



QuickStats About New Zealand's Population and Dwellings

2006 Census

The latest picture of New Zealand's population and dwellings – read the facts and view the simple graphs and tables that reflect life in New Zealand on census day.

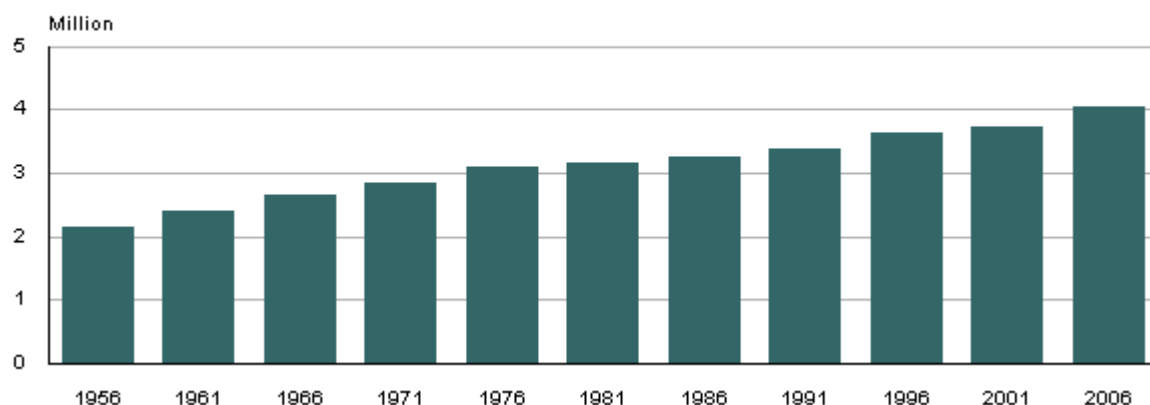
All information is based on the census usually resident population count from New Zealand's 2006 Census of Population and Dwellings, held on 7 March 2006.

Population counts

- New Zealand's census night population has passed the 4 million mark. There were 4,143,279 people in New Zealand on census night, an increase of 322,530 (8.4 percent) since the 2001 Census.
- In the 10 years to March 2006, New Zealand's census night population increased by nearly half a million (up 461,733 or 12.5 percent).
- In the past 50 years, New Zealand's census night population has almost doubled – from 2,174,061 in 1956 to reach 4,143,279 in 2006.
- There were 4,027,947 people who usually live (usual residents) in New Zealand on census night.
- The number of overseas visitors in New Zealand on census night almost doubled in the 10 years between 1996 and 2006 – increasing from 63,243 to reach 115,332.

Population Counts 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses			
	1996	2001	2006
Usual Residents	3,618,303	3,737,277	4,027,947
Overseas Visitors	63,243	83,472	115,332
Total Census Night Population	3,681,546	3,820,749	4,143,279

Usually Resident Population 1956–2006 Censuses



Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different text, tables and graphs.

Dwelling counts

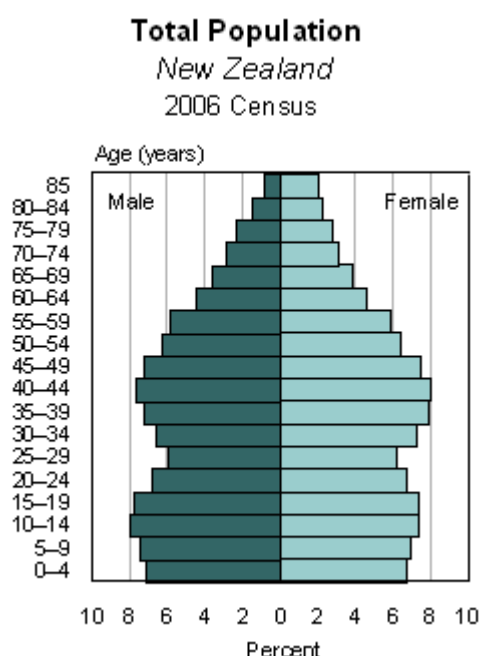
Private Occupied Dwelling Count 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses			
	1996	2001	2006
Private Occupied Dwellings	1,276,332	1,359,843	1,471,746

- There were 1,471,746 private occupied dwellings counted in the 2006 Census, an increase of 111,903 (8.2 percent) since the 2001 Census.
- New Zealand's private occupied dwelling count has increased by 195,414 (15.3 percent) in the 10 years to March 2006.
- Two-thirds of all private occupied dwellings were either owned by their occupants (54.5 percent) or held in a family trust (12.3 percent). The remaining third (33.1 percent) were not owned by their occupants.

