



QuickStats About Unpaid Work 2006 Census

QuickStats About Unpaid Work looks at the unpaid work of adults (aged 15 years and over) who usually live in New Zealand. Information in this QuickStats is based on New Zealand's 2006 Census of Population and Dwellings, held on 7 March 2006.

Summary information on the types of unpaid work people participate in, and the nature of the people who undertake this work, was obtained in the 2006 Census. Respondents were asked to provide information about their participation in unpaid work in the four weeks prior to the census.

Unpaid work, as measured in the 2006 Census, can be broken into three broad categories: unpaid work that occurs within the household; unpaid work that occurs outside the household; and other voluntary work through an organisation, group or marae. *QuickStats About Unpaid Work* provides details about involvement in these three categories.

Percentages in the text have been rounded to whole numbers, while percentages in the tables have been rounded to one decimal place. No time series information has been included because of differences in the question between censuses.

Overview

The majority of New Zealand adults participated in some form of unpaid work in the four weeks preceding census night. Eighty-nine percent of people aged 15 years and over undertook some form of unpaid work within the reference period.

Females had higher rates of participation in unpaid activities than males. Ninety-two percent of women engaged in unpaid work, compared with 86 percent of males.

Māori participation rates in unpaid work were similar to those of the general population, with 89 percent of Māori undertaking some form of unpaid work in the four weeks prior to the 2006 Census. Female and male participation rates for Māori were 92 percent and 85 percent, respectively.

Unpaid work within own household

Unpaid work within the household includes household work, childcare and caring for another member of the household who is ill or has a disability. The most common unpaid work within the household, and also the most common across all types of unpaid work, was household work, with activities such as cooking, repairs and gardening. In the four weeks preceding census night, 86 percent of adults undertook household work.

With regard to the other forms of unpaid work within the household, 32 percent of adults looked after a child living within their own household in the four weeks preceding census night, and 8 percent looked after a member of their own household who was ill or had a disability.

Unpaid work within own household by sex

People Who Do Unpaid Work Within Own Household⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

By sex
2006 Census

Unpaid activity	Male	Female	Total
	Percent		
Household work, cooking, repairs, gardening, etc, for own household	82.4	89.4	86.1
Looking after a child who is a member of own household	27.4	35.5	31.6
Looking after a member of own household who is ill or has a disability	6.3	9.1	7.8

(1) All figures are for the census usually resident population aged 15 years and over.

(2) People were able to identify with more than one unpaid activity.

Females have higher participation rates in all forms of unpaid work within their own household than males. Eighty-nine percent of women undertook household work, compared with 82 percent of men.

Females were also more likely to engage in unpaid care of others living within their own household. For example, 35 percent of females looked after a child living within their own household, compared with 27 percent of males. Similarly, 9 percent of females looked after someone in their own household who was ill or disabled, compared with 6 percent of males. Sixty-one percent of those caring for a member of their own household who was ill or disabled were female.

Unpaid work within own household by age

Age also had an impact upon rates of unpaid work within the household. Participation rates in household work peaked for the age groups 35–39 years and 40–44 years, with rates of 93 percent and 92 percent, respectively. However, participation rates remained above 90 percent for people aged between 30 and 54 years of age.

