

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

Overview

Headline quarterly statistics

Data up to June 2022 quarter

Measures	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22
Employment	2,775,000	2,823,000	2,821,000	2,820,000	2,820,000
— Paid Employee or Employer	2,395,500	2,433,700	2,455,700	2,444,600	2,449,100
— Self-employed	342,300	351,500	353,000	355,600	340,300
Employment Rate	67.8%	68.8%	68.8%	68.6%	68.5%
Participation Rate	70.5%	71.2%	71.0%	70.9%	70.8%
Underutilisation	312,000	277,000	276,000	280,000	276,000
— Unemployment	114,000	97,000	93,000	94,000	96,000
— Underemployment	108,000	97,000	101,000	94,000	94,000
— Potential Labour Force	90,000	83,000	82,000	91,000	86,000
Underutilisation Rate	10.5%	9.2%	9.2%	9.3%	9.2%
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	3.3%	3.2%	3.2%	3.3%
Not in the Labour Force	1,207,000	1,182,000	1,188,000	1,196,000	1,200,000
Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)	79,000	78,000	70,000	74,000	78,000
NEET Rate	12.2%	12.2%	10.9%	11.6%	12.1%
Average Weekly Hours Paid (per FTE)	39.04	38.86	38.98	38.78	38.75

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 June 2022 quarter, next release on 02/11/2022)*. All the data except Paid Employee or Employer and Self-employed are seasonally adjusted.

The recent story

The June quarter 2022 labour market statistics release showed the labour market remaining tight and steady over the quarter amid uncertain economic and geopolitical conditions. Businesses have responded by increasing wages (adjusted Labour Cost Index increased 3.4 per cent from the same time last year, the highest increase since late 2008). However, wage growth did not match the pace of inflation (Consumer Price Index increased by 7.3 per cent from the same time last year).

Filled jobs have increased for all three months in the June quarter. Over the year to June 2022, the number of filled jobs increased by 56,327. The following industries registered the highest increases in the number of filled jobs: Professional, scientific & technical services (10,770 more jobs), Construction (9,320 more jobs), and Public administration & safety (6,920 more jobs). However, the number of filled jobs continued to decline for Arts & recreation services, Accommodation & food services, Agriculture, forestry & fishing, and Information media & telecommunications industries.

The level of online job advertising has been relatively steady over the last six months but has fallen 10.8 per cent over the year to July 2022. However, hiring intentions remain at elevated levels after recovering from a record low in April 2020.

Since May 2022, the proportion of the working-age population on main benefits has continued to remain below the levels seen in 2021 and 2020. There were 345,570 people on all main benefits as of 5 August 2022, with 100,740 on the Jobseeker Support-Work Ready benefit (down 6,903 people over the year).

The continued support from the Government, along with other aspects such as businesses adopting flexible working arrangements and high demand in the economy, have helped the New Zealand labour market recover from the COVID-19 outbreak. New Zealand's unemployment rate remained near a record low at 3.3 per cent in the June 2022 quarter. During 2020 and 2021, the proportions of jobs supported by Wage Subsidy programmes varied across different industries. The proportions of jobs supported during 2020 remained highest, with almost 100 per cent coverage for Construction and Accommodation & food services. However, the proportions of jobs supported during 2021 as compared to 2020 substantially reduced for Transport, postal & warehousing, and Professional, scientific & technical services.

