



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*<sup>1</sup>. For more information on sectors and regions, see MBIE's *COVID-19 economic data*<sup>2</sup>. The *Monthly Labour Market Fact Sheet* will be updated next on 22 February 2023.

## 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

The New Zealand labour market remains resilient with the unemployment rate remaining unchanged (Household Labour Force Survey). Labour remained the top constraint for businesses in the September quarter 2022, with the proportion reporting finding labour as their primary business constraint increasing from 37 per cent to 43 per cent (Quarterly Survey of Business Opinion (QSBO)).

Filled jobs increased by 2.0 per cent over the year to October 2022, the rate was highest among those aged 15 to 19 years. Filled jobs grew in most industries, with the biggest increases in the Information media & telecommunications and Electricity, gas, water & waste services industries. Growth in filled jobs was steady across New Zealand, except in the Hawke's Bay region where filled jobs fell by 0.2 per cent.

In line with a trend since mid-March 2022, the proportion of New Zealanders on a main benefit was stable at 11.1 per cent of all people in the working-age population. A slight fall of 0.3 percentage points over the year to 2 December 2022 can be attributed to a fall in Jobseeker Support recipients who were work ready (down 6,084 people) or had a health condition or disability (down 9,825 people).

In contrast, some recent labour market indicators show there may be softening in demand for labour. Over the year to September 2022, difficulty finding skilled labour was up 14 percentage points to 58 net negative per cent, indicating that it was easier to find skilled labour (QSBO). Employment intentions eased in November 2022 (4 net negative per cent), the first negative result since October 2020. Intentions were lowest in the Construction industry (19 net negative per cent) (ANZ New Zealand Business Outlook: November 2022). The ANZ results follow the Reserve Bank increasing the official cash rate as inflation is at near record levels (Reserve Bank, Monetary Policy Statement November 2022).

Further, Jobs Online's All Vacancy Index (AVI) fell by 3.2 per cent in the year to November 2022, the last annual fall was in July this year. The fall follows weakening annual growth in the AVI over the August to October 2022 period. Online job advertisements grew for two out of the eight occupation groups. The strongest growth continued to be for Community & personal services. Over the year to November 2022, online advertising fell in all five broad regions, with the largest softening in the Wellington region (by 6 per cent).

