# NZ Property Market Outlook Stephen Toplis | March 2021

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**BNZ MARKETS** 

# **Property Big Picture**

#### In Aggregate

- Driven by ultra low interest rates
- And poor returns elsewhere
- Fundamentals taking a back seat

#### What happens when/if

- Interest rates stop falling
- Fundamentals take centre stage



# **Property Big Picture**

#### Commercial

- Employment growth to moderate
- Working from home becomes the norm

#### Industrial

- Distribution centres in the ascendancy
- Medium term investment outlook positive
- NZ on a firmish growth track



# **Property Big Picture**

#### Retail

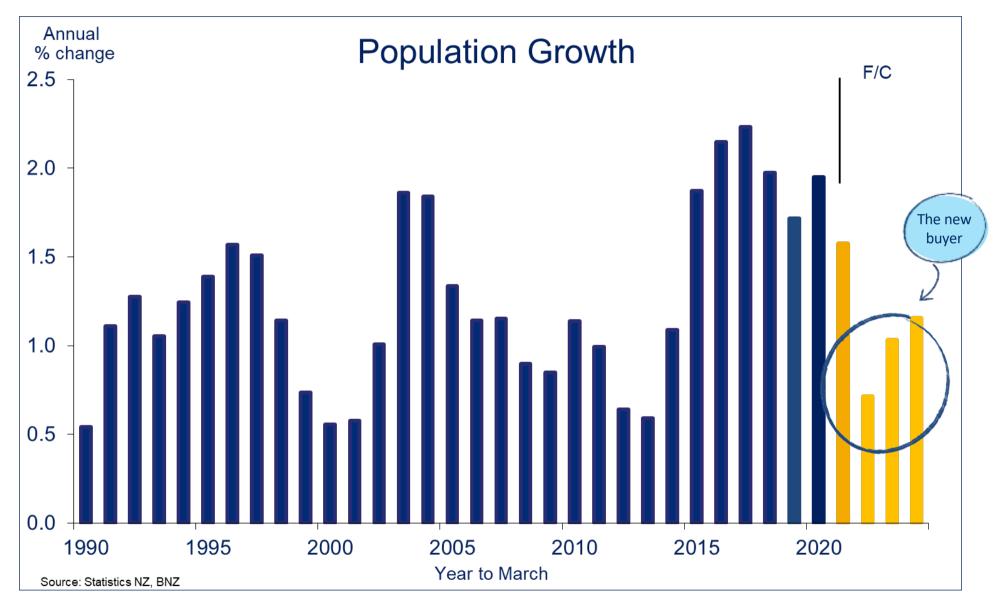
- High street in trouble for a while
- Regional and online distribution positive
- Overall consumption picture okay

#### Residential

- Housing shortage remains
- But not for long, perhaps
- Population growth stunted
- Supply strong
- Serious valuation issues
- Government wants an end to apparent excesses

