

# New Zealand Income Survey: June 2011 quarter

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## Key facts

Between the June 2010 and June 2011 quarters:

- Median hourly earnings had the lowest recorded increase since the June 2000 quarter, up 1.9 percent to \$20.38.
- Median weekly income for those receiving income from wages and salaries was \$800 (up 4.0 percent).
- Median weekly income from all sources for all people increased 3.9 percent to \$550.
- Median weekly income from government transfers for those receiving income from this source increased 4.4 percent to \$280.
- There were increases in both the number of people aged 65 and over receiving income from government transfers and the median weekly income received from this source up 3.4 percent and 7.6 percent respectively.



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## Commentary

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### Overview

**Wage and salary income:** From the June 2010 to June 2011 quarter, median hourly earnings increased \$0.38 (1.9 percent) to \$20.38 – the smallest annual percentage increase since the June 2000 quarter.

In the year to the June 2011 quarter, median hourly earnings for people in full-time employment increased 1.9 percent (\$0.42) to \$22.00. This was the smallest annual percentage increase for this measure since the June 2001 quarter.

Between the June 2010 and June 2011 quarters, median weekly wage and salary income, for those receiving income from this source, increased by 4.0 percent to \$800. Contributing to this increase were: increases in total hours worked, a decrease in the proportion of people earning wages and salaries, and changes in the distribution of wage and salary earners.

**Government transfer income:** The number of people receiving income from government transfers increased 3.1 percent from the June 2010 to June 2011 quarter. Median weekly income from government transfers, for those who receive income from this source, increased \$12 to \$280 (4.4 percent), for the year to the June 2011 quarter. Contributing to these increases were rises for the 65 and over (65+) age group in both the number of people receiving income from this source (up 3.4 percent) and the median weekly income they received from government transfers (up 7.6 percent). Adjustments to New Zealand superannuation and some supplementary benefits drove the increase for the 65+ age group.

**Income from all sources:** Median weekly income for all people from all sources (including those with no source of income) increased \$21 (3.9 percent) to \$550 from the June 2010 to June 2011 quarter. Contributing to this was both the increase in median weekly wage and salary income, and the increase in median weekly government transfer income.

For more information on the terms and concepts used in this release please see [Definitions](#).

### Smallest increase in median hourly earnings in 11 years

From the June 2010 to June 2011 quarter, median hourly earnings increased slightly (\$0.38 or 1.9 percent) from \$20.00 to \$20.38. This was the smallest annual percentage increase recorded in median hourly earnings since the June 2000 quarter increase of 1.5 percent.

**Full-time employment:** Median hourly earnings for people in full-time employment increased 1.9 percent (\$0.42) to \$22.00 in the year to the June 2011 quarter. This was the smallest percentage increase for this measure since a 1.4 percent increase in the June 2001 quarter. As full-time earners make up around 75 percent of those earning wages and salaries, changes in full-time median hourly earnings have a large effect on total median hourly earnings.

**Males and females:** Median hourly earnings for females slightly increased \$0.50 to \$19.50 for the year to the June 2011 quarter, while for males they slightly increased by \$0.33 to \$21.58. These increases resulted in a narrowing of the ratio of median hourly earnings between males and females.

The ratio of female to male median hourly earnings in the June 2011 quarter was 90.4 percent, up from 89.4 percent in the June 2010 quarter. This level was the highest since the survey began in 1997.

Median hourly earnings from full-time employment increased \$0.73 to \$21.35 for females, and \$0.17 to \$22.29 for males from the June 2010 to June 2011 quarter.

The ratio of female to male hourly wage and salary earnings for those in full-time employment also recorded its highest level since the survey began, at 95.8 percent in the June 2011 quarter.

A ratio of 100 percent would show that there was no difference between male and female earnings. These ratios do not take into account factors that could influence male and female earnings, for example occupation, qualifications gained, age, and hours worked.

### Median weekly wage and salary income increases

Between the June 2010 and June 2011 quarters, median weekly wage and salary income, for those receiving income from this source, increased 4.0 percent to \$800.

Average (mean) weekly income from wages and salaries, for those receiving income from this source, rose 2.5 percent in the year to the June 2011 quarter. This movement compares with the 4.3 percent annual increase recorded in average total weekly earnings from the [Quarterly Employment Survey: June 2011 quarter](#).



