

Christchurch & Canterbury

Quarterly Economic Report
March 2026

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ChristchurchNZ

Quarterly Overview- March 2026

Economy	Employment	People & Housing	Business
<p>GDP Growth (YE Mar 2026 vs. YE Mar 2025)</p> <p>Christchurch: 1.1% ▲ Canterbury: 1.2% ▲ New Zealand: 0.4% ▲</p>	<p>Unemployment Rate (Q1 2026, Unadjusted)</p> <p>Christchurch: 4.4% ▼ Canterbury: 4.4% ▲ New Zealand: 5.7% ▲</p>	<p>Housing Affordability (Q1 2026) <i>Ratio of average house price to average incomes</i></p> <p>Christchurch: 5.9 ► Canterbury: 5.6 ▼ New Zealand: 5.9 ▼</p>	<p>Retail Spending (Q1 2026 vs Q1 2025, Christchurch)</p> <p>Value of spending: 0.5% ▲ Volume of spending: -2.6% ▼</p>
<p>Balance of Trade (Q1 2026 vs Q1 2025, Canterbury)</p> <p>Exports: -9.0% ▼ Imports: 12.3% ▲</p>	<p>Labour Force Participation Rate (Q1 2026)</p> <p>Christchurch: 72.1% ▼ Canterbury: 72.2% ▼ New Zealand: 70.7% ▼</p>	<p>Rental Affordability (Q1 2026) <i>Average rental costs as share of average household income</i></p> <p>Christchurch: 20.6% ► Canterbury: 20.2% ▼ New Zealand: 19.8% ▼</p>	<p>Performance of Manufacturing Index (Q1 2026) >50: expansion; <50: contraction</p> <p>Canterbury: 55.7 ▲ New Zealand: 54.8 ▲</p>
<p>CPI Inflation Rate (Q1 2026)</p> <p>Annual growth: 3.1% ► Quarterly growth: 0.9% ▲</p>	<p>Jobs Online (Q1 2026 vs Q1 2025)</p> <p>Canterbury: 19.0% ▲ New Zealand: 11.8% ▲</p>	<p>Residential Cost of Living (Q1 2026 vs. Q1 2025, Christchurch)</p> <p>Weekly Rent: 2.1% ▲ (NZ: -1.7% ▼) House Prices: 3.6% ▲ (NZ: 1.3% ▲)</p>	<p>Performance of Services Index (Q1 2026) >50: expansion; <50: contraction</p> <p>Canterbury: 46.7 ▼ New Zealand: 48.6 ▼</p>
<p>Building Consents (Q1 2026 vs. Q1 2025, Residential and non-residential)</p> <p>Christchurch: 38.8% ▲ Canterbury: 46.7% ▲ New Zealand: 15.0% ▲</p>	<p>Jobseeker Support Recipients (Q1 2026 vs Q1 2025)</p> <p>Christchurch: -1.5% ▼ Canterbury: -1.9% ▼ New Zealand: 2.6% ▲</p>	<p>Consumer Confidence (Q1 2026) <i>A score above 100 reflects a net positive response</i></p> <p>Canterbury: 90.6 (▼-2.5 points vs Q4 2025) New Zealand: 94.7 (▼-1.8 points vs Q4 2025)</p>	<p>Tourism Visitor spending (Christchurch, Q1 2026 vs. Q1 2025)</p> <p>Domestic visitor spend: 1.8% ▲ International visitor spend: 10.8% ▲ Total visitor spending: 4.7% ▲</p>

Economic indicators for the March 2026 quarter suggest that overall conditions in Christchurch and Canterbury improved prior to the recent escalation of conflict in the Middle East. Provisional estimates show that GDP increased by 1.1% in Christchurch and 1.2% in Canterbury in the year to March 2026 compared with the year to March 2025. This marked the third consecutive quarter of annual average GDP growth in both areas. Local growth remained stronger than in the national economy, where GDP increased by 0.4% over the same period.

Positive trends

- **Business growth:** the average rate of business unit growth in Canterbury increased by 2.8% in the March 2026 quarter compared with a year earlier, more than twice the national rate of 1.2%.
- **Labour market conditions:** the unadjusted unemployment rate declined from 5.4% to 4.4% in Christchurch and from 4.9% to 4.4% in Canterbury over the year to March 2026, reflecting employment growth exceeding labour force growth. The number of jobs advertised online in Canterbury increased by 19.0% in the March 2026 quarter compared with a year earlier.
- **Construction activity:** residential building consents issued increased by 39.5% in Christchurch and 50.5% in Canterbury in the March 2026 quarter compared with a year earlier. Non-residential consents issued increased by 21.2% in Christchurch and 11.8% in Canterbury over the same period.
- **Manufacturing activity:** the Performance of Manufacturing Index for Canterbury averaged 55.7 in the March 2026 quarter, indicating a fifth consecutive discrete quarter of expansion.
- **International tourism:** international visitor arrivals through Christchurch Airport increased by 22.5% in the March 2026 quarter compared with a year earlier, supporting strong accommodation occupancy and an 10.8% increase in international in-store card spending in Christchurch over the same period.

Challenges

- **Global conditions:** global uncertainty increased during the March 2026 quarter as conflict in the Middle East escalated, leading to significant disruption to shipping through the Strait of Hormuz and an oil price shock.
- **Local spending:** the value of in-store card spending in Christchurch increased by 0.5% in the March 2026 quarter compared with a year earlier, while transaction volumes declined. This suggests that higher spending reflected price effects or changes in behaviour rather than stronger underlying demand.
- **Business confidence:** business confidence in Canterbury averaged 47.5 in the March 2026 quarter, marking a tenth consecutive discrete quarter of positive sentiment. However, confidence fell sharply in March, suggesting an early response to rising global uncertainty and higher fuel prices.
- **Consumer confidence:** consumer confidence in Canterbury averaged 90.6 in the March 2026 quarter, remaining below 100 and indicating net pessimism.
- **Services activity:** the Performance of Services Index for Canterbury averaged 46.7 in the March 2026 quarter, indicating contraction in services activity.
- **Export activity:** the value of goods exported through Canterbury ports declined by 9.0% in the March 2026 quarter compared with a year earlier, weaker than national growth of 0.6%. Canterbury port export values remained 12.1% higher than in the March 2024 quarter, indicating levels remained elevated despite recent declines.

Momentum strengthened in the March 2026 quarter

Economic activity in Christchurch and Canterbury strengthened in the March 2026 quarter, with annual average GDP growth reaching its fastest pace in the past two years. This suggests the recovery was gaining traction. While growth remained modest, its persistence and gradual improvement indicate that underlying activity had begun to stabilise prior to the recent escalation of conflict in the Middle East.

Local economic conditions were broadly supportive, although performance was not uniform

Local economic drivers were generally supportive in the March 2026 quarter. Strong business growth, rising international tourism, and elevated building consents supported activity. Labour market outcomes improved over the year, with declining unemployment rates reflecting stronger employment growth, although some indicators suggest spare capacity. Growth in jobs advertised online in Canterbury also points to strengthened labour demand. However, performance was uneven across sectors. Manufacturing remained in expansion, while services contracted and goods export values moderated.

Global conditions shifted, with rising uncertainty and emerging pressures

Global conditions affecting the local economy changed during the March 2026 quarter, as conflict in the Middle East and the near-total disruption of shipping through the Strait of Hormuz disrupted global supply chains and triggered an oil price shock. Most indicators for the quarter reflect conditions prior to, or only at an early stage of, these developments. However, early signs of impact emerged late in the period. Business and consumer confidence in Canterbury declined, likely reflecting increased uncertainty around fuel costs, supply disruptions, and the broader economic outlook. In-store card spending also suggests early changes in household behaviour, with higher spending values occurring alongside lower transaction volumes, consistent with price effects rather than stronger underlying demand. The oil price shock and associated disruptions are also likely to add to inflationary pressures. Inflation is already above the Reserve Bank's target range and is expected to increase further. While the Reserve Bank may look through first-round effects, the Official Cash Rate is widely expected by market commentators to rise in the second half of 2026 to ensure higher inflation does not become entrenched.

