

Commentary

- Small fall in employment and small rise in unemployment
- Employment not keeping up with the growing population
- Small increase in unemployment
- Labour force flat while 'not in the labour force' rises
- Employment and hours worked fall in Canterbury
- Proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training (NEET) decreases
- Longer time series

Small fall in employment and small rise in unemployment

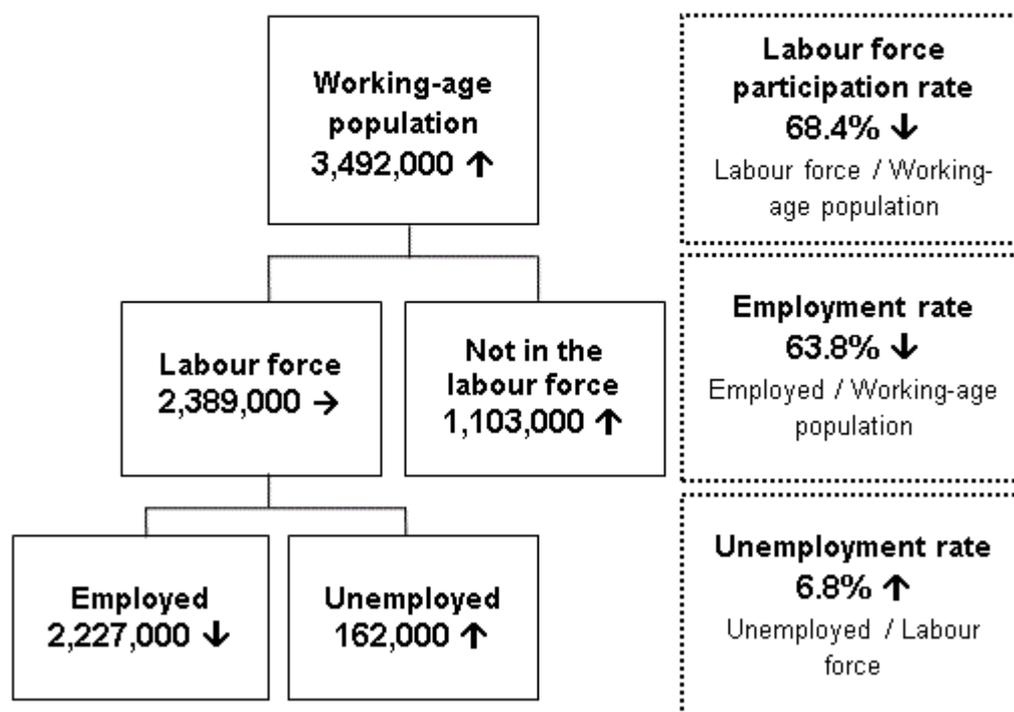
Over the June 2012 quarter, the number of people employed fell by 2,000. This saw the employment rate fall 0.3 percentage points, to 63.8 percent. This fall resulted from employment decreasing and the working-age population continuing to grow. Since the March 2011 quarter, the employment rate has remained around 63.9 percent. This indicates that employment growth is only keeping pace with the working-age population.

The unemployment rate edged up 0.1 percentage point to 6.8 percent in the June 2012 quarter. The number of people unemployed increased by 2,000, reflecting a small increase in female and male unemployment.

The small fall in employment and small rise in unemployment resulted in a flat labour force this quarter. However, the labour force participation rate decreased by 0.3 percentage points over the quarter, down to 68.4 percent, due to an increase in the working-age population.

The number of people not in the labour force increased by 16,000 this quarter (up 1.4 percent). This reflects a rise in the number of men not in the labour force.

The labour market
June 2012 quarter
Seasonally adjusted figures



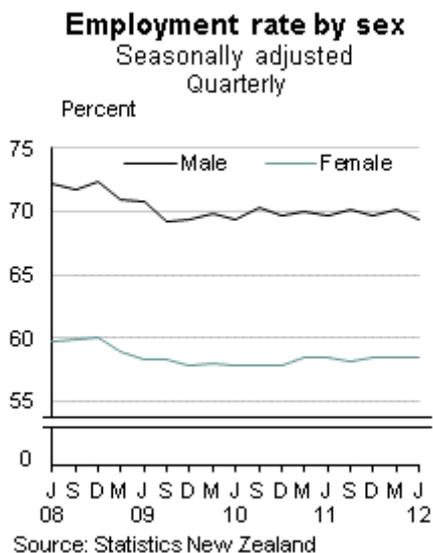
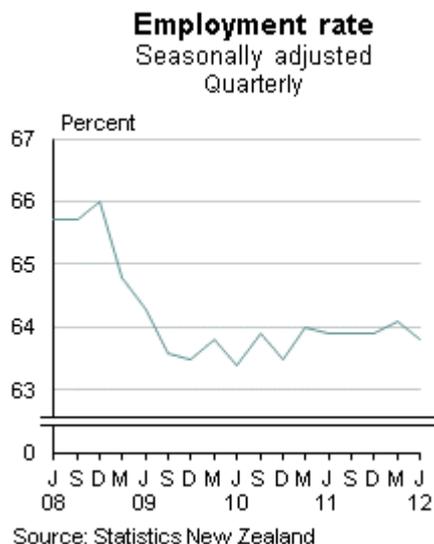
Employment not keeping up with the growing population

Over the June 2012 quarter, the employment rate (the proportion of the working-age population who are employed) decreased 0.3 percentage points, to 63.8 percent. This was due to a fall in the number of people employed and a rise in the number of people in the working-age population. The working-age population grew by 15,000 people (up 0.4 percent).