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

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

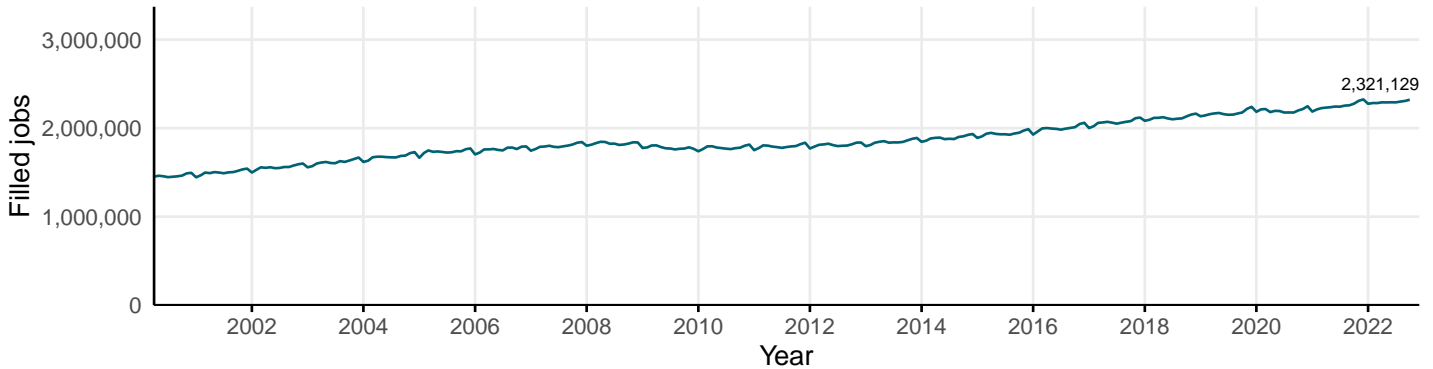


# Filled Jobs

Data up to October 2022

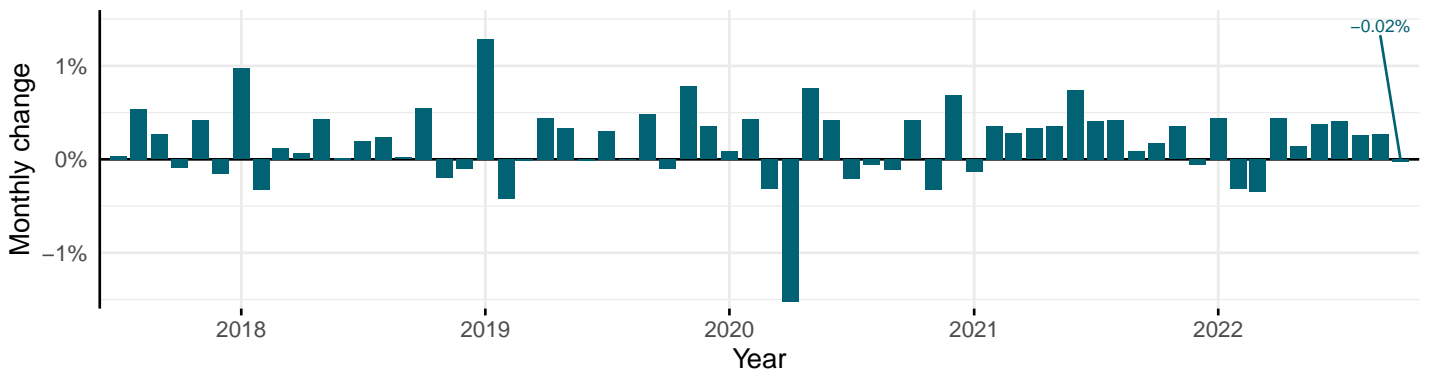
Stats NZ's Monthly Employment Indicators (MEIs) count of filled jobs uses employer payday filing of tax data. These statistics are a useful indicator to supplement the official Labour Market Statistics, although they do not count the self-employed. Recent results can be subject to fluctuations due to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

The number of filled jobs



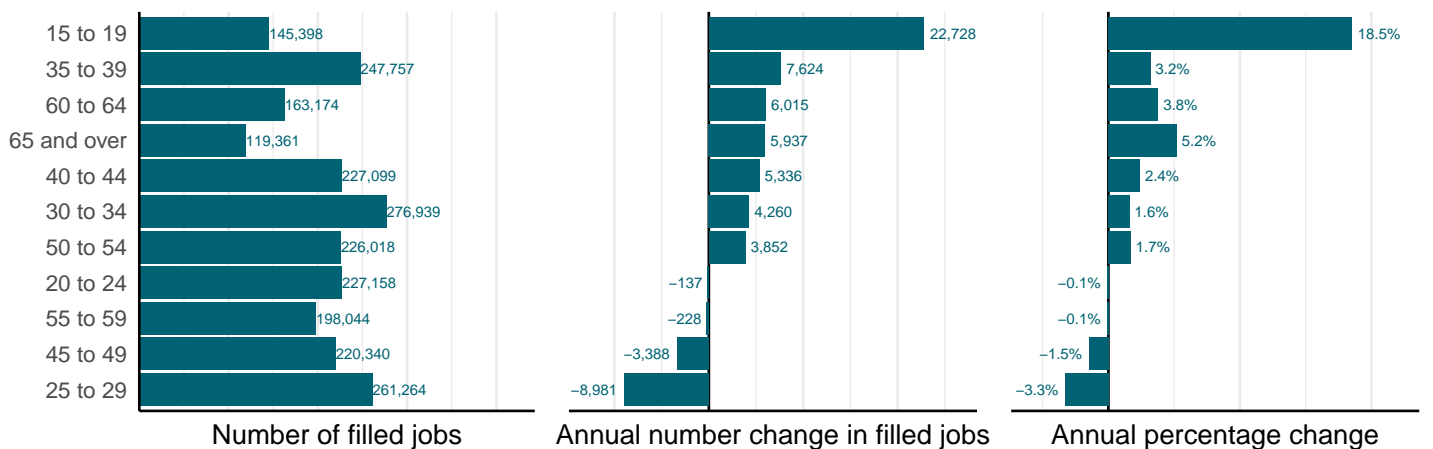
Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to October 2022, next release on 11/01/2023)

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



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to October 2022, next release on 11/01/2023)

