

**WESTPAC : McDERMOTT MILLER EMPLOYMENT CONFIDENCE SURVEY
PRESS RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 2017**

“Confidence of New Zealanders in paid work (“employees”) stabilised in the 2017 September quarter” announced Richard Miller, Managing Director of Strategy and Economics Consultancy, McDermott Miller Limited. “New Zealand-wide, the Employment Confidence Index remains firmly optimistic at 113.8” observed Miller, “but there are clear differences in sentiment among employees around the country”.

“All regions in New Zealand recorded optimistic scores on the Employment Confidence Index, “noted Miller, “with Auckland (119.8), Southland (115.4), Canterbury (115.2) and Waikato (114.9) above the New Zealand Employment Confidence Index level; and, all other regions scoring below it (Taranaki/Manawatu/Whanganui 111.4, Northland 110.0, Bay of Plenty 109.8, Otago 108.9, Gisborne/Hawke’s Bay 105.7, Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast 104.7). Surprisingly, Wellington region currently is the least optimistic region in New Zealand on 102.8.”

Once again, the confidence of private sector employees slipped a little, but remains optimistic on an ECI score of 115.9. In contrast, public sector employees are relatively less optimistic, with an ECI score of 107.8” stated Miller. “This may cast some light on the relatively low level of employment confidence in Wellington region” suggested Richard Miller.

ENDS

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Index Background

The Consumer Confidence Index is based on a survey of a representative sample of 1553 New Zealand households interviewed during 1-10 September 2017. It analyses answers to five standard questions on personal financial circumstances, expectations for the economy and attitude to buying substantial household items. Index scores measure consumer confidence in the economy, with a score of greater than 100 showing more optimism than pessimism and vice versa for a score below 100.

Acknowledgement

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