NEW ZEALAND NOW

Series Two

People and Places

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Preface

People and Places is one of the *New Zealand Now* Series *2*, a set of books which introduces and discusses a diverse range of topical New Zealand subjects – such as Māori, children, women, families, housing and education. Each book draws together results from the 1996 Census of Population and Dwellings, as well as from other sources, to build a picture of New Zealand as it is in the late 1990s and place some of these findings in an historical perspective.

The early 1990s witnessed important developments from a demographic perspective. Our population crossed the 3.5 million mark. The growth rate surged, aided by a significant migration gain, and following its brief recovery to replacement level, the birth rate resumed its downward trend. With fewer births and more deaths, the gap between births and deaths (or natural increase) continued to shrink. A shift in immigration policy led to an inflow of settlers from non-traditional source countries, adding further to our ethnic diversity. As a nation we aged further, with the median age rising to 33 years. Latest projections (1996 base) point to a much slower population growth in the future and a burgeoning number of elderly after 2011, when the baby boomers start to enter retirement ages. Recent months have seen a growing public debate on the implications of population ageing for economic and social planning, with emphasis on the future cost of public provision for retirement income.

This book has been released in conjunction with The Population Conference convened by the Government. I would like to acknowledge my appreciation of Susan Hollows, Stephanie Prosser, Gillian Smeith and other members of the Demographic Division who contributed to this report, under the general direction of Mansoor Khawaja, Chief Demographer.

Len Cook
Government Statistician

Behind the information presented in *People and Places* is an even more expansive range of data.

Basic information from the Census of Population and Dwellings is widely released in an extensive series of published reports. Additional, more-detailed information is made available in a series of cross-classified tables and database products, including the compact disc product, Supermap. The department also offers customised services to clients with special needs.

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Chapter 1

An introduction

On 5 March 1996 New Zealand conducted its thirtieth census, 145 years after the first general census was held in this country. Since 1881, with the exception of 1931 (the Depression) and 1941 and 1946 (because of World War II), a census has been held in New Zealand every five years.

A census effectively works like a time capsule, providing a snapshot of a population at a given point in time. Everyone in the country on census night is required to fill in a questionnaire, providing a unique opportunity to produce the most comprehensive, up-to-date information on the size, structure, social and economic characteristics and location of all residents in the country on that day.

Census results are used in many areas including policy development, planning and monitoring. A variety of government organisations access this unique data source as well as private companies, community groups and individuals.

Report coverage

People and Places draws on the latest Census of Population and Dwellings, as well as other sources, to explore the way our population has changed over time. The report looks at the size of the New Zealand population and the main components of population change. It examines the age, sex and ethnic structure of the population, as well as its geographical distribution and mobility patterns. Finally, expected changes in the future New Zealand population are highlighted.

How many people?

On the night of 5 March 1996, there were 3,681,546 people in New Zealand. This is a total or de facto count and covers everyone including overseas visitors. New Zealand's increasing popularity as an international tourist destination, however, means that including overseas visitors in population comparisons can, over time, exaggerate the growth of the New Zealand population. For this reason the report mainly focuses on the usually resident population.

The number of New Zealanders counted by the census was 3,618,302. This figure excludes residents temporarily away overseas on census night. Residents who were in New Zealand but away from their usual address on census night, have been, for the purposes of spatial analysis, placed back into the area where they usually live.

Census coverage

While the census endeavours to count everyone, there are always some people who are missed. Some will have slipped through unintentionally, while others may have made a

conscious choice to avoid completing the census (eg overstayers). In 1996 for the first time in New Zealand, a Post Enumeration Survey (PES) was conducted following the Census of Population and Dwellings. It involved re-counting a random sample of 10,000 dwellings covered by the national census, using carefully trained interviewers. The main objective was to measure the completeness of census coverage (ie to gauge the extent to which individuals were missed or counted more than once in the census).

The PES results have just been released and these indicate that the 1996 Census undercounted New Zealand residents by 1.2 percent. The net undercount of around 43,000 people resulted from an undercount of 49,000, offset by 6,000 people being counted more than once. The New Zealand net undercount of 1.2 percent compares favourably with census undercount of other countries. In Australia 1.6 percent of the population was missed in their 1996 Census, 1.6 percent in the United States 1990 Census and 1.9 percent in the United Kingdom 1991 Census.

The PES also found a significantly higher net undercount rate for men than for women; for young adults than for those aged 45 years and over; and for Māori and Pacific Island people than for Europeans. For more detailed results, the reader is referred to the forthcoming report on the 1996 Post Enumeration Survey.

Population growth

Historically, the level of growth in the New Zealand population has fluctuated. Following World War II, New Zealand's population grew by more than 2 percent per year as a result of high fertility and net immigration. Between the censuses of 1951 and 1966 around three-quarters of a million people were added to the population, an increase of 37.7 percent, as is seen in figure 1.1. Rapid fertility declines in the 1960s and 1970s saw the contribution from natural increase (births less deaths) fall. During 1971-1976 lower levels of natural increase were offset by an upturn in immigration and an average annual growth rate of 1.8 percent was achieved. This rise was a short-lived phenomenon, however, and by 1977 net immigration (more people arriving than departing) had turned to net emigration (more people departing than arriving).

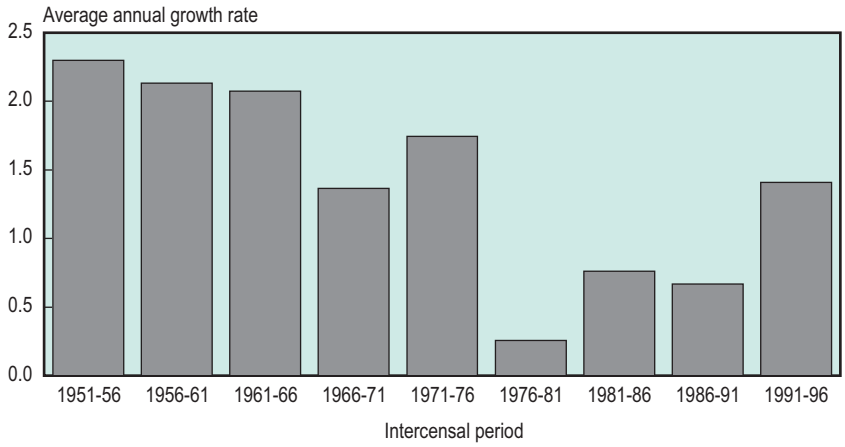
As a result of a net migration outflow of more than 100,000 people, the 1976-1981 period recorded an average growth rate of just 0.3 percent per year. Although exhibiting considerable annual volatility, immigration added little to New Zealand's population during the next decade. The average annual growth rate of 0.7 percent between 1981 and 1991 was almost solely attributable to natural increase, as the number of women of childbearing age rose.

Between 1991 and 1996 the New Zealand resident population grew by 244,375 or an average of 1.4 percent per year – around twice the rate of growth recorded in the two preceding intercensal periods. Migration gains contributed around one-third of the 1991-1996 intercensal population growth.

These average growth rates do disguise some of the variation that occurs between years. During the 1991-1996 period for example, the contribution to population growth from migration varied widely, ranging from around one-tenth in the March 1992 year to one-half in the March 1996 year.

Figure 1.1

Average Annual Resident Population Growth, 1951-1996



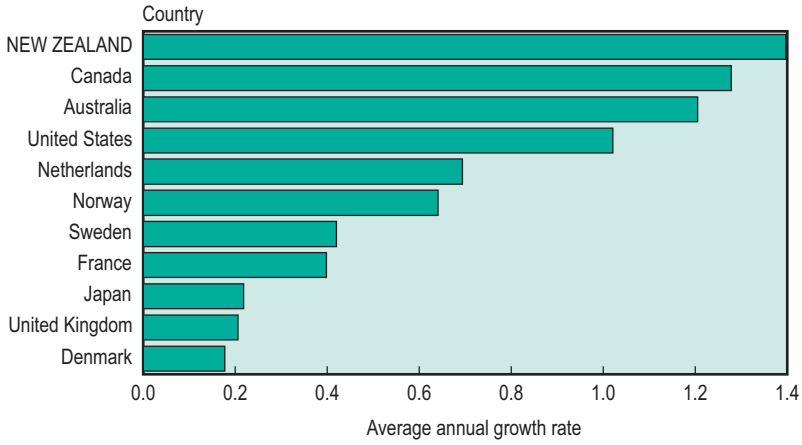
Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1951-1996

International standing

By international standards, New Zealand's recent level of population growth is relatively high. Among the selected countries shown in figure 1.2, New Zealand had the highest average annual level of growth over the latest available five-year period. Four of the countries shown had annual average growth rates of 0.4 percent or less. In at least two of these countries (Sweden and Denmark), net migration contributed over half of the growth.

Figure 1.2

Average Annual Total Population Growth Rate for Selected Countries, 1991-1996



Source: various (see bibliography) Internet (ABS, Statistics Canada, United Nations and UNPFA), Demographic Trends, *Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1991 and 1996*

Summary

There were 3,681,546 people in New Zealand on census night, including 63,244 overseas visitors.

Between 1991 and 1996, the New Zealand population increased by 244,375 people or an average of 1.4 percent per year – well above the level recorded in the three preceding intercensal periods.

Chapter 2

How populations change

Populations are dynamic, constantly changing in size, composition and distribution. As already briefly discussed, the two main factors which cause population change are natural increase (excess of births over deaths) and net permanent and long-term migration (the difference between the number of people arriving with the intention of staying for a year or more and the number departing with the intention of staying away for at least a year). All references to net migration from now on refer to permanent and long-term migration (PLT) unless otherwise stated.

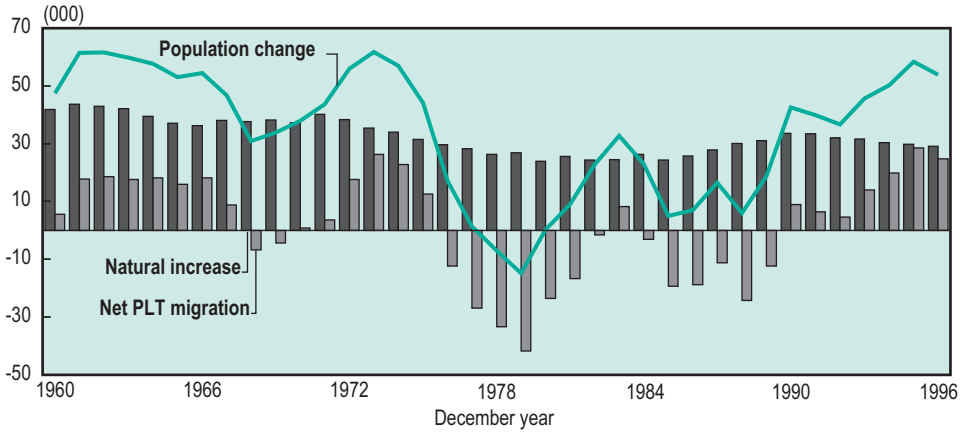
Natural increase has been the predominant component of population growth as births have consistently exceeded deaths throughout New Zealand's recent history. Over the last 60 years 90 percent of population growth has been the result of natural increase. Only occasionally (for example during the early 1970s and, more recently, in 1995 and 1996) has net migration come close to challenging natural increase.

If natural increase was the only component to affect population change, growth would have been slower but steadier. However, as is seen in figure 2.1, external migration has given an erratic pattern to population change in New Zealand.

Fluctuations in net migration, from periods of net immigration to periods of net emigration, have both enhanced and partially or wholly cancelled the effects of population growth from natural increase. During the 1950s and 1960s, for example, high levels of immigration made a particularly large contribution to growth in this period. In contrast, in 1978 and 1979 net emigration offset natural increase, leading to a small drop in population size and, as figure 1.1 shows, the five-year intercensal period 1976-1981 recorded the lowest growth rate in the post-war years.

Figure 2.1

Components of Population Change, 1960-1996



Source: Statistics New Zealand, vitals and migration

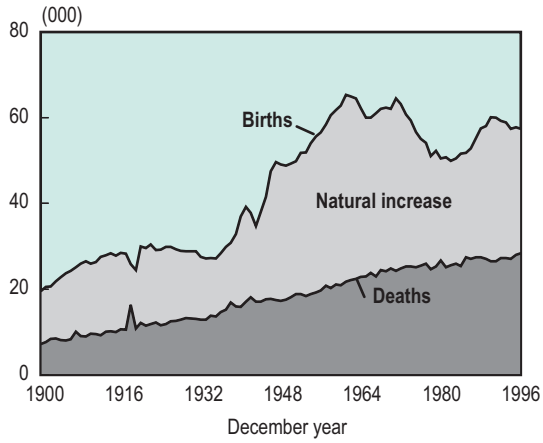
Natural increase

The pattern of natural increase in New Zealand most closely follows variations in the number of live births. Over time, the number of deaths has increased relatively slowly but steadily, with the exception of 1918 when the full impact of the flu epidemic was felt in New Zealand, as can be seen in figure 2.2.

The increase in the number of deaths, from 10,000 in 1907 to 20,000 in 1957 and further to almost 30,000 in 1996, has occurred alongside significant improvements in the life expectancy of New Zealanders. The increase in deaths is due to the increase in population size and changes in the age-sex structure of the population. In particular, there are increasing numbers of older people. If current low fertility levels are maintained, sometime towards the middle of next century deaths could exceed births. This is shown in figure 9.3 in the chapter, Looking ahead.

Figure 2.2

Total Births (Live) and Deaths, 1900-1996*



* Figures prior to 1921 refer only to the non-Māori population.

Source: Statistics New Zealand, vitals

Improvements in life expectancy mean each generation of New Zealanders expects to live longer than its predecessors. Between 1950-1952 and 1993-1995 life expectancy at birth for men improved by more than six years from 67 to 74 years, and for women by almost eight years to reach 79 years. This improvement has resulted from a reduction in the number of deaths in the first year of life, and, more recently, at the older working and retirement ages. In 1946, 9 percent of deaths were infants under 1 year of age and 29 percent were people aged 75 years and over. By 1996 the corresponding figures were 1 and 54 percent, respectively.

Variation in births reflect social and demographic changes, such as shifts in family formation. After World War II until the early 1960s, most people married and had children at a young age. Average family size, as implied by the fertility rate, surged from 2.3 births per woman in 1936 to 4.3 in 1961 at the height of the baby boom. The subsequent drop was equally dramatic, with the total fertility rate dropping to a record low in 1983 of 1.9 births per women, ie below the level required for the population to replace itself without large-scale migration.

The current trends are for couples to marry later, or not at all, and for older parenting. While births rose dramatically after World War II resulting in a baby boom, during the 1970s the number of births declined. There was a subsequent partial recovery in the number of births, largely because of a rise in the number of baby-boom women entering childbearing ages, as well as the trend to later parenting. In 1991 the number of births began falling once more. Latest figures suggest birth numbers are levelling out.

Migration

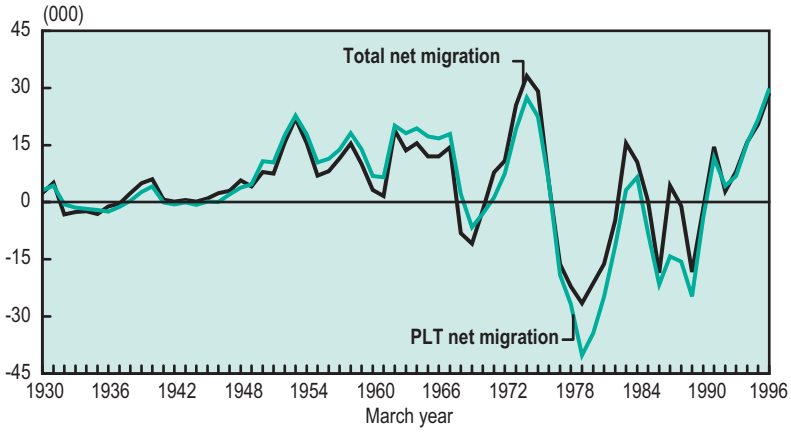
Traditionally, New Zealand has gained population through immigration. Since the turn of the century, net migration directly added an average of just over 5,000 people per year to the population. However, annual variations can be large because migration is heavily dependent on prevailing economic, social and political factors, both nationally and internationally. While over the last three decades New Zealand has experienced both periods of net immigration and net emigration, the overall effect of total migration has been the addition of fewer than 80,000 people to the population.

The type of migration is also important. While the majority of arrivals and departures are tourists or New Zealanders taking short trips, of more relevance are permanent and long-term migrants (PLT) – those arriving or leaving for a year or more. As figure 2.3 shows, the pattern of total and PLT migration is often similar. However, divergence, particularly during the late 1970s and 1980s, highlights the importance of recognising the two different series.

Permanent and long-term migration affects the size of New Zealand's resident population. In the 1980s New Zealand lost an average of more than 14,000 residents per year. Conversely, in the first six years of the 1990s, an average of more than 12,000 people was added to the resident population each year. The average since 1930 is just over 3,000.

Figure 2.3

Net Migration by Type, 1930-1996



Source: Statistics New Zealand, migration

As well as affecting population size, migration influences the age and sex structure of sending and receiving areas. Traditionally, migrants have been concentrated in the 25-44 age group, and this concentration appears to have increased. For example, in the March 1996 year almost half of permanent and long-term arrivals were in this age group, compared with just over a third in 1966.

Migration at a local level includes movements within New Zealand as well as to and from overseas. Variations in local population composition (eg age structure), fertility

and mortality rates, and attractiveness to migrants (both local and overseas) cause local populations to experience dramatically different rates of population change. The New Zealand Planning Council Report, *Diversity and Change* (1989), is able to provide a more comprehensive discussion of regional change for those readers wanting more information.

Summary

Natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) remains the main factor in population growth.

Births have consistently exceeded deaths throughout New Zealand's recorded history. However deaths may exceed births by the middle of the next century.

The pattern of population change in New Zealand is influenced by the volatility of external migration flows.

Between 1991 and 1996, around one-third of population growth came from net immigration.

Chapter 3

Population structure

The age and sex structure of a population is determined by past changes in fertility, mortality and migration. In turn, age and sex structure affect demand in areas as diverse as education, employment, health provision and state-funded retirement. Therefore, careful analysis of these structures is necessary for effective and timely social and economic planning.

Men and women

The sex ratio (the number of males per 100 females) is a useful concept for following changes in the proportion of males and females. The sex ratio is determined by the same factors that influence population change – natural increase and net migration. Net migration gain normally adds more males to the population. Natural increase, however, tends to favour females, as males usually have higher mortality rates at all ages. While more boys are born than girls in New Zealand (in 1996, 51 percent of babies born were boys), more males die before their first birthday (55 percent of all infant deaths in 1996 were boys) and in most ages, until around 80 years.

Trends in the sex ratio

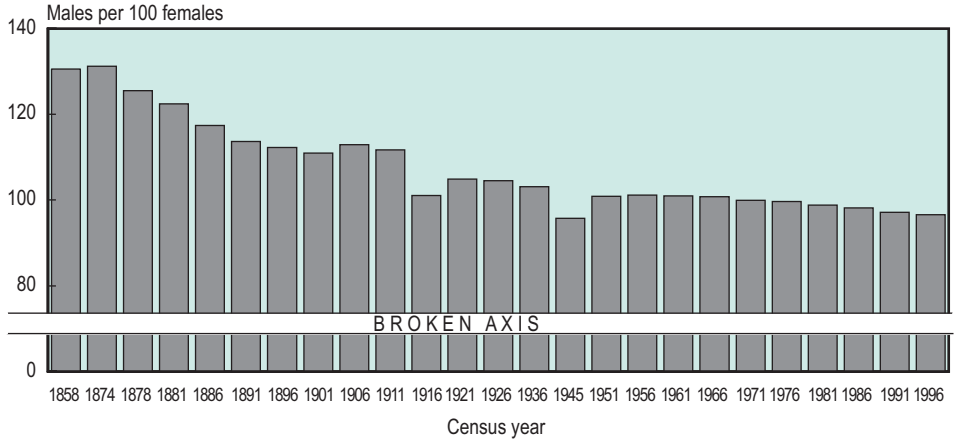
In the early waves of European settlement in New Zealand, more men than women arrived. The early settler society of New Zealand proved less attractive to women because of the harsh conditions, remoteness, isolation, and a lack of suitable employment. The 1858 Census recorded 131 males for every 100 females. As the population grew, natural increase and ageing began to reduce this inequality. Over time, the ratio of males to females declined. However, in the 1916 and 1945 Censuses there was a noticeable drop in the sex ratio because servicemen located overseas were not counted. These declines were only temporary and the sex ratio quickly recovered, as is shown in figure 3.1, when many of these men returned to New Zealand.