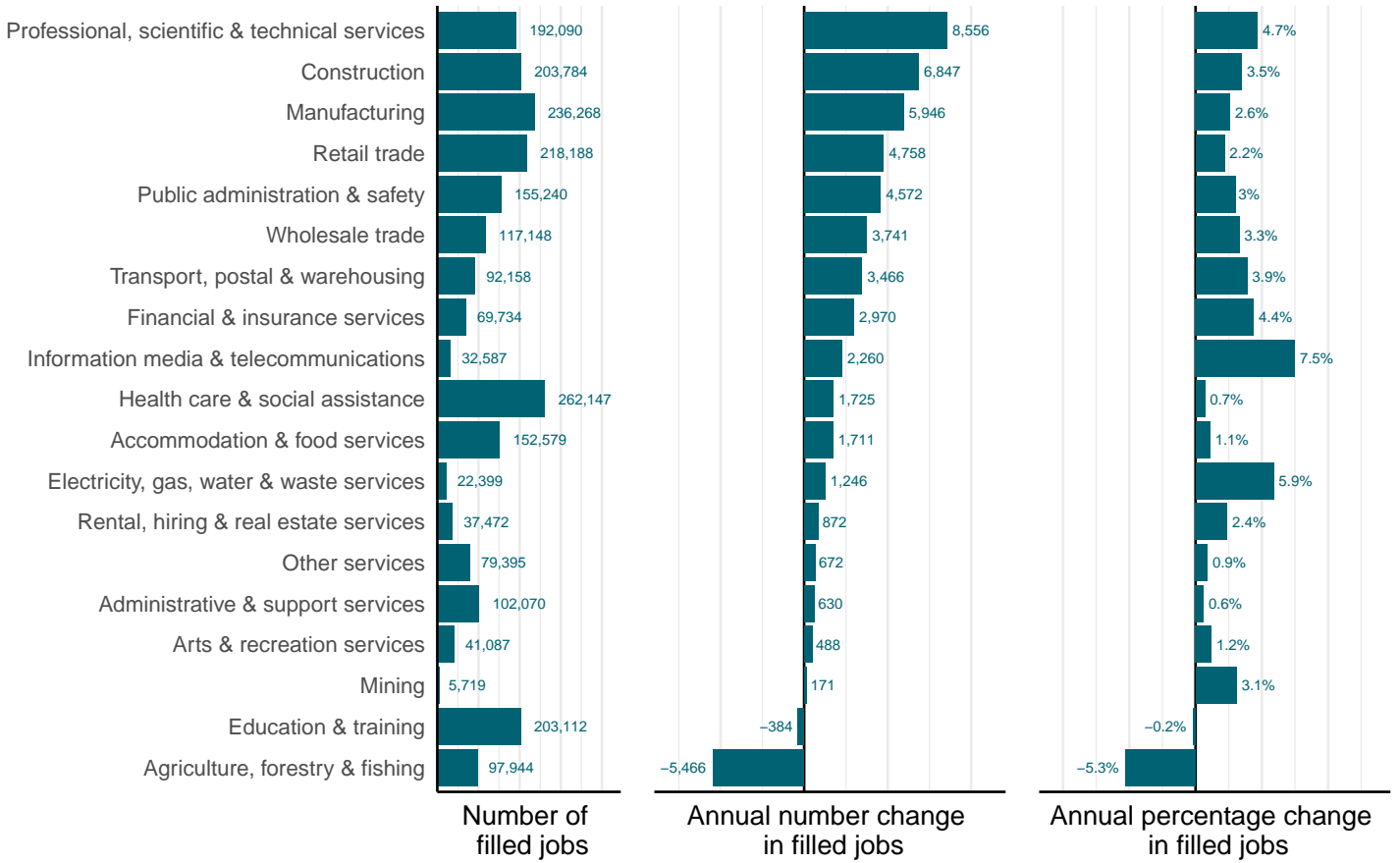
Filled jobs by age group



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to October 2023, next release on 11/01/2023)

