



Hot Off The Press

LATEST STATISTICS FROM STATISTICS NEW ZEALAND

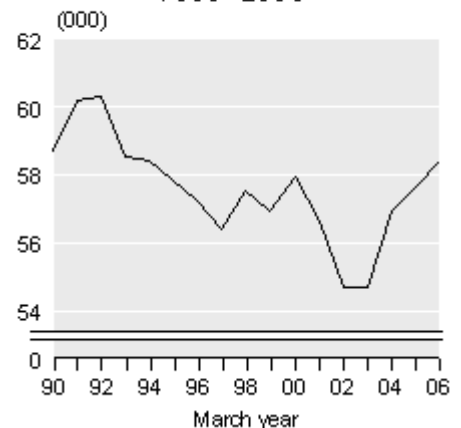
Embargoed until 10:45am – 18 May 2006

Births and Deaths March 2006 quarter

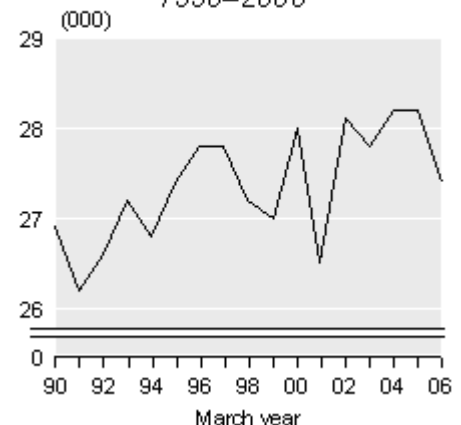
Highlights

- There were **58,440 live births** registered in New Zealand in the March 2006 year.
- **New Zealand women average 2.0 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** in the March 2006 year.
- **The infant mortality rate was 4.8 deaths per 1,000 live births** in the March 2006 year.
- **There were 27,430 deaths** registered during the March 2006 year.
- **Births exceeded deaths by 31,010** in the March 2006 year.

Live Births
1990–2006



Deaths
1990–2006



Brian Pink
Government Statistician

18 May 2006
Cat 32.900 Set 05/06 – 189

There is a companion Media Release published – [Births and Deaths: March 2006 quarter](#).

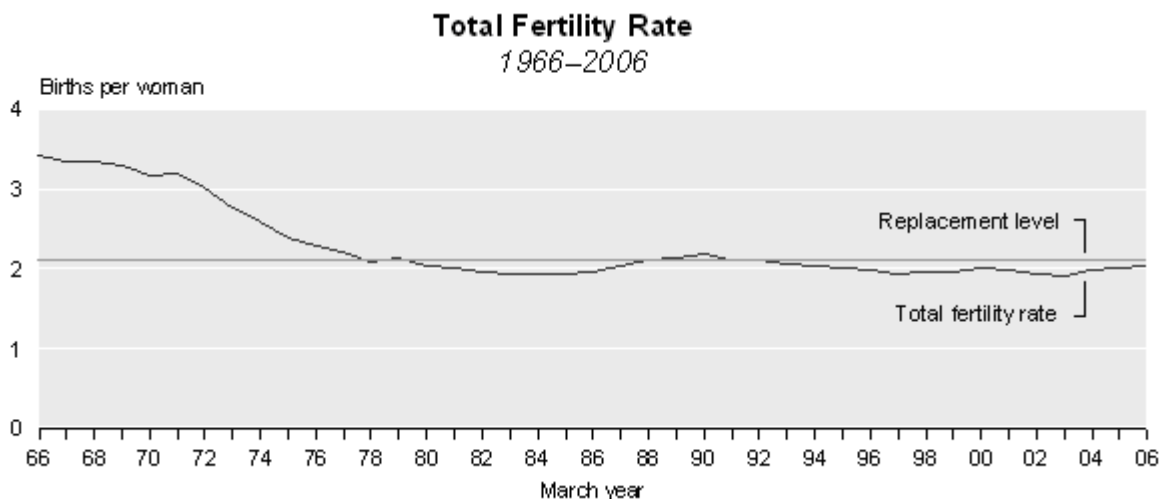
Commentary

Live births

There were 58,440 live births registered in New Zealand in the March 2006 year, 3 percent higher than the annual average over the last decade (56,760). During the March 2006 year, the births of 29,850 boys and 28,590 girls were registered to mothers resident in New Zealand. Live births for the March 2006 quarter totalled 15,260, an increase of 700 compared with the March 2005 quarter.

