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ANZ Proprietary data

Check out our latest releases below

- ANZ Business Outlook
- ANZ-Roy Morgan Consumer Confidence
- ANZ Truckometer
- ANZ Commodity Price Index
- ANZ NZ Merchant and Card Spending: June 2024

Key forecasts and rates

Our forecasts can be found on page 4.

Glossary

Confused by acronyms or jargon? See a glossary here.

OCR unchanged as RBNZ acknowledges the evolving risks

As universally expected, the RBNZ left the Official Cash Rate (OCR) unchanged at 5.50% at this week's Monetary Policy Review (MPR).

The tone of the Policy Assessment and Summary Record of Meeting covered all bases, with sticky inflation risks still warranting a mention (no surprises there), but the softer vibe of recent growth and inflation indicators also acknowledged. This wasn't a surprise, but perhaps got a little more airtime than we thought likely. In particular, it was the hint that the RBNZ may be close to reassessing their medium-term inflation outlook that got markets excited.

Indeed, markets took the MPR as a green light to price in earlier cuts than previously (see markets section), with the gap between the May MPS OCR forecast for cuts from August 2025 and current market pricing of around 12bp of cuts priced in for August 2024 picking up "Grand Canyon" status. All else equal, this represents an easing in financial conditions that the RBNZ may or may not deem appropriate, depending on how their economic outlook is evolving. And that's the million-dollar question: has the RBNZ already made wholesale changes to its medium-term forecasts behind the scenes? And if so, is it likely that these go far enough to pivot from signalling cuts in the second half of 2025 to the second half of 2024? That would be a mighty leap in a very short space of time, and with no hard data surprising on the dovish side of expectations to back it up (yet).

For our part, we certainly agree with the market that a downgrade to the RBNZ's medium-term outlook is likely, implying they will feel comfortable cutting considerably earlier than their most recent forecasts suggest. But we're not yet convinced that the RBNZ will be ready to start cutting as soon as current market pricing implies. The scale of the downgrade to the RBNZ's forecast would likely have to go a bit further than the soft data currently suggest to make that happen. And it's unlikely we'd see such a downgrade in a single forecast update without strong confirmation that sticky CPI inflation has been beaten. Next week's CPI will be key (see page 2).

We've maintained our OCR call for cuts from February 2025 for now, but acknowledge that risks skewed further towards a November kick-off this week. From here, it wouldn't take much to push us over the line to calling November, and we'll certainly be reassessing things after next week's CPI data – where not just the headline, but also the details will matter.

In other data this week, net migration figures showed a net inflow of just 1,400 people in May with around 2,000 people shaved off April's estimate, now 5,100. The average monthly inflow over the prior 12 months has been running closer to 8,000 people. At face value, these data suggest the migration cycle is turning faster than we and the RBNZ currently assume, but the volatile nature of these data, as well as their susceptibility to significant revisions, mean this is very difficult to diagnose in real time. However, when migration cycles do turn, they often do so abruptly, and the relative performance of the New Zealand and Australian economies certainly lends itself to that possibility. If the cycle is indeed turning faster, that lends itself to weaker activity and housing market outcomes than otherwise, but with ambiguous implications for CPI inflation. Stepping back, weak net migration, including surging New Zealand citizen departures, is certainly consistent with soft underlying economic momentum. But is that flowing through to CPI inflation yet? Cue next week's Q2 CPI...

Eq.

