



17 JUL 2020

Dear

On 25 June 2020, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) refining your request, under the Official Information Act 1982, to be for the following information:

Jobseeker statistics, broken down by income band and quarter from January 2018 – June 2020.

Please find enclosed Appendix One, with Table One, showing: The number of working age Jobseeker Support clients by age group and weekly income band, for the quarters ending March 2018 to June 2020.

Please note that 'income' includes: earnings from employment, interest, dividends, other income, ACC payments, overseas pension direct deductions, parents' or estate income, partner's income.

To receive Jobseeker Support (JS), a client must not be in on-going full-time employment and he or she must be available for and seeking full-time employment. In addition, a client must have no income or an income of less than the amount that would fully reduce his or her benefit. For example, single clients and couples who receive over \$90 gross (the abatement threshold as at 1 April 2020) a week have their benefit reduced by 70 cents for every \$1.00 of income after \$90.00.

Further information about the current Jobseeker Support income cut-out points (i.e. the income level at which JS is fully reduced) can be found here: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/deskfile/main-benefits-cut-out-points/jobseeker-support-cut-out-points-current.html.

It is also worth noting that for JS, income is charged weekly against the benefit for the same week that that income is earned. Therefore, clients with hours that vary from week to week, may have earnings or income that will temporarily reduce their Jobseeker Support payable to a 'nil' rate of payment. This will result in their JS being suspended or cancelled for that period. Generally, if a client has obtained full-time employment that is likely to last for less than eight weeks, the Jobseeker Support would be suspended for that period rather than cancelled.



Please be advised also that as of 1 April, main benefit rates, including JS, increased by \$25.00 dollars a week. Also on that date, the abatement rate for JS increased from \$80.00 a week to \$90.00 a week.

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 of Social Development'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 about the income bands for Jobseeker Support recipients, 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.

Yours sincerely

Bridget Saunders
Manager, Issue Resolution, Service Delivery

Appendix One

Table One: The number of working age Jobseeker Support clients by age group and weekly income band, as at quarter end for the quarters March 2018 – June 2020.

As at end of	Age group	Income band							Total
		No income	Between \$0 - \$80	Between \$80 - \$100	Between \$100 - \$180	Between \$180 - \$200	Between \$200 - \$300	\$300 or more	
Mar-18	18-19	5,939	128	38	119	27	79	12	6,342
	20-24	15,197	324	95	328	69	243	110	16,366
	25-29	12,526	286	76	278	52	235	161	13,614
	30-34	9,786	232	80	185	50	162	147	10,642
	35-39	8,916	266	85	212	59	159	192	9,889
	40-44	9,016	307	100	238	58	260	239	10,218
	45-49	10,799	467	123	398	81	342	350	12,560
	50-54	11,144	534	163	400	113	405	357	13,116
	55-59	11,170	745	169	447	94	408	299	13,332
60-64	10,105	972	220	489	122	459	309	12,676	
Total		104,598	4,261	1,149	3,094	725	2,752	2,176	118,755
Jun-18	18-19	5,869	118	40	141	31	79	14	6,292
	20-24	15,764	295	111	333	86	280	108	16,977
	25-29	13,134	278	87	248	59	237	170	14,213
	30-34	10,275	257	68	188	38	180	140	11,146
	35-39	9,377	280	80	228	43	175	196	10,379
	40-44	9,369	305	108	239	57	240	253	10,571
	45-49	11,069	455	134	395	87	346	311	12,797
	50-54	11,501	570	163	416	114	413	363	13,540

As at end of	Age group	Income band							Total
		No income	Between \$0 - \$80	Between \$80 - \$100	Between \$100 - \$180	Between \$180 - \$200	Between \$200 - \$300	\$300 or more	
	55-59	11,439	771	188	452	98	408	301	13,657
	60-64	10,354	978	211	525	105	478	290	12,941
Total		108,151	4,307	1,190	3,165	718	2,836	2,146	122,513
Sep-18	18-19	6,190	102	32	140	34	90	8	6,596
	20-24	17,132	344	147	345	77	301	120	18,466
	25-29	14,382	272	98	288	63	251	184	15,538
	30-34	11,160	268	66	189	57	180	161	12,081
	35-39	9,943	285	94	241	49	191	223	11,026
	40-44	9,983	324	106	276	55	271	280	11,295
	45-49	11,458	464	142	403	85	387	359	13,298
	50-54	11,940	535	176	443	107	393	389	13,983
	55-59	11,883	793	182	423	106	429	340	14,156
	60-64	10,657	911	187	551	112	485	301	13,204
Total		114,728	4,298	1,230	3,299	745	2,978	2,365	129,643
Dec-18	18-19	6,485	127	58	106	25	74	12	6,887
	20-24	18,169	370	133	372	78	267	130	19,519
	25-29	15,396	310	88	236	44	204	198	16,476
	30-34	11,911	264	73	177	33	160	145	12,763
	35-39	10,515	296	79	208	51	177	188	11,514
	40-44	10,329	327	92	238	52	259	252	11,549
	45-49	11,814	462	154	346	90	311	320	13,497
	50-54	12,260	580	156	407	103	378	319	14,203
	55-59	12,229	754	164	450	98	370	284	14,349

