QUEENSTOWN
LAKES DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Queenstown Lakes District COVID-19 Intelligence Report.
Week ending 22/5/2020

Before you start reading this report

The purpose of the report is to present data during the time of the COVID-19 global pandemic and the Queenstown Lakes Districts response. This data should help inform the immediate response, as well as shape subsequent recovery. This document is intended as a tool for use by key stakeholders.

This report is split into two sections:

SECTION 1:
Immediate Impact

SECTION 2:
Understanding the wider context: Our district at a glance

How to read this report

- The focus of this data is **primarily economic**; however this will evolve
- There is a **time lag** in some data, for example MarketView is a week behind. Please be mindful of this as this data will not reflect the situation as it stands today
- Primary data sources are:
    - QLDC welfare registrations
    - Census 2018
    - Infometrics
    - Quality of Life 2019
    - MarketView
    - Beca

- Throughout the report this symbol   is used to invite the reader to pause and consider **insights, impact and further analysis.**
- This report will **evolve** each week to include additional data and scenario testing

Section 1:
Immediate Impact

The Queenstown Lakes District Council welfare registration form was launched on 24 March 2020 in response to the level 4 lockdown.

The following data provides a snapshot of the data from the welfare registration form.

15,719	6,529	4,715	42%	9%
Welfare requests received as at midnight, 19 May 2020 (A total of 8,672 food vouchers were issued for Queenstown and 887 for Wanaka)	Unique welfare requests Multiple requests can be made i.e. one person can submit the form multiple times.	Welfare requests from those on employment or short stay visitor visas	Unemployment rate of those registering for welfare	Current unemployment rate of the working age population

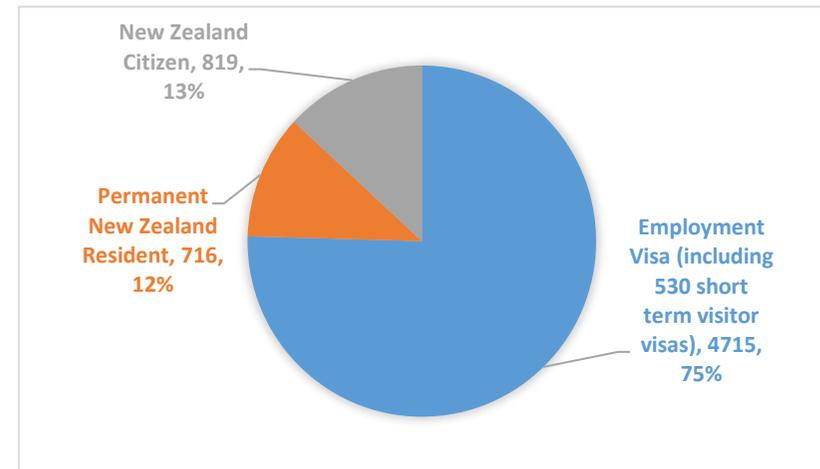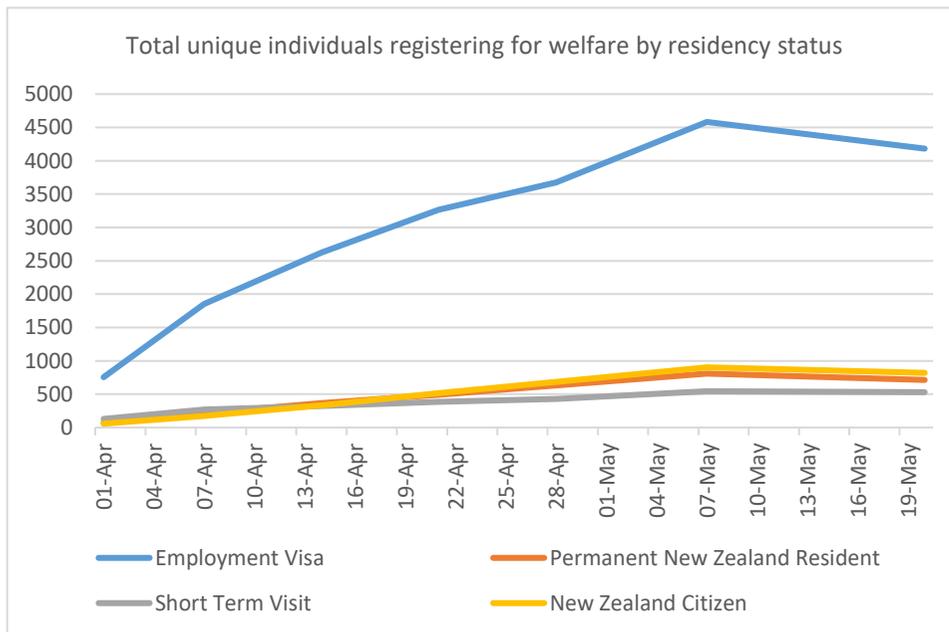**ESTIMATED SHORTFALL IN QLDC'S 20/21 REVENUE DUE TO THE IMPACT OF COVID 19: $25.3M**

- Reduced User Fees Revenue e.g. parking, refuse, general charges etc $5.9m
- Reduced Other Income e.g tourism business leases, infringements and airport dividend $10.5m
- Lower Rates income $4.4m
- Reduced Development Contributions $4.5m

