MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

Labour Market Statistics Snapshot

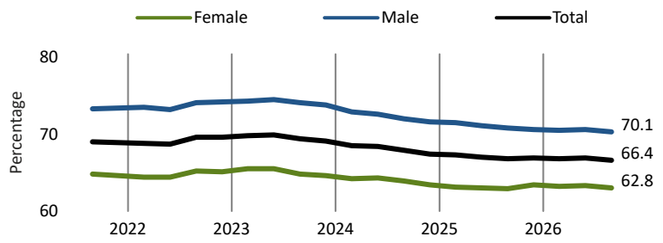
September 2026

EMPLOYMENT

Employment Rate	**66.4%**	**Total**	**2,891,000**
from last quarter	-0.3pp	from last quarter	-5,000
from last year	-0.2pp	from last year	+19,000

Male Employment Rate	**70.1%**	**Aged 25-49 Employment rate**	**84.1%**
Total	1,503,000	Total	1,535,000
from last quarter	-3,000	from last year	+8,200
from last year	+1,000		
Female Employment Rate	**62.8%**	**Aged 50+ Employment rate**	**54.0%**
Total	1,389,000	Total	992,000
from last quarter	-1,000	from last year	+16,000
from last year	+19,000		

Employment Rate



Full-time	**2,287,000**	**Part-time**	**605,000**
from last quarter	-17,000	from last quarter	+15,000
from last year	-6,000	from last year	+25,000

HOURS AND WAGES

Avg. Wkly Paid Hours (FTE)	**38.30**	**Avg. Hourly Earning**	**44.86**
from last quarter	+0.16	from last quarter	+0.24
from last year	+0.13	from last year	+1.26

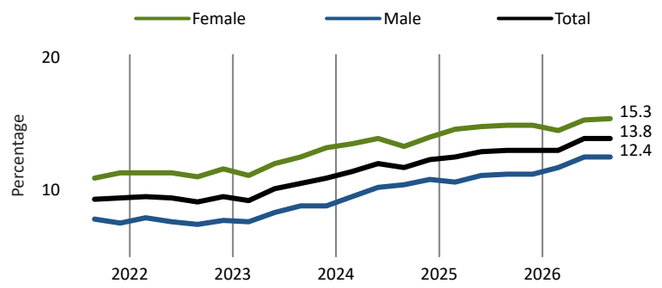
Industry	Employed	1 year change	5 yr chg	Average hourly earnings
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	169,600	+14,900	+5,000	NA
Mining	9,800	+1,400	+3,800	NA
Manufacturing	254,100	+6,000	+14,100	$41.65
Electricity, Gas, Water and Waste Services	31,700	-600	+6,500	$54.96
Construction	306,000	+22,400	+16,800	$42.05
Wholesale Trade	90,500	-13,800	-12,700	$45.10
Retail Trade and Accommodation	396,400	-4,800	+8,100	$32.87
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	124,300	+1,600	+2,400	$42.12
Information Media and Telecommunications	37,500	+1,800	-3,100	$55.08
Financial and Insurance Services	110,800	+6,100	+21,700	$65.34
Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services	75,200	+7,900	+14,000	$43.51
Professional, Scientific, Technical, Administrative and Support Services	359,900	+7,500	+24,300	$50.34
Public Administration and Safety	168,100	-27,800	-1,800	$51.31
Education and Training	232,700	+5,100	+3,700	$46.29
Health Care and Social Assistance	284,300	-15,900	-12,500	$48.26
Arts, Recreation and Other Services	203,100	+7,800	+21,800	$39.04

UNDERUTILISATION

Underutilisation Rate	**13.8%**	**Total**	**438,000**
from last quarter	NC	from last quarter	-1,000
from last year	+0.9pp	from last year	+34,000

Male Underutilisation Rate	**12.4%**		
Total	204,000		
from last quarter	-2,000		
from last year	+23,000		
Female Underutilisation Rate	**15.3%**		
Total	234,000		
from last quarter	+1,000		
from last year	+11,000		

Underutilisation Rate



UNDERUTILISATION

Underemployed	Unemployed (UE)	Potential Labour Force
Total 151,000	**UE Rate** 5.7%	**Total** 113,000
from last quarter -2,000	from last quarter +0.1pp	from last quarter -2,000
from last year +13,000	from last year +0.4pp	from last year +6,000
Male Total 60,000	**Male UE Rate** 5.6%	**Male Total** 55,000
from last quarter +2,000	Total 90,000	from last quarter -3,000
from last year +12,000	from last quarter NC	from last year +5,000
	from last year +7,000	
Female Total 91,000	**Female UE Rate** 5.7%	**Female Total** 59,000
from last quarter -4,000	Total 84,000	from last quarter +2,000
from last year +2,000	from last quarter +3,000	from last year +3,000
	from last year +7,000	
	Total 174,000	
	from last quarter +3,000	
	from last year +14,000	
	Aged 25-49 UE Rate 4.3%	
	Total 69,200	
	from last year +4,500	
	Aged 50+ UE Rate 2.8%	
	Total 28,300	
	from last year +1,600	