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Sex and age

- The median age (half are older, and half are younger, than this age) of usual residents was 35.9 in the 2006 Census. In 1996, the median age was 33.0 years. This increase in the median age reflects New Zealand's ageing population.
- The median age for males was 35.1 years, while the median age for females was 36.7 years. This reflects a longer life expectancy for women than for men.
- There were 531 people aged 100 years or over at the time of the 2006 Census – around three-quarters were women.
- Most of the increase in the usually resident population between 2001 and 2006 came from those in the working-age group of 15 to 64 years (up 225,657 or 9.3 percent).
- The proportion of people under 15 years of age decreased from 22.7 percent in 2001 to 21.5 percent in 2006.
- There was little change in the proportion of the population aged 65 years and over – this was 12.1 percent in 2001, and 12.3 percent in 2006.



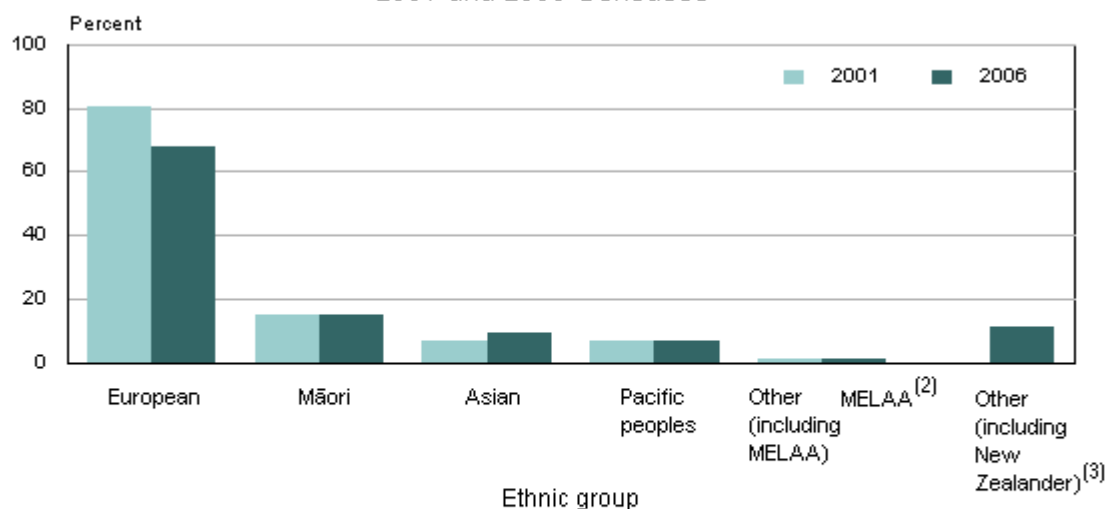
This graph replaces the graph published on 6 December 2006.

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Ethnic groups

- 2006 Census results showed the ethnic make-up of New Zealand continued to change. More people identified with more than one ethnic group – 10.4 percent in 2006, compared with 9.0 percent in 2001.
- The Māori ethnic group increased by 39,048 (7.4 percent) and now totals 565,329. One in seven people identified with the Māori ethnic group.
- 'New Zealander' was a separate category for the first time in 2006, and was previously counted in the European category. Of those who identified themselves as New Zealander, 12.9 percent also identified with at least one other ethnic group.
- New Zealander was the third-largest ethnic group, with 429,429 people or 11.1 percent of those who stated their ethnicity.
- Asian ethnic groups grew the fastest, increasing from 238,176 in 2001 to reach 354,552 in 2006 (an increase of almost 50 percent). The number of people identifying with the Asian ethnic groups has doubled since 1996, when it was 173,502.
- Those identifying with Pacific peoples ethnic groups had the second-largest increase from the 2001 Census, up 14.7 percent to total 265,974.
- European remains the largest of the major ethnic groups, totalling 2,609,592 (67.6 percent) in 2006.

