

Economic context

Food & Fibre CoVE: Research & Insights Forum 2025

Wellington

18 March 2025

Shamubeel Eaqub, CFA

Shamubeel@eaqub.com

Key points



History has returned



Understanding our context





What role will people play?



Global context

The future is unknown; but we can be prepared

The future is unknown





Source: RBNZ, S Eaqub



The world is getting better & worse



5

Old tools; watch closely





Source: World Bank, Tax Foundation, S Eaqub

Source: Altman, Steven A. & Bastian, Caroline R. (November 2024). DHL Global Connectedness Tracker. DHL Group. DOI: 10.58153/w7fak-t4r89, S Eagub

Big global themes



ΓĪ

Shifting values

Geopolitics Economy Trade Climate





Politics

No centre/fractured Fiscal pressures Unorthodox/less durable policy Institutions under attack

Which will affect

Demand & price Supply chain Technology Transition

We aren't immune





Source: Various political polls, S Eaqub



Global connections

We are connected, but remote

We are a big country...



Overlaid on Western Europe



Overlaid on UK





...and far away

2,000kms around Wellington...



...vs Berlin





NZ is safer, but still exposed



NZ mix exports: selected commodities



Source: Statistics NZ, S Eaqub

NZ mix of exports: selected countries



Reasons for optimism

Demand & social license



Rising prosperity & consumption



Source: Angus Madison Database, OECD-FAO, S Eaqub

Source: OECD-FAO, S Eaqub



Not everything; not everyone



Source: OECD-FAO, S Eaqub

Source: OECD-FAO, S Eaqub

Who do we want to feed?

Households reporting purchase in a given week: selected items



■1987 ■1997 ■2007 ■2016 ■2023

Source: Statistics NZ, S Eaqub



Social license: myths vs reality



Public Opinion of Farming Sub-sectors (2024)

25

0

50

Share of respondents

75

Source: Primary Purpose, NZCBIA, S Eaqub

Source: Primary Purpose, S Eaqub

100



Food & fibre context

Past success, future choices



An important part



Food & Fibre share of...

Source: Statistics NZ, S Eaqub

Will we hire more?







Maybe, because of a troubling stall



Source: Statistics NZ, S Eaqub

Reclaim our mojo?





Source: Statistics NZ, S Eaqub

Variation within industry





Productivity per employee



Dairy example

Slowing progress & people



Revenue, volume or something else?



Source: Dairy NZ, Statistics NZ, S Eaqub



Revenue: high impact, low control





Productivity at the business level



Technical efficiency...





Source: Dairy NZ, S Eaqub

More responsibility





Source: Dairy NZ, Statistics NZ, S Eaqub

Source: Dairy NZ, Statistics NZ, S Eaqub



Injuries = 1-5m off; 2.5% drop in work



Source: ACC, WorkSafe, Statistics NZ, S Eaqub

Source: ACC, WorkSafe, Statistics NZ, S Eaqub

Not growing but hiring





Source: Statistics NZ, S Eaqub



Increasingly competitive market



Source: Statistics NZ, S Eaqub

Source: Statistics NZ, S Eaqub

Skills gaps & filling them





Source: The Hays 2025 Skills Report, S Eaqub

Source: The Hays 2025 Skills Report, S Eaqub



Business language of productivity



Some ideas





Invest in you

Leadership Management Culture





Invest in your people

Informal + formal training

Recruit for attributes, not just qualifications and experience

Broader settings

Stable funding envelope...

...for learning (not just qualifications)...

...skills (appropriate, useful and up to date)...

...delivered right (fit for purpose).

Key points



History has returned



Understanding our context





What role will people play?

Thank you.

Questions?



EAQUB & EAQUB