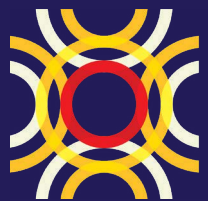


The changing face of Aotearoa New Zealand

A special report based on the early results of the 2023 Census



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The **2023 New Zealand Census**

was the 35th national Census in New Zealand. It used measures that aimed to increase the Census' effectiveness in response to the issues faced with the 2018 Census, including supporting Māori to complete the Census. It also included new questions on topics such as gender, sexual identity, and disabilities/health conditions.

The 2023 Census was taken on 7 March 2023 and closed on 30 June 2023. This allowed for people living in the areas most affected by Cyclone Gabrielle (the Far North District, Gisborne District, and Hawke's Bay) to participate.

By 20 May 2023, Statistics NZ confirmed that 4.5 million Census forms had been returned out of an estimated population of 5.15 million. As a result, Statistics NZ reported the national Census response rate was 86% (the target was 90%). However, significantly lower rates were recorded for young people, Māori and Pacific peoples.

The 2023 Census was able to be completed online or on paper. Forms with an access code were mailed out to householders from 20 February 2023, but they could also be requested online or by telephone. The 0800 Freephone Census number had operators speaking te reo Māori, Samoan, Tongan, Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese, Hindi, and Punjabi, as well as English.



The future of the Census

The 2023 Census was estimated to have cost the New Zealand taxpayer \$337 million, including \$37 million to cover additional costs incurred, for example, as a result of delays caused by Cyclone Gabrielle.

Considering the cost and other issues, such as lower response rates by certain population groups, as well as the fact that life in Aotearoa New Zealand is much different from the way it was when the very first national Census was conducted, on 8 May 2024 Statistics New Zealand began a public consultation process aimed at 'reimagining and modernising' the way we think of the Census as we have come to know it.

Submissions closed on 19 June 2024.



This report

Statistics New Zealand began releasing results from the 2023 Census on 29 May 2024.

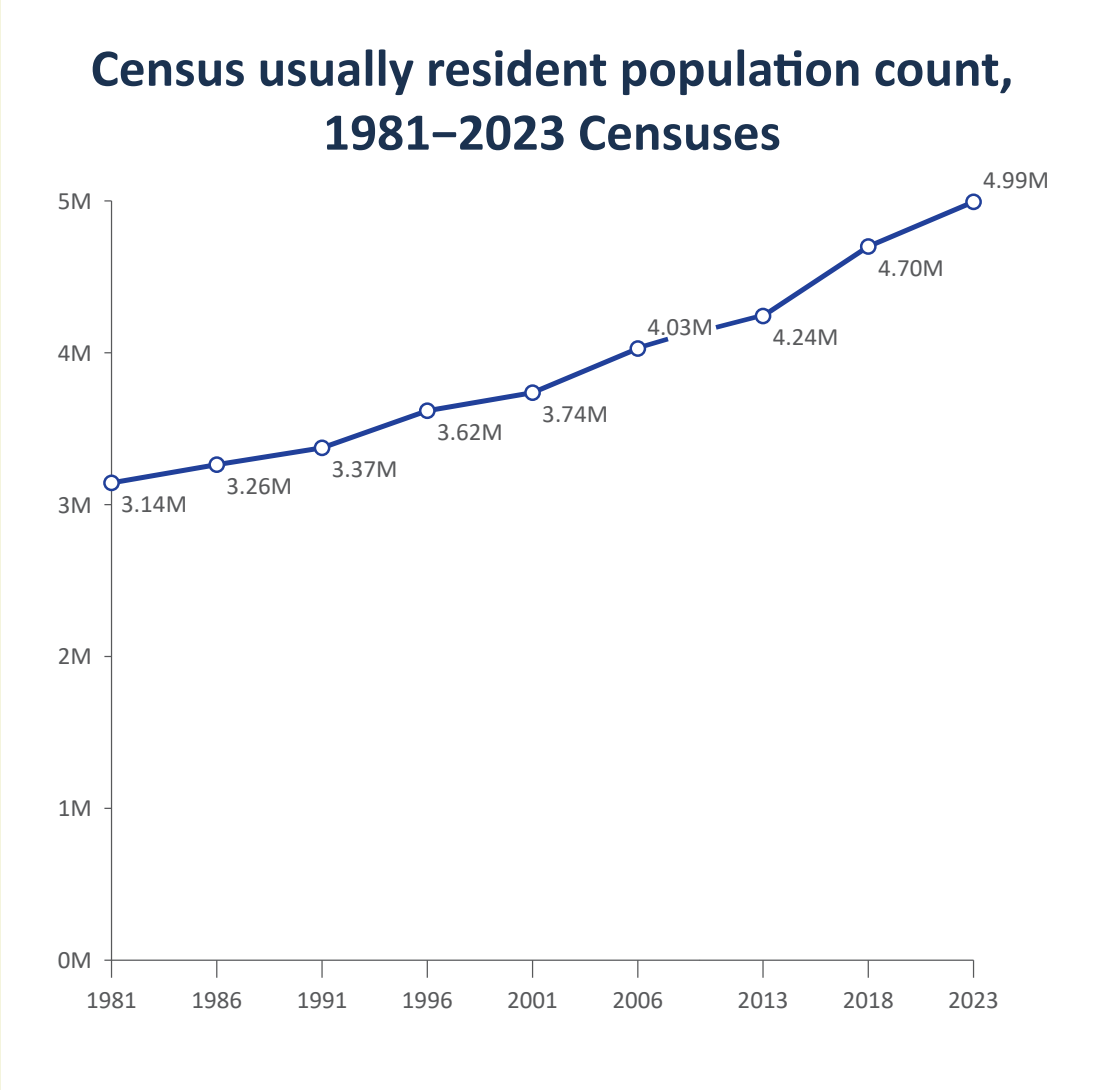
This report provides our interpretation of some of these early results.



