Labour market outcomes for Māori declined over the year to December 2020. More Māori were unemployed, while the labour force participation rate also decreased over this period. There were more young people who were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

The employment rate fell despite an increase in employment of 5,100 to 369,500 workers over the year. Employment fell in Accommodation & food services.

The participation rate decreased to 69.0 per cent, down 0.3 percentage points (pp) from a year ago.

The unemployment rate increased by 0.6pp from a year ago to 9.0 per cent.

The Māori NEET rate was up 1.0pp to 19.7 per cent.

### National and regional labour markets

The gains in Māori employment (up 5,100) coincided with an increase in unemployment of 3,300 workers over the year to December 2020. The biggest falls in the employment rates were for Māori aged 65 years and over. The unemployment rate (9.0 per cent) continued to be higher than the national rate (4.9 per cent). Māori unemployment was 0.6pp lower than the rate for Pacific Peoples in the year to December 2020. The unemployment rate for whānau Māori was 10.3 per cent, compared to 7.9 per cent for Māori men. However, the unemployment rate for Māori fell for those aged 25 to 34 and 55 to 64 years. The biggest increases in unemployment were for Māori aged 15 to 24 and 35 to 54 years.

The participation rate for Māori decreased by 0.3pp over the past year to 69.0 per cent, with the rate for males increasing to 73.7 per cent and the rate for females decreasing to 64.5 per cent. The participation rate for Māori fell for most age groups, with those aged 65 years and over having the strongest decrease down 5.0pp to 27.3 per cent.

Employment for Māori was up from December 2019 to December 2020 in six out of nine regions. Canterbury led the regions with employment growth of 10.3 per cent over the year, followed by Taranaki/Manawatu-Wanganui (up 6.1 per cent). The largest fall in employment for Māori, over the year to December 2020, was in the Wellington region (down 5.0pp). The biggest increase in the Māori employment rate was evident for Auckland (up 1.5pp to 62.7 per cent) over the year. The biggest fall in the employment rate was evident for Wellington (down 5.2pp to 66.9 per cent). The South Island (excluding Canterbury) region had the highest employment rate at 70.7 per cent, with the Northland region (56.2 per cent) having the lowest.

The participation rate increased in three out of nine regions, from December 2019 to December 2020. The strongest increase in the participation rate was in the Auckland region (up 2.6pp), followed by the Northland region (up 1.2pp). The largest decline was in the Wellington region (down 5.0pp).

Unemployment and employment rates by age groups

The unemployment rate for Māori (9.0 per cent) was higher than all New Zealanders (4.9 per cent), with the biggest difference for Māori aged 35-44 (4.3pp above the national average of 3.1 per cent for that age group).

The employment rate for Māori (62.7 per cent) was lower than the total of all ethnic groups (67.1 per cent). The employment rate was lower for most age groups, except for people aged 65 years and over. The biggest difference in the employment rate was for Māori aged 25-34 years (10.8pp below the national rate of 82.0 for that age group).
The industries employing the most Māori workers in December 2020 were Utilities & Construction, Manufacturing and Wholesale & Retail.

Over the year, employment grew in five out of twelve industry groups. The strongest annual growth was in Public Administration & Safety (18.3 per cent or 4,800 workers), followed by Financial & Insurance (16.9 per cent or 1,000 workers), and Utilities & Construction (9.6 per cent or 4,300 workers).

Note: The sum of employment by industry may not equal total employed due to rounding. The smaller estimates are subject to large sampling errors.

Includes Rental, Hiring & Real Estate Services, Administrative & Support Services, and Professional, Scientific & Technical Services. *Includes Arts and recreation services, and Other services. **South Auckland is derived from the Auckland wards of Manukau, Manurewa-Papakura. West Auckland is derived from the Auckland wards of Waitakere and Whau. The remaining Auckland wards comprise rest of Auckland.

53.6% of Māori were in Skilled occupations #
18.1% of Māori were in Unskilled occupations

* Includes those in skill levels 1, 2 and 3 according to ANZSCO skill levels (Highly skilled, Skilled and Semi-skilled). Weighted by skill levels derived from 4 digit ANZSCO occupations in the 2018 Census. Skilled occupations predominantly include Managers, Professionals, Technicians and trades workers, and some Service workers such as Sports peoples and Health care occupations.

** Unskilled occupations are Skill Level 5 ANZSCO occupations.

Total employment includes not specified

About 53.6 per cent of Māori employed in New Zealand were in Skilled occupations, compared to 66.2 per cent of all workers nationally. There were more Māori in Low skilled and Unskilled occupations, compared to all workers. There were 26.1 per cent of Māori in Low skilled occupations (compared to 19.9 per cent for all workers) and 18.1 per cent in Unskilled occupations (compared to 12.2 per cent).

Youth NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) rate

As at December 2020, there were about 148,600 Māori aged 15-24 years. Of these, about 29,300 people were NEET, higher than a year ago (27,000 people). Of those young Māori (aged 15 to 24 years) who were NEET, 10,800 were unemployed and not in education; 6,700 were not in the labour force, not in education but were care giving and 11,800 were not in labour force, not in education and not caregiving in December 2020.

The NEET rate for Māori aged 15-19 years fell by 0.2pp to 14.5 per cent over the year to December 2020, but grew for Māori aged 20-24 years (by 2.4pp). Overall, Māori have higher NEET rates than other ethnic groups.

Underutilisation rate*

There were 83,500 who were underutilised in the working-age population in the December 2020 quarter. This includes those who are officially unemployed (36,700 people), underemployed (21,500 people) and in the potential labour force (25,300 people).

*People who are underutilised as a proportion of the extended labour force provides a more detailed picture of the workforce. Those people who are underutilised are those who are unemployed, officially enrolled or potentially in the labour force. Underemployed are those who are economically active part-time (working fewer than 20 hours per week) and have the desire and availability to increase their hours. The potential labour force includes people who would like a job but are not currently actively seeking one (available job seeker) and people who are currently looking for a job but are not eligible to start a new (unavailable job seeker).

*Unemployed = 0.2pp
**Underemployed = 1.9pp
***Available potential job seekers = 2.2pp

Māori Underutilisation rate by gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnic group</th>
<th>Underutilisation rate</th>
<th>Dec-2020</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Three-year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European</td>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>1.4pp</td>
<td>0.3pp</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Māori</td>
<td>19.3</td>
<td>1.2pp</td>
<td>2.2pp</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Peoples</td>
<td>18.0</td>
<td>2.2pp</td>
<td>0.4pp</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>12.1</td>
<td>3.1pp</td>
<td>0.9pp</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total All Ethnic Groups</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>1.9pp</td>
<td>0.3pp</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This document reports key labour market information for Māori for the year to December 2020. Māori data is sourced from Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) released quarterly by Statistics New Zealand. Data comparisons are not analyzed data that has not been annuallized, so that the effects of COVID-19 are in seen clearly. Unannualized data for the same quarter in a year is used to address seasonal variation concerns. The percentage base underlying the Household Labour Force Survey was reweighted in September 2020. The other data sources are income data derived from the Income Survey and adjusted by the Consumer Price Index, and skill levels derived from the Household Labour Force Survey and weighted by skill levels derived from 4-digit ANZSCO occupations in the 2018 Census. 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 (by 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.