



## Information on Quarterly Welfare Assistance open-data machine-readable files

Machine-readable Comma-Separated Values files (CSV) were provided with Benefit Fact Sheet releases between 2013 and 2019. During 2020, production of these files was paused as part of the Ministry of Social Development's (MSD) response to COVID-19, for the Ministry to be able to produce weekly and monthly reporting. During 2021, MSD has restarted publication of these machine-readable files.

### Protecting our client's information – confidentiality

From 12 February 2021, MSD is applying a range of new confidentiality procedures to public data releases. These procedures will continue to protect client information, while making more data available. To find out how we have changed the way we work with client information, visit: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/tools/how-we-keep-data-private.html>

All information in these machine-readable files has been randomly rounded to a base of 3 and has had MSD confidentiality rules applied. Note that all data has been rounded independently from other products published by MSD, and therefore may not match when compared.

To meet the requirements for confidentiality and to protect our clients' data, we have suppressed all combinations of multiple variables with an average value of less than 2. We also provide an aggregate total of the suppressed values. When using a particular column in these files, they will contain an "Aggregated" value, which sums the value of any suppressed variables.

To account for the variation in the data created by random rounding, we have provided every possible total. To make these usable to any user with a program equivalent to Excel, we have provided four different CSV files, one for Jobseeker Support, one for Supported Living Payment, one for Sole Parent Support, and one for all other main benefits.

### Contents of machine-readable files

The CSV files contain 5 years or 21 quarters of data and are split into the following files:

- quarterly\_regional\_js\_comma\_separated\_values\_september\_2021.csv  
[Jobseeker Support]
- quarterly\_regional\_slp\_comma\_separated\_values\_september\_2021.csv  
[Supported Living Payment]
- quarterly\_regional\_sps\_comma\_separated\_values\_september\_2021.csv  
[Sole Parent Support]
- quarterly\_regional\_omb\_comma\_separated\_values\_september\_2021.csv  
[All other main benefits]

These data files, along with the quarterly Benefit Fact Sheets can be found here: <https://msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/index.html>

For more detailed information on the types of assistance MSD provides, visit: <https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/map/>



## Using these CSVs as Excel pivot tables or with other statistical programs

To find the totals for a particular variable, the most accurate figure is achieved by using the 'Total' variable, rather than a sum of counts of multiple variables. Random rounding adds a degree of variance when summing values compared to the actual total, so caution must be used when calculating totals. We suggest the use of the Benefit Fact Sheets to compare totals for accuracy.

Make sure that when you select a particular total that all other variables are set at total as well, as per Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Use of machine-readable files as a pivot table in excel with totals selected

1					
2	broad_Age_group	Total			
3	prioritised_Ethnic_group	Total			
4	Gender	Total			
5	Child_Age_or_broad_Incapacity	Total			
6	Work_and_Income_region	Total			
7					
8	<b>Sum of Count_of_recipients</b>	<b>Column Labels</b>			
9	<b>Row Labels</b>	<b>Jobseeker - Health Condition or Disability</b>	<b>Jobseeker - Work Ready</b>	<b>Total</b>	
10	Mar-16	53070	64068	117135	

## Data limitations

The usual limitations for administrative data apply, including:

- the possibility of human error in entering data in the administrative system or when processing data
- the possibility of having missing items, incomplete files or duplicates
- the possibility of under-reporting (not everyone eligible for a benefit or assistance applies for a benefit or assistance)
- circumstances that affect recipient responses (e.g. changes to the ethnicity that they report themselves).



## List of information in CSV files

<p><b>Age group</b></p> <p>[Included under <i>broad_age_group</i>]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18–24 years</li> <li>• 25–39 years</li> <li>• 40–54 years</li> <li>• 55–64 years</li> <li>• Aggregated</li> </ul>
<p><b>Benefit group</b></p> <p>[Included under <i>benefit_group_incl_subgroup</i>]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jobseeker - Work Ready</li> <li>• Jobseeker - Health Condition or Disability</li> <li>• Supported Living – Caring</li> <li>• Supported Living - Health Condition or Disability</li> <li>• Sole Parent Support</li> <li>• Other Main Benefits (which is an aggregate of: Emergency Benefit; Emergency Maintenance Allowance; Jobseeker Support Student Hardship; DPB Sole Parent Overseas; Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ethnic group</b></p> <p>[Included under <i>prioritised_ethnic_group</i>]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NZ European</li> <li>• Māori</li> <li>• Pacific Island</li> <li>• Other</li> <li>• Unspecified</li> <li>• Aggregated</li> </ul>
<p><b>Gender</b></p> <p>[Included under <i>gender</i>]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Male</li> <li>• Female</li> <li>• Gender Diverse</li> <li>• Aggregated</li> </ul>
<p><b>Incapacity group Jobseeker Support</b></p> <p><i>Only for Jobseeker – Health Condition or Disability</i></p> <p>[Included under <i>child_age_or_broad_incapacity</i>]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychological or psychiatric conditions</li> <li>• Musculo-skeletal system disorders</li> <li>• Accidents</li> <li>• Cardio-vascular disorders</li> <li>• Other disorders and conditions</li> <li>• Not Applicable</li> <li>• Aggregated</li> </ul> <p><i>Note that information relating to Pregnancy related conditions, which is usually available, is aggregated into 'Other disorders and conditions' due to low numbers.</i></p>
<p><b>Incapacity group Supported Living Payment</b></p> <p><i>Only for Supported Living– Health Condition or Disability</i></p> <p>[Included under <i>child_age_or_broad_incapacity</i>]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Psychological or psychiatric conditions</li> <li>• Intellectual disability</li> <li>• Musculo-skeletal system disorders</li> <li>• Nervous system disorders</li> <li>• Cardio-vascular disorders</li> <li>• Accidents</li> <li>• Cancer and congenital conditions</li> <li>• Other disorders and conditions</li> <li>• Not Applicable</li> <li>• Aggregated</li> </ul>
<p><b>Age of youngest dependent child for Sole Parent Support</b></p> <p>[Included under <i>child_age_or_broad_incapacity</i>]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Children</li> <li>• 0-4 yrs</li> <li>• 5-13 yrs</li> <li>• 14+ yrs</li> <li>• Aggregated</li> </ul>



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**Work and Income regions**

[Included under  
*work\_and\_income\_region*]

- Auckland Metro
  - Bay of Plenty
  - Canterbury
  - Central
  - East Coast
  - Nelson (Nelson, Marlborough, and West Coast)
  - Northland
  - Southern
  - Taranaki (Taranaki, King Country, and Whanganui)
  - Waikato
  - Wellington
  - Other Region (i.e. clients managed by national units such as contact centres and some processing centres)
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Contact details for further information: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/contact-us/index.html>