

# Tuvaluan

## Census Tatauranga



## Tuvaluan People in New Zealand

Tuvaluan People in New Zealand is one of a set of seven profiles on Pacific peoples based on results from the 2001 Census of Population and Dwellings. Demographic, social and economic characteristics of the Tuvaluan population are covered, and some comparisons are made with the total Pacific and total New Zealand resident populations.

- In 2001, Tuvaluan people were the seventh largest Pacific ethnic group living in New Zealand, making up just under 1 percent of New Zealand's Pacific population.
  - Between 1996 and 2001, the Tuvaluan population in New Zealand more than doubled from 900 to 2,000.
  - Tuvaluan people born overseas (1,400) accounted for 72 percent of the total Tuvaluan population in New Zealand in 2001.
  - In 2001, 56 percent of the overseas-born Tuvaluan population had been in New Zealand for less than five years.
  - The majority (81 percent) of the Tuvaluan population in New Zealand lived in the Auckland urban area in 2001.
- I te 2001, tino Tuvalu ne nofo ki te fitu o fenua tokouke ona tino i tino o te Pasefika kola e nofo i Niusila tela e i lalo malie o te 1 pasene o te fuainumela o te aofaki o tino e nofo i Niusila.
  - I te vasia o te 1996 mo te 2001, te fuainumela o tino Tuvalu ne nofo i Niusila ne silia atu i te faka lua taimi mai te 900 ki te 2,000.
  - Tino Tuvalu ne fanau i tua atu (1,400) e tusa mo te 72 pasene o te aofaki fuainumela o tino Tuvalu i Niusila i te 2001.
  - I te 2001, e 56 pasene o tino Tuvalu ne fanau i tua atu o Niusila ne nofo i Niusila mai lalo o te lima tausaga te leva.
  - Te tokoukega (81 pasene) o te aofaki o tino Tuvalu i Niusila ne nofo i Aukilani i te 2001.



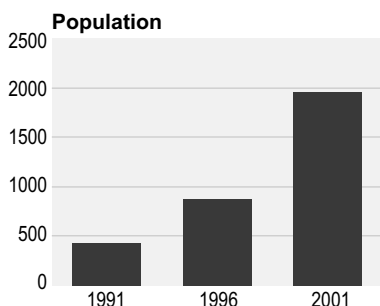
# 1. Population

The information presented in this profile is based on the census usually resident population count. The Tuvaluan population includes those people who stated Tuvaluan as their sole ethnicity or as one of several ethnic groups. The Pacific population refers to all those who stated a Pacific ethnicity.

- In 2001, Tuvaluan people were the seventh largest Pacific ethnic group living in New Zealand, comprising 1,960 people or slightly less than 1 percent of New Zealand's Pacific population (231,800).
- The largest Pacific ethnic group was the Samoan ethnic group (50 percent), followed by the Cook Island Maori (23 percent), Tongan (18 percent), Niuean (9 percent), Fijian (3 percent) and Tokelauan (3 percent) groups.
- The Tuvaluan population in New Zealand more than doubled between 1991 and 1996 and again between 1996 and 2001, as figure 1.1 illustrates. In 1991, Tuvaluan people resident in New Zealand numbered 430.

