



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 22 December 2022.

Overview

Headline quarterly statistics

Data up to September 2022 quarter

Measures	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22
Employment	2,819,000	2,818,000	2,818,000	2,817,000	2,853,000
— Paid Employee or Employer	2,432,400	2,453,700	2,441,500	2,445,400	2,462,600
— Self-employed	351,300	352,800	355,200	339,800	359,100
Employment Rate	68.7%	68.8%	68.6%	68.6%	69.3%
Participation Rate	71.1%	71.0%	70.9%	70.9%	71.7%
Underutilisation	276,000	276,000	280,000	277,000	273,000
— Unemployment	97,000	93,000	94,000	96,000	97,000
— Underemployment	96,000	101,000	94,000	95,000	99,000
— Potential Labour Force	83,000	82,000	91,000	86,000	77,000
Underutilisation Rate	9.2%	9.2%	9.3%	9.2%	9.0%
Unemployment Rate	3.3%	3.2%	3.2%	3.3%	3.3%
Not in the Labour Force	1,185,000	1,187,000	1,194,000	1,196,000	1,167,000
Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)	78,000	70,000	74,000	77,000	74,000
NEET Rate	12.2%	11.0%	11.6%	12.1%	11.5%
Average Weekly Hours Paid (per FTE)	38.82	38.98	38.79	38.80	39.00

Source: All measures are from the Household Labour Force Survey except for average weekly hours paid, which is from the Quarterly Employment Survey. Labour Market Statistics, Stats NZ (Data to September 2022 quarter, next release on 01/02/2023). All the data except Paid Employee or Employer and Self-employed are seasonally adjusted.

The recent story

More workers in New Zealand are feeling secure in their jobs, with 52.8 per cent of employed people saying there was almost no chance they would involuntarily lose their job or business in the next 12 months, compared with 45.6 per cent in the September 2021 quarter (Household Labour Force Survey)³. At the same time businesses are starting to feel more confident about future economic conditions indicating the demand for labour will remain elevated in future. A net 42 per cent of businesses surveyed expected a deterioration in general economic conditions over the coming months, a decrease from the 62 per cent of businesses who expected this in the June 2022 quarter (Quarterly Survey of Business Opinion (QSBO))⁴.

On average, hourly earnings during the September 2022 quarter grew annually by 7.4 per cent to \$37.86 per hour surpassing the 7.2 per cent annual CPI inflation in the September 2022 quarter. During the September 2022 quarter the unemployment rate was unchanged at 3.3 per cent while the employment rate reached a record high since the series began in 1986, the employment rate increased from 68.6 per cent in the June 2022 quarter to 69.3 per cent. Over the year to the September 2022 quarter there were 34,200 more people employed. The main driver of this annual employment growth was younger workers, 19,600 more people aged 15-19 were employed comprising 7,800 more full-time and 11,800 more part-time workers.

The labour market continues to remain strong and tight, with a record high labour force participation rate of 71.7 per cent, an increase from 70.9 per cent in the last quarter. The increase in the participation rate is seen for both Māori and Pacific Peoples populations, up 0.8 percentage points annually to 69.4 per cent and 3.6 percentage points annually to 70.1 per cent respectively. Along with the high participation rate, more people being available to start and actively applying for jobs, the demand for labour continues to grow. Over the year to October 2022, online job advertisements grew by 6.8 per cent. The Hospitality and Education industries continue to register the highest growth (84.8 per cent and 52.6 per cent respectively). However, over the year to September 2022, the number of filled jobs decreased in these industries (738 fewer jobs in the Education industry and 417 fewer jobs in the Accommodation & food services industry). Whereas the highest decrease in the number of filled jobs was in the Agriculture, forestry & fishing industry (3,005 fewer jobs).

In the strong labour market, the number of people on the Jobseeker Support-Work Ready benefit is also gradually declining after peaking during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. As at 4th November 2022, there were 96,540 people on Jobseeker Support - Work Ready.

