

The changing face of Aotearoa New Zealand

A Special Report based on the Key Results of the 2018 Census

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Rangahau
Aotearoa

Research
New Zealand

Purpose

The purpose of this special report is to provide highlights from the 2018 Census dataset in order to describe the changing face of Aotearoa New Zealand

Much of the data presented in this report is based on data variables that Statistics New Zealand has given a 'high' or 'very high' quality rating.

This includes the following variables: population count (usually resident), age, gender, ethnicity, Māori descent, and usual residence address (meshblock).

Where appropriate, we have also used projections to describe what Aotearoa New Zealand might look like in the immediate future.



Key results

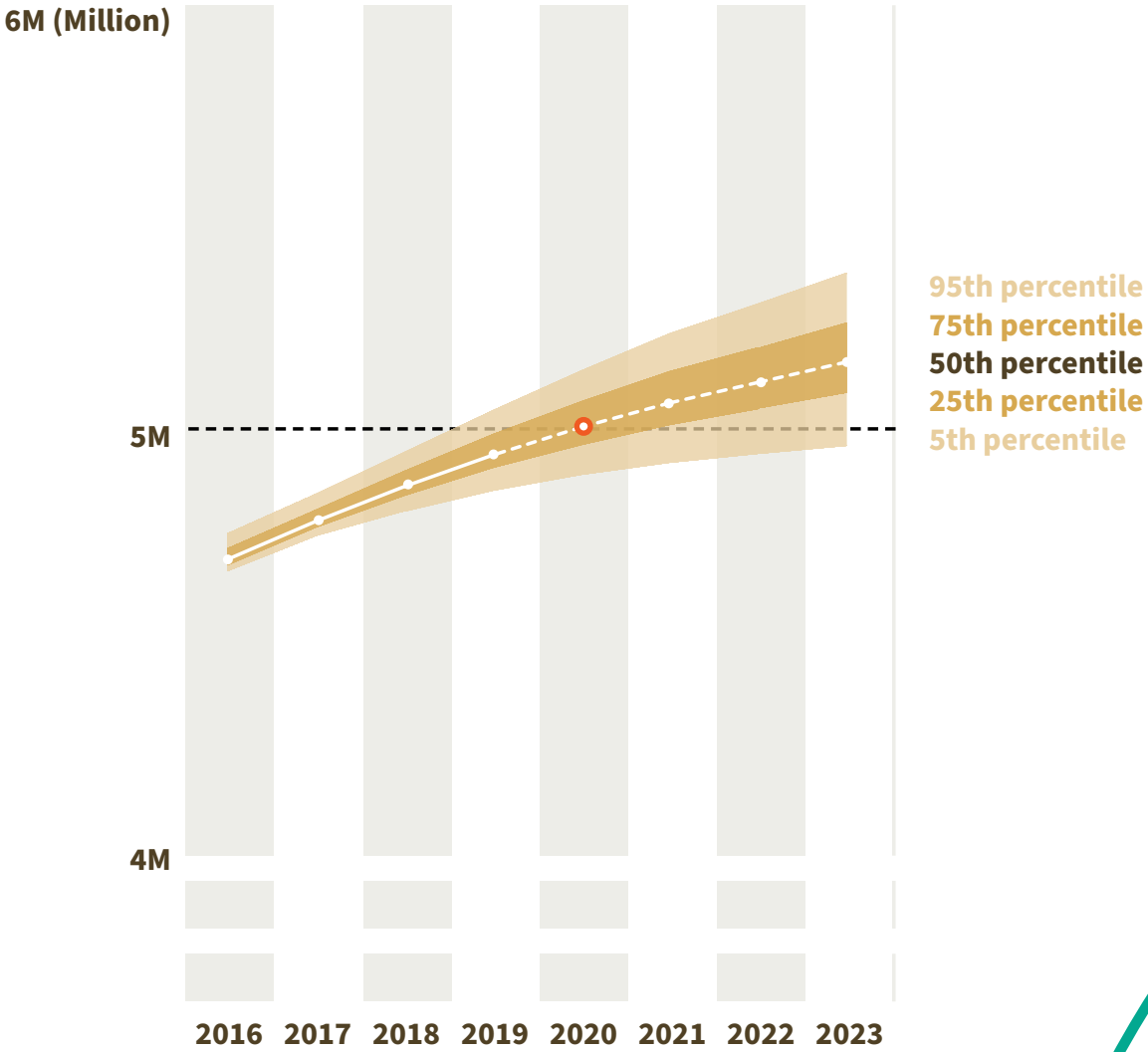
This special report presents eight (8) key results based on the 2018 Census to illustrate the changing face of Aotearoa New Zealand. In most cases, these will not surprise the reader; rather they will confirm known trends and put numbers around them.

1. Aotearoa New Zealand's population is expected to grow to over 5 million in 2020.
2. The population continues to grow as a result of immigration rather than natural population increase.
3. Almost one-in-every-three New Zealanders was born overseas.
4. Aotearoa New Zealand is now the fourth most culturally diverse country in the OECD.
5. People of Asian ethnicity represent the fastest growing ethnic group in Aotearoa New Zealand's population.
6. The population is living longer and growing older.
7. The working age population, as a percentage of the total population, will stabilise in the foreseeable future at 55%.
8. The population is solidly urban-based, with Auckland dominant and accounting for one-in-every-three New Zealanders.

1
Aotearoa New Zealand's population is expected to grow to over 5 million in 2020

2020 update
Aotearoa New Zealand's population surpassed 5 million in 2020. Statistics New Zealand will be releasing the 2023 Census results in May 2024. On current projections the 2023 population will be 5.16M.

