

New Zealand Official Yearbook 1998

Te Pukapuka Houanga Whaimana o Aotearoa

5.1 Population growth

The dramatic changes in the first 150 years of European settlement in New Zealand were frequently consistent with, and indicative of, international social and economic trends. In a nation of New Zealand's size and youth, however, the results of these trends often had a profound effect and impact. The almost cyclic nature of depression and recovery, along with gold rushes, world wars and assisted immigration schemes, saw New Zealand's population growth rates fluctuate regularly.

Table 5.1. TOTAL NEW ZEALAND POPULATION, 1858-1996 CENSUSES

Census ¹	Total population	Intercensal increase		
		Number	Percent	Average annual (percent)
10mits censuses of 1861, 1864, 1867 and 1871 as censuses of Maori population were not taken in these years.				
Source: Statistics New Zealand				
1858, 24 December	115,462
1874, 1 March	344,984
1878, 3 March	458,007	113,023	32.76	7.33
1881, 3 April	534,030	76,023	16.60	5.10
1886, 28 March	620,451	86,421	16.18	3.07
1891, 5 April	668,651	48,200	7.77	1.49
1896, 12 April	743,214	74,563	11.15	2.13
1901, 31 March	815,862	72,648	9.77	1.89
1906, 29 April	936,309	120,447	14.76	2.75
1911, 2 April	1,058,312	122,003	13.03	2.52
1916, 15 October	1,149,225	90,913	8.59	1.50
1921, 17 April	1,271,668	122,443	10.65	2.27
1926, 20 April	1,408,139	136,471	10.73	2.06
1936, 24 March	1,573,812	165,673	11.77	1.13

1945, 25 September	1,702,330	128,518	8.17	0.83
1951, 17 April	1,939,472	237,142	13.93	2.37
1956, 17 April	2, 174,062	234,590	12.10	2.31
1961, 18 April	2,414,984	240,922	11.08	2.12
1966, 22 March	2,676,919	261,935	10.85	2.11
1971, 23 March	2,862,631	185,712	6.94	1.35
1976, 23 March	3,129,383	266,752	9.32	1.80
1981, 24 March	3,175,737	46,354	1.48	0.29
1986, 4 March	3,307,084	131,347	4.14	0.82
1991, 5 March	3,434,950	127,866	3.87	0.76
1996, 5 March	3,681,546	246,596	7.18	1.40

Census on the Web

All reports from the 1996 Census are available from the Statistics New Zealand World Wide Web site, at <http://www.stats.govt.nz>. The material available includes:

- *The Community Leaflet* issued for each of the country's 74 territorial authorities, containing a summary of information about the area.
- *The 30 standard tables of census data* for each regional council and territorial authority, covering a wide range of personal and household characteristics (such as age, sex, country of birth, household composition, iwi affiliation, religion, income, occupation, dwelling type, number of motor vehicles).
- *The 16 census reference reports*: Population and dwellings statistics; National summary; Regional summary; Incomes; Maori; Education; Population structure and internal migration; Ethnic groups; Housing; Electoral profile; Families and households; Employment; Pacific Islands people; Unpaid work and unemployment; Iwi; and People born overseas.

POPULATION GROWTH

Percentage annual increase

The population of New Zealand reached 500,000 in 1880 boosted by the introduction of government-assisted immigration. The first million was surpassed in 1908 following the economic recovery from the Depression of the 1880s and 1890s. In the aftermath of World War II the growth rate climbed dramatically (in comparison to a stagnation in the early 1930s) as the baby boom and increased immigration made their impact. The second million of population was reached in 1952, 44 years after the first million with the third added, only 21 years later, in 1973. Almost one-fifth of this population growth came from net immigration. Since 1974 New Zealand's population has increased by over one-half of a million to reach 3.68 million at the 1996 Census, held on 5 March.

Over the past 20 years there have been significant fluctuations in the population growth rate caused by wide swings in the level and direction of the external migration balance. In absolute terms, New Zealand's population grew by a record 266,752 during 1971-76, only 46,354 during 1976-81, 131,347 during 1981-86, 127,866 during 1986-91 and 246,596 over the latest intercensal period, 1991-96.

