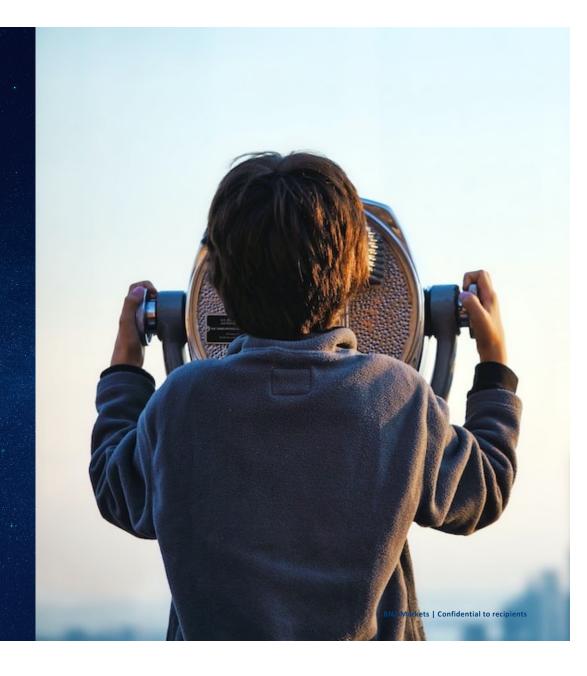


Business Outlook Mixed

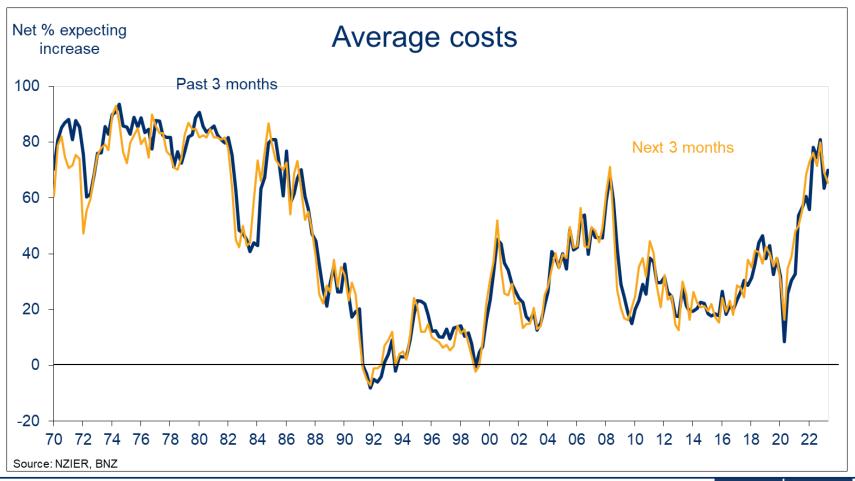
Stephen Toplis August 2023

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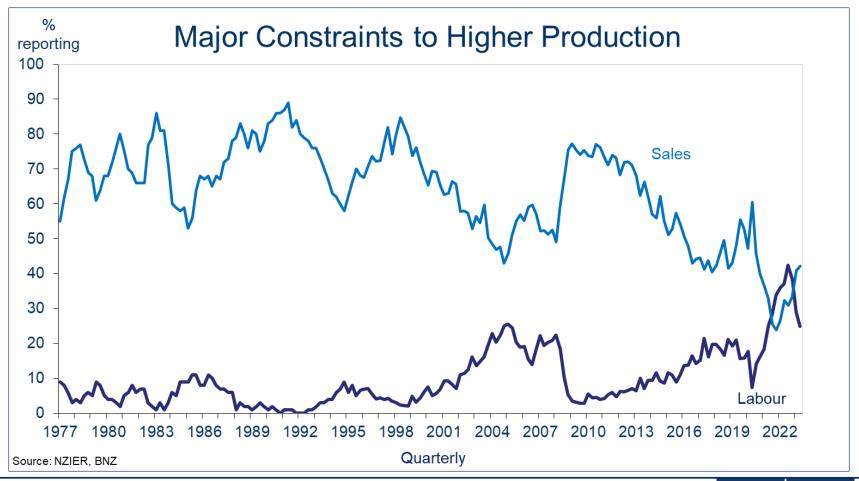