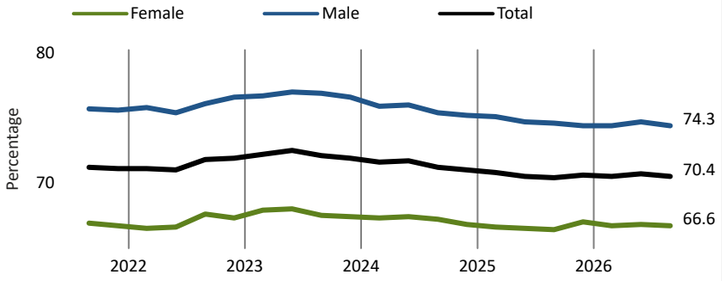
	Employed				Unemployed			
	Current quarter		Change from last Year		Current quarter		Change from last Year	
Region	People	Rate	People	Rate	People	Rate	People	Rate
Northland	93,200	57.4%	+2,400	+1.0pp	8,400	8.3%	+2,300	+2.0pp
Auckland	976,200	65.8%	+800	-0.8pp	65,400	6.3%	+2,000	+0.2pp
Waikato	273,300	63.8%	+7,600	+0.9pp	18,300	6.3%	+800	+0.1pp
Bay of Plenty	189,100	67.0%	+7,000	+2.1pp	8,700	4.4%	-800	-0.6pp
Gisborne / Hawke's Bay	115,900	62.6%	-200	-0.3pp	6,700	5.4%	-500	-0.5pp
Taranaki	67,700	64.9%	+2,900	+2.5pp	3,400	4.8%	+500	+0.5pp
Manawatū-Whanganui	136,700	65.1%	-1,200	-1.0pp	9,200	6.3%	+3,600	+2.4pp
Wellington	317,700	70.6%	-4,900	-1.4pp	16,400	4.9%	+2,000	+0.6pp
Tasman / Nelson / Marlborough / West Coast	109,400	65.6%	+1,200	+0.4pp	4,600	4.1%	+1,000	+0.9pp
Canterbury	397,200	68.6%	+8,300	+0.5pp	19,800	4.7%	+500	0.0pp
Otago	149,200	69.3%	-4,500	-2.8pp	5,100	3.3%	+1,100	+0.8pp
Southland	54,400	63.6%	-600	-1.4pp	3,300	5.6%	+1,200	+1.9pp

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

Participation Rate	**70.4%**	**Total**	**3,065,000**
from last quarter	-0.2pp	from last quarter	-2,000
from last year	+0.1pp	from last year	+34,000

Male Participation Rate	**74.3%**	**Aged 25-49 Participation Rate**	**87.8%**
Total	1,592,000	Total	1,604,200
from last quarter	-4,000	from last year	+12,600
from last year	+8,000		
Female Participation Rate	**66.6%**	**Aged 50+ Participation Rate**	**55.5%**
Total	1,473,000	Total	1,020,300
from last quarter	+3,000	from last year	+17,600
from last year	+26,000		

Labour Force Participation Rate



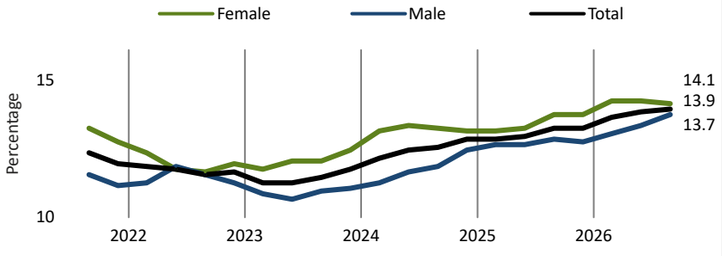
NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING

(Aged 15-24 years, annual average)

NEET rate	**13.9%**	**Total**	**95,300**
from last year	+0.7pp	from last year	+5,600
from last 5 years	+1.6pp	from last 5 years	+15,900

Male NEET rate	**13.7%**	**Aged 15-19 NEET rate**	**10.8%**
Total	48,100	Total	38,900
from last year	+3,600	from last year	+2,300
from last 5 years	+10,200	from last 5 years	+7,900
Female NEET rate	**14.1%**	**Aged 20-24 NEET rate**	**17.2%**
Total	47,200	Total	56,300
from last year	+2,000	from last year	+3,100
from last 5 years	+5,700	from last 5 years	+7,900

