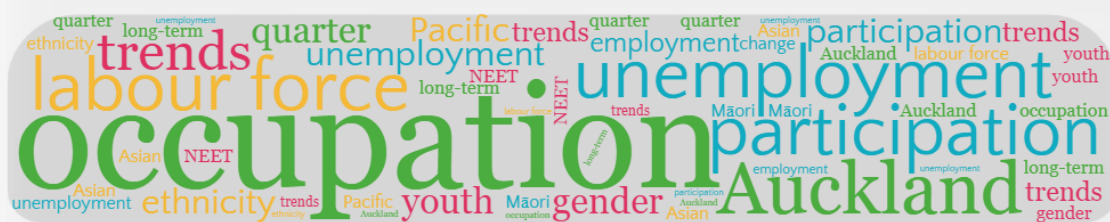


# Auckland Regional Household Labour Force Survey: Quarterly Overview as at June 2023

Ross Wilson





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August 2023

Research and Evaluation Unit (RIMU)

Auckland Council

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## Table of contents

1	Introduction .....	1
2	Overview and highlights .....	2
3	Labour force status and unemployment rate by age .....	4
4	Labour force status and unemployment rate by gender .....	5
5	Labour force status and unemployment rate by ethnic group.....	6
6	Employment by occupation.....	7
7	Employment by industry .....	8
8	Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) by age .....	9
9	Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) by ethnic group.....	10
10	Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) by broad location.....	11
11	Young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) by local board area..	12
12	Appendix: Definitions and technical notes .....	13

# 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 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.

In order 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 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 from the March 2020 quarter onwards, results have been affected to a greater or lesser extent by the effects of Covid-19 on the labour market, including border closures and lockdowns of various durations and levels of restriction.

**Note for the March 2023 quarter:** floods and Cyclone Gabrielle impeded data collection, requiring adjustments from Stats NZ, but still causing minor additional sampling and non-sampling errors for the region, and possibly major ones for worst-affected 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](http://www.stats.govt.nz)
- **Additional Auckland HLFS data** is available on request from the author: [Ross.Wilson@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto: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/publications/auckland-economic-update-february-2023/>
- **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 Auckland Council website: <https://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/about-auckland-council/business-in-auckland/Pages/economic-advice.aspx>

## 2 Overview and highlights

For the June<sup>1</sup> 2023 quarter, compared to the preceding quarter (March 2023)<sup>2</sup>:

- Auckland's unemployment rate was 3.6%, similar to 3.5% in March 2023.<sup>3</sup> This was Auckland's second-lowest June unemployment rate since 2007.
- The number of people who were unemployed rose to 36,800 (+2,500).
- The number of people employed also rose, to 985,700 (+4,500; full-time +5,900).
- The number of people not in the labour force (NILF) fell slightly to 347,300 (-1,000).
- The labour force participation rate rose slightly to 74.6%, a new record high.

In addition, for the June 2023 quarter:

- The rate of young people aged 15 to 24 not in employment, education or training (NEET) was 11.4%, similar to March (11.7%) and to the rest of New Zealand (10.4%).

Over the year ended June 2023, compared to the year ended June 2022:

- The unemployment rate averaged 3.4%, similar to 3.3% for year ended June 2022.
- Unemployment rate for ages 55+ rose (+0.9% to 2.1%, overtaking ages 40 to 54 (1.9%)), and for ages 20 to 24 fell slightly (-0.5% to 6.4%); rates across other age groups changed minimally, leaving ages 15 to 19 (14.9%) still the highest age group.
- The unemployment rate for females averaged 3.9%, higher than the previous year (3.4%). The rate for males averaged 3.0% (similar to 3.1% a year prior), so the gap between males and females (0.9%) reverted to nearly the 10-year average (1.1%).
- Unemployment rates and changes varied between ethnic groups: for Māori the rate rose slightly (to 7.6%); Pacific peoples were similar (6.4%); Asian peoples rose (3.1%); while European peoples fell slightly (2.4%), all compared to the year before.
- The labour force participation rate (LFPR) averaged 74.2%, higher than a year earlier (72.1%) and a new record highest in at least 28 years.
- The labour force participation rate for females (69.7% – a new record) rose significantly (up 2.5% from 67.2%); for males (a record 78.8%) it rose less (up 1.6% from 77.2%).
- Labour force participation rates rose for all age groups, especially ages 15-19 (48.7%, up 5.6% from 43.1%) and 20-24 (81.9%, up 4.0%); there were slight rises for ages 40-54 (89.4% up 1.5%), 25-39 (87.6% up 0.8%) and 55+ (52.5% up 1.7%), all record highs.
- Labour force participation rates rose for all ethnicities, especially Pacific (67.5%, up 3.1%), Asian (78.0%, a 2.1% rise) and European (75.1%, up 1.9%), but also Māori (69.4%, up 1.4%). All groups were at record levels except Māori (69.9% in June 2018).