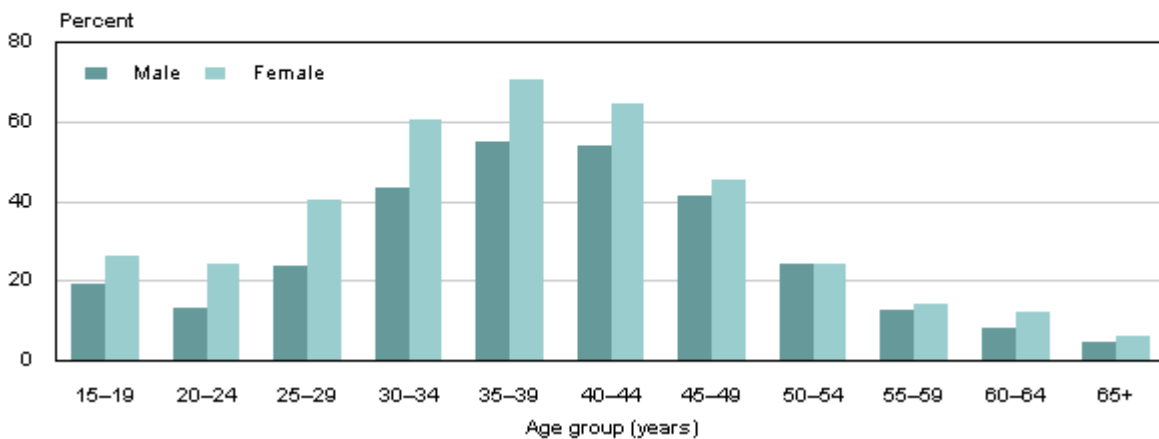
Age had a greater effect on engagement in unpaid work involving the care of others within the household than it did on household work. For both males and females, looking after a child living within their own household peaked at the ages 35–39 years, with 63 percent of people doing so in the four weeks preceding census night. This pattern is particularly significant for women, with 71 percent of females aged 35–39 years caring for a child living within their own household, compared with 55 percent of men of this age.

Females were more likely than males to care for a child living within their own household across all age groups. This difference between males and females becomes less significant for people aged 50–54 and older.

People Who Look After a Child (Own Household)

By age and sex

2006 Census



The peak age of people caring for a member of their own household who was ill or had a disability was slightly older than the peak age for caring for a child. People aged 40–44 were most likely to participate in this form of unpaid work, with 11 percent of people doing so. This peak in the 40–44 years age group may be in part due to this group's parents becoming more elderly and dependent.

Unpaid work within own household by ethnicity

People Who Do Unpaid Work Within Own Household⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

By ethnic group⁽³⁾ and sex
2006 Census

Unpaid activity	Ethnic group							Total people stated
	European	Māori	Pacific peoples	Asian	Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	New Zealander	Other ethnicity	
	Percent							
Household work, cooking, repairs, gardening, etc, for own household								
Male	83.8	80.2	78.0	71.9	67.4	88.1	86.5	82.5
Female	90.5	89.1	84.8	81.9	81.5	94.1	91.9	89.5
Total	87.4	85.0	81.6	77.2	74.2	91.0	89.5	86.1
Looking after a child who is a member of own household								
Male	26.0	35.7	37.3	24.3	24.2	30.1	30.4	27.4
Female	33.8	49.9	48.2	33.7	37.0	34.3	34.9	35.5
Total	30.1	43.3	43.0	29.4	30.4	32.2	32.7	31.6
Looking after a member of own household who is ill or has a disability								
Male	5.8	9.7	10.5	4.2	5.3	7.3	8.8	6.3
Female	8.5	15.0	14.7	5.5	7.3	10.0	7.0	9.1
Total	7.2	12.6	12.7	4.9	6.3	8.6	8.2	7.8

(1) All figures are for the census usually resident population aged 15 years and over.

(2) People were able to identify with more than one unpaid activity.

(3) People were able to identify with more than one ethnic group.

While Māori and Pacific peoples had similar rates of participation in household work when compared with the population overall, they were more likely to be engaged in unpaid work involving care of others within their household.

For example, 43 percent of both Māori and Pacific peoples looked after a child living within their own household, compared with 30 percent of Europeans, and 32 percent of the population overall. Similarly, 13 percent of both Māori and Pacific peoples looked after a member of their own household who was ill or who had a disability, compared with 8 percent of the population overall.

Māori and Pacific females were significantly more likely than females within any other ethnic group to care for others living within their own household. Fifty percent of Māori women and 48 percent of Pacific women cared for a child living within their own household, compared with 35 percent of females across the population overall. Similarly, 15 percent of both Māori and Pacific women cared for someone with an illness or disability living within their own household, compared with 9 percent of females across the population overall.

