

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

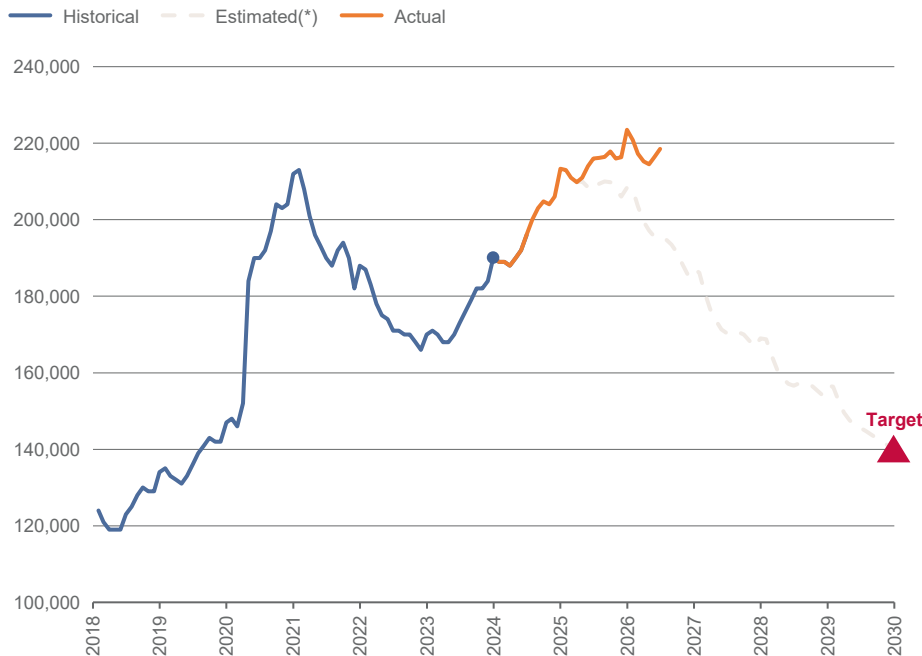
Ministry of Social Development, Secretary for Social Development, Debbie Power

TARGET DELIVERY PERFORMANCE - QUARTER ENDING JUNE 2026

Target	Baseline (December 2023)	Current (June 2026)	Status
50k reduction (140k people)	190,000	218,500	 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 3,300 people receiving Jobseeker Support since the last quarterly report. The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) has been focused on increasing Jobseekers exits into employment - despite the economic challenges, the number of people exiting Jobseeker Support into employment has increased by around 1,400 compared to the same quarter last year (18,800 vs 17,400).

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

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

- **Welfare system changes.** The Traffic Light System, introduced in August 2024 to reduce welfare dependency, continues to help Jobseekers stay on track with their job search responsibilities and seize every opportunity available, with approximately 98% of Jobseekers fulfilling their obligations. This is supported by the introduction of Jobseeker Support clients having to reapply every 26-weeks, and four non-financial sanctions.
- **Supporting people into work.** Welfare that Works - Community Job Coaching (CJC) phase two commenced for two years from 20 October 2025 with contracted community providers in Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, East Coast, Wellington, Canterbury, and Southern regions. Year two sees the introduction of an additional three new regions (Taranaki, Central and Nelson) delivering the programme to support up to 10,000 18–24-year-old Jobseekers.
- **Supporting Jobseekers to access jobs and be ready for work.** MSD has launched a new digital platform [new.my.msd.govt.nz](https://www.my.msd.govt.nz) to help people looking for work find and apply for roles online, and match to suitable jobs. As at 10 August, MSD has more than 7,700 positions available through 2,600 active vacancies on the new digital platform, with more than 94,000 work obligated clients on benefit having updated their profiles who can view jobs that have matched to their profile.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

For the Ministry of Social Development's Income Support Reporting go to www.msd.govt.nz
[Find jobs](#)

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