Three main factors contributed to the increase in median weekly wage and salary income for those receiving income from this source. From the June 2010 to June 2011 quarter:

- there was an increase in total hours worked (aggregate), up 0.73 percent
- the proportion of people earning wage and salary income decreased from 53.5 to 53.2 percent of people
- the number of people earning wage and salary income, and whose income from this source was less than the median of \$800 a week, decreased 2.6 percent (24,900 people) – this loss of people earning below the median caused a shift in the distribution of wage and salary income, resulting in a rise in median weekly income received from this source.

**Males and females:** In the June 2011 quarter, median weekly income from wages and salaries, for those receiving wage and salary income, was \$920 for males and \$663 for females.

**Full-time, part-time status:** For the year to the June 2011 quarter, there were increases in median weekly income from wages and salaries for:

- those in full-time employment, up \$21 to \$921 (2.3 percent)
- those in part-time employment, up \$22 to \$277 (8.6 percent).

## **65+ age group pushes government transfers up**

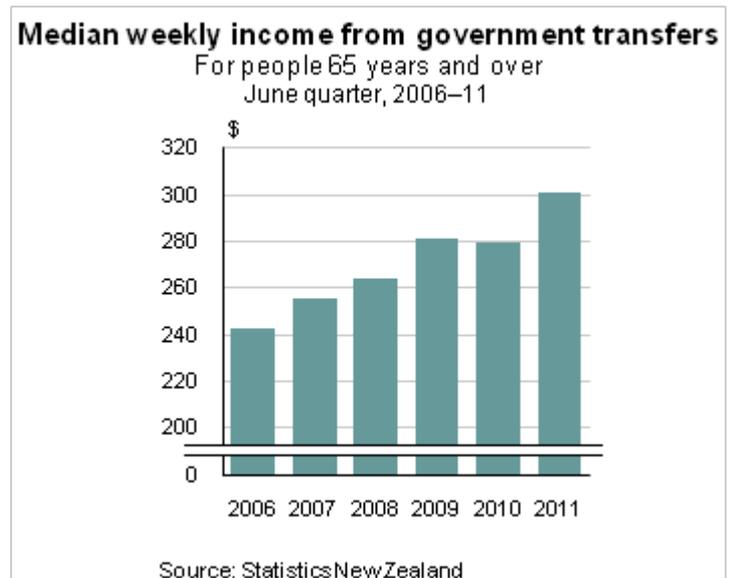
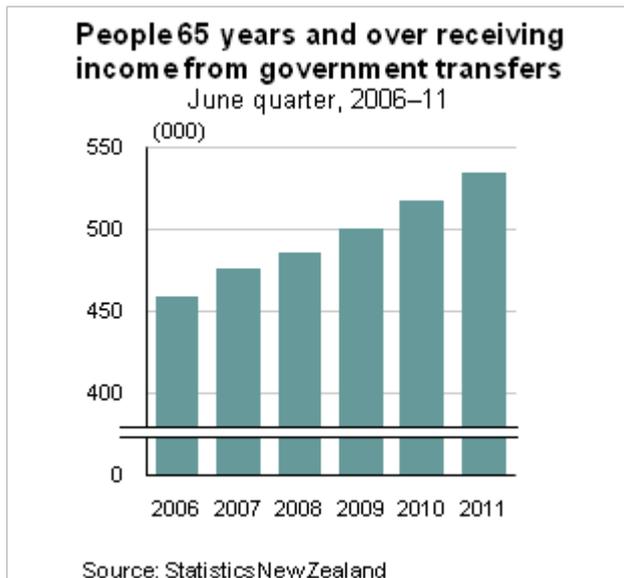
Government transfers include income from benefits, student allowances, Accident Compensation Corporation, New Zealand superannuation, veteran's and war pensions, and tax credits such as Working for Families.

The number of people receiving income from government transfers increased 3.1 percent from the June 2010 to June 2011 quarter. Median weekly income from government transfers, for those who receive income from this source, also increased \$12 to \$280 (4.4 percent).

Contributing to these increases were rises for the 65+ age group. From the June 2010 to June 2011 quarter, for those aged 65+:

- the numbers of people receiving government transfers increased 17,500 to 535,300 (3.4 percent)
- median weekly income from government transfers, for those receiving income from this source, increased \$21 to \$301 (7.6 percent).

