



Pacific Progress

*A report
on the economic status of
Pacific Peoples in New Zealand*

Acknowledgement

Cover photos courtesy of the Community Employment Group, Pacific Business Trust, and Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs.

The cover montage features (left to right) Ken Lotu-I'iga and son, Andrew Tafuna, Pacific Underground, Eleanor Inisi, the Tepou Family, and Pacifica Life Trust.

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Preface

For Pacific peoples, New Zealand has always been a land of opportunity as it is for everyone who arrives on these shores. All have come with their hopes, their dreams and their visions of a better life for themselves and their children. This report is in part a measure – a progress report of how well Pacific peoples have fared in recent decades.

There has long been a need for more informed data and research on issues that have a significant impact on Pacific peoples. As a result, Statistics New Zealand, in partnership with the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, has produced this report which provides up to date information on the social and economic status of Pacific peoples in New Zealand.

This document is the first major report on Pacific peoples based on information from the 2001 Census of Population and Dwellings. It also incorporates statistics gathered over the past 15 years.

Most importantly, while the statistics continue to show areas of inequality, they also show marked areas of improvement, and highlight potential opportunities for growth and success particularly within the economic sector.

Readers should be mindful that the purpose of this report is not to provide all of the data and information that is available on Pacific peoples in this area, but rather to provide data and information that is key to understanding the position of Pacific peoples in New Zealand.

It is expected that this report will provide valuable information for the work of Government agencies as they develop policies, programmes and services to address the social and economic inequalities that hinder Pacific peoples' ability to build on the already significant contribution they are making to New Zealand.

Finally, Statistics New Zealand and the Ministry would like to acknowledge and thank all those who assisted and contributed their time, effort and expertise in the writing and review of this timely and significant report. There are many positive indicators in this report that show that impressive progress is being made by Pacific peoples towards achieving the dream and vision which brought them to New Zealand.



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Introduction

‘Oku ‘auha ‘a e kakai ko e ‘ikai ha visone

Without a vision, the people will perish

(Tongan proverb)

The growth of the Pacific population in New Zealand has been one of the defining features of New Zealand society in recent decades. Migrating in increasing numbers following the Second World War, Pacific people faced the challenges of adapting to and establishing themselves in a new country and a new social and economic environment. Since the large scale migrations of the 1960s and 1970s, they have become a well-established and integral part of New Zealand’s social landscape, a vibrant and dynamic community experiencing considerable progress and change. By 2001 there were almost 232,000 people of Pacific ethnicity living in New Zealand, making up 6.5 percent of the population. The majority (58 percent) were born in New Zealand and the Pacific population is very youthful and should continue to grow rapidly for some time to come. It is also a very diverse population made up of people from many different ethnic groups occupying a range of social and economic positions.

It is the economic position of Pacific peoples in New Zealand which provides the focus of this report. Economically, Pacific people have always faced considerable difficulties in New Zealand. Their skills are not always suited to the demands of the New Zealand labour market and they have been over-represented among the unemployed, lower-skilled workers and low income earners. These difficulties were accentuated by the restructuring of the late 1980s and early 1990s, which had a disproportionate effect on Pacific people, many of whom worked in industries and occupations that bore the brunt of job losses.

Since that time there have been considerable improvements in the economic position of Pacific peoples, particularly for some of the younger, New Zealand-born people. Overall, levels of education have improved, unemployment has fallen and there has been a move away from the traditional areas of blue-collar employment into more skilled white-collar jobs. However, these trends have been occurring not just for Pacific peoples but also among the wider New Zealand population, and consequently there are still economic disparities between Pacific peoples and others. There are also some groups of Pacific people who may not have experienced improvements in their economic situation, such as the older, Pacific-born and lower skilled sections of the population.

These disparities present major challenges for Pacific communities and for government agencies. For such challenges to be addressed, it is important to have an accurate statistical picture of the economic position of Pacific peoples and the processes of change which have been occurring in recent years. To this end, this report presents the most recent and most comprehensive information on Pacific peoples, predominantly from the 2001 Census but supplemented with other sources where appropriate, and examines changes which have occurred over the preceding 10 to 15 years.

While the Pacific population is made up of many different ethnic groups, most of the analysis in this report looks at the Pacific population as a whole, supplemented with some analysis of each of the six major ethnic groups making up that population, namely Samoan, Cook Islands, Tongan, Niuean, Tokelauan and Fijian¹. More comprehensive analysis of each of the groups was beyond the scope of this report. The smaller Pacific groups such as Tuvaluans, Tahitians or Society Islanders and I-Kiribati are included in the total Pacific population figures but as they are relatively small in numbers they have not been included in the analysis of the different Pacific groups (nor have they been aggregated into an ‘other’ category as this would be too diverse to provide useful information).

In many respects the Pacific population has a similar social and economic profile to the Māori population. However, comparisons with the Māori population have not been made in this report as the aim has been to show how the Pacific population fares in relation to the New Zealand population as a whole rather than how they compare with other ethnic groups. Therefore, where statistical comparisons are made in this report, Pacific peoples are compared with the total New Zealand population (which includes Pacific peoples).

¹ The Fijian ethnic group is normally understood to mean Melanesian or indigenous Fijians, but the census figures include a number of people of Indian ethnicity who have migrated from Fiji. These people may have given Fijian as an ethnicity on their census forms because it is their nationality or because they feel an affiliation with the Fijian ethnic group.

Part one of the report gives an overview of the demographic and social position of Pacific peoples, providing some background context for the more detailed economic sections which follow. Key indicators in terms of demography, families and households, education, health and justice are discussed in these sections. Demographic issues such as the rapid growth in the numbers of Pacific people, their young age profile, and the increasing proportion of New Zealand-born Pacific people all influence the changing economic status of Pacific peoples. Family and household characteristics, such as the greater incidence of extended families and one-parent families, as well as large family and household size, affect household income, living standards and housing needs. Education is a key factor in determining how people fare in the labour market, with improvements in educational achievement by Pacific people being crucial in improving their economic position. Socio-economic status in turn is likely to influence the comparatively poor health status of Pacific peoples and their over-representation in justice statistics, which are also discussed in this part of the report.

Part two constitutes the main body of the report, focussing on the economic status of Pacific peoples in respect of employment, income and housing. Chapter 6, *Work*, looks at what proportion of Pacific people participate in the labour force and are gainfully employed, as well as their rates of unemployment. Central to this is analysis of how these rates were affected by the job losses of the late 1980s and early 1990s and the subsequent economic recovery. Unpaid work is also examined, as this involves productive activity which is not always recognised on the same terms as paid employment.

The employment of Pacific peoples by occupation and industry is then analysed, showing the high representation of Pacific workers in the less-skilled manual jobs in secondary industries but also showing how this pattern is changing as more Pacific people enter skilled white-collar jobs in the expanding service industries. Self-employment among Pacific people, which is more common than in the past, is also discussed.

Employment is of course a key determinant of income, and this is reflected in the wage and salary earnings of Pacific people, which are discussed in the next section. The earnings of Pacific people remain lower than those of the rest of the population, even allowing for differences in employment, education and age. This is also evident in the section on personal annual income, which looks at income from all sources rather than just wages and salaries. The section on household income also shows that households with Pacific occupants tend to be larger and therefore must support more people on less money. This is not only due to the lower earnings from wages and salaries but also to the fact that Pacific people are less likely to have regular income from employment and more likely to be dependent on benefits, as the section on income sources demonstrates.

Income in turn determines the type of housing people can afford, and as the section on housing and amenities illustrates, Pacific people are less likely than others to own their own homes and tend to live in homes that are more crowded than others – although cultural as well as economic reasons contribute to this pattern. This section also shows that Pacific people have less access than others to motor vehicles, telephones and the Internet.

The report concludes by tying together the recent trends and looking forward to what the future may hold for Pacific peoples in New Zealand. If recent patterns of economic development in the Pacific population are to be built upon and if the disparities between Pacific peoples and others are to be addressed, it is important that both Pacific people and policy makers are well informed on how the Pacific population is faring economically and socially and the factors influencing their changing economic status. This report is a contribution to that objective.

Part 1:

Demographic and Social Background

Ko tau mana kai moli vave, tagata moe lagi mitaki

The person is more important than material things

(Niuean proverb)

Immigration policy

Large scale migration from the Pacific gathered pace in the 1960s. At this time New Zealand's immigration policy was focussed on attracting immigrants from the United Kingdom and western Europe. However, the proximity of the Pacific nations and their historical ties with New Zealand meant that many Pacific people were able to enter New Zealand either as permanent or temporary migrants.

This migration was partly a legacy of New Zealand's colonial role in the region. New Zealand administered the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau from the early 20th century and although the Cooks and Niue later gained independence, people from each of these groups retained New Zealand citizenship and therefore unrestricted rights of entry to and permanent residence in New Zealand. Western Samoa was also administered by New Zealand under a League of Nations mandate granted after World War I, and following independence in 1962 this relationship was recognised in a quota allowing for 1,000 or more immigrants per year in addition to those entering under normal provisions such as family reunification. Tonga and Fiji also had ties to New Zealand but no formal colonial relationship, so migrants from these countries had no special rights of permanent entry.

Because of the difficulty some Pacific people had in obtaining permanent residence, many came to New Zealand on temporary permits, obtaining work and often overstaying the duration of their permits. Overstaying was tolerated while demand for Pacific workers was high, but a combination of record immigration and economic reversals in the early to mid-1970s prompted stricter policing of permits, including controversial dawn raids and random street checks of Pacific people.

1. Demography

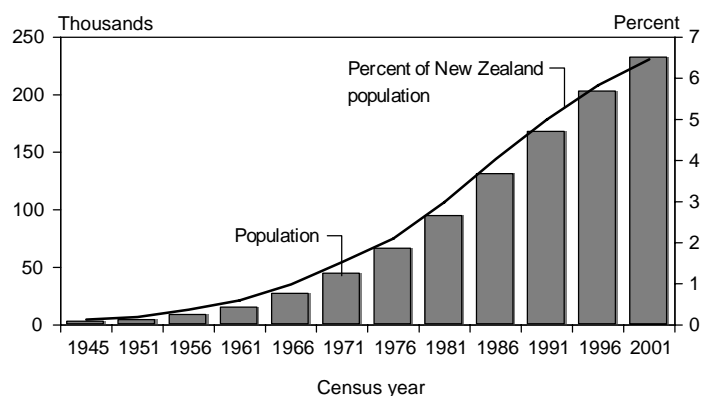
Pacific peoples in New Zealand constitute a rapidly growing and changing population. From a small immigrant community in the 1940s they have grown, through migration and a high rate of natural increase, into a population of considerable size and social significance. Today's Pacific population is mostly New Zealand-born, predominantly young and highly urbanised. It is also a diverse population made up of many different ethnic groups. Understanding of some of these characteristics provides important context for the analysis of Pacific people's social and economic position, which is outlined later in this report.

Population growth

The last half century has seen rapid growth in the size of Pacific communities in New Zealand. At the time of the 1945 Census of Population and Dwellings there were less than 2,200 Pacific people living in New Zealand. This population grew steadily, but relatively slowly, until the 1960s when migration accelerated in response to population pressures in the Pacific nations and demand for labour in New Zealand's expanding secondary industries.

Figure 1.1

Growth of the Pacific Population in New Zealand, 1945–2001



Note: Figures from 1945 to 1981 are for the population of Pacific Island Polynesian origin or descent; figures from 1986 to 2001 are for the Pacific Islands/Pacific peoples ethnic group.

Most migration from the Pacific to New Zealand came from the Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau, Samoa, Tonga and Fiji. People from the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau held New Zealand citizenship and therefore had unrestricted rights of entry and settlement in New Zealand. Those from other Pacific nations, particularly Samoa, Tonga and Fiji, entered through a range of provisions including temporary permits, quota schemes and family reunification provisions.

This migration fuelled population growth in the 1960s and 1970s, so that by the time of the 1976 Census there were almost 65,700 Pacific people living in New Zealand, making up 2.1 percent of the total population. Economic downturn in the 1970s resulted in a more restrictive immigration policy, but many Pacific people retained rights of entry to New Zealand and so migration continued, albeit at lower levels. Since 1979, net migration gains have averaged less than 1,200 people per year. Although migration has slowed over the last two decades, the Pacific population in New Zealand has continued to grow rapidly owing to a high rate of natural increase. By the 2001 Census, Pacific people in New Zealand numbered almost 232,000 and made up 6.5 percent of the population.

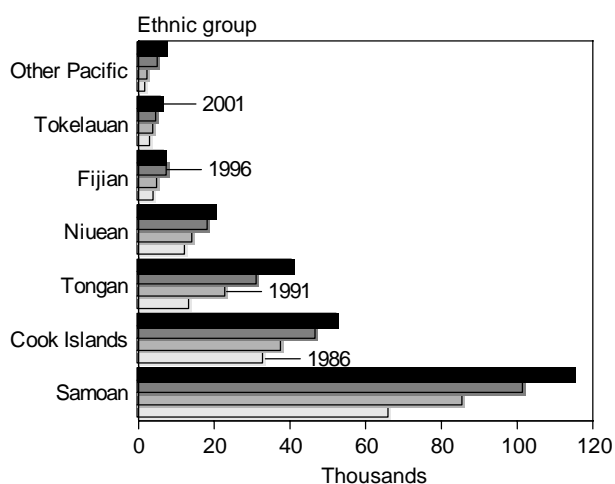
As the Pacific population is a young one, with low rates of mortality and high rates of fertility, the excess of births over deaths produces a high natural rate of population growth. Pacific people are more likely than others to be in the age groups when most childbearing takes place and tend to have more children, with a fertility rate of 3.2 births per woman, compared with two births per woman for the total population. Because of their younger age structure they have a lower crude death rate of 3.4 deaths per 1,000 people per year, compared with 7 per 1,000 for the total population. Another factor contributing to population growth is cross-cultural marriages and births, with most births to one Pacific and one non-Pacific parent being classified as Pacific children.

As figure 1.2 shows, the Samoan ethnic group is by far the largest Pacific group in New Zealand, numbering over 115,000 people at the time of the 2001 Census, making up almost half the Pacific population and 3.2 percent of the total New Zealand population. The Samoan population grew by 48,800 people, or 74 percent, between 1986 and 2001. This compares with a growth of 14.5 percent for the total New Zealand population. Because the Samoan population is so much larger than the other groups, it has a substantial impact on the characteristics of the Pacific population as a whole. Later chapters show that, while there is some variation between the economic positions of the various Pacific ethnic groups, the position of the Samoan population tends to mirror that of the total Pacific population.

Immigration regulations remained relatively tight in the late 1970s and early 1980s but Pacific people were still allowed permanent residence on family reunification grounds, while temporary labour migration was allowed under special work permit schemes. A less restrictive immigration policy was adopted in 1986 when the removal of the long-standing preference for 'traditional source countries' paved the way for more non-European migration. However, as the emphasis was on attracting skilled or wealthy immigrants this tended to favour Asian migrants rather than those from the Pacific.

The emphasis on skills was reinforced by the introduction of a points system in 1991 under which applicants in the general eligibility category had to reach a pass-mark based on factors such as qualifications, work experience, age and ability to settle. The points system has remained in place with minor modifications and generally does not favour Pacific migrants, who tend to lack the appropriate skills and experience. Consequently, they still rely primarily on family reunification provisions, which allow entry to close relatives of permanent residents, or special schemes such as the Samoan quota.

Figure 1.2

Growth of Pacific Ethnic Groups, 1986–2001

Cook Islands people make up the next largest group, with over 52,500 living in New Zealand in 2001, an increase of 19,400 since 1986. The fastest rate of growth was in the Tongan community, which grew almost threefold between 1986 and 2001 from 13,600 to over 40,700. While most of the major Pacific groups continued to show steady growth throughout the period, the Fijian population declined slightly from almost 7,700 to just over 7,000 between 1996 and 2001, a period when there was increased emigration by earlier immigrants.¹

Other Pacific groups outside the six main groups have also increased in numbers, from just under 2,000 in 1986 to over 7,300 in 2001. The largest of these groups in 2001 were Tuvaluans (1,965), Society Islanders or Tahitians (1,200), and I-Kiribati (648).²

Birthplace

The decline in migration and the high rate of natural increase have meant that the Pacific population has changed from a predominantly migrant group to a largely New Zealand-born population. As figure 1.3 shows, the majority of Pacific people living in New Zealand now were born here, with the proportion increasing from 49 percent to 58 percent between 1986 and 2001.

The groups with the highest proportions born in New Zealand are those who have always had unrestricted rights of settlement and therefore have had more opportunity to become established, namely Cook Islands people and Niueans (of whom 70 percent are born in New Zealand), and Tokelauans (66 percent). Fijians are the only group in which the majority were born overseas, reflecting a historical pattern of temporary labour migration rather than permanent settlement and an increase in migration following the coups of the late 1980s. Fijians also show the smallest increase in the proportion of New Zealand-born people, while the greatest increases have been among the Cook Islands, Niuean and Tokelauan populations.

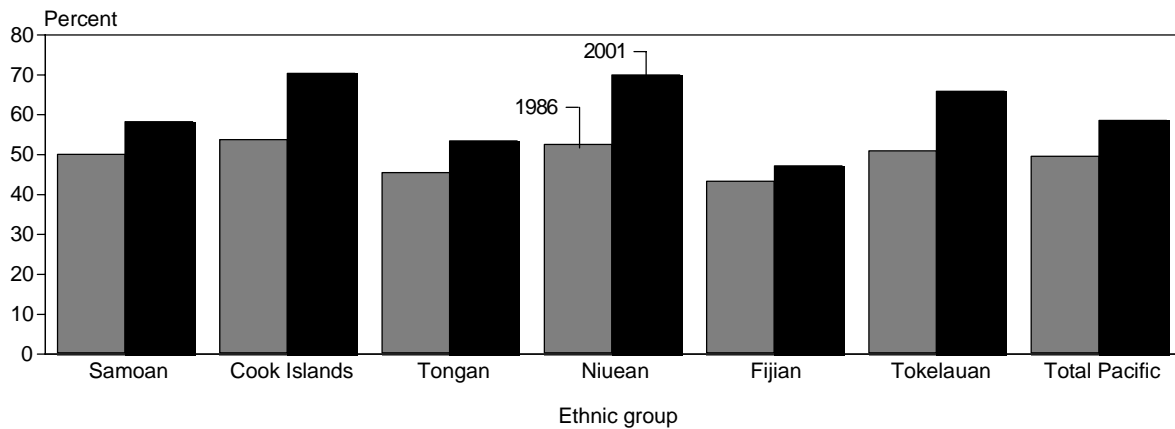
Similar patterns are evident in the length of time Pacific people have lived in New Zealand. Those who are the most likely to have lived in New Zealand for 20 years or more are Niueans (64 percent) Cook Islands people (60 percent), and Tokelauans (55 percent). Those least likely to have lived here for this period of time are Tongans (22 percent), followed by Fijians (32 percent) and Samoans (36 percent). The median duration of residence is 26 years for Niueans, 24 years for Cook Islands people, 23 years for Tokelauans, 15 years for Samoans and 13 years for Tongans and Fijians.

¹ Population changes between censuses may be affected by changes in the census ethnicity question. The 1996 question differed slightly from the 1991 and 2001 questions, resulting in more people specifying more than one ethnic group. While this does not appear to have had a major effect on the size of the Pacific population as a whole, it may have resulted in the 1996 figures for some Pacific groups being slightly inflated relative to the 1991 and 2001 figures. This may have contributed to the slight fall in the Fijian population between 1996 and 2001, although it is difficult to quantify this.

² The census allows people to specify more than one ethnic group. All ethnicity data in this report is based on total responses for each group, so if people specified more than one Pacific ethnic group (eg Samoan and Niuean) they are counted in each of these groups.

Figure 1.3

Proportion of Pacific People Born in New Zealand, by Ethnic Group, 1986–2001



Age

Pacific people have a considerably younger age profile than the total New Zealand population, as a comparison of figures 1.4a and 1.4b shows, with far greater proportions in the younger age groups and smaller proportions in the older age groups than is the case with the total population. Whereas 39 percent of Pacific people were aged under 15 in 2001, just 23 percent of the total population was in this age group. Conversely, just 3 percent of Pacific people were aged 65 and over, compared with 12 percent of the total population.

This is also reflected in figures for median age as shown in figure 1.5. The median age of Pacific people in New Zealand in 2001 was just 21 years compared with 35 years for the total population. Although the Pacific population is slowly ageing, the median age increased by just one year between 1986 and 2001. The Cook Islands, Tongan and Tokelauan populations are the youngest groups, with a median age of 19. The Fijian population is the oldest of the Pacific groups in New Zealand, with a median age of 24 in 2001.

Figure 1.4a

Age and Sex Distribution of Pacific Population, 2001

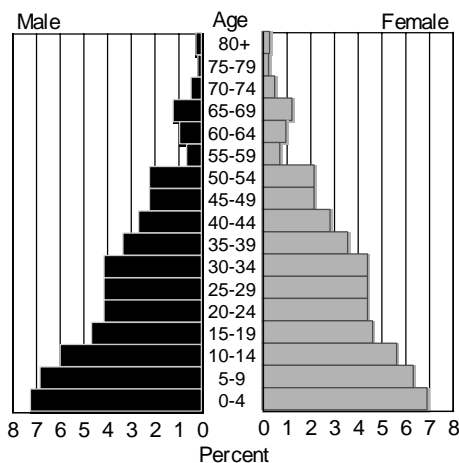


Figure 1.4b

Age and Sex Distribution of Total New Zealand Population, 2001

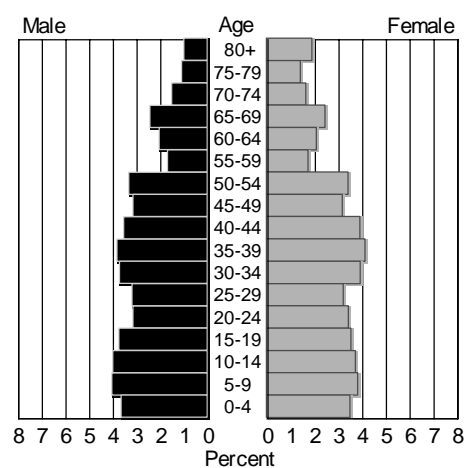
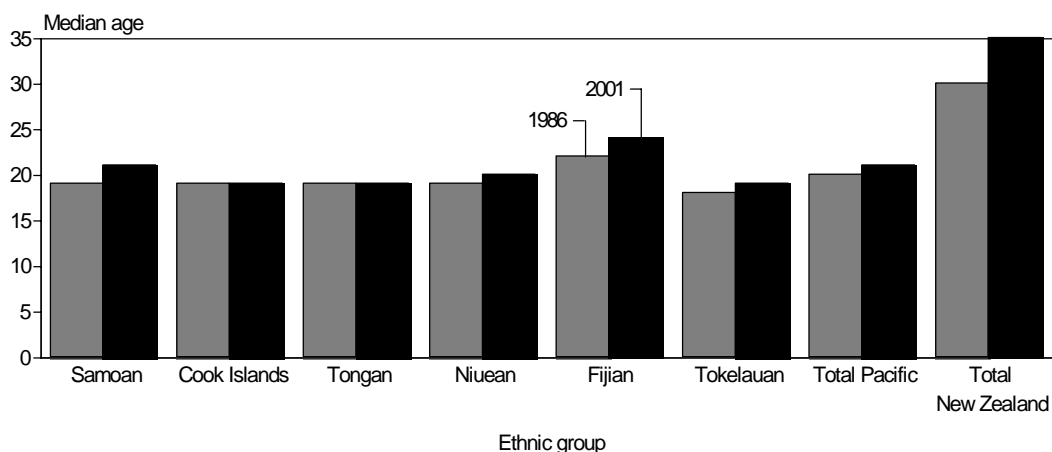


Figure 1.5

Median Age of Pacific People, by Ethnic Group, 1986 and 2001

Pacific people who were born in New Zealand have a much younger age profile than those born overseas. The median age of the New Zealand-born group in 2001 was just 12 years, compared with 37 years for the overseas born. Almost a quarter (23 percent) of the Pacific people born in New Zealand were aged under 5 in 2001, while 59 percent were aged under 15. By comparison, just 11 percent of the overseas-born were aged under 15. Conversely, the overseas born had considerably higher proportions in the retirement age groups, with 7.5 percent aged 65 or over, compared with just 0.2 percent of the New Zealand born.

These different age distributions have implications for the make-up of the Pacific labour force in New Zealand. With far greater proportions of the overseas-born being of working age (82 percent compared to 41 percent of the locally born), they are more strongly represented in the labour force than in the total Pacific population. While the overseas-born made up just 42 percent of the total Pacific population in 2001, they made up 59 percent of the Pacific working age population.

Geographical distribution

The geographical distribution of Pacific peoples in New Zealand reflects the settlement patterns of Pacific migrants. Most new migrants from the Pacific have been drawn to the larger centres, particularly Auckland which is the main port of arrival and the major employment centre. Chain migration has also contributed to this concentration as new migrants tend to settle where they will have the support of family and community networks.

Consequently, 98 percent of the Pacific population is urbanised, with 92 percent in the 24 main urban areas and 66 percent in the Auckland urban areas alone (this is well over twice the proportion of the total New Zealand population who live in Auckland). All the Pacific groups are highly urbanised, though there are some differences in where they live. Tongans and Niueans have the greatest concentration in Auckland (78 percent), while Tokelauans have the lowest (24 percent). The majority of Tokelauans (53 percent) live in Wellington, and along with Cook Islands people they are also more likely than others to live in secondary urban areas (just over 6 percent). Fijians were the most likely to live in rural areas (5.5 percent).

Figure 1.6

Urban/Rural Distribution of Pacific Ethnic Groups, 2001

Usual residence	Ethnic group							
	Samoan	Cook Islands	Tongan	Niuean	Tokelauan	Fijian	Total Pacific	Total New Zealand
	Percent							
Auckland urban areas	65.9	59.1	78.5	78.3	23.8	56.9	65.8	28.5
Hamilton urban areas	1.5	2.3	2.4	2.1	0.6	3.7	2.0	4.5
Wellington urban areas	16.6	11.7	4.6	5.8	52.9	10.7	13.2	9.2
Christchurch urban area	4.4	2.2	1.9	1.9	0.9	4.6	3.3	9.1
Dunedin urban area	0.9	1.3	0.9	0.5	1.5	0.8	1.0	2.9
Other main urban areas	5.3	10.0	5.4	3.8	9.9	9.9	6.6	16.1
<i>Total main urban areas</i>	<i>94.6</i>	<i>86.7</i>	<i>93.5</i>	<i>92.4</i>	<i>89.6</i>	<i>86.6</i>	<i>91.9</i>	<i>70.2</i>
Secondary urban areas	2.2	6.2	2.3	2.0	6.1	4.0	3.3	7.3
Minor urban areas	1.5	3.7	2.1	2.5	2.3	3.9	2.4	8.4
<i>Total urban</i>	<i>98.3</i>	<i>96.5</i>	<i>98.0</i>	<i>96.9</i>	<i>98.0</i>	<i>94.6</i>	<i>97.6</i>	<i>85.9</i>
Rural centres	0.3	0.7	0.4	0.5	0.4	1.0	0.5	2.1
Other rural areas	1.3	2.8	1.6	2.5	1.5	4.5	1.9	12.0
<i>Total rural</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>3.5</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>5.5</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>14.1</i>
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Summary

- The Pacific population in New Zealand grew from just 2,200 people to almost 232,000 between 1945 and 2001 and now makes up 6.5 percent of the total New Zealand population.
- The Samoan ethnic group is the largest Pacific ethnic group in New Zealand, numbering 115,000 in 2001 and making up half the Pacific population. Its numbers grew by 74 percent between 1986 and 2001.
- The Tongan ethnic group has been the fastest growing Pacific ethnic group in New Zealand in recent years, with its numbers increasing almost threefold between 1986 and 2001.
- Over half (58 percent) of Pacific people living in New Zealand in 2001 were born in this country. Cook Islands people, Niueans and Tokelauans are the most likely to have been born in New Zealand.
- Pacific peoples have a much younger age structure than the total population, with a median age of just 21 years in 2001 compared with 35 years for the total population. The median age of New Zealand born Pacific people is just 12 years, compared with 37 years for the overseas-born.
- Pacific peoples are highly urbanised, with 98 percent living in urban areas in 2001 and 66 percent living in the Auckland urban areas alone.

The Tongan Health Society and the Langimalie Clinic

The Langimalie Clinic is a community health service managed by the Tongan Health Society Inc on behalf of the Tongan community in Auckland. A community driven organisation, the society was registered in 1997 to provide “the best health care services for all New Zealanders and particularly Tongans in Aotearoa”. Based in Onehunga, Auckland, the Langimalie Clinic provides health consultation services, including diabetes, hepatitis and cervical screening, and immunisation services. Public health programmes are also offered, with Well Child services and dental health education services targeting children under five years. The pricing schedule for visits to the clinic is deliberately kept low to enable individuals and families with low incomes to seek medical treatment early.

Initial funding for the clinic was provided through contributions from families and individuals in the Tongan community and a grant from the Health Funding Authority. A fund-raising dinner was also organised, and this has since become an annual social event within the Tongan community.

Today, the clinic provides much needed access to primary health care for low income families in Auckland. Although the patients at Langimalie are mainly Tongan, the services are available to people of all ethnic groups. The clinic is run by full-time administrative and medical professionals, while a board of community representatives oversees funding and operational policies. Recent developments at Langimalie have included the establishment of the Tasilisili Research and Development division, a community health training programme jointly implemented with the University of Auckland Medical School, the Langimalie pre-school, and the Tongan Youth with Vision project. The total value of assets of the Tongan Health Society is estimated to be over a million dollars.

Sources: Kalolo Fihaki and Jenny Latu

2. Health

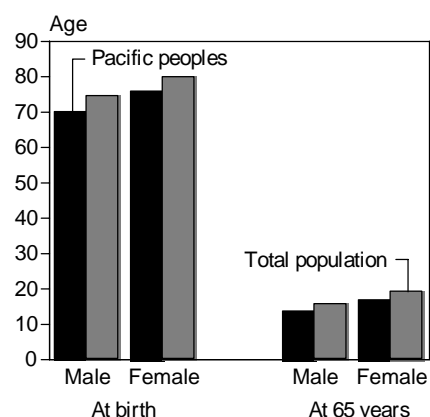
While there have been improvements in mortality and life expectancy among Pacific people, their health status remains relatively poor by comparison with the total population. Pacific peoples have clearly identifiable health problems, many of which are potentially preventable. These include high rates for meningococcal disease, measles, rheumatic fever, rheumatic heart disease, diabetes and tuberculosis. Immunisation rates among Pacific children are low. On the other hand Pacific people have lower overall rates of disability than the total population, are less likely to be hospitalised or die from coronary heart disease and some types of cancer, are less likely to drink alcohol and less frequently hospitalised for injuries.

Health outcomes among Pacific people reflect a combination of socio-economic and cultural factors. As other sections of this report show, Pacific people tend to have lower levels of formal education, higher rates of unemployment, are over represented in lower-skilled manual jobs and have lower levels of income. Consequently, they are over-represented in the lower socio-economic groups which tend to have poorer health status because of factors such as diet, lifestyle, exposure to risk factors and less frequent use of health services. Compounding this are some cultural factors such as family size and dietary patterns. Recent migrants may also face particular problems such as difficulties in accessing health services.

Life expectancy

The life expectancy of New Zealanders is increasing: in 1986 a newborn boy could expect to live 71.1 years, a newborn girl 77.1 years. By 1996, these levels had improved to 74.3 and 79.6 years, respectively. Most of the gains in life expectancy in recent years have been due to reductions in mortality at older ages, with infant mortality now playing a smaller role than in the past. However, the life expectancy of Pacific people is lower than the national rate, as figure 2.1 shows. In 1996, there was a 4.5 year difference between the Pacific male and the national male life expectancy rate. The life expectancy rate for Pacific females was 5.8 years higher than their male counterparts but four years lower than the national female rate. Once people reach the age of 65 the life expectancy gap is lower, but the expectancy of a further 13.4 years for Pacific males and 16.6 years for Pacific females is over two years lower than the corresponding national figures.

Figure 2.1

Life Expectancy at Birth and Age 65 Years, for Pacific and Total Populations, 1995–97**Mortality**

The younger age profile of Pacific peoples is reflected in a relatively low crude death rate, with 3.45 deaths per 1,000 people in the year 2000, compared with 6.96 per 1,000 in the total population. As figure 2.2 shows, mortality within age groups is generally higher among Pacific peoples than among the total population. The gap between Pacific and total mortality rates is highest in the 0–4 age group, reflecting higher rates of infant mortality in the Pacific population, and in the older age groups where the lower life expectancy of Pacific people is evident. Pacific people in the 45–64 age group died at a rate of 8.9 per 1000, compared with a rate of 4.9 in the total population. The Pacific death rate in the 65 plus age group was also higher than the national rate despite the fact that Pacific people in this age group tend to be younger than others. In recent years there have been some improvements in Pacific mortality between the ages of 15 and 64 and the rates may be expected to decline over the long term.¹

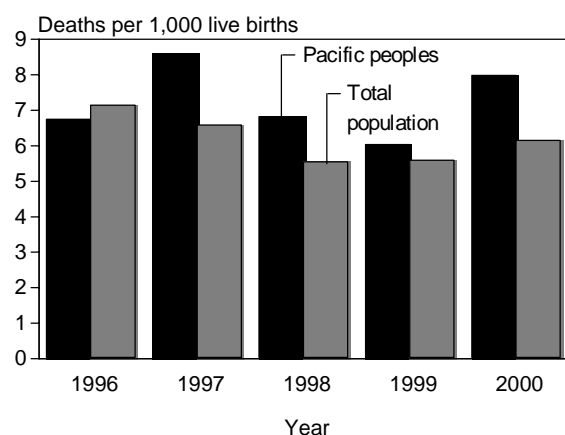
Figure 2.2

Age Specific Mortality Rates and Crude Death Rates for Pacific and Total Populations, 1996–2000

Age Group (Years)	Year				
	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Deaths per 1,000 population					
Pacific peoples					
0-4	1.92	2.51	1.76	1.74	2.13
5-14	0.16	0.17	0.22	0.09	0.23
15-29	0.91	0.96	0.87	0.95	0.63
30-44	1.88	1.70	2.15	1.55	1.47
45-64	9.11	9.29	9.53	8.20	8.90
65+	49.99	50.85	52.65	57.51	50.32
Crude death rate	3.39	3.54	3.63	3.55	3.45
Total Population					
0-4	1.71	1.63	1.34	1.36	1.51
5-14	0.21	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.19
15-29	0.96	0.93	0.83	0.82	0.75
30-44	1.17	1.24	1.25	1.19	1.16
45-64	5.98	5.56	5.24	5.39	4.93
65+	49.98	47.91	44.98	48.40	45.28
Crude death rate	7.60	7.30	6.91	7.38	6.96

¹ Mortality figures since 1996 are not comparable with earlier figures because of changes to the ethnic questions asked on birth and death registration forms.

Figure 2.3

Infant Mortality Rates for the Pacific and Total Populations, 1996–2000

Note: The infant mortality rate is the number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1,000 live births.

Infant mortality rates for both the Pacific and national populations have fluctuated within a narrow range in recent years, as figure 2.3 shows. The fluctuation reflects the low numbers of deaths. Overall, the Pacific rate has risen from 6.7 to 7.9 deaths per 1,000 births between 1996 and 2000 but this represents a relatively small movement which may reverse again in the near future. The Pacific infant mortality rate has been higher than the national rate since 1997, with a gap of almost two deaths per 1,000 in the 2000 year.

One of the major causes of infant mortality in the Pacific population, outside of complications from the actual birth of infants, has been Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). However, the incidence of this has fallen in recent years, with deaths of Pacific children from this cause falling from a high of 15 deaths in 1992, to only four deaths in 1998. This may be attributable to increased education and public awareness.

Causes of death

As figure 2.4 shows, diseases of the circulatory system or heart diseases are the most common cause of death for the Pacific population, as is the case nationally. They account for a lower proportion of deaths for Pacific people (32 percent in 1998 compared with 41 percent nationally), reflecting the fact that the Pacific population has a younger age profile while heart disease is more likely to affect older people.

Figure 2.4

Major Causes of Death for the Pacific and Total Populations, 1996–98

Causes of Death	1996		1997		1998	
	Pacific Peoples	Total Population	Pacific Peoples	Total Population	Pacific Peoples	Total Population
	Percent					
Diseases of the circulatory system	35	42	35	41	32	41
Neoplasms	24	27	24	27	29	29
External causes of injury and poisoning	10	6	8	6	9	6
Diseases of the respiratory system	8	11	8	11	7	8
Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders	8	3	8	3	9	4
Other	15	11	17	12	14	12
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Ministry of Health

Neoplasms or cancer is the other major cause of death, accounting for 29 percent of deaths in both the Pacific and total populations in 1998. For Pacific people this increased from 24 percent in the preceding year. The number of Pacific people dying from neoplasms rose 36 percent between 1996 and 1998 (from 176 to 240).

External injuries and poisoning accounted for 9 percent of Pacific deaths in 1998. Of major concern within this group is the high rate of teen suicide, particularly for Pacific peoples, with 24 Pacific people classed as having committed suicide in 1998 – more than the number of Pacific people that died in accidents involving motor vehicles (23).

Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders account for over twice the proportion of deaths in the Pacific population as in the national population. Socio-economic status is likely to be a factor in these types of illnesses. Diabetes is a major contributor in this category, with Pacific people being more than twice as likely to have been diagnosed with diabetes and being diagnosed at a younger age than European/Pakeha, with studies suggesting diabetes affects 4–8 percent of Pacific people compared with 2 to – to 5 percent of all New Zealanders. Also within this category, dementia and other neurological disorders, as well as hearing and vision loss, can be expected to increase in prevalence over the next several decades as a result of an ageing Pacific population. Diseases of the circulatory system and neoplasms may also increase.

Smoking

Smoking is a major cause of preventable death linked to increased rates of cancer, heart disease, chronic respiratory diseases and strokes. In 1997, the New Zealand mortality rate for cancer (132 per 100,000 population) was high by international standards. Smoking rates among Pacific people exceed the national rates, with 30 percent of Pacific adults reporting that they were current smokers at the time of the 1996 Census,² compared with 23 percent of the total population. While the Pacific figure is relatively high, it is well below the Māori figure of 43 percent. Pacific males were considerably more likely to smoke than Pacific females (34 percent compared with 26 percent), with males aged 25–44 having the highest rates (39 percent).

