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The Encyclopedia of New Zealand

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NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE

The information in this brochure is compiled by Statistics New Zealand. All figures are for year to 30 June, month of June, or at 30 June unless otherwise specified. Due to rounding, figures may not sum to stated totals.

New Zealand Government



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NEW ZEALAND IN PROFILE 2014

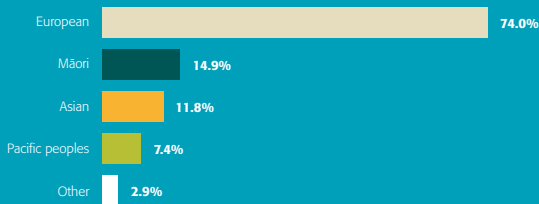
An overview of New Zealand's
people, economy, and environment



ABOUT NEW ZEALAND

Māori name	Aotearoa
Capital	Wellington
Largest city	Auckland
Official languages	English Māori NZ Sign Language
Population	4,471,100 (est June 2013)
Area	269,652 sq km
Currency	New Zealand dollar
Government	Parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy

Ethnic groups (from 2013 Census)⁽¹⁾



1. People who identify with more than one ethnic group are included in each ethnic population, so percentages add up to more than 100.

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

New Zealand is comparable in size to the United Kingdom or the Philippines. Nowhere is more than 130km from the sea. Sitting on the Pacific Rim, New Zealand has earthquakes and volcanoes. The climate is generally temperate, although weather in the far north is often subtropical during the warmer months (December–March) and there can be severe frosts in the inland areas of the South Island in winter (June–August). New Zealand originally had no land mammals, but has many unique native plants and birds, such as the flightless kiwi.

MĀORI

Ancestors of Māori arrived in canoes from the Pacific about 1300CE. They called the country Aotearoa (land of the long white cloud). They lived in tribal groups, had a rich culture of stories about the land, and strong traditions of warfare. In 1840, 500 chiefs and representatives of Queen Victoria signed the Treaty of Waitangi to protect Māori lands and rights. Promises were not always upheld and in recent years the government has reached settlements with many iwi (tribes). Today there are nearly 600,000 Māori, mostly in cities. There has been a major revival of the Māori language, art, and culture in the past few decades.

HISTORY

The first European to discover New Zealand was the Dutch explorer Abel Tasman, in 1642. The English navigator James Cook mapped the coasts of the country from 1769. When New Zealand became a British colony in 1840, large-scale settlement began, mainly from the United Kingdom. In the 1890s, New Zealand became the first country to give women the vote, among other liberal reforms. The country lost many men in two world wars. Today New Zealand has moved from being a British colony to an independent multicultural nation of the Pacific.

ECONOMY

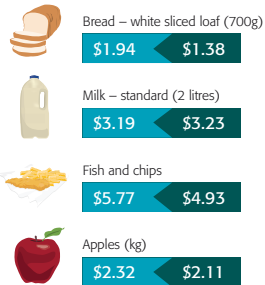
New Zealand has a market economy. For many years earnings were mainly from farm products, such as wool and dairy goods. Today these are combined with new developments such as tourism, film production, and winemaking. New Zealand depends heavily on international trade, especially with Australia, China, the United States, and Japan. Economic free-market reforms from the 1980s have removed many barriers to foreign investment.

SOCIETY

New Zealand has a similar-sized population to Ireland, Singapore, and Norway. More people live in the North Island than the South Island, and far more live in the cities than in the country. Auckland, the largest city, is home to many people from the Pacific and Asia who have settled in the past 50 years. A democratically elected government contributes to schools, universities, and hospitals, so New Zealanders are generally well educated, healthy, and have a good standard of living. Christianity is the most common religion.

PRICES

Retail prices of selected items



SOCIAL WELL-BEING

Insights from the New Zealand General Social Survey 2012

HEALTH

60% of New Zealanders described their health as either excellent or very good

RELATIONSHIPS

69% had never felt lonely in the last four weeks

MONEY

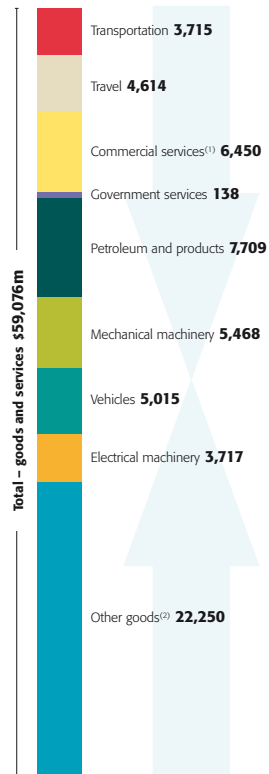
52% said they had more than enough or enough to live on