Adjustments to New Zealand superannuation and some supplementary benefits drove the increase in median weekly income from government transfers, for those receiving income from this source, for the 65+ age group.

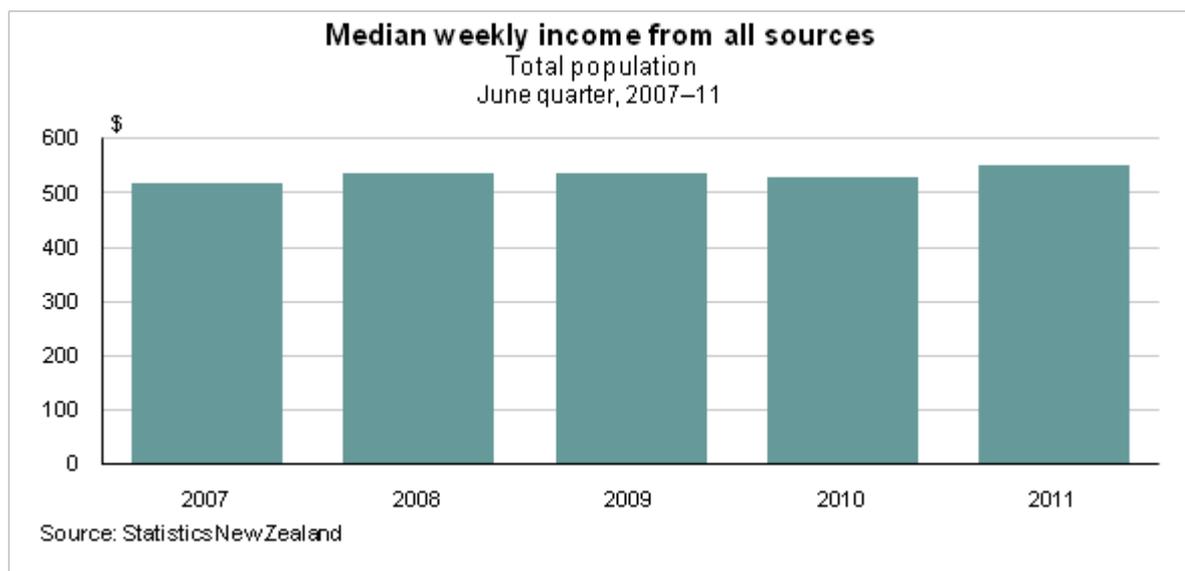


**Males and females:** There were annual increases in median weekly income from government transfers, for those receiving income from this source, for both males (up \$21 to \$277) and females (up \$18 to \$292) in the June 2011 quarter.

### Median weekly income from all sources increases

Median weekly income for all people from all sources (including those with no source of income) increased for the year to the June 2011 quarter, up \$21 (3.9 percent) to \$550. The change was influenced by increases in income from wages and salaries and government transfers.

Several factors contributed to the increase in income from wages and salaries, as discussed in the weekly wage and salary income section.



**Age groups:** The number of people in the 65+ age group increased 3.2 percent from the June 2010 to June 2011 quarter. This increase reflects the changing age demographics of the New Zealand population.

For the year to the June 2011 quarter, the 65+ age group has had the largest annual percentage increase in median weekly income from all sources, up 8.6 percent (\$30) to \$385. Several factors contributed to this rise, including:

- New Zealand superannuation and some supplementary government transfer rates increased
- the number of people receiving government transfers increased 17,500.

Average weekly income from all sources for those aged 65+ also increased, up 10.5 percent (\$51) to \$533.

**Males and females:** In the year to the June 2011 quarter there was an increase in median weekly income from all sources for males, up \$25 to \$700 (3.7 percent). There was no significant change for females; their median weekly income was relatively unchanged, at \$432.

Overall, average (mean) weekly income for all people from all sources was relatively unchanged, at \$703 in the June 2011 quarter.

## Other indicators

**Household income:** Median weekly household income from all sources increased 4.3 percent, from \$1,236 in the June 2010 quarter to \$1,289 in the June 2011 quarter. The change was influenced by increases in household income from wages and salaries and government transfers.

Average (mean) weekly household income from all sources was \$1,525 in the June 2011 quarter, an increase from the June 2010 quarter figure of \$1,484.

