MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Auckland
For the period Monday 25 August to Sunday 7 September 2025

Date:	4 September 2025	**Priority:**	Medium
Security classification:	In confidence	**Tracking number:**	BRIEFING-REQ-0020040

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
New Zealand Transport Agency, Ministry of Transport, Department of Internal Affairs and Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

Minister's office to complete:

☐ Approved ☐ Declined
☐ Noted ☐ Needs change
☐ Seen ☐ Overtaken by Events
☐ See Minister's Notes ☐ Withdrawn

Comments

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BRIEFING

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Date:	4 September 2025	**Priority:**	Medium
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Purpose

To provide you with a fortnightly report for the Auckland Portfolio for the period Monday 25 August to Sunday 7 September 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
4 / 09 /2025

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

1. Auckland Portfolio Priorities

Topic/ Contact person	Comment
Auckland Recovery	
	Please see **Annex One** for the Auckland Council's Recovery Weekly Report (week ending 22 August 2025).
Auckland City and Regional Deal	
Vanessa Blakelock Partnerships Director DIA Privacy of natural persons **Michael Quinn** Head of the APO Privacy of natural persons	Confidential advice to Government
Auckland Transport CCO	
Karen Lyons Auckland Director MoT Privacy of natural persons	**Auckland Transport Board Meeting 26 August 2025** *Statement of Intent (SOI) 2025/2026 Performance Targets* Auckland Transport shared July reporting against the new SOI targets agreed by the Auckland Transport Board (the Board). Not all measures have July metrics available.

Measure	2024/25 Result	Year to Date Target	July 2025 Actual
Average travel time across the arterial network for an average trip of 10km	23 minutes	23 minutes	22 minutes
Arterial productivity Average number of people moving per hour during the morning peak	29,131	30,000	29,506
PT Boardings Annual numbers of PT trips	88.8 million	7.8 million	7.3 million
PT punctuality Percentage of services that start and end according to schedule	90.4%	89%	92.5%
PT utilisation for frequent routes during peak	46.4%	50%	46.2%
Farebox Recovery Ratio The percentage of the total PT operating cost recovered through fares	33.5%	34%	32%
Formal complaints Percentage of total AT case volume resulting in a formal complaint	0.48%	<0.4%	0.51%
Safety Deaths and Serious Injuries on the road network in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland	611	43	41

Poor weather in the first two weeks of July, school holidays and poor South Auckland bus performance contributed to not meeting targets for public transport boardings, public transport utilisation, arterial productivity and farebox recovery.

Formal complaints are also higher than the target, although this is attributed to a backlog of AT HOP complaints that steps are now in place to resolve.

Speed Limit Requests – options on approach to installing new speed limits

The Board considered options for handling Auckland speed limit change requests, addressing local road safety and speed concerns.

It was decided to create a local road safety plan for each local board. This approach includes safety infrastructure, road safety education, and speed limits. This was preferred over collaborating with local boards to develop comprehensive plans for speed limit changes, or establishing a process for public, elected members, and stakeholders to request investigations into specific roads.

Network Performance Update

All annual SOI network performance targets were met for 2024/25.

Measure	2024/25 Target	2024/25 Actual
AM Peak Average Travel Time Average travel time across the arterial network (10km journey) between 07:30-08:30.	No more than 24 minutes	22.8 minutes
Arterial Productivity Average people throughput moving per hour during the morning peak (07:30-08:30).	At least 28,000	29,131
Freight Performance Interpeak Percentage of the strategic freight network without congestion in the interpeak.	85%	86%

Network optimisation work remains on track, with targets for both projects completed and designs ready for 2025/26 met or exceeded across Intersection/Corridor Optimisation, Dynamic Streets/Solutions and Special Vehicle Lanes.

Law and Order

Andy Hill

Director Auckland

MBIE

Privacy of natural persons

Following your meeting with Viv Beck on 8 August 2025, you requested that Auckland Health New Zealand officials meet with her to discuss efforts to address health issues exacerbating rough sleeping and anti-social behaviour of central city streets.

This meeting has been confirmed for Thursday 11 September 2025. Auckland officials will also be in attendance.

Water Reform Update

Lori Hand

Executive Director Water Services Reform

DIA

Privacy of natural persons

Local Water Done Well legislation

The Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 and the associated Local Government (Water Services) (Repeals and Amendments) Act 2025 received Royal assent on 26 August 2025. The Local Government (Water Services) Act 2025 established the enduring settings for the water services delivery system in New Zealand. The Local Government (Water Services) (Repeals and Amendments) Act 2025 amends existing legislation, including the Commerce Act 1986 to establish an economic regulation regime for water services, the Water Services Act 2021 and the Local Government Act 2002.

The legislation was initially introduced to Parliament as a single bill (the Local Government (Water Services) Bill), then divided at the committee of the whole House.

Quarterly report from the Crown monitor to Watercare

The Crown monitor to Watercare (the Commerce Commission) has submitted their quarterly report for the period from 1 June to 31 August 2025 to the Minister of Local Government. They report that they expect to receive Watercare's draft 'infrastructure delivery and asset management improvement plan' on 31 August 2025, which will include details of how Watercare will enable housing growth in areas with limited network capacity. International experts Turner &

	Townsend have commenced independent verification of the draft plan and will provide a view on how it aligns with international good practice for the water sector. Confidential advice to Government
Watercare and Fast-track Applications	
Lori Hand Executive Director Water Services Reform Program DIA Privacy of natural persons	Confidential advice to Government

	Confidential advice to Government

2. General Auckland Updates

Topic/ Contact person	Comment
Special Vehicle Lane Enforcement Pilot	
Steve Mutton Director Regional Relationships NZTA Privacy of natural persons	The New Zealand Transport Agency (NZTA) has identified an increase in congestion on the Auckland state highway network due to Special Vehicle Lane (SVL) non-compliance, impacting the safe and efficient operation of the network. Delays are impacting public transport and freight lane safety and efficiency, reducing the benefit of these investments. NZTA is working in partnership with Auckland Transport (AT), utilising AT's back-office systems and technology in the short term, to deliver an enforcement programme for SVL. As AT has the legal powers to undertake enforcement, NZTA will be working in partnership with AT. To address SVL non-compliance, there will initially be enforcement cameras installed at two locations: • SH16 The Strand - T2 and freight lane • SH20B Puhinui Road - T3 lane Enabling works for the SH16 camera installation will begin at the end of September 2025. NZTA anticipate enforcement for both locations will commence later this year or in early 2026. NZTA will also support this work by using the Constellation Drive transit lane to test camera suitability for enforcing SVLs on higher speed parts of the network. Testing will take place over a period of a few weeks, towards the end of 2025. NZTA are available to respond to any questions you may have.
Fast-track Referral: Hobbs Bay Marina	
Andy Hill Director Auckland	Confidential advice to Government

MBIE Privacy of natural persons	Confidential advice to Government

Tourism System Review	
Tara Forde Senior Policy Advisor MBIE Privacy of natural persons	MBIE Tourism and Hospitality Branch met with Auckland Council on 1 September as part of a tourism system review. Issues covered by the review include tourism structure, funding, major events, and mixed-use tourism infrastructure. Auckland Council's feedback on these issues will be fed back into the broader review, with a report back to Minister Upston due by the end of the year. Auckland's primary focus is on stimulating demand and ensuring tourism has a sustainable funding model to support it's aspirations for the sector.
Eden Park Stadium	
Michael Quinn Head of the APO Privacy of natural persons	Confidential advice to Government

3. Ministerial items on hand

3.1 Upcoming significant meetings

Date and venue	Meeting and info
26 September 2025, 8:00 – 9:00 am	Opening of 10 new dwellings at Stevenson Village
23 September 2025, 3:00 – 4:00 pm	Visit Eden Park

3.2 Other Ministerial engagements related to Auckland

Date	Minister	Meeting Info
19 September 2025	Minister Nicola Willis	To visit Pacific Business Trust

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-0020487 Auckland Consolidated Central Government Work Programme: Six-month report back	12 September 2025		Andy Hill Privacy of natural persons	6-month report back to Ministers on the work programmes in Auckland
BRIEFING-REQ-0020486 Eden Park Visit	19 September 2025		Andy Hill Privacy of natural persons	To provide background information for your visit
BRIEFING-REQ-0019269 Opening of 10 new dwellings at Stevenson Village	22 September 2025		Andy Hill Privacy of natural persons	To provide background information for the event

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
8 September 2025		MOIA-REQ-0019527	Privacy of natural persons		Requested copies of advice you have received directly from your officials, in particular, briefings, Cabinet papers, aide memoires and weekly updates, since 1 March 2025 on: • Business activity in Auckland, and business births and deaths • Advice and recommendations on initiatives to stimulate Auckland's economy • Advice and suggestions (anonymised) Auckland business stakeholders have given you on how to boost Auckland's economy • Any advice on bed taxes, GST sharing and other potential revenue sources Auckland might use to invest in its future • Specific advice on ways of boosting innovation and global links in Auckland

3.7 Ministerial correspondence

Due to Minister's office	Ref	Correspondent	Organisation	Summary of Correspondence
23 September 2025	MC-REQ-0019928	Privacy of natural persons	Roma Blooms	Raised significant concerns among small retail businesses regarding the proposed solutions for the Central Business District (CBD), noting: • the declining foot traffic and sales figures. • the need for transparency regarding decisions about the CBD's functionality, as many stakeholders feel disconnected from the planning process. • the traffic flow on Queen Street has significantly deteriorated, while other streets are now experiencing increased congestion. • the unintended consequences of lane reductions have resulted in idling traffic, which ironically contributes to higher carbon emissions. • the design of wide footpaths raises many questions about their intended use—whether for scooters, pedestrians, or parking—which has led to confusion and further complications in pedestrian safety. • Planners' engagement with small retail businesses, the most critical stakeholders in the CBD, to foster a sense of safety and community, as this is essential for revitalising the area and encouraging people to return.

3.8 Proactive release

Date	Title	Comment
26 August 2025	BRIEFING-REQ-0019242 Proactive Release of Auckland Portfolio's fortnightly reports and briefings from 1 June to 31 July 2025	Requesting your approval to proactively release, with appropriate redactions, fortnightly reports and briefings from 1 June to 31 July 2025. MBIE will release the information on the date your office will advise.
10 September 2025	Proactive release of briefing titles for August 2025	MBIE will provide your office with the list of briefing titles for review

3.9 Fast-Track Approvals- Auckland

Project Name	Unique Ref No.	Applicant Organisation	Date Received	Due Date to send Comments
Hobbs Bay Marina		Hobbs Bay Marina	28 August 2025	25 September 2025

4. Auckland dashboards

Transport Environmental Scan

Karen Lyons

Auckland Director

MoT

Privacy of natural persons

Public transport patronage update

For the fortnight 28 July – 10 August 2025, public transport patronage totalled 3.7 million boardings across the city's public transport network. Patronage decreased by 1% for this fortnight compared to the same period last year. Both bus and ferry patronage declined by 2%, however, rail patronage increased by 3%.

Public transport patronage for the year to 31 July 2025 is 88.7 million boardings which has increased on the previous year's total of 87.7 million boardings. Across all modes, bus patronage saw the largest annual increase of 2%, whereas rail patronage had a decline of 2%.

