Christchurch & Canterbury

Quarterly Economic Report June 2025

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ChristchurchNZ

Quarterly Overview- June 2025

Economy	ny Employment People & Housing		Business		
GDP Growth (YE Jun 2025 vs. YE Jun 2024) Christchurch: -0.1% ▼ Canterbury: 0.1% ▲ New Zealand: -0.8% ▼	Unemployment Rate (Q2 2025, Unadjusted) Christchurch: 5.8% ▲ Canterbury: 5.0% ▲ New Zealand: 5.1% ▼	Housing Affordability (Q2 2025) Ratio of average house price to average incomes Christchurch: 6.5 New Zealand: 6.5	Retail Spending (Q2 2025 vs Q2 2024, Christchurch) Value of spending: -0.4% ▼ Volume of spending: -0.3% ▼		
Balance of Trade (Q2 2025 vs Q2 2024, Canterbury) Exports: 8.4% ▲ Imports: 7.7% ▲	Labour Force Participation Rate (Q2 2025) Christchurch: 72.6% ▼ Canterbury: 71.9% ▼ New Zealand: 70.2% ▼	Rental Affordability (Q2 2025) Average rental costs as share of average household income Christchurch: 22.9% New Zealand: 22.0% ▼	Performance of Manufacturing Index (Q2 2025) >50: expansion; <50: contraction Canterbury: 50.4 ▼ New Zealand: 48.4 ▼		
CPI Inflation Rate (Q2 2025) Annual growth: 2.7% ▲ Quarterly growth: 0.5% ▲	Jobs Online (Q2 2025 vs Q2 2024) Canterbury: -3.5% ▼ New Zealand: -7.6% ▼	Residential Cost of Living (Christchurch, Q2 2025 vs. Q2 2024) Weekly Rent: -0.3% ▼ (NZ: -0.6% ▼) House Prices: 0.3% ▲ (NZ: -0.6% ▼)	Performance of Services Index (Q2 2025) >50: expansion; <50: contraction Canterbury: 48.6 ▼ New Zealand: 44.9 ▼		
Building Consents (Q2 2025 vs. Q2 2024) Christchurch: -18.1% ▼ Canterbury: -8.5% ▼ New Zealand: -0.8% ▼	Jobseeker Support Recipients (Q2 2025 vs Q2 2024) Christchurch: 7.4% ▲ Canterbury: 9.0% ▲ New Zealand:10.0% ▲	Consumer Confidence (Q2 2025) A score above 100 reflects a net positive response Canterbury: 91.3 (▼-4 points vs Q1 2025) New Zealand: 91.2 (▲+2 points vs Q1 2025)	Tourism Visitor spending (Christchurch, Q2 2025 vs. Q2 2024) Domestic visitor spend: -1.6% International visitor spend: 16.4% ▲ Total visitor spending: 2.0% ▲		

Economic Commentary- Q2 2025

Economic indicators for the June 2025 quarter signal challenging economic conditions continue. On an **annual** basis, provisional figures indicate GDP contracted -0.1 percent in Christchurch and rose by a modest 0.1 percent in Canterbury in the year to June 2025. However, both Christchurch and Canterbury outperformed national economic growth, with national GDP contracting by -0.8 percent in the year to June 2025.

Positive trends

- **Exports** grew strongly on the back of higher commodity prices with the value of goods exports from Canterbury ports increasing 8.4% in the quarter to June 2025 compared to the same period in 2024.
- **Business confidence** in Canterbury remained positive with an average score of 51.0 in the June 2025 quarter. This was the seventh consecutive quarter that business confidence remained positive, although the score has been trending downwards since the December 2024 quarter.
- International visitors injected \$69 million into Christchurch's retail sector via in-store card spending during the June 2025 quarter, a 16 percent increase from the same period in 2024. This boost in spending was supported by a lift in overseas visitor numbers during the June 2025 quarter, with international visitor arrivals at Christchurch Airport being 13 percent higher than the same period in 2024.
- The **Performance of Manufacturing Index** (PMI) for Canterbury recorded a second consecutive expansive quarterly score with an average score of 50.4 in the quarter to June 2025.

