MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

Labour Market Statistics Snapshot - Ethnic Communities

(Includes Asian, Continental European, Middle Eastern, Latin American, and African)

Annual September 2026

EMPLOYMENT

Employment Rate	**73.1%**	**Total**	**712,000**
from last year	-0.3pp	from last year	-9,300
from last 5 years	+0.4pp	from last 5 years	+145,800

Male Employment Rate	**77.9%**	**Female Employment Rate**	**68.4%**
Total	374,000	Total	338,000
from last year	-9,300	from last year	no change
from last 5 years	+68,900	from last 5 years	+76,900

UNDERUTILISATION

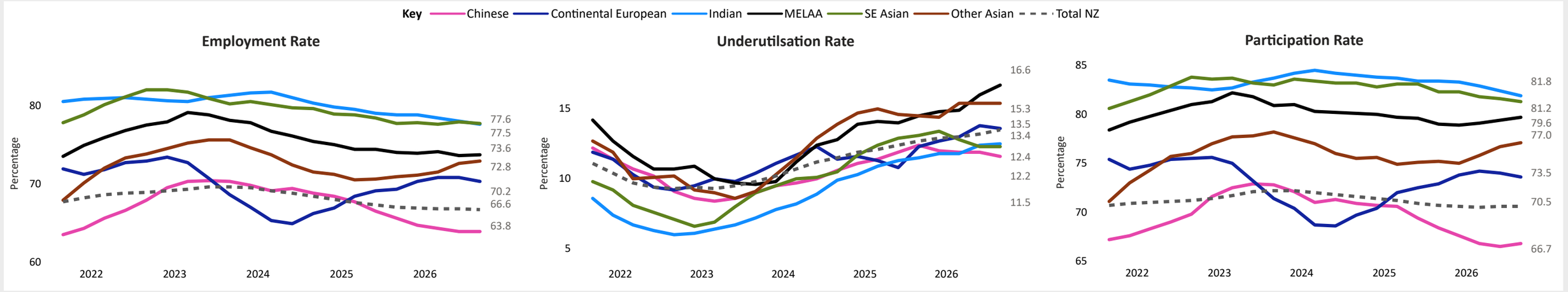
Underutilisation Rate	**13.2%**	**Total**	**102,200**
from last year	+0.5pp	from last year	+2,600
from last 5 years	+2.2pp	from last 5 years	+35,100

Male Underutilisation Rate	**10.9%**	**Female Underutilisation Rate**	**15.6%**
Total	44,000	Total	58,200
from last year	+2,100	from last year	+500
from last 5 years	+15,800	from last 5 years	+19,300

LABOUR FORCE PARTICIPATION RATE

Participation Rate	**77.1%**	**Total**	**750,700**
from last year	-0.5pp	from last year	-11,500
from last 5 years	+1.0pp	from last 5 years	+157,900

Male Participation Rate	**81.8%**	**Female Participation Rate**	**72.5%**
Total	392,600	Total	358,200
from last year	-9,300	from last year	-2,100
from last 5 years	+74,400	from last 5 years	+83,500



STUDY RATE (15-65+)

Study Rate	**18.8%**		
from last year	+0.7pp		
from last 5 years	+0.4pp		

Male Study Rate	**18.7%**	**Female Study Rate**	**18.9%**
from last year	+0.6pp	from last year	+0.9pp
from last 5 years	+1.0pp	from last 5 years	-0.2pp

UNEMPLOYMENT

UE Rate	**5.2%**	**Total**	**38,700**
from last year	-0.2pp	from last year	-2,200
from last 5 years	+0.7pp	from last 5 years	+12,100

Male UE Rate	**4.7%**	**Female UE Rate**	**5.6%**
Total	18,600	Total	20,100
from last year	no change	from last year	-2,200
from last 5 years	+5,600	from last 5 years	+6,500

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

NEET rate	**11.3%**	**Total**	**16,400**
from last year	+0.5pp	from last year	+1,100
from last 5 years	+1.7pp	from last 5 years	+4,800

Male NEET rate	**11.9%**	**Female NEET rate**	**10.5%**
Total	9,300	Total	7,200
from last year	+1,200	from last year	no change
from last 5 years	+3,500	from last 5 years	+1,400

	Employed				Unemployed				Underutilisation				Study rate		Working age population	
	Current quarter		Change from last Year		Current quarter		Change from last Year		Current quarter		Change from last Year		Current quarter	Change from last year	Year ended current qtr	% NZ pop
Ethnic Groups	**People**	**Rate**	**People**	**Rate**	**People**	**Rate**	**People**	**Rate**	**People**	**Rate**	**People**	**Rate**	**People**	**People**	**People**	**Rate**
Chinese	134,700	63.8%	-7,000	-1.7pp	5,900	4.2%	-300	0.0pp	16,800	11.5%	-2,100	-0.8pp	20.2%	+1.8pp	211,000	4.9%
Continental European	41,800	70.2%	+800	+1.0pp	2,000	4.5%	-100	-0.4pp	6,100	13.5%	+700	+1.3pp	19.0%	+1.7pp	59,600	1.4%
Indian	221,700	77.5%	-400	-1.2pp	12,100	5.2%	-800	-0.3pp	29,900	12.4%	+2,400	+1.0pp	14.6%	+0.8pp	285,900	6.6%
Middle Eastern / Latin American / African (MELAA)	97,500	73.6%	+2,200	-0.3pp	8,000	7.6%	+1,500	+1.2pp	18,100	16.6%	+2,900	+2.2pp	24.5%	+2.6pp	132,600	3.1%
Other Asian	89,200	72.8%	-400	+2.0pp	5,200	5.5%	-300	-0.3pp	14,900	15.3%	+700	+0.9pp	21.9%	-0.9pp	122,500	2.8%
Southeast Asian (SE)	135,500	77.6%	-2,900	0.0pp	6,200	4.4%	-2,100	-1.2pp	17,800	12.2%	-1,900	-0.8pp	18.8%	-0.1pp	174,500	4.0%
Total Ethnic Communities	712,000	73.1%	-9,300	-0.3pp	38,700	5.2%	-2,200	-0.2pp	102,200	13.2%	+2,600	+0.5pp	18.8%	+0.7pp	974,000	22.5%

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

Labour Market Statistics Snapshot

Annual September 2026

ETHNIC COMMUNITIES

Ethnic communities includes the following communities: Chinese, Continental European, Indian, Middle Eastern/ Latin American/African (MELAA), Other Asian, Southeast Asian (SE).

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.

Data Source
Statistics New Zealand Household Labour Force Survey, ©Crown Copyright 2018. The material contained in this report is subject to Crown copyright protection unless otherwise indicated. The Crown copyright protected material may be reproduced free of charge in any format or media without requiring specific permission. This is subject to the material being reproduced accurately and not being used in a derogatory manner or in a misleading context. Where the material is being published or issued to others, the source and copyright status should be acknowledged. The permission to reproduce Crown copyright protected material does not extend to any material in this report that is identified as being the copyright of a third party. Authorisation to reproduce such material should be obtained from the copyright holders.

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"