The number of people in employment fell by 2,000 (0.1 percent). The number of men employed was down by 5,000 (0.5 percent) while the number of women employed was up by 3,000 (0.3 percent). This was reflected in a 0.8 percentage point fall in the male employment rate (down to 69.4 percent). The female employment rate remained flat (58.4 percent).

Part-time employment decreased, from a peak in the March quarter. In the June 2012 quarter, part-time employment was down 18,000 (3.4 percent), while full-time employment was up 13,000 (0.8 percent).

Both actual and usual hours worked increased slightly, up 0.5 percent and 0.1 percent, respectively.



The trend series

The trend series adjusts for seasonal effects and removes the irregular component from a series. This is why trend estimates may differ from seasonally adjusted estimates. The trend series can help reveal the underlying movement in a series.

Employment in the trend series saw an increase of 2,000 (0.1 percent) in the June 2012 quarter. This came entirely from a rise in employment for women of 2,000. In contrast to the seasonally adjusted series, the trend series showed no change in male employment.

Refer to the [Data quality](#) section of this release for more information about trend series.

Unadjusted annual movements

All movements are statistically significant.

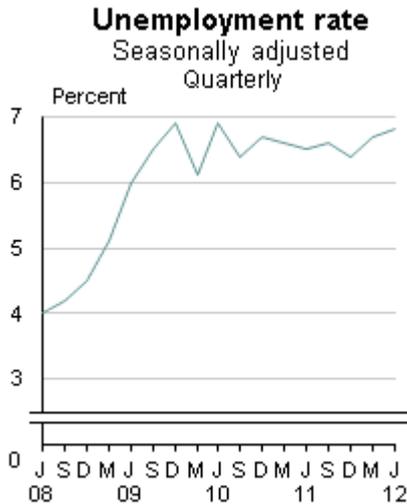
Age group – During the June 2012 year, there were increases in employment for people aged 55–59 years and 65 years and over (65+). Employment in these age groups rose by 7,000 (3.4 percent) and 12,200 (11.8 percent), respectively. This reflects an ageing population, as well as higher labour force participation for these groups. In contrast, people aged 35–39 years and 45–49 years had decreases in employment, down 6,200 (2.7 percent) and 7,700 (2.9 percent), respectively. The working-age population for these age groups also decreased.

Industry – Over the June 2012 year, employment in the transport, postal, and warehousing industry increased by 19,500 people (21.2 percent). The number of both men and women employed in the industry increased. The professional, scientific, technical, administration, and support services industry group had a 16,400 increase in employment (6.8 percent) – there was a large increase in the number of women employed in the industry.

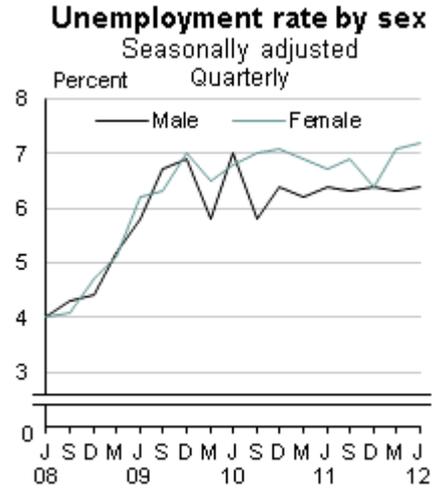
Region – Employment increased in the Taranaki region, up 6,900 (12.5 percent) in the June 2012 year, reflecting a rise in male employment. In contrast, women in the Canterbury region had a 15,800 decrease in employment (down 10.3 percent).

Small increase in unemployment

In seasonally adjusted terms, unemployment increased by 2,000 people (1.1 percent) to 162,000 in the June 2012 quarter. This reflected rises in both the number of unemployed men and women. In the latest quarter, the same number of men and women were unemployed (81,000). The unemployment rate for men was 6.4 percent; for women it was 7.2 percent (both up 0.1 percentage point).



Source: Statistics New Zealand



Source: Statistics New Zealand

The trend series

The trend series shows unemployment increased by 5,000 (3.2 percent) to 163,000 people. Female unemployment was up 5,000 (6.3 percent) while male unemployment was flat over the quarter.

Unadjusted annual movements

All movements are statistically significant.

Age group – During the June 2012 year, there was an increase in unemployment for people aged 30–34 years (up 4,100). Unemployment decreased for people aged 15–19 years (down 7,100), including a decrease in the number of unemployed men in this age group.

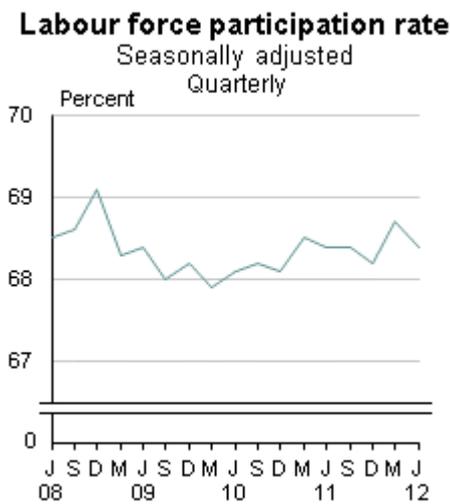
Ethnicity – In the year to June 2012, unemployment increased for women who identified with the Pacific peoples (up 3,100) and Asian ethnic groups (up 4,500).

