

National Population Estimates: At 30 June 2013

Embargoed until 10:45am – 14 August 2013

Key facts

During the June 2013 year:

- New Zealand's population grew by 37,700 (0.9 percent).
- Natural increase was 29,800 and net migration gain was 7,900.

At 30 June 2013:

- The estimated resident population of New Zealand was 4.47 million.
- There were 2.20 million males and 2.27 million females in New Zealand, equivalent to 97 males for every 100 females.
- The median ages for males and females were 35.8 and 38.4 years, respectively.



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Estimated resident population			
Age group (years)	At 30 June 2012	At 30 June 2013 P	Percentage change 2012–13 P
All ages	4,433,000	4,470,800	0.9
0–14	892,300	890,900	-0.2
15–39	1,497,000	1,505,000	0.5
40–64	1,432,300	1,439,700	0.5
65+	611,400	635,200	3.9

Symbol: P provisional

Dallas Welch
Acting Government Statistician

14 August 2013
ISSN 1178-0576

Commentary

- Population growth remains below one percent
- Median age continues to rise
- Growing numbers of people in the older age groups
- Rapid growth in the 65+ age group

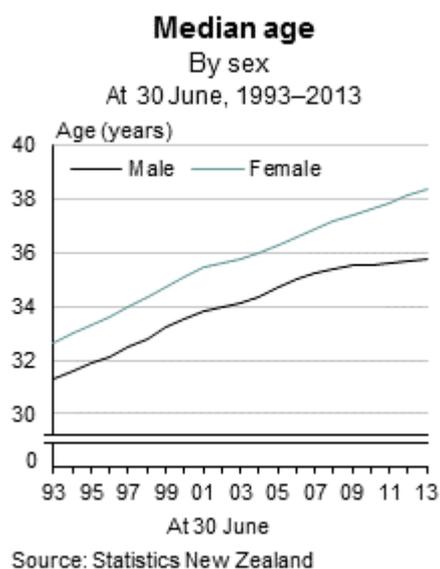
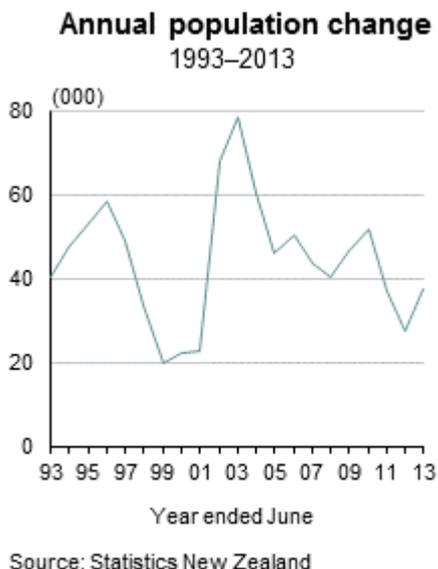
This information release contains provisional estimates of the resident population of New Zealand at 30 June 2013. This release does not include any results from the 2013 Census of Population and Dwellings, which is still being processed. National population estimates give the best available measure of the size and age-sex structure of the population usually living in New Zealand.

Population growth remains below one percent

In the June 2013 year, the estimated resident population grew by 37,700 (0.9 percent) to reach 4,470,800. This follows an increase of 27,900 (0.6 percent) in the year to June 2012.

Population growth in the year to June 2013 was due to a natural increase (more births than deaths) of 29,800 and a net international migration gain of 7,900. Compared with the previous June year, natural increase has fallen by 1,300, while net international migration has increased by 11,100. The natural increase for the year to June 2013 was the lowest since 2005, mainly due to a decrease in the number of births.

Five years ago, New Zealand's estimated resident population was 4.3 million. Since then, the population has grown by about 200,000, which is approximately equivalent to the population of Wellington city. Our population is expected to continue growing. Latest national population projections (median projection) indicate that by 2031 there will be 5.2 million people in New Zealand.



Median age continues to rise

At 30 June 2013, half of New Zealand's population was over 37.1 years, compared with 32.0 years in June 1993. New Zealand's population is ageing, due to sustained low fertility and increasing life expectancy. Latest [national population projections](#) (median projection) indicate that by 2031 the median age of the New Zealand population could reach 39.9 years.