In addition, over the year ended June 2023:

- The annual average NEET rate for Auckland was 11.1%, similar to the rest of New Zealand (11.3%), and slightly below the year ended June 2022 (11.9%).
- Auckland's NEET rate had fully recovered (fallen) to pre-pandemic levels 2016-2019.
- Auckland NEET rates were highest for Māori (19.5%) and Pacific (17.3%) ethnicities, Southern Initiative area (18.0%), and those aged 20 to 24 years (13.5%).

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<sup>1</sup> See note in Introduction regarding impact of floods and Cyclone Gabrielle

<sup>2</sup> Results are not seasonally adjusted, and include Stats NZ revisions (usually minor) of previous periods' data.

<sup>3</sup> 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 Mar 2023 (snapshot)	Quarter end Jun 2023 (snapshot)	Year end Jun 2022 (annual average)	Year end Jun 2023 (annual average)
Number employed	981.2	985.7	945.8	974.6
Number unemployed	34.3	36.8	32.0	34.6
Number not in the labour force (NILF)	348.3	347.3	377.9	351.3
Number in the working age population	1363.8	1369.8	1355.6	1360.6
Labour force participation rate (%)	74.5	74.6	72.1	74.2
Unemployment rate (%)	3.5	3.6	3.3	3.4

**Note:** Numbers are '000s of people.

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

	Year end Jun 2022	Year end Jun 2023	Year end Jun 2022	Year end Jun 2023
	Unemployment rate		Labour force participation rate	
<b>Total</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>72.1</b>	<b>74.2</b>
15-19 years	15.0	14.9	43.1	48.7
20-24 years	6.9	6.4	77.9	81.9
25-39 years	3.0	3.0	86.8	87.6
40-54 years	2.1	1.9	87.9	89.4
55 years +	1.3	2.1	50.8	52.5
Female	3.4	3.9	67.2	69.7
Male	3.1	3.0	77.2	78.8
European	2.7	2.4	73.2	75.1
Māori	6.3	7.6	68.0	69.4
Pacific	6.2	6.4	64.4	67.5
Asian	2.7	3.1	75.9	78.0

**Note:** During the lockdowns (of varying coverage and restrictiveness) of 2020, 2021 and 2022, some 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. In addition, survey response rates sometimes fell, which may introduce bias.

### 3 Labour force status and unemployment rate by age

Labour force status by age group for the year ended June 2023 is shown in Table 3. Unemployment rates since 1995 are shown in Figure 1.

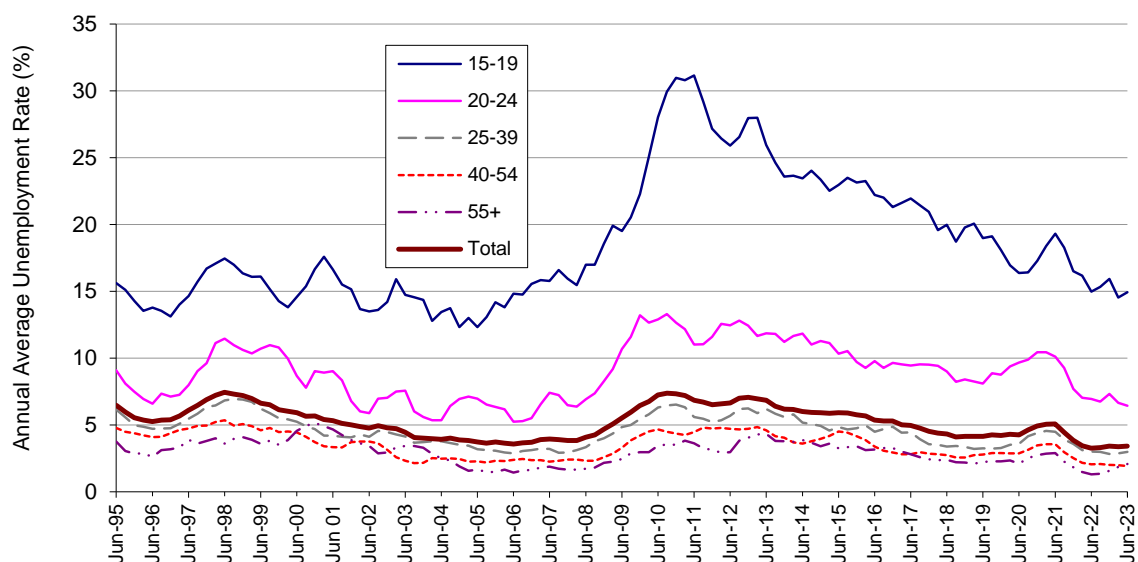
Table 3: Labour force status by age group, year ended June 2023 (annual averages)

