

102 increase

in the number of **main benefit** recipients, when comparing January 2021 (389,601) with December 2020 (389,499).

76,122 was the yearly increase (313,479).

537 increase

in the number of **Jobseeker Support** recipients, when comparing January 2021 (213,006) with December 2020 (212,469).

65,091 was the yearly increase (147,915).

12.4 percent

of the estimated New Zealand working-age population received a main benefit as at January 2021.

6.8 percent received Jobseeker Support.

1,980 increase

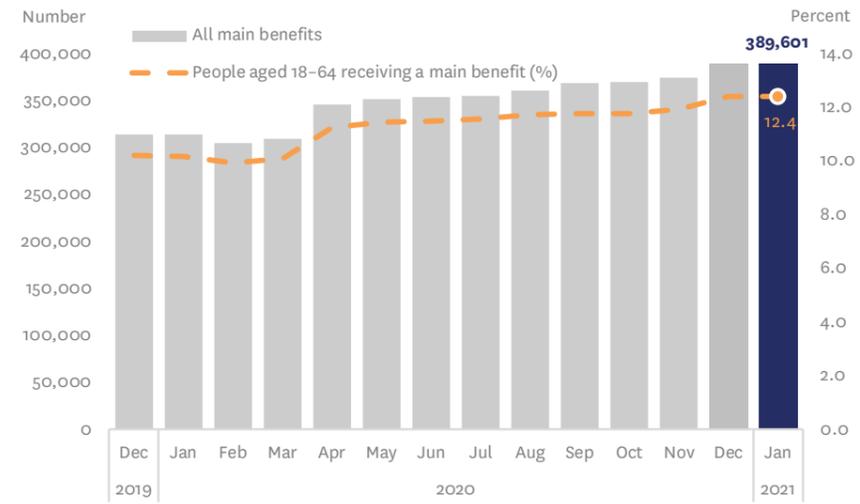
in the number of **benefit cancellations due to obtaining work**, when comparing January 2021 (9,141) with December 2020 (7,161).

2,436 was the yearly increase (6,705).

