

Auckland Regional Household Labour Force Survey: Quarterly Overview – March 2021

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1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of aspects of labour force participation in Auckland, as indicated by results of the quarterly Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS).

Particular focus is provided on trends across age and ethnic groups in Auckland, and the rate of youth who are not in employment, education or training (NEET).

The HLFS is a national sample survey undertaken by Stats NZ. It is primarily designed for national estimates. The national sample contains about 15,000 private households and about 30,000 individuals each quarter. The sub-sample size for Auckland is approximately 4500 households and 9000 individuals.

In order to ensure information is seasonally aligned, rolling annual averages are used throughout this report for reporting across time. 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. More information on the survey, and caveats to the use of the data are provided in technical notes at the end of the report.

It is useful to note that the March 2020 quarter included just over a week of Covid-19 lockdown (levels 3 and 4), so mostly reflected pre-lockdown conditions. The June and September 2020 quarters included longer lockdowns.

Note also that Stats NZ revise the backdata slightly each quarter to match ongoing population revisions arising from latest migration estimates.

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

- **National and some regional data** released on Stats NZ website: www.stats.govt.nz
- **Further labour market analysis** is available from MBIE: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/employment-and-skills/labour-market-reports-data-and-analysis/>
- **Additional Auckland HLFS data** is available on request from the author: Ross.Wilson@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz
- **Auckland Economic Update (monthly)** - an overview of key economic trends in Auckland, prepared by the author, is available on the Knowledge Auckland website. <https://knowledgeauckland.org.nz/publications/auckland-economic-update-november-2020/>
- **Auckland Economic Quarterly** - an update on Auckland's economic challenges and opportunities including unemployment, housing, migration and more, prepared by the Chief Economist Unit, is available on the Knowledge Auckland website and also at: https://mcusercontent.com/b43f285355c582c3f958c1c0c/files/b5861fd2-e6b7-47c8-bb8d-1a669c547cf0/August_2020_AEQ.pdf

2. Overview and highlights

For the quarter ended March 2021, compared to the preceding quarter (not seasonally adjusted):

- Auckland's unemployment rate was 5.3%, the same as the previous quarter (5.3%).
- There was a rise in labour force participation rate (70.9% from 70.3%), and fall in numbers "NILF" (not in the labour force) (to 402,700), but those changes were actually within the survey margin of error so not "significant".¹
- NILF includes available but not "actively" seeking work; these increased to 32,000.
- The number employed rose by 10,300 - due entirely to a rise in part-timers. (Net changes: could be new full-time jobs, offset by full-timers becoming part-time.)
- Weekly hours worked fell slightly to 37.8 (average including full and part-timers).
- The NEET (not in employment, education or training) rate for youth aged 15-24 rose to 16.8% (from 13.9% the preceding quarter); the rest of New Zealand had 12.9%.

Over the year ended March 2021:

- The unemployment rate overall averaged 5.1% in the year ended March 2021, significantly above a year prior (4.3%), and slightly above the year ended December 2020 (4.9%), but still lower than the annual rates in 2009 to 2014 (6.0% to 7.3%).
- The unemployment rate among those aged 15 to 19 averaged 18.4%, similar to 16.9% a year prior (but lower than all 2009 to 2019 including 31.0% in 2011).
- The unemployment rate for females of all ages averaged 5.5%, higher than 4.7% a year prior. Similarly, the unemployment rate for males averaged 4.7%, higher than 3.9% a year prior, so the gap between males and females (0.8%) was unchanged; it has narrowed significantly since its peak in the year ended June 2015 (2.5%).
- Unemployment rates among Māori (8.0%) and Pacific people (8.6%) were similar to a year prior (8.3% and 7.9% respectively), while there were 0.9% rises for European (from 3.0% to 3.9%) and Asian (from 4.4% to 5.3%) ethnic groups.
- The labour force participation rate overall averaged 70.0%, slightly below a year prior (70.8%), and the same as the year ended December 2020 (70.0%).
- The labour force participation rate for males (75.8%) was the same as a year prior (75.7%); females' rate fell from 66.2% to 64.4% (but still above their 57.1% in 2001).
- Labour force participation rates fell slightly from a year prior for ages 15-19 (40.5% to 38.3%), 20-24 (77.8% to 76.0%) and 55+ (50.3% to 48.7%), not 25-39 and 40-54.
- Labour force participation rates fell slightly from a year prior for European (72.6% to 71.1%) and Māori (67.3% to 66.0%) ethnicities, but not Pacific (62.4%) or Asian (72.8%).