Projected population growth

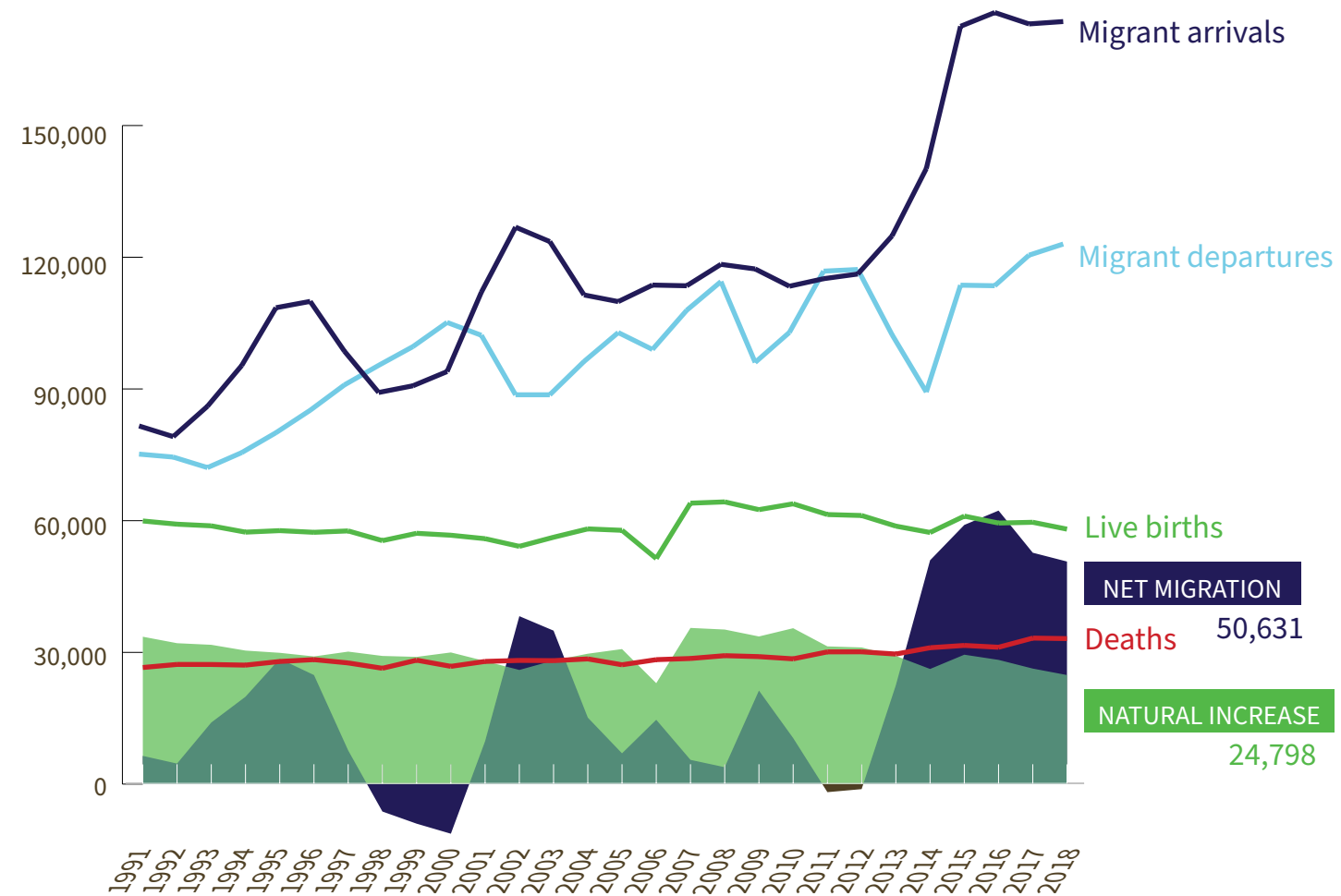


2

The population continues to grow as a result of migration rather than through natural population increase

In the year ending December 2018, there were 58,020 live births compared with 33,222 deaths, a difference of births over deaths of 24,798.

Population increase Natural vs migration



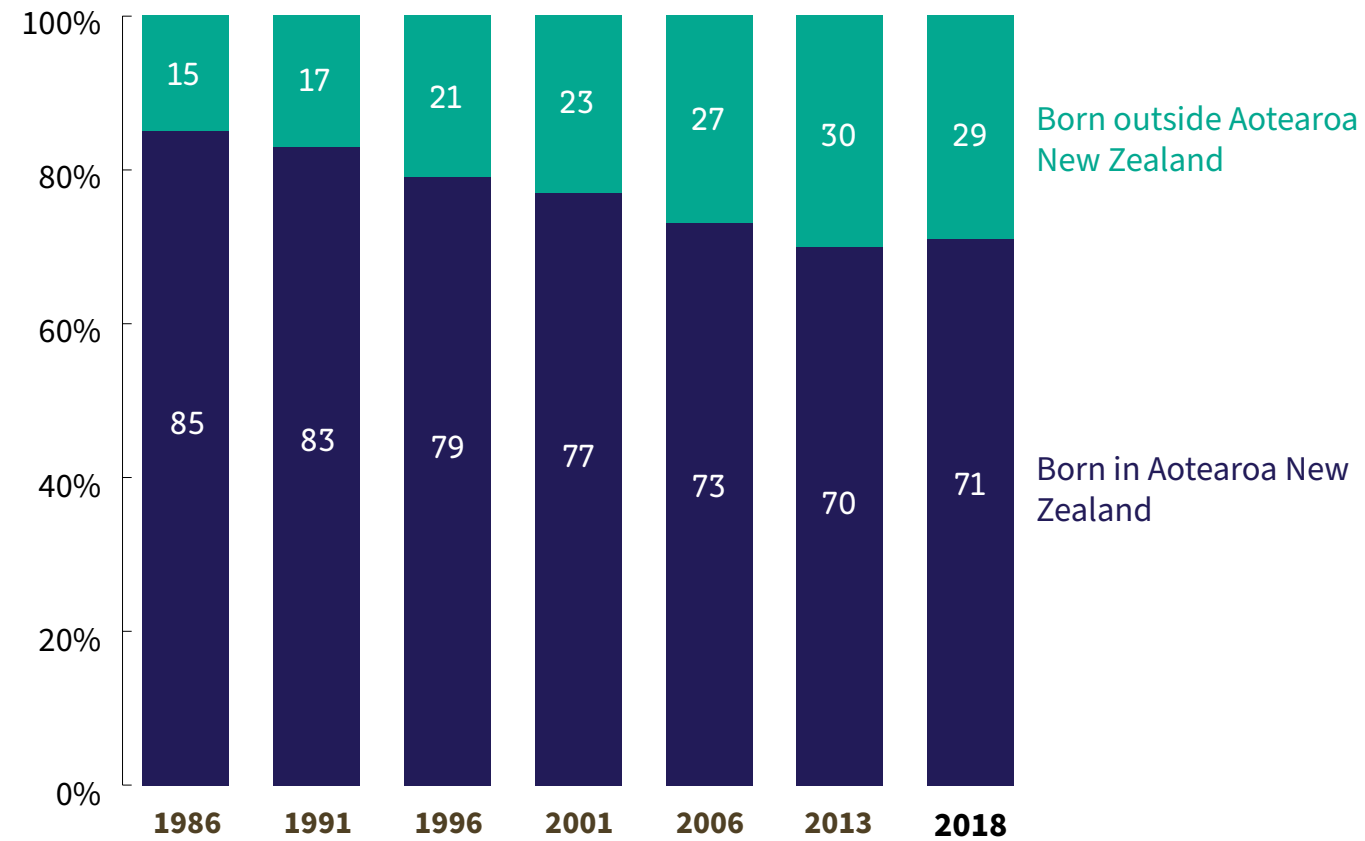
However, at 50,631, net migration was over twice the natural population increase. Furthermore, net migration has been in excess of 50,000 for the last 5 years, peaking at 62,227 in 2016.