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/>

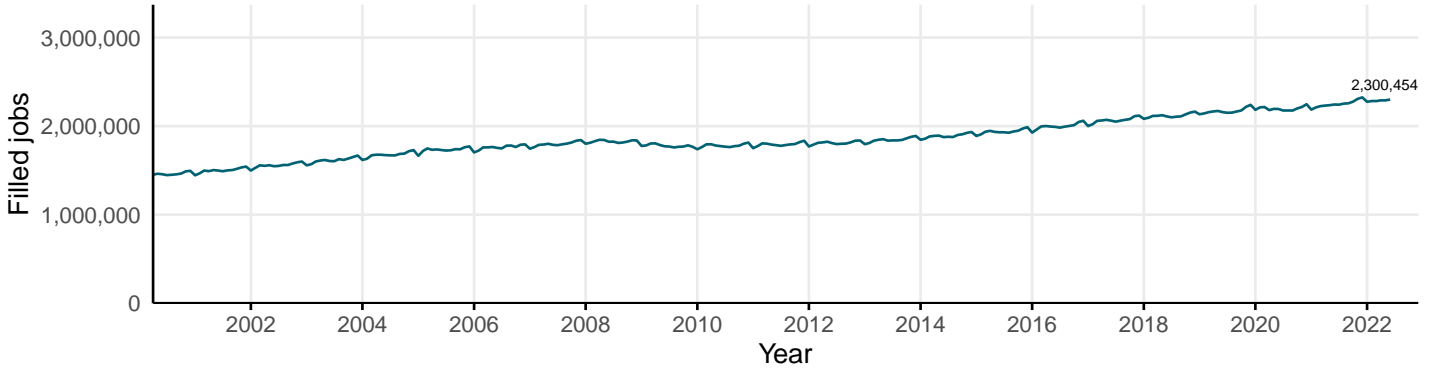


Filled Jobs

Data up to June 2022

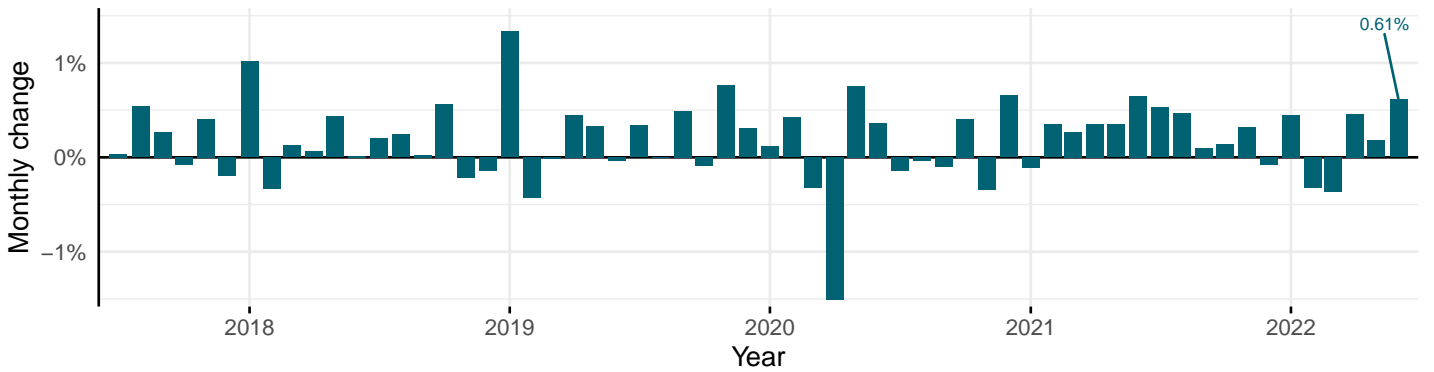
Stats NZ's Monthly Employment Indicators (MEIs) count of filled jobs uses employer payday filing of tax data. These statistics are a useful indicator to supplement the official Labour Market Statistics, although they do not count the self-employed. Recent results can be subject to fluctuations due to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

The number of filled jobs



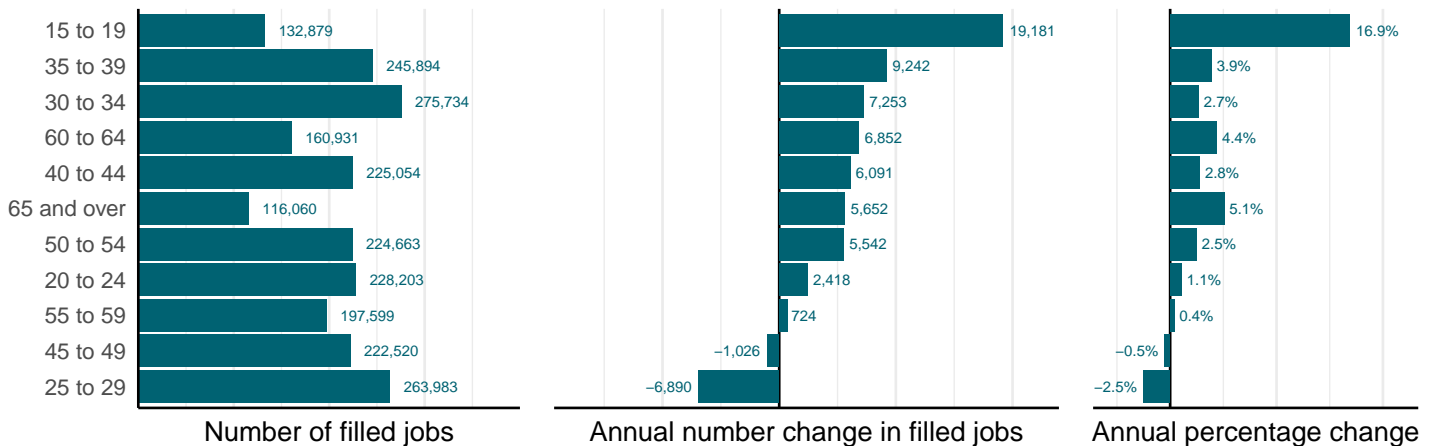
Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to June 2022, next release on 29/08/2022)

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



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to June 2022, next release on 29/08/2022)

