

Design of forms for the 2023 Census





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Introduction

Design of forms for the 2023 Census summarises how Stats NZ developed the forms, guide notes, and online help for the 2023 Census of Population and Dwellings. The focus for our design decisions was to make it easy for people to participate in the census, with easy-to-use forms that will result in good-quality data and that will meet customer information requirements. This report presents the questions that will be asked in the 2023 Census forms.

[Stats NZ Store House](#) provides access to sample forms.

[2023 Census: Final content report](#) (Stats NZ, 2021b) outlines the final decisions on the content to be included in the 2023 Census.

About the 2023 Census forms

Minimal change census

A key principle of the 2023 Census is to deliver what worked in 2018 and fix what did not work. For the 2023 Census forms, we will be reusing the design of the 2018 Census forms with improvements, and we have added new questions to align with new standards, to maintain or improve data quality, and to aid sampling in the post-censal New Zealand Disability Survey.

[Updating the forms and content](#) below provides more details about how we have updated the forms and content for the 2023 Census, but in summary, we have updated the online form to improve user experience and accessibility. In 2018, while the online form was translated into te reo Māori, parts of the website were provided in English only, for example, the help text webpage. For the 2023 Census, we have translated the entire census website into te reo Māori.

Accessibility was a key driver of change to the 2023 Census forms. We have made changes to better align both the online and paper forms to accessible design standards. We have also developed large-print forms as an alternate format for respondents with impaired vision.

[Testing overview](#) below describes how we conducted new and unchanged content testing, usability testing of the online form, and accessibility testing of the online and paper forms.

[Design of questions](#) below presents the questions that are new to the 2023 Census followed by those that have been updated from the 2018 Census and then lists the unchanged questions. We have included an image of each question from both the online and paper forms and the 2018 Census version for any changed questions. We have also indicated the rationale for including or updating the question, what

functionality the online form has to help respondents, and some of the findings from testing that support the final design.

Summary of changes to 2023 Census questions

Criteria for determining the change status of questions

We defined each census question as new, changed, or unchanged, using the following criteria.

New questions are those included in the 2023 Census that were not collected in the last census.

Changed questions are those where the concept, design, or wording has changed since the 2018 Census. Generally, how we or our customers use the information collected through these questions has not changed. We made the changes to capture real-world changes or improve data quality.

Unchanged questions are those where the concept underpinning the question has not changed and the design and wording are essentially the same as for the 2018 Census. For some questions, we used slightly different designs and wording for the online and paper forms to optimise our ability to collect quality data for each mode.

New questions

Dwelling Form – new questions

- Number of occupants
- No-one home – contact for unoccupied dwelling (online form only).

Individual Form – new questions

- Gender
- Self-reported limiting health condition
- Sexual identity
- Variations of sex characteristics
- Contact phone number.

Changed questions

Household Set-up Form / Dwelling Form – changed questions

- Name, people present on census night and relationship to reference person
- Absentees.

Dwelling Form – Changed questions

- Dwelling joined or separate
- Number of storeys
- Ownership of dwelling
- Sector of landlord

- Weekly rent paid by households
- Mortgage payments
- Number of rooms
- Number of motor vehicles.

Individual Form – Changed questions

- Age / date of birth
- Sex at birth (formerly sex)
- Years at usual residence
- Birthplace
- Years since arrival in New Zealand
- Māori descent
- Iwi affiliation
- Languages spoken
- Living arrangements
- Number of children born
- Highest post-school qualification level
- Total personal income
- Individual home ownership.

Unchanged questions

Dwelling Form – Unchanged questions

- Dwelling address
- Dwelling description
- Main types of heating
- Access to telecommunication systems
- Dwelling dampness indicator
- Dwelling mould indicator
- Access to basic amenities.

Individual Form – Unchanged questions

- Name
- Usual residence
- Census night address
- Ethnicity
- Usual residence 1 year ago
- Religious affiliation
- Study participation
- Activity limitations
- Cigarette smoking behaviour
- Legally registered relationship status
- Highest secondary school qualification
- Sources of income
- Job indicator – work and labour force status
- Hours usually worked
- Status in employment

- Occupation
- Industry: name of business or employer, main activity of business or employer
- Workplace address
- Main means of travel to work
- Seeking paid work, job search methods, availability for work
- Unpaid activities
- Declaration.

Excluded topics

Topics we have not included in the 2023 Census are:

- Volunteering
- Age of dwelling and floor area
- Multiple and new modes of travel
- Use of electronic cigarettes.

[2023 Census: Final content report](#) includes details about each excluded topic and the findings from our engagement and consultation.

Updating the forms and content

This chapter explains how we updated the forms and content for the 2023 Census. It comprises the following sections.

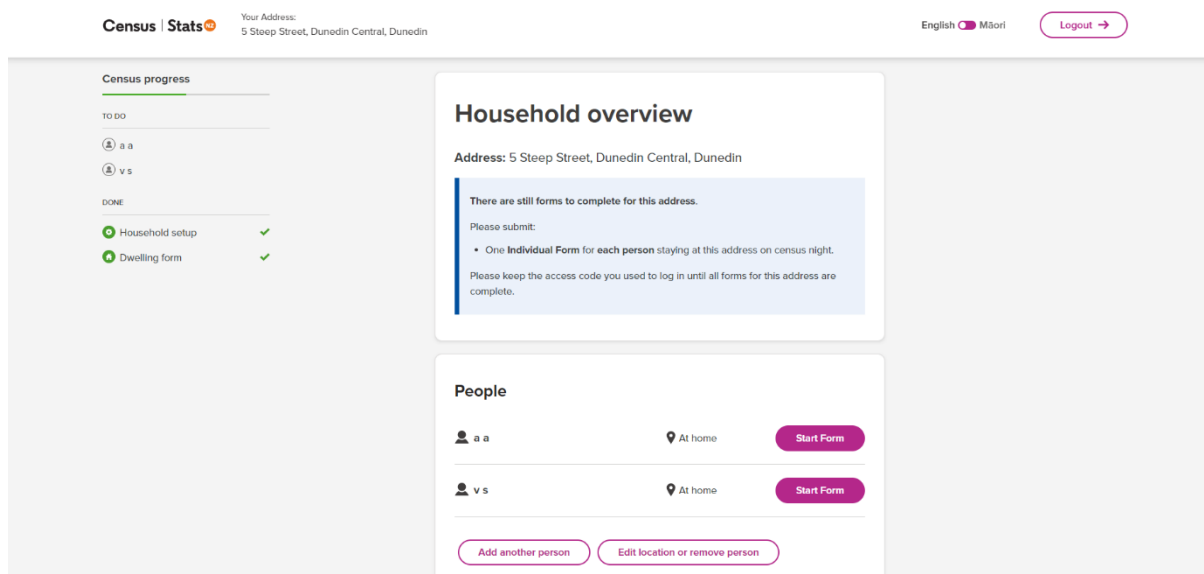
- [Updates to the online form](#)
- [Updates to the paper form design](#)
- [New and updated content.](#)

Updates to the online form

UX/UI refresh

A user experience and user interface (UX/UI) refresh was undertaken as part of the development of the 2023 Census online form. This was done to create a cleaner, more accessible user interface and to improve the respondent's experience when completing the online form. The major updates to the online form UX/UI are discussed below.

Figure 1: View of the 2023 Census household overview page



Help text restructure

There were three ways for a respondent to view help text on the 2018 Census online form. The first was inline help (text that is shown with the question), the second was a show/hide help button that presented help text when selected, and the third was a link that took the respondent to an external page where help text was housed.

The 2023 Census online form has simplified how respondents see help text. There are now only two levels of help that respondents can see, and they can see all help

text without navigating away from the online form. Inline help text remains the same as in 2018, but the show/hide help functionality has been removed. Instead of opening a new tab or page, the detailed help text now sits in modal message box for each relevant question. Respondents select the help button on a question and a modal is overlayed on their screen, showing the help text relevant to that question.

This change improves the respondent's experience as the structure of help content has been simplified and respondents are no longer navigated away from the online form to view additional help content.

[2023 guide notes](#) at the end of this report includes figures showing examples of inline help text and the modal message box.

Making the whole website bilingual

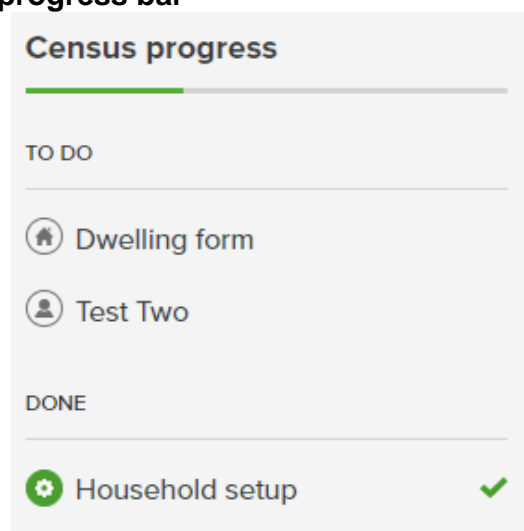
The 2018 Census online form website only provided te reo Māori translations on questions and some help text. For the 2023 Census, we have fully translated the whole website into te reo Māori.

This change improves the respondent's experience when completing the form in te reo Māori. Respondents navigating the website in te reo Māori will no longer see or hear any English content, creating a seamless te reo experience.

Progress bar

A progress bar has been added to the online form for the 2023 Census. This provides respondents with an indication of census progress as they move through the response process.

Figure 2: Online form progress bar



2023 Census branding

The fonts, colours, and logos have all been updated to be consistent with the 2023 Census brand guidelines.

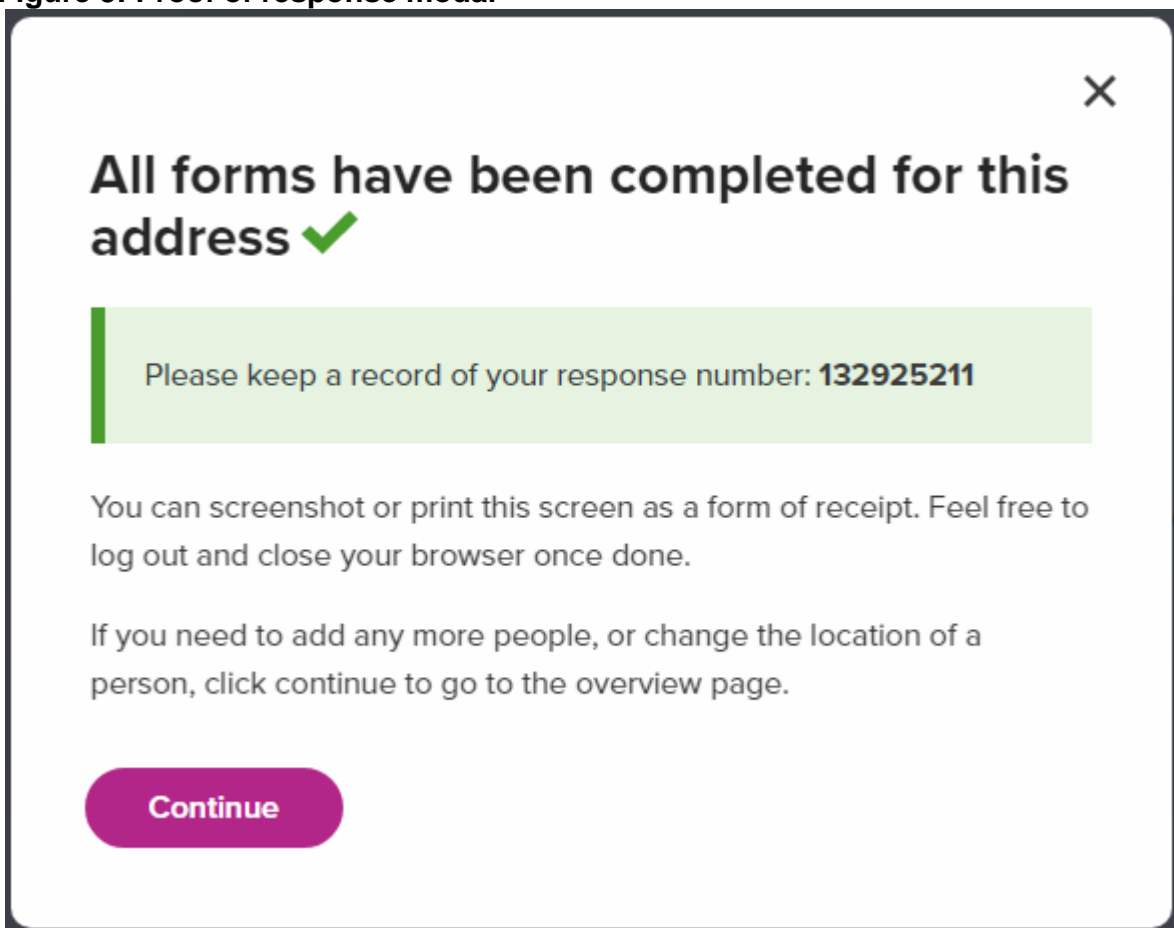
No-one home journey

A no-one home journey has been added to the household summary form. This feature was added to enable people to report that no one was at the address on census night. Asking for contact information will also deter people from reporting their occupied dwelling as unoccupied.

Proof-of-response modal

Respondents will see a proof-of-response modal when they reach the end of their 2023 Census online form journey. This modal explains that the respondent has completed all they need to for the 2023 Census, and there is nothing more for them to do. This confirmation of completion has been found to improve the respondents' experience as it clarifies that the respondent has completed the census and informs them that their response has been recorded.

Figure 3: Proof of response modal



Online form accessibility considerations

In April 2018, Stats NZ signed the Ministry of Social Development's Accessibility Charter (Ministry of Social Development, 2017).

This charter outlines requirements that signees must work towards to ensure that all information intended for the public is accessible to everyone. It also ensures that everyone can interact with our services in a way that meets their individual needs and promotes their independence and dignity. This includes the requirement to meet the New Zealand Government Web Accessibility Standard and Web Usability Standard.

[NZ Government Web Standards](#) provides more information on these standards.

To ensure that the 2023 online form meets accessibility standards, we worked with Intopia Connect, an accessibility and usability consultant agency. Intopia Connect carried out a series of audits to gather feedback and assess the level of compliance with web accessibility standards. They also conducted usability tests with disabled people. They provided us with feedback on fixes and updates to the online form and the 2023 Census information website to increase accessibility and meet web accessibility standards.

Changes from the 2018 Census online form include a full redesign of the respondent experience to provide a cleaner, easier-to-navigate interface. The colours, contrast, and font have all been chosen with accessibility in front of mind.

We have also introduced modal message boxes for help text. Respondents are no longer taken away from the form at any point, which simplifies their experience. This change also improves the experience for those using screen readers. These respondents no longer need to navigate back to the correct tab/window, as all the text is kept to a single screen.

We have updated all link text to be more descriptive. This improves the experience for screen-reader respondents, as some screen readers focus on the link first without providing the reader with the opportunity to read the contextual text.

We have also made the focus order logical, so respondents (including screen-reader respondents) using the tab key to navigate are now directed to the top of the page.

Lastly, we have corrected the default language setting for screen readers to remove the issues with pronunciation rules some respondents experienced with the 2018 online form.

Development of the iwi map

2018 Census iwi question design

The 2018 Census highlighted a major issue with the design of the online iwi affiliation question. Respondents using the online census form entered fewer multiple responses for iwi affiliation than in previous census years. This suggested a mode bias toward fewer multiple iwi responses for this group of respondents.

The design of the 2018 online form iwi affiliation question did not explicitly state that respondents could enter multiple iwi – this was only implied by '(s)' included after

some terms. Also, only one entry box was displayed by default. Respondents had to explicitly click the 'add' button to enter more iwi. The labelling and distance of the 'add' button was also confusing to some respondents. It was not immediately obvious that the button would enable the respondent to add further iwi.

[Iwi \(information about this variable and its quality\)](#) (Stats NZ, 2021d) provides more information on the data quality of the iwi question in the 2018 Census.

Engagement with Data Iwi Leaders Group

Improvements to the iwi affiliation question were suggested through consultation with the Data Iwi Leaders Group (DILG) who had worked with Māori data experts from Te Puni Kōkiri, Ministry of Education, and Stats NZ on the Tātai website.

[Tātai](#) is a resource for capturing iwi affiliation data for iwi and the Ministry of Health, to support more equitable health outcomes for Māori.

DILG provided feedback on the iwi affiliation question, suggesting we integrate an interactive map with the question, as shown on the Tātai website, to sit beside the manual option for entering iwi affiliation. DILG also suggested cleaning up the iwi as-you-type list, which contained many synonyms for iwi that made the list more difficult to use.