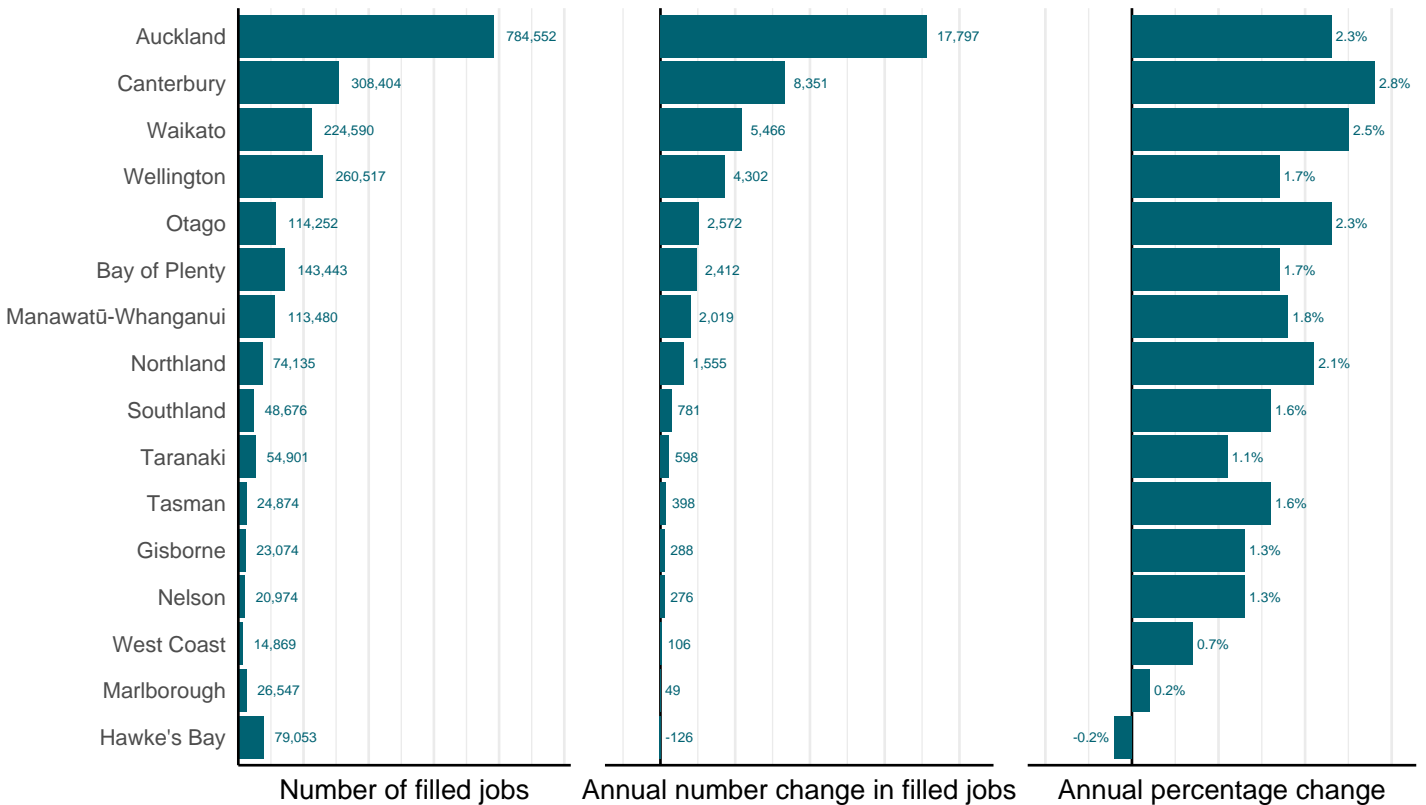


### Filled jobs by industry



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to October 2023, next release on 11/01/2023)

### Filled jobs by region



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to October 2022, next release on 11/01/2023)

