

Hobbiton, Matamata

# In this issue

Fixed vs floating	2
The week ahead	3
Data calendar	6
New Zealand forecasts	7
International forecasts	8

# A new tack

For some time the big story in the world of economics has been plunging global oil prices, the soft global economy, and the resulting low rate of inflation. Last week the Reserve Bank of New Zealand had its opportunity to pass judgement on the situation.

The RBNZ opted to omit any bias towards hiking the OCR, and instead issued deadpan neutral guidance on future OCR moves, with the following paragraph:

"In the current circumstances, we expect to keep the OCR on hold for some time. Future interest rate adjustments, either up or down, will depend on the emerging flow of economic data."

The Reserve Bank's inclusion of the possibility that the next move in the OCR could be down was very significant to markets. Central banks around the world have been easing monetary policy, and financial markets have been looking for signs that the RBNZ might join the club. This week's OCR review was taken as encouragement by those looking for cuts – market pricing now implies around 20 basis points of OCR cuts this year, which is equivalent to a 40% chance of two OCR cuts at some point during the year.

In our view OCR cuts this year are not the most likely outcome, but they are possible. One plausible catalyst for OCR cuts is recent dry weather morphing into a full-blown drought – and last week we took a significant step further in that direction.

Not only was the weather relentlessly hot and dry, but Fonterra also downgraded its forecast of milk production for the 2014/15 season to be 3.3% lower than the previous season. To fully appreciate what this means, one must remember that production was up 3.7% on year ago levels over the first seven months of the season (Jun-Dec). So Fonterra's forecast implies that production over the remaining five months (Jan-May) will be down 13.4% on last year. Fonterra notes that on a daily basis, milk collection is already running 6% below year-ago levels.

The trouble is that the low expected payout for the current season has given farmers little incentive to invest in supplementary feed, leaving them reliant on rainfall to



# A new tack continued

support grass growth and milk production. Consequently, dry weather this year will have a much greater impact on milk production than the 2010 drought, which led to a 2% drop in Fonterra's production over that season, and will be more akin to 2008 when milk production fell 4.3% over the season.

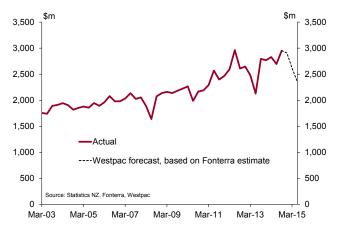
Judging by those two previous events, the current dry spell is likely to take a significant chunk out of total GDP growth over the first half of this year. Given the positive momentum in the rest of the economy, especially in construction, we don't expect this to result in a recession (i.e. two quarters of negative growth), but GDP growth is likely to be very low over the coming two quarters.

Lower milk production in New Zealand is also likely to put upward pressure on global milk prices, above and beyond the pickup from very low levels that we were already anticipating. New Zealand is the world's biggest exporter of dairy products, so any disruption to supply from here can have a significant impact on the global market. Indeed, the last few droughts in New Zealand saw world dairy prices soar to record highs, as the rest of the world was unable to compensate by increasing their own production.

The supply situation is not as stretched this time around - milk production in the Northern Hemisphere has grown strongly over the last year, and Russia's ban on imports from several Western countries has put a substantial amount of product back on the world market. But that only argues against prices returning to record highs; it doesn't negate the point that prices rise when supply falls short of expectations. The drought has probably come too late to make a significant difference to this season's milk price (we're forecasting \$4.80/kg; Fonterra expects \$4.70/kg), but our forecast of an about-average milk price of \$6.20/kg for next season will need to be revised higher.

With the news all heading one way, this week the two-year swap rate has dropped below 3.6%, compared to 3.85% a month ago. It is obvious that fixed mortgage rates will fall in the near future, and that leaves us very comfortable with our call that the housing market will heat up further over 2015 – especially considering the magnitude of the population boom New Zealand is experiencing. Last week's data showed that seasonally net immigration for December was 4,100, down from 5,000 in November. However, the dip in arrivals was entirely concentrated among students, who

#### Milk production, seasonally adjusted



tend not to arrive in December. This smells to us like a failure of the seasonal adjustment algorithm to isolate the trend in student arrivals, rather than a genuine slowdown in net immigration. We continue to expect annual net immigration to reach 60,000 at some point this year.

And thus the two-speed economy conundrum will deepen. The tension between urban homeowners' delight and the challenge faced by the rural population is set to become very intense during 2015. And that will lump the Reserve Bank with very difficult policy choices. We suspect that the end-game will have to be a tightening of the Reserve Bank's restrictions on mortgage lending at some point later this year, with the OCR remaining low or even heading lower.

