

This monthly fact sheet summarises the latest labour market information. It focuses on the most recent monthly changes and complements MBIE's quarterly *Labour Market Statistics Snapshot*¹. For more information on sectors and regions, see MBIE's *COVID-19 economic data*². The *Monthly Labour Market Fact Sheet* will be updated next on 21 July 2022.

Overview

Headline quarterly statistics

Data up to March 2022 quarter

Measures	Mar-21	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22
Employment	2,748,000	2,774,000	2,824,000	2,824,000	2,826,000
— Paid Employee or Employer	2,366,800	2,396,400	2,435,000	2,458,000	2,448,300
— Self-employed	354,100	342,400	351,600	353,300	356,000
Employment Rate	67.1%	67.7%	68.8%	68.8%	68.6%
Participation Rate	70.4%	70.5%	71.2%	71.1%	70.9%
Underutilisation	361,000	312,000	277,000	276,000	280,000
— Unemployment	133,000	114,000	98,000	93,000	94,000
— Underemployment	122,000	107,000	97,000	102,000	95,000
— Potential Labour Force	106,000	91,000	83,000	82,000	91,000
Underutilisation Rate	12.1%	10.5%	9.2%	9.2%	9.3%
Unemployment Rate	4.6%	4.0%	3.3%	3.2%	3.2%
Not in the Labour Force	1,212,000	1,208,000	1,182,000	1,188,000	1,197,000
Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)	79,000	79,000	79,000	70,000	74,000
NEET Rate	12.1%	12.3%	12.2%	10.9%	11.5%
Average Weekly Hours Paid (per FTE)	38.46	39.02	38.86	38.98	38.81

Source: All measures are from the Household Labour Force Survey except for average hours worked, which is from the Quarterly Employment Survey. *Labour Market Statistics, Stats NZ (Data to March 2022 quarter, next release on 03/08/2022)*. All the data except Paid Employee or Employer, Self-employed and Average Weekly Hours Paid (per FTE) are seasonally adjusted.

The recent story

The New Zealand labour market continues to show growth with the number of filled jobs increasing over the year to April 2022 (2.9 per cent). Compared to March 2022, the number of filled jobs grew by 0.6 per cent. The following industries registered the highest annual growth in filled jobs: Professional, scientific & technical services, Financial & insurance services, Construction and Electricity, gas, water & waste services. However, the annual growth in filled jobs was negative for Arts & recreation services, Accommodation & food services, Agriculture, forestry & fishing, Education & training, and Information media & telecommunications industries. Since February 2022, the annual growth in filled jobs fell for those aged 25 to 29 years and 45 to 49 years.

The growth in online job advertisements over the year to May 2022 was 13 per cent, reflecting continued high demand for labour in the economy. There was growth in online advertising for both skilled and unskilled jobs. Job advertisements for the Health care industry remained high followed by Hospitality and Accounting, HR, legal and administration sectors. However, online job advertising for Managers continued to decrease.

The proportion of the working-age population on main benefits continued to remain below the levels seen in 2021 and 2020. There were 345,588 people on all main benefits as at 3 June 2022, with 100,899 on the Jobseeker Support-Work Ready benefit. Overall, since February 2022, the number of new recipients of Jobseeker Support remained below the number of cancellations.

The labour market remained resilient to the Omicron outbreak with businesses adopting flexible working arrangements and support available from the Government. The Leave Support Scheme (LSS) and Short-Term Absence Payment (STAP) are available for those unable to work due to being tested for COVID-19 or needing to isolate after testing positive. The COVID-19 Support Payment (CSP) was also made available to help support viable and ongoing businesses which experienced 40 per cent or more reduction in their revenues due to COVID-19 circumstances³.

Despite the increase in filled jobs and continuing demand for labour, future labour market conditions remain uncertain amid geopolitical disturbances, high inflation, and uncertain inbound and outbound migration patterns.

¹<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/employment-and-skills/labour-market-reports-data-and-analysis/labour-market-statistics-snapshot/>

²<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/economic-development/covid-19-data-resources/covid-19-economic-data/>

³<https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/covid-19-support-payment>



Filled Jobs

Data up to April 2022

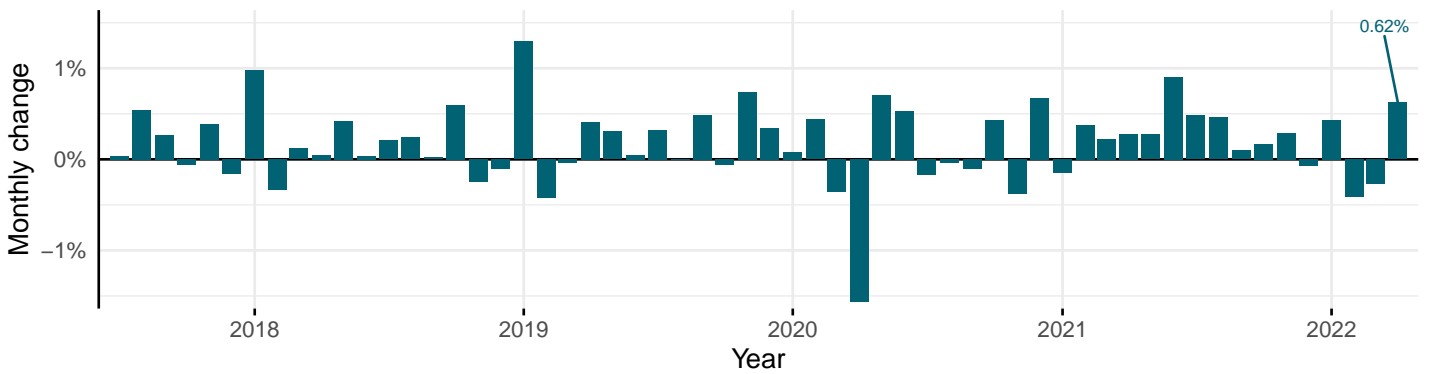
Stats NZ's Monthly Employment Indicators (MEIs) count of filled jobs uses employer payday filing of tax data. These statistics are a useful indicator to supplement the official Labour Market Statistics, although they do not count the self-employed. Recent results can be subject to fluctuations due to different employers' payroll schedules.