Figure 1.1

## Tuvaluan Population in New Zealand, 1991-2001



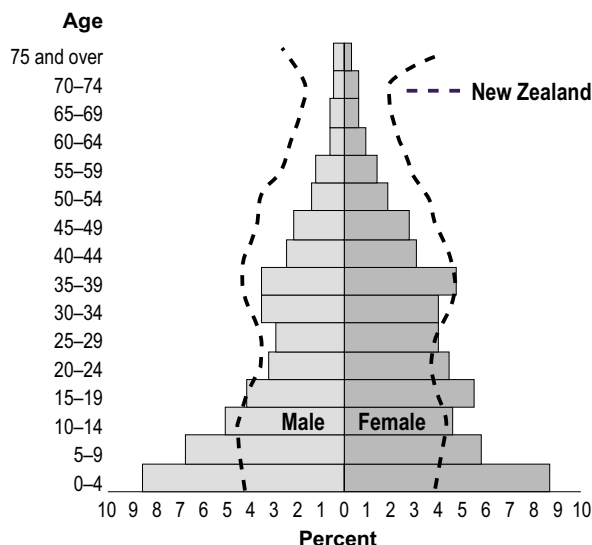
Source: Statistics New Zealand

## Age and sex distribution

- The Tuvaluan population is relatively youthful, as figure 1.2 shows. In 2001, 39 percent of Tuvaluan people were under 15 years of age, compared with 23 percent of the New Zealand population. Three percent of Tuvaluan people were aged 65 years and over, compared with 12 percent of the New Zealand population.
- In 2001, the median age, or midpoint of the Tuvaluan age distribution, was 20.3 years. By comparison, the median ages for the Pacific and New Zealand populations were 21.0 years and 34.8 years respectively.
- Tuvaluan females slightly outnumber Tuvaluan males, making up 53 percent of the Tuvaluan population.

Figure 1.2

## Age-Sex Distribution of the Tuvaluan Population, 2001



Source: Statistics New Zealand

## Place of birth

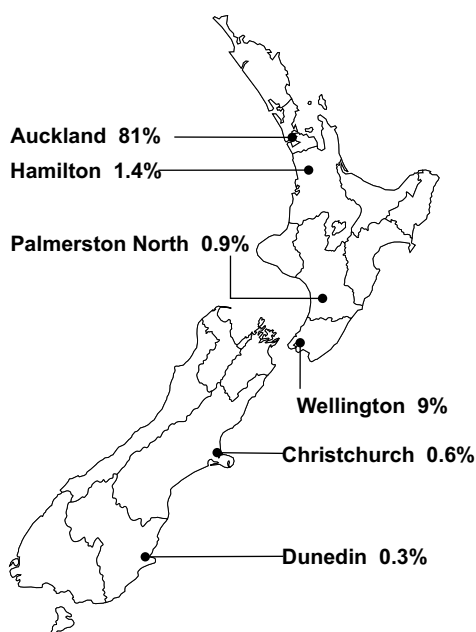
- Of the seven largest Pacific ethnic groups in New Zealand, the Tuvaluan population has the highest proportion of overseas-born people. In 2001, Tuvaluan people born overseas (1,400) accounted for 72 percent of the Tuvaluan population in New Zealand, up from 64 percent in 1996.
- In 2001, 70 percent of overseas-born Tuvaluan people in New Zealand gave Tuvalu as their birthplace.
- The overseas-born Tuvaluan population grew more quickly than the New Zealand-born Tuvaluan population between 1996 and 2001 – increasing by 150 percent and 77 percent respectively.
- Fifty-six percent of the overseas-born Tuvaluan population had been living in New Zealand for less than five years at the time of the 2001 Census. By comparison, 7 percent of the overseas-born Tuvaluan population had been resident in New Zealand for more than 20 years.

## Geographical distribution

- In 2001, 96 percent of the Tuvaluan population lived in the main urban areas (populations of 30,000 or more).
- The majority (81 percent) of Tuvaluan people resided in the Auckland urban area, with the greatest concentration being in western Auckland (58 percent of Tuvaluan people in 2001).
- Outside of Auckland, the next largest concentration of Tuvaluan people was in the Wellington urban area (9 percent in 2001).

Figure 1.3

### Geographical Distribution of the Tuvaluan Population, 2001



Source: Statistics New Zealand

## 2. Language

### Tuvaluan

- In 2001, 72 percent of Tuvaluan people (with a language) were able to hold an everyday conversation in Tuvaluan.
- Seventy-nine percent of the overseas-born Tuvaluan population (with a language) were able to speak Tuvaluan – a higher proportion than among the New Zealand-born Tuvaluan population (48 percent of those with a language).

