

Media Release

21 July 2011

Building industry figures show positive signs

New figures released by the Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation (BCITO) show the construction industry is gaining momentum in the Canterbury region. Training numbers have been increasing steadily since January 2011, indicating that more employers are investing in staff and taking on new carpentry apprentices.

“Employers who are up-skilling staff and hiring apprentices want to make sure their employees have all the fundamentals in place before things start to pick up and the work really hits them,” says Richard Willis, BCITO Area Manager.

Although training figures are on the rise around New Zealand, Christchurch is showing a substantially higher increase than any other region. Richard says the substantial rebuilding in Canterbury over the next five years is contributing to this.

There have been well over 300 new training sign ups since January 2011, with 153 sign ups in May and June alone. “Employers are getting ready for an increase in consumer demand, as well as preparing for licensing legislation that comes into effect in March next year,” Richard says.

“Decisions around the earthquake land damage in the green and red zones have also meant Cantabrians are now in a position to either start rebuilding or to look at developing homes in other areas. There will definitely be significant building work in Canterbury for the next few years.”

These statistics are among the first positive signs that construction companies are getting ready for a much-anticipated boom in business, Richard says.

Richard also believes there are tremendous career opportunities for those considering a career in building. Students leaving school at the end of 2011 can get straight onto the tools with a BCITO apprenticeship and earn while they learn.

“You’re never going to have a better opportunity to get a broad range of experiences in building. Becoming an apprentice today will mean you could do everything from working on restorations of historic buildings to modern architecture.

“There is also a sense of importance about the rebuilding of Canterbury. The people there have experienced the worst natural disaster of our time in New Zealand. There is more than just work experience to be gained by being part of this rebuild; there is a real sense of camaraderie among those working on this.

Richard also applauds employers who have begun to up-skill staff before things start to pick up.

“When business picks up there will be little time to train apprentices and get young people up to speed on core skills,” he says.

Richard recommends builders use this time to ensure workers are well trained and ready to help rebuild Canterbury, including that they think about relocating staff there if necessary.

“Training staff now will help ensure companies are in a position to achieve the necessary requirements when licensing laws change. It’s not just about hiring new apprentices, but also up-skilling existing staff so they will be in a position to supervise less-qualified labour in the future”

The BCITO is appointed by Government to develop apprenticeships for the building and construction sector and is the largest provider of building apprenticeships in New Zealand. Aspiring apprentices can directly access a career in building through BCITO apprenticeship programmes, without undertaking classroom study.

To find out about BCITO training courses or how to train or find an apprentice please visit www.bcito.co.nz, contact 0800 4 BCITO or search on Facebook.

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Notes to the editor

BCITO are the organisation appointed by Government to develop and implement industry qualifications for the building and construction sector.

The BCITO is the standard-setting body for the following sectors within the building and construction industry.

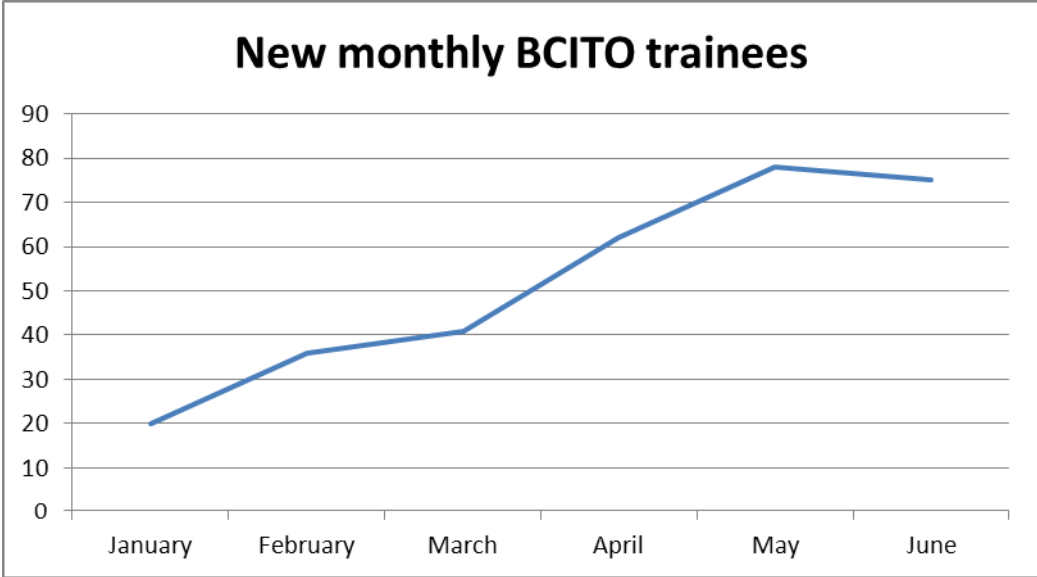
The BCITO has offices throughout the country grouped into 4 Area teams.

