

The social report monitors outcomes for the New Zealand population. This section contains background information on the size and characteristics of the population to provide a context for the indicators that follow.

# People

## Population size and growth

New Zealand's resident population reached 4 million in April 2003 and was estimated to be 4.17 million at the end of December 2006.

During 2006, the population grew by 45,100 or 1.1 percent. This rate of growth was higher than that recorded in 2005 (36,700 or 0.9 percent) and higher than the average annual increase during the 10-year period to December 2006 (40,300 or 1.0 percent).

Under 2004-based medium population projection assumptions, the population is expected to grow by an average of 0.8 percent per year between 2006 and 2011. Natural increase (births minus deaths) will account for four-fifths of this growth, and net migration the remaining fifth. Assuming net migration of 10,000 people per year after that, the growth rate is expected to slow to an average of 0.7 percent per year for the next 15 years. Such a growth rate would add around 603,400 people to the population between 2006 and 2026.<sup>5</sup>

Figure P1 **Estimated and projected resident population, 1991–2026**



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Note: All three projections assume medium mortality. The medium projection series assumes medium fertility and a long-term annual net migration gain of 10,000

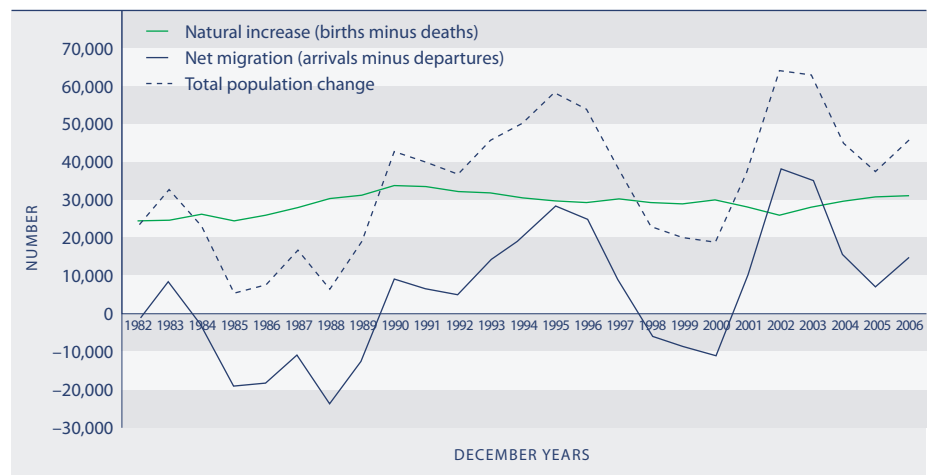
## Components of population change

Changes in national population size are driven by two factors: natural increase (births minus deaths) and net external migration.

Births exceeded deaths by 30,400 in the December 2006 year, an increase from 29,700 in 2005. Historically, natural increase has been the main component of population growth in New Zealand, but its contribution is set to decline gradually as the population ages and fertility remains stable. By 2020, natural increase is projected to be about 20,000 a year.

The number of people coming to live in New Zealand in 2006 exceeded those leaving the country to live elsewhere by 14,600, more than twice the net migration gain of 7,000 in 2005. In the December 2006 year, the net gain from permanent and long-term migration accounted for 32 percent of population growth, up from 19 percent in 2005.

Figure P2 **Components of population change, 1982–2006**



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Note: Before 1991, estimated population change was based on the de facto population concept. From 1991 onwards, population change was based on the resident population concept

Almost 70 percent of New Zealand nationals returning home in 2006 after a long-term absence came from either the United Kingdom or Australia. These two countries were also the most popular destinations for New Zealand citizens departing for a permanent or long-term absence.

The net inflow of non-New Zealand citizens more than doubled between 2000 and 2002 (from 26,600 to 54,900), fell to 32,000 in 2005, then rose to 38,200 in 2006. The main contributing countries in 2006 were the United Kingdom (10,900), the Philippines (2,400), Fiji (2,300), and India (2,100). Most new migrants settle in Auckland.

In the decade to 2006, New Zealand had a net gain of 110,500 migrants. Two age groups contributed most of this gain: adults aged 25–49 years (61 percent) and children aged under 15 years (28 percent).

