

Employment: Underemployment rate

Downloaded from <https://www.canterburywellbeing.org.nz/our-wellbeing/employment/underemployment-rate/> on 18/04/2024 6:06 PM

The labour force is fundamentally split into two groups: those with a job (employed) and those without (unemployed). However, underemployment relates to the grey area of employment where people have a job but face a partial lack of work (labour force underutilisation) and have similarities to unemployed people. The underemployment rate includes people who have a part-time job of less than 30 hours per week but who want to work more hours, and are available to do so [7]. Underemployment describes workers who are constrained by the demand side of the labour market to work fewer hours than they desire.

This indicator presents the proportion (non-seasonally adjusted) of total employed who work part-time (less than 30 hours per week) who want to and are available to work more hours, in greater Christchurch and New Zealand.



The figure shows that the non-seasonally adjusted underemployment rate (includes people who have a part-time job of less than 30 hours per week but who want to work more hours and are available to do so) in New Zealand has remained relatively stable over the time series shown. The underemployment rate for greater Christchurch deviated notably from the New Zealand rate following the beginning of the Canterbury earthquake sequence (from 3.3% in December 2010 to a maximum of 7.2% in March 2011) while the rate for New Zealand overall remained relatively unchanged over this period. The greater Christchurch underemployment rate was then slightly lower on average than the national rate from late 2012 until 2016, as rebuild-related economic activity continued. The underemployment rate for greater Christchurch has now converged with the New Zealand rate (4% and 3.4% in September 2022, respectively).

Breakdown by gender



The figure shows that the non-seasonally adjusted underemployment rate in greater Christchurch is notably higher for females compared with males, across the time series shown (5.6% and 2.5% in September 2022, respectively). The figure suggests that a greater proportion of females than males were adversely affected by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on labour force participation (underemployment rate peaking for females at 8.2% compared with 3.2% for males in September 2020). Overall, the time series suggests a pattern of convergence in the underemployment rate for females and males, in greater Christchurch, between March 2019 and September 2022. Note, this breakdown is only available from 2019.

Data Sources

Source: Statistics New Zealand.
Survey/data set: Household Labour Force Survey to September 2022. Custom data request for greater Christchurch region.
Source data frequency: Quarterly.

Metadata for this indicator is available at <https://www.canterburywellbeing.org.nz/our-wellbeing/index-data>

REFERENCES

This is the full reference list for **Employment**.

- 1 Warr P (1987) *Work, unemployment, and mental health*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- 2 National Health Committee (1998) *The Social, Cultural and Economic Determinants of Health in New Zealand: Action to Improve Health*. Wellington: National Health Committee.
- 3 Milligan S, Fabian A, Coope P, Errington C (2006) *Family wellbeing indicators from the 1981–2006 New Zealand Censuses*. Statistics NZ, University of Auckland, University of Otago.
- 4 Waddel G, Burton AK (2006) *Is working good for your health and wellbeing?* London: Department of Work and Pensions, UK Government.
- 5 Dodu N (2005) Is employment good for well-being? a literature review. *Journal of Occupational Psychology, Employment and Disability* 7: 17-33.
- 6 Junaker R (1991) Unemployment and mortality in England and Wales: a preliminary analysis. *Oxford Economics Papers* 43: 305–320.
- 7 Statistics New Zealand (2014) *A guide to unemployment statistics (second edition)*. Wellington: Statistics New Zealand.
- 8 Mathers C, Schofield D (1998) The health consequences of unemployment: the evidence. *Medical Journal of Australia* 168: 178–182.
- 9 Congdon WJ, Kling JR, Mullainathan S (2011) Poverty and Inequality. In: Congdon WJ, Kling JR, Mullainathan S, editors. *Policy and Choice*: Brookings Institution Press. pp. 140-172.
- 10 McGaughey E (2015) Behavioural Economics and Labour Law: LSE Legal Studies Working Paper No. 20/2014. In: Ludlow A, Blackham A, editors. *New Frontiers in Empirical Labour Law Research*: King's College London Law School.
- 11 Quigley R, Baines J (2014) *The social value of a job*. Wellington: Ministry for Primary Industries.
- 12 Wilkinson R, Marmot M, editors (2003) *Social determinants of health: the solid facts* 2nd edition. Copenhagen: World Health Organization.
- 13 Winefield AH, Delfabbro PH, Winefield HR, Duong D, Malvaso C (2017) The Psychological Effects of Unemployment and Unsatisfactory Employment on Young Adults: Findings from a 10-Year Longitudinal Study. *The Journal of Genetic Psychology* 178: 246-251.
- 14 World Bank (2013) *World Bank Development Report (2013). Jobs*. Washington DC: World Bank.
- 15 Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (2017) Labour market terms explained. Retrieved from www.mbie.govt.nz/info-services/employment-skills/labour-market-reports/pacific-peoples-labour-market-trends/march-2017/terms-explained.
- 16 Statistics New Zealand (2023) Unemployment rate. Retrieved from www.stats.govt.nz/news/unemployment-rate-at-3-4-percent/#:~:text=The%20primary%20contribution%20to%20higher,the%20HLFS%20began%20in%201986.
- 17 Lucas RE, Diener E (2003) The happy worker: Hypotheses about the role of positive affect in worker productivity. In: Barrick MR, Ryan AM, editors. *Personality and work: Reconsidering the role of personality in organizations (The organizational frontiers series)*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass.
- 18 Statistics New Zealand (2021) *New Zealand General Social Survey 2021*. Wellington: Statistics New Zealand.