



1 September 2023

Tēnā koe

On 9 August 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

May I please request information regarding the trend of unemployment support granted per population in the last 10 years up to 2022 in Aotearoa New Zealand? (if 2022 data is not yet available, 10 yrs up to 2021 will be fine). Please indicate the percentage per population of each year. Thank you.

On 16 August 2023, the Ministry transferred your request in part to Statistics New Zealand as information relating to population is not held by the Ministry but is believed to be held by Statistics New Zealand. You can expect a response from statistics New Zealand in due course.

The Ministry, through Work and Income, administers main benefits including Jobseeker Support (JS), as well as ongoing supplementary assistance such as the Accommodation Supplement. The Ministry also helps people with urgent and immediate needs when they have no other means to meet these costs through recoverable and non-recoverable assistance. You can find more information at Work and Income's website here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/.

Please refer to the attached **Appendix** which shows the number of working age Jobseeker Support (JS) grants from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2022 by calendar year.

You will note that we have only provided you with data from 2014. This is because the JS benefit was introduced with the welfare reforms of June 2013. JS replaced the Unemployment Benefit, Sickness Benefit, Domestic Purposes Benefit (Women Alone, Sole Parent if youngest child is aged 14 and over) and the Widow's Benefit (without children, or if the youngest child is aged 14 and over). To avoid any overlap in the reporting in 2013, we have not provided this data to you. However, if you are still interested in the data for 2013 and for the previous years, this information is available on the Ministry's website

and can be found here, www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/archive-2013.html.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

Bridget Saunders

Bridget Saunders
**Manager Issue Resolution
Service Delivery**

Appendix

The number of working age Jobseeker Support grants from 1 January 2014 to 31 December 2022 by calendar year.

Calendar Year	Jobseeker Support Health Condition and Disability related	Jobseeker Support Work Ready related	Total
2014	36,042	91,224	127,269
2015	35,346	87,543	122,889
2016	34,050	84,159	118,209
2017	33,069	85,524	118,593
2018	32,565	89,811	122,379
2019	32,085	97,305	129,390
2020	23,265	162,690	185,958
2021	24,108	116,475	140,586
2022	25,974	105,513	131,490

Notes:

- This is the number of Jobseeker Support benefit grants and not a count of the number of current clients receiving a Jobseeker Support benefit.
- A client can receive multiple Jobseeker Support benefit grants within a given period and can appear across multiple years.
- The table includes working age only (18 to 64 years).
- Jobseeker Support Work Ready related includes Jobseeker Support Work Ready and Jobseeker Support Work Ready Hardship.
- Jobseeker Support Health Condition and Disability related includes Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability and Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability Hardship.
- Jobseeker Support benefits were introduced with the welfare reform in June 2013. therefore, the data has been provided from 2014.
- To protect confidentiality the Ministry of Social Development uses processes to make it difficult to identify an individual person or entity from published data.
- These data tables have had random rounding to base three applied to all cell counts in the table.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.