

The social report monitors outcomes for the New Zealand population. This section contains background information on the size and characteristics of the population to provide a context for the indicators that follow.

# People

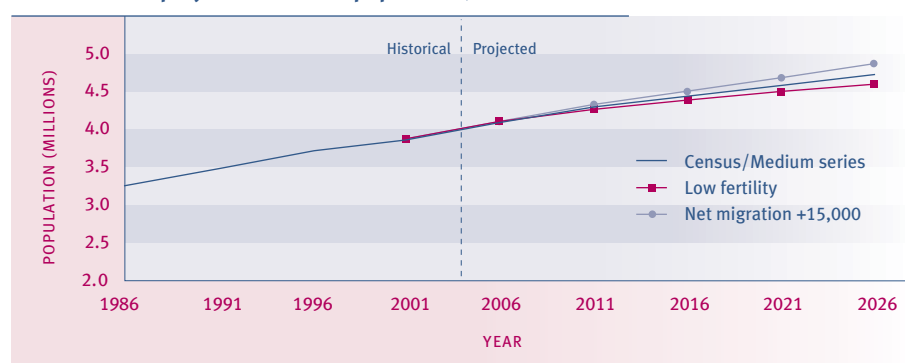
## Population size and growth

New Zealand's resident population reached 4 million in April 2003 and was estimated to be 4.08 million at the end of December 2004.

During the 2004 year, the population grew by 44,800 or 1.1 percent. This was a lower rate of growth than that recorded in 2003 (63,500 or 1.6 percent) but still marginally higher than the average annual increase during the 10-year period to December 2004 (43,600 or 1.1 percent).

Under 2004-based medium population projection assumptions, the population is expected to grow by an average of 0.8 percent per year between 2004 and 2011. Natural increase (births minus deaths) will account for four-fifths of this growth, and net migration the remaining fifth. Assuming net migration of 10,000 people per year after that, the growth rate is expected to slow to 0.7 percent per year for the next 15 years. Such a growth rate would add around 669,000 people to the population between 2004 and 2026.<sup>5</sup>

Figure P1 **Historical and projected resident population, 1986–2026**



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Note: All three projections assume medium mortality. The medium projection series assumes medium fertility and a long-term annual net migration gain of 10,000

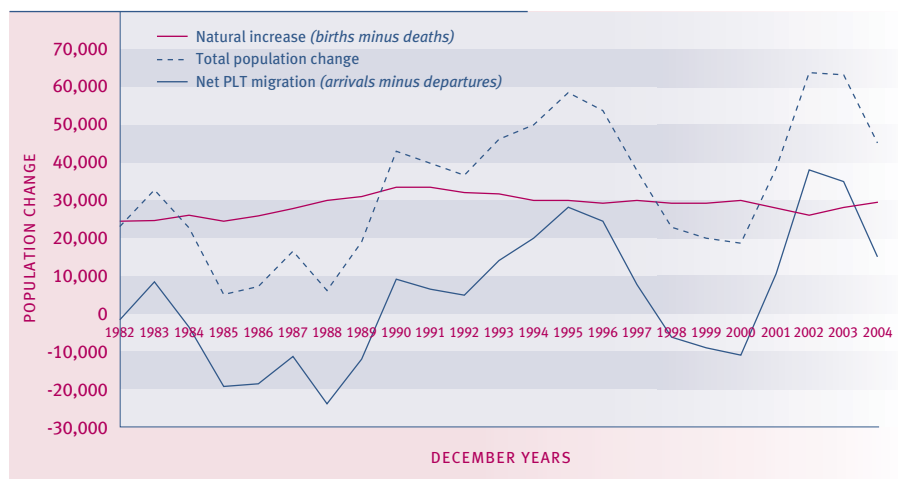
## Components of population change

Changes in population size are driven by two factors: natural increase (births minus deaths) and net external migration.

Births exceeded deaths by 29,700 in the December 2004 year, an increase from 28,600 in 2003. Historically, natural increase (births minus deaths) has been the main component of population growth in New Zealand, but its contribution is slowly declining as the population ages and fertility declines.

