

Pacific Peoples in the Labour Market - December 2020 Quarter (unadjusted)

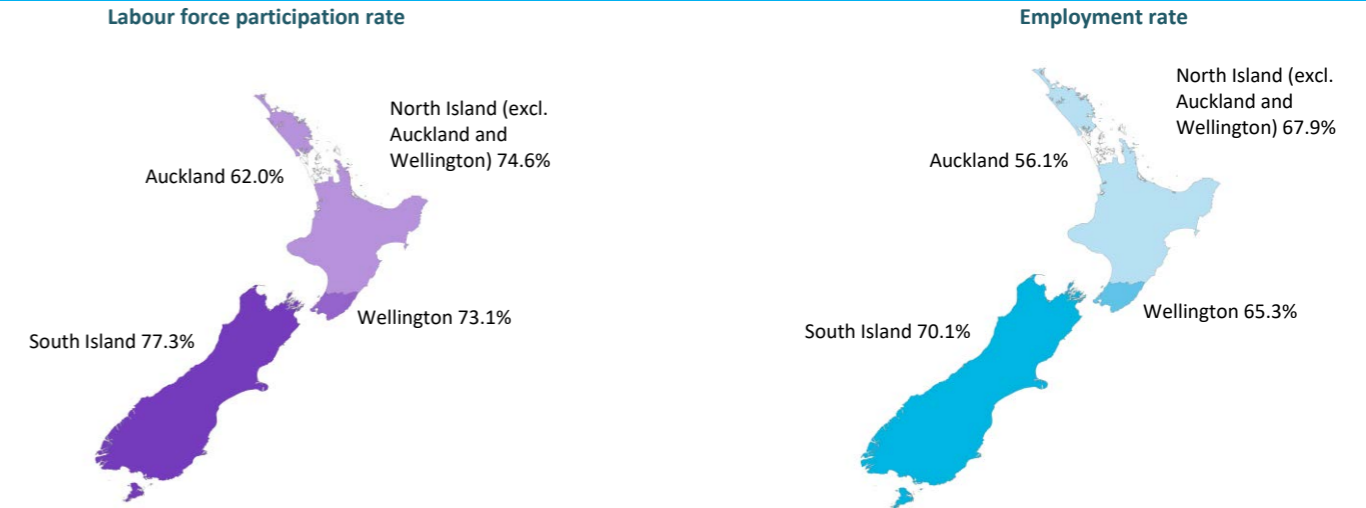
Overall, the labour market results for Pacific Peoples declined. More Pacific Peoples were unemployed and there was a fall in the working-age population across all age groups, except those aged 35 to 44 years. There were more young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

Employment fell by 6,000 to 164,400 people, while the employment rate fell by 1.0 percentage points (pp) to 59.9 per cent over the year to December 2020.

The labour force participation rate increased to 66.3 per cent, up 0.7 pp from December 2019 to December 2020.

The unemployment rate grew from 7.2 per cent in December 2019 to 9.6 per cent in December 2020.

The NEET rate grew from 15.7 per cent to 19.2 per cent over the year to December 2020. About 15,100 Pacific Peoples youth were NEET. The NEET rate for Pacific women grew by 5.1pp to 22.1 per cent.



National and regional labour markets

The employment rate fell by 1.0pp to 59.9 per cent over the year to December 2020, with 6,000 (3.5 per cent) fewer Pacific Peoples employed over this period. The employment rates fell for all Pacific Peoples, except those aged 15 to 24 years and 55 to 64 years.

The unemployment rate for Pacific women grew by 2.0pp to 9.8 per cent over the past year, with more Pacific women unemployed (up to 8,100 from 6,400) over the year to December 2020. The unemployment rate also grew by 2.8pp to 9.4 per cent for Pacific men over the past year.

A higher proportion of Pacific Peoples were active in the labour market. The participation rate for Pacific Peoples increased 0.7pp over the year to 66.3 per cent. This increase was contributed to by increases in the participation rate among Pacific Peoples aged 15-24 years, and Pacific women (up 1.9 pp to 59.5 per cent). However, the participation rate fell for Pacific men (down 0.7 pp to 73.3 per cent), and in Auckland (down 0.6pp to 62.0 per cent).

