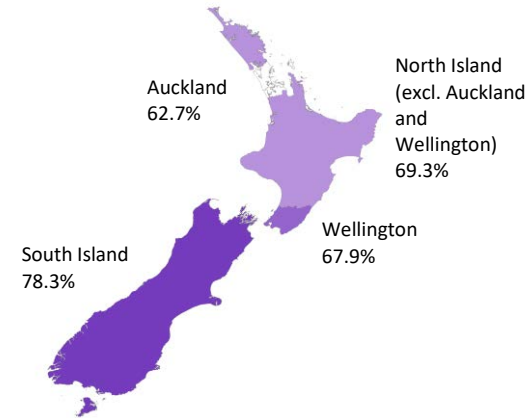


# Pacific Peoples in the Labour Market - December 2019 Year

- Most labour market indicators fell for Pacific Peoples from December 2018 to December 2019 (annual average).
- Despite a fall in the employment rate for Pacific Peoples, the number of Pacific Peoples in employment was up 7,400 to 158,000 workers from December 2018 to December 2019.
- The labour force participation rate (LFPR) decreased to 65.3 per cent in December 2019, down 0.7 percentage points (pp) from December 2018, with the labour force increasing at a slower rate than the working age population.
- The unemployment rate rose by 0.1pp from December 2018 to 8.1 per cent as at December 2019.
- The annual average youth not in education, employment or training (NEET) rate rose slightly from 16.0 per cent in December 2018 to 16.2 per cent as at December 2019. About 11,800 Pacific Peoples youth were NEET.

## Pacific Peoples active in the labour market

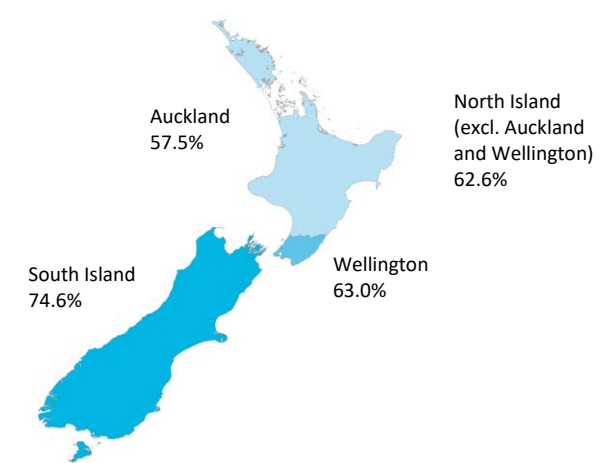
Labour force participation rate\* as at December-2019



\*The labour force participation rate is calculated using the labour force (includes people who are currently employed or actively looking for a job) divided by the working age population

## Employment to working age population ratio

Employment rate as at December-2019



### National and regional employment

The employment rate fell by 0.7pp from December 2018 to December 2019, despite an increase of 7,400 (or 4.9 per cent) more Pacific Peoples were employed from December 2018 to December 2019. However, the employment rates were up in Pacific Peoples aged 15 to 24 years, 35 to 44 years and 65 years and over.

The unemployment rate for Pacific women fell by 0.1pp from December 2018 and rose 0.3pp for Pacific men. Pacific Peoples aged 65 years and over and 25 to 34 years had the biggest fall in the unemployment rate.

Fewer Pacific Peoples are active in the labour force. The LFPR for Pacific Peoples decreased 0.7 pp over the year to 65.3 per cent. This lowered LFPR was in part due to decreases in the LFPR among Pacific Peoples aged 25 to 34 and those aged 55 years and over, and in Pacific Peoples males (down 0.7pp to 71.8 per cent) and females (down 0.6pp to 59.3 per cent).

