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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.

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New Zealand in Profile 2013

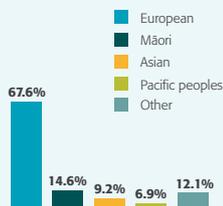
An overview of New Zealand's people, economy, and environment



ABOUT NEW ZEALAND

Māori name Aotearoa
Capital Wellington
Largest city Auckland

Ethnic groups (from 2006 Census)⁽¹⁾



Official languages English, Māori, NZ Sign Language
Population 4,433,000 (est June 2012)
Area 269,652 sq km
Currency New Zealand dollar
Government Parliamentary democracy and constitutional monarchy

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 on 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 tribes. Today there are over half a million 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 coast 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 as 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.

CULTURE

New Zealanders enjoy time out from work. Gardening, reading, walking, and going to the beach are popular leisure activities. Sport – both playing and watching – is also very popular, and while the national rugby team is a world champion, golf is the most commonly played game. There is a thriving film industry, and much creative art, music, literature, theatre, and fashion design is produced here. Museums and galleries are found throughout New Zealand, along with excellent cafés and restaurants.

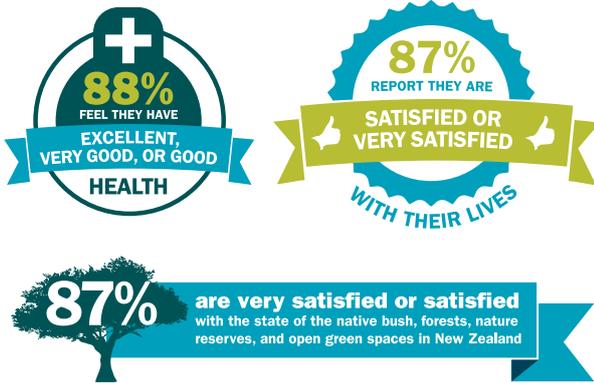
PRICES

Retail prices of selected items

2012 June quarter (NZ\$)
2007 June quarter (NZ\$)



SOCIAL WELL-BEING How are New Zealanders doing? ⁽¹⁾



1. Based on General Social Survey 2010 data.

IMPORTS

In 2012, 27 percent of all goods imported were primary products and 72 percent were manufactured goods. Petroleum and products continue to be New Zealand's highest-value import, accounting for 18 percent of goods imported.

Main import commodities	2012	2007
	NZ\$(million)	
Petroleum and products	8,366	5,785
Mechanical machinery and equipment	6,071	5,230
Vehicles, parts, and accessories	4,882	4,854
Electrical machinery and equipment ⁽¹⁾	3,948	3,695
Textiles and textile articles	2,116	1,877
Plastic and plastic articles	1,685	1,567
Optical, medical, and measuring equipment	1,337	1,177
Iron and steel, and articles ⁽¹⁾	1,247	1,519
Total – all commodities	47,451	41,165

1. Values exclude confidential data.

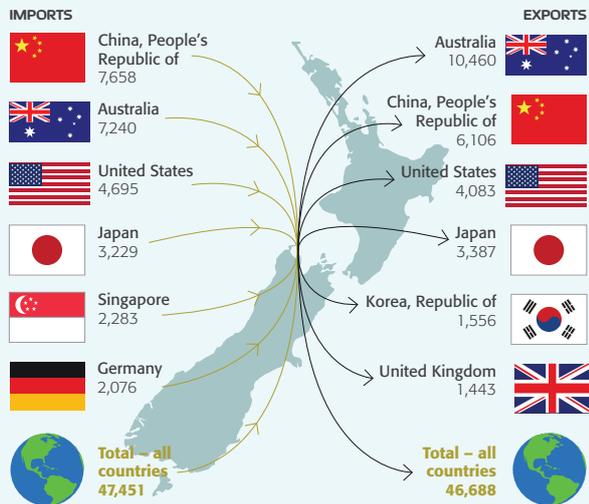
EXPORTS

In 2012, 70 percent of all goods exported were primary products and 25 percent were manufactured goods. Milk powder, butter, and cheese continue to be New Zealand's highest-value export, accounting for 25 percent of goods exported.

Main export commodities	2012	2007
	NZ\$(million)	
Milk powder, butter, and cheese	11,625	6,454
Meat and edible offal	5,114	4,609
Logs, wood, and wood articles ⁽¹⁾	3,060	2,203
Crude oil	2,023	475
Mechanical machinery and equipment	1,865	1,879
Fruit	1,587	1,227
Fish, crustaceans, and molluscs	1,367	1,153
Wine	1,177	698
Total – all commodities	46,688	34,934

1. Values exclude confidential data.

MAIN TRADING PARTNERS, 2012 (NZ\$ million)



INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

New Zealand lies around 1,600km from Australia's eastern coast (a three-hour flight) and 9,000–12,000km from all Pacific Rim destinations (10- to 16-hour flight). Auckland Airport is the busiest of several international airports. Peak travel months are December to February.