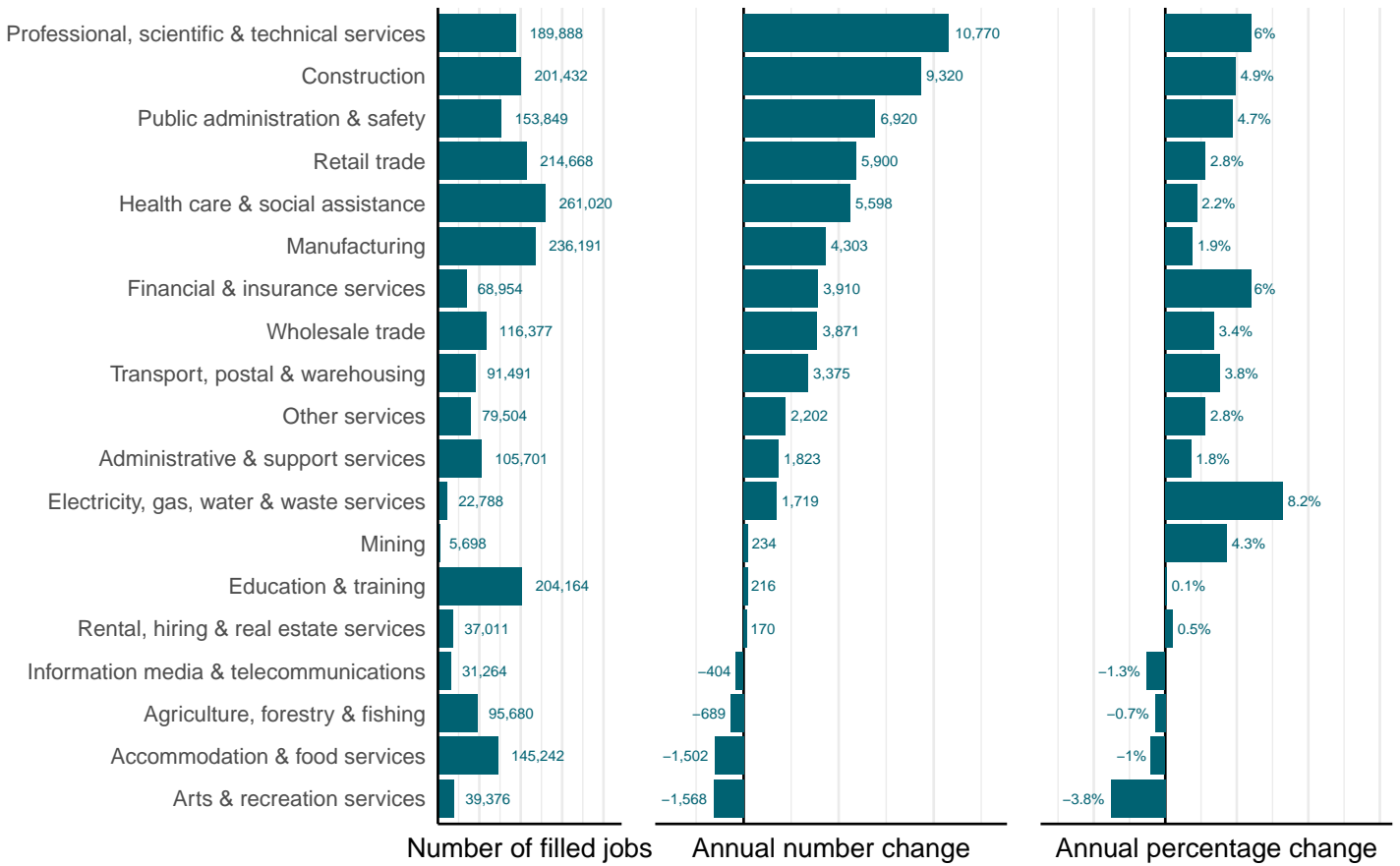
Filled jobs by age group



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to June 2022, next release on 29/08/2022)

