



## Job hunters confident in a healthy Kiwi job market

The New Zealand employment market is in excellent health and set for another solid year of growth, according to an analysis of over 54,000 roles listed on Trade Me Jobs in the first quarter of 2015.

Head of Trade Me Jobs, Peter Osborne, said the number of job listings across the country increased 8.5% year-on-year, with solid growth in 12 out of 15 regions. "Last year was a cracker year for the job market so it's good to see that trend continue in 2015. It's also wonderful to see job hunters are the most optimistic they've been since the recession, according to [Westpac McDermott Miller's](#) latest research."

He said there was "a definite slow-down" over the past 10 days of the quarter, most likely caused by the end of the financial year, Easter looming large and a dose of "Black Cap fever".

Mr Osborne said Auckland was "full steam ahead" for early 2015 following strong growth in job listings. "We saw the number of advertised jobs in the Super City up 16 per cent compared to the same time last year, underpinned by listings surges in Waitakere (up 32.6%), Manukau (up 20.6%) and the central city (up 12.8%). It's encouraging to see the engine room and biggest contributor to the employment market thrive, and we expect this growth trend to continue."

He said Canterbury and Wellington showed a "more muted" result this quarter. "Job listings in Canterbury were up 6% year-on-year. Compared to last quarter's rise of 10% it is more subdued, but the story of the rebuild continues to drive activity."

Mr Osborne said Wellington had "dipped into negative territory", with the number of roles listed down 6% on the same time last year. This was driven by a drop in advertised roles available in Upper Hutt (down 28%) and Wellington City (down 10.6%).

It was not all doom and gloom in the capital, with the region boasting the highest average full-time salary of \$76,317, ahead of Auckland City on \$73,448 and Grey on the West Coast at \$59,793.

### The national picture

Twelve of the 15 regions around the country showed growth in job listings, including Bay of Plenty (up 26.8%), Marlborough (up 26%) and Otago (up 14.7%). "It's great to see positive figures on the board for most of New Zealand," Mr Osborne said.

Taranaki and Gisborne joined Wellington's decline in listings on last year, with listing numbers down 19% and 3% respectively.

### In the sectors

Skill with a hammer and ruler remains in high demand, with roles in construction and architecture up 33.9% on a year ago, driving overall growth around the country. "Growth in this industry is happening at an exceptional rate, reflecting what we saw last quarter in relation to hands-on roles," he said. "We'd suggest tradies in the market for new opportunities keep their eyes open too, as jobs in trades and services were up 8% on the same time last year."

Other industries sharing the limelight included roles in education (up 26.8%), banking (up 20.9%), property (up 18.8%) and transport and logistics (up 13%).

Mr Osborne said the rate of growth in the IT sector had braked over the quarter, down from 17.6% year-on-year growth in the final quarter of 2014 to 2.9% growth in the quarter ended March 2015. "This hasn't affected the pay packets on offer, though – all of our top five highest-paying roles are still in IT."

Average pay increased 3.5% on the previous year, while the average number of applications per listing declined by 3.1%.

### **Looking ahead**

"Towards the back end of 2014 there was some uncertainty as to whether 2015 would start strongly, with various consumer and business confidence indices undecided on the prospects of growth. The first three months of the year are traditionally when we see the highest number of jobs advertised and are a good indication of the short to medium term trend," Mr Osborne said.

**-ends-**

### **More info:**

**1/** To arrange an interview with Peter Osborne, please contact Jeff Hunkin at Trade Me on 04 803 2702, or email [mediaenquiries@trademe.co.nz](mailto:mediaenquiries@trademe.co.nz)

**2/** The full Trade Me Jobs employment survey results are set out below.

# Trade Me Jobs employment survey results: Jan - Mar 2015

## 1. Listings growth by job: Q1/2015

Category	Year-on-year % change Q1/2014 vs Q1/2015
Accounting	10.7
Agriculture-fishing & forestry	-1.6
Automotive	10.3
Banking-finance & insurance	20.9
Construction & architecture	33.9
Customer service	5.1
Education	26.8
Engineering	9.0
Executive & general management	13.0
Government & council	-5.7
Healthcare	10.8
Hospitality & tourism	8.6
HR & recruitment	1.9
IT	2.9
Legal	2.8
Manufacturing & operations	9.8
Marketing-media & communications	-4.8
Office & administration	-10.6
Other	-1.3
Property	18.8
Retail	6.1
Sales	-1.5
Science & technology	-0.5
Trades & services	8.2
Transport & logistics	13.0
<b>Overall</b>	<b>8.5</b>

## 2. Average rates of pay by job (full-time jobs only): Q1/2015

	Highest paid	Pay rate (\$)
1	IT architects	133,661
2	IT functional consultants	132,500
3	IT security	129,186
4	IT managers	127,729
5	IT project managers	126,962
	Lowest paid	Pay rate (\$)
1	Au pairs & nannies	34,063
2	Housekeepers	35,156
3	Kitchen staff	36,483
4	Receptionists & front desk	36,563
5	Caregivers	36,564

### 3. Listings growth by region for Q1/2015

Region	% change vs Q1/2014
Auckland	15.6
Bay of Plenty	26.8
Canterbury	5.5
Gisborne	- 2.8
Hawke's Bay	7.4
Manawatu / Wanganui	12.8
Marlborough	26
Nelson / Tasman	7.4
Northland	21.1
Otago	14.7
Southland	13.9
Taranaki	- 19.2
Waikato	3.8
Wellington	- 6.3
West Coast	3
<b>National</b>	<b>8.5</b>

### 4. Average rates of pay by region (full-time jobs only): Q1/2015

	Highest paid	Pay rate (\$)
1	Wellington City	76,317
2	Auckland City	73,448
3	Grey (West Coast)	59,753
4	Waikato	59,433
5	Christchurch City	59,022
	Lowest paid	Pay rate (\$)
1	Western Bay Of Plenty	47,313
2	Hastings	48,296
3	Kapiti Coast	48,519
4	Tasman	48,921
5	Queenstown Lakes	49,669

NB: Segments with less than 50 jobs excluded.

#### About Trade Me Jobs

More New Zealanders have visited Trade Me Jobs ([www.trademe.co.nz/jobs](http://www.trademe.co.nz/jobs)) than any other NZ job site in the 12 months to February 2015 according to Nielsen Online.

Full details of pay by profession for full-time job listings between July and December 2014 are in the Trade Me Jobs Salary Guide.

*\*Nielsen Netview: Monthly Unique Audience Report*