



25 August 2022

Tēnā koe

On 16 August 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *How many are on the jobseekers benefit and are both under the age of 25 and have been on the benefit for at least one year?*

Jobseeker Support is a temporary benefit paid for up to 52 weeks while clients look for work, are in training for work or unable to work due to a health condition, injury or disability. If a client still requires Jobseeker Support after 52 weeks, they must complete the 52-week reapplication process. You can find more information regarding Jobseeker Support and qualifications at the following link: www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/income-support/main-benefits/jobseeker-support/introduction.html.

Often those who are on Jobseeker for longer periods have more complex and significant barriers to employment. We provide tailored support for those who have more significant barriers to employment, with assistance that includes help with training and upskilling.

Even though there was government support like the wage subsidy during COVID-19 pandemic, there was still a large number of people who lost their jobs, in particular women and young people.

In 2018 there was a downturn in the manufacturing and construction industry. The increase in Jobseeker Support numbers during this time period is likely due to broader economic and labour market conditions. Generally speaking, there are a number of reasons someone may not be able to return to work quickly.

Economic recovery moves at different speeds across different industries, and people may need retraining in some instances. There are also a number of individual circumstances that make entering work difficult.

Please see enclosed the following tables in the **Appendix**:

- **Table One:** The number of 18 to 24 year-olds receiving Jobseeker Support Health Condition and Disability for over one year, as at end of June 2014 to end of June 2022, and
- **Table Two:** The number of 18 to 24 year-olds receiving Jobseeker Support Work Ready, for over one year, as at end of June 2014 to end of June 2022.

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 regarding Jobseeker Support, 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, Issues Resolution
Service Delivery**



Appendix

Table One: The number of 18 to 24 year-olds receiving Jobseeker Support Health Condition and Disability for over one year, as at end of June 2014 to end of June 2022.

Age Group	As at end of								
	June 2014	June 2015	June 2016	June 2017	June 2018	June 2019	June 2020	June 2021	June 2022
18-24	3,042	2,772	2,709	2,892	3,000	3,351	4,200	5,943	4,992

Table Two: The number of 18 to 24 year-olds receiving Jobseeker Support Work Ready, for over one year, as at end of June 2014 to end of June 2022.

Age Group	As at end of								
	June 2014	June 2015	June 2016	June 2017	June 2018	June 2019	June 2020	June 2021	June 2022
18-24	3,810	3,900	4,401	4,464	4,302	5,157	7,899	11,181	8,394

Notes for Tables One and Two:

- The table includes working age only.
- Continuous duration is how long the current recipients of a benefit (or benefit group) have been continuously receiving a benefit in the wider benefit system, including time on all benefits except Unsupported Child's Benefit, Orphan's Benefit, New Zealand Superannuation, Veteran's Pension and non-beneficiary assistance.
- JS Work Ready related includes Jobseeker Support Work Ready and Jobseeker Support Work Ready Hardship.
- JS HC&D related includes Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability and Jobseeker Support Health Condition, Injury or Disability Hardship.
- 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.

- A value of one or two may be rounded to zero or three.
- The impact of applying random rounding is that columns and rows may not add exactly to the given column or row totals.
- The published counts will never differ by more than two counts.

Notes regarding the Welfare Reform:

- Introduction to new benefit categories with Welfare Reform changes (15 July 2013) resulted in a benefit migration.
- This reflects on numbers on grants, cancellations and Transfers.
- Grants made on the 13 July 2013 where the previous reason code (reason last benefit cancelled) is migration have been omitted from the report.