Annual percentage change in the number of filled jobs



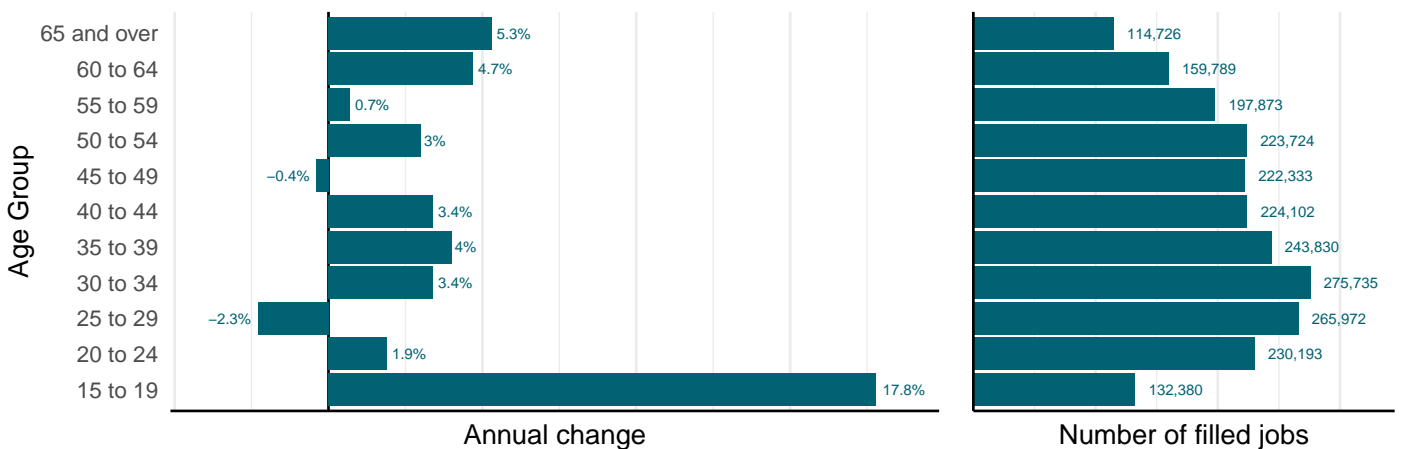
Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to April 2022, next release on 28/06/2022)

Monthly percentage change in the number of filled jobs, seasonally adjusted



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to April 2022, next release on 28/06/2022)