Rising input costs remain the biggest concern for business



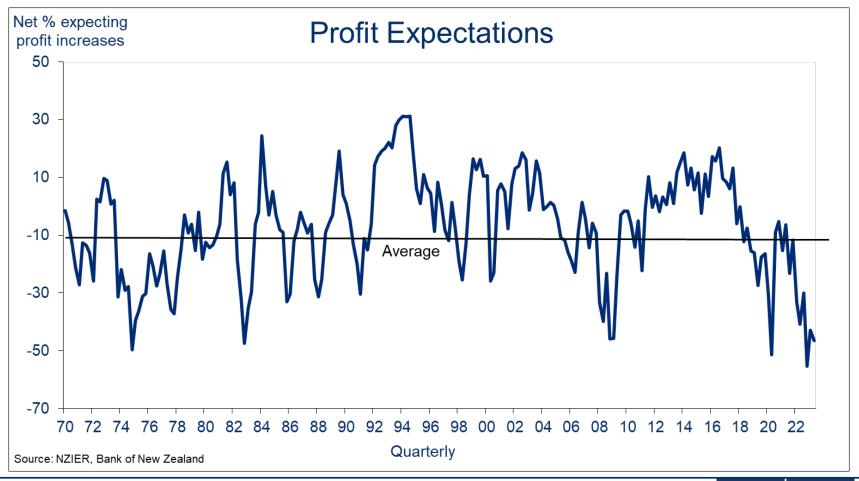


Demand has replaced labour as the second biggest challenge



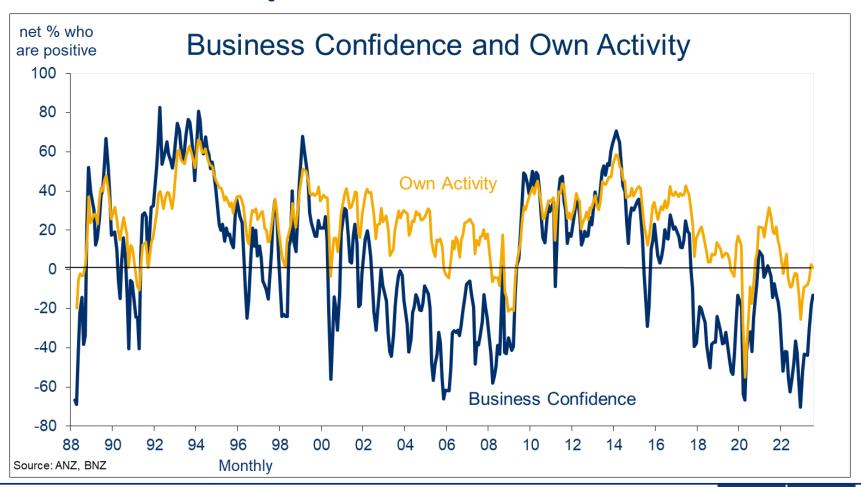


Demand down, costs up, ouch!



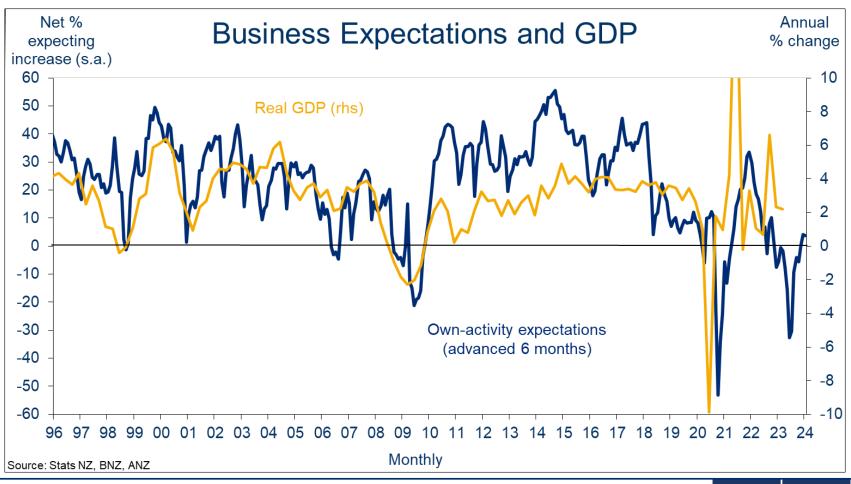


But outlook improves





Less worse, at least





Optimism grows for some

- Interest rates have peaked, property values supported
- Labour market eases as migration soars
- COVID less of a problem
- Increased chance of a change in government
- Tourists return





