

Ethnicity

What this is about...

Ethnicity is identification with those who share racial, linguistic, religious and other traits. Ethnic identity is recognised as involving personal identity and individual perception and choice. In the 1996 Census, respondents could choose more than one ethnicity and over 15% of New Zealanders indicated that they belonged to more than one ethnic group. This figure is up significantly from 5% at the 1991 Census.⁷

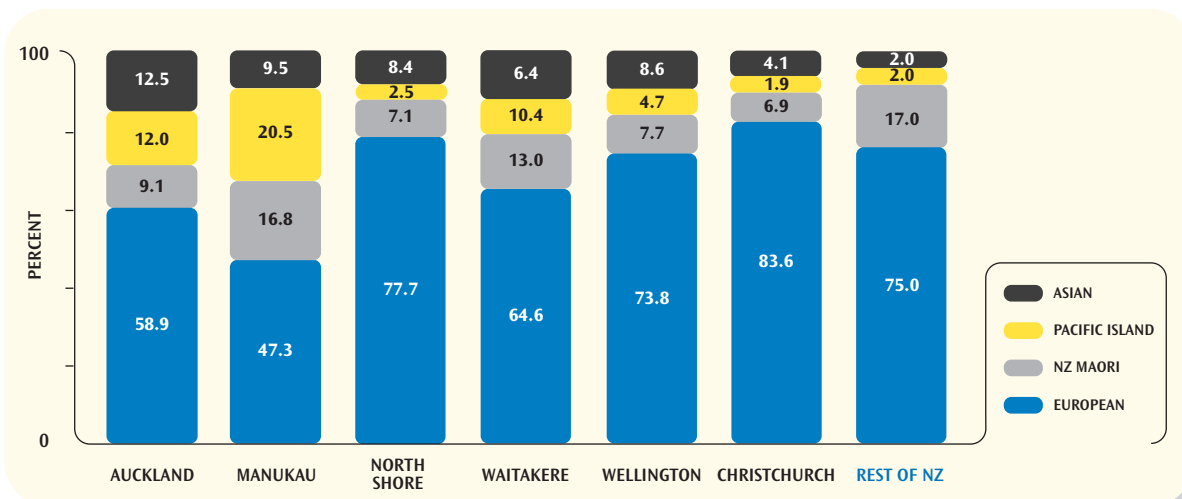
This indicator outlines proportions of the main 'umbrella' ethnic groupings within each city and the rest of New Zealand. Within each of these broad ethnic groupings there are many smaller ethnic populations, each with its own age structure, customs, and settlement history in New Zealand. At the 1996 Census there were more than 200 separate ethnic identities recorded nationally, although fewer than 30 had more than 4,000 members.

Ethnic diversity brings with it a wide range of languages, cultural values, and spiritual beliefs. Increasing ethnic diversity has implications for the range of services that need to be provided and for the way they are provided.

What did we find ?

- The ethnic composition of the six largest cities is varied. For example, while North Shore and Christchurch Cities have relatively large proportions of Europeans, others - such as Manukau and Auckland Cities - are more diverse.
- Compared to the rest of New Zealand, the six largest cities have a higher proportion of Asian and Pacific Islands residents. With the exception of Manukau City, the six largest cities have a smaller comparative Maori population.
- In 1996, Auckland City was home to the highest number of Asian residents and Manukau City was home to the highest number of Pacific Islands and Maori people.

ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF NEW ZEALAND'S SIX LARGEST CITIES (1996)⁸



Data Source: Statistics New Zealand

7 Data on ethnic identity used in this report has undergone a system of 'prioritising' multiple responses in order to allow them to total 100%. Responses are prioritised in this order – Maori, Pacific People, Asian, Other and European. For example, those who indicated both Maori and European ethnic identity in their Census form have been counted here as Maori.

8 Data for 'Other' ethnic groups has not been included in this graph as the numbers are very small – that is, less than 1%.

CHANGES IN ETHNIC IDENTITY

People identifying as European within the six largest cities decreased from 82.5% in 1991 to 79.6% in 1996, whereas the proportion of other ethnic identities increased. The most pronounced decrease was recorded in North Shore City, from 87.8% to 77.7%.

The overall proportion of New Zealanders identifying as Maori increased from 12.9% in 1991 to 14.5% in 1996, a rise of 1.6%.⁹ Waitakere recorded the largest increase in Maori, from 15,474 in 1991 to 20,181 in 1996.

Nationally, the number of persons identifying as Pacific Islanders increased by 35,000 in the inter-censal period. There was a slight increase in the six largest cities with the exception of Auckland City, which experienced a 1% decrease in the proportion of persons identifying as Pacific Islanders.

The fastest growing ethnic population between 1991 and 1996 was Asian, which rose from 99,759 to 173,502 nationally, a rise of 73%. The proportion of Asian residents increased between 1991 and 1996 in all six cities, especially those in the Auckland Region. For example, the relative proportion in Auckland City rose from 7.9% in 1991 to 12.5% in 1996. This was largely due to immigration.