[Iwi affiliation](#) below provides a detailed description of the changes to the functionality of this question and feedback from testing.

Updates to the paper form design

The 2023 Census is a minimal change census. As such, we have re-used as much 2018 Census material as possible. This includes the content of the form, the design of each form, and materials that are included with the forms, such as letters and envelopes. The major updates to the design of paper forms have been made to reflect our obligations under the Accessibility Charter and the development of accessible large print forms.

Accessibility limitations of paper forms

Part of the requirements outlined in the Accessibility Charter is to ensure that our forms and materials have a high compliance with accessibility standards and requirements.

[Accessibility Guide: Leading the way in accessible information](#) (Ministry of Social Development, 2021) was our benchmark for compliance in developing the 2023 Census paper forms.

Sizing of paper forms

The size of English paper forms is one A3 sheet (folded) for each Dwelling Form, Individual Form, and Guide Note booklet. For bilingual forms, the size is two A3

sheets (stapled and folded) for each Dwelling Form and Guide Note booklet, and three A3 sheets (stapled and folded) for each Individual Form.

We couldn't increase the number of paper sheets involved in each form because of factors such as: the prohibitive cost of printing more paper, the increased weight of the forms, and more effort involved in the manual scanning process including having to remove staples. However, new questions have been added to each form, which takes up more space. Because of this, it is not possible for the 2023 Census paper forms to meet all accessible print guidelines set out under the Accessibility Charter.

While we are unable to make the paper forms meet all accessible print guidelines, we have updated them to be as compliant as possible. Changes to the forms include making all text black and updating the colour of the forms to increase contrast with the black text. The Individual Form colour has changed from purple to fuchsia, while the Dwelling Form is a deeper shade of orange. We have removed unnecessary text from the banner messaging at the top of each form and replaced acronyms with their full spelling where possible. We have also removed italics and kept capitalised text to a minimum. Capitalised text is only used for write-in response examples, as we want respondents to write in capital letters. We have also increased font size and line spacing where possible, however, as discussed above, we were restricted in what we could increase in this regard due to the amount of text and lack of space.

Development of large print 2023 Census forms

To meet our commitments under the Accessibility Charter, we have worked to produce census information and materials in alternate formats. This includes:

- New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL)
- audio
- Easy Read
- Braille
- large print.

For the 2023 Census, we have developed large print versions of the English Individual Form, Dwelling Form, and guide notes. While there are many different reasons to use large print materials, the population groups who tend to read large print consistently are the visually impaired and those aged over 70 years.

The large print forms have 18-point font with increased line spacing. They also have black question text on a white background to maximise colour contrasting. Routing instructions, question numbers, and the horizontal lines separating questions are the colour of each standard form (fuchsia for the Individual Form and orange for the Dwelling Form). This is to help guide the respondent through the form and to tie into the 2023 Census brand colours. The bilingual paper forms will not be produced in large print due to the amount of paper that would be required to print them and the low number of respondents who would require a bilingual form in large print. See figure 4 for an example of large print form.

New and updated content

Including new questions

Sex at birth, gender, sexual identity, and variations of sex characteristics

We are including new questions on sex at birth, gender, sexual identity, and variations of sex characteristics in the 2023 Census.

These topics were tested before the 2018 Census but did not perform well as well as expected at the time so were not included. However, the then Government Statistician and Minister of Statistics agreed that Stats NZ should continue working on ways to collect information on these topics, with a clear direction that these questions would be included in the 2023 Census.

[Preliminary view of 2023 Census content](#) (Stats NZ, 2020) outlines the content Stats NZ plans to collect in the 2023 Census.

[Data standard for gender, sex, and variations of sex characteristics](#) (Stats NZ, 2021c) and [Statistical standard for sexual identity](#) (Stats NZ, 2019) are the standards the new questions align with.

Self-reported limiting health condition and contact phone number

An additional question has been included to complement the current Washington Group Short Set (WG-SS) questions by asking a broad question about limiting health condition. The additional information is required for (and will only be used for) selecting the sample for the 2023 Disability Survey. A similar question was included in the 2013 Census but not in the 2018 Census as there was no post-censal disability survey in the latter.

We're also including a question about a contact phone number on the 2023 Census form. This will enable us to contact people by phone to participate in the 2023 Disability Survey. Phone numbers were collected in previous censuses.

Number of occupants

The 2023 Census reinstates the number of occupants question after it was removed for the 2018 Census. For the 2018 Census, this data was derived by counting the number of Individual Forms filled out at a dwelling and the number of names listed on the Dwelling Form. Reintroducing this question on the Dwelling Form (paper) and household set-up form (online) will help ensure that we receive the correct number of Individual Forms from each household. This will benefit field collection and processing and improve data quality for population and dwelling counts and family and household data.

Translating new questions

Every new and updated question went through a robust translation and review process. This involved sourcing two accredited te reo Māori translators to translate and review any new wording on the 2023 Census forms.

The new question for variation of sex characteristics did not have an equivalent translation in te reo Māori. We consulted with Māori language experts who have experience in lexical expansion and understand the subject matter to devise new words to use for these concepts.

As well as reviewing individual translations, the accredited translators conducted a full review of the bilingual forms before the 2022 field test.

Order of content

The order of content for the 2023 Census remains largely the same as that for the 2018 Census, with new content inserted where appropriate. Adding this new content required us to move one question to the next page on both the Individual and Dwelling Form. The impact of moving this question was assessed to be minimal to the respondent experience. The online form question order was updated to reflect the new order on the paper forms.

Testing overview

This chapter presents an overview of our testing programme. It comprises the following sections.

- [Pre-testing to evaluate proposed changes](#)
- [General test objectives](#)
- [Recruitment for qualitative pre-testing](#)
- [Cognitive testing of paper forms](#)
- [Focus group testing of the bilingual form](#)
- [Focus group testing of the online form](#)
- [Accessibility testing](#)
- [2021 field test and 2022 field test](#).

Pre-testing to evaluate proposed changes

We followed a robust programme to pre-test the content of the 2023 Census forms. Pre-testing allowed both us and our stakeholders to evaluate the merits of proposed changes to form design. It also assures us that the forms will collect data of acceptable quality. The content redevelopment was based on multi-faceted consultation, which primarily took place in 2020.

[2023 Census content: Summary of feedback from engagement](#) (Stats NZ, 2021a) summarises the consultation findings.

Pre-testing the online and paper forms included qualitative testing, that is testing the performance of the forms and gathering feedback on a one-to-one basis or in group settings. The testing included cognitive testing of paper forms and usability testing of online forms. Accessibility testing was also completed for both the paper forms (including large print forms) and the online form. We also undertook two large-scale quantitative census tests in March 2021 and March 2022.

Based on the pre-testing, we refined question wording, response options, question note text and other help information, question order, layout, and form design, plus other operational processes.

General test objectives

Across our programme of pre-testing, we wanted to assess whether the forms were working as expected and intended and identify areas where the design was resulting in errors or an avoidable burden for respondents. Examples are incorrectly answered questions (which may result in later questions being either missed or answered when they shouldn't be) or inconsistent answers.

As well as the general test objectives, we had several specific test objectives. These were to:

- test respondents' conceptual understanding of new and changed questions
- test new and changed designs (layout, routing, online usability)
- test the design of bilingual (te reo Māori / English) forms
- address other changes needed to ensure census data will be fit for purpose, for example, accessibility of forms, real-world change.

Recruitment for qualitative pre-testing

To gather a list of volunteer respondents, we ran social media campaigns, advertised in the Census Advisory newsletter, and engaged with community groups (for example, disability groups). We consulted with the LGBTQI+ community through Rainbow networks and Intersex Trust Aotearoa New Zealand (ITANZ). We also contracted an ethnic community advisor to recruit Pacific respondents and respondents who are culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD).

We selected respondents using a variety of methods, including purposive sampling (selecting those with required characteristics, for example, those with English as a second language) and snowball sampling (asking those with required characteristics to encourage others with the same or similar characteristics to participate). We also made some use of personal contacts.

Tātou, a New Zealand company specialising in Māori engagement, conducted the testing of bilingual (te reo Māori / English) forms.

Our recruitment aimed to balance basic demographic characteristics, such as age, gender, and ethnicity. Testing sex at birth and gender was high priority, and sexual identity and variation of sex characteristics were a focus of testing due to potential sensitivity.

Respondents who agree to be involved in voluntary testing may represent people who are more engaged and civic-minded. We gave petrol or supermarket vouchers to respondents to encourage wider participation and to compensate them for their time and costs.

Cognitive testing of paper forms

Our development and cognitive testing was mostly based on paper forms, which are quicker to redevelop with findings from testing, and we tested a prototype version of the online form. Most testing was carried out face to face, but some tests were online, with participants from around the country.

Cognitive testing is a method used to test how well a question meets the combined needs of respondents and data users. A good question should be easy for

respondents to accurately understand and answer and collect data of sufficient quality to be useful.

Typical cognitive testing involves one-to-one interviews with respondents who complete census forms while being observed by interviewers. Respondents were encouraged to verbalise their thought process for answering the questions, a technique referred to as 'think aloud'. Interviewers also used a testing protocol that specified the questions to further check respondents' understanding of the questions and the cognitive processes they used to select their answers. Extra questions may also be asked in response to possible errors (for example, missed instructions).

Another way we assessed how well the forms were working was observing any difficulties or signs of burden, such as a respondent squinting to read the font size, signs of fatigue, such as sighing, and their reaction and comments as they worked through the forms.

We conducted five rounds of cognitive testing of the 2023 Census forms between September 2020 and June 2021, with testing taking place in Christchurch, Wellington, and Auckland. We incorporated the significant findings from each round into the next round of testing.

Summary of cognitive testing rounds

Below is a summary of each round of cognitive testing of the 2023 Census paper forms.

Round 1

We completed round 1 of testing in September 2020. In this round, we tested a shortened version of the proposed census test forms. The aim was to explore the conceptual understanding of the general public. We conducted tests with 11 individuals from the general public and people born overseas.

Round 2a

We completed round 2a of testing between October and November 2020. We again tested a short version of the proposed census test forms. We conducted testing with nine individuals, including the general public, people born overseas, and people in the LGBTQI+ community.

Round 2b

We completed round 2b of testing in November 2020. The aim of this testing was to explore the conceptual understanding among two distinct groups of potential respondents – people from the Rainbow network (to represent a segment of the LGBTQIA+ community) and members of a bowling club (to represent a more conservative, older respondent group). We conducted testing with 15 individuals in total (seven people from the Rainbow network and eight people from the bowling club).

Round 3

We completed round 3 of testing between January and March 2021. We conducted cognitive testing with 21 individuals among different populations of interest – transgender, people with various sex characteristics, Māori, and Pacific people.

Round 4

We completed round 4 of testing between March and April 2021. The aim of this testing was to explore the conceptual understanding among the general public, the LGBTQI+ community, and CALD people. We conducted cognitive testing with 20 individuals and two focus groups of six people each.

Round 5

We completed round 5 of testing between May and June 2021. The aim of this testing was to explore the conceptual understanding and ability to complete the forms of Māori, Pacific peoples, and people with disabilities. We conducted cognitive testing with nine individuals, and seven focus groups of five to ten people.

Focus group testing of the bilingual forms

The organisation Tātou coordinated the Māori focus groups. The goal of these focus groups was to socialise new concepts and test the participants' comfort in answering census questions in both English and te reo Māori. Two different focus groups were run, with a total of 41 Māori participants.

Feedback was positive in relation to how people used the forms and their responsiveness to using te reo Māori. Participants celebrated the access to te reo Māori census forms. Many appreciated the bilingual version, as it gave fluent speakers and learners of te reo Māori the chance to practise new words and sentence structures. Some technical terms were highlighted as being less accessible, which could increase the barriers for Māori participating in the census.

Focus group testing of the online form

[Silverstripe](#), the external developer of the 2023 Census website and online form, held a small number of focus groups in September 2021. They used a prototype of the new online form design to test updates and changes with the focus groups. The goal with the focus groups was to validate our proposed changes to the census online experience. We wanted to ensure that the changes were an improvement and did not present any new barriers. The purpose of these focus groups was to look at ways to improve: the design of the online form, the flow between the census information site and the online form, and the content respondents would need to complete the online form.

Overall, participants across our respondent groups confirmed that the user experience (UX) and user interface (UI) changes improve on the 2018 Census

experience. This was confirmed across both desktop and mobile phone versions. There were no significant concerns raised that suggested wholesale change were required to the 2023 Census designs. Participants found the new designs fresh, easier to navigate, and clear to understand.

Accessibility testing

Online form

[Intopia Connect](#), an organisation that connects businesses to users with disabilities, carried out two rounds of usability testing in November 2021 and August 2022 respectively. Participants with a variety of disabilities were recruited to test the online census form. This included people who use assistive technologies and accessibility settings, such as screen readers and magnifiers.

Most participants found the online form to be easy and enjoyable to complete, however, some usability and accessibility issues were identified through this testing. These include how information was coded on the page, hard-to-read text, and issues with screen readers being unable to announce some of the text. While there weren't any major blockers identified in testing, these issues impacted the participants' overall experience in completing the form.

As well as conducting usability tests, Intopia Connect also audited the online form to assess if it meets web accessibility standards. Any issues found during testing and auditing were raised with the online form website developers to update and fix. Due to the timeframes for development, some issues deemed lower priority were not resolved. These will be looked at again for the next census.

Paper forms and large print

We carried out targeted testing with members of the disabled community between 18 and 31 March 2022. We tested both the standard English and large print forms, as well as two call-to-action letters. The primary focus of this testing round was to provide assurance that the design and colour palettes were accessible and that changes to letter and form content were clearly understood and the overall branding look and feel was positively received.

Participants felt the colour contrast of the standard forms was better than the colours used for the 2018 Census. Some people with low vision and red/green colour perception issues still had issues with the contrast, particularly with distinguishing the form colour and the white response ovals.

Participants reacted positively to the large print forms. They said these are a good initiative to enable people with vision impairments, those with dexterity issues, the neurodiverse, older people, and speakers of other languages to complete the census forms more easily and independently.

2021 field test and 2022 field test

2021 field test

The 2021 field test was conducted in March 2021 in Kirikiriroa/Hamilton and Raahui Pookeka/Huntly. It was an integrated field test to see how changes made to the collection model used in the 2018 Census would work in an environment similar to that of a real census. This included: understanding how people interact and participate when staff are able to provide help with filling in test forms; understanding how to make paper forms available for those who need them and the easiest and surest way of having those forms returned; and following up with those who haven't responded. Key to this was enabling respondents to be successful in completing their census test forms while maintaining the collection of quality information.

As a result of the COVID-19 alert level change on 27 February 2021, some households that would have received their census test forms in a face-to-face visit had the forms delivered to their letterboxes instead.

2022 field test

The online and paper forms we used for the March 2022 census test included all variables that are included on the 2023 Census forms, and as such they closely resemble each other. This test was not used to inform census content and form design. We made a small number of minor question design changes after the test before the 2023 Census forms were finalised.

Design of questions

This chapter explains the design of questions from the 2023 Census forms. It comprises the following sections.

- [Dwelling Form – new questions](#)
- [Individual Form – new questions](#)
- [Household Set-up Form / Dwelling Form – changed questions](#)
- [Dwelling Form – changed questions](#)
- [Individual Form – changed questions](#)
- [Dwelling Form – unchanged questions](#)
- [Individual Form – unchanged questions](#).

Within these sections, the questions are ordered according to their order in the forms.

[Stats NZ Store House](#) provides access to the full set of forms.

Figures show images of each question from both the online and paper forms. For reintroduced and changed questions, we have included the question from previous paper forms, for example, from the 2013 Census or 2018 Census.

We have also indicated the rationale for including or updating the question, what functionality the online form has that will help respondents, and some of the findings from testing that support the final design.

In the Individual Form, the questions that come first are key variables. The remaining questions are ordered according to details such as their priority, grouping together questions based on who needs to answer, logical flow, and space requirements.

Dwelling Form – new questions

Number of occupants

See figure 5.

Information collected through this question

The information collected through this question is the number of people staying in a dwelling on census night. This question was removed from the Dwelling Form for the 2018 Census and instead was derived by counting the number of Individual Forms filled out at a dwelling and the number of names listed on the Dwelling Form. This question has been reinstated in the 2023 Census to ensure that the correct number of Individual Forms is received from each household and we receive a more accurate count of people in the country on census night.

Developing this question

See figure 6 for number of occupants questions tested.