Differences in Pacific Peoples employment across the regions continue. Pacific Peoples in the South Island had the highest employment rate (74.6 per cent), followed by Wellington (63.0 per cent) in the year to December 2019. This compares with 57.5 per cent in Auckland, where the Pacific Peoples population is most concentrated. Auckland has 65.6 per cent (112,600 people) of the total Pacific Peoples labour force and Wellington has 11.3 per cent (19,400 people). The employment rate for Pacific Peoples aged 25 to 34 and 65 years and over fell from December 2018 to December 2019.

As at December 2019, there were 263,000 Pacific Peoples of working age. Of these, 171,800 Pacific Peoples were in the labour force. By region, participation rates for Pacific Peoples in the South Island were higher than in the North Island. The participation rate for Pacific Peoples in Auckland was 62.7 per cent and 67.9 per cent in Wellington.

Labour Demand			
Pacific Peoples unemployed ('000)	Unemployment rate	Employment rate	
<b>▲ 13.8</b>	<b>▲ 8.1%</b>	<b>▼ 60.0%</b>	
up 6.0% from a year ago 12.3% of total unemployed in NZ (112.1)	up 0.1pp from a year ago 4.0pp above NZ average (4.1%)	down 0.7pp from a year ago 7.4pp below NZ average (67.4%)	
Labour supply and participation			
Total labour force ('000)	Working age population (WAP), ('000)	Labour force participation rate	
<b>▲ 171.8</b>	<b>▲ 263.0</b>	<b>▼ 65.3%</b>	
up 5.0% from a year ago 6.2% of the total labour force in NZ (2,751.8)	up 6.0% from a year ago 6.7% of total WAP in NZ (3,914.4)	down 0.7pp from a year ago 5.0pp below NZ average (70.3%)	
Employment by region			
Region	Dec-2019	Change	
		Annual	Three-year
Auckland	103,300	▲ 6.8%	▲ 17.4%
Wellington	18,000	▼ 4.5%	▲ 12.4%
North Island (excl. Auckland and Wellington)	22,300	▲ 8.4%	▲ 12.9%
South Island	14,400	▼ 0.5%	▲ 40.1%
<b>Total Pacific Peoples employment</b>	<b>158,000</b>	<b>▲ 4.9%</b>	<b>▲ 17.9%</b>
<b>Total New Zealand employment</b>	<b>2,639,700</b>	<b>▲ 1.6%</b>	<b>▲ 7.6%</b>

### Industry employment

The industries employing the most Pacific Peoples as at December 2019 were Manufacturing, Wholesale & Retail, and Health Care & Social.

From December 2018 to December 2019, employment grew in seven out of the twelve industry groups. The strongest annual growth was in Other Services (up 29.4 per cent or 2,000 workers), followed by Wholesale & Retail (up 15.7 per cent or 2,900 workers) and Health Care and Social Assistance (up 13.9 per cent or 2,300 workers).

#### Annual change

	Dec-2018	Dec-2019	Change
<b>Biggest rises</b>			
Other Services	6,700	8,700	▲ 29.4%
Wholesale & Retail	18,400	21,300	▲ 15.7%
Health Care and Social Assistance	16,100	18,400	▲ 13.9%
<b>Biggest falls</b>			
Accommodation & Food Services	9,600	7,900	▼ 17.8%
Manufacturing	24,700	21,800	▼ 11.5%
Financial and Insurance	5,200	5,100	▼ 2.5%

#### Pacific Peoples employment share by industry, Dec 2019



Employment by industry			
Industry	Dec-2019	Change	
		Annual	Three-year
Agriculture Forestry Fishing and Mining	4,300	▲ 4.0%	▲ 36.7%
Manufacturing	21,800	▼ 11.5%	▼ 3.5%
Utilities and Construction	16,200	▼ 1.3%	▲ 4.5%
Wholesale & Retail	21,300	▲ 15.7%	▲ 24.1%
Accommodation & Food Services	7,900	▼ 17.8%	▼ 3.2%
Transport Warehousing IM & Communications	13,900	▲ 4.1%	▲ 12.8%
Financial and Insurance	5,100	▼ 2.5%	▲ 38.5%
Other Business Services*	17,200	▲ 8.3%	▲ 52.3%
Public Admin and Safety	10,400	▼ 0.4%	▲ 19.5%
Education and Training	9,700	▲ 6.6%	▲ 14.4%
Health Care and Social Assistance	18,400	▲ 13.9%	▲ 22.5%
Other Services	8,700	▲ 29.4%	▲ 41.4%
<b>Total Pacific Peoples Employed (includes Not Specified)</b>	<b>158,000</b>	<b>▲ 4.9%</b>	<b>▲ 17.9%</b>