8 highlights based on the early results of the 2023 Census

1. The recorded population of usually resident New Zealanders is now almost 5 million.
2. The population is growing at a slower rate than previously.
3. Three out of four New Zealanders now live in the North Island.
4. Auckland remains the most populous region.
5. The Māori population is growing, and now, almost one in five usually resident New Zealanders are people of Māori descent.
6. The population continues to age.
7. The population continues to become ethnically diverse.
8. There are now over 2 million dwellings.

1
The recorded population of usually resident New Zealanders is now almost 5 million



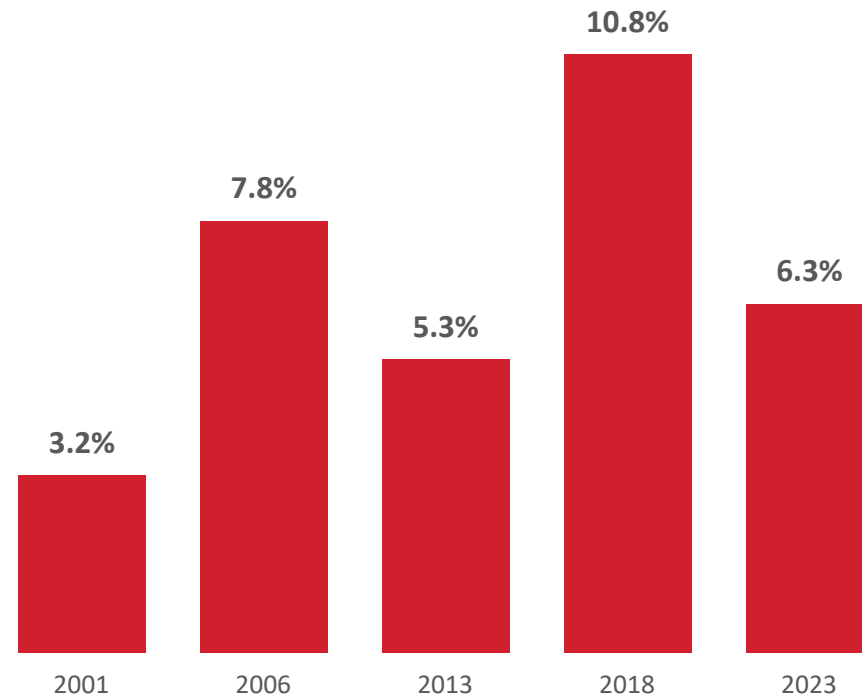
The population has grown by 6.3% (approx. 300,000 to 4,993,923) since the last Census in 2018 (4,699,755).

