



QuickStats About New Zealand's Population and Dwellings

Revised 18 May 2007 – See attached Erratum
2006 Census

The latest picture of New Zealand's population and dwellings – read the facts and view the simple graphs and tables that reflect life in New Zealand on census day.

All information is based on the census usually resident population count from New Zealand's 2006 Census of Population and Dwellings, held on 7 March 2006.

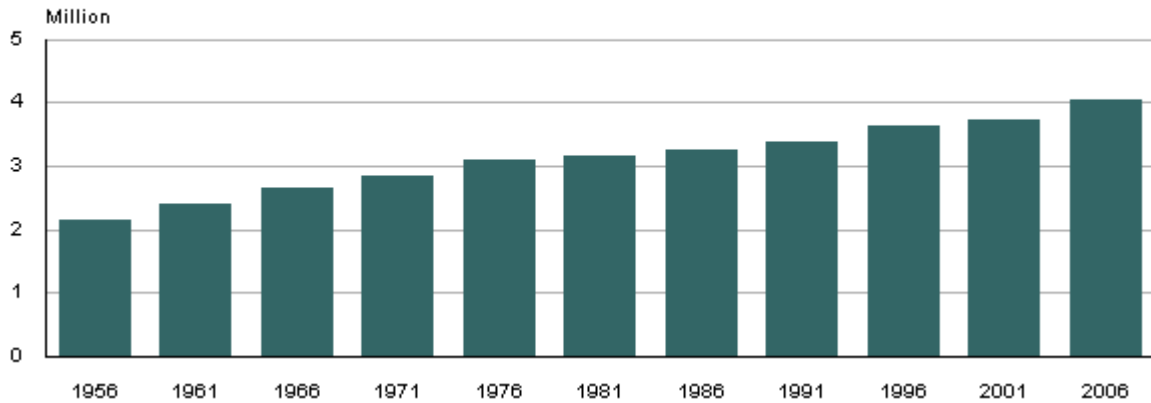
Population counts

- New Zealand's census night population has passed the 4 million mark. There were 4,143,279 people in New Zealand on census night, an increase of 322,530 (8.4 percent) since the 2001 Census.
- In the 10 years to March 2006, New Zealand's census night population increased by nearly half a million (up 461,733 or 12.5 percent).
- In the past 50 years, New Zealand's census night population has almost doubled – from 2,174,061 in 1956 to reach 4,143,279 in 2006.
- There were 4,027,947 people who usually live (usual residents) in New Zealand on census night.
- The number of overseas visitors in New Zealand on census night almost doubled in the 10 years between 1996 and 2006 – increasing from 63,243 to reach 115,332.

Population Counts			
1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses			
	1996	2001	2006
Usual Residents	3,618,303	3,737,277	4,027,947
Overseas Visitors	63,243	83,472	115,332
Total Census Night Population	3,681,546	3,820,749	4,143,279



Usually Resident Population 1956–2006 Censuses



Note: This data has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different text, tables and graphs.

Dwelling counts

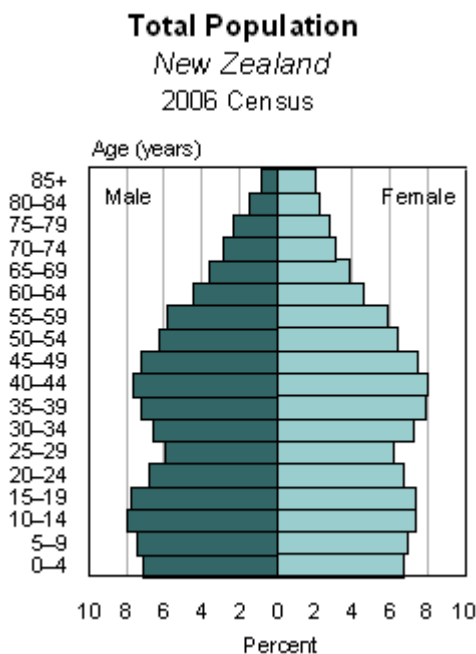
Private Occupied Dwelling Count 1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses			
	1996	2001	2006
Private Occupied Dwellings	1,276,332	1,359,843	1,471,746

- There were 1,471,746 private occupied dwellings counted in the 2006 Census, an increase of 111,903 (8.2 percent) since the 2001 Census.
- New Zealand's private occupied dwelling count has increased by 195,414 (15.3 percent) in the 10 years to March 2006.
- Two-thirds of all private occupied dwellings were either owned by their occupants (54.5 percent) or held in a family trust (12.3 percent). The remaining third (33.1 percent) were not owned by their occupants.