The number of people coming to live in New Zealand in 2004 exceeded those leaving the country to live elsewhere by 15,100, less than half the net migration gain of 2003 (34,900). In the December 2004 year, the net gain from permanent and long-term migration accounted for 34 percent of population growth, down from 55 percent in 2003.

Figure P2 **Components of population change, 1982–2004**



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Note: Prior to 1991, estimated population change was based on the de facto population concept. From 1991 onwards, population change was based on the resident population concept

Almost 70 percent of New Zealand nationals returning home in 2004 after a long-term absence came from either Australia or the United Kingdom. These two countries were also the most popular destinations for New Zealand citizens departing for a permanent or long-term absence.

The net inflow of non-New Zealand citizens more than doubled between 2000 and 2002 (from 26,600 to 54,900), then fell to 46,100 in 2003 and to 33,200 in 2004. The main contributing countries in 2004 were the United Kingdom (9,100), China (2,900), India (2,500), Japan (2,100), Australia (1,900) and Fiji (1,800). Auckland is the destination of the largest group of new migrants.

## Fertility

Provisional fertility rates for the year 2004 indicate that New Zealand women average 2.01 births per woman, an increase from 1.95 in 2003 but still below the level required by any population to replace itself without migration (2.10 births per woman). Sub-replacement fertility is a feature of most developed countries, including France (1.9 births per woman), Australia and Denmark (1.8), England and Wales, the Netherlands, Finland and Sweden (1.7), and Japan (1.3), but is less of an issue in the United States (2.0). The comparatively high rate in New Zealand reflects the higher fertility rates of Māori (2.65 births per woman in 2004) and Pacific women (2.94 in 2000–2002). In 2001, Māori and Pacific together made up over a fifth (22 percent) of women in the reproductive ages.

Since 1992, the median age of New Zealand women giving birth has risen from 28 years to 30 years. The median age of Māori women giving birth is younger but is also increasing (from 25 years in 1996 to 26 years in 2004).

New Zealand has a relatively high rate of childbearing at young ages compared with other developed countries, but the trend has been downward in recent years. The birth rate for women under 18 years was 18.0 per 1,000 females aged 15–17 years in 1996 and 14.9 per 1,000 in 2004. The rate for young Māori is higher but has fallen faster over the same period (from 48.3 to 40.1 births per 1,000 15–17 year old females). The birth rate for Pacific females under 18 years declined from 28.2 to 22.9 per 1,000 between 1995–1997 and 2000–2002, the latest period for which Pacific fertility rates are available.

## Distribution of the population

Over three-quarters (76 percent) of the population live in the North Island, and nearly a third (32 percent) in the Auckland Region.

Reflecting the impact of migration, the population growth in the Auckland Region accounted for just over two-thirds (68 percent) of the total population growth over the period between the 1996 and 2001 censuses.

The Māori population is heavily concentrated in the North Island (88 percent), but only 24 percent of Māori live in the Auckland Region.

The New Zealand population is highly urbanised. At the 2001 Census, 86 percent of the population were living in an urban area. This includes 71 percent living in main urban areas (population of 30,000 or more), 6 percent living in secondary urban areas (10,000–29,999) and 8 percent living in minor urban areas (1,000–9,999).

There are marked ethnic differences in urbanisation, with the vast majority of Pacific, Asian and Other ethnic groups living in main urban areas and very few in rural areas.

Table P1 **Urban and rural residence (%), by ethnic group, 2001**

	European	Māori	Pacific	Asian	Other	Total
Main urban area (30,000+)	69	64	92	94	92	71
Secondary urban area (10,000–29,999)	7	7	3	2	2	6
Minor urban area (1,000–9,999)	9	13	2	2	2	8
Total urban	84	84	98	98	97	86
Rural	16	16	2	2	3	14
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Statistics New Zealand, 2001 Census, Ethnic Groups, Table 5a

## Ethnic composition of the population

The New Zealand population is becoming more ethnically diverse.

While the European ethnic group category still has the largest share (80 percent), the number of people identifying as European increased by 3 percent between 1991 and 2001. Over the same period, the number who identified as Māori increased by 21 percent, the Pacific peoples ethnic group increased by 39 percent, and the number of Asian people increased by 138 percent.

