

Kia ora,

The RBNZ Statistics team is now releasing additional summary information for selected data releases. This includes a brief summary of key facts and charts, published as a pdf attachment in the 'Data files' section.

The purpose of the key points is to improve data accessibility for users. There will be no extra information to what is already published in the summary tables and excel files.

The summary below is for credit card balances and spending statistics (web tables C12 and C13), which were published this afternoon at 3pm.

We welcome your feedback. Please provide your comments to [stats-info@rbnz.govt.nz](mailto:stats-info@rbnz.govt.nz).

### [About credit card data](#)

Credit card data is sourced from a monthly Credit Card Survey. The survey covers credit and charge cards, defined as those that can be used to make purchases and obtain credit at all merchants accepting branded credit and charge cards in New Zealand and overseas. The data are both daily averages and 'as at' the last day of the month, with interest rate information on both bases.

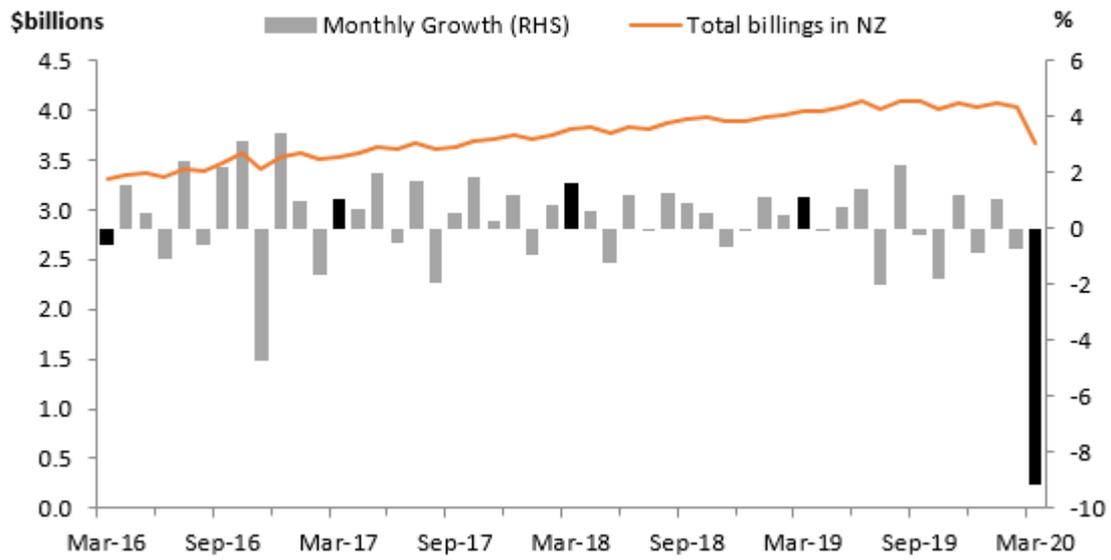
'Billings' means spending on a card - the monthly flow of total card debits (excluding interest), either by direct purchase or via cash advances. The rates of growth of billings are based on seasonally-adjusted data, which allows for trading day effects.

