

Monthly Labour Market Fact Sheet — March 2023

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. The *Monthly Labour Market Fact Sheet* will be updated next on 24 April 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 2022 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 over the year to December 2022, by 0.6 and 0.7 percentage points respectively (Household Labour Force Survey²).

Filled jobs increased by 2.0 per cent over the year to January 2023. Most industries experienced increases, apart from Agriculture, forestry & fishing (down 4.4 per cent) and Education & training (down 1.8 per cent). The strongest growth was seen in Arts & recreation services, Information media & telecommunications, Electricity, gas, water & waste services and Accommodation & food services industries. There was growth in filled jobs across all regions, except for Gisborne. Increases in filled jobs continued to be highest amongst those aged 15 to 19 years.

The proportion of New Zealanders on a main benefit continued to be stable in March 2023 at 11.1 per cent of all people in the working-age population. There was a fall in those receiving Job Seeker Support (down 8 per cent) and Emergency and Other Main Benefits (down 18 per cent). The fall in Job Seeker Support was across all regions. In contrast, there was an increase in those receiving a Supported Living Payment (up 7 per cent). The above data are averaged over the past four weeks and compared to the same time last year.

Jobs Online's All Vacancy Index (AVI) fell by 15.7 per cent over the year to February 2023. This is the fourth consecutive fall in the AVI over the past four months. Job vacancies in all industries fell, except for in Hospitality and Education. The strongest decreases in job vacancies were for IT, Manufacturing and Construction. The regions with the biggest falls were the North Island Other (excluding Auckland and Wellington) and Auckland (down 21 and 18 per cent respectively). These two regions included parts of New Zealand that were impacted by recent flooding.

The AVI results over the year to February 2023 are consistent with a recorded decrease in employment intentions (negative 3.4 net per cent, down 5.7 points over the year to February 2023³). The biggest falls in employment intentions over the year were in Construction, Agriculture and Manufacturing, while Retail and Services had modest increases.

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

³<https://www.anz.co.nz/content/dam/anzconz/documents/economics-and-market-research/2023/ANZ-BusinessOutlook-20230228.pdf>