Figure 1. Main benefit categories and sub-categories

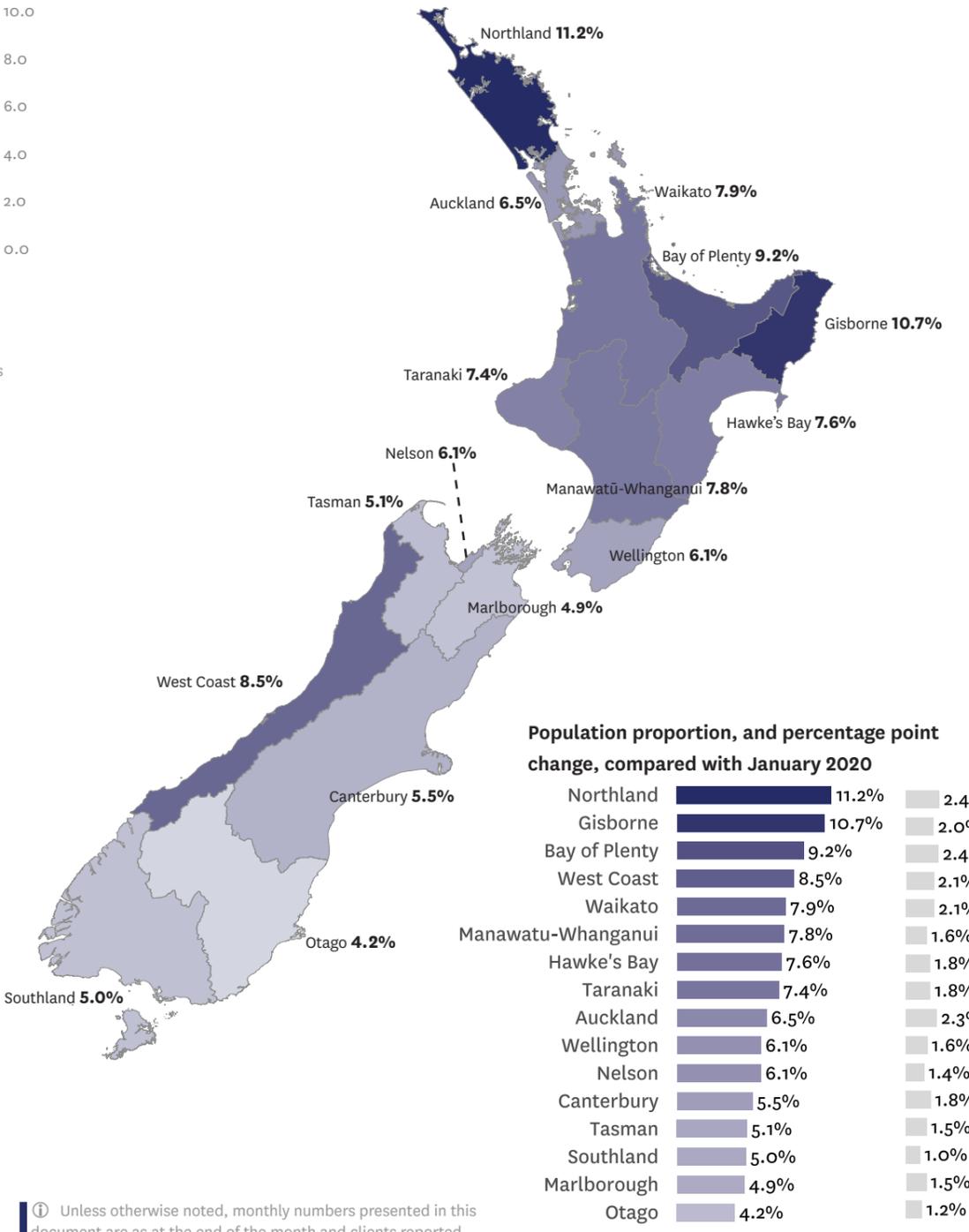
| | January 21 | Annual trend |
|---|----------------|--------------|
| All main benefits | 389,601 | |
| Jobseeker Support (JS) | 213,006 | |
| Work Ready (JS – WR) | 134,838 | |
| Health Condition and Disability (JS – HCD) | 78,165 | |
| Sole Parent Support (SPS) | 67,629 | |
| Supported Living Payment (SLP) | 94,329 | |
| Health Condition and Disability (SLP – HCD) | 85,218 | |
| Carers (SLP – Carers) | 9,111 | |
| Youth Payment/Young Parent Payment | 1,581 | |
| Youth Payment (YP) | 267 | |
| Young Parent Payment (YPP) | 1,314 | |
| Other main benefits | 13,059 | |

Figure 2. All main benefits, timeseries



From 12th February 2021, the Ministry of Social Development is applying a range of new confidentiality procedures to public data releases. These procedures will continue to protect client information, while making more data available. To find out how we have changed the way we work with client information visit: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/tools/how-we-keep-data-private.html>

Figure 3. Population proportion of 18–64 year olds receiving Jobseeker Support, by Regional Council



Supplementary benefits and hardship assistance

Supplementary benefits and hardship assistance numbers include all clients, not only working-age clients. Benefit Advances and Special Needs Grants (SNGs) are the sum of grants in the month. The sum of Special Needs Grants also includes Food SNGs.