Challenges

- Employment indicators continue to highlight a weak labour market. The unadjusted unemployment rate increased to 5.8 percent in Christchurch in the quarter to June 2025. This was due in large to an increase in the working age population with the number employed in Christchurch increasing 2.4 percent relative to June 2024. Jobseeker recipient numbers have also lifted with almost 15,600 people in Christchurch receiving Jobseeker support during the June 2025 quarter, up 7.4 percent from the same time in 2024.
- Forward-looking indicators suggest the labour market will continue to be tough with **jobs advertised online** in the June 2025 quarter down -3.5 percent from the same quarter in 2024 in Canterbury, and -7.6 percent nationally.
- **Consumer confidence** in Canterbury remained in net pessimistic territory in the June 2025 quarter with an average score of 91.3. However, consumer confidence in Canterbury remains above the national average and above that of the same period in 2024.
- Consistent with the weak labour market and the continued decline in consumer confidence, in-store electronic **retail spending** in Christchurch fell -0.4 percent during the June 2025 quarter compared to the same period in 2024.
- The **Performance of Services Index** (PSI) remained in contractionary territory in the June 2025 quarter, with an average PSI score of 48.6 in Canterbury. However, Canterbury's PSI remains above the national average and above that of the same period in 2024.
- **Building consents** point to a fall in activity in the June 2025 quarter compared to the same period in 2024. In Christchurch, the fall was broad based with an -18 percent reduction in both residential and non-residential building consents.

ChristchurchNZ's Perspective

ChristchurchNZ

The "recovery" is inching forward

Whilst the market feels sluggish; and, on an annual basis, growth remains weak; provisional GDP figures for the quarter to June 2025 indicate that the 'recovery' is continuing. Both the Christchurch and Canterbury economies have experienced growth in the last two quarters compared to the same periods last year. This growth actually 'accelerated' in the quarter to June 2025 with 1.2 percent growth in Christchurch and 1.5 percent growth in Canterbury relative to the same period in 2024.

Whilst modest, this growth occurred despite an increasingly uncertain trading environment where consumer and business sentiment were hit by waves of tariff changes, bouts of geopolitical tensions, and rising costs of essential items. The consequent reduction in confidence is reflective in the fall in domestic retail card spending and the soft labour market as households and businesses became cautious in their behaviours.

The local economy did inch forward in the quarter to June 2025 relative to the same period last year; however, the pace and breadth of the recovery has not been as quick or as broad as we were hoping for.

The future is uncertain, but it is hoped that momentum will improve in the second half of the year

There continues to be positive signs in the local economy. Strong commodity prices have underpinned growth in the agriculture sector and continued growth in international visitor card spending has helped to support the retail and service sectors.

We have also gained more clarity around the global trading environment with further announcements on tariffs. And, whilst the full impacts of the tariffs on global trade flows and inflation are still unknown, the risk to global growth appears to have lessened relative to what was initially feared.

Inflation remains within the Reserve Bank's 1 - 3 percent target band and the Reserve Bank has continued to reduce the Official Cash Rate to support economic activity. The full impact of these reductions are also still waiting to be felt across the economy.

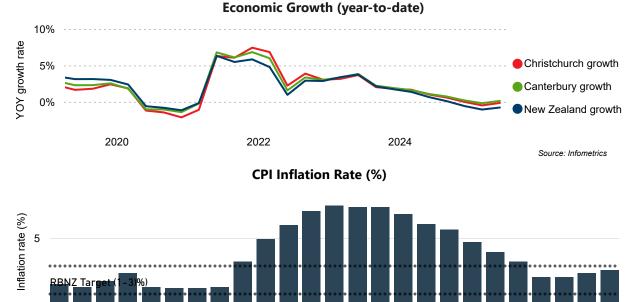
It is hoped that the additional support from lower interest rates, together with further clarity around the global trading environment will help bolster household and business confidence and underpin a pick-up in momentum of economic activity. The Christchurch and Canterbury economies continue to outperform the national average on some key measures and consequently are relatively well placed to pick up momentum in the warmer months.

