

Ethnicity



- Our cities are growing in ethnic diversity, with higher proportions of Pacific Islands (11.3%) and Asian (10.0%) peoples in the eight cities compared to the rest of New Zealand (at 2.1%.and 2.8%).
- Te reo Maori is spoken by fewer people in our eight cities than in the rest of New Zealand, with the exception of Manukau where almost 30% of residents speak te reo.⁹

WHAT THIS IS ABOUT

Changes in the proportion of residents who identify with a particular ethnic group provide an indication of ethnic diversity in cities. Ethnic diversity has an impact on the social and cultural infrastructure of our cities, including the range of services that need to be provided and the way they are provided.

Ethnicity is the ethnic group or groups that people identify with or feel they belong to. Thus, ethnicity is self-defined and people can belong to more than one ethnic group.¹⁰ Ethnicity is a measure of cultural affiliation, as opposed to race, ancestry, nationality or citizenship. An ethnic group is a social group whose members have the following four characteristics:

- share a sense of common origins
- claim a common and distinctive history and destiny
- possess one or more dimensions of collective cultural individuality
- feel a sense of unique collective solidarity.¹¹

This indicator outlines proportions of the main “umbrella” ethnic groupings within each city and the rest of New Zealand. Within each of these broad ethnic groups there are many smaller ethnic populations, each with its own age structure, customs, and settlement history in New Zealand. At the 2001 Census there were more than 200 separate ethnic identities recorded nationally. Measures for this indicator include:

- Ethnic composition
- Languages spoken
- Maori speakers in the Maori population.

WHAT DID WE FIND?

Ethnic composition

The ethnic composition of the eight largest cities is varied. Christchurch and Dunedin cities have larger proportions of Europeans than any of the eight cities or the rest of New Zealand. Other cities, such as Manukau and Auckland, are more ethnically diverse.

In 2001, Auckland was home to the highest proportion of Asian residents in New Zealand and experienced growth of almost 40,000 (159.7%) people in this ethnic category over the ten years from 1991. While all but Wellington and Dunedin cities experienced greater percentage increases than this between 1991 and 2001 (North Shore having the highest increase of 324%), numerically it is Auckland that has seen the greatest growth.

Manukau has the highest proportion of Pacific Islands residents (25.6%) of any New Zealand city, many of whom are either direct migrants from the islands or who are second generation settlers. Many Pacific Islands people have larger families (more children) than other ethnic groups, which has helped swell their numbers in cities. The percentage of growth in Manukau is slightly lower than in Hamilton, North Shore and Waitakere. However it has higher actual growth (24,210) than any of the large cities and the rest of New Zealand.

⁹ The Maori language.

¹⁰ This report uses non-prioritised ethnicity data. As individuals can identify with more than one ethnic group, figures may not sum to the total population for each city and may add to more than 100 percent.

¹¹ Definition of ethnicity taken from Statistics New Zealand website 4 february 2002.

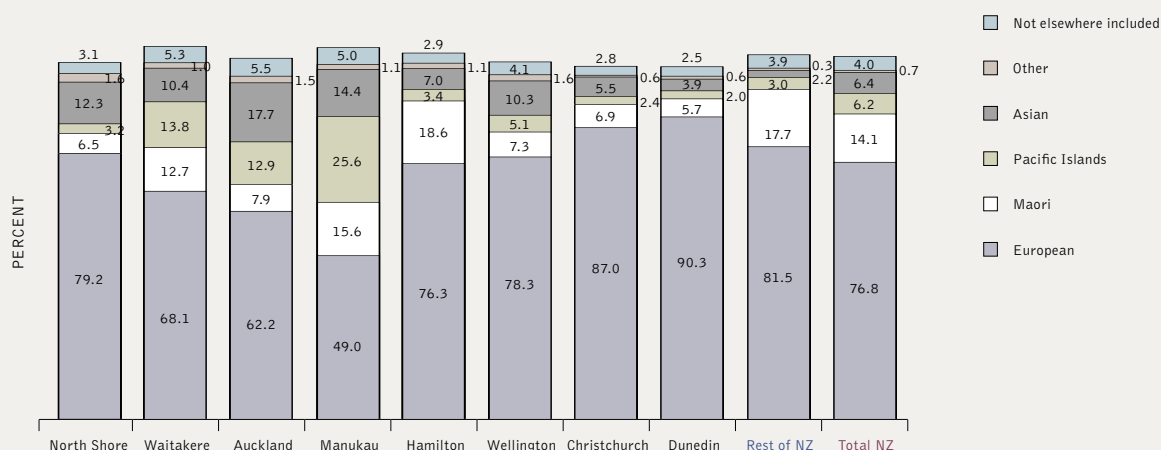
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Hamilton has the highest proportion of Maori residents of any New Zealand city. Of the eight largest cities, Manukau has the highest actual number of Maori residents (44,274). Numerically, growth in the Maori population between 1991 and 2001 has been greatest in Manukau (6,978), only marginally above that of Hamilton (6,744) which had the greatest percentage growth in the same period (46.2%).

ETHNIC COMPOSITION (2001)

Data source: Statistics New Zealand, Census 2001. Note: People could choose more than one ethnicity so percentages will not add to 100.