Table 5.2. ESTIMATED POPULATION, 1885-1997

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total population at 31 December</i>	<i>Mean population for year ended 31 December</i>
Source: Statistics New Zealand		
De facto population		
1885	619,323	613,862
1886	631,355	624,275
1887	645,330	638,343
1888	649,349	647,340
1889	658,021	653,685
1890	667,477	662,749
1891	676,051	671,776
1892	692,426	684,239
1893	714,258	703,342
1894	728,121	721,190
1895	740,699	734,410
1896	754,016	746,288
1897	768,910	761,463
1898	783,317	776,114
1899	796,359	789,838
1900	808,132	802,246
1901	830,800	821,111
1902	851,072	840,936
1903	875,648	863,360
1904	900,682	888,165
1905	925,605	913,144
1906	956,457	943,325
1907	977,215	966,836
1908	1,008,373	992,794
1909	1,030,657	1,019,515
1910	1,050,410	1,040,534
1911	1,075,250	1,063,887
1912	1,102,471	1,088,861

1913	1,134,506	1,118,488
1914	1,145,838	1,140,172
1915	1,152,638	1,149,238
1916	1,150,339	1,149,225
1917	1,147,448	1,148,893
1918	1,158,149	1,152,798
1919	1,227,181	1,192,665
1920	1,257,611	1,242,396
1921	1,292,717	1,276,652
1922	1,318,884	1,305,126
1923	1,343,021	1,328,193
1924	1,370,403	1,352,618
1925	1,401,230	1,384,428
1926	1,429,700	1,413,800
1931	1,522,700	1,514,200
1936	1,584,600	1,575,200
1939	1,641,600	1,628,500
1940	1,633,600	1,637,300
1941	1,631,200	1,630,900
1942	1,636,400	1,639,500
1943	1,642,000	1,635,600
1944	1,676,300	1,655,800
1945	1,727,800	1,694,700
1946	1,781,200	1,759,600
1947	1,817,500	1,798,300
1948	1,853,900	1,834,700
1949	1,892,100	1,871,700
1950	1,927,700	1,909,100
1951	1,970,500	1,947,600
1952	2,024,600	1,996,200
1953	2,074,700	2,048,800
1954	2,118,400	2,094,900
1955	2,164,800	2,139,000
1956	2,209,200	2,182,800
1957	2,262,800	2,232,500
1958	2,316,000	2,285,800
1959	2,359,700	2,334,600

1960	2,403,600	2,377,000
1961	2,461,300	2,426,700
1962	2,515,800	2,484,900
1963	2,566,900	2,536,900
1964	2,617,000	2,589,100
1965	2,663,800	2,635,300
1966	2,711,300	2,682,600
1967	2,745,000	2,727,700
1968	2,773,000	2,753,500
1969	2,804,000	2,780,100
1970	2,852,100	2,819,600
1971	2,898,500	2,864,200
1972	2,959,700	2,915,600
1973	3,024,900	2,977,100
1974	3,091,900	3,041,800
1975	3,143,700	3,100,100
1976	3,163,400	3,131,800
1977	3,166,400	3,142,600
1978	3,165,200	3,143,500
1979	3,163,900	3,137,800
1980	3,176,400	3,144,000
1981	3,194,500	3,156,700
1982	3,226,800	3,180,800
1983	3,264,800	3,221,700
1984	3,293,000	3,252,800
1985	3,303,100	3,271,500
1986	3,313,500	3,277,000
1987	3,342,100	3,303,600
1988	3,345,200	3,317,000
1989	3,369,800	3,330,200
1990	3,410,400	3,362,500
Resident population		
1991	3,498,100	
1992	3,534,400	3,515,000
1993	3,579,900	3,555,800
1994	3,630,400	3,603,700
1995	3,688,700	3,657,900

1996	3,743,400	3,715,700
1997	3,781,500	3,762,300

Five take a dip at Moana Pool, Dunedin.

Enumerating our population

Results from the 1996 Census Post Enumeration Survey reveal that 45,000 New Zealand residents (1.2 percent of the population) were not enumerated by the 1996 Census. Likewise, at the time of the 1996 Census, 40,000 New Zealand residents were temporarily overseas and thus did not complete a census return. Since these people pay taxes, use health and educational facilities, vote, etc, they are for most purposes part of our administrative population base. Traditional ways of measuring the population, based on the de facto population concept, have excluded these people but included tourists temporarily visiting New Zealand. The 1996 Census enumerated 63,000 temporary visitors in New Zealand on census night.

In order to ensure that estimates more accurately reflect the population which resides in an area, Statistics New Zealand has adopted the "resident population" concept as a standard for producing official population estimates and projections.