Table 1: Labour force status, comparison to preceding quarter and year

| | Quarter end Dec 2020 (snapshot) | Quarter end Mar 2021 (snapshot) | Year end Mar 2020 (annual average) | Year end Mar 2021 (annual average) |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Number employed | 918.9 | 929.2 | 915.5 | 916.5 |
| Number unemployed | 51.6 | 52.2 | 41.3 | 48.9 |
| Number not in the labour force | 410.5 | 402.7 | 394.1 | 414.0 |
| Number in the working age population | 1380.9 | 1384.1 | 1350.9 | 1379.3 |
| Labour force participation rate (%) | 70.3 | 70.9 | 70.8 | 70.0 |
| Unemployment rate (%) | 5.3 | 5.3 | 4.3 | 5.1 |

Note: Numbers are '000s of people.

¹ The definition of similar or different is relative to survey sampling error margins produced by Stats NZ. For further details see 'Significant difference' in Appendix 1.

Table 2: Quick overview of unemployment rates among age, gender and ethnic groups (%) (annual averages)

| | Year end March 2020 | Year end March 2021 |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total | 4.3 | 5.1 |
| 15-19 years | 16.9 | 18.4 |
| 20-24 years | 9.4 | 10.4 |
| 25-39 years | 3.5 | 4.6 |
| 40-54 years | 2.9 | 3.6 |
| 55 years + | 2.4 | 2.9 |
| Female | 4.7 | 5.5 |
| Male | 3.9 | 4.7 |
| European | 3.0 | 3.9 |
| Māori | 8.3 | 8.0 |
| Pacific | 7.9 | 8.6 |
| Asian | 4.4 | 5.3 |

Table 3: Quick overview of labour force participation rates among age, gender and ethnic groups (%) (annual averages)

| | Year end March 2020 | Year end March 2021 |
|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Total | 70.8 | 70.0 |
| 15-19 years | 40.5 | 38.3 |
| 20-24 years | 77.8 | 76.0 |
| 25-39 years | 85.9 | 85.2 |
| 40-54 years | 86.9 | 86.7 |
| 55 years + | 50.3 | 48.7 |
| Female | 66.2 | 64.4 |
| Male | 75.7 | 75.8 |
| European | 72.6 | 71.1 |
| Māori | 67.3 | 66.0 |
| Pacific | 63.0 | 62.4 |
| Asian | 72.4 | 72.8 |

Note: During the lockdowns of 2020 and 2021, many people may not have met the criteria to have been actively seeking or available to start work, despite wanting a job. In these cases, the respondent will have been classified as 'not in the labour force' rather than 'unemployed'. Others remained employed due to government wage subsidies, with or without reductions in hours and pay. Also, there was a substantial reduction in survey response rates, which may introduce bias.

3. Labour force status and unemployment rate by age

For the year ended March 2021, labour force status for the various age groups was as shown in Table 4. Unemployment rates since 1996 were as shown in Figure 1.

Table 4: Labour force status by age group, year ended March 2021 (annual averages)