Labour force flat while 'not in the labour force' rises

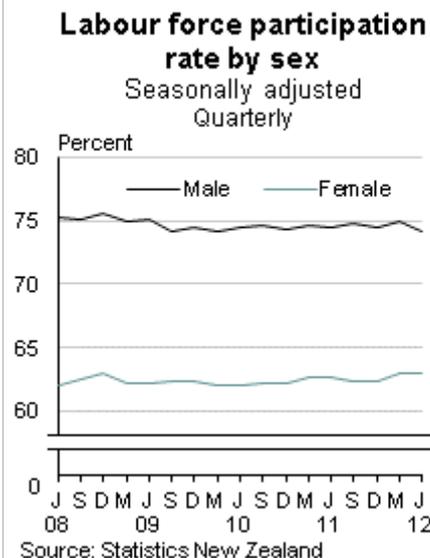
The seasonally adjusted labour force (the employed and the unemployed), was flat in the June 2012 quarter. The lack of change, coupled with a larger working-age population, meant the labour force participation rate fell by 0.3 percentage points (from 68.7 to 68.4 percent).

For men the labour force participation rate was 74.2 percent (down 0.7 percentage points). For women the rate was 63.0 percent (up 0.1 percentage points), the highest-ever rate (equal to the December 2008 quarter).

While the labour force was flat in the June 2012 quarter, the number of people not in the labour force increased by 16,000 (1.4 percent). Men not in the labour force increased by a much greater amount than women, up 15,000 (3.5 percent) and 1,000 (0.1 percent), respectively.



Source: Statistics New Zealand



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Unadjusted annual movements

All movements are statistically significant.

Age group – Over the June 2012 year, there was an increase in the number of people aged 65+ who were not in the labour force (10,600 or 2.4 percent). Most of the increase was for women. The number of people not in the labour force aged 35–39 years decreased by 6,000 (12.0 percent), to 43,900.

Jobless – Over the June 2012 year, the number of jobless people increased by 20,200 to 271,200; it increased particularly for women. The jobless are people who are either unemployed, or not in the labour force and available but not seeking work, or who are actively seeking but not available for work.

Employment and hours worked fall in Canterbury

In unadjusted annual terms, lower employment in the Canterbury region tempered national employment. If the Canterbury region was excluded, national employment growth would have been 1.6 percent, instead of 0.5 percent, over the June 2012 year.

| Unadjusted annual changes for the June 2012 quarter | | | |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|
| | Annual change | | |
| | Canterbury | National excluding Canterbury | National |
| Unemployment rate | +0.8 | +0.1 | +0.2 |
| Employment rate | -0.3 | -0.2 | -0.1 |
| Labour force participation rate | +0.3 | -0.1 | 0.0 |
| Unemployed | +8.5% | +3.7% | +4.4% |
| Employed | -5.5% | +1.6% | +0.5% |
| Not in the labour force | -6.0% | +1.9% | +0.8% |
| Working-age population | -5.1% | +1.8% | +0.8% |
| Actual hours | -5.8% | +0.6% | -0.3% |

Over the year, the Canterbury working-age population continued to decrease. Employment for the region fell by 5.5 percent to 306,700. The decrease in female employment (15,700 or 10.3 percent) was significant. The decrease in employment was mirrored in a fall in actual and usual hours worked in the Canterbury region.

The fall in employment over the year was significant in the education and training, and the health care and social assistance industries. The falls in these industries were reflected in the decrease of total female employment – the majority of people employed in these industries are women. Employment increased significantly in the transport, postal, and warehousing industry in Canterbury, as it did nationally.

The June 2011 quarter was the first quarter after the February 2011 earthquake and so reflects Canterbury in the aftermath of the earthquake. The June 2012 quarter reflects the outcomes for the region a year later. Care should be taken when making annual comparisons in the Canterbury region.

Supplementary tables with detailed data for the Canterbury region are included in this release. These are similar to tables 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, 11, and 14 from the main tables. Data in the tables for the Canterbury region are all unadjusted.

To view these tables, see the Excel tables in the 'Downloads' box.

Proportion of youth not in employment, education, or training (NEET) decreases

In seasonally adjusted terms, the youth (15–24 years) NEET rate fell 0.4 percentage points over the June 2012 quarter, to 13.1 percent. The male NEET rate was down 0.9 percentage points, to 11.0 percent, while the female NEET rate was up 0.2 percentage points, to 15.4 percent. The fall in the male NEET rate reflected a decrease in the number of men who were unemployed and not in education.

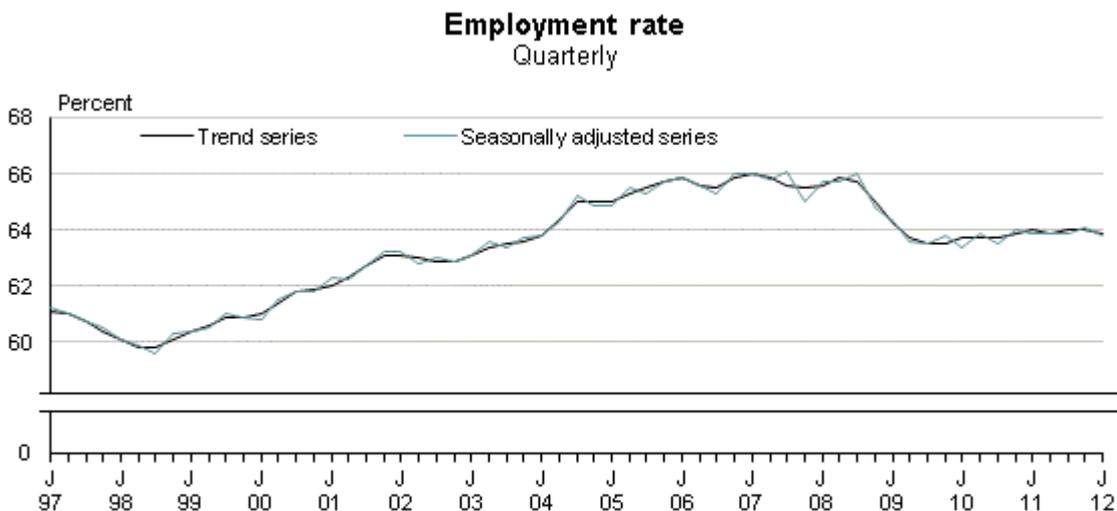
For people aged 15–19 years the NEET rate was flat (8.9 percent) while it fell for the 20–24-year-olds by 0.8 percentage points (to 17.1 percent).