**Regional income:** From the June 2010 to June 2011 quarter, Taranaki was the only region to show a significant change in median weekly income from paid employment, up \$43 (5.9 percent) to \$767. Northland had the lowest median weekly income for those in paid employment at \$660, while Wellington had the highest at \$863, and Auckland the second-highest at \$840.

**Self-employment income:** In the year to the June 2011 quarter, median weekly income from self-employment, for those receiving self-employment income, was unchanged at \$575. The proportion of people receiving income from this source was also relatively unchanged at 10.5 percent of the working-age population.

**Investment income:** Median weekly income from investments, for those receiving income from this source, was relatively unchanged at \$12 in the year to the June 2011 quarter. Over the same time period, the number of people receiving investment income increased 124,100 (11.8 percent). There were increases for both males (up 63,500 or 12.2 percent) and females (up 60,700 or 11.5 percent).

For more detailed data see the Excel tables under 'Downloads'.

For more information on industry, occupation, ethnicity, and household standards, see [Consistency with other periods or datasets](#).

For more information on the terms and concepts used in this release please see [Definitions](#).

# Definitions

## About the New Zealand Income Survey

The New Zealand Income Survey (NZIS) produces a comprehensive range of income statistics. This allows analysis of the links between labour force status, educational achievement, and income of individuals and households, both at an aggregate level and for sub-populations of interest.

The information is then used to make policy decisions on economic and social issues that affect all New Zealanders, including retirement, education, income tax, minimum wage, and infrastructure developments. The government uses this information to estimate the number of people that could be affected by changes in legislation, and what those effects might be.

The NZIS is run annually as a supplement to the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) during the June quarter (1 April to 30 June). It ran for the first time in the June 1997 quarter.

## More definitions

**Actual pay:** what the respondent actually earned in their last pay period or in the reference week.

**Average (mean):** the average value – the mean is calculated by adding two or more figures and dividing the sum by the number of figures.

**Employed:** people in the working-age population who, during the reference week:

- 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, or
- had a job but were not at work due to own illness or injury, personal or family responsibilities, bad weather or mechanical breakdown, direct involvement in an industrial dispute, or leave or holiday.

**Full-time employment:** when an employee works 30 hours or more a week.

**Government transfers:** income from benefits, working for families tax credits, paid parental leave, student allowances, ACC payments, New Zealand superannuation, and veteran's and war pensions.

**Hourly earnings:** number of hours usually worked and the usual income, rather than the hours actually paid for and actual hours worked.

**In paid employment:** people who receive self-employment income and/or income from wages and salaries. 'Not in paid employment' are those who do not fit the 'in paid employment' category. These people may or may not have a source of income.

**Labour force status:** people 'in the labour force' are either employed or unemployed.

**Median:** the point at which half the people receive more and half receive less than the stated amount.

Since the 2008 release a greater emphasis has been put on medians, because extremely high or low incomes tend to have less influence on median amounts than they do on an average (mean) figure.

**Not in the labour force:** anyone in the working-age population who is not employed or unemployed. This residual category includes people who:

- are retired
- have personal or family responsibilities such as unpaid housework and childcare
- attend educational institutions
- are permanently unable to work due to physical or mental disabilities
- were temporarily unavailable for work in the survey reference week
- are not actively seeking work.

**Other transfers:** a category in the tables that refers to the sum of private superannuation and other private transfers, including pensions and annuities.

**Part-time employment:** employment in which the employee works less than 30 hours per week.

**Quintile:** one-fifth of the population. The bottom quintile in terms of income represents the 20 percent of the population with the lowest personal incomes, while the top quintile represents the 20 percent of the population who receive the highest incomes.

**Quintile boundary:** the dollar value at which the quintile falls. In the June 2011 quarter the bottom quintile had income below \$190 per week (rounded figures), the quintile boundary between quintiles one and two is \$190.

**Sampling error:** a measure of the variability that occurs by chance because a sample rather than an entire population is surveyed.

**Significant change:** if a change in an estimate between quarters a year apart is larger than the associated sampling error, it is referred to as a significant change. In this release, non-significant changes have been referred to as slight or small changes.

**Unemployed:** all persons in the working-age population who, during the reference week, were without a paid job, available for work, and had either actively sought work in the past four weeks ending with the reference week, or had a new job to start within the next four weeks.