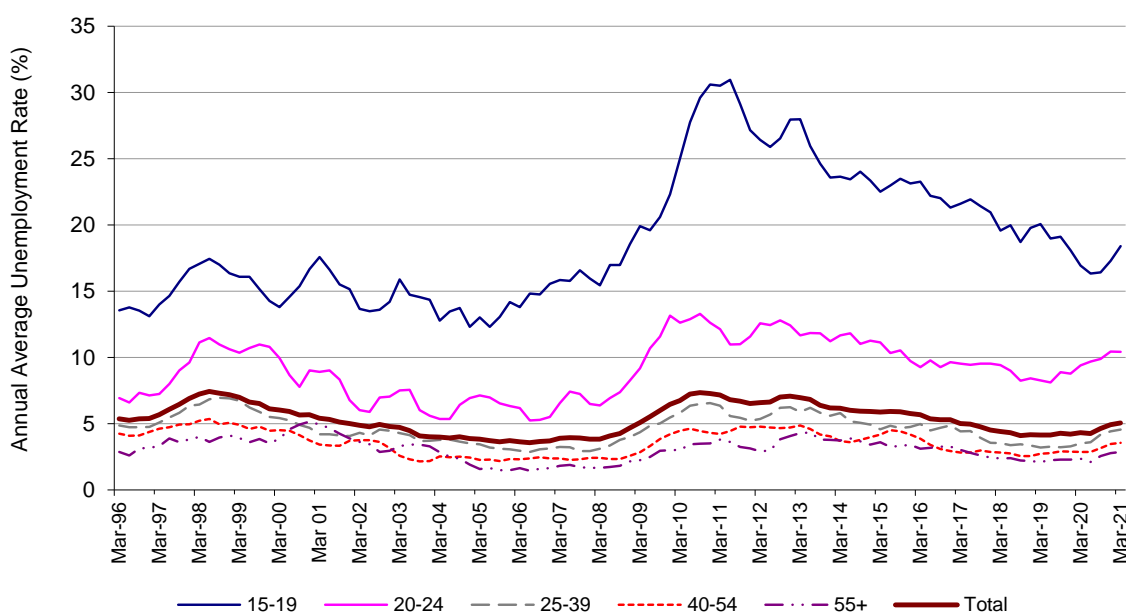
| | Total | 15 to 19 years | 20 to 24 years | 25 to 39 years | 40 to 54 years | 55 years and over |
|-------------------------------------|--------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Number employed | 916.5 | 34.5 | 83.3 | 313.7 | 287.9 | 197.2 |
| Number unemployed | 48.9 | 7.8 | 9.7 | 15.0 | 10.6 | 5.8 |
| Number not in the labour force | 414.0 | 68.2 | 29.3 | 57.0 | 45.9 | 213.6 |
| Number in the working age popn | 1379.3 | 110.5 | 122.4 | 385.6 | 344.4 | 416.6 |
| Labour force participation rate (%) | 70.0 | 38.3 | 76.0 | 85.2 | 86.7 | 48.7 |
| Unemployment rate (%) | 5.1 | 18.4 | 10.4 | 4.6 | 3.6 | 2.9 |

Note: Numbers are '000s; numbers and rates are based on latest re-revised population estimates.

The annual average unemployment rates for the year ended March 2021 were similar to the year ended December 2020, but higher than a year ago, for all age groups. The unemployment rate continued to vary substantially by age: highest for 15- to 19-year olds (18.4%) and lowest for ages 55 years and over (2.9%).

Labour force participation rates (70.0%) vary from ages 15-19 (38.3%), to ages 40-54 (86.7%); they have recently fallen slightly for ages 20-24 (to 75.6%); longer term, for ages 55+ (49.0%), they have near-doubled since the year ended September 1995 (26.8%), whereas ages 15-19 are a third lower than their March 1998 peak (57.4%).

Figure 1: Unemployment rate by age group (rolling annual average), 1996-2021



4 Labour force status and unemployment rate by gender

For the year ended March 2021, labour force status for males and females was as shown in Table 5. Unemployment rates since 1996 were as shown in Figure 2.

Table 5: Labour force status by gender, year ended March 2021 (annual averages)

| | Total | Male | Female |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| Number employed | 916.5 | 489.6 | 426.9 |
| Number unemployed | 48.9 | 23.9 | 25.0 |
| Number not in the labour force | 414.0 | 164.2 | 249.8 |
| Number in the working age popn | 1379.3 | 677.6 | 701.7 |
| Labour force participation rate (%) | 70.0 | 75.8 | 64.4 |
| Unemployment rate (%) | 5.1 | 4.7 | 5.5 |

Note: Numbers are '000s; numbers and rates are based on latest re-revised population estimates.

The annual average unemployment rate for the year ended March 2021 remained slightly higher for females (5.5%) than males (4.7%). The gender gap (0.8%) remains “significant”, but shows no sign of widening: it is currently similar to most of the last ten years, and narrower than 2013-2015 – when it peaked at 2.5% (June 2015).

