

# Christchurch

The city of opportunity for businesses,  
entrepreneurs and investors



ChristchurchNZ™

# Welcome to New Zealand's newest, most exciting city

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Christchurch is a place of transformation – where change and innovation have been embraced, creating a strong economy and vibrant place to live.

Christchurch offers substantial business and employment opportunities matched by an exceptional quality of life.

The \$40 billion post-earthquake rebuild continues at pace to deliver an attractive, modern, resilient and future-proofed city.

Key sectors including technology, manufacturing, agribusiness, tourism and health are creating avenues for entrepreneurs and new investment across the city and region.

Christchurch is the place to find your next investment or business opportunity.



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# A great place for business

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### NZ's second largest city

Christchurch is the second-most populated city in New Zealand with a population of 375,000 in 2016.



### Median age

37 years.



### A strong economy

With a low unemployment rate, high levels of economic activity and solid employment opportunities, the Christchurch economy is strong.



### Median weekly earnings

\$921 in Canterbury, \$983 Auckland, \$1,007 Wellington, \$924 New Zealand.



### Cost of living

28% cheaper than Sydney, 14% cheaper than Auckland, 5% cheaper than Wellington.

(Source: Numbeo).



### House prices

The median Christchurch house price is \$450,000, nationally it is \$529,000 (June 2017).

(Source: Real Estate Institute of NZ).



### World class education

Two universities and one public tertiary institute. Plus the \$1 billion investment in local schools is well underway.



### Rebuild and recovery investment

\$40 billion.



### Internationally connected

Christchurch has New Zealand's second largest international airport and a state-of-the-art seaport in Lyttelton Harbour.



### Fast internet

Gigabit speed fibre broadband available to over 90% of businesses.

(Source: Enable).



### Easiest place in the world to do business

Ranked #1 globally for starting a business, getting credit and registering property.

(Source: World Bank – Ease of doing business 2017).



Restored heritage  
building alongside  
modern new builds in  
the central city

# The top reasons to do business in Christchurch

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## **Collaborative and supportive business community**

Christchurch benefits from a strong business mentoring community and active business networks. Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce has over 2,500 members and the Canterbury Tech Cluster is the largest tech sector networking group in New Zealand. The business mentors service matches an average of 25 mentors with Canterbury businesses every month.

## **Smart people**

Christchurch has some of the country's most recognised public and private schools and three world-renowned tertiary institutions; University of Canterbury, Lincoln University and Ara Institute of Canterbury.

## **Fresh and new**

With \$40 billion invested in the rebuild and city recovery following the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes, Christchurch is the newest city in New Zealand. Its state-of-the-art infrastructure is complemented by beautifully-restored heritage buildings, modern new builds, smart city technology and open, green community spaces.

## **Room to grow**

Christchurch sits on the edge of a vast agricultural plain. The city is not limited by geographic constraints as in Wellington or Auckland.

## **A city supported by an agricultural powerhouse**

Christchurch is the main distribution hub of the South Island with millions of dollars of export materials passing through its ports each day.

## **Gateway to the South Island**

Thousands of people land in Christchurch each week as they look to explore all the South Island has to offer.

## **A diverse economy**

The resilience, entrepreneurship and 'get on with it' attitude of residents is reflected in the breadth of businesses that have made this city their home. From high-tech manufacturing to virtual reality developers, international education to artisan bakers, and architectural designers to engineers – Christchurch boasts a wealth of opportunities across a huge range of sectors.

## **The great outdoors**

Adventure-seekers, café-dwellers and those looking to find work-life balance are spoilt for choice in Christchurch. Warm, dry summers and snow-covered mountains during winter means there is always plenty to do here.







# People

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## Lower employment costs

The average weekly earnings for those in paid employment was \$921 in Canterbury in March 2017. This is slightly below the national median of \$924, Auckland median of \$983 and Wellington median of \$1,007 but above other key regions including Gisborne / Hawke's Bay, Bay of Plenty and Otago.

## Affordable accommodation

Workers are attracted to the affordable living available in Christchurch.