We started by using the 2013 Census question wording as a baseline for testing its reinsertion into the Dwelling Form. The wording of the question varied across the multiple rounds of testing based on respondent feedback. The final wording of the question includes the census night reference date, whereas the testing forms used the more generic 'tonight' as there was no specific date for testing.

The question was originally placed before the relationship grid as a logical way to introduce the grid. After testing was completed, we found that for scanning and processing purposes the question needed to be placed on the front page of the form, so we moved this question to follow the Dwelling Address question.

Help text

This question includes a help text box to clarify who should be included in the count of occupants. This help text was shortened in the final version of the form due to space limitations on the paper form.

Findings from testing

Our testing showed that the 2013 Census question wording was hard to interpret, with some respondents not understanding the instructions or following them incorrectly. New wording was drafted to be included in the next round of testing. Further testing indicated a need for an 'including yourself ...' prompt, to ensure that all occupants of a dwelling are captured, including the person completing the form.

Figure 5: Number of occupants (2023 Census online form and paper form, 2013 Census paper form)

2023 Census online form

Including yourself, how many people are staying the night of Tuesday, 7 March 2023 here in this dwelling?

Count everyone, including yourself, babies, children, and visitors, spending the night of Tuesday, 7 March 2023 here.

Number of people

2023 Census paper form

2 Including yourself, how many people are staying the night of Tuesday, 7 March 2023 here in this dwelling?

Count everyone, including yourself, babies, children, and visitors, spending the night of Tuesday, 7 March 2023 here.

number of people

2013 Census paper form

3 How many blue Individual Forms (either on the Internet or on paper) are being filled in, here in this dwelling?

These people fill in a blue Individual Form here in this dwelling:

- everyone, including babies, children and visitors, spending the night of 5 March here, and
- anyone who arrives on 6 March, who has not filled in a blue Individual Form anywhere else.

How many altogether?

Figure 6: Number of occupants – testing question

Round 1

Number of occupants on census night was not included in round 1 testing

Round 2a

17 How many blue Individual Forms (either online or on paper) are being filled in, here in this dwelling?

These people need to fill in a blue Individual Form, here in this dwelling:

- everyone, including babies, children and visitors, spending tonight here, and
- anyone who arrives the next day, who has not filled in a blue Individual Form anywhere else.

number of blue Individual Forms

Round 2b

Number of occupants on census night was not included in round 2b testing

Round 3

31 Tonight, how many people will be spending the night here in this dwelling?

Count:

- everyone, including babies, children and visitors, spending tonight here, and
- anyone who lives here but arrives the next day, for example night shift worker.

number of people

Round 4

17 How many people are staying here in this dwelling tonight, including yourself?

Count:

- everyone, including yourself, babies, children and visitors, spending tonight here, and
- anyone who lives here but arrives the next day, for example, a night shift worker.

number of people

Round 5

17 Including yourself, how many people are staying here in this dwelling tonight?

Count:

- everyone, including yourself, babies, children and visitors, spending tonight here, and
- anyone who lives here but arrives the next day, for example, a night shift worker.

number of people

No-one home – contact for unoccupied dwelling (ICS only)

Figure 7: Contact for unoccupied dwelling

As the person reporting that there are no people staying at this address on census night, provide your full name and contact phone number:

First name(s)

Family name

Contact phone number

Information collected through this question

This question is asked when a respondent indicates there will be no-one in a dwelling on census night. The respondent will be asked to record absentees and provide the contact details for each absentee.

We ask this question to limit the amount of people who report their dwelling as unoccupied in order to avoid having to complete their census forms. People who are trying to falsely report their dwelling's occupancy status are less likely to complete the no-one home respondent journey if they are required to enter their contact details.

Developing this question

This question uses the same formatting as other name questions and contact phone number questions.

Findings from testing

This question was not explicitly tested with other new questions as it has formatting used elsewhere on the online form. The no-one home respondent journey was tested through accessibility testing and no issues were found.

Individual Form – new questions

Gender

See figure 8.

Information collected through this question

Gender refers to a person's social and personal identity as male, female, or another gender such as non-binary. Gender may include the gender that a person internally feels ('gender identity'), and/or the gender a person publicly expresses ('gender expression') in their daily life. A person's gender may change over time. A person's current gender may differ from the sex recorded at their birth and from what is indicated on their current legal documents. Some people may not identify with any gender.

Gender will be the primary demographic variable that we will produce information on in the 2023 Census. This replaces the previous use of the sex variable, and output data will use gender by default. This will help inform better decision-making for and about gender minority groups and will allow more people to see themselves in the data generated from the census.

Developing this question

[Data standard for gender, sex, and variations of sex characteristics](#) (Stats NZ, 2021c) describes the mandatory question requirements that form the basis of this question. Gender was initially included after the sex at birth question until a 'gender first' approach was implemented. No changes were made to this question itself during testing.

Online functionality

Respondents can select multiple responses to this question. They are only presented with the write-in text box if they select 'another gender, please state:'. This text box has as-you-type functionality.

Respondents must answer either this question, the sex at birth question, or both questions. They will not be able to proceed further on the online form if they have not provided a response to either the gender question or the sex at birth question.

Help text

The paper guide notes and online help give the definitions of gender and sex at birth. The guide notes and online help also notes that a separate question on variations of sex characteristics is located further along on the form.

Findings from testing

Generally, our testing found that respondents were able to work through this question accurately and without any known error. Some respondents, especially those who were older, had difficulty with the concept of gender. The most common

misinterpretations were confusing gender with sex or sexual identity, or not understanding why both sex at birth and gender were being asked.

Some respondents presumed this might be because others might feel uncomfortable or sensitive when answering this question. While it was perceived as being a sensitive subject, many respondents noted the value of collecting data about gender.

Figure 8: Gender (2023 Census online form and paper form)

2023 Census online form

The screenshot shows the online form interface. At the top, the question 'What is your gender?' is displayed in a dark blue font, with a purple question mark icon and the word 'Help' to its right. Below the question is a grey informational box containing the text: 'Gender refers to a person's social and personal identity as male, female, or another gender (or genders) that may be non-binary. A person's sex at birth may differ.' Underneath this box are three radio button options: 'male', 'female', and 'another gender'. The 'another gender' option is selected, indicated by a purple checkmark. Below these options is a text input field with the label 'Please specify:'.

2023 Census paper form

The screenshot shows the paper form version of the question. It is numbered '3' in a purple box. The question 'What is your gender?' is followed by three radio button options: 'male', 'female', and 'another gender. Please state:'. A callout bubble with a purple border points to the 'another gender' option, containing the text 'Mark your answer like this: —' with a horizontal line representing the mark. Below the options is a grid of 10 small boxes for specifying the answer.

Self-reported limiting health condition

See figure 9.

Information collected through this question

The information collected through this question is about people with a disability, long-term condition, or mental health condition. This question was added to complement the WG-SS questions.

The additional question is a self-reported indicator of whether a disability, long-term condition, or mental health condition limits a person's ability to carry out activities of daily living. A long-term condition is an ongoing or recurring condition that can have a significant impact on a person's life. Examples could include autism, chronic pain, heart or lung disease, or learning difficulties.

Developing this question

The question was designed to capture disabled people who are not captured in the WG-SS questions that precede it.

The addition of this question was a late development for 2023 Census form design, and as such, we were only able to test it during round 5 of testing. No changes were made to this question after testing.

Online functionality

Respondents will be able to select only one response to this question. Answering this question is not compulsory, respondents will be able to leave this question blank and move forward with the questionnaire.

Help text

The guide notes and online help text elaborate on the term 'long-term condition'.

Findings from testing

Overall, most respondents were able to answer the question easily and accurately, and disabled people were keen for more information about disability to be collected. A few respondents noted some difficulty with the design and interpretation of the question, while some respondents who identified as disabled felt that the question, and the WGSS before it, did not go far enough and that more questions were needed.

Figure 9: Self-reported limiting health condition (2023 Census online form and paper form)

2023 Census online form

Do you have a disability, long-term condition, or mental health condition that limits your ability to carry out everyday activities?

yes

no

don't know

Help

2023 Census paper form

23 Do you have a disability, long-term condition, or mental health condition that limits your ability to carry out everyday activities?

yes

no

don't know

Sexual identity

See figure 10.

Information collected through this question

Sexual identity covers the ways in which a person expresses their sexuality and the terms they choose to identify with. Sexual identities include heterosexual, gay, lesbian, bisexual, pansexual, and asexual, among others.

This information will help to establish a baseline population for the wide range of sexual identities across New Zealand, enabling better understanding of service provision requirements for these groups. It will also allow analysis and comparison of outcomes across the range of sexual identities. The information will also allow more people to see themselves in the data.

Developing this question

See figure 11 for the number of occupants questions tested.

[Statistical standard for sexual identity](#) (Stats NZ, 2019) describes the mandatory question requirements that form the basis of this question. Changes made through

testing with respondents included expanding 'other, please state' to 'another identity, please state' and changing 'or' to a slash in the 'heterosexual/straight' response option. The 'prefer not to say' response option was erroneously left out during the first rounds of testing, including in the 2021 field test. This response option was added to meet requirements outlined in the statistical standard in round 3 of testing.

Online functionality

Respondents who have indicated they are 15 years of age or over are asked this question. They will be able to select only one response to this question. The write-in box is not shown on first view but appears when the respondent selects 'another identity. Please state'. This question is supported by as-you-type functionality. When respondents begin typing, a list of potential responses matching what the respondent has typed appears. The respondents can then choose from the list of possible responses. Answering this question is not compulsory; respondents will be able to leave this question blank and move forward with the questionnaire.

Help text

The guide notes and online help text provide more information on sexual identity and gives an explanation on why this is being asked in the 2023 Census.

Findings from testing

Respondents generally worked through the question without issue or error, with many noting the overall value of asking this question. However, some reported sensitivity to the question for themselves or others who may not be comfortable answering it. A 'prefer not to say' option was added to the question in response to these concerns and to meet the requirements outlined in the standard.

Some respondents disliked the inclusion of the term 'straight' alongside 'heterosexual' as they considered it slang, however, others found it useful since they found 'straight' to be more understandable. This was more prominent with CALD respondents, who were unfamiliar with some of the terms in the question. The response option was amended to include a slash separator to signify that they mean the same and are not a grouped category like 'gay or lesbian'.

variation', or 'Differences of Sex Development' (DSD). Some people may identify as intersex, while others may see their intersex variation more as part of their medical history rather than their identity.

A separate question on variations of sex characteristics will enable respondents with variations of sex characteristics to accurately respond and see themselves in the census forms.

Developing this question

[Data standard for gender, sex, and variations of sex characteristics](#) (Stats NZ, 2021c) describes the mandatory question requirements that form the basis of this question. No changes were made to this question itself during testing. We followed advice from Intersex Trust Aotearoa New Zealand that this is not a demographic variable, so it is included with general survey content and not alongside sex at birth and gender.

Online functionality

Respondents who have indicated they are 15 years of age or over are asked this question. They will be able to select only one response to this question. Answering this question is not compulsory, respondents will be able to leave this question blank and move forward with the questionnaire.

Help text

The guide notes and online help text provide a definition of variations of sex characteristics. They also inform the respondent about what the information can be used for and why it's important to ask this question. The guide note to this question went through many iterations to ensure the concept was understandable to respondents.

Findings from testing

Most respondents were able to accurately answer this question in testing, albeit with some difficulty. Testing showed that the concept was not well understood by many respondents. Many were confused by the question order as some noted that it felt more appropriate for this question to be asked alongside sex at birth. There was also some sensitivity around answering the question, either from the respondent themselves or concern for other respondents.

The guide note used for earlier testing was found to be inadequate in explaining the concept and the value of the question. It was re-written through the next rounds of testing to a more positive response, helping respondents better understand the concept being asked.

Figure 12: Variations of sex characteristics (2023 Census online form and paper form)

2023 Census online form

Were you born with a variation of sex characteristics (otherwise known as an intersex variation)? [Help](#)

yes

no

don't know

prefer not to say

2023 Census paper form

30 Were you born with a variation of sex characteristics (otherwise known as an intersex variation)?

yes

no

don't know

or prefer not to say

Contact phone number

See figure 13.

Information collected through this question

The information collected through this question is the respondent's contact telephone number. We are collecting this information solely to contact potential respondents for the post-census 2023 New Zealand Disability Survey.

Developing this question

Like the new disability question, the contact telephone number question was a late addition to the testing schedule. We based the phrasing of this question on how it was last asked in the 2013 Census, with a change to reflect that the sole purpose of this question is for the post-census survey. We removed the area code brackets to reflect the lowered landline telephone use in New Zealand since 2013.

Online functionality

Respondents can free-type their contact telephone number into the write-in box. This question is not compulsory, meaning respondents will be able to leave it blank and continue with the questionnaire.

Findings from testing

Respondents who completed this question were able to do so without difficulty, and few made comments about it. One respondent thought that the question was only asking for a landline number, as 'area code' relates to landlines and these were for 'older people.' They didn't see a mobile phone as a telephone, so didn't think the question was asking for a mobile number.

Some respondents noted this may not be the best way to contact people, as email or address may be more appropriate, particularly for those with hearing difficulties.

Figure 13: Contact phone number (2023 Census online form and paper form, 2013 Census paper form)

2023 Census online form

Please give a contact phone number. We may contact you if you are selected for the follow-up survey after the census.

Phone number (including area code if it's a landline):

2023 Census paper form

53 Please give a contact phone number. We may contact you if you are selected for the follow-up survey after the census.

Phone number (including area code if it is a landline):

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

2013 Census paper form

47 Please give a contact telephone number. We may contact you if we have any 2013 Census queries or if you are selected for a survey following the census.

area code (

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

)

Household Set-up Form / Dwelling Form – changed questions

Name, people present on census night, and relationship to reference person

See figure 14.

Description of change

This section refers to two changes to the information about people present on census night and absentee questions: asking for gender instead of sex and the relationship to the reference person response options. The response options for the relationship to the reference person were updated to use gender-neutral language throughout. For example, 'my wife or husband, partner or de facto' has been changed to 'my spouse/partner'. The reminder note about babies' age was also tweaked to remove the example write-in box.

Rationale for change

Gender will be used as a primary demographic variable that we will produce data on. This replaces the previous use of the sex variable, and output data will use gender by default. Changing the primary variable will allow more people to see themselves in the data and inform better decision-making for gender-minority groups.

The relationship response options have been updated to reflect the change from sex to gender as a primary variable.

The example write-in box for babies' age was removed to prevent respondents from using this box to write in a response.

Online functionality

The functionality remains the same as for the 2018 Census, where respondents select a response option from a drop-down list for each person in the household on census night. The drop-down list has been updated to reflect the changes to the response options.

Findings from testing

Respondents were satisfied with the response options 'spouse/partner' and 'sibling.' Some respondents experienced difficulty interpreting these terms, though most did not show difficulty working through this question.

When some respondents were asked specifically about the term 'sibling', they made comments about being happy and familiar with term.

Figure 14: Name, people present on census night, and relationship to reference person (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)
2018 Census online form

Please enter the following details for all the people who usually live at 120 Hereford Street, Christchurch Central, Christchurch but are away on the night of Tuesday 6 March.

Person

first names family name

P's age at last birthday

What is P's sex?

male

female

What is P's relationship to P

Is P in New Zealand on the night of the census?

yes

no

How long altogether are they away from New Zealand?

less than 12 months

12 months or more

Add Person Away ← 🗨️ 🗑️ →

Figure 14 continued
2023 Census online form

Person

First names

Family name

What is Person's age?

