

# Monthly Economic Update

## Data for March 2018

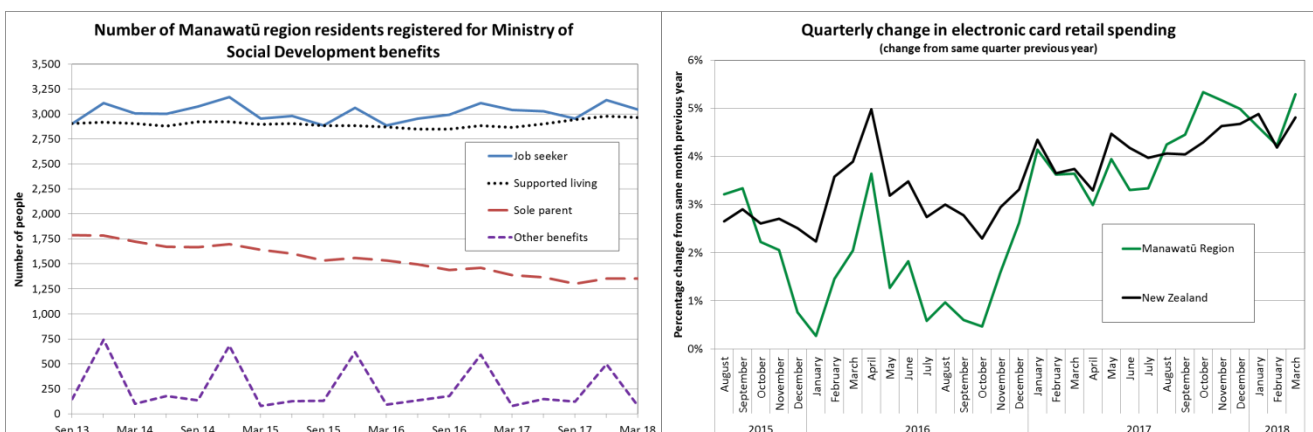
Published in April 2018

There is a 14 month delay in the publication of employment data for the Manawātū region, so insights on the state of the labour market provided by MSD benefits data are useful. The latest benefits data shows a 1.0% increase between March 2017 and March 2018, with 71 more Manawātū region residents registered for benefits, while national benefit numbers declined by 1.7%.

### Ministry of Social Development Benefits

The number of Manawātū region residents receiving the Jobseeker support benefit increased by 0.2% between March 2017 and March 2018, an increase of 5 people over the 12 month period. Palmerston North experienced an increase of 4.2%, while Manawātū District declined by 13.7%. Nationally, the number of people registered for the Jobseeker benefit declined by 0.5% over the past 12 months.

There were 33 less people in the region receiving the sole parent support benefit (2.4% decline), 1 less person receiving an emergency and hardship benefit (1.3% decline) and 100 more people receiving the supported living payment (3.5% increase). (Source: Ministry of Social Development).



Source: Ministry of Social Development / Marketview

### Electronic Card Retail Trade Spending

Electronic card retail spending (debit and credit card) in the Manawātū region increased by 5.3% in the March quarter compared with the March 2017 quarter while New Zealand retail spending increased by 4.8%. Spending increased by 4.5% in Palmerston North and by 9.8% in Manawātū District.