

Monthly Transport Indicators

Recommendation(s)

That the Board:

- i. Notes this report.

Executive summary

The monthly transport indicators report provides an overview of key trends within the transport system as well as wider economic indicators that impact on the performance of the transport networks.

Economic activity

Official economic activity figures are reported quarterly so there has been no update since last month's transport indicators report. ANZ's Truckometer uses NZTA national traffic volumes to help predict trends in economic performance. Truck volumes were up 8.3% compared to last September, indicating improving economic activity for the September quarter.

Auckland Traffic

State highway traffic flows on the harbour Bridge, SH20 and SH1 at Tip Top corner and Drury rose in September whilst traffic at ALPURT dropped slightly compared to September 2012.

Fuel Prices

Fuel prices continue to be volatile and have decreased slightly in September. The price of 91 octane petrol has remained above \$2 per litre for the past year which has seen consumers share of spending on fuel continue to increase.

Public Transport


Auckland public transport patronage totalled 69,277,456 passengers for the 12-months to September 2013 an increase of +0.2% on the 12-months to August 2013. The September monthly patronage was 5,853,318 an increase of 107,445 boardings or +1.9% on September 2012.

Rail patronage increased in September 2013 and totalled 10,217,793 passengers for the twelve months to September 2013 (Figure 5), an increase of +1.0% on the 12-months to August 2013. Patronage for September 2013 was 925,014 boardings, an increase of +12.4% (+102,143 boardings) on September 2012. Punctuality in September 2013 was 86.3% and remains above the 85.4% target.

Attachments

Number	Description
1	Monthly Transport Indicators Report: September 2013

Document ownership

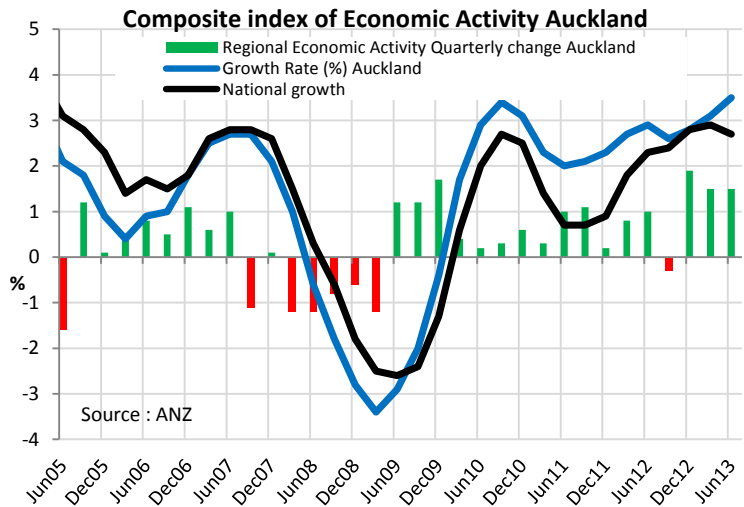
Submitted by	Richard Scott Transport Monitoring Research Analyst	
Recommended by	Peter Clark General Manager Strategy and Planning	
Approved for submission	David Warburton Chief Executive	

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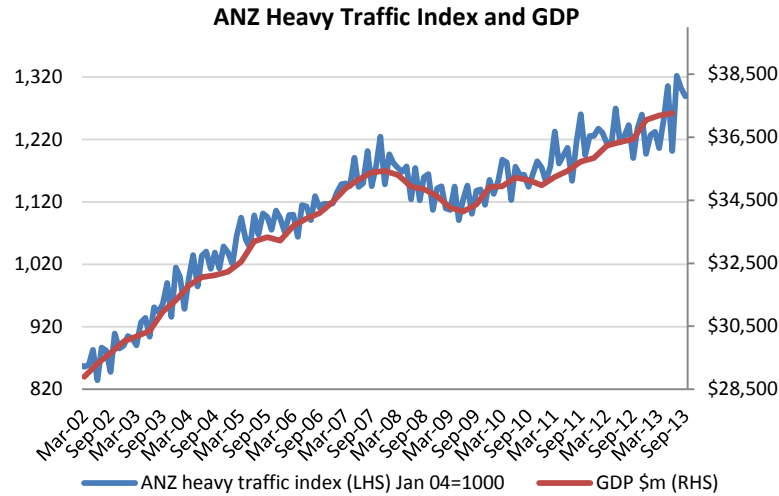


Monitor trends driving transport demands: Economic Indicators

Auckland Economic Activity



ANZ Truckometer



Auckland Economic Activity - increased by 1.5% in the June 2013 quarter, with a year-on-year growth rate of 3.5% for the year to June 2013.

Source: ANZ Regional Trends: Auckland (Quarterly data)

ANZ Truckometer - uses NZTA data as an indicator of national economic activity. The heavy traffic growth of 8.3% in Sept 2013 vs. Sept 2012 indicates an improvement is likely for the September GDP results.

Source: ANZ Truckometer (Data available 12th of the month)

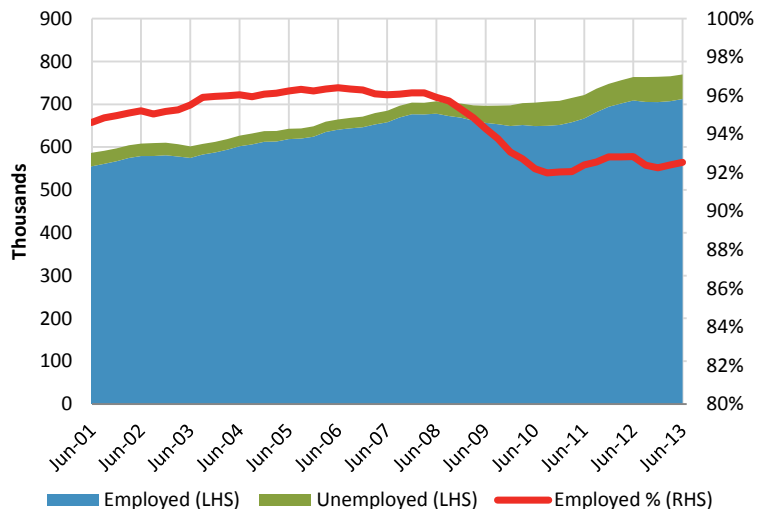
Auckland Employment - Auckland employment has risen by 4% in the first 6 months of 2013 with a similar drop in unemployment. The recovery has been gradual compared to the decline during the recession.

