



MINISTRY OF
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora

Department of Labour
TE TARI MAHI



Bay of Plenty

QUARTERLY REGIONAL LABOUR MARKET
UPDATE FOR SEPTEMBER 2006

BAY OF PLENTY

QUARTERLY REGIONAL LABOUR MARKET UPDATE FOR SEPTEMBER 2006

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The labour force participation rate in Bay of Plenty stood at 67.2% during the year to September 2006 up from 64.8% the year before. In comparison, the national average participation rate was 68.4% for the year to September 2006.

The unemployment rate in Bay of Plenty increased to 4.1% for the year to September 2006 (national average: 3.7%) from 3.9% in the year to September 2005.

There were 2,406 working aged people receiving unemployment benefits from Work and Income in the Bay of Plenty region at the end of September 2006.

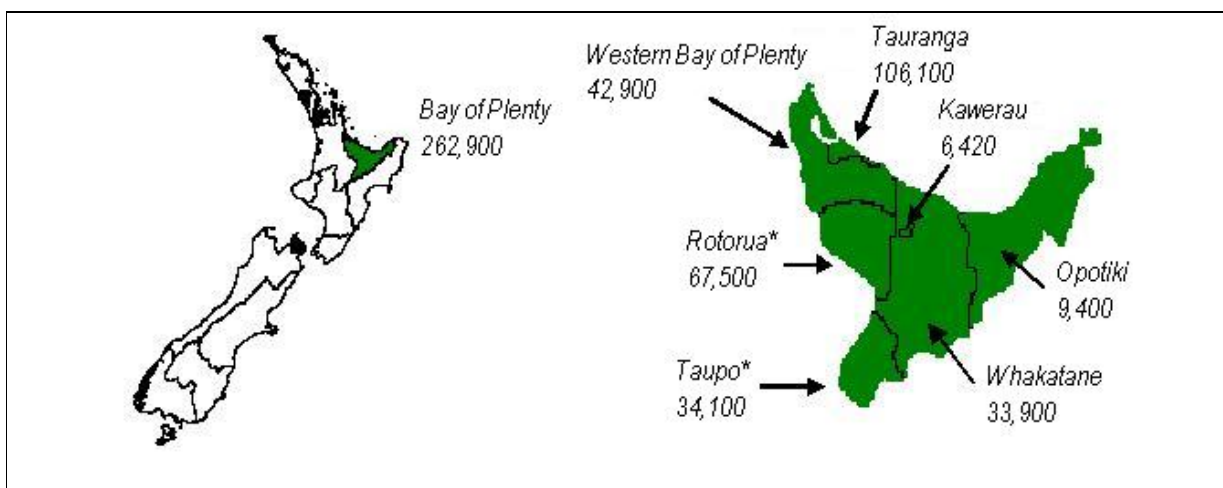
Advertised vacancies in Bay of Plenty grew by 3.5% in the year to September 2006, compared with a fall of 7.4% at the national level.

The data presented in this report is by regional council boundaries. This the first time some of this information has been available using regional council boundaries.

BACKGROUND

This report includes information relating to the area covered by the Bay of Plenty region as shown in Box 1.

Box 1: Map and population of Bay of Plenty for June 2006



Source: Subnational Population Estimates, Statistics New Zealand

Note: Taupo and Rotorua extend into Waikato. Population figures are for the entire district.

This report is a quarterly update of current labour market conditions in the Bay of Plenty region. The sources of statistics are the Statistics New Zealand Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS), Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and the Department of Labour Job Vacancy Monitor (JVM). To counter the effects of seasonality and low sample size when making comparisons over time, the figures presented are averages for the year up to the quarter indicated, unless otherwise stated.

Table 1: Key labour market data for the Bay of Plenty region

<i>HLFS Indicator</i>	<i>Bay of Plenty</i>		<i>New Zealand</i>	
	year to September 2006	year to September 2005	year to September 2006	year to September 2005
Participation rate, ann ave	67.2%	64.8%	68.4%	67.8%
Employment rate, ann ave	64.4%	62.3%	65.8%	65.3%
Unemployment rate, ann ave	4.1%	3.9%	3.7%	3.7%