In June 2017 the median house price in Christchurch was \$450,000 and the region of Canterbury was \$435,500, compared to the Auckland median of \$850,500 and a national average of \$529,000.

## New talent

With two universities and one institute of technology Christchurch has a steady flow of graduates into the business community.

## Lifestyle balance

It's not just the strong, stable economy and hard-working, tech-savvy labour force that are a drawcard for investors. Christchurch also enjoys 2,143 annual sunshine hours, has over 1,000 parks and is less than a two-hour drive from popular destinations such as Hanmer Springs, Kaikoura and Akaroa.

Christchurch and Canterbury offers world-class employment opportunities alongside opportunities for a healthy, balanced lifestyle



Every year, over **5,000** tertiary students graduate in Canterbury.

(Source: Education Counts).



# Start-ups and innovation

The Christchurch earthquakes created an unprecedented atmosphere of change, collaboration and innovation in the city. There is a thriving entrepreneurial environment and a continually-expanding, innovative business community.





## Christchurch Innovation Precinct

The newly established Christchurch Innovation Precinct locates leading high-growth businesses and facilities together, forming a concentration of innovation and entrepreneurial activity in the heart of the city.

The Innovation Precinct is home to a rich tapestry of businesses large and small. From corporates such as Vodafone and Kathmandu, to established, fast-growing businesses housed in EPIC Innovation, and startups based in co-working and incubator spaces like Biz Dojo, Ministry of Awesome, GreenHouse and Vodafone Xone.

The Precinct is supported by two tertiaries in close proximity - SIGNAL ICT Grad School within the Precinct and Ara Institute of Canterbury is adjacent to the Precinct. The University of Canterbury also has close links with the Precinct.

### FACT

The proportion of Christchurch tech start-ups doubled in the six months from April to September 2016.

(Source: Sourced Report September 2016).

## Angel investors

Canterbury Angels is the region's angel investment network. It connects members with high-growth potential companies driven by New Zealand entrepreneurs.

Find out more at: [canterburyangels.nz](http://canterburyangels.nz)

## Ministry of Awesome

Set up after the earthquakes, the Ministry of Awesome works closely with start-ups to create a culture of inclusion, positivity and progress. The team run education and networking events and provide start-up activation support with one-on-one advice to help get ideas off the ground.

Find out more at: [ministryofawesome.com](http://ministryofawesome.com)

## Christchurch Innovation Ecosystem Map

Christchurch's innovation ecosystem map provides guidance on who to talk to about your idea, project or business.

Find out more at: [innovationmap.co.nz](http://innovationmap.co.nz)

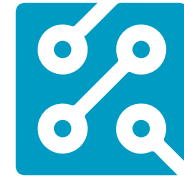
# Key investment sectors

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Christchurch's economy is experiencing strong growth due to its diverse economy.

If you are looking for investment opportunities then look no further. Christchurch, as the gateway to the South Island and beyond, has the location, space, people and business community to help your ideas become reality.

Over the next few pages learn more about some of our fastest-growing sectors.



## Technology

Christchurch is home to a thriving, fast-paced and highly diverse technology sector. With specialist areas including high-tech manufacturing, software development and medical innovations.

### FACT

Christchurch is hosting New Zealand's first trial of a fully driverless electric vehicle.





## Agribusiness

Christchurch and the surrounding region is a hub for agribusiness with world-class agribusiness research; developing and delivering world-class solutions.

### FACT

4.7% of Canterbury's GDP is from agriculture and the sector employs over 11,800 people.



## Tourism

Christchurch, as the gateway to the South Island, is at the forefront of this rapidly growing sector, with 2.8 million guest nights and tourists spending over \$2 billion annually.

### FACT

Christchurch has 700 city parks, 15 golf courses, the Port Hills, Banks Peninsula, the Canterbury Plains and the whole South Island on its doorstep.



## Health

The Canterbury Health System has undergone a huge amount of innovation and has been internationally recognised for its collaboration and integration by acclaimed British health think tank, The King's Fund.

### FACT

The health care and social assistance industry employed 24,100 people in Christchurch in 2016.



