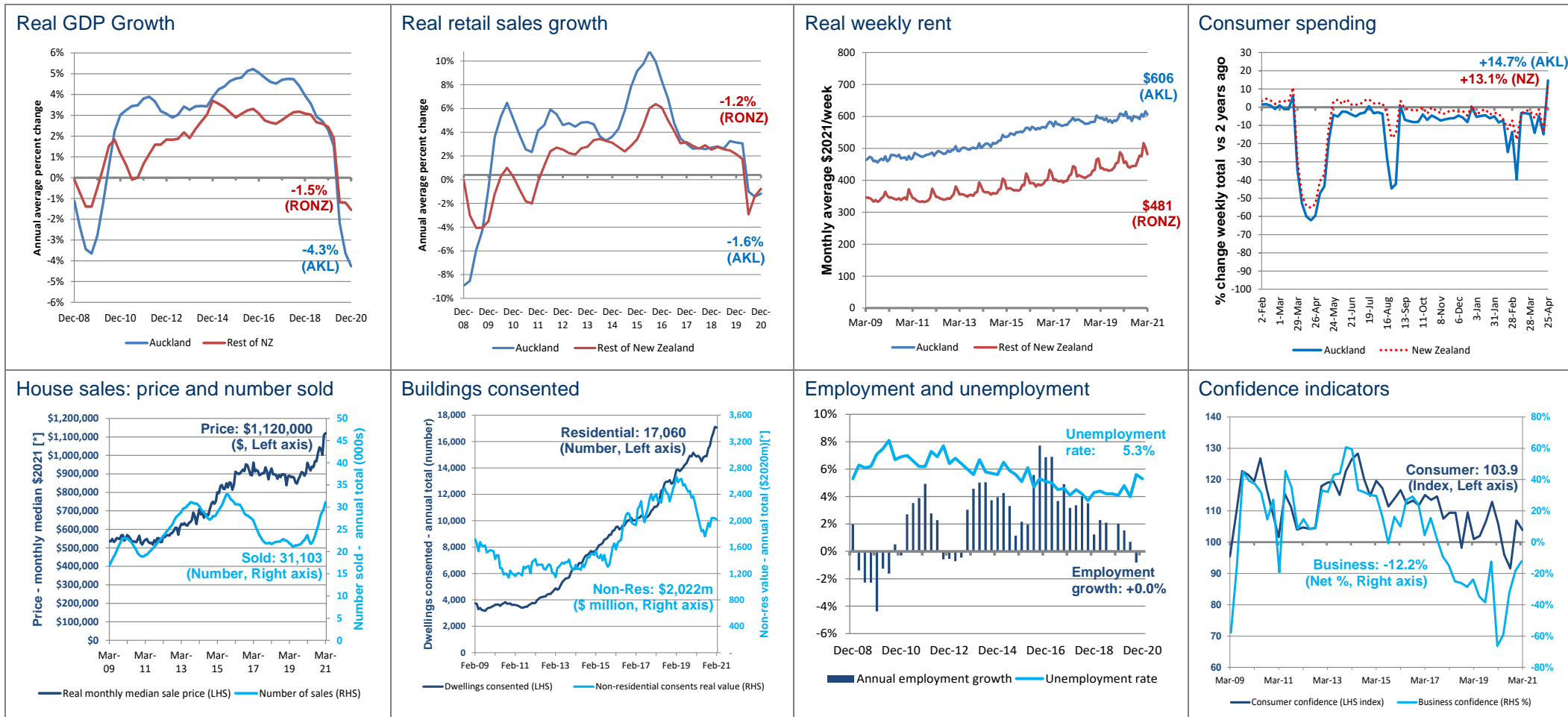


# Auckland Economic Update – May 2021

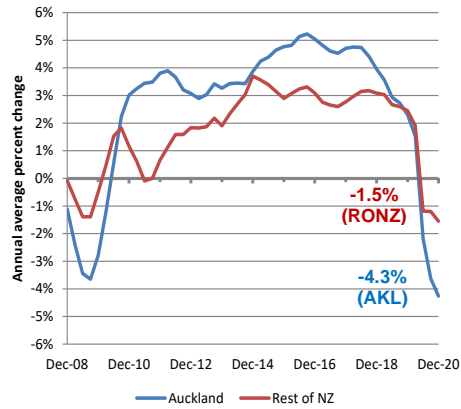


Note: Data is the latest available as at the start of the month, and for the Auckland region, unless otherwise stated. This is a summary page only. All data sources and technical notes are provided on the next two pages.