Annual fertility rates

The latest annual fertility rates indicate that New Zealand women average 2.03 births per woman. New Zealand's total fertility rate has been relatively stable over the last two decades, averaging 2.02 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 below the 'replacement level' since 1980.

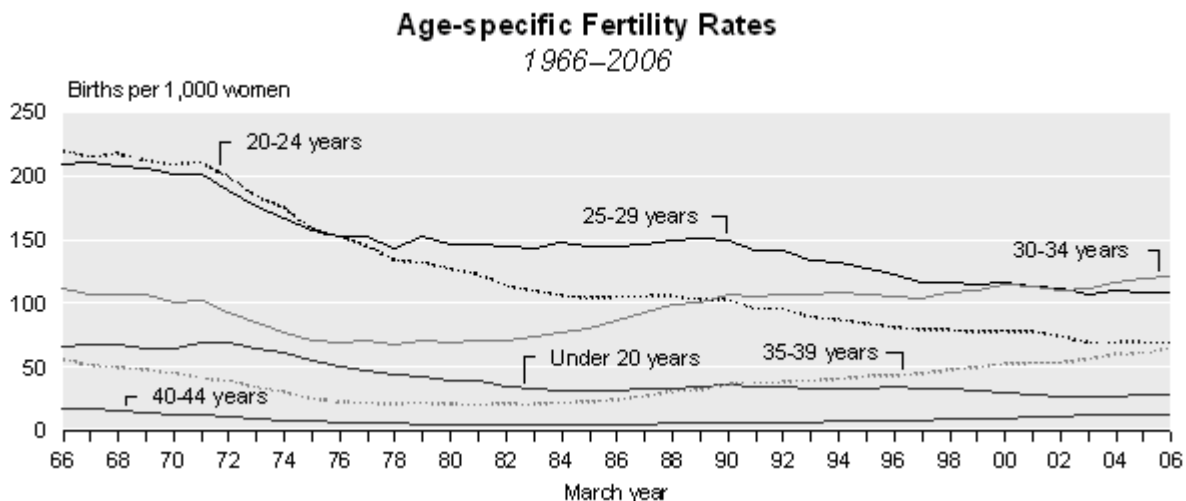


Sub-replacement fertility is a common demographic phenomenon among developed countries, including France (1.9 births per woman), Australia (1.8), the Netherlands, England and Wales, and Sweden (all 1.7). Some countries, notably Japan, Italy and Spain, have recorded very low fertility levels in recent 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.

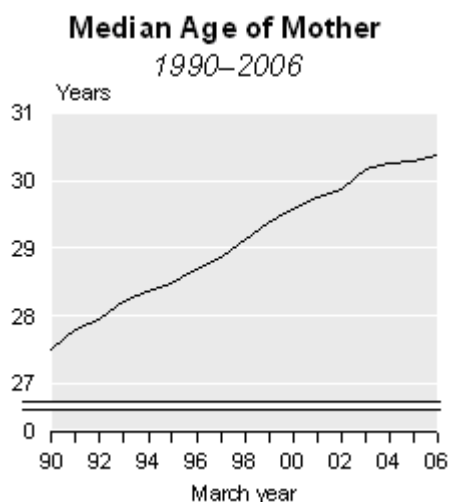
In New Zealand, the transition to sub-replacement fertility occurred later than in other developed countries. The transition occurred in Denmark and Sweden in the late 1960s; in Germany, the United States and Canada in the early 1970s; and in other developed countries, including Australia, in the mid-1970s. 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 March 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 (107 per 1,000). Conversely, in 1996 women aged 25–29 years had a higher fertility rate (122 per 1,000) than women aged 30–34 years (106 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 March years, fertility rates for women aged under 30 years dropped. The largest decreases occurred among women aged under 20 and 20–24 years; down 18 and 14 percent, respectively. In contrast, fertility rates for women aged 30 years and over have increased over the last decade (up 15 and 51 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 1975.

