



The workforce under Alert Levels 4 and 3

September 2021 factsheet

This fact sheet presents MBI’s estimates on the size and characteristics of the workforce under COVID-19 Alert Levels 4 and 3. This work combines our Alert Level 4 Business and Service categories with judgement about potential operational capacity of firms. We have also added estimates of those able to undertake work from home.

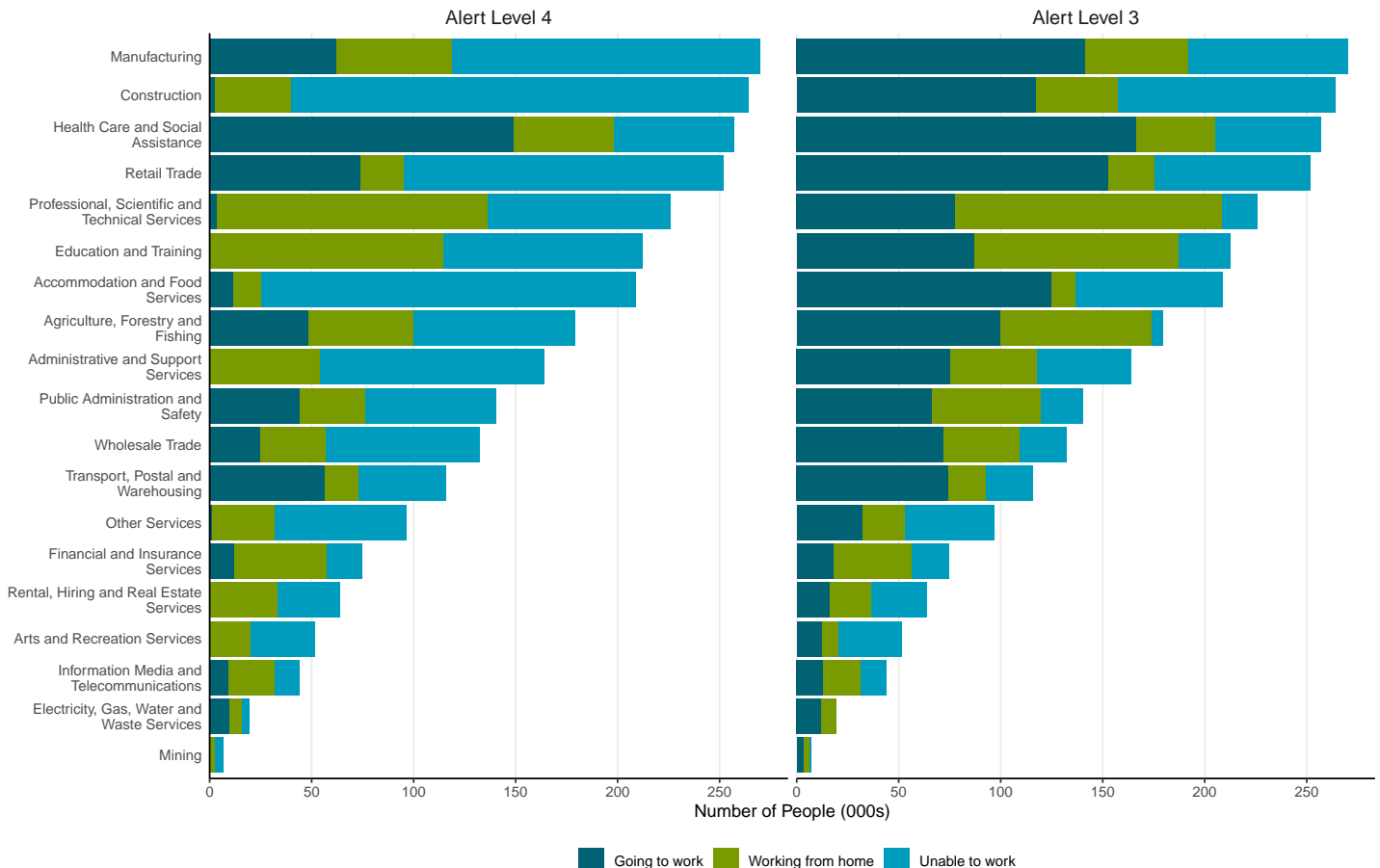
This model was initially developed in May 2020, and the data has been updated in September 2021.

