



# Auckland Regional Household Labour Force Survey: Quarterly overview – December 2017

## This report

This report is prepared by the Research and Evaluation unit (RIMU) of Auckland Council. It provides an overview of aspects of labour force participation in Auckland, as indicated by results of the quarterly Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) (administered by Statistics New Zealand). Particular focus is provided on trends across age and ethnic groups in the region, and the NEET rate.

**Seasonality:** Data in this report is not “seasonally adjusted”. In order to ensure information is seasonally aligned, rolling annual averages are used throughout this report for reporting across time.

**Definitions:** A list of definitions is included at the back of this report.

**Revisions:** The survey and all back-data was re-based in March 2015 to match the 2013 census and incorporate regional population benchmarks. Also, the survey and all back-data since 2009 was revised in June 2016 when “searching online ads only” was redefined from “official unemployed” to “looking at job ads only” (ie not actively seeking employment, therefore Not In Labour Force). This overview uses the revised data.

## The Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS)

The HLFS is a national sample survey undertaken by Statistics New Zealand. It is primarily designed for national estimates. The national sample contains about 16,000 private households and about 30,000 individuals each quarter. Households are sampled on a statistically representative basis from rural and urban areas throughout New Zealand, and information is obtained for each member of the household aged 15 or older. Each quarter, one-eighth of the households in the sample are rotated out and replaced by a new set of households.

**Sampling errors:** As the HLFS is a sample survey, all statistics are subject to survey sampling error. Statistics presented here at the sub-sample (e.g. local board) and sub-variable (e.g. NEET) levels are also subject to additional sampling errors and should be treated as indicative only.

**Survey questionnaire changes:** In June 2016, the HLFS questionnaire was changed to identify more self-employed people (who would previously have been Not In Labour Force and/or NEET), and to include members of the armed forces living in private dwellings (previously not part of “Working Age Population”). Consequently, employment and unemployment rates and other affected data from June 2016 onwards are not fully compatible with earlier periods.

The information provided in this report supplements other freely available HLFS reporting:

**National and some regional data** released on Statistics NZ website: [www.stats.govt.nz](http://www.stats.govt.nz)

**Technical notes** on the HLFS on Statistics NZ website:

<http://www.stats.govt.nz/survey-participants/a-z-of-our-surveys/household-labour-force-survey.aspx>

and for explanation of June 2016 questionnaire changes:

[http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse\\_for\\_stats/income-and-work/employment\\_and\\_unemployment/LabourMarketStatistics\\_HOTPJun16qtr-incl-HLFS/Commentary.aspx](http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/income-and-work/employment_and_unemployment/LabourMarketStatistics_HOTPJun16qtr-incl-HLFS/Commentary.aspx)

**Further labour market analysis** is available from MBIE:

<http://www.dol.govt.nz/publications/lmr/labour-maket-analysis.asp>

**Auckland Economic Quarterly** provides an overview of key economic trends in Auckland:

<http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/EN/AboutCouncil/businessandecconomy/Pages/home.aspx>

**Additional Auckland HLFS data** is available on request from Auckland Council’s “RIMU” unit:  
Contact: Ross Wilson – Analyst ✉ [Ross.Wilson@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:Ross.Wilson@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) ☎ 09 486 8561

**Disclaimer** - The information in this document is given in good faith and has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable and accurate at the date of preparation, but its accuracy, correctness and completeness cannot be guaranteed.

## Highlights this quarter

**[NOTE: The survey and all back-data were fully revised<sup>1</sup> in March 2015, and partially revised from March 2009 onwards in June 2016. This overview uses the revised data]**

For the quarter ending December 2017:

- The overall unemployment rate was 4.1%.
- The NEET (not in employment, education or training) rate for youth aged 15-24 was 12.6%.