The median age of women giving birth to their first child (based on children in the current relationship only) was 28.5 years in the year ended March 2006.

Births by ethnicity

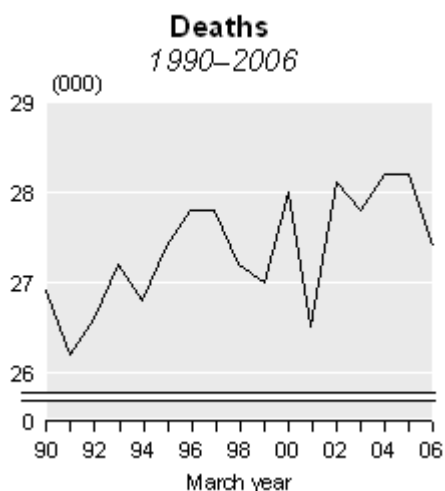
During the March 2006 year, 13,140 Māori mothers registered a birth and 16,600 Māori babies were registered. The total fertility rate for Māori women in the March 2006 year was 2.63 births per woman, well above the rate for the total population (2.03 births per woman). Māori mothers also tend to be younger; their median age at birth was 26.0 years in the March 2006 year.

Regional births

The Auckland Region (21,060) had the highest number of births in the March 2006 year, accounting for 36 percent of all live births registered in New Zealand. This was followed by Canterbury (6,770), Wellington (6,270) and Waikato (5,640). Together, these four regions accounted for about two-thirds of all live births registered in the March year 2006.

Deaths and longevity

Deaths registered during the March 2006 year totalled 27,430, compared with 28,240 in the March 2005 year. There were 6,670 deaths in the March 2006 quarter, an increase of 400 compared with the March 2005 quarter.



The median age at death in the March 2006 year was 75.9 years for males and 82.1 years for females. There were 13,620 male deaths and 13,810 female deaths. Just over three-quarters of the deceased were aged 65 years or over, while only 6 percent were aged under 40 years.

The crude death rate (deaths per 1,000 mean estimated resident population) was 6.7 in the March 2006 year, down from 7.5 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. While differences in mortality between males and females still remain, their longevity gap has narrowed. 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.

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.

Infant mortality

During the March 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 thirty years. In the March 2006 year, the infant mortality rate was 4.8 per 1,000, down from 6.5 per 1,000 in the March 1996 year and 13.9 per 1,000 in 1976.

Regional deaths

There were 6,900 deaths of residents in the Auckland Region during the March 2006 year. This accounts for one-quarter of all New Zealand deaths, while the Auckland Region is home to approximately one-third of New Zealand's population. The number of deaths in each region is influenced by the size and age structure of its population. The proportion of deaths in the Auckland Region is lower than expected because it has a relatively young population. Only 10 percent of Auckland Region's population is aged 65 years and over, compared with 12 percent for the national population.

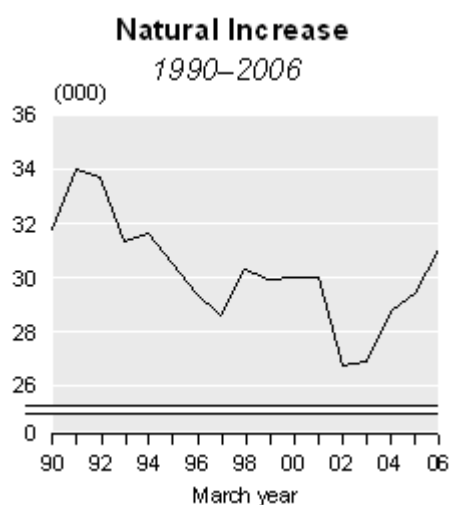
According to the 2000–2002 abridged life tables for regions, life expectancy at birth ranged from 72.6 to 77.5 years for males and 78.9 to 82.2 years for females. The reasons for subnational differences in longevity and mortality are difficult to identify precisely and are probably due to a combination 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 31,010 in the March 2006 year. The natural increase was 29,360 in the March 1996 year.