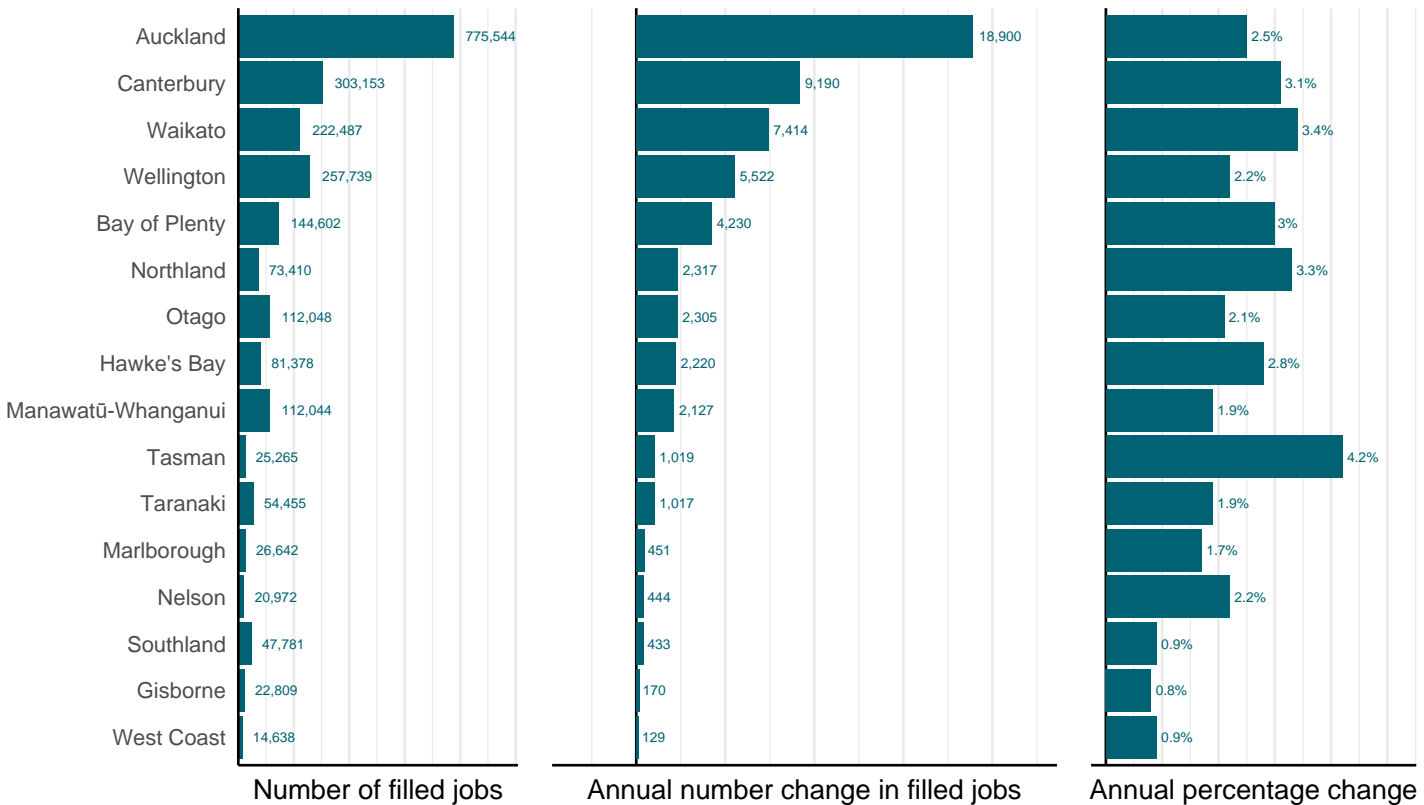


Filled jobs by industry



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to June 2022, next release on 29/08/2022)

Filled jobs by region



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to June 2022, next release on 29/08/2022)