## FACT

Christchurch tech sector adds \$2.4 billion to the city's Gross Domestic Product each year, employs almost 15,000 people and exports \$1.1 billion. (Source: NZIER Digital Nation Report, 2016).





Christchurch is home to a creative, connected, world-class and highly diverse technology industry.

There is a strong history of high-tech manufacturing and innovation.

Christchurch companies are well connected on the global stage with the likes of Tait Communications, AuCom and Jade Corporation based locally and exporting to the world.

Christchurch's locally developed technology is known for being flexible, resilient, world-class and entrepreneurial. In particular, the city's high-tech manufacturing sector is the second largest in New Zealand and specialises in supplying to global niche markets.

## Get connected

Christchurch's tech scene is one of the most connected in the country with industry groups, clusters and meet-ups happening all the time, including:

**New Zealand Manufacturers and Exporters Association (NZMEA)** – NZMEA brings together like-minded manufacturers; supporting, connecting and advocating for industry.

See: [nzmea.org.nz](http://nzmea.org.nz)

**Canterbury Tech Cluster** – a non-profit organisation helping to connect, inspire and grow local tech businesses.

See: [canterburytech.nz](http://canterburytech.nz)

**Women in Tech** – an opportunity for women in the sector to share challenges and success stories.

See: [meetup.com/women-in-tech-chch](http://meetup.com/women-in-tech-chch)

**Canterbury Tech Summit** – an annual tech industry event, hosting national and international speakers, a trade show area and opportunities for networking.

See: [techsummit.nz](http://techsummit.nz)

**Christchurch Innovation Precinct** – a central city hub for knowledge intensive and technology based businesses encompassing GreenHouse and EPIC.

See: [innovationprecinct.nz](http://innovationprecinct.nz)

# Technology sector

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**Ministry of Awesome** – provides support for early-stage entrepreneurs to turn their ideas into reality. They run weekly 'Coffee & Jam' networking and pitching events.

See: [ministryofawesome.com](http://ministryofawesome.com)

## Who has invested in Christchurch?

### Trimble (United States)

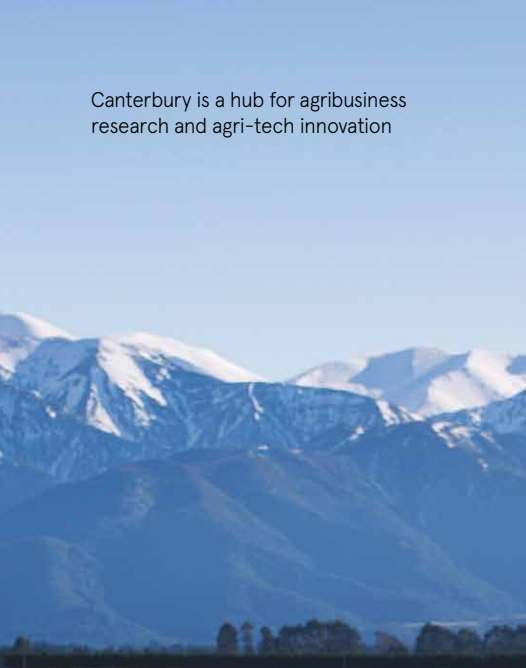
California-based Trimble Navigation Limited, a US company listed on the NASDAQ exchange, is improving productivity, sustainability and safety through providing spatial information solutions. Trimble integrates a wide range of positioning technologies including GPS, laser, optical and inertial technologies with application software, wireless communications, and services to provide complete commercial solutions for customers in heavy civil construction, building construction, agriculture, geospatial and transportation and logistics.

Trimble employs around 350 staff in their New Zealand offices, with over 230 staff based at its Christchurch Research and Development Centre.

### Enphase (United States)

Enphase is a Californian electronics company specialising in developing solar energy, they have opened a research and development facility in Christchurch, which was the first outside of the United States. Enphase chose Christchurch because of the quality of its engineering talent, the University of Canterbury, and the potential of the market.