Intriguingly, the Reserve Bank has taken the unusual step of calling a press conference prior to a speech that will be delivered on Wednesday this week, without any announcement of the speech title or the topic of the press conference. This may simply be a clarification of the new stance of monetary policy, or an articulation of the conditions under which the OCR might rise or fall. Alternatively, we might be treated to a major policy announcement, perhaps concerning some new restriction on mortgage lending. Either way, this will be a very important event for markets.

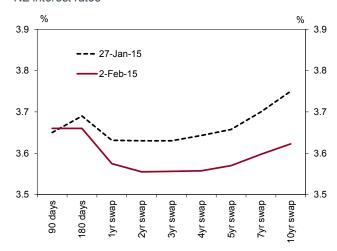
# Fixed vs Floating for mortgages

Among the current standard fixed rates, the best value for borrowers with a deposit of 20% or more probably lies in the two-year and three-year terms. However, there is a possibility that fixed mortgage rates will fall even further over the weeks ahead. Waiting a while before fixing might offer even better value.

Four- and five-year rates seem high relative to where we think shorter-term rates are going to go over the coming four or five years, though they do offer stability.

Floating mortgage rates usually work out to be more expensive for borrowers than short-term fixed rates, such as the six-month rate. However, floating may still be the preferred option for those who require flexibility in their repayments.

### NZ interest rates





# The week ahead

#### Wednesday 4 February, 1:00pm

#### Reserve Bank of New Zealand Speech

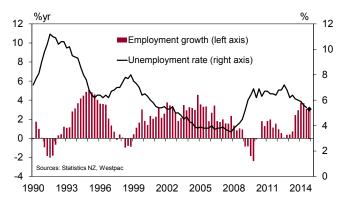
- The Governor's speech to the Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce is an annual event, and is often seminal.
- This year the RBNZ has taken the unprecedented step of calling an embargoed press lockup an hour before the speech starts.
   Furthermore, the Governor will be taking no questions after the speech has finished. The RBNZ obviously has something very important to say, and the content is going to be market sensitive.
- We speculate that the RBNZ either wants to clarify the new stance of monetary policy and set out the conditions for an OCR cut, or that it is going to make a major policy announcement concerning new macroprudential restrictions on mortgage lending.

#### NZ Q4 household labour force survey

Feb 4, Employment: Last: 0.8%, WBC f/c: 0.9%, Mkt f/c: 0.8% Unemployment rate: Last: 5.4%, WBC f/c: 5.3%, Mkt f/c: 5.3%

- With the economy growing at a healthy pace, we're expecting the Household Labour Force Survey to show that employment increased by 0.9% in the September quarter, to be up 3.1% for the year.
- The unemployment rate is projected to fall to 5.3% in December (down from 5.4% in September). Robust domestic economic activity has encouraged more people to enter the labour market. This has pushed the labour force participation rate to historically high levels (we're projecting a participation rate of 69.2% in December), which has limited the decline in the unemployment rate.

#### Household Labour Force Survey



#### NZ Q4 labour cost index

### Feb 4, Private sector wages: Last: 0.5%, WBC f/c: 0.5%, Mkt f/c: 0.6%

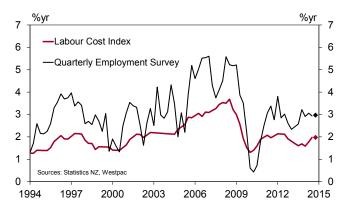
- We're expecting December's Labour Cost Index to show that private sector ordinary time wages rose by only 1.7% over the past year. This is despite continued improvements in labour demand.
- Dampening wage inflation in recent years has been subdued consumer prices inflation, which has meant that cost of living adjustments to wages have been limited.
- With consumer price inflation expected to fall to low levels over 2015, any material pick-up in wage inflation is likely to be some way off.

### Aus Dec dwelling approvals

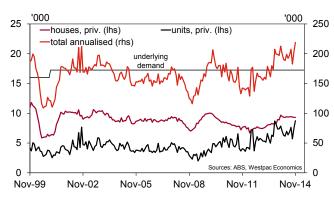
Feb 3 Last: 7.5%, WBC f/c: -5.0% Mkt f/c: -5.0%, Range: -10.0% to 4.0%

- Dwelling approvals spiked in Nov, led by a jump in high rise units.
   With other segments also holding at relatively high levels, total seasonally adjusted approvals hit an all-time monthly record of 18.2k, a rollicking annual pace of 220k.
- As positive as that is, most of the Nov rise looks to be a one-off jump relating to Lend Lease's \$1.5bn Batman's Hill redevelopment in Melbourne. This will clearly reverse in Dec. Buyer sentiment has cooled notably since the start of 2014 and construction-related finance approvals suggest activity may be starting to level out, although investor activity remains strong. On balance we expect approvals to fall back 5% in Dec, mainly on the reversing one-off boost. Seasonal adjustment adds a wildcard to estimates at this time of year as well.