	Total	15 to 19	20 to 24	25 to 39	40 to 54	55 and over
Number employed	974.6	45.2	88.2	339.9	297.3	204.1
Number unemployed	34.6	7.9	6.1	10.5	5.8	4.3
Number not in the labour force	351.3	55.9	20.9	49.7	36.1	188.8
Number in the working age popn	1360.6	109.0	115.1	400.0	339.2	397.3
Labour force participation rate (%)	74.2	48.7	81.9	87.6	89.4	52.5
Unemployment rate (%)	3.4	14.9	6.4	3.0	1.9	2.1

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

Annual average unemployment rates for the year ended June 2023 were similar to the year ended March 2023, and similar to a year prior, for all age groups except 55+ (small rise to 2.1%), plus marginal fall for ages 20 to 24 (to 6.4%). The unemployment rate continued to vary based on age. It was highest for those aged 15 to 19 years (14.9%), and lowest for those aged 40 to 54 (1.9%). Unemployment rates for all age groups remained similar or slightly above the low rates seen just before the 2008 GFC.

Figure 1: Unemployment rate by age (rolling annual average), 1995-2023



Labour force participation rates (LFPR) in the year ended June 2023 (74.2%) varied from 48.7 per cent for those aged 15 to 19, to 89.4 per cent for those aged 40 to 54. The LFPR has been rising since March or June 2021 for all age groups, especially for those aged 15 to 19 (up by 10.5 percentage points, from 38.2%) and 20 to 24 (up 5.9pp). Over the longer term, the LFPR for those aged 55 and over (52.5%) has doubled in the 37 years since June 1995 (26.2%), presumably linked to rising average retirement ages.



## 4 Labour force status and unemployment rate by gender

Table 4 shows labour force status for males and females for the year ended June 2023. Unemployment rates since 1995 are shown in Figure 2.

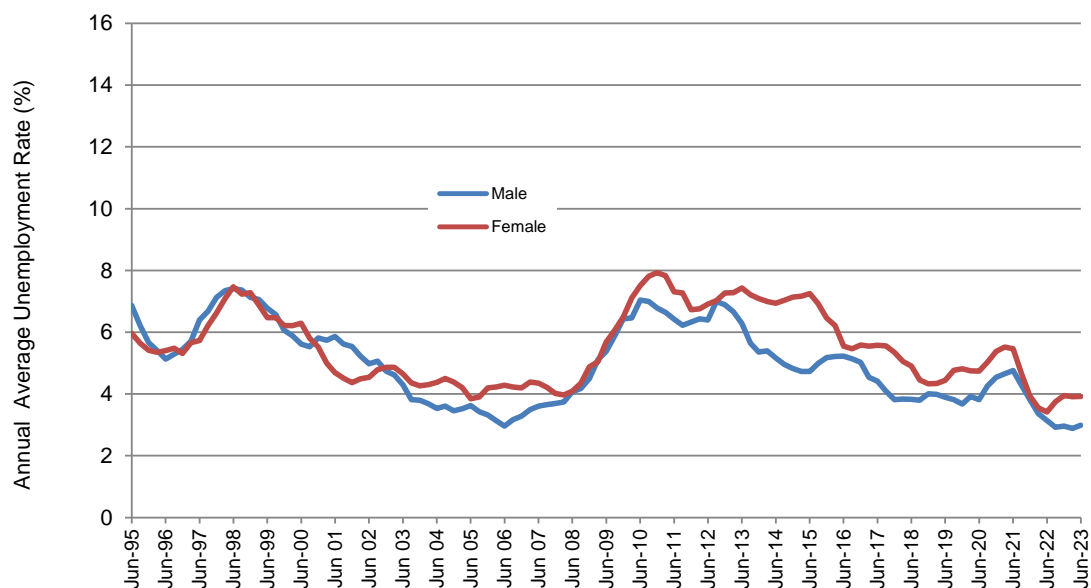
**Table 4: Labour force status by gender, year ended June 2023 (annual averages)**