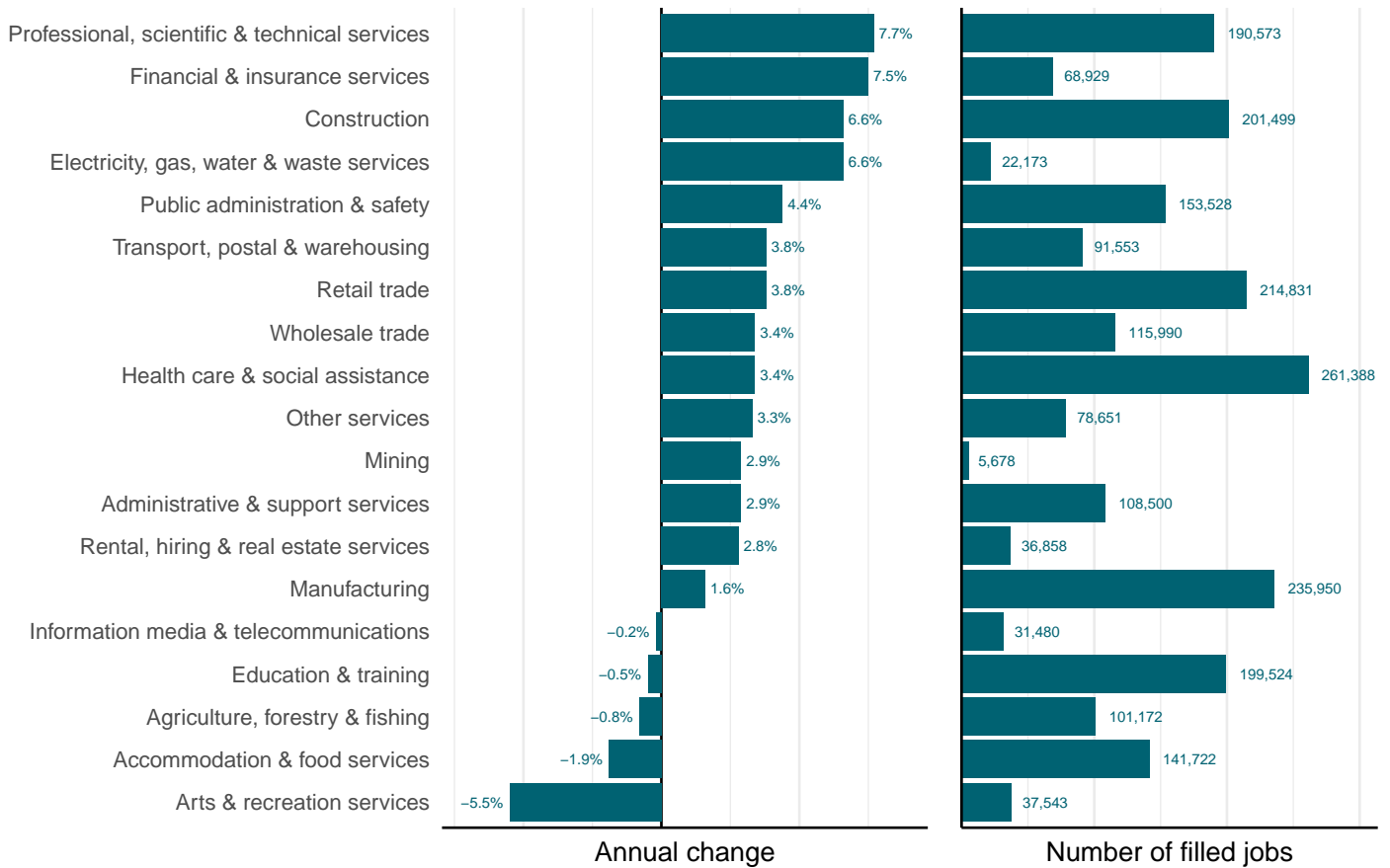
Filled jobs by age group



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to April 2022, next release on 28/06/2022)

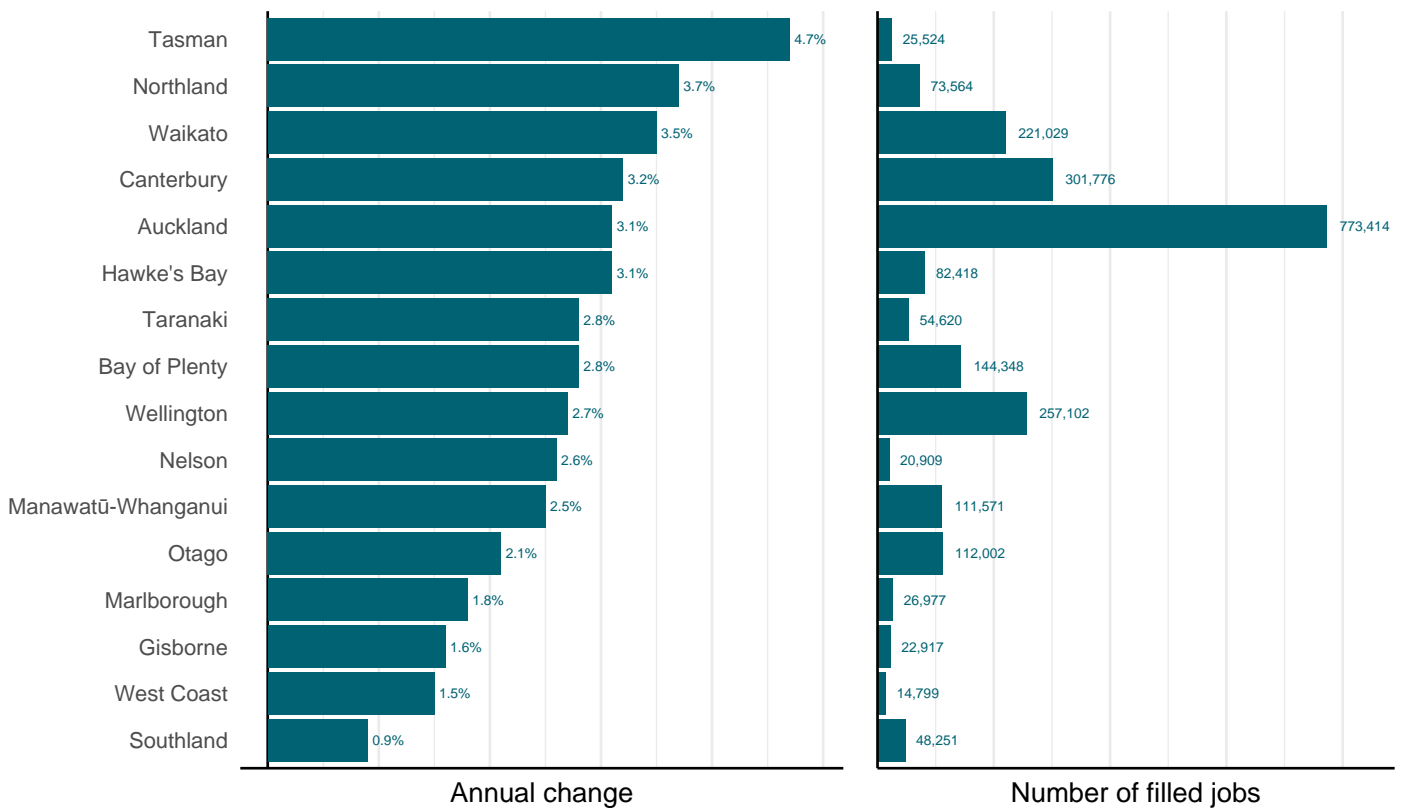


Filled jobs by industry



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to April 2022, next release on 28/06/2022)

Filled jobs by region



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to April 2022, next release on 28/06/2022)

