

WESTPAC : McDERMOTT MILLER EMPLOYMENT CONFIDENCE INDEX JUNE 2023

BACKGROUND

The Westpac: McDermott Miller Employment Confidence Index is calculated from a specific section of the Westpac: McDermott Miller Consumer Confidence Survey. This survey is carried out under joint sponsorship by Westpac and consulting firm McDermott Miller on a quarterly basis. The questions on which the Employment Confidence Index is based were added initially to the Survey in June 2004.

EMPLOYMENT CONFIDENCE INDEX

The five Employment Confidence Index questions are:

1. *Do you think jobs are plentiful or hard to get?*
2. *Do you think job opportunities in New Zealand in a year's time compared to now will be more plentiful, harder to get or about the same?*
3. *Do you earn more, less, or the same in your paid work now compared to this time last year?*
4. *Do you expect to be earning more, less or the same in your paid work this time next year?*
5. *Would you say your job is likely to be more or less secure over the coming year than now?*

The first two questions are asked of all respondents (1560), the remainder to those declaring they are in paid work (961 or **62%** of respondents). Of those respondents in paid work, 35% work in the public sector and 65% work in the private sector.

The **Employment Confidence Index** is calculated by McDermott Miller from percentage responses to the five questions. It is 100 plus the unweighted average of the difference between positive/optimistic responses and negative/pessimistic responses. A score above 100 shows more optimism than pessimism and vice versa for a score below 100. The **Current Employment Conditions Index** is calculated similarly by McDermott Miller from the questions on perception of current job opportunities and change in personal earnings over the last year. The **Employment Expectations Index** is calculated from the questions on expectations of change over the coming year in: job opportunities, personal earnings and job security.

SURVEY SPECIFICATIONS OF JUNE 2023 EMPLOYMENT CONFIDENCE SURVEY

A **Sample Size** of 1560 interviews in June 2023 was obtained with interviews for the latest Consumer Confidence Survey conducted between 1 – 12 June 2023.

The **Margin for error** of the Consumer Confidence Survey is a maximum of plus or minus 2.5 percent, at 95% confidence.

The **Sampling Technique** employed is stratified by Regional Council region, with additional quotas set for key demographic variables. Respondent's towns of residence are recorded, allowing analysis by a three-way split: **Metropolitan Centres** (Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch) **Secondary Centres** (ranging in size from Timaru up to Hamilton and Dunedin), or **Rural** (the remainder).

The **Data Collection Methodology** is self-completion online interviews.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Westpac: McDermott Miller Employment Confidence Index is owned by McDermott Miller Limited. Westpac : McDermott Miller should be acknowledged as the source when citing the Employment Confidence Survey and Index. Graphs supplied may be reproduced by the news media provided the Westpac : McDermott Miller logo remains inset.

All enquiries should be addressed to:

Imogen Rendall
Market Research Director
McDermott Miller Limited

Telephone: (+44) 7843-096788 (Mobile)
Email: imogenr@mcdermottmiller.co.nz