

Department of Labour  
TE TARI MAHI



# REGIONAL LABOUR MARKET OVERVIEW

2006



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## REGIONAL LABOUR MARKET OVERVIEW 2006

### Summary

Trends in the national labour market, as documented in the Department of Labour's (DoL) Labour Market Outlook and other labour market reports on the DoL website [www.dol.govt.nz](http://www.dol.govt.nz), have shown a marked improvement in labour market conditions in the past five years. Strong, employment-rich economic growth has taken the national participation rate to record highs and the unemployment rate below 4% - one of the lowest rates in the OECD.

Strength in the national labour market is reflected in improved performance across all regions – particularly those where the labour market has traditionally been weakest. Between 2000 and 2005 even the slowest growing regions saw job growth of at least 2% a year on average. The fastest growing regions saw average yearly growth of 4% or more. This has helped take regional participation rates in late 2006 to historic highs, varying between 66% and 72% and regional unemployment rates to 5% or less; some lower than 3%.

Stronger regional labour market performance has been accompanied by a reduction in the disparities between regions' labour market performance. In the past five years, regions with weaker labour markets have improved more than those with strong labour markets.

### Background

This report shows that beneath the national picture, variations in labour market conditions exist in the regions. There are many organisations operating at the regional level to address these unique regional labour market needs. DoL provides a range of information about regional labour market conditions to inform the service delivery and strategic planning undertaken by these agencies, and to give a regional perspective to policy making at the national level.

This report provides an overview of regional labour market trends and characteristics from 2000 to 2006. Regions are defined by Regional Council administrative boundaries. The objective is to provide a commentary on regional labour market performance in a national context and to measure the extent to which differences in regional labour market performance have converged or diverged over time. Disparities in regional performance might occur because regions differ in their industry structure, or in the characteristics of the regional population. There are also complicated dynamics around the extent to which regional labour markets have the flexibility to adjust to changing economic conditions through such things as inter-regional migration. This report is intended as a platform for research into these drivers, with the aim of better understanding the differing performance of regional labour markets. For regularly updated labour market information on individual regions see the Joint MSD/DoL Quarterly

Regional Labour Market Reports on the Department of Labour (DoL) website. The forthcoming Annual In-depth Regional Labour Market Reports will provide a more detailed look at the drivers of regional labour market dynamics.

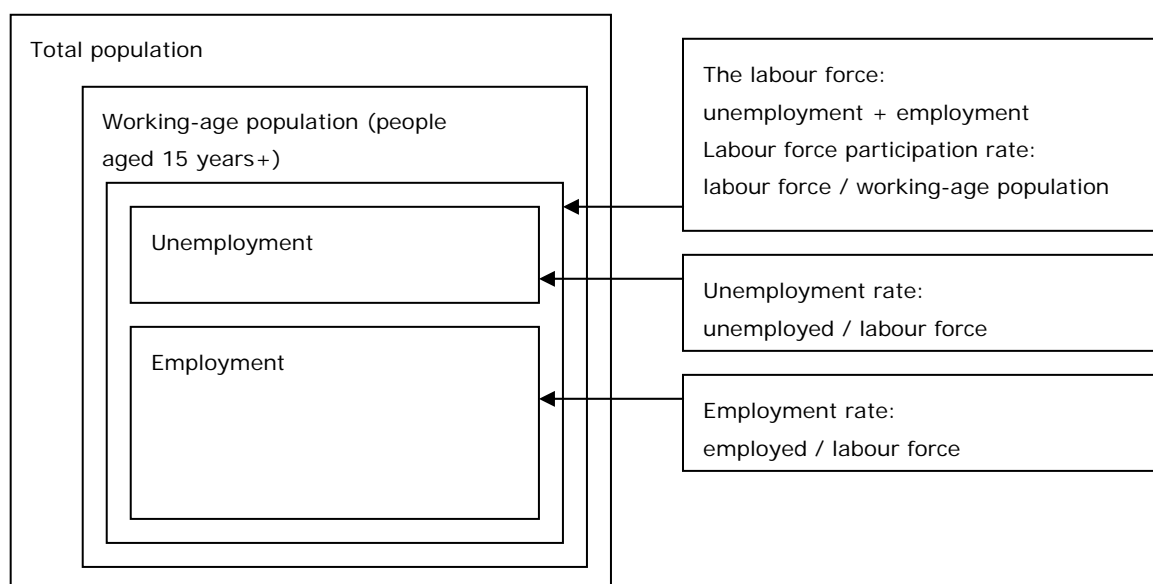
## About this report

This report considers five key aspects of regional labour market performance: population, labour force participation, employment, unemployment and advertised job vacancies. Together, these indicators provide information about the size of regional labour markets, the potential for further growth, the prevalence of work, the extent to which the labour force has the skills employers need and employer recruitment conditions.