The latest resident population estimates show New Zealand's total population has grown by more than 67,000 since the 1996 Census to reach 3,781,500 at 31 December 1997.

5.5 Future population issues

What lies ahead in New Zealand's demographic future? Predicting future trends, even beyond the short-term, is a difficult task because population trends and structures influence and are in turn affected by a host of economic, social and other circumstances.

Statistics New Zealand regularly prepares a range of projections for the New Zealand population. These combine different scenarios on future changes in fertility, mortality and external migration, which appear likely in the light of the historical trends. These projections are not exactly forecasts, but illustrate what the changes in population size, growth rate and age-sex structure would be if the given assumptions are met.

The 1996-base New Zealand Resident Population Projections were released in October 1997 and cover the period 1998-2051.

The medium projection assumes that New Zealand women will have 1.85 children, on average, life expectancy at birth will increase by 6 years and there will be a net migration gain of 5,000 people a year (the average annual level over the last 100 years). According to this projection New Zealand's population will grow from 3.71 million in 1996 to 4.53 million in 2039, an increase of 820,000, or 22 percent. The population is then projected to decrease slightly to reach 4.49 million by 2051.

A migration gain of 10,000 a year (the government's new target announced in December 1997) would result in a population of 4.84 million by the year 2051, an increase of 1.31 million or 30 percent, over the 1996 population.

The following highlights are based on the medium projection (annual migration gain of 5,000).

The population growth rate is projected to slow down gradually mainly because of the narrowing gap between births and deaths. It will average 1.0 percent a year in the late 1990s, 0.3 percent a year in the late 2020s and will become negative from 2040, as deaths outnumber births by a growing margin.

The number of births is expected to decrease over the next 55 years from 57,000 in 1996 to 45,000 by the year 2051. This is a decrease of 12,000, or 21 percent, and partly reflects the projected low (below replacement level) fertility rates. The number of deaths will double over the same period, from 28,000 in 1996 to 56,000 in 2051. The increase will be greatest after 2011 as the large baby-boom generation begins to enter the older ages, where mortality is relatively high. The number of deaths is expected to exceed the number of births in the mid-2030s. Consequently, the natural increase (excess of births over deaths) will decrease steadily from 29,000 in 1996 to nil in 2035 and then reach -11,000 (a natural decrease) in 2051.

Table 5.15. ETHNIC COMPOSITION (A) TOTAL POPULATION, 1858-1976

<i>Census</i> ¹	<i>Total population</i>	<i>Maori</i> ²	<i>Pacific Island Polynesian</i>	<i>Chinese</i>	<i>Indian</i>	<i>Fijian</i>	<i>Other</i>
1 Omits censuses of 1861, 1864, 1867 and 1871 as censuses of Maori population were not taken.							
2 Those specifying themselves as half or more New Zealand Maori plus those not specifying the degree of origin.							
3 Usually resident.							
4 Ethnic group: This refers to the total number of people who specified the ethnic group named, either as their sole ethnic group or as one of several ethnic groups. A person belonging to more than one of the groups named will therefore be counted in each group.							
Source: Statistics New Zealand							
1858	115,462	56,049					59,413
1874	344,984	47,330		4,816			292,838
1878	458,007	45,542		4,433			408,032
1881	534,030	46,141		5,004			482,885
1886	620,451	43,927		4,542			571,982
1891	668,651	44,177		4,444			620,030
1896	743,214	42,113		3,859	46		697,196
1901	815,862	45,549		2,963	24		767,326
1906	936,309	50,309		2,570	6		883,424
1911	1,058,312	52,723		2,630	15		1,002,944
1916	1,149,225	52,997		151	2,147	181	1,093,749
1921	1,271,668	56,987	334	3,266	671		1,210,410
1926	1,408,139	63,670	588	3,374	987		1,339,520
1936	1,573,812	82,326	988	2,943	1,200	109	1,486,246
1945	1,702,330	98,744	2,159	4,940	1,554	185	1,594,749
1951	1,939,472	115,676	3,624	5,723	2,425	277	1,811,747
1956	2,174,062	137,151	8,103	6,731	3,151	479	2,018,447
1961	2,414,984	167,086	14,340	8,524	4,179	746	2,220,109
1966	2,676,919	201,159	26,271	10,283	6,843	1,323	2,431,040
1971	2,862,631	227,414	40,918	12,470	7,140	1,147	2,573,542
1976	3,129,383	270,035	61,354	14,860	9,247	1,548	2,772,339