Summary

- Pacific females have a life expectancy at birth of 76 years, while Pacific males have a life expectancy of 70 years. These are both around four years lower than the figures for the total population.
- Pacific people have a lower crude death rate than the total population but their age specific mortality rates are generally higher, particularly in the youngest and older age groups.
- Diseases of the circulatory system are the most common causes of death for Pacific people, accounting for 32 percent of deaths in 1998, although this is fewer than in the total population.
- Endocrine, nutritional and metabolic diseases and immunity disorders are a much more common cause of death in the Pacific population than in the total population (9 percent compared with 4 percent).
- Pacific people have a higher rate of smoking than the total population, with 30 percent of Pacific adults being regular smokers in 1996 compared with 23 percent of all adults.

² The 2001 Census did not include a question on smoking.

Pacific Island Presbyterian Church, Newtown

The Pacific Island Presbyterian Church first held services in an older parish in Newtown, Wellington in 1953. Throughout the 1960s funds for a new meeting hall were raised through 'special monthly collections' with families committing a portion of their income towards this project. Church funds and a grant from the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand allowed work to commence on Nokise House, which was opened in 1980. As membership of the church continued to grow, the building committee, representing the Samoan, Cook Island, Niuean and Tokelauan groups, focused on building a new church. Foundations were laid in 1987, and in 1988 the PIPC Newtown opened their new church. In 1994 the church purchased a neighbouring property and established a pre-school facility through a mix of private and public funding. The PIPC Newtown Aoga Amata became a licensed pre-school in 1996.

Today the PIPC Newtown has over 400 families registered and continues to provide church services in English, Cook Islands and Samoan. The church is a focal point for many social activities, including Sunday school, youth groups, bible study classes, and sporting teams such as the well-known PIC netball team. The Cook Islands *Vaine Tini* (women's group) and Samoan *Mafutaga Tina* (mothers' group) coordinate social services, including visits to the elderly and the sick, as well as supporting new migrants with food, clothing and information about life in New Zealand. The *Mafutaga Tina* also provides catering services for funerals, weddings, birthdays and other social occasions.

Sources: Louisa Kea, Lefao Paniani Saena

3. Families and households

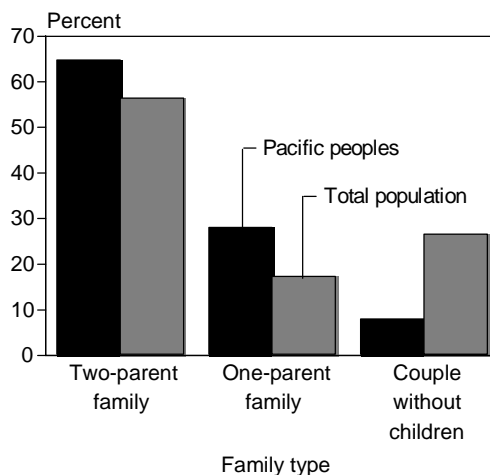
The family has a central role within New Zealand society, and this is particularly true for Pacific peoples. Although constantly evolving, the family provides support and care, and is the environment in which most children are raised. Family and household sizes tend to be larger among the Pacific population, and this is linked to both cultural and economic factors. As with families everywhere, family type and household size can directly impact upon housing situations and levels of disposable personal and household income.

Family type

In 2001, Pacific peoples were more likely to live in a family situation than the total New Zealand population (82 percent and 77 percent respectively). As figure 3.1 shows, of those Pacific peoples living in a family, the majority (65 percent) were living in a two-parent family. For the national population, 57 percent of individuals living in a family were in a two-parent family. The proportion of Pacific peoples living in one-parent families is also larger than that of the total New Zealand population (28 percent and 17 percent respectively of those living as part of a family), although Pacific peoples in one-parent families are also more likely to be living an extended family. Relatively few Pacific people live as a couple without children, with 8 percent doing so in 2001 compared with a quarter (26 percent) of all New Zealanders who live in this situation. The relatively youthful age structure of the Pacific population may mean that it has proportionately fewer retired couples living alone than the total New Zealand population.

Figure 3.1

Family Types of the Pacific and Total Populations, 2001

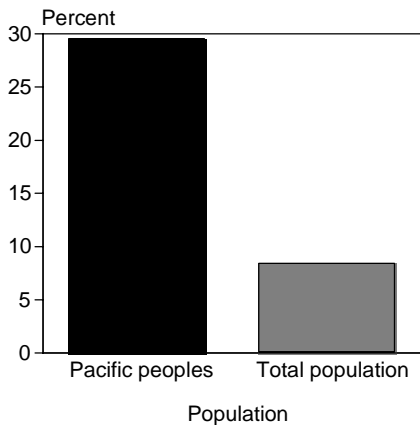


Extended families

Many Pacific peoples live in extended families, which may include more than one set of related parents, their children and/or grandchildren. As figure 3.2 illustrates, Pacific peoples are much more likely than the total New Zealand population to be living as part of an extended family. In 2001, 29 percent of the Pacific population was living in an extended family, whereas for the national population the proportion was 8 percent. Among Pacific peoples living in one-parent families in 2001, 36 percent stated that they were living as part of an extended family. In contrast, 16 percent of people living in one-parent families nationally were living within an extended family situation.

Figure 3.2

Proportion of the Pacific and Total Populations Living in Extended Families, 2001

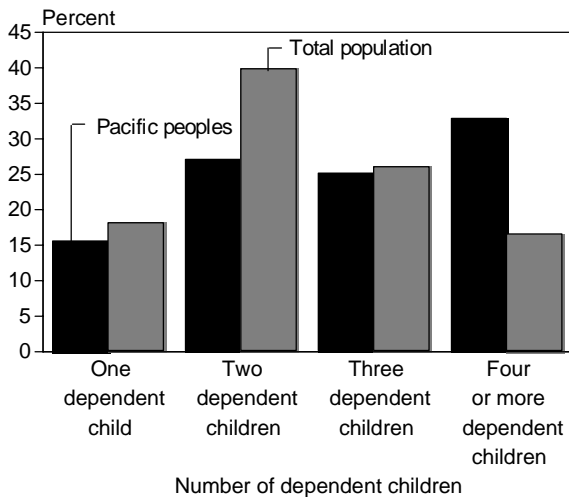


Dependent children

Pacific children tend to live in larger families than New Zealand children overall, as figure 3.3 shows. In 2001, a third of Pacific children (33 percent) were living in families that included four or more dependent children compared with 16 percent of children in the national population. This was the most common size for Pacific children. For children in the national population the most common family size was a family with two dependent children – 40 percent lived in families of this size compared with 27 percent of Pacific children.

Figure 3.3

Dependent Children, by the Number of Dependent Children in the Family, for the Pacific and Total Populations, 2001

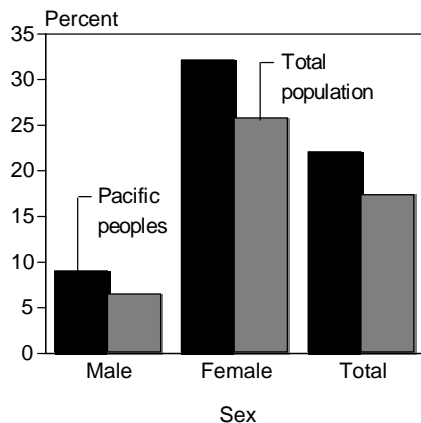


Sole parents

Pacific parents are more likely to be sole parents than New Zealand parents overall. As figure 3.4 shows, in 2001, 22 percent of Pacific parents with dependent children were sole parents. In comparison, 17 percent of all New Zealand parents with dependent children were sole parents. In both the Pacific and national populations, mothers are more likely to be sole parents than fathers. Nearly a third (32 percent) of Pacific mothers were sole parents in 2001, compared with 9 percent of Pacific fathers. As this comparison of sole parents might suggest, Pacific children are also more likely to be living in a one-parent family than New Zealand children overall. In 2001, 34 percent of dependent Pacific children were living in one-parent families compared with 26 percent of dependent children in the total New Zealand population.

Figure 3.4

Proportion of Parents with Dependent Children Who are Sole Parents, by Sex for the Pacific and Total Populations, 2001

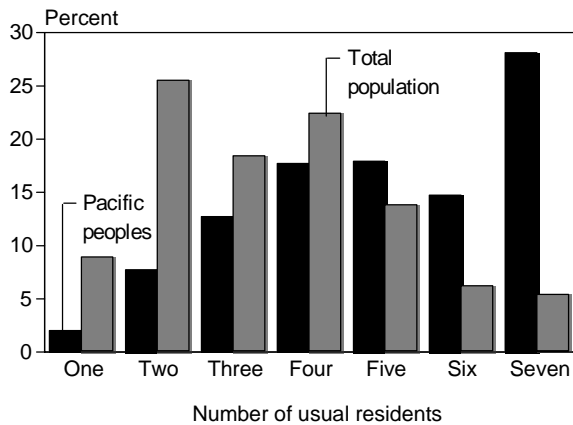


Household size

Pacific peoples tend to live in large households, with the most common household size for Pacific peoples being seven or more occupants. The relatively high proportion of extended families in the Pacific population and the high birth rate of Pacific peoples are contributing factors to their large household sizes. Cultural preferences and financial necessity also influence household size.

In 2001, 28 percent of Pacific peoples were living in households that had seven or more usual residents, while 5 percent of the total New Zealand population were living in households of this size. In contrast, 2 percent of Pacific peoples were living alone compared with 9 percent of all New Zealanders. The average number of usual occupants for all the households in which Pacific people were living in 2001 was 5.4 compared with 3.5 for New Zealand as a whole.

Figure 3.5

Number of Usual Residents per Household for the Pacific and Total Populations, 2001**Summary**

- Pacific peoples (82 percent) were more likely to live in a family situation than the total New Zealand population (77 percent) in 2001.
- Of those Pacific peoples living in a family in 2001, the majority (65 percent) were in a two-parent family. For the national population, 57 percent of individuals living in a family were in a two-parent family.
- The proportion of Pacific peoples living in one-parent families is larger than that of the total New Zealand population (28 percent and 17 percent respectively of those living as part of a family).
- Pacific peoples are much more likely than the total New Zealand population to be living as part of an extended family, with 29 percent in this situation in 2001, compared with 8 percent of the national population.
- A third of Pacific children were living in families that included four or more dependent children in 2001, compared with 16 percent of children overall.
- 34 percent of dependent Pacific children were living in one-parent families in 2001, compared with 26 percent of dependent children in the total New Zealand population.
- The average number of usual occupants for all households in which Pacific people were living in 2001 was 5.4 compared with 3.5 for New Zealand as a whole.

4. Justice

Pacific people are over-represented in justice statistics, with higher rates of conviction and prosecution than the total population. While they have relatively low rates of conviction for some crimes such as drug offences, they are strongly represented among violent offenders. The fact that more Pacific people are concentrated in the younger age groups where offending is greatest contributes to the level of Pacific offending but does not fully explain it. Socio-economic factors may also play a part as unemployment, low status jobs, low incomes and low levels of education are factors which are often associated with criminal offending.

Care should be taken in interpreting information on the ethnicity of offenders, given that in some cases the identification of ethnicity may be made by the prosecuting authority rather than the offender. Furthermore, the frequency with which particular groups appear in crime statistics may reflect the fact that their crimes tend to be more visible than others and they are therefore more likely to be apprehended. In addition, not all offences that come to the attention of the police result in prosecution, with resolution or clearance rates differing significantly by type of offence.

Offending

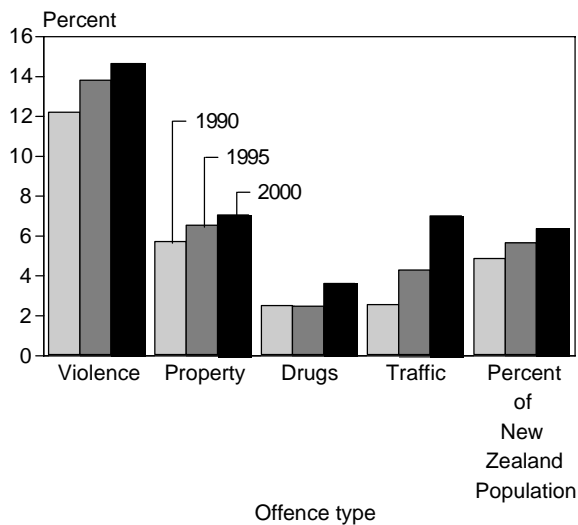
Figure 4.1 shows the proportion of convicted offenders who were Pacific people, for selected types of offence, compared with the proportion of the population who were of Pacific ethnicity. Pacific peoples made up an increasing proportion of convicted offenders in each category between 1990 and 2000, although this must be seen in the context of rapid population growth which means they are making up an increasing proportion of the total population.

Pacific people are over-represented among convictions for violent offences, which include acts such as murder, manslaughter, assault and grievous bodily harm. Pacific people accounted for 12.1 percent of total number of violent offences resulting in conviction in 1990, increasing to 14.6 percent in 2000, when they made up 6.3 percent of the population. Pacific males over the age of 30 years committed 93 percent of all violent offending by Pacific people in 2000.

Offending by Pacific people in the other major offence classes was much lower. Pacific peoples accounted for just under 6 percent of the total number of cases resulting in conviction for property offences in 1990, increasing slightly to 7 percent in 2000. These offences include burglary, theft, fraud, arson, motor vehicle conversion, receiving stolen goods, and wilful damage.

Drug offences are relatively rare among Pacific people, who are under-represented in convictions for these type of offences, the majority of which involve the possession, use and supply of cannabis. Pacific people accounted for just 2.4 percent of drug convictions in 1990 and 1995, increasing to 3.6 percent in 2000 but still considerably lower than their representation in the population as a whole. Two-thirds of Pacific offenders were aged under 30.

Figure 4.1

Convicted Pacific Offenders as a Proportion of all Convicted Offenders, 1990–2000

Source: Ministry of Justice

Traffic offences made up the largest single category of offences resulting in conviction between 1990 and 2000, and include offences such as driving with excess alcohol, careless driving and driving causing injury. This category shows the most marked increase in the proportion of Pacific offenders between 1990 and 2000. In 1990, Pacific people accounted for 2.5 percent of convictions for traffic offences, but this had increased to 6.9 percent by 2000. However, this was only slightly higher than the proportion of Pacific people in the total population.

Conviction rates

As the above figures would suggest, rates of conviction for Pacific peoples are higher than the national rates. This is true regardless of age. Figure 4.2 compares the rates of non-traffic convictions per 10,000 people for the Pacific population and the total population. The last column shows the ratio of these rates, or the extent to which conviction rates for Pacific peoples exceed those of the total population.

For both populations, convictions peak in the 17-19 age group, with Pacific people in this group being prosecuted at a rate of 843 people per 10,000 compared with a rate of 698 per 10,000 for the total population. Conviction rates were also relatively high in the 20-24 age group, with 733 convictions per 1,000 Pacific people and 529 per 10,000 in the total population. The rate falls steadily in older age groups. However, the ratio of the Pacific rate to the national rate increases with age. While in the 17-19 age group the Pacific rate is just 1.2 times higher than the national rate, in the 40 plus age group it is 2.5 times higher than the national rate. This shows that the fall in rate of convictions in older age groups is lower for Pacific peoples than for the population as a whole.

Figure 4.2

Age Specific Conviction Rates for Non-traffic Cases, for the Pacific and Total Populations, 1998

Age	Rates per 10,000		Ratio of Rates Pacific: Total
	Pacific Peoples	Total Population	
14-16	19	12	1.7
17-19	843	698	1.2
20-24	733	529	1.4
25-29	491	357	1.4
30-39	344	209	1.6
40+	108	43	2.5

Source: Ministry of Justice

Sentencing

Pacific peoples accounted for 8 percent of all offenders sentenced in 2000. As figure 4.3 shows, the types of sentences handed out to Pacific people did not differ greatly from the national figures, although they were less likely to receive a monetary sentence (42 percent compared with 49 percent nationally). The proportion of Pacific offenders receiving custodial sentences was similar to the national rate at just over 8 percent. Pacific offenders were slightly more likely to receive sentences of periodic detention, community service, supervision and deferment. They were also more likely to be convicted and discharged. Pacific people made up almost 11 percent of offenders who received supervision and 9 percent of those who were sentenced to community service or convicted and discharged. Although community programmes were designed to allow offenders to be placed in culturally appropriate programmes, just 0.2 percent of Pacific offenders were placed on such programmes and they made up less than 6 percent of placements.

Figure 4.3

Sentence Type for Convicted Offenders, for the Pacific and Total Populations, 2000

Type of sentence	Pacific Peoples	Total Population	Pacific People as Percent of Total
Custodial	8.5	8.3	7.8
Periodic detention	21.3	19.4	8.4
Community programme	0.2	0.2	5.9
Community service	8.9	7.5	9.0
Supervision	6.0	4.2	10.8
Monetary	42.4	49.2	6.5
Deferment	4.2	3.8	8.5
Other	0.9	1.2	5.9
Conviction and discharge	7.6	6.2	9.3
Total	100	100	7.6

Source: Ministry of Justice

Victims

Victimisation surveys give another perspective on the nature and extent of criminal victimisation, as only a small proportion of offences is reported to the Police. The most recent comprehensive victimisation survey was the New Zealand National Survey of Crime Victims conducted in 1996. The number of Pacific people in the survey sample was relatively small so the results need to be treated with caution, but they showed that Pacific peoples, along with Māori, were more likely to be victims of violent offending than New Zealand Europeans. Pacific people had particularly high rates of victimisation in relation to violent offences by people well known to the victim.

Summary

- Pacific people are over-represented among convictions for violent offences, accounting for 14.6 percent of convictions for violence in 2000.
- Pacific people are under-represented among convictions for drug offences, making up just 3.6 percent of convicted drug offenders in 2000.
- Rates of conviction are higher among the Pacific population than among the total population regardless of age. Those with the highest rates are 17-19 year-olds, with 843 convictions per 10,000 Pacific people, compared with 698 per 10,000 in the total population.
- Pacific people accounted for 8 percent of all offenders sentenced in 2000. The most common sentence was monetary, although this made up a smaller proportion of sentences for Pacific offenders than total offenders.

5. Education

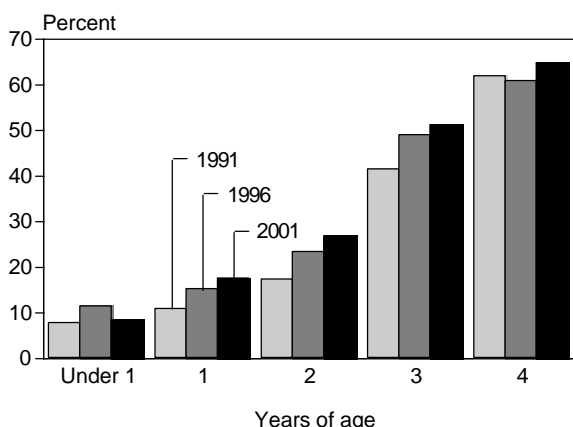
Education is a key factor determining people's socio-economic status and therefore a range of social and economic outcomes. Improving educational participation and attainment is often cited as a key to improving the position of Pacific peoples in New Zealand. This is particularly so at a time when economic and technological changes are creating opportunities for more highly skilled workers while demand at the lower-skilled end of the labour market is declining. Statistics show that Pacific people are spending more time in formal education and attaining more qualifications than in the past, but this is occurring within the context of increasing levels of education in New Zealand society as a whole. Consequently, there are still disparities between formal education levels of Pacific peoples and others.

Early childhood education

The number of Pacific children enrolled in early childhood education (ECE) has grown by over 60 percent since 1991, partly as a result of rapid growth in the number of Pacific children and partly as a result of increasing rates of participation. Between 1991 and 2001 the proportion of Pacific children aged 0-4 attending some form of ECE increased from 26 percent to 33 percent. As figure 5.1 shows, increases have occurred at all ages from one to four, with participation being greatest among four year olds, of whom 65 percent were enrolled in ECE in 2001. However, participation of Pacific children is still lower than that of the total pre-school population, with the overall participation of 0-4 year-olds being 63 percent in 2001.

Figure 5.1

Estimated Proportion of Pacific Children Enrolled in Early Childhood Education, by Age, 1991–2001



Source: Ministry of Education

Note: These are estimated figures as some children may be double counted if enrolled in more than one centre. There may also be some differences between ethnic identification in enrolment data and population data from which these rates are calculated.

The majority of Pacific enrolments in early childhood services in 2001 were in mainstream services such as education and care services (39 percent) and kindergartens (31 percent). Most of the remainder were in licence-exempt early childhood services such as Pacific Islands Early Childhood Groups, which accounted for 23 percent of Pacific enrolments.¹

In 2001 there were 84 licensed early childhood centres using a Pacific language as a medium of instruction, with 47 of these being immersion centres and 37 being bilingual. A total of 1,230 children were enrolled in the immersion centres, with the most common language being Samoan (31 centres), followed by Tongan (8 centres). A further 1,236 children were enrolled in the bilingual centres, where the most common language was again Samoan (19 centres).

¹ Licence exempt services are community based non-profit making centres operated by parents and for no more than three hours a day.

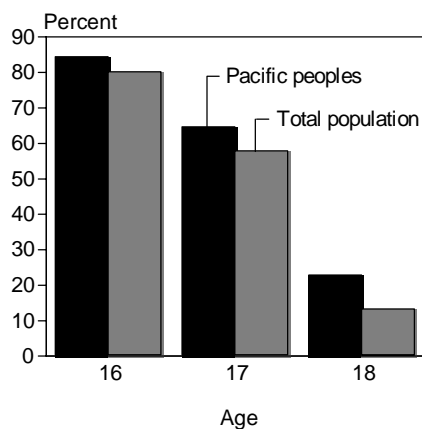
Compulsory education

With the rapid growth in the number of Pacific children, they are making up an increasing proportion of the school population. Between 1995 and 2001, Pacific children increased from 6.9 percent to 8.1 percent of all school students. This represents a 24 percent increase in numbers, compared with an increase in the total school roll of 6 percent. The greatest rate of increase has been among Tongan students (61 percent) and Fijian students (58 percent).

Pacific children are also staying at school longer than in the past. 2001 figures show 84 percent of 14 year olds staying on until age 16 and 64 percent staying on until age 17. Five years earlier, 81 percent were staying on until age 16 and 59 percent until age 17. As figure 5.2 shows, Pacific students in fact tend to stay at school longer than others, with Pacific retention rates exceeding the national rates.

Figure 5.2

Secondary School Retention Rates, for Pacific and Total Students, 2001



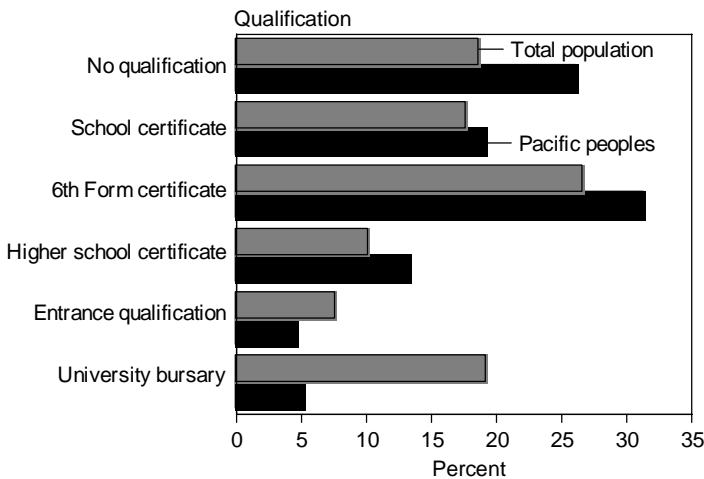
Source: Ministry of Education

Note: Retention rates show the proportion of enrolments at each age as a proportion of the enrolments of 14 year olds x years previously.

Despite staying at school longer, Pacific people tend to leave with lower qualifications than the total population. As figure 5.3 shows, 26 percent of Pacific students who left school in 2000 left with no qualifications, compared with 18 percent of all school leavers. The most common qualifications for Pacific school leavers were Sixth Form Certificate (31 percent) and School Certificate (19 percent). Pacific students were less likely than others to leave with University Bursary or entrance qualifications (around 5 percent each compared with 19 percent of all school leavers with Bursary and 8 percent with entrance qualifications). This pattern has changed little over the preceding decade. Pacific students were in fact slightly more likely to leave with no qualifications in 2000 than they had been in 1991 (26 percent compared with 25 percent) and slightly less likely to leave with University Bursary than in 1991 (5 percent compared with 7 percent). However, this mirrored trends among all school leavers.

Figure 5.3

Highest Qualification of Pacific and Total School Leavers, 2000



Source: Ministry of Education

Tertiary education

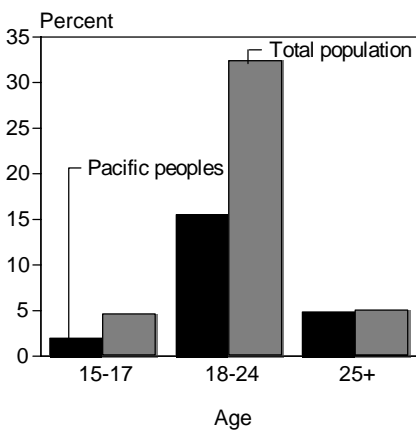
The number of Pacific people attending tertiary education institutions has increased from 3,285 in 1990 to 12,427 in 2001. They now make up 4.4 percent of all tertiary enrolments. Between 1997 and 2001 the number of Pacific enrolments grew by 26 percent, compared with a growth of 14 percent in total enrolments. However, as figure 5.4 shows, participation rates are lower among the Pacific population than among the total population. In the peak tertiary study age range of 18-24, just over 15 percent of Pacific people were enrolled in tertiary study in 2001, less than half the national rate of 32 percent. In the under 18 age group, Pacific participation was also less than half the national rate. Among those aged over 24, Pacific people were almost as likely as others to be studying, at just under 5 percent, although Pacific people in this age group do have a younger age profile than others.

Of Pacific students enrolled in tertiary study in 2001, 43 percent were enrolled in certificate level courses, 18 percent in diploma level courses, 34 percent in degrees and 4 percent in post-graduate level courses. Pacific students were more likely than others to be enrolled in certificate and diploma level courses, and less likely to be doing degrees or post-graduate study.

Pacific women are more likely to participate in tertiary education than Pacific males, with 57 percent of Pacific enrolments in 2001 being women. This mirrors the pattern in the total population.

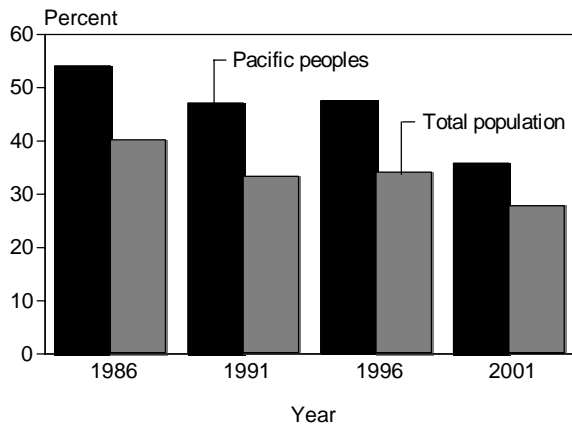
Figure 5.4

Proportion of Pacific and Total Population Enrolled in Tertiary Education, by Age, 2001



Source: Ministry of Education

Figure 5.5

Proportion of Pacific and Total Adults With No Qualifications, 1986–2001**Qualifications**

As a result of improving levels of participation in education, the Pacific population as a whole is now better qualified than in the past. The proportion of Pacific people with no qualifications has fallen and the proportion with school and university qualifications has increased. However, this is part of a trend within the wider population towards higher levels of education, and there is still disparity between educational qualifications in the Pacific and total populations.

As figure 5.5 shows, in 1986 over half the Pacific population (54 percent) had no formal educational qualifications. By 2001 this had fallen to 36 percent, although this was still higher than the national figure of 28 percent. Much of the trend in the Pacific population has been due to the increasing attainment of school qualifications, with 47 percent of Pacific adults having a school qualification as their highest qualification in 2001, compared with 30 percent in 1986. The proportion having a university degree has also increased, from 1.4 percent to 3.9 percent, although this is considerably lower than the national figure, with 11.8 percent of all New Zealand adults holding a university degree in 2001.

Summary

- More Pacific children are participating in early childhood education than in the past, with 33 percent of 0-4 year-olds enrolled in 2001 compared with 26 percent 10 years earlier. However, this is still lower than the national rate of 63 percent.
- Pacific children are staying at school longer than in the past, and they tend to stay at school longer than others, with 64 percent of Pacific 14 year olds staying at school until age 17 in 2001.
- Pacific students tend to leave school with lower qualifications than others. In 2000, 26 percent left school with no qualifications, while the most common qualification was Sixth Form Certificate (31 percent).
- The number of Pacific people in tertiary education increased from 3,300 to 12,400 between 1990 and 2001. They now make up 4.4 percent of all tertiary enrolments but their participation rates are lower than those of the total population.
- Pacific people are more likely to hold qualifications than in the past. The proportion of Pacific people with no qualifications fell from 54 percent to 36 percent between 1986 and 2001.

Part 2:

Economic Development

Kana mai na buno ni yadremu

You eat through enterprise and from the sweat of your brow

(Fijian proverb)

6. Work

The period since the mid-1980s has seen considerable change and upheaval in the labour force, which has had major consequences for employment patterns among Pacific peoples. Pacific workers were hard hit by economic restructuring and job losses in the 1980s and early 1990s, resulting in falling rates of labour force participation and employment and sharp increases in unemployment. Subsequently, these trends have reversed to some extent, as economic conditions have stabilised and new employment opportunities have emerged. However, while Pacific people's labour force participation and employment rates have increased slightly and unemployment has fallen, they have not returned to the earlier levels and there are still disparities between rates in the Pacific population and the national population. In part these reflect demographic differences, and while Pacific people may have less involvement in the paid workforce than others they are more involved in unpaid work.

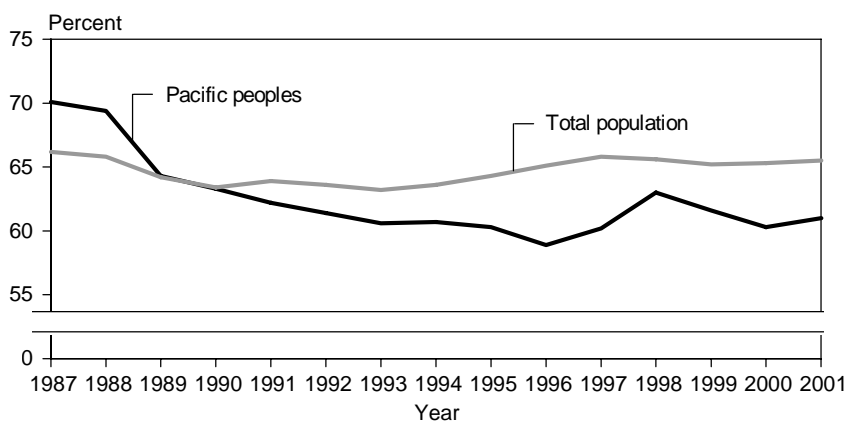
Labour force participation

Labour force participation varies markedly by age and sex, and there are also differences between ethnic groups which reflect different demographic profiles, the number of recent migrants in the population and the way that economic changes impact differently on different sectors of the labour force.

The labour force participation rate is the proportion of people aged 15 and over who are gainfully employed (ie for pay or profit) or unemployed and actively seeking work. Changes to the way unemployed people are identified in the census makes it difficult to construct a consistent time series from 1986 to 2001. The Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) provides a more consistent time series but because of the sample size it is limited in terms of the detailed analysis possible for Pacific peoples. In this section, therefore, the HLFS data is used to show the long-term trend for Pacific peoples as a whole, and the census data is used to provide more detailed analysis of patterns within the Pacific population.

Figure 6.1

Labour Force Participation Rates for Pacific and Total Populations, 1987–2001



Source: HLFS, March year averages

Trends in labour force participation

The effects of economic changes on labour force participation rates are evident in figure 6.1. The restructuring of the late 1980s and early 1990s caused major job losses in secondary industries and lower skilled manual occupations in which Pacific peoples were over-represented. This resulted not only in rising unemployment but also in falling labour force participation as many Pacific people withdrew from the labour force or ceased to actively look for work on a regular basis. Between 1987 and 1996, the labour force participation rate of Pacific people fell from 70 percent to 59 percent. This trend was far more marked than the decline in the overall labour force participation rate, which fell from 66 percent in 1987 to a low of 63 percent in 1993 before recovering to 66 percent again. The rate for Pacific people improved in the late 1990s, peaking at 63 percent in the year to March 1998 but has fallen to 61 percent since then and remains lower than the overall rate of 66 percent. This contrasts with the situation at the beginning of the period when Pacific people's labour force participation was higher than that of the total population

Age and sex

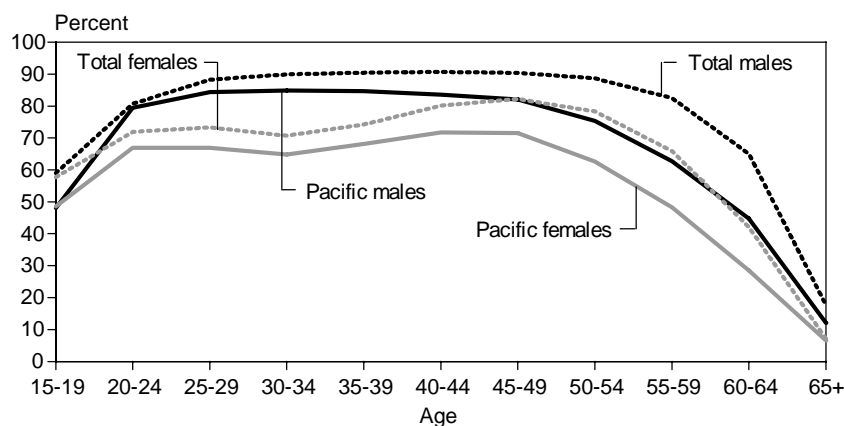
Different age structures of the Pacific and total populations influence their overall rates of labour force participation. However, as figure 6.2 shows, Pacific people's labour force participation is lower than that of the total population for both males and females at all ages. The pattern for both the Pacific and total populations is similar, showing an increase in the teenage years as people leave education and enter the workforce, then levelling out until people enter their 50s and begin to withdraw from the labour force. For women, participation also dips slightly during the peak child-raising years.

Differences between male and female labour force participation are similar for the Pacific and total populations, with male participation being higher at all ages over 20 and the gap being greatest in the peak childbearing years of the mid-20s to 40, and in the pre-retirement age group of 60-64.

Pacific people's labour force participation is closest to that of the total population at the ages of 20-24 and 65 plus. The similarity at 20-24 may reflect the fact that Pacific people have lower rates of participation in tertiary education at this age, while in the older age group most people are retired. The differences in participation between the Pacific and total populations are greatest at the ages approaching retirement, namely 50-64.

Figure 6.2

Labour Force Participation Rates for Pacific and Total Populations, by Sex and Age, 2001



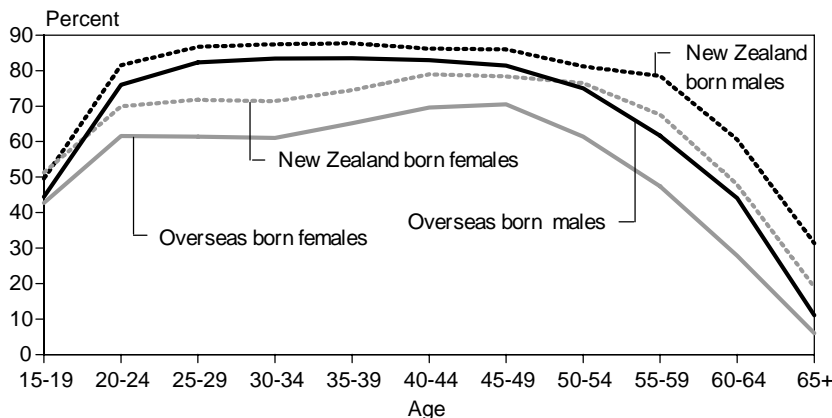
Birthplace

The difference between the labour force participation rates of the Pacific and total populations in the pre-retirement age groups may reflect the fact that at older ages greater proportions of Pacific people are overseas-born. As figure 6.3 shows, within the Pacific population, participation rates are higher for the New Zealand-born than the overseas-born for both sexes and at all ages. Overall, New Zealand-born males had a participation rate of 74 percent compared with 70 percent for overseas-born males, while New Zealand-born females had a participation rate of 66 percent compared to 55 percent for overseas-born females. The differences in labour force participation between New Zealand-born and overseas-born Pacific people are greatest in the older age groups of 55-64.

The lower rate of participation for overseas born Pacific people may reflect a number of factors, including the fact that they tend to have fewer qualifications and skills sought after in the New Zealand labour market, so may have more difficulty finding employment; that some are recent migrants who may not yet have established themselves economically; and that if they are not employed they may be more likely to withdraw from the labour force than actively seek employment.

Figure 6.3

Labour Force Participation Rates for Pacific People by Birthplace, Sex and Age, 2001



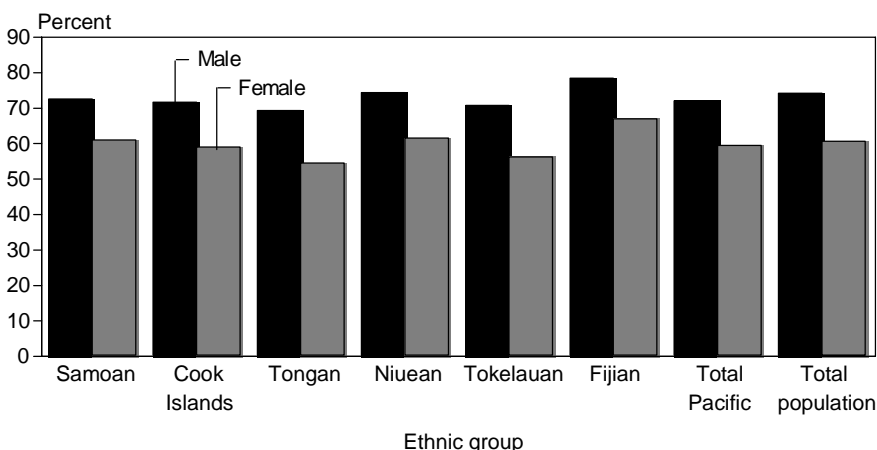
Pacific ethnic groups

In addition to variations by age, sex and birthplace, labour force participation also varies between different Pacific ethnic groups, as figure 6.4 shows. Among the major Pacific ethnic groups, Fijians have the highest rates of labour force participation for both males and females (78 percent and 67 percent respectively). This is the only group which has a higher rate of labour force participation than that of the total population.¹ Tongans have the lowest rates of labour force participation for both males and females (69 percent and 54 percent respectively), just below that of Tokelauans. Samoans and Cook Islands people have rates close to those of the total Pacific population, which they strongly influence by virtue of being the largest Pacific ethnic groups.