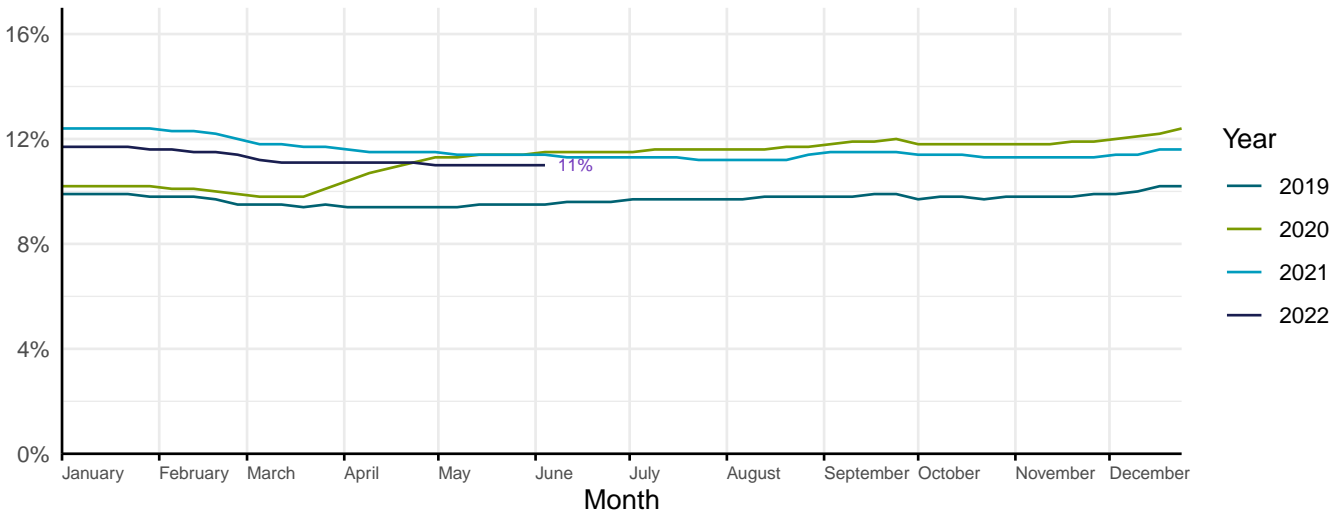


Benefit Recipients

Data up to 3 June 2022

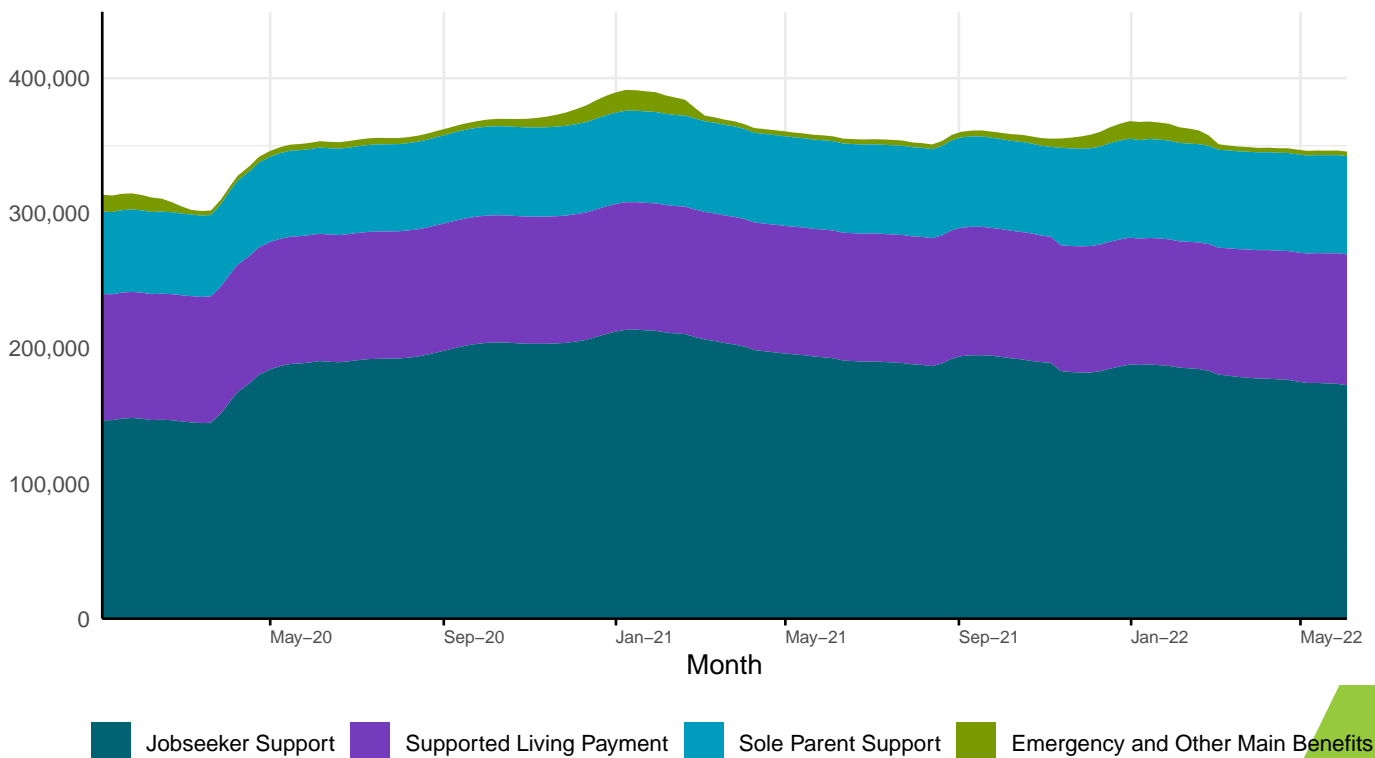
Benefits are primarily a measure of how many people are receiving income support rather than a direct measure of unemployment. Main benefits for working-age people (18 to 64 years) include: Jobseeker Support, Sole Parent Support, Supported Living Payment, and Emergency and Other main benefits. Benefit numbers, particularly Jobseeker Support - Work Ready may be used as a timely indicator of measuring “slack” in the labour market (which is officially measured through the underutilisation rate from the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS)). While the number of Jobseeker Support recipients has mostly tracked in line with the number of unemployed individuals from the HLFS, there is limited overlap between these two groups. For example, benefit numbers are essentially a measure of income support, which can be affected by policy and operational changes, therefore the relationship with official underutilisation can vary.