Figure 4. Supplementary benefits

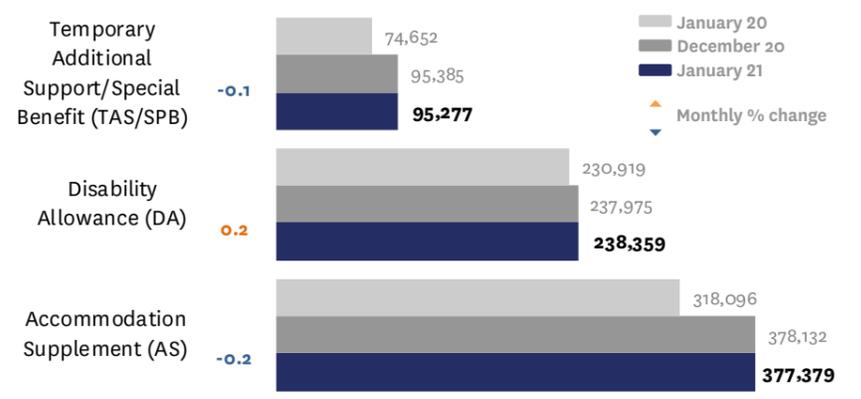


Figure 5. Hardship assistance

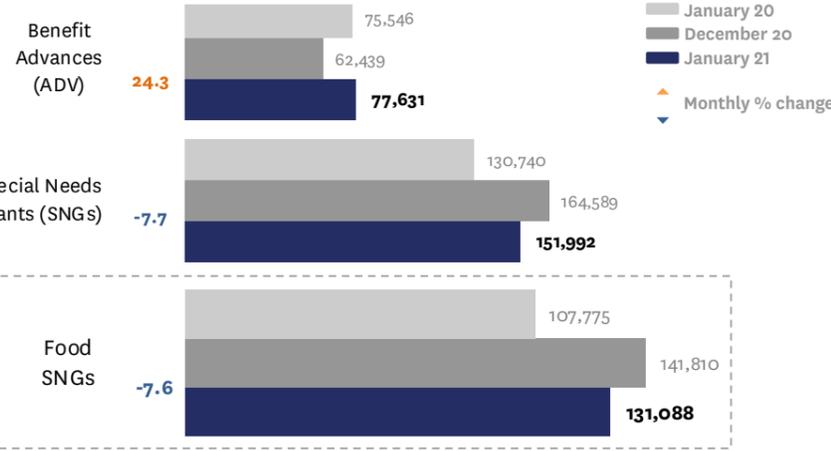


Figure 6. Other main benefits

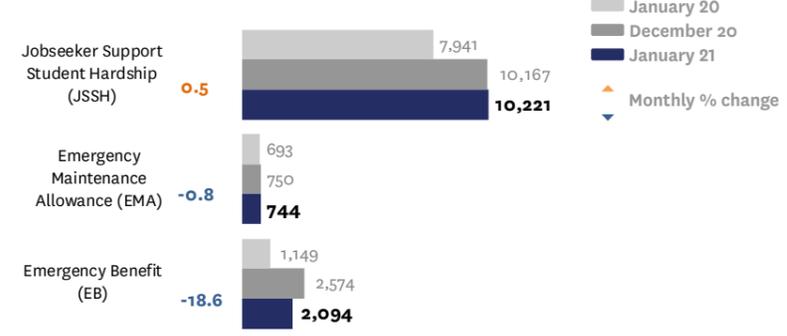
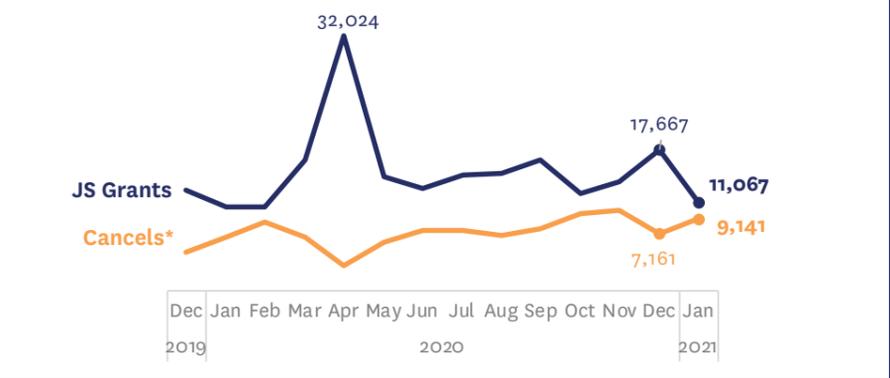


Figure 7. Grants for Jobseeker Support, and cancellations due to obtaining work for all main benefits, timeseries



* These include cancellations of any main benefit due to obtaining work.

Unless otherwise noted, monthly numbers presented in this document are as at the end of the month and clients reported on are working age (i.e. aged 18–64).