Regional population trends are a key determinant of the size and potential growth of regional labour markets. For example, the size of the Northland population relative to Auckland's clearly has a significant bearing on the relative size of these labour markets. Within the boundaries posed by population size, the labour force participation rate is a second key indicator of the size and growth potential of a regional labour market. It's also an indicator of the prevalence of work because greater job opportunities tend to draw people into the labour market.

Employment trends and the employment rate are indicators of the prevalence of work in a regional labour market, and of the extent to which the labour force has the skills that employers need. The unemployment rate is another useful indicator of the prevalence of work as greater job opportunities generally lead to lower unemployment. The unemployment rate also provides information about the potential workforce available for further job growth - low unemployment rates are a signal that the pool of additional labour available to employers is small and that recruitment conditions may be difficult. Recruitment conditions are also reflected in advertised job vacancy counts. As recruitment becomes more difficult, employers who would normally prefer to fill their vacant positions through word of mouth turn to advertising to engage a larger pool of potential labour. Figure 1 below shows these labour market indicators in context.

**Figure 1: labour market indicators**



## Population

Figure 2 shows annual population change from 2001 to 2006 and population change projections from 2006 to 2011. The figures in brackets next to each region's name show that region's percentage share of the New Zealand population.

**Figure 2: Population change, 2001 to 2011, and regional population shares, 2006**



Source: Statistics New Zealand, 2001 and 2006 Census and Population Projections

Note: change is calculated as the compound annual average change between the relevant years; 2001 and 2006 numbers are based on March usually resident population Census counts in those years; 2006 and 2011 are Statistics New Zealand's medium population projections as at 30 June each year; projections were last released in 2005 and are based on 2001 population estimates; they have not yet been updated to take account of population information from the 2006 Census; regional shares are based on the March 2006 Census count of the usually resident population. See the Glossary for further explanation of these terms.

In 2006, about a third of the New Zealand population lived in Auckland. This percentage increased between 2001 and 2006 because Auckland's population growth of 2.4% a year was much higher than all the other regions. Auckland's share of the country's population is also projected to increase more than other regions in the near future although the rate of increase is expected to be slower than in previous years. Compound annual average growth in the Auckland population is projected to be 1.5% a year between 2006 and 2011, the fastest rate of all the regions. This is closer to growth rates in the rest of the country compared with relative growth rates in the previous five years.

All the other regions except Southland experienced population growth between 2001 and 2006. Canterbury experienced growth rates of just over 1.5% a year, Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Wellington, Tasman/Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast and Otago all experienced growth rates of between 1% and 1.5% a year,

Gisborne/Hawke's Bay saw growth of just over 0.5% a year and in Taranaki and Manawatu-Wanganui yearly growth was about 0.2%. Southland's population decline was only slight.

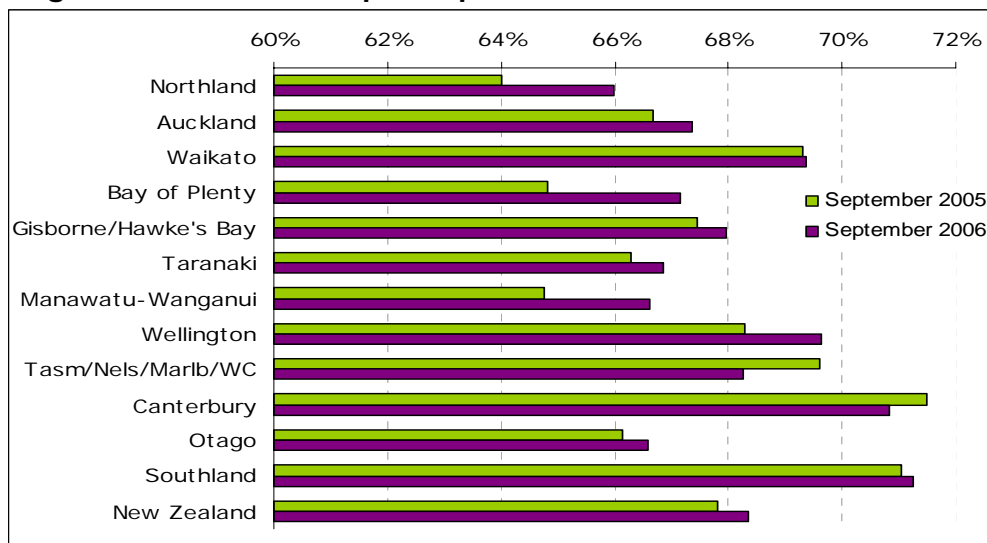
National population growth is expected to slow in the near future from a rate of 1.5% a year between 2001 and 2006 to 0.8% a year between 2006 and 2011. This slower growth is reflected in projected growth rates across most regions. Other than Auckland, Bay of Plenty is the only other region expected to see compound annual average growth of above 1% a year. Northland, Waikato, Wellington, Tasman/Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast and Canterbury are expected to see growth of between 0.5% and 1% a year, and in Gisborne/Hawke's Bay and Otago yearly growth is expected to be marginally above zero. Population declines are projected to continue in Southland with the Taranaki and Manawatu-Wanganui populations also expected to begin to fall.

