



## JOB VACANCY MONITOR - December 2007

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Highly skilled vacancies rose by 10% and IT vacancies rose by 22% in December 2007 compared to a year ago. However total job vacancies fell by 4% and trades vacancies fell by 10% for the year to December 2007. Total vacancies advertised in daily newspapers have been in steady decline since December 2004.

### Total job vacancies down 4%

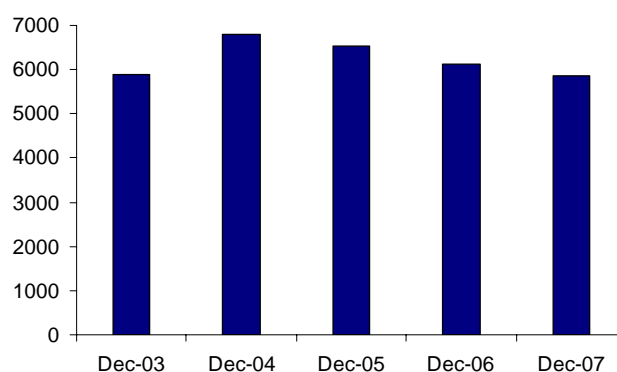
There were 5858 advertised job vacancies measured in December 2007, which is down 4% from twelve months ago (see Figure 1)<sup>1</sup>.

JVM is a monthly sample of job advertisements from 25 regional newspapers and two IT websites. JVM monitors the number of job ads in each occupational category over time, indicating changes in labour market tightness or changes in the degree of difficulty of recruiting staff.

An increase in vacancies typically indicates increased difficulty in recruiting staff, although other factors also influence the number of jobs advertised in newspapers. The Department of Labour is scoping the development of a series to include internet and community newspaper vacancies.

For more analysis and interpretation of the JVM, the Department of Labour publishes [Skills in the Labour Market](#)<sup>2</sup> every quarter.

Figure 1: Total number of vacancies



Source: Department of Labour

### Vacancies for highly skilled jobs up 10%

Vacancies for highly skilled jobs rose by 10% to 1234 in December 2007 (see Figure 2 over). Within this category, vacancies for professionals rose by 13% and vacancies for legislators, administrators and managers rose 4%. Among professionals, vacancies for all subgroups increased, except accountants and auditors, which declined -43% (see Table 1 over).

<sup>1</sup> The 'total' number of advertised job vacancies relates to the total number appearing in the JVM **sample**, rather than the total number of advertisements placed in all editions of all newspapers. The job vacancy counts are based on a three month moving average. See the explanatory notes for further details.

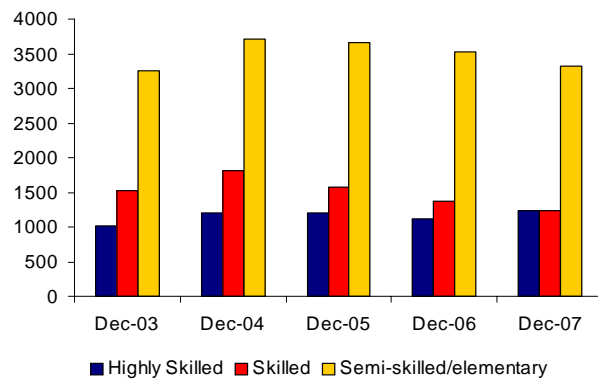
<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.dol.govt.nz/publications/lmr/lmr-skills-summary.asp>

### **Vacancies for skilled jobs down 10%**

Vacancies for skilled jobs fell by 10% to 1242 in December 2007 compared to a year ago, continuing their steady decline since 2004 (1806).

Advertised vacancies for technicians and associate professionals declined by 9% in December 2007. Within this category, health associate professionals recorded an increase in vacancies (39%) whereas vacancies declined for all other subgroups: physical science and engineering (-28%), social work (-14%), finance and sales (-12%) and 'other technicians and associate professionals' (-2%).

Figure 2: Total number of vacancies, by skill level



Source: Department of Labour

### **Trades vacancies down 10 %**

Trades vacancies declined by 10% to 585 compared to a year ago and down from 846 in December 2004. Within this category, furniture and textile (13%), metal and machinery (7%) and food (5%) all had increased vacancies. Vacancies for printing (-33%), building (-20%) and electrical and electronics (-15%) declined.

