

This monthly fact sheet summarises the latest labour market information. It focuses on the most recent monthly changes and complements MBIE's quarterly *Labour Market Statistics Snapshot*¹. For more information on sectors and regions, see MBIE's *COVID-19 economic data*².

The *Monthly Labour Market Fact Sheet* will be updated next on 22 November 2022.

Overview

Headline quarterly statistics

Data up to June 2022 quarter

Measures	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22
Employment	2,775,000	2,823,000	2,821,000	2,820,000	2,820,000
— Paid Employee or Employer	2,395,500	2,433,700	2,455,700	2,444,600	2,449,100
— Self-employed	342,300	351,500	353,000	355,600	340,300
Employment Rate	67.8%	68.8%	68.8%	68.6%	68.5%
Participation Rate	70.5%	71.2%	71.0%	70.9%	70.8%
Underutilisation	312,000	277,000	276,000	280,000	276,000
— Unemployment	114,000	97,000	93,000	94,000	96,000
— Underemployment	108,000	97,000	101,000	94,000	94,000
— Potential Labour Force	90,000	83,000	82,000	91,000	86,000
Underutilisation Rate	10.5%	9.2%	9.2%	9.3%	9.2%
Unemployment Rate	3.9%	3.3%	3.2%	3.2%	3.3%
Not in the Labour Force	1,207,000	1,182,000	1,188,000	1,196,000	1,200,000
Youth Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)	79,000	78,000	70,000	74,000	78,000
NEET Rate	12.2%	12.2%	10.9%	11.6%	12.1%
Average Weekly Hours Paid (per FTE)	39.04	38.86	38.98	38.78	38.75

Source: All measures are from the Household Labour Force Survey except for average weekly hours paid, which is from the Quarterly Employment Survey. *Labour Market Statistics, Stats NZ (Data to June 2022 quarter, next release on 02/11/2022)*. All the data except Paid Employee or Employer and Self-employed are seasonally adjusted.

The recent story

The New Zealand labour market continues to remain tight with the unemployment rate near a record low at 3.3 per cent in the June 2022 quarter. Businesses are starting to feel confident about the future economic conditions, indicating the demand for labour will remain elevated in future. A net 42 per cent of businesses surveyed expected a deterioration in general economic conditions over the coming months, a decrease from the 62 per cent of businesses who expected this in the June 2022 quarter (Quarterly Survey of Business Opinion (QSBO)³).

Over the year to September 2022, online job advertisements grew by 15 per cent, indicating high demand for labour in the economy. Online job advertisements grew for all industries while the highest growth was for the Hospitality (122 per cent) and Education (62 per cent) industries. However, a part of this increase reflects churn in the labour market. For occupations, the highest growth in online advertisements were for Community & personal services (54 per cent), Sales (25 per cent) and Labourers (22 per cent).

Labour shortages continue to be a primary constraint, however shortages for both skilled and unskilled labour are easing from the historic levels seen during the COVID-19 recovery period. During the September 2022 quarter, 43 per cent of businesses reported finding labour as their primary business constraint, an increase from 37 per cent in the June 2022 quarter (QSBO). However, the number of filled jobs grew over the year to August 2022 (up 2.4 per cent, 53,176 more jobs). Among those, 20,158 jobs were filled by youth 15-19 years old. The number of filled jobs decreased for Agriculture, forestry & fishing, Accommodation & food services, and Arts & recreation services. This decrease was also seen in the QSBO, where 61 per cent of businesses in the retail sector expected a worsening in general economic conditions over the coming months impacting future staffing levels and commodity demand due to high inflation.

However, with border and other long-term visa categories reopening, it is expected there will be more skilled people coming into New Zealand easing labour shortages and wage pressures. There were increased numbers of Working Holiday visas (7,476) approved during September 2022⁴. Also, the number of people on the Jobseeker Support-Work Ready benefit is gradually declining after peaking during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

¹<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/employment-and-skills/labour-market-reports-data-and-analysis/labour-market-statistics-snapshot/>

²<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/economic-development/covid-19-data-resources/covid-19-economic-data/>

