**Appendix: Labour market data**

**September Household Labour Force Survey**

Over the years, the NEET rate and the unemployment rate in Canterbury have been better than the rates in New Zealand as a whole. But while the NEET rate is now improving in the country as the labour market improves, it has deteriorated in Christchurch.

While the percentage of 15-24 year olds who are NEET dropped fractionally from 8.7% to 8.6% in the country as a whole between September 2010 and September 2011, in Canterbury, the NEET rate rose – from 5.8% to 6.1%.

The deterioration in the Canterbury NEET rate needs unpicking. Data from the Household Labour Force Survey shows that between September 2010 and September 2011:

* The number of people aged 15-24 in greater Christchurch has fallen by 7%
* The number of young people in employment has dropped by 22%
* The number not in the labour force is up 17%
* The number in education has been stable, with greater numbers in the school system balancing the fall off in tertiary enrolments in 2011.

**Figure 1: Percentage of the population aged 15-24 who are:**

**a not in education, employment or training (NEET) b in formal education**

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These facts suggest that we shouldn’t focus solely on the NEET rate – the extent of the rise in the NEET rate has been softened by the drop in the Canterbury youth population and by increased disengagement from the labour market – ie the rise in those who are not in the labour force. At the same time, the number of young people in employment has reduced sharply.