



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Trends in Jobseeker Support – Work Ready and the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment, during 2020

September 2021



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Disclaimer

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Published September 2021

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Web: www.msd.govt.nz

ISBN: 978-1-99-002358-3 (PDF)





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Purpose

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted all areas of life for people living in Aotearoa, posing a unique set of challenges for government services and the benefit system to address. Even though the initial health crisis was largely controlled, border closures, several lockdowns, and changes in Alert Levels¹ during 2020 and 2021 have had lasting effects on the country's economy, making more people subject to financial hardship. Ongoing monitoring will enable us to understand who have been and continue to be most affected by the crisis, helping inform government agencies' responses to the pandemic.

This brief completes the analysis of trends in Jobseeker Support – Work Ready, extending what has already been published in previous briefs of this series to cover the rest of 2020, focusing particularly on the period from the start of August to the end of the year.

Introduction

This evidence brief is the third in a series investigating trends in people coming onto (grants) and people leaving (cancels) Jobseeker Support – Work Ready (JS – WR) and the time-limited COVID-19 Income Relief Payment (CIRP), throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We have included CIRP in this brief because analysis of JS – WR on its own would give a less complete picture of who received an unemployment-related benefit in the second half of 2020.

The first brief² in the series stated that twice as many people were granted JS – WR during Alert Level 4 than over the same period in 2019 (from the last week of March to the end of April). Compared with those in 2019, the people receiving grants in Alert Level 4:

- were younger
- were more likely to be New Zealand European
- had little to no recent benefit history.

The second brief³ showed that, by the end of July 2020, numbers of grants for and cancels from JS – WR began to level off. However, grants remained higher than during the same time in 2019. People who were moving off benefit and into work between April and July 2020 had similar characteristics to those who drove the increase in JS – WR grants during Alert Level 4.

This third brief provides an update on the number of JS – WR and CIRP grants and cancels from the start of August to the end of 2020, by several demographic breakdowns. The brief also discusses some of the regions most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The period from August to December 2020 covers the time during which there were increases in people receiving JS – WR that were directly associated with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. After this, numbers peaked in January 2021 and have been trending down since.

¹ Alert System Overview: www.covid19.govt.nz/alert-system/alert-system-overview

² Jobseeker Support – Work Ready grants to end of April 2020: www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/2020/topic-briefs/topic-brief-jobseeker-support-work-ready-grants-to-end-april-2020.pdf

³ Jobseeker Support – Work Ready grants and cancellations during and after lockdown in NZ – effects to the seventh week of Alert Level 1: www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/covid-19/evidence-brief-changes-in-js-wr-grants-and-cancellations-update.pdf



Key points

People who came onto benefit during the first lockdown in March-April were more likely to exit during the second half of 2020 than those already on benefit. People that started receiving a benefit during 2020 and had no previous benefit history were able to find work more easily than those who had been on benefit for a while and were not as close to the labour market.

The turnover of both grants and cancels remained high, with more people entering or staying on benefit overall. Grants and cancels followed a more usual benefit pattern, although from a higher level, after an initial increase during the COVID resurgence in August-September. Numbers also trended similarly to the previous year, which indicated some level of labour market stability.

More people found work, even during the COVID-19 resurgence in August-September. Movement off benefit and into work increased above 2019 figures, largely following the previous year's trend from a higher level. This is likely because the Alert Levels in August-September were less restrictive than in April, and businesses that had already been affected by the initial lockdown may have been able to re-structure and create new jobs.

CIRP and JS – WR grants and cancels were reasonably distinct, reflecting the different eligibility criteria for each benefit. The trends observed for CIRP seemed to exacerbate the demographic disparities seen for JS – WR. The uptake of CIRP was much lower than the number of people expected to receive this benefit originally.

Younger people continued to be more likely to start receiving JS – WR or CIRP, but were also more likely to exit benefit faster, continuing the trend seen during the initial lockdown. Younger people (18–34 years) contributed to around 60 percent of the total increase in both grants and cancels, compared with the same time in 2019. This is in line with the usual trends seen throughout a recession.

Māori exited benefit at a slower rate than any other ethnicity, despite making up the majority of people receiving JS – WR. Māori and NZ Europeans received a similar number of grants after the initial lockdown ended, however Māori were less likely to exit the benefit system during this period.

Men continued to receive most of the grants and were more likely to exit into employment. Historically, more men than women have received JS – WR, and this trend continued during the COVID-19 pandemic. This could be partly explained by the fact that most women that enter the benefit system go on to receive a different type of benefit, and there may also be an element of undercounting, as partners are not included in the number people receiving a benefit.

Some regions were more adversely affected than others. COVID-19 border restrictions have strongly affected industries such as international education and tourism, and regions more reliant than others on these sectors have been disproportionately impacted. Alert levels were more restrictive in Auckland than in rest of the country, contributing to a slower recovery in the region, with potential flow-on effects in other regions with dependencies to our biggest city.



Scope

The current brief focuses on JS – WR and CIRP because:

- JS – WR is correlated with unemployment and may be used as a timely indicator of the labour market⁴. There are, however, limitations in using a single benefit as proxy, rather than overall benefit receipt⁵
- people coming onto JS – WR generally make up most of the changes in the number of people receiving a main benefit month-on-month
- CIRP was introduced on 8 June 2020, and some people who would have received JS – WR may have instead been granted CIRP.

The depth of the analysis provided in this brief is constrained by what is available through MSD's administrative data. We have provided information on age, ethnicity, and gender breakdowns, and will explore expanding the categories of analysis presented in future briefs.

We have also considered the regional effect of COVID-19 on the number of people receiving JS – WR or CIRP. We have focused on regional effects because:

- regions experienced different Alert Levels. Auckland moved to a more restrictive Alert Level 3 in August 2020, while the rest of the country moved to Alert Level 2
- key industries in some regions have been more affected by the Alert Level restrictions and poorer economic conditions caused by COVID-19.

The analysis included in this brief complements our weekly and monthly publications⁶, which are regularly published on MSD's website and provide an overview of income support and hardship assistance, describing any changes in the number of people receiving a benefit.

⁴ Benefit Numbers and the Labour Market: www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/2020/topic-briefs/benefit-numbers-as-a-timely-labour-market-indicator.pdf

⁵ Nowcasting the current rate of unemployment using administrative data: https://csda.aut.ac.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/497715/Predicting-the-current-rate-of-unemploymentFORWEB_050521.pdf

⁶ MSD's statistical reporting: weekly reporting www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/weekly-reporting/ & monthly reporting www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/monthly-reporting



Time periods referenced in this report

This brief refers to the COVID-19 pandemic periods⁷. To contextualise the effects of the pandemic on the benefit system, we have compared the number of grants and cancels in 2020 with the equivalent period in 2019. Table 1 below outlines the specific dates for each period.

Table 1. COVID-19 pandemic timeline.

Period	Alert Levels	Dates 2020 (weeks ending Friday)	Comparison dates 2019 (weeks ending Friday)
Lockdown	Alert Levels 3 and 4	27 March – 15 May 2020	29 March – 17 May 2019
Between outbreaks	Alert Levels 1 and 2	22 May – 7 August 2020	24 May – 9 August 2019
Resurgence	Alert Level 3 (Auckland) and Alert Level 2 (rest of the country)	14 August – 25 September 2020	16 August – 27 September 2019
Recovery ⁸	Alert Level 1	2 October – 1 January 2021	4 October – 27 December 2019
COVID-19 pandemic	All Alert Levels	27 March – 1 January 2021	29 March – 27 December 2019

⁷ History of the COVID-19 Alert System: www.covid19.govt.nz/alert-system/history-of-the-covid-19-alert-system/#timeline-of-key-events

⁸ The year 2020 was a leap year that started on a Wednesday, which means that it had 53 weeks, as opposed to the usual 52. As a result, there is one less comparative week for the recovery period.

Trends in JS – WR and CIRP

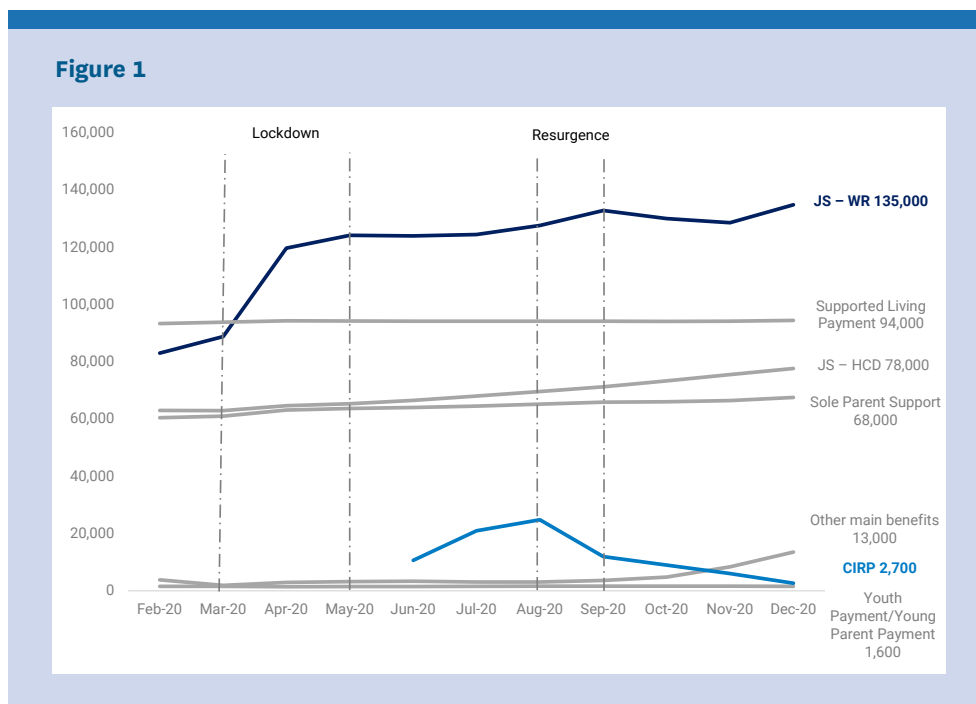
The number of people receiving JS – WR remained high throughout the second half of 2020, after the increases seen during the first lockdown in March-April. Many CIRP recipients reached the end of their entitlement in September, with fewer new recipients in the months following.

