

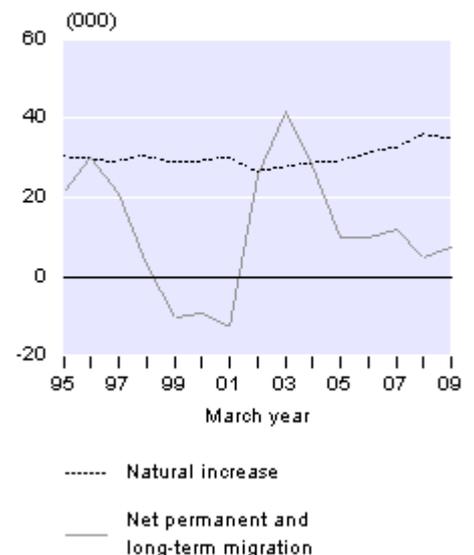
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## National Population Estimates: March 2009 quarter

### Highlights

- The estimated resident population of New Zealand was 4.31 million at 31 March 2009.
- Population growth was 42,800 (1.0 percent) during the March 2009 year.
- Natural increase and net migration contributed 35,300 and 7,500, respectively, during the March 2009 year.
- The median ages were 35.5 years for males and 37.3 years for females at 31 March 2009.

Components of Annual Population Change  
1995–2009



Estimated Resident Population			
Age group (years)	At 31 March 2008	At 31 March 2009 P	Percentage change 2008–09 P
All ages	4,263,600	4,306,400	1.0
Under 15	889,500	891,200	0.2
15–39	1,477,800	1,484,200	0.4
40–64	1,360,800	1,382,100	1.6
65+	535,500	548,900	2.5
P provisional			

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See also *National Population Estimates: March 2009 quarter* – Media release.

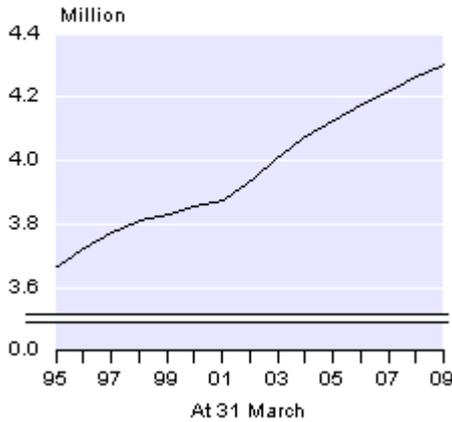
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# Commentary

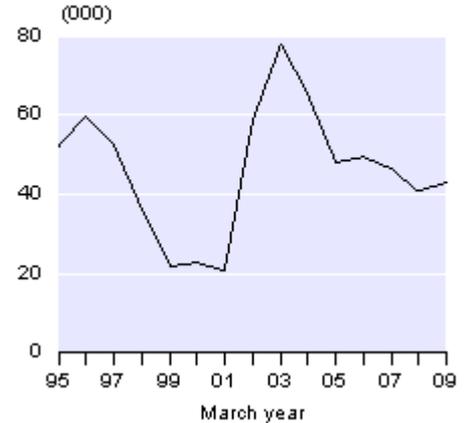
## Estimated resident population at 31 March 2009

The estimated resident population of New Zealand was 4,306,400 at 31 March 2009. The estimated resident populations for males and females were 2,112,400 and 2,194,000, respectively. At 31 March 2009, there were 96 males for every 100 females.

**Estimated Resident Population**  
1995–2009



**Annual Population Change**  
1995–2009



## Annual population change

In the March 2009 year, the estimated resident population grew by 42,800 (1.0 percent), compared with 40,800 (1.0 percent) in the previous March year. The population growth in the March 2009 year was slightly lower than the average annual increase of 47,300 (1.2 percent) recorded during the 10-year period ended 31 March 2009.

The population growth for the March 2009 year resulted from a natural increase (excess of births over deaths) of 35,300, and a net permanent and long-term migration gain of 7,500. Natural increase was down slightly from the previous year (36,100), which had the highest level of natural increase for a March year since 1973. In contrast, the net migration gain was higher than in the March 2008 year (4,700). Historically, natural increase has been the dominant element in population growth. During the March 2009 year, natural increase accounted for 83 percent of population growth.

