

# 2017 Tourism Update

Making the most of surging demand

Dr Kirdan Lees

Presentations to TIA, and TNZ  
Board

2 February, 2017

Forecasts finalised 13 Jan



**SENSE PARTNERS**

DATA LOGIC ACTION

# Tourism Outlook 2017: Key Points

- **Best visitor growth in 20 years – up 12% in 2016 – to continue**
- **Less to do with global growth – low airfares, higher tourist wealth/incomes and NZ factors lift growth**
- **Expect double-digit visitor growth in 2017 with stay-days and spend to follow - visitor growth averages 8.8% to 2019**
- **Key risk is not demand but managing capacity to ensure sustainable long-run outlook**
- **Emphasizes the need for continued coordination of efforts across industry, government and TNZ**

# Global Economic Outlook

# Moderate global economic conditions fail to dampen visitor growth to New Zealand

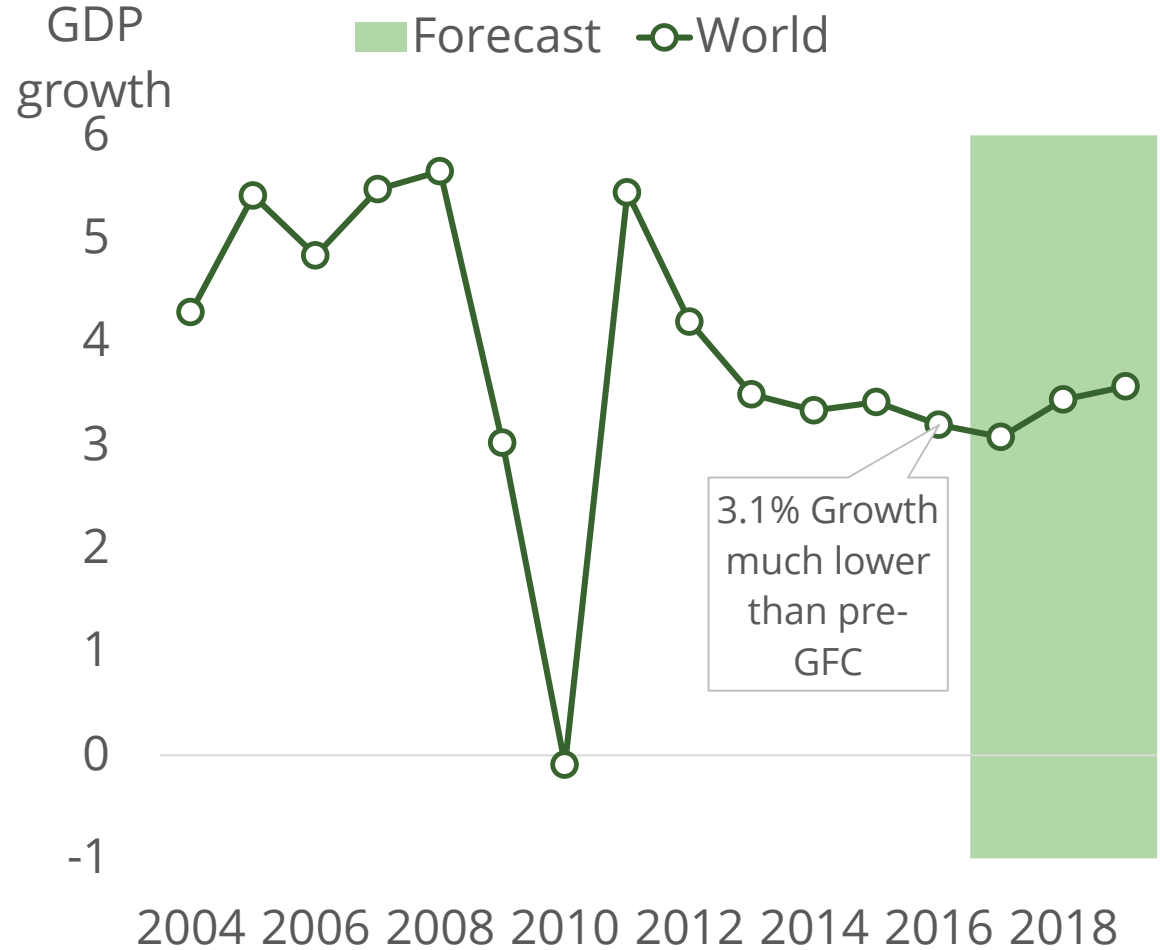
- **Global economic growth moderate in 2016 with most advanced economies a little below trend growth**
- **Asset prices have recovered but inflation is low, and oil prices are very low**
- **No 'shot in the arm' for activity from 2015 fall in oil price but airfares were much lower**
- **Global tourism outpaces headline economic growth  
New Zealand outperforms most destinations**

# There are many risks to the global outlook

- **Global economy moving sideways – US a little better**
- **Brexit and the US election shock yet to play out in 2017 but political uncertainty dampens investment**
- **Possibility of trade retaliation – Chinese authorities could react to any US tariffs by devaluing yuan**
- **Challenge for governments to boost incomes when debt constrains what is possible**

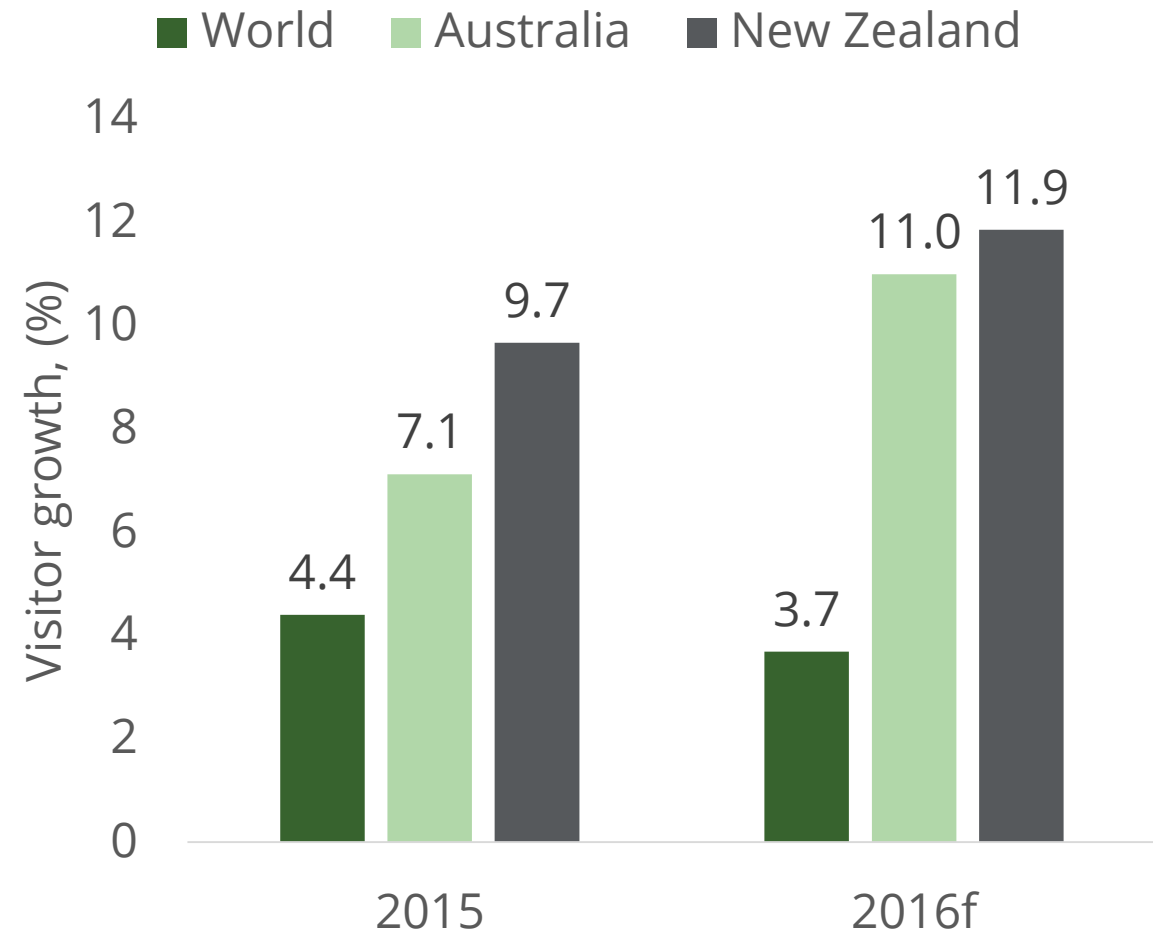
# Growth is low but visitor growth super strong

FIG 1: Global growth lower than pre-GFC highs  
Global GDP growth (real, annual %)



Source: International Monetary Fund

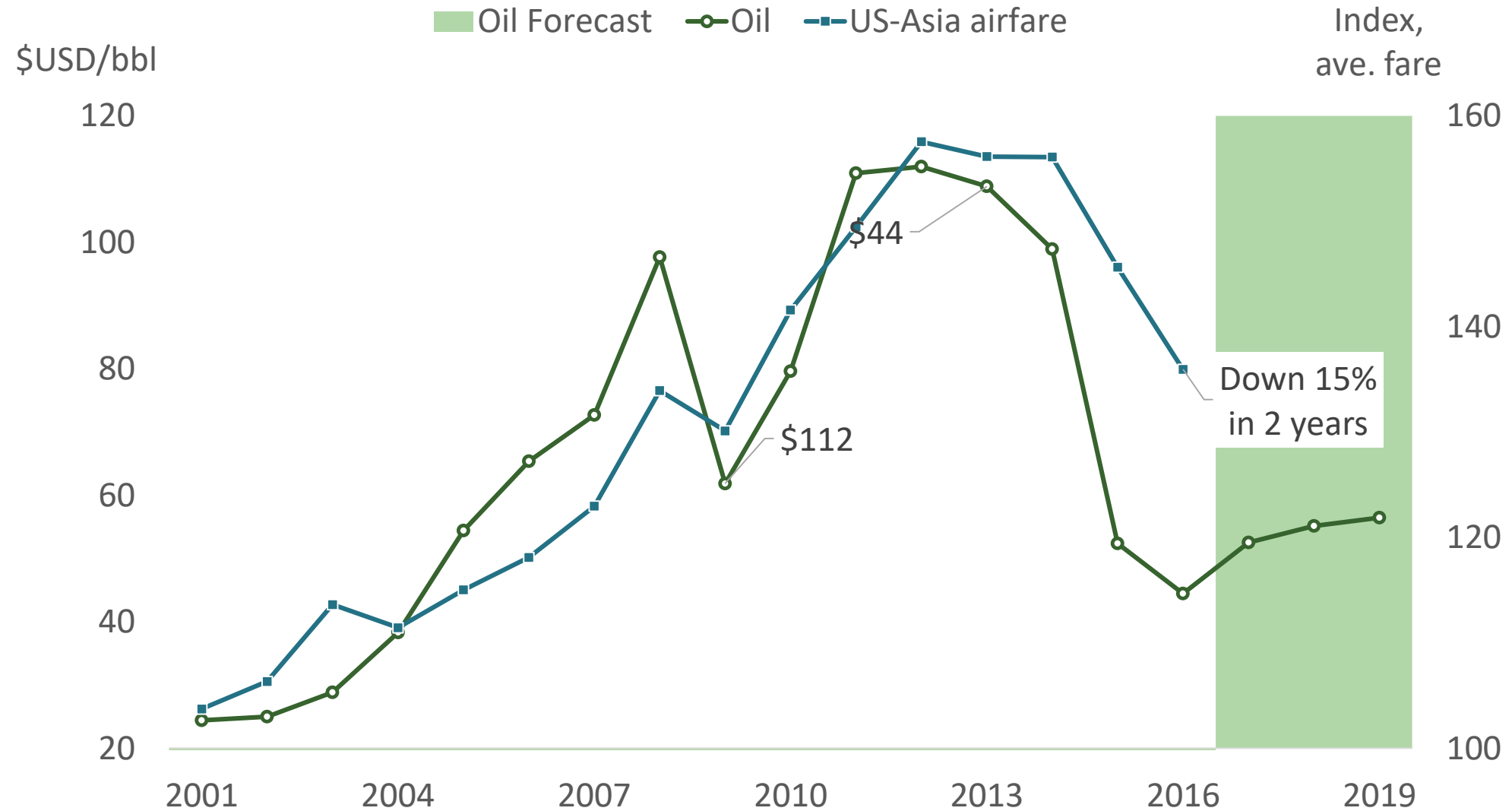
FIG 2: New Zealand is experiencing a growth surge  
Visitor growth, 2015 and a forecast for 2016, selected regions



