Tourism data factsheet: COVID-19 response

This data compiles a range of sources to assist planning and decision-making around COVID-19.
Sources used in this factsheet include data from Customs NZ and Immigration NZ.

Many of these data sources are provisional, indicative or early estimates, and may not align with officially released data. The data is released much earlier than usual, for the purposes of COVID-19 planning, and often doesn't have the level of checking, validation and adjustment required for official statistics. Therefore, they are likely to change, and should not be directly compared with official statistics. Please treat these numbers as they should be treated –as early indicators of potential impacts, and not definitive results.
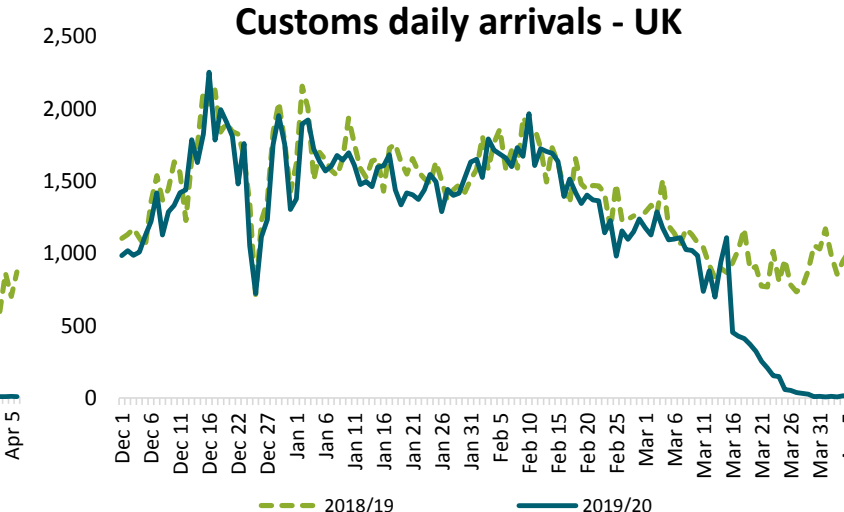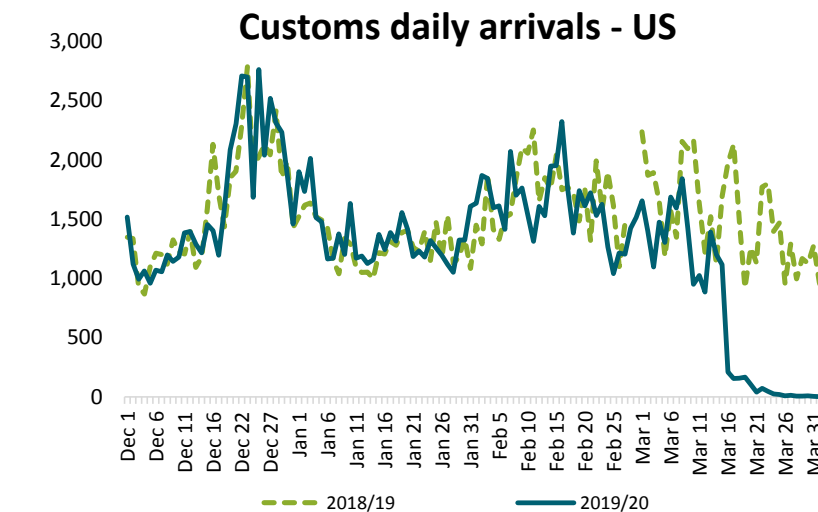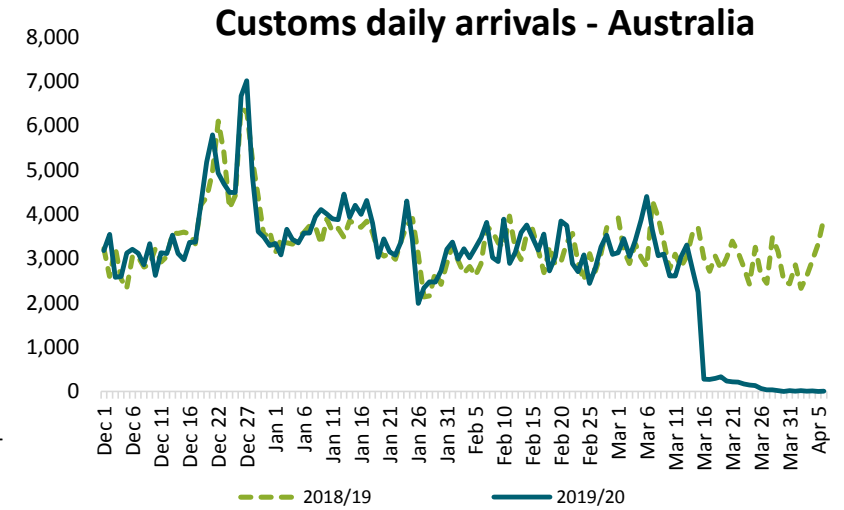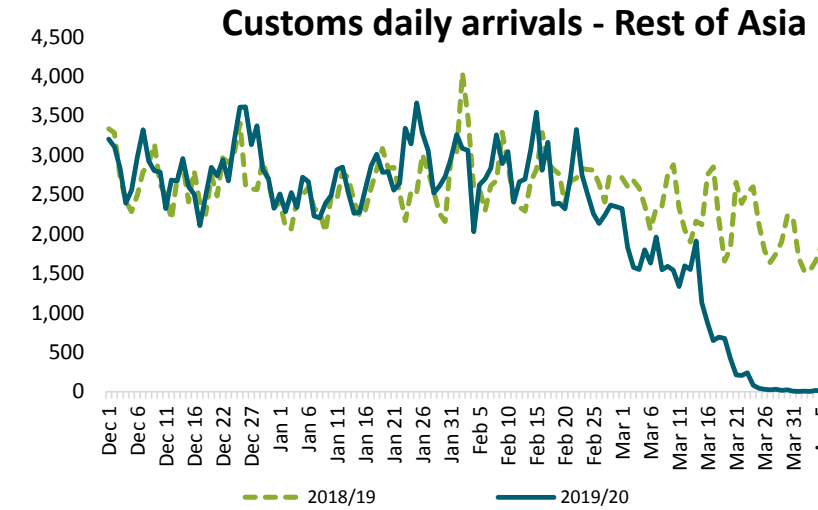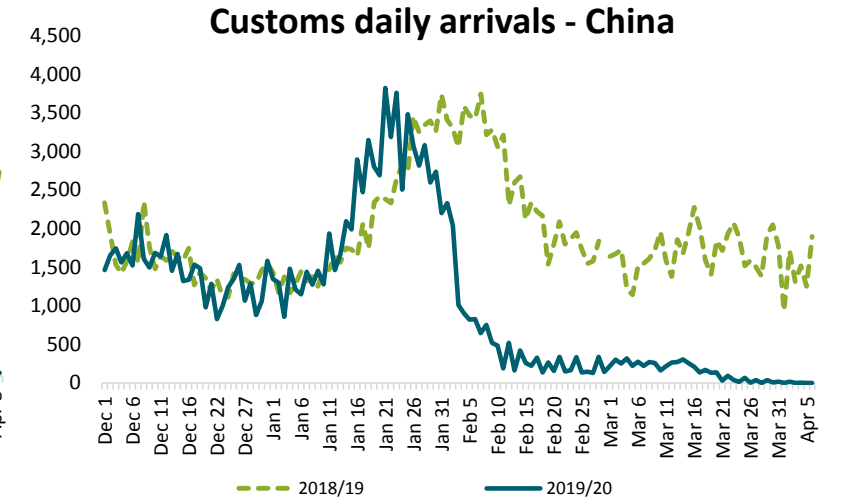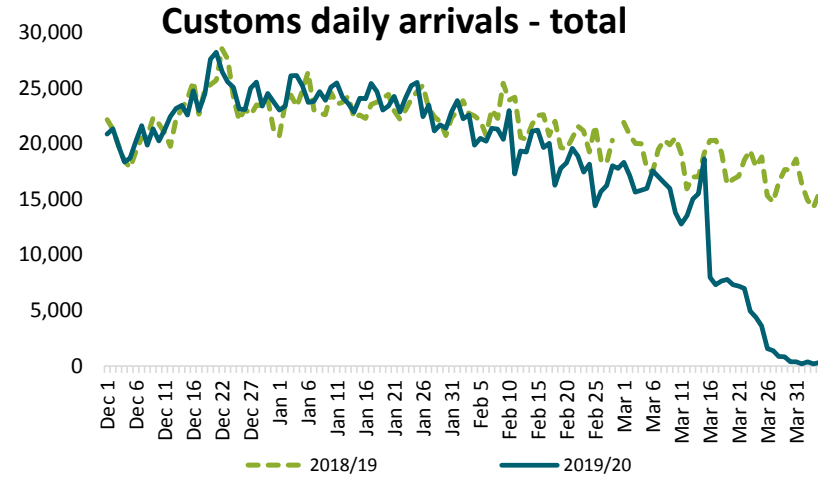
Customs visitor arrivals

Caveats: These are raw counts of arrivals of commercial air passengers based on Customs craft arrival data using passport information. It may be amended at any time.

- Customs arrivals data are available up to 6 April 2020.

