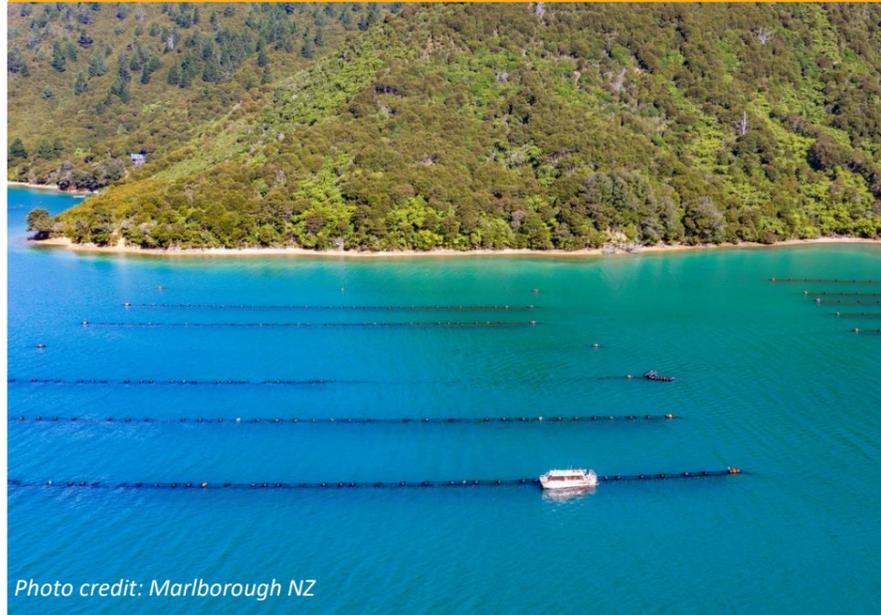


TOP REGIONAL INSIGHTS



Blenheim experienced a freak, flash flooding event at the end of October that resulted in significant damage to some local businesses. Over 100 businesses said they were affected by roof, ceiling and building damage - the majority of these being hospitality and retail. Sixty two percent had insurance for building damage, 22 percent were insured for financial losses, while four were uninsured. Although 64 percent of businesses surveyed were forced to close due to the flooding, only 19 percent of those were closed for three or more days. Many local businesses had already done it tough this year with lockdowns and a major storm in July.

Vaccine mandates do not appear to be significantly effecting delivery of Marlborough health or education services. Nelson Marlborough District Health Board stood down 110 staff (33 nurses and 77 other staff) which is four percent of all staff, equalling the highest percentage with Taranaki, Northland and West Coast. A minority of those DHB staff were in Marlborough, meaning the region was less affected. All schools and kura in Marlborough remained open.

Aviation is a significant sector in Marlborough with large employers and specialist training facilities. There are lots of opportunities in this sector as shown in the following examples:

- An electric powered aircraft flew from Blenheim to Wellington across the Cook Strait setting a world record for the longest flight over open water.
- Airbus and Air NZ recently launched a zero-emissions aircraft project for hydrogen powered aircraft.

TRENDS AT A GLANCE



13.2% The reported underutilisation rate is the highest in the country. Although it dropped by 0.7 percentage points it is still higher than the pre-COVID rate of 10.8 percent.



3.1% Unemployment rate is estimated to be the fifth lowest of all regions, and is now lower than the pre-COVID levels. This change is due to a significant decrease in the unemployment rate for men (-2.3 percentage points) to 1.3 percent, the second lowest in the country.



23% Marlborough has the largest pool of retirement age residents of all regions in the country and the second lowest labour force participation rate in the country (65.3 percent), the two are likely related.

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Household Labour Force Survey, September 2021

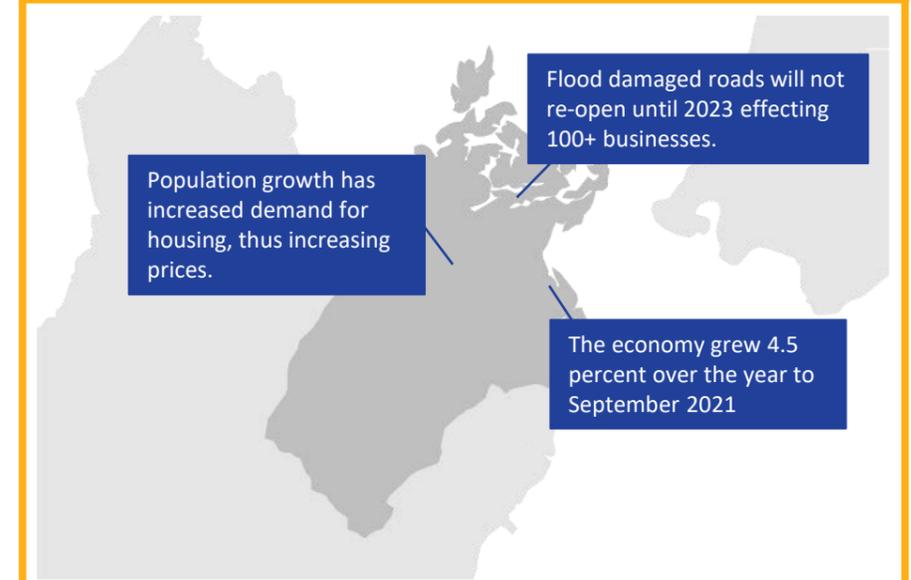
TOP LABOUR MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

- 1. A new, high-tech marine extracts factory and research laboratory in Blenheim will employ up to 48 people** from process workers to highly qualified scientists. Sandford is considering a graduate programme and internships to provide career pathways. They also want the facility to have good engagement with local schools and tertiary education providers to provide great learning opportunities by using it as a teaching facility.
- 2. The Smart + Connected Labour & Skills group (made up of community, industry and RSLG) is surveying Marlborough employers to identify how to tap into the pool of underutilised talent** through flexible work options. Job listings in Marlborough have increased by 40 percent compared to pre-COVID figures, according to the latest SEEK Employment Report for October 2021.
- 3. Aged Care employers are partnering with REAP to offer computer literacy courses.** Potential candidates for Aged Care jobs are struggling to apply online, so aged care employers are helping people overcome this barrier by offering computer literacy courses.

TOP LABOUR MARKET CHALLENGES

- 1. Community Colleges New Zealand (Comcol) is closing its Marlborough site with five job losses.** This is expected to have wide effects as it is the only provider of Youth Guarantee training (NCEA tertiary training for youth, without fees) in the region. The RSLG is working with local education and training providers, community groups, and the Ministry of Education to identify options for Rangatahi affected by the closure.
- 2. Wineries are already recruiting staff for vintage 2022.** This year wineries recruited and trained locals from Marlborough and around the country who worked alongside foreign cellar hands from vintage 2020 who had remained in New Zealand during the pandemic. Combined with an unusually small harvest (down 21 percent on 2020) and benign harvest conditions, vintage 2021 was completed successfully. Wine Marlborough reports the skills shortages for vintage 2022 are nearing the worst they have ever experienced with many of the foreign cellar hands having returned home or moving to other parts of the country.
- 3. Employers providing pastoral care, flexible working and other support are still experiencing difficulty recruiting and retaining staff,** particularly younger workers. Anxiety, addictions, insecure housing, and motivation are issues.

THE MARLBOROUGH REGION



OUR FOCUS FOR THE NEXT 2 MONTHS:

Engaging with the community and stakeholders on draft aspirations for Marlborough.
Writing a draft Regional Workforce Plan for consultation in early 2022.