New Zealand is an island country located in the southwestern Pacific Ocean comprising two main landmasses (the North Island and the South Island) and numerous smaller islands. The geography of New Zealand is highly varied, from snowcapped mountains to lowland plains. The government system is a parliamentary democracy and a Commonwealth realm; the chief of state is the queen of the United Kingdom, and the head of government is the prime minister. New Zealand has a free market economy in which the prices of goods and services are determined in a free price system. New Zealand is a member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP).

**Location:** Oceania  
**Capital City:** Wellington (+12 GMT)  
**Chief of State:** Queen Elizabeth II represented by Governor General Dame Patricia Lee Reddy  
**Head of Govt.:** Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern  
**Currency:** New Zealand dollar (NZD)  
**Major Languages:** English (de facto official) 89.8%, Maori (de jure official) 3.5%, Samoan 2%, Hindi 1.6%, French 1.2%, Northern Chinese 1.2%, Yue 1%, Other or not stated 20.5%  
**Primary Religions:** Christian 44.3% (Catholic 11.6%, Anglican 10.8%, Presbyterian and Congregational 7.8%, Methodist, 2.4%, Pentecostal 1.8%, other 9.9%), Hindu 2.1%, Buddhist 1.4%, Maori Christian 1.3%, Islam 1.1%, other religion 1.4% (includes Judaism, Spirituality and New Age religions, Bahá'í#39;). Asian religions other than Buddhism, no religion 38.5%, not stated or unidentified 12.3%  
**Calling Code:** 64  
**Voltage:** 230

**Key Websites**  
- **Main Government Page:** govt.nz  
- **Commerce Ministry:** mbie.govt.nz  
- **Export Promotion Agency:** nzte.govt.nz  

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**New Zealand**

**Introduction**

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**Key Economic Facts**

- **Income Level (by per capita GNI):** High Income  
- **Level of Development:** Developed  
- **GDP, PPP (current international $):** $200.43 billion (2018)  
- **GDP growth (annual %):** 2.78% (2018)  
- **GDP per capita, PPP (current international $):** $41,025.64 (2018)  
- **Manufacturing, value added (% of GDP):** 10.00% (2016)  
- **Current account balance (BoP, current US$):** -$7.55 billion (2018)  
- **Inflation, consumer prices (annual %):** 1.60% (2018)  
- **Labor force, total:** 2,747,536 (2018)  
- **Unemployment, total (% of total labor force) (modeled ILO estimate):** 4.52% (2018)  
- **Imports of goods and services (current US$):** $54.05 billion (2017)  
- **Exports of goods and services (current US$):** $55.85 billion (2017)

**GDP Composition %**

- **Agriculture:** 7  
- **Services:** 66  
- **Industry:** 19  
- **Manufacturing:** 10

*Although Manufacturing is included in the Industry figures, it is also separately reported because it plays a critical role in economy.

**Rankings**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Index</th>
<th>Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Corruption Perceptions Index</td>
<td>1/178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EY Globalization Index</td>
<td>21/60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Competitiveness Index</td>
<td>18/139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Enabling Trade Index</td>
<td>18/136</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Services Location Index</td>
<td>52/55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index of Economic Freedom</td>
<td>3/179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Logistics Performance Index</td>
<td>15/160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inward FDI Potential Index</td>
<td>35/139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KOF Index of Globalization</td>
<td>30/185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networked Readiness Index (NRI)</td>
<td>17/139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Budget Index</td>
<td>1/115</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Strengths**

- Proximity to Asia and Australia
- Touristic appeal
- Large and competitive agricultural sector
- Balanced public accounts; contained public debt
- Dynamic demographics thanks to immigration
- Quality of life

**Weaknesses**

- Dependency on foreign investment
- High household and corporate debt levels (particularly in agriculture)
- Reliance on Chinese demand
- Shortages of skilled labor
- Housing shortage and housing price surge (+60% since 2008)
- Lack of R&D
- Insularity

**U.S. Embassy**

U.S. Embassy Wellington  
29 Fitzherbert Terrace  
Thorndon  
Wellington  
New Zealand  
Phone: +64 4 462 6000  
https://nz.usembassy.gov

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**Risk Assessment (Provided by Coface)**

**Country rating:** A2 - The political and economic situation is good. A basically stable and efficient business environment nonetheless leaves room for improvement. Corporate default probability is low on average.

**Business Climate rating:** A1 - The business environment is very good. Corporate financial information is available and reliable. Debt collection is efficient. Institutional quality is very good. Intercompany transactions run smoothly in environments rated A1.

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