Differences in Pacific Peoples' employment across the regions continue. Pacific Peoples in the South Island had the highest employment rate (70.1 per cent), followed by North Island (excl. Auckland and Wellington) at 67.9 per cent in the year to December 2020. This compares with the employment rate of 56.1 per cent in Auckland (down 0.6 per cent), where the Pacific Peoples' working-age population is most concentrated (down 4.7 per cent to 182,400 people). Around two thirds of the Pacific Peoples labour force is in Auckland (62.2 per cent, 113,100 people) and 12.5 per cent (22,700) in Wellington. Over the year to December 2020, employment fell for Pacific Peoples living in South Auckland (down 11.2 per cent to 55,600 workers), West Auckland (down 7.8 per cent to 17,800 workers), but grew in the rest of Auckland (up 0.3 per cent to 28,800 workers).

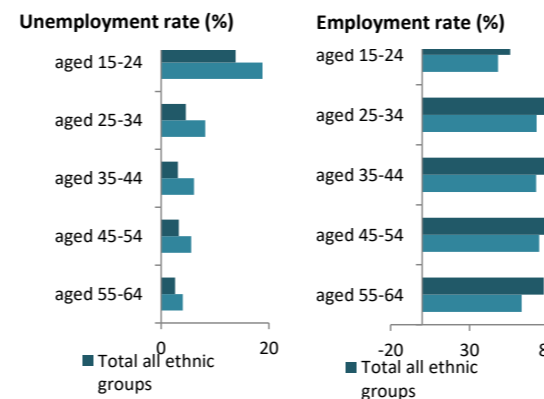
As at December 2020, there were 274,200 Pacific Peoples in the working-age population, a fall of 2.0 per cent from a year ago to December 2020, the first fall since June 2019. Of these, 181,800 were in the labour force. Participation rates in the South Island were higher than in the North Island. The participation rate for Pacific Peoples was 62.0 per cent in Auckland and 73.1 per cent in Wellington.

Labour Demand			
People unemployed ('000)	▲ 17.5	Unemployment rate	▲ 9.6%
	up 32.6% from a year ago 12.4% of total unemployed in NZ (141.0)		up 2.4pp from a year ago 4.7pp above NZ average (4.9%)
		Employment rate	▼ 59.9%
			down 1.0pp from a year ago 7.2pp below NZ average (67.1%)
Labour supply and participation			
Total labour force ('000)	▼ 181.8	Working age population (WAP),	▼ 274.2
	down 1.0% from a year ago 6.3% of the total labour force in NZ		down 2.0% from a year ago 6.7% of total WAP in NZ (4,092.2)
		Labour force participation rate	▲ 66.3
			up 0.7pp from a year ago 4.3pp below NZ average (70.6%)
Employment by region			
Region	Dec-2020	Annual	Change Three-year
Auckland	102,200	▼ 7.7%	▲ 3.8%
Wellington	20,300	▲ 7.4%	▲ 12.8%
North Island (excl. Auckland and Wellington)	25,400	→ 0.0%	▲ 46.8%
South Island	16,400	▲ 5.8%	▲ 26.2%
South Auckland [#]	55,600	▼ 11.2%	▲ 7.3%
West Auckland [#]	17,800	▼ 7.8%	▼ 16.8%
Rest of Auckland [#]	28,800	▲ 0.3%	▲ 14.3%
Total Pacific Peoples' employment	164,400	▼ 3.5%	▲ 12.0%
Total New Zealand employment	2,746,700	▲ 0.7%	▲ 4.2%

Unemployment and employment by age

The unemployment rate for Pacific Peoples (9.6 per cent) was higher than for all ethnic groups (4.9 per cent). Unemployment was consistently higher over all age groups, with the biggest difference for people aged 15 to 24 (18.8 per cent). This was 5.0pp above the national rate of 13.8 per cent for that age group.

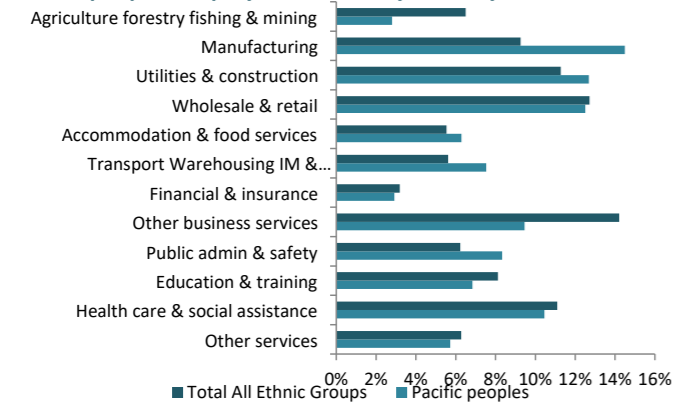
The employment rate for Pacific Peoples (59.9 per cent) was lower than for all ethnic groups (67.1 per cent) over the year to December 2020. Employment fell the most for those aged 35 to 44 years, 11.3pp below the national rate for people of that age group (83.6 per cent).



