

## TOP REGIONAL INSIGHTS



- 1. Te Tai Poutini West Coast has launched 'Are you cut out for the Coast?', a marketing campaign to help with staffing issues.** The campaign is being rolled out internationally to entice people from all sectors to live and work on the West Coast. [Cut out for the Coast | West Coast NZ](#)
- 2. Tai Poutini Polytechnic/Te Pūkenga Graduate Destination Survey Results show impressive results for local students** – 98% of 2021 graduates report they were satisfied with their programme with 95% reporting their programme was good value for money. 91% of students surveyed are working in New Zealand and 77% are in paid work while 22% studying, or enrolled to study again. Tai Poutini Polytechnic/Te Pūkenga reported a national promotor score of 63 against the New Zealand average NPS in tertiary education sector of 24. [2021 Survey](#)
- 3. Regional events funding** - The next round of funding of \$1.03m provided over a four-years from Government's Regional Events Fund is now open. This can be used to support existing events to continue to operate as well as to assist new events to form. During October a number of iconic West Coast events are returning with support from the fund, including AgFest West Coast, Greymouth Motorcycle Street Race and Westport's Whitebait Festival. [More info](#)

## TRENDS AT A GLANCE



ASB Regional Economic Scoreboard: June Quarter 2022 Report shows a decline in West Coast Retail sales [scoreboard q2 2022 final \(asb.co.nz\)](#)



The West Coast experienced the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest advertisement growth at 12% comparing August 2022 to July 2022. [Seek job listing report](#)  
 Job seeker support recipients also reduced by 123 for August 2022 (1,404 jobseeker recipients) compared to August 2021 (1,527). [MSD Jobseeker recipients](#)



West Coast house prices rose last month, but the cost of living is dampening enthusiasm. The median house price increased 30.9% year on year to \$360,000 this September. Grey District reached a record median price of \$375,000. Houses are currently taking approximately 56 days to sell, down against the 10 year average of 86 days.

## TOP LABOUR MARKET OPPORTUNITIES

- 1. Upcoming construction projects** - The Punakaiki Experience Centre project has started with local contractors undertaking about 1/3 of the \$6.1m total project spend. The Pounamu Pathways Project also starts this month while the Grey District Council are exploring site options for a new library facility.
- 2. Industrial developments** - Three contracts were awarded to local firms for work on The Slipway Project at the Port of Greymouth. The building will offer an all weather facility that would minimise time out of the water for maintenance. The Papanui Hydro Scheme plans have been revealed for a new hydro electricity scheme for Otututu (Rough) River.
- 3. TranzAlpine returns** - The train service that runs from Mawhera to Ōtautahi will celebrate a return to its regular schedule, travelling 7 days a week after Christmas 2022. The service reduced operations to 4 days per week after shutting down entirely during COVID. This is great timing as the region returns to business as usual and tourists return to the West Coast.
- 4. Businesses are reporting gaps in supply** - Hot desk and co-working spaces on the West Coast are scarce with EPIC Kawatiri full with 30+ tenants and Byte Mawhera booked until Christmas. A gap in recruitment support on the West Coast beyond 2022 has also been identified.

## TOP LABOUR MARKET CHALLENGES

- 1. Terra Firma permit provisionally declined** - The government has provisionally declined the mining company's application to re-open the Spring Creek mine. Re-opening was projected to employ over 60 staff and bring a much needed boost to the West Coast economy through high paying jobs, associated services required for mine operation, and the potential to become a significant export earner for NZ.
- 2. Emissions plan response** - Farmers in the region are concerned the proposed Emissions Reduction Plan did not adequately reflect their submissions. Tai Poutini residents worry surrounding farms will no longer be viable which will have large effects on small communities.
- 3. Ongoing staffing concerns** - Te Whatu Ora Te Tai o Poutini West Coast currently has 50+ full time equivalent (FTE) vacancies in nursing across services and there is a further 11 FTE vacancies estimated in allied health. Low rest home staffing ratios have resulted in facility closures. Hospitality businesses are becoming increasingly concerned as the high season approaches. Two Glacier business owners report 100 positions to be filled between them.
- 4. Fishing industry have raised concerns** that increased costs, legislation and crew shortages are putting pressures on the industry.

## TE TAI POUTINI WEST COAST REGION

West Coast Trades Academy has high volume demand for vocational training options in 2023. The MOE has funded 212 places for students across the region. Enrolments for the West Coast Trades Academy closed on the last day of term 3 with 323 applications.

A spike in businesses needing recruitment and upskilling support in September has resulted in a boost to Upskill employer registration to numbers not seen since the first few months of the project.

West Coast Mayors Taskforce For Jobs (MT4J) has the 3<sup>rd</sup> Highest MT4J placement rate in NZ - placing 230 West Coast workers in just two years.

## OUR FOCUS FOR THE NEXT 2 MONTHS:

- Implementation of the Te Tai Poutini West Coast Regional Workforce Plan Year 1 Actions
- Engagement with Workforce Development Councils