

National Population Estimates: June 2012 quarter

Embargoed until 10:45am – 14 August 2012

Key facts

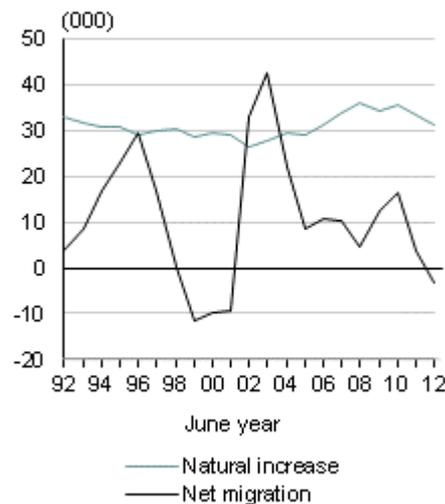
During the June 2012 year:

- New Zealand's population grew by 28,000 (0.6 percent).
- Natural increase was 31,100 and net migration loss was 3,200.

At 30 June 2012:

- The estimated resident population of New Zealand was 4.43 million.
- There were 2.18 million males and 2.25 million females in New Zealand.
- There were 97 males for every 100 females.
- The median ages for males and females were 35.7 and 38.2 years, respectively.

Components of annual population change
1992–2012



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Estimated resident population			
Age group (years)	At 30 June 2011	At 30 June 2012 P	Percentage change 2011–12 P
All ages	4,405,200	4,433,100	0.6
Under 15	894,500	892,300	-0.2
15–39	1,499,000	1,497,100	-0.1
40–64	1,424,700	1,432,400	0.5
65+	587,100	611,400	4.1

Symbol: P provisional

Vince Galvin
Acting Government Statistician

14 August 2012
ISSN 1178-0576

Commentary

- Population grows 0.6 percent
- Median age reaches 37.0 years
- Population aged 15–39 remains the largest group
- Population aged 65+ rises above 610,000

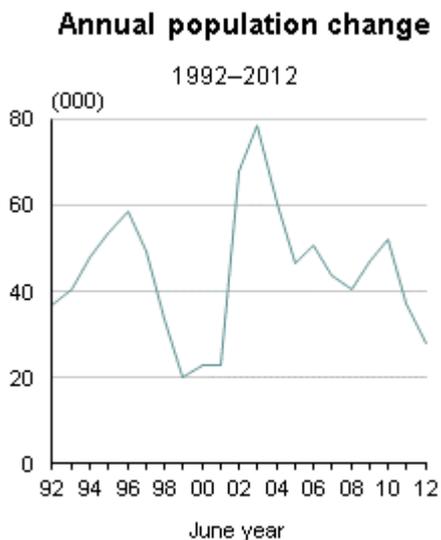
This information release contains provisional estimates of the resident population of New Zealand at 30 June 2012. National population estimates give the best available measure of the size and age-sex structure of the population usually living in New Zealand.

Population grows 0.6 percent

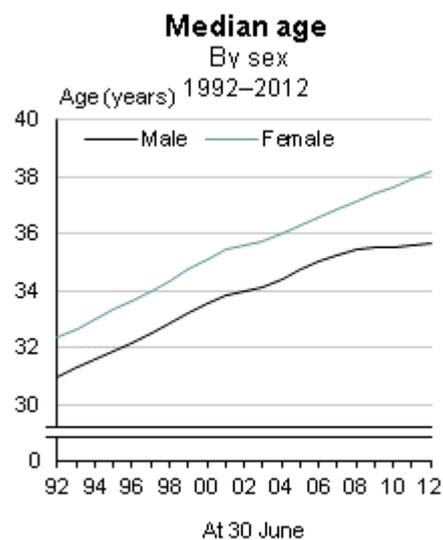
In the June 2012 year, the estimated resident population grew by 28,000 (0.6 percent), to reach 4,433,100. This compares with an increase of 37,400 (0.9 percent) in the previous June year.

Population growth in June 2012 was due to a natural increase (excess of births over deaths) of 31,100, offset by a net international migration loss of 3,200. Compared with the previous June year, both natural increase and net international migration have fallen (by 2,400 and 7,100, respectively).

A decade ago, New Zealand's estimated resident population was 3.9 million. Since then the population has grown about 0.5 million, which is approximately equivalent to the population of the Wellington region. Our population is expected to continue growing. Latest national population projections (median assumption) indicate that in 2036 there will be 5.4 million people in New Zealand.



