

# New Zealand Income Survey: June 2012 quarter

Embargoed until 10:45am – 04 October 2012

## Key facts

In the year to the June 2012 quarter, there was **no significant increase** in:

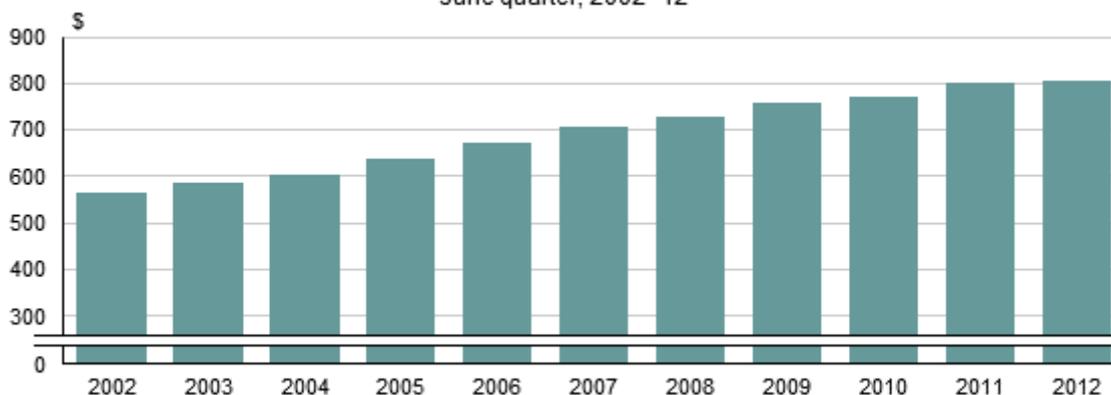
- median weekly income from all sources – up 1.8 percent from \$550 to \$560
- median weekly income for those receiving income from wages and salaries – up \$6 (0.7 percent) to \$806
- median hourly earnings – up 48 cents (2.4 percent) to \$20.86.

In the year to the June 2012 quarter, there was a **significant increase** in:

- median weekly income from all sources for the age groups 20–24, 60–64, and 65 and over (65+)
- median weekly income for those receiving income from government transfers – up \$8 (2.8 percent) to \$288
- the proportion of people 65+ receiving income from self-employment – up from 6.0 percent to 7.5 percent.

### Median weekly income from wages and salaries

For those receiving income from this source  
June quarter, 2002–12



Source: Statistics New Zealand

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## Commentary

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All changes in this information release are non-significant unless otherwise specified.

### Overview

**Income from all sources:** Between the June 2011 and June 2012 quarters, median weekly income for all people from all sources did not significantly increase. It was up 1.8 percent, from \$550 to \$560.

**Wage and salary income:** Median weekly income from wages and salaries, for those receiving income from this source, was up \$6 (0.7 percent) to \$806 in the year to the June 2012 quarter.

From the June 2011 to the June 2012 quarter, the annual increase in median hourly earnings was 48 cents (2.4 percent), up to \$20.86. Median hourly earnings increased similarly for both males (up 42 cents to \$22.00) and females (up 45 cents to \$19.95).

**Self-employment income:** The proportion of people aged 65 and over (65+) receiving income from self-employment was up significantly – from 6.0 percent in the June 2011 quarter to 7.5 percent in the June 2012 quarter. For the same period, the proportion of all people receiving income from self-employment was unchanged (10.5 percent). Median weekly income from self-employment, for those receiving income from this source, was unchanged at \$575.

**Government transfer income:** In the year to the June 2012 quarter, the number of people receiving income from government transfers increased significantly (up 3.0 percent). A significant increase in the number of people aged 65+ receiving income from government transfers (up 5.0 percent) was the main contributor to this rise.

Median weekly income from government transfers, for those receiving this source of income, increased by \$8 (2.8 percent) to \$288. This was a significant increase that was mainly influenced by the adjustments to New Zealand Superannuation (2.65 percent) and to main benefits and student allowances (1.77 percent), which came into effect on 1 April 2012.