Council is still intending to continue to invest in its significant capital programme for Annual Plan 2021:22. This is a large programme which will provide a vital stimulus to the local economy. QLDC has also submitted a request for $68m in contributions from the Crown Infrastructure Partners "shovel ready" fund.
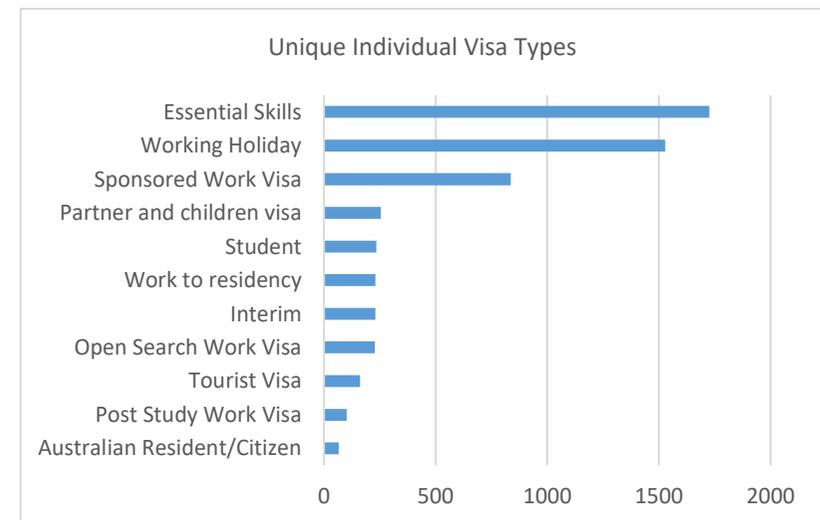
WELFARE REGISTRATIONS

The residency status of those registering for welfare remains consistent, with 75% being made by those on employment visas. A closer look at those on short term visitor visas suggests these are people waiting on a work visa, with a small number of tourists stuck due to the lock down. Therefore, these two residency categories have been combined. A steady number of registrations are being made by NZ citizens and permanent residents.

**Please note that the welfare data has been migrated into a new system and the data cleansed. Therefore, there is a slight dip in the numbers being report compared to previous weeks. This is due to more accurate reporting of unique individual data.

Total unique individuals registering for welfare by residency status

New Zealand Citizen, 819, 13%

Permanent New Zealand Resident, 716, 12%

Employment Visa (including 530 short term visitor visas), 4715, 75%

279 records classed as 'unknown' are been omitted from the analysis.

Unique Individual Visa Types

WELFARE REGISTRATIONS FROM MĀORI

A total of **109** welfare registrations have been received from Māori. This is not inline with previous reporting and we will investigate to ensure this data is being captured correctly.

> Research has shown that Māori are 1.5 times more likely to experience unmet health needs due to cost, and lack of sufficient transport is twice as likely to be a barrier to accessing health services. Māori unemployment is double that of non-Māori, and the majority of those employed are in insecure roles. In is anticipated that these inequalities will hit young Māori hardest, as youth is a predictor of unemployment.

THE ETHNICITY PROFILE[1] OF PEOPLE REGISTERING FOR WELFARE:

The following profile represents all people registering for welfare

41% European (includes NZ European)   28% Asian   2% Māori

27% Middle Eastern, Latin American, African   2% Pacific Peoples

NATIONALITIES OF INDIVIDUALS REGISTERING FOR WELFARE:

The below covers all visa types. The large number of New Zealand responses reflects the nature of the question, 'What is your country of residence?' as opposed to 'What was your country of residence prior to moving to New Zealand'. Some nationalities have been grouped for this report however, a comprehensive list is being provided to central government departments.
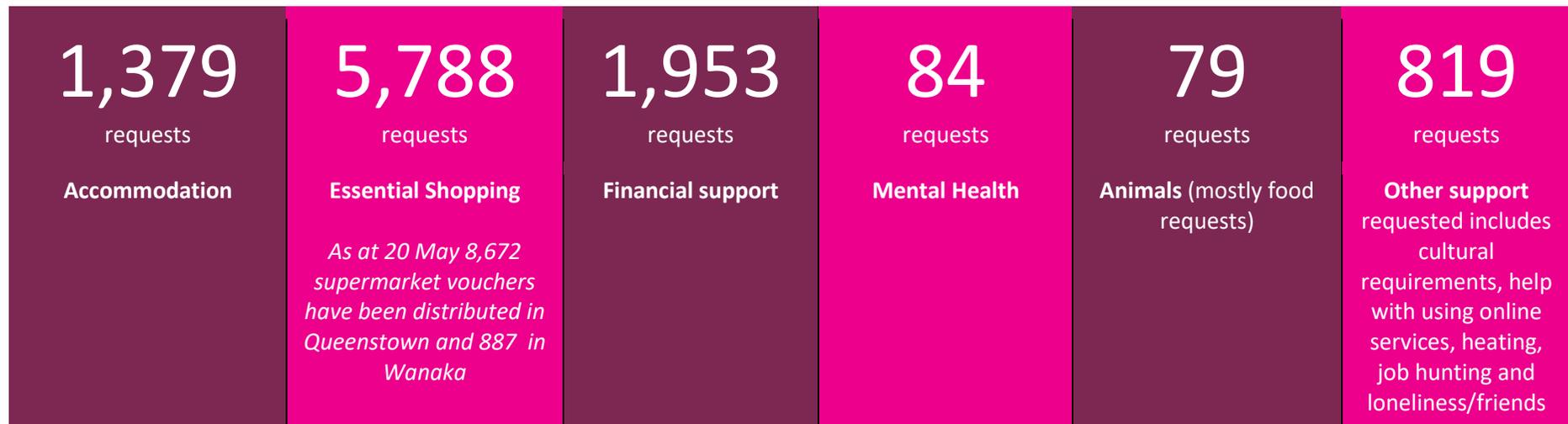
Nationality	Count of Unique Individual	Nationality	Count of Unique Individual
UK and Ireland	894	Japan	109
South America	875	Scandinavian Countries	76
South East Asia	613	Pacific Islands	50
Mainland Europe	518	Taiwan	28
India	358	Sri Lanka	28
America and Canada	192	Africa	17
China	127	Australia	41
Nepal	108	South Africa	12
Korea	111	Russia	9