Strong population growth in Auckland has led to greater divergence in regions' share of the total population. This is expected to continue. A crude way to examine this is by measuring the size of the gap between the share of the population that lives in Auckland and the share of the population that lives in the least populated region. In 2001, Southland's share of the population was the smallest at 2.4% and Auckland's share was 31.0% (a gap of 28.6 percentage points). By 2006 the gap had widened (to 30.1 percentage points); Southland's share had fallen to 2.3% and Auckland's had risen to 32.4%. The gap is expected to widen in future. The respective shares are projected to be 2.1% and 33.9% in 2011. A more sophisticated calculation that takes into account population shares in all regions confirms that divergence is occurring.

## **Labour Force Participation**

Figure 3 below shows annual average labour force participation rates for the years to September 2005 and September 2006. The labour force participation rate is the number of people in the labour force as a percentage of the number of people in the working-age population. The labour force is made up of people who are either employed or unemployed. The working-age population is all people aged 15 years or above.

**Figure 3: Labour force participation rate, 2005 and 2006**



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Household Labour Force Survey

Note: figures are annual averages for the years to September 2005 and September 2006. See the Glossary for further explanation of annual averages.

At the national level, the annual average participation rate increased from 67.8% in the year to September 2005 to 68.4% in the year to September 2006. This is the highest on an annual average basis since comparable recording began in 1986.

In the year to September 2006 participation rates were highest in Southland and Canterbury at about 71%. Waikato, Gisborne/Hawke's Bay, Wellington and Tasman/Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast all had similar participation rates of 68% to 70%. The remaining regions had rates of between 66% and 68%, the lowest being Northland at 66%.

All regions other than Tasman/Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast and Canterbury saw rises in their annual average labour force participation rates between the year to September 2005 and the year to September 2006. In Canterbury, the size of the labour force still grew in this period but the working-age population grew by more (causing a decline in the participation rate). These regional trends reflect strong economic and labour market conditions across the country recently, which have encouraged people to participate in the labour market. Over the longer term, the rising participation of women and older workers in the labour market has also made a significant contribution to participation rate increases.

Recently, regional participation rates have converged. A crude way to examine this is by measuring the size of the band between the lowest and the highest regional rates. Between 2001 and 2006 the lower band rose much more than the upper band indicating that regional variation had narrowed. In 2001 the lowest regional participation rate was 59.9% (Northland) and the highest was 69.5% (Wellington), a difference of 9.6 percentage points. By 2006 the lowest was 66.0% (Northland) and the highest 71.3% (Southland), a difference of only 5.3 percentage points. A more sophisticated calculation that takes into account

participation rates in all regions confirms that regional convergence has occurred recently.

## Employment

Figure 4 shows compound annual average growth in filled jobs over the five-year period to September 2005, and annual average growth in the year to September 2006. Each region's share of all filled jobs for the year to September 2005 is shown in brackets next to the region's name. Filled jobs in this report are a count of the number of jobs held by wage earners in the labour market. This is different to the number of people employed because some people have more than one job and total employment also includes self-employed people.

**Figure 4: Change in the number of filled jobs, 2000 to 2005 and 2004 to 2005, and regional share of all filled jobs, 2005**



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Linked Employee Employer Dataset

Note: change from 2000 to 2005 is the compound annual average change between the years to September 2000 and September 2005; the change between 2004 and 2005 is the annual average change between the years to September 2004 and September 2005; the regional share is based on the annual average count for the year to September 2005. See the Glossary for further explanation of these terms.

