New Zealand Income Survey: June 2010 quarter

Highlights

Between the June 2009 and June 2010 quarters:

- Median weekly income from all sources fell slightly, down 1.7 percent to $529 (non-significant).
- Median weekly income for those receiving wage and salary income increased slightly by 1.2 percent.
- Median hourly earnings increased $0.53.
- The number of people receiving income from government transfers rose 54,400 (4.9 percent).
- Median weekly income for those receiving income from investments fell $3 to $12.
- Median weekly income for those receiving income from self-employment was down by 6.3 percent.
Commentary

Introduction to the New Zealand Income Survey

The information in this release comes from the annual New Zealand Income Survey (NZIS), which is run during the June quarter (April to June) as a supplement to the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS). The NZIS provides a snapshot of income statistics about people and households.

When information about income is interpreted, all the factors that can impact on income should be considered. Factors such as sex, age, industry, occupation, qualifications obtained, labour force status, part-time and full-time status, where people live, and ethnicity are all associated with the income people and households receive.

Median refers to the point where half the people receive more and half receive less than the stated amount. Since the 2008 release, a greater emphasis has been put on medians because extreme high or low amounts tend to have less influence on median amounts than they do on average (mean) figures.

Income averaged across all people from all sources includes those who have zero income for some income sources. Income averaged across those receiving income from a particular source only includes those who received income from that source.

For the NZIS June 2010 quarter, the industry and occupation classifications have been updated in line with Statistics New Zealand best practice. The NZIS now uses the ANZSIC06 industry classification with aggregated categories and the ANZSCO 2006 occupation classification. For further information about these standards please see the technical notes attached to this release.

Changes in this release are non-significant unless otherwise specified. For more information please see the technical notes.

Overview of the survey results

NZIS results for the June 2010 quarter showed a slight decrease in income (non-significant) from the June 2009 quarter. Median weekly income for all people from all sources was $529, as compared with the June 2009 quarter figure of $538 and the June 2008 quarter figure of $536. This is due to a small rise in wage and salary income that was offset by small decreases in other sources of income and an increase in the number of people receiving government transfers.

Median weekly wage and salary income for those receiving wage and salary income increased by 1.2 percent from the June 2009 quarter. This was the lowest recorded rise for this measure since the June 1999 quarter. Since the June 2009 quarter, the proportion of people receiving wage and salary income slightly decreased from 54.1 percent of people to 53.5 percent.

In the year to June 2010 quarter, median hourly earnings from wages and salaries rose $0.53 to $20.00; the smallest increase since 2003.

In each of the past two years there has been a significant increase in the number of people receiving income from government transfers. Since the June 2009 quarter the number of people receiving income from government transfers has increased by 54,400 (4.9 percent). Over two years the number of people receiving income from government transfers has increased by 88,100 (8.3 percent). Between the June 2009 and June 2010 quarters, median weekly income
from government transfers for those receiving government transfer income slightly decreased by $4 to $269.

Median weekly income from self-employment for those receiving self-employment income has fallen significantly since the June 2009 quarter, down $38 (6.3 percent) to $575. Median weekly income from investments for those receiving investment income, dropped significantly by $3, to $12.

**All people, all sources income**

Median weekly income for all people from all sources (including those with no source of income) for the June 2010 quarter was $529. This was a slight decrease from the June 2009 quarter where it was $538, and the June 2008 quarter figure of $536.

There was no significant annual change in median weekly income for all sources for either males or females. In the June 2010 quarter the median weekly income from all sources for females was $426, and for males it was $675.

In the June 2010 quarter, out of all age groups:

- the largest annual decrease recorded was for the 20–24-year age group down $54 (12.5 percent) to $380
- those in the 60–64-year age group had the largest annual increase up $32 (6.1 percent) to $566
- those in the 35–39-year age group received the highest median weekly income of $777.

Average (mean) weekly income for all people from all sources increased slightly by $7 (1.1 percent) to $687 from the June 2009 quarter.