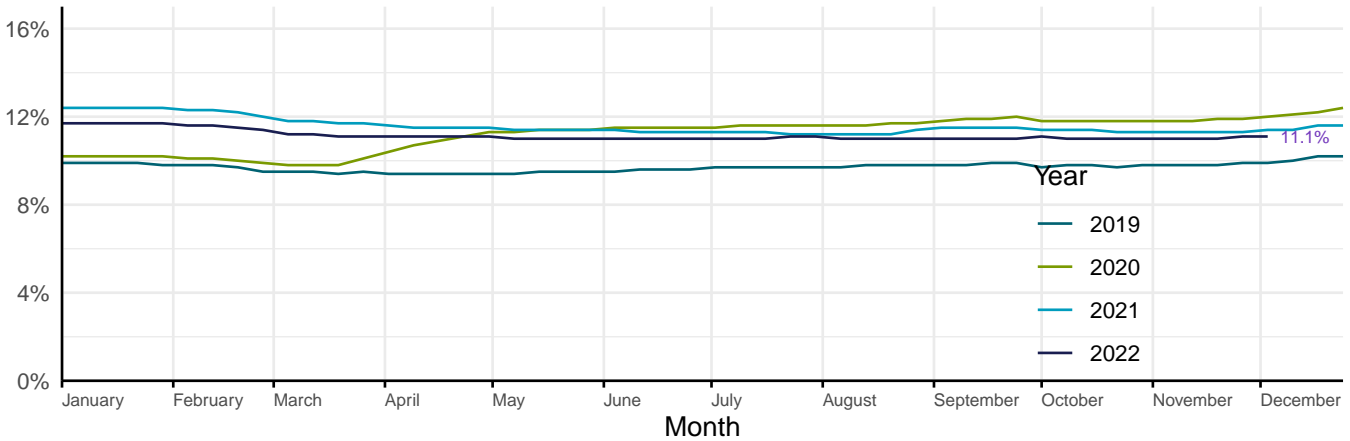


# Benefit Recipients

Data up to 2 December 2022

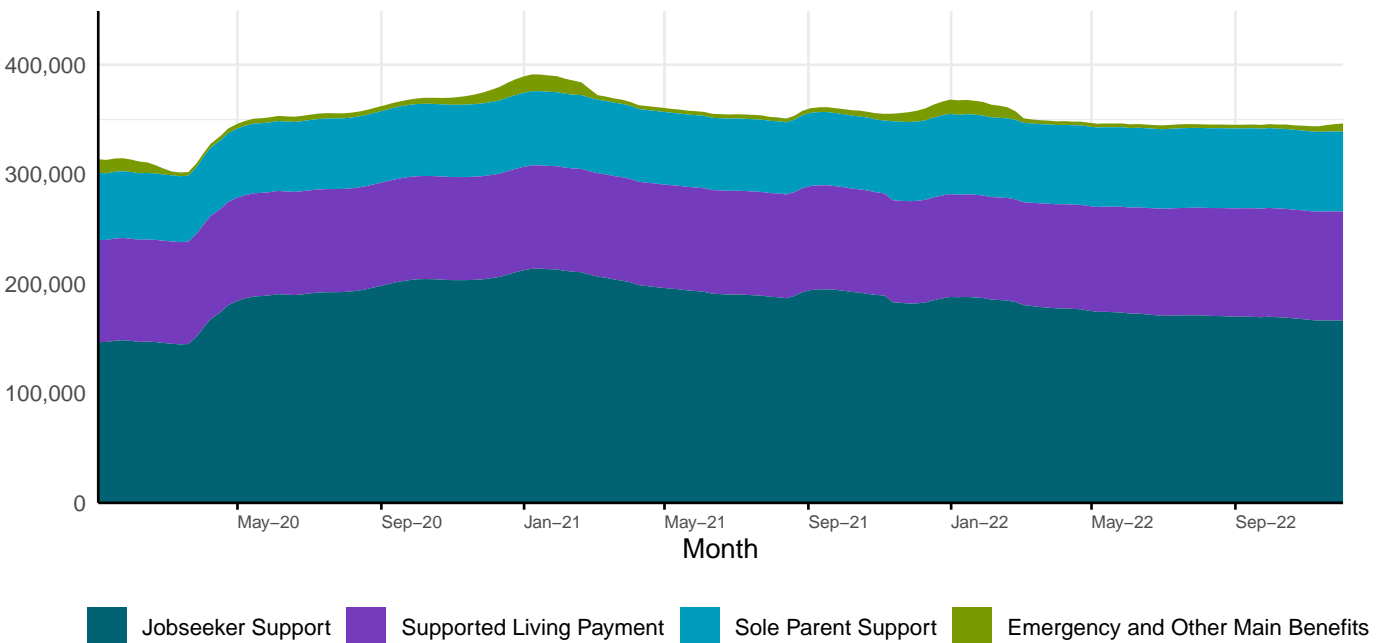
Benefits are primarily a measure of how many people are receiving income support rather than a direct measure of unemployment. Main benefits for working-age people (18 to 64 years) include: Jobseeker Support, Sole Parent Support, Supported Living Payment, and Emergency and Other main benefits. Benefit 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))<sup>3</sup>. 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 02/12/2022, released every Friday)

Number of people receiving main benefits



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 02/12/2022, released every Friday)