For more information on the terms and concepts used in this release please see [Definitions](#).

### No significant increase in median weekly income from all sources

From the June 2011 to the June 2012 quarter, median weekly income for all people from all sources (including those with no source of income) increased by \$10 (1.8 percent) to \$560.

**Age groups:** There were significant increases in median weekly income from all sources in the year to the June 2012 quarter for these age groups:

- 20–24 years – up \$33 (8.1 percent) to \$436
- 60–64 years – up \$50 (9.6 percent) to \$575
- 65+ years – up \$13 (3.4 percent) to \$398.

For the 60–64-year age group, the increase in income was mainly influenced by wage and salary income. Please see [Little change in median weekly wage and salary income](#) for more details. Increases in government transfers and self-employment contributed to the change in income from all sources for those 65+. These increases are discussed further in [Income from government transfers](#), and [More people 65+ receive income from self-employment](#). For the 20–24-year age group, there was no single source of income that most influenced the increase in income from all sources.

**Males and females:** There was no significant increase in median weekly income from all sources for either males or females between the June 2011 and June 2012 quarters. Median weekly income from all sources for males was \$707 and for females was \$450 in the June 2012 quarter. The difference mainly reflects differing patterns of labour force participation.

**Māori and non-Māori :** From the June 2011 to the June 2012 quarter, median weekly income from all sources for:

- Māori increased – up \$16 (3.4 percent) to \$475
- non-Māori increased – up \$15 (2.7 percent) to \$575.

**Average weekly income:** Average weekly income from all sources significantly increased – up \$19 (2.6 percent) to \$721 from the June 2011 to the June 2012 quarter.

## Little change in median weekly wage and salary income

Between the June 2011 and the June 2012 quarters, for those receiving income from wages and salaries:

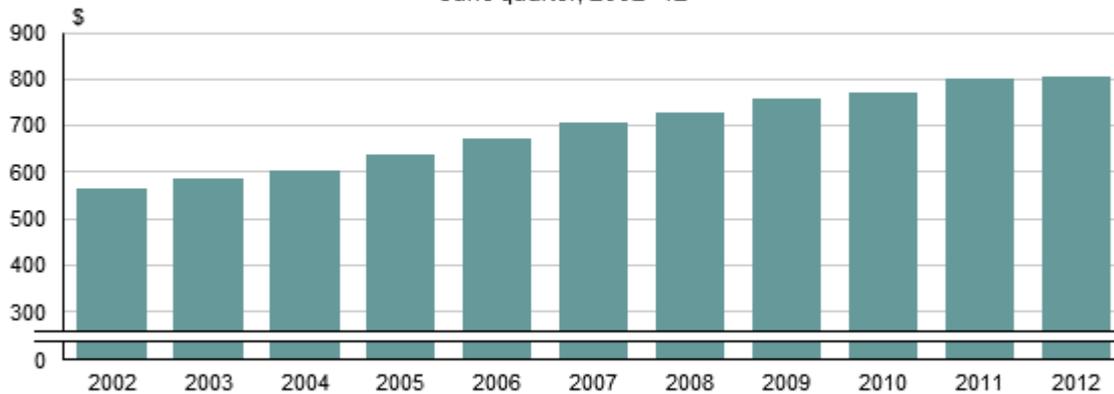
- median weekly income from wages and salaries increased – up \$6 (0.7 percent) to \$806
- average weekly income from wages and salaries increased significantly – up 2.7 percent to \$922
- aggregate hours worked increased – up 0.9 percent.

The change in median weekly income from wages and salaries is the smallest increase since the June 1999 quarter.

The proportion of all people receiving income from wages and salaries decreased from 53.2 percent to 52.9 percent in the year to the June 2012 quarter.