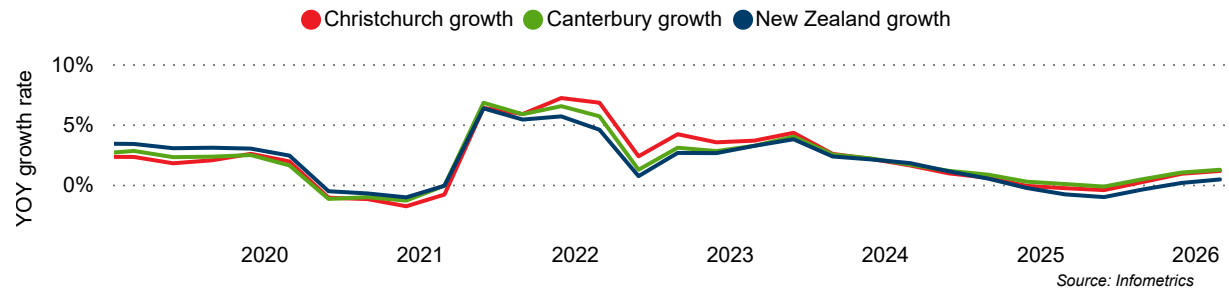
The local economy entered the shock from a position of relative strength

Taken together, data for the March 2026 quarter suggest that Christchurch and Canterbury entered the oil price shock from a position of relative strength, supported by improving labour market conditions, strong business growth, and ongoing activity in tourism, construction, and manufacturing. However, the outlook has become more uncertain, and sustained cost pressures and subdued confidence could weigh on investment, hiring, and discretionary spending. While the local recovery continued into early 2026, the sustainability of the recovery in the current environment is unclear. On balance, current indicators suggest the local economy is comparatively well placed to navigate the period ahead.

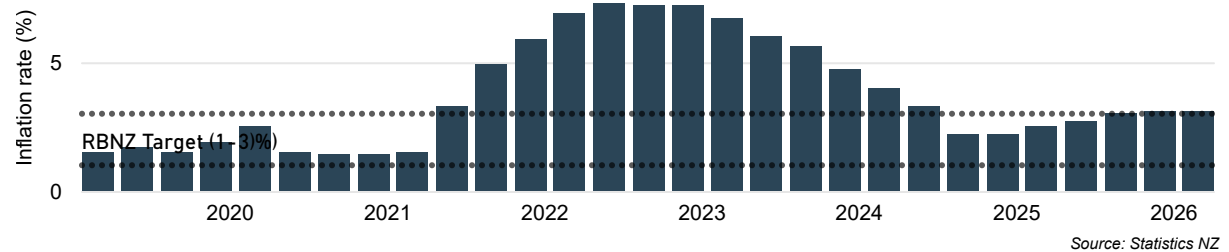
Economy

- Provisional estimates indicated that **economic activity** increased by 1.1% in Christchurch and 1.2% in Canterbury in the year to March 2026 compared with the year to March 2025. Both regions continued to outperform the national economy, which recorded GDP growth of 0.4% over the same period.
- New Zealand's annual **Consumer Price Index (CPI)** inflation remained unchanged at 3.1% in the March 2026 quarter. This meant that inflation remained just above the upper limit of the Reserve Bank's 1-3% target band for the second consecutive quarter.
- In the March 2026 quarter, the value of goods **exported** through Christchurch ports was 7.3% lower than in the March 2025 quarter, reflecting lower export volumes and weaker dairy prices, while the value of goods **imports** increased by 10.4%. Christchurch ports remained in a goods trade surplus position, although the surplus was 60.5% lower than a year earlier. Across the wider Canterbury ports, the value of goods exports fell by 9.0% over the year. The regional trade balance also remained positive, but the surplus was 51.8% lower than a year earlier. Despite this annual decline, monthly data for March 2026 indicated export values exceeded March 2025 levels for both Christchurch and Canterbury ports, suggesting momentum improved late in the quarter.
- The number of residential **building consents** issued in Christchurch increased by 39.5% in the March 2026 quarter compared with the March 2025 quarter. This was lower than the 50.5% increase recorded across Canterbury but significantly higher than the national rise of 14.6%. The number of commercial building consents in Christchurch rose 21.2% over the year, exceeding Canterbury's rate of 11.8% and the national rate of 18.8%.

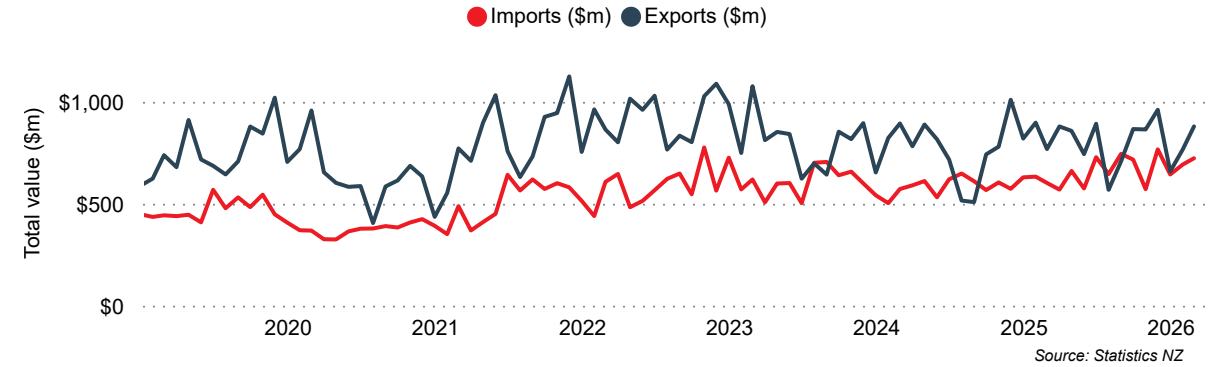
Economic Growth (year-to-date)



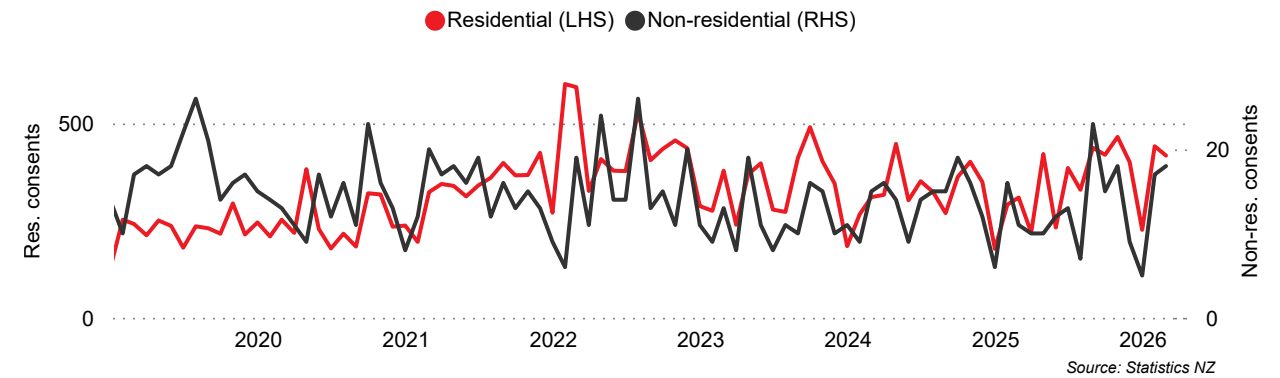
CPI Inflation Rate (%)