What is Person's gender?
?
Help

Gender refers to a person's social and personal identity as male, female, or another gender (or genders) that may be non-binary. A person's sex at birth may differ.

male

female

another gender

What is Person's relationship to Person

Remove

Add another person

Figure 14 continued
2018 Census paper form

Person 1	Person 2
First names: <input type="text"/>	First names: <input type="text"/>
Family name: <input type="text"/>	Family name: <input type="text"/>
Your age? <input type="text"/>	This person's age? <input type="text"/>
Are you? <input type="radio"/> male <input type="radio"/> female	What is this person's sex? <input type="radio"/> male <input type="radio"/> female
<p>Remember to list any babies. If a baby is aged under one year, print: <input type="text"/></p> <p>If there are more than 8 people in this dwelling, phone 0800 CENSUS (0800 236 787) for a Continuation Form.</p>	Person 2 is: <input type="radio"/> my wife or husband, partner or de facto <input type="radio"/> my mother or father <input type="radio"/> my daughter or son <input type="radio"/> my sister or brother <input type="radio"/> my grandparent <input type="radio"/> my grandchild <input type="radio"/> my flatmate <input type="radio"/> other – please state: <input type="text"/>

2023 Census paper form

Person 1	Person 2
First names: <input type="text"/>	First names: <input type="text"/>
Family name: <input type="text"/>	Family name: <input type="text"/>
Your age? <input type="text"/>	This person's age? <input type="text"/>
What is your gender? <input type="radio"/> male <input type="radio"/> female <input type="radio"/> another gender	What is this person's gender? <input type="radio"/> male <input type="radio"/> female <input type="radio"/> another gender
<p>Remember to list any babies. If a baby is aged under 1 year, give their age as '0'.</p> <p>If there are more than 8 people staying in this dwelling on census night, call 0800 CENSUS (0800 236 787) for a Continuation Form.</p>	Person 2 is: <input type="radio"/> my spouse / partner <input type="radio"/> my parent (eg mother) <input type="radio"/> my child (eg daughter) <input type="radio"/> my sibling (eg brother) <input type="radio"/> my grandparent <input type="radio"/> my grandchild <input type="radio"/> my flatmate <input type="radio"/> other. Please state: <input type="text"/>

Absentees

See figure 15.

Description of change

This section refers to the additional questions that are asked about absentees. (See the previous section for information on the change to gender and gender-neutral response options shared by these two questions.)

The second question for absentees now asks, 'Is this person in New Zealand on the night of Tuesday 7 March 2023' rather than 'Is this person in NZ on the night of the census' and 'how long in total are they away from New Zealand' rather than 'how long altogether are they away from NZ' from the 2018 Census. These questions have been updated to include the census date and expand the acronym 'NZ' to 'New Zealand'.

Rationale for change

The census date was added to this question to make it clear we are asking only for absentees on the night of census.

Accessible print design principles state that acronyms should be avoided. This is because acronyms can be harder to read and interpret. We have expanded 'NZ' out to 'New Zealand' to aid readability and closer align to accessible design principles.

We updated the question wording to include plainer language and smaller words to fit the expanded acronym into the small space available.

Online functionality

Respondents are only presented with the 'how long in total are they away from New Zealand' question if they select 'no' to the previous question asking if they are in New Zealand on census night.

Findings from testing

The changes to the absentee grid were not explicitly tested. There were no issues picked up from respondents answering this question during testing.

Figure 15: Absentees (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)

2018 Census online form

Is P in New Zealand on the night of the census?

yes

no

How long altogether are they away from New Zealand?

less than 12 months

12 months or more

2023 Census online form

Is this person in New Zealand on the night of Tuesday, 7 March 2023?

yes

no

How long in total are they away from New Zealand?

less than 12 months

12 months or more

2018 Census paper form

Is this person in NZ on the night of the census?

yes

no

If this person is not in NZ, how long altogether are they away from NZ?

less than 12 months

12 months or more

2023 Census paper form

Is this person in New Zealand on the night of Tuesday, 7 March 2023?

yes

no

If this person is not in New Zealand, how long in total are they away from New Zealand?

less than 12 months

12 months or more

Dwelling Form – changed questions

Dwelling joined or separate

See figure 16.

Description of change

A help note was added to the question.

Rationale for change

Additional space was required on the guide notes, so the guide note for this question was re-written and moved onto the Dwelling Form. It also helps clarify the question without requiring respondents to refer to the guide notes.

Online functionality

Respondents can select either 'yes' or 'no' to this question.

Findings from testing

As there was no change to the overall content of the question and guide notes, this question was not explicitly tested. There were no issues picked up from respondents answering this question during testing.

Figure 16: Dwelling joined or separate (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)

2018 Census online form

Is this dwelling joined to any other dwelling, shop or business? [Show Help](#)

yes

no

2023 Census online form

Is this dwelling joined to any other dwelling, shop or business? [Help](#)

A joined dwelling shares at least one wall, ceiling or floor with another dwelling, shop or business or is attached to another dwelling by a garage.

yes

no

2018 Census paper form

3 Is this dwelling joined to any other dwelling, shop or business?

yes

no

2023 Census paper form

4 Is this dwelling joined to any other dwelling, shop or business?

A joined dwelling shares at least one wall, ceiling or floor with another dwelling, shop or business or is attached to another dwelling by a garage.

yes

no

Number of storeys

See figure 17.

Description of change

The number of storeys in the response options has been changed so that the number is figured with numeric characters rather than being spelled out.

Rationale for change

This change was made to aid the readability of the response options. Numeric characters are more recognisable than spelled-out numbers, making them more accessible and easier to comprehend.

Online functionality

Respondents can select one response option for this question.

Findings from testing

As this was a small change to the response options this question was not explicitly tested. There were no issues picked up from respondents answering this question during testing.

Figure 17: Number of storeys (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)

2018 Census online form

How many storeys is this building as a whole? ? Show Help

If this dwelling is in an apartment building or block of units, count the number of storeys for the whole building.
Don't count levels below ground, split levels or mezzanine floors.

one storey (single level)

two or three storeys

four to six storeys

seven to nine storeys

ten or more storeys

2023 Census online form

How many storeys is this building as a whole? ? Help

If this dwelling is in an apartment building or block of units, count the number of storeys for the whole building.
Don't count levels below ground, split levels or mezzanine floors.

1 storey (single level)

2 or 3 storeys

4, 5 or 6 storeys

7, 8 or 9 storeys

10 or more storeys

Figure 17 continued

2018 Census paper form

4 How many storeys is this building as a whole?

If this dwelling is in an apartment building or block of units, count the number of storeys for the whole building.
Don't count levels below ground, split levels or mezzanine floors.

- one storey (single level)
- two or three storeys
- four to six storeys
- seven to nine storeys
- ten or more storeys

2023 Census paper form

5 How many storeys is this building as a whole?

If this dwelling is in an apartment building or block of units, count the number of storeys for the whole building.
Don't count levels below ground, split levels or mezzanine floors.

- 1 storey (single level)
- 2 or 3 storeys
- 4, 5 or 6 storeys
- 7, 8 or 9 storeys
- 10 or more storeys

Ownership of dwelling

See figure 18.

Description of change

An example ('eg renting') was added to the 'neither of these' response option.

Rationale for change

Adding 'eg renting' to the 'neither of these' response option helps clarify the question, especially for respondents who don't own their dwelling and may not know how to answer the question.

Online functionality

Respondents can select one response option for this question.

Findings from testing

There were no issues picked up from respondents answering this question during testing.

Figure 18: Ownership of dwelling (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)

2018 Census online form

Do you, or anyone else who lives here: ? Show Help

hold this dwelling in a family trust?

own or partly own this dwelling, with or without a mortgage?

neither of these

2023 Census online form

Do you, or anyone else who lives here: ? Help

hold this dwelling in a family trust?

own or partly own this dwelling, with or without a mortgage?

neither of these, eg renting

2018 Census paper form

5 Do you, or anyone else who lives here:

hold this dwelling in a family trust?

own or partly own this dwelling, with or without a mortgage? → go to **9**

or neither of these → go to **6**

See the Guide Notes for help

2023 Census paper form

6 Do you, or anyone else who lives here:

hold this dwelling in a family trust?

own or partly own this dwelling, with or without a mortgage? → go to **10** on page 2

or neither of these, eg renting → go to **7**

See the Guide Notes for help.

Sector of landlord

See figure 19.

Description of change

The 'Housing New Zealand Corporation' response option has been updated to 'Kāinga Ora (formerly Housing New Zealand)'.

Rationale for change

This change reflects the name change of Housing New Zealand Corporation to Kāinga Ora. The response option includes 'formerly Housing New Zealand' to help respondents who may not be aware of the organisation's name change.

Online functionality

Respondents can select one response option for this question.

Findings from testing

As this was a small change to the response options, this question was not explicitly tested. There were no issues picked up from respondents answering this question during testing.

Figure 19: Sector of landlord (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)

2018 Census online form

If nobody who lives here owns this dwelling, who owns it?

- private person, trust or business
- local authority or city council
- Housing New Zealand Corporation
- iwi, hapū or Māori land trust
- other community housing provider
- other state-owned corporation or state-owned enterprise, or government department or ministry
- don't know

2023 Census online form

If nobody who lives here owns this dwelling, who owns it?

- private person, trust or business
- local authority or city council
- Kāinga Ora (formerly Housing New Zealand)
- iwi, hapū or Māori land trust
- other community housing provider
- other state-owned corporation or state-owned enterprise, or government department or ministry
- don't know

Figure 19 continued
2018 Census paper form

6 If nobody who lives here owns this dwelling, who owns it?

- private person, trust or business
- local authority or city council
- Housing New Zealand Corporation
- iwi, hapū or Māori land trust
- other community housing provider
- other state-owned corporation or state-owned enterprise, or government department or ministry
- don't know

2023 Census paper form

7 If nobody who lives here owns this dwelling, who owns it?

- private person, trust or business
- local authority or city council
- Kāinga Ora (formerly Housing New Zealand)
- iwi, hapū or Māori land trust
- other community housing provider
- other state-owned corporation or state-owned enterprise, or government department or ministry
- don't know

Weekly rent paid by households

See figure 20.

Description of change

The number of weeks in the response options has been changed so that the number is figured with numeric characters rather than being spelled out. The question on the online form has been updated to explicitly ask how often the rent payments are made.

Rationale for change

Like the number of storeys question, this change was made to aid the readability of the response options. Numeric characters are more recognisable than spelled-out numbers, making them more accessible and easier to comprehend.

The accessibility audit recommended the wording change to this question on the online form. This is because the question itself does not fully describe the purpose of the response options below it. The question asks for the rent amount, however, there are response options for the frequency of these rent payments. This could affect users of screen readers or respondents with cognitive conditions, as they may have difficulty understanding the purpose of the response options without a descriptive question.

Online functionality

Respondents can enter a number for amount of rent and select one response option for frequency of payment. If a respondent selects 'other', then a write-in box is presented where they can write in the frequency of payments.

Findings from testing

As this was a small change to the response options, this question was not explicitly tested. There were no issues picked up from respondents answering this question during testing.

As noted above, accessibility testing found that screen reader users struggled with the two parts of this question. The online form has been updated to fix the confusion screen reader users had when answering.

Figure 20: Weekly rent paid by households (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)

2018 Census online form

Does this household pay rent to an owner (or to their agent) for this dwelling?

yes

no

How much rent, to the nearest dollar, does this household pay to the owner (or to their agent) for this dwelling?

Amount

each week

each two-week period

each four-week period

each calendar month

other

Enter period between rent payments:

Figure 20 continued
2023 Census online form

Does this household pay rent to an owner (or to their agent) for this dwelling?

yes

no

How much rent, to the nearest dollar, does this household pay to the owner (or to their agent) for this dwelling, and how often?

Amount

each week

each 2-week period

each 4-week period

each calendar month

other

Enter period between rent payments:

Figure 20 continued
2018 Census paper form

7 Does this household pay rent to an owner (or to their agent) for this dwelling?

yes → go to **8**

no → go to **10**

8 How much rent, to the nearest dollar, does this household pay to the owner (or to their agent) for this dwelling?

\$, . 0 0

each week

each two-week period

each four-week period

each calendar month

other. Print period between rent payments: _____

→ go to **10**

2023 Census paper form

8 Does this household pay rent to an owner (or to their agent) for this dwelling?

yes → go to **9**

no → go to **11** on page 2

9 How much rent, to the nearest dollar, does this household pay to the owner (or to their agent) for this dwelling?

\$, . 0 0

each week

each 2-week period

each 4-week period

each calendar month

other. Print period between rent payments: _____

→ go to **11**

Mortgage payments

See figure 21.

Description of change

The word 'either' has been added to the question.

Rationale for change

Adding 'either' helps clarify that we are asking for one of the two options outlined in the question.

Online functionality

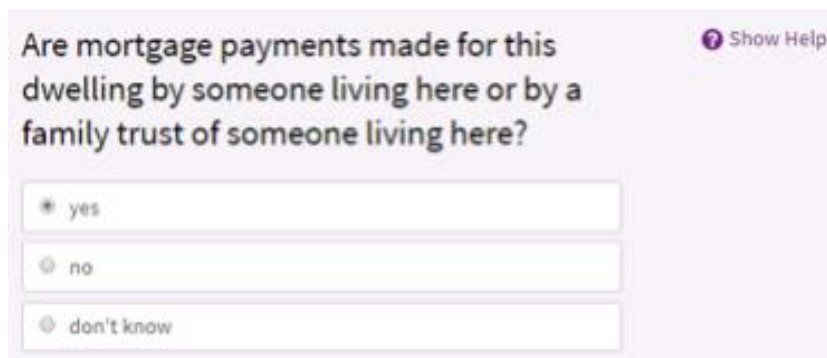
Respondents can select one of the three response options.

Findings from testing

The mortgage payment question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 21: Mortgage payments (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)

2018 Census online form



Are mortgage payments made for this dwelling by someone living here or by a family trust of someone living here?

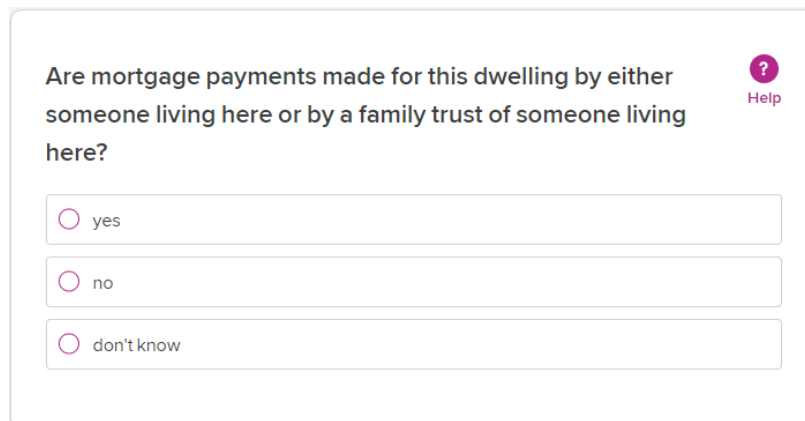
[Show Help](#)

yes

no

don't know

2023 Census online form



Are mortgage payments made for this dwelling by either someone living here or by a family trust of someone living here?

[Help](#)

yes

no

don't know

Figure 21 continued

2018 Census paper form

9 Are mortgage payments made for this dwelling by someone living here or by a family trust of someone living here?

yes

no

don't know

2023 Census paper form

10 Are mortgage payments made for this dwelling by either someone living here or by a family trust of someone living here?

yes

no

don't know

Number of rooms

See figure 22.

Description of change

The instruction in the help text has been updated to specify that the respondent should report the number of each type of room in their dwelling.

Rationale for change

This change means the instructions now specify that respondents should enter or write in a number for each type of room in their dwelling.

Online functionality

Respondents can enter the number of rooms for each category using the text box or the '+' and '-' buttons to add or remove rooms in each category.

Findings from testing

We tested alternative wording and placement of the 'print '0'' instruction. The two locations tested for this instruction were the information box underneath the question and the bubble text. For both locations, most respondents worked through this question without issue, but some left some room types blank or used a dash instead of reporting '0' for any rooms not in their dwellings. As the location of this instruction made no difference to the quality of responding, it remains in the information box beneath the question as in the 2018 Census.

Figure 22: Number of rooms (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)


2018 Census online form

The screenshot shows a form titled "For each type of room listed below, count the number in this dwelling." with a "Show Help" link. Below the title is a purple box containing instructions: "Enter '0' if this dwelling has no rooms of the type in the list." and "Count any open-plan rooms as separate rooms. For example, a kitchen-dining room is two separate rooms." The form then lists several room types, each with a corresponding input field:

- bedrooms, including any sleepouts furnished as bedrooms: 4
- lounges, living rooms or family rooms: 2
- dining rooms: 1
- kitchens: 1
- conservatories you can sit in: 0
- studies, studios, hobby rooms: 1

Room Type	Count
bedrooms, including any sleepouts furnished as bedrooms	4
lounges, living rooms or family rooms	2
dining rooms	1
kitchens	1
conservatories you can sit in	0
studies, studios, hobby rooms	1

Figure 22 continued
2023 Census online form

For each type of room listed below, count the number in this dwelling.  [Help](#)

• Enter the number for each type of room in this dwelling. If this dwelling has no rooms of that type, enter '0'.

