2025 MEET: EMA 18/03/2025 18/03/2025 MEET: Auckland Transport 18/03/2025 MEDIA: Auckland Announcement 18/03/2025 ATTEND: Project Auckland Luncheon 26/03/2025 MEET: Auckland Officials 26/03/2025

3.7 Ministerial correspondence

Due to Minister's office	Ref	Correspondent	Organisation	Summary of Correspondence
28 May 2025	MC-REQ-0013826	Privacy of natural persons 		A concerned Aucklander and business owner, proposing to re-open the apartment market to foreign buyers — particularly in central Auckland where there is currently an oversupply of unsold or under-occupied apartments.



3.8 Proactive release

Date	Title	Comment
13 March 2025	BRIEFING-REQ-0010672 Proactive release of Auckland fortnightly reports and event briefings from 27 January 2025 to 28 February 2025	Requesting your approval to proactively release the proposed redactions of fortnightly reports and event briefings from 27 January 2025 to 28 February 2025. MBIE will release the information on the date your office will advise. <i>Documents in this briefing are within the scope of DOIA-REQ-0011008</i>
10 April 2025	BRIEFING-REQ-0012400 Proactive release of Auckland fortnightly reports and event briefings from 1 March to 30 March 2025	Requesting your approval to proactively release the proposed redactions of fortnightly reports and event briefings from 1 March to 30 March 2025. MBIE will release the information on the date your office will advise. <i>Documents in this briefing are within the scope of DOIA-REQ-0013177 & MOIA-REQ-0013725</i>
	Cabinet paper Auckland Consolidated Central Government Work Programme.	Due to be released on 1 July 2025, a proactive release briefing will be sent to your office on or before 16 June 2025.

3.9 Fast-Track Approvals- Auckland

Project Name	Unique Ref No.	Applicant Organisation	Theme/ sector	Ministers / agencies invited to comment by the Minister for Infrastructure or Panel	Date Received	Due Date to send Comments
None						



4 Auckland dashboards

Transport environmental scan																				
<div>Karen Lyons</div> <div>Director, Auckland, Ministry of Transport</div> <div>Privacy of natural persons</div>	Public transport patronage update																			
	For the fortnight 21 April – 4 May 2025, public transport patronage totalled 2.86 million boardings across the city’s public transport network.																			
	Patronage decreased by 14% for this fortnight compared to the same period last year. Rail patronage declined by 35%, reflecting the network closures in this period. Both 2024 and 2025 numbers include school holidays, although the later Easter period for 2025 may also have influenced patronage.																			
	Public transport patronage for the year to 30 April is 88.6 million boardings which has increased on the previous year’s total of 85.7 million boardings. Across all modes, bus patronage saw the largest annual increase of four per cent, whereas ferry patronage has had the smallest annual increase, at less than one per cent.																			
	At 88.6 million boardings, current annual patronage reaches 92% of Auckland Transport’s latest SOI target of 95.9 million annual PT trips for 2024/25.																			
	<table><tr><th colspan="3">PT fortnightly patronage</th></tr><tr><th>Mode</th><th>21 April – 4 May 2025</th><th>21 April – 4 May 2024</th></tr><tr><td>Bus</td><td>2,428,830</td><td>2,714,500</td></tr><tr><td>Rail</td><td>339,952</td><td>522,210</td></tr><tr><td>Ferry</td><td>95,086</td><td>112,843</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>2,863,868</td><td>3,349,553</td></tr></table>		PT fortnightly patronage			Mode	21 April – 4 May 2025	21 April – 4 May 2024	Bus	2,428,830	2,714,500	Rail	339,952	522,210	Ferry	95,086	112,843	Total	2,863,868	3,349,553
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Data: AT Metro daily patronage report.																				
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<table><tr><th colspan="3">PT annual patronage</th></tr><tr><th>Mode</th><th>Year to April 30 2025</th><th>Year to April 30 2024</th></tr><tr><td>Bus</td><td>69,914,000</td><td>67,189,700</td></tr><tr><td>Rail</td><td>13,817,800</td><td>13,608,200</td></tr><tr><td>Ferry</td><td>4,904,000</td><td>4,882,200</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>88,635,800</td><td>85,680,100</td></tr></table>		PT annual patronage			Mode	Year to April 30 2025	Year to April 30 2024	Bus	69,914,000	67,189,700	Rail	13,817,800	13,608,200	Ferry	4,904,000	4,882,200	Total	88,635,800	85,680,100	
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Data: AT Metro monthly patronage report																				
NB: Data for annual and monthly patronage may not add up due to rounding. Rail data includes rail replacement services.																				



Annexes

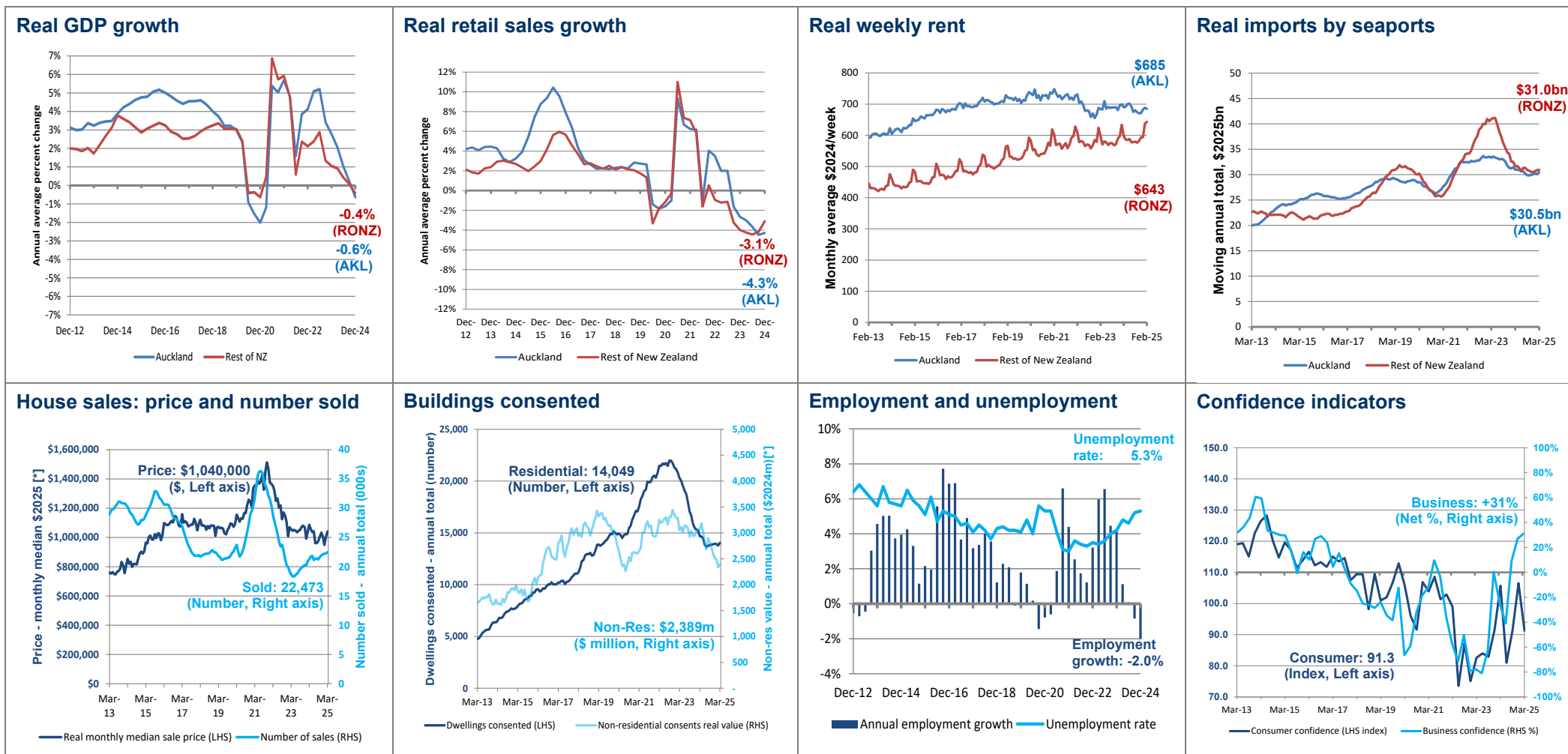
Annex One: Auckland Economic Update -May 2025

Confidential advice to Government

Annex Three: Mayor's Manifesto 2025

Annex Four: Auckland Regional Household Labour Force Survey- March 2025

Auckland Economic Update – May 2025

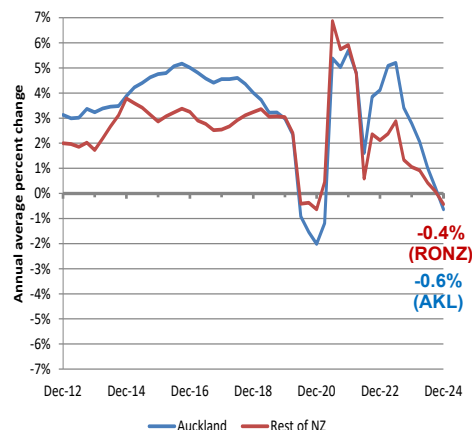


Note: Data is the latest available as at the start of the month, and is for the Auckland region, unless otherwise stated. This is a summary page only. All data sources and technical notes are provided on the next two pages.

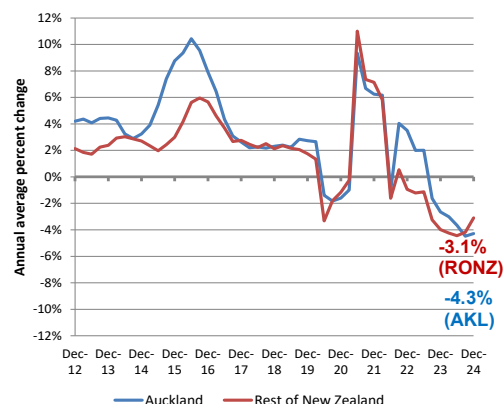
Disclaimer: The information in this document is provided in good faith, however, Auckland Council disclaims any liability whatsoever in connection with any action taken in reliance of this document, for any error, deficiency, flaw or omission contained in it.