BELONGING

94% felt a sense of belonging to New Zealand

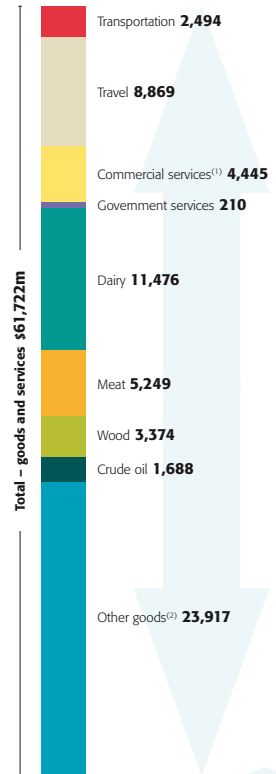
IMPORTS, 2013

Main import goods and services (\$million)



EXPORTS, 2013

Main export goods and services (\$million)



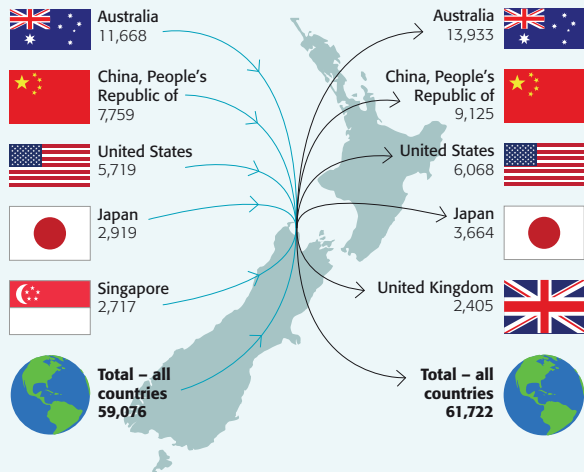
1. Commercial services includes computer and information services, royalties and licence fees, and communications services.

2. Other goods includes plastics, pharmaceuticals, paper products, and machinery.

MAIN TRADING PARTNERS, 2013

Imports – Goods and services (\$million)

Exports – Goods and services (\$million)



INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

New Zealand lies around 1,600km from Australia's eastern coast (a three-hour flight) and 8,500–10,500km (10.5–12.5 hours) from Singapore, Shanghai, and Los Angeles.

	2013	2008
Short-term travel	(million)	
Overseas visitor arrivals	2.64	2.48
New Zealand-resident departures	2.14	1.98

Top 10 visitor source countries

(Country of last permanent residence)

	2013
Australia	1,183,856
China, People's Republic of	222,720
United States	189,456
United Kingdom	189,008
Japan	74,960
Germany	65,040
Korea, Republic of	50,704
Canada	46,960
Singapore	37,696
India	29,936

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS WITH OUR TOP FIVE VISITOR SOURCE COUNTRIES

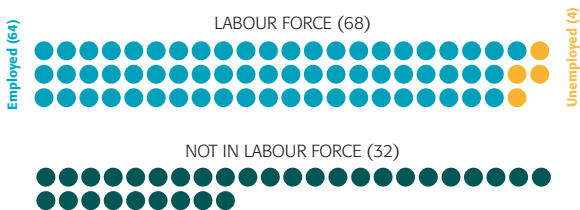
Subject	Unit	New Zealand	Australia	China, PR	United States	United Kingdom	Japan
Total population (estimated)	Million	4.47	22.26	1,349.59	316.67	63.40	127.25
Annual rate of population change	Percent	0.86	1.11	0.46	0.90	0.55	-0.10
Male life expectancy at birth	Years of life	79.3	79.5	73.0	76.2	78.2	80.8
Female life expectancy at birth	Years of life	83.0	84.5	77.3	81.2	82.5	87.7
% of population aged 65+ years	Percent	14.2	14.7	9.4	13.9	17.3	24.8
% of population aged under 15 years	Percent	19.9	18.1	17.2	20.0	17.3	13.4
CPI change (annual)	Percent	0.7	2.4	2.3	1.4	2.7	-0.3
GDP per person (rounded) ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	US\$	29,500	42,000	9,100	51,700	36,600	35,900
Unemployment as % of labour force ⁽¹⁾	Percent	6.4	5.2	6.5	8.1	8.0	4.4
Employment as % of people aged 15–64 ⁽¹⁾	Percent	72.1	72.3	74.2 ⁽³⁾	67.1	70.9	70.3

1. Data for 2012. All other data is from 2013. 2. Purchasing power parity adjusted. 3. 2010.

Sources: www.stats.govt.nz; www.cia.gov; www.stats.oecd.org; www.imf.org; World Bank

LABOUR FORCE, 2013

Breakdown of the working-age population (15+), per 100 people



6.4% Unemployment rate – measures the proportion of people in the labour force available for and actively seeking work, but who can't find any.

