

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 2024

Target	Baseline (December 2023)	Current (December 2024)	Status
50k reduction (140k people)	190,000	213,300	 At Risk

PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGET

Total number of people on the Jobseeker Support benefit



TARGET DELIVERY ACTIONS

The Government is committed to increasing living standards and opportunities for all New Zealanders. Going For Growth, which sets out the approach the Government is taking to economic growth, was released in February 2025.

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.

Prolonged economic conditions have continued to increase flows of people onto Jobseeker Support, with an increase of 8,500 since the last quarterly report. This is expected to decrease as economic conditions improve, which will reduce pressure on the welfare system, and as welfare system interventions are embedded in 2025.

The Government is advancing a comprehensive package of reforms. Key actions include:

- **Resetting expectations and obligations of Jobseekers** including the new Traffic Light System to inform people what is required of them to continue receiving a benefit. This has resulted in 13,000 sanctions this quarter, this is 7,600 higher than the same period in 2023.
- **Moving people into work** – the number of people who exited Jobseeker Support into employment has increased by ~3,500 (or 26%) compared to the same quarter last year. Community coaches and support for 2,100 young people are underway.
- **Increased client engagement and activation** with 183,000 more client appointments than in the same quarter in 2023. The introduction of phone-based case management has increased overall case management capacity to 70,000 clients by end of December 2024.
- **Employment investment strategy (2025-2028) will be completed in the first half of 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