(B) USUALLY RESIDENT POPULATION, 1981-96					
<i>Census</i>	<i>Total population</i> ³	<i>Maori</i> ⁴	<i>Pacific Island</i> ⁴	<i>Chinese</i> ⁴	<i>Indian</i> ⁴
1981	3,143,307	384,933	104,262	19,806	11,673
1986	3,263,283	404,778	130,293	26,619	15,810
1991	3,373,929	434,847	167,073	44,790	30,606
1996	3,618,302	523,374	202,233	82,320	43,821

The chief choreographer of the Pacific cultural show “Return to Paradise” performs a contemporary version of a Samoan war dance.

Ethnicity

The 1996 Census question on ethnicity (question 10) asked: “Tick as many circles as you need to show which ethnic group(s) you belong to.” The census Help Notes explained: “This question is about the ethnic group or groups (cultural groups) you belong to or identify with. It is not asking about nationality or citizenship.”

Some responses for selected ethnic groups are given below. In 1996, 523,374 people identified with the Maori ethnic group, an increase of 20.4 percent on the 1991 figure of 434,844. The Maori ethnic group is now 14.5 percent of the population, up from 12.9 percent in 1991.

Those who identified with one or more of the Pacific Island ethnic groups numbered 202,233, an increase of 21 percent since 1991. It is significant that more than half of this population (57.0 percent) is now New Zealand-born.

There has also been a large increase in those who identify with at least one Asian ethnic group, up 74.2 percent to 173,502 people.

<i>Ethnic group</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Source: 1996 Census			
NZ European	1,218,765	1,277,787	2,496,552
British and Irish	233,364	240,744	474,108
Dutch	25,017	22,554	47,571
German	6,390	7,020	13,410
NZ Maori	258,000	265,374	523,374
Samoan	50,019	51,735	101,754
Cook Island Maori	23,373	23,799	47,172
Tongan	15,699	15,690	31,389
Chinese	39,624	42,696	82,320
Indian	22,374	21,447	43,821
Korean	6,342	6,411	12,753

Japanese	2,838	4,623	7,461
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Christchurch veteran Meals on Wheels deliverers, Ross McPherson and 99-year-old Max Bishop, discuss the day's menu.

Like other developed nations, our age structure will change significantly over the projection period and become older. Half of all New Zealanders will be over the age of 46 years in 2051, compared with a median age of 33 years in 1996.

The number of children (0-14 years) is projected to increase initially, from 846,000 in 1996 to 871,000 in 2001. The number will then generally decline to reach 696,000 by the year 2051, or 18 percent lower than in 1996. This reflects the combined impact of sub-replacement fertility and changes in the size of birth cohorts of women entering childbearing ages during the projection years. By 2051, children will comprise 16 percent of the population, well down from 23 percent in 1996.

The main working age population (15-64 years) is projected to increase from 2.44 million in 1996 to peak at 2.84 million in 2019, a growth of 400,000 or 16 percent. After this the number will decrease to 2.65 million in 2051. In 1996 this group comprised 66 percent of the total population, but this is projected to decrease to 59 percent by 2051.

The number of New Zealanders aged 65 years and over is expected to increase over the next 55 years, from 0.43 million in 1996 to 1.15 million in 2051. This is a rise of 720,000, or 167 percent, and reflects the combined impact of the projected improvement in life expectancy and the movement of the large baby-boom generation into retirement ages. By 2051, the elderly are expected to make up 26 percent (just over 1 in 4) of all New Zealanders, compared with 12 percent in 1996. In 1996, there were nearly twice as many children in the population as elderly. By 2051, the elderly will outnumber children by over 65 percent.

Table 5.16. PROJECTED NEW ZEALAND RESIDENT POPULATION¹ AND MEDIAN AGE², 1996 (BASE)-2051

<i>Year at 30 June</i>	<i>Population by age group</i>					<i>Median age²</i>
	<i>0-14</i>	<i>15-64</i>	<i>65+</i>	<i>Total</i>		
<i>1Assuming medium fertility and mortality, and long-term annual net immigration of 5,000.</i>						
<i>2Half of the population is younger and half older than this age.</i>						
Note: Owing to rounding, individual figures do not always sum to the stated totals.						
Source: Statistics New Zealand						

Religious affiliation

The 1996 Census of Population and Dwellings showed a continued decline in the number of people identifying with the major Christian denominations, and continuing growth in the major non-Christian religions and in the number of people with no religious affiliation. The four major Christian denominations of Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian and Methodist all experienced declining numbers between 1991 and 1996, with the proportion of the population in these categories falling from 57.6 percent to 49.1 percent. Anglicans, however, remained by far the largest religious denomination, accounting for 18 percent of the population in 1996.