At 88.7 million boardings, current annual patronage reaches 83% of Auckland Transport's latest SOI target of 106.8 million annual public transport boardings for 2025/26. This also represents 86% of the pre-pandemic 12-month public transport patronage level in the year to December 2019 of 103.2 million boardings.

Bus patronage recovery, at 93% of pre-pandemic levels, is significantly ahead of train recovery, at 62% (these figures compare the year to 30 June 2025, with the year to 29 February 2020). Significant disruption to the Auckland rail network is likely to be the cause of this lag in recovery.

Current annual patronage data also shows that there approximately two million fewer journeys on Mondays and Fridays compared to Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

PT fortnightly patronage		
Mode	**28 July – 10 August 2025**	**28 July – 10 August 2024**
Bus	2,928,805	2,987,921
Rail	623,675	603,059
Ferry	98,323	99,931
Total	**3,650,803**	**3,690,911**

Data: AT Metro daily patronage report.

PT monthly patronage		
Mode	**July 2025**	**July 2024**
Bus	5,738,533	5,786,339
Rail	1,190,851	1,253,424
Ferry	333,202	340,250
Total	**7,262,586**	**7,380,013**

Data: AT Metro monthly patronage report.

PT annual patronage		
Mode	**Year to 31 July 2025**	**Year to 31 July 2024**
Bus	70,119,715	68,814,536
Rail	13,645,991	13,970,606
Ferry	4,929,590	4,921,588
Total	**88,695,296**	**87,706,730**

Data: AT Metro monthly patronage report.

Auckland Regional Household Labour Force Survey – Quarterly Overview

Andy Hill

Director Auckland

MBIE

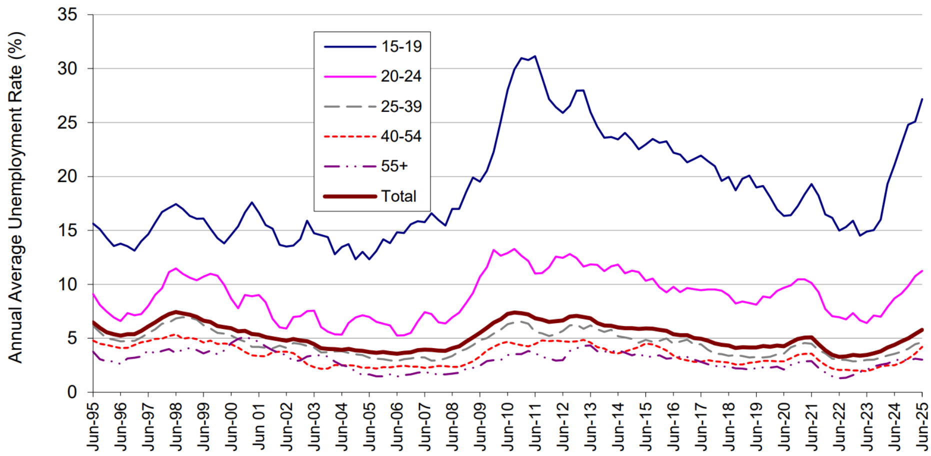
Privacy of natural persons

Auckland Council have released its Auckland Regional Household Labour Force Survey: Quarterly Overview as of June 2025. The full report is attached at **Annex Two.**

Key highlights for this quarter include:

1. The unemployment rate was 6.1, slightly below 6.4% in March 2025, but the highest June rate since 2013 (12 years ago).

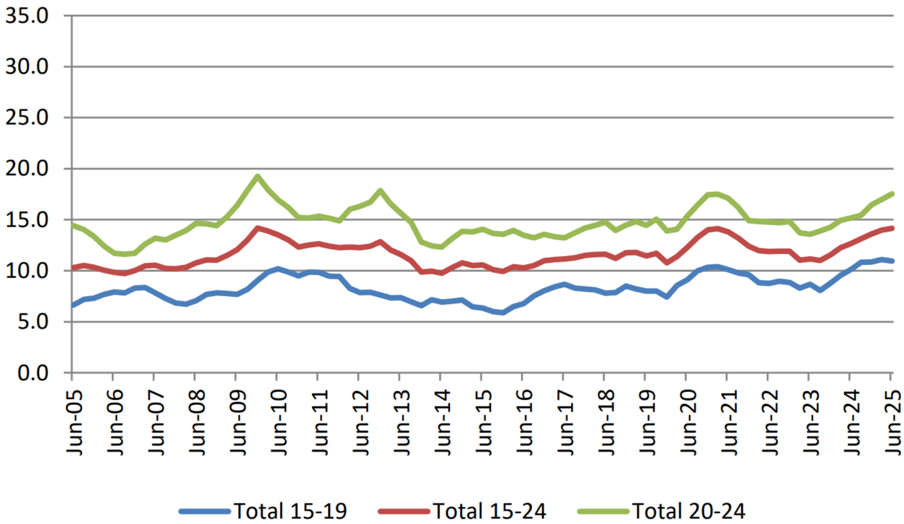
Unemployment rate by age (rolling annual average), 1995-2025



2. The labour force participation rate (LFPR) fell 1.3% to 71.3%: among the lowest in three years, but note that LFPR since 2021 have been at record highs.

3. The Youth NEET rate (Not in Employment, Education or Training) was 13.7%, slightly above the rest of New Zealand (11.4%) but below March 2025 (15.9%).

NEET rate by (%) by age (rolling annual average), 1995-2025



Other measures covered in the report include numbers employed, unemployed or not in the labour force and youth NEET, all split by age, ethnicity and location. Contextual information such as industry, occupation and hours worked is also provided.

Auckland Housing Update	
Afoa Malolo Director - Auckland HUD Privacy of natural persons	**House price index and median house price (REINZ)** • The House price index is down 0.1% (as of July 2024) • Number of sales is down 0.5% since July 2024. • Median House Price is $975,000, which is down 2.5% in the month of July 2025, and down 1.5% since July 2024. HUD commentary: Auckland house prices showed little change over the last year. However, prices have shown more variability in recent months as falling interest rates attract some buyers back into the market while high stock levels and an uncertain economic outlook act to limit price growth. **New dwelling building consents (Stats NZ)** • New dwelling consents are up 57.9% compared to June 2024. • Total new dwellings consented annually since June 2024 is 14,295, which is up 3.2% compared to the previous year. HUD commentary: Over the last year, building intentions through dwelling consents have remained stable in Auckland, with considerable monthly variation. Industry confidence remains subdued, although it has improved since last year. New build intentions are likely to remain flat, or only improve slightly as economic uncertainty, the fall in net migration and the high availability of cheaper existing properties is likely to keep demand low. It is expected that construction activity will continue to decline throughout 2025 due to the lower levels of consenting across 2023 and 2024. **Dwelling completions and new land parcels (Auckland Council)** • 15,436 dwellings received code compliance certificates (CCC) annually since June 2024. • 1236 new residential land parcels (under 5000m2) were created in July 2025 (up 9.9% compared to July 2024) HUD commentary: Annual CCC issuance has decreased over the past few months due to the decline in building intentions over 2023. As existing projects are being completed faster than new projects are coming online, construction activity is falling. This trend is expected to continue over the short-term. **Rental price index** • 0.6% decrease annually since November 2023 HUD commentary: Nationally RPI growth remains minimal as falling net migration has contributed to a reduction in the demand for rental properties, and recent levels of construction have been high. This is particularly prevalent in Auckland, which acts as the primary inward migration hub.

	Currently, the publication of Stats NZ's Rental Price Index (RPI) "flow" measure of rental inflation for new tenancies is on hold, until some improvements are made to the data and methodology. However, HUD has been able to produce a monthly rental inflation measure with the support of Stats NZ by tweaking the quarterly RPI measure we produce for our Changes in Housing Affordability Indicators (CHAI). This does not replace the Stats NZ RPI but will provide an interim measure until publication of the Stats NZ flow measure resumes.

Annexes

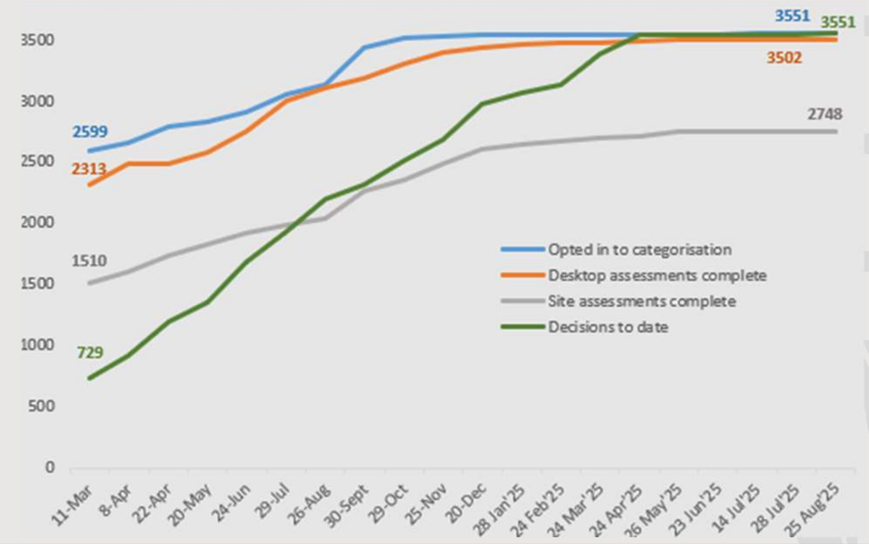
Annex One: Auckland Council's Recovery Weekly Report

Annex Two: Auckland Household Labour Force Survey June 2025

Categorisation Stages

Stages	Initial Impacted properties	Opted in to Categorisation	Desktop Assessments Complete	Site Assessments Complete
Number of properties	7,389	3,551	3,502	2,748
Change from last report	*no change*	*0*	*0*	*0*

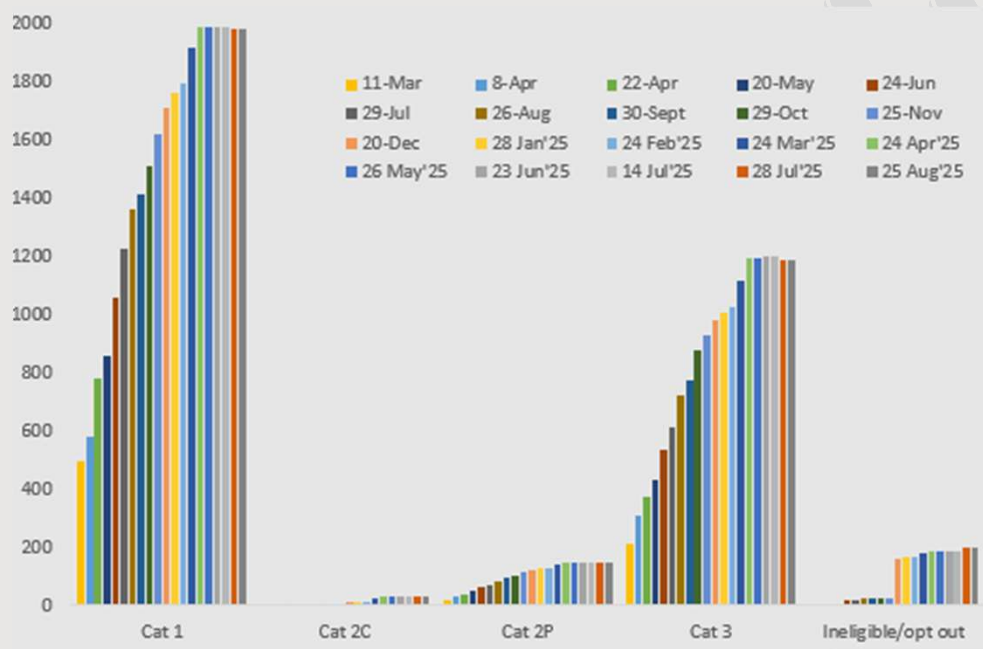
- *Total 3,551 registrations exceeding the January 2025 forecast of 3,548*
- *3,551 total decisions to date, final risk assessments completed for all properties*