As at end of	Age group	Income band							Total
		No income	Between \$0 - \$80	Between \$80 - \$100	Between \$100 - \$180	Between \$180 - \$200	Between \$200 - \$300	\$300 or more	
	60-64	10,902	959	182	508	100	403	237	13,291
Total		120,010	4,449	1,179	3,048	674	2,603	2,085	134,048
Mar-19	18-19	6,740	89	46	126	29	89	12	7,131
	20-24	17,331	343	106	363	90	319	139	18,691
	25-29	14,892	265	106	270	53	256	228	16,070
	30-34	11,662	242	63	213	41	177	179	12,577
	35-39	10,189	278	81	202	41	192	232	11,215
	40-44	10,032	294	102	230	54	269	293	11,274
	45-49	11,528	431	146	341	80	351	361	13,238
	50-54	12,083	527	162	387	97	406	367	14,029
	55-59	12,013	745	182	459	95	392	306	14,192
	60-64	10,823	974	164	515	109	443	275	13,303
Total		117,293	4,188	1,158	3,106	689	2,894	2,392	131,720
Jun-19	18-19	7,064	107	35	145	26	105	25	7,507
	20-24	18,341	294	91	366	76	310	143	19,621
	25-29	15,548	256	73	274	52	260	203	16,666
	30-34	12,210	235	60	198	46	191	222	13,162
	35-39	10,543	258	80	183	49	209	216	11,538
	40-44	10,348	306	100	281	52	283	315	11,685
	45-49	11,904	423	131	341	99	336	385	13,619
	50-54	12,355	527	154	413	82	410	390	14,331
	55-59	12,400	700	175	474	107	384	362	14,602
	60-64	11,059	926	163	507	108	428	311	13,502

As at end of	Age group	Income band							Total
		No income	Between \$0 - \$80	Between \$80 - \$100	Between \$100 - \$180	Between \$180 - \$200	Between \$200 - \$300	\$300 or more	
Total		121,772	4,032	1,062	3,182	697	2,916	2,572	136,233
Sep-19	18-19	7,315	97	43	155	23	89	15	7,737
	20-24	19,514	285	112	377	76	284	140	20,788
	25-29	16,659	258	74	289	53	240	215	17,788
	30-34	13,130	216	68	203	37	174	236	14,064
	35-39	11,328	227	75	217	47	200	225	12,319
	40-44	10,891	303	108	271	58	264	296	12,191
	45-49	12,459	437	107	348	78	340	377	14,146
	50-54	13,012	526	161	414	93	410	402	15,018
	55-59	12,790	673	180	468	108	416	371	15,006
	60-64	11,412	912	179	516	101	431	323	13,874
Total		128,510	3,934	1,107	3,258	674	2,848	2,600	142,931
Dec-19	18-19	7,745	86	36	145	32	91	20	8,155
	20-24	20,515	296	110	361	72	283	128	21,765
	25-29	17,553	251	79	272	54	210	204	18,623
	30-34	13,939	223	76	203	44	155	186	14,826
	35-39	11,850	234	88	212	46	183	183	12,796
	40-44	11,353	281	105	235	51	240	274	12,539
	45-49	12,697	427	124	323	76	315	316	14,278
	50-54	13,374	511	146	390	83	389	325	15,218
	55-59	13,170	673	183	439	78	376	316	15,235
	60-64	11,658	910	178	514	86	403	280	14,029
Total		133,854	3,892	1,125	3,094	622	2,645	2,232	147,464

As at end of	Age group	Income band							Total
		No income	Between \$0 - \$80	Between \$80 - \$100	Between \$100 - \$180	Between \$180 - \$200	Between \$200 - \$300	\$300 or more	
Mar-20	18-19	8,603	98	32	145	20	87	17	9,002
	20-24	21,187	287	84	336	56	251	86	22,287
	25-29	18,218	238	90	237	64	196	178	19,221
	30-34	14,565	226	74	156	38	148	165	15,372
	35-39	12,254	244	82	176	45	136	188	13,125
	40-44	11,676	289	94	232	49	214	255	12,809
	45-49	13,102	421	106	305	62	277	260	14,533
	50-54	13,778	471	133	372	83	343	335	15,515
	55-59	13,457	682	162	423	79	362	288	15,453
60-64	12,128	909	170	466	100	377	278	14,428	
Total		138,968	3,865	1,027	2,848	596	2,391	2,050	151,745
Jun-20	18-19	12,015	138	54	205	41	145	76	12,674
	20-24	30,290	419	135	489	130	401	393	32,257
	25-29	24,335	361	110	276	70	284	460	25,896
	30-34	18,307	278	90	186	59	184	437	19,541
	35-39	14,920	262	79	220	59	190	398	16,128
	40-44	13,686	307	102	237	61	256	504	15,153
	45-49	15,079	414	98	301	83	336	560	16,871
	50-54	15,735	544	151	396	99	382	583	17,890
	55-59	15,309	729	173	419	114	417	559	17,720
60-64	13,675	964	189	486	118	412	482	16,326	
Total		173,351	4,416	1,181	3,215	834	3,007	4,452	190,456

Notes:

- Working age includes those aged 18-64.
- Income includes: earnings from employment, interest, dividends, other income, ACC payments, overseas pensions direct deductions, parent's or estate's income, partner's income.
- Income band refers to the client's weekly income as at the last week of the quarter.
- Clients who have had their benefit suspended as at the last week of the quarter are not included.