

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 4.12 million at the end of December 2005.

During 2005, the population grew by 37,000 or 0.9 percent. This was a lower rate of growth than that recorded in 2004 (44,500 or 1.1 percent) and lower than the average annual increase during the 10-year period to December 2005 (41,400 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 2005 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 634,000 people to the population between 2005 and 2026.⁵

Figure P1 **Estimated and projected resident population, 1991–2026**



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

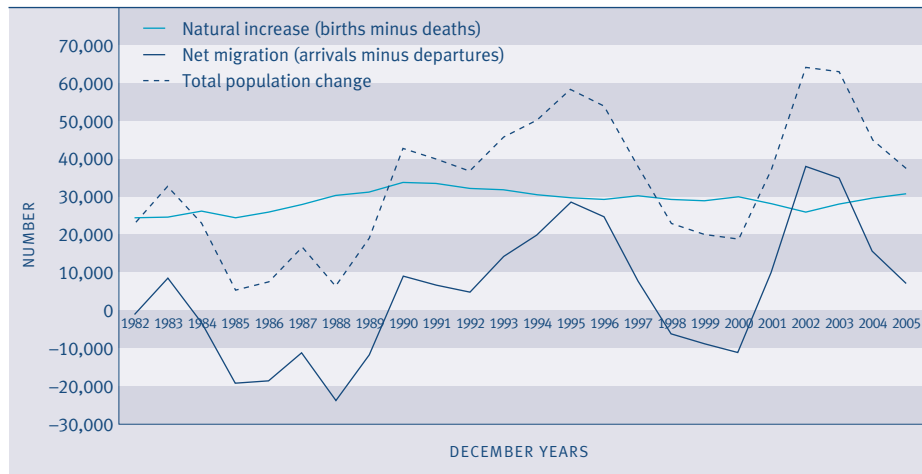
Components of population change

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

Births exceeded deaths by 30,700 in the December 2005 year, an increase from 29,700 in 2004. Historically, natural increase has been the main component of population growth in New Zealand, but its contribution is set to decline gradually as the population ages and fertility remains stable. By 2020, natural increase is projected to be about 20,000 a year.

The number of people coming to live in New Zealand in 2005 exceeded those leaving the country to live elsewhere by 7,000, less than half the net migration gain of 2004 (15,100). In the December 2005 year, the net gain from permanent and long-term migration accounted for 18 percent of population growth, down from 34 percent in 2004.

Figure P2 **Components of population change, 1982–2005**



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Note: Before 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 2005 after a long-term absence came from either the United Kingdom or Australia. 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 32,000 in 2005. The main contributing countries in 2005 were the United Kingdom (10,000), Fiji (2,500), India (2,000), Japan (1,700), Germany (1,400), South Africa (1,200) and China (1,200). Most new migrants settle in Auckland.

In the decade to 2005, New Zealand had a net gain of 110,700 migrants. Two age groups contributed most of this gain: adults aged 25–49 years (62 percent) and children aged under 15 years (29 percent).

Fertility

Fertility rates for the year 2005 indicate that New Zealand women average 2.00 births per woman. This is marginally lower than the rate of 2.01 in 2004 and below the level required by any population to replace itself without migration (2.1 births per woman). Sub-replacement fertility is a feature of most developed countries, including France (1.9 births per woman), Australia, Denmark and Finland (1.8), England and Wales, the Netherlands, and Sweden (1.7), Canada (1.5) 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 (2.62 births per woman in 2005) and Pacific women (2.94 in 2000–2002, the latest period for which Pacific fertility rates are available). In 2001, Māori and Pacific women together made up over a fifth (22 percent) of women in the reproductive ages.

Since 1985, the median age of New Zealand women giving birth has risen from 27 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 2005).

New Zealand has a relatively high rate of childbearing at young ages compared with most other developed countries. At 27.7 births per 1,000 females aged 15–19 years in 2005, the New Zealand teenage birth rate is similar to the rate in the United Kingdom (26.7 per 1,000 in 2004) but considerably lower than that of the United States (41.2 per 1,000 in 2004). However, the trend has been downward in recent years. The birth rate for women aged 15–17 years was 18.0 per 1,000 females in 1996, and 14.5 per 1,000 in 2005. The rate for young Māori is higher but has fallen faster over the same period (from 48.3 to 37.9 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.

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 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 was 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) of the total population, the number of people identifying as European increased by only 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 ethnicity 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.⁶

Ethnic diversity varies by age: among those under 25 years at the 2001 Census, 74 percent were European, 22 percent were Māori, 10 percent were Pacific peoples, 8 percent were Asian and 1 percent were Other ethnic groups. Among those aged 65 years 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.