Source: Statistics New Zealand



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Median age reaches 37.0 years

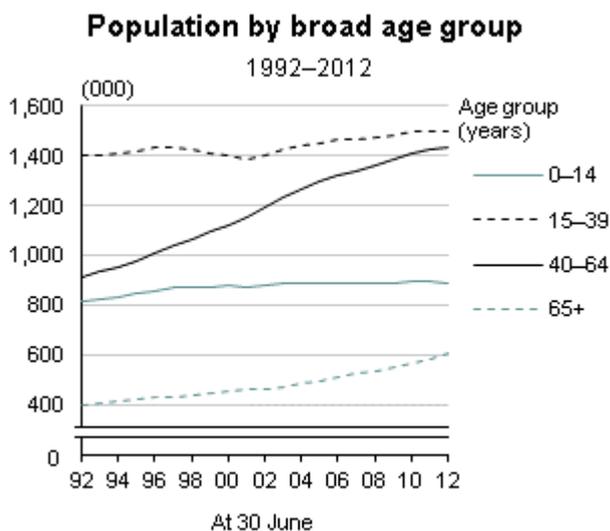
At 30 June 2012, half of New Zealand's population was over 37.0 years, compared with 31.7 years in 1992. New Zealand's population is ageing, due to sustained low fertility and low mortality rates. Latest [national population projections](#) (median assumption) indicate that by 2061 the median age of the New Zealand population could exceed 44.0 years.

Over the last two decades, the median age has increased more for females (up 5.8 years) than for males (up 4.7 years). The median age is now 38.2 years for females and 35.7 years for males. The lower median age for males largely reflects their lower life expectancy. On average, males can expect to live 79.1 years, compared with 82.8 years for females (see [New Zealand abridged life table, 2009–11](#)).

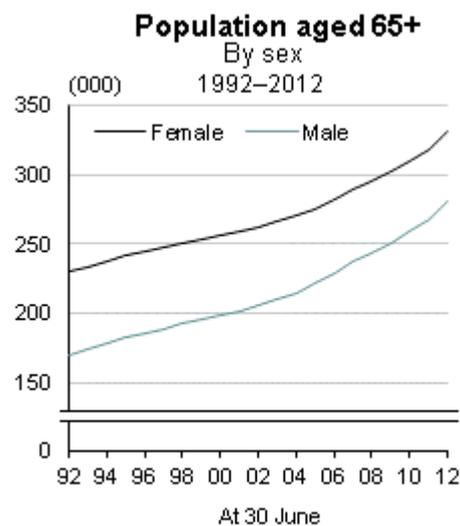
Population aged 15–39 years remains the largest group

The age structure of New Zealand's population has changed over the last decade. At 30 June 2012:

- **Children (aged 0–14 years)** accounted for 20 percent (892,300) of the population, down from 22 percent in 2002.
- **The younger working-age population (aged 15–39 years)** remained the largest population group (1,497,100), accounting for 34 percent of the population, down from 36 percent in 2002.
- **The older working-age population (aged 40–64 years)** made up 32 percent (1,432,400) of the population, up from 30 percent in 2002.
- **The population aged 65 years and over (aged 65+)** accounted for 14 percent (611,400) of the population, up from 12 percent in 2002.



Source: Statistics New Zealand



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Population aged 65+ rises above 610,000

Our population continues to age, with 14 percent of the total population now aged 65 and over (65+) at 30 June 2012. Between the June 1992 and 2012 years, the 65+ population has increased more than 50 percent, from 399,600 to 611,400.

Among the 65+ population, females outnumber males by 50,100, although the proportion of males is increasing. In June 1992, there were 1.4 females for every male in the population aged 65+. Twenty years later, there are 1.2 females for every male. This is due to male longevity increasing faster than female longevity (see [life expectancy](#)).

By 2061, it is expected that 26 percent (1.5 million) of the population will be aged 65+. See the latest [national population projections](#) (median assumption) for more details.

For more detailed data see the Excel tables in the 'Downloads' box.

Definitions

About national population estimates

National population estimates give the best available measure of the size and age-sex structure of the population usually living in New Zealand. Estimates of the resident population 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.

More definitions

Census usually resident population count: 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 temporarily overseas on census night. The population counts published from the census are not comparable with the estimated resident population.

Estimated de facto population: 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.

Estimated resident population: an estimate of all people who usually live in New Zealand on a given date. Visitors from overseas are excluded.

International migration: migration into or out of New Zealand. International migration statistics are based on 'permanent and long-term' migration statistics. These are primarily determined by passengers' responses on arrival and departure cards about how long they will be in or away from New Zealand, and where they last lived or will live for the next 12 months or more.

- **International migrant arrivals:** people from overseas arriving to live in New Zealand for 12 months or more (including permanently), and New Zealanders returning after an absence of 12 months or more. (Referred to as permanent and long-term arrivals in international migration statistics.)
- **International migrant departures:** New Zealanders departing for an absence of 12 months or more (including permanently), and people from overseas departing after a stay of 12 months or more in New Zealand. (Referred to as permanent and long-term departures in international migration statistics.)
- **Net migration:** the difference between the number of people who have moved to, and departed from, New Zealand. At the national level this is equivalent to international migrant arrivals minus international migrant departures.

