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Statistics New Zealand
TATAURANGA AOTEAROA

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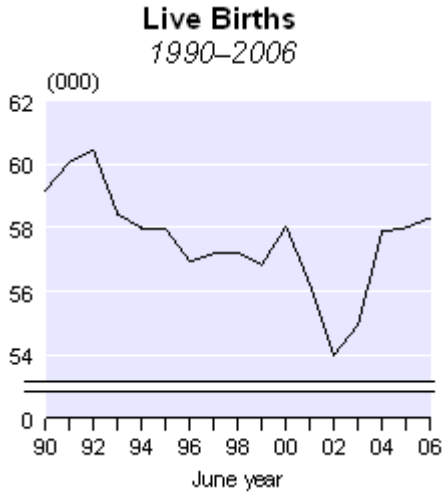
Births and Deaths

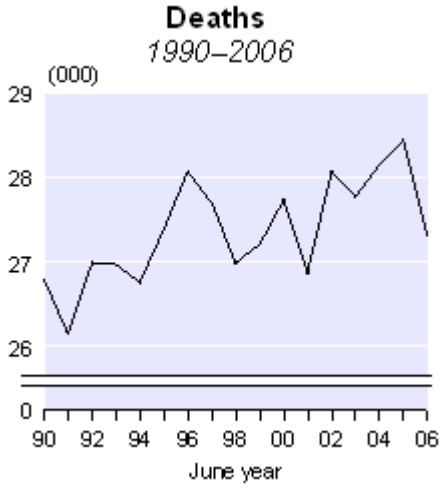
June 2006 quarter

Highlights

In the June 2006 year:

- **There were 58,250 live births registered in New Zealand**.
- **New Zealand women averaged 2.02 births** per woman.
- **Women aged 30–34 years had the highest fertility rate** – 122 births per 1,000 women aged 30–34 years.
- **The median age of women giving birth was 30.4 years**.
- **The median age of women giving birth to their first child was 28.4 years**.
- **The infant mortality rate was 4.8 deaths per 1,000 live births**.
- **There were 27,300 deaths registered**.
- **Births exceeded deaths by 30,950**.





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There is a companion Media Release published – *Births and Deaths: June 2006 quarter*.

Commentary

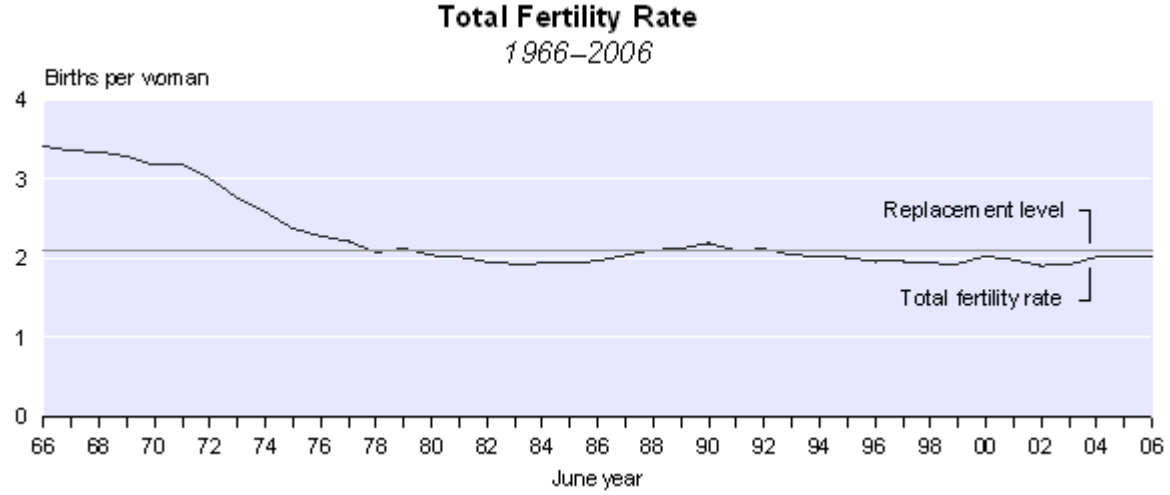
Live births

There were 58,250 live births registered in New Zealand in the June 2006 year. This is above the annual average of 56,850 experienced during the last decade. During the June 2006 year, the births of 29,830 boys and 28,420 girls were registered to mothers resident in New Zealand. There are normally more boys born than girls, with an average of 105 boys born for every 100 girls during the last decade.

