



2013 QuickStats

About culture and identity





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1. 2013 Census QuickStats about culture and identity

2013 Census QuickStats about culture and identity gives you information about New Zealand's increasingly diverse population.

Find out about:

- ethnic groups in New Zealand
- birthplace and people born overseas
- languages spoken
- religious affiliation.

All 2013 data in this report is based on the census usually resident population count from New Zealand's 2013 Census of Population and Dwellings, held on 5 March 2013. The 2006 and 2001 data that has been included for comparison purposes is based on the census usually resident population counts from New Zealand's 2006 and 2001 Censuses.

2. Ethnic groups in New Zealand

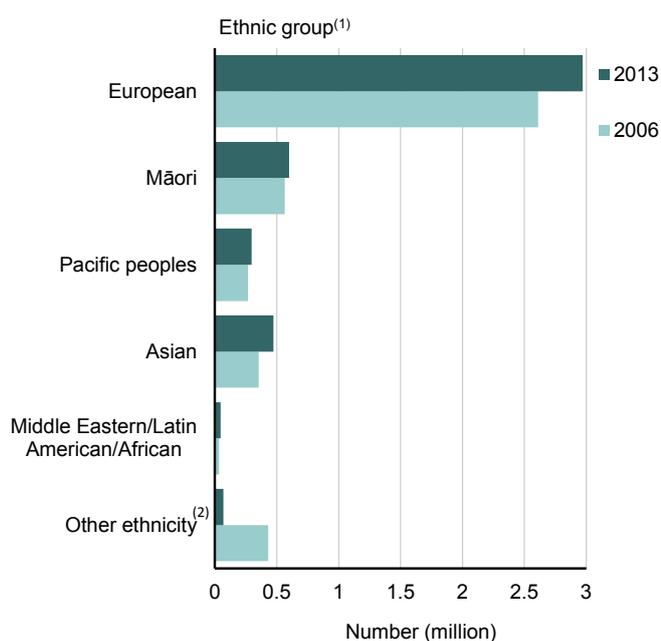
New Zealand's major ethnic groups continue to grow

The European ethnic group was still New Zealand's largest major ethnic group at the 2013 Census. Nearly three-quarters of the population (2,969,391 people or 74.0 percent) identified with one or more European ethnicities. This compared with 67.6 percent (2,609,589 people) in 2006. The increase seems to be partly due to fewer people identifying themselves as 'New Zealander' in 2013.

Other major ethnic groups that increased in size included:

- Māori – 14.9 percent of the population in 2013 (598,605 people), up from 14.6 percent in 2006 (565,329)
- Asian – 11.8 percent of the population (471,708), up from 9.2 percent (354,552)
- Pacific peoples – 7.4 percent of the population (295,941), up from 6.9 percent (265,974)
- Middle Eastern/Latin American/African – 1.2 percent of the population (46,953), up from 0.9 percent (34,743).

Population of major ethnic groups
2006 and 2013 Censuses



1. People were able to identify with more than one ethnic group.

2. Consists of responses for a number of small ethnic groups and for New Zealander. New Zealander was included as a new category for the 2006 Census.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Middle Eastern/Latin American/African, and Asian ethnic groups on the rise

The Middle Eastern/Latin American/African, and Asian ethnic groups increased by more than 30 percent over the seven years between the 2006 and the 2013 Censuses. Of the major ethnic groups, those with the largest percentage increases were:

- Middle Eastern/Latin American/African (up 35.1 percent)
- Asian (up 33.0 percent)
- European (up 13.8 percent)
- Pacific peoples (up 11.3 percent)
- Māori (up 5.9 percent).

Māori most likely to identify with more than one ethnic group

More than half of Māori (53.5 percent or 320,406 people) identified with two or more ethnic groups, compared with 46.5 percent who identified with Māori only. Māori was the only major ethnic group in which people were more likely to identify with two or more major ethnic groups than just one.

In other major ethnic groups, the proportions of people identifying with two or more major ethnic groups were:

- European – 13.3 percent
- Asian – 9.9 percent
- Pacific peoples – 37.2 percent
- Middle Eastern/Latin American/African – 16.8 percent.

Māori who identify with other major ethnic groups 2001, 2006, and 2013 Censuses

Ethnic group ⁽¹⁾	2001 Census	2006 Census	2013 Census
	Percent of Māori identifying with ethnic grouping		
European	40.5	42.2	48.9
Pacific peoples	6.0	7.0	8.2
Asian	1.4	1.5	1.7
Middle Eastern/Latin American/African ⁽²⁾	0.2	0.2	0.3
Other ethnicity ⁽³⁾	0.0	2.3	0.4

1. Includes all people who stated each ethnic group, whether as their only ethnic group or as one of several. Where a person reported more than one ethnic group, they have been counted in each applicable group.

2. Middle Eastern/Latin American/African was introduced as a new category for the 2006 Census. Previously, Middle Eastern/Latin American/African responses were allocated to the 'other ethnicity' category.

3. Consists of responses for a number of small ethnic groups and for New Zealander. New Zealander was included as a new category for the 2006 Census. In 2001 New Zealander was counted in the European category.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Younger people identify with more ethnic groups than older people

Children (0–14 years) were more likely than people aged 65 years and over to belong to more than one ethnic group. This difference has increased since the 2006 Census. In 2013, the proportions of these two age groups identifying with more than one ethnic group were:

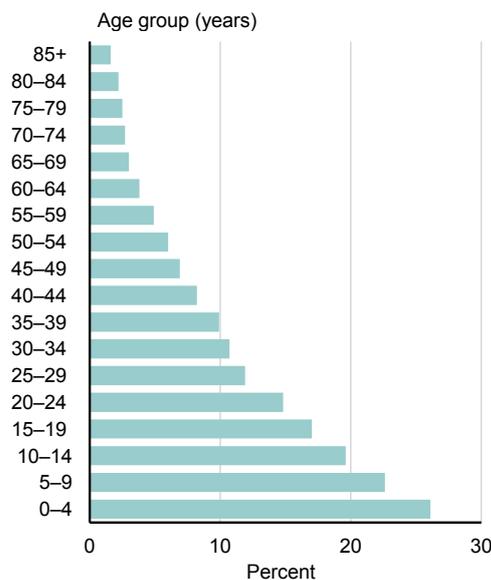
- children – 22.8 percent (19.7 percent in 2006)
- 65 years and over – 2.6 percent (3.5 percent in 2006).

Overall, the proportion of the population identifying with more than one ethnic group increased across recent censuses. The proportions of people identifying with more than one ethnic group were:

- 11.2 percent in 2013
- 10.4 percent in 2006
- 9.0 percent in 2001.