State of the workforce

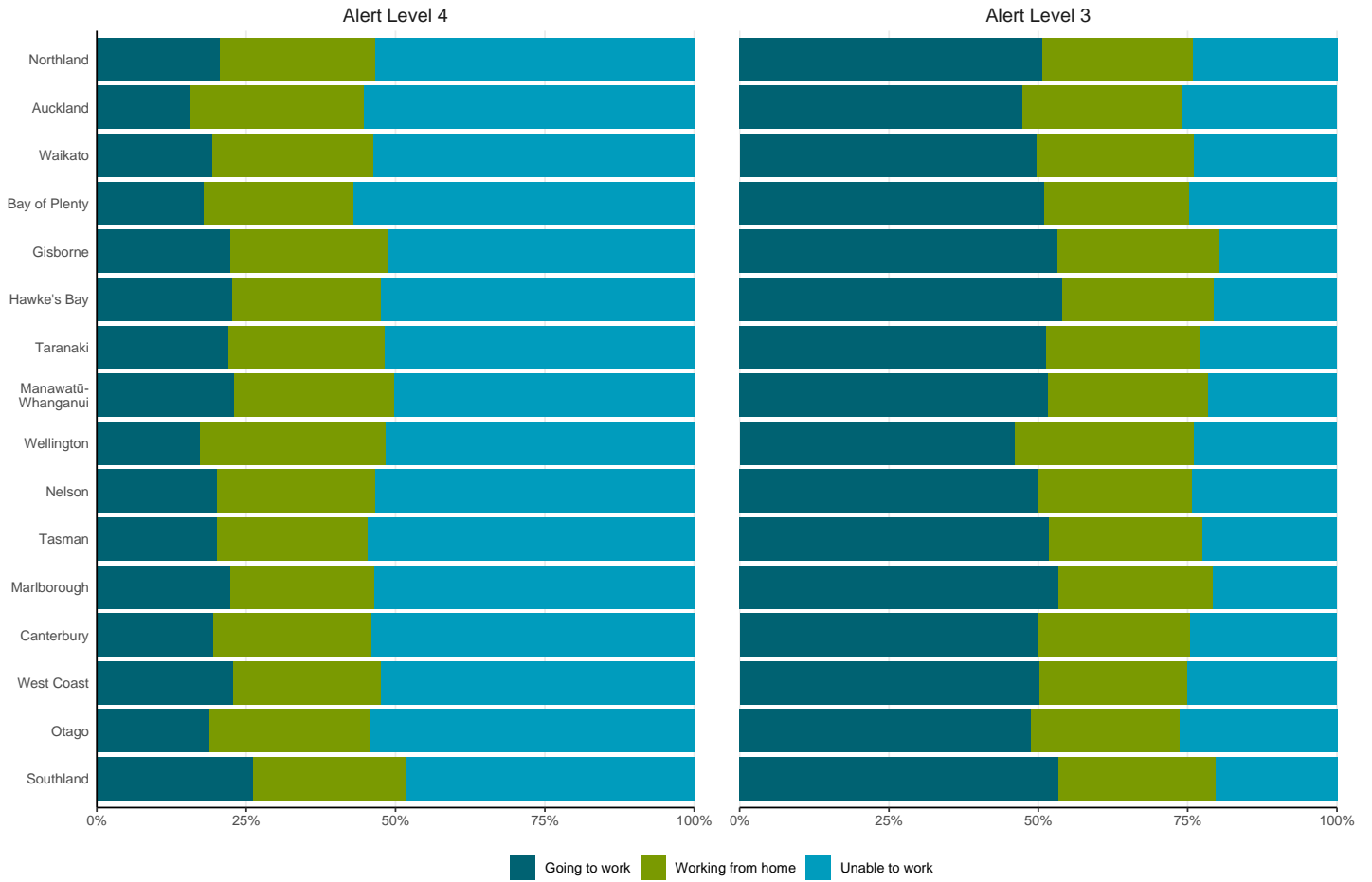
	Alert Level 4	Alert Level 3
Going to work	510,000	1,364,000
Working from home	769,000	732,000
Unable to work	1,499,000	683,000
Total	2,779,000	2,779,000

