



11 February 2022

Peter Scott

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Tēnā koe Peter Scott

On 12 January 2022, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Please advise the percentage of the available workforce that has not received an unemployment benefit at any time in the past five years. Or if it is easier the percentage of the available workforce that have received this benefit.*

Jobseeker Support is a temporary benefit paid for up to 52 weeks while clients look for work, are in training for work or unable to work due to a health condition, injury or disability. More information around Jobseeker Support can be found at the following link: [www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/jobseeker-support.html#null](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz/products/a-z-benefits/jobseeker-support.html#null).

The Ministry publishes Benefit Fact Sheets each quarter, which provides a high-level view of trends in benefit receipt, including Jobseeker Support. As part of this, the Ministry has provided information on the percentage of the working age population receiving Jobseeker Support over the last six years. The most recent percentages for this can be found in the Benefit Fact Sheet for December 2021, which is available here: [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/2021/benefit-fact-sheets-snapshot-december-2021.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/2021/benefit-fact-sheets-snapshot-december-2021.pdf).

Further information about the Benefit Fact Sheets and archives of previous Benefit Fact Sheets can be found on the Ministry's website here: [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/index.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/statistics/benefit/index.html)

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

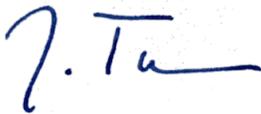
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding Jobseeker Support statistics, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



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Magnus O'Neill  
**General Manager**  
**Ministerial and Executive Services**