



The **home** and **voice**
of Canterbury business

QUARTERLY CANTERBURY BUSINESS SURVEY | JULY 2022

THE CANTERBURY ECONOMY:

- 47.4% of businesses within the Canterbury region expect regional economic conditions to be moderately to substantially worse in 12 months time compared to now.
- 25.9% expect regional economic conditions to remain the same in 12 months time compared to now.
- 2.6% expect regional economic conditions to be substantially better in 12 months time compared to now.
- Despite the sentiments above, 40.2% of businesses expect their organisation's own earnings to have improved in 12 months time.
- 4.3% of businesses expect their own earnings to be substantially worse in 12 months time.
- 59.8% of businesses in the Canterbury region expect to invest in new equipment, plant and additional resource within the next 12 months.

THE NEW ZEALAND ECONOMY:

- The majority of businesses within the Canterbury region think that the Government is not performing when it comes to managing the broader New Zealand economy.
- Businesses want less regulation from central Government and a withdrawal of anti-business policies such as Fair Pay Agreements.
- Some businesses want to see more actions taken to reduce the rate of inflation, referencing far more disciplined spending by Government and suggesting more aggressive action by the Reserve Bank of New Zealand with Official Cash Rate hikes that pack more of a punch.
- Loosening immigration requirements and bringing more labour into the country is the most important issue for those facing challenges acquiring staff.

COVID-19 HOUSEHOLD SELF-ISOLATION POLICY:

- 77.8% of businesses within the Canterbury region do not support the Government's policy of requiring household contacts of positive COVID-19 cases to isolate at home for 7 days.

THE LABOUR MARKET:

- 75.4% of businesses within the Canterbury region find it more difficult to acquire staff now than 12 months ago.
- 49.6% of businesses find it more difficult to retain staff now than 12 months ago.
- Of those businesses affected by the constrained labour market, the primary consequences they are facing, as a result, are rising wage costs (74.2% of businesses), the workload of existing staff increasing (53.3%) and concerns for staff wellbeing (48.3%).
- 38.3% of businesses affected by the constrained labour market have turned down business opportunities because of lack of staff.
- 43.1% of businesses are actively recruiting workers from overseas. 46.6% are not. 10.3% are unsure yet if they will.

THE STADIUM:

- 90.4% of businesses support the construction of the stadium.
- 86.5% of businesses who are outside of the Christchurch City Council boundary support their local council making a financial contribution to ensure the stadium is constructed.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT:

- Perceptions of local government are poor within the business community, primarily due to delays and regulatory requirements hindering business – and this is skewed towards Christchurch City Council.
- Approximately half of those who responded to this question have remarked that the decisions their local body makes are insignificant and do not affect their business directly.

METHODOLOGY:

- Members of the Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce were canvassed for their views on a range of topics, from all districts within the region including the West Coast. All respondents to the survey were senior business leaders. All business sizes across all industry areas were surveyed.
- Responses were collected between Wednesday 6 July and Wednesday 13 July 2022.
- The next survey will be conducted in October 2022.