The 1971 Census was the first to record more females than males. Since then the number of females has consistently increased more quickly than the number of males, resulting in a slow but steady fall in the sex ratio. At the 1996 Census there were 1,777,464 males and 1,840,839 females resident in New Zealand, resulting in a sex ratio of 97 males for every 100 females.

As figure 3.2 shows, the sex composition of the population is closely related to its age structure. This is because there are more males in the youngest ages and more females in the oldest ages. The younger a population's age structure, the more likely it is that there will be an excess of males.

Figure 3.1

New Zealand Sex Ratio, 1858-1996*Censuses

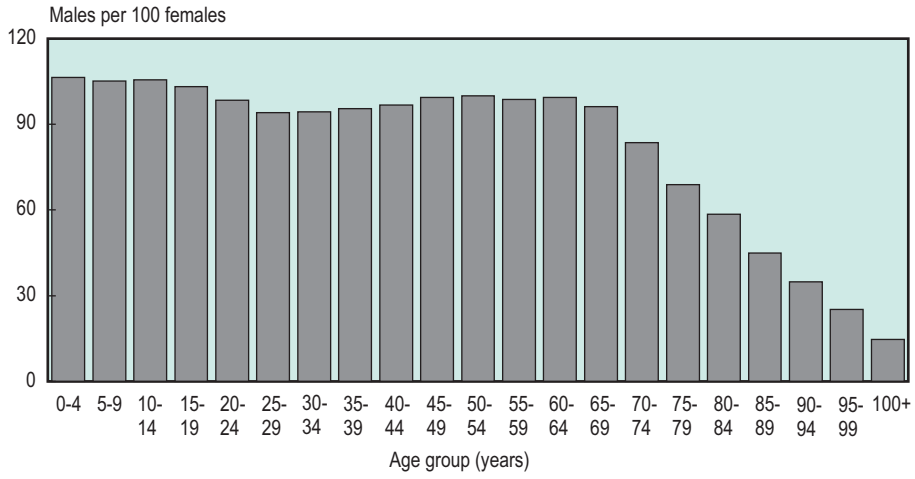


* Figures prior to 1981 refer to the de facto population.

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings,1858-1996

Figure 3.2

Sex Ratio by Age Group, 1996 Census

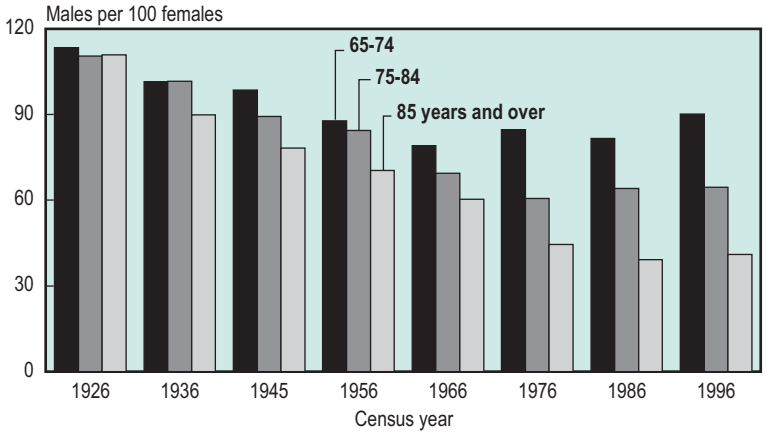


Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996

While over time the elderly sex ratio has increasingly favoured females, this trend is now reducing as the gap in life expectancy narrows, particularly among the younger elderly, as can be seen in figure 3.3. In 1996 there were 90 males for every 100 females in the 65-74 age group, compared with just 79 per 100 in 1966. Similarly, the sex ratio for the 75-84 age group rose from 61 per 100 in 1976 to 65 per 100 in 1996.

Figure 3.3

Sex Ratio for Selected Elderly Age Groups, 1926-1996* Censuses



* Figures prior to 1981 refer to the de facto population.

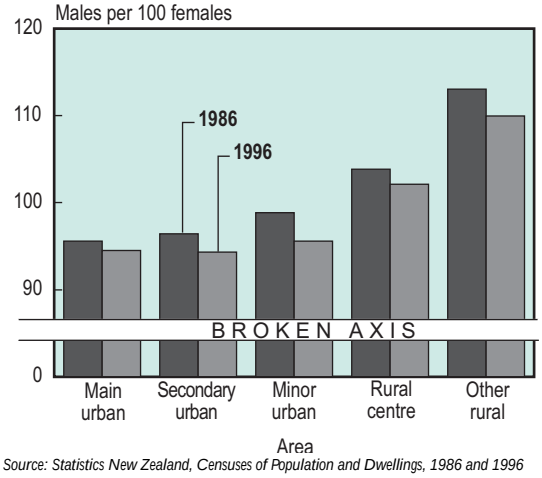
Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1926-96

Local variations

The sex ratio for individual areas may differ significantly from the national average. As is seen in figure 3.4, between urban and rural areas for example, there is a marked variation in the sex ratio. Rural areas generally have more males than females. Even though the sex ratio in all urban and rural area types has decreased over the last 10 years, rural areas maintain higher male numbers. In 1996 rural areas recorded a sex ratio of 110 males per 100 females. Rural centres were closer to the national sex ratio with 102 males per 100 females.

Figure 3.4

Urban-Rural Sex Ratios, 1986 and 1996 Censuses



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1986 and 1996

There are probably several reasons for the excess of males in rural areas. The most obvious is employment opportunities. Many women traditionally find work in service industries and are, therefore, more likely to need to move to urban areas to find suitable employment. Another possible reason for women leaving rural areas may be the lack of services for elderly. As women tend to marry men older than themselves, they often outlive their husbands and are more likely to live alone in old age. Lack of home support for these elderly women means that they are more likely than men to need specialist

care. These services are rarely available in rural areas, so older women may find they need to move to urban areas to receive suitable care. The employment opportunities available in rural areas are more likely to be suited to males and may also be attracting males from urban areas.

Among regions, the highest sex ratio in 1996 was recorded in the West Coast region (103 males per 100 females). Three more regions (Tasman, Southland and Marlborough) had more male residents than females. The lowest sex ratios were recorded in Nelson and Otago (95 males per 100 females). Regional variations in the sex ratio can often be explained by the proportion of a region's population which is living in rural areas, as the sex ratio for the rural part is always well above that of the urban part. The regions with the highest rural sex ratios were all in the South Island (Southland, West Coast and Marlborough), while the lowest ratios were recorded in the Northland, Bay of Plenty and Auckland regions.

In all regions except Nelson the sex ratio has fallen, as the number of females has risen more quickly than the number of males. The greatest decline was recorded in Northland, where the sex ratio fell from 103 males per 100 females in 1986 to just 98 per 100 in 1996. This was because the number of young adults declined quickly while the number of older people rose quickly.

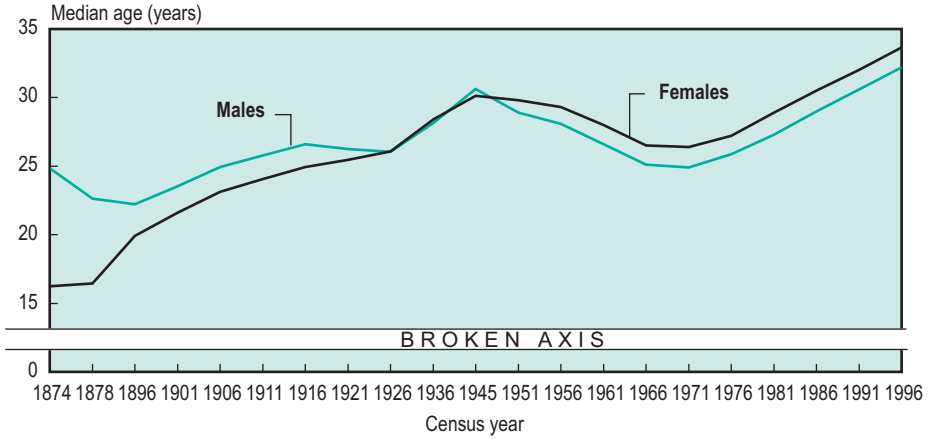
Age structure

The age structure of the New Zealand population has undergone significant changes this century. Mostly, this is the result of changes in the birth rate, with migration also playing an important role.

The median age provides a useful summary measure for analysing changes in the age distribution of the population over time. The median age is the age which divides the population into two equal halves. Half the population is older and half younger than this age. In the 1874 Census, as seen in figure 3.5, the median age for non-Māori males

Figure 3.5

Median Age, 1874-1996* Censuses



*Figures prior to 1911 exclude the Māori population. Figures prior to 1981 refer to the de facto population.

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1874-1996

was 24.8 years and for non-Māori females just 16.3 years – a difference of 8.5 years. The large divergence between the sexes was the result of immigration. The population pyramid in figure 3.6 (a graphical representation of age and sex structure where the proportion of males and females in the population is indicated by the length of the bars from the central axis) at this time clearly shows the concentration of men in the middle ages. Females, however, were concentrated in the youngest age groups, as their growth in numbers resulted more from natural increase than immigration.

By 1896 the gap between males and females had narrowed to 2.3 years, with median ages of 22.2 and 19.9 years, respectively. High birth rates and ageing of the population had changed the age structure considerably, leading to a fairly symmetrical but bottom heavy pyramid.

The median age continued to rise. By 1926 the differential had completely disappeared with both sexes recording the same median age of 26.1 years. The fall in the birth rate during the depression years caused the median age to rise to over 30 years by 1945. The population pyramid for 1936, with its narrowing base, clearly reflects this fall in births. The burgeoning of birth numbers during the post-war baby boom widened the pyramid base, giving the population a youthful look. By 1971 the median age had fallen by nearly five years to around 25 years. The median age for males in 1971 was 24.9 years and for females, 26.4 years.

Since 1971 the trend in median age has been upward, reflecting low birth rates, the passing of baby boomers into middle ages and the improvement in longevity. The 1996 Census recorded median ages of 32.2 years for males and 33.6 years for females, up around 1.7 years over 1991. The 1996 population pyramid shows the baby-boom bulge in the middle ages and growing proportions of elderly in the population.

Children

As figure 3.7 shows, in 1996 there were 832,000 children aged 0-14 years, comprising 23.0 percent of the population – well down on the 32.6 percent recorded three decades earlier in 1966. Between 1986 and 1996 the number of children increased by 4.7 percent. However, most of this growth resulted from the increase in births between 1986 and 1991. During this period the number of children aged under five years increased by 11.3 percent, while between 1991 and 1996 an increase of just 0.9 percent was recorded in this youngest age group.

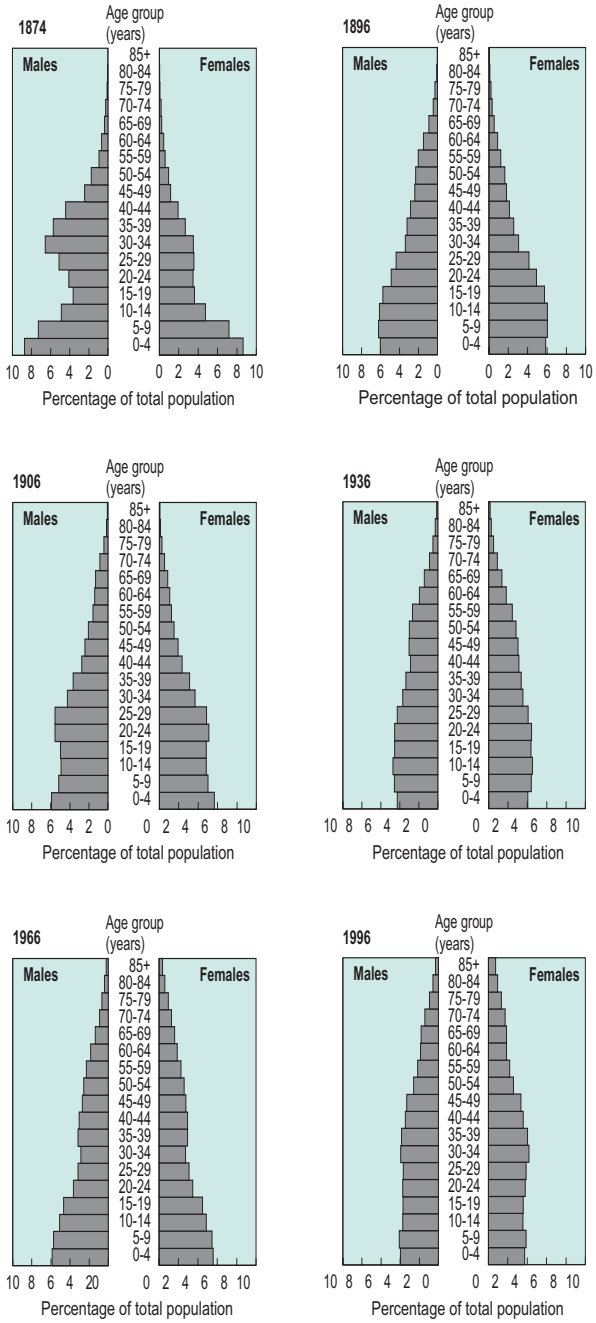
Working-age population

The working-age population (15-64 years) includes the large baby-boom generation who were aged 31-50 in 1996. It is, therefore, an important element in the evolution of the New Zealand population age structure. In 1996 around 2 in every 3, or 65.3 percent of New Zealanders, belonged to this group.

The working-age population can itself be further divided into three broad groups: the early (15-24 years), middle (25-44 years) and late working ages (45-64 years). In 1996, 534,738 people or 14.8 percent of the total New Zealand population were in the early age group, a decline of 3.8 percent between 1991 and 1996. The middle working age group was over twice as large, with 1,107,039 people, an increase of 7.6 percent between 1991 and 1996.

Figure 3.6

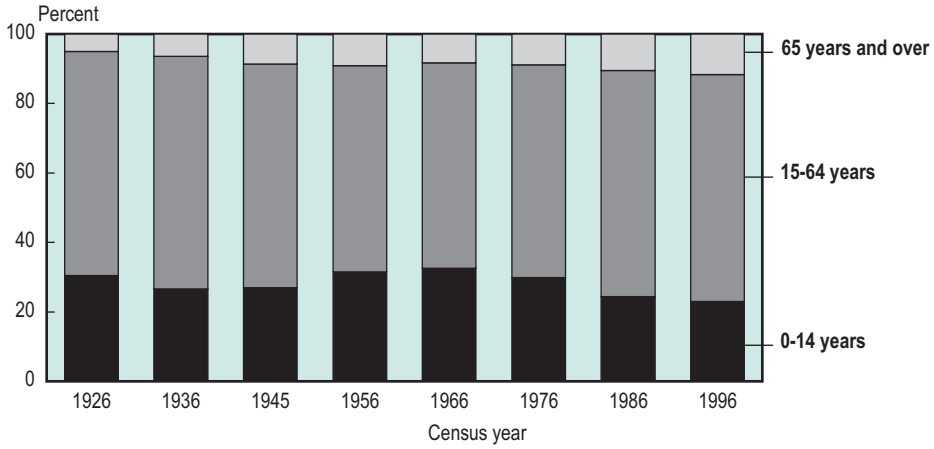
Population Pyramids, Selected Census Years, 1874-1996



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1874, 1896, 1906, 1936, 1966 and 1996

Figure 3.7

Selected Age Group Distributions, 1926-1996* Censuses



* Figures prior to 1976 refer to the de facto population.

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1926-1996

The most dramatic change between 1991 and 1996 occurred in the late working ages, reflecting the passage of the baby boomers into this age bracket. This group increased by 15.4 percent to 721,776 people, compared with a 4.5 percent increase between 1986 and 1991. Its share of the population increased from 18.5 percent in 1991 to 19.9 percent in 1996.

The elderly

Since 1976 the number of elderly people aged 65 and over has risen by 53.6 percent, compared with a 16.6 percent increase in the total population during this time. In 1996, 422,667 New Zealand residents were aged 65 years and over, up 11.3 percent since 1991. They comprised 11.3 percent of all New Zealanders in 1991 and 11.7 percent in 1996.

Within the elderly group, the growth rate varied directly with age. Between 1991 and 1996 the number of elderly aged 65-74 years rose by 9.1 percent, compared with a 12.0 percent increase in the 75-84 age group and a 24.2 percent increase in the 85 years and over age group. In all three of these subgroups, the number of men rose more quickly than the number of women. The most dramatic difference was in the 65-74 age group, where male numbers rose by 12.9 percent, compared with a 6.0 percent increase in female numbers.

Regional age variations

Regional variations in median age are marked, as is seen in figure 3.8. In 1996 Marlborough, Tasman and Nelson recorded the highest median ages, ranging between 35 and 36 years. The lowest median ages were recorded in Gisborne (31.6), Waikato (31.8) and Auckland (32.1) regions. South Islanders were, on average, almost two years older than North Islanders. Their median age in 1996 was 34.3 years, compared with 32.5 years for their northern counterparts.

Figure 3.8

Regional Median Ages, 1986, 1991 and 1996 Censuses

Region	1986	1991	1996
	Median age (years)		
Northland	29.2	31.5	33.8
Auckland	30.1	30.9	32.1
Waikato	28.0	30.1	31.9
Bay of Plenty	29.3	31.6	33.7
Gisborne	27.8	30.0	31.6
Hawke's Bay	29.3	31.6	33.8
Taranaki	28.9	31.3	33.6
Manawatu-Wanganui	28.5	30.3	32.2
Wellington	29.7	30.9	32.7
North Island	29.4	30.9	32.5
Tasman	30.8	33.8	35.3
Nelson	33.1	34.1	35.0
Marlborough	31.5	34.2	36.1
West Coast	30.6	32.7	34.5
Canterbury	31.5	33.2	34.5
Otago	30.4	32.2	33.6
Southland	28.6	31.0	33.7
South Island	30.9	32.8	34.3
Total, New Zealand	29.7	31.3	33.0

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1986-1996

Between 1991 and 1996 the median age of the New Zealand population rose by around 1.7 years to reach 33.0 years. Only five regions recorded smaller increases than the median, with Auckland the only North Island region to do so. The smallest increase was recorded in Nelson (0.8 years), while the largest increase occurred in Southland (2.7 years).

Between 1991 and 1996 the number of children increased in all regions except Taranaki and Southland. Conversely, the number of young adults (aged 15-24 years) fell in all regions except Auckland and Otago. Meanwhile, in the 25-44 age group, only Taranaki and Southland experienced population decline. In the older working ages (45-64) the number of people rose in every region, as did the number of elderly.

The decline in the population under 45 years in Taranaki and Southland is a reflection of the more rapid ageing of their populations. In Nelson, Auckland and Otago where gains were made in the younger ages, the ageing process was much slower.

Urban-rural differences

Since 1986 the median age has risen by 5.5 years in rural areas, compared with a rise of 2.8 years in urban areas. In 1986 the rural median age was 1.9 years below the urban median. By 1996, the rural median age exceeded that of urban areas by 0.8 years, as is seen in figure 3.9.