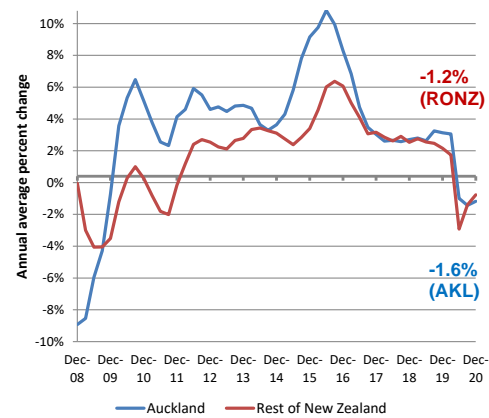
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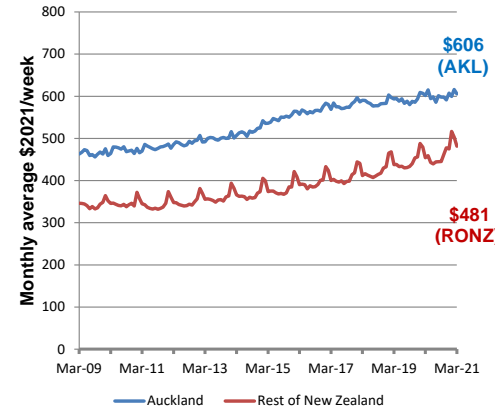
### Real GDP growth



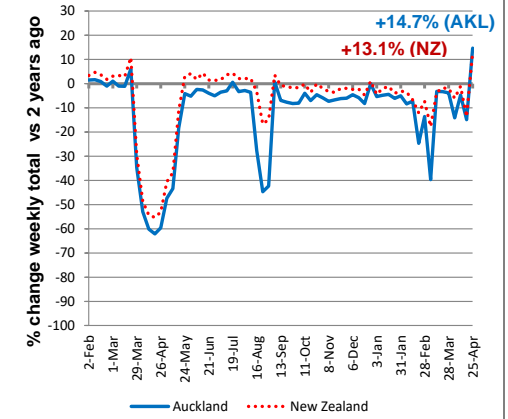
### Real retail sales growth



### Real weekly rent



### Consumer spending



Auckland's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the year ended December 2020 was 4.3% **lower** than for the year ended December 2019; in the rest of New Zealand, the annual change was 1.5% **fall** (see note).

Real retail sales\* for the year ended December 2020 were 1.6% **lower** than for the year ended December 2019; in the rest of New Zealand, the annual change was also 1.2% **fall**.

The average (not median or geometric mean) real weekly rent\* for the month (not year) of March 2021 was \$606; in the rest of New Zealand, the figure was \$481.

In Auckland, consumer spending using Paymark EFTPOS for the week ended 25 April 2021 was 14.7% **higher** than two years prior (not one year prior, when Covid 19 was starting to affect spending significantly). The equivalent figure for New Zealand (including Auckland) was a **rise** of 13.1%.

Note: Covid-19 lockdown level 3 began on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020.

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

Real GDP refers to GDP in constant 2019 dollars, to remove inflation.

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

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

\* 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.

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

Note: 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.

\* 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.

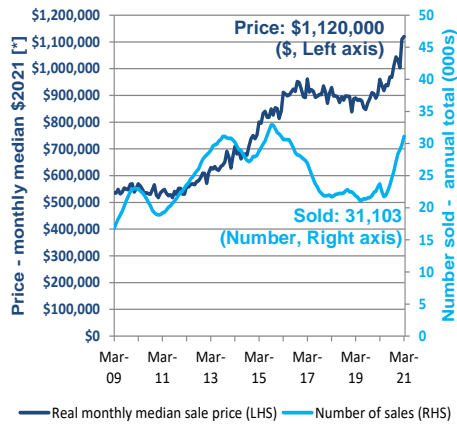
Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, *Regional Rental Prices (monthly)*; Stats NZ, *CPI (quarterly)*; Auckland Council (RIMU), *calculations*.