All enquiries please contact the author Ross Wilson, Economic Analyst, Strategic Advice and Research Unit: Ross.wilson@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

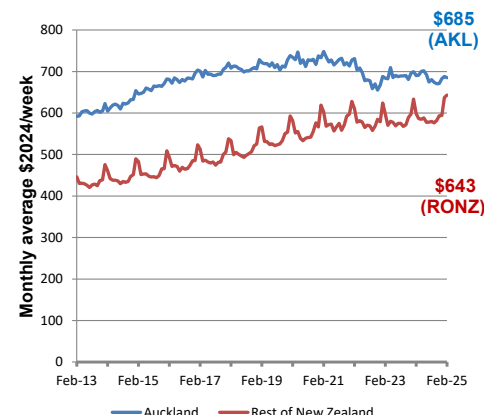
Real GDP growth



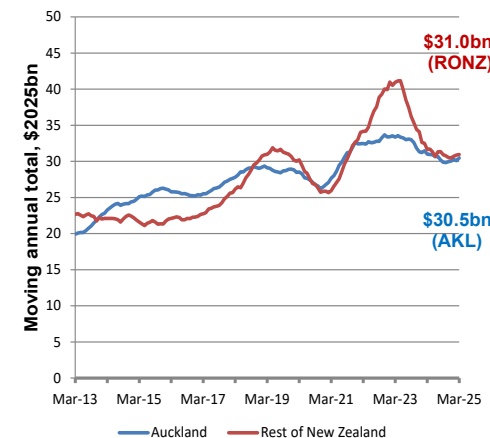
Real retail sales growth



Real weekly rent



Real imports by seaports



Auckland's real* Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the year ended December 2024 was 0.6% lower than for the year ended December 2023; in the rest of New Zealand, the annual change was 0.4% fall (see notes). Both growth rates were: below most periods since 2010; falling since mid-2023; lower than recent population growth; nearly as low as the Covid-related trough of 2020; above the GFC-related trough of 2009.

Real* retail sales for the year ended December 2024 were 4.3% lower than for the year ended December 2023; in the rest of New Zealand, the annual change was a 3.1% fall. Both growth rates were among the lowest since 2009 (just after the Global Financial Crisis), even including the 2020 Covid lockdowns. Both growth rates have been falling since late 2022, although the rate for rest of New Zealand recovered slightly in late 2024.

The average weekly rent for the month of February 2025 was \$685 (in real* dollars: similar to the last two months, similar to one and two years ago; below 2017 to 2021). For the rest of New Zealand, the figure was \$643: a 1% rise since January (whereas most Februaries fall due to seasonality), but only 2% annual average increase in the last five years. "Real rent" changes are relative to CPI inflation, so a similar "real" level means rents rose at a similar rate to inflation.

The real* value of imports by Auckland seaports for the year ended March 2025 was \$30.5 billion, rising gradually since October 2024, still 9% below April 2023, but 16% higher than the 2020 Covid trough. For the rest of New Zealand, the figure was \$31.0 billion: 20% above late 2020, and 25% lower than their 2023 post-Covid rebound peak. From 2024 on, import values for Auckland and the rest of New Zealand were largely similar, both slowly falling then rising slightly.

* Real GDP refers to GDP in constant 2022 dollars, to remove inflation.

Lockdowns due to Covid-19 affect results for 2020 onwards. Covid-19 lockdown level 3 began on 23 March 2020.

Latest and historical real GDP figures are modelled estimates, and subject to revision.

Source: Infometrics, Regional Economic Profile/Quarterly Economic Monitor.

* Real retail sales have been calculated by converting previous quarters' dollars to the latest quarter's equivalent dollars using the quarterly consumer price index (CPI), to remove inflation.

Note: These figures exclude non-retail activity captured elsewhere in the retail sales survey.

Source: Stats NZ, Retail Sales (quarterly); Stats NZ, CPI (quarterly); Auckland Council calculations.

* Real rents have been calculated by converting previous quarters' dollars to the latest quarter's equivalent dollars using the quarterly consumer price index (CPI), to remove inflation.

Note: Dwelling size and quality may vary over time. Rent is for new rental bonds lodged each month with Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, for housing tenancies with private sector landlords (so excludes state housing). Data covers only new bonds, so excludes existing leases from earlier periods whose rent has not changed, or has changed but with no revision to the bond. It also excludes new leases where no bond is lodged. Data is subject to minor revisions.

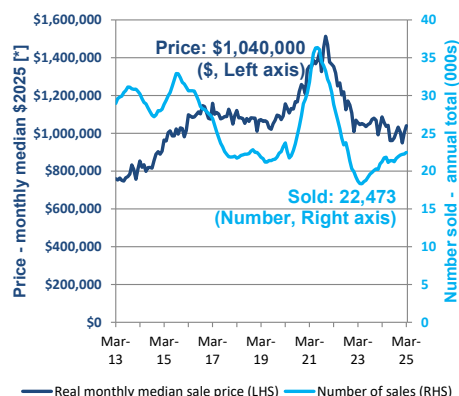
Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Regional Rental Prices (monthly); Stats NZ, CPI (quarterly); Auckland Council calculations.

* Real import values have been calculated by converting previous quarters' dollars to the latest quarter's equivalent dollars using the quarterly consumer price index (CPI) for tradables, to remove inflation

Note: Import values are cost including freight (CIF). Auckland seaports consist of Port of Auckland on the Waitemata Harbour near the CBD, and Port of Onehunga on the Manukau Harbour (domestic only, no imports); both are owned by Ports of Auckland Limited (POAL).

Source: Stats NZ, Overseas Cargo Statistics-imports-value \$ CIF (monthly); Stats NZ, CPI Tradables (quarterly); Auckland Council calculations.

House sales: price and number sold



The median (not average) sale price of houses sold in Auckland in the month of March 2025 was \$1,040,000 (in real* dollars: slightly above recent months; below nine years ago (March 2016); 5% lower than a year ago; 31% below the 2021 peak).

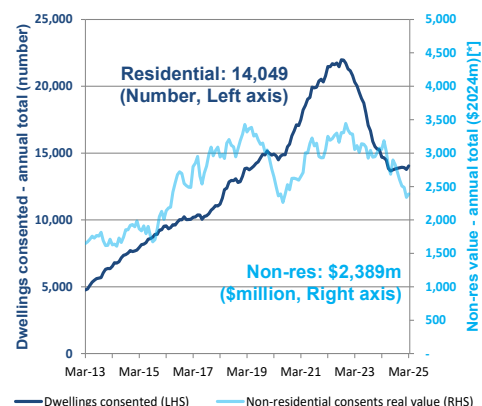
The total number of houses sold in Auckland in the year ended March 2025 was 22,473: rising continuously for six months, 23% above the May 2023 trough, similar to 2017-2020, but 38% below the July 2021 peak.

* 'Real' prices for previous months are calculated by inflating previous quarters' dollars to the latest quarter's equivalent dollars, using the quarterly consumer price index (CPI).

Notes: The data for 'houses' covers actual sales during the period. Size and quality may vary over time. 'Houses' includes all dwelling types (eg apartments and flats), not just free-standing houses, but excludes sales of undeveloped land. 'Price' is real* actual sale price (not just listed). REINZ revises recent data each month for numbers sold (usually slightly upwards) and prices.

Source: Real Estate Institute of New Zealand (REINZ), Monthly Property Report (monthly – from website); Stats NZ, CPI (quarterly); Auckland Council calculations.

Buildings consented



The total number of new dwellings consented in Auckland in the year ended March 2025 was 14,049: 2% above February - largest monthly rise since 2022; 36% below the September 2022 peak; 7% below the 2019 pre-Covid peak.

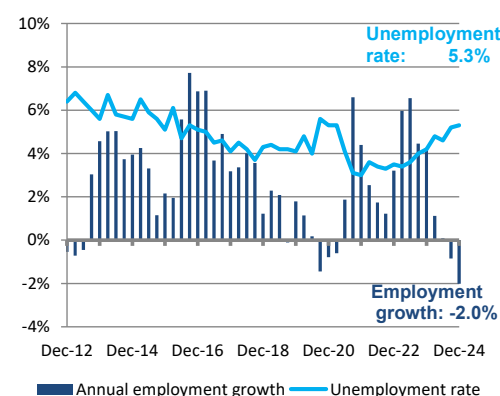
The real* value of new non-residential buildings consented in Auckland in the year ended March 2025 was \$2,389 million: just above February, after six falls in a row; 22% below a year ago; similar to the 2020 trough and among the lowest since 2016; 31% below the 2022 peak.

* 'Real' values for previous months have been calculated by inflating previous quarters' dollars to the latest quarter's equivalent dollars, using the capital goods price index (CGPI) for non-residential buildings

Note: Projects consented are not necessarily commenced or completed. "New" refers to new buildings (i.e. excludes alterations and additions). Residential number is new dwellings consented, which will exceed new residential buildings as some buildings have multiple dwellings; similarly, it will differ from new residential building consents issued, as some consents are for multiple buildings.

Source: Stats NZ, Building Consents (monthly); Stats NZ, CGPI (quarterly); Auckland Council calculations.

Employment and unemployment



The number of people employed in Auckland in the quarter ended December 2024 was 2.0% lower than in December 2023 quarter: the sixth quarter in a row of falling annual growth rates despite population growth.

The unemployment rate in Auckland in the quarter ended December 2024 was 5.3%: the highest-equal quarter since the 2020 Covid lockdowns, and above most of 2017 to 2024, but still lower than 2009 to 2015 and late 2020.

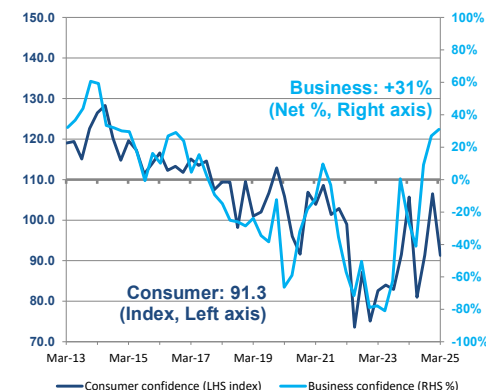
Note: Covid-19 lockdowns began on 23 March 2020, plus wage subsidies, which both affect official unemployment.

Employment data is rebased by Stats NZ each quarter to match latest revisions of historic population estimates.

Both datasets are from a survey (HLFS) so are subject to error margins. Respondents define their own employment status. The survey covers all people aged 15+, so includes school pupils 15+ and people over 65, who might or might not have - or be actively seeking - a job.

Source: Stats NZ, Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) (quarterly).

Confidence indicators



In Auckland, the Westpac McDermott Miller Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) for the March 2025 quarter was 91.3: mid-range for 2020-2024, but below all of 2009 to 2019.

The NZIER QSBO in Auckland for the March 2025 quarter showed a net 31% of businesses expecting the general business situation to improve over the next three months – the third rise in a row, to well above pre-Covid levels, reaching the highest level in ten years, since late 2014.

Note: Left axis is for CCI (consumers: index). For the CCI, a score of greater than 100 shows more optimism than pessimism. Re-scaled 18/9/2024.