#### LCI and QES wages



## Dwelling approvals





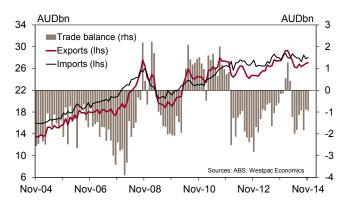
# The week ahead

#### Aus Dec trade balance, AUDbn

Feb 3, Last: -0.9, WBC f/c: -1.0 Mkt f/c: -0.85, Range: -1.5 to -0.1

- Australia's international trade account is set to remain in deficit for a 9th consecutive month in December. We anticipate little change in the deficit, widening a fraction to \$1.0bn from \$0.9bn in November.
- Total imports of goods and services are expected to declined by 0.8%, with the ABS advising that goods fell by 1.1%, led lower by intermediate goods
- Note the AUD slumped in the month, down 4.6% against the USD and 3.4% on a TWI basis, which acts to increase the cost of imports and to boost AUD export earnings.
- Export earnings are also expected to decline, down 1.2%, a fall of around \$300mn. Weakness is likely to be apparent in metal ores (predominantly iron ore) and fuel, reflecting lower prices.

#### Australia's trade balance: -\$925mn in November

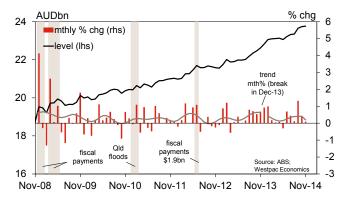


#### Aus Dec retail trade

Feb 5, Last: 0.1%, WBC f/c: -0.1% Mkt f/c: 0.3%, Range: -0.1% to 0.7%

- Retail sales rose 0.1% in Nov building on a strong gain over the previous two months – the cumulative 1.8% rise over the three month to Nov on a par with that seen over the previous seven. Much of this surge has centred on 'electrical & electronic goods retailing' where the launch of the iPhone 6 has produced an impressive 11% jump over the 3mths. Other retail categories recorded a more moderate 1.2% gain over the same period.
- While the surge in electrical & electronic goods retailing has been sustained longer than expected, sales in this sub-category are likely to normalise in coming months. Conditions more generally have been quite mixed: consumer sentiment fell sharply in Dec with the 'Sydney seige' an added disruption mid-month. Business surveys reported improved retail conditions in the month. On balance, we expect total sales to dip 0.1% with a fall-back in electronic sales offset by modest gains elsewhere.

#### Monthly retail sales

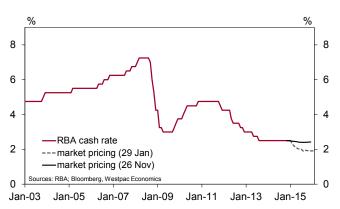


#### Aus RBA policy decision

Feb 3, Last: 2.50%, WBC f/c: 2.25% Mkt f/c: 2.50%, Range: 2.25% to 2.50%

- The RBA is expected to cut the cash rate by 25bps at its Feb meeting with a follow-up 25bp reduction in Mar taking the rate to 2%.
- The Bank left the cash rate unchanged at its Dec meeting, retaining its guidance that "... the most prudent course was likely to be a period of stability in interest rates". However, much has changed since then. A disappointingly weak Q3 national accounts update, a further sharp slide in Australia's commodity prices and a sharp drop in confidence argue strongly in our view for additional policy stimulus. With a sufficiently subdued Q4 inflation report allowing some scope for additional easing, we expect a 25bp rate cut at the RBA's Feb 3 meeting. The Statement on Monetary Policy released three days later will provide a 'full explanation' for the move and the Bank's (downwardly) revised growth and inflation forecasts.

#### RBA cash rate

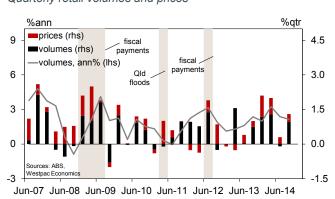


#### Aus Q4 real retail sales

Feb 5, Last: 1.0%, WBC f/c: 0.8% Mkt f/c: 1.0%, Range: 0.7% to 1.6%

- Real retail sales rose 1% in Q3, a strong rebound from a 0.1% dip in Q2 and keeping annual growth in the 2-2.5% range.
- With nominal sales on track for a robust 1.3%qtr gain in Q4 and the
  detail from the Q4 CPI suggesting retail prices up about 0.5%qtr, real
  retail sales should post a solid 0.8% gain for Q4. Note that some of
  this is the aforementioned surge in iPhone sales, a temporary positive
  that will reverse in Q1.
- The retail survey has become a problematic indicator over the last few years, giving numerous 'false signals'. It was a particularly bad guide in Q3 when total spending rose just 0.5%qtr despite the 1%qtr surge in retail sales volumes. Changing spending patterns and exchange rate influences mean the retail survey is a less reliable proxy for total spend.