**Sources of income**

Wage and salary income makes up almost 70 percent of total income received by the working-age population of New Zealand (15 years and over). In the June 2010 quarter, 53.5 percent of people received wage and salary income which was a slight decrease on the June 2009 quarter figure of 54.1 percent.

Between the June 2009 and June 2010 quarters the proportion of people receiving income from government transfers increased slightly from 32.6 percent to 33.8 percent.

The proportion of people receiving self-employment income remained relatively unchanged from the June 2009 quarter at 10.3 percent. The proportion of people receiving income from investments fell by 2.9 percentage points to 30.7 percent.

Because it is possible for a person to receive more than one source of income, these percentages may sum to more than 100 percent.
Between the June 2009 and June 2010 quarter, there was a slight decrease in the proportion of people earning wage and salary income down 0.6 percentage points to 53.5 percent.

Since the June 2009 quarter, for people receiving income from wages and salaries, the median weekly wage and salary income increased 1.2 percent to $769, in the June 2010 quarter. This is the lowest movement for this measure since the June 1999 quarter. This movement is consistent with the annual all-salary-and-wage-rates change of 1.6 percent in the June 2010 quarter of the Labour Cost Index.

There were some significant changes in median weekly wage and salary income for both males and females, and in some age groups.

Since the June 2009 quarter, median weekly wage and salary income for those who receive wage and salary income increased significantly for both males and females up 4.0 percent ($34) to $900 and up 4.3 percent ($27) to $657 respectively.

Significant increases in median weekly wage and salary income since the June 2009 quarter were recorded for only two age groups:

- 50–54-years (up $61 to $880)
- 65 years and over (up $66 to $535).

The only ethnic group to record a significant change was the European ethnic group which rose $22, to $800 per week.

While there was no significant change in the number of people in full-time employment, there were significant movements in median weekly income for those in full-time employment.
Since the June 2009 quarter the median weekly wage and salary income for those in full-time employment increased by $30 (3.4 percent) to $900. Full-time median weekly wage and salary income for females increased significantly over this period up $25 (3.1 percent) to $825, while there was no significant change for males.

Since the June 2009 quarter there has been no significant change in median weekly income for those in part-time employment (currently $256) or the numbers of people in part-time employment (currently 438,400).

Paid employment

Paid employment earnings consist of wage and salary and self-employment income. Auckland was the only regional council area with a significant change in the median weekly earnings for those in paid employment up by $14 (1.7 percent) to $800. Northland had the lowest median weekly income for those in paid employment at $698, while Wellington had the highest at $834.

Hourly earnings

Hours worked and hourly earnings are two key factors that influence wage and salary income.

From the June 2009 quarter to the June 2010 quarter, median hourly earnings rose $0.53 (2.7 percent) to $20.00, while total hours worked slightly increased by 0.5 percent. This is the smallest percentage increase in median hourly earnings, since the $0.38 (2.5 percent) increase in the June 2003 quarter.

Change in median hourly earnings for wage and salary earners

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>8.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>6.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Median hourly earnings for females increased significantly by $0.78 to $19.00. This follows a $0.78 increase in the previous year, which was also a significant movement. Male hourly earnings increased significantly by $0.72 to $21.25 from the June 2009 quarter. There was no significant change for male hourly earnings between the June 2008 and June 2009 quarters.

Comparing female earnings with male earnings, the ratio of median hourly earnings in the June 2010 quarter was 89.4 percent, an increase from the June 2009 quarter ratio of 88.7 percent. The June 2010 quarter ratio was the highest seen since the survey began in 1997. The ratio of female to male wage and salary income for those in full-time employment, for both weekly and
hourly income, is also at its highest recorded level since the NZIS began (at 86.0 and 93.2 percent respectively).

Note that these ratios do not take into account factors (such as age, occupation, industry, and qualifications gained) that can influence male and female earnings regardless of changes in levels of income.

Median hourly wage and salary income for those in full-time employment was up significantly by $0.75 (3.6 percent) to $21.58. Females in full-time employment had a significant rise in median hourly wage and salary income up $0.63 (3.2 percent) to $20.62, while there was no significant change for males.

