

14 March 2022

xxxxx Scott
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Tēnā koe James,

Official Information Act request: COVID-19 pandemic related job loss

Thank you for your request dated 7 March 2022, transferred to Stats NZ from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, requesting the following:

- “1. Number of job terminations due to redundancy attributable to the Covid-19 pandemic (eg. During Lockdowns).”*
- “2. Number of job losses related to vaccination orders where employees have refused to be vaccinated.”*

Stats NZ hold data relevant to this request, collected from the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS). The HLFS does not collect data on job loss specifically due to COVID-19 related redundancy, or refusal to be vaccinated. However, ‘COVID-19 related reasons’ is a response option for several questions in the HLFS, including why a person doesn’t want, hasn’t looked for, or has left a job. Another possible response option for these questions is being made redundant or laid off. Some people who have lost their job due to vaccine mandates may be included in this category.

In the December 2021 quarter, 23,000 jobless people (\pm 4,200) who had left their last job in the last five years said they did so for COVID-19 related reasons. This could include vaccine mandates at their workplace, amongst other causes, such as reduced business due to the pandemic, or concern for their own safety.

In the December 2021 quarter, 40,900 people (\pm 5,400) who had left their last job in the last 5 years said that they were either made redundant, laid off, or the business they worked at closed.

This data has been released each quarter since the June 2020 quarter as part of Stats NZ’s [labour market statistics](#) releases, in the ‘Household labour force survey supplementary tables’. Measures with ‘COVID-19 related reasons’ available as an answer include breakdowns by sex, ethnic group, and age group.

If you are not satisfied with this response, 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 or 0800 802 602.

It is our policy to proactively release our responses to official information requests where possible. This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published on the Stats NZ website. Publishing responses creates greater openness and transparency of government decision-making, and helps better inform public understanding of the reasons for decisions.

Ngā mihi nui



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Stats NZ