During the March 2006 year, New Zealand's population increased by 40,900 (1.0 percent). Natural increase contributed roughly three-quarters to 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. During the 1999–2001 March years, population growth was due solely to natural increase, as net migration was negative.

The rate of natural increase in the March 2006 year was 7.5 per 1,000 mean population. This compares with 8.0 per 1,000 mean population in the March 1996 year.



All regions in New Zealand had more births than deaths in the 2006 March year. Auckland's natural increase (14,160) made up 46 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 March 2006 year quoted above, and contained in the appended tables, are final. Fertility rates, crude death rates and rate of natural increase for the March 2006 quarter and year are provisional. Final demographic indices will be released in August 2006.

For technical information contact:
Anne Howard or Gillian Smeith
Christchurch 03 964 8700
Email: demography@stats.govt.nz

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, 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 New Zealand website (www.stats.govt.nz). More details on life table methodology and results are included in the publication [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 on [births](#) and [deaths](#), follow these links from the Technical notes of this release on the Statistics New Zealand website.

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Timed statistical releases are delivered using postal and electronic services provided by third parties. Delivery of these releases may be delayed by circumstances outside the control of Statistics New Zealand. Statistics New Zealand accepts no responsibility for any such delays.

Next release ...

Births and Deaths: June 2006 quarter will be released on 17 August 2006.

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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

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- 2 Live births by regional council, 1993–2006
- 3 Deaths by regional council, 1993–2006
- 4 Age-specific fertility rates, 1995–2006

Births and Deaths: March 2006 quarter

Table 1

**Births, Deaths and Selected Rates
1991–2006**

INFOS Series	Live Births ⁽¹⁾	Crude Birth Rate ⁽²⁾	Total Fertility Rate ⁽³⁾	Deaths	Crude Death Rate ⁽²⁾	Infant Mortality Rate ⁽⁴⁾	Natural Increase ⁽⁵⁾
	VTBQ.SKTLZ VTBA.SKTLZ	DFMQ.SKHL DFMA.SKHL	DFMQ.SGHK DFMA.SGHK	VTDQ.S1T3 VTDA.S1T3	DMMQ.SPHL DMMA.SPHL	DMMQ.SRHL DMMA.SRHL	VTBQ.SJT VTBA.SJT
Quarter Ended							
March 1991	15,719	18.06	2.20	6,139	7.05	5.60	9,580
March 1992	16,139	18.33	2.25	6,354	7.22	6.57	9,785
March 1993	15,456	17.37	2.15	6,408	7.20	7.31	9,048
March 1994	15,044	16.69	2.09	6,098	6.77	5.52	8,946
March 1995	15,560	17.02	2.15	6,515	7.13	6.88	9,045
March 1996	15,040	16.19	2.06	6,489	6.99	6.45	8,551
March 1997	14,142	15.01	1.93	6,041	6.41	6.29	8,101
March 1998	14,034	14.75	1.92	5,800	6.09	4.92	8,234
March 1999	13,903	14.52	1.92	6,583	6.87	5.90	7,320
March 2000	14,778	15.34	2.06	6,416	6.66	5.89	8,362
March 2001	14,728	15.20	2.07	6,301	6.50	5.02	8,427
March 2002	13,648	13.92	1.92	6,523	6.66	5.28	7,125
March 2003	14,284	14.33	1.99	6,263	6.28	4.62	8,021
March 2004	15,020	14.85	2.08	6,449	6.37	4.19	8,571
March 2005	14,562	14.25	2.02	6,274	6.14	5.22	8,288
March 2006	15,258	14.79 P	2.12 P	6,671	6.46 P	3.93	8,587
Year Ended							
March 1991	60,156	26,206	..	7.81	33,950
March 1992	60,331	17.21	2.11	26,604	7.59	8.49	33,727
March 1993	58,483	16.51	2.04	27,169	7.67	7.42	31,314
March 1994	58,370	16.28	2.03	26,790	7.47	6.70	31,580
March 1995	57,837	15.91	2.00	27,370	7.53	7.35	30,467
March 1996	57,151	15.49	1.96	27,787	7.53	6.54	29,364
March 1997	56,382	15.05	1.93	27,807	7.42	7.08	28,575
March 1998	57,496	15.16	1.96	27,230	7.18	6.21	30,266
March 1999	56,912	14.89	1.96	26,989	7.06	5.59	29,923
March 2000	57,928	15.07	2.01	27,955	7.27	5.56	29,973
March 2001	56,555	14.63	1.98	26,545	6.87	5.89	30,010
March 2002	54,719	14.04	1.93	28,047	7.20	5.37	26,672
March 2003	54,657	13.81	1.92	27,805	7.02	5.38	26,852
March 2004	56,870	14.13	1.97	28,196	7.01	4.82	28,674
March 2005	57,615	14.15	2.00	28,244	6.93	5.85	29,371
March 2006	58,441	14.22 P	2.03 P	27,431	6.67 P	4.77	31,010