2

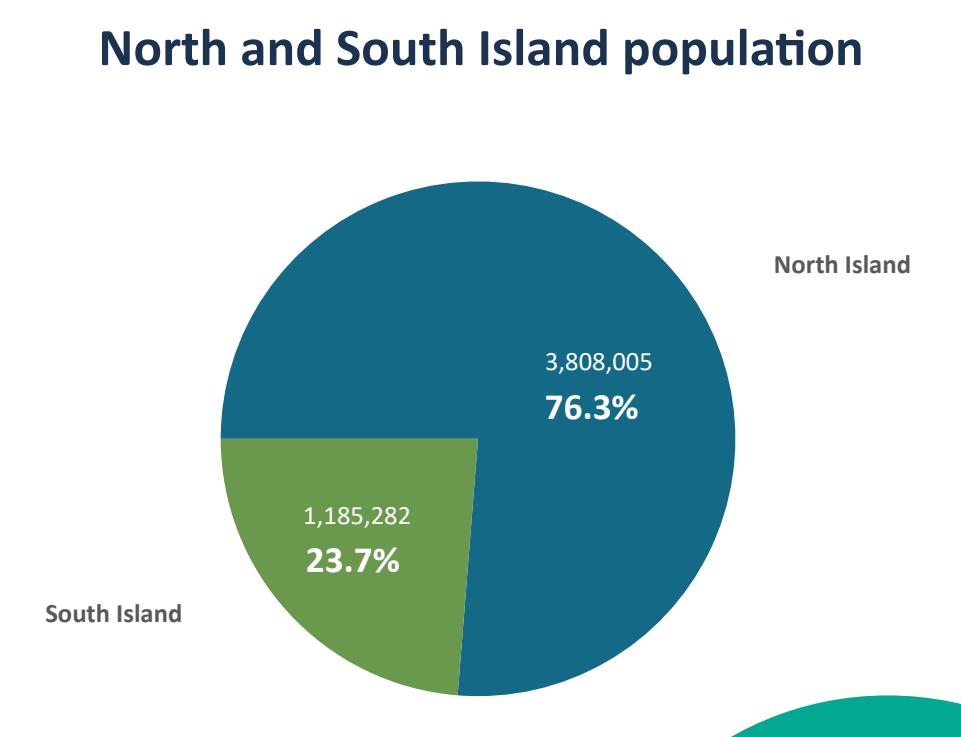
The population is growing at a slower rate than previously

When compared with the population growth between the previous intercensal period (10.8%, 2013 and 2018), the current rate of 6.3% is slower.

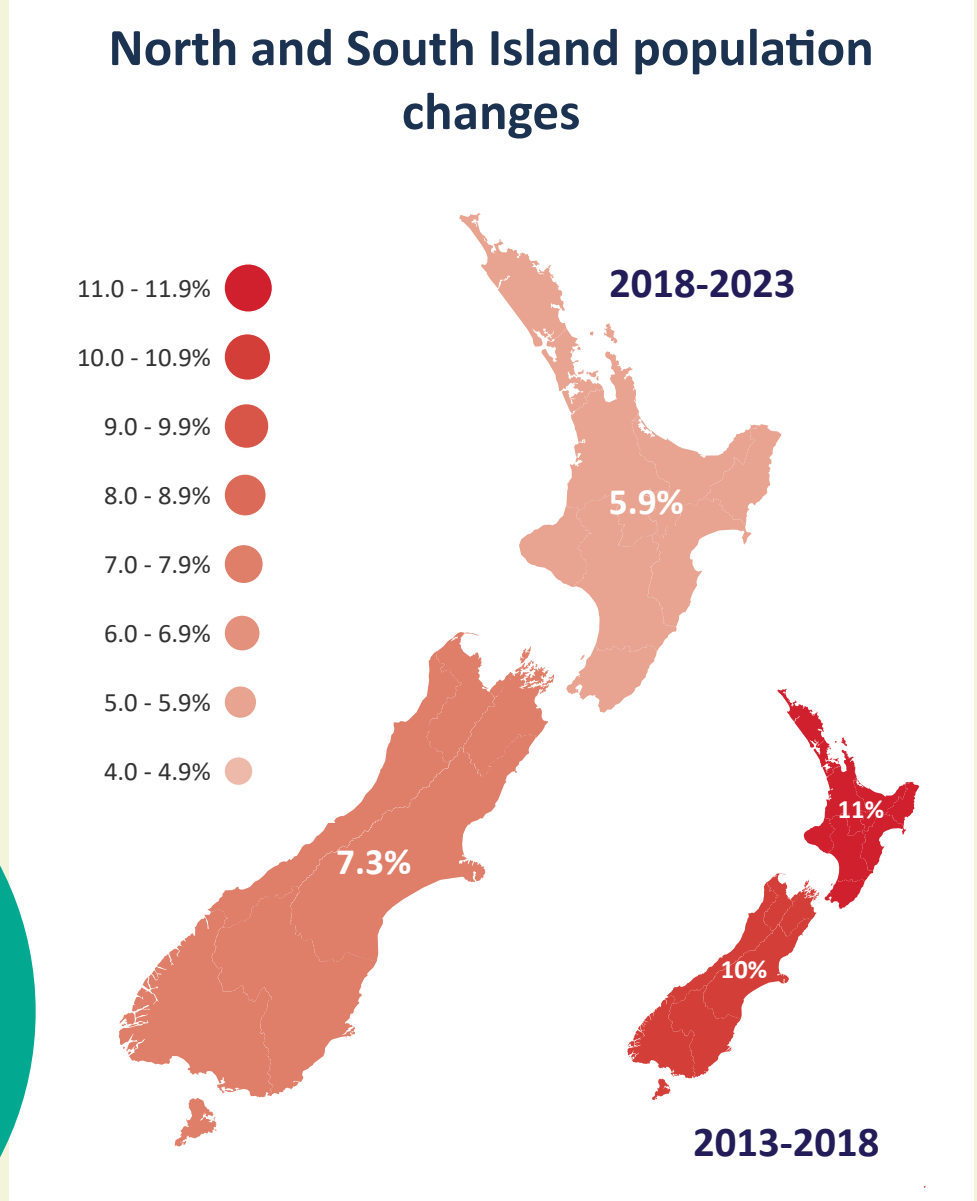
Intercensal percentage change in the usually resident population



