



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>. The *Monthly Labour Market Fact Sheet* will be updated next on 22 March 2023.

## Overview

### Headline quarterly statistics

Data up to December 2022 quarter

Measures	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22
Employment	2,818,000	2,817,000	2,815,000	2,851,000	2,855,000
— Paid Employee or Employer	2,453,100	2,440,200	2,443,000	2,461,400	2,480,300
— Self-employed	352,800	355,100	339,500	358,900	369,100
Employment Rate	68.7%	68.6%	68.6%	69.3%	69.3%
Participation Rate	71.0%	70.9%	70.9%	71.7%	71.7%
Underutilisation	276,000	279,000	277,000	273,000	285,000
— Unemployment	92,000	94,000	96,000	97,000	99,000
— Underemployment	102,000	94,000	95,000	99,000	100,000
— Potential Labour Force	82,000	91,000	86,000	77,000	85,000
Underutilisation Rate	9.2%	9.3%	9.3%	9.0%	9.4%
Unemployment Rate	3.2%	3.2%	3.3%	3.3%	3.4%
Not in the Labour Force	1,189,000	1,193,000	1,195,000	1,165,000	1,165,000
Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)	71,000	74,000	77,000	73,000	72,000
NEET Rate	11.0%	11.6%	12.0%	11.5%	11.2%
Average Weekly Hours Paid (per FTE)	38.97	38.79	38.80	39.02	39.02

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 December 2022 quarter, next release on 03/05/2023). All the data except Paid Employee or Employer and Self-employed are seasonally adjusted.

### The recent story

The New Zealand labour market remained stable in the December quarter with unchanged employment and labour force participation rates from the previous quarter (69.3 per cent and 71.7 per cent in December 2022 respectively). But these rates increased strongly by 0.6 and 0.7 per cent, respectively, over the year to December 2022 (Household Labour Force Survey<sup>2</sup>). There were 37,000 more people employed (or 1.3 per cent growth) over the year to December 2022. The increase in people employed and participating in the labour market was spread across different labour market groups including men and women, youth aged 15 to 19, people aged 50 or over, Māori and Pacific Peoples.

Filled jobs increased by 1.7 per cent over the year to December 2022. The increase was highest amongst those aged 15 to 19 years. Most industries experienced increases in filled jobs, with the biggest growth continuing to be in the Information media & telecommunications and Electricity, gas, water & waste services industries. There was slight growth in filled jobs across all regions.

The proportion of New Zealanders on a main benefit continued to be stable at 11.2 per cent of all people in the working-age population. A slight fall of 0.4 percentage points over the year to 3 February 2023 can be attributed to a fall in the average number of Jobseeker Support recipients.

There are indications of an increase in capacity in the labour market towards the end of 2022. Both the underutilisation and unemployment rates increased by 0.2 per cent over the year to December 2022. More women were in the potential labour force and more men were unemployed (Household Labour Force Survey).

Further, Jobs Online's All Vacancy Index (AVI) fell by 15.1 per cent in the year to January 2023. Job vacancies in all industries fell, except for in Hospitality. The strongest falls were in IT, Construction and Sales. The AVI results for the December 2022 to January 2023 period are consistent with a decrease in employment intentions of negative 11.1 net per cent in January 2023 as indicated by the ANZ Business Outlook (although the ANZ result is up 5.2 points from negative 16.3 per cent in December 2022)<sup>3</sup>.

The decline in employment intentions reported by the ANZ was the strongest in Construction (down 30 per cent), Agriculture (down 25 per cent) and in Retail (down 9 per cent) when compared to the same month a year ago. Filled jobs by broad industries for the December 2022 quarter, fell over the year in Agriculture, forestry & fishing and Retail trade.

