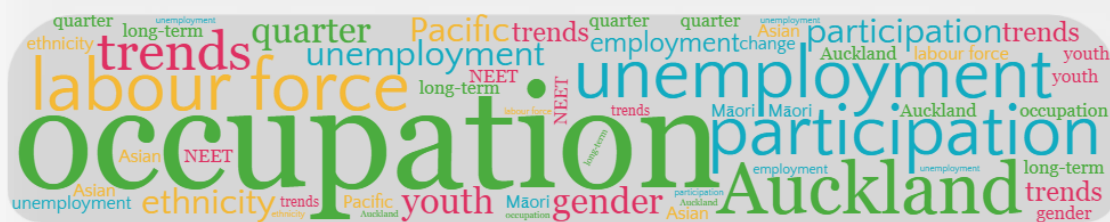


Auckland Regional Household Labour Force Survey: Quarterly Overview as at September 2025

Ross Wilson



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November 2025

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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). Focus is provided on short and long-term 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.

To ensure information is seasonally aligned, rolling annual averages are used throughout this report (with some exceptions) for reporting across time. As the HLFS is a sample survey, all statistics are subject to survey sampling error. Statistics presented 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.

From the March 2020 to September 2023 quarters, results were affected to varying degrees by Covid-19 responses, including border closures and lockdowns of various types. Some people did not meet 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 partly or fully employed due to government wage subsidies. In addition, survey response rates sometimes fell, which may introduce bias. In the March 2023 quarter, floods and Cyclone Gabrielle impeded data collection, requiring adjustments from Stats NZ, and causing minor additional sampling and non-sampling errors for the region, and possibly major ones for some local board areas.

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

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

- **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/>
- **National and some regional data released on Stats NZ website:** www.stats.govt.nz
- **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://www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz/economy/>
- **Chief Economist Unit** – to find out more about the work undertaken by Auckland Council's Chief Economist Unit on Auckland's economic challenges and opportunities including unemployment, housing, migration and more: <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/about-auckland-council/business-in-auckland/economic-advice-publications/Pages/default.aspx>

2 Overview and highlights

For the September 2025 quarter, compared to the preceding quarter (June 2025)¹:

- Auckland's unemployment rate was 6.1%, same as in June 2025², and the second-highest rate since 2015.
- The number of people who were unemployed was almost unchanged at 63,800.
- The number of people employed fell slightly to 980,100 (-2,100, a 0.2% fall).
- The number of people not in the labour force (NILF) rose 2% to 427,700 (+7,300).
- The labour force participation rate (LFPR) fell 0.4% to 70.9%: the lowest in four years, similar to 2016-2019, but note that LFPR 2021-2025 had been at record highs.

In addition, for the September 2025 quarter:

- The rate of people aged 15 to 24 not in employment, education or training (NEET) was 13.9%, slightly above the rest of New Zealand (12.1%) and slightly above September 2024 (12.1%).

Over the year ended September 2025, compared to the year ended September 2024:

- The unemployment rate averaged 6.0%, higher than a year earlier (4.7%) by a third.
- The largest proportionate increase in unemployment rate was for those aged 40 to 54, rising from 2.8% to 4.3%; younger people had higher rates: 15 to 19 (28.0%, up from 23.0%), 20 to 24 (11.7%, was 9.1%) 25 to 39 (5.0%, was 3.8%), 55 and over 3.0%.
- The unemployment rate for females averaged 6.4% (1.2% above a year prior (5.2%)). The rate for males averaged 5.7% (1.4% above 4.3% a year prior), so the gap between males and females (0.7%) stayed below the 20-year average (0.8%) and peak (2.5%).
- Unemployment rates rose for all main ethnic groups. Māori and Pacific rates remain higher than the others: Māori at 13.3% (up from 9.7%), Pacific peoples at 11.7% (was 8.6%); Asian rose to 5.5% (from 4.2%), European rose by the least to 4.1% (was 3.7%).
- The labour force participation rate (LFPR) fell to 71.8%, down from a year earlier (73.5%) but remaining higher than any time before 2023.
- The LFPR for females decreased (66.8%, down from 68.7%), remaining significantly lower than for males (77.0%, was 78.3%) and slightly widening the gap to 10.2%.
- LFPRs fell substantially for those aged 15 to 19 (down 4.6% to 38.7%), but much less so for all other ages: 20 to 24 (down 0.5% to 78.5%), 25-39 (87.3%, down 0.8%), 40-54 (87.0%, down 1.1%), and 55 and over (51.1%, down 0.7%).
- LFPRs fell most for Māori (64.3%, down 3.8%) and European (71.9%, down 2.7%), less for Asian (75.9%, down 0.9%); the LFPR for Pacific peoples rose (66.2%, up 0.8%).

