



Forestry Profile

Employment Nelson-Tasman

Introduction

The region enjoys competitive advantages in forestry due to climate, stable soils, comparative lower costs of production, and closeness to port facilities. Virtually all the forests are within 50km of the city. There are an estimated 100,000 hectares in forest plantations, this represents 10% of the total land area.

Employment in the Industry

1600 people were employed locally in the forestry industry, in the year 2000.

- ◆ Forestry is a progressive industry with opportunities in many different areas such as solid wood processing, wood panel manufacturing, pulp and paper manufacturing, bio-security, management, office and consultant positions.
- ◆ With massive volumes of trees maturing in the next two to five years, the key suppliers will be needing qualified staff. There will be an increased demand for skilled workers and allied support services such as processing and transportation.
- ◆ Nelson Pine Industries operate a medium density fibreboard plant 24 hours day. The longest hours in the world.

What Employers Are Looking For

- ◆ Physical strength is required as work in sawmills is physically demanding, involving stacking and handling lumber. Minimum qualifications are School Cert (NCEA Level 1) maths, english, science and some indication of mechanical aptitude. Also required are good communication skills, motivation, commitment, interpersonal skills, and practical experience in horticulture. A Diploma in Horticulture, or NZHITO are required.
- ◆ Those who have grown up in the country, or have rural experience, who enjoy being outside in different weather conditions do well in this industry.
- ◆ Experience working with machinery, or interaction with people, is helpful.

Current Skill Shortages

- ◆ **Saw doctors** are in short supply and the rates they can charge are climbing. Note - it takes two to three years to train as a saw doctor.
- ◆ **Pruners** positions, such as forestry pruners, continue to be difficult to fill in the region.
- ◆ **Apprentices.** There is a general shortage of young people entering this industry.
- ◆ The Forestry industry have a current skill shortage across the board for experienced forestry workers, and are having to recruit workers with a minimum of skills.

FORESTRY Employment Categories

Job Title/Wages	No's Employ	Job Description	Training
Silviculture	120		
Planting Contract wages Lower end \$24-\$36,000pa + allowances \$9,000pa		Planning and planting new forest plantations	On the job training or forest planting, National Certificate in Forestry
Silviculture, Pruning, thinning Same as above		Caring for trees pruning & thinning	Certificate in Silviculture
Forestry Apprenticeship	210	Growing standing timber in plantations	Modern Apprenticeships in the NZ Forest Industries

Logging contract work \$25,000+ pa	310	Felling, cutting & shaping trees for rough hewn products	National Certificate in Forestry, on the job unit standard training
Services to Forestry \$20,800 + pa	120	Forest conservation, plantation maintenance	National Certificate or Diploma in Forestry
Operations Harvesting Supervisor \$55,000pa Crew boss \$50,000pa Logger \$29-\$41,600pa		Co-ordinates the placement of logging crews in forests & ensures crews meet the standards set by forest owners. Logging trees in a crew	Preferred 6 th form English and Biology. Preferred to have a National Certificate or National Diploma in Forestry
Processing			
Manufacturing Production \$41,600-\$64,400pa	190	Operation of a Medium Density Fibreboard manufacturing plant on a 24 hour basis	Appropriate skills or training
Log Saw-Milling and Timber \$20-\$70,000pa	520	Processing rough sawn logs into timber	National Certificate in Solid Wood Processing
Saw Milling Labourer \$20,800-\$29,100pa Apprentice up to \$31,200pa Saw-Doctors \$20,800-\$37,000pa	10	Maintaining saw milling machinery, manufacturing, maintaining and sharpening the tools. Saw Doctors repair and hand sharpen chains, band and circular saws	Certificate in Saw Doctoring . Saw Doctors required 2-3 years of training
Production \$20,800-\$64,500pa \$33,200-\$91,000pa	190	Operation of a Medium Density Fibreboard plant on a 24 hour basis. Manufacturing particle and chipboard	Appropriate skills or training
Wooden Products Up to \$34,000pa	95	Wooden containers, pallets or packing cases. Preserving timber	National Cert in Wood Panel Manufacturing
Wooden Furniture variable	101	Make wooden containers and products	Appropriate training or skills
Wooden Structural variable	140	Wooden structural fittings for prefabricated buildings	Appropriate training or skills
Timber Wholesale variable	145	Deal in timber, plywood and veneer	Knowledge of the industry

Some Training Pathways to Employment

- ◆ **National Certificate in Horticulture – Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology** (Richmond), 20 weeks.
- ◆ **National Diploma in Forestry Management – NMIT**, duration 2 ½ years.
- ◆ **Certificate in Forest Harvesting – NMIT**, duration 26 weeks.
- ◆ **Certificate in Forest Silviculture – Christchurch**, duration 20 weeks.
- ◆ **Automotive/Fishing/Forestry/Driving – TOPS** Nelson Technical Institute, duration is flexible, leads towards NC in Forestry.
- ◆ **National Certificate in Forestry** train on the job, gaining unit standards with subsidised training. For info contact forestindustries@training.org.nz 07 348 7250.
- ◆ **National Certificate in Forestry Unit Standards** must be obtained while working on the job, to meet Forest Industries NZQA standards.
- ◆ NZHITO New Zealand Horticulture Industry Training Organisation.
- ◆ NZQA New Zealand Quality Assurance standards.
- ◆ Waiariki Rotorua, minimum age 17 years & NCEA level I (School Cert).
- ◆ Modern Apprenticeships are available in the following areas:
 - Forestry - Establishment and silviculture, harvesting, forest maintenance.
 - Sawmilling - Wood processing, Sawdoctor, Timber machining.
 - Wood Products Manufacturing.
 - Wood Panels Manufacturing.
 - Energy and Chemical plant.
 - Pulp and paper.

Some Major Employers

- ◆ Carter Holt Harvey Wood Products
- ◆ Southpine
- ◆ Nelson Pine Industries
- ◆ Weyerhaeuser NZ Inc
- ◆ Collectively the smaller sawmills also create a significant number of jobs