

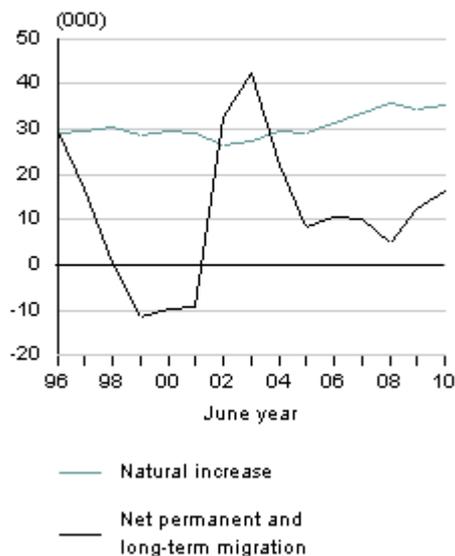
Embargoed until 10:45am – 13 August 2010

## National Population Estimates: June 2010 quarter

### Highlights

- The estimated resident population of New Zealand was 4.37 million at 30 June 2010.
- Population growth was 51,900 (1.2 percent) during the June 2010 year.
- Natural increase and net migration contributed 35,400 and 16,500, respectively, during the June 2010 year.
- The median ages for males and females were 35.5 and 37.6 years, respectively, at 30 June 2010.

Components of annual population change  
1996–2010



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Estimated resident population			
Age group (years)	At 30 June 2009	At 30 June 2010 P	Percentage change 2009–10 P
All ages	4,315,800	4,367,700	1.2
Under 15	891,200	894,500	0.4
15–39	1,484,600	1,496,600	0.8
40–64	1,387,400	1,407,500	1.5
65+	552,600	569,100	3.0

**Symbol:** P provisional

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# Commentary

## Background

This release contains estimates of the total population of New Zealand at 30 June 2010. Tables are included at the end of this release with estimated resident population and population change, estimated resident population by broad age group and sex, and by five-year age group and sex. Estimates by single-year of age are available via [Infoshare](#) on the Statistics New Zealand website (Demography Age Estimates in the 'Population' category).

Population estimates give the best available measure of the size and age-sex structure of the population usually living in an area. Estimates are based on the latest census data and on births, deaths, and migration since the census. National population estimates are published quarterly and subnational population estimates are published annually.

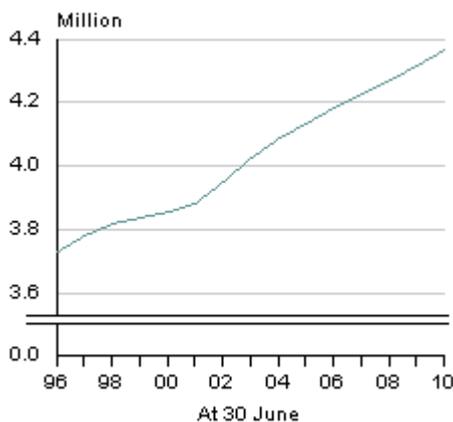
The estimates in this release are provisional. They incorporate provisional estimates of the number of births and deaths that occurred in the June 2010 quarter. Final estimates will be released in November 2010. In addition, population estimates after 30 June 2006 will be revised following results from the 2011 Census of Population and Dwellings.

In this release, a special topic analyses components of population change between 1970 and 2010. Previous releases have included special topics on the median age of the population aged 65 years and over, trends in the number of children (aged 0–14 years), 1969–2009, trends in the working-age population, 1979–2009, and an international comparison: percentage of population aged 65+.

## Estimated resident population

The estimated resident population of New Zealand was 4,367,700 at 30 June 2010, comprising 2,144,700 males and 2,223,100 females. At 30 June 2010, there were 96 males for every 100 females. The estimated resident population for the mean year ended 30 June 2010 was 4,345,500.

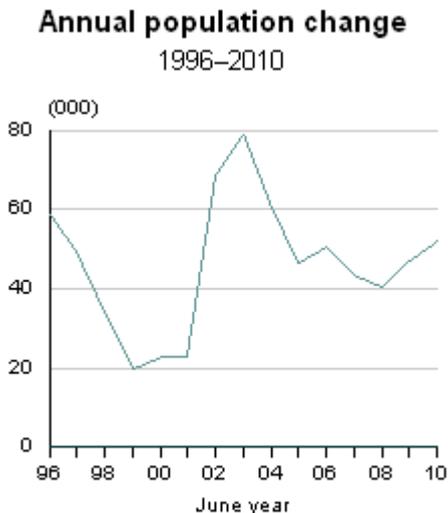
**Estimated resident population**  
1996–2010



Source: Statistics New Zealand

## Annual population change

In the June 2010 year, the estimated resident population grew by 51,900 (1.2 percent), compared with 46,900 (1.1 percent) in the previous June year. The population growth in the June 2010 year was comparable to the average annual increase of 51,000 (1.2 percent) recorded during the 10-year period to June 2010.