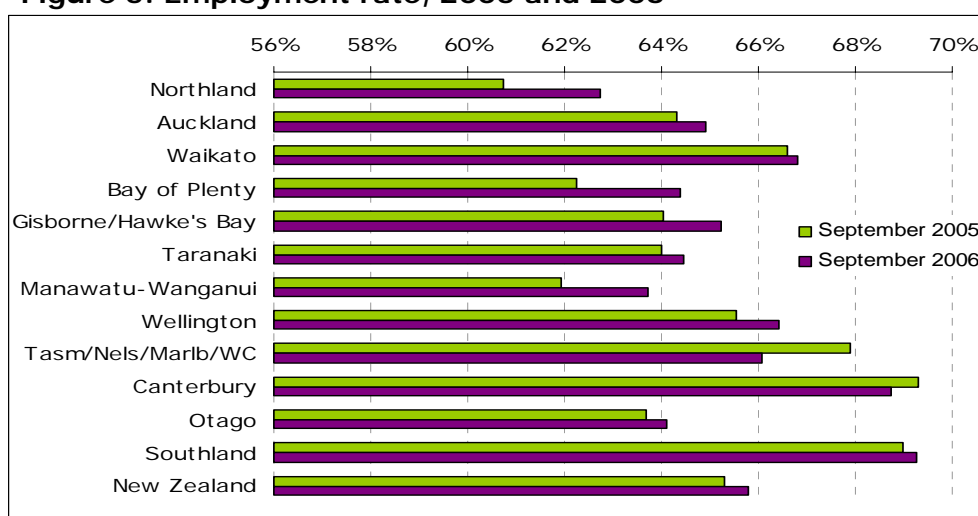
In New Zealand between the years to September 2000 and September 2005 compound annual average growth in filled jobs was 3.5% a year. Between the years to September 2004 and September 2005 average annual growth in filled jobs was 4.1%.

Over the whole five-year period, Northland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Tasman/Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast and Otago experienced compound average annual growth in filled jobs of 4% or more a year. Auckland, Hawke's Bay, Wellington, Taranaki and Canterbury saw growth of between 3% and 4% a year; Gisborne, Manawatu-Wanganui and Southland were lower still at between 2% and 3% a year; Wellington's growth was slowest at about 2% a year.

Much of New Zealand experienced high growth rates in the most recent period shown on the chart. Between the years to September 2004 and September 2005 Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Taranaki and Wellington saw growth of around 4% or more, as did Canterbury and Otago in the South Island. Hawke's Bay, Manawatu-Wanganui and Tasman/Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast experienced growth of between 3% and 4% with Southland and Gisborne between 2% and 3%.

Regional employment is further examined in figure 5, which shows annual average regional employment rates for the year to September 2005 and the year to September 2006. The employment rate is the number of people employed taken as a percentage of the working-age population (all people aged 15 years and above).

**Figure 5: Employment rate, 2005 and 2006**



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Household Labour Force Survey

Note: figures are annual averages for the years to September 2005 and September 2006. See the Glossary for further explanation of annual averages.

The employment rate for the country as a whole edged up from 65.3% in the year to September 2005 to 65.8% in the year to September 2006. The highest employment rates were in Canterbury and Southland at around 69% in the year to September 2006. Waikato, Wellington and Tasman/Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast had employment rates upwards of 66%; Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Gisborne/Hawke's Bay, Taranaki and Otago had employment rates of between 64% and 65% and the lowest employment rates of around 63% were in Northland and Manawatu-Wanganui.

All regions except Tasman/Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast and Canterbury saw their employment rates rise between 2005 and 2006. The rise from 60.8% to 62.7% was particularly large in Northland, as was the rise from 62.3% to 64.4% in the Bay of Plenty.