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

<sup>3</sup><https://www.anz.co.nz/content/dam/anzconz/documents/economics-and-market-research/2023/ANZ-BusinessOutlook-20230127.pdf>

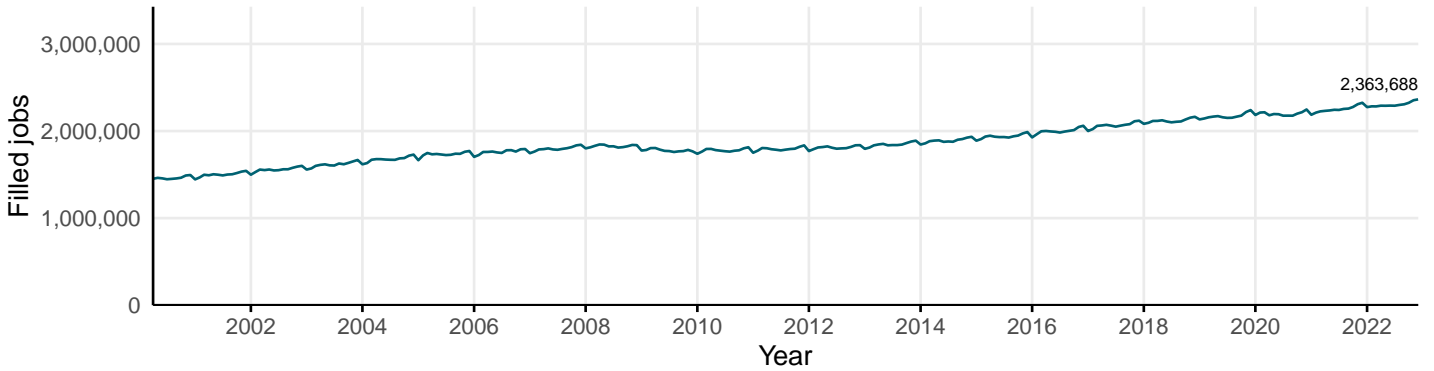


# Filled Jobs

Data up to December 2022

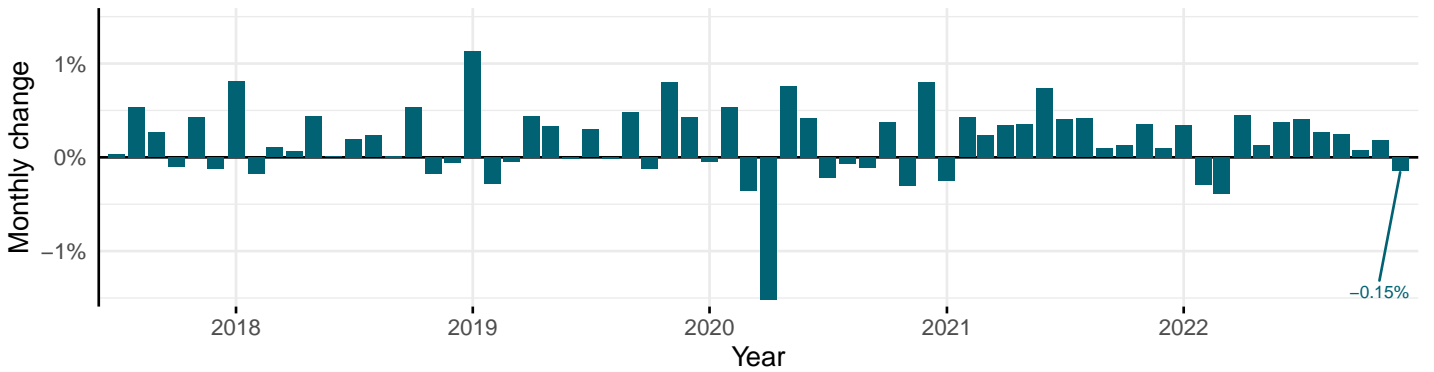
Stats NZ's Monthly Employment Indicators (MEIs) count of filled jobs uses employer payday filing of tax data. These statistics are a useful indicator to supplement the official Labour Market Statistics, although they do not count the self-employed. Recent results can be subject to fluctuations due to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

