



QuickStats About Pacific Peoples 2006 Census

QuickStats About Pacific Peoples presents information on people belonging to the Pacific peoples ethnic group who usually live in New Zealand. It also includes data that relates specifically to the seven largest Pacific ethnic groups: Samoan, Cook Islands Maori, Tongan, Niuean, Fijian, Tokelauan and Tuvaluan. The information in *QuickStats About Pacific Peoples* is based on New Zealand's 2006 Census of Population and Dwellings, held on 7 March 2006. Some comparisons over time are also included.

More detailed information on the seven largest Pacific peoples ethnic groups is available in the [Pacific Profiles: 2006](#) on the Statistics New Zealand website, www.stats.govt.nz. These reports cover topics such as demographics, language, religion, families and households, income, housing and smoking behaviour.



Pacific peoples population

The Pacific peoples ethnic group is growing

There were 265,974 people of Pacific ethnicity living in New Zealand at the time of the 2006 Census. This was an increase of:

- 15 percent (34,173 people) since the 2001 Census
- 59 percent (98,904 people) since the 1991 Census.

| Pacific Peoples Ethnic Group <i>1991–2006 Censuses</i> | |
|--|--|
| Census year | Pacific peoples ethnic group population |
| 1991 | 167,070 |
| 1996 | 202,233 |
| 2001 | 231,801 |
| 2006 | 265,974 |

Note: The Pacific peoples ethnic group population includes all of the people who stated one or more Pacific peoples ethnic groups. Some of these people may also belong to other ethnic groups.

The largest Pacific peoples ethnic group was Samoan.

- There were 131,103 people of Samoan ethnicity, an increase of 14 percent (16,083 people) since the 2001 Census.
- Nearly one in two people of Pacific ethnicity were of Samoan ethnicity.

The next largest groups of Pacific peoples ethnicity were:

- Cook Islands Maori (58,011)
- Tongan (50,478)
- Niuean (22,476)
- Fijian (9,864)
- Tokelauan (6,822)
- Tuvaluan (2,625).

The Fijian ethnic group was the fastest growing Pacific group, up from 7,041 people in 2001 to 9,861 people in 2006 (a 40 percent increase).

The next fastest growing Pacific groups were:

- Tuvaluan, up from 1,968 people in 2001 to 2,625 people in 2006 (a 33 percent increase)
- Tongan, up from 40,719 people in 2001 to 50,478 people in 2006 (a 24 percent increase).

At the time of the 2006 Census, there were 19,272 people of Pacific ethnicity living in New Zealand who had lived overseas five years earlier.

Location

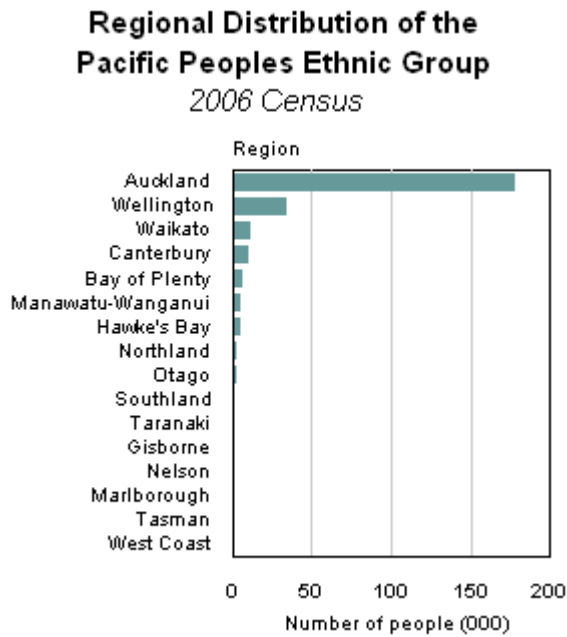
Two-thirds of Pacific peoples lived in the Auckland region

Auckland continues to be the most common region for people of Pacific ethnicity to live in.