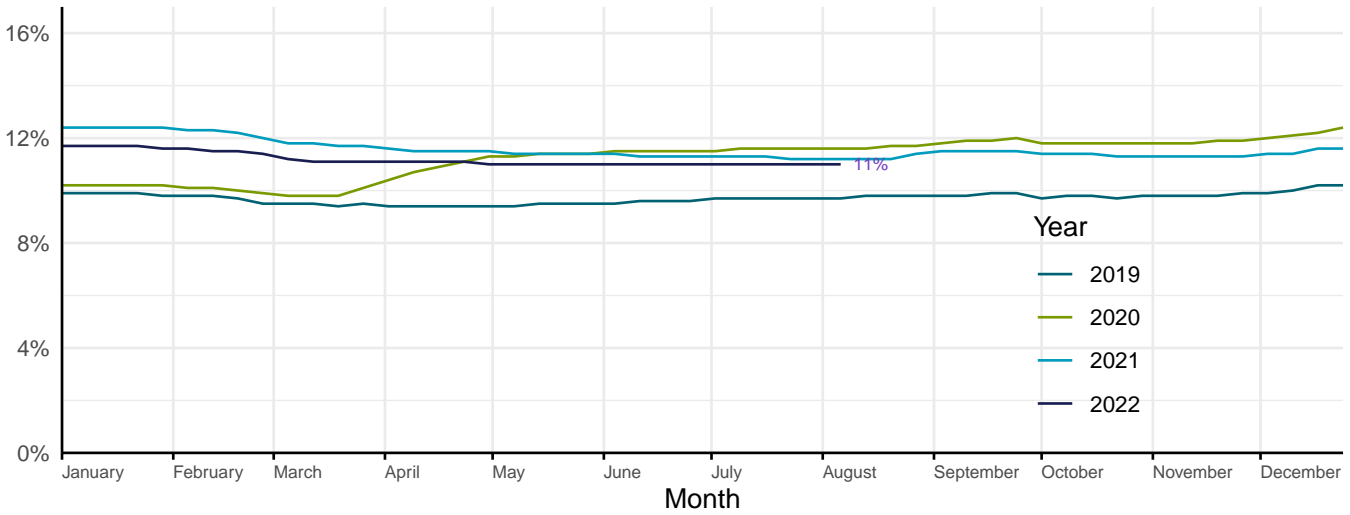


Benefit Recipients

Data up to 5 August 2022

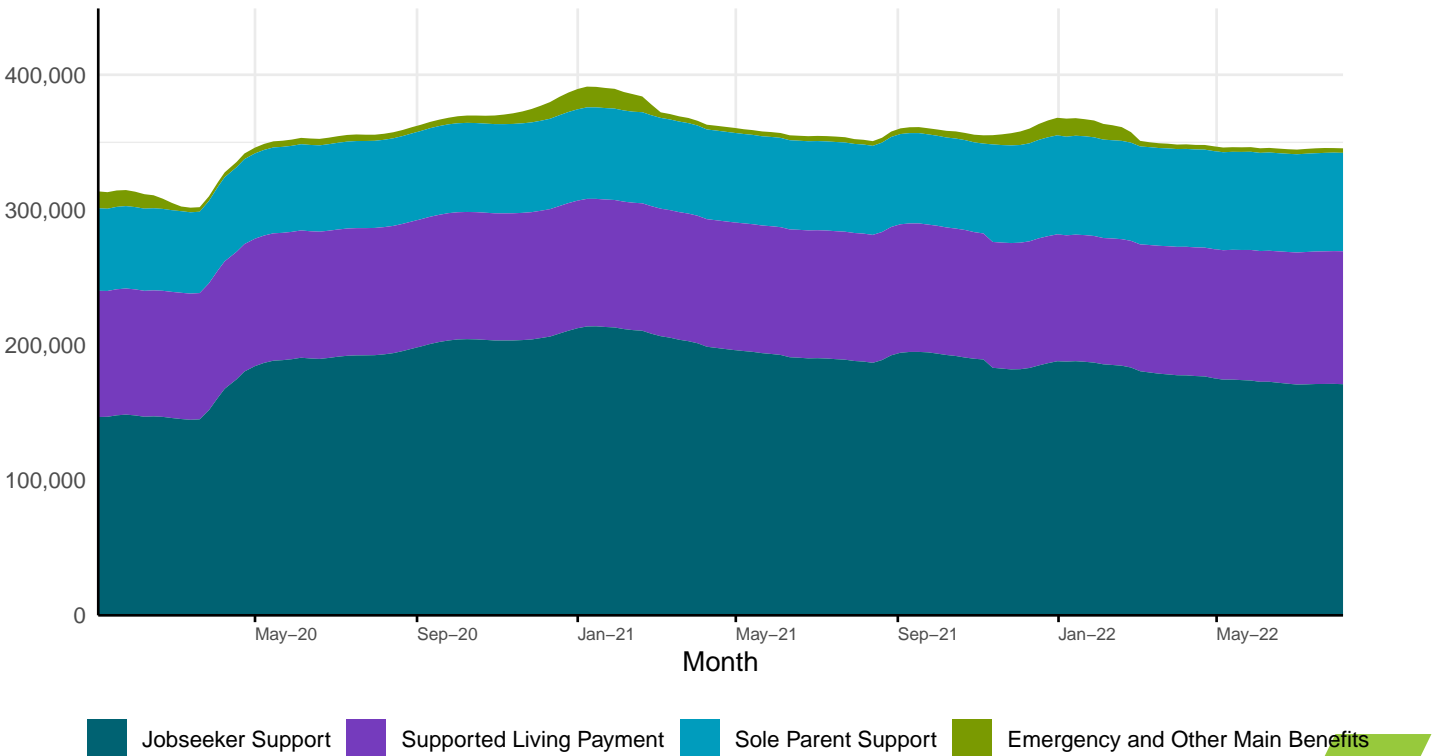
Benefits are primarily a measure of how many people are receiving income support rather than a direct measure of unemployment. Main benefits for working-age people (18 to 64 years) include: Jobseeker Support, Sole Parent Support, Supported Living Payment, and Emergency and Other main benefits. Benefit 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))³. While the number of Jobseeker Support recipients has mostly tracked in line with the number of unemployed individuals from the HLFS, this relationship can be affected by policy and operational changes.

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



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 05/08/2022, released every Friday)

All main benefits



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 05/08/2022, released every Friday)

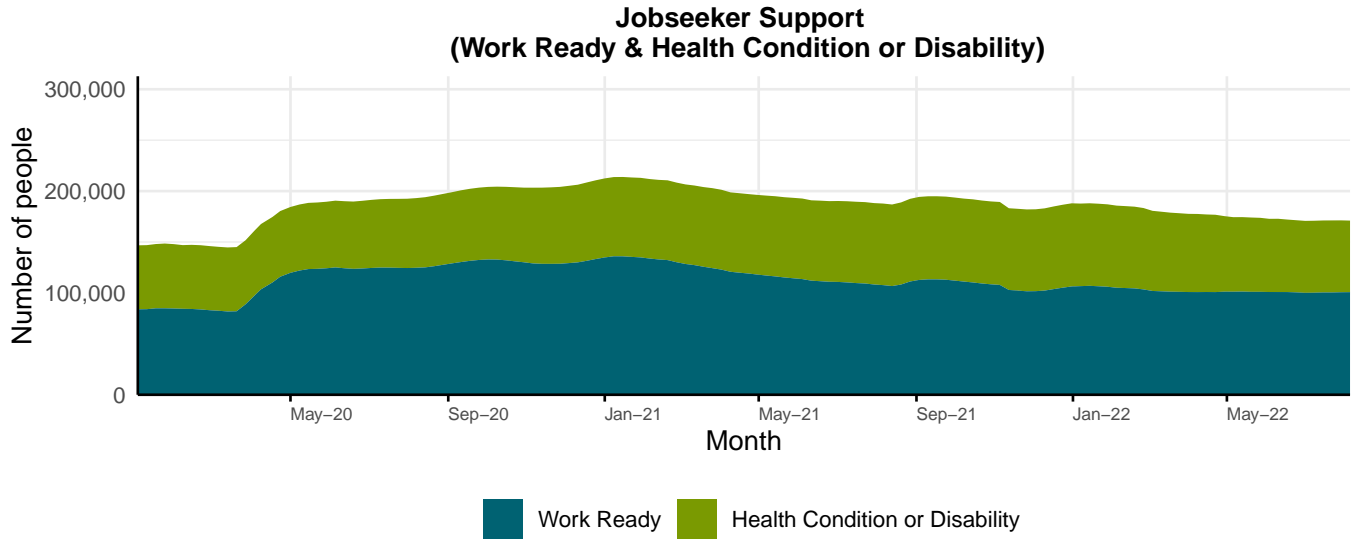
³<https://www.stats.govt.nz/research/investigating-the-relationship-between-unemployment-and-benefit-receipt/>