Summary of Categorisation Progress

Final Categories 3,551 properties	Category 1	Category 2C	Category 2P	Category 3 Eligible for buyout	Ineligible/ opt out
Number of properties categorised	1,981	32	148	1,188	202
Change from last report	*-2*	*0*	*3*	*-1*	*1*
Estimated Final Categories 3,548 (Jan'25)	**1,984**	**38**	**141**	**1,215**	**170**
% Decisions to date	*100%*	*84%*	*105%*	*98%*	*119%*

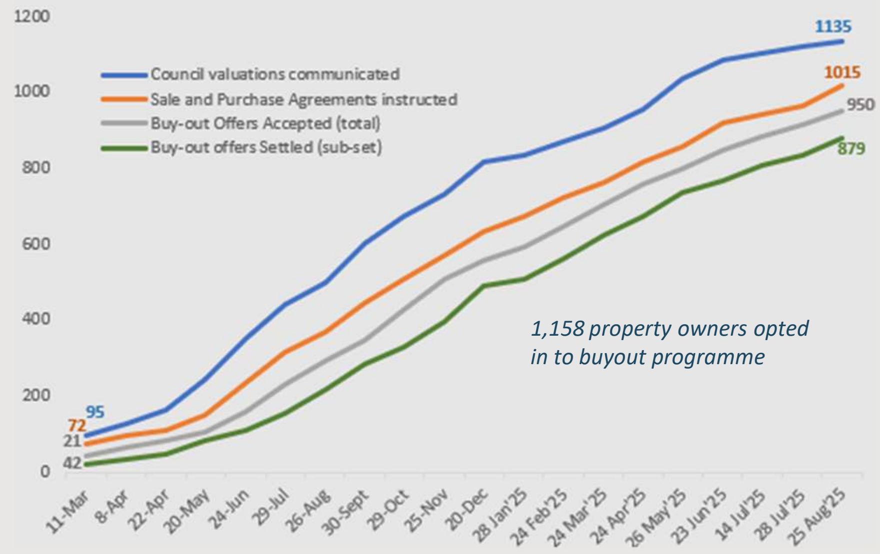
- *13 properties deemed ineligible following assessment of change of ownership after 26 January 2023 (an additional 1 property from previous report)*
- *Of the 1,188 total Category 3 properties, 9 opted out and will not advance to the buyout stage (no change from previous report)*



Category 3 Buy-outs in Progress

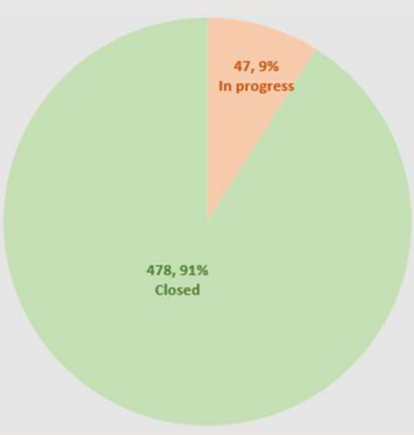
Stages	Council valuations communicated	Sale and Purchase Agreements instructed	Buy-out Offers Accepted	Buy-out Offers Settled
Number of properties	1,135	1,015	950	879
Change from last report	*15*	*51*	*36*	*47*
Buyout offers % based on **1,215** category 3 properties	93%	84%	78%	72%

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



Special circumstances applications, Disputes / Category reviews

Case status – 525 total requests



NB: A CE review is treated as a new case

Monthly – total vs open and closed cases

Total vs closed cases – requests breakdown to date

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

Ross Wilson

Strategic Advice and Research | SARU

Auckland Council
Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau

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

Ross Wilson

August 2025

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

Table of contents

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). 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 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 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 June 2025 quarter, compared to the preceding quarter (March 2025)[1]:

- Auckland's unemployment rate was 6.1%, slightly below[2] 6.4% in March 2025, but the highest June rate since 2013 (12 years ago).
- The number of people who were unemployed fell slightly to 63,700 (-4,800, down 7%).
- The number of people employed fell slightly to 984,900 (-9,100, a 1% fall).
- The number of people not in the labour force (NILF) rose 5% to 421,300 (+20,800).
- The labour force participation rate (LFPR) fell 1.3% to 71.3%: among the lowest in three years, but note that LFPR since 2021 have been at record highs.

In addition, for the June 2025 quarter:

- The rate of people aged 15 to 24 not in employment, education or training (NEET) was 13.7%, slightly above the rest of New Zealand (11.4%) but below March 2025 (15.9%).

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

- The unemployment rate averaged 5.8%, higher than a year earlier (4.4%) by a third.
- The largest proportionate increase in unemployment rate was for those aged 40 to 54, rising from 2.5% to 4.2%; younger people had higher rates: 15 to 19 (27.2%, up from 21.1%), 20 to 24 (11.3%, was 8.7%) 25 to 39 (4.6%, was 3.6%), 55 and over 3.0%.
- The unemployment rate for females averaged 6.1% (1.2% above a year prior (4.9%)). The rate for males averaged 5.5% (1.6% above 3.9% a year prior), so the gap between males and females (0.6%) fell below the 20-year average (0.8%) and peak (2.5%).
- Unemployment rates rose for all main ethnic groups. Māori and Pacific rates remain higher than the others: Māori at 12.4% (up from 9.7%), Pacific peoples at 11.0% (was 8.2%); Asian rose sharply to 5.5% (from 3.5%), overtaking European 4.1% (was 3.6%).
- The labour force participation rate (LFPR) fell to 72.2%, down from a year earlier (73.8%) but remaining higher than any time before 2023.
- The LFPR for females decreased slightly (67.4%, down from 69.1%), remaining significantly lower than for males (77.2%, was 78.7%).
- LFPRs fell substantially for those aged 15 to 19 (down 5.2% to 39.8%), but much less so for all other ages: 20 to 24 (down 0.9% to 78.6%), 25-39 (87.6%, down 0.7%), 40-54 (87.3%, down 1.1%), and 55 and over (51.3%, down 0.7%).
- LFPRs fell for Māori (65.1%, down 4.0%) and European (72.6%, down 2.3%), less for Asian (76.1%, down 1.2%); there was minimal change for Pacific peoples (65.8%).

In addition, over the year ended June 2025:

- The annual average NEET rate for Auckland was 14.2%, a little above the rest of New Zealand (12.2%), and a little above the year ended June 2024 (12.7%).
- Auckland NEET rates were highest for Māori (23.1%) and Pacific (20.1%) ethnicities, and for the Southern Initiative area (22.7%); one third (11,400) identified as European.
- Auckland's NEET rate was higher for those aged 20-24 (17.5%) than 15-19 (11.0%).

[1] Results shown are not seasonally adjusted, and include Stats NZ revisions 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 Mar 2025 (snapshot)	Quarter end Jun 2025 (snapshot)	Year end Jun 2024 (annual average)	Year end Jun 2025 (annual average)
Number employed	994.0	984.9	1009.7	993.4
Number unemployed	68.5	63.7	46.5	60.8
Number not in the labour force (NILF)	400.5	421.3	374.5	405.1
Number in the working age population	1463.1	1469.9	1430.7	1459.3
Labour force participation rate (%)	72.6	71.3	73.8	72.2
Unemployment rate (%)	6.5	6.1	4.4	5.8

Note: Numbers are '000s of people except where indicated as percentages (%).

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

	Year end Jun 2024 (annual average)	Year end Jun 2025 (annual average)	Year end Jun 2024 (annual average)	Year end Jun 2025 (annual average)
	Unemployment rate		Labour force participation rate	
Total	**4.4**	**5.8**	**73.8**	**72.2**
15-19 years	21.1	27.2	44.0	39.8
20-24 years	8.7	11.3	79.4	78.5
25-39 years	3.6	4.6	88.3	87.6
40-54 years	2.5	4.2	88.4	87.3
55 years +	2.9	3.0	52.0	51.3
Female	4.9	6.1	69.1	67.4
Male	3.9	5.5	78.7	77.2
European	3.6	4.1	74.9	72.6
Māori	9.7	12.4	69.1	65.1
Pacific	8.2	11.0	65.9	65.8
Asian	3.5	5.5	77.3	76.1

Note: Numbers are percentages.

3 Labour force status and unemployment rate by age

Labour force status by age group for the year ended June 2025 is shown in Table 3. Unemployment rates since 1995 are shown in Figure 1.

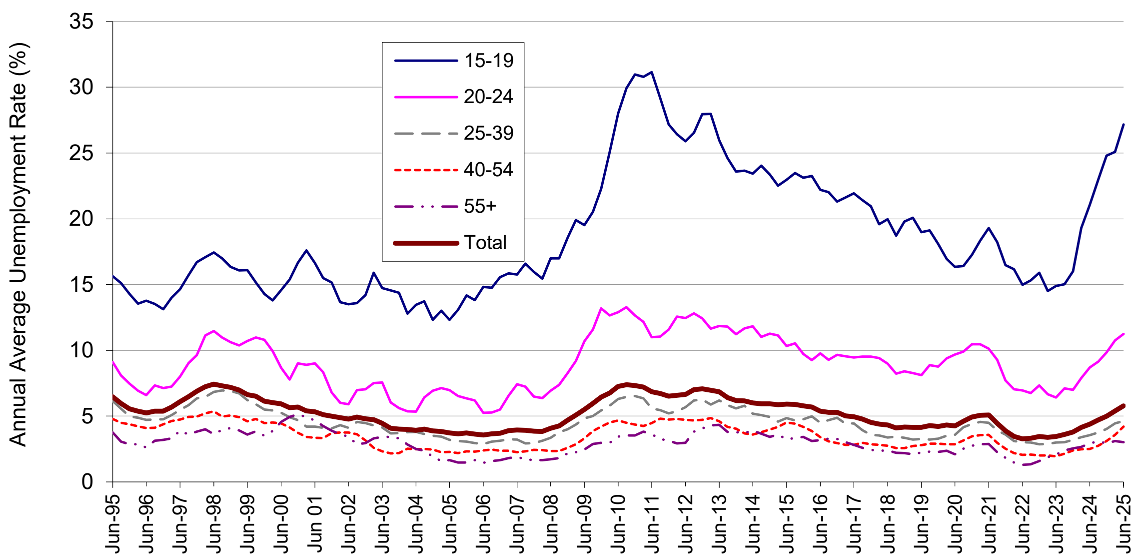
Table 3: Labour force status by age group, year ended June 2025 (annual averages)

	Total	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 39	40 to 54	55 and over
Number employed	993.4	35.2	80.2	363.9	301.8	212.2
Number unemployed	60.8	13.1	10.2	17.7	13.3	6.6
Number not in the labour force	405.1	73.1	24.8	53.9	45.9	207.3
Number in the working age popn	1459.3	121.4	115.2	435.5	361.0	426.1
Labour force participation rate (%)	72.2	39.8	78.5	87.6	87.3	51.3
Unemployment rate (%)	5.8	27.2	11.3	4.6	4.2	3.0

Note: Numbers are '000s, rates (%) are percentages; numbers and rates are based on latest population estimates.