Figure 3.9

Urban-Rural Median Ages, 1986, 1991 and 1996 Censuses

Area	1986	1991	1996
		Male	
Urban	29.1	30.5	32.0
Rural	28.1	31.0	33.6
Total	29.0	30.6	32.2
		Female	
Urban	31.0	32.2	33.7
Rural	28.1	30.8	33.5
Total	30.5	32.0	33.6
		Total	
Urban	30.0	31.4	32.8
Rural	28.1	30.9	33.6
Total	29.7	31.3	33.0

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1986-1996

The median age of males and females in rural and urban areas showed similar trends. Between 1986 and 1996 the median age of urban females rose by 2.7 years, as against a 5.4-year increase for their rural sisters. Over the same period the median age of urban males rose by 2.9 years, compared with a 5.5 year rise for rural males. While rural males were older than urban males at the 1996 Census, rural females, while closing in on their urban counterparts, still recorded a lower median age, as is shown in figure 3.9.

Summary

At the 1971 Census females outnumbered males for the first time. In 1996 females comprised 50.9 percent of New Zealand's population and there were 97 males for every 100 females.

The sex ratio generally falls with rising age as the number of elderly women exceeds the number of elderly men. In 1996, 56.9 percent of people aged 65 years and over were female, rising to 70.9 percent for the 85-years-and-over age group.

The West Coast region had the highest sex ratio in 1996 (103 males per 100 females), while the Nelson and Otago regions recorded the lowest (95 males per 100 females).

Rural areas continue to contain more males than females, although between 1991 and 1996 the decline in the sex ratio for rural areas was higher than for urban areas.

Since 1971 the New Zealand population has been ageing. By 1996, half the male population was aged over 32.2 years and half the female population was over 33.6 years.

Children comprised 23.0 percent of the population in 1996, down slightly from 23.2 percent in 1991. The number of children under 5 years increased by just 0.9 percent between 1991 and 1996.

Almost two-thirds (65.3 percent) of the population were aged 15-64 years in 1996. The largest increase within this group was in the 45-64 age group, with a 15.4 percent increase between 1991 and 1996.

The elderly (65 years and over) continue to increase their share of the population. In 1996, 11.7 percent of New Zealanders were in this age group. The number of older elderly (85 years and over) increased more than three times as quickly as those aged 65-74 years.

In 1996 the median age of New Zealand residents was 33.0 years. On a regional basis the median age ranged from 31.8 years in Gisborne to 36.1 years in Marlborough.

Chapter 4

Recent arrivals

Among the many people who arrive in New Zealand each year, a number intend to settle here permanently or stay for at least a year. Some are New Zealanders who have been living overseas, while others have chosen New Zealand as their new home. In the March 1996 year 80,300 people arrived intending to stay for at least one year. Of these, 23,400 or 29.2 percent had New Zealand nationality, compared with 51.8 percent of permanent arrivals in 1991.

The early migrants

Substantial European migration to New Zealand began in 1840. These early migrants were assisted by the New Zealand Company and the provincial governments, although there were also a number of independent migrants, many of whom came from or via Australia. By the end of the 1850s the European and Māori populations were of a similar size as immigration and natural increase boosted European numbers, while the Māori population declined in size.

During the 1860s the gold-fields in the South Island attracted many migrants from Australia – most of whom were of British nationality. The subsequent decline of the gold industry and an economic downturn, encouraged many migrants to leave. This led to central government policy designed to promote settlement. Vogel's Immigration and Public Works Act of 1870 allocated funds to recruit and assist migrants from the United Kingdom, Germany and Scandinavia. Though the scheme was a success, economic recession led to its demise by the late 1870s.

By the late nineteenth century New Zealand's increased accessibility allowed a greater range of migrants to land. Recession and racist attitudes resulted in the government in the 1880s imposing arbitrary restrictions and taxes on Chinese settlers to limit their numbers. Ethnic bias was not confined to the Chinese. Before Dalmations could work the kauri gum fields, they first had to become naturalised British subjects. In 1899 the Immigration Restriction Act was passed requiring non-British immigrants to write and sign their application in a European language. Essentially, British-born people had free access to the country, while the entry of other nationalities was subject to the discretion of the Minister of Customs.

In the first half of the twentieth century, agricultural expansion, the Depression and two world wars contributed to considerable fluctuation in migrant numbers. The acceptance of some European refugees in the 1930s was the beginning of a much larger flow after World War II, serving to further diversify the migrant population. Labour shortages after the war led to assisted passage for immigrants from the United Kingdom and later the Netherlands (early 1950s).

A review of immigration policy in the early 1970s ended the unrestricted access of British migrants and assisted passage schemes were stopped in 1975. The past two

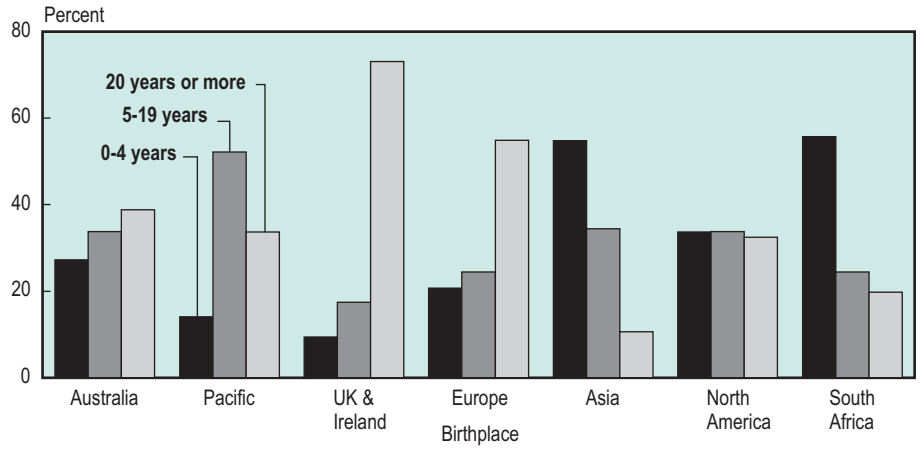
decades have seen the emergence of immigration policy where entry is based on occupational, business, economic, family and humanitarian grounds rather than nationality.

New immigrants

In 1996 there were 605,100 overseas-born people living in New Zealand. Of these, more than a third had lived here for 20 years or more. However, substantial differences on the basis of birthplace were revealed, a reflection of the timing and sources of past migration flows. This is shown in figure 4.1. Almost 3 in every 4 New Zealanders born in the United Kingdom or Ireland and over half of those born in Europe had lived here for 20 years or more. Conversely, more than half of Asian and South African immigrants had been in New Zealand for fewer than five years.

Figure 4.1

Years in New Zealand by Birthplace, 1996 Census



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996

Subsequent discussion in this chapter focuses mainly on 'new' immigrants. As there is no census question on citizenship or residency, a surrogate measure has been used. A new immigrant is defined as any usual resident who was born overseas and was living overseas (or not born) at the 1991 Census. The limitations in this measure are that any overseas-born person temporarily out of the country at the 1991 Census was counted as a new immigrant (for example, at the 1996 Census 12,400 of the people categorised as a new immigrant under this criteria specified that they had lived in New Zealand for five years or more). Also, immigrants who were resident at some stage between the 1991 and 1996 Census but were not counted in 1996 (ie left the country or died) will not be included.

This definition results in a total of 164,500 new immigrants recorded at the 1996 Census, an increase of almost 45 percent over the 1991 total of 113,800, and more than twice the number recorded 10 years earlier at the 1986 Census (80,100).

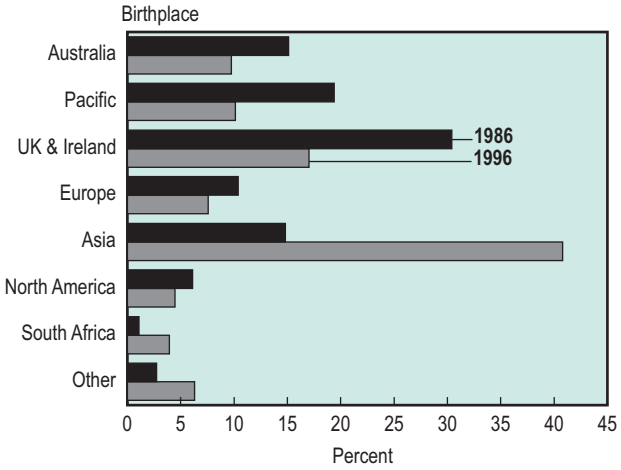
Where immigrants come from

There have been significant changes in the birthplace distribution of new immigrants over the last 10 years. At the 1996 Census 2 in every 5 new immigrants had been born in Asia, compared with around 1 in 7 in 1986, as is seen in figure 4.2. As a result, Asia has replaced the United Kingdom and Ireland as the largest source of new immigrants. Other traditional source countries, such as the Pacific and Australia, have also become less important over this period.

In 1986 the three main source areas for new immigrants were: the United Kingdom and Ireland (30.4 percent), the Pacific (19.4) and Australia (15.1). By 1996 the top three source areas were Asia (40.8 percent), the United Kingdom and Ireland (17.0) and the Pacific (10.1).

Figure 4.2

Birthplace of New Immigrants, 1986 and 1996 Censuses



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings,1986 and 1996

In all the birthplaces shown, the number of new immigrants rose between 1986 and 1996. However, almost two-thirds of the overall growth in the new immigrant population during this time resulted from the increase in Asian-born new immigrants. Compared with 1986, there were over five times the number of new immigrants from Asia in 1996. Within the "Other" group, 4 in every 5 new immigrants in 1996 were from either the Middle East, Southern and East Africa or the former USSR and Baltic States.

There have also been some important compositional changes in the source countries of Asian-born immigrants over the last 10 years. In 1986 Cambodia, Malaysia, China, Japan and India accounted for more than half of all Asian-born immigrants. By 1996 almost two-thirds of Asian-born migrants came from South Korea, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Malaysia.

Age structure

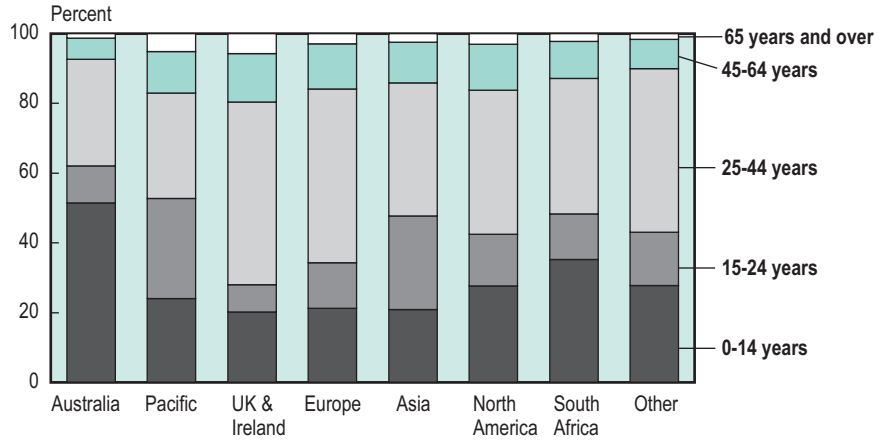
The age structure of new immigrants is younger that that of other New Zealand residents. In 1996 more than 2 in every 5 new immigrants were aged 25-44 years, a further 1 in every 4 were children under the age of 15, and around 1 in 5 were aged 15-24 years. In contrast, the remaining New Zealand population recorded lower proportions in all these age groups, particularly 25-44 years, with fewer than 1 in 3 in this age group. Consequently, the migrant population was under-represented in the older age groups. Around 1 in 7 new immigrants was aged 45 years and over, compared with around 1 in 3 of other New Zealanders.

The youthfulness of the recent migrant population is reflected in their median age. In 1996 half of all new immigrants were under 27.6 years of age, about 5.4 years younger than the median age of 33.0 years for all New Zealanders.

There are also differences in age structure among new immigrant groups. As figure 4.3 shows, more than half of those who specified Australia as their birthplace were children, compared with around one-fifth of those born in the United Kingdom and Ireland, Europe and Asia.

Figure 4.3

Age Structure of New Immigrants by Birthplace, 1996 Census



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996

The high proportion of children in the Australian-born migrant population probably results from children accompanying their New Zealand-born parent(s). Of the more than 46,000 people who indicated that they were living in Australia at the 1991 Census, almost two-thirds had been born in New Zealand. However, for children under 15 this proportion was just above one-third, while over 70 percent of the 25-44 age group (those most likely to be their parents) had been born in New Zealand.

Recent immigrants born in the Pacific and Asian regions were more likely than other new immigrant groups to be aged 15-24 years, perhaps reflecting a move here to obtain higher education or employment. There was also a relatively high proportion of older people from the Pacific, with more than 5 percent aged 65 years and over. Migrants

from the United Kingdom and Ireland had the oldest age structure, however, recording a median age of 31.6 years.

Immigrants in the oldest ages are likely to enter New Zealand on family repatriation or humanitarian grounds. The relatively high proportion of Pacific Islanders in the oldest ages may represent parents of earlier migrants. If this is the case, we may expect a similar situation to occur in the future as the parents of current new immigrant groups, such as Asians and South Africans, begin to seek residence in New Zealand.

The majority of new immigrants seem to arrive in New Zealand directly from their area of birth. For example, 94.4 percent of Asian-born new arrivals stated that they were living in Asia in 1991. However for those born in the United Kingdom and Ireland, the route to New Zealand appears less direct, with only 79.0 percent living there in 1991. A further 10.1 percent indicated they were living in Australia at that time.

Language

Many new immigrants come from non-English speaking countries. Of around 152,000 new immigrants who could hold a conversation about everyday things, 16.5 percent could not do so in English. This proportion was higher for some migrant groups: 29.7 percent of Asian-born new immigrants did not speak English, compared with 23.9 percent of those from the Pacific; 7.5 percent of European-born migrants and less than 1 percent of those from South Africa.

Census results indicate that most new immigrant groups quickly acquire knowledge of the English language. Of all those people born overseas who indicated they could hold a conversation about everyday things, less than 5 percent who had lived in New Zealand for five years or more did not select English. However, many of these more established migrants originally came from English speaking countries. Of the Pacific-born migrant population, the proportion not selecting English after living in New Zealand for five years or more was 15.2 percent, and for Asian-born migrants, 15.7 percent.

Where migrants settle

Economic and social considerations are often paramount for migrants when they are deciding where to settle. The reason for migration and the location of already established ethnic communities will affect where new immigrants choose to settle. These factors often contribute to the concentrated settlement patterns found for some new migrant groups.

The first point of contact for many new immigrants is Auckland City, the major gateway to New Zealand. More than half of all new immigrants were living in the Auckland region at the time of the 1996 Census. This pattern of settlement is nothing new (see the Planning Council Report, *Diversity and Change* (1989), p34), but does differ from the settlement pattern adopted by New Zealanders returning home after a lengthy absence. Of the 63,400 New Zealand-born residents in 1996 who were overseas at the time of the 1991 Census, just over one-third settled in the Auckland region, a higher proportion than the remaining New Zealand-born population. This is shown in figure 4.4.

Figure 4.4

Selected Location by Birthplace and Migrant Status, 1996 Census

Area	Overseas-born		New Zealand-born	
	New migrant migrant	Established migrant	Recently returned	Other residents
	Percent			
North Island	83.0	82.6	75.4	73.1
South Island	17.0	17.4	24.6	26.9
Region				
Auckland	55.3	44.7	33.4	25.1
Wellington	10.3	14.6	12.5	11.0
Canterbury	10.6	10.0	13.7	13.7
Urban Area				
Auckland	53.8	42.5	31.4	23.0
Wellington	9.4	12.4	10.9	8.7
Christchurch	8.8	8.0	10.6	9.3
Other Main Urban	15.7	17.9	22.6	25.4
Secondary Urban	2.9	5.3	5.4	8.1
Minor Urban	3.9	5.5	7.2	9.5
Rural	5.5	8.4	11.8	16.1

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996

Birthplace was an important indicator of whether a new migrant was living in the Auckland Urban Area. While 53.8 percent of all new immigrants were located there, proportions ranged from around two-thirds (Pacific and Asian-born) to less than one-third (Australian and North American-born). The most urbanised new immigrants were the Asian and Pacific Island-born with more than 98 percent living in urban areas. For the Australian, European and North American-born migrants, the corresponding figure was less than 90 percent.

These differentials, in part, reflect the motivation of migrants moving to New Zealand and their familiarity with urban or rural lifestyles. For example, someone moving to New Zealand for business reasons will tend to gravitate to the larger cities where there are greater opportunities. Conversely, someone whose choice of location is dictated by the environment may perhaps opt for a rural or semi-rural area.

Analysis of the Auckland Urban Area as a whole obscures important settlement pattern differences within the city for specific birthplace groups. Auckland Urban Area can be further divided into four urban zones – Northern, Western, Central and Southern. Central Auckland Zone is the most popular destination for new immigrants living in the Auckland Urban Area, with more than two-fifths located there. While a further quarter were living in the Southern Auckland Zone, the proportion for Pacific Island-born new immigrants, at 42.8 percent, was significantly higher than for most other groups. The Northern Auckland Zone was home to around one-fifth of new immigrants, though South Africans (40.2 percent) recorded a much higher proportion. Just 4.4 percent of Pacific Island-born new immigrants were living in this urban zone.

Only around 1 in 8 new immigrants were living outside a main urban area in 1996, compared with almost 1 in 5 established migrants, 1 in 4 recently-returned New Zealand-born residents and one-third of the remaining New Zealand-born population.

New immigrants in 1996 recorded a more concentrated settlement pattern than their counterparts 10 years earlier in 1986. In 1986, 17.5 percent of new immigrants lived outside the main urban areas but in 1996, 12.2 percent did so. The settlement pattern of arrivals born in Europe, Asia, South Africa and other non-European or Pacific countries has contributed to this change. While in 1986, 11.5 percent of Asian-born new immigrants were living in a small urban or rural area, by 1996 this proportion had fallen to just 4.9 percent. The change for South African-born immigrants during this time was from 18.8 to 12.5 percent.

The Auckland Urban Area has attracted many of the new immigrants over the last 10 years, rising from 41.1 percent in 1986 to 53.8 percent in 1996. The Christchurch Urban Area also increased its share, rising from 7.8 percent in 1986 to 8.8 percent in 1996. Conversely, the Wellington Urban Area has a reduced share, falling from 14.7 to 9.4 percent during this time.

A comparison of the overseas-born population by birthplace indicates differences in the level of dispersion which occurs after initial settlement. In 1996, 64.5 percent of Asian-born new immigrants lived in the Auckland Urban Area. Earlier arrivals were more dispersed, with only 52.7 percent of the Asian-born population who had lived here at the 1991 Census living in the Auckland Urban Area in 1996. This trend was evident among the South African-born population also. While 54.9 percent of new immigrants in this group lived in the Auckland Urban Area, only 41.5 percent of earlier arrivals lived there. Similar dispersion of Pacific Island-born people has not occurred. While 68.6 percent of Pacific Island new immigrants were living in the Auckland Region in 1996, the figure for established migrants was 69.9 percent.

Summary

Of the 605,100 people living in New Zealand who had been born overseas, more than one-quarter were classified as new immigrants.

In 1996, 2 in every 5 new immigrants were born in Asia, compared with around 1 in 7 in 1986.

New arrivals are younger than the general population. More than two-fifths were aged 25-44 years and a further quarter were children under 15 years of age. The median age of new immigrants, at 27.6 years, was 5.4 years below that of all New Zealanders.

Most new immigrants settle in large urban areas. In 1996 just 12.2 percent were living outside the main urban areas.

While more than half of new immigrants who were born overseas settled in the Auckland Urban Area, less than 1 in 3 recently returned New Zealand-born migrants did so.

Since 1986 the settlement pattern of some new migrant groups has become more concentrated. While just over one-third of Asian-born migrants were living in the Auckland Urban Area in 1986, this proportion had risen to almost two-thirds by 1996.

Chapter 5

A multi-cultural society

The diversity of New Zealand's population is reflected in the range of ethnic groups recorded by the latest census. In all, more than 200 separate ethnic identities were represented, though fewer than 30 had more than 4,000 members each. Ethnicity has traditionally been measured in terms of ancestry, or the different degrees of ethnic blood that a person had. In recent years the definition of ethnicity has broadened extensively, as ethnic identity has come to be recognised as something more complex, involving personal identification and individual perception and choice.