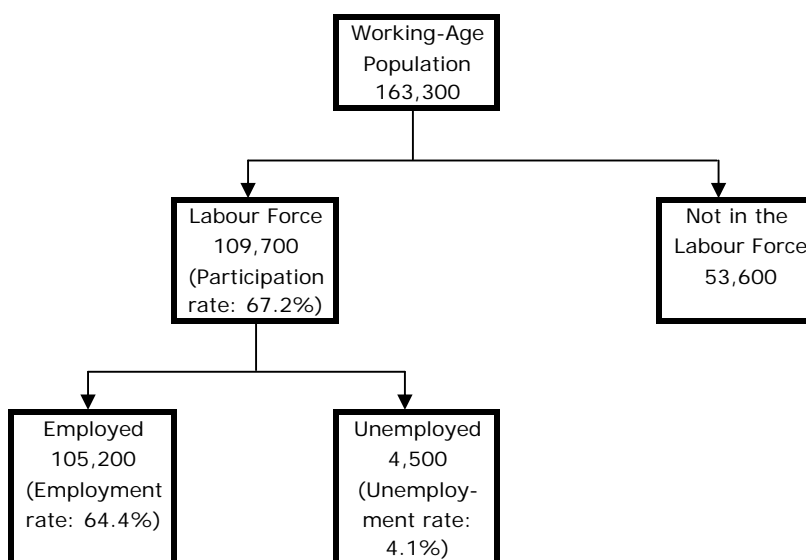
<i>Unemployment Beneficiary Indicator</i>	<i>Bay of Plenty</i>		<i>New Zealand</i>	
	September 2006 quarter ('000)	share in NZ	September 2006 quarter ('000)	% change since September 2002
Working aged UB/UBH recipients (aged 18-64)	2,406	5.9%	41,027	-59.1%

<i>JVM Indicator</i>	<i>Bay of Plenty</i>		<i>New Zealand</i>	
	year to September 2006	year to September 2005	year to September 2006	year to September 2005
Advertised job vacancy counts, ann ave % change	3.5%	25.4%	-7.4%	9.6%

Source: HLFS, Statistics New Zealand; MSD; JVM, Department of Labour

In the year to September 2006 the working-age population in the Bay of Plenty region is 163,300. The labour force participation rate is 67.2%, 109,700 people are in the labour force and 53,600 people are 'not in the labour force'. Of those people who are in the labour force, 4.1%, or 4,500 are unemployed and 105,200 are employed.

Box 2: The labour market in Bay of Plenty for the year to September 2006



Source: HLFS, Statistics New Zealand

Notes:

- Participation rate: proportion of the working-age population that is in the labour force.
- Employment rate: proportion of the working-age population that is employed.
- Unemployment rate: proportion of the labour force that is unemployed.

POPULATION

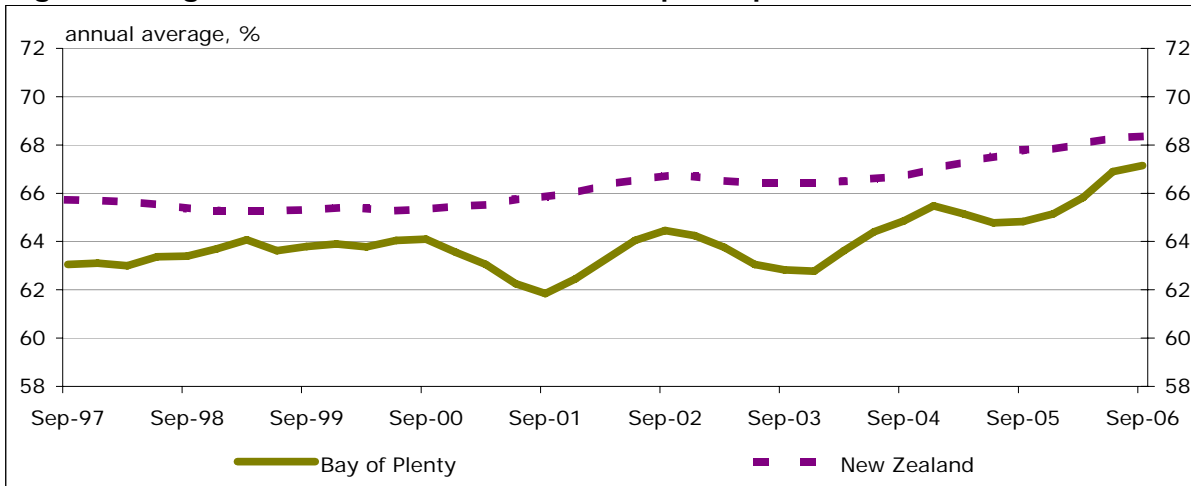
The working-age population in the Bay of Plenty region is estimated at 163,300 in the year to September 2006.