[1] *Please note that these categories are defined by Statistics NZ, Census.*

TYPE OF SUPPORT

The following summarises the number of requests per type. People can request support across multiple categories i.e. food and essential shopping. A small proportion of those working in the district are sending money back home to families. The majority of these people are from the Philippines.

This data does not represent repeat requests, only the needs of unique individuals. It does reflect how many individuals are making repeat requests for food vouchers on a weekly basis. The increase in requests for clothing, bedding and linen may reflect the change in season, as does additional requests regarding heating.
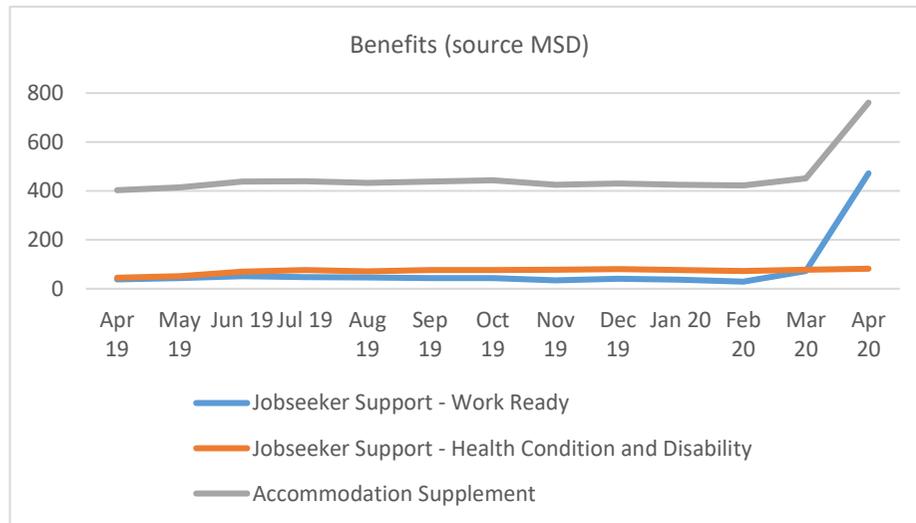
1,379	5,788	1,953	84	79	819
requests	requests	requests	requests	requests	requests
Accommodation	**Essential Shopping**	**Financial support**	**Mental Health**	**Animals** (mostly food requests)	**Other support** requested includes cultural requirements, help with using online services, heating, job hunting and loneliness/friends
	As at 20 May 8,672 supermarket vouchers have been distributed in Queenstown and 887 in Wanaka				

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF REGISTRATIONS[2]

The total unemployment rate for those using the welfare registration as at 20 May 2020: **42%.**

It is not the overall unemployment rate for the district.

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[2] *Source QLDC welfare registration form*

Those registering for support are being asked their current employment status. Analysis looked at the number of people now unemployed under each residency class:

33%	33%	46%	41%
(272 unemployed of 819 unique individuals)	(235 unemployed of 716 unique individuals)	(2151 unemployed of 4,715 unique individuals) This includes 391 short term visitor visa holders who are unemployed	(2706 individuals receiving government wage subsidy)
NZ Citizen	**Permanent Residents**	**Employment Visas**	**All Residency Status'**

Benefits (source MSD)

TRACKING UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE DISTRICT

Taking unemployment data of unique individuals applying for welfare (just those on employment visas), alongside the number of benefits claimants (NZ citizens and Permanent Residents), gives us an indication of how unemployment is tracking.

**9% of the total working age population (2,705 individuals)**

We will continue to track this number as we understand repatriation and the impact of the end of the wage subsidy. We will also continue to pursue regular updates from MSD regarding the number of benefits claimants. In addition, we will track this number against economist predications for unemployment in our district.

It is worth considering the impact that the end of the wage subsidy scheme will have on the unemployment rate that we have started to track as part of this report. In addition, the number of individuals stating they are on a percentage salary reduction or reduced hours may move to being unemployed. This is very much dependent on the industries in which those individuals work. Economic data suggests that 63% of all jobs in our district have an output related to tourism. With this in mind, we can expect this percentage to be reflected in the unemployment rate. Those on employment visas will not be eligible for support from MSD such as unemployment benefit, leaving these people with zero form of income.

A secondary piece of intelligence work is currently being developed with our data partners' at Infometrics, which will outline economic scenarios for our district. This will inform planning in both the welfare and recovery space.

