MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

# Labour Market Statistics Snapshot - Asian

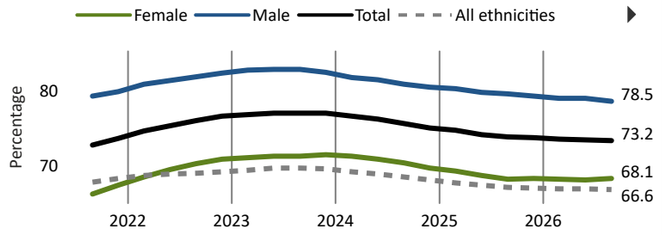
## Annual September 2026

## EMPLOYMENT

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Employment Rate** | **73.2%** | **Total** | **575,900** |
| from last year | -0.5pp | from last year | -11,600 |
| from last 5 years | +0.6pp | from last 5 years | +130,000 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Male Employment Rate** | **78.5%** | **Aged 25-44 Employment rate** | **85.4%** |
| Total | 305,100 | Total | 358,000 |
| from last year | -8,500 | from last year | -18,400 |
| from last 5 years | +61,700 | from last 5 years | +87,500 |
| **Female Employment Rate** | **68.1%** | **Aged 45+ Employment rate** | **65.3%** |
| Total | 270,900 | Total | 167,000 |
| from last year | -3,000 | from last year | +9,600 |
| from last 5 years | +68,400 | from last 5 years | +39,300 |

Employment Rate




| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Full-time** | **479,600** | **Part-time** | **96,300** |
| from last year | -14,400 | from last year | +2,800 |
| from last 5 years | +110,100 | from last 5 years | +17,700 |

| Occupation | Employed | 1 year change |
|---|---|---|
| Managers | 116,800 | +5,600 |
| Professionals | 152,200 | -3,400 |
| Trades & Technicians | 62,800 | -300 |
| Service workers | 56,100 | -1,200 |
| Clerical workers | 48,900 | -4,200 |
| Sales workers | 49,500 | -2,800 |
| Machinery Operators and Drivers | 34,400 | -1,400 |
| Labourers | 51,400 | -3,000 |

| Skill | Employed | 1 year change |
|---|---|---|
| Highly-skilled | 251,300 | +1,500 |
| Skilled | 58,100 | +1,100 |
| Semi-skilled | 53,500 | +2,500 |
| Low-skilled | 125,900 | -11,700 |
| Unskilled | 83,500 | -4,000 |

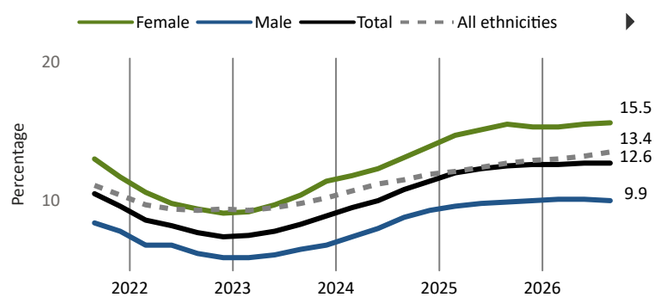
| Industry | Employed | 1 year change | 5 year change |
|---|---|---|---|
| Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Mining | 20,700 | +4,600 | +6,700 |
| Manufacturing | 46,600 | -700 | +8,800 |
| Utilities & Construction | 53,100 | -2,700 | +16,100 |
| Wholesale & Retail | 77,600 | -4,500 | +12,700 |
| Accommodation and food | 53,400 | -4,400 | +5,100 |
| Transport, Warehousing IM & Communications | 42,300 | -200 | +11,900 |
| Financial and Insurance Services | 25,700 | -100 | +6,500 |
| Other Business Services | 87,200 | +800 | +22,500 |
| Public Administration and Safety | 24,800 | -2,300 | +5,900 |
| Education and Training | 30,000 | -400 | +5,300 |
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 74,800 | -2,500 | +18,900 |
| Other Services | 31,300 | +1,600 | +8,500 |

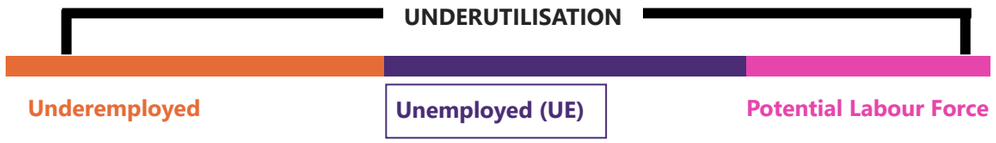
## UNDERUTILISATION

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Underutilisation Rate** | **12.6%** | **Total** | **78,600** |
| from last year | +0.2pp | from last year | -1,000 |
| from last 5 years | +2.2pp | from last 5 years | +28,900 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Male Underutilisation Rate** | **9.9%** | | |
| Total | 32,300 | | |
| from last year | -700 | | |
| from last 5 years | +10,900 | | |
| **Female Underutilisation Rate** | **15.5%** | | |
| Total | 46,300 | | |
| from last year | -300 | | |
| from last 5 years | +18,000 | | |