Age groups	Unemployment and employment rates by age group		
	Dec-2020	Annual	Change (percentage points)
Pacific Peoples			
aged 15-24 years	18.8	▲ 4.7pp	▲ 1.2pp
aged 25-34 years	8.2	▲ 2.0pp	▲ 1.0pp
aged 35-44 years	6.1	▲ 1.4pp	▲ 2.3pp
aged 45-54 years	5.6	▲ 2.5pp	▲ 2.4pp
aged 55-64 years	4.0	▼ 2.8pp	▲ 1.7pp
Pacific Peoples			
aged 15-24 years	48.1	▲ 0.9pp	▲ 2.5pp
aged 25-34 years	72.6	▼ 1.7pp	▼ 2.7pp
aged 35-44 years	72.3	▼ 5.3pp	▼ 4.2pp
aged 45-54 years	74.3	▼ 2.5pp	▼ 5.9pp
aged 55-64 years	63.2	▲ 1.6pp	▼ 5.1pp

Industry employment

Pacific peoples employment share by industry, December 2020



The industries employing the most Pacific Peoples in December 2020 were Manufacturing, Utilities & construction, and Wholesale & retail.

From December 2019 to December 2020, employment grew in six out of twelve industry groups. The strongest annual growth was in Public admin & safety (16.5 per cent or 1,900 workers), followed by Accommodation & food services (14.8 per cent or 1,300 workers) and Utilities & construction (10.3 per cent or 1,900 workers).

Note: 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 Waitākere and Whau. The remaining Auckland wards comprise Rest of Auckland

Employment by industry

Industry	Dec-2020	Annual change	Three-year change
Agriculture forestry fishing & mining	4,500	↓ 4.3%	↓ 2.2%
Manufacturing	23,300	↑ 1.3%	↑ 6.4%
Utilities & construction	20,400	↑ 10.3%	↑ 10.9%
Wholesale & retail	20,100	↓ 13.7%	→ 0.0%
Accommodation & food services	10,100	↑ 14.8%	↑ 8.6%
Transport warehousing IM & communications	12,100	↓ 22.4%	↓ 10.4%
Financial & insurance	4,700	↑ 6.8%	↑ 30.6%
Other business services*	15,200	↓ 1.9%	↑ 17.8%
Public admin & safety	13,400	↑ 16.5%	↑ 22.9%
Education & training	11,000	↑ 10.0%	↑ 14.6%
Health care & social assistance	16,800	↓ 13.8%	↑ 15.9%
Other services**	9,200	↓ 10.7%	↑ 76.9%
Total Pacific Peoples Employed (includes Not Specified)	164,400	↓ 3.5%	↑ 12.0%

Occupational Representation

From December 2019 to December 2020, employment in six out of eight occupation groups fell. The biggest decreases in employment were in Clerks (23.6 per cent or 4,900 workers), Technicians & trades (13.6 per cent or 2,800 workers) and Machinery Operators (12.3 per cent or 2,600 workers). These occupation groups make up most of the decrease in Pacific Peoples' employment from December 2019 to December 2020.

A higher proportion of Pacific Peoples were employed in Low skilled and Unskilled jobs, compared to all workers nationally. About 44.0 per cent of Pacific Peoples employed in New Zealand were in Skilled occupations, compared to 66.2 per cent of all workers. The proportion of Pacific Peoples in Low skilled occupations was 32.1 per cent (compared to 19.9 per cent of all workers) and the proportion in Unskilled occupations was 21.1 per cent (compared to 12.2 per cent).

44.0 % of Pacific Peoples were in Skilled* occupations#.

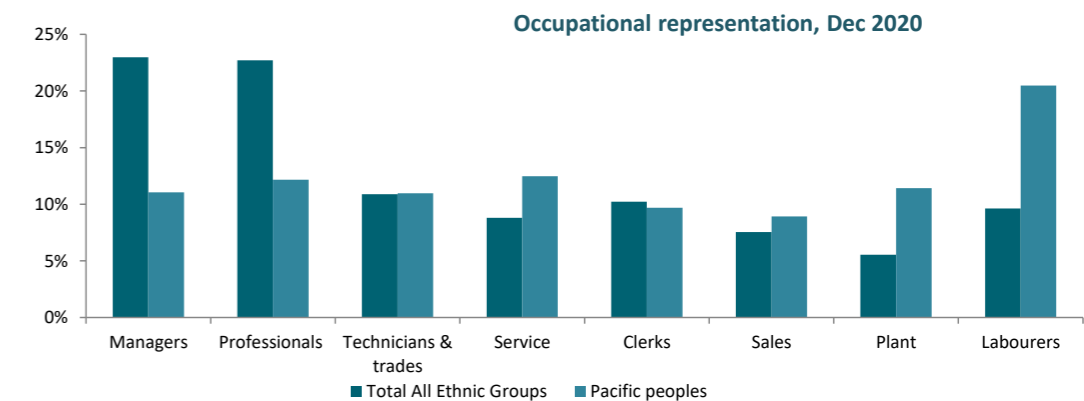
21.1 % of Pacific Peoples were in Unskilled**