Variations in labour force participation between groups are to some extent influenced by differences in age, birthplace and length of residence in New Zealand. However, Fijians tend to have the highest rates of participation and Tokelauans and Tongans the lowest, regardless of age and duration of residence.

Figure 6.4

Labour Force Participation Rates for Pacific People, by Sex and Ethnic Group, 2001



¹ Patterns for the Fijian population differ from other Pacific groups in many socio-economic areas. This may reflect the fact, noted earlier, that the Fijian ethnic group includes a number of people of Indian ethnicity who have migrated from Fiji.

Employment rates

Trends in employment

As labour force participation rates include the unemployed, it is useful to look also at the employment rate, which shows the proportion of people of working age who are gainfully employed. The rates shown in figure 6.5 follow much the same trend as the labour force participation rates. However, because the unemployed are excluded, the influence of changes in the labour market is more apparent. The deterioration in the employment position of Pacific peoples between 1986 and 1991 is particularly marked, with a fall in the employment rate from 62 percent to 43 percent. Over the same period the total employment rate fell from 61 percent to 54 percent. By 2001 the Pacific employment rate had recovered to 55 percent but this was still considerably lower than in 1986 and lower than the total employment rate in 2001 of 62 percent.

Figure 6.5

Employment Rates for Pacific and Total Populations, 1986–2001

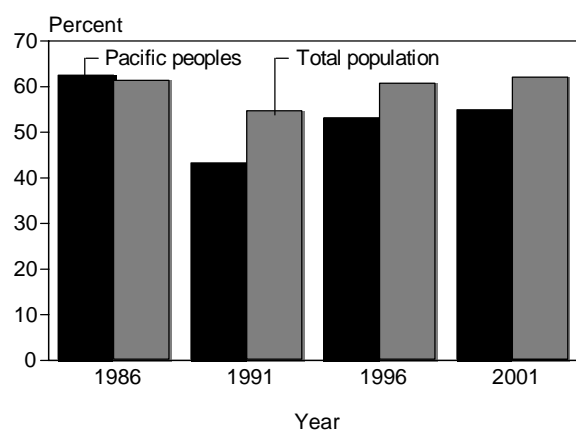
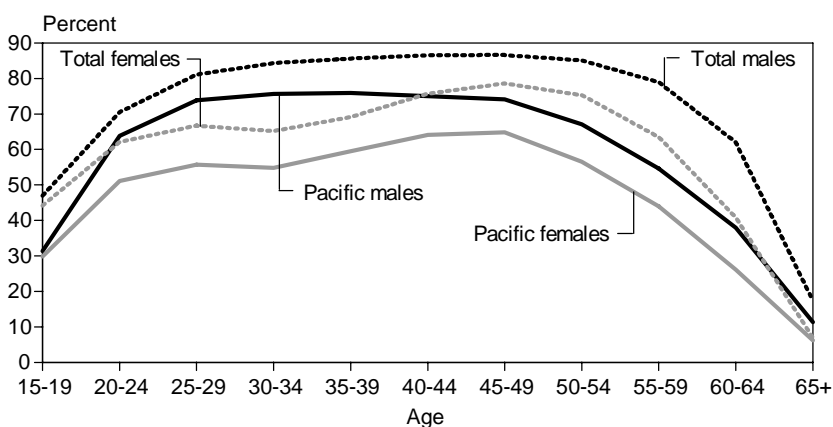


Figure 6.6

Employment Rates for Pacific and Total Populations, by Sex and Age, 2001



Age and sex

Differences in employment rates by age and sex, shown in figure 6.6, also closely resemble those in labour force participation. However, the disparities between Pacific peoples and the total population are again more accentuated because greater proportions of the Pacific labour force are unemployed. As with labour force participation rates, the greatest disparities are in the pre-retirement age groups of 50-64. By the age of 60-64, just 38 percent of Pacific men and 26 percent of Pacific women were employed, compared with 62 percent of all men and 41 percent of all women.

The marked falls in employment for Pacific peoples between 1986 and 1991 were experienced by both sexes and at all ages, as figures 6.7a and 6.7b show. For males, all age groups up to the age of 65 experienced drops in employment rates of between 20 and 30 percentage points. The 15-19 and 60-64 age groups had particularly low employment rates in 1991 of 19 percent and 16 percent respectively, reflecting declining rates of labour force participation as many younger people delayed entry into the workforce and older people withdrew from the labour force earlier than they otherwise might have. For women, the falls between 1986 and 1991 were less marked but were also substantial, particularly in the 15-19 age group where the employment rate fell from 38 percent to 18 percent.

With improvement in the labour market between 1991 and 2001, the employment rates of both males and females increased at all ages. For both sexes the biggest increases were in the pre-retirement age group of 60-64. There were also considerable increases for the youngest age groups between 1991 and 1996, but this trend reversed slightly after 1996, which may be due to a combination of increasing unemployment and increasing educational participation in this age group.

Despite these increases, the employment rate for males in 2001 remained below the levels of 1986 in all but the 60 plus age groups. Those who experienced the biggest decline over the period were men in their 50s. Among females, however, the recovery between 1991 and 2001 saw employment rates return to levels similar to, or exceeding, those of 1986. The greatest increases between 1986 and 2001 were among older women in the 60-64 and 65 plus age groups. The fact that women's employment rates recovered to a greater extent than men's reflects the fact that, in addition to economic forces, women's employment is also influenced by social changes that have encouraged more women to enter the workforce in recent decades. There may also have been a greater need for women to work as a result of the deterioration in men's employment.

Figure 6.7a

Employment Rates for Pacific Males, by Age, 1986–2001

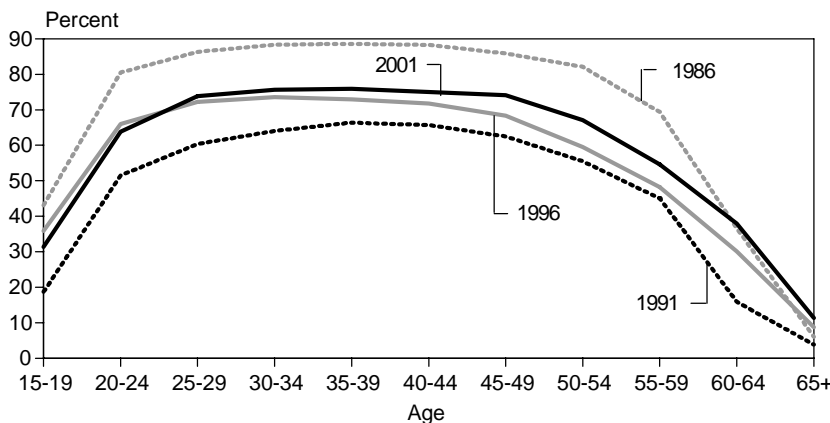
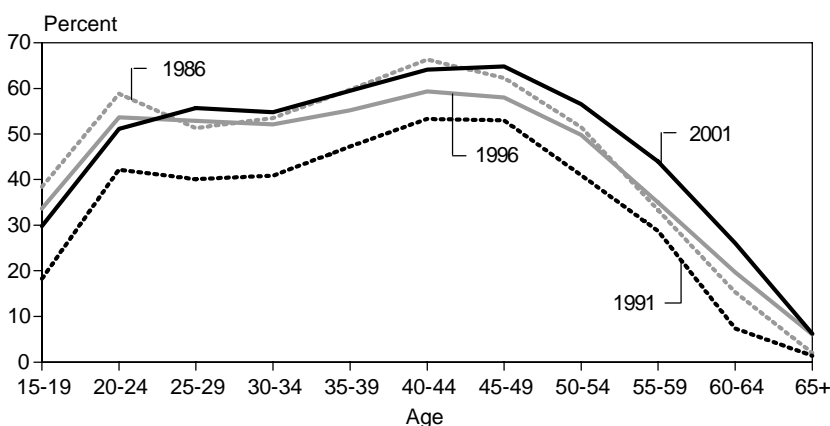


Figure 6.7b

Employment Rates for Pacific Females, by Age, 1986–2001

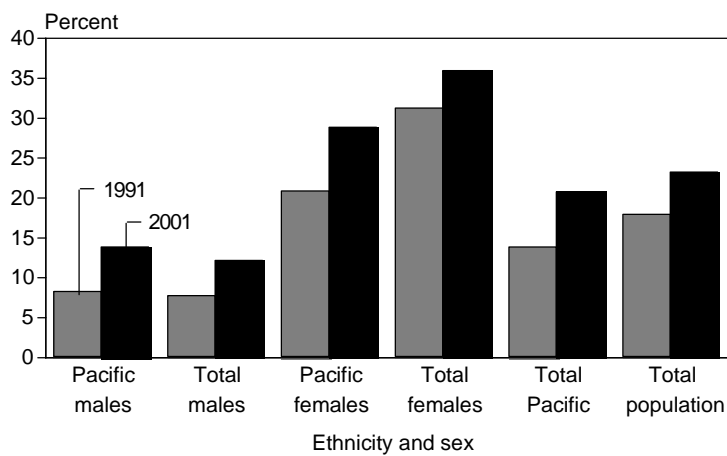


Hours of work

Employment rates include both full-time and part-time workers. Although part-time work has become more common in recent years the vast majority of employed people continue to work full time (30 hours or more per week). Figure 6.8 shows that between 1991 and 2001 the proportion of Pacific men working part time increased from 8 percent to 14 percent, slightly more than the increase in the total proportion of men working part time. Women are much more likely than men to work part time, with the proportion of part-timers among the Pacific female workforce increasing from 21 percent to 29 percent between 1991 and 2001. However, this is markedly lower than the total proportion of women working part time, which perhaps reflects the economic necessity of full-time work for many Pacific women.

Figure 6.8

Proportion of Employed People Who Work Part-time, for Pacific and Total Populations, by sex, 1991–2001



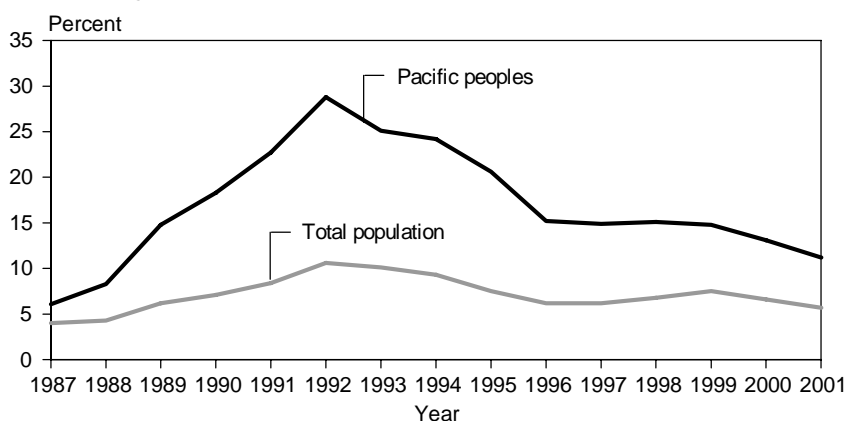
Unemployment

Trends in unemployment

The trend in unemployment among Pacific peoples mirrors the pattern in employment rates and labour force participation. In 1987, Pacific unemployment stood at 6.1 percent, just over two percentage points higher than the rate for the total population. With the job losses that occurred in succeeding years, the total unemployment rate rose to 10.6 percent by 1992. Unemployment among Pacific peoples rose much more steeply, however, peaking at 28.8 percent in 1992. Since that time it has fallen to 11.2 percent and although this represents a substantial fall, the rate remains nearly twice as high as the total unemployment rate of 5.7 percent and nearly twice as high as the rate for Pacific peoples at the beginning of the period.

Figure 6.9

Unemployment Rates for Pacific and Total Populations, 1987–2001



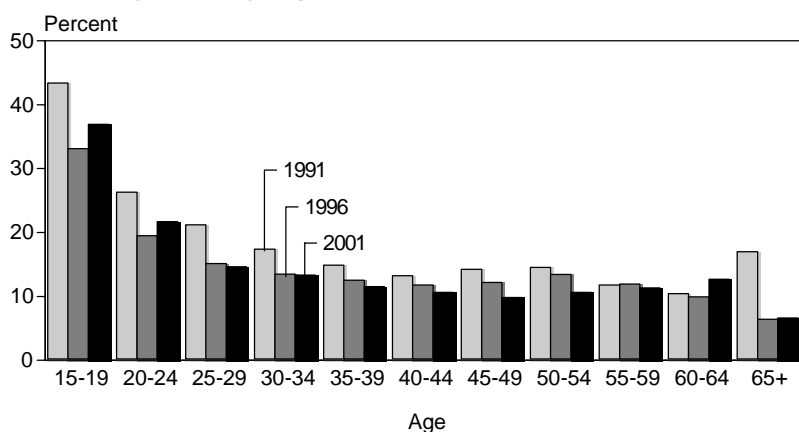
Source: HLFS (March year averages)

Age and sex

For detailed analysis of the characteristics of unemployed Pacific people, the census provides a more reliable source than the Household Labour Force Survey. Figure 6.10 shows changes in the unemployment rate for Pacific people by age between 1991 and 2001. The downward trend in unemployment over the decade occurred at all ages with the exception of the pre-retirement age group of 60-64. For most age groups, particularly those under the age of 40, the most marked falls occurred between 1991 and 1996. However, for young Pacific people aged between 15 and 24, unemployment increased again between 1996 and 2001, albeit to lower levels than those prevailing in 1991. The unemployment rates for young Pacific people have remained considerably higher than at older ages, with 36.7 percent of 15-19 year olds and 21.5 percent of 20-24 year olds being unemployed at the time of the 2001 Census. In these age groups many people are yet to find work after finishing their education, and a large proportion of those in the labour force at these ages will be without tertiary qualifications, which reduces their employment prospects.

Figure 6.10

Unemployment by Age for Pacific People, 1991–2001



Despite improvements in the unemployment rate among Pacific peoples, figure 6.11 shows that in 2001 the rates among Pacific peoples remained higher than the rates for the total population for both sexes and at all ages. The biggest disparities were in the younger age groups when unemployment rates for both Pacific and total populations are at their highest, and among men in the pre-retirement age group. Pacific women have higher rates of unemployment than Pacific men up to the age of 40, but the male rate increases in the age range of 50-64 while the female rate continues to decline. This mirrors a similar but less pronounced trend in the rates for the total population. Overall, Pacific females were more likely to be unemployed than Pacific males (17.6 percent compared with 14.9 percent), which was also the case in the total population (8.0 percent compared with 7.0 percent).

Figure 6.11

Unemployment by Sex and Age, for Pacific and Total Populations, 2001

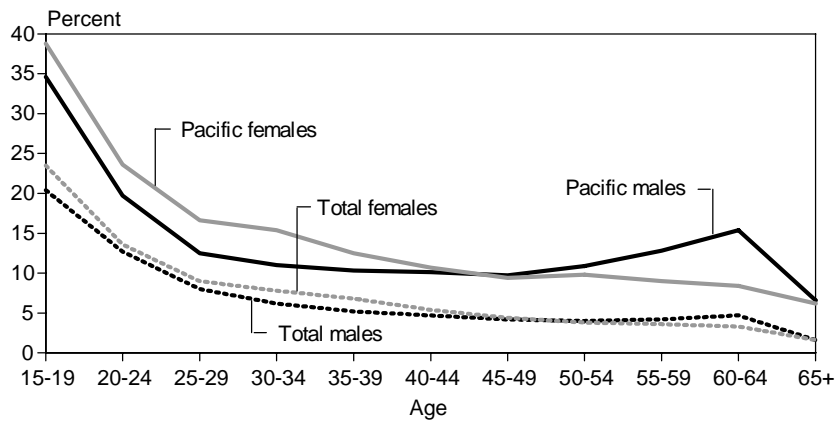
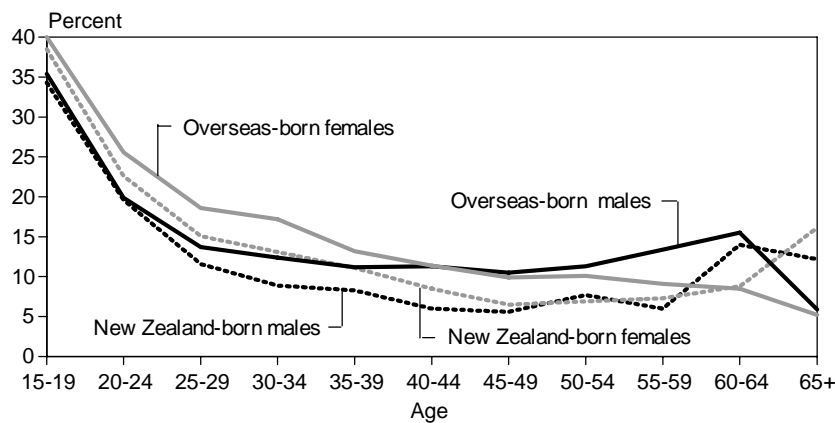


Figure 6.12

Unemployment by Birthplace, Sex and Age for Pacific People, 2001



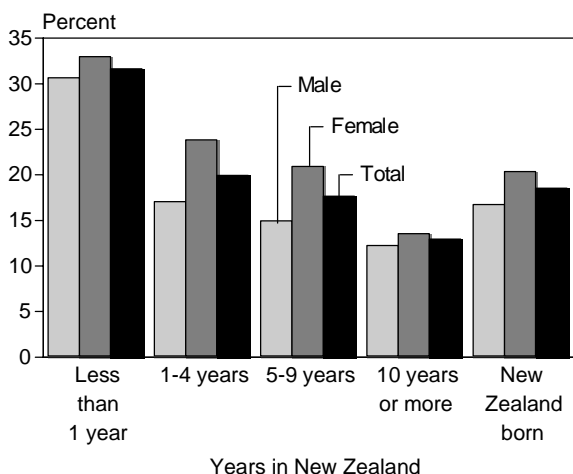
Birthplace

Birthplace and length of residence in New Zealand also influence Pacific unemployment. Overall, Pacific people born in New Zealand were more likely than those born overseas to be unemployed (18.4 percent compared with 14.6 percent), but this is due to the younger age profile of the New Zealand-born group. As figure 6.12 shows, when the figures are broken down by age, the New Zealand-born were less likely to be unemployed than those in the same age group who were born overseas, except in the case of women aged 65 and over.

Duration of residence is a key factor in the unemployment rates of overseas-born Pacific people. As figure 6.13 shows, those who had been in New Zealand for less than a year at the time of the 2001 Census had the highest unemployment rates (32.8 percent for women and 30.5 percent for men). Unemployment declined quite markedly among those who had been in New Zealand between one and four years, and more gradually thereafter. Those who had been in New Zealand for 10 years or more had an unemployment rate of just 12.8 percent, lower than that of New Zealand-born Pacific people. Age also has an influence on this pattern, with fewer young people among the longer-term residents from overseas.

Figure 6.13

Unemployment by Sex and Years in New Zealand for Pacific People, 2001

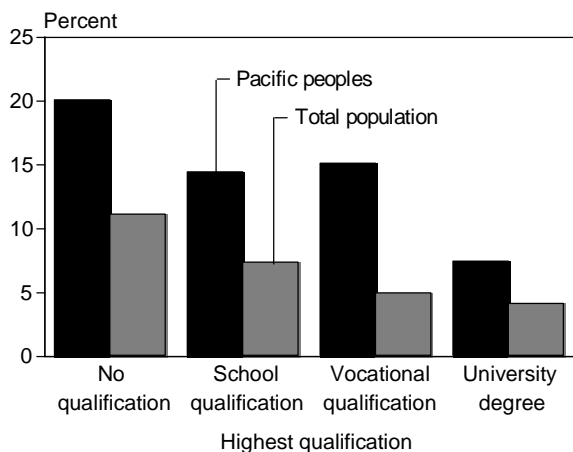


Qualifications

The likelihood of being unemployed is clearly influenced by people’s educational attainments. However, qualifications alone do not account for the comparatively high unemployment rates among the Pacific population. Figure 6.14 shows that unemployment among Pacific people was highest for those without any formal educational qualifications (20 percent), and lowest for those with university degrees (7.4 percent). However, Pacific unemployment rates were considerably higher than the norm for people with similar levels of qualification. The most pronounced disparity was among those with vocational qualifications, with the Pacific rate being three times the national rate

Figure 6.14

Unemployment Rates by Highest Qualification, for Pacific and Total Populations, 2001

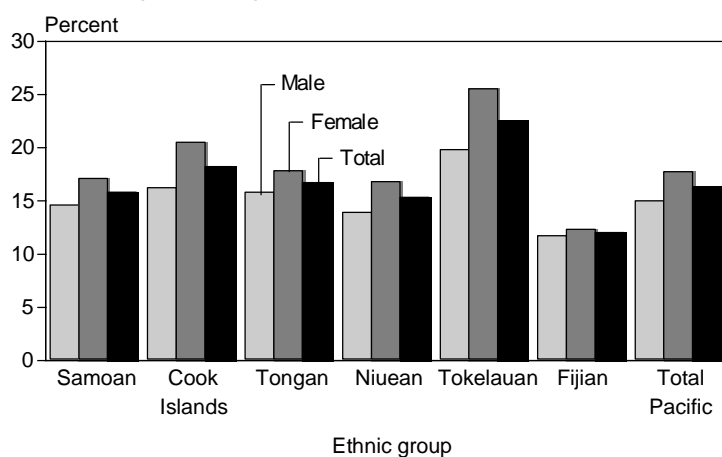


Pacific ethnic groups

All the major Pacific ethnic groups have relatively high rates of unemployment, although there are some variations between the groups, as figure 6.15 shows. Tokelauans were by far the most likely to be unemployed, at rates of 19.7 percent for men and 25.4 percent for women. Fijians were the least likely to be unemployed (11.6 percent of men and 12.2 percent of women). The variation between the other Pacific ethnic groups is not as great, although Cook Islands people and Tongans were slightly more likely to be unemployed than Samoans and Niueans. For all groups, women had higher rates of unemployment than men. Again the closeness of the rates for the Samoan and total Pacific populations reflect the influence of the large Samoan ethnic group in determining the overall rates.

Figure 6.15

Unemployment by Ethnic Group and Sex for Pacific People, 2001



Te Umiumiga a Tokelau Hutt Valley

Te Umiumiga a Tokelau Hutt Valley Incorporated is a Tokelauan community organisation in the Hutt Valley, Wellington. Established in 1989, the main goal of the group has been to bring the local Tokelauan community together. An important part of this objective has been the fundraising for a centre where the Tokelauan community can meet, hold events, pool resources and access opportunities. Towards this goal, members of the Tokelauan community have volunteered their time for committee roles, provided their services, and supported the group through community activities and fundraisers. As an interim measure, a section and hall were purchased at Naenae in the Hutt Valley in 1997 for over a quarter of a million dollars. The existing hall was renovated, and officially opened as Te Umiumiga a Tokelau Hutt Valley in 1998. Fundraising for a more appropriate centre is ongoing through community events such as housie, raffles and dances.

At present Te Umiumiga a Tokelau Hutt Valley involves more than a thousand Tokelauan people in the Hutt Valley, many of whom originate from Nukunonu, Fakaofu and Atafu atolls in Tokelau. Individuals from other ethnic groups are also involved with Te Umiumiga a Tokelau Hutt Valley through marriage and friendship. The centre provides a focus for community activities, including women's, parish and elders' groups, aerobics classes, the Tokelau Hutt Valley Sports and Culture Association, and various sporting and cultural events with the Tokelauan community in the wider Wellington region. Te Umiumiga a Tokelau Hutt Valley has also assisted Te Matiti Tokelau, which became New Zealand's first licensed Tokelauan pre-school in 2001.

Sources: Tioni Vulu, Sione Kupa, Filipino Lui and Henry Joseph

Unpaid work

Participation in unpaid work is an often unseen and unrecognised contribution to society and the economy. Figure 6.16 shows the levels of unpaid work, both inside and outside the home, in the four weeks before the 2001 Census.² The most common category of unpaid work for both the Pacific and national populations is household work, which includes activities such as cooking, repairs and gardening. In 2001, 72 percent of Pacific adults stated they had performed these activities without pay in the previous four weeks. In comparison, 81 percent of the total New Zealand population had been involved in household work over the same period. Factors that may have contributed to the lower proportion for Pacific peoples include differences in the interpretation of the census question and an individual's understanding of what constitutes household 'work'.

Pacific peoples are more likely than the national population to spend time looking after a child in their household. In 2001, 38 percent of Pacific adults stated they were involved in this activity, compared with 30 percent of the total New Zealand adult population. The larger families of Pacific populations and their greater propensity to live in extended family situations account for their greater participation in child rearing activities in the home (see Chapter 3, *Families and Households*).

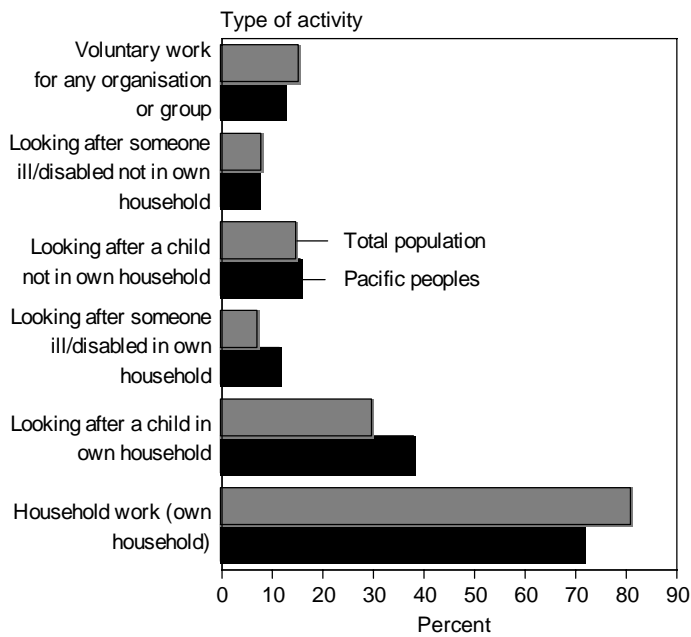
A greater proportion of Pacific peoples also spend time looking after an ill or disabled member of their household. In 2001, 12 percent of Pacific adults were involved in unpaid work of this nature. In contrast, 7 percent of adults among the New Zealand population spent time taking care of an ill or disabled household member.

There was little difference in the proportions of the Pacific and national populations involved in categories of unpaid work outside the home in 2001. These activities included looking after a child or a sick person in another household as well as other helping and voluntary work for an organisation or group. The voluntary work that Pacific peoples contribute to church groups may be under-represented as the word 'church' was not included in the Census question.

² Unpaid work data from the March 2001 Census of Population and Dwellings is based on the four weeks prior to the Census. References to '2001' refer to this period.

Figure 6.16

Proportion of the Pacific and Total Populations Involved in Unpaid Work, 2001

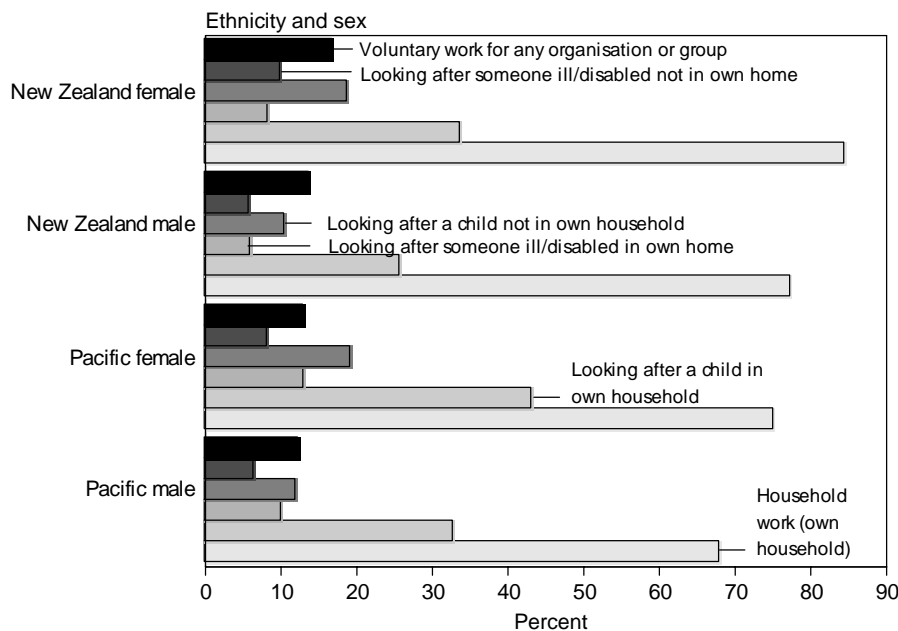


Sex

As can be expected there are some notable differences between men and women in their involvement in unpaid work. In 2001, Pacific women (75 percent) were more likely do household work than Pacific men (68 percent) as can be seen in figure 6.17. This matches the national situation, with more New Zealand women (85 percent) performing household work than New Zealand men (77 percent). A similar pattern occurs for the activities of looking after a child at home, and for looking after an ill or disabled household member.

Figure 6.17

Proportion of the Pacific and Total Populations Involved in Unpaid Work, by Sex, 2001

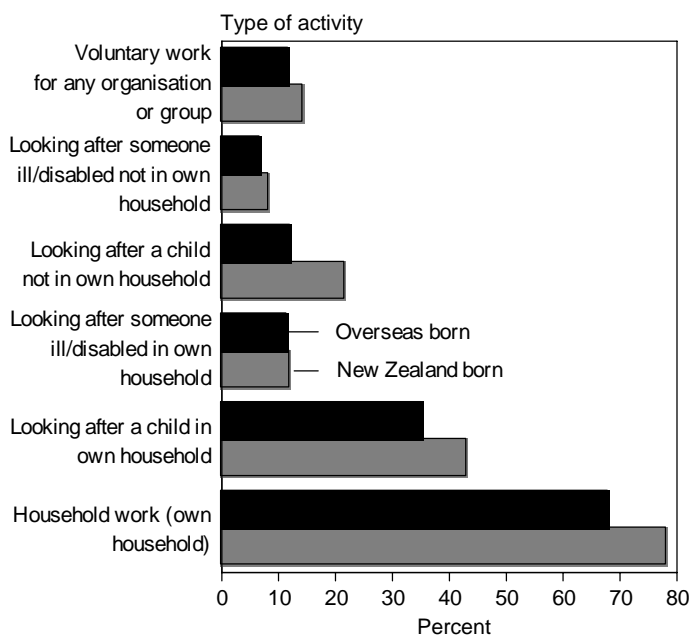


Birthplace

Pacific peoples born in New Zealand are more likely to be involved in unpaid activities in the home than overseas-born Pacific peoples. In 2001, 78 percent of New Zealand-born Pacific peoples stated they performed household work, compared to 68 percent of Pacific peoples born overseas. As figure 6.18 shows, New Zealand-born Pacific peoples were also more likely to look after a child in their own home, reflecting the younger age structure of the New Zealand-born population. Outside of the home, a slightly higher proportion of New Zealand-born Pacific peoples were involved in voluntary work for an organisation or group (14 and 12 percent respectively).

Figure 6.18

Proportion of the Pacific Population Involved in Unpaid Work, by Birthplace, 2001



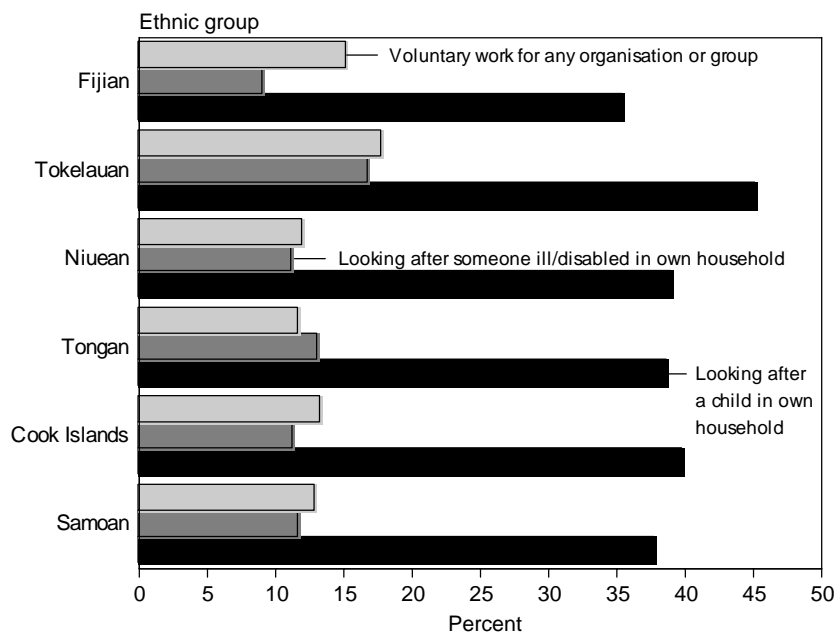
Pacific ethnic groups

Among the major Pacific ethnic groups, Tokelauans are the most likely to look after a child in their own household. Figure 6.19 shows that in 2001, 45 percent of Tokelauan adults stated they were involved in this activity. Cook Island adults were next most likely at 40 percent, while Fijian adults (35 percent) were least likely to look after a child in their own home. The Tokelauan ethnic group also has the highest proportion of adults looking after an ill or disabled member of their household. In 2001, 17 percent of Tokelauan adults were involved in this activity, followed by Tongan adults (13 percent). Fijians (9 percent) had the lowest proportion of adults looking after an ill or disabled household member.

Outside of the home, Tokelauans had the highest rate of participation in voluntary work for an organisation or group. In 2001, 18 percent of Tokelauan adults were involved with community groups or organisations, 3 percentage points higher than the national rate. The Fijian ethnic group (15 percent) had the next highest level of participation.

Figure 6.19

Proportion of the Pacific Population Involved in Selected Unpaid Work, by Ethnic Group, 2001



Conclusion

Pacific people's participation in the labour force was disproportionately affected by economic restructuring and job losses in the late 1980s, and the effects of this continued to be felt through the 1990s and into the start of the new millennium. During the 1990s labour force participation and employment rates increased and unemployment fell for both the Pacific and the broader national population. However, while figures for the national workforce returned to levels similar to those of the mid-1980s, for Pacific people the recovery was only partial, and they remain less likely to be in the labour force or to be gainfully employed and more likely to be unemployed than they were in the mid-80s.

Furthermore, there are still disparities in labour force status between the Pacific and total populations. In part these reflect demographic differences, with the Pacific population containing more young people and migrants who may have difficulty finding employment. Pacific people are also more likely than others to spend time caring for children or ill or disabled people, which is work with an economic and social value outside the paid labour force. As more New Zealand-born Pacific people with higher levels of formal education enter and progress through the labour force, disparities may reduce in the future. However, the high levels of unemployment among young Pacific people suggest that significant change may not be an immediate prospect.

Summary

- Pacific people's labour force participation rate fell from 70 percent to 59 percent between 1987 and 1996. It has since recovered slightly to 61 percent, but this is below the national rate of 66 percent.
- Pacific people's labour force participation rate is lower than that of the total population at all ages and for both sexes. The difference is smallest at the ages of 20-24 and greatest at the ages approaching retirement (50-64).
- Pacific people who were born in New Zealand have higher rates of labour force participation than overseas-born Pacific people of similar ages.
- The proportion of Pacific adults who were gainfully employed fell from 62 percent to 43 percent between 1986 and 1991. It has since recovered to 55 percent but remains lower than the national rate of 62 percent.
- Between 1991 and 2001 the employment rates of both Pacific males and females increased at all ages. Men's employment rates are still below those of 1986 but women's rates are now similar to, and at some ages higher than, those of 1986.
- The proportion of Pacific workers of both sexes working part time has increased since 1991. Pacific males have higher rates of part-time work than the national figure but Pacific women have lower rates than the national figure.
- Pacific unemployment increased from 6.1 percent in 1987 to a peak of 28.8 percent in 1992 but has since fallen to 11.2 percent.
- Unemployment is particularly high among young Pacific people, at 36.7 percent for 15-19 year olds and 21.5 percent for 20-24 year olds in 2001.
- Overseas-born Pacific people are more likely to be unemployed than New Zealand-born Pacific people of similar age, but unemployment rates for the overseas-born decline markedly the longer they have been living in New Zealand.
- Pacific people without educational qualifications are more likely to be unemployed than those with qualifications. Those with university degrees are the least likely to be unemployed but they still have higher rates of unemployment than the national rate for people with degrees.
- In 2001, 38 percent of Pacific adults stated they were involved in looking after a child in their household, compared with 30 percent of all New Zealand adults.
- A greater proportion of Pacific adults spent time looking after an ill or disabled member of their household, with 12 percent doing so in 2001, compared with 7 percent of adults among the national population.

7. Occupation and industry

Historically, Pacific peoples have not been evenly distributed throughout the New Zealand labour force but have tended to be over-represented in less skilled manual jobs in secondary industries and under-represented in the more skilled and higher status white-collar jobs in service industries, particularly in professional and managerial occupations. They have also been under-represented among employers and self-employed people. These patterns date back to the peak years of Pacific labour migration in the 1960s and early 1970s when migrants from the Pacific were drawn into expanding secondary industries where labour shortages were created by conditions of full employment. Over subsequent years there has been some social mobility among the Pacific population as younger Pacific people have acquired more education and skills and increasing numbers have moved into higher status white-collar jobs in service industries or started their own businesses. Despite this, there are continuing disparities between the occupational and industrial distribution of the Pacific and total populations.

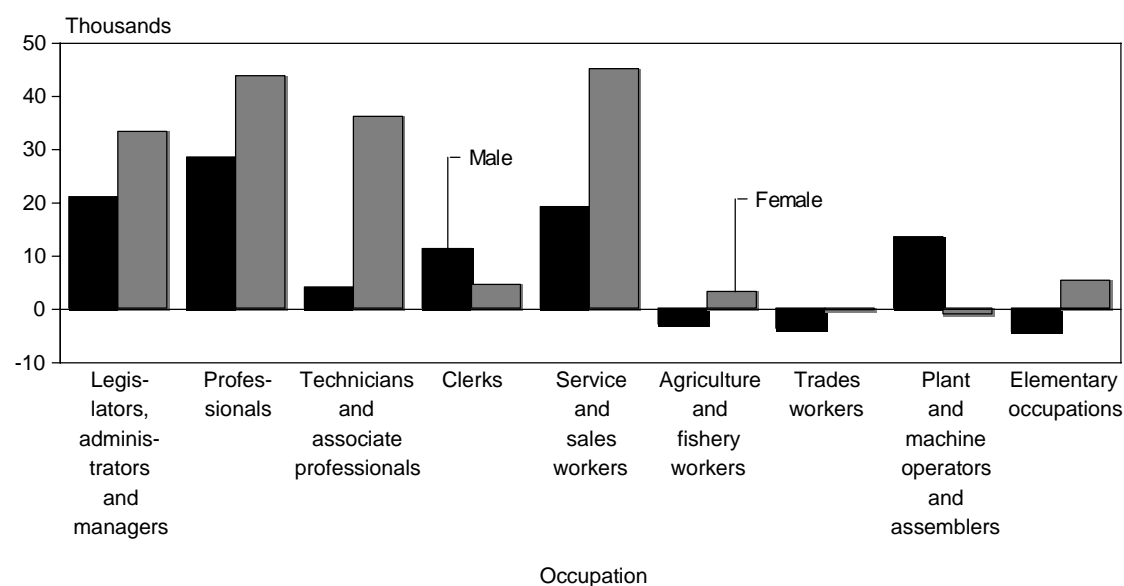
Occupation

Occupational trends

Changes in the occupational distribution of Pacific peoples must be seen in the context of changing employment patterns in the wider workforce. Job opportunities in the areas which Pacific people entered in the 1960s and 1970s have declined in more recent years as a result of economic restructuring and technological change, while the more skilled white-collar occupations have expanded. Figure 7.1 shows that the majority of employment growth in the total workforce for both males and females between 1991 and 2001 was among legislators, administrators and managers, professionals and technicians and associate professionals. This growth was particularly marked for women, who continued to increase their rates of labour force participation over this period. There was also marked growth in service and sales work, particularly for women (this category is predominantly white-collar but includes some unskilled and semi-skilled manual jobs). By contrast, most of the wholly manual occupational categories experienced declining employment between 1991 and 2001. The only significant increase was in the number of men employed as plant and machine operators and assemblers, but this represented just 16 percent of the total growth in male employment.