## People born overseas

Overseas-born people make up an increasing proportion of the New Zealand population. At the time of the 2006 Census there were 879,500 overseas-born people living in New Zealand, making up 23 percent of the country's population compared with 19 percent in 2001 and 17 percent in 1996.

The composition of New Zealand's overseas-born population is also changing, reflecting changes in New Zealand's immigration patterns. The United Kingdom and Ireland – historically the major sources of New Zealand's immigrants – still account for the largest share of New Zealand's overseas-born population, but at 29 percent in 2006 this is considerably lower than the 1996 figure of 38 percent. Over the same period there were also falls in the proportion of overseas-born residents who were born in Australia, the Pacific Islands and the other countries of North-West Europe.

The largest growth was in the North-East Asia category. This was mainly because of an increase in the number of people born in the People's Republic of China from 19,500 to 78,100 between 1996 and 2006. The Southern and Central Asia category also increased markedly, reflecting a more-than-threelfold increase in the Indian-born population from 12,807 to 43,341. The largest proportionate increase was in the sub-Saharan Africa group, largely the result of an almost fourfold increase in the South African born population, from 11,334 to 41,676.

Table P1 **Birthplaces of the overseas-born population, 1996 and 2006**

Birthplace	Census year			
	1996		2006	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Australia	54,711	9.0	62,742	7.1
Pacific Islands	99,258	16.4	135,852	15.4
United Kingdom and Ireland	230,049	38.0	251,688	28.6
North-West Europe	39,168	6.5	44,103	5.0
Southern and Eastern Europe	16,431	2.7	23,964	2.7
North Africa and the Middle East	7,245	1.2	16,533	1.9
South-East Asia	37,332	6.2	58,266	6.6
North-East Asia	61,179	10.1	135,168	15.4
Southern and Central Asia	19,410	3.2	57,699	6.6
The Americas	22,629	3.7	34,383	3.9
Sub-Saharan Africa	17,439	2.9	59,118	6.7
<b>Total with overseas birthplace specified</b>	<b>604,851</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>879,516</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Statistics New Zealand (2007) Table 7

Significant proportions of New Zealand's immigrant population are relatively recent arrivals in the country. In 2006, almost a third (32 percent) of overseas-born residents had lived here less than five years, while a further 17 percent had lived here between five and nine years.

New Zealand's immigrant population is disproportionately concentrated in the Auckland region. In 2006, over half (52 percent) of the overseas-born population lived in Auckland, which was home to 32 percent of the country's total population. People born in Pacific and Asian countries had particularly high concentrations in Auckland (73 percent and 66 percent respectively). Overseas-born people were under-represented in all other regions with the exception of Wellington, which was home to 11 percent of both the overseas-born and the total populations.

## Fertility

Fertility rates for the year 2006 indicate that New Zealand women average 2.05 births per woman. This is marginally higher than the rate of 2.00 births per woman in 2005 and just under the level required by any population to replace itself without migration (2.1 births per woman). Sub-replacement fertility is a feature of most developed countries, including France (1.9 births per woman),

Australia, Denmark, England and Wales, Finland and Norway (1.8), the Netherlands and Sweden (1.7), Canada (1.5) and Japan (1.3), but is less of an issue in the United States (2.1). The comparatively high rate in New Zealand reflects the higher fertility rates of Māori (2.70 births per woman in 2006) and Pacific women (2.94 in 2000–2002, the latest period for which fertility rates for Pacific women are available).

Since 1985, the median age of New Zealand women giving birth has risen from 27 years to 30 years. The median age of Māori women giving birth is younger but is also increasing (from 25 years in 1996 to 26 years in 2006).

New Zealand has a relatively high rate of childbearing at young ages compared with most other developed countries. At 28.7 births per 1,000 females aged 15–19 years in 2006, the New Zealand teenage birth rate is slightly higher than the rate in the United Kingdom (26.3 per 1,000 in 2005) but considerably lower than that of the United States (40.4 per 1,000 in 2005). New Zealand teenage birth rates have risen slightly in recent years but are below the rates of a decade ago. The birth rate for women aged 15–17 years was 18.0 births per 1,000 females in 1996, and 15.9 per 1,000 in 2006. The rate for young Māori is higher but has fallen faster over the same period (from 48.3 to 39.6 births per 1,000 15–17 year old females). The birth rate for Pacific females under 18 years declined from 28.2 to 22.9 per 1,000 between 1995–1997 and 2000–2002.