### English

- English was the most widely spoken language among the Tuvaluan population, with 87 percent of Tuvaluan people able to hold an everyday conversation in English in 2001.
- In 2001, the majority (84 percent) of Tuvaluan people unable to speak English were overseas-born.

## 3. Religion

- In 2001, 97 percent of Tuvaluan people reported an affiliation with a Christian religion. The most common religious affiliation was Presbyterian (62 percent of those with an affiliation), followed by Methodist (10 percent), Seventh Day Adventist (5 percent) and Catholic (4 percent).
- In 2001, just 2 percent of Tuvaluan people stated they had no religious affiliation. Among the Pacific population, the equivalent figure was 12 percent, whereas almost a third of the New Zealand population stated they had no religious affiliation in 2001.

## 4. Families and households

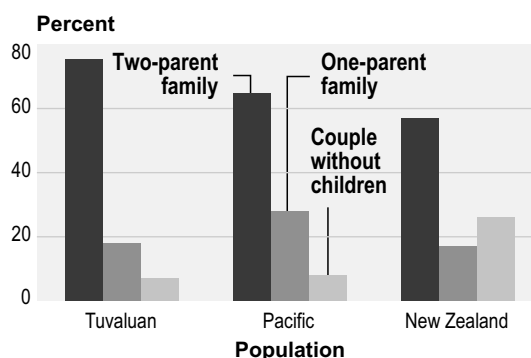
### Families

A family is defined as a couple with or without child(ren), or one parent and their child(ren), living in the same household.

- In 2001, 76 percent of Tuvaluan people lived in a family situation – a similar proportion to the New Zealand population (75 percent).
- A two-parent family with children was the most common family type for Tuvaluan people, as figure 4.1 shows. Of those living in a family in 2001, three-quarters (75 percent) were in a two-parent family – the highest proportion among the seven largest Pacific ethnic groups. In 2001, the comparable figures for the Pacific and New Zealand populations were 65 percent and 57 percent respectively.
- Eighteen percent of Tuvaluan people living in a family were in a one-parent family – the lowest proportion among the seven largest Pacific ethnic groups. By comparison, 28 percent of the Pacific population and 17 percent of the New Zealand population were living in a one-parent family in 2001.
- Seven percent of Tuvaluan people were living as a couple without children in 2001. The equivalent proportions for the Pacific and New Zealand populations were 8 percent and 26 percent respectively.

Figure 4.1

### Family Type of the Tuvaluan, Pacific and New Zealand Populations, 2001



Source: Statistics New Zealand

- Forty-six percent of Tuvaluan people were living in extended family situations in 2001 – the highest proportion among the seven largest Pacific ethnic groups. By comparison, 29 percent of the Pacific population and 8 percent of the New Zealand population were living in extended families in 2001.

### Households

A household is defined as either one person who lives alone or two or more people who usually reside together and share facilities such as eating, cooking and bathroom facilities.

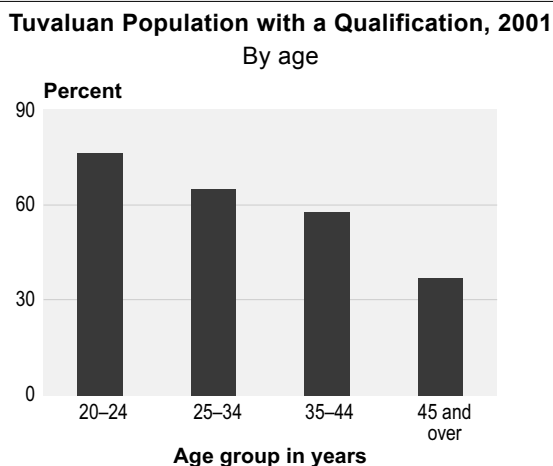
- Fifty-nine percent of Tuvaluan people lived in one-family households in 2001. A further 38 percent lived in households that contained two or more families – the highest proportion among the seven largest Pacific ethnic groups. The equivalent proportions of the Pacific and New Zealand populations living in households with two or more families were 20 percent and 5 percent respectively.