Live births registered in the June 2006 quarter totalled 14,620, a decrease of 190 compared with the June 2005 quarter.

Annual fertility rates

The latest annual fertility rates indicate that New Zealand women average 2.02 births per woman. New Zealand's total fertility rate has been relatively stable over the last two decades, averaging 2.01 births per woman. This figure is below the level required by a population to replace itself in the long term without migration (2.1 births per woman). Apart from a short period around 1990, fertility in New Zealand has been slightly below the 'replacement level' since 1980.

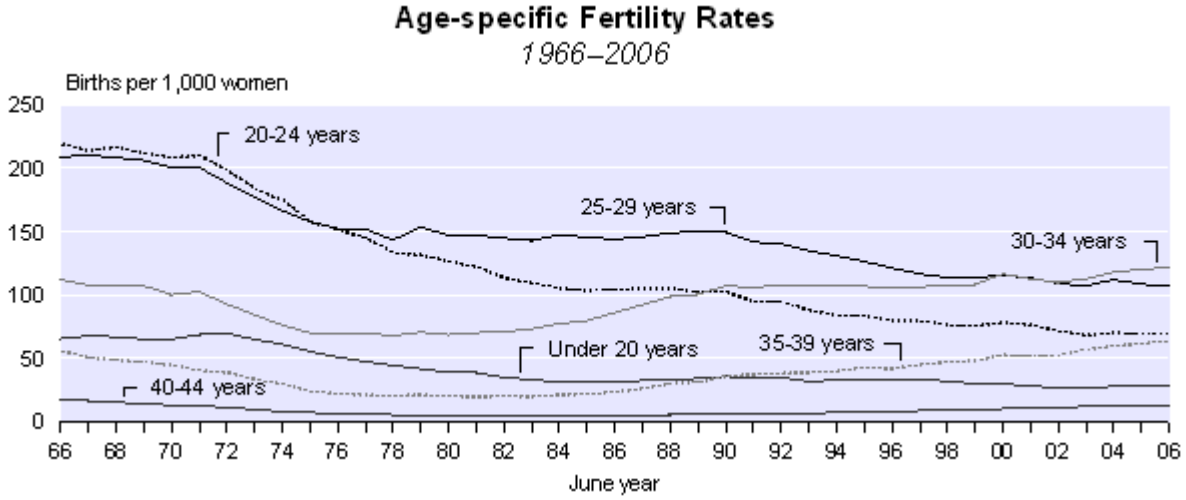


Sub-replacement fertility is a common demographic phenomenon among developed countries, including France (1.9 births per woman), Australia (1.8), the Netherlands, England and Wales, and Sweden (all 1.7). Some countries, notably Japan, Italy and Spain, have recorded very low fertility levels in recent years (fewer than 1.3 births per woman). The United States' total fertility rate has been similar to New Zealand's in the last few years.

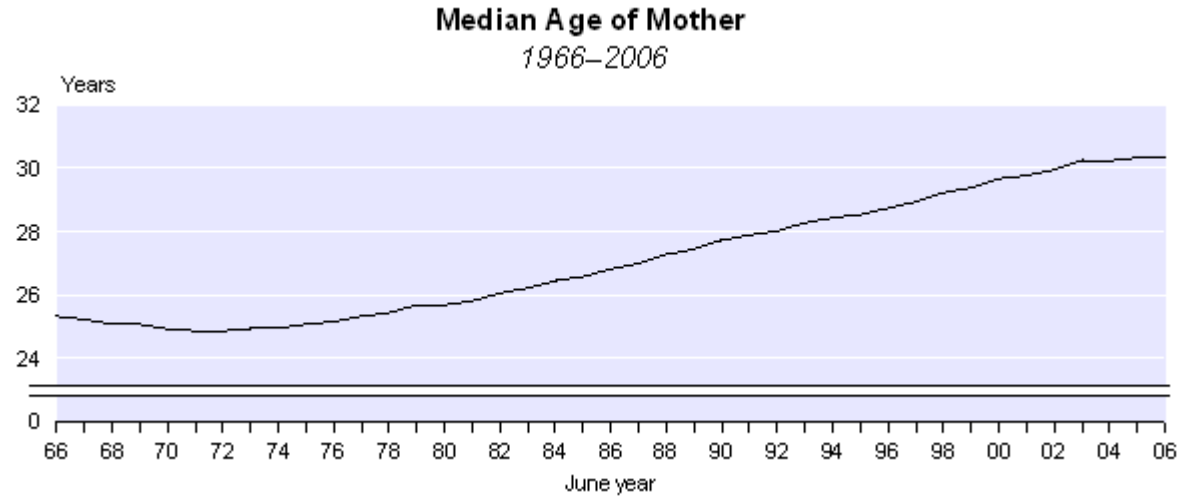
In New Zealand, the transition to sub-replacement fertility occurred later than in other developed countries. The transition occurred in Denmark and Sweden in the late 1960s; in Germany, the United States and Canada in the early 1970s; and in other developed countries, including Australia, in the mid-1970s. Sweden and New Zealand both experienced a brief recovery to replacement level around 1990.