³<https://www.nzier.org.nz/news/qsbo-shows-businesses-are-feeling-less-downbeat>

⁴https://mbienz.shinyapps.io/migration_data_explorer/

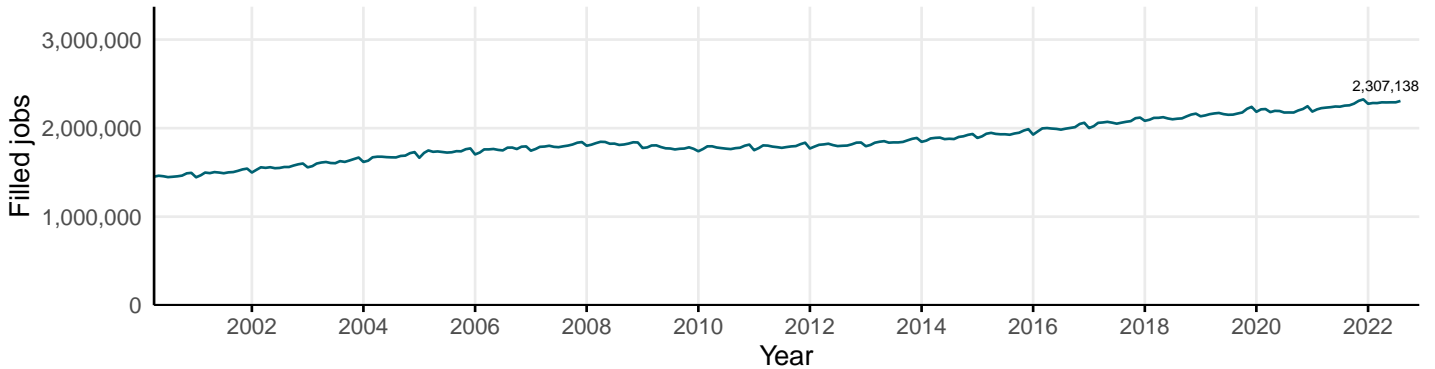


Filled Jobs

Data up to August 2022

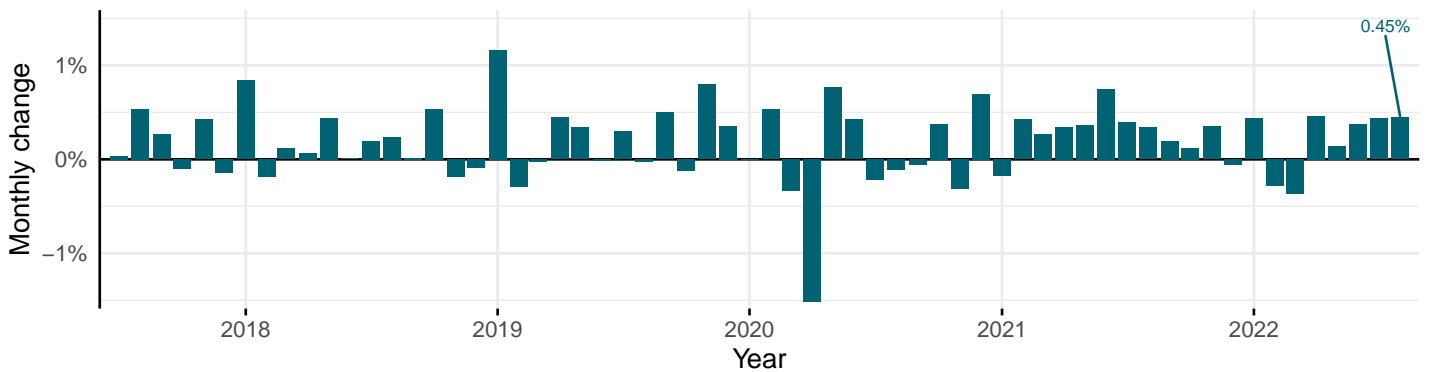
Stats NZ's Monthly Employment Indicators (MEIs) count of filled jobs uses employer payday filing of tax data. These statistics are a useful indicator to supplement the official Labour Market Statistics, although they do not count the self-employed. Recent results can be subject to fluctuations due to different employers' payroll schedules.

The number of filled jobs



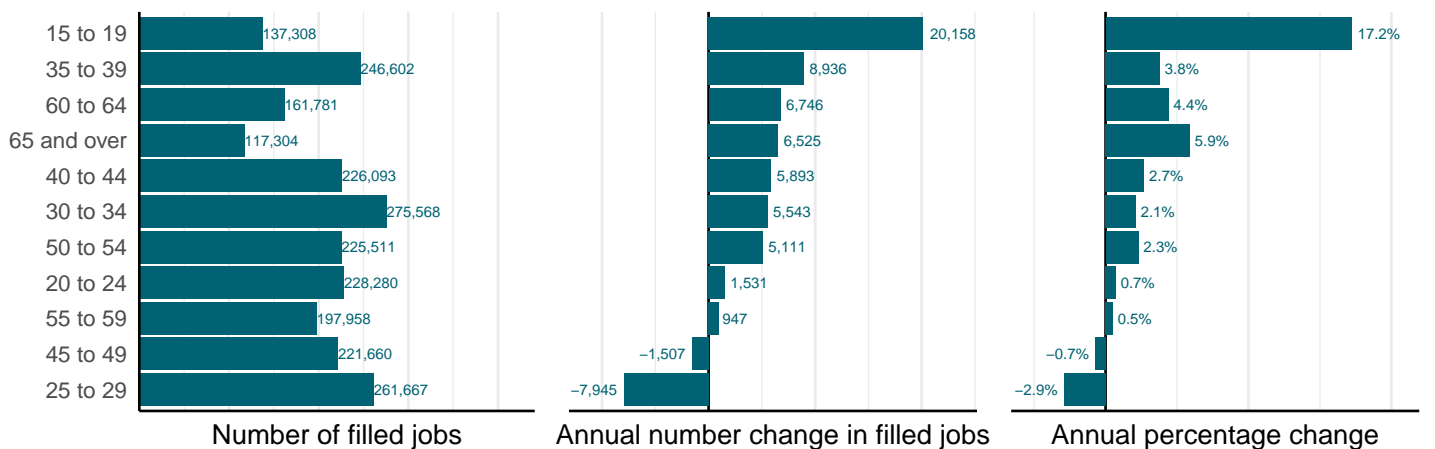
Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to August 2022, next release on 28/10/2022)