3

Almost one-in-every-three New Zealanders was born overseas



Birthplace

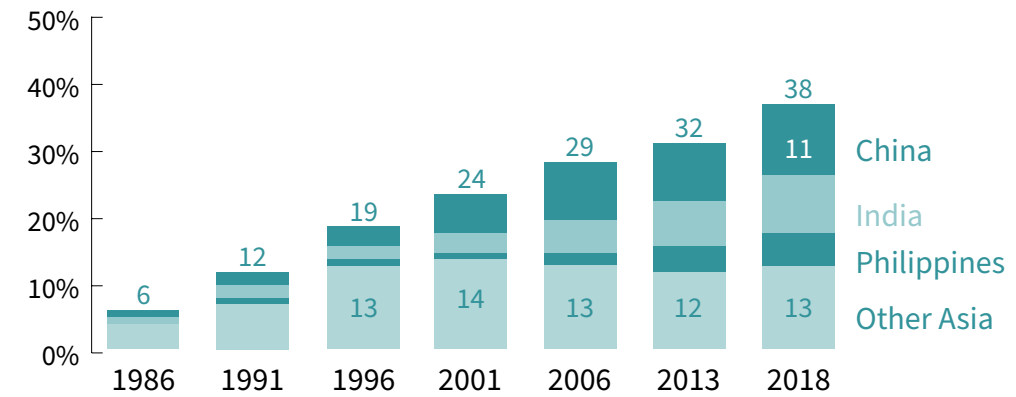


The percentage of New Zealanders who were born overseas has been steadily increasing and is now 29%, having increased sharply in the early 2000s.

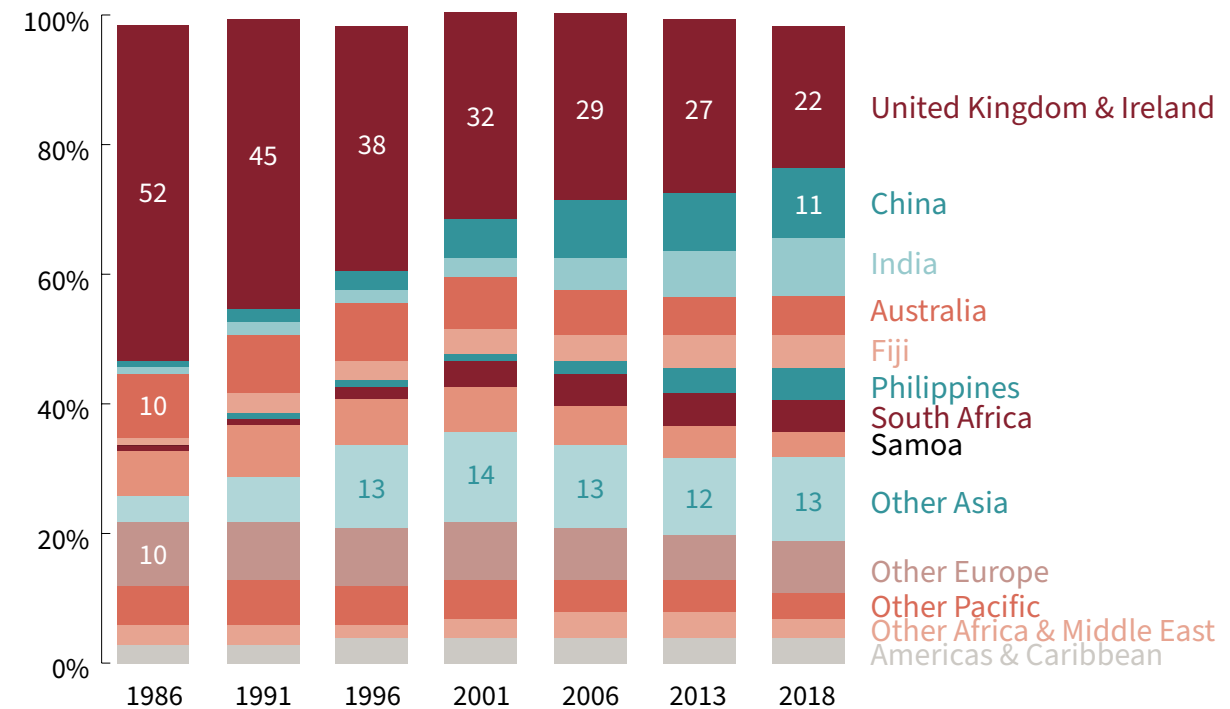
In addition to the increase in the percentage born overseas, an increasing percentage of those born overseas were born in China, India, the Philippines and other Asian countries. Collectively, these countries now account for 38% of those New Zealanders born overseas, whereas this was only six percent in 1986.