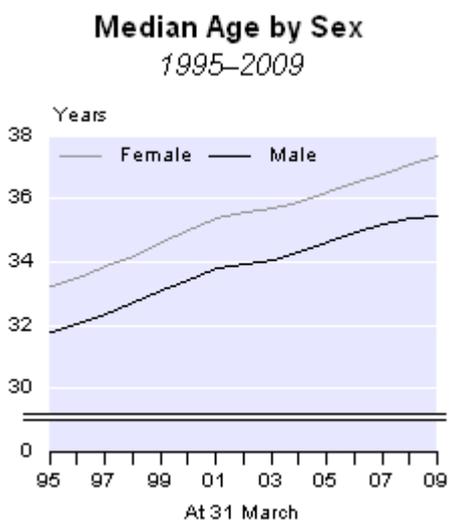
## Quarterly population change

During the March 2009 quarter, New Zealand's estimated resident population grew by 14,800 (0.3 percent). This growth resulted from a natural increase of 9,700, and a net permanent and long-term migration gain of 5,100. By comparison, in the March 2008 quarter, net migration (1,400) was significantly less while natural increase (9,600) was similar, resulting in a quarterly population growth of 11,000 (0.3 percent).

## Median age

New Zealand has an ageing population because of a shift to sustained low fertility and low mortality rates. This is observed in other OECD countries also. At 31 March 2009, half of the New Zealand population was over the age of 36.5 years, compared with a median age of 33.9 years a decade earlier.

The median age for males is now 35.5 years, while for females it is 37.3 years. Over the past decade, the median age has increased 2.4 years for males and 2.7 years for females. The lower median age for males reflects their lower life expectancy of 78.0 years, compared with 82.2 years for females (Complete period life tables 2005–2007).



## Changes in age composition

The age composition of New Zealand's population has changed over the past decade. Between the 1999 and 2009 March years, the number of children (aged 0–14 years) grew to 891,200, an average annual increase of 1,400 (0.2 percent). The increase for the year ended 31 March 2009 of 1,700 (0.2 percent) was just above the annual average for the decade. At 31 March 2009, children accounted for 21 percent of the New Zealand population, down from 23 percent at 31 March 1999.

At 31 March 2009, the population aged 15–39 years reached 1,484,200, an increase of 6,300 (0.4 percent) compared with the March 2008 figure. In the 10 years ended March 2009, the average annual increase for this age group was similar, at 6,500 (0.4 percent). The population aged 15–39 years accounted for 34 percent of the New Zealand population at 31 March 2009, down from 37 percent a decade earlier.

Thirty-two percent of the population were aged 40–64 years at 31 March 2009, up from 28 percent in 1999. This age group increased by 21,400 (1.6 percent), to reach 1,382,100 in the year ended 31 March 2009, which was below the average annual increase of 29,200 (2.4 percent) for the 10 years ended March 2009.

During the March 2009 year, the population aged 65–79 years increased by 8,900 (2.3 percent), to reach 404,100. Between the 1999 and 2009 March years the population aged 65–79 years grew at an average annual rate of 1.6 percent (6,100). The proportion of the population aged 65–79 years was 9.4 percent at 31 March 2009, up from 9.0 percent in 1999.