Monthly percentage change in the number of filled jobs, seasonally adjusted



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to August 2022, next release on 28/10/2022)

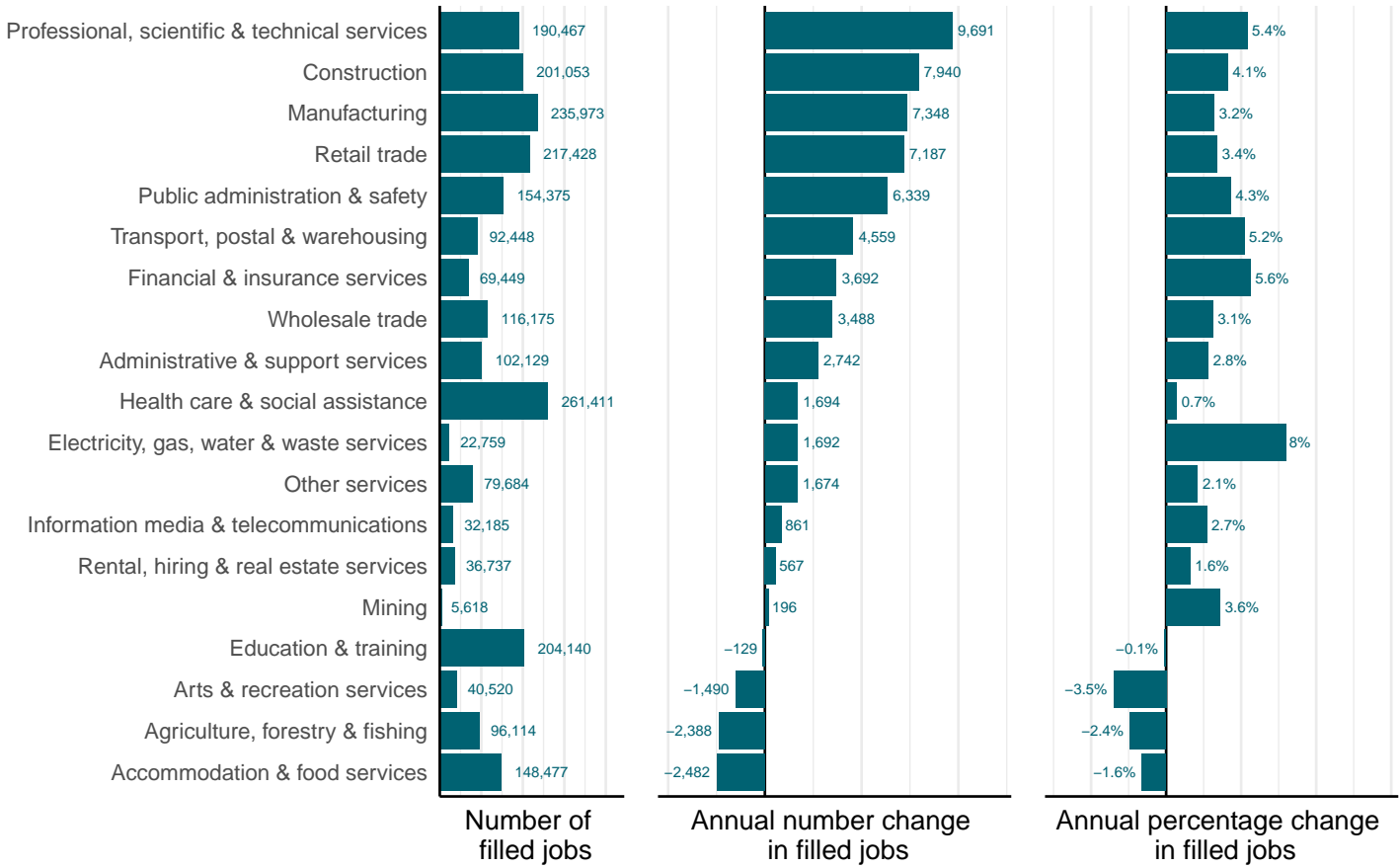
Filled jobs by age group



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to August 2022, next release on 28/10/2022)