The number of filled jobs



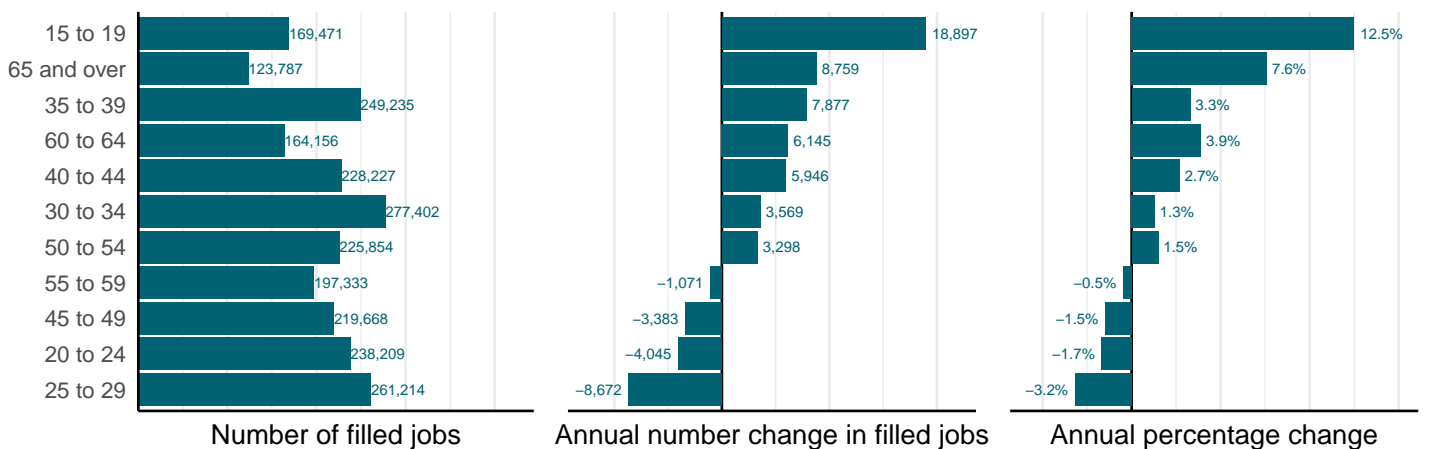
Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to December 2022, next release on 28/02/2023)

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



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to December 2022, next release on 28/02/2023)

