

NATIONAL'S ECONOMY AND EMPLOYMENT REPORT CARD

Productivity and GDP per person are **both falling**

THE SLICE OF THE PIE: Whilst the economy is growing, both GDP per hour worked and GDP per person are falling. Growth has been driven by population increase and people working longer hours, rather than productivity improvements.

Labour will back the productive economy with the re-introduction of the R&D tax credits, growing new businesses and sectors with the \$200m Regional Development Fund, and by discouraging housing speculation.

128,000
New Zealanders are unemployed.

GETTING A JOB: Unemployment has increased by 36,000 since 2008. In addition, there are another 100,000 who want more work and can't get it.

Labour will target having the lowest unemployment in the OECD by investing in skills and apprenticeships, R&D and supporting young people into work.

65% of wage earners got a pay rise of less than 2% last year.

EARNING ENOUGH TO LIVE ON: Last year 43% of New Zealanders got no pay increase at all. The average hourly rise was 1.6%, compared to inflation of 1.7%.

Labour will make it easier to get a pay rise through fairer workplace laws, a minimum wage boost to \$16.50, and support for a Living Wage.

74,000
18-24 year olds are not in education, employment or training.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: The number of 18-24 year olds not in education, employment or training is up 14% since 2008. The number of apprenticeships has fallen by 10,000.

Labour will make three years tertiary education and training fees free, help employers with the cost of apprenticeships, and support job opportunities for long-term employed.

Exports as a % of GDP has fallen **year on year** from 31% to 27%

PAYING OUR WAY IN THE WORLD: The export sector is now in recession, with nine months of economic decline.

Labour is committed to supporting our exporters through high quality trade agreements that protect our right to regulate and legislate, and through incentivising investment in the productive economy.

30,000
more children living in poverty.

A FAIR SHARE FOR ALL: There are now 290,000 children living in poverty. The incomes of the poorest 10% of households increased by just \$2,800 on average under National, while the top earning households got an increase of average \$14,000.

Labour's Families Package will see 70% of families with children better off than with National. Labour's increases to Working for Families, Best Start Payment, and Winter Energy Payments will reduce poverty.