

Research New Zealand

The changing face of New Zealand

A Special Report based on the key results of
the 2018 Census



research
NEW ZEALAND



FOREWORD

Results from the 2018 Census of Population & Dwellings began to be published late last year, after Statistics New Zealand had completed its data quality checking processes. Participation in the 2018 Census was lower than previous censuses and as a result, Statistics New Zealand used data from administrative sources and different methodologies to produce a fit-for-purpose dataset.

The dataset contains records for approximately 4.7 million people and this is 1.4% (or 69,000 people) less than Statistics New Zealand's best estimate of the New Zealand population on Census Day (6 March 2018). By comparison, the official undercount in 2013 was 2.4%.

Eighty-nine percent of the total number of records have come from the 2018 Census forms and 11% from other sources of government data.

The purpose of this special report is to provide highlights from the 2018 Census dataset in order to describe the changing face of New Zealand. Much of the data presented in this report is based on data variables that Statistics New Zealand has given a 'high' or 'very high' quality rating. This includes the following variables: population count (usually resident), age, gender, ethnicity, Māori descent, and usual residence address (meshblock). Where appropriate, we have also used projections to describe what New Zealand might look like in the immediate future.

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KEY RESULTS

This special report presents eight (8) key results based on the 2018 Census to illustrate the changing face of New Zealand. In most cases, these will not surprise the reader; rather they will confirm known trends and put numbers around them. The key results are as follows:

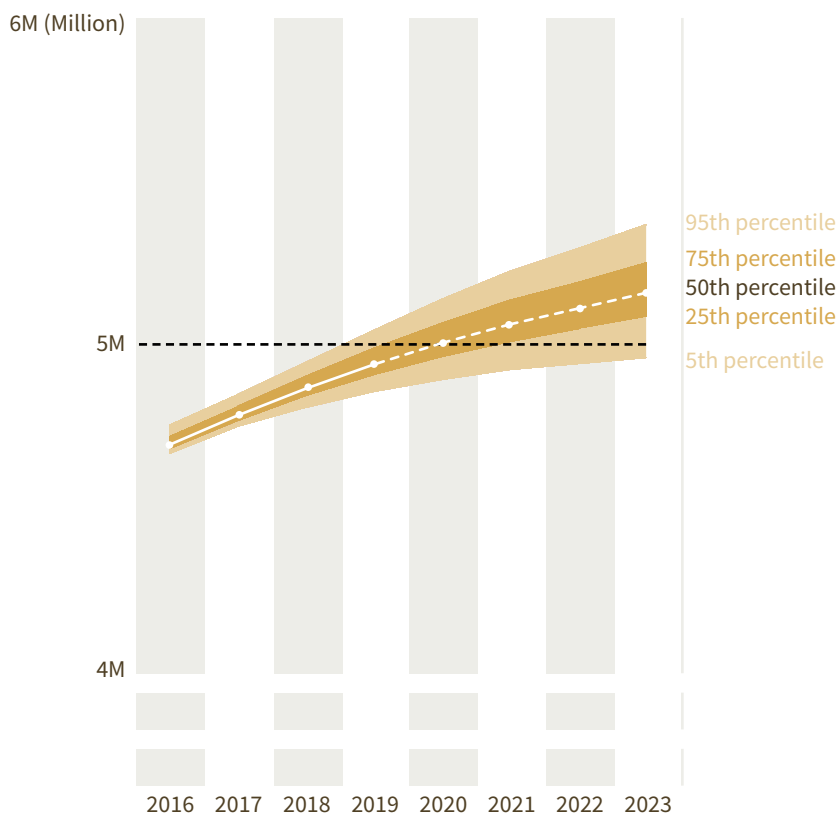
1. The New Zealand population is expected to grow to over 5 million this year.
2. The population continues to grow as a result of immigration rather than natural population increase.
3. Almost one-in-every-three New Zealanders was born overseas.
4. New Zealand is now the fourth most culturally diverse country in the OECD.
5. People of Asian ethnicity represent the fastest growing ethnic group in the New Zealand population.
6. The population is living longer and growing older.
7. The working age population, as a percentage of the total population, will stabilise in the foreseeable future at 50%.
8. The population is solidly urban-based, with Auckland dominant and accounting for one-in-every-three New Zealanders.

1 THE NEW ZEALAND POPULATION IS EXPECTED TO GROW TO OVER 5 MILLION THIS YEAR

The estimated New Zealand population as at November 2018 was 4,882,500. In the 10 years since 2008, the population grew 14% from 4,280,300. The population has grown more rapidly in the last 5 years (with annual increases of close to 2%) compared with the first 5 years of the decade.

Given the rate of increase, the population is estimated to have grown by approximately 100,000 since November 2018 and is expected to hit 5 million this year.