Economy

2020

2021

- **Economic growth** in the year to June 2025 provisionally reduced -0.1 percent in Christchurch and -0.8 percent in New Zealand. In contrast, Canterbury, benefiting from strong growth in the Agriculture sector, recorded economic growth of 0.1 percent in the year to June 2025.
- New Zealand's **Consumer Price Index** (CPI) annual inflation rate increased to 2.7 percent during the June 2025 quarter, up from 2.5 percent in the previous quarter. This marks the fourth consecutive quarter in which annual inflation has been within the Reserve Bank's 1-3 percent target band.
- The value of goods **exports** from Christchurch ports in the quarter to June 2025 reduced -0.2 percent compared to the same period in 2024. The value of goods **imports** into Christchurch ports increased over the same period, rising by 4.1 percent. The goods trade balance from Christchurch's ports remained in surplus in the June 2025 quarter; however, the size of the trade surplus was -10.1 percent lower than the same period last year. The value of goods exports from wider Canterbury ports increased 8.4 percent in the quarter to June 2025, with a 10.1 percent improvement in the trade balance from Canterbury's ports compared to the same period last year.
- The number of residential **building consents** issued in Christchurch reduced -18.1 percent in the June 2025 quarter from the same time last year, and reduced -1.0 percent nationally. The number of commercial consents issued in Christchurch also fell -17.9 percent in the June 2025 quarter compared to the same time last year while commercial consent issuance rose by 0.9% percent nationally.



2022

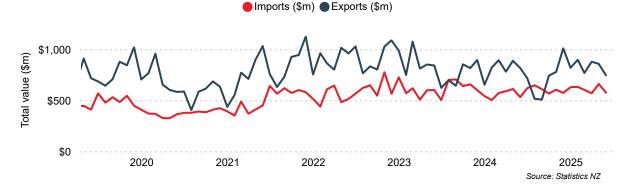
2023

2024

Source: Statistics NZ

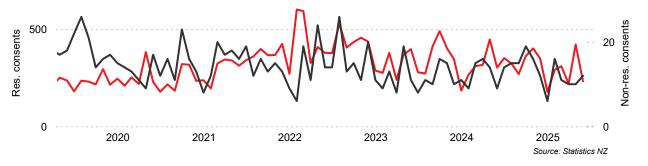
ChristchurchNZ

Christchurch Ports: Value of International Trade (goods, monthly)



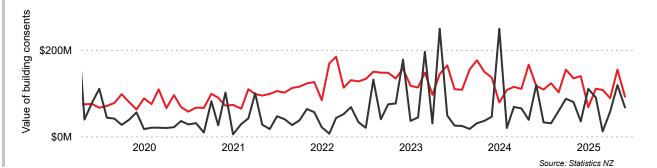
Number of Building Consents Issued in Christchurch (monthly)

● Residential (LHS) ● Non-residential (RHS)



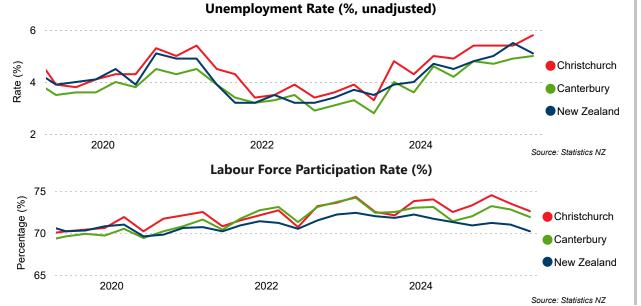
Value of Building Consents Issued in Christchurch (monthly)

■ Residential (\$) ■ Non-Residential (\$)



Employment

- Christchurch's unadjusted **unemployment rate** increased from 5.4 percent in the March 2025 quarter to 5.8 percent in the June 2025 quarter, and across the Canterbury Region as a whole rose to 5.0 percent (from 4.9 percent in the quarter to March 2025). At the national level, the unadjusted unemployment rate reduced from 5.5 percent in the March 2025 quarter to 5.1 percent during the June 2025 quarter.
- The **labour force participation** rate, after being at a nine-year high in the December 2024 quarter, continued to decline in Christchurch during the June 2025 quarter, reducing from 74.5 percent in the December 2024 quarter to 72.6 percent in the June 2025 quarter. This remains above that of the Canterbury Region (71.9 percent) and New Zealand as a whole (70.2 percent). The size of Canterbury's labour force has increased by 1.8 percent over the last year, with an additional 7,100 people in the region who are working or wanting to work compared to June 2024. Meanwhile, the size of the national labour force has reduced -0.4 percent over the same period.
- The number of **jobs advertised online** reduced during the June 2025 quarter relative to the previous quarter. In addition, compared to the same quarter in 2024, online job ads have fallen -3.5 percent in Canterbury and -7.6 percent across New Zealand as a whole. Online job ads were mixed across the various sectors. The largest reductions in online job ads in Canterbury were in IT and Other (falling -23 percent and -15 percent respectively) while the largest increases in online job ads were in the Primary and Construction sectors (up 15 percent and 7 percent respectively).
- The number of people receiving **Jobseeker support** continued to climb in the June 2025 quarter. Compared to the same period last year, the number of Jobseeker recipients was 7.4 percent higher in Christchurch, and 10.0 percent higher nationally.

