

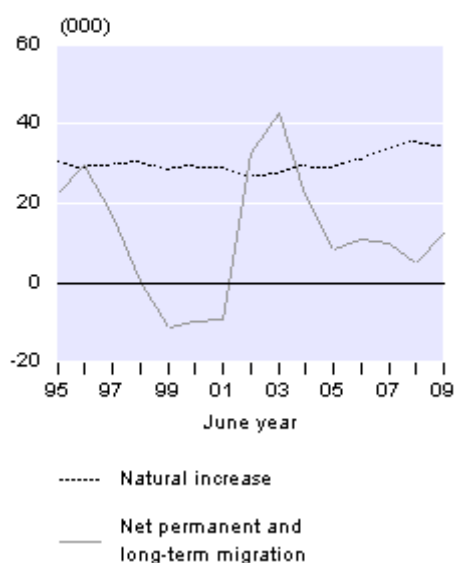
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National Population Estimates: June 2009 quarter

Highlights

- The estimated resident population of New Zealand was 4.32 million at 30 June 2009.
- Population growth was 46,900 (1.1 percent) during the June 2009 year.
- Natural increase and net migration contributed 34,400 and 12,500, respectively, during the June 2009 year.
- The median ages for males and females were 35.5 and 37.4 years, respectively, at 30 June 2009.

Components of Annual Population Change
1995–2009



Estimated Resident Population

Age group (years)	At 30 June 2008	At 30 June 2009 P	Percentage change 2008–09 P
All ages	4,268,900	4,315,800	1.1
Under 15	889,400	891,100	0.2
15–39	1,475,700	1,484,600	0.6
40–64	1,365,900	1,387,400	1.6
65+	537,900	552,700	2.8

P provisional

Geoff Bascand
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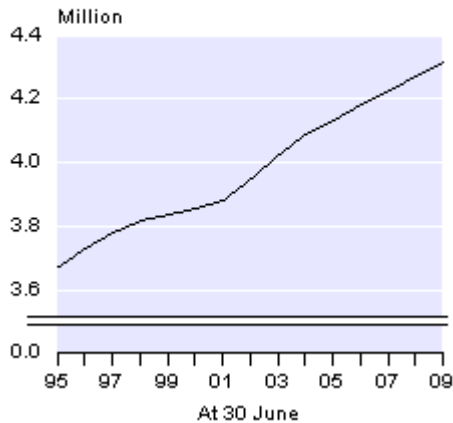
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Commentary

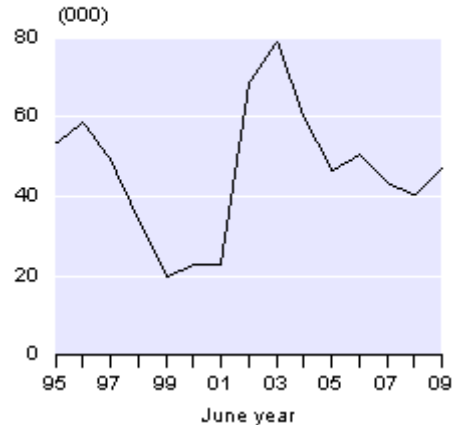
Estimated resident population at 30 June 2009

The estimated resident population of New Zealand was 4,315,800 at 30 June 2009, with 2,117,500 males and 2,198,300 females. At 30 June 2009, there were 96 males for every 100 females.

Estimated Resident Population
1995–2009



Annual Population Change
1995–2009



Annual population change

In the June 2009 year, the estimated resident population grew by 46,900 (1.1 percent), compared with 40,600 (1.0 percent) in the previous June year. The population growth in the June 2009 year was slightly lower than the average annual increase of 48,100 (1.2 percent) recorded during the 10-year period from June 1999 to June 2009.

The population growth for the June 2009 year resulted from a natural increase (excess of births over deaths) of 34,400 and a net permanent and long-term migration gain of 12,500. The level of net permanent and long-term migration was the highest for a June year since 2004 (22,000). Historically, natural increase has been the dominant element in population growth. Over the last 40 years, natural increase accounted for four-fifths of New Zealand's total population growth. During the June 2009 year, natural increase accounted for just under three-quarters of population growth.

