

2001 Census Snapshot 9

Census Tatauranga



Older People

Overview

Almost half a million people were aged 65 years and over at the time of the 2001 Census, according to latest figures from Statistics New Zealand. In the 50 years since the 1951 Census, the number of people aged 65 years and over has more than doubled, increasing from 177,459 to 450,426. In the next 50 years it is projected that the number of people aged 65 years and over will more than double again to reach 1,181,000 by 2051.

The number of people aged 65 years and over in paid employment has more than doubled since 1991, with 49,935 people or 11 percent of people in that age group in paid employment in the week preceding the 2001 Census. People in this age group were also involved in unpaid activities both inside and outside their household. In the four weeks preceding the 2001 Census, 73 percent of older New Zealanders reported they had done housework for their own household and 17 percent had done voluntary work such as for an organisation, group or marae.

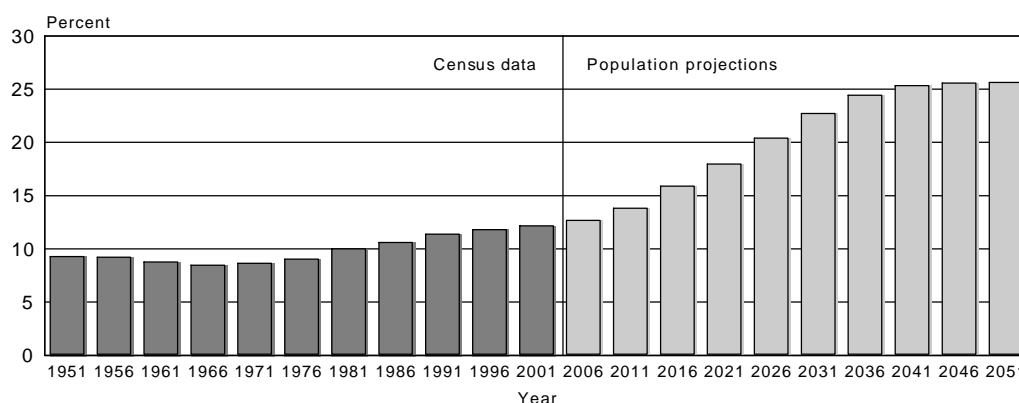
The median annual income for people aged 65 years and over was \$13,100 in the year to March 2001, whereas the median for all New Zealanders was \$18,500. One-quarter of those aged 65 years and over received \$10,000 or less in annual income, while two-thirds received \$20,000 or less. Just 5 percent received more than \$40,000 in annual income.



1. Demographic characteristics

- Almost half a million people were aged 65 years and over at the time of the 2001 Census. The number of people aged 65 years and over has more than doubled since 1951, increasing from 177,459 to 450,426 in this 50-year period.
- In the next 50 years it is projected that the number of people aged 65 years and over will more than double again to reach 1,181,000 by 2051.
- The proportion of the population that is 65 years and over is also increasing. In 1951 they made up 9 percent of the population, and in 2001 they made up 12 percent of the population. By the year 2051, it is projected that they will comprise 26 percent of the population.

Proportion of the Population Aged 65 Years and Over, 1951-2051



Note: Figures prior to 1981 are based on the total population. From 1981 the usually resident population is used.

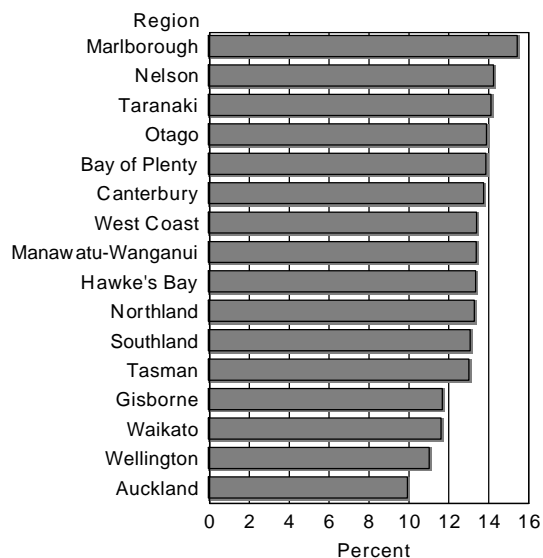
- 55 percent of the 450,426 people aged 65 years and over in the 2001 Census were aged 65–74 years, 35 percent were aged 75–84 years, and 11 percent were aged 85 years and over.
- 56 percent of those aged 65 years and over were women and the remaining 44 percent were men. The proportion of women in this age group has decreased from 58 percent in 1991 due to life expectancy for men increasing more than life expectancy for women.
- It is projected that the proportion of females aged 65 years and over will continue to decrease slowly over the next 20 years, reaching 54 percent around the early 2020s.
- The proportion of women increases as age increases: 52 percent of those aged 65–74 were women, compared with 59 percent of those aged 75–84 years, and 70 percent of those aged 85 years and over.
- There is less ethnic diversity among the 65 years and over age group in comparison with the under 65 years age group. Just 2 percent of those over 65 years of age reported that they identified with more than one ethnic group at the 2001 Census, compared with 10 percent of those in the under 65 years age group.
- 93 percent of those aged 65 years and over identified with the European ethnic group compared with 78 percent of those in the under 65 years age group.
- Those identifying with the Māori ethnic group made up 4 percent of the 65 years and over age group, but made up 16 percent of the under 65 years age group.

- Pacific people made up 2 percent of the 65 years and over age group and 7 percent of the under 65 years age group. Asian people also made up 2 percent and 7 percent respectively.