Unpaid work within own household by labour force status

People Who Do Unpaid Work Within Own Household⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

By labour force status and sex
2006 Census

Unpaid activity	Work and labour force status			
	Employed		Unemployed	Not in the labour force
	Full time	Part time		
Percent				
Household work, cooking, repairs, gardening, etc, for own household				
Male	87.4	80.3	81.3	69.8
Female	95.0	93.4	89.6	80.7
Total	90.5	89.8	85.8	76.6
Looking after a child who is a member of own household				
Male	33.7	20.5	27.4	12.8
Female	32.5	46.9	44.5	31.1
Total	33.2	39.6	36.8	24.1
Looking after a member of own household who is ill or has a disability				
Male	6.1	6.2	9.3	6.5
Female	7.8	10.1	12.9	9.6
Total	6.8	9.0	11.3	8.4

(1) All figures are for the census usually resident population aged 15 years and over.

(2) People were able to identify with more than one unpaid activity.

Labour force status had a significant impact on the likelihood of females caring for a child living within their own household. Females who worked part time or who were unemployed were more likely to care for a child living within their own household than females working full time. Forty-seven percent of females working part time and 45 percent of unemployed females cared for a child living within their own household, compared with 33 percent of females working full time.

Males showed a different pattern to females with regard to labour force status. Males employed part time were in fact less likely than males employed full time to do unpaid work within their own household. However, a disproportionate number of males who work part time are in the younger age groups, whereas males working full time are more likely to be of child rearing age. Importantly, it is the younger age groups that were least likely to engage in unpaid work. By contrast, the distribution for females by labour force status is more evenly spread across age groups. This means that comparison between males and females by labour force status should be approached with caution.

Females outside the labour force and females working full time had similar rates of childcare within their own household, with 31 percent of females not in the labour force caring for a child within their own household.

Females who were employed part time or unemployed were also more likely to look after someone living in their own household who was ill or had a disability. Ten percent of females working part time and 13 percent of unemployed females undertook this form of unpaid work in the four weeks preceding census night.

By comparison, 8 percent of females working full-time looked after someone living in their own household who was ill or who had a disability.

Unpaid work within own household by status in employment

People Who Do Unpaid Work Within Own Household⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

By status in employment and sex

2006 Census

Unpaid activity	Status in employment			
	Paid employee	Employer	Self-employed without employees	Unpaid family worker
	Percent			
Household work, cooking, repairs, gardening, etc, for own household				
Male	86.8	86.8	87.5	78.6
Female	94.3	96.7	96.9	95.1
Total	90.6	89.9	90.8	88.4
Looking after a child who is a member of own household				
Male	31.6	40.3	31.3	23.4
Female	36.0	47.5	43.4	46.0
Total	33.8	42.6	35.6	36.8
Looking after a member of own household who is ill or has a disability				
Male	6.1	5.9	6.1	8.8
Female	8.3	8.8	9.7	13.1
Total	7.2	6.8	7.4	11.4

(1) All figures are for the census usually resident population aged 15 years and over.

(2) People were able to identify with more than one unpaid activity.

Status in employment also had a bearing upon participation in unpaid work within the household. Both males and females who indicated their employment status as employers were more likely than other status of employment groups to care for a child living within their own household. Forty percent of male employers looked after a child living within their own household. This compares with 32 percent of male paid employees and 31 percent of self-employed males.

Females who indicated their employment status as paid employee were the least likely to look after a child living within their own home. Thirty-six percent of female paid employees looked after a child living within their own household compared with 48 percent of female employers, 46 percent of female unpaid family workers and 43 percent of females who were self-employed and without employees.

For both males and females, those whose status in employment was unpaid family worker were the most likely to look after a member of their own household with an illness or disability. Nine percent of males and and 13 percent of females undertook this form of unpaid work in the four weeks preceding census night.

Unpaid work outside own household

Unpaid work outside the household includes childcare and helping someone who is ill or has a disability who does not live within the same household. Sixteen percent of the adult population participated in child care outside their own household in the four weeks preceding census night.

Nine percent of the adult population helped someone who was sick or had a disability outside their own household in the four weeks preceding census night.

Unpaid work outside own household by sex

People Who Do Unpaid Work Outside Own Household⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

By sex
2006 Census

Unpaid activity	Male	Female	Total
	Percent		
Looking after a child who does not live in own household	11.4	20.6	16.2
Helping someone who is ill or has a disability who does not live in own household	6.5	11.5	9.1

(1) All figures are for the census usually resident population aged 15 years and over.