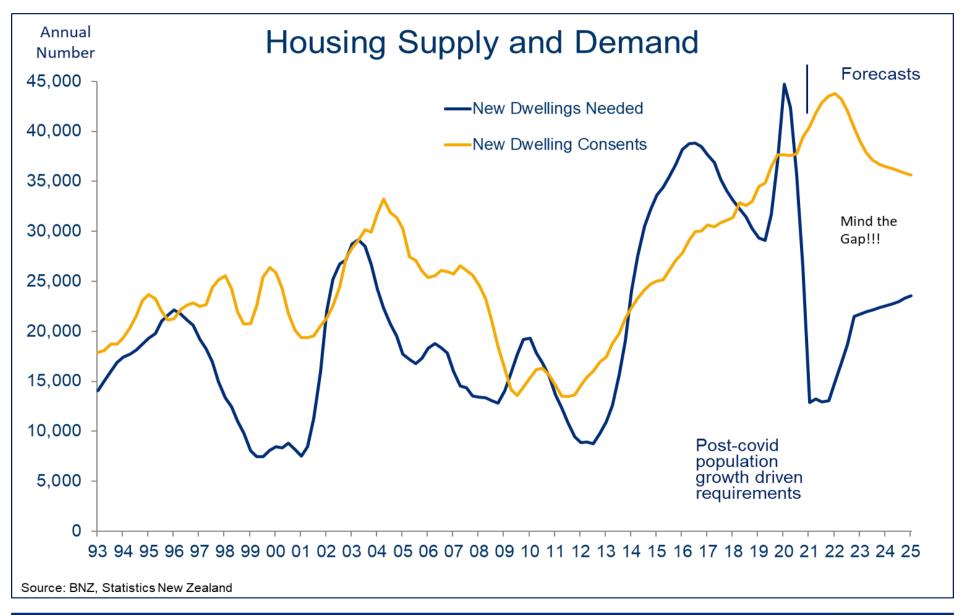


### **Population Growth Wilts**



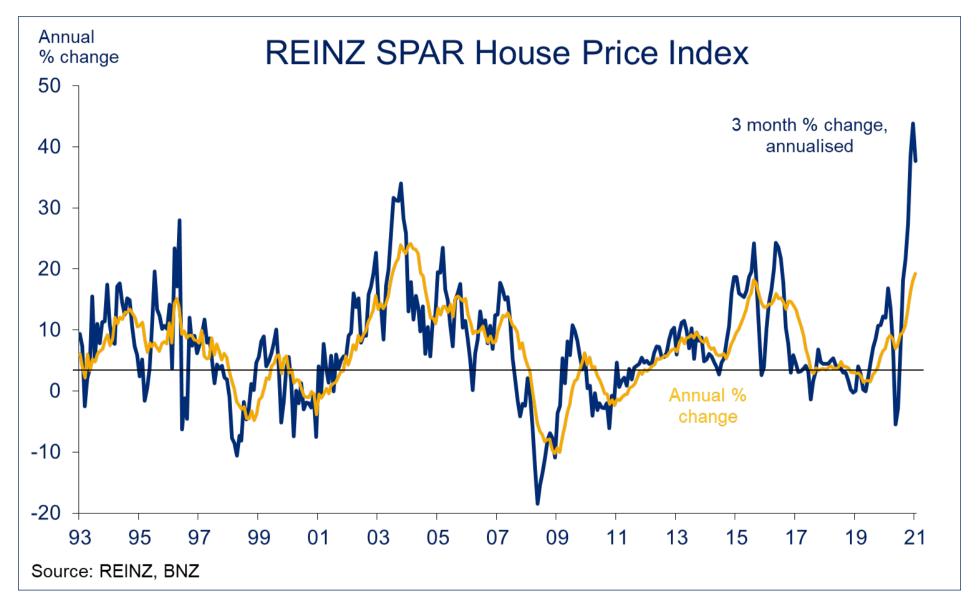


### Are We Overbuilding?



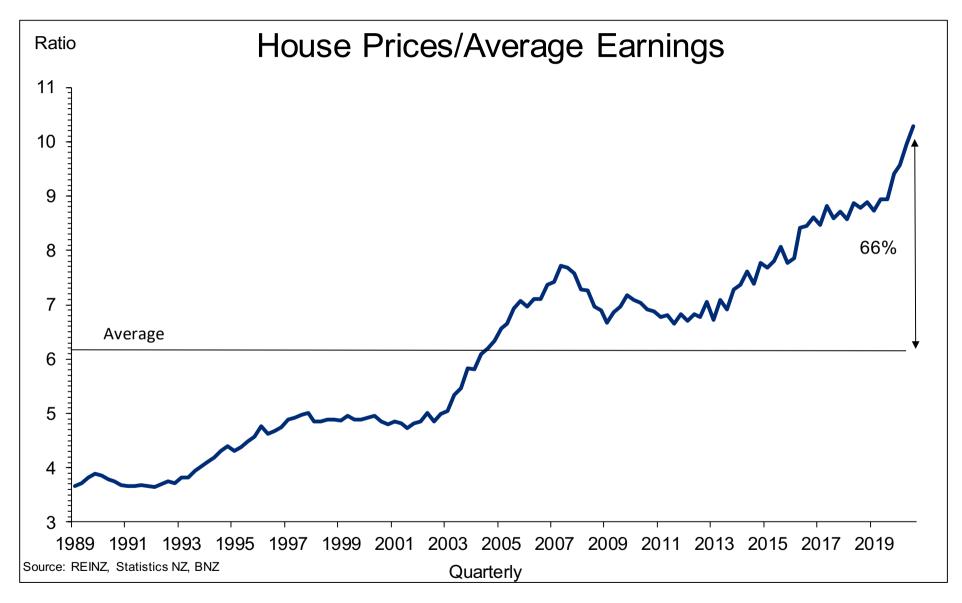


#### **Yet House Prices Scream Higher**



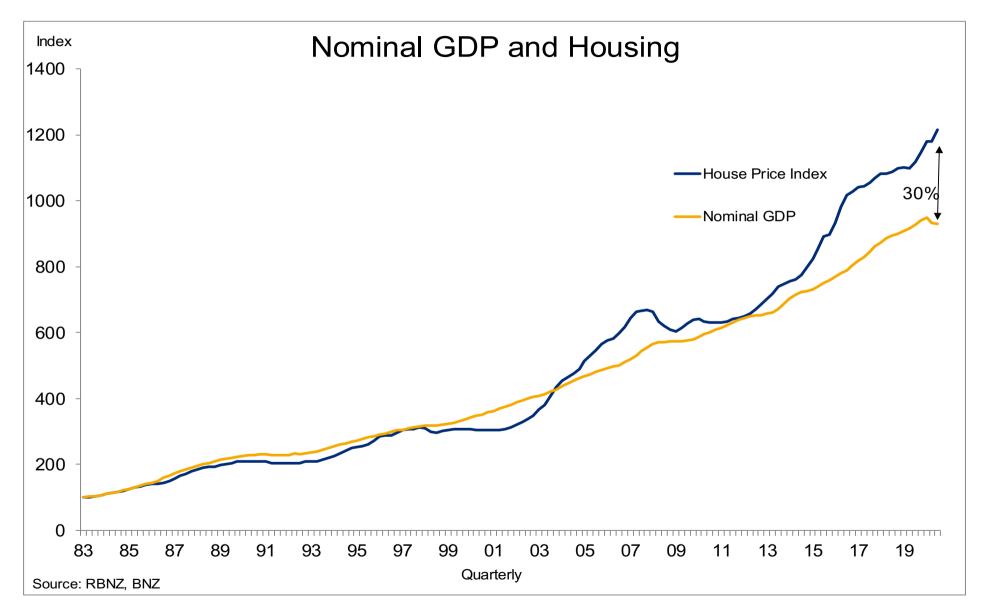


### **Prices Getting Silly?**



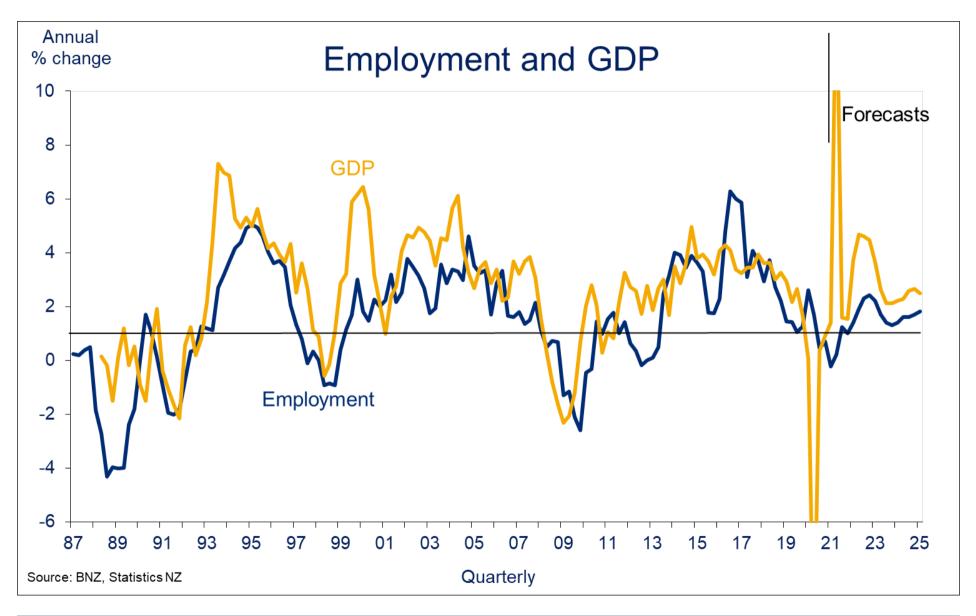