## 5. Education

The adult Tuvaluan population includes all those aged 15 years and over.

- In 2001, 56 percent of Tuvaluan adults held a formal educational qualification. The equivalent figure for the Pacific adult population was 64 percent.
- One in four among the Tuvaluan adult population (40 percent) listed a school qualification as their highest qualification in 2001, while a further 16 percent held a post-school qualification. By contrast, 32 percent of the New Zealand adult population held a post-school qualification in 2001.
- Although Tuvaluan males were more likely than their female counterparts to have a school qualification as their highest qualification (44 percent and 36 percent respectively), Tuvaluan females were more likely to hold post-school qualifications (18 percent and 15 percent respectively).
- Young Tuvaluan adults were more likely to hold a formal qualification than their older counterparts, as can be seen in figure 5.1. In 2001, 76 percent of Tuvaluan people aged 20–24 years and 65 percent of those aged 25–34 years held a school qualification, compared with 58 percent of those aged 35–44 years and 37 percent of those aged 45 years and over.

Figure 5.1



Source: Statistics New Zealand

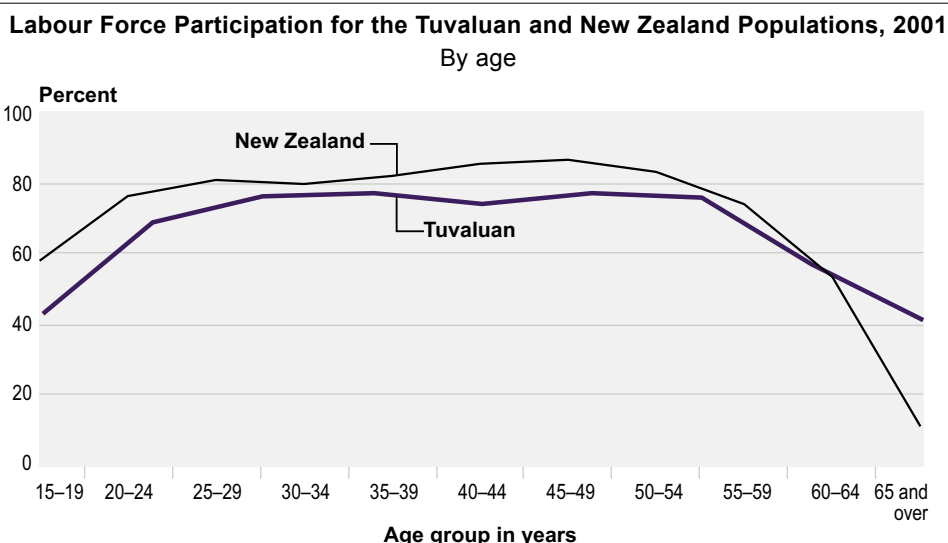
## 6. Labour force

### Labour force participation

The labour force comprises people employed full time or part time and people unemployed and actively seeking employment.

- Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of Tuvaluan adults were participating in the labour force at the time of the 2001 Census. Labour force participation rates among the Pacific (65 percent) and the New Zealand populations (67 percent) were similar to those of the Tuvaluan population.
- Tuvaluan men were more likely to participate in the labour force than Tuvaluan women in 2001 (74 percent and 56 percent respectively).
- Labour force participation among the Tuvaluan population was lower than that of the New Zealand population across most age groups, as figure 6.1 illustrates.

Figure 6.1



Source: Statistics New Zealand

## Employment

*The employment rate is the proportion of the working age population (aged 15 years and over) who are employed in either full-time or part-time paid work.*

- At the time of the 2001 Census, 51 percent of the Tuvaluan working age population was employed. In 2001, a slightly higher proportion of the Pacific population was employed (55 percent), while the employment rate for the New Zealand population was 62 percent.
- Tuvaluan men (61 percent) had a higher rate of employment than Tuvaluan women (44 percent) in 2001.