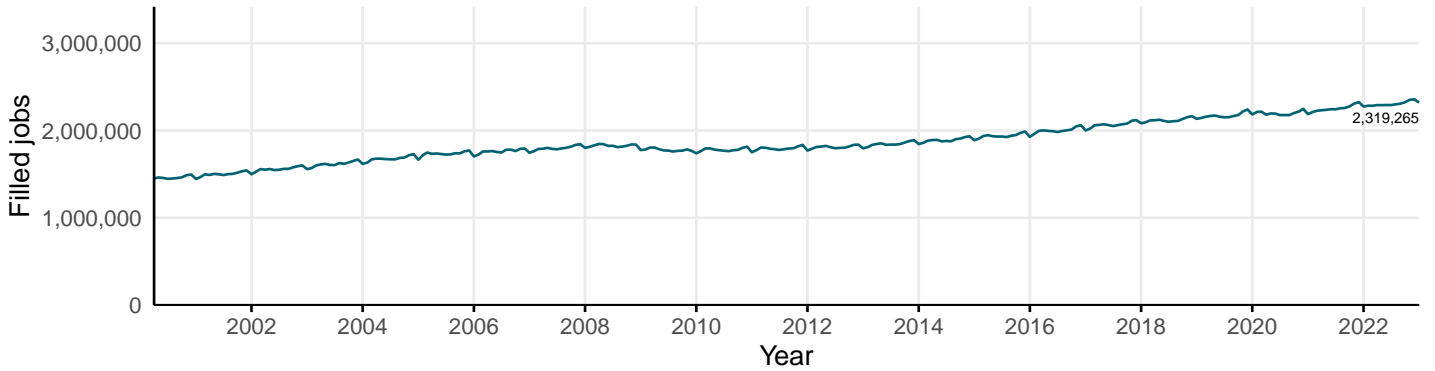


Filled Jobs

Data up to January 2023

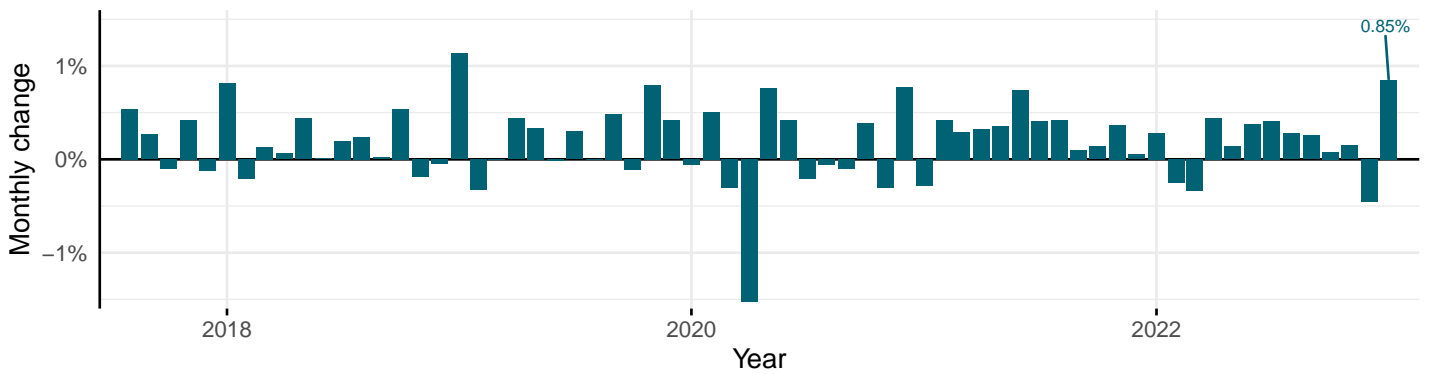
Stats NZ's Monthly Employment Indicators (MEIs) count of filled jobs uses employer payday filing of tax data. These statistics are a useful indicator to supplement the official Labour Market Statistics, although they do not count the self-employed. Recent results can be subject to fluctuations due to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

The number of filled jobs



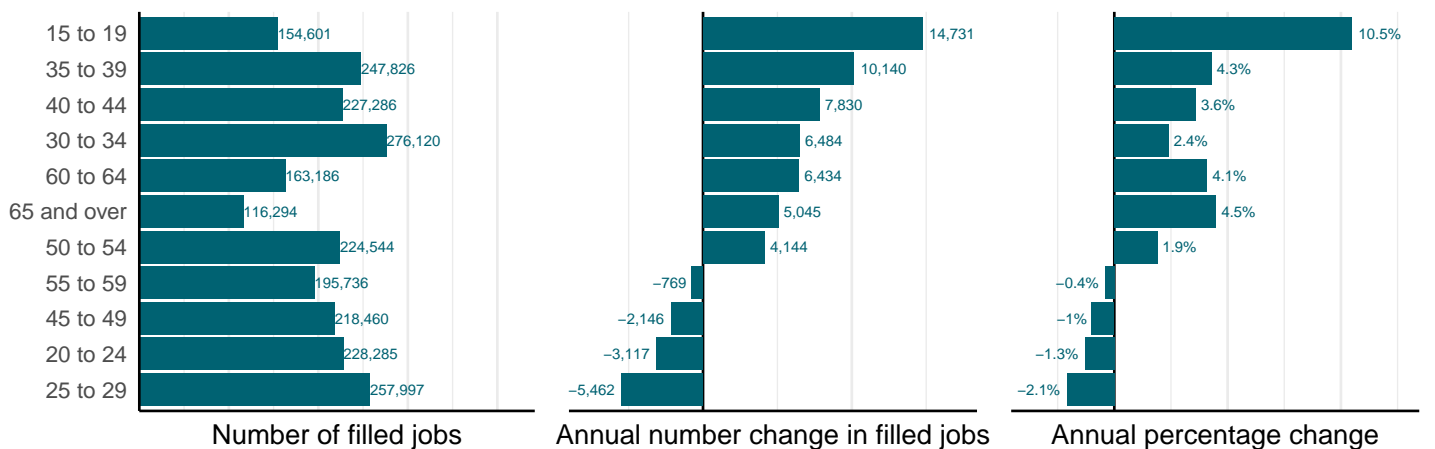
Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to January 2023, next release on 28/03/2023)

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



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to January 2023, next release on 28/03/2023)