	Total	Male	Female
Number employed	974.6	514.0	460.6
Number unemployed	34.6	15.8	18.8
Number not in the labour force	351.3	142.8	208.5
Number in the working age popn	1360.6	672.7	687.9
Labour force participation rate (%)	74.2	78.8	69.7
Unemployment rate (%)	3.4	3.0	3.9

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

The unemployment rate for the year ended June 2023 was higher for females (3.9%) than males (3.0%), and both were at or near record lows. The female-male unemployment rate differential (0.9%) was similar to the 20-year average (0.8%), and still remained well below levels of 2013-2015, when it peaked at 2.5% (June 2015).

**Figure 2 Unemployment rate by gender (rolling annual average), 1995-2023**



The LFPR for females (69.7%) increased to a new record high (since at least 1995), but remained significantly lower than for males (78.8% - beating the 77.8% peak in March 1998). The LFPR gender differential (9.1%) 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 remaining relatively unchanged since 1995 (76.1%), while the female LFPR rose by a fifth (12.4% rise from 57.3% in 1995), mostly 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 June 2023 is shown in Table 5. Unemployment rates since 1995 are shown in Figure 3.

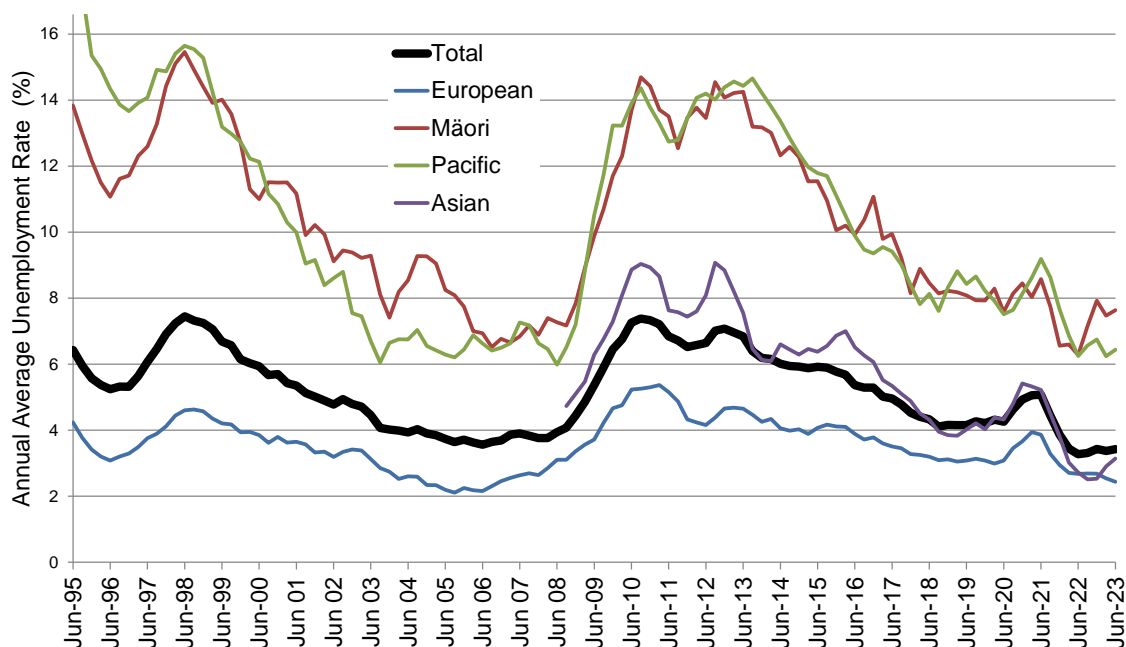
**Table 5: Labour force status by ethnic group, year ended June 2023 (annual average)**

