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Demographic Trends: 2012

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Purpose

Demographic Trends aims to provide a comprehensive resource on population and related statistics. It provides commentaries on major demographic indicators of the New Zealand population. This edition is the latest in the series. The topics covered are: population change and structure, births, marriage, divorce, deaths, life expectancy, international travel and migration, subnational population estimates, and national and subnational demographic projections.

It is important to note that the figures and analysis presented here do not relate to any data collected as part of the 2013 Census.

We intend to make changes to the delivery of information presented in *Demographic Trends*. If you would like to send us any feedback on its content, format, or how you use this report, please contact the Population Statistics team at demography@stats.govt.nz.

Information about the data

Percentage changes

Percentage changes are sometimes calculated using data of greater precision than that published. This could result in slight variations in the percentages reported.

Rounding procedures

Figures may be rounded independently to the nearest thousand or other unit. This rounding may result in a total disagreeing slightly with the total of the individual table values. Where figures are rounded, the unit is generally expressed in words below the table headings, but where space doesn't allow this, the unit may be shown in figures, as (000) for thousands, etc.

Changes of base

Where consecutive figures have been compiled on different bases and are not strictly comparable, a footnote indicates the nature of the difference.

Source

Statistics New Zealand compiles all data, except where otherwise stated. Both administrative and survey data have been used in this report.

Contents

List of figures

Figures by chapter

For more detailed data, see the Excel tables available with this report on the Statistics NZ website.

1 Population change and structure

National population estimates give the best available measure of the size and age-sex structure of the population usually living in New Zealand. Estimates are based on the latest census data and on births, deaths, and migration since the census.

New Zealand's population reached 4 million in the first half of 2003. The country's first million was reached in 1908, with the 2-million mark following in 1952. The 3-million mark was reached in 1973 – this was the 'fastest' million, achieved in 21 years.

At 30 June 2012:

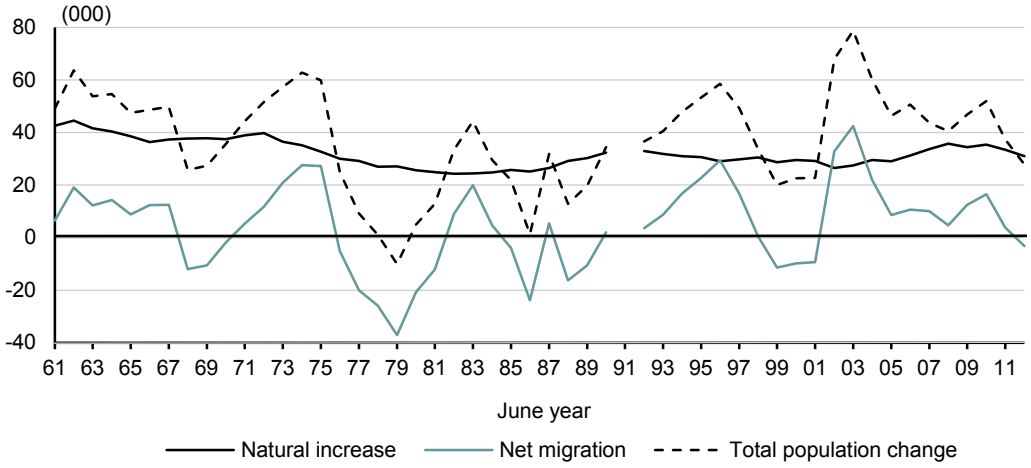
- The estimated resident population of New Zealand was 4.43 million.
- The median ages for males and females were 35.7 and 38.2 years, respectively.
- Children (aged 0–14 years) made up 20 percent of the New Zealand population, people of working ages (15–64 years) made up 66 percent, and those aged 65 years and over (65+) made up 14 percent.
- The Māori ethnic group estimated resident population of New Zealand was 682,200.
- The median age of the Māori ethnic group was 23.2 years of age, 13.8 years younger than that of the total population.

During the June 2012 year:

- Estimated population growth was 27,900 (0.6 percent).
- Natural increase (births minus deaths) contributed 31,100 to population growth, partly offset by a migration loss of 3,200.

Figure 1

Components of population change
1961–2012



Note: Population change for 1961–90 refers to the de facto population (see Glossary), while population change from 1992 onwards refers to the resident population. Population change for the June 1991 year is not available, as resident population estimates were only revised back to 31 March 1991.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Population measures

There are three main population measures produced by Statistics NZ: census night population count, census usually resident population count, and estimated resident population:

- The **census night population count** is a count of all people present in New Zealand on a given census night. This count includes visitors from overseas who are counted on census night, but excludes residents who are temporarily overseas on census night.
- The **census usually resident population count** is a count of all people who usually live in New Zealand and are present in New Zealand on a given census night. This count excludes visitors from overseas and residents who are temporarily overseas on census night.
- The **estimated resident population** is an estimate of all people who usually live in New Zealand at a given date. The estimated resident population is the best available measure of the size and structure of the population usually living in New Zealand. The estimated resident population at 30 June 2006 forms the **base population** for deriving post-censal population estimates.

Base population

The base population at 30 June 2006 was derived by updating the census usually resident population counts from the 2006 Census for:

- net census undercount (as measured by the 2006 Post-enumeration Survey)
- the number of residents temporarily overseas on census night
- births, deaths, and net permanent and long-term migration between census night (7 March 2006) and 30 June 2006
- reconciliation with demographic estimates at ages 0–4 years.

Population estimates after 30 June 2006 will be revised following the results from the 2013 Census of Population and Dwellings.

Population growth

The estimated resident population of New Zealand at 30 June 2012 was 4,433,000. This is an increase of 27,900 (0.6 percent) compared with the previous year, when the estimated resident population was 4,405,200. The population growth recorded in the June 2012 year was the lowest for a decade.

The population growth during the June 2012 year was due to a natural increase (excess of births over deaths) of 31,100, partly offset by a net permanent and long-term migration loss of 3,200. Historically, natural increase has been the dominant element in population growth. During the last decade, the excess of births over deaths accounted for around two-thirds of New Zealand's population growth.

Median age

New Zealand has an ageing population because of a shift to sustained low fertility and low mortality rates. This is also observed in other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries. At 30 June 2012, half the New Zealand population was over the age of 37.0 years, compared with a median age of 34.8 years a decade earlier.

The median age for females was 38.2 years at 30 June 2012, while for males it was 35.7 years. The higher median age for females reflects their higher life expectancy, 82.8 years, compared with 79.1 years for males (New Zealand abridged life table, 2009–2011). In the past decade, the median age has increased by 1.7 years for males and 2.6 years for females.

Age structure

The age composition of New Zealand's population has changed over the last decade. Between the 2002 and 2012 June years, the number of children (aged 0–14 years) grew by just 8,700 (1.0 percent) from 883,600 to 892,300. In the June 2012 year, children made up 20 percent of all New Zealanders, down from 22 percent in 2002.

The number of New Zealanders of working age (15–64 years) reached 2,929,400 at 30 June 2012. This age group, which accounted for 66 percent of New Zealand's population in 2012, increased by 332,000 (13 percent) between the 2002 and 2012 June years. People in the older working ages (40–64 years) recorded a much larger percentage increase (20 percent) than younger workers (6.5 percent) over the last decade. In 2012 the median age of the working-age population was 39.5 years compared with 38.3 years a decade earlier.

The number of New Zealanders aged 65+ continues to grow. Between June 2002 and 2012 their number increased by 143,900 (31 percent), from 467,500 to 611,400. Over the same time, the median age for the 65+ age group decreased slightly, from 74.1 years to 73.6 years. Women significantly outnumber men in the older age groups. At 30 June 2012, the sex ratio for those aged 65+ was 85 males per 100 females.

The 65+ age group is itself ageing and this partly reflects the continuing improvement in longevity. The number of males and females aged 90+ increased significantly during the last decade, to 7,720 and 17,670, respectively. In 2002, there were 3,960 males and 12,040 females in this age group.

Māori population estimates

The estimated resident population of the Māori ethnic group at 30 June 2012 was 682,200. The Māori population is much younger than the total population. Half of New Zealand's Māori ethnic group population was under 23.2 years of age at 30 June 2012, 13.8 years younger than the median age of the total population.

Limitations are inherent in the data used to derive Māori population estimates. For example, no data on external migration for the Māori ethnic group are available. All estimates for the Māori ethnic group are supplied only as a guide for research and other analytical purposes.

More information

The following information on population change and structure is available on the Statistics NZ website, www.stats.govt.nz:

- National Population Estimates – information releases
- Māori population estimates
- Population estimates at 30 June 1996, 2001, and 2006 (from Table Builder)
- Population Clock: A real time approximation of New Zealand's resident population
- Further information about population estimates
- Estimates and projections: The latest estimates, related articles and reports, and more detailed information.

Time-series data is available from the Infoshare database. Population estimates are available from the **Population Estimates** subject group in the **Population** category.

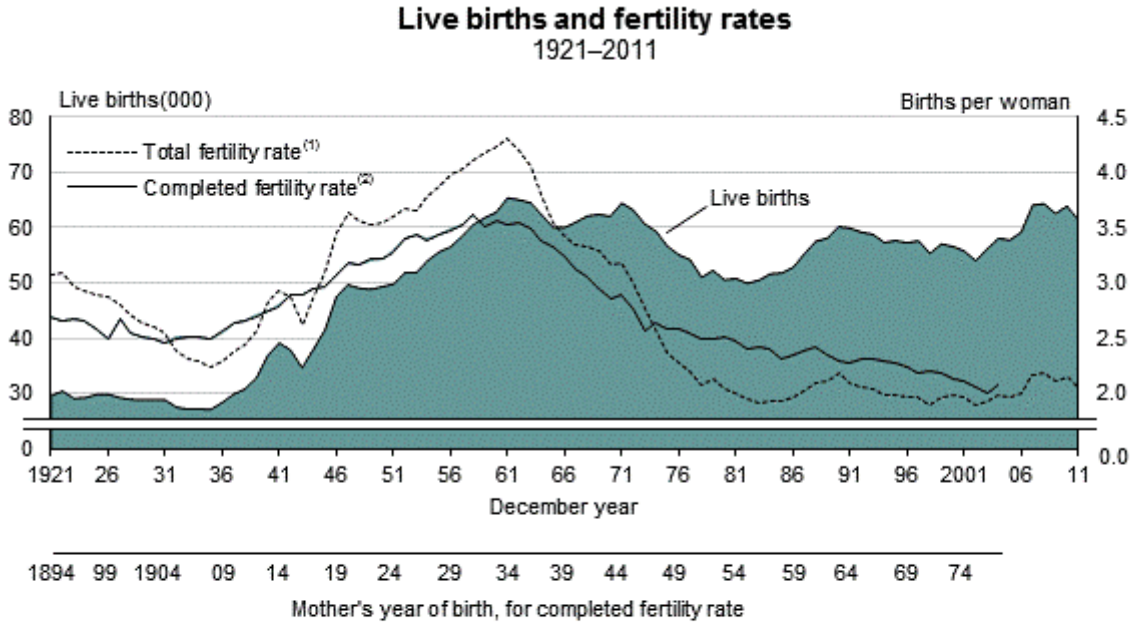
2 Births

Statistics on births record the number of births registered in New Zealand each year. Information about births also includes a range of fertility rates.

The following highlights are based on births registered in New Zealand:

- There were 61,403 live births registered in New Zealand in the year ended December 2011 – 31,476 boys and 29,927 girls.
- The highest number of live births registered in one year was 65,390 in 1961.
- The total fertility rate was 2.1 births per woman in 2011; 4.3 births per woman in 1961; and 3.1 births per woman in 1921.
- Women aged 30–34 years had the highest fertility rate (122 births per 1,000 women aged 30–34) in 2011.
- One in every four children born in 2011 had more than one ethnicity. Fewer mothers (around one in seven) had multiple ethnicities.
- 70 percent of Māori children born in 2011 had more than one ethnicity.
- In 2011, the median age of Māori mothers was 26 years, four years younger than for the total population (30 years). The median age for Pacific, Asian, and European women was 27, 30, and 31 years, respectively.
- Māori women had a total fertility rate of 2.7 births per woman in 2011 and Māori women aged 25–29 had the highest fertility rate (145 births per 1,000 women).

Figure 2



1. The average number of births a woman would have during her life if she experienced the age-specific fertility rates of that year. It excludes the effects of mortality.
2. The average number of children a woman born in a particular year has had during her life. The figures for 1963–78 birth cohorts are estimates only.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Introduction

The last century witnessed significant changes in family size, reproductive patterns, and population dynamics. The transition in family size, from relatively large to relatively small families, was already under way when the 20th century began. The current fertility level should therefore be viewed as an extension of the fundamental changes that began more than 100 years ago. New Zealand women now have fewer children, bear children later in their lives, and some remain childless.

Decreasing fertility rates have been accompanied by decreasing mortality rates. The transition from high fertility and mortality to low fertility and mortality has resulted in an overall increase in the median age of the population (known as population ageing).

Births

There were 61,403 live births registered in New Zealand in the year ended December 2011, down from 63,897 in 2010. The highest number of live births registered in any December year was 65,390 in 1961. At that time, New Zealand's population was just 2.5 million, compared with 4.4 million in 2011.

Fertility rates and mother's age

The total fertility rate is the average number of births a woman would have during her life if she experienced the age-specific fertility rates of a given period (usually a year). Age-specific fertility rates for the December 2011 year indicate that on average, New Zealand women are giving birth to 2.1 children. This is about half the high of 4.3 births per woman recorded in 1961, which was supported by a dramatic trend toward early and near-universal marriage, and early childbearing. Forty years earlier, in 1921, the total fertility rate was 3.1 births per woman.

The level required by a population to replace itself in the long term, without migration, is 2.1 births per woman. Except for a brief recovery around 1990, New Zealand fertility rates were slightly below replacement level from 1980 until 2006. In 2007–10, an increase in the total number of births saw fertility rates increasing to around replacement level. Although sub-replacement fertility remains common in developed countries, there have been recent increases in fertility in other developed countries such as Sweden (up from 1.5 in 1999 to 1.9 in 2011), England and Wales (up from 1.6 in 2001 to 2.0 in 2011), and Scotland (up from 1.5 in 2002 to 1.7 in 2011).

Age-specific fertility rates measure the number of live births 1,000 women in a particular age group have in a given period (usually a year). Age-specific fertility rates (table 2.04) show a big drop in births to women in their twenties, especially from the early 1960s to the late 1970s. In 1962, there were 265 births for every 1,000 women aged 20–24 years and 259 for every 1,000 women aged 25–29 years. This dropped to 134 and 143 per 1,000, respectively, by 1978. In 2011, the birth rate for women aged 20–24 years was 72 per 1,000 and 104 per 1,000 for women aged 25–29 years.