## Distribution of the population

Over three-quarters (76 percent) of the population live in the North Island, and nearly a third (32 percent) in the Auckland region.

Reflecting the impact of migration, the population growth in the Auckland region accounted for half (50 percent) of the total population growth between the 2001 and 2006 censuses.

The Māori population is heavily concentrated in the North Island (87 percent), but only 24 percent of Māori live in the Auckland region.

The New Zealand population is highly urbanised. At the 2006 Census, 86 percent of the population was living in an urban area. This includes 72 percent living in main urban areas (population of 30,000 or more), 6 percent living in secondary urban areas (10,000–29,999) and 8 percent living in minor urban areas (1,000–9,999).

There are marked ethnic differences in urbanisation, with the vast majority of Pacific peoples, Asian and Other ethnic groups living in main urban areas and very few in rural areas.

Table P2 **Urban and rural residence (%), by ethnic group, 2006**

	European	Māori	Pacific peoples	Asian	Other	Total
Main urban area (30,000+)	69	65	92	94	91	72
Secondary urban area (10,000–29,999)	7	7	3	2	2	6
Minor urban area (1,000–9,999)	9	13	2	2	3	8
Total urban	84	84	97	98	96	86
Rural	16	16	2	2	4	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Statistics New Zealand, 2006 Census, unpublished data  
Note: New Zealander is included in European

## Ethnic composition of the population

The ethnic diversity of the New Zealand population continues to increase.

While the European ethnic group still has the largest share (78 percent) of the total population, the number of people identifying as European increased by only 8 percent in the 15 years between 1991 and 2006. Over the same period, the number who identified as Māori increased by 30 percent, the Pacific peoples ethnic group increased by 59 percent, and the number of Asian people increased by 255 percent. While people of all other ethnicities still make up less than 1 percent of the population, they grew in number faster than any of the major ethnic groups (by 440 percent).

Table P3 **Ethnic distribution of the population, 1991–2006**

<b>Ethnic group<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2001</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>%</b>
European <sup>(2)</sup>	2,783,028	83.2	2,879,085	83.1	2,871,432	80.1	2,997,051	77.6
Māori	434,847	13.0	523,374	15.1	526,281	14.7	565,329	14.6
Pacific peoples	167,070	5.0	202,233	5.8	231,798	6.5	265,974	6.9
Asian	99,759	3.0	173,502	5.0	238,176	6.6	354,549	9.2
Other	6,597	0.2	15,804	0.5	24,885	0.7	36,237	0.9
<b>Total people with ethnicity specified</b>	<b>3,345,741</b>		<b>3,466,515</b>		<b>3,586,641</b>		<b>3,860,163</b>	

Source: Statistics New Zealand (2007j), Table 1; and unpublished 2006 Census data (for European/New Zealander and Other)

Notes: (1) Includes all of the people who stated an ethnic group, whether as their only ethnic group or as one of several ethnic groups. Where a person reported more than one ethnic group, they have been counted in each applicable group. Totals therefore do not add up to 100 percent (2) Before the 2006 Census, people who specified their ethnicity as "New Zealander" were included in the European ethnic group. The 429,429 people who identified as "New Zealander" in 2006 have been included in the European ethnic group to maintain consistency over time (3) Up to three responses were used for 1991 and 1996; up to six for 2001 and 2006. Previous social reports used data based on up to three ethnicity responses for 1991, 1996 and 2001, therefore the 2001 count for ethnic groups in the table above is slightly higher than that published in previous social reports

In 2006, Māori made up 15 percent of the total New Zealand population compared with 13 percent in 1991. At 9 percent, the Asian ethnic group is now the third largest group, ahead of Pacific peoples (7 percent). According to 2001-based medium population projections, by 2021 the Māori share of the population is projected to be 17 percent, the Pacific peoples share 9 percent and the Asian share 15 percent.<sup>6</sup>

Ethnic diversity varies by age: among those aged under 25 years at the 2006 Census, Europeans made up 72 percent, Māori 22 percent, Pacific peoples and Asians each 11 percent, and people of all other ethnicities 1 percent. Among those aged 65 years and over, Europeans made up 91 percent, Māori 5 percent, Asians 3 percent, Pacific peoples 2 percent and people of other ethnicities 0.2 percent.

