**All main benefits - September 2013 quarter**

**Key Facts**

At the end of September 2013:

* **304,394** working-age\* people were receiving a main benefit.
* **11.0 percent** of the working-age population of New Zealand were receiving a main benefit.
* Over half (58%) of main benefit recipients were female, and 42 percent were male.
* 42 percent of main benefit recipients were receiving Jobseeker Support (JS), 30 percent were receiving Supported Living Payment and 26 percent were receiving Sole Parent Support.
* Just over a quarter (26%) of recipients of main benefits had been receiving their current benefit continuously for one year or less.

Between September 2013 and September 2012:

* The number of recipients of main benefits **decreased** by 16,548, or 5 percent. This decrease was largely driven by **decreases** in Sole Parent Support and Jobseeker Support numbers.
* Supported Living Payment (SLP) numbers remained **stable**.
* JS numbers **decreased** in all Work and Income regions except Nelson and Bay of Plenty, which remained stable. SPS numbers **decreased** in all regions, and SLP numbers **increased** in all regions except Taranaki, Nelson, Canterbury and Southern regions.
* The percentage of the working-age population in New Zealand receiving a main benefit **fell slightly**.

**Summary of working-age\* clients receiving main benefits, end of September 2008, 2012 and 2013**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Benefit | Sep-2008 | Sep-2012 | Sep-2013 | Annual Change | |
| Jobseeker Support (JS) | 95,603 | 136,020 | 126,470 | -9,550 | -7% |
| Sole Parent Support (SPS) | 79,178 | 86,967 | 79,699 | -7,268 | -8% |
| Supported Living Payment (SLP) | 89,044 | 91,376 | 92,072 | 696 | 1% |
| Youth Payment/Young Parent Payment (YP/YPP)\*\* | 1,489 | 1,106 | 1,293 | 187 | 17% |
| Other\*\*\* | 4,294 | 5,473 | 4,860 | -613 | -11% |
| Total working-age recipients | **269,608** | **320,942** | **304,394** | **-16,548** | **-5%** |
| *Percentage of working-age population on main benefits* | *10.2%* | *11.7%* | *11.0%* |  |  |

\*Working-age clients are aged 18-64. This definition reflects the minimum age of eligibility for most main benefits and the age of qualification for New Zealand Superannuation.

\*\*Youth Payment/Young Parent Payment recipients who are 18+ years. There were 1,729 YP/YPP recipients aged 16-17 years at the end of September 2013.

\*\*\*Other includes Emergency Maintenance Allowance (EMA), Emergency Benefit (EB) and Jobseeker Student Hardship (JSSH), Widow’s Benefit Overseas (WBO).

**Five-year trend**

Main benefit numbers increased substantially between September 2008 and September 2012, though they have fallen from their peak in 2010. The main driver for this pattern has been changes in economic conditions.

The proportion of the working-age population who were receiving a main benefit at the end of September increased between 2008 and 2010, but has decreased over the last three years. The main driver for this pattern has been changes in economic conditions.