In addition, over the year ended September 2025:

- The annual average NEET rate for Auckland was 14.6%, above the rest of New Zealand (12.5%), and a little above the year ended September 2024 (13.1%).
- Auckland NEET rates were highest for Māori (24.3%) and Pacific (21.0%) ethnicities, and for the Southern Initiative area (23.4%); one third (12,400) identified as European.
- Auckland's NEET rate was higher for those aged 20-24 (17.9%) than 15-19 (11.5%).

¹ Results shown are not seasonally adjusted, and include Stats NZ revisions of previous data.

² The definition of 'similar/slightly' or 'different' is relative to survey sampling error margins produced by Stats NZ. For further details see 'Significant difference' in Appendix 1.

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

	Quarter end Jun 2025 (snapshot)	Quarter end Sep 2025 (snapshot)	Year end Sep 2024 (annual average)	Year end Sep 2025 (annual average)
Number employed	982.2	980.1	1007.4	987.8
Number unemployed	63.5	63.8	49.7	63.0
Number not in the labour force (NILF)	420.4	427.7	381.8	412.3
Number in the working age population	1466.1	1471.5	1439.0	1463.1
Labour force participation rate (%)	71.3	70.9	73.5	71.8
Unemployment rate (%)	6.1	6.1	4.7	6.0

Note: Numbers are '000s of people except where indicated as percentages (%).

Table 2: Overview of rates for age, gender and ethnic groups (%) (annual averages)

	Year end Sep 2024 (annual average)	Year end Sep 2025 (annual average)	Year end Sep 2024 (annual average)	Year end Sep 2025 (annual average)
	Unemployment rate		Labour force participation rate	
Total	4.7	6.0	73.5	71.8
15-19 years	23.0	28.0	43.3	38.7
20-24 years	9.1	11.7	79.0	78.5
25-39 years	3.8	5.0	88.1	87.3
40-54 years	2.8	4.3	88.1	87.0
55 years +	3.1	3.0	51.8	51.1
Female	5.2	6.4	68.7	66.8
Male	4.3	5.7	78.3	77.0
European	3.7	4.1	74.6	71.9
Māori	9.7	13.3	68.1	64.3
Pacific	8.6	11.7	65.4	66.2
Asian	4.2	5.5	76.8	75.9

3 Labour force status and unemployment rate by age

Labour force status by age group for the year ended September 2025 is shown in Table 3. Unemployment rates since 1995 are shown in Figure 1.

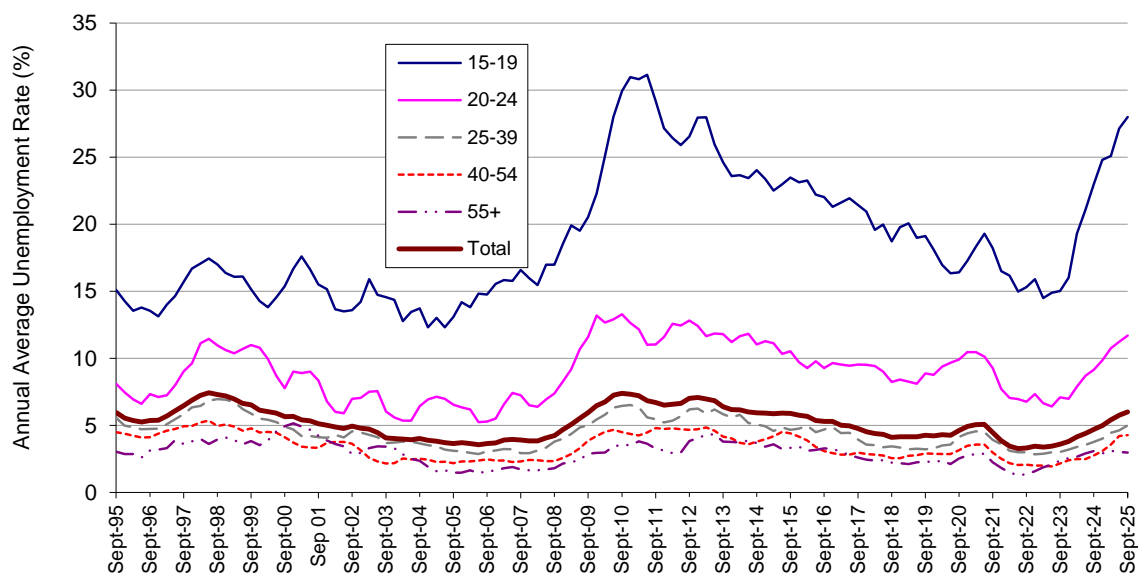
Table 3: Labour force status by age group, year ended September 2025 (annual averages)

	Total	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 39	40 to 54	55 and over
Number employed	987.8	34.6	81.0	357.9	301.8	212.5
Number unemployed	63.0	13.5	10.7	18.9	13.5	6.5
Number not in the labour force	412.3	76.2	25.2	54.7	46.9	209.3
Number in the working age popn.	1463.1	124.3	116.9	431.5	362.2	428.3
Labour force participation rate (%)	71.8	38.7	78.5	87.3	87.0	51.1
Unemployment rate (%)	6.0	28.0	11.7	5.0	4.3	3.0

Note: Numbers are '000s, rates (%) are percentages; numbers and rates are based on latest population estimates.