Since the June 2009 quarter the European ethnic group was the only group to show a significant change in median hourly earnings, which increased by $0.65 to $20.65.

Three age groups had significant annual changes in median hourly earnings from wages and salaries:

- the largest increase was for those in the 50–54-year age group, up $1.12 to $22.22
- the second largest increase was for the 15–19-year age group, up $0.25 to $12.75. This increase is likely to reflect the rise in the minimum wage of $0.25 to $12.75 just prior to the start of the survey period
- those in the 60–64-year age group had the only decrease, down $0.05 to $19.95.

Only three of the nine major occupation groups had significant increases in median hourly earnings:

- machinery operators and drivers, up $0.86 to $18.00
- community and personal service workers, up $0.75 to $15.75
- labourers, up $0.38 to $15.15.

Only three out of 17 industry divisions had significant increases in median hourly earnings for people receiving income from wages and salaries:

---

**Median hourly earnings for wage and salary earners**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sex</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
<td>$18.85</td>
<td>$19.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
<td>$15.75</td>
<td>$16.50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Statistics New Zealand
- the education and training industry had the greatest significant change up $1.78 to $23.78
- wholesale trade was up $1.38 to $22.00
- retail trade and accommodation was up $0.50 to $14.50.

**Government transfers**

Government transfers include income from benefits, student allowances, Accident Compensation Corporation, New Zealand Superannuation, Veteran's and war pensions, and tax credits such as Working for Families.

The proportion of people receiving income from government transfers has increased since the June 2009 quarter from 32.6 percent to 33.8 percent. A higher proportion of females (39.5 percent) than males (27.7 percent) received government transfer income in the June 2010 quarter.

Since the June 2009 quarter the number of people receiving government transfers has increased significantly by 54,400 (4.9 percent). Both the number of males and females receiving government transfers increased significantly up 28,400 (6.6 percent) and 26,000 (3.9 percent) respectively. These increases follow-on from increases in numbers between the June 2008 and June 2009 quarters.

Since the June 2008 quarter the number of people receiving income from government transfers has increased significantly by 88,100 (8.3 percent). Over this period the number of males receiving income from government transfers has increased by 49,000 (11.9 percent), while the number of females has increased by 39,100 (6.0 percent).

**People receiving income from government transfers**

*By sex*

*June quarter, 2008–10*

![Bar chart showing the increase in people receiving government transfers by sex from 2008 to 2010.]

*Source: Statistics New Zealand*

Median weekly income from government transfers for those receiving income from government transfers, slightly decreased, down $4 (1.6 percent) to $269 from the June 2009 quarter. Males had a significant decrease in government transfer income for those receiving government transfer income, down $14 (5.3 percent), while there was no significant change for females. This change in income is due to a change in the composition of the sources of government transfers received.
Since the June 2009 quarter, the number of people receiving government transfers rose significantly for the following age groups:

- the 15–19-year age group increased by 13,100 people
- the 20–24-year age group increased by 17,600 people
- the 65 years and over age group increased by 17,400 people.

The significant rises for the 15–19-year age group and the 20–24-year age group are consistent with the fall in the labour force participation rate and an increase in the unemployment rate for these groups in the HLFS June 2010 quarter.

**Self-employment**

For those receiving income from self-employment, median weekly income fell significantly, down $38 (6.3 percent) to $575. While there was no significant change for females, income from self-employment for males decreased significantly by $31 (4.3 percent) to $671.

Two age groups recorded significant changes in median weekly income from self-employment, for those receiving income from this source:

- those in the 40–44-year age group had a decrease of $288 to $479
- those in the 55–59-year age group had an increase of $153 to $767.

**Investment income**

Investment income includes, but is not restricted to, interest from banks and other financial institutions, dividends from shares, and income received from stocks, managed funds, non-business related building rent, and leased land.

Between the June 2009 and the June 2010 quarters, median weekly income from investments, for those receiving investment income dropped significantly by $3 to $12. Since the June 2008 quarter, income from this source has fallen from its highest recorded level of $19 to $12.
(investment data collection began in the June 2002 quarter). For males this source of income has decreased by $4 to $13 since the June 2009 quarter. For females it decreased by $3 to $10.