Source: ABS, Statistics New Zealand, UNWTO

# Low oil prices brought fares down lifting demand

FIG 3: Low oil prices reduced long-haul airfares, competition also helped  
USD Brent crude oil price vs Index of US airfares to Asia



Source: International Monetary Fund, US Dept. of Transportation

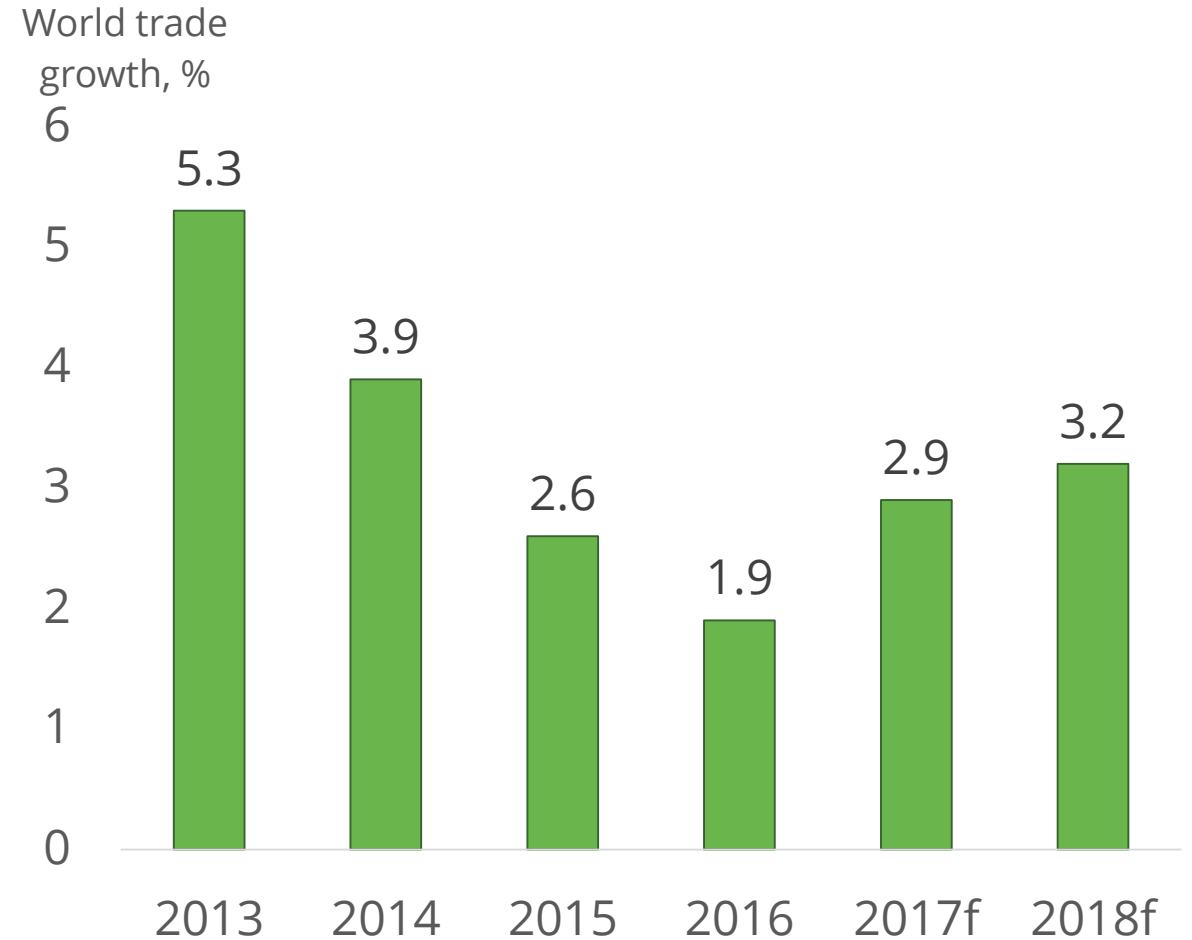
# Debt and slowing global trade risk the outlook

FIG 4: Debt elevated even after the GFC  
Non-financial Debt/GDP ratio, advanced economies and China  
(percent)



Source: Reserve Bank of New Zealand

FIG 5: Growth in world trade has slowed  
World trade growth, goods, real (%)



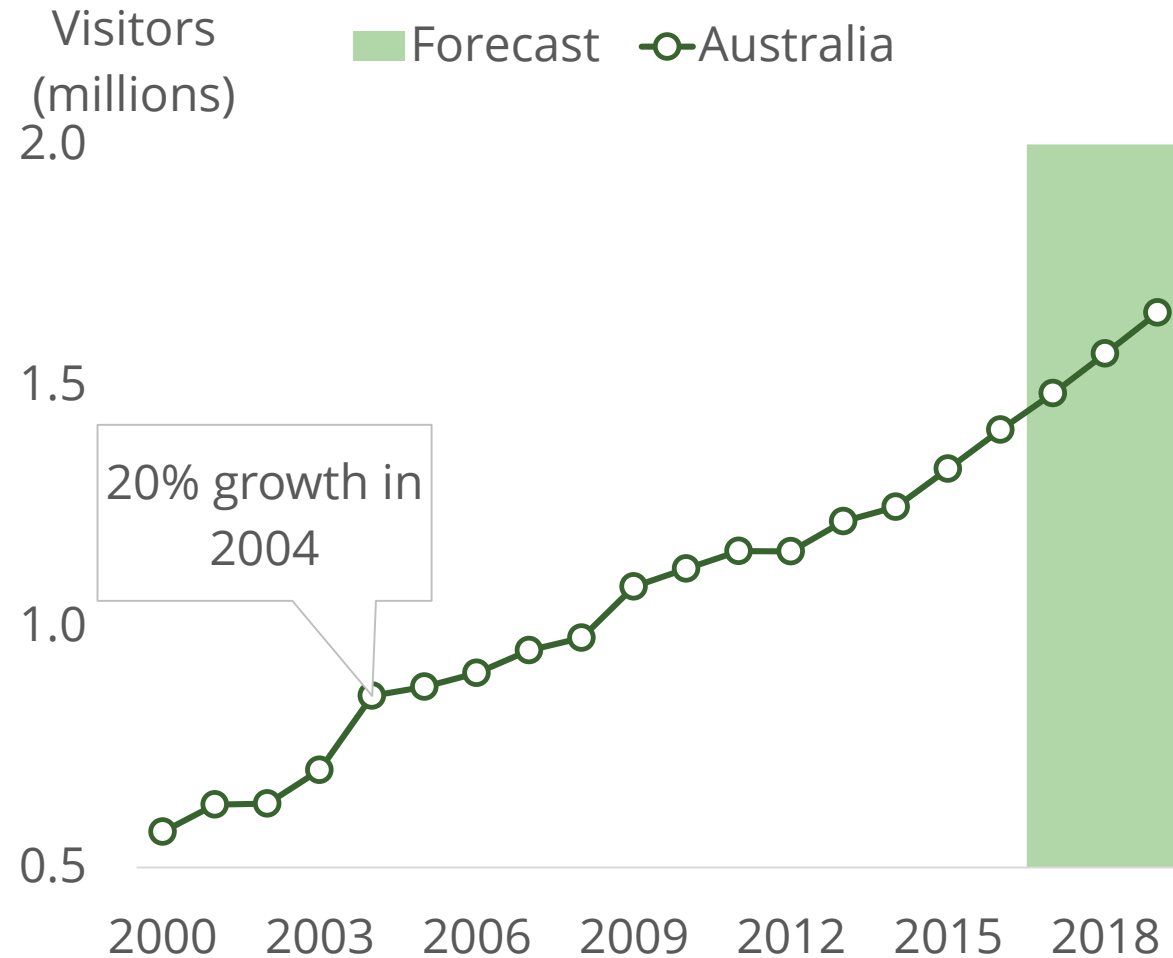
Source: OECD



# Outlook market-by-market: Australia

# Visitor growth outpaces Aussie economy

FIG 6: But expect strong visitor growth  
Visitor arrivals (Annual)



Source: Sense Partners

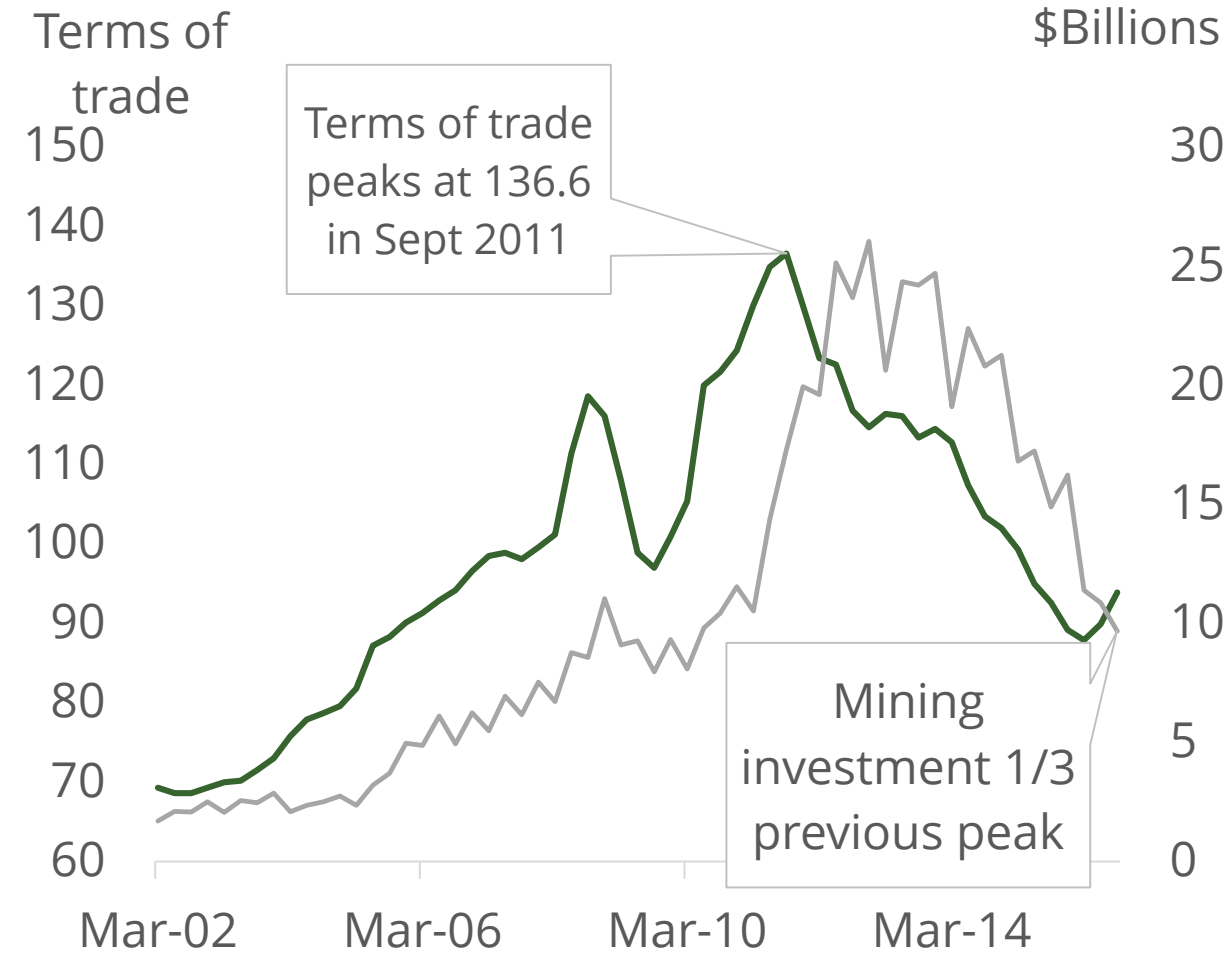
## Key takeaways - Australia

- **End of commodity super-cycle reducing incomes-Aussie down**
- **New Zealand less exposed NSW and Victoria doing OK**
- **Our forecast models arrivals with GDP growth and IMF growth and oil forecasts - add/subtract for tourism factors like capacity**
- **We expect volume if not spend growth to continue - we expect 5.5 CAGR over the next 3 years**