Annual average unemployment rates for the year ended September 2025 varied inversely to age: highest for those aged 15 to 19 years (28.0%) and 20 to 24 (11.7%), and lowest for ages 25 to 39 (5.0%), 40 to 54 (4.3%) and 55 and over (3.0%). Over the last two years, rates for ages 40-54 and 15-19 doubled; for ages 20-24 and 25-39 they rose by two-thirds, and for ages 55 and over by a half. (But note that survey error margins can exceed 25% for some age groups.)

Figure 1: Unemployment rate by age (rolling annual average), 1995-2025



Labour force participation rates (LFPR) in the year ended September 2025 dropped back to 38.7% for those aged 15 to 19 and steadied at 78.5% for ages 20 to 24 (both similar to 2016-2020). There were slight falls for those aged 25 to 39 (87.3%) 40 to 54 (87.0%) and 55 and over (51.1%), but these rates remain near their 2023 record highs. Over the longer term, the LFPR for those aged 55 and over has doubled since June 1995 (26.2%), possibly due to better health, longer life expectancy, and financial pressures associated with retirement.

4 Labour force status and unemployment rate by gender

Table 4 shows labour force status for males and females for the year ended September 2025. Unemployment rates since 1995 are shown in Figure 2.

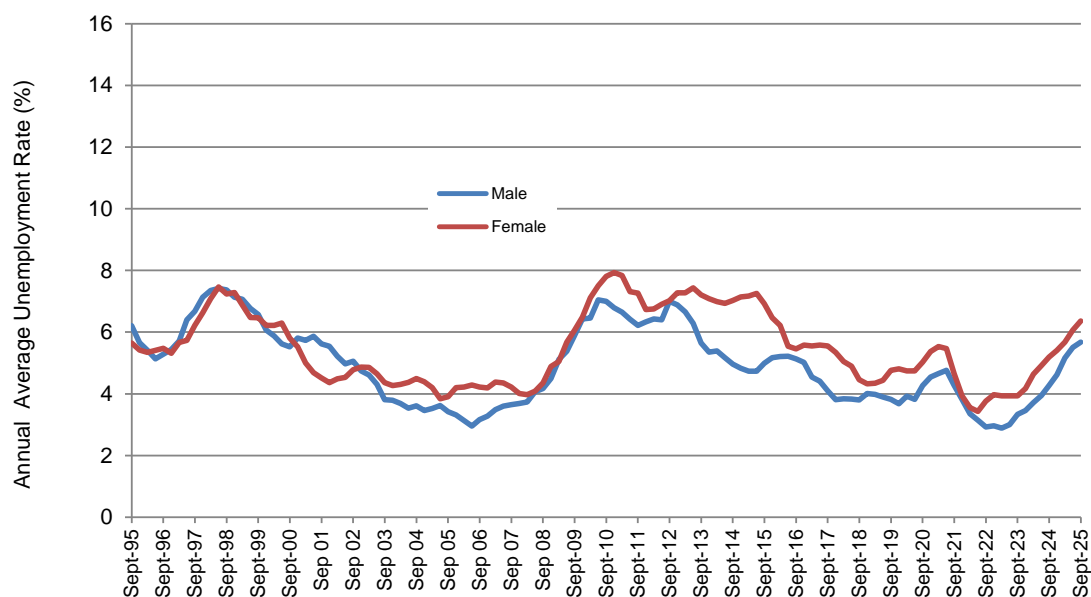
Table 4: Labour force status by gender, year ended September 2025 (annual averages)

	Total	Male	Female
Number employed	987.8	525.3	462.5
Number unemployed	63.0	31.6	31.4
Number not in the labour force	412.3	166.6	245.7
Number in the working age popn.	1463.1	723.5	739.7
Labour force participation rate (%)	71.8	77.0	66.8
Unemployment rate (%)	6.0	5.7	6.4

Note: Numbers are '000s, rates (%) are percentages; numbers and rates are based on latest population estimates.

The unemployment rate for the year ended September 2025 (5.8%) was higher for females (6.4%) than males (5.7%); both were above record lows of 2022-2023 and 2005-2008, but below 2010-2013 rates for males and 2010-2015 rates for females. The female-male unemployment rate differential (0.7%) was similar to the 20-year average (0.8%), and remained well below the peak differential (2.5%, in 2015).