Source: Statistics New Zealand

The population growth for the June 2010 year resulted from a natural increase (excess of births over deaths) of 35,400 and a net permanent and long-term (PLT) migration gain of 16,500. The level of net PLT migration was the highest for a June year since 2004 (22,000), largely because of a drop in PLT departures.

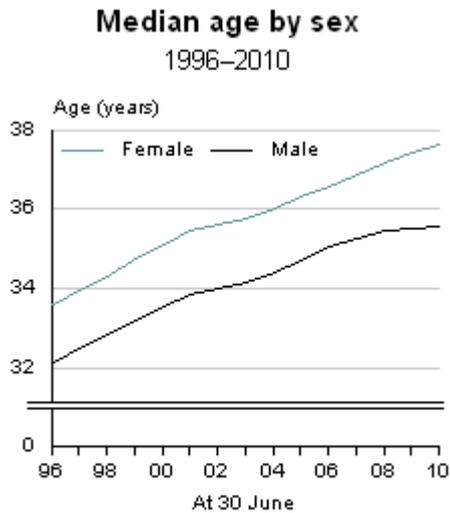
Historically, natural increase has been the dominant component of population growth. Over the last 40 years, natural increase has accounted for four-fifths of New Zealand's total population growth. During the June 2010 year, natural increase accounted for around two-thirds of population growth.

## Quarterly population change

During the June 2010 quarter, New Zealand's estimated resident population grew by 6,000 (0.1 percent). This growth resulted from a natural increase of 8,500 and a net PLT migration loss of 2,600. In comparison, natural increase was lower (8,200) for the June 2009 quarter, while net migration was higher (1,900), resulting in quarterly population growth of 10,100 (0.2 percent).

## Median age

New Zealand has an ageing population because of a shift to sustained low fertility and low mortality rates. This shift is also observed in other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries. At 30 June 2010, half of New Zealand's population was over 36.7 years, compared with a median age of 34.3 years a decade earlier. The median age for males is now 35.5 years, while for females it is 37.6 years. The lower median age for males largely reflects their lower life expectancy of 78.4 years, compared with 82.4 years for females (New Zealand abridged life table, 2007–09). Latest national population projections (2009 base–2061 update) indicate that the median age will be 43.5 years in 2061 (series 5).



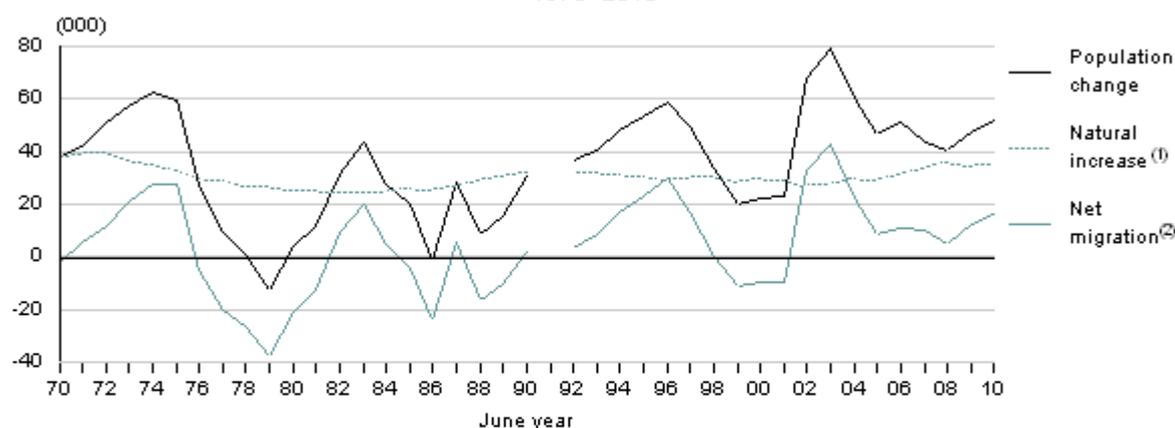
Source: Statistics New Zealand

## Components of population change, 1970–2010

The two components of population change are natural increase and net migration. Between 1970 and 2010, the majority of New Zealand's population growth came from natural increase. From a high of 39,800 in the June 1972 year, annual natural increase fell to a low of 24,400 in 1982 and then rose to 33,000 in the June 1992 year before falling back to around 30,000 during 1993–2001. In the June 2002 year natural increase fell to 26,500, before rising to over 35,000 in the 2008 and 2010 June years. In the year ended 30 June 2010 natural increase accounted for about two-thirds of population growth. The longer-term trend has been for natural increase to contribute closer to four-fifths of population growth.