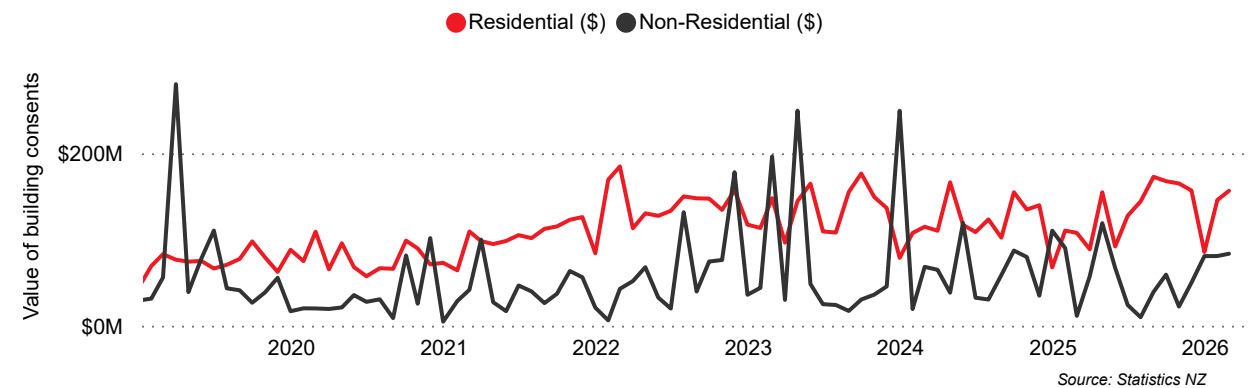
Christchurch Ports: Value of International Trade (goods, monthly)



Number of Building Consents Issued in Christchurch (monthly)



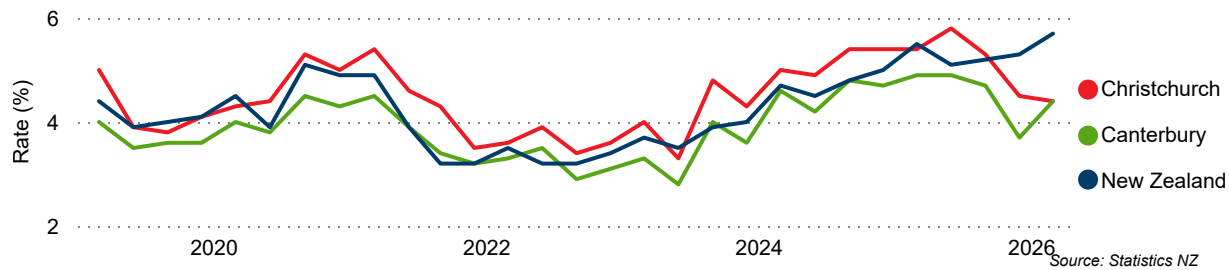
Value of Building Consents Issued in Christchurch (monthly)



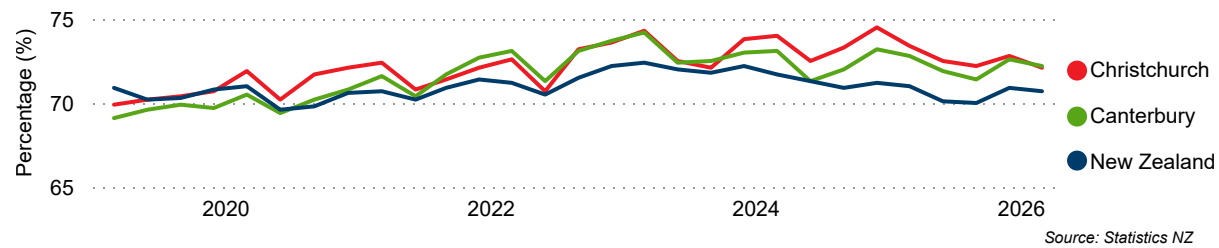
Employment

- Christchurch's unadjusted **unemployment rate** declined to 4.4% in the March 2026 quarter, down from 4.5% in the December 2025 quarter and 5.4% in the March 2025 quarter. In Canterbury, the unemployment rate rose to 4.4% from 3.7% in the December 2025 quarter. The rate remained below the 4.9% recorded a year earlier, suggesting the increase from December was likely seasonal. Nationally, the unadjusted unemployment rate rose to 5.7% in the March 2026 quarter, up from 5.3% in the December 2025 quarter and 5.5% a year earlier.
- Christchurch's **labour force participation rate** reached a nine-year high of 74.5% in late 2024 and has since trended downward, falling to 72.1% in the March 2026 quarter. In the March 2026 quarter, Christchurch's participation rate was slightly below Canterbury's rate of 72.2%, but remained higher than the national rate of 70.7%.
- Online job advertisements** in Canterbury increased by 24.5% in the March 2026 quarter compared with the December 2025 quarter. Online job advertisements in Canterbury were also 19.0% higher than in the March 2025 quarter, exceeding national growth of 11.8%. Compared with the March 2025 quarter, online job advertisements increased across all major sectors in Canterbury, led by Construction, (+32.1%), Manufacturing (+23.7%), and Hospitality (+23.5%).
- The number of **Jobseeker Support** recipients decreased by 1.5% in Christchurch and by 1.9% in Canterbury in the March 2026 quarter compared with the March 2025 quarter. In contrast, the number of Jobseeker Support recipients increased by 2.6% nationally over the same period.

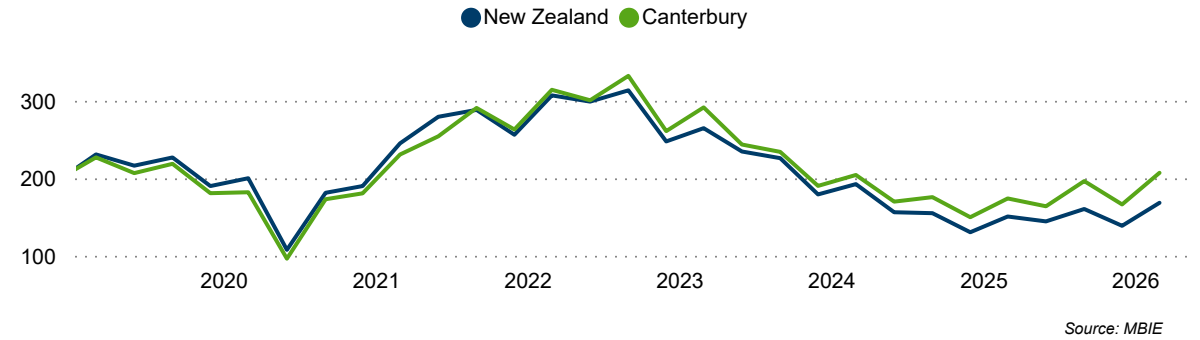
Unemployment Rate (% , unadjusted)



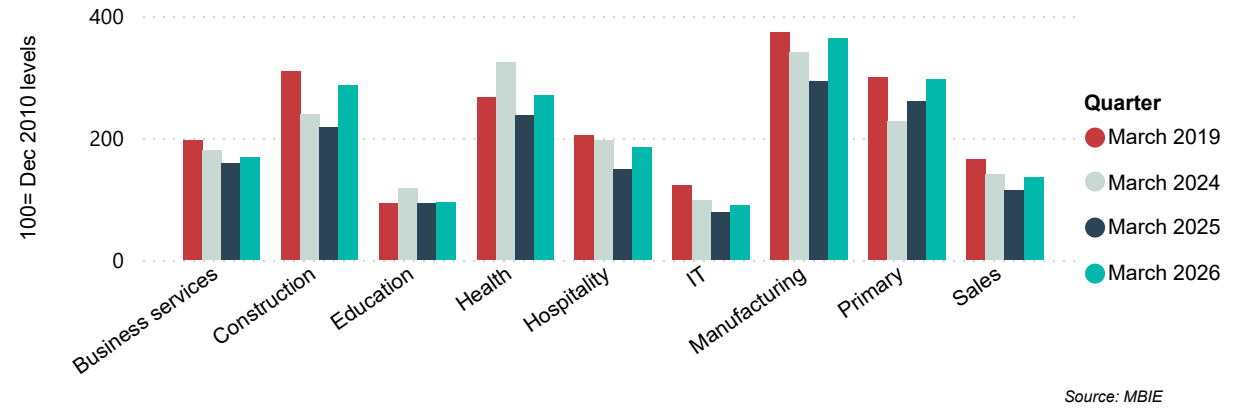
Labour Force Participation Rate (%)