CHARACTERISTICS OF ETHNIC GROUPS IN NEW ZEALAND (1991 TO 1996)

	Census population		Population change 1991-96 (%)	Belonging to more than one ethnic group (%)	Aged under 5 years (%)	Born overseas (%)	Median age
	1991 (number)	1996 (number)					
European	2,783,025	2,879,085	3.5	17.3	7.3	13.7	34.6
Maori	434,847	523,371	20.4	47.8	13.7	1.4	21.4
Pacific Island	167,070	202,233	21.0	38.6	15.1	42.2	20.4
Asian	99,759	173,502	73.9	18.5	8.7	74.7	26.6
Total	3,373,926	3,618,300	7.2	15.5	7.7	17.5	33.0

Data Source: Statistics New Zealand

PROJECTIONS FOR MAORI AND PACIFIC ISLANDS POPULATIONS

Medium range projections prepared by Statistics New Zealand estimate that both the Maori and Pacific Islands populations in New Zealand will continue to grow.

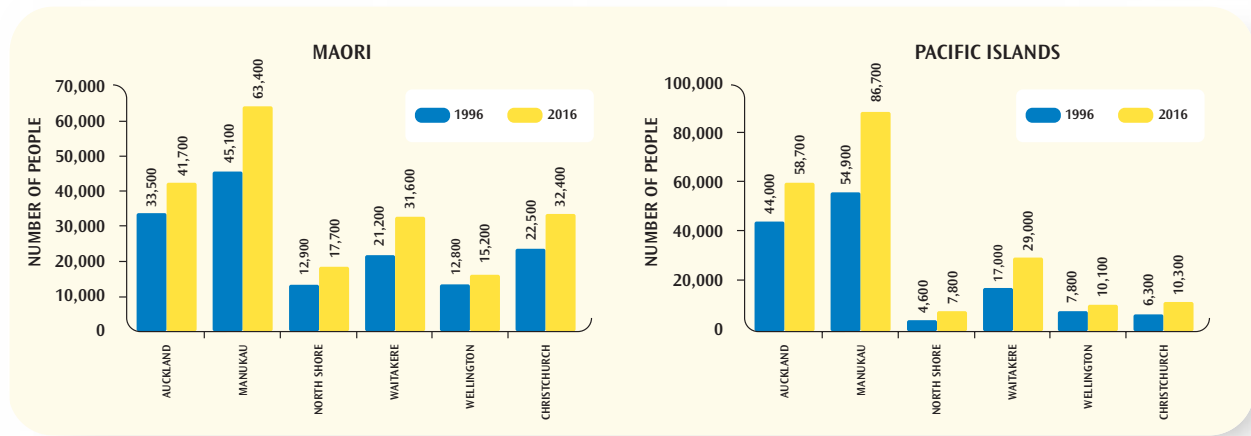
Maori

Within the participating cities, the largest Maori population growth is expected to occur in Manukau City. By 2016, it is estimated that Manukau will increase by 18,300 Maori - an increase of 41% since 1996. The cities of Waitakere, Christchurch and Auckland are also expected to undergo considerable growth within this ethnic group.

Pacific Islands

Considerable growth within the Pacific Islands population in New Zealand is expected in the next quarter of a century. This growth will be particularly strong in Manukau City, where there will be an anticipated increase of 31,800 Pacific Islands residents by the year 2016 - an increase of 58% since 1996. The cities of Waitakere and Auckland are also predicted to undergo growth in this ethnic group, but on a smaller scale.

PROJECTED GROWTH WITHIN ETHNIC GROUPINGS, BY CITY (1996 TO 2016)



Data Source: Statistics New Zealand (based on 1996 data, medium projections)

OVERSEAS BORN POPULATION

According to the 1996 Census there were 605,061 overseas born people living in New Zealand. Almost three in every four New Zealanders born in the UK or Ireland, and over half of those born in Europe, had lived here for 20 years or more. Of those born in Asian and South African countries, over half had been in New Zealand for less than five years.

The most urbanised of the new immigrants were the Asian and Pacific Island born with more than 98% living in urban areas.

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

In New Zealand, 13% of the population speak two or more languages. Of those who do speak two or more languages, 52% live in New Zealand's six largest cities. Manukau and Auckland appear to be the most multilingual cities in New Zealand, with around 21% of Auckland residents and 23% of Manukau residents speaking two or more languages.

Across the cities, the wards with the highest percentage of people speaking two or more languages were:

- Otara Ward (Manukau) 38%
- Mangere Ward (Manukau) 34%
- Mt Roskill Ward (Auckland) 26%
- Tamaki Ward (Auckland) 26%.

FIVE MOST COMMON LANGUAGES SPOKEN (OTHER THAN ENGLISH), BY REGION (1996)

	Total Population	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
Auckland Region	1,068,645	Samoan (46,851)	NZ Maori (31,980)	Cantonese Chinese (21,696)	Tongan (16,527)	French (15,480)
Wellington Region	414,048	NZ Maori (14,931)	Samoan (13,572)	French (7,809)	German (4,998)	Cantonese Chinese (4,401)
Canterbury Region	468,039	NZ Maori (7,974)	French (6,219)	German (4,680)	Dutch (4,233)	Samoan (3,564)

Data Source: Statistics New Zealand