Table P2 **Ethnic distribution of the population, 1991 and 2001**

Ethnic group	1991	%	2001	%
European	2,783,025	83.2	2,868,009	80.0
Māori	434,847	13.0	526,281	14.7
Pacific peoples	167,070	5.0	231,801	6.5
Asian	99,756	3.0	237,459	6.6
Other	6,693	0.2	24,924	0.7
Total with ethnicity specified	3,345,813		3,586,731	

Source: Statistics New Zealand, 2001 Census, National Summary, Table 8

Note: The ethnic data in this table allows up to three responses per person. Where a person reported more than one ethnic group, they have been counted in each applicable group. Totals therefore do not add up to 100 percent

In 2001, Māori made up 15 percent of the population compared with 13 percent in 1991. More people belonged to an Asian ethnic group than a Pacific peoples ethnic group in 2001. Ethnic groups other than European, Māori, Asian or Pacific made up less than 1 percent of the population in 2001. By 2021, the Māori share of the population is projected to be 17 percent, the Pacific peoples share 9 percent and the Asian share 15 percent.<sup>6</sup>

Ethnic diversity varies by age: among those under 25 years at the 2001 Census, 74 percent had a European ethnicity, 22 percent were Māori, 10 percent were Pacific peoples, 8 percent were Asian and 1 percent other ethnic groups. Among those aged 65 and over, Europeans made up 93 percent, Māori 4 percent, Pacific peoples and Asian each made up 2 percent and other ethnic groups 0.2 percent.

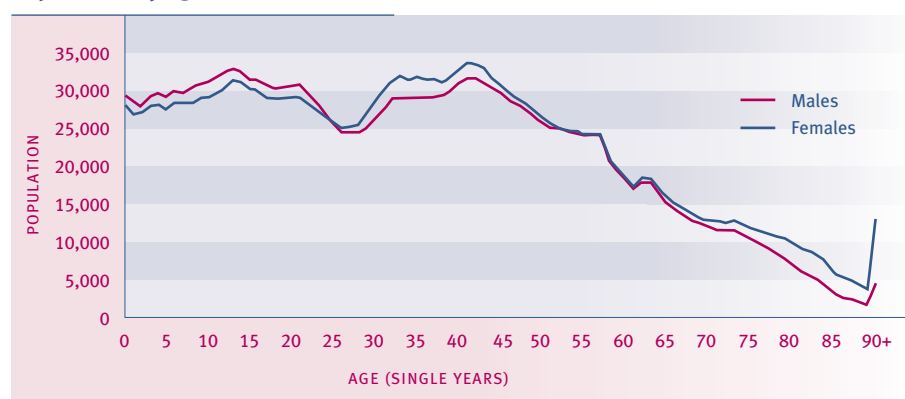
The number of people with multiple ethnic identities is increasing. In 2001, 91 percent of the population identified with one ethnicity, down from 95 percent in 1991. Having multiple ethnic identities is particularly common among Māori. Of those who said they belong to the Māori ethnic group in 2001, 44 percent also identified with at least one other ethnicity. Younger people are far more likely to identify with more than one ethnicity than older people. Birth registration data for 2003 shows that about one in five babies was identified with more than one ethnicity, compared to one in 10 mothers.<sup>7</sup>

The figures for the ethnic distribution used in this section are based on the number of people identifying with each ethnicity. Because people can identify with more than one ethnicity, the total number of ethnic responses may be greater than the number of people. Elsewhere in the report the approach to measuring ethnicity varies with the data source used.

## Age and sex structure of the population

Just over half the New Zealand population (51 percent) is female. Males outnumber females among children and youth, but females predominate among adults, particularly from the late twenties to the late forties, and from the early sixties onwards. More males are born than females, but males have higher mortality rates than females at all ages, particularly at ages 15–29 years. The imbalance in the middle years is largely an outcome of sex differences in net migration (there were more males than females in the net migration loss between 1999 and 2001, and more females than males in the net migration gain of the previous five years). At older ages it reflects higher male mortality rates.