Multiple ethnicity

Ethnicity is a fluid concept and a person may identify with one or several ethnic groups. The notion of belonging to a single ethnic group is probably not appropriate for many New Zealanders. The concept of multiple ethnicity has been accommodated more enthusiastically in recent years in the collection of official statistics, in line with the extension of the definition of ethnicity. At the 1996 Census, respondents were asked to, "Tick as many circles as you need to show which ethnic groups(s) you belong to". The 1991 Census question asked, "Which ethnic group do you belong to ? Tick the box or boxes which apply to you."

While the collection of multiple responses provides a fuller picture of the ethnic make-up of our population, it also poses challenges to those wishing to measure New Zealand's ethnic composition. The approach of this chapter is to include every person who specified a particular ethnicity. This means that some people will be counted more than once because they have specified more than one ethnic group. Using every response in this way allows us to explore the rich ethnic mixtures which our society offers.

In 1996 over 15 percent of New Zealanders indicated that they belonged to more than one ethnic group, up significantly from the 1991 Census when only 5 percent were in this category. Most of this increase is likely to be the result of the rewording of the census question. However, a rise in inter-ethnic relationships may also be a factor, as children of these partnerships are likely to record mixed ethnicity.

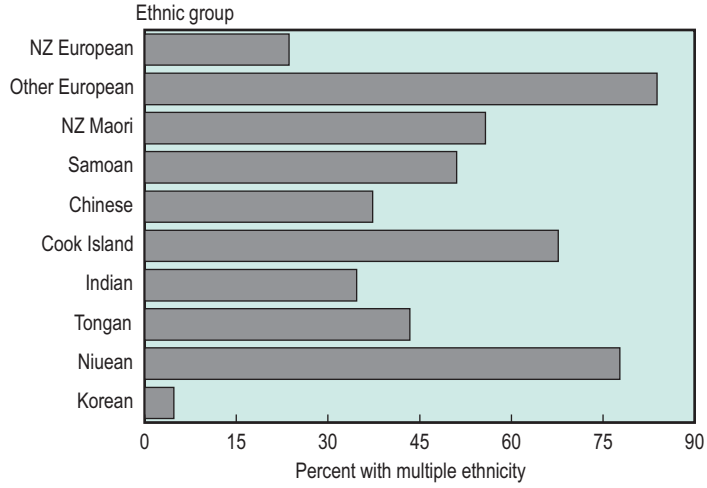
Indeed, the most likely people to have a multi-ethnic identity were children. Twenty-three percent of all New Zealand children under 5 years belonged to more than one ethnic group. In some ethnic groups, as is shown in figure 5.1, this figure was much higher.

The main ethnic groups

Around 4 in every 5 New Zealanders chose European as one of their ethnic groups, making this the most numerically dominant ethnicity with 2,879,085 people. As can

Figure 5.1

Children Under Five with Multiple Ethnicity, Largest Ethnic Groups, 1996 Census



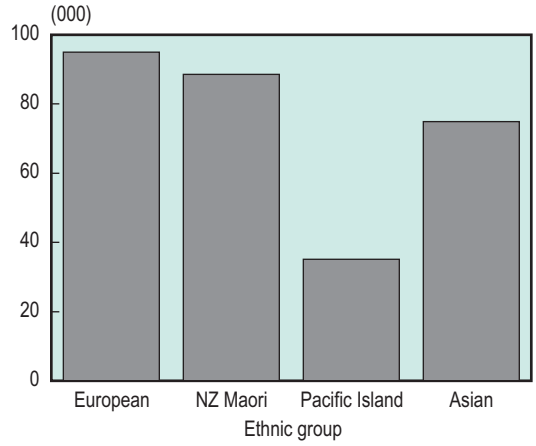
Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996

be seen in figure 5.2, the number of people belonging to the European ethnic group rose by over 95,000 between 1991 and 1996, an average increase of only 0.7 percent per year. This was less than half the national rise of 1.4 percent, and consequently the European ethnic group lost population share, falling from 82.5 percent in 1991 to 79.6 percent in 1996.

With 523,374 people, the indigenous New Zealand Māori ethnic group is the next largest group. During the latest intercensal period numbers in this group have risen by almost 89,000, or an average of 3.8 percent per year. With above-average growth, the proportion of New Zealanders identifying as Māori rose, up from 12.9 percent in 1991 to 14.5 percent in 1996.

Figure 5.2

Population Change for the Main Ethnic Groups, 1991-1996



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1991 and 1996

The Pacific Island ethnic group now has 202,233 members, an increase since 1991 of around 35,000. However, because of its smaller size, its proportional increase was larger than either the European or Māori ethnic groups, at an average of 3.9 percent per year. The Pacific Island ethnic group's share of the population rose marginally, from 5.0 to 5.6 percent between 1991 and 1996.

The Asian ethnic group, bolstered by immigration, has recorded the most spectacular growth in the latest intercensal period. With 173,502 people in 1996, numbers within this group have risen by almost 75,000 since 1991, an average increase of 12.0 percent per year. Consequently, the proportion of New Zealanders identifying with the Asian ethnic group rose from 2.9 percent in 1991 to 4.8 percent in 1996.

With the exception of New Zealand Māori, these broad ethnic groupings house a host of smaller ethnic populations, each with its own age structure, customs and settlement history in New Zealand. The following discussion provides a general introduction to some of the variance found within these broad groups.

Europeans

In 1996, 86.7 percent of the European ethnic group specified New Zealand European. Many are descendants of early settlers who arrived in New Zealand last century, a large proportion of whom came from the United Kingdom. Others, like the Dutch, have also been settled here for several generations. With the more recent arrival of immigrants from other European nations and former British colonies, the diversity of the European ethnic group has widened. In 1996, seven European ethnic groups had more than 10,000 members each, as is shown in figure 5.3.

The New Zealand European ethnic group is by far the largest and is characterised by a high proportion born in New Zealand, and few belonging to more than one ethnic group. However, multiple ethnicity is more common in other European ethnic groups.

Between 1991 and 1996 the numbers in some European ethnic groups rose significantly. Most of these increases can be attributed to the redesign of the census question raising awareness among the existing population, rather than the arrival of large numbers of European immigrants.

Figure 5.3

Selected Characteristics of the Largest European Ethnic Groups, 1996 Census

Ethnic group	Population	Belong to more than one ethnic group	Born in New Zealand	Median age (years)
		Percent		
New Zealand European	2,496,552	15.3	95.6	33.5
English	281,895	49.6	36.1	44.5
Scottish	107,007	75.8	64.5	38.4
Irish	73,047	85.4	74.1	33.9
Australian	53,625	45.6	26.0	32.3
Dutch	47,571	56.2	47.2	35.5
German	13,410	76.5	41.9	32.2

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996

As is shown in the population pyramid in figure 5.7, the European population has an older age profile than other ethnic groups, with a smaller proportion of children and more elderly. Overall, the median age for Europeans was 34.6 years, compared with a

national figure of 33.0 years. Low fertility, longer life expectancy and the residence of many European groups in New Zealand for a generation or more, have caused this group to dominate the older ages. While 13.3 percent of Europeans were aged 65 and over, just 5.3 percent of non-Europeans were in this age band.

New Zealand Māori

The information provided by the census enables complex analysis of the New Zealand Māori population. Overall, the Māori ethnic group totalled 523,374. Of these, 273,438 people identified only with the Māori ethnic group, while the other 249,933 identified other ethnic groups in addition to Māori. The Māori ancestry population, meanwhile, numbered 579,714, of whom more than 4 in every 5 also belonged to the Māori ethnic group. Tied in to the concept of ancestry is the iwi to which Māori belong. The largest in 1996 was Ngapuhi (95,000 people), followed by Ngati Porou (54,000), Ngati Kahungunu, area unspecified (40,000) and Ngai Tahu and Tuwharetoa (29,000 each).

For consistency, the approach of this chapter is to look at the Māori ethnic group only. While this omits some non-Māori who specified they had Māori ancestry, the proportion is relatively small and, therefore, the overall effect is minimal.

Figure 5.4

NZ Māori Ethnic Group, 1996 Census

Ethnic group	Population
NZ Māori (sole)	273,438
NZ Māori (other)	249,933
Total NZ Māori	523,374
Non-NZ Māori	2,943,216
Not specified	151,716
Total	3,618,303

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996

The number of people counted in the Māori ethnic group in 1996 represented a 20.4 percent increase since 1991 and Māori now comprise 14.5 percent, or 1 in 7, of the resident New Zealand population. However, this overall rise masks internal changes occurring within the Māori ethnic group. In 1996 just over half, or 52.2 percent of Māori were classified as sole Māori because they chose no other ethnic group. In contrast, in 1991 the sole Māori comprised three-quarters, or 74.4 percent of the total Māori ethnic group. Between 1991 and 1996 the number of Māori in the sole category fell by 15.5 percent.

The Māori ethnic group has a younger age structure than the European population (see figure 5.7). In 1996 the median age for Māori was 21.4 years, well below the New Zealand median of 33.0 years. Māori now account for 1 in every 4, or 25.6 percent of all New Zealand children under 5 and 23.6 percent of children under 15 years.

Although Māori are found in every region of New Zealand, the majority still reside in the North Island. Almost one-quarter of Māori lived in the Auckland region in 1996, while a further one-third were in the Northland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty regions.

However, between 1991 and 1996 the proportion of Māori in the South Island rose from 10.7 to 12.4 percent.

Pacific Island people

As with other migrant groups, the factors associated with the migration of Pacific Island people to New Zealand are complex and many. These include a desire to find work, the availability of higher education and the presence of family members in New Zealand. With an established population now living here, many new additions to the Pacific Island population are New Zealand-born. In 1996, 57.8 percent of Pacific Island people who specified a birthplace were born here, compared with 49.6 percent in 1991. For those aged less than 5 in 1996, 94.7 percent were born here.

Those who migrate are generally young and, therefore, the number of elderly Pacific Island people is still small. This situation is likely to change in the future, as those early migrants enter the older age groups. The current structure of the Pacific Island population (see figure 5.7) also reflects their relatively recent settlement in New Zealand, as well as higher fertility and mortality rates. Pacific Island children under 5 years make up 1 in every 9 , or 11.0 percent, of all New Zealanders of this age. Overall, the Pacific Island group has the lowest median age of the four major ethnic groups, at 20.4 years.

Figure 5.5

Selected Characteristics of the Largest Pacific Island Ethnic Groups, 1991-1996

Ethnic group	Population		Population change 1991-96	Belong to more than one ethnic group	Born in New Zealand	Median age (years)
	1991	1996	percent			
Samoan	85,743	101,754	18.7	36.7	56.8	20.2
Cook Islander	37,857	47,019	24.2	49.0	69.4	18.7
Tongan	23,175	31,392	35.5	35.5	52.1	18.9
Niuean	14,427	18,474	28.1	54.2	65.9	19.5
Fijian (excl Fijian-Indian)	5,097	7,695	51.0	67.1	46.6	23.6
Tokelauan	4,146	4,917	18.6	48.7	60.2	19.4

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1991 and 1996

Within the Pacific Island grouping there are a range of cultural identities, as is shown in figure 5.5. Of these, six had more than 4,000 members in 1996. Samoan was the largest, accounting for half of the Pacific Island ethnic group. Between 1991 and 1996, the Samoan ethnic group recorded the largest numerical increase. However, the quickest pace of growth occurred in the Fijian population where numbers rose by more than 50 percent.

Pacific Island people have some of the youngest age structures of any ethnic group within the population, with a median age ranging from 18.7 years for Cook Islanders to 23.6 years for Fijians. In all Pacific Island groups except Fijian, around 2 in every 5 people were children under the age of 15.

The high proportion of Pacific Island people born in New Zealand reflects their young age structure and duration of settlement in New Zealand. Among Fijians, fewer than half were born in New Zealand, while among the Cook Island and Niuean people, around 2 in every 3 were born here.

Levels of multiple ethnicity ranged from a low of 35.5 percent for Tongans to 67.1 percent for Fijians. Part of the reason for the divergence may be the size of these populations. In smaller ethnic groups it is often more difficult to find partners from the same cultural background, making inter-ethnic relationships more likely.

Pacific Island people have settled predominantly in the Auckland area. As with other migrants, accessibility, climate and the opportunities provided by a large city are important pull factors. Today, the attraction of established communities where cultural identities can be more easily maintained is an added factor. The proportion of Pacific Island people living in the Auckland Urban Area ranged from 78.0 percent for Tongan to 22.7 percent for Tokelauans. Hurricane devastation in Tokelau in 1966 led the New Zealand government to resettle most of the population in Porirua. Thirty years on 31.5 percent of the Tokelau ethnic group in New Zealand were living in Porirua.

Asians

Especially since 1991, the New Zealand Asian population has been boosted through a shift in immigration policy. A look at the population pyramid in figure 5.7 reveals concentrations in the 15-19 and mid-working age groups. This reflects the fact that many Asian immigrants move here to take advantage of business opportunities or educational facilities. With a median age of 26.6 years, the Asian ethnic group is somewhat older than either New Zealand Māori or Pacific Island people.

The New Zealand Asian ethnic group is diverse, both in terms of composition and length of residence in New Zealand. Although the first immigrants from Asia arrived here more than 100 years ago, the bulk of today's population have lived in the country only a short time. In 1996, 53.3 percent of Asians born overseas, who specified how long they had been in New Zealand, had been here for fewer than five years.

Figure 5.6

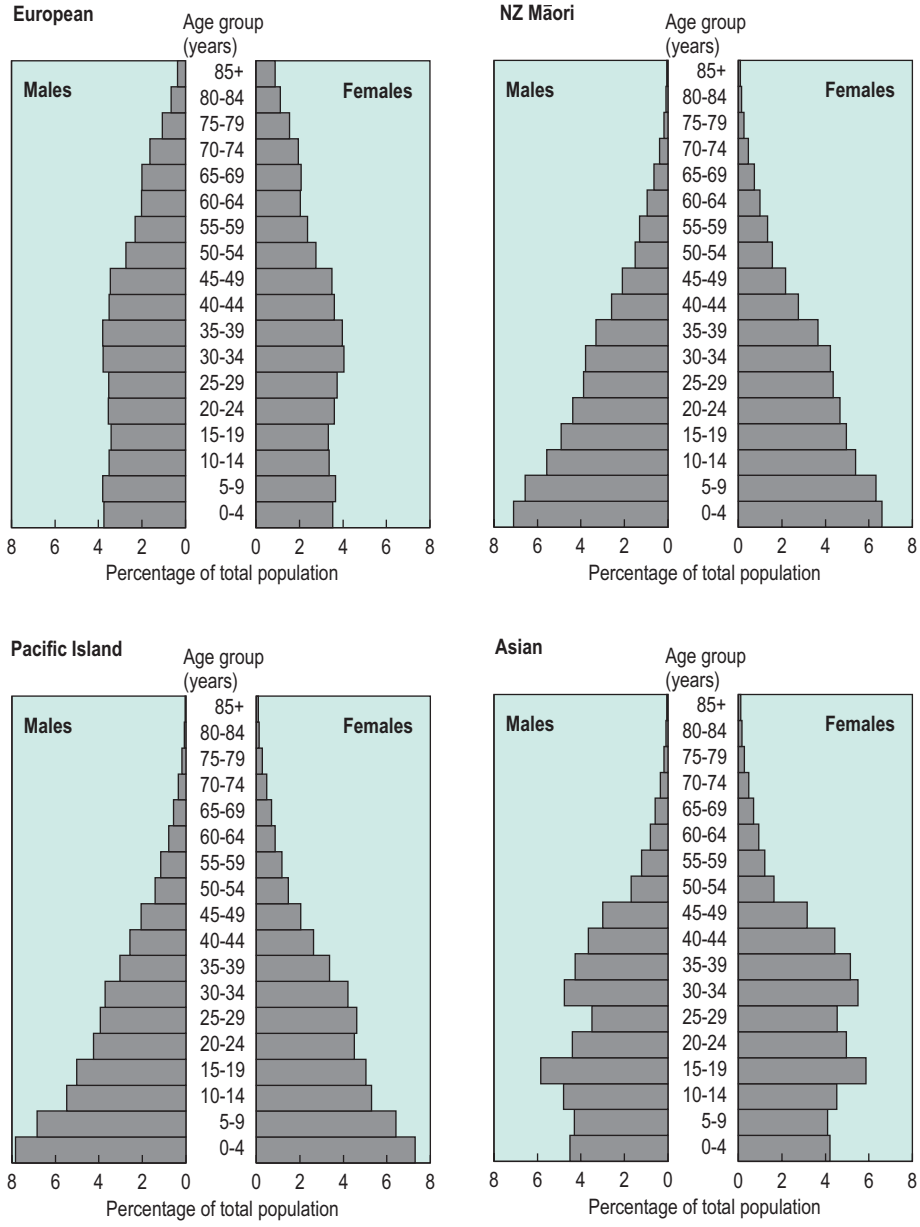
Selected Characteristics of the Largest Asian Ethnic Groups, 1991-96

Ethnic group	Population		Population change 1991-96	Belong to more than one ethnic group	Born in New Zealand	Median age (years)
	1991	1996	percent			
Chinese	44,793	81,309	81.5	21.0	27.9	27.1
Indian	30,609	42,411	38.6	23.0	34.9	27.2
Korean	930	12,750	1271.0	1.6	3.6	25.0
Filipino	4,920	8,187	66.4	21.4	20.1	29.8
Japanese	2,970	7,461	151.2	15.3	13.5	23.3
Sri Lankan	2,628	4,713	79.3	17.0	11.6	32.0
Cambodian	4,320	4,407	2.0	19.3	15.2	24.7

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1991 and 1996

Figure 5.7

Population Pyramids for the Main Ethnic Groups, 1996



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996

Seven Asian groups recorded more than 4,000 members each at the 1996 Census, with Chinese being the largest, as is seen in figure 5.6. Compared with a growth rate of 7.2 percent for the New Zealand population between 1991 and 1996, the growth in some Asian ethnic groups is spectacular. Koreans had the highest rate of increase, with numbers soaring from fewer than 1,000 in 1991 to almost 13,000 in 1996.

The oldest of the seven Asian groups shown in the table were the Sri Lankans, with a median age of 32.0 years, while the youngest were the Japanese, at 23.3 years. People with Japanese ethnicity were the most likely to be aged 15-19 years – 20.6 percent were found in this age bracket, compared with just 7.3 percent of all New Zealanders – reflecting the presence of students and young workers.

The recent arrival of many New Zealand Asian groups is reflected in the low proportion who were born here. This is particularly the case for those with Korean ethnicity. Fewer than 4 percent of Koreans were born in New Zealand compared with, for example, 34.9 percent of people with Indian ethnicity. Short duration in New Zealand may also be a reason for the relatively low proportion of multiple ethnicity in some Asian groups. Among Koreans, fewer than 2 percent listed any other ethnic group, although higher proportions were found among the more established groups.

More than half the New Zealanders with Asian ethnicity lived in the Auckland Urban Area at the 1996 Census. The opportunities and environment provided by a large city are important factors in attracting many new settlers, including Asian-born. The motivations for moving to New Zealand, familiarity with an urban environment, as well as growing ethnic communities, combine to attract new Asian immigrants to metropolitan centres. More than 3 in every 4 people with Asian ethnicity lived in either the Auckland, Wellington or Christchurch Urban Areas. Among the seven largest Asian ethnic groups, Koreans were the most likely to be found living in the Auckland Urban Area (69.4 percent). In contrast, Japanese were the least likely of the Asian ethnic groups shown to live there (40.5 percent). However, 19.1 percent of the Japanese ethnic group were living in the Christchurch Urban Area – the highest proportion of the Asian ethnic groups shown.

Summary

People with European ethnicity form the largest ethnic group in New Zealand and comprised 79.6 percent of New Zealand's population in 1996. This ethnic group dominates the older ages and recorded a median age of 34.6 years.