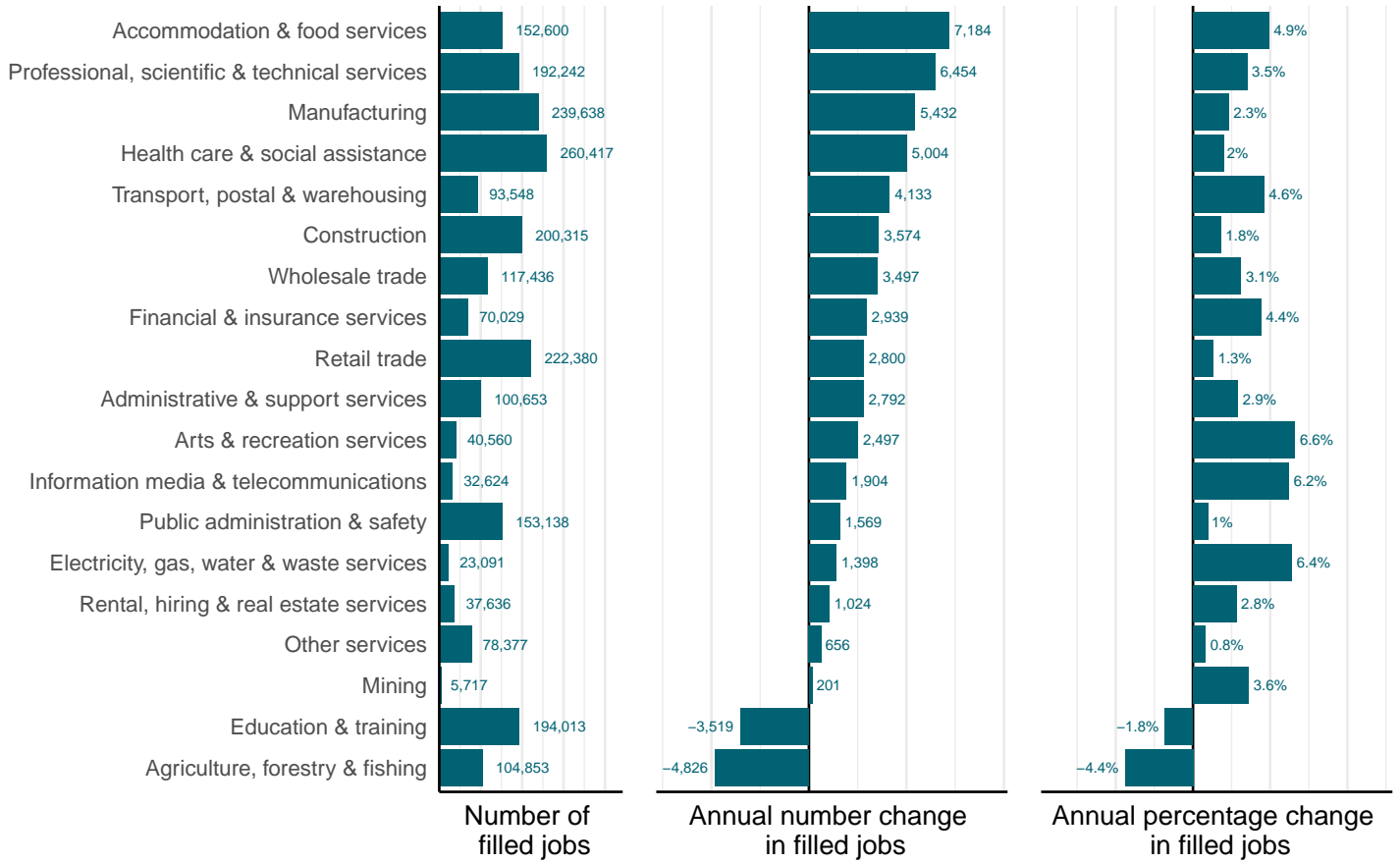
Filled jobs by age group



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to January 2023, next release on 28/03/2023)