Workforce breakdowns

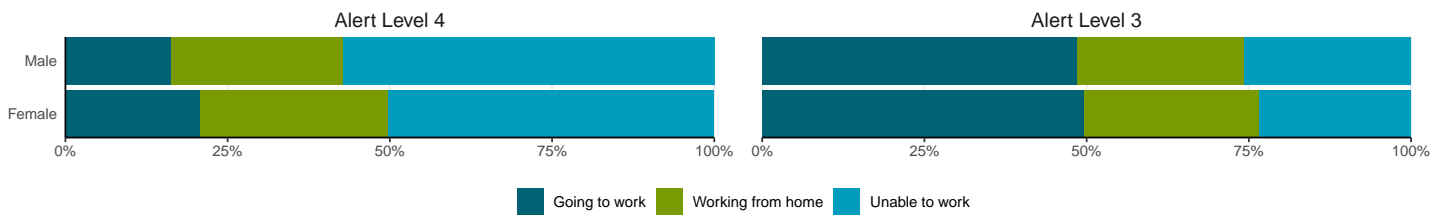
Breakdown by industry



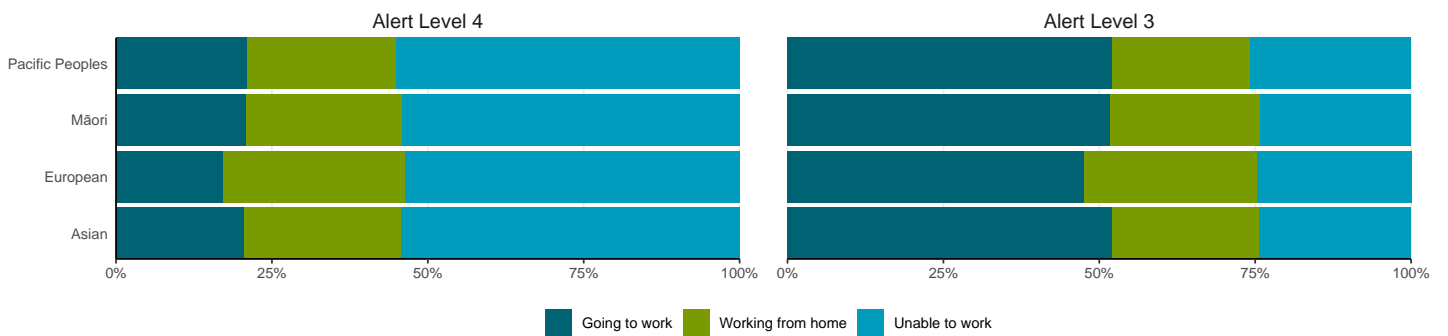
Breakdown by region



Breakdown by gender



Breakdown by ethnicity



Caveats and Methodology

Caveats

- This data has been rounded to the nearest thousand. As a result, totals may not add up correctly.
- Supply chain issues were reflected in the Activity Level estimates of industries, but were not modelled directly.

Methodology (May 2020)

Ability to work from home:

- The ability to work from home was estimated for each industry based on a combination of occupations making up that industry.
- It was assumed that under both Alert Levels 4 and 3, those able to work remotely would do so.

Activity under Alert Level 4

1. Alert Level 4 Businesses and Services were defined at ANZSIC Level Four based on the list published on the Government COVID-19 website¹.
2. An initial reduction of 12 per cent was applied to account for Alert Level 4 workers not leaving their homes due to age, serious health issues, or pregnancy.
3. Health and emergency services were assumed to be operating at 100 per cent capacity.
4. Other Alert Level 4 Businesses and Services were assumed to be operating at between 50 and 80 per cent capacity depending on industry.
5. Workers who were able to work remotely, were assumed to be working during Alert Level 4. This means that, depending on industry, firms were assumed to be either operating at a much-reduced capacity, or not operating at all.

Activity under Alert Level 3

1. All businesses were assumed to be open under Alert Level 3 unless they constituted public venues in the COVID-19 guidance (eg libraries, museums, cinemas, food courts, gyms, pools, amusement parks), or involved close personal contact or tourism-related operations (eg cafes, hairdressing, travel agents).
2. Many businesses were assumed to be operating at a reduced capacity during Alert Level 3.

Methodology (September 2021 update)

- The list of Alert Level 4 Businesses and Services was updated.
- Estimates of activity under Alert Levels 4 and 3 were revised and checked against Treasury estimates of activity and MSD Wage Subsidy numbers.
- The ability to work from home for each industry was revised using June 2020 quarter Household Labour Force Survey data.
- The total number of employees and all breakdowns were updated to the most recent available.

Datasets used

- **Linked Employer-Employee Data** was used as the base dataset to inform MBIE's Detailed Regional Employment Estimates. This was used to find the number of employees by industry.
- **Business Demography Statistics** were used to estimate the size of the workforce in combination with the Linked Employer-Employee Data.
- **Household Labour-Force Survey** was used to determine demographic data (region, gender, ethnicity) for the workforce and the proportion of each industry that worked remotely (access to the data used in this study was provided by Stats NZ under conditions designed to give effect to the security and confidentiality provisions of the Statistics Act 1975. The results presented in this study are the work of the author, not Stats NZ or individual data suppliers).

Contact us

For further information on this data series, please email us: LabourMarketInsights@mbie.govt.nz.

¹<https://covid19.govt.nz/business-and-money/businesses/>