(1) Excludes late registrations under Sec.16 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

Births and Deaths: March 2006 quarter

Table 2

**Live Births by Regional Council
1993–2006**

Regional council	March Year													
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Northland Region	2,416	2,376	2,342	2,399	2,168	2,250	2,095	2,232	2,071	1,945	1,945	2,046	2,099	2,075
Auckland Region	18,005	18,209	18,292	18,503	18,615	18,869	18,655	19,686	19,644	19,202	19,624	20,258	20,844	21,058
Waikato Region	5,901	5,945	5,920	5,744	5,614	5,778	5,538	5,776	5,496	5,363	5,286	5,538	5,582	5,642
Bay of Plenty Region	3,749	3,831	3,628	3,660	3,760	3,920	3,737	3,874	3,677	3,611	3,496	3,744	3,759	3,828
Gisborne Region	963	954	988	881	808	812	793	756	813	742	741	725	736	770
Hawke's Bay Region	2,508	2,399	2,429	2,350	2,379	2,277	2,080	2,215	2,183	2,094	2,028	2,103	2,173	2,128
Taranaki Region	1,786	1,700	1,717	1,584	1,460	1,541	1,504	1,482	1,407	1,358	1,333	1,370	1,343	1,425
Manawatu-Wanganui Region	3,820	3,792	3,757	3,585	3,545	3,484	3,201	3,332	3,214	2,981	2,944	2,888	2,954	3,137
Wellington Region	6,874	6,785	6,622	6,429	6,396	6,337	6,456	6,711	6,426	6,300	6,135	6,345	6,285	6,266
Tasman Region	492	521	526	477	454	508	463	559	513	476	509	573	528	545
Nelson Region	571	546	521	519	541	511	498	541	561	515	527	562	548	521
Marlborough Region	523	518	494	550	446	544	419	501	447	431	436	455	470	489
West Coast Region	542	527	466	478	461	429	394	408	390	352	331	343	379	361
Canterbury Region	6,221	6,267	6,218	6,259	6,142	6,221	6,044	6,292	6,181	6,113	5,968	6,438	6,483	6,774
Otago Region	2,498	2,433	2,462	2,332	2,249	2,227	2,137	2,141	2,169	2,004	2,082	2,109	2,165	2,134
Southland Region	1,586	1,550	1,434	1,389	1,325	1,331	1,239	1,262	1,264	1,181	1,203	1,263	1,218	1,205
Region Not Specified/ Area Outside Region	28	17	21	12	19	19	403	160	99	51	69	110	49	83
New Zealand	58,483	58,370	57,837	57,151	56,382	57,058	55,656	57,928	56,555	54,719	54,657	56,870	57,615	58,441