# Aussie mining fall means less spending power

FIG 7: Terms of trade fall drives mining bust  
Terms of trade vs mining investment

FIG 8: Nominal wage growth has declined  
Nominal wage growth, percent



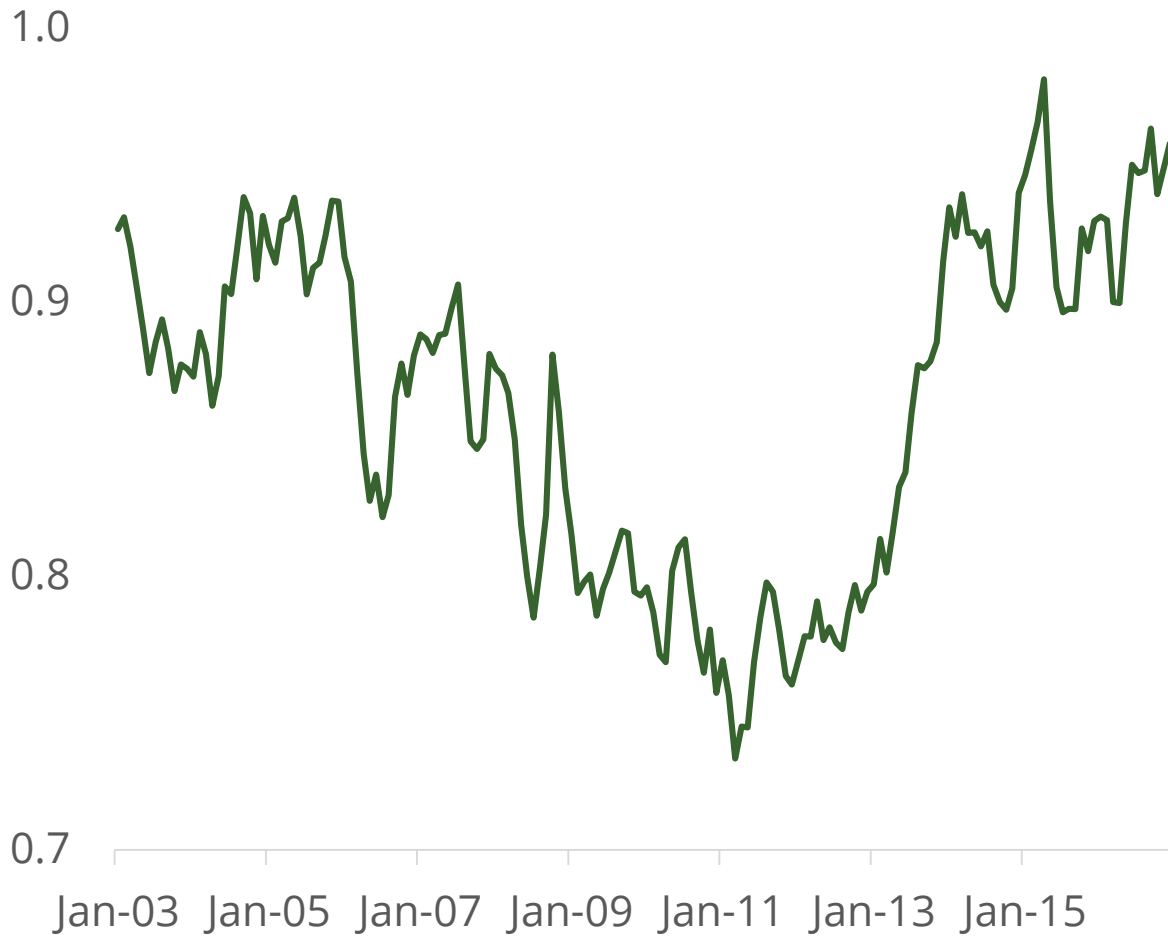
Source: International Monetary Fund



Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

# NZ a little less exposed but Aussie remains low

FIG 9 Don't expect Aussie to appreciate soon  
NZD/AUD cross rate, (increase is a depreciation of the Aussie)



Source: Reserve Bank of New Zealand

FIG 10: State level growth better for NZ tourism  
GDP growth by selected states (percent)

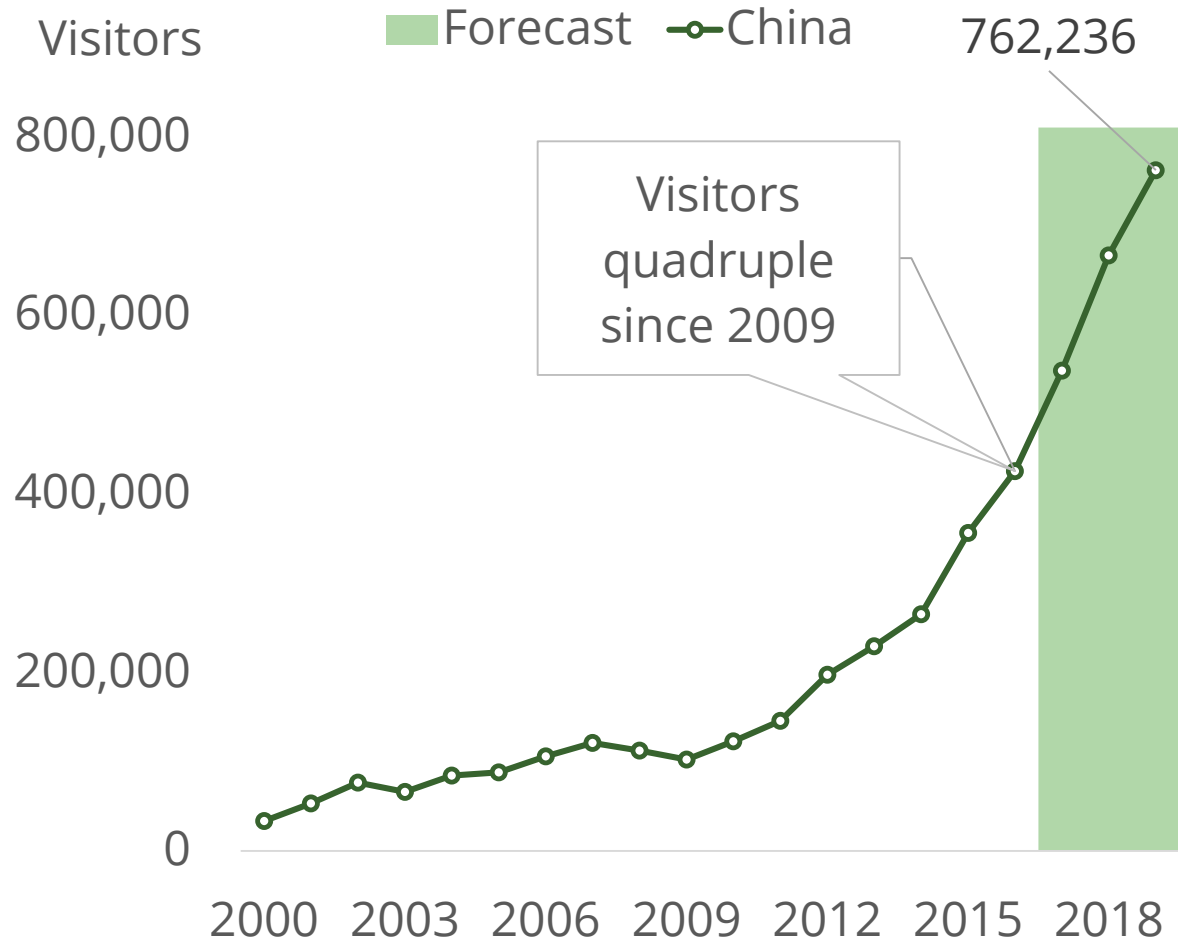


Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics

# Outlook market-by-market: Asia

# Demographics, income growth and New Zealand specific attraction continue to lift visitor growth

FIG 11: But expect strong visitor growth  
Visitor arrivals (Annual)



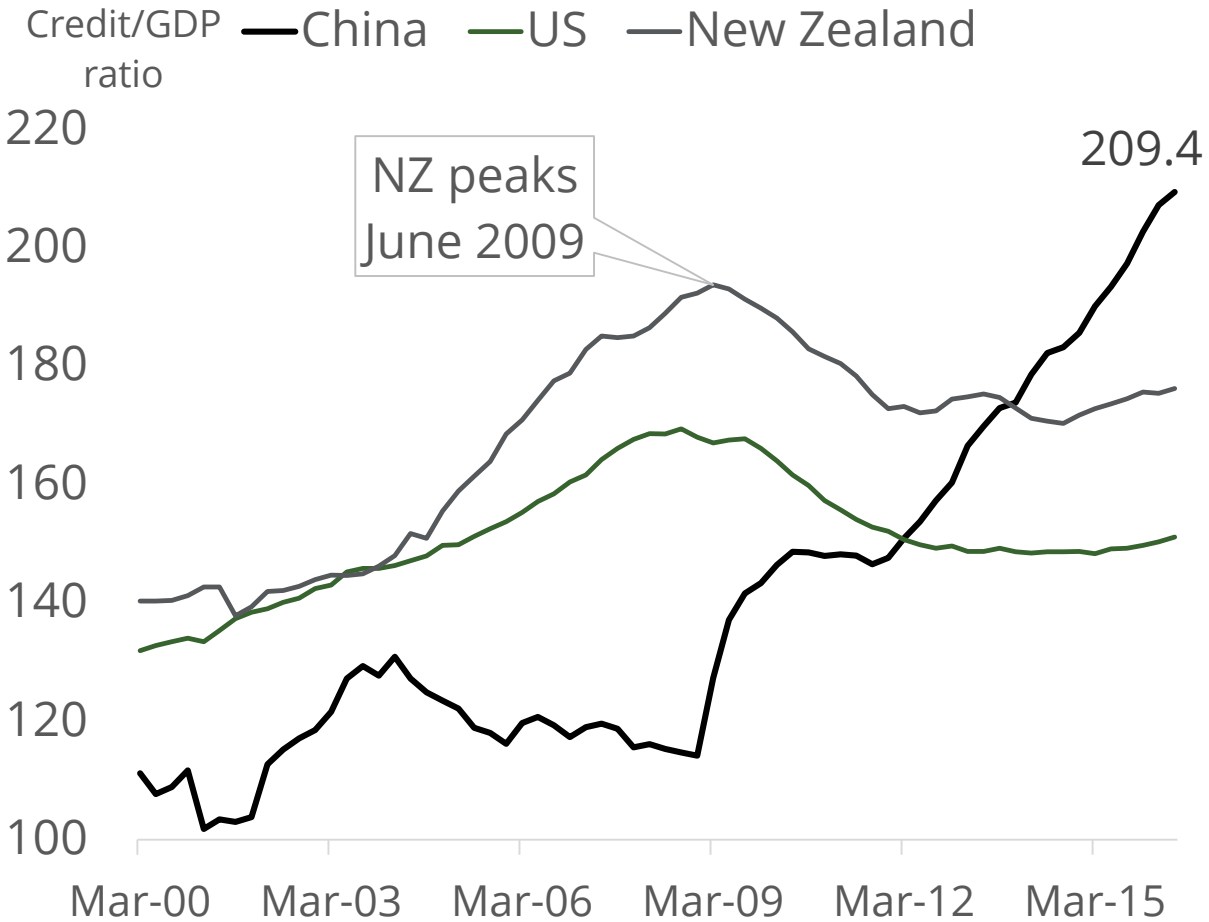
Source: Sense Partners

## Key takeaways - China

- **Headline growth is slowing with transition to consumption economy**
- **Many firms and local authorities are highly leveraged needing monitoring**
- **Demographics, urbanisation and connectivity support outbound**
- **New Zealand continues to outpace most, expect 22% CAGR to 2019**