	Total	European	Māori	Pacific	Asian
Number employed	974.6	529.2	88.6	114.8	300.0
Number unemployed	34.6	13.2	7.3	7.9	9.7
Number not in the labour force	351.3	179.6	42.3	59.0	87.4
Number in the working age popn	1,360.6	722.0	138.3	181.6	397.1
Labour force participation rate (%)	74.2	75.1	69.4	67.5	78.0
Unemployment rate (%)	3.4	2.4	7.6	6.4	3.1

**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 population estimates.

Unemployment rates for the year ended June 2023 were higher or slightly higher than a year prior for most broad ethnic groups – Asian (3.1%, up slightly from 2.7%), Pacific peoples (6.4%, up slightly from 6.2%), Māori (7.6%, up from 6.3%) - while the European rate fell slightly (to 2.4%, from 2.7%); As Figure 3 shows, June 2023 unemployment rates were among the lowest since 2009 across all broad ethnic groups, despite recent Māori and Asian upticks.

**Figure 3: Unemployment rate by ethnic group (rolling annual average), 1995-2023**



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

LFPR varied by ethnicity, from 67.5 per cent for Pacific peoples (up from 55.6% in 2013) to a new record 78.0 per cent for Asian (65.1% in 2013). Rates were higher for all groups compared to the previous year (by between +1.4% (Māori) and +3.1% (Pacific)).

## 6 Employment by occupation

Auckland's largest occupational categories in the quarter ended 30 June 2023 were Professionals (27.4% of Auckland's total employment), and Managers (23.3%), followed by Technicians and Trades Workers (10.6%) and Clerical and Administrative Workers (10.4%) (see Table 6).

Between the March 2023 and June 2023 quarters, the 4,500 increase in total employment included notable changes in the numbers employed in the following occupations:

- Managers (-10,500, a fall of 4.4% and 1.2% fall in their share, but reversing prior rise)
- Labourers (+9,200, a rise of 16.1% and 0.9% rise in their share, but reversing prior fall)
- Technicians and Trades Workers (+5,900, a rise of 6.0% and 0.5% rise in share)

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

Occupation (ANZSCO 1-digit)	March 2023 quarter	June 2023 quarter	March 2023 quarter	June 2023 quarter
	Number		Share (%)	
Managers	240.2	229.7	24.5	23.3
Professionals	269.5	270.0	27.5	27.4
Technicians and Trades Workers	98.8	104.7	10.1	10.6
Community and Personal Service Workers	74.1	73.1	7.6	7.4
Clerical and Administrative Workers	100.8	102.1	10.3	10.4
Sales Workers	80.4	82.3	8.2	8.3
Machinery Operators and Drivers	52.8	50.7	5.4	5.1
Labourers	57.2	66.4	5.8	6.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>981.2</b>	<b>985.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

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

Between the June 2022 (not shown) and June 2023 quarters, the 41,000 increase in total employment (a rise of 4.3%) included notable changes in the numbers employed in the following occupations:

- Professionals (+16,000, a rise of 6.3%)
- Managers (+12,500, a rise of 5.7%)
- Sales Workers (+6,000, a rise of 7.9%)
- Clerical and Administrative Workers (+5,300 a rise of 5.5%)

In addition (not shown), full-time employment rose slightly faster (+35,000 or 4.4% rise) than part-time employment (+6,000 or 3.8% rise), between the June 2022 and June 2023 quarters. The part-time share fell marginally from 16.7% to 16.6% of total employment, slightly below most of the last four years (16.6% to 18.3%), and substantially lower than 2009-2016 (mostly 18.8% to 21.8%).

## 7 Employment by industry

In the quarter ended 30 June 2023, Auckland's largest sectors in terms of employment were Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (117,900 people; 12.0% of total employment), Construction (106,000 people; 10.8% of total employment), and Health Care and Social Assistance (98,400 people; 10.0% of total employment) (See Table 7).

Between the March 2023 and June 2023 quarters, the most notable changes in the number of people employed were in the following industries:

- Other Services (-4,500, a 10.3% fall)
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (+4,200, a marginal rise of 3.7%)
- Administrative and Support Services (+3,800, a 10.6% rise).

Between the June 2022 (not shown) and June 2023 quarters (+41,000, a rise of 4.3%), there were notable changes in the numbers employed in:

- Health Care and Social Assistance (+8,400, a rise of 9.3%)
- Financial and Insurance Services (+8,300, a rise of 19.7%)
- Administrative and Support Services (+7,900, a rise of 24.8%)
- Arts and Recreation Services (-5,000, a fall of 21.3%).