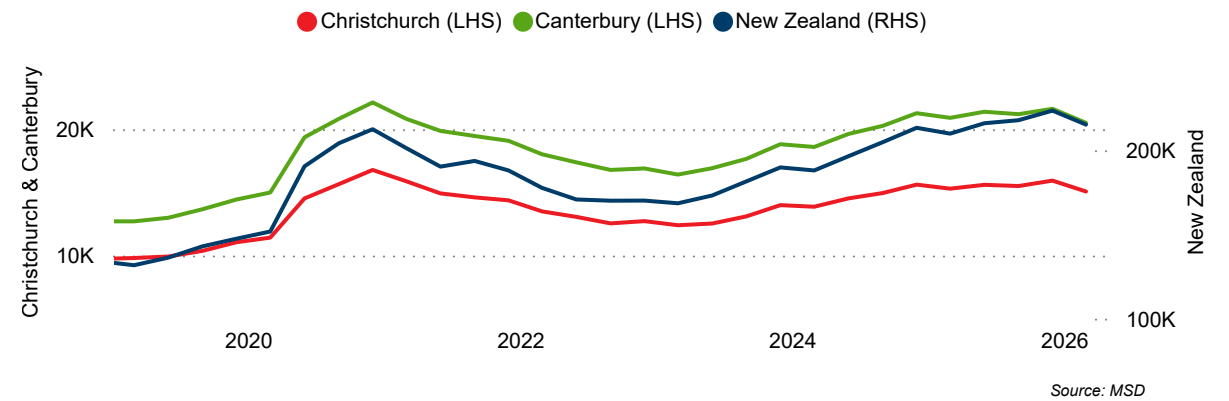
Jobs Online (unadjusted, indexed to Dec. 2010)



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



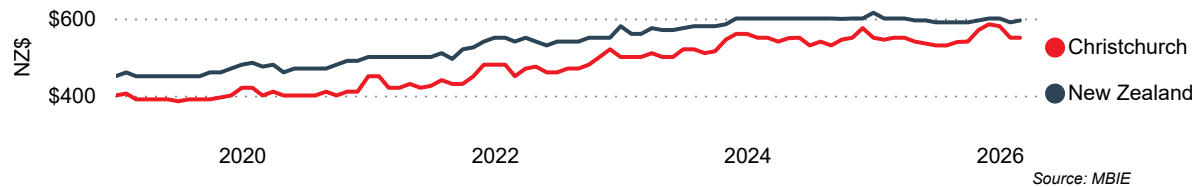
Jobseeker Support Recipients



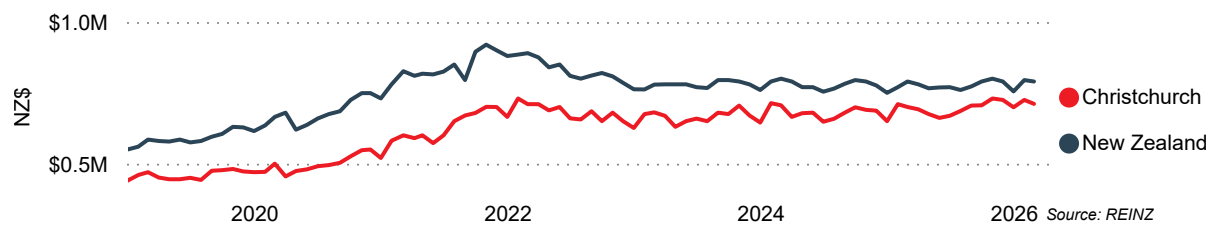
Housing & Confidence

- **Rental prices** in Christchurch **declined** by 0.9% in the March 2026 quarter, with the median weekly rent falling from an average of \$565 in the December 2025 quarter to an average of \$560 in the March 2026 quarter. Nationally, the average of monthly median weekly rents remained flat at \$595 over the same period. Compared with the March 2025 quarter, the median weekly rent increased by 2.1% in Christchurch and decreased by 1.7% across New Zealand. In Christchurch, annual rental costs were equivalent to 20.6% of annual average household incomes in the March 2026 quarter, remaining above the national level of 19.8%.
- The **median house price** in Christchurch fell by 1.2% in the March 2026 quarter to a quarterly average of \$712k, 3.6% higher than a year earlier. Nationally, the median house price averaged \$780k, down 1.7% from the previous quarter but up 1.3% from a year earlier. In Christchurch, house prices were equivalent to 5.9 times annual average household incomes in the March 2026 quarter, in line with the national ratio.
- More than 56,800 **residential mortgage loans** were issued in New Zealand in the March 2026 quarter, up 8.6% from a year earlier but still 11.6% below pre-COVID-19 levels. First-home buyers accounted for 13.3% of loans in the March 2026 quarter, up from 9.8% in the March 2019 quarter, with the number of loans to first-home buyers 19.7% higher than before COVID-19. In contrast, residential mortgage loans to other-owner occupiers, investors, and business borrowers were lower than pre-COVID-19 levels.
- **Consumer confidence** in Canterbury remained in net pessimistic territory in the March 2026 quarter, falling 2.5 points to 90.6. This decline exceeded the national fall of 1.8 points, which took consumer confidence across New Zealand to 94.7. The survey was conducted in the first two weeks of March, coinciding with an escalation in conflict in the Middle East. While a decline in confidence was therefore expected, the initial decrease was modest, likely reflecting that most households had not yet experienced the full effects of higher fuel prices or broader impacts from the conflict at the time of the survey.

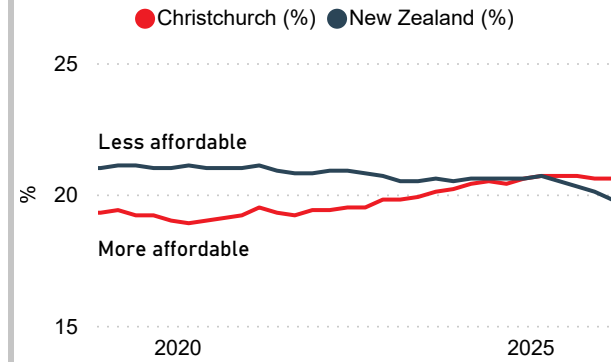
Median Residential Weekly Rent (monthly)



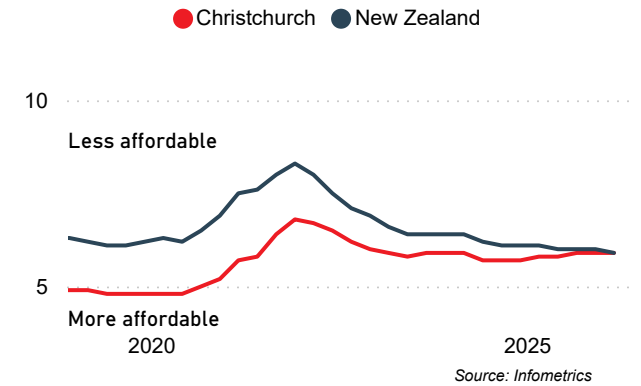
Median House Price (monthly)