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

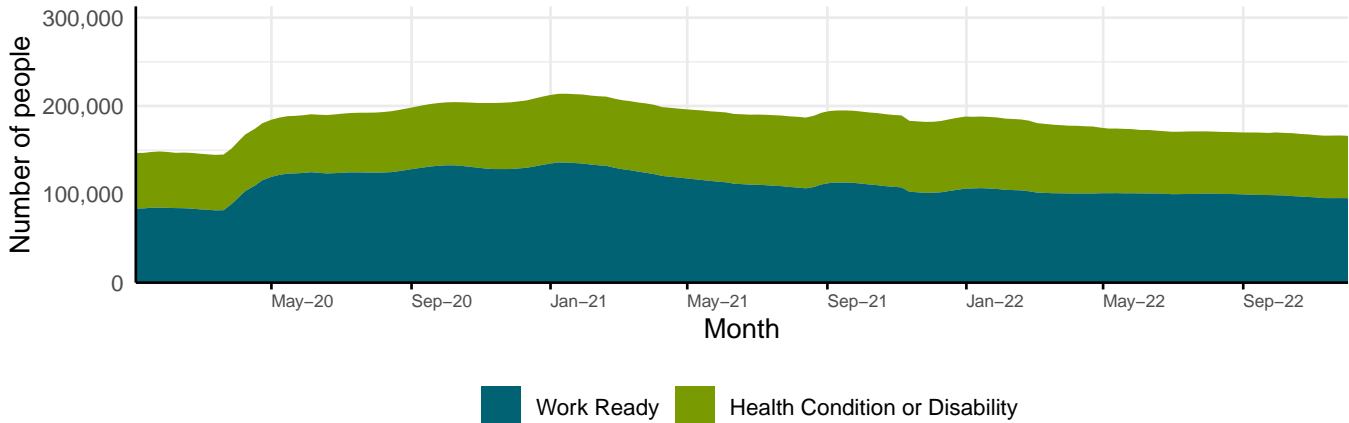


# Jobseeker Benefit Recipients

Data up to 2 December 2022

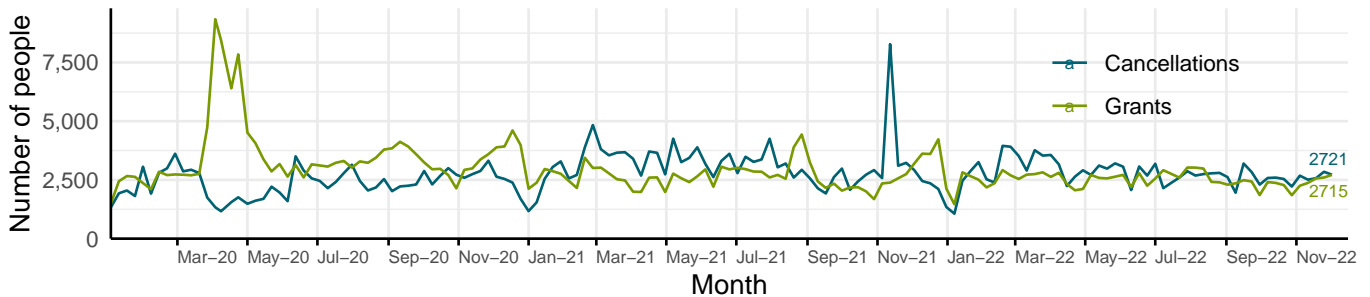
Jobseeker Support is for people who are actively looking or preparing for work. It includes both Jobseeker Support - Work Ready (JS-WR) and Jobseeker Support - Health Condition or Disability (JS-HCD). It is a weekly payment that helps people until they find work. It includes people not in employment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