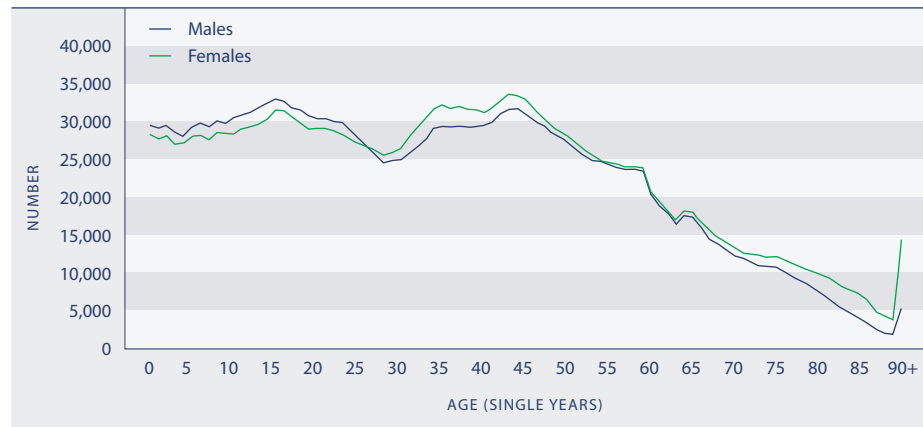
The number of people with multiple ethnic identities is increasing. In 2006, 90 percent of the population identified with only one ethnicity, down from 95 percent in 1991. Younger people are far more likely to identify with more than one ethnicity than older people, with 19.7 percent of children under 15 years reported as belonging to two or more ethnic groups in 2006, compared with 3.5 percent of people aged 65 years and over. Birth registration data for 2005 shows that 22 percent of babies were identified with more than one ethnicity, compared with 11 percent of mothers.<sup>7</sup> Having multiple ethnic identities is most common among Māori: 62 percent of Māori children born in 2005 had more than one ethnicity, compared with 48 percent of Pacific babies and 28 percent each of European and Asian babies.

The figures for the ethnic distribution used in this section are based on the number of people identifying with each ethnicity. Because people can identify with more than one ethnicity, the total number of ethnic responses may be greater than the number of people. Elsewhere in the report, the approach to measuring ethnicity varies with the data source used.

## Age and sex structure of the population

Just over half the New Zealand population (51 percent) is female. Males outnumber females among children and youth, but females predominate among adults. More males are born than females, but males have higher mortality rates than females at all ages, particularly at ages 20–29 years. The imbalance in the middle years is partly an outcome of sex differences in net migration. At older ages, the difference reflects higher male mortality rates.

Figure P3 **Population, by age and sex, 2006**



Source: Statistics New Zealand

The New Zealand population is ageing: the median age of the population was 36 years in 2006, and is expected to rise to 39 years by 2016, then rise more slowly to reach 41 years in 2026.<sup>8</sup>

The proportion of the population under 15 years of age has declined from 25 percent in 1985 to 22 percent in 2006. The population aged 65 years and over has increased from 10 percent of the total population in 1985 to 12 percent in 2006.

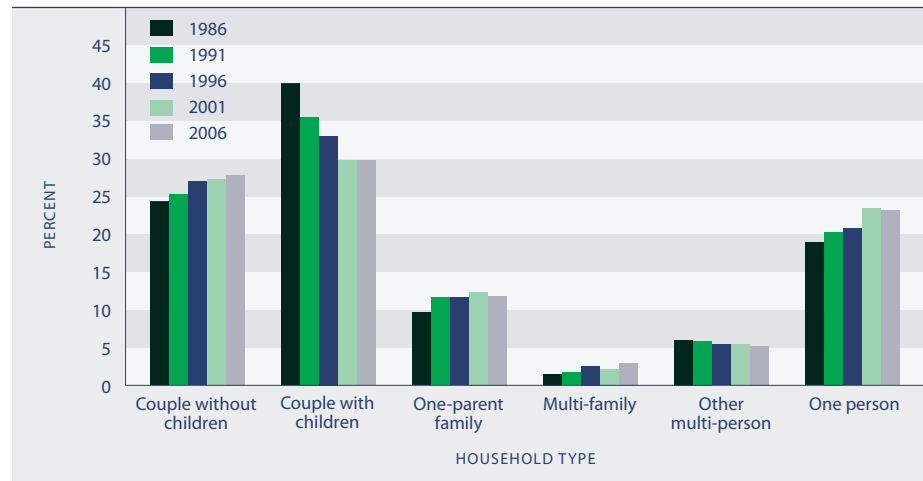
Age structure varies by ethnic group. In 2006, the European ethnic group population was the oldest, with a median age of 38 years, followed by Asians (28 years), Other ethnic group (26 years), Māori (23 years) and Pacific peoples (21 years). By 2021, half of all Māori will be older than 26 years and half of all Pacific peoples will be older than 24 years. Over the same period, the median age of European and Asian New Zealanders is expected to have risen to 44 years and 36 years, respectively.<sup>9</sup>