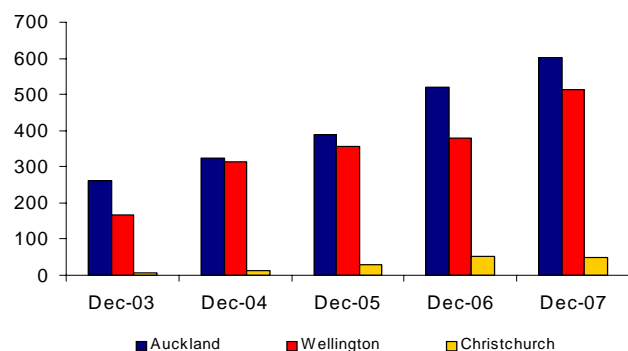
### **Vacancies for semi-skilled and elementary jobs down by 6%**

Semi-skilled/elementary job advertisements declined by 6% to 3319 in December 2007, compared to a year ago, and down from 3719 in December 2004. This fall was driven by declines in advertised vacancies for service and sales workers (-15%) and clerks (-13%). Elementary workers (8%), agriculture and fishery workers (6%) and plant and machine operators and assemblers (6%) had increased vacancies.

### **IT vacancies up 22%**

IT job advertisements grew by 22% to 1206 from December 2006 to December 2007. Figure 3 shows the increases in IT vacancies in December for the three largest regions, Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

Figure 3: Number of IT vacancies, by region



Source: Department of Labour

**Table 1 Total monthly job vacancies, by occupation, December 2007**

		No. of vacancies Dec 2003*	No. of vacancies Dec 2004*	No. of vacancies Dec 2005*	No. of vacancies Dec 2006*	No. of vacancies Dec 2007*	% change 03-07	% change 06-07	Share of vacancies Dec 2007
Highly skilled	<b>Legislators, Administrators &amp; Managers</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>424</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>8%</b>
	<b>Professionals</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>699</b>	<b>794</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>14%</b>
	<i>Science, Architecture &amp; Engineering</i>	123	158	144	139	157	27%	13%	3%
	<i>Health</i>	108	191	172	150	210	95%	40%	4%
	<i>Teaching</i>	187	198	185	173	215	15%	24%	4%
	<i>Accountants &amp; Auditors</i>	91	96	93	82	47	-49%	-43%	1%
	<i>Business &amp; Legal</i>	86	101	104	87	96	12%	10%	2%
	<i>Other Professionals</i>	52	51	74	68	68	31%	1%	1%
	<b>Highly Skilled</b>	<b>1012</b>	<b>1209</b>	<b>1196</b>	<b>1124</b>	<b>1234</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>21%</b>
Skilled	<b>Technicians &amp; Associate Professionals</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>960</b>	<b>857</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>656</b>	<b>-19%</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>11%</b>
	<i>Physical Science &amp; Engineering</i>	114	158	129	131	94	-17%	-28%	2%
	<i>Health</i>	87	51	47	42	58	-33%	39%	1%
	<i>Finance &amp; Sales</i>	356	455	362	258	228	-36%	-12%	4%
	<i>Social Work</i>	52	46	46	56	48	-8%	-14%	1%
	<i>Other Technicians &amp; Associate Professionals</i>	205	249	274	234	228	11%	-2%	4%
	<b>Trades</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>846</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>-18%</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>10%</b>
	<i>Building</i>	288	327	255	299	240	-17%	-20%	4%
	<i>Electrical &amp; Electronics</i>	76	93	74	66	56	-26%	-15%	1%
	<i>Metal &amp; Machinery</i>	207	271	242	168	180	-13%	7%	3%
	<i>Printing</i>	35	30	22	20	14	-61%	-33%	0%
	<i>Food</i>	25	34	39	25	26	3%	5%	0%
	<i>Furniture &amp; Textiles</i>	34	30	33	29	32	-4%	13%	1%
	<i>Other Trades</i>	47	60	59	47	37	-21%	-21%	1%
	<b>Skilled</b>	<b>1525</b>	<b>1806</b>	<b>1581</b>	<b>1373</b>	<b>1242</b>	<b>-19%</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>21%</b>
Semi-skilled/elementary	<b>Clerks</b>	<b>874</b>	<b>1017</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>761</b>	<b>660</b>	<b>-24%</b>	<b>-13%</b>	<b>11%</b>
	<b>Service &amp; Sales</b>	<b>1124</b>	<b>1253</b>	<b>1281</b>	<b>1357</b>	<b>1157</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>20%</b>
	<i>Restaurant Services</i>	468	494	536	567	470	0%	-17%	8%
	<i>Hairdressers &amp; Beauty Therapists</i>	83	93	80	75	74	-10%	-1%	1%
	<i>Salespersons &amp; Demonstrators</i>	380	397	396	415	330	-13%	-20%	6%
	<i>Other Service &amp; Sales</i>	193	269	269	299	283	47%	-6%	5%
	<b>Agriculture &amp; Fishery Workers</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>-3%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>4%</b>
	<b>Plant &amp; Machine Operators &amp; Assemblers</b>	<b>563</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>663</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>678</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>12%</b>
	<i>Operators &amp; Assemblers</i>	221	295	289	289	256	16%	-11%	4%
	<i>Drivers &amp; Mobile Machinery Operators</i>	304	353	325	297	385	27%	30%	7%
	<i>Building</i>	38	55	49	53	37	-4%	-31%	1%
<b>Elementary Workers</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>10%</b>	
	<b>Semi-skilled/elementary</b>	<b>3255</b>	<b>3719</b>	<b>3668</b>	<b>3525</b>	<b>3319</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>57%</b>
	<b>Not classifiable</b>	98	53	76	94	63	-36%	-33%	1%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>5890</b>	<b>6787</b>	<b>6522</b>	<b>6116</b>	<b>5858</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>-4%</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Figures shown are three-month averages to December of each year.