# Quarterly retail volumes and prices





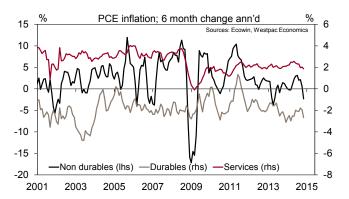
# The week ahead

#### US Dec personal income & spending, PCE deflator

Feb 2, PCE deflator: Last: -0.2% Feb 2, Personal spending: Last: 0.6% Feb 2, Personal income: Last: 0.4%

- The impact of the falling price of oil was clearly apparent in the Dec CPI, and this will also be true for the PCE measure. The US dollar is providing a further deflationary impulse at present, albeit one likely offset by persistent services inflation – particularly housing. We expect a –0.3% headline outcome in Dec, with the core likely to be flat.
- The decline in the price of oil is also likely to be the key factor determining the Dec nominal spending outcome; a 0.2% decline is expected, despite supportive services spending.
- With hours worked unchanged and hourly wages weaker, wage incomes are unlikely to contribute positively in December. However, growth in investment income will likely offset and result in a 0.1% total personal income gain.

Services inflation and durables deflation

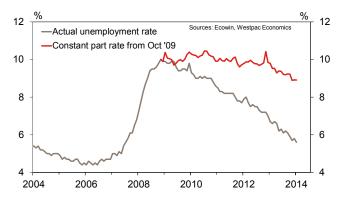


### **US Jan employment report**

Feb 6, Payrolls: Last: 252k, WBC f/c: 215k Feb 6, Unemployment rate: Last: 5.6%, WBC f/c: 5.6%

- In Dec, the establishment survey reported a 252k increase in non-farm payrolls; Oct and Nov also saw a 50k cumulative upward revision. The consequence was a 246k month-average pace for 2014, up from 194k in 2013. Available initial claims data points to the pace of firing being at a historically low level; and the business survey detail is supportive of continued robust job gains. We expect a 215k increase in January. Note that the annual benchmark revisions will also be included in this release.
- From the household survey, the key story over the past year has been the steady decline in the unemployment rate. It fell from 6.7% in Dec 2013 to just 5.6% in Dec 14. Unlike prior years, this decline was driven by job gains not declining participation. In January, we expect the unemployment rate to remain unchanged at 5.6% as job growth is offset by an uptick in participation.

#### 2014 fall in unemployment driven by job gains

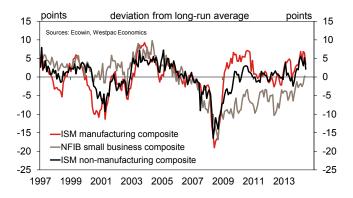


#### **US Nov ISM surveys**

Feb 2, Manufacturing: Last: 55.5, WBC f/c: 54.5 Feb 4, Non-manufacturing: Last: 56.2, WBC f/c: 56.4

- The manufacturing ISM index has fallen from 59.0 to 55.5 over the
  past two months. That followed a long uptrend which began at 51.3
  back in Jan 2014. At its current level, the index points to continued
  robust growth in the manufacturing sector particularly for the large,
  externally-focused firms that make up its sample.
- In December, new orders fell (to a still expansionary level), and the US dollar uptrend has likely had a negative impact since. That said, inventories are providing positive signs for coming months. Overall, we expect the ISM to stabilise a little lower.
- The non-manufacturing ISM has continued to point to a robust expansion in activity in the service sector through 2014; we expect to this trend to continue in January.