New Zealand Māori was the next largest ethnic group, comprising 14.5 percent of the population. At the 1996 Census 523,374 people chose New Zealand Māori as at least one of their ethnic groups, while 579,714 selected Māori ancestry.

The number of people in the Pacific Island ethnic group rose by an average of 3.9 percent per year between 1991 and 1996 to reach 202,233. Pacific Island people recorded the lowest median age, at 20.4 years, of the four major groups.

Bolstered by immigration, the number of people with Asian ethnicity increased rapidly by an average of 12.0 percent per year between 1991 and 1996. The Asian ethnic group now accounts for 4.8 percent of the New Zealand population.

Chapter 6

Where we live

Travelling within New Zealand you not only notice changes in the scenery, but also in the number and concentration of people as you move from place to place. Some rural or mountain areas may have no people, while in the cities many people live in a relatively small area.

New Zealand is spread over approximately 275,000 square kilometres. With a population of 3.6 million at the 1996 Census, the population density is just 13 people per square kilometre, compared with 12 people per square kilometre in 1991. A comparison with a number of other countries (see figure 6.1) shows New Zealand's population density is relatively low.

Figure 6.1

Population Density for Selected Countries, Latest Available Year

Country	Year	Density (per square km)
Australia	1996	2
Canada	1994	3
NEW ZEALAND	**1996**	**13**
Norway	1996	14
Sweden	1994	20
United States	1994	28
France	1994	105
Denmark	1994	121
China	1994	126
United Kingdom	1995	240
India	1994	279
Japan	1994	331
Netherlands	1994	377
Hong Kong	1994	5,638

Source: various (see bibliography) includes Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996, Internet (ABS), United Nations Demographic Yearbook, Statistical Yearbook of Norway, Demographic Trends, Annual Abstract of Statistics.

Of the countries included in figure 6.1, Norway most closely resembles New Zealand's situation with similarities in land area, typography and population size. The United Kingdom has only a slightly smaller land area than New Zealand, but the population is around 16 times larger and, therefore, more densely settled.

Within New Zealand the average population density for the North Island, at 23 people per square kilometre, was almost four times higher than that for the South Island (6 people per square kilometre). At a regional level, the range was from a high of 191 people in the Auckland region to a low of just one person in the West Coast region.

Variations in population density below the national level (ie subnational) are important to formulating policy and for planning effective service provision. For these purposes, New Zealand is often divided into different sub-areas, such as electoral districts, health districts, urban areas and regions. These may be based on population or area size, or even natural boundaries such as water catchments.

Few areas remain static over time. It is, therefore, common for the boundaries to change in response to population movements. This means that any subnational time series need to be used with caution, as the same name may be applied over time but may not necessarily refer to exactly the same area.

North and South Islands

In pre-European and early European settlement days, the North Island was home to the majority of New Zealand's population. In 1858 three-quarters of the population was living in the North Island. However, by 1874 the South Island was home to 55 percent of the population. It was not until 1896 that a majority of New Zealanders were found to be living in the North Island once more. Since then, the North Island has consistently experienced more rapid population growth than the South, and its share of the population has risen steadily. At the 1996 Census 3 in every 4 New Zealanders were resident in the North Island.

Between 1986 and 1991 the population of the North Island increased by 4.3 percent compared with 0.7 percent in the South. During the 1991-96 period, the growth rates of the respective populations were not only higher, but the disparity had narrowed, at 7.8 and 5.5 percent respectively.

The northern North Island (Northland, Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty regions) led much of the population growth in the North Island during this time, increasing by 10.9 percent, compared with a population increase of only 2.5 percent for the remaining North Island regions.

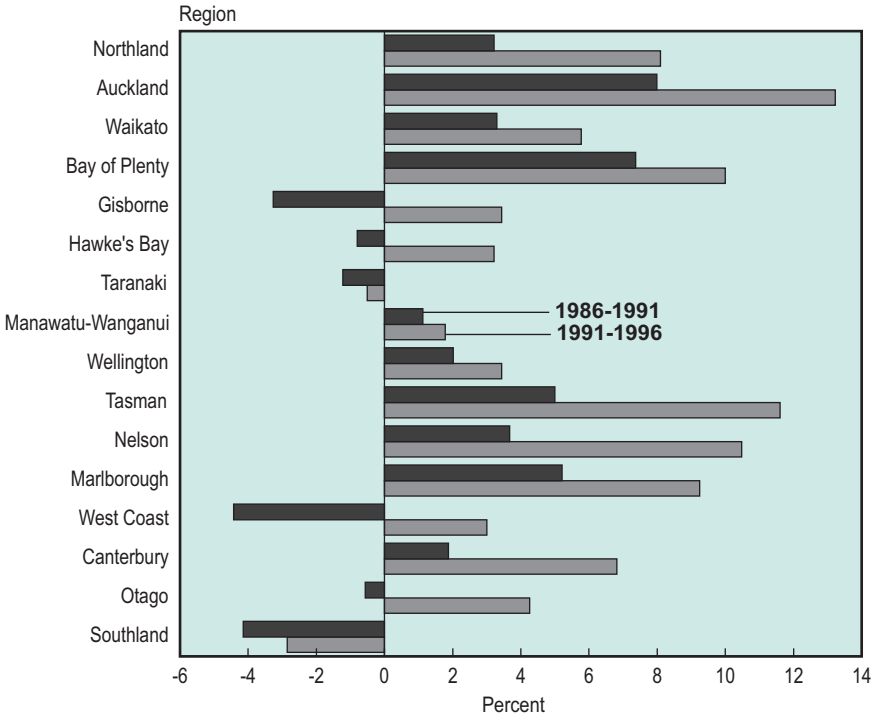
Regional patterns

New Zealand's regional councils are based largely on water catchments, and regional communities of interest. Natural resource management, land-use planning, and environmental matters are also taken into consideration. Among the 16 regions, the Auckland region had the largest population in 1996 and the highest growth rate between 1991 and 1996. For the first time, its resident population exceeded 1 million, the only region to reach this milestone. With 1,068,645 residents, Auckland had over twice as many people as the next most populous region, Canterbury, with 468,042 residents. The smallest regional populations in 1996 were the West Coast (32,511) and Tasman (37,974).

Between 1991 and 1996 the highest rates of population growth were recorded in Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Tasman and Nelson regions, where the populations grew by 10 percent or more. The only regions to lose population during this time were Taranaki and Southland, an improvement on 1986-1991 when six regions lost population. This is shown in figure 6.2. All the regions performed better in the 1991-1996 period than the 1986-1991 period, particularly Gisborne, Hawke's Bay and West Coast, which moved from population loss to population gain.

Figure 6.2

Regional Population Change, 1986-1996



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1986-1996

Differential growth patterns cause the distribution of the population to shift. Faster growth in the North Island is illustrated in the rise in its share of New Zealand's population. At a regional level this disparity is also apparent. Auckland region, for example, grew by 13 percent between 1991 and 1996, well above the national average. Consequently, its share of the total population rose from 28.0 percent in 1991 to 29.5 percent in 1996. In Southland and Taranaki, however, declining populations have seen their share of the national population fall from 3.0 and 3.2 percent, respectively in 1991 to 2.7 and 2.9 percent respectively in 1996.

Cities and districts

New Zealand is divided into 74 territorial authorities comprising 15 cities and 59 districts. Smaller in size than the regions, territorial authorities enable population change at a local level to be examined in more detail. Territorial authority boundaries are defined according to the community of interest, size of the community, the relevance of the components of the community to each other and the capacity of the unit to service the community in an efficient manner.

Between 1991 and 1996 the population of the cities grew at an average of 8.3 percent per year, compared with 5.8 percent for the districts. The quicker pace of growth generally found in the cities has seen their share of the total population rise from 55.0

percent in 1986 to 55.8 percent in 1996. More than 2 million people were living in cities in 1996, up from 1.9 million in 1991.

Within the Auckland region are four cities (North Shore, Waitakere, Auckland and Manukau). Together they contain 927,774 people or 25.6 percent of the total New Zealand population. Auckland is the largest city in New Zealand and was home to 345,768 people or 9.6 percent of the New Zealand population at the 1996 Census. The second largest city was Christchurch, with 309,028 or 8.5 percent of the population, followed by Manukau with 254,278 or 7.0 percent of the population. The smallest cities were Upper Hutt (36,717), Nelson (40,239) and Porirua (46,626). The average population of a city in 1996 was around 135,000 people.

The three most populous districts were Tauranga (77,775), New Plymouth (68,112) and Whangarei (66,750), while the smallest district populations were found in Chatham Islands (732), Kaikoura (3,516) and Mackenzie (4,077). In 1996 the average district population was around 27,000 people.

The 10 largest territorial authorities have remained virtually unchanged since the 1986 Census. Tauranga was the only new entrant in 1996, displacing Palmerston North from the 1991 Census.

The fastest growing territorial authority between 1991 and 1996 was Queenstown-Lakes which almost doubled in size, increasing from 9,985 to 14,285 or 43.1 percent. The next highest rate of growth was recorded in Rodney, rising by 21.3 percent during this time. The largest numerical increases were recorded in Auckland (39,561), Manukau (28,281), Christchurch (19,953) and North Shore (19,515).

Figure 6.3

Fastest Growing Territorial Authorities, 1991-1996

Territorial authority	Change 1991-1996 (percent)
Queenstown-Lakes	43.1
Rodney	21.3
Western Bay of Plenty	17.1
Tauranga	16.5
Selwyn	16.2
Waimakariri	16.0
Franklin	14.5
Thames-Coromandel	14.1
Waitakere	13.6
Auckland	12.9

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1991 and 1996

Of the 10 fastest growing territorial authorities between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses, six bordered urban areas: Rodney, Franklin, Waitakere, Auckland, Selwyn and Waimakariri. A further three were popular retirement centres: Western Bay of Plenty, Tauranga and Thames-Coromandel. Queenstown-Lakes, a popular tourist destination, completed the top 10.

Twenty territorial authorities recorded fewer people in 1996 than they did in 1991, an improvement on the 1986-1991 period when 29 areas experienced population decline. As is shown in figure 6.4, the largest population decrease in the 1991-1996 period was in Kawerau where the population fell by 6.1 percent, followed by South Waikato (5.3 percent), Invercargill (4.5 percent) and Tararua (4.0 percent). Of the 20 areas to experience population decline, only four had grown during the previous intercensal period (1986-1991). The largest numerical decreases were recorded in Invercargill (-2,499), South Waikato (-1,398) and South Taranaki (-1,095).

Figure 6.4

Greatest Territorial Authority Losses, 1991-1996

Territorial authority	Change 1991-1996 (percent)
Kawerau	-6.2
South Waikato	-5.3
Invercargill	-4.5
Tararua	-4.0
South Taranaki	-3.6
Waitomo	-3.6
Stratford	-3.4
South Wairarapa	-2.4
Wairoa	-2.2
Gore	-1.9

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1991 and 1996

Of the 10 territorial authorities to record the largest population growth during the 1991-1996 period, seven were also among the top performers in the 1986-1991 period. The new achievers were Selwyn, Waimakariri and Auckland. Conversely, of the 10 territorial authorities to record the largest population decline during the 1991-1996 period, only two were in this category for the previous intercensal period, viz South Waikato and Wairoa.

The most densely settled territorial authorities were North Shore and Hamilton Cities, both with an average of more than 1,000 people per square kilometre. This compared with Mackenzie and Westland Districts, where the lowest population densities were recorded – less than 1 person per square kilometre.

Population centre

One of the more interesting ways to track the overall movement of the population is to determine where the centre of population is and how it has moved over time. In 1881 the centre of population was near Wakefield in the South Island. By 1945 the population centre was located north of Stephens Island. In 1996 the population centre was located around 10 kilometres east of Hawera at a grid reference of approximately 174°25'E, 39°35'S.

Summary

In 1996 the average population density of New Zealand was 13 people per square kilometre, up from 12 in 1991.

Auckland region, with an average of 191 people per square kilometre, recorded the highest regional population density, while the West Coast region, with an average density of just 1 person per square kilometre, recorded the lowest.

Three in every 4 people were living in the North Island compared with 2 in every 3 people 51 years earlier.

Auckland was the largest and most quickly growing region. With just over one million residents it was more than twice the size of the next largest region, Canterbury, and was home to 29.5 percent of all New Zealand residents.

Only Taranaki and Southland regions experienced population loss between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses.

Among the 74 territorial authorities, 6 grew by more than 15 percent between 1991 and 1996, while 20 lost population during this time.

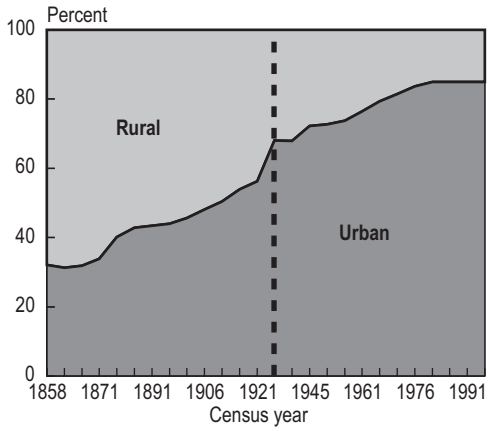
Chapter 7

Town and country

In 1858 over two-thirds of the population was living in rural areas. The rise of agriculture in the South Island and increasing European settlement in the North Island maintained this level until the early 1870s. However, after this time technological advances in agriculture, combined with the growth of processing, manufacturing and commerce saw urbanisation begin a steady upward path. In 1911, for the first time, census results showed more than half the population was living in urban centres with 1,000 or more people. This is shown in figure 7.1.

Figure 7.1

Ratio of Total Urban to Rural Population, 1858-1996*



* In 1926 the NZ Māori population was included and the definition of an urban area altered.

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1858-1996

The Depression of the 1930s temporarily checked the pace of urbanisation. During these years employment schemes in rural areas moved considerable numbers from town to country, while the lack of urban-based employment also probably acted as a temporary deterrent to the urban flow. In the early 1930s it is also likely that return migration to rural areas occurred as people realised there was no employment in the towns.

Rapid urbanisation of the Māori population followed the second World War. In 1945 around 3 in every 4 Māori were rural dwellers. However, by the mid 1970s 3 in every 4 were living in urban areas. By the 1996 Census Māori were almost as urbanised as their non-Māori counterparts.

While it is common among developed nations to have relatively high levels of urbanisation, the proportion of New Zealand's population living in towns is among one of the highest in the world, as can be seen in figure 7.2.

In any nation the proportion of the population living in urban areas is influenced by a variety of factors including the economic base, level of development, and physical characteristics of the country in question. It is, therefore, not surprising to find urbanisation levels which vary significantly, even between developed nations. Norway, for example, which shares a similar population size and land area to New Zealand has a lower level of urbanisation, with slightly less than three-quarters of its population living in urban areas.

Figure 7.2

International Urbanisation, Latest Available Year

Country	Year	Urban	Rural
		percent	
Hong Kong	1997	95	5
NEW ZEALAND	**1996**	**85**	**15**
Australia	1995	85	15
Sweden	1995	83	17
Japan	1997	78	22
Canada	1995	77	23
United States	1995	76	24
Norway	1995	74	26
France	1995	73	27
Switzerland	1995	61	39
Philippines	1997	56	44
China	1997	32	68
India	1997	28	72

Source: various (see bibliography) includes Internet (United Nations), ESCAP, New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings 1996, Statistical Yearbook of Norway

Local variations

While overall, urban areas are home to 85 percent of the population, this distribution is not uniform across the country. At a regional level for example, there were three regions with more than 95 percent of the population living in urban areas (viz Nelson, Wellington and Auckland). Conversely, in Northland, Tasman and West Coast regions, fewer than 60 percent of the population was urban based.

At the territorial authority level, where smaller population groupings are found, the variations are wider. Seven territorial authorities had entirely urban populations, while a further 13 had more than 90 percent of their population living in urban areas. Conversely, one authority had no urban population (Chatham Islands), while a further six areas had less than one-third of their residents living in urban areas.

Changing distribution

Most New Zealanders live in cities of 30,000 people or more (main urban areas) and this proportion has increased over time, as seen in figure 7.3. In 1996, 69.4 percent of New Zealanders were living in a main urban area, compared with 68.8 percent five years earlier. The proportion of rural dwellers rose slightly between 1991 and 1996 due to the growth of population in rural areas around the fringes of larger urban centres, involving rural lifestyle blocks. With improved transport facilities, many people can now live beyond the urban boundaries and commute daily to work in the central city.

The pace of population growth experienced during the 1991-1996 period was higher than that in the preceding intercensal period. All types of areas – urban and rural –

experienced higher rates of growth. Main urban areas and rural areas outside rural centres recorded the highest rates of population increase between 1991 and 1996 (both 8.1 percent). The lowest rates of increase were recorded in the smaller urban centres (3.1 percent in secondary urban areas and 3.5 percent in minor urban areas).

Figure 7.3

Urban-Rural Distribution, 1986, 1991 and 1996 Censuses

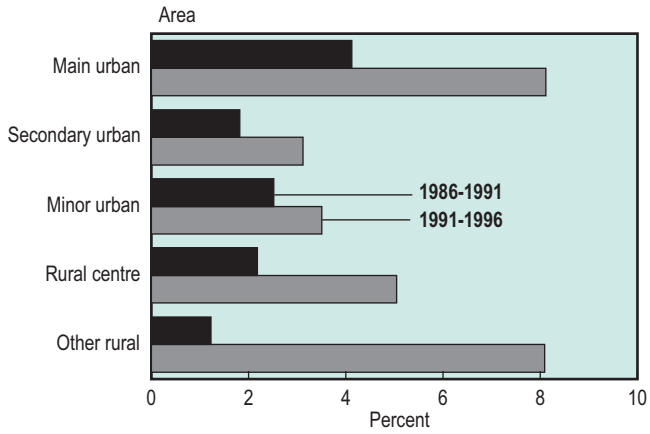
	Population			Percentage of NZ population		
Area	1986	1991	1996	1986	1991	1996
Main urban	2,230,120	2,322,044	2,510,399	68.3	68.8	69.4
Secondary urban	254,214	258,833	266,917	7.8	7.7	7.4
Minor urban	295,045	302,483	313,093	9.0	9.0	8.7
Total, urban	2,779,379	2,883,360	3,090,409	85.2	85.5	85.4
Rural centre	75,960	77,619	81,533	2.3	2.3	2.3
Other rural area	407,945	412,948	446,360	12.5	12.2	12.3
Total, rural	483,905	490,567	527,893	14.8	14.5	14.6

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1986-1996

The biggest surge in growth occurred in rural areas outside rural centres (ie areas where fewer than 300 people live). Here the rate of population growth rose from 1.2 percent in the 1986-1991 period to 8.1 percent in the 1991-1996 period, as is shown in figure 7.4.

Figure 7.4

Change in Urban-Rural Population, 1986-1996



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1986 -1996

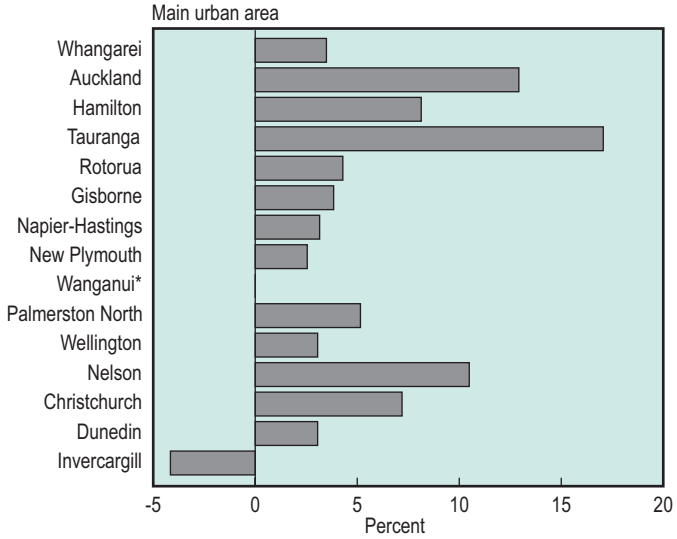
Main urban areas

In 1996 there were 15 main urban areas, 11 of which were located in the North Island. They ranged in size from 991,796 (Auckland) to 32,608 (Gisborne). Four of the urban areas were further subdivided into urban zones (viz Auckland, Hamilton, Napier-Hastings and Wellington). The six largest urban areas (Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, Hamilton, Napier-Hastings and Dunedin) all had populations in excess of 100,000 and together were home to more than half New Zealand's population. In 1996, 56.2 percent of New Zealanders were living in one of these six areas, compared with 55.4 percent in 1991 and 54.9 percent in 1986.