Approximately 390,000 working-age people⁹ were receiving a main benefit¹⁰ at the end of 2020 (Figure 1), which is around 12 percent of Aotearoa’s working-age population. This represents an increase of around 30 percent, or 84,000 more people, since pre-lockdown levels at the end of February.

CIRP¹¹ was introduced on 8 June 2020 as a temporary 12-week benefit to help those who lost their job or business due to COVID-19. Initially, it was expected that around 160,000 people would be receiving CIRP at its peak in August 2020, however only 25,000 people ended up doing so.

There were around 135,000 people receiving JS – WR and 2,700 people receiving CIRP at the end of December 2020. Overall, people on JS – WR accounted for around 60 percent of the increase in recipients of main benefits since March.

Figure 1: Recipients of JS – WR increased slightly during the resurgence, falling in October and November before picking up again in December. Meanwhile, recipients of CIRP decreased significantly during the resurgence and continued to fall, although at a slower pace, from then on.



⁹ Working-age people are defined as those aged 18–64.

¹⁰ Main benefits include: Jobseeker Support (JS), Sole Parent Support (SPS), Supported Living Payment (SLP), Emergency Benefit (EB), Emergency Maintenance Allowance (EMA), Jobseeker Support Student Hardship (JSSH), and Youth Payment/Young Parent Payment (YP/YPP).

¹¹ People receiving CIRP reported in this brief are all ages and include partners.



Previous briefs have already covered the dynamics behind the large growth in JS – WR during the first lockdown period (March-April), which saw the number of people receiving this benefit increase rapidly (by around 40 percent from February to April). Similarly, but at a much smaller scale, there was an increase in the number of recipients during the resurgence in August and September. The more limited impact on these numbers may be because the Alert Levels in August were less restrictive, the resurgence was mostly restricted to Auckland, and the Wage Subsidy may have helped some employers retain their employees.

It was December, however, that had the biggest month-on-month growth after the initial lockdown, with a 5 percent increase, slightly higher than during the resurgence (2 percent in September). Rather than being driven by Alert Level changes, this increase reflects a seasonal trend seen in previous years. However, the increase in 2020 was slightly higher than in 2019. The number of people on JS – WR usually begins to increase in November-December each year, as hiring can slow down towards the end of the year, and many seasonal workers reach the end of their contracts.

Other drivers of the growth in benefit numbers from September onwards were:

- more people receiving Jobseeker Support – Health Condition and Disability (provided to those unable to work due to a temporary health condition, injury or disability). Increases in the number of people receiving JS – HCD are related to the temporary deferral of medical certificate requirements since April 2020. Deferrals were introduced as part of MSD’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic
- more people receiving other main benefits, in particular Jobseeker Support Student Hardship, which provides income support for full-time students who need income support during vacation periods. Demand for this benefit increases at the end of each year.

To better understand the dynamics underlying the changes in the number of people receiving benefits, we have focused on the administrative entries into (grants) and exits out of (cancels) the benefit system for JS – WR and CIRP. These are counts of grants and cancels, not people, as individuals may have more than one grant or cancel during the reported period. However, we use them as a proxy to look at changes in the composition of those who start or stop receiving a benefit. To look at how these changes were distributed over time, we have analysed demographic cuts such as age, ethnicity, and gender, as well as analysis by region.

Since the end of the first lockdown, the number of grants and cancels stayed above 2019 levels

The growing number of new people coming onto benefit in 2020 was related to the enduring effects the COVID-19 pandemic had on Aotearoa’s economy and labour market. It also suggested that there was a greater level of economic restructuring occurring in 2020 compared with 2019.

On the other hand, higher numbers of people receiving a benefit can be associated with higher numbers of cancels into work, and this relationship has held since the initial lockdown. This translated into an increase in demand during the COVID resurgence, while also indicated some degree of stability in the labour market at a national level, as people were still able to find work. Overall, the elevated volume of grants and cancels during 2020 suggests that the level of activity in the economy remained reasonably stable.

As time went by since the initial lockdown, people were increasingly more able to re-engage with the labour market. This likely reflects:

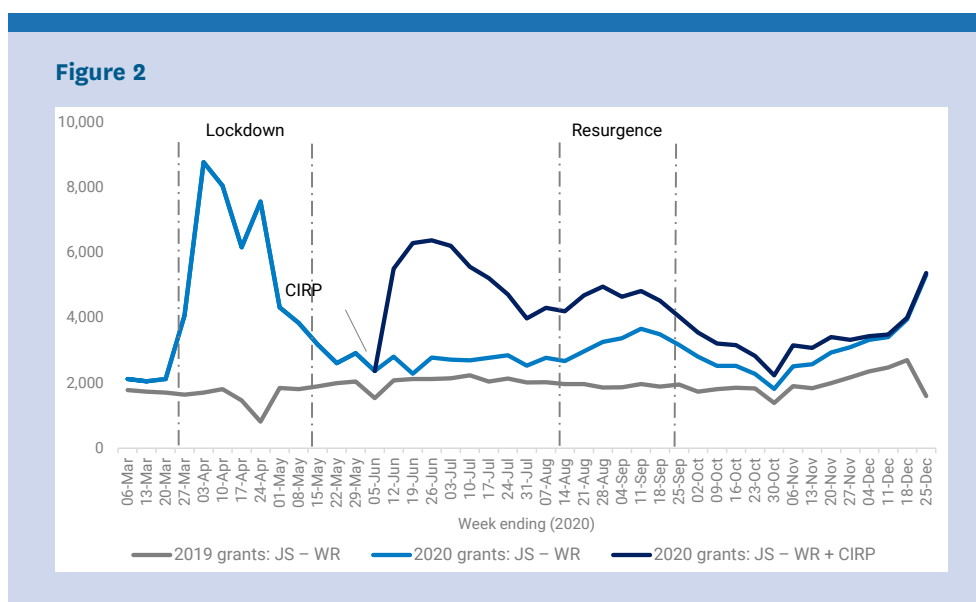
- the effectiveness of the Government’s response to the pandemic
- a stronger than expected economic recovery
- MSD’s strong focus on helping people moving back into employment.

Around 60 percent of grants for JS – WR from August to December were for people who had already received a benefit previously. This is different from the pattern observed during late April to early May as reported in previous briefs, when the majority of new grants were for people who had little to no previous benefit history. Overall, there was a 10 percent increase in the proportion of grants for people who had no previous benefit history during August to December, compared to the previous year.

Changes between August and December 2020 mostly followed a seasonal pattern

The average weekly numbers of JS – WR and CIRP grants, and cancels into work increased during August-September (Figure 2 and Figure 4), and were higher than during the same period the previous year (more than double and around 30 percent higher, respectively).

Figure 2: Grants for both JS – WR and CIRP increased week-on-week for most of the COVID resurgence, before declining to almost pre-COVID levels by the end of October, picking up again in the lead up to Christmas following the seasonal pattern seen in previous years.

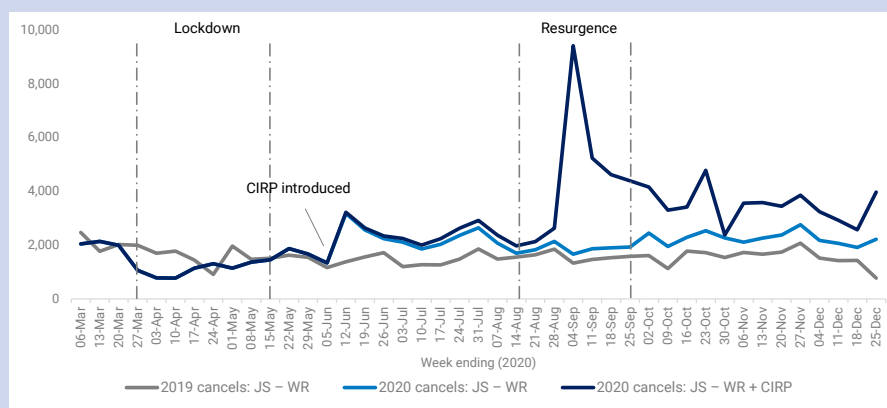


¹¹ The work exit rate reported in this brief has been calculated dividing the total number of cancels into work during the period by the total number of benefit recipients as at the end of the immediately preceding period (e.g. December work exit rate = exits into work during December divided by number of benefit recipients as at the end of November).

Many people receiving CIRP started reaching the end of their 12-week entitlement during September, which saw the number of total cancels grow significantly (Figure 3), as CIRP was a time-limited benefit that automatically cancelled after people had been receiving it for the full 12 weeks.

Figure 3: Cancels for JS – WR initially decreased to almost 2019 levels during the COVID resurgence in August, but picked up again during September and October; while cancels for CIRP spiked in early September, as many people reached the end of their 12-week entitlement, trending down thereafter.

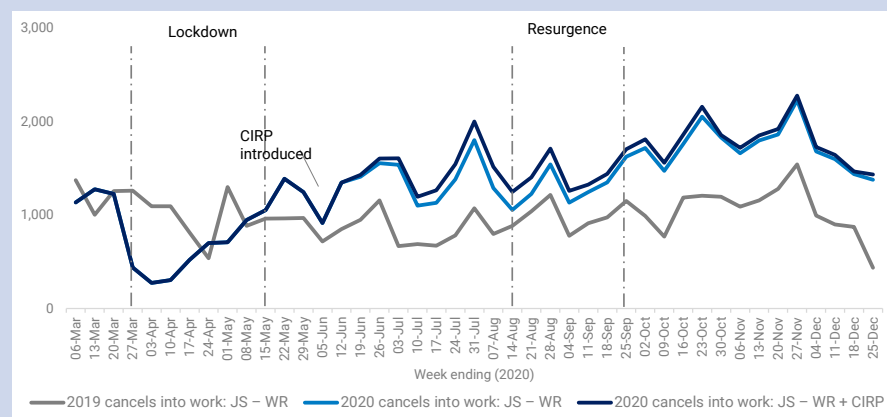
Figure 3



Demand for grants slowed down from mid-September to the end of October, with cancels into work trending up during this period, representing around 60 percent more cancels into work than during the same period in 2019 (Figure 4).

Figure 4: Cancels into work for JS – WR and CIRP continued to be higher than during 2019, even during the resurgence, and largely followed a seasonal pattern.

Figure 4



November and December saw an increase in grants again, following the seasonal pattern observed in previous years, although the level of demand was around 60 percent higher than during the same period in 2019. Cancels into work during this period also followed a seasonal pattern, although from a level 70 percent higher than in 2019.