63.7% Employment rate – measures the proportion of the working-age population that is employed.

68.1% Labour force participation rate – measures the proportion of the working-age population that is in the labour force.

EARNINGS

Earnings from wages and salaries	2013	2008
Median hourly earnings (\$)	21.58	18.70
Median weekly earnings (\$)	844	729
Average number of hours usually worked in a week	35.7	36.5

HOUSING, 2013

64.8%

of households either owned the dwelling they live in or held it in a family trust

\$356.20

was the average weekly mortgage payment

\$275.30

was the average weekly rent payment

Note: The ownership figure is from the 2013 Census. The average rent and mortgage figures are from the Household Economic Survey: Year ended June 2013.

POPULATION⁽¹⁾

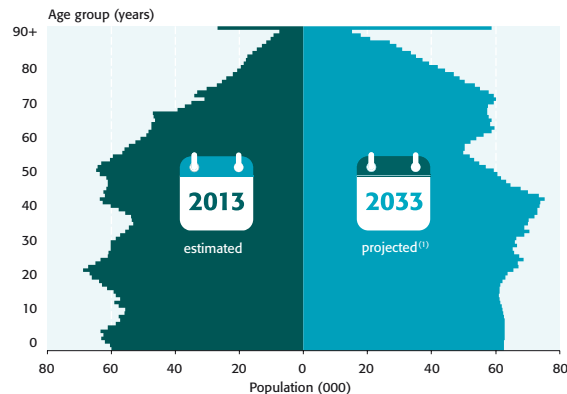
2003	4,027,200
2013 (estimated June 2013)	4,471,100
2023 (projected)	4,881,800

Age group (years) – 2013

Under 15	891,100
15–39	1,505,000
40–64	1,439,700
65+	635,300

1. Based on 2006 Census.

AGE STRUCTURE, 2013 AND 2033



1. Based on mid-range projection.

DEMOGRAPHY

Components of population change in the five years to 30 June 2013

Births	+ 310,638
Deaths	– 146,991
Natural increase	+ 163,647
Arrivals	+ 427,209
Departures	– 389,607
Net migration	+ 37,602

ECONOMY

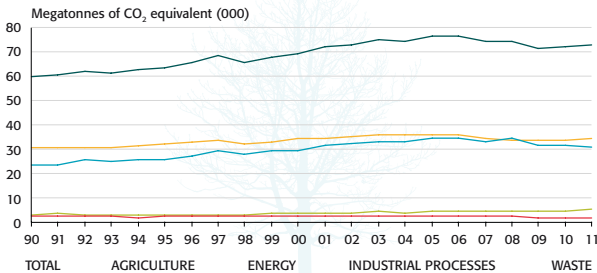
New Zealand has a mixed economy that operates on free-market principles. It has a sizeable service sector, complemented by a productive agricultural sector and related manufacturing industries.

OECD industry group	Value Year ended March 2011 ⁽¹⁾ (\$million)	Growth rate March 2008– March 2013 ⁽²⁾ (Percent)
Financial and insurance services; rental, hiring, and real estate services; and professional, scientific, technical, administrative, and support services	53,036	7.2
Wholesale trade; retail trade; accommodation and restaurants; transport, postal, and warehousing; and information media and telecommunications	37,541	5.1
Government administration and defence; education and training; health care and social assistance; arts and recreation services, and other services	36,615	5.4
Mining; manufacturing; electricity, gas, water, and waste services	33,448	-2.8
Agriculture, fishing, and forestry	13,225	12.1
Construction	10,295	0.4
GST on production + import duties	14,948	3.7
Total gross domestic product	199,108	4.5

1. Current prices. 2. Constant 1995/96 prices.

ENVIRONMENT

New Zealand's greenhouse gas emissions, 1990–2011 calendar years



Source: Ministry for the Environment

NEW ZEALAND

Regional boundaries and population of cities & selected districts