#### Conditions differ by firm size & industry





# **Data** calendar

		Last	Market median	Westpac forecast	Risk/Comment
Mon 2					
Aus	Jan AiG PMI	46.9	-	-	A soft end to 2014, manufacturing index 3.2pts down from 50.1 in Nov.
	Jan CoreLogic RP Data home value index	0.9%	_	0.2%	Summer hiatus sees sales 15-20% lower in Jan; indicators less reliable.
	Jan TD-MI inflation gauge, %yr	1.5%	-	-	The level of the Gauge is still well ahead of the CPI.
JS	Dec PCE deflator	-0.2%	-0.3%	-0.3%	Oil price effect significant. Annual core inflation benign at 1.4%yr.
	Dec personal income	0.4%	0.2%	0.1%	Hours worked flat in Dec; so too hourly earnings.
	Dec personal spending	0.6%	-0.3%	-0.2%	Growth in services to moderate weakness apparent in retail.
	Jan ISM manufacturing	55.1	54.8	54.5	Further moderation likely in Jan continuing Nov/Dec trend.
	Jan Markit manufacturing PMI, final	53.7	54.0	_	Not a great fit with ISM.
	Dec construction spending	-0.3%	0.8%	0.5%	Nov disappointed. Soft trend across residential and non-res work.
Can	Jan manufacturing PMI	53.9	_	_	RBC sponsored; moderated from 55.3 in Nov to still robust 53.9 in Dec.
ur	Jan Markit manufacturing PMI, final	51.0	51.0	51.0	Momentum for manufacturing soft but positive.
ue 3	<b>3</b> , .				• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
١Z	Jan commodity prices	-4.5%	_	_	Small uptick in dairy prices in Jan.
	Jan QV house price index %yr	4.9%	_	_	Auckland house prices accelerated strongly in late 2014.
us	Dec dwelling approvals	7.5%	-5.0%	-5.0%	Nov jump driven by major high-rise project in Melbourne; to reverse in De
	Dec trade balance, AUDbn	-0.90	-0.85	-1.00	9th consecutive deficit. Imports –0.8% & exports –1.2%.
	RBA policy announcement	2.50%	2.50%	2.25%	A cut, seeking \$A transmission, is the best policy option.
ıs	Dec factory orders	-0.7%	-2.0%	-2.5%	Durables orders down sharply. Investment trend unfavourable.
	Feb IBD/TIPP Economic Optimism	51.5	51.4		Lower oil price and robust labour market supporting confidence.
ur	Dec PPI	-0.3%	-0.7%	_	Upstream price pressures absent, down 1.6% over year to Nov.
led 4	200111	0.070	0.7 70		openically price preceding about, down 1.078 over year to 1104.
ız	GlobalDairyTrade auction	1.0%	_	_	Signs that Chinese demand is returning.
	Q4 employment change	0.8%	0.8%	0.9%	Solid GDP growth is supporting ongoing employment gains.
	Q4 unemployment rate	5.4%	5.3%	5.3%	Strengthening domestic activity is drawing more people into employmen
	Q4 labour cost index	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	Wage inflation to remain subdued, dampened by low CPI inflation.
us	Jan AiG PSI	47.5	- 0.070	0.070	Services index up 3.7pts in Dec, but still well below 50 mark.
hn	Jan HSBC China services PMI	53.4	_	_	Tertiary activity edged higher in Q4, justifying wedge to manuf. PMI.
ıs	Jan ADP employment	241k	220k	210k	Robust momentum in private sector employment to continue.
		56.5	56.5	56.4	
an	Jan ISM non-manufacturing	55.4	30.3	30.4	Momentum in services sector still solid despite Dec pullback.
	Jan Ivey PMI		-	- -	More volatile than RBC measure; same theme of robust expansion.
ur	Jan Markit services PMI, final	52.3	52.3	52.3	Composite PMI at 52.2, signalling modest expansion.
h F	Dec retail sales	0.6%	-0.2%	-	Consumer confidence weakened in late 2014, likely crimping demand.
hu 5	December 11 transfer	0.40/	0.20/	0.40/	Ha 4 00/ since Avenuith his lift form iDhana Caeles To aeffer in Dan
us	Dec retail trade	0.1%	0.3%	-0.1%	Up 1.8% since Aug with big lift from iPhone 6 sales. To soften in Dec
	Q4 real retail trade	1.0%	1.0%	0.8%	but Q4 will be another solid quarter for retail sales volumes.
	Q4 NAB business survey	_	_	_	Dec monthly survey already avail. Qtrly includes detail on capex.
S	Q4 nonfarm productivity	2.3%	0.9%	-	Productivity to slow with growth following strong Q3.
	Q4 unit labour costs	-1.0%	1.0%	_	Have been held down by strong growth through mid-14.
	Initial jobless claims	265k	_	_	Historically weak firing; holiday effect in lastest week?
	Dec trade balance, \$bn	-39.0	-38.0	-38.0	Declining oil price to see imports fall; USD effect on exports?
ier	Dec factory orders	-2.4%	0.8%	-	Lower Euro to support demand for German exports in coming months.
ri 6					
IZ	Waitangi Day public holiday	-	-	-	Markets closed.
us	RBA Statement on Monetary Policy	-	-	-	Forecast update; commentary tends to justify the Tuesday rate decision
S	Jan nonfarm payrolls	252k	231k	215k	Annual revision for establishment survey due this month.
	Jan unemployment rate	5.6%	5.6%	5.6%	Further gains in the unemp. rate from here likely to be more difficult.
	Dec consumer credit, \$bn	14.1	15.0	14.0	Dependence on student/auto debt well known.
an	Dec building permits	-13.8%	-	-	Highly volatile in recent months; further declines a concern for BOC.
	Jan unemployment rate	6.7%	6.7%	-	Employment fell 11.3k in Dec; part. rate edged 0.2ppts lower to 65.7%.
er	Dec industrial production	-0.1%	0.4%	_	Nov was a disappointment, but followed upward revision to Oct to 0.6%.