Source: Statistics NZ Quarterly Employment Survey (Quarterly data)

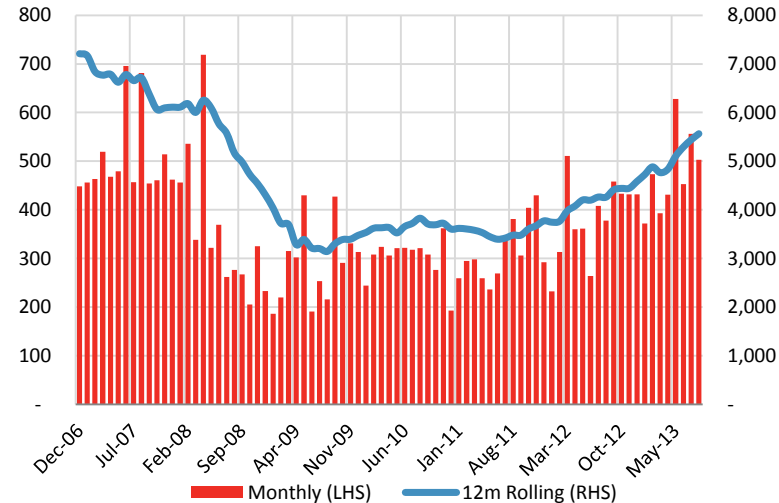
Dwelling Consents issued - have continued to rise since mid 2011 indicating an increased amount of activity in the building industry. The 12 month rolling average is 30% higher than 12 months ago and August 2013 consents were 33% higher than August 2012.

Source: Statistics NZ

Total Auckland Employment



Dwelling Consents Issued

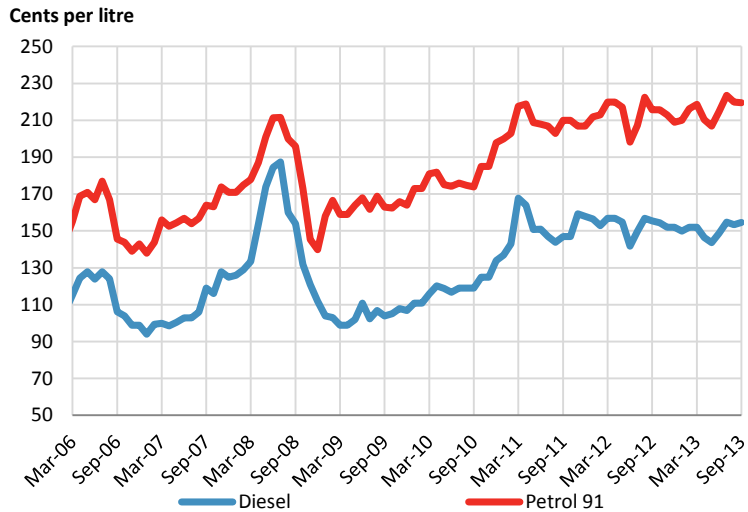


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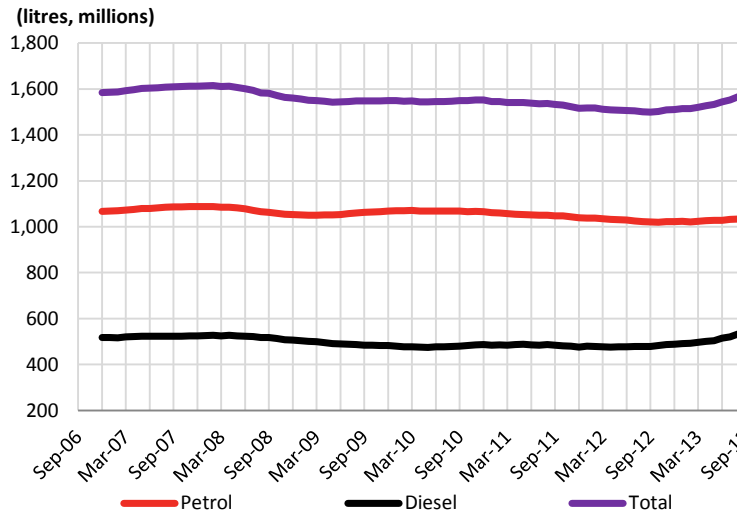


Monitor Trends Driving Transport Demands: Prices and AT Hop Card

Monthly Fuel Prices



Auckland Annual Fuel Sales



Fuel Prices - continue to be volatile however they currently appear to be on an upward trajectory placing pressure on travellers wallets by reducing the amount of money available for discretionary spending. Petrol Prices has been around \$2.20 over the last four months but have dropped significantly in October.

Source: Ministry of Business, Employment and Innovation (Updated Weekly)

Auckland Fuel Sales - total fuel sales continue to increase on the back of increased diesel sales.

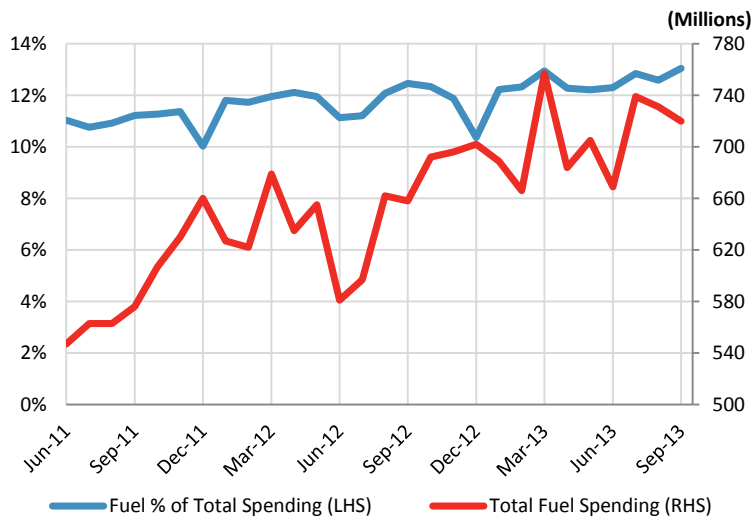
Source: Auckland Council Fuel Tax returns (Data available 1 month following)

Card Spending on Fuel - increasing fuel prices are putting a greater amount of pressure on budgets taking 13% of total spending in Sept. Spending on fuel in Sept 2013 is \$62 million more than in Sept 2012 and spending on vehicles is \$6m more than in Sept 2012.

