

TOP REGIONAL INSIGHTS



Two successful intakes of the civil construction traffic management course have been run by Kiwi Can Do, Mayors Taskforce for Jobs and the Ministry of Social Development at Whakaahurangi Marae in Stratford. The four-day training provided 17 students with a traffic management certificate, while also teaching soft skills, including building wellness, goal setting, CV development and job interview skills. Students had the opportunity to interact with Fulton Hogan, Downers, Tuara Civil, Trafficr, City Care New Plymouth and AWF. A number of students were offered employment or continued on to further training.

Energy Resources Aotearoa have recently launched their Industry Skills Action Plan, which was developed in partnership with the RSLG and industry. The plan recognises the transformational change underway in the global energy sector in response to climate change. It also identifies key barriers, gaps, and opportunities that arise for the energy workforce and lays out an action plan to address these in partnership with industry and the RSLG.

Recent negative media coverage of Te Pūkenga has raised concerns in the community. There are concerns regarding how the merger will proceed and how the Taranaki regional voice will be provided, particularly for hapū. The regional community is also concerned that reducing the forecasted operating deficit may harm vital local provision. The RSLG will work with Te Pūkenga and the community to ensure that the Taranaki voice is not lost within the new model.

TRENDS AT A GLANCE



The Manufacturing industry holds the highest share of all jobs filled in Taranaki at 14.4% (8,707 jobs) in 2021. This is followed by Construction with 10.4% (6,287 jobs) and Health Care and Social Assistance with 10.1% (6,133 jobs) of filled jobs.



Taranaki's self-employment rate in 2021 was 17.2%, equating to 10,400 people. Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing had the highest self-employment rate with 40% of workers in this category being self-employed.



Dairy Cattle Farming saw the highest increase in jobs created from 2020 to 2021, with 119 new jobs created, totalling 3,438 jobs in 2021. This accounted for 5.7% of total employment in the district.

Source: Infometrics, Taranaki Regional Economic Profile

TOP LABOUR MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

- The Taranaki Chamber of Commerce hosted a Wellbeing Conference, which highlighted the importance of health and wellbeing in the workplace.** The conference provided tips, tools and advice for employers and employees alike to build stronger resilience, and healthier and happier lifestyles.
- The Primary Industries Team at the Western Institute of Technology/Te Pūkenga are hosting a workshop to explore the future directions of horticulture at WITT.** The workshop will identify the strengths and weaknesses of Taranaki's horticulture sector, and the opportunities and threats in the region. This will inform WITT/Te Pūkenga when developing appropriate training.
- Silver Fern Farms continues their innovative talent attraction strategies, through coming to meet the people, rather than the people coming to meet them.** They have opened a recruitment stall in Caffeinate Hāwera, a popular coffee shop in South Taranaki. Recruitment is currently underway for experienced butchers, cool store members, meat processors, stock yard supervisors and maintenance engineers at both the Hāwera and Waitotara sites.

TOP LABOUR MARKET CHALLENGES

- The Hospitality and tourism industry continue to struggle to attract staff with the low unemployment rate of 2.4 percent in the region.** Businesses are having to think outside of the box to try and stand out to attract new employees in. Novotel New Plymouth reported it has been nigh impossible to fill crucial roles in food and beverage and housekeeping. To attract new staff, they are offering a behind the scenes look at the business with hopes to entice people to learn more about the business.
- Financial impacts of inflation and rising supply chain costs are impacting on Small and Medium Enterprises.** Business owners, particularly of smaller businesses with 20 staff or less, do not typically have Human Resource departments or dedicated staff to manage the financial implications caused by inflation. The rising supply chain costs are adding additional financial pressures on businesses, which is affecting the mental health of the owners.
- On-going staff shortages across the health sector is causing burn out and the loss of highly experienced staff, as they are tired of working long hours and being overworked.** A senior nurse at Taranaki Base Hospital has said that the staffing shortages is the most devastating thing she has seen in 25 years of experience.

REGIONAL WORKFORCE PLAN

- The Taranaki Regional Skills Leadership Group (RSLG) are working with regional stakeholders to progress the actions identified in the Regional Workforce Plan (RWP).** The 19 actions have been prioritised and put into categories based on when they will be progressed: 6 months, 6 – 12 months and 12+ months. Nine actions have been identified to be progressed in the next 6 months.
- The RSLG is focussing on the Health and Construction sectors for tranche two of the RWP,** which is scheduled to be delivered in June 2023. The Group are currently identifying key stakeholders to work alongside to better understand the future skills and training needs of the Taranaki region in these sectors.
- The Taranaki co-chairs newsletter is an opportunity to keep up to date with the mahi the RSLG are undertaking,** and to hear progress updates on the RWP actions. If you would like to sign up to receive this newsletter, please contact: TaranakiRSLG@mbie.govt.nz.

More information about the Taranaki RSLG and the RWP can be found [here](#).

OUR FOCUS FOR THE NEXT 2 MONTHS:

- Meeting with a range of businesses and training providers within the health and construction sectors to gain a deep understanding of the differing skills and training needs around the region.
- Working with identified stakeholders to progress actions that make up part of the Regional Workforce Plan.