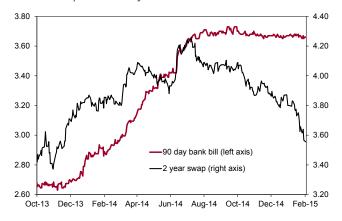


# **New Zealand** forecasts

Economic Growth Forecasts	March years				Calendar years			
% change	2013	2014	2015f	2016f	2013	2014f	2015f	2016f
GDP (Production) ann avg	2.2	2.5	3.3	3.4	2.2	3.2	3.5	2.9
Employment	0.4	3.8	2.9	2.7	2.9	3.0	3.1	1.8
Unemployment Rate % s.a.	6.2	6.0	5.1	4.5	6.0	5.4	4.6	4.3
CPI	0.9	1.5	0.1	2.3	1.6	0.8	1.2	2.9
Current Account Balance % of GDP	-3.7	-2.6	-4.3	-5.1	-3.3	-3.3	-5.2	-4.3

Financial Forecasts	Mar-15	Jun-15	Sep-15	Dec-15	Mar-16	Jun-16
Cash	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.50	3.75
90 Day bill	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.75	3.75	4.00
2 Year Swap	3.60	3.70	3.80	4.00	4.20	4.50
5 Year Swap	3.70	3.80	3.90	4.10	4.40	4.60
10 Year Bond	3.40	3.50	3.70	3.90	4.20	4.30
NZD/USD	0.76	0.74	0.76	0.78	0.80	0.80
NZD/AUD	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.93
NZD/JPY	89.7	89.2	92.7	96.7	99.2	100.0
NZD/EUR	0.68	0.68	0.69	0.70	0.71	0.70
NZD/GBP	0.52	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.50
TWI	79.4	78.8	80.0	81.6	82.9	82.0

## 2 Year Swap and 90 Day Bank Bills



## NZ interest rates as at market open on Monday 2 February 2015

Interest Rates	Current	Two weeks ago	One month ago
Cash	3.50%	3.50%	3.50%
30 Days	3.65%	3.63%	3.64%
60 Days	3.66%	3.65%	3.66%
90 Days	3.66%	3.67%	3.68%
2 Year Swap	3.56%	3.74%	3.80%
5 Year Swap	3.57%	3.79%	3.94%

## NZD/USD and NZD/AUD



## NZ foreign currency mid-rates as at Monday 2 February 2015

Exchange Rates	Current	Two weeks ago	One month ago
NZD/USD	0.7244	0.7787	0.7659
NZD/EUR	0.6403	0.6740	0.6425
NZD/GBP	0.4827	0.5142	0.5017
NZD/JPY	85.03	91.50	92.18
NZD/AUD	0.9347	0.9472	0.9496
TWI	75.32	79.30	78.34



# **International** forecasts

# Economic and Financial Forecasts

Economic Forecasts (Calendar Years)	2011	2012	2013	2014f	2015f	2016f
Australia						
Real GDP % yr	2.7	3.6	2.1	2.7	2.7	3.5
CPI inflation % annual	3.0	2.2	2.7	1.8	2.6	3.0
Unemployment %	5.2	5.3	5.8	6.3	6.4	6.1
Current Account % GDP	-2.8	-4.4	-3.3	-2.9	-3.2	-0.8
United States						
Real GDP %yr	1.6	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.5	3.2
Consumer Prices %yr	3.1	2.1	1.5	1.8	1.8	2.0
Unemployment Rate %	8.9	8.1	7.4	6.2	5.6	5.1
Current Account %GDP	-2.9	-2.9	-2.4	-2.3	-2.3	-2.3
Japan						
Real GDP %yr	-0.3	1.8	1.6	0.4	1.2	1.6
Euroland						
Real GDP %yr	1.6	-0.6	-0.4	0.7	0.9	1.0
United Kingdom						
Real GDP %yr	1.1	0.3	1.7	3.0	2.5	2.7
China						
Real GDP %yr	9.3	7.7	7.7	7.4	7.5	7.8
East Asia ex China						
Real GDP %yr	4.5	4.5	4.3	4.0	4.9	5.7
World						
Real GDP %yr	4.1	3.4	3.3	3.2	3.7	4.5
Forecasts finalised 8 December 2014						