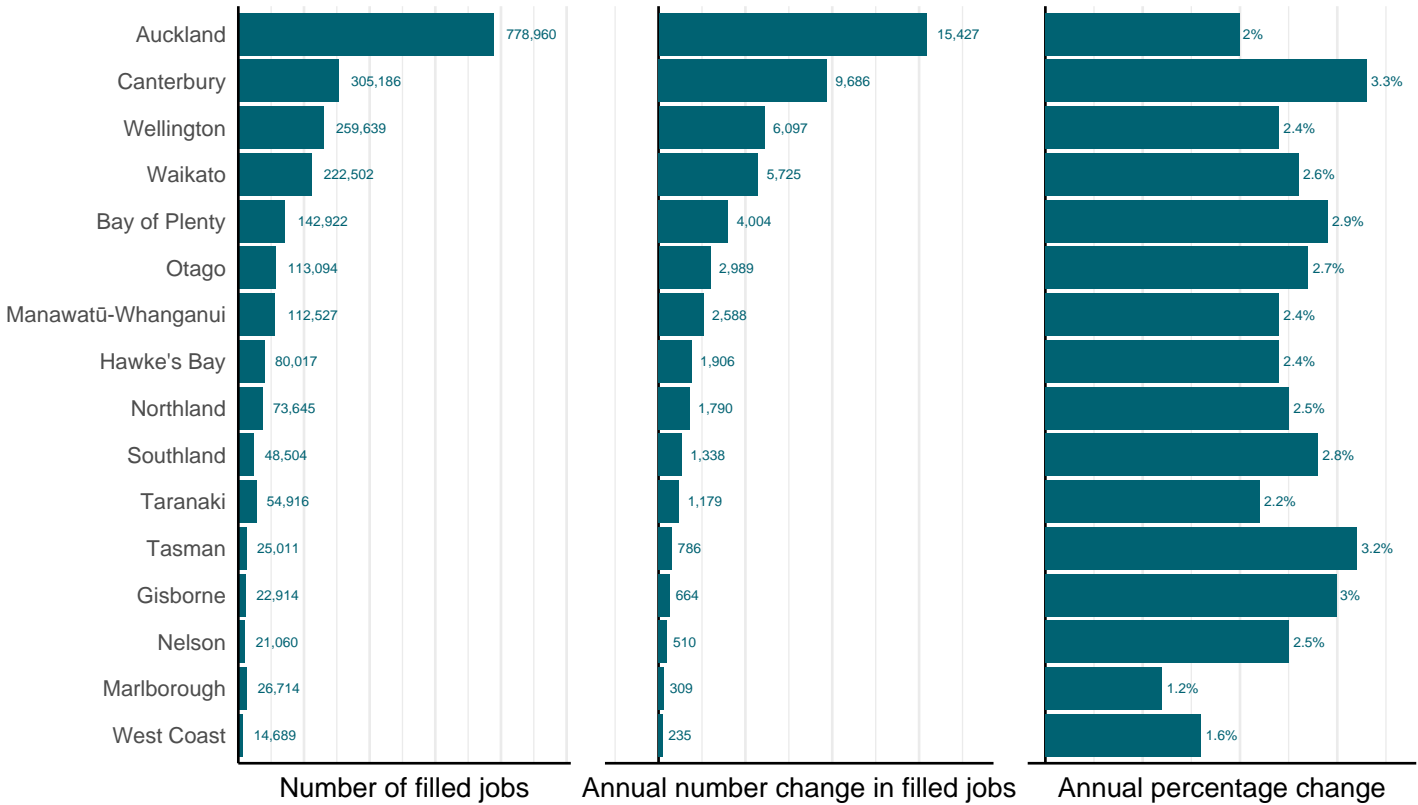


Filled jobs by industry



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to August 2022, next release on 28/10/2022)

Filled jobs by region



Source: Monthly Employment Indicators - Filled Job Series, Stats NZ (Data to August 2022, next release on 28/10/2022)