**Usual pay:** what the respondent usually earns in their pay, which may be different from actual pay.

**Working-age population:** the population the NZIS represents. It is the same population as the Household Labour Force Survey, and consists of the usually resident, non-institutionalised, civilian population of New Zealand aged 15 years and over.

## **Related links**

### **Upcoming releases**

The *New Zealand Income Survey: June 2012 quarter* will be released in October 2012. The [Release calendar](#) lists all our upcoming information releases by date of release.

### **Past releases**

See [New Zealand Income Survey – information releases](#) for links to past releases.

### **Related information**

[Quarterly Employment Survey](#) (QES) publishes statistics on total earnings, hours paid for, filled jobs, average hourly and weekly earnings, and average weekly paid hours.

[Household Expenditure Survey](#) (HES) collects information on household expenditure and income, as well as a wide range of demographic information on individuals and households.

[Labour Cost Index](#) (LCI) provides information on movements in base salary and ordinary time wage rates, overtime wage rates, and the following non-wage costs: annual leave and statutory holidays, superannuation, ACC employer premiums, and medical insurance.

## Data quality

### Period specific information

Information about data that has changed since the last information release

- [External data influencers](#)
- [Response rates to the New Zealand Income Survey](#)
- [Sampling errors](#)
- [Questionnaire changes](#)

### General information

Information that does not generally change between releases

- [Data source](#)
- [Accuracy of the data](#)
- [Consistency with other periods and data sets](#)
- [Interpreting the data](#)
- [More information](#)

## Period specific information

### External data influencers

Data in this release was collected in the June 2011 quarter (1 April– 30 June 2011).

Changes in income may be influenced by one-off events. Events that could have influenced the NZIS June 2011 quarter data are listed below.

- the increase in the adult minimum wage from \$12.75 to \$13.00 (effective from 1 April 2011)
- increases in government transfer maximum rates of 3.75 percent for main benefits (effective from 1 April 2011)
- increases in New Zealand superannuation to 66 percent of the net average wage and adjustment for inflation – this included an adjustment made for the increase in the goods and services tax (GST) rate (effective from 1 April 2011).

### Impact of the Canterbury earthquake on the survey estimates

The damage following the earthquake that struck the Canterbury region on 22 February 2011 resulted in some disruption to interviewing. A small number of households in certain geographic areas in Christchurch were excluded from interviewing; these households accounted for 6 percent of the Canterbury sample. The loss of these households was handled via the survey's usual adjustment methods for non-response. The effect of excluding these households was investigated and analysis showed that any difference in the Canterbury and New Zealand estimates were well within the sampling error bounds.

## Response rates to the New Zealand Income Survey

The target response rate for NZIS is 80.0 percent of eligible Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) respondents. The achieved response rate for the June 2011 quarter was 83.1 percent, or 24,800 of those individuals who were in households that responded to the HLFS.

The response rate is calculated by determining the number of eligible individuals who responded to the survey, as a proportion of the estimated number of total eligible individuals in the sample. The following table shows the NZIS response rates for the June 2011 quarter.

<b>New Zealand Income Survey response rates, by major sub-populations</b>	
<b>Demographic</b>	<b>Response rate (%)</b>
<b>Sex</b>	
Male	80.9
Female	85.2
<b>Ethnicity</b>	
European	83.3
Māori	82.1
Pacific peoples	82.6
Asian	80.6
MELAA <sup>(1)</sup>	84.7
Other ethnicity	84.0
<b>Labour force status</b>	
Employed	79.1
Not in labour force	90.2
Unemployed	90.2
Full-time employed	78.1
Part-time employed	82.2
<b>Overall</b>	<b>83.1</b>
1. MELAA-Middle Eastern/Latin American/African.	

## Sampling errors

The table below summarises the main sampling errors for the June 2010 and June 2011 quarters, by income source. See Reliability of survey estimates for more information.

<b>Relative sampling errors for average and median weekly income for all people aged 15 years and over, June 2010 and June 2011 quarters</b>		
<b>Income source</b>	<b>Sampling error</b>	
	2010 (%)	2011 (%)
<b>Average</b>		
Wages and salaries	3	3
Self-employment	14	12
Government transfers	3	3
Investments	16	12
Other transfers <sup>(1)</sup>	19	26
All sources collected	2	2
<b>Median</b>		
All sources collected	3	3
1. Other transfers includes private superannuation and annuities		

More detailed sampling errors are available by contacting [info@stats.govt.nz](mailto:info@stats.govt.nz).