Month-on-month comparison, by selected data cuts

Jobseeker Support – Work Ready, by Regional Council and ethnicity

Figure 8. JS – WR by Regional Council (total)

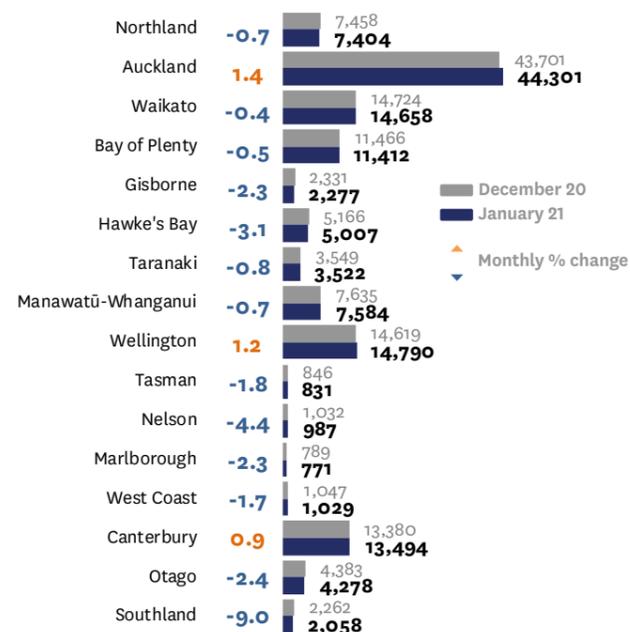


Figure 9. JS – WR by Regional Council - Māori

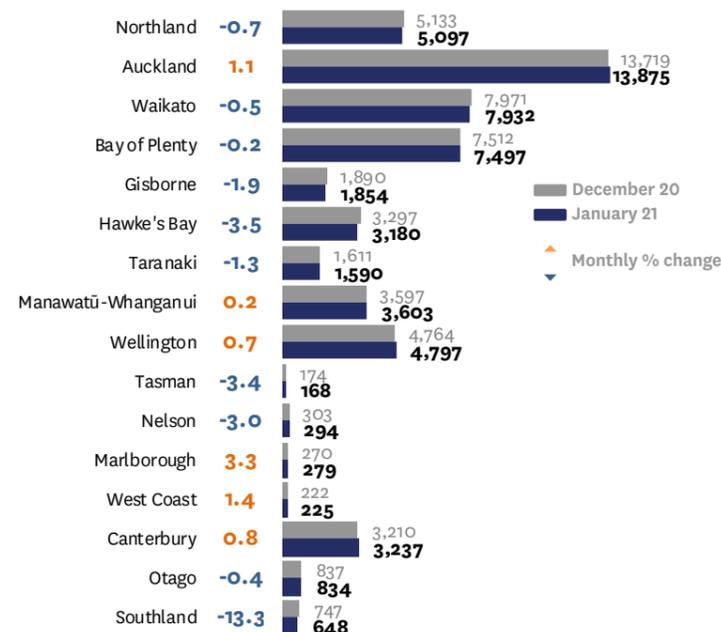


Figure 10. JS – WR by Regional Council - NZ European

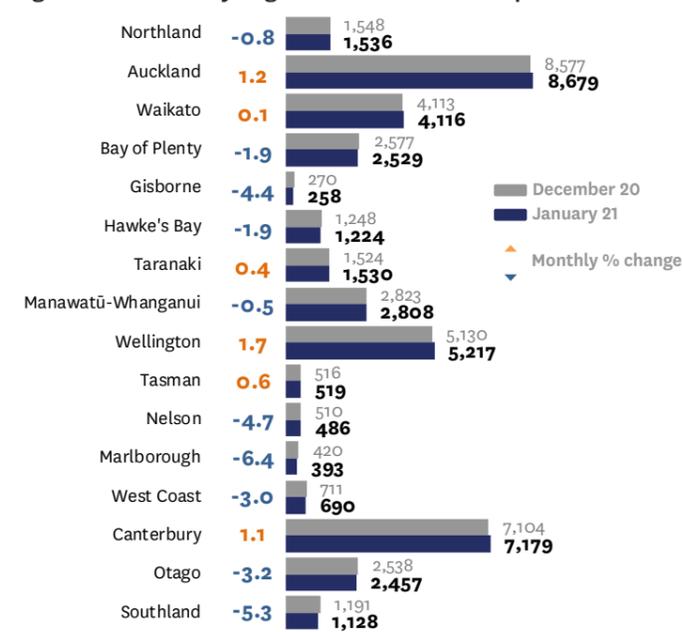


Figure 11. JS – WR by Regional Council - Pacific peoples

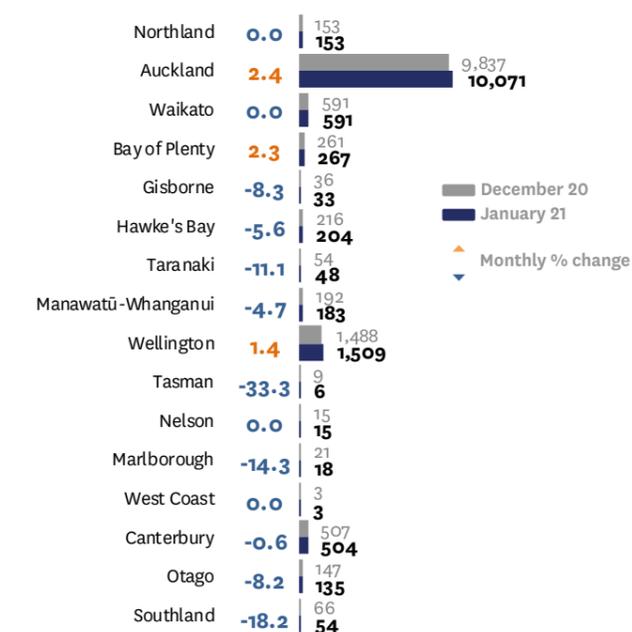


Figure 12. Jobseeker Support – Work Ready, by ethnicity

