

# Primary industry workforce capability



The primary industries are changing. To meet the challenges and opportunities of today – and tomorrow – we will need to attract people from diverse backgrounds, who bring different capabilities to the sector. Recently, MPI took a closer look at how the primary industry workforce is changing in terms of numbers, qualifications and diversity. In this fact sheet we share some of the key findings from this analysis.

Between **2012 and 2014** there was a **1.5 percent** increase in worker counts in the primary industries, the bulk of this increase was in support services



Primary industry support services include a wide range of roles, including scientists, accountants, engineers and agricultural technicians.



## Employment

The median age for **employees**

**35-42** years

is lower than for **self-employed**

**46-56** years

**Self-employment** is high in the primary industries, and proportionally higher than in the national population

17.3%

primary industries

10.5%

national population

## Education

The qualification levels for 15-29 year olds who hold a formal qualification in the primary industry workforce are similar to the national population. Of this group



hold a degree-level qualification or higher.

In the Auckland and Wellington regions the proportion of primary industry workers with degree or above qualifications is **slightly higher** than the corresponding regional population. In other regions, the primary industry workforce has a **slightly lower** proportion of degree or above qualification than the corresponding regional population.

Of the 15-29 year old formally qualified primary industry workforce

24%

of the processing/  
commercialisation  
workforce

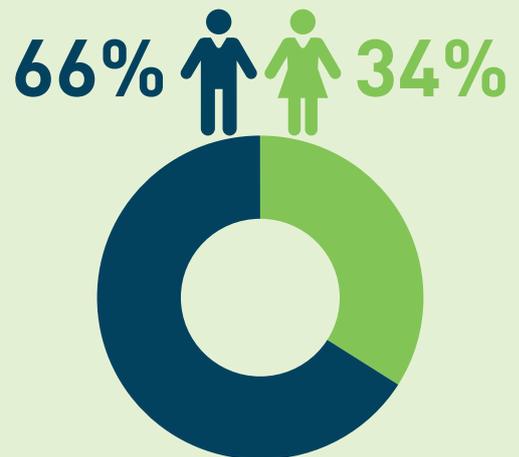
6%

of the production  
workforce

hold a **degree-level**  
qualification or higher.

## Gender

In 2014, the composition of the primary industry workforce was



The **arable sector** had the **highest** proportion of women.

The **forestry sector** had the **lowest** proportion of women.



48%



17%

## Ethnicity

Ethnic composition within the primary industries differs significantly depending on the type of work and where the work sits within the value chain (for example, production or processing).



The two most ethnically diverse sectors are **horticulture** and **arable**.

The least ethnically diverse sector is **dairy**.

**Reference:** Human capability in the primary industries: Part 1 and 2

**Data source:** Anonymised data from the Integrated Data Infrastructure, which is managed by Statistics New Zealand. The datasets used include Census data, tertiary education data, tax data and industry training organisation data.