### Median weekly income from wages and salaries

For those receiving income from this source  
June quarter, 2002–12



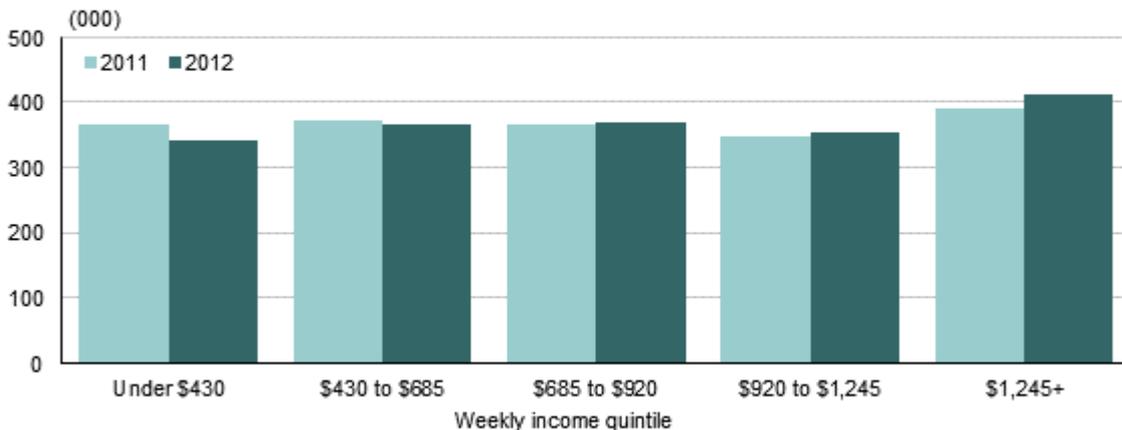
Source: Statistics New Zealand

The increases in median and average weekly income from wages and salaries are the result of a change in the distribution of people receiving income from this source. From the June 2011 to the June 2012 quarter:

- the number of people receiving less than \$430 per week decreased (this was the lowest quintile in the June 2011 quarter)
- the number of people receiving more than \$1,245 per week increased (this was the highest quintile in the June 2011 quarter).

### Number of people

By personal weekly income quintile<sup>(1)</sup>  
June quarter, 2011–12



1. The quintile boundaries used are from the June 2011 quarter.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

**Age group:** From the June 2011 to the June 2012 quarter, median weekly income from wages and salaries significantly increased for people:

- aged 60–64 – up \$62 (7.8 percent) to \$860
- aged 20–24 and in part-time employment – up \$32 (14.7 percent) to \$250.

## Little change in hourly earnings

From the June 2011 to the June 2012 quarter, median hourly earnings:

- for all wage and salary earners increased by 48 cents (2.4 percent) to \$20.86
- for full-time wage and salary earners increased by 32 cents (1.5 percent) to \$22.32
- for part-time wage and salary earners was unchanged at \$16.00.

Although there was little change for all wage and salary earners, there was a significant increase in part-time median hourly earnings (from \$13.00 to \$13.50) for the 15–19-year age group. This is consistent with the rise in the adult minimum wage, which came into effect on 1 April 2012.

Average hourly earnings increased by 30 cents (1.2 percent) to \$25.07 in the year to the June 2012 quarter. This was the smallest percentage increase since the survey began in 1997.

**Industry divisions:** From the June 2011 to the June 2012 quarter, two industries recorded significant increases in median hourly earnings. The professional, scientific, technical, administration, and support services industry increased \$1.93 (8.4 percent) to \$24.93. The education and training industry increased 69 cents (2.9 percent) to \$24.66.

**Males and females:** In the year to the June 2012 quarter, median hourly earnings increased for:

- males by 42 cents (1.9 percent) to \$22.00
- females by 45 cents (2.3 percent) to \$19.95.

As earnings for both sexes increased by a similar amount, this left the ratio of median hourly earnings between females and males relatively unchanged, at 90.7 percent. For full-time earners, the ratio of female to male earnings was also relatively unchanged, at 93.8 percent.