(2) People were able to identify with more than one unpaid activity.

As with work within the household, females were more likely than males to participate in unpaid care of others outside their own household. Twenty-one percent of females looked after a child who did not live within their own household, compared with 11 percent of males. Of those caring for a child living outside their own household, 66 percent were female.

When it came to helping someone who was ill or had a disability living outside their own household, 12 percent of females did so, compared with 6 percent of males. Some 66 percent of those helping someone who was ill or who had a disability living outside their own household were female.

Unpaid work outside own household by age

The age distribution for those engaged in unpaid care of others living outside their own household is different to those engaged in the unpaid care of others living within their own household, particularly for females.

The peak age for caring for a child living within their own household was 35–39 years for both males and females. While the peak age for caring for a child living outside the household remained the same for males, the peak age for females was 60–64 years of age.

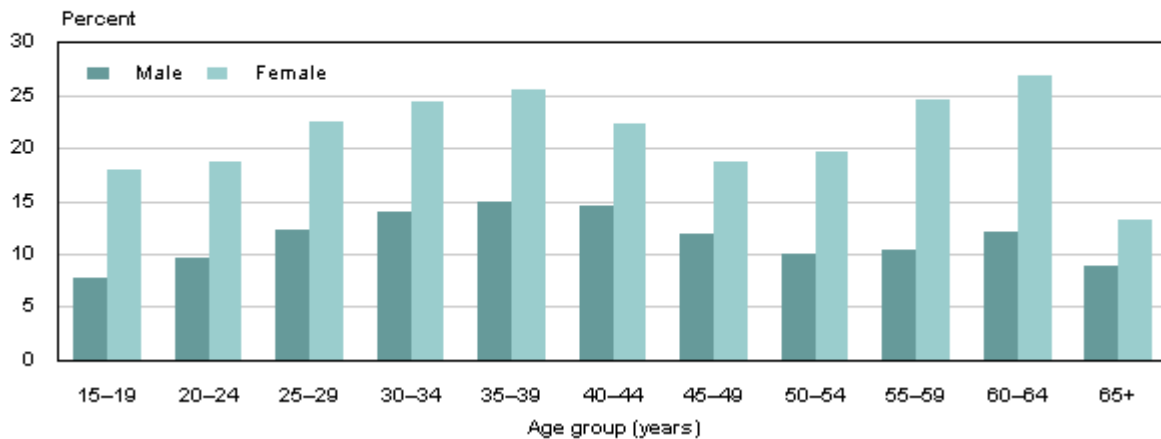
The proportion of females caring for a child outside their own household was still high for the 35–39 age group (26 percent). However, the percentage of females caring for a child outside their own household did not remain constant from ages 35 through to 64. Rather, it fell to 19 percent for the 45–49 age group and steadily rose again to peak at 27 percent for females aged 60–64 years.

The high proportion of females caring for a child living either within or outside their own household at ages 35–39 and then again at ages 60–64 is likely to be due to women's high participation in childcare both at peak child rearing age and again when they have grandchildren later in life.

People Who Look After a Child (Not Own Household)