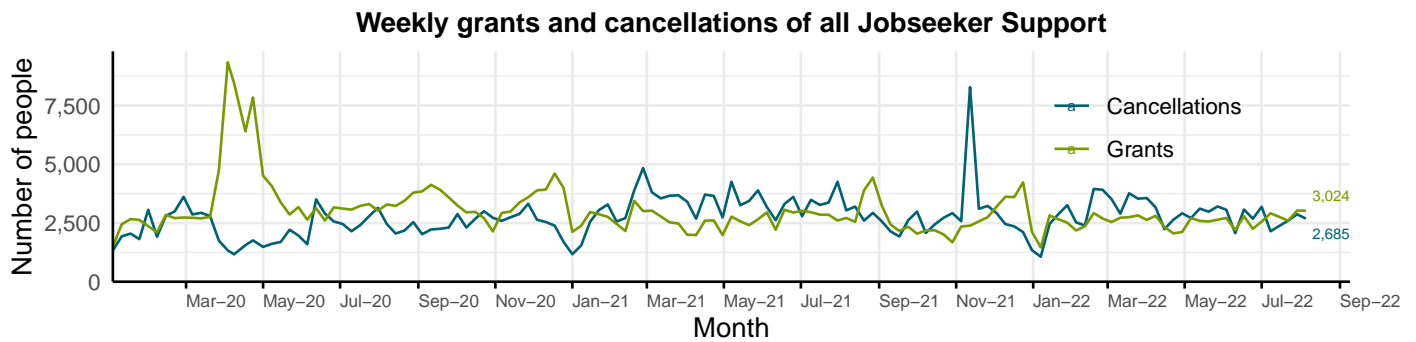
Jobseeker Benefit Recipients

Data up to 5 August 2022

Jobseeker Support is for people who are actively looking 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 need to reduce their hours or stop working for a while (JS-HCD).

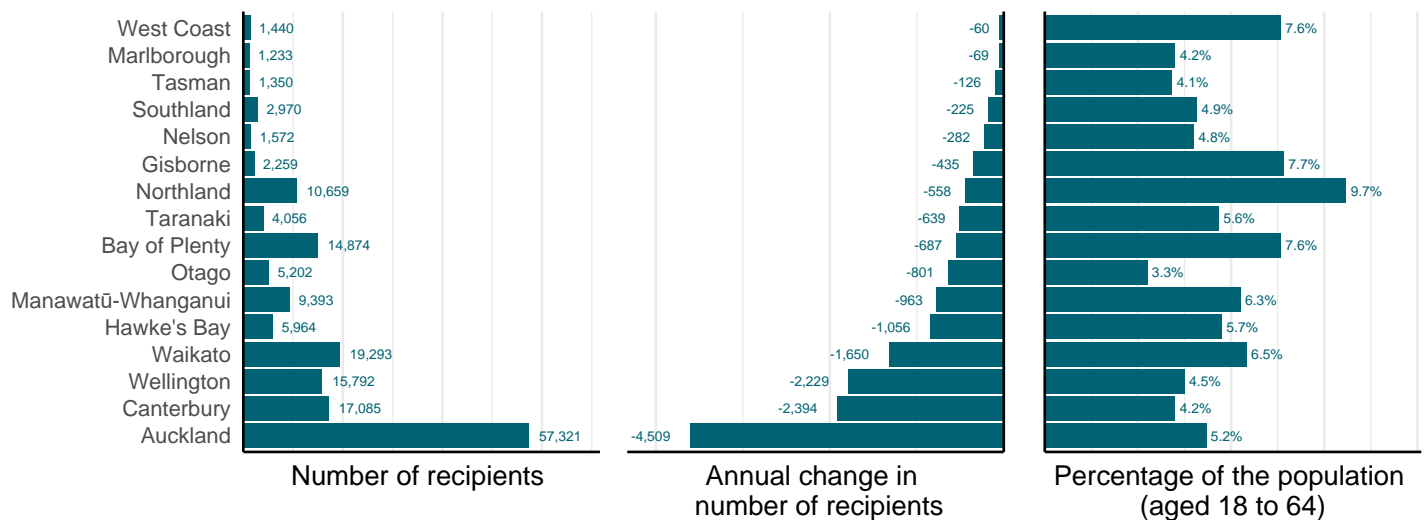


Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 05/08/2022, released every Friday)



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 05/08/2022, released every Friday)

All Jobseeker Support benefit recipients by region



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 05/08/2022, released every Friday)