LABOUR FORCE

The participation rate in Bay of Plenty stood at 67.2% during the year to September 2006 up from 64.8% the year before. In comparison, the national average participation rate was 68.4% for the year to September 2006.

The number of people in the labour force in the Bay of Plenty region is estimated to be 109,700 in the year to September 2006.

Figure 1: Regional and national trends in the participation rate



Source: HLFS, Statistics New Zealand

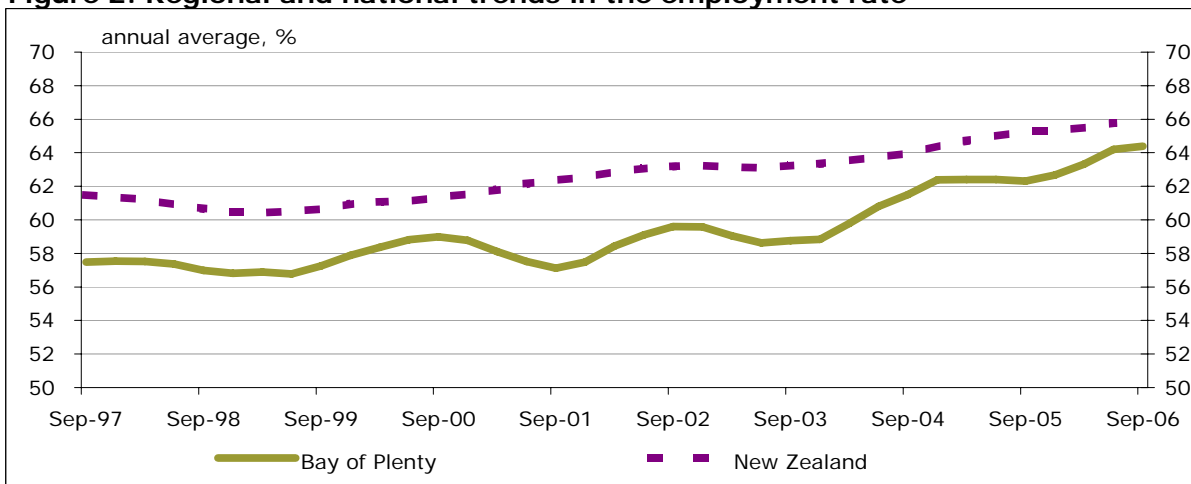
For a more detailed explanation of the labour force and the participation rate, go to the Department of Labour publication: workINSIGHT, issue 5, page 35, *The Labour Market Explained: The Labour Force Participation Rate* at www.workINSIGHT.govt.nz.

EMPLOYMENT

The employment rate (the proportion of the working-age population that is employed) in Bay of Plenty stood at 64.4% during the year to September 2006 up from 62.3% the year before. In comparison, the national average employment rate was 65.8%.

Employment in the Bay of Plenty region was 105,200 in the year to September 2006.

Figure 2: Regional and national trends in the employment rate



Source: HLFS, Statistics New Zealand

For a more detailed explanation of employment, go to the Department of Labour publication: workINSIGHT, issue 4, page 32, *The Labour Market Explained: Employment* at www.workINSIGHT.govt.nz.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The region's unemployment rate increased to 4.1% in the year to September 2006, from 3.9% the year before. In comparison, the national average unemployment rate was 3.7% for the year to September 2006.

The number of unemployed people in the region (as measured by the official statistics) is estimated at 4,500 for the year to September 2006.

Figure 3: Regional and national trends in the unemployment rate



Source: HLFS, Statistics New Zealand

The Household Labour Force Survey provides an estimate of all persons in the working-age population who during a particular week were without a paid job, available for work and had either actively sought work in the previous four weeks, or had a new job to start within four weeks of the survey week. These numbers will not align exactly with numbers receiving an income tested benefit such as Unemployment Benefit (see next page). There are a range of reasons for this. For example, recipients of income tested benefits can be employed part time up to specified income limits, whereas a respondent to the Household Labour Force Survey must have worked less than an hour during the week being surveyed to count as officially unemployed.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The Ministry of Social Development has recently begun to make information on numbers receiving social security benefits available for Territorial Local Authorities. This information also supports display by Regional Council area, the same geographic basis on which other information in this report has been displayed. It will be some time yet before this is available as an annual time-series, so comparisons over time are provided for New Zealand as a whole.

