

TARGET

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Fewer people on the Jobseeker Support benefit

50,000 fewer people on the Jobseeker Support benefit.

LEAD MINISTER

Hon Louise Upston, Minister for Social Development and Employment

LEAD AGENCY

Ministry of Social Development, Secretary for Social Development, Debbie Power

TARGET DELIVERY PERFORMANCE - QUARTER ENDING SEPTEMBER 2025

Target	Baseline (December 2023)	Current (September 2025)	Status
50k reduction (140k people)	190,000	217,800	At Risk

PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGET

Total number of people on the Jobseeker Support benefit



(*) updated to take account of Budget Economic and Fiscal Update (BEFU) 2025 forecasts

TARGET DELIVERY ACTIONS

The Government is focused on increasing living standards and opportunities for all New Zealanders and pursuing its approach to economic growth through Going for Growth.

The Government is committed to ensuring the welfare system is supporting people who can work into employment. Paid employment offers the best opportunity for people to achieve social and economic wellbeing.

There was an increase of 1,800 people receiving Jobseeker Support since the last quarterly report. However, the number of people exiting has increased by 6,300 compared to the same period in 2024.

Flows of people onto Jobseeker Support are expected to decrease as economic conditions improve and as welfare system interventions are embedded over 2025 and 2026, which will reduce pressure on the welfare system.

The Government continues to advance a comprehensive package of reforms. Key actions include:

- **Resetting expectations and obligations of Jobseekers** including expansion of the Traffic Light System with the launch of two more non-financial sanctions focused on job searches and upskilling, in addition to the Money Management and Community Work Experience non-financial sanctions launched earlier this year.
- **Moving people into work.** The number of people who exited Jobseeker Support into employment has increased by 2,400 this quarter, compared to the same period in 2024, supported by case management services provided by the Ministry of Social Development.
- **Supporting young people off benefit and into employment.** A new Parental Assistance Test for Jobseeker Support eligibility for 18-19 year olds and a new bonus payment for sustained employment, reducing benefit dependency and encouraging long-term work was announced October 2025.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For the Ministry of Social Development's Income Support Reporting go to www.msd.govt.nz

For information on the Government Targets go to www.dpmc.govt.nz