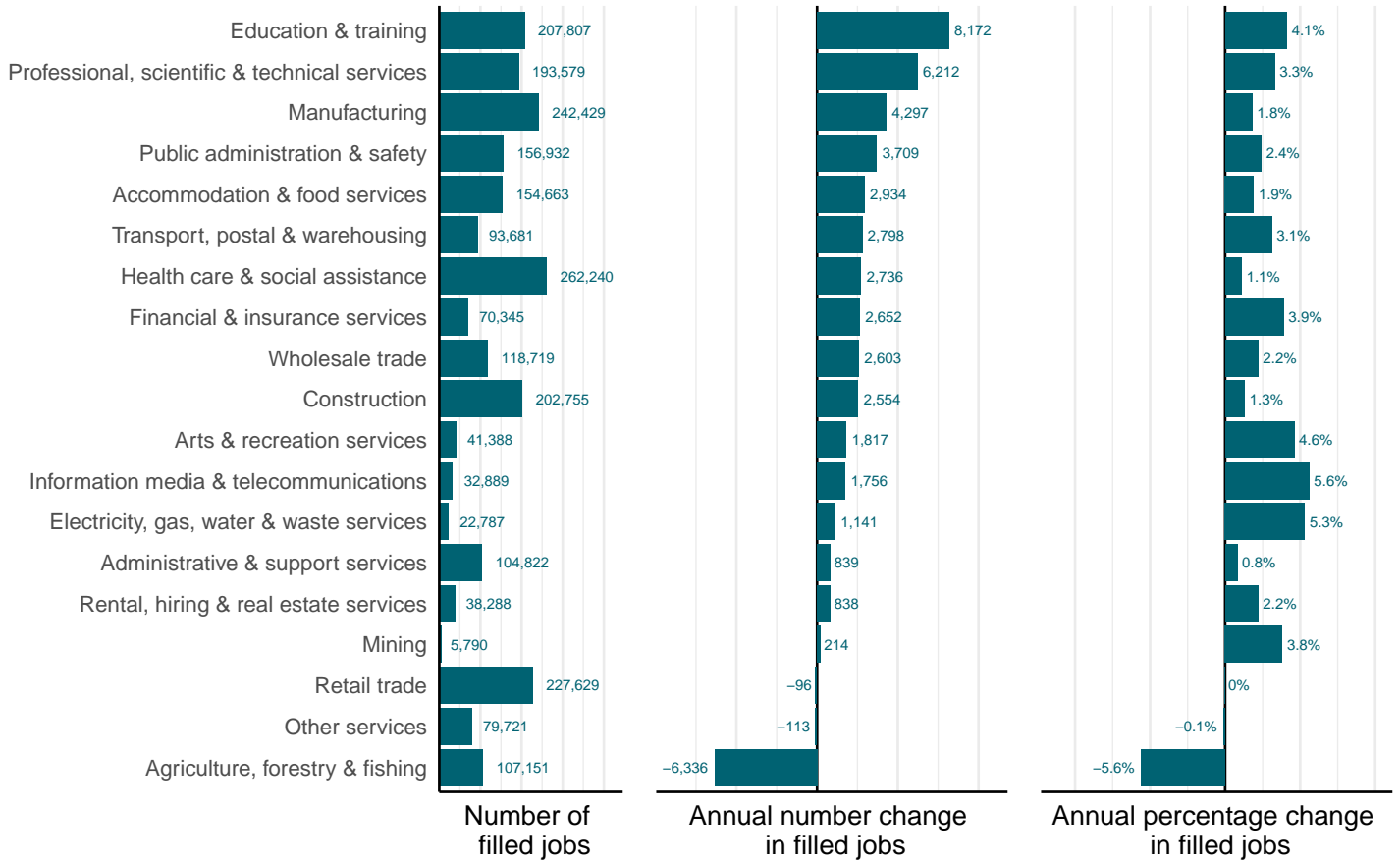
Filled jobs by age group



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to December 2022, next release on 28/02/2023)