Trend toward later childbearing

While the total fertility rate has been relatively stable over the last two decades, there has been a significant shift in age-specific fertility rates. In the June 2006 year, women aged 30–34 years had the highest fertility rate (122 births per 1,000 women aged 30–34 years), followed by those aged 25–29 years (106 per 1,000). Conversely, in 1996 women aged 25–29 years had a higher fertility rate (121 per 1,000) than women aged 30–34 years (105 per 1,000). In 1976, the total fertility rate was 2.3 births per woman and women aged 20–24 years had the highest fertility rate (152 per 1,000).



Between the 1996 and 2006 June years, fertility rates for women aged under 30 years dropped. The largest decreases occurred among women aged 15–19 and 20–24 years; down 16 and 14 percent, respectively. In contrast, fertility rates for women aged 30 years and over have increased over the last decade (up 15 and 52 percent for women aged 30–34 and 35–39 years, respectively).



On average, New Zealand women now have children about five years later than their counterparts in the early 1970s. The median age (half are younger, and half older than this age) of New Zealand women giving birth is now 30.4 years, compared with 28.7 years in 1996, and 25.1 years in 1976.

The median age of women giving birth to their first child (based on children in the current relationship only) was 28.4 years in the year ended June 2006.

Births by ethnicity

During the June 2006 year, the majority of babies were registered to the European ethnic group (41,030). There were 16,710 babies registered with Māori ethnicity, 8,720 with a Pacific ethnicity and 6,000 with an Asian ethnicity. About one quarter of babies registered in the June 2006 year belonged to two or more ethnic groups.

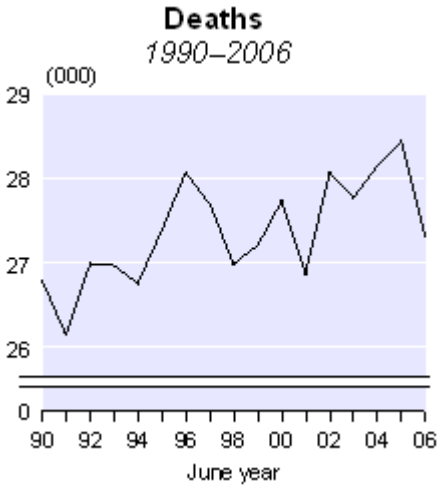
The total fertility rate for Māori women in the June 2006 year was 2.62 births per woman, well above the rate for the total population (2.02 births per woman). In the June 2006 year, there were 13,160 births registered to Māori women. Māori women giving birth tend to be younger; their median age was 25.9 years in the June 2006 year.

Regional births

The Auckland region (20,900) had the highest number of births in the June 2006 year, accounting for 36 percent of all live births registered in New Zealand. This was followed by Canterbury (6,740), Wellington (6,370) and Waikato (5,550). Together, these four regions accounted for about two-thirds of all live births registered in the June 2006 year. This is consistent with their share of New Zealand's population.

Deaths and longevity

Deaths registered during the June 2006 year totalled 27,300, compared with 28,440 in the June 2005 year. There were 6,840 deaths in the June 2006 quarter, a decrease of 130 compared with the June 2005 quarter.



The median age at death in the June 2006 year was 76.0 years for males and 82.1 years for females. Just over three-quarters of the deceased were aged 65 years or over, while only 5.5 percent were aged under 40 years. There were 13,500 male deaths and 13,800 female deaths.

The crude death rate (deaths per 1,000 mean estimated resident population) was 6.6 in the June 2006 year, down from 7.6 in 1996. Because the crude death rate is influenced by the age structure of the population, it does not provide a true measure of the trends in mortality. Life tables are used to give a more accurate description of the mortality experience.