- Following the lockdown, visitor arrivals have slowed towards a stop. 83% of all arrivals are for New Zealand residents. We assume that most other arrivals picked up as "visitors" on the week ended 6st of April are New Zealand residents returning home on foreign passports.

Nationality	Arrivals (week ended April 6)	Same week previous year	% change
Total	1,842	113,829	-98%
New Zealand	1,524	42,318	-96%
Australia	67	20,391	-100%
UK	63	7,086	-99%
Rest of Asia	64	12,477	-99%
China	29	10,409	-100%
US	14	6,700	-100%

Source: Customs NZ

Customs daily arrivals - total

Customs daily arrivals - China

Customs daily arrivals - Rest of Asia

Customs daily arrivals - Australia

Customs daily arrivals - US
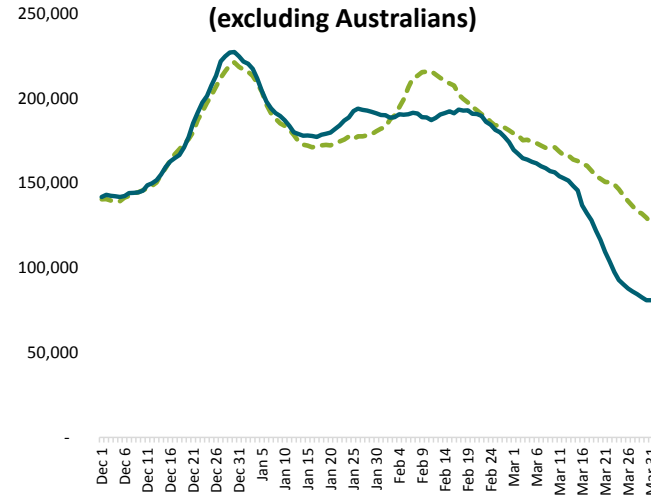

Customs daily arrivals - UK
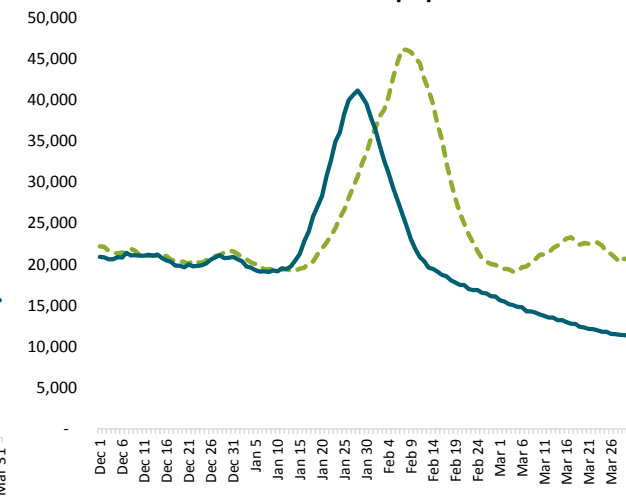
Immigration NZ data

Visitor population in New Zealand

- Immigration NZ can identify, for visitor visa holders (or visa waiver holders), how many are in the country at any given time. Latest data is for March 30, 2020.

- On March 30, there were 81,000 visitors in New Zealand. There were 12,000 Indian, 11,300 Chinese, and 10,400 UK visitors.

- There are significantly different results shown by market. The Chinese slow reduction suggests that many visitors are staying in New Zealand (probably with friends and family). Data shows that the average length of stay of Chinese visitors is increasing markedly.

- A more rapid fall is seen in the South Korea visitor population. India has seen much growth over last year, suggesting a high number of people staying longer with friends and family.