In the December 2011 year, women aged 30–34 years had the highest fertility rate (122 births per 1,000 women aged 30–34 years). However, these women still have fewer babies than in 1962 (152 births per 1,000). Fertility rates for women in their thirties decreased during the 1960s and 1970s but have been increasing since the 1980s. The birth rate for women aged 35–39 years in 2011 (71 per 1,000) was only slightly lower than in 1962 (75 per 1,000). However, their fertility rate had dropped to a low of 20 per 1,000 in 1981.

Fewer New Zealand women in their teens are having a child compared with the 1960s. The birth rate for women aged 15–19 years increased from 54 per 1,000 in 1962 to 69

per 1,000 in 1972, before dropping to 30 per 1,000 in 1984. It has hovered around 30 per 1,000 ever since and was 26 per 1,000 in 2011.

Fertility rates for women aged 40–44 years dropped from 23 births per 1,000 in 1962 to around 4 per 1,000 in the mid-1980s, before increasing to 15 births per 1,000 in 2011. Among women aged 40–44 years who registered a baby in the December 2011 year, 68 percent were aged 40 or 41 years.

The median age (half are younger and half are older than this age) of New Zealand women giving birth is now 30 years, compared with 26 years in the early 1960s. The median age dropped to just under 25 years in the early 1970s. Although there has been a significant increase in the median age since the 1970s, it has been relatively stable at around 30 years in the past decade.

Cohort fertility

In general, if there is a significant trend towards having children at a younger age, the total fertility rate tends to overstate the number of live births a women is likely to have over her lifetime. If there is a significant trend towards having children at an older age, the total fertility rate tends to underestimate the number of births a woman is likely to have.

The cohort fertility series traces the fertility experience of women born in a particular year. The completed fertility rate is the average number of births a woman born in a particular year has had during her life. The completed fertility rate for women born in the 1930s was about 3.5 births; however, the total fertility rate in the early 1960s suggests that these women would have had 4.1 births. In contrast, women born during the 1950s had a completed fertility rate of about 2.4 births per woman, compared with a total fertility rate of about 2.0 births per woman during the early 1980s.

Ethnicity

Mothers and babies may belong to more than one ethnic group. For example, a baby who has both Māori and Pacific ethnicity would be recorded in both ethnic groups. As a result, the ethnic group totals do not sum to the number of births. Within the broad ethnic groups (for example European) each birth is counted only once. For instance, a child whose ethnicity is recorded as Chinese, New Zealand European, and English is counted once in the Asian ethnic group and once in the European ethnic group.

A baby's ethnicity tends to reflect the ethnicities of both parents. In 2011, 74 percent of births registered belonged to only one ethnic group, 22 percent belonged to two ethnic groups, and 3 percent belonged to three ethnic groups. Just over half as many mothers (14 percent) as babies (26 percent) identified with more than one ethnic group.

In the December 2011 year, 70 percent of Māori babies and 50 percent of Pacific babies belonged to two or more ethnic groups. In contrast, only 33 percent of European babies and 28 percent of Asian babies belonged to two or more ethnic groups.

The total fertility for the Māori ethnic group in the December 2011 year was 2.7 births per woman, well above replacement level (2.1 births per woman).

In the December 2011 year, the fertility rates for Māori mothers under 25 years of age were more than double the fertility rates for the total populations in the same age groups. However, the fertility rate for the total population exceeded the rate for the Māori population in the 30–34 and 35–39-year age groups. The fertility rate for the Māori population was higher than the total population in all age groups above 40 years of age. Māori women aged 25–29 years had the highest fertility rate (145 per 1,000) followed by those aged 20–24 years (144 per 1,000).

Fertility rates for the major ethnic groups (based on the mother's ethnicity) are only available for the census years 2001 and 2006. They are calculated using live births over a three year period centred on a census year and can be accessed from the births tables on the Statistics NZ website. These indicate that the fertility rate of Pacific women was 3.0 births per woman, 2.8 for Māori women, 1.9 for European women, and 1.5 for Asian women, in 2006.

Regional fertility

The Auckland region had the highest number of births in the December 2011 year (22,660), accounting for 37 percent of all live births registered in New Zealand. This was followed by the Canterbury (6,692), Wellington (6,527), and Waikato (5,916) regions. Together, these four regions accounted for just over two-thirds of all live births registered in the December 2011 year. This is consistent with their share of New Zealand's population.

Regional variations in fertility are marked, and tend to reflect the characteristics of the population in the area. For example, low fertility in Otago reflects the high number of young women studying in Dunedin. These young women tend to delay childbirth until they have completed their studies, by which time they are likely to have moved to other regions.

Fertility rates for regions are only produced for the census years 1996, 2001, and 2006 (table 2.09). As with the fertility rates for ethnic groups, they are calculated using live births over a three-year period centred on a census year. Gisborne and Northland had the highest total fertility rate (both 2.7 births per woman). Otago (1.6 births per woman) had the lowest total fertility rate.

More information

The information on births is available from the following Statistics NZ webpages:

- Births and Deaths – Information releases
- Births contains links to data and reports.

Time-series data is available from the Infoshare database. Births and birth rates are available from two subject groups in the Population category:

- **Birth rates – DFM**
- **Births – VSB.**

3 Marriage, civil union, and divorce

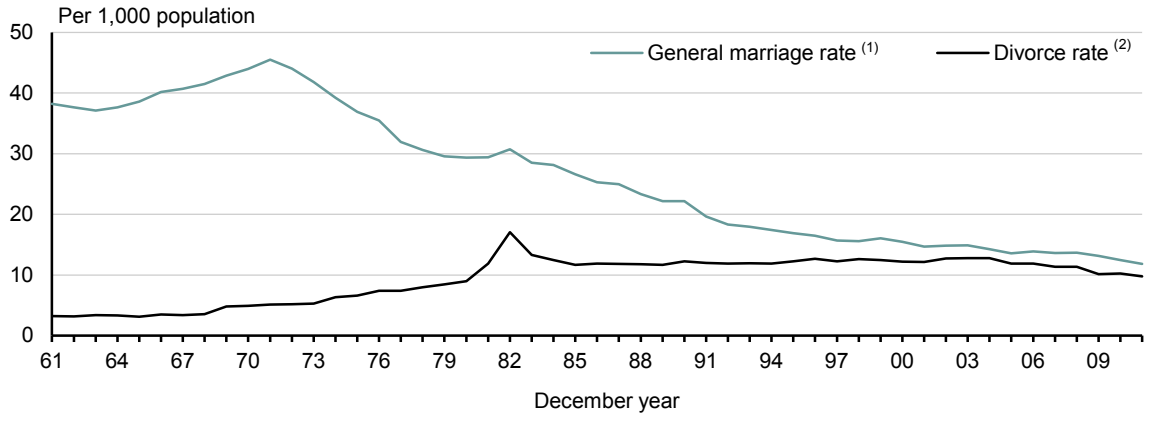
Statistics on marriages and civil unions record the number of marriages and civil unions registered in New Zealand each year. Statistics on divorces record the number of divorces (marriage dissolutions) granted in New Zealand each year.

The following highlights are based on marriages and civil unions registered in New Zealand and divorces granted in New Zealand:

- There were 20,231 marriages registered to New Zealand residents during the December 2011 year.
- The 2011 figure is 26 percent lower than the peak of 27,199 registered marriages in 1971.
- The general marriage rate was 11.8 marriages per 1,000 not-married population aged 16 years and over in 2011, compared with 14.7 per 1,000 a decade earlier in 2001.
- The median ages of men and women marrying for the first time in 2011 were 29.9 and 28.3 years, respectively.
- Just under one-third (6,182) of all marriages registered in 2011 were remarriages of one or both partners.
- January, February, and March continue to be the most popular months in which people marry – 41 percent of marriages were celebrated in the first three months of 2011.
- There were 8,551 orders for dissolution of marriage granted in New Zealand during the December 2011 year.
- The divorce rate in 2011 was 9.8 divorces per 1,000 estimated existing marriages.
- Analysis of divorce statistics by year of marriage shows that just over one-third of New Zealanders who married in 1986 had divorced before their silver wedding anniversary (25 years).

Figure 3

Marriage and divorce rates
1961–2011



1. Marriages registered in New Zealand per 1,000 mean not-married estimated population aged 16 years and over.
2. Orders for dissolution of marriages granted in New Zealand per 1,000 estimated existing marriages.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Marriages

There were 20,231 marriages registered to New Zealand residents in the December 2011 year, down 709 or 3 percent from 20,940 marriages in 2010. Over the past 10 years, there has been an average of 21,100 marriages per year. This compares with an average of 24,100 during the period 1972–81. The 2011 figure is 26 percent lower than the peak of 27,199 registered marriages in 1971.

The general marriage rate (number of marriages per 1,000 not-married population aged 16 years and over) was11.8 per 1,000 in 2011, lower than the rate of 12.5 per 1,000 in 2010. The rate has declined in the last decade from14.7 per 1,000 in 2001, and is currently less than one-third of the peak of 45.5 per 1,000 recorded in 1971. Many factors have contributed to the fall in the marriage rate, including the growth in de facto unions, a general trend towards delayed marriage, and increasing numbers of New Zealanders remaining single.

Age at marriage

New Zealanders are marrying later than in the past. In 2011, a total of 513 teenage girls (under 20 years) married, compared with 8,717 in 1971. Teenagers comprised 32 percent of all brides in 1971, but only 3 percent in 2011. Among partnered women aged 15-19 years, nine out of 10 were living in a de facto union at the time of the 2006 Census.

The median age (half are younger, and half are older, than this age) of men who married for the first time in 2011 was 29.9 years. This is about seven years older than the median age of those who married for the first time in 1971. The median age of women who married for the first time has risen by a similar margin, from 20.8 years in 1971 to 28.3 years in 2011. Women still tend to marry men older than themselves, but the gap between their median ages at first marriage has narrowed. In 1971, the gap was 2.1 years, but by 2011 it narrowed to 1.6 years.

Among all marriages (first and remarriages), the median age at marriage has been rising steadily since the early-1970s. The median age at marriage reached historic lows of 23.5 years for men and 21.2 years for women in 1971, and reached peaks of 32.6 and 30.4 respectively in 2006. In 2011, the median age for all marriages was 32.1 years for men and 30.0 years for women. These median ages have been relatively constant since 2004.

Remarriages

The number of New Zealand resident marriages where one or both partners had previously been married was 6,182 in 2011, down 4 percent from 2010. The proportion of all marriages that were remarriages in 2011 was 31 percent. In 1971, just 16 percent of marriages (4,385) involved the remarriage of one or both partners. By 1983, this had increased to 33 percent. Since then the proportion of remarriages has remained roughly around one-third, but has been decreasing slightly in the last decade.

Ninety percent of those remarrying in 2011 were previously divorced, up from 67 percent in 1971. This rise can be partly attributed to the increase in the number of people who are divorced. In 1971, only 4 percent of not-married people were divorced; in 2006, the corresponding figure was 16 percent (based on census data). Of all the New Zealand residents who married in 2011, 21 percent of men and 19 percent of women were previously divorced. About half the divorced people who remarry marry another divorced person.

De facto unions

A growing proportion of New Zealanders, like their counterparts in Australia, North America, and Europe, live together without legally formalising their union. The Census of

Population and Dwellings is the primary source of information on de facto unions. Marriage and civil union statistics provide information on legally registered unions only. In 1996, about one in four men and women aged 15–44 years who were in partnerships were not legally married. By 2006, this figure had increased to around two in five.

Civil unions

The Civil Unions Act 2004 came into force on 26 April 2005, and first ceremonies were celebrated on 29 April 2005. This Act introduced a new form of legal relationship. Two people aged 18 years and over, whether of opposite or the same sex, can enter into a civil union provided they are not currently married to, or in a civil union with, someone else. People aged 16 and 17 years must have their guardian's consent to enter a civil union. A couple who are currently married can transfer their relationship to a civil union. An opposite-sex couple in a civil union can transfer their relationship to a marriage. As in the past, a same-sex couple cannot enter into a marriage.

In 2011, there were 301 civil unions registered to New Zealand residents. These comprised 232 same-sex unions (133 female and 99 male) and 69 opposite-sex unions.

To 31 December 2011, there have been a total of 2,152 civil unions registered to New Zealand residents. Of these, 1,685 (78 percent) were same-sex civil unions. In the same period, a further 439 civil unions were registered in New Zealand to overseas residents. Eighty seven percent were same-sex civil unions.

Divorces

In 2011, 8,551 marriage dissolution orders were granted by the Family Court, down 4 percent from the 2010 total of 8,874.

In 1981, there was a sharp increase in divorces following the passing of the Family Proceedings Act 1980. This allowed for the dissolution of marriage on the grounds of irreconcilable differences. Divorces recorded a temporary high of 12,395 in 1982. Subsequently, both the number and rate of marriage dissolutions dropped, but the trend was upward again from the late 1980s to 2004. In the last decade, there has been an average of 9,700 marriage dissolutions per year, varying from 10,609 in 2004 to 8,551 in 2011.

The divorce rate (divorces per 1,000 existing marriages) was 9.8 in 2011, dropping under 10.0 for the first time since 1980. During the early 1990s, the rate fluctuated around 12.0 per 1,000, and around 12.5 during the late 1990s and early 2000s.

Annual divorce statistics do not give a complete picture of the number of marriages ending in divorce. Analysis of divorce statistics by year of marriage shows that just over one-third of New Zealanders who married in 1986 had divorced before their silver wedding anniversary (25 years). For those married in 1976 and1971, the corresponding figures were 30 and 29 percent, respectively.

Age at divorce

The upward trend in age at divorce is continuing. This partly reflects the marked trend towards later marriages, which started in the early 1970s. The median age at divorce in 2011 was 45.4 years for men and 42.8 years for women. Divorces in 2011 were, on average, about three-and-a-half years older than those whose marriages dissolved a decade earlier. The median ages in 2001 were 41.9 years for men and 39.3 for women.

More information

The following information on marriage, civil union, and divorce is available from the Statistics NZ website:

- Marriages, Civil Unions, and Divorces – Information releases
- Marriages, civil unions, and divorces has links to data and reports.

Time-series data is available from the Infoshare database. Marriage, civil union, and divorce data is available from two subject groups in the **Population** category:

- **Marriages, Civil Unions, and Divorces – VSM**
- **Marriage and Divorce Rates – DMR.**

4 Deaths and life expectancy

Statistics on deaths record the number of deaths registered in New Zealand each year. Life expectancy is an indicator of how long a person can expect to live on average given prevailing mortality rates. Life tables produced by Statistics NZ include information about life expectancy, and the probability of death and survival at various ages.