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

Industry (ANZSIC06)	March 2023 quarter	June 2023 quarter	March 2023 quarter	June 2023 quarter
	Number employed		Share (%)	
Primary Industries	9.8	7.6	1.0	0.8
Manufacturing	78.9	81.2	8.0	8.2
Electricity Gas Water and Waste Services	9.8	11.3	1.0	1.1
Construction	106.4	106.0	10.8	10.8
Wholesale Trade	42.6	44.2	4.3	4.5
Retail Trade	83.9	83.4	8.6	8.5
Accommodation and Food Services	51.8	50.6	5.3	5.1
Transport Postal and Warehousing	52.7	51.6	5.4	5.2
Information Media and Telecommunications	21.1	21.1	2.2	2.1
Financial and Insurance Services	49.4	50.4	5.0	5.1
Rental Hiring and Real Estate Services	26.8	25.9	2.7	2.6
Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	113.7	117.9	11.6	12.0
Administrative and Support Services	36	39.8	3.7	4.0
Public Administration and Safety	52.3	53.8	5.3	5.5
Education and Training	68.3	71.1	7.0	7.2
Health Care and Social Assistance	100	98.4	10.2	10.0
Arts and Recreation Services	20.6	18.5	2.1	1.9
Other Services	43.6	39.1	4.4	4.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>981.2</b>	<b>985.7</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Notes:** Numbers are '000s, rounded to nearest hundred. Total includes "Not elsewhere included". Data is based on latest population estimates.

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

In the quarter ended 30 June 2023, the overall percentage of young people (aged 15 to 24) who were not in employment, education or training (NEET) in Auckland (11.4%) was slightly above the rest of New Zealand (10.4%) 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 June 2023, the annual average NEET rate for Auckland (11.1%) was similar to the rest of New Zealand (11.3%) over the same period.

Statistics for the year ended June 2023 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 June 2023 (11.1%) continues to differ by age group: 8.7 per cent for those aged 15 to 19, and 13.5 per cent for those aged 20 to 24.

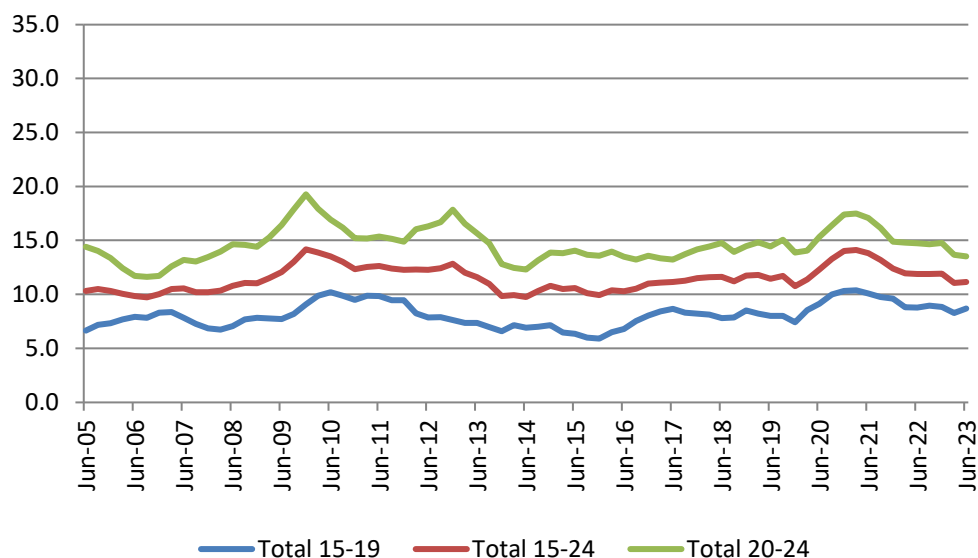
**Table 8: NEET statistics by age, year ended June 2023 (annual averages)**

	Total 15-24 years	15-19 years	20-24 years
Number in the selected population	224.1	109.0	115.1
Number NEET	25.0	9.5	15.6
NEET rate (%)	11.1	8.7	13.5
NEET rate (%) a year earlier	11.9	8.8	14.7

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

The annual average NEET rate for the year ended June 2023 was similar to recent quarters for ages 15 to 19, and only slightly below recent quarters for ages 20 to 24.