People with more than one ethnic group

By age group
2013 Census



Source: Statistics New Zealand

European ethnic group older than other major ethnic groups

People who identified with European ethnic groups were generally older than people belonging to other major ethnic groups. The median age (half are younger, and half are older than this age) for each major ethnic group in 2013 was:

- European – 41.0 years (38.1 years in 2006)
- Māori – 23.9 years (22.7 years in 2006)
- Pacific peoples – 22.1 years (21.1 years in 2006)
- Asian – 30.6 years (28.3 years in 2006)
- Middle Eastern/ Latin American/African – 28.6 years (26.6 years in 2006).



3. European ethnic group

Higher proportion of Europeans in South Island regions

All South Island regions had a higher proportion of people who identified with one or more European ethnicities than any region in the North Island.

The region in the South Island with the highest proportion of people who identified with one or more European ethnicities was the Tasman region (93.1 percent), and the lowest was the Canterbury region (86.9 percent).

The region in the North Island with the highest proportion of people who identified with one or more European ethnicities was the Taranaki region (86.2 percent), and the lowest was the Auckland region (59.3 percent).

Decrease in people with English or Australian ethnicity

Compared with the previous census, fewer people living in New Zealand identified with either the English ethnic group or the Australian ethnic group.

In 2013, 38,916 people identified with the English ethnic group – a decrease of 5,286 people (12.0 percent) from 2006.

The median age of people with English ethnicity was 46.0 years, which was older than the median age of all people identifying with the European ethnic group (41.0 years).

Only 10.9 percent of people identifying with the English ethnic group were born in New Zealand, with most (89.1 percent) born overseas.

In 2013, 22,467 people identified as Australian – a decrease of 3,888 people (14.8 percent) from 2006. Most of these people (90.8 percent in 2013) were born overseas.

However, between 2006 and 2013, some European ethnic groups experienced an increase in New Zealand, including:

- British not further defined – up 8,832 people (32.5 percent)
- Russian – up 1,143 people (23.6 percent)
- German – up 1,893 people (17.3 percent)
- American – up 1,533 people (14.2 percent)
- Irish – up 1,542 people (12.2 percent).



4. Māori ethnic group

Māori ethnic group increasing in almost every region

The percentage of people who identified with the Māori ethnic group increased in almost all regions between 2006 and 2013. The two regions with the biggest increases were:

- Gisborne – 48.9 percent of the population were Māori in 2013 (up from 47.3 percent in 2006)
- Taranaki – 17.4 percent were Māori in 2013 (up from 15.8 percent in 2006).

Only two regions did not have an increase in the percentage of Māori:

- Auckland – 10.7 percent of the population were Māori in 2013 (down from 11.1 percent in 2006)
- Bay of Plenty – 27.5 percent were Māori in 2013 (the same as in 2006).

Gisborne and Northland regions had the highest proportion of Māori. Almost half of the people (48.9 percent) in the Gisborne region and a third (32.4 percent) in the Northland region identified with the Māori ethnic group.

Of all regions, Gisborne had the highest median age for Māori at 26.3 years. Māori in the Northland and Marlborough regions were also slightly older, having a median age of 25.8 years, compared with a median age of 23.9 years for all Māori living in New Zealand. In contrast, Māori living in the Otago region were slightly younger, with a median age of 21.9 years.

Of all regions, Canterbury had the highest percentage of Māori who were male (50.9 percent or 21,324 people). Canterbury was the only region where there were more Māori males than Māori females.

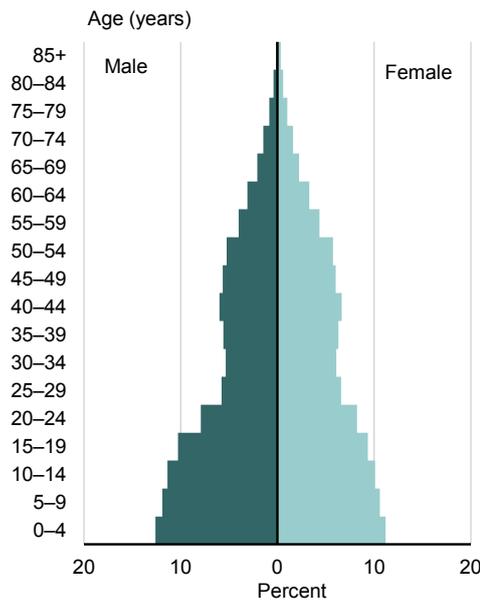
Māori are a youthful population

A high proportion of Māori (43.6 percent or 260,940 people) were aged under 20 in 2013, compared with the 27.4 percent of the total population in this age group. However, the median age of Māori (23.9 years) increased since 2006, when it was 22.7 years.

Children (0–14 years) made up 33.8 percent of Māori in 2013. Of all regions, Tasman had the highest proportion of Māori who were children, at 36.2 percent.

Almost a quarter of Māori children (23.7 percent or 48,033 people) lived in the Auckland region, 14.2 percent (28,659) in the Waikato region, and 11.5 percent (23,247) in the Bay of Plenty region.

Māori ethnic group By age and sex 2013 Census



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Many Māori children also identify with other major ethnic groups

Māori children (aged 0–14 years) were more likely than Māori adults to also identify with the Pacific peoples, Asian, or Middle Eastern/Latin American/African major ethnic groups. Of Māori who identified with one or more of these groups:

- 58.8 percent (28,884) who identified with Pacific peoples were children
- 58.7 percent (945) who identified with Middle Eastern/Latin American/African were children
- 51.9 percent (5,322) who identified with at least one of the Asian ethnic groups were children
- 39.9 percent (116,820) who identified with European were children.

The proportion of Māori who also identified as European has continued to increase. In 2013, almost half (48.9 percent or 292,938 people) of Māori also identified with at least one of the European ethnicities, compared with 42.2 percent in 2006, and 40.5 percent in 2001.

[See more information about the Māori ethnic group](#)



5. Asian ethnic group

Asian ethnic groups grow most in Auckland region

While there was an increase in the proportion of Asians living in every region, the biggest growth occurred in the Auckland region. In 2013, almost 1 in 4 people (23.1 percent or 307,233 people) living in the Auckland region identified with one or more Asian ethnic groups, compared with 1 in 5 people (18.9 percent) in 2006.

Other regions that also experienced an increase in the proportion of people identifying with one or more Asian ethnic groups in 2013 included:

- Wellington – 10.5 percent (8.4 percent in 2006)
- Waikato – 6.9 percent (5.0 percent in 2006)
- Bay of Plenty – 5.2 percent (3.2 percent in 2006).