- At the time of the 2006 Census, 67 percent of Pacific peoples (177,933 people) lived in the Auckland region. This is the same proportion as in 2001.

Wellington was the next most common region for Pacific peoples to live in at 13 percent.

Seven percent of Pacific peoples lived in the South Island.



One in three Pacific peoples lived in Manukau City

Of the cities and districts, Manukau City had the highest count of people of Pacific ethnicity (86,616 people).

- One in three people of Pacific ethnicity lived in Manukau City.

The next highest counts were in:

- Auckland City (50,166)
- Waitakere City (26,823)
- Porirua City (12,267).

Of the seven largest Pacific ethnic groups, Tokelauans were the only group who were most likely to live somewhere other than the Auckland region.

- Tokelauans were most likely to live in the Wellington region, with just over half (51 percent) living in the Wellington region and 27 percent living in the Auckland region.

Manukau City was also the most common city or district in which to live for several of the Pacific peoples groups:

- Tongan (36 percent)
- Samoan (34 percent)
- Niuean (34 percent)
- Cook Islands Maori (33 percent).

Fijians, however, were most likely to live in Auckland City (20 percent), and Tuvaluans were most likely to live in Waitakere City (58 percent).

Porirua City was the most common city or district for people of Tokelauan ethnicity to live in, at 29 percent.

Population structure

Pacific peoples are a youthful population group

The median age of Pacific peoples in 2006 was 21.1 years, which is considerably lower than the median age of the New Zealand population overall (35.9 years). Median age means half are younger, and half are older, than this age.

The median age for each of the seven largest Pacific groups was:

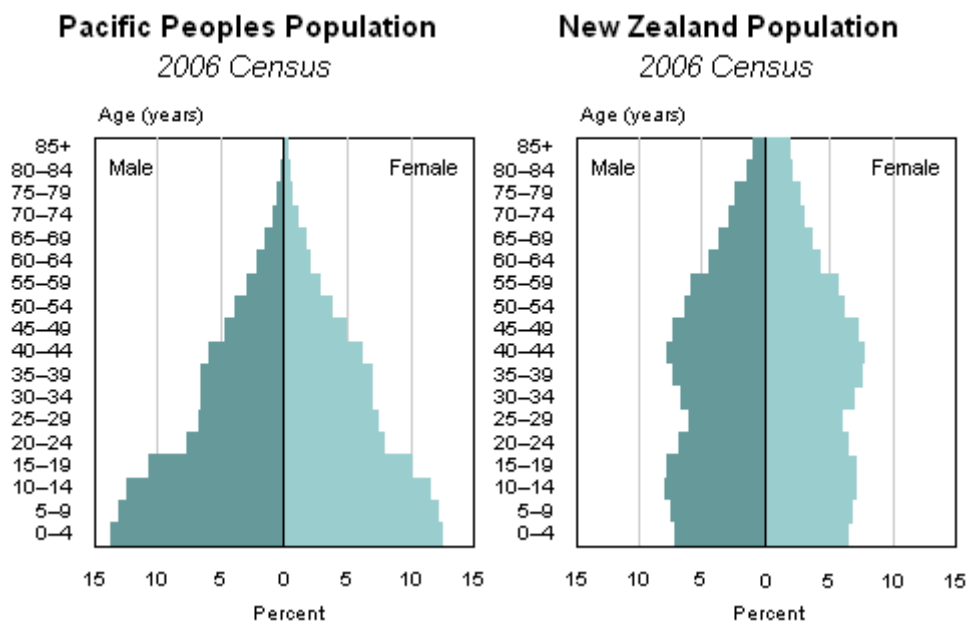
- Tongan 18.6 years
- Tokelauan 18.7 years
- Cook Islands Maori 18.9 years
- Niuean 19.6 years
- Tuvaluan 19.7 years
- Samoan 20.9 years
- Fijian 24.2 years.

