

# NEW ZEALAND IN PROFILE 2015

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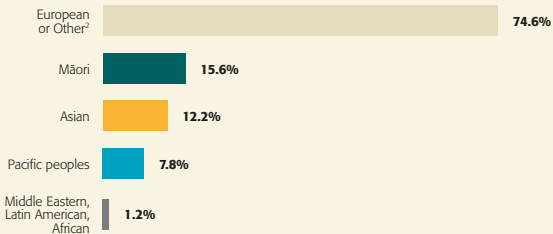
An overview of New Zealand's  
people, economy, and environment



# ABOUT NEW ZEALAND

<b>Māori name</b>	Aotearoa
<b>Capital</b>	Wellington
<b>Largest city</b>	Auckland
<b>Official languages</b>	English Māori NZ Sign Language
<b>Population</b>	4,509,700 (est June 2014)
<b>Area</b>	268,107 sq km
<b>Currency</b>	New Zealand dollar
<b>Government</b>	Parliamentary democracy

## Ethnic groups (estimates at 30 June 2013)<sup>1</sup>



1. We include people who identify with more than one ethnic group in each of their ethnic groups.
2. 'Other ethnicity' includes New Zealander.

## NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

New Zealand, also known as Aotearoa ('land of the long white cloud'), is a similar size to the United Kingdom. Nowhere is more than 130km from the sea. Sitting on the Pacific Rim, New Zealand has volcanoes and earthquakes. The climate is temperate, although weather in the far north is often subtropical during summer (December–March) and inland areas of the South Island can have severe frosts in winter (June–August). New Zealand has unique native plants and birds, such as the kiwi, and bats are the only native land mammals.

## HISTORY

Māori arrived in ocean-going waka (canoes) from east Polynesia in the late 13th century. They initially lived in family or communal groups. In 1642, Dutch explorer Abel Tasman was the first European to visit New Zealand. From 1769, English navigator James Cook mapped the country's coast. In 1840, 500 Māori chiefs and representatives of Queen Victoria signed the Treaty of Waitangi. New Zealand became a British colony and many settlers arrived. However, government sometimes broke promises to protect Māori rights, which led to war between some Māori tribes and British and colonial troops. After this, Māori had much of their land taken. In 1893 New Zealand became the first country to give women the vote. Many New Zealanders served in overseas wars, including the two 20th century world wars. From the 1970s, the government has been negotiating settlements with Māori tribes – to make up for breaking Treaty promises in the past. Today New Zealand is an independent and multicultural Pacific nation.

## ECONOMY

New Zealand has a market economy. For many years its earnings were mainly from farm products, such as wool and dairy products. Today developments such as tourism, film production, and winemaking are also significant. New Zealand depends heavily on international trade, especially with Australia, China, the European Union, and the United States. From the 1980s, New Zealand's economic reforms freed up the market and removed many barriers to foreign investment.

## SOCIETY

New Zealand has a similar-sized population to Ireland. More people live in the North Island than the South Island, and many more live in the cities than in the country. Auckland, the largest city, is home to many Pacific and Asian people who have settled since the 1950s. 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.

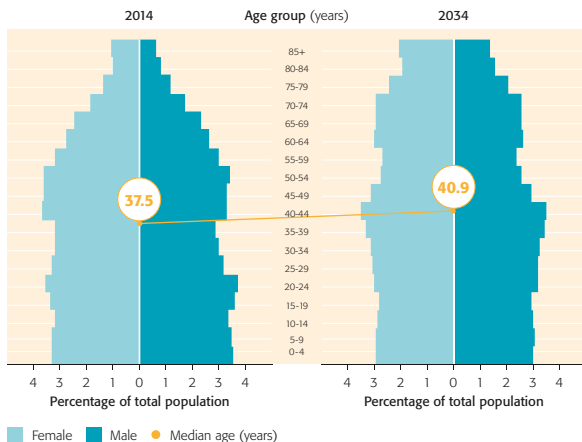
## CULTURE

Māori cultural traditions include music and dance, carving, weaving, and oral story-telling. British and European migrants brought their own art forms and cultural institutions after 1840. Later migrants added Pacific, Asian, and other traditions to New Zealand culture. There has been a major revival of Māori language and culture since the 1970s. New Zealand has produced many internationally significant musicians, writers, and visual and performing artists.

## POPULATION

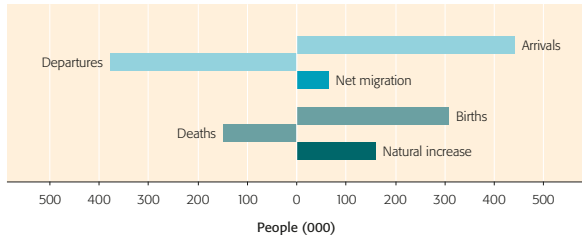
2004	4,087,500
2014 (estimated)	4,509,700
2034 (projected)	5,372,300

## AGE STRUCTURE, 2014 AND 2034



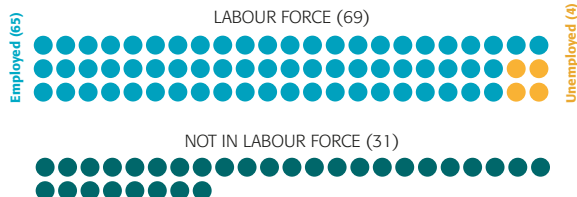
## DEMOGRAPHY

### Components of population change in the five years to 30 June 2014



## LABOUR FORCE, 2014

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



**5.6% Unemployment rate** – measures the proportion of people in the labour force available for and actively seeking work, but who can't find any.