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 the 1999 March year 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
1993–2006**

Regional council	March Year													
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Northland Region	1,035	1,081	1,099	1,175	1,098	1,139	1,147	1,172	1,104	1,241	1,290	1,239	1,181	1,178
Auckland Region	6,914	7,044	7,094	7,167	7,281	7,213	6,929	7,163	6,779	7,166	7,070	7,186	7,234	6,897
Waikato Region	2,378	2,374	2,439	2,351	2,492	2,504	2,500	2,637	2,500	2,577	2,502	2,591	2,569	2,624
Bay of Plenty Region	1,771	1,650	1,744	1,879	1,879	1,840	1,831	1,974	1,893	2,030	1,942	2,012	2,059	2,016
Gisborne Region	389	407	406	442	393	417	386	427	372	376	404	411	349	399
Hawke's Bay Region	1,264	1,219	1,274	1,201	1,248	1,274	1,216	1,255	1,186	1,229	1,278	1,288	1,243	1,287
Taranaki Region	974	876	903	914	834	791	793	894	862	926	884	934	952	837
Manawatu-Wanganui Region	1,957	1,919	1,973	1,951	1,943	1,807	1,889	1,930	1,952	1,978	1,904	1,892	1,992	1,870
Wellington Region	2,919	2,899	2,860	2,973	2,953	2,942	2,845	2,963	2,793	2,879	2,865	3,000	2,878	2,744
Tasman Region	273	258	300	289	311	269	264	282	287	311	293	287	315	322
Nelson Region	316	327	348	343	367	328	336	340	350	367	375	360	390	350
Marlborough Region	297	265	313	356	333	324	304	348	337	352	375	336	369	407
West Coast Region	331	270	282	310	291	325	304	276	226	271	270	283	232	254
Canterbury Region	3,973	3,860	3,952	4,047	3,895	3,768	3,734	3,863	3,609	3,935	3,919	3,922	4,125	3,923
Otago Region	1,553	1,518	1,550	1,519	1,640	1,516	1,549	1,571	1,444	1,561	1,550	1,589	1,469	1,443
Southland Region	813	814	823	858	833	758	789	772	777	792	830	786	787	755
Region Not Specified/ Area Outside Region	12	9	10	12	16	15	173	88	74	56	54	80	100	125
New Zealand	27,169	26,790	27,370	27,787	27,807	27,230	26,989	27,955	26,545	28,047	27,805	28,196	28,244	27,431

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

Births and Deaths: March 2006 quarter

Table 4

Age-specific Fertility Rates⁽¹⁾
1995–2006

March 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 and Over ⁽³⁾	
1995	0.3	32.0	84.5	127.6	105.9	42.6	6.9	0.4	28.5
1996	0.3	33.2	81.3	121.7	105.7	43.0	7.4	0.4	28.7
1997	0.2	32.6	79.5	115.8	104.0	44.9	7.9	0.4	28.9
1998	0.3	31.7	78.4	114.7	107.9	47.3	8.8	0.4	29.1
1999	0.3	29.4	75.6	112.1	107.3	48.6	8.9	0.4	29.4
2000	0.2	29.8	78.4	116.3	114.6	52.5	9.6	0.4	29.6
2001	0.1	27.5	78.0	113.2	113.3	53.3	10.4	0.5	29.8
2002	0.2	26.6	74.1	110.7	110.3	53.2	10.5	0.5	29.9
2003	0.2	25.7	69.8	106.9	111.8	56.4	11.4	0.5	30.2
2004	0.2	26.4	69.5	109.4	116.3	60.1	11.9	0.7	30.3
2005	0.2	27.4	69.8	108.4	118.7	61.0	12.4	0.6	30.3
2006 P	0.2	27.3	69.7	107.5	121.5	64.9	12.5	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 1999 March year are lower than expected because of a small change to the rate at which births were registered during 1998.

Symbol:

P provisional