Total born overseas in Asian countries



Birthplace of those born outside Aotearoa New Zealand

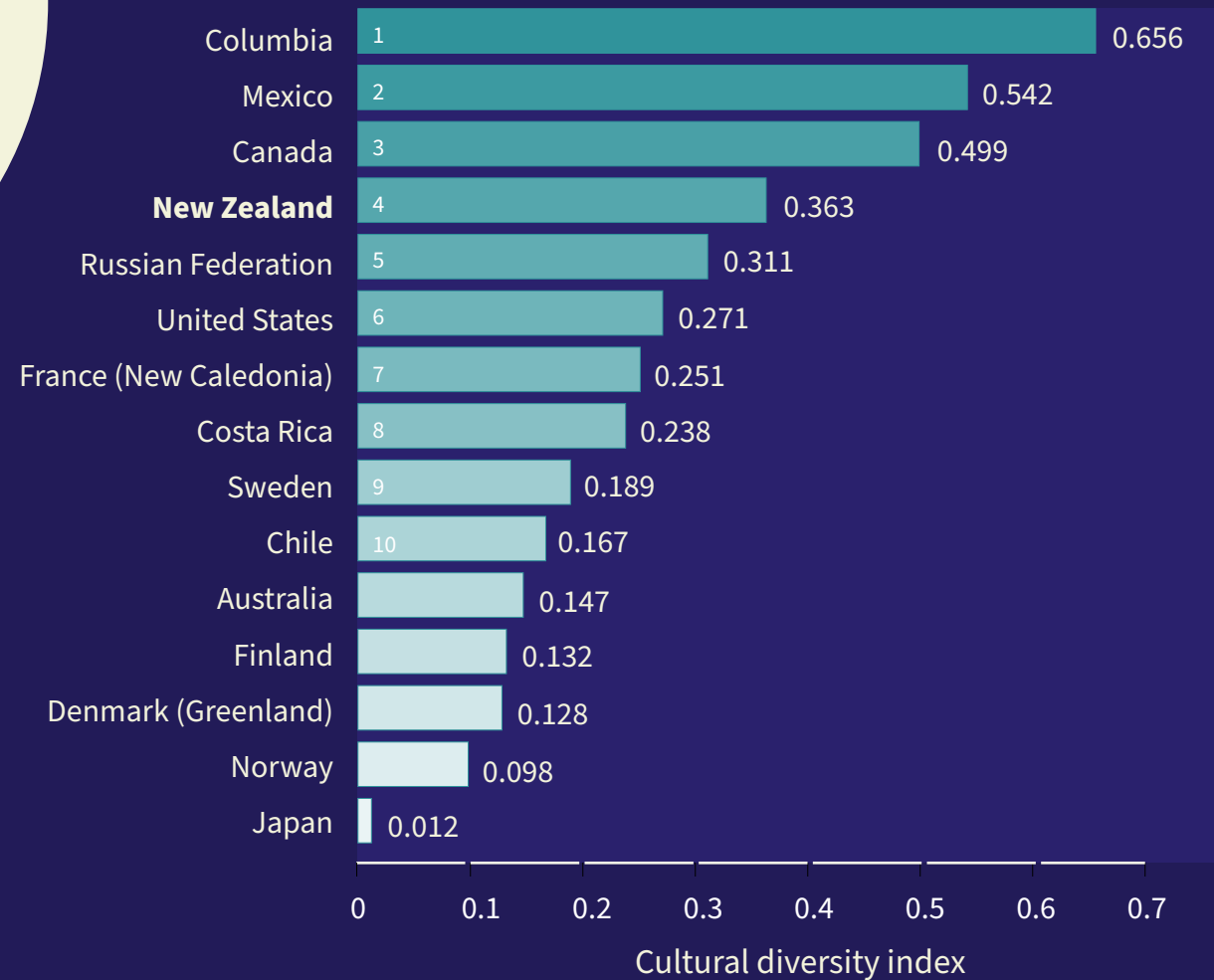


4

Aotearoa New Zealand is the fourth most culturally diverse country in the OECD



Diversity index in OECD member and accession countries



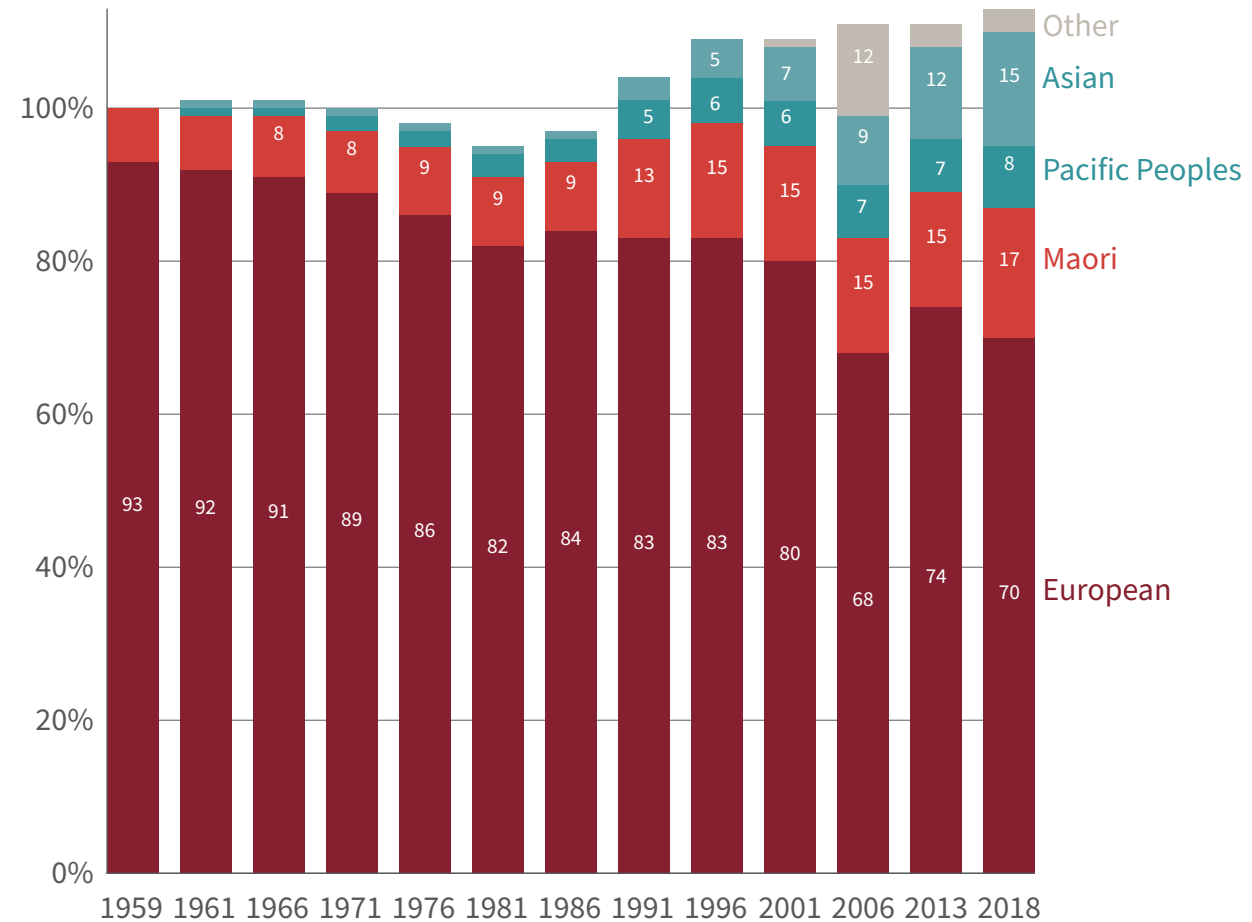
Reflecting the significant percentage of New Zealanders who were born overseas, the graph to the left shows that Aotearoa New Zealand has a cultural diversity index of 0.363, behind only Columbia, Mexico and Canada. This index is based on linguistic variations as opposed to other measures of diversity.

5

People of Asian ethnicity represent the fastest growing ethnic group in Aotearoa New Zealand's population