Figure P3 **Population, by age and sex, 2004**



Source: Statistics New Zealand

The New Zealand population is ageing: the median age of the population was 35 years in 2004, and is expected to rise to 39 years by 2014, then rise more slowly to reach 41 years in 2024.<sup>8</sup>

The proportion of the population under 15 years of age has declined from 25 percent in 1984 to 22 percent in 2004 and is expected to fall to 19 percent by 2014. The population aged 65 and over has increased from 10 percent of the total population in 1984 to 12 percent in 2004 and will reach 15 percent by 2014 and 19 percent in 2024, assuming medium fertility, medium mortality and an annual net migration gain of 10,000 from 2009.

Population ageing within the working-age group will be partly offset over the next decade by the entry of the “baby blip” – the relatively large generation of babies born around 1990 – into the young adult age groups. By 2014, the 15–24 age group is expected to be 6 percent larger than it was in 2004. Over the same period, there will be a slight decline (of 5 percent) in the number of people aged 25–44, and an increase of 23 percent in the population aged 45–64 years. By 2014, 45–64 year olds will make up 40 percent of the working-age population, compared with 35 percent in 2004.

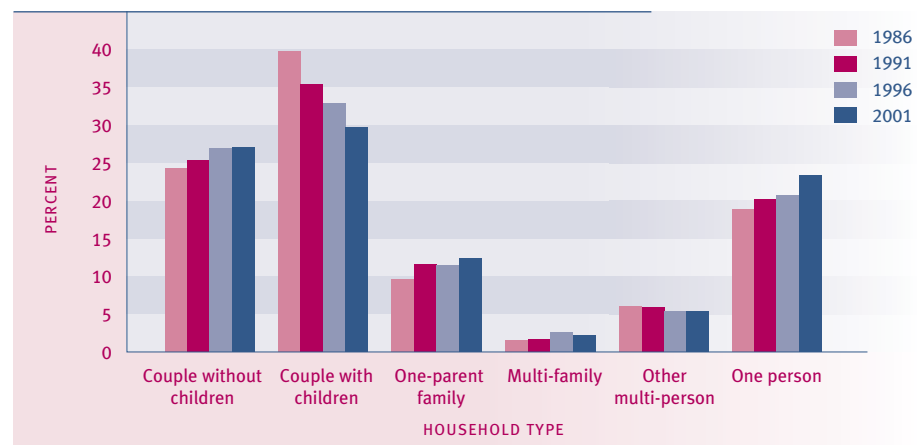
Age structure varies by ethnic group. In 2001, the European ethnic group population was the oldest, with a median age of 37 years, followed by Asians (28 years), other ethnic groups (26 years), Māori (22 years) and Pacific peoples (21 years). By 2021, half of all Māori will be older than 26 years and half of all Pacific peoples older than 24 years. Over the same period, the median age of European and Asian New Zealanders is expected to have risen to 44 years and 36 years, respectively.<sup>9</sup>

## Households

A household may contain a single person living alone, or two or more people who usually live together and share facilities, either as families (couples, parents with children), or groups of individuals flatting together. There were 1.3 million households in New Zealand at the 2001 Census, an increase of 23 percent over the number recorded in 1986.

Twenty-seven percent of households contained couples without children in 2001, 30 percent contained two-parent families with children, 12 percent were one-parent family households, 2 percent contained more than one family, 5 percent comprised a group of individuals and 23 percent were one-person households.

Figure P4 **Distribution of households, by household type, 1986–2001**



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Couple-only and one-person households are the fastest growing household types and are projected to increase the most over the next 15 years. Population ageing is the major factor behind both of these changes. But declining fertility and the closing gap between male and female life expectancy are also contributing to the rising number of couples without children, while delayed marriage, divorce and changing lifestyle preferences are contributing to the growing number of one-person households.

## Families with children

In 2001, there were 590,700 families with children living within New Zealand households, 81 percent of which contained dependent children (aged under 18 years and not in full-time employment).<sup>10</sup>

The number of families with dependent children increased by 6.6 percent in the decade to 2001, compared with an increase of just 1.5 percent in the previous decade. The most significant change in families in the past two decades has been the shift from two-parent to one-parent families. This was more pronounced in the 1980s, when the share of one-parent families increased from 14 to 24 percent, than in the 1990s, when it rose to 29 percent. One-parent families are expected to continue to increase, but at a slower rate. Family projections based on trends since 1986 suggest that by 2021, one-parent families are projected to make up around 35 percent of all families with dependent children. For many of these families there will be parents living in another household who are actively involved in the care and upbringing of the children.