Over the year ending December 2017:

- The unemployment rate overall averaged 4.5% in the year ending December 2017, a significant decrease\* from 5.3% in the year ending December 2016, and the lowest annual rate since 2008.
- The unemployment rate among those aged 15 to 19 averaged 20.8%, similar\* to 21.1% a year prior.
- The unemployment rate for females of all ages averaged 5.3%, similar\* to 5.6% a year prior, while the unemployment rate for males averaged 3.8%, a fall\* from 5.0% a year prior. The gap between males and females (1.5%) has narrowed compared to its peak in the year ended June 2015 (2.5%), but is still statistically significant\* (and widening since the year ended June 2016 (0.3%).
- Unemployment rates among Māori (8.2%) and Pacific people (8.5%) were lower than and similar\* to a year prior (11.0% and 9.4%) respectively, and remained higher\* than European and Asian ethnic groups.
- Unemployment rates for each of the five major ethnic groups were at their lowest annual rates since 2008.

## Snapshot: Labour force status, comparison to preceding quarter and year

	Quarter end Sept 2017 (snapshot)	Quarter end Dec 2017 (snapshot)	Year end Dec 2016 (annual average)	Year end Dec 2017 (annual average)
Number employed	898.7	910.9	848.9	892.1
Number unemployed	43.0	39.3	47.3	42.5
Number not in the labour force	388.7	386.0	388.7	390.2
Number in the working age population	1330.5	1336.1	1284.9	1324.7
Labour force participation rate (%)	70.8	71.1	69.8	70.5
Unemployment rate (%)	4.6	4.1	5.3	4.5

Note: Numbers are '000s of people

\*Definition of significant difference is based on statistical sampling errors produced by Statistics NZ.

<sup>1</sup> See “Re-base” and “Revision” explanations on preceding page

**Quick overview of unemployment rates among age, ethnicity and gender groups (%) (annual averages)**

	<b>Year end Dec 2016</b>	<b>Year end Dec 2017</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>4.5</b>
15-19 years	21.1	20.8
20-24 years	9.6	9.5
25-39 years	4.9	3.6
40-54 years	2.9	2.9
55 years +	3.2	2.5
Female	5.6	5.3
Male	5.0	3.8
European	3.8	3.3
Māori	11.0	8.2
Pacific	9.4	8.5
Asian	6.1	4.9
MELAA/Other	9.3	10.5

**Quick overview of labour force participation rates among age, ethnicity and gender groups (%) (annual averages)**

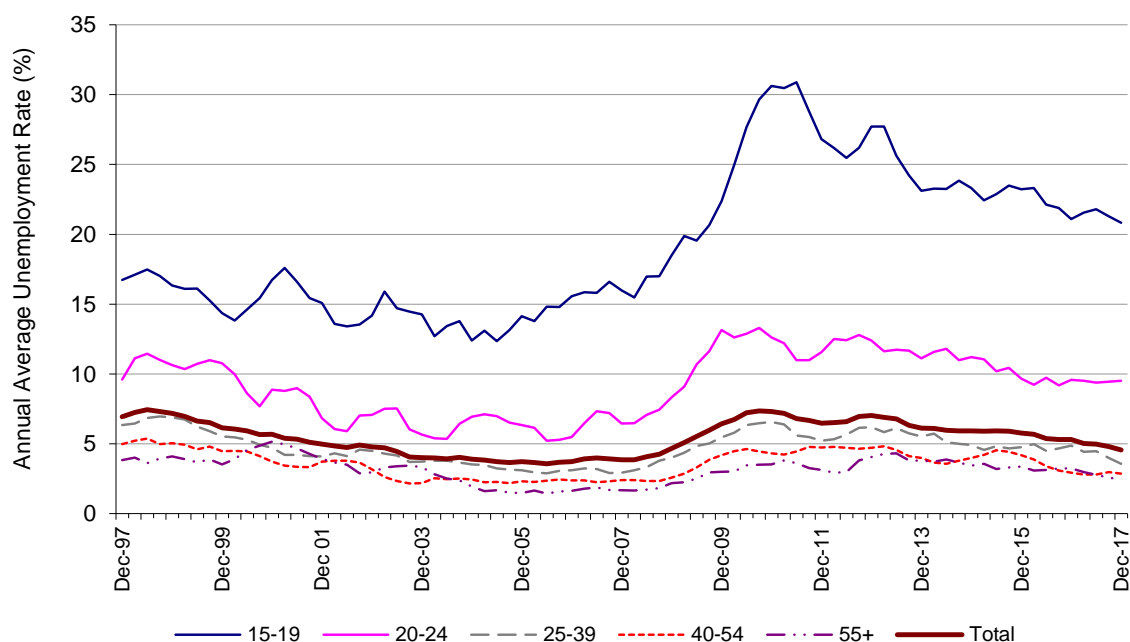
	<b>Year end Dec 2016</b>	<b>Year end Dec 2017</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>69.8</b>	<b>70.5</b>
15-19 years	39.2	37.4
20-24 years	76.8	75.3
25-39 years	84.0	85.1
40-54 years	86.5	87.4
55 years +	48.9	49.9
Female	64.1	64.6
Male	75.8	76.9
European	71.7	72.3
Māori	66.2	68.7
Pacific	64.5	63.9
Asian	69.5	71.0
MELAA/Other	65.5	64.1