Ethnic Group as a Percentage of the Total Population ⁽¹⁾
2001 and 2006 Censuses



(1) People were able to identify with more than one ethnic group, therefore percentages do not add up to 100.

(2) MELAA, or Middle Eastern and Latin American and African, was introduced as a new category for the 2006 Census. Previously, 'MELAA' responses were allocated to the 'Other ethnicity' category.

(3) 'New Zealander' was introduced as a new response option for the 2006 Census. 'New Zealander' responses form part of the 'Other ethnicity' category. For 2006, 'New Zealander' responses had the largest contribution towards the 'Other ethnicity' category. For 2001, and previous censuses, 'New Zealander' was counted with the 'European' category.

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Tables

The following downloadable file is in Microsoft Excel 97 format(s). If you do not have access to Excel 97 or higher you may use the [Excel file viewer](#) to view, print and export the contents of this file.

List of tables

1. Population summary for the census night population counts
2. Tenure of household for households in private occupied dwellings
3. Age group and median age by sex for the census usually resident population count
4. Number of ethnic groups specified for the census usually resident population
5. Ethnic group (total responses) for the census usually resident population
6. Number of ethnic groups specified for the census usually resident population

Table 1

**Population Summary for the Census Night Population Counts
1956–2006 Censuses**

Census Year	Census Usually Resident Population Count	Overseas Visitor Population Count	Not Stated	Census Night Population Count
1956	2,162,907	11,121	36	2,174,061
1961	2,403,624	11,265	96	2,414,985
1966	2,659,305	17,442	171	2,676,918
1971	2,845,998	16,632	...	2,862,630
1976	3,103,266	26,118	...	3,129,384
1981	3,143,307	32,430	...	3,175,737
1986	3,263,283	43,800	...	3,307,083
1991	3,373,926	61,023	...	3,434,949
1996	3,618,303	63,243	...	3,681,546
2001	3,737,277	83,472	...	3,820,749
2006	4,027,947	115,332	...	4,143,279

Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.

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Table 2

Tenure of Household for Households in Private Occupied Dwellings
1996–2006 Censuses

Tenure of Household	1996	2001	2006
Dwelling Owned or Partly Owned by Usual Resident(s) ⁽¹⁾			
Mortgage Arrangements Not Further Defined	18,309	11,832	26,529
Who Make Mortgage Payments	448,374	443,277	405,267
Who Do Not Make Mortgage Payments	394,074	413,550	312,159
Total, Dwellings Owned or Partly Owned by Usual Resident(s)	860,760	868,656	743,952
Dwelling Not Owned by Usual Resident(s)			
Rental Arrangements Not Further Defined	21,534	14,700	6,312
Who Make Rent Payments	290,124	358,890	388,272
Who Do Not Make Rent Payments	45,405	38,607	57,378
Total, Dwellings Not Owned by Usual Resident(s)	357,063	412,200	451,965
Dwelling Held in a Family Trust by Usual Resident(s) ⁽¹⁾			
Mortgage Arrangements Not Further Defined	..	..	13,386
Who Make Mortgage Payments	..	..	72,828
Who Do Not Make Mortgage Payments	..	..	81,711
Total, Dwellings Held in a Family Trust by Usual Resident(s)	..	..	167,922
Not Elsewhere Included ⁽²⁾	50,271	63,411	90,336
Total	1,268,094	1,344,267	1,454,175

(1) Due to classification and questionnaire changes, comparisons between 2006 and 1996 or 2001 should be treated with caution.

(2) Not elsewhere included includes Response Unidentifiable and Not Stated.