Underutilisation Rate




| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | **30,300** | **UE Rate** | **4.8%** | **Total** | **28,900** |
| from last year | +2,700 | from last year | -0.5pp | from last year | -3,700 |
| from last 5 years | +13,100 | from last 5 years | +0.6pp | from last 5 years | +9,400 |
| **Male Total** | **11,800** | **Male UE Rate** | **4.0%** | **Total** | **12,900** |
| from last year | +1,800 | from last year | -1,200 | from last year | -1,200 |
| from last 5 years | +5,500 | from last 5 years | +3,200 | from last 5 years | +5,100 |
| **Female Total** | **18,500** | **Female UE Rate** | **5.6%** | **Total** | **16,000** |
| from last year | +900 | from last year | -2,400 | from last year | -2,400 |
| from last 5 years | +7,600 | from last 5 years | +6,200 | from last 5 years | +6,200 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Aged 25-44 UE Rate** | **3.9%** | **Total** | **19,500** |
| Total | 14,400 | from last year | +100 |
| from last year | -2,400 | from last 5 years | +6,600 |
| from last 5 years | +5,100 | | |
| **Aged 45+ UE Rate** | **3.3%** | | |
| Total | 5,800 | | |
| from last year | -200 | | |
| from last 5 years | +2,200 | | |
| **Male Total** | **7,700** | | |
| from last year | -1,200 | | |
| from last 5 years | +2,400 | | |
| **Female Total** | **11,800** | | |
| from last year | +1,200 | | |
| from last 5 years | +4,200 | | |

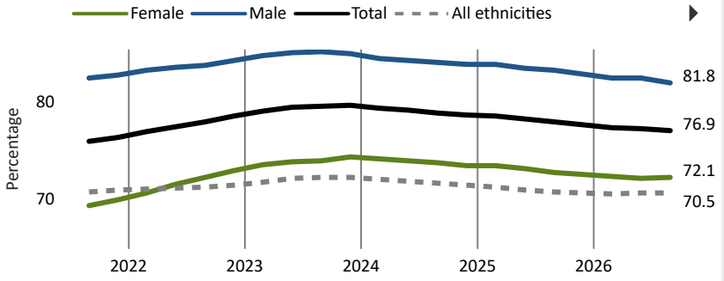
| | Employed | | | | Unemployed | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Current quarter | | Change from last Year | | Current quarter | | Change from last Year | |
| Region | People | Rate | People | Rate | People | Rate | People | Rate |
| Auckland | 346,700 | 70.9% | -8,900 | -0.9pp | 18,700 | 5.1% | -2,000 | -0.4pp |
| Wellington | 49,700 | 77.6% | -1,900 | +0.6pp | 1,700 | 3.3% | -600 | -0.9pp |
| Rest of North island | 98,600 | 78.4% | +3,600 | +1.2pp | 4,600 | 4.4% | -600 | -0.8pp |
| South island | 80,900 | 74.9% | -4,400 | -1.3pp | 4,000 | 4.7% | -400 | -0.2pp |
| South Auckland | 80,900 | 71.7% | -4,800 | -1.7pp | 4,800 | 5.6% | -900 | -0.7pp |
| West Auckland | 67,000 | 74.9% | -2,000 | -0.8pp | 3,900 | 5.5% | -700 | -0.7pp |
| Rest of Auckland | 198,800 | 69.4% | -2,100 | -0.5pp | 9,900 | 4.8% | -500 | -0.1pp |

## LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Participation Rate** | **76.9%** | **Total** | **604,800** |
| from last year | -0.9pp | from last year | -15,300 |
| from last 5 years | +1.1pp | from last 5 years | +139,400 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Male Participation Rate** | **81.8%** | **Aged 25-44 Participation Rate** | **88.8%** |
| Total | 317,900 | Total | 372,300 |
| from last year | -9,800 | from last year | -20,900 |
| from last 5 years | +64,800 | from last 5 years | +92,500 |
| **Female Participation Rate** | **72.1%** | **Aged 45+ Participation Rate** | **67.8%** |
| Total | 286,900 | Total | 173,300 |
| from last year | -5,400 | from last year | +9,400 |
| from last 5 years | +74,600 | from last 5 years | +41,700 |

Labour Force Participation Rate

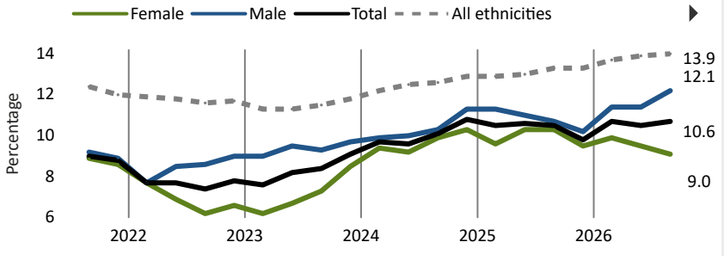



## NOT IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT OR TRAINING (Aged 15-24 years)

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **NEET rate** | **10.6%** | **Total** | **11,900** |
| from last year | +0.2pp | from last year | +100 |
| from last 5 years | +1.7pp | from last 5 years | +3,400 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Male NEET rate** | **12.1%** | **Aged 15-19 NEET rate** | **7.5%** |
| Total | 7,200 | Total | 4,100 |
| from last year | +900 | from last year | +100 |
| from last 5 years | +2,600 | from last 5 years | +800 |
| **Female NEET rate** | **9.0%** | **Aged 20-24 NEET rate** | **13.7%** |
| Total | 4,700 | Total | 7,800 |
| from last year | -800 | from last year | NC |
| from last 5 years | +700 | from last 5 years | +2,600 |

NEET Rate







| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total** | **3,900** | **Total** | **7,400** | **Total** | **S** |
| from last year | -500 | from last year | +900 | from last year | S |

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# Labour Market Statistics Snapshot

**Annual 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.

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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"