Thirty-eight percent of Pacific peoples (100,344 people) were aged under 15 years in 2006, down slightly from 39 percent in 2001. This was much higher than for the New Zealand population overall (22 percent).

The number of Pacific peoples aged 65 and over has been increasing:

- in 1996 there were 5,871 people
- in 2001 there were 7,632 people
- in 2006 there were 10,083 people.

In 2006, those aged 65 and over made up 4 percent of Pacific peoples, up from 3 percent in 1996. This is much lower than for the overall New Zealand population, of whom 12 percent were aged 65 and over in 2006.



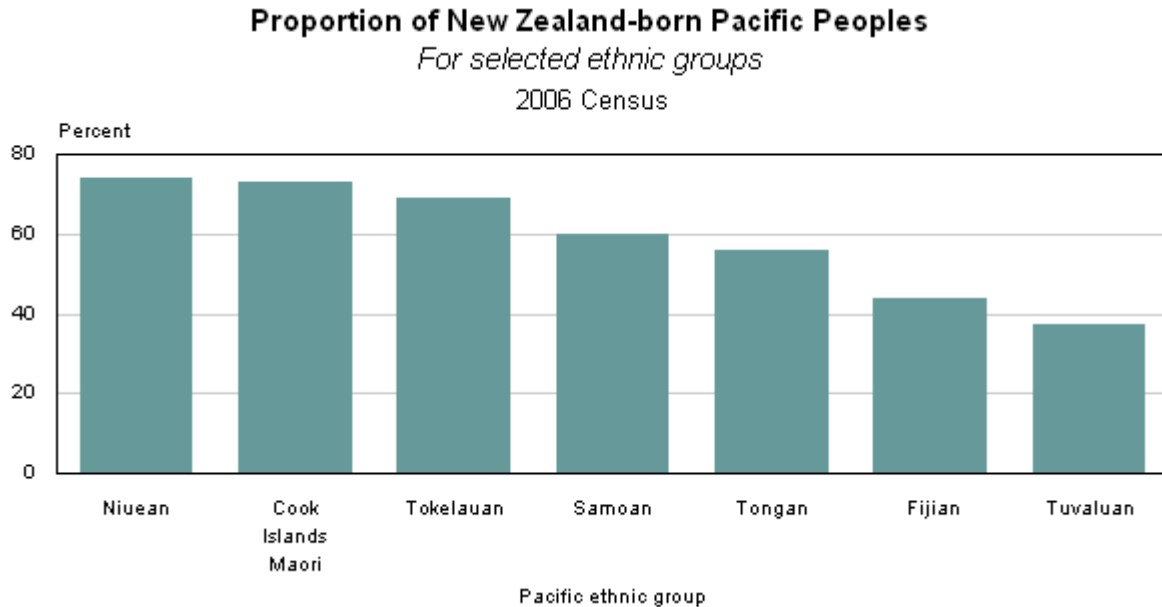
Birthplace

Over half of Pacific peoples were born in New Zealand

At the time of the 2006 Census, six in 10 people of Pacific ethnicity were born in New Zealand. This is a similar proportion to that in 2001.

- Niueans were most likely to be New Zealand-born, at 74 percent.
- The majority (73 percent) of Cook Islands Maori people were also born in New Zealand.

People of Tuvaluan ethnicity were least likely to be New Zealand-born, at 37 percent.



Two in five overseas-born Pacific peoples arrived in New Zealand 20 or more years ago

Over half (60 percent) of overseas-born Pacific peoples arrived to live in New Zealand fewer than 20 years ago (that is, since 1986).