The youth NEET rate was introduced into the HLFS official estimates in the December 2011 quarter. The rate is calculated as the total number of youth who are NEET, as a proportion of the total youth working-age population. Refer to the [Data quality](#) section for more information.

Longer time series

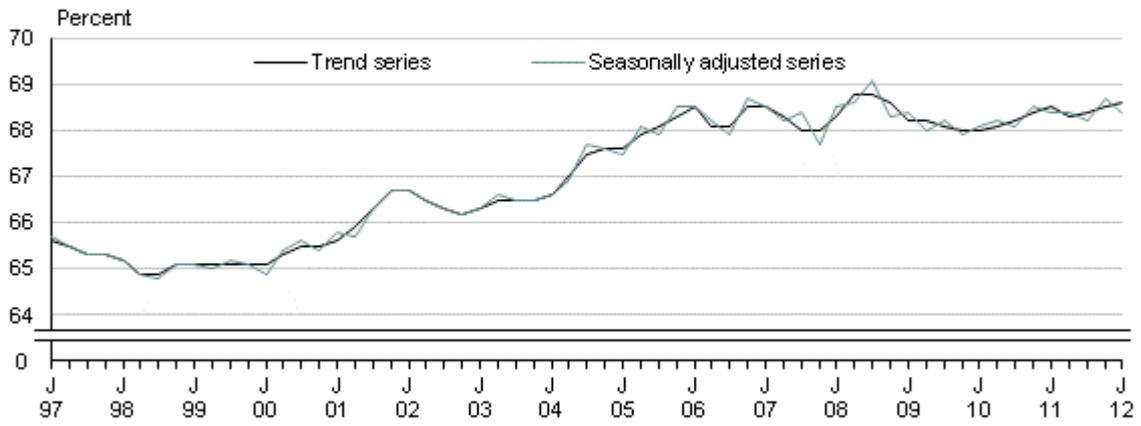
The following graphs show the HLFS series for the employment rate, the labour force participation rate, and the unemployment rate over a 15-year period. A complete time series from March 1986 onwards is available on [Infoshare](#).

For more detailed data see the Excel tables in the 'Downloads' box.



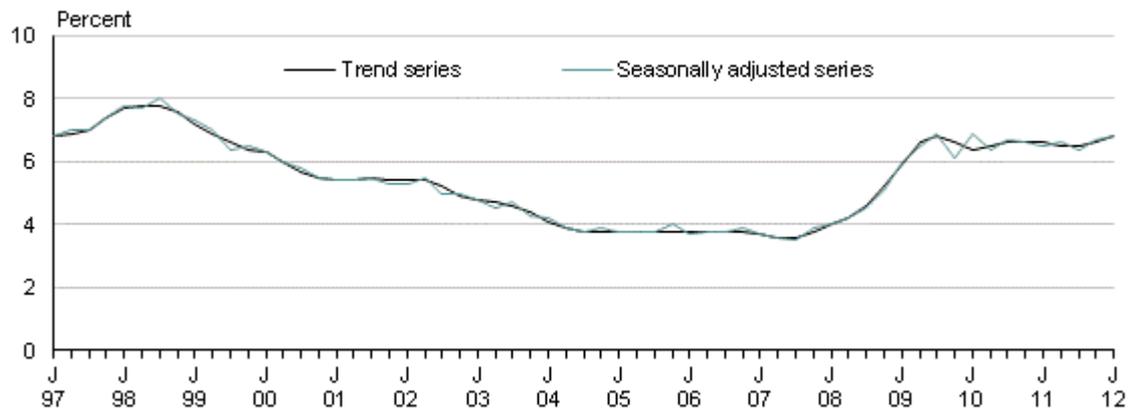
Source: Statistics New Zealand

Labour force participation rate Quarterly



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Unemployment rate Quarterly



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Definitions

About the Household Labour Force Survey

The Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) started in October 1985 and the first results published were for the March 1986 quarter. The survey provides a regular, timely, and comprehensive portrayal of New Zealand's labour force.

Each quarter, Statistics New Zealand produces a range of statistics relating to employment, unemployment, and people not in the labour force.

More definitions

The labour force category to which a person is assigned depends on their actual activity during a survey reference week.

This section includes definitions used in the HLFS release. These conform closely to the international standard definitions specified by the International Labour Organization.

Employed: people in the working-age population who, during the reference week, did one of the following:

- worked for one hour or more for pay or profit in the context of an employee/employer relationship or self-employment
- worked without pay for one hour or more in work which contributed directly to the operation of a farm, business, or professional practice owned or operated by a relative
- had a job but were not at work due to: own illness or injury, personal or family responsibilities, bad weather or mechanical breakdown, direct involvement in an industrial dispute, or leave or holiday.

Employment rate: the number of employed people expressed as a percentage of the working-age population. The employment rate is closely linked to how the working-age population is defined. See [Data quality](#) for more details about how the employment rate used in this release is calculated.

Formal study statistics: to be participating in formal study, a person must be working towards a qualification that takes three or more months of full-time study to complete. Full-time study is defined as 20 or more hours per week.