Projected population growth

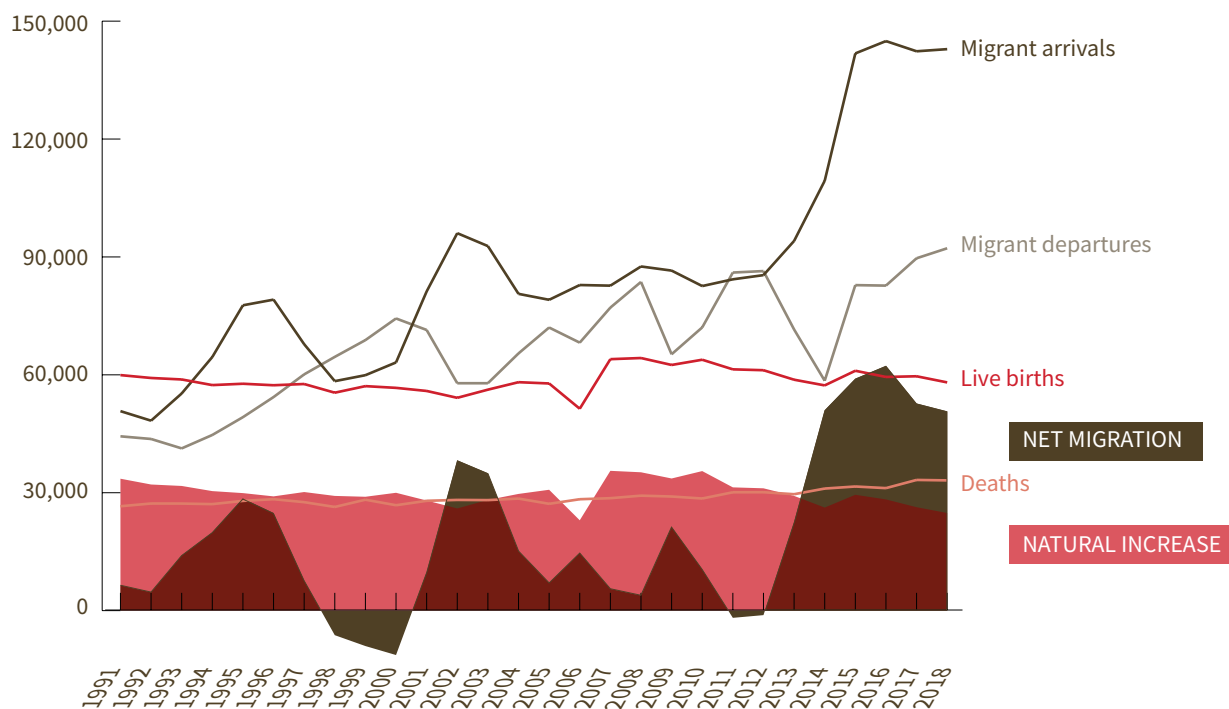


2 THE POPULATION CONTINUES TO GROW AS A RESULT OF MIGRATION RATHER THAN THROUGH NATURAL POPULATION INCREASE

In the year ending December 2018, there were 58,020 live births compared with 33,222 deaths, a difference of births over deaths of 24,798.

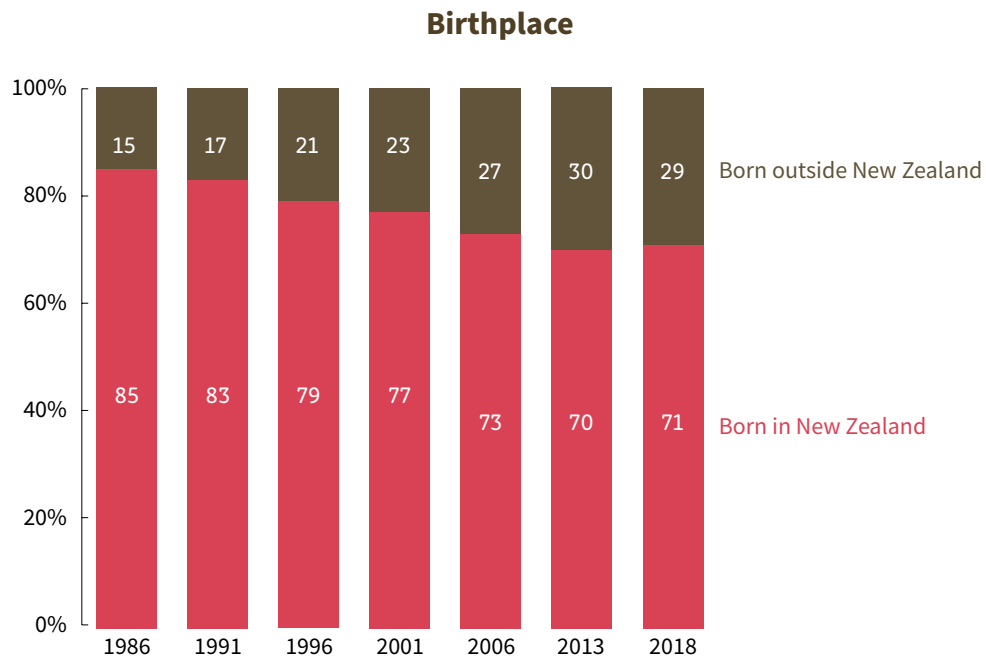
However, at 50,631, net migration was over twice the natural population increase. Furthermore, net migration has been in excess of 50,000 for the last 5 years, peaking at 62,227 in 2016.