In addition, the labour force participation rate (LFPR) for females (64.4%) has been falling recently from record highs, and remained significantly lower than for males (stable at 75.8%). The LFPR gender gap (11.4%) has been rising since the record low of December 2019 (9.0%), but longer term it has reduced by a third since 1995 (19.0%), due to the male LFPR remaining largely unchanged over that period while the female LFPR rose.

Figure 2 Unemployment rate by gender (rolling annual average), 1996-2021



5 Labour force status and unemployment rate by ethnic group

For the year ended March 2021, labour force status for the four main ethnic groups was as shown in Table 6. Unemployment rates since 1996 were as shown in Figure 3.

Table 6: Labour force status by ethnic group, year ended March 2021 (annual average)

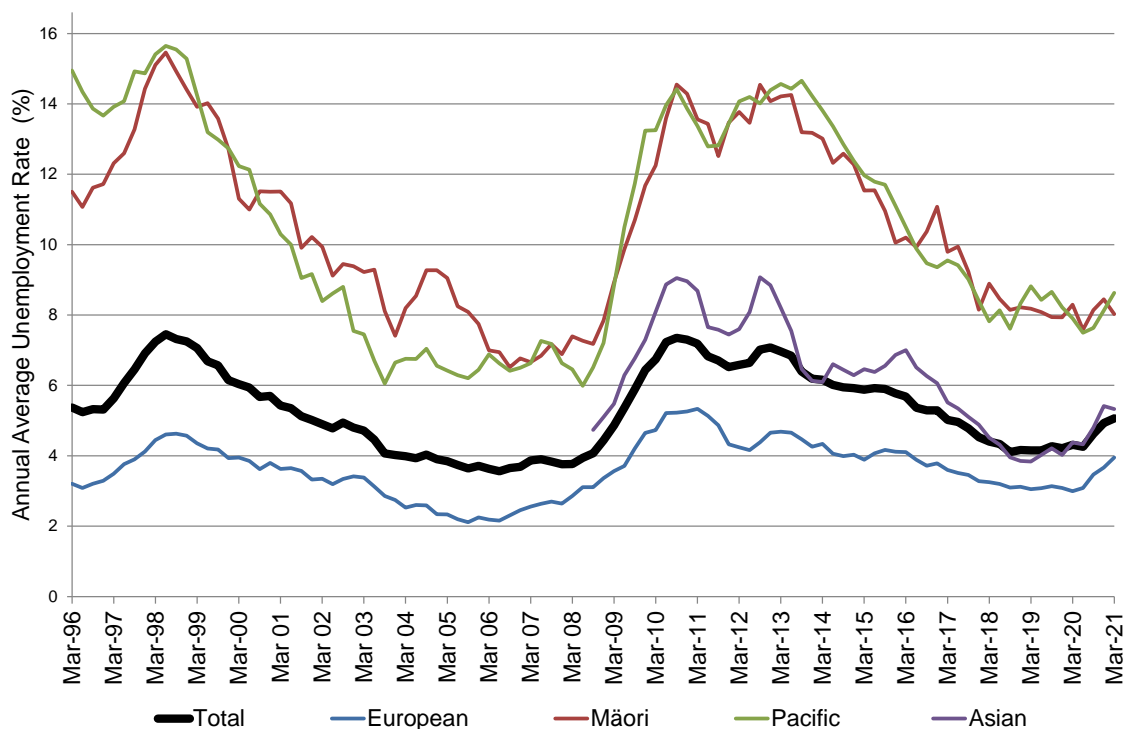
| | Total | European | Māori | Pacific | Asian |
|-------------------------------------|---------|----------|-------|---------|-------|
| Number employed | 916.5 | 507.9 | 78.8 | 104.8 | 269.8 |
| Number unemployed | 48.9 | 20.9 | 6.9 | 9.9 | 15.2 |
| Number not in the labour force | 414.0 | 214.7 | 44.1 | 69.1 | 106.5 |
| Number in the working age popn | 1,379.3 | 743.5 | 129.7 | 183.8 | 391.5 |
| Labour force participation rate (%) | 70.0 | 71.1 | 66.0 | 62.4 | 72.8 |
| Unemployment rate (%) | 5.1 | 3.9 | 8.0 | 8.6 | 5.3 |

Notes: Numbers are '000s; sums may exceed totals due to respondents selecting multiple ethnic groups. "Other ethnicities" not shown. These numbers are indicative only as sub-sample sizes are small. Data is based on latest re-revised population estimates.