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

Natural increase or decrease: natural increase is an excess of births over deaths. Natural decrease is an excess of deaths over births.

Related links

Upcoming releases

National Population Estimates: September 2012 quarter will be released on 14 November 2012.

[Subscribe to information releases](#), including this one, by completing the online subscription form.

The [release calendar](#) lists all our upcoming information releases by date of release.

Past releases

[National population estimates](#) has links to past releases.

Related information

[Māori population estimates](#) provide estimates of New Zealand's Māori population, by age and sex.

[Our population clock](#) gives a real-time approximation of the estimated resident population of New Zealand.

[Subnational population estimates](#) provide estimates for the population of territorial authority areas (ie cities and districts), and regions in New Zealand.

[Base populations for estimates and projections](#) are available from [Table Builder](#).

[New Zealand abridged life tables, 2009–11](#) provide an indication of the trends in male and female life expectancy in the years between the construction of complete period life tables.

[National population projections \(2011 base–2061\)](#) provide a summary of the projected population of New Zealand, based on different combinations of fertility, mortality, and migration assumptions.

Data quality

Period-specific information

This section contains information that has changed since the last release.

- [National Population Estimates releases become annual](#)
- [Removal of web page for national population estimates web tables](#)
- [Upcoming changes to Population Estimates series in Infoshare](#)

General information

This section contains information that does not change between releases.

- [Base population](#)
- [Accuracy of the data](#)
- [Provisional and final estimates](#)
- [Population clock](#)
- [2006-base population estimates extended](#)
- [2013-base population estimates](#)
- [Rounding](#)
- [More information](#)

Period-specific information

National Population Estimates releases become annual

The last quarterly National Population Estimates release will be available in mid-November 2012 for the September quarter. From then on, National Population Estimates will become an annual information release. It will be published in mid-August each year, for the year ended June.

National population estimates data for March, September, and December will remain available in Infoshare, but information releases and media releases will not be produced for those quarters.

National Population Estimates – date and type of releases for 2012 and 2013		
Period covered	Date of release	Type of release
June 2012 quarter	August 2012	Full
September 2012 quarter	November 2012	Full
Year ended December 2012	February 2013	Table update only
Year ended March 2013	May 2013	Table update only
Year ended June 2013	August 2013	Full
Year ended September 2013	November 2013	Table update only

Removal of web page for national population estimates web tables

From August 2012, the page for national population estimates web tables will be removed from our website. The 'as at' and 'mean' national population estimates will be available in Infoshare, our free, online time series database. These estimates are available on Infoshare by sex and single-year of age, five-year age groups, broad age groups, and median age.

To access the population estimates data, select the following categories from the [Infoshare homepage](#):

Subject category: **Population**
Group: **Population Estimates**

Upcoming changes to Population Estimates series in Infoshare

The DAE - Demography Age Estimates group will be removed from Infoshare in mid-August 2012, but its data will be available from the DPE - Population Estimates group. The 'as at' and 'mean' defacto population estimates are available in the DPE group as discontinued series. They are no longer being updated, but will continue to be available in Infoshare.

To access the discontinued series of population estimates data, select '**show discontinued**' below the '**subject categories**' heading.

To access the population estimates data, select the following categories from the [Infoshare](#) homepage:

Subject category: **Population**
Group: **Population Estimates**

General information

Base population

The estimated resident population at 30 June 2006 forms the base population for deriving post-censal population estimates.

The estimated resident population of New Zealand at 30 June 2006 is the 2006 census usually resident count from the 2006 Census (held on 7 March 2006), updated for:

- residents missed or counted more than once by the census (net census undercount)
- residents temporarily overseas on census night
- births, deaths, and net migration between census night and 30 June 2006
- reconciliation with demographic estimates at ages 0–4 years.

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

Accuracy of the data

Official national population estimates give the best available measure of how many people usually live in New Zealand. However, estimates are uncertain. Statistics NZ produces national population estimates using a component methodology, where the components of population change (births, deaths, and international migration) are used to update a base population. There is some uncertainty associated with component data, particularly when estimating international migration. Generally speaking, the uncertainty associated with population estimates increases as the estimates move further away from the base (starting point). Uncertainty also increases as population estimates are broken down by age and sex.

International migration estimates

International migration statistics are based on electronic arrival and departure records supplied to Statistics NZ for each international passenger. All arrivals and departures are processed so they can be allocated to one of three passenger types: overseas visitors, New Zealand-resident travellers, and permanent and long-term migrants. The net number of permanent and long-term migrants provides the estimate of international migration used in deriving the national population estimates.