Annual average unemployment rates for the year ended June 2025 varied inversely to age: highest for those aged 15 to 19 years (27.2%) and 20 to 24 (11.3%), and lowest for ages 25 to 39 (4.6%), 40 to 54 (4.2%) and 55 and over (3.0%). Over the last two years, rates rose proportionally more for younger people: nearly doubling for ages 15-19, but "only" rising by a half for ages 55 and over; the exception was ages 40-54, which more than doubled. (But note that survey error margins can exceed 25% for some age groups).

Figure 1: Unemployment rate by age (rolling annual average), 1995-2025



Labour force participation rates (LFPR) in the year ended June 2025 dropped back to 39.8% for those aged 15 to 19 and fell slightly to 78.5% for ages 20 to 24 and 87.6% for ages 25 to 39 (all still slightly above 2016-2020). There were slight falls for those aged 40 to 54 (87.3%) and 55 and over (51.3%), but these rates remain near their 2023 record highs. Over the longer term, the LFPR for those aged 55 and over has doubled since June 1995 (26.2%), possibly due to better health, longer life expectancy, and financial pressures associated with retirement.

4 Labour force status and unemployment rate by gender

Table 4 shows labour force status for males and females for the year ended June 2025. Unemployment rates since 1995 are shown in Figure 2.

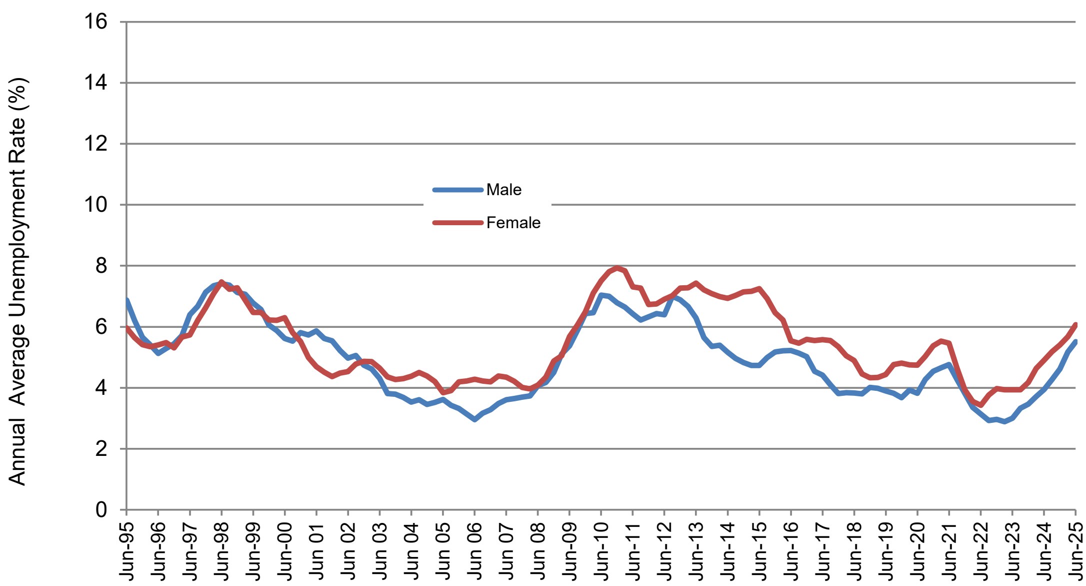
Table 4: Labour force status by gender, year ended June 2025 (annual averages)

	Total	Male	Female
Number employed	993.4	525.9	467.5
Number unemployed	60.8	30.7	30.2
Number not in the labour force	405.1	164.4	240.7
Number in the working age popn	1459.3	720.9	738.4
Labour force participation rate (%)	72.2	77.2	67.4
Unemployment rate (%)	5.8	5.5	6.1

Note: Numbers are ‘000s, rates (%) are percentages; numbers and rates are based on latest population estimates.

The unemployment rate for the year ended June 2025 (5.8%) was higher for females (6.1%) than males (5.5%); both were above record lows of 2022-2023 and 2005-2008, but below 2010-2013 rates for males and 2010-2015 rates for females. The female-male unemployment rate differential (0.6%) remained 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), 1995-2025



The LFPR (72.2%) for females (67.4%) continued declining from a record high of 69.9% in 2023, and remained significantly lower than for males (77.2% - also still declining since its record high of 79.1%). The LFPR gender differential (9.8%) was similar to, or a little below, 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 has risen by a sixth (10% 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 June 2025 is shown in Table 5. Unemployment rates since 1995 are shown in Figure 3.

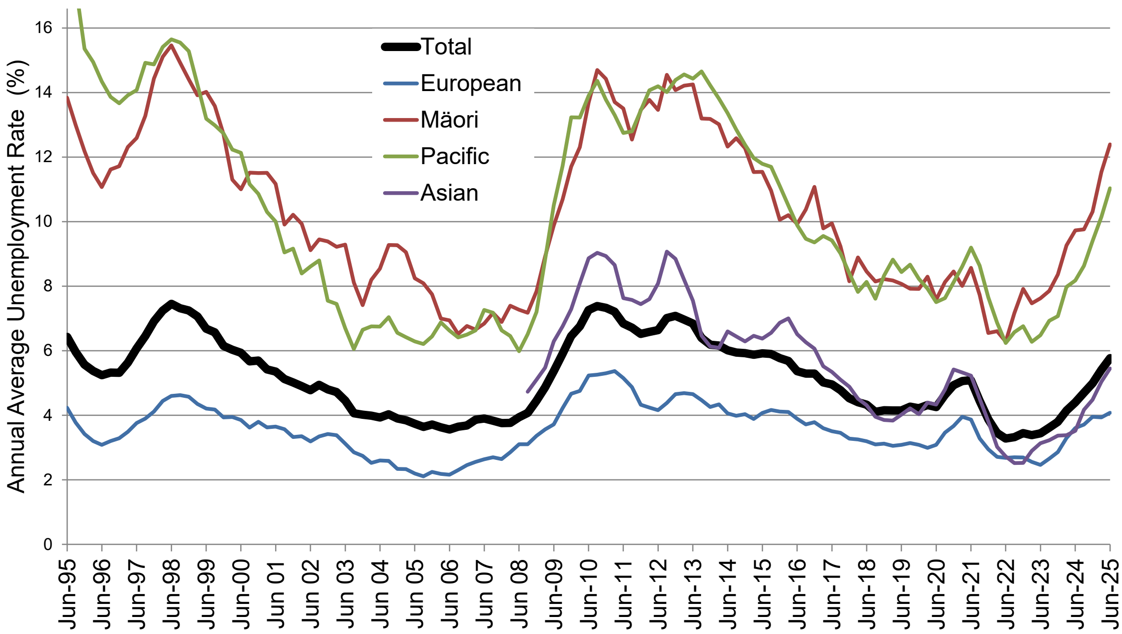
Table 5: Labour force status by ethnic group, year ended June 2025 (annual average)

	Total	European	Māori	Pacific	Asian
Number employed	993.4	493.2	89.2	108.6	355.1
Number unemployed	60.8	21.0	12.6	13.5	20.5
Number not in the labour force	405.1	194.2	54.5	63.6	117.7
Number in the working age popn	1,459.3	708.4	156.4	185.6	493.3
Labour force participation rate (%)	72.2	72.6	65.1	65.8	76.1
Unemployment rate (%)	5.8	4.1	12.4	11.0	5.5

Notes: Numbers are '000s, rates (%) are percentages; 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 June 2025 (5.8%) were higher than a year prior, for all ethnic groups. The increase was proportionally greatest for Asian (5.5%, up from 3.4%), then Pacific peoples (11.0%, was 8.2%) and Māori (12.4%, was 9.7%) then European (4.1%, was 3.6%). As Figure 3 shows, Māori and Pacific rates have been similar since 1999, and the gap between European and Asian rates closed from 4% in 2012, to around 1% from 2019 onwards.

Figure 3: Unemployment rate by ethnic group (rolling annual average), 1995-2025



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

LFPR varied from 65.1 per cent for Māori and 65.8 per cent for Pacific peoples (up from 55.6% in 2013), to European 72.6 per cent and Asian 76.1 per cent (65.1% in 2013). LFPR rates were below a year ago for Māori (-4%), European (-2%) and Asian (-1%); Pacific was unchanged.

6 Employment by occupation

Auckland's largest occupational categories in the quarter ended 30 June 2025 were Professionals (27.5% of Auckland's total employment), and Managers (24.3%), together constituting half of all employment, followed by Clerical and Administrative Workers (9.7%) and Technicians and Trades Workers (10.3%) (see Table 6).

Between the March 2025 and June 2025 quarters, the small fall in total employment (-9100 or -0.9%) included changes in the numbers employed in the following occupations:

- Labourers (-7,500, a 9% fall but possibly due to seasonal effects)
- Technicians and Trade Workers (+5300, a 6% rise)

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

Occupation (ANZSCO 1-digit)	March 2025 quarter	June 2025 quarter	March 2025 quarter	June 2025 quarter
	Number		Share (%)	
Managers	238.4	239.6	24.0	24.3
Professionals	271.8	270.5	27.3	27.5
Technicians and Trades Workers	96.3	101.6	9.7	10.3
Community and Personal Service Workers	80.5	78.8	8.1	8.0
Clerical and Administrative Workers	99.5	95.8	10.0	9.7
Sales Workers	72.3	71.4	7.3	7.2
Machinery Operators and Drivers	56.0	55.6	5.6	5.6
Labourers	70.2	63.7	7.1	6.5
Total	**994.0**	**984.9**	**100.0**	**100.0**

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

Between the June 2024 and June 2025 quarters, the 23,100 decrease in total employment (a fall of 2%) included notable changes in the numbers employed in the following occupations:

- Clerical and Administrative Workers (-16,600, a fall of 15%).
- Managers (-15,700 a fall of 6%)
- Sales Workers (-4,500, a fall of 6%)
- Labourers (+5,300 a rise of 9%)

In addition, full-time employment fell (-24,700 or 3.0% fall) and part-time employment slightly rose (+1,600 or 0.9% rise), between the June 2024 and June 2025 quarters. The part-time share rose from 17.2% to 17.8% of total employment, similar or slightly above most of the seven years from 2018 to 2024, but substantially lower than most of the post-Global Financial Crisis (GFC) period 2009 to 2017 (mostly 18.5% to 21.8%).

