

# EMPLOYMENT

Employment provides earned income, self-esteem, and a sense of community connection. This section looks at features and trends in employment and unemployment for Rotorua's older people, including labour force status, industry and occupation.

## KEY POINTS:

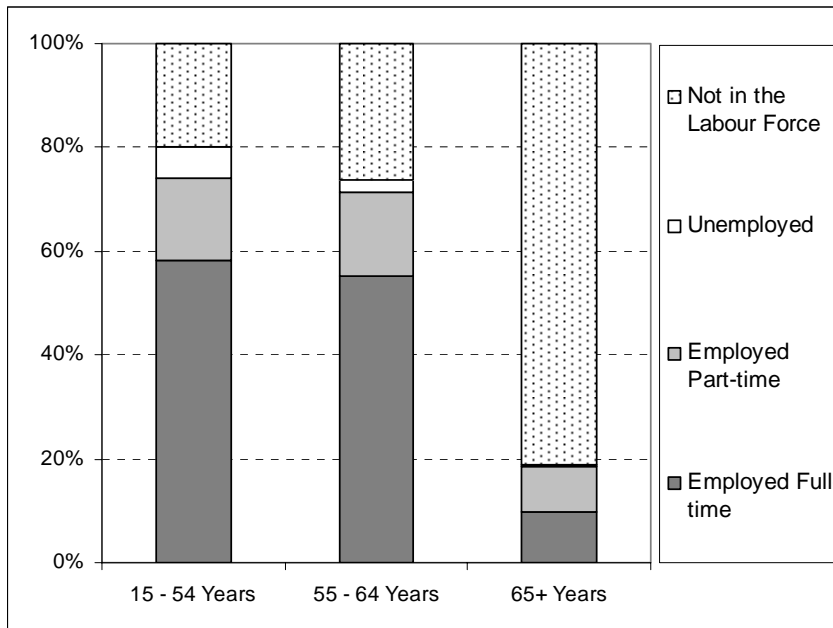
- 9.0% of Rotorua residents aged 65+ are employed part-time, 9.6% are employed full-time, and 0.3% are unemployed.
- Unemployment in the 55 – 64 year age group has decreased in the last 5 years.
- 2.4% of Rotorua residents aged 55-64 are unemployed, compared with 1.8% nationally.
- 8.6% (114) of Rotorua workers aged 65+ are employed in primary industries (e.g. agriculture). Other Rotorua industries with strong participation by older workers include property and business services, retail trade, education, and health and community services.

Figure 8 shows that 81.1% of Rotorua residents aged 65+ are not in the labour force<sup>1</sup> (e.g. retired), which is similar to the national average of 82.9%. Rotorua's labour force aged 65+ comprises 9.0% who are employed part-time, 9.6% who are employed full-time, and 0.3% who are unemployed<sup>2</sup> and seeking work. The comparable national figures are 8.1% full-time, 8.7% part-time, and 0.2% unemployed. Summing these, the labour force participation rate for Rotorua people aged 65+ is equal to 18.9% compared with 17.0% for New Zealand as a whole.



<sup>1</sup> Any person in the working-age population who is neither employed nor unemployed is deemed to be not in the labour force. This category includes, for example, retired people, people with personal or family responsibilities such as unpaid housework and childcare, people attending educational institutions, people permanently unable to work due to physical or mental handicaps, people who were temporarily unavailable for work in the survey reference week, people who are not actively seeking work.

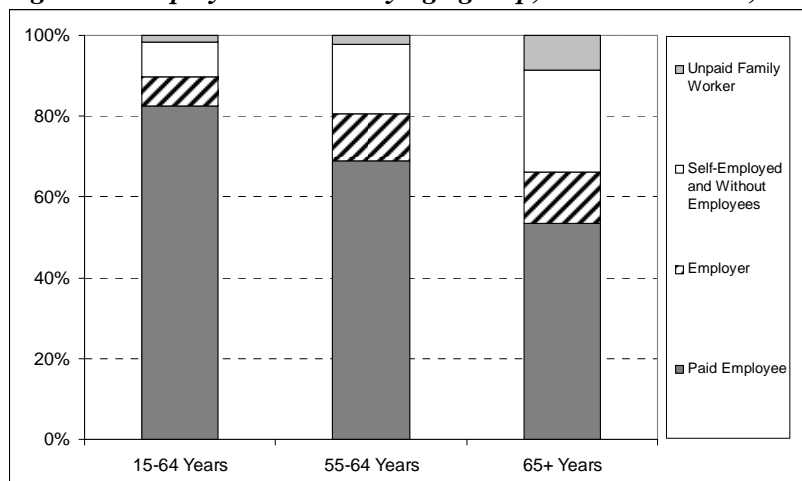
<sup>2</sup> The census definition for 'unemployed' is All people in the working-age population (people aged 15 years and over) who, during the week ended 5 March 2006, were without a paid job, were available for work and: had actively sought work in the past four weeks (ended 5 March 2006); or had a new job to start within the next four weeks.

**Figure 8: Work status by age group, Rotorua District, 2006**

Note: The “Work and Labour Force Status Unidentifiable” category was omitted prior to calculation.

The 55-64 age range is typically a transition period between work and retirement. The proportion of Rotorua people not in the labour force (e.g. retired) is 26.2% in the 55-64 age range compared with just 20.0% in the 15-54 age range. A total of 71.4% of Rotorua residents aged 55-64 are employed (full-time or part-time) compared with 74.1% in the 15-54 age group who are employed. Labour force participation is lower for females in the 55-64 age group, with 65.1% employed (full-time or part-time) compared with 77.7% of males. Unemployment for the 55-64 age group in Rotorua is 2.4% which is above the national average of 1.8%, but has dropped considerably over the past five years, from 3.6% in 2001.