Figure 2: Unemployment rate by gender (rolling annual average), 1995-2025



The LFPR (72.2%) for females (66.8%) continued declining from a record high of 69.9% in 2023, and remained significantly lower than for males (77.0% - also still declining since its record high of 79.1%). The LFPR gender differential (10.2%) was broadly similar to most of 2013 to 2021 (9% to 12%). Longer-term it has halved since 1995 (19.0%), due to the male LFPR rising only slightly overall since 1995 (76.1%), while the female LFPR has risen by a sixth (10% rise from 57.3% in 1995), the majority being since December 2013 (61.3%).

5 Labour force status and unemployment rate by ethnic group

Labour force status for the four main ethnic groups for the year ended September 2025 is shown in Table 5. Unemployment rates since 1995 are shown in Figure 3.

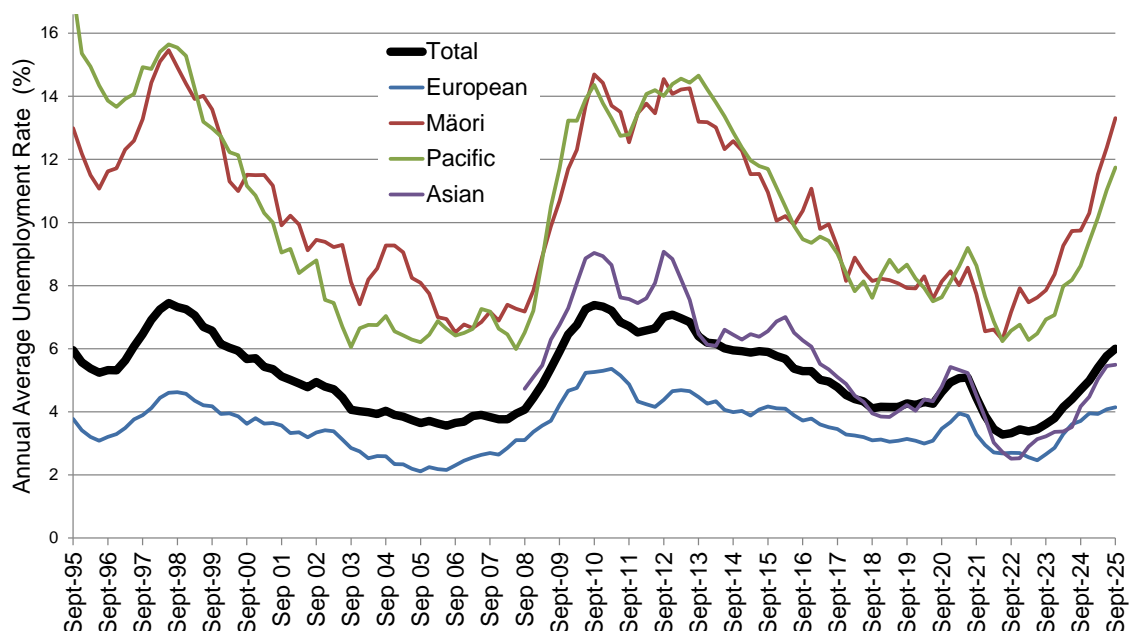
Table 5: Labour force status by ethnic group, year ended September 2025 (annual average)

	Total	European	Māori	Pacific	Asian
Number employed	987.8	486.1	88.1	112.0	356.8
Number unemployed	63.0	21.0	13.5	14.9	20.7
Number not in the labour force	412.3	198.6	56.4	64.8	119.5
Number in the working age popn.	1,463.1	705.6	158.0	191.7	497.0
Labour force participation rate (%)	71.8	71.9	64.3	66.2	75.9
Unemployment rate (%)	6.0	4.1	13.3	11.7	5.5

Notes: Numbers are '000s, rates (%) are percentages; 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 population estimates.

Unemployment rates for the year ended September 2025 (6.0%) were higher than a year prior, for all ethnic groups. The rate rose by a third or more for Māori (13.3%, up from 9.7%), Pacific peoples (11.7%, up from 8.6%) and Asian (5.5%, up from 4.2%), and by a tenth for European (4.1%, up from 3.7%). As Figure 3 shows, Māori and Pacific rates have been similar since 1999, and the gap between European and Asian rates closed from 4% in 2012, to around 1% from 2019 onwards.

Figure 3: Unemployment rate by ethnic group (rolling annual average), 1995-2025



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

LFPR varied from 64.3 per cent for Māori and 66.2 per cent for Pacific peoples (up from 55.6% in 2013), to European 71.9 per cent and Asian 75.9 per cent (65.1% in 2013). LFPR were below a year ago for European (-3%) Māori (-4%), and Asian (-1%); Pacific was above (+1%).

6 Employment by occupation

Auckland's largest occupational categories in the quarter ended 30 September 2025 were Professionals (27.0% of Auckland's total employment), and Managers (24.0%), together constituting half of all employment, followed by Clerical and Administrative Workers (10.2%) and Technicians and Trades Workers (9.9%) (see Table 6).

