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Population clock

4,384,909

(As at 1 November 2010)

The Official 2010 Yearbook

For nearly 120 years, the New Zealand Official Yearbook has been the authoritative source of information about New Zealand, its people, government, and industry.

The New Zealand Official Yearbook 2010 continues this long tradition by providing a comprehensive picture of life in New Zealand. Its 27 chapters feature developments in business, government, education, the environment, health, and the arts, based on the most recent information available from both the public and private sector.

The Yearbook will be on sale at selected bookshops around New Zealand from 20 October 2010 and retails for \$99.99.



World Statistics Day

On 20 October 2010, the World celebrated the first World Statistics Day, to raise awareness of the many achievements of official statistics premised on the core values of service, integrity, and professionalism. To find out how Statistics NZ celebrated and some great activities [click here](#).



Test your knowledge below with some of the quiz questions created for Statistics Day:

1. Approximately how many sheep are there per person in New Zealand?
 - a. 5
 - b. 8
 - c. 10
2. Which country did we export the biggest value of butter to in 2009?
 - a. Iran
 - b. Russia
 - c. United Kingdom
3. What day of the week is the census usually held?
 - a. Monday
 - b. Tuesday
 - c. Wednesday
4. What percentage of New Zealanders use a mobile phone?
 - a. 75%
 - b. 80%
 - c. 85%
5. For every \$100 spent on food, how much is spent on takeaways or eating out?
 - a. \$13
 - b. \$17
 - c. \$21

Answers at bottom of StatZing newsletter

2011 Census resource kit

The next census will be held on Tuesday, 8 March 2011.

Teachers can create a classroom session about the 2011 Census using Statistics New Zealand's education resource kit, now available for [download in Schools Corner](#).

The resource contains a unit plan and associated poster, and supporting activities are also available to print. The resource has themes of special interest to students, including topics on population pyramids, changing employment, cultural diversity, and the census process. Activities are available in English and in Māori.

Did you know you can fill in your census form online?

For more activities refer to the Schools Corner section of the Statistics New Zealand website:
www.stats.govt.nz/schools-corner

Contact us
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Collectors will visit every household in New Zealand to deliver Internet access codes and paper forms. They will ask about the number of people expected to be in the household on census night in order to provide the right number of individual forms plus a dwelling form. You can choose to use your Internet access code to complete your form online. If everyone in the household completes their forms online, the collector may not need to call back. Otherwise the collector will call back between 9 March and 20 March to pick up completed paper forms.

[Click here to check out the census page](#)

Myth busters: Half of all marriages end in divorce

This looks like a good reason to save money on an expensive wedding. But can it be true?

The Population Statistics Unit of Statistics New Zealand records the number of marriages registered each year and tracks how many of these marriages end in divorce. Analysis of this data shows that roughly one-third of couples who married in 1970 had divorced by their jade wedding anniversary (35 years). This suggests that two-thirds of marriages end in the death of one partner.

But aren't divorce rates increasing?

Of those who married in 1980, one-third of couples had already divorced by their silver wedding anniversary (25 years). This is still well below one-half of all marriages.

The oldest marriage certified by the Guinness Book of Records is 85 years.

The myth is well and truly busted.

But where did it come from?

There are roughly 10,000 divorces and 20,000 marriages in NZ each year and $10,000/20,000 = 1/2$ – so 1/2 of all marriages end in divorce – right? Wrong, the couples divorcing in a year are not those who marry in that year, but are a subset of all those who married in preceding years and have not yet divorced.

When measuring the frequency of an event in a population (eg divorces) it is important to express the number of events in the context of the population who are likely to experience that event (sometimes called the 'at risk' population). For divorces, that population is the number of estimated marriages. The method used to bust this myth, where divorces are analysed by year of marriage, is known as a 'cohort' analysis.

[Check out other Myth busters here](#)

Father figures: 2010 - Father's Day

To celebrate Father's Day Statistics NZ put together some interesting facts based on 2009 data. Did you know:

- On Father's Day in 2009, about 140 men received a new baby as their present.
- The average age of fathers of new babies was 32 years in 2009, but one in 100 babies had a father aged 50 years or over.
- Today's newborn babies have fathers who are, on average, four years older than their own fathers were when they were born.
- Fathers tend to be older than mothers, with an average age-gap of about two years. In the last decade almost three-quarters of babies born had fathers who were older than their mothers.

[Click here to read more interesting facts about fathers](#)

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Quiz Answers

1. b
2. b
3. b
4. c
5. c

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