## Unemployment

*The unemployment rate is the proportion of the labour force who are unemployed, available for work and actively seeking employment.*

- A total of 140 Tuvaluan adults, or 19 percent of the Tuvaluan labour force, were unemployed at the time of the 2001 Census. The unemployment rate for the Pacific population was 16 percent, while the equivalent figure for the New Zealand population was 7 percent.
- Tuvaluan women had a higher rate of unemployment (21 percent) than Tuvaluan men (17 percent) in 2001.

## Occupation and industry

- In 2001, the most common category of occupation for employed Tuvaluan adults was agriculture and fishery workers (25 percent), followed by service and sales workers (16 percent) and those in elementary occupations (15 percent).
- Nearly a quarter (22 percent) of employed Tuvaluan adults worked in the agriculture/forestry/fishing industry in 2001. Property and business (18 percent) and manufacturing (16 percent) were the next most common industries.
- Horticulture and fruit growing accounted for 80 percent of Tuvaluan people employed in the agriculture/forestry/fishing industry.

## 7. Unpaid work

- In 2001, 84 percent of Tuvaluan adults reported involvement in unpaid or voluntary activities in the four weeks preceding the census – either inside or outside the home. This work included household work, looking after a child or ill person, as well as working for a community group.

- Household work, including cooking, repairs and gardening, was the most common category of unpaid work. In 2001, 84 percent of Tuvaluan women and 73 percent of Tuvaluan men reported participation in these activities.
- Looking after a child in the home was the next most common category (56 percent of Tuvaluan women and 44 percent of Tuvaluan men).
- Twenty percent of Tuvaluan men and 15 percent of Tuvaluan women were involved in voluntary work for an organisation.

## 8. Income

### Median annual income

*Includes income from all sources – including income support.*

- The Tuvaluan adult population had a median annual income of \$10,100 in the year to March 2001 – \$4,700 below the median annual income of the Pacific adult population (\$14,800), and \$8,400 below that of the New Zealand adult population (\$18,500).
- The median annual income of Tuvaluan adults who were in employment in the week preceding the 2001 Census was \$16,300 – equivalent to 59 percent of the median annual income of employed New Zealand adults (\$27,700).
- In 2001, the median annual income of Tuvaluan women was equivalent to 68 percent of that of Tuvaluan men (\$8,500 compared with \$12,500). The gap between the sexes narrows for those in employment – with the median annual income of employed Tuvaluan women equating to 76 percent of that of employed men (\$13,900 compared with \$18,400).

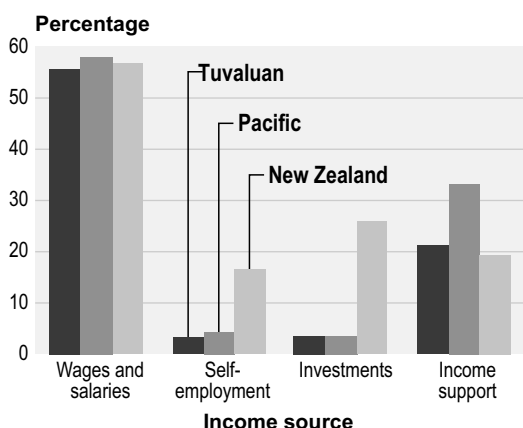
### Income sources

- Wages and salaries were received by 56 percent of Tuvaluan adults in the year to 2001. The equivalent proportions among the Pacific and New Zealand populations were similar (58 percent and 57 percent respectively), as figure 8.1 shows.
- Income from self-employment or a self-owned business was received by 3 percent of Tuvaluan adults – a similar proportion to the Pacific population (4 percent) in 2001. By comparison, 17 percent of the New Zealand population received income from this source.
- Four percent of Tuvaluan adults received income from interest, dividends, rent or investments in 2001 – the same proportion as the Pacific population. Just over a quarter (26 percent) of the New Zealand population received income from these sources in 2001.