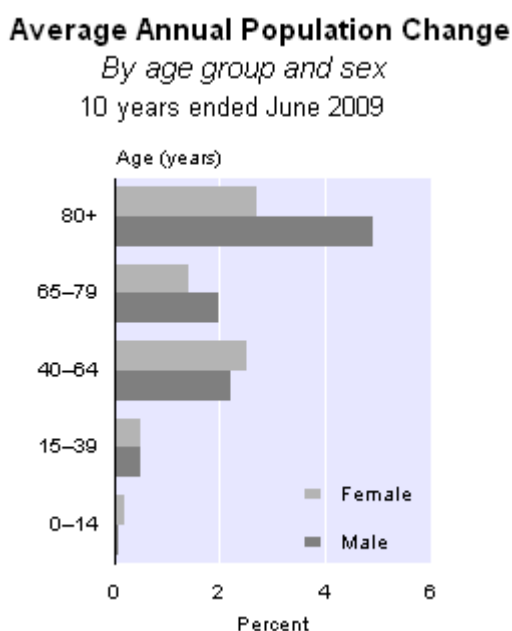
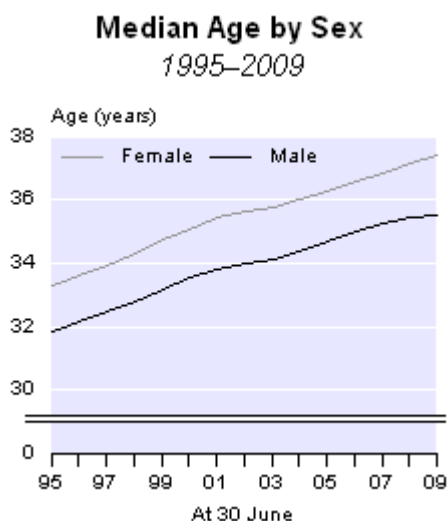
Quarterly population change

During the June 2009 quarter, New Zealand's estimated resident population grew by 10,100 (0.2 percent). This growth resulted from a natural increase of 8,200, and a net permanent and long-term migration gain of 1,900. In comparison, natural increase was higher (8,500) for the June 2008 quarter but there was a net migration loss (3,200), resulting in quarterly population growth of 5,300 (0.1 percent) in that quarter.

Median age

New Zealand has an ageing population because of a shift to sustained low fertility and low mortality rates. This is also observed in other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. At 30 June 2009, half New Zealand's population was over the age of 36.5 years, compared with a median age of 34.0 years a decade earlier.

The median age for males is now 35.5 years, while for females it is 37.4 years. Over the past decade, the median age has increased 2.3 years for males and 2.7 years for females. The lower median age for males reflects their lower life expectancy of 78.2 years, compared with 82.2 years for females (*New Zealand abridged life table, 2006–2008*).



Changes in age composition

The age composition of New Zealand's population has changed over the past decade. In the 10 years ended 30 June 2009 year, the number of children (aged 0–14 years) grew to 891,100, an average annual increase of 1,400 (0.2 percent). The increase for the year ended 30 June 2009 of 1,700 (0.2 percent) was just above the annual average for the decade. At 30 June 2009, children accounted for 21 percent of the New Zealand population, down from 23 percent at 30 June 1999.

At 30 June 2009, the population aged 15–39 years reached 1,484,600, an increase of 8,900 (0.6 percent) compared with the June 2008 figure. In the 10 years ended June 2009, the average annual increase for this age group was lower, at 7,100 (0.5 percent). The population aged 15–39 accounted for 34 percent of the New Zealand population at 30 June 2009, down from 37 percent a decade earlier.

Thirty-two percent of the population were aged 40–64 years at 30 June 2009, up from 29 percent in 1999. This age group increased by 21,500 (1.6 percent) in the year ended 30 June 2009, to reach 1,387,400, which was below the average annual increase of 29,100 (2.4 percent) for the 10 years ended June 2009.