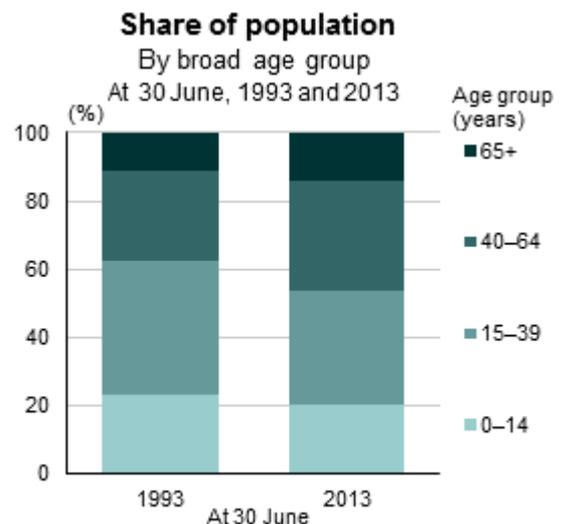
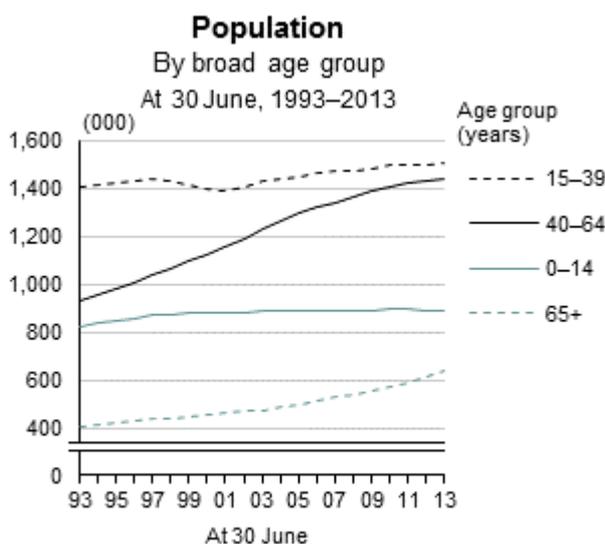
Over the last two decades, the median age has increased more for females (up 5.7 years) than for males (up 4.5 years). The median age is now 38.4 years for females and 35.8 years for males. The lower median age for males partly reflects their lower life expectancy. On average, males can expect to live 79.4 years, compared with 83.0 years for females (see [New Zealand abridged period life table, 2010–12](#)).

Growing numbers of people in the older age groups

The age structure of New Zealand's population has changed considerably over the last two decades. At 30 June 2013:

- **Children (aged 0–14 years)** accounted for 20 percent (890,900) of the population, down from 23 percent in 1993.
- **The younger working-age population (aged 15–39 years)** remained the largest group, accounting for 34 percent (1,505,000) of the population, down from 39 percent in 1993. Between 1993 and 2013, the population aged 15–39 years increased by only 7 percent.
- **The older working-age population (aged 40–64 years)** made up 32 percent (1,439,700) of the population, up from 26 percent in 1993. Between 1993 and 2013, those aged 40–64 years increased by 54 percent. Over this period, the gap between those aged 40–64 and 15–39 years has narrowed substantially.
- **The population aged 65 years and over (aged 65+)** accounted for 14 percent (635,200) of the population, up from 11 percent in 1993.

The [interactive population pyramid](#) for New Zealand is a graphical presentation of New Zealand's changing age-sex distribution over time.

