



Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Auckland For the period Monday 15 December 2025 to Sunday 23 January 2026

Date:	22 January 2026	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:	In confidence	Tracking number:	BRIEFING-REQ-0026123

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, Police

Minister's office to complete:

Approved

Noted

Seen

See Minister's Notes

Declined

Needs change

Overtaken by Events

Withdrawn

Comments

BRIEFING

Fortnightly Report to the Minister for Auckland For the period Monday 15 December 2025 to Sunday 23 January 2026

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Purpose

To provide you with a fortnightly report for the Auckland Portfolio for the period Monday 15 December 2025 to Sunday 23 January 2026.

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
22 / 01 / 2026

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	<p>Auckland Council's Auckland Emergency Management (AEM) entered an enhanced monitoring mode for the weather event of 21 January 2026. They stood up an in-presence duty team who were actively monitoring the weather system as it passed across the north of New Zealand. NEMA pre-deployed a senior member of their team with AEM to provide advice and if necessary, access to national resources.</p> <p>As of today's report, the weather event has moved out of the Auckland region.</p>
Auckland City and Regional Deal	
	No updates available for this report.
Auckland Transport News	
Karen Lyons Auckland Director MoT Privacy of natural persons	<p>The New Zealand Herald has reported on Auckland's most ticketed streets for 2025, up to 23 October 2025. Princes Street, alongside the University of Auckland, had the most infringement notices issued at 10,626. It was also the most lucrative, with ticket revenue reaching \$577,529.</p> <p>Overall, Central Auckland and the CBD had the most parking tickets, gaining \$1.6 million from 34,871 infringement notices and \$1.7 million from 29,153 infringement notices in their top 10 streets respectively.</p> <p>The North Shore produced \$716,747 from 7,678 infringement notices, West Auckland \$450,464 from 6,802 infringement notices and South Auckland \$326,837 from 7,678 infringement notices.</p> <p>The top 10 streets in Rodney and East Auckland had the least number of infringement notices issued, with \$62,790 from 1,510 and \$47,000 from 968 respectively.</p> <p>Local Government (Auckland Council) (Transport Governance) Amendment Bill (the Bill)</p> <p>The agency has provided a draft departmental report on the Bill to the Minister of Transport. The report is scheduled to be presented to the Transport & Infrastructure Committee on 29 January 2026.</p>
Law and Order	
Scott Gemmell Superintendent Director, Tamaki Makaurau Partnerships Police Privacy of natural persons	<p>Following the terror attack on a Jewish celebration held at Bondi Beach in Sydney on 14 December 2025, Auckland Police responded with rapid redeployment of resource, and activation of our already strong network of relationships with the Jewish community. The majority of Jewish religious sites in New Zealand are in Auckland.</p> <p>There were four parts to the redeployment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Twice daily leadership meetings for Police.

	<p>2. Twice daily leadership meetings between Police and Jewish leaders.</p> <p>3. Reassurance visits and engagements with key figures in the Jewish community.</p> <p>4. Physical Police presence at sites and vigils.</p> <p>Police continue to monitor the situation closely. Engagement with community partners and the Jewish community continues, with liaison work primarily led through Auckland Police’s Māori, Pacific and Ethnic Services team.</p>
Water Reform Update	
	No updates available for this report.

2. General Auckland Updates

Topic/ Contact person	Comment
	Confidential advice to Government
<p>Michael Quinn Head of the APO Privacy of natural persons</p>	Confidential advice to Government

3. Ministerial items on hand

3.1 Upcoming significant meetings

Date and venue	Meeting and info
3 February 2026, Monday (Tentative)	City Centre Safety stakeholders meeting
18 February 2026, Wednesday	Meeting with Vector’s Chief Executive



3.2 Other Ministerial engagements related to Auckland

Date	Minister	Meeting Info
None		

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
None				

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
None				

3.8 Proactive release

Date	Title	Comment
None		



3.9 Fast-Track Approvals- Auckland

Project Name	Unique Ref No.	Applicant Organisation	Date Received	Due Date to send Comments
None				