Spending

The following graph replaces previous data that looked at spending changes for the week. We will now look at trends in spending as we move into the recovery phase and work towards alert level 1. As the economy opens up, it will be important to track local consumer confidence and the impact of domestic tourism.
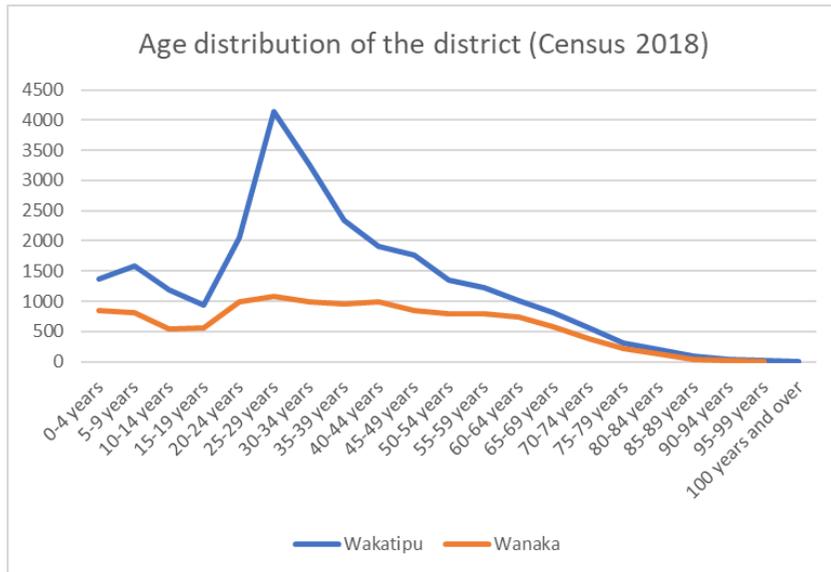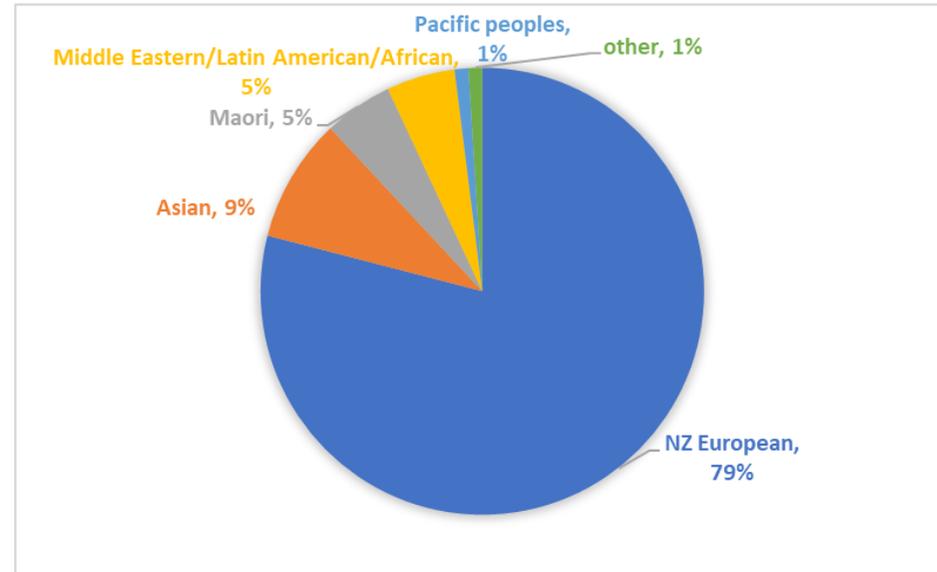

Weekly spending data from Marketview
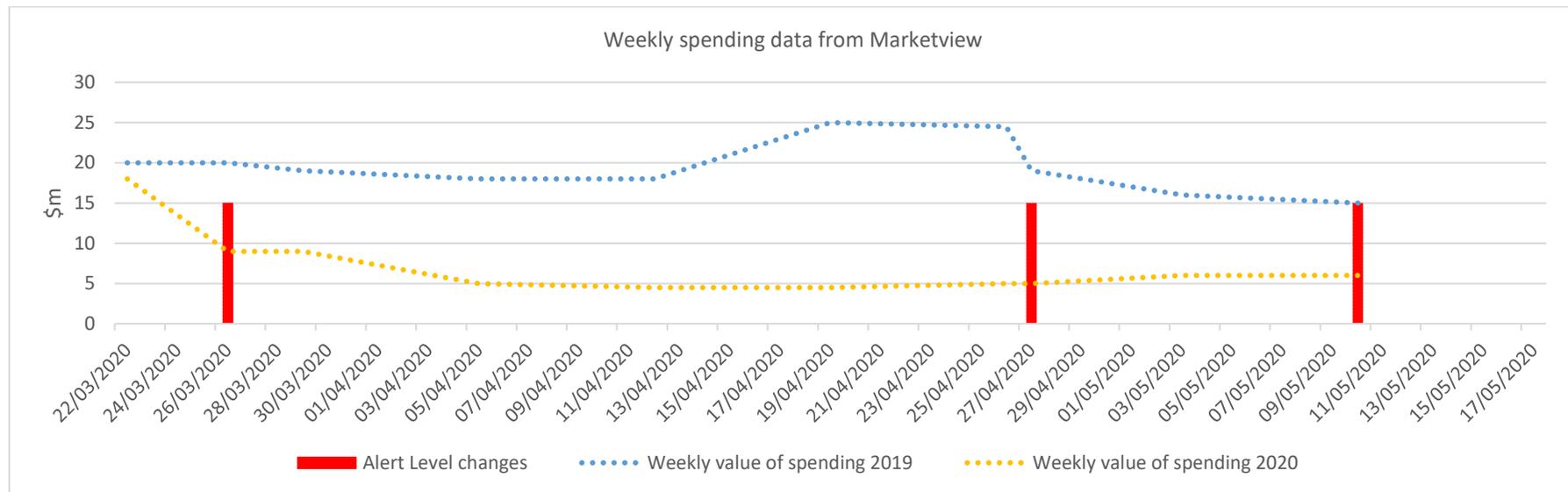
Section 2:
Understanding the wider context:
Our district at a glance