Figure 7.1

Changes in Total Numbers Employed, by Occupation and Sex, 1991–2001



Occupational trends among Pacific workers reflect a combination of these wider structural changes as well as social mobility within the Pacific population which has resulted from improving levels of education and changing aspirations. Figure 7.2 shows that for Pacific males the manual occupations still dominate, but the proportions employed in each of the categories of elementary occupations, plant and machine operators and assemblers and trades workers all fell between 1991 and 2001. Those employed in elementary occupations, which includes labourers and related elementary service workers, fell from 23 percent to 15 percent over the decade. The largest category, that of plant and machine operators and assemblers, fell from 29 percent to 25 percent between 1991 and 1996, but increased again slightly by 2001.

Conversely, there have been increases in the proportions of Pacific males employed in all white-collar occupational categories. Service and sales and clerical occupations remain the most common types of white-collar work for Pacific males, but increasing proportions are also employed as technicians and associate professionals (7 percent); professionals; and legislators, administrators and managers (both 6 percent). For Pacific men, the most common professional occupations are religious professions, computing professions and primary and secondary school teaching. The most common occupations in the technicians and associate professionals category are those of sales representative and social work associate professional. In the legislators, administrators and managers category, Pacific men are most likely to be working as supply and distribution managers.

Figure 7.2

Occupation for Pacific Males, 1991–2001

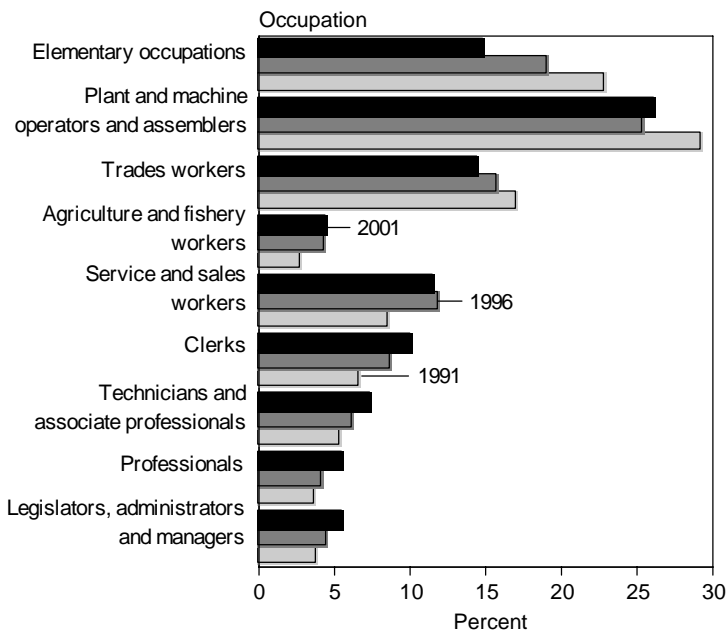
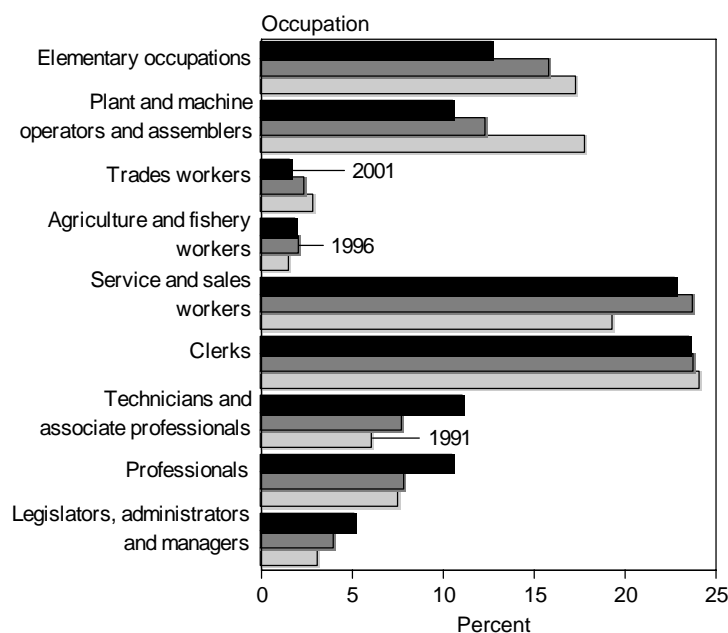


Figure 7.3

Occupation for Pacific Females, 1991–2001

For Pacific women, service and sales and clerical occupations have traditionally been the most important areas of employment. As figure 7.3 shows, the proportion of Pacific women in clerical occupations fell slightly over the decade but this remains the largest occupational group, employing 24 percent of Pacific women. The proportion in service and sales work increased over the decade from 19 percent to 23 percent, despite a slight fall between 1996 and 2001. The largest falls over the decade were in the categories of plant and machine operators and assemblers (from 18 percent to 11 percent) and elementary occupations (from 17 percent to 13 percent).

Conversely, there have been marked increases in the proportions employed as technicians and associate professionals (11 percent in 2001), professionals (11 percent) and legislators, administrators and managers (5 percent). Pacific women are almost twice as likely as Pacific men to be in professional occupations, which is largely a reflection of the number of Pacific women employed in nursing and primary or early childhood teaching professions. Pacific women are also more likely than Pacific men to work as technicians or associate professionals, with many in this category employed as social work associate professionals and sales representatives. Pacific women have a similar representation to Pacific men in legislative, administrative and managerial work, and like their male counterparts in this category they are most commonly employed as supply and distribution managers.

When these broad occupational categories are broken down into more specific types of occupations, we can see which particular jobs are most prevalent among Pacific workers. Figure 7.4 shows that labouring is the most common job for Pacific men, accounting for 5.8 percent of the Pacific male workforce, compared with 2.8 percent of the total male workforce. Of the top 10 occupations for Pacific males, only those of stock clerk (4.8 percent) and salespersons and demonstrators (3.6 percent) are non-manual occupations. By contrast, of the top ten occupations for the total male workforce, half are non-manual occupations and three are in the managerial categories. The only occupations that feature in the top ten male occupations for both the Pacific and total workforces are those of labourers, salespersons and demonstrators, and carpenters and joiners.

For Pacific women, the most popular occupation is that of personal care worker (which includes hospital orderlies, nurse aides, home aides and ambulance officers), accounting for 6.5 percent of the workforce. This is followed by waiters and bartenders (6.1 percent), although this is a somewhat misleading title as within this category most of the Pacific workers are in fact kitchenhands or catering counter assistants. The top ten occupations for Pacific women include more white-collar jobs than is the case with males, and also more overlap with the top ten occupations for women as a whole – with five occupations appearing in each list.

Figure 7.4

Top 10 Occupations by Sex for the Pacific and Total Workforce, 2001

Pacific Males	Percent	Total Males	Percent
Labourers	5.8	Salespersons and Demonstrators	4.3
Machine-Tool Operators	5.4	Supply and Distribution Managers	3.8
Stock Clerks	4.8	Carpenters and Joiners	3.7
Packers and Freight Handlers	4.5	General Managers	3.6
Salespersons and Demonstrators	3.6	Livestock Producers	3.3
Caretakers and Cleaners	3.1	Labourers	2.8
Meat and Fish Processing Machine Operators	2.7	Machinery Mechanics and Fitters	2.6
Carpenters and Joiners	2.5	Heavy Truck Drivers	2.5
Waiters and Bartenders	2.4	Finance and Administration Managers	2.4
Sheet-Metal Workers	2.0	Sales Representatives	2.1

Pacific Females	Percent	Total Females	Percent
Personal Care Workers	6.5	Salespersons and Demonstrators	7.6
Waiters and Bartenders	6.1	Office Clerks	6.3
Caretakers and Cleaners	5.8	Personal Care Workers	4.3
Salespersons and Demonstrators	5.4	Waiters and Bartenders	3.9
Office Clerks	5.0	Nursing and Midwifery Professionals	3.8
Packers and Freight Handlers	4.6	Supply and Distribution Managers	3.6
Receptionists and Information Clerks	3.2	Secretaries	3.4
Sales Representatives	3.0	Receptionists and Information Clerks	3.1
Sewing and Embroidering Machine Operators	2.8	Primary Teaching Professionals	3.0
Cashiers and Ticket Issuers	2.5	Caretakers and Cleaners	3.0

Comparisons with total workforce

Despite changes in the occupational patterns of Pacific people, they remain over-represented in the lower-skilled manual categories and under-represented in professional and managerial occupations. Figure 7.5 shows that the proportion of Pacific men working in elementary occupations and as plant and machine operators and assemblers is still twice that of the national figure. They also have greater proportions working in the lower-skilled white-collar categories of service and sales and clerical occupations. Conversely, the proportions of Pacific males working as legislators, administrators and managers; professionals; and technicians and associate professionals is well below the national figure. Just 6 percent of Pacific men were employed in each of the professional and legislative, administrative and managerial categories in 2001, compared with 12 percent and 15 percent respectively of the total male workforce.

Figure 7.6 shows that Pacific women are also over-represented in elementary occupations and among plant and machine operators and assemblers. The proportion of Pacific women in the latter category is almost three times the national figure. Greater proportions of the Pacific female workforce than the total female workforce are also to be found in the largest occupational groups, namely service and sales workers and clerks. Pacific women are under-represented in other white-collar occupational groups, particularly among professionals and legislators, administrators and managers – with the proportion in the latter category being less than half that of the national rate.

Figure 7.5

Occupation for Pacific and Total Males, 2001

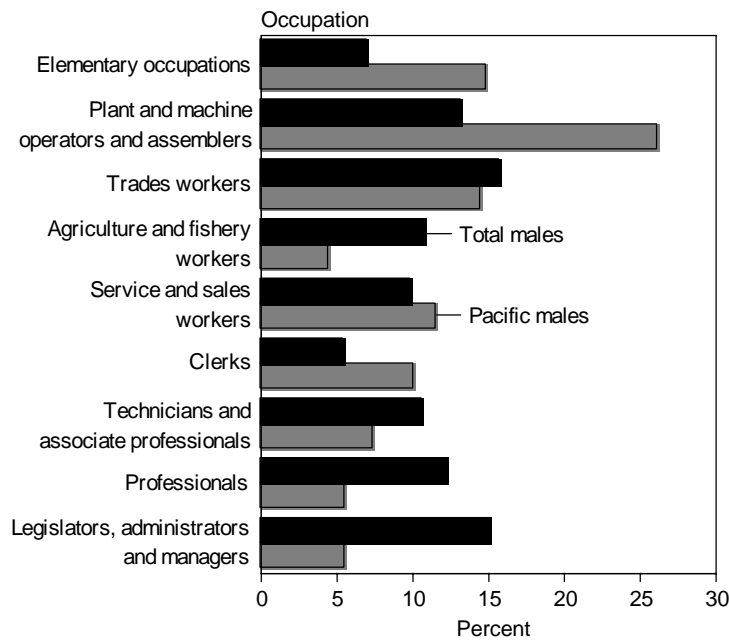
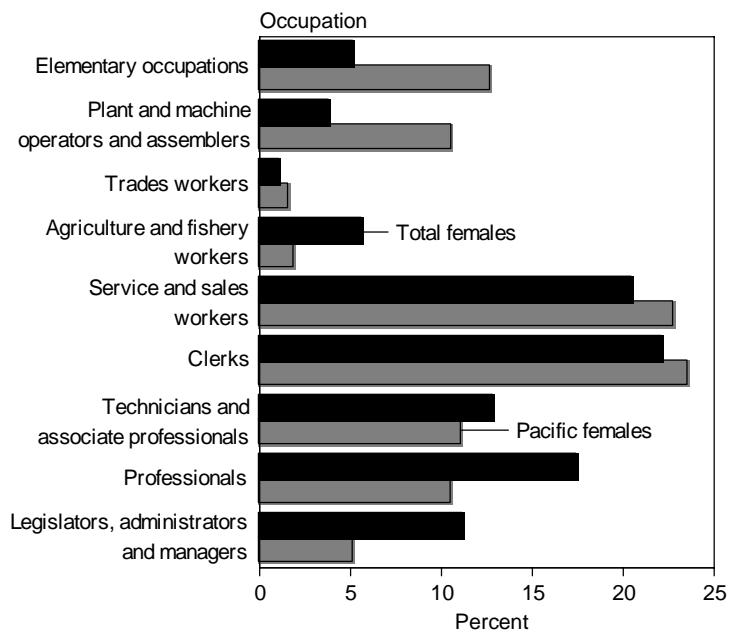


Figure 7.6

Occupation for Pacific and Total Females, 2001



Given their disproportionate representation in certain parts of the workforce, the labour of Pacific workers is particularly important in some occupations. While Pacific workers make up 4 percent of all people employed, they make up 9 percent of elementary workers and plant and machine operators and assemblers. Analysis at a more detailed level shows that Pacific workers make up 22 percent of all metal and mineral machine operators, 20 percent of all paper products machine operators, 17 percent of all metal processing plant operators, and 15 percent of all rubber and plastics machine operators, and packers and freight handlers.

Qualifications

Educational qualifications are obviously a key factor in determining the occupational distribution of the Pacific population. Figure 7.7 shows, not surprisingly, that the higher the qualification Pacific people have, the more likely they are to be in professional or legislative, administrative and managerial jobs. Almost half of all Pacific people with university degrees have professional occupations – similar to the figure for the total workforce. They are also more likely than other Pacific people to be legislators, administrators and managers or technicians and associate professionals, and less likely to be found in all other occupational categories. Those most likely to be in clerical or sales and service occupations are people whose highest qualification is a school or vocational qualification. Over half of all Pacific people who have no qualifications work in elementary occupations or as plant and machine operators and assemblers. The likelihood of working in these occupations decreases as the level of qualification increases.

This pattern is similar to that among the total New Zealand workforce. However, Pacific people are much less likely than others with a similar level of qualification to work as legislators, administrators and managers. Pacific people without a degree are also less likely than others to work in professional occupations. Conversely, they are much more likely to work in elementary occupations or as plant and machine operators and assemblers. Pacific people with qualifications are also more likely to work as clerks than is the case nationally, while those with vocational qualifications are also more likely to be in service and sales occupations. Education alone, therefore, does not account for differences in the occupational distribution of the Pacific and total populations.

Figure 7.7

Occupation by Highest Qualification for the Pacific and Total Populations, 2001

Ethnicity and Occupation	Highest Qualification				Total
	No Qualification	School Qualification	Vocational Qualification	University Degree	
	Percent				
<i>Pacific Peoples</i>					
Legislators, Administrators and Managers	3.1	6.1	6.8	10.7	5.4
Professionals	1.6	4.5	17.0	49.6	7.9
Technicians and Associate Professionals	4.1	10.0	15.5	17.0	9.1
Clerks	10.3	21.0	17.7	12.4	16.4
Service and Sales Workers	14.7	18.8	17.3	5.9	16.8
Agriculture and Fishery Workers	5.3	2.4	2.1	0.6	3.3
Trades Workers	9.9	7.7	9.9	0.7	8.5
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	28.9	17.4	7.6	1.3	18.9
Elementary Occupations	22.0	12.3	6.0	1.6	13.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Total Population</i>					
Legislators, Administrators and Managers	9.8	14.4	13.0	16.8	13.3
Professionals	1.9	5.9	20.3	50.7	14.7
Technicians and Associate Professionals	5.8	11.9	15.8	14.3	11.7
Clerks	11.4	18.9	9.7	7.8	13.3
Service and Sales Workers	16.6	19.0	12.2	4.8	14.8
Agriculture and Fishery Workers	13.3	8.6	6.7	2.7	8.4
Trades Workers	9.7	7.3	14.7	0.9	8.9
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	18.6	8.0	4.9	1.2	8.8
Elementary Occupations	12.9	6.1	2.7	0.9	6.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100

Note: Figures may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Age

Age is another important factor to take into account when analysing the occupational distribution of Pacific people. The young age profile of the Pacific population is one reason why greater proportions of Pacific people are found in occupations where there are high concentrations of young people, such as service and sales and clerical work. It also contributes to the relatively low proportions in occupations that tend to have an older age profile, such as legislative, administrative and managerial occupations and the professions. However, this does not mean that older Pacific people are more likely than younger Pacific people to be found in higher status occupations. Because older Pacific people tend to have lower levels of formal education and qualifications, they are often to be found in lower-skilled jobs, while younger Pacific people are acquiring more qualifications and moving into white-collar occupations in greater numbers.

Figure 7.8 shows that almost half of all Pacific workers aged 15-24 are to be found in either service and sales or clerical occupations, and the proportion in these sorts of jobs generally decreases with age. By contrast, relatively few people in this age group have entered the higher status white-collar jobs in the legislative, administrative and managerial and professional categories. The proportions working in these occupations increase markedly in the 25-34 age group but change little thereafter (the relatively large proportion of professionals in the 65 plus age group actually represents quite a small number of people). At the other end of the occupational scale, relatively few young people work as plant and machine operators and assemblers. This type of work peaks in the older age group, in which levels of formal education tend to be lower and many people are overseas-born. People in the 55-64 age group are also the most likely to be in elementary occupations.

Although comparison of the occupational distribution of younger and older Pacific people shows definite indications of social mobility within the Pacific population, a comparison with the national workforce shows that within each age group Pacific people are still less likely than others to be found in the higher skilled and higher status occupational categories and more likely than others to be working in the less skilled manual occupations. However, the disparities are smaller in the younger age groups.

Figure 7.8

Occupation by Age, for Pacific and Total Populations, 2001

Ethnicity and occupation	Age						Total
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	
	Percent						
<i>Pacific Peoples</i>							
Legislators, Administrators and Managers	3.2	6.2	6.5	5.0	5.3	5.8	5.4
Professionals	3.3	8.8	9.4	9.1	10.9	16.5	7.9
Technicians and Associate Professionals	8.5	11.3	9.1	6.9	5.8	6.8	9.1
Clerks	21.8	18.5	13.8	10.4	9.6	9.7	16.4
Service and Sales Workers	27.1	14.1	13.5	13.5	12.5	14.6	16.8
Agriculture and Fishery Workers	3.6	3.0	3.2	3.2	3.1	8.7	3.3
Trades Workers	7.5	8.9	8.6	9.0	7.8	8.7	8.5
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	11.5	16.6	22.0	26.9	26.9	17.5	18.9
Elementary Occupations	13.5	12.4	13.9	15.9	18.3	10.7	13.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Total Population</i>							
Legislators, Administrators and Managers	3.9	12.3	15.6	16.9	15.4	13.7	13.3
Professionals	6.6	16.4	16.3	16.8	14.8	13.6	14.7
Technicians and Associate Professionals	9.0	13.7	12.5	11.5	10.2	9.9	11.7
Clerks	15.5	13.5	12.5	12.9	13.0	10.0	13.3
Service and Sales Workers	30.8	13.4	11.6	11.4	11.5	8.7	14.8
Agriculture and Fishery Workers	8.3	6.7	7.8	8.1	10.7	22.8	8.4
Trades Workers	8.9	9.6	9.1	8.3	8.6	7.1	8.9
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	7.6	9.1	9.3	8.8	9.1	7.2	8.8
Elementary Occupations	9.5	5.2	5.3	5.4	6.6	7.0	6.2
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note: Figures may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Birthplace

Differences in the occupational distribution of younger and older Pacific people partly reflect differences between the locally-born and overseas-born populations. Older Pacific people are more likely to have migrated from the Pacific, and this group tend to have fewer educational qualifications and marketable skills than those born in New Zealand. They are therefore more highly represented in the less skilled manual categories and generally less likely to be in white-collar occupations.

Figure 7.9 shows that almost a third of overseas-born Pacific males employed at the time of the 2001 Census worked as plant and machine operators and assemblers. While this was also the most common occupational group for New Zealand-born Pacific males, the proportion was considerably smaller, at 18 percent. The overseas-born were also more likely than the New Zealand-born to work in elementary occupations or trades and less likely to be employed in any of the white-collar occupational categories. The most skilled occupational categories of legislators, administrators and managers; professionals; and technicians and associate professionals accounted for 24 percent of New Zealand-born Pacific males, compared with 14 percent of the overseas born.

In the case of Pacific women, the disparity in representation in manual occupations is even more pronounced, as figure 7.10 shows. Elementary occupations accounted for 17 percent of employed overseas born women, compared with just 7 percent of the New Zealand-born. Similarly, 15 percent of the overseas born were plant and machine operators and assemblers, compared with just 5 percent of the New Zealand-born. However, the largest occupational group among the overseas born was that of service and sales workers, which accounted for similar proportions of overseas and New Zealand born women at around 23 percent. Among New Zealand-born women, clerical occupations were the most common, at 31 percent, while they were also more likely than the overseas born to be legislators, administrators and managers; technicians and associate professionals; or professionals.

Figure 7.9

Occupation by Birthplace for Pacific Males, 2001

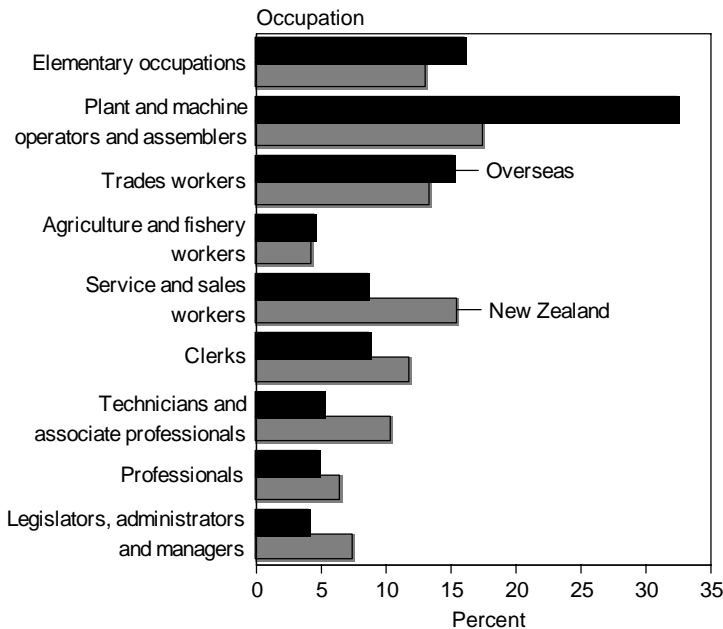
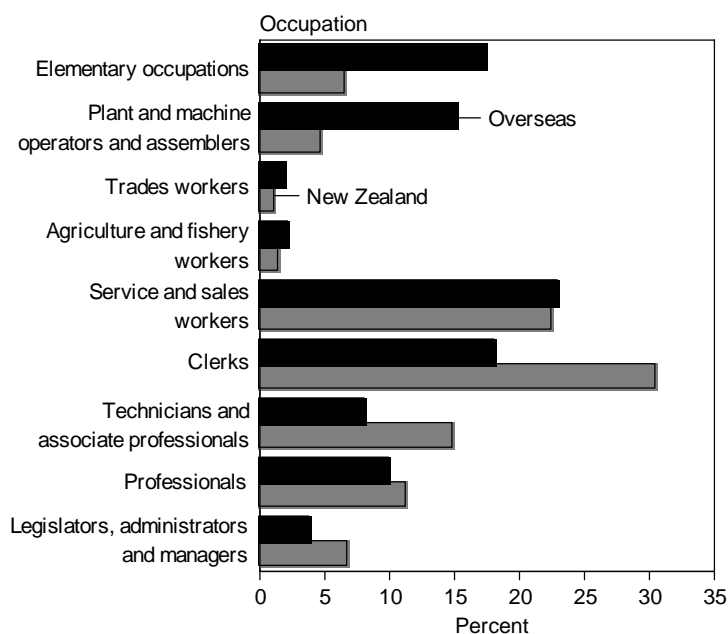


Figure 7.10

Occupation by Birthplace for Pacific Females, 2001**Pacific ethnic groups**

The pattern of under-representation in skilled white-collar occupations and over-representation in less-skilled manual work holds for all the major Pacific ethnic groups with the partial exception of Fijians, who are well-represented in the professional and technician or associate professional categories (perhaps reflecting the inclusion of a number of Fijian Indians in this group).

Figure 7.11 shows that among male workers all the other major Pacific ethnic groups have relatively small proportions in the top three occupational categories. Apart from Fijians, men in the Samoan, Cook Islands and Niuean groups are the best represented among legislators, administrators and managers, while Tokelauans are the best represented among professionals and technicians and associate professionals. At the other end of the occupational scale, Cook Islands, Tongan and Samoan men were twice as likely to be plant and machine operators and assemblers as the national figure, while Tongans and Niueans were the most likely to work in elementary occupations. Fijians were less likely than other Pacific men to work in either of these types of occupation, but were still over-represented in these categories.

Among Pacific women all the major groups were better represented in the professional and technician and associate professional categories than their male counterparts. Again, Fijians were the most likely to work in these occupations but Tokelauans were also reasonably well represented in the professions and along with Niuean, Samoan and Cook Islands women were slightly over-represented among technicians and associate professionals. Clerical and service and sales occupations were the most common types of work for all groups of Pacific women, with Tokelauans and Fijians the most likely to work in service and sales jobs and Samoans the most likely to work in clerical jobs. With the exception of Fijians, women from all Pacific groups were over-represented among plant and machine operators and assemblers, with Tongans, Niueans and Samoans the most likely to be in these occupations. All groups were also over-represented in elementary occupations, with Tongans having the greatest proportion in this category – almost three times the national rate.

Figure 7.11

Occupation for Pacific People by Sex and Ethnic Group, 2001

Sex and Occupation	Ethnic Group							
	Samoan	Cook Islands	Tongan	Niuean	Tokelauan	Fijian	Total Pacific	Total Population
	Percent							
<i>Males</i>								
Legislators, Administrators and Managers	5.6	5.5	4.5	5.6	3.5	7.8	5.5	14.0
Professionals	5.8	4.4	5.0	4.2	6.7	10.7	5.5	9.9
Technicians and Associate Professionals	8.1	6.6	6.1	6.7	8.8	10.0	7.4	11.3
Clerks	11.3	8.9	8.4	11.3	10.9	7.6	10.1	4.6
Service and Sales Workers	12.1	11.2	9.6	12.3	12.3	15.7	11.6	8.5
Agriculture and Fishery Workers	3.2	5.5	5.9	3.2	6.0	5.4	4.4	12.4
Trades Workers	13.8	14.5	15.6	15.9	17.2	15.9	14.5	18.0
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	26.5	27.4	27.2	24.1	19.3	16.3	26.2	12.9
Elementary Occupations	13.7	16.0	17.7	16.9	15.1	10.7	14.9	8.3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Females</i>								
Legislators, Administrators and Managers	5.1	5.9	4.2	5.0	3.9	7.3	5.2	8.8
Professionals	10.8	8.7	10.8	10.5	12.4	13.9	10.6	15.1
Technicians and Associate Professionals	11.7	11.1	8.9	12.2	12.0	13.5	11.1	10.5
Clerks	25.8	23.3	18.7	24.0	23.2	22.5	23.6	27.7
Service and Sales Workers	20.9	23.2	25.4	23.6	28.8	28.7	22.8	18.8
Agriculture and Fishery Workers	1.2	2.3	2.2	1.1	1.7	2.2	1.9	6.8
Trades Workers	1.7	1.8	1.5	1.3	1.3	0.9	1.6	1.5
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	11.1	10.0	11.4	11.1	7.7	3.8	10.6	5.1
Elementary Occupations	11.7	13.6	16.9	11.4	8.2	7.5	12.7	5.8
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note: Figures may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Industry

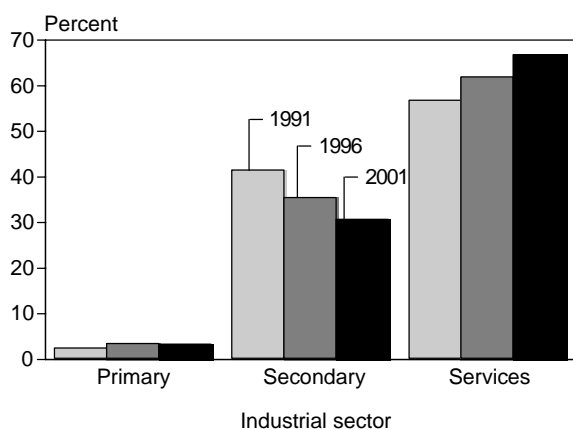
Industrial trends

The occupational distribution of Pacific workers is reflected in the type of industries they work in. The majority of Pacific workers now work in what are broadly termed service industries, but they are more likely than other workers to be found in secondary industries, particularly in manufacturing. This is the sector which provides most of the jobs for workers in the occupational categories of plant and machine operating or assembly and elementary occupations in which many Pacific workers are employed. This pattern dates back to the early years of labour migration from the Pacific to New Zealand, but it is changing as a result of social mobility within the Pacific population and broader structural changes in employment.

As figure 7.12 shows, over the past decade the proportion of Pacific people employed in the secondary sector (manufacturing; electricity, gas and water supply; and construction) has fallen from 41 percent to 30 percent. Over the same period the proportion employed in service industries has increased from 57 percent to 66 percent, and this sector now employs over twice as many Pacific people as the secondary sector. The primary sector (agriculture, forestry and fishing, and mining) has never been a major source of work for Pacific people, who are highly urbanised, and in 2001 it employed just 3 percent of Pacific workers.

Figure 7.12

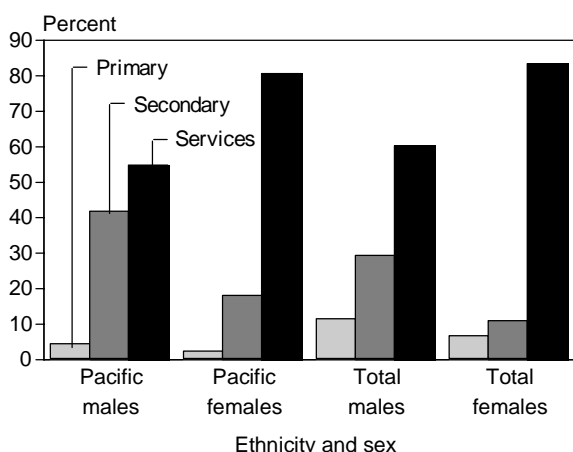
Employment by Industrial Sector for Pacific People, 1991–2001



Trends in the industrial distribution of Pacific workers in part reflect broader trends in employment. The services sector has been the major source of job growth for many years, while the proportion of people employed in the secondary sector has been declining since the 1970s, a trend that accelerated as a result of the restructuring of the 1980s and 1990s. Between 1991 and 2001 the services sector increased its share of total employment from 66 percent to 71 percent, while the proportion employed in the secondary sector fell from 24 percent to 20 percent. Employment for Pacific people has followed these trends but with a more pronounced movement, reflecting the influence of the changing educational and occupational status of Pacific workers.

However, Pacific workers are still much more likely than other workers to be employed in secondary industries. Figure 7.13 shows that 42 percent of Pacific males were employed in secondary industries in 2001, compared with 29 percent of all male workers. While just 18 percent of Pacific women worked in secondary industries, this was much higher than the national figure for women of 11 percent. However, because few Pacific workers were employed in primary industries when compared with the national figure, the disparity in the services sector is relatively small. The 80 percent of Pacific women in service jobs is just 3 percentage points below the national figure, and the 54 percent of Pacific men employed in services sector is 5 percentage points below the figure for the total male workforce.

Figure 7.13

Employment by Industrial Sector and Sex, for the Pacific and Total Populations, 2001

Within these broad sectoral groups there is some diversity, particularly in the services sector. Figure 7.14 shows employment by the 17 major industry divisions. The standout feature is the high concentration of Pacific people in manufacturing industries, which employ a quarter of Pacific workers, including one-third of Pacific men. Conversely, Pacific people are markedly under-represented in agriculture, forestry and fishing. The largest employers of Pacific people in the services sector are property and business services and the retail trade, although Pacific workers are under-represented in these industries when compared with the total workforce. Pacific people are in fact slightly under-represented in most service industries, with the exception of accommodation, cafés and restaurants, transport and storage, communication services, and government administration and defence. Pacific women were generally more likely to be working in service industries than Pacific men, except in the wholesale trade and transport and storage, which mirrors the pattern in the total workforce.

Figure 7.14

Employment by Industry, for the Pacific and Total Populations, 2001

	Pacific Peoples			Total Population		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Percent						
<i>Primary</i>						
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	4.0	2.0	3.1	10.8	6.3	8.7
Mining	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.2
<i>Secondary</i>						
Manufacturing	33.0	16.7	25.4	18.1	8.6	13.7
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.5	0.2	0.4
Construction	8.2	0.9	4.8	10.4	1.7	6.3
<i>Services</i>						
Wholesale Trade	7.7	4.0	6.0	7.5	4.5	6.1
Retail Trade	9.1	11.2	10.1	11.5	14.1	12.7
Accommodation, Cafés and Restaurants	4.5	9.3	6.7	3.5	6.6	4.9
Transport and Storage	7.0	3.0	5.1	5.5	2.5	4.1
Communication Services	2.1	2.7	2.4	1.5	1.4	1.4
Finance and Insurance	1.8	4.6	3.1	2.6	3.9	3.2
Property and Business Services	8.9	11.8	10.2	11.7	12.1	11.9
Government Administration and Defence	2.8	5.2	3.9	3.3	4.0	3.6
Education	2.7	8.0	5.1	4.2	11.8	7.7
Health and Community Services	2.4	14.2	7.9	2.8	15.2	8.6
Cultural and Recreational Services	1.9	2.2	2.1	2.4	2.7	2.5
Personal and other Services	3.5	4.0	3.7	3.6	4.3	3.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note: Figures may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Figures 7.15 and 7.16 show trends in industries that are major employers of Pacific workers. Among Pacific males there was a considerable decline in the proportion employed in manufacturing between 1991 and 2001, from 45 percent to 33 percent. This trend was much more pronounced than the decline in the proportion of the total male workforce in manufacturing industries, which fell from 21 percent to 18 percent over the same period. For Pacific males there was growth in the proportion employed in all the other major industry groups over the decade but these are still relatively small employers of Pacific men when compared with manufacturing industries, with each employing less than 10 percent of the Pacific male workforce.

For Pacific women there has also been a considerable decline in the proportion working in manufacturing, from 27 percent to 17 percent. However, manufacturing remains the largest employer of Pacific women, followed closely by health and community services which also declined in importance between 1991 and 1996 before increasing again between 1996 and 2001. For Pacific women the biggest increases over the decade were in property and business services, accommodation, restaurants and cafés, and education. Other industry groups to decline in importance for Pacific women were government administration and defence, and finance and insurance, while there was also a slight fall in the proportion employed in retail trade between 1996 and 2001.

Figure 7.15

Top Eight Industries for Pacific Males, 1991–2001

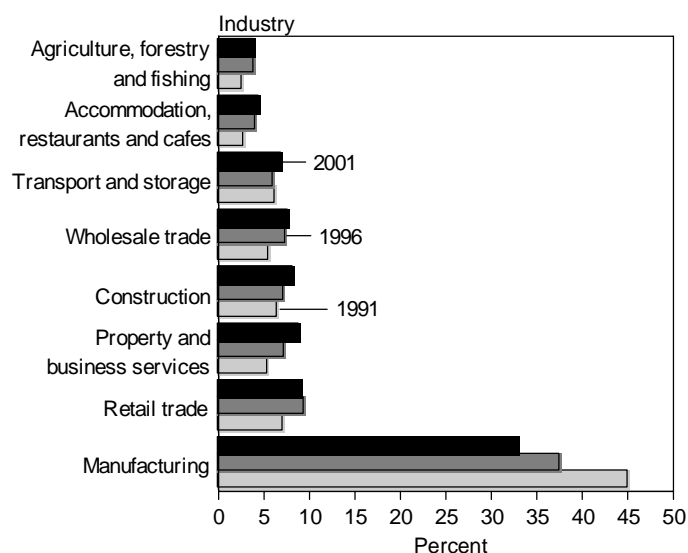
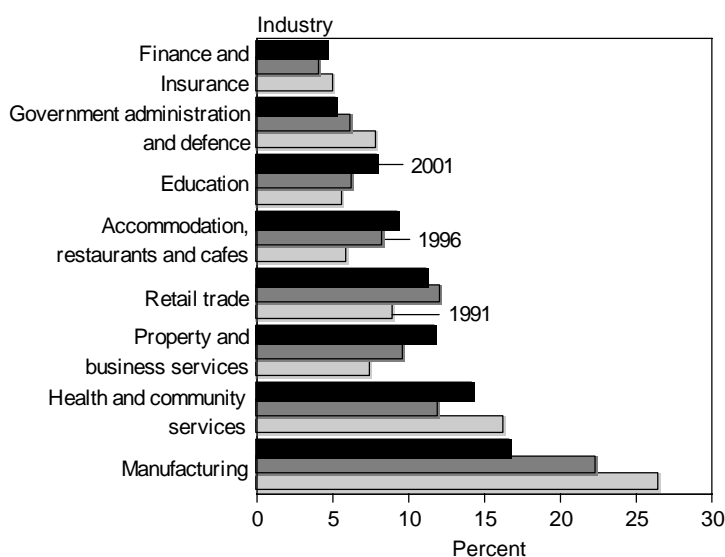


Figure 7.16

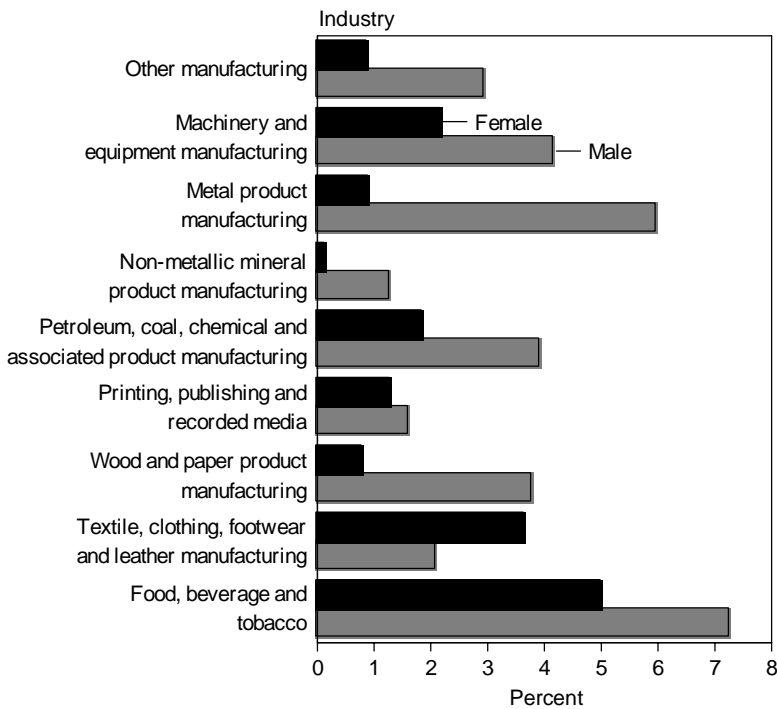
Top Eight Industries for Pacific Females, 1991–2001



When the manufacturing category is broken down in more detail, as in figure 7.17, it can be seen that food, beverage and tobacco industries are the most important employers for Pacific workers, employing 7 percent of men and 5 percent of women. Metal product manufacturing is the next largest industry for Pacific men, employing 6 percent, while other major employers of Pacific men include machinery and equipment manufacturing; petroleum, coal, chemical and associated product manufacturing; and wood and paper product manufacturing. Textile, clothing footwear and leather manufacturing industries are the second biggest employers of Pacific women, accounting for almost 4 percent of their employment, and this is the only category in which Pacific women are more highly represented than Pacific men.