Full-time/part-time status: full-time workers are those who usually work 30 hours or more per week, even if they did not do so in the survey reference week because of sickness, holidays, or other reasons. Part-time workers are those who usually work fewer than 30 hours per week.

Hours worked: actual hours are the number of hours a person worked in the reference week (including overtime). Usual hours refers to the number of hours a person normally works in a week (including overtime).

Jobless: people who are either officially unemployed, available but not seeking work, or actively seeking but not available for work. The 'available but not seeking work' category is made up of the 'seeking through newspaper only', 'discouraged', and 'other' categories.

Labour force: members of the working-age population, who during the survey reference week, were classified as 'employed' or 'unemployed'.

Labour force participation rate: the total labour force expressed as a percentage of the working-age population. Labour force participation is closely linked to how the working-age population is defined. See [Data quality](#) for more details about how the labour force participation rate used in this release is calculated.

Not in the labour force: any person in the working-age population who is neither employed nor unemployed. For example, this residual category includes people who:

- are retired
- have personal or family responsibilities such as unpaid housework and childcare
- attend educational institutions
- are permanently unable to work due to physical or mental disabilities
- were temporarily unavailable for work in the survey reference week
- are not actively seeking work.

Underemployment: employed people who work part time (ie usually work less than 30 hours in all jobs) and would prefer to work more hours.

Unemployed: all people in the working-age population who during the reference week were without a paid job, available for work, and had either actively sought work in the past four weeks ending with the reference week, or had a new job to start within the next four weeks.

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

Young people not in employment, education, or training (NEET): young people aged 15–24 years who are unemployed (part of the labour force) and not engaged in education or training, and those not in the labour force and not engaged in education or training for many reasons.

Working-age population: the usually resident, non-institutionalised, civilian population of New Zealand aged 15 years and over.

For more information on these definitions please refer to [Labour force categories used in the Household Labour Force Survey](#).

Related links

Upcoming releases

The *Household Labour Force Survey: September 2012 quarter* will be released on 8 November 2012.

To [subscribe to information releases](#), including this one, please complete the online subscription form.

The [release calendar](#) lists all upcoming information releases by date of release.

Past releases

See [Household Labour Force Survey](#) for links to past releases.

Related information

For information on the employment rate added to the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS), please see [Introducing the employment rate](#).

For information on youth not in employment, education, or training (NEET) see [Introducing the youth not in employment, education, or training indicator](#).

[Quarterly Employment Survey](#) includes statistics on total gross earnings, total paid hours, filled jobs, average hourly and weekly earnings, and average weekly paid hours, based on the Quarterly Employment Survey.

[Linked Employer-Employee Data \(LEED\)](#) provides statistics on filled jobs, job flows, worker flows, mean and median earnings for continuing jobs and new hires, and total earnings. LEED information is based on tax data.

Data quality

Period-specific information

This section is for information that changes between periods.

- [Response rate](#)
- [Ethnic statistics](#)

General information

This section has information about data that does not change between releases.

- [Data source](#)
- [Accuracy of the data](#)
- [How labour force statistics are classified](#)
- [Comparability with other datasets](#)
- [Interpreting the data](#)
- [Timing of published data](#)
- [Confidentiality](#)
- [More information](#)

Period-specific information

Response rate

The target response rate for the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) is 90 percent. The response rate for the June 2012 quarter was 87.7 percent.

Ethnic statistics

Single/combination

An alternate method of classifying ethnicity is using the single/combination output method. Using the single/combination ethnicity output, people are counted just once according to the ethnic group or combination of ethnic groups they have reported. This means that the total number of responses equals the total number of people who stated an ethnicity. The table below shows single/combination data for the working-age population for the June 2012 and June 2011 quarters of the HLFS. Ethnicity data using the single/combination output method is available on [Infoshare](#).

| Single/combination HLFS ethnicity data for working-age population | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ethnic group | June 2012 quarter | June 2011 quarter |
| European only | 2,391,000 | 2,371,600 |
| Māori only | 238,700 | 246,700 |
| Pacific peoples only | 150,000 | 147,800 |
| Asian only | 346,100 | 344,000 |
| MELAA only ⁽¹⁾ | 29,000 | 36,200 |
| Other ethnicity only | 71,300 | 69,300 |
| European/Māori | 177,400 | 169,700 |
| Two or more groups not elsewhere included | 76,100 | 64,100 |
| Residual categories | 8,500 | 11,800 |
| Total all ethnic groups | 3,488,100 | 3,461,100 |
| 1. MELAA = Middle Eastern/Latin American/African. | | |

See the [2005 New Zealand statistical standard for ethnicity](#) for more information.

General information

Data source

The target population for the HLFS is the civilian, usually resident, non-institutionalised population aged 15 years and over.

The statistics in this release **do not** cover:

- long-term residents of homes for older people, hospitals, and psychiatric institutions
- those living in non-private dwellings (eg hotels, motels, hostels)
- inmates of penal institutions
- members of the permanent armed forces
- members of the non-New Zealand armed forces
- overseas diplomats
- overseas visitors who expect to be a resident in New Zealand for less than 12 months
- those aged under 15 years
- people living on offshore islands (except Waiheke Island).

Accuracy of the data

Sample design

The HLFS sample contains about 15,000 private households and about 30,000 individuals each quarter. We sample households on a statistically representative basis from areas throughout New Zealand, and obtain information for each member of the household. The sample is stratified by geographic region, urban and rural areas, ethnic density, and socio-economic characteristics.

Households stay in the survey for two years. Each quarter, one-eighth of the households in the sample are rotated out and replaced by a new set of households. Therefore, up to seven-eighths of the same people are surveyed in adjacent quarters. This overlap improves the reliability of quarterly change estimates.