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Table 3

**Age Group and Median Age by Sex for the Census Usually Resident Population Count
1996–2006 Censuses**

Age Group	Census Year								
	1996			2001			2006		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
0-4 Years	144,111	135,489	279,603	138,693	132,108	270,801	140,382	134,697	275,079
5-9 Years	147,720	140,574	288,291	147,363	138,837	286,203	146,532	139,956	286,488
10-14 Years	135,663	128,523	264,186	148,632	142,107	290,739	157,113	148,896	306,009
15-19 Years	133,572	129,405	262,977	134,949	130,332	265,281	152,439	147,762	300,198
20-24 Years	134,832	136,926	271,758	118,791	120,993	239,784	135,087	135,894	270,978
25-29 Years	132,453	140,850	273,303	118,008	128,892	246,903	117,216	125,223	242,439
30-34 Years	142,452	151,032	293,484	132,198	147,081	279,276	130,884	145,677	276,561
35-39 Years	139,293	145,923	285,216	142,680	154,785	297,462	143,001	158,550	301,554
40-44 Years	125,436	129,600	255,036	138,501	147,120	285,618	150,900	162,798	313,698
45-49 Years	120,249	120,939	241,191	123,528	128,256	251,787	143,052	150,369	293,421
50-54 Years	93,351	93,366	186,717	116,955	119,217	236,169	124,308	128,421	252,729
55-59 Years	78,783	79,821	158,604	90,180	92,082	182,262	115,224	118,347	233,571
60-64 Years	67,422	67,845	135,264	75,840	78,729	154,569	88,335	91,278	179,613
65-69 Years	65,184	67,788	132,972	62,478	65,433	127,914	72,114	76,434	148,548
70-74 Years	51,759	61,902	113,661	56,145	62,112	118,257	55,878	61,056	116,934
75-79 Years	33,561	48,726	82,290	40,740	53,766	94,506	46,356	54,855	101,214
80-84 Years	20,409	34,869	55,281	22,803	38,310	61,110	29,124	43,113	72,237
85 Years and Over	11,196	27,266	38,462	14,517	34,121	48,638	17,667	39,000	56,667
Total	1,777,461	1,840,839	3,618,303	1,823,007	1,914,273	3,737,277	1,965,621	2,062,328	4,027,947
Median Age	32.2	33.6	33.0	34.0	35.6	34.8	35.1	36.7	35.9

Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values may vary in different tables.

Table 4

Number of Ethnic Groups Specified for the Census Usually Resident Population
2001 and 2006 Censuses

Number of Ethnic Groups	2001	2006
One	3,262,641	3,459,735
Two	281,841	343,689
Three	31,926	45,075
Four	6,891	8,211
Five	2,061	2,127
Six	1,377	1,326
Not Elsewhere Included ⁽¹⁾	150,546	167,784
Total	3,737,277	4,027,947

(1) Not elsewhere included includes Response Unidentifiable and Not Stated.

Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.

Table 5

Ethnic Group (Total Responses)⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾ for the Census Usually Resident Population
1996–2006 Censuses

Ethnic Group	1996	2001	2006
European	2,879,085	2,871,432	2,609,592
Māori	523,371	526,281	565,329
Pacific Peoples	202,233	231,801	265,974
Asian	173,502	238,176	354,552
MELAA ⁽³⁾	34,743
Other Ethnicity			
New Zealander	..	..	429,429
Other 'Other' Ethnicity	16,422	24,993	1,491
Total ⁽⁴⁾	16,422	24,993	430,881
Total People	3,466,587	3,586,731	3,860,163

(1) Changes to the form of the ethnicity question used in the 1996 Census have resulted in some data that is not consistent between 1996, 2001 and 2006.

(2) Includes all of the people who stated each ethnic group, whether as their only ethnic group or as one of several ethnic groups. Where a person reported more than one ethnic group, they have been counted in each applicable group.

(3) MELAA = Middle Eastern, Latin American and African. This is a new category introduced for the 2006 Census. Previously, 'MELAA' responses were counted to the 'Other ethnicity' category.

(4) In 1996 and 2001 'Total Other Ethnicity' included MELAA.

Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.

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Table 6

Number of Ethnic Groups Specified for the Census Usually Resident Population
2006 Census

Number of Ethnic Groups	New Zealander ⁽¹⁾	Total Population
One	374,061	3,459,735
Two	45,387	343,692
Three	8,496	45,075
Four	1,011	8,208
Five	225	2,127
Six	249	1,326
Not Elsewhere Included ⁽²⁾	...	167,784
Total	429,429	4,027,947

(1) People who identified themselves as belonging to the New Zealander ethnic group. This category was introduced in 2006.

(2) Not elsewhere included includes Response Unidentifiable and Not Stated.

Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.

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