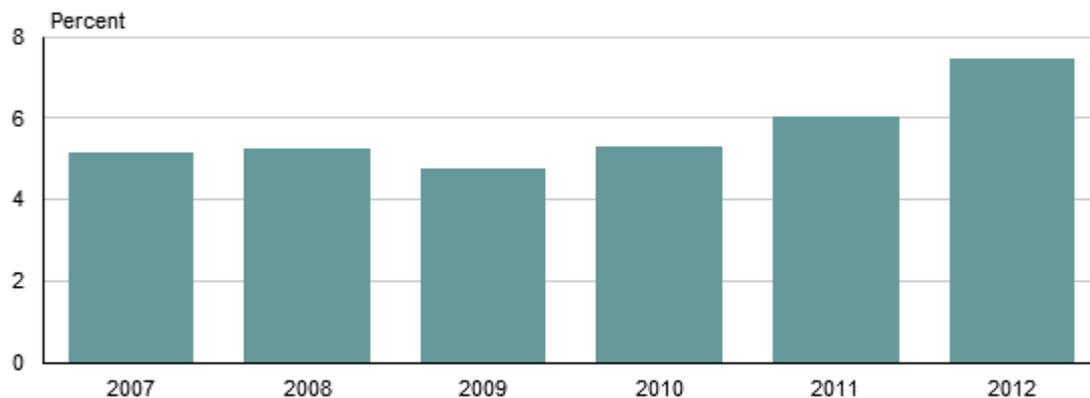
A ratio of 100 percent would show there was no difference between male and female earnings. These ratios do not take into account factors that could influence a difference in earnings (eg occupation, qualifications gained, age, and hours worked).

## More people 65+ receive income from self-employment

From the June 2011 to the June 2012 quarter, the proportion of people aged 65+ receiving income from self-employment increased significantly (from 6.0 percent to 7.5 percent). Over the same period, median weekly income from self-employment, for those aged 65+ receiving income from this source, increased by \$19 (5.3 percent) to \$384.

From the June 2011 to the June 2012 quarter, the proportion of all people receiving income from self-employment was unchanged (10.5 percent). Over the same period, median weekly income for all people receiving income from self-employment was unchanged (\$575).

### Proportion of people aged 65+ receiving income from self-employment June quarter, 2007–12



Source: Statistics New Zealand

## Income from government transfers increases

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

In the year to the June 2012 quarter, median weekly income from government transfers, for those receiving income from this source:

- increased significantly overall – by \$8 (2.8 percent) to \$288
- increased significantly for males – by \$9 (3.3 percent) to \$286
- increased for females – by \$6 (2.1 percent) to \$298.

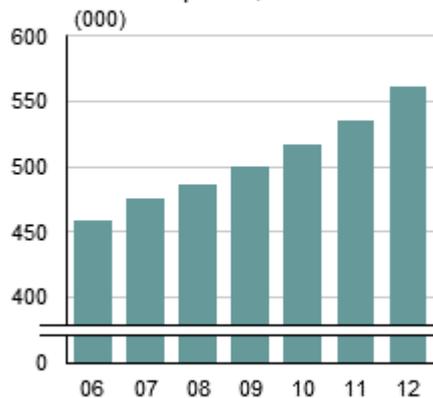
The increases in median weekly income from government transfers were influenced by:

- adjustment to New Zealand Superannuation – up 2.65 percent
- adjustments to main benefits and student allowances – up 1.77 percent
- more people receiving supplementary benefits, such as the accommodation supplement.

The adjustments to main benefits, student allowances, and New Zealand Superannuation came into effect on 1 April 2012.

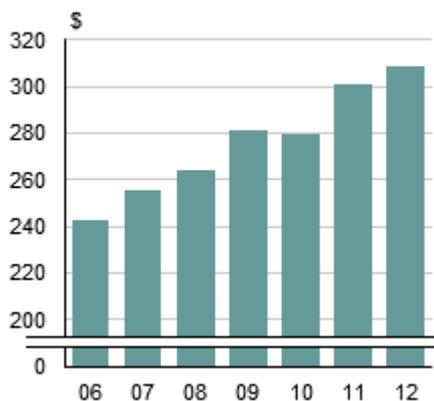
In the year to the June 2012 quarter, the number of people receiving income from government transfers increased significantly (by 3.0 percent). The 65+ age group was the main group contributing to this rise.