Between the June 2025 and September 2025 quarters, the small fall in total employment (-2100 or -0.2%) included changes in the numbers employed in the following occupations:

- Technicians and Trade Workers (-4,600, a 5% fall but reversing a previous rise)
- Community and Personal Service Workers (+7,900, a 10% rise)

Table 6: Employment by occupation – comparison to preceding quarter (quarterly data)

Occupation (ANZSCO 1-digit)	June 2025 quarter	September 2025 quarter	June 2025 quarter	September 2025 quarter
	Number		Share (%)	
Managers	239.0	235.2	24.3	24.0
Professionals	269.8	264.8	27.5	27.0
Technicians and Trades Workers	101.2	96.6	10.3	9.9
Community and Personal Service Workers	78.5	86.4	8.0	8.8
Clerical and Administrative Workers	95.6	99.6	9.7	10.2
Sales Workers	71.2	70.4	7.2	7.2
Machinery Operators and Drivers	55.4	56.2	5.6	5.7
Labourers	63.5	62.9	6.5	6.4
Total	982.2	980.1	100.0	100.0

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

Between the September 2024 and September 2025 quarters, the 16,800 decrease in total employment (a fall of 1.7%) included notable changes in the numbers employed in the following occupations:

- Clerical and Administrative Workers (-8,800, a fall of 8%).
- Professionals (-9,400, a fall of 3%)
- Machinery Operators and Drivers (+3,900 a rise of 7%)
- Community and Personal Service Workers (+6,600 a rise of 8%)

In addition, full-time employment fell (-12,200 or 1.5% fall) and part-time employment also fell (-4,600 or 2.6% fall), between the September 2024 and September 2025 quarters. The part-time share fell slightly from 17.7% to 17.5% of total employment, similar or slightly above most of the seven years from 2018 to 2024, but substantially lower than most of the post-Global Financial Crisis (GFC) period 2009 to 2017 (mostly 18.5% to 21.8%).

7 Employment by industry

In the quarter ended 30 September 2025, Auckland's largest sectors in terms of employment were Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (105,700 people; 10.8% of total employment), Construction (97,400 people; 9.9% of total employment), and Health Care and Social Assistance (93,200 people; 9.5% of total employment) (see Table 7).

Between the June 2025 and September 2025 quarters, the most notable changes in the number of people employed (-2100) were in Health Care and Social Assistance (+5,300, a 6% rise but reversing prior falls), Arts and Recreation Services (-3,400, a 14% fall but reversing prior rises) and Rental Hiring and Real Estate Services (-3,200, a 12% fall),

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

Industry (ANZSIC06)	June 2025 quarter	Sept 2025 quarter	June 2025 quarter	Sept 2025 quarter
	Number employed		Share (%)	
Primary Industries	9	10.8	0.9	1.1
Manufacturing	83.5	84	8.5	8.6
Electricity Gas Water and Waste Services	10.8	10.3	1.1	1.1
Construction	101	97.4	10.3	9.9
Wholesale Trade	49	47.8	5.0	4.9
Retail Trade	85	86	8.7	8.8
Accommodation and Food Services	53.6	55.5	5.5	5.7
Transport Postal and Warehousing	54.6	57.2	5.6	5.8
Information Media and Telecommunications	17.2	17.7	1.8	1.8
Financial and Insurance Services	56.3	54	5.7	5.5
Rental Hiring and Real Estate Services	26.8	23.6	2.7	2.4
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	109.2	105.7	11.1	10.8
Administrative and Support Services	35.7	35.9	3.6	3.7
Public Administration and Safety	51	53.3	5.2	5.4
Education and Training	70.4	68.9	7.2	7.0
Health Care and Social Assistance	87.9	93.2	8.9	9.5
Arts and Recreation Services	24.8	21.4	2.5	2.2
Other Services	39.2	42	4.0	4.3
Total	982.2	980.1	100.0	100.0

Notes: Numbers are '000s. Total includes "Not elsewhere included". Data is based on latest population estimates.

Between the September 2024 and September 2025 quarters, there were notable changes in the numbers employed in Rental Hiring and Real Estate Services (-6,900, a fall of 23%) Transport Postal and Warehousing (+8,000, a rise of 16%), Education and Training (-7,800, a 10% fall), Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (-9,600, a fall of 8%), and Health Care and Social Assistance (-6,600, a fall of 7%).

In the September 2025 quarter, the industries with the highest proportions working part time (17.5% overall) were Arts and Recreation Services (43%) and Accommodation and Food Services (35%); the lowest was Electricity Gas Water and Waste Services (7%).