Uncertainty arises due to changes in passenger intentions; a person may change their intentions after their arrival or departure, which may mean the recorded passenger type becomes incorrect. Statistics NZ does not revise published statistics to adjust for such changes. As a result, the uncertainty associated with population estimates increases as the time period between the reference date of the base population and the date of the estimate increases.

Birth and death estimates

There is some uncertainty associated with birth and death data. Birth and death registrations are used to estimate the number of births and deaths that occurred during each quarter. Not all births and deaths that occur in a quarter are registered by the end of the quarter, and this delay in registration is taken into account when estimating the number of births and deaths in the current quarter.

Determining data accuracy

It is not possible to verify the accuracy of current national population estimates, as no other independent or authoritative measure of the resident population exists. The periodic Census of Population and Dwellings remains the cornerstone of population statistics in New Zealand. Following the 2013 Census, it will be possible to derive updated estimates of the population, to assess the accuracy of estimates since 2006, and to revise estimates where necessary.

Provisional and final estimates

Provisional and final estimates are produced for the resident population each quarter. Provisional estimates are published in quarterly information and media releases. This is the first public release of population estimates. Estimates are released within six weeks of the end of the reference quarter. Final estimates are derived when an extra quarter of detailed births and deaths data is available, about five months after the end of the reference quarter. Changes between the provisional and final estimates are most apparent at the younger and older age groups, due to delayed registrations of births and deaths.

Birth estimates

Final estimates of births in a quarter are less accurate, as deaths are usually registered more quickly than births. Around 5 percent of births are not registered either in the quarter when the baby was born or in the subsequent quarter. Final quarterly estimates of births have a 95 percent confidence interval of ± 500 (or about 3.5 percent, based on an average of 14,000 births per quarter).

Death estimates

The estimate of deaths that occurred in the reference quarter is taken as those deaths that were registered either in the reference quarter or in the subsequent quarter, and the number of people

who died in the reference quarter. The provisional estimates of quarterly deaths have a 95 percent confidence interval of ± 250 (or about 3.5 percent, based on an average of 7,000 deaths per quarter). Final estimates of deaths are very accurate as very few deaths (about 1 death in every 1,000) are registered later than one quarter after they occurred.

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 of the expected number of births, deaths, and net migration for the coming 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.

2006-base population estimates extended

Statistics NZ planned to produce 2006-base post-censal estimates until mid-2012. Because the 2011 Census of Population and Dwellings was cancelled, 2006-base post-censal estimates will now be produced until mid-2014.

2013-base population estimates

The 2013 Census of Population and Dwellings will take place on Tuesday, 5 March 2013. The [2013 Census website](#) provides information about the census.

Population estimates based on the 2013 Census will be released from August 2014. In addition, all population estimates after 30 June 2006 will be revised based on results from the 2013 Census.

Rounding

All figures in this release were rounded independently. Estimates of the total population, natural increase, net migration, and broad age groups are rounded to the nearest 100. National population estimates of five-year age groups are rounded to the nearest 10.

All derived figures in this release were calculated using data of greater precision than that published.

More information

See more detailed [information about population estimates](#) and methods used to calculate them.

Liability

While care has been used in processing, analysing, and extracting data and information in this publication, Statistics NZ gives no warranty it is error-free and will not be liable for any loss or damage suffered by the use, directly or indirectly, of any information in this publication.

Timing of published data

Our information releases are delivered electronically by third parties. Delivery may be delayed by circumstances outside our control. Statistics NZ does not accept responsibility for any such delay.

Crown copyright©



This work is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand](#) licence. You are free to copy, distribute, and adapt the work, as long as you attribute the work to Statistics NZ and abide by the other licence terms. Please note you may not use any departmental or governmental emblem, logo, or coat of arms in any way that infringes any provision of the [Flags, Emblems, and Names Protection Act 1981](#). Use the wording 'Statistics New Zealand' in your attribution, not the Statistics NZ logo.

Contacts

For media enquiries contact:

Jo-Anne Skinner

Christchurch 03 964 8700

Email: demography@stats.govt.nz

For technical information contact:

Lisa Sands or Helen He

Christchurch 03 964 8700

Email: demography@stats.govt.nz

For general enquiries contact our Information Centre:

Phone: 0508 525 525 (toll free in New Zealand)

+64 4 931 4600 (outside New Zealand)

Email: info@stats.govt.nz

Tables

The following tables are available in Excel format from the 'Downloads' box. If you have problems viewing the files, see [opening files and PDFs](#).

1. Estimated resident population and population change
2. Estimated resident population, by broad age group
3. Estimated resident population, by five-year age group

Access more data on Infoshare

Use [Infoshare](#) to access time-series data specific to your needs. For annual and quarterly national population estimates by single-year of age, five-year age groups, and selected age groups, select the following categories from the Infoshare homepage:

Subject category: **Population**
Group: **Population Estimates**