

Another busy Easter for core retailers, while hospitality sector builds momentum

AUCKLAND, 20 April 2022 – As COVID restrictions further eased across New Zealand, consumer spending over Easter was similar to recent years, while the Hospitality sector continued to build on the momentum seen in March.

Consumer spending through core retail merchants (excluding Hospitality) in Worldline’s payments network reached \$652.6m for the seven days up to Easter Monday (18 April). This was 12% up on the same period in 2019, and similar to the growth seen during March 2022.

Meanwhile, spending at Hospitality merchants for the same period reached \$202.8m, down 7% on the Easter week ending Monday 22 April 2019, but an improvement on the average 23% decline seen over the last eight months, following the Delta lockdown that began in August 2021.

This increasing spending at Hospitality merchants continued the momentum of the gradual recovery of this sector seen in Worldline’s data from March 2022, with the gap between pre-COVID spending levels in 2019 narrowing again over Easter.

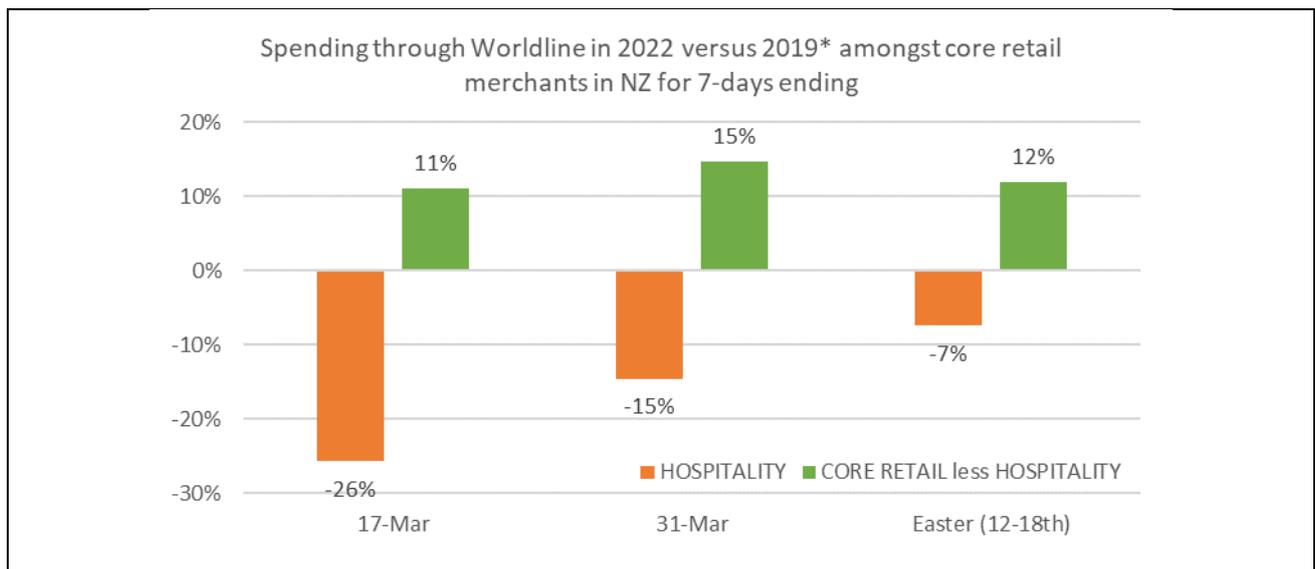


Figure 1: All Cards NZ underlying* spending change for recent 7-day periods since equivalent periods in 2019 through Worldline for core retail merchants (* Underlying excludes large clients moving to or from Worldline)

This year, Saturday was an especially busy shopping day, with core retail spending on 16 April in Auckland / Northland up 10% on the previous Saturday (9 April), rising \$6m to \$64.7m.

The smaller regions experienced a proportionally larger increase, although it was smaller in dollar terms, as people travelled away from the larger centres for the Easter break. The highest Saturday-to-Saturday jump was 57% (\$0.5m) in the West Coast region, followed by 37% (\$0.6m) in Wairarapa. Outside Auckland/Northland, the next largest Saturday-to-Saturday jump in dollar terms was in Bay of Plenty, up \$3.5m or 32%.

Across the entire four-day Easter long weekend, spending levels this year were similar to those seen last year, but notably were 8% above the pre-COVID Easter of 2019.

The regions recording the highest year-on-year core retail growth rates over the four-day Easter weekend were generally around the lower half of the North Island. Wellington remains the exception within this wider region, with Easter spending slightly down on 2021.

Meanwhile, the highest growth was seen in Taranaki, up 8% on last year and 26% on 2019, while spending over the four days of Easter was below 2019 and 2021 levels in Marlborough and Otago.

WORLDLINE All Cards underlying* spending for CORE RETAIL merchants for Easter weekend (Fri-Mon)			
Region	Value transactions \$millions	Underlying* Annual % change on 2021	Underlying* Annual % change on 2019
Auckland/Northland	148.7	-1%	7%
Waikato	34.7	4%	16%
BOP	35.9	-1%	11%
Gisborne	4.0	-4%	7%
Taranaki	10.1	8%	26%
Hawke's Bay	15.0	3%	14%
Whanganui	5.3	5%	18%
Palmerston North	11.8	5%	19%
Wairarapa	5.1	4%	22%
Wellington	39.2	-2%	7%
Nelson	8.1	-1%	6%
Marlborough	5.9	-8%	-4%
West Coast	3.7	1%	6%
Canterbury	44.0	3%	10%
South Canterbury	6.2	0%	10%
Otago	26.9	-3%	-8%
Southland	10.5	1%	0%
New Zealand	419.4	0%	8%

Figure 2: All Cards NZ annual underlying* spending growth through Worldline over Easter weekend (Fri-Mon) for regional core retail (* Underlying excludes large clients moving to or from Worldline)

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Note to editors:

These figures reflect general market trends and should not be taken as a proxy for Worldline's market share or company earnings. The figures primarily reflect transactions undertaken within stores but also include some ecommerce transactions. The figures exclude transactions through Worldline undertaken by merchants outside the Core Retail sector (as defined by Statistics NZ).

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