

Monthly Benefits Update – September 2020

① Unless otherwise noted, monthly numbers presented in this document are as at the end of the month and clients reported on are working age (i.e. aged 18–64).



8,130 increase
in the number of **main benefit** recipients, when comparing September (369,300) with August 2020 (361,170).
69,828 was the yearly increase (299,472).

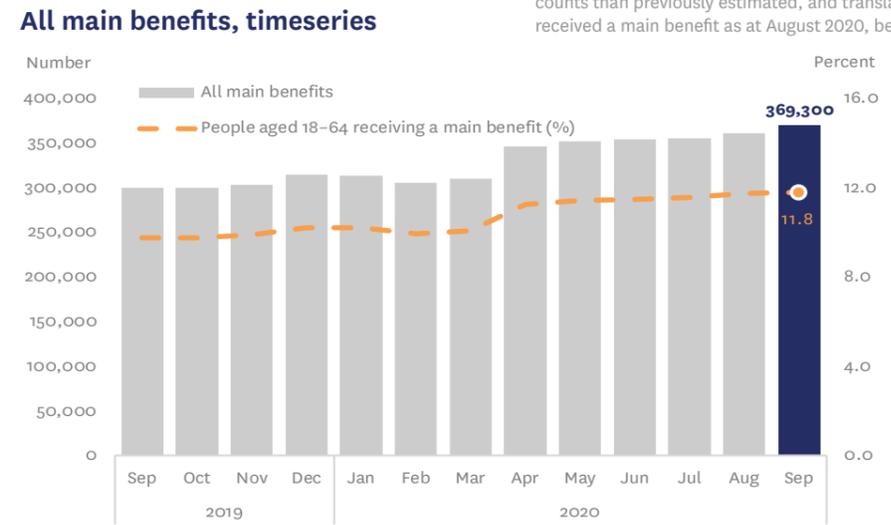
6,889 increase
in the number of **Jobseeker Support** recipients, when comparing September (204,116) with August 2020 (197,227).
61,185 was the yearly increase (142,931).

11.8 percent*
of the estimated New Zealand working-age population received a main benefit as at September 2020.
6.5 percent received Jobseeker Support.

824 increase
in the number of **benefit cancellations due to obtaining work**, when comparing September (7,817) with August 2020 (6,933).
2,008 was the yearly change (5,809).