Between 1991 and 1996 the population living in main urban areas grew by more than 188,000, accounting for over three-quarters of the increase in the New Zealand population. Three-fifths of the urban growth occurred in the Auckland Urban Area alone.

Figure 7.5

Population Change in Main Urban Areas, 1991-1996



* The population of Wanganui remained unchanged between 1991 and 1996.

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1991 and 1996

Although the Auckland Urban Area recorded the largest numerical increase (113,559) between 1991 and 1996, because of its size (in 1996, 27.4 percent of all New Zealanders lived here), it did not record the highest rate of growth, as can be seen in figure 7.5. Tauranga's population increased more than twice as quickly (17.1 percent) as all main urban areas combined. Auckland and Nelson were the only other areas to exceed the urban average, with increases of more than 10 percent, while Hamilton's population growth rate matched the average. The small number of urban areas recording above average increases indicates that only a few areas are achieving growth to such a high level. Only one urban area lost population (Invercargill) between 1991 and 1996, while the population of Wanganui remained unchanged.

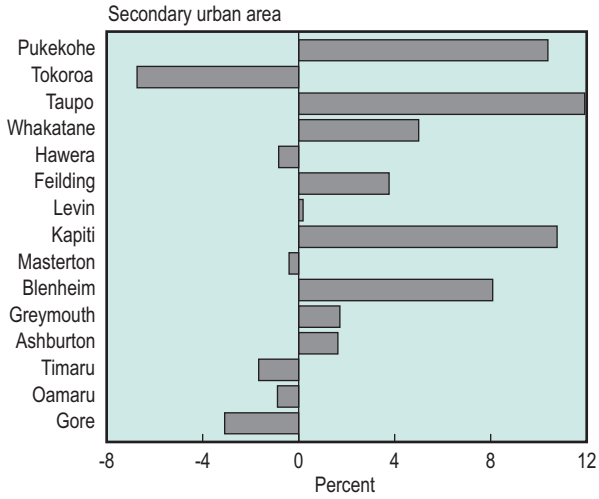
Secondary urban areas

Secondary urban areas (centres with 10,000 to 29,999 people) are more subject to changes in population size, because one-off events, such as a factory closure, can have a significant impact in smaller population centres where there are often fewer opportunities for employment. There were 15 secondary urban areas in 1996 ranging in size from 10,191 (Greymouth) to 30,289 (Kapiti). A total of 266,917 people lived in such areas, an increase of 8,084 or 3.1 percent on the 1991 total. The rate of growth was thus well below the national average. As a consequence, the proportion of the population living in secondary urban areas fell from 7.7 percent in 1991 to 7.4 percent in 1996.

Nine of the 15 secondary urban areas recorded population increases between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses, as is shown in figure 7.6. The largest growth rates were recorded in Taupo (11.9 percent), Kapiti (10.8 percent) and Pukekohe (10.4 percent), all well above the national average. Countering this growth were six areas which lost population. The largest losses occurred in Tokoroa (-6.7 percent), Gore (-3.1 percent) and Timaru (-1.7 percent).

Figure 7.6

Population Change in Secondary Urban Areas, 1991-1996



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1991 and 1996

The pattern of gain and loss is fairly consistent with the 1986-1991 period, with minor exceptions. Although Masterton's population grew between 1986 and 1991, it recorded a slight loss of people during the latest intercensal period. Conversely, Greymouth moved from population loss to population gain over the same period.

Minor urban areas

Towns with populations between 1,000 and 10,000 (minor urban areas) collectively contain more people than secondary urban areas. In 1996, 313,093 people were living in one of these 99 minor towns. Between 1991 and 1996 the population of minor urban areas increased by 10,610 or 3.5 percent. As the rate of increase was below half the national average (7.2 percent), minor urban areas recorded a drop in their share of the national population, from 9.0 percent in 1991 to 8.7 percent in 1996.

Increases in population occurred in 56 of these towns, while the remaining 43 lost population. Three of the four largest increases were recorded in the tourist area of Queenstown-Lakes (viz Arrowtown, Queenstown and Wanaka), while Lincoln, a town close to Christchurch, completed the top four. The largest losses were in Bluff, Eltham, Moerewa and Featherston.

Rural areas

Rural areas encompass rural centres and other rural areas. Generally, the populations are small, meaning that rural areas can be susceptible to wide fluctuations over time. This is because a small change in a single area can cause a large impact on its population and there are a wide range of experiences at these lower geographic levels.

At the 1996 Census 527,893 New Zealanders were living in rural areas, up 7.6 percent on the 1991 figure of 490,567. As the rural population grew at a slightly faster rate than the urban population, this suggests a temporary reversal of the urbanisation process in New Zealand. The share of the rural population increased marginally from 14.5 percent in 1991 to 14.6 percent in 1996. The growth of lifestyle blocks, particularly on the fringes of urban areas, may partly account for the rural rebound.

Between 1991 and 1996, 11 of the 16 regions recorded a rise in the rural share of their population. The most notable shift occurred in the Northland region, where the proportion of the population living in rural areas rose from 45.9 to 48.1 percent. Among the territorial authorities, at least 1 in 5 (or 15 of the 74) experienced an increase of more than 1 percent. The greatest change was recorded in Opotiki District, where the rural population increased its share from 51.7 to 55.7 percent between 1991 and 1996. The only other authorities to experience a rural share increase of more than 2.5 percent were Whangarei, South Wairarapa and Buller.

Summary

Around 6 in every 7 New Zealanders were living in an urban area at the time of the 1996 Census, representing one of the highest levels of urbanisation in the developed world.

More than two-thirds of New Zealanders lived in main urban areas in 1996.

Large cities and rural areas contained a greater proportion of the population in 1996 than they did five years earlier.

The Auckland Urban Area contained over one-quarter of the country's population and contributed almost half of the population growth for New Zealand between 1991 and 1996.

Tauranga was the fastest growing main urban area between 1991 and 1996 (17.1 percent) while Invercargill was the only main urban area to lose population during this time.

The most urbanised regions in 1996 were Nelson, Wellington and Auckland with more than 95 percent of the population living in urban areas. The least urbanised regions were Northland, Tasman and West Coast, where less than 60 percent of the population were residing in urban areas.

Between 1991 and 1996 the rural population grew slightly faster than the urban population, leading to a temporary, though marginal, reversal of the urbanisation process in New Zealand.

Chapter 8

Moving around

Every day a significant number of New Zealanders decide to move from their current address to a new location. Many move only a short distance, such as to another dwelling within the same suburb, town or city. However, a number move further afield, some choosing the other main island. In this chapter we take a general look at the movers within New Zealand during the latest intercensal period (1991-1996). A comparison of where people said they usually lived at the two most recent censuses has been used to determine who moved and who did not.

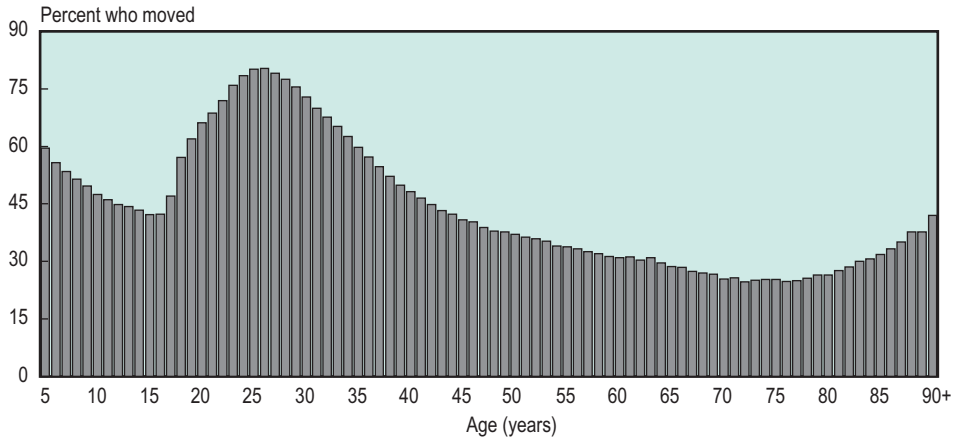
How mobile are we?

New Zealanders are a very mobile people. Between 1991 and 1996, just under half the population changed their usual residence, a level consistent with that found in the preceding intercensal period. As in other countries, New Zealand has distinct variations in mobility levels by age, as is seen in figure 8.1.

Mobility is highest among people aged in their twenties. Here, around 3 in every 4 people had moved at least once during the 1991-96 period. After the age of 30, people tend to shift home less often, although the proportion moving home begins to rise again in the elderly age groups.

Figure 8.1

Population Mobility by Age, 1991-1996



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996

A complex combination of push and pull factors lie behind each decision to move, making it difficult to identify a single reason. People who make similar moves can be

doing so for quite different reasons. Some moves may be voluntary, others made out of necessity. Among the younger population where mobility rates are highest, it is often the need for higher education and employment opportunities, alongside a desire for independence away from the family home, which are the driving forces behind the decision to move. However, in the older ages the decision to move is less affected by employment considerations. Rather, features such as environment, access to services and proximity to family and friends become more important.

Most migration flows in and out of areas are fairly evenly balanced, suggesting that migrants have differing perceptions of the opportunities available in an area. Therefore, even in an area where net migration gains are being made, there will be people leaving the area. Similarly, areas with net migration loss will still attract some people.

Distance travelled

Of the 1.4 million New Zealanders recorded as shifting home between the 1991 and 1996 censuses, most tended to travel relatively short distances. In main urban areas in 1996 more than 4 in every 5 people who had moved during the preceding five years had remained within the same urban area.

Among all those who had changed their usual address, long distance moves were less common. Just over 2 in every 5 movers shifted into a different territorial authority; 1 in 4 into another region, and just under 1 in 20 moved between the North and South Island.

The type of move can influence the impact migration has in particular areas. With local moves, such as within the same suburb of a city, it is only the location of the movers which changes. However, longer distance moves, such as between cities, change the size and composition of populations in both the sending and receiving areas, particularly if large numbers of people are involved. Any significant change may have a direct or indirect impact on the type of services required, housing, employment and educational needs.

North and South Islands

During the present century, net migration flows between the North and South Islands have consistently favoured the North Island. For example, between 1981 and 1986 the South Island lost around 8,000 people to the North through net migration. The 1986-1991 interval marked a turning point in the migration pattern, with the South Island gaining around 1,300 people from the North. In the latest five-year period 1991-1996, 40,707 people moved from the North to South Island, and 35,742 moved in the opposite direction, resulting in a net gain of 4,965 people to the South Island.

As figure 8.2 shows, this gain for the South Island came through exchanges of people from both the northern and southern parts of the North Island. Within the North Island, however, the northward drift continues. Here, the northern-most regions gained more than 15,000 people through net migration flows from the southern regions of the North Island.

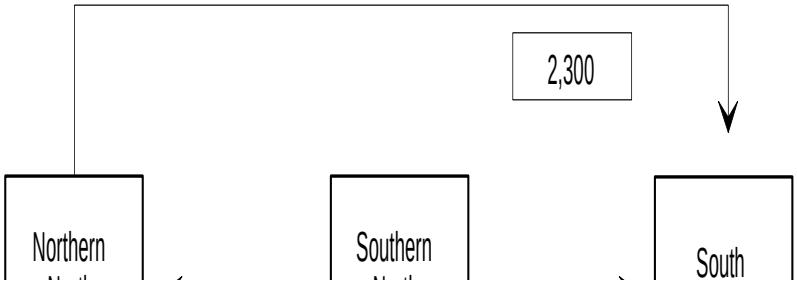
Net migration is simply the difference between moves into and out of an area. However, a quite different picture is revealed by looking at total movements. Between

1991 and 1996, more than 75,000 people moved between the North and South Islands. Similarly, 84,000 moved between the northern and southern regions of the North Island.

Thus, even populations which appear little affected by net migration can have large numbers of people transferring in and out. If the characteristics of arrivals and departures are similar, the effect on the population is likely to be small. However, if there are differences, such as in age, the impact on the areas involved can be significant.

Figure 8.2

North-South Net Migration Flows, 1991-1996



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996

Regional movements

The migration experience of New Zealand's 16 regions is quite diverse. Between 1991 and 1996 net migration gains were evident in seven of these areas and net losses in the remaining nine, as shown in figure 8.3. The largest losses occurred in the southern regions of both islands. In the South Island, Southland lost more than 5,000 people, while Wellington in the North Island experienced a similar magnitude of loss. The largest benefactors of regional migration flows were Auckland and Bay of Plenty in the North Island and Canterbury and Tasman in the South.

Migration flows in isolation tell us little about the impact of migration in local areas. A region's population size and the ratio of in and out movements all affect the impact of migration on the resident population. In Tasman and Bay of Plenty regions, around 1 in every 7 inter-regional moves resulted in a person being added to those populations. In Auckland, it took around 25 moves for a person to be added to the population. In Southland, however, 1 in every 4 moves resulted in a person being lost to that area.

Taking the size of the resident population into account shows the impact of migration flows on a particular area. In the Tasman and Bay of Plenty regions, the size of net migration gains amounted to more than 4 percent of the 1991 resident population. Conversely, in the Southland, Taranaki and Gisborne regions, net migration losses totalled more than 3 percent of the 1991 resident population.

Despite the large volume of people moving between regions, most net migration flows are relatively small. As figure 8.4 shows, between 1991 and 1996 only 10 inter-regional net flows totalled more than 1,000 people. The largest were Wellington to Auckland (3,500), Waikato to Bay of Plenty (3,400) and Southland to Otago (2,700).

Figure 8.3

Regional Migration, 1991-1996

Region	In-migration	Out-migration	Net migration
Northland	17,925	18,045	-120
Auckland	64,908	59,964	4,944
Waikato	42,624	42,912	-288
Bay of Plenty	33,222	24,660	8,562
Gisborne	5,169	6,675	-1,506
Hawke's Bay	13,932	16,620	-2,688
Taranaki	8,703	12,600	-3,897
Manawatu-Wanganui	27,981	31,434	-3,453
Wellington	34,527	41,064	-6,537
Tasman	7,695	5,778	1,917
Nelson	8,109	7,500	609
Marlborough	6,663	5,400	1,263
West Coast	4,809	5,418	-609
Canterbury	37,182	31,383	5,799
Otago	22,002	20,679	1,323
Southland	7,518	12,846	-5,328

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996

Tasman, Nelson, Marlborough, Canterbury and Bay of Plenty, made net migration gains from at least 12 other regions. Conversely, Gisborne, Taranaki, Wellington and Southland, had net migration outflow to at least 12 other regions.

These overall movements do not show any of the characteristics of the people who are moving. On closer examination by age, for example, distinct regional patterns emerge. This is seen in figure 8.5.

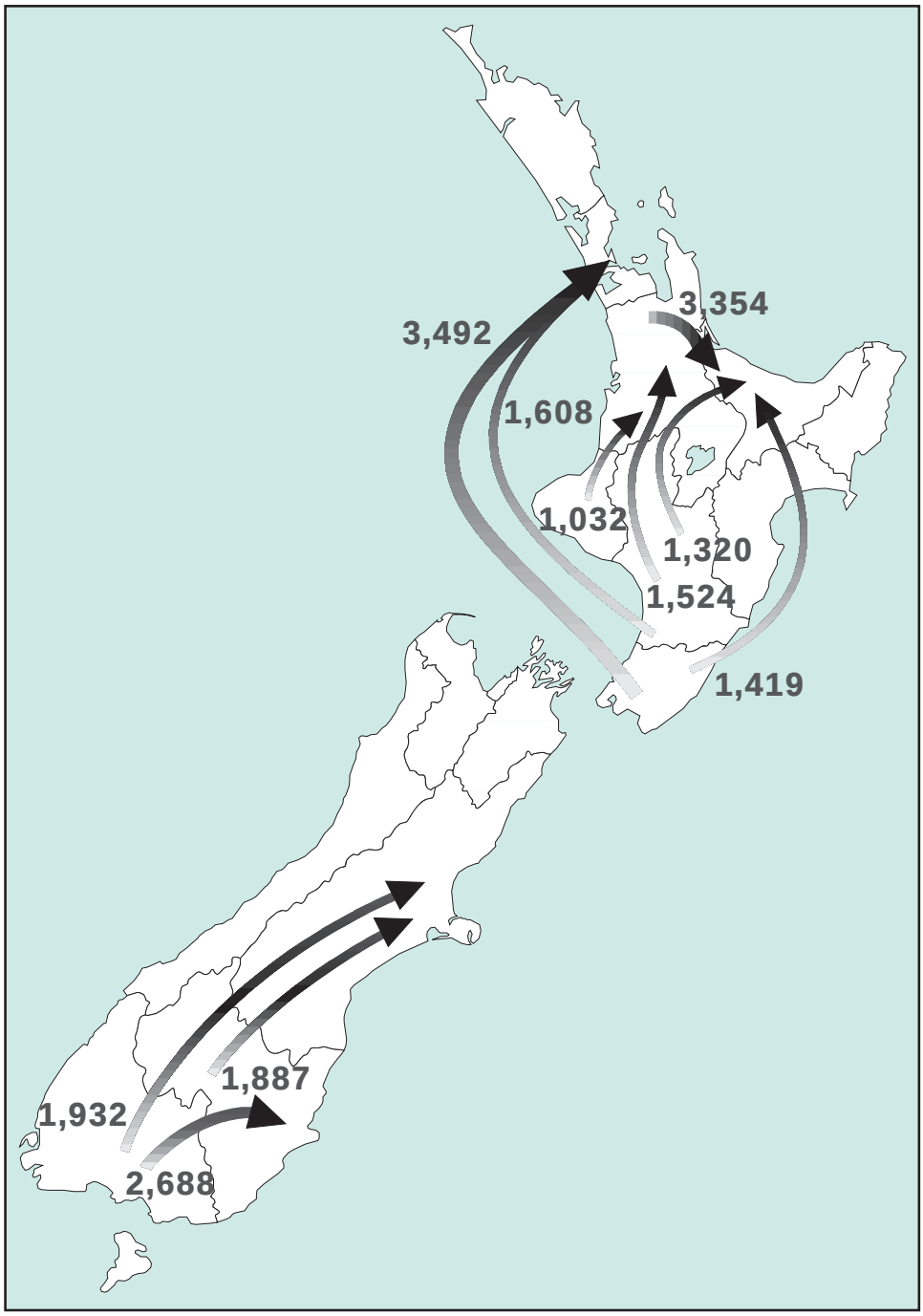
The most mobile group within the population (see figure 8.1) are those aged 15-24 years. Regions with employment and educational opportunities for these young adults are the most successful in attracting them. This is reflected in the net migration gains for this age group in the Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury and Otago regions between 1991 and 1996. Auckland recorded the largest gain – over 7,000 young adults through internal migration. More than two-thirds of this net gain was from the neighbouring regions of Northland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty.

Conversely, most of the remaining regions lost young adults to the migration flows favouring these larger areas. Even in the Bay of Plenty, where the largest overall gain through net migration occurred, there was population loss in the 15-24 age group.

No region made consistent net migration gains in all ages, though losses only occurred in the 15-24 age group in Northland, Bay of Plenty, Tasman, Nelson and Marlborough regions. This indicates that these regions were able to attract more families and elderly than they lost. Conversely, a number of regions lost population in all the age groups (viz Gisborne, Taranaki and Southland).