Reflecting the immigration results, the percentage of people of Asian ethnicity has tripled in the last 22 years (from five percent in 1996 to 15% in 2018).

Ethnicity



As a result of Asian ethnicity being the fastest growing group, it has now surpassed the number of Pasific Peoples.

Forward projections point to people of Asian ethnicity being 22% of the population by 2038.

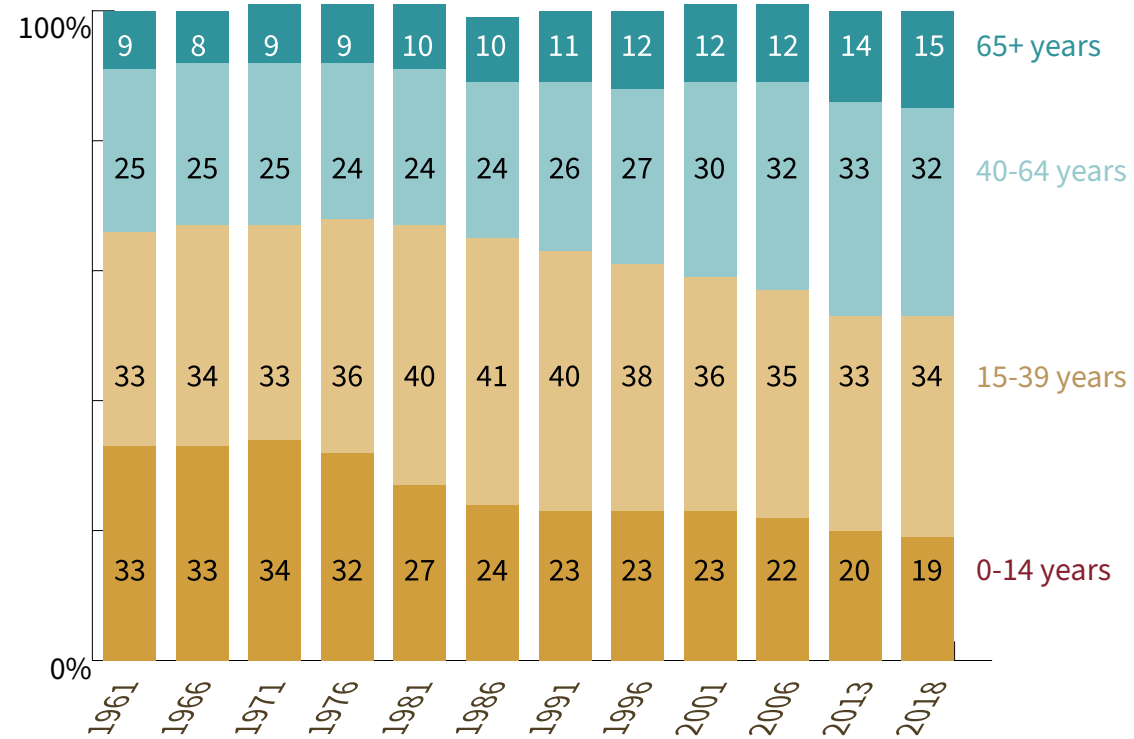
6

The average life expectancy for New Zealanders is steadily increasing and is currently 81.4 years

Male life expectancy 79.2 years

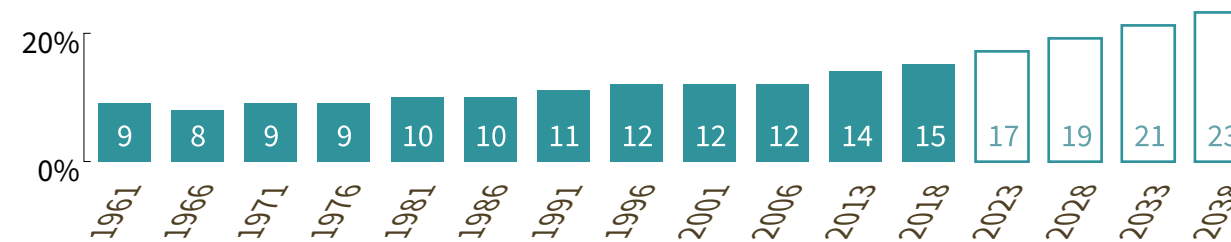
Female life expectancy 83.6 years

Age-group populations



While 15% of the population is currently 65 years and over, this is the fastest growing age group and by year 2038 is expected to represent 23% of the population.