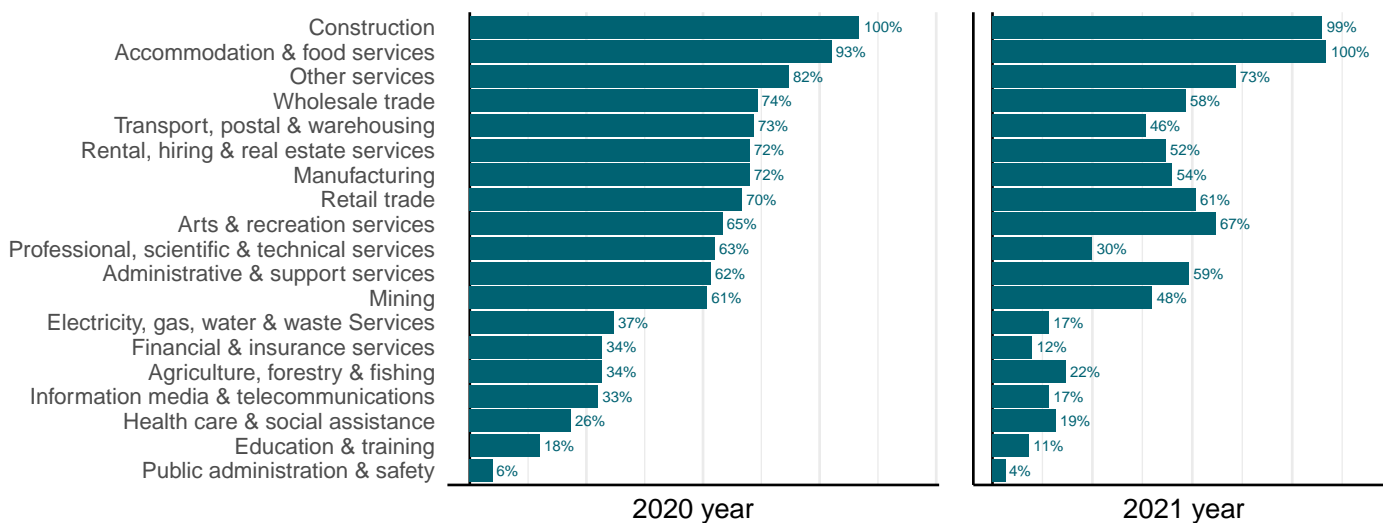
Wage Subsidy

Several 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 many 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 three and it supported 296,169 jobs.

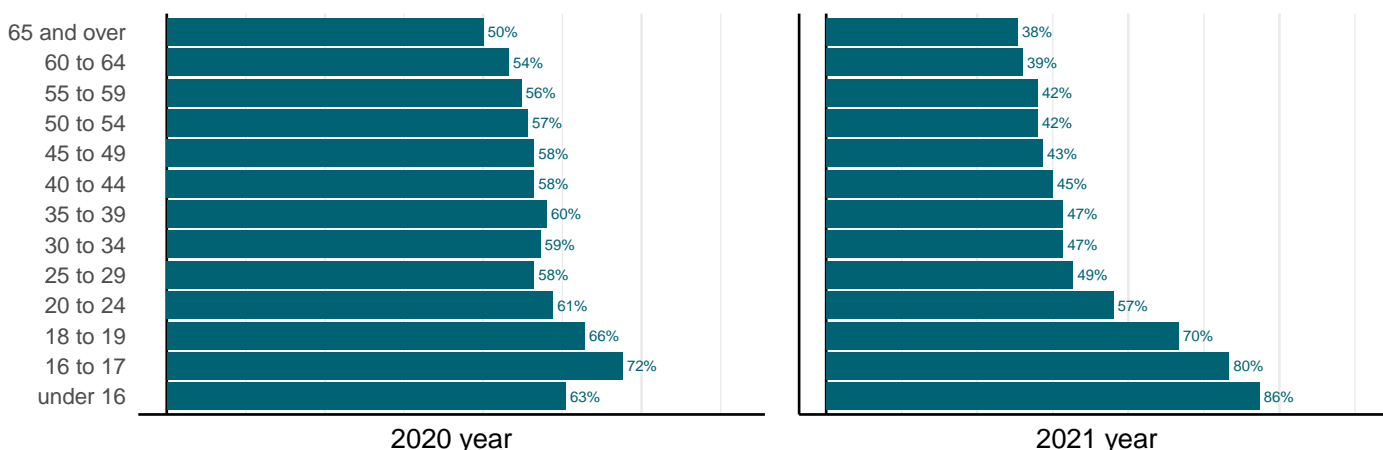
When Auckland once again moved to Alert Level three and the rest of the country moved to Alert Level two on 28 February 2021, the COVID-19 Wage Subsidy March 2021 payment was introduced. This subsidy supported a total of 170,151 jobs. Related to the August Alert Level changes, the Wage Subsidy August 2021 was introduced, consisting of eight wage subsidies. The subsidies were open from 20 August 2021 to 9 December 2021 and supported an increased number of jobs (1,314,117 jobs), reflecting the extended lockdown period particularly in Auckland. The Wage Subsidy Scheme was discontinued after the COVID-19 Protection Framework came into effect in early December 2021⁵.

Proportions of unique jobs supported by at least one wage subsidy programme in 2020 and 2021 by industry



Source: Wage Subsidy Proportion of Jobs Supported, MSD (Data to 07/01/2022)

Proportions of unique jobs supported by at least one wage subsidy programme in 2020 and 2021 by age group



Source: Wage Subsidy Proportion of Jobs Supported, MSD (Data to 07/01/2022)

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

⁵This is the wrap-up of the wage subsidy section for this report. In the future Labour Market factsheets this section will be removed until there are some new COVID-19 related supports introduced by the government.