Figure 8.4

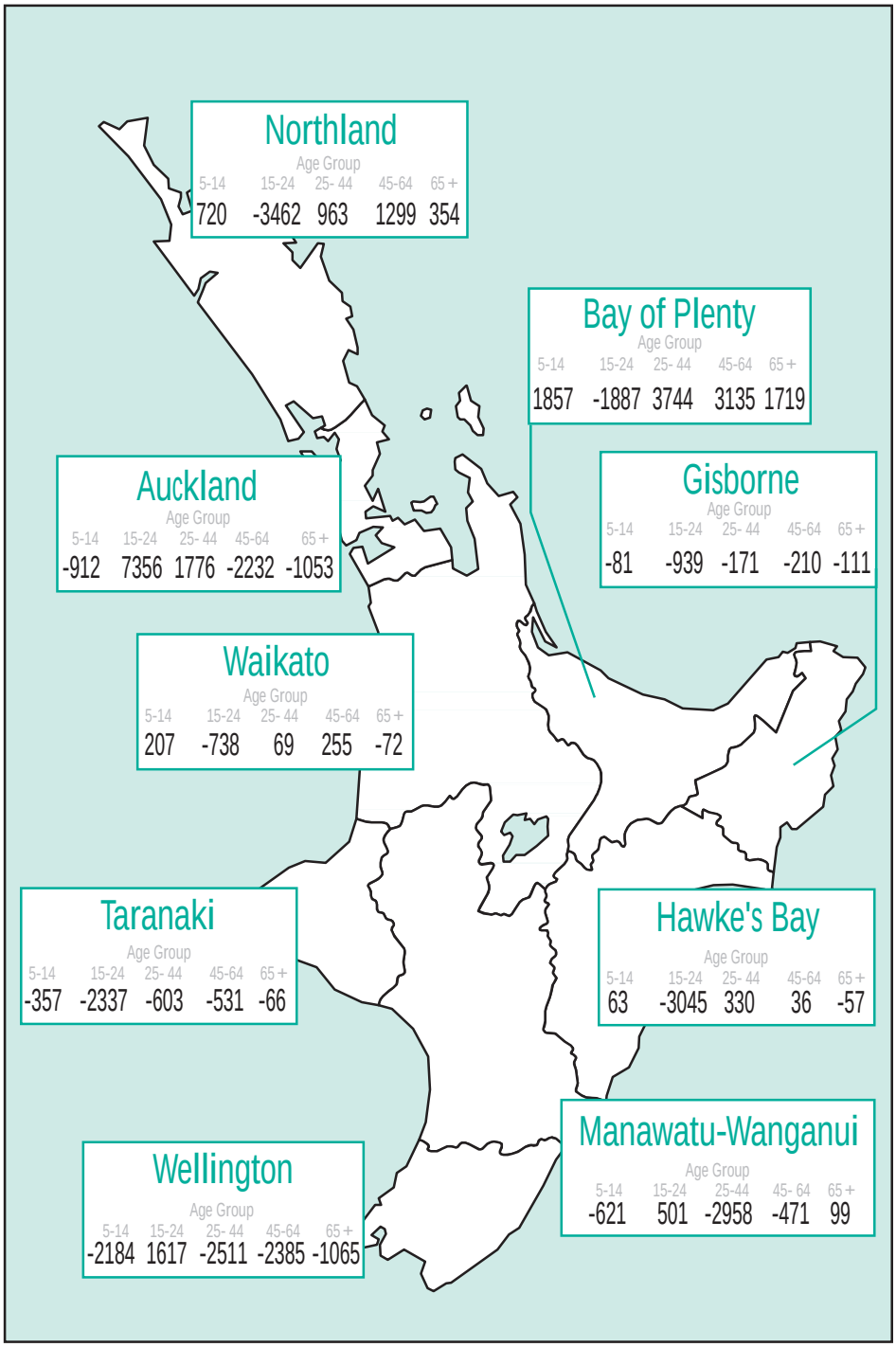
Regional Net Migration Flows of 1,000 People or More, 1991-1996

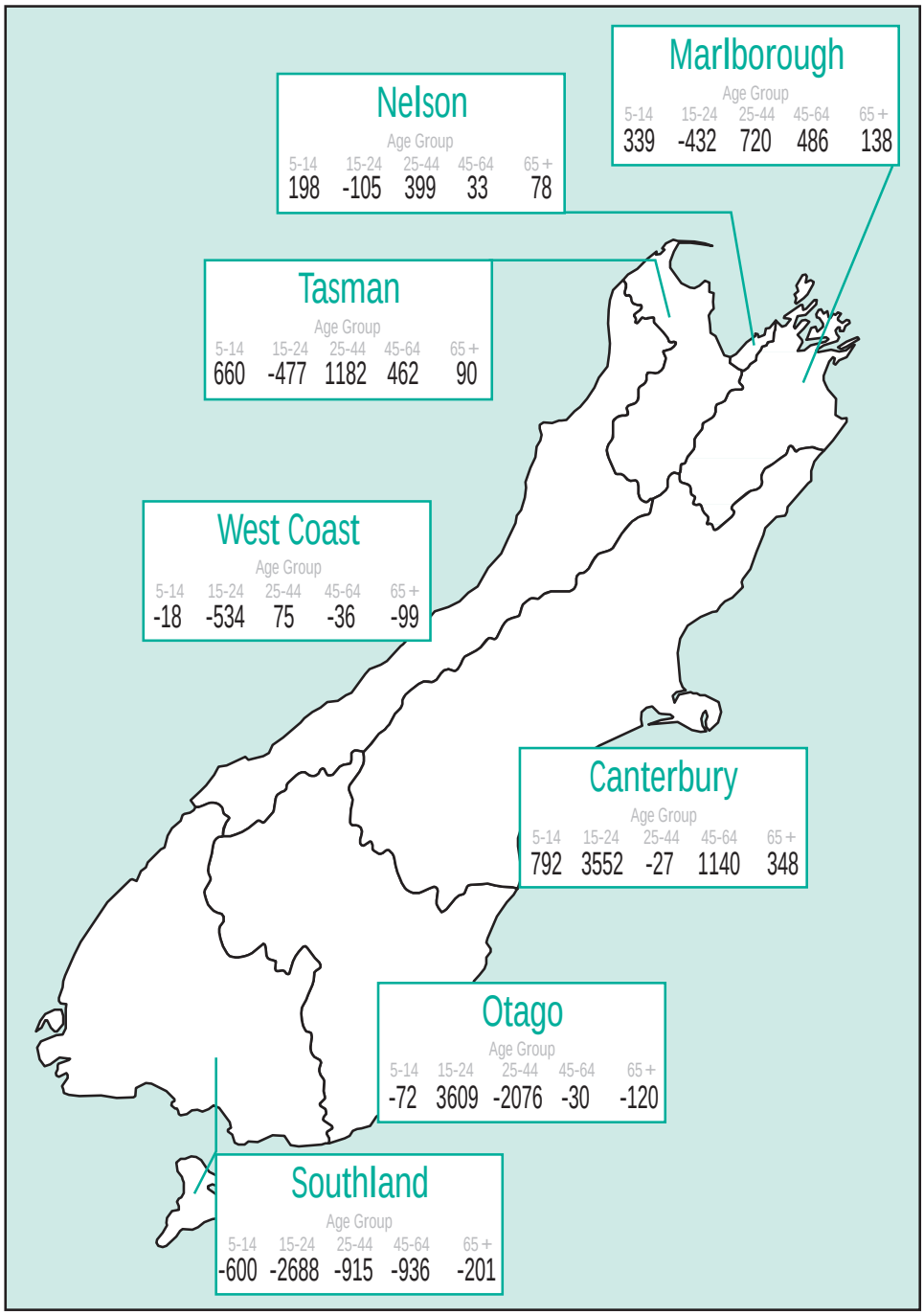


Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996

Figure 8.5

Regional Net Migration Flows by Age Group, 1991-1996





Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996

Urban and rural

With around 85 percent of New Zealand's population living in urban areas, a great deal of internal migration takes place within and between cities. Of the 1.4 million New Zealanders who changed their usual address between 1991 and 1996, 70 percent were living in main urban areas, 16 percent in other urban areas and just 14 percent were living in rural areas at the time of the 1996 Census.

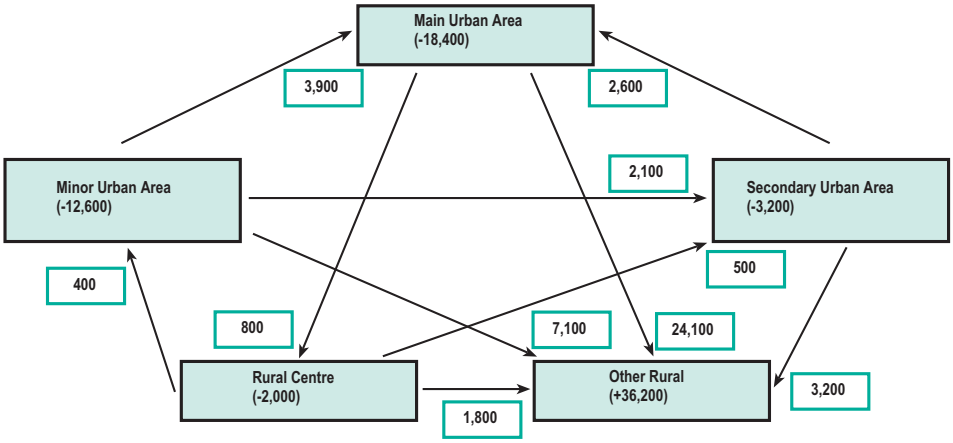
Between 1991 and 1996, there was a significant outflow from urban to rural areas. During this time, more than 36,000 more people chose to live in rural areas than decided to leave. Overall, main urban areas lost over 18,000 people through net migration flows, despite gaining population from the smaller urban centres, as is seen in figure 8.6. However, it is also worth noting that such net migration losses in main urban areas are offset by the tendency for new immigrants from overseas to settle here.

Although the rural population is gaining more residents from urban areas than it is losing, the destination of these migrants is likely to differ from that of the past. The growing popularity of lifestyle blocks, particularly on the fringes of urban areas is probably an important factor in attracting urban residents to a rural surrounding.

With the exception of net migration gains to rural areas, the general direction of internal migration flows was from smaller to larger urban areas. Between 1991 and 1996 rural centres lost population to minor and secondary urban areas; minor urban areas lost to secondary and main urban areas; and secondary urban areas lost to main urban areas.

Figure 8.6

Urban-Rural Net Migration Flows, 1991-1996

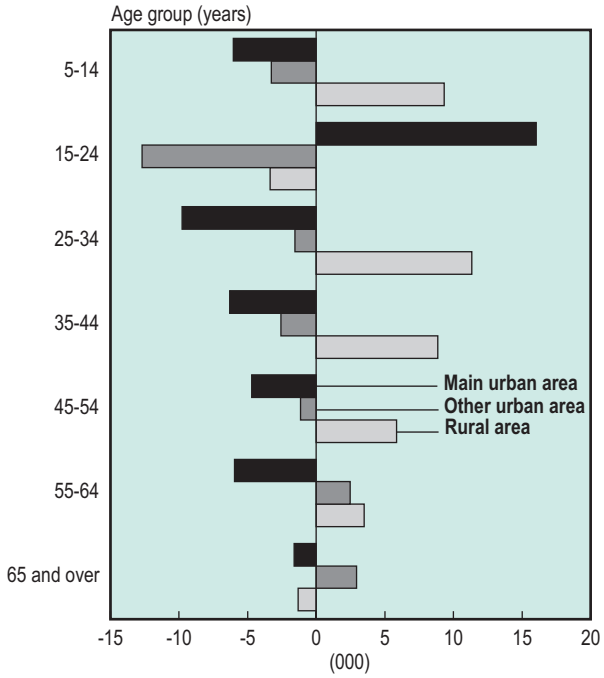


Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996

Movement between urban and rural areas highlights age as an important factor in the decision to migrate. A diversity of factors are involved, including the search for education and employment opportunities, access to services and a good environment. Between 1991 and 1996 rural areas tended to attract families, while main urban areas were magnets for young adults in particular, as is shown in figure 8.7.

Figure 8.7

Net Migration Flows for Urban and Rural Areas by Age Group, 1991-1996



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996

Young adults raised in rural or small urban centres have limited prospects for varied employment and educa-tional opportunities if they remain in these areas. The location of most tertiary educational institutions and a more diverse range of employment in main urban areas attracts young rural dwellers. Eventually, some of these young adults may return to rural locations once they have completed their qualifi-cations. Between 1991 and 1996 rural areas gained almost 30,000 people aged 25-64 years, yet lost over 3,000 aged 15-24. The smaller urban areas also lost significant numbers in the 15-24 age band (around 13,000), however, popula-tion in these smaller centres was also lost in other age groups. In main urban areas, net migration added around 16,000 young adults to the population, while net migration losses occurred in the other age groups.

The flow of elderly out of main urban areas is probably due to a variety of reasons. Likely explanations include a desire to seek a better environment for retirement, to be closer to family who have already made a lifestyle move, or even a return to areas they had to leave earlier in their search for employment. Conversely, the move out of rural areas may be linked more with a need to be closer to specialist services not normally available in these rural locations. The resulting net gain in elderly for smaller urban areas suggests these smaller centres represent an intermediary lifestyle choice for those elderly people who want or need a change in location. Smaller urban areas contain many of the benefits of an urban location, such as more services than rural areas, yet tend to be perceived as quieter, safer and perhaps having lower living costs than large urban centres.

Summary

Almost half the population was living in a different home in 1996 than five years earlier. For those aged in their twenties, the proportion was even higher with 3 in every 4 moving house during this time.

Although mobility is relatively high, most people remain close to their original location. Of those living in a main urban area in 1996 who indicated they had moved, more than 4 in every 5 people had remained in the same urban area.

Between 1991 and 1996 migration between the North and South Islands led to around 5,000 people being added to the population of the South Island, up from around 1,300 during 1986-1991, and in contrast to the northward drift that had been recorded prior to this time.

Net migration gains were recorded in seven regions. The largest losses occurred in Southland and Wellington, while the largest gains were recorded in Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Canterbury and Tasman regions.

Rural areas attracted more migrants from urban areas and rural centres during the latest intercensal period than they contributed to these areas. Subsequently, rural areas recorded a net migration gain of over 36,000 people compared with a net migration loss in main urban areas of 18,400.

Chapter 9

Looking ahead

Future trends are difficult to predict because demographic events do not occur in isolation, but are influenced by economic, social and other circumstances. Given the uncertainty surrounding future demographic events, a range of demographic projections are usually derived based on selected assumptions about various population processes, viz fertility, mortality and migration. These are not strictly forecasts, but provide a range within which the future population size and structure may lie if the given assumptions are met.

The population projections presented here cover the period 1998-2051 and have the (estimated) total New Zealand population at 31 March 1996 as a base. It is important to note that projections become increasingly uncertain the further into the future they are carried, as the basic assumptions on which they are based become increasingly hypothetical. Consequently, changes in population size and structure beyond the medium term need to be interpreted with caution.

Population size

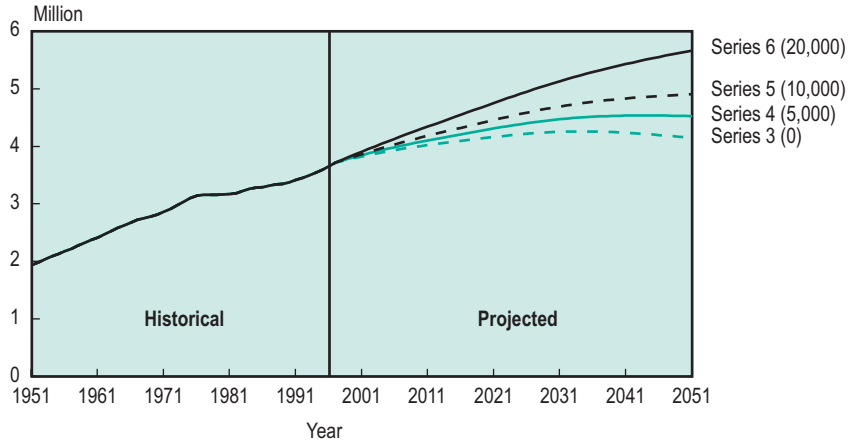
Unless otherwise stated, population projections discussed in this chapter relate to series 4, also called the "middle" series. It assumes that: New Zealand women will have, on average, 1.9 children during their life – about 10 percent below the level required for the population to replace itself; life expectancy at birth will increase by about 6.5 years, to reach 83 years in 2051; and there will be a net migration gain of 5,000 people a year (the average for the last 96 years).

Given this demographic scenario, the New Zealand population is expected to increase from 3.65 million in 1996, to peak at 4.54 million in 2044, and then decline slightly to 4.53 million by 2051. This is shown in figure 9.1. This represents an increase of 24 percent or 880,000 people over the 55-year projection period.

Without migration gain (see Series 3, figure 9.1), the population would peak a decade earlier, and at a lower level (4.26 million people), and the subsequent drop would be steeper, to 4.15 million in 2051. Migration gains of 10,000 and 20,000 people per year would, on the other hand, ensure continuous growth throughout the projection years, and of course larger populations in 2051 – 4.91 and 5.67 million respectively. An increase to above replacement level fertility (2.15 births per woman) would have a somewhat similar impact, ensuring about 5.00 million New Zealanders by the middle of next century – half a million more people than under the middle series referred to above.

Figure 9.1

Total New Zealand Population, 1951-2051



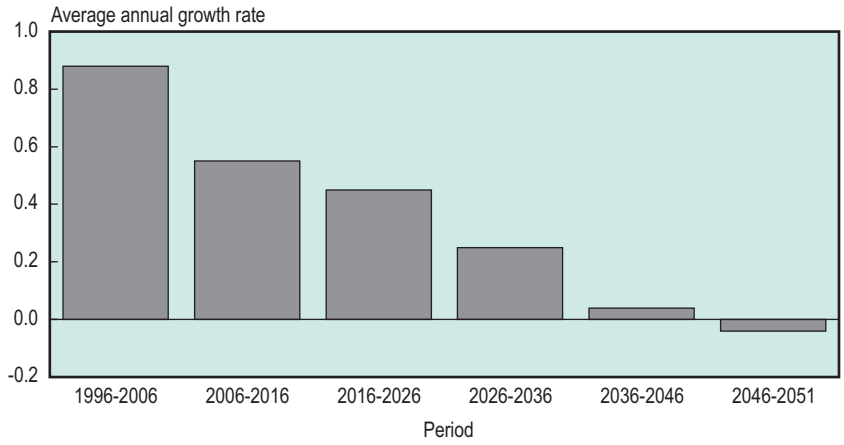
Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1951-1996, 1996 base de facto national projections

Rate of growth

The pace of population growth is projected to slow down considerably during the coming decades, as is shown in figure 9.2, because of the narrowing gap between births and deaths. Between 1981 and 1996 the growth rate averaged 1.0 percent per year. Throughout this century New Zealand's population has increased by an average of 1.6 percent per year. However, according to the middle series, population growth is projected to be 0.9 percent per year in 1996-2006, 0.5 percent per year in 2016-2026, and 0.2 percent per year during 2026-2036.

Figure 9.2

Average Annual Population Growth Rate in New Zealand, 1996-2051

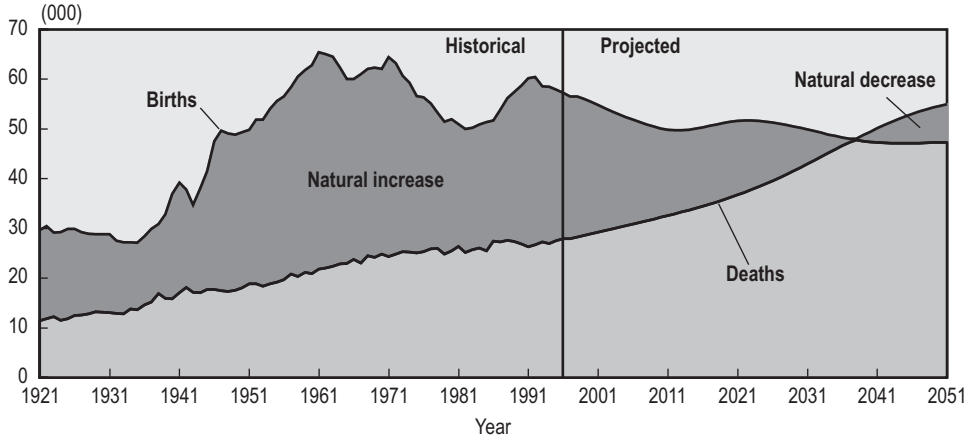


Source: Statistics New Zealand,1996 base de facto national projections

Moreover, deaths are expected to outnumber births after the year 2038, as is shown in figure 9.3, and the gap is expected to widen slowly, leading to a zero population growth. From 2045 onwards the assumed net immigration of 5,000 people per year is not expected to be sufficient to offset natural decrease (excess of deaths over births), resulting in a negative rate of growth and a decline in total population.