By age and sex

2006 Census

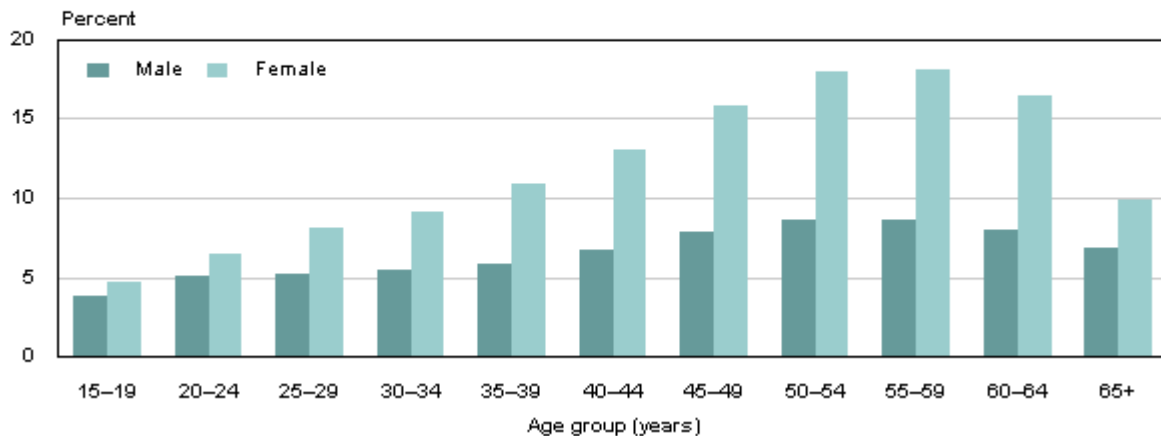


Those in the age groups 50–54 and 55–59 were more likely to help someone who was ill or had a disability living outside their own household than any other age group, with 13 percent of both groups doing so within the four weeks preceding census night. Females within these age groups showed particularly high rates of helping someone who was ill or who had a disability living outside their own household. Eighteen percent of females aged 50 to 59 undertook this form of unpaid work. This was compared with 9 percent of males in the same age groups.

People Who Help an Ill or Disabled Person (Not in Own Household)

By age and sex

2006 Census



Unpaid work outside own household by ethnicity

People Who Do Unpaid Work Outside Own Household⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

By ethnic group⁽³⁾ and sex
2006 Census

Unpaid activity	Ethnic group							Total people stated
	European	Māori	Pacific peoples	Asian	Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	New Zealander	Other ethnicity	
	Percent							
Looking after a child who does not live in own household								
Male	11.2	17.8	13.6	3.6	5.4	14.4	12.9	11.4
Female	21.2	30.6	22.1	6.1	9.5	24.6	20.9	20.6
Total	16.5	24.6	18.0	4.9	7.4	19.3	16.6	16.2
Helping someone who is ill or has a disability who does not live in own household								
Male	6.4	8.5	7.3	3.3	4.5	8.3	7.6	6.5
Female	11.9	15.1	10.5	3.8	5.6	14.9	13.4	11.5
Total	9.3	12.0	9.0	3.6	5.0	11.4	10.5	9.1

(1) All figures are for the census usually resident population aged 15 years and over.

(2) People were able to identify with more than one unpaid activity.

(3) People were able to identify with more than one ethnic group.

Māori were significantly more likely than any other ethnic group to care for a child living outside their own household. Twenty-five percent of Māori did so in the four weeks preceding census night compared with 16 percent of the population overall. In particular a large percentage of Māori women, 31 percent, looked after a child living outside their own household.

Māori were also most likely to help someone who was ill or who had a disability living outside their own household. Twelve percent of Māori undertook this activity compared with 9 percent of the population overall.

Unpaid work outside own household by labour force status

People Who Do Unpaid Work Outside Own Household⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

By labour force status and sex
2006 Census

Unpaid activity	Work and labour force status			
	Employed		Unemployed	Not in the labour force
	Full time	Part time		
Percent				
Looking after a child who does not live in own household				
Male	12.6	10.7	13.9	8.1
Female	20.4	25.4	27.7	17.2
Total	15.7	21.3	21.5	13.7
Helping someone who is ill or has a disability who does not live in own household				
Male	6.3	7.2	9.3	6.3
Female	11.5	13.6	13.8	10.0
Total	8.4	11.8	11.8	8.6

(1) All figures are for the census usually resident population aged 15 years and over.

(2) People were able to identify with more than one unpaid activity.

People in the labour force (this includes those employed full time, employed part time and unemployed) were more likely to look after a child who did not live within their own household in the four weeks preceding census night. Of those within the labour force, unemployed people were the most likely to do so, at 21 percent. People employed full time were the least likely, at 16 percent.

Those employed part time and those who were unemployed were the most likely to help someone who was ill or had a disability living outside their own household. Twelve percent of people in each of these labour force status groups did so in the four weeks preceding census night.