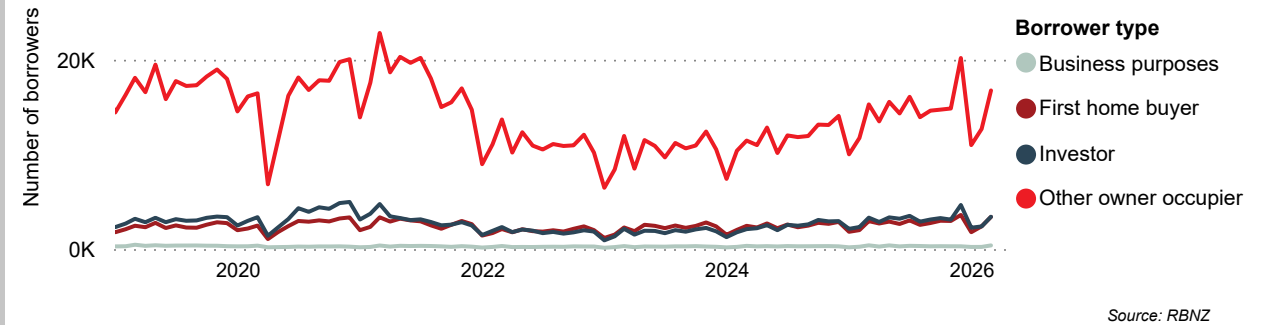
Annual Rent as Share of Household Incomes (annual averages)



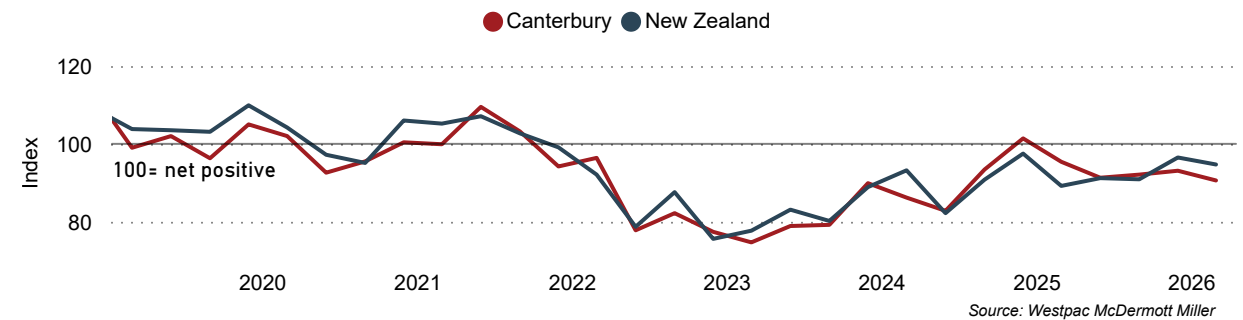
Ratio of House Prices to Household Incomes (annual averages)



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



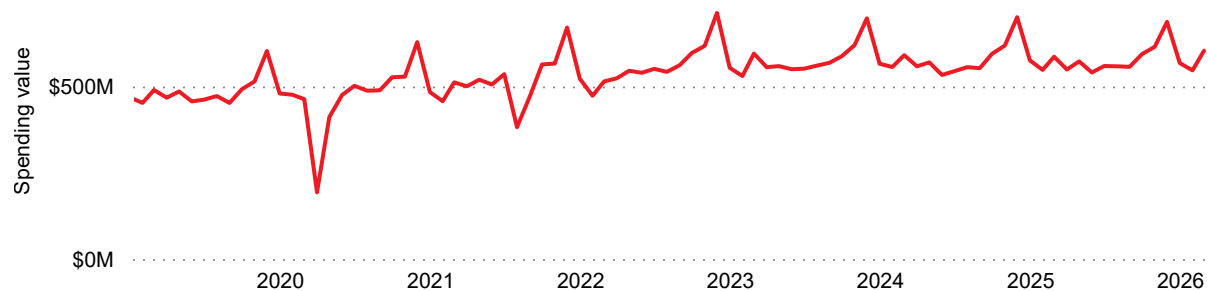
Consumer Confidence



Business

- Value of spending:** retail spending in Christchurch, measured by in-store electronic card transactions, rose by \$8.3 million (0.5%) in the March 2026 quarter compared with the same period in 2025. The increase was driven by Groceries & Liquor (+\$17.3 million) and Fuel & Automotive (+\$8.9 million), although this was partly offset by declines in Cafes, Restaurants, Bars, & Takeaways (-\$12.4 million), and Home, Hardware & Electrical (-\$5.2 million).
- Volume of spending:** electronic card transactions in Christchurch fell by 2.6% in the March 2026 quarter compared with a year earlier, a fall of more than 921,000 transactions. Transaction volumes declined across most categories, with the largest nominal fall recorded in Cafes, Restaurants, Bars & Takeaways (down more than 710,000 transactions). Groceries & Liquor was an exception, rising by nearly 183,000 transactions.
- The unadjusted **Performance of Manufacturing Index (PMI)** for Canterbury remained in expansion in the March 2026 quarter, averaging 55.7, compared with 54.8 nationally. Based on discrete quarterly averages, the March 2026 quarter marked Canterbury's fifth consecutive quarter of expansion, following seven consecutive quarters of contraction.
- The average unadjusted **Performance of Services Index (PSI)** for Canterbury moved into contraction in the March 2026 quarter, averaging 46.7. Over the same period, the national PSI averaged 48.6. Monthly PSI data for March indicated a sharp softening in service activity in Canterbury with the PSI reducing to 41.6, likely reflecting increased uncertainty and weaker confidence, which affected discretionary spending after the recent escalation of conflict in the Middle East.
- According to ANZ's **Business Confidence** Survey, business confidence in Canterbury weakened in the March 2026 quarter, with an average score for the quarter of 47.5. Business confidence in Canterbury had been easing from its November 2025 peak, before falling sharply following the recent escalation of conflict in the Middle East.

Retail spending via electronic card transactions, Christchurch (monthly)



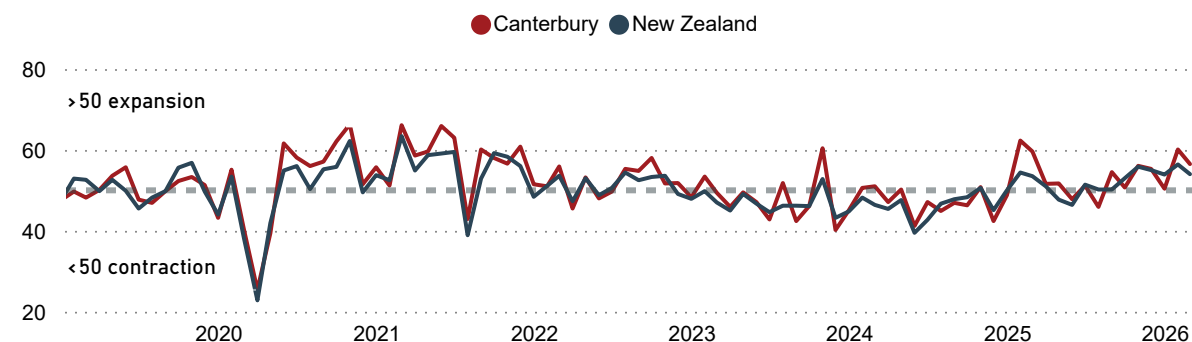
Source: MarketView

Annual retail spending growth, Christchurch (Q1 2026 vs Q1 2025)

Spending growth	Apparel & Personal	Cafes, Restaurants & Bars	Dept. Stores & Leisure	Groceries & Liquor	Home, Hardware & Electrical	Other Consumer Spending	Fuel & Auto Repairs	Total
Value	-2.3%	-5.0%	1.3%	3.0%	-3.3%	-5.1%	3.6%	0.5%
Transactions	-5.1%	-7.1%	-2.2%	1.4%	-6.5%	-8.6%	-1.6%	-2.6%