• Count any open-plan rooms as separate rooms. For example, a kitchen-dining room is two separate rooms.

bedrooms, including any sleepouts furnished as bedrooms

lounges, living rooms, or family rooms

dining rooms

kitchens

conservatories you can sit in

studies, studios, hobby rooms

Figure 22 continued
2018 Census paper form

10 For each type of room listed below, count the number in this dwelling.

Write '0' if this dwelling has no rooms of the type in the list.

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	bedrooms, including any sleepouts furnished as bedrooms
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	lounges, living rooms, or family rooms
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	dining rooms
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	kitchens
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	conservatories you can sit in
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	studies, studios, hobby rooms

Count any open-plan rooms as separate rooms. For example, a kitchen-dining room is two separate rooms.

2023 Census paper form

11 For each type of room listed below, count the number in this dwelling.

Print the number for each type of room in this dwelling. If this dwelling has no rooms of that type, print '0'.

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	bedrooms, including any sleepouts furnished as bedrooms
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	lounges, living rooms, or family rooms
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	dining rooms
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	kitchens
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	conservatories you can sit in
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	studies, studios, hobby rooms

Count any open-plan rooms as separate rooms. For example, a kitchen-dining room is two separate rooms.

Number of motor vehicles

See figure 23.

Description of change

'Scooters' has been included alongside 'not counting motorbikes' in the question.

Rationale for change

This change clarifies the type of vehicles being asked and what should not be counted in this question.

Online functionality

Respondents can select one of the response options or write in a number in the 'more' text box if they have more than two motor vehicles.

Findings from testing

The number of motor vehicles question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 23: Number of motor vehicles (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)

2018 Census online form

The screenshot shows a form with the following elements:

- Question:** "How many motor vehicles (not counting motorbikes) do the people who live here have available for their use?"
- Help:** A "Show Help" link in the top right corner.
- Exclusions:** A box titled "Don't include:" containing a bulleted list:
 - vehicles that belong to visitors
 - vehicles that this household borrows occasionally from another household
 - vehicles that can be used **only** for work or **only** on the farm
 - motorbikes or scooters.
- Radio Buttons:** Three radio buttons for "none", "1", and "2".
- Text:** The word "or" is centered below the radio buttons.
- Text Input:** A radio button for "more:" followed by a text box containing the number "3" and the label "number of motor vehicles".

Figure 23 continued
2023 Census online form

How many motor vehicles (not counting motorbikes or scooters) do the people who live here have available for their use? [? Help](#)

Don't include:

- vehicles that belong to visitors
- vehicles that this household borrows occasionally from another household
- vehicles that can be used **only** for work or **only** on the farm.

none

1

2

or

more: number of motor vehicles

Figure 23 continued
2018 Census paper form

13 How many motor vehicles (not counting motorbikes) do the people who live here have available for their use?

Don't include:

- vehicles that belong to visitors
- vehicles that this household borrows occasionally from another household
- vehicles that can be used **only** for work or **only** on the farm
- motorbikes or scooters.

none

1

2

or number of motor vehicles

2023 Census paper form

14 How many motor vehicles (not counting motorbikes or scooters) do the people who live here have available for their use?

Don't include:

- vehicles that belong to visitors
- vehicles that this household borrows occasionally from another household
- vehicles that can be used **only** for work or **only** on the farm.

none

1

2

or number of motor vehicles

Individual Form – changed questions

Age / date of birth

See figure 24.

Description of change

The online form now calculates the respondent's age after the respondent enters their date of birth.

Rationale for change

The age functionality was added to give respondents a way to check their date of birth response. This is especially useful for respondents who are filling out the form on someone else's behalf and are more prone to error.

Online functionality

Respondents can type in their date of birth in the three text boxes provided. The age indicator underneath the question automatically updates when a respondent enters their date of birth. The age indicator shows the respondent's current age at the time of completion. The online form requires a response to this question.

Findings from testing

The age / date of birth question itself was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census paper forms and minimal change to the online form functionality. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete the date of birth question without issue.

The age indicator was tested during the online form accessibility testing and audit. There was some confusion around the question calculating the respondent's age on census night if they were not completing on census night. This was simplified so the age indicator calculates the respondent's current age.

Figure 24: Age / date of birth (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)

2018 Census online form

The screenshot shows a light purple header with the question 'When were you born?' and a 'Show Help' link. Below the header, there are three input fields labeled 'day', 'month', and 'year'. The 'day' field contains '20', the 'month' field contains '02', and the 'year' field contains '1950'.

2023 Census online form

The screenshot shows a white header with the question 'When were you born?' and a 'Help' link. Below the header, there are three input fields labeled 'Day (dd)', 'Month (mm)', and 'Year (yyyy)'. The 'Day' field contains '04', the 'Month' field contains '05', and the 'Year' field contains '1998'. Below the input fields, it says 'Your age: 24'.

2018 Census paper form

The screenshot shows a purple header with the question '2 When were you born?'. Below the header, there are three input fields labeled 'day (eg 28)', 'month (eg 2)', and 'year (eg 1984)'. Each field has two or four boxes for digits.

2023 Census paper form

The screenshot shows a pink header with the question '2 When were you born?'. Below the header, there are three input fields labeled 'day (eg 28)', 'month (eg 2)', and 'year (eg 1984)'. Each field has two or four boxes for digits.

Sex at birth (formerly sex)

See figure 25.

Description of change

For the 2023 Census, we will collect information on sex at birth. Previously, we collected information on sex with no further clarification of what that meant.

Rationale for change

This change reflects our updated [Data standard for gender, sex, and variations of sex characteristics](#).

Previously, the sex variable was used as a primary demographic variable that we produced data on. Gender replaces the previous use of the sex variable in this context. We will use sex at birth in combination with gender to derive cisgender (a person whose gender corresponds with their sex at birth) and transgender population data.

Online functionality

Respondents can select either 'male' or 'female' for this question. Respondents must answer either the gender question or the sex at birth question. If the respondent has responded to the gender question, they do not have to provide an answer to the sex at birth question, likewise, if a respondent answers the sex at birth question, they do not have to provide an answer to the gender question. If they have not responded to either question, they will not be able to continue with the form.

Findings from testing

Most respondents found value in this question, and it did not present any issues when completing. However, some respondents suggested that others may feel some sensitivity when answering this question.

Figure 25: Sex at birth (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)

2018 Census online form

The screenshot shows a question titled "Are you?" with two radio button options: "male" and "female". The "female" option is selected, indicated by a filled grey circle.

2023 Census online form

The screenshot shows a question titled "What was your sex at birth?" with a "Help" icon (a question mark in a purple circle) to the right. Below the question is a grey box containing the text "For example, what was recorded on your birth certificate." There are two radio button options: "male" and "female", both of which are unselected.

2018 Census paper form

The screenshot shows a question titled "3 Are you?" with two radio button options: "male" and "female". To the right of the options is a purple oval containing the text "Mark your answer like this:" and a horizontal line representing a radio button.

2023 Census paper form

The screenshot shows a question titled "4 What was your sex at birth?" with a grey box containing the text "For example, what was recorded on your birth certificate." Below this are two radio button options: "male" and "female".

Years at usual residence

See figure 26.

Description of change

We have updated the online and paper forms to exclude those who do not give a New Zealand address to the preceding usual address question.

Rationale for change

This question no longer asks overseas residents how many years they have been living at the address or country. This question was confusing for respondents and collected information we do not use.

Online functionality

The address given in the usual residence question is carried over into this question. Respondents can either select 'less than 1 year' or type in the number of years in the provided text box.

Findings from testing

There were few comments from respondents, indicating this simpler design is generally working well. A small number of respondents were unclear on the reference to '5' in the question on the paper form, thinking the number may refer to number of years rather than question 5.

We were unable to test with respondents who usually live overseas that they will move to the next question.

Figure 26: Years at usual residence (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)

2018 Census online form

How long have you lived at 120 Hereford Street, Christchurch Central, Christchurch?

less than 1 year

or

years

2023 Census online form

How long have you lived at 12 4th Avenue, Red Beach 0932?

less than 1 year

or

years

2018 Census paper form

5 How long have you lived at the address or country given in **4**?

less than 1 year

or years

2023 Census paper form

6 If you gave a New Zealand address in **5**, how long have you lived there?

less than 1 year

or years

Birthplace

See figure 27.

Description of change

This question has been updated on the paper form to remove the list of response options for countries other than New Zealand, instead having all overseas-born respondents write in their country of birth.

Rationale for change

This change was made primarily because of space limitations on the paper form. Adding a new gender question meant that space on the front page of the form was more limited, so this question was reduced in size.

Online functionality

The online question functions the same as that question in the 2018 Census. Respondents are presented with two response options – ‘New Zealand’ and ‘overseas’. If they choose overseas, they are presented with a write-in box with as-you-type functionality to enter their country of birth.

Findings from testing

The first round of testing did not provide examples in the question, leading to confusion for some respondents, for example, those born in England writing in ‘Britain’ or ‘United Kingdom’. Adding in examples helped clarify the concept, with respondents generally having no issue answering the question correctly in subsequent testing rounds.

Figure 27: Birthplace (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)

2018 Census online form

Which country were you born in?

New Zealand

overseas

Please enter the name of the country:

2023 Census online form

Which country were you born in?

New Zealand

overseas

Please enter the current name of the country (eg England, Cook Islands):

2018 Census paper form

8 Which country were you born in?

New Zealand → go to **10**

Australia

England

China (People's Republic of)

India

South Africa

Samoa

Cook Islands

other. Print the name of the country:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

2023 Census paper form

9 Which country were you born in?

New Zealand → go to **11**

other, eg ENGLAND, COOK ISLANDS. Print the current name of the country:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Years since arrival in New Zealand

See figure 28.

Description of change

The question has been shortened on the paper form, removing the 'answer this question' instruction and combining the instruction and question lines into a single question.

Rationale for change

This change was made due to space limitations on the paper form, to make room for a fifth iwi write-in box on the front page.

Online functionality

The online functionality remains the same as that for the 2018 Census, as the wording change only applies to the paper form. Only respondents who state they were born outside New Zealand are asked this question on the online form. They are presented with two numeric write-in boxes, one to enter the month of arrival and the other to enter the year.

Findings from testing

Because this was a minor wording change it was not explicitly tested. There were no issues picked up from respondents answering this question during testing.

Figure 28: Years since arrival in New Zealand (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)

2018 Census online form

When did you first arrive to live in New Zealand?

month if known (eg 4) year (eg 1985)

2023 Census online form

When did you first arrive to live in New Zealand?

Month if known (eg 4) Year (eg 1985)

2018 Census paper form

9 If you live in New Zealand but were not born here, answer this question.

When did you first arrive to live in New Zealand?

month if known (eg 4) year (eg 1985)

2023 Census paper form

10 If you live in New Zealand but were not born here, when did you first arrive to live in New Zealand?

month (eg 4) year (eg 1985)

Māori descent

See figure 29.

Description of change

The wording has been changed from 'descended from a Māori' to 'descended from Māori'.

Rationale for change

This question was updated to better reflect common usage of the term 'Māori' in this context. Respondents found the original wording awkward and ungrammatical. Other Stats NZ household surveys have also updated this question to remove the 'a' and updating the census question better aligns the census with other surveys that ask about Māori descent.

Online functionality

This question is required to be answered on the online form. If a respondent selects 'yes' or 'don't know', they are presented with the iwi question. Conversely, if they select 'no', they will not be presented with the iwi question.

Findings from testing

Generally, respondents were able to move through this question without issue. Some Māori respondents were not satisfied with the original wording, finding it awkwardly phrased.

Figure 29: Māori descent (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)

2018 Census online form

Are you descended from a Māori (that is, did you have a Māori birth parent, grandparent or great-grandparent, etc)? [Show Help](#)

yes

no

don't know

2023 Census online form

Are you descended from Māori (that is, did you have a Māori birth parent, grandparent or great-grandparent, etc)? [Help](#)

yes

no

don't know

2018 Census paper form

11 Are you descended from a Māori (that is, did you have a Māori birth parent, grandparent or great-grandparent, etc)?

yes → go to **12**

don't know → go to **12**

no → go to **14**

2023 Census paper form

12 Are you descended from Māori (that is, did you have a Māori birth parent, grandparent or great-grandparent, etc)?

yes → go to **13**

don't know → go to **13**

no → go to **14**

Iwi affiliation

See figures 30 through 34 for a detailed view of the redesigned online iwi question. See figure 35 for the paper question.

Description of change

For paper forms, respondents can now write in up to five iwi and rohe. In the 2018 Census, the routing question, 'do you know the name(s) of your iwi (tribe or tribes)?'

was separate. For the 2023 Census, it has been incorporated into the iwi question to be able to fit the fifth write-in box. The forms also now specify 'region (rohe)'.

For online forms, the 2018 Census online form presented respondents with a text box with as-you-type functionality, allowing respondents to type in their iwi and select it from the dropdown list. The 2023 Census online form has been updated to show a map of New Zealand where respondents can select their region and then their iwi from a provided list. Respondents can also bypass the map to select from a list of iwi. There is also a search bar where respondents can type the name of their iwi to filter the list they need to select from. The online form now allows respondents to add up to 16 iwi.

Figure 30: Iwi affiliation (2018 Census and 2023 Census online forms)
2018 Census online form

Do you know the name(s) of your iwi (tribe or tribes)?

A list of iwi can be found [here](#).

yes

no

Enter the name(s) and region(s) of your iwi (tribe or tribes):

A list of iwi can be found [here](#).

Iwi	Region
<input type="text" value="Ngāpuhi ki Whaingaroa-Ngāti Kahu ki Wh"/>	<input type="text" value="Northland"/>
	<input type="button" value="Remove"/>
Iwi	Region
<input type="text" value="Ngāti Whakarete"/>	<input type="text"/>
	<input type="button" value="Remove"/>

Figure 30 continued
2023 Census online form

Do you know the name(s) of your iwi (tribe or tribes)? ?
Help

A list of iwi can be found here

yes



no

Select the name(s) and region(s) / rohe of your iwi (tribe or tribes): ?
Help

You can:

- use the map or list view below to select your iwi by region, and / or
- type in your iwi name(s).

Please add **all** of your iwi, even if they do not appear in the list.

 Map view  List view

Rationale for change

Iwi were found to be significantly underreported in the 2018 Census. These changes increase the number of iwi that can be reported on the paper form and elevate the respondent's experience on the online form. The 2018 Census forms only specified 'region', not 'rohe'. We found that this caused errors, with some respondents providing a religion in mistake or writing the region where they live rather than the region of their iwi. We have updated the forms to say 'region (rohe)' to make this clearer.

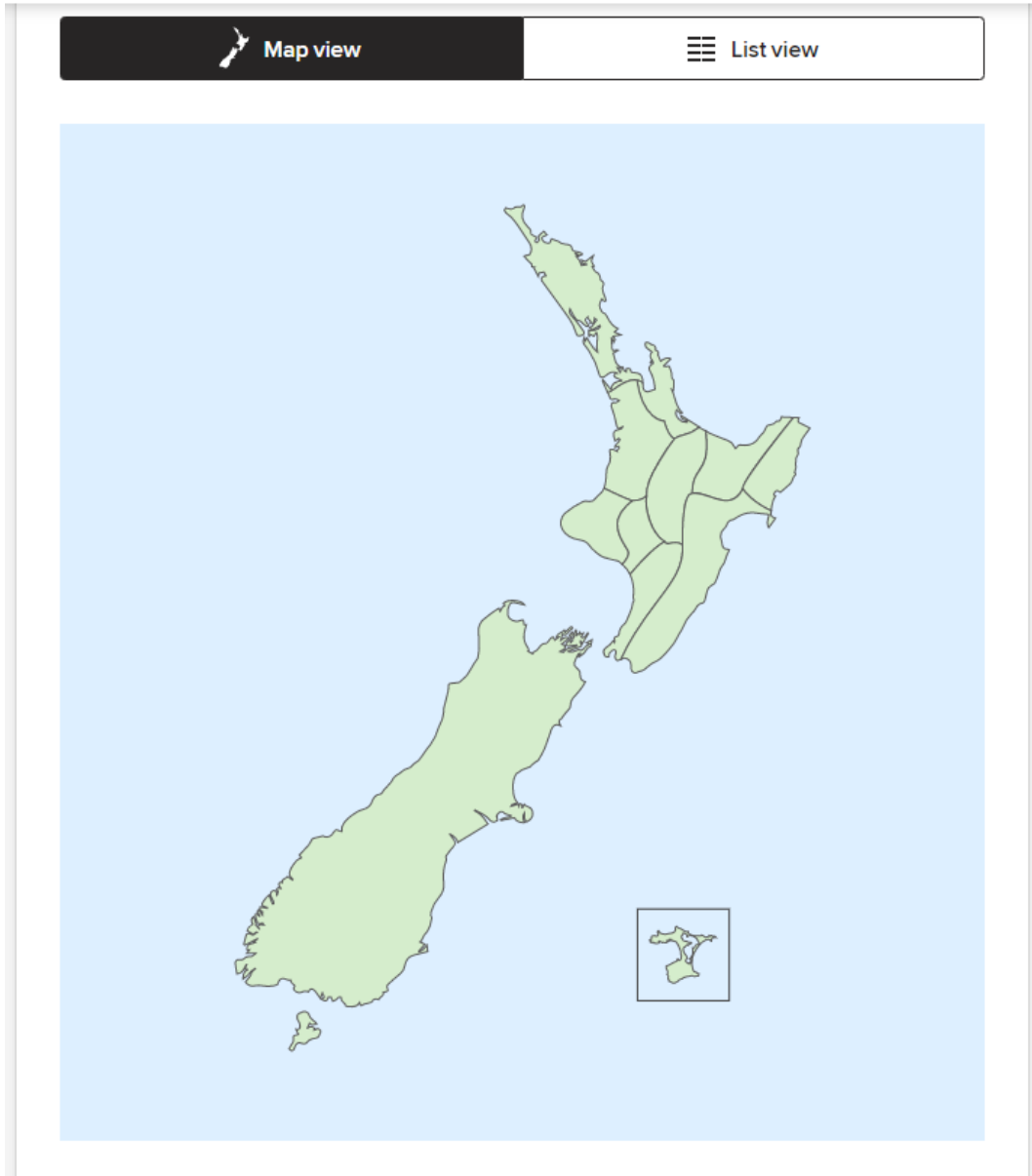
Online functionality

Map view

We introduced a map of New Zealand to the question to help filter the iwi options. Selecting a region on the map filters the full list of iwi to include only the iwi of that

region. The iwi are presented as a list of checkboxes that respondents can select or unselect to easily add one or more iwi from that region to their response.