8 Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) by age

In the quarter ended 30 September 2025, the overall percentage of young people aged 15 to 24 who were not in employment, education or training (NEET) in Auckland (13.9%) was a little above the rest of New Zealand (12.1%) over the same period (see Table 11). However, quarterly NEET rates are typically subject to substantial seasonal effects, while annual averages are not. In the year ended September 2025, the annual average NEET rate for Auckland (14.6%) was above the rest of New Zealand (12.5%) over the same period.

Statistics for the year ended September 2025 for young people (aged 15 to 24 and split by age: 15-19 years and 20-24 years) in Auckland who were NEET are shown in Table 8. NEET rates since 2005 are shown in Figure 4.

The NEET rate for the year ended September 2025 (14.6%) varied by age group from 11.5 per cent for those aged 15 to 19 (0.7% above a year earlier), to 17.9 per cent for those aged 20 to 24 (2.5% above a year earlier).

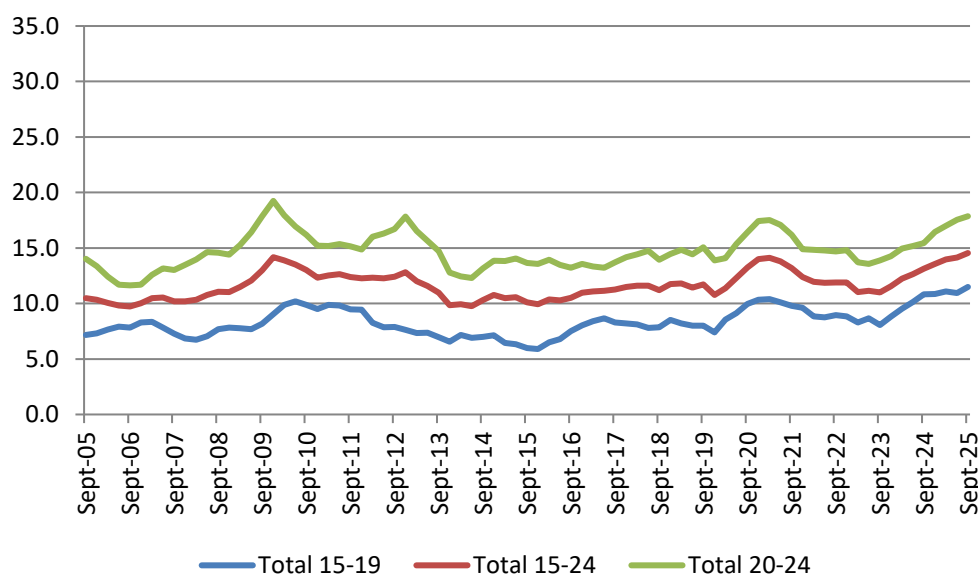
Table 8: NEET statistics by age, year ended September 2025 (annual averages)

	Total 15-24 years	15-19 years	20-24 years
Number in the selected population	241.2	124.3	116.9
Number NEET	35.1	14.3	20.9
NEET rate (%)	14.6	11.5	17.9
NEET rate (%) a year earlier	13.1	10.8	15.4

Note: Numbers are '000s, rates (%) are percentages; numbers and rates are based on latest population estimates.

The annual average NEET rate for the year ended September 2025 was similar to the peaks seen during Covid (2021) and post-GFC (2010) for both age groups (and 2012/2013 for ages 20 to 24). Since 2018, NEET rates have tended to move similarly for both age groups, falling from 2021 to 2023, then rising after 2023 – but flattening in 2025 for ages 15 to 19.

Figure 4: NEET rate (%) by age (rolling annual average), 2005-2025



9 Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) by ethnic group

NEET statistics for young people aged 15 to 24 across the four main ethnic groups for the year ended September 2025 are shown in Table 9. Figure 5 shows NEET rates since 2005.

The annual average NEET rate for the year ended September 2025 was slightly higher than a year prior for all main ethnic groups. Māori remained the highest (24.3%, a 0.7% rise) followed by Pacific (21.0%, +1.0%). The greatest rise was for European (10.7%, +1.3%) but still slightly below Asian (11.5%, +0.7%). There were 35,100 young people who were NEET, of whom a third identified as European (12,400), followed by Pacific (10,400) and Māori (10,400), then Asian (7,900) (summing to more than the total – see Table 9 Notes).