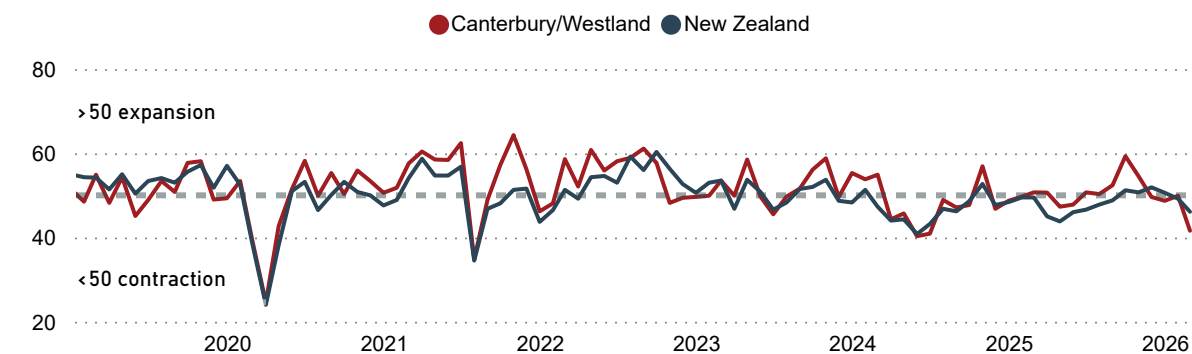
Source: MarketView

Performance of Manufacturing Index (monthly)



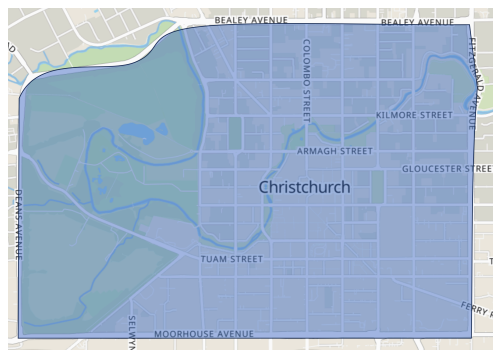
Source: BNZ Business NZ

Performance of Services Index (monthly)



Source: BNZ Business NZ

Central City (Four Aves)



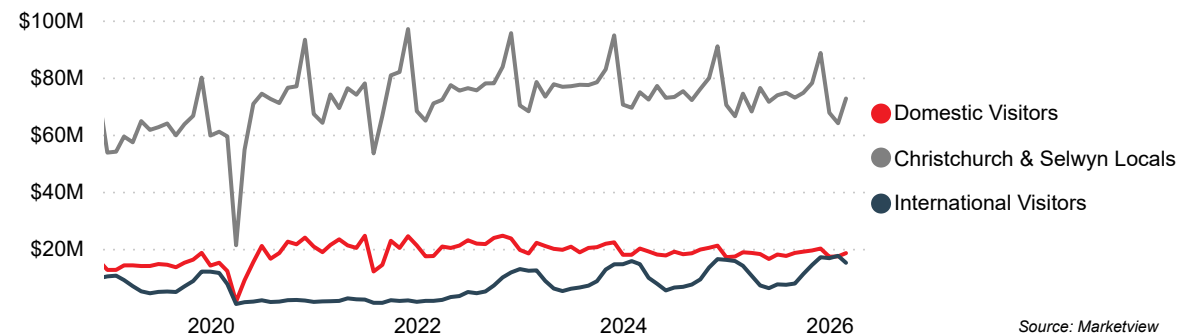
- The Four Aves refers to the area shown on the map to the right and corresponds to Christchurch's central city.
- By value, retail spending within the Four Aves declined by 1.1% in the March 2026 quarter compared with the same period in 2025. Transaction volumes fell more sharply, down 4.4%, indicating an increase in average spend per transaction.
- The decline in the value of in-store electronic spending in the Four Aves area was driven primarily by lower spending by Christchurch and Selwyn residents. Spending by Christchurch residents fell by \$5.1 million (-2.7%), while spending by Selwyn residents declined by \$1.8 million (-7.4%). These decreases were partly offset by higher spending by international visitors, which rose by \$3.5 million (+7.6%).
- Population data for 2025 showed continued growth within the Four Aves, reaching 9,180 residents as of June 2025. This represented a 0.2% increase in the inner-city population, compared with 0.9% growth across Christchurch City as a whole. The inner city population was approximately 890 higher than pre-earthquake levels.
- Employment in the Four Aves also increased slightly, with 70 more employees in the year to February 2025, bringing the total employee count to 50,250. This represented a 0.1% rise from the previous year, contrasting with a 1.3% decline in employee counts across Christchurch as a whole.
- The largest employment gains within the Four Aves over the year to February 2025 were in the Public Administration and Safety sector (primarily central and local government roles), which added 705 employees. This was followed by the Professional Services sector, with an increase of 260 employees, and the Transport, Postal, and Warehousing sector, which grew by 93 employees. Overall, employment in the Four Aves represented 21.1% of Christchurch's total employee counts.
- Meanwhile, the number of business locations in the Four Aves grew by 5.5%, reaching a total of 5,454 locations.

Retail spending growth, Four Aves (Q1 2026 vs Q1 2025)

Spending growth	Apparel & Personal	Cafes, Restaurants & Bars	Department Stores & Leisure	Groceries & Liquor	Home, Hardware & Electrical	Other Consumer Spending	Total
Value	-3.5%	-9.3%	1.7%	5.0%	-11.3%	11.2%	-1.1%
Transactions	-5.9%	-11.1%	0.8%	5.3%	-2.5%	-8.0%	-4.4%

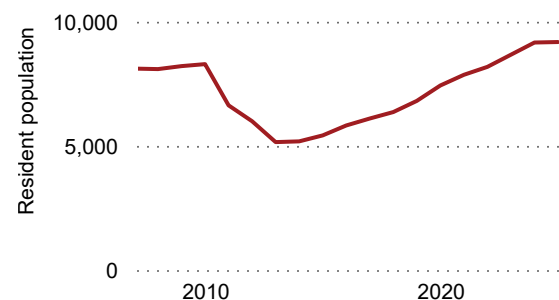
Source: Marketview

Monthly retail spending by customer type, Four Aves

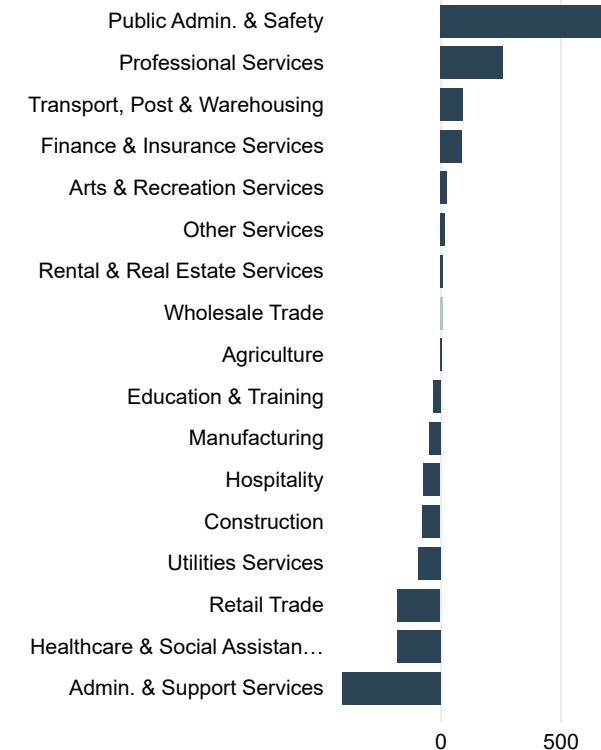


Source: Marketview

Residents Living within Four Aves (as at June)