The period of surveying/interviewing is 13 weeks. The information obtained relates to the week

before the interview (referred to as the 'survey reference week'). We first interview respondents face-to-face at their home. Subsequent interviews are by telephone wherever possible. Respondents also have the option to file self-completed questionnaires.

Where practicable, we obtain information directly from each household member. Otherwise a proxy interview is conducted, in which details are obtained from another adult in the household.

Sampling errors

Sampling errors can be measured. They quantify the variability that occurs by chance because a sample rather than an entire population is surveyed.

We calculate sampling errors using the jackknife method. It is based on the variation between estimates, based on different subsamples taken from the whole sample. This is an attempt to see how estimates would vary if we were to repeat the survey with new samples of individuals.

We calculate sampling errors for each cell in the published tables and for estimates of change between adjacent quarters. For example, the estimated total number of people employed in the June 2012 quarter is 2,220,400 before seasonal adjustment. This estimate is subject to a sampling error of plus or minus 24,200, or 1.1 percent (measured at the 95 percent confidence level). This means that there is a 95 percent chance that the true number of employed people lies between 2,196,200 and 2,244,600.

Smaller estimates, such as the number of people who are unemployed, are subject to larger relative sampling errors than larger estimates. For example, the estimated total number of people unemployed in the June 2012 quarter is 156,400 before seasonal adjustment. This estimate is subject to a sampling error of plus or minus 10,300 or 6.6 percent (measured at the 95 percent confidence level). This means that there is a 95 percent chance that the true number of unemployed people lies between 146,100 and 166,700.

Estimates of change are also subject to sampling error. For example, the survey estimate of change in total employment from the June 2011 quarter to the June 2012 quarter is an increase of 12,000. This estimate is subject to a sampling error of plus or minus 29,900 (at the 95 percent confidence level). Therefore, the true value of the change in surveyed employment from the June 2011 quarter to the June 2012 quarter has a 95 percent chance of lying between -17,900 and 42,000.

A change in an estimate, either from one adjacent quarter to the next, or between quarters a year apart, is said to be statistically significant if it is larger than the associated sampling error. Therefore, the example quoted above does not represent a significant movement.

In general, the sampling errors associated with subnational estimates (eg breakdowns by regional council area or ethnic group) are larger than those associated with national estimates.

A non-sampling error is very difficult to measure, and if present can lead to biased estimates. Statistics NZ endeavours to minimise the impact of these errors by applying best survey practices and monitoring known indicators (eg non-response).

Suppression of data

Cells with estimates of less than 1,000 are suppressed and appear as 'S' in the tables. These estimates are subject to sampling errors too great for most practical purposes.

Response rates

The target response rate for the HLFS is 90 percent. The response rate is calculated by determining the number of eligible households that responded to the survey, as a proportion of the estimated number of total eligible households in the sample. The following table shows the HLFS response rates for the last five quarters.

| HLFS response rates | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Quarter | National response rate (percent) |
| June 2011 | 87.2 |
| September 2011 | 88.2 |
| December 2011 | 88.8 |
| March 2012 | 87.3 |
| June 2012 | 87.7 |

Seasonal adjustment and trend series

In the labour market, cyclical events that affect labour supply and demand occur around the same time each year. For example, in summertime a large pool of student labour is both available for, and actively seeking, work. Demand for labour in the retail sector and in many primary production industries also increases.

For any series, the estimates can be broken down into three components: trend, seasonal, and irregular. Seasonally adjusted series have had the seasonal component removed. Trend series have had both the seasonal and irregular components removed, and reveal the underlying direction of movement in a series.

The series for each labour market statistic is adjusted separately. For this reason, the sum of the seasonally adjusted estimates for employment, unemployment, and people not in the labour force will usually not add up to the working-age population estimates.

See [Seasonal adjustment](#) for more information about how we seasonally adjust our statistics. Seasonal adjustment makes data for adjacent quarters more comparable by smoothing out the effect on the time series of any regular seasonal events. This ensures that the underlying movements in the time series are more visible.

Information on the change in estimates between the current and previous publication for the seasonally adjusted and trend data can be found in the [Revisions](#) section.

All seasonally adjusted and trend series are produced using the X-12-ARIMA Version 0.2.10 package developed by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Quality of seasonal adjustment

We monitor our data to make sure that our seasonal adjustment is robust.

The X-12-ARIMA programme is highly customisable and can produce a wide variety of possible adjustments for any particular input series. Consequently, X-12-ARIMA produces a number of diagnostics which are useful in assessing the quality of the chosen adjustment.

The following table provides a selection of diagnostics. The reference value provides an indication of the desired value for each. Most are acceptable, though there is evidence of a changing seasonal pattern for the number of males who are unemployed and females who are not in the labour force. More detail about seasonal adjustment in the HLFS is available on request.

| Seasonal adjustment diagnostics | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Reference value | Male employed | Female employed | Male unemployed | Female unemployed | Male not in labour force | Female not in labour force |
| Test for seasonality | <0.10 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Test for moving seasonality | >0.10 | 0.15 | 0.66 | 0.02 | 0.32 | 0.60 | 0.05 |
| Periods until trend dominates | <3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Trend contribution to change | <20 | 31.79 | 41.82 | 45.52 | 15.13 | 12.52 | 20.30 |
| Seasonal contribution to change | >50 | 58.84 | 42.90 | 38.71 | 67.09 | 75.16 | 51.25 |
| Irregular contribution to change | <20 | 9.37 | 15.27 | 15.77 | 17.78 | 12.32 | 28.45 |
| Quality statistic | <1 | 0.41 | 0.52 | 0.76 | 0.72 | 0.63 | 0.98 |

Outliers

During the seasonal adjustment process, X-12-ARIMA can give less weight to the irregular component. Specifically, if the estimated irregular component at a point in time is sufficiently large compared with the standard deviation of the irregular component as a whole, then the irregular component at that point can be downweighted or removed completely and re-estimated. Such observations are referred to as partial and zero-outliers, respectively. In practice, the downweighting of outliers will do little to seasonally adjusted data, but the impact of the outliers on the trend series will generally be reduced. However, if an outlier ceases to be an outlier as more data becomes available, then significant revisions to the trend series become possible. There are no outliers present over the last four quarters of data.