For residents that remain in the labour force, the pattern of employment status changes with age (refer Figure 9). Paid employment falls from 82.6% in the 15-54 age range to 68.9% in the 55-64 age range, to just 53.5% in the 65+ age range. Balancing this, the proportion of people who are self-employed (with or without employees) increases from 14.8% in the 15-54 age group to 37.8% in the 65+ age group. Also, the proportion of people engaged in unpaid family work rises from 1.6% in the 15-54 age group to 8.7% in the 65+ age group.

**Figure 9: Employment status by age group, Rotorua District, 2006**

Note: Excludes residents who are “Not in the Labour Force”. Also, the “Not Stated” category was omitted prior to calculation of percentages.

### **Industry and occupation**

The Property and Business sector is the single largest employer of people aged 65+. Table 6 shows that 14.1% (147) of Rotorua workers aged 65+ are employed in the Property and Business sector. This compares with 25.2% for New Zealand overall. Other Rotorua industries with strong participation by older workers include retail trade (120 workers aged 65+), agriculture (114), and health and community services (105).

**Table 6: Industry by age group, Rotorua District, 2006**

|                                       | 15 - 54 Years |               | 55 - 64 Years |               | 65+ Years    |               |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
|                                       | No.           | %             | No.           | %             | No.          | %             |
| Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing     | 1,977         | 8.3%          | 273           | 6.5%          | 114          | 10.9%         |
| Mining                                | 21            | 0.1%          | 9             | 0.2%          | -            | 0.0%          |
| Manufacturing                         | 2,943         | 12.4%         | 408           | 9.8%          | 84           | 8.0%          |
| Electricity, Gas and Water Supply     | 105           | 0.4%          | 24            | 0.6%          | 3            | 0.3%          |
| Construction                          | 1,743         | 7.3%          | 273           | 6.5%          | 60           | 5.7%          |
| Wholesale Trade                       | 1,146         | 4.8%          | 210           | 5.0%          | 48           | 4.6%          |
| Retail Trade                          | 3,342         | 14.1%         | 468           | 11.2%         | 120          | 11.5%         |
| Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants  | 2,079         | 8.8%          | 288           | 6.9%          | 78           | 7.5%          |
| Transport and Storage                 | 759           | 3.2%          | 195           | 4.7%          | 51           | 4.9%          |
| Communication Services                | 198           | 0.8%          | 24            | 0.6%          | 6            | 0.6%          |
| Finance and Insurance                 | 456           | 1.9%          | 81            | 1.9%          | 9            | 0.9%          |
| Property and Business Services        | 2,370         | 10.0%         | 561           | 13.4%         | 147          | 14.1%         |
| Government Administration and Defence | 642           | 2.7%          | 114           | 2.7%          | 27           | 2.6%          |
| Education                             | 1,869         | 7.9%          | 450           | 10.8%         | 90           | 8.6%          |
| Health and Community Services         | 2,160         | 9.1%          | 534           | 12.8%         | 105          | 10.1%         |
| Cultural and Recreational Services    | 966           | 4.1%          | 111           | 2.7%          | 45           | 4.3%          |
| Personal and Other Services           | 954           | 4.0%          | 153           | 3.7%          | 57           | 5.5%          |
| Not Elsewhere Included                | 1,287         |               | 294           |               | 264          |               |
| <b>Total</b>                          | <b>25,017</b> | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>4,470</b>  | <b>100.0%</b> | <b>1,308</b> | <b>100.0%</b> |

Note: Columns may not sum precisely due to random rounding.

Table 7 shows that 11.9% (156) of Rotorua workers aged 65+ are in “professional” occupations compared with 13.1% of workers in the 15-54 age group. The largest employment categories for the 55-64 age group are administrators and managers (16.6%), professionals (15.2%), labourers and related elementary workers (13.4%), service and sales (11.8%). The pattern of employment for older people is similar for New Zealand as a whole.

**Table 7: Occupation by age group, Rotorua District, 2006**

|  | 15-54 Years |        | 55-64 Years |        | 65+ Years |        |
|--|-------------|--------|-------------|--------|-----------|--------|
|  | No          | %      | No          | %      | No        | %      |
| Legislators, Administrators and Managers   | 3,390       | 13.5%  | 747         | 16.6%  | 171       | 13.1%  |
| Professionals                              | 3,270       | 13.1%  | 684         | 15.2%  | 156       | 11.9%  |
| Technicians and Associate Professionals    | 2,736       | 10.9%  | 465         | 10.4%  | 105       | 8.0%   |
| Clerks                                     | 2,436       | 9.7%   | 501         | 11.2%  | 102       | 7.8%   |
| Service and Sales Workers                  | 4,032       | 16.1%  | 534         | 11.8%  | 129       | 9.9%   |
| Agriculture and Fishery Workers            | 1,821       | 7.3%   | 246         | 5.5%   | 123       | 9.4%   |
| Trades Workers                             | 2,256       | 9.0%   | 372         | 8.3%   | 90        | 6.9%   |
| Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers | 2,106       | 8.4%   | 342         | 7.6%   | 90        | 6.9%   |
| Labourers and Related Elementary Workers   | 2,997       | 12.0%  | 600         | 13.4%  | 342       | 26.1%  |
| Total                                      | 25,044      | 100.0% | 4,491       | 100.0% | 1,308     | 100.0% |

Note: Columns may not sum precisely due to random rounding.

### Unpaid activities

The pattern of unpaid activities undertaken by Rotorua residents in the four weeks prior to Census night is similar to that of New Zealand overall. In 2006, 16.9% (1,236) of Rotorua people aged 65+ reported undertaking voluntary work for or through an organisation, group or marae. The comparable figure for the 15-54 age group is 15.3% (5,433).