Understanding our demographic[3]

AGE PROFILE

ETHNICITY PROFILE

Age distribution of the district (Census 2018)

— Wakatipu   — Wanaka

Pacific peoples, 1%
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African, 5%
other, 1%
Maori, 5%
Asian, 9%
NZ European, 79%

[3] Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census 2018

DISABILITY PROFILE

9%

have difficulty seeing even with glasses

42 people

(0.1%) people cannot see at all

7.5%

have difficulty hearing even with a hearing aid

33 people

(0.09%) people cannot hear at all

8%

have difficulty remembering or concentrating

36 people

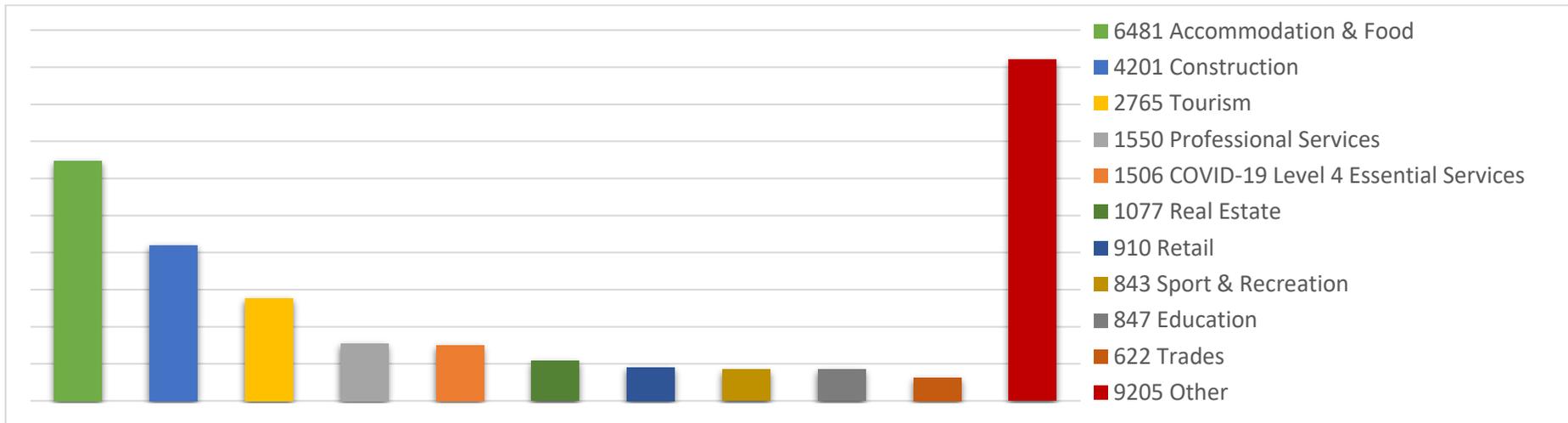**(0.1%)**   people say they cannot remember or concentrate at all

Academic research tells us that during economic downturns particular demographics are more likely to be exposed, more sensitive and less able to anticipate, cope with, or recover from the effects. These groups include young people, Māori and other minority ethnic groups, as well as those with disabilities.

In the QLDC Quality of Life 2019 report, these groups are identified as being more likely to have minimal or no disposable income, be renting their property, be unable to heat their home due to cost, experience barriers when accessing medical services. Māori are significantly more likely to be unemployed.

Work and Income

The following graph is based on Infometrics data, which identifies the number of jobs in the district's 50 largest industries. These jobs have been categorised into broader headings for the benefit of this report.

- 6481 Accommodation & Food
- 4201 Construction
- 2765 Tourism
- 1550 Professional Services
- 1506 COVID-19 Level 4 Essential Services
- 1077 Real Estate
- 910 Retail
- 843 Sport & Recreation
- 847 Education
- 622 Trades
- 9205 Other

Source: Infometrics, 50 largest employing ANZSIC 7-digit industries, 2019

Tourism is not a traditionally defined industry by Economists. However, we can estimate the proportion of output from each industry that goes to tourism. In the Queenstown-Lakes district, a very high proportion of output from industries like retail trade, accommodation, food services goes to tourism. When ranking tourism as an industry, industries like accommodation and food services are double counted i.e. on their own and as part of the tourism industry.