**Figure 4: NEET rate (%) by age (rolling annual average), 2005-2023**



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

NEET statistics for those aged 15-24 for the four main ethnic groups for the year ended June 2023 are shown in Table 9. NEET rates since 2005 are shown in Figure 5.

The annual average NEET rates for the year ended June 2023 were slightly below a year prior for Māori (-2.8%) and European (-1.0%) broad ethnic groups, and similar for Pacific (+0.7%) and Asian (+0.7%). The highest was still Māori (19.5%), followed by Pacific peoples (17.3%), and lowest were Asian (7.6%) and European (8.2%).

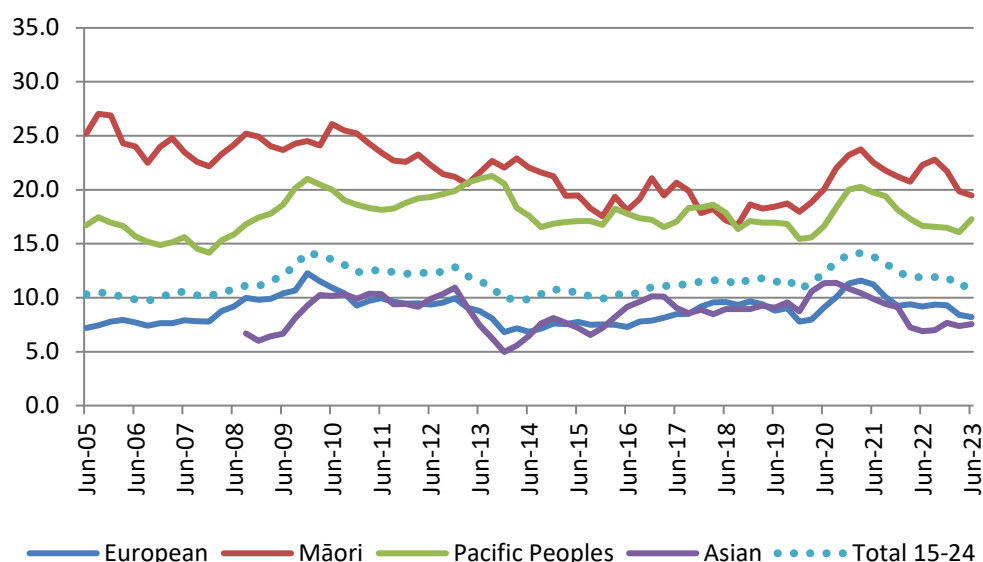
**Table 9: NEET statistics by ethnic group, year ended June 2023 (annual average)**

	Total	European	Māori	Pacific	Asian
Number in the selected population	224.1	112.0	38.3	49.5	56.9
Number NEET	25.0	9.2	7.5	8.6	4.3
NEET rate (%)	11.1	8.2	19.5	17.3	7.6
NEET rate (%) a year earlier	11.9	9.2	22.3	16.6	6.9

**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 population estimates.

As Figure 5 shows, NEET rates across all ethnic groups spiked up in 2020 to levels comparable to 2009 (post-GFC) but have since fallen towards pre-Covid levels. Rates probably rose sooner and fell by relatively more for Asian, while Māori and Pacific Covid-era trends are broadly similar to European in relative terms (except Māori and Asian rates may now have flattened), but survey sampling error margins of up to a third add uncertainty.

**Figure 5: NEET rate (%) by ethnic group (rolling annual average), 2005-2023**



**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 June 2023 are shown in Table 10. NEET rates since 2005 are shown in Figure 6.

NEET rates for the year ended June 2023 were again higher for the Southern Initiative area<sup>4</sup> (18.0%) than for the rest of Auckland (9.4%) and the rest of New Zealand (11.3%). All were marginally lower than a year earlier, by 0.3% to 0.7%.