Of the seven largest Pacific ethnic groups, overseas-born Tuvaluans, Tongans and Fijians were the most likely to have arrived to live in New Zealand during this time period:

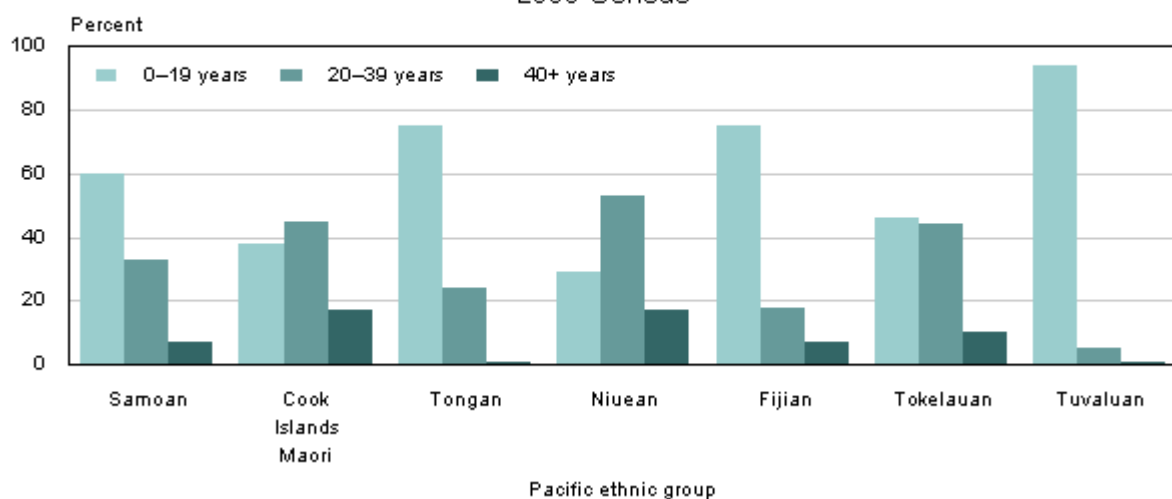
- 94 percent of Tuvaluans and 75 percent of Tongans and Fijians arrived fewer than 20 years ago.

Overseas-born Fijians were the most likely to have arrived to live in New Zealand less than one year before the 2006 Census, at 11 percent.

Some Pacific ethnic groups have been in New Zealand for a longer period of time:

- Overall, two in five overseas-born Pacific peoples arrived to live in New Zealand 20 or more years ago (that is, before 1986).
- Overseas-born Niuean and Cook Islands Maori people were the most likely to have arrived to live in New Zealand 40 or more years ago, at 17 percent for both these groups.

Years Since Arrival in New Zealand for Selected Pacific Peoples Born Overseas 2006 Census



Language

Half of Pacific peoples in the seven largest groups speak their own language

At the time of the 2006 Census, the proportion of Pacific peoples who could speak more than one language (49 percent) was much higher than for the overall New Zealand population (18 percent).

- Around half of the people in the seven largest Pacific ethnic groups could speak the language associated with their ethnicity.
- Tuvaluans were the most likely to speak their own language, at 71 percent, followed by Samoans (63 percent) and Tongans (61 percent).
- Cook Islands Maori were least likely to speak their own language, at 17 percent.

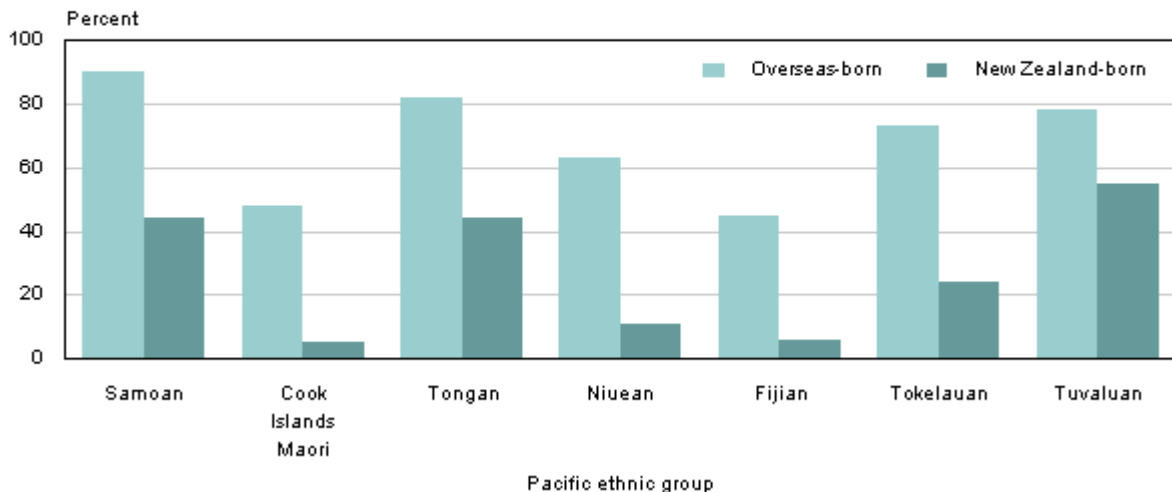
A person's ability to speak the language associated with their ethnicity was related to birthplace. For all of the seven largest groups, those born overseas were more likely to speak their own language than those born in New Zealand. For example:

- 90 percent of overseas-born Samoans spoke Samoan, but only 44 percent of New Zealand-born Samoans spoke Samoan
- around three out of four overseas-born Tokelauans spoke Tokelauan, but only about one in four New Zealand-born Tokelauans spoke their own language.

Pacific Peoples Who Speak Their Own Language

By selected ethnic group and birthplace

2006 Census



Religion

Catholic now the most common religious affiliation for Pacific peoples

In 2006, 83 percent of Pacific peoples stated that they had at least one religion, which was higher than for New Zealand overall (61 percent).

Ninety-seven percent of those with at least one religious affiliation identified with the Christian religion.

The most common Christian denomination for people of Pacific ethnicity has changed since 2001:

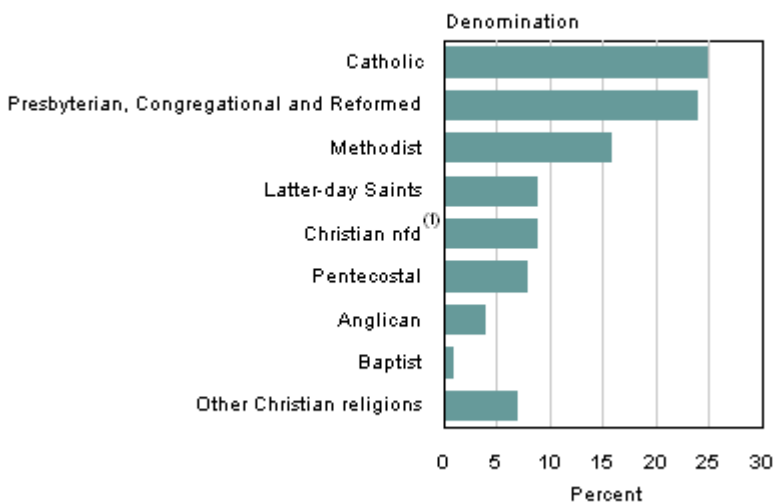
- in 2006, Catholic was the most common Christian denomination for Pacific peoples (49,143 people)
- in 2001, the most common Christian denomination for Pacific peoples was Presbyterian, Congregational and Reformed (46,695 people).

The second and third most common Christian denominations for Pacific peoples in 2006 were:

- Presbyterian, Congregational and Reformed (48,321 people)
- Methodist (32,271 people).

Christian Denomination of Pacific Peoples

2006 Census



(1) Christian, with no denomination stated.

Catholic was the most common Christian religious denomination for people of:

- Samoan ethnicity (29,607)
- Tokelauan ethnicity (2,289)
- Fijian ethnicity (2,016).

Presbyterian, Congregational and Reformed was the most common Christian religious denomination for people of:

- Cook Islands Maori ethnicity (15,066)
- Niuean ethnicity (6,771)
- Tuvaluan ethnicity (1,353).

Methodist was the most common Christian religious denomination for people of Tongan ethnicity (18,858).