The following graph compares the economy of the district to Rotorua (as a tourist hub), the Otago region with the Bay of Plenty, as well as the New Zealand average.
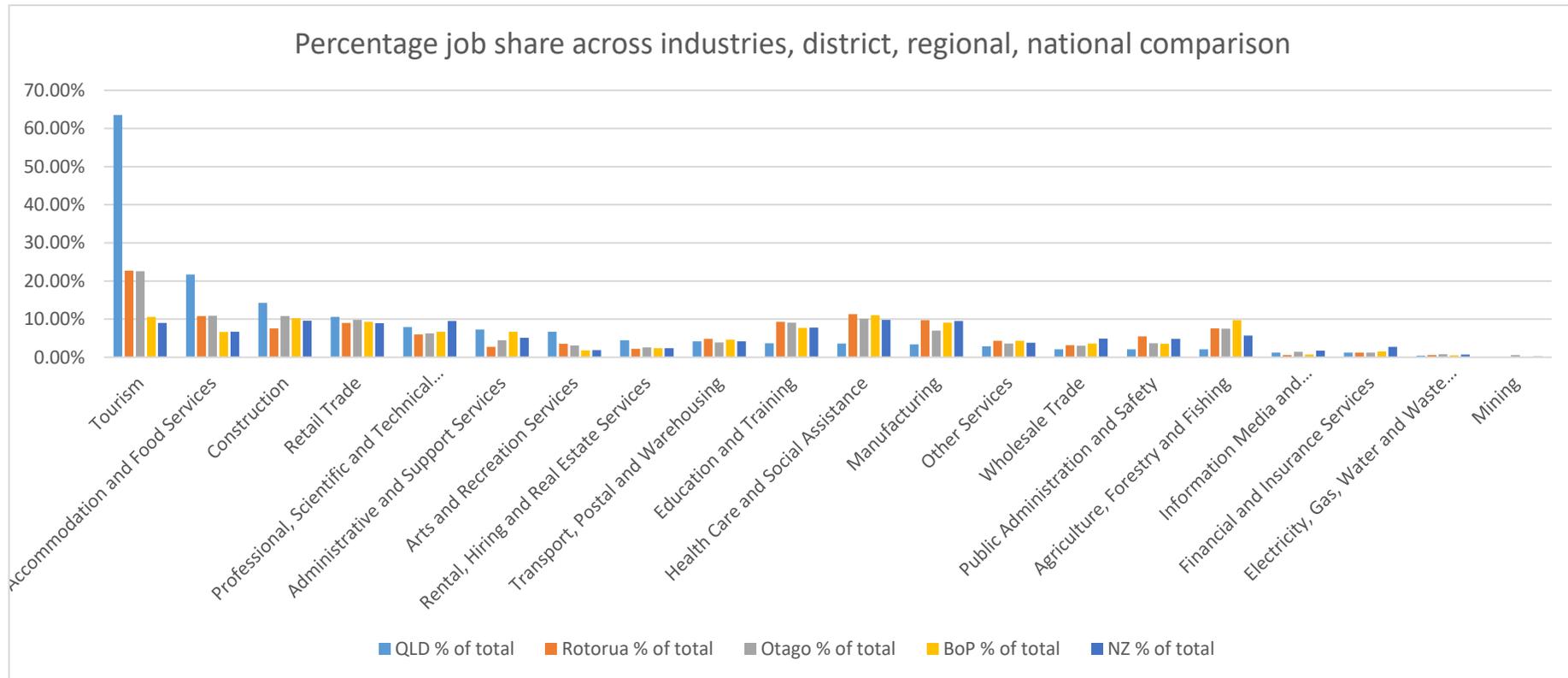
Source: Infometrics, Tourism analysis

ABILITY TO WORK FROM HOME

Infometrics have estimated using industry specific data that approximately 37% of people can currently do their job from home, the lowest in the country.
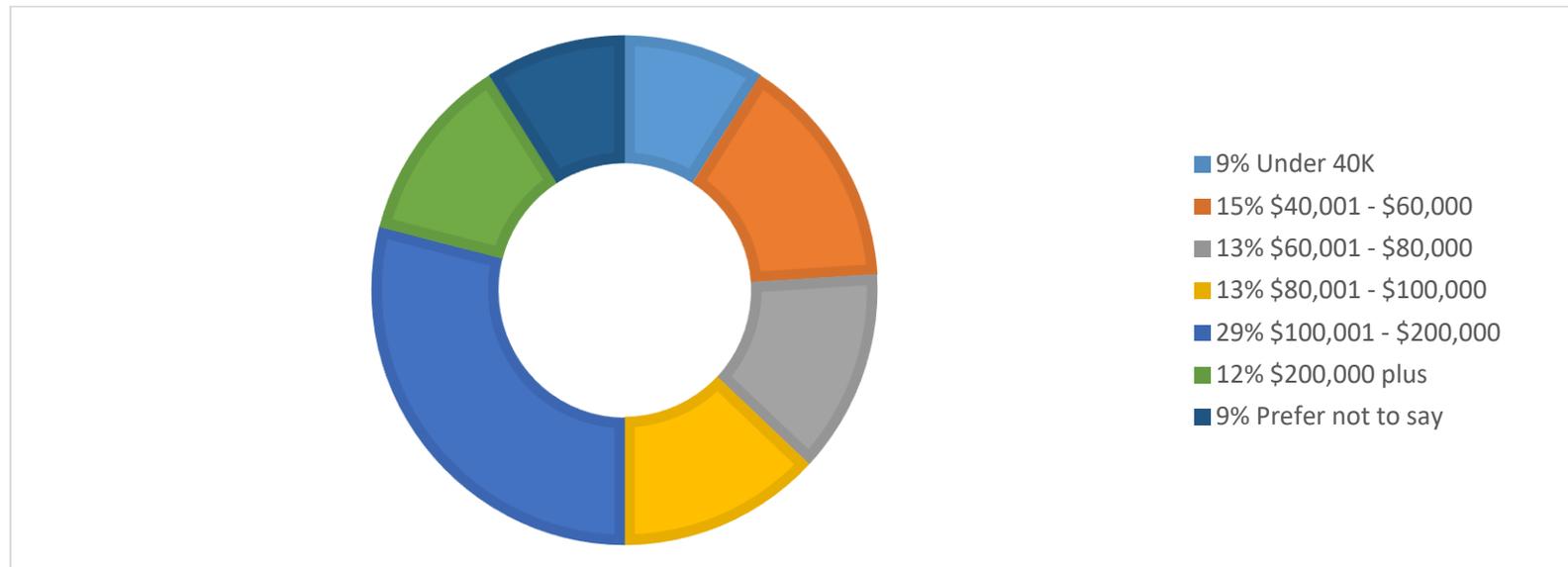
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Economists are currently estimating the unemployment rate to be anything between 8% and 30%. Using the job distribution data we have we can start to test these scenarios and understand what this might look like in our district.