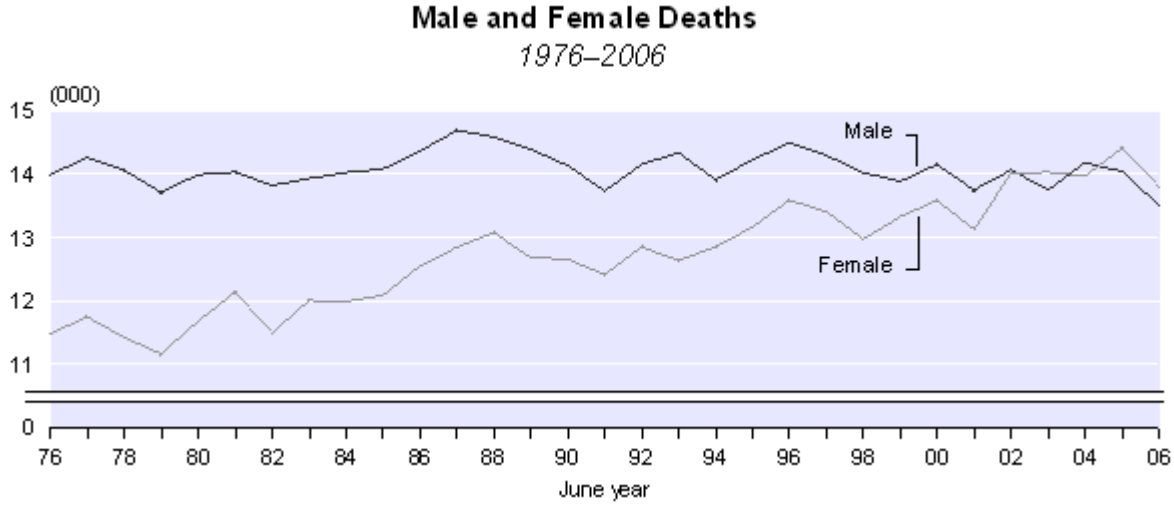
According to the New Zealand abridged life table for 2003–2005, a newborn girl can expect to live, on average, 81.7 years, and a newborn boy 77.5 years. These levels represent longevity gains since 1995–1997 of 2.0 years for females and 3.1 years for males. These gains were due largely to the reduction in mortality rates at late-working and retirement ages (50–89 years). Since 1975–1977, life expectancy at birth has increased by 6.3 years for females and 8.5 years for males.

Abridged life tables are produced annually for the total population only. Complete life tables are produced for the Māori, non-Māori and total populations every five years. The latest complete life tables available cover the period 2000–2002. Māori life expectancy is significantly lower than life expectancy for the total population. Life expectancy at birth for females of Māori ethnicity in 2000–2002 was 73.2 years, while for Māori males it was 69.0 years. The difference of about 7.6 years between Māori and the total population is slightly less than the estimated difference of 8.1 years in 1995–1997.

Life tables for other ethnicities, such as the broad Pacific and Asian ethnic groups, have not been produced because of the small number of death registrations and the uncertainty associated with ethnic identification and measurement.

Sex differences in mortality

Because more males are born than females (105:100), and females live longer than males, there have traditionally been more male deaths registered each year than female. On average, in the 1970s, there were around 2,400 more male than female deaths each year. However, since 1980, this gap has been slowly closing, dropping to 1,900 in the mid 1980s, and further to 1,000 in the mid 1990s. Finally, in recent years, there have been slightly more female deaths than male. In the June 2006 year, there were 300 more female deaths than male.



Longer female life expectancies have resulted in more females surviving to older ages. There are 170 women aged 80 years and over (80+) for every 100 men in that age group. Male deaths still outnumber female in all age groups under 80 years. In the year ended June 2006, there were 5,060 male deaths and 7,820 female deaths in the 80+ age group.

In addition, the gap between male and female life expectancies is slowly closing, with male life expectancy increasing at a greater rate than female life expectancy. Newborn females in 2003–2005 can expect to outlive newborn males by 4.2 years, down from a peak of 6.4 years in 1975–1977. However, the recent trend of more female deaths is not expected to continue in the long term.