Note: Consumer spending here refers to both residents and domestic and international visitors, but only when purchasing at merchants using Paymark EFTPOS systems. It covers more than 70% of the EFTPOS transactions around the country. (This 70% is not evenly distributed across regions in New Zealand)

It excludes direct online purchases, cash purchases and payments via alternative payment networks, such as Verifone (which processes some major businesses such as Countdown).

Source: Marketview-Paymark, cited in Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, *COVID19 Response – card spend - regional*.

### House sales: price and number sold



The median (not average) sale price of houses sold in Auckland in the month of March 2021 was \$1,120,000 (17% higher than a year prior, even after removing inflation effects).

The total number of houses sold in Auckland in the year ended March 2021 was 31,103 (the highest in five years).

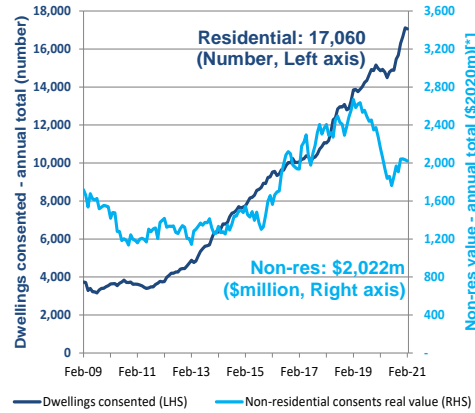
Notes: The data for 'houses' covers actual sales during the period. 'Houses' includes all dwelling types (eg apartments and flats), not just free-standing houses, but excludes sales of undeveloped land. 'Price' is real actual sale price\* (not just listed).

REINZ revises data each month for prices and numbers sold.

\* '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).

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

### Buildings consented



The total number of new dwellings consented in Auckland in the year ended February 2021 was 17,060 (year ended February 2020 was 14,854).

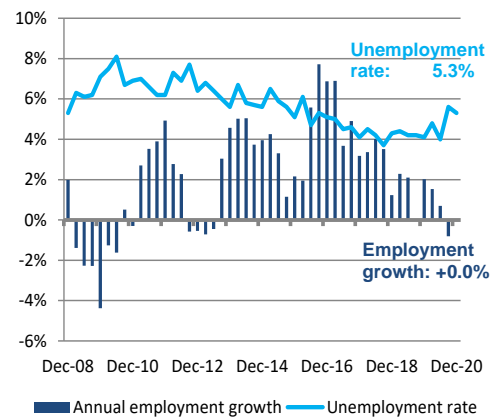
The real value\* of new non-residential buildings consented in Auckland in the year ended February 2021 was \$2,022 million (and y/e February 2020: \$2,153m).

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.

\* '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.

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

### Employment and unemployment



The number of people employed in Auckland in the quarter ended December 2020 had no growth (+0.0%) compared to the December 2019 quarter.

The unemployment rate in Auckland in the quarter ended December 2020 was 5.3% (December 2019: 4.1%).

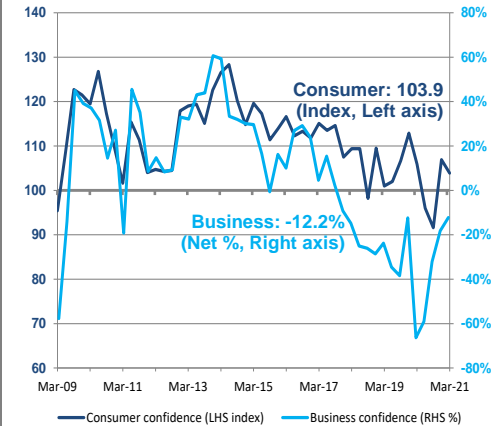
Note: Covid-19 lockdown level 3 began on 23 March 2020, plus wage subsidies, which both affect official unemployment.

Historical data for 2013 to 2020 was re-based by Stats NZ in October 2020 to match latest revisions of historic population estimates.

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

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

### Confidence indicators



In Auckland, the Westpac McDermott Miller Consumer Confidence Index (CCI) for the March 2021 quarter was 103.9 (March 2020 was 105.9).

The NZIER QSBO in Auckland for the March 2021 quarter showed a net 12.2% of businesses expecting a **worsening** of the general business situation over the next three months (March 2020: net 66.3% worsening).

Note: Left axis is for CCI (consumers: index). For the CCI, a score of greater than 100 shows more optimism than pessimism.

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).