- Among the seven largest Pacific ethnic groups, Tuvaluan people were the least likely to receive income support. Twenty-one percent of Tuvaluan adults received some form of income support at some stage during the 12 months prior to the 2001 Census, whereas the equivalent figure among the Pacific population was 33 percent. 'Income support' refers to monetary support from the government, excluding ACC payments and New Zealand Superannuation.

Figure 8.1

**Sources of Annual Personal Income of the Tuvaluan, Pacific and New Zealand Populations, 2001**



Source: Statistics New Zealand

## 9. Housing

### Tenure

- In 2001, 16 percent of Tuvaluan people aged 15 years and over stated that they owned or partly owned their own home – the lowest level among the seven largest Pacific ethnic groups. The comparable figures for the Pacific and New Zealand populations were 26 percent and 55 percent respectively.
- Tuvaluan men (17 percent) were slightly more likely than Tuvaluan women (15 percent) to own the home in which they lived.

### Rental housing

- Seventy-nine percent of the Tuvaluan population lived in rental accommodation in 2001 – the highest proportion among the seven largest Pacific ethnic groups. (Conversely, the proportion of Tuvaluan people living in dwellings owned, with or without a mortgage, by a member of the household was 21 percent).

- Among those Tuvaluan people living in rental accommodation in 2001, 40 percent were living in Housing New Zealand accommodation.
- Of those Tuvaluan people living in rented accommodation in 2001, 33 percent were living in households paying less than \$150 a week. By comparison, almost half (49 percent) of the Pacific population lived in households paying less than \$150 a week. The equivalent proportion for the New Zealand population was 38 percent.

## 10. Access to amenities

### Motor vehicles

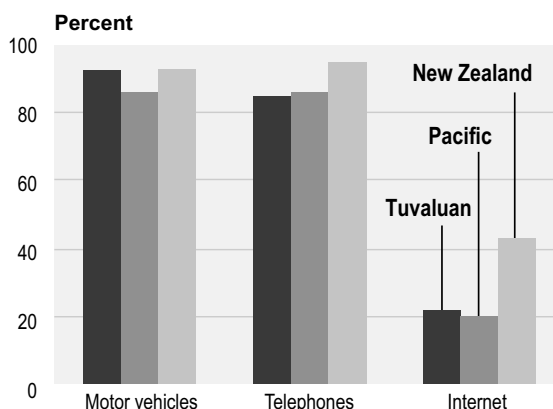
- Ninety-three percent of Tuvaluan people lived in households with access to a motor vehicle in 2001. The comparable proportions for the Pacific and New Zealand populations in 2001 were 86 percent and 93 percent respectively, as figure 10.1 shows.

### Telecommunications

- In 2001, 85 percent of Tuvaluan people lived in households with access to a telephone – a similar proportion to the Pacific population (87 percent). Among the New Zealand population, 95 percent had household telephone access.
- Twenty-two percent of Tuvaluan people lived in households with access to the Internet in 2001 – a similar level to the Pacific population (20 percent). The equivalent proportion among the New Zealand population was 43 percent.

Figure 10.1

**Access to Amenities among the Tuvaluan, Pacific and New Zealand Populations, 2001**



Source: Statistics New Zealand

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For example, you can access New Zealand's population and dwellings information by:

<i>sex</i>	<i>education/qualifications</i>	<i>number of occupants</i>
<i>age</i>	<i>income</i>	<i>home ownership</i>
<i>birthplace</i>	<i>occupation</i>	<i>number of rooms</i>
<i>ethnic group</i>	<i>industry</i>	<i>means of heating</i>
<i>language</i>	<i>hours worked</i>	<i>number of motor vehicles</i>
<i>marital status</i>	<i>means of travel to work</i>	... to name just a few.

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These publications are available free on the Statistics New Zealand website: [www.stats.govt.nz](http://www.stats.govt.nz). They can also be purchased in hard copy format.

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