The following highlights are based on deaths registered in New Zealand:

- There were 30,082 deaths registered in New Zealand in the year ended December 2011, comprising 14,823 male and 15,259 female deaths.
- The median age at death in 2011 was 77.5 years for males and 83.2 years for females.
- During the 2011 year, the number of infant deaths (under one year of age) registered in New Zealand totalled 290. Two decades earlier, 494 infant deaths were registered. (Infant deaths exclude stillbirths.)
- In 2011, 50 percent of all infant deaths occurred within the first week of life.
- The infant mortality rate in 2011 was 4.7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births.
- In 2011, there were 25,169 deaths of people belonging to the European ethnic group; 2,976 deaths of people belonging to the Māori ethnic group; 1,211 Pacific; 844 Asian; 85 Middle Eastern, Latin American, and African (MELAA); and 221 in 'Other'. People may belong to more than one ethnic group and each death has been included in every ethnic group stated.
- Life expectancy at birth was 82.2 years for females and 78.0 years for males, based on deaths in 2005–07 (from New Zealand life tables 2005–07).
- The difference between female and male life expectancy at birth narrowed from a peak of 6.4 years in 1975–77 to 4.1 years in 2005–07.
- The 2005–07 period life tables indicate that life expectancy at birth for the Māori ethnic group is 70.4 years for males and 75.1 years for females.

Deaths

There were 30,082 deaths registered in New Zealand during the year ended December 2011. This compares with 28,438 in the December 2010 year, and 26,389 in 1991.

The age distribution of people dying has changed significantly over recent decades, with an increasing proportion of deaths occurring in older age groups. This can be attributed to an ageing population, increased life expectancy, and the dramatic decline in infant mortality (now 30 percent of the rate 40 years ago). In the December 2011 year, three-quarters of the deceased were aged 68 years and over, with one-half aged 80 years and over. In contrast, only 5 percent of the deceased were under 40 years of age. By comparison, in 1991, three-quarters of deaths were of people aged 63 years and over, the median age at death was 75 years, and 9 percent of deaths were of people aged under 40 years.

Ethnicity

A breakdown of deaths registered during the year ended December 2011 in broad ethnic groups shows that 29,356 belonged to one ethnic group, 543 belonged to two ethnic groups, and 21 belonged to three or more ethnic groups. There were a further 162 deaths where ethnic group was not stated.

Multi-ethnic deaths accounted for 1.9 percent of deaths in the year ended December 2011. The small proportion (compared with 26 percent of births being multi-ethnic) partly reflects the ethnic structure of the older population, which is made up largely of people who belong to one ethnic group.

Death rates

The crude death rate for New Zealand was 6.8 deaths per 1,000 mean estimated resident population in the December 2011 year, down from 7.6 per 1,000 in 1991. For the Māori population, the crude death rate was 4.4 deaths per 1,000 in 2011. However, the crude death rate is influenced by the age structure of the population being measured, and does not give an accurate comparison of the mortality experience between populations or over time. The crude death rate for Māori is lower than that for the total population because of the younger age structure of the Māori population.

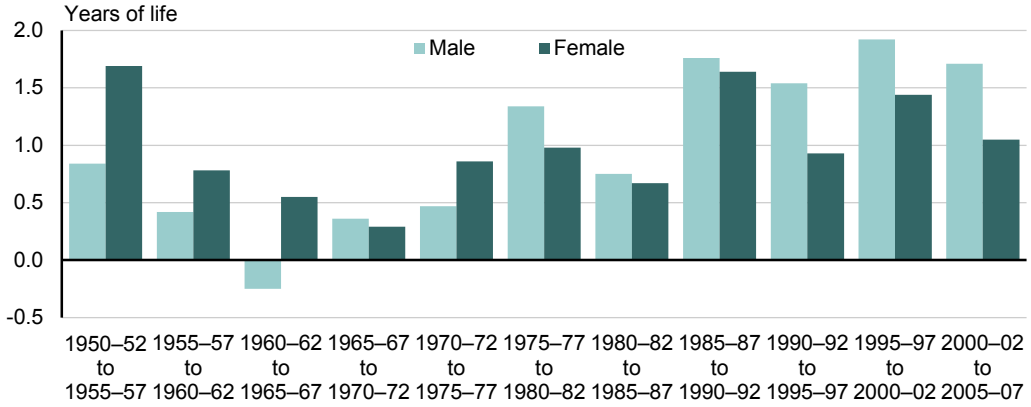
Life tables and standardised death rates are used to give a more accurate description of mortality. For example, when differences in population composition are taken into account by standardising for age, the standardised Māori death rate (6.5 per 1,000 in 2011) is higher than the standardised death rate of the total population (3.8 per 1,000).

Period life tables and life expectancy

According to the New Zealand complete period life tables for 2005–07, a newborn girl can expect to live 82.2 years on average, and a newborn boy 78.0 years. These levels represent longevity gains since 2000–02 of 1.0 years for females and 1.7 years for males (see figure 4).

Figure 4

Five-yearly change in life expectancy at birth
Total population by sex
1950–52 to 2005–07



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Two-thirds of these gains were due to the reduction in deaths rates among late working and retirement ages (60–84 years).

Since 1975–77, life expectancy at birth has increased by 6.7 years for females and 9.0 years for males. While differences in mortality between males and females still remain, their longevity gap has narrowed. Newborn females in 2005–07 can expect to outlive newborn males by 4.1 years, down from a peak of 6.4 years in 1975–77.

Māori life expectancy is significantly lower than that of non-Māori. Life expectancy at birth for females of Māori ethnicity in 2005–07 was 75.1 years, while male Māori life

expectancy was 70.4 years. The difference of about 8.2 years between Māori and non-Māori is slightly less than the estimated difference of 8.5 years in 2000–02 and 9.1 years in 1995–97.

The 1995–97, 2000–02, and 2005–07 period life tables for Māori and non-Māori have been derived using data from the new ethnic question on the birth and death registration forms (introduced in September 1995), and therefore are not comparable with earlier life tables. Life tables for other ethnicities, such as the broad Pacific and Asian ethnic groups, have not been produced because of the small size of these ethnic populations, relatively few deaths, and the general uncertainty associated with ethnic identification and measurement.

The latest abridged period life tables, produced for the total population only, indicate that the life expectancy at birth was 82.8 years for females and 79.1 years for males for the period 2009–11.

Infant mortality

The New Zealand infant mortality rate (deaths of children under one year of age per 1,000 live births) has fallen significantly over the last four decades. In the year ended December 2011, the infant mortality rate was 4.7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, down from 16.5 per 1,000 in 1971. Over the same period, the neonatal mortality rate (deaths of babies aged less than four weeks per 1,000 live births) fell from 10.6 per 1,000 to 2.7 per 1,000. In the December 2011 year, 38 percent of infant deaths occurred in the first 24 hours after birth, 50 percent within the first week of life, and 58 percent within the first four weeks of life.

Cohort life tables and life expectancy

The cohort life tables track the deaths/survivors of each birth cohort (people born in the same year) at each age over their lifetime. The cohort life tables indicate that life expectancy at birth increased between the 1876 and 1937 birth cohorts, from 50.4 years to 72.1 years for males, and from 54.0 years to 77.9 years for females. Both the level and rate of change in life expectancy at birth are higher than implied by the period life tables, because of the progressive decline in mortality with successive birth cohorts.

Life expectancy is the average length of life of a group of people from a given age. The death of the last survivor of a birth cohort is therefore needed before life expectancy (at any age) can be calculated. Some remaining survival and mortality experience has been projected at ages above 74 years to complete the life tables for birth cohorts up to 1937. For cohorts born after 1937, other life table measures such as death rates at different ages and proportions dying by different ages are still available.

The cohort life tables also indicate that the impact of war deaths on the mortality experience of New Zealand males has been hugely significant. Without the direct impact of deaths in World Wars I and II, life expectancy at birth would have been five years higher for males born in the mid-1890s and three years higher for males born in the late-1910s.

Subnational life expectancy

Subnational mortality and longevity trends should be interpreted with caution. Death and population numbers can fluctuate from period to period. In addition, the stated residence of the deceased may not reflect the geographic area(s) where that person spent most of their life.

Although New Zealanders' life expectancy at birth increased by 9.0 years for males and by 6.7 years for females between 1975–77 and 2005–07, there are some significant

regional differences in life expectancy. According to the 2005–07 abridged period life tables for regional council areas, life expectancy at birth ranged from 73.8 to 79.4 years for males, and 78.1 to 83.2 for females.

The regional period life tables indicate that five regions have experienced both male and female life expectancies at birth that are consistently above the New Zealand average over the last decade: Auckland, Wellington, Tasman, Canterbury, and Otago. Conversely, life expectancy in the Gisborne region was significantly below the national average, with both male and female life expectancy being over four years lower than the New Zealand average in 2005–07. Other regions with life expectancies consistently below the national average over the last decade were Northland, Bay of Plenty, Hawke's Bay, Manawatu-Wanganui, West Coast, and Southland. Life expectancies in the remaining regions (Waikato, Taranaki, Nelson, and Marlborough) varied above and below the national average.

There are 40 territorial authority areas where death and population numbers are considered sufficient to produce abridged period life tables for 2005–07. However, because of fluctuations in death and populations numbers, these abridged period life tables should be interpreted with caution.

The reasons for subnational differences in longevity and mortality are difficult to identify precisely, and are probably due to a combination of interrelated factors, including the proportion of the population who are Māori, the proportion of the population who smoke (or have smoked), the proximity to health and hospital services, the degree of urbanisation, and socio-economic factors.

More information

The following information is available on the Statistics New Zealand website, www.stats.govt.nz.

- Births and Deaths – Information releases
- New Zealand Period Life Tables – Information releases
- See deaths for further information about data and reports relating to death statistics
- See life expectancy for further information about data and reports relating to life tables.

Time-series data is available from the Infoshare database. Deaths and life expectancy data are available from the following subject groups in the Population category:

- **Deaths – VSD**
- **Death Rates – DMM**
- **Demography Life Expectancy – DLE.**

5 International travel and migration

International travel and migration statistics provide information on the number of overseas visitors, New Zealand resident travellers, and permanent and long-term migrants entering or leaving New Zealand. These statistics are based on final counts of arrivals to and departures from New Zealand.

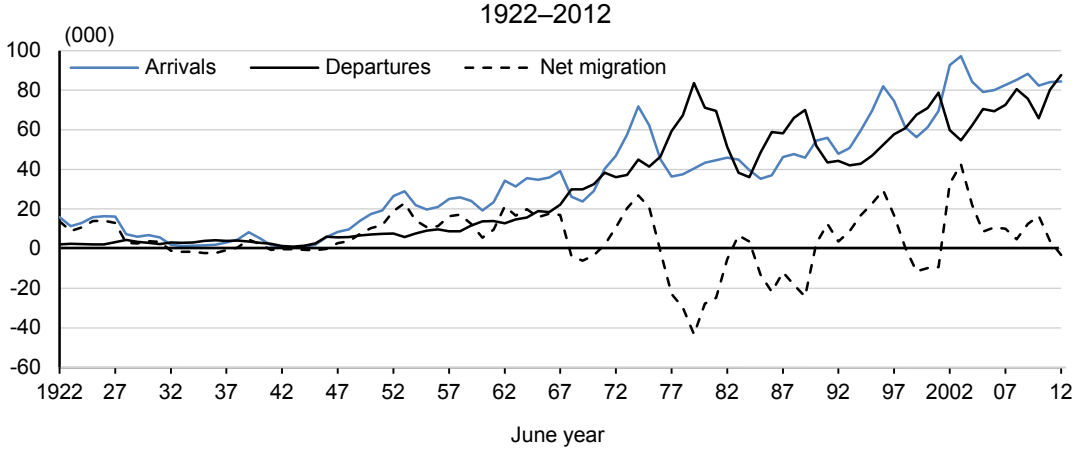
In the year ended June 2012:

- Total passenger arrivals and departures numbered 9.7 million, up 4 percent from the year ended June 2011, and the highest ever for a June year.
- Permanent and long-term (PLT) departures exceeded PLT arrivals by 3,200.
- Half of PLT arrivals were 15–29 years of age.
- New Zealand citizens made up 71 percent of all PLT departures and 27 percent of all PLT arrivals.
- Australia was the largest destination country for PLT departures (53,800). The United Kingdom was the largest source country of PLT arrivals (14,200), followed closely by Australia (14,000).
- The largest net inflow of PLT migrants was from the United Kingdom (5,600), followed by China and India (each 5,200).
- Auckland was the only region to receive a net inflow of PLT migrants (5,100).
- Of the PLT arrivals who required a visa, 41 percent arrived on a work visa, 27 percent on a student visa, and 22 percent on a residence visa.

Figure 5

Annual permanent and long-term arrivals, departures, and net migration

1922–2012



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Total passengers

Total international passenger arrivals and departures reached 9.743 million in the year ended June 2012, up 4 percent when compared with 2011. There were 4.854 million arrivals and 4.889 million departures. This is the highest number of passengers in a June year, surpassing the previous high of 9.339 million in the year ended June 2011. Short-term travellers accounted for 98 percent of total movements, while the remaining 2 percent were PLT migrants.

Permanent and long-term migration

PLT arrivals include people from overseas arriving to live in New Zealand for 12 months or more (including permanently), and New Zealanders returning to live after an absence of 12 months or more overseas. PLT departures include New Zealanders departing for an absence of 12 months or more (including permanently), and people returning to live overseas after a stay of 12 months or more in New Zealand.

In the year ended June 2012, 84,400 migrants came to New Zealand, up 400 (less than 1 percent) from 2011. Over the same period, departures increased by 9 percent to 87,600, the highest ever recorded. As a result, New Zealand experienced a net outflow of 3,200 migrants during the June 2012 year, compared with a net inflow of 3,900 in 2011. This was the first net outflow since 2001.

Net PLT migration varied greatly between 1922 and 2012, as illustrated in figure 5. Migration flows were influenced by legislative and economic factors in New Zealand and overseas. The most PLT arrivals in a June year were 97,200 in 2003, which resulted in a record net inflow of 42,500. The previous record for PLT departures in a June year was 83,700 in 1979, which resulted in a record net outflow of 43,300.

Permanent and long-term migration by age group

In the June 2012 year, most of the net loss of migrants occurred in those aged under 15 years (3,900), and 35–54 years (4,200). However, this was countered by net gains of migrants aged 15–34 (3,500), and 55 or over (1,400).

The age groups from which New Zealand gains and loses migrants have changed over time. For example, in the year ended June 1982 there was a net loss of 5,300 migrants, similar to the net loss of 3,200 in 2012. However, the main loss in 1982 was in the 15–24-year age group, while the main gain was for those aged 25–39.

Permanent and long-term migration by citizenship

The overall net loss in the June 2012 year resulted from a net loss of New Zealand citizens (39,500), countered by a net gain of non-New Zealand citizens (36,300)

In the June 2012 year, the majority of arrivals were non-New Zealand citizens (61,800). Another 22,600 were New Zealand citizens, most of whom were returning to New Zealand after having lived overseas for 12 months or more.

The majority of departures were New Zealand citizens (62,100) in the June 2012 year, with another 25,500 being non-New Zealand citizens who had lived in New Zealand for 12 months or more.