The Auckland local board areas with the largest Asian populations were:

- Howick – 47,511 people (38.8 percent of people living in Howick)
- Whau – 24,078 people (35.4 percent)
- Albert-Eden – 25,278 people (28.2 percent).

Almost two-thirds (65.1 percent) of people who identified with at least one Asian ethnic group lived in the Auckland region in 2013.

Indian ethnic group growing faster than Chinese

The number of people identifying with the Indian ethnic group increased 48.4 percent between 2006 and 2013, compared with an increase of 16.2 percent for the Chinese ethnic group.

Chinese remained the largest Asian ethnic group in 2013, with 171,411 people (36.3 percent of the Asian ethnic group, down from 41.6 percent in 2006).

Indian was the second-largest Asian ethnic group in 2013, with 155,178 people (32.9 percent of the Asian ethnic group, up from 29.5 percent in 2006).

The Indian ethnic group also grew faster than the Chinese ethnic group between the 2001 and 2006 Censuses:

- Indian – up 68.2 percent
- Chinese – up 40.5 percent.

Population of selected Asian ethnic groups 2001, 2006, and 2013 Censuses

Ethnic group ⁽¹⁾	2001 Census	2006 Census	2013 Census	Percentage change 2001–2006	Percentage change 2006–2013
Chinese	105,057	147,567	171,411	40.5	16.2
Indian	62,187	104,583	155,178	68.2	48.4
Filipino	11,091	16,938	40,350	52.7	138.2
Korean	19,026	30,792	30,171	61.8	-2.0
Japanese	10,026	11,910	14,118	18.8	18.5
Sri Lankan	7,014	8,313	11,274	18.5	35.6
Cambodian	5,268	6,915	8,601	31.3	24.4
Vietnamese	3,462	4,770	6,660	37.8	39.6

1. Includes all people who stated each ethnic group, whether as their only ethnic group or as one of several. Where a person reported more than one ethnic group, they have been counted in each applicable group.

Note: The gap between this census and the last one is seven years. The change in data between 2006 and 2013 may be greater than in the usual five-year gap between censuses. Be careful when comparing trends.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Filipino population more than tripled since 2001

The Filipino population more than tripled in size since 2001. The numbers of people who identified as Filipino in the last three censuses were:

- 2013 – 40,350 people (up 138.2 percent from 2006)
- 2006 – 16,938 people (up 52.7 percent from 2001)
- 2001 – 11,091 people.

Other Asian ethnic groups with large percentage increases between 2001 and 2013 were:

- Vietnamese (up 92.4 percent to 6,660 people in 2013)
- Korean (up 58.6 percent to 30,171 people)
- Japanese (up 40.8 percent to 14,118 people).

The number of people who identified as Korean increased 61.8 percent between 2001 and 2006, and then decreased 2.0 percent between 2006 and 2013.

Asian ethnic group getting older

The median age for the Asian ethnic group increased in 2013, compared with 2006 and 2001. Over the three most recent censuses, it was:

- 2013 – 30.6 years
- 2006 – 28.3 years
- 2001 – 28.3 years.

Of those who identified with one or more Asian ethnic groups, females were older than males. The median age for females in 2013 was 31.9 years, compared with 29.3 years for males.

The Asian ethnic group was the third-largest major ethnic group in 2013. It almost doubled in size since 2001. The numbers and percentages of people who identified with an Asian ethnic group in the last three censuses were:

- 2013 – 471,708 people (11.8 percent of the population)

- 2006 – 354,552 people (9.2 percent)
- 2001 – 238,179 people (6.6 percent).

Big proportion of Asian ethnic group aged 20–34 years

Of the Asian ethnic group, 30.0 percent were aged 20–34 years. In comparison, 18.7 percent of the total population were in this age group.

Many of the people in this age group were recent arrivals – two thirds (65.4 percent) had been living in New Zealand for less than 10 years, and 43.1 percent had been in New Zealand for less than five years.

6. Pacific peoples ethnic group

Growth in Pacific peoples ethnic group slows

The Pacific peoples ethnic group was the fourth-largest major ethnic group in 2013, behind the European, Māori, and Asian ethnic groups.

Since 2006, this group has grown in both number and proportion of the population. In 2013, 7.4 percent of the New Zealand population (295,941 people) identified with one or more Pacific ethnic groups, compared with 6.9 percent (265,974 people) in 2006.

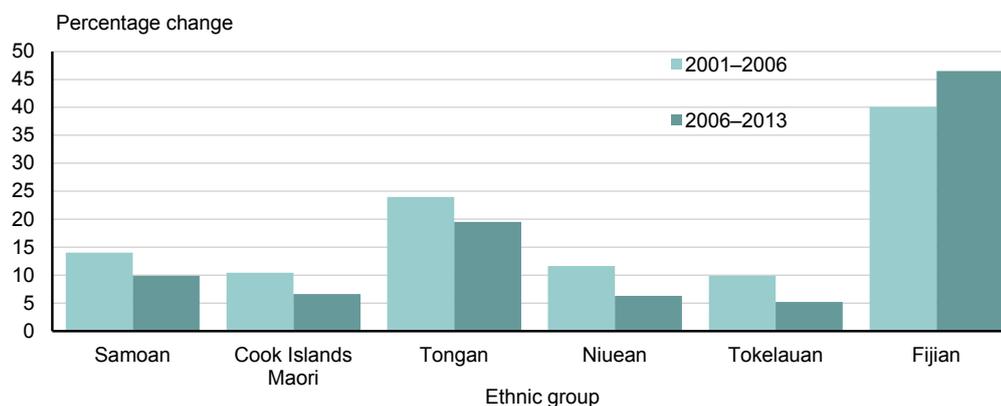
However, the rate of growth for the Pacific peoples ethnic group slowed across recent censuses, growing 14.7 percent between 2001 and 2006 but only 11.3 percent between 2006 and 2013.

The Pacific peoples ethnic groups whose growth slowed between 2006 and 2013 included:

- Tongan (19.5 percent growth for 2006–2013, 24.0 percent growth for 2001–2006)
- Samoan (9.9 percent for 2006–2013, 14.0 percent for 2001–2006)
- Cook Islands Maori (6.6 percent for 2006–2013, 10.4 percent for 2001–2006)
- Niuean (6.3 percent for 2006–2013, 11.6 percent for 2001–2006)
- Tokelauan (5.2 percent for 2006–2013, 9.9 percent for 2001–2006).

In contrast, the Fijian ethnic group grew by a bigger percentage between 2006 and 2013 (46.5 percent) than between 2001 and 2006 (40.1 percent).