For three age groups there were significant changes in median weekly income from investments for those receiving investment income:

- the 50–54-year age group, down $7
- the 20–24-year age group, down $2
- the 35–39-year age group, down $1.

Since the June 2009 quarter, the number of people receiving income from investments decreased significantly down 81,700 (7.2 percent). There were significant decreases for both males and females, down 37,800 (6.8 percent) and 43,900 (7.7 percent) respectively.

The only ethnic group to have a significant change in the number of people receiving investment income were those in the European group, down 87,200 (8.9 percent).

### Household income

The median weekly household income from all sources was relatively unchanged in the June 2010 quarter compared with the June 2009 quarter. In the June 2010 quarter it was $1,236, which was similar to the June 2009 quarter median of $1,234.

Average (mean) weekly household income from all sources was $1,484 in the June 2010 quarter, which was similar to the June 2009 quarter figure of $1,480.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>June quarter</th>
<th>Median weekly household income from all sources($)</th>
<th>Annual change (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>1,034</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>1,119</td>
<td>8.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1,190</td>
<td>6.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1,257</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1,234</td>
<td>-1.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>1,236</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For technical information contact:
Phillip Marshall or Karin Henshaw
Wellington 04 931 4600
Email: info@stats.govt.nz

Next release...

Technical notes

Background to the survey

The purpose of the New Zealand Income Survey (NZIS) is to produce a comprehensive range of income statistics. This allows analysis of the links between labour force status, educational achievement, and income of individuals and households, both at an aggregate level and for subpopulations of interest.

The NZIS is run annually as a supplement to the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) during the June quarter (April to June). It was run for the first time in the June 1997 quarter.

Scope of the survey

All respondents to the HLFS were asked to participate in the NZIS. The target population of the NZIS is the usually-resident, non-institutionalised civilian population of New Zealand aged 15 and over. This population does not include:

- long term residents of homes for older people
- hospitals and psychiatric institutions
- inmates of penal institutions
- members of the permanent armed forces
- members of the non-New Zealand armed forces
- overseas diplomats
- overseas visitors who expect to be resident in New Zealand for less than 12 months
- those aged under 15 years.

In addition, New Zealand residents living on offshore islands (except for Waiheke Island), and those temporarily overseas are not surveyed. The survey population is therefore marginally different from the target population.

Survey questionnaire

Questions relate to the respondent's most recent pay period, except for questions on annual income, self-employment income, and investment income, which cover the 12-month period prior to the interview. The following items were collected:

- actual and usual gross wages and salaries, for main job and up to two other jobs, by ordinary time, overtime, other income
- weeks and hours worked corresponding to the components of wages and salaries as above
- sources of latest actual gross government transfers received
- total latest actual gross government transfers received in total and from each agency (Ministry of Social Development, Inland Revenue, and Accident Compensation Corporation)
- total latest actual gross private superannuation payment(s) received
- total latest actual gross 'all other private transfers including pensions, and annuities' received
- weeks covered for the transfer payments defined above
- total annual gross income received from self-employment including overtime
- total annual gross income from investment
• total annual gross income from all income sources (range categories as used in the census).

Some forms of income were not asked for in the NZIS, including income from hobbies, casual jobs, and other sources. This may mean that the total income estimates from the survey may underestimate actual total income.

**Questionnaire changes**

In order to reduce respondent burden, a number of changes to the NZIS questionnaire were implemented in the June 2010 quarter. These included:

- The introduction of a minimum age requirement for the NZ (National) Superannuation and Veteran's pension income question. Only respondents aged 50 years and over were asked this question.
- The income from investments question was divided into a main investment income sources and an "other" investment income sources question. Some options that were previously stand alone were integrated into the "other" investment income question.
- Help-text was added to assist respondents and interviewers with the definitions and eligibility requirements of various forms of income.