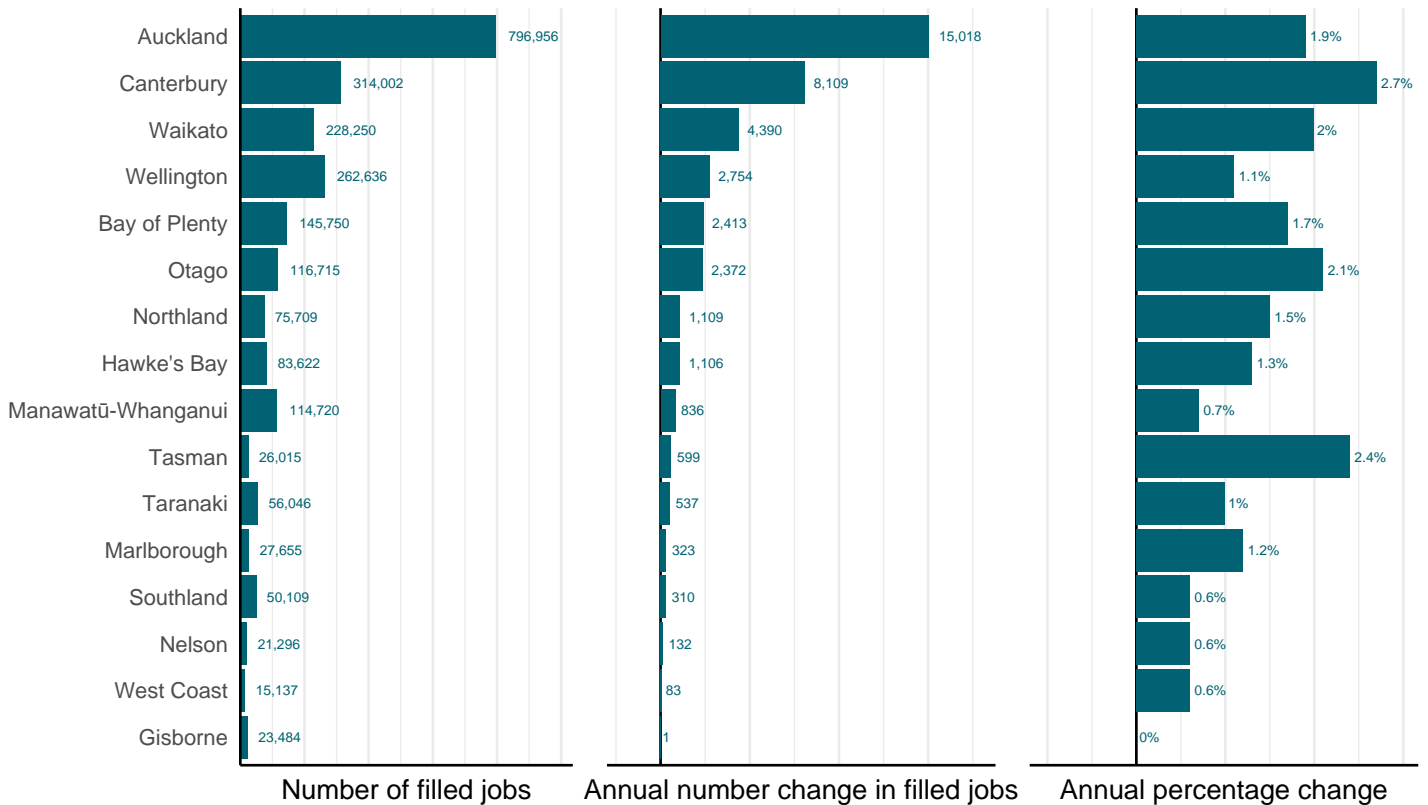


### Filled jobs by industry



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to December 2022, next release on 28/02/2023)

### Filled jobs by region



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to December 2022, next release on 28/02/2023)

