

Country:	New Zealand
Member/Company	BusinessNZ
Initiative	Addressing labor shortages

**Overview**

**Overview of Business New Zealand activities:**

- Commissioned and published a report on *Labour Market Conditions for Business* that points to near record job advertisements showing businesses need more workers to meet the demand in the economy and discusses the issue of immigration.
- Drawn the government’s attention to areas where businesses have fallen through the cracks in its Covid-19 policy.
- Advocated for more apprenticeship funding leading to employer subsidies for the training of new apprentices (Apprenticeship Boost) and an 80,000 increase in the number of individuals undertaking apprenticeship training.
- Achieved an extension to the Apprenticeship Boost fund (and is continuing to lobby for the fund to be permanent).
- Achieved changes to the criteria for and approval rate of border exemptions for critical workers and provided direct support to businesses to get through the process.
- Provided guidance on visa extensions for migrant workers.
- Achieved Residency 2021 visa as a key policy plank to retain skilled migrants enabling 165,000 workers and their families to gain residency through a streamlined and more permissive policy.
- Continued to promote the pressing need for access to skilled and talented staff through its quarterly Business Confidence surveys, which have shown as many as three quarters of some businesses are struggling to find staff.
- Used the business confidence surveys to gain media traction and keep the need for skilled and talented staff in the public eye, while meeting with the providers of various skills development programmes to advocate for business needs.
- Produced a document that brings government’s attention the extent to which, since 2017, the cost of doing business has risen and how government changes made via new regulations have contributed to the cost rise.