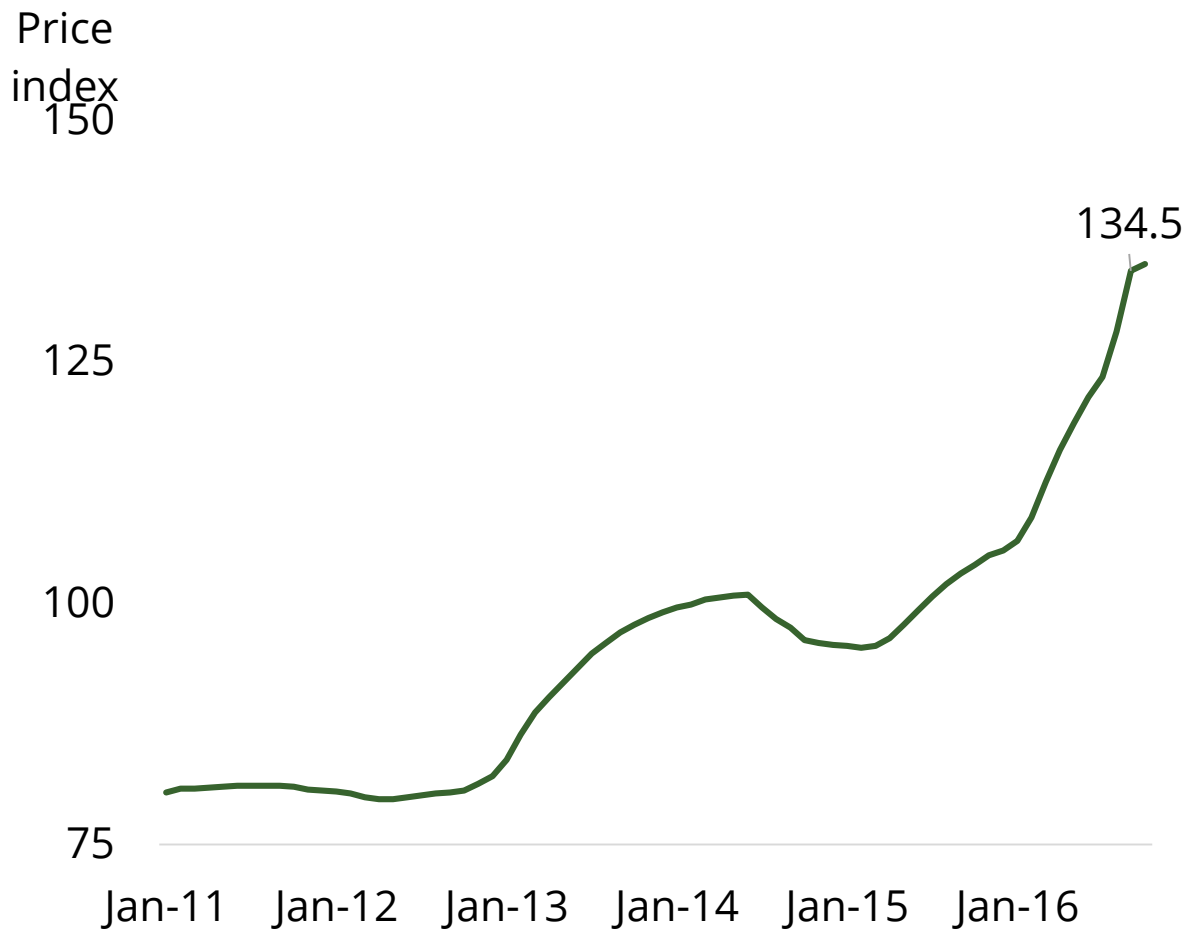
# Leveraged firms, households risk China's growth

FIG 12: Credit/GDP ratio up sharply...  
Credit/GDP ratio, quarterly, percent, selected countries



Source: Bank of International Settlements

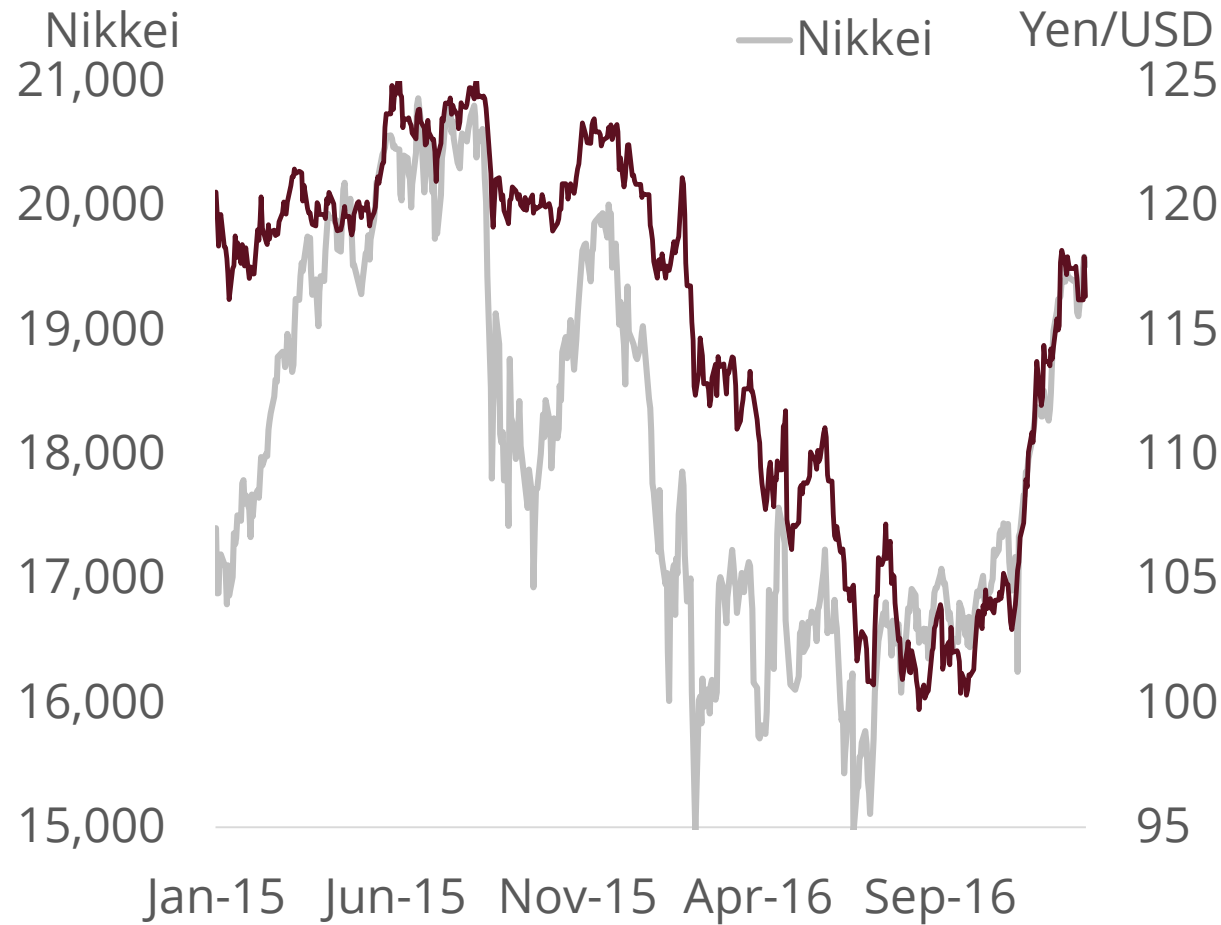
FIG 13: Property prices now need monitoring too  
Index of average dwelling price (including apartments)



Source: Bank of International Settlements

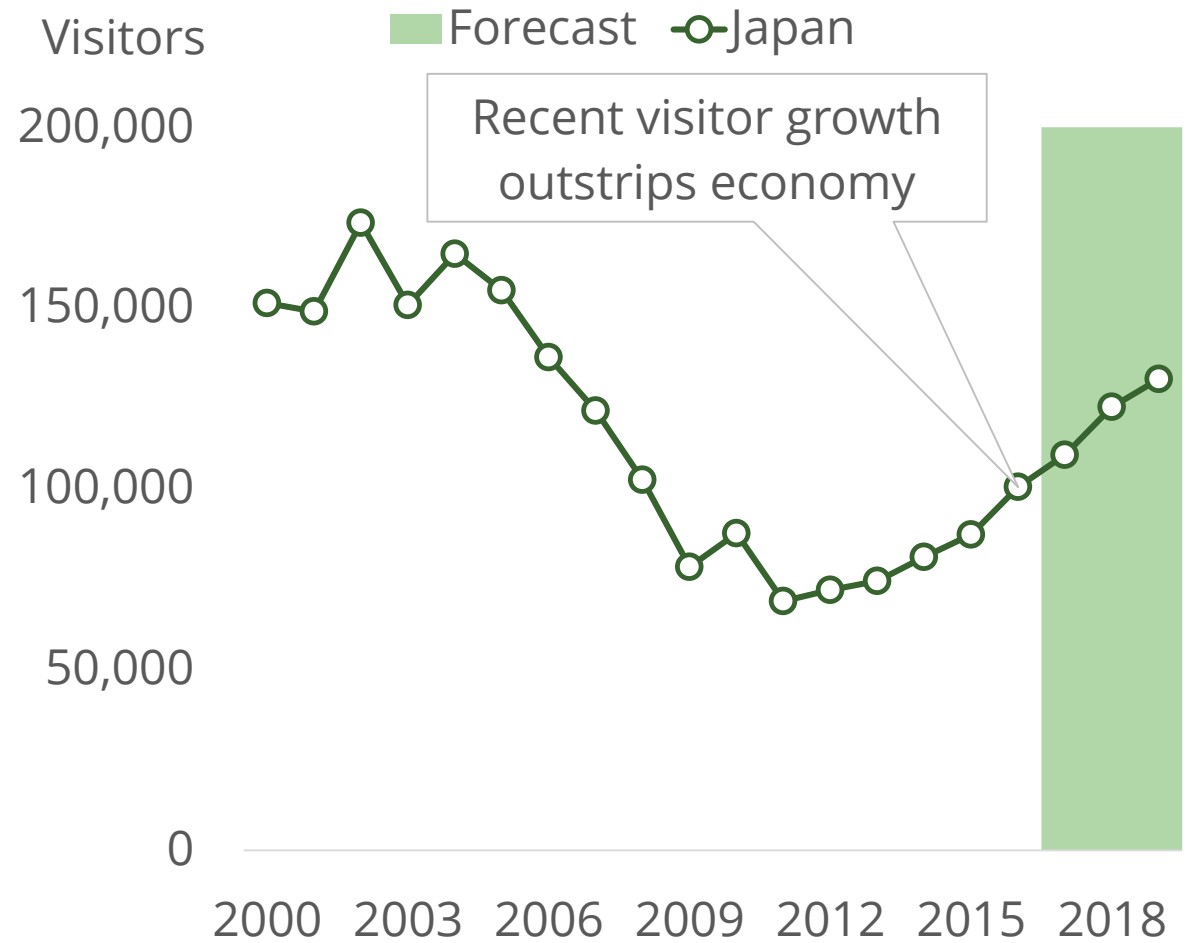
# Weak yen, US recovery boost Japanese economy