3
Three out of four New Zealanders now live in the North Island



However, the South Island population had a higher rate of increase between 2018 and 2023, growing by 7.3%, compared with 5.9% for the North Island.

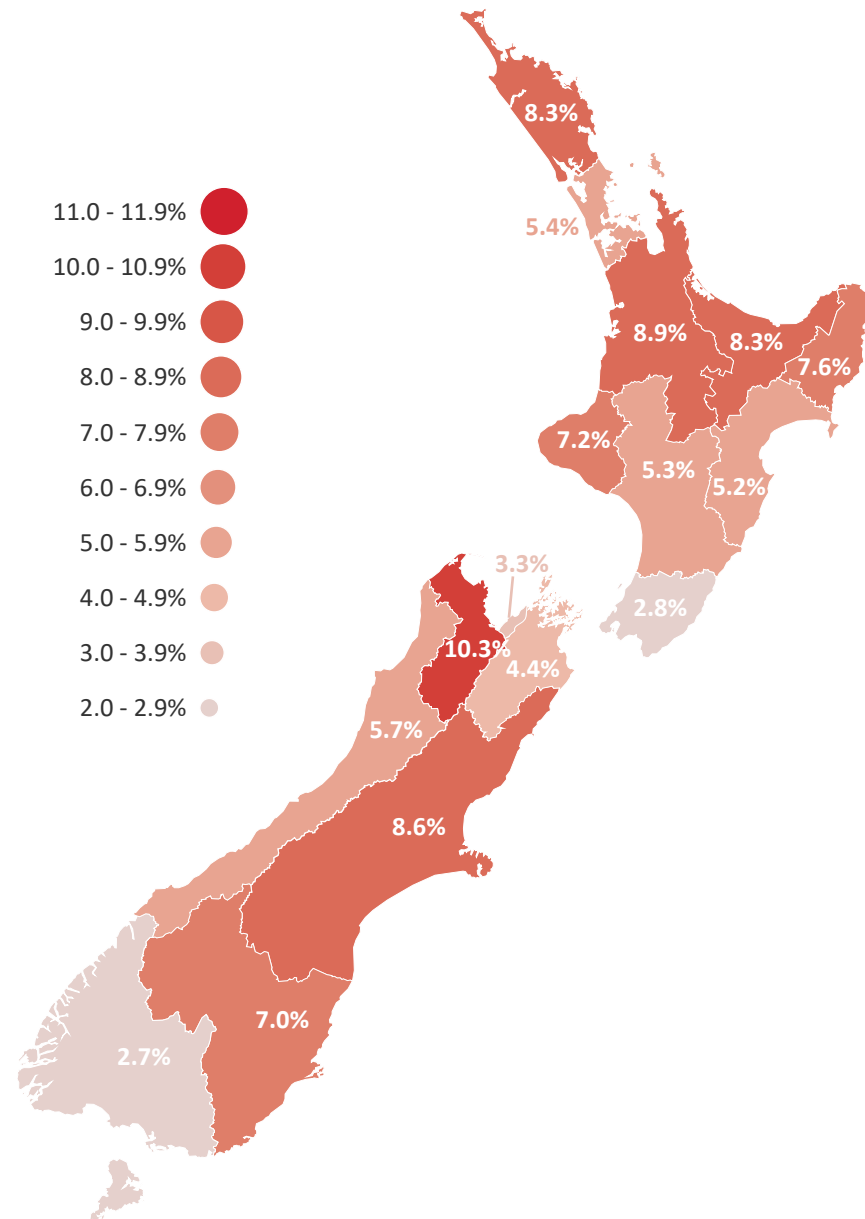


4

Auckland remains the most populous region



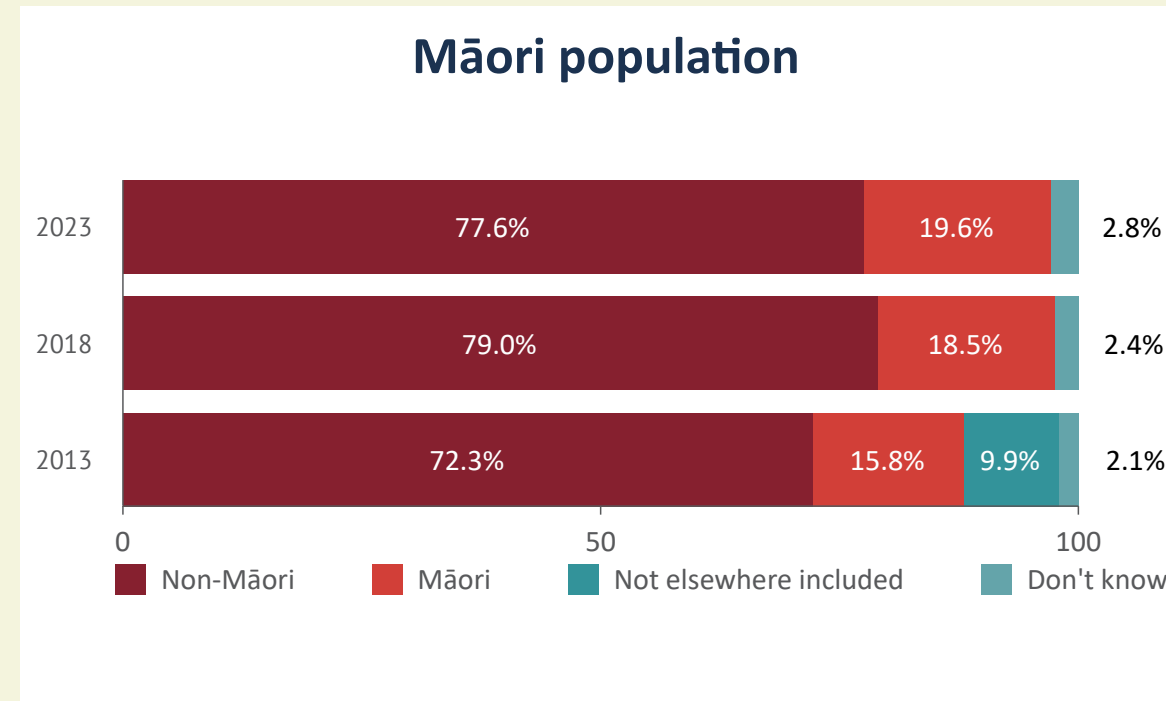
Population growth, by region, 2018-2023



1.66 million people live in the Auckland region; however, its rate of growth halved between 2018 and 2023 compared with the previous intercensal period (5.4% and 11.0% respectively).

5

The Māori population is growing, and now, almost one in five usually resident New Zealanders are people of Māori descent