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.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/labour-market-statistics-september-2022-quarter/>

⁴<https://www.nzier.org.nz/news/qsbo-shows-businesses-are-feeling-less-downbeat>

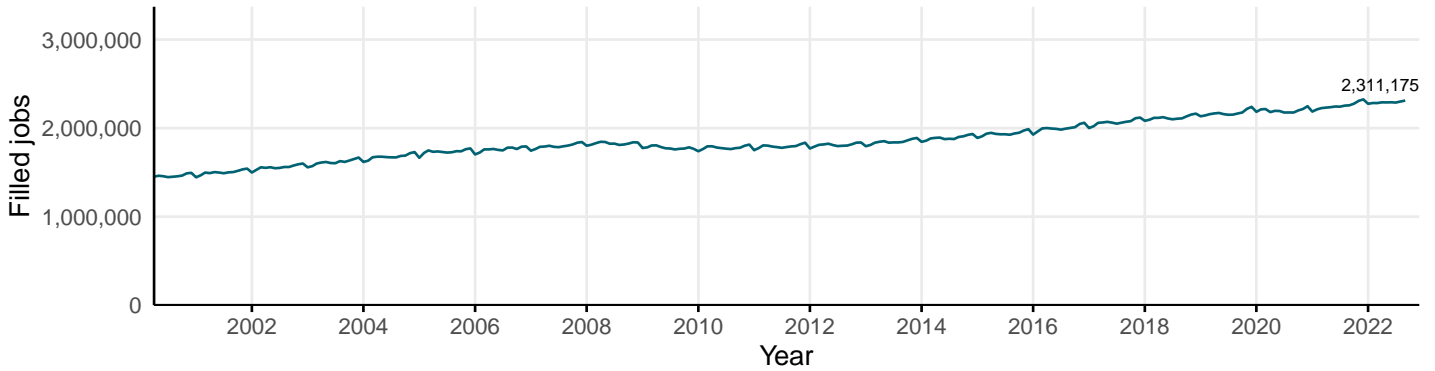


Filled Jobs

Data up to September 2022

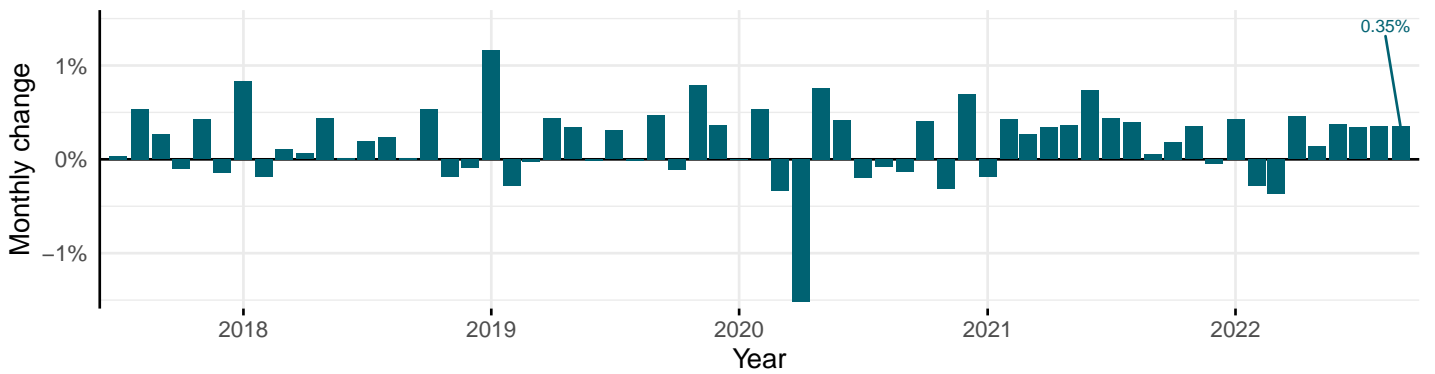
Stats NZ's Monthly Employment Indicators (MEIs) count of filled jobs uses employer payday filing of tax data. These statistics are a useful indicator to supplement the official Labour Market Statistics, although they do not count the self-employed. Recent results can be subject to fluctuations due to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