| | December 20 | January 21 | % change |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| Māori | 55,458 | 55,314 | -0.3 |
| NZ European | 40,917 | 40,857 | -0.1 |
| Pacific peoples | 13,647 | 13,860 | 1.6 |
| All other ethnicities | 18,579 | 18,627 | 0.3 |
| Total JS – WR | 134,829 | 134,841 | 0.0 |

Figure 13. Jobseeker Support – Work Ready, by age groups

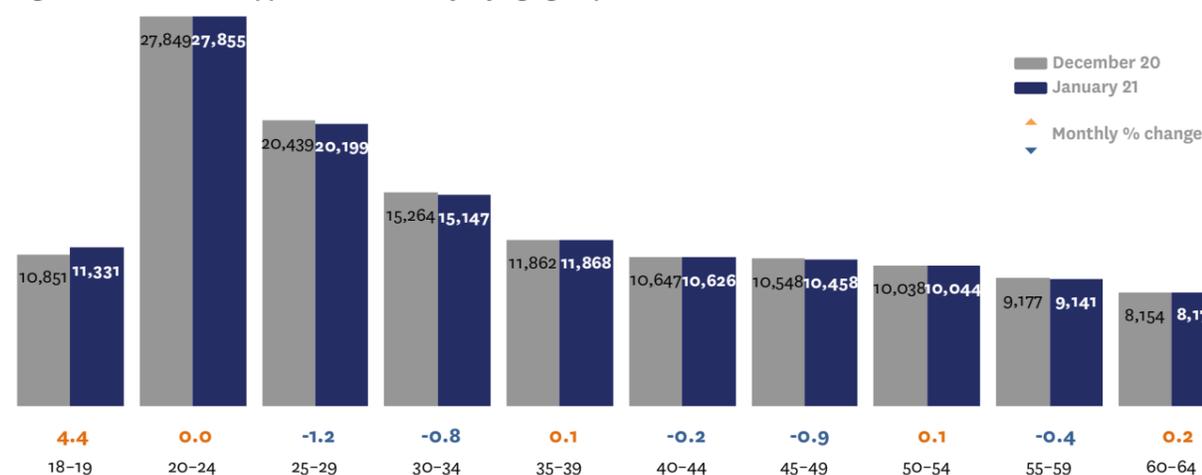


Figure 14. Jobseeker Support, by gender

From 2 December 2019, a “Gender diverse” option was made available for our clients to choose from. We expect the numbers in this category to increase over time.