### [Credit card summary](#)

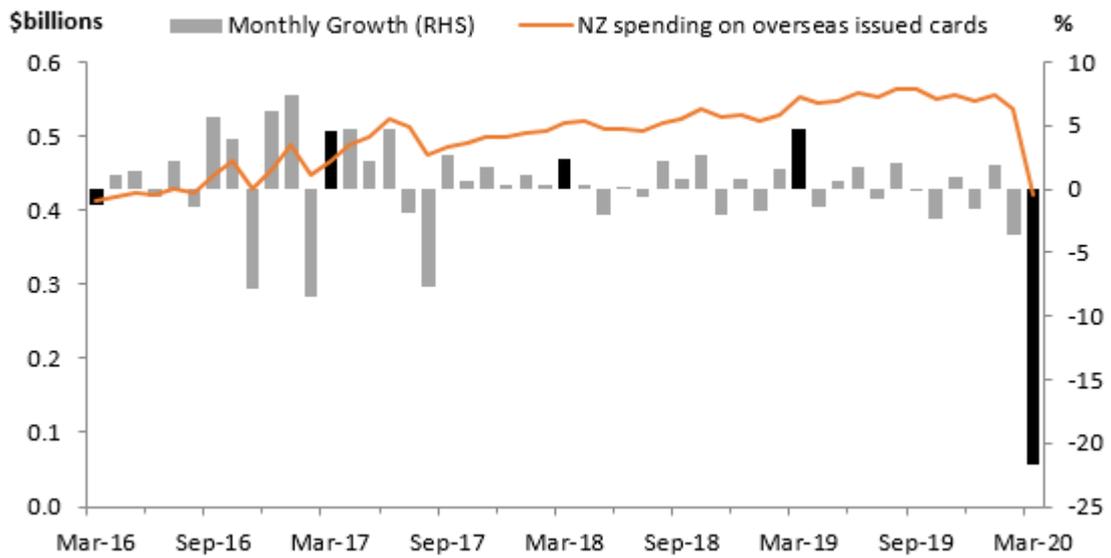
#### **Highlights for March 2020 (all figures are seasonally adjusted):**

- Total monthly credit card billings in New Zealand fell 9.1 percent to \$3.7 billion. This is the largest monthly fall on record and reflects the impact of COVID-19 across the country.
- Billings in New Zealand on overseas-issued cards were down 22 percent to \$0.4 billion
- Billings in New Zealand on domestically-issued cards fell 7.2 percent to \$3.3 billion
- Overseas billings on New Zealand-issued credit cards fell 25 percent to \$0.4 billion, as New Zealanders cut short their overseas travel
- Credit card deposits rose 14 percent in March to \$0.1 billion, contributing to a fall in credit limit utilisation rates.

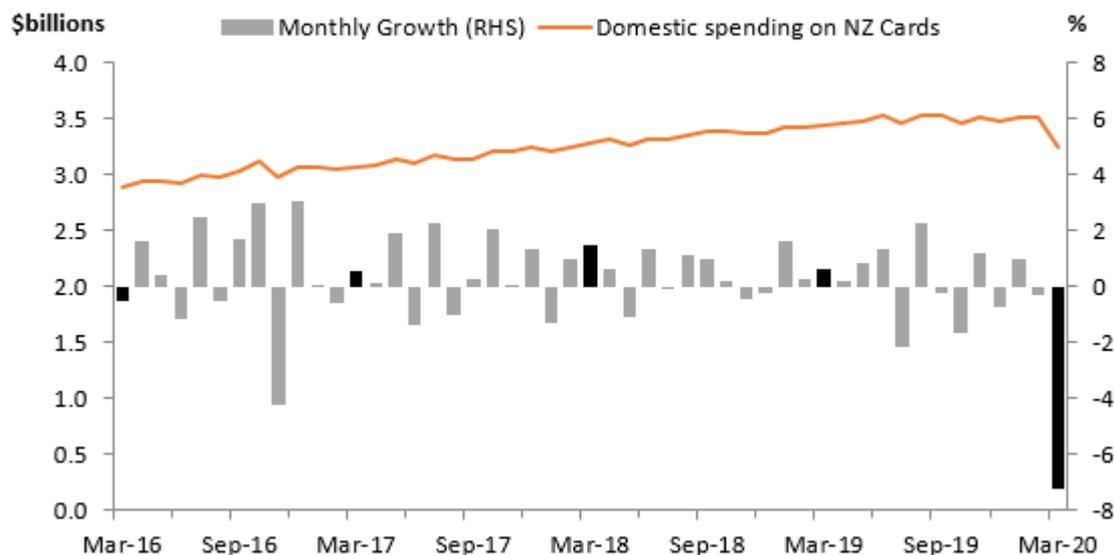
### Total billings in NZ (seasonally adjusted)



### Domestic billings on overseas cards (seasonally adjusted)



### Domestic billings on NZ cards (seasonally adjusted)



### Overseas billings on NZ cards (seasonally adjusted)