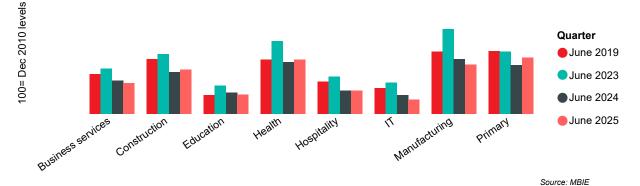


ChristchurchNZ

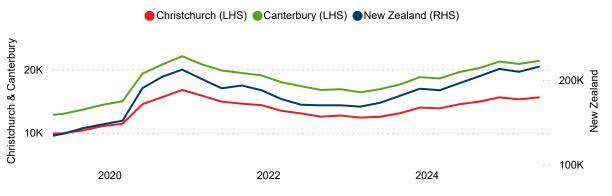
Jobs Online (unadjusted, indexed to Dec. 2010)



Jobs Online for Selected Industries, Canterbury (unadjusted, indexed to Dec. 2010)



Jobseeker Support Recipients

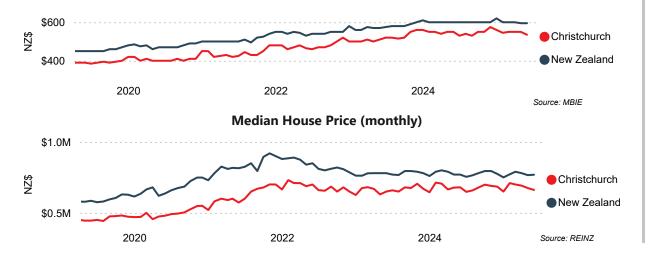


Source: MSD

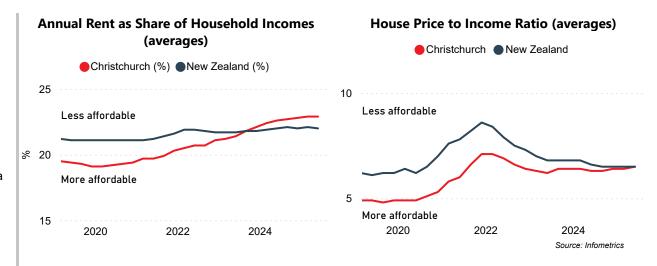
Housing & Confidence

- Rental prices in Christchurch fell -1.2 percent during the June 2025 quarter, with average median weekly rent falling from \$552 in the March 2025 to \$545 in the June 2025 quarter. Average median weekly rent across New Zealand as a whole fell from \$607 to \$597 over the same period. Compared to the same quarter in 2024, median rents fell -0.3 percent in Christchurch and -0.6 percent across New Zealand. Based on June 2025 average rental prices, yearly rental costs were equivalent to 22.9 percent of annual incomes in Christchurch.
- Median house prices in Christchurch reduced by -1.5 percent during the June 2025 quarter, falling to an average of \$676k. However, this was 0.3 percent higher than the same period in 2024. New Zealand's median house price averaged at \$772k during the June 2025 quarter, up 0.1 percent from the previous quarter but down -0.6 percent from the same period in 2024. On average, house prices were equivalent to 6.5 times annual incomes in Christchurch during the quarter to June 2025, in line with the house price-to-income ratio across New Zealand as a whole.
- There were close to 62,000 **residential mortgage loans** issued in New Zealand during the June 2025 quarter. This was 27.2 percent higher than the number issued during the same quarter last year. First-home buyers made up 13 percent of mortgages issued during the quarter, up from 11 percent pre-COVID (Q2 2019). Overall, there were -11 percent fewer mortgages issued in the quarter to June 2025 across all borrower types than there were during the same quarter prior to COVID.
- Consumer confidence continued to reduce in Canterbury in the June 2025 quarter remaining in net pessimistic territory. Consumer confidence in Canterbury remains above the national average; however, the gap reduced in the June 2025 quarter as the rest of the nation became less pessimistic. The pessimistic sentiment likely reflected the high levels of uncertainty around global economic conditions and ongoing cost of living pressures.

