

MIN-4270 Public Transport Patronage Update

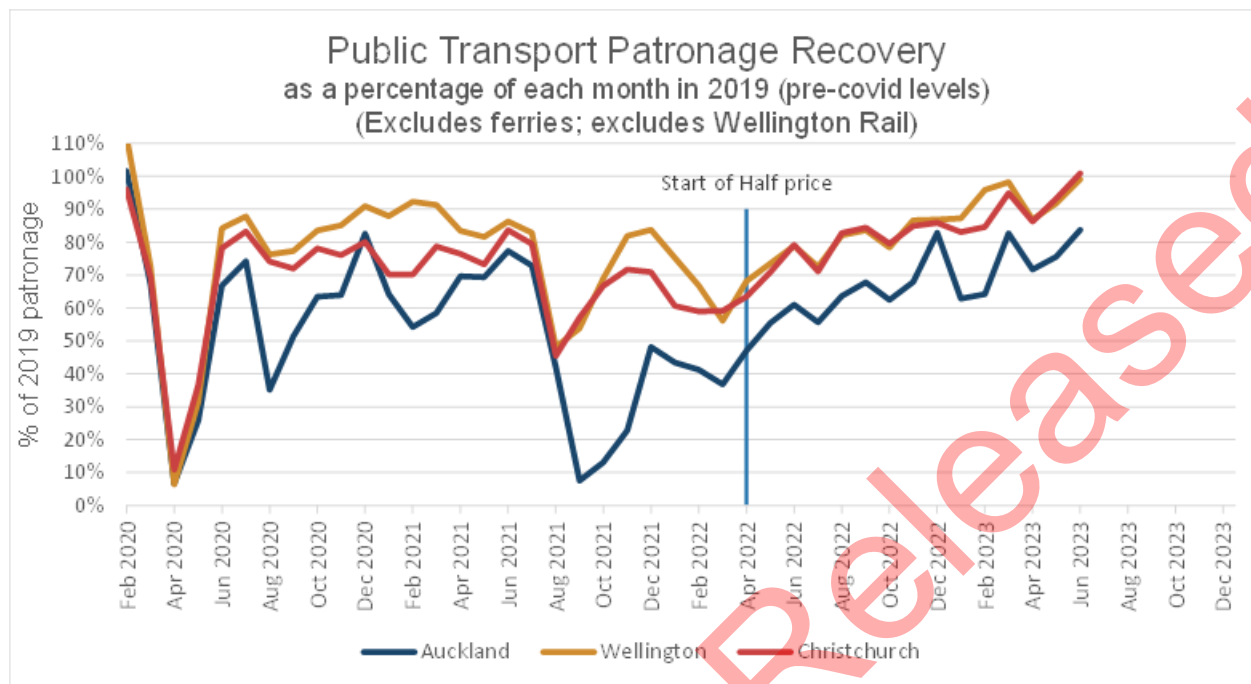
31 July 2023

Providing the Minister's Office with an update on public transport patronage.

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency's response:

- Data is as of 23 July 2023.
- Please note this only includes data for the big three regions and for technical reasons differs to official numbers submitted in Transport Information Online (TIO). Waka Kotahi is looking to replace this with official monthly TIO patronage data with national coverage as shown in the second chart.
- Public transport patronage, expressed as a monthly percentage of the same month in 2019, is now available for June 2023.
- Auckland continues to track approximately 20 per cent lower than the other main centres, though patronage has increased to above 80 per cent compared to the same month in 2019. This is reflective of the very different COVID-19 experience in Auckland, compared to the rest of the country, and the resulting long-term changes in travel demand. Total journeys (all modes) into the Auckland central business district (CBD) are about 34% lower than pre-COVID-19 levels. This reflects an increase in Working from Home and/ or remote working relative to pre-Covid, which alters demand for public transport during peak periods.
- Bus patronage in Christchurch and Wellington are now back at pre-COVID levels. This is influenced by a mixture of restoring previously cancelled bus services, and reduced bus driver shortfalls and service cancellations compared to the start of 2023.
- It should be noted that, while the 'month to month' comparison removes the impact of seasonal variance and provides a useful comparison, variations, such as the number of working days per month, will affect the comparison.

Chart 1



Please note the above graph is based off daily patronage count data received by the regional councils and may differ to final numbers submitted into TIO. Data will only show for the previous month until all the patronage for the current month is available.

Chart 2 - National Public Transport coverage