Percentage of the estimated working-age population receiving all main benefits



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 03/06/2022, released every Friday)

All main benefits



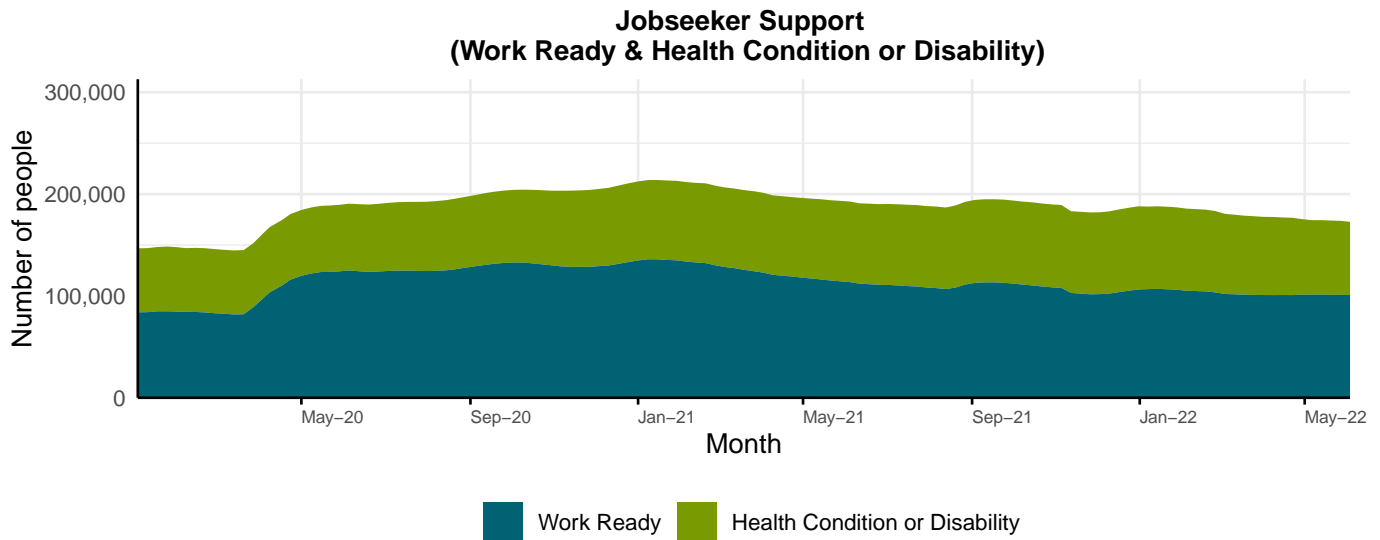
Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 03/06/2022, released every Friday)