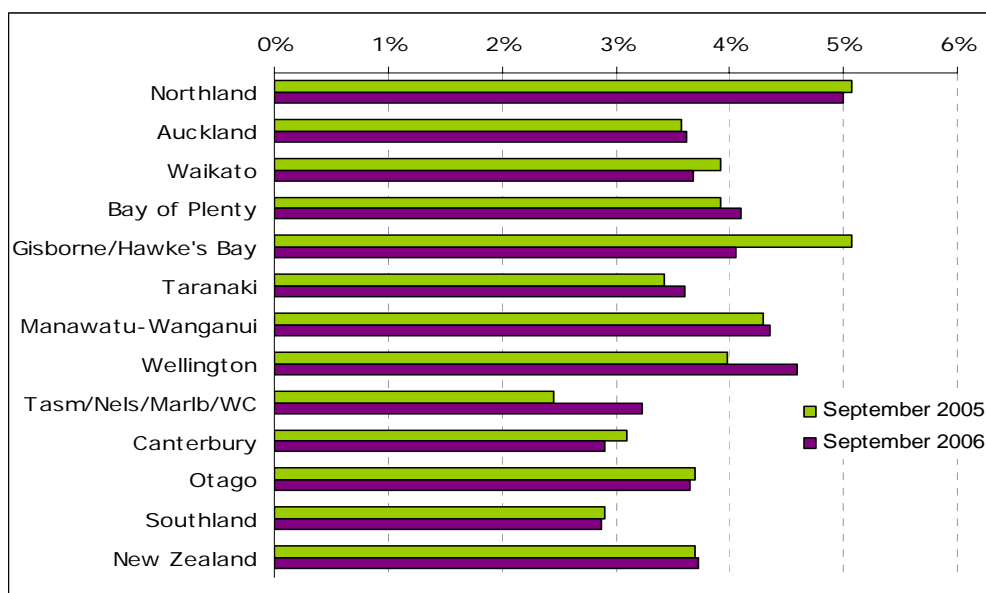
Recently, regional employment rates have converged. A crude way to examine this is by measuring the size of the band between the regions with lowest and

highest rates. Between 2001 and 2006 the lower band rose much more than the upper band. This indicates that regional variation narrowed. In 2001 the lowest regional employment rate was 55.3% (Northland) and the highest was 66.5% (Wellington), a difference of 11.2 percentage points. By 2006 the lowest was 62.7% (Northland) and the highest 69.0% (Southland), a difference of 6.3 percentage points. A more sophisticated calculation that takes into account employment rates in all regions confirms that regional convergence has occurred recently.

## Unemployment

Figure 6 shows annual average regional unemployment rates for the year to September 2005 and the year to September 2006. Unemployed people are defined as those who are not working but are available for work and actively seeking work. The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed people as a percentage of the labour force.

**Figure 6: Unemployment rate, 2005 and 2006**



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Household Labour Force Survey

Note: figures are annual averages for the years to September 2005 and September 2006. See the Glossary for further explanation of annual averages.

The unemployment rate for the country as a whole remained at 3.7% between the year to September 2005 and September 2006<sup>2</sup>. This is the lowest rate on an annual average basis since comparable recording began in 1986. Southland and Canterbury had unemployment rates of below 3% in the year to September 2006. Tasman/Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast, Otago, Taranaki, Waikato and Auckland were only slightly higher with unemployment rates of 3% to 4%. Bay of Plenty, Gisborne/Hawke's Bay, Manawatu-Wanganui and Wellington had unemployment rates of between 4% and 5% and Northland's was 5%.

<sup>2</sup> This is the annual average unemployment rate. It is not seasonally adjusted and therefore differs to the seasonally adjusted quarterly national unemployment often quoted as the official rate. The annual average is used in this report so it's comparable with the regional numbers.

Comparing annual average unemployment rates in the year to September 2005 with the year to September 2006, the unemployment rate fell notably in Gisborne/Hawke's Bay from 5.1% to 4.1%. Unemployment rates rose in Wellington and Tasman/Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast. In the remaining regions rates stayed roughly the same.