**Table 10: NEET statistics by location, year ended June 2023 (annual average)**

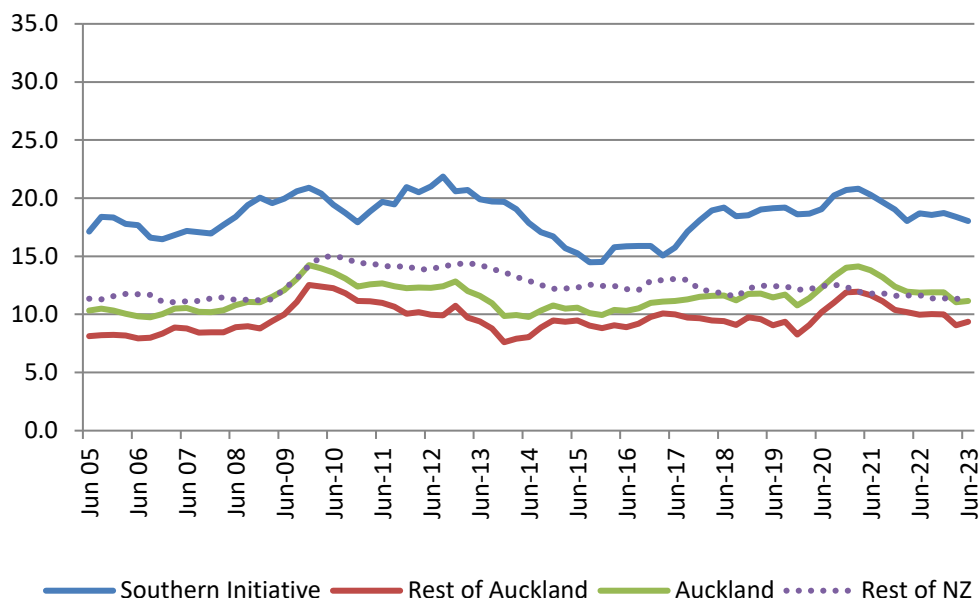
	Total Auckland	Southern Initiative	Rest of Auckland	Rest of NZ	New Zealand
Number in the selected population	224.1	45.8	178.3	420.4	644.4
Number NEET	25.0	8.3	16.7	47.4	72.4
NEET rate (%)	11.1	18.0	9.4	11.3	11.2
NEET rate (%) a year earlier	11.9	18.7	10.0	11.6	11.7

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

As Figure 6 shows, NEET rates in Auckland (rolling annual average) spiked up in 2020 then fell in 2021; however, the 2020 increase was less pronounced in Auckland's Southern Initiative area, and largely absent in Rest of New Zealand.

NEET rates during 2022 were largely flat for all the areas shown, then dipped slightly in March 2023. In June 2023 Southern Initiative fell marginally; Rest of Auckland rose marginally.

**Figure 6: NEET rate (%) by location (rolling annual average), 2005-2023**



<sup>4</sup> 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 June 2023**

Local board area	Population Age 15-24(000)	Quarterly NEET (000)	Quarterly NEET rate (%)	Annual average NEET Rate (%)
Rodney	5.5	..S	..S	#DIV/0!
Hibiscus and Bays	16.6	1.5	9.1	7.0
Upper Harbour	7.6	..S	..S	15.8
Kaipātiki	10.3	1.2	11.9	13.0
Devonport-Takapuna	9.7	..S	..S	10.5
Henderson-Massey[W]	19.3	2.1	11.1	10.2
Waitākere Ranges [W]	11.3	1.6	13.7	15.2
Waiheke	..S	..S	..S	#DIV/0!
Waitematā	11.5	..S	..S	13.8
Whau [W]	11.5	1.9	16.6	14.2
Albert-Eden	10.4	..S	..S	11.9
Puketāpapa	4.7	..S	..S	#DIV/0!
Ōrākei	12.8	..S	..S	8.9
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	13.2	2.4	18.6	15.8
Howick	18.1	1.7	9.4	8.8
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu [*]	9.4	2.8	29.7	23.7
Ōtara-Papatoetoe [*]	13.7	3.1	22.4	19.4
Manurewa [*]	10.5	1.5	14.4	15.9
Papakura [*]	9.2	..S	..S	20.3
Franklin	9.5	1.2	12.9	13.2
Southern Initiative [*]	42.8	8.0	18.8	18.0
Rest of Auckland [*]	173.7	16.7	9.6	9.4
Western Initiative [W]	42.2	5.6	13.3	11.9
<b>Auckland total</b>	<b>216.4</b>	<b>24.7</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>11.1</b>
Rest of New Zealand	434.8	45.3	10.4	11.3
<b>Total New Zealand</b>	<b>651.2</b>	<b>70.1</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>11.2</b>

**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)). [\*] 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:** 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 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://datainfoplus.stats.govt.nz/item/nz.govt.stats/6a13af44-0057-4a63-835a-c1a0c6f8ef91>

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

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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