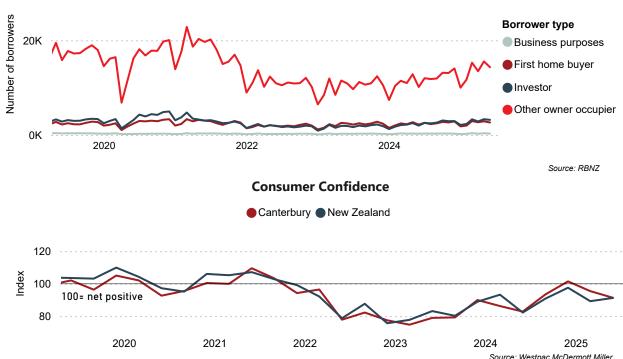
Median Residential Weekly Rent (monthly)



ChristchurchNZ



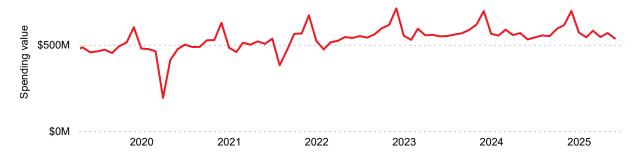
Number of New Residential Mortgage Loans, New Zealand (monthly)



Business

- Value of spending: the value of retail spending (via in-store electronic card transactions) in Christchurch fell -0.4 percent during the June 2025 quarter compared to the same period in 2024. This was equivalent to a -\$6.4 million decline compared to the June 2024 quarter. Spending in value declined in most store categories, with the exception of Apparel and Personal; Cafes, Restaurants, Bars, and Takeaways; and Groceries and Liquor.
- **Volume of spending:** The number of electronic card transactions in Christchurch in the June 2025 quarter reduced -0.3 percent in the June 2025 quarter compared to the same period last year. This was equivalent to 116k fewer transactions compared to the same period in 2024. Transaction volumes showed reductions across most store types, although there were increases in transactions for Apparel & Personal; Department Stores and Leisure; and Groceries and Liquor.
- The unadjusted **Performance of Manufacturing Index** (PMI) for Canterbury remained in expansionary territory during the June 2025 quarter, with an average quarterly score of 50.4. In contrast, New Zealand's manufacturing sector returned to contractionary territory with an average quarterly score of 48.4. The June 2025 quarter was the second consecutive quarter of expansion for Canterbury after its previous run of seven consecutive quarters with a contractive average PMI.
- The average unadjusted **Performance of Services Index** (PSI) for Canterbury remained in contractionary territory during the June 2025 quarter, with an average PSI score of 48.6. New Zealand's PSI also remained in contractionary territory during the June 2025 quarter with an average score of 44.9.
- ANZ's Business Confidence Survey showed that average quarterly **Business confidence** in Canterbury continued to trend down in the quarter to June 2025; however, business confidence in Canterbury remained positive with an average score for the quarter of 51.0. Business confidence in Canterbury, whilst reducing, remains higher than NZ, which had an average score of 44.1 for the June 2025 quarter.

Retail spending via electronic card transactions, Christchurch (monthly)



Source: MarketViev

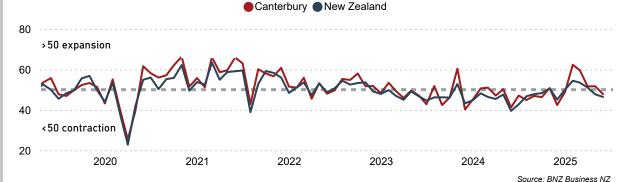
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Annual retail spending growth, Christchurch (Q2 2025 vs Q2 2024)