The proportion of people obtaining work in relation to the number of people receiving JS – WR or CIRP (work exit rate¹³) can be used to contextualise increases in cancels into employment, while accounting for increases in people receiving a benefit.

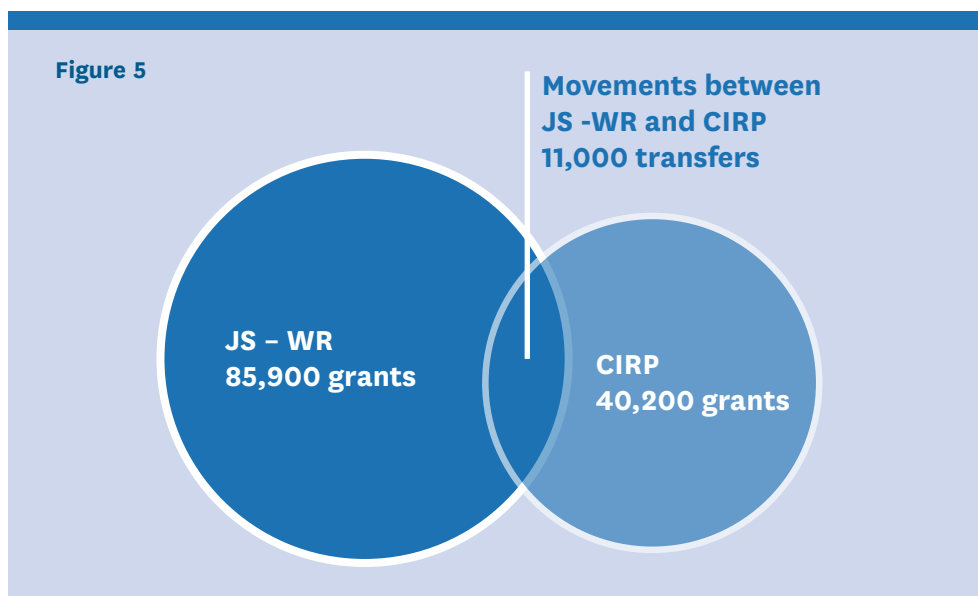
Despite having more people receiving a main benefit in December 2020 than at the same time the previous year (10 percent of the population¹⁴ in December 2019 vs 12 percent in December 2020), the work exit rate for JS – WR during December was similar to the same time the previous year (around 4 percent).

CIRP and JS – WR grants were reasonably distinct, reflecting the different eligibility criteria for each benefit.

In the period since CIRP was introduced (June 2020) to the end of that year, 126,100 JS – WR or CIRP grants were granted (Figure 5).

Around 10 percent of the total combined grants for both benefits were transfers, which represent people moving between JS – WR and CIRP during the period. These grants would have been for people who left JS – WR and went onto CIRP or vice-versa, as a person cannot be both on JS – WR and CIRP at the same time.

Figure 5: Of the total of JS – WR and CIRP grants since the week ending 12 June 2020 (when CIRP was introduced), around 70 percent were for JS – WR, with some transfers occurring between both benefits.



¹³The work exit rate reported in this brief has been calculated dividing the total number of cancels into work during the period by the total number of benefit recipients as at the end of said period.

¹⁴Population percentages are calculated using Statistics New Zealand's estimated resident population, as at the nearest available June estimate.



During June 2020, when CIRP was first introduced, 20 percent of grants for CIRP were due to transfers from JS – WR. This proportion decreased significantly in the months following.

From the end of August, some people receiving CIRP started to reach the end of their 12-week entitlement (if they had not exited CIRP already for other reasons such as finding work). This resulted in September having the highest amount of transfers between these two benefits, with around 4,000 CIRP recipients transferring to JS – WR. Overall, around 20 percent of those granted CIRP at any point since its introduction were subsequently transferred to JS – WR.

Some of those still receiving CIRP moved onto JS – WR, however some would not transfer, due to reasons such as:

- their income level (and their partner’s combined, if applicable) being higher than the threshold to qualify for JS
- preferring to draw from their own financial resources.

We originally estimated that 30 percent of people who were eligible for CIRP would not be eligible for JS – WR. After CIRP ended on 4 February 2021, our data shows this was 65 percent. This is due to the different eligibility criteria for each of these benefits.



Demographics

To complete the analysis started in previous briefs in this series, in this section we compare the total amount of grants and cancels since March to the end of 2020 (defined as COVID-19 pandemic) with the equivalent period in 2019. The trends observed across the whole the period reflect the large growth in benefit receipt experienced during March/April. However, when looking at specific time periods within the COVID-19 pandemic, some differences have been observed over time.

Younger people continued to be more likely to start receiving JS – WR or CIRP, but were also more likely to exit faster.

Historically, younger people aged 18–34 years have made up a greater proportion of those receiving JS – WR. This likely reflects younger people's position in the labour market, where they generally have lower skill levels, less savings to rely upon, less stable employment, or are unable to find employment after finishing their studies.

This was exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic, with younger people (aged 18–34) driving the increase in the number of grants compared with the same period in 2019 (Figure 6). Younger people had an increase of around 60,000 grants, which is around 60 percent of the total increase of 102,000 grants across all working-age people.

Proportionally however, it was those in the oldest age group (55–64) who saw the biggest increase, driven mainly by receiving a higher share of CIRP grants than is usual for this age group when comparing it to JS – WR. This is different to the findings of previous briefs in these series, which stated that new grants for age groups other than those in their 20's were roughly similar to 2019, even slightly lower for those in the older age groups.

Younger people had greater growth in the number of cancels during the COVID-19 pandemic, compared with the same period in 2019 (Figure 7). They also made up most of the cancels into work and saw the biggest increase compared with 2019, while the rest of age groups experienced a smaller increase (Figure 8).

Cancels grew by around 90 percent for people aged 25–34 and by 60 percent for people aged 18–24 (Figure 9). However, those aged 55–64 had the highest growth in cancels. Most cancels for the younger age groups were off JS – WR, while those aged 55–64 had almost a 50/50 split between cancels off CIRP and JS – WR.

Grants and cancels during the COVID-19 pandemic and the same period in 2019, by age.

Figure 6 – Number of grants

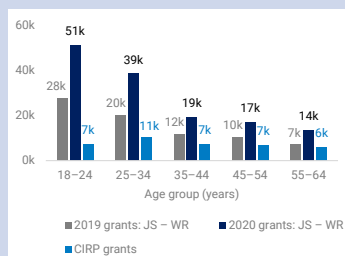


Figure 7 – Number of cancels

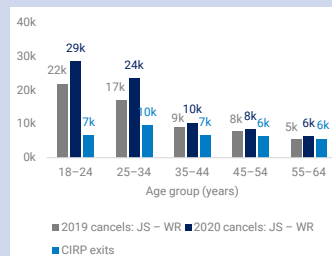


Figure 8 – Number of cancels into work

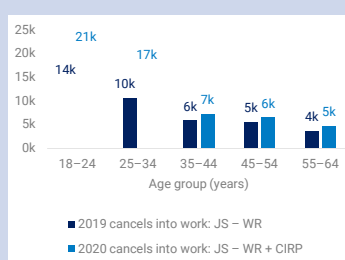
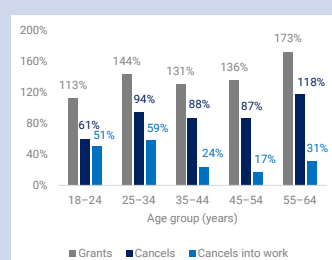


Figure 9 – Growth (%) in grants and cancels



Note: JS - WR and CIRP numbers are shown aggregated in the graph above due to low CIRP numbers.

Māori exited benefit at a slower rate than any other ethnicity, despite making up the majority of people receiving JS - WR

The pattern of grants and cancels by ethnicity¹⁵ during the COVID-19 period was similar to that of previous recessions. Māori are typically disproportionately affected by recessions¹⁶, compared with NZ Europeans¹⁷.

Māori experienced much lower growth in the number of grants and cancels than NZ Europeans (Figure 13), even though they represented a majority of those receiving JS - WR prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. This reflects how Māori and Pacific peoples have historically been, and continue to be, overrepresented in benefit numbers.

Despite their lower growth in grants, Māori received 30 percent of the grants during the COVID-19 period, but they only represent 14 percent of the working-age population (18-64 years). Similarly, Pacific peoples¹⁸ received 10 percent of grants during the COVID-19 period, but they only represent 6 percent of the working-age population.

Māori had largely the same or only slightly more cancels into work than during 2019. Māori also made up a smaller proportion of the number of cancels into work, compared with 2019. This is consistent with findings in previous briefs of these series.

¹⁵ Ethnicity groupings reported in this brief are self-identified and multiple ethnicities may be chosen by each individual as fits their preference or self-concept. Multiple selected ethnicities are then prioritised into a hierarchy, following a process known as prioritised ethnicity.

¹⁶ Te Puni Kōkiri (2009). The Implications of a Recession for the Māori Economy: www.tpk.govt.nz/en/a-matou-mohiotanga/business-and-economics/the-implications-of-a-recession-for-the-maori-econ Ministry of Social Development (2020).

¹⁷ Ministry of Social Development (2020). The Effect of COVID-19 on Benefit Numbers in an Historic Context: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/covid-19/the-effect-of-covid-19-on-benefit-numbers-in-an-historic-context.html

¹⁸ People who identify as Pacific Peoples but not Māori. See the technical notes at the end of this brief for more information.

Grants and cancels during the COVID-19 pandemic and the same period in 2019, by ethnicity.

