

**WESTPAC : McDERMOTT MILLER EMPLOYMENT CONFIDENCE SURVEY**

**DECEMBER 2016**

“Employment optimism among working New Zealanders consolidated further in the December quarter of 2016” announced Richard Miller, Managing Director, McDermott Miller Limited. The Westpac : McDermott Miller New Zealand Employment Confidence Index now stands at 112.7, up 2.6 index points since September 2016 and 10.1 points since December 2015.

“The lift in employment confidence is widespread”, observed Richard Miller, “both private and public sector workers surveyed are optimistic about the employment situation in New Zealand, with Employment Confidence indices of 110.5 and 115.1 respectively.” “hitherto, public sector workers have tended to be sceptical about employment prospects”, he noted.

“Taken together, the positive 2016 December quarter results of the Westpac : McDermott Miller Consumer Confidence Survey and Employment Confidence Survey indicate growing optimism among New Zealanders that the outlook for the New Zealand economy is improving”, concluded Richard Miller.

ENDS

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**Index Background**

The Consumer Confidence Index is based on a survey of a representative sample of 1554 New Zealand households interviewed during 1-10 December 2016. It analyses answers to five standard questions on personal financial circumstances, expectations for the economy and attitude to buying substantial household items. Index scores measure consumer confidence in the economy, with a score of greater than 100 showing more optimism than pessimism and vice versa for a score below 100.

**Acknowledgement**

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