FIG 14: Weak Yen lifts returns to many firms  
Nikkei vs USD-Yen exchange rate



Source: Federal Reserve, Reserve Bank of New Zealand

FIG 15: Expect strong growth – 9% CAGR to 2019  
Annual visitor growth,

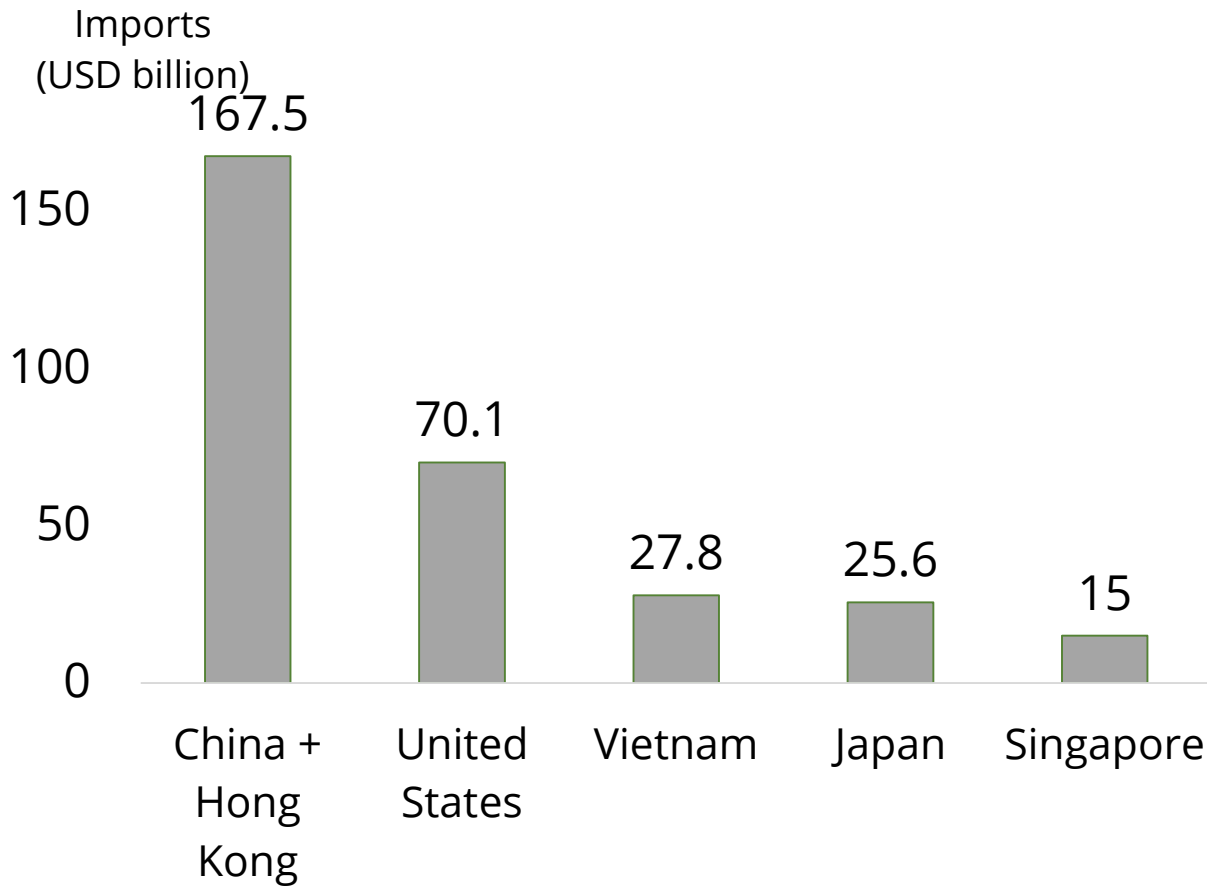


Source: Sense Partners



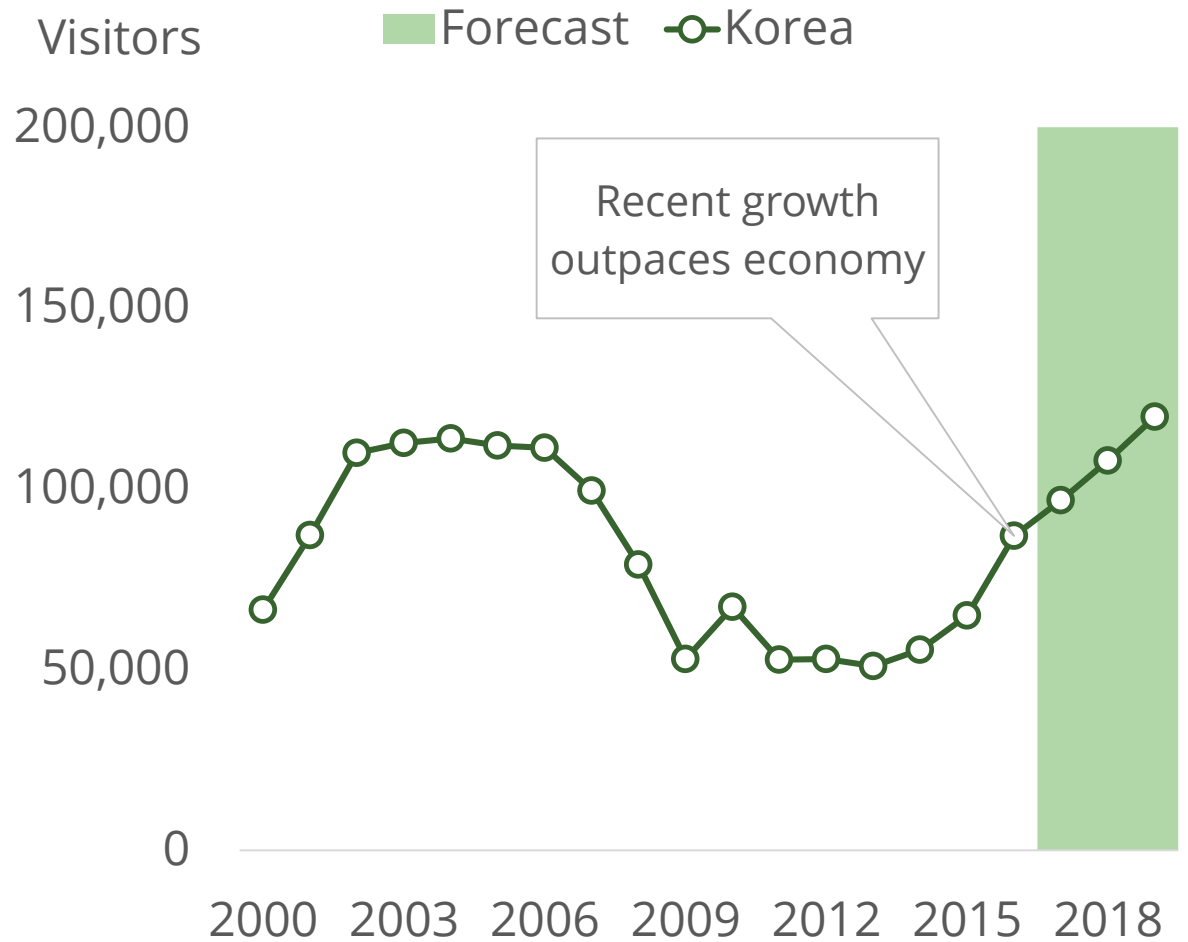
# China link risk to Korean outlook but often volatile Korean visitor growth strong for now

FIG 16: China largest share of Korean exports  
5 largest importers of Korean products



Source: OECD

FIG 17: Expect strong growth – 9% CAGR to 2019  
Annual visitor growth,

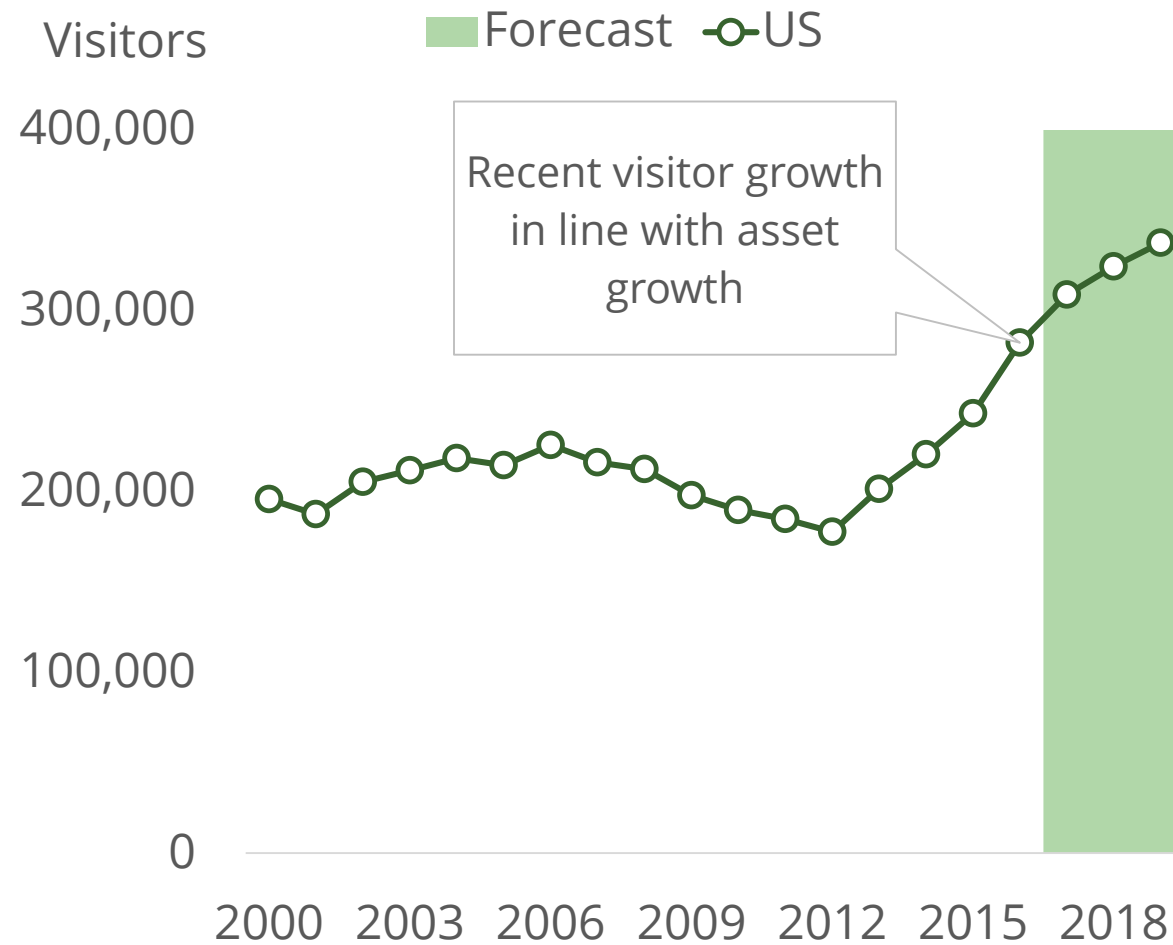


Source: Sense Partners

# Outlook market-by-market: Western markets

# Recovering US economy brings more visitors, New Zealand benefits more than elsewhere

FIG 18: But expect strong visitor growth  
Visitor arrivals (Annual)



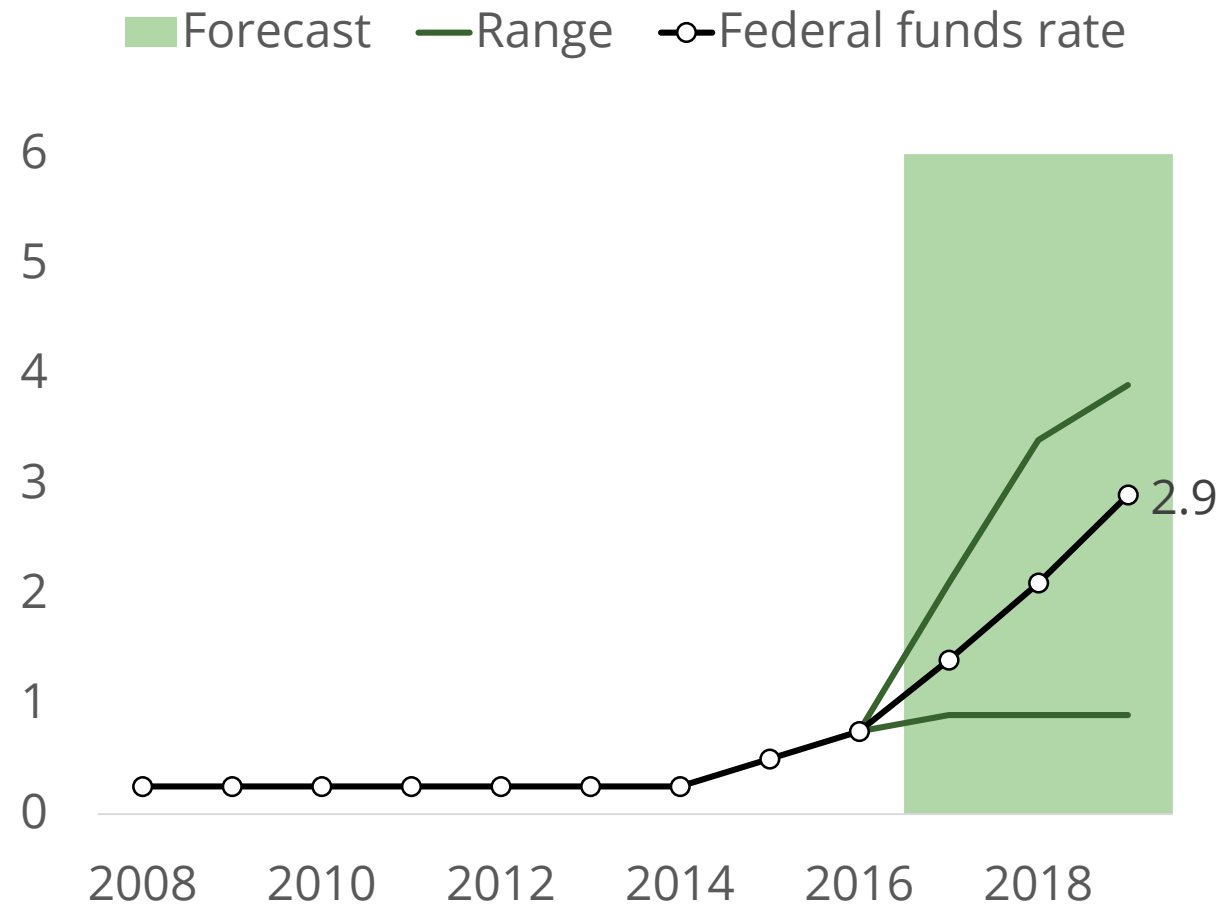
Source: Sense Partners

## Key takeaways – United States

- **US economy has recovered from the GFC, asset prices up strongly boosting visitor arrivals**
- **Fed is hiking interest rates (finally), lifting the US dollar**
- **Markets read US election shock as lifting demand and inflation**
- **Capacity puts upside risk on our forecast of visitor growth to moderate from 16% in 2016 to 9% in 2017. We have 6% in 2018.**