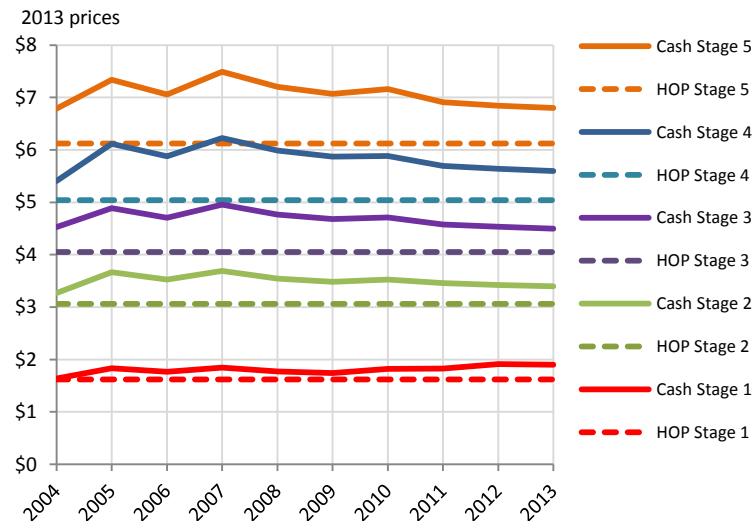
Source: Statistics NZ monthly Electronic Card Transactions

Public Transport Fares - Change in the 1-5 stage bus cash fares in 2013 prices over time. The HOP fares (dotted line) show the equivalent HOP fares. The HOP stage 1 bus fare is equivalent to the 2004 stage 1 cash fare and for other stages is cheaper than the 2004 cash fares. (Nominal Fares are adjusted based on CPI index to provide their relative cost in real terms)

Electronic Card Spending on Fuel



Bus Adult AT HOP and Real Cash fares 2004-2013

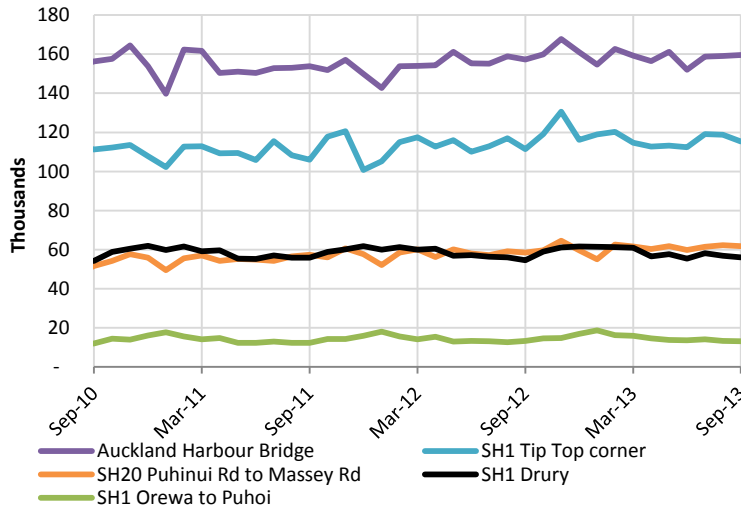


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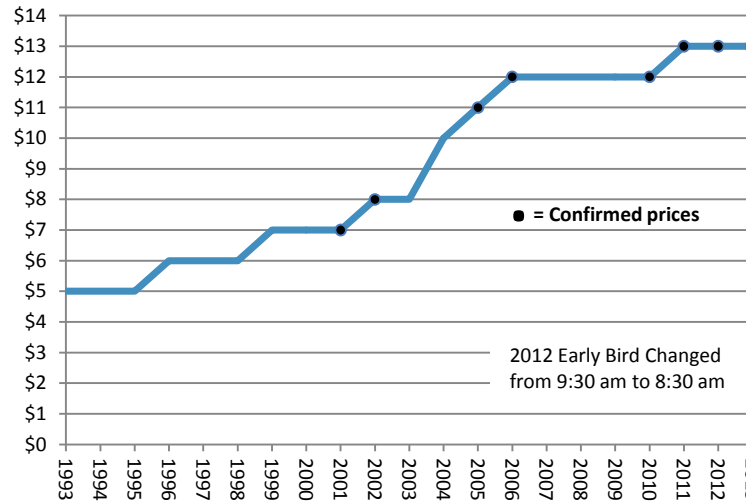


Monitor Statement of Intent Key Performance Indicators: Transport network moves people and goods efficiently

State Highway Average Daily Traffic Volumes



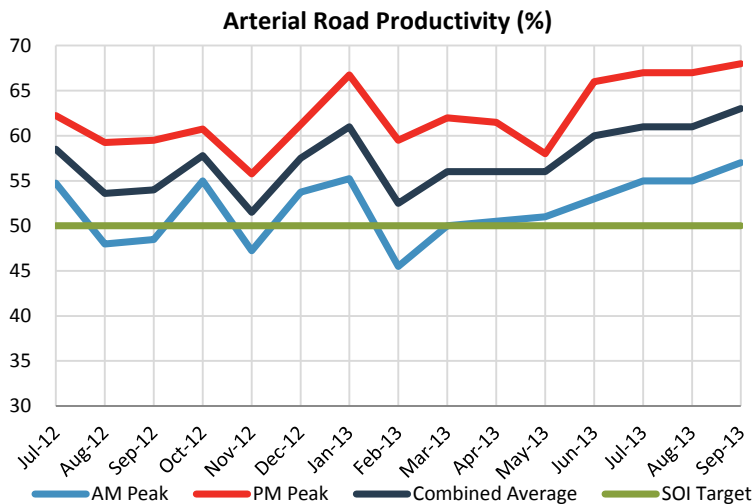
AT CBD Carparks Early Bird Price per day