Pacific peoples with no religion

In the 2006 Census, 34,833 people (14 percent) of Pacific ethnicity said they had no religion. This has increased from 12 percent in 2001.

Pacific peoples with no religion were:

- mostly New Zealand-born (about nine out of 10)
- concentrated in the younger age groups.

Half of Pacific peoples with no religion were aged under 15 years.

Education

Increase in Pacific peoples with a post-school qualification

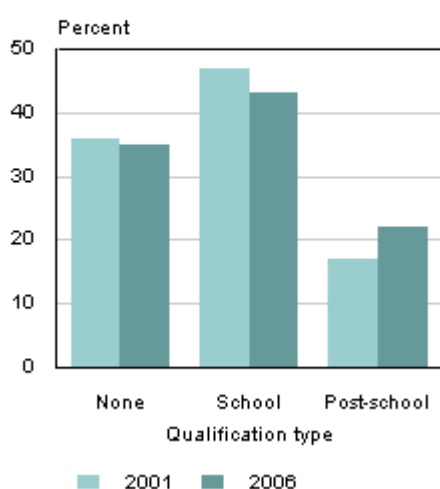
- In 2006, 22 percent of Pacific peoples aged 15 years and over had a post-school qualification, up from 17 percent in 2001.
- There has been a corresponding decrease in those whose highest qualification was a school qualification – from 47 percent in 2001 to 43 percent in 2006.

The proportion of Pacific peoples aged 15 and over who did not have a formal qualification has remained stable, at 36 percent in 2001 and 35 percent in 2006.

Highest Qualification for Pacific Peoples

Aged 15 Years and Over

2001 and 2006 Censuses



In 2006:

- 6,507 people of Pacific ethnicity had bachelor degrees or level seven qualifications
- 783 people of Pacific ethnicity had post-graduate or honours degrees
- 753 people of Pacific ethnicity had masters degrees
- 96 people of Pacific ethnicity had doctorate degrees.

Pacific women were more likely to have formal qualifications than Pacific men.

- 44 percent of women of Pacific ethnicity aged 15 and over had a school qualification compared with 41 percent of men of Pacific ethnicity aged 15 and over.
- 24 percent of women of Pacific ethnicity aged 15 and over had a post-school qualification compared with 20 percent of men of Pacific ethnicity aged 15 and over.

Younger Pacific peoples were more likely to have formal qualifications than those in the older age groups.

- Post-school qualifications were most common for Pacific peoples aged 25 to 29, with 32 percent in this age group having a post-school qualification.

Management and commerce was the most common field of study for those with a post-school qualification, at 24 percent.

Work

Pacific peoples in the labour force

Sixty-five percent of adults (people aged 15 years and over) of Pacific ethnicity were in the labour force in 2006 (107,613 people).

Men were more likely to be in the labour force than women:

- 71 percent of Pacific men were in the labour force compared with 59 percent of Pacific women.

The percentage of those in the labour force who were unemployed has fallen:

- 16 percent were unemployed in 2001
- 11 percent were unemployed in 2006.

| Work and Labour Force Status for Pacific Peoples Aged 15 Years and Over <i>2001 and 2006 Censuses</i> | | |
|---|-------------|-------------|
| | 2001 | 2006 |
| | Number | Number |
| Employed full time | 61,392 | 77,523 |
| Employed part time | 15,960 | 18,567 |
| Total employed | 77,352 | 96,087 |
| Unemployed | 14,910 | 11,526 |
| Total labour force | 92,262 | 107,613 |
| Not in the labour force | 49,389 | 58,017 |
| Total | 141,651 | 165,630 |
| Labour force participation rate (%) | 65.1 | 65.0 |
| Unemployment rate (%) | 16.2 | 10.7 |

Rise in employment for Pacific peoples aged 15 to 64 years

For Pacific peoples aged 15 to 64 years who were in the labour force, the percentage employed has increased:

- 84 percent were employed in 2001 (76,713 people)
- 89 percent were employed in 2006 (94,695 people).