**Population increase
Natural vs migration**



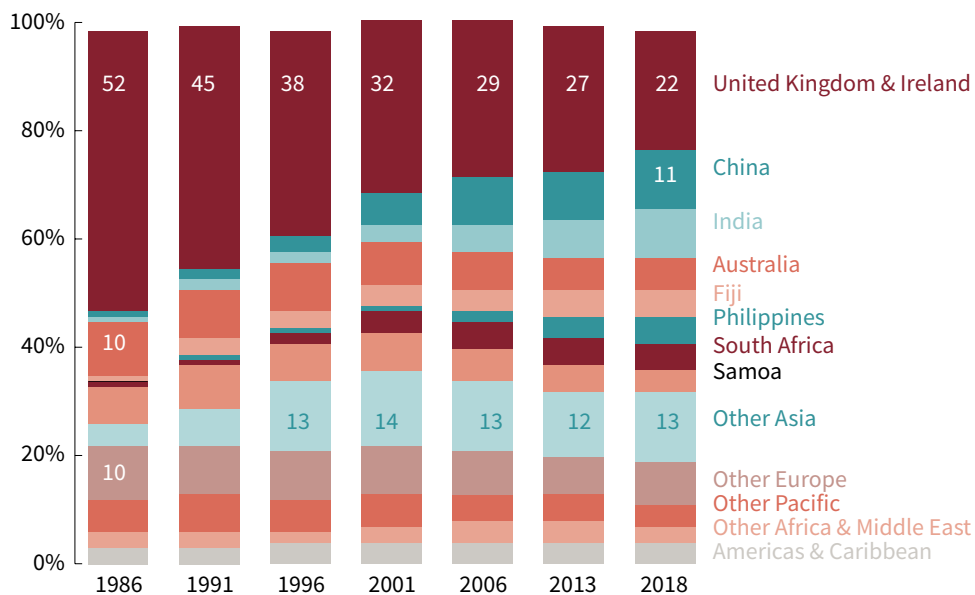
3 ALMOST ONE-IN-EVERY-THREE NEW ZEALANDERS WAS BORN OVERSEAS

The percentage of New Zealanders who were born overseas has been steadily increasing and is now 29%, having increased sharply in the early 2000s. The rate of growth is partly a function of government immigration policy.

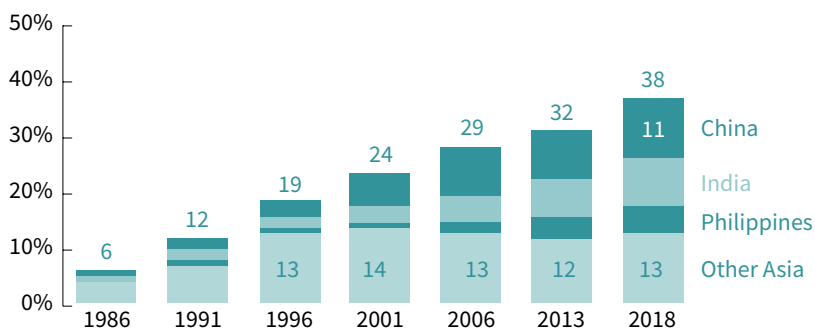


In addition to the increase in the percentage born overseas, an increasing percentage of those born overseas have been born in China, India, the Philippines and other Asian countries. Collectively, these countries now account for 38% of those New Zealanders born overseas, whereas this was only six percent in 1986.