7 Employment by industry

In the quarter ended 30 June 2025, Auckland's largest sectors in terms of employment were Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (109,400 people; 11.1% of total employment), Construction (101,400 people; 10.3% of total employment), and Health Care and Social Assistance (88,100 people; 8.9% of total employment) (see Table 7).

Between the March 2025 and June 2025 quarters, the most notable changes in the number of people employed (-9100) were in Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (-5,800, a 5.0% fall), Construction (-5,100, a 4.8% fall), Health Care and Social Assistance (-4,000, a 4.3% fall) and Arts and Recreation Services (+3,500, a 16.4% rise).

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

Industry (ANZSIC06)	March 2025 quarter	June 2025 quarter	March 2025 quarter	June 2025 quarter
	Number employed		Share (%)	
Primary Industries	9.5	9.0	1.0	0.9
Manufacturing	83.9	83.8	8.4	8.5
Electricity Gas Water and Waste Services	10.1	10.9	1.0	1.1
Construction	106.5	101.4	10.7	10.3
Wholesale Trade	51.7	49.1	5.2	5.0
Retail Trade	83.4	85.3	8.4	8.7
Accommodation and Food Services	56.2	53.8	5.7	5.5
Transport Postal and Warehousing	52.7	54.7	5.3	5.6
Information Media and Telecommunications	18.6	17.3	1.9	1.8
Financial and Insurance Services	54.0	56.4	5.4	5.7
Rental Hiring and Real Estate Services	27.8	26.9	2.8	2.7
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	115.2	109.4	11.6	11.1
Administrative and Support Services	34.7	35.8	3.5	3.6
Public Administration and Safety	50.4	51.2	5.1	5.2
Education and Training	71.1	70.6	7.2	7.2
Health Care and Social Assistance	92.1	88.1	9.3	8.9
Arts and Recreation Services	21.4	24.9	2.2	2.5
Other Services	41.2	39.3	4.1	4.0
Total	**994.0**	**984.9**	**100.0**	**100.0**

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

Between the June 2024 and June 2025 quarters, there were notable changes in the numbers employed in Health Care and Social Assistance (-11,100, a fall of 11%), Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (-7,400, a fall of 6%), Public Administration and Safety (-6,000, a fall of 10%), Other Services (-5,300, a fall of 12%) and Arts and Recreation Services (+4,400, a 21% rise).

In the June 2025 quarter, the industries with the highest proportions working part time (17.8% overall) were Accommodation and Food Services (35%) and Arts and Recreation Services (35%); the lowest was Electricity Gas Water and Waste Services (6%).

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

In the quarter ended 30 June 2025, the overall percentage of young people aged 15 to 24 who were not in employment, education or training (NEET) in Auckland (13.7%) was a little above the rest of New Zealand (11.4%) 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 June 2025, the annual average NEET rate for Auckland (14.2%) was a little above the rest of New Zealand (12.2%) over the same period.

Statistics for the year ended June 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 2005 are shown in Figure 4.

The NEET rate for the year ended June 2025 (14.2%) varied by age group from 11.0 per cent for those aged 15 to 19 (0.9% above a year earlier), to 17.5 per cent for those aged 20 to 24 (2.3% above a year earlier).

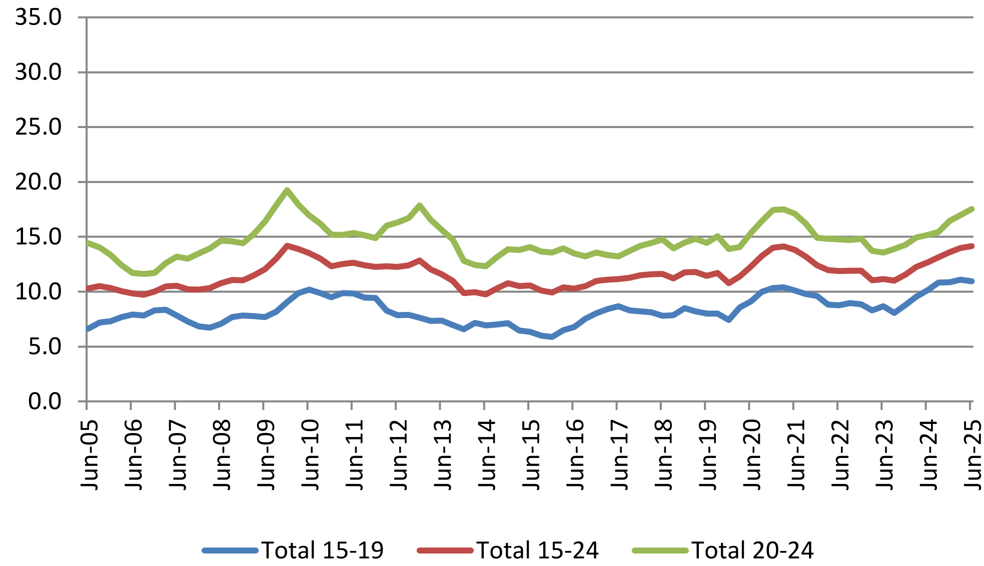
Table 8: NEET statistics by age, year ended June 2025 (annual averages)

	Total 15-24 years	15-19 years	20-24 years
Number in the selected population	236.6	121.4	115.2
Number NEET	33.5	13.3	20.2
NEET rate (%)	14.2	11.0	17.5
NEET rate (%) a year earlier	12.7	10.1	15.2

Note: Numbers are '000s, rates (%) are percentages; numbers and rates are based on latest population estimates.

The annual average NEET rate for the year ended June 2025 was similar to the peaks seen during Covid (2021) and post-GFC (2010) for both age groups (and 2012/2013 for ages 20 to 24). Since 2018, NEET rates have tended to move similarly for both age groups, falling from 2021 to 2023, then rising after 2023.

Figure 4: NEET rate (%) by age (rolling annual average), 2005-2025



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

NEET statistics for young people aged 15 to 24 across the four main ethnic groups for the year ended June 2025 are shown in Table 9. NEET rates since 2005 are shown in Figure 5.

The annual average NEET rate for the year ended June 2025 was higher than a year prior for all main ethnic groups except Māori, which remained the highest but was largely unchanged (23.1%). The greatest rise was for Asian (11.8%, +2.8%), overtaking European (10.5%, +1.3%) but still below Pacific (20.1%, +1.6%). There were 33,500 young people who were NEET, of whom over a third identified as European (11,900), followed by Pacific (10,100), Māori (9,500) and Asian (8,100) (summing to more than the total – see Table 9 Notes).

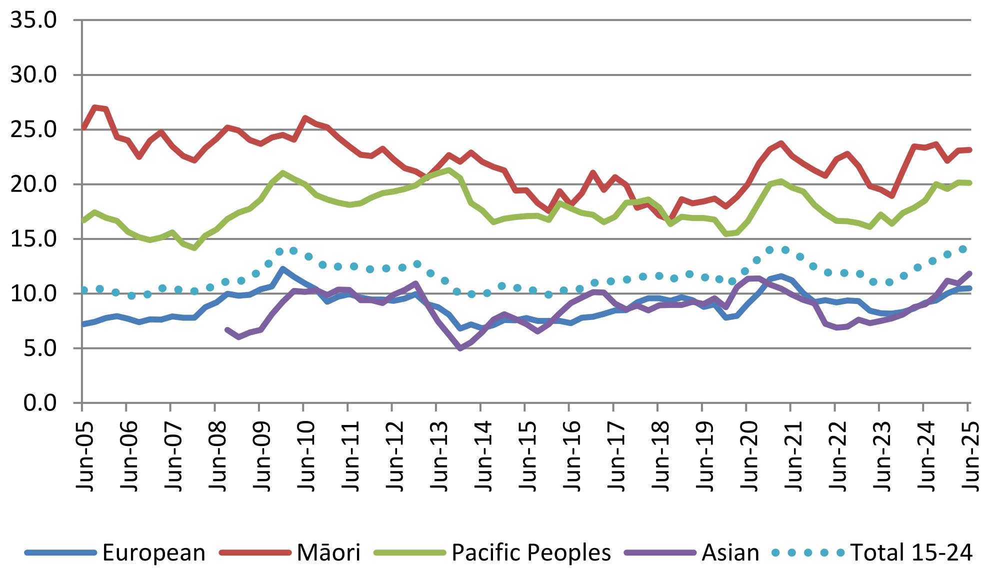
Table 9: NEET statistics by ethnic group, year ended June 2025 (annual average)

	Total	European	Māori	Pacific	Asian
Number in the selected population	**236.6**	113.4	41.2	50.2	68.3
Number NEET	**33.5**	11.9	9.5	10.1	8.1
NEET rate (%)	**14.2**	10.5	23.1	20.1	11.8
NEET rate (%) a year earlier	**12.7**	9.2	23.4	18.5	9.0

Notes: Numbers are '000s, rates (%) are percentages; 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 NEET rates have been similar, and lower than 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), 2005-2025



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 June 2025 are shown in Table 10. NEET rates since 2005 are shown in Figure 6.

NEET rates for the year ended June 2025 were much higher for the Southern Initiative area (TSI)[3] (22.7%) than for the rest of Auckland (11.8%) and the rest of New Zealand (12.2%). Both Auckland areas were above a year earlier, especially TSI (+2.2%); the rest of New Zealand was unchanged. A third of Auckland's NEETs (33,500) were in Southern Initiative area (11,800).

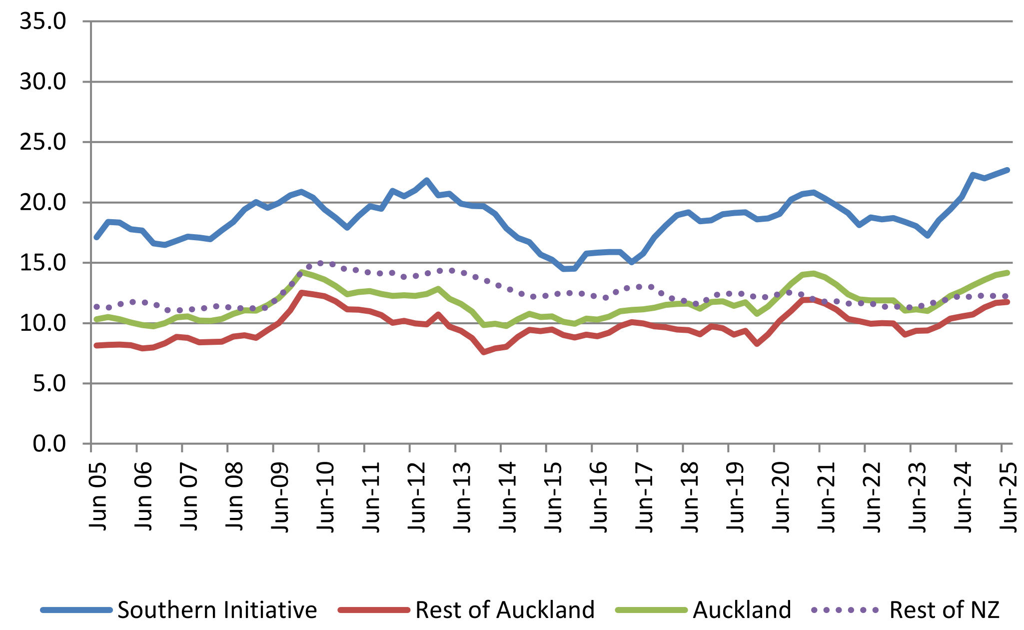
Table 10: NEET statistics by location, year ended June 2025 (annual average)

	Total Auckland	Southern Initiative	Rest of Auckland	Rest of NZ	New Zealand
Number in the selected population	**236.6**	51.9	184.8	442.3	678.9
Number NEET	**33.5**	11.8	21.7	54.1	87.6
NEET rate (%)	**14.2**	22.7	11.8	12.2	12.9
NEET rate (%) a year earlier	**12.7**	20.5	10.6	12.3	12.4

Notes: Numbers are '000s, rates (%) are percentages; 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 rose gradually.