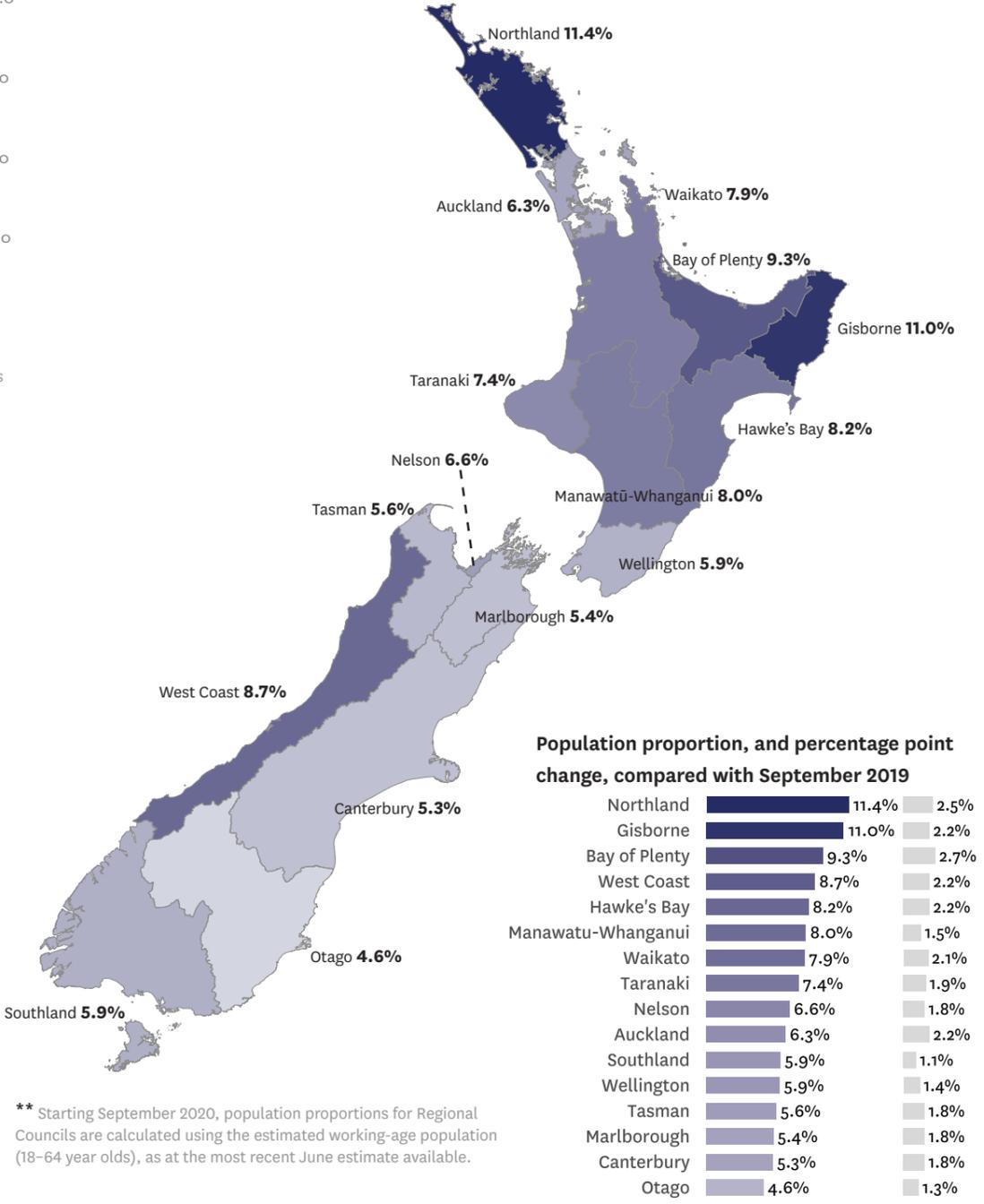
Main benefit categories and sub-categories

	September 20	Annual trend
All main benefits	369,300	
Jobseeker Support (JS)	204,116	
Work Ready (JS – WR)	132,836	
Health Condition and Disability (JS – HCD)	71,280	
Sole Parent Support (SPS)	65,854	
Supported Living Payment (SLP)	94,146	
Health Condition and Disability (SLP – HCD)	85,075	
Carers (SLP – Carers)	9,071	
Youth Payment/Young Parent Payment	1,610	
Youth Payment (YP)	272	
Young Parent Payment (YPP)	1,338	
Other main benefits	3,574	