Figure 31: Iwi affiliation (map view)



List view

Respondents can also navigate to the list view from the map view. They can select their region from a drop-down menu, which narrows the list to only those iwi in that region. Respondents can select (or de-select) multiple iwi from the list. If respondents wish to add iwi from another region, they must change their region selection, using either the map or the region drop-down list and select their iwi from the updated list.

Figure 32: Iwi affiliation (list view)

Select the name(s) and region(s) / rohe of your iwi (tribe or tribes): ? Help

You can:

- use the map or list view below to select your iwi by region, and / or
- type in your iwi name(s).

Please add **all** of your iwi, even if they do not appear in the list.

Select region

Please choose a region ▼

Search for your iwi

Type to filter list...

Select your iwi from the list below

<input type="checkbox"/>	Te Aupōuri Te Tai Tokerau/Tāmaki-makaurau (Northland/Auckland) Region
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ngāti Kahu Te Tai Tokerau/Tāmaki-makaurau (Northland/Auckland) Region
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ngāti Kurī Te Tai Tokerau/Tāmaki-makaurau (Northland/Auckland) Region
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ngāti Kahungahunga Te Tai Tokerau/Tāmaki-makaurau (Northland/Auckland) Region

Manual entry

Respondents also have the option to enter their iwi manually by selecting the 'Type in your iwi' button. This then presents the respondents with two text fields to enter their iwi and region/rohe. These fields are supported by as-you-type lists, so once a respondent types two or more characters, all matching iwi on those characters will display as a list below the field that the respondent can select without typing the remaining characters. The region will auto-populate when the respondent selects an iwi from the as-you-type list. Respondents can manually edit the default region.

Figure 33: Iwi affiliation (manually entering iwi)

The screenshot shows a form with two input fields. The first field is labeled 'Iwi name' and contains the text 'Ngāti Kahu'. The second field is labeled 'Region' and contains the text 'Te Tai Tokerau/Tāmaki-makaurau (Northland/Auckland) Region'. Below the fields are two buttons: a purple 'Save' button and a white 'Cancel' button with a purple border.

Viewing selected iwi

Respondents can use a combination of selecting iwi from the list and/or adding iwi manually, up to a maximum of 16 iwi. The iwi selected are displayed in the 'iwi added' section at the bottom of the question. They can be removed (using the 'x' icon) or edited (using the 'pencil' icon) if required.

Figure 34: Iwi affiliation (entered iwi list)

The screenshot shows a list of three entered iwi. Each entry is in a white box with a purple border. The first entry is 'Te Aupōuri' with 'Te Tai Tokerau/Tāmaki-makaurau (Northland/Auckland) Region' below it, and a pencil icon and an 'x' icon to the right. The second entry is 'Ngāti Kurī' with 'Te Tai Tokerau/Tāmaki-makaurau (Northland/Auckland) Region' below it, and a pencil icon and an 'x' icon to the right. The third entry is 'Ngāpuhi ki Whaingaroa-Ngāti Kahu ki Whaingaroa' with 'Te Tai Tokerau/Tāmaki-makaurau (Northland/Auckland) Region' below it, and a pencil icon and an 'x' icon to the right. Below the list is a purple button with the text 'Type in your iwi'.

Findings from testing

Due to the importance of this question, once we had developed the new design, we sought feedback from relevant teams within Stats NZ and the Data Iwi Leaders Group. Also, the accessibility and usability consultant agency Intopia Connect conducted accessibility and usability testing. Feedback from the testing showed that respondents liked having multiple ways to answer the question. Some issues raised with the functionality of the new design used in testing included: the placement of some buttons and saving iwi responses when searching manually. These issues have been resolved, improving accessibility and usability for this question.

Figure 35: Iwi affiliation (2018 Census and 2023 Census paper forms)

2018 Census paper form

12 Do you know the name(s) of your iwi (tribe or tribes)?

See the Guide Notes for a list of iwi.

yes → go to **13**

no → go to **14**

13 Give the name(s) and region(s) of your iwi (tribe or tribes):

iwi:

region:

iwi:

region:

iwi:

region:

iwi:

region:

iwi:

region:

2023 Census paper form

13 Do you know the name(s) of your iwi (tribe or tribes)?

See the Guide Notes for a list of iwi.

yes no → go to **14**

↳ give the name(s) and region(s) / rohe of your iwi:

iwi:

region (rohe):

iwi:

region (rohe):

iwi:

region (rohe):

iwi:

region (rohe):

iwi:

region (rohe):

iwi:

region (rohe):

Languages spoken

See figure 36.

Description of change

'New Zealand Sign Language' has been moved up from fourth response option position to third.

Rationale for change

'New Zealand Sign Language' was moved up to the third response option because of its status as an official language of New Zealand.

Online functionality

Respondents can select multiple responses to this question. If they select 'other', then a write-in box with as-you-type functionality is shown where they can enter their languages. Respondents can write in up to five languages by selecting the 'add another' button.

Findings from testing

As this was a minor change to response option order it was not explicitly tested. There were no issues picked up from respondents answering this question during testing.

Figure 36: Languages spoken (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)

2018 Census online form

Select as many options as you need to answer this question. In which language(s) could you have a conversation about a lot of everyday things?

Remember to select 'English' if you can have a conversation in English.

English

Māori

Samoan

New Zealand Sign Language

other language(s), eg Gujarati, Cantonese, Greek

none, eg too young to talk

2023 Census online form

Select as many options as you need to answer this question. In which language(s) could you have a conversation about a lot of everyday things?

Remember to select 'English' if you can have a conversation in English.

English

Māori

New Zealand Sign Language

Samoan

other language(s), eg Gujarati, Cantonese, Greek

Please enter the language:

none, eg too young to talk

Living arrangements

See figure 37.

Description of change

Like the response options on the Dwelling Form's relationship grid, the response options for the relationship to the reference person were updated to use gender-neutral language.

Rationale for change

The relationship response options have been updated to reflect the new gender standard.

Online functionality

Respondents can select as many responses as necessary. The 'other' write in box is only presented to respondents who select the 'other' radio button.

Findings from testing

Respondents generally did not have any issue completing this question. They were satisfied with the response options 'spouse/partner' and 'sibling' and did not express any problems with these terms. When some respondents were asked specifically about the term 'sibling', they made comments about being happy and familiar with the term.

Some respondents noted the limited space available to account for larger families. In the first round of testing, the response options were not pluralised, however, this was updated in subsequent testing rounds to account for more than one relationship (for example, if a person lived with two or more flatmates).

Figure 37: Living arrangements (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)

2018 Census online form

Select as many options as you need to show all the people who live with you at 109 Arvilla River South Judge, IL 67790. [Show Help](#)

I live alone

my wife or husband, partner or de facto

my mother and/or father

my daughter(s) and/or son(s)

my sister(s) and/or brother(s)

my grandparent(s)

my grandchild(ren)

my flatmate(s)

other, eg step-son, mother-in-law

Please state who else lives at your usual address:

2023 Census online form

Select as many options as you need to show all the people who live with you at Apartment 3b/300 Princes Street, Dunedin Central, Dunedin. [Help](#)

I live alone

my spouse / partner, eg husband

my parent(s), eg mother

my child(ren), eg daughter

my sibling(s), eg brother

my grandparent(s)

my grandchild(ren)

my flatmate(s)

other, eg mother-in-law, step-child

Please state who else lives at your usual address:

Number of children born

See figure 38.

Description of change

The wording of the question has been updated to reflect the question change from sex to sex at birth.

Rationale for change

The previous census used the sex variable to determine who is presented this question.

Online functionality

Only respondents who indicate their sex at birth was female will be presented with this question on the online form. If a respondent writes in a number in the text box and then selects one of the other response options, the text box will be cleared.

Findings from testing

While a few respondents had some difficulty with the wording of the question and routing instruction, nearly all were observed to be able to follow the routing and answer the question correctly. Some noted the sensitivity of the topic and its complexity for some respondents, for example, an intersex person who was assigned male at birth and has given birth.

Figure 38: Number of children born (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)

2018 Census online form

How many babies have you given birth to?

number born

none

object to answering

2023 Census online form

How many babies have you given birth to?

Enter number born:

or

none

object to answering

2018 Census paper form

27 If you are male → go to **28**
 If you are female, answer this question.
 How many babies have you given birth to?

number born

none

or object to answering

2023 Census paper form

28 If your sex at birth was male → go to **29**
 If your sex at birth was female, answer this question.
 How many babies have you given birth to?

number born

none

or object to answering

Highest post-school qualification level

See figure 39.

Description of change

The PhD response option now includes 'or other doctoral degree'.

Rationale for change

This change was made to acknowledge there are doctoral-level degrees awarded other than PhD.

Online functionality

Only respondents who select 'yes' to having gained a higher qualification are presented with the questions highest qualification, highest qualification subject, and location where highest qualification was gained. The highest qualification subject question presents respondents with a textbox that has as-you-type functionality.

Findings from testing

Aside from the small change to the PhD response option, the highest post-school qualification questions were not explicitly tested. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 39: Highest post-school qualification level (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)

2018 Census online form

Apart from secondary school qualifications, do you have another completed qualification?

Don't count qualifications that take less than 3 months of full-time study to get.

yes

no

What is your highest qualification?

Level 1 Certificate

Level 2 Certificate

Level 3 Certificate

Level 4 Certificate

Level 5 Diploma

Level 6 Diploma

Bachelor's Degree or Level 7 Qualification

Bachelor Honours Degree or Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma

Master's Degree

PhD

other qualification

Enter your highest qualification:

Enter the main subject of your highest qualification.

eg Electrical Engineering

Was your highest qualification gained in New Zealand or overseas?

New Zealand

overseas

Figure 39 continued
2023 Census online form

Apart from secondary school qualifications, do you have another completed qualification?

Don't count qualifications that take less than 3 months of full-time study to get.

yes

no

What is your highest qualification?

Level 1 Certificate

Level 2 Certificate

Level 3 Certificate

Level 4 Certificate

Level 5 Diploma

Level 6 Diploma

Bachelor's Degree or Level 7 qualification

Bachelor Honours Degree or Postgraduate Certificate / Diploma

Master's Degree

PhD or other doctoral degree

other qualification

Enter your highest qualification:

Enter the main subject of your highest qualification.

eg Electrical Engineering

Was your highest qualification gained in New Zealand or overseas?

New Zealand

overseas

Figure 39 continued

2018 Census paper form

30 Apart from secondary school qualifications, do you have another completed qualification?

Don't count qualifications that take less than 3 months of full-time study to get.

yes → go to **31**

no → go to **34**

31 What is your highest qualification?

Level 1 Certificate

Level 2 Certificate

Level 3 Certificate

Level 4 Certificate

Level 5 Diploma

Level 6 Diploma

Bachelor's Degree or Level 7 Qualification

Bachelor Honours Degree or Postgraduate Certificate/ Diploma

Master's Degree

PhD

other qualification. Please state:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

32 Print the main subject of your highest qualification.
eg *ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING*

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

33 Was your highest qualification gained in New Zealand or overseas?

New Zealand

overseas

2023 Census paper form

32 Apart from secondary school qualifications, do you have another completed qualification?

Don't count qualifications that take less than 3 months of full-time study to get.

yes → go to **33**

no → go to **36**

33 What is your highest qualification?

Level 1 Certificate

Level 2 Certificate

Level 3 Certificate

Level 4 Certificate

Level 5 Diploma

Level 6 Diploma

Bachelor's Degree or Level 7 Qualification

Bachelor Honours Degree or Postgraduate Certificate / Diploma

Master's Degree

PhD or other doctoral degree

other qualification. Please state:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

34 What is the main subject of your highest qualification?
eg *ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING*

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

35 Was your highest qualification gained in New Zealand or overseas?

New Zealand

overseas

Total personal income

See figure 40.

Description of change

The '\$1–\$5,000' and '\$5,001–\$10,000' response options have been combined into a single response option, and the highest response option has been increased to '\$200,001 or more'.

Rationale for change

Income bands for census are updated periodically to adjust for wage inflation. They were last updated in 2009 for the 2013 Census. A new highest response option of '\$200,001 or more' has been added, and the two lowest income bands were combined so the total number of response options remain unchanged. This is because there was no extra space on that section of the form to allow for more response options. Additional customer engagement was carried out after the final content consultation to ensure that this change was well supported.

Online functionality

Respondents can select one response option from the available list.

Findings from testing

This change was a late addition to the 2023 Census forms. It was not in place during most of the testing. While it was not explicitly tested during the last rounds of accessibility testing, respondents were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 40: Total personal income (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)

2018 Census online form

From all the sources of income you selected, what will the total income be: [Show Help](#)

- that you yourself got
- before tax or anything was taken out
- in the 12 months that will end on 31 March 2018.

loss

zero income

\$1 - \$5,000

\$5,001 - \$10,000

\$10,001 - \$15,000

\$15,001 - \$20,000

\$20,001 - \$25,000

\$25,001 - \$30,000

\$30,001 - \$35,000

\$35,001 - \$40,000

\$40,001 - \$50,000

\$50,001 - \$60,000

\$60,001 - \$70,000

\$70,001 - \$100,000

\$100,001 - \$150,000

\$150,001 or more

Figure 40 continued
2023 Census online form

From all the sources of income you selected, what will the total income be: [? Help](#)

- that you yourself got,
- before tax or anything was taken out,
- in the 12 months that will end on 31 March 2023.

For help calculating your before-tax annual income, or for more information, select the help button at the top right of the question.

loss

zero income

\$1 - \$10,000

\$10,001 - \$15,000

\$15,001 - \$20,000

\$20,001 - \$25,000

\$25,001 - \$30,000

\$30,001 - \$35,000

\$35,001 - \$40,000

\$40,001 - \$50,000

\$50,001 - \$60,000

\$60,001 - \$70,000

\$70,001 - \$100,000

\$100,001 - \$150,000

\$150,001 - \$200,000

\$200,001 or more

Figure 40 continued

2018 Census paper form

35 From all the sources of income you marked in **34**, what will the total income be:

- that you yourself got
- before tax or anything was taken out
- in the 12 months that will end on 31 March 2018.

loss

zero income

\$1 – \$5,000

\$5,001 – \$10,000

\$10,001 – \$15,000

\$15,001 – \$20,000

\$20,001 – \$25,000

\$25,001 – \$30,000

\$30,001 – \$35,000

\$35,001 – \$40,000

\$40,001 – \$50,000

\$50,001 – \$60,000

\$60,001 – \$70,000

\$70,001 – \$100,000

\$100,001 – \$150,000

\$150,001 or more

2023 Census paper form

37 From all the sources of income you marked in **36**, what will the total income be:

- that you yourself got,
- before tax or anything was taken out,
- in the 12 months that will end on 31 March 2023.

loss

zero income

\$1 – \$10,000

\$10,001 – \$15,000

\$15,001 – \$20,000

\$20,001 – \$25,000

\$25,001 – \$30,000

\$30,001 – \$35,000

\$35,001 – \$40,000

\$40,001 – \$50,000

\$50,001 – \$60,000

\$60,001 – \$70,000

\$70,001 – \$100,000

\$100,001 – \$150,000

\$150,001 – \$200,000

\$200,001 or more

Individual home ownership

See figure 41.