There were 2,406 working aged people receiving unemployment benefits from Work and Income in the Bay of Plenty region at the end of September 2006. Their characteristics are shown in the next table.

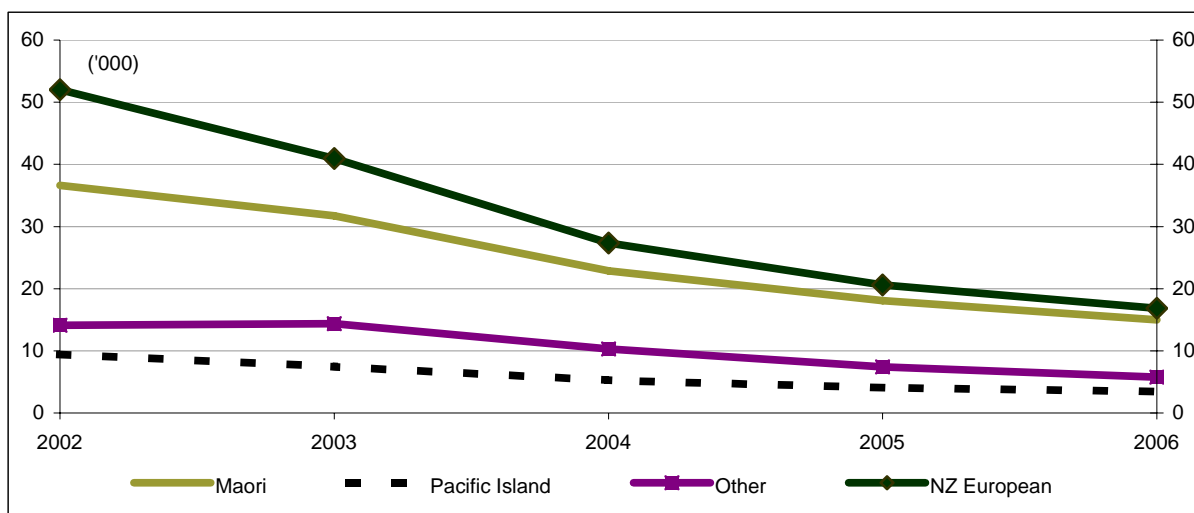
Table 2: Working aged unemployment benefit recipients (aged 18-64) in the Bay of Plenty region and nationally during September 2006

	Region		New Zealand		Region's share of New Zealand (%)
	Share (%)	Number	Share (%)	Number	
Male	70.4	1,694	67.3	27,611	6.1
Female	29.6	712	32.7	13,416	5.3
Maori	70.0	1,685	36.5	14,975	11.3
Pacific People	1.0	24	8.3	3,405	0.7
18-24 years	16.4	395	23.1	9,477	4.2
25-39 years	36.1	868	32.8	13,457	6.5
40-54 years	27.0	649	23.0	9,436	6.9
55-64 years	20.5	494	21.0	8,616	5.7
Total		2,406		41,027	5.9

Source: MSD

These values occur against a backdrop of significant reductions in the number of current unemployment benefits over time.

Figure 4: Clients receiving Unemployment Benefits for the whole of New Zealand, September 2002 - September 2006



Source: MSD

Notes: Other includes not specified. Values for September quarter.

JOB VACANCY TRENDS

The Job Vacancy Monitor (JVM) is a monthly analysis of job advertisements in selected editions of 25 major newspapers around New Zealand and three websites advertising IT vacancies. Over time, JVM informs us about the tightness of the labour market.