Permanent and long-term migration by country

Migration flows to and from Australia and the United Kingdom continue to play a major role in New Zealand's migration patterns. In the June 2012 year, the United Kingdom was

the largest source country for PLT arrivals (14,200), with 38 percent being New Zealand citizens. Another 14,000 migrants arrived from Australia, of which 64 percent were New Zealand citizens. The United Kingdom supplied the greatest number of PLT arrivals every year since 1995, except for 2010 and 2011, when Australia supplied more.

In 2012, Australia was by far the largest destination country for PLT departures (53,800, a record). New Zealand citizens accounted for 90 percent of the departures to Australia. Another 8,600 migrants departed to the United Kingdom, of which 55 percent were New Zealand citizens.

New Zealand's net loss of migrants in the June 2012 year was due to a net loss of 39,800 people to Australia, compared with 29,900 in 2011 and 15,900 in 2010. The latest net loss to Australia is a record for a June year. The previous high for a June year was 31,900 in 2008.

There were net gains of migrants from most other countries, led by the United Kingdom (5,600), China (5,200), India (5,200), the Philippines (2,000), Germany (1,500), and Ireland (1,500).

Permanent and long-term migration by New Zealand region

In the June 2012 year, Auckland region had the largest number of PLT arrivals (35,300) and departures (30,300), as well as the only net inflow of PLT migrants (5,100). The largest net outflows were from Waikato (2,100), Bay of Plenty (2,100), Canterbury (2,000), Wellington (1,700), and Northland (1,500).

The Christchurch earthquake in February 2011 influenced the net loss from the Canterbury region in the June 2011 and 2012 years. When we compare the June 2012 year with 2010 (before the quake), Canterbury arrivals decreased 17 percent while national arrivals increased 3 percent, and Canterbury departures increased 36 percent while national departures increased 33 percent.

Permanent and long-term migration by visa type

In the June 2012 year, 26,100 PLT arrivals were Australian or New Zealand citizens who were free to enter and stay in New Zealand. Of the citizens from other countries, 24,200 arrived on work visas, 16,000 arrived on student visas, 13,100 arrived on residence visas, and 4,300 arrived on visitor visas.

Compared with the June 2011 year, the biggest change was an increase in work visas (up 2,900), mostly due to work visa increases in Auckland (up 1,500) and Canterbury (up 700). The fastest-growing occupation for work visas in Auckland was professionals, while Canterbury's fastest-growing occupation was technicians and trades workers, who were in high demand following the Christchurch earthquake.

More information

The International travel and migration webpage on the Statistics NZ website has links to the latest international travel and migration releases, data, reports, articles, information about data, and news.

6 Subnational population estimates

Subnational population estimates give the best available measure of the size, age, and sex of the population usually living in an area. Estimates are derived from the latest census data, with adjustments for net census undercount, residents temporarily overseas on census night, and births, deaths, and migration since the census. While the population estimates are based on available data, uncertainty is inherent in the estimation process, and the estimates will be revised after the 2013 Census of Population and Dwellings.

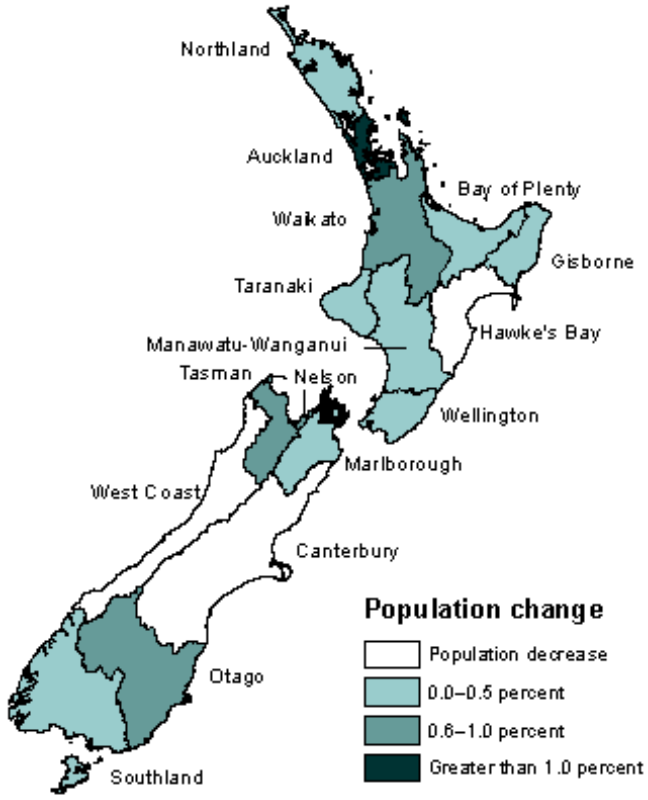
In the June 2012 year the population estimates indicate:

- Thirteen of New Zealand's 16 regions recorded population growth. Auckland dominated regional growth, up 1.5 percent. Canterbury region decreased by 0.3 percent. This compares with a decrease of 0.9 percent in the June 2011 year.
- The fastest-growing territorial authority areas were Selwyn district (up 2.9 percent), Hurunui district, Hamilton city, and Ashburton district (all up 1.7 percent).

Figure 6

Regional population change

Year ended 30 June 2012



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Introduction

The estimated resident population of an area in New Zealand is an estimate of all people who usually live in that area at a given date. The latest population estimates available are based on the census usually resident population count of each area from the 2006 Census of Population and Dwellings (held 7 March 2006). These counts are then updated for residents missed or counted more than once by the census (net census undercount); residents temporarily overseas on census night; reconciliation with demographic estimates at ages 0–4 years; and births, deaths, and net migration between census night and the date of the estimate.

North and South islands

In the June 2012 year, the population of the North Island grew at a considerably faster rate than that of the South Island. An estimated 3,394,000 people lived in the North Island at 30 June 2012, an increase of 27,900 (0.8 percent) from 30 June 2011. The estimated resident population of the South Island grew by just 60 people in the June 2012 year to reach 1,038,500. At 30 June 2012, about 3 out of every 4 New Zealand residents lived in the North Island.

Natural increase (more births than deaths) was the main component of the North Island’s population growth in the June 2012 year, accounting for about 97 percent of total growth. In contrast, the South Island's natural increase was offset by net out-migration, resulting in a very small population growth.

Regions

Thirteen of New Zealand's 16 regions had population growth during the June 2012 year. Auckland maintained its position as New Zealand's fastest-growing region, up 1.5 percent. Waikato and Nelson (both up 0.8 percent) grew slightly above the national average (0.6 percent). The population growths for all the remaining regions were below the national average level.

In the June 2012 year, all 16 regions had population gains from natural increase. However, all regions except Auckland had net losses from international migration. As a result, most regions had lower population growth than in 2011, while Canterbury, Hawke's Bay, and West Coast experienced small population decreases.

The population of the earthquake-affected Canterbury region decreased by 1,900 (0.3 percent) in the June 2012 year. This decrease was due to a net migration loss of 4,000, partly offset by a natural increase of 2,100. There were contrasting changes within the Canterbury region. While Christchurch city's population decreased by 4,600 (1.2 percent), the remainder of the Canterbury region experienced population growth of 2,700 (1.4 percent).

Auckland, with an estimated resident population of 1,507,600 at 30 June 2012, was home to about one-third of New Zealand residents. Canterbury, with an estimated resident population of 558,800, was home to 54 percent of South Island residents.

Cities and districts

New Zealand is made up of 67 territorial authority areas: 12 cities, 53 districts, Chatham Islands territory, and Auckland. In the June 2012 year, 38 of the 67 territorial authority areas had population increases, down from 56 in 2011 and 62 in 2010. The highest rate of growth in the June 2012 year was recorded in the Selwyn district (2.9 percent).

Four territorial authority areas recorded natural decrease (more deaths than births) in the June 2012 year: Thames-Coromandel, Timaru, Kapiti Coast, and Waimate districts.

Auckland's population exceeded 1.5 million for the first time, reaching 1,507,600 at 30 June 2012.

Population growth in the June 2012 year was largely concentrated in the most populous cities, except for Christchurch. The four cities of Auckland, Wellington, Hamilton, and Palmerston North accounted for 97 percent of the North Island's population growth in the June 2012 year. In contrast, the fastest growing areas in the South Island were mainly around Christchurch city, including the Selwyn, Waimakariri, and Ashburton districts.

Boundary changes

The population estimates are based on boundaries at 1 January 2013. They take into account recent boundary changes involving Christchurch city and Selwyn district (which took effect on 21 March 2012), and Manawatu districts and Palmerston North city (which took effect on 1 July 2012). These boundaries align with those used in the latest subnational population projections (released 8 October 2012), and the boundaries that will be in place for the 2013 Census of Population and Dwellings.

Future releases of subnational population estimates will incorporate these new boundaries. Subnational population estimates at 30 June 2006–12, based on boundaries at 1 January 2013, are available from the subnational population estimates tables page on the Statistics NZ website, www.stats.govt.nz.

More information

Population estimates at 30 June 2006–12 by five-year age group and sex, for regional council areas, territorial authority areas, and area units, are available from Table Builder on the Statistics NZ website.

See subnational population estimates tables for additional tables.

See information about the population estimates for information about subnational population estimates.

Estimating local populations after the 2010/11 Canterbury earthquakes describes the data sources used to derive subnational population estimates at 30 June 2011–12.

Evaluation of alternative data sources for population estimates assesses a diverse range of existing administrative and commercial data sources that might be useful for producing subnational population estimates.

7 National demographic projections

The projections give an indication of future changes in New Zealand's population, labour force, broad ethnic populations, and families and households. The following highlights are based on the respective mid-range projection, one of many projections produced.

Population

- New Zealand’s population is projected to reach 5 million in the mid-2020s, and about 6 million in 2061, according to the 2011-base projections.
- The population growth rate will slow steadily, because of the narrowing gap between births and deaths. From a natural increase (births minus deaths) of 31,000 in 2012, there is roughly a 3 in 4 chance that natural increase will be less than 25,000 in 2061, and roughly a 1 in 3 chance of natural decrease (more deaths than births) by 2061.
- The age structure of the population will continue to undergo gradual but significant changes, resulting in more older people and further ageing of the population.
- Half of New Zealand’s population could be older than 44 years by 2061, compared with a median age of 37 years in 2012.
- The population aged 65 years and over (65+) will surpass 1 million in the late 2020s, compared with 600,000 in 2012.
- By 2031, it is expected that between 20 and 22 percent of New Zealanders will be aged 65+, compared with 14 percent in 2012. By 2061, it is expected that between 22 and 30 percent of the population will be aged 65+.
- By 2061, about 1 in 4 people aged 65+ will be 85+, compared with 1 in 8 in 2012.

Labour force

- New Zealand's labour force is projected to keep increasing from an estimated 2.4 million in 2012 to 3.0 million in 2036 and 3.3 million in 2061.

Ethnic populations

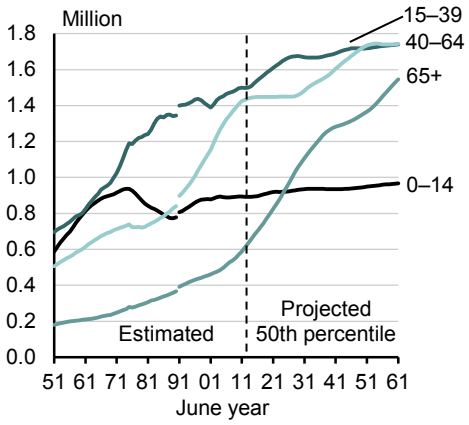
- The broad European, Māori, Asian, and Pacific ethnic populations are all projected to grow between 2006 and 2026.
- The Asian, Pacific, and Māori ethnic populations are all projected to grow faster than the New Zealand population overall. As a result, these ethnic populations are expected to increase their share of the population.

Families and households

- The numbers of families and households will grow faster than the population between 2006 and 2031, reflecting the trend towards smaller average household size.
- The average size of households will decrease from 2.6 people in 2006 to 2.4 people in 2031.
- One-person households are projected to increase by an average of 2.0 percent a year, from 363,000 in 2006 to 602,000 in 2031.
- Most of the growth in families will be in couple-without-children families as the large number of people born during the 1950s to early 1970s reach the older ages.

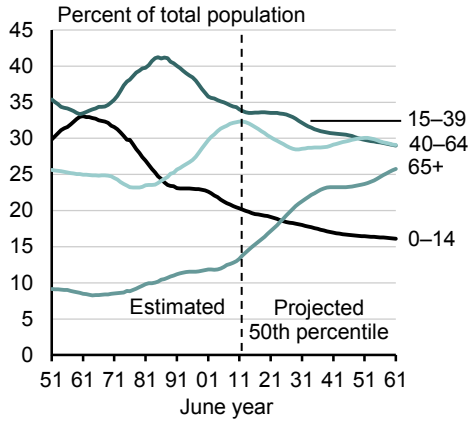
Figure 7

Population by broad age group
1951–2061



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Age distribution of population
1951–2061



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Note: The break in data between 1990 and 1991 denotes a change from the de facto population concept to the resident population concept.

Introduction

This chapter presents the latest national demographic projections for New Zealand. It includes projections of total population, population by age, ethnic populations, the number of households and families, and the labour force. These projections are not predictions or forecasts, but are an indication of future demographic change using assumptions about future patterns in fertility (births), mortality (deaths), migration, inter-ethnic mobility, living arrangement types, and labour force participation.

Multiple projections are produced to demonstrate the impact of different assumptions and because of uncertainty in future trends. However, because of space restrictions, only the respective mid-range projection is discussed in this commentary. In general, the mid-range projection conveys the broad features of likely future dynamics and patterns.

National population projections 2011(base)–2061, based on the estimated resident population of New Zealand at 30 June 2011, were released in July 2012. Corresponding national labour force projections were released in August 2012. These projections will be updated and released in 2014–15 following the availability of 2013 Census results.

Updated 2006-base national ethnic population projections and national family and household projections were released in 2010. These projections will be updated and released in 2015–16 following the availability of 2013 Census results.

New Zealand's population

The projected shape of New Zealand's future population will be noticeably different from what it is today. Population growth will slow between 2012 and 2061. The national population is expected to reach 5 million in the mid-2020s, and about 6 million in 2061 (median projection).

A population of 7 million or more by 2061 is unlikely. New Zealand would need sustained fertility and/or migration levels significantly higher than experienced in recent decades to reach a population that high.

The slowing of population growth during the projection period is driven by the narrowing gap between births and deaths. Future birth numbers are uncertain and depend on the number of women of childbearing age, as well as their fertility rates (how many children they have and the timing of their births). From 61,000 births in 2012, there is roughly a 3 in 5 chance that births will exceed 61,000 in 2036, and a similar chance that births will exceed 61,000 in 2061.

In contrast, the future number of deaths is more certain because these largely relate to people already alive, and mortality patterns are more consistent from year to year. From 30,000 deaths in 2012, it is highly likely that deaths will exceed 40,000 in 2036, and exceed 50,000 in 2051. The increase in deaths is despite assumed lower death rates and increased life expectancy at all ages, and reflects the increasing numbers of people reaching the older ages where most deaths occur.