The number of filled jobs



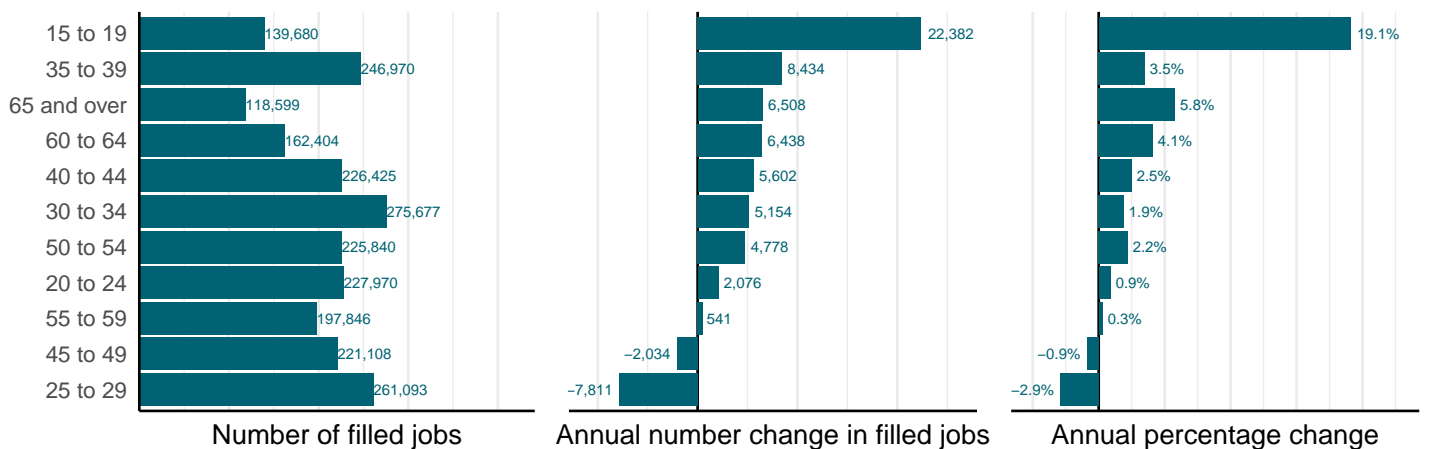
Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to September 2022, next release on 28/11/2022)

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



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to September 2022, next release on 28/11/2022)

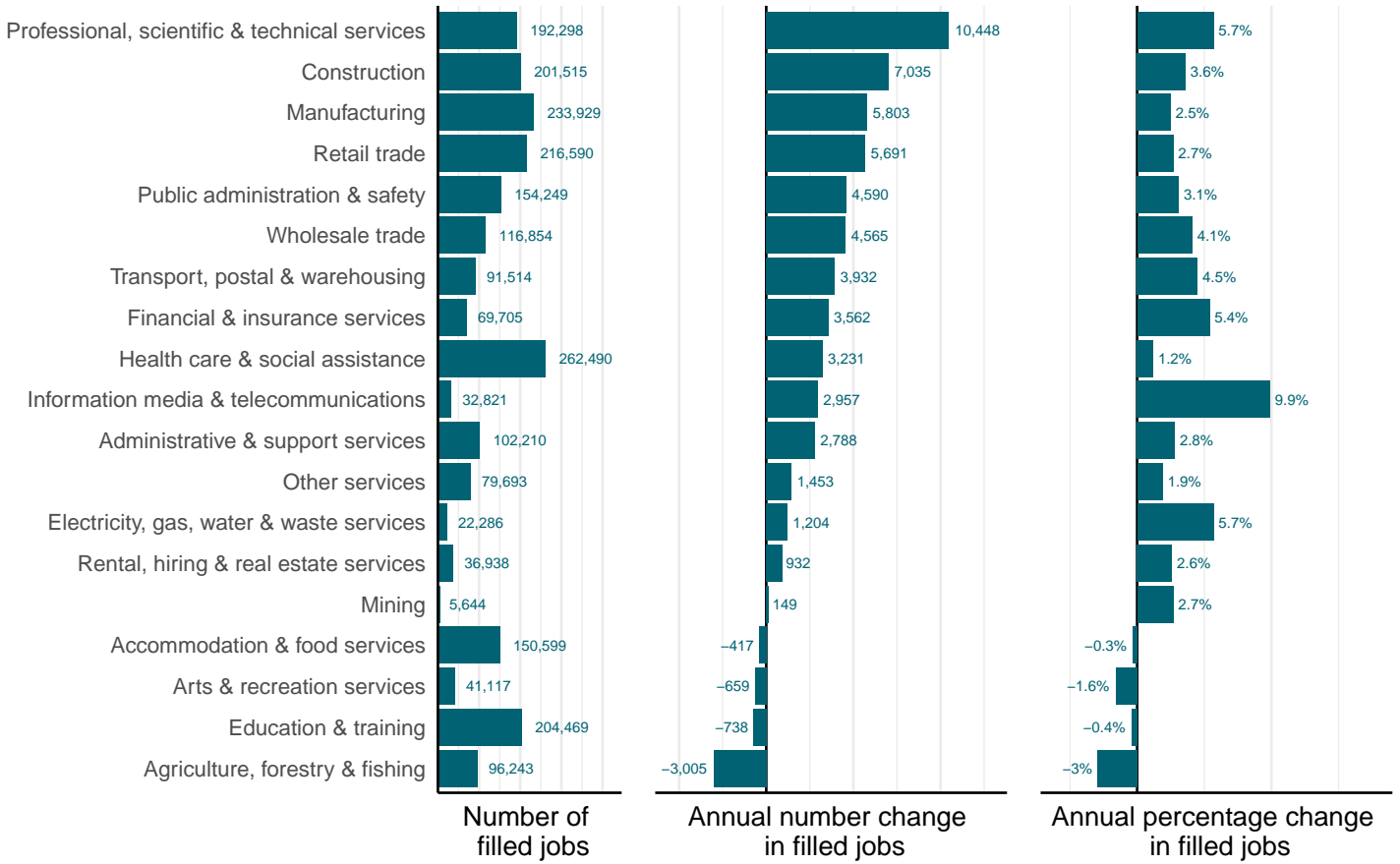
Filled jobs by age group



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to September 2022, next release on 28/11/2022)