#### **Well Overvalued**





### **Employment Growth Constrained**



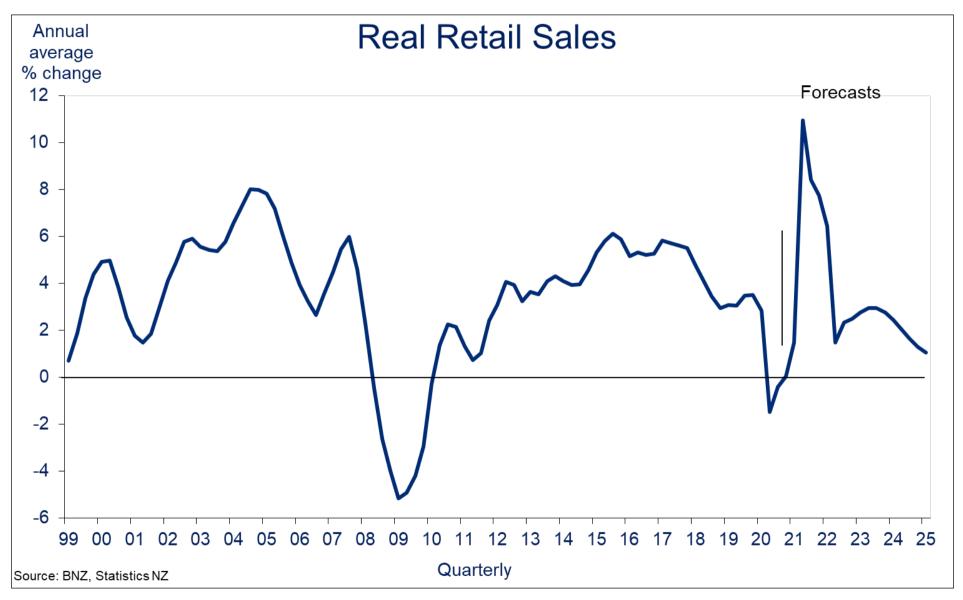


## **Working From Home**

- The sick
- Lifestyle
- Banks
- Vodafone
- Government

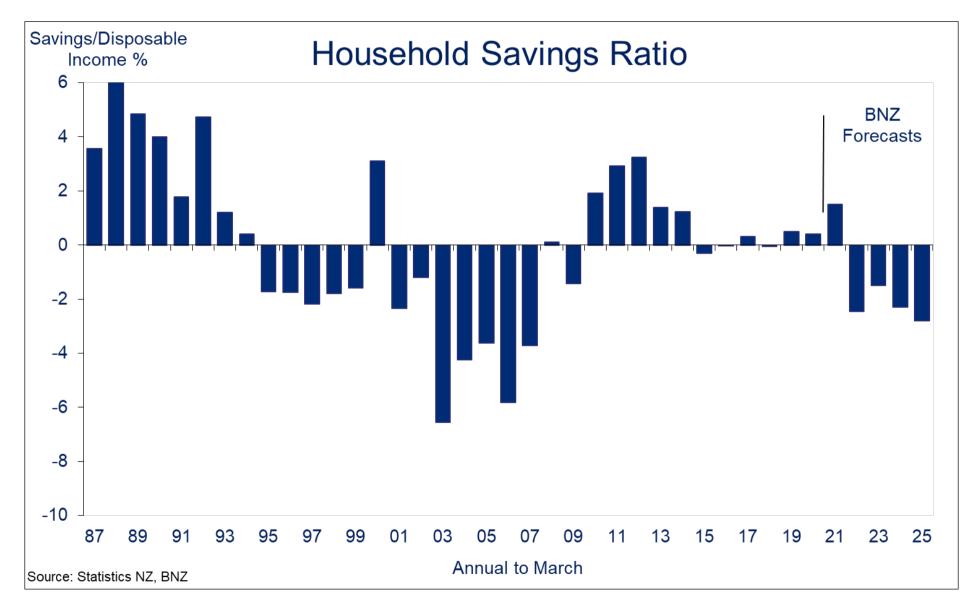


### **Retail Strong But Slowing**



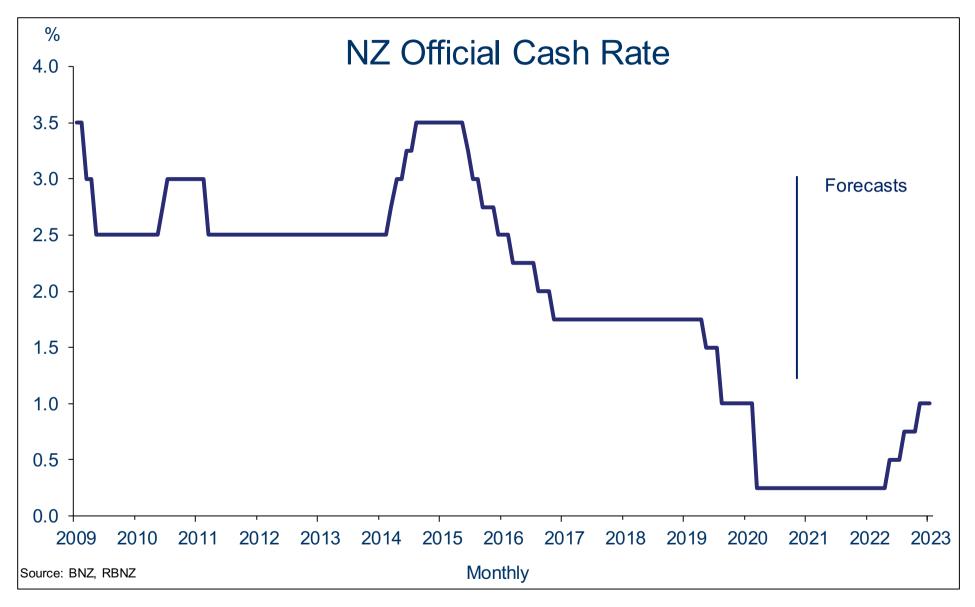


### **Spending Exceeds Earning**





#### **Next Rate Move Is Up**





# Conclusion

- New Zealand is in a prime position
- No Covid means outperformance
- But expansion looking increasingly non-sustainable
- Asset price values problematically high
- Rate increase(s) likely
- Caution required



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