4. Auckland dashboards

Transport Environmental Scan																																																							
<p>Karen Lyons Auckland Director MoT Privacy of natural persons</p>	<p>Public transport patronage update</p> <p>For the fortnight 18-31 December 2025, public transport patronage totalled 1.9 million boardings across the city’s public transport network. 91.8% of boardings in December 2025 were considered to be on-time, ahead of the 89% target. The financial year to-date boardings for December 2025 of 44.5 million was behind the target of 46.2 million.</p> <p>Patronage decreased by 5% for this fortnight compared to the same period last year. Ferry patronage had the largest decrease, at 11%, followed by rail at 5% and bus at 4%.</p> <p>Public transport patronage for the year to 31 December 2025 is 88.7 million boardings which is a slight decrease on the previous year’s total of 89.4 million boardings. Across all modes, bus patronage had a slight annual increase, while rail and ferry patronage had decreases of 6% and 1% respectively.</p> <p>At 88.7 million boardings, current annual patronage reaches 94% of Auckland Transport’s latest SOI target of 94 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.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">PT fortnightly patronage</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Mode</th> <th>18-31 December 2025</th> <th>18-31 December 2024</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bus</td> <td>1,574,881</td> <td>1,640,718</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rail</td> <td>259,763</td> <td>273,860</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ferry</td> <td>89,514</td> <td>100,997</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>1,924,158</td> <td>2,015,575</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Data: AT Metro daily patronage report.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">PT monthly patronage</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Mode</th> <th>December 2025</th> <th>December 2024</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bus</td> <td>4,799,199</td> <td>4,733,781</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rail</td> <td>984,394</td> <td>937,302</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ferry</td> <td>489,365</td> <td>502,264</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>6,272,958</td> <td>6,173,347</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Data: AT Metro monthly patronage report.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="3">PT annual patronage</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Mode</th> <th>Year to 31 December 2025</th> <th>Year to 31 December 2024</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Bus</td> <td>70,171,150</td> <td>70,026,130</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rail</td> <td>13,587,505</td> <td>14,410,860</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ferry</td> <td>4,922,839</td> <td>4,968,942</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>88,681,494</td> <td>89,405,932</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Data: AT Metro monthly patronage report.</p> <p>NB: Rail and ferry data includes replacement services.</p>	PT fortnightly patronage			Mode	18-31 December 2025	18-31 December 2024	Bus	1,574,881	1,640,718	Rail	259,763	273,860	Ferry	89,514	100,997	Total	1,924,158	2,015,575	PT monthly patronage			Mode	December 2025	December 2024	Bus	4,799,199	4,733,781	Rail	984,394	937,302	Ferry	489,365	502,264	Total	6,272,958	6,173,347	PT annual patronage			Mode	Year to 31 December 2025	Year to 31 December 2024	Bus	70,171,150	70,026,130	Rail	13,587,505	14,410,860	Ferry	4,922,839	4,968,942	Total	88,681,494	89,405,932
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Auckland economic update January 2026

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:

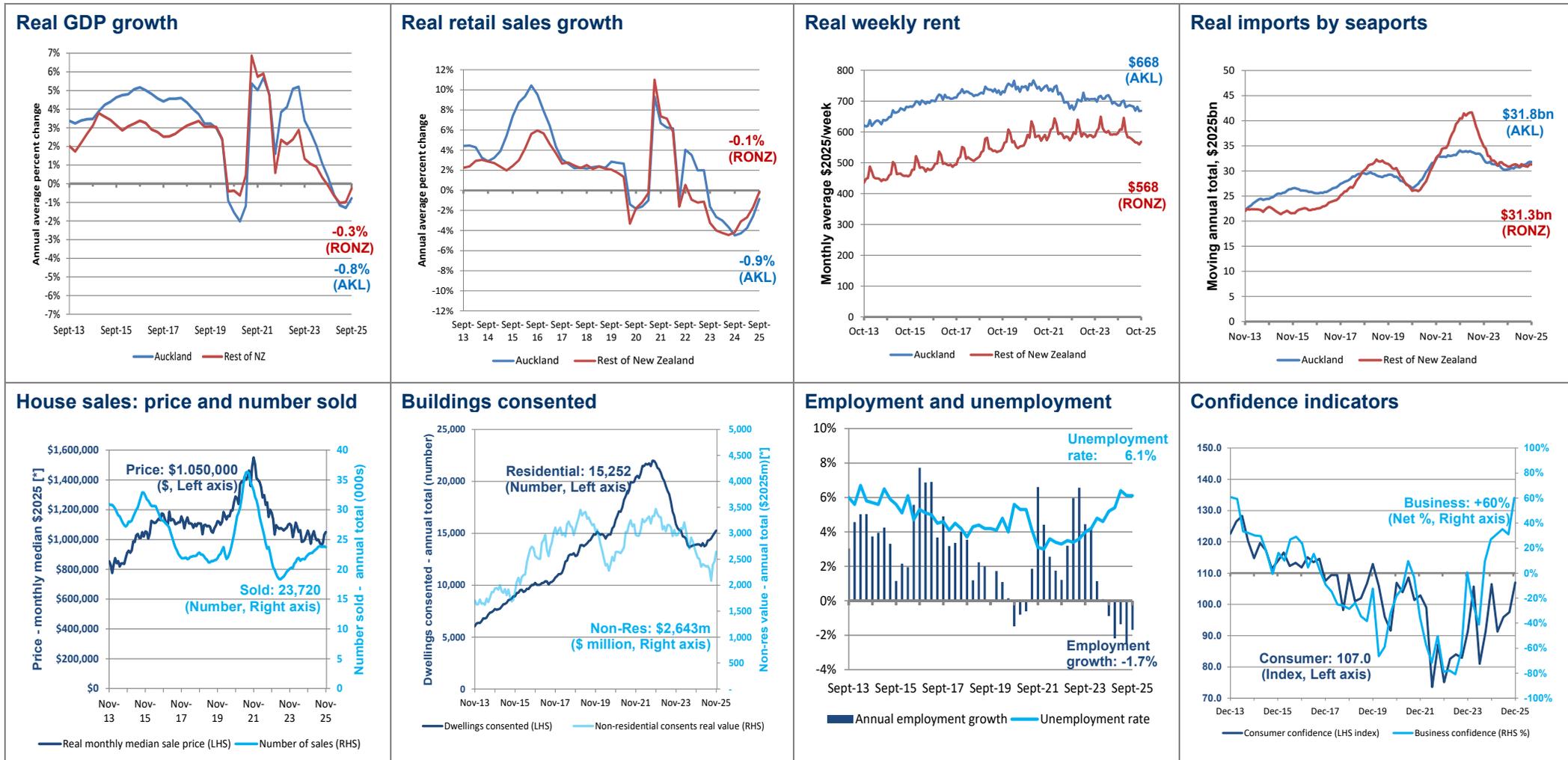
- **consumer confidence (Westpac McDermott Miller Index)** for the December 2025 quarter was 107.0: above most of 2018-2025, but below 2009-2017
- **business confidence (NZIER QSBO)** for the December 2025 quarter showed a net 60% of businesses expecting the general business situation to improve over the next three months: the highest-equal since 1994, rising since June 2024 but from a low base
- **median house price** for the month of November 2025 was \$1,050,000 (in real* dollars: slightly above the last seven months; similar to a year ago; 32% below 2021's all-time peak; same price as November 2015)
- **number of houses sold** for the year ended November 2025 was 23,720: similar to the last several months; 29% above the May 2023 trough; slightly above 2017-2019; 35% below the 2021 peak
- **average weekly rent** for the month of October 2025 was \$668 (in real* dollars: similar to the last three months; 13% below February 2021; the same as ten years ago). For the rest of New Zealand, the figure was \$568: mostly falling since January 2025 (and highly seasonal); 5% below a year ago; the lowest October figure since 2019
- **number of new dwellings consented** in the year ended November 2025 was 15,252: rising steadily since April; 10% above a year ago; 31% below the September 2022 peak; 1% above the 2019 pre-Covid peak
- **real* value of new non-residential buildings consented** in the year ended November 2025 was \$2,643 million: 8% above October; rising since August; similar to a year ago; 24% below the 2022 and 2019 peaks; 16% above the 2020 trough
- **real* value of imports by Auckland seaports** for the year ended November 2025 was \$31.8 billion: gradually rising 4.8% over the last year, still 6% below April 2023, but 20% higher than the 2020 Covid trough. For the rest of New Zealand, the figure was \$31.3 billion: similar to the last year and a half, 20% above the 2020 trough, 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 January 2026