Looking ahead



NZ Economic News

ANZ's latest data releases, forecast updates and insights

- RBNZ MPR Review: watch this space
- NZ Property Focus: on ice
- NZ Agri Focus: brighter days ahead
- NZ GDP: kicking off 2024 with a tiny bounce
- NZ REINZ housing data: sluggish May
- NZ OCR Call Change First cut in February rather than May
- ANZecdotes June 2024
- NZ Insight: non-tradable inflation a waiting game
- NZ Property Focus: soggy and unaffordable
- NZ Budget 2024: fiscal reshuffle not a game-changer for the economic outlook
- RBNZ MPS Review: get back in your box
- NZ Economic Outlook: the ducks are lining up
- NZ labour market: softening
- NZ Property Focus: looking for a signal from Auckland
- NZ Agri Focus: high and dry
- NZ CPI Review: strong underbelly
- NZ Property Focus: buy vs rent
- NZ Insight: new Government, new fiscal strategy
- NZ Forecast Update: milk price revised up
- NZ Property Focus: cruel summer
- NZ Economic Outlook: calibrating the landing
- NZ Half-Year Update 2023
 Preview: new team, new game plan
- NZ Insight: house prices impacts from proposed DTI and LVR settings
- NZ Insight: labour market capacity indicators
- NZ Insight: what an oil price shock could mean for inflation

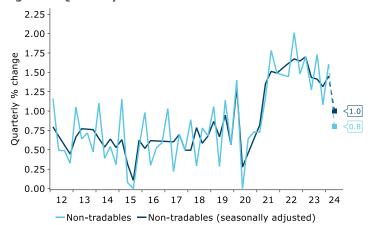
Click here for more.

Q2 CPI in focus

The Q2 CPI report will be released next Wednesday at 10:45am. We expect headline inflation rose 0.4% q/q, taking annual inflation down from 4.0% to 3.3%. Such an outcome would be below the RBNZ's May MPS forecast of 3.6% y/y, but it reflects weaker tradable inflation, particularly across volatile components such as food, fuel and airfares. We expect tradable inflation of -0.2% q/q (0.6% y/y), well below the RBNZ's May MPS forecast of 0.3% q/q (1.1% y/y). For non-tradable inflation, on which the RBNZ's attention has been fixed of late, we are forecasting a 0.8% q/q rise (5.3% y/y), in line with the RBNZ's May MPS forecast, with balanced risks.

The RBNZ has had four consecutive unwelcome upward surprises on non-tradable inflation since the last OCR hike in May 2023. If the data land as we expect, that will be reassuring for the RBNZ, and mark significant progress. It's worth thinking about what the RBNZ would make of a surprise in either direction. A downward surprise would likely be significant for signalling a shift in inflation risks, increasing the chance that the RBNZ's first OCR cuts comes earlier than our current forecast for February 2025. However, that will likely need to be supported by dovish signals in upcoming Q2 labour market and GDP data. An upward surprise, on the other hand, would likely have a limited impact on the RBNZ's view, given this week's Monetary Policy Review highlighted growing confidence in the medium-term inflation outlook.

Figure 2. Quarterly non-tradable inflation



Source: Stats NZ, Macrobond, ANZ Research

The domestic dataflow has been weak for some time now, and the most recent data has taken a further turn south. The NZIER's Q2 Quarterly Survey of Business Opinion indicated that the transmission of weak demand and rising spare capacity across the economy into lower inflation outcomes is now occurring. Cost and pricing indicators dropped sharply, a similar theme to our own June Business Outlook survey (only more pronounced). Both surveys also indicate a rapid downward adjustment in wage inflation in response to rising spare capacity in the labour market. These data signal that domestic disinflation progress is on the cusp of accelerating. That might not be fully reflected in next week's CPI report, but there is a growing body of evidence pointing to lower domestic inflation outcomes moving forward.

All up, we don't expect next week's data to give the green light to imminent OCR cuts. For the RBNZ to be in a position to ease, it will need to see the disinflationary dynamics evident in recent 'soft' data (surveys and anecdotes) flowing through into the CPI, though the upcoming Q2 labour market and GDP reports will be key as well. But the report should confirm that the return to the 1-3% target band is highly likely to occur in Q3. That will be a significant milestone, though it won't be known with certainty until 17 October, a week after the October Monetary Policy Review.