It is important to note that the European ethnic group in New Zealand's largest cities is itself diverse in makeup. It includes people who have migrated to New Zealand from countries such as Australia, Britain, other countries in Europe and South Africa.

GROWTH IN ETHNICITY (1991 TO 2001)

	European		Maori		Pacific Islands		Asian		Other	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
North Shore	8,094	5.9	3,519	41.6	2,253	61.7	17,367	324.0	2,421	527.5
Waitakere	5,970	5.5	5,916	38.2	8,826	61.2	12,054	220.9	1,287	373.0
Auckland	7,323	3.3	1,908	7.0	5,487	13.0	39,912	159.7	4,149	312.9
Manukau	327	0.2	6,978	18.7	24,210	50.3	27,312	204.1	2,550	410.6
Hamilton	4,395	5.3	6,744	46.2	1,902	97.1	5,028	166.1	1,041	418.1
Wellington	6,606	5.4	2,118	21.7	987	13.5	4,959	41.5	1,728	187.0
Christchurch	8,508	3.2	6,606	43.0	2,364	45.0	11,499	190.5	1,518	287.5
Dunedin	-4,062	-3.8	1,926	41.8	333	17.1	2,022	81.3	441	153.1
Rest of NZ	50,211	3.1	55,728	18.4	18,366	43.5	19,398	74.8	3,108	155.1
Total NZ	87,378	3.1	91,434	21.0	64,725	38.7	139,551	141.5	18,246	270.4

Data source: Statistics New Zealand - totals rounded.

Languages spoken¹²

The languages spoken by a city's residents are also a measure of diversity. As our cities have become more ethnically diverse, there has been a corresponding increase in the numbers of people speaking languages other than English. In 2001, 15% of New Zealanders spoke two or more languages, up from 13% at the 1996 Census. Over half (61%) of the people who speak more than one language lived in New Zealand's eight largest cities in 2001, up from 52% in 1996.

¹² The 2001 Census asked individuals the following question about languages, 'In which language(s) could you have a conversation about a lot of everyday things?'

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Manukau and Auckland are the most multilingual of our larger cities, with 28% (80,064) of Manukau residents and 25% (93,615) of Auckland residents speaking two or more languages. These cities are also among the most ethnically diverse in New Zealand.

The types of languages, other than English, spoken by residents vary across the eight cities depending in part on where immigrant groups are concentrated. However, all include Maori and most include Pacific Islands and Asian languages.

FIVE MOST COMMON LANGUAGES SPOKEN (OTHER THAN ENGLISH) (2001)					
	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
North Shore	Korean (5,019)	French (3,624)	Yue ¹³ (3,480)	Northern Chinese ¹⁴ (3,264)	Maori (3,060)
Waitakere	Samoan (9,024)	Maori (5,346)	Yue (2,592)	Hindi (2,073)	Sinitic nfd ¹⁵ (1,752)
Auckland	Samoan (14,226)	Yue (9,990)	Maori (8,799)	Northern Chinese (8,466)	Tongan (8,217)
Manukau	Samoan (27,834)	Maori (12,672)	Yue (8,436)	Tongan (8,436)	Northern Chinese (5,508)
Hamilton	Maori (6,990)	French (1,416)	Sinitic nfd (1,023)	Dutch (984)	NZ Sign Language (978)
Wellington	French (5,430)	Maori (4,083)	Samoan (3,891)	German (2,997)	Yue (2,778)
Christchurch	Maori (6,459)	French (4,851)	Samoan (3,738)	German (3,396)	Japanese (2,934)
Dunedin	Maori (2,514)	French (2,100)	German (1,431)	NZ Sign Language (879)	Japanese (813)
Rest of NZ	Maori (110,607)	French (20,274)	Samoan (19,203)	German (15,450)	NZ Sign Language (15,336)
Total NZ	Maori (160,527)	Samoan (81,036)	French (49,722)	Yue (37,140)	German (33,981)

Data source: Statistics New Zealand, Census 2001

Percentage of Maori speakers in the Maori population¹⁶

The survival of te reo Maori (the Maori language) as a living language has been under threat since the movement of the Maori population to urban communities in the 1950s. The Government has directed the Ministry of Maori Development to revise the National Maori Language Strategy, in order to support the revitalisation of te reo Maori. The revised strategy seeks to ensure a more co-ordinated approach by Government to its Maori language activities, and to ensure these activities are undertaken in partnership with Maori.

Maori is an oral culture. Therefore the level at which te reo Maori is spoken within the community provides a proxy measure for assessing the cultural wellbeing of New Zealand's indigenous population.

Manukau has the highest proportion of Maori speakers among its Maori population (29.2%), while North Shore has the lowest proportion (18.4%). With the exception of Manukau, all of our eight largest cities have levels of te reo which are below the rest of New Zealand and New Zealand as a whole (25.5%).

¹³ Yue is often more commonly referred to as Cantonese.

¹⁴ Northern Chinese is often more commonly referred to as Mandarin.

¹⁵ Sinitic nfd refers to groupings of other Chinese languages which have not been further defined.

¹⁶ The term 'Maori population' in this context refers to all individuals who identified themselves as Maori in the ethnicity question of the 2001 Census. This includes individuals who also identified with other ethnic groups as well as Maori.