Interest Rate Forecasts	Latest	Mar-15	Jun-15	Sep-15	Dec-15	Mar-16
Australia						
Cash	2.50	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00
90 Day Bill	2.56	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.22	2.25
10 Year Bond	2.47	2.60	2.80	3.00	3.25	3.50
International						
Fed Funds	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.250	0.500	0.750
US 10 Year Bond	1.75	1.90	2.20	2.50	2.75	2.90
ECB Repo Rate	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05

Exchange Rate Forecasts	Latest	Mar-15	Jun-15	Sep-15	Dec-15	Mar-16
AUD/USD	0.7782	0.80	0.78	0.80	0.82	0.84
USD/JPY	117.97	118	120	122	124	124
EUR/USD	1.1326	1.12	1.09	1.10	1.11	1.12
AUD/NZD	1.0688	1.05	1.05	1.04	1.04	1.04



# Westpac economics team contact details

**Dominick Stephens,** Chief Economist +64 9 336 5671

**Michael Gordon**, Senior Economist +64 9 336 5670

**Felix Delbrück**, Senior Economist +64 9 336 5668

**Satish Ranchhod**, Senior Economist +64 9 336 5669

Any questions email: economics@westpac.co.nz

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. The forecasts given in this document are predictive in character. Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure that the assumptions on which the forecasts are based are reasonable, the forecasts may be affected by incorrect assumptions or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties. The ultimate outcomes may differ substantially from these forecasts.

# Disclaimer

**Things you should know:** Each time someone visits our site, data is captured so that we can accurately evaluate the quality of our content and make improvements for you. We may at times use technology to capture data about you to help us to better understand you and your needs, including potentially for the purposes of assessing your individual reading habits and interests to allow us to provide suggestions regarding other reading material which may be suitable for you.

If you are located in Australia, this material and access to this website is provided to you solely for your own use and in your own capacity as a wholesale client of Westpac Institutional Bank being a division of Westpac Banking Corporation ABN 33 007 457 141 AFSL 233714 ('Westpac'). If you are located outside of Australia, this material and access to this website is provided to you as outlined below.

This material and this website contain general commentary only and does not constitute investment advice. Certain types of transactions, including those involving futures, options and high yield securities give rise to substantial risk and are not suitable for all investors. We recommend that you seek your own independent legal or financial advice before proceeding with any investment decision. This information has been prepared without taking account of your objectives, financial situation or needs. This material and this website may contain material provided by third parties. While such material is published with the necessary permission none of Westpac or its related entities accepts any responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of any such material. Although we have made every effort to ensure the information is free from error, none of Westpac or its related entities warrants the accuracy, adequacy or completeness of the information, or otherwise endorses it in any way. Except where contrary to law, Westpac and its related entities intend by this notice to exclude liability for the information. The information is subject to change without notice and none of Westpac or its related entities is under any obligation to update the information or correct any inaccuracy which may become apparent at a later date. The information contained in this material and this website does not constitute an offer, a solicitation of an offer, or an inducement to subscribe for, purchase or sell any financial instrument or to enter a legally binding contract. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. The forecasts given in this material and this website are predictive in character. Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure that the assumptions on which the forecasts are based are reasonable, the forecasts may be affected by incorrect assumptions or by known or unknown risks and uncertainties. The ultimate outcomes may differ substantially from these forecasts.

Transactions involving carbon give rise to substantial risk (including regulatory risk) and are not suitable for all investors. We recommend that you seek your own independent legal or financial advice before proceeding with any investment decision. This information has been prepared without taking account of your objectives, financial situation or needs. Statements setting out a concise description of the characteristics of carbon units, Australian carbon credit units and eligible international emissions units (respectively) are available at www. cleanenergyregulator.gov.au as mentioned in section 202 of the Clean Energy Act 2011, section 162 of the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011 and section 61 of the Australian National Registry of Emissions Units Act 2011. You should consider each such statement in deciding whether to acquire, or to continue to hold, any carbon unit, Australian carbon credit unit or eligible international emissions unit.