## Components of annual population change

1970–2010



1. Excess of births over deaths.

2. Excess of all arrivals over all departures for 1970–90; excess of permanent and long-term arrivals over permanent and long-term departures for 1992–2010.

Note: Population change for 1970–90 refers to the de facto population, while population change from 1992 onwards refers to the resident population. Population change for the June 1991 year is not available, as resident population estimates have only been revised back to 31 March 1991.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Net migration's contribution to annual population change between 1970 and 2010 fluctuated significantly, ranging from a net loss of 37,100 in 1979 to a net gain of 42,500 in the June 2003 year. Annual net migration gain contributed strongly to population growth during 1973–75, 1994–97, and 2002–04, accounting for more than one-third of the total population increase in these June years. Conversely, significant annual net migration losses were recorded in the 1977–80 and 1986 June years, which largely offset the population gains from natural increase in these years. In the June 2010 year, net migration (16,500) was at its highest level since the June 2004 year (22,000).

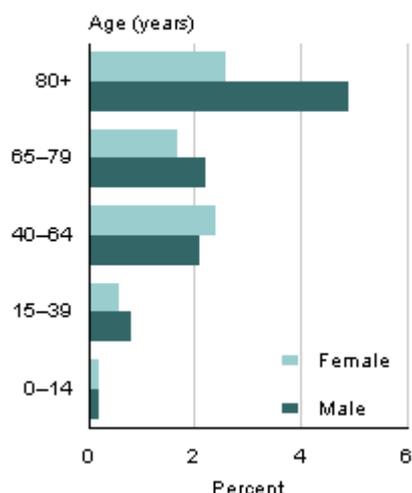
## Changes in age composition

The age composition of New Zealand's population has changed over the past decade. In the 10 years ended 30 June 2010, the number of children (aged 0–14 years) grew to 894,500, an average annual increase of 1,600 (0.2 percent). For the year ended 30 June 2010, the increase of 3,300 (0.4 percent) in the number of children was double the average annual increase for the decade. At 30 June 2010, children accounted for 20 percent of the New Zealand population, down from 23 percent at 30 June 2000.

At 30 June 2010, the population aged 15–39 years remained the largest population group, accounting for 34 percent of the total population, down from 36 percent a decade earlier. This age group reached 1,496,600, up by 12,000 (0.8 percent) compared with the June 2009 figure. In the 10 years ended June 2010, the average annual increase for this age group was lower, at 9,600 (0.7 percent).

## Average annual population change

By age group and sex  
10 years ended June 2010



Source: Statistics New Zealand

The population aged 40–64 also remained a large proportion of the population, increasing from 29 percent to 32 percent in the decade ended 30 June 2010. This age group increased by 20,200 (1.5 percent) in the year ended 30 June 2010, to reach 1,407,500. The increase was below the average annual increase of 28,300 (2.3 percent) for the 10 years ended June 2010.

The proportion of the population aged 65–79 years was 9.6 percent at 30 June 2010, up from 9.0 percent in 2000. During the June 2010 year, the population aged 65–79 years increased by 2.9 percent (11,600) to reach 418,300. In the 10 years ended June 2010, this age group grew at an average annual rate of 1.9 percent (7,300).

In the 10 years ended June 2010, there was also an increase in the proportion of the population aged 80 years and over (80+), from 2.8 percent to 3.5 percent. The 80+ population reached 150,800 at 30 June 2010, an average annual increase of 3.4 percent (4,300) over the decade. The size and growth rate of this age group varied significantly by sex. The average annual growth rate for males for the decade was 4.9 percent, compared with 2.6 percent for females. In the year ended 30 June 2010, the male population in the 80+ age group increased by 4.5 percent (2,500), to reach 58,700, while the female population increased by 2.6 percent (2,300) to 92,000.