## Questionnaire changes

In order to reduce respondent burden, a number of changes to the NZIS questionnaire were implemented in the June 2011 quarter:

- in 2011, all superannuation questions; (New Zealand superannuation, veteran's pension and private pension questions) were asked only of respondents aged 50 or over
- responses to questions about work for pay or profit and time off from work in the last week were sourced directly from the Household Labour Force Survey
- a new question was introduced asking respondents to estimate their total annual income to the nearest dollar
- a new feature was added to the questionnaire that allowed interviewers to confirm unusual values.

For more information about these changes please contact [info@stats.govt.nz](mailto:info@stats.govt.nz).

## General information

### Scope of the survey

The New Zealand Income Survey (NZIS) is a supplement to the Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS) and as such uses the same sample population. The HLFS sample has approximately 15,000 private households, sampled randomly from rural and urban areas throughout New Zealand. We gather information for each household member who falls within the scope of the survey and meets the survey coverage rules. The final NZIS dataset has approximately 28,000 individuals.

All respondents to the HLFS are asked to participate in the NZIS. The target population of the NZIS is the usually-resident, non-institutionalised civilian population of New Zealand aged 15 and over. This population does **not** include:

- long-term residents of homes for older people, hospitals, and psychiatric institutions
- inmates of penal institutions
- members of the permanent armed forces
- members of the non-New Zealand armed forces
- overseas diplomats
- overseas visitors who expect to live in New Zealand for less than 12 months
- those aged under 15 years.

New Zealand residents living on offshore islands (except for Waiheke Island), and those temporarily overseas are not surveyed. The survey population is therefore marginally different from the target population.

### Survey questionnaire

Questions relate to the respondent's most recent pay period, except for questions on annual income, self-employment income, and investment income, which cover the 12 months before the interview. The following items are collected:

- actual and usual gross wages and salaries, for main job and up to two other jobs, by ordinary time, overtime, other income
- weeks and hours worked, matching the wage and salary components as above
- sources of latest actual gross government transfers received
- latest actual gross government transfers received in total and from each agency (Ministry of Social Development, Inland Revenue, and Accident Compensation Corporation)
- total latest actual gross private superannuation payment(s) received
- total latest actual gross 'all other private transfers including pensions, and annuities' received
- weeks covered for the transfer payments defined above
- total annual gross income received from self-employment
- total annual gross income from investment
- total annual gross income from all income sources (income ranges are the ones used in the census).

The collected data relates to cash only, pre-tax (gross) income wherever possible and does not include any non-cash fringe benefits.

Questions about some forms of income are not included in the NZIS, for instance income from hobbies, casual jobs, and other sources. Therefore total income estimates from the survey may underestimate actual total income.

In 2005 the NZIS introduced computer assisted interviewing (CAI). Implementation was complete in 2007. During the transition to CAI, estimates for the CAI part of the sample were compared with estimates from the remainder of the sample, and no statistically significant differences were detected.

See here for a copy of the questionnaire [flowcharts](#).

## **Accuracy of the data**

### **Reliability of survey estimates**

Two types of error are possible in estimates based on a sample survey: sampling error and non-sampling error. Sampling error is a measure of the variability that occurs by chance because a sample rather than an entire population is surveyed.

Non-sampling errors include errors arising from biases in the patterns of response and non-response, inaccuracies in reporting by respondents (including inaccuracies as a result of proxy interviewing), and errors in recording and coding data. Non-sampling errors are not quantified. We endeavour to minimise the impact of these errors by applying best survey practices and monitoring known indicators (eg non-response).

### **Proxy**

A proxy can provide information under the following circumstances:

- for a person unable to answer on health or language grounds
- for a 15- or 16-year old with an after-school job (parent can respond)
- for a retired couple whose only source of income is New Zealand superannuation (one of the couple can respond)
- for a self-employed couple, or farmer, where one of the couple does the accounts for both (one of the couple can respond)
- when one person in a couple controls the finances for both (one of the couple can respond).

## **Sample design information**

### **Sample design**

Because the NZIS is a supplement to the HLFS, it uses the same sample design. The sample is selected using a two-stage stratified cluster design. Households are sampled on a statistically representative random basis from rural and urban areas throughout the North and South Islands.