For more information about these changes please contact info@stats.govt.nz

This survey uses computer-assisted interviewing (CAI), first introduced in the 2005 interview period. A copy of the questionnaire flowcharts can be provided to users by contacting info@stats.govt.nz

**Sample design information**

**Stratification**

Because the NZIS is a supplement to the Household Labour Force Survey it uses the same sample design. The sample is selected using a two-stage stratified cluster design. Households are sampled on a statistically representative random basis from rural and urban areas throughout the North and South Islands.

Each quarter, one-eighth of the households in the sample are rotated out and replaced by a new set of households. The overlap between two NZIS’s can be as high as one half, and some households can be asked the NZIS questionnaire twice.

**Imputation**

For those records where there was not a valid and usable response, a form of imputation known as 'hot-deck imputation' was used. In this imputation method, a 'donor record' replaces the non-usuable record in the dataset. The donor record is chosen randomly from an imputation pool of records that have similar characteristics to that of the record to be imputed.

The imputation pools were constructed on the basis of the following HLFS variables: age group, sex, ethnicity, highest qualification, labour force status (modified), full-time/part-time work status and region. Imputation classes were combined in a priority order where there were fewer than 10 donor records in any particular class.
Hot-deck imputation was chosen for three reasons:

- to maintain an accurate income distribution of the New Zealand population
- to allow the calculation and analysis of household income for a larger number of households
- to account for likely biases due to non-response.

There was little change in the income distribution or average income figures in the dataset due to imputation. For further information about the imputation method, or the effects of imputation on the final dataset, please contact info@stats.govt.nz

Response rates to the New Zealand Income Survey

Statistics New Zealand was unable to collect valid data from all eligible respondents. The most common reasons for this were that a respondent was not able to be contacted, or that a respondent was not able to provide the relevant information about their income when asked.

The target response rate for NZIS is 80 percent of eligible HLFS respondents. The achieved response rate for the June 2010 quarter was 83.1 percent, or 24,800 of those individuals who were in households that responded to the HLFS.

Response rates, calculated as a percentage of those who responded to the NZIS are shown below for the major sub-populations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic</th>
<th>Response rate (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sex</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>81.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>84.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Ethnicity</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>European</td>
<td>83.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Māori</td>
<td>83.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific peoples</td>
<td>83.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>80.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MELAA(1)</td>
<td>82.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other ethnicity</td>
<td>87.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Labour force status</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>79.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in labour force</td>
<td>89.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>90.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Full-time employed</td>
<td>78.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time employed</td>
<td>82.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Overall</strong></td>
<td>83.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. MELAA–Middle Eastern/Latin American/African.

Reliability of survey estimates

The HLFS sample comprises approximately 15,000 private households, sampled randomly from rural and urban areas throughout New Zealand. Information is obtained for each member of a
sampled household who falls within the scope of the survey and meets the survey coverage rules. The final NZIS dataset consists of approximately 28,000 individuals.

Two types of error are possible in estimates based on a sample survey: sampling error and non-sampling error. Sampling error is a measure of the variability that occurs by chance because a sample rather than an entire population is surveyed. More detailed sampling errors are available by contacting info@stats.govt.nz. Non-sampling errors include errors arising from biases in the patterns of response and non-response, inaccuracies in reporting by respondents, including inaccuracies as a result of proxy interviewing, and errors in the recording and coding of data. Non-sampling errors are not quantified. Statistics New Zealand endeavours to minimise the impact of these errors through the application of best survey practices and monitoring of known indicators (eg non-response).

Sample errors

The table below summarises the main sampling errors from table 1 for 2009 and 2010, by income source.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income source</th>
<th>2009 ($)</th>
<th>2010 ($)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Average</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wages and salaries</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-employment</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government transfers</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other transfers</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All sources collected</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Median</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All sources collected</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Suppressed estimates in this release**

Cells with estimates of less than 1,000 have been suppressed and appear as the symbol 'S' in the tables. These estimates are subject to sampling errors that are too great for most practical purposes.