**People aged 65+ receiving income from government transfers**  
June quarter, 2006–12



Source: Statistics New Zealand

**Median weekly income from government transfers**  
For people aged 65+  
June quarter, 2006–12



Source: Statistics New Zealand

The increase in median weekly income from government transfers was mainly influenced by people aged 65+. From the June 2011 to the June 2012 quarter, for those aged 65+ who received income from government transfers, their median weekly income from this source increased significantly. It was up by \$8 (2.7 percent) to \$309. Over the same period, the number of people 65+ receiving income from this source increased significantly – by 5.0 percent to 562,100.

The increase in median weekly income from government transfers for those 65+ reflects the adjustment made to New Zealand Superannuation.

## Other indicators

**Investment income:** At \$13 in the June 2012 quarter, median weekly income from investments, for those receiving this source of income, was relatively unchanged. The proportion of people receiving income from investments decreased over the year to the June 2012 quarter, down 0.9 percentage points to 33.0 percent.

**Regional income:** From the June 2011 to June 2012 quarter, there were no significant changes in median weekly income from paid employment for any region. Auckland had the highest median weekly income from paid employment (at \$863), and Wellington the second-highest (at \$850).

**Household income:** For the year to the June 2012 quarter, median weekly household income from all sources increased by \$15 (1.2 percent) to \$1,304.

For more detailed data, see the Excel tables in the 'Downloads' box.

# Definitions

## About the New Zealand Income Survey

The New Zealand Income Survey (NZIS) produces 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 sub-populations of interest.

The information is then used to make policy decisions on economic and social issues that affect all New Zealanders, including retirement, education, income tax, minimum wage, and infrastructure developments. The government uses this information to estimate the number of people who could be affected by changes in legislation, and what those effects might be.

The NZIS is run annually as a supplement to the Household Labour Force Survey during the June quarter (1 April to 30 June). It ran for the first time in the June 1997 quarter.

## More definitions

**Actual pay:** what the respondent actually earned in their last pay period or in the reference week.

**Average (mean):** the average value – the mean is calculated by adding two or more figures and dividing the sum by the number of figures.

**Employed:** people in the working-age population who did one of these during the reference week:

- worked for one hour or more for pay or profit in the context of an employee/employer relationship or self-employment
- worked without pay for one hour or more in work that contributed directly to the operation of a farm, business, or professional practice owned or operated by a relative
- had a job but were not at work due to own illness or injury, personal or family responsibilities, bad weather or mechanical breakdown, direct involvement in an industrial dispute, or leave or holiday.

**Full-time employment:** when an employee works 30 hours or more a week.

**Government transfers:** income from benefits, working for families tax credits, paid parental leave, student allowances, ACC payments, New Zealand Superannuation, and veteran's and war pensions.

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

**In paid employment:** people who receive self-employment income and/or income from wages and salaries. 'Not in paid employment' are those who do not fit the 'in paid employment' category. These people may or may not have a source of income.

**Labour force status:** people 'in the labour force' are either employed or unemployed.

**Median:** the point at which 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 extremely high or low incomes tend to have less influence on median amounts than they do on an average (mean) figure.

**Not in the labour force:** anyone in the working-age population who is not employed or unemployed. This residual category includes people who:

- are retired
- have personal or family responsibilities such as unpaid housework and childcare
- attend educational institutions
- are permanently unable to work due to physical or mental disabilities
- were temporarily unavailable for work in the survey reference week
- are not actively seeking work.

**Other transfers:** a category in the tables that refers to the sum of private superannuation and other private transfers, including pensions and annuities.

**Part-time employment:** employment in which the employee works less than 30 hours per week.

**Quintile:** 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:** the dollar value at which the quintile falls. In the June 2012 quarter the bottom quintile had income below \$200 per week (rounded figures), the quintile boundary between quintiles one and two is \$200.