Note: Sum of employment by industry may not equal total employed due to rounding. The smaller estimates are subject to large sampling errors. The above figures are annual averages, and may differ from Statistics New Zealand's published figures.

\*Includes Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services, Administrative & Support Services, and Professional, Scientific & Technical Services, and Other Services.

## Occupational Representation

From December 2018 to December 2019, employment in most occupation groups increased. The biggest increases in employment were in Clerks (up 21.8 per cent or 3,600 workers), Professionals (up 10.4 per cent or 2,200 workers) and Sales (up 17.8 per cent or 2,000 workers). These occupation groups make up most of the increase in Pacific Peoples employment from December 2018 to December 2019.

Pacific Peoples' representation in skilled occupations declined

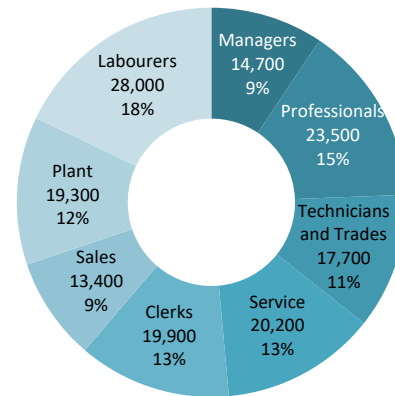
Pacific Peoples in skilled occupations total 55,900 workers as at December 2019, a decrease of 300 workers (down 0.5 per cent) from December 2018.

**35.7% of Pacific Peoples were in skilled\* occupations**

**17.8% of Pacific Peoples were in low skilled occupations**

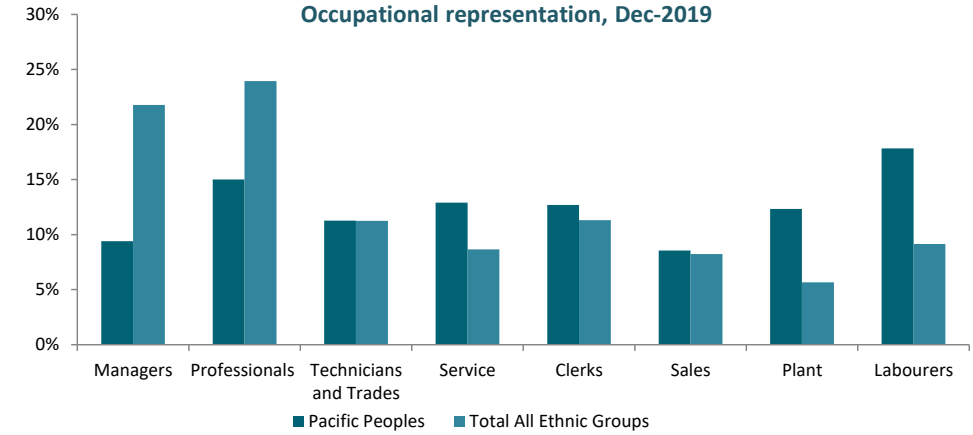
\* Includes those in Managerial, Professional, and Trades & Technician occupation groups; low skilled occupations are those under the Labourers group. The low-skilled occupations also include Service Workers in the Health Care and Social Assistance industry.

Pacific Peoples employment by occupation, Dec-2019



Source: Household Labour Force Survey, Statistics New Zealand

Occupational representation, Dec-2019



## Youth not in education, employment or training (NEET)

The proportion of young people who are not engaged in education, employment or training (NEET) is used as an indicator of youth disengagement.