Birthplace of those born outside New Zealand



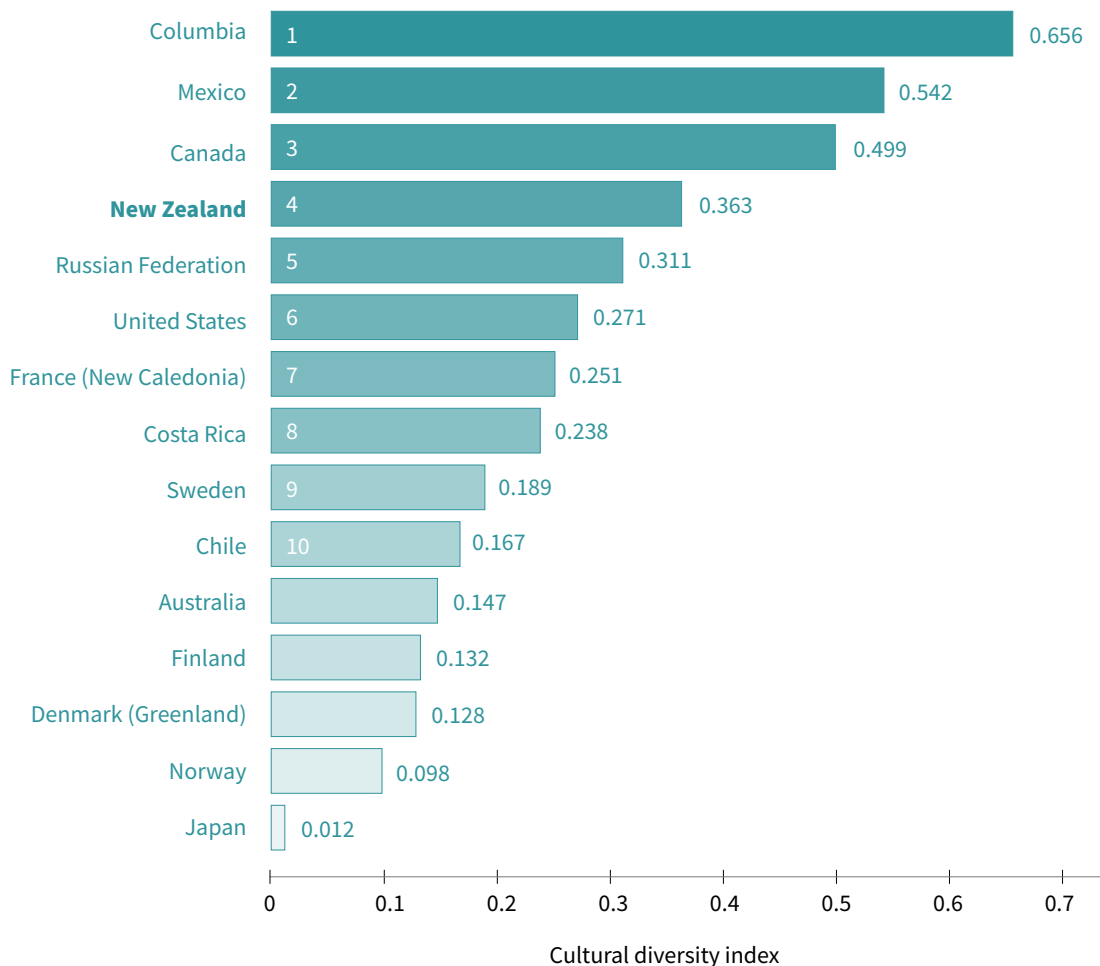
Total born overseas in Asian countries



4 NEW ZEALAND IS THE FOURTH MOST CULTURALLY DIVERSE COUNTRY IN THE OECD

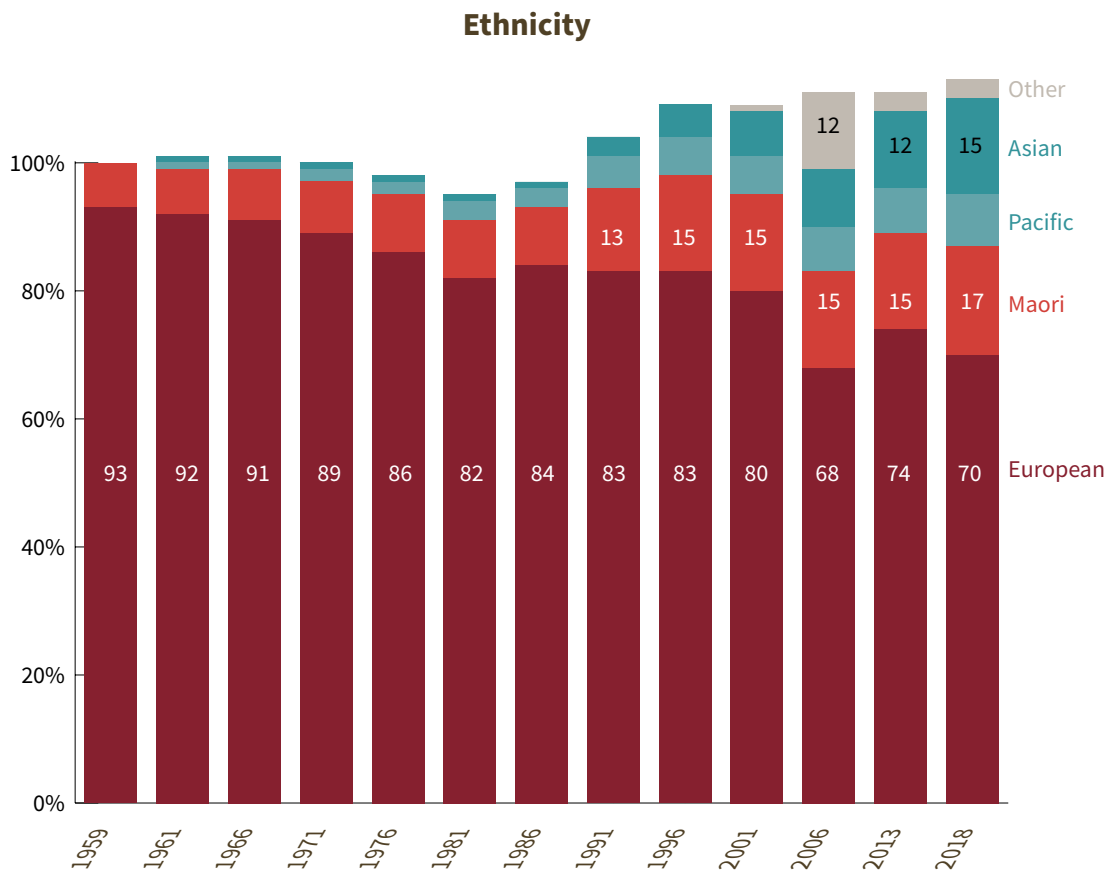
Reflecting the significant percentage of New Zealanders who were born overseas, the graph below shows that New Zealand is the fourth most diverse country in the OECD with a cultural diversity index of 0.363. This index is based on linguistic variations as opposed to other measures of diversity.