Figure 10 – Number of grants

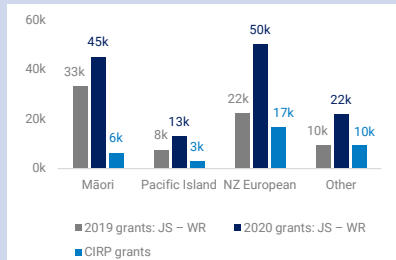


Figure 11 – Number of cancels

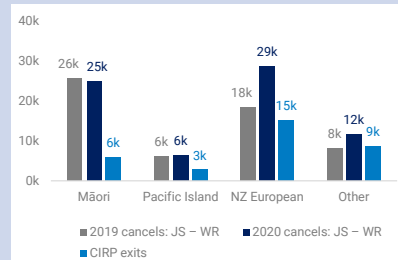


Figure 12 – Number of cancels into work

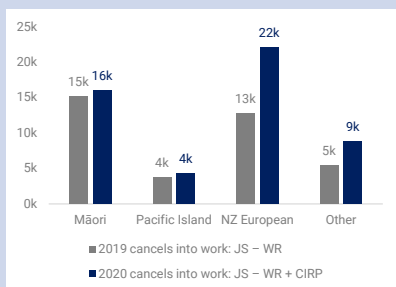
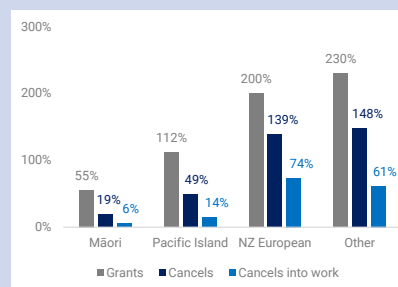


Figure 13 – Growth (%) in grants and cancels



Note: JS - WR and CIRP numbers are shown aggregated in the graph above due to low CIRP numbers.

Men continued to receive most of the grants and were more likely to exit into employment.

Historically, men have had higher levels of JS - WR receipt than women. This is partly because there are generally fewer women in the workforce, and women are more likely than men to go onto Sole Parent Support instead of JS - WR if they have children. This trend continued during the COVID-19 pandemic, with men receiving 57 percent of all JS - WR and CIRP grants (Figure 14).

Proportionally, women had greater growth than men in the number of grants and cancels during the COVID-19 pandemic, compared with the same period in 2019 (Figure 17).

One reason for the growth in grants for women could be that that women are more likely to be employed in jobs related to tourism, such as hospitality, accommodation, retail, and private sector administrative and support services, which are industries that were more affected by the COVID-19 pandemic initially. Women are also more likely to work part-time or be in other forms of less secure employment.

Both women and men were more likely to find employment than during the same period of 2019 (Figure 16), but men fared better overall, with a higher work exit rate than women during 2020.

The gender composition remained in line with the pattern observed in previous briefs of this series, however the growth experienced by women over time was larger than previously reported.



Grants and cancels during the COVID-19 pandemic and the same period in 2019, by gender¹⁹.

Figure 14- Number of grants

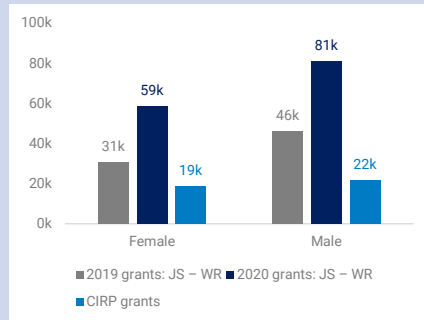


Figure 15 - Number of cancels

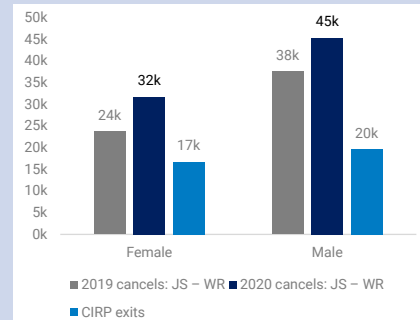


Figure 16 - Number of cancels into work

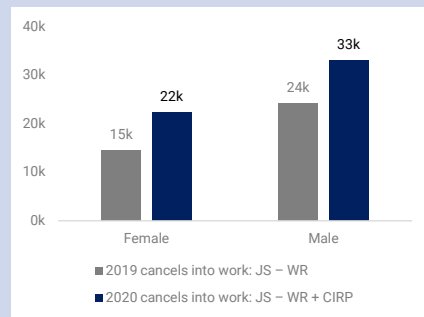
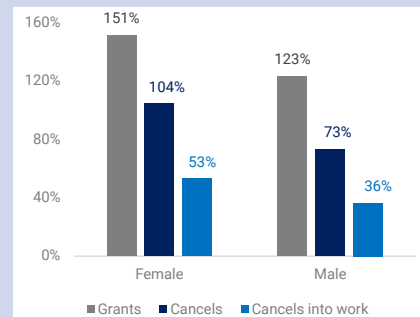


Figure 17 - Growth (%) in grants and cancels



Note: JS - WR and CIRP numbers are shown aggregated in the graph above due to low CIRP numbers.

¹⁹The Gender Diverse category has not been included in the graphs above due to low numbers, however figures can be found in the appendices at the end of this document.

Regional analysis

Some regions have been more affected than others by the COVID-19 pandemic. This is because regions have different:

- key industries, some of which have been more affected by Alert Level restrictions and weakening economic conditions
- population size
- Alert Levels (i.e.: Auckland moved to a more restrictive Alert Level 3 while the rest of the country stayed at Alert Level 2).

In the following section, we focus on three regions:

- the Auckland region, which was the biggest contributor to the total number of grants nationally (around 40 percent) during the COVID-19 period, mainly because it is the largest region in Aotearoa (Figure 18).
- the Canterbury region, which had the greatest increase (217 percent) in the number of grants between the COVID-19 period and the 2019 comparison period (Figure 19). Canterbury also had the second highest number of grants (around 21,000) during the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is the second largest region in Aotearoa.
- the Gisborne region, which had the highest regional population proportion (around 8 percent) of people being granted JS – WR from March to the end of 2020 (Figure 20).

Data on all other regions can be found in the appendices section at the end of this brief.

Figure 18 – Number of JS – WR and CIRP grants during COVID-19 period

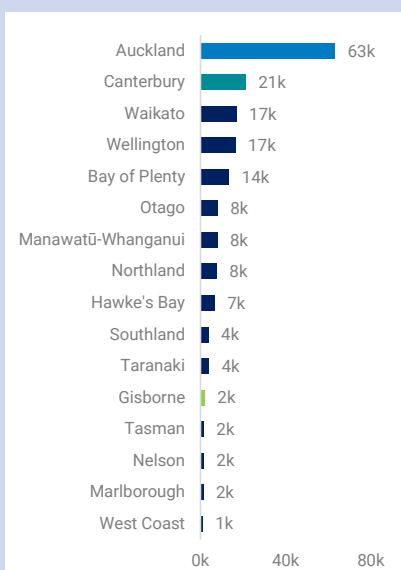


Figure 19 – Growth (%) in grants COVID-19 vs 2019 comparison period

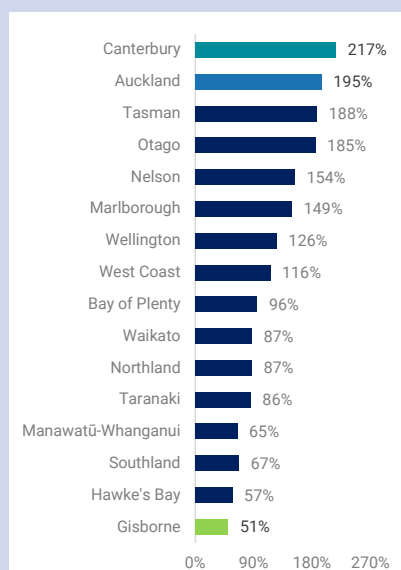
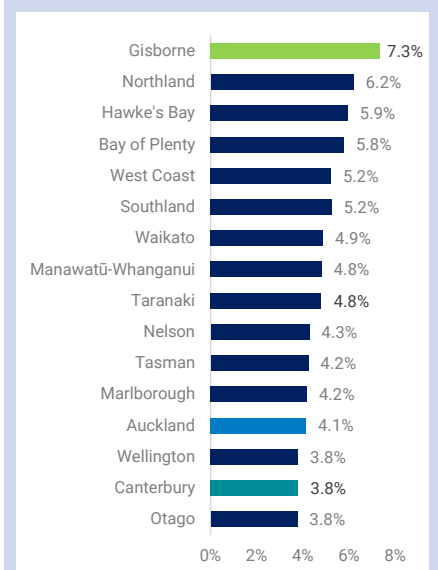


Figure 20 – Regional population proportion granted JS – WR from March to the end of 2020



Auckland had the greatest number of grants

People living in Auckland make up around 40 percent of the working-age (18–64 years) population in Aotearoa. The December 2020 quarter of the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS)²⁰ showed that the unemployment rate for people in Auckland decreased to 5.3 percent, from 5.6 percent in the September 2020 quarter.

The Auckland region had the highest proportion of jobs supported by the Wage Subsidy (around 70 percent). Of all jobs supported, 40 percent received two or all three Wage Subsidies – the highest rate across all regions²¹.

This may be because Auckland’s biggest industries in 2019 were Professional, Scientific and Technical Services, Manufacturing, Health Care and Social Assistance, and Retail Trade, which each made up about one in ten employees in Auckland²². Except for Health Care and Social Assistance, these industries all had a higher-than-average proportion of jobs supported by the original Wage Subsidy at a national level.

Grants in Auckland increased above the national average during the resurgence, then remained on par from mid-September.

Historically, Auckland has had fewer JS – WR grants per person than the national average. This trend continued during the COVID-19 period, until the resurgence in August 2020 (Figure 21). In August, the number of JS – WR and CIRP grants in Auckland increased to above the national rate. This was likely due to Auckland’s move to Alert Level 3 on 11 August 2020, while the rest of the country moved to Alert Level 2. This meant that economic activity in Auckland was more restricted, compared to the rest of the country, although other regions may have also experienced some flow-on effects. From the second week of September, the number of grants levelled back to the national number.

Auckland has also historically had fewer cancels per person than the national average. The number of cancels in Auckland decreased during August 2020, while there was a slight increase at a national level. Again, this is likely due to the more restrictive Alert Level 3 in Auckland. However, cancels started to increase slightly above the national level from mid-September (Figure 22) due mainly to those exiting off CIRP after their 12-weeks of entitlement were completed. After this, trends in both grants and cancels remained very similar to the rest of the country for the remainder of the year.

