Technology driving record high productivity in the region

New Zealand has been singled out by the OECD in recent years for not delivering on productivity growth, with below average growth in labour productivity. This is not the case in the Canterbury region. Dr Peter Fieger, senior economist at ChristchurchNZ says that the region has been outperforming the national average by 15 percentage points since 2006 and has consistently exceeded national growth for professional, scientific, technical and retail services.

He explained that international research indicates innovation in business is a critical way of increasing productivity. A well-known trait of Christchurch is its ability to explore new ideas and find new ways of doing things. Businesses in the construction, agriculture and manufacturing sectors are harnessing new technologies and more innovative ways of doing things, that in turn, increases their efficiencies.

Working smarter, not harder, seems to be the winning combination in Christchurch, with a ripple effect of higher profits, creating more real income and better living standards.

Christchurch tech sector: New Zealand’s second largest region for technology businesses and boasts some of Australasia’s most innovative and successful software, hardware and electronics companies. These include a combination of local firms such as Jade Software, Tait Communications and Seequent, plus globally head-quartered multi-nationals such as DXC, Allied Telesis and Trimble.

IT Jobseekers in Christchurch

- Permanent: 82%
- Contractor: 18%
- Male: 87%
- Female: 13%
- Private Sector: 73%
- Public Sector: 27%
$80,000 median base salary

$90 median base rate per hour

Most prevalent IT skills in Christchurch?
1. Software Developer
2. Support/Help desk
3. Networking & Infrastructure
4. Business Analysis
5. Testing/QA

Pay rise expectations?

60% - Yes, expecting it
9% - Not expecting it
31% - Not sure

Top non-financial benefits for Christchurch job seekers?

Flexible working hours | Career development planning | Additional Annual leave

53% indicate that they will look for a new role within the next year
## Biggest deciding factor when accepting a new job offer?

1. Better salary package - 29%
2. Challenging work - 19%
3. Training and development opportunities - 17%

## Top 3 reasons for moving jobs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Skills not being utilised</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better remuneration</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time for a change</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Work/life balance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Above average</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below average</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

88% of IT professionals in Christchurch have flexible working options (e.g., flexible working hours and/or remote access).

92% of IT professionals in Christchurch rate their workplace as a good place to work.
IT Employers in Christchurch

Biggest business challenges for IT employers in Christchurch?
- Attracting and retaining staff (30%)
- Staying price competitive (23%)

Planning to recruit IT staff?
- Yes - 77%
- No - 23%

Key reasons for hiring
1. New Projects
2. Replacement of staff
3. Increased customer demand

Top 10 skills in demand
1. Software Development
2. Support/Helpdesk
3. Business Intelligence
4. Business Analysis
5. Testing/QA
6. Networking & Infrastructure
7. Production/Operations
8. Architecture
9. Data/Database
10. Digital/Cloud
Attracting talent - easier, harder or the same as a year ago?

- 0% Easier
- 20% Harder
- 80% Same

Will you pay increases this year?

- 56% Yes
- 3% No
- 41% Unsure

Top 3 benefits in Christchurch

1. Mobile phone (44%)
2. Flexible working hours (40%)
3. Health care subsidies (40%)

Median bonus rate is $5,000 in Christchurch.

29% of IT professionals received bonuses over the past year, up 3% from 2017.