State Highway Traffic Volumes - shows the amount of traffic on each state highway. Compared to the same month last year, in Sept traffic volumes on the Harbour Bridge were 1.4% higher while on State Highway 20 volumes were 5.4% higher, State highway 1 at Tip top corner was 3.4% higher, Traffic at Drury was 2.8% higher and traffic on Alport was -0.4% lower.
 Source: NZTA Data

Arterial Road Productivity - is a measure of the efficiency of the road network comparing the number of vehicles, average journey speed and occupancy. In Sept the AM peak productivity was 57%, PM peak productivity was 68% and the combined average productivity was 63%.
 Source: AT Road Corridor Operations

Arterial Road Productivity %



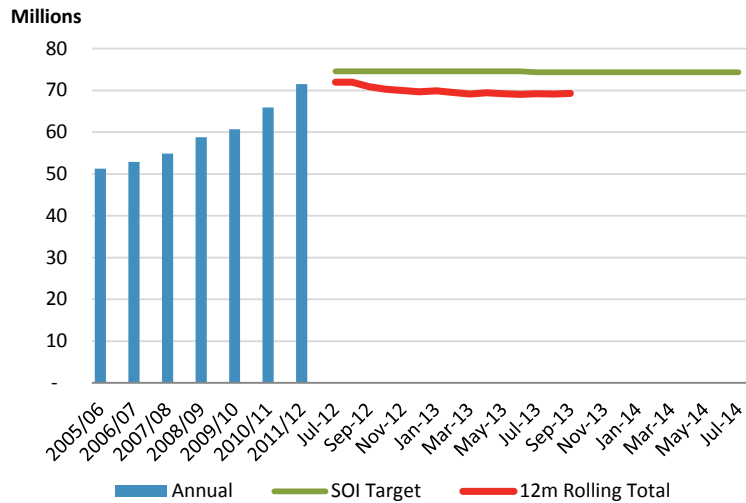
Earlybird Parking Price - in AT owned carparking buildings in the CBD. There has been no change in the price since 2011 however in 2012 the conditions were changed with earlybird parking only available before 8:30am compared to previously being before 9:30am. (reported as prices change)

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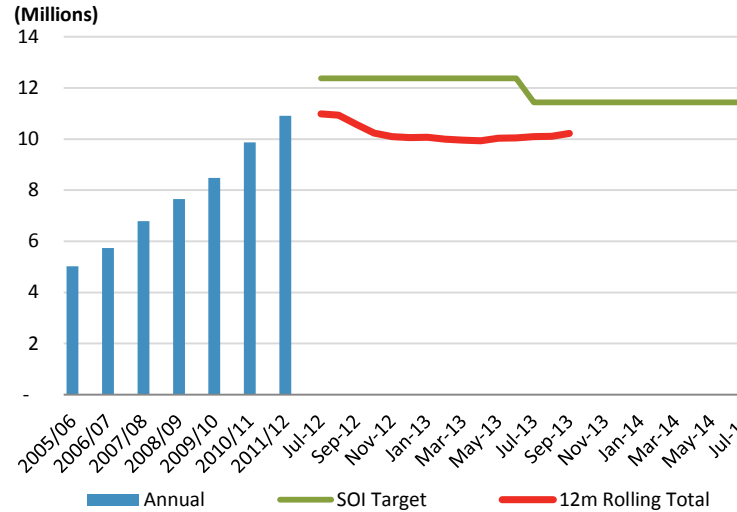


Monitor Statement of Intent Key Performance Indicators: Transport network moves people and goods efficiently

Annual Public Transport Trips - 69.2m



Annual Rail Trips - 10.0m



Public Transport - Auckland public transport patronage totalled 69,277,456 passengers for the 12-months to Sep-2013 an increase of +0.2% on the 12-months to Aug-2013. September monthly patronage was 5,853,318 an increase of 107,445 boardings or +1.9% on Sep-2012, normalised to ~-2.1% accounting for one more business day in Sep-2013 compared to Sep-2012.

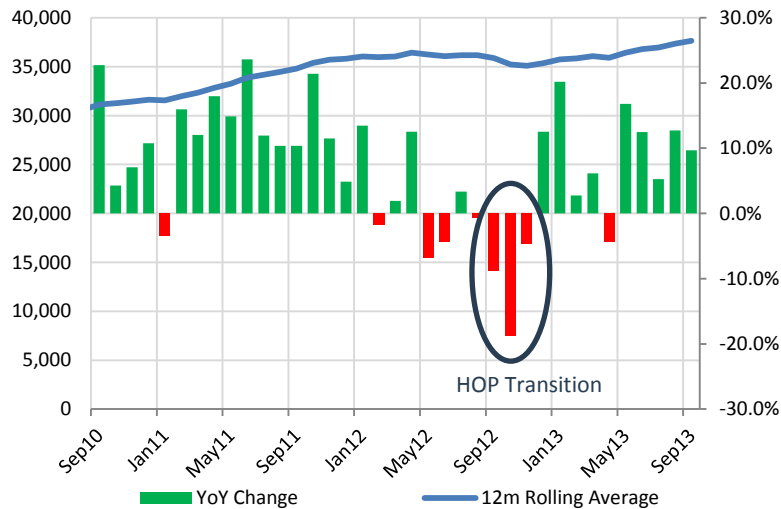
Source: AT PT Ops / operator returns

Rail Trips- Rail patronage improved in Sep-2013 and totalled 10,217,793 passengers for the twelve months to Sep-2013 (Figure 5), an increase of +1.0% on the 12-months to Aug-2013.

Patronage for Sep-2013 was 925,014 boardings, an increase of +12.4% (+102,143 boardings) on Sep-2012, normalised at ~+5.5% to ~+6.1%.

