



**QUARTERLY REGIONAL  
LABOUR MARKET UPDATE**

**JUNE 2012**

**▸ BAY OF PLENTY**

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**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**  
*Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora*



**Ministry of Business,  
Innovation & Employment**

**Labour** 

## BAY OF PLENTY

### QUARTERLY REGIONAL LABOUR MARKET UPDATE FOR JUNE 2012

#### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The labour force participation rate in Bay of Plenty stood at 63.8% during the year to June 2012 down from 65.4% the year before. In comparison, the national average participation rate was 68.5% for the year to June 2012.

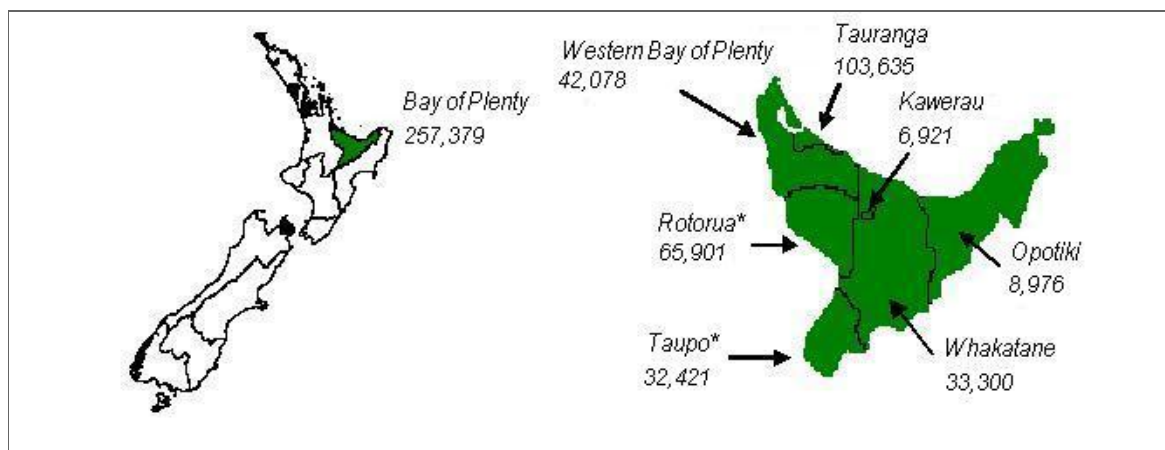
The unemployment rate in Bay of Plenty increased to 7.7% for the year to June 2012 (national average: 6.6%) from 7.6% in the year to June 2011.

There were 3,064 working aged people receiving unemployment benefits from Work and Income in the Bay of Plenty region at the end of June 2012.

#### BACKGROUND

This report includes information relating to the area covered by the Bay of Plenty region as shown in Box 1.

##### Box 1: Map and population of Bay of Plenty for March 2006



Source: Population Census 2006, Statistics New Zealand

Note: Taupo and Rotorua extend into Waikato. Population figures are for the entire district.

This report is a quarterly update of current labour market conditions in the Bay of Plenty region. The sources of statistics are the Statistics New Zealand Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) and the Ministry of Social Development (MSD). To counter the effects of seasonality and low sample size when making comparisons over time, the figures presented are averages for the year up to the quarter indicated, unless otherwise stated.

