

Tara-ā-Whare Household Expectations Survey February 2025

18 February 2025

Summary

- The mean household expectation for one-year-ahead annual inflation increased from 4.1% to 4.9% this quarter. The median estimate for one-year-ahead annual inflation also increased from 3.0% to 4.0%.
- The mean two-year-ahead annual inflation expectation increased from 3.7% to 3.9% this quarter.
- The mean five-year-ahead annual inflation expectation increased from 3.4% to 3.6% this quarter.
- The mean one-year-ahead house price inflation expectation increased from 2.2% to 2.7% this quarter.
- Households expected 5.2% average growth in their earnings in one year’s time, a decrease from 5.6% last quarter.
- On average, households reported a 12.9% chance of not making a mortgage payment in the next 3 months, unchanged from last quarter. Households reported a 17.7% chance of not making a rent payment in the next 3 months (17.5% previous quarter).
- Households continued to expect increased difficulty in finding a new job in the next three months. The expected chance of finding a new job has declined for four consecutive quarters since March 2024. On average, respondents believed there was a 41.5% chance they would find a new job in the next three months if they lost their job (42.3% previous quarter).

Household annual inflation expectations slightly increased from last quarter

The survey of about 1000 households for this quarter started on the same day as Stats NZ’s CPI release on 22nd January 2025. The annual CPI inflation for the December 2024 quarter was measured at 2.2%, unchanged from last quarter.

The mean household expectations for one-year-ahead annual inflation increased from 4.1% to 4.9% this quarter. The median estimate for one-year-ahead annual inflation expectations increased to 4.0% (see Figure 1).

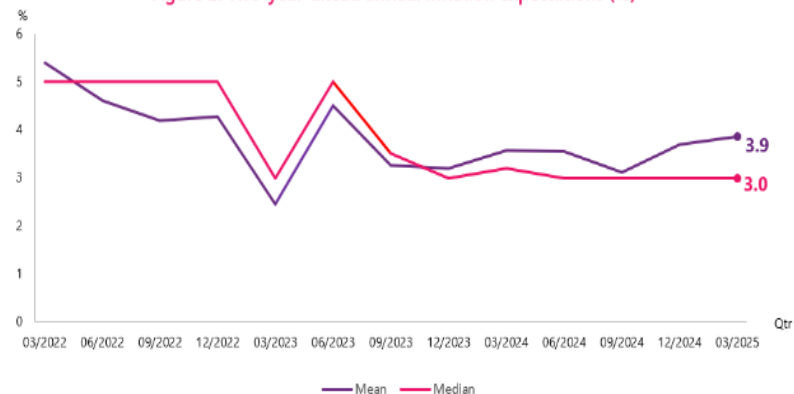
Mean two-year-ahead annual inflation expectations increased to 3.9%. The median for two-year-ahead annual inflation expectations remained unchanged at 3.0% (see Figure 2).

The survey question about two-year-ahead annual inflation expectations was asked for the first time in March 2022.

Figure 1: One-year-ahead annual inflation expectations (%)

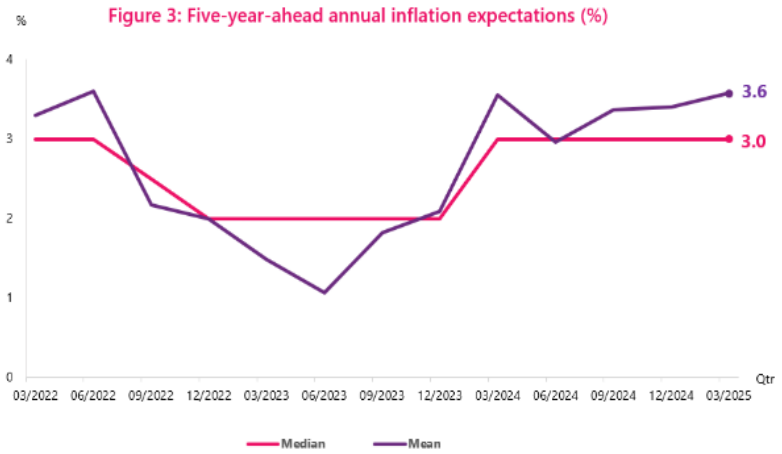


Figure 2: Two-year-ahead annual inflation expectations (%)



Compared to last quarter, the mean five-year-ahead annual inflation expectations increased from 3.4% to 3.6% this quarter. The median inflation expectations remained at 3.0%.