**65.0% Employment rate** – measures the proportion of the working-age population that is employed.

**68.9% Labour force participation rate** – measures the proportion of the working-age population that is in the labour force.

## EARNINGS

### Earnings from wages and salaries

	2009	2014
Median hourly earnings (\$)	19.47	21.94
Median weekly earnings (\$)	750	863

## ENVIRONMENT



is about the increase in temperature over the past 100 years.<sup>1</sup>

72.7%

of people were very satisfied or satisfied with the state of the lakes, rivers, harbours, oceans, and coastlines.<sup>2</sup>

84.2%

of people were very satisfied or satisfied with the state of the native bush, forests, nature reserves, and open green spaces.<sup>2</sup>

1. Source: National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research. 2. 2012 data.

## MĀORI CULTURAL WELL-BEING<sup>1</sup>



**23%**

Speak te reo Māori fairly well or better<sup>2</sup>



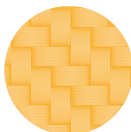
**70%**

Feel involvement in Māori culture is important



**62%**

Have visited their ancestral marae



**89%**

Know their iwi [tribe]

1. Data is for all Māori adults usually resident in New Zealand 15 years and older. 2. Those of Māori ethnicity only.

## HOUSING, 2014

**\$290.20**

was the average weekly rent payment

**\$389.20**

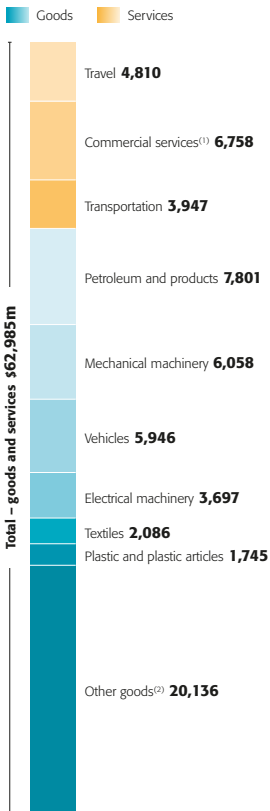
was the average weekly mortgage payment



**Note:** Total is less than 100% because it excludes people living rent-free.

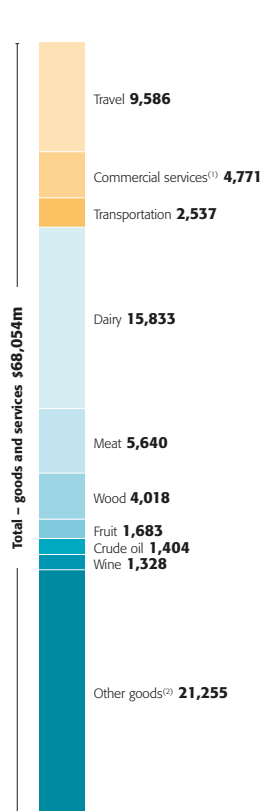
## IMPORTS, 2014

Main import goods and services (\$million)



## EXPORTS, 2014

Main export goods and services (\$million)



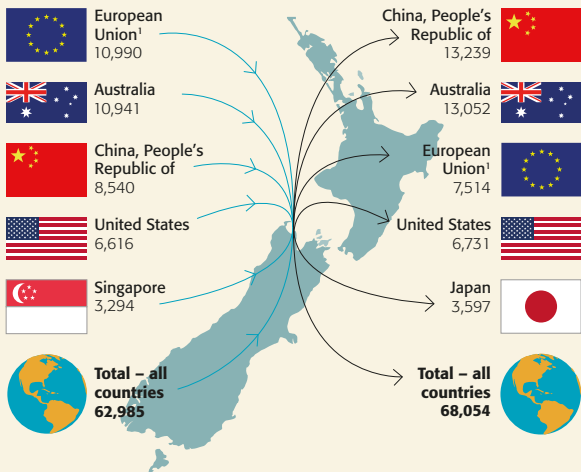
1. Includes financial and insurance services, telecommunication and computer services, and other business services. Government services are also included.