Infant mortality

During the June 2006 year, the number of infant deaths (under one year of age) registered in New Zealand totalled 280. The infant mortality rate (infant deaths per 1,000 live births) has dropped over the last 30 years. In the June 2006 year, the infant mortality rate was 4.8 per 1,000, down from 6.7 per 1,000 in the June 1996 year and 13.9 per 1,000 in 1976. The Māori infant mortality rate was 6.9 per 1,000 in the June 2006 year.

Regional deaths

There were 6,950 deaths of residents in the Auckland region during the June 2006 year. While the Auckland region is home to approximately one-third of New Zealand's population, it only accounted for one-quarter of New Zealand's deaths. This is due to the region's relatively young population age structure. Only 10 percent of Auckland region's population is aged 65 years and over, compared with 12 percent for the national population.

Based on the 2000–2002 abridged life tables for regions, life expectancy at birth ranged from 72.6 to 77.5 years for males and 78.9 to 82.2 years for females. The reasons for subnational differences in longevity and mortality are difficult to identify precisely and are probably due to a combination of interrelated factors, including the proportion of the population who are Māori, the proportion of the population who smoke (or have smoked), the proximity to health and hospital services, the degree of urbanisation and socio-economic factors. More information about regional mortality can be found in Statistics New Zealand's report *New Zealand Life Tables 2000–2002*.

Natural increase of population

Natural increase of population represents the excess of births over deaths. Births outnumbered deaths by 30,950 in the June 2006 year. This is the highest natural increase recorded since the June 1994 year, when births exceeded deaths by 31,240. However, the 2004-base national population projections show that natural increase is likely to decline over the next 50 years. This will predominantly be due to an increase in deaths as the large number of people born in the 1950s to 1970s reach the older ages. Deaths are projected to outnumber births from 2042.

During the June 2006 year, New Zealand's population increased by 41,400 (1.0 percent). Natural increase contributed roughly three-quarters of this population growth, and net migration the remaining one-quarter. These proportions have varied in recent years, because of significant shifts in the migration balance.

All regions in New Zealand had more births than deaths in the June 2006 year. Auckland's natural increase (13,950) made up 45 percent of the national natural increase. Auckland's large share of New Zealand's natural increase is due to the small number of deaths relative to the number of births and the size of its population.

Final figures

The vital statistics and infant mortality rates for the June 2006 year quoted above, and contained in the appended tables, are final. Fertility rates, crude death rates and rate of natural increase for the June 2006 quarter and year are provisional. Final demographic indices will be released in November 2006.

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Technical Notes

Births

Birth data for the March, June, September and December quarters of 1998 are based on the number of notifications received by the Department of Internal Affairs. All other birth data are based on live births registered in New Zealand to mothers resident in New Zealand by date of registration. Birth data exclude late registrations under section 16 of the Births, Deaths, and Marriages Registration Act 1995. Section 16 births are those which were not registered in the ordinary way at the time the birth occurred. Such registrations can occur as late as retirement age.

Deaths

Death data are based on deaths registered in New Zealand of New Zealand residents by date of registration.

Replacement level fertility

Replacement level fertility is the average number of children a woman needs to have to produce one daughter who survives to childbearing age. Replacement level fertility is also described as the total fertility rate required for the population to replace itself in the long term, without migration.

The internationally accepted replacement level is 2.1 births per woman. Replacement level fertility allows for child mortality (children who die before reaching reproductive age) and the birth of more boys than girls. On average, throughout the world 105 boys are born for every 100 girls. The actual replacement level will vary slightly from country to country, depending on child mortality rates. In countries with high child mortality, the total fertility rate will need to be higher than 2.1 births per woman to achieve replacement level.

Total fertility rate

The total fertility rate is the average number of live births that a woman would have during her life if she experienced the age-specific fertility rates of a given period (usually a year). It excludes the effect of mortality.

Children of this relationship

The birth registration forms ask whether there are any other children of this relationship. However, it is possible that children from previous relationships are included. Unfortunately, this question does not produce an accurate measure of all live births to a woman (needed for accurate measures of birth parity). For privacy reasons it is deemed unacceptable to ask women about children outside their current relationship.

Life tables

A life table is a standard demographic device that provides a detailed description of the mortality experience prevailing in a population during a given period. It comprises an array of measures, including probabilities of death, probabilities of survival and life expectancies at various ages. The 2000–2002 life tables relating to New Zealand Māori, non-Māori and total populations were released by Statistics New Zealand on 30 March 2004. These are available on the Statistics NZ website (www.stats.govt.nz). More details on life table methodology and results are included in *New Zealand Life Tables 2000–2002*.