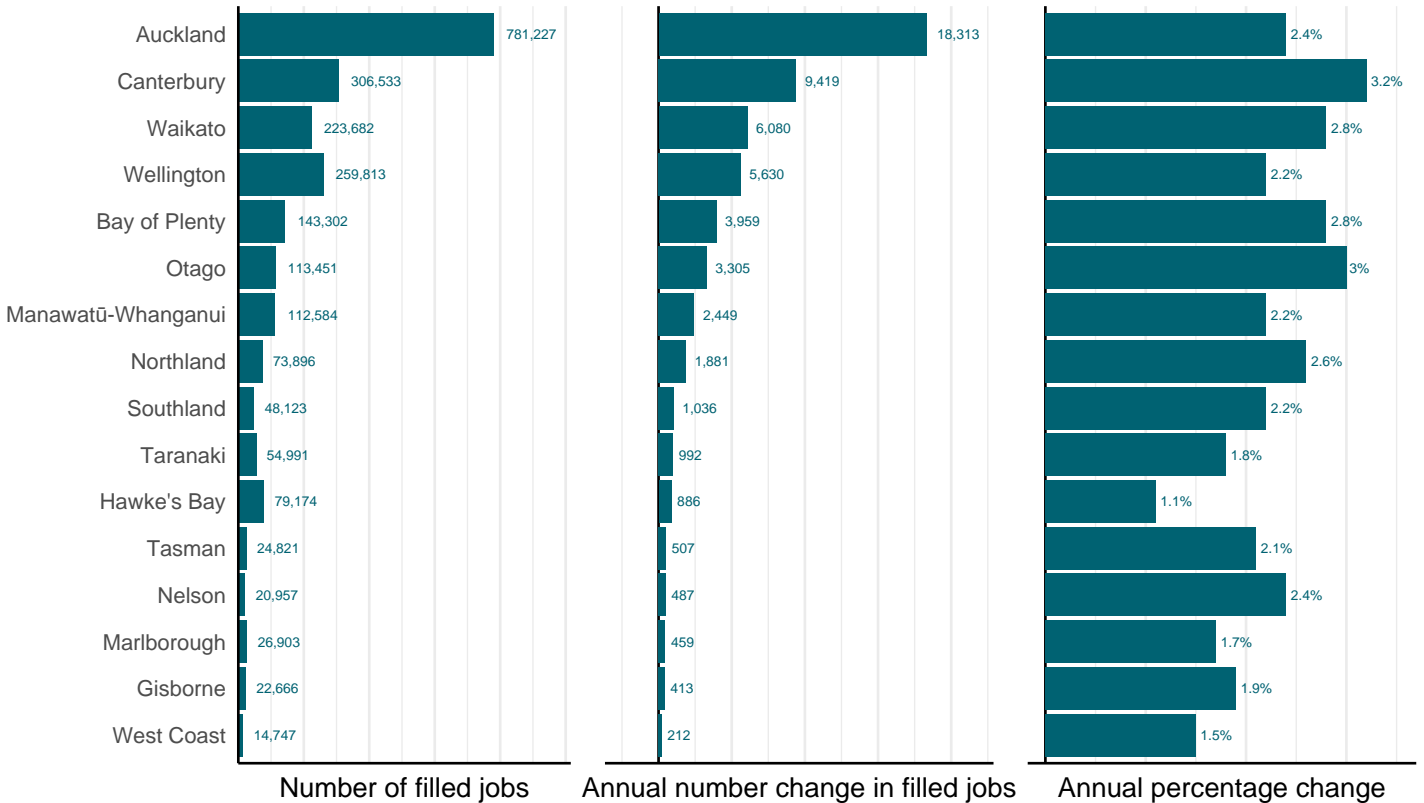


Filled jobs by industry



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to September 2022, next release on 28/11/2022)

Filled jobs by region



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to September 2022, next release on 28/11/2022)

