



We all participate in the economy every day: we contribute when we go to work to earn money, and we contribute when we spend money. Jobs are the way most people earn an income. They allow us to provide for ourselves and for family members who may not be able to work themselves. Councils do different things to create jobs, and to help Kiwis find them. In this activity we'll explore the different ways local government can support employment.

→ Go to [policy.nz](https://policy.nz) and find the elections in your area

→ Choose an election and browse the candidates' profiles to learn about who is standing

1. People can work in the private sector (like businesses) or the public sector (like teachers, nurses, and government officials). Some people believe the government should not interfere with the private sector job market. Others believe that creating, supporting and finding jobs in the public and private sector is one of the most roles a government has.
  - What do you think?
2. The “unemployment rate” measures the number of Kiwis of working age who don't have a job. Have a look at the Statistics New Zealand data on unemployment in Aotearoa New Zealand [here](#) and answer the following questions:
  - What happened to the unemployment rate between June 2008 and June 2009? Why do you think this happened? How did the Global Financial Crisis impact New Zealand?
  - Is there a difference in unemployment rates between men and women? Why do you think this might be? Consider the different roles that men and women have traditionally held in many families. Is this gap likely to change in the future?

→ Browse the candidates' policies in the **Jobs and economy** topic

→ Save the policies you agree with by clicking the heart icon

3. For one of the policies you have chosen, think about its effects on these people:
  - A Kiwi who owns a small business and is struggling to pay the bills.
  - A 22-year-old Kiwi who has just graduated from university and is looking for a first job.
  - A young Kiwi who wants to go into the trades (such as plumbing or hairdressing).
  - A large international company employing 100 highly-skilled Kiwis.
4. Imagine you are a councillor or a Mayor.
  - What three policies would you try to implement first to support jobs and employment?
  - Why did you choose those policies?