Figure 7.17

Employment in Manufacturing Industries for Pacific People, by Sex, 2001



Occupations in industries

The industry in which people work is not necessarily indicative of the type of jobs they do. Although people in secondary industries are predominantly blue-collar workers and those in the services sector tend to be white-collar workers, particular industries may employ a variety of workers from managers to labourers. Figure 7.18 shows that Pacific workers in each industrial sector are under-represented in the skilled white-collar occupations and over-represented in the less skilled blue-collar occupations by comparison with the national workforce. In each sector they are much less likely to be in management, particularly in secondary industries, and more likely to be elementary workers or plant and machine operators and assemblers. Even in the services sector, 21 percent of Pacific workers are in these occupations, compared with 10 percent of the total workforce. They are also more likely to be clerks and service and sales workers in this sector when compared with the total workforce.

Figure 7.18

Occupation by Industrial Sector for the Pacific and Total Populations, 2001

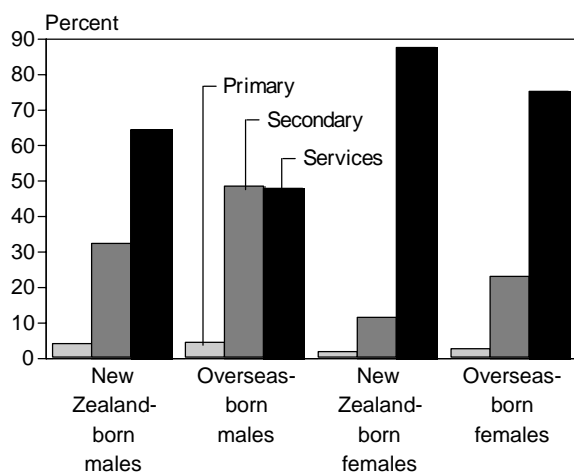
	Industrial Sector					
	Primary		Secondary		Services	
	Pacific Peoples	Total Population	Pacific Peoples	Total Population	Pacific Peoples	Total Population
	Percent					
Legislators, Administrators and Managers	1.8	5.5	2.7	11.8	6.8	14.8
Professionals	2.3	1.9	1.4	4.7	11.1	19.3
Technicians and Associate Professionals	1.4	2.0	3.3	7.7	12.2	14.0
Clerks	2.0	3.0	7.8	9.0	21.1	16.0
Service and Sales Workers	1.4	1.6	1.6	2.5	24.2	20.0
Agriculture and Fishery Workers	71.6	74.5	1.1	1.8	0.9	1.8
Trades Workers	1.4	1.4	21.2	28.7	3.1	4.0
Plant and Machine Operators and Assemblers	8.6	6.7	43.9	24.8	8.3	4.5
Elementary occupations	9.6	3.3	17.0	9.1	12.3	5.5
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note: Figures may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Birthplace

As the previous section showed, Pacific people born overseas are far more likely than the New Zealand born to hold blue-collar manual jobs, and this is reflected in their industrial distribution. Figure 7.19 shows that almost half (48 percent) of overseas-born Pacific males worked in secondary industries in 2001, considerably more than the proportion of New Zealand-born males (32 percent). Overseas-born males were as likely to work in secondary industries as in service industries, in marked contrast to New Zealand-born males who were twice as likely to work in service industries. Among Pacific females, those who were born overseas were twice as likely as the New Zealand-born to work in secondary industries (23 percent compared with 11 percent). However, three-quarters of overseas-born Pacific women worked in service industries, much greater than the proportions of overseas-born men in this sector.

Figure 7.19

Industrial Sector by Birthplace and Sex for Pacific People, 2001

The industrial distribution of the overseas-born and New Zealand-born Pacific workforce is compared in more detail in figure 7.20. The standout feature is the disparity in manufacturing, which employs almost twice the proportion of overseas-born as New Zealand-born workers. Conversely, New Zealand-born workers are more likely to work in each of the service industries, with the exception of health and community services, where a relatively high number of overseas-born women work as nurses, nurse aides and care givers. The overseas-born are much less likely than the New Zealand-born to work in the retail trade, but only slightly less likely to work in the wholesale trade. They are also less likely to work in industries such as government administration and defence, cultural and recreational services, and finance and insurance.

Figure 7.20

Industry by Birthplace for Pacific People, 2001

Industry	Birthplace	
	New Zealand-born	Overseas-born
	Percent	
<i>Primary</i>		
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	2.7	3.3
Mining	0.1	0.0
<i>Secondary</i>		
Manufacturing	16.2	32.2
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	0.3	0.1
Construction	5.5	4.2
<i>Services</i>		
Wholesale Trade	6.3	5.8
Retail Trade	12.8	8.1
Accommodation, Cafés and Restaurants	7.7	6.0
Transport and Storage	5.3	5.0
Communication Services	3.3	1.7
Finance and Insurance	4.2	2.3
Property and Business Services	10.8	9.8
Government Administration and Defence	5.6	2.7
Education	5.8	4.6
Health and Community Services	6.2	9.2
Cultural and Recreational Services	3.2	1.2
Personal and other Services	4.0	3.6
Total	100	100

Note: Figures may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Age

As with occupation, the industrial distribution of the Pacific workforce is heavily influenced by age. Figure 7.21 shows that the proportion of Pacific workers in manufacturing increases with age up to the 45-54 age group. Those in the youngest age group of 15-24 are more likely to work in the retail trade than in manufacturing. Many young people in this industry will be recent school leavers or students working part time, and employment in the retail trade declines markedly in the older age groups. A similar pattern is evident in the category of accommodation, cafés and restaurants. Those in the 25-34 age group, who are more likely to have completed their education, are the most strongly represented in the industries of finance and insurance, property and business services, and government administration and defence. However, older people have a greater representation in education and health and community services.

Figure 7.21

Industry by Age for Pacific People, 2001

Industry	Age						
	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+	Total
	Percent						
<i>Primary</i>							
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	3.3	3.0	3.1	2.8	3.0	5.8	3.1
Mining	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
<i>Secondary</i>							
Manufacturing	17.7	24.2	29.3	31.6	29.8	19.2	25.4
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2
Construction	4.6	5.1	5.2	4.3	3.7	4.8	4.8
<i>Services</i>							
Wholesale Trade	5.7	7.1	5.7	5.2	4.0	4.8	6.0
Retail Trade	20.1	8.9	6.2	5.7	5.3	5.8	10.1
Accommodation, Cafés and Restaurants	12.4	5.9	4.6	4.3	4.2	3.8	6.7
Transport and Storage	4.1	4.8	5.1	6.8	6.8	8.7	5.1
Communication Services	2.8	2.8	2.1	1.6	1.9	0.0	2.4
Finance and Insurance	3.3	4.2	2.8	1.7	1.8	0.0	3.1
Property and Business Services	9.9	11.2	9.9	9.3	10.2	10.6	10.2
Government Administration and Defence	3.1	5.3	4.1	2.8	3.0	4.8	3.9
Education	2.6	5.1	6.2	6.1	8.2	7.7	5.1
Health and Community Services	3.7	6.8	9.6	12.2	11.8	13.5	7.9
Cultural and Recreational Services	3.2	2.3	1.5	1.1	1.3	1.0	2.1
Personal and other Services	3.3	3.2	4.4	4.1	5.0	8.7	3.7
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note: Figures may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Pacific ethnic groups

Most of the major Pacific ethnic groups have a similar pattern of industrial distribution, as figure 7.22 shows. However, Fijians again differ from the other groups, with relatively low proportions employed in manufacturing and a stronger representation than other groups in most service industries. Tokelauans are also less likely to work in manufacturing than other groups, and along with Fijians have relatively high proportions employed in health and community services and government administration and defence. Tongans are the most likely to work in manufacturing industries and in the primary sector, and conversely have the lowest representation in several service industries. Again, the distribution of the large Samoan group is close to that of the total Pacific population, as is that of Niueans and Cook Islands people.

Figure 7.22

Industry by Ethnic Group for Pacific People, 2001

Industry	Ethnic Group							
	Samoan	Cook Islands	Tongan	Niuean	Tokelauan	Fijian	Total Pacific	Total Population
	Percent							
<i>Primary</i>								
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	2.1	3.8	4.3	1.7	3.6	3.8	3.1	8.7
Mining	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
<i>Secondary</i>								
Manufacturing	25.6	25.7	28.0	24.2	20.6	15.2	25.4	13.7
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4
Construction	3.8	5.9	5.7	6.0	5.9	5.2	4.8	6.3
<i>Services</i>								
Wholesale Trade	5.8	6.1	6.8	6.7	5.0	5.1	6.0	6.1
Retail Trade	10.4	9.9	9.3	11.4	11.6	11.0	10.1	12.7
Accommodation, Cafés and Restaurants	6.5	7.0	6.6	6.8	6.7	8.6	6.7	4.9
Transport and Storage	5.8	5.0	3.7	4.3	4.4	5.1	5.1	4.1
Communication Services	2.6	2.6	1.4	3.2	1.7	1.5	2.4	1.4
Finance and Insurance	3.6	2.6	2.2	3.3	4.2	4.0	3.1	3.2
Property and Business Services	10.1	9.5	11.0	9.7	9.3	12.5	10.2	11.9
Government Administration and Defence	4.5	3.9	2.4	3.3	5.7	5.0	3.9	3.6
Education	5.2	5.5	4.1	5.2	5.1	5.6	5.1	7.7
Health and Community Services	7.9	5.9	9.1	8.3	11.2	11.2	7.9	8.6
Cultural and Recreational Services	2.0	2.1	1.9	2.5	1.9	2.4	2.1	2.5
Personal and other Services	3.9	4.2	3.2	3.1	3.2	3.4	3.7	3.9
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Note: Figures may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Employers and self-employed

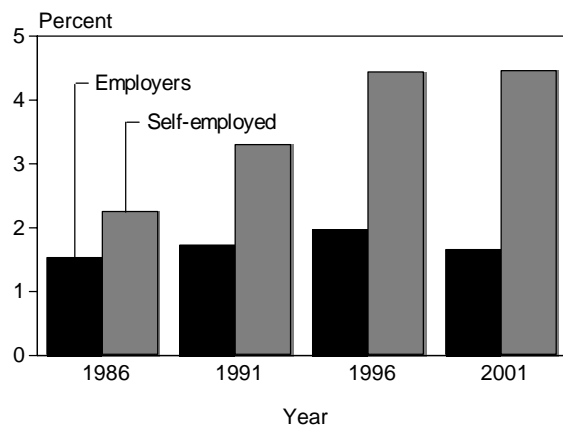
Trends in self-employment

Pacific people today are more likely to run their own businesses than in the past. This may be partly a reflection of broader economic changes that have encouraged self-employment and partly a result of social mobility within the Pacific population associated with increasing skill levels and changing aspirations and attitudes. However, there are still relatively few Pacific people who are self-employed and even fewer who employ others.

Figure 7.23 shows that between 1976 and 1996 there was a small but steady increase in the proportion of Pacific people who were employers or self-employed. The proportion of gainfully employed Pacific people who were employers increased from 1.5 to 1.9 percent, while the proportion of self-employed without employees doubled from 2.2 percent to 4.4 percent. Since 1996 there has been a slight fall in the proportion of Pacific employers, while the proportion of self-employed remained steady. The increases in the earlier period came at a time when many Pacific people were being affected by restructuring and job losses in their traditional areas of waged employment which may have encouraged some to start their own businesses. The latter period has seen more economic stability, which may account for the levelling off in the earlier trend if fewer people have had to turn to self-employment out of necessity.

Figure 7.23

Proportion of Employed Pacific People Who are Employers or Self-Employed, 1986–2001



Despite the increasing numbers of both Pacific employers and self-employed, they are still far less likely than others to be in these positions. Figure 7.24 shows that in 2001 the proportion of gainfully employed Pacific people who were employers was just one-fifth that of the national figure, while the proportion who were self-employed without employees was just over one-third of the national figure. This disparity has changed little over the period from 1986 to 2001, as the increase in Pacific self-employment has taken place in the context of increasing self-employment among the wider population.

The Pacific Business Trust

The Pacific Business Trust was set up to support business activity and ownership for Pacific people in New Zealand. As well as offering business services such as free financial advice and company registration, the trust provides venture funding to New Zealanders of Pacific descent who are starting or expanding a business. The trust also runs a Pacific business incubation programme within the Southmarket business park in Auckland. New businesses are assisted with management advice, technical support and affordable rent for up to two years. Business start-up seminars and workshops are also provided by the trust throughout the year.

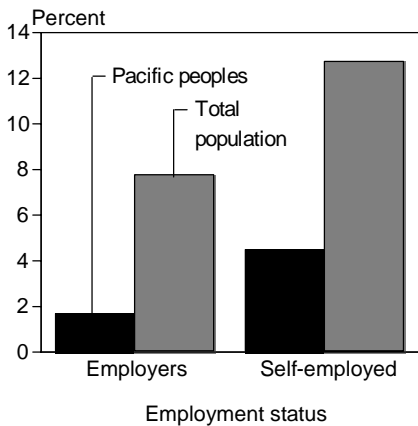
Over the 2001–2002 financial year the trust provided assistance through its varied services to at least 1,000 companies and individuals. The rough value of this support, both direct and indirect was at least \$600,000. These business ventures covered a wide variety of industry sectors, including manufacturing, engineering, accounting, printing, catering, nursing, and photography.

Since 1993, the trust has held the Pacific Business Awards to recognise the achievements of Pacific businesses in New Zealand. Held every alternate year, the awards cover three categories: Pacific Business of the Year, Pacific Enterprise of the Year, and Pacific Business Person of the year. In addition, the trust also holds the yearly Pacific Art Awards to promote art as a viable business option, and produces an annual magazine, *Achievers*, to provide students with scholarship and career information. In 1999, the trust set up the Business Club to provide opportunities for business people to network and discuss business opportunities or concerns. The club continues to hold informal meetings in Auckland each month.

In 2002 the trust, in conjunction with the Economic Development and Research Group, hosted the Pacific Economic Symposium in Auckland. Through wide community and academic participation, the symposium focused on current economic development issues faced by Pacific people.

Figure 7.24

Proportion of Employed People Who are Employers or Self-Employed, for the Pacific and Total Populations, 2001



Demographic characteristics

Figure 7.25 shows some of the characteristics of Pacific people who are employers or self-employed, compared with paid employees. The employers and self-employed are predominantly male – over two-thirds, compared with just over half of the paid workforce. They also have an older age profile, being more likely to be in the 35 plus age groups than paid workers and less likely to be in the younger age groups, where fewer people would have acquired the skills and capital required for starting a business. The 35-44 age group was the most common age group for both employers and self-employed.

Like paid employees, both employers and the self-employed were more likely to have been born overseas than in New Zealand. However, employers were more likely than others to be born in New Zealand, while self-employed people were the most likely to have been born overseas.

For all groups, the highest educational qualification was most commonly a school qualification. However, the link between education and employment status is evident from the fact that employers and self-employed people were more likely than paid employees to have vocational qualifications or university degrees. Tertiary qualifications were also more common among employers than among the self-employed, and employers were the least likely to have no qualifications.

The vast majority of people in each category resided in the main urban areas but employers were more likely than others to live in secondary or minor urban areas and rural areas. The self-employed were also more likely than paid employees to live in rural areas. There was a similar pattern among the total population, indicating the relative importance of self-employment and small businesses in small town and rural New Zealand where there tend to be few large employers.

Figure 7.25

Summary Characteristics of Pacific People by Employment Status, 2001

	Employment Status			
	Employers	Self-employed	Paid Employees	Total Employed
	Percent			
<i>Sex</i>				
Male	67.1	70.3	52.8	53.7
Female	32.9	29.7	47.2	46.3
Total	100	100	100	100
<i>Age</i>				
15-24	6.7	8.7	24.2	23.3
25-34	22.8	23.3	30.8	30.2
35-44	35.8	32.5	25.0	25.4
45-54	23.1	25.5	14.9	15.4
55-64	9.8	8.4	4.7	5.0
65 plus	1.8	1.6	0.4	0.6
Total	100	100	100	100
<i>Birthplace</i>				
New Zealand	48.0	40.2	42.7	42.7
Overseas	52.0	59.8	57.3	57.3
Total	100	100	100	100
<i>Highest qualification</i>				
No qualifications	22.4	25.6	28.2	28.0
School qualification	42.7	48.2	50.6	50.3
Vocational qualification	22.4	19.0	15.9	16.1
University degree	12.5	7.2	5.4	5.6
Total	100	100	100	100
<i>Geographic area</i>				
Main urban areas	84.2	89.7	93.1	92.7
Secondary and minor urban areas	7.0	4.6	4.8	4.9
Rural areas	8.8	5.7	2.1	2.5
Total	100	100	100	100

Note: Figures may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Industry

The industries in which Pacific people establish their own businesses to some extent reflect their established areas of employment. Pacific employers and self-employed are more likely than others in these positions to be in secondary industries and less likely to be in primary industries. However, the majority of both Pacific and non-Pacific employers and self-employed are to be found in service industries.

Figure 7.26 shows that the most common industries for Pacific employers are property and business services (predominantly cleaning services), construction, the retail trade and manufacturing. These are also among the most important industries for self-employed Pacific people, although the self-employed are most likely to work in the transport and storage industries – with most in this category being taxi and light van drivers. The proportion of Pacific employers and self-employed people working in these industries is higher than is the case nationally, with the exception of the retail trade and (for the self-employed) property and business services.

Figure 7.26

Industrial Distribution of Employers and Self-employed People for the Pacific and Total Populations, 2001

Industry	Pacific		Total Population	
	Employers	Self-employed	Employers	Self-employed
	Percent			
<i>Primary</i>				
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	8.6	4.0	18.0	19.4
Mining	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Secondary</i>				
Manufacturing	12.6	10.5	10.6	8.1
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.2
Construction	17.2	16.0	10.9	13.6
<i>Services</i>				
Wholesale Trade	4.3	3.2	5.7	4.1
Retail Trade	13.2	7.7	18.4	9.8
Accommodation, Cafés and Restaurants	6.6	1.9	6.0	2.3
Transport and Storage	4.9	18.1	3.3	4.0
Communication Services	1.4	4.8	0.6	1.5
Finance and Insurance	1.4	2.5	1.6	2.1
Property and Business Services	17.5	14.4	14.2	19.1
Government Administration and Defence	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Education	2.6	2.6	1.1	2.7
Health and Community Services	3.4	3.6	4.8	3.9
Cultural and Recreational Services	1.4	4.7	1.4	3.8
Personal and other Services	4.6	5.5	3.3	5.3
Total	100	100	100	100

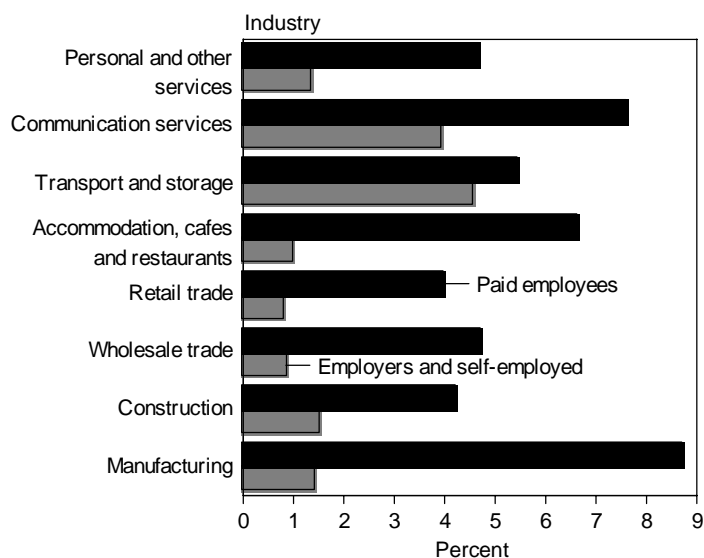
Note: Figures may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

Even in those industries in which Pacific people are most likely to be employers or self-employed, they still form a small proportion of people in these positions. They are also under-represented in these positions by comparison with their representation among paid employees in the same industries. Figure 7.27 shows that Pacific employers and self-employed are most in evidence in the transport and storage industries, where they made up 4.6 percent of people in such positions. Pacific people made up a slightly smaller proportion of employers and self-employed in communication services industries, where most work as couriers and deliverers.

In all other industries Pacific people made up less than 2 percent of the employers and self-employed, which was considerably lower than their representation among the paid workforce. For instance in manufacturing, where Pacific people made up 8.7 percent of the paid workforce, they made up just 1.4 percent of the employers and self-employed. Similarly, in the accommodation, café and restaurant industries they made up 6.6 percent of the paid workforce but 1 percent of the employers and self-employed.

Figure 7.27

Pacific People as a Proportion of all Employed People by Employment Status, for Selected Industries, 2001



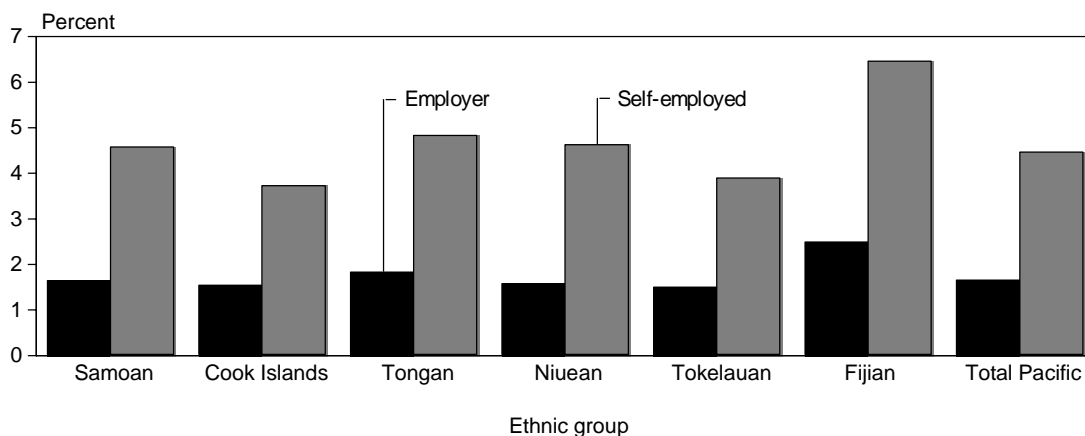
Pacific ethnic groups

Most of the major Pacific ethnic groups have similar proportions of employed and self-employed people in the workforce. As figure 7.28 shows, Fijians are again an exception, with 6.4 percent being self-employed and 2.5 percent being employers. However, even though these figures are higher than those of the other major Pacific ethnic groups, they are still much lower than the national rate. Among all the other Pacific groups, less than 5 percent are self-employed and less than 2 percent are employers. Tongans have the highest proportions of employers and self-employed people by a small margin while Cook Islands people have the least. The Samoan figures are again closest to those of the total Pacific population.

For most Pacific ethnic groups, construction is the industry in which employers and the self-employed most commonly work. However, for Samoans the most popular industry is transport and storage, while for Fijians it is property and business services. These industries, along with manufacturing and retail are relatively important for most of the main Pacific groups.

Figure 7.28

Proportion of Employed People Who are Employers or Self-Employed, by Ethnic Group, 2001



Conclusion

The last decade has seen some marked changes in the occupational and industrial distribution of Pacific peoples which partly reflect broader structural changes in the workforce but which also indicate social mobility within the Pacific population, particularly among the younger, New Zealand-born and more qualified sections of the workforce. Pacific people are less likely than in the past to work in unskilled or semi-skilled manual occupations and more likely to work in white-collar occupations, including professional and managerial positions. Growing proportions are employed in service industries such as retailing, accommodation, cafés and restaurants, and property and business services. Service industries now employ the majority of Pacific workers. The proportion of Pacific people who are self-employed or employ others has also increased.

Despite these changes, Pacific people remain over-represented in blue-collar work in manufacturing industries and under-represented in the more highly skilled occupations, in many service industries and among employers and self-employed people. This pattern persists to some degree regardless of age, birthplace or education, suggesting that further efforts are required to address these disparities. However, recent trends such as the greater representation of young New Zealand-born Pacific people in white-collar work in service industries, the growth in labour demand in these areas and increasing levels of formal education among Pacific people suggest that traditional patterns of employment will continue to change in the future.

Summary

- The largest occupational categories for Pacific males are plant and machine operators and assemblers (25 percent) and elementary occupations (15 percent), while the most common categories for Pacific females are clerical (24 percent) and service and sales (23 percent).
- The proportion of Pacific workers employed in elementary occupations and as plant and machine operators and assemblers has been declining over recent censuses, while the proportion in white-collar occupations has increased.
- The higher the qualifications Pacific people have, the more likely they are to be in professional or legislative, administrative and managerial jobs. Almost half of all Pacific people with degrees have professional occupations, which is similar to the national figure.
- Almost half of young Pacific people aged 15-24 work in service and sales or clerical occupations, with relatively few working in plant and machine operating and assembly, which is the most common category for Pacific people aged 35 and over.
- New Zealand-born Pacific people are less likely than the overseas-born to work as plant and machine operators and assemblers or in elementary occupations and more likely to be in all types of white-collar work.
- The proportion of Pacific people who work in the services sector has been increasing in recent years while the proportion employed in the secondary sector has declined. In 2001, 66 percent of Pacific people worked in service industries compared with 30 percent in secondary industries.
- Manufacturing is the most common industry group for Pacific workers, employing 33 percent of men and 17 percent of women.
- Overseas-born Pacific people are twice as likely as the New Zealand-born to work in manufacturing and less likely to work in most service industries.
- Younger Pacific people are less likely than older Pacific people to work in manufacturing, with relatively high proportions working in the retail trade and accommodation, cafés and restaurants.
- Pacific people are more likely to be employers or self-employed than in the past but the proportions are still relatively small, with 1.9 percent of Pacific workers employing others and 4.4 percent being self-employed without employees.
- Pacific employers and self-employed people are predominantly male, more likely to be in the older age groups and more likely than paid employees to have tertiary qualifications.

8. Income

Income distribution provides an indication of living standards, and as such, is often used as a measure of social and economic well-being. Personal and household income levels not only impact on home ownership and the consumption of a wide range of goods and services, they also affect access to amenities such as motor vehicles, telephones or the Internet. Income levels can also play a role in individual well-being, influencing, for example, outcomes in education and health.

Age, sex, qualifications and employment may all influence an individual's income. The younger age structure of the Pacific population, coupled with the lower overall qualification levels of Pacific peoples and their higher representation in less skilled occupations means that the Pacific population is proportionately more likely than the national population to be in the lower income bands. This is reflected in the median annual personal and annual household incomes of Pacific peoples, which are relatively low. The income disparity between the Pacific and national populations increased during the recession of the early to mid 1990s, which disproportionately affected lower income groups. Although Pacific peoples have recovered some of this lost ground in recent years, differences in personal and household income still remain between the Pacific and New Zealand populations overall.

Using data from the Census of Population and Dwellings and the New Zealand Income Survey, this chapter focuses on wage and salary earnings, annual personal income, annual household income and income sources. In each case, income refers to the amount of money received before tax, while all dollar values have been adjusted to constant prices (March 2001 dollar terms). Definitions and technical notes may be found in the relevant appendices.

Wage and salary earnings

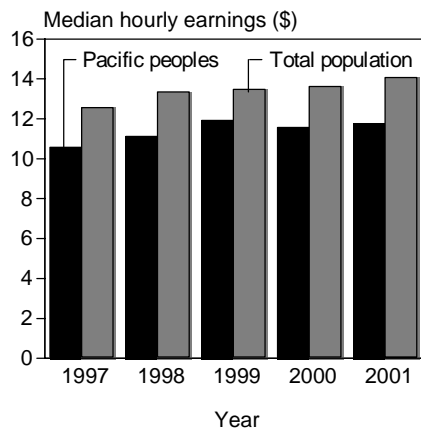
Wages and salaries are the primary source of weekly income for both the Pacific and national populations. In the 2001 New Zealand Income Survey,¹ nearly two-thirds of personal income was from wages and salaries. One in every two Pacific peoples with income received earnings from wages and salaries, the same proportion as the total New Zealand population. There was little change in these levels between 2000 and 2001.

Hourly earnings

Measuring hourly wage and salary earnings using the median or 'middle' value is more appropriate than a mean, which may be affected by outliers or a strongly asymmetrical distribution. Data from the New Zealand Income Survey shows that the median hourly wage and salary earnings of Pacific peoples rose from \$10.50 in 1997 to \$11.70 in 2001. (see figure 8.1) The median hourly wage and salary earnings of the national population also increased over the period from \$12.50 to \$14.00. As a result, the earnings differential between the Pacific and national populations has remained constant, with the median hourly earnings of Pacific peoples equating to 84 percent of the national median in both 1997 and 2001. A similar pattern is evident in the median weekly earnings figures. The median of Pacific people's weekly wage and salary earnings rose from \$412 in 1997 to \$468 in 2001, while the weekly wage and salary median for the total New Zealand population increased from \$500 in 1997 to \$550 in 2001.

¹ The New Zealand Income Survey is an annual survey that was first conducted in 1997. The figures are not age standardised as this made little difference to the data in 2001.

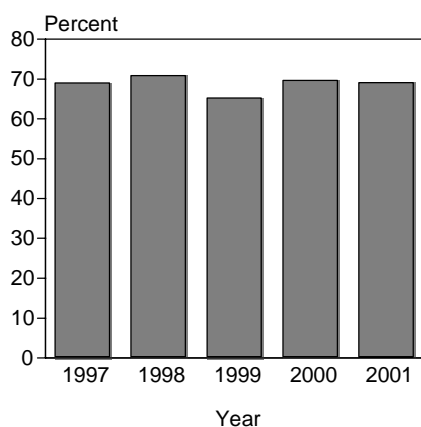
Figure 8.1

Median Hourly Earnings of the Pacific and Total Populations, 1997–2001

Source: New Zealand Income Survey

The majority of Pacific people who receive wages and salaries earn less than the national median hourly rate, as figure 8.2 shows. In 1997, 69 percent of Pacific peoples were earning less than the national hourly median of \$12.50, while in 2001, 69 percent received less than the national median of \$14.00. It should be noted that the Pacific population has proportionally more people than the national population in the younger age groups, particularly the 15-25 age group, which have lower average earnings. This younger age structure is a factor in the lower median hourly and median weekly earnings of Pacific peoples.

Figure 8.2

Proportion of the Pacific Population Earning Less Than the National Median Hourly Rate, 1997–2001

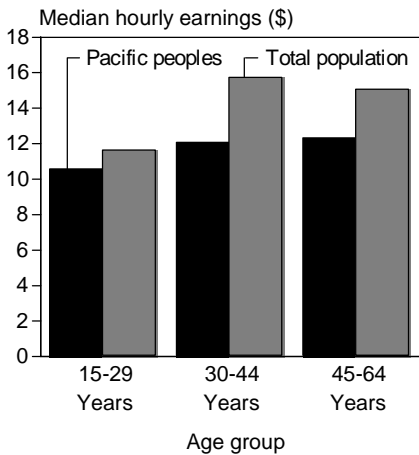
Source: New Zealand Income Survey

Age

The median hourly wage and salary rates are higher among the older age groups for both the Pacific and national populations. Although the New Zealand Income Survey population sample allows only broad age groupings for the Pacific population, figure 8.3 shows that the difference in the median hourly rate between the Pacific and national populations is most pronounced among those aged 30-44 years. In 2001, the median hourly earnings for Pacific peoples aged 15-29 years was \$10.50, equating to 91 percent of the median hourly earnings of \$11.57 for this age group in the national population. The median hourly rate of Pacific peoples in the 30-44 year age group was \$12.00, equating to 77 percent of the national rate of \$15.67 for the same age group. Pacific peoples in the 45-64 age group had a median hourly rate of \$12.25, which was 82 percent of the median hourly rate of \$15.00 for the same age group in the national population.

Figure 8.3

Median Hourly Earnings of the Pacific and Total Populations, by Age Group, 2001



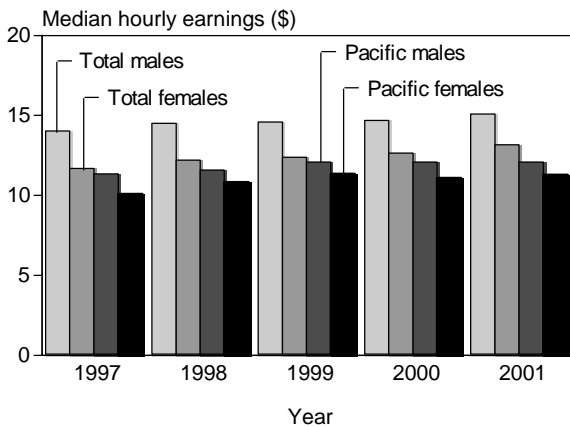
Source: New Zealand Income Survey

Sex

The median hourly earnings of Pacific women equated to between 89 and 94 percent of those of Pacific men from 1997 to 2001. In 2001, the median hourly rate for Pacific women was \$11.20, while the median for Pacific men was \$12.00. Among all New Zealand women, the median hourly rate in 2001 was \$13.08, or 87 percent of the median of \$15.00 for New Zealand men. The gap between Pacific men and New Zealand men overall, has remained greater than the gap between Pacific women and New Zealand women overall. Figure 8.4 illustrates the consistency of this pattern from 1997 to 2001.

Figure 8.4

Median Hourly Earnings of the Pacific and Total Populations, by Sex, 1997–2001



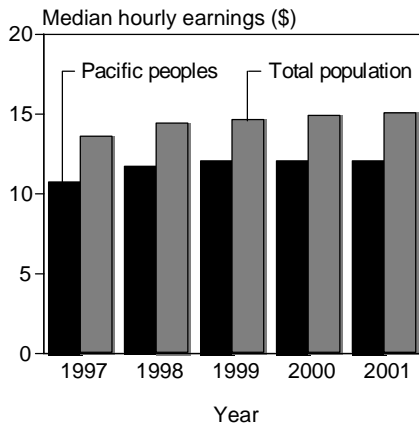
Source: New Zealand Income Survey

Hours worked

For both the Pacific and total New Zealand populations, the median hourly earnings are higher for people in full-time employment than for those in part-time employment. The differential in median hourly earnings between the Pacific and total populations is greater among those in full-time employment. As figure 8.5 shows, Pacific peoples in full-time employment in 2001 had a median hourly rate of \$12.00, compared with the national median of \$15.00 for those in full-time employment. From 1997 to 2001, the median hourly earnings of Pacific peoples in full-time employment equated, on average, to 81 percent of the national median rate. This compares with an average of around 95 percent for part-time employment (see figure 8.6). Pacific people’s median hourly earnings for part-time employment in 2001 was \$9.60, compared with \$10.77 for the total New Zealand population.

Figure 8.5

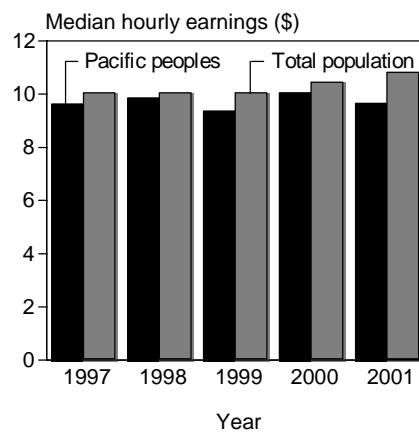
Median Hourly Earnings of the Pacific and Total Populations in Full-time Employment, 1997–2001



Source: New Zealand Income Survey

Figure 8.6

Median Hourly Earnings of the Pacific and Total Populations in Part-time Employment, 1997–2001



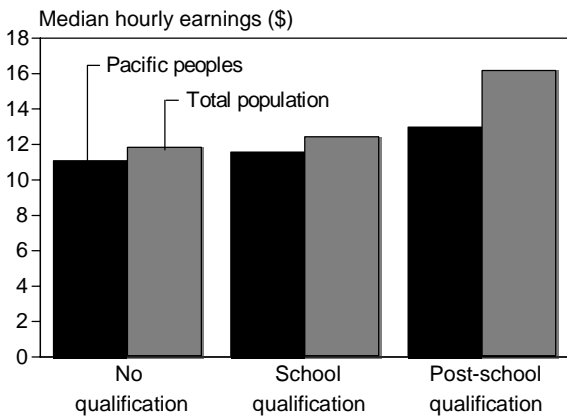
Source: New Zealand Income Survey

Qualifications

The level of qualifications appears to have an impact on both the hourly earnings of individuals and on the differences between the Pacific and national populations, as figure 8.7 shows. Pacific peoples with no qualifications had a median hourly rate of \$11.00 in 2001, 94 percent of the national median rate of \$11.76 for individuals without qualifications. Those with a school qualification had a median hourly rate of \$11.50, equating to 93 percent of the national rate of \$12.36. The difference in hourly earnings between the Pacific and national populations was higher among individuals with post-school qualifications. The median hourly rate in 2001 for Pacific people with post-school qualifications was \$12.90, or 80 percent of the national median hourly rate of \$16.11 for all individuals with post-school qualifications.