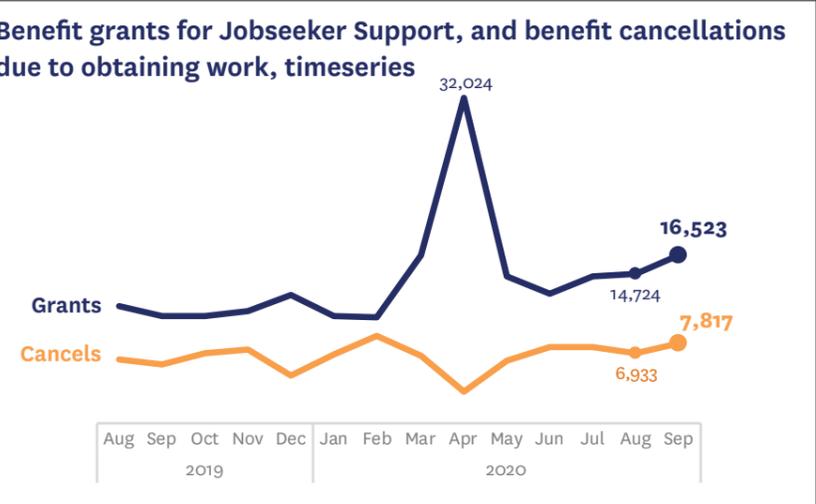
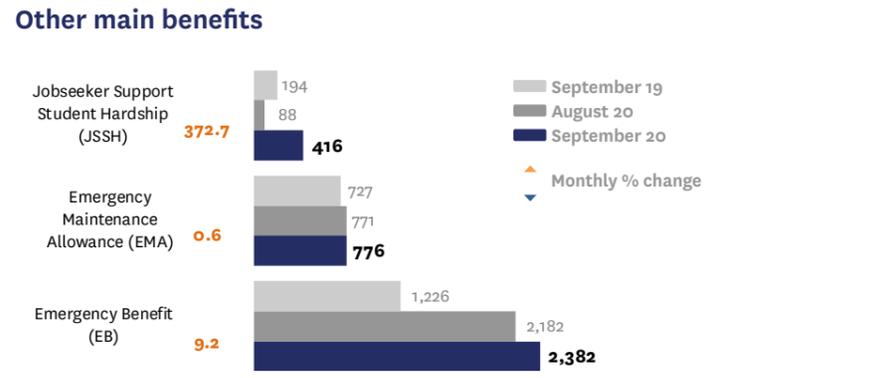
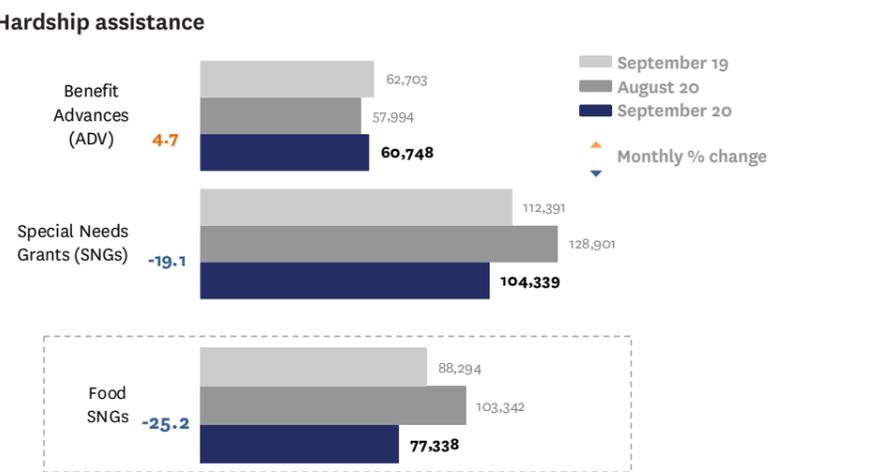
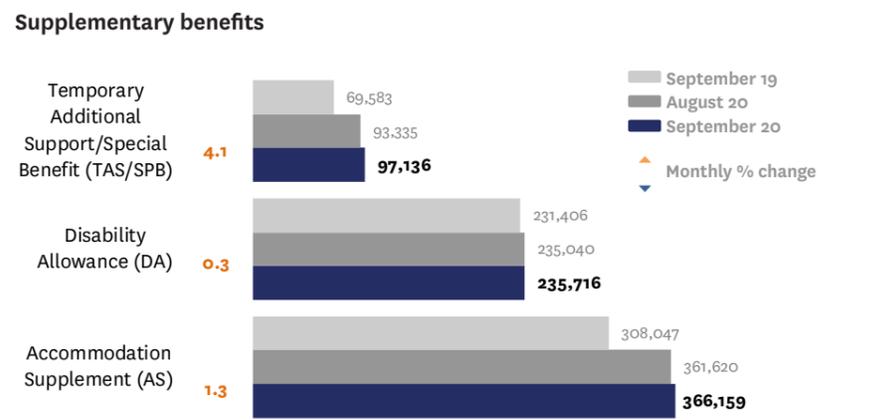
* In September, Statistics New Zealand released their [national estimated resident population as at June 2020, rebased to the 2018 Census](#). The rebase has resulted in higher population counts than previously estimated, and translated into a decrease in the population proportions MSD reports on. For example, 12.0 percent of the estimated working-age population received a main benefit as at August 2020, before the rebase. After the rebase, this figure has been revised to 11.7 percent.