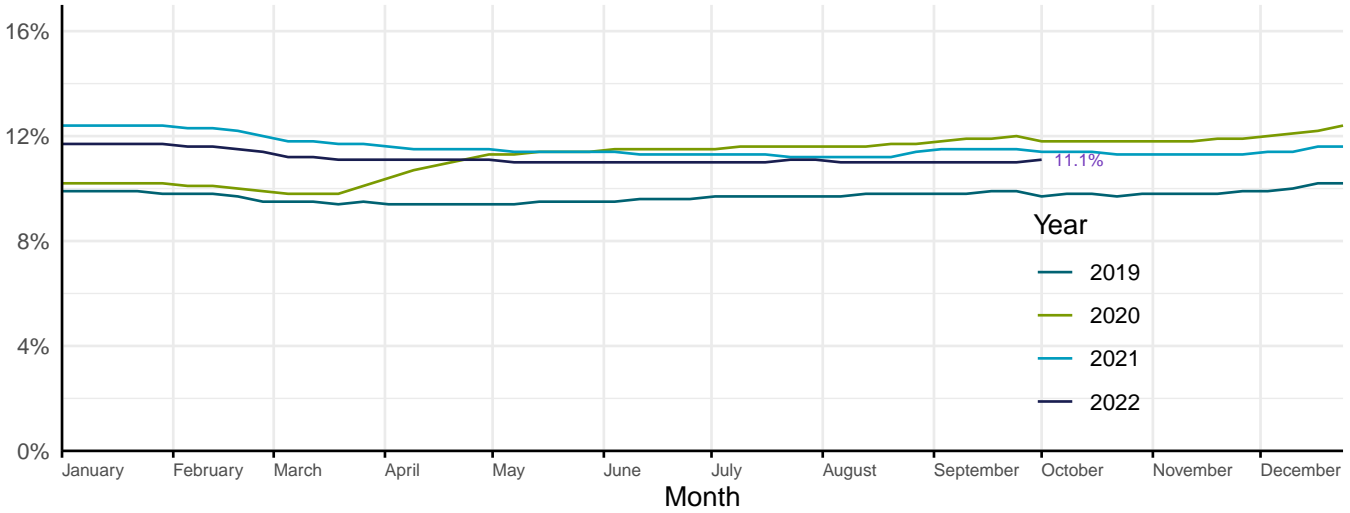


Benefit Recipients

Data up to 30 September 2022

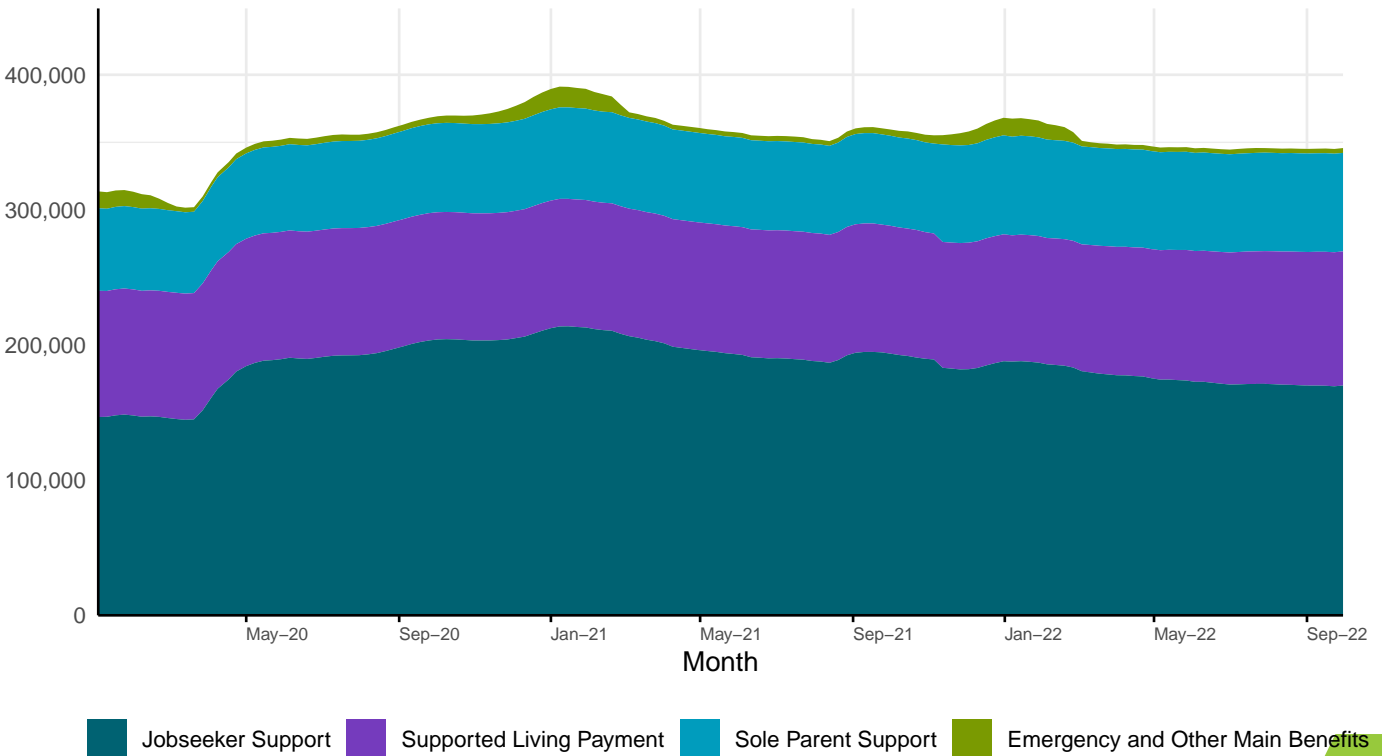
Benefits are primarily a measure of how many people are receiving income support rather than a direct measure of unemployment. Main benefits for working-age people (18 to 64 years) include: Jobseeker Support, Sole Parent Support, Supported Living Payment, and Emergency and Other main benefits. Benefit numbers, particularly Jobseeker Support - Work Ready may be used as a timely indicator of measuring “slack” in the labour market (which is officially measured through the underutilisation rate from the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS))⁵. While the number of Jobseeker Support recipients has mostly tracked in line with the number of unemployed individuals from the HLFS, this relationship can be affected by policy and operational changes.