Figure 21: Auckland grants per 1,000 people

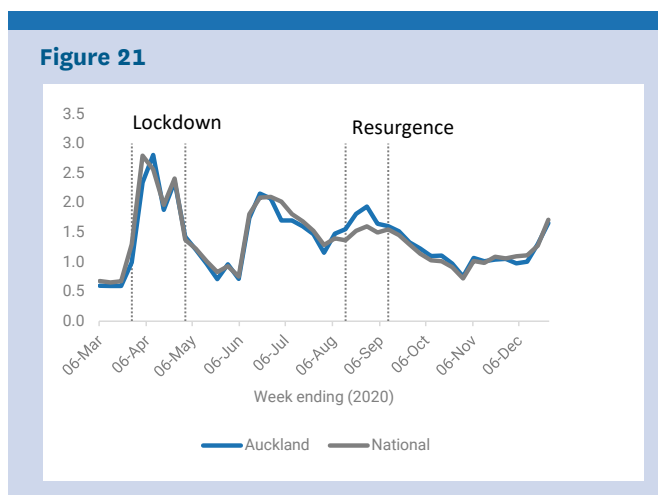
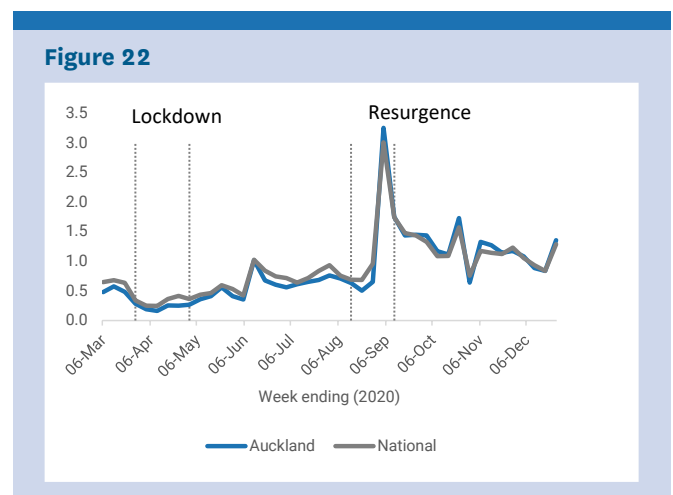


Figure 22: Auckland cancels per 1,000 people



²⁰Labour market statistics: December 2020 quarter, Statistics New Zealand: www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/labour-market-statistics-december-2020-quarter

²¹Ministry of Social Development (2020). Who received the COVID-19 wage subsidies? – September 2020: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/covid-19/who-received-the-covid-19-wage-subsidies-september-2020.html

²²Stats NZ – Geographic units by region and industry 2000–19: www.nzdotstat.stats.govt.nz/wbos/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=TABLECODE7601

Auckland: Demographics of JS – WR and CIRP grants and cancels

Age

The growth in Auckland was consistently higher than nationally across all age groups for both grants and cancels.

Growth in grants was highest for those aged 25–34 and 55–64, with cancels especially higher for those aged 55–64.

Figure 23 – Growth (%) in number of grants by age, COVID-19 period vs 2019

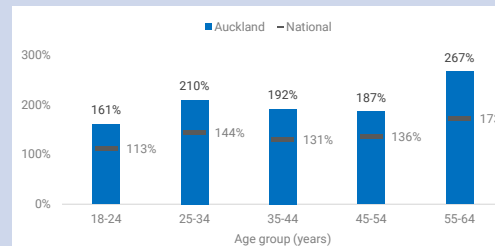
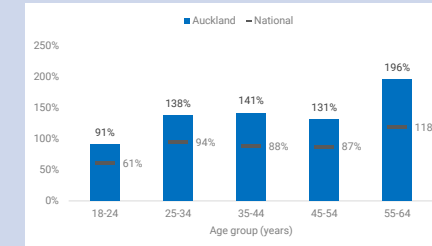


Figure 24 – Growth (%) in number of cancels by age, COVID-19 period vs 2019



Ethnicity

The national trend of greater growth for NZ Europeans and lower growth for Māori and Pacific peoples was exaggerated in Auckland for both grants and cancels.

The growth for NZ European was almost double the national average. In contrast, the growth for Māori and Pacific peoples was only slightly higher than the national average.

Figure 25 – Growth (%) in number of grants by ethnicity, COVID-19 period vs 2019

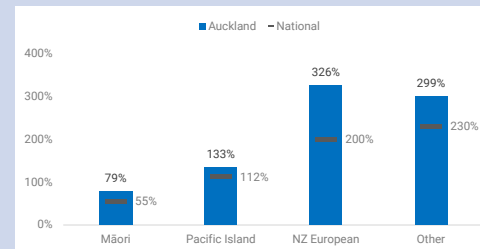
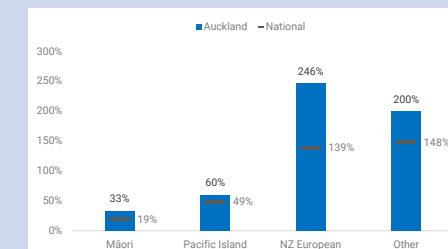


Figure 26 – Growth (%) in number of cancels by ethnicity, COVID-19 period vs 2019



Gender

Consistent with the national trend, there was greater growth in the number of grants and cancels for women in Auckland. Auckland had higher growth than the national level for both genders.

Figure 27 – Growth (%) in number of grants by gender, COVID-19 period vs 2019

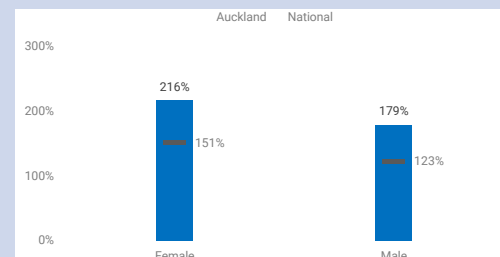
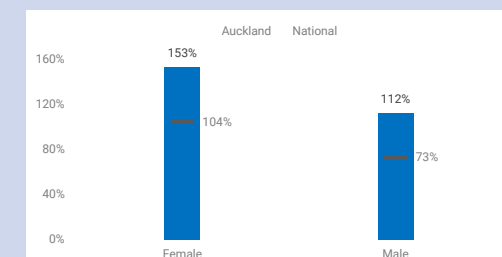


Figure 28 – Growth (%) in number of cancels by gender, COVID-19 period vs 2019



Canterbury had the greatest growth in grants.

People living in Canterbury make up around 10 percent of the working-age (18–64 years) population in Aotearoa. The December 2020 quarter of the HLFS showed that the unemployment rate for people in Canterbury decreased to 4.3 percent, compared with 4.5 percent in the September 2020 quarter.

The Canterbury region had the second highest proportion of jobs supported by the Wage Subsidy (around 60 percent) and by the Wage Subsidy Extension (20 percent), equal to Northland. It also had the fourth highest proportion of jobs supported by the Resurgence Wage Subsidy (9 percent), equal to Wellington.²³

Canterbury’s biggest industries in 2019 were Manufacturing, Health Care and Social Assistance, and Retail Trade, which each made up about one in ten employees in Canterbury²⁴. Except for Health Care and Social Assistance, these industries all had a higher-than-average proportion of jobs supported by the Wage Subsidy at a national level.

The number of grants in Canterbury remained below the national level during the resurgence, while cancels were higher.

Canterbury has historically had lower grants per population than the national average. This trend continued during the resurgence in August, remaining below or on par since (Figure 29). During the resurgence, the number of cancels increased above the national level, before dropping below from mid-September onwards (Figure 30), due mainly to those exiting off CIRP after their 12-weeks of entitlement were completed. Canterbury was the region with the second highest (after Auckland) take up of CIRP.

Figure 29: Canterbury grants per 1,000 people

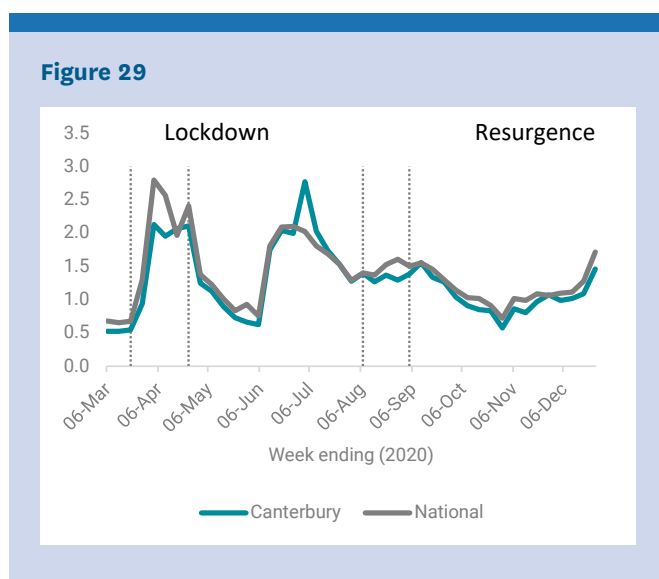
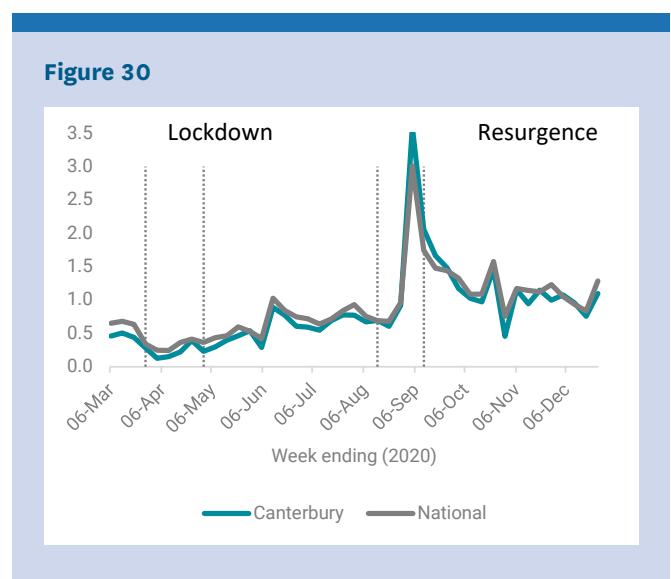


Figure 30: Canterbury cancels per 1,000 people



²³ Who received the COVID-19 wage subsidies? – September 2020: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/covid-19/who-received-the-covid-19-wage-subsidies-september-2020.html

²⁴ Stats NZ – Geographic units by region and industry 2000–19: www.nzdotstat.stats.govt.nz/wbos/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=TABLECODE7601

Canterbury: Demographics of JS – WR and CIRP grants and cancels

Age

The growth in grants in Canterbury was consistently higher than nationally across all age groups. In Canterbury, the increase in the number of cancels from JS – WR or CIRP was concentrated in the younger age groups, while distributed evenly across the older age groups. The growth in cancels in Canterbury was consistently higher than national across all age groups.