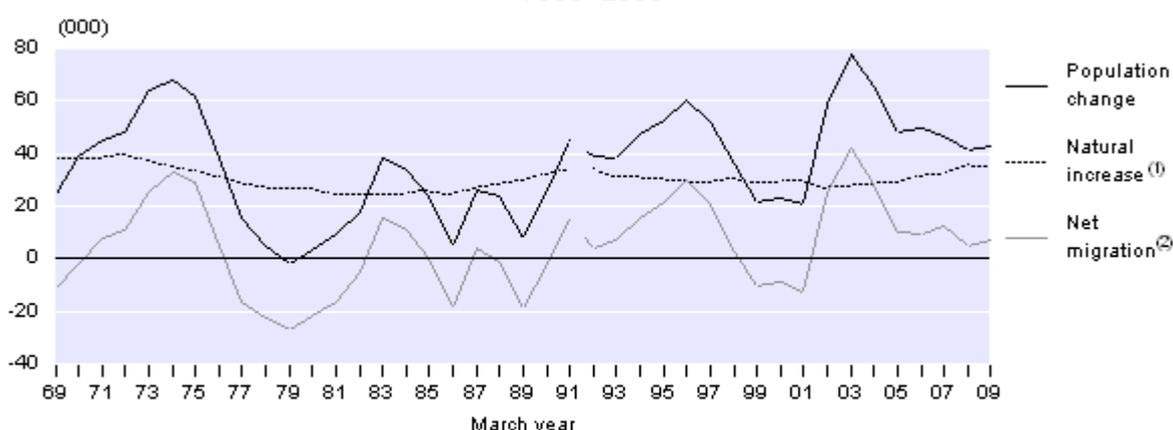
There was also a slight increase in the proportion of the population aged 80 years and over (80+), from 2.7 to 3.4 percent in the 10 years ended March 2009. The 80+ population reached 144,800 at 31 March 2009, an average annual increase of 4,200 (3.4 percent) over the decade. The rate of growth in this age group varied significantly by sex. The average annual increase for males for the decade was 4.8 percent, compared with 2.7 percent for females. In the year ended 31 March 2009, the male population in the 80+ age group increased by 4.9 percent (2,600), to reach 55,500, while the female population increased by 2.1 percent (1,900), to 89,300.

## Trends in the components of population change 1969–2009

The two components of population change are natural increase and net migration. Between 1969 and 2009, the majority of New Zealand's population growth came from natural increase. From a high of 39,400 in the March 1972 year, annual natural increase fell to a low of 24,300 in 1986 and then rose to 34,300 in the March 1992 year before falling back to around 30,000 during 1993–2001. In the 2002 March year natural increase fell to 26,600, before rising to over 35,000 in the 2008 and 2009 years.

Net migration's contribution to annual population change between 1969 and 2009 fluctuated significantly, ranging from a net gain of 41,600 in the March 2003 year to a net loss of 26,500 in 1979. Overall, net migration provided one-fifth of New Zealand's total population growth between 1969 and 2009. Annual net migration gain contributed strongly to population growth during 1973–75, 1983, 1995–97, and 2002–04, accounting for more than one-third of the total population increase in these March years. Conversely, significant annual net migration losses were recorded in the 1977–81, 1986, 1989, and 1999–2001 March years, which partly offset the population gains from natural increase in these years.

**Components of Annual Population Change**  
1969–2009



(1) Excess of births over deaths.

(2) Excess of all arrivals over all departures for 1969–91; excess of permanent and long-term arrivals over permanent and long-term departures for 1992–2009.

**Note:** Population change and natural increase for 1969–91 refers to the de facto population, while from 1992 onwards refers to the resident population.

## 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/) can be viewed on the Statistics NZ website, <http://www.stats.govt.nz/>.

## Different population concepts

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 of this release.

## Final figures

The population estimates for the March 2009 year quoted above, and contained in the appended tables, are provisional. Processing of final statistics will be completed in August 2009. In addition, population estimates after 30 June 2006 will be revised following results from the next Census of Population and Dwellings.

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### ***Next release ...***

*National Population Estimates: June 2009 quarter will be released on 14 August 2009.*

## **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. It includes visitors from overseas who are present 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.

### **Base population**

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.

### **Resident population estimates**

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.

## **Median age**

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

## **Final figures**

Final figures for the estimated resident population at 31 March 2009 will be available in August 2009. In addition, population estimates after 30 June 2006 will be revised following results from the next Census of Population and Dwellings.

## **More information**

For more information, refer to the [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 groups
3. Estimated resident population, by five-year age groups