#### Additional information if you are located outside of Australia

**New Zealand:** The current disclosure statement for the New Zealand division of Westpac Banking Corporation ABN 33 007 457 141 or Westpac New Zealand Limited can be obtained at the internet address www.westpac.co.nz. Westpac Institutional Bank products and services are provided by either Westpac Banking Corporation ABN 33 007 457 141 incorporated in Australia (New Zealand division) or Westpac New Zealand Limited. For further information please refer to the Product Disclosure Statement (available from your Relationship Manager) for any product for which a Product Disclosure Statement is required, or applicable customer agreement. Download the Westpac NZ QFE Group Financial Advisers Act 2008 Disclosure Statement at www.westpac.co.nz.

China, Hong Kong, Singapore and India: Westpac Singapore Branch holds a wholesale banking licence and is subject to supervision by the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Westpac Hong Kong Branch holds a banking license and is subject to supervision by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. Westpac Hong Kong branch also holds a license issued by the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) for Type 1 and Type 4 regulated activity.

Westpac Shanghai and Beijing Branches hold banking licenses and are subject to supervision by the China Banking Regulatory Commission (CBRC). Westpac Mumbai Branch holds a banking license from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and subject to regulation and supervision by the RBI.



# Disclaimer continued

U.K.: Westpac Banking Corporation is registered in England as a branch (branch number BR000106), and is authorised and regulated by the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority in Australia. WBC is authorised in the United Kingdom by the Prudential Regulation Authority. WBC is subject to regulation by the Financial Conduct Authority and limited regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority in the United Kingdom. Details about the extent of our regulation by the Prudential Regulation Authority are available from us on request. Westpac Europe Limited is a company registered in England (number 05660023) and is authorised by the Prudential Regulation Authority and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority and the Prudential Regulation Authority. This material and this website and any information contained therein is directed at a) persons who have professional experience in matters relating to investments falling within Article 19(1) of the Financial Services Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 or (b) high net worth entities, and other persons to whom it may otherwise be lawfully communicated, falling within Article 49(1) of the Order (all such persons together being referred to as "relevant persons"). The investments to which this material and this website relates are only available to and any invitation, offer or agreement to subscribe, purchase or otherwise acquire such investments will be engaged in only with, relevant persons. Any person who is not a relevant person should not act or rely upon this material and this website or any of its contents. In the same way, the information contained in this material and this website is intended for "eligible counterparties" and "professional clients" as defined by the rules of the Financial Services Authority and is not intended for "retail clients". With this in mind, Westpac expressly prohibits you from passing on the information in this material and this website to any third party. In particular this material and this website, website content and, in each case, any copies thereof may not be taken, transmitted or distributed, directly or indirectly into any restricted jurisdiction.

**U.S.:** Westpac operates in the United States of America as a federally licensed branch, regulated by the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency. Westpac is also registered with the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("CFTC") as a Swap Dealer, but is neither registered as, or affiliated with, a Futures Commission Merchant registered with the US CFTC. Westpac Capital Markets, LLC ('WCM'), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Westpac, is a broker-dealer registered under the U.S. Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ('the Exchange Act') and member of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority ('FINRA'). This communication is provided for distribution to U.S. institutional investors in reliance on the exemption from registration provided by Rule 15a-6 under the Exchange Act and is not subject to all of the independence and disclosure standards applicable to debt research reports prepared for retail investors in the United States. WCM is the U.S. distributor of this communication and accepts responsibility for the contents of this communication. If you would like to speak to someone regarding any security mentioned herein, please contact WCM on +1 212 389 1269. All disclaimers set out with respect to Westpac apply equally to WCM.

Investing in any non-U.S. securities or related financial instruments mentioned in this communication may present certain risks. The securities of non-U.S. issuers may not be registered with, or be subject to the regulations of, the SEC in the United States. Information on such non-U.S. securities or related financial instruments may be limited. Non-U.S. companies may not be subject to audit and reporting standards and regulatory requirements comparable to those in effect in the United States. The value of any investment or income from any securities or related derivative instruments denominated in a currency other than U.S. dollars is subject to exchange rate fluctuations that may have a positive or adverse effect on the value of or income from such securities or related derivative instruments.

The author of this communication is employed by Westpac and is not registered or qualified as a research analyst, representative, or associated person under the rules of FINRA, any other U.S. self-regulatory organisation, or the laws, rules or regulations of any State. Unless otherwise specifically stated, the views expressed herein are solely those of the author and may differ from the information, views or analysis expressed by Westpac and/ or its affiliates.

For the purposes of Regulation AC only: Each analyst whose name appears in this report certifies that (1) the views expressed in this report accurately reflect the personal views of the analyst about any and all of the subject companies and their securities and (2) no part of the compensation of the analyst was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly related to the specific views or recommendations in this report.