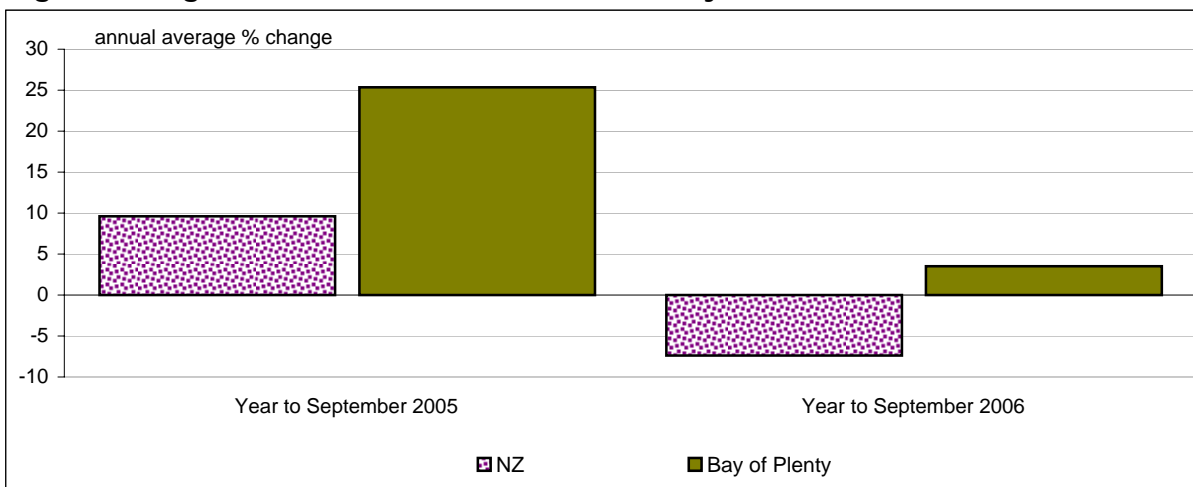
Advertised vacancies in Bay of Plenty grew by 3.5% in the year to September 2006, compared with a fall of 7.4% at the national level.

Advertisements for highly skilled occupations in Bay of Plenty declined by 4.6% in the year to September 2006.

Advertisements for skilled occupations in Bay of Plenty grew by 2.1% in the year to September 2006.

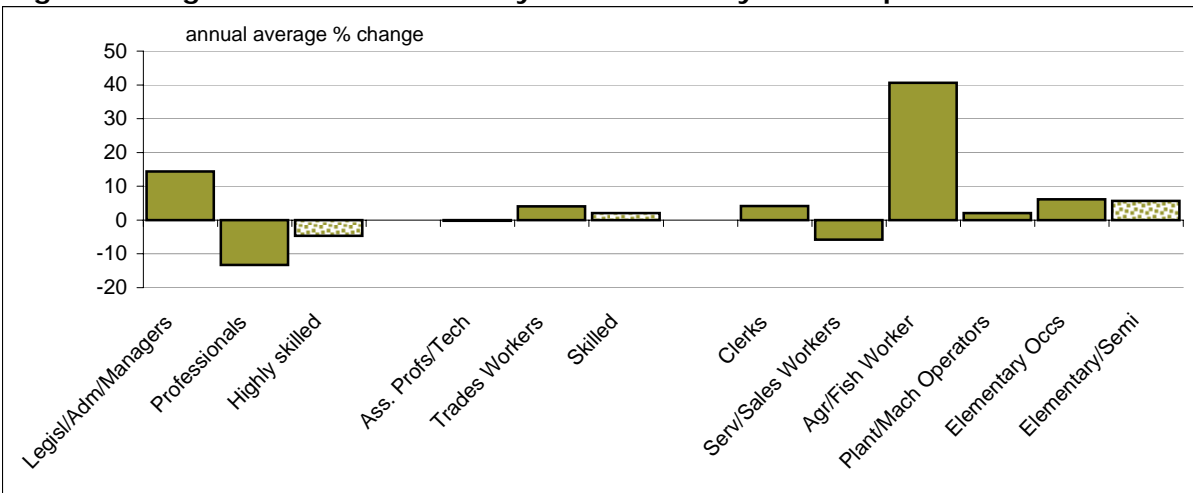
Advertisements for semi-skilled / elementary occupations in Bay of Plenty grew by 5.7% in the year to September 2006.

Figure 5: Regional and national trends in vacancy counts



Source: Job Vacancy Monitor, Department of Labour

Figure 6: Regional trends in vacancy counts in the year to September 2006



Source: Job Vacancy Monitor, Department of Labour

For a more detailed labour market outlook for New Zealand as a whole, go to the Department of Labour's *Labour Market Outlook Report* at <http://www.dol.govt.nz/publications/lmr/lmr-labour-market-outlook.asp>.

For more detailed results from the Job Vacancy Monitor, go to the Department of Labour's *Job Vacancy Monitoring Reports* at <http://www.dol.govt.nz/publications/jvm/job-ad-monthly-report.asp>.

High Vacancy Occupations

Below is a list of occupations from the JVM that have the highest number of vacancies (high vacancy occupations), and those occupations that have shown the highest growth in advertised vacancies in terms of percentage change (top percentage growth occupations) and numerical change (top numeric growth occupations) in Bay of Plenty.