Table 1

**Estimated Resident Population and Population Change**

INFOS series:	Estimated resident population <sup>(1)</sup> DPEQ.SDAC DPEA.SDAC	Population change		Population change due to:	
		Number <sup>(2)</sup>	Percent	Natural increase <sup>(3)</sup>	Net permanent and long-term migration <sup>(4)</sup>
<b>Quarter ended</b>					
30 Jun 2006	4,184,600	6,400	0.15	7,600	-1,200
30 Sep 2006	4,196,600	12,000	0.29	7,100	5,000
31 Dec 2006	4,211,400	14,800	0.35	8,700	6,100
31 Mar 2007	4,222,700	11,300	0.27	9,100	2,200
30 Jun 2007	4,228,300	5,600	0.13	8,800	-3,200
30 Sep 2007	4,239,900	11,600	0.27	8,400	3,200
31 Dec 2007	4,252,600	12,700	0.30	9,400	3,300
31 Mar 2008	4,263,600	11,000	0.26	9,600	1,400
30 Jun 2008	4,268,900	5,300	0.12	8,500	-3,200
30 Sep 2008	4,279,800	11,000	0.26	8,100	2,900
31 Dec 2008	4,291,600	11,700	0.27	9,100	2,700
31 Mar 2009 P	4,306,400	14,800	0.35	9,700	5,100
<b>Year ended 31 March</b>					
1999	3,832,900	21,800	0.57	29,200	-10,200
2000	3,855,900	22,900	0.60	29,100	-9,000
2001	3,876,900	21,000	0.55	30,200	-12,600
2002	3,935,700	58,800	1.52	26,600	25,600
2003	4,013,300	77,600	1.97	27,400	41,600
2004	4,078,700	65,400	1.63	28,700	28,000
2005	4,126,600	47,800	1.17	29,100	10,000
2006	4,176,100	49,500	1.20	31,100	9,700
2007	4,222,700	46,700	1.12	32,400	12,100
2008	4,263,600	40,800	0.97	36,100	4,700
2009 P	4,306,400	42,800	1.00	35,300	7,500

- (1) The estimated resident population is based on the census usually resident population count, updated for residents missed or counted more than once by the census (net census undercount); residents temporarily overseas on census night; and births, deaths, and net permanent and long-term (PLT) migration between census night and the date of the estimate.
- (2) Natural increase plus net PLT migration. The difference between annual population change and the sum of natural increase and net PLT migration in years up to 31 March 2007 is due to intercensal adjustments.
- (3) Excess of births over deaths. Births and deaths have been estimated by date of occurrence. They differ from births and deaths registered over the same period.
- (4) Permanent and long-term arrivals include overseas migrants who arrive in New Zealand intending to stay for a period of 12 months or more (or permanently), plus New Zealand residents returning after an absence of 12 months or more. Permanent and long-term departures include New Zealand residents departing for an intended period of 12 months or more (or permanently), plus overseas visitors departing New Zealand after a stay of 12 months or more.

**Note:** Individual figures may not sum to stated totals due to rounding. All derived figures have been calculated using data of greater precision than that published.

**Symbol:**

P provisional

Table 2

**Estimated Resident Population<sup>(1)</sup>**  
By broad age groups

At 31 March	Age group (years)					Median age (years)
	All ages	Under 15	15–39	40–64	65+	
<b>People</b>						
1999	3,832,900	877,100	1,419,300	1,089,900	446,600	33.9
2000	3,855,900	878,700	1,406,900	1,118,100	452,100	34.2
2001	3,876,900	877,800	1,392,700	1,147,200	459,200	34.6
2002	3,935,700	882,600	1,404,300	1,182,800	466,000	34.8
2003	4,013,300	888,700	1,428,500	1,222,300	473,900	34.9
2004	4,078,700	892,800	1,444,900	1,258,500	482,600	35.1
2005	4,126,600	891,200	1,453,300	1,289,000	493,100	35.4
2006	4,176,100	888,600	1,463,900	1,315,400	508,200	35.8
2007	4,222,700	887,900	1,473,700	1,338,000	523,200	36.0
2008	4,263,600	889,500	1,477,800	1,360,800	535,500	36.3
2009 P	4,306,400	891,200	1,484,200	1,382,100	548,900	36.5
<b>Males</b>						
1999	1,884,400	450,400	699,300	540,400	194,300	33.1
2000	1,893,500	451,300	691,800	553,100	197,400	33.4
2001	1,901,400	450,700	684,000	565,900	200,800	33.8
2002	1,930,300	452,700	690,200	583,000	204,400	34.0
2003	1,969,000	455,600	702,900	601,600	208,900	34.1
2004	1,999,900	457,600	710,300	618,700	213,300	34.3
2005	2,022,100	456,800	713,500	632,800	219,000	34.6
2006	2,044,700	455,200	717,700	644,600	227,200	34.9
2007	2,067,700	454,700	723,500	654,600	235,000	35.2
2008	2,089,200	455,600	727,400	664,700	241,500	35.4
2009 P	2,112,400	456,700	733,100	673,900	248,600	35.5
<b>Females</b>						
1999	1,948,500	426,700	720,000	549,500	252,300	34.6
2000	1,962,400	427,500	715,100	565,100	254,700	35.0
2001	1,975,600	427,000	708,800	581,300	258,400	35.4
2002	2,005,400	430,000	714,100	599,800	261,600	35.6
2003	2,044,300	433,000	725,500	620,700	265,000	35.7
2004	2,078,900	435,200	734,600	639,800	269,300	35.9
2005	2,104,500	434,400	739,800	656,300	274,100	36.2
2006	2,131,300	433,400	746,100	670,700	281,100	36.5
2007	2,155,000	433,200	750,200	683,400	288,200	36.8
2008	2,174,400	433,800	750,400	696,000	294,100	37.1
2009 P	2,194,000	434,400	751,000	708,200	300,300	37.3