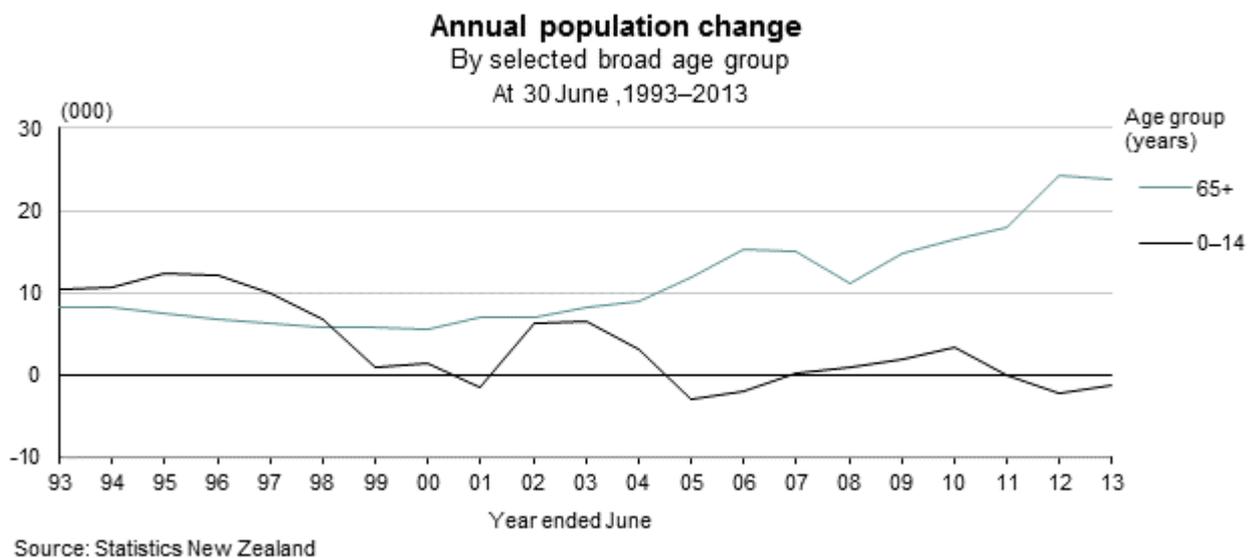


Rapid growth in the 65+ age group

The number of people aged 65+ has more than doubled since the early 1980s to reach 635,200. The population aged 65+ now makes up 14 percent of the total population, compared with 10 percent in 1980, and will continue to grow over the next two decades. Latest [national population projections](#) (median projection) indicate that the number is likely to double again by 2040.

In the last two years, the population aged 65+ has increased by 48,200. In 2011, the [baby boomers](#) (those born from 1946 to 1965) started to enter the 65+ age group. As a result, the population aged 65–69 is now growing faster than all other five-year age groups.

In contrast, the number of children (those aged 0–14) in New Zealand has stayed relatively constant. In the 10-year period ending June 2013, the number of children has only increased slightly, from 890,000 to 890,900.



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 available 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: 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 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 intend to be in or away from New Zealand, and where they last lived or intend to live for the next 12 months or more.

- **International migrant arrivals:** people from overseas arriving intending 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 intended 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 2013 quarter – tables will be released on 13 November 2013.

[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 [NZ.stat](#).

[New Zealand abridged period life tables, 2010–12](#) 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 release becomes annual](#)

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 release becomes annual

From this release, we will publish the national population estimates as an annual information release. It will be published in mid-August each year, for the year ended June.

National population estimates data for March, June, September, and December will be available in Infoshare, but information releases and media releases will only be produced for the June quarter.

National population estimates – date and type of releases for 2013 and 2014		
Period covered	Date of release	Type of release
Year ended June 2013	August 2013	Information release and table update
Year ended September 2013	November 2013	Table update only
Year ended December 2013	February 2014	Table update only
Year ended March 2014	May 2014	Table update only
Year ended June 2014	August 2014	Information release and table update

General information

Base population

The estimated resident population at 30 June 2006 forms the base population for deriving these 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 we use the components of population change (births, deaths, and international migration) 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 that we use 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. We do 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, we will be able 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 table updates and an annual information and media release

in mid-August. We release provisional estimates 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 than deaths, 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.

Death estimates

The final estimate of deaths in a quarter is taken as those deaths that occurred in the reference quarter, either registered in the reference quarter or in the subsequent 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. We determine the settings for each component (births, deaths, and net migration) in advance of each quarter, based on recent trends, and they do not necessarily reflect actual population change. We derive these settings 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 was cancelled, we will now produce 2006-base post-censal estimates until mid-2014.

2013-base population estimates

The 2013 Census took place on Tuesday, 5 March 2013. See the [2013 Census website](#) for information about the census.

We will release the first 2013-base post-censal estimates in August 2014. In addition, all population estimates after 30 June 2006 will be revised, based on results from the 2013-base estimated resident population.

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.

We calculated all derived figures in this release using data of greater precision than that published.

More information

See [Information about the population estimates](#) for more detailed information on the methods used to calculate the estimates.

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: info@stats.govt.nz

For technical information contact:

Simon Pang or Nathaniel Matheson-Dunning

Christchurch 03 964 8700

Email: info@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

Subscription service:

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

Correction notifications:

[Subscribe to receive an email](#) if a correction notice is published for National Population Estimates.

[Unsubscribe to correction notifications](#) for National Population Estimates.

[Subscribe to all](#) to receive an email if a correction notice is published for any of our information releases.

[Unsubscribe to all](#) if you change your mind.

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 of New Zealand and population change
2. Estimated resident population of New Zealand, by broad age group
3. Estimated resident population of New Zealand, 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**

The time series can be downloaded in Excel or comma delimited format. More information [about Infoshare](#) can be found on our website.