

This suggestion is towards high market prices for groceries and major supermarkets in NZ.

I am not at all expert on this subject however I believe if below framework is considered then at least some contents of the groceries can have lowered prices. This way NZ will have bit less to worry about.

Imports such as stock material which includes rice, wheat, cereals, sugar, salt, tea, coffee, confectionary etc can be imported to lower down the prices.

Distance and land mass is the issue – The geographics of NZ is not letting easy imports get into the country easily. High transport tariffs due to distance from other mass-producing countries, Monopoly of import tax, bureaucracy, shuffling of each government term in 3 years (not letting the decisions made once committed) are some of the factors for food prices. Hence no one seems to be getting results.

I am an employee and there is not a single cent increase in my salary since last 3 years. However, the average inflation rate of about >2% hasn't helped at all. Source (RBNZ, n.d.)

Importing these items from high growing countries such like India, Thailand, Brazil, Mexico, Africa will lower down the food prices in NZ. Because these nations have low labour rates and high production. In order to have such trades in place and to get value for money, NZ must have free trade agreement in place (just for groceries for a start).

I am not sure what can be done to lower the prices for fresh grocery contents like vegetables, meat, dairy products. I personally goto flea markets / Sunday markets and I find low prices of vegetables and fruits in comparison to the supermarkets. If the farmers are given such opportunities to directly sell their contents to the open market on a large scale then it might be some feasibility.

The small butchery shops like mad butchers even have higher rates than the supermarkets. This shows nothing but minimal to absolutely zero price limits at all.

GST: Another way of decreasing food prices might be to lower the tax rate on food or no tax at all. In Australia some grocery items do not have any tax on it. (Australian Taxation Office, n.d.).

However, I don't think there will be much difference coz the suppliers will see the tax rebate as opportunity to hike the prices as they were before tax.

In Winters: How a poor man can afford \$6 per capsicum from supermarkets where a beer cost less than \$2 and a packet of rubbish food called noodles costs \$1.5.

Bureaucrat's wont' understand this scenario coz they don't goto shop everyday like a common family does. Every time a normal earning person goes to the supermarket, he / she will check their account balance before they shop.

Council rates goes <5% every year and this will not impact our prime minister's pocket.

Fuel rates are out of control and will not impact any CEO's of the companies.

House prices are sky rocketed but won't matter coz Kainga Ora will outbid everyone.

In nutshell importing items from overseas will help the prices to fall down. The supermarkets should be questioned periodically to show what they are doing to bring the prices down. Have they

considered the other sources ? If other sources are impressive and low and ask the current suppliers to match the prices.

Thanks.