Right axis is for QSBO (businesses: net %). The QSBO calculates a net figure as (% of businesses expecting an improvement) minus (% expecting a worsening). QSBO data used here is not the seasonally adjusted version.

Source: Westpac McDermott Miller, Regional Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) (quarterly – published, but proprietary); New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER), Quarterly Survey of Business Opinion (QSBO) (quarterly – by subscription).







MANIFESTO FOR AUCKLAND

MAYOR'S UPDATE

In 2023, I released my *Manifesto for Auckland—The deal Auckland needs from the government*. My Manifesto called for a fundamentally different relationship between Auckland and central government and outlined a plan to fix Auckland, including specific policies that would help unlock Auckland's potential.

A lot has happened since then, and we've made significant progress in three key areas:

Partnerships & devolution

The relationship between council and government has worked well for transport and water reform. By taking a more joined-up approach, one more akin to an actual partnership, we have been able to drive better outcomes for Auckland, quickly. In practice, this has required politicians and officials, respectively, work to agree on policy that benefits Auckland and acknowledges our difference in size and scale. This pragmatic and localised approach should be taken elsewhere.

Transport

The government has agreed to transfer decision-making power back to Auckland Council and work with us to develop an Integrated Transport Plan. This is a big win for Auckland. While we continue to work through the details, we know this will result in better transport outcomes, increasing connectivity, equity of access, productivity, and better living standards.

Infrastructure & water reform

We reached a groundbreaking agreement to solve Auckland's water problems once and for all. Three Waters has been replaced with a new model that will see billions more invested in upgrading water infrastructure while keeping household water bills affordable.

As a council, we've used the tools available to us to deliver better funding outcomes and utilise our existing assets. By establishing the Auckland Future Fund, we will provide long-lasting, intergenerational benefits, improving Auckland's physical and financial resilience and reducing our reliance on rates to fund services and activities.

We've also put a lot of pressure on the company responsible for our major asset, the Port of Auckland, to better perform, increase their revenue, and provide a greater return to the people of Auckland. At the same time, we're making better use of waterfront land and increasing public access to downtown Auckland.

Of course, progress with certain policies doesn't mean we shouldn't keep the pressure on Wellington to deliver better for Auckland. In fact, there's a lot more work to be done.

THE VISION

My vision is simple: I want Auckland to be a city where people can grow their income, realise their potential, and live and work locally. An Auckland that leverages its diversity to grow our economy, lifting living standards for everyone.

Of course, the devil is in the detail. Getting growth right, making it work for us, is the key driver to a successful future for Auckland; for those living here now, those who will hopefully return, and those yet to come.

This manifesto is the framework to get us there.

Wayne Brown

WAYNE BROWN
MAYOR OF AUCKLAND



FIX AUCKLAND, FIX NEW ZEALAND

WAYNE BROWN'S PLAN FOR GROWTH

New Zealand is doing it tough right now. Economic growth has stalled, unemployment levels are increasing, and our living standards are slipping as the cost of living continues to increase.

While many countries around the world face similar economic headwinds, we find ourselves grappling with generational and systemic issues. We didn't get here overnight.

Successive governments have failed to address our biggest problem: a lack of investment in the real economy. Instead, they've relied on population growth to make GDP figures look good.

Most of that growth has been in Auckland, New Zealand's largest and only international gateway city.

Since the release of my Manifesto for Auckland, there has been a lot of chatter about 'city or

regional deals'. The bureaucrats in Wellington have even come up with an application form that councils must fill out to 'apply' for such a deal.

But if the government is serious about 'going for growth', they can't keep treating us like any other city or council in New Zealand. We are the key to the country's economic success. Auckland is the financial capital of New Zealand; the shopfront when it comes to foreign investment. If we get the settings right, then the big players will invest in Auckland, and the benefits will flow to the rest of the country.



Successive governments... relied on population growth to make GDP figures look good.

THREE GROWTH AREAS

The days of taking Auckland for granted are over. I want to ensure our recent success is the beginning of something transformational, not just a passing fad.

So, I've updated the Manifesto with a new focus on how Auckland can lead the way out of recession and drive economic growth. My message is simple: if the government wants to grow New Zealand's economy, the answer is Auckland.



New Zealand is one of the least productive countries in the OECD; we work longer hours but still produce less. One of the drivers for low productivity is the lack of focus and support for innovation.

As mayor, I'm determined to change that. I want Auckland to become the South Pacific hub of technological innovation that the big players want to invest in.

I don't believe in picking winners or corporate welfare. Instead, I want to collaborate with the government on how we can give Kiwi entrepreneurs front-row access to cutting-edge facilities—and keep them in New Zealand.

Let's talk seriously about establishing an Advanced Technology Institute here in Auckland that can attract foreign and local investment and provide an umbrella for new start-ups. This will require input and buy-in from across the sector, including our already well-established and world leading universities in Auckland. We must all work together to form a wide network of enablers that will support and champion Auckland as a tech friendly/focused city. This will require more than just talking about it. It will require council and government to identify and remove the barriers and constraints to making Auckland an attractive place to invest and innovate in.

I want to collaborate with the government on how we can give Kiwi entrepreneurs front-row access to the cutting edge of scientific research—and keep them in New Zealand.



We are working with the government to change planning laws so we can enable new homes to be built in the right places. But we need more coordination across all key infrastructure requirements and a clear plan on what the government intends to do to support growth in Auckland.

We desperately need more funding and financing tools to support growth in the right places and for all political parties to recognise that, as a city, we take the lion's share of population growth across the country and all the unintended consequences.

We need to be innovative in our approach and always consider the burden to the ratepayer—currently it is disproportionate to the relative benefits, and this must change. Auckland's productivity is already 15% higher than the rest of the country, as noted by our chief economist, but it is not enough.

Auckland Council is doing its bit in trying to lift productivity across the city. My reform of our council-controlled organisations is key to this.

By finally bringing in most of the policy and planning for infrastructure, economic development, land use regulation and urban regeneration that shapes our city in-house into council, we will unleash Auckland's productivity through integrated, coordinated and properly prioritised investment, rather than reacting to decisions made in isolation.

I look forward to being able to share more details of how the new Auckland Development Office will play a role in this over the next few months as we work with the industry and key stakeholders to shape this up. It's not business as usual; it is the new and improved way we will approach growth and economic development.



Auckland is a wonderfully diverse place; 42% of residents were born overseas. We are proud to welcome people and cultures from all over the world.

But a lack of planning and coordination has made it impossible for our infrastructure to keep up with population growth.

We also need to make sure we are attracting people who are going to bring the right skills and investment.

I call on the government to give us a seat at the table when it comes to developing an Auckland-specific immigration policy.

We also need to make it easier for tourists to visit. There is no good reason why China—our biggest export partner—should not be on the list of visa-waiver countries. This is also a significant hurdle preventing the Southern Link between Southeast Asia and Brazil. Removing the current transit visa will enable airlines like China Eastern to provide a service linking these two huge economies via Auckland.

Auckland is the gateway to New Zealand and the obvious place to host big international sporting events and

concerts. But these kinds of events need local investment.

In the past, Auckland ratepayers have subsidised the likes of SailGP and P!nk. But every dollar spent on major events is a dollar less on the basics like critical infrastructure like roads and stormwater pipes.

A much better way to support growth in the visitor economy is to fairly share the cost with those who financially benefit from tourism. The accommodation industry tells me that this funding challenge has been talked about with governments of different stripes and countless government departments for over 20 years to no avail.

I call on the government to reconsider a bed-night visitor levy. I'm open-minded about how such a scheme would work, but any revenue raised in Auckland should stay in Auckland. But do it quickly and don't let some bureaucrat's need for a nationally consistent framework leave this to wither on the vine for another 20 years.

FIX AUCKLAND, FIX NEW ZEALAND



NEXT STEPS

While I have reservations about applying a national framework to Auckland, we have nevertheless taken this opportunity to submit our proposal for an Auckland Deal.

I am pleased that Auckland Council was able to put together a thoughtful document that aligns with the Manifesto. But the fundamental part of any deal has to be genuine partnership and

devolution. We've already demonstrated it can be done with water reform—and we're about to do it again with transport reform.

So, let's apply the principle of partnership and devolution to a broader Auckland Deal.

See appendix for Auckland Deal

The fundamental part of any deal has to be genuine partnership and devolution.

GOVERNMENT REPORT CARD

The government gets too easily distracted by mega-projects and press releases. Some ministers have been better than others. Overall, they have made a reasonable effort this term but could try harder and have fewer Wellington bureaucrats involved. **B+**.

<i>Partnership & Devolution</i>	The relationship is changing. But not fast enough. Poor performance when it comes to the bed night levy; appointing a new tourism minister was a good save. Regular meetings in Auckland with the Prime Minister would be good.	B
<i>Transport</i>	We've agreed to change the law to restore democratic control of transport planning in Auckland. Now to develop an Integrated Transport Plan.	B
<i>Housing, Growth & Urban Regeneration</i>	We're working with the government to change planning laws so we can enable new homes to be built in the right places. But give us the funding and financing tools to support growth. GST back, please.	B
<i>Infrastructure, Water Reform & Climate Resilience</i>	We solved the water problem—a huge win for Auckland. Now we need to make sure the rest of our infrastructure can keep up with population growth.	A-
<i>Environment</i>	We're working with the government on new legislation and national direction to improve the way we use and allocate natural resources and managed the effects of fishing in high-value areas in the Hauraki Gulf.	B+
<i>Social, Cultural & Economic Development</i>	Celebrated 1000 jobs with our MSD Ngā Puna Pūkenga partnership. Working on what we need legislative change for, and what we can do ourselves, to bring democratic accountability to the organisations we give ratepayer funds to. We need more police on our streets.	B+

THE AUCKLAND DEAL

I am asking political parties to make a long-term commitment to an Auckland Deal that will enable us to address our urgent priorities as a region and implement our plan to fix Auckland, covering:

1. **Partnership & Devolution:** A fundamentally different relationship between Auckland Council and central government based on mutual respect and alignment of goals.
2. **Transport:** An Integrated Transport Plan to enable people and goods to get around our city faster, cheaper, and with lower emissions.
3. **Housing, Growth & Urban Regeneration:** Tools and investment to enable Auckland to plan and deliver infrastructure, to support growth in decent houses, and to regenerate run-down areas.
4. **Infrastructure, Water Reform & Climate Resilience:** Finishing, fixing, and protecting our existing infrastructure with tools to fund and finance the major investment required to deal with the deficit.
5. **Environment:** Enabling us to protect and make the most of our environment, including our Three Harbours.
6. **Social, Cultural & Economic Development:** A formal partnership to deliver and fund agreed priorities.