Figure 6: NEET rate (%) by location (rolling annual average), 2005-2025



[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 June 2025

Local board area	Population Age 15-24 (000)	Quarterly NEET (000)	Quarterly NEET rate (%)	Annual average NEET Rate (%)
Rodney	7.6	..S	..S	..S
Hibiscus and Bays	15.1	1.0	6.9	7.6
Upper Harbour	13.1	..S	..S	8.9
Kaipātiki	12.6	1.3	10.7	12.8
Devonport-Takapuna	10.1	..S	..S	15.7
Henderson-Massey [W]	20.5	3.7	18.0	20.0
Waitākere Ranges [W]	8.5	..S	..S	17.9
Waiheke	..S	..S	..S	..S
Waitematā	10.1	..S	..S	11.8
Whau [W]	14.8	2.5	16.9	45.3
Albert-Eden	13.6	1.7	12.6	14.1
Puketāpapa	7.2	1.2	16.1	17.4
Ōrākei	14.0	..S	..S	9.0
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	13.9	2.7	19.7	18.1
Howick	17.6	..S	..S	11.4
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu [*S]	10.1	2.8	27.9	29.1
Ōtara-Papatoetoe [*S]	16.3	4.6	28.1	24.6
Manurewa [*S]	16.0	4.1	25.4	20.5
Papakura [*S]	11.0	1.5	13.8	19.3
Franklin	9.8	..S	..S	..S
Southern Initiative [*S]	53.4	13.0	24.3	22.7
Rest of Auckland [*S]	190.1	20.4	10.7	11.8
Western Initiative [W]	43.8	7.2	16.3	17.6
Auckland total	**243.4**	**33.4**	**13.7**	**14.2**
Rest of New Zealand	440.0	50.1	11.4	12.2
Total New Zealand	**683.5**	**83.5**	**12.2**	**12.9**

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)). [*S] 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://datainfoplus.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

Auckland Council
Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Auckland

For the period Monday 8 September to Sunday 21 September 2025

Date:	19 September 2025	**Priority:**	Medium
Security classification:	In confidence	**Tracking number:**	BRIEFING-REQ-0020789

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 Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

Minister's office to complete:

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Declined
- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Needs change
- ☐ Seen
- ☐ Overtaken by Events
- ☐ See Minister's Notes
- ☐ Withdrawn

Comments

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

BRIEFING

Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Auckland

For the period Monday 8 September to Sunday 21 September 2025

Date:	19 September 2025	**Priority:**	Medium
Security classification:	In Confidence	**Tracking number:**	BRIEFING-REQ-0020789

Purpose

To provide you with a fortnightly report for the Auckland Portfolio for the period Monday 8 September to Sunday 21 September 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.

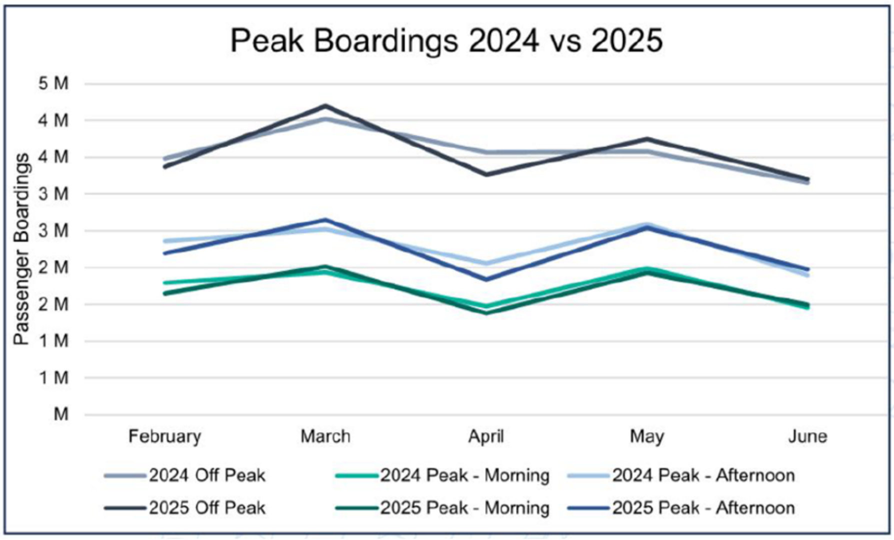
Noted

Michael Quinn
Head of the Auckland Policy Office
19 / 09 /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	Auckland Council has advised property owners that all Sale and Purchase Agreements for Category 3 buy-outs must be signed by 19 December 2025, with settlements continuing into 2026. Homeowners are urged to allow time for valuations, insurance documentation and reimbursement processes. No updates available for this report. As at 22 August 2025, out of a total of 1.125 Category 3 properties, 950 (78%) buy-out offers had been accepted and 879 (72%) had been settled. This means council needs to complete about 15 agreements per week between now and the deadline. This appears achievable. For Category 2P Construction Grants agreements must be approved by 19 December 2025 to secure funding. Repairs will continue into 2026. A requirement of the council's co-funding agreement with the Government is that Sale and Purchase, and Construction Grant agreements are in place by the end of year (19 December 2025).
Auckland City and Regional Deal	
Michael Quinn Head of the APO Privacy of natural persons	Confidential advice to Government
Auckland Transport CCO	
Karen Lyons Auckland Director MoT Privacy of natural persons	**Auckland Council Transport, Resilience and Infrastructure Committee (TRIC) Meeting 4 September 2025** *City Rail Link (CRL) Update and Readiness* It was confirmed that 'hard construction' is expected to be completed by December 2025, with fewer road closures. Station systems testing and commissioning is now more than 50% complete. 12 of the 23 new trains are now in service, with a further three in transit. This is up from seven in June. 23 of the existing 72 trains to be

	modified are now in service, up from 13 in June. All additional trains are due to be operational before the CRL opens. Recruitment is now complete for the 55 people required to make up the new train crews, with almost a quarter of training completed. Partial closures or reduced frequencies are planned for the Western and Southern Lines over the September school holidays. There will be a full closure across all four lines over Labour weekend, with Western Line works on the outer section continuing through to the summer holiday closures. *Auckland Transport Financial Year 25 Wrap Up* Auckland Transport highlighted the delivery of its largest ever capital programme of $1.3 billion, including: • 438km of roads resurfaced and rehabilitated. • 225 electric buses making up one of the largest electric fleets in Australasia. • 42 fast and frequent bus routes delivered, with 750,000 Aucklanders now living within walking distance of a frequent transport route. Auckland Transport also highlighted achieving 19 of their 23 Statement of Intent (SOI) performance targets being met or exceeded, including: • Local board satisfaction, up 41% to 78%. • 92% of public transport passengers satisfied, ahead of the 85% target. • The full year financial surplus exceeding budget by $17 million. There was a 2.4% increase in patronage in the full 2025 financial year, equating to 2.06 million additional boardings, but the rolling 12-month average shows a flattening in patronage growth.  *Procurement of Modern Diesel Ferries* Auckland Transport has procured three modern diesel ferries for addition to the ferry fleet.

	Auckland Transport acknowledged that this decision should have been presented to councillors more formally, given its significance and potential misalignment with previous strategic guidance from Auckland Council. Auckland Transport noted constraints with procuring electric ferries, such as construction lead time, the viability of the technology for longer routes, and the requirement for additional landside charging infrastructure, resulting in a continued need for diesel ferries. It also noted that an aging operator-owned diesel ferry fleet means more new vessels are required now to avoid degradation of passenger services due to vessel breakdowns, and to reduce costs associated with more frequent and expensive vessel maintenance. It considered the most cost-effective solution in the short term was to procure modern diesel vessels. Auckland Transport indicated that they remain committed to the strategic direction of ferry replacement and ownership by Auckland Transport, and to decarbonise ferries.
Law and Order	
	No updates available for this report.
Water Reform Update	
Lori Hand Executive Director Water Services Reform DIA Privacy of natural persons	**Auckland Council water services delivery plan** In accordance with the Local Government (Water Services Preliminary Arrangements) Act 2024 Auckland Council submitted its water services delivery plan to the Department on 27 August 2025. The plan covers stormwater services only, as required by the legislation. The plan is now in the process of being considered by the Secretary for Local Government, along with the water services delivery plans submitted by all other councils.

2. General Auckland Updates

Topic/ Contact person	Comment
Local Government Elections	
Vanessa Blakelock Partnerships Director DIA Privacy of natural persons	Voting papers are being sent to enrolled voters between 9 to 22 September 2025. Voting closes at midday 11 October 2025. As soon as votes start arriving, a daily count will be published on the Vote Auckland website. The progress results will be published on 11 October 2025, preliminary results on 13 October 2025, the final count between 14 to 17 October 2025 and official results declared on 17 October 2025.
Plan Change 78	
David Hermans Chief Advisor	The Minister for RMA Reform has confirmed his intention for the timeline and process to shape the replacement for Plan Change 78. In his letter to the Auckland Mayor and Chair of the Policy and Planning

HUD Privacy of natural persons	Committee, the Minister backed a seven-week submission period from 3 November to 19 December 2025 and supported the use of independent hearings. He also reaffirmed that the government's changes to the medium-density residential standards return local decision-making to Auckland Council, allowing councillors to determine how and where growth should occur. The Minister indicated a clear timeframe of around 18 months for the process. Mayor Wayne Brown, Deputy Mayor Desley Simpson and Councillor Richard Hills have welcomed this letter, noting that it will allow Auckland to downzone flood-prone areas, better align growth with infrastructure capacity, and focus intensification around transport corridors, including maximising the benefits of the City Rail Link. The Council's Policy and Planning Committee will meet on 24 September 2025 to decide whether to notify the replacement plan change and formally request ministerial approval to withdraw Plan Change 78. That decision will trigger the Minister's formal direction confirming the process and timeline.
Self-Certification for Entire Builds	
Paula Gomes Programme Coordinator Building System Performance MBIE	A self-certification scheme was announced in April this year to help reduce building inspection wait times. It will be a voluntary initiative through which eligible building companies, plumbers and drainlayers can sign off their own work on simpler homes On Wednesday 10 September 2025, MBIE met with Auckland Council to discuss the 'nominal building consent' process for self-certification for entire simple residential dwellings and likely costs (compared to a standard consent). Developments on the Auckland alternative consenting pilot were also discussed at the meeting (including quality assurance processes and Commercial Information [redacted] MBIE intends to conduct additional feasibility testing of the process and costs associated with whole build self-certification with key stakeholders soon.