This increase in employment was related to an increase in full-time employment.

Most employed Pacific peoples aged 15 to 64 years were in full-time employment (81 percent in 2006).

Occupations of Pacific peoples

There were differences between the occupations of men and women of Pacific ethnicity.

Men were most likely to be employed as:

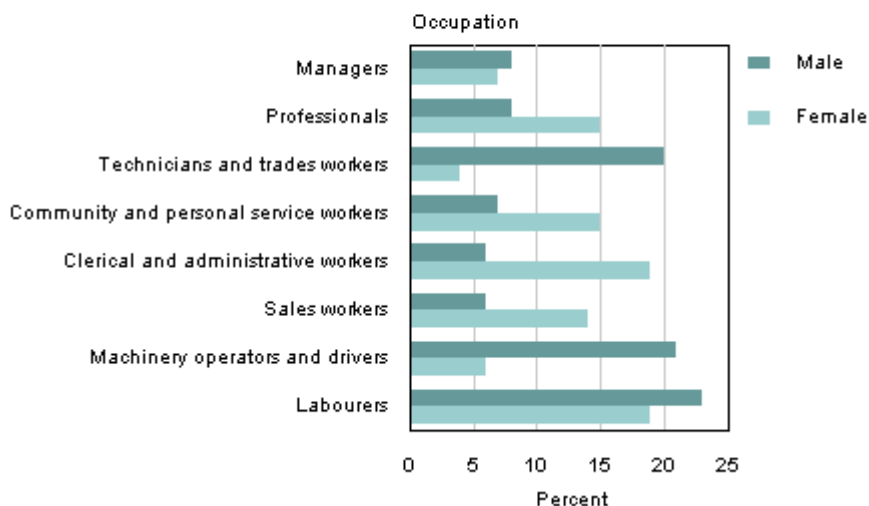
- labourers (23 percent)
- machinery operators and drivers (21 percent)
- technicians and trades workers (20 percent).

The occupations of women of Pacific ethnicity showed greater diversity than those of men. Women were equally likely to be employed as:

- clerical and administrative workers (19 percent) or labourers (19 percent)
- professionals (15 percent) or community and personal service workers (15 percent).

Occupation of Employed Pacific Peoples Aged 15 Years and Over

By sex
2006 Census



Note: People who are employed full time usually work 30 hours or more per week, while people who are employed part time usually work fewer than 30 hours per week.

People not in the labour force include those people aged 15 years and over who are neither employed nor unemployed (for example, retired people, students, people with personal and family responsibilities, people unable to work for medical reasons, and those not actively seeking work).

Income

Increase in income levels for Pacific peoples

The median annual income for adults (people aged 15 years and over) of Pacific ethnicity was:

- \$20,500 in 2006
- \$14,800 in 2001.

This was lower than the median annual income for New Zealand overall (\$24,400).

Income levels are related to age. The Pacific ethnic group has higher proportions of people in the younger age groups than the overall New Zealand population, and people in the younger age groups tend to have lower incomes than people in the older age groups.

- Pacific peoples with an income of \$5,000 or less were most likely to be aged 15 to 19 years.
- Pacific peoples with an income of \$50,001 or more were most likely to be aged 35 to 39 years.

Income levels are also related to employment.