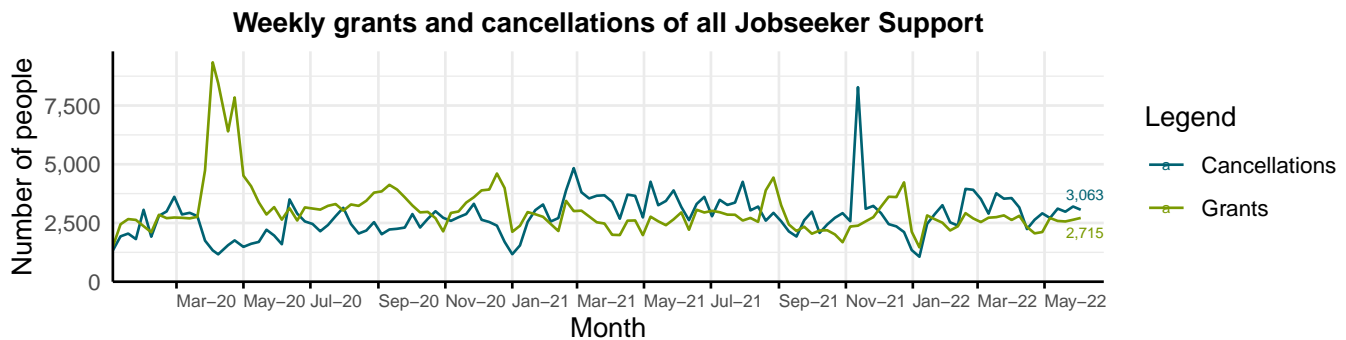
Jobseeker Benefit Recipients

Data up to 3 June 2022

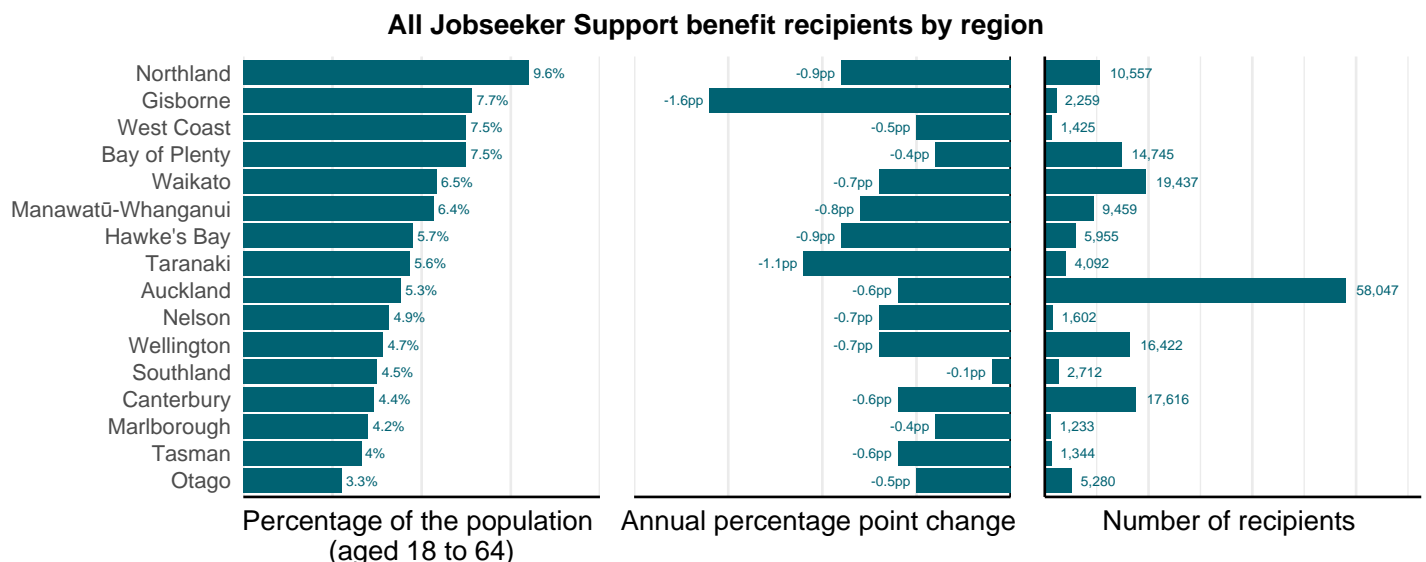
Jobseeker Support is for people who are actively looking for or preparing for work. It includes both Jobseeker Support - Work Ready (JS-WR) and Jobseeker Support - Health Condition or Disability (JS-HCD). It is a weekly payment that helps people until they find work. It includes people not in employment and looking for a job, or in part-time employment seeking more work (JS-WR), or those who have a health condition or disability affecting their ability to work, which means that either they have to reduce their hours or stop working for a while (JS-HCD).



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 03/06/2022, released every Friday)



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 03/06/2022, released every Friday)



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 03/06/2022, released every Friday)



Wage Subsidy

Wage Subsidy data up to 9 December 2021 and LSS and STAP data up to 3 June 2022

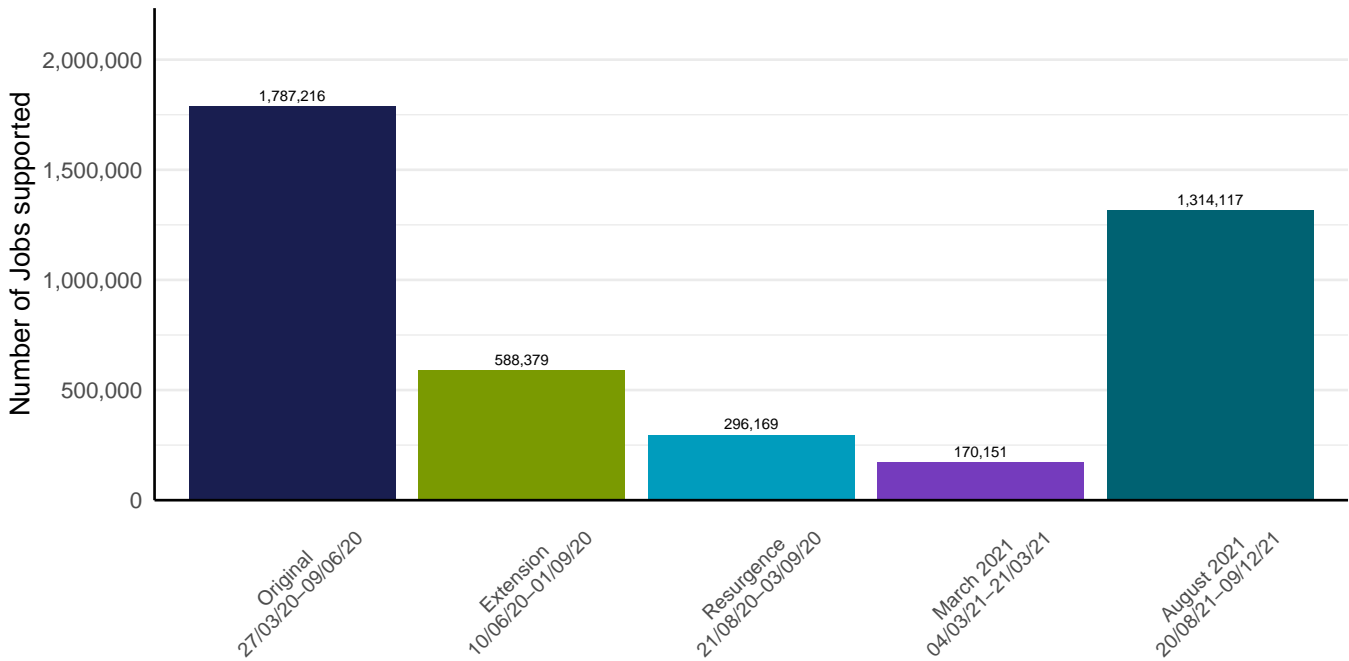
A number of COVID-19 wage subsidies were available since March 2020 to help employers and self-employed people who would otherwise have had to lay off staff or reduce their hours due to COVID-19⁴.