## Households

A household may contain a single person living alone, or two or more people who usually live together and share facilities, either as families (couples, parents with children) or as groups of individuals flatting together. There were 1.45 million households in New Zealand at the 2006 Census, an increase of 8 percent over the number recorded in 2001 and 34 percent higher than the number in 1986.

Twenty-eight percent of households contained couples without children in 2006, 30 percent contained two-parent families with children, 12 percent were one-parent family households, 3 percent contained more than one family, 5 percent comprised a group of individuals and 23 percent were one-person households.

Figure P4 **Distribution of households, by household type, 1986–2006**



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Couple-only and one-person households are the fastest growing household types and are projected to increase the most over the next 15 years. Population ageing is the major factor behind both of these changes. But declining fertility and the closing gap between male and female life expectancy are also contributing to the rising number of couples without children. Delayed marriage, divorce and changing lifestyle preferences are other factors contributing to the growing number of one-person households.

## Housing tenure

Most New Zealand householders own their own home but they are less likely to do so than in the past. Between 1991 and 2001, the proportion of New Zealand households owning their dwellings either with or without a mortgage or in a family trust fell from 74 percent to 68 percent. Since 2001 the decline has been less marked, with a fall from 68 percent to 67 percent in 2006.<sup>10</sup> Between 2001 and 2006, there was a decline in home ownership among all age groups from 25–74 years but it was most marked among those aged between 35–54 years. The proportion of 35–44 year olds who owned or partly owned their own dwellings fell from 65 percent to 61 percent over the five years, while among 45–54 year olds the figure fell from 76 percent to 72 percent. The only age group to experience a significant increase in home ownership was the 75 years and over age group.

## Families with children

In 2006, there were 641,500 families with children living within New Zealand households. Of these families, 515,800 (80 percent) had dependent children (aged under 18 years and not in full-time employment).<sup>11</sup>

The number of families with dependent children increased by 8 percent in the five years to 2006, the largest increase since the census count of families began in 1976. The number of two-parent families with dependent children grew faster



than the number of one-parent families (9 percent, compared with 3 percent). As a result, the proportion of families with dependent children headed by one parent fell slightly, from 29 percent in 2001 to 28 percent in 2006. For many of these families there will be parents living in another household who are actively involved in the care and upbringing of the children.

Table P4 **Families with dependent children, by family type, 1976–2006**

	1976	1981	1986	1991	1996	2001	2006
	<b>Number</b>						
Two-parent family	398,772	380,886	363,489	339,681	346,086	339,159	370,809
One-parent family	46,296	62,280	82,632	110,055	126,585	140,178	145,032
<i>Mother only</i>	39,153	52,938	71,388	92,028	107,394	117,018	120,996
<i>Father only</i>	7,143	9,342	11,244	18,024	19,191	23,163	24,036
<b>Total families</b>	<b>445,068</b>	<b>443,166</b>	<b>446,121</b>	<b>449,736</b>	<b>472,671</b>	<b>479,337</b>	<b>515,841</b>
	<b>Percentage distribution</b>						
Two-parent family	89.6	85.9	81.5	75.5	73.2	70.8	71.9
One-parent family	10.4	14.1	18.5	24.5	26.8	29.2	28.1
<i>Mother only</i>	8.8	11.9	16.0	20.5	22.7	24.4	23.5
<i>Father only</i>	1.6	2.1	2.5	4.0	4.1	4.8	4.7
<b>Total families</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Statistics New Zealand, published and unpublished census data

Note: The census definition of child dependency has changed over time. From 1996, a dependent child is a person in a family aged less than 18 years who is not in full-time employment. For earlier years, a dependent child is a person in a family under 16 years or aged 16–18 years and still at school

New Zealand has a relatively high proportion of families with children under 18 years headed by sole parents (28 percent), second only to the United States (33 percent in 2006) and higher than the United Kingdom (25 percent in 2004), Australia (21 percent in 2005) and Canada (21 percent in 2001).