2. Includes pharmaceuticals, paper products, and machinery.

## MAIN TRADING PARTNERS, 2014

**Imports** – Goods and services (\$million)

**Exports** – Goods and services (\$million)



1. European Union has 28 member states.

## 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.

### Top 5 visitor source countries

(Country of last permanent residence)

	2014
Australia	1,235,808
China, People's Republic of	240,496
United States	211,712
United Kingdom	194,384
Germany	75,808

	2009 (million)	2014 (million)
Overseas visitor arrivals	2.41	2.79
New Zealand-resident departures	1.92	2.24

### Overseas visitors' spending

Year to March 2014

\$10.3 billion

## INTERNATIONAL COMPARISONS WITH OUR TOP FIVE VISITOR SOURCE COUNTRIES



Subject	Unit	New Zealand	Australia	China, PR	United States	United Kingdom	Germany
Total population (estimated)	Million	4.51	22.51	1,355.69	318.89	63.74	80.99
Annual rate of population change	Percent	1.52	1.09	0.44	0.77	0.54	-0.18
Male life expectancy at birth	Years of life	78.88	79.63	73.09	77.11	78.26	78.15
Female life expectancy at birth	Years of life	83.08	84.64	77.43	81.94	82.69	82.86
% of population aged 65+ years	Percent	14.4	15.1	9.4	14.5	17.5	21.1
% of population aged under 15 years	Percent	20.2	18.0	17.1	19.4	17.3	13.0
CPI change (annual)	Percent	1.6	3.0	2.2	2.1	1.7	1.1
GDP per person (rounded) <sup>(1)(2)</sup>	US\$	30,400	43,000	9,800	52,800	37,300	39,500
Unemployment as % of labour force	Percent	5.6	6.1	2.9 <sup>(3)</sup>	6.1	6.3	4.9
Employment as % of people aged 15-64	Percent	74.1	71.6	75.1 <sup>(3)</sup>	68.2	72.0	73.4

1. Data for 2013. All other data is 2014. 2. Purchasing power parity adjusted. 3. Data for 2010.

Sources: [www.stats.govt.nz](http://www.stats.govt.nz); [www.cia.gov](http://www.cia.gov); [www.stats.oecd.org](http://www.stats.oecd.org)

## 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.









### Size and growth of New Zealand's economy

Industry	Value	Five-year
	2012 <sup>(1)</sup> (\$million)	March 2009-14 <sup>(2)</sup> (Percent)
Primary industries	17,322	3.0
Goods-producing industries	41,029	5.8
Distribution, accommodation, transport, and communications	39,113	11.6
Finance, insurance, and business services	56,532	10.7
Government, health, education, and other services	38,574	6.4
GST on production and import duties	17,730	8.4
<b>Total gross domestic product</b>	<b>210,300</b>	<b>8.3</b>

1. Year ended March; Current prices. 2. Constant 2009/2010 prices.

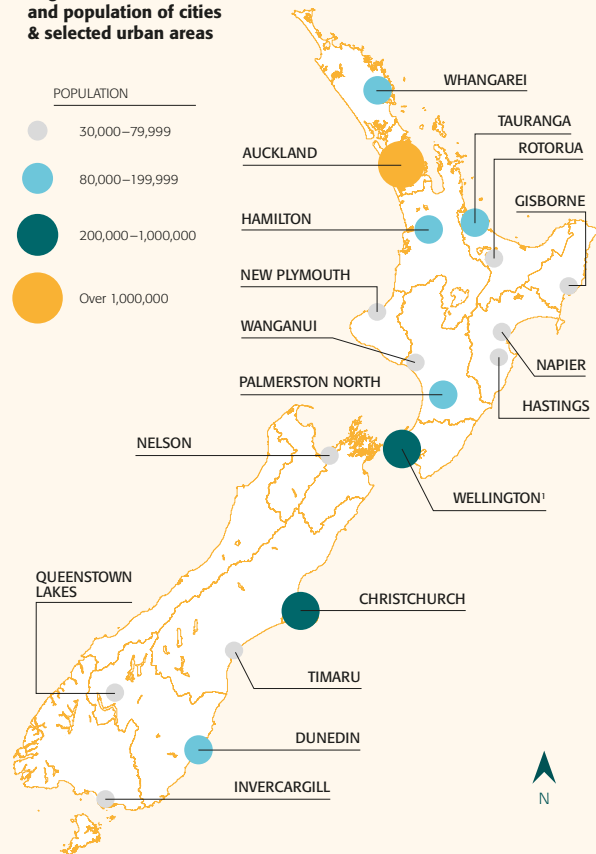
## PRICES

### Retail prices of selected items

	2009	2014
 Bread – white sliced loaf	\$1.80	\$1.80
 Lamb – chops (kg)	\$12.78	\$13.89
 Milk – standard (2 litres)	\$3.22	\$3.60
 Beer – glass (400ml)	\$4.78	\$5.87
 Fish and chips – one portion	\$5.32	\$5.91
 Petrol – 91 octane (litre)	\$1.60	\$2.11
 Apples (kg)	\$2.31	\$2.52
 GP visit – adult	\$30.18	\$37.14

## NEW ZEALAND

### Regional boundaries and population of cities & selected urban areas



1. Includes Wellington, Hutt, Porirua, and Upper Hutt cities.

0 100 200  
Kilometres

## CONTACT US

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Statistics New Zealand produces New Zealand's key economic, social, and environmental data. Central and local government, Māori, businesses, communities, researchers, and the public all use this information to inform debate, and to help make decisions that contribute to New Zealand's economic and social prosperity.

The information in this brochure is compiled by Statistics New Zealand. All figures are for the year to 30 June, June month, or at 30 June unless otherwise stated. Figures may not add to stated totals, due to rounding.

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