Source: AT PT Ops / operator returns

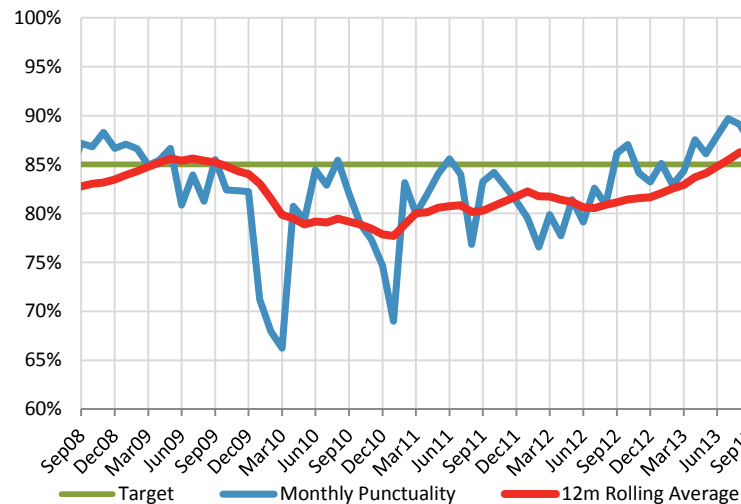
Rail Working Weekday Average - 37k



Rail Working Weekday - Working weekday patronage in Sept 2013 was 37,646, 9.7% higher than Sept 2012.

Source: AT PT Ops

Rail Punctuality - 86%



Rail Punctuality - Punctuality in September-2013 fell to 86.3% compared to August-2013 but remains above the 85.4% target. Service delivery was 97.9%.

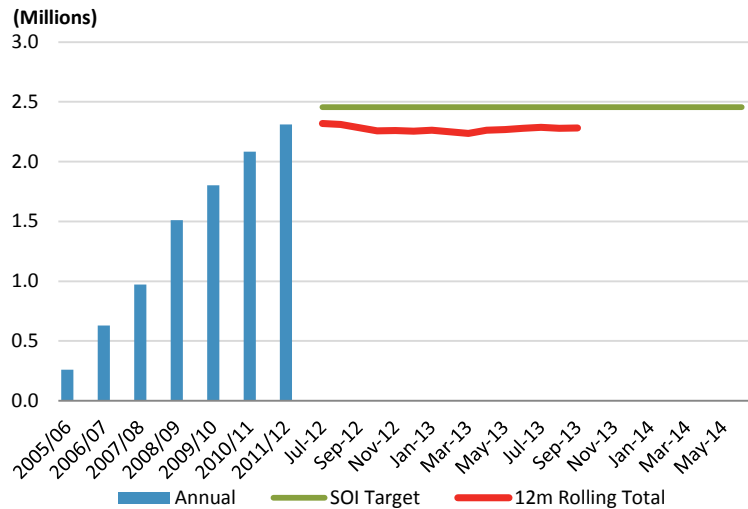
Source: AT PT Ops / operator returns

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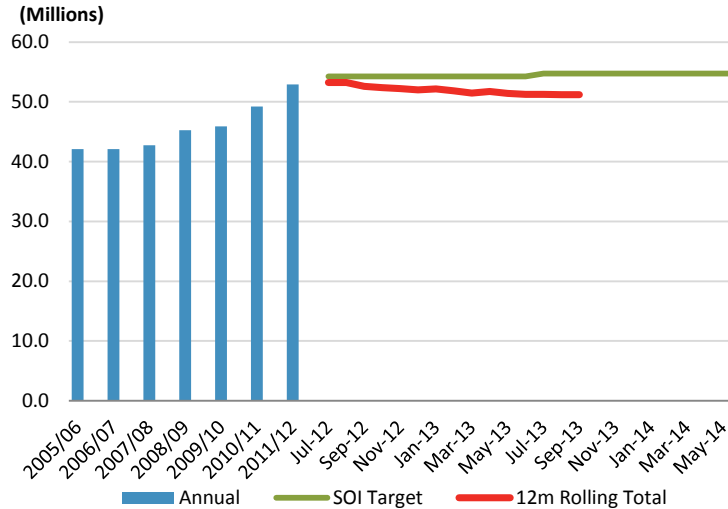


Public Transport Indicators cont.