Short-term travel	2012	2007
	(million)	
Overseas visitor arrivals	2.6	2.5
New Zealand–resident departures	2.2	1.9

Top 10 visitor source countries

(Country of last permanent residence)

	2012
Australia	1,175,296
United Kingdom	214,448
United States	182,816
China, People's Republic of	175,488
Japan	67,072
Germany	62,992
Korea, Republic of	53,840
Canada	49,296
Singapore	38,736
France	37,136

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS WITH OUR TOP FIVE VISITOR SOURCE COUNTRIES

Subject	Unit	New Zealand	Australia	United Kingdom	United States	China, PR	Japan
Total population (estimated)	Million	4.43	22.02	63.05	313.85	1,343.24	127.37
Annual rate of population change	Percent	0.63	1.13	0.55	0.90	0.48	-0.08
Male life expectancy at birth	Years of life	79.1	79.5	78.1	76.1	72.8	80.6
Female life expectancy at birth	Years of life	82.8	84.5	82.4	81.1	77.1	87.4
% of population aged 65+ years	Percent	13.8	14.4	16.9	13.5	9.1	23.9
% of population aged under 15 years	Percent	20.1	18.2	17.3	20.0	17.4	13.5
CPI change (annual)	Percent	1.0	1.2	2.7	1.9	2.9	0.2
GDP per capita (rounded) ⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾	US\$	26,100	40,800	36,500	48,300	8,400	34,700
Unemployment as % of labour force ⁽¹⁾	Percent	6.6	5.1	8.1	9.0	6.5	4.6
Employment as % of working-age population ⁽¹⁾	Percent	72.6	72.7	70.4	66.6	74.2 ⁽³⁾	70.3

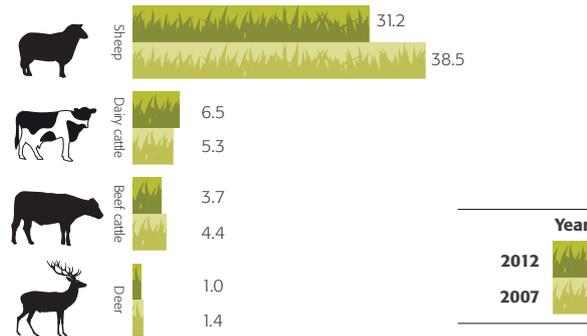
1. Data for 2011. All other data is from 2012. 2. New Zealand data for year ended March. Other data for year ended June. 3. 2010 Sources: www.stats.govt.nz, www.cia.gov, www.stats.oecd.org, www.imf.org, World Bank

LABOUR FORCE

People in employment	2012	2007
Sector	(thousand)	
Personal and community services	560.1	492.2
Financial, insurance, and business services	363.5	341.9
Retail trade and restaurants	331.1	344.7
Manufacturing	246.5	264.3
Construction	171.3	194.2
Agriculture, mining, water, and electricity	171.2	168.9
Transport and communications	154.4	133.3
Public administration and safety	118.0	119.5
Wholesale trade	98.4	98.2
Not specified	5.9	8.8
Total	2,220.4	2,166.2

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Grazing stock numbers (million)



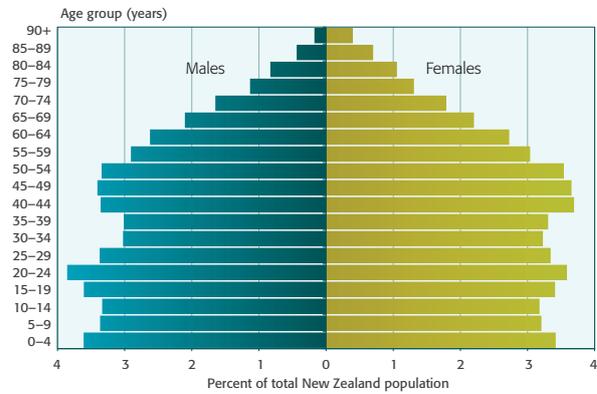
POPULATION

2002	3,948,500
2012 (est June 2012)	4,433,000
2022 (projected)	4,840,000

Age group (2012)

Under 15 years	892,300
15–39 years	1,497,000
40–64 years	1,432,300
65+ years	611,400

Estimated New Zealand population, by age and sex, June 2012



DEMOGRAPHY

Components of population change in the five years to 30 June 2012

Natural increase	+ 169,256
Live births	+ 314,920
Deaths	- 145,664
Net migration	+ 34,427
Arrivals	+ 424,213
Departures	- 389,786

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.

	2012 NZ\$(million)
Gross domestic product in current prices	208,688

Gross domestic product by industry (in 1995/96 prices)	Growth rate 2007–12 (%)
Mining	20.8
Agriculture, forestry, and fishing	17.6
Financial and insurance services	13.4
Health care and social assistance	11.5
Public administration and safety	11.3
Transport, postal, and warehousing	7.4
Education and training	6.9
Professional, scientific, technical, administrative, and support services	6.8
Electricity, gas, water, and waste services	6.1
Information media and telecommunications	5.5
Arts, recreation, and other services	4.2
Retail trade and accommodation	3.3
Wholesale trade	1.4
Rental, hiring, and real estate services	-0.1
Manufacturing	-8.0
Construction	-13.5
Gross domestic product	3.7

EARNINGS

	June quarter	
	2012	2007
Earnings from wages and salaries	(NZ\$)	
Average hourly earnings	25.07	21.33
Average weekly earnings	922	793
Median hourly earnings	20.86	18.00
Median weekly earnings	806	709

NEW ZEALAND: REGIONAL POPULATIONS