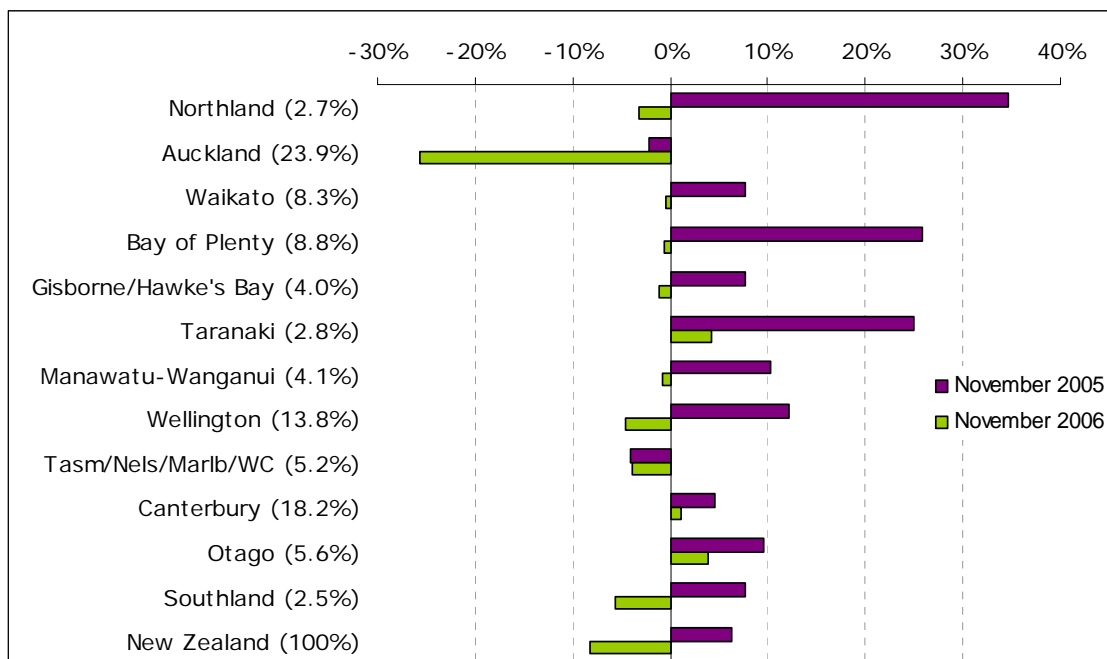
Recently, regional unemployment rates have converged. A crude way to examine this is by measuring the size of the band between the region with the lowest and the highest rates. Between 2001 and 2006 the upper band fell much more than the lower band. This indicates that regional variation narrowed. In 2001 the lowest regional unemployment rate was 3.6% (Southland) and the highest was 7.7% (Northland) - a gap of 4.2 percentage points. By 2006 the lowest was 2.9% (Southland) and the highest 5.0% (Northland) - a gap of 2.1 percentage points. A more sophisticated calculation that takes into account unemployment rates in all regions confirms that regional convergence has occurred recently.

## **Job Vacancies**

Figure 7 shows annual average growth in advertised job vacancies over two periods: the years to November 2005 and November 2006. Each region's share of all vacancies in the year to November 2006 is shown in the brackets next to the region's name. Advertised job vacancies are collected by the Department of Labour as an indicator of employers' recruiting conditions.

In the year to November 2006, the number of advertised vacancies across New Zealand as a whole decreased by 8.3%. This reflects weaker labour market conditions in 2006 and is in contrast to growth of 6.2% the year before. The regional picture is not consistent, but in general terms the weaker labour market is affecting recruitment conditions in all regions. Most regions saw vacancies decrease in the year to November 2006. Only in Taranaki, Canterbury and Otago did the vacancy count rise during this period, and here the rise was only slight. The national decline in the November 2006 year was driven by a large fall in advertised vacancies in Auckland (-25.6%). The falls in other regions were comparatively much smaller.

**Figure 7: Change in advertised job vacancies, 2005 to 2006 and regional share of all vacancies, 2006**



Source: Department of Labour, Job Vacancy Monitor

Note: The change between 2005 and 2006 is the annual average change between the years to November 2005 and November 2006; the regional share is based on the annual average count for the year to November 2006. See the Glossary for further explanation of these terms.

## APPENDIX

### Population counts and projections, compound annual average change from 2001 to 2006 and 2006 to 2011, and population shares for 2006