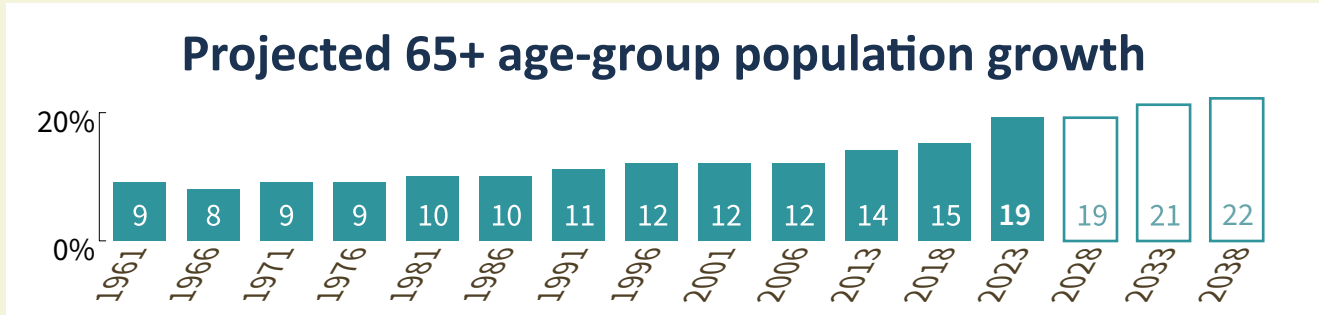
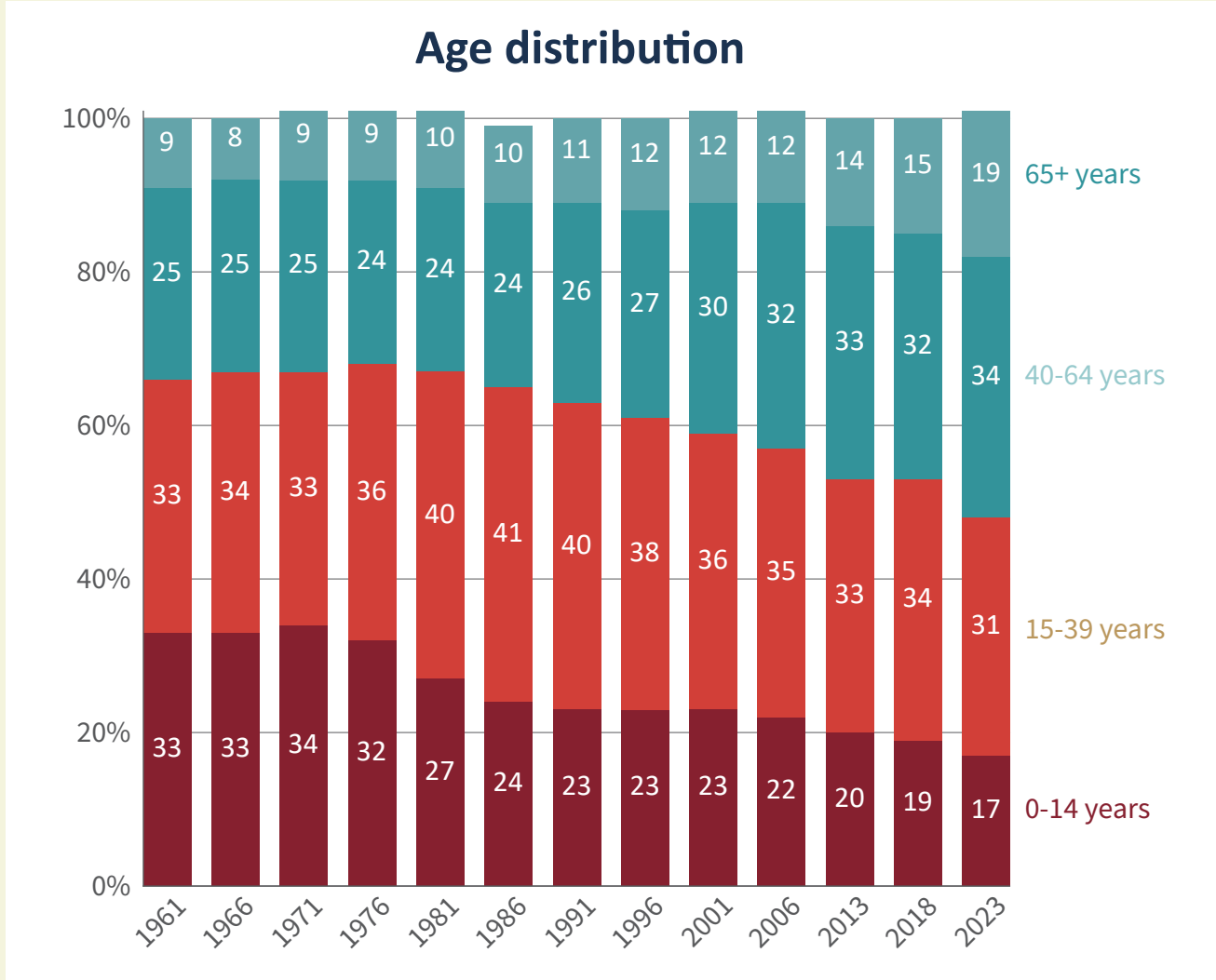


Almost one million (978,246) or 19.6% of the total population is of Māori descent (based on whakapapa). This is up from 18.5% in 2018.