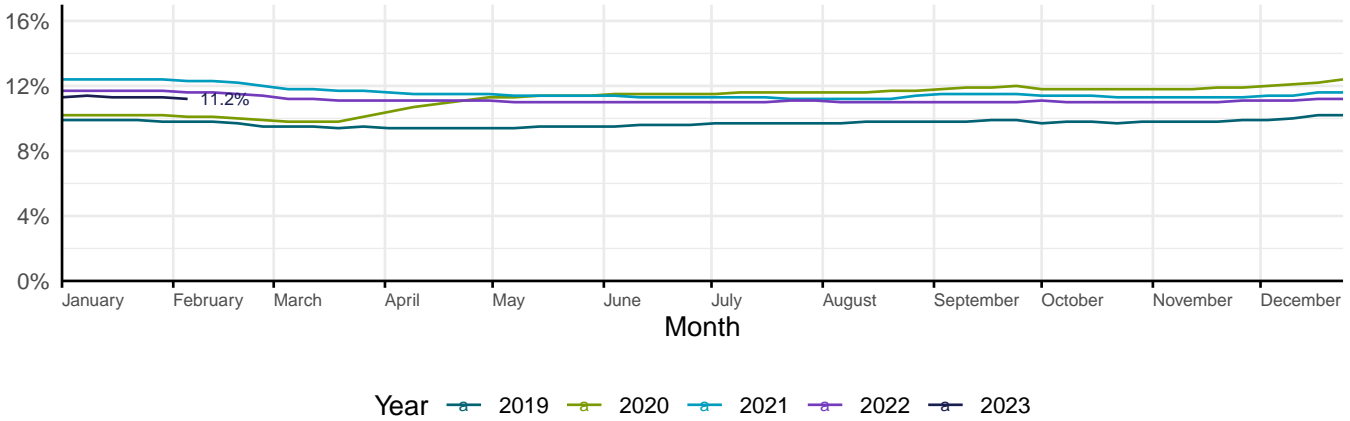


# Benefit Recipients

Data up to 3 February 2023

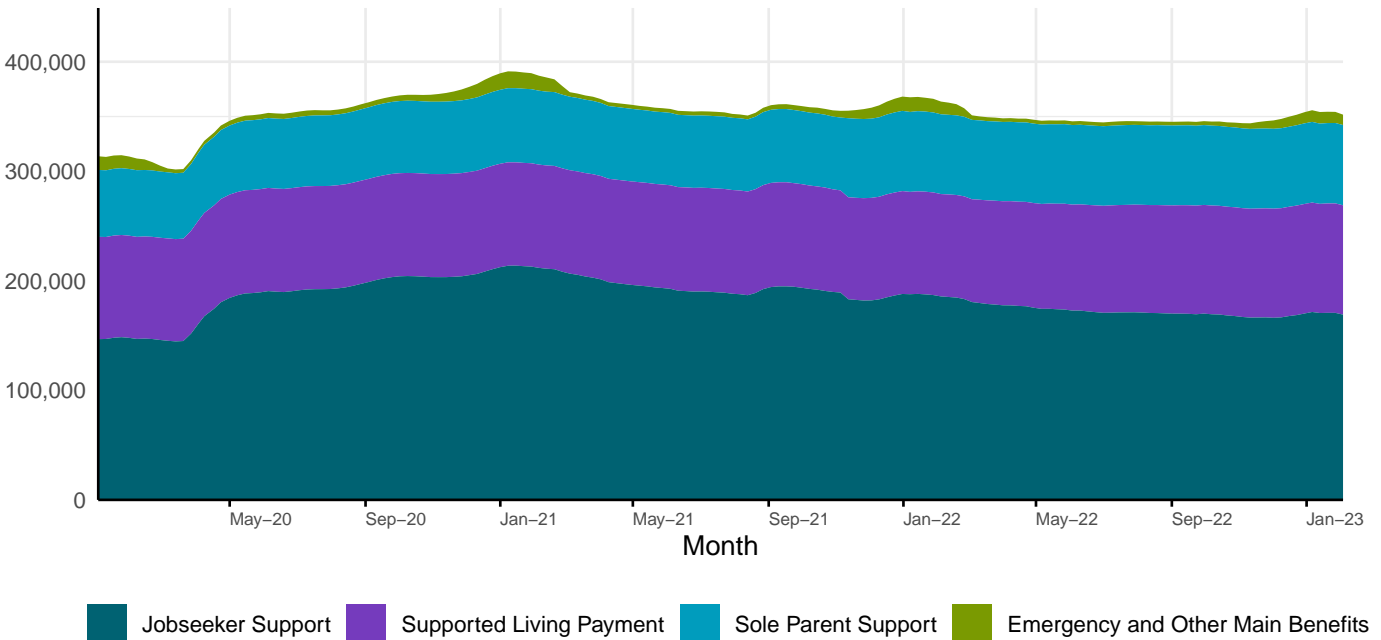
Benefits are primarily a measure of how many people are receiving income support rather than a direct measure of unemployment. Main benefits for working-age people (18 to 64 years) include: Jobseeker Support, Sole Parent Support, Supported Living Payment, and Emergency and Other main benefits. Benefit 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>4</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 03/02/2023, released every Friday)

Number of people receiving main benefits



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 03/02/2023, released every Friday)

<sup>4</sup><https://www.stats.govt.nz/research/investigating-the-relationship-between-unemployment-and-benefit-receipt/>