The annual average unemployment rates for the year ended March 2021 were broadly similar to the last three years for Māori and Pacific peoples (within the +/- 2% error ranges), but rising recently for Europeans and Asians (whose error ranges are narrower). All groups were much lower (better) than the peaks in 1998 and 2010-2013. The unemployment rate continued to vary substantially between ethnic groups: lowest for Europeans (3.7%), higher for Asians (5.4%), and highest for Māori (8.5%) and Pacific peoples (8.1%).

Labour force participation rates (70.0%) varied by ethnicity, from Pacific (62.4%) and Māori (66.0%) to European (71.1% - down from 72.6% a year earlier) and Asian (72.8% - up from 65.1% in 2013). They were all broadly flat since 2017, except Māori (falling from 69.9%).

Figure 3: Unemployment rate by ethnic group (rolling annual average), 1996-2021



Note: Asian Ethnic Group was included in Other (not shown) until December Quarter 2007.

6 Employment by occupation

In the March 2021 quarter, Auckland's largest occupational categories were Professionals (24.9% of Auckland's total employment), and Managers (22.6%), followed by Technicians and Trades Workers (10.4%) and Clerical and Administrative Workers (10.3%).

Between the December 2020 and March 2021 quarters, there were increases in the numbers employed in the following occupations:

- Sales Workers (+5,700, a rise of 6.0% yielding a 0.6 percentage point increase in their share – a full recovery from the lows in September and December 2020)
- Machinery Operators and Drivers (+5,000, a rise of 9.9% yielding a 0.5 percentage point increase in their share – most of it from part-timers (+3,700)).

In contrast, between the December 2020 and March 2021 quarters, there were decreases in the numbers employed in the following occupations:

- Clerical and Administrative Workers (-6,000, a fall of 5.9% yielding a 0.8 percentage point decrease in their share – continuing the downtrend from 2014)
- Labourers (-4,900, a fall of 7.7% yielding a 0.6 percentage point decrease in their share – but offsetting a similar increase the previous quarter).

In addition, between the December 2020 and March 2021 quarters, there were notable changes in part-time employment in the following occupations:

- Community and Personal Service Workers (+4,100, a rise of 15.9% yielding a 9.5 percentage point increase in the proportion that are part-timers)
- Managers (+2,700 a rise of 12.3% but yielding only a 1.5 percentage point increase in the proportion that are part-timers)
- Professionals (-3,600, a fall of 10.1% but yielding only a 2.0 percentage point decrease in the proportion that are part-timers).

Table 7: Employment by occupation – comparison to preceding quarter (quarterly data)

| Occupation (ANZSCO 1-digit) | December 2020 quarter | March 2021 quarter | December 2020 quarter | March 2021 quarter |
|--|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| | Number | | Share (%) | |
| Managers | 209.1 | 209.8 | 22.8 | 22.6 |
| Professionals | 228.8 | 231.6 | 24.9 | 24.9 |
| Technicians and Trades Workers | 95.0 | 96.8 | 10.3 | 10.4 |
| Community and Personal Service Workers | 77.5 | 75.4 | 8.4 | 8.1 |
| Clerical and Administrative Workers | 101.6 | 95.6 | 11.1 | 10.3 |
| Sales Workers | 73.9 | 79.6 | 8.0 | 8.6 |
| Machinery Operators and Drivers | 50.5 | 55.5 | 5.5 | 6.0 |
| Labourers | 63.3 | 58.4 | 6.9 | 6.3 |
| Total | 918.9 | 929.2 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Notes: Numbers are '000s. Total includes not elsewhere included. Data is based on re-revised population estimates.

7 Employment by industry

In the March 2021 quarter, the largest sectors in terms of employment were Construction (98,700 people; 10.6% of total employment), Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (98,600 people; 10.6% of total employment) and Health Care and Social Assistance (90,400 people; 9.7% of total employment)

Between the December 2020 and March 2021 quarters, there were significant increases in the number of people employed in:

- Arts and Recreation Services (+4200, a rise of 19.0%).

(In addition, employment was significantly higher in the March 2021 quarter than a year earlier (March 2020) for:

- Public Administration and Safety (+6,800, an 18.1% rise, spread over the period).)