People employed full time and people not in the labour force were less likely to help someone who was ill or had a disability living outside their own household, with 8 percent and 9 percent, respectively, doing so.

Labour force status had a bigger impact upon rates of childcare outside the household for females than it did for males, particularly for those within the labour force. For example, 20 percent of females in full-time employment cared for a child outside their own household compared with 25 percent of females employed part time and 28 percent of unemployed females.

By contrast, there was less of a spread in participation rates in this form of unpaid work for males who were within the labour force. Ten percent of males employed part time cared for a child living outside their own household, compared with 13 percent of males employed full time and 14 percent of males who were unemployed.

Unpaid work outside own household by status in employment

People Who Do Unpaid Work Outside Own Household⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

By status in employment and sex

2006 Census

Unpaid activity	Status in employment			
	Paid employee	Employer	Self-employed without employees	Unpaid family worker
	Percent			
Looking after a child who does not live in own household				
Male	12.4	12.6	12.0	12.5
Female	21.8	24.2	23.9	26.0
Total	17.2	16.3	16.2	20.5
Helping someone who is ill or has a disability who does not live in own household				
Male	6.1	6.8	7.5	8.7
Female	11.8	13.1	14.9	15.5
Total	9.0	8.8	10.2	12.7

(1) All figures are for the census usually resident population aged 15 years and over.

(2) People were able to identify with more than one unpaid activity.

Status in employment also had an impact upon the likelihood that people would undertake unpaid work outside their own household. Unpaid family workers were the most likely to care for a child living outside their own household, at 20 percent, and to help someone with an illness or disability living outside their own household, at 13 percent.

Other voluntary work

Other voluntary work includes unpaid work for or through any organisation, group or marae. Fifteen percent of the adult population participated in voluntary work in the four weeks preceding census night.

Other voluntary work by sex

People Who Do Other Voluntary Work⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

By sex
2006 Census

Unpaid activity	Male	Female	Total
	Percent		
Other helping or voluntary work for or through any organisation, group or marae	13.9	16.8	15.4

(1) All figures are for the census usually resident population aged 15 years and over.

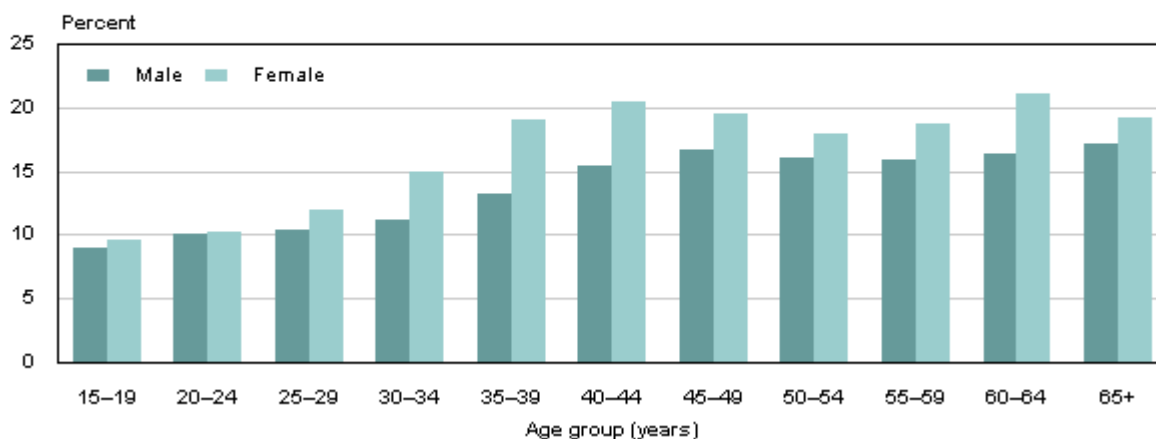
(2) People were able to identify with more than one unpaid activity.

Females were more likely than males to participate in other voluntary work, with 17 percent of females and 14 percent of males doing so in the four weeks preceding census night.

Other voluntary work by age

People Who Do Other Voluntary Work

By age and sex
2006 Census



People in the 60–64 age group were the most likely to be involved in other voluntary work in the four weeks preceding census night. Nineteen percent of those aged 60–64 years undertook other voluntary work. Rates were also high for those aged 40–49 years and 65 years and over, with participation rates of 18 percent for these age groups.