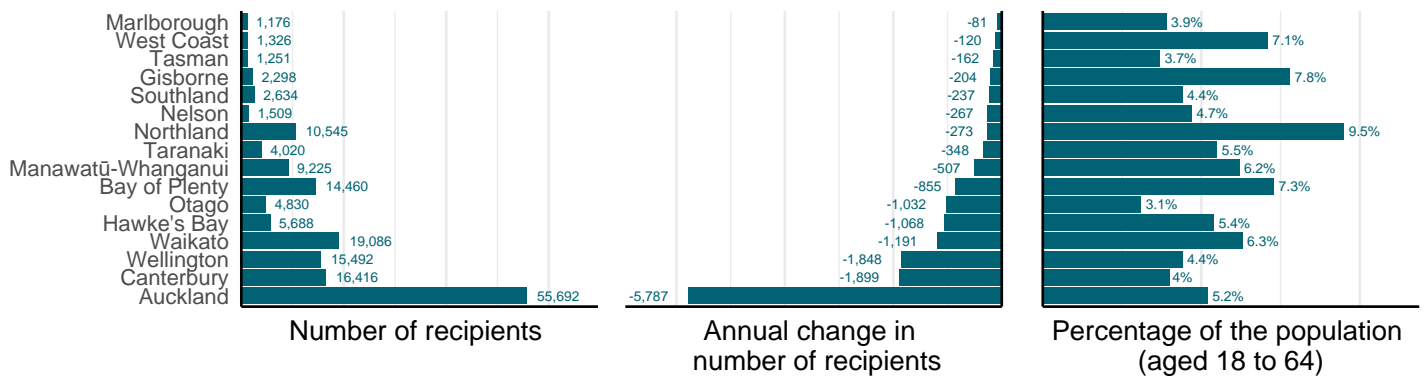
Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 02/12/2022, released every Friday)

### Weekly grants and cancellations of all Jobseeker Support



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 02/12/2022, released every Friday)

### All Jobseeker Support benefit recipients by region



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 02/12/2022, released every Friday)

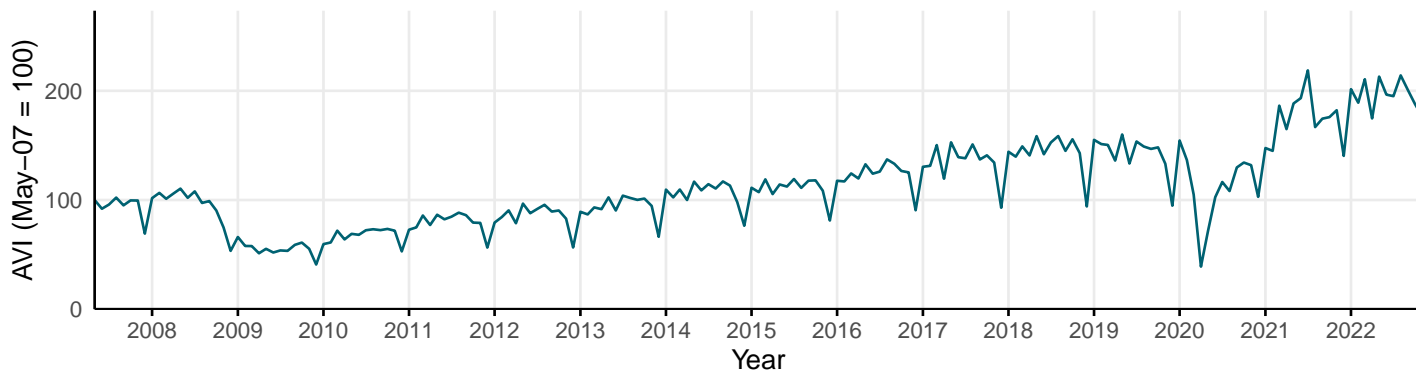


# Job Vacancies

Data up to November 2022

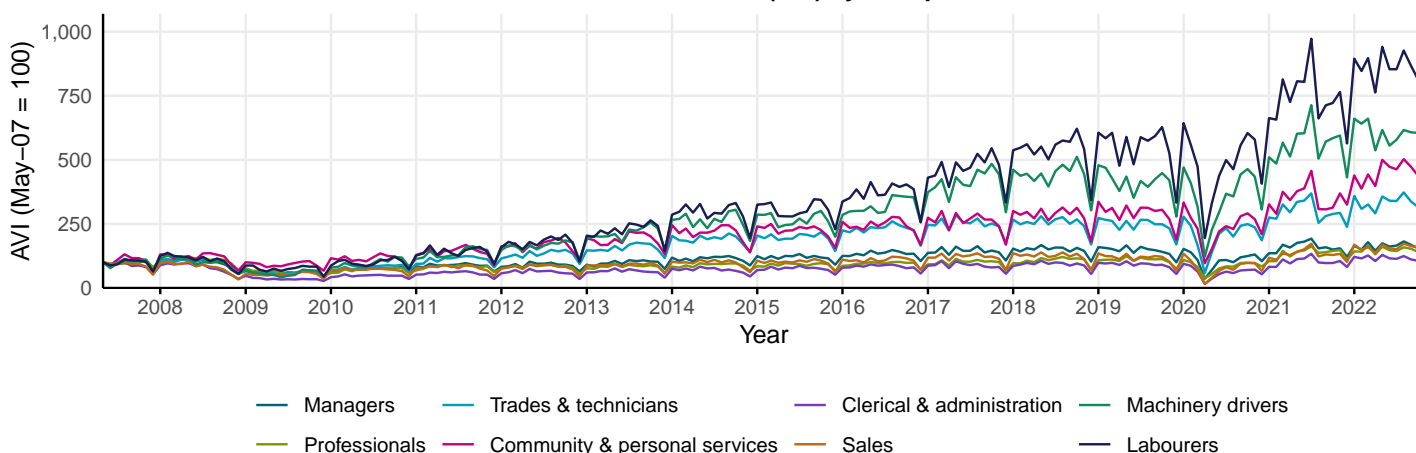
The number of jobs advertised online on major job boards can be used as a proxy for job vacancies, a key indicator of both labour demand and economic change. However, because of different hiring practices and changes in the rate of worker churn within industries, the relationship between online job advertisements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