Table P3 **Families with dependent children, by family type, 1976–2001**

	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001
	<b>Number</b>					
Two-parent family	398,772	380,886	363,489	339,681	346,086	339,159
One-parent family	46,296	62,280	82,632	110,055	126,585	140,178
<i>Mother only</i>	39,153	52,938	71,388	92,028	107,394	117,018
<i>Father only</i>	7,143	9,342	11,244	18,024	19,191	23,163
Total families	445,068	443,166	446,121	449,736	472,671	479,337
	<b>Percentage distribution</b>					
Two-parent family	89.6	85.9	81.5	75.5	73.2	70.8
One-parent family	10.4	14.1	18.5	24.5	26.8	29.2
<i>Mother only</i>	8.8	11.9	16.0	20.5	22.7	24.4
<i>Father only</i>	1.6	2.1	2.5	4.0	4.1	4.8
Total families	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Sources: Statistics New Zealand, published and unpublished census data

Note: The census definition of child dependency has changed over time. From 1996, a dependent child is a person in a family aged less than 18 years who is not in full-time employment. For earlier years, a dependent child is a person in a family under 16 years or aged 16–18 and still at school

New Zealand has a relatively high proportion of families with children under 18 headed by sole parents (29 percent), second only to the United States (31 percent in 2001) and higher than the United Kingdom (22 percent), Australia and Canada (both 21 percent).

## New Zealanders experiencing disability

One in five New Zealanders experiences disability.<sup>11</sup> The New Zealand Disability Survey found that 743,800 New Zealanders had some level of disability in 2001. This included an estimated 107,200 Māori and 28,100 Pacific peoples with a disability.

Just over half of New Zealanders with disabilities require some form of disability support services. In 2001, an estimated 432,100 people required some form of disability support. Of these, about 110,700 people received or needed daily help with tasks such as preparing meals, shopping, housework, bathing or dressing (including 22,600 people who lived in residential facilities). A further 321,400 people used or needed an assistive device or equipment and/or help with heavier or more difficult household tasks (including 4,400 people who lived in residential facilities).<sup>12</sup>

Disability increases with age. The prevalence of disability ranges from 11 percent of children (0–14 years) to 54 percent of people aged 65 years and over.

Table P4 **Number and prevalence rate of people experiencing disabilities (total population residing in households and residential facilities), by age group and sex, 2001**

Age group (years)	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
0–14	54,200	13	35,700	9	90,000	11
15–44	88,600	12	114,000	14	202,600	13
45–64	115,800	27	94,800	23	210,600	25
65+	100,300	51	140,300	56	240,600	54
Total	358,900	20	384,900	20	743,800	20

Source: Statistics New Zealand (2001a), Tables 1.01a, 1.02a

Many New Zealanders experiencing disability face barriers to full participation in society. The 2001 New Zealand Disability Survey found that 39 percent of disabled adults aged 15 years and over in households had no educational qualification, compared to 24 percent of non-disabled adults. More than half (56 percent) of adults aged 15 years and over with disabilities had a gross personal income of less than \$15,000, compared to 40 percent of non-disabled adults. Fifty-seven percent of 15–64 year olds with a disability were employed, compared with 71 percent of non-disabled 15–64 year olds.<sup>13</sup>



## Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people

There is little information available about gay, lesbian, bisexual, fa'afafine, takatāpui, intersex, transgender and transsexual people in New Zealand, or the size of this group of people in relation to the total population.

Some information about same-sex couples who share a residence was collected in the 1996 and 2001 population censuses. The 2001 Census recorded just over 10,000 adults living with a partner of the same sex, making up 0.6 percent of all adults living in couples. This is a larger number than the 6,500 recorded in the 1996 Census, when they made up 0.4 percent of all couples. However, it is difficult to know whether the change in numbers represents a real increase in the number of same-sex couples living together, or a greater willingness on their part to report living arrangements and partnership status. According to Statistics New Zealand, it is likely that the figures understate the actual number of same-sex couples because of the inconsistent way people have responded to the census question.