Population by age

The projections indicate more older people and further ageing of the population. The median age (half the population is younger, and half older, than this age) of New Zealand's population increased from 26 years in 1971 to 37 years in 2012. It is likely that half of the population will be aged 41 years and older by the late 2030s, and by 2061 half the population could be aged 44 years and older.

The number of children aged 0–14 years peaked at 940,000 in 1974, then decreased steadily to 770,000 in 1989, before generally increasing to 890,000 in 2012. The number of children may increase slightly to 940,000 in 2036 and 970,000 in 2061. Projections of the number of children are the most uncertain of all age groups because the number of future births is uncertain. Although the number of children may increase, it will not increase as fast as the older segment of the population. From 1 in 3 of the population during the early 1960s, and 1 in 5 of the population in 2012, it is highly likely that children will account for less than 1 in 5 of the population throughout the period to 2061.

The working-age population (those aged 15–64) more than doubled from 1.2 million in 1951 to 2.9 million in 2012. It is projected to grow gradually to 3.2 million in 2036 and 3.5 million in 2061. The working-age population will then make up 58 percent of the total population, compared with 66 percent in 2012.

The number of people aged 65+ has doubled since 1980, eclipsing 600,000 in 2012. The number is likely to double again by 2036. It is highly likely that there will be 1.18–1.25 million people aged 65+ in 2036, and 1.44–1.66 million in 2061. The largest growth will occur between 2011 and 2036 as the baby boomers move into the 65+ age group. From the late 2020s, the 65+ age group will make up over 20 percent of all New Zealanders, compared with 14 percent in 2012. From the late 2050s, this age group will comprise 25 percent of the population.

Labour force

New Zealand's labour force is projected to rise from an estimated 2.4 million at 30 June 2012 to 3.0 million in 2036 and 3.3 million in 2061 (median projection).

In 1991, the labour force aged 25–44 years (870,000) was almost double the labour force aged 45–64 years (440,000). By 2017, there will be roughly 1 million in each age group.

There will also be a significant increase in the labour force aged 65+, which is expected to increase from an estimated 25,000 in 1991 and 130,000 in 2012 to 240,000–500,000 in 2036 and 280,000–660,000 in 2061.

This increase is driven by increasing participation of older people in the labour force, as well as the burgeoning older population. Among those aged 65+, 1 in 16 were in the

labour force in 1991. It was 1 in 5 in 2012, and is projected to increase to 1 in 3 by the mid-2020s. As a result, by 2036, it is expected that between 9 and 15 percent of the labour force will be aged 65+, compared with 3 percent in 2006. By 2061, it is expected that between 10 and 18 percent of the labour force will be aged 65+.

The median age of the labour force was 36 years in 1991 and 42 years in 2012. A further increase in the median age is likely, to 43 years in the mid-2030s and 45 years in 2061.

Major ethnic groups

Ethnic diversity is set to increase in New Zealand in the future. All ethnic populations will increase numerically, but their relative percentages of the New Zealand population are projected to change considerably. Māori will comprise 16 percent of the population in 2026, up from 15 percent in 2006 (mid-range projection series 6). In a similar trend, Pacific peoples will comprise 10 percent of the population in 2026, up from 7 percent in 2006.

The most significant change will be to the broad Asian ethnic group, comprising 16 percent of the total population by 2026, up from 10 percent in 2006. 'European or Other (including New Zealander)' will still be the largest ethnic group, making up 70 percent of the total population in 2026, although this is a drop from 77 percent in 2006.

The growth of the Asian population is mainly driven by net migration gains. For the Māori and Pacific populations, the growth is mainly driven by higher fertility rates combined with a youthful age structure.

Each ethnic population consists of all people who identify with that ethnicity. It is important to note these populations are not mutually exclusive because people can and do identify with more than one ethnicity, and can therefore be counted in more than one ethnic population.

Families

The number of families is projected to reach 1.46 million by 2031 (mid-range projection series 5B), an increase of 288,000 (an average annual increase of 0.9 percent a year) from an estimated 1.17 million families at 30 June 2006.

'Couple without children' families will grow from 40 percent of all families in 2006 to 50 percent in 2031, surpassing two-parent families, which will decrease from 41 percent of all families in 2006 to 32 percent in 2031. These changes are largely the result of changes in the age structure of the population, and partly because of continuing trends towards single parenting and fewer couples having children. The share of one-parent families is projected to be relatively static, decreasing from 19 percent to 18 percent of all families between 2006 and 2031.

Households

The number of households is projected to reach 2.09 million by 2031 (mid-range projection series 5B), an increase of 536,000 (an average annual increase of 1.2 percent a year) from an estimated 1.55 million households at 30 June 2006.

There will also be a shift in household types. One-person households are projected to be the fastest-growing household type, increasing by 240,000 (an average of 2.0 percent a year) from 363,000 in 2006 to 602,000 in 2031. One-person households will account for 29 percent of all households in 2031, up from 23 percent in 2006. On the other hand, 'family' households will decrease from 72 percent of all households in 2006 to 67 percent in 2031. 'Other multiperson' households will remain relatively static at 4 percent of all households between 2006 and 2031.

More information

Demographic projections are updated and released every 2–3 years. The latest projections, related articles and reports, and more detailed information are available from the estimates and projections web page on the Statistics NZ website.

More detailed projection results, including projections for individual years and projections by age and sex, are available from Table Builder on the Statistics NZ website.

8 Subnational demographic projections

The projections give an indication of future changes in New Zealand's population, broad ethnic populations, and families and households at the subnational level (16 regional council areas (regions) and 67 territorial authority areas).

The following highlights are based on the respective mid-range projection series, one of many series produced of population, broad ethnic populations, and families and households.

Population

- The population growth rate will slow in all areas between 2011 and 2031.
- All areas will be home to more people aged 65+ in 2031.
- Deaths will increase relative to births in all areas, as the population ages.
- All regions will have more people in 2031 than in 2006, although 17 territorial authority areas will have less.
- Deaths will outnumber births in one-quarter of territorial authority areas by 2031.
- 50 territorial authority areas will have fewer children in 2031 than in 2011.
- Three-fifths of New Zealand's population growth between 2011 and 2031 will be in Auckland.
- Auckland's population will reach almost 2 million by 2031.

Ethnic groups

- The populations of all four broad ethnic groups will increase in both the North and South islands during the period 2006–21. The North Island will account for 69, 82, 89, and 92 percent of New Zealand's 'European or Other', Māori, Asian, and Pacific population growth, respectively, between 2006 and 2021.
- In the North Island, the 'European or Other', Māori, Asian, and Pacific populations will increase by an average of 0.4, 1.3, 3.7, and 2.4 percent a year, respectively. The corresponding South Island increases are projected to be 0.5, 1.9, 3.7, and 2.8 percent a year.
- The North Island is expected to remain home to about 72 and 89 percent of New Zealand's 'European or Other', and Asian populations, respectively, during 2006–21. However, the North Island will slightly decrease its share of the Māori population, from 87 to 86 percent, and its share of the Pacific population, from 94 to 93 percent.

Families and households

- All 16 of New Zealand's regions are projected to have more households in 2031 than in 2006.
- Auckland region is projected to account for 49 percent of the national growth in the number of households.
- Nine territorial authorities are projected to have fewer households in 2031 than in 2006; 32 are projected to decrease in population.
- All 16 of New Zealand's regions are projected to have more ‘couple without children’ families and one-person households in 2031 than in 2006.
- A continued decline in average household size is projected for all regions and territorial authority areas between 2006 and 2031.

Introduction

This chapter presents the latest subnational demographic projections for New Zealand. It includes projections of total population, population by age, ethnic populations, and the number of households and families. These projections are not predictions or forecasts, but are indications of future demographic change using assumptions about future patterns in fertility (births), mortality (deaths), migration, inter-ethnic mobility, and living arrangement types. We produced multiple series to show the impact of different assumptions and because future trends are uncertain. Only the respective mid-range projection series is discussed in this commentary. In general, the chosen series conveys the broad features of likely future dynamics and patterns.

The projections are designed to meet both short-term and long-term planning needs, but are not designed to be exact forecasts or to project specific annual variation. These projections are based on assumptions made about future fertility, mortality, and migration patterns of the population. While the assumptions are formulated from an assessment of short-term and long-term demographic trends, there is no certainty that any of the assumptions will be realised.

These projections do not take into account non-demographic factors (eg war, catastrophes, major government and business decisions, changes to the ethnic classification) which may invalidate the projections. The unpredictability of migration trends, especially in the short term, can have a significant effect on projection results.

Updated (2006-base, October 2012 update) subnational population projections have the estimated resident population of each area at 30 June 2006 as a base, and cover the period to 2031 at five-year intervals. Detailed projection results, including projections by five-year age groups and sex, for regions, territorial authority areas, and area units (suburbs) are available from Table Builder on the Statistics NZ website (see population projections tables).

Updated 2006-base subnational ethnic projections are available for four broad and overlapping ethnic populations – 'European or Other (including New Zealander)', Māori, Asian, and Pacific. The updated projections cover the period to 2021 at five-year intervals, by sex and five-year age group (to 85 years and over), for the population usually living in the following areas:

- European or Other: all 16 regional council areas (regions) and 72 of the 73 territorial authority areas (cities and districts)
- Māori: 16 regions and 56 territorial authority areas
- Asian: 10 regions and 17 territorial authority areas
- Pacific: 9 regions and 18 territorial authority areas.

The ethnic projections are limited to selected geographic areas, broad ethnic groups, and a projection period of 15 years because of the small size of many subnational ethnic populations, and because of the uncertain nature of ethnic and subnational population projections.

On the subnational ethnic population projections webpage, selected information is published in the tables, and more information is available for users requiring other ethnic population projections.

Updated 2006-base subnational family and household projections have as a base the estimated resident population, estimated families, and estimated households of each area at 30 June 2006. These projections cover the period to 2031 at five-year intervals. The projections results for the 16 regional council and 73 territorial authority areas of New

Zealand are available from the subnational family and household projections – information releases, with additional tables available on request.

New Zealand's subnational population

The population of the North Island will increase by an average of 0.9 percent a year between 2011 and 2031, from 3.4 million to 4.0 million (medium projection). Almost three-quarters of this growth will be in the Auckland region, with a rise of 1.4 percent a year. The remainder of the North Island is projected to grow by an average of 0.5 percent a year during this period. By 2031, the North Island is projected to be home to 78 percent of New Zealand's population, compared with 76 percent in 2011.

The population of the South Island is projected to increase by an average of 0.6 percent a year, from 1.0 million in 2011 to 1.2 million in 2031. The faster projected growth of the North Island mainly reflects its higher rate of natural increase (births minus deaths), resulting from a higher birth rate and lower death rate than the South Island. This is partly due to the slightly younger age structure of the North Island, which has a higher proportion of population at ages under 45 years.

All 16 regional council areas will have more people in 2031 than in 2006, although 17 territorial authority areas will have less (medium projection). Even in regions with growing populations, the growth rate will slow over the projection period, as the population ages and deaths increase relative to births. As a result, by the 2020s there is the prospect of small population declines in Gisborne, Taranaki, West Coast, and Southland regions, as deaths and departures exceed births and arrivals.

The Auckland region is projected to account for three-fifths of New Zealand's population growth between 2011 and 2031, with an increase of 500,000 from just under 1.5 million to almost 2.0 million (medium projection). Auckland's population surpassed 1.5 million in the year ended June 2012. By 2031, Auckland region would be home to 38 percent of New Zealand's population, compared with 34 percent in 2011.

Natural increase is projected to account for two-thirds of Auckland's growth, and net migration (arrivals less departures) for the remaining one-third. Auckland's overall fertility rate (2.0 births per woman) in 2007–11 is similar to the national average but Auckland has a higher proportion of people in the main childbearing ages (15–44 years). As a result, Auckland has a higher birth rate and lower death rate than other regions.

Net migration does make a significant contribution to Auckland's population growth. New immigrants and New Zealanders returning from overseas add directly to Auckland's population. As most of these migrants are aged 15–39 years, they also go on to contribute births to Auckland's population growth.

Before the 2010–11 Canterbury earthquakes, Christchurch city's population was growing. In the four-year period ended 30 June 2010, the city's population grew at an annual rate of 1.0 percent, with gains from both natural increase (2,200 per year on average) and net migration (1,600 per year on average). Subnational population estimates indicate the population decreased by 8,900 (2.4 percent) in the June 2011 year. This decrease was due to a net migration loss of 10,600, partly offset by a natural increase of 1,600.

The projections indicate that Christchurch's population will grow in the future, although the pace and timing of that growth is uncertain. The medium projection indicates average annual growth of 0.6 percent between 2011 and 2031. This assumes net migration of zero in 2012–16, and an average net inflow of 1,300 a year after 2016. These migration assumptions reflect some further relocation of Christchurch residents to neighbouring districts and beyond, notably from red zone areas, but allow for some inflows of workers to assist rebuilding.

Of New Zealand's 67 territorial authority areas, 50 are projected to have more people in 2031 than in 2006, and 44 are projected to have more people in 2031 than in 2011

(medium projection). The highest projected population growth rates over the 25-year period (2006–31) are for Queenstown-Lakes and Selwyn districts (an average annual increase of 2.2 percent). Waimakariri district (1.6 percent), Auckland (1.5 percent), Tauranga city (1.4 percent), Hamilton city (1.3 percent), and Waikato district (1.1 percent) are the next highest.

Under the medium projection, the largest percentage decreases in population between 2006 and 2031 are projected for the districts of Ruapehu (down an average of 1.2 percent a year), Kawerau (1.1 percent), Wairoa (0.9 percent), Opotiki (0.8 percent), and South Waikato and Rangitikei (0.7 percent). The decreases in these six areas reflect shrinking natural increase and continuing net migration outflows, although these outflows are assumed to be smaller than experienced historically.

The slower population growth across New Zealand is driven by the narrowing gap between births and deaths. Nationally, natural increase is projected to decrease from 171,000 during 2007–11 to 130,000 during 2027–31 (medium projection). At the regional level, only Auckland will have more births in 2027–31 than in 2007–11. All 16 regions will experience more deaths.

In the five years ended June 2006, five of New Zealand's 67 territorial authority areas experienced more deaths than births: Thames-Coromandel, Horowhenua, Kapiti Coast, Waimate, and Waitaki districts. In 2007–11, following an upturn in fertility rates across the country, births were higher than deaths in almost all areas, and only Thames-Coromandel continued to experience a natural decrease. However, as the general ageing of New Zealand's population continues, other areas will begin to consistently experience natural decrease.

By 2021, an additional four districts are expected to have more deaths than births: Horowhenua, Kapiti Coast, Timaru, and Waitaki. By 2031, they will be joined by another 11 districts: Hauraki, Wanganui, Masterton, Carterton, South Wairarapa, Marlborough, Kaikoura, Buller, Westland, Waimate, and Gore. Deaths will therefore outnumber births in about one-quarter of territorial authority areas by 2031 (medium projection). All these areas have an older-than-average age structure, with relatively high proportions of the population aged 65 years and over.