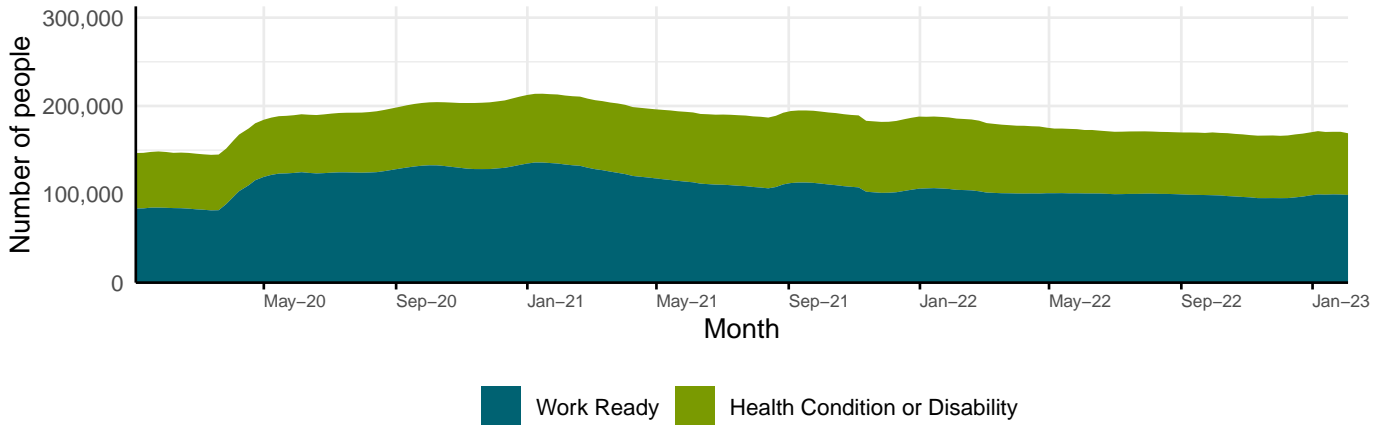


# Jobseeker Benefit Recipients

Data up to 3 February 2023

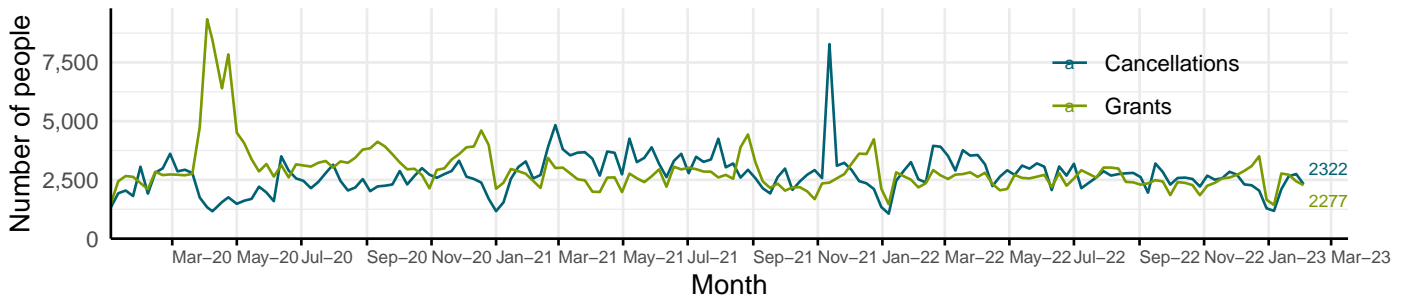
Jobseeker Support is for people who are actively looking or preparing for work. It includes both Jobseeker Support - Work Ready (JS-WR) and Jobseeker Support - Health Condition or Disability (JS-HCD). It is a weekly payment that helps people until they find work. It includes people not in employment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



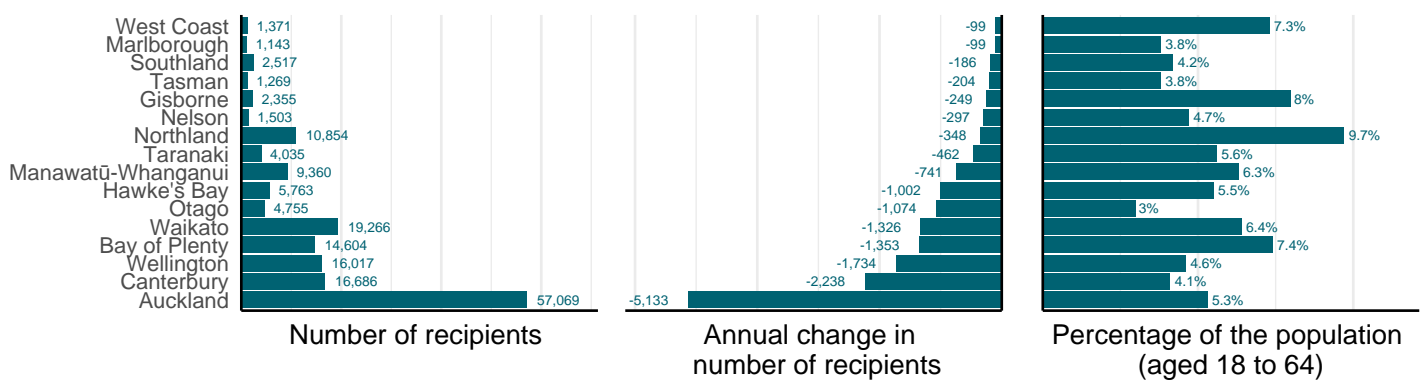
Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 03/02/2023, released every Friday)

### Weekly grants and cancellations of all Jobseeker Support



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 03/02/2023, released every Friday)

### All Jobseeker Support benefit recipients by region



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 03/02/2023, released every Friday)