**Table 1: Key labour market data for the Bay of Plenty region**

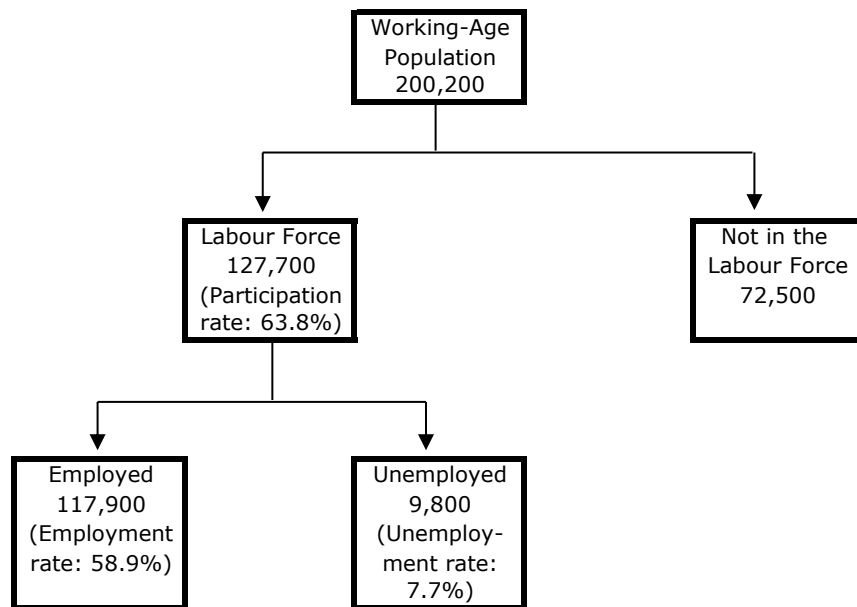
	Bay of Plenty		New Zealand	
	year to June 2011	year to June 2012	year to June 2011	year to June 2012
<b>HLFS Indicator</b>				
Participation rate, ann ave	65.4%	63.8%	68.3%	68.5%
Employment rate, ann ave	60.4%	58.9%	63.8%	63.9%
Unemployment rate, ann ave	7.6%	7.7%	6.6%	6.6%

	Bay of Plenty		New Zealand	
	End of June 2012 number	share in NZ	End of June 2012 number	% change since June 2011
<b>Unemployment Beneficiary Indicator</b>				
Working aged UB/UBH recipients (aged 18-64)	3,064	6.2%	49,622	-11.8%

Source: HLFS, Statistics New Zealand; Ministry of Social Development

In the year to June 2012 the working-age population in the Bay of Plenty region was 200,200. The labour force participation rate was 63.8% while 127,700 people were in the labour force and 72,500 people were 'not in the labour force'. Of those people who were in the labour force, 7.7%, or 9,800 were unemployed and 117,900 were employed.

**Box 2: The labour market in Bay of Plenty for the year to June 2012**



Source: HLFS, Statistics New Zealand

**Notes:**

- Participation rate: proportion of the working-age population that is in the labour force.
- Employment rate: proportion of the working-age population that is employed.
- Unemployment rate: proportion of the labour force that is unemployed.

## POPULATION

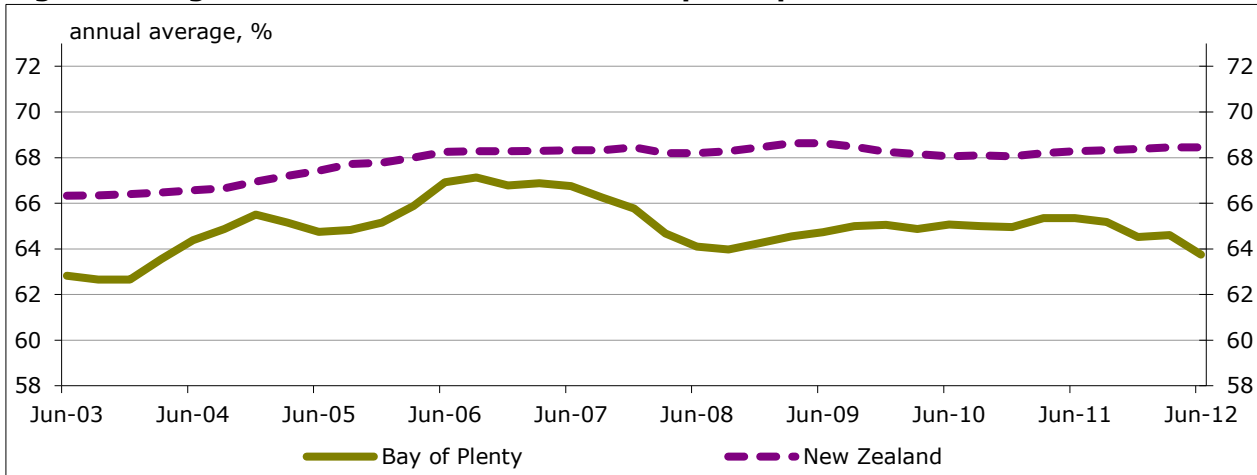
The working-age population in the Bay of Plenty region is estimated at 200,200 in the year to June 2012.