Population by age

The population of all territorial authority areas is expected to be older in future. However, there will be considerable variation between areas, largely because of each area's current population age structure, and different fertility and migration patterns. At the national level, the median age (half the population is younger, and half older, than this age) is projected to increase from 37 years in 2011 to 40 years in 2031. At the subnational level in 2011, the median age ranged from 32 years in Hamilton city to 48 years in Thames-Coromandel district. By 2031, the median age is projected to range from 34 years in Hamilton city to 55 years in Thames-Coromandel district. A median age of 50 years or older is projected for seven other territorial authority areas in 2031: South Wairarapa, Waitaki, Kapiti Coast, Horowhenua, Carterton, Buller, and Marlborough districts.

Under the low, medium, and high projections, all territorial authority areas are projected to have a higher proportion of older people (aged 65 years and over) in 2031 compared with 2006 and 2011. Under the medium projection, the proportion in 2031 will be highest in Waitaki district (36 percent), followed by Horowhenua, Thames-Coromandel, and South Wairarapa districts (all 35 percent). In contrast, older people are projected to account for 15 percent of the population of Wellington city, and 16 percent of Hamilton city, in 2031. For New Zealand overall, 21 percent of the population is projected to be aged 65 years and over in 2031, up from 12 percent in 2006 and 14 percent in 2012.

Fifty-one territorial authority areas are projected to have fewer children in 2031 than in 2006, and 50 are projected to have fewer children in 2031 than in 2011 (medium projection). Fewer births will be the main reason for the decreasing number of children,

caused by the assumed slight decline in fertility rates and, in nearly all of these areas, fewer women in the childbearing ages.

Of the territorial authority areas projected to have more children in 2031, the largest percentage increases will be in Queenstown-Lakes district (up an average of 1.9 percent a year or 2,300 over 25 years), Selwyn district (1.6 percent or 3,800), and Tauranga city (1.0 percent or 6,300). All three areas will gain children through net migration and an increase in births over the projection period.

Under all projection series, all territorial authority areas are projected to have a lower proportion of children in 2031 compared with 2006. Under the medium projection, the areas with the highest proportion of children in 2031 will be Waitomo district (23 percent), followed by Kawerau and South Waikato districts, and Porirua city (all 22 percent). These areas, all in the North Island, have fertility rates well above the national average. Thames-Coromandel district is projected to have the lowest proportion of children in 2031 at 14 percent – down from 17 percent in 2006 and 16 percent in 2011. For New Zealand overall, 18 percent of the population is projected to be aged under 15 years in 2031, down from 21 percent in 2006 and 20 percent in 2012.

Population by ethnicity

The projections indicate a continued concentration of population in the northern North Island. The combined regions of Northland, Auckland, Waikato, and Bay of Plenty had 52 percent of New Zealand's population in 2006. This is projected to increase to 55 percent in 2021. Over the same period, these four regions are projected to increase their share of the Asian population from 74 to 76 percent. The four northernmost regions are projected to maintain about 47 percent of the 'European or Other' population, 58 percent of the Māori population, and 76 percent of the Pacific population.

Auckland region is projected to have the largest numerical increase of 'European or Other' people (up 60,000, from 856,000 to 917,000), Māori people (up 43,000, from 157,000 to 199,000), Asian people (up 201,000, from 269,000 to 470,000), and Pacific people (up 87,000, from 203,000 to 290,000).

All regions are projected to have greater ethnic diversity in future in terms of the numbers and proportions of people identifying with Māori, Asian, and Pacific ethnicities. The proportion of Auckland region's population identifying with an Asian ethnicity is projected to increase from 20 percent in 2006 to 27 percent in 2021, and the proportion identifying with a Pacific ethnicity from 15 percent to 17 percent.

Over the same period, the proportion identifying with a 'European or Other' ethnicity in Auckland region is projected to drop from 62 percent to 53 percent. The proportion of Gisborne region's population identifying as Māori is projected to increase from 47 percent in 2006 to 50 percent in 2021, while its 'European or Other' share is projected to drop from 63 percent in 2006 to 61 percent in 2021. The ethnic shares for an area sum to more than 100 percent because people can and do identify with more than one ethnicity.

Rodney district is projected to have the largest numerical increase in 'European or Other' population, up 24,000, from 86,000 in 2006 to 110,000 in 2021. Manukau city is projected to have the largest numerical increase in the Māori population, up 16,000 from 54,000 to 70,000, and the Pacific population, up 55,000 from 100,000 to 155,000. The largest increase in Asian population is projected in Auckland city, with an increase of 69,000, from 109,000 in 2006 to 178,000 in 2021.

Most cities and districts are likely to have lower proportions of the population identifying with 'European or Other' ethnicities in future. In contrast, the Māori, Asian, and Pacific shares are generally projected to increase in territorial authority areas. The Māori, Asian, and Pacific shares are generally higher among territorial authority areas in the North Island. Kawerau, Wairoa, and Opotiki districts had 60, 59, and 57 percent of their

populations, respectively, identifying as Māori in 2006. These proportions are expected to increase to 64, 62, and 58 percent, respectively, in 2021.

Auckland city is projected to maintain the highest Asian share. One in four people living in Auckland city identified with an Asian ethnicity in 2006, and this is expected to increase to one in three in 2021. Manukau city is also projected to maintain a significant Asian population, with 31 percent of its population identifying with an Asian ethnicity in 2021 compared with 22 percent in 2006.

Manukau (29 percent) and Porirua (28 percent) cities had the highest Pacific shares in 2006. In 2021, 34 percent of people in Manukau city, and 31 percent of people in Porirua city, are projected to identify with a Pacific ethnicity.

European or Other

Two-thirds of territorial authority areas are projected to have an increase in their 'European or Other (including New Zealander)' population during the 15-year projection period to 2021. However, the proportion of people in each area who identify with a 'European or Other' ethnicity is projected to drop in most areas. This reflects a combination of continued fertility rates below the national average, assumptions of net migration outflow for most areas, and an older age structure. The increasingly older age structure of the 'European or Other' population means fewer births (because of fewer women in the childbearing ages), more deaths, and lower momentum for future population growth compared with the Māori, Pacific, and Asian populations.

Among the territorial authority areas, Christchurch city (313,000) had the largest 'European or Other' population in 2006, followed by Auckland city (256,000). These two cities will maintain the largest 'European or Other' populations by 2021.

Māori

The Māori population is projected to increase in all regions and most territorial authority areas during 2006–21. The growth is driven by the high rates of Māori birth and natural increase, which generally offset any population losses due to migration and inter-ethnic mobility (people changing their ethnic identity). Ethnic 'inter-marriage' also makes an important contribution to population growth: about one-quarter of Māori births have a Māori father and a non-Māori mother. In addition, the Māori population has a young age structure, with relatively high proportions in the child and childbearing ages, and low proportions at the older ages. This provides a built-in momentum for future growth.

Among territorial authority areas, Manukau city had the largest Māori population in 2006. It is projected to experience the largest numerical increase in Māori population, up 16,000, from 54,000 in 2006 to 70,000 in 2021. However, the proportion of the Manukau city population who are Māori is projected to remain about 15 percent. Between 2006 and 2021, Manukau city will contain 9 percent of New Zealand's Māori population.

Asian

The Asian population is projected to increase in all territorial authority areas. The growth is mainly driven by the assumed levels of net migration, with natural increase (births minus deaths) playing a secondary role overall.

About two-thirds of the growth in the Asian population during 2006–21 is projected to occur in the four cities of the Auckland region, and almost half of the national growth is projected to occur in Auckland and Manukau cities. In Auckland city, one-third (34 percent) of its residents will identify with an Asian ethnicity by 2021, up from one-quarter (25 percent) in 2006. The Asian share in Manukau, North Shore, and Waitakere cities will increase from 22, 19, and 17 percent in 2006 to 31, 28, and 25 percent in 2021, respectively. These four cities will be home to 65 percent of New Zealand's Asian population in 2021, compared with 64 percent in 2006.

Pacific

The Pacific population is projected to increase in all territorial authority areas. The growth is driven by the high rates of Pacific births and natural increase. Ethnic 'inter-marriage' also makes an important contribution to population growth: about one-quarter of Pacific births have a Pacific father and a non-Pacific mother. In addition, the Pacific population has a young age structure, with relatively high proportions in the child and childbearing ages, and low proportions at the older ages. This provides a built-in momentum for future growth. Pacific migration generally plays a relatively minor role in the projected population changes.

About 41 percent of the growth in New Zealand's Pacific population during 2006–21 is projected to occur in Manukau city. Its Pacific population is projected to increase by 55,000, from 100,000 in 2006 to 155,000 in 2021. By then, 36 percent of New Zealand's Pacific population will live in Manukau city, up from 33 percent in 2006. The next largest Pacific population increase is projected to occur in Waitakere city (up 17,000, from 31,000 in 2006 to 47,000 in 2021).

Families

The number of families in New Zealand is projected to increase by 288,000 (an average of 0.9 percent per year) between 2006 and 2031, from 1.17 million to 1.46 million. A family refers to a couple, with or without child(ren), or one parent with child(ren), usually living together in a household.

Fourteen of the 16 regions in New Zealand are projected to have more families in 2031 than in 2006. The largest increase in the number of families is projected in the Auckland region, with an annual average increase of 1.5 percent from 376,000 to 550,000. This accounts for 61 percent of the projected increase in the number of families at the national level. By 2031, 38 percent of all families in New Zealand are projected to live in the Auckland region, compared with 32 percent in 2006. Fewer families are projected in the Southland and West Coast regions by 2031.

Among territorial authority areas, 43 are projected to have more families in 2031 than in 2006. Growth in the number of families is projected to slow at the national level over the projection period, and a similar pattern is likely for most subnational areas. This trend reflects the slowing of population growth and the changing age structure of the population. While 14 territorial authority areas are projected to record a decrease in the number of families between 2006 and 2016, 43 are projected to record a decrease between 2021 and 2031.

There are three broad family types that are projected: couple-without-children families, two-parent families, and one-parent families.

At the national level, the number of couple-without-children families is projected to increase by an annual average of 1.7 percent, from 468,000 in 2006 to 721,000 in 2031. Couple-without-children families include (a) couples who will never have children, (b) couples who will have children in the future, and (c) couples whose children have left the parental home. Growth in (c) is expected to be the most significant, as the large number of people born after World War II reach 50 years and over. An increasing proportion of couples in (a) is also assumed to contribute to the increasing number of couple-without-children families, but to a lesser extent.

By 2031, couple-without-children families are projected to be the most common family type in all but one territorial authority area. The exception is Manukau city, where two-parent families will remain the most common family type. In 2006, couple-without-children families were the most common family type for 50 territorial authority areas, while two-parent families were the most common family type for the remaining 23.

The number of two-parent families in New Zealand is projected to decrease from 481,000 in 2006 to 468,000 by 2031. This is due to a decreasing likelihood of being in this living arrangement type at most ages, reflecting continued trends towards single parenting and fewer couples having children. However, 13 territorial authority areas are projected to have more two-parent families in 2031 than in 2006. These are areas projected to have significant population growth. Despite the increase in the number of two-parent families in these areas, the share of families in this family type is projected to decrease for all territorial authority areas. This is due to faster growth in the numbers of couple-without-children families and one-parent families.

Nationally, the number of one-parent families is projected to increase by 48,000 (an average of 0.8 percent per year), from 219,000 in 2006 to 267,000 in 2031. This increase is because of population growth, changes in population age structure, and an assumed higher rate of single parenting. The assumed higher rate of single parenting is based on increasing numbers of separations and divorces, increasing rates of childbearing outside couple relationships, and more complex shared-care arrangements with parents residing in different households. Increases are projected for 35 territorial authority areas, with the highest in Selwyn district and Manukau city (both 2.0 percent), Queenstown-Lakes district (1.9 percent), and Rodney district (1.6 percent). As children in families can be of any age, one-parent families include mature children living with an older parent.

Households

The number of households in New Zealand is projected to increase by 536,000 (an average of 1.2 percent a year), from 1.55 million in 2006 to 2.09 million in 2031. A household is defined as one person usually living alone, or two or more people usually living together and sharing facilities (for example, eating facilities, cooking facilities, bathroom and toilet facilities, a living area), in a private dwelling.

Household numbers should not be confused with building activity or dwelling numbers. 'Households' refers to private dwellings that are usually occupied by a person or group of people. Households therefore exclude non-private dwellings, unoccupied dwellings, and dwellings that are not the usual residence of people (for example, holiday homes, second homes).

All 16 regions are projected to have more households in 2031 than in 2006. The largest numerical increase is projected in the Auckland region, up an average of 1.8 percent a year from 466,000 in 2006 to 723,000 in 2031. This accounts for almost half (48 percent) of the national growth in the number of households projected over this period. By comparison, the Auckland region is projected to account for 60 percent of New Zealand's population growth between 2006 and 2031. By 2031, 35 percent of all households in New Zealand will be in the Auckland region, up from 30 percent in 2006.

There are three broad household types that are projected: family households, one-person households, and other multi-person households.

In 2006, there were 1.12 million family households in New Zealand. Under the medium series, this number is projected to increase by 277,000 (an average of 0.9 percent a year), to reach 1.40 million in 2031. The number of households containing a family (or families) is projected to increase in 43 territorial authority areas and decline in the remaining 30 areas. Changes in the number of family households are closely related to changes in the number of families in each area (nationally there was an average of 1.04 families per family household in 2006).

The family household is by far the most common household type, accounting for 72 percent of all New Zealand households in 2006. However, its share of all households nationally is projected to decline to 67 percent by 2031. A decline in share is projected for all territorial authority areas.

The number of one-person households in New Zealand is projected to increase by 240,000 (an average of 2.0 percent per year) from 363,000 in 2006 to 602,000 in 2031. The relatively large increase in this type of household is mainly due to the increasing number of people at older ages, with three quarters of the growth occurring among those aged 60 years and over. Of all people in one-person households, 61 percent are projected to be aged 60 years and over in 2031, compared with 49 percent in 2006. All territorial authority areas are projected to have more one-person households in 2031 than in 2006, with numbers more than doubling over the 25-year period in Rodney district, Waitakere city, Manukau city, Franklin district, Waimakariri district, Selwyn district, and Queenstown-Lakes district. One-person households will account for a greater share of households in all territorial authority areas in 2031 compared with 2006.

Other multi-person households (households containing more than one person, but not containing a family) are projected to increase nationally from 68,000 in 2006 to 88,000 in 2031 – an increase of 20,000 or an average of 1.0 percent a year. Other multi-person households will account for around 4 percent of all households for most of the projection period. People aged 19–29 years will continue to account for about half of all people in other multi-person households. The largest numerical increases in the number of other multi-person households between 2006 and 2031 are projected in Auckland city (4,300), Christchurch city (2,100), and Manukau city (1,900). Increases are projected in 54 territorial authority areas.