Figure 9.3

Births, Deaths and Natural Increase in New Zealand, 1921-2051



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Vitals 1921-1996, 1996 base de facto national projections

Changes in age structure

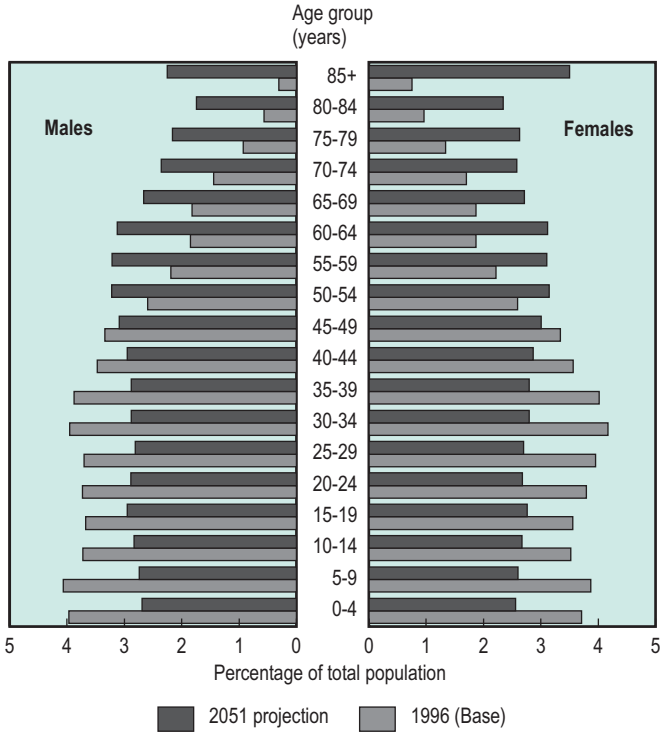
The age structure of the New Zealand population is expected to undergo major changes in the future, as is seen in the population pyramid in figure 9.4. Already, the ageing of the population is evident. Given the prospects of lower birth rates, increasing life expectancy, and the passage of the baby boomers into retirement ages, half of all New Zealanders are projected to be older than 45 years by the year 2051, compared with a median age of 33.0 years in 1996 – an increase of 12 years.

Greater migration gains would slow the ageing of the population only marginally. A net gain of 10,000 migrants per year, for example, would mean a slightly younger population, with a median age about 0.8 years lower, at 44.2 years. Even if a relatively high net migration gain of 20,000 people per year persists over the next half century, the median age would be lowered by just another year, to 43 years. New Zealand would still have an aged population, with fewer children and more elderly than at present.

As can be seen in figure 9.5, the number of children (0-14 years) is projected to vary over the 55-year period, reflecting fluctuations in the number of births. Their number is projected to increase initially from 835,000 to 865,000, in 2002, and then decline gradually to 782,000 in 2031 and further to 728,000 by 2051 – 12.8 percent lower than in 1996. By 2051 children will comprise 16.1 percent of all New Zealanders, well down from the 23.0 percent recorded in 1996.

Figure 9.4

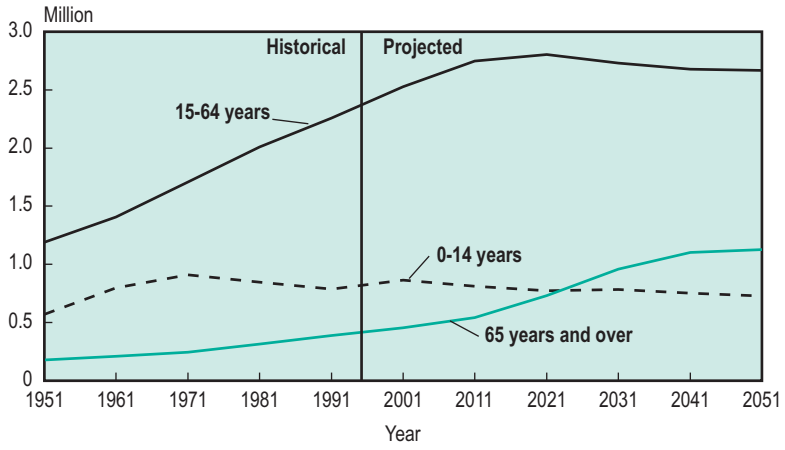
New Zealand's Population Pyramid, 1996 and 2051



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996, 1996 base de facto national projections for 2051

Figure 9.5

New Zealand Population by Selected Age Group, 1951-2051



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1951-1996, 1996 base de facto national projections

The number of people of working age (15-64 years) is projected to grow over the next two decades from 2.39 million in 1996 to 2.80 million in 2020 – an increase of 0.41 million or 17.0 percent. Their number is projected to decrease slightly to reach 2.67 million by 2051. Consequently, their share of the New Zealand population will increase initially from 65.5 percent in 1996 to 67.0 percent in 2010, and then fall steadily to 63.5 percent in 2025 and to 59.0 percent in 2051.

Within the working-age population there are expected to be significant changes, as the group takes an older profile. In 1996 the median age of the working age population was 36.3 years, by 2051 it is expected to rise to 41.2 years.

In 1996 young people (15-29 years) outnumbered people in the older working ages (45-64 years) by 12.1 percent. However, over the next 25 years the size of the younger group is projected to vary little, while that of their older counterparts is expected to rise by 59.3 percent to 1.16 million. This increase is due to the projected number of people entering this age group exceeding the number leaving it by an average of 17,000 people per year.

The elderly population (aged 65 years and over) is expected to more than double over the next three decades, from 0.43 million in 1996 to 0.87 million in 2027. The pace of increase is projected to pick up after the year 2011, when the large baby-boom generation begins to enter this age group. The other contributor will be the further gains in life expectancy – resulting from medical advances, changes in lifestyle, etc.

By 2051 there will be 1.13 million elderly people and they are expected to comprise 24.9 percent (1 in every 4) of all New Zealanders. At present there are about half as many elderly New Zealanders as children. By 2051 there are projected to be at least 50 percent more elderly than children.

Significant changes within the age structure of the elderly group are also expected. The number aged 65-74 years is projected to more than double between 1996 and 2035 from 250,000 to 525,000, and then decline to 467,000 in 2051. Among those aged 75-84 years, numbers are projected to almost treble from 138,000 in 1996 to 408,000 in 2047, before dropping slightly to 402,000 in 2051. Meanwhile, the number aged 85 years and over is expected to increase more than six-fold from 39,000 in 1996 to 260,000 in 2051. This greying of the population has implications for health and social welfare planning at national and local levels, and has been the subject of intense debate in recent months.

Dependency ratios

The dependency ratio relates the dependant population (taken as children and elderly) to the working-age population. It is important to note that the ratio is a crude measure of the likely dependency burden: many people in the working-age group may not be in the workforce, while some people of 'retirement age' may actually be working.

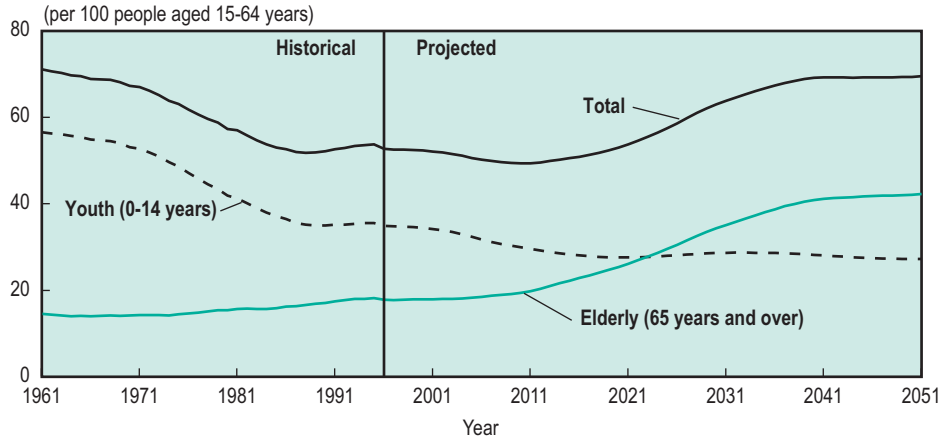
Figure 9.6 gives three sets of ratios viz: the youth, the elderly and the total dependency ratios. In 1961, there were 57 children (0-14 years) for every 100 people of working age (15-64 years). Thirty-five years later in 1996 the youth dependency ratio had dropped to 35 per 100. It is projected to drop even further to 28 per 100 by the year 2021, before becoming relatively stable. In contrast, the elderly dependency ratio has increased from 15 elderly per 100 people of working age in 1961, to 18 per 100 in 1996, and is

projected to jump to 38 per 100 by the mid 2030s and further to 42 per 100 by 2051, ie 2 elderly for every 5 people of working age.

With the youth dependency ratio falling and the elderly dependency ratio rising, the overall effect is a total dependency ratio in 2051 which is similar to that recorded 90 years earlier. However, the total dependency ratio masks important compositional changes in the dependant population. In 1961, 79.3 percent of the dependant population were children, compared with a projected figure of just 39.2 percent in 2051. Parents provide much of the support for children's needs and the focus of government spending tends to be in the areas of health and education. For the elderly, superannuation, health and care in old age will be major issues and areas for expenditure.

Figure 9.6

New Zealand Dependency Ratios, 1961-2051



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Censuses of Population and Dwellings, 1961 -1996, 1996 base de facto national projections

Subnational population projections

While the national picture is important in showing where the future population is headed in terms of size, equally important is the geographical distribution and redistribution of population. Statistics New Zealand has recently produced a provisional set of resident population projections at area unit level using the 1996 Census as a base.

Population projections at a subnational level are less certain than national projections because of the problems in developing reliable assumptions for local migration levels. Because of this greater uncertainty, subnational projections only cover the period to 2021. These projections indicate significant variations in subnational population growth patterns in the future.

North and South Islands

At the 1996 Census 3 in every 4 New Zealanders were resident in the North Island. According to the 1996-base projections, 90 percent of New Zealand's population

growth over the next 25 years is expected to take place in the North Island, leading to greater concentration of the population. By 2021 the North Island is projected to be home to 77.0 percent of all New Zealanders.

Within the North Island, the northern part is expected to record the largest population increase between 1996 and 2021, up 589,000 or 33.1 percent. In contrast, the remaining North Island population is projected to grow by just 2,000, or less than 1 percent. The population of the South Island is expected to increase by 68,000 or 7.5 percent.

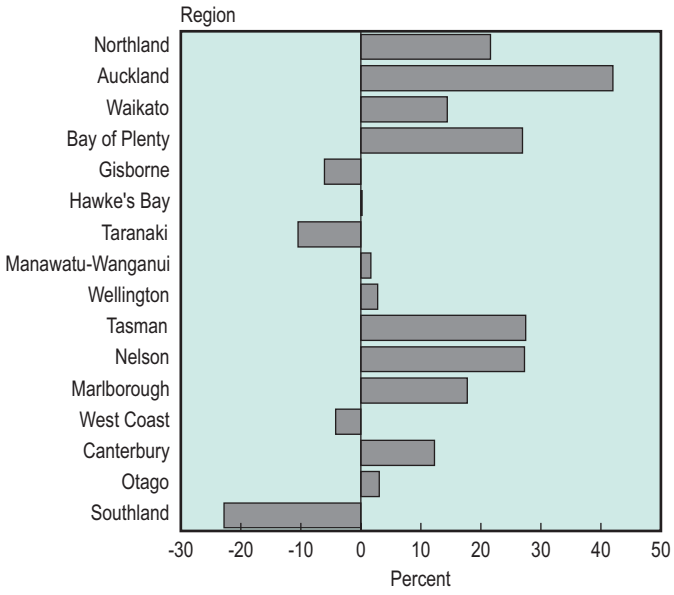
Regions

Auckland region, currently the largest in New Zealand, is projected to experience both the greatest numerical increase and the highest rate of population growth over the next 25 years. This is shown in figure 9.7. In 1996 the Auckland region was home to 1.07 million people or 29.6 percent of all New Zealanders. By 2021 there is expected to be 1.52 million people or 35.5 percent of the New Zealand population here – an increase of 0.45 million, or 42.1 percent.

Among the other regions, the largest numerical increases between 1996 and 2021 are projected to occur in the Bay of Plenty (up 60,000), Canterbury (57,000), Waikato (50,000) and Northland (30,000). Although Tasman, Nelson and Marlborough regions are all expected to experience high rates of population growth (18 percent or more), the smaller sizes of these populations mean the number of people added is small in comparison to the larger regions.

Figure 9.7

Projected Regional Population Change, 1996-2021



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996, 1996 census-based sub-national usually resident projections for 2021

Four regions are projected to experience population loss during the next 25 years – Gisborne (down 3,000), Taranaki (down 11,000), West Coast (down 1,000) and Southland (down 22,000).

Cities and districts

Of the 74 territorial authorities (cities and districts), half are projected to experience population growth and half a population decrease, over the projection period.

Among the 15 cities, the largest in 1996 was Auckland, followed by Christchurch, Manukau, North Shore, Wellington and Waitakere. Between 1996 and 2021 the largest numerical increases in population are expected in Auckland and Manukau Cities. Manukau is expected to overtake Christchurch as the second largest New Zealand city by 2021. Over the same period, Rodney District is expected to experience the highest rate of growth. Its population is projected to increase by 75.8 percent, while the populations of Queenstown-Lakes and Franklin Districts are both projected to grow by more than 50 percent.

Statistics New Zealand is at present preparing population projections for various ethnic groups. These are expected to be released early in 1998. Based on results from the 1991-base ethnic projections, and the changes between the 1991 and 1996 Censuses, one can expect greater ethnic diversity in New Zealand's population in the future.

Summary

New Zealand's population is projected to peak at 4.54 million in 2044 before declining slightly to 4.53 by 2051.

Continued ageing of the population is expected over the next 55 years, with the median age rising from 33 in 1996 to 45 by 2051.

The number of elderly (aged 65 years and over) is projected to more than double from 0.43 million in 1996 to 1.13 million in 2051. By then, almost 1 in 4 New Zealanders is expected to be older than 64 years.

Over the next 25 years 90 percent of New Zealand's population growth is expected to occur in the North Island, especially in its northern part.

Manukau city is projected to overtake Christchurch as the second largest city.

Definitions

Baby Boom
Refers to the period between the end of World War II and the mid 1960s when a large number of people were born into the New Zealand population. The baby-boom generation is usually taken to be those born in the years 1946-65.

Birth rate
Refers to the number of births per 1,000 mean population.

Centre of population
Calculated by taking into consideration the distance each person is from the centre. It is, therefore, equivalent to an average of population distribution as it is a weighted mean.

De facto population
The de facto population is the population enumerated according to its actual place of residence at a given time. Visitors from overseas, who were in New Zealand on census night, are included in the de facto population.

Elderly dependency ratio
The number of people aged 65 years and over per 100 people aged 15-64 years.

Ethnic group
The ethnic group(s) that a person specified on a self-determination basis.

Fertility rate
The number of births per 1,000 women of childbearing age.

Internal migration
Internal migration is determined by matching details supplied in the "usual address five years ago" question on the census form against the current usual address. If the two are the same, then the person is classified as a non-mover. If there are differences, then it is assumed the person has changed where they usually live. Internal migration recorded in this way tends to underestimate the true magnitude of movements that have taken place. This is because census only looks at two points in time, and there is no record of any other movements which may have occurred in between. For example, multiple moves by a single person will be missed, as will return migration, moves by people who have subsequently died, been born, or moved overseas since the 1991 Census.

A number of groups within the population are excluded from census-based internal migration analysis because they have no previous address available. This could be due to a variety of reasons, including being overseas at that time, being born after the 1991 Census, or providing a previous address which could not be coded to an area. Overall, around 4 in every 5 New Zealanders were able to be included in an analysis of internal migration flows between 1991 and 1996.

Life expectancy
A measure of the number of years of life remaining, on average, at a particular age. This term, when used without a specified age, refers to life expectancy at birth and refers to the number of years of life, on average, that a person born in a particular year may expect to live. The measure of life expectancy is based on contemporary mortality trends.

Median age
An age which represents the mid point, whereby half the population is older and half younger than this age.

Mortality rate
The number of deaths which occur, normally expressed in terms of deaths per 1,000 people in an age group or population.

Natural increase (decrease)
Refers to the net increase (or decrease) in a population resulting from the difference between the number of live births and the number of deaths.

Net external migration
The number of overseas arrivals into a country, less the number of overseas departures from a country. When there are more arrivals than departures it is known as net immigration, and when there are more departures than arrivals it is net emigration.

New immigrant
A New Zealand resident who was born overseas and was either overseas or not born at the time of the 1991 Census.

Northern North Island
The northern North Island refers to the combined area of the Northland, Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty regional councils.

Permanent or long-term migrant (PLT)
A person who leaves New Zealand for a period of 12 months or more, or arrives in New Zealand intending to stay for a period of 12 months or more.

Other rural areas
Areas of New Zealand which are not specifically designated as urban or rural centres. They include district territories where these are not included in a main, secondary or minor urban area or rural centre, and inlets, islands, inland waters, and oceanic waters which are outside urban areas.

Population density
The number of people per square kilometre.

Regional councils
Regional councils were established in November 1989 by the Local Government Commission. These regional councils (16 in total) cover every territorial authority in New Zealand with the exception of the Chatham Islands Council which has some regional responsibilities.

Resident New Zealand population
All people counted by the census who usually live in New Zealand and excludes any people who usually live overseas.

Rural centres
These are centres which have statistical boundaries, but no legal status. They contain populations of 300 to 999 in a reasonably compact area.

Sex ratio
The number of males per 100 females in a given population.

Southern North Island
The southern North Island refers to the combined area of the Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, Manawatu-Wanganui, and Wellington regional councils.

Territorial authority
There are 74 territorial authorities (including 15 cities and 59 districts). The boundaries of territorial authorities are defined according to community of interest considerations (including the relevance of the community components to each other and the ability of the unit to efficiently service its community).

Total dependency ratio
The number of children aged 0-14 years plus the number of people aged 65 years and over per 100 people aged 15-64 years.

Total fertility rate
The total fertility rate for a particular year indicates the average number of children a woman would expect to have during her lifetime, were she to be exposed to the age specific fertility rates for that year. The total fertility rate is sometimes used as an indicator of family size.

Total or de facto population
The total or 'de facto' population is the population enumerated according to its actual place of residence at a given time. Visitors from overseas, who were in New Zealand on census night, are included in the de facto population.

Urban areas

Urban areas are defined according to a three-part classification, consisting of main, secondary and minor urban areas.

Main urban areas – urban centres with a minimum population of 30,000. Auckland, Wellington, Hamilton and Napier-Hastings have been further subdivided into urban zones.

Secondary urban areas – urban centres with a population ranging between 10,000 and 29,999.

Minor urban areas – urban centres with populations between 1,000 and 9,999.

Usually resident population

This is the population which usually resides in a particular locality. People normally resident in New Zealand (who are counted on census night in a place away from where they usually live) are relocated back to their usual address. Overseas visitors who are temporarily in New Zealand at the time of the census are excluded from the usually resident population.

Youth dependency ratio

The number of children aged 0-14 per 100 people aged 15-64 years.

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