

Trade Me Jobs: 'Outstanding signs' of strong NZ job market in 2017

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The number of new job listings in the country increased by 16.4 per cent compared to the same time last year.

It looks set to be a promising year for job seekers, with the employment market in good health heading into the new year.

According to Trade Me Jobs, which analysed more than 65,000 job vacancies from October to December on its platform, the number of new job listings in the country increased by 16.4 per cent compared to the same time last year.

Head of Trade Me Jobs Jeremy Wade said there were "outstanding signs" for the Kiwi job market this year, with all but four categories experiencing a lift in new listings compared with a year ago.

Those four categories with fewer listings were architecture, which had the largest decrease in new job listings at 21.6 per cent, banking, engineering and sales.

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"We don't see this kind of consistent nationwide growth often, so it's really encouraging for the 2017 job market as well as the economy as a whole," Wade said.

New job listings have been growing, putting the power into job seekers' hands.

Due to the increase in listings, employers had to worker harder to get the right staff.

Applications per listing fell 14 per cent in the last quarter of 2016 due to high demand for candidates and talent shortages.

Wade said employers could still find great people if they promoted themselves in their job listings and showed job seekers they offered development and culture, not just pay.

The average salary was down 0.4 per cent but Wade said this was expected to rise as demand for candidates increased.

IT had the highest paying jobs, with the top five dominated by IT careers.

The highest paid job was IT architect at an average annual salary of \$142,028.

The lowest paid were housekeepers at an average annual pay of \$37,056.

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Data from Seek showed that outside of IT, there was a strong demand for frontline service roles, including social workers, police and corrections officers and early childhood teachers.

Demand for social workers increased 74 per cent in 2016 when compared with 2015.

Seek New Zealand general manager Janet Faulding said this was unsurprising.

"With our increased population due to natural birth rates and migration, this puts increased pressure on social services," she said.

New job listings on Seek for the end of 2016 were up 9.3 per cent compared with a year ago. This was driven by IT jobs.

According to recruitment company Hays, drivers of jobs growth in 2017 will include the construction industry and services sector, especially healthcare, social assistance and financial services.

The election this year could possible also bring more investment from the Government in infrastructure across provincial New Zealand, creating new infrastructure jobs.

A continued shortage of highly-skilled professionals will see the gap between skills needed by employers and those in the labour market widen.

Hays managing director Jason Walker said one of the ways employers could try to close that gap is to train up candidates already in the organisation.

Another was to encourage apprenticeships.

As people return to work for the year, WorkSafe is reminding people of practising good health and safety in the workplace.

Worksafe general manager operations and specialist services Brett Murray said even a short time away from work can see good habits slip.

He said it would pay to spend some time discussing safety systems and procedures.

"Summer ... does create some new or add additional risks, especially those who are working long days as dehydration and fatigue can lead to potentially fatal accidents.

"Finally, don't forget to include other risks in your discussions, such as welding fumes, wood dust and carbon monoxide or other airborne contaminants."

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