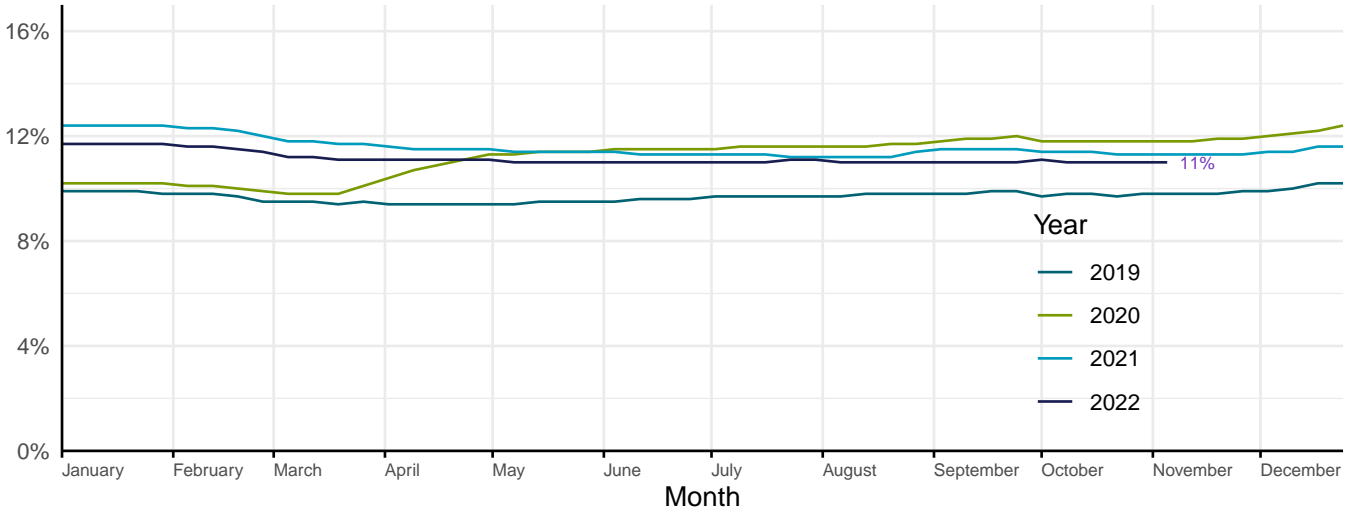


Benefit Recipients

Data up to 4 November 2022

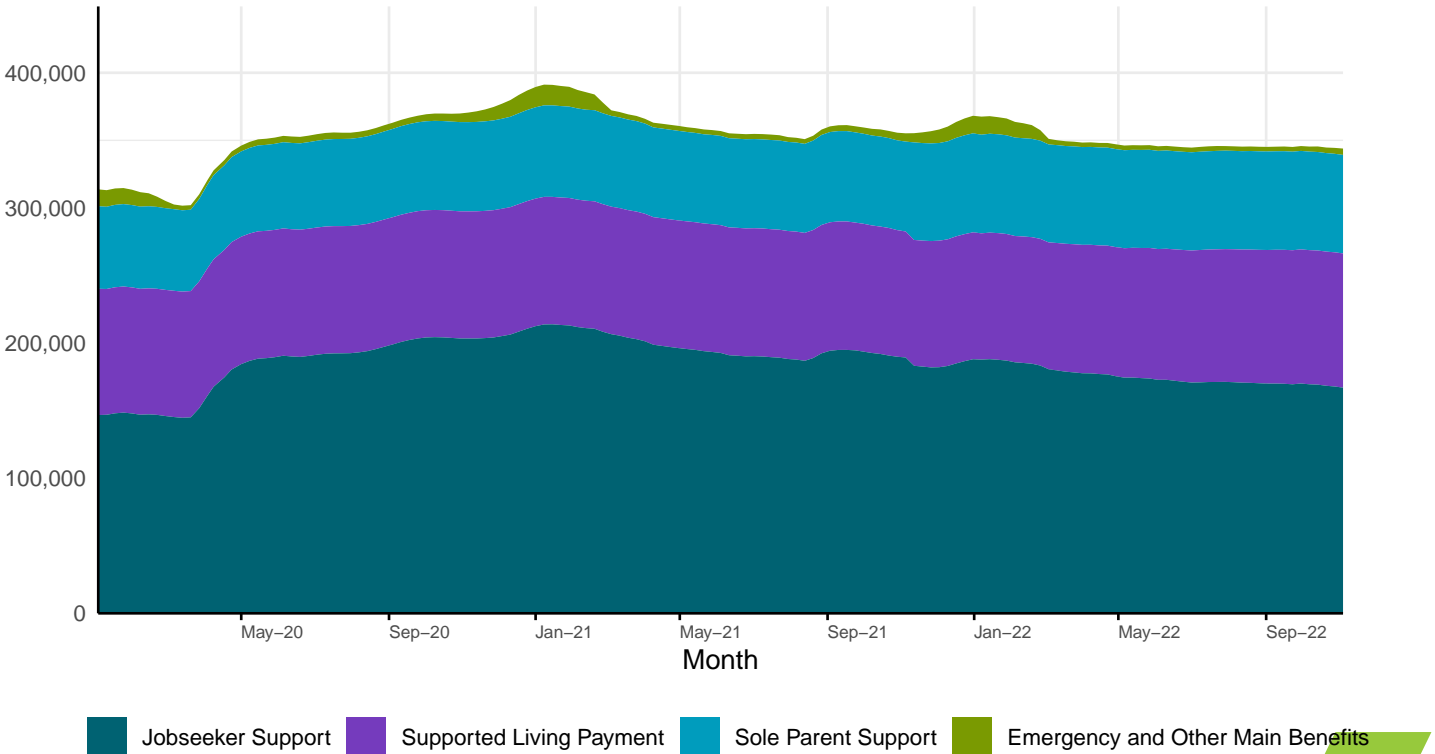
Benefits are primarily a measure of how many people are receiving income support rather than a direct measure of unemployment. Main benefits for working-age people (18 to 64 years) include: Jobseeker Support, Sole Parent Support, Supported Living Payment, and Emergency and Other main benefits. Benefit 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))⁵. 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 a main benefit