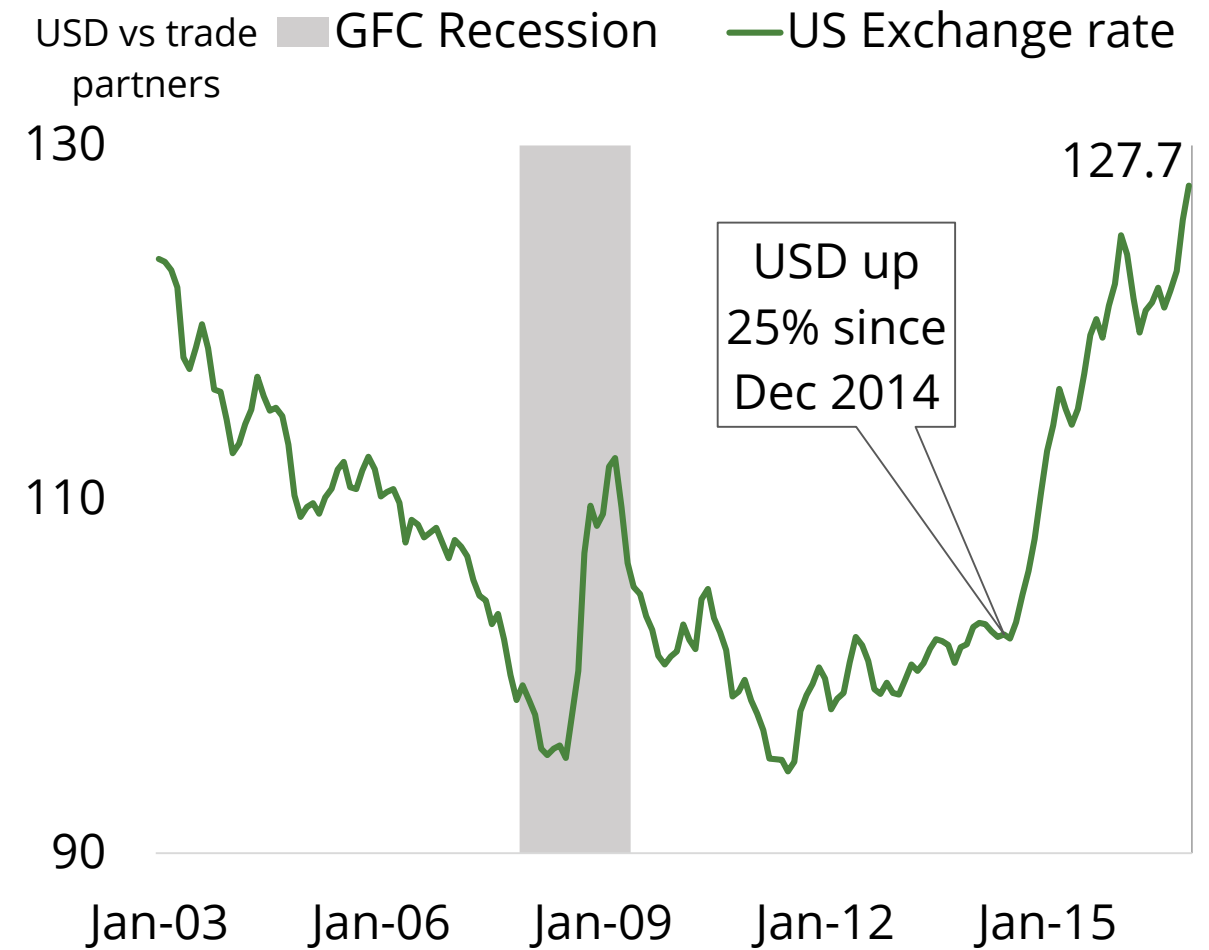
# US recovery pushes global interest rates higher, expect strong US dollar to persist in 2017

FIG 19: Fed expects to hike rates further...  
Federal funds rate and Federal Reserve Board forecast (Dec 2016)



Source: Federal Reserve Board of Governors

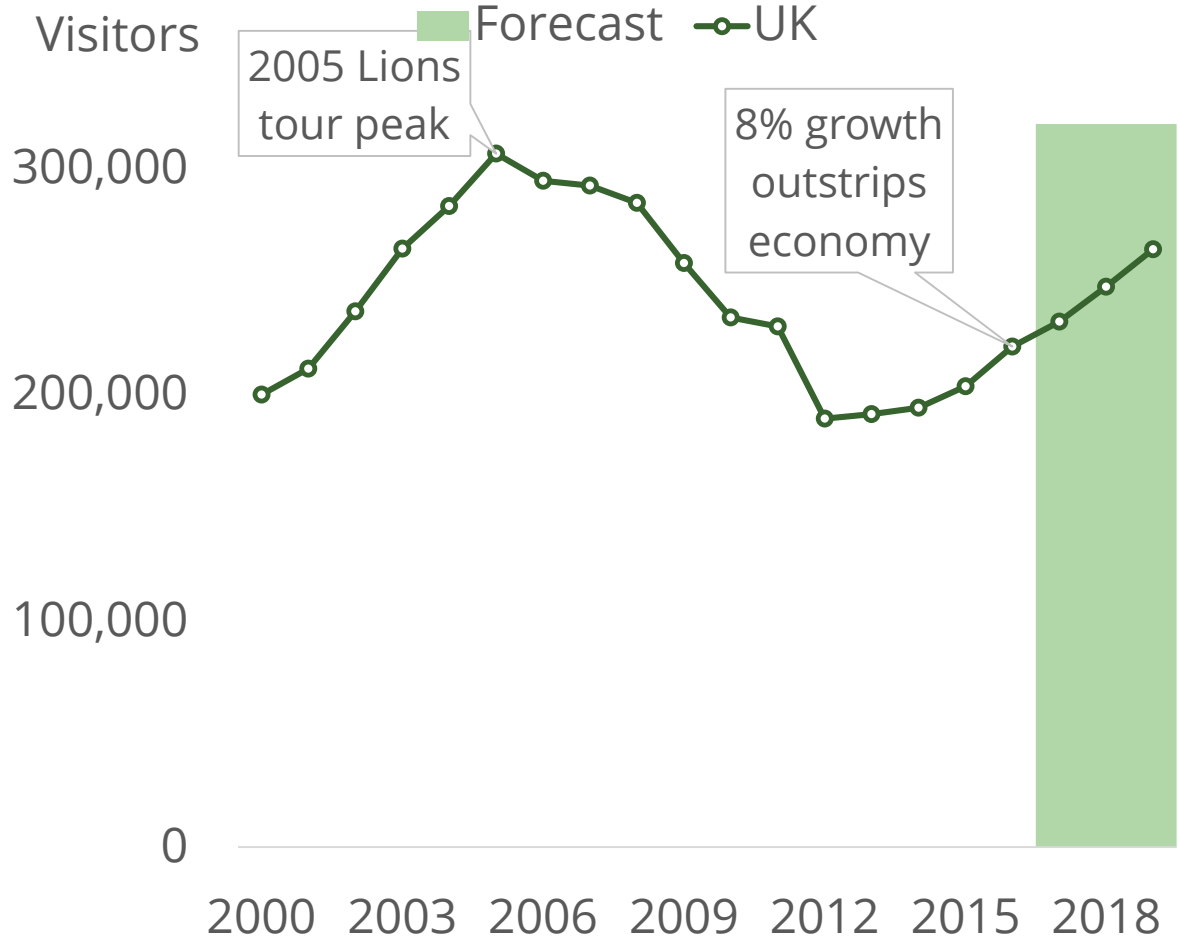
FIG 20: Strong economy also lifting the US dollar  
Trade Weighted U.S. Dollar Index: Broad, monthly



Source: Federal Reserve Board of Governors

# UK economy faces challenges but visitor growth holds up, at least for now

FIG 21: But expect strong visitor growth  
Visitor arrivals (Annual)



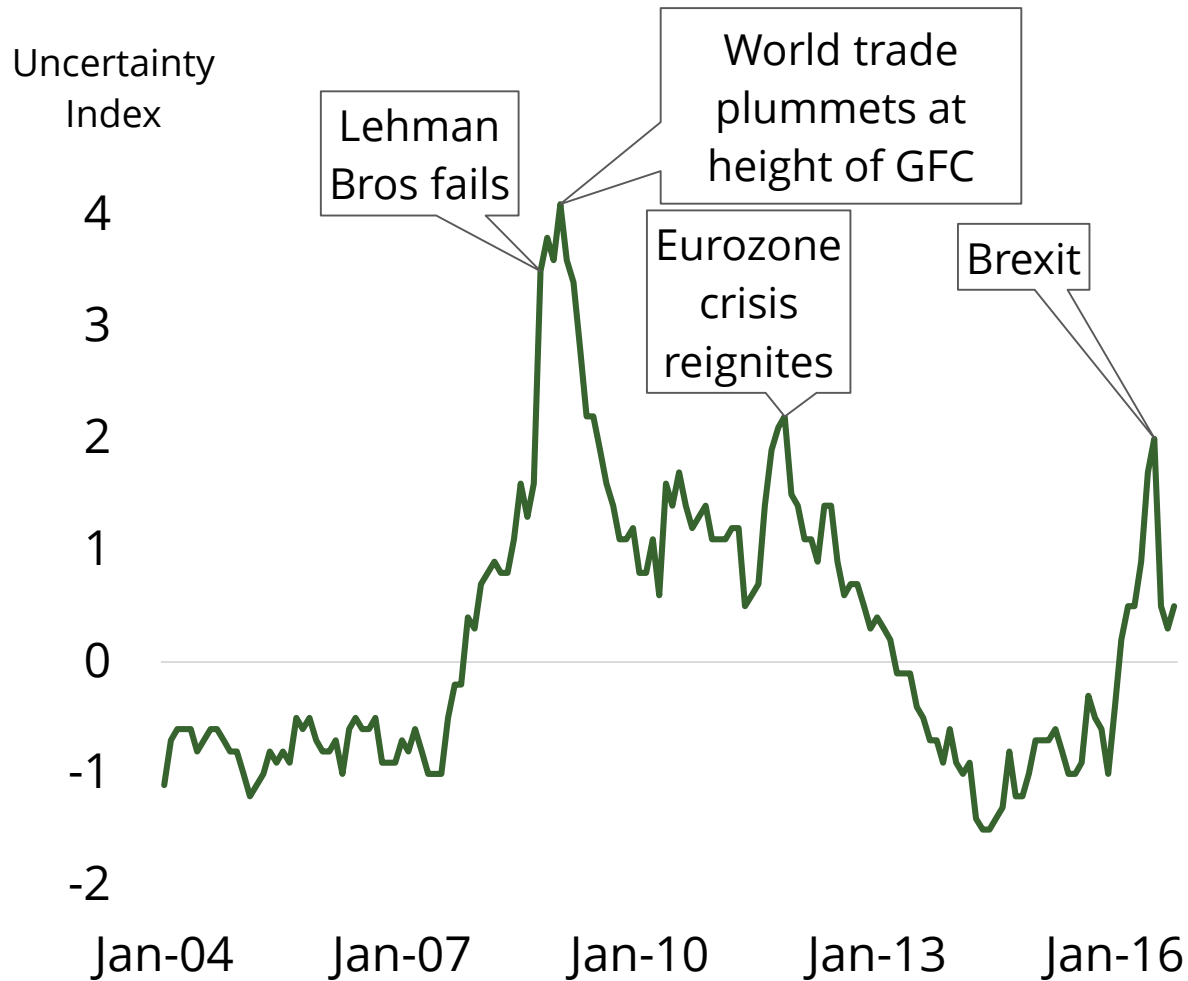
Source: Sense Partners

## Key takeaways – United Kingdom

- **UK economy recovering more slowly than the US economy**
- **Brexit weakens growth outlook but moderate impact to date**
- **Pound has depreciated and tough for govt to build incomes**
- **We expect 8% growth in 2016 to ease to a CAGR of 6.1% to 2019**