The 1995–1997 life tables for the total New Zealand, Māori and non-Māori populations published in July 1998 have been revised. For all populations, the revision incorporates updated population estimates (at 30 June 1996) and a revised method of estimating death rates at the oldest ages. For the Māori life table, smooth adjustment factors have also been applied to Māori deaths, by age, to allow for under-reporting of Māori deaths (relative to the Māori population). For the non-Māori life table, corresponding adjustments have been applied to non-Māori deaths, by age. These adjustment factors lower Māori life expectancy at birth by about 0.7 years and raise non-Māori life expectancy at birth by about 0.1 years. Revised figures for 1995–1997 are included in the publication entitled *New Zealand Life Tables 2000–2002.*

Resident population concept

Unless otherwise stated, this release refers to vital events (births and deaths) registered in New Zealand by date of registration. It excludes births to women who normally reside overseas, and deaths of people who normally reside overseas. Demographic rates are calculated using the mean estimated resident population.

Rounding

Birth and death figures contained in the tables attached to this release are unrounded. All other figures have been rounded. This may result in a total differing slightly from the sum of its components. Derived figures (for example, percentage annual increase) have been calculated using unrounded data.

More information

For more information, follow the link from the Technical notes of this release on the Statistics NZ website.

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Timing

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Next release...

Births and Deaths: September 2006 quarter will be released on 20 November 2006.

Tables

The following tables can be downloaded from the Statistics New Zealand website in Excel 97 format. If you do not have access to Excel 97 or higher, you may use the Excel file viewer to view, print and export the contents of the file.

List of tables

Table 1

Births, Deaths and Selected Rates

1991–2006

	Live Births[1]	Crude Birth Rate[2]	Total Fertility Rate[3]	Deaths	Crude Death Rate[2]	Infant Mortality Rate[4]	Natural Increase[5]
INFOS Series	*VTBQ.SKTLZ VTBA.SKTLZ*	*DFMQ.SKHL DFMA.SKFL*	*DFMQ.SGHK DFMA.SGFK*	*VTDQ.S1T3 VTDA.S1T3*	*DMMQ.SPHL DMMA.SPFL*	*DMMQ.SRHL DMMA.SRFL*	*VTBQ.SJT VTBA.SJT*
Quarter Ended							
June 1991	14,108	16.16	1.98	6,511	7.46	8.93	7,597
June 1992	14,204	16.10	1.98	6,894	7.81	7.74	7,310
June 1993	14,138	15.85	1.97	6,686	7.49	6.79	7,452
June 1994	13,755	15.22	1.91	6,646	7.35	7.56	7,109
June 1995	13,885	15.14	1.92	6,655	7.26	6.27	7,230
June 1996	13,659	14.66	1.87	6,933	7.44	7.03	6,726
June 1997	14,463	15.31	1.97	6,813	7.21	7.19	7,650
June 1998	14,164	14.86	1.94	6,567	6.89	5.72	7,597
June 1999	14,126	14.74	1.96	6,780	7.07	4.88	7,346
June 2000	14,231	14.76	1.99	6,550	6.79	6.25	7,681
June 2001	13,897	14.33	1.96	6,873	7.09	4.61	7,024
June 2002	13,151	13.37	1.85	6,888	7.00	5.93	6,263
June 2003	13,436	13.42	1.87	6,847	6.84	5.14	6,589
June 2004	14,436	14.23	2.00	6,785	6.69	6.03	7,651
June 2005	14,807	14.46	2.06	6,978	6.81	4.59	7,829
June 2006	14,616	14.13 P	2.03 P	6,845	6.62 P	4.72	7,771
Year Ended							
June 1991	60,059	..	..	26,139	..	7.49	33,920
June 1992	60,427	17.19	2.11	26,987	7.68	8.21	33,440
June 1993	58,417	16.45	2.04	26,961	7.59	7.19	31,456
June 1994	57,987	16.12	2.01	26,750	7.44	6.88	31,237
June 1995	57,967	15.89	2.00	27,379	7.51	7.04	30,588
June 1996	56,925	15.36	1.95	28,065	7.57	6.73	28,860
June 1997	57,186	15.21	1.95	27,687	7.36	7.12	29,499
June 1998	57,192	15.05	1.95	26,984	7.10	5.84	30,208
June 1999	56,835	14.85	1.96	27,202	7.11	5.38	29,633
June 2000	58,033	15.08	2.02	27,725	7.20	5.89	30,308
June 2001	56,221	14.52	1.97	26,868	6.94	5.48	29,353
June 2002	53,973	13.80	1.90	28,062	7.17	5.71	25,911
June 2003	54,942	13.82	1.92	27,764	6.98	5.19	27,178
June 2004	57,870	14.33	2.01	28,134	6.97	5.05	29,736
June 2005	57,986	14.20	2.01	28,437	6.97	5.48	29,549
June 2006	58,250	14.14 P	2.02 P	27,298	6.62 P	4.81	30,952