The average size of New Zealand households is projected to decrease from 2.6 people in 2006 to 2.4 people in 2031. Declining average household size is projected for all regional council areas and territorial authority areas, and reflects an increasing proportion of one-person households and a decrease in the average size of family households. Average family size is projected to decline largely because of an increase in the proportion of couple-without-children families (which contain two people) and a decrease in the proportion of two-parent families (which contain about four people, on average). These trends are driven mainly by the general ageing of the population.

The projections indicate that household growth is likely in all regions and most territorial authority areas, including some areas projected to experience population decline. At the national level, the projected increase in the number of households (an average of 1.2 percent per year) between 2006 and 2031 is greater than the projected growth of both families (0.9 percent) and population (0.8 percent), reflecting the trend towards smaller average household size and the increasing number of non-family households. The household growth rate is projected to exceed the population growth rate in all regions and territorial authority areas.

The medium series of the updated 2006-base subnational population projections indicates that three regions – Gisborne, West Coast, and Southland – are projected to have fewer people in 2031 than in 2006. However, all these regions are projected to experience an increase in the number of households. Similarly, 29 territorial authority areas are projected to have fewer people in 2031 than in 2006, but 20 of these are projected to have more households.

These trends are a further reflection of changes in the age structure of the population, with all territorial authority areas projected to have more older people (65 years and over) in 2031 than in 2006. In contrast, 53 territorial authority areas are projected to have fewer children (aged 0–14 years) in 2031.

More information

Subnational projections are updated and released every 2–3 years. The very latest projections, related articles and reports, and more detailed information are available on the estimates and projections webpage from the Statistics NZ website.

More population projections tables are available from Table Builder on the Statistics NZ website. Go to projections overview for information about population projections.

Glossary

Age-specific

A measure relating to an age group. Age-specific rates are commonly calculated for fertility, mortality, marriage, marriage dissolution, and abortion.

Age-specific fertility rates are usually expressed in terms of the experience of women within each five-year age group (15–19, 20–24, 25–29 years, etc), or they can also be expressed in terms of single year of age rates.

Area unit

Area units are aggregations of meshblocks. They are non-administrative areas intermediate between meshblocks and territorial authority areas. Area units must either define or aggregate to define regional council areas, territorial authority areas, and urban areas. Each area unit must be a single geographic entity with a unique name. Area units of main or secondary urban areas generally coincide with suburbs or parts thereof. Area units within urban areas normally contain 3,000–5,000 population. In rural areas, the straddling of some territorial authorities over regional boundaries has resulted in a number of area units having only two or three meshblocks and a very low population count.

Asian ethnic group

People who identify with an Asian ethnicity (for example, Chinese, Indian, Korean) with or without other ethnicities.

Because ethnicity is self-perceived, people can identify with an Asian ethnicity even though they are not descended from Asian ancestors. Conversely, people may choose to not identify with an Asian ethnicity even though they are descended from Asian ancestors. Ethnicity is not the same as birthplace.

Base population

The estimated resident population at 30 June 2006 forms the base population for deriving post-censal population estimates and projections.

The estimated resident population of each area at 30 June 2006 is based on the census usually resident population count from the 2006 Census (held on 7 March 2006), with adjustments for:

- people missed or counted more than once by the census (net census undercount)
- residents temporarily overseas on census night
- births, deaths, and net migration between census night and 30 June 2006
- reconciliation with demographic estimates at ages 0–4 years.

Census night population count

A count of all people present in a given area on a given census night. The census night population count of New Zealand includes visitors from overseas who are counted on census night, but excludes residents who are temporarily overseas on census night.

For a subnational area, the count includes visitors from overseas and elsewhere in New Zealand (people who do not usually live in that area), but excludes residents of that area who are temporarily elsewhere on census night (people who usually live in that area but are absent).

Census usually resident population count

A count of all people who usually live in a given area, and are present in New Zealand, on a given census night. The census usually resident population count of New Zealand excludes visitors from overseas and excludes residents who are temporarily overseas on census night.

For a subnational area, this count excludes visitors from overseas and elsewhere in New Zealand (people who do not usually live in that area), but includes residents of that area who are temporarily elsewhere in New Zealand on census night (people who usually live in that area but are absent).

Citizenship

Citizenship is determined from the country that issued the passport the person uses when arriving or departing. A person may hold passports from more than one country.

City

A territorial authority that is a distinct entity, is predominately urban in character, has a minimum population of 50,000, and is a major centre of activity within its parent region. Some territorial authorities are classified as cities for historical reasons. For example, Nelson is a city because of its cathedral.

Civil union

The act, ceremony, or process by which the legal relationship of two people is constituted. A civil union may be entered into by couples of the same sex or by couples of different sexes. In New Zealand, a civil union may be solemnised either by a civil union celebrant or before a registrar of civil unions. A licence must be obtained from a registrar before a civil union can be solemnised, and notice must be given by one of the parties to a registrar.

Cohort

A group of people sharing a common demographic experience. For example, the 1900 birth cohort refers to the people who were born in the year 1900. Cohort life tables are based on the actual mortality experience of a particular group of people born in the same year.

Cohort life table

A tabular numerical representation of mortality and survivorship of a cohort of births at each age of life. It comprises an array of measures, including probabilities of death, probabilities of survival, and life expectancies at various ages. It is based on the actual mortality experience of a particular cohort (for example, all people born in the year 1900). These tables require data over many years, from infancy to the oldest age lived by the cohort (that is, until the death of the last survivor).

Completed fertility rate

This is the average number of children a woman born in a particular year has had during her life.

Confinement

A pregnancy resulting in either live or stillborn children. Such an event is counted as one confinement irrespective of whether a single or multiple birth results.

Crude birth rate

The number of live births per 1,000 mean population.

Crude death rate

The number of deaths per 1,000 mean population. Mortality rates are also used in this publication. These refer to the number of deaths per 100,000 in each age group in this case.

Crude marriage rate

The number of marriages per 1,000 mean population.

Cumulative fertility rate

The average number of live births that a woman born in a particular year has had by the time she reaches a particular age.

Death

The permanent disappearance of all evidence of life at any time after live birth has taken place (post-natal cessation of vital functions without capability of resuscitation). This definition therefore excludes foetal deaths.

De facto population concept

A statistical basis for a population in terms of those present in a given area at a given time. The census night population count is a census measure, and the estimated de facto population is a demographic measure, of the de facto population concept.

In terms of vitals data (births, deaths, marriages, etc), the de facto population concept refers to events registered in New Zealand to New Zealand residents and visitors from overseas.

De facto union (consensual union)

Two people usually living in the same dwelling, but not in a registered marriage or civil union with each other, who:

- share mutual concern for each other
- have a degree of economic, social, and emotional interdependence
- consider their relationship to be akin to marriage.

Demographic projection

Indication of the future demographic characteristics of a population, families, households, or labour force based on an assessment of past trends and assumptions about the future course of demographic behaviour (for example, fertility, mortality, migration, living arrangement type, labour force participation).

District

A territorial authority area that is neither wholly urban nor wholly rural and that is under the jurisdiction of a district council.

Divorce

The process by which the legal relationship of husband and wife is dissolved. An application for marriage dissolution can be made by either the husband or wife on the grounds that the marriage has broken down irreconcilably, provided a two-year separation requirement is satisfied. Orders for dissolution of marriage cannot be granted if both marriage partners live outside New Zealand. Dissolution orders are granted by the Family Court.

Divorce rate

The number of divorces per 1,000 estimated existing marriages.

Estimated de facto population

An estimate of all people present in a given area at a given date. The estimated de facto population of New Zealand includes all people present in New Zealand and counted by the census (census night population count). This estimate includes visitors from overseas who are counted on census night, but excludes New Zealand residents who are temporarily overseas.

For a subnational area the estimate includes visitors from overseas and elsewhere in New Zealand (people who do not usually live in that area), but excludes residents of that area who are temporarily elsewhere on census night (people who usually live in that area but are absent).

The estimated de facto population at a given date after census includes births, deaths, and net migration (arrivals less departures) of people during the period between census night and the given date.

De facto population estimates are no longer produced. National population estimates were produced annually (reference date at 31 December) from 1936 to 1950 and quarterly (reference dates at 31 March, 30 June, 30 September, and 31 December) from March 1951 to June 1997. Subnational population estimates were produced annually (reference date at 31 March) to 1995.

Estimated resident population

An estimate of all people who usually live in a given area at a given date. The estimated resident population of New Zealand includes all residents present in New Zealand and counted by the census (census usually resident population count), residents who are temporarily overseas (who are not included in the census), and an adjustment for residents missed or counted more than once by the census (net census undercount). Visitors from overseas are excluded.

For a subnational area, the estimate excludes visitors from elsewhere in New Zealand (people who do not usually live in that area), but includes residents of that area who are temporarily elsewhere on census night (people who usually live in that area but are absent).

The estimated resident population at a given date after census includes births, deaths, and net migration (arrivals less departures) of residents during the period between census night and the given date.

National population estimates are produced quarterly (reference dates at 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December) from 1991 and subnational population estimates are produced annually (reference date at 30 June) from 1996.

Ethnicity

An ethnic group is made up of people who have some or all of the following characteristics:

- a common proper name
- one or more elements of common culture that need not be specified, but may include religion, customs, or language
- a unique community of interests, feelings, and actions
- a shared sense of common origins, or ancestry
- a common geographic origin.

This definition is based on the work of A Smith (1986) *The Ethnic Origins of Nations*.

Ethnicity is self-perceived and people can belong to more than one ethnic group. People may choose to identify with an ethnicity even though they may not be descended from ancestors with that ethnicity. Conversely, people may choose not to identify with an ethnicity even though they are descended from ancestors with that ethnicity.

In the Census of Population and Dwellings, ethnicity is identified by the person completing the census form. In the case of births and deaths, ethnicity is identified by the person completing the registration form. For births this is usually the parents, while for deaths this is most likely to be the funeral director (on the advice of a family member).

European ethnic group

People who identify with a European ethnicity (for example, New Zealand European, English, Dutch) with or without other ethnicities.

Because ethnicity is self-perceived, people may choose to identify with a European ethnicity even though they are not descended from European ancestors. Conversely, people may choose not to identify with a European ethnicity even though they are descended from European ancestors. Ethnicity is not the same as birthplace.

General marriage rate

The number of marriages per 1,000 estimated mean not-married population aged 16 years and over.

Infant death

The death of a child (who was born alive) before the age of one year. The infant mortality rate is the number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Neonatal mortality rate is the number of deaths of babies aged less than four weeks per 1,000 live births.

Intercensal changes

This refers to the period between censuses.

Internal migration

Migration between areas of New Zealand.

International migration

Migration into or out of New Zealand. International migration statistics are based on 'permanent and long-term' migration statistics, which are primarily determined by passengers' responses on arrival or departure cards to the questions on where they live and their length of stay or absence.

International migrant arrivals

People from overseas arriving to live in New Zealand for 12 months or more (including permanently), and New Zealanders returning after an absence of 12 months or more. (Referred to as permanent and long-term arrivals in international migration statistics.)

International migrant departures

New Zealanders departing for an absence of 12 months or more (including permanently), and people from overseas departing after a stay of 12 months or more in New Zealand. (Referred to as permanent and long-term departures in international migration statistics.)

Labour force

The population aged 15 years and over who regularly work for one or more hours per week for financial gain, or work without pay in a family business, or are unemployed and actively seeking part-time or full-time work.

Late registration

A birth registered more than two years after it occurred. Section 16 of the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act 1995 states that no birth can be registered after two years without the approval of the Registrar-General.

Birth statistics and derived birth rates released by Statistics NZ generally exclude late registrations.

Life expectancy

The average length of life remaining at a given age. As derived from a period life table, it assumes that a person experiences the age-specific mortality rates of a given period from the given age onwards. It represents the average longevity of the whole population and does not necessarily reflect the longevity of an individual.

Live birth

The birth of a child who breathes or shows any other evidence of life, such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached. All liveborn infants should be registered and counted as such irrespective of length of gestation or whether alive or dead at the time of registration. If the child dies at any time following birth, their death should also be registered and counted as a death.

Māori descent

People have Māori descent if they consider they have Māori ancestors, no matter how distant.

Māori ethnic group

People who identify with the Māori ethnicity with or without other ethnicities.

Because ethnicity is self-perceived, people may choose to identify with Māori ethnicity even though they may not be descended from Māori ancestors. Conversely, people may choose not to identify with Māori ethnicity even though they are descended from Māori ancestors.

An ethnic question (based on self-identification) was not asked on birth and death registration forms until 1 September 1995. Consequently, Māori births and deaths before this date relate to the old 'half or more Māori origin' definition. All tables carrying the old definition of Māori are clearly labelled and end in 1995.

Marital status

A person's status with respect to the marriage laws or customs of the country. Legal marital status is a person's status with respect to registered marriage or civil union. Social marital status is a person's status with respect to consensual union (partnered or unpartnered).

Marriage (registered)

The act, ceremony, or process by which the legal relationship of husband and wife is constituted. In New Zealand, a marriage may be solemnised either by a celebrant or before a registrar of marriages. A licence must be obtained from a registrar before a marriage by a celebrant can be solemnised, and notice must be given by one of the parties to a registrar.

Mean population

The average number of people in an area during a given period, usually one year. This measure may be estimated in terms of a simple or weighted arithmetic mean of monthly or quarterly population during the reference period. If the mean population is unavailable, the population at the midpoint of the period is generally suitable for most purposes.

Median age

Half the population is younger, and half older, than this age.

Meshblock

The smallest geographic unit for which statistical data is collected and processed by Statistics NZ. A meshblock is a defined geographic area, varying in size from part of a city block to large areas of rural land. Each meshblock abuts against another to form a network covering all of New Zealand including coasts and inlets, and extending out to the 200-mile economic zone. Meshblocks are added together to 'build up' larger geographic areas such as area units and urban areas. They are also the principal unit used to draw-up and define electoral district and local authority boundaries.

Middle Eastern, Latin American, and African (MELAA) ethnic group

People who identify with Middle Eastern, Latin American, or African ethnicities with or without other ethnicities. Before 2006, these ethnicities were coded to the 'Other' ethnic group.

Migration

The movement of people from one area to another. When the movement is between countries it is called international or external migration; when it is within a country it is called internal migration.

The international travel and migration statistics included in this publication were compiled from arrival and departure cards filled in by passengers. Passenger type (overseas visitor, New Zealand-resident traveller, or permanent and long-term migrant) is based on: time spent in and out of New Zealand, past arrivals and departures of a person, and responses to questions on the arrival or departure card.

Natural increase

The excess of live births over deaths. When deaths exceed births, this is described as a natural decrease or a negative natural increase.

Net census undercount

The difference between undercount and overcount. It is usually expressed as a percentage of what should have been the complete count rather than as a percentage of what was counted.

Net migration

The difference between the number of people who have moved to, and departed from, a given area. At the national level this is the equivalent to international migrant arrivals minus international migrant departures. Subnational net migration includes both international migration and internal migration.