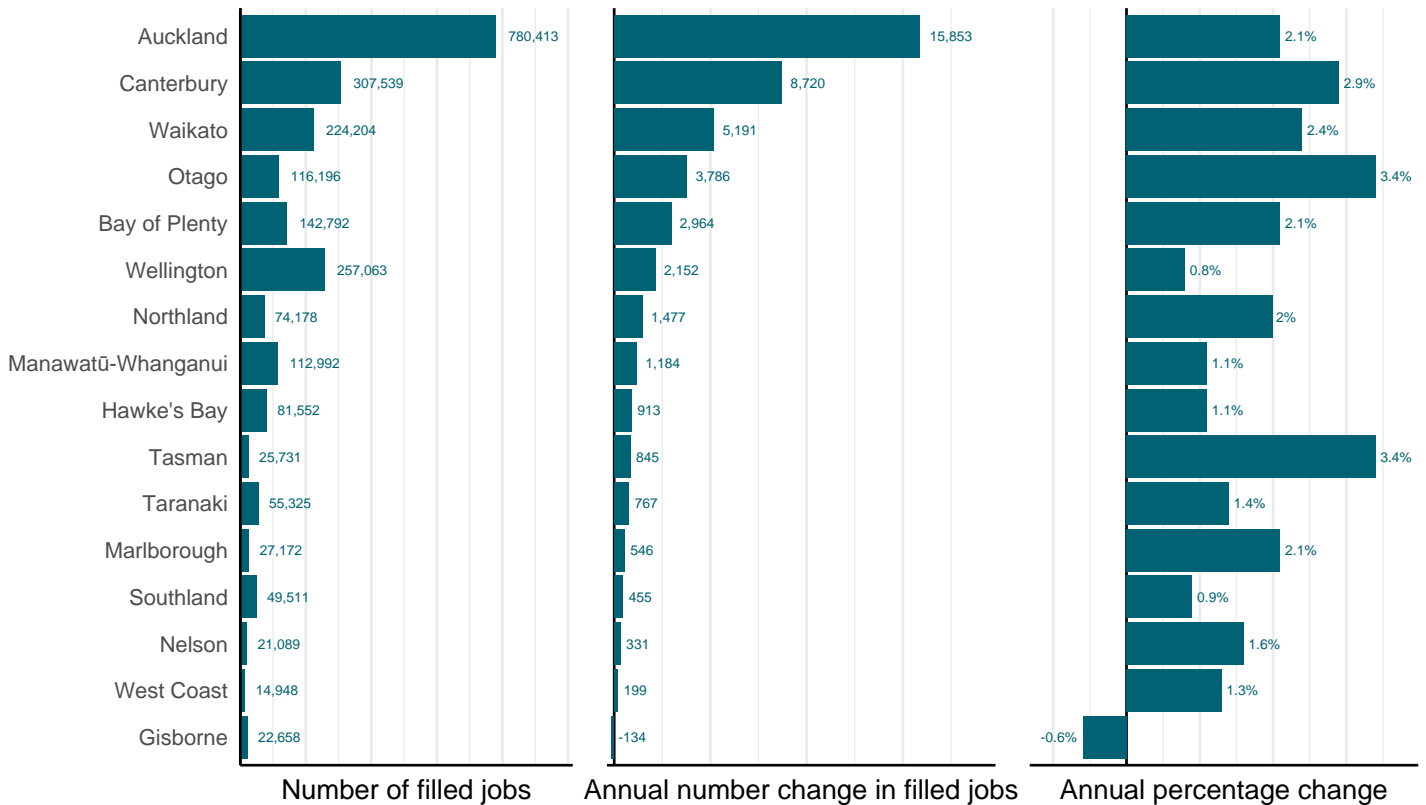


Filled jobs by industry



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to January 2023, next release on 28/03/2023)

Filled jobs by region



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to January 2023, next release on 28/03/2023)