### Labour force status by age, year ended December 2017 (annual averages)

	Total	15 to 19 years	20 to 24 years	25 to 39 years	40 to 54 years	55 years and over
Number employed	892.1	32.8	94.8	295.5	284.2	184.8
Number unemployed	42.5	8.7	9.9	10.9	8.3	4.6
Number not in the labour force	390.2	69.6	34.4	53.6	42.3	190.3
Number in the working age popn	1324.7	111.1	139.1	360.0	334.9	379.8
Labour force participation rate (%)	70.5	37.4	75.3	85.1	87.4	49.9
Unemployment rate (%)	4.5	20.8	9.5	3.6	2.9	2.5

Note: Numbers are '000s; totals and rates may incorporate minor sampling discrepancies.

### Unemployment rate by age group (rolling annual average) to year ended Dec 2017



### Labour force status by gender, year ended December 2017 (annual averages)

	Total	Male	Female
Number employed	<b>892.1</b>	474.8	417.3
Number unemployed	<b>42.5</b>	18.9	23.6
Number not in the labour force	<b>390.2</b>	148.3	241.9
Number in the working age popn	<b>1324.7</b>	642.0	682.8
Labour force participation rate (%)	<b>70.5</b>	76.9	64.6
Unemployment rate (%)	<b>4.5</b>	3.8	5.3

Note: Numbers are '000s; totals and rates may incorporate minor sampling discrepancies