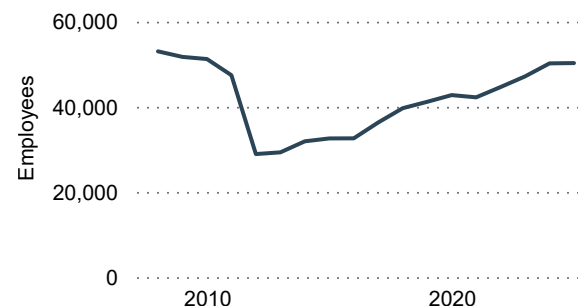


Real change in employment within Four Aves (year to Feb 2025)



Source: Statistics NZ

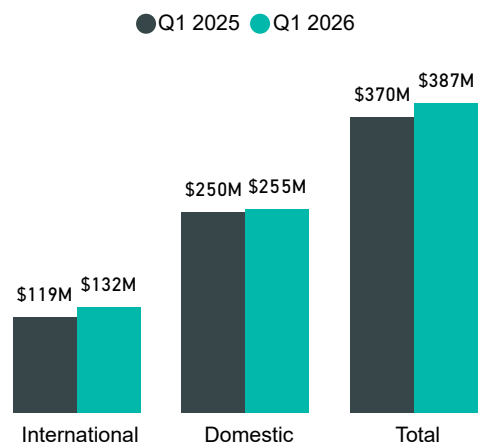
Employees within Four Aves (as at February)



Visitors & International Migration

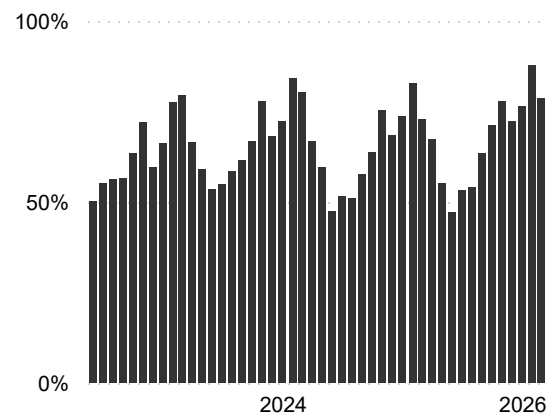
- In-store electronic **visitor card spending** in Christchurch totalled \$387 million in the March 2026 quarter, up \$17.4 million (4.7%) from the same period in 2025. This increase was driven by higher international in-store visitor card spending, which rose by \$12.9 million (10.8%), alongside a \$4.4 million (1.8%) increase in domestic in-store visitor card spending. Christchurch accounted for 8.5% of New Zealand's total in-store international visitor card spending during the quarter, slightly above its 8.3% share recorded in the equivalent pre-COVID-19 period.
- Average **accommodation occupancy** in Christchurch was 81.0% during the March 2026 quarter, well above the national average of 68.3%.
- Approximately 180,000 **international visitors** arrived at Christchurch Airport in the March 2026 quarter. This was 22.5% higher than in the same quarter of the previous year. This also marked the second consecutive discrete quarter in which international visitor arrivals exceeded pre-COVID-19 levels, with international visitor arrivals 1.3% higher in the March 2026 quarter than in the March 2019 quarter.
- International **migration inflows** into Christchurch also rose, with approximately 3,110 people moving to the city from overseas during the March 2026 quarter. This represented an increase of around 510 people (+19.8%) compared with the same period last year and an increase of around 710 people (+47.5%) compared with pre-COVID-19 levels. Nationally, international migration inflows were 3.4% higher than in the March 2025 quarter and were 13.4% higher than in 2019. The wider Canterbury region accounted for 11.3% of total migrant arrivals in New Zealand during the March 2026 quarter.

Quarterly visitor spend, Christchurch (Q1)



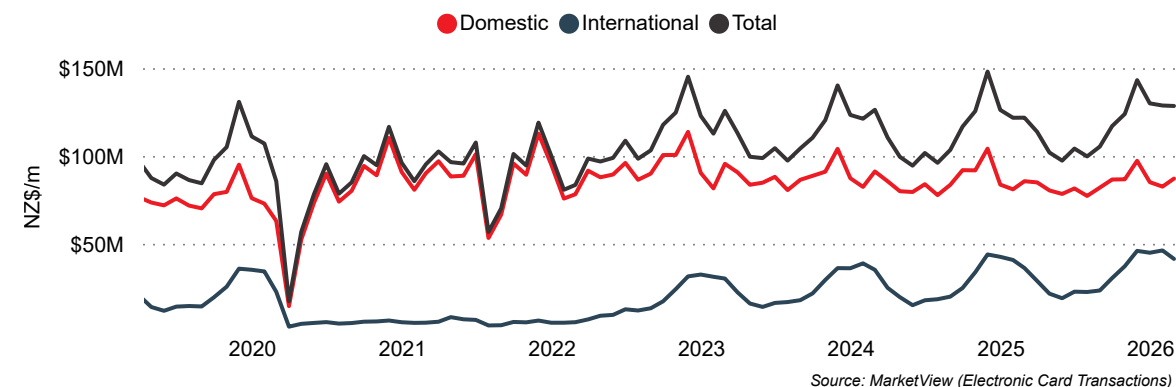
Source: MarketView (Electronic Card Transactions)

Accommodation occupancy, Christchurch (monthly)



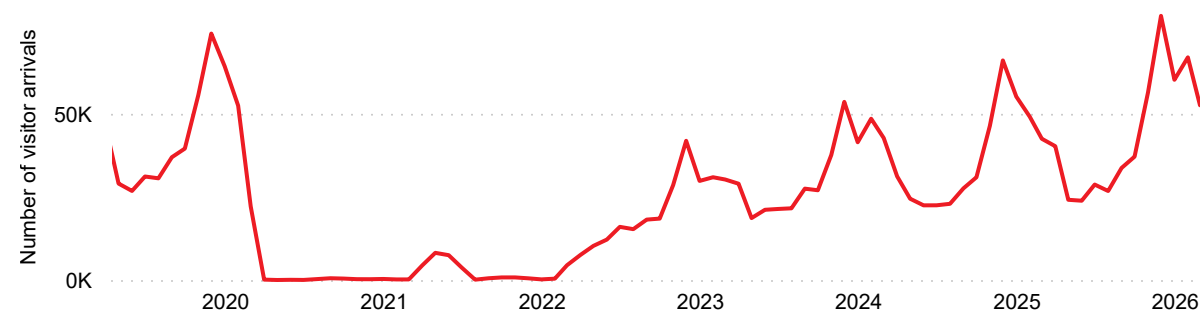
Source: Accommodation Data Programme

Visitor Spending in Christchurch (monthly)



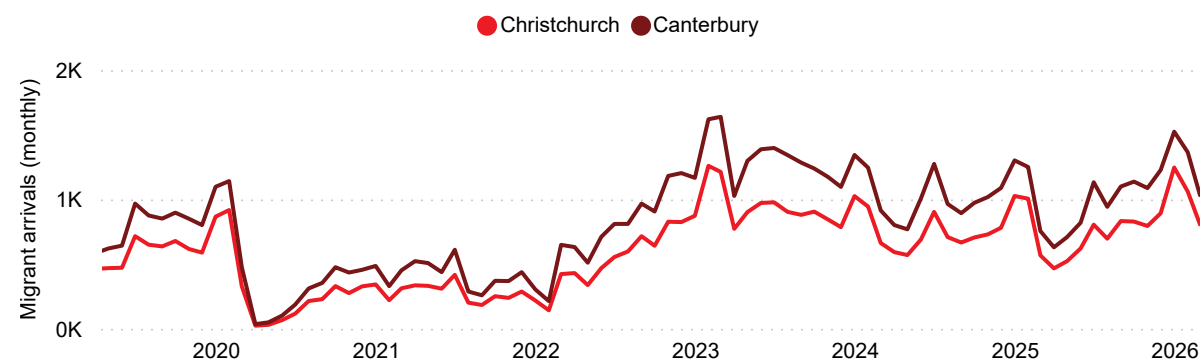
Source: MarketView (Electronic Card Transactions)