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

**Significant change:** if a change in an estimate between quarters a year apart is larger than the associated sampling error, it is referred to as a significant change. In this release, all changes are non-significant unless otherwise specified.

**Unemployed:** all people in the working-age population who, during the reference week, were without a paid job, available for work, and had either actively sought work in the past four weeks ending with the reference week, or had a new job to start within the next four weeks.

**Usual pay:** what the respondent usually earns in their pay, which may be different from actual pay.

**Working-age population:** the population the NZIS represents. It is the same population as the Household Labour Force Survey, and consists of the usually resident, non-institutionalised, civilian population of New Zealand aged 15 years and over.

## **Related links**

### **Upcoming releases**

The *New Zealand Income Survey: June 2013 quarter* will be released in October 2013.

[Subscribe to information releases](#), including this one, by completing the online subscription form.

The [release calendar](#) lists all our upcoming information releases by date of release.

### **Past releases**

[New Zealand Income Survey – information releases](#) has links to past releases.

### **Related information**

[Household Labour Force Survey \(HLFS\)](#) produces a range of statistics relating to employment, unemployment, and people not in the labour force.

[Quarterly Employment Survey \(QES\)](#) publishes statistics on total earnings, hours paid for, filled jobs, average hourly and weekly earnings, and average weekly paid hours.

[Household Expenditure Survey \(HES\)](#) collects information on household expenditure and income, as well as a wide range of demographic information on individuals and households.

[Labour Cost Index \(LCI\)](#) provides information on movements in base salary and ordinary time wage rates, overtime wage rates, and the following non-wage costs: annual leave and statutory holidays, superannuation, ACC employer premiums, and medical insurance.

## Data quality

### Period specific information

Information about data that has changed since the last information release

- [External data influencers](#)
- [Response rates to the New Zealand Income Survey](#)
- [Sampling errors](#)

### General information

Information that does not generally change between releases

- [Scope of the survey](#)
- [Survey questionnaire](#)
- [Accuracy of the data](#)
- [Sample design information](#)
- [Consistency with other periods and datasets](#)
- [Interpreting the data](#)
- [Confidentiality and access to the data](#)
- [More information](#)

## Period specific information

### External data influencers

Data in this release was collected in the June 2012 quarter (8 April to 8 July 2012).

Changes in income may be influenced by one-off events. Events that could have influenced the NZIS June 2012 quarter data are:

- the increase in the adult minimum wage from \$13.00 to \$13.50 (effective from 1 April 2012)
- increases in government transfer maximum rates of 1.77 percent for main benefits and student allowances (effective from 1 April 2012)
- increases in New Zealand Superannuation rates of 2.65 percent (effective from 1 April 2012).

### Response rates to the New Zealand Income Survey

The target response rate for NZIS is 80.0 percent of eligible Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) respondents. The achieved response rate for the June 2012 quarter was 82.0 percent, or 23,900 of those individuals who were in households that responded to the HLFS.

The response rate is calculated by determining the number of eligible individuals who responded to the survey, as a proportion of the estimated number of total eligible individuals in the sample. The following table shows the NZIS response rates for the June 2012 quarter.

<b>New Zealand Income Survey response rates, by major sub-populations</b>	
<b>Demographic</b>	<b>Response rate (%)</b>
<b>Sex</b>	
Male	80.6
Female	83.2
<b>Ethnicity</b>	
European	82.5
Māori	80.3
Pacific peoples	80.2
Asian	79.5
MELAA <sup>(1)</sup>	83.1
Other ethnicity	85.5
<b>Labour force status</b>	
Employed	78.7
Not in labour force	88.0
Unemployed	86.1
Full-time employed	77.8
Part-time employed	81.4
<b>Overall</b>	<b>82.0</b>
1.MELAA-Middle Eastern/Latin American/African.	

## Sampling errors

The table below summarises the main sampling errors for the June 2011 and June 2012 quarters, by income source. See Reliability of survey estimates for more information.