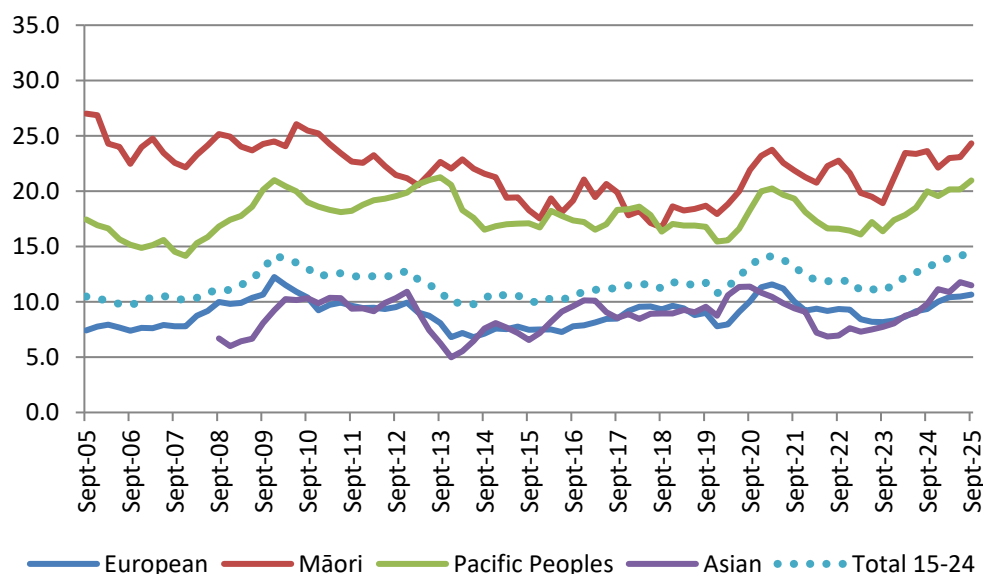
Table 9: NEET statistics by ethnic group, year ended September 2025 (annual average)

	Total	European	Māori	Pacific	Asian
Number in the selected population	241.2	116.0	42.7	51.5	68.9
Number NEET	35.1	12.4	10.4	10.8	7.9
NEET rate (%)	14.6	10.7	24.3	21.0	11.5
NEET rate (%) a year earlier	13.1	9.4	23.6	20.0	9.8

Notes: Numbers are '000s, rates (%) are percentages; 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 population estimates.

Since 2010, European and Asian NEET rates have been similar, and lower than Pacific which is slightly below Māori; rates across all ethnic groups have tended to follow broadly similar movements, although with minor variations. (Māori NEET is a little more erratic - but survey sampling error margins of up to a third add considerable uncertainty.) Rates peaked in 2021 then fell sharply, but a little earlier for Asians, and slower for Europeans. The uptrend from 2023, returning to 2021 levels, began earlier for Asians and was completed faster for Māori.

Figure 5: NEET rate (%) by ethnic group (rolling annual average), 2005-2025



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

10 Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) by broad location

NEET statistics for those aged 15-24 for Auckland and New Zealand for the year ended September 2025 are shown in Table 10. NEET rates since 2005 are shown in Figure 6.

NEET rates for the year ended September 2025 were much higher for the Southern Initiative area (TSI)³ (23.4%) than for the rest of Auckland (12.1%), which was similar to the rest of New Zealand (12.5%). Both Auckland areas were slightly above a year earlier, (TSI +0.9%, rest of Auckland +1.4%); the rest of New Zealand was virtually unchanged (+0.4%). A third of Auckland's NEETs (35,100) were in Southern Initiative area (12,500).

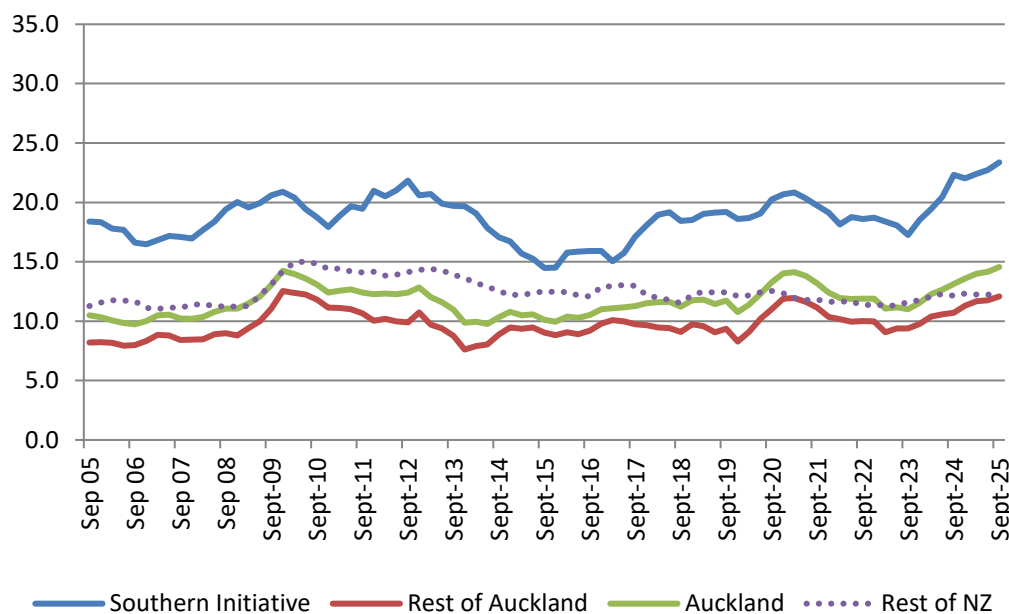
Table 10: NEET statistics by location, year ended September 2025 (annual average)