- The Northern Area has an office in Whangarei, North Shore and Auckland.
- The Midlands Area has an office in Hamilton, Taupo and Mt Maunganui.
- The Central Area has an office in Napier, New Plymouth, Palmerston North, Wellington, Nelson and Blenheim and The Southern Area has an office in Christchurch, Queenstown, Dunedin and Invercargill.
- The National office is located in Wellington.

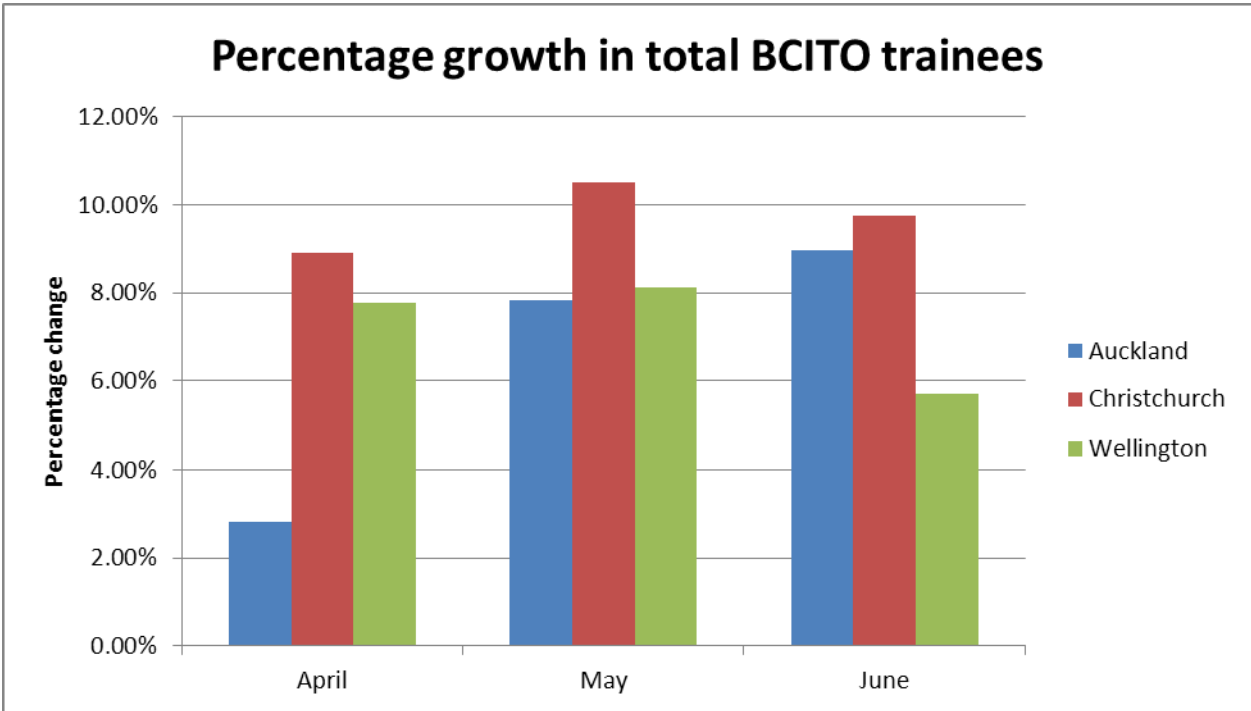
For more information or comment, please contact:

- Richard Willis, Southern Area Manager, BCITO on 027 433 4284, or
- Ruma Karaitiana, Chief Executive, BCITO on 027 466 5635, or
- Paul Mitchell, Group Manager Support Services, BCITO on 027 474 5754

Christchurch figures



Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch figures



Percentage growth in BCTIO trainees - Christchurch