<b>Relative sampling errors for average and median weekly income for all people aged 15 years and over, June 2011 and June 2012 quarters</b>		
<b>Income source</b>	<b>Sampling error</b>	
	2011 (%)	2012 (%)
<b>Average</b>		
Wages and salaries	3	3
Self-employment	12	10
Government transfers	3	2
Investments	12	15
Other transfers <sup>(1)</sup>	26	18
All sources collected	2	2
<b>Median</b>		
All sources collected	3	2
1.Other transfers includes private superannuation and annuities.		

More detailed sampling errors are available by contacting [info@stats.govt.nz](mailto:info@stats.govt.nz).

## General information

### Scope of the survey

NZIS is a supplement to the HLFS and as such uses the same sample population. The HLFS sample has approximately 15,000 private households, sampled randomly from rural and urban areas throughout New Zealand. We gather information for each household member who falls within the scope of the survey and meets the survey coverage rules. The final NZIS dataset has approximately 29,000 individuals.

All respondents to the HLFS are 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 live in New Zealand for less than 12 months
- those aged under 15 years.

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 months before the interview. The following items are 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, matching the wage and salary components as above
- sources of latest actual gross government transfers received
- 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
- total annual gross income from investment
- total annual gross income from all income sources (income ranges are the ones used in the 2006 Census).

The collected data relates to cash only, pre-tax (gross) income wherever possible and does not include any non-cash fringe benefits.

Questions about some forms of income are not included in the NZIS, for instance income from hobbies, casual jobs, and other sources. Therefore total income estimates from the survey may underestimate actual total income.

In 2005 the NZIS introduced computer assisted interviewing (CAI). Implementation was complete in 2007. During the transition to CAI, estimates for the CAI part of the sample were compared with estimates from the remainder of the sample, and no statistically significant differences were detected.

See here for a copy of the questionnaire [flowcharts](#).

## **Accuracy of the data**

### **Reliability of survey estimates**

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.

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 recording and coding data. Non-sampling errors are not quantified. We endeavour to minimise the impact of these errors by applying best survey practices and monitoring known indicators (eg non-response).

### **Proxy**

A proxy can provide information under the following circumstances:

- for a person unable to answer on health or language grounds
- for a 15- or 16-year-old with an after-school job (parent can respond)
- for a retired couple whose only source of income is New Zealand Superannuation (one of the couple can respond)
- for a self-employed couple, or farmer, where one of the couple does the accounts for both (one of the couple can respond)
- when one person in a couple controls the finances for both (one of the couple can respond).

## **Sample design information**

### **Sample design**

Because the NZIS is a supplement to the HLFS, 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 NZISs 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' is used. In this imputation method, a 'donor record' replaces the non-usable 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 are 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 are combined in a priority order where there are fewer than 10 donor records in any particular class.

Hot-deck imputation is used 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 is 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](mailto:info@stats.govt.nz).

## **Consistency with other periods or datasets**

### **Industry statistics**

Since the June 2010 quarter, industry statistics have been based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006 (ANZSIC06). This aligns with the HLFS. Earlier NZIS releases used ANZSIC96, and are not comparable with those based on ANZSIC06.

For more information please see [Industrial classification](#).

### **Occupation statistics**

Since the June 2010 quarter, the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) has been used to classify occupation data. ANZSCO is a harmonised classification for use in both countries. Occupation outputs defined using ANZSCO are not comparable with those in earlier NZIS releases, which were based on the New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations 1999.

For more information please see [Occupation](#).

### **Ethnic statistics**

Since the December 2007 quarter, the HLFS has collected 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 report more than one ethnic group are counted once in each group reported. This means 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. Before then, the NZIS used the prioritisation method, where a single ethnic group was assigned to individuals who answered with more than one ethnicity.

Adopting the total response method gives a continuity break in the ethnicity series, as the prioritisation of ethnic groups is no longer 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 [Statistical Standard for Ethnicity – 2005](#).

### **Computer-assisted interviewing**

Since 2007 the NZIS has used computer-assisted interviewing (CAI). The main benefits of CAI are improved data quality through better-controlled interviews, and modest resource savings through eliminating some processing steps and centralising others. Seven-eighths of the sample are interviewed by computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) and one-eighth by computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI).