Job Vacancies

Data up to July 2022

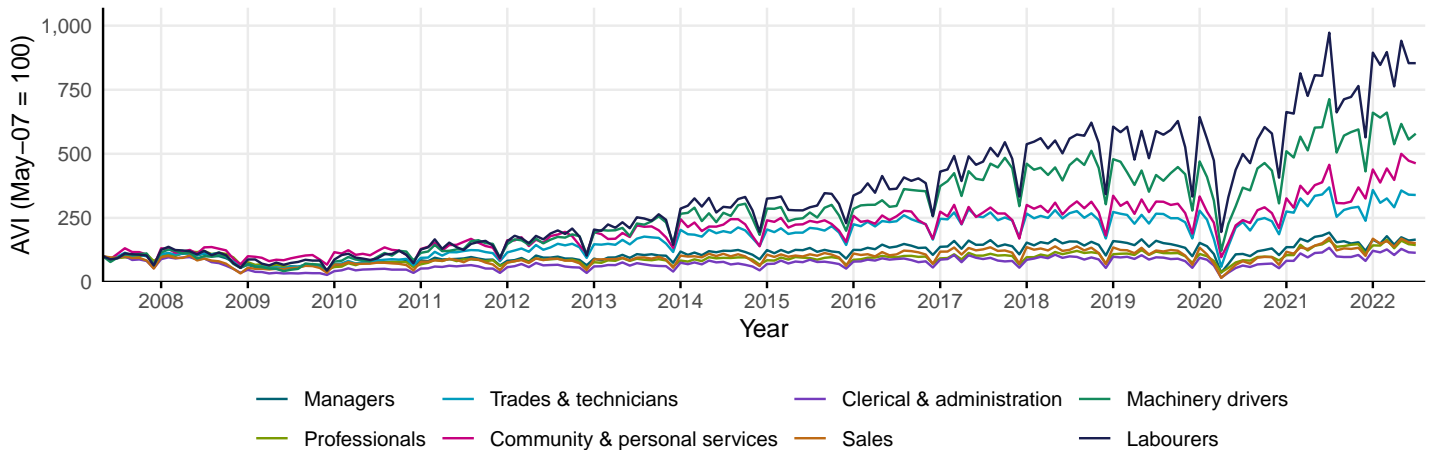
The number of jobs advertised online on major job boards can be used as a proxy for job vacancies, a key indicator of both labour demand and economic change. However, because of different hiring practices and changes in the rate of worker churn within industries, the relationship between online job advertisements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

All Vacancies Index (AVI) – online job advertising



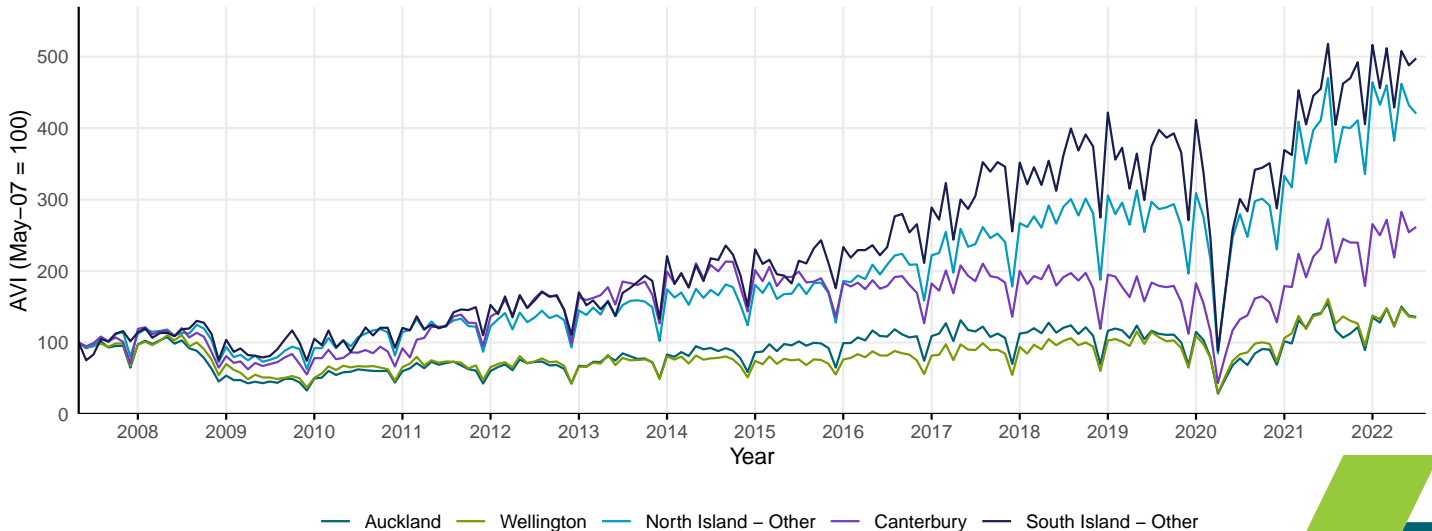
Source: Jobs Online, MBIE (Data to July 2022, next release 14/09/2022)

All Vacancies Index (AVI) by occupation



Source: Jobs Online, MBIE (Data to July 2022, next release 14/09/2022)

All Vacancies Index (AVI) by region



Source: Jobs Online, MBIE (Data to July 2022, next release 14/09/2022)



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 & 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>