Figure 31 – Growth (%) in number of grants by age COVID-19 period vs 2019

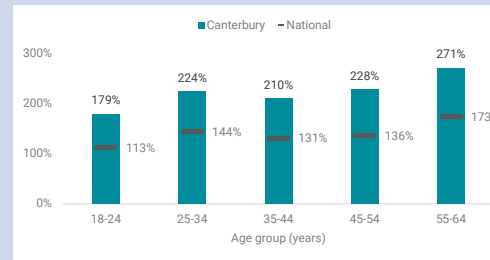
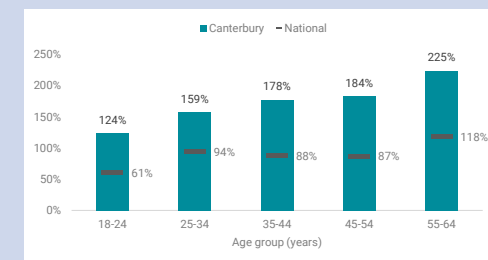


Figure 32 – Growth (%) in number of cancels by age, COVID-19 period vs 2019



Ethnicity

The growth in grants in Canterbury was higher than the national average for all ethnicities, except Pacific Peoples, for whom the growth was slightly below the national average.

For all ethnic groups, the growth in cancels in Canterbury was between 20 and 30 percent higher than the national average.

Figure 33 – Growth (%) in number of grants by ethnicity, COVID-19 period vs 2019

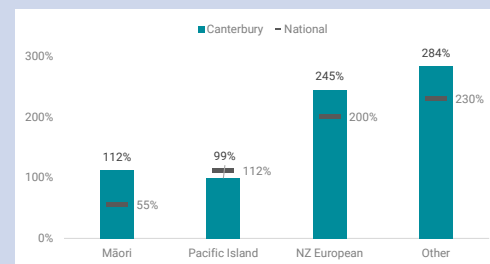
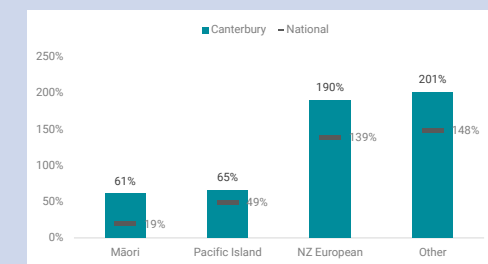


Figure 34 – Growth (%) in number of cancels by ethnicity, COVID-19 period vs 2019



Gender

Consistent with the national trend, there was greater growth in the number of grants for women in Canterbury. Canterbury had higher than national levels of growth for both genders.

Consistent with the national trend, there was greater growth in the number of cancels for women in Canterbury. Canterbury was also consistently higher than national for both genders.

Figure 35 – Growth (%) in number of grants by gender, COVID-19 period vs 2019

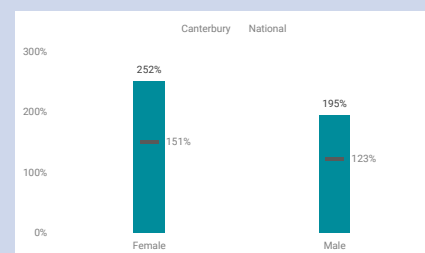
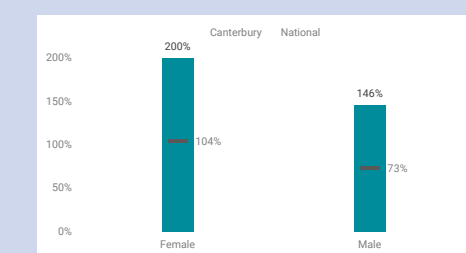


Figure 36 – Growth (%) in number of cancels by gender, COVID-19 period vs 2019



Gisborne had the highest regional population proportion granted JS – WR

Gisborne makes up one percent of the working-age population in Aotearoa. The December 2020 quarter of the HLFs showed that the unemployment rate for people in Gisborne decreased to 5.7 percent, from 6.7 percent in the September 2020 quarter.

Although Gisborne had the highest proportion of its population being granted JS – WR since March 2020, it only had a small increase in the number of grants compared with other regions, and fewer jobs supported by the Wage Subsidy than the national average²⁵. Because of the relatively small number of grants in Gisborne (around 2,000) during the COVID-19 period, only trends are presented in this section, with no demographic analysis.

Gisborne’s biggest industry in 2019 was Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, which made up about one in five employees in Gisborne. This was followed by Health Care and Social Assistance, Education and Training, and Manufacturing, which each made up about one in ten employees in Gisborne²⁶. Except for Manufacturing, these industries all had a lower-than-average proportion of jobs supported by the Wage Subsidy at a national level.

Grants in Gisborne increased more than the national average during the resurgence, with cancels spiking shortly afterwards.

Gisborne has historically had more grants for JS – WR than the national average. This trend was evident during the resurgence and in the weeks following, stabilising during October and rising again from mid-November (Figure 37). Cancels were higher than the national average and followed a different pattern altogether in the weeks following the resurgence, aligning with the national trend from mid-November (Figure 38). One of the reasons for this different trend is that Gisborne was the region with the lowest take up of CIRP, so only a very small part of its population came to the end of their entitlement in September. Data from the December quarter 2020 shows that Gisborne was the region with the largest percentage increase in filled jobs, which may explain the irregular increases in people exiting benefit during that quarter, as more working opportunities may have become available.

Figure 37: Gisborne grants per 1,000 people

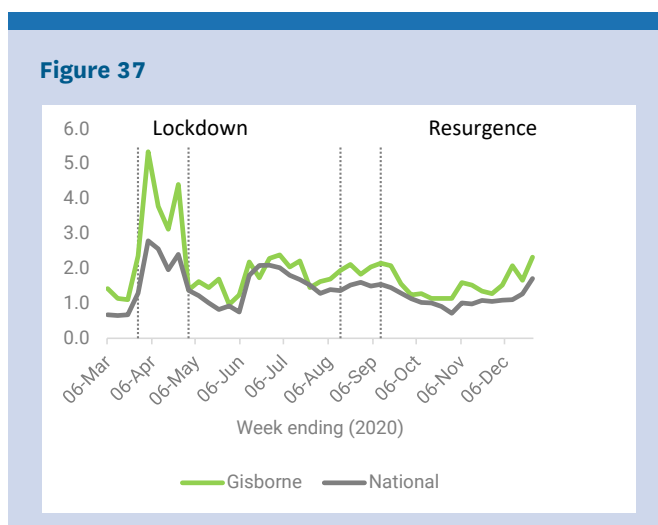
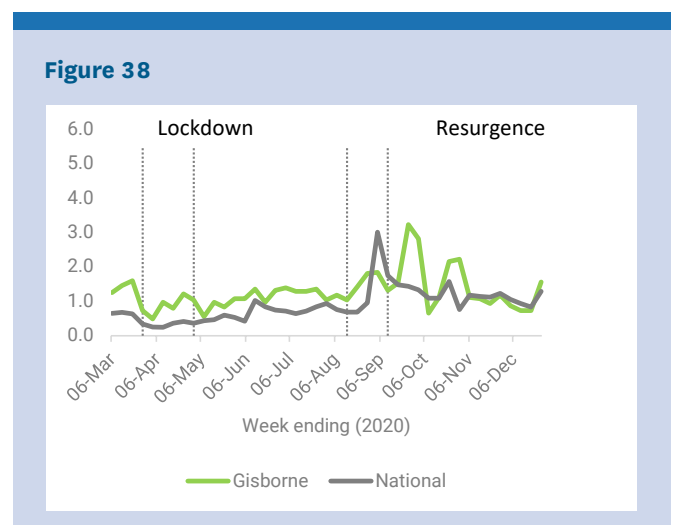


Figure 38: Gisborne cancels per 1,000 people



²⁵ Who received the COVID-19 wage subsidies? – September 2020: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/covid-19/who-received-the-covid-19-wage-subsidies-september-2020.html

²⁶ Stats NZ – Geographic units by region and industry 2000–19: www.nzdotstat.stats.govt.nz/wbos/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=TABLECODE7601



Appendices

Appendix 1: Definitions and technical notes

Definitions

Working age

Working-age people are aged 18–64 years. This definition reflects the minimum age of eligibility for most main benefits and the age of qualification for Aotearoa Superannuation (65). Unless otherwise stated, the numbers reported in this brief are of working-age people.

Benefits

Jobseeker Support – Work Ready (JS – WR): JS – WR is a weekly payment that helps people until they find work. To be eligible, a person must be unemployed, looking for work, over 18, and not receiving NZ Superannuation.

COVID-19 Income Relief Payment (CIRP): CIRP was introduced on 8 June 2020 to help people who lost their jobs because of COVID-19. People could receive CIRP for up to 12 weeks. CIRP covered job losses from 1 March to 30 October 2020, with final applications closing two weeks after (13 November 2020) and the last payment being on 4 February 2021. CIRP was not available to people who had work or were still being paid the Wage Subsidy by their employer. Recipients of CIRP are all ages, rather than working age only.

From August 2020, people started to reach the end of their 12-week payments. The analysis in this report includes cancels from CIRP due to the 12-week entitlement expiring.

Wage Subsidy Scheme: The Wage Subsidy Scheme was introduced to help employers adversely affected by COVID-19, so that they could continue to pay their employees. We provide some Wage Subsidy Scheme information in this report for context. More analysis of the Wage Subsidy is available online²⁷. There have been three payments available under the Wage Subsidy Scheme. These were:

- Original Wage Subsidy, which supported employees for up to 12 weeks and was available from 17 March to 10 June 2020.
- Wage Subsidy Extension, which supported employees for up to eight weeks and was available from 10 June to 1 September 2020.
- Resurgence Wage Subsidy, which supported employees for up to two weeks and was available from 21 August to 3 September 2020.

Measures

Grants: The number of benefits granted during a period. If a person is granted JS – WR and then transfers to CIRP, the person will have one grant for JS – WR and one grant for CIRP, therefore the number of grants does not equal the number of people receiving a benefit. Unless otherwise specified, “grants” in this brief refer to the combined grants for JS – WR and CIRP.

Cancels: The number of benefits cancelled during a period. If a person moves from one benefit to another, they will be cancelled off their first benefit. Unless otherwise specified, “cancels” in this brief refer to the combined cancels for JS – WR and CIRP.

Number of people receiving a benefit: The number of people on a benefit is measured at a point in time. This does not equate to the number of cancels subtracted from the number of grants, because it includes people who are currently on a benefit – not just those who have been granted a benefit in the last week or month.