Percentage of the estimated working-age population receiving a main benefit



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 30/09/2022, released every Friday)

Number of people receiving main benefits



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 30/09/2022, released every Friday)

⁵<https://www.stats.govt.nz/research/investigating-the-relationship-between-unemployment-and-benefit-receipt/>

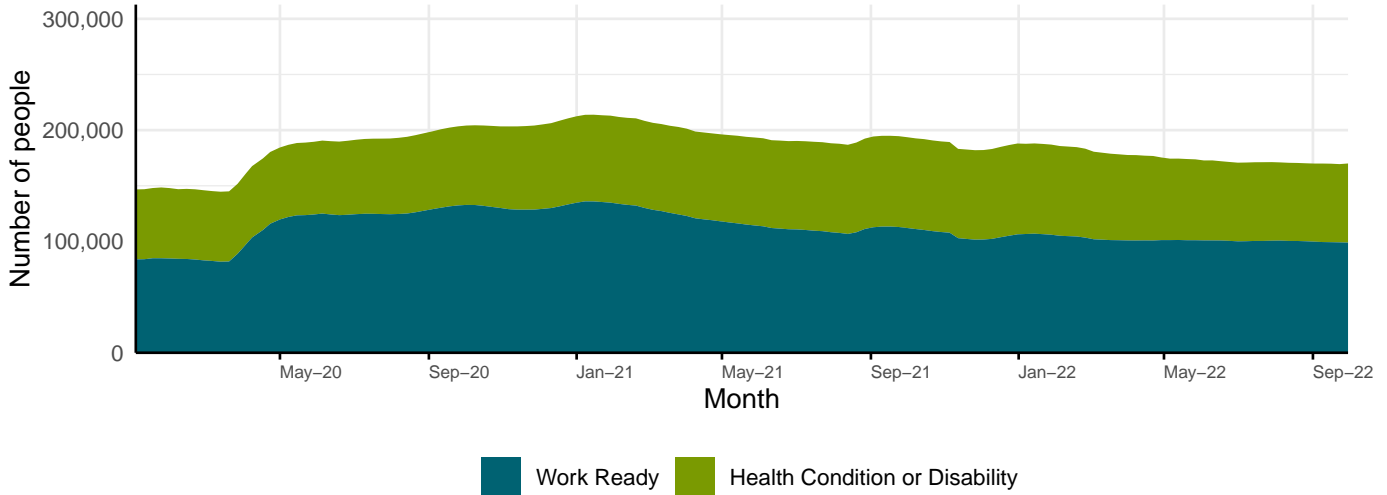


Jobseeker Benefit Recipients

Data up to 30 September 2022

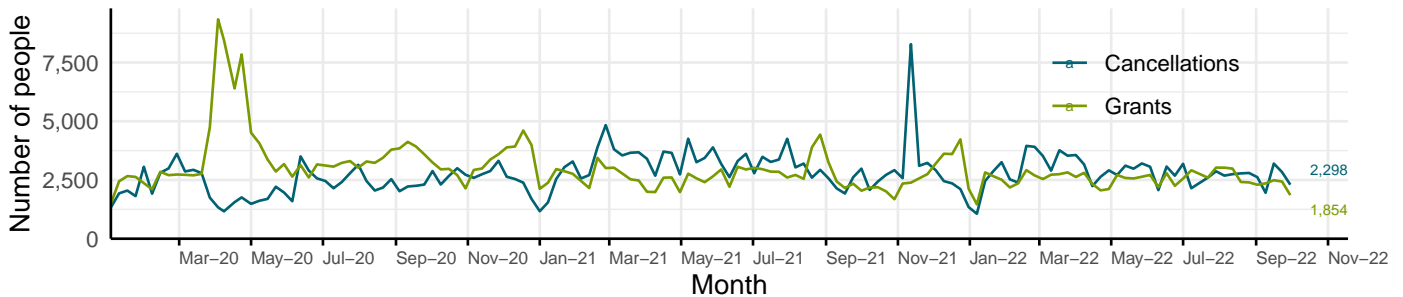
Jobseeker Support is for people who are actively looking or preparing for work. It includes both Jobseeker Support - Work Ready (JS-WR) and Jobseeker Support - Health Condition or Disability (JS-HCD). It is a weekly payment that helps people until they find work. It includes people not in employment and looking for a job, or in part-time employment seeking more work (JS-WR), or those who have a health condition or disability affecting their ability to work, which means that either they need to reduce their hours or stop working for a while (JS-HCD).