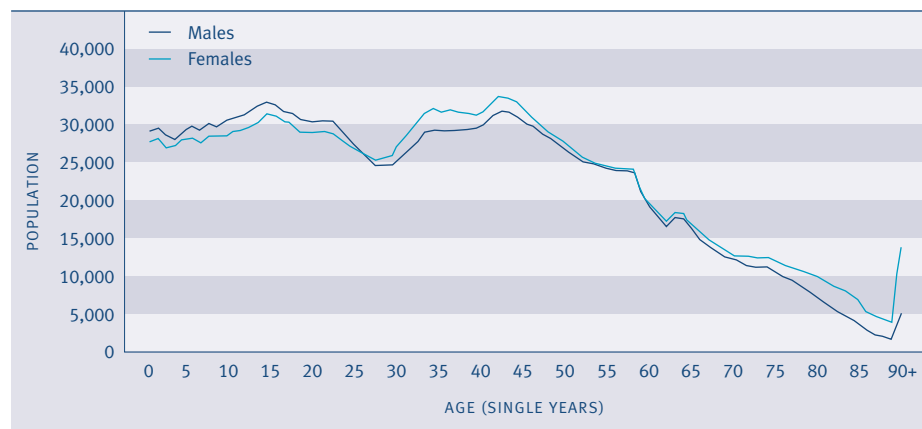
The number of people with multiple ethnic identities is increasing. In 2001, 91 percent of the population identified with only one ethnicity, down from 95 percent in 1991. Having multiple ethnic identities is particularly common among Māori. Of those who said they belong to the Māori ethnic group in 2001, 44 percent also identified with at least one other ethnicity. Younger people are far more likely to be identified with more than one ethnicity than older people. Birth registration data for 2004 shows that 22 percent of babies were identified with more than one ethnicity, compared with 11 percent of mothers.⁷

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. More males are born than females, but males have higher mortality rates than females at all ages, particularly at ages 20–29 years. The imbalance in the middle years is partly an outcome of sex differences in net migration. At older ages, the difference reflects higher male mortality rates.

Figure P3 **Population, by age and sex, 2005**



Source: Statistics New Zealand

The New Zealand population is ageing: the median age of the population was 36 years in 2005, and is expected to rise to 39 years by 2015, then rise more slowly to reach 41 years in 2025.⁸

The proportion of the population under 15 years of age has declined from 25 percent in 1985 to 22 percent in 2005 and is expected to fall to 19 percent by 2015. The population aged 65 years and over has increased from 10 percent of the total population in 1985 to 12 percent in 2005 and will reach 15 percent by 2015 and 19 percent in 2025, assuming medium fertility, medium mortality and an annual net migration gain of 10,000 from 2009.

Population ageing within the working-age group (15–64 years) 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 2015, the 15–24 years age group is expected to be 5 percent larger than it was in 2005. Over the same period, there will be a slight decline (of 4 percent) in the number of people aged 25–44 years, and an increase of 22 percent in the population aged 45–64 years. By 2015, 45–64 year olds will make up 40 percent of the working-age population, compared with 35 percent in 2005.

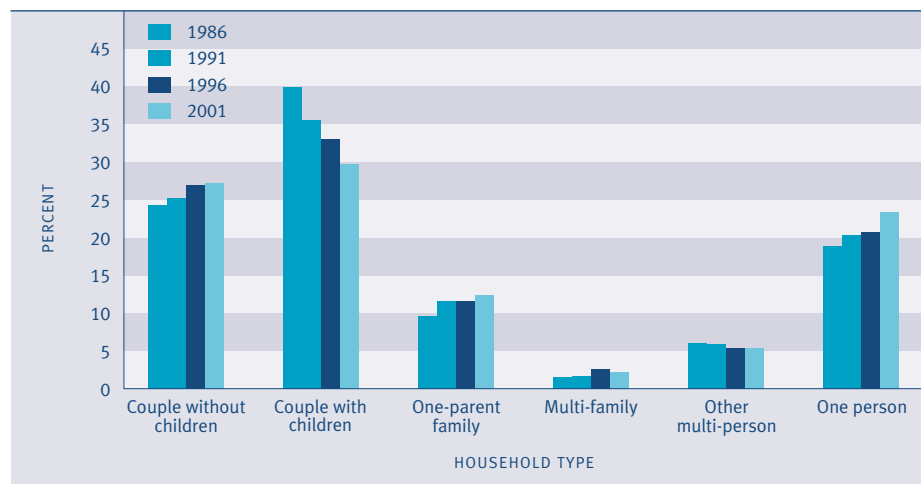
Age structure varies by ethnic group. In 2001, the European ethnic group population was the oldest, with a median age of 37 years, followed by Asians (28 years), Other ethnic groups (26 years), Māori (22 years) and Pacific peoples (21 years). By 2021, half of all Māori will be older than 26 years and 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.⁹

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 as 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 had 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).¹⁰

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
Number						
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
Percentage distribution						
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

Source: 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 years 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.¹¹ The *New Zealand Disability Survey 2001* found that 743,800 New Zealanders had some level of disability. This included an estimated 107,200 Māori and 28,100 Pacific peoples with a disability.

Just over half of New Zealanders with disabilities require 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).¹²

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)	Males		Females		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 *New Zealand Disability Survey 2001* found that 39 percent of disabled adults aged 15 years and over living 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.¹³

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.