2. Housing and location

- By far the majority (93 percent) of older people lived in private dwellings, although this varies with age as the proportion decreases progressively from 98 percent of those aged 65–74 years to 70 percent of those aged 85 years and over.
- Women in the 85 years and over age group were far less likely than men in this age group to be living in a private dwelling (66 percent of women compared with 80 percent of men). This is because relatively more men than women in this age group live with their partners.
- Of the 29,472 people over 65 years of age living in non-private dwellings, 81 percent were living in homes for older people/retirement homes while 9 percent were living in hospitals.
- Three-quarters of those aged 65 years and over said they owned or partly owned their usual residence. In the 65–69 years age group 80 percent owned or partly owned their own home, while in the 85 years and over age group 55 percent owned their own home.
- The Auckland Region had the highest number of people aged 65 years and over numerically (115,764), but had the lowest proportion per head of population (10 percent).
- The region with the highest proportion of people aged 65 years and over was Marlborough (15 percent).

Proportion of People Aged 65 Years and Over by Regional Council



- One in every three people aged 65 years and over had moved since the 1996 Census. This compared with over half of those in the under 65 years age group having moved since the 1996 Census.
- Auckland Region had the biggest net loss of people aged 65 years and over between 1996 and 2001 (-3,426). The majority of those who moved out of Auckland moved to Waikato or the Bay of Plenty. The Bay of Plenty Region had the biggest net gain of people in this age group (+1,836).

3. Income

- The median annual income for people aged 65 years and over was \$13,100 in the year to March 2001, whereas the median for all New Zealanders was \$18,500. One-quarter of those aged 65 years and over received \$10,000 or less in annual income, while two-thirds received \$20,000 or less. Just 5 percent received more than \$40,000 in annual income.
- Overall, women aged 65 years and over had a lower median income than men (\$12,800 compared with \$13,600 respectively). However, the differences in median incomes reduced as age increased – in the 65–69 years age group the difference was \$1,500 whereas in the 85 years and over age group the difference was \$600.
- Most usual residents in the 65 years and over age group were in receipt of New Zealand Superannuation (93 percent), but more than half also received income from other sources.
- Four out of every ten received income from interest, dividends and rent, while 15 percent received income from other superannuation and annuities. Men in particular were more likely to receive income from other superannuation and annuities (20 percent compared with 11 percent for women).
- 6 percent reported they had earned income from wages and salaries in the 12 months prior to the census, and 6 percent also reported they had received income from self employment. The 65–69 years age group had the highest proportion of people in receipt of income from wages and salaries (14 percent) and self employment (12 percent).

4. Work and activities

- 49,935 people or 11 percent of those aged 65 years and over were in paid employment in the week preceding the 2001 Census.
- The number of people in this age group in paid employment has more than doubled since 1991 (up from 22,230).
- By far the highest proportion of those in paid employment were in the 65–74 years age group (17 percent of those aged 65–74 years). At 75–84 years the proportion was 5 percent, and at 85 years and over the proportion was 3 percent. These age-specific proportions have increased since 1991 when 9 percent of those aged 65–74 years, 2 percent of those aged 75–84 years, and 1 percent of those aged 85 years and over were in employment.
- People aged 65 years and over were actively involved in unpaid activities both inside and outside their household in the four weeks preceding the 2001 Census. Seventy-three percent reported they had done housework for their own household and 6 percent had looked after a member of their own household who was ill or had a disability.
- 17 percent of people aged 65 years and over had done voluntary work such as for an organisation, group or marae, with 21 percent of those aged 65–74 years reporting they had spent time in this activity.
- 4 percent had looked after a child who was living in their own household and 9 percent had looked after a child living in another household. In the 65–69 years age group, 7 percent reported that they had looked after a child in their own household and 16 percent had looked after a child who lived in another household.

- Some older people had also been studying, although this was more common in the 65–69 years age group. While 3 percent of those aged 65–69 reported they had studied part time in the four weeks preceding the census, just 1 percent of those aged 85 years and over had studied part time.
- 15 out of every hundred people aged 65 years and over said they were living in households which had access to the Internet, although men were more likely to report access (19 percent) than women (12 percent).
- 83 percent of those aged 65 years and over reported an affiliation with one or more religious groups in the 2001 Census compared with 61 percent of those under 65 years of age. The most common religious category was Christian which accounted for 98 percent of those reporting a religious affiliation.
- Women (86 percent) were proportionately more likely than men (79 percent) to report religious affiliation.

More information

These results come from the 2001 Census of Population and Dwellings conducted by Statistics New Zealand.

For further detailed information on this subject, contact the people named below.

This release and other 2001 Census releases, along with additional information, are available free on the Statistics New Zealand website www.stats.govt.nz under "Census 2001". You are welcome to reproduce and publish this information provided you acknowledge Statistics New Zealand as the source.

The counts for this *2001 Census Snapshot* are taken from tables prepared for the *National Summary* topic based report published 28 March 2002. Detailed counts are also available in a series of tables. These tables are at www.stats.govt.nz/census.

To discuss the availability of further information from the 2001 Census or other collections, contact our Information Centre by telephoning:

Auckland 09 357 2100

Wellington 04 495 4600

Christchurch 03 374 8700

or emailing info@stats.govt.nz.

The tenth *2001 Census Snapshot – The Changing Face of Rural New Zealand* will be published on 10 June 2002.

Brian Pink

Government Statistician

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For technical information contact:

Denise McGregor

Christchurch 03 374 8700

or Fiona Smillie

Wellington 04 495 4855

Email: info@stats.govt.nz

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