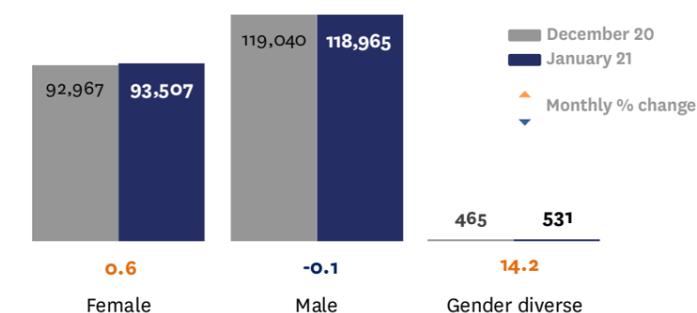


Figure 15. Special Needs Grants granted for food, by Regional Council

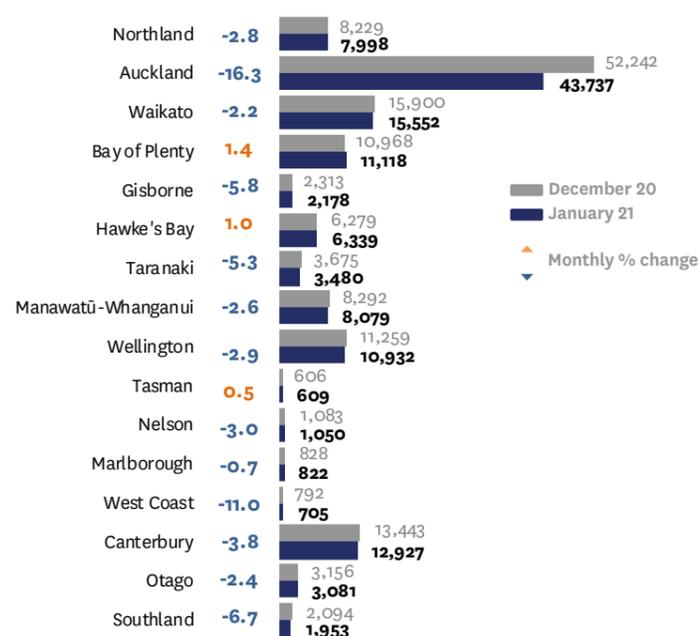
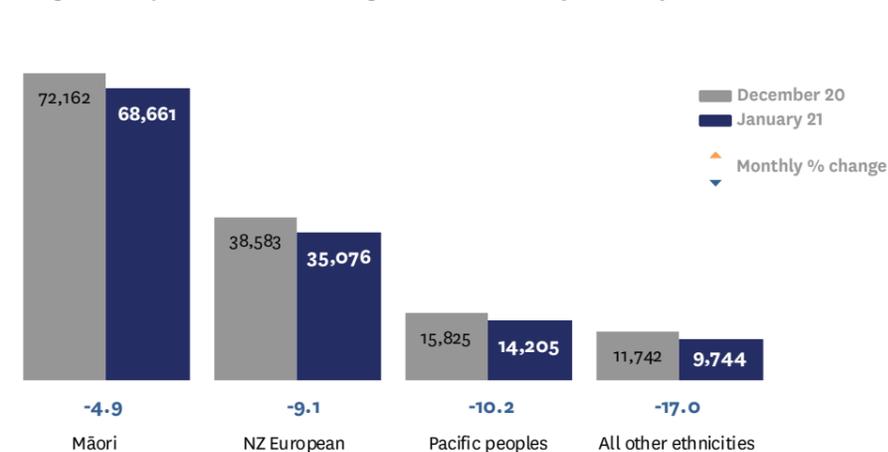