The COVID-19 Wage Subsidy available from 27 March 2020 to 9 June 2020, supported a large number of jobs (1,787,216 jobs) compared with subsequently available subsidies. The original Wage Subsidy Scheme was followed by the Wage Subsidy Extension introduced on 10 June 2020, which supported 588,379 jobs. In addition, a Resurgence Wage Subsidy payment was available for the last two weeks in August 2020 when Auckland was placed at Alert Level 3 and it supported 296,169 jobs.

The COVID-19 Protection Framework came into effect in early December 2021. Workers who cannot work from home and need to miss work while waiting for a COVID-19 test result, and those advised to self-isolate due to COVID-19 (and who cannot work from home), are eligible for the Short-term Absence Payment (STAP) and Leave Support Scheme (LSS).

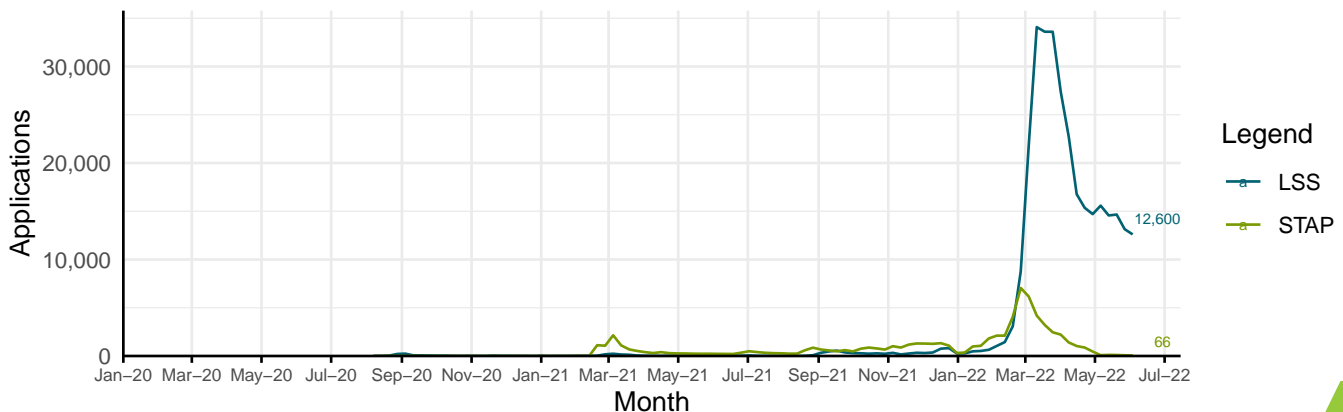
After the Omicron outbreak, the COVID-19 Support Payment was introduced to help support viable and ongoing businesses or organisations which experienced a 40 per cent or more drop in revenue⁵. As at 5 May 2022, there were 110,595 businesses supported by COVID-19 Support Payment.

Number of jobs supported by wage subsidy schemes



Source: Income Support and Wage Subsidy Weekly Update, MSD (Data to 09/12/2021)

Weekly New Leave Support Scheme and Short-term Absence Payment Applications Approved



Source: Income Support and Wage Subsidy Weekly Update, MSD (Data to 03/06/2022, released every Friday)

⁴<https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/newsroom/2020/covid-19/covid-19-wage-subsidy-employer-search.html>

⁵<https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/covid-19-support-payment>



Job Vacancies

Data up to May 2022

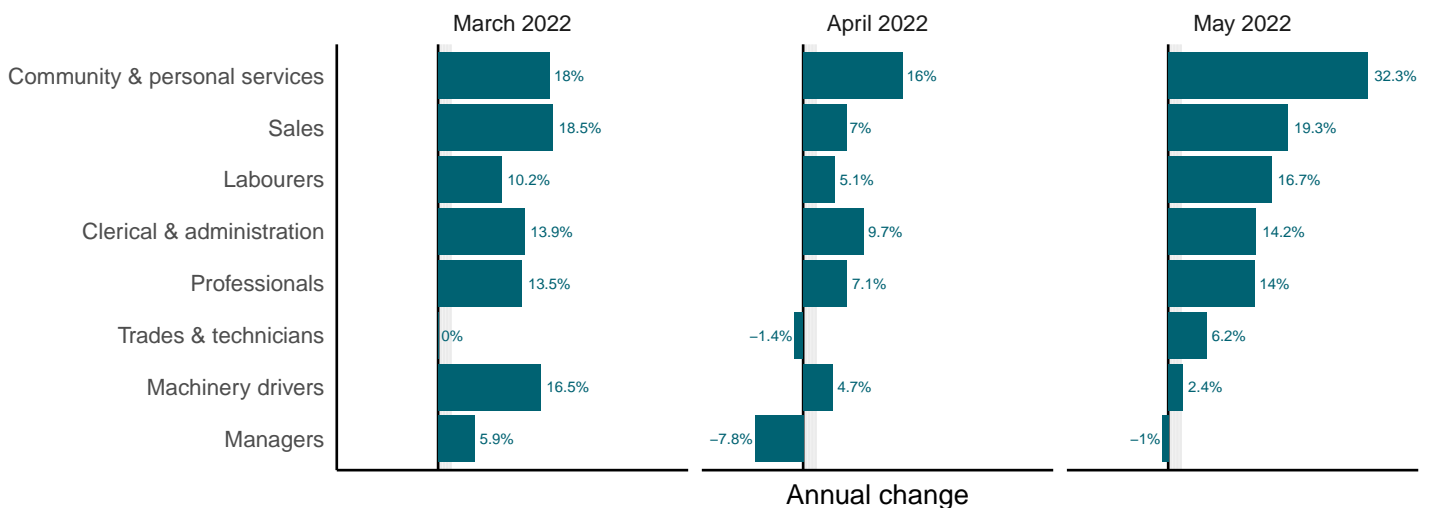
The number of jobs advertised online on major job boards can be used as a proxy for job vacancies, a key indicator of both labour demand and economic change. However, because of different hiring practices and changes in the rate of worker churn within industries, the relationship between online job advertisements and labour demand is complex.