Rounding procedures

Figures presented in this release are rounded. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred or to the nearest thousand for seasonally adjusted and trend estimates. This may result in a total disagreeing slightly with the sum of the individual items as shown in the table. Where figures are rounded the unit is shown as (000) for thousands.

Any quarterly and annual changes for figures are calculated on unrounded numbers. However quarterly and annual percentage point changes for rates are done on rounded rates.

How labour force statistics are classified

The HLFS release includes specific statistics about industry, occupation, study, ethnicity, and region. This section defines what we measure for each of these statistics.

Industry statistics

Since the September 2009 quarter, the industry statistics have been based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006 (ANZSIC06), the latest edition of the classification. When ANZSIC06 was introduced, Statistics NZ developed the New Zealand Standard Industrial Output Categories (NZSIOC). Classifying industries using NZSIOC helps to standardise outputs. Industry outputs defined using ANZSIC06 are not comparable with those based on ANZSIC96, the version used before the September 2009 quarter.

See [Implementing ANZSIC 2006 in the Household Labour Force Survey](#) for more information.

Occupation statistics

Since the September 2009 quarter, we have used the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) to classify occupation data in the HLFS. ANZSCO is a harmonised classification developed by Statistics NZ, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and the Australian Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, for use in both Australia and New Zealand. Occupation data was previously based on the New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations 1999 (NZSCO99). The occupation data is available on [Infoshare](#).

See [Implementing ANZSCO in the Household Labour Force Survey](#) for more information.

Māori benchmarks

Before April 2009, we did not benchmark the Māori working-age population to population estimates. This, along with other sample design restrictions, caused a high degree of volatility in Māori statistics in the HLFS. Movements in the working-age population estimates of certain ethnic groups, such as Māori, may reflect this volatility rather than a real change in the estimated ethnic demographic. Including Māori benchmarks in the working-age population mitigates the known undercount of Māori in the HLFS and also results in smoother time series for Māori statistics in the HLFS. However, introducing the Māori population benchmarks does not necessarily translate to improved estimates for non-Māori ethnic groups.

Household statistics

A household's labour force status is derived by looking at the labour force status of household members aged 18–64 years. For example, if a couple is living by themselves and one is aged 64 years and the other is aged 65 years, this couple will be assigned to the 'All employed' or 'None

employed' category, depending on the labour force status of the 64-year-old.

Households that have no members aged 18–64 years are excluded from this analysis. The household categories incorporate the concept of dependent children rather than just children. A child is a person of any age who usually resides with at least one parent (natural, step, adopted, or foster) and who does not usually reside with a partner or child(ren) of his or her own. Statistics NZ defines a dependent child as a child under the age of 18 years and not in full-time employment.

Updated regional classification

In November 2010, the new Auckland territorial authority replaced the existing Rodney district, North Shore city, Auckland city, Waitakere city, Manukau city, Papakura district, and part of Franklin district councils. This resulted in a minor change in the boundary between the Auckland and Waikato regions.

From the June 2011 quarter, the statistics in the HLFS release were produced using the new boundaries and backcast for the March 2011 quarter. The new boundaries do not significantly affect measures from the HLFS.

Total response ethnicity

From the December 2011 quarter, the HLFS publishes ethnicity data using the total response ethnicity output in the information release. Using this method, people who reported that they belonged to more than one ethnic group are counted once in each group reported. This means that the total number of responses for all ethnic groups can be greater than the total number of people who stated their ethnicities.

Comparability with other datasets

See [Comparing our labour market statistics](#) for more information on how the HLFS compares with the other labour market statistics that we produce. This page explains which measures of employment are included in each of our employment releases, and the timings and coverage of each release.

See [A Guide to Unemployment Statistics](#) for more information on comparing the HLFS with other datasets on unemployment. This page explains which measures of unemployment are included in the HLFS, the unemployment benefit, and the job-seekers register. It also includes information on the timings, coverage, and different purposes of each of these measures.

International comparability of the labour force participation rate and the employment rate

Several alternative definitions of labour force participation rate and employment rate are used by other organisations and countries; they differ in the age of the working-age population and the inclusion of military personnel. A common definition is to restrict the labour force and working-age population to the 15–64-year age group, particularly in countries with a compulsory retirement age. Generally, this definition leads to a higher labour force participation rate and employment rate. Using this definition for the New Zealand HLFS in the June 2012 quarter gives a surveyed figure of 77.6 percent (labour force participation rate) and 72.3 percent (employment rate).

Interpreting the data

Information releases contain seasonally adjusted, trend, and survey statistics for the latest quarter. These statistics are averages for the three-month period and do not apply to any specific point in time. Data sourced from the seasonally adjusted series and trend series are identified as such in the table or section headings. All other data, in the commentary or in tables, are sourced from the original survey series and are unadjusted.

Timing of published data

The HLFS is published within six weeks after the end of the quarter's reference period.

Confidentiality

Only people authorised by the Statistics Act 1975 are allowed to see your individual information, and they must use it only for statistical purposes. Your information is combined with similar information from other people or households to prepare summary statistics.