Between the December 2020 and March 2021 quarters, there were no significant decreases in the number of people employed in any industries.

(However, employment was significantly lower in the March 2021 quarter than a year earlier (March 2020) for:

- Administrative and Support Services (-6,600, a 16.3% fall, mostly in June 2020).)

Table 8: Employment by industry – comparison to preceding quarter (quarterly data)

| Industry (ANZSIC06) | December 2020 quarter | March 2021 quarter | December 2020 quarter | March 2021 quarter |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| | Number | | Share (%) | |
| AB Primary Industries | 8.3 | 8.6 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| C Manufacturing | 79.6 | 80.5 | 8.7 | 8.7 |
| D Electricity Gas Water and Waste Services | 8.3 | 7.3 | 0.9 | 0.8 |
| E Construction | 97.5 | 98.7 | 10.6 | 10.6 |
| F Wholesale Trade | 42.2 | 39.2 | 4.6 | 4.2 |
| G Retail Trade | 83.2 | 84.4 | 9.1 | 9.1 |
| H Accommodation and Food Services | 48.5 | 49.6 | 5.3 | 5.3 |
| I Transport Postal and Warehousing | 45.4 | 48.7 | 4.9 | 5.2 |
| J Information Media and Telecommunications | 18.3 | 20.9 | 2.0 | 2.2 |
| K Financial and Insurance Services | 45.2 | 41.8 | 4.9 | 4.5 |
| L Rental Hiring and Real Estate Services | 22.4 | 22.2 | 2.4 | 2.4 |
| M Professional, Scientific and Technical Services | 96.5 | 98.6 | 10.5 | 10.6 |
| N Administrative and Support Services | 34.6 | 33.8 | 3.8 | 3.6 |
| O Public Administration and Safety | 42 | 44.1 | 4.6 | 4.7 |
| P Education and Training | 76 | 74.3 | 8.3 | 8.0 |
| Q Health Care and Social Assistance | 99 | 90.4 | 10.8 | 9.7 |
| R Arts and Recreation Services | 19 | 23.2 | 2.1 | 2.5 |
| S Other Services | 38.8 | 37.6 | 4.2 | 4.0 |
| Total | 918.9 | 929.2 | 100.0 | 100.0 |

Notes: Numbers are '000s, rounded to nearest hundred. Total includes "Not elsewhere included". Data is based on re-revised population estimates. Also, from December 2020 onwards, industry sectors for this report were unbundled to ANZSIC 1 digit (including back-data).

8 Youth not in employment, education or training

For the quarter ended March 2021, the overall percentage of young people (aged 15-24) who were not in employment, education or training (NEET) in Auckland (16.8%) was above the New Zealand average (14.3%) over the same period. Note that quarterly NEET rates are typically subject to substantial seasonal effects. For the year ended March 2021, the annual average NEET rate for Auckland (14.1%) was slightly above the New Zealand average (12.7%) over the same period. (But see Notes below Table 9.)

Indicative NEET rates for the various local board areas for the latest quarter and year are shown in Table 9. Due to small sub-sample sizes, this information is not always available for some local board areas ('..S'), and is never available for Great Barrier (not listed). The other local board NEET levels and rates have varying error margins (18% to 56%; e.g. at 56% error margin, '10% NEET rate' could be anywhere between 4.4% and 15.6%).