Annual Northern Express Bus Trips - 2.3M ■



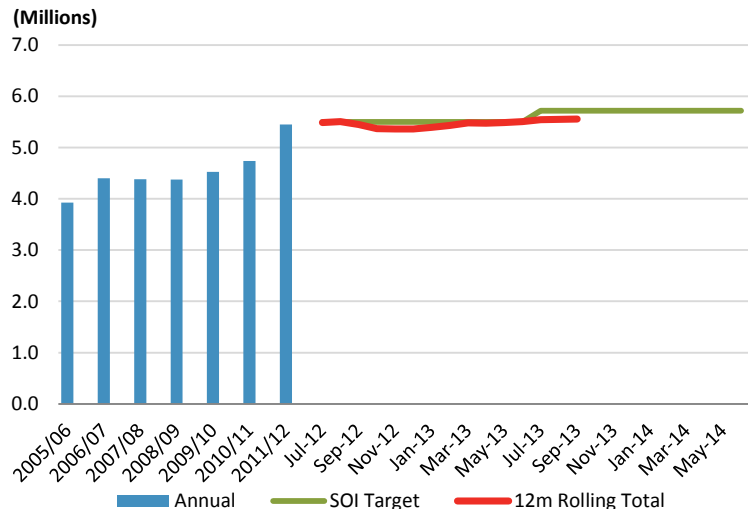
Annual Bus (excl NEX) Trips - 51.2M ▼



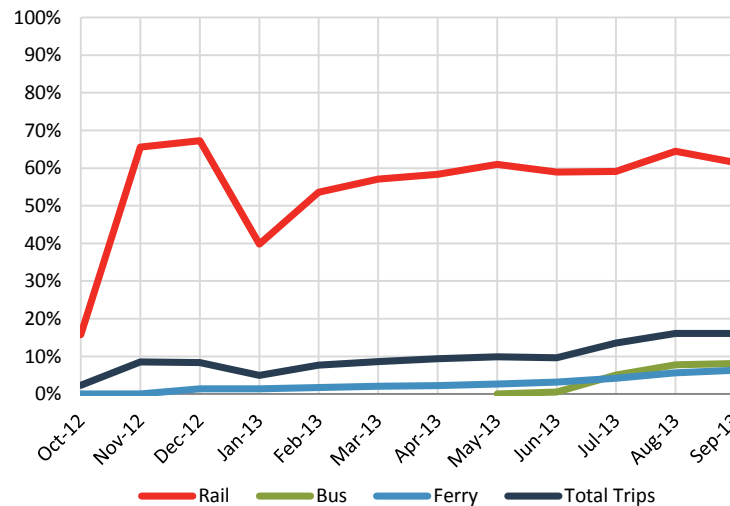
Northern Express - The Northern Express bus service carried 2,280,688 passenger trips for the 12-months to Sep-2013, an increase of +0.1% on the 12 months to Aug-2013. Northern Express bus service patronage for Sep-2013 was 187,738, an increase of 2,708 boardings or +1.5% on Sep-2012, normalised to ~2.5% accounting for one more business day in Sep-2013.
 Source: AT PT Ops / operator returns

Bus (excl Northern Express) - Other bus services carried 51,223,526 passenger trips for the 12-months to Sep-2013, a 0.0% change on the 12-months to Aug-2013. Other bus services patronage for Sep-2013 was 4,365,633, a decrease of -951 boardings or 0.0% on Sep-2012, normalised to ~-4.0%.
 Source: AT PT Ops / operator returns

Annual Ferry Trips - 5.5m ▲



Percentage of Trips using AT HOP - 16% ▲



Ferry Trips - Ferry services carried 5,555,449 passenger trips for the 12-months to Sep-2013, an increase of +0.1% on the 12 months to Aug-2013. Ferry services patronage for Sep-2013 was 374,933, an increase of 3,545 boardings or +1.0% on Sep-2012, normalised to ~-3.0%.
 Source: AT PT Ops / operator returns

Trips using AT HOP - continues to increase for all modes. 16% of all trips are now being made with AT HOP. Over the coming months we expect to see these figures lift substantially.
 Source: AT PT Ops/operator returns

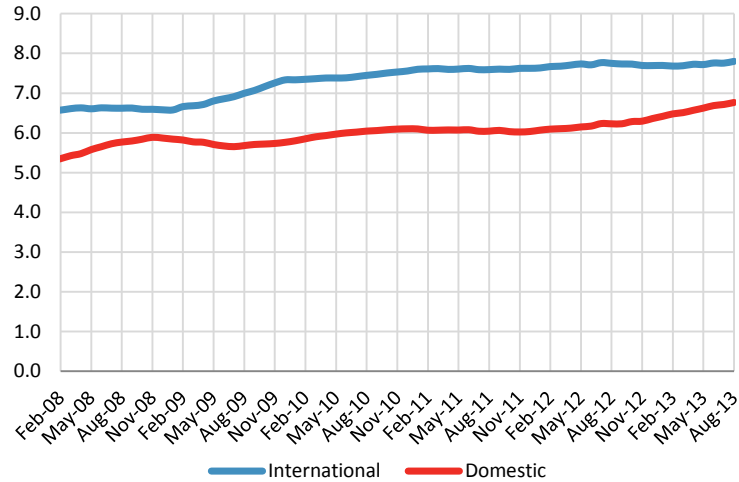
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Other National Transport Indicators

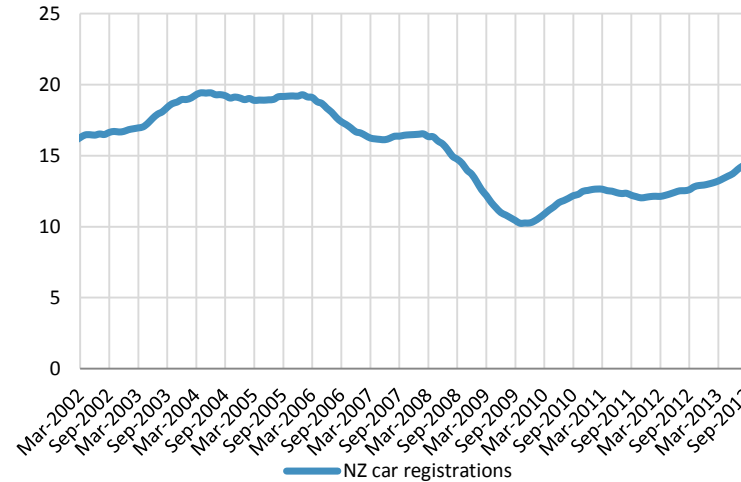
Auckland Airport Passenger Movements ↑

(Rolling 12 month total, millions)



New and Used Vehicle Registrations ↑

(Rolling 12 month total, Thousands)

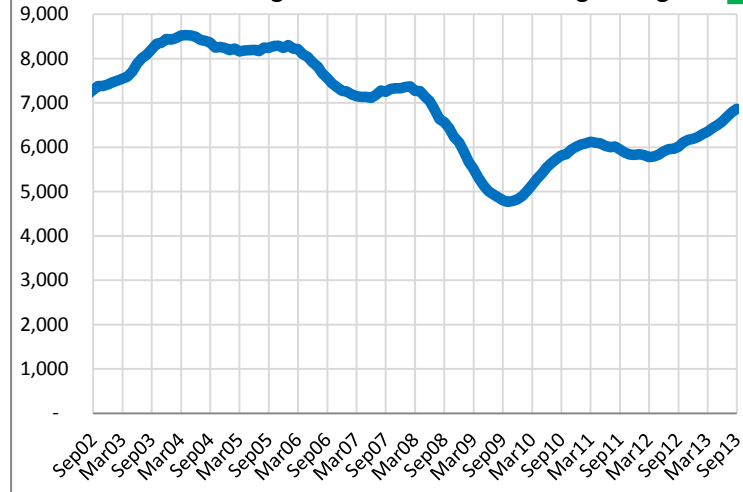


Airport Passenger Movements - increased in August for both domestic and international journeys. Domestic traffic continues to increase at a much faster rate than international traffic.
Source: AIAL Monthly traffic (reported 28th of the month)

New and Used Vehicle Registrations - The recovery in car sales following the recession in 2008 has continued with 19% higher registrations in the year to Sept 2013 compared to the year to Sept 2012.
Source: NZTA Vehicle registration Centre (reported 10th of the month)

Auckland Car registrations - Cars first registered to an Auckland Postal code. September sales were 12% higher in 2013 compared to 2012. There has been a significant improvement in car sales over the last 6 months indicating an improvement in economic conditions. During the recession people delayed replacing vehicles and the fleet aged. Now economic conditions are replacement of vehicles is occurring.