# Job Vacancies

Data up to January 2023

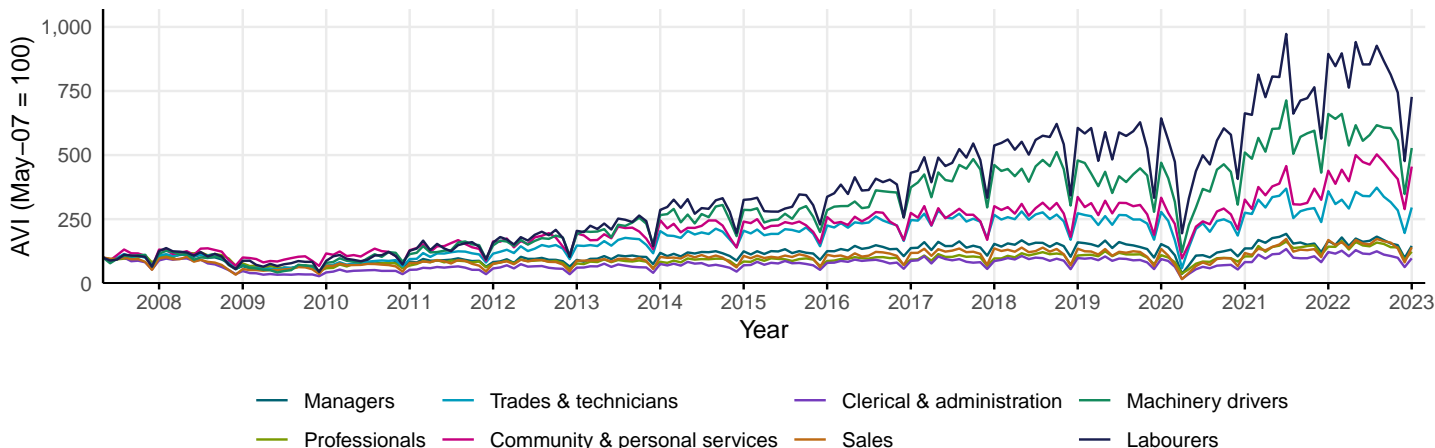
The number of jobs advertised online on major job boards can be used as a proxy for job vacancies, a key indicator of both labour demand and economic change. However, because of different hiring practices and changes in the rate of worker churn within industries, the relationship between online job advertisements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

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



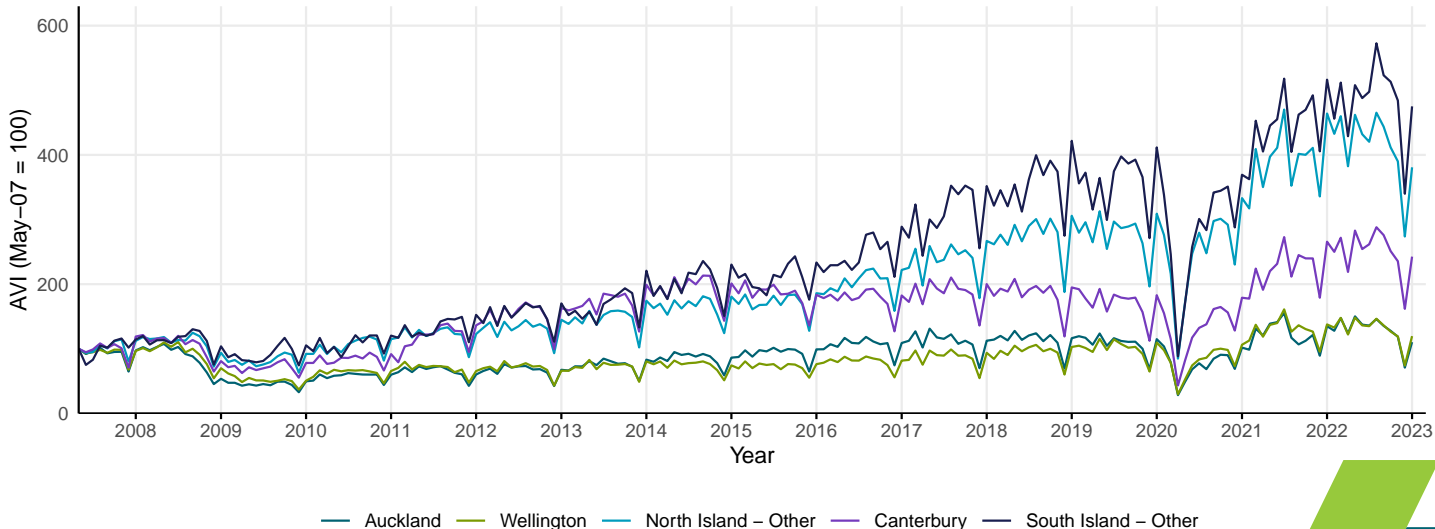
Source: Jobs Online, MBIE (Data to January 2023, next release 14/03/2023)

**All Vacancies Index (AVI) by occupation**



Source: Jobs Online, MBIE (Data to January 2023, next release 14/03/2023)

**All Vacancies Index (AVI) by region**



Source: Jobs Online, MBIE (Data to January 2023, next release 14/03/2023)



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## Data sources

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### 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.

## 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).