²⁷ Ministry of Social Development (2020). Who received the Wage Subsidy and Wage Subsidy Extension?: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/covid-19/who-received-the-wage-subsidy-and-wage-subsidy-extension.html



Technical notes

- **Confidentiality:** All data included in appendix 1 and 2 of this report has been randomly rounded to a base of 3 as part of a range of new confidentiality procedures MSD is applying to public data releases. These procedures will continue to protect client information, while making more data available²⁴.
- **Prioritised ethnicity:** This analysis uses prioritised ethnicity. In this method, a person who identifies with multiple ethnic groups is assigned to only one of those ethnic groups in the analysis. These groups are assigned in order of priority, starting with Māori, then Pacific peoples, Other ethnicities, and lastly NZ European. In this prioritisation system, if someone identifies as Māori, they will be recorded as Māori, regardless of the other ethnicities that they identify with. If someone identifies as NZ European and Pacific peoples, they will be recorded as Pacific peoples.
- **JS – WR subgroups:** This brief includes all types of grants for JS – WR, including JS – WR for training. This type of grants represents only a small number of grants and is included in the overall JS – WR category as part of MSD’s official reporting, however its inclusion is not consistent with previous briefs.
- **Regions:** In this brief, regions refer to Regional Council boundaries, rather than Work & Income regions. The Regional Council data included in this report is based on where the client lives, and not the service centre they are registered at.

²⁴To find out how we have changed the way we work with client information, please visit: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/tools/how-we-keep-data-private.html



Appendix 2: Number of grants for JS – WR and CIRP

Age Group

Age group	Comparison period (2019)		COVID-19 period (2020)			
	JS – WR		JS – WR		CIRP ²⁹	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
<i>Lockdown</i>						
18–24	4,710	36%	16,842	37%	n/a	n/a
25–34	3,333	26%	13,656	30%	n/a	n/a
35–44	1,992	15%	6,144	13%	n/a	n/a
45–54	1,731	13%	5,205	11%	n/a	n/a
55–64	1,230	9%	4,122	9%	n/a	n/a
Total	12,993	100%	45,966	100%	n/a	n/a
<i>Between outbreaks</i>						
18–24	8,655	35%	12,222	38%	5,037	20%
25–34	6,318	26%	8,196	26%	6,735	27%
35–44	3,735	15%	4,386	14%	4,377	17%
45–54	3,357	14%	4,041	13%	4,212	17%
55–64	2,433	10%	3,249	10%	3,609	14%
Total	24,501	100%	32,094	100%	25,131	100%
<i>Resurgence</i>						
18–24	4,716	35%	7,824	35%	1,692	17%
25–34	3,627	27%	6,195	27%	2,508	26%
35–44	2,043	15%	3,273	14%	1,857	19%
45–54	1,806	13%	2,928	13%	1,737	18%
55–64	1,281	10%	2,385	11%	1,482	15%
Total	13,476	100%	22,605	100%	9,711	100%
<i>Recovery</i>						
18–24	9,483	37%	14,316	37%	693	13%
25–34	6,864	27%	10,554	27%	1,287	24%
35–44	3,747	15%	5,400	14%	1,152	21%
45–54	3,273	13%	4,863	12%	1,056	20%
55–64	2,298	9%	3,948	10%	990	18%
Total	25,665	100%	39,084	100%	5,394	100%

²⁹ Grants for CIRP are all ages, those outside of working age are included in the total.



Ethnicity³⁰

Ethnicity	Comparison period (2019)		COVID-19 period (2020)			
	JS – WR		JS – WR		CIRP	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
<i>Lockdown</i>						
Māori	5,463	42%	12,639	27%	n/a	n/a
Pacific peoples	1,281	10%	3,765	8%	n/a	n/a
NZ European	3,891	30%	17,832	39%	n/a	n/a
Other	1,710	13%	7,545	16%	n/a	n/a
Total	12,993	100%	45,966	100%	n/a	n/a
<i>Between outbreaks</i>						
Māori	10,818	44%	11,415	36%	4,029	16%
Pacific peoples	2,466	10%	3,090	10%	1,707	7%
NZ European	7,038	29%	11,139	35%	10,893	43%
Other	3,003	12%	4,650	14%	5,607	22%
Total	24,501	100%	32,094	100%	25,131	100%
<i>Resurgence</i>						
Māori	6,003	45%	7,932	35%	1,485	15%
Pacific peoples	1,374	10%	2,355	10%	900	9%
NZ European	3,885	29%	7,788	34%	3,753	39%
Other	1,581	12%	3,546	16%	2,478	26%
Total	13,476	100%	22,605	100%	9,711	100%
<i>Recovery</i>						
Māori	10,968	43%	13,341	34%	840	16%
Pacific peoples	2,517	10%	3,984	10%	384	7%
NZ European	7,557	29%	13,650	35%	2,088	39%
Other	3,291	13%	6,363	16%	1,449	27%
Total	25,665	100%	39,084	100%	5,394	100%

³⁰The total includes those with an unspecified ethnicity.



Gender³¹

Gender	Comparison period (2019)		COVID-19 period (2020)			
	JS – WR		JS – WR		CIRP	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
<i>Lockdown</i>						
Female	5,391	41%	19,386	42%	n/a	n/a
Male	7,605	59%	26,472	58%	n/a	n/a
Gender diverse	n/a	n/a	111	0%	n/a	n/a
Total	12,993	100%	45,969	100%	n/a	n/a
<i>Between outbreaks</i>						
Female	9,555	39%	13,251	41%	11,418	45%
Male	14,946	61%	18,753	58%	13,683	54%
Gender diverse	n/a	n/a	90	0%	36	0%
Total	24,501	100%	32,094	100%	25,131	100%
<i>Resurgence</i>						
Female	5,097	38%	9,264	41%	4,581	47%
Male	8,379	62%	13,272	59%	5,118	53%
Gender diverse	n/a	n/a	72	0%	15	0%
Total	13,476	100%	22,605	100%	9,711	100%
<i>Recovery</i>						
Female	10,662	42%	16,671	43%	2,550	47%
Male	14,994	58%	22,239	57%	2,835	53%
Gender diverse	9	0%	174	0%	9	0%
Total	25,665	100%	39,081	100%	5,394	100%

³¹ From 2 December 2019, forms and online applications include three gender options to choose from: "Male", "Female", and "Gender diverse". Due to the recent addition of the gender diverse category, there is a low count of these clients. We expect numbers to increase over time.



Regional Council³²

Region	Comparison period (2019)		COVID-19 period (2020)			
	JS – WR		JS – WR		CIRP	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
<i>Lockdown</i>						
Auckland	3,978	31%	15,501	34%	n/a	n/a
Bay of Plenty	909	7%	3,132	7%	n/a	n/a
Canterbury	1,095	8%	5,040	11%	n/a	n/a
Gisborne	270	2%	675	1%	n/a	n/a
Hawke's Bay	696	5%	2,001	4%	n/a	n/a
Manawatū-Whanganui	900	7%	2,331	5%	n/a	n/a
Marlborough	102	1%	459	1%	n/a	n/a
Nelson	102	1%	513	1%	n/a	n/a
Northland	768	6%	2,340	5%	n/a	n/a
Otago	408	3%	2,034	4%	n/a	n/a
Southland	309	2%	879	2%	n/a	n/a
Taranaki	351	3%	1,092	2%	n/a	n/a
Tasman	99	1%	534	1%	n/a	n/a
Waikato	1,539	12%	4,584	10%	n/a	n/a
Wellington	1,335	10%	4,344	9%	n/a	n/a
West Coast	93	1%	336	1%	n/a	n/a
Other	36	0%	174	0%	n/a	n/a
Total	12,993	100%	45,966	100%	n/a	n/a
<i>Between outbreaks</i>						
Auckland	6,543	27%	9,384	29%	9,969	40%
Bay of Plenty	2,430	10%	3,009	9%	1,683	7%
Canterbury	2,037	8%	3,522	11%	3,975	16%
Gisborne	432	2%	525	2%	99	0%
Hawke's Bay	1,575	6%	1,605	5%	528	2%
Manawatū-Whanganui	1,494	6%	1,722	5%	621	2%
Marlborough	183	1%	273	1%	225	1%
Nelson	225	1%	351	1%	237	1%
Northland	1,395	6%	1,476	5%	726	3%
Otago	1,053	4%	1,368	4%	1,569	6%
Southland	1,059	4%	1,140	4%	492	2%
Taranaki	690	3%	813	3%	459	2%
Tasman	198	1%	354	1%	246	1%
Waikato	2,772	11%	3,384	11%	1,824	7%
Wellington	2,163	9%	2,838	9%	2,241	9%
West Coast	186	1%	240	1%	156	1%
Other	63	0%	93	0%	93	0%
Total	24,498	100%	32,094	100%	25,131	100%

³² The Chatham Islands are included in the "Other" category due to having very low numbers, along with any areas outside Regional Council boundaries and those classified as belonging to an unknown Regional Council.