## Official languages

New Zealand has three official languages: English, Māori (from 1987) and New Zealand Sign Language (from April 2006). The 2006 Census recorded that 96 percent of people could speak English, 4 percent of people could speak Māori, and 0.6 percent could converse in New Zealand Sign Language.<sup>12</sup>

In 2006, eight out of 10 people (79 percent) spoke English as their only language while a further 17 percent spoke English along with at least one other language. Of the 4 percent of New Zealanders who could not speak English, almost half (49 percent) were children under the age of five, most of whom would still be learning to speak. There were also relatively high proportions of non-English speakers in some ethnic groups: 16 percent of people belonging to the Asian ethnic group could not speak English, along with 14 percent of people of Middle-Eastern, Latin American or African ethnicity and 10 percent of Pacific peoples.

The number of people able to converse in New Zealand Sign Language was 24,090 in 2006, a decline from 27,285 in 2001. This fall of 12 percent followed an increase of 3 percent between the 1996 and 2001 censuses. In 2006, 9 percent or 2,223 of those people who were able to converse in New Zealand Sign Language indicated it was their only language. A further 89 percent were also able to converse in English, 26 percent in Māori and 25 percent in other languages (either alone or in combination).



## New Zealanders experiencing disability

One in five New Zealanders experiences disability.<sup>13</sup> The New Zealand Disability Survey 2001 found that 743,800 New Zealanders had some level of disability. This included an estimated 107,200 Māori and 28,100 Pacific peoples with a disability.

Just over half of New Zealanders with disabilities require disability support services. In 2001, an estimated 432,100 people required some form of disability support. Of these, about 110,700 people received or needed daily help with tasks such as preparing meals, shopping, housework, bathing or dressing (including 22,600 people who lived in residential facilities). A further 321,400 people used or needed an assistive device or equipment and/or help with heavier or more difficult household tasks (including 4,400 people who lived in residential facilities).<sup>14</sup>

Disability increases with age. The prevalence of disability ranges from 11 percent of children (0–14 years) to 54 percent of people aged 65 years and over.

Table P5 **Number and prevalence (%) of people experiencing disabilities (total population residing in households and residential facilities), by age group and sex, 2001**

Age group (years)	Males		Females		Total	
	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)	Number	Rate (%)
0–14	54,200	13	35,700	9	90,000	11
15–44	88,600	12	114,000	14	202,600	13
45–64	115,800	27	94,800	23	210,600	25
65+	100,300	51	140,300	56	240,600	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>358,900</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>384,900</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>743,800</b>	<b>20</b>

Source: Statistics New Zealand (2001a) Tables 1.01a, 1.02a

Many New Zealanders experiencing disability face barriers to full participation in society. The New Zealand Disability Survey 2001 found that 39 percent of disabled adults aged 15 years and over living in households had no educational qualification, compared to 24 percent of non-disabled adults. More than half (56 percent) of adults aged 15 years and over with disabilities had a gross personal income of less than \$15,000, compared to 40 percent of non-disabled adults. Fifty-seven percent of 15–64 year olds with a disability were employed, compared with 71 percent of non-disabled 15–64 year olds.<sup>15</sup>

## Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people

There is little information available about gay, lesbian, bisexual, fa'afafine, takatāpui, intersex, transgender and transsexual people in New Zealand, or the size of this group of people in relation to the total population.

Some information about same-sex couples who share a residence has been collected in censuses since 1996. The 2006 Census recorded just over 12,300 adults living with a partner of the same sex, making up 0.7 percent of all adults living in couples. This is an increase from the 10,000 recorded in the 2001 Census when they made up 0.6 percent of all couples and the 6,500 recorded in the 1996 Census when they made up 0.4 percent of all couples. However, it is difficult to know whether the change in numbers represents a real increase in the number of same-sex couples living together, or a greater willingness on their part to report living arrangements and partnership status. According to Statistics New Zealand, it is likely that the figures understate the actual number of same-sex couples because of the inconsistent way people responded to the census question.