Projected 65+ age-group population growth

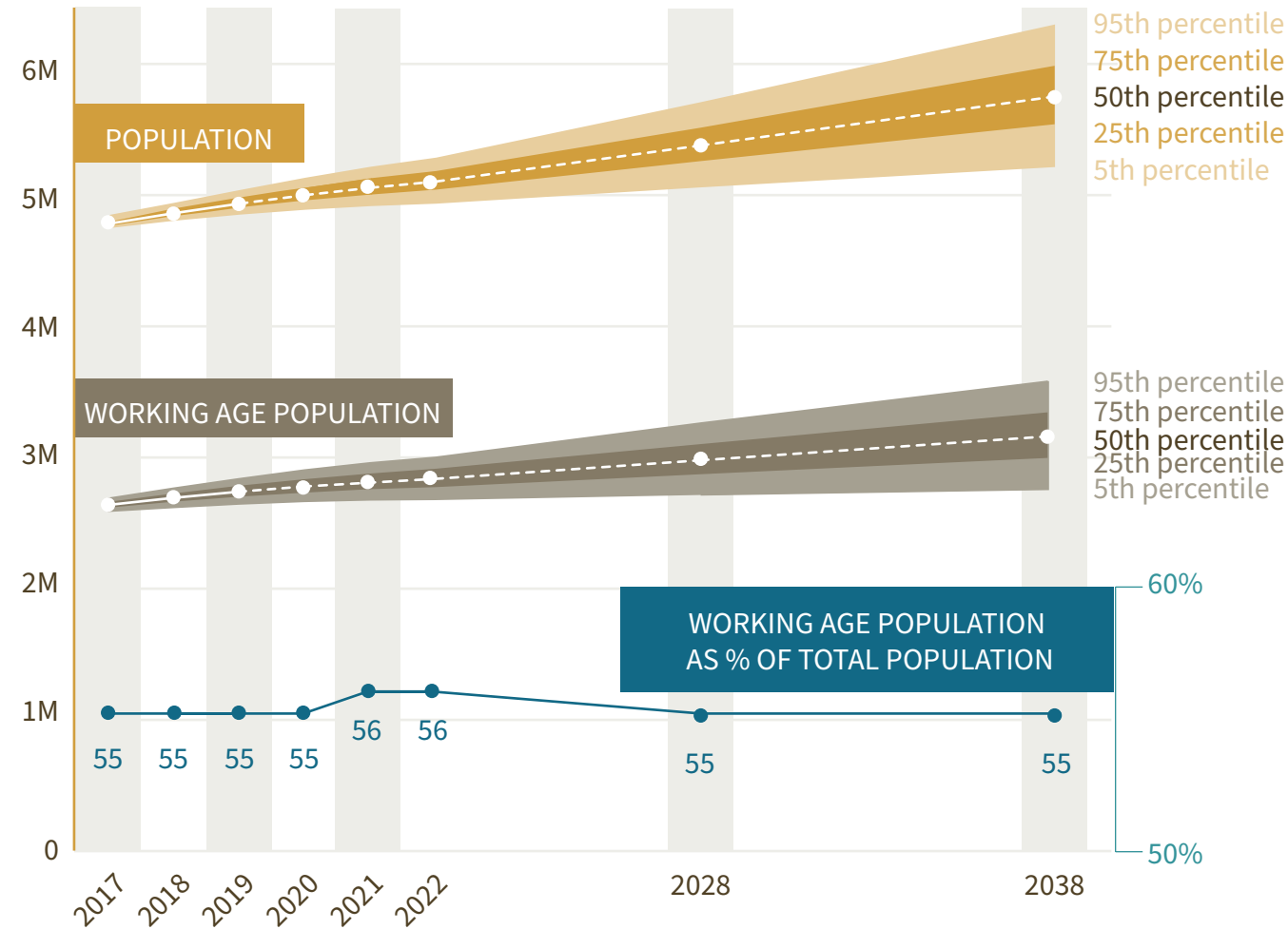


7

The working age population (between 15-64) as a percentage of the total population will stabilise in the foreseeable future at 55%

While Aotearoa New Zealand's over 65 population and total population will increase, the percentage of the population that is made up of people of a working age is projected to increase at the same rate.