VISAS

The data in reports one (dated 3/4/2020) and two (report dated 9/4/2020) was early analysis and to ensure greater accuracy we will be working with Immigration NZ and Infometrics to work on this visa data for future reports.
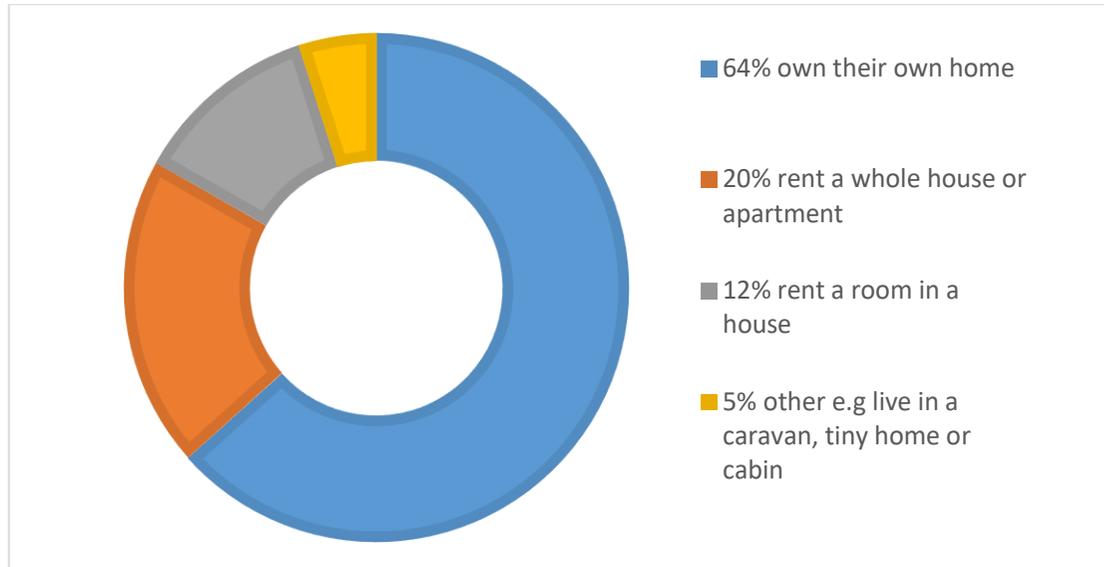
HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Due to the issues Statistics New Zealand have had with collating Census 2018 data, household income data is not available from this source. However, Quality of Life 2019 data can be used to provide a picture of household income, prior to COVID-19. This data could be used to model different scenarios regarding impact on household income.

- 9% Under 40K
- 15% $40,001 - $60,000
- 13% $60,001 - $80,000
- 13% $80,001 - $100,000
- 29% $100,001 - $200,000
- 12% $200,000 plus
- 9% Prefer not to say

Housing

Quality of life data suggests:

- 64% own their own home
- 20% rent a whole house or apartment
- 12% rent a room in a house
- 5% other e.g live in a caravan, tiny home or cabin

$1,204,273

AVERAGE CURRENT HOUSE VALUE is $1,204,273 (Infometrics Quarterly Economic Monitor)

$526

AVERAGE WEEKLY RENT: $526 per week (March 2018, based on 2010 prices) (Infometrics Quarterly Economic Monitor

The average weekly rent of $526 per week, compares to a national average of $398 per week (Infometrics data). This means that if a person receives the current full-time government subsidy of $580 per week, they will have around $54 left per week to cover all other costs. Housing supply (over/under) is currently calculated using census 2013 data. Infometrics will update figures once further Census 2018 data is released. However, it is likely that in our district there will now be an oversupply of housing.

Tracking the average house price in the district over the coming months will be a key indicator of recovery. Some points to consider when analysing this data will be:

> Impact on house prices

> Changing supply and demand

> Changes in overseas investment and property

> How many people may find themselves in negative equity

Traffic Movements

Another important indicator of recovery will be to look at traffic movements. Now that flights have re-opened into QT airport we will start to track numbers again.