Auckland car registrations 12 month moving average ↑

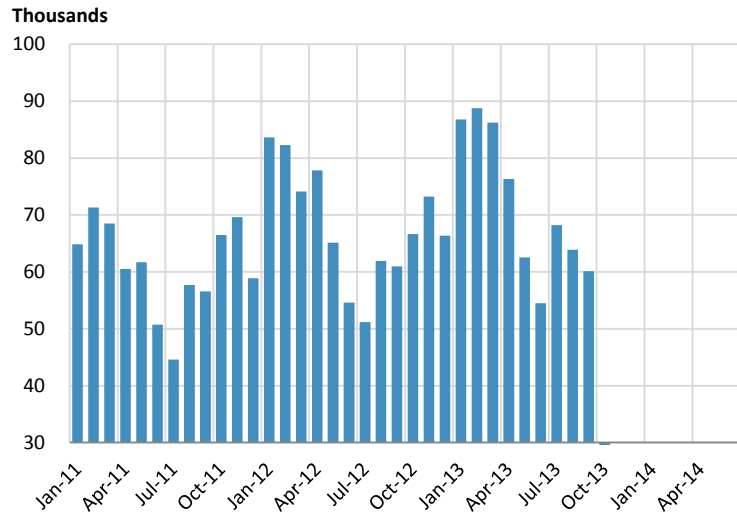


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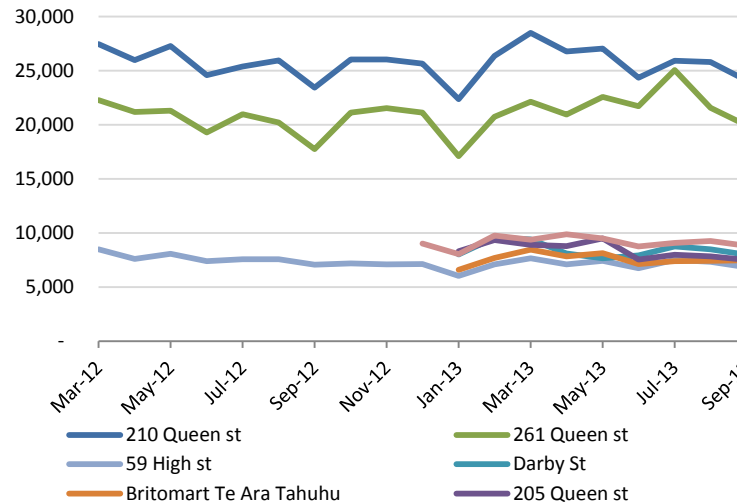


Active Mode and Safety Indicators

Cycling Counts



Average Daily CBD Pedestrian Counts



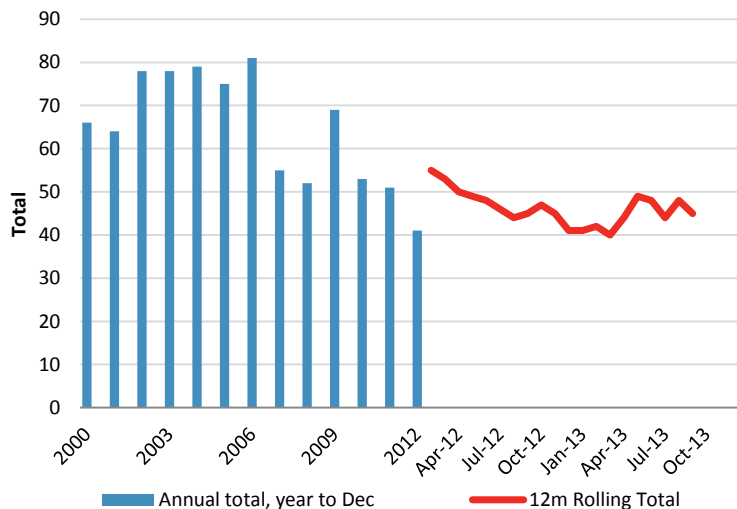
Cycling Counts - AT counts cyclists at 9 key sites around the region. 60,140 cyclists were recorded during Sept 2013 -1.2% lower than Sept 2012. There was one working day less this September compared to last. The 12 month rolling average is 5.8% higher than last year. Cycling numbers are impacted by wet weather so there is a strong seasonal variation.

Source: AT Community Transport (reported 10th of the Month)

Daily CBD Pedestrian Counts - Automatic pedestrian counts are made by fixed cameras and show high levels of pedestrian use of Queen St compared to other streets monitored within the CBD.

Source: Heart of the city (reported 10th of the Month)

Auckland Annual Road Crash Deaths



Road Crash Deaths - There was 1 fatal accident on Auckland roads in September 2013.

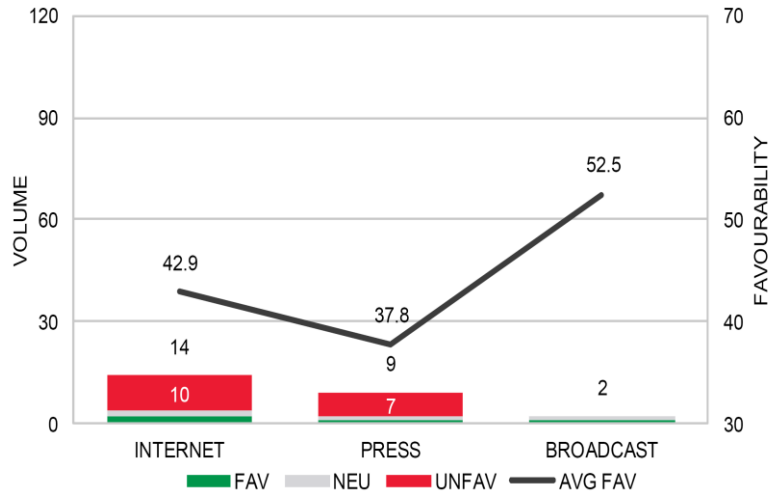
3 less than September 2012. The total road toll for the 12 months to September 2013 was 44, 1 more than the 12 months to September 2012.