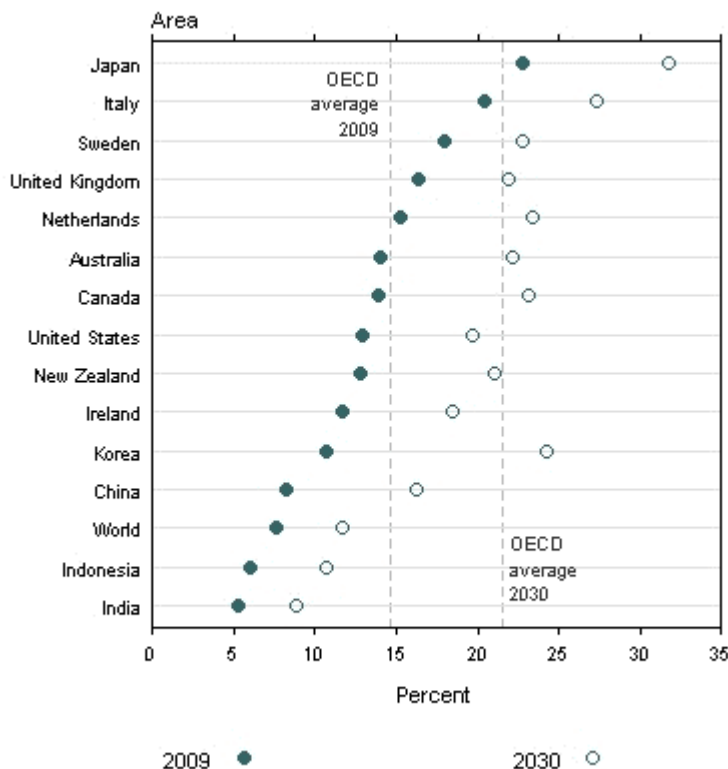
During the June 2009 year, the population aged 65–79 years increased by 10,300 (2.6 percent) to reach 406,700. In the 10 years ended June 2009 the population aged 65–79 years grew at an average annual rate of 1.7 percent (6,200). The proportion of the population aged 65–79 years was 9.4 percent at 30 June 2009, up from 9.0 percent in 1999.

There was also a slight increase in the proportion of the population aged 80 years and over (80+), from 2.7 percent in 1999 to 3.4 percent in June 2009. The 80+ population reached 146,000 at 30 June 2009, an average annual increase of 4,200 (3.5 percent) over the decade. The size and growth rate of this age group varied significantly by sex. The average annual growth rate for males for the decade was 4.9 percent, compared with 2.7 percent for females. In the year ended 30 June 2009, the male population in the 80+ age group increased by 5.0 percent (2,700), to reach 56,200, while the female population increased by 2.1 percent (1,900), to 89,800.

International comparison: percentage of population aged 65+

The percentage of the population that is aged 65+ is rising in all OECD countries and is expected to continue doing so. These trends have a number of implications for public and private spending on pensions and health care and for economic growth and social welfare generally. One of the reasons for a rise in the average age of populations in many OECD countries is a slowing rate of natural increase (the excess of births over deaths).

Projected Percentage of Population Aged 65 Years and Over
2009 and 2030



Source: *OECD Factbook: 2009 Economy, Environmental and Social Statistics*

In 2009, the estimated population aged 65+ is 15 percent of the total population of all OECD countries. Selected OECD and non-OECD countries are included in the graph above. Japan, Italy, and the United Kingdom, for example, all have a higher percentage than the OECD average with 23 percent, 20 percent, and 16 percent of their respective populations being aged 65+. OECD

countries with a lower percentage than the OECD average include Ireland (12 percent), New Zealand (13 percent), United States (13 percent), and Canada (14 percent). The percentage of the World's population that is aged 65+ is 7.6 percent, which is lower than the percentage in China (8.2 percent) but higher than the percentage in India (5.3 percent).

The percentage of the population that is aged 65+ in 2030 is projected to increase under the principal or mid-range projection series for each country included in the graph. The OECD population aged 65+ is projected to reach 22 percent of the total population while, in contrast, the percentage of the World's population aged 65+ is projected to increase 4 percentage points to 12 percent in 2030. Of the selected countries, Korea has the greatest projected increase (14 percentage points), reaching 24 percent in 2030. Japan, Italy, and the Netherlands are all expected to have a higher than the OECD average percentage of their population aged 65+ with 32 percent, 27 percent, and 23 percent, respectively. For further explanation of the international data comparability see the technical notes section of this release.