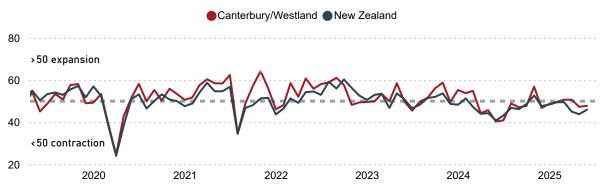
Spending growth	Apparel & Personal	Cafes, Restaurants & Bars	Dept. Stores & Leisure	Groceries & Liquor	Home, Hardware & Electrical	Other Consumer Spending	Fuel & Auto Repairs	Total
Value	1.1%	0.2%	-1.7%	4.2%	-7.9%	-0.6%	-4.5%	-0.4%
Transactions	2.4%	-1.4%	1.2%	1.4%	-8.0%	-0.9%	-2.0%	-0.3%

Source: MarketView

Performance of Manufacturing Index (monthly)



Performance of Services Index (monthly)



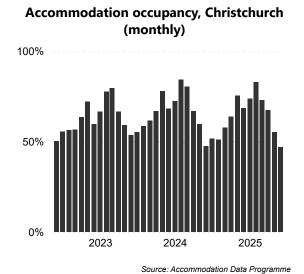
Source: BNZ Business NZ

Visitors & International Migration

- Visitor card spending in Christchurch came to \$306 million during the June 2025 quarter, a 2.0 percent or \$5.9 million increase from the same period in 2024. This was driven by a \$9.8 million increase in international visitor spending, which offset the -\$3.9m decline in domestic visitor spending. Christchurch's market share of New Zealand's total international visitor spend during the June 2025 quarter was 9 percent, which was slightly higher than 8 percent held in the same period pre-COVID.
- Accommodation occupancy in Christchurch averaged at 56 percent during the June 2025 quarter, above the national average of 45 percent.
- Approximately 88,000 international visitor arrivals landed at Christchurch Airport during the June 2025
 quarter. This was 13 percent higher than during the same period last year. However, international visitor arrivals
 during the June 2025 quarter were -14 percent below the same period prior to COVID.
- International **migration inflows** in Canterbury fell during the June 2025 quarter, with a total of 2,160 people moving to the region from overseas. This was lower than the previous year (falling -16 percent from the quarter to June 2024), but remained 17 percent above pre-COVD levels. Migration inflows across New Zealand as a whole were -14 percent below that of the June 2024 quarter, although still 13 percent higher than during the same time in 2019. Migration to Canterbury made up 9 percent of total migrant arrivals in New Zealand during the June 2025 quarter.

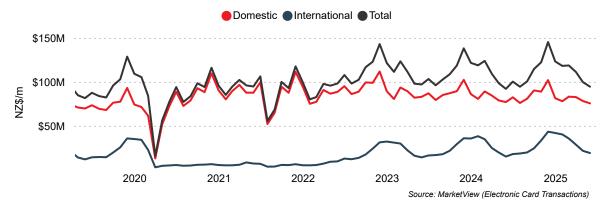
Quarterly visitor spend, Christchurch (Q2) Q2 2024 Q2 2025 \$300M \$306M \$240M \$237M \$59M \$69M International Domestic Total

Source: MarketView (Electronic Card Transactions)

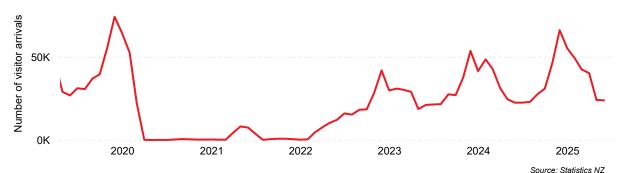


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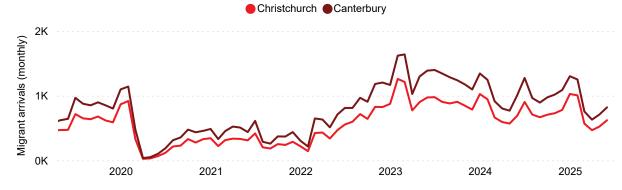




International Visitor Arrivals, Christchurch Airport (monthly)



Permanent & Long-Term International Migration (monthly)



Source: Statistics NZ

Four Aves

- The Four Aves refers to the area captured on the above map and aligns with Christchurch's central city.
- The value of retail spending in Christchurch's Four Aves fell
 -2.3 percent in the June 2025 quarter compared to the same
 time in 2024. The volume of spending in the Four Aves
 (number of transactions) fell -1.9 percent over the same period.