(1) Excludes late registrations under section 14 of the Births, Deaths, and Marriages Registration Act 1995. (Births which were not registered in the ordinary way at the time the birth occurred. Such registrations can occur as late as retirement age.)

(2) Live births or deaths per 1,000 mean estimated resident population.

(3) The average number of live births that a woman would have during her life if she experienced the age-specific fertility rates of a given period (usually a year). It excludes the effect of mortality.

(4) Deaths of children under one year of age per 1,000 live births.

(5) Excess of live births over deaths.

Note:

(a) Death data are based on deaths registered in New Zealand of New Zealand residents by date of registration.

(b) Birth data for the March, June, September and December 1998 quarters are based on the number of notifications received by the Department of Internal Affairs. All other birth data are based on live births registered in New Zealand to mothers resident in New Zealand by date of registration.

(c) For analytical purposes, registration-based data for 1998 is available on INFOS.

Symbols:

P provisional

.. figures not available

Table 2

Live Births by Regional Council Area

1993–2006

Regional council area	June Year													
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Northland Region	2,446	2,321	2,360	2,359	2,164	2,244	2,129	2,204	2,008	1,990	1,915	2,099	2,101	2,115
Auckland Region	18,080	18,103	18,396	18,504	18,986	18,736	18,678	19,901	19,588	18,897	19,817	20,789	20,832	20,906
Waikato Region	5,903	5,890	6,010	5,592	5,756	5,711	5,607	5,719	5,405	5,320	5,323	5,598	5,688	5,549
Bay of Plenty Region	3,724	3,771	3,673	3,672	3,846	3,850	3,755	3,925	3,615	3,564	3,498	3,760	3,817	3,806
Gisborne Region	968	937	966	886	798	818	769	777	794	743	730	734	757	758
Hawke's Bay Region	2,465	2,408	2,394	2,364	2,399	2,223	2,114	2,220	2,133	2,125	1,988	2,098	2,188	2,170
Taranaki Region	1,795	1,671	1,693	1,555	1,497	1,500	1,534	1,469	1,381	1,341	1,348	1,324	1,419	1,386
Manawatu-Wanganui Region	3,842	3,728	3,735	3,584	3,547	3,408	3,172	3,355	3,211	2,891	2,925	2,934	3,016	3,157
Wellington Region	6,819	6,754	6,636	6,411	6,430	6,353	6,468	6,638	6,547	6,045	6,219	6,414	6,225	6,371
Tasman Region	475	542	516	475	472	484	471	571	500	486	516	582	524	541
Nelson Region	558	566	518	536	511	510	532	529	566	503	548	585	522	516
Marlborough Region	548	479	521	527	484	497	434	498	457	408	451	476	449	493
West Coast Region	528	502	472	480	453	436	382	398	389	354	320	361	365	392
Canterbury Region	6,196	6,264	6,293	6,203	6,259	6,181	6,041	6,277	6,175	6,060	5,955	6,580	6,564	6,741
Otago Region	2,489	2,468	2,359	2,360	2,255	2,224	2,092	2,158	2,126	2,005	2,098	2,164	2,218	2,073
Southland Region	1,554	1,565	1,405	1,401	1,315	1,311	1,244	1,272	1,224	1,189	1,222	1,255	1,270	1,164
Region Not Specified/ Area Outside Region	27	18	20	16	14	28	441	122	102	52	69	117	31	112
New Zealand	58,417	57,987	57,967	56,925	57,186	56,514	55,863	58,033	56,221	53,973	54,942	57,870	57,986	58,250

Note:

(a) Birth data are based on live births registered in New Zealand to mothers resident in New Zealand by date of registration.