We have done the groundwork. This manifesto includes specific policies in each of these areas that are needed to unlock Auckland's potential.

Signed by Mayor Wayne Brown
for and on behalf of **Auckland**

Wayne Brown

Signed by the Prime Minister
of NZ for and on behalf of
central government

Auckland Regional Household Labour Force Survey: Quarterly Overview as at March 2025

Ross Wilson



Auckland Regional Household Labour Force Survey: Quarterly Overview as at March 2025

Ross Wilson

May 2025

Social and Economic Research and Evaluation team
Strategic Advice and Research Unit
Policy Department

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1 Introduction

This report provides an overview of aspects of labour force participation in Auckland, as indicated by results of the quarterly Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS). Particular focus is provided on short and long-term trends across age and ethnic groups in Auckland, and the rate of youth who are not in employment, education or training (NEET).

The HLFS is a national sample survey undertaken by Stats NZ. It is primarily designed for national estimates. The national sample contains about 15,000 private households and about 30,000 individuals each quarter. The sub-sample size for Auckland is approximately 4500 households and 9000 individuals.

To ensure information is seasonally aligned, rolling annual averages are used throughout this report (with some exceptions) for reporting across time. As the HLFS is a sample survey, all statistics are subject to survey sampling error. Statistics presented here at the sub-sample (e.g. local board) and sub-variable (e.g. NEET) levels are also subject to additional sampling errors and should be treated as indicative. More information on the survey, and caveats to the use of the data are provided in technical notes at the end of the report.

From the March 2020 to September 2023 quarters, results were affected to varying degrees by Covid-19 responses, including border closures and lockdowns of various types. Some people did not meet the criteria to have been actively seeking or available to start work, despite wanting a job. In these cases, the respondent will have been classified as 'not in the labour force' rather than 'unemployed'. Others remained partly or fully employed due to government wage subsidies. In addition, survey response rates sometimes fell, which may introduce bias. In addition, in the March 2023 quarter, floods and Cyclone Gabrielle impeded data collection, requiring adjustments from Stats NZ, and causing minor additional sampling and non-sampling errors for the region - and possibly major ones for some local board areas.

Note also that Stats NZ revise the backdata slightly each quarter to match ongoing population revisions arising from latest migration estimates. This report uses the latest version of backdata.

The information provided in this report supplements other freely available HLFS information and economic reporting:

- **Further labour market analysis** is available from MBIE: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/employment-and-skills/labour-market-reports-data-and-analysis/>
- **National and some regional data released on Stats NZ website:** www.stats.govt.nz
- **Additional Auckland HLFS data** is available on request from the author: Ross.Wilson@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
- **Auckland Economic Update (monthly)** – an overview of key economic trends in Auckland, prepared by the author, is available on the Knowledge Auckland website. <https://www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz/economy/>
- **Chief Economist Unit** – to find out more about the work undertaken by Auckland Council's Chief Economist Unit on Auckland's economic challenges and opportunities including unemployment, housing, migration and more: <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/about-auckland-council/business-in-auckland/economic-advice-publications/Pages/default.aspx>

2 Overview and highlights

For the March 2025 quarter, compared to the preceding quarter (December 2024)¹:

- Auckland's unemployment rate was 6.4%, higher than² 5.3% in December 2024, and highest quarterly rate in ten years, but lower than 2009 to 2012.
- The number of people who were unemployed rose to 68,100 (+12,000, up 21%).
- The number of people employed fell slightly to 995,600 (-3,400, a 0.3% fall).
- The number of people not in the labour force (NILF) was similar at 398,900 (-900).
- The labour force participation rate (LFPR) was similar at 72.7%: among the lowest in three years, but higher than 1995 to 2021. LFPR since 2021 have been at record highs.

In addition, for the March 2025 quarter:

- The rate of people aged 15 to 24 not in employment, education or training (NEET) was 15.9%, above the rest of New Zealand (13.5%) and (slightly) December 2024 (14.8%).

Over the year ended March 2025, compared to the year ended March 2024:

- The unemployment rate averaged 5.4%, higher than a year earlier (2024: 4.1%).
- The unemployment rate increase was highest for ages 15 to 19 (+5.7% to 25.0%) and 20 to 24 (+2.8% to 10.7%); other ages rose by similar proportions but absolute less: 25 to 39 (+1.0% to 4.4%), 40 to 54 (+1.1% to 3.6%); 55 and over less so (+0.4% to 3.1%).
- The unemployment rate for females averaged 5.6%, above the previous year (4.6%). The rate for males averaged 5.1% (above 3.7% a year prior), so the gap between males and females (0.5%) fell below the 20-year average (0.8%).
- Unemployment rates varied between the main ethnic groups, but rose for each of them: Māori (11.5%, up by a quarter from 9.2%), Pacific peoples (10.1%, up by a quarter from 7.9%), European (3.9%, up from 3.3%), and Asian (5.0%, up by half from 3.4%).
- The labour force participation rate (LFPR) averaged 72.8%, down from a year earlier (74.2%) but remaining higher than any time before 2023.
- The LFPR for females fell slightly more (68.0%, down 1.5% from 69.5%), and was significantly lower, than for males (77.7% down 1.3%); both slowly falling after 2023.
- Labour force participation rates fell for those aged 15-19 (down 4.6% to 41.0%), less so for ages 20 to 24 (down 1.4% to 78.6%) and 40-54 (87.6%, down 1.3%), but fell only slightly or no change for ages 25-39 (88.2%, no change) and 55+ (51.5%, down 0.8%).
- Labour force participation rates by ethnic group fell for Māori (66.7%, down 2.5%), European (73.5%, down 1.9%) Pacific peoples (65.4%, down 1.4%) and Asian (76.5%, down 1.2%); all but Pacific are still at or near the record levels prevalent since 2022.

In addition, over the year ended March 2025:

- The annual average NEET rate for Auckland was 14.0%, a little above the rest of New Zealand (12.2%), and a little above the year ended March 2024 (12.3%).
- Auckland NEET rates were highest for Māori (23.1%) and Pacific (20.2%) ethnicities, and for the Southern Initiative area (22.4%); one third (11,400) identified as European.
- Auckland's NEET rate was higher for those aged 20-24 (16.9%) than 15-19 (11.0%).

¹ Results are not seasonally adjusted, and include Stats NZ revisions (usually minor) of previous data.

² The definition of 'similar/slightly' or 'different' is relative to survey sampling error margins produced by Stats NZ. For further details see 'Significant difference' in Appendix 1.

Table 1: Labour force status, comparison to preceding quarter and year

	Quarter end Dec 2024 (snapshot)	Quarter end Mar 2025 (snapshot)	Year end Mar 2024 (annual average)	Year end Mar 2025 (annual average)
Number employed	999.0	995.6	1010.7	1000.4
Number unemployed	56.1	68.1	43.5	56.8
Number not in the labour force (NILF)	399.8	398.9	365.7	394.9
Number in the working age population	1454.9	1462.6	1419.8	1452.1
Labour force participation rate (%)	72.5	72.7	74.2	72.8
Unemployment rate (%)	5.3	6.4	4.1	5.4

Note: Numbers are '000s of people.

Table 2: Overview of rates for age, gender and ethnic groups (%) (annual averages)

	Year end Mar 2024 (annual average)	Year end Mar 2025 (annual average)	Year end Mar 2024 (annual average)	Year end Mar 2025 (annual average)
	Unemployment rate		Labour force participation rate	
Total	4.1	5.4	74.2	72.8
15-19 years	19.3	25.0	45.6	41.0
20-24 years	7.9	10.7	80.0	78.6
25-39 years	3.4	4.4	88.2	88.2
40-54 years	2.5	3.6	88.9	87.6
55 years +	2.7	3.1	52.3	51.5
Female	4.6	5.6	69.5	68.0
Male	3.7	5.1	79.0	77.7
European	3.3	3.9	75.4	73.5
Māori	9.2	11.5	69.2	66.7
Pacific	7.9	10.1	66.8	65.4
Asian	3.4	5.0	77.7	76.5

Note: Numbers are '000s of people.

3 Labour force status and unemployment rate by age

Labour force status by age group for the year ended March 2025 is shown in Table 3. Unemployment rates since 1996 are shown in Figure 1.

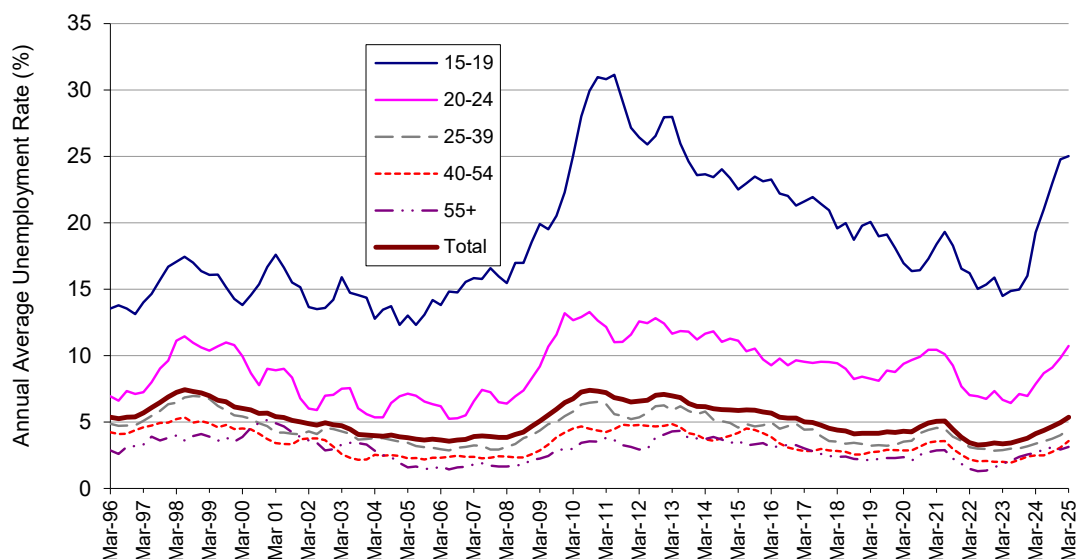
Table 3: Labour force status by age group, year ended March 2025 (annual averages)

	Total	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 39	40 to 54	55 and over
Number employed	1000.4	35.7	80.2	369.6	303.3	211.8
Number unemployed	56.8	11.9	9.6	17.2	11.2	6.8
Number not in the labour force	394.9	68.4	24.4	51.9	44.6	205.7
Number in the working age popn	1452.1	115.9	114.2	438.5	359.1	424.3
Labour force participation rate (%)	72.8	41.0	78.6	88.2	87.6	51.5
Unemployment rate (%)	5.4	25.0	10.7	4.4	3.6	3.1

Note: Numbers are '000s; numbers and rates are based on latest population estimates.