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 04/11/2022, released every Friday)

Number of people receiving main benefits



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 04/11/2022, released every Friday)

⁵<https://www.stats.govt.nz/research/investigating-the-relationship-between-unemployment-and-benefit-receipt/>

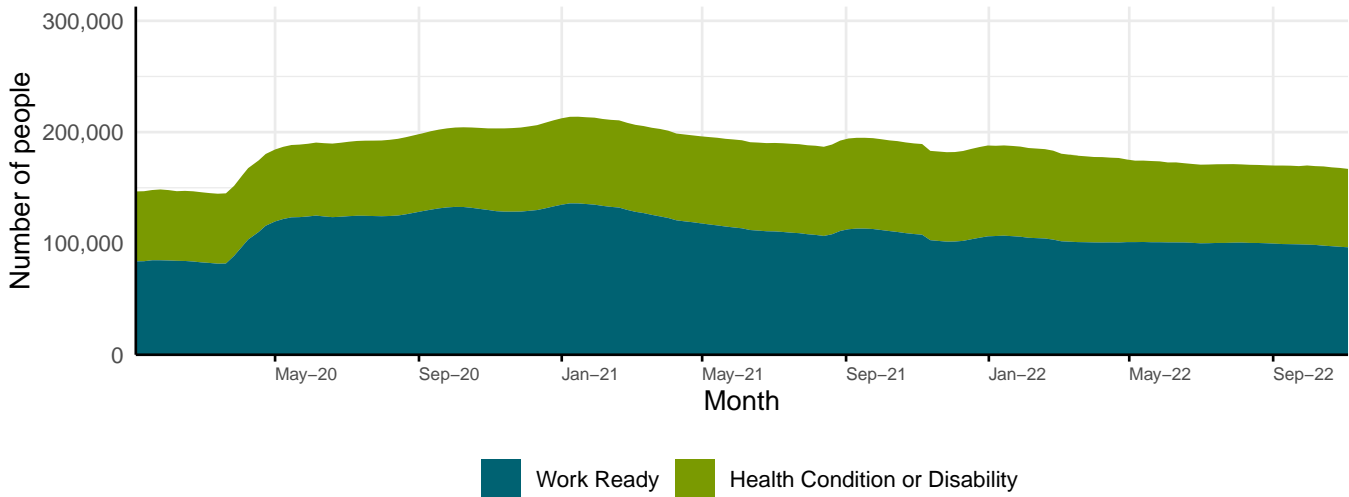


Jobseeker Benefit Recipients

Data up to 4 November 2022

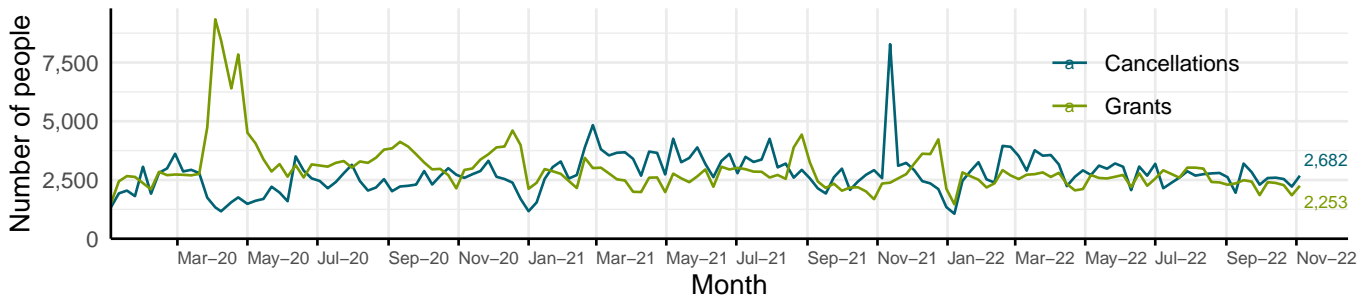
Jobseeker Support is for people who are actively looking or preparing for work. It includes both Jobseeker Support - Work Ready (JS-WR) and Jobseeker Support - Health Condition