Number of people receiving Jobseeker Support



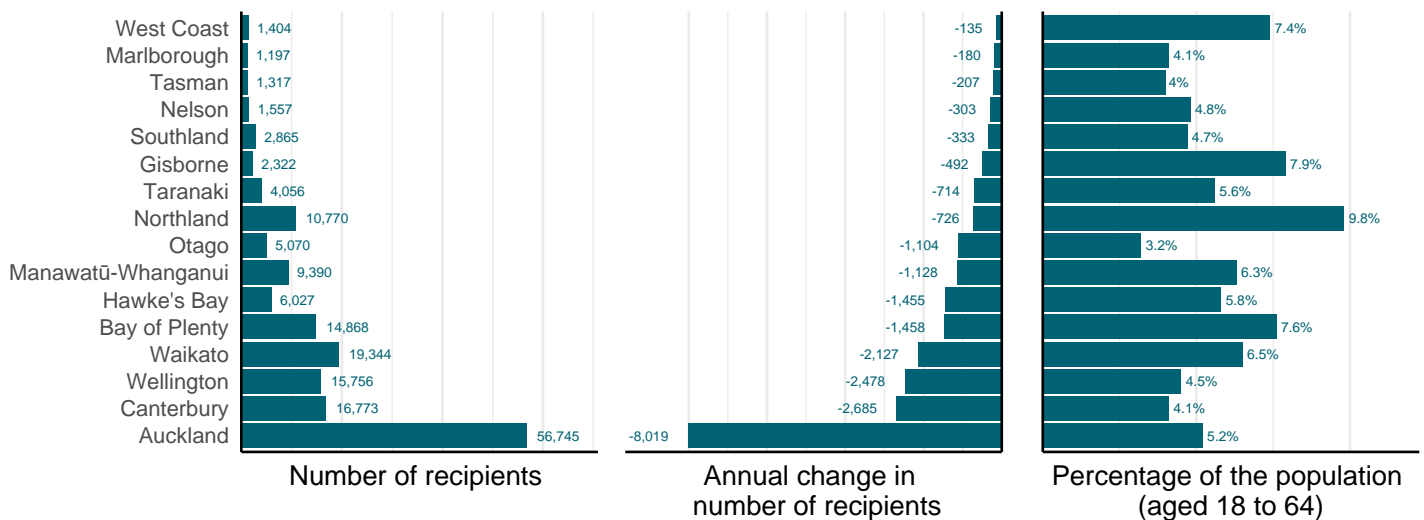
Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 30/09/2022, released every Friday)

Weekly grants and cancellations of all Jobseeker Support



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 30/09/2022, released every Friday)

All Jobseeker Support benefit recipients by region



Source: Working-age main benefits, MSD (Data to 30/09/2022, released every Friday)

Job Vacancies

Data up to September 2022

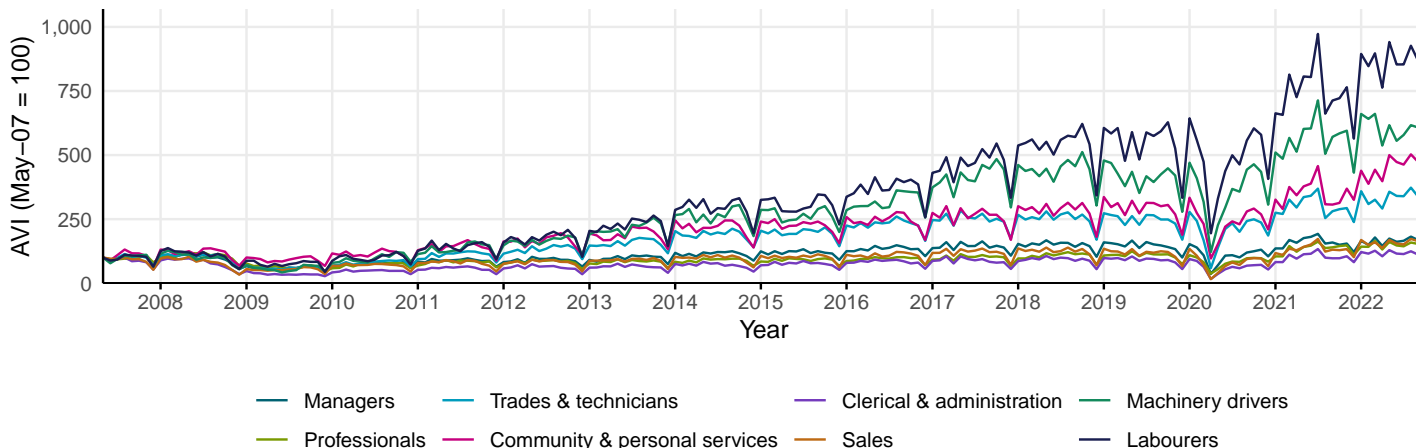
The number of jobs advertised online on major job boards can be used as a proxy for job vacancies, a key indicator of both labour demand and economic change. However, because of different hiring practices and changes in the rate of worker churn within industries, the relationship between online job advertisements and labour demand is complex.