Annual average unemployment rates for the year ended March 2025 varied inversely to age: highest for those aged 15 to 19 years (25.0%) and 20 to 24 (10.7%), and lowest for ages 25 to 39 (4.4%), 40 to 54 (3.6%) and 55 and over (3.1%). Rates rose sharply (by more than half) over the last year or so for ages 15-19 and 20-24; other age groups had a similar proportional increase (ages 25-39 less so), but less in absolute terms, and more gradual - spread over the last two years or so. (But note, survey error margins can exceed 25% for some age groups).

Figure 1: Unemployment rate by age (rolling annual average), 1996-2025



Labour force participation rates (LFPR) in the year ended March 2025 (72.8%) dropped back to 41.0 per cent for those aged 15 to 19 and remained at 78.6 per cent for ages 20 to 24 and 88.2% for ages 25 to 39 (all still slightly above 2016-2020). There were small falls for those aged 40 to 54 (87.6%) and 55 and over (51.5%), but still remaining near their 2023 record highs. Over the longer term, the LFPR for those aged 55 and over has doubled since June 1995 (26.2%), due at least in part to rising average retirement ages.

4 Labour force status and unemployment rate by gender

Table 4 shows labour force status for males and females for the year ended March 2025. Unemployment rates since 1996 are shown in Figure 2.

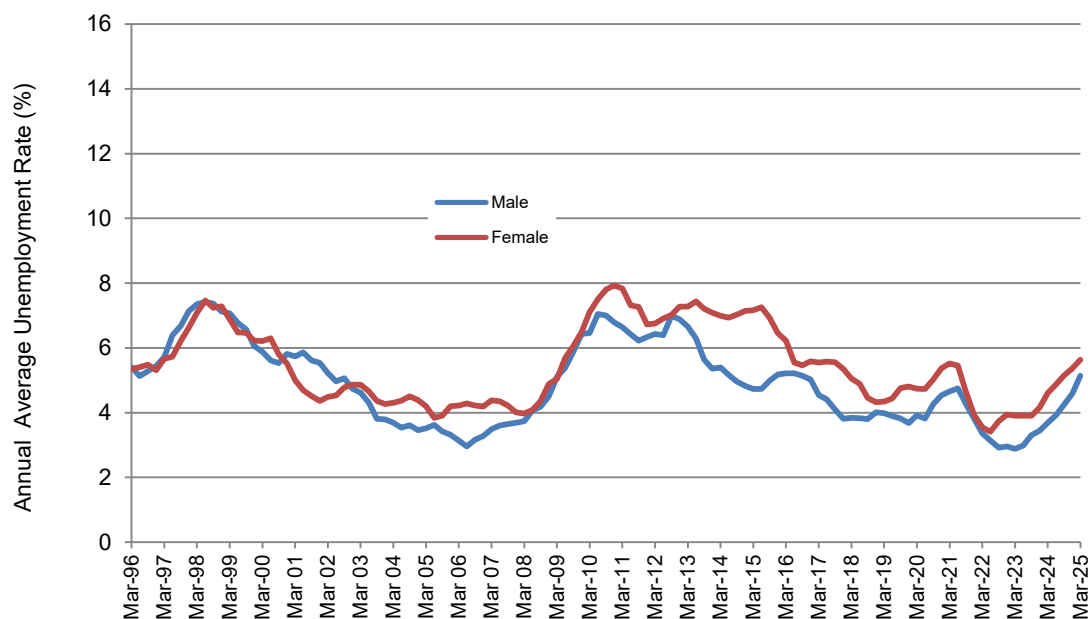
Table 4: Labour force status by gender, year ended March 2025 (annual averages)

	Total	Male	Female
Number employed	1000.4	528.1	472.3
Number unemployed	56.8	28.6	28.2
Number not in the labour force	394.9	159.6	235.3
Number in the working age popn	1452.1	716.3	735.8
Labour force participation rate (%)	72.8	77.7	68.0
Unemployment rate (%)	5.4	5.1	5.6

Note: Numbers are '000s; numbers and rates are based on latest population estimates.

The unemployment rate for the year ended March 2025 was higher for females (5.6%) than males (5.1%), and both were above record lows of 2022-2023 and 2005-2008, but below 2009-2015. The female-male unemployment rate differential (0.5%) fell below the 20-year average (0.8%), and remained well below the peak differential (2.5%, in 2015).

Figure 2 Unemployment rate by gender (rolling annual average), 1996-2025



The LFPR for females (68.0%) continued slowly declining from its record high (69.9% in 2023), and remained significantly lower than for males (77.7% - also declining slowly since its record high of 79.1%). The LFPR gender differential (9.7%) was similar to the bottom end of most of 2013 to 2021 (9% to 12%). Longer term it has halved since 1995 (19.0%), due to the male LFPR rising only slightly overall since 1995 (76.1%), while the female LFPR rose by a fifth (11% rise from 57.3% in 1995), the majority being since December 2013 (61.3%).

5 Labour force status and unemployment rate by ethnic group

Labour force status for the four main ethnic groups for the year ended March 2025 is shown in Table 5. Unemployment rates since 1996 are shown in Figure 3.

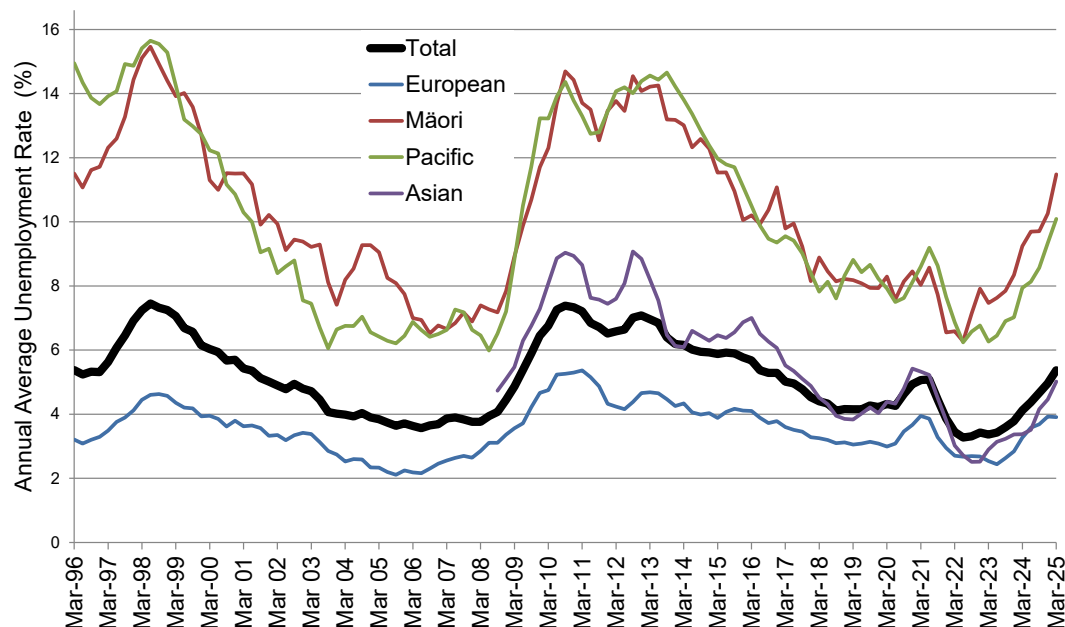
Table 5: Labour force status by ethnic group, year ended March 2025 (annual average)

	Total	European	Māori	Pacific	Asian
Number employed	1,000.4	500.3	89.6	106.0	355.1
Number unemployed	56.8	20.4	11.6	11.9	18.8
Number not in the labour force	394.9	187.8	50.7	62.5	114.8
Number in the working age popn	1,452.1	708.5	151.9	180.4	488.6
Labour force participation rate (%)	72.8	73.5	66.7	65.4	76.5
Unemployment rate (%)	5.4	3.9	11.5	10.1	5.0

Notes: Numbers are '000s; sums may exceed totals due to respondents selecting multiple ethnic groups. "Other ethnicities" not shown. These numbers are indicative only as sub-sample sizes are small. Data is based on latest population estimates.

Unemployment rates for the year ended March 2025 were a fourth higher than a year prior for Māori (11.5%, up from 9.2%) and Pacific peoples (10.1%, up from 7.9%), a fifth for European (3.9%, up from 3.3%) and half for Asian (5.0%, up from 3.4%). As Figure 3 shows, Māori and Pacific rates have been quite similar since 1999, and the gap between European and Asian rates closed from 4% during 2010 to 2012, to around 1% from 2019 onwards.

Figure 3: Unemployment rate by ethnic group (rolling annual average), 1996-2025



Note: Asian Ethnic Group was included in Other (not shown) until December Quarter 2007.

LFPR varied from 65.5 per cent for Pacific peoples (up from 55.6% in 2013) and 66.7 per cent for Māori, to European 73.5 per cent and Asian 76.5 per cent (65.1% in 2013). LFPR rates were 2 per cent below a year ago for European and Maori, and 1 per cent for Pacific and Asian.

6 Employment by occupation

Auckland's largest occupational categories in the quarter ended 31 March 2025 were Professionals (27.4% of Auckland's total employment), and Managers (24.0%), together constituting half of all employment, followed by Clerical and Administrative Workers (10.0%) and Technicians and Trades Workers (9.7%) (see Table 6).

Between the December 2024 and March 2025 quarters, the minimal (3400 or 0.3%) decrease in total employment included changes in the numbers employed in the following occupations:

- Community and Personal Service Workers (- 5,700, a 7% fall; share fell 0.5%; but reversing recent rise)
- Clerical and Administrative Workers (-3800, a 4% fall, and 0.4% fall in their share)

Table 6: Employment by occupation – comparison to preceding quarter (quarterly data)

Occupation (ANZSCO 1-digit)	December 2024 quarter	March 2025 quarter	December 2024 quarter	March 2025 quarter
	Number		Share (%)	
Managers	237.3	239.1	23.8	24.0
Professionals	270.9	272.7	27.1	27.4
Technicians and Trades Workers	97.2	96.4	9.7	9.7
Community and Personal Service Workers	86.1	80.4	8.6	8.1
Clerical and Administrative Workers	103.5	99.7	10.4	10.0
Sales Workers	72.6	72.2	7.3	7.3
Machinery Operators and Drivers	55.4	56.0	5.5	5.6
Labourers	67.9	70.0	6.8	7.0
Total	999.0	995.6	100.0	100.0

Notes: Numbers are '000s. Total includes not elsewhere included. Data is based on latest population estimates.