Figure 8.7

Median Hourly Earnings of the Pacific and Total Populations, by Qualification Level, 2001



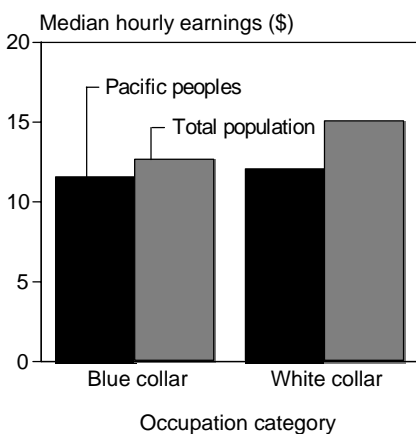
Source: New Zealand Income Survey

Occupation

The type of occupation also influences the size of the disparity between the median hourly earnings of the Pacific and national populations. Pacific peoples are more likely to be employed in less skilled manual occupations (see Chapter 7, *Occupation and industry*), and this contributes to their lower median hourly earnings. The difference in median hourly earnings between the Pacific and national populations is greater among blue collar occupations than white collar occupations.² In 2001, the median earnings of Pacific peoples in blue collar occupations (\$11.50) was 91 percent of the national median for individuals in blue collar occupations (\$12.60). Pacific peoples in white collar occupations had a median hourly rate (\$12.00) equivalent to 80 percent of the national median hourly rate (\$15.00) for individuals in white collar occupations.

Figure 8.8

Median Hourly Earnings of the Pacific and Total Populations, by Occupation, 2001



² Due to the small Pacific sample within the New Zealand Income Survey, types of occupation were condensed into blue collar (including trades workers, plant and machinery operators, and agricultural and fisheries workers) and white collar (including legislators, managers, professionals, technicians, clerks and service and sales workers).

Multivariate analysis

A multivariate analysis of New Zealand Income Survey data from 2001 was used to determine which factors were the most important in determining the level of earnings for Pacific peoples. Results showed that the main variables affecting earnings were age, sex, occupation and highest qualification. Hours worked was not a significant variable. The main determinant of high earnings was whether a person had a university degree, while the main determinants of low earnings were whether a person had no qualifications or was under 21 years of age. Repeating this analysis for the total population showed that the main factors were similar; namely, that high earnings were again determined by having a university degree, while low earnings were determined by having no qualifications or being under 22 years of age. The larger national population sample allowed age and sex to be additionally identified as significant variables in determining high earnings.

Comparing earnings between the two populations revealed two cases where there were earnings differences of over \$3 per hour. One area concerned individuals with university degrees, where the difference between the populations was \$3.25. Some of this difference is explained by age, as 40 percent of Pacific peoples in this group were under 30 years of age, compared with 30 percent of the total population. In addition, just 17 percent of the Pacific population sample had a post-graduate qualification compared with 30 percent of the total population. The second area with a difference of more than \$3 was for males aged over 38 years with school or post-school qualifications and in white collar occupations (a difference of \$3.20). Within this group, 55 percent of Pacific peoples had white collar occupations of legislators, administrators or managers, professional or technical workers, compared with 70 percent of people in the total population. In other words proportionately more Pacific peoples were in the lower paid white collar occupations of clerk or service and sales worker. In conclusion, the earnings of both Pacific peoples and people in the total population are affected by the same factors of sex, age, qualifications and occupation, although the interaction of these variables is marginally different. Differences in earnings levels may be partially explained by structural differences within each population group.

Annual personal income

Over a year, people may receive income from a variety of sources other than wages and salaries, for example government transfers, investments, self-employment, transfers from other households and so on. In addition, these payments may be irregular so that a person's income in one week may not be reflective of their income over a whole year. This section expands on the analysis of hourly and weekly wage and salary earnings discussed in the previous section by looking at annual individual income from all sources.

The data source used is the census. This source has several limitations for income analysis:

- Census data is collected in bands. This means that disparities in median incomes may be understated because an assumption has had to be made (ie no one receives more than \$100,000).
- It is not possible to tell how much income comes from each source.
- There is a high level of non-response from Pacific peoples (19 percent compared with 8 percent for the total population) in the 2001 Census.

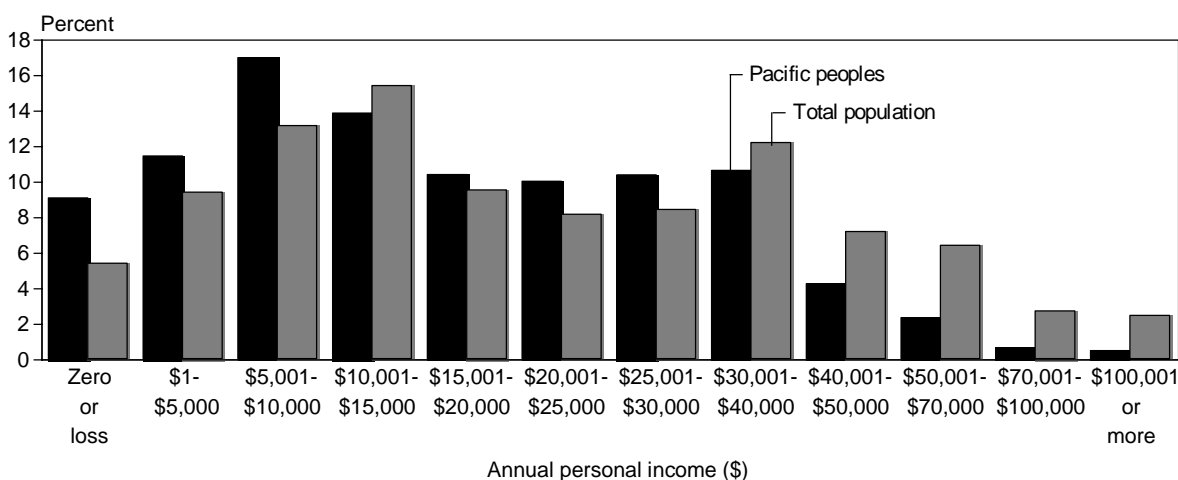
However, these limitations are offset by the extensive coverage of the census compared with sample surveys.

Annual income distribution

Figure 8.9 shows that Pacific peoples are proportionately more likely to be in the lower income bands and less likely to be in the higher income bands than the national population even after differences in age structure are controlled for. Sixty-one percent of Pacific peoples aged 15 years and over had an annual income of \$20,000 or less in the year to 3 March 2001. In comparison, just over half of the national population (53 percent) fell into this income band. Meanwhile, 7 percent of Pacific peoples received an annual income of over \$40,000 during this time period compared with 18 percent of people in the national population.

Figure 8.9

Annual Income Distribution for the Pacific and Total Populations, 2001 (Age Standardised)

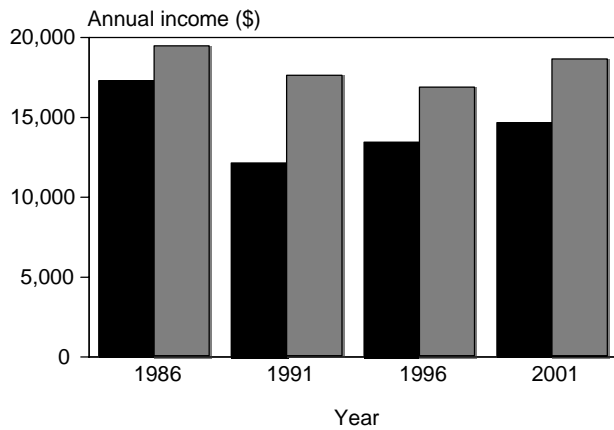


Median annual income

The comparatively high proportion of Pacific peoples in the lower income bands is reflected in their median income. Pacific peoples aged 15 years and over had an annual median income of \$14,600 in the year to March 2001 (age standardised), compared with a median of \$18,600 for the total population (a ratio of 78 percent). Looking back over time shows that in 1986 Pacific people's real median income was 89 percent of the national population. At the time of the 1991 Census the ratio had fallen to 69 percent before rising to 79 percent in 1996. In other words, the ratio of Pacific to national real median income has not returned to 1986 levels following the recession of the late 1980s and early 1990s. These relationships can be seen in figure 8.10 below.

Figure 8.10

Real Median Annual Income for the Pacific and Total Populations, 1986–2001 (Age Standardised)



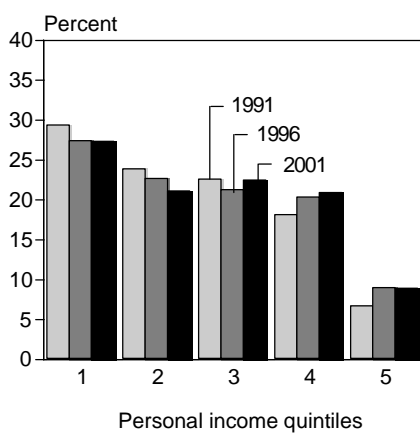
Annual income quintiles

When the Census income data is arranged into quintiles and age standardised, the results show that Pacific people have similar proportions to the national population in the three middle quintile groups of 2, 3 and 4 (\$7,001–\$38,900). However, Pacific people are under-represented in the top quintile group where just 9 percent of their population received income of \$38,901 and over. Conversely, they are over-represented in the bottom income quintile group where 27 percent of the Pacific population received an annual income of \$0–7,000. These proportions can be seen in figure 8.11 below.

Since 1991, the proportion of Pacific people in quintiles 1 and 2 has decreased (down 2 percentage points and 3 percentage points respectively), while the proportion in quintiles 4 and 5 has increased (up 3 percentage points and 2 percentage points respectively). The middle quintile group (3) showed no change over this period.

Figure 8.11

Annual Income Quintiles for Pacific People, 1991–2001 (Age Standardised)

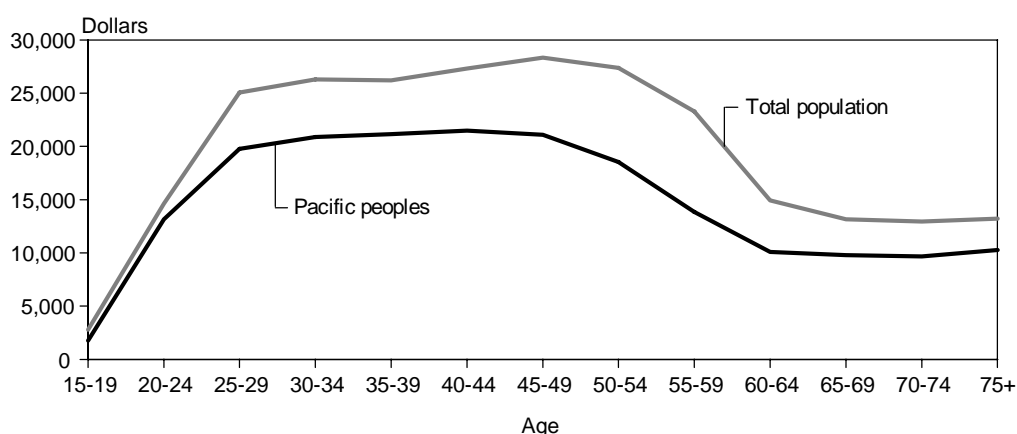


Age groups

Looking at median incomes by age groups shows that Pacific people have similar median incomes to the national population in the age groups 15-19 and 20-24 years, but thereafter a gap of \$5,000 appears, which increases to \$9,000 for the age group 55-59 years. Even in the retirement years of 65 years and over, people in the national population have higher median incomes than people in the Pacific population. This may be related to the amount of income received from different sources, or it may be that Pacific people aged 65 years and over have fewer income sources – 45 percent of Pacific peoples in this age group had New Zealand Superannuation as their only source of income, compared with 41 percent of the national population.

Figure 8.12

Median Annual Income of the Pacific and Total Populations, by Age, 2001 (Age Standardised)



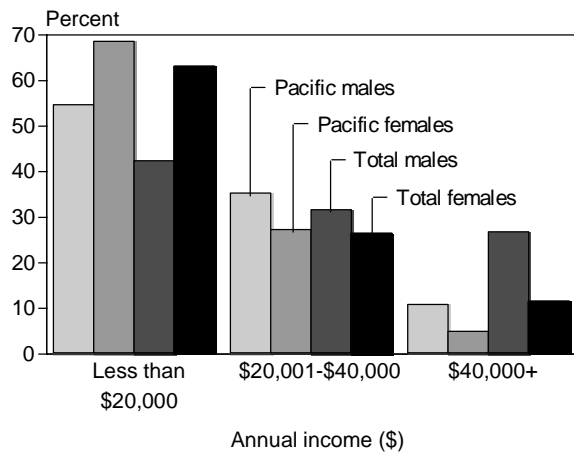
Sex

An analysis of median annual incomes by sex shows that Pacific women have a slightly lower annual income than women in the national population: \$14,900 compared with \$15,700 respectively (a ratio of 95 percent). The gap for males was much greater: \$20,300 compared with \$26,100 respectively (a ratio of 78 percent). However, comparisons of median income can mask bigger differences in income distribution.

Figure 8.13 shows that, after age standardisation, all females and Pacific males are concentrated in the lower bands of the income distribution while males in the national population are more strongly represented in the upper income bands. More than two-thirds (68 percent) of Pacific women received less than \$20,001 in annual income in 2001 compared with 63 percent of women in the total population. The comparable figures for men were 54 percent and 42 percent respectively. Just 5 percent of Pacific women received an annual income of \$40,000 compared with 11 percent of Pacific men, 11 percent of women in the total population and 26 percent of men in the total population.

Figure 8.13

Annual Income of the Pacific and Total Populations, by Sex, 2001 (Age Standardised)

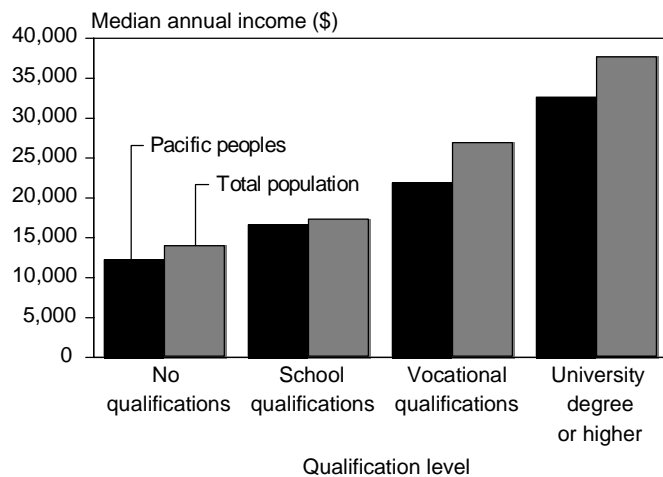


Qualifications

As a generalisation it would be expected that people with similar educational levels would have similar incomes. Looking at median annual income by broad educational attainment categories (age standardised) shows a similar result to the findings for personal hourly earnings: Pacific peoples have a median income that is less than that for the total population at each qualification level, and the gap gets wider as qualification levels increase. The smallest gap was for those whose highest qualification was at school level – where Pacific people received 96 percent of the national median income in 2001. The biggest gap was for those whose highest qualification was ‘vocational’ – where Pacific people received 81 percent of the national median income.

Figure 8.14

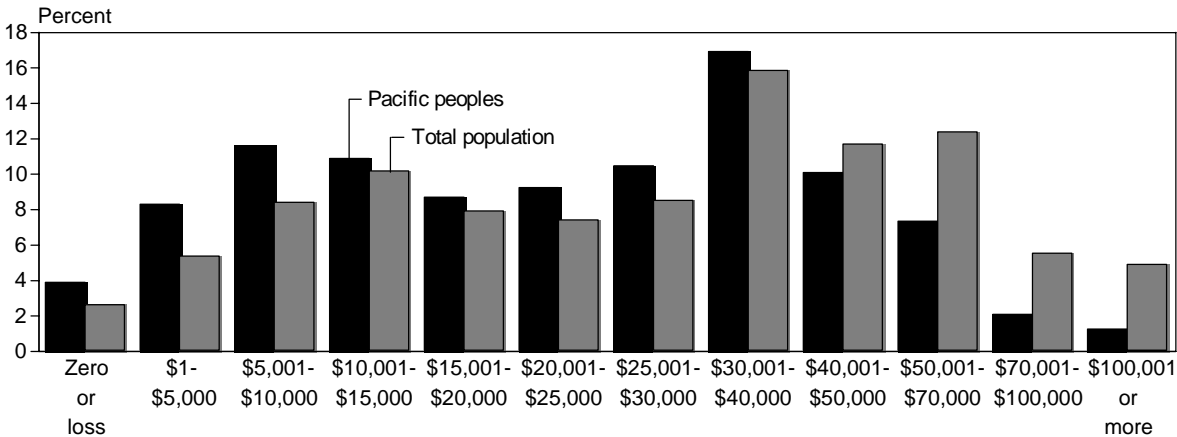
Median Annual Income of the Pacific and Total Populations, by Highest Qualification Level, 2001 (Age Standardised)



Pacific peoples with post-school qualifications are proportionately more highly represented in each of the income bands up to \$40,000, but under-represented after that (see figure 8.15 below). Over three-quarters (79 percent) of Pacific peoples with post-school qualifications had an income of \$40,000 or less in 2001, compared with 66 percent of people in the total population.

Figure 8.15

Income Distribution of the Pacific and Total Populations, by Post-school Qualifications, 2001 (Age Standardised)

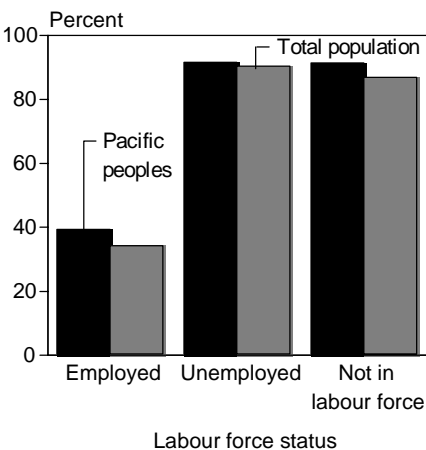


Labour force status

A person’s income can also be affected by their labour force status. Figure 8.16 below shows that, after age standardisation, Pacific people who were employed or outside the labour force in the week preceding the Census were more likely than those in the national population to receive an annual income of less than \$20,000. Thirty-nine percent of Pacific people in employment in the week preceding the 2001 Census received an annual income of less than \$20,001, compared with 34 percent of people in the total population. Meanwhile, 91 percent of Pacific peoples who were outside the labour force received less than \$20,001, compared with 86 percent of people in the total population.

Figure 8.16

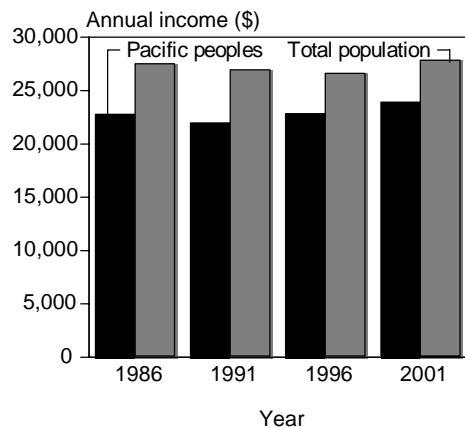
Proportion of the Pacific and Total Populations with an Annual Income of Less Than \$20,000, by Labour Force Status, 2001 (Age Standardised)



Pacific people who were employed in the week prior to the 2001 Census also had a lower (age standardised) median income than people in the total population: \$23,800 compared with \$27,700 for the total population (a ratio of 86 percent). Looking at real median annual incomes over time shows that this ratio has varied by just 5 percentage points since 1986 (see figure 8.17 below).

Figure 8.17

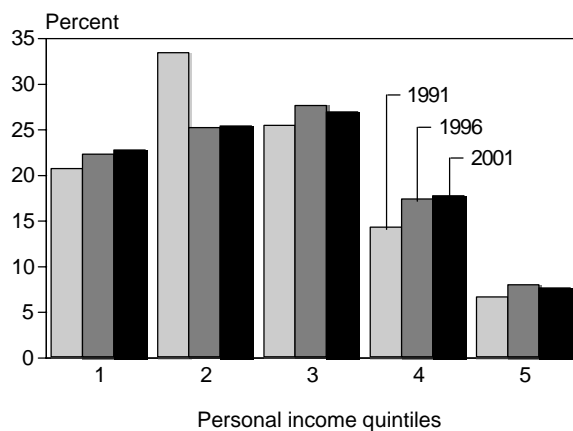
Real Median Annual Income of the Pacific and Total Populations in Employment, 1986–2001 (Age Standardised)



In terms of quintile groups, Pacific peoples are over-represented in the lower income quintile groups of 1, 2 and 3 (up to \$32,800) in comparison to the total population, but under-represented in quintiles 4 and 5 (\$32,801 and over) even after taking age structure differences in the Pacific population into account.

Figure 8.18

Annual Income Quintiles for Pacific People in Employment, 1991–2001 (Age Standardised)



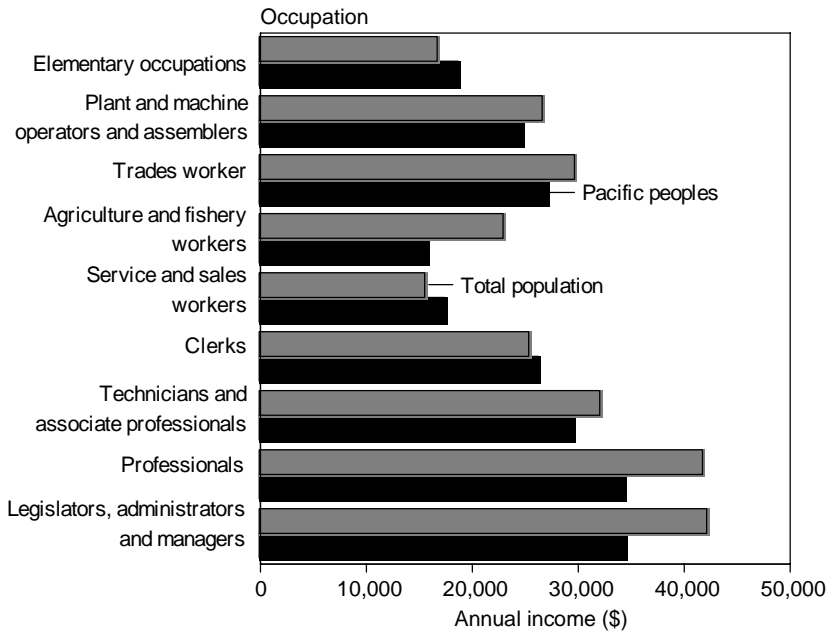
Since 1991, the proportion of Pacific peoples in quintile 2 has decreased by 8 percentage points while the proportions in quintiles 1, 3, 4, and 5 have all increased (up 1 percentage point, 2 percentage points, 3 percentage points and 1 percentage point respectively).

Occupation

Income for those in employment may vary according to such factors as qualifications, experience, occupation, and hours of work. Occupation is generally related to qualifications, with certain occupations usually requiring certain skill levels. The figure below (8.19) indicates that, with age standardisation, people in the national population had higher median incomes than Pacific people across most occupational groups. However, the gap was greatest for the white collar occupational groups of legislators, administrators and managers and professional workers where Pacific people received around \$8,000 less per year in median income than people in the national population. These findings are similar to those outlined in the Wage and Salary Earnings section, where it was noted that earnings gaps are greatest in those occupations with the greatest potential for higher income. (Note that the large gap for agriculture and fishery workers is likely to be a result of the fact that less than 2 percent of employed Pacific people work in this occupation).

Figure 8.19

Median Annual Personal Income of the Pacific and Total Populations, by Occupation, 2001 (Age Standardised)



Looking more closely at white collar occupations, and adding age as proxy for experience shows that the income gap is smaller in the younger age groups, but increases with age (see figures 8.20 and 8.21). The only exception is for technicians and associate professionals where Pacific people aged 15-24 years actually had a slightly higher median income than the national population.

Figure 8.20

Median Annual Income of Legislators, Administrators and Managers in the Pacific and Total Populations, 2001 (Age Standardised)

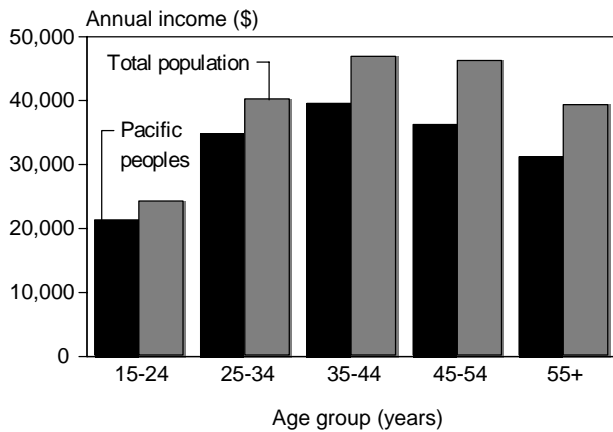
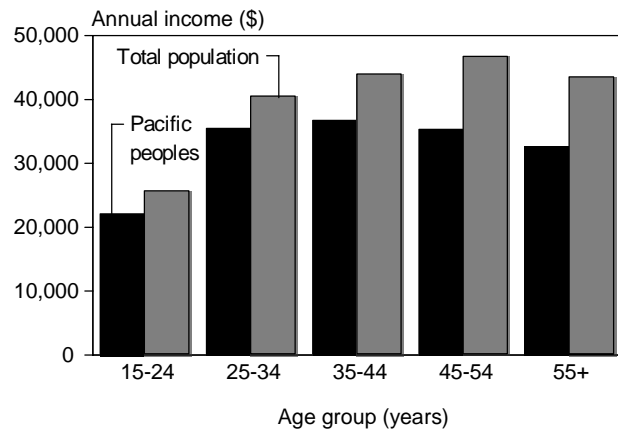


Figure 8.21

Median Annual Income of Professionals in the Pacific and Total Populations, 2001 (Age Standardised)

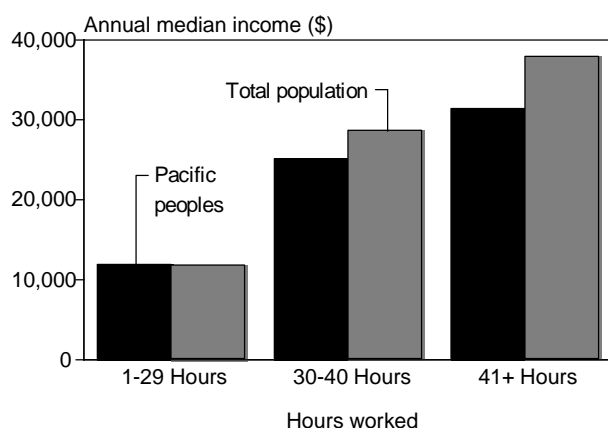


Hours worked

In terms of hours worked, the majority of Pacific peoples (56 percent of those employed after age standardisation) worked between 30 and 40 hours per week, far higher than the proportion that worked these hours in the total population (38 percent). However, the median income for Pacific peoples working these hours was lower than for the total population (\$25,000 versus \$28,500 respectively – a ratio of 88 percent) as can be seen in figure 8.22. The discrepancy was even greater for those working over 40 hours per week (\$31,200 versus \$37,800 respectively – a ratio of 83 percent), but there was no difference for those working less than 30 hours per week (both \$11,700). These findings are consistent with those reported in the wage and salary earnings section where it was found that there is less difference between part-time hourly earnings than between full-time hourly earnings (part-time work is often low skilled and therefore less dispersed).

Figure 8.22

Annual Median Income of the Pacific and Total Populations, by Hours Worked, 2001 (Age Standardised)



Birthplace

Within the Pacific ethnic group, those born in New Zealand had higher median annual incomes (\$15,600) than those born overseas (\$14,400). Figure 8.23 below shows that those born overseas are more concentrated in the lower income bands – 63 percent of those born overseas had an income less than \$20,001, while 58 percent of those born in New Zealand received this amount. Meanwhile, 22 percent of those born in New Zealand had income greater than \$30,000, compared with 16 percent of those born overseas.

Figure 8.23

Annual Income Distribution of Pacific People, by Birthplace, 2001

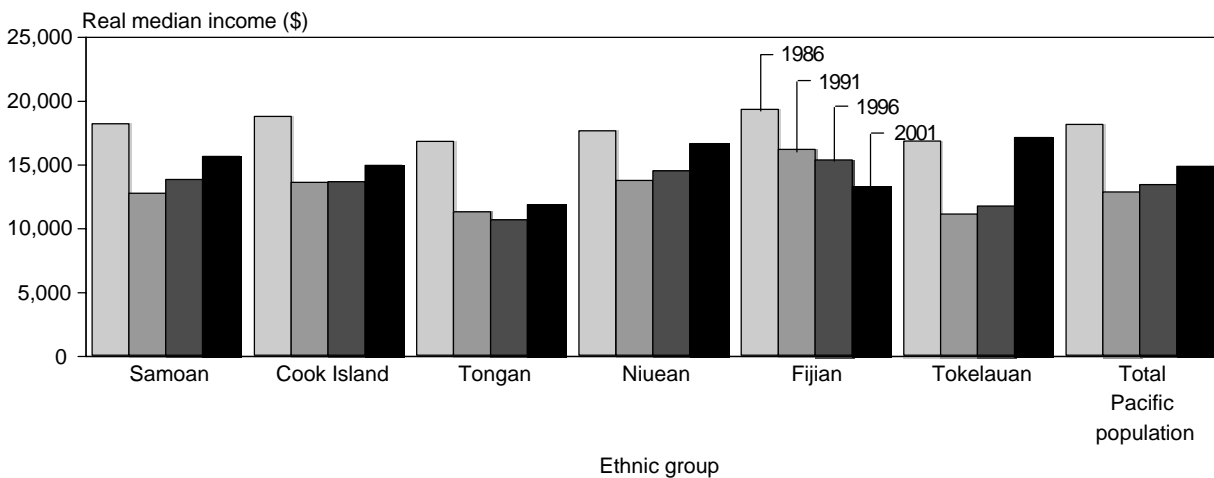


Pacific ethnic groups

There is a notable spread in the median annual incomes of each of the major Pacific ethnic groups, as figure 8.24 illustrates. In 2001, Fijians had the highest annual median income at \$17,100, while Niueans were the next highest at \$16,600. The Tongan population had the lowest annual median income at \$11,800. The real median annual income for all Pacific ethnic groups fell sharply between 1986 and 1991. Although the median annual income of each ethnic group showed some recovery by 2001, no ethnic group had reached 1986 levels. Niueans had the highest level of recovery, with their median annual income in 2001 being equivalent to 94 percent of their 1986 real median annual income. Fijians and Samoans had the next highest levels of recovery at 89 percent and 86 percent respectively. Tongans had the lowest level of recovery, with their annual median in 2001 reaching 71 percent of their 1986 real median annual income.

Figure 8.24

Real Median Annual Income of Pacific People, by Ethnic Group, 1986–2001



Annual household income

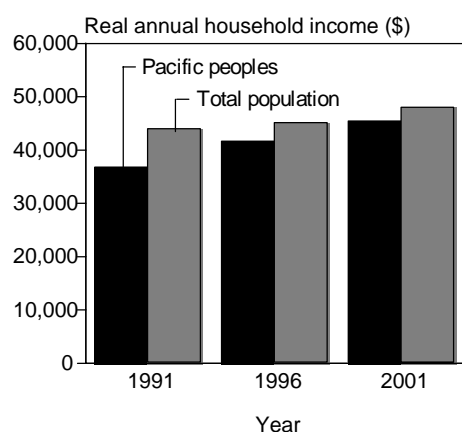
Income may be shared by other members of a household such as children and non-employed adults (intra-household transfers), and income may also be shared between households (inter-household transfers). The extent of sharing can never be assumed. However, research by Anna Pasikale and Tai George as part of the Pacific component of the Intra Family Income and Resource Allocation Project showed that members of the Pacific community are more likely than Pakeha people to regard income as belonging to the 'household' and wider 'family' (Pasikale and George: 1995; 68). This section continues with the use of census data, this time looking at household income and expenditure.

Median annual household income

Census results show that the median annual household income of Pacific peoples was \$45,200 in the year to March 2001. This was close to the median household income for the total New Zealand population of \$47,800. Over the last ten years, the gap between real median household incomes of Pacific peoples and the total population has narrowed from a ratio of 84 percent in 1991 to 92 percent in 1996 and 95 percent in 2001. The relative median income levels can be seen in figure 8.25. At 95 percent, the disparity between median household incomes of Pacific peoples and the total population is less than that for personal annual income. This is likely related to the fact that Pacific households tend to have a greater number of adults (see Chapter 3, *Families and Households*), and therefore more people in receipt of income than households in the national population.

Figure 8.25

Real Median Annual Household Income of the Pacific and Total Populations, 1991–2001



Remittances

Remittances from Pacific people in New Zealand form a vital part of the income of most Pacific Island states. These transactions usually involve the transfer of private capital from migrant individuals or families back to family members in the country of origin. Money may be sent back out of goodwill to help support family, or to repay an investment made in an individual's education in New Zealand. A lack of regular income and high import duties within many Pacific Island states means that there is often a reliance on the remittance to provide for basic necessities.

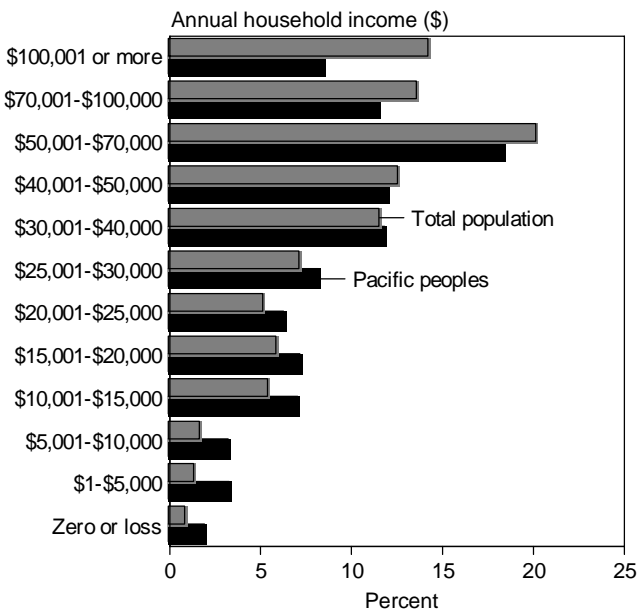
As there is no official measurement of the amount or frequency of money remitted to Pacific countries, it is difficult to gauge the exact value of remittances sent from New Zealand. However, data provided by the Bank of New Zealand shows that in the six months to March 2002, over one million dollars was transferred through the bank to Pacific Island states. During this period over 2,700 remittance transactions were handled by the Bank of New Zealand alone, and these included destinations such as Samoa, Tonga, the Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau, Fiji, Tuvalu and Kiribati. Given that remittances may be sent through major banks, the postal service, as well as private businesses, the BNZ data likely represents a small proportion of remittances sent to Pacific states. It should be noted that these figures are only a rough guide as the number of individuals contributing to each remittance is not known, nor is the frequency with which an individual or family might remit money. However, these figures do indicate that a substantial amount of money is sent back to home countries in the Pacific, and that this must impact on the financial situation of Pacific peoples in New Zealand.

An issue for the future is whether New Zealand-born Pacific peoples will continue to remit money to relatives in Pacific Island states. It has been suggested that generations born in New Zealand may not have such close ties with their parents' homeland and will not feel the same obligation to the remittance tradition.

However, Pacific households also have a greater number of children. While 52 percent of dependent children in the total population lived in households with incomes of less than \$50,001 per annum in 2001, 62 percent of dependent children in the Pacific population lived in such households. Furthermore, 23 percent of dependent Pacific children lived in households with income less than \$20,001 compared with 15 percent of dependent children in the national population, but only 9 percent of Pacific children lived in households with income greater than \$100,000 compared with 14 percent of dependent children in the total population. These relationships can be seen in figure 8.26 below. Persistent low income can have serious implications for children’s current welfare and development as well as their future prospects.

Figure 8.26

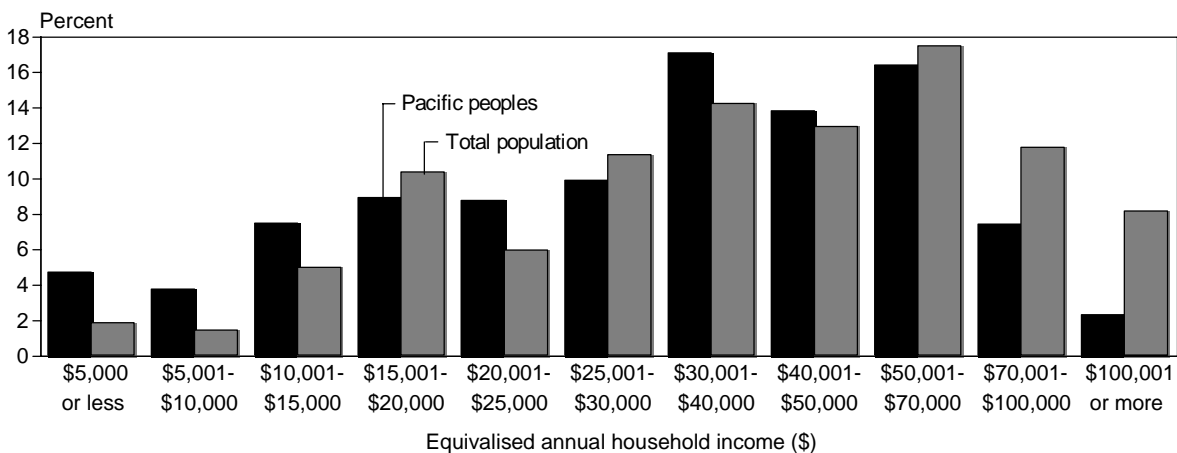
Annual Household Income of the Pacific and Total Populations, for Households with Dependent Children, 2001



To account for differences in household income due to differences in the number of children and adults, income data can be equivalised. Looking at equivalised household income shows that while half (50 percent) of the total population had an annual household income of \$40,001 or less, 60 percent of the Pacific population received this income (the distribution can be seen in figure 8.27). In addition, 64 percent of dependent children in the total population lived in households with an annual equivalised income of less than \$40,001, compared with just over three-quarters of all dependent Pacific children (77 percent).

Figure 8.27

Equivalised Annual Household Income of the Pacific and Total Populations, 2001



At the lower end of the household income distribution, 18 percent of the national population received an equivalised annual income of less than \$20,001, while one-quarter (25 percent) of the Pacific population received this amount. One-quarter (25 percent) of dependent children in the total population lived in households with this income compared with over a third (38 percent) of children in the Pacific population.