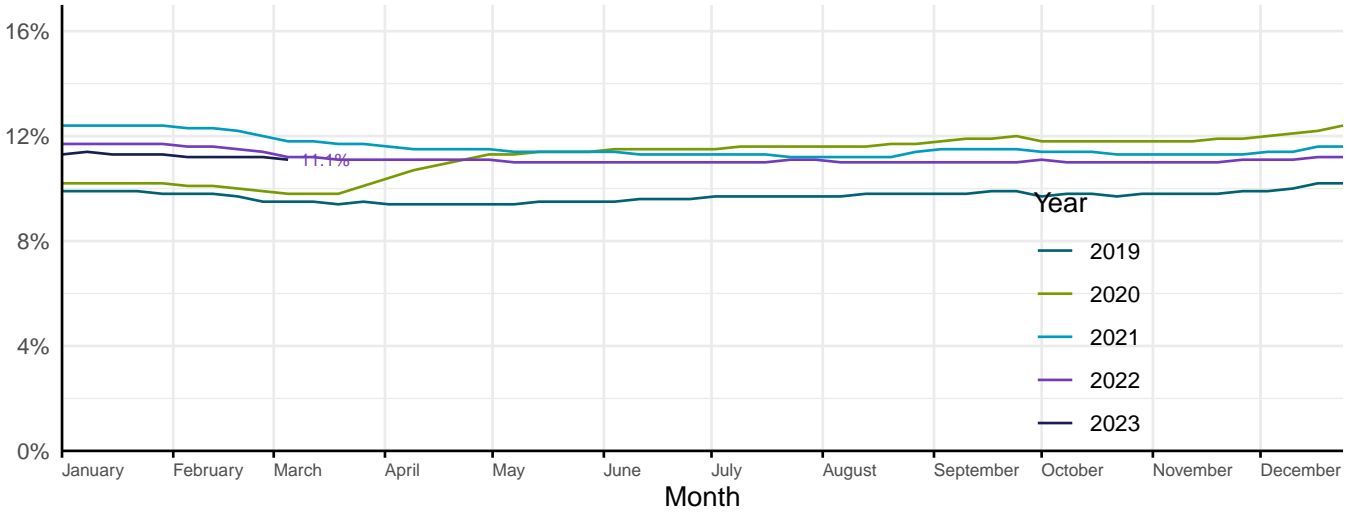


Benefit Recipients

Data up to 3 March 2023

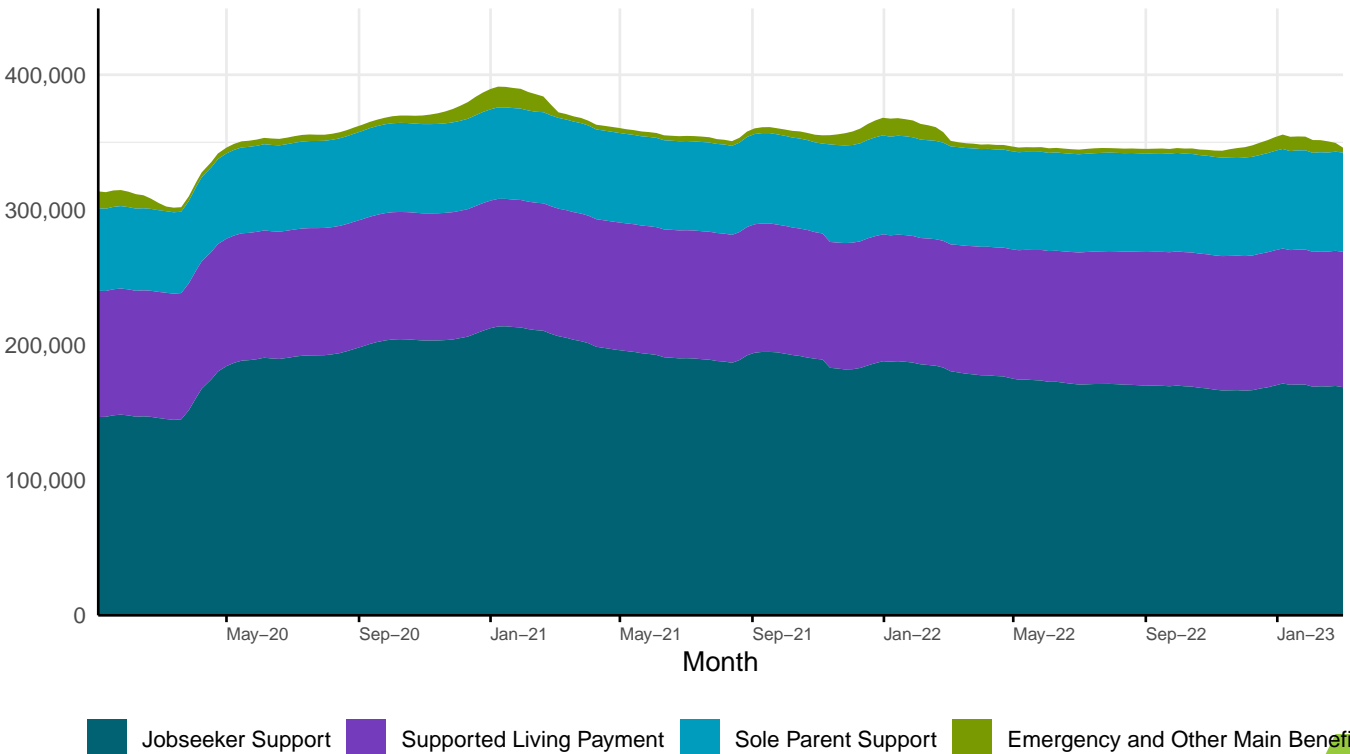
Benefits are primarily a measure of how many people are receiving income support rather than a direct measure of unemployment. Main benefits for working-age people (18 to 64 years) include: Jobseeker Support, Sole Parent Support, Supported Living Payment, and Emergency and Other main benefits. Benefit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