**Compositional effects**

Movements in average and median income statistics are influenced by many factors. As well as changes in levels of income, movements are also influenced by the composition of the population from survey to survey. These changes occur between males and females, different ethnic groups, different labour force statuses, numbers of full-time and part-time workers, different industries or within industries, and different occupations or within occupations.
Industry statistics

For this release industry statistics were based on ANZSIC 2006 (ANZSIC06), the latest edition of the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification. The 1996 version of ANZSIC (ANZSIC96), used in industry outputs in previous releases, has been updated to the 2006 edition and aligns with the HLFS. Note that industry outputs defined using ANZSIC06 are not comparable with those based on ANZSIC96. For more information please see implementing ANZSIC06 in the HLFS. ANZSIC96 tables for the NZIS June 2010 quarter are available by contacting info@stats.govt.nz.

Occupation statistics

For this release, ANZSCO has been used to classify occupation data. ANZSCO is a harmonised classification which has been developed by Statistics New Zealand, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and the Australian Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, for use in both Australia and New Zealand. Occupation data was previously based on the New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations 1999 (NZSCO99). Note that occupation outputs defined using ANZSCO are not comparable with those based on the New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations 1999 (NZSCO99). For more information please see implementing ANZSCO in the HLFS. NZSCO99 tables for NZIS June 2010 quarter are available by contacting info@stats.govt.nz.

Ethnic statistics

Starting in the December 2007 quarter, the HLFS began collecting ethnicity data using the 2005 New Zealand Statistical Standard for Ethnicity, with up to 14 responses captured for the ethnicity question. Under the total response method, people who reported more than one ethnic group are counted once in each group reported. This means that the total number of responses for all ethnic groups can be greater than the total number of people who stated their ethnicities.

The total response method has been used to publish ethnicity statistics in the NZIS since the June 2009 quarter. Prior to 2009, the NZIS used the prioritisation method where a single ethnic group was assigned to individuals who answered with more than one ethnicity.

The adoption of the total response method means there is a continuity break in the ethnicity series, as the prioritisation of ethnic groups will no longer be produced. The total response ethnicity series can only be produced for 2008 onwards. For more information about the 2005 New Zealand Ethnicity Standard Classification please see ethnicity standard 2005.

Household statistics

The household categories incorporate the concept of dependent children rather than just children. A child is a person of any age who usually resides with at least one parent (natural, step, adopted, or foster), and who does not usually reside with a partner or child(ren) of his or her own. Statistics NZ defines a 'dependent child' as a child aged under 18 years and not in full-time employment.

The household income statistics table included in this release excludes households where all members are outside the ages of 18 to 64 years. This exclusion primarily affects 'couple only' and 'one person' households. These households typically contain two distinct groups of the population: couples and single persons who are likely to be in the labour force, and couples and single persons who are primarily retired. Because these groups can have very different income characteristics, the household income table excludes older households where all members are
aged 65 years and over. The income figures for 'couple only' and 'one person' households for those aged 65 years and over are available from Statistics NZ on request.

**Proxy**

Information by proxy response can be collected under the following circumstances:

- on health or language grounds
- a parent of a 15 or 16-year old with an after-school job
- one person of a retired couple whose only source of income is NZ (National) superannuation
- one person of a couple who does the accounts for both, such as self-employed, or farmers
- one person of a couple where that one person controls the finances.

**Definitions**

A full set of definitions is available from Statistics New Zealand. The collected data was cash only, pre-tax (gross) income wherever possible, and did not include any non-cash fringe benefits. In this Hot Off the Press, all tables showing wages and salaries include usual income figures rather than actual income figures.

**Actual pay** refers to what the respondent actually earned in their last pay period or in the reference week, compared with what the respondent is usually paid.

**Government transfers** in the tables relates to the sum of income from benefits, working for families tax credits, paid parental leave, student allowances, ACC, New Zealand Superannuation, and Veteran's and war pensions.

**Hourly earnings** in the tables relates to the number of hours usually worked and the usual income, rather than the hours actually paid for and actual hours worked.

**In paid employment** is used to describe those who are receiving self-employment income and/or income from wages and salaries. Those who are 'not in paid employment' are those who do not fit into the 'in paid employment' category. Those people may or may not have a source of income.