As noted in the Families and Households chapter, Pacific parents are more likely to be sole parents than parents in the total population (22 percent versus 17 percent respectively). For both populations, the majority (over 80 percent) of sole parents are women. Being a sole parent can have a significant effect on income levels. The median income of Pacific sole parents was \$12,600 in the year to March 2001, nearly \$2,000 per year lower than the median income for sole parents in the total population (\$14,400). Moreover, proportionately more Pacific children live in sole parent households; 34 percent of Pacific dependent children live in one parent households compared with 26 percent of children in the national population.

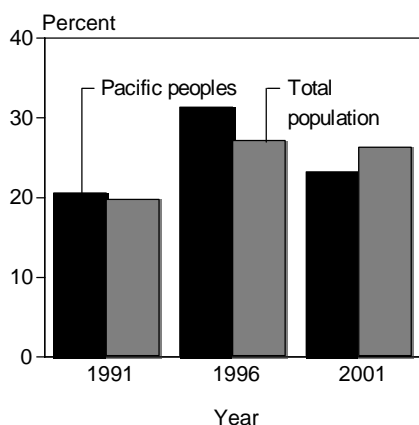
Income versus expenditure

So far this chapter has focused on income; however some mention should be made of expenditure. Among the essential expenditure items of utilities, food, clothing and shelter, accommodation generally accounts for the biggest share of household expenditure. As noted in the Housing chapter, Pacific peoples are almost twice as likely to live in rental accommodation than is the case in the total population (59 percent compared with 29 percent of the national population). This means that changes in rental accommodation costs are more likely to have a greater impact on Pacific peoples, particularly given their generally lower incomes.

Comparing rent with income ratios⁴ over the last three censuses shows that Pacific peoples paid the same proportion of their income in rent as the national population in 1991 (both 20 percent). Figure 8.28 shows that in 1996, both population groups had increased the proportion of their income spent on rent, but Pacific peoples were spending even more than the national population (31 percent versus 27 percent respectively). The change in the ratio for Pacific peoples was driven by an increase in rent – median rent almost doubled (up 94 percent) between 1991 and 1996 (rent for the total population increased by 57 percent over this period). In comparison, median household income for Pacific peoples increased by 27 percent over the same period (household income for the total population increased by 14 percent over this period). By 2001, the proportion of income spent on rent had decreased by 8 percentage points for Pacific peoples (23 percent), but barely changed for the total population (26 percent).

Figure 8.28

Ratio of Annual Median Rent to Annual Median Household Income for the Pacific and Total Populations, 2001



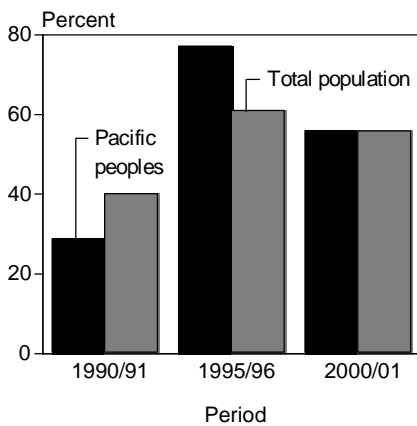
⁴ Rent data has been annualised.

Analysis of rent to income for the same periods using data from the Household Economic Survey (HES) shows a similar pattern as figure 8.29 illustrates. Between 1990/91 and 1995/96, the proportion of those who were renting and paying more than 25 percent of their net income in rent rose steeply for Pacific peoples from 28 percent to 77 percent. In comparison, the ratio for the total population rose from 40 percent to 61 percent over the same period. This time frame coincided with the introduction of market rents for State housing tenants. In the time period between 1995/96 and 2000/01, the rent to income ratio decreased by 21 percentage points for Pacific peoples, and by 5 percentage points for people in the national population. By 2000/01 both population groups were paying 56 percent of net income in rent. This later period coincided with the re-introduction of income related rents for State housing tenants. The association between market rents, crowding and poor health has been well documented.

In addition to utilities, food, clothing and shelter, Pacific peoples can face extra strains on the household budget through obligations to remit money home to Pacific nations, to provide financial support to people in other households, and to donate money to the church.

Figure 8.29

Proportion of the Pacific and Total Populations Who Paid a Quarter or More of Their Disposable Income in Rent, 1990–2001



Income sources

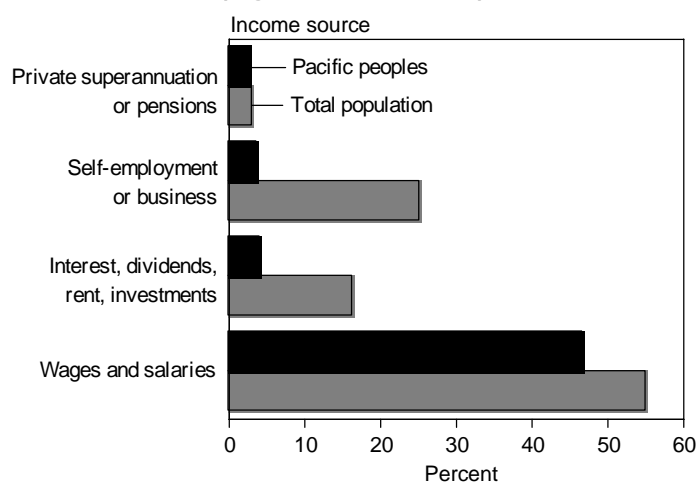
Wages and salaries were the most common source of income for both the national and Pacific populations in the 12 months prior to the 2001 Census.⁵ Among the national adult population, the next most common sources of income were investments, and self-employment income. For Pacific adults the second and third most common sources of income were the community wage and the domestic purposes benefit.⁶

Market sources

Similar proportions of the Pacific and national populations receive income from wages and salaries. As figure 8.30 shows, at the 2001 Census, 47 percent of Pacific adults aged 15 and over stated that they had received some income from wages or salaries at some stage in the previous 12 months. For the New Zealand population, the comparable proportion was 55 percent. Pacific women were less likely to receive income from wages or salaries than Pacific men. In the 2001 Census, 48 percent of Pacific women received income from wages or salaries compared with 58 percent of men. The lower labour force participation rate of women is a contributing factor to this difference.

Figure 8.30

Proportion of the Pacific and Total Populations Who Received Income from Market Sources, 2001 (Age Standardised)



Income from self-employment is less common among Pacific people than the national population, as Pacific people are less likely to own their own business (see Chapter 7, *Occupation and industry*). In the 12 months prior to the 2001 Census, 4 percent of the Pacific adult population received income from self-employment at some stage. For the national adult population, the proportion was four times as large at 16 percent. Pacific women were less likely than Pacific men to have received income from self-employment or their own business (3 percent compared with 6 percent), reflecting their lower rate of self-employment and business ownership.

A relatively low proportion of Pacific people receive income from interest, rent or investments compared with the total New Zealand population. In the 2001 Census, 4 percent of Pacific adults stated they had received some income from this source, as against 25 percent of all New Zealand adults. Figure 8.30 illustrates this difference.

Government sources

While the Pacific population is less likely than national population to receive income from market sources, it is more likely to receive government income support. As figure 8.31 illustrates, the main differences between the Pacific and national populations relate to the community wage-job seeker,⁷ the community wage-sickness benefit and the domestic purposes benefit.

⁵ Income source data from the March 2001 Census of Population and Dwellings is based on the 12 months prior to the census. References to '2001' refer to this period.

⁶ As these results are based on total responses, individuals may appear in more than one income source category.

⁷ The community wage-job seeker and the community wage-sickness were combined and renamed in July 2001 as the unemployment benefit.

In 2001, the community wage-job seeker was the most common form of government income support for Pacific people, with 9 percent of Pacific adults stating that they received this benefit at some stage during the previous 12 months. Among the total New Zealand population, the equivalent proportion was 6 percent. The higher unemployment rate among Pacific peoples contributes to this difference. Pacific men are more likely than Pacific women to receive income from the community wage-job seeker, as figure 8.32 shows. The proportion of Pacific men who received the community wage-job seeker in 2001 was 12 percent compared with 9 percent of Pacific women. The higher labour force participation rate of Pacific men is a contributing factor to this difference (see Chapter 6, *Work*).

Pacific peoples (4 percent) were also more likely than the national population (2 percent) to have received the community wage-sickness benefit in 2001. This difference can be linked to poorer overall health outcomes among Pacific people (see Chapter 2, *Health*).

Figure 8.31

Proportion of the Pacific and Total Populations Who Received Selected Government Benefits, 2001 (Age Standardised)

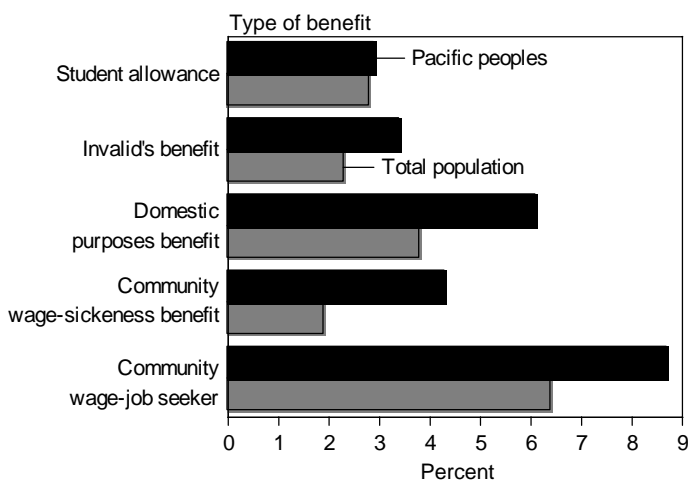
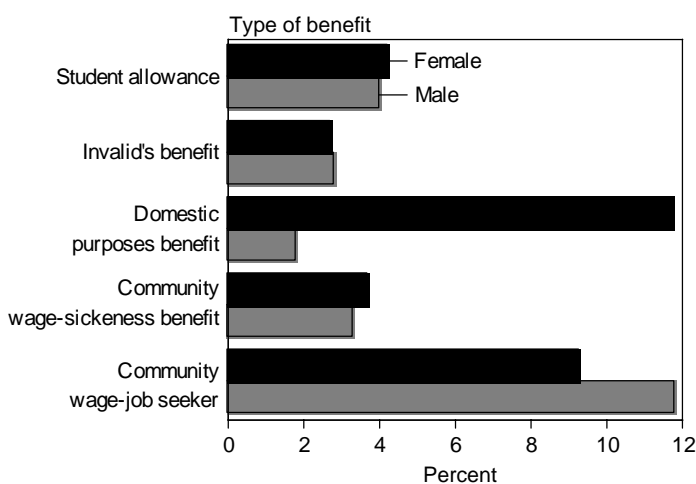


Figure 8.32

Proportion of Pacific People Who Received Selected Government Benefits, by Sex, 2001



Compared with the total New Zealand population, a higher proportion of Pacific peoples received the domestic purposes benefit in the 12 months prior to the 2001 Census. Among Pacific adults, 6 percent stated they had received the domestic purposes benefit, compared with 4 percent for the national population. Pacific women were more likely to have received the domestic purposes benefit than Pacific men (12 percent compared with 2 percent respectively), as figure 8.32 shows. This is linked to the greater likelihood of sole parents with dependent children being women. In 2001, 32 percent of Pacific women with dependent children were sole parents, while for Pacific men the figure was 9 percent. Among the total New Zealand population, the proportion of women with dependent children who were sole parents was 26 percent.

The student allowance was received by 3 percent of Pacific adults aged 15 years and over in 2001, equal to that of the national rate.

Reliance on welfare may be widely felt within a family, particularly by dependent children. At the 2001 Census, some 15 percent of dependent Pacific children were living in families that had received the community wage-job seeker in the preceding 12 months. Among the national population, 9 percent of dependent children were in families that had received the community wage-job seeker in the year before the 2001 Census. Similarly, a relatively high proportion of dependent⁸ Pacific children were living in families that had received the domestic purposes benefit at some stage during the twelve months prior to the 2001 Census. Almost a quarter (24 percent) of dependent Pacific children were in families in this situation in 2001, compared with 18 percent among the national population. As low incomes are associated with poor outcomes in areas of health, education and justice, the proportion of dependent children in families that receive welfare may have implications for the development of future generations.

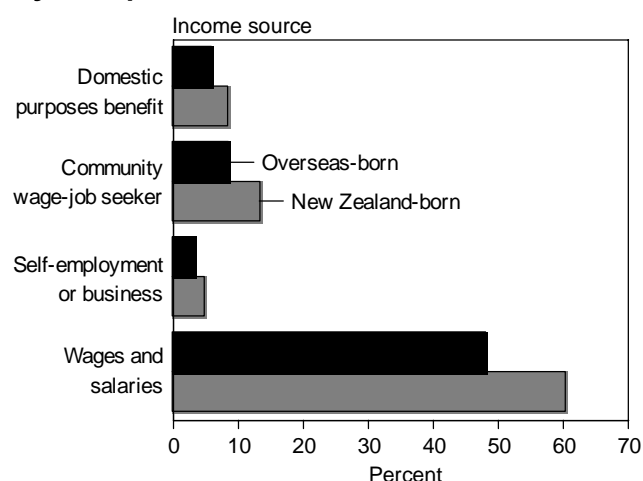
Birthplace

Compared with Pacific adults born in New Zealand, Pacific adults born overseas are less likely to receive income from wages and salaries. In the 2001 Census, 61 percent of the New Zealand-born Pacific population aged 15 years and over stated they had received wages or salaries in the preceding 12 months. For the overseas-born Pacific population, the proportion was 48 percent, as can be seen in figure 8.33. The overseas-born population was also less likely than the New Zealand-born population to have received the community wage-job seeker. In 2001, 9 percent of Pacific adults born overseas stated they had received the community wage-job seeker in the previous year, compared with 14 percent of Pacific adults born in New Zealand. The overseas-born Pacific population is older than the New Zealand-born population, and is less concentrated in the age groups where unemployment tends to be higher.

Pacific peoples born overseas are also less likely than the New Zealand-born population to receive the domestic purposes benefit. In 2001, 6 percent of overseas-born Pacific adults stated they had received the domestic purposes benefit in the preceding 12 months, compared with almost 9 percent of New Zealand-born Pacific adults. The older age structure of the overseas-born Pacific population may have contributed to this difference.

Figure 8.33

Proportion of Pacific People Who Received Income from Selected Sources, by Birthplace, 2001



⁸ A dependent child is a child who is under 18 years of age and who is not in full-time employment.

Pacific ethnic groups

Among the major Pacific ethnic groups, Fijians, at 63 percent, had the highest proportion of adults receiving income from wages and salaries during the 12 months prior to the 2001 Census. The Tongan and Tokelauan ethnic groups had the lowest proportions at 47 and 49 percent respectively, as figure 8.34 shows. Figure 8.35 illustrates that the Tokelauan population had the highest proportion of adults who received the community wage-job seeker in 2001 at 16 percent. The Tokelauan ethnic group also recorded the highest unemployment rate among the major Pacific ethnic groups in 2001 (see Chapter 6, *Work*). The Cook Islands population had the next highest proportion of adults who received the community wage-job seeker at almost 13 percent. Fijians, with the lowest rate of unemployment among the major Pacific ethnic groups, were the least likely to have received the community wage-job seeker, at 8 percent.

Figure 8.34

Proportion of Pacific People Who Received Income from Wages or Salaries, by Ethnic Group, 2001

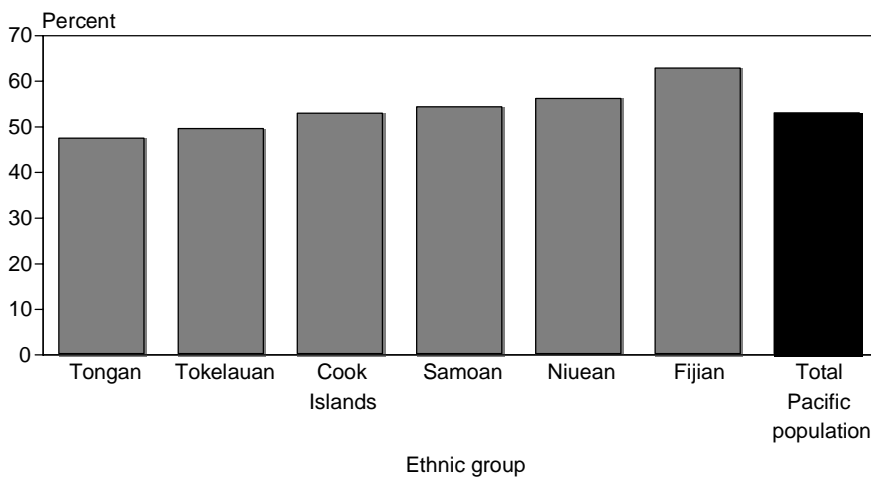
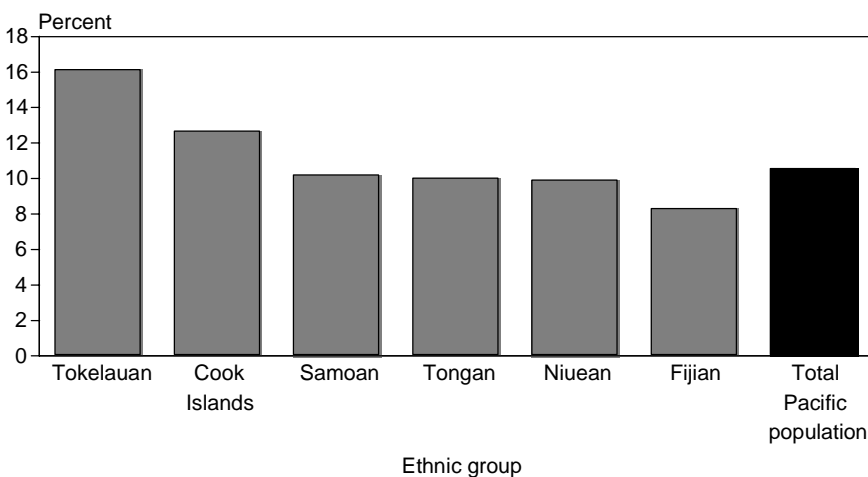


Figure 8.35

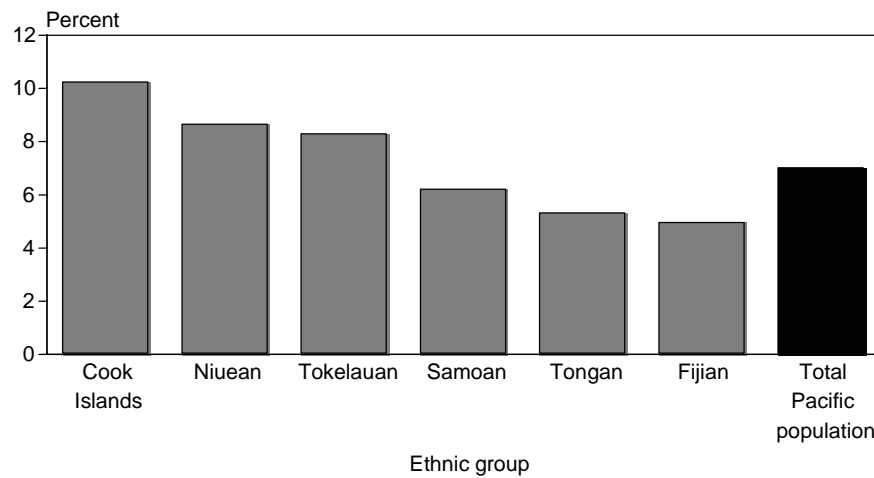
Proportion of Pacific People Who Received Income from the Community Wage (Job Seeker), by Ethnic Group, 2001



There were also differences among the major Pacific ethnic groups in the proportions receiving the domestic purposes benefit, as figure 8.36 shows. The Tongan and Fijian ethnic groups were least likely to have received the domestic purposes benefit (around 5 percent of adults, respectively) at some stage during the 12 months preceding the 2001 Census. The Cook Islands group had the highest proportion of adults receiving the domestic purposes benefit, at 10 percent. These differences reflect the differences in the proportion of sole parents within each ethnic group. Among all Pacific parents with dependent children, Tongan parents (16 percent) were the least likely to be sole parents in 2001. The Cook Islands ethnic group had the highest proportion of sole parents, forming 31 percent of all Cook Island parents with dependent children.

Figure 8.36

Proportion of Pacific People Who Received Income from the Domestic Purposes Benefit, by Ethnic Group, 2001



Conclusion

The income levels of Pacific peoples have continued to recover from the effects of the economic recession at the beginning of the 1990s. However, in real terms, the median annual income of Pacific peoples in 2001 was still below that of 1986. Median hourly earnings from wages and salaries are relatively low for the Pacific population, forming slightly over two-thirds of the national median hourly earnings. As wages and salaries are the primary source of income for both the Pacific and national populations, their lower hourly earnings impact on their overall annual personal and household incomes. Consequently, the Pacific population is disproportionately represented in lower income groups. Pacific peoples are also less likely to receive income from self-employment or from investments.

The income disparities between the Pacific and national populations appear to be greatest where the potential for earnings is highest: among individuals with post school qualifications and those in white-collar jobs. Consequently, it appears that attainment of qualifications and occupation category are primary factors in determining income.

Summary

- Pacific people's median hourly wage and salary earnings equated to an average of 85 percent of the national median earnings from wages in salaries between 1997 and 2001.
- Disparities in median hourly earnings between the Pacific and national populations were greatest among the 30-44 and 45-64 year age groups in the period 1997–2001.
- Pacific peoples are proportionately more likely than those in the national population to be in the lower annual income bands, with 61 percent receiving less than \$20,000 compared with 53 percent of the national population in 2001.
- Conversely, Pacific peoples are less likely to be in the higher income bands, with 7 percent receiving over \$40,000 compared with 18 percent of the national population.
- The ratio of Pacific median annual income to national median annual income was lower in 2001 (78 percent) than in 1986 (89 percent). In other words, their median income has not returned to the level it was before the recession of the late 1980s and early 1990s.
- Among the 15-9 and 20-24 year age groups the Pacific and national populations have similar median annual incomes.
- Income gaps between Pacific peoples and the total population increase as the qualification level increases. Disparities are also greater between white-collar occupational groups.
- Median household income for Pacific peoples was similar to that of the national population in 2001 (\$45,200 and \$47,800 respectively). However, equivalising household income to account for differences in household size and composition showed that 60 percent of the Pacific population received a median income of less than \$40,000 compared with 50 percent of the national population.
- Over one-third (36 percent) of Pacific dependent children live in households with an equivalised annual median income of \$20,000 or less compared with one-quarter of dependent children in the national population.
- In 2001, Pacific peoples living in rental accommodation were paying 23 percent of their annual median income (gross) on rent compared with a national rate of 26 percent.
- The most common income source for Pacific peoples (47 percent) and the total New Zealand population (55 percent) in 2001 was wages and salaries.
- Pacific peoples are less likely than the national population to receive income from self-employment or business, or from interest, rent or investments.

9. Housing and amenities

New Zealand has traditionally had relatively high levels of home ownership and although the proportion of the population living in their own home has decreased over the last decade, buying a home remains an important goal for many people. Income is an important determinant of housing tenure, and the relatively poorer economic position of Pacific peoples has affected their overall levels of home ownership and occupancy. Household crowding is related to situations where the number of occupants exceeds the capability of the household to provide adequate shelter and services. Crowding is generally associated with poverty, and may be connected to poor health status. Insufficient privacy and personal space may also affect educational achievement.

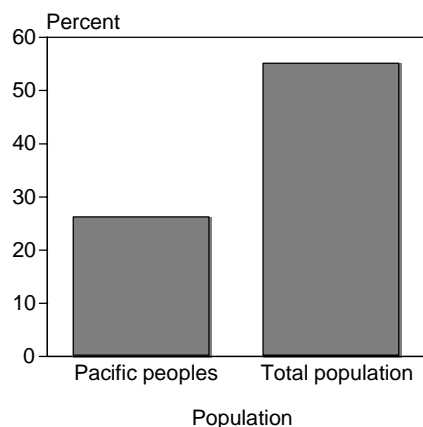
Personal and household income levels have also had an impact on Pacific people's access to amenities such as motor vehicles, telephones and the Internet. Access to a motor vehicle can be important in enabling participation in community activities and access to a wider range of services. Lack of access is sometimes seen as a measure of deprivation. Access to telephones and the Internet is becoming increasingly necessary as government departments, the banking industry and other businesses increase the delivery of services and information via telecommunication media.

Housing tenure

Pacific people are considerably less likely than New Zealanders overall to own or partly own the dwelling in which they usually live. In 2001, 26 percent of Pacific men and women aged 15 and over stated that they owned or partly owned their home. This proportion was less than half the national rate (55 percent), as figure 9.1 illustrates. This gap in home ownership is partly influenced by the younger age structure of the Pacific population, as individuals in the 15-34 age group are less likely to have the means to purchase their own home. If the Pacific population had the same age structure as the national population, then the proportion of Pacific people aged 15 years and over owning or partly owning their home would increase to around 32 percent. This proportion would still be less than two-thirds of the national rate, indicating that the younger age structure of the Pacific population is not the primary reason for their lower rate of home ownership.

Figure 9.1

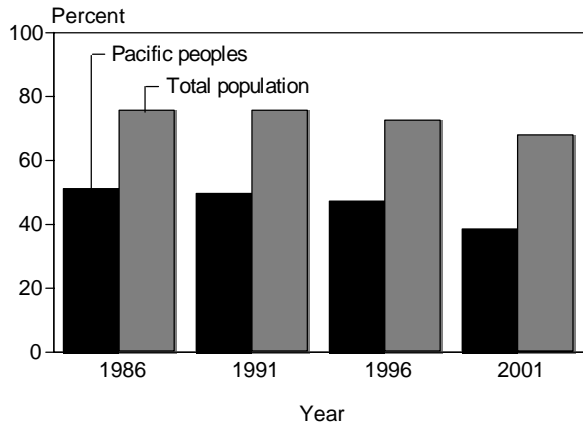
Proportion of the Pacific and Total Populations Who Own or Partly Own the Dwelling in Which They Usually Live, 2001



Pacific people are also less likely than others to live in a dwelling owned (with or without a mortgage) by a member of the household, as figure 9.2 shows. In 1986, 51 percent of Pacific people lived in housing owned by a member of their household. This proportion declined to 47 percent in 1996, and further to 38 percent in 2001, matching a national trend away from home ownership. Nationally, the proportion of people living in housing owned by a household member decreased from 75 percent in 1986 to 68 percent in 2001.

Figure 9.2

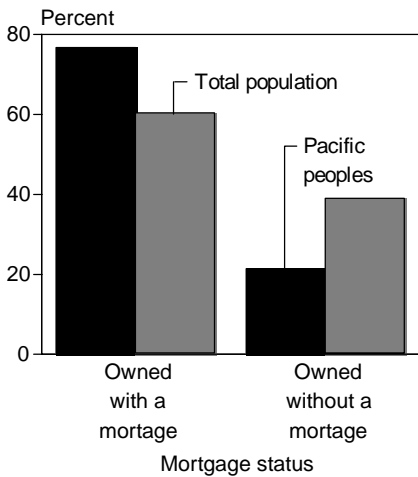
Proportion of the Pacific and Total Populations Living in Dwellings Owned by a Member of the Household, 1986–2001



Of those Pacific people living in housing owned by a household member in 2001, 21 percent were in a mortgage-free situation. As shown in figure 9.3, this proportion was lower than the national rate of 39 percent. This again reflects the younger age structure of the Pacific population, as home ownership without a mortgage tends to become more common among older age groups. The overall poorer economic position of Pacific peoples may also be a factor affecting their ability to afford a mortgage.

Figure 9.3

Proportion of the Pacific and Total Populations Living in Dwellings Owned by a Member of the Household, by Mortgage Status, 2001

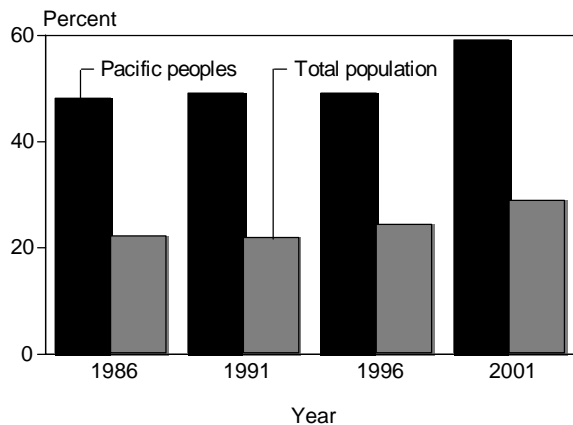


Rental housing

Mirroring the gradual decline in home ownership, the proportion of New Zealanders living in rental housing has risen from 22 percent in 1986 and 1991, to 29 percent in 2001. For Pacific peoples, the proportion has consistently been twice as high during this period. As figure 9.4 illustrates, from 1986 to 1996, between 48 and 50 percent of Pacific people were living in rented housing. By 2001, this figure had increased to 59 percent.

Figure 9.4

Proportion of the Pacific and Total Populations Living in Rented Dwellings, 1986–2001

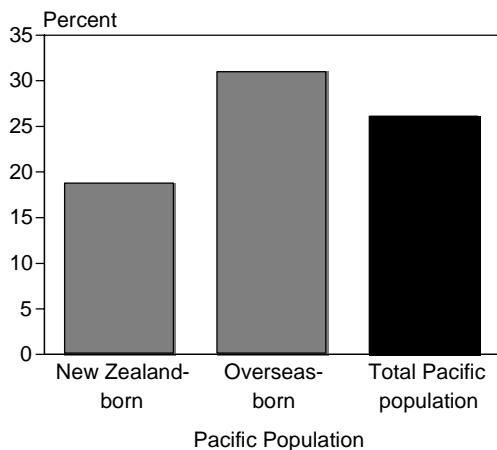


Birthplace

Overseas-born Pacific people aged over 15 years are more likely to own or partly own their own home than those born in New Zealand. In 2001, 31 percent of overseas-born Pacific people stated that they owned or partly owned their place of usual residence. For New Zealand-born Pacific people the proportion was 19 percent. Figure 9.5 illustrates this difference.

Figure 9.5

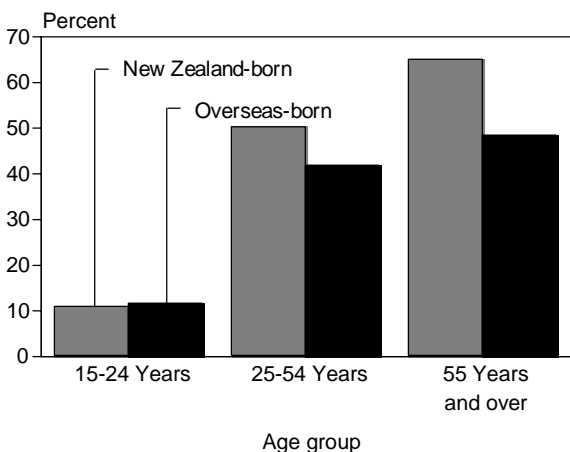
Proportion of Pacific People Who Own or Partly Own the Dwelling in Which They Usually Live, by Birthplace, 2001



The differing age structure of the overseas and New Zealand-born Pacific populations contributes to this gap. Figure 9.6 shows that within the 35-54 and 55 years and over age groupings, New Zealand-born individuals are more likely than their overseas-born counterparts to own or partly own a home. Yet compared with the overseas-born Pacific population, the New Zealand-born population has a higher concentration of individuals in the 15-34 year group, where home ownership levels are at their lowest. This contributes to the overall lower proportion of home ownership among the New Zealand-born population.

Figure 9.6

Proportion of Pacific People Who Own or Partly Own the Dwelling in Which They Usually Live, by Birthplace and Age Group, 2001

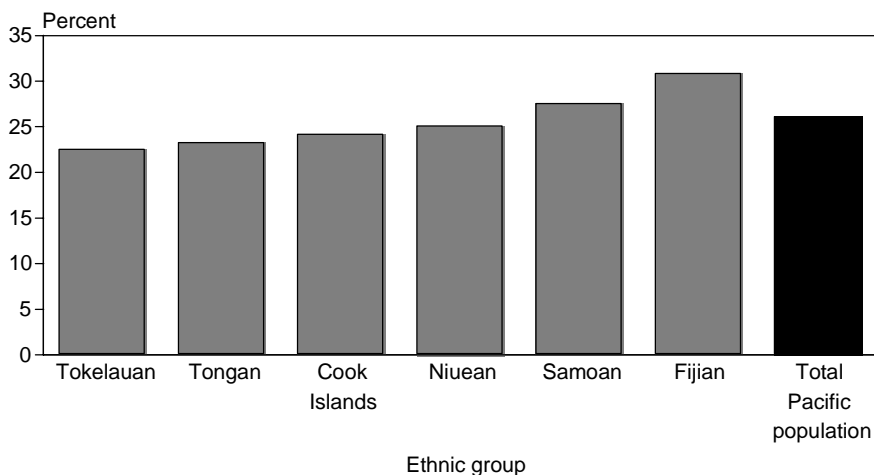


Pacific ethnic groups

Among the major Pacific ethnic groups, Fijians had the highest proportion of homeowners in 2001, with 31 percent aged 15 years and over stating that they owned or partly owned the dwelling in which they usually lived. As figure 9.7 shows, Samoans had the next highest proportion at 27 percent. Tokelauans and Tongans had the lowest proportions of individuals owning or partly owning their home at 22 and 23 percent respectively. This follows the pattern seen in the labour market, where Fijians have tended to have the highest rates of participation, and Tongans and Tokelauans the lowest.

Figure 9.7

Proportion of Pacific People Who Own or Partly Own the Dwelling in Which They Usually Live, by Ethnic Group, 2001



Measuring household crowding

At present, there is no official measure of household crowding in New Zealand. The definition of crowding may involve differing cultural perceptions, and these cannot be adequately summarised by any single measure. Internationally, there is no single definition or measurement of household crowding, although various complex formulas have been developed.

Some simple measures of crowding have been used in New Zealand to compare the number of people with the number of rooms or bedrooms in a dwelling. When bedrooms only have been counted, 'crowding' has variously been defined as where the ratio of people per bedroom exceeds 2.0 or 3.0.

For the purposes of this analysis, census data will be used to examine the proportion of a population living in dwellings with more than two and more than three occupants per bedroom. The objective is not to label or classify dwellings as crowded, but to gain an understanding of the proportions of Pacific peoples who may experience crowded conditions. The size of bedrooms cannot be included as no information is collected on this aspect. Taking into account factors such as the number of couples and young children is complex, and may not produce a significant improvement in the measurement of household crowding.

When attempting to compare the Pacific population with the national population, there are a number of factors that must be taken into account. The younger age structure of the Pacific population means that Pacific households are more likely to include young children. Pacific people also tend to have larger families and are more likely than New Zealand families overall to live in an extended family situation (see Chapter 3, *Families and Households*). Recent Pacific immigrants to New Zealand may initially live in extended-family situations until they become established.

Pacific peoples may also have different cultural perceptions of privacy and personal space, as well as varied understandings of a 'bedroom', and these factors also affect their living circumstances. As such, caution must be taken when attempting to compare Pacific peoples with the national population.

Bedroom occupancy

Nationally, the proportion of people living in private dwellings with more than two occupants per bedroom has remained at around 3 to 4 percent between 1986 and 2001. The Pacific population has had a much higher proportion of people living in this situation over this period, and this is partly due to larger family sizes. As figure 9.8 shows, in 1986, 28 percent of Pacific people were living in dwellings with more than two occupants per bedroom, and this had decreased to 21 percent by 2001. Living in dwellings with more than three occupants per bedroom is less common. Figure 9.9 shows that between 1986 and 2001, less than 1 percent of the total population was living in dwellings with more than three occupants per bedroom. For the Pacific population, the proportion declined from almost 6 percent in 1986 to 4 percent in 1991, where it has remained.

Healthy Housing

Housing New Zealand Corporation, in partnership with the Counties-Manukau and Auckland District Health Boards, ran a pilot 'healthy housing' programme among Housing New Zealand tenancies during 2000 and 2001. The focus of the programme was to reduce the risk of the meningococcal virus and other infectious 'droplet spread'-diseases, as well as to reduce the overall levels of overcrowding in Housing New Zealand tenancies. Households with large families have been identified as being susceptible to poor health outcomes, and this has been an issue for Pacific families in particular. Housing New Zealand Corporation estimates that Māori and Pacific families make up almost half of all its clients.

The programme focused on remodeling over 1,000 homes in three priority areas in Auckland. Homes in Otara, Mangere and Onehunga were chosen on the basis of crowding, social-deprivation, rate of infectious disease, and hospital admission and discharge data. Some of the changes to Housing New Zealand homes included extending existing homes through adding bedrooms or an extra bathroom, and the enlargement of rooms. The aim was to reduce bedroom occupancy and to improve the overall living environment. Design improvements, such as better insulation and improved ventilation systems were also made.

The initiative was supported by the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, which had earlier identified the need to remodel and renovate housing for Pacific peoples. This was in response to the consensus throughout the Pacific community that better housing was a priority for Pacific peoples.

An external evaluation of the pilot programme will be conducted prior to any further implementation nationally.