(1) The estimated resident population is based on the census usually resident population count, updated for residents missed or counted more than once by the census (net census undercount); residents temporarily overseas on census night; and births, deaths, and net permanent and long-term migration between census night and the date of the estimate.

**Note:** Individual figures may not sum to stated totals due to rounding.

**Symbol:**

P provisional

Table 3

**Estimated Resident Population<sup>(1)</sup>**  
*By five-year age groups*

Age group (years)	At 31 March								
	Males			Females			People		
	1999	2008	2009 P	1999	2008	2009 P	1999	2008	2009 P
Under 5	147,270	152,780	156,650	139,180	145,680	148,480	286,450	298,460	305,130
5–9	157,340	147,550	147,430	148,630	140,720	140,800	305,970	288,270	288,230
10–14	145,840	155,280	152,670	138,870	147,430	145,140	284,700	302,720	297,810
15–19	138,450	164,330	165,460	133,060	157,670	157,940	271,510	322,000	323,400
20–24	129,910	149,610	153,840	130,230	147,000	148,940	260,130	296,610	302,780
25–29	135,750	133,860	138,030	143,980	138,870	141,620	279,730	272,730	279,650
30–34	142,350	130,290	128,830	151,930	142,380	140,330	294,280	272,670	269,160
35–39	152,860	149,300	146,980	160,780	164,500	162,200	313,640	313,810	309,180
40–44	139,170	152,010	150,370	143,900	162,880	162,010	283,070	314,900	312,380
45–49	126,280	154,680	156,180	127,600	163,650	166,030	253,890	318,330	322,210
50–54	113,830	135,000	138,320	113,950	139,950	143,720	227,770	274,960	282,040
55–59	89,670	120,490	121,250	90,330	123,590	124,960	180,010	244,080	246,220
60–64	71,440	102,560	107,800	73,750	105,940	111,500	145,190	208,500	219,300
65–69	64,790	80,440	82,930	67,590	85,040	87,050	132,380	165,480	169,980
70–74	55,860	59,850	61,880	62,970	65,170	67,610	118,820	125,020	129,490
75–79	38,890	48,250	48,250	53,380	56,430	56,360	92,280	104,680	104,610
80–84	21,390	32,500	33,650	36,750	44,840	45,290	58,140	77,340	78,930
85–89	10,020	14,900	16,100	21,420	27,990	29,050	31,440	42,890	45,140
90+	3,340	5,530	5,790	10,230	14,600	14,950	13,570	20,130	20,740
<b>All ages</b>	<b>1,884,400</b>	<b>2,089,200</b>	<b>2,112,400</b>	<b>1,948,500</b>	<b>2,174,400</b>	<b>2,194,000</b>	<b>3,832,900</b>	<b>4,263,600</b>	<b>4,306,400</b>

(1) The estimated resident population is based on the census usually resident population count, updated for residents missed or counted more than once by the census (net census undercount); residents temporarily overseas on census night; and births, deaths, and net permanent and long-term migration between census night and the date of the estimate.

**Note:** Individual figures may not sum to stated totals due to rounding.

**Symbol:**

P provisional