International Visitor Arrivals, Christchurch Airport (monthly)



Source: Statistics NZ

Permanent & Long-Term International Migration (monthly)

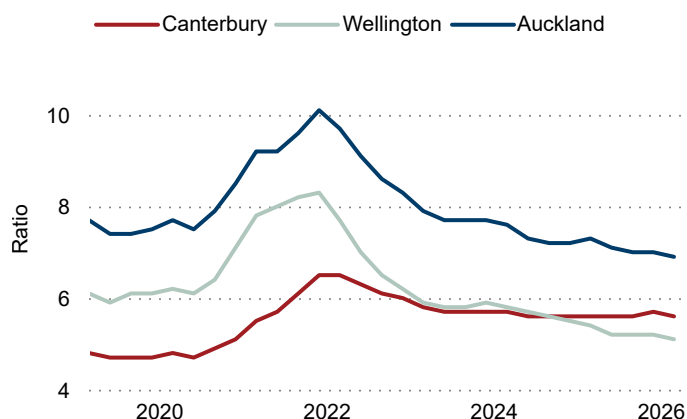


Source: Statistics NZ

Canterbury in context: regional comparison

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. Canterbury continues to stand out among these regions for its improving employment trends and comparatively lower house prices and rental costs, reinforcing its position as an attractive place to live and work.

Housing Affordability by Region

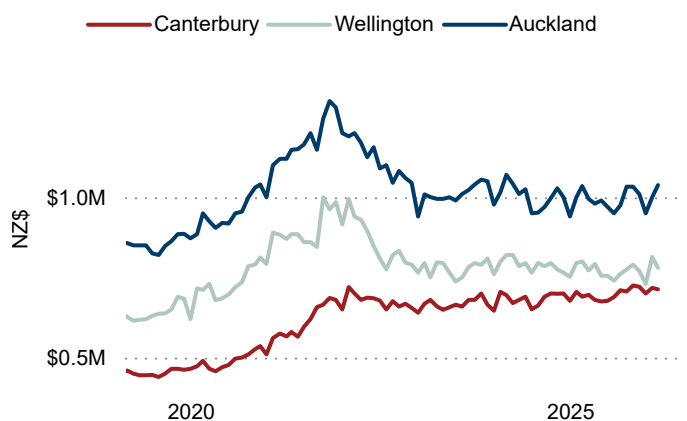


- **Housing affordability** in the Canterbury region improved slightly in the March 2026 quarter with the average house price equivalent to 5.6 times the average annual household income.
- In comparison, average house prices were equivalent to 5.1 times the average annual household income in the Wellington region and 6.9 times the average annual household income in the Auckland region.

• *Housing affordability compares average house prices with average annual household employment earnings from filled jobs. A higher score indicates lower housing affordability.*

Source: Infometrics

Median House Price by Region (monthly)



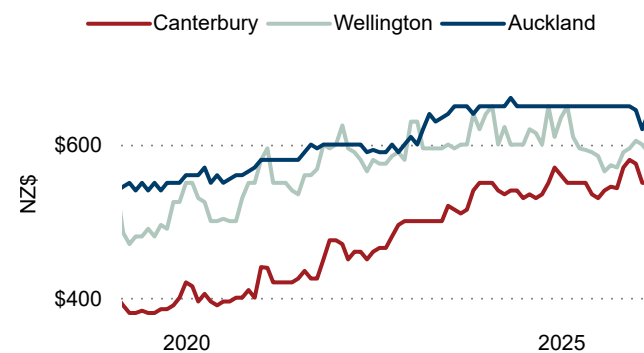
- The **median house price** in Canterbury averaged \$710k in the March 2026 quarter, down 1.0% from the December 2025 quarter. Wellington's median house price fell 0.5% over the same period to \$775k, while Auckland's fell 2.9% to \$996k.

• On an annual basis, Canterbury's median house price in the March 2026 quarter was 2.8% higher than in the March 2025 quarter. By comparison, Auckland recorded a modest 0.4% increase, while Wellington's median house price fell by 1.0% over the same period.

- Over the March 2026 quarter, Canterbury's median house price was 8.3% below Wellington's and 28.7% below Auckland's.

Source: REINZ

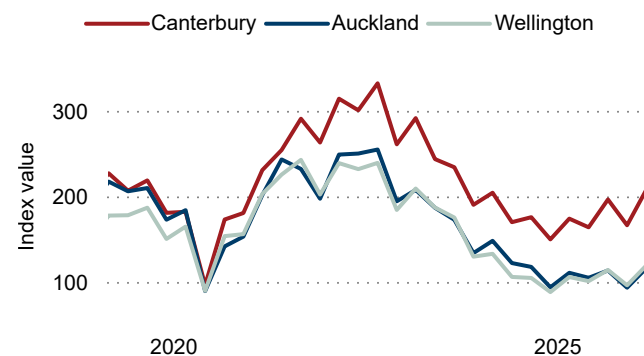
Median Weekly Rent by Region (monthly)



- Median weekly **rents** in Canterbury fell by 1.1% in the March 2026 quarter to an average of \$558. This was a 0.9% increase from the March 2025 quarter.
- Median weekly rents in Wellington averaged \$598 in the March 2026 quarter, which was a 2.3% increase from the previous quarter but a 5.3% fall from the same time in 2025.
- Meanwhile in Auckland, median weekly rents fell to \$635 per week, down 2.3% from both the previous quarter and the same period last year.

Source: MBIE

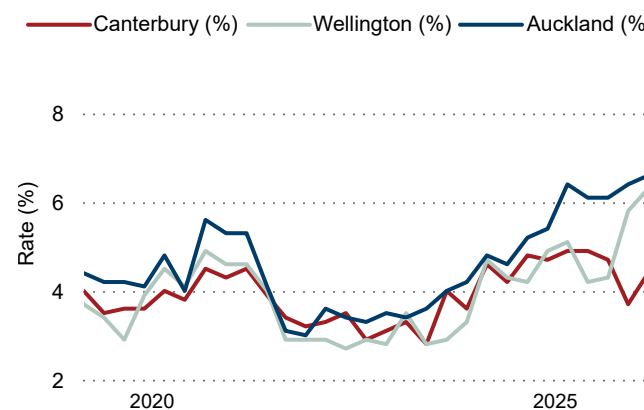
Jobs Online by Region (indexed to Dec. 2010)



- The number of **job vacancies** advertised online increased in all three major regions in the March 2026 quarter.
- Compared with a year earlier, online job ads were 19.0% higher in Canterbury, 12.4% higher in Wellington, and 4.6% higher in Auckland.
- However, activity remained below pre-COVID-19 levels. In Canterbury, online job ads were 8.8% lower than in the March 2019 quarter, while larger shortfalls were evident in Wellington and Auckland, where online job ads were 33.1% and 46.7% below pre-pandemic levels, respectively.

Source: MBIE

Unemployment Rate by Region (unadjusted)



- The unadjusted **unemployment rate** in Canterbury increased to 4.4% in the March 2026 quarter, up from 3.7% in the December 2025 quarter but below the 4.9% rate recorded in the March 2025 quarter.
- In the Wellington region, the unadjusted unemployment rate increased to 6.3% in the March 2026 quarter, up from 5.8% in the December 2025 quarter and 5.1% recorded in March 2025.
- Auckland also recorded a rise, with the unadjusted unemployment rate increasing to 6.6% in the March 2026 quarter, from the 6.4% rate recorded in both December 2025 and March 2025 quarters.

Source: Statistics NZ

Data sources

This report is based on data available as of 3 June 2026. Any subsequent revisions or updates to the underlying data will not be reflected in this report.

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 Zealand's data which are licensed by Statistics New Zealand for re-use under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand licence.*

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

ANZ: <https://www.anz.co.nz/about-us/economic-markets-research/>

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