Change in selected Pacific ethnic groups⁽¹⁾
2001–2006 Censuses and 2006–2013 Censuses



1. People were able to identify with more than one ethnic group.

Note: The gap between this census and the last one is seven years. The change in data between 2006 and 2013 may be greater than in the usual five-year gap between censuses. Be careful when comparing trends.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

More children in Pacific peoples ethnic group than in any other

Pacific peoples remained the major ethnic group with the highest proportion of children (aged 0–14 years), at 35.7 percent. In comparison, children made up the following proportions of other major ethnic groups:

- European – 19.6 percent

- Māori – 33.8 percent
- Asian – 20.6 percent
- Middle Eastern/Latin American/African – 25.5 percent.

Although the median age of Pacific peoples (22.1 years) slightly increased since 2006 (when it was 21.1 years), Pacific peoples remained a youthful population. A little under half (46.1 percent) were less than 20 years old (compared with 27.4 percent for the total population), and the majority (54.9 percent) were younger than 25 years old.

Samoan remains largest Pacific peoples ethnic group

The Samoan ethnic group remained the largest Pacific ethnic group in 2013, at 48.7 percent of the Pacific peoples population (144,138 people). Other Pacific ethnic groups with large populations included:

- Cook Islands Maori – 61,839 people (20.9 percent of Pacific peoples population)
- Tongan – 60,333 people (20.4 percent)
- Niuean – 23,883 people (8.1 percent).

Almost two-thirds of Pacific peoples are born in New Zealand

In 2013, 62.3 percent of people (181,791 people) who identified with at least one Pacific ethnicity were born in New Zealand. In comparison, the proportion of New Zealand-born Pacific peoples in previous censuses was 60.0 percent (157,203 people) in 2006, and 58.2 percent (133,791 people) in 2001.

In 2013, the Pacific ethnicities with the highest proportions of New Zealand-born people included:

- Niuean – 78.9 percent born in New Zealand
- Cook Islands Maori – 77.4 percent
- Tokelauan – 73.9 percent
- Samoan – 62.7 percent
- Tongan – 59.8 percent.

Most Pacific peoples live in North Island

Most Pacific peoples (92.9 percent or 274,806 people) lived in the North Island in 2013. Almost two-thirds (65.9 percent or 194,958 people) of those who identified with at least one Pacific ethnicity lived in the Auckland region, and 12.2 percent (36,105 people) in the Wellington region.

In contrast, only 7.1 percent of Pacific peoples (21,135 people) lived in the South Island in 2013. This was, however, a slight increase from 2006 (6.6 percent). Canterbury was the South Island region where the largest number of Pacific peoples lived (12,723 people or 4.3 percent of all Pacific peoples).



7. Middle Eastern/Latin American/African ethnic grouping

Latin American ethnic group almost doubles

The Latin American ethnic group almost doubled in size between the 2006 and 2013 Censuses, increasing from 6,654 people to 13,182.

Other ethnic groups within the Middle Eastern/Latin American/African major ethnic group that also increased in size between 2006 and 2013 were:

- Middle Eastern ethnic group – up from 17,514 to 20,406
- African ethnic group – up from 10,647 to 13,464.

Most Middle Eastern/Latin American/African people live in the Auckland region

More than three-quarters of people who identified with the Middle Eastern/Latin American/African major ethnic group (76.4 percent or 35,895 people) lived in the Auckland, Wellington, or Canterbury regions:

- 53.1 percent lived in the Auckland region
- 14.0 percent lived in the Wellington region
- 9.3 percent lived in the Canterbury region.

High proportion of Middle Eastern/Latin American/African ethnic group aged 20–34 years

A high proportion (30.5 percent) of people identifying with the Middle Eastern/Latin American/African ethnic group were aged 20–34 years in 2013. In contrast, 18.7 percent were in this age group for the total New Zealand population.

The proportion of Middle Eastern/Latin American/African people in this age group increased across recent censuses, up from 28.6 percent (9,939 people) in 2006, and 25.6 percent (6,162 people) in 2001.

8. 'Other' ethnic group

'New Zealander' makes up majority of 'Other' ethnic group

In 2013, 67,752 people identified with one or more ethnicities **other than** European, Māori, Pacific, Asian, Middle Eastern, Latin American, and African. The vast majority, 65,973 people, identified as 'New Zealander' on their census form.

In 2006, 429,429 people identified as New Zealander on their census form. A public media campaign was conducted that year to encourage people to give this response.

[See more information about the New Zealander response](#)

Most people identifying as New Zealander stated it as their only ethnic group

In 2013, most people who identified as New Zealander (86.0 percent or 56,751 people) did not identify with another ethnic group as well.

Of the 14.0 percent who did identify with at least one other ethnic group:

- 55.9 percent identified as New Zealand European
- 20.5 percent identified as Māori.

A high proportion of those who identified as New Zealander:

- were male (57.8 percent or 38,124)
- stated they had no religion (47.7 percent or 29,241).

Almost 1 in 10 (9.1 percent or 5,928) people who identified as New Zealander were multilingual (spoke more than one language). The most common languages spoken by those who were multilingual included:

- English – spoken by 99.8 percent of multilingual people who identified as New Zealander (5,913 people)
- Māori – 21.9 percent (1,299)
- French – 17.0 percent (1,008)
- New Zealand Sign Language – 10.3 percent (612)
- German – 8.6 percent (507)
- Spanish – 8.3 percent (489)
- Japanese – 7.9 percent (468).

The highest proportions of people who identified as New Zealander lived in the following regions:

- Auckland – 22.6 percent of people identifying as New Zealander lived in this region (14,904 people)
- Canterbury – 15.2 percent (10,050)
- Wellington – 12.1 percent (7,977)
- Waikato – 9.9 percent (6,504).

9. Birthplace and people born overseas

Number of overseas-born tops a million

The number of people living in New Zealand who were born overseas continued to climb, reaching more than 1 million people for the first time. In 2013, 1,001,787 people (25.2 percent) were born overseas, an increase of 303,159 people since the 2001 Census.

The percentages of people living in New Zealand who were born overseas were:

- 25.2 percent in 2013
- 22.9 percent in 2006
- 19.5 percent in 2001.