### Unemployment rate by gender (rolling annual average) to year end Dec 2017

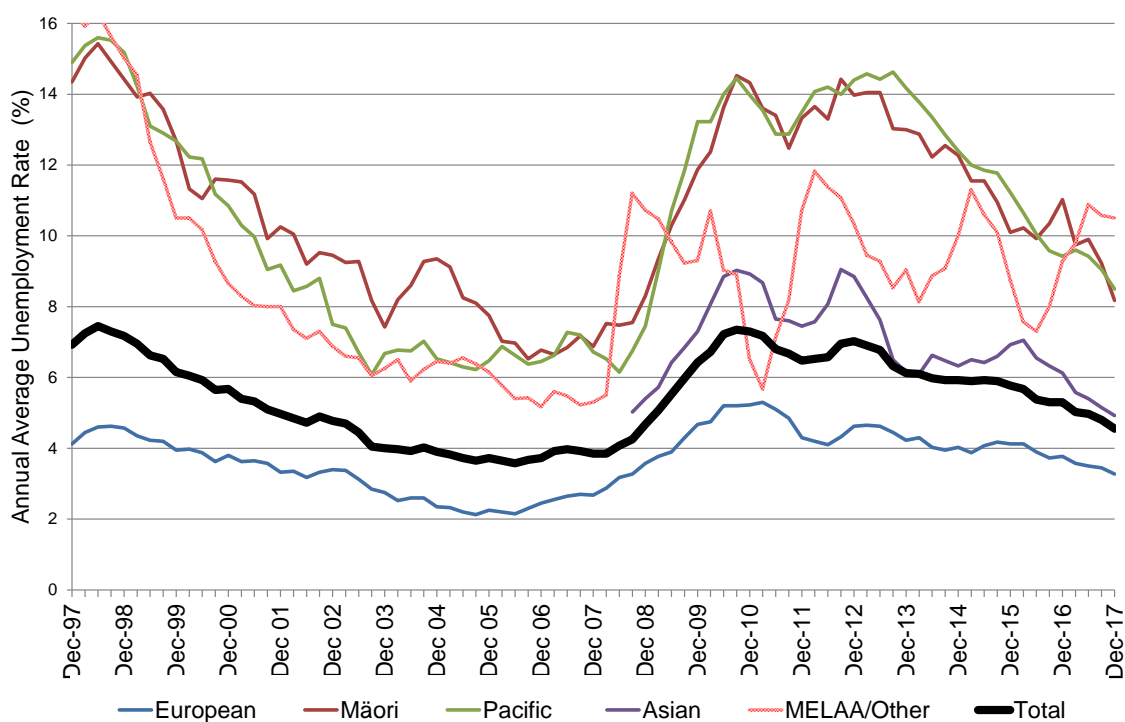


## Labour force status by ethnic group, year ended December 2017 (annual averages)

	Total	European	Māori	Pacific	Asian	MELAA/ Other
Number employed	892.1	542.1	69.5	97.2	226.0	18.5
Number unemployed	42.5	18.5	6.2	9.0	11.7	2.2
Number not in the labour force	390.2	215.0	34.5	59.9	97.4	11.6
Number in the working age popn	1,324.7	775.6	110.1	166.2	335.1	32.3
Labour force participation rate (%)	70.5	72.3	68.7	63.9	71.0	64.1
Unemployment rate (%)	4.5	3.3	8.2	8.5	4.9	10.5

Notes: Numbers are '000s; sums may exceed totals due to respondents selecting multiple ethnic groups  
 MELAA = Middle Eastern/ Latin American/ African.  
 These numbers are indicative only as sub-sample sizes are small.

## Unemployment rate by ethnic group (rolling annual average) to year end Dec 2017



Note: Asian Ethnic Group was included in MELAA/Other until December Quarter 2007

## Employment by occupation

In the December 2017 quarter, Auckland's largest occupational category was Professionals (25.8% of Auckland's total employment), followed by Managers (20.0%), Clerical and Administrative workers (12.7%) and Technicians and Trades workers (11.0%).

Between the September 2017 and December 2017 quarters, there were significant\* increases in the number of people employed as:

- Clerical and Administrative Workers
- Sales Workers (but probably just seasonal, reversing prior quarters' decreases)

In contrast, between the September 2017 and December 2017 quarters, there were significant\* decreases in the number of people employed as:

- (no significant decreases)

### Employment by occupation – comparison to preceding quarter (quarterly data)

Occupation (ANZSCO 1-digit)	Sept 2017 quarter	Dec 2017 quarter	Sept 2017 quarter	Dec 2017 quarter
	Number		Share (%)	
Managers	188.5	182.4	21.0	20.0
Professionals	234.6	234.8	26.1	25.8
Technicians and Trades Workers	100.3	100.4	11.2	11.0
Community and Personal Service Workers	71.0	74.2	7.9	8.1
Clerical and Administrative Workers	104.3	115.7	11.6	12.7
Sales Workers	76.3	80.6	8.5	8.8
Machinery Operators and Drivers	49.3	46.5	5.5	5.1
Labourers	60.7	63.2	6.8	6.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>898.7</b>	<b>910.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Notes: Numbers are '000s. Total includes not elsewhere included.

\*Significance is based on statistical sampling errors produced by Statistics NZ.



## Employment by industry

In the December 2017 quarter, the largest sectors in terms of employment were Other Business Services (165,000 people; 18.1% of total employment) and Wholesale and Retail (135,300 people; 14.9% of total employment).