Population proportion of 18–64 year olds** receiving Jobseeker Support, by Regional Council



Supplementary benefits and hardship assistance

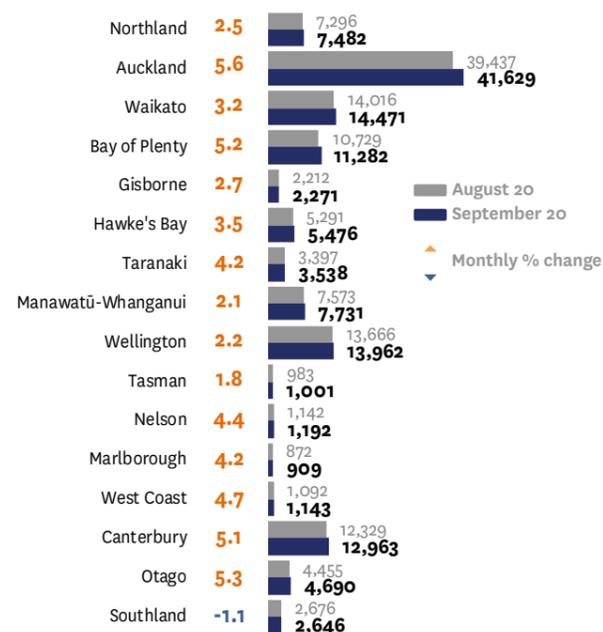
① Supplementary benefits and hardship assistance numbers include all clients, not only working-age clients. Benefit Advances and Special Needs Grants (SNGs) are the sum of grants in the month. The sum of Special Needs Grants also includes Food SNGs.



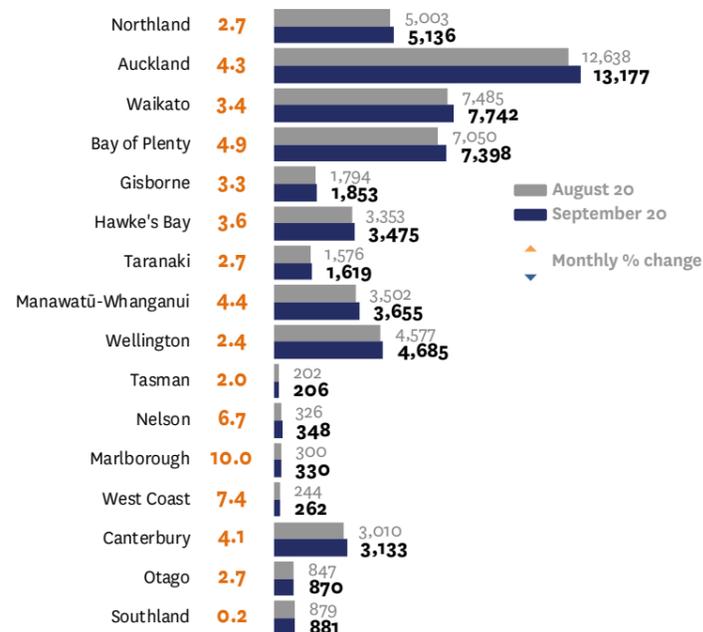
Month-on-month comparison, by selected data cuts

Jobseeker Support – Work Ready, by Regional Council and ethnicity

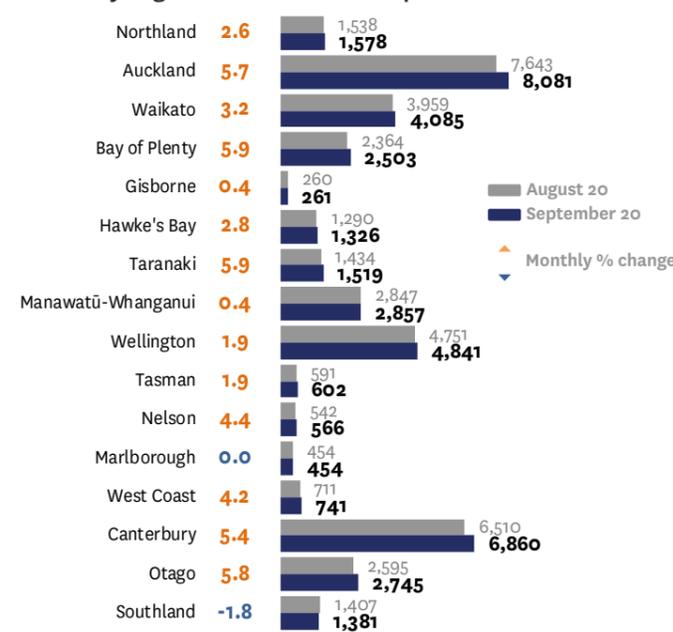
JS – WR by Regional Council (total)