Each quarter, one-eighth of the households in the sample are rotated out and replaced by a new set of households. The overlap between two NZISs can be as high as one half, and some households can be asked the NZIS questionnaire twice.

## Imputation

For those records where there was not a valid and usable response, a form of imputation known as 'hot-deck imputation' is used. In this imputation method, a 'donor record' replaces the non-usable record in the dataset. The donor record is chosen randomly from an imputation pool of records that have similar characteristics to that of the record to be imputed.

The imputation pools are constructed on the basis of the following HLFS variables: age group, sex, ethnicity, highest qualification, labour force status (modified), full-time/part-time work status, and region. Imputation classes are combined in a priority order where there are fewer than 10 donor records in any particular class.

Hot-deck imputation is used for three reasons:

- to maintain an accurate income distribution of the New Zealand population
- to allow the calculation and analysis of household income for a larger number of households
- to account for likely biases due to non-response.

There is little change in the income distribution or average income figures in the dataset due to imputation. For further information about the imputation method, or the effects of imputation on the final dataset, please contact [info@stats.govt.nz](mailto:info@stats.govt.nz).

## Consistency with other periods or datasets

### Regional statistics

On 1 November 2010, the new Auckland territorial authority replaced the existing Rodney District, North Shore City, Auckland City, Waitakere City, Manukau City, Papakura District, and part of Franklin District councils.

This has resulted in a minor change in the boundary between the Auckland and Waikato regions.

The statistics in this release were produced using the new boundaries. The new boundaries do not significantly affect measures from the New Zealand Income Survey (NZIS).

### Industry statistics

Since the June 2010 quarter, industry statistics have been based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006 (ANZSIC06). This aligns with the HLFS. Earlier NZIS releases used ANZSIC96, and are not comparable with those based on ANZSIC06.

For more information please see [industrial classification](#) in the HLFS. ANZSIC96 tables for the NZIS June 2011 quarter are available by contacting [info@stats.govt.nz](mailto:info@stats.govt.nz).

### Occupation statistics

Since the June 2010 quarter, the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) has been used to classify occupation data. ANZSCO is a harmonised classification for use in both countries. Occupation outputs defined using ANZSCO are not

comparable with those in earlier NZIS releases, which were based on the New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations 1999.

For more information please see [Occupation](#) in the HLFS. NZSC099 tables for NZIS June 2011 quarter are available by contacting [info@stats.govt.nz](mailto:info@stats.govt.nz).

### **Ethnic statistics**

Since the December 2007 quarter, the HLFS has collected ethnicity data using the 2005 New Zealand Statistical Standard for Ethnicity, with up to 14 responses captured for the ethnicity question. Under the total response method, people who report more than one ethnic group are counted once in each group reported. This means the total number of responses for all ethnic groups can be greater than the total number of people who stated their ethnicities.

The total response method has been used to publish ethnicity statistics in the NZIS since the June 2009 quarter. Before then, the NZIS used the prioritisation method, where a single ethnic group was assigned to individuals who answered with more than one ethnicity.

Adopting the total response method gives a continuity break in the ethnicity series, as the prioritisation of ethnic groups is no longer produced. The total response ethnicity series can only be produced for 2008 onwards. For more information about the 2005 New Zealand Ethnicity Standard Classification please see [Statistical Standard for Ethnicity – 2005](#).

### **Computer-assisted interviewing**

Since 2007 the NZIS has used computer-assisted interviewing (CAI). The main benefits of CAI are improved data quality through better-controlled interviews, and modest resource savings through eliminating some processing steps and centralising others. Seven-eighths of the sample are interviewed by computer assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) and one-eighth by computer assisted personal interviewing (CAPI).

### **All sources income**

The introduction of income from investment in 2002 caused a discontinuity in time series for the 'all sources' category. Prior to 2002, this category included wages and salaries, self-employment, government transfers, and other transfers. Since 2002, it has also included income from investment and so is not comparable with previous years.

### **Household statistics**

The household categories incorporate the concept of dependent children rather than just children. A child is a person of any age who usually resides with at least one parent (natural, step, adopted, or foster), and who does not usually reside with a partner or child(ren) of his or her own. Statistics NZ defines a 'dependent child' as a child aged under 18 years and not in full-time employment.