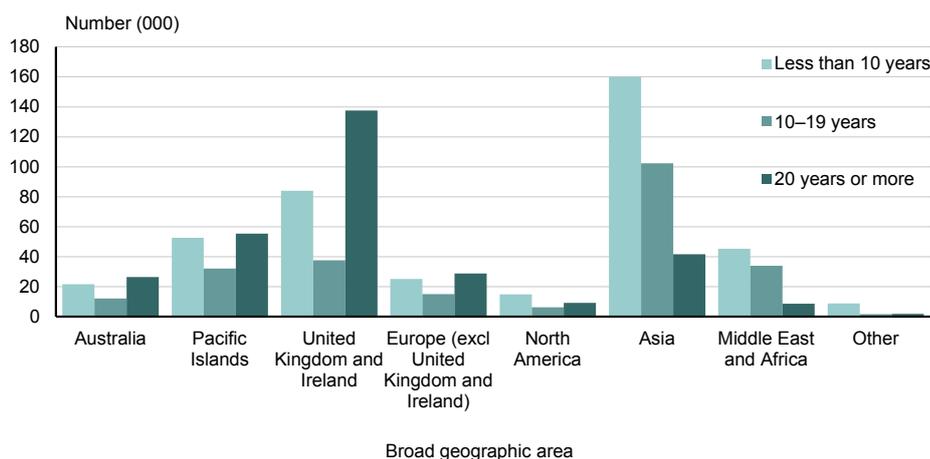
Asia overtakes United Kingdom and Ireland to become most common birthplace for overseas-born

In 2013, the most common birthplace for people living in New Zealand but born overseas was Asia – 31.6 percent of the population were born there. In comparison, 26.5 percent of the population were born in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

In 2006, the proportion of the population born in these two birthplaces was the same, at 28.6 percent each.

(Note: in this section, birthplace refers to regional groupings of countries of birth, not individual countries.)

Birthplace for the overseas-born census usually resident population
By years since arrival in New Zealand
2013 Census



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Compared with people born in the United Kingdom and Ireland, people born in Asia arrived more recently to live in New Zealand. Of those who had been in New Zealand for 20 years or more at the time of the 2013 Census:

- 13.7 percent were born in Asia
- 53.1 percent were born in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Less than half (47.4 percent) of the people living in New Zealand and born in Asia had been here for 10 years or more by 2013. Other birthplaces had much higher proportions of people who had lived in New Zealand for 10 years or more:

- United Kingdom and Ireland – 67.6 percent
- Australia – 63.9 percent
- Pacific Islands – 62.4 percent.

The most common languages spoken by people born in Asia were:

- English – spoken by 258,684 people (83.7 percent)
- Northern Chinese (including Mandarin) – spoken by 44,331 people (14.3 percent).

India replaces Australia as third most common country of birth

In 2013, England and the People's Republic of China remained the first and second most common countries of birth for overseas-born people living in New Zealand.

India replaced Australia as the third most common country of birth. In 2006, India was the fifth most common. Other changes in the most common countries of birth between 2006 and 2013 were:

- Australia dropped to fourth most common (followed by South Africa, Fiji, Samoa, Philippines, Republic of Korea, and Scotland)
- Samoa dropped from fourth to seventh
- Scotland dropped from eighth to tenth.

Ten most common countries of birth in 2013

For the overseas-born census usually resident population
1961 Census and 2013 Census

Birthplace	Overseas-born living in New Zealand		Percent of overseas-born people	
	1961 Census	2013 Census	1961 Census	2013 Census
England	154,869	215,589	45.7	21.5
China, People's Republic of	4,194	89,121	1.2	8.9
India	4,752	67,176	1.4	6.7
Australia ⁽¹⁾	35,412	62,712	10.5	6.3
South Africa	2,190	54,276	0.6	5.4
Fiji	3,039	52,755	0.9	5.3
Samoa ⁽²⁾	4,449	50,661	1.3	5.1
Philippines	33	37,299	0.0	3.7
Korea, Republic of	..	26,601	..	2.7
Scotland	47,078	25,953	13.9	2.6

1. Includes Australian external territories.
2. At the time of the 1961 Census, Samoa was called Western Samoa.

Symbol: .. figure not available
Source: Statistics New Zealand

Scotland moved from second to tenth most common country of birth between 1961 and 2013

In 2013, 25,953 people living in New Zealand were born in Scotland (making up 2.6 percent of the overseas-born population), compared with 47,078 people in 1961 (13.9 percent).

Other significant changes between 1961 and 2013 included:

- In 1961, 4,194 people lived in New Zealand who were born in China, compared with 89,121 in 2013.
- In 1961, 4,752 people lived in New Zealand who were born in India, compared with 67,176 in 2013.
- In 1961, 154,869 people lived in New Zealand who were born in England (45.7 percent of the overseas-born population), compared with 215,589 in 2013 (21.5 percent of the overseas-born population).

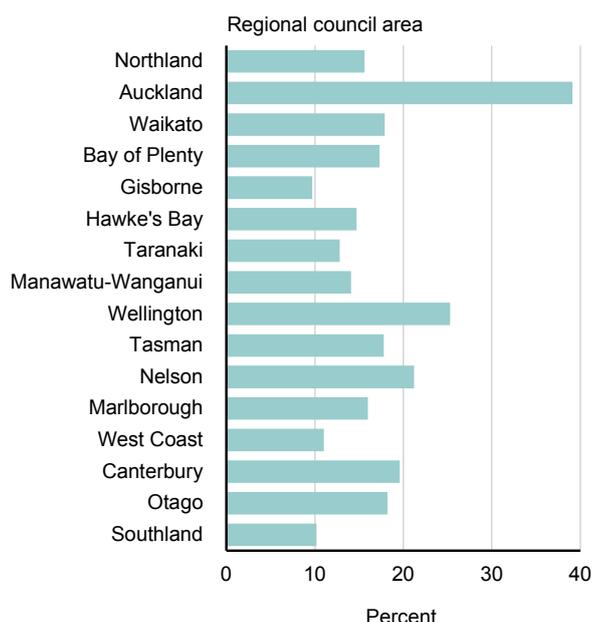
Auckland region has highest proportion of overseas-born

Of all regions, Auckland had the highest proportion of overseas-born people. Almost 2 in 5 people (39.1 percent) living in the Auckland region were born overseas, an increase from 37.0 percent in 2006.

The regions with the lowest proportions of overseas-born people were:

- Gisborne – less than 1 in 10 people (9.7 percent) in the Gisborne region were born overseas
- Southland – 10.2 percent
- West Coast – 11.0 percent.

Proportion of people in each regional council area who are overseas-born
2013 Census



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Auckland region had the highest proportions of people born in:

- the Pacific Islands (8.3 percent of people living in the Auckland region were born in the Pacific Islands)
- Asia (15.4 percent)
- the Middle East and Africa (3.8 percent).

Nelson region had the highest proportions of people born in:

- United Kingdom and Ireland (9.8 percent)
- North America (1.3 percent).

Nelson and Otago regions both had the highest proportion of people born in Australia (2.0 percent each).