More information

For more technical information, see [Information about the Household Labour Force Survey](#).

Liability

While all care and diligence has been used in processing, analysing, and extracting data and information in this publication, Statistics NZ gives no warranty it is error-free and will not be liable for any loss or damage suffered by the use directly, or indirectly, of the information in this publication.

Timing

Timed statistical releases are delivered using postal and electronic services provided by third parties. Delivery of these releases may be delayed by circumstances outside the control of Statistics NZ. Statistics NZ accepts no responsibility for any such delays.

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Revisions

Each quarter, the seasonal adjustment process is applied to the latest quarter and all previous quarters. This means that seasonally adjusted estimates for any of the previously published quarters may change slightly. The following table lists the change in estimates between the current and previous publication for the seasonally adjusted data. For example, the seasonally adjusted number of males not in the labour force for the March 2012 quarter was 424,000. In the June 2012 quarter release, that same estimate has been revised to 425,000. These numbers are rounded to the nearest 1,000, but the relative change derived from the unrounded estimates is an upward revision of 0.29 percent.

| Percent revision from last published, seasonally adjusted | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Quarter | Male employed | Female employed | Male unemployed | Female unemployed | Male not in labour force | Female not in labour force |
| Jun 2011 | 0.10 | -0.02 | 0.11 | -0.22 | -0.20 | 0.06 |
| Sep 2011 | -0.03 | 0.00 | -0.31 | -0.07 | 0.05 | 0.01 |
| Dec 2011 | 0.01 | 0.00 | 0.13 | 0.32 | -0.13 | -0.06 |
| Mar 2012 | -0.08 | 0.01 | 0.01 | -0.15 | 0.29 | 0.00 |

The following table presents information on how the trend estimates have been revised. Trend revisions are generally larger than those of the seasonally adjusted data.

| Percent revision from last published, trend | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Quarter | Male employed | Female employed | Male unemployed | Female unemployed | Male not in labour force | Female not in labour force |
| Jun 2011 | 0.02 | -0.01 | 0.00 | -0.22 | 0.00 | 0.04 |
| Sep 2011 | 0.02 | 0.00 | -0.10 | 0.00 | -0.11 | 0.00 |
| Dec 2011 | 0.02 | 0.00 | -0.10 | -0.16 | -0.23 | 0.00 |
| Mar 2012 | -0.16 | -0.03 | 0.18 | 0.57 | 0.86 | 0.05 |

Every estimate is subject to revision each quarter as new data is added, though in practice estimates more than two years from the end-point will change little. For example, the trend estimate of male employment for the June 2011 quarter was 1,177,000 when first published. In the June 2012 quarter, one year later, the trend estimate of male employment for the June 2011 quarter is 1,178,000, an increase of 1,000 (or an increase of 1.3 percent using the unrounded estimates). This is an example of a '4-step ahead' revision.

The table below shows the average of all such absolute revisions, expressed relatively, and gives some indication of how much the current estimates might be revised when the September 2012 data becomes available.

| Mean absolute percent revisions | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Seasonally adjusted | | Trend | |
| | 1-step | 4-step | 1-step | 4-step |
| Male employed | 0.05 | 0.09 | 0.16 | 0.17 |
| Female employed | 0.07 | 0.12 | 0.26 | 0.28 |
| Male unemployed | 0.44 | 0.70 | 1.61 | 1.71 |
| Female unemployed | 0.53 | 0.97 | 1.92 | 1.88 |
| Male not in labour force | 0.10 | 0.18 | 0.37 | 0.38 |
| Female not in labour force | 0.09 | 0.15 | 0.36 | 0.39 |

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Tables

The following tables are available in Excel format from the 'Downloads' box. If you have problems viewing the files, see [opening files and PDFs](#).

1. People employed, unemployed, and not in labour force, by sex, seasonally adjusted series
2. People employed, unemployed, and not in labour force, by sex, trend series
3. People employed, unemployed, and not in labour force, by sex
4. People employed, unemployed, and not in labour force, by age group
5. People employed, unemployed, and not in labour force, by ethnic group
6. People employed, unemployed, and not in labour force, by regional council area
7. People employed, by industry and sex
8. The jobless: those without a job and wanting a job, by sex
9. Total actual hours worked
10. Household composition, by household labour force status
11. Underemployment, by sex
12. People employed, unemployed, not in the labour force, and total actual hours worked, seasonally adjusted series
13. Harmonised unemployment rates in OECD countries, latest available
14. People employed, unemployed, and not in labour force, by sex and formal study status
15. Labour force and education status of those aged 15–24, by age group, seasonally adjusted

Supplementary tables

The following tables provide unadjusted statistics for the Canterbury region and are available in Excel format from the 'Downloads' box.

1. People employed, unemployed, and not in labour force in Canterbury, by sex
2. People employed, unemployed, and not in the labour force in Canterbury, by age group
3. People employed in Canterbury, by industry and sex
4. The jobless: those without a job and wanting a job in Canterbury, by sex
5. Total actual and usual hours worked in Canterbury only
6. Underemployment in Canterbury, by sex
7. People employed, unemployed, and not in labour force in Canterbury, by sex and formal study status

A longer time series of the supplementary tables is available on request.

Access more data on Infoshare and Table Builder

Use [Infoshare](#) to access time-series data specific to your needs. For this release, select the following categories from the Infoshare homepage:

Subject category: **Work Income and Spending**
Group: **Household Labour Force Survey – [HLF]**

Use [Table Builder](#) to extract the information you want. To access this release's data on Table Builder, select the following tables from the homepage:

Subject category: **Employment & Unemployment (Labour Market) Tables**
Table title: **Key Labour force measures by qualification, age and sex**