Number of people receiving main benefits



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

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

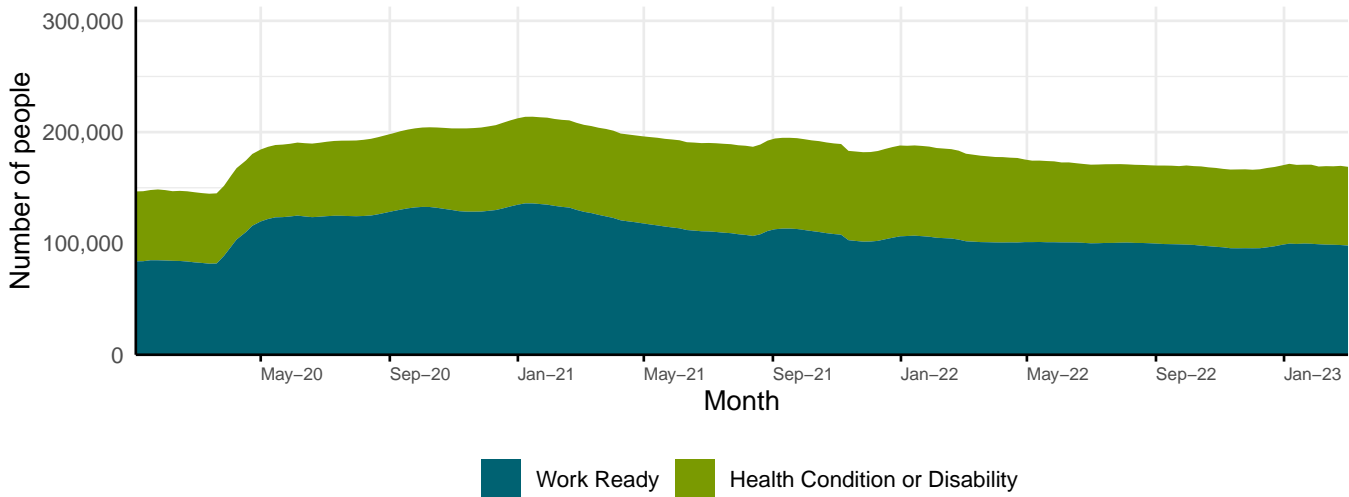


Jobseeker Benefit Recipients

Data up to 3 March 2023

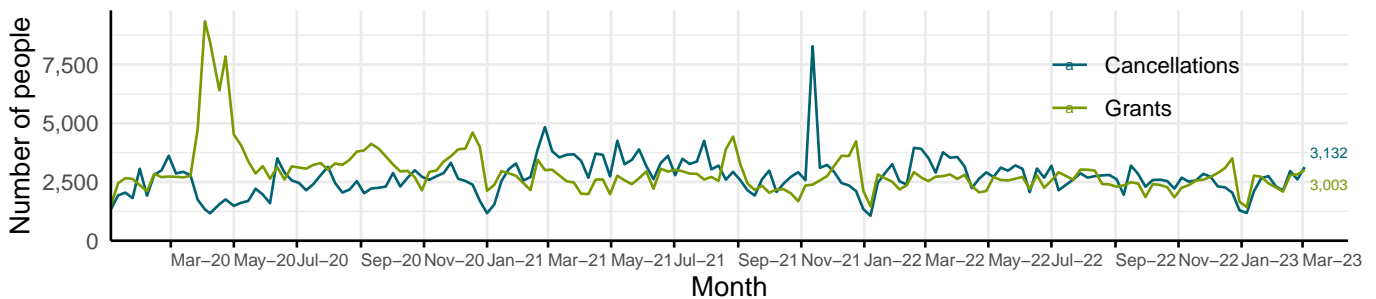
Jobseeker Support is for people who are actively looking or preparing for work. It includes both Jobseeker Support - Work Ready (JS-WR) and Jobseeker Support - Health Condition or Disability (JS-HCD). It is a weekly payment that helps people until they find work. It includes people not in employment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