Note: In March 2022, we changed the survey to specify that we are asking for an expected annual rate of inflation five years ahead. As a result of this improvement to the survey, there was a break in the time series for five-year-ahead inflation expectations in March 2022. This is now shown as a new series; therefore, these results cannot be compared with earlier quarters.

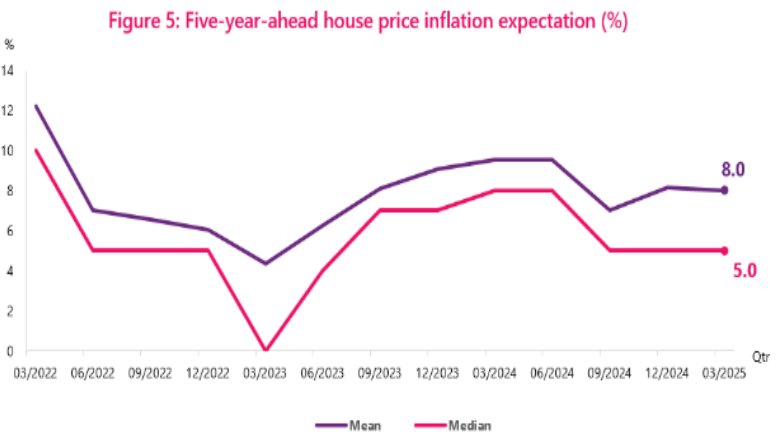


One-year-ahead house price inflation expectations for the next 12 months increased slightly

Figure 4 shows the one-year-ahead house price inflation expectation. The mean expectation increased from 2.2% to 2.7% this quarter. The median expectation remained at 0.0%.

Figure 5 shows the five-year-ahead house price inflation expectation (how much prices are expected to have changed in five years' time).

The mean for five-year-ahead house price inflation expectation decreased from 8.1% to 8.0% this quarter. The median expectations remained unchanged at 5.0%.



Households expected 5.2% growth in their earnings next year

Respondents are asked about the expected percentage change in their earnings 12 months ahead, assuming they stay at the same job, with the same number of hours. They are asked to give an answer on a scale of -100 to +100. This question was first asked in the March 2022 quarter and is asked only of those who are employers, self-employed, or employees earning a wage or salary.

This quarter, the mean estimate decreased slightly from 5.6% to 5.2% (see Figure 6).



The average expected chance of missing a mortgage payment in the next 3 months remained unchanged at 12.9%

Respondents are asked on a scale of 0 (i.e. not at all likely) to 100 (i.e. extremely likely) the chance they will be unable to make a mortgage or rent payment in the next 3 months. This question was first asked in the March 2022 quarter and is asked of a subset of the total sample.

This quarter, the average expected chance of not making a mortgage payment in the next 3 months remained unchanged from last quarter at 12.9% (see Figure 7).

The average expected chance of not making a rent payment in the next 3 months was 17.7%, compared to 17.5% reported in the previous quarter (see Figure 8).

Figure 7: Chance of missing a mortgage payment (%)

