

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

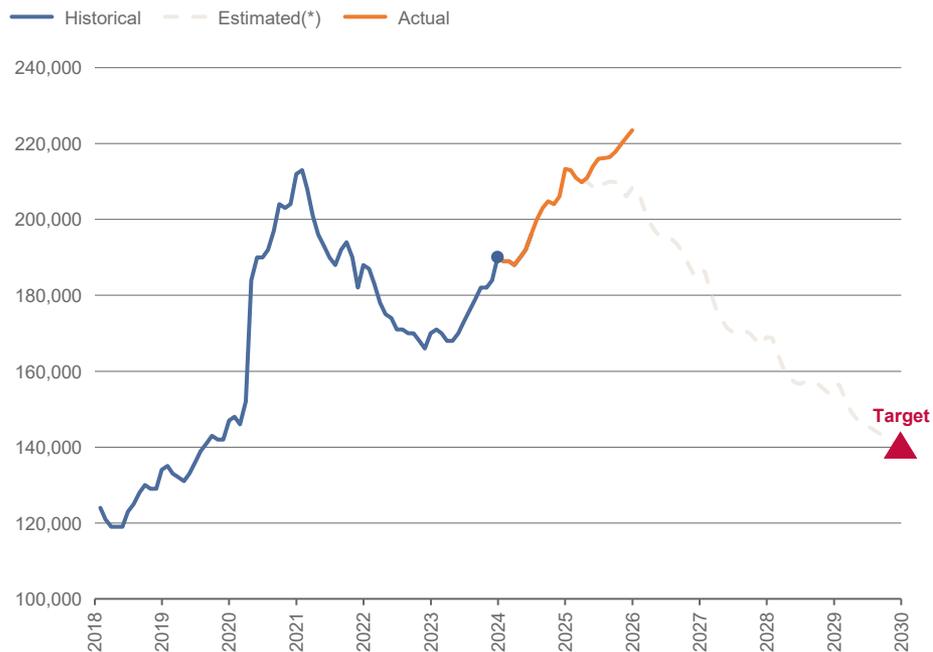
Ministry of Social Development, Secretary for Social Development, Debbie Power

TARGET DELIVERY PERFORMANCE - QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 2025

Target	Baseline (December 2023)	Current (December 2025)	Status
50k reduction (140k people)	190,000	223,500	 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 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 5,700 people receiving Jobseeker Support since the last quarterly report. Towards the end of the year the number of people on Jobseeker Support tends to increase as hiring slows in some industries and some students go onto the benefit when they finish their studies. However, the number of people exiting increased by 4,600 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 in 2026, which will reduce pressure on the welfare system.

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

- **Moving people into work.** The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) is working closely with employers to connect Jobseeker Support clients to opportunities, including focusing on large scale projects and filling jobs for sectors where Accredited Employer Work Visas (AEWW) are coming to an end.
- **Welfare that works – Community Job Coaches.** Contracts with community providers across seven regions – Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, East Coast, Wellington, Canterbury and Southland commenced from October 2025 to support 4,000 Jobseeker Support clients with help to prepare for and find work.
- **Case Management.** Starting from December 2025, 4,000 Jobseeker Support Health Condition or Disability (JS-HCD) clients are being placed into employment case management, with the aim of graduated return to work. MSD continues to deliver its dedicated employment case management service for 70,000 clients in service at any point in time.

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