Projected working age population growth



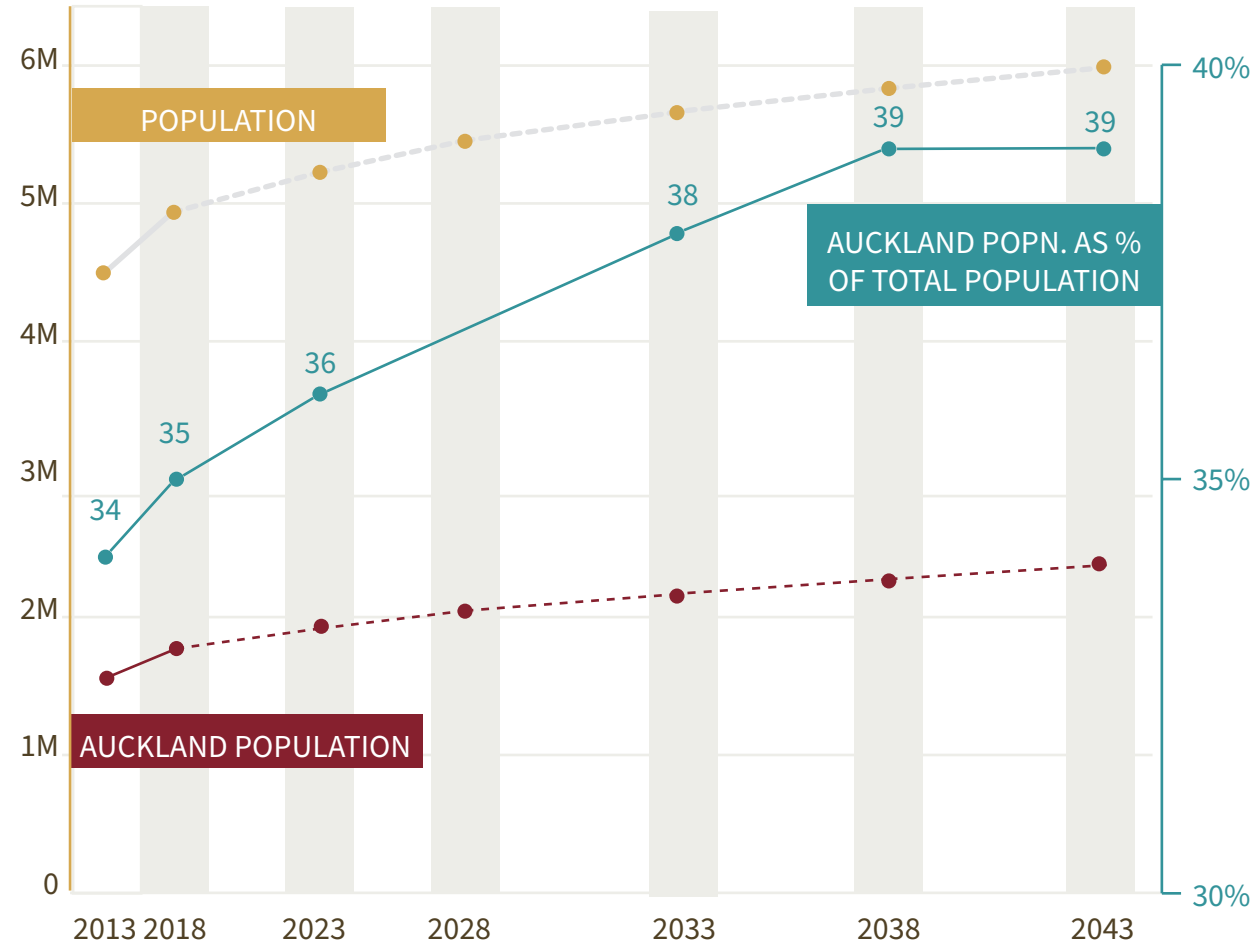
The working age population is therefore expected to remain at 55% of the total population for the foreseeable future.

8

Most (87%) of Aotearoa New Zealand's population currently live in urban areas and this has been the case for some time, increasing by about 1% during each of the last three decades

Auckland is by far the dominant Aotearoa New Zealand urban location, with over 1.5 million residents.

Projected Auckland population growth

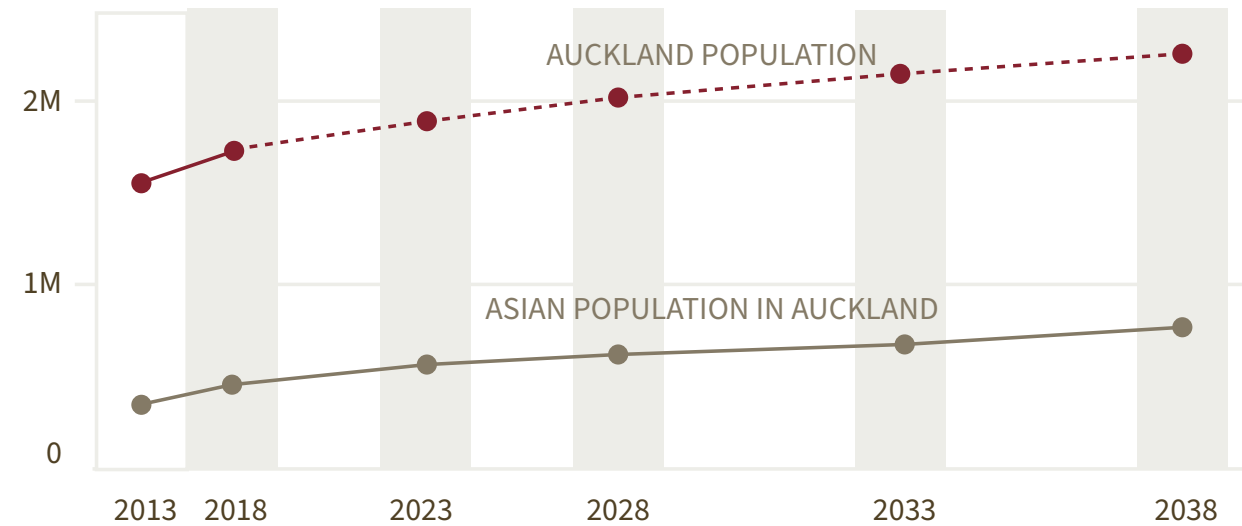
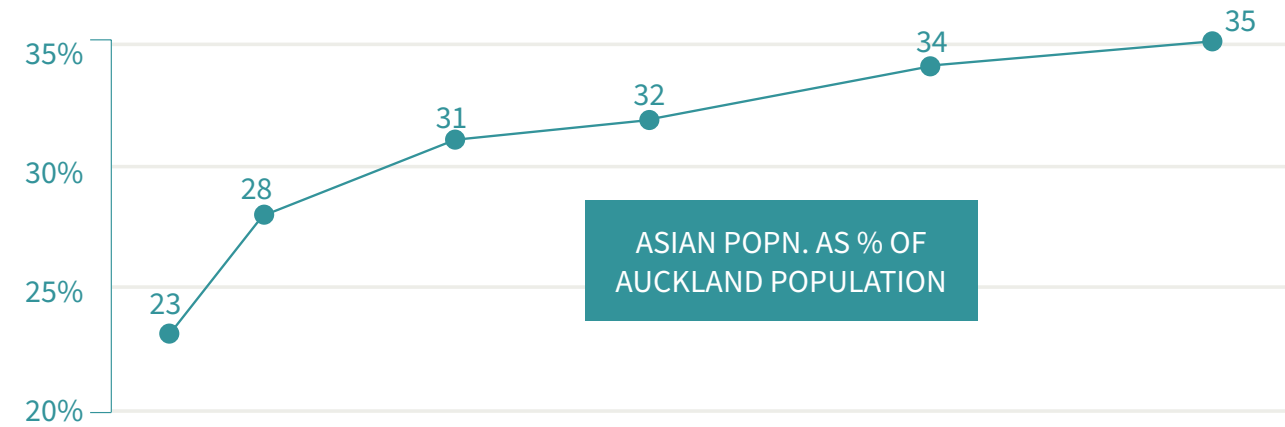


One-in-every-three New Zealanders lives in Auckland and with most migrants choosing to live in the City of Sails, this is expected to increase to 38% by 2033.