Diversity index in OECD member and accession countries

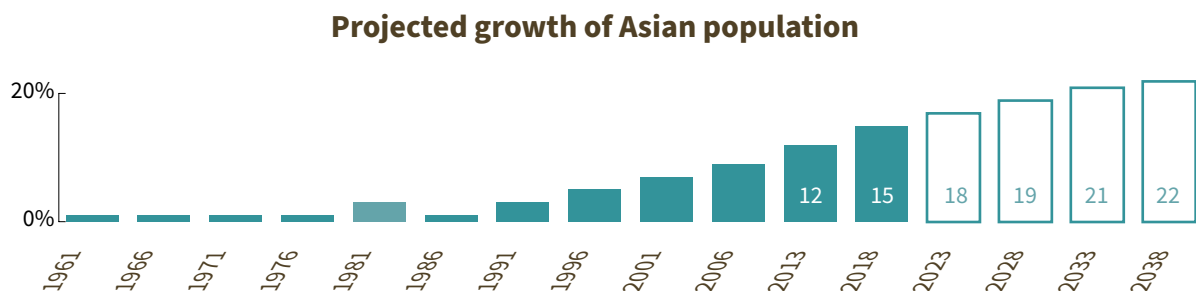


5 PEOPLE OF ASIAN ETHNICITY REPRESENT THE FASTEST GROWING ETHNIC GROUP IN THE NEW ZEALAND POPULATION

Reflecting the immigration results, the percentage of people of Asian ethnicity in the New Zealand population has more than doubled in the last 20 years (from five percent in 2001 to 12% in 2018).



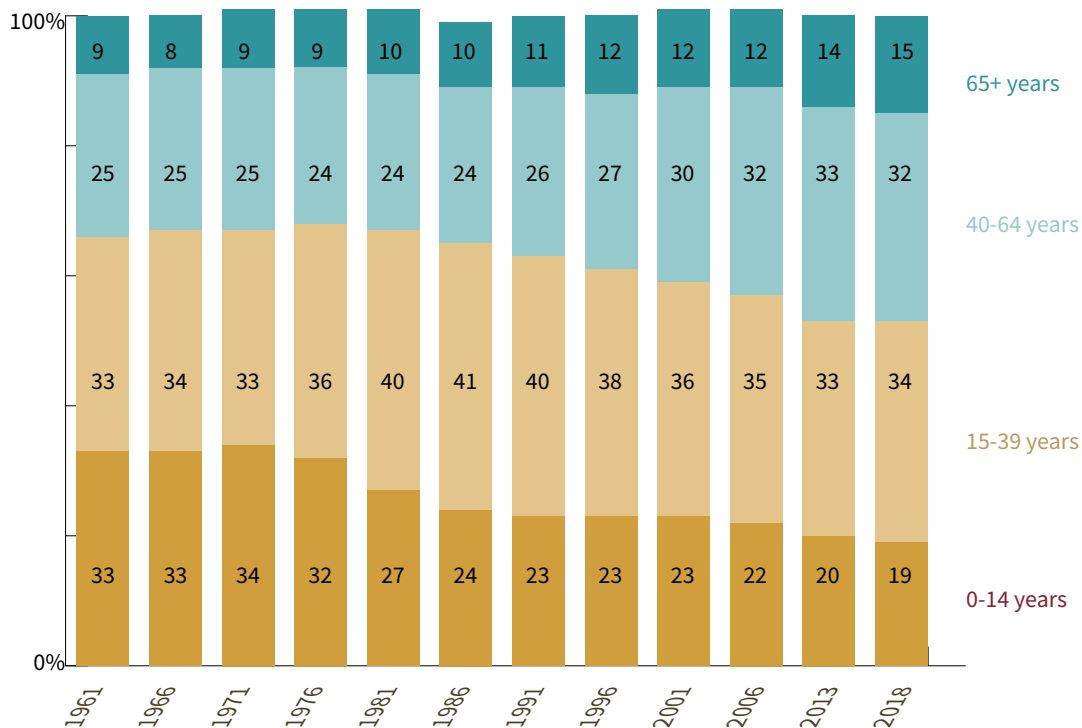
As a result of it being the fastest growing group, it has now surpassed the number of Pasifika and forward projections point to people of Asian ethnicity being 22% of the population by 2038.