Between the March 2024 (not shown) and March 2025 quarters, the 11,300 decrease in total employment (a fall of 1%) included notable changes in the numbers employed in the following occupations:

- Technicians and Trades Workers (-12,400 a fall of 11%)
- Managers (-10,800 a fall of 4%)
- Labourers (+9,600 a rise of 16%)
- Sales Workers (-7,800, a fall of 10%).
- Clerical and Administrative Workers (-7,900, a fall of 7%).

In addition (not shown), full-time employment fell (-18,600 or 2.2% fall) and part-time employment rose (+7,300 or 4.4% rise), between the March 2024 and March 2025 quarters. The part-time share rose from 16.7% to 17.6% of total employment, similar or slightly above most of the last seven years 2018-2024, but substantially lower than most of the post-Global Financial Crisis (GFC) period 2009-2017 (mostly 18.5% to 21.8%).

7 Employment by industry

In the quarter ended 31 March 2025, Auckland's largest sectors in terms of employment were Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (115,700 people; 11.6% of total employment), Construction (106,700 people; 10.7% of total employment), and Health Care and Social Assistance (92,300 people; 9.3% of total employment) (see Table 7).

Between the December 2024 and March 2025 quarters, the most notable changes in the number of people employed (-3400) were in Wholesale Trade (+7,800, an 8% rise, but reversing a previous fall), Financial and Insurance Services (-4,200, a 4% fall, but reversing the previous rise) and Manufacturing (-4,100, a 4% fall, but reversing the previous rise).

Between the March 2024 (not shown) and March 2025 quarters (-11,300, a fall of 1.1%), there were notable changes in the numbers employed in Health Care and Social Assistance (-10,900, a fall of 11%), Retail Trade (-5900, a fall of 7%) and Accommodation and Food Services (+4900, a rise of 10%).

In the March 2025 quarter, the industries with the highest proportions working part time were Accommodation and Food Services (39.9%) and Arts and Recreation Services (29.0%); the lowest was Electricity Gas Water and Waste Services (6.9%).

Table 7: Employment by industry – comparison to preceding quarter (quarterly data)

Industry (ANZSIC06)	December 2024 quarter	March 2025 quarter	December 2024 quarter	March 2025 quarter
	Number employed		Share (%)	
Primary Industries	8.5	9.5	0.9	1.0
Manufacturing	88	83.9	8.8	8.4
Electricity Gas Water and Waste Services	10.5	10.1	1.1	1.0
Construction	98.7	106.7	9.9	10.7
Wholesale Trade	44	51.8	4.4	5.2
Retail Trade	86.3	83.4	8.6	8.4
Accommodation and Food Services	56.2	56.1	5.6	5.6
Transport Postal and Warehousing	49.3	52.8	4.9	5.3
Information Media and Telecommunications	17.6	18.6	1.8	1.9
Financial and Insurance Services	58.4	54.2	5.8	5.4
Rental Hiring and Real Estate Services	30	27.9	3.0	2.8
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	114.8	115.7	11.5	11.6
Administrative and Support Services	37.8	34.8	3.8	3.5
Public Administration and Safety	53.3	50.6	5.3	5.1
Education and Training	72	71.1	7.2	7.1
Health Care and Social Assistance	93.6	92.3	9.4	9.3
Arts and Recreation Services	22.7	21.4	2.3	2.1
Other Services	42.4	41.2	4.2	4.1
Total	999	995.6	100.0	100.0

Notes: Numbers are '000s. Total includes "Not elsewhere included". Data is based on latest population estimates.

8 Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) by age

In the quarter ended 31 March 2025, the overall percentage of young people (aged 15 to 24) who were not in employment, education or training (NEET) in Auckland (15.9%) was a little above the rest of New Zealand (13.5%) over the same period (see Table 11). However, quarterly NEET rates are typically subject to substantial seasonal effects, while annual averages are not. In the year ended March 2025, the annual average NEET rate for Auckland (14.0%) was a little above the rest of New Zealand (12.8%) over the same period.

Statistics for the year ended March 2025 for young people (aged 15 to 24, and split by age: 15-19 years and 20-24 years) in Auckland who were NEET are shown in Table 8. NEET rates since 2006 are shown in Figure 4.

The NEET rate for the year ended March 2025 (14.0%) varied by age group from 11.0 per cent for those aged 15 to 19 (1.5% above a year earlier), to 16.9 per cent for those aged 20 to 24 (2.0% above a year earlier).

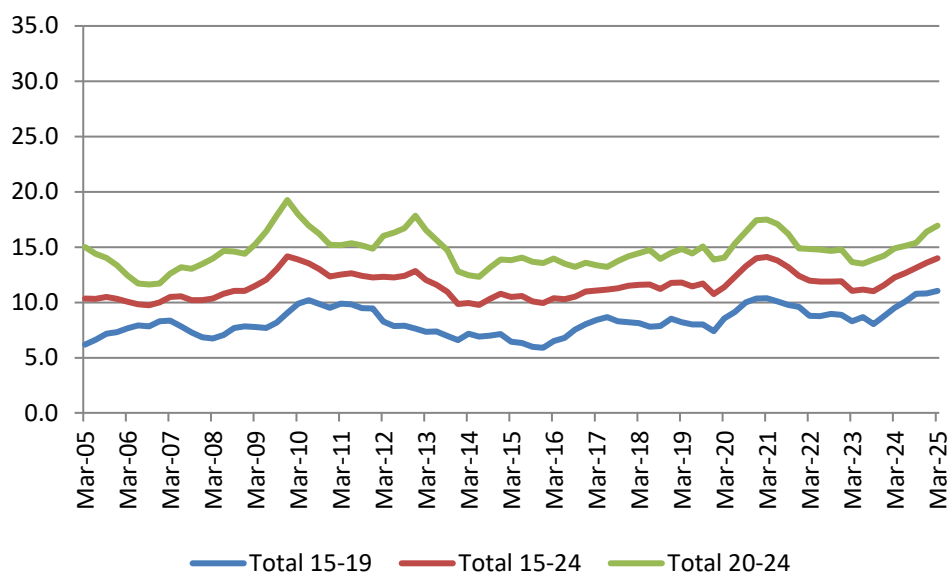
Table 8: NEET statistics by age, year ended March 2025 (annual averages)

	Total 15-24 years	15-19 years	20-24 years
Number in the selected population	230.1	115.9	114.2
Number NEET	32.2	12.8	19.4
NEET rate (%)	14.0	11.0	16.9
NEET rate (%) a year earlier	12.3	9.5	14.9

Note: Numbers are '000s; numbers and rates are based on latest population estimates.

The annual average NEET rate for the year ended March 2025 was slightly above the peaks seen during Covid (2021) and post-GFC (2010) for ages 15 to 19, and slightly below those years' peaks (and 2012/2013) for ages 20 to 24. NEET rates since 2018 have tended to move similarly for both age groups, falling from 2021 to 2023, but mostly rising after 2023.

Figure 4: NEET rate (%) by age (rolling annual average), 2006-2025



9 Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) by ethnic group

NEET statistics for those aged 15-24 for the four main ethnic groups for the year ended March 2025 are shown in Table 9. NEET rates since 2006 are shown in Figure 5.

The annual average NEET rates for the year ended March 2025 were a quarter higher than a year prior for Asian youths (10.9%, +2.2% and overtaking European), and also rose for European (10.4%, +1.7%) and Pacific (20.2%, +2.3%); Māori remained the highest (23.1%, - 0.4%). NEET youths numbered 32,200 in total, of whom over a third identified as European (11,400), while Pacific (9,700) and Māori (9,300) comprised nearly a third each; nearly a quarter identified as Asian (7,400) (summing to more than the total – see Table 9 Notes).

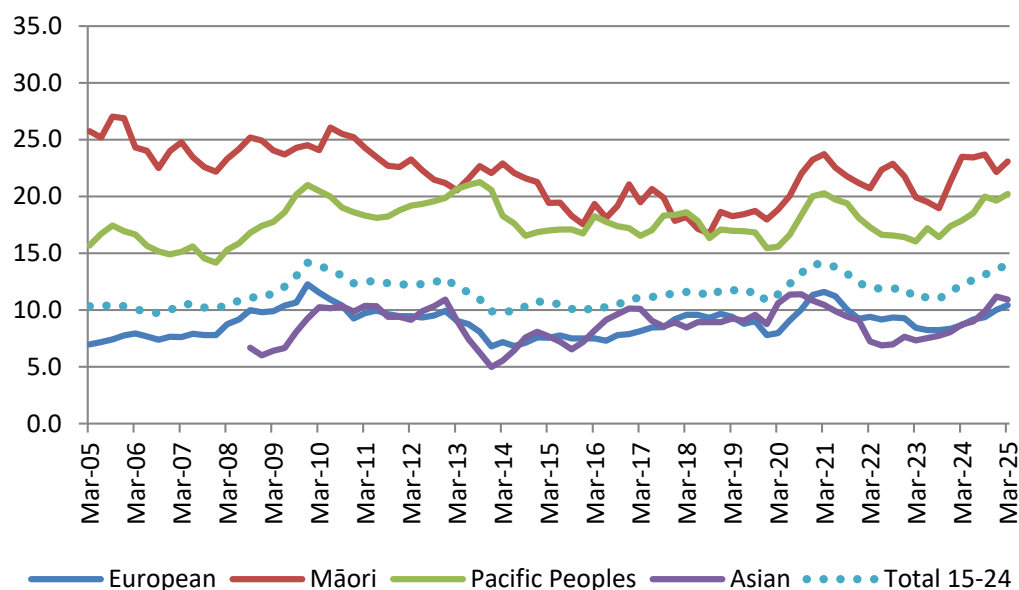
Table 9: NEET statistics by ethnic group, year ended March 2025 (annual average)

	Total	European	Māori	Pacific	Asian
Number in the selected population	230.1	109.1	40.1	47.8	67.4
Number NEET	32.2	11.4	9.3	9.7	7.4
NEET rate (%)	14.0	10.4	23.1	20.2	10.9
NEET rate (%) a year earlier	12.3	8.7	23.5	17.9	8.7

Notes: Numbers are '000s; sums may exceed totals due to respondents selecting multiple ethnic groups. "Other ethnicities" not shown. These numbers are indicative only as sub-sample sizes are small. Data is based on latest population estimates.