Regional Council

Region	Comparison period (2019)		COVID-19 period (2020)			
	JS – WR		JS – WR		CIRP	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
<i>Resurgence</i>						
Auckland	3,672	27%	7,683	34%	4,962	51%
Bay of Plenty	1,242	9%	1,884	8%	507	5%
Canterbury	1,155	9%	2,475	11%	1,356	14%
Gisborne	282	2%	369	2%	27	0%
Hawke's Bay	840	6%	1,023	5%	132	1%
Manawatū-Whanganui	912	7%	1,086	5%	168	2%
Marlborough	141	1%	201	1%	48	0%
Nelson	117	1%	186	1%	69	1%
Northland	711	5%	1,017	4%	249	3%
Otago	471	3%	978	4%	435	4%
Southland	327	2%	462	2%	129	1%
Taranaki	435	3%	534	2%	126	1%
Tasman	111	1%	201	1%	84	1%
Waikato	1,632	12%	2,268	10%	570	6%
Wellington	1,278	9%	2,025	9%	774	8%
West Coast	108	1%	150	1%	42	0%
Other	39	0%	57	0%	27	0%
Total	13,476	100%	22,605	100%	9,711	100%

<i>Recovery</i>						
Auckland	7,272	28%	13,194	34%	2,637	49%
Bay of Plenty	2,382	9%	3,105	8%	300	6%
Canterbury	2,460	10%	4,347	11%	696	13%
Gisborne	507	2%	540	1%	18	0%
Hawke's Bay	1,209	5%	1,428	4%	81	2%
Manawatū-Whanganui	1,581	6%	1,971	5%	156	3%
Marlborough	177	1%	261	1%	36	1%
Nelson	240	1%	336	1%	51	1%
Northland	1,320	5%	1,878	5%	165	3%
Otago	939	4%	1,572	4%	243	5%
Southland	615	2%	717	2%	51	1%
Taranaki	762	3%	1,017	3%	102	2%
Tasman	192	1%	279	1%	39	1%
Waikato	3,165	12%	4,092	10%	333	6%
Wellington	2,595	10%	3,975	10%	444	8%
West Coast	174	1%	255	1%	24	0%
Other	69	0%	123	0%	24	0%
Total	25,665	100%	39,081	100%	5,394	100%



Appendix 3: Number of cancels for JS – WR and CIRP

Age Group

Age group	Comparison period (2019)		COVID-19 period (2020)			
	JS – WR		JS – WR		CIRP ³³	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
<i>Lockdown</i>						
18–24	4,509	35%	3,150	35%	n/a	n/a
25–34	3,531	28%	2,679	30%	n/a	n/a
35–44	1,902	15%	1,254	14%	n/a	n/a
45–54	1,650	13%	1,077	12%	n/a	n/a
55–64	1,167	9%	861	10%	n/a	n/a
Total	12,759	100%	9,018	100%	n/a	n/a
<i>Between outbreaks</i>						
18–24	6,360	36%	9,426	36%	300	19%
25–34	4,908	28%	8,313	32%	519	32%
35–44	2,595	15%	3,432	13%	294	18%
45–54	2,157	12%	2,682	10%	258	16%
55–64	1,530	9%	2,061	8%	177	11%
Total	17,550	100%	25,920	100%	1,605	100%
<i>Resurgence</i>						
18–24	4,017	37%	5,112	39%	3,570	19%
25–34	2,985	27%	3,906	30%	4,827	26%
35–44	1,569	14%	1,653	13%	3,207	17%
45–54	1,383	13%	1,347	10%	3,114	17%
55–64	990	9%	990	8%	2,667	15%
Total	10,941	100%	13,008	100%	18,372	100%
<i>Recovery</i>						
18–24	7,026	35%	10,887	37%	2,775	17%
25–34	5,649	28%	8,679	30%	4,281	26%
35–44	3,003	15%	4,023	14%	3,171	19%
45–54	2,649	13%	3,288	11%	2,901	18%
55–64	1,782	9%	2,487	8%	2,700	16%
Total	20,109	100%	29,367	100%	16,512	100%

³³ Cancels for CIRP are all ages, those outside of working age are included in the total.



Ethnicity³⁴

Ethnicity	Comparison period (2019)		COVID-19 period (2020)			
	JS – WR		JS – WR		CIRP	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
<i>Lockdown</i>						
Māori	5,649	44%	3,558	39%	n/a	n/a
Pacific peoples	1,188	9%	819	9%	n/a	n/a
NZ European	3,684	29%	2,859	32%	n/a	n/a
Other	1,713	13%	1,194	13%	n/a	n/a
Total	12,759	100%	9,021	100%	n/a	n/a
<i>Between outbreaks</i>						
Māori	7,344	42%	7,428	29%	234	15%
Pacific peoples	1,641	9%	1,932	7%	78	5%
NZ European	5,346	30%	10,335	40%	795	50%
Other	2,436	14%	4,047	16%	309	19%
Total	17,547	100%	25,917	100%	1,605	100%
<i>Resurgence</i>						
Māori	4,428	40%	4,107	32%	2,970	16%
Pacific peoples	1,218	11%	1,023	8%	1,215	7%
NZ European	3,300	30%	5,004	38%	7,902	43%
Other	1,485	14%	1,998	15%	4,101	22%
Total	10,941	100%	13,008	100%	18,372	100%
<i>Recovery</i>						
Māori	8,457	42%	9,957	34%	2,625	16%
Pacific peoples	2,127	11%	2,658	9%	1,458	9%
NZ European	6,024	30%	10,494	36%	6,456	39%
Other	2,583	13%	4,545	15%	4,203	25%
Total	20,112	100%	29,367	100%	16,512	100%

³⁴The total includes those with an unspecified ethnicity.



Gender³⁵

Gender	Comparison period (2019)		COVID-19 period (2020)			
	JS – WR		JS – WR		CIRP	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
<i>Lockdown</i>						
Female	5,199	41%	3,753	42%	n/a	n/a
Male	7,560	59%	5,256	58%	n/a	n/a
Gender diverse	n/a	n/a	12	0%	n/a	n/a
Total	12,759	100%	9,018	100%	n/a	n/a
<i>Between outbreaks</i>						
Female	6,735	38%	10,986	42%	810	50%
Male	10,818	62%	14,898	57%	792	49%
Gender diverse	n/a	n/a	36	0%	0	0%
Total	17,550	100%	25,917	100%	1,605	100%
<i>Resurgence</i>						
Female	4,239	39%	5,523	42%	8,265	45%
Male	6,702	61%	7,452	57%	10,080	55%
Gender diverse	n/a	n/a	33	0%	27	0%
Total	10,941	100%	13,011	100%	18,372	100%
<i>Recovery</i>						
Female	7,593	38%	11,532	39%	7,662	46%
Male	12,516	62%	17,769	61%	8,823	53%
Gender diverse	0	0%	66	0%	24	0%
Total	20,112	100%	29,367	100%	16,512	100%

³⁵ From 2 December 2019, forms and online applications include three gender options to choose from: "Male", "Female", and "Gender diverse". Due to the recent addition of the gender diverse category, there is a low count of these clients. We expect numbers to increase over time.



Regional Council³⁶

Region	Comparison period (2019)		COVID-19 period (2020)			
	JS – WR		JS – WR		CIRP	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
<i>Lockdown</i>						
Auckland	3,270	26%	2,409	27%	n/a	n/a
Bay of Plenty	1,545	12%	1,269	14%	n/a	n/a
Canterbury	918	7%	849	9%	n/a	n/a
Gisborne	261	2%	195	2%	n/a	n/a
Hawke's Bay	804	6%	471	5%	n/a	n/a
Manawatū-Whanganui	732	6%	471	5%	n/a	n/a
Marlborough	93	1%	57	1%	n/a	n/a
Nelson	111	1%	96	1%	n/a	n/a
Northland	798	6%	501	6%	n/a	n/a
Otago	429	3%	237	3%	n/a	n/a
Southland	279	2%	147	2%	n/a	n/a
Taranaki	276	2%	240	3%	n/a	n/a
Tasman	75	1%	81	1%	n/a	n/a
Waikato	1,596	13%	1,011	11%	n/a	n/a
Wellington	1,434	11%	879	10%	n/a	n/a
West Coast	102	1%	69	1%	n/a	n/a
Other	33	0%	39	0%	n/a	n/a
Total	12,762	100%	9,018	100%	n/a	n/a
<i>Between outbreaks</i>						
Auckland	4,827	28%	7,848	30%	579	36%
Bay of Plenty	1,374	8%	2,022	8%	114	7%
Canterbury	1,551	9%	2,838	11%	246	15%
Gisborne	342	2%	399	2%	9	1%
Hawke's Bay	747	4%	996	4%	42	3%
Manawatū-Whanganui	1,179	7%	1,437	6%	42	3%
Marlborough	126	1%	246	1%	15	1%
Nelson	159	1%	261	1%	21	1%
Northland	951	5%	1,221	5%	48	3%
Otago	654	4%	1,236	5%	111	7%
Southland	429	2%	519	2%	36	2%
Taranaki	519	3%	732	3%	36	2%
Tasman	123	1%	264	1%	12	1%
Waikato	2,373	14%	2,886	11%	132	8%
Wellington	1,998	11%	2,727	11%	147	9%
West Coast	159	1%	210	1%	12	1%
Other	42	0%	81	0%	6	0%
Total	17,550	100%	25,920	100%	1,605	100%

³⁶ The Chatham Islands are included in the "Other" category due to having very low numbers, along with any areas outside Regional Council boundaries and those classified as belonging to an unknown Regional Council.



Regional Council

Region	Comparison period (2019)		COVID-19 period (2020)			
	JS – WR		JS – WR		CIRP	
	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion	Number	Proportion
<i>Resurgence</i>						
Auckland	3,150	29%	3,546	27%	7,179	39%
Bay of Plenty	891	8%	906	7%	1,251	7%
Canterbury	921	8%	1,491	11%	2,970	16%
Gisborne	171	2%	270	2%	78	0%
Hawke's Bay	474	4%	618	5%	393	2%
Manawatū-Whanganui	768	7%	897	7%	489	3%
Marlborough	114	1%	102	1%	168	1%
Nelson	105	1%	144	1%	165	1%
Northland	486	4%	672	5%	525	3%
Otago	474	4%	582	4%	1,134	6%
Southland	318	3%	384	3%	351	2%
Taranaki	270	2%	381	3%	339	2%
Tasman	90	1%	111	1%	195	1%
Waikato	1,260	12%	1,278	10%	1,320	7%
Wellington	1,296	12%	1,485	11%	1,629	9%
West Coast	96	1%	105	1%	120	1%
Other	48	0%	39	0%	75	0%
Total	10,941	100%	13,008	100%	18,372	100%
<i>Recovery</i>						
Auckland	5,469	27%	8,805	30%	8,007	49%
Bay of Plenty	1,653	8%	2,364	8%	900	5%
Canterbury	1,773	9%	3,027	10%	2,319	14%
Gisborne	357	2%	444	2%	48	0%
Hawke's Bay	969	5%	1,281	4%	237	1%
Manawatū-Whanganui	1,413	7%	1,629	6%	333	2%
Marlborough	198	1%	342	1%	102	1%
Nelson	207	1%	372	1%	126	1%
Northland	1,017	5%	1,383	5%	462	3%
Otago	807	4%	1,536	5%	780	5%
Southland	900	4%	1,005	3%	231	1%
Taranaki	600	3%	795	3%	258	2%
Tasman	204	1%	336	1%	141	1%
Waikato	2,241	11%	3,009	10%	1,071	6%
Wellington	2,037	10%	2,682	9%	1,359	8%
West Coast	195	1%	261	1%	81	0%
Other	66	0%	96	0%	57	0%
Total	20,112	100%	29,364	100%	16,509	100%