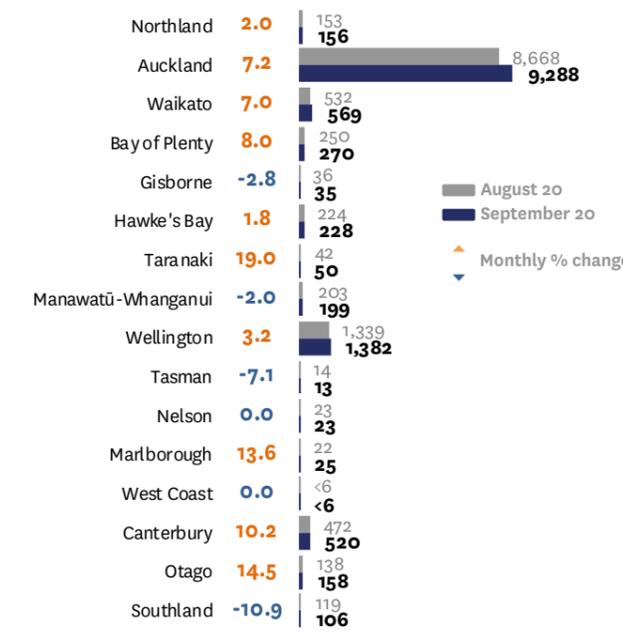
JS – WR by Regional Council - Māori



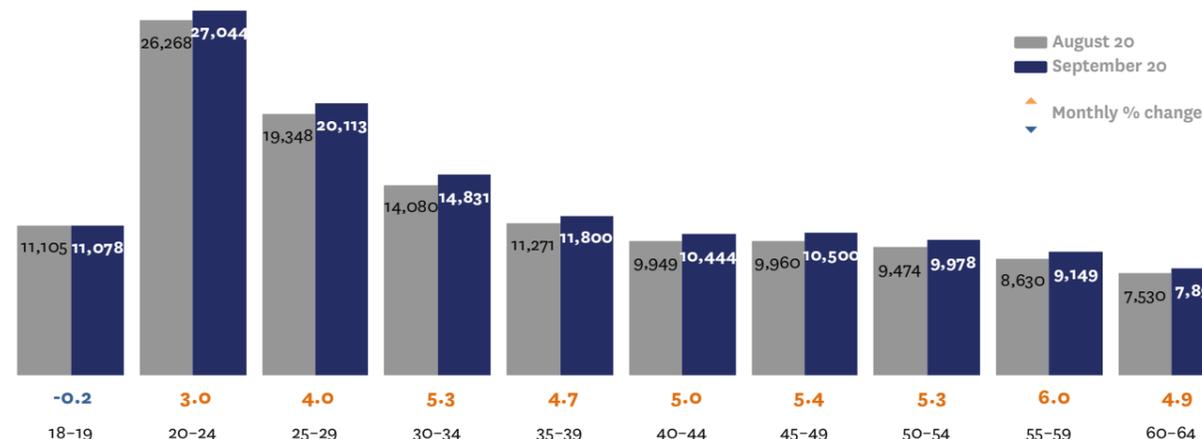
JS – WR by Regional Council - NZ European