or Disability (JS-HCD). It is a weekly payment that helps people until they find work. It includes people not in employment 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).

Number of people receiving Jobseeker Support



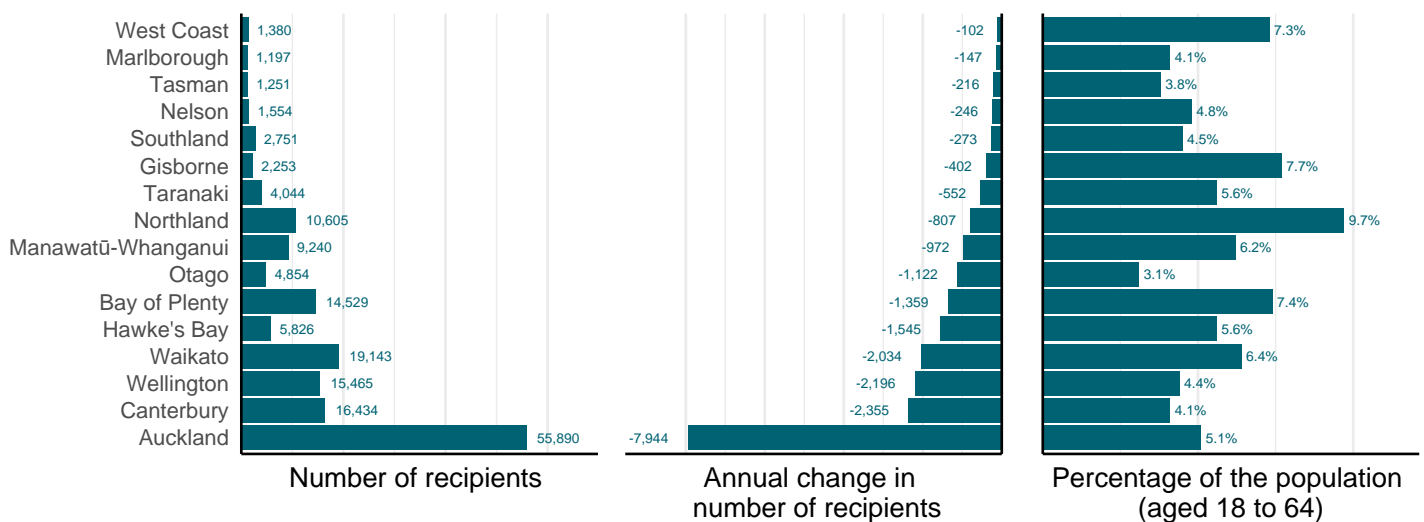
Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 04/11/2022, released every Friday)

Weekly grants and cancellations of all Jobseeker Support



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 04/11/2022, released every Friday)

All Jobseeker Support benefit recipients by region



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 04/11/2022, released every Friday)