New Zealand

This refers to geographic New Zealand, that is, the North Island, South Island, and adjacent islands. People on board ships in New Zealand ports or territorial waters are included in regional council area, North and South islands, and New Zealand populations, but not in those of smaller administrative or statistical units.

Not-married estimated population

Includes all people aged 16 years and over who have never been married or are widowed or divorced. The mean not-married population is estimated using the proportion of not-married people, derived from census counts, and the annual mean estimated population.

Pacific peoples ethnic group

People who identify with a Pacific ethnicity (for example, Samoan, Tongan, Fijian) with or without other ethnicities.

Because ethnicity is self-perceived, people may choose to identify with a Pacific ethnicity even though they are not descended from Pacific ancestors. Conversely, people may choose not to identify with a Pacific ethnicity even though they are descended from Pacific ancestors. Ethnicity is not the same as birthplace.

Parity

The number of children liveborn to a mother before the current confinement.

Period life table

A tabular numerical representation of mortality and survival of a cohort of births at each age of life. It comprises an array of measures, including probabilities of death, probabilities of survival, and life expectancies at various ages. It is based on current mortality rates.

These tables assume that as a cohort passes through life it experiences a given pattern of age-specific mortality rates which do not change from year to year. Although it is usually based on death rates from a real population during a particular period of time, these tables are a hypothetical model of mortality as they do not describe the real mortality which characterises a cohort as it ages. A complete life table presents life table functions for each single year of age, while an abridged life table presents life table functions for age groups.

Permanent and long-term arrival

An overseas migrant who arrives in New Zealand intending to stay for a period of 12 months or more (or permanently), or a New Zealand resident returning after an absence of 12 months or more.

Permanent and long-term departure

A New Zealand resident departing for an intended period of 12 months or more (or permanently), or an overseas visitor departing New Zealand after a stay of 12 months or more.

Population estimate

Population estimates are produced using data from the most recent Census of Population and Dwellings, updated for estimates of the components of demographic change (births, deaths, and net migration) since that last census.

Projection assumption

Statement about a future course of behaviour (for example, fertility, mortality, net migration, living arrangement type, labour force participation) from which demographic projections (eg of population, families, households, labour force) are derived.

Regional council area (region)

The Local Government Commission established regional council areas in November 1989 after abolishing 22 local government regions. The Local Government Act 2002 requires the boundaries of regions to conform as far as possible to one or more water catchments. The commission considered regional communities of interest when selecting water catchments to be included in a region. It also considered natural resource management, land use planning, and environmental matters. New Zealand has 16 regional council areas, based on boundaries at 1 January 2013.

Regional council areas cover every territorial authority in New Zealand except the Chatham Islands territory. The seaward boundary of the regions is the 12-mile (19.3km) New Zealand territorial limit. Generally, regional council areas contain complete territorial authority areas (TAs). Where TAs straddle regional boundaries, the affected area has been statistically defined in complete area units.

Auckland went through a local government restructure effective from 1 November 2010. This resulted in the Auckland Regional Council and seven former territorial authorities (Rodney District, North Shore City, Waitakere City, Auckland City, Manukau City, Papakura District, and Franklin District) being replaced by a unitary authority, the Auckland Council. The new Auckland Council has 13 wards, 21 local boards, and 18

subdivisions. More information on the new structure can be found on the Auckland Council website.

Replacement level fertility

The average number of children a woman needs to have to produce one daughter who survives to childbearing age. It is also described as the total fertility rate required for the population to replace itself, without migration. The internationally accepted replacement level is 2.1 births per woman. It allows for the mortality of females between birth and childbearing and the birth of more boys than girls. On average, throughout the world, 105 boys are born for every 100 girls. The actual replacement level will vary slightly among countries depending on child mortality rates. In countries with high child mortality, the total fertility rate will need to be higher than 2.1 births per woman to achieve replacement level.

Resident population concept

A statistical basis for a population in terms of those who usually live in a given area at a given time. The census usually resident population count is a census measure, and the estimated resident population is a demographic measure, of the resident population concept.

In terms of vitals data (births, deaths, marriages, etc), the resident population concept refers to events registered in New Zealand to New Zealand residents only.

Resident temporarily overseas

A person who usually lives in New Zealand but who is overseas for a period of less than 12 months.

Rural area

The rural areas of New Zealand are those not defined as urban. They include:

1. Rural centres – centres with populations of 300 to 999 in a reasonably compact area which service their surrounding rural areas.
2. Area units where they are not included in main, secondary, or minor urban areas, and inlets, islands, inland waters, and oceanic waters that are outside urban areas. The population on shipboard is excluded from the rural-urban classification.

Short-term arrival

A visitor from overseas who intends to stay in New Zealand for less than 12 months, or a New Zealand resident returning to New Zealand after an absence of less than 12 months.

Short-term departure

A New Zealand resident departing New Zealand for an intended period of less than 12 months, or a visitor from overseas departing New Zealand after a stay of less than 12 months.

Standardised death rate

The overall death rate that would have prevailed in a standard population if it had experienced the age-specific (usually age- and sex-specific) death rates of the population being studied.

Stillbirth

The Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act which took effect from 1 September 1995, redefined a stillbirth as a child who is born dead and weighs 400g or

more, or is born dead after the 20th week of gestation. Before the new Act, a stillbirth was defined as a child born dead after 28 weeks of gestation. This change in definition means that stillbirths from September 1995 onwards are not directly comparable with earlier years.

Territorial authority area

The Local Government Act 2002 defines a territorial authority as a city council or district council. There are 67 territorial authority areas (comprising 12 cities and 53 districts, Auckland, and the Chatham Islands territory) based on boundaries at 1 January 2013.

When defining the boundaries of territorial authority areas, the Local Government Commission placed great weight on the 'community of interest'. While the size of a community was a factor, the commission considered the relevance of the components of the community to each other and the capacity of the unit to service the community efficiently.

Total fertility rate

The average number of live births that a woman would have during her life if she experienced the age-specific fertility rates of a given period (usually one year). It excludes the effect of mortality.

Urban area

Non-administrative areas with urban characteristics and a high to moderate concentration of population. The classification of urban areas was revised for the 1991 Census of Population and Dwellings into three parts – main, secondary, and minor urban areas:

1. Main urban areas – centres with populations of 30,000 or more. There are currently 16 main urban areas (12 in the North Island and four in the South). Auckland, Wellington, Hamilton, Napier-Hastings are further subdivided into zones.
2. Secondary urban areas – centres with populations between 10,000 and 29,999. There are currently 14 secondary urban areas.
3. Minor urban areas – centres with populations of 1,000 or more not already classified as urban (that is, not falling within a main or secondary urban area). There are currently 99 minor urban areas and, together with the above two categories, they constitute the urban population of New Zealand.

Urban areas are currently defined on the basis of the 1996 census usually resident population count. As a result, Greymouth is still classified as a secondary urban area, even though the 2001 Census usually resident population count, and the estimated resident populations at 30 June 2001–05, fall below 10,000.

Vital statistics

Statistics of events, such as births, deaths, and marriages, which influence the numbers of a population.

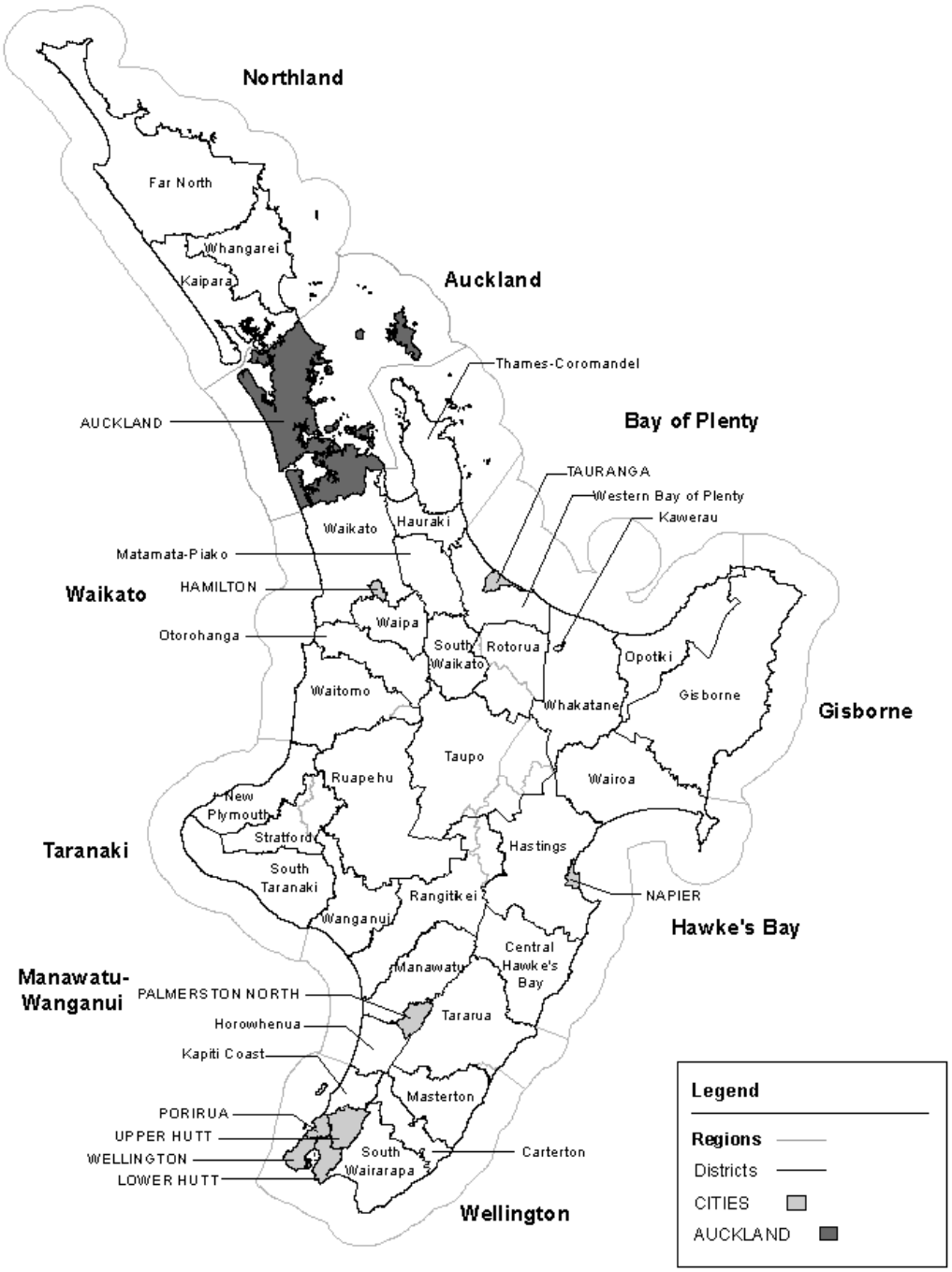
Workforce

The population aged 15 years and over who regularly work for one or more hours per week for financial gain, or work without pay in a family business.

Maps

Figure 8.1

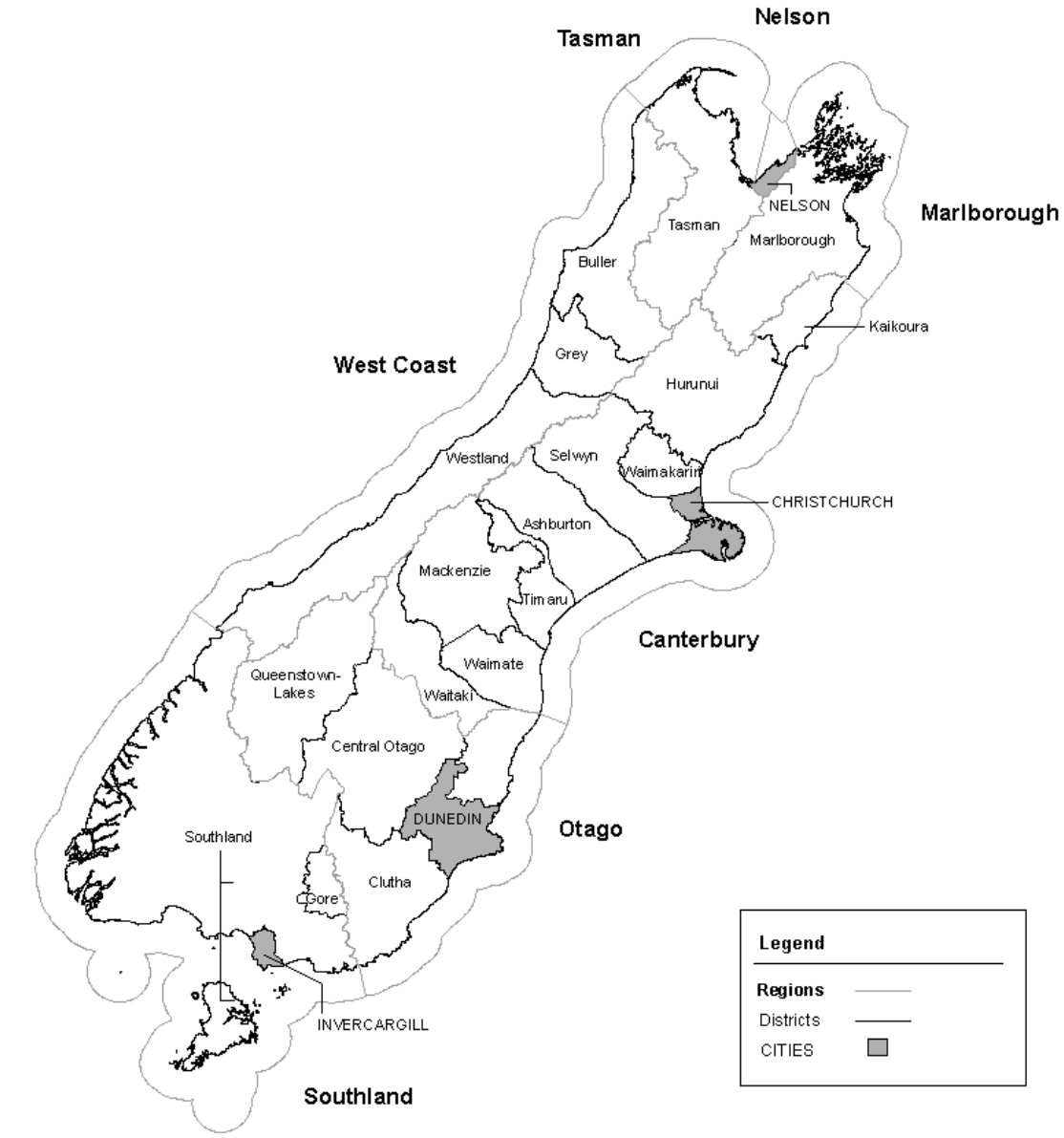
Regional council and territorial authority areas
North Island
At 1 July 2012



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Figure 8.2

Regional council and territorial authority areas
South Island
At 1 July 2012



Source: Statistics New Zealand