* 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 workers.

** Unskilled occupations are Skill Level 5 ANZSCO

** Unskilled occupations are Skill Level 5 ANZSCO occupations.

Employment totals includes not specified



Youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

As at December 2020, there were about 78,600 Pacific Peoples aged 15 to 24 years in the working-age population. Of these, around 15,100 people were NEET (19.2 per cent), an increase of 2,600 from December 2019.

Of those young Pacific People (aged 15 to 24 years) who were NEET 5,400 were unemployed and not in education; 3,800 were not in the labour force, not in education but were care giving and 5,900 were not in labour force, not in education and not caregiving in December 2020.

The NEET rate for Pacific Peoples has been consistently higher than European and Asian ethnic groups. Pacific women were more likely to be NEET (22.1 per cent) than their male counterparts (16.5 per cent).

NEET rate by ethnic group

Ethnic group	NEET rate	Change (percentage points)	
	Dec-2020	Annual	Three-year
European	11.0	↑ 1.0pp	↑ 1.5pp
Māori	19.7	↑ 1.0pp	↑ 3.2pp
Pacific Peoples	19.2	↑ 3.5pp	↑ 2.1pp
Asian	7.7	↓ 2.5pp	↓ 5.1pp
Total All Ethnic Groups	12.9	↑ 0.5pp	↑ 0.9pp

NEET rate by gender

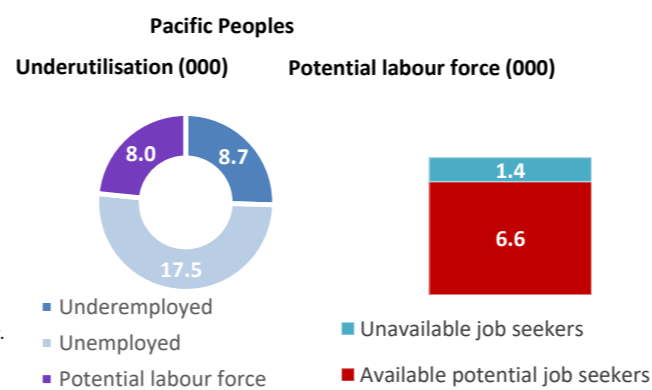
	NEET rate	Annual	Three-year
	Dec-2020		
Male	16.5	↑ 2.1pp	↑ 3.9pp
Female	22.1	↑ 5.1pp	↑ 1.1pp
Total Pacific Peoples	19.2	↑ 3.5pp	↑ 2.1pp

Underutilisation rate*

There were 34,200 Pacific Peoples underutilised in the working-age population. This includes those who are officially unemployed (17,500 people), underemployed (8,700 people) and in the potential labour force (8,000 people).

In December 2020, the underutilisation rate for Pacific Peoples was higher than other ethnic groups except for Māori.

*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 underemployed, officially unemployed and potentially in the labour force. Underemployed are those who are employed part-time (working fewer than 30 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 seekers) and people who are currently looking for a job but are not available to start quite yet (unavailable job seekers).



Underutilisation rate by ethnic group

Ethnic group	Underutilisation rate	Change (percentage points)	
	Dec-2020	Annual	Three-year
European	10.8	↑ 1.4pp	↓ 0.3pp
Māori	19.3	↑ 1.2pp	↓ 2.2pp
Pacific Peoples	18.0	↑ 2.2pp	↓ 0.4pp
Asian	12.1	↑ 3.1pp	↓ 0.9pp
Total All Ethnic Groups	12.3	↑ 1.9pp	↓ 0.3pp

Underutilisation rate for Pacific Peoples by gender

Gender	Dec-2020	Annual	Three-year
Male	15.3	↑ 1.9pp	↑ 2.1pp
Female	21.1	↑ 2.5pp	↓ 2.9pp
Total Pacific Peoples	18.0	↑ 2.2pp	↓ 0.4pp