Tasman region had the highest proportion of people born in Europe (excluding the United Kingdom and Ireland) (2.7 percent).

In contrast, Gisborne region had the highest proportion of people born in New Zealand (90.3 percent).

Overseas-born population is older than New Zealand-born population

In 2013, the median age for people born overseas was 41.8 years, compared with 36.2 years for people born in New Zealand. Of the 10 most common countries of birth:

- People born in England and Scotland were the oldest, with median ages of 51.3 and 58.0 years, respectively.
- People born in India and Australia were the youngest, with median ages of 32.9 and 33.6 years, respectively.
- India had the lowest proportion of female overseas-born, at 44.1 percent.
- The Philippines had the highest proportion of female overseas-born, at 56.9 percent.

10. Languages spoken

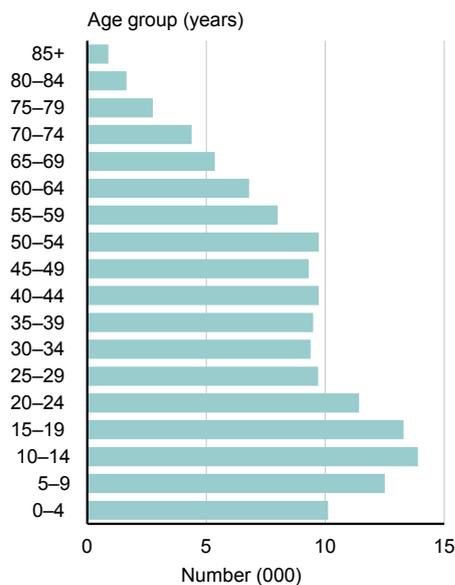
A quarter of te reo Māori speakers are children

Of the people who could hold a conversation in te reo Māori:

- almost a quarter (24.6 percent) were children
- only 1 in 10 (10.1 percent) were aged 65 years or over.

People who speak te reo Māori

By age group
2013 Census



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Of people who spoke more than one language, 139,959 (19.0 percent) spoke te reo Māori.

Hindi replaces French as the fourth most common language

Hindi jumped to the fourth most common language spoken in 2013, replacing French, which dropped to sixth place.

In 2013, the six most common languages spoken in New Zealand were:

- English – spoken by 3,819,972 people (96.1 percent of people who stated at least one language)
- te reo Māori – 148,395 people (3.7 percent)
- Samoan – 86,403 people (2.2 percent)
- Hindi – 66,309 people (1.7 percent)
- Northern Chinese (including Mandarin) – 52,263 people (1.3 percent)
- French – 49,125 people (1.2 percent).

In 2006, the six most common languages spoken were English, te reo Māori, Samoan, French, Hindi, and Yue (including Cantonese).

Big increases in Hindi and Northern Chinese

There were big increases in the number of people able to hold a conversation about everyday things in Hindi or Northern Chinese (including Mandarin).

The number of people who could speak Hindi nearly tripled between 2001 and 2013. Hindi was spoken by:

- 66,309 people in 2013 (up 48.7 percent from 2006)
- 44,589 people in 2006 (up 96.0 percent from 2001)
- 22,749 in 2001.

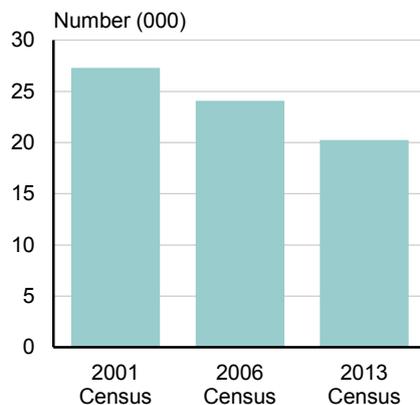
The number of people who could speak Northern Chinese (including Mandarin) almost doubled between 2001 and 2013. Northern Chinese was spoken by:

- 52,263 people in 2013 (up 26.3 percent from 2006)
- 41,391 people in 2006 (up 56.1 percent from 2001)
- 26,514 people in 2001.

Fewer people able to use New Zealand Sign Language than at previous censuses

In 2013, 20,235 people reported the ability to use New Zealand Sign Language, one of New Zealand's three official languages, along with English and te reo Māori. This was 16.0 percent fewer than in 2006. Similarly, fewer people reported being able to use New Zealand Sign Language in 2006 than in 2001.

**People who can use
New Zealand Sign Language**
2001, 2006, and 2013 Censuses



Source: Statistics New Zealand

In 2013, a total of 5,676 people reported they could communicate in all three of New Zealand's official languages – English, te reo Māori, and New Zealand Sign Language. This was a decrease of 6.3 percent (381 people), compared with 2006.

Number and proportion of multilingual people continues to increase

Over the three most recent censuses, the number and proportion of multilingual people (people who spoke more than one language) increased. More than one language was spoken by:

- 737,910 people (18.6 percent) in 2013
- 671,658 people (17.5 percent) in 2006
- 562,113 people (15.8 percent) in 2001.

A higher proportion of females were multilingual in 2013, with 19.3 percent of females (393,702 people) speaking more than one language, compared with 17.8 percent of males (344,208 people).

People born overseas were more likely to be multilingual than people born in New Zealand. Of people who reported speaking more than one language:

- 60.4 percent were born overseas
- 39.6 percent were born in New Zealand.

Of ethnic groups with more than 1,000 people, people of Taiwanese ethnicity were most likely to be multilingual (83.2 percent or 4,677 Taiwanese people reported they spoke more than one language).

The highest numbers of multilingual speakers lived in the Auckland, Wellington, and Canterbury regions:

- Auckland region – 377,550 people (51.2 percent of all multilingual speakers)
- Wellington region – 87,438 people (11.8 percent)
- Canterbury region – 59,718 people (8.1 percent).

Most common languages spoken⁽¹⁾ by multilingual people

For Auckland, Wellington, and Canterbury regions, and New Zealand
2013 Census

Rank	Auckland region		Wellington region		Canterbury region		New Zealand	
	Language spoken	Number	Language spoken	Number	Language spoken	Number	Language spoken	Number
1	English	372,615	English	86,757	English	59,310	English	730,743
2	Samoan	51,336	Māori	15,000	Māori	8,277	Māori	139,959
3	Hindi	47,157	Samoan	13,380	French	6,117	Samoan	76,953
4	Northern Chinese ⁽²⁾	32,649	French	8,886	German	4,731	Hindi	63,342
5	Māori	29,253	German	5,928	Samoan	4,059	French	48,777
6	Yue ⁽³⁾	25,044	Hindi	5,067	Northern Chinese	3,714	Northern Chinese	44,967
7	Tongan	23,088	Yue	4,137	Dutch	3,477	Yue	36,516

1. Includes all people who stated each language spoken, whether as their only language or as one of several languages. Where a person reported more than one language spoken, they were counted in each applicable group.