All Vacancies Index (AVI) – online job advertising



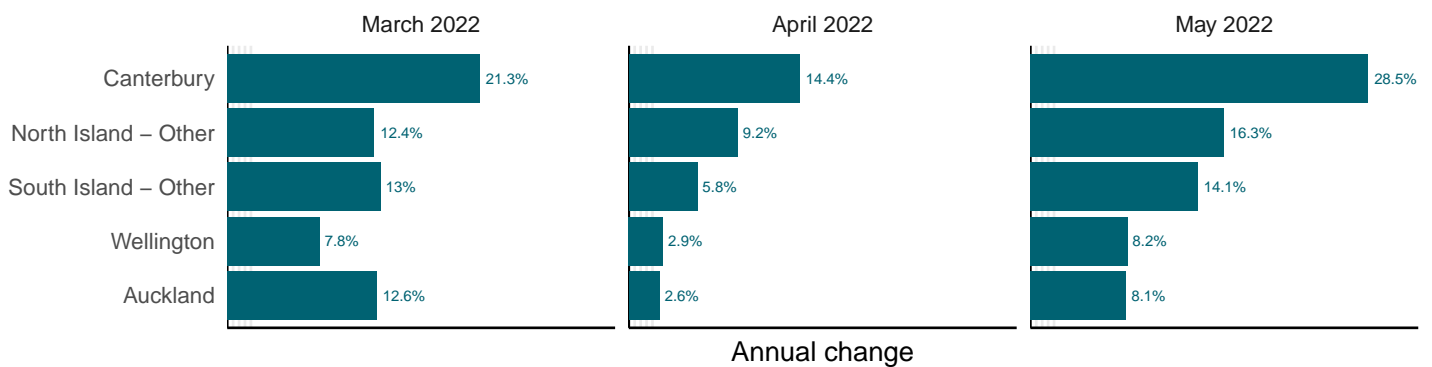
Source: Jobs Online, MBIE (Data to May 2022, next release 14/07/2022)

Annual change in online job advertising by occupation, latest three months



Source: Jobs Online, MBIE (Data to May 2022, next release 14/07/2022)

Annual change in online job advertising by region, latest three months



Source: Jobs Online, MBIE (Data to May 2022, next release 14/07/2022)



Data sources

Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) | Stats NZ

The HLFS is a nationwide, quarterly survey of households run by Stats NZ. It is the official measure of employment and unemployment in New Zealand. Data from the HLFS is used as an indicator of the overall health of the economy, particularly the unemployment rate. HLFS data is also used to compare labour force variables across demographic characteristics.

Monthly Employment Indicator (MEI) | Stats NZ

The MEI series from Stats NZ provides an early indication of changes in the labour market. These indicators use a combination of data from two different Inland Revenue sources: the Employer Monthly Schedule (EMS) and payday filing. This data is used to produce the filled jobs and gross earnings indicator series, published four to five weeks after the end of the reference month.

Monthly Benefits Update | Ministry of Social Development (MSD)

The Monthly Benefits Update from MSD provides an overview of benefit and supplementary assistance data. The report presents monthly benefit receipt numbers, and the accompanying data file provides additional information and breakdowns.

Income Support and Wage Subsidy Weekly Update | Ministry of Social Development (MSD)

The Income Support and Wage Subsidy Weekly Update provides an overview of income support, including COVID-19 Income Relief Payment data. MSD's COVID-19 reporting is available at: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/covid-19/index.html>

Jobs Online | Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE)

Jobs Online is a regular data series published quarterly by MBIE that measures changes in online job advertisements from four internet job boards — Seek, Trade Me Jobs, Education Gazette and Kiwi Health Jobs. A monthly series is available at <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/employment-and-skills/labour-market-reports-data-and-analysis/jobs-online/#jobs-online-monthly-data-release>

Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) | Stats NZ

The QES is a quarterly survey run by Stats NZ. It measures employment, earnings and hours paid of economically significant businesses in New Zealand. The purpose of the Quarterly Employment Survey is to provide a short-term indicator of employment and earnings. In addition, the data is used for compiling the business services industry component of the quarterly national accounts (on the production side). Results from the survey provide a valuable guide to the labour market and general economic conditions within New Zealand.

Previous editions

The Monthly Labour Market Fact Sheet brings together the latest available administrative and survey data. The July 2020 edition⁶ included findings from the Ministry of Health's *COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey*, the Ministry of Social Development's *Wage Subsidy Survey* and Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development's (ATEED) *COVID-19 Business Survey*. The August 2020 edition⁷ included findings from Victoria University's *Life in Lockdown* survey.

Contact us

For further information on the data contained in this fact sheet, please email us: LabourMarketInsights@mbie.govt.nz.

⁶<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/11556-monthly-labour-market-fact-sheet-july-2020>

⁷<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/11637-monthly-labour-market-fact-sheet-august-2020>