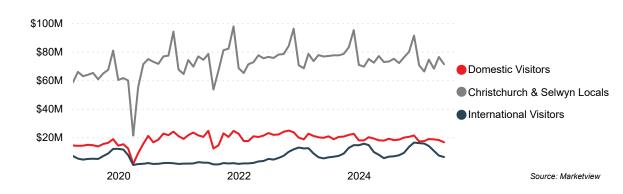
- The contraction in spending was largely driven by a reduction in spending by locals compared to the same time in 2024. Spending by residents of Christchurch City fell by -\$10.1 million (-5 percent) compared to the June 2024 quarter. This reduction was partially offset by higher spending from Selwyn residents, with spending by Selwyn residents rising \$3.8 million (+18 percent) compared to the June 2024 quarter. There was also a \$1.0 million lift in International visitor spending within the Four Aves (+5 percent) in the same period.
- The 2024 population data showed that the number of people **living in the Four Avenues** continued to increase over the year to June 2024, to 8,350 people. This represented a 1.6 percent increase in the inner-city population, compared to 1.2 percent growth across Christchurch City as a whole. There were around 60 more people living in the Four Aves in 2024 than there were pre-earthquake.
- The number of **employees in the Four Avenues** increased by just under 3,300 people in the year to February 2024, to a total of 50,390. This reflected a 6.9 percent increase from the previous year, compared to 3.2 percent employment growth across Christchurch as a whole.
- Healthcare & Social Assistance recorded the largest real increase in employment numbers over the year to February 2024 (+620 people), followed by Professional Services (+525 people) and Finance & Insurance (+480 people). Employment in the Four Aves accounts for 20.9 percent of employment in Christchurch overall.
- Meanwhile, the number of business locations in the Four Aves increased by 3.8 percent from the previous year, to a total of 5.150.

Retail spending growth, Four Aves (Q2 2025 vs Q2 2024)

Spending growth	Apparel & Personal	Cafes, Restaurants & Bars	Department Stores & Leisure	Groceries & Liquor	Home, Hardware & Electrical	Other Consumer Spending	Total
Value	0.0%	-1.7%	-2.3%	3.4%	-5.8%	-16.8%	-2.3%
Transactions	1.9%	-3.8%	0.4%	1.4%	-2.7%	-7.4%	-1.9%

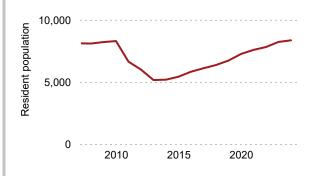
ChristchurchNZ

Monthly retail spending by customer type, Four Aves

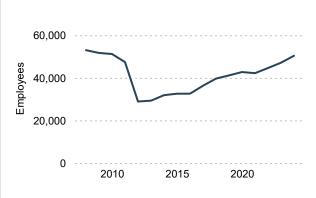


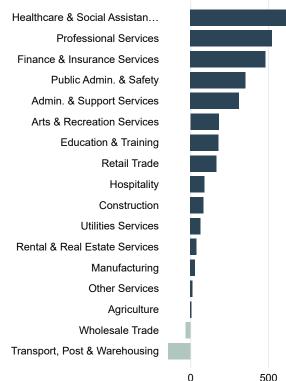
Residents Living within Four Avenues (as at June)

Real change in employment within Four Aves (year to Feb 2024)









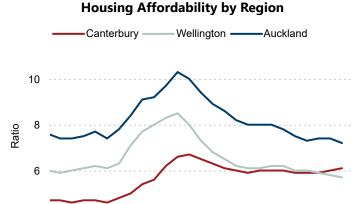
Source: Marketview

Source: Statistics NZ

Canterbury in context: regional comparison

2024

The below graphs detail the performance of New Zealand's major metropolitan areas (Auckland, Canterbury and Wellington) over a range of housing and employment indicators. The region's diverse employment offering and housing costs continue to contribute to Christchurch's growing reputation as an attractive city to live and work in, a key drawcard for attracting skilled workers to the region.