JS – WR by Regional Council - Pacific peoples

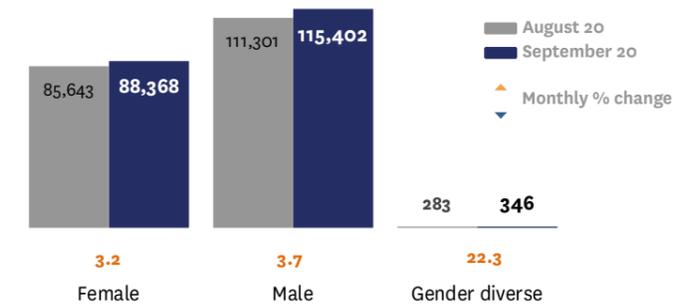


Jobseeker Support – Work Ready, by age groups



Jobseeker Support, by gender

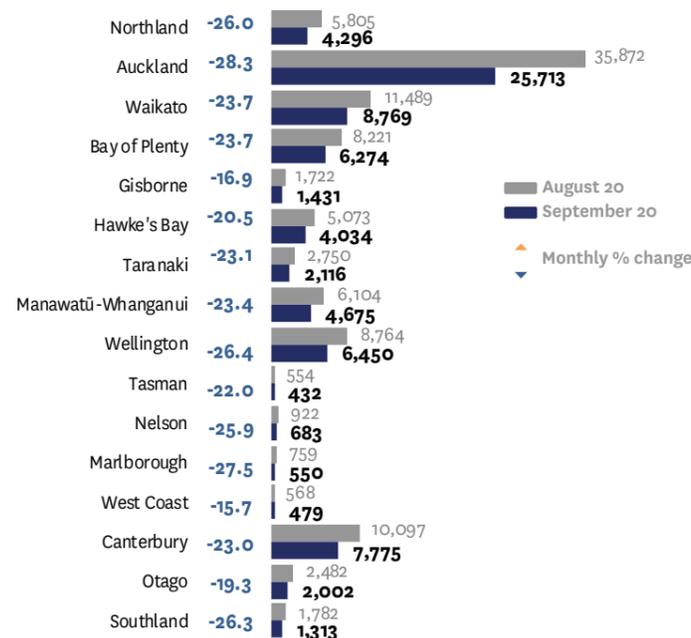
From 2 December 2019, a "Gender diverse" option was made available for our clients to choose from. We expect the numbers in this category to increase over time.



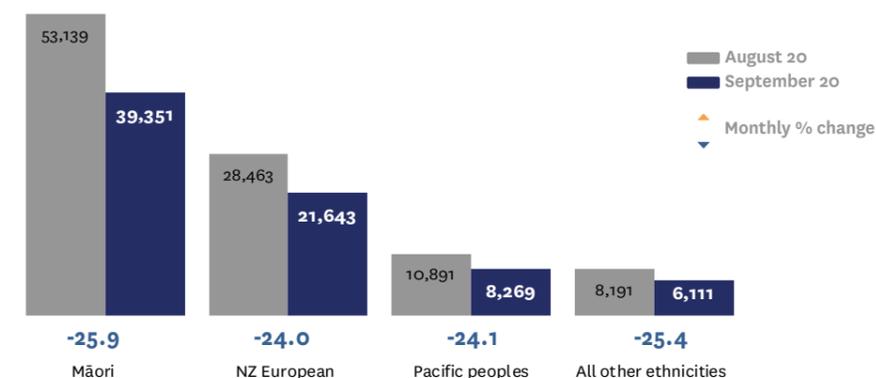
Jobseeker Support – Work Ready, by ethnicity

	August 20	September 20	% change
Māori	53,000	54,977	3.7
NZ European	39,010	40,514	3.9
Pacific peoples	12,285	13,077	6.4
All other ethnicities	16,827	17,781	5.7
Total JS - WR	127,615	132,836	4.1

Special Needs Grants granted for food, by Regional Council



Special Needs Grants granted for food, by ethnicity



COVID-19 Income Relief Payment (CIRP)

① From 8 June 2020, people who lost their job between 1 March 2020 and 30 October 2020 can apply for CIRP and receive payments for up to 12 weeks. Numbers reported are of those eligible, aged 16 and older.

Between 1 and 30 September 2020

4,633 grants

for CIRP granted during September 2020, compared with 7,169 during August 2020.

10,971 cancels

for CIRP during September 2020, compared with 9,336 during August 2020. **93.5 percent** of the total cancels were for CIRP recipients who were at the end of their entitlement, **3.6 percent** were due to obtaining work, and **0.5 percent** were due to transferring to another benefit.

95 transfers

from Jobseeker Support to CIRP occurred during September 2020, compared with 145 during August 2020.

Current recipients, as at September 2020

11,888 recipients *

supported by CIRP, compared with 24,811 as at the end of August 2020.

10,581 full-time

recipients of CIRP, compared with 22,221 as at the end of August 2020.