Population clock

Statistics NZ's online population clock gives a real-time approximation of the estimated resident population of New Zealand. The population clock uses the latest quarterly estimated resident population, and estimates for the expected number of births, deaths, and net migration during the following quarter. The settings for each component (births, deaths, and net migration) are derived by converting the quarterly estimated totals into a 'per minute' figure, making allowance for the number of days per quarter. The *population clock* can be viewed on the Statistics NZ website: www.stats.govt.nz.

Different population concepts

Users of population statistics need to be aware that there are three main population measures produced by Statistics NZ: the census night population count, the census usually resident population count, and the estimated resident population. The population counts published from the census are not comparable with the estimated resident population. The estimated resident population includes adjustments for net census undercount and for New Zealand residents temporarily overseas on census night. For more information see the technical notes of this release.

Final figures

The population estimates for the June 2009 year quoted above, and contained in the appended tables, are provisional. Processing of final statistics will be completed in November 2009. In addition, population estimates after 30 June 2006 will be revised following results from the next Census of Population and Dwellings.

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Next release ...

National Population Estimates: September 2009 quarter will be released on 12 November 2009.

Technical notes

Population measures

There are three population measures commonly produced by Statistics New Zealand: census night population count, census usually resident population count and estimated resident population.

The census night population count of New Zealand is a count of all people present in New Zealand on a given census night. This count includes visitors from overseas who are counted on census night, but excludes residents who are temporarily overseas on census night. The census usually resident population count of New Zealand is a count of all people who usually live in New Zealand and are present in New Zealand on a given census night. This count excludes visitors from overseas and residents who are temporarily overseas on census night.

The estimated resident population of New Zealand is an estimate of all people who usually live in New Zealand at a given date. This estimate includes all residents present in New Zealand and counted by the census (census usually resident population count), residents who are temporarily overseas (who are not included in the census), and an adjustment for residents missed or counted more than once by the census (net census undercount). Visitors from overseas are excluded.

The population counts published from the census are not comparable with the estimated resident population.

Base population

The estimated resident population at 30 June 2006 forms the base population for deriving the estimated resident population at a given date following the 2006 Census. This base population is also used in the revision of intercensal population estimates for the five-year period between the 2001 and 2006 Censuses.

The estimated resident population of New Zealand at 30 June 2006 is based on the census usually resident population count from the 2006 Census (held on 7 March 2006), updated for: net census undercount (as measured by the 2006 Post-enumeration Survey); the number of residents temporarily overseas on census night; births, deaths, and net permanent and long-term (PLT) migration between 7 March 2006 and 30 June 2006; and reconciliation with demographic estimates at ages 0–4 years.

Resident population estimates

Quarterly estimates from September 2006 onwards were derived by updating the estimated resident population at 30 June 2006 for births, deaths, and net PLT migration during the ensuing period.

Derived figures

Derived figures (for example, percentage annual increase) are calculated using data of greater precision than published. This could result in slight variations.

Median age

Half the population is younger, and half older, than this age.

Final figures

Final figures for the estimated resident population at 30 June 2009 will be available in November 2009. In addition, population estimates after 30 June 2006 will be revised following results from the next Census of Population and Dwellings.

International comparability

For most OECD countries, population data are based on regular censuses, with estimates for intercensal years being derived from administrative data such as population registers, notified births and deaths, and migration records. In several European countries, population estimates are based entirely on administrative records.

Population projections are taken from national sources where these are available, but for some countries they are based on the United Nations (UN) or Eurostat projections; the projection for the world comes from UN. All population projections require assumptions about future trends in life expectancy, fertility rates, and migration. Often, a range of projections is produced using different assumptions about these future trends. The estimates shown here correspond to the median or central variants.

More information

For more information, refer to the [*information about the population estimates*](#) on the Statistics NZ website.

Quarterly national population estimates by single-year of age, five-year age groups, and selected age groups are available via [*Infoshare*](#) on the Statistics NZ website (demography age estimates in the Population category).

Annual population estimates by age and sex for subnational areas are freely available via [*Table Builder*](#) on the Statistics NZ website.

Population estimates for the Māori ethnic group are updated twice a year on the Statistics NZ website.

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Tables

The following tables are printed with this Hot Off The Press and can also be downloaded from the Statistics NZ 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. Estimated resident population and population change
2. Estimated resident population, by broad age groups
3. Estimated resident population, by five-year age groups