Figure 9.8

Proportion of the Pacific and Total Populations Living in Dwellings with More Than Two Occupants per Bedroom, 1986–2001

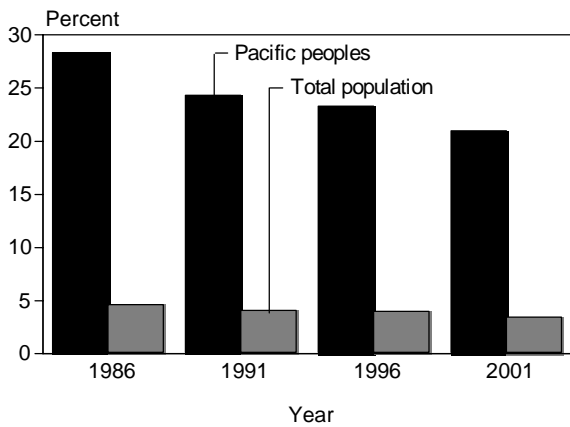
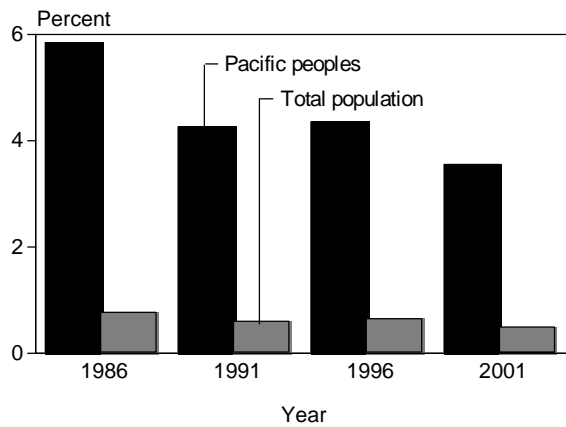


Figure 9.9

Proportion of the Pacific and Total Populations Living in Dwellings with More Than Three Occupants per Bedroom, 1986–2001

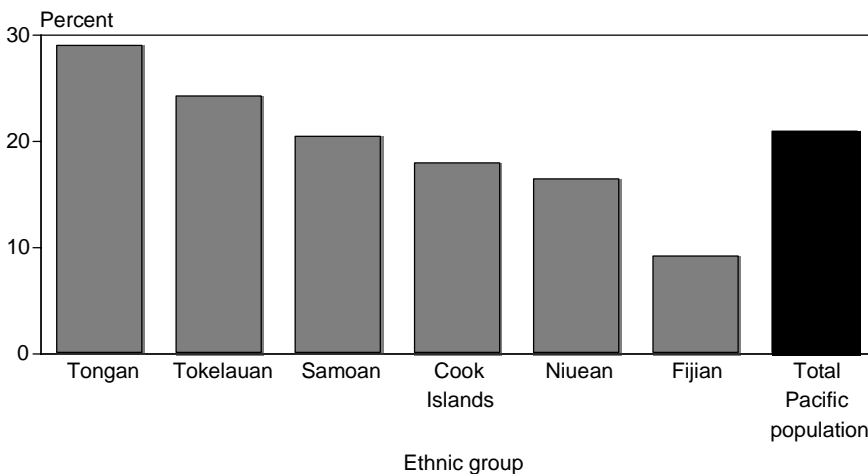


Pacific ethnic groups

Among the major Pacific ethnic groups, Fijians are the least likely to live in dwellings with more than two occupants per bedroom. This position is consistent with their generally higher rates of employment and home ownership. As figure 9.10 shows, in 2001, 9 percent of Fijians were living in this situation. Tongans and Tokelauans had the highest proportions with at least 24 percent. For Tongans, larger numbers of recent immigrants may be a factor in the high proportion of individuals living this situation. Samoans, the largest Pacific ethnic group, were nearest to the average of all Pacific peoples, with 20 percent living in dwellings with more than two occupants per bedroom.

Figure 9.10

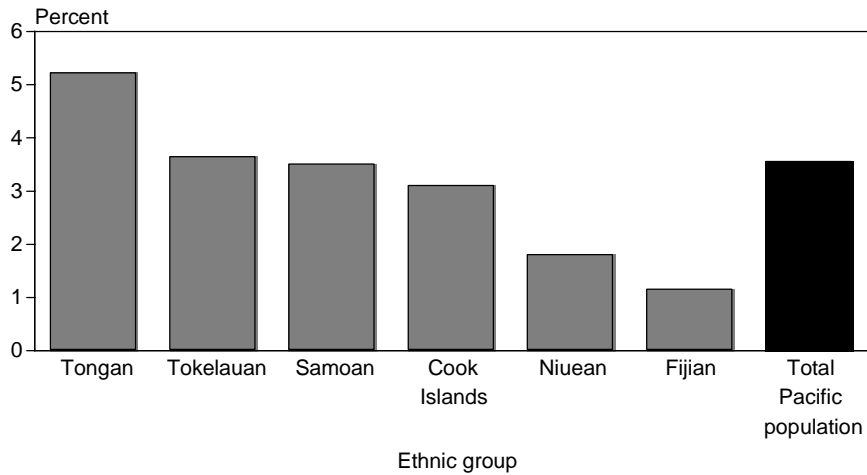
Pacific People Living in Households with More Than Two Occupants per Bedroom, by Ethnic Group, 2001



Where individuals lived in dwellings with more than three occupants per bedroom, the order of the Pacific ethnic groups was unchanged, as illustrated by figure 9.11. Around 5 percent of Tongans were living in dwellings with more than three occupants per bedroom, while 1 percent of Fijians were living in this situation.

Figure 9.11

Pacific People Living in Households with More Than Three Occupants per Bedroom, by Ethnic Group, 2001



Length of residence

The number of years since an individual's arrival in New Zealand appears to impact on the proportion of Pacific people living in dwellings with more than two, or more than three occupants per bedroom. Even though they may be living with more established immigrants or New Zealand-born individuals, recent immigrants are more likely to be living in dwellings with more than two, or more than three occupants per bedroom. Figure 9.12 shows that at the 2001 Census, 40 percent of Pacific people who had been in New Zealand one year or less were living in dwellings with more than two occupants per bedroom. For Pacific people who had been in New Zealand between 2 and 10 years, the proportion was 31 percent, while 18 percent of those who had lived in New Zealand for more than 10 years were living in situations with more than two occupants per bedroom.

Figure 9.12

Overseas-born Pacific People Living in Households with More Than Two Occupants per Bedroom, by Years Since Arrival, 2001

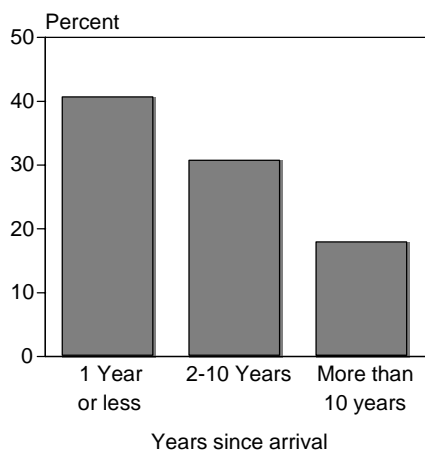
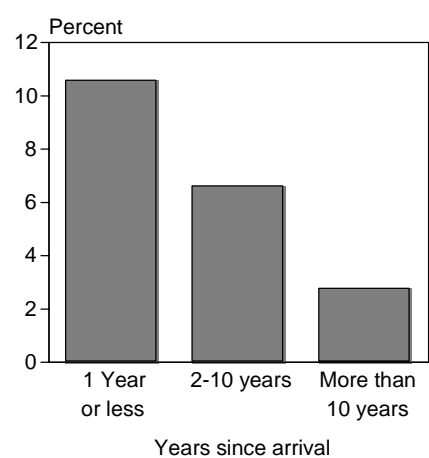


Figure 9.13

Overseas-born Pacific People Living in Households with More Than Three Occupants per Bedroom, by Years Since Arrival, 2001



As figure 9.13 illustrates, the same pattern can be seen where individuals were living in dwellings with more than three occupants per bedroom. Of those Pacific people who had been in New Zealand for one year or less, 11 percent lived in dwellings with more than three occupants per bedroom, compared with 3 percent of those who had been living in New Zealand for more than 10 years.

The Auckland region

Bedroom occupancy levels are typically higher among Pacific peoples living in the Auckland. The higher cost of living in Auckland, and the high proportion of recent immigrants arriving there are likely to be contributing factors. Figure 9.14 shows that in 1986, 33 percent of Pacific people in the Auckland region were living in dwellings with more than two occupants per bedroom, compared with 20 percent of Pacific people living in this situation in the rest of the country. The proportion of Pacific people living in dwellings with more than two occupants per bedroom in the Auckland region dropped to 28 percent in 1991 and further to 25 percent in 2001. For Pacific people living in this situation elsewhere in New Zealand, the proportion declined to 17 percent in 1991, and further to 13 percent by 2001.

As figure 9.15 shows, a similar difference can be seen where individuals were living in dwellings with more than three occupants per bedroom. In 1986 almost 8 percent of Pacific people in Auckland were living in dwellings with more than three occupants per bedroom, more than twice the 3 percent of Pacific people in this situation throughout the rest of New Zealand. By 1991, the proportion of Pacific peoples in the Auckland region living in dwellings with more than three occupants per bedroom had dropped to 5 percent, and again remained steady in 2001. The proportion for Pacific people living in this situation in all other regions remained around 2 to 3 percent throughout this period.

Figure 9.14

Proportion of Pacific People Living in Households with More Than Two Occupants per Bedroom, by Region, 1986–2001

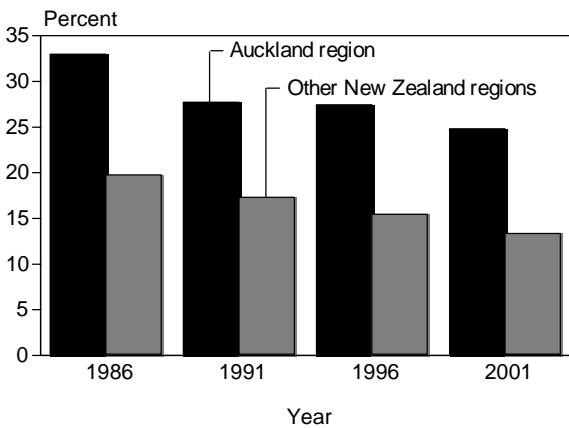
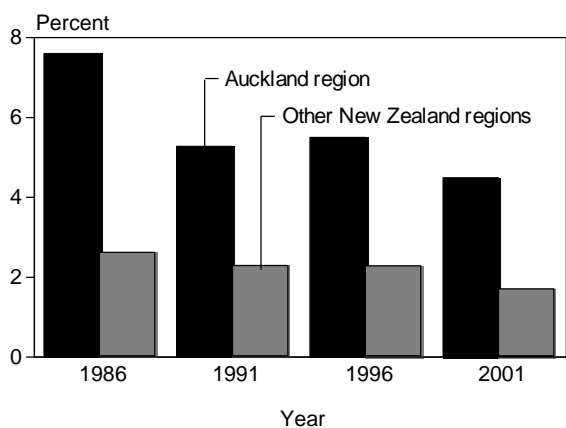


Figure 9.15

Proportion of Pacific People Living in Households with More Than Three Occupants per Bedroom, by Region, 1986–2001

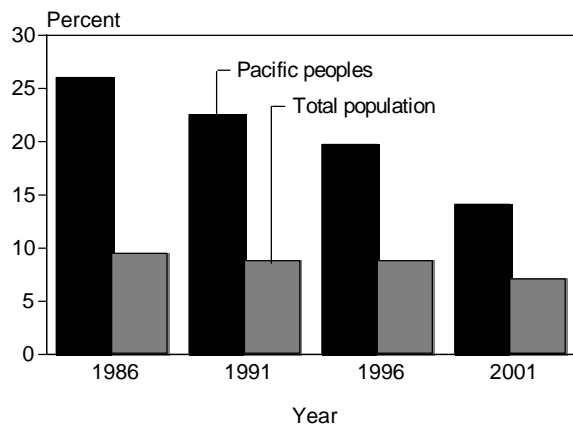


Motor vehicle access

Fewer Pacific people are living in households without access to motor vehicles. In 1986, 26 percent of Pacific people were living in a household that did not have access to a motor vehicle, as figure 9.16 illustrates. By 2001, this proportion had decreased to 14 percent, a drop of 6 percentage points from 1996. In contrast, the national rate has been considerably lower, remaining steady at between 7 and 9 percent during this period. There appears to be little difference between the overseas-born and New Zealand-born Pacific populations in their access to motor vehicle access. In 2001 around 14 percent of both populations were living in households without access to a motor vehicle.

Figure 9.16

Proportion of the Pacific and Total Populations Living in Households Without Access to a Motor Vehicle, 1986–2001

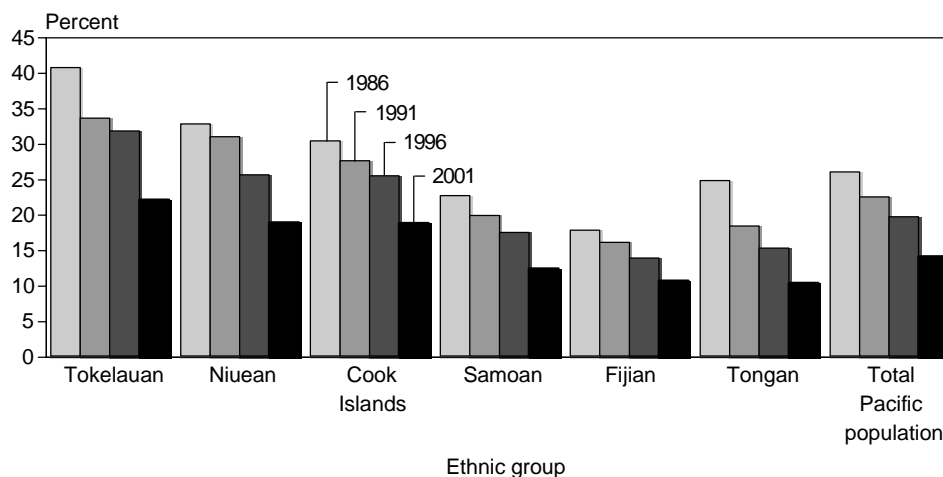


Pacific ethnic groups

The proportion of individuals without access to a motor vehicle also declined among each of the major Pacific ethnic groups between 1986 and 2001. As figure 9.17 shows, Tokelauans remained the most likely group to be living in households without access to a motor vehicle during this period, with 22 percent living in this situation in 2001. Niueans and Cook Island people were also above the overall average for Pacific peoples of 14 percent, with 19 percent living in households with no access to a motor vehicle. Tongans and Fijians had the lowest proportion, with 10 percent without motor vehicle access. In view of the generally poorer economic position of Tongan people in relation to the other major Pacific ethnic groups, their slightly better access to motor vehicles stands out as an anomalous feature.

Figure 9.17

Proportion of Pacific People Living in Households Without Access to a Motor Vehicle, by Ethnic Group, 1986–2001

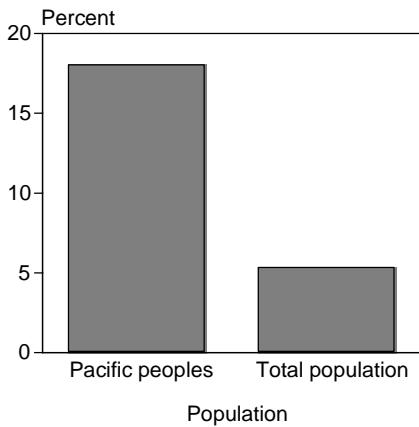


Telephone access

Pacific peoples are more likely than the total New Zealand population to live in a household that is without access to a telephone. In the 2001 Census, 18 percent of Pacific peoples reported that they lived in households that did not have access to a telephone. Figure 9.18 illustrates that this proportion was more than three times the national rate of 5 percent. Overseas-born Pacific people are more likely than their New Zealand-born counterparts to be without access to a household telephone. In 2001, 16 percent of New Zealand-born Pacific people and 20 percent of overseas-born Pacific people were living in households without telephone access.

Figure 9.18

Proportion of the Pacific and Total Populations Living in Households Without Access to a Telephone, 2001

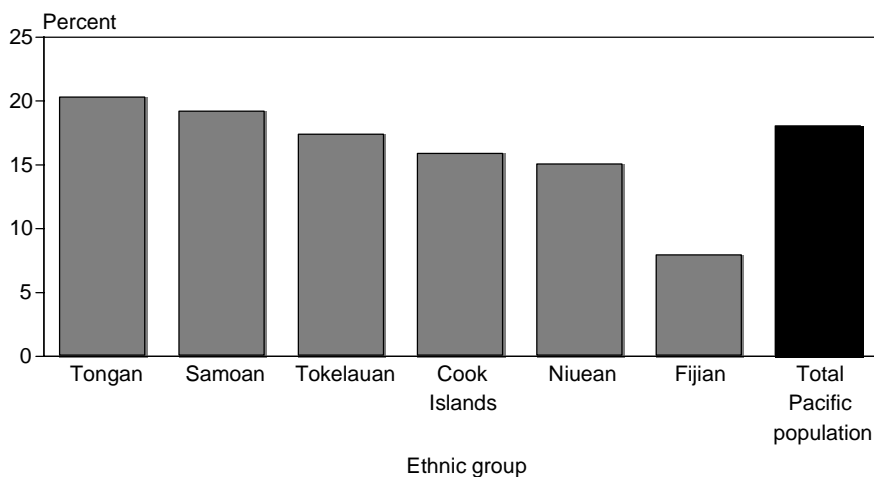


Pacific ethnic groups

Of the six major Pacific ethnic groups, Tongans had the highest proportion of individuals living in households without access to a telephone in 2001. However, as figure 9.19 shows, the level of 20 percent was not far above the average 18 percent for Pacific people overall. The Fijian ethnic group was least likely to be without a telephone, with 8 percent living in households with no telephone access, while Niueans were next with 15 percent.

Figure 9.19

Proportion of Pacific People Living in Households Without Access to a Telephone, by Ethnic Group, 2001

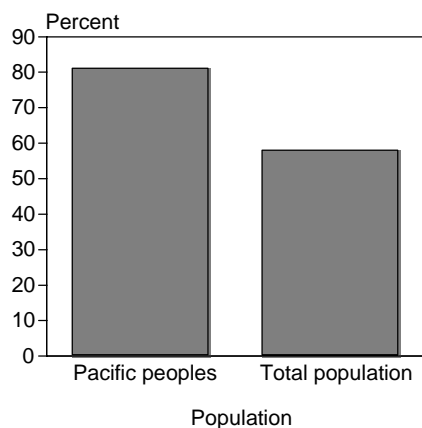


Internet access

Access to the Internet is increasingly being seen as both a source of knowledge and a powerful communications tool. However, in terms of household access there is a sizeable difference between the Pacific and national populations. In 2001, 58 percent of New Zealanders were living in households without access to the Internet. In contrast, the proportion of Pacific peoples living in households without Internet access was 81 percent. Figure 9.20 illustrates this difference. There is some difference in Internet access between the New Zealand-born and overseas-born Pacific populations. In 2001, 78 percent of New Zealand-born Pacific people were living in households without access to the Internet, while Pacific people who were born overseas had a higher proportion of 84 percent.

Figure 9.20

Proportion of the Pacific and Total Populations Living in Households Without Access to the Internet, 2001

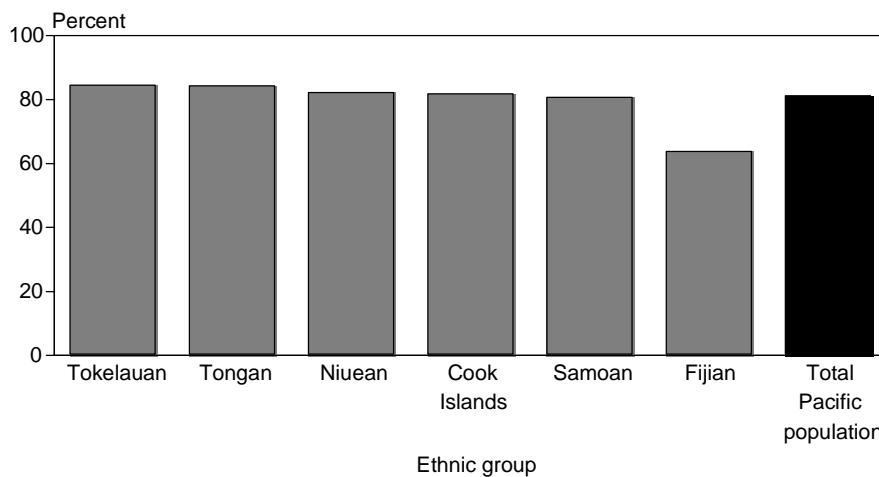


Pacific ethnic groups

Among the major ethnic groups, Fijians (63 percent) had the lowest proportion of individuals living in households without access to the Internet in 2001. As figure 9.21 illustrates, at least 80 percent of individuals among the other five major ethnic groups were without Internet access in 2001.

Figure 9.21

Proportion of Pacific People Living in Households Without Access to the Internet, by Ethnic Group, 2001



Conclusion

Pacific peoples are less likely to own their own home than the New Zealand population overall. Following the national trend, the proportion of the Pacific population living in a dwelling owned by a household member has also decreased throughout the 1990s. Mirroring this decrease has been a rise in the proportion of Pacific people living in rental housing. Although the younger age structure of the Pacific population contributes to their lower levels of home ownership, it is not the sole cause. The overall poorer economic position of Pacific people coupled with their concentration in the Auckland region, where large numbers of immigrants settle, are also contributing factors.

Pacific peoples have higher bedroom occupancy rates than the national population, and this is partly a reflection of larger family sizes and cultural preferences. Yet it is clear that the length of residence in New Zealand, regional location and overall financial pressures also impact upon bedroom occupancy rates.

Pacific peoples have steadily become more mobile over the past two decades as motor vehicles have become more accessible. If the present trend continues, Pacific peoples' access to motor vehicles is likely to eventually reach that of the national population. However, there are still marked disparities between the Pacific and national populations in terms of household access to telecommunications, particularly to the Internet.

Summary

- Following the national trend, the proportion of Pacific people living in housing owned by a member of their household decreased from 51 percent in 1986 to 38 percent in 2001.
- In 2001, 26 percent of Pacific adults stated that they owned or partly owned their home. This compares to 55 percent of adults among the national population.
- Of those Pacific people living in housing owned by a household member in 2001, 21 percent were in a mortgage-free situation, compared with 39 percent nationally.
- Mirroring the national decline in home ownership, the proportion of Pacific people living in rental housing increased from 49 percent in 1996 to 59 percent in 2001. Nationally, the proportion rose from 22 percent in 1996 to 29 percent in 2001.
- Fijians had the highest proportion of homeowners in 2001, with 31 percent over the age of 15 indicating they owned or partly owned their home. Among the major Pacific ethnic groups Tokelauans and Tongans had the lowest proportions at 22 and 23 percent respectively.
- In 2001, 21 percent of Pacific people were living in dwellings with more than two occupants per bedroom, whereas 3 percent of the national population were living in this situation.
- Pacific peoples living in the Auckland region were more likely than Pacific people living elsewhere in New Zealand to live in dwellings with more than two, or more than three occupants per bedroom.
- The proportion of Pacific people living in households without access to a motor vehicle has declined from 26 percent in 1986 to 14 percent in 2001. In comparison, 7 percent of the national population were without access to a motor vehicle in 2001.
- In 2001, Pacific people (18 percent) were more than three times as likely as the total New Zealand population (5 percent) to be living in a household without access to a telephone.
- 81 percent of Pacific people were living in households without access to the Internet in 2001, whereas for the national population this proportion was 58 percent.

10. Conclusion

E faalogo mulimai ia muamai

Those that come later must listen to those that came before them

(Samoan proverb)

The Pacific population is a community in transition. Positive trends for Pacific people which have emerged since the early 1990s include increasing participation and achievement in education, lower rates of unemployment, shifts away from traditional blue-collar jobs in secondary industries and increasing representation in white-collar jobs in the growing service industries, greater levels of self-employment, increasing levels of real personal and household incomes, less crowded living conditions and greater access to motor vehicles. The fact that positive trends are generally more evident among younger Pacific people and those who were born in New Zealand, suggests that the future outlook may continue to improve.

However, some trends such as falling unemployment and increasing income levels do not represent long-term advances but rather recoveries from the setbacks of the late 1980s when Pacific people were particularly hard hit by job losses. Moreover, these trends and others such as improving levels of education and growth in skilled white-collar work are part of broader trends which are also being experienced by the wider New Zealand population. Consequently, there are still major disparities between Pacific people and others across a range of socio-economic indicators including unemployment, occupational and industrial distribution, self-employment, personal and household incomes, housing tenure and access to household amenities.

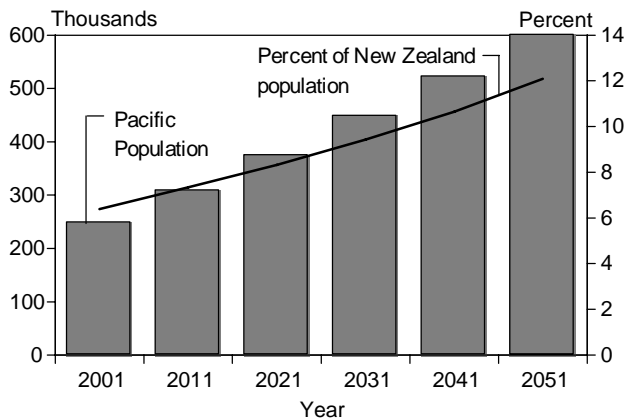
These disparities represent a challenge to Pacific communities and to government. Future trends in employment are likely to see further contractions in secondary industries which are subject to technological change and global competition. Increasingly, new employment opportunities will be focussed on service, technology and knowledge-based enterprises which demand more highly educated and skilled workers. Currently, the Pacific workforce remains more vulnerable than others to declining labour demand in secondary industries and less equipped to take advantage of the new growth areas. Further improvements in education and skill levels – not just in absolute terms but relative to the rest of the population – will therefore be required if disparities in employment, income and living standards are to be reduced.

These issues are all the more pressing because of the rapid growth in the Pacific population which will continue in years to come. With a young age profile, comparatively high levels of fertility, continuing inter-marriage and further migration from the Pacific it should maintain a much faster growth rate than the rest of the population. Assuming medium levels of fertility, mortality and inter-ethnic mobility, and net international migration of around 1,000 people a year, the Pacific population may grow to around 373,000 people or 8.3 percent of the population by 2021, and to around 599,000 people or 12.1 percent of the population by 2051.¹

¹ Alternative projections which assume different levels of fertility, mortality, migration and inter-ethnic mobility produce estimates ranging from 510,000 to 703,000 Pacific people in 2051.

Figure 10.1

Projected Growth of the Pacific Population in New Zealand, 2001–2051



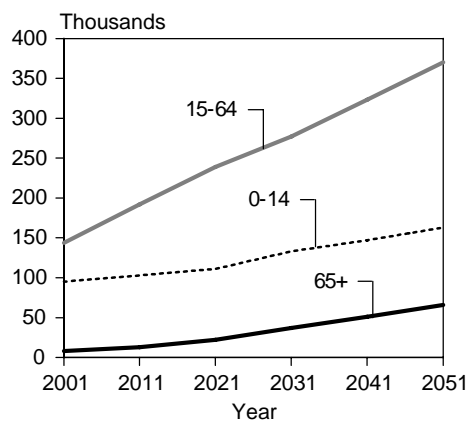
Note: Based on series 5 projections, which assume medium levels of fertility, mobility and inter-ethnic mobility and annual net migration gains of 1,000.

Like the rest of the population, the Pacific ethnic groups will age in the future, but they will remain relatively young, with a median age of 29 by the year 2051 compared with a median age of 45 in the total population. The proportion of children (aged 0-14) in the Pacific population will fall from 39 percent to 27 percent while the proportion in the retirement age group (65 plus) will increase from 3 percent to 11 percent.

The proportion of Pacific people who are in the main working age group (15-64) will increase from 58 percent to 62 percent between 2001 and 2051. As figure 10.2a shows this represents a considerable numerical increase, from 144,000 to 370,000. Figure 10.2b shows that at the same time the growth in the total working age population will be slow, particularly after 2021, as large numbers of people enter the retirement age groups. Consequently Pacific people will come to make up a far greater proportion of the working age population, more than doubling from 6 percent of 15-64 year olds in 2001 to 13 percent in 2051.

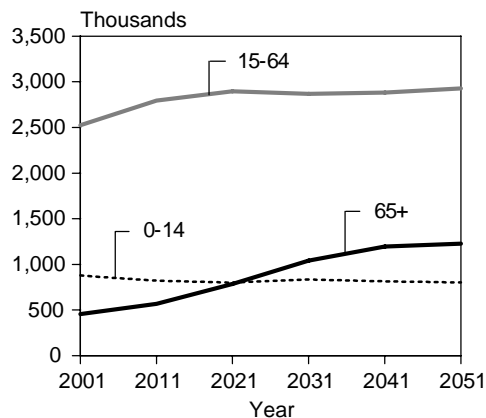
Figure 10.2a

Projected Pacific Population by Age, 2001–2051



Note: Based on series 5 projections

Figure 10.2b

Projected New Zealand Population by Age, 2001–2051

Note: Based on series 5 projections

As they continue to make up an increasing proportion of the population, and of the workforce in particular, the position of Pacific peoples will assume increasing social and economic significance. The implications of this population growth are of major importance not just for the Pacific communities but for New Zealand as a whole. If the positive trends identified in this report are built on in the future and the current disparities are addressed, Pacific people will be in a better position to take advantage of the opportunities and challenges ahead and New Zealand as a whole will benefit. Conversely, without continued improvements in the educational and economic prospects of Pacific people a significant and growing section of New Zealand's labour force will have difficulty contributing to its full potential, at a cost to both the Pacific communities and to the New Zealand economy and society.

The ageing of the labour force and changes in the nature of work may present opportunities for young Pacific people. As the New Zealand labour force ages, the entry into the workforce of young people who are potentially more familiar and adept with new technologies is becoming increasingly important. The comparatively fast growth rate of the Pacific population means that Pacific people will form an increasing proportion of these new workers. It is therefore important that these new entrants have the skills and aptitudes to succeed in the new environment. This is not just a question of formal educational attainment but also embraces factors such as access to the internet and other technological advances. The current disparity in household internet access which suggests the possibility of a 'digital divide' is therefore another key issue.

If the younger generations of Pacific people are able to build on the positive trends of recent years, improvements in the socio-economic status of the Pacific population should also bring further improvements in some of the social indicators discussed in the first part of this report. Outcomes such as lower life expectancy, poorer health status, lower educational participation and achievement, and higher rates of criminal offending are all influenced by socio-economic factors. Improvements in employment, incomes and standards of living for Pacific people could be expected to have a positive influence in these areas.

The economic advancement of Pacific peoples in New Zealand will therefore be an issue of great importance in the coming years, and it is hoped that statistical information of the type presented in this report will help to inform the development of policies and strategies and to monitor the processes of change.

Definitions and technical notes

Access to telecommunication systems

Access to telecommunication systems measures whether residents in a private dwelling have access to telephone, fax and or the Internet. This requires the machine to be in working order and for there to be a working connection.

Age standardisation

Data in the Personal Incomes section was age standardised to the total New Zealand population, less those people who did not specify their ethnicity. The following age groups were used: 15-24, 25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55 and over.

Blue-collar workers

These are:

- agriculture and fishery workers
- trades workers
- plant and machine operators and assemblers
- elementary occupations.

Census usually resident population count

Census figures in this report are based on the usually resident population count, which is all people counted in New Zealand on census night excluding overseas visitors and New Zealand residents temporarily overseas.

Conviction rates

The number of people convicted of offences per 10,000 people in the relevant population.

Dependent child

A 'child in a family nucleus' who is aged less than 18 years and who is not employed full time.

Dwelling

A dwelling is any building or structure, or part thereof, that is used (or intended to be used) for the purpose of human habitation. A private dwelling accommodates a person or a group of people, but is not available to the public.

Employed

A person is employed if they are in the working-age population (aged 15 years and over) and during the week of the census:

- worked for one hour or more for pay or profit in the context of an employee/employer relationship or self-employment
- worked without pay for one hour or more in work that contributed directly to the operation of a farm, business or professional practice owned or operated by a relative
- had a job but were not at work.

Employed full time

People who are employed full time usually work 30 or more hours per week.

Employed part time

People who are employed part time usually work fewer than 30 hours per week.

Employment rate

The employment rate is the number of employed people expressed as a percentage of the working age population (people aged 15 years and over)

Equivalised income

The equivalised household income information presented in Chapter 8, Income, uses factors developed by John Jenson to adjust data for differences in household size and composition.

Extended family

An extended family is a group of related persons and consists of:

- a family nucleus and one or more other related persons, or
- two or more related family nuclei, with or without other related persons.

Family nucleus

A couple, with or without child(ren), or one parent and their child(ren). The children do not have partners or children of their own living in the same household.

Family type

The derived variable that classifies family nuclei according to the presence or absence of couples, parents and children.

Fertility rate

The total fertility rate is the average number of births a woman would have during her reproductive life if she were exposed to the fertility rates experienced that year.

Highest qualification

Highest qualification combines highest secondary school qualification and post-school qualification to derive a single highest qualification by category of attainment.

Household

A household is either one person who usually resides alone or two or more people who usually reside together and share facilities (such as eating facilities, cooking facilities, bathroom and toilet facilities, a living area).

Industry

Industry is the type of activity undertaken by the organisation, enterprise, business or unit of economic activity within which a person is employed.

Labour force

The labour force consists of members of the working-age population (people aged 15 years and over) who at the time of surveying were classified as 'employed' or 'unemployed'.

Labour force participation rate

The percentage of the population aged 15 years or over who were either employed or unemployed and seeking work. The calculation for labour force participation rate excludes people with a work labour force status of 'unidentifiable'.

Median household income

Each individual in a household is assigned to a census income range, but for the purpose of creating household income, each individual is also assigned to a median income within that range which is derived from tax information. The individual medians are then summed for each adult in the household and the resulting total is then assigned back to a census income range.

Household income is only derived in cases where (a) all adults in the household are present on census night, or (b) the sum of income for the remaining adults is \$100,000 or over. It should be noted that those missing tend to be at either extreme of the income distribution, ie very high or very low income. Of these two extremes, missing people with high income are likely to have the biggest impact. For this reason, it should be noted that household income is likely to be understated.

Median personal income

The census collects annual income in ranges. To convert the nearest income range to 50 percent of the population, linear interpolation is used within the median interval.

Mortality rates

Mortality rates show the number of deaths for a given period per 1,000 people in the relevant population at that time.

Multivariate analysis

A tree-based modelling technique was used to conduct the multivariate analysis found in the Incomes chapter. This analysis primarily uses exploratory techniques and results should be treated with caution. However, this technique allows the structure of the data to be uncovered. In this case the tree based model used was a binary recursive model. The model was created by using binary splits to divide data into two homogenous or similar groups until the creation of more splits would be deemed to be of no significance.

This methodology determines which factors most influence the response variable, and is preferred as a mix of both continuous and categorical factors can be analysed. The level of significance can then be set, which means that the model is less complicated.

At the first step in this methodology, the variation in the dependent variable is determined. The data is then split into two so that the groups created have less variation in the dependent variable than the group above. The best split is determined by the grouping that minimises the variance.

Non-sample error

Non-sample error covers any aspect of error that may occur in the survey process that is not covered by sample error. Non-sample error may occur because of imperfections in reporting by interviewers and respondents, or because of errors in the coding and processing of data.

For example, the Census of Population and Dwellings is not subject to sample error (because it is a census), but is subject to non-sample when, for example, respondents fail to answer questions. A level of bias may be introduced in such situations because those who fail to respond may share common characteristics, eg those who fail to answer the total personal income question tend to be in receipt of either very low or very high income.

Number of bedrooms

A bedroom is defined as a room in a dwelling which is used, or intended for sleeping in.

Number of motor vehicles

Number of motor vehicles is the number of motor vehicles which are mechanically operational, but not necessarily licensed or having a current warrant of fitness, that are available for private use by the usual residents of private dwellings.

Occupation

An occupation is defined as a set of jobs which involve the performance of a common set of tasks. A job is a set of tasks performed or designed to be performed by one individual. Two jobs are similar if they require the performance of a similar set of tasks or to fulfil the technical requirements of an occupation.

Pacific peoples ethnic group

Ethnicity is the ethnic group or groups that people identify with or feel they belong to. Thus, ethnicity is self-perceived and people can belong to more than one ethnic group. Ethnicity is a measure of cultural affiliation, as opposed to race, ancestry, nationality or citizenship.

Census data on the Pacific peoples ethnic group, also referred to as the Pacific population or Pacific people, is based on total responses to the ethnicity question. This means that all people who specified one or more Pacific ethnic groups are included in the population regardless of whether they also specified any non-Pacific ethnic groups.

Non-census sources use similar definitions of Pacific peoples, although in administrative data sources (eg health, education and justice statistics) circumstances may result in some people having their ethnic identity specified by others.

Parent

The mother, father (natural, step, adopted or foster), or 'person in a parent role' of a 'child in a family nucleus'.

Percentages

Percentages are calculated from specified responses only.

Quintiles

Quintiles are derived by ranking the incomes of the total population from highest to lowest, then dividing the ranked incomes into five groups of equal size.

To derive quintiles from census data, which is collected in ranges, linear interpolation is used to randomly assign people to exact sized quintile groups wherever a quintile crosses an income range. It should be noted that the resulting dollar income range is unlikely to match the true dollar range because income is not linearly distributed across the population.

Real median income

Real income was derived by moving census medians according to changes in the Consumers Price Index (all groups series) at dates corresponding to the population censuses.

School retention rates

Retention rates are calculated by taking the number of students aged 16, 17 and 18 as a proportion of the number of 14 year-old students two, three and four years earlier.

Sole parent

A sole parent is the parent in a one parent family.

Sources

All figures in this report are based on census data except where otherwise stated.

Tenure holder

Tenure holder measures whether an individual owns or partly owns the dwelling they usually live in.

Tenure of household

Tenure of household refers to the nature of the occupancy of a private household in a dwelling, at the time of the survey. Tenure of household seeks to ascertain if the household rents or owns the dwelling and whether payment is made by the household for that right. It does not refer to the tenure of the land on which the dwelling is situated.

Total household income

Total household income is derived by aggregating the total personal income of all members of the household.

Total personal income

Information on total personal income received is collected from individuals in the 2001 Census. It represents the before-tax income for the respondent in the 12 months ended 31 March 2001. To overcome collection difficulties total personal income is collected as an income range rather than an actual dollar income.

Total personal income is aggregated to form a number of other income outputs including:

- total household income
- total family income
- combined parental income for couples with child(ren)
- total extended family income.

Unemployed

All people in the working-age population who were without a paid job, were available for work and had actively sought work in the previous four weeks or had a new job to start within four weeks.

A person whose only job search method in the previous four weeks was to look at job advertisements in the newspapers is not considered to be actively seeking work.

Unemployment rate

The unemployment rate is the number of unemployed people expressed as a percentage of the labour force.

Unpaid work

Unpaid work covers activities performed in the four weeks prior to the census which are either for people living in the same household as the respondent, or for people outside the respondent's household for which the performance of those activities is not paid.

Urban/rural areas

Main urban areas: centres with populations of 30,000 or more.

Secondary urban areas: centres with populations between 10,000 and 29,999.

Minor urban areas: centres with populations between 1,000 and 9,999.

Rural centres: centres with populations of 300-999.

Other rural areas: territory not classified as urban areas or rural centres.

Usual resident

Usual residents are people who usually live in the surveyed dwelling. There are two types of usual residents: people who usually live in the dwelling and are present at the time of the census; and people who usually live in the dwelling but are absent at the time of the census ('absentees').

Usual residents in households

Usual residents in households are people who were enumerated at home in a private occupied dwelling on census night or who were recorded as absent.

Weekly rent paid by households

Weekly rent paid by households is the total weekly monetary amount spent by the household on obtaining shelter in a private dwelling.

Ideally the weekly rent paid should exclude payments for the use of furniture and utilities such as electricity, gas and water and for the provision of special services like washing, cooking, etc.

White collar workers

These are:

- legislators, administrators and managers
- professionals
- technicians and associate professionals
- clerks and service and sales workers.

Working age population

The usually resident population of New Zealand aged 15 years and over.

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