3. Ministerial items on hand

3.1 Upcoming significant meetings

Date and venue	Meeting and info
23 September 2025, 8:20 – 8:50 am	Meeting with Tamaki Makaurau Business Network
23 September 2025, 8:20 – 8:50 am	Meeting with Employers and Manufacturers Association
23 September 2025, 3:00 – 4:00 pm	Visit Eden Park

Date and venue	Meeting and info
26 September 2025, 8:00 – 9:00 am	Opening of 10 new dwellings at Stevenson Village

3.2 Other Ministerial engagements related to Auckland

Date	Minister	Meeting Info
18 September 2025	Minister Shane Reti	Meeting with the Auckland Innovation Alliance
19 September 2025	Minister Nicola Willis	Meeting with the Pacific Business Trust
19 September 2025	Minister Nicola Willis	Meeting with the New Zealand Food Innovation Network

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-0020486 Eden Park Visit	19 September 2025		Michael Quinn Privacy of natural persons	To provide background information for your visit
BRIEFING-REQ-0021118 Meeting with Tamaki Makaurau Business Network	22 September 2025		Andy Hill Privacy of natural persons	To provide background information for the meeting
BRIEFING-REQ-0021120 Employers and Manufacturers Association	22 September 2025		Andy Hill Privacy of natural persons	To provide background information for the meeting
BRIEFING-REQ-0019269 Opening of 10 new dwellings at Stevenson Village	22 September 2025		Andy Hill Privacy of natural persons	To provide background information for the event

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
None					

3.7 Ministerial correspondence

Due to Minister's office	Ref	Correspondent	Organisation	Summary of Correspondence
23 September 2025	MC-REQ-0019928	Privacy of natural persons	Roma Blooms	Raised significant concerns among small retail businesses regarding the proposed solutions for the Central Business District (CBD), noting: • the declining foot traffic and sales figures. • the need for transparency regarding decisions about the CBD's functionality, as many stakeholders feel disconnected from the planning process. • the traffic flow on Queen Street has significantly deteriorated, while other streets are now experiencing increased congestion. • the unintended consequences of lane reductions have resulted in idling traffic, which ironically contributes to higher carbon emissions. • the design of wide footpaths raises many questions about their intended use—whether for scooters, pedestrians, or parking—which has led to confusion and further complications in pedestrian safety. • Planners' engagement with small retail businesses, the most critical stakeholders in the CBD, to foster a sense of safety and community, as this is essential for revitalising the area and encouraging people to return.

3.8 Proactive release

Date	Title	Comment
15 September 2025	Proactive release of briefing titles for August 2025	MBIE provided your office with the list of briefing titles for review

3.9 Fast-Track Approvals- Auckland

Project Name	Unique Ref No.	Applicant Organisation	Date Received	Due Date to send Comments
Hobbs Bay Marina	FTAA-2508-1091	Hobbs Bay Marina	28 August 2025	25 September 2025

4. Auckland dashboards

Transport Environmental Scan

Karen Lyons

Auckland Director

MoT

Privacy of natural persons

Public transport patronage update

For the fortnight 18-31 August 2025, public transport patronage totalled 3.6 million boardings across the city’s public transport network.

Patronage increased by 3% for this fortnight compared to the same period last year. Ferry patronage had the largest increase, at 9%, followed by rail at 4% and bus at 3%.

Public transport patronage for the year to 31 August 2025, is 88.6 million boardings, which has increased on the previous year’s total of 87.8 million boardings. Across all modes, bus patronage saw the largest annual increase of 2%, whereas rail patronage had a decline of 2%.

At 88.6 million boardings, current annual patronage reaches 83% of Auckland Transport’s latest SOI target 106.8 million annual public transport boardings for 2025/26. This also represents 86% of the pre-pandemic 12-month public transport patronage level in the year to December 2019 of 103.2 million boardings.

PT fortnightly patronage		
Mode	**18-31 August 2025**	**18-31 August 2024**
Bus	2,903,915	2,816,298
Rail	619,039	596,779
Ferry	100,549	91,954
Total	**3,623,503**	**3,505,031**

Data: AT Metro daily patronage report.

PT monthly patronage		
Mode	**August 2025**	**August 2024**
Bus	6,326,879	6,416,936
Rail	1,342,682	1,340,389
Ferry	343,370	335,642
Total	**8,012,931**	**8.092,967**

Data: AT Metro monthly patronage report.

PT annual patronage		
Mode	**Year to 2025**	**Year to 2024**
Bus	70,029,658	69,981,103
Rail	13,648,284	13,936,912
Ferry	4,937,318	4,904,008
Total	**88,615,260**	**88,822,023**

Data: AT Metro monthly patronage report.

NB: Rail data includes rail replacement services.

Auckland economic update September 2025

Andy Hill

Director Auckland

MBIE

Privacy of natural persons

Auckland Council has published its monthly economic update for Auckland. The full report is attached in **Annex One.**

Highlights include:

- *Real* Gross Domestic Product (GDP)* for the year ended June 2025 was 1.0% lower than for the year ended June 2024; in the rest of New Zealand, the annual change was 0.6% fall. Both growth rates were slightly above March 2025, their first improvement (although still negative) since they began falling in mid-2023; similar to their 2020 troughs; below all other periods since 2010.
- *Real* retail sales* for the year ended June 2025 were 2.6% lower than for the year ended June 2024; in the rest of New Zealand, the annual change was a 1.7% fall. Both growth rates continued the improvements of the last several months, but still negative and among the worst since 2009, with Auckland remaining below its 2020 trough, and the rest of New Zealand only slightly above its. Both growth rates had been falling since late 2022.
- *Unemployment rate* for the quarter ended June 2025 was 6.1%: similar to March, mostly rising from 2023 onwards, and worse than during the 2020-2021 Covid lockdowns, but still lower than most of 2009 to 2013.
- *Number of people employed* for the quarter ended June 2025 was 2.3% lower than in June 2024 quarter: the fourth quarter in a row of negative annual growth rates despite population growth, and the worst since 2010.
- *Median house price* for the month of July 2025 was $975,000 (in real* dollars: slightly below most of the last several months; the same as a year ago; similar to ten years ago (2015); 36% below the 2021 peak).
- *Number of houses sold* for the year ended July 2025 was 23,568: similar to the previous month; 29% above the May 2023 trough; similar to 2017-2020; but 35% below the July 2021 peak.
- *Average weekly rent* for the month of June 2025 was $678 (in real* dollars: the lowest-equal since late 2022; similar to nine years ago; below 2016 to mid-2022). For the rest of New Zealand, the figure was $584: similar to June 2025; similar to the last four years (but highly seasonal); 8% above five years ago.
- *Number of new dwellings consented* in the year ended July 2025 was 14,347: similar to June; mostly rising slightly for the previous year; 35% below the September 2022 peak; 5% below the 2019 pre-Covid peak.
- *Real* value of new non-residential buildings consented* in the year ended July 2025 was $2,299 million: slightly below the previous five months; 15% below a year ago; similar to the 2020 trough and the second-lowest since 2016; 34% below the 2022 peak;
- *Real* value of imports by Auckland seaports* for the year ended July 2025 was $31.0 billion: rising slightly over the last several months, still 8% below April 2023, but 18% higher than the 2020 Covid trough.

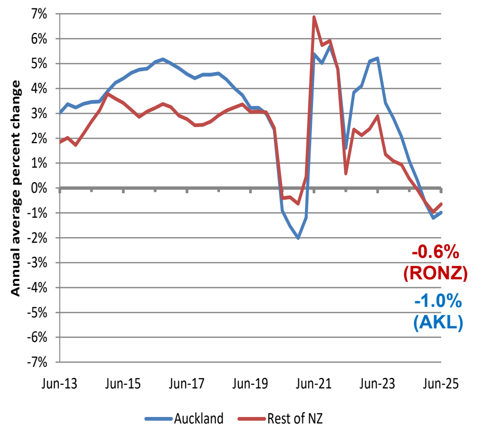
	For the rest of New Zealand, the figure was $30.8 billion: similar to the last year, 19% above late 2020, and 25% lower than their 2023 post-Covid rebound peak. **Note: real dollars/values* are after adjusting for the effects of inflation each quarter, so a similar 'real' level means that a value rose at a similar rate to inflation.

Annexes

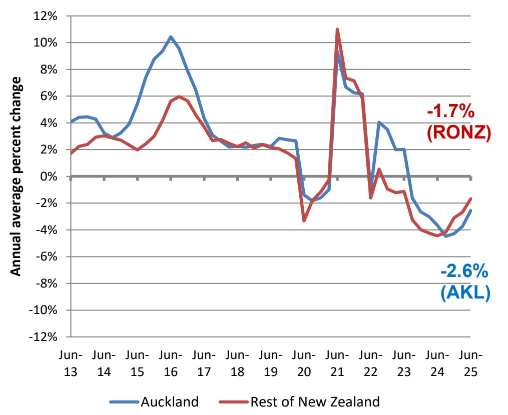
Annex One: Auckland Economic Update September 2025