### **All sources income**

The introduction of income from investment in 2002 caused a discontinuity in time series for the 'all sources' category. Before 2002, this category included wages and salaries, self-employment, government transfers, and other transfers. Since 2002, it has also included income from investment and so the category is not comparable with previous years.

### **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 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 (65+). The income figures for 'couple only' and 'one person' households for those aged 65+ are available from Statistics NZ on request.

### **Interpreting the data**

#### **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, between or within industries, and between or within occupations.

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 more information on income measures at Statistics NZ, please see the [User guide for wage and income measures](#).

## **Period effects**

The NZIS reports on 'weekly income' that relates to a week during the June quarter – it is a snapshot in time. Conversion of this weekly income into an annual equivalent is not recommended as an individual's circumstances can change significantly during a year (eg change of job or a period out of work).

## **Tables**

In this information release, all tables showing wages and salaries include usual income figures rather than actual income figures

## **Confidentiality and access to the data**

### **Suppressed estimates**

Cells which represent less than 1,000 people are suppressed and appear with the symbol 'S' in the tables. These estimates are subject to sampling errors that are too great for most practical purposes. Records may be removed for quality and confidentiality purposes in some publications.

### **Customised data**

The tables in this information release 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](mailto:info@stats.govt.nz) for more information.

## **More information**

See the [New Zealand Income Survey resource](#) page for more information about the NZIS.

See the [User guide for wage and income measures](#) for more information about using wage and income measures.

See [Information about the New Zealand Income Survey](#) for more technical information.

Confidentialised unit record files (CURFs) for un-rebased 2002–07 NZIS data are available on application. See [User guides for Confidentialised Unit Record Files](#) for more information, or use the [information request form](#).

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## Tables

The following tables are available in Excel format from the 'Downloads' box. If you have problems viewing the files, see [opening files and PDFs](#).

1. Average and median weekly income for all people, aged 15 years and over, June 2012 quarter
2. Average and median weekly income for all people, aged 15 years and over, by sex, June quarter 2008–12
3. Average and median weekly income for all people, aged 15 years and over, by age group, June quarter 2008–12
4. Average and median weekly income for all people, aged 15 years and over, by ethnic group, June quarter 2008–12
5. Average and median weekly income for people in paid employment, June 2012 quarter
6. Median weekly earnings for those in paid employment, by regional council area, June quarter 2008–12
7. Average and median weekly income for people not in paid employment, June 2012 quarter
8. Personal income distribution, by quintile, June 2012 quarter
9. Average and median weekly household income, by household type, June 2012 quarter
10. Average and median hourly earnings for those earning income from wage/salary jobs, June 2012 quarter
11. Median weekly and hourly earnings for those earning income from wage/salary jobs, by full-time and part-time status, June 2012 quarter
12. Median weekly income by source, for those receiving that source of income, June 2012 quarter

## Supplementary tables

These tables include extra information about the data collected, including breakdowns of key indicators by average (mean) measures.

1. Median weekly income by labour force status, June 2012 quarter
2. Average weekly income by labour force status, June 2012 quarter
3. Average and median weekly household income, by household type, June quarter 2008–12
4. Average weekly income by source, for those receiving that source of income, June 2012 quarter
5. Average weekly and hourly earnings for those earning income from wage/salary jobs, by full-time and part-time status, June 2012 quarter
6. Average weekly income for all people, by regional council area, June quarter 2008–12
7. Aggregate weekly income, June quarter 2008–12
8. Average and median hourly earnings, for those earning income from wage and salary jobs, by sex, June quarter 2008–12
9. Average and median hourly earnings, for those earning income from wage and salary jobs, by age group, June quarter 2008–12
10. Average and median hourly earnings, for those earning income from wage and salary jobs, by ethnic group, June quarter 2008–12

## **Access more data on Table Builder**

Use [Table Builder](#) to access a range of time-series data from this release and previous NZIS releases.