The household income statistics table found in this release excludes households where all members are outside the ages of 18 to 64 years. This exclusion primarily affects 'couple only' and 'one person' households. These households typically contain two distinct groups of the population: couples and single persons who are likely to be in the labour force, and couples and single persons who are primarily retired. Because these groups can have very different income characteristics, the household income table excludes older households where all members are

aged 65 years and over. The income figures for 'couple only' and 'one person' households for those aged 65 years and over are available from Statistics NZ on request.

## **Interpreting the data**

### **Compositional effects**

Movements in average and median income statistics are influenced by many factors. As well as changes in levels of income, movements are also influenced by the composition of the population from survey to survey. These changes occur between males and females, different ethnic groups, different labour force statuses, numbers of full-time and part-time workers, between or within industries, and between or within occupations.

Income averaged across all people from all sources includes those who have zero income for some income sources. Income averaged across those receiving income from a particular source only includes those who received income from that source.

For more information on income measures at Statistics NZ, please see the [User guide for wage and income measures](#).

### **Period effects**

The NZIS reports on 'weekly income' that relates to a week during the June quarter – it is a snapshot in time. Conversion of this weekly income into an annual equivalent is not recommended as an individual's circumstances can change significantly during a year (eg change of job or a period out of work).

### **Tables**

In this information release, all tables showing wages and salaries include usual income figures rather than actual income figures

## **Confidentiality and access to the data**

### **Suppressed estimates**

Cells which represent less than 1,000 people are suppressed and appear as the symbol 'S' in the tables. These estimates are subject to sampling errors that are too great for most practical purposes. Records may be removed for quality and confidentiality purposes in some publications.

### **Customised data**

The tables in this information release are not a full set of the possible analyses that could be carried out from the NZIS data. Data requests can be customised to users' specifications. Please contact [info@stats.govt.nz](mailto:info@stats.govt.nz) for more information.

## **More information**

See the [New Zealand Income Survey resource](#) page for more information about the NZIS.

See the [User guide for wage and income measures](#) for more information about using wage and income measures.

See [Information about the New Zealand Income Survey](#) for more technical information.

Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) for unrebased 2002–07 NZIS data are available on application. See [User guides for Confidentialised Unit Record Files](#) for more information, or use the [information request form](#).

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## Tables

The following tables are included with this release. They are available in Excel format from the 'Downloads' box of *New Zealand Income Survey: June 2011 quarter* on the Statistics NZ website.

If you do not have access to Excel, you may use the [Excel file viewer](#) to view, print, and export the contents of the file.

1. Average and median weekly income for all people, aged 15 years and over, June 2011 Quarter
2. Average and median weekly income for all people, aged 15 years and over, by sex, June quarter 2007–11
3. Average and median weekly income for all people, aged 15 years and over, by age group, June quarter 2007–11
4. Average and median weekly income for all people, aged 15 years and over, by ethnic group, June quarter 2008–11
5. Average and median weekly income for people in paid employment, June 2011 quarter
6. Median weekly earnings for those in paid employment, by regional council area, June quarter 2007–11
7. Average and median weekly income for people not in paid employment, June 2011 Quarter
8. Personal income distribution, by quintile, June 2011 quarter
9. Average and median weekly household income, by household type, June 2011 quarter
10. Average and median hourly earnings for those earning income from wage/salary jobs, June 2011 quarter
11. Median weekly and hourly earnings for those earning income from wage/salary jobs, by full-time and part-time status, June 2011 quarter
12. Median weekly income by source, for those receiving that source of income, June 2011 quarter

## Supplementary tables

These tables include extra information about the data collected, including breakdowns of key indicators by average (mean) measures.

1. Median weekly income by labour force status, June 2011 quarter
2. Average weekly income by labour force status, June 2011 quarter
3. Average and median weekly household income, by household type, June quarter 2007-11
4. Average weekly income by source, for those receiving that source of income, June 2011 quarter
5. Average weekly and hourly earnings for those earning income from wage/salary jobs, by full-time and part-time status, June 2011 quarter
6. Average weekly income for all people, by regional council area, June quarter 2007–11
7. Aggregate weekly income, June quarter 2007–11

## Access more data on Table Builder

Use [Table Builder](#), our free, online database to access a range of time-series data from this release and previous NZIS releases.