Auckland Economic Update – September 2025

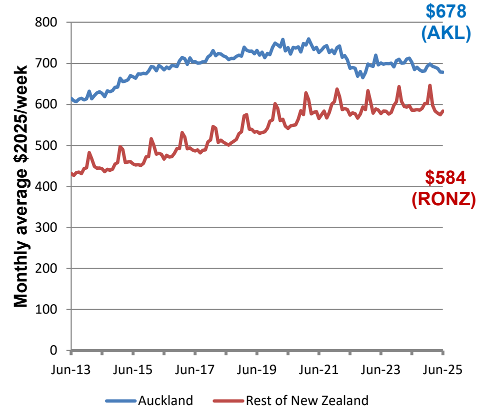
Real GDP growth



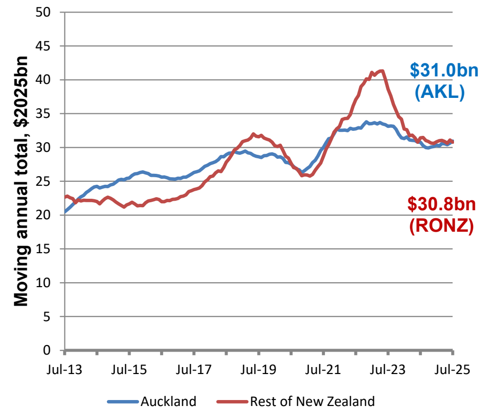
Real retail sales growth



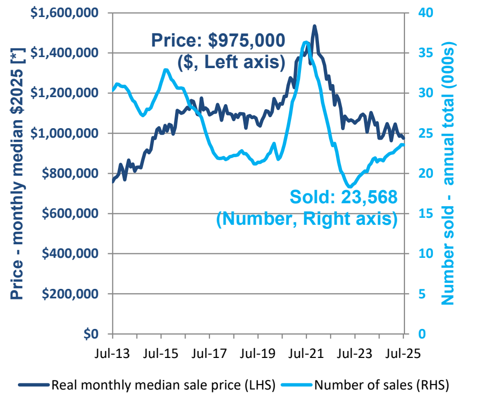
Real weekly rent



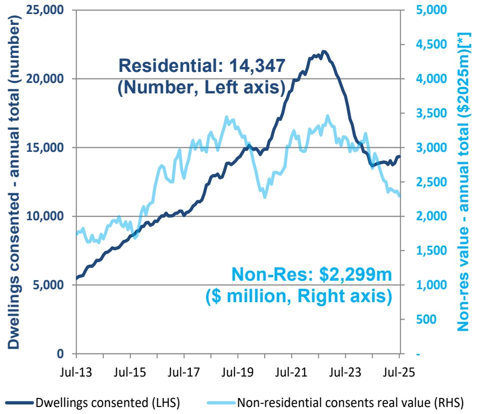
Real imports by seaports



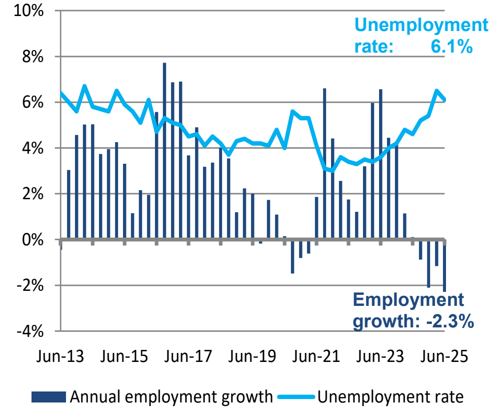
House sales: price and number sold



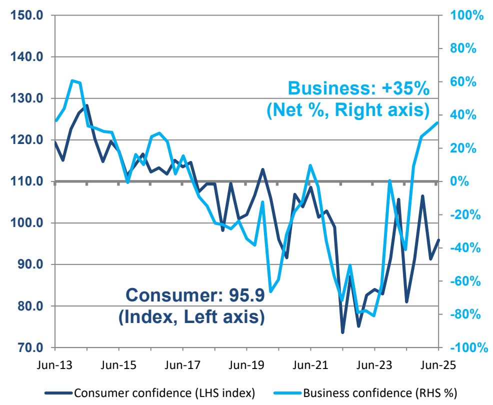
Buildings consented



Employment and unemployment



Confidence indicators

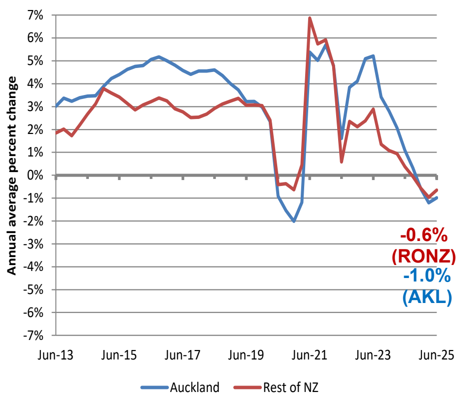


Note: Data is the latest available as at the start of the month, and is for the Auckland region, unless otherwise stated.
This is a summary page only. All data sources and technical notes are provided on the next two pages.

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

Auckland Council
Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau

Real GDP growth



Auckland's real* Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the year ended June 2025 was 1.0% lower than for the year ended June 2024; in the rest of New Zealand, the annual change was 0.6% fall (see notes). Both growth rates were: slightly above March 2025, their first improvement (although still negative) since they began falling in mid-2023; similar to their Covid-related troughs of 2020; below all other periods since their GFC-related troughs of 2009 and 2010.

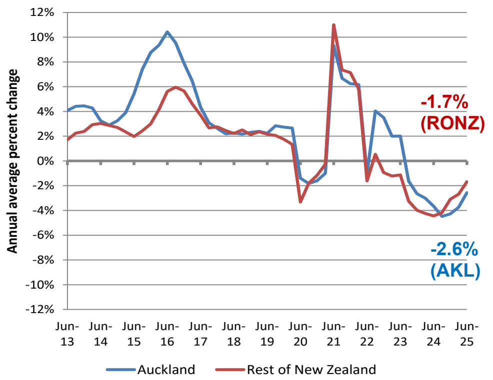
* Real GDP refers to GDP in constant 2024 dollars, to remove inflation.

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 growth



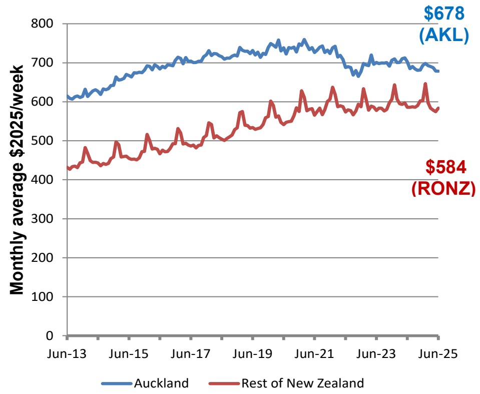
Real* retail sales for the year ended June 2025 were 2.6% lower than for the year ended June 2024; in the rest of New Zealand, the annual change was a 1.7% fall. Both growth rates continued the improvements of the last several months, but still negative and among the lowest (most negative) since 2009 (just after the Global Financial Crisis), with Auckland remaining below its 2020 Covid-related trough, and the rest of New Zealand only slightly above its. Both growth rates had been falling since late 2022.

* 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 weekly rent



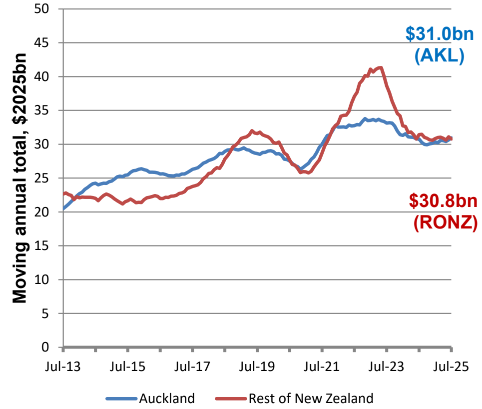
The average weekly rent for the month of June 2025 was $678 (in real* dollars: the lowest-equal since late 2022; similar to nine years ago; below 2016 to mid-2022). For the rest of New Zealand, the figure was $584: similar to June 2025; similar to the last four years (but highly seasonal); 8% above five years ago. "Real rent" changes are relative to CPI inflation, so a similar "real" level means rents rose at a similar rate to inflation.

* 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 imports by seaports



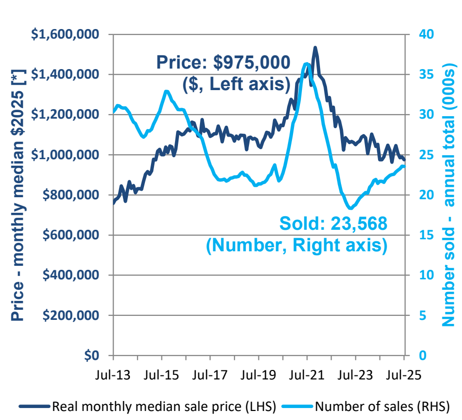
The real* value of imports by Auckland seaports for the year ended July 2025 was $31.0 billion: rising slightly over the last several months, still 8% below April 2023, but 18% higher than the 2020 Covid trough. For the rest of New Zealand, the figure was $30.8 billion: similar to the last year, 19% 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 similar to each other.

* 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 July 2025 was $975,000 (in real* dollars: slightly below most of the last several months; the same as a year ago; similar to ten years ago (2015); 36% below the 2021 peak).

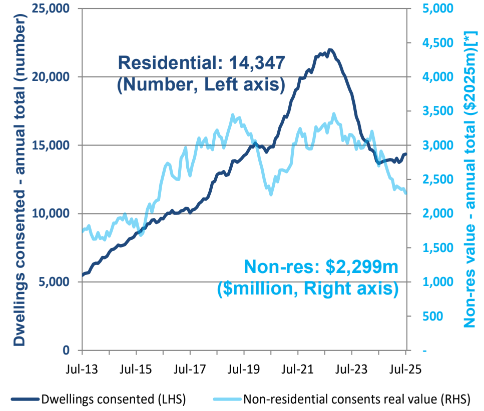
The total number of houses sold in Auckland in the year ended July 2025 was 23,568: similar to the previous month; 29% above the May 2023 trough; similar to 2017-2020; but 35% below the July 2021 peak.

* '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 July 2025 was 14,347: similar to June; mostly rising slightly for the previous year; 35% below the September 2022 peak; 5% below the 2019 pre-Covid peak.

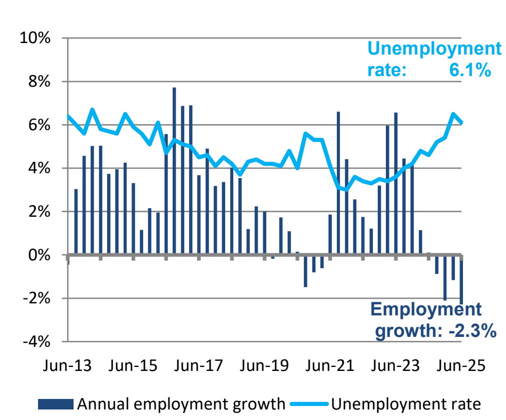
The real* value of new non-residential buildings consented in Auckland in the year ended July 2025 was $2,299 million: slightly below the previous five months; 15% below a year ago; similar to the 2020 trough and the second-lowest since 2016; 34% below the 2022 peak.

* '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 June 2025 was 2.3% lower than in June 2024 quarter: the fourth quarter in a row of negative annual growth rates despite population growth; the worst since 2009-2010 following the GFC.

The unemployment rate in Auckland in the June 2025 quarter was 6.1%: similar to March, mostly rising from 2023 onwards, and worse than during the 2020-2021 Covid lockdowns, but still lower than most of 2009 to 2013.

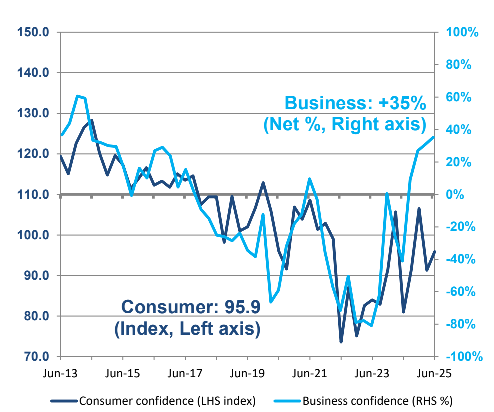
Note: Covid-19 lockdowns began on 23 March 2020, plus wage subsidies, which both affect official employment and unemployment.

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 June 2025 quarter was 95.9: above most of 2022-2024, but below most of 2009 to 2021.

The NZIER QSBO in Auckland for the June 2025 quarter showed a net 35% of businesses expecting the general business situation to improve over the next three months – the fourth rise in a row, to well above pre-Covid levels, reaching the highest level in eleven years, since 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).