## LABOUR FORCE

The participation rate in Bay of Plenty stood at 63.8% during the year to June 2012 down from 65.4% the year before. In comparison, the national average participation rate was 68.5% for the year to June 2012.

The number of people in the labour force in the Bay of Plenty region is estimated to be 127,700 in the year to June 2012.

**Figure 1: Regional and national trends in the participation rate**



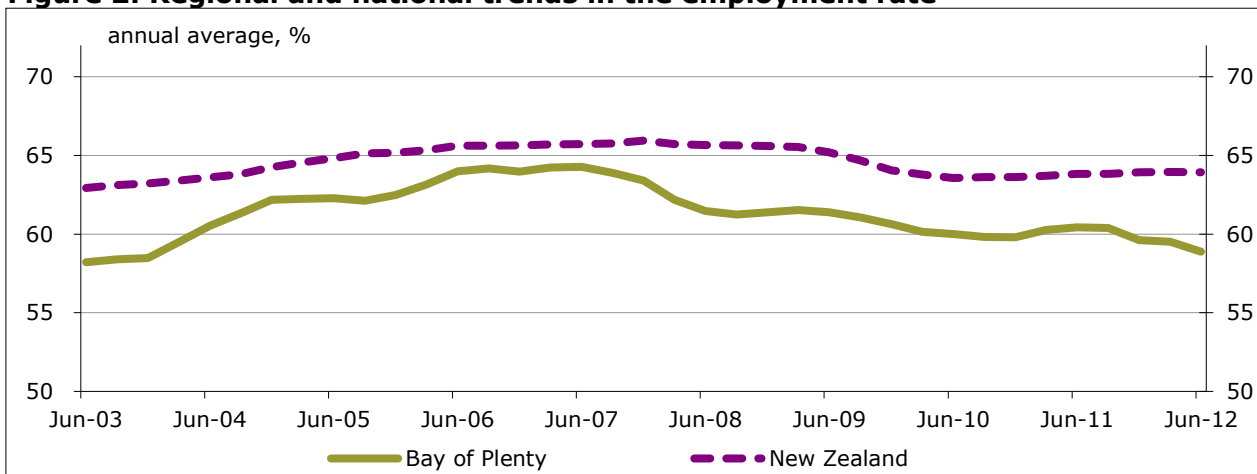
Source: HLFS, Statistics New Zealand

## EMPLOYMENT

The employment rate (the proportion of the working-age population that is employed) in Bay of Plenty stood at 58.9% during the year to June 2012 down from 60.4% the year before. In comparison, the national average employment rate was 63.9%.

Employment in the Bay of Plenty region was 117,900 in the year to June 2012.