6 THE POPULATION IS LIVING LONGER AND IS GROWING OLDER

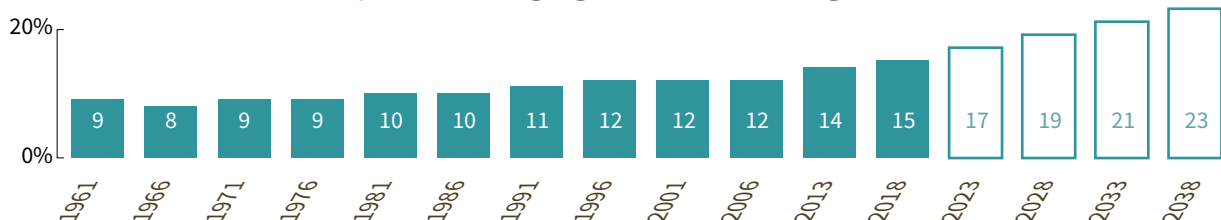
The average life expectancy for New Zealanders is steadily increasing and is currently 81.4 years; 79.2 years for males and 83.6 years for females. As a result of people living longer, the median age of New Zealanders is 38.1 years; for 37.2 years for males and 39 years for females. In comparison, the median age of New Zealanders in 2008 was 36.6 years and 10 years before that, it was 33.8 years.

Age-group populations



While 15% of the population is currently 65 years and over, this is the age group that is the fastest growing age group and by year 2038 is expected to represent 23% of the population.

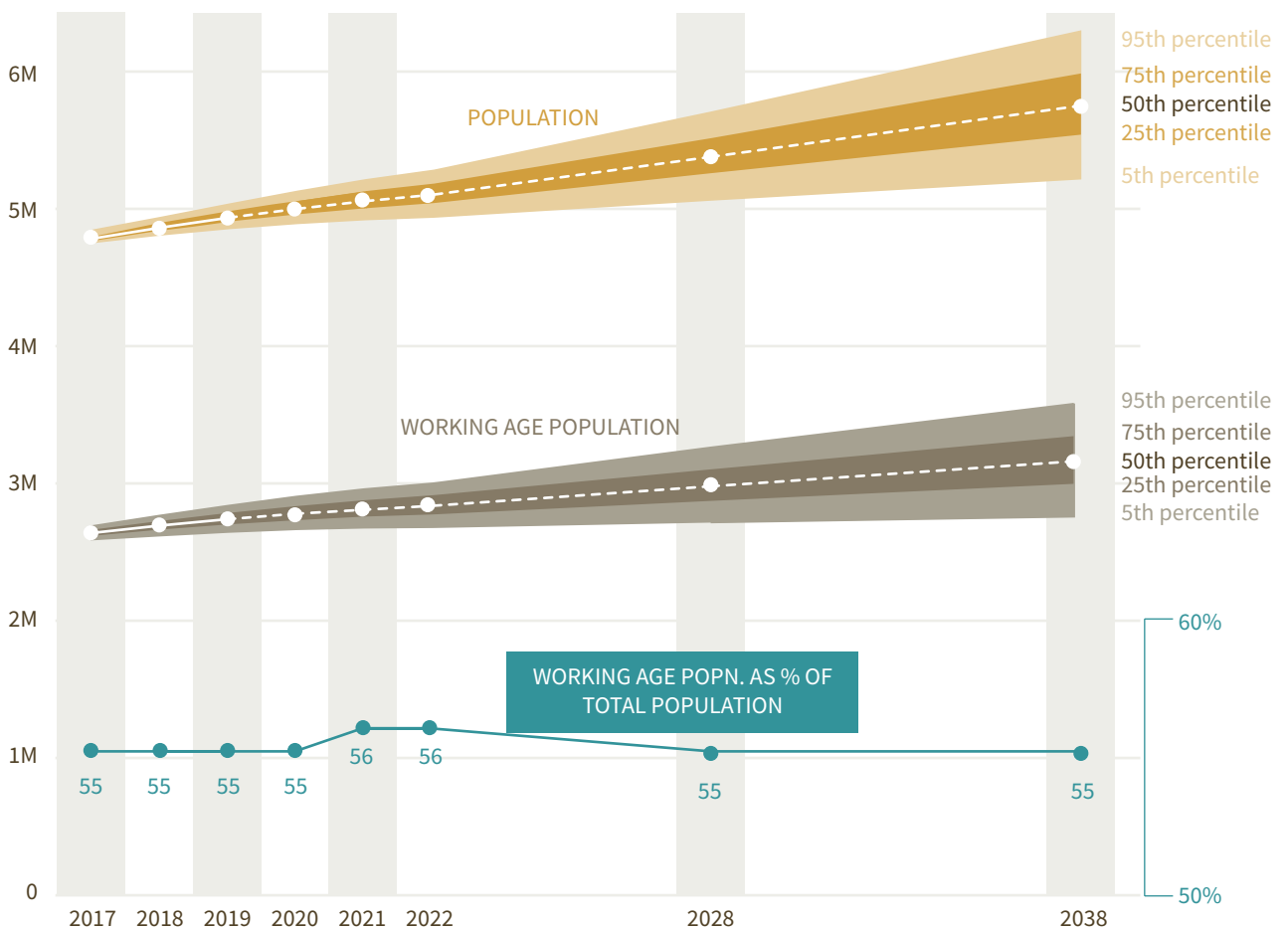
Projected 65+ age-group population growth