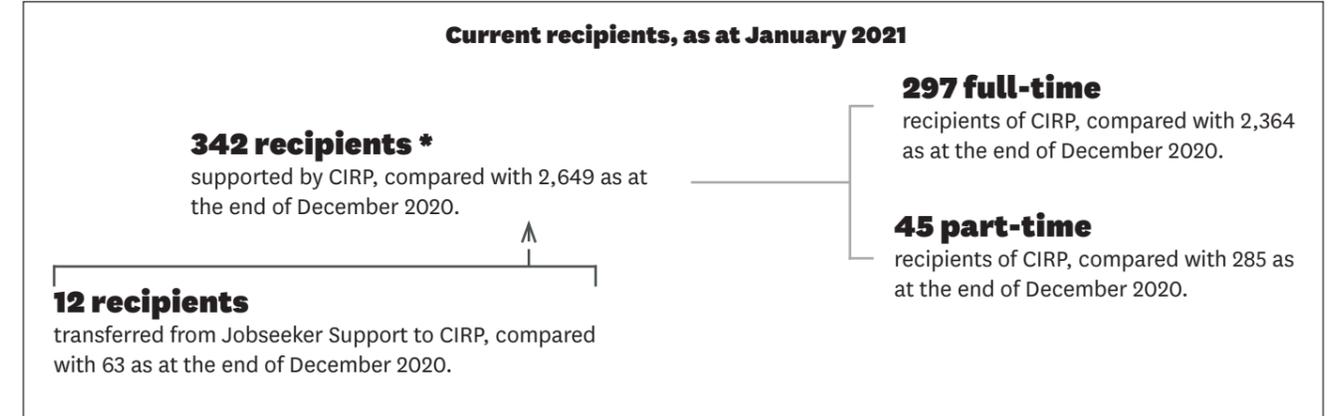
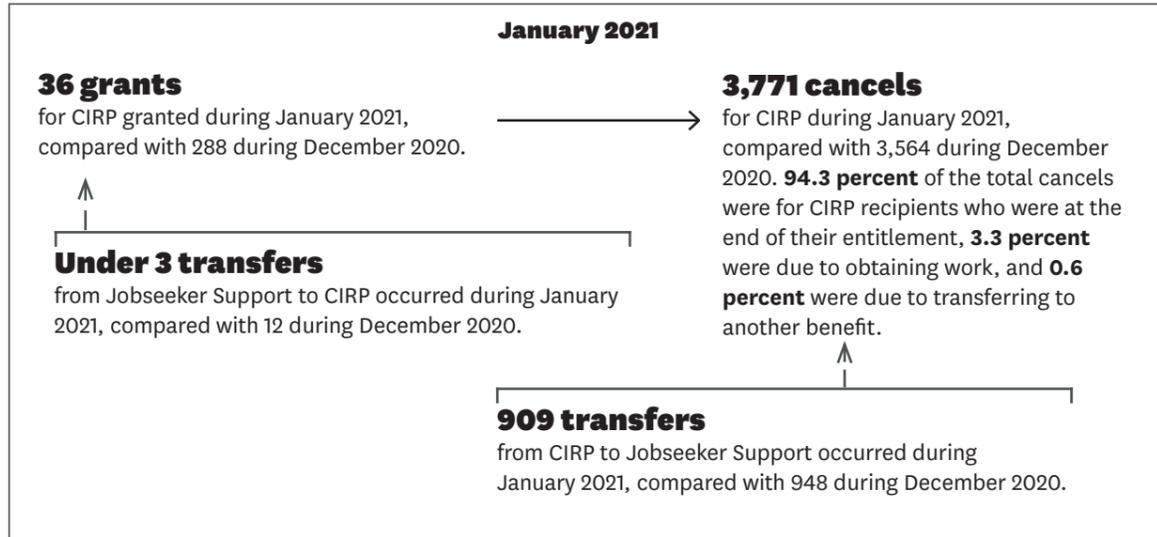
Figure 16. Special Needs Grants granted for food, by ethnicity



COVID-19 Income Relief Payment (CIRP)

COVID-19 Income Relief Payment helps people who lost their job between 1 March and 30 October 2020. The final application date was Friday 13 November 2020, and the final payment for CIRP was on 4th February 2021. This is the final month which CIRP will be included in the Monthly Benefits Update.

CIRP data by Territorial Authority is available in the accompanying data file.



* CIRP recipients are counts of the total number of people supported by CIRP at the reported point in time.