Between the September 2017 and December 2017 quarters, there were significant\* increases in the number of people employed in the following sectors:

- Health Care and Social Assistance (but reversing decreases the previous quarters)

In contrast, between the September 2017 and December 2017 quarters there were significant\* decreases in the number of people employed in the following sectors:

- (no significant decreases)

### Employment by industry – comparison to preceding quarter (quarterly data)

Industry (ANZSIC06)	Sept 2017 quarter	Dec 2017 quarter	Sept 2017 quarter	Dec 2017 quarter
	Number		Share (%)	
Agriculture and Mining	11.2	10.9	1.2	1.2
Manufacturing	86.5	85.4	9.6	9.4
Utilities and Construction	94.3	96.8	10.5	10.6
Wholesale and Retail	132.7	135.3	14.8	14.9
Accommodation and Food Services	46.2	45.3	5.1	5.0
Transport, Postal and Warehousing	48.1	49.8	5.4	5.5
Information Media and Telecommunications	20.9	20.7	2.3	2.3
Financial and Insurance Services	34.8	31.8	3.9	3.5
Other Business Services	158.6	165.0	17.6	18.1
Education and Training	80.5	79.1	9.0	8.7
Health Care and Social Assistance	77.5	82.7	8.6	9.1
Other Services	90.8	91.7	10.1	10.1
<b>Total (including not specified)</b>	<b>898.7</b>	<b>910.9</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Notes: Numbers are '000s, rounded to nearest hundred.

\*Significance is based on statistical sampling errors produced by Statistics NZ.

## Rates of Auckland youth not in employment, education or training (NEET)

In the December 2017 quarter, the overall percentage of young people (aged 15-24) in Auckland who were not in employment, education or training (NEET) was 12.6%; this was similar to \* the New Zealand average of 11.9% over the same period.

Due to small sub-sample sizes, this information is not always available for some local board areas (“..S”), and Great Barrier local board area is always excluded for the same reason. Other local board NEET levels and rates have error margins from 18% to 56% (eg at 56% error margin, “10% NEET rate” could actually be anywhere between 4.4% and 15.6%), so are indicative only.

Note that NEET rates are also typically subject to substantial seasonal effects.

### NEET rates by local board area – December 2017 quarter (quarterly data)

Local board area	15-24 Age Population (000)	NEET (000)	NEET rate (%)
Rodney	6.2	..S	..S
Hibiscus and Bays	8.0	..S	..S
Upper Harbour	8.6	..S	..S
Kaipatiki	12.6	1.8	14.4
Devonport-Takapuna	8.0	..S	..S
Henderson-Massey	15.9	2.8	17.6
Waitakere Ranges	8.1	..S	..S
Waiheke	..S	..S	..S
Waitemata	16.2	1.3	8.3
Whau	13.8	..S	..S
Albert-Eden	24.3	1.6	6.6
Puketapapa	14.9	2.9	19.4
Orakei	15.0	1.8	11.9
Maungakiekie-Tamaki	7.5	1.3	16.8
Howick	27.5	2.6	9.6
Mangere-Otahuhu	14.7	4.0	27.0
Otara-Papatoetoe	20.4	3.0	14.9
Manurewa	17.7	3.9	21.8
Papakura	4.7	..S	..S
Franklin	10.7	1.2	11.3
<b>Auckland total</b>	<b>255.4</b>	<b>32.1</b>	<b>12.6</b>
Southern Initiative	57.6	11.6	20.2
Rest of Auckland	197.8	20.5	10.4
Rest of New Zealand	416.4	47.9	11.5
<b>Total New Zealand</b>	<b>671.9</b>	<b>80.0</b>	<b>11.9</b>

..S = data suppressed due to base numbers being too small (eg NEET below 1,000).

Any finer geography than “published Region” level (e.g. Auckland total) is below the design level of the survey. Estimates should be treated as indicative only and used with caution.

The Southern Initiative is made up of the Mangere-Otahuhu, Otara-Papatoetoe, Manurewa and Papakura Local Boards

\*Significant difference is based on statistical sampling errors produced by Statistics NZ.

## Definitions used in the HLFS

**Labour force:** Members of the working-age population who during their 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.

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

**Unemployed:** Unemployed persons are those in the working-age population who 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. (NOTE: “Actively sought work” does not include people whose only job search method was to look at job advertisements in newspapers or online.)

**Unemployment rate:** The number of unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

**Persons not in the labour force:** Any person who is neither employed nor unemployed. This category includes, for example:

- retired persons
- persons with personal or family responsibilities such as child care, unpaid house work
- persons attending educational institutions
- persons permanently unable to work due to physical or mental handicaps
- persons who were not actively seeking work (see note above regarding unemployed).