### All Vacancies Index (AVI) – online job advertising



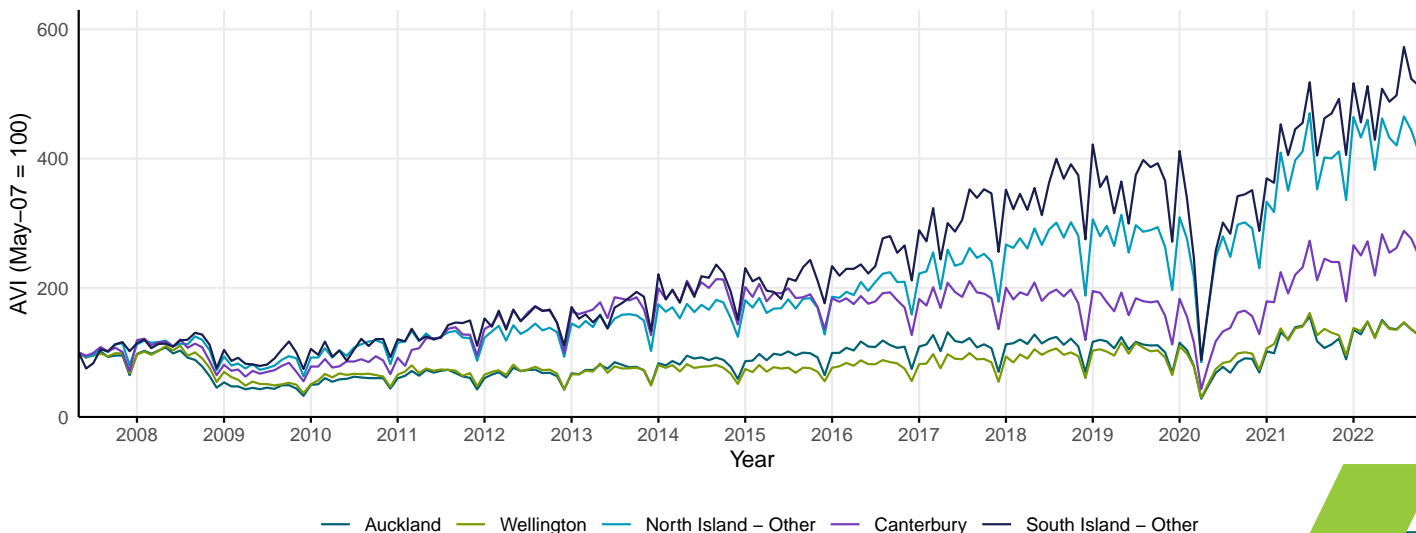
Source: Jobs Online, MBIE (Data to November 2022, next release 17/01/2023)

### All Vacancies Index (AVI) by occupation



Source: Jobs Online, MBIE (Data to November 2022, next release 17/01/2023)

### All Vacancies Index (AVI) by region



Source: Jobs Online, MBIE (Data to November 2022, next release 17/01/2023)



---

## 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)

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 edition<sup>4</sup> 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 edition<sup>5</sup> 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](mailto:LabourMarketInsights@mbie.govt.nz).

---

<sup>4</sup><https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/11556-monthly-labour-market-fact-sheet-july-2020>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/11637-monthly-labour-market-fact-sheet-august-2020>

