

Gross Domestic Product: March 2017 quarter – overview

GDP was up 0.5 percent in the March 2017 quarter

Activity in the **primary** industries (about 10 percent of GDP⁽¹⁾) rose 2.2 percent.

Agricultural activity was up 4.3 percent – the highest quarterly growth since September 2014. The increase was driven by higher milk production. Partly offsetting the increase was a decrease in wool, sheep, and cattle farming.

Forestry and logging decreased 3.2 percent – the second consecutive quarterly decrease following a strong increase of 6.8 percent in the September 2016 quarter.

Mining activity fell 1.0 percent in the March 2017 quarter. Coal mining, and oil exploration were both down, which was reflected in a fall in other mining support services.

1. Includes unallocated taxes on production (eg. Import duties and GST).

Activity in the **goods-producing** industries (about 20 percent of GDP) rose 0.2 percent.

Manufacturing activity was up 1.0 percent, following a 1.6 percent fall in the December 2016 quarter.

Transport equipment, machinery and equipment manufacturing, increased 6.9 percent, and contributed the most to the overall rise in manufacturing.

Food, beverage, and tobacco manufacturing was up 1.2 percent, following a 4.3 percent fall in the December 2016 quarter. Dairy manufacturing, and fruit, oil, cereal, and other food product manufacturing were both up. Meat manufacturing was down this quarter.

Construction activity fell 2.1 percent – the first decrease since June 2015. Residential and non-residential building activities both fell, which was also reflected in a decrease in construction trade services. Heavy and civil engineering construction (such as telecommunications infrastructure and roading) also fell.

Activity in the **service** industries (about 70 percent of GDP) rose 0.4 percent.

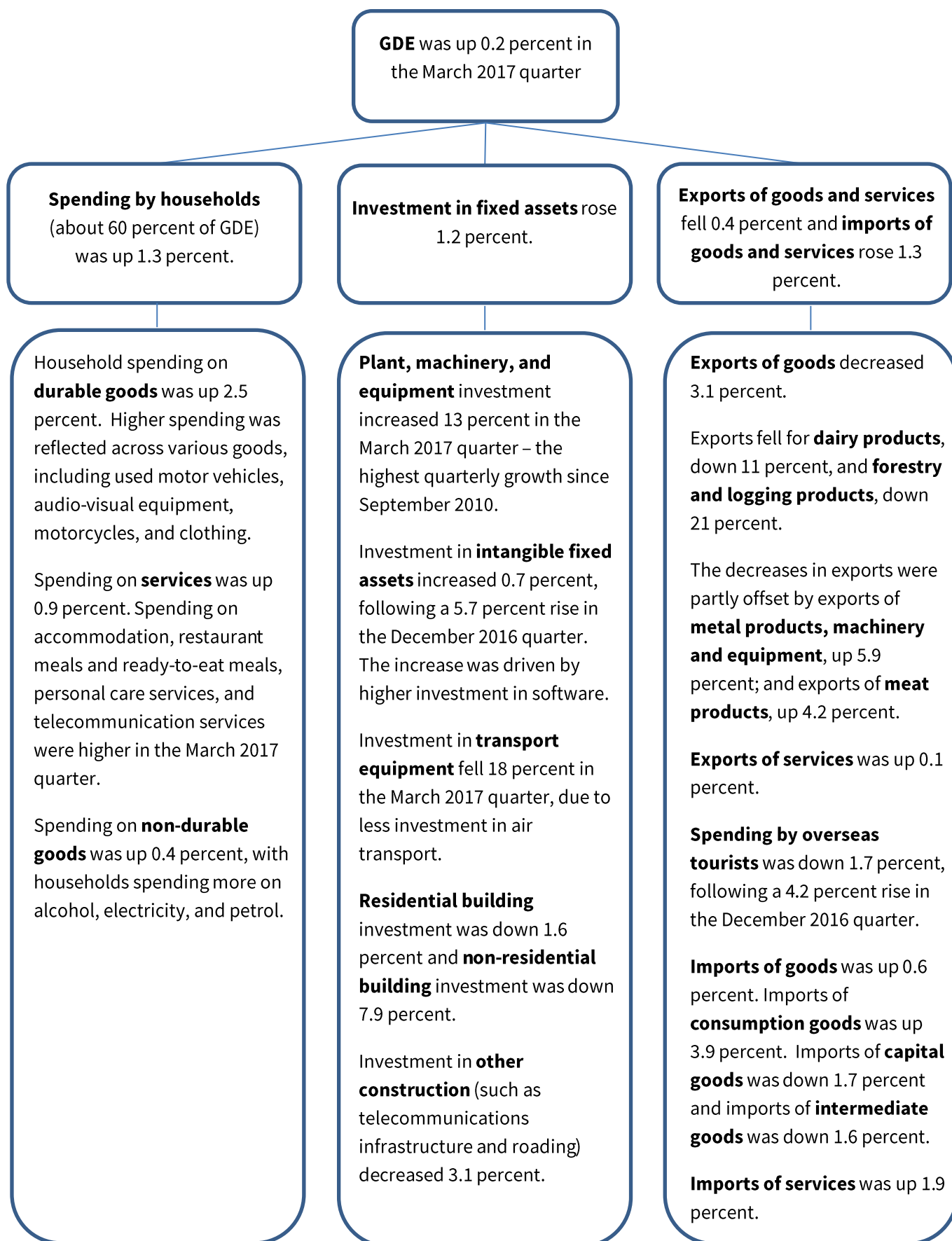
Retail trade and accommodation was up 1.8 percent, driven by motor vehicle and parts retailing, and food and beverage services.

Health care and residential care increased 1.6 percent, following a 1.4 percent increase in the December 2016 quarter. Both public and private health care were up this quarter.

Wholesale trade activity rose 1.4 percent, due to higher activities in other goods wholesaling; motor vehicle and motor vehicle parts; and basic material wholesaling.

Transport, postal, and warehousing activity was down 2.0 percent. Rail transport and air transport were both down, which was reflected in a decrease in transport support services. Partly offsetting the decreases was an increase in road transport.

Rental, hiring, and real estate services decreased 0.1 percent. The fall was mainly due to fewer property sales.



Gross domestic product (GDP) is New Zealand's official measure of economic growth. It is published quarterly and expressed in volume terms (with the effects of price changes removed).

The production measure of GDP measures the volume of goods and services produced in the economy, while the expenditure measure shows how these goods and services were used.

[Gross domestic product](#) has more information.