Source: Department of Labour

## Jobs with High Vacancies - all New Zealand

Tables 2 - 5 list jobs with the highest numbers of vacancies for all New Zealand. They also show the occupations with the highest growth in vacancies as a percentage change and occupations with the largest numerical change in advertised vacancies<sup>3</sup>.

**Table 2** New Zealand top ranking vacancies and growth in the 12 months to December 2007

Rank	High Vacancy Occupations	No of vacancies	Top Percentage Growth Occupations	Growth (%)	Top Numeric Growth Occupations	Growth
1	Sales Assistant	3889	Sheep Farmer, Sheep Farm Worker	202%	Heavy Truck or Tanker Driver	449
2	Care Giver	2111	Architect	122%	Early Childhood Teacher	296
3	Information Clerk and Other Receptionist	2086	Electronic and Telecommunications Engineer	108%	Packer	242
4	Cleaner	2030	Machine Tool Operator	99%	Registered Nurse	224
5	General Clerk	1695	Midwife	95%	Machine Tool Operator	222
6	Registered Nurse	1677	Other Mechanical Engineer	94%	Light Truck or Van Driver	191
7	General Labourer	1668	Reporter	82%	Cleaner	184
8	Secretary	1558	Wood and Related Materials Products Assembler	77%	Administration Manager	184
9	Chef	1508	Electrical Fitter	75%	General Labourer	163
10	Waiter	1377	Teacher of English to Speakers of Other Languages	72%	Information Clerk and Other Receptionist	157

Source: Department of Labour

**Table 3** Highly Skilled Occupations: total vacancies and growth in New Zealand, in the 12 months to December 2007

Rank	High Vacancy Occupations	No. of vacancies	Top Percentage Growth Occupations	% Growth	Top Numeric Growth Occupations	Numeric Growth
1	Registered Nurse	1677	Architect	122%	Early Childhood Teacher	296
2	Administration Manager	1149	Electronic Telecommunications Engineer	108%	Registered Nurse	224
3	Early Childhood Teacher	832	Midwife	95%	Administration Manager	184
4	Retail Manager	755	Other Mechanical Engineer	94%	Architect	90
5	Accountant	739	Teacher of English to Speakers of Other Languages	72%	Primary School Teacher	78
6	Sales and/or Marketing Manager	592	Structural Engineer	60%	Other Mechanical Engineer	66
7	University and Higher Education Lecturer and/or Tutor	508	Early Childhood Teacher	55%	Other Civil Engineer	62
8	Primary School Teacher	407	Heating, Ventilation and Refrigeration Engineer	50%	Midwife	59
9	Restaurant or Tavern Manager	353	Other Civil Engineer	45%	Restaurant or Tavern Manager	54
10	Policy Analyst	342	Water Resources Engineer	45%	Management Consultant	40

Source: Department of Labour

<sup>3</sup> The number of vacancies is the **total number of vacancies advertised in the 12 months to December 2007**. Growth in vacancies compares the number of advertised vacancies in December 2007 with December 2006. Percentage growth figures are only included if at least 24 vacancies were advertised in December 2006. Numeric growth figures are only included if there were at least 10 more vacancies in December 2007 than December 2006.