Pentecostals were the only major Christian group to experience significant growth between 1991 and 1996, with their numbers increasing by 55 percent. Amongst non-Christian religions, the numbers of Buddhists and Muslims more than doubled while the number of Hindus increased by almost half between 1991 and 1996, although each of these groups still make up less than 1 percent of the population.

The number of people who indicated that they had no religious affiliation also increased markedly between 1991 and 1996, rising by 33 percent to make up over a quarter of the population in 1996.

Table 6.26. RELIGIOUS AFFILIATIONS¹

<i>Religious affiliation</i>	<i>1991 Census</i>		<i>1996 Census</i>		<i>Intercensal percentage change</i>
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage of responses</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage of responses</i>	
<i>¹Usually resident New Zealand population.</i>					
<i>Source: Statistics New Zealand</i>					
Anglican	732,048	22.1	631,764	18.4	-13.7
Catholic	498,612	15.0	473,112	13.8	-5.1
Presbyterian	541,050	16.3	458,289	13.4	-15.3
Methodist	139,494	4.2	121,650	3.5	-12.8
Baptist	70,155	2.1	53,613	1.6	-23.6
Latter Day Saints/Mormon	48,009	1.4	41,166	1.2	-14.3
Pentecostal	25,368	0.8	39,228	1.1	54.6
Ratana	47,592	1.4	36,450	1.1	-23.4
Buddhist	12,765	0.4	28,131	0.8	120.4
Hindu	17,661	0.5	25,293	0.7	43.2
Brethren	20,337	0.6	19,950	0.6	-1.9
Jehovah's Witness	19,182	0.6	19,524	0.6	1.8

<i>Religious affiliation</i>	<i>1991 Census</i>		<i>1996 Census</i>		<i>Intercensal percentage change</i>
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage of responses</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage of responses</i>	
Assemblies of God	17,226	0.5	17,520	0.5	1.7
Salvation Army	19,992	0.6	14,625	0.4	-26.8
Islam/Moslem	6,096	0.2	13,548	0.4	122.2
Seventh Day Adventist	13,005	0.4	12,324	0.4	-5.2
Other specified	164,679	5.0	273,735	8.0	66.2
Other response including no religion	672,654	20.3	893,910	26.1	32.9
Object to state	251,709	7.6	256,593	7.5	1.9
Not specified	56,286		187,881		233.8
Total	3,373,929	100.0	3,618,303	100.0	7.2

Table 6.28. COMPARISON OF AGE STRUCTURE OF MAJOR ETHNIC GROUPS, 1996 CENSUS¹

<i>Age group (years)</i>	<i>Percentage of population in age group</i>				
	<i>European²</i>	<i>New Zealand Maori</i>	<i>Pacific Island</i>	<i>Asian</i>	<i>Other</i>
0-4	6.4	13.7	13.2	8.1	9.2
5-14	12.9	23.8	21.9	17.1	19.5
15-24	13.2	18.9	18.8	20.9	16.1
25-34	15.1	16.3	17.8	18.5	21.9
35-44	15.4	12.3	12.7	18.2	17.9
45-54	13.2	7.3	7.8	9.7	9.1
55-64	9.4	4.6	4.5	4.3	3.4
65-74	8.3	2.2	2.3	2.2	2.1
75-84	4.8	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.7
85 and over	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

¹Usually resident New Zealand population.

²“European” includes those who specified a European group as their sole ethnic group; “NZ Maori” includes all those who specified NZ Maori either alone or in combination with other groups; “Pacific Island” includes all people who specified a Pacific Islands ethnic group except those who also specified NZ Maori; “Asian” includes all those who specified an Asian ethnic group except those who also specified NZ Maori or a Pacific Islands ethnic group; “Other” includes all those who specified another ethnic group except those who also specified NZ Maori or a Pacific Islands or Asian ethnic group.

Source: Statistics New Zealand