Source: NZTA (reported weekly)



Media Indicators

AT HOP Media Coverage

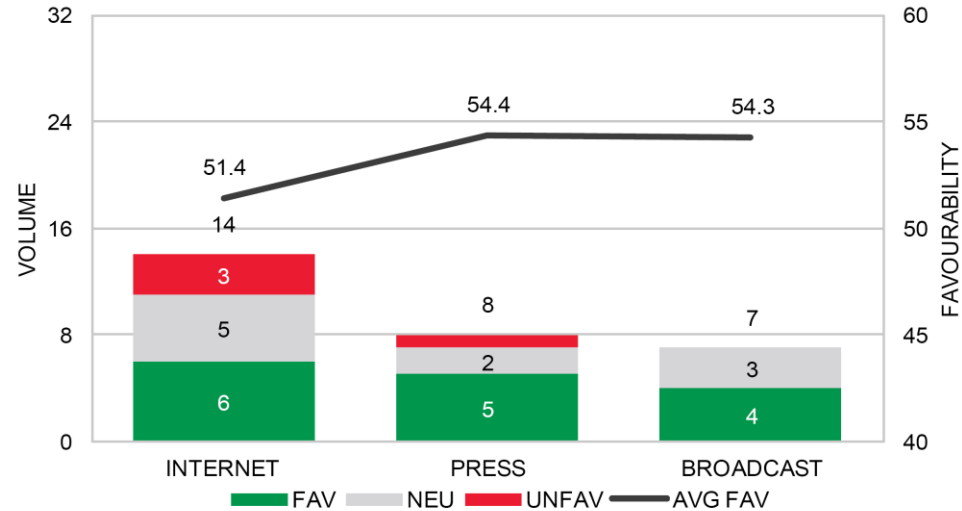


Auckland Mayor Len Brown's view that the AT HOP has been poorly promoted was reflected in this month's coverage, with most reports being unfavourable in tone.

While the delayed rollout of the card to Ritchies and Northern Express services forced Auckland Transport Chair Lester Levy to defend the system against comparisons with the government's troubled Novopay payroll service, like last month, the sharpest criticism was aimed at the concurrent fare increases for some groups of commuters.

The failure in these reports to distinguish between the rollout of the card and the fare increases, with an implied causal connection between the two, appeared to underscore Len Brown's concerns.

City Rail Link Media Coverage



The CRL was most frequently discussed as part of the debate over whether funding for the project should be brought forward, with proponents of the idea pointing to Auckland Transport's cost estimates of an additional \$100 million for each year it is postponed after 2015, and Auckland Mayor Len Brown warning of gridlock unless the government's 2020 start date is changed.

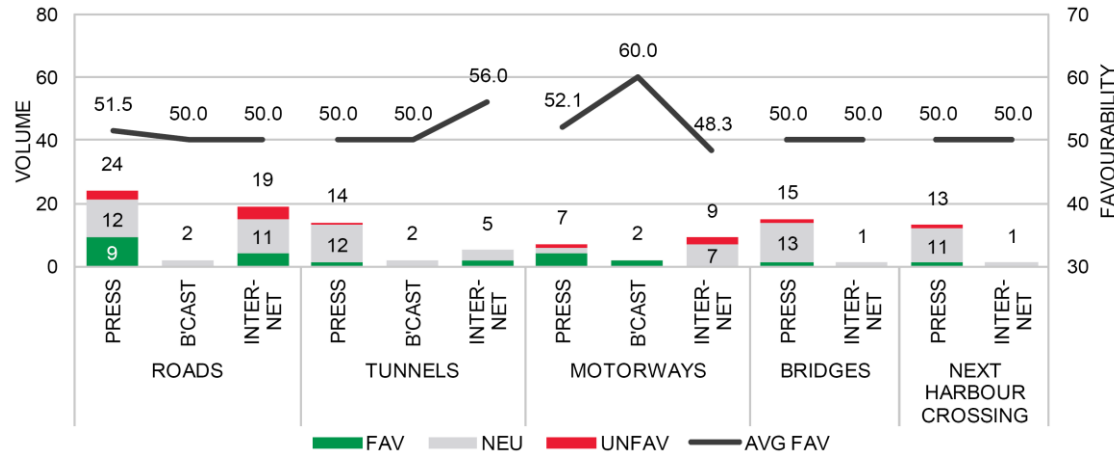
Like several other transport topics this month, the CRL was also mentioned in a report that surveyed the opinions of candidates for the upcoming mayoral elections, which was syndicated widely across suburban newspapers.

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Media Indicators cont.

Roading and Infrastructure Media Coverage



A wide array of projects were mentioned in this month's reporting on roading and infrastructure, with few receiving sustained coverage and most discussed in neutral terms.

Aside from residual reporting of last month's announcement that engineering firm Beca had been awarded the contract for the Dominion Road upgrade, notable coverage included proactively generated reports on the planned \$10 million facelift of Federal Street to create a more pedestrian-friendly environment, with SkyCity and Auckland Council sharing the cost.

There were also reports on the planned three-year closure of bus lanes along the North Western Motorway as part of NZ Transport Agency works on State Highway 16. The significant inconvenience the closures will pose for bus commuters was noted in several reports, with columnist Brian Rudman asserting it typified the NZTA's prioritisation of roading over public transport (The New Zealand Herald, 16 September 2013). A subsequent opinion piece by NZTA's Tommy Parker, titled "Working together we can build a better motorway" (The New Zealand Herald, 19 September 2013), did little to persuade otherwise.

The option of a Harbour tunnel was mentioned in a widely syndicated report on the policies of candidates for the upcoming mayoral elections.

Leading Messages