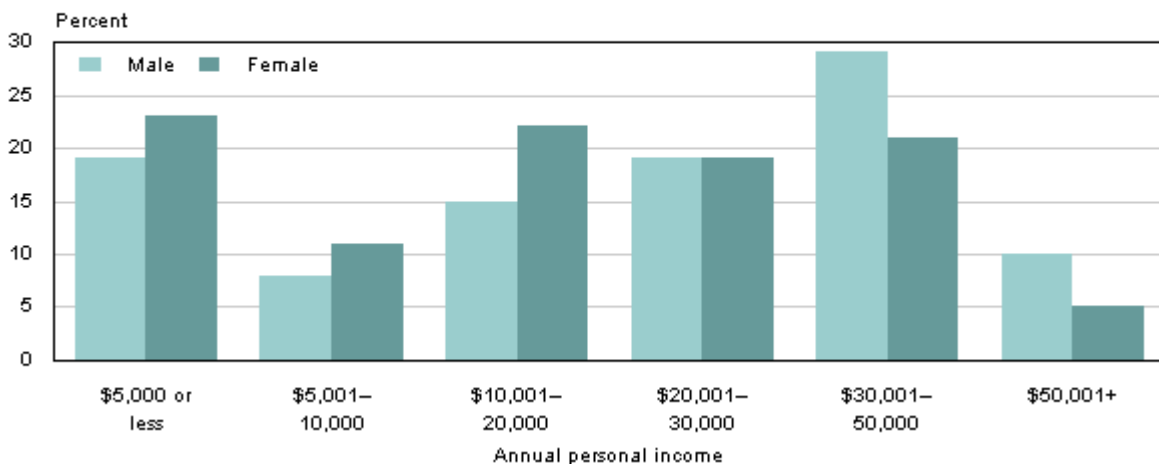
- Pacific peoples with an income of \$20,001 or more were most likely to be employed full time.

Men of Pacific ethnicity had higher income levels than women of Pacific ethnicity.

- The median annual income for adult men of Pacific ethnicity was \$24,500 compared with \$17,400 for women.

Annual Personal Income for Pacific Peoples Aged 15 Years and Over

By sex
2006 Census



Income sources of Pacific peoples

The most common source of income for adults of Pacific ethnicity in 2006 was wages, salaries, commissions and bonuses paid by an employer, as it was in 2001. The proportions of Pacific men and women receiving this type of income both increased since 2001.

- In 2006, 68 percent of adult men of Pacific ethnicity received this type of income, up from 63 percent in 2001.
- For adult women of Pacific ethnicity, 57 percent were receiving this type of income in 2006, up from 53 percent in 2001.

Adult men of Pacific ethnicity were twice as likely as women to receive income from self-employment or a business:

- 6 percent of men received this income compared with 3 percent of women.

Adult women of Pacific ethnicity were more likely than men to receive income support:

- 32 percent of women received income support compared with 18 percent of men.

More information

More information on Pacific peoples is available from a variety of other sources on the Statistics New Zealand website www.stats.govt.nz, including:

[Pacific Profiles: 2006](#)

[Table Builder tables on Pacific peoples](#)

For further information, email our information Centre info@stats.govt.nz, or phone toll free: 0508 525 525.

Tables

The following tables can be downloaded in Excel format from the Statistics New Zealand website, www.stats.govt.nz. If you do not have access to Excel, you may use the [Excel file viewer](#) to view, print and export the contents of the file.

1. Pacific peoples ethnic groups (total responses) population summary, 1991–2006 Censuses (1 page)
2. Regional council by Pacific peoples ethnic groups (total responses), 2001–2006 Censuses (3 pages)
3. Territorial authority by Pacific peoples ethnic groups (total responses), 2001–2006 Censuses (6 pages)
4. Age group and sex by Pacific peoples ethnic groups (total responses), 2001–2006 Censuses (6 pages)
5. Pacific peoples ethnic groups (total responses) by birthplace, 2001–2006 Censuses (1 page)
6. Pacific peoples ethnic groups (total responses) and sex by birthplace, 2006 Census (1 page)
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9. Language spoken (total responses) and age group by Pacific peoples ethnic groups (total responses), 2006 Census (3 pages)
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11. Religious affiliation (total responses) by Pacific peoples ethnic groups (total responses), 2001–2006 Censuses (3 pages)
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20. Occupation (ANZSCO V1.0 Major Group) and sex by Pacific peoples ethnic groups (total responses), 2006 Census (2 pages)
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24. Sources of personal income (total responses) by Pacific peoples ethnic groups (total responses), 2001–2006 Censuses (3 pages)
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