

## Information, Communications & Technology

### Key facts:

- ICT sector employs 6% of the domestic workforce and contributes more than \$16 billion to New Zealand's GDP
- -ICT is New Zealand's third largest export earner, behind dairy and tourism
- -Christchurch is the country's third largest location for technology businesses
- -Tech businesses in Canterbury employ more than 3000 residents, while professional, scientific and technical services companies employ more than 20,000 people. This sector contributes more than \$2.4 billion to Christchurch's GDP
- -The local tech sector is supported by the Canterbury Technology Cluster – an alliance agreement between Canterbury Software and the NZ Technology Industry Association (NZTech).

The Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) industry is New Zealand's fastest growing sector – employing 6% of the domestic workforce and contributing more than \$16 billion to New Zealand's GDP.

The local tech sector has also doubled its exports in the last six years, producing 9% of the country's goods and services sold overseas. It is now New Zealand's third largest export earner, behind dairy and tourism.

Coined the 'Silicon Plains' of New Zealand, Christchurch is the country's third largest location for technology businesses and boasts some of Australasia's most innovative and successful tech companies. More than 100 software companies call Christchurch and Canterbury home, including Jade Software (software development), Tait Communications (telecommunications), Airways (air navigation), Pay Global (FinTech) and eStar (eCommerce).

# Fact sheet



Locally, information media and telecommunications businesses in Canterbury employ more than 3000 residents, while professional, scientific and technical services companies employ more than 20,000 people. This sector contributes more than \$2.4 billion to Christchurch's GDP.

The tech sector is supported regionally by the Canterbury Technology Cluster – an alliance agreement between Canterbury Software and the NZ Technology Industry Association (NZTech) – as well as educational institutions like the University of Canterbury, Lincoln University, SIGNAL ICT grad School and Ara Institute of Technology, startup incubators like the Ministry of Awesome, GreenHouse, and Vodafone Xone, and co-working spaces such as Bizdojo.

The city's Innovation Precinct is at the heart of this technology ecosystem and brings together innovators, entrepreneurs and established businesses. The precinct supports startups and helps to commercialise small businesses (specifically digital and ICT startups).

Christchurch's thriving tech and startup sector is currently working with the Christchurch City Council to implement its Smart Cities programme. The programme looks at how new technology can help to make life and work easier for the people of Christchurch. Current trials include a solution to capture how cyclists experience the transport network, sensors attached to the inside of public rubbish bins, an interpolated heat map and earthquake response visualiser, and mobility parking.

## **For more information, contact:**

Gillian Officer, Director of Business Development

**T:** +64 3 266 1400 **E:** [gofficer@tepae.co.nz](mailto:gofficer@tepae.co.nz)

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