NEET Rate



NEET

Unemployed, Not in Education	Not in LF not in education - no caregiving	Not in LF not in education - caregiving
Total 41,000	**Total** 42,200	**Total** 12,200
from last year +4,400	from last year +1,100	from last year +200

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September 2026

SEASONALLY ADJUSTED SERIES

All data provided apart from regional, industry, age group and NEET breakdowns is seasonally adjusted. This process removes the seasonal component present when dealing with quarterly data. Seasonal patterns obscure the underlying behaviour of the series. For the unadjusted series, only annual changes are reported to avoid seasonal effects.

DEFINITIONS

EMPLOYED: People in the working-age population who, during the reference week, did one of the following:

- worked for one hour or more for pay or profit in the context of an employee/employer relationship or self-employment
- worked without pay for one hour or more in work which contributed directly to the operation of a farm, business, or professional practice owned or operated by a relative
- had a job but were not at work due to own illness or injury, personal or family responsibilities, bad weather or mechanical breakdown, direct involvement in an industrial dispute, or leave or holiday.

EMPLOYMENT RATE: The number of employed people expressed as a percentage of the working-age population. The employment rate is closely linked to the working-age population definition.

FULL-TIME/PART-TIME STATUS: Full-time workers usually work 30 hours or more per week, even if they did not do so in the survey reference week because of sickness, holidays, or other reasons. Part-time workers usually work fewer than 30 hours per week.

FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT (FTE) JOBS: The total number of full-time jobs plus half the number of part-time jobs. Does not include working proprietors.

HOURS WORKED: Average weekly paid hours (FTE) are calculated by dividing total ordinary hours paid by total FTEs.

HOURLY EARNINGS: Average hourly earnings are calculated by dividing total gross earnings by total paid hours.

LABOUR FORCE: Members of the working-age population, who during the survey reference week, were classified as 'employed' or 'unemployed.'

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE: The total labour force expressed as a percentage of the working-age population. Labour force participation is closely linked to how the working-age population is defined.

NEET (NOT IN EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION, OR TRAINING): Young people aged 15–24 years who are unemployed (part of the labour force) and not engaged in education or training, and those not in the labour force and not engaged in education or training for many reasons.

NEET RATE: The total number of youth (aged 15–24 years) who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET), as a proportion of the total youth working-age population.

NOT IN THE LABOUR FORCE: Any neither employed nor unemployed. For example, this residual category includes people who:

- are retired
- have personal or family responsibilities such as unpaid housework and childcare
- attend educational institutions
- are permanently unable to work due to physical or mental disabilities,
- were temporarily unavailable for work in the survey reference week
- are not actively seeking work.

POTENTIAL LABOUR FORCE: The potential labour force consists of people who are not in the labour force but can be considered to be 'just outside it'. They meet two of the three criteria needed to be considered unemployed. Two main groups of individuals are in the potential labour force:

- **UNAVAILABLE JOBSEEKERS** – People who were actively seeking work, were not available to have started work in the reference week, but would become available within a short subsequent period
- **AVAILABLE POTENTIAL JOBSEEKERS** – People who are not actively seeking work but were available in the reference week and want a job.

UNDEREMPLOYMENT: People who are in part-time employment who would like to, and are available to, work more hours.

UNDERUTILISATION: The sum of those unemployed, underemployed, who are not actively seeking but are available and wanting a job and people who are actively seeking but not currently available, but will be available to work in the next four weeks.

UNEMPLOYED: All people in the working-age population who, during the reference week, were without a paid job, available for work, and had either actively sought work in the past four weeks ending with the reference week, or had a new job to start within the next four weeks.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: The number of unemployed people expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

WORKING-AGE POPULATION: The usually resident, non-institutionalised population of New Zealand aged 15 years and over.

Disclaimer
This document is a guide only. It should not be used as a substitute for legislation or legal advice. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment is not responsible for the results of any actions taken on the basis of information in this document, or for any errors or omissions.

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Coverage difference
Average weekly paid hours and average hourly earnings are calculated from the Quarterly Employment Survey (QES), which has different coverage than the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS). The QES is a survey of employers that excludes self-employed people, the Agriculture industry, unpaid family workers and New Zealand Defence Force, while the HLFS is a survey of households that only includes usually resident New Zealanders, so can exclude some temporary seasonal labourers. If you have any feedback, questions or suggestions please contact us at:
LabourMarketInsights@mbie.govt.nz

Data Terminology
NC - "No change"
S - "Suppressed"