Description of change

Like the question on ownership at household level on the Dwelling Form, this question adds an example 'eg renting' to the 'neither of these' response option.

Also, this question has been moved from the bottom of the third page to the top of the fourth page of the paper form. The position of the question has also been changed on the online form to reflect its placement on the paper form.

Rationale for change

Adding 'eg renting' to the 'neither of these' response options helps clarify the question to respondents, especially those who don't own their dwelling and may not know how to answer the question.

We moved this question to help create space for new questions. Because it isn't related to other questions on the Individual Form, it can be moved with only minor impact to the overall flow of the form. The new position, at the top of a page, may

help encourage responses to this question, as it historically has a lower-than-expected response rate.

Online functionality

Respondents can select one response option for this question.

Findings from testing

No issues were found for this question during testing.

Figure 41: Individual home ownership (2018 Census and 2023 Census online and paper forms)

2018 Census online form

Thinking about the dwelling that you usually live in, do you yourself: [Show Help](#)

hold it in a family trust?

own or partly own it, with or without a mortgage?

neither of these

2023 Census online form

Thinking about the dwelling that you usually live in, do you yourself: [Help](#)

hold it in a family trust?

own or partly own it, with or without a mortgage?

neither of these, eg renting

2018 Census paper form

28 Thinking about the dwelling that you usually live in, do you yourself:

hold it in a family trust?

own or partly own it, with or without a mortgage?

or neither of these

2023 Census paper form

38 Thinking about the dwelling that you usually live in, do you yourself:

hold it in a family trust?

own or partly own it, with or without a mortgage?

or neither of these, eg renting

Dwelling Form – unchanged questions

Dwelling address

See figure 42.

Online functionality

Selecting 'yes' in the question confirming the address means that the address question is not presented to the respondent. If the respondent selects 'no', then they are presented with a text box to enter their address, with an as-you-type list.

Findings from testing

The dwelling address question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 42: Dwelling address (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form

The figure displays two screenshots of the 2023 Census online form for dwelling address. The first screenshot shows a confirmation question: "Just to check, the address you are completing the census for is 233 High Street, Dunedin Central, Dunedin, is that correct?". Below the question are two radio button options: "yes" and "no". A "Help" icon is visible in the top right corner. The second screenshot shows a text input field for the address: "Please enter the address you are completing the census for:". Below the input field is a placeholder example: "eg 1 Hinemoa St, Pipitea, Wellington". A "Help" icon is also visible in the top right corner.

Figure 42 continued
2023 Census paper form

1 Print the full address of this dwelling.
Give all of these, if possible:

street number flat number

street name

suburb or rural locality

city, town or district

**Print in
CAPITALS**

Dwelling description

See figure 43.

Online functionality

Respondents can select one response option from the list. If respondents select 'other', a text box is presented in which they can type a description of their dwelling.

Findings from testing

The dwelling description question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Most respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue. Some respondents were unsure about which options to choose, specifically in relation to joined dwellings or understanding the difference between a townhouse and other dwelling types.

Main types of heating

See figure 44.

Online functionality

Respondents can select multiple response options for this question. If they select 'other', an as-you-type text box is presented for them to write in their heating types.

Findings from testing

The main types of heating question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. While there was some lack of clarity around what this question was asking for, most respondents taking part in the test were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 44: Main types of heating (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form

Select as many options as you need to show which types of heating are used most often in this dwelling. [Help](#)

heat pump

electric heater (including bar, panel, oil-filled or fan)

fixed gas heater

portable gas heater

wood burner

pellet fire

coal burner

other

Enter type of heating used:

don't use any form of heating

Figure 45: Access to telecommunication systems (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form

Select as many options as you need to show which of these are available here in this dwelling.

Don't include:

- anything that is disconnected or broken
- anything that can be used **only** for work.

a cellphone / mobile phone

a telephone

internet access

none of these

2023 Census paper form

13 Mark as many spaces as you need to show which of these are available here in this dwelling.

Don't include:

- anything that is disconnected or broken
- anything that can be used **only** for work.

a cellphone / mobile phone

a telephone

internet access

or none of these

Dwelling dampness indicator

See figure 46.

Online functionality

Respondents can select one response option for this question.

Findings from testing

The dwelling dampness indicator question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 46: Dwelling dampness indicator (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form

Is this dwelling damp? ? Help

A damp dwelling may feel or smell damp or have damp patches on the walls, ceiling, floor or window frames.

yes – always

yes – sometimes

no

don't know

2023 Census paper form

15 Is this dwelling damp?

A damp dwelling may feel or smell damp or have damp patches on the walls, ceiling, floor or window frames.

yes – always

yes – sometimes

no

or don't know

Dwelling mould indicator

See figure 47.

Online functionality

Respondents can select one response option for this question.

Findings from testing

Most respondents had no issue with this question.

Figure 47: Dwelling mould indicator (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form

Can you see mould in any part of this dwelling that, in total, is larger than an A4 sheet of paper? [Help](#)

- Mould (mildew) may grow on the walls, ceiling, floor, doors, window frames, curtains or blinds.
- Mould can be black, white, green, brown, red, etc.

yes — always

yes — sometimes

no

don't know

2023 Census paper form

16 Can you see mould in any part of this dwelling that, in total, is larger than an A4 sheet of paper?

- Mould (mildew) may grow on the walls, ceiling, floor, doors, window frames, curtains or blinds.
- Mould can be black, white, green, brown, red, etc.
- An A4 sheet is the size of 1 page of this 4-page form.

yes – always

yes – sometimes

no

or don't know

Access to basic amenities

See figure 48.

Online functionality

Respondents can select multiple response options to this question. Selecting 'none' after selecting other response options will de-select the other response options.

Findings from testing

The access to basic amenities question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 48: Access to basic amenities (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form

Which of these things are available here in this dwelling? ? Help

Don't include anything that is disconnected or broken.

cooking facilities

tap water that is safe to drink

kitchen sink

fridge

bath or shower

toilet

electricity supply

none of these are available here in this dwelling

2023 Census paper form

17 Which of these things are available here in this dwelling?

Don't include anything that is disconnected or broken.

cooking facilities

tap water that is safe to drink

kitchen sink

fridge

bath or shower

toilet

electricity supply

or none of these are available here in this dwelling

Individual Form – unchanged questions

Name

See figure 49.

Online functionality

Selecting 'yes' in the question confirming the name of the respondent means that the name entry question is not presented. If the respondent selects 'no', then they are presented with two text boxes to enter their first name (or names) and family name. This question is compulsory, it must be answered to continue with the online form.

Findings from testing

The name question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 49: Name (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form

The figure displays two screenshots of the 2023 Census online form. The first screenshot shows a question: "The form you have chosen to answer is for Test Two. Is that the full name for Test?" with two radio button options: "yes" and "no". A "Help" icon is visible in the top right corner. The second screenshot shows the question: "What is Test's full name?" with two text input fields labeled "First name(s)" and "Family name". A "Help" icon is also present in the top right corner.

Figure 50: Usual residence (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form

Where do you usually live? ? Help

in New Zealand

Enter the address where you usually live:
eg 1 Hinemoa Street, Pipitea, Wellington

overseas

Where do you usually live? ? Help

in New Zealand

overseas

Enter the name of the country where you usually live:

2023 Census paper form

5 Where do you usually live?

Students and overseas residents:
see the Guide Notes for more
information.

in New Zealand. Print the
address where you usually live:

street number flat number

street name

suburb or rural locality

city, town or district

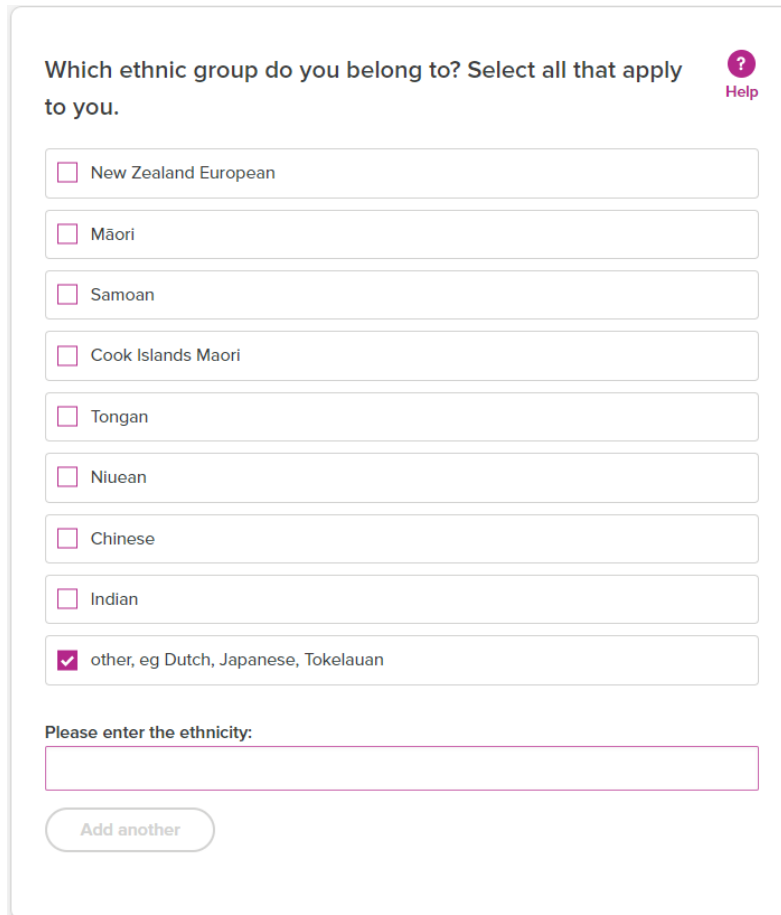
or overseas. Print the name of the
country where you usually live:

Findings from testing

The ethnicity question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 52: Ethnicity (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form



Which ethnic group do you belong to? Select all that apply to you. [Help](#)

New Zealand European

Māori

Samoan

Cook Islands Maori

Tongan

Niuean

Chinese

Indian

other, eg Dutch, Japanese, Tokelauan

Please enter the ethnicity:

[Add another](#)

Figure 52 continued
2023 Census paper form

8 Which ethnic group do you belong to?
Mark the space or spaces which apply to you.

- New Zealand European
- Māori
- Samoan
- Cook Islands Maori
- Tongan
- Niuean
- Chinese
- Indian
- other, eg DUTCH, JAPANESE, TOKELAUAN. Please state:

Usual residence 1 year ago

See figure 53.

Online functionality

Respondents can select their previously stated New Zealand address, write in another New Zealand address, or select the option for having lived overseas 1 year ago. If the respondent indicates they lived at another New Zealand address, they will be presented with a text box with as-you-type functionality.

Findings from testing

The usual residence 1 year ago question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 53: Usual residence 1 year ago (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form

Where did you usually live 1 year ago, on 7 March 2022?

at Apartment 3b/300 Princes Street, Dunedin Central, Dunedin

at another New Zealand address

Enter the address:
eg 1 Hinemoa Street, Pipitea, Wellington

I lived overseas 1 year ago

2023 Census paper form

14 Where did you usually live 1 year ago, on 7 March 2022?

not born 1 year ago

at my usual address, given in **5**

at another New Zealand address:

street number flat number

street name

suburb or rural locality

city, town or district

or I lived overseas 1 year ago.
Print the name of the country:

Religious affiliation

See figure 54.

Online functionality

Respondents are presented with a text box where they can type in their religion. This text box includes an as-you-type list that respondents can select from. If they select the 'no religion' or 'object to answering' response options after typing in a response, their typed in response will be removed from the text box.

Findings from testing

The religious affiliation question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 54: Religious affiliation (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form

The screenshot shows a digital form titled "What is your religion?". Below the title is a grey instruction box: "Give as much detail as you need to name your religion. eg Presbyterian, Rātana, Sunni, Sikhism." Below this is a text input field with the prompt "Please enter the religion:". Underneath the text field is the word "or" and two radio button options: "no religion" and "object to answering".

2023 Census paper form

The screenshot shows a paper form titled "16 What is your religion?". Below the title is a grey instruction box: "Give as much detail as you need to name your religion. eg PRESBYTERIAN, RĀTANA, SUNNI, SIKHISM." Below this is a grid of 10 columns and 3 rows for handwritten input. At the bottom are two radio button options: "no religion" and "object to answering", with the word "or" between them.

Study participation

See figure 55.

Online functionality

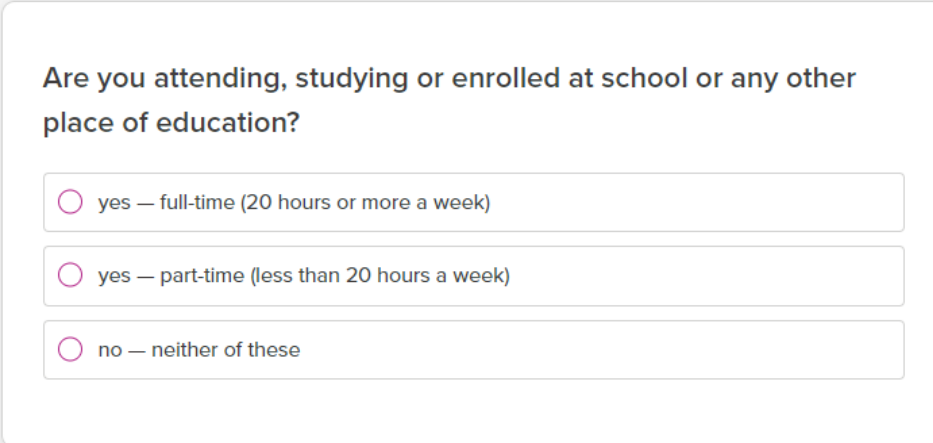
The travel to education and educational institution address questions are only presented to respondents who select one of the 'yes' options on the study participation question. The educational institution address question has three text boxes to specify the specific institution. Only the educational institution name will have as-you-type functionality.

Findings from testing

The study participation question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 55: Study participation (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form



Are you attending, studying or enrolled at school or any other place of education?

yes — full-time (20 hours or more a week)

yes — part-time (less than 20 hours a week)

no — neither of these

Figure 55 continued
2023 Census online form

What is the **one main way** you usually travel to your place of education — that is, the one you use for the greatest distance?

If you don't have a usual method, select the one you used most recently.

study at home

drive a car, truck or van

passenger in a car, truck or van

bicycle

walk or jog

school bus

public bus

train

ferry

other, eg taxi, motorbike

Where are you attending, studying or enrolled? Give all of the following, if possible: [? Help](#)

When you select a name from the drop-down list, the rest of the address fields will auto-fill. If the suburb/campus or city is **not** correct, please check that you have selected the correct name from the drop-down list. If needed, you can manually change these fields.

Name of pre-school, school or other place of education

Campus and / or suburb

City, town or district

Activity limitations

See figure 56.

Online functionality

Respondents can select one response option for each question in the set.

Findings from testing

The activity limitations question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 56: Activity limitations (2023 Census online and paper forms)
2023 Census online form

The questions that follow are about difficulties you may have doing certain activities because of a **health problem**.

Do you have difficulty seeing, even if wearing glasses?

- no difficulty
- some difficulty
- a lot of difficulty
- cannot do at all

Do you have difficulty hearing, even if using a hearing aid?

- no difficulty
- some difficulty
- a lot of difficulty
- cannot do at all

Figure 56 continued
2023 Census online form

Do you have difficulty walking or climbing steps?

no difficulty

some difficulty

a lot of difficulty

cannot do at all

Do you have difficulty remembering or concentrating?

no difficulty

some difficulty

a lot of difficulty

cannot do at all

Do you have difficulty washing all over or dressing?

no difficulty

some difficulty

a lot of difficulty

cannot do at all

Do you have difficulty communicating using your usual language, for example understanding or being understood by others?

no difficulty

some difficulty

a lot of difficulty

cannot do at all

Figure 56 continued
2023 Census paper form

22 This question is about difficulties you may have doing certain activities because of a **health problem**.

Do you have difficulty with any of the following:

- seeing, even if wearing glasses?
 - no difficulty
 - some difficulty
 - a lot of difficulty
 - cannot do at all
- hearing, even if using a hearing aid?
 - no difficulty
 - some difficulty
 - a lot of difficulty
 - cannot do at all
- walking or climbing steps?
 - no difficulty
 - some difficulty
 - a lot of difficulty
 - cannot do at all
- remembering or concentrating?
 - no difficulty
 - some difficulty
 - a lot of difficulty
 - cannot do at all
- washing all over or dressing?
 - no difficulty
 - some difficulty
 - a lot of difficulty
 - cannot do at all
- communicating using your usual language, for example understanding or being understood by others?
 - no difficulty
 - some difficulty
 - a lot of difficulty
 - cannot do at all

Cigarette smoking behaviour

See figure 57.