(b) Registered births for 1998 are lower than expected because of a small change to the rate at which births were registered during 1998.

Table 3

Deaths by Regional Council Area

1993–2006

Regional council area	June Year													
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Northland Region	1,042	1,090	1,107	1,175	1,095	1,145	1,154	1,144	1,161	1,215	1,292	1,244	1,176	1,170
Auckland Region	6,909	7,007	7,138	7,221	7,265	7,178	6,927	7,179	6,718	7,177	7,120	7,168	7,181	6,954
Waikato Region	2,332	2,434	2,361	2,408	2,492	2,503	2,533	2,593	2,545	2,548	2,482	2,607	2,612	2,654
Bay of Plenty Region	1,754	1,678	1,746	1,893	1,906	1,800	1,869	1,972	1,933	2,001	1,961	2,010	2,053	2,026
Gisborne Region	405	384	432	423	404	412	368	421	382	376	411	390	380	386
Hawke's Bay Region	1,243	1,236	1,271	1,212	1,242	1,251	1,254	1,216	1,204	1,241	1,292	1,252	1,293	1,258
Taranaki Region	941	901	893	914	830	757	831	905	867	901	884	928	980	798
Manawatu-Wanganui Region	1,919	1,960	1,907	2,001	1,941	1,811	1,901	1,914	1,971	1,976	1,834	1,920	1,992	1,869
Wellington Region	2,947	2,813	2,916	2,978	2,934	2,903	2,872	2,925	2,825	2,893	2,867	2,938	2,927	2,724
Tasman Region	281	263	296	301	300	268	267	283	300	283	307	292	314	334
Nelson Region	312	326	348	366	352	329	343	330	361	363	382	364	364	374
Marlborough Region	303	272	326	363	318	315	316	353	328	371	355	353	376	391
West Coast Region	323	258	290	309	287	328	292	250	260	266	261	301	230	255
Canterbury Region	3,925	3,813	3,936	4,099	3,862	3,725	3,729	3,846	3,674	3,974	3,899	3,975	4,129	3,849
Otago Region	1,505	1,534	1,525	1,547	1,638	1,483	1,578	1,536	1,477	1,617	1,531	1,538	1,511	1,391
Southland Region	811	773	878	840	803	763	775	776	791	805	816	782	807	738
Region Not Specified/ Area Outside Region	9	8	9	15	18	13	193	82	71	55	70	72	112	127
New Zealand	26,961	26,750	27,379	28,065	27,687	26,984	27,202	27,725	26,868	28,062	27,764	28,134	28,437	27,298

Note: Deaths are based on deaths registered in New Zealand of New Zealand residents by date of registration.

Table 4

Age-specific Fertility Rates[1]

1995–2006

June year	Age of Mother (years)								Median Age of Mother (years)
	Under 15[2]	15–19	20–24	25–29	30–34	35–39	40–44	45+[3]	
1995	0.3	32.6	84.3	126.0	106.2	43.7	7.0	0.4	28.5
1996	0.3	32.8	80.9	121.0	105.3	42.6	7.5	0.4	28.7
1997	0.2	32.9	80.3	116.1	106.1	45.9	8.4	0.4	28.9
1998	0.3	31.2	77.1	113.3	107.2	48.0	8.7	0.3	29.2
1999	0.3	29.2	76.0	113.4	107.9	48.8	8.8	0.5	29.4
2000	0.2	29.1	79.0	115.0	116.1	53.5	9.8	0.4	29.7
2001	0.2	27.7	77.1	113.4	112.5	52.8	10.4	0.5	29.8
2002	0.2	25.8	72.3	108.5	109.3	53.1	10.8	0.5	29.9
2003	0.2	25.5	68.7	106.9	112.4	57.7	11.6	0.6	30.2
2004	0.2	27.1	70.9	111.6	117.8	60.6	12.3	0.6	30.2
2005	0.3	27.8	69.9	108.1	119.6	62.4	12.3	0.6	30.3
2006 P	0.2	27.6	69.8	106.3	121.5	64.6	12.3	0.6	30.4

(1) Per 1,000 mean estimated female population in each age group.
(2) Per 1,000 mean estimated female population aged 10–14 years.
(3) Per 1,000 mean estimated female population aged 45–49 years.

Note: Rates for the 1998 and 1999 June years are lower than expected because of a small change to the rate at which births were registered during 1998.

Symbol:
P provisional