All Vacancies Index (AVI) – online job advertising



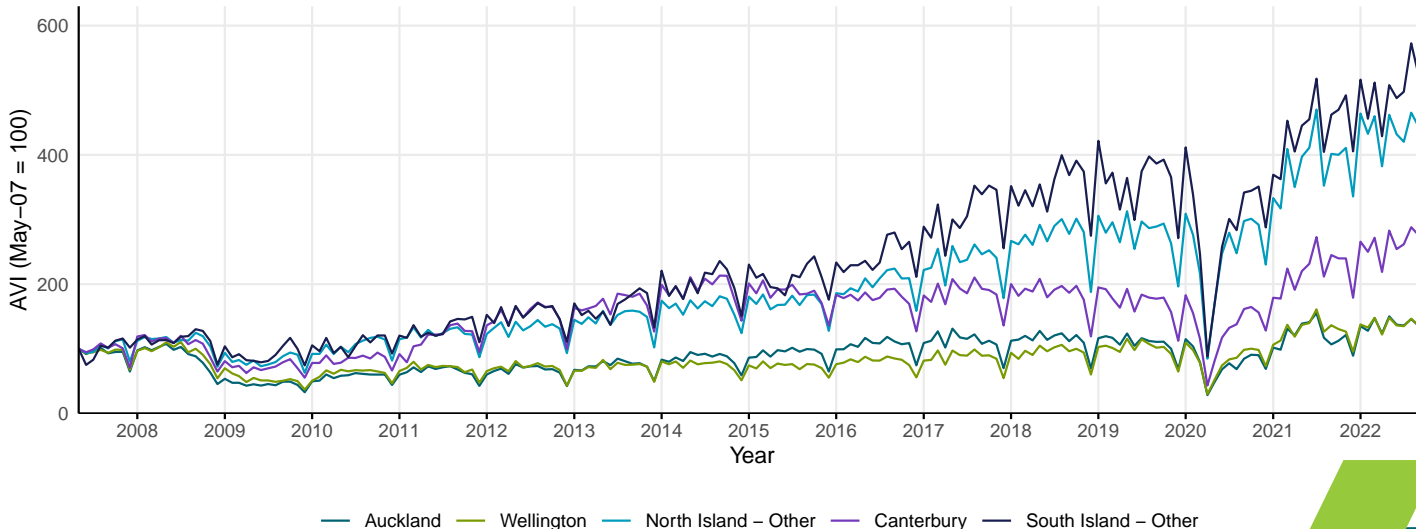
Source: Jobs Online, MBIE (Data to September 2022, next release 14/11/2022)

All Vacancies Index (AVI) by occupation



Source: Jobs Online, MBIE (Data to September 2022, next release 14/11/2022)

All Vacancies Index (AVI) by region



Source: Jobs Online, MBIE (Data to September 2022, next release 14/11/2022)



Data sources

Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) | Stats NZ

The HLFS is a nationwide, quarterly survey of households run by Stats NZ. It is the official measure of employment and unemployment in New Zealand. Data from the HLFS is used as an indicator of the overall health of the economy, particularly the unemployment rate. HLFS data is also used to compare labour force variables across demographic characteristics.

Monthly Employment Indicator (MEI) | Stats NZ

The MEI series from Stats NZ provides an early indication of changes in the labour market. These indicators use a combination of data from two different Inland Revenue sources: the Employer Monthly Schedule (EMS) and payday filing. This data is used to produce the filled jobs and gross earnings indicator series, published four to five weeks after the end of the reference month.

Monthly Benefits Update | Ministry of Social Development (MSD)

The Monthly Benefits Update from MSD provides an overview of benefit and supplementary assistance data. The report presents monthly benefit receipt numbers, and the accompanying data file provides additional information and breakdowns.

Income Support and Wage Subsidy Weekly Update | Ministry of Social Development (MSD)

The Income Support and Wage Subsidy Weekly Update provides an overview of income support, including COVID-19 Income Relief Payment data. MSD's COVID-19 reporting is available at: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/covid-19/index.html>

Jobs Online | Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE)

Jobs Online is a regular data series published quarterly by MBIE that measures changes in online job advertisements from four internet job boards — Seek, Trade Me Jobs, Education Gazette and Kiwi Health Jobs. A monthly series is available at <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/employment-and-skills/labour-market-reports-data-and-analysis/jobs-online/#jobs-online-monthly-data-release>

Quarterly Employment Survey (QES) | Stats NZ

The QES is a quarterly survey run by Stats NZ. It measures employment, earnings and hours paid of economically significant businesses in New Zealand. The purpose of the Quarterly Employment Survey is to provide a short-term indicator of employment and earnings. In addition, the data is used for compiling the business services industry component of the quarterly national accounts (on the production side). Results from the survey provide a valuable guide to the labour market and general economic conditions within New Zealand.

Previous editions

The Monthly Labour Market Fact Sheet brings together the latest available administrative and survey data. The July 2020 edition⁶ included findings from the Ministry of Health's *COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey*, the Ministry of Social Development's *Wage Subsidy Survey* and Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development's (ATEED) *COVID-19 Business Survey*. The August 2020 edition⁷ included findings from Victoria University's *Life in Lockdown* survey.

Contact us

For further information on the data contained in this fact sheet, please email us: LabourMarketInsights@mbie.govt.nz.

⁶<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/11556-monthly-labour-market-fact-sheet-july-2020>

⁷<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/11637-monthly-labour-market-fact-sheet-august-2020>