- Looking at all visa types, there were 321,700 visa holders in the country on 30 March, with 82,200 student visa holders, 62,600 essential skills work visas, 48,400 family visas and 36,700 working holiday visas.
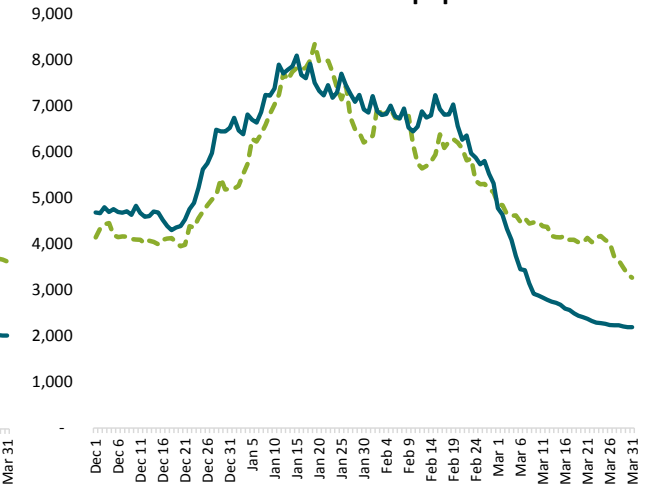
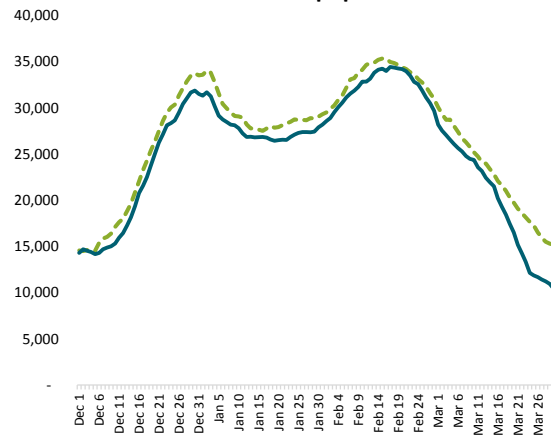**Total visitor population in New Zealand (excluding Australians)**
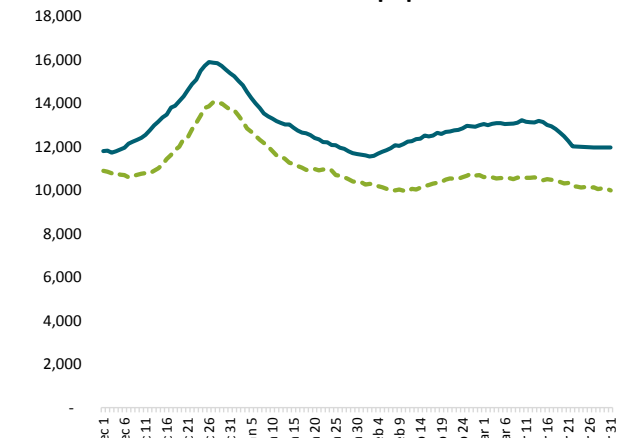
China visitor population

South Korea visitor population

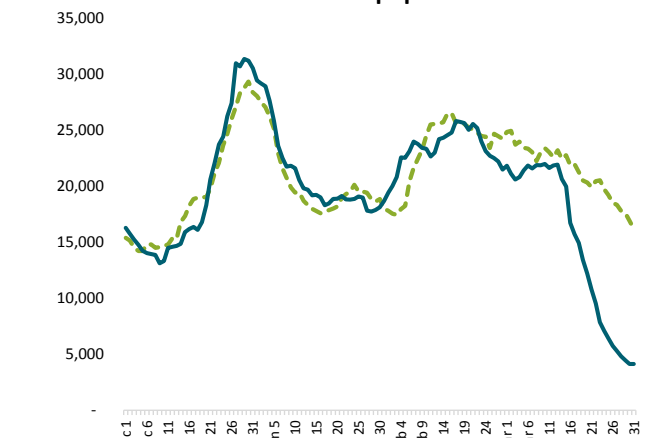--- 2018/19   —— 2019/20

UK visitor population

India visitor population

US visitor population

--- 2018/19   —— 2019/20

Visitors currently in New Zealand

Nationality	Visitor visa holders in NZ, March 30, 2019	Visitor visa holders in NZ, March 30, 2020	% difference
India	10,100	12,000	19%
China	20,600	11,300	-45%
Great Britain	15,200	10,400	-32%
Germany	8,600	7,100	-17%
United States of America	16,900	4,100	-76%
South Africa	3,100	3,600	16%
France	4,500	3,200	-29%
South Korea	3,300	2,200	-33%
Canada	4,800	1,000	-79%
Japan	4,300	600	-86%
Other	38,300	25,500	-33%
Total	**129,700**	**81,000**	**-38%**

Source: Immigration NZ

All visa types in New Zealand

Visa type	30-Mar-19	30-Mar-20	% of total (2020)
Essential Skills	52,500	62,600	19%
Family	43,600	48,400	15%
Student (student visas + exchange students +dependant students	84,400	82,200	26%
Recognised Seasonal Employer	10,400	10,800	3%
Working Holiday Scheme	43,500	36,700	11%
Visitors	129,700	81,000	25%
Total	364,100	321,700	100%

Source: Immigration NZ.

Source: Immigration NZ

Caveats: Numbers exclude Australians, who are treated similar to New Zealand residents at the border. Other countries, including visa waiver countries, are included in these numbers.

NB: There is some significant changes to the estimates of visitor population from the previously published data. This is due to an improvement in the methodology that included some visitors that had previously been excluded. Though we do not expect any further changes to the method going forward, because this is an experimental series the numbers should be treated as indicative, rather than definitive.

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