Since 2010 European and Asian rates have been similar, and somewhat below Pacific which is slightly below Māori; rates across all ethnic groups have tended to follow broadly similar movements, although with minor variations. (Maori NEET is a little more erratic - but survey sampling error margins of up to a third add considerable uncertainty.) Rates peaked in 2021 then fell sharply- a little earlier for Asians, and the Māori fall was temporarily reversed in 2022. The uptrend from 2023 began earlier for Asians and was completed faster for Māori.

Figure 5: NEET rate (%) by ethnic group (rolling annual average), 2006-2025



Note: Asian Ethnic Group was included in Other (not shown) until December Quarter 2007.

10 Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) by broad location

NEET statistics for those aged 15-24 for Auckland and New Zealand for the year ended March 2025 are shown in Table 10. NEET rates since 2007 are shown in Figure 6.

NEET rates for the year ended March 2025 were much higher for the Southern Initiative area (TSI)³ (22.4%) than for the rest of Auckland (11.7%) and the rest of New Zealand (12.2%). Both Auckland areas were above a year earlier, especially TSI (+3.0%); the rest of New Zealand was unchanged. A third of Auckland's NEETs (32,200) were in the Southern Initiative area (11,100).

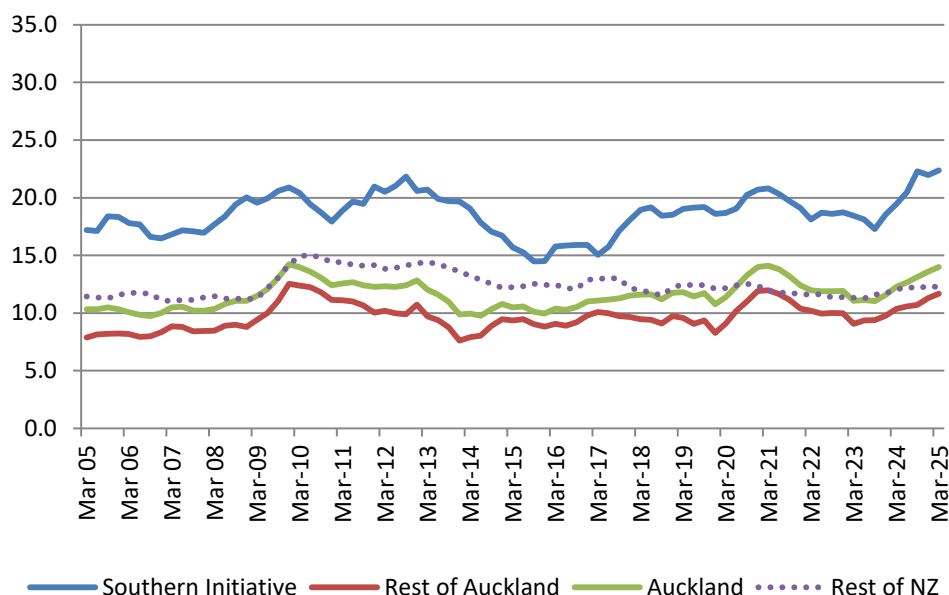
Table 10: NEET statistics by location, year ended March 2025 (annual average)

	Total Auckland	Southern Initiative	Rest of Auckland	Rest of NZ	New Zealand
Number in the selected population	230.1	49.5	180.6	439.8	669.9
Number NEET	32.2	11.1	21.1	53.8	86.0
NEET rate (%)	14.0	22.4	11.7	12.2	12.8
NEET rate (%) a year earlier	12.3	19.4	10.4	12.0	12.1

Notes: Numbers are '000s; numbers and rates are based on latest population estimates. Rest of NZ is New Zealand excluding Total Auckland.

As Figure 6 shows, NEET rates (rolling annual average) in the TSI have always been substantially higher than the rest of Auckland and New Zealand, although the difference narrowed during 2015-2017. From 2011 to 2018 Auckland NEET rate was a little below the Rest of New Zealand, but in 2021 it was higher and again from 2024 onwards. The TSI rate rose particularly sharply in 2024 to a record level exceeding 2010, but then flattened.

Figure 6: NEET rate (%) by location (rolling annual average), 2006-2025



³ The Southern Initiative was established by Auckland Council for four local board areas in South Auckland. The area is made up of the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Manurewa, and Papakura Local Board areas.

11 Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) by local board area

Indicative NEET rates for the various local board areas for the latest quarter and year are shown in Table 11. Due to small sub-sample sizes, this information is not always available for some local board areas ('..S'/blank), and is never available for Great Barrier (not listed). The other local board NEET levels and rates have varying error margins (18% to 56%; e.g. at 56% error margin, '10% NEET rate' could be anywhere between 4.4% and 15.6%).

Table 11: NEET statistics by local board area – quarter and year ended March 2025

Local board area	Population Age 15-24 (000)	Quarterly NEET (000)	Quarterly NEET rate (%)	Annual average NEET Rate (%)
Rodney	4.3	..S	..S	..S
Hibiscus and Bays	14.8	..S	..S	8.0
Upper Harbour	13.1	1.0	7.9	10.3
Kaipātiki	13.2	1.9	14.3	13.7
Devonport-Takapuna	9.7	1.5	15.4	16.2
Henderson-Massey[W]	18.9	3.6	18.9	20.0
Waitākere Ranges [W]	9.5	1.7	17.8	14.3
Waiheke	..S	..S	..S	..S
Waitematā	11.5	1.4	11.9	10.9
Whau [W]	12.7	3.1	24.2	48.6
Albert-Eden	12.8	2.0	15.3	15.6
Puketāpapa	7.1	1.4	19.4	18.5
Ōrākei	15.3	1.3	8.7	9.5
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	14.5	3.5	24.2	16.4
Howick	17.5	1.5	8.5	13.0
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu [*]	9.6	2.5	26.4	32.1
Ōtara-Papatoetoe [*]	14.8	4.0	26.9	23.1
Manurewa [*]	17.4	3.5	20.1	18.5
Papakura [*]	10.2	2.0	19.2	20.9
Franklin	10.1	..S	..S	..S
Southern Initiative [*]	52.0	12.0	23.0	22.4
Rest of Auckland [*]	186.5	25.9	13.9	11.7
Western Initiative [W]	41.1	8.3	20.3	17.0
Auckland total	238.4	37.9	15.9	14.0
Rest of New Zealand	433.7	58.7	13.5	12.2
Total New Zealand	672.1	96.6	14.4	12.8

Notes: Data is based on latest population estimates. Any finer geography than Auckland total is below the design level of the survey; local board area estimates should be treated as indicative only and used with caution...S = data suppressed due to base numbers being too small (e.g. NEET below 1000 for the quarter (quarterly) or for all of the four quarters (annual average)). [*] The Southern Initiative is made up of the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Manurewa and Papakura Local Boards. [W] = Western Initiative area.

12 Appendix: Definitions and technical notes

Definitions used in the HLFS

Employed: Those HLFS respondents who during their survey reference week had either:

- worked for one hour or more for pay or profit, as employee/employer/self employed
- worked without pay for one hour or more for a relative's farm or business
- had a job but were temporarily not at work.

Labour force: Members of the working-age population who during their survey reference week were classified as 'employed' or 'unemployed'.

Labour force participation rate (LFPR): The total labour force expressed as a percentage of the working-age population.

NEET rate: Calculated as the total number of youth (aged 15-24 years) who are not in employment, education or training (NEET), as a proportion of the total youth working-age population (aged 15-24 years).

Not in the labour force (NILF): Any person who is neither employed nor unemployed. This category includes, for example:

- retired persons
- persons with personal or family responsibilities such as childcare, unpaid housework
- persons attending educational institutions
- persons permanently unable to work due to physical or mental handicaps
- persons who were not actively seeking work (see note below regarding unemployed).

Significant difference: The HLFS is a sample survey, so all statistics are subject to survey sampling error – the random variation between the sample and the total population. For a difference to be statistically significant, it must exceed this margin of error (see also technical note on sampling errors).

Unemployed: Unemployed persons are those in the working-age population who were without a paid job, available for work and had either actively sought work in the past four weeks ending with the reference week, or had a new job to start within the next four weeks. (Note: 'Actively sought work' does not include people whose only job search method was to look at job advertisements in newspapers or online.)

Unemployment rate (UER): The number of unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Working age population (WAP): total population (i.e. of all labour force statuses) aged 15 or over (including over 65), who have or propose to live in New Zealand for at least 12 months, but excluding institutionalised people (in prison, or long-term residents of homes for older people, hospitals, and psychiatric institutions); sometimes restricted to a particular specified sub-group such as by gender or ethnicity – and sometimes also for a sub-group defined by age e.g. youth (aged 15-24).

Technical notes

HLFS survey sampling: Households are sampled on a statistically representative basis from areas throughout New Zealand, and information is obtained for each member of the household aged 15 or older. Each quarter, one-eighth of the households in the sample are rotated out and replaced by a new set of households.

Seasonality and annual averages: In order to ensure information is seasonally aligned, rolling annual averages are used throughout most of this report for reporting across time. Remaining quarterly data in this report will be subject to seasonality (and may differ from some of the HLFS headline numbers published by Stats NZ that are ‘seasonally adjusted’).

Revisions: The survey and some back-data were revised by Stats NZ in October 2020 and again in January 2021 to match revised regional population estimates. There are also ongoing minor revisions to recent population backdata due to revisions of migration estimates. In addition, the survey and all back-data since 2009 was revised in June 2016 when ‘searching online ads only’ was redefined from ‘official unemployed’ to ‘looking at job ads only’ (i.e. not actively seeking employment, therefore Not In Labour Force). This overview uses the revised data, but back-data for before 2009 still uses the old definition.

Sampling errors: As the HLFS is a sample survey, all statistics are subject to survey sampling error. Statistics presented here at the sub-sample (e.g. local board or ethnic groups) and sub-variable (e.g. NEET for ages 15-24) levels are also subject to additional sampling errors and should be treated as indicative only. Note also that in some cases a difference can be significant for a sample but not for any of its component sub-samples (e.g. ethnic groups).

Survey questionnaire changes: In June 2016, the HLFS questionnaire was changed to identify more self-employed people (who would previously have been Not In Labour Force and/or NEET), and to include members of the armed forces living in private dwellings (previously not part of ‘Working Age Population’). Consequently, employment and unemployment rates and other affected data prior to June 2016 are not fully compatible with later periods.