The number of vacancies is measured as the total number of vacancies advertised in the twelve months to September 2006. The growth in vacancies compares the number of advertised vacancies in the 12 months to September 2006 with the previous 12 months. Percentage growth figures are only included if at least 24 vacancies occurred in the year to September 2005.

Table 3: Bay of Plenty high vacancy occupations, September 2006

Occupation group	Vacancies
1 Fruit Grower, Worker	524
2 Care Giver	294
3 Sales Assistant	289
4 Cleaner	219
5 General Clerk	195
6 Packer	158
7 General Labourer	139
8 Information Clerk and Other Receptionist	123
9 Waiter	120
10 Carpenter and/or Joiner	120

Table 4: Bay of Plenty, top percentage growth occupations, September 2006

Occupation group	Vacancies
1 Fruit Grower, Worker	86%
2 Real Estate Agent/Property Consultant	86%
3 Builder (Including Contractor)	77%
4 Horse Trainer, Groom or Stable Hand	76%
5 Painter, Decorator and/or Paperhanger	74%
6 Light Truck or Van Driver	73%
7 Dairy Farmer, Dairy Farm Worker	47%
8 Care Giver	47%
9 Courier and Deliverer	46%
10 Retail Manager	30%

Table 5: Bay of Plenty top numeric growth occupations, September 2006

Occupation group	Vacancies
1 Fruit Grower, Worker	243
2 Care Giver	94
3 Weighing and Tally Clerk	49
4 Builder (Including Contractor)	37
5 Horse Trainer, Groom or Stable Hand	32
6 Courier and Deliverer	31
7 Packer	30
8 Real Estate Agent/Property Consultant	30
9 Light Truck or Van Driver	27
10 Painter, Decorator and/or Paperhanger	25

GLOSSARY

Working-age population: population aged 15 years and over.

Labour force: number of people who are either in work or are available and actively seeking work (that is, employed or unemployed as defined below).

Employment: number of people in work of one hour or more per week.

Unemployment: number of people who are not in work, but who are available for and actively seeking work.

Not in the labour force: number of people who are not in work and are either not available or not actively seeking work (that is, they are not employed and not unemployed). This includes for example, retired people, students and people at home with children.

Labour force participation rate: proportion of the working-age population that is in the labour force.

Unemployment rate: proportion of the labour force that is unemployed.

Employment rate: proportion of the working-age population that is employed.

Job Vacancy Count: a monthly count of job advertisements in selected editions of 25 major newspapers around New Zealand and three websites advertising IT vacancies, published by Department of Labour (<http://www.dol.govt.nz/publications/jvm/job-ad-monthly-report.asp>).

Highly skilled workers: legislators, administrators and managers, and professionals.

Skilled workers: technicians and associate professionals, and trades workers.

Semi-skilled/elementary: clerks, services/sales workers, plant/machinery workers, and elementary workers.

Annual average: the average for a whole year (eg year to September 2006).

Annual average percentage change: the percentage change between the average for a whole year (eg the year to September 2006) and the previous year (eg the year to September 2005). Unless stated, all growth rates are annual average percentage changes.

LINKS TO OTHER LABOUR MARKET REPORTS

Skills in the labour market: summarises quarterly information on skill shortages, primarily focused on the Quarterly Survey of Business Opinion (QSBO) from the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research (NZIER) and the Job Vacancy Monitor (JVM) from the Department of Labour (<http://www.dol.govt.nz/publications/lmr/lmr-skills.asp>).

Labour market outlook: provides an outlook for the labour market over the next two years. The forecasts are detailed in a table and accompanied by descriptive analysis and a table of comparative forecasts is presented in an Appendix (<http://www.dol.govt.nz/publications/lmr/lmr-labour-market-outlook.asp>).

Employment/unemployment: a report that informs about the results from the latest Household Labour Force Survey released by Statistics New Zealand (<http://www.dol.govt.nz/publications/lmr/lmr-hlfs.asp>).

Wage growth: a report that examines the wage growth measures for the latest quarter from the Labour Cost Index (LCI) and Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) released by Statistics New Zealand. A technical note and data tables are included in the appendices (<http://www.dol.govt.nz/publications/lmr/lmr-qes-lci.asp>).

Maori labour market outcomes: a 6-monthly update focusing on changes in the past six years and prospects for the next two years. Data are from the quarterly Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) from Statistics New Zealand amongst others. (<http://www.dol.govt.nz/publications/lmr/lmr-maori-outcomes.asp>).

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