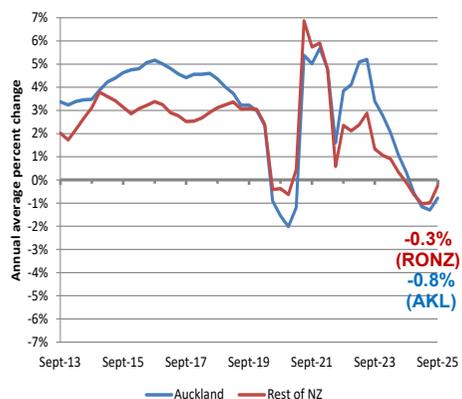
Auckland Economic Update – January 2026



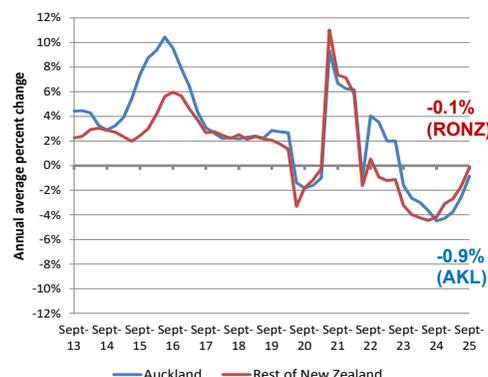
Note: Data is the latest available as at the start of the month, and is for the Auckland region, unless otherwise stated. This is a summary page only. All data sources and technical notes are provided on the next two pages.

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.

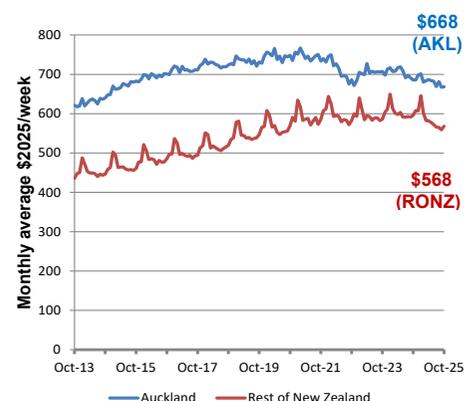
Real GDP growth



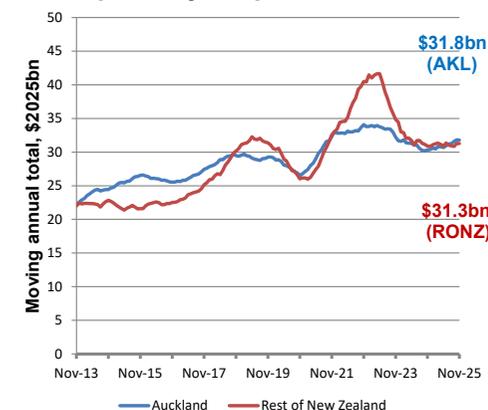
Real retail sales growth



Real weekly rent



Real imports by seaports



Auckland's real* Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the year ended September 2025 was 0.8% lower than for the year ended September 2024; in the rest of New Zealand, the annual change was 0.3% fall (see notes). Both growth rates were: slightly above recent quarters (but still slightly negative); below most of 2021 to 2024; similar to their 2020 (Covid) troughs; below 2010 to 2019.

Real* retail sales for the year ended September 2025 were 0.9% lower than for the year ended September 2024; in the rest of New Zealand, the annual change was a 0.1% fall. Both growth rates continued the improvements of the last several months, in contrast to the falls from 2021 to 2024. They are still slightly negative despite population increases, so not yet returned to the pre-Covid levels of at least 2%.

The average weekly rent for the month of October 2025 was \$668 (in real* dollars: similar to the last three months; 13% below February 2021; the same as ten years ago). For the rest of New Zealand, the figure was \$568: mostly falling since January 2025 (and highly seasonal); 5% below a year ago; the lowest October figure since 2019. "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 November 2025 was \$31.8 billion: gradually rising 4.8% over the last year, still 6% below April 2023, but 20% higher than the 2020 Covid trough. For the rest of New Zealand, the figure was \$31.3 billion: similar to the last year and a half, 20% above the 2020 trough, and 25% lower than their 2023 post-Covid rebound peak. From 2024 on, import values for Auckland were similar to the rest of New Zealand.