- Financial services
- Aged care providers
- Property
- Tourism

But for others the dominant factors are

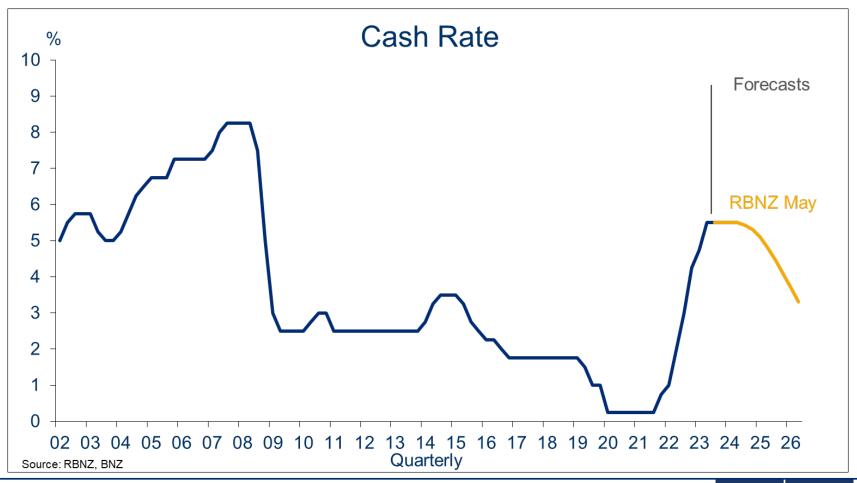
- Lagged impact of rising interest rates
- Weakening domestic demand
- Slumping commodity prices

The losers

- Retail
- Agriculture Dairy, lamb
- Manufacturing
- Construction

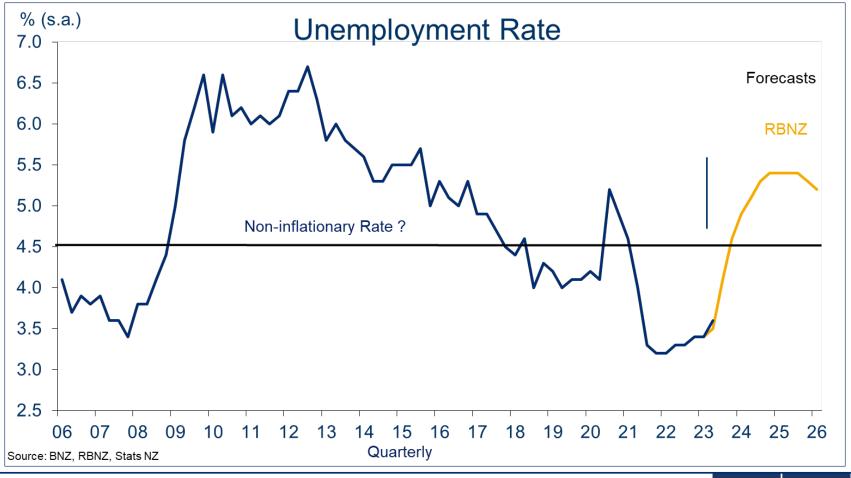


RBNZ unmoved



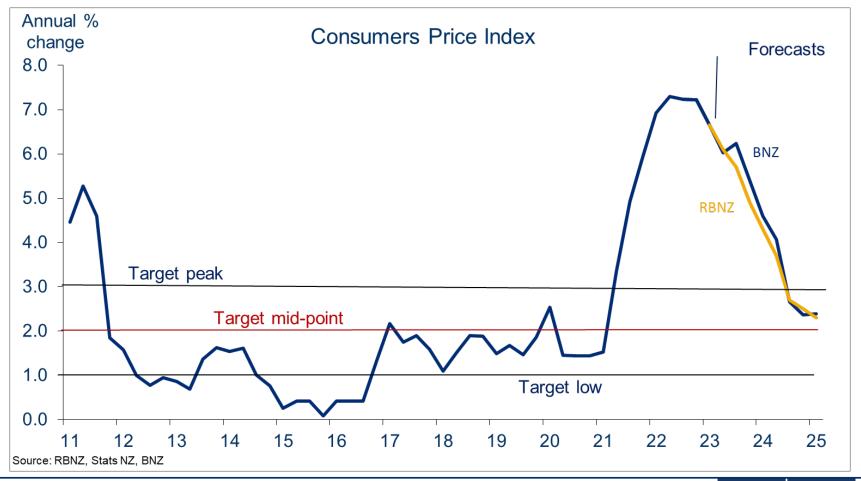


Labour market behaving





Inflation about right





Multiple options