2. Includes Mandarin.

3. Includes Cantonese.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Almost all multilingual people (99.0 percent) spoke English, and almost 1 in 5 (19.0 percent or 139,959 people) spoke te reo Māori.

More than 87,000 people do not speak English

In 2013, of those people who stated they were able to have a conversation about everyday things in at least one language, 87,534 people did not include English as one of their languages. Although this number increased since 2006 (up from 81,939 people), the proportion of people who did not speak English remained the same, at 2.2 percent of all people who stated at least one language.

The most common languages spoken by non-English speakers were:

- Sinitic not further defined (including Chinese) (13.7 percent of all non-English speakers or 11,961 people)
- Yue (including Cantonese) (12.1 percent or 10,551 people)
- Northern Chinese (including Mandarin) (11.7 percent or 10,218 people)
- Samoan (11.2 percent or 9,825 people)
- te reo Māori (10.2 percent or 8,916 people).

Most of the people who did not include English as one of their languages were born overseas, and a large proportion (86.1 percent) were adults (aged 15 years or over).

Most non-English speakers (63.8 percent or 55,320 people) identified with at least one Asian ethnicity. However, in contrast to this, over a quarter (26.6 percent) of people who identified with at least one Asian ethnicity reported they spoke English only.

Of people who did not include English as one of their languages:

- 65.3 percent lived in the Auckland region
- 8.3 percent lived in the Wellington region
- 6.5 percent lived in the Canterbury region
- 5.7 percent lived in the Waikato region.

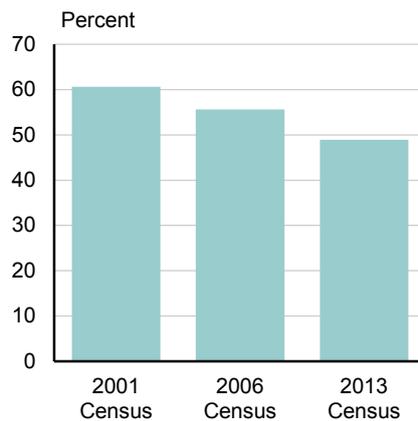
11. Religious affiliation

Fewer affiliate with Christian religions than in 2006

In 2013, the number of people who affiliated with a Christian religion (including Māori Christian) decreased to 1,906,398 (48.9 percent of all people who stated their religious affiliation), down from 2,082,942 (55.6 percent) in 2006.

People affiliated with Christian religions⁽¹⁾

2001, 2006, and 2013 Censuses



1. Includes Māori Christian.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Largest Christian religions

The five largest Christian denominations in 2013 were:

- Catholic – 492,105 people
- Anglican – 459,771 people
- Presbyterian, Congregational, and Reformed – 330,516 people
- Christian not further defined (Christian but with no denomination specified) – 216,177 people
- Methodist – 102,879 people.

Increases and decreases in Christian religions

Affiliation with some Christian religions decreased between 2006 and 2013, including:

- Māori Christian – down 19.2 percent
- Presbyterian, Congregational, and Reformed – down 17.5 percent
- Anglican – down 17.1 percent
- Methodist – down 15.5 percent
- Latter-day Saints – down 6.5 percent
- Pentecostal – down 6.2 percent
- Catholic – down 3.2 percent.

However, affiliation with some Christian religions increased between 2006 and 2013:

- Protestant not further defined (Protestant but with no denomination specified) – up 26.4 percent
- Evangelical, Born Again, and Fundamental – up 11.2 percent
- Christian not further defined (Christian but with no denomination specified) – up 6.1 percent
- Adventist – up 5.5 percent.

Catholic religion overtakes Anglican religion to be largest Christian denomination

Catholic was the largest Christian denomination in 2013. This was a change from 2006, when Anglican was the largest.

The number of people who affiliated with the Catholic religion increased between 2001 and 2006, but then decreased between 2006 and 2013:

- 2013 – 492,105 people
- 2006 – 508,437 people
- 2001 – 485,637 people.

The number of people who affiliated with the Anglican religion decreased between 2001 and 2006, and again between 2006 and 2013:

- 2013 – 459,771 people
- 2006 – 554,925 people
- 2001 – 584,793 people.

Catholic and Anglican religions by birthplace

Of the people who affiliated with the Catholic denomination in 2013, 71.0 percent (345,411 people) were born in New Zealand. For those born overseas, the most common countries of birth were:

- the Philippines – 5.6 percent of all overseas-born (27,264 people)
- England – 3.5 percent (16,974 people)
- Samoa – 2.4 percent (11,598 people).

Of the people who affiliated with the Anglican denomination in 2013, 79.5 percent (360,333 people) were born in New Zealand. For those born overseas, the most common country of birth was England (13.2 percent, or 59,655 people, were born in England).

Catholic and Anglican religions by ethnicity

One in 8 people affiliating with the Catholic denomination (12.5 percent or 61,242) identified with at least one Asian ethnic group, compared with 1.7 percent of people (7,707) who affiliated with the Anglican denomination.

Of people affiliating with the Catholic denomination, 10.6 percent (52,035) belonged to at least one Pacific peoples ethnic group. In comparison, 1.6 percent of people (7,365) who affiliated with the Anglican denomination belonged to a Pacific peoples ethnic group.

Catholic and Anglican religions by age

People affiliating with the Catholic religion were younger than those affiliating with Anglican:

- Of people affiliating with the Catholic religion, 64.5 percent (317,439 people) were under 50 years old, compared with 40.5 percent of those affiliating with Anglican (186,051 people).
- Of people affiliating with the Catholic religion, 20.0 percent were children (aged under 15 years), compared with 11.2 percent of those affiliating with Anglican.

Number affiliating with Sikh more than doubled since 2006

The number of people affiliating with the Sikh religion more than doubled since 2006. In 2013, 19,191 people indicated an affiliation with the Sikh religion, compared with 9,507 in 2006.

Of the 19,191 people who affiliated with the Sikh religion:

- 58.3 percent (11,184 people) were male
- more than a third (34.9 percent) were in their twenties (aged 20–29 years)
- 99.2 percent belonged to the Asian ethnic group.

Large increase in Hindu and Islam/Muslim

The number of people affiliating with Hinduism increased 39.6 percent since 2006 (from 64,392 people in 2006 to 89,919 people in 2013).