7 THE WORKING AGE POPULATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL POPULATION WILL STABILISE IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE AT 55%

With the ageing of the New Zealand population and the total New Zealand population increasing overall, one of the points of interest is the percentage of the population that is made up of people of a working age (i.e. between 15-64). The graph below shows that, while the number of people of working age will grow, as a percentage of the total New Zealand population, it will stabilise at the current percentage of 55%. This is despite the percentage of the population aged 65 years of age and over increasing significantly.

Projected working age population growth

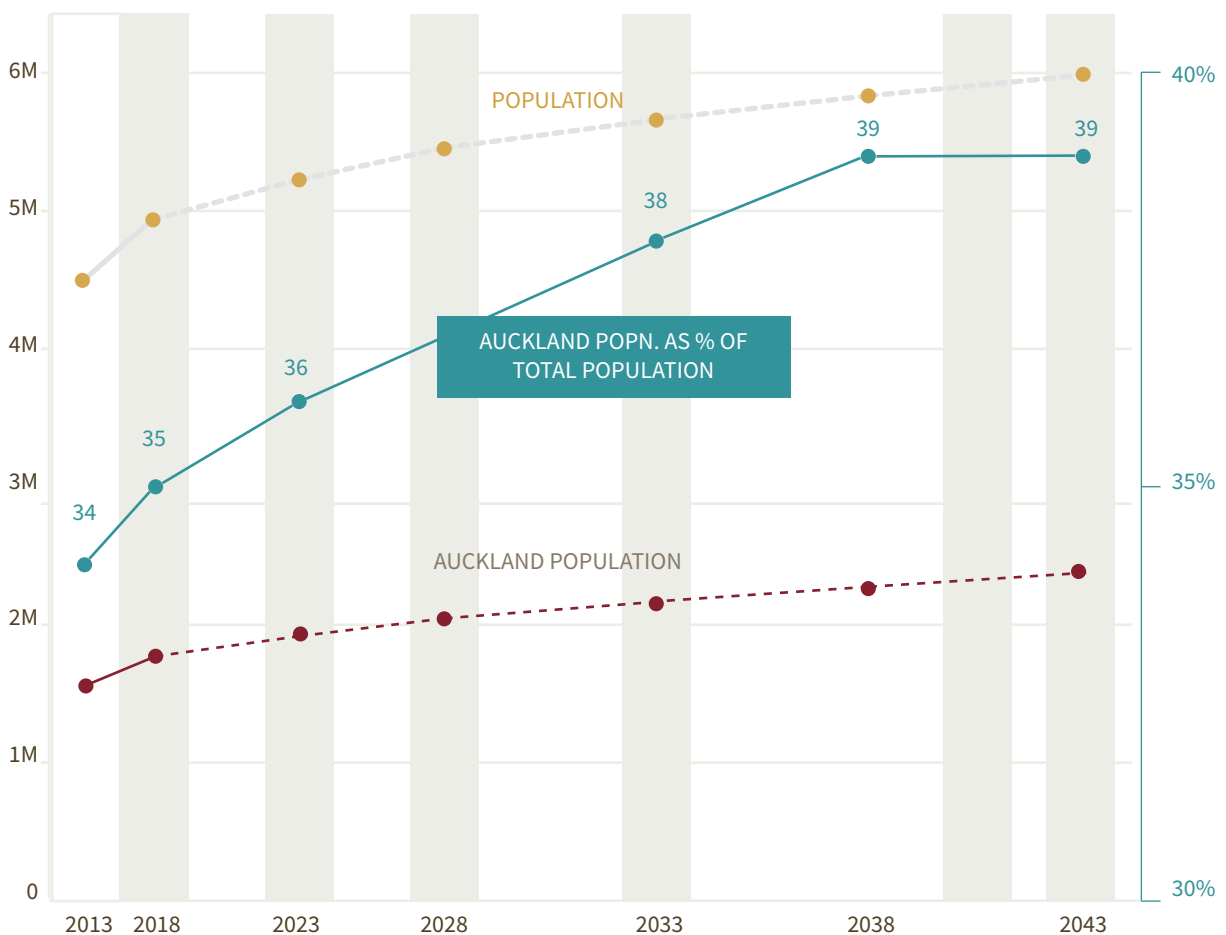


8 THE POPULATION IS SOLIDLY URBAN-BASED, WITH AUCKLAND DOMINANT AND ACCOUNTING FOR ONE-IN-EVERY-THREE NEW ZEALANDERS

Most of the New Zealand population (87%) currently live in urban areas and this has been the case for some time, increasing by about 1% during each of the last three decades.