Table 9: NEET rates by local board area – quarter and year ended March 2021

| Local board area | Population Age 15-24(000) | Quarterly NEET (000) | Quarterly NEET rate (%) | Annual average NEET Rate (%) |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Rodney | 6.7 | ..S | ..S | ..S |
| Hibiscus and Bays | 11.8 | 1.3 | 10.8 | 9.1 |
| Upper Harbour | 6.4 | 1.8 | 27.7 | 20.8 |
| Kaipatiki | 11.9 | 2.6 | 21.5 | 19.0 |
| Devonport-Takapuna | 9.9 | 1.2 | 12.5 | 9.9 |
| Henderson-Massey[W] | 17.6 | 2.0 | 11.1 | 15.3 |
| Waitākere Ranges [W] | 7.3 | 1.3 | 18.3 | 13.1 |
| Waiheke | ..S | ..S | ..S | ..S |
| Waitematā | 7.5 | 1.3 | 17.8 | 11.7 |
| Whau [W] | 11.5 | 3.0 | 25.9 | 18.4 |
| Albert-Eden | 22.0 | 2.4 | 11.1 | 8.9 |
| Puketāpapa | 5.8 | 1.3 | 21.6 | 16.0 |
| Ōrākei | 13.0 | 1.5 | 11.2 | 9.1 |
| Maungakiekie-Tāmaki | 11.9 | 1.6 | 13.4 | 16.5 |
| Howick | 17.2 | 2.6 | 15.3 | 13.4 |
| Māngere-Ōtāhuhu [*] | 12.4 | 3.4 | 27.1 | 19.3 |
| Ōtara-Papatoetoe [*] | 16.7 | 3.2 | 19.5 | 19.6 |
| Manurewa [*] | 19.3 | 4.2 | 21.5 | 21.9 |
| Papakura [*] | 10.9 | 2.7 | 24.9 | 23.4 |
| Franklin | 13.7 | 1.5 | 10.7 | 11.4 |
| Southern Initiative [*] | 59.3 | 13.5 | 22.7 | 20.8 |
| Rest of Auckland [*] | 174.4 | 25.7 | 14.8 | 11.9 |
| Western Initiative [W] | 36.4 | 6.3 | 17.2 | 15.6 |
| Auckland total | 233.7 | 39.2 | 16.8 | 14.1 |
| Rest of New Zealand | 416.1 | 53.7 | 12.9 | 11.9 |
| Total New Zealand | 649.8 | 92.9 | 14.3 | 12.7 |

Notes: Data is based on latest re-revised population estimates. Any finer geography than Auckland total is below the design level of the survey; local board area estimates should be treated as indicative only and used with caution...S = data suppressed due to base numbers being too small (e.g. NEET below 1000 for the quarter (quarterly) or for all of the four quarters (annual average)). [*] The Southern Initiative is made up of the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Manurewa and Papakura Local Boards. [W] = Western Initiative area.

Appendix: Definitions and technical notes

Definitions used in the HLFS

Employed: Those HLFS respondents who during their survey reference week had either:

- worked for one hour or more for pay or profit, as employee/employer/self employed
- worked without pay for one hour or more for a relative's farm or business
- had a job but were temporarily not at work.

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 (aged 15-24 years).

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 below regarding unemployed).

Significant difference: The HLFS is a sample survey, so all statistics are subject to survey sampling error – the random variation between the sample and the total population. For a difference to be statistically significant, it must exceed this margin of error (see also note on sampling errors).

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 (UER): The number of unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Working age population (WAP): total population (i.e. of all labour force statuses) aged 15 or over (including over 65), who have or propose to live in New Zealand for at least 12 months, but excluding institutionalised people (in prison, or long-term residents of homes for older people, hospitals, and psychiatric institutions) ; sometimes restricted to a particular specified sub-group such as by gender or ethnicity – and sometimes also for a sub-group defined by age e.g. youth (aged 15-24).

Technical notes

HLFS survey sampling: Households are sampled on a statistically representative basis from 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.

Seasonality and annual averages: In order to ensure information is seasonally aligned, rolling annual averages are used throughout most of this report for reporting across time. Remaining quarterly data in this report will be subject to seasonality (and may differ from some of the HLFS headline numbers published by Stats NZ that are 'seasonally adjusted').

Revisions: The survey and some back-data was re-revised by Stats NZ in October 2020 and again in January 2021 to match re-revised regional population estimates. 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' (i.e. not actively seeking employment, therefore Not In Labour Force). This overview uses the revised data, but note that back-data for before 2009 still uses the old definition.

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.

For further information

Technical notes on the HLFS on Stats NZ website:

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

[HLFS sources and methods: 2016](#)

June 2016 questionnaire changes:

http://archive.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/income-and-work/employment_and_unemployment/improving-labour-market-statistics.aspx#gsc.tab=0

2020 Covid-19 impacts:

<https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/covid-19-and-labour-market-statistics-in-the-june-2020-quarter>

Find out more: phone 09 301 0101, email rimu@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or visit aucklandcouncil.govt.nz and knowledgeauckland.org.nz