



DENTONS

About New Zealand

August 2025

Key points about New Zealand

Geography

New Zealand is a small country, made up of two main islands, with a total land area of 268,021 square kilometres. It is similar in size to Japan or Britain and has a population of 5.4 million.¹ The official languages are English, Māori and New Zealand sign language. Wellington is the capital city, while Auckland is the most populous.

Political and legal system

New Zealand has a common law system inherited from England. The system is similar to that found in many British Commonwealth countries and comprises of statute law made by Parliament, supplemented by a collection of common law or case law made by the courts.

The New Zealand Court system has four tiers: District Court: High Court: Court of Appeal and Supreme Court. In addition to the Courts, New Zealand has a large number of specialist tribunals and bodies.

Court System



Supreme Court

Court of Appeal

High Court

District Court

Economy

Due to its geographic location and the size of its population, New Zealand is a trade dependent economy, is reliant on Foreign Direct Investment and is a big proponent of a free and open market. Around 50% of its economic activity is made up from international trade.²

The currency is based on the New Zealand dollar, which is freely floated against all major currencies.

The major industries are agriculture (pastoral farming), horticulture and tourism. On a global scale New Zealand is the 12th largest agriculture exporter by value, the 2nd largest dairy exporter by value, the biggest sheep meat exporter and second biggest wool exporter. Other major industries include forestry, natural resources and fishing.²

Free trade agreements

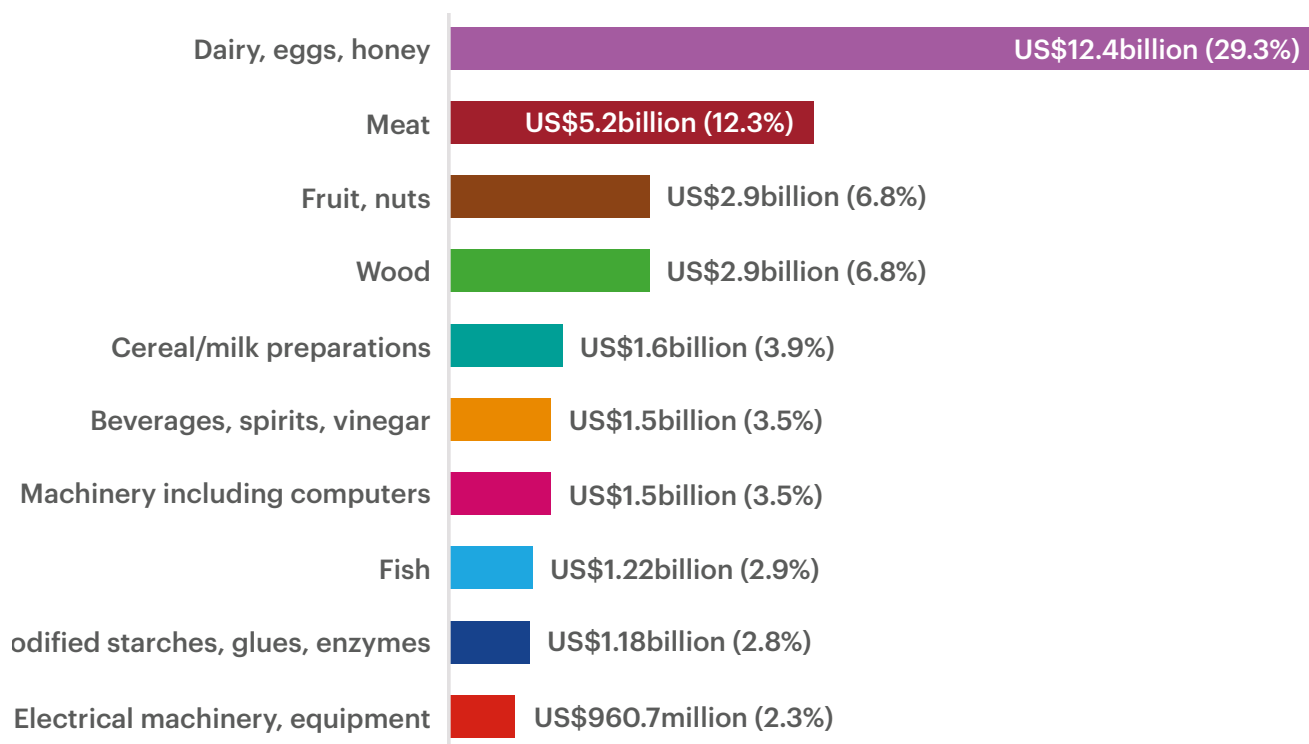
The New Zealand economy depends on trade and is a strong advocate for free trade and the regional and international institutions that support it. New Zealand is party to a large number of free trade agreements, including with Australia, China, the EU, the UK, Hong Kong, Chinese Taipei, South Korea, ASEAN, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Brunei and Chile. New Zealand is also signatories to the Comprehensive and Progressive TransPacific Partnership (CPTPP) and to the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

Information on New Zealand's international trading agreements can be found on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade website: www.mfat.govt.nz.

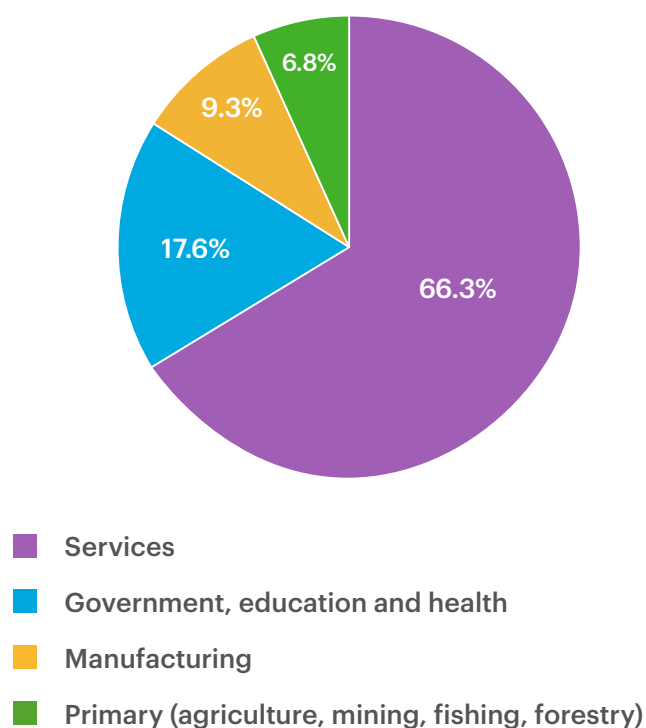
¹ [Population | Stats NZ.](#)

² [New Zealand - Trade \(% Of GDP\) - 2025 Data 2026 Forecast 1970-2023 Historical.](#)

New Zealand's Top 10 Exports in 2022³



New Zealand Sectors by GDP (2024)⁴



³ World's Top Exports.

⁴ The New Zealand Sectors Dashboard.

Vital statistics



Population

5.4 million



Area

268,021km²



GDP

NZ\$425 billion

As at December 2024

Current business landscape



1st

most prosperous
country outside
of Europe⁵



1st

in the world for ease
of doing business⁶



NZ\$14.01 billion
of investment deals
in our pipeline⁷



4th

in the world
for corruption
transparency⁸



437

deals completed
in the last five years⁹

⁵ Legatum Prosperity Index (2023).

⁶ World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index (2020).

⁷ Annual Report, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (2023/2024).

⁸ Transparency International Corruptions Perceptions Index (2024).

⁹ Annual Report, New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (2020/2024).

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