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Sex and age

- The median age (half are older, and half are younger, than this age) of usual residents was 35.9 in the 2006 Census. In 1996, the median age was 33.0 years. This increase in the median age reflects New Zealand's ageing population.
- The median age for males was 35.1 years, while the median age for females was 36.7 years. This reflects a longer life expectancy for women than for men.
- There were 531 people aged 100 years or over at the time of the 2006 Census – around three-quarters were women.
- Most of the increase in the usually resident population between 2001 and 2006 came from those in the working-age group of 15 to 64 years (up 225,657 or 9.3 percent).
- The proportion of people under 15 years of age decreased from 22.7 percent in 2001 to 21.5 percent in 2006.
- There was little change in the proportion of the population aged 65 years and over – this was 12.1 percent in 2001, and 12.3 percent in 2006.



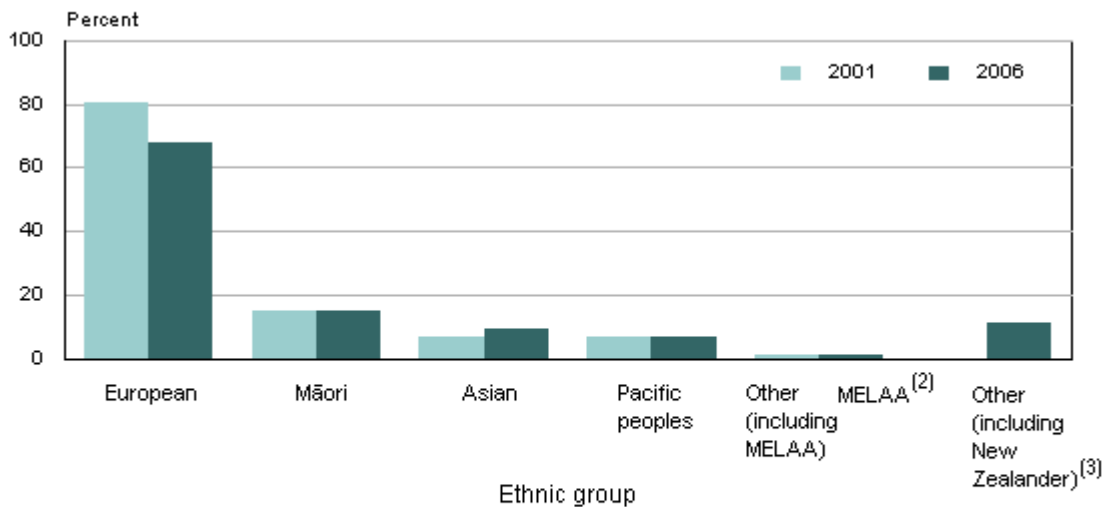
This graph replaces the graph published on 6 December 2006.

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Ethnic groups

- 2006 Census results showed the ethnic make-up of New Zealand continued to change. More people identified with more than one ethnic group – 10.4 percent in 2006, compared with 9.0 percent in 2001.
- The Māori ethnic group increased by 39,048 (7.4 percent) and now totals 565,329. One in seven people identified with the Māori ethnic group.
- 'New Zealander' was a separate category for the first time in 2006, and was previously counted in the European category. Of those who identified themselves as New Zealander, 12.9 percent also identified with at least one other ethnic group.
- New Zealander was the third-largest ethnic group, with 429,429 people or 11.1 percent of those who stated their ethnicity.
- Asian ethnic groups grew the fastest, increasing from 238,176 in 2001 to reach 354,552 in 2006 (an increase of almost 50 percent). The number of people identifying with the Asian ethnic groups has doubled since 1996, when it was 173,502.
- Those identifying with Pacific peoples ethnic groups had the second-largest increase from the 2001 Census, up 14.7 percent to total 265,974.
- European remains the largest of the major ethnic groups, totalling 2,609,592 (67.6 percent) in 2006.

Ethnic Group as a Percentage of the Total Population ⁽¹⁾
2001 and 2006 Censuses



(1) People were able to identify with more than one ethnic group, therefore percentages do not add up to 100.

(2) MELAA, or Middle Eastern and Latin American and African, was introduced as a new category for the 2006 Census. Previously, 'MELAA' responses were allocated to the 'Other ethnicity' category.

(3) 'New Zealander' was introduced as a new response option for the 2006 Census. 'New Zealander' responses form part of the 'Other ethnicity' category. For 2006, 'New Zealander' responses had the largest contribution towards the 'Other ethnicity' category. For 2001, and previous censuses, 'New Zealander' was counted with the 'European' category.

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Erratum

Four data errors were found in Table 3, in cells C26, D26, F26 and G26. These have been corrected in the new file.

Tables

The following downloadable file is in Microsoft Excel 97 format(s). If you do not have access to Excel 97 or higher you may use the [Excel file viewer](#) to view, print and export the contents of this file.

List of tables

1. Population summary for the census night population counts
2. Tenure of household for households in private occupied dwellings
3. Age group and median age by sex for the census usually resident population count
4. Number of ethnic groups specified for the census usually resident population
5. Ethnic group (total responses) for the census usually resident population
6. Number of ethnic groups specified for the census usually resident population