Most labour market outcomes for Māori improved over the year to June 2019.

Employment was up 2,300 to 318,100 workers over the year.

The labour force participation rate (LFPR) decreased to 69.1 per cent, down 1.6 percentage points (pp) from a year ago.

The unemployment rate was down 1.2pp from a year ago to 8.3 per cent.

The annual average NEET rate rose from 17.7 per cent to 18.7 per cent in the year to June 2019. About 24,700 Māori youth were not in education, employment, or training.

The gains in employment (up 2,300) coincided with a fall in the unemployment rate to 8.3 per cent over the year. The employment rates were also up for Māori aged 35 to 44 years in the year to June 2019. Māori continued to have an unemployment rate higher than the national average. The unemployment rate for Māori was 0.2pp higher than the rate for Pacific Peoples in the year to June 2019. However, the unemployment rate for Māori fell for most age groups, except Māori aged 55 to 64 years. The biggest fall in the unemployment rate was for Māori aged 15 to 44 years.

The LFPR for Māori decreased over the past year by 1.6pp to 69.1 per cent, with the rate for males decreasing to 73.0 per cent, and the rate for females decreasing to 65.6 per cent. The LFPR decreased for all six age groups. Māori aged 55 to 64 years had the strongest decrease, down 2.4pp to 73.5 per cent.

The LFPR in three out of nine regions increased over the year. The strongest increase in the LFPR was in the Taranaki/Manawatu-Whanganui region (up 0.8pp), followed by the Bay of Plenty region (up 0.1pp). The largest decline in the LFPR was in the Northland region (down 3.8pp).

Growth in the Māori employment rates was strong for Bay of Plenty (up 2.6pp to 64.7 per cent) and Taranaki/Manawatu-Whanganui (up 1.5pp to 61.9 per cent) and South Island excluding Canterbury (up 3.8pp to 67.4 per cent) regions over the year. The Wellington region had the highest employment rate at 67.5 per cent. The lowest employment rate was in the Northland region (54.5 per cent).

The number of employed Māori was up year-on-year in four out of nine regions. South Island (excluding Canterbury) led the regions with employment growth of 9.0 per cent over the year. The largest year-on-year fall in employment for Māori was in the Wellington region (down 8.2 per cent).

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Māori representation in skilled occupations has increased. Māori in skilled occupations totalled 137,100 in June 2019, an increase of 2,400 workers (up 1.8 per cent) from a year ago. Over the year, employment in four out of eight occupation groups increased. The biggest increases in employment were for Managers (8.7 per cent or 3,800 workers), Clerks (11.6 per cent or 3,500 workers), and Services (6.8 per cent or 2,300 workers). These occupation groups make up most of the total increase in Māori employment for the June 2019 year. In contrast, the biggest falls in employment were for Labourers (8.6 per cent or 5,000 workers), and Sales (7.3 per cent or 2,700 workers). About 43.6% of Māori employed in New Zealand were in skilled occupations while 17.0% were in low-skilled occupations in June 2019.

Three-year changes for youth NEET rate:

- In June 2019, there were about 132,100 Māori aged 15-24 years. Of these, about 24,700 people were NEET, an increase of 24,000 from a year ago. Among Māori aged 15-24 years, 16.2 per cent of males and 21.4 per cent of females were NEET in June 2019. Over the year, the NEET rate for males grew more sharply than the rate for females.

- The NEET rate for Māori aged 15-19 years rose by 2.3pp to 14.8 per cent in the year to June 2019. The rate for Māori aged 20-24 years fell by 0.6pp to 23.0 per cent. More Māori youth were NEET in the June 2019 year. Overall, Māori have higher NEET rates than other ethnic groups. However, over the past three years, the number of NEET Māori fell by 4.8 per cent to 24,700.

The NEET rate for all ethnic groups was up 0.4 percentage points from last year to 11.9 per cent.

### Māori NEET rate by gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>NEET rate (Jun-2019)</th>
<th>Annual Change</th>
<th>Three-year Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>16.0</td>
<td>1.9pp</td>
<td>1.0pp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>2.3pp</td>
<td>1.9pp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>18.7</td>
<td>1.0pp</td>
<td>1.0pp</td>
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</table>

### Māori Underutilisation rate by gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Underutilisation rate (Jun-2019)</th>
<th>Annual Change</th>
<th>Three-year Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>0.9pp</td>
<td>0.9pp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>19.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>17.1</td>
<td>0.7pp</td>
<td>4.5pp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Māori representation in skilled occupations

- About 43.6% of Māori employed in New Zealand were in skilled occupations while 17.0% were in low-skilled occupations in June 2019.

### Underutilisation

Underutilisation is a broader measure of spare capacity in New Zealand’s labour market than unemployment. It also includes underemployed (part time workers who would like more hours) and the potential labour force (people who are not currently in the labour force but want a job).

- There are 70,600 Māori people who are underutilised in the workforce. Underutilised Māori include those who are officially unemployed (28,600 people), underemployed (18,400 people) and the potential labour force (33,600 people).

- In the year to June 2019 the underutilisation rate for Māori was higher than other ethnic groups, followed by Pacific Peoples. More Māori females are underutilised as a proportion of the extended labour force.

This document reports key labour market information for Māori for the year to June 2019 year. All data is sourced from the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) released quarterly by Statistics New Zealand. Data is annualised to address sampling errors and seasonal variation concerns. For the purposes of this factsheet “total response” data is used. This means that Māori refers to everyone who has selected that ethnic group, regardless of whether they have also selected another group. The subnational estimates (eg regional breakdown or ethnic group) are subject to larger sampling errors than the national estimates. Therefore, caution is needed when using and interpreting subnational estimates.