Less than 15 percent of those within the age groups 30–34 years of age and under did other voluntary work. Overall, therefore, rates of participation in voluntary work typically increased with age.

Other voluntary work by ethnicity

People Who Do Other Voluntary Work⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

By ethnic group⁽³⁾ and sex
2006 Census

	Ethnic group							Total people stated
	European	Māori	Pacific peoples	Asian	Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	New Zealander	Other ethnicity	
Unpaid activity	Percent							
Other helping or voluntary work for or through any organisation, group or marae								
Male	13.4	17.1	14.2	8.5	9.6	18.3	14.6	13.9
Female	16.7	21.3	14.5	8.8	10.3	21.7	17.4	16.8
Total	15.1	19.3	14.4	8.7	9.9	19.9	16.0	15.4

(1) All figures are for the census usually resident population aged 15 years and over.

(2) People were able to identify with more than one unpaid activity.

(3) People were able to identify with more than one ethnic group.

People who identified as Māori and people who identified as New Zealander were most likely to undertake other voluntary work in the four weeks preceding census night. Nineteen percent of those who identified as Māori and 20 percent of those who identified as New Zealander undertook other voluntary work. This compares with 15 percent of the total population overall.

Other voluntary work by labour force status

People Who Do Other Voluntary Work⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

By labour force status and sex
2006 Census

	Work and labour force status			
	Employed		Unemployed	Not in the labour force
	Full time	Part time		
Unpaid activity	Percent			
Other helping or voluntary work for or through any organisation, group or marae				
Male	13.7	15.9	15.3	13.3
Female	14.2	21.1	18.3	17.0
Total	13.9	19.7	16.9	15.6

(1) All figures are for the census usually resident population aged 15 years and over.

(2) People were able to identify with more than one unpaid activity.

Labour force status also had an influence on participation in other voluntary work. People employed part time were most likely to undertake other voluntary work, at 20 percent in the four weeks preceding census night. By contrast, those employed full time were the least likely to be involved in other voluntary work, with 14 percent undertaking this form of unpaid activity.

The impact of labour force status on the likelihood of undertaking voluntary work was particularly significant for women. Twenty-one percent of women employed part time volunteered compared with 14 percent of women employed full time.

Other voluntary work by status in employment

People Who Do Other Voluntary Work⁽¹⁾⁽²⁾

By status in employment and sex

2006 Census

	Status in employment			
	Paid employee	Employer	Self-employed without employees	Unpaid family worker
Unpaid activity	Percent			
Other helping or voluntary work for or through any organisation, group or marae				
Male	12.8	18.0	16.7	18.9
Female	15.3	19.8	23.7	26.8
Total	14.0	18.6	19.2	23.6

(1) All figures are for the census usually resident population aged 15 years and over.

(2) People were able to identify with more than one unpaid activity.

When viewed in terms of status in employment, unpaid family workers were the most likely to engage in other voluntary work. Nineteen percent of male unpaid family workers and 27 percent of female unpaid family workers volunteered for an organisation, group or marae in the four weeks preceding census night. Paid employees were the least likely to undertake other voluntary work.

Other voluntary work by religion

Identification with a religion also had an influence upon the likelihood of people undertaking other voluntary work. Nineteen percent of those who identified themselves as Christian undertook formal voluntary work compared with 11 percent of those who identified with no religion. This compared with both 21 percent of Jewish and spiritualist/new age respondents, 12 percent of Buddhists and 9 percent of both Muslim and Hindu respondents.

More information

More information on unpaid work is available from a variety of other sources on the Statistics New Zealand website (www.stats.govt.nz) including:

The Non-profit Institutions Satellite Account: 2004

<http://www.stats.govt.nz/people/communities/non-profit-institutions/default.htm>

The Time Use Survey, 1998/99

<http://www.stats.govt.nz/people/arts/time-use.htm>

For further information ...

Email our Information Centre: info@stats.govt.nz or phone toll-free: 0508 525 525.

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Tables

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

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