- Housing affordability in the Canterbury region deteriorated slightly in the June 2025 quarter with an average house price to income ratio of 6.1.
- In comparison, average house prices were equivalent to 5.7 times average annual incomes in the Wellington region, and 7.2 times average annual incomes in the Auckland region.
- Housing affordability compares average house prices with average annual employment earnings from filled jobs. A higher score indicates lower housing affordability.

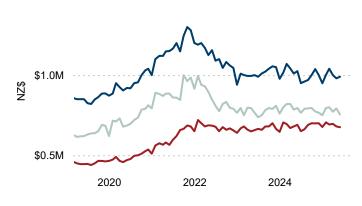
Source: Infometrics

Median House Price by Region (monthly)

2022

2020

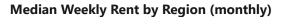
——Canterbury ——Wellington ——Auckland



- The median house price in the Canterbury region averaged at \$684k during the June 2025 quarter, a -1.1 percent fall from the March 2025 quarter. Wellington's average median house price reduced -1.1 percent from the previous quarter to \$773k and Auckland's average median house price reduced -0.7 percent from the previous quarter to \$990k.
- On an annual basis, house prices rose 0.5
 percent in Canterbury from the June 2024
 quarter. In contrast, house prices fell by -3.4
 percent in Wellington and -3.5 in Auckland
 compared to the June 2024 quarter.
- The average median house price in Canterbury was -12 percent lower than in Wellington and -31 percent lower than in Auckland during the June 2025 quarter.

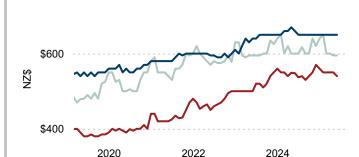
Source: REINZ

ChristchurchNZ



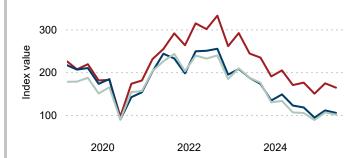
Wellington ——Auckland

Canterbury



Jobs Online by Region (indexed to Dec. 2010)

——Canterbury ——Auckland ——Wellington



Unemployment Rate by Region (unadjusted)

Canterbury (%) ——Wellington (%) ——Auckland (%)



- Rental prices in Canterbury reduced by -1.2% during the June 2025 quarter to an average of \$547 per week.
 This was a 0.2% increase from the June 2024 quarter.
- Average Median weekly rent sat at \$597 in Wellington during the June 2025 quarter, which was a -5.3% fall from the previous quarter and a -1.6% fall from the same time in 2024.
- Meanwhile in Auckland, average median rental prices remained flat at \$650 per week, which was unchanged from the previous quarter and a -2.0 percent fall from the same period last year.

Source: MBIE

- The number of job vacancies advertised online reduced in the June 2025 quarter in all three of the major regions, and remained lower than they were in the June 2024 quarter.
- Compared to the same time in the previous year, job vacancies were down -4 percent in Canterbury, -5 percent in Wellington, and -14 percent in Auckland.
- Online job ads remain -21 percent below pre-COVD levels in Canterbury. The decline has been sharper in Wellington and Auckland, with job ads falling to -43 percent and -49 percent below pre-COVID levels, respectively.

Source: MBIE

- The unadjusted unemployment rate in Canterbury increased to 5 percent in the June 2025 quarter from 4.9% in the March 2025 quarter.
- The unemployment rate in the Wellington region reduced, falling from 5.2 percent in the March 2025 quarter to 4.2 percent in the June 2025 quarter.
- The unadjusted unemployment rate also reduced in Auckland over the same period (from 6.5 percent in the March 2025 quarter to 6.1 percent in the June 2025 quarter).

Source: Statistics NZ

Data sources

BusinessNZ: http://www.businessnz.org.nz

Fresh Info: https://freshinfo.shinyapps.io/ADPReporting/

Infometrics Ltd: http://www.infometrics.co.nz/

Marketview: https://marketview.co.nz/

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment: http://www.mbie.govt.nz/

Real Estate Institute New Zealand: https://www.reinz.co.nz/ Reserve Bank of New Zealand: https://www.rbnz.govt.nz/statistics

Statistics New Zealand: http://www.stats.govt.nz/ This work is based on/includes Statistics New

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Westpac: https://www.westpac.co.nz/

For queries and feedback please contact:

Charlotte Lascelles

Economist

Email: enquiries@christchurchnz.com

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