Canterbury is a hub for agribusiness  
research and agri-tech innovation





# Agribusiness sector

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Christchurch's location on the edge of a highly productive food-growing region with a temperate climate, high rainfall and fertile land means the city has become a hub for agribusiness research and agri-tech innovation.

An established and expanding irrigation network across the region is creating a substantial increase in land productivity, as well as greater scope for diversification into higher value production and processing.

## Get connected

The local sector includes globally recognised research institutes including:

**Lincoln University** – New Zealand's specialist land-based university. See: [lincoln.ac.nz](http://lincoln.ac.nz)

**Lincoln Hub** – a collaboration between research, education and industry partners to increase land-based productivity and sustainability. See: [lincolnhub.co.nz](http://lincolnhub.co.nz)

**FoodSouth** – provides specialised business growth advice, market entry and pilot production facilities for innovative food companies. See: [foodinnovationnetwork.co.nz](http://foodinnovationnetwork.co.nz)

**PowerBoost breakfasts** – regular industry events to share knowledge and hear from New Zealand food and beverage sector success stories.

## Who has invested in Christchurch?

### Synlait Milk (China/Netherlands/Japan)

Synlait Milk is one of Canterbury's fastest growing companies, collecting 658 million litres of milk in the 2015 / 2016 dairy season from 200 Canterbury milk suppliers and employing more than 430 staff at their Dunsandel site. Synlait has one of the largest and most sophisticated purpose-built infant formula facilities in the Southern Hemisphere, a competitive advantage contributing to the company's rapid growth. Bright Dairy became a significant partner and shareholder in 2010, and in 2013 the company was publicly listed on NZ Stock Exchange. In September 2016 Synlait launched their next growth phase, consisting of a three year \$300 million capital expansion programme.

## FACT

Seed production is a speciality in Canterbury with \$115 million exported through Christchurch ports in 2016.

Food and beverage manufacturing employed 4,430 people across 303 businesses in Christchurch in 2016.

# Tourism sector

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Christchurch's geographic position makes it a natural gateway to the South Island. The city draws thousands of people every year with a host of natural, historical and cultural attractions.

Within a two hour drive from the city visitors can ski, bungee jump, hike, mountain bike, raft, swim, surf, golf, whale watch, visit wineries, gardens and shop.

Locally, new restaurants, bars and shops are opening all the time with plenty to keep visitors of all ages entertained including the Art Gallery, Canterbury Museum, the Christchurch Botanic Gardens, the Margaret Mahy destination playground and so much more.

## Get connected

ChristchurchNZ promotes the region as a tourism destination to media, travel trade, conventions and directly to visitors.

See [www.christchurchnz.com](http://www.christchurchnz.com) for more information.

## Who has invested in Christchurch?

Over the next three years 2,500 new hotel rooms will be built across a range of accommodation options including boutique, family-friendly and large scale developments. Investment includes:

- \$8.6 million invested by Distinction Hotel Group for a new hotel in Cathedral Square.
- \$12 million invested by Sarin Group for a 40 room, three story hotel opposite the Isaac Theatre Royal.

### FACT

Over half a million international visitors fly into Christchurch annually.



Christchurch's geographic position makes it  
a natural gateway to the South Island



*"We're extremely proud to be a high value manufacturer headquartered in Canterbury with a fast growing global client base."*

ARANZ Medical CEO Dr Bruce Davey.



# Health sector

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Christchurch is home to the largest ever public health investment in New Zealand with \$650 million being invested in the redevelopments of Burwood and Christchurch Hospitals. A further \$383 million in earthquake remediation is also

well advanced. Alongside these improvements to buildings, technology and infrastructure the health system itself has been reoriented to support people to stay well and healthy in their own homes and communities. A partnership between the Canterbury District Health Board, general practice and community care has delivered an increase in the range of services provided within primary care and the community, reducing hospital admissions.

The approach has received international acclaim, most recently from British health think tank The King's Fund who has praised the Canterbury system for its collaboration and integration.

## Get connected

Te Papa Hauora/Health Precinct is a world-class hub for health education, research and innovation that will sit at the heart of the city centre.