**Other transfers** in the tables relate to the sum of private superannuation and other private transfers, including pensions and annuities.

**Quintile** is one-fifth of the population. The bottom quintile in terms of income represents the 20 percent of the population with the lowest personal incomes, while the top quintile represents the 20 percent of the population who receive the highest incomes.

**Quintile boundary** is the dollar value at which the quintile falls. In the June 2010 quarter the bottom quintile has income below $180 per week (rounded figures), the quintile boundary between quintiles one and two is $180.

**Sampling error** is a measure of the variability that occurs by chance because a sample rather than an entire population is surveyed.

**Significant changes** in an estimate between quarters a year apart occurs if the change is larger than the associated sampling error.
Usual pay refers to what the respondent usually earns in their pay, and may be different from actual pay.

Working-age population is the population the NZIS represents. It is the same population as the HLFS, and consists of the usually resident, non-institutionalised, civilian population of New Zealand aged 15 years and over.

Other possible uses of the data

The tables in this Hot Off the Press are not a full set of the possible analyses that could be carried out from the NZIS data. Data requests can be customised to users’ specifications. Please contact info@stats.govt.nz for more information.

More information

For more information about the NZIS, see the NZIS resource page on the Statistics NZ website. Confidentialised unit record files (CURFs) for unrebased 2002–07 NZIS data are now available on application (see application form on the Statistics NZ website). For more information about using wage and income measures, see the user guide for wage and income measures on the Statistics NZ website.

Copyright

Information obtained from Statistics NZ may be freely used, reproduced, or quoted unless otherwise specified. In all cases Statistics NZ must be acknowledged as the source.

Liability

While care has been used in processing, analysing and extracting information, Statistics NZ gives no warranty that the information supplied is free from error. Statistics NZ shall not be liable for any loss suffered through the use, directly or indirectly, of any information, product or service.

Timing

Timed statistical releases are delivered using postal and electronic services provided by third parties. Delivery of these releases may be delayed by circumstances outside the control of Statistics NZ. Statistics NZ accepts no responsibility for any such delays.
Tables

The following tables are printed with this Hot Off The Press and can also be downloaded from the Statistics New Zealand website in Excel format. If you do not have access to Excel, you may use the [Excel file viewer](#) to view, print and export the contents of the file.

1. Average and median weekly income for all people, aged 15 years and over, June 2010 quarter
2. Average and median weekly income for all people, aged 15 years and over, by sex, June quarter 2006–10
3. Average and median weekly income for all people, aged 15 years and over, by age group, June quarter 2006–10
4. Average and median weekly income for all people, aged 15 years and over, by ethnic group, June quarter 2008–10
5. Average and median weekly income for people in paid employment, June 2010 quarter
6. Median weekly earnings for those in paid employment, by regional council area, June quarter 2006–10
7. Average and median weekly income for people not in paid employment, June 2010 quarter
8. Personal income distribution, by quintile, June 2010 quarter
9. Average and median weekly household income, by household type, June 2010 quarter
10. Average and median hourly earnings for those earning income from wage/salary jobs, June 2010 quarter
11. Median weekly and hourly earnings for those earning income from wage/salary jobs, by full-time and part-time status, June 2010 quarter
12. Median weekly income by source, for those receiving that source of income, June 2010 quarter

Supplementary tables

The following tables can be downloaded from the Statistics New Zealand website in Excel format. If you do not have access to Excel, you may use the [Excel file viewer](#) to view, print and export the contents of the file.

1. Median weekly income by labour force status, June 2010 quarter
2. Average weekly income by labour force status, June 2010 quarter
3. Average and median weekly household income, by household type, June quarter 2006–10
4. Average weekly income by source, for those receiving that source of income, June 2010 quarter
5. Average weekly and hourly earnings for those earning income from wage/salary jobs, by full-time and part-time status, June 2010 quarter
6. Average weekly income for all people, by regional council area, June quarter 2006–10
7. Aggregate weekly income, June quarter 2006–10