**Figure 2: Regional and national trends in the employment rate**



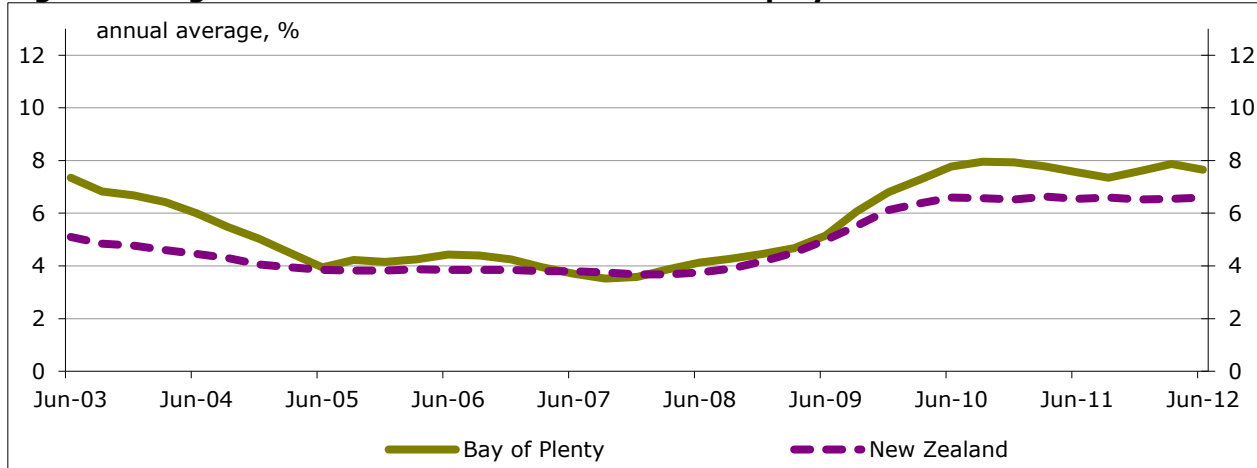
Source: HLFS, Statistics New Zealand

## UNEMPLOYMENT

The region's unemployment rate increased to 7.7% in the year to June 2012, from 7.6% the year before. In comparison, the national average unemployment rate was 6.6% for the year to June 2012.

The number of unemployed people in the region (as measured by the official statistics) is estimated at 9,800 for the year to June 2012.

**Figure 3: Regional and national trends in the unemployment rate**



Source: HLFS, Statistics New Zealand

The Household Labour Force Survey provides an estimate of all persons in the working-age population who during a particular week were without a paid job, available for work and had either actively sought work in the previous four weeks, or had a new job to start within four weeks of the survey week. These numbers will not align exactly with numbers receiving an income tested benefit such as Unemployment Benefit (see next page). There are a range of reasons for this. For example, recipients of income tested benefits can be employed part time up to specified income limits, whereas a respondent to the Household Labour Force Survey must have worked less than an hour during the week being surveyed to count as officially unemployed.

## UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The Ministry of Social Development has recently begun to make information on numbers receiving social security benefits available for Territorial Local Authorities. This information also supports display by Regional Council area, the same geographic basis on which other information in this report has been displayed. It will be some time yet before this is available as an annual time-series, so comparisons over time are provided for New Zealand as a whole.

There were 3,064 working aged people receiving unemployment benefits from Work and Income in the Bay of Plenty region at the end of June 2012. Their characteristics are shown in the next table.

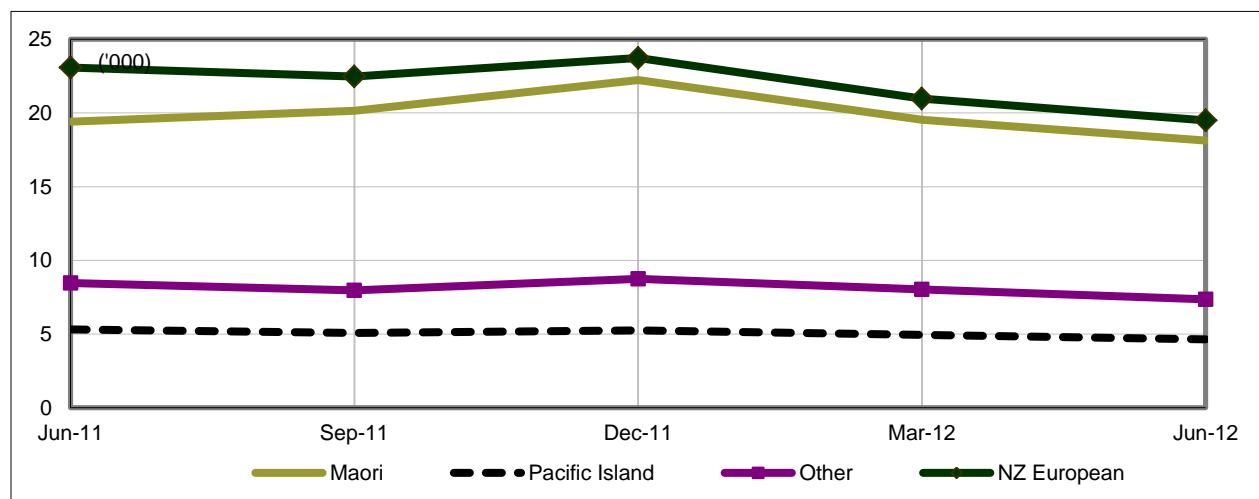
**Table 2: Working aged unemployment benefit recipients (aged 18-64) in the Bay of Plenty region and nationally at the end of June 2012**