For further information

Technical notes on the HLFS on Stats NZ website:

<https://datainfolplus.stats.govt.nz/item/nz.govt.stats/6a13af44-0057-4a63-835a-c1a0c6f8ef91>

2020 and 2021 Covid-19 impacts:

<https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/covid-19-and-labour-market-statistics-in-the-june-2020-quarter>

<https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/covid-19-and-labour-market-statistics-in-the-december-2021-quarter>

Stats NZ Guide to unemployment statistics (Third edition)

<https://www.stats.govt.nz/assets/Reports/Guide-to-unemployment-statistics-third-edition/guide-unemployment-statistics-third-edition.pdf>

Queries to Ross.wilson@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



EVENT BRIEFING

Meeting with the Auckland City Mission

Date:	26 May 2025	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	BRIEFING-REQ-0013724

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Simeon Brown Minister for Auckland	Note the contents of this briefing	28 May 2025

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Andy Hill	Director Auckland	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Michael Quinn	Head of the Auckland Policy Office		

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

Minister's office to complete:

☐ Approved

☐ Declined

☐ Noted

☐ Needs change

☐ Seen

☐ Overtaken by Events

☐ See Minister's Notes

☐ Withdrawn

Comments



EVENT BRIEFING

Meeting with the Auckland City Mission

Date:	26 May 2025	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	BRIEFING-REQ-0013724

Purpose

You have agreed to meet with Helen Robinson, CEO of Auckland City Mission, at the Auckland Policy Office on 28 May 2025 from 8:00 am to 8:30 am.

This briefing provides an agenda, background information and suggested talking points for the meeting.

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

- a **Note** the contents of this briefing ahead of your meeting with the Auckland City Mission

Noted

Michael Quinn
Head of the Auckland Policy Office

26 / 05 / 2025

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister for Auckland

..... / /



Logistics

1. You are meeting with Helen Robinson, CEO of Auckland City Mission, at the Auckland Policy Office on 28 May 2025 from 8:00 am to 8:30 am.
2. A short biography of Helen is attached in **Annex One**.
3. The Auckland City Mission has indicated that Helen would like to discuss the following topics:
 - Homelessness in Auckland
 - New Dentistry Service
 - Healthcare
 - Food Security
4. Suggested talking points are attached at **Annex Two**.

About the Auckland City Mission

5. The Auckland City Mission (the Mission) was established in 1920 to offer practical support to address significant challenges facing Auckland communities at that time. It has evolved to now offer a range of programmes providing access to food, housing and health services to Aucklanders in need, as well as advocating on behalf of the marginalised populations the Mission engages with.
6. The Mission is a Charitable Trust and relies heavily on funding from grants and donations, as well as government funding for specific initiatives.
7. HomeGround is the Mission's purpose-built central city community hub. Opened in 2022, it is an eleven-storey complex with 80 studio and one-bedroom apartments for people in need. Government, Auckland Council, Auckland District Health Board, Foundation North, companies and members of the public contributed to the \$110 million build cost. Facilities include a commercial kitchen, community dining room, public showers and toilets, medical centre and pharmacy, addiction withdrawal services, activity and conference spaces, commercial spaces for social enterprises, and a rooftop garden.
8. The Ministry for Social Development (MSD) currently fund the Mission for the Emergency Housing Navigator Service until 30 June 2025, providing support and advocacy to individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. The Mission also holds an MSD contract for the Street Guardians Programme, a collaborative initiative between the Mission and Auckland Council to support people to participate in work experience with community organisations as well as provide wraparound services to address personal barriers and pathway to suitable interventions. MSD is currently in discussion around the delivery of both services for the 2025/2026 financial year.
9. MSD has two Case Managers located at HomeGround to provide face-to-face engagement and support to clients needing assistance for income, housing, and employment support.

Discussion topics and suggested talking points

Homelessness in Auckland

10. Homelessness in Auckland is a growing concern, with a significant number of people experiencing severe housing deprivation and a significant increase in unsheltered sleeping. Outreach workers were engaging with approximately 650 known unsheltered rough sleepers as at the end of January 2025.
11. Homelessness is a complex interplay of factors, including addiction, mental illness, job losses and financial hardship and affects individuals and families from all walks of life, with some groups disproportionately impacted. The 2018 Census revealed that 18,417 people in Auckland (over 1% of the population) were experiencing severe housing deprivation. A



number of people are living rough or in cars and a growing number of people are in temporary accommodation and transitional housing.

12. Key concerns regarding homelessness in Auckland include the lack of affordable housing, rising poverty, mental health issues, and addiction problems. Various organizations, including the Mission and many other Community Housing Providers, provide support services to those experiencing homelessness and have voiced growing concerns in the rise homelessness, coupled with concerns around the reduction of emergency housing.
13. In August 2024, new rules-based Emergency Housing settings were introduced. MSD's tightened criteria aim to ensure that Emergency Housing resources are allocated to those in genuine need, recognising the intent of Emergency Housing is as a last resort, used for short periods. Applicants are expected to have exhausted all other housing options, such as staying with family or friends, before seeking emergency assistance.
14. Around 85% of all people applying for Emergency Housing are granted some form of housing support. Where people are declined, they may still be entitled to other housing assistance, including rent and bond assistance to access a suitable private rental.

New dental service

15. Once a person turns 18, there is a very limited range of publicly funded dental services available. These services include dental treatment due to an accident or injury and specialist oral health care for people with needs that prevent them from accessing community-based private dental care.
16. The Auckland Regional Hospital and Specialist Dentistry (HSD) is the regional hospital dental service, providing secondary and tertiary oral health care services to people living in Auckland, Waitematā and Counties Manukau districts. HSD provide clinical services to a large and growing group of medically complex and special care patients, children requiring care under General Anaesthetic, and patients who require dental or oral health services as an essential part of in- and out-patient hospital medical and surgical treatment.
17. HSD also provide very limited emergency dental care for low-income adults, as do few private dentists in the community who hold a contract with Health New Zealand.
18. Since the establishment of HomeGround, HNZ officials and dentists from hospital dental services have been supporting the Mission to set up 'Mission Dentistry'. Due to lack of publicly funded health service for dental care, the Mission's model of care is based around Work and Income Special Needs Grant provided by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD).
19. The service will be delivered by volunteer dentists with the grant going towards treatment costs. The service aims to offer immediate and essential dental treatments that are not provided under the emergency dental services offered by Health NZ.
20. As cost is the biggest barrier for low-income adults accessing essential dental care, 'Mission Dentistry' offers access to much-needed dental services to some of the most vulnerable adults, many of whom have experienced significant hardship and/or trauma. MSD is working with the Mission to explore further opportunities to support its dentistry service, ensuring that clients most in need have access to affordable dental care.

Healthcare

21. The breadth of services enables the Mission to provide one of the few primary health practices in New Zealand that is fully integrated with social services, supporting the care of



Auckland's very high needs population, many of whom have complex healthcare requirements.

22. A range of health services are provided focused on the homeless, families and individuals in crisis, clients with mental health issues and people with alcohol and other drug addictions. Services include:
- A 15-bed social withdrawal service providing space and support for detox from alcohol and other substances (30 people can be cared for in the residential Social Detox Service);
 - The Calder Centre - a General Practice that is supported by the Auckland Primary Health Organisation and the Mission, in collaboration with Health New Zealand. This practice is part of the Very Low Cost Access scheme, which enables the Centre to maintain patient fees for enrolled populations at a low cost;
 - A Harm Reduction and Drug Checking Clinic;
 - Access to mental health nurses via their Better Mental Health Service;
 - Pop-up Clinics with services including blood pressure checks, gambling harm reduction and smoking cessation advice
23. Sustainability of services is front of mind for all providers across the primary healthcare and mental healthcare sectors. The Mission has previously highlighted that Health New Zealand funding for both the social withdrawal service and the Calder Health Centre is topped up by donations.

Food security

24. The 2023/24 New Zealand Health Survey results on household food insecurity found that in the 12 months leading up to the survey, 27% of children lived in households where food ran out either often or sometimes — an increase from the 21% in 2022/23.
25. The study found that 55% of Pacific children and 34% of Māori children were living in households where food ran out often or sometimes, compared to the 22% of New Zealand European/Other children and the 17% of Asian children experiencing household food insecurity.
26. In 2023/24, 26% of children lived in food insecure households over the past year due to a lack of money — up from 20% in 2022/23. Among Pacific children, this figure rose significantly from 36% to 53%. Both food insecurity indicators were more prevalent in households with Māori or Pacific children, disabled children, or those located in the most deprived areas.
27. The Government currently has a number of areas of continued investment supporting access to healthy food for those in greatest need. In particular, the Government has focused on children and young people as a priority. Programmes funded include:
- *Fruit in schools:* This programme provides fruit and vegetables daily to over 120,000 students and staff in over 500 schools to support children to eat more fruit and vegetables and to support a whole school approach to health promotion, including healthy eating and physical activity.
 - *Healthy School Lunches programme:* The programme provides lunches to over 242,000 students with the highest level of need to support their development and to remove barriers to participation in education.
 - *Healthy KickStart Breakfast:* This is a community initiative to provide food and advice to schools to run a breakfast for primary and secondary school students. The programme represents a partnership between a number of food industry organisations and the Ministry for Social Development.



28. Since 2020, MSD has provided over \$5m to the Mission's community food support. This included funding for food distribution infrastructure, food parcels for those requiring food support, and food security initiatives.
29. For the 2024/2025 financial year, the Mission will have received \$75,000 as their second payment for their community food hub, \$700,000 to help support their community food provision, and a food security initiatives grant of \$100,000 to support the expansion of their affordable food shop. This is helping enable access to increased amounts of affordable, healthy food in communities, thereby preventing people needing to access emergency food support.
30. In consideration of the ongoing demand for food support in the community, the Government has reprioritised \$15 million for one more year through Budget 2025 to support the maintenance of the existing community food distribution infrastructure.
31. This funding will be available from 1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026, and will be allocated to:
 - \$6.4m for three national partners to maintain their operation at a national level,
 - \$1.5m for up to 50 food hubs to maintain their food distribution infrastructure at a regional level,
 - \$6.0m for up to 60 food providers to maintain their community food provision at the local level,
 - \$1.0m for Food Security Initiatives that aim to increase community food resilience and self-sufficiency, and
 - \$100,000 for evaluation of the effectiveness of the programme

Risks and mitigations

32. We have not identified any risks associated with this meeting.

Communications/Media

33. There will be no media present.

Annexes

Annex One: Biographies of key attendees

Annex Two: Suggested talking points



Annex One: Biographies of key attendees



Helen Robinson, Auckland City Missioner

Helen has devoted most of her life to addressing the social issues of New Zealand. She has a wealth of experience in social services, and a deep commitment to a more equitable nation.

As the Missioner, Helen leads the Auckland City Mission. She has been with the Mission for more than a decade in a range of leadership roles.

Helen is also co-chair of Kore Hiakai, a national collective working towards food security for all New Zealanders.

Alongside her practical work, Helen has published research into the measurement and experience of food insecurity in New Zealand.



Free and frank opinions

