

9 November 2018

StatisticsNZ
PO Box 2922
Wellington 6011

Sent Via Email: patrick.ongley@stat.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: Letter of Support, Surveying Displaced Workers in the Household Labour Force Survey

The Wellington Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber) has been the voice of business in the Wellington region for 160 years since 1856 and advocates for policies that reflect the interest of Wellington's business community, in both the city and region, and the development of the Wellington economy as a whole. The Chamber is accredited through the New Zealand Chamber of Commerce network.

Business Central represents business interests throughout central New Zealand from Taranaki across to Gisborne and down to Nelson. Business Central is one of the four regional organisations comprising New Zealand's peak business advocacy group, BusinessNZ. In Wellington, our organisation operates the Wellington Chamber of Commerce, accredited to the New Zealand Chamber of Commerce network. Our organisation also delivers ExportNZ to Wellington and the Hawke's Bay.

Our two organisations write to support the comments made by BusinessNZ in their submission to StatisticsNZ's consultation document, *Surveying Displaced Workers in the Household Labour Force Survey*. Like BusinessNZ, we support the proposed survey in principle, but would be unlikely to use the survey in any significant way. Given our membership structure and close relationship to businesses, we are already in a good position to receive information on redundancies and can analyse trends within our area of influence.

In terms of the content listed in table 2, we would focus on the main reason for the survey – *Circumstance for Job Loss*. We agree that this should be given a high priority, we would advise caution when listing the factors involved in redundancy and the relationship between these factors. As the question is given a high priority, the accuracy of the data needs to be of the utmost importance. Therefore, StatisticsNZ will need to be very methodical in ensuring that the process in which the question is answered gives the most accurate data possible. We also believe that there are usually two sides to any situation. Displacement from an employee's point of view might be quite different from displacement as seen by the employer. Therefore, we would be interested to know whether there will be any type of checking process to ensure the accurate recording of why workers are displaced.

Overall, our organisation does not have any objection to the surveying of displaced workers in the Household Labour Force Survey. However, we reference the comments made on questions 2 & 3 in BusinessNZ's submission, and our focus the circumstance of job loss in table 2 as issues we believe need to be considered.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment to support the submission made by BusinessNZ. We look forward to further developments in this area and commenting in the future.

Yours sincerely,



John Milford
Chief Executive
Wellington Chamber of Commerce & Business Central