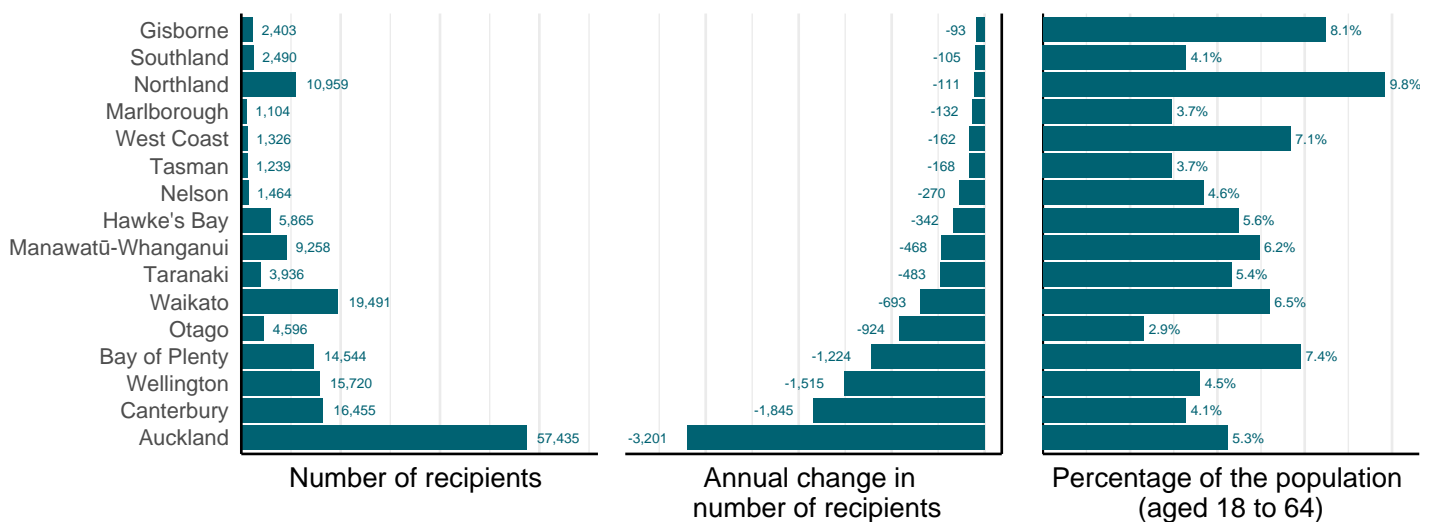
Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 03/03/2023, released every Friday)

Weekly grants and cancellations of all Jobseeker Support



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

All Jobseeker Support benefit recipients by region



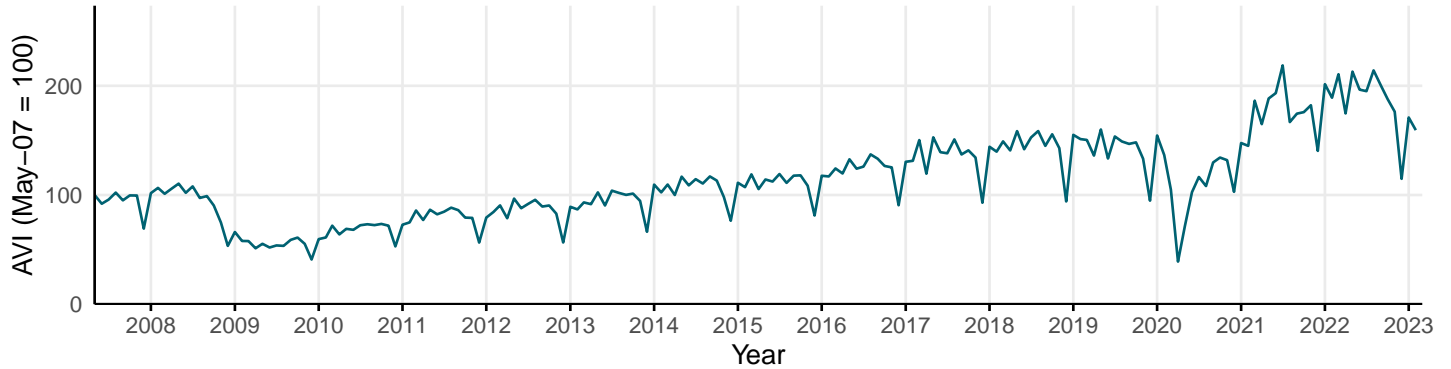
Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 03/03/2023, released every Friday)

