

Media backgrounder

What is Infoshare?

Infoshare is a free-of-charge online tool that gives you access to a range of data such as:

- economic information (eg price indexes and production figures)
- demographic measures (eg births, deaths and life expectancy)
- arrival and departure data
- wholesale and retail trade information
- exports and imports data
- building consents data.

You can:

- find tables by searching, or browsing through a list
- customise your table by defining what variables and values to include
- view your table on screen
- download your table in Excel or comma separated variable (CSV) format
- print your table.

How can people get this new information?

Infoshare is available on the Statistics New Zealand website – www.stats.govt.nz. This information can also be obtained from the Statistics NZ Information Centre, phone toll-free on 0508 525 525 or email info@stats.govt.nz.

Why has Infoshare been developed?

Infoshare was developed as part of the [Making More Information Freely Available](#) initiative – a programme for making a larger range of statistical information available for free. This information is valuable for businesses, local government, communities and the public.

The data in Infoshare was previously only available to paying subscribers through a system called INFOS. Infoshare was developed to replace INFOS and make the data available from our website. Existing users of this data are from a wide range of organisations including businesses, industry organisations, financial institutions, universities, media, regional and local government, and community organisations.

How will it help people?

Having this information available for free allows anyone to explore the information without spending any money.

Examples of possible use include:

- Businesses providing products and services to the building industry monitoring the number of building consents issued in particular areas, so that they can target their products.
- Tourism organisations looking at tourist numbers over time, to plan their services more effectively for seasonal fluctuations or to assess market share.
- Lawyers using price index figures for inflation adjustment clauses in contracts.

- A regional council using the business statistics to plan and evaluate initiatives to attract industry to its region.

Infoshare is updated within five minutes of the official release of new information, which is important especially for users of economic data.

Infoshare also holds data going back in time, which allows users to evaluate trends or seasonal changes.

What is the next step in the development of Infoshare?

Enhancements to Infoshare are planned for the coming months. These include the ability to find and download detailed export and import data, and save queries for re-use.

What are other projects in the Making More Information Freely Available initiative?

So far, Statistics NZ has released [statistical data](#) and infrastructure aimed primarily at increasing the accessibility of statistics for business decision making.

So, how many construction companies in Taranaki employ between 10 and 19 people?

In 2007 there were 60 companies fitting this category. This was up from 44 in 2006, and 35 in 2005.

And how many holidaymakers from Pakistan and Kazakhstan?

For the year ended December 2007, 101 of the 523 visitors from Pakistan came to New Zealand for a holiday. A holiday was the main purpose of the visit for 46 of the 119 visitors from Kazakhstan.

Where can I get more information?

Contact Anne Hannah, media relations advisor on 04 931 4630 or 021 285 9191.

For data enquiries, contact the Statistics NZ Information Centre on 0508 525 525 (toll-free) or email info@stats.govt.nz.