1,307 part-time

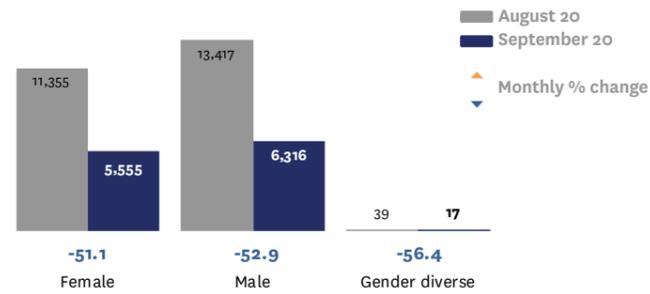
recipients of CIRP, compared with 2,590 as at the end of August 2020.

336 recipients

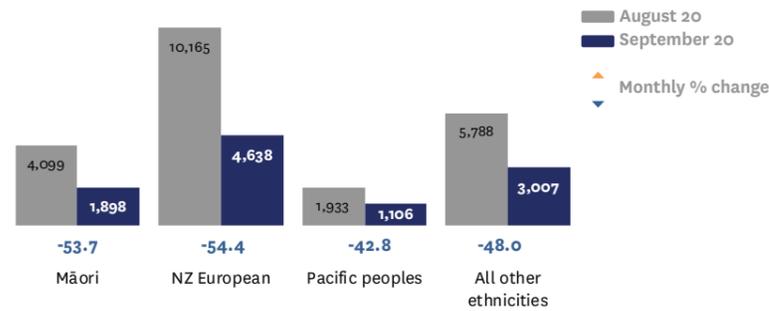
transferred from Jobseeker Support to CIRP, compared with 2,751 as at the end of August 2020.

* CIRP recipients are counts of the total number of people supported by CIRP at the reported point in time.

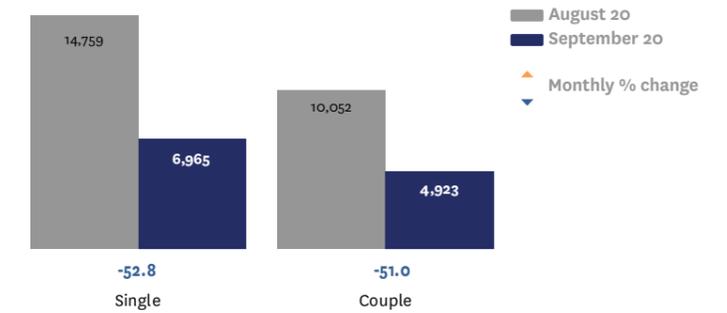
CIRP recipients, by gender



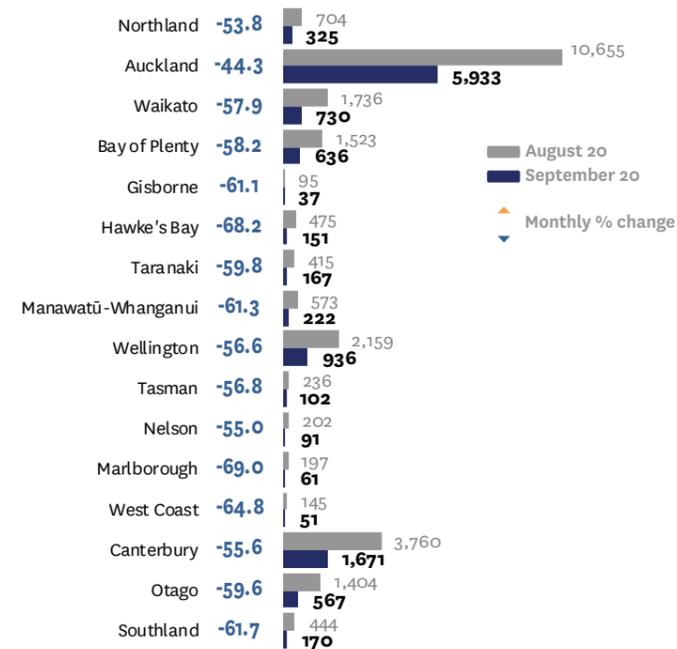
CIRP recipients, by ethnicity



CIRP recipients, by relationship status



CIRP recipients, by Regional Council



CIRP recipients, by age groups