Job Vacancies

Data up to February 2023

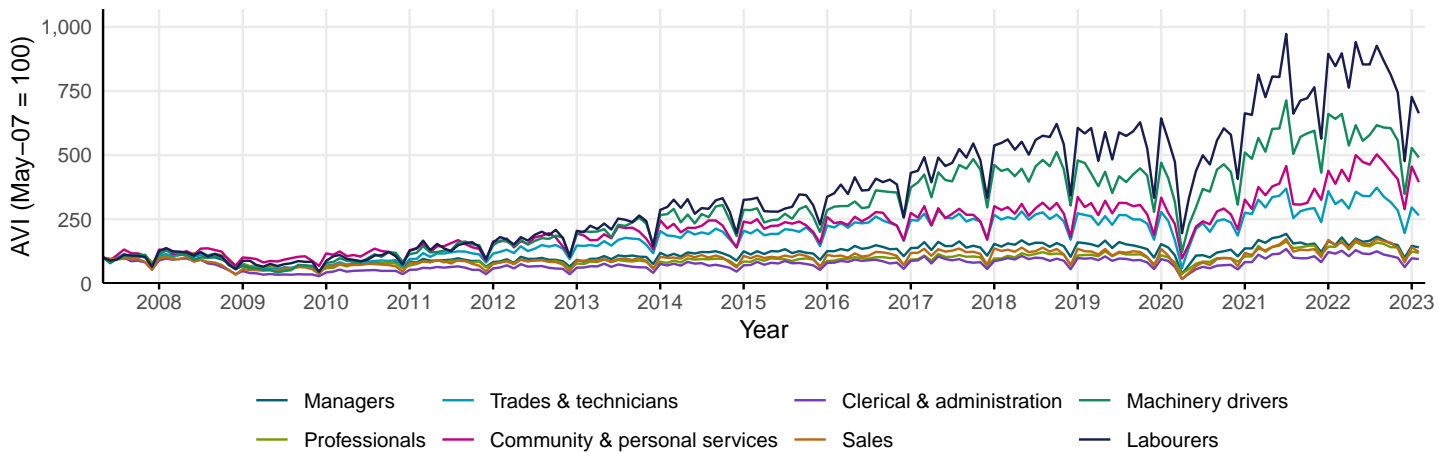
The number of jobs advertised online on major job boards can be used as a proxy for job vacancies, a key indicator of both labour demand and economic change. However, because of different hiring practices and changes in the rate of worker churn within industries, the relationship between online job advertisements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

All Vacancies Index (AVI) – online job advertising



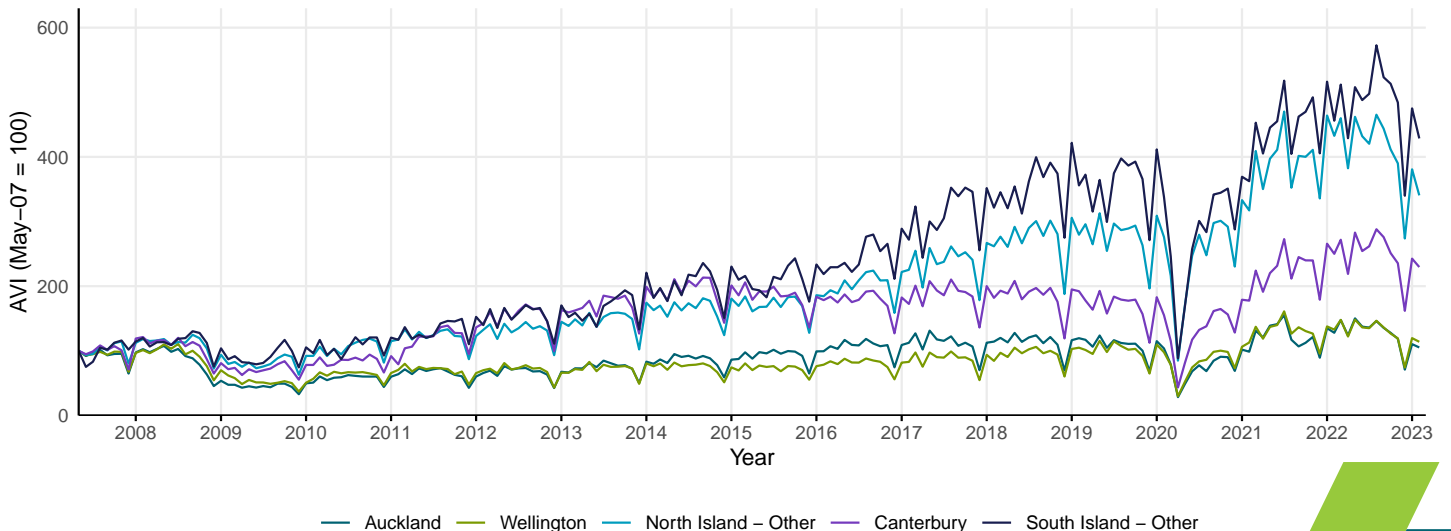
Source: Jobs Online, MBIE (Data to February 2023, next release 14/04/2023)

All Vacancies Index (AVI) by occupation



Source: Jobs Online, MBIE (Data to February 2023, next release 14/04/2023)

All Vacancies Index (AVI) by region



Source: Jobs Online, MBIE (Data to February 2023, next release 14/04/2023)



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)

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.