* 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 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

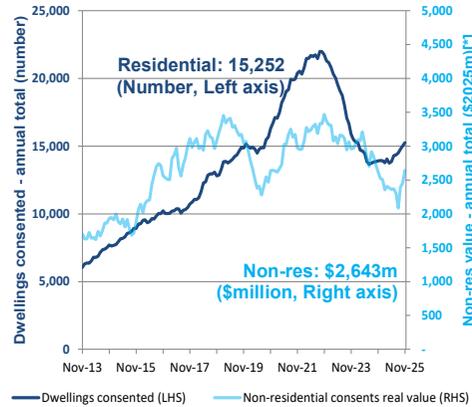
Note: Import values are cost including freight (CIF). Auckland seaports consist of Port of Auckland on the Waitemata Harbour near the CBD, and Port of Onehunga on the Manukau Harbour (domestic only, no imports); both are owned by Ports of Auckland Limited (POAL).

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

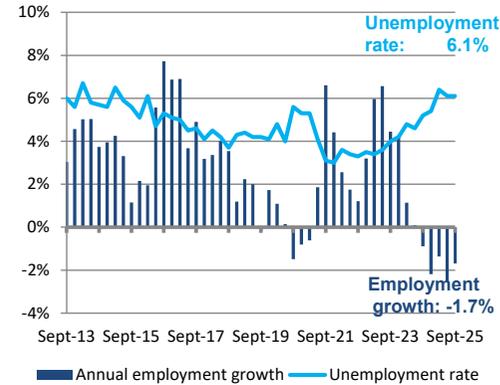
House sales: price and number sold



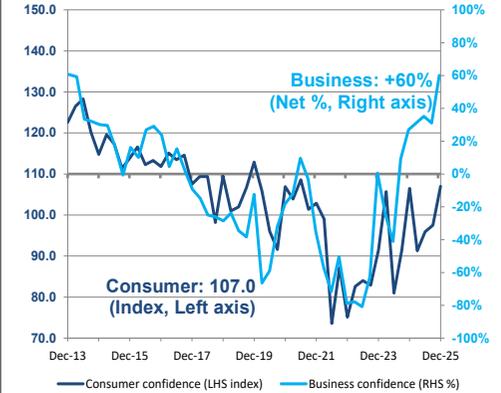
Buildings consented



Employment and unemployment



Confidence indicators



The median (not average) sale price of houses sold in Auckland in the month of November 2025 was \$1,050,000 (in real* dollars: slightly above the last seven months; similar to a year ago; 32% below 2021's all-time peak; same price as November 2015).

The total number of houses sold in Auckland in the year ended November 2025 was 23,720: similar to the last several months; 29% above the May 2023 trough; slightly above 2017-2019; 35% below the 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.

The total number of new dwellings consented in Auckland in the year ended November 2025 was 15,252: rising steadily since April; 10% above a year ago; 31% below the September 2022 peak; 1% above the 2019 pre-Covid peak.

The real* value of new non-residential buildings consented in Auckland in the year ended November 2025 was \$2,643 million: 8% above October; rising since August; similar to a year ago; 24% below the 2022 and 2019 peaks; 16% above the 2020 trough.

* '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.

The number of people employed in Auckland in the quarter ended September 2025 was 1.7% lower than in September 2024 quarter: the fifth quarter in a row of negative annual growth rates despite population growth; among the worst since 2009-2010 following the GFC.

The unemployment rate in Auckland in the September 2025 quarter was 6.1%: similar to June and March, double the 2021 trough, slightly above the 2020-2021 Covid lockdown peaks, similar to most of 2011 to 2015.

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).

The Westpac McDermott Miller Consumer Confidence Index for the December 2025 quarter was 107.0: above most of 2018-2025, but below 2009-2017.

The NZIER QSBO in Auckland for the December 2025 quarter showed a net 60% of businesses expecting the general business situation to improve over the next three months: the highest-equal since 1994, rising since June 2024 – but note, "improve" can include "be bad, but less bad than currently".

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).