Of those who affiliated with Hinduism in 2013:

- more than 1 in 5 people (20.8 percent) were born in New Zealand
- 31.8 percent were born in the Pacific Islands
- 42.9 percent were born in Asia.

The number of people affiliating with the Muslim religion increased 27.9 percent since 2006 (from 36,072 people in 2006 to 46,149 people in 2013).

Of those who affiliated with Islam in 2013:

- more than a quarter (25.7 percent) were born in New Zealand
- 21.0 percent were born in the Pacific Islands
- 26.9 percent were born in Asia
- 23.3 percent were born in the Middle East and Africa.

People reporting no religion continues to increase

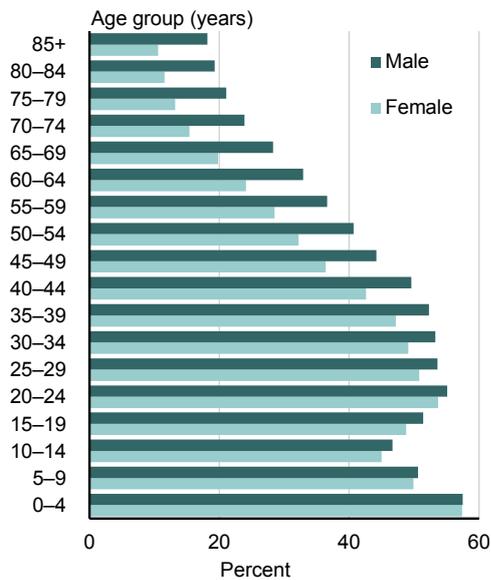
The number and proportion of people indicating they had no religion increased between 2006 and 2013. In 2013, more than 2 in 5 people (41.9 percent) reported they had no religion. For the three most recent censuses, the numbers of people reporting no religion were:

- 2013 – 1,635,345 people (41.9 percent of all people who stated their religious affiliation)
- 2006 – 1,297,104 people (34.6 percent)
- 2001 – 1,028,049 people (29.6 percent).

Younger people were more likely to indicate they had no religion. More males than females stated they had no religion, particularly among people aged 65 years or over.

People stating no religion

By sex
2013 Census



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Of the major ethnic groups, people identifying with the European and Māori ethnic groups were most likely to state they had no religion. Of people who identified with at least one European ethnic group, 46.9 percent indicated they had no religion. People identifying with the Middle Eastern/Latin American/African major ethnic group were least likely to report they had no religion.

The numbers of people reporting no religion were:

- European – 1,356,816 people (46.9 percent of this ethnic group)
- Māori – 263,517 people (46.3 percent)
- Asian – 138,690 people (30.3 percent)
- Pacific peoples – 48,975 people (17.5 percent)
- Middle Eastern/Latin American/African – 7,680 people (17.0 percent).



Definitions and information about the data

Definitions

Adult: a person aged 15 years or over.

Census usually resident population count: a count of all people who usually live in, and were present in, New Zealand on census night. The census usually resident population count of an area is a count of all people who usually live in that area and were present in New Zealand on census night.

Child: a person aged under 15 years.

Denomination: the church or religious sect that forms a subgroup of a religion. Denominations of a particular religion share the same principles but differ from each other in aspects such as the form of worship, or how they are governed.

Ethnicity/ethnic group: the ethnic group or groups a person identifies with or has a sense of belonging to. It is a measure of cultural affiliation (in contrast to race, ancestry, nationality, or citizenship). Ethnicity is self-perceived and a person can belong to more than one ethnic group. A person belonging to more than one ethnic group is counted once in each applicable group at the level of the classification that is being used.

Language spoken: the language(s) a person can speak or use. This includes New Zealand Sign Language and other sign languages. A person can report speaking or using more than one language. A person who reports speaking more than one language is counted once in each applicable group at the level of the classification that is being used.

Major ethnic group: there are six major ethnic groups: European, Māori, Pacific peoples, Asian, Middle Eastern/Latin American/African, and other ethnicity. (The major ethnic groups are the categories in level one of the ethnicity classification.)

Median age: half are younger, and half are older than this age.

Multilingual people: people who can speak more than one language.

Not elsewhere classified (nec): responses that have no appropriate category, because they are infrequent or unanticipated.

Not further defined (nfd): categories of ethnicity, birthplace, language spoken, and religious affiliation may include 'not further defined' in their descriptors. Responses have been coded to these categories when some information has been provided but not enough to code them to a more specific category. For example:

- if someone gave one of their religious affiliations as 'Christian' without specifying the denomination, then it was coded to 'Christian not further defined'
- if someone gave one of their religious affiliations as 'Protestant' without providing any more specific information, then it was coded to 'Protestant not further defined'.

Religious affiliation: the self-identified association of a person with a religion, denomination, or sub-denominational religious group. A person can affiliate with more than one religion. A person affiliating with more than one religion is counted once in each applicable group at the level of the classification that is being used.

Religion: a set of beliefs and practices that usually involves acknowledgement of a divine or higher being or power, and that guides people's conduct and morals.

Years since arrival in New Zealand: the number of completed years up to census night, since a person born overseas first arrived to live in New Zealand as a permanent or long-term resident. This includes any intervening absences, whether temporary or long term.

Information about the data

Ethnic group, language spoken, and religious affiliation responses

People could give more than one response on their individual census form for their ethnic group, language spoken, or religious affiliation. Where a person reported more than one ethnic group, language, or religious affiliation, they were counted in each applicable group.

Comparability with past censuses

Because the 2011 Census was cancelled after the Canterbury earthquake on 22 February 2011, the gap between this census and the last one is seven years. The change in the data between 2006 and 2013 may be greater than in the usual five-year gap between censuses. Be careful when comparing trends.

Subject population

All 2013 data in this report is based on the census usually resident population count from New Zealand's 2013 Census of Population and Dwellings, held on 5 March 2013. The 2006 and 2001 data that has been included for comparison purposes is based on the census usually resident population counts from New Zealand's 2006 and 2001 Censuses, respectively.

Calculation of percentages

Unless otherwise stated, all percentages and ratios in this report exclude responses that cannot be classified (eg 'not stated', 'response unidentifiable', 'response outside scope').

Confidentiality

The data in this report has been randomly rounded to protect confidentiality. Individual figures may not add up to totals, and values for the same data may vary in different tables.



List of available tables

The following tables are available in Excel format from the 'Available files' box next to the table of contents. They are not suitable for printing. If you have problems viewing the files, see [opening files and PDFs](#).

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35. Religious affiliation (total responses) by ethnic group (grouped total responses), 2013 Census



More information

- [2013 Census](#)
- [2013 Census products and services release schedule](#)

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