	Region		New Zealand		Region's share of New Zealand (%)
	Share (%)	Number	Share (%)	Number	
Male	71.2	2,182	69.5	34,470	6.3
Female	28.8	882	30.5	15,152	5.8
Maori	64.0	1,960	36.5	18,134	10.8
Pacific People	2.3	72	9.3	4,633	1.6
18-24 years	25.0	766	26.4	13,114	5.8
25-39 years	33.0	1,010	30.9	15,342	6.6
40-54 years	30.9	946	29.4	14,602	6.5
55-64 years	11.2	342	13.2	6,564	5.2
<b>Total</b>		<b>3,064</b>		<b>49,622</b>	<b>6.2</b>

Source: Ministry of Social Development

Note: Rounding errors mean these figures may differ slightly from official MSD fact sheets.

**Figure 4: Clients receiving Unemployment Benefits for the whole of New Zealand, June 2011 - June 2012**



Source: Ministry of Social Development

Notes: Other includes not specified. Values for the end of the June quarter.

## GLOSSARY

**Working-age population:** population aged 15 years and over.

**Labour force:** number of people who are either in work or are available and actively seeking work (that is, employed or unemployed as defined below).

**Employment:** number of people in work of one hour or more per week.

**Unemployment:** number of people who are not in work, but who are available for and actively seeking work.

**Not in the labour force:** number of people who are not in work and are either not available or not actively seeking work (that is, they are not employed and not unemployed). This includes for example, retired people, students and people at home with children.

**Labour force participation rate:** proportion of the working-age population that is in the labour force.

**Unemployment rate:** proportion of the labour force that is unemployed.

**Employment rate:** proportion of the working-age population that is employed.

**Highly skilled workers:** legislators, administrators and managers, and professionals.

**Skilled workers:** technicians and associate professionals, and trades workers.

**Semi-skilled/elementary:** clerks, services/sales workers, plant/machinery workers, and elementary workers.

**Annual average:** the average for a whole year.

**Annual average percentage change:** the percentage change between the average for a whole year (eg the year to June 2012) and the previous year (eg the year to June 2011). Unless stated, all growth rates are annual average percentage changes.

## LINKS TO OTHER LABOUR MARKET REPORTS

**Annual In-depth Regional Labour Market reports:** 12 reports that provide a detailed look at the drivers of regional labour market dynamics with sub-regional (Territorial Authority) information included where available. They contain detailed and wide-ranging labour market statistics supplemented by qualitative information from the regions (<http://www.dol.govt.nz/publications/lmr/regional/indepth/index.asp>).

**Labour Market Reports:** the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment produces a range of reports which focus on labour market statistics and trends in New Zealand (<http://www.dol.govt.nz/publications/lmr/index.asp>).

**For further information please visit**

**<http://dol.govt.nz/research> or email [research@dol.govt.nz](mailto:research@dol.govt.nz).**

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