**Table 4 Skilled Occupations: total vacancies and growth in New Zealand, in the 12 months to December 2007**

Rank	High Vacancy Occupations	No. of vacancies	Top Percentage Growth Occupations	% Growth	Top Numeric Growth Occupations	Numeric Growth
1	Carpenter and/or Joiner	1377	Reporter	82%	Carpenter and/or Joiner	140
2	Sales Representative	1364	Electrical Fitter	75%	Enrolled Nurse	65
3	Painter, Decorator and/or Paperhanger	582	Radio and Television Repairer	55%	Cabinet Maker	64
4	Electrician	570	Small Engine Mechanic	54%	Reporter	47
5	Real Estate Agent/Property Consultant	562	Purchasing Agent	49%	Electrical Fitter	47
6	Social Worker	552	Enrolled Nurse	41%	Safety Inspector	42
7	Draughting Technician	531	Cabinet Maker	40%	Fitter and Welder	42
8	Technical Representative	529	Building Control/Consents Officer	38%	Organisation and Methods Analyst	40
9	Motor Mechanic	495	Safety Inspector	37%	Administration Officer	37
10	Builder (Including Contractor)	481	Retail Dispensary Assistant	36%	Purchasing Agent	36

Source: Department of Labour

**Table 5 Semi-skilled/elementary occupations: total vacancies and growth in New Zealand in the 12 months to December 2007**

Rank	High Vacancy Occupations	No. of vacancies	Top Percentage Growth Occupations	% Growth	Top Numeric Growth Occupations	Numeric Growth
1	Sales Assistant	3889	Sheep Farmer, Sheep Farm Worker	202%	Heavy Truck or Tanker Driver	449
2	Care Giver	2111	Machine Tool Operator	99%	Packer	242
3	Information Clerk and Other Receptionist	2086	Wood and Related Materials Products Assembler	77%	Machine Tool Operator	222
4	Cleaner	2030	Sawmill Labourer	71%	Light Truck or Van Driver	191
5	General Clerk	1695	Ground Spraying and/or Dusting Contractor	60%	Cleaner	184
6	General Labourer	1668	Heavy Truck or Tanker Driver	52%	General Labourer	163
7	Secretary	1558	Animal Welfare Worker	46%	Information Clerk and Other Receptionist	157
8	Chef	1508	Market Gardener and Related Worker	42%	Secretary	119
9	Waiter	1377	Refuse Collector	38%	Sheep Farmer, Sheep Farm Worker	101
10	Heavy Truck or Tanker Driver	1312	Farm Machinery Operator, Including Contractor	37%	Care Giver	90

Source: Department of Labour

## Explanatory notes

Monthly vacancy counts are from a survey of job advertisements in 25 major newspapers, captured once a month on the main advertising day for each paper (usually Saturday). Duplicate advertisements are not included in the counts. The total vacancy counts are a **sample** of all advertisements in daily newspapers each month. The published data is trend data based on a three-month moving average. Data is not seasonally adjusted.

Jobs are coded to occupational categories using the New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations 1999.

IT vacancy counts are a weekly count of jobs newly listed in the past seven days on two websites: Seek IT and TradeMe Jobs. Monthly estimates of IT job advertisements are an average of the weekly data. Because IT jobs may be advertised on more than one site, changes in vacancy counts may exaggerate actual changes in demand and supply. Data is not seasonally adjusted. TradeMe was added to the counts in December 2006 when Jobstuff ads were merged into TradeMe. Changes to the Jobstuff website in July 2005 affected the number of vacancies advertised and the IT vacancy count was adjusted in September 2005 to reflect this impact. Further details available on request from the Department of Labour.

## More information

More data, methodological notes and conceptual explanations are available from the [Department of Labour](http://www.dol.govt.nz/publications/jvm/index.asp) website at <http://www.dol.govt.nz/publications/jvm/index.asp>

Information on the *New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations 1999* is on the [Statistics New Zealand](http://www.stats.govt.nz) website: <http://www.stats.govt.nz>

## Contact

Amy Galvin  
Work Directions  
Department of Labour  
PO Box 3705  
Wellington  
New Zealand

Phone (04) 915 4717- or email: [Amy.Galvin@dol.govt.nz](mailto:Amy.Galvin@dol.govt.nz)

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