The Māori descent census usually resident population count increased by 12.5%, compared with the situation in 2018 (869,850); meaning that the Māori population is growing at twice the rate of the population in general.

6
The population continues to age

The median age of the population is now 38.1 years, compared with 37.4 years in the 2018 Census (half the population are younger, and half older than this age).



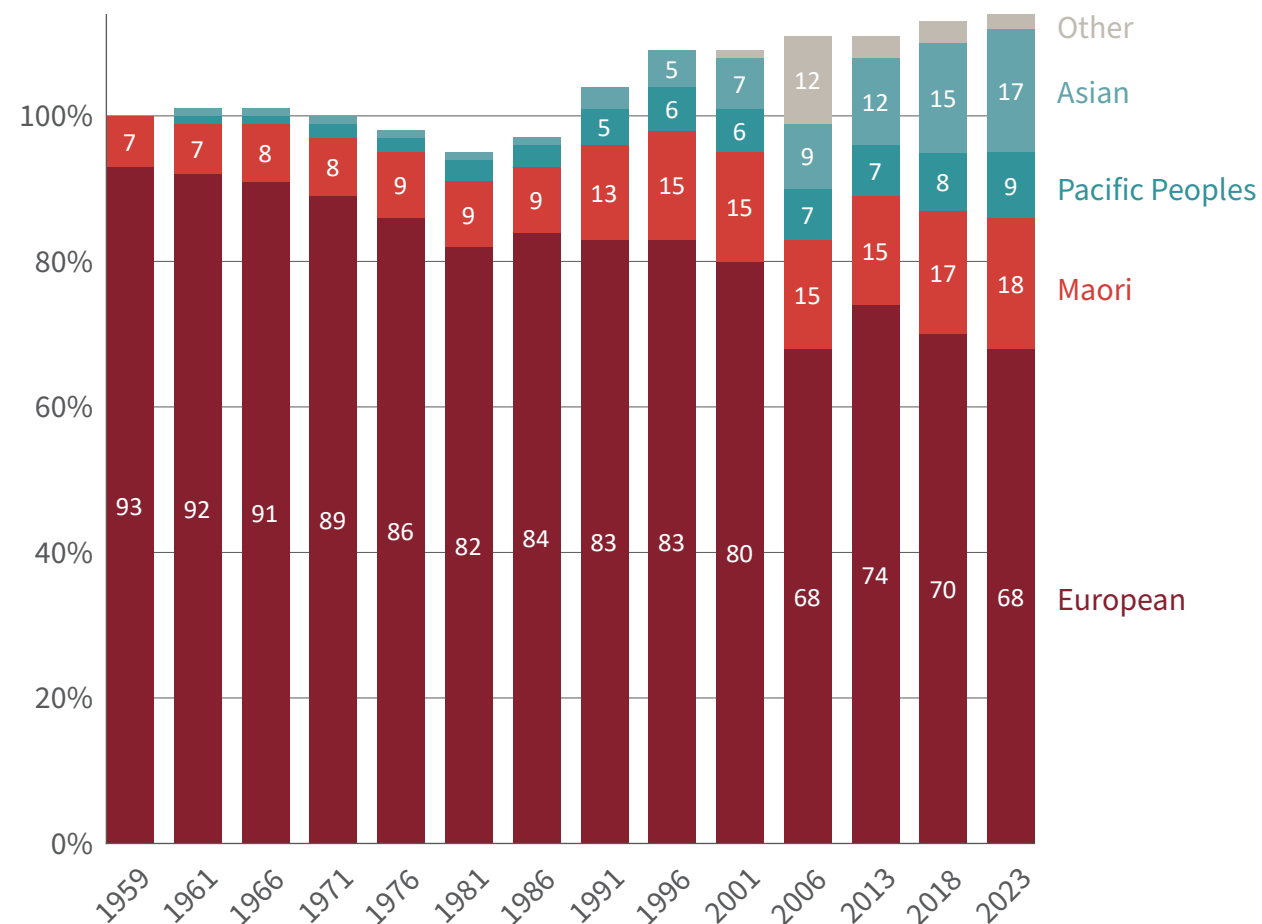
The Māori population is also ageing, although it is younger than the population in general (the median age of the Māori descent usually resident population is now 27.2 years, from 26.0 years in the 2018 Census).

7

The population continues to become ethnically diverse

While the population identifying with European ethnicities remains the largest at nearly 3.4 million (67.8%), people identifying as Māori, Asian, Pacific peoples, and Middle Eastern/Latin American/African (MELAA) ethnicities increased their share of the total population.