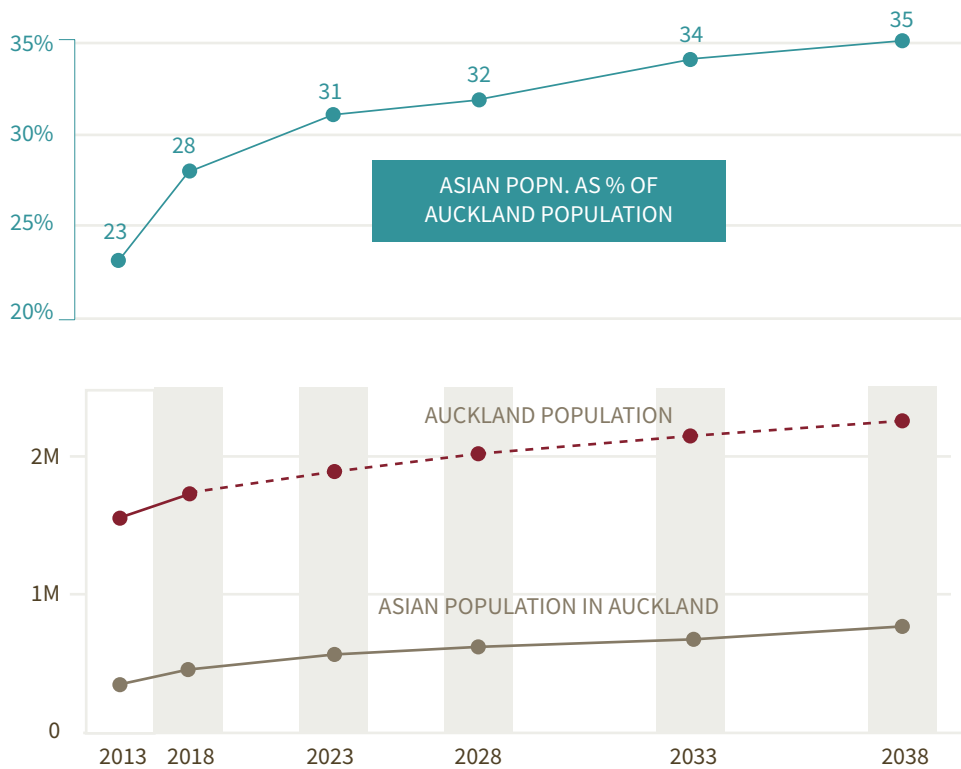
Auckland is by far the dominant New Zealand urban location, with over 1.5 million residents. One-in-every-three New Zealanders lives in Auckland and with most migrants choosing to live in the City of Sails, this is expected to increase to 38% by 2033.

Projected Auckland population growth



Also of importance to note is that 28% of the Auckland population currently comprises people of Asian ethnicity and this is expected to increase to 35% by 2038.

Projected Auckland & Asian ethnicity population growth



Auckland's growth is at the expense of some of the other 10 main urban centres, particularly Wellington. Also, the percentage of the New Zealand population living outside of the 10 main urban centres appears to have stabilised. Currently at 35%, this was also 35% in 2001 and 39% in 1991.

Population growth by main urban centres and rest of New Zealand