	Population count 2001	Population count 2006	Share of the total population 2006	Compound annual average change 2001-06	Compound annual average change 2006-11
New Zealand	3,737,277	4,027,947	100%	1.5%	0.8%
Northland Region	140,130	148,470	3.7%	1.2%	0.5%
Auckland Region	1,158,891	1,303,068	32.4%	2.4%	1.5%
Waikato Region	357,726	382,716	9.5%	1.4%	0.6%
Bay of Plenty Region	239,415	257,379	6.4%	1.5%	1.1%
Gisborne/Hawkes Bay Region	186,924	192,282	4.8%	0.6%	0.0%
Taranaki Region	102,858	104,124	2.6%	0.2%	-0.3%
Manawatu-Wanganui Region	220,089	222,423	5.5%	0.2%	0.0%
Wellington Region	423,765	448,959	11.1%	1.2%	0.5%
Tasman/Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast	152,784	161,397	4.0%	1.1%	0.7%
Canterbury Region	481,431	521,832	13.0%	1.6%	0.6%
Otago Region	181,542	193,800	4.8%	1.3%	0.3%
Southland Region	91,002	90,876	2.3%	0.0%	-0.3%
Gisborne Region	43,974	44,499	1.1%	0.2%	-0.3%
Hawke's Bay Region	142,950	147,783	3.7%	0.7%	0.1%
Tasman Region	41,352	44,625	1.1%	1.5%	1.5%
Nelson Region	41,568	42,888	1.1%	0.6%	0.8%
Marlborough Region	39,561	42,558	1.1%	1.5%	0.6%
West Coast Region	30,303	31,326	0.8%	0.7%	-0.4%
Far North District	54,576	55,845	1.4%	0.5%	0.6%
Whangarei District	68,094	74,463	1.8%	1.8%	0.6%
Kaipara District	17,460	18,132	0.5%	0.8%	0.0%
Rodney District	76,182	89,562	2.2%	3.3%	2.2%
North Shore City	184,821	205,605	5.1%	2.2%	1.2%
Waitakere City	168,750	186,447	4.6%	2.0%	1.5%
Auckland City	367,737	404,658	10.0%	1.9%	1.3%
Manukau City	283,200	328,968	8.2%	3.0%	1.7%
Papakura District	40,668	45,183	1.1%	2.1%	0.9%
Franklin District	51,669	58,935	1.5%	2.7%	1.6%
Thames-Coromandel District	25,176	25,938	0.6%	0.6%	0.9%
Hauraki District	16,764	17,193	0.4%	0.5%	-0.6%
Waikato District	39,852	43,956	1.1%	2.0%	0.5%
Matamata-Piako District	29,469	30,483	0.8%	0.7%	-0.1%
Hamilton City	114,921	129,249	3.2%	2.4%	1.1%
Waipa District	40,293	42,501	1.1%	1.1%	0.8%
Otorohanga District	9,279	9,075	0.2%	-0.4%	-0.2%
South Waikato District	23,469	22,641	0.6%	-0.7%	-1.1%
Waitomo District	9,456	9,438	0.2%	0.0%	-0.2%
Taupo District	31,521	32,421	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%
Western Bay of Plenty District	38,232	42,075	1.0%	1.9%	1.7%
Tauranga District	90,906	103,632	2.6%	2.7%	1.7%
Rotorua District	64,473	65,901	1.6%	0.4%	0.4%
Whakatane District	32,814	33,297	0.8%	0.3%	0.1%
Kawerau District	6,975	6,921	0.2%	-0.2%	-1.2%
Opotiki District	9,201	8,976	0.2%	-0.5%	0.4%
Gisborne District	43,974	44,460	1.1%	0.2%	-0.3%
Wairoa District	8,913	8,484	0.2%	-1.0%	-1.2%
Hastings District	67,428	70,842	1.8%	1.0%	0.3%
Napier City	53,661	55,359	1.4%	0.6%	0.1%
Central Hawke's Bay District	12,828	12,954	0.3%	0.2%	-0.2%
New Plymouth District	66,603	68,901	1.7%	0.7%	-0.1%
Stratford District	8,886	8,889	0.2%	0.0%	-0.9%