Financial markets update



1	
Date	Data/event
Mon 15 Jul	Performance
(10:30am)	Services Index – Jun
Wed 17 Jul	Global Dairy Trade
(early am)	auction
Wed 17 Jul (10:45am)	CPI – Q2
Mon 22 Jul	Merchandise Trade -
(10:45am)	Jun
Fri 26 Jul	ANZ-RM Consumer
(10:00am)	Confidence - Jul
Mon 29 Jul	Employment
(10:45am)	Indicators – Jun
Wed 31 Jul	Building Permits -
(10:45am	Jun
Wed 31 Jul	ANZ Business
(1:00pm)	Outlook – Jul
Mon 5 Aug	ANZ Commodity
(1:00pm)	Price Index – Jul
Wed 7 Aug	Global Dairy Trade
(early am)	auction
Wed 7 Aug	Labour Market -
(10:45am)	Q2
Thu 8 Aug	RBNZ 2Yr Inflation
(3:00pm)	Expectations – Q3
Tue 13 Aug (10:45am)	Net Migration – Jun
Wed 14 Aug	RBNZ MPS
(2:00pm)	
Thu 15 Aug	Selected Price Indexes – Jul
(10:45am)	Electronic Card
Thu 15 Aug (10:45am)	Transactions – Jul
Fri 16 Aug	BusinessNZ Manuf
(10:45am)	PMI – Jul
Mon 19 Aug	Performance
(10:30am)	Services Index - Jul
Tue 20 Aug	Merchandise Trade -
(10:45am)	rici citattaise traac
(10.730111)	Jul
Wed 21 Aug	
Wed 21 Aug (early am)	Jul
Wed 21 Aug (early am) Fri 23 Aug	Jul Global Dairy Trade auction
Wed 21 Aug (early am) Fri 23 Aug (10:45am)	Jul Global Dairy Trade auction Retail Sales – Q2
Wed 21 Aug (early am) Fri 23 Aug (10:45am) Wed 28 Aug	Jul Global Dairy Trade auction Retail Sales – Q2 Employment
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Interest rate markets

This week was all about the MPR, which drove short-end rates sharply lower as markets latched onto dovish elements of what the RBNZ said. While that was understandable given the dim view markets have of the macroeconomic outlook, and how eager they have been to embrace early OCR cuts and ignore hawkish messaging, the onus is still on the data to determine exactly when cuts are delivered. It's also worth noting that markets had already reacted to soft data like last week's NZIER QSBO, and all the RBNZ did was acknowledge it. But be that as it may, history has shown time and time again that markets just won't wait. So, even if there is scope for disappointment in either how the data pans out or how the RBNZ reacts to it, and the cuts that are priced in look extreme, meaningful back-ups in short-end rates seem unlikely. Markets may ultimately be disappointed, but that won't change forward expectations. Long-end rates are lower but have lagged the short end, as one would expect given relative stability in global rates, and global fiscal sustainability fears.

FX markets

Lower interest rates have shunted the Kiwi into lower trading ranges, as one would expect given the magnitude of the moves. As significant as that the market reaction was (which in our view rather outshone the significance of what the RBNZ actually said), US June CPI data out last night were a timely reminder that global factors remain important. How USD sentiment pans out will be as important for FX markets as local factors as the Fed inches closer to delivering their own rate cuts. NZD/AUD also moved sharply lower this week, finally breaking below 0.9090 (1.10 AUD/NZD) and looks to have moved into a new range too. We expect this cross to be much more sensitive to relative policy expectations than NZD/USD given the divergent paths the two economies seem to be taking, and other factors (politics and the like) that complicate the USD outlook but aren't a factor for the AUD or the NZD.

Key data summary

Net Migration – May. Surging departures saw the monthly net inflow come in at just 1,400 people. In annual terms, we're now well past the peak.

RBNZ OCR Review – July. The RBNZ left the OCR at 5.50% but acknowledged evolving risks. See our Review.

ANZ Truckometer – June. The Light Traffic Index (LTI) fell 2.2% m/m in June, while the Heavy Traffic Index (HTI) fell a sharp 5.2% m/m on top of a fall in May.

Selected Price Indexes – June. Slightly stronger food prices were offset by weakness across accommodation and fuel prices.