As at the year to December 2019, there were about 73,300 Pacific Peoples aged 15-24 years in the working age population. Of these, about 11,800 people were NEET, a decrease of 500 from December 2018. The Pacific Peoples NEET rate has been consistently higher than European and Asian ethnic groups. Among Pacific Peoples aged 15-24 years, 14.2 per cent of males and 18.2 per cent of females were NEET as at December 2019. The NEET rate for Pacific Peoples was 16.2 per cent as at December 2019.

NEET rate by ethnic group

Ethnic group	NEET rate Dec-2019	Change (percentage points)	
		Annual	Three-year
European	9.5	↓ 0.8pp	↓ 0.4pp
Māori	18.6	↑ 0.1pp	↓ 1.4pp
Pacific Peoples	16.2	↑ 0.1pp	↓ 1.1pp
Asian	8.5	↓ 1.0pp	↓ 1.7pp
<b>Total All Ethnic Groups</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>↓ 0.5pp</b>	<b>↓ 0.5pp</b>

Source: Statistics New Zealand, MBIE

Pacific Peoples NEET rate by gender

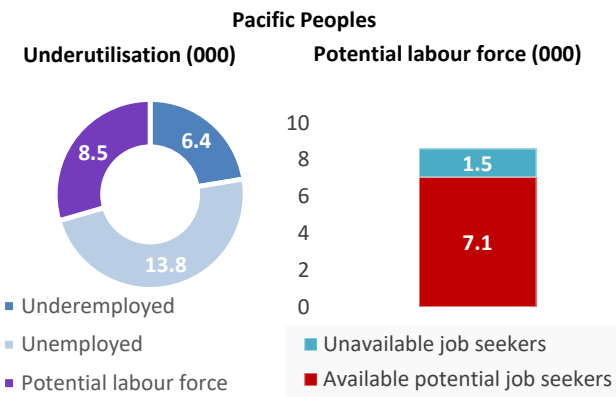
Gender	NEET rate Dec-2019	Change (percentage points)	
		Annual	Three-year
Male	14.2	↑ 0.2pp	↓ 1.6pp
Female	18.2	↑ 0.2pp	↓ 0.4pp
<b>Total</b>	<b>16.2</b>	<b>↑ 0.1pp</b>	<b>↓ 1.1pp</b>

## Underutilisation rate

People who are underutilised as a proportion of the extended labour force are considered to be a source of potential labour. Those people who are underutilised are those who are underemployed, officially unemployed and potentially in the labour force. The potential labour force includes people who are not in the labour force and are either unavailable (unavailable job seekers) or not looking for work (available potential job seekers).

The extended labour force includes those that are employed and those that are potentially in the labour force, underemployed, and officially unemployed.

There are 28,600 Pacific Peoples who are underutilised in the workforce. Underutilised Pacific Peoples include those who are officially unemployed (13,800 people), underemployed (6,400



Underutilisation rate by ethnic group

Ethnic group	Underutilisation rate Dec-2019	Change (percentage points)	
		Annual	Three-year
European	9.5	↓ 1.2pp	↓ 1.5pp
Māori	18.2	↓ 2.1pp	↓ 5.4pp
Pacific Peoples	15.9	↓ 1.5pp	↓ 3.9pp
Asian	10.1	↓ 1.6pp	↓ 4.5pp
<b>Total All Ethnic Groups</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>↓ 1.3pp</b>	<b>↓ 2.2pp</b>

Source: Statistics New Zealand, MBIE

Underutilisation rate for Māori by gender

Gender	Underutilisation rate Dec-2019	Change (percentage points)	
		Annual	Three-year
Male	13.2	↓ 0.4pp	↓ 2.8pp
Female	18.9	↓ 2.7pp	↓ 4.8pp
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>↓ 1.5pp</b>	<b>↓ 3.9pp</b>