Online functionality

Selecting 'no' in the online version if this question presents the 'ever been a regular smoker' question.

Findings from testing

The cigarette smoking behaviour question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 57: Cigarette smoking behaviour (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form

The image shows two screenshots of the 2023 Census online form. The top screenshot displays the question: "Do you smoke cigarettes regularly (that is, one or more a day)?". Below the question is a grey box containing the instruction: "Don't count pipes, cigars or e-cigarettes. Count only tobacco cigarettes." There are two radio button options: "yes" and "no". The bottom screenshot displays the question: "Have you ever been a regular smoker of one or more cigarettes a day?". There are two radio button options: "yes" and "no".

Do you smoke cigarettes regularly (that is, one or more a day)?

Don't count pipes, cigars or e-cigarettes.
Count **only** tobacco cigarettes.

yes

no

Have you ever been a regular smoker of one or more cigarettes a day?

yes

no

Figure 57 continued
2023 Census paper form

25 Do you smoke cigarettes regularly (that is, one or more a day)?

Don't count pipes, cigars or e-cigarettes.
Count **only** tobacco cigarettes.

yes → go to **27**

no → go to **26**

26 Have you ever been a regular smoker of one or more cigarettes a day?

yes

no

Legally registered relationship status

See figure 58.

Online functionality

Respondents can select one response option for this question.

Findings from testing

The legally registered relationship status question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 58: Legally registered relationship status (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form

Which one of these statements best describes your current legally registered marital / civil union status? [Help](#)

If you have had more than one legally registered marriage or civil union, answer for your most recent.

I have never been legally married and I have never been legally registered in a civil union

I am divorced or my marriage / civil union has been dissolved

I am a widow / widower or surviving civil union partner

I am permanently separated from my legal husband / wife / civil union partner

I am legally married

I am legally registered in a civil union

2023 Census paper form

27 Which one of these statements best describes your current legally registered marital / civil union status?

If you have had more than one legally registered marriage or civil union, answer for your most recent.

I have never been legally married and I have never been legally registered in a civil union

I am divorced or my marriage / civil union has been dissolved

I am a widow / widower or surviving civil union partner

I am permanently separated from my legal husband / wife / civil union partner

I am legally married

I am legally registered in a civil union

Highest secondary school qualification

See figure 59.

Online functionality

Respondents can select one response option for this question. If a respondent selects 'other secondary school qualification gained in New Zealand', they are presented with a text box to type in their qualification.

Findings from testing

The highest secondary school qualification question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 59: Highest secondary school qualification (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form

What is your highest secondary school qualification?

none

one of:
NZ School Certificate in one or more subjects, or
National Certificate level 1, or
NCEA level 1

one of:
NZ Sixth Form Certificate in one or more subjects, or
National Certificate level 2, or
NZ UE before 1986 in one or more subjects, or
NCEA level 2

one of:
NZ Higher School Certificate, or
NZ University Bursary / Scholarship, or
National Certificate level 3, or
NCEA level 3, or
NZ Scholarship

other secondary school qualification gained in **New Zealand**

Enter what that other New Zealand secondary school qualification is:

other secondary school qualification **gained overseas**

Figure 60: Source of income (2023 Census online and paper forms)
2023 Census online form

Select as many options as you need to show all the ways you yourself got income in the 12 months ending today. [? Help](#)

Don't count loans because they are not income.

wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, etc, paid by my employer

self-employment, or business I own and work in

interest, dividends, rent, other investments

regular payments from ACC or a private work accident insurer

New Zealand Superannuation or Veteran's Pension

other superannuation, pensions or annuities (other than NZ Superannuation, Veteran's Pension or war pensions)

Jobseeker Support

Sole Parent Support

Supported Living Payment

Student Allowance

other government benefits, government income support payments, war pensions, or paid parental leave

other sources of income, counting support payments from people who do not live in my household

no source of income in that time

Figure 60 continued
2023 Census paper form

36 Mark as many spaces as you need to show all the ways you yourself got income in the 12 months ending today.

Don't count loans because they are not income.

- wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, etc, paid by my employer
- self-employment, or business I own and work in
- interest, dividends, rent, other investments
- regular payments from ACC or a private work accident insurer
- New Zealand Superannuation or Veteran's Pension
- other superannuation, pensions or annuities (other than NZ Superannuation, Veteran's Pension or war pensions)
- Jobseeker Support
- Sole Parent Support
- Supported Living Payment
- Student Allowance
- other government benefits, government income support payments, war pensions, or paid parental leave
- other sources of income, counting support payments from people who do not live in my household

or no source of income in that time

Job indicator – work and labour force status

See figure 61.

Online functionality

Respondents can select more than one response option, unless they select 'none of these', in which case, selected response options will be cleared, and the respondent will not be presented with questions on current work/employment.

Findings from testing

The job indicator – work and labour force status question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 61: Job indicator (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form

Select as many options as you need to answer this question. In the 7 days that ended on Sunday 5 March 2023, which of these did you do?

I worked for pay, profit or income for an hour or more

I worked in a family business or family farm **without pay**

I work in a job, business or farm, but I was not working last week for some reason

none of these

2023 Census paper form

39 Mark as many spaces as you need to answer this question.
In the 7 days that ended on Sunday, 5 March 2023, which of these did you do?

I worked for pay, profit or income for an hour or more

I worked in a family business or family farm **without pay** → go to **40**

I work in a job, business or farm, but I was not working last week for some reason

or none of these → go to **49**

Hours usually worked

See figure 62.

Online functionality

Respondents are presented with two text boxes where they can enter their hours worked. The text boxes only accept numeric characters.

Findings from testing

The hours usually worked question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 62: Hours usually worked (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form

How many hours, to the nearest hour, do you usually work each week?

in your main job:
 hours

in all other jobs for pay, profit or income:
 hours

2023 Census paper form

40 How many hours, to the nearest hour, do you usually work each week?

in your main job: hours

in all other jobs for pay, profit or income: hours

Status in employment

See figure 63.

Online functionality

Respondents can select one response option for this question.

Findings from testing

The status in employment question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 63: Status in employment (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form

For the next questions, think about the job that you worked the most hours in. In that job, which one of these were you?

a paid employee

self-employed and **not** employing others

an employer of other person(s) in my own business

working in a family business or family farm **without pay**

2023 Census paper form

41 Answer the next questions (42 – 47) about the job that you worked the most hours in.

42 In that job, which one of these were you?

a paid employee

self-employed and **not** employing others

an employer of other person(s) in my own business

working in a family business or family farm **without pay**

Occupation

See figure 64.

Online functionality

Respondents are presented with a textbox with as-you-type functionality.

Findings from testing

The occupation question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue.

Workplace address

See figure 66.

Online functionality

Only respondents who select the 'work away from home' response option are presented with the workplace address question. This question has a textbox with full as-you-type functionality.

Findings from testing

The workplace address question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 66: Workplace address (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form

In that job, did you mostly:

work at home?

work away from home?

Enter the full address of the place you mostly worked at: [Help](#)

Include, if possible, all of these:

- name of building
- street number and street name, or name of shopping centre
- suburb or rural locality
- city, town or district.

eg BNZ Centre, 120 Hereford St, Christchurch

Figure 67: Main means of travel to work (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form

What is the one main way you usually travel to work — that is, the one you use for the greatest distance?

If you don't have a usual method, select the one you used most recently.

- drive a private car, truck or van
- drive a company car, truck or van
- passenger in a car, truck, van or company bus
- public bus
- train
- ferry
- bicycle
- walk or jog
- other, eg taxi, motorbike

Figure 67 continued
2023 Census paper form

47 What is the **one main way** you usually travel to work – that is, the one you use for the greatest distance?

If you don't have a usual method, select the one you used most recently.

- drive a private car, truck or van
- drive a company car, truck or van
- passenger in a car, truck, van or company bus
- public bus
- train
- ferry
- bicycle
- walk or jog
- other, eg taxi, motorbike

Seeking paid work, job search methods, availability for work

See figure 68.

Online functionality

Only respondents who select 'yes' to the seeking paid work question are presented with the job search methods and availability for work questions. Both the seeking paid work and availability for work questions are single response yes/no questions. Respondents can select multiple response options for the job search methods question.

Findings from testing

These questions were not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 68: Seeking paid work, job search methods, availability for work (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census paper form

49 Did you look for paid work in the last 4 weeks?

yes → go to **50**

no → go to **51**

50 Mark as many spaces as you need to show all the ways you looked for paid work in the last 4 weeks.

looked at job advertisements

wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer

contacted Work and Income to look for a job

contacted friends or relatives for help in finding a job

contacted career advisers

other method(s)

51 If a paid job had been available, would you have started last week?

yes

no

Figure 68 continued
2023 Census online form

Did you look for paid work in the last 4 weeks?

yes

no

If you select 'yes' you will be directed to the questions below.

Select as many options as you need to show all the ways you looked for paid work in the last 4 weeks.

looked at job advertisements

wrote, phoned or applied in person to an employer

contacted Work and Income to look for a job

contacted friends or relatives for help in finding a job

contacted career advisers

other method(s)

If a paid job had been available, would you have started last week?

yes

no

Unpaid activities

See figure 69.

Online functionality

Respondents can select multiple responses to this question.

Findings from testing

The unpaid activities question was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 69: Unpaid activities (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form

Select as many options as you need to answer this question. In the last 4 weeks, which of these have you done, **without pay**?

- household work, cooking, repairs, gardening, etc, for my household
- looked after a child who is a member of my household
- looked after a member of my household who is ill or has a disability
- looked after a child (who **does not** live in my household)
- helped someone who is ill or has a disability (who **does not** live in my household)
- other help or voluntary work for or through any organisation, group or marae
- none of these

Figure 69 continued
2023 Census paper form

52 In the last 4 weeks, which of these have you done, **without pay**?

Mark the space or spaces which apply to you.

- household work, cooking, repairs, gardening, etc, for my household
- looked after a child who is a member of my household
- looked after a member of my household who is ill or has a disability
- looked after a child (who **does not** live in my household)
- helped someone who is ill or has a disability (who **does not** live in my household)
- other help or voluntary work for or through any organisation, group or marae

or none of these

Declaration

See figure 70.

Online functionality

Respondents must select the tick box to acknowledge their answers are correct. They are not able to submit the form without selecting the confirmation tick box.

Findings from testing

The census form declaration was not explicitly tested as there was no change from the 2018 Census. Respondents completing testing forms were able to complete this question without issue.

Figure 70: Declaration (2023 Census online and paper forms)

2023 Census online form

The screenshot shows a white rectangular box with rounded corners. At the top left, the word "Declaration" is written in a bold, dark blue font. Below this, a light blue horizontal bar contains the text "By submitting this form you are declaring that the information given is true and complete." To the left of this bar is a vertical blue line. Below the bar, there is a white rectangular input field with a thin grey border. Inside the field, on the left, is a small pink square checkbox. To its right, the text "Yes, I declare that the information is true and complete." is written in a dark grey font.

2023 Census paper form

The screenshot shows a pink rectangular box with rounded corners. At the top left, the number "54" is written in white on a pink square background. To its right, the text "Please check your answers before you sign." is written in a dark grey font. Below this, the text "By signing this form you are declaring that the information given is true and complete." is written in a dark grey font. Underneath, the text "Yes, I declare that the information is true and complete." is written in a dark grey font. Below this text is a white rectangular input field with a thin grey border. To the left of the input field is a small black "X" mark. At the bottom of the pink box, the text "Thank you for your time and effort" is written in a bold, pink font.

2023 guide notes

Background

Guide notes are provided to respondents to help with questions known to cause respondents the most difficulty. As the 2023 Census is a minimal-change census, we reused the 2018 guide notes and updated them where necessary. We identified necessary updates during the testing of questions.

We provide guide notes / online help text in English and te reo Māori, both in print and online. In the print format, due to the limitations of paper size, we had to prioritise content. Because many of the new questions required further explanation and guidance, other guide notes had to be edited to fit everything on the page. The online guidance is more comprehensive. Some online help text was updated to reflect changes made to the paper guide notes. The online guidance has also been restructured to aid usability for respondents.

Online guide notes

The most significant change to the online guide notes is the way a respondent interacts with and views them. The 2018 Census online form had three levels of help – inline help text that always showed with a question, a show/hide help button that expanded a help note box within a question, and a link that took the respondent away from the form to a separate page for longer help text. This separate page was not translated, it was available only in English even if the respondent was completing their form in te reo Māori.

Figure 71: Example of inline help text

Apart from secondary school qualifications, do you have another completed qualification?

Don't count qualifications that take less than 3 months of full-time study to get.

yes

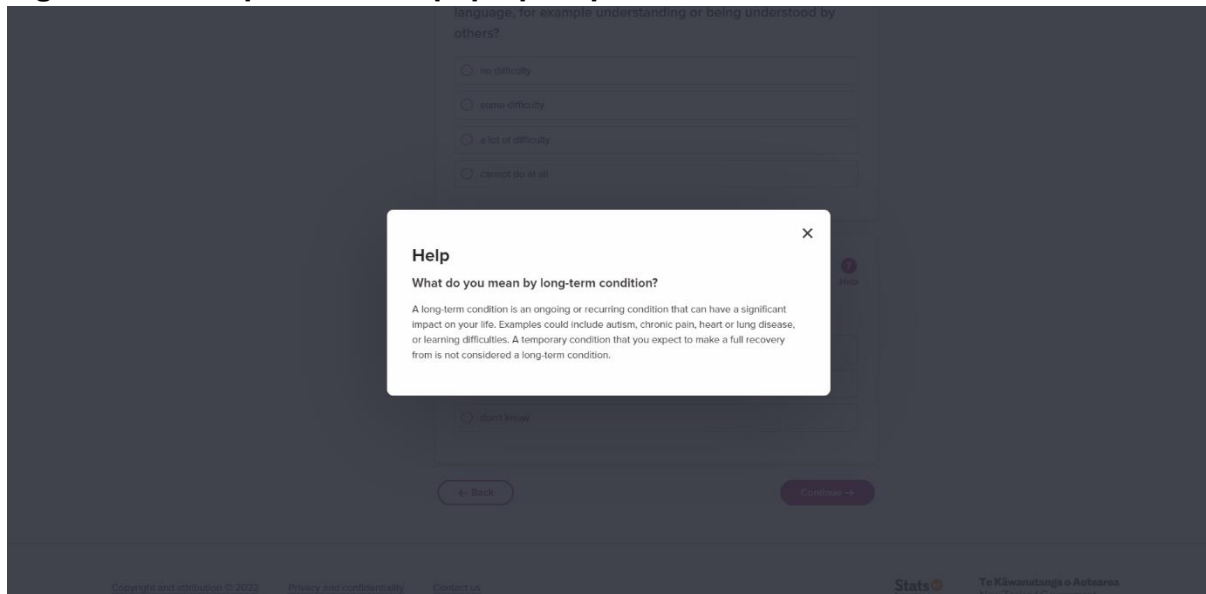
no

For the 2023 Census, this has been updated so all help text is available on the online form page. This is achieved by presenting respondents with modal pop-ups

instead of show/hide help. Modal pop-ups can present larger amounts of information to the respondent without them having to navigate away from the online form.

All online help text has been translated to te reo Māori for the 2023 Census.

Figure 72: Example of modal pop-up help text



Paper guide notes

As with the 2018 Census, the 2023 Census te reo Māori / English paper guide notes appear on two sheets of A3 paper folded in half and stapled to create an A4 booklet. They are laid out as two sets of guide notes back-to-back, with the alternate language available by turning the booklet over. The large print guide notes follow all the guidelines for large print materials and appear on five sheets of A3 paper folded and stapled.

We tested the use of an icon on questions with corresponding guide notes on paper forms. While some respondents noticed the icon, in our testing, they did not make the connection that the icon represented a guide note. Because of this, we did not include the icon on the final paper census forms.

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