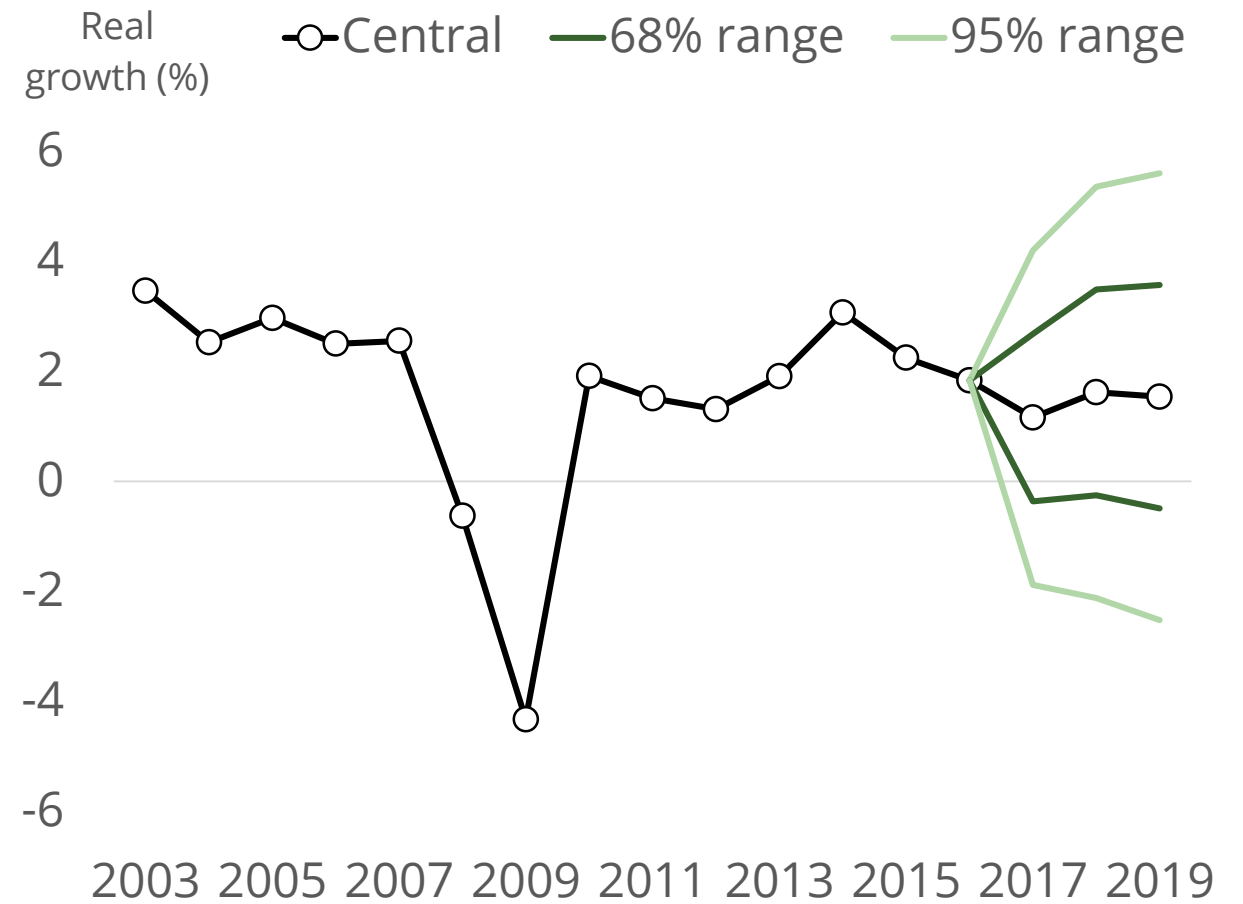
# Pound down but post-Brexit growth OK for now

FIG 22: Brexit expected to be seismic shock  
BoE *Inflation Report*, Nov. 2016, Principal component of uncertainty measures



Source: Bank of England

FIG 23: But growth only mildly muted near-term  
BoE *Inflation Report*, Nov. 2016, economic growth forecasts

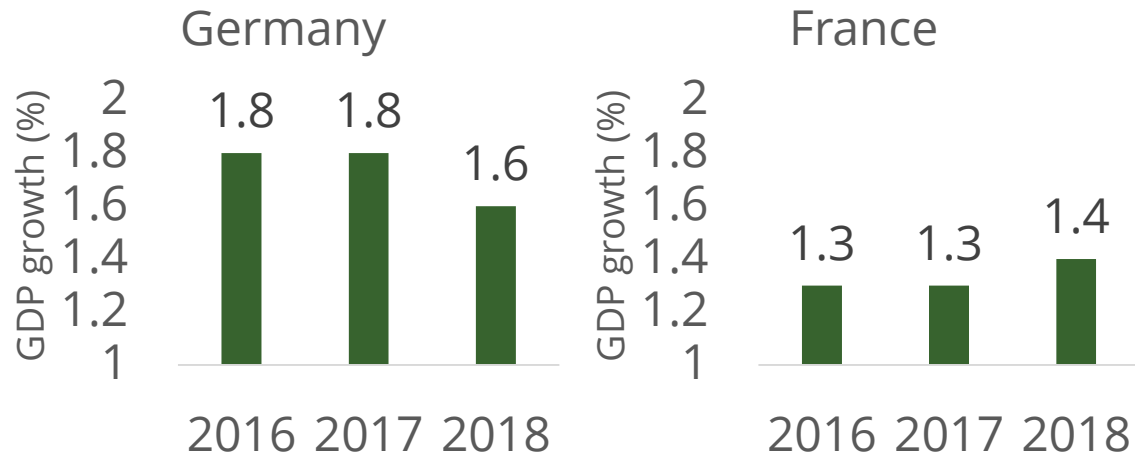


Source: Bank of England

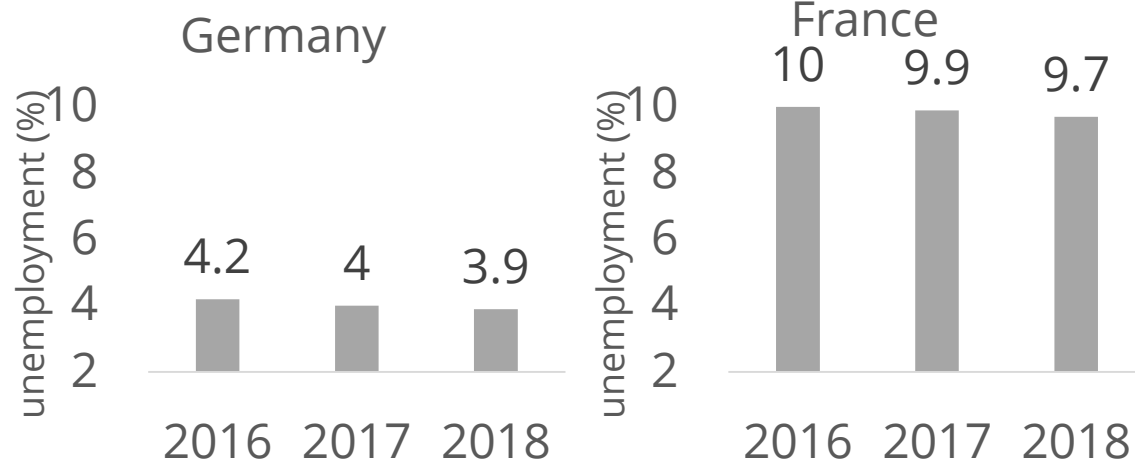
# Germany economy weak but outstrips EU peers, expect visitor growth to ease from 2016 high

FIG 24: German economy better than EU peers  
Growth and unemployment forecasts, Germany vs France