Figure 17. CIRP recipients, by gender

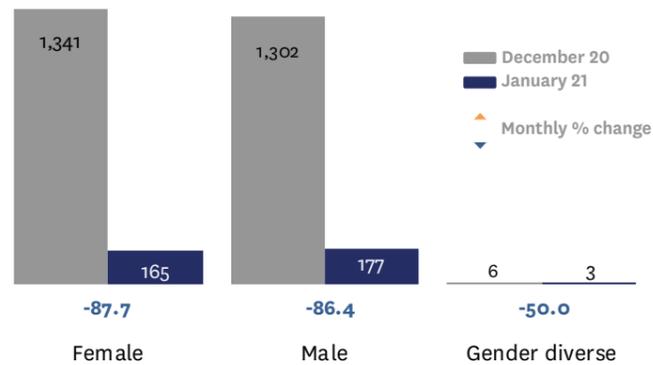


Figure 18. CIRP recipients, by ethnicity

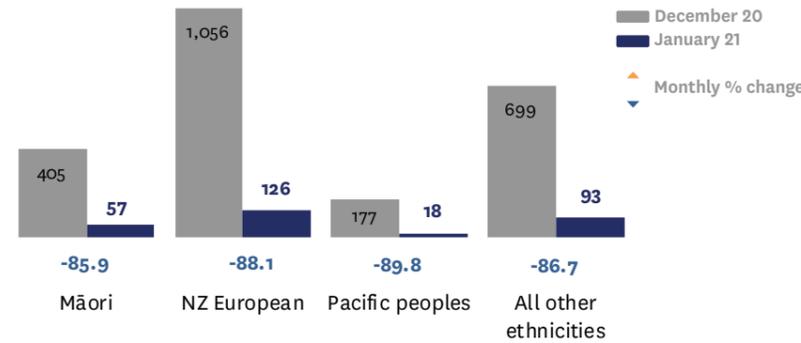


Figure 19. CIRP recipients, by relationship status

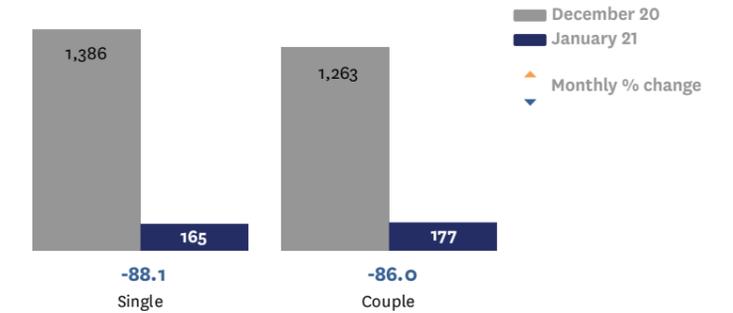


Figure 20. CIRP recipients, by Regional Council

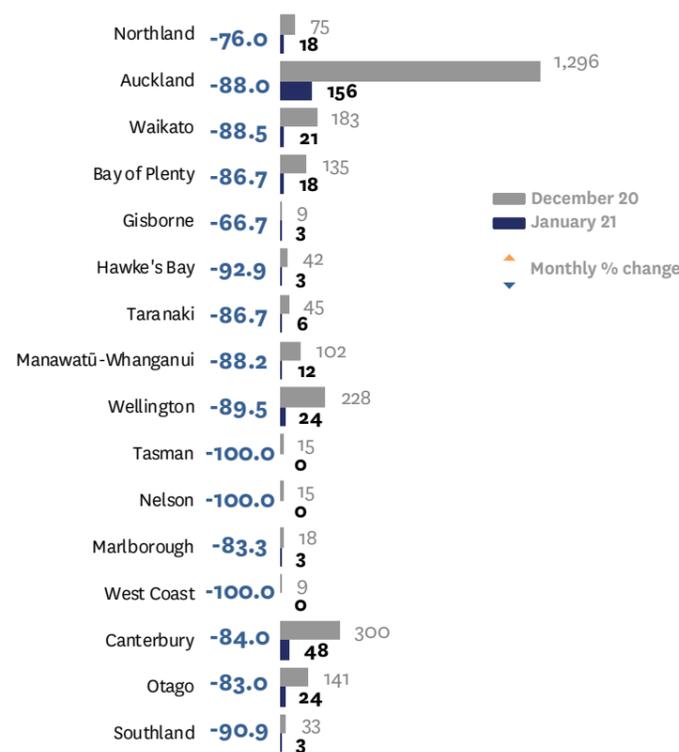


Figure 21. CIRP recipients, by age groups