Airport traffic
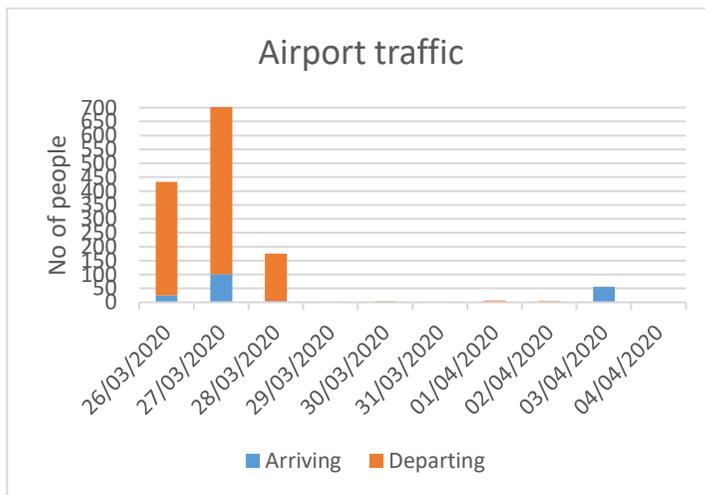
Beca report weekly on regional state highway usage for QLDC/ New Zealand Transport Agency roads (Report for 17/5/2020)

105.7%

State highway usage compared to same day last week.

-42.1%

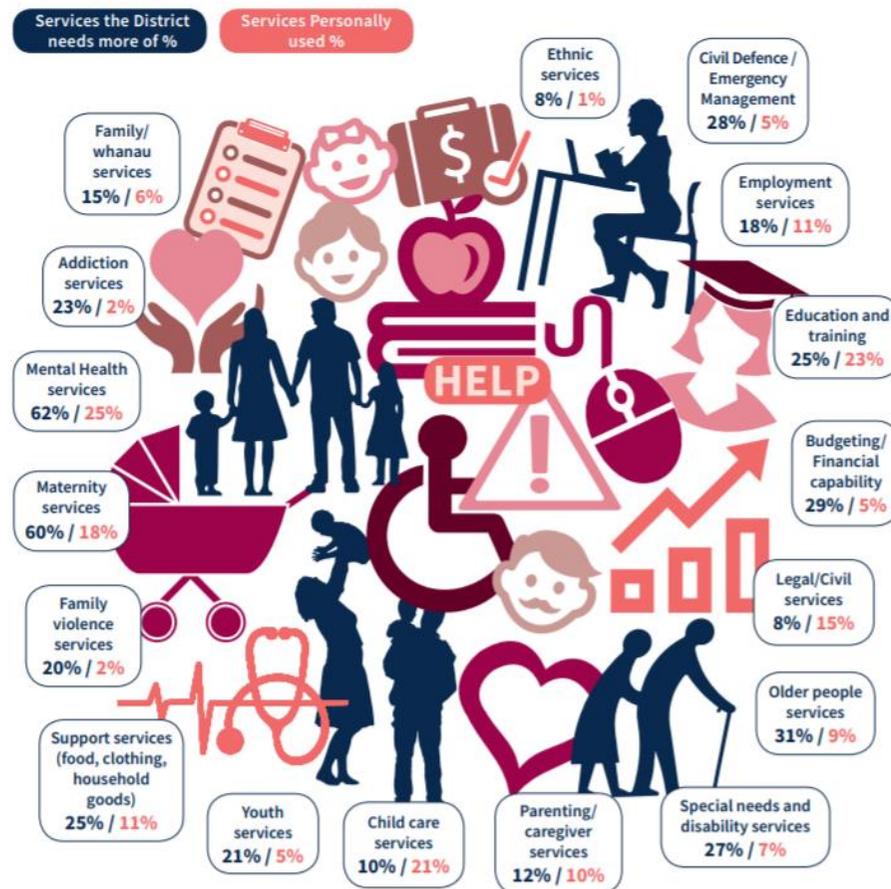State highway usage compared to same day in week commencing 17/2/2020

As we move into a recovery phase, understanding traffic and flight movements will be useful. There may be opportunity here to think of this data in terms of climate change action.

Access to Key Services

In the Quality of Life 2018 survey, respondents were asked to identify key services they had personally used as well as services that the district needed more of. Given that 25% said they had accessed mental health services, further questions were asked in 2019 to provide insight into the type of services accessed. The following infographic presents the findings, demonstrating a perceived shortfall in key community and health services.

QUALITY OF LIFE 2018 REPORT FINDINGS –ACCESS AND DEMAND FOR KEY SERVICES

QUALITY OF LIFE 2019 REPORT FINDINGS – MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT BEING ACCESSED

Services the District needs more of %
Services Personally used %

Ethnic services 8% / 1%

Civil Defence / Emergency Management 28% / 5%

Family/ whanau services 15% / 6%

Employment services 18% / 11%

Addiction services 23% / 2%

Education and training 25% / 23%

Mental Health services 62% / 25%

Maternity services 60% / 18%

HELP

Budgeting/ Financial capability 29% / 5%

Family violence services 20% / 2%

Legal/Civil services 8% / 15%

Older people services 31% / 9%

Support services (food, clothing, household goods) 25% / 11%

Youth services 21% / 5%

Child care services 10% / 21%

Parenting/ caregiver services 12% / 10%

Special needs and disability services 27% / 7%

FAMILY CENTRE/OTHER COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

2% Myself 4% Others in the household 95% Not at all

GP/DOCTOR

24% Myself 16% Others in the household 69% Not at all

COUNSELLOR/PSYCHOLOGIST

10% Myself 7% Others in the household 85% Not at all