Manufacturing PMI – June. Plummeted to 41.1, tentatively dashing hopes that the slowdown is approaching a floor. At face value, today's data suggests the opposite.

Electronic Card Transactions – June. Retail spending fell 0.6% m/m, to be down 4.9% y/y.

The week ahead

Performance Services Index – June (Monday 15 July, 10:30am).Services momentum tends to lag goods-producing industries, and momentum in the PMI suggests services will remain soft for a while yet.

GlobalDairyTrade auction (Wednesday 17 July, early am). Futures point to another decline in the GDT index of around 3%.

CPI – Q2 (Wednesday 17 July, 10.45am). We expect headline inflation rose 0.4% g/g, taking annual inflation to 3.3% y/y. See our Preview.



Key forecasts and rates

		Actual	Actual Forecast (end mo						
FX rates	May-24	Jun-24	Today	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25
NZD/USD	0.614	0.609	0.609	0.610	0.620	0.620	0.620	0.630	0.630
NZD/AUD	0.923	0.913	0.900	0.910	0.899	0.886	0.886	0.887	0.887
NZD/EUR	0.566	0.569	0.560	0.560	0.564	0.554	0.544	0.543	0.534
NZD/JPY	96.6	98.0	96.9	91.5	91.8	89.3	88.0	88.2	85.7
NZD/GBP	0.482	0.482	0.471	0.477	0.477	0.470	0.459	0.463	0.463
NZ\$ TWI	72.3	71.9	71.5	71.2	71.5	70.8	70.3	70.9	70.5
Interest rates	May-24	Jun-24	Today	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25
NZ OCR	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.50	5.25	4.75	4.25	3.75
NZ 90 day bill	5.63	5.63	5.55	5.52	5.40	4.93	4.43	3.93	3.68
NZ 2-yr swap	5.10	4.96	4.49	4.59	4.23	3.90	3.71	3.63	3.60
NZ 10-yr bond	4.81	4.67	4.51	4.50	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.50

Economic forecasts

	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25	Dec-25	Mar-26	
GDP (% qoq)	0.2	-0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.6	
GDP (% yoy)	0.3	-0.3	0.2	0.5	0.6	1.1	1.4	1.8	2.1	
CPI (% qoq)	0.6	0.4	- Under review							
CPI (% yoy)	4.0	3.3								
Employment (% qoq)	-0.2	-0.1	-0.3	-0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	
Employment (% yoy)	1.3	0.1	-0.2	-0.7	-0.5	-0.3	0.2	0.6	1.0	
Unemployment Rate (% sa)	4.3	4.6	4.9	5.1	5.2	5.4	5.4	5.5	5.4	

Figures in bold are forecasts. mom: Month-on-Month; qoq: Quarter-on-Quarter; yoy: Year-on-Year. Click here for full ANZ forecasts

Figure 3. GDP level

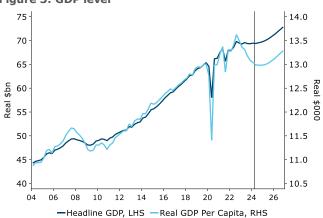


Figure 4. CPI inflation measures

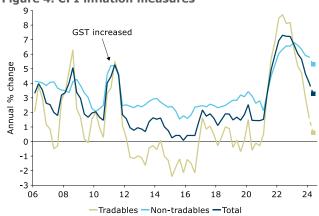
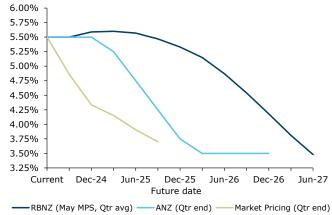
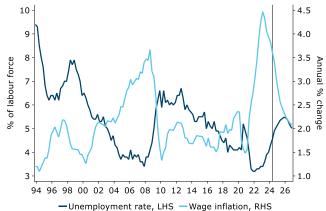


Figure 5. OCR forecast



Source: Stats NZ, Bloomberg, RBNZ, Macrobond, ANZ Research

Figure 6. Unemployment and wage inflation





Contact us

Meet the team

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