

Sole Mothers

Nearly **60%** of sole mothers were in paid employment at the last census (2018), making the labour market the main source of financial support for sole parent families.

Sole parent support is also an essential safety net. Nearly **49%** of sole mothers received sole parent support in 2018, (compared to 20% of sole fathers). This is explained partly by sole fathers caring for older children. Many of those receiving sole parent support also declare regular part-time work. Twenty percent of sole parents receive sole parent support for less than one year.



67%

Labourforce participation rate for sole parents



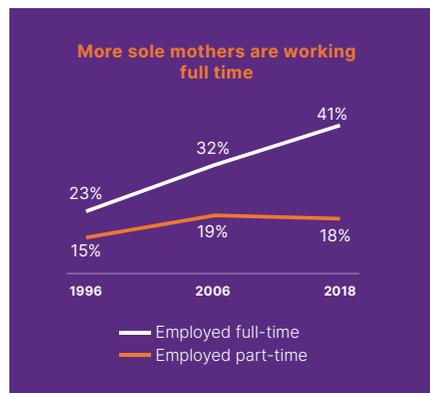
45%

of mothers on sole parent support have a full driver licence (compared to 74% of all mothers)

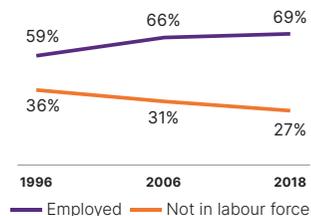


13%

Unemployment rate of sole mothers, three times that of mothers in couples (4.3%)



More mothers are working



More mothers are working

More mothers are in the labour force, with **69%** of mothers employed in 2018.

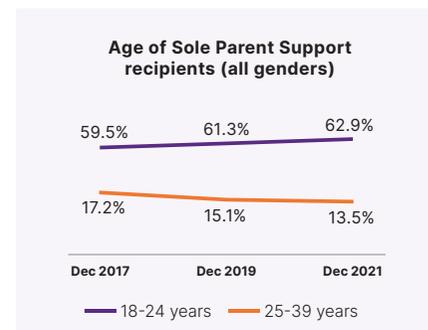
More sole mothers are also working: **59%** of sole mothers were employed in 2018 compared to **37%** in 1996.

About **two-thirds** (65%) of employed mothers work full time. This number was similar for employed working mothers in a couple (64% worked full-time), and sole mothers (69% worked full-time).

Access to Childcare

Sole parents are **twice as likely** as women living with a partner to experience difficulties accessing childcare due to affordability, and are substantially more likely to experience other access difficulties.

Māori mothers are **2 to 3 times** more likely to report their child is not in care due to cost and/or access than Pākehā.



Wellbeing

Last year, nearly one-fifth of sole parents did not have enough money for everyday needs. Sole parents are also more likely to living in damp, cold and mouldy homes.

In March 2021, over **one-quarter** of sole parents gave low ratings of overall life satisfaction (26%) compared to partnered mothers and fathers (11%).

Nearly **one-third** of sole parents gave low ratings of family wellbeing (27%), and received help from an organisation such as a church or foodbank in the past 12 months (27%).

Support for parents

The age of parents receiving sole parent support is rising. In 2021, nearly **two-thirds** of parents receiving support were aged 25-39 years old.

Over **50%** of all recipients (both genders) had a dependent child under 5 years old.

In December 2021, over **66,000** mothers received sole parent support in the last 5 years – comprising **91%** of all recipients.

Driver license type by motherhood status, 2018