South Taranaki District	27,537	26,484	0.7%	-0.8%	-0.7%
Ruapehu District	14,292	13,569	0.3%	-1.0%	-1.2%
Wanganui District	43,269	42,639	1.1%	-0.3%	-0.3%
Rangitikei District	15,099	14,712	0.4%	-0.5%	-1.0%
Manawatu District	27,510	28,254	0.7%	0.5%	0.4%
Palmerston North City	72,036	75,540	1.9%	1.0%	0.6%
Tararua District	17,859	17,631	0.4%	-0.3%	-0.7%
Horowhenua District	29,820	29,865	0.7%	0.0%	-0.1%
Kapiti Coast District	42,447	46,197	1.1%	1.7%	1.1%
Porirua City	47,370	48,546	1.2%	0.5%	0.3%
Upper Hutt City	36,372	38,415	1.0%	1.1%	-0.2%
Lower Hutt City	95,478	97,701	2.4%	0.5%	0.1%
Wellington City	163,824	179,463	4.5%	1.8%	0.8%
Masterton District	22,617	22,626	0.6%	0.0%	-0.2%
Carterton District	6,849	7,101	0.2%	0.7%	0.0%
South Wairarapa District	8,742	8,889	0.2%	0.3%	-0.2%
Tasman District	41,352	44,625	1.1%	1.5%	1.5%
Nelson City	41,568	42,888	1.1%	0.6%	0.8%
Marlborough District	39,552	42,546	1.1%	1.5%	0.6%
Kaikoura District	3,480	3,624	0.1%	0.8%	0.5%
Buller District	9,624	9,702	0.2%	0.2%	-0.4%
Grey District	12,891	13,221	0.3%	0.5%	-0.3%
Westland District	7,776	8,403	0.2%	1.6%	-0.3%
Hurunui District	9,885	10,476	0.3%	1.2%	1.1%
Waimakariri District	36,900	42,834	1.1%	3.0%	1.6%
Christchurch City*	324,057	348,435	8.7%	1.5%	0.5%
Selwyn District	27,312	33,669	0.8%	4.3%	1.9%
Ashburton District	25,443	27,372	0.7%	1.5%	0.1%
Timaru District	41,964	42,870	1.1%	0.4%	-0.1%
Mackenzie District	3,717	3,801	0.1%	0.4%	0.5%
Waimate District	7,098	7,206	0.2%	0.3%	-0.9%
Chatham Islands District	717	609	0.0%	-3.2%	-2.6%
Waitaki District	20,088	20,220	0.5%	0.1%	-0.8%
Central Otago District	14,463	16,647	0.4%	2.9%	0.0%
Queenstown-Lakes District	17,043	22,959	0.6%	6.1%	1.9%
Dunedin City	114,342	118,683	2.9%	0.7%	0.2%
Clutha District	17,172	16,839	0.4%	-0.4%	-0.5%
Southland District	28,716	28,437	0.7%	-0.2%	-0.2%
Gore District	12,459	12,108	0.3%	-0.6%	-0.7%
Invercargill City	49,830	50,328	1.2%	0.2%	-0.4%

Source: Statistics New Zealand, 2001 and 2006 Census and Population Projections

\*Note that Christchurch City and Banks Peninsula District have been combined

2001 and 2006 numbers are based on March usually resident population Census counts in those years; 2006 and 2011 are Statistics New Zealand's medium population projections as at 30 June each year; projections were last released in 2005 and are based on 2001 population estimates; they have not yet been updated to take account of population information from the 2006 Census; regional shares are based on the March 2006 Census count of the usually resident population. See the Glossary for further explanation of these terms.

## GLOSSARY

**Working-age population:** population aged 15 years and above.

**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.

**Filled jobs:** the number of jobs in the labour market (individuals may have multiple jobs)

**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>).

**Annual average:** the average for a whole year (e.g. year to September 2006).

**Annual average percentage change:** the percentage change between the average for a whole year (e.g. the year to September 2006) and the previous year (e.g. the year to September 2005).

**Compound annual average percentage change:** a number that describes year-on-year change over a period of time greater than two years. Actual change over the whole period might involve changes that vary from year to year. The compound rate re-expresses growth as a constant yearly rate of change.

## OTHER LABOUR MARKET REPORTS

The following labour market reports are available on the Department of Labour website at <http://www.dol.govt.nz/publications/lmr/index.asp>.

**Joint MSD/DoL Quarterly Regional Reports:** The Department of Labour and Ministry of Social Development jointly produce quarterly updates of labour market information that applies across consistent regional council boundaries.

**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.

**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.

**Employment/unemployment:** a report that informs about the results from the latest Household Labour Force Survey released by Statistics New Zealand.

**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.

**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.

## **LABOUR MARKET ANALYSIS TOOLS**

The Department of Labour has developed a series of labour market analysis "tools" designed to give users a more flexible way of analysing labour market information. They provide a rich source of information for agencies and people interested in looking at a particular slice of the labour market, such as an industry, region or type of job. The three tools can be viewed at <http://www.dol.govt.nz/services/LMI/tools.asp>.

**Occupational indicators:** a detailed summary and graphic display on specific occupations. Ways this could be used include finding how many job advertisements there were for plumbers in the past year; the typical age profile of the social work workforce; or whether an occupation is on the Department's skill shortage list for immigration

**Regional industry snapshot:** a profile of industries in a specific region, (down to Territorial Authority level).

**Regional industry trends** – identifies which industries are the fastest and slowest growing, and how regional growth patterns compare with the national picture.

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