Construction has already started on the first building for the precinct, a Health Research Education Facility. This \$70 million building, a joint venture between Chinese investors and local developers, will be home to more than 2,000 Ara Institute of Canterbury nursing, midwifery and medical imaging students as well as Canterbury District Health Board staff and University of Canterbury researchers.

## Who has invested in Christchurch?

### ARANZ Medical

ARANZ Medical Ltd is an innovator of medical solutions, specialising in 3D scanning applications that transform clinical processes in wound care and orthotics/prosthetics.

Key innovations include Silhouette, an FDA-approved advanced wound surveillance system which supports better wound care management and increases productivity in clinical practice, and FastSCAN 3D scanning systems for orthotics and prosthetics and other applications. ARANZ Medical has a global customer base spanning the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Europe, Asia, and New Zealand.

## FACT

Canterbury's health innovations have been recognised nationally and internationally, with health leaders from Qatar, Canada, the Isle of Man and Australia visiting to see and understand what is happening here.

# Gateway to Antarctica

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## Christchurch is the Gateway to Antarctica

Christchurch's unique geographic position, international air and sea ports and world-class facilities mean it is the perfect launch pad for international research delegations and innovators travelling to Antarctica.

Christchurch has strong links spanning business, research, education and tourism. Including:

- An Antarctic Office who are committed to driving Christchurch to be an exemplar Antarctica gateway.  
See: [antarctic-office.org.nz](http://antarctic-office.org.nz)
- Christchurch International Airport acts as a base for the 4,000 kilometre flight to McMurdo Sound.
- Lyttelton Port is the refuelling station for Antarctica supply vessels.
- The International Antarctic Centre is the only specialised Antarctica attraction in the world and is an important education resource for national and international visitors.

See: [iceberg.co.nz](http://iceberg.co.nz)

## FACT

**\$187 million – the estimated economic value of Antarctica activities to the Canterbury economy.**

# Business information

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## Christchurch is one of the easiest places in the world to do business

New Zealand ranks highly across a range of global surveys measuring the ease of doing business, the level of honesty and integrity, the level of economic freedom and the simplicity of our tax system. It's a great place to start a business, or move a business to.

New Zealand has free trade agreements with many key partners, particularly in the Asia Pacific region, and its passport holders face few visas and restrictions.

Christchurch, with its international air and sea ports, and being New Zealand's second largest city, has a diverse range of businesses, well established business networks, and a mature business services sector represented by global companies and smaller locally-owned businesses.

## Investor and entrepreneur visas

Specialist visas are available for entrepreneurs and investors to contribute to our diverse economy.

New Zealand has just launched the "Global Impact Visa", targeting pioneering entrepreneurs and investors wanting to create and support innovation-based ventures and start-up teams from New Zealand.

For more information about New Zealand visas, please visit: [newzealandnow.govt.nz](http://newzealandnow.govt.nz)

To find out more about Christchurch: [christchurch.org.nz](http://christchurch.org.nz)

To find out more about New Zealand more generally: [govt.nz](http://govt.nz)

## Christchurch prides itself on being a business-friendly city.

The following agencies will be able to assist with any investment enquiries on establishing or relocating a business to Christchurch.

### ChristchurchNZ

ChristchurchNZ works to optimise the economic and social opportunities that tourism, major events, city promotion and economic development can bring to Christchurch and Canterbury. Our team is here to help you by:

- Helping you make connections with the local business community and with the wide range of business support available.
- Referring you to the right advice to help support your investigation of Christchurch as a place for business or investment.
- Providing information on the local economy.

[christchurchnz.org.nz](http://christchurchnz.org.nz) +64 3 379 5575

### Development Christchurch Ltd (DCL)

DCL is the City Council's urban development authority. We operate in a commercial way to deliver positive outcomes for investors and developers along with public good benefits. Our team can:

- Assist you to identify investment and development opportunities in the city.
- Unlock barriers to successful regeneration projects.

[dcl.org.nz](http://dcl.org.nz) +64 3 941 5992





Get in touch

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