## Population clock

Statistics NZ's online population clock gives a real-time approximation of the estimated resident population of New Zealand. The population clock uses the latest quarterly estimated resident population, and estimates for the expected number of births, deaths, and net migration during the following quarter. The settings for each component (births, deaths, and net migration) are derived by converting the quarterly estimated totals into a 'per minute' figure, making allowance for the number of days per quarter. The [population clock](http://www.stats.govt.nz/population-clock) can be viewed on the Statistics NZ website: [www.stats.govt.nz](http://www.stats.govt.nz).

## **Different population measures**

Users of population statistics need to be aware that there are three main population measures produced by Statistics NZ: the census night population count, the census usually resident population count, and the estimated resident population. The population counts published from the census are not comparable with the estimated resident population. The estimated resident population includes adjustments for net census undercount and for New Zealand residents temporarily overseas on census night. For more information see the 'Technical notes' section of this release.

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### **Next releases...**

*Subnational Population Estimates: at 30 June 2010* will be released on 26 October 2010.

*National Population Estimates: September 2010 quarter* will be released on 15 November 2010.

## Technical notes

### Population measures

There are three population measures commonly produced by Statistics New Zealand: census night population count, census usually resident population count, and estimated resident population.

The census night population count of New Zealand is a count of all people present in New Zealand on a given census night. This count includes visitors from overseas who are counted on census night, but excludes residents who are temporarily overseas on census night. The census usually resident population count of New Zealand is a count of all people who usually live in New Zealand and are present in New Zealand on a given census night. This count excludes visitors from overseas and residents who are temporarily overseas on census night.

The estimated resident population of New Zealand is an estimate of all people who usually live in New Zealand at a given date. This estimate includes all residents present in New Zealand and counted by the census (census usually resident population count), residents who are temporarily overseas (who are not included in the census), and an adjustment for residents missed or counted more than once by the census (net census undercount). Visitors from overseas are excluded. The population counts published from the census are not comparable with the estimated resident population.

De facto population estimates were produced up until the mid 1990s when they were replaced by the estimated resident population measure. The estimated de facto population of New Zealand includes all people present in New Zealand and counted by the census (census night population count). This estimate includes visitors from overseas who are counted on census night, but excludes New Zealand residents who are temporarily overseas. De facto population estimates are available via [Infoshare](#) on the Statistics NZ website.

### Resident population estimates

The estimated resident population at 30 June 2006 forms the base population for deriving the estimated resident population at a given date following the 2006 Census. This base population is also used in the revision of intercensal population estimates for the five-year period between the 2001 and 2006 Censuses.

The estimated resident population of New Zealand at 30 June 2006 is based on the census usually resident population count from the 2006 Census (held on 7 March 2006), updated for: net census undercount (as measured by the 2006 Post-enumeration Survey); the number of residents temporarily overseas on census night; births, deaths, and net permanent and long-term (PLT) migration between 7 March 2006 and 30 June 2006; and reconciliation with demographic estimates at ages 0–4 years.

Quarterly estimates from September 2006 onwards were derived by updating the estimated resident population at 30 June 2006 for births, deaths, and net PLT migration during the ensuing period.

### Derived figures

Derived figures (for example, percentage annual increase) are calculated using data of greater precision than that published.

## Mean population

The average number of people in an area during a given period.

## Median age

Half the population is younger, and half older, than this age.

## Provisional figures

The estimates in this release are provisional. They incorporate provisional estimates of the number of births and deaths that occurred in the June 2010 quarter. Changes between the provisional and final population estimates are most apparent at the younger and older age groups due to delayed registrations of births and deaths.

## Final figures

Final figures for the estimated resident population at 30 June 2010 will be available in November 2010. In addition, population estimates after 30 June 2006 will be revised following results from the 2011 Census of Population and Dwellings.

## More information

For more information, refer to [information about the population estimates](#) on the Statistics NZ website.

Quarterly national population estimates by single-year of age, five-year age groups, and selected age groups are available via [Infoshare](#) on the Statistics NZ website (Demography Age Estimates in the 'Population' category).

Annual population estimates by age and sex for subnational areas are freely available via [Table Builder](#) on the Statistics NZ website.

Population estimates for the [Māori ethnic group](#) are updated twice a year on the Statistics NZ website.

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## **Timing**

Timed statistical releases are delivered using postal and electronic services provided by third parties. Delivery of these releases may be delayed by circumstances outside the control of Statistics NZ. Statistics NZ accepts no responsibility for any such delays.

## Tables

The following tables are printed with this Hot Off The Press and can also be downloaded from the Statistics NZ website in Excel format. 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. Estimated resident population and population change
2. Estimated resident population, by broad age group
3. Estimated resident population, by five-year age group