Job Vacancies

Data up to October 2022

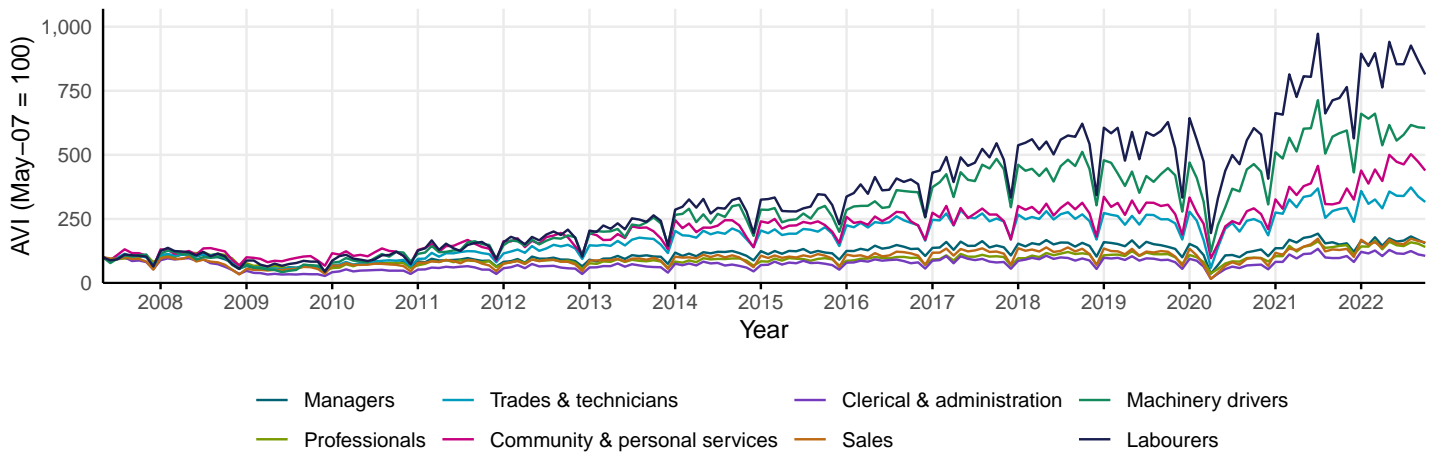
The number of jobs advertised online on major job boards can be used as a proxy for job vacancies, a key indicator of both labour demand and economic change. However, because of different hiring practices and changes in the rate of worker churn within industries, the relationship between online job advertisements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

All Vacancies Index (AVI) – online job advertising



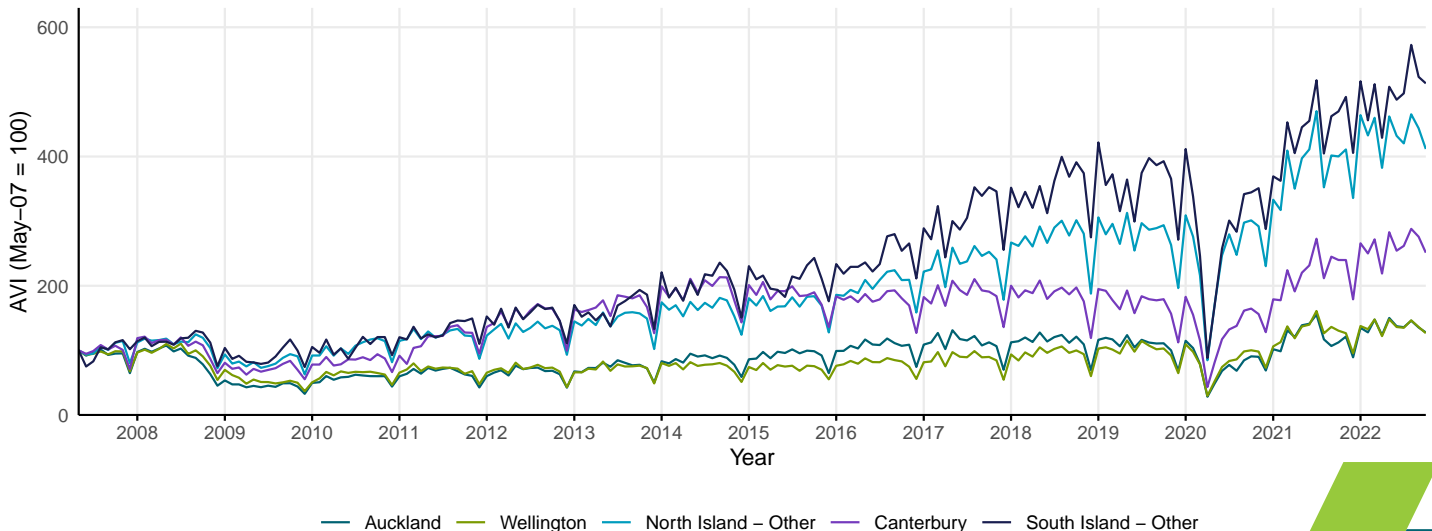
Source: Jobs Online, MBIE (Data to October 2022, next release 14/12/2022)

All Vacancies Index (AVI) by occupation



Source: Jobs Online, MBIE (Data to October 2022, next release 14/12/2022)

All Vacancies Index (AVI) by region



Source: Jobs Online, MBIE (Data to October 2022, next release 14/12/2022)



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>

