

TOP REGIONAL INSIGHTS



Te Anau is encouraged by the Trans-Tasman bubble, however there is a level of reservation on the size of any immediate benefits. Winter in Te Anau is off-peak season and the announcement has increased job opportunities in other regions creating a competitive market. Employers are hopeful that the recent opening up of the working holiday visa option for Australian workers will be part of the solution, and they support seasonal workforces continuing to be part of any future reviews of Immigration settings.

Increases in Capital Works and Infrastructure forecasts are highlighting the risks posed by the labour shortage across the region. Research has provided a forecast of approximately 1-billion dollars worth of projects that are commencing or at tendering stage. The labour shortages are across all industries, and show that without significant change we will not have supply to meet this demand. More support is required for short, flexible and bespoke training to be developed rapidly and delivered via employers or training providers.

There is a need to increase investment in supply chain technologies and retraining workers. COVID-19 has posed significant challenges for supply chains with multiple national lockdowns slowing or even temporarily stopping the flow of raw materials and finished goods. This is disrupting manufacturing as a result, the largest employing industry in the region. There is an opportunity to support supply chain strategies to become more resilient; collaborative; and networked with customers, suppliers, and other stakeholders.

TRENDS AT A GLANCE



-2.6% The decrease in the employment rate. This is a change of -2,000 people employed.



3,600 The number of people underemployed in the region. This is an increase of 1,400 people who work less than 30 hours per week, but are available and want to work more hours.



23,200 The number of people Not in the Labour Force. This is an increase of 1,700 people who are neither employed or unemployed.

(Stats NZ, Household Labour Force Survey, March 2021)

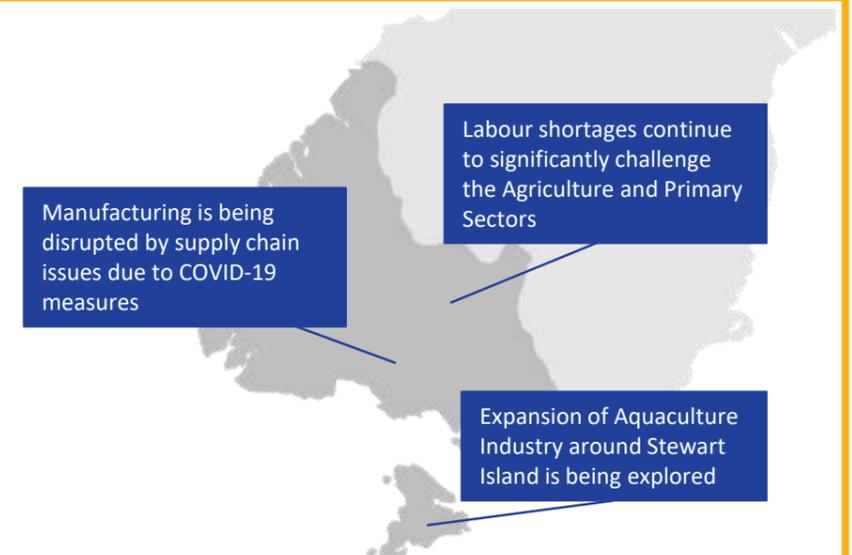
TOP LABOUR MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

- Streamlined delivery of current programmes to meet the needs of employers and employees is required** (including future employees such as young people). Our objective is to nurture an adaptable future workforce, and support employers in their employment of young people. This requires development and delivery of focused, fit for purpose programmes that integrate skills training, attraction and retention to facilitate short and longer term labour market opportunities.
- Continue to generate alternative employment opportunities as part of a transition away from the Tiwai smelter.** Opportunities being investigated include expansion of the aquaculture industry around Stewart Island; production of hydrogen using green electricity; development of a data centre; and production of batteries.
- The Chamber of Commerce is co-ordinating a forum to consider the issue of skills shortages and attraction strategies.** This will include collaboration with Great South and the iRSLG, with the aim to understand and overcome barriers affecting the region.
- The Ministry for Youth Development are investigating setting up Youth Advisory Councils to work alongside the RSLG.** Waihopai has a high level of under 25-years old Rangatahi who live below the poverty line, and without intervention they will continue on a negative trajectory. Youth Advisory Councils would work with businesses to develop a Youth Strategy, providing experiential learning opportunities to build employability of these young people.

TOP LABOUR MARKET CHALLENGES

- Reopening of the Trans-Tasman border is creating retention issues in the region.** The announcement created a flurry of job opportunities within the tourism sector as it prepares for Trans-Tasman visitors, friends and relatives. However, there are abundant options across the country for workers and many locals are moving to those areas that are offering higher pay.
- Pressure points around housing and drivers licensing continue to be major barriers to employment and education.** Lack of driver licensing limits access to certain roles that require a full license, as well as rural-based roles that require travel. Lack of a license also prohibits some people from attending interviews. Driver testing and licensing facilities are limited in the region, meaning anyone based outside of Invercargill must travel for testing.
- Seasonality is considered an ongoing labour market feature across much of Southland Murihiku.** Employers have a strong focus on the on-going conversations around Immigration settings and how seasonal workers will be considered when borders open.
- More specialised investment in research and development is needed** for businesses to identify new opportunities. New initiatives in technology will lead to sustainable long term growth, and will support future diversification of industry.

THE SOUTHLAND MURIHIKU REGION



OUR FOCUS FOR THE NEXT 2 MONTHS:

- Development of targeted, streamlined and measurable support mechanisms matched against Murihiku priorities. This may include funding initiatives, but may also focus on favourable lending conditions. For example, to help mitigate risk associated with employment; encourage diversification; and enable future-focused investments in people and processes.
- Having a rich understanding of our region and its capabilities, so that we can also understand its gaps and opportunities.