	Total Auckland	Southern Initiative	Rest of Auckland	Rest of NZ	New Zealand
Number in the selected population	241.2	53.3	187.9	438.3	679.4
Number NEET	35.1	12.5	22.7	54.8	90.0
NEET rate (%)	14.6	23.4	12.1	12.5	13.2
NEET rate (%) a year earlier	13.1	22.3	10.7	12.1	12.5

Notes: Numbers are '000s, rates (%) are percentages; numbers and rates are based on latest population estimates. Rest of NZ is New Zealand excluding Total Auckland.

As Figure 6 shows, NEET rates (rolling annual average) in the TSI have always been substantially higher than the rest of Auckland and New Zealand, although the difference narrowed during 2015-2017. From 2005 to 2018 Auckland NEET rate was similar or below the Rest of New Zealand, but in 2021-2022 it was higher and again from 2024 onwards. The TSI rate rose sharply in 2024 to a record level exceeding 2010, and rising gradually since then.

Figure 6: NEET rate (%) by location (rolling annual average), 2005-2025



³ The Southern Initiative was established by Auckland Council for four local board areas in South Auckland. The area is made up of the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Manurewa, and Papakura Local Board areas.

11 Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) by local board area

Indicative NEET rates for the various local board areas for the latest quarter and year are shown in Table 11. Due to small sub-sample sizes, this information is not always available for some local board areas ('..S'/blank), 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 11: NEET statistics by local board area – quarter and year ended September 2025

Local board area	Population Age 15-24 (000)	Quarterly NEET (000)	Quarterly NEET rate (%)	Annual average NEET Rate (%)
Rodney	8.6	..S	..S	..S
Hibiscus and Bays	15.0	1.2	8.2	7.8
Upper Harbour	10.6	..S	..S	9.2
Kaipātiki	12.4	1.7	13.4	12.8
Devonport-Takapuna	9.6	..S	..S	15.4
Henderson-Massey [W]	21.0	3.7	17.5	19.7
Waitākere Ranges [W]	10.5	1.8	17.0	18.2
Waiheke	..S	..S	..S	..S
Waitematā	14.8	..S	..S	11.2
Whau [W]	13.8	2.8	20.3	62.7
Albert-Eden	11.9	1.8	15.5	14.5
Puketāpapa	6.8	..S	..S	18.1
Ōrākei	15.3	..S	..S	8.5
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	14.1	1.7	12.2	18.4
Howick	20.4	1.4	6.8	10.4
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu [*S]	10.9	2.6	24.0	28.3
Ōtara-Papatoetoe [*S]	16.1	4.6	28.9	25.4
Manurewa [*S]	15.5	4.5	29.0	22.4
Papakura [*S]	12.6	2.0	15.7	17.1
Franklin	7.0	..S	..S	..S
Southern Initiative [*S]	55.0	13.7	25.0	23.4
Rest of Auckland [*S]	192.5	20.7	10.8	12.1
Western Initiative [W]	45.3	8.3	18.2	18.2
Auckland total	247.5	34.4	13.9	14.6
Rest of New Zealand	435.2	52.4	12.1	12.5
Total New Zealand	682.7	86.9	12.7	13.2

Notes: Data is based on latest 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)). [*S] The Southern Initiative is made up of the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Manurewa and Papakura Local Boards. [W] = Western Initiative area.

12 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 (LFPR): 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 (NILF): Any person who is neither employed nor unemployed. This category includes, for example:

- retired persons
- persons with personal or family responsibilities such as childcare, unpaid housework
- 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 technical 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 were revised by Stats NZ in October 2020 and again in January 2021 to match revised regional population estimates. There are also ongoing minor revisions to recent population backdata due to revisions of migration estimates. In addition, 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 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 or ethnic groups) and sub-variable (e.g. NEET for ages 15-24) levels are also subject to additional sampling errors and should be treated as indicative only. Note also that in some cases a difference can be significant for a sample but not for any of its component sub-samples (e.g. ethnic groups).

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 prior to June 2016 are not fully compatible with later periods.

For further information

Technical notes on the HLFS on Stats NZ website:

<https://datainfolplus.stats.govt.nz/item/nz.govt.stats/6a13af44-0057-4a63-835a-c1a0c6f8ef91>

2020 and 2021 Covid-19 impacts:

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

<https://www.stats.govt.nz/methods/covid-19-and-labour-market-statistics-in-the-december-2021-quarter>

Stats NZ Guide to unemployment statistics (Third edition)

<https://www.stats.govt.nz/assets/Reports/Guide-to-unemployment-statistics-third-edition/guide-unemployment-statistics-third-edition.pdf>

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