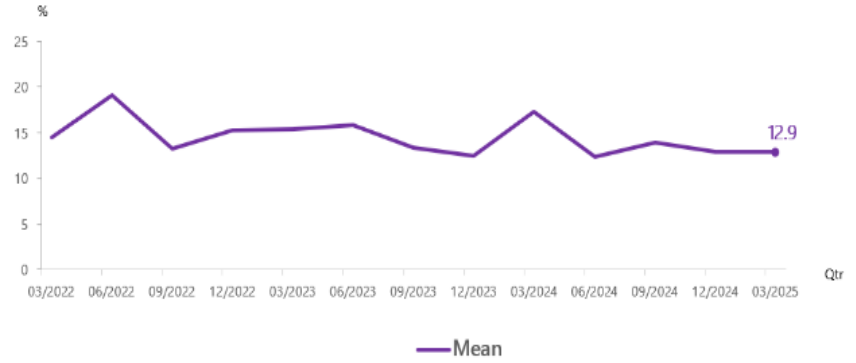
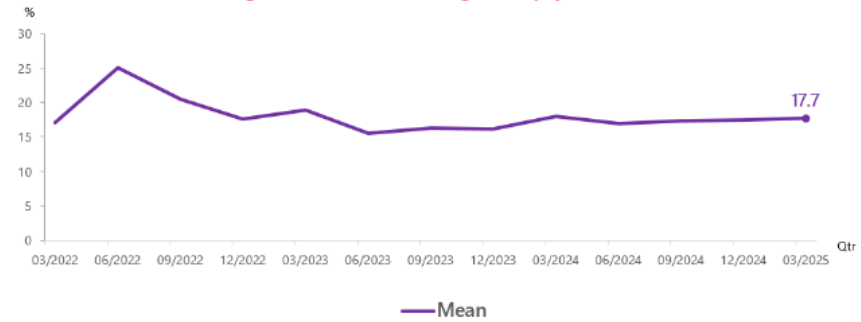


Figure 8: Chance of missing a rent payment (%)



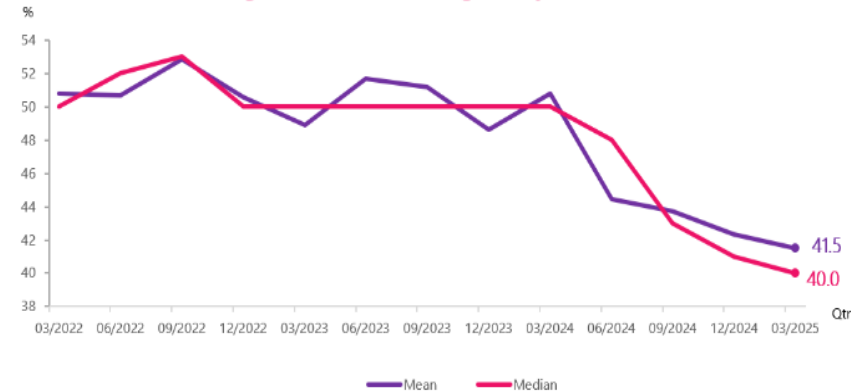
People think it is getting harder to find a new job

Respondents are asked on a scale of 0 (i.e. not at all likely) to 100 (i.e. extremely likely) the chance they would find a new job in the next 3 months if they lost their job in this coming month. This question was first asked in the March 2022 quarter and is asked only of those who are employers, self-employed, or employees earning a wage or salary.

On average, respondents believed there is a 41.5% chance they would find a new job in the next three months if they lost their job. This is a decrease from the previous quarter (42.3%) and makes a fourth consecutive quarter of decline in respondent expectations for the chance of finding a new job in the next 3 months (see Figure 9).

The median expectation also decreased from 41.0% to 40.0% this quarter.

Figure 9: Chance of finding a new job (%)



About the Tara-ā-Whare – Household Expectations Survey:

The RBNZ Household Expectations Survey was re-developed in 2022 Q1 and renamed to *Tara-ā-Whare - Household Expectations Survey*. The word "Tara" is derived from Pakitara, or the walls, and "Whare" means a house. Tara-ā-Whare is also used to describe going door to door, to ask questions.

The data for this report was collected by Research NZ on behalf of RBNZ. Fieldwork for this survey was conducted between 22 and 31 January 2025. The sample size for this quarter's survey was n=1,002 and has a margin of error of +/-3.1% for a 95% confidence interval for a 50% figure. The survey is conducted online and is made up of a nationally representative sample of New Zealand residents aged 18 and over. Because the survey is a sample of New Zealand households and varies quarter to quarter, we advise caution in interpreting results across quarters as they may not be 'statistically significant' (i.e. the observed result may have occurred by chance or by sampling error). For more information, contact: stats-info@rbnz.govt.nz