Also of importance to note is that 28% of the Auckland population currently comprises people of Asian ethnicity and this is expected to increase to 35% by 2038.



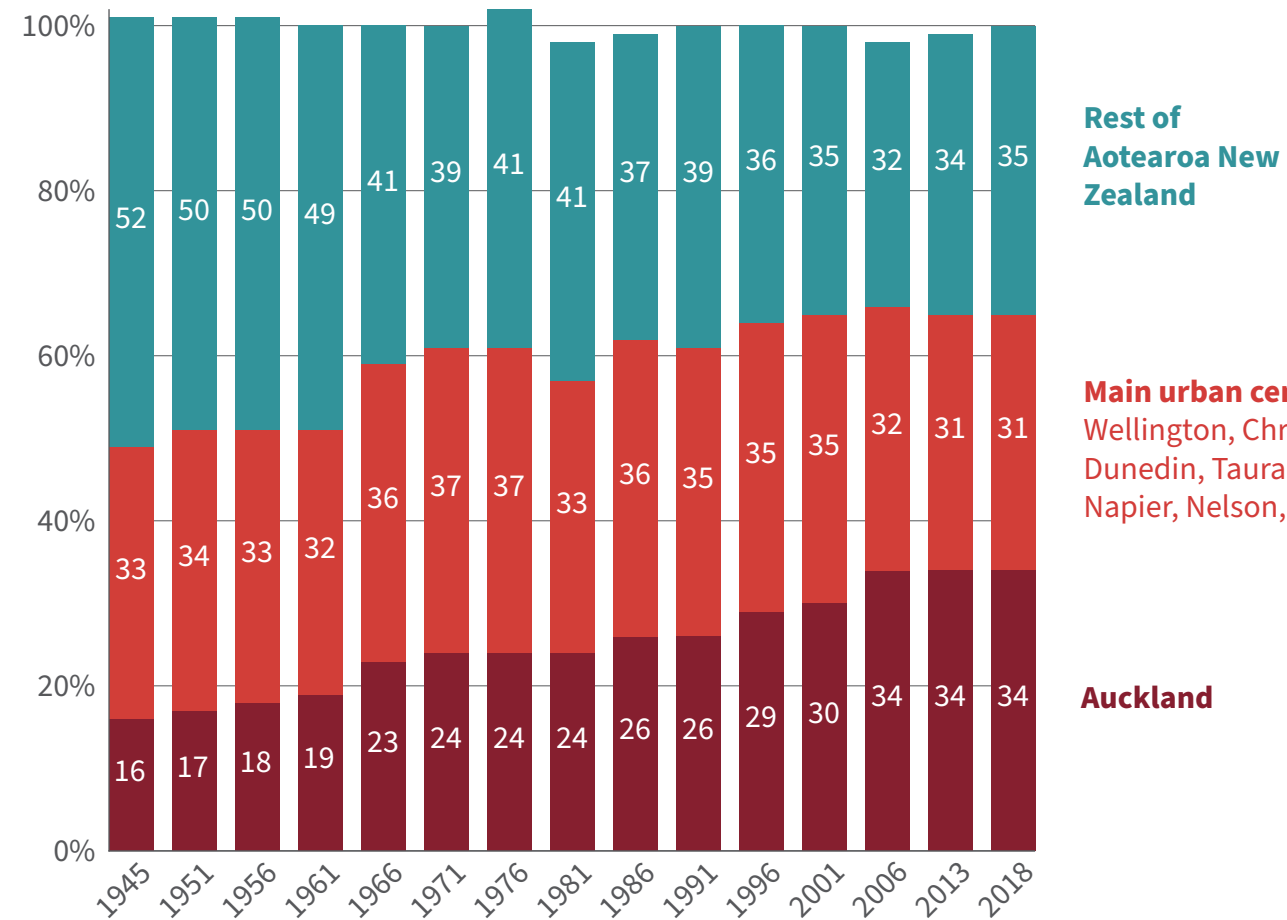
Projected Auckland & Asian ethnicity population growth



Auckland's growth is at the expense of the **Rest of Aotearoa New Zealand** (not including the **Main urban centres**).

The percentage of Aotearoa New Zealand's population living outside of the 10 main urban centres appears to have stabilised. Currently at 35%, this was also 35% in 2001 and 39% in 1991.

Population growth by Auckland, Main urban centres, and Rest of Aotearoa New Zealand



Rest of Aotearoa New Zealand

Main urban centres: Wellington, Christchurch, Hamilton, Dunedin, Tauranga, Palmerston North, Napier, Nelson, Invercargill

Auckland

The Census dataset

Results from the 2018 Census of Population & Dwellings began to be published in late 2020, after Statistics New Zealand had completed its data quality checking processes. Participation in the 2018 Census was lower than previous censuses and as a result, Statistics New Zealand used data from administrative sources and different methodologies to produce a fit-for-purpose dataset.

The dataset contains records for approximately 4.7 million people and this is 1.4% (or 69,000 people) less than Statistic New Zealand's best estimate of Aotearoa New Zealand's population on Census Day (6 March 2018). By comparison, the official undercount in 2013 was 2.4%. Eighty-nine percent of the total number of records have come from the 2018 Census forms and 11% from other sources of government data.

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