## Economic Growth

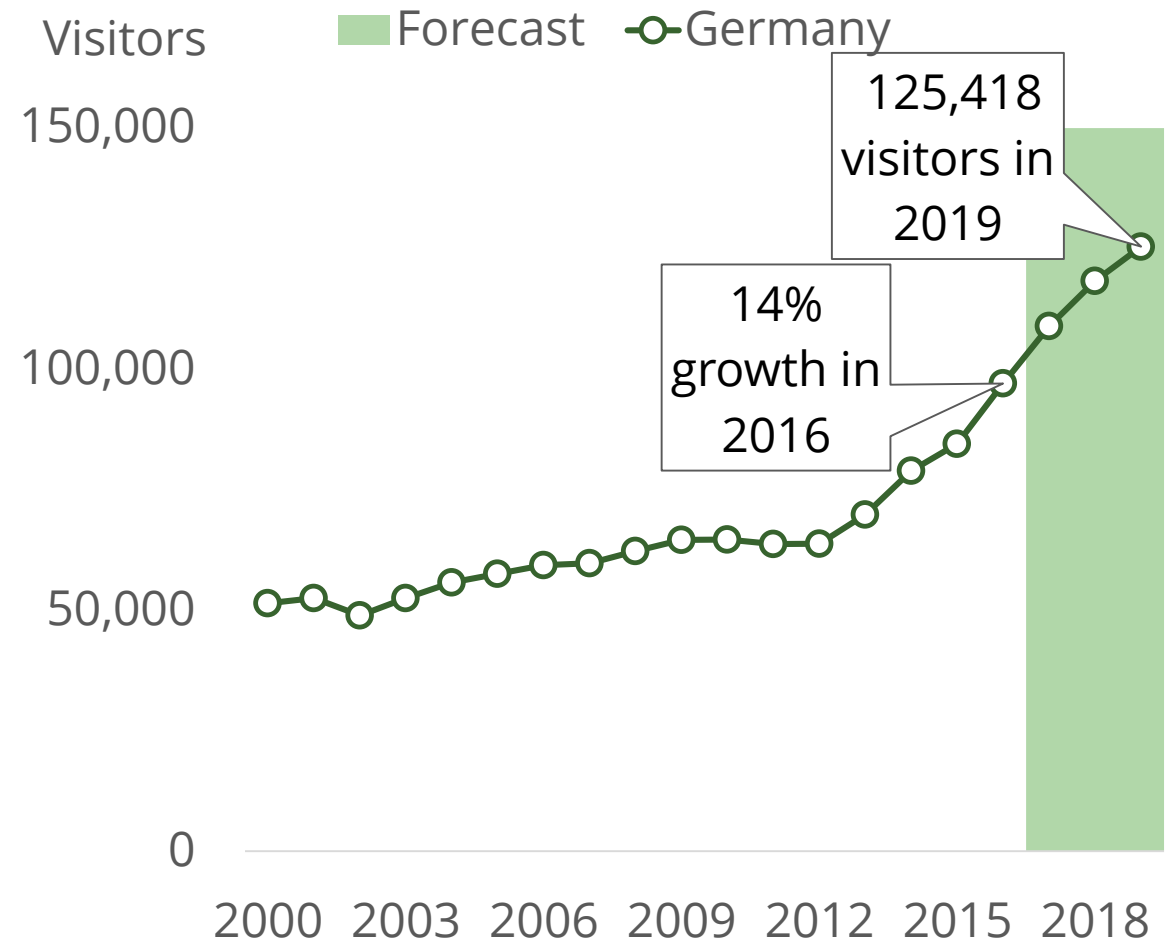


## Unemployment



Source: OECD

FIG 25: Expect strong growth – 9% CAGR to 2019  
Annual visitor growth,



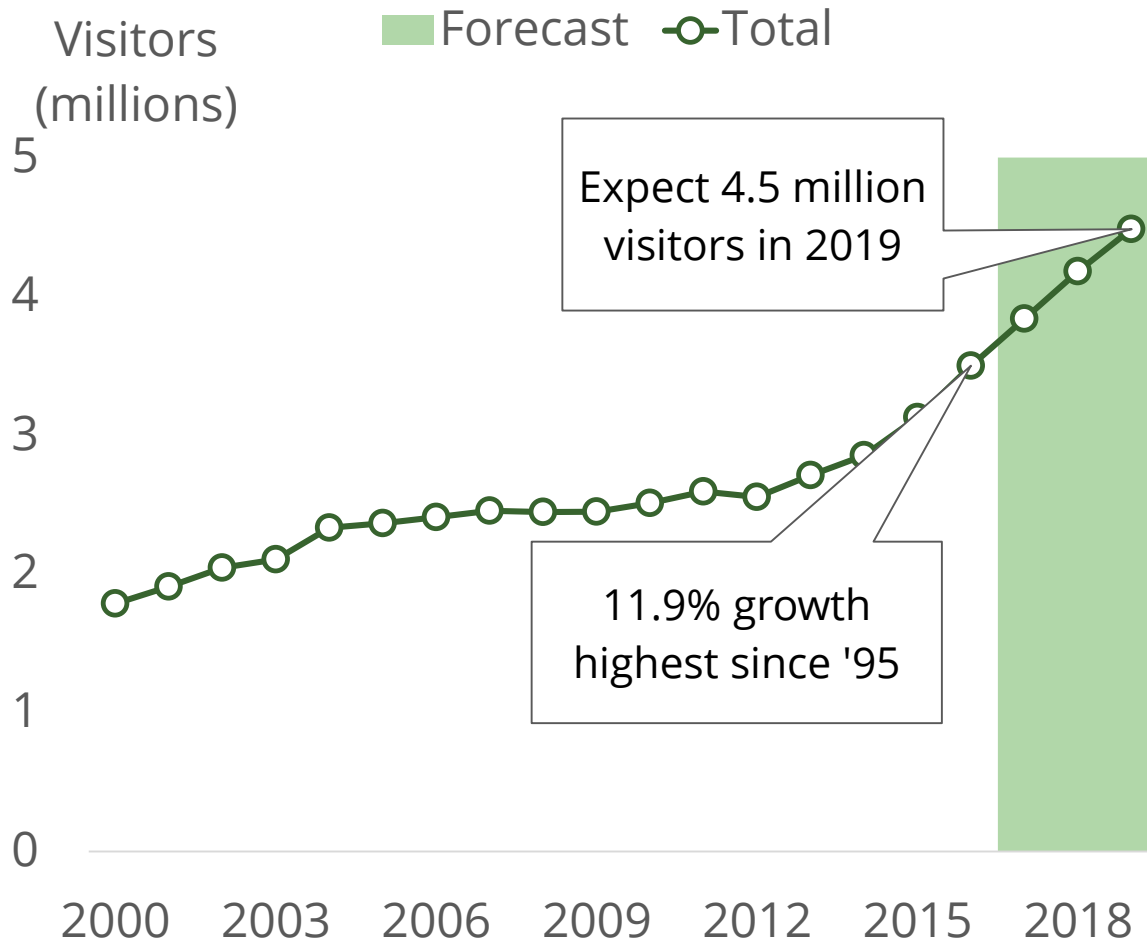
Source: Sense Partners

What this means for New Zealand



# Risks and uncertainties but pace of growth strongest in a generation, plan on continuation

FIG 26: No problem generating enough demand  
Visitor arrivals (Annual) to 2019



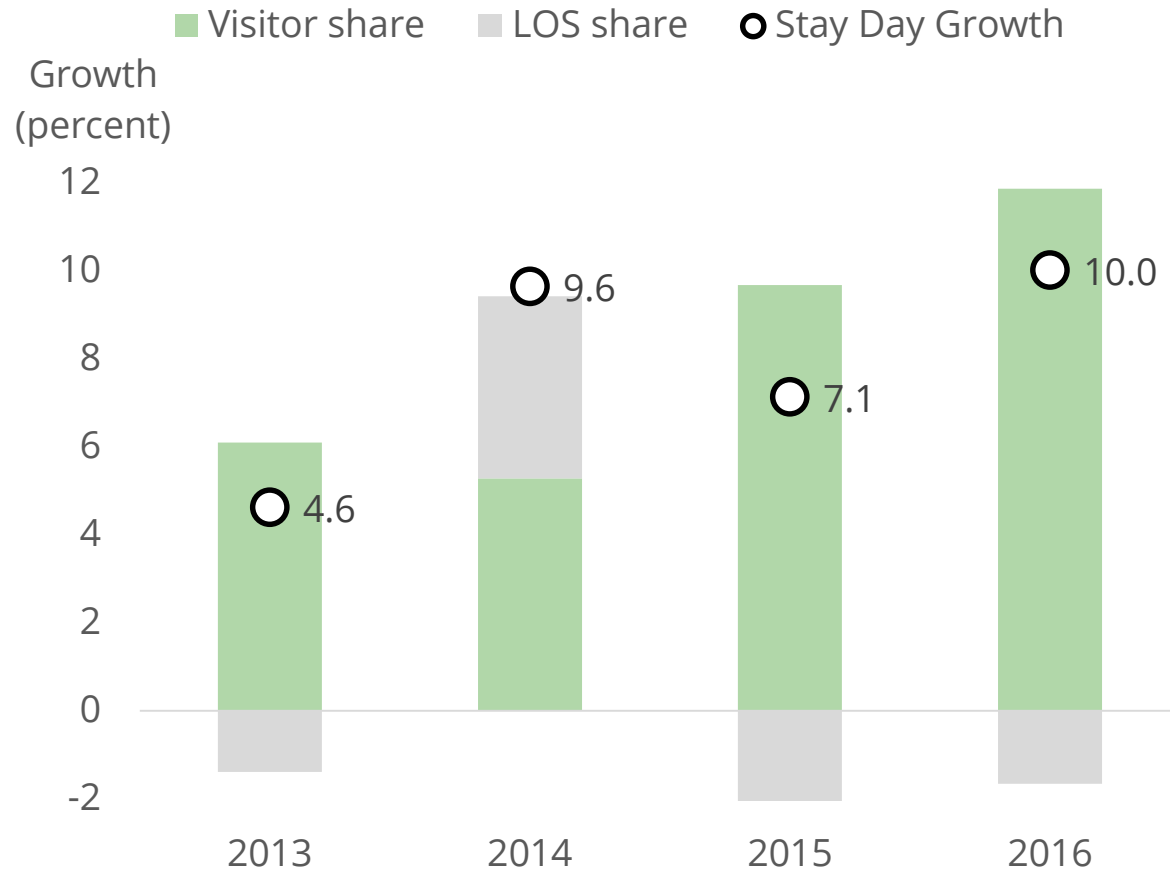
Source: Sense Partners

## Key takeaways

- **Headline growth strongest in generation – all markets outstrip 20-year averages**
- **China effect continues to bring many more visitors**
- **Government in advanced economies challenged but tourists defy the economic cycle**
- **We expect growth to ease a little and average 8.6% to 2019**

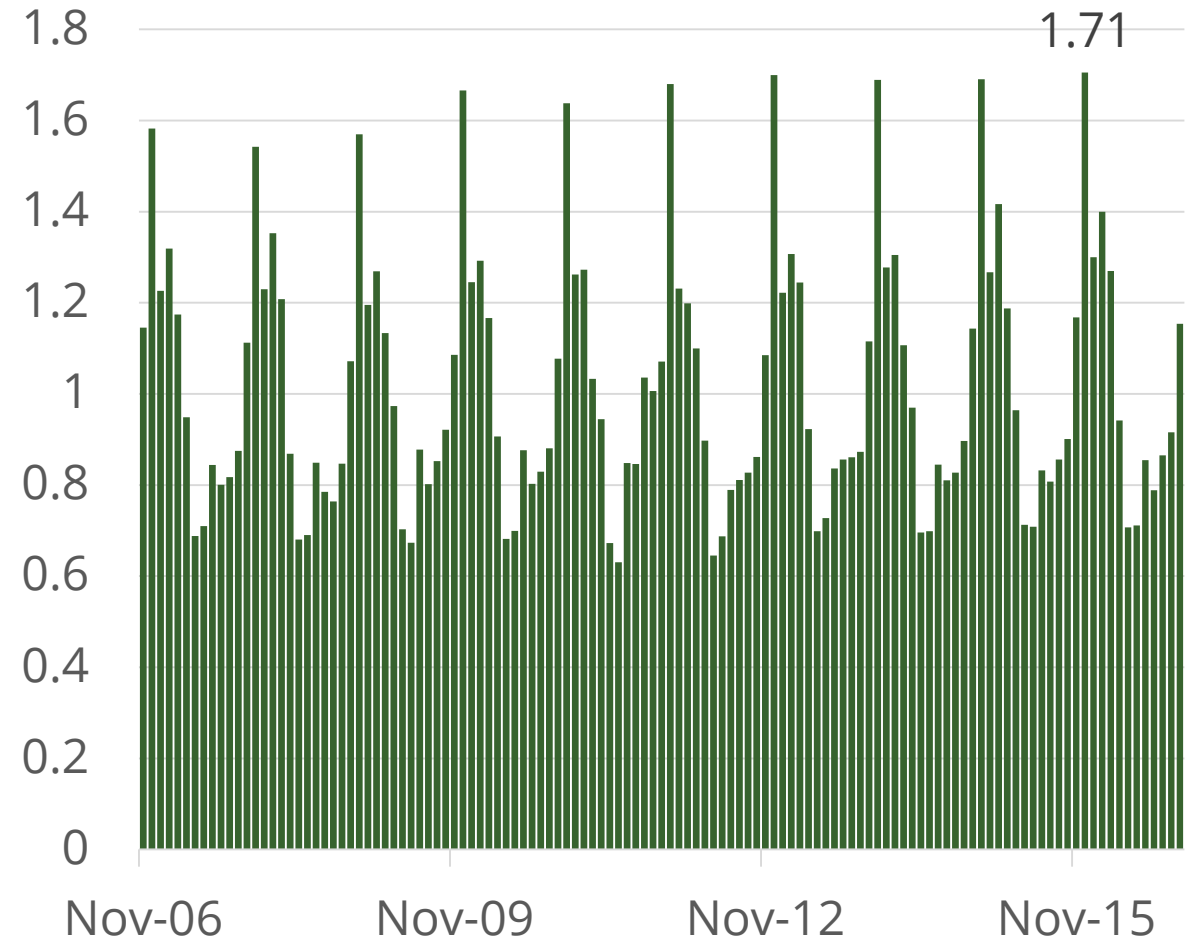
# Pace of growth drives need for infrastructure and management of bottlenecks

FIG 27: Likely to need double digit room growth to accommodate rising stay days  
Contributions to growth in international stay days



Source: Statistics New Zealand

FIG 28: Don't expect seasonality to change much  
Ratio of month arrivals to monthly average



Source: Statistics New Zealand

# Economic framework for thinking on supply

- **First diagnose the problem: do you need infrastructure or is congestion the issue?**
- **Firms will deal with many infrastructure decisions based on expected returns and risk appetite – govt will not do this better**
- **Could be case for government money if networks are involved but many other industries face supply chain/capacity issues too**
- **Right to expect Government investment decision is relative to other priorities that compete for government dollars: no hypothecation**

# Averaging is evil – Price the peak!

- **Congestion issues are not directly hard infrastructure issues – can't directly build more iconic destinations need a pricing solution**
- **Price is the most efficient means of allocating access – people don't like this so the politics is difficult, but current quotas don't work**
- **Border control tax too blunt - if the problem is congestion, price the access as closely as possible, eg Tongariro crossing charge**
- **Can think of risks to natural tourism assets just like any network asset where access is rival eg brownouts in electricity network**

None of which is easy but risks to not acting – continuing coordination will be critical