Ethnicity populations



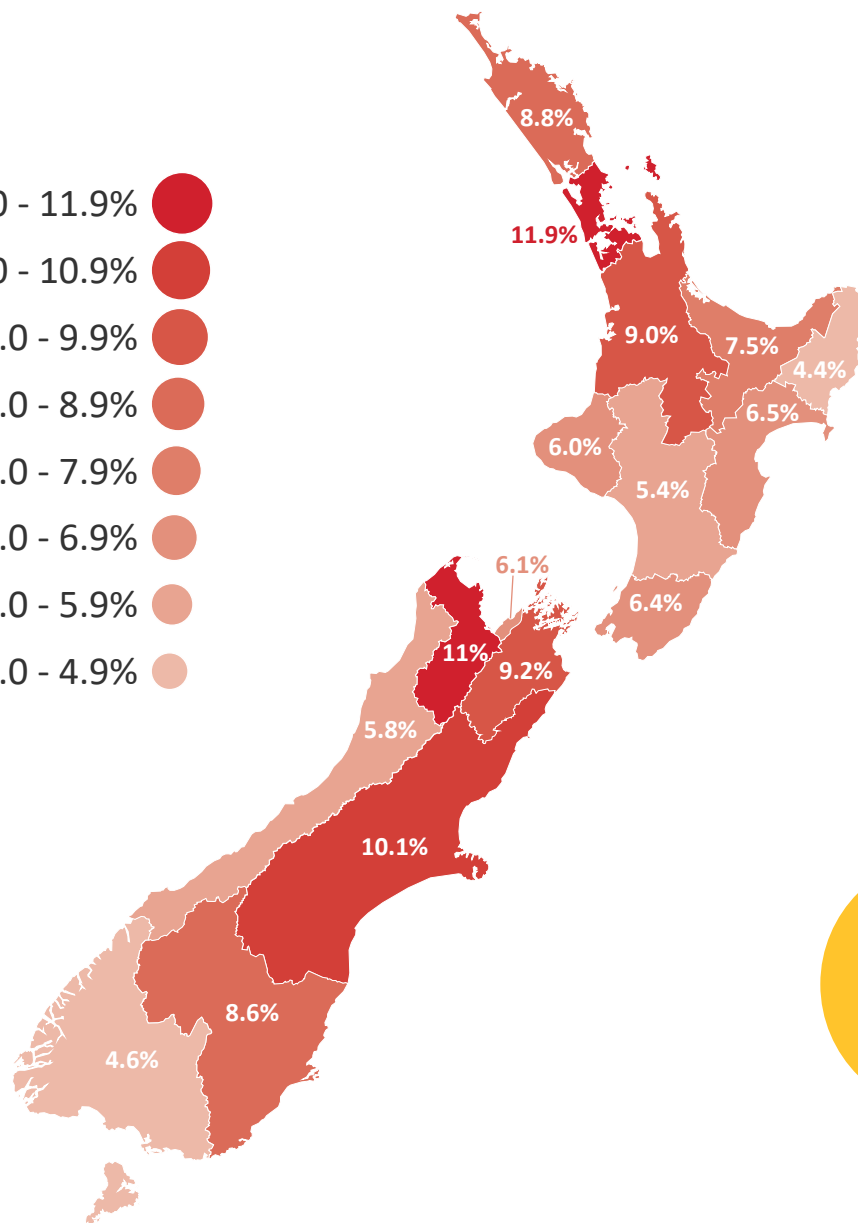
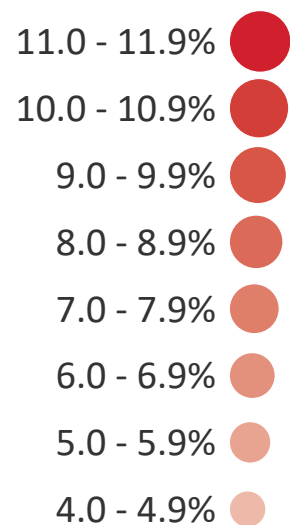
The Asian and Māori ethnic groups had the largest numeric increases between the 2018 and 2023 Censuses, up 153,978 people and 111,657 people respectively.

8

There are now over 2 million dwellings

The total dwelling count in the 2023 Census increased by 170,061 (9.0%) to 2,056,578, up from 1,886,517 in the 2018 Census.

Growth in number of dwellings, by region



Further releases

Statistics New Zealand plans to release further results of the 2023 Census in October and November 2024.

An update on this report will be provided soon after these releases.



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