



Media Release

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Selwyn economy continues to grow

Latest figures reveal Selwyn is experiencing a commercial building boom and the district's retail sector has enjoyed another busy year.

Data compiled by economic analysts Infometrics showed the value of non-residential building consents in Selwyn grew by 40 percent for the year to June 2016. Consents valued at \$152 million were lodged for the year to June 2016, up from \$109 million for the year to June 2015.

"The figures reflect a number of factors including the building of new schools in Rolleston, consents for new shops to be developed in Rolleston, West Melton and Darfield and the continuing development of new businesses at Izone," says Vanessa Beavon, Selwyn District Council Building Manager.

Non-residential consent values increased by 16 percent in Canterbury and by 15 percent nationally in the year to June 2016.

Selwyn retail trade was also up by 6.4 percent for the year to June 2016, well up on national retail activity figures of 2.8 percent.

Overall, Selwyn's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 3.8 percent for the twelve months to June 2016, significantly above the Canterbury average of 0.9 percent, and above the New Zealand figure of 2.7 percent.

Selwyn's unemployment rate of 2 percent was the fifth lowest among New Zealand territorial authorities. Canterbury's unemployment rate was 3.2 percent and New Zealand's 5.2 percent.

1,284 new dwelling consents were issued for the year to June 2016, up slightly (0.4 percent) on the previous year. 2014/2015 was an exceptionally busy year for Selwyn as Statistics New Zealand estimated that Selwyn's population grew by 6.5 percent in the year to June 2015 - the largest increase recorded by any New Zealand territorial authority since 2004.

The number of international migrants into Selwyn has also been increasing – with the district experiencing a net increase of 433 new international migrants arriving in the year to June 2016, up from 219 for the previous year. Nationally New Zealand received around 69,000 new international migrants and Canterbury around 7,000.

Selwyn's tourist numbers also rose, with 94,649 guest nights recorded in the district (covering both international and domestic visitors), up 4.4 percent from figures for the year to June 2015.

The full Infometrics quarterly economic monitor is available at www.selwyn.govt.nz/services/economic-development

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