

MISSIONARY ATLAS PROJECT

ASIA

New Zealand

Snapshots of New Zealand

Country name: New Zealand

Country Founded: September 26, 1907 from the UK.

Population: 4,076,140

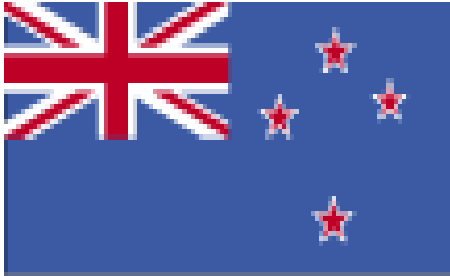
Government type: Parliamentary democracy (British Colony).

Geography/location in the world: Oceania, islands in the South Pacific Ocean, southeast of Australia.



Number of people groups: 60

Picture of flag:



Religion Snapshot

Major Religion and % of population:

Christianity 53.5%

All religions and % for each:

Non religious 26%

Unspecified 17.2%

Other 3.3%

Government interaction with religion: This government is tolerant of all religions.

Mission Atlas Project

New Zealand Profile

Country name: New Zealand

Demographics:

As of July 2006, the population of New Zealand is 4,076,140.

The population growth rate is .99%. The birth rate is 13.76 births/1,000 population. The death rate is 7.53 deaths/1,000 population. The net migration rate is 3.63 migrants/ 1,000 population. The infant mortality rate is 5.76 deaths/1,000 live births. Life expectancy for men is 75.82 years and 81.93 years for women. The total fertility rate is 1.79 children born/woman.

As of 2003, an estimated 1,400 people were living with AIDS (.1% of the population). The unemployment rate for New Zealand is 3.7%.

New Zealand has a low population density, with an average of 39 persons per square mile.

Approximately three-quarters of the population live on the smaller north island because the largest cities and industries are located there. About 86% of the people live in urban areas. The major cities in New Zealand are Auckland, Wellington, Hamilton, Christchurch, and Dunedin.

www.encarta.msn.com

www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/nz.html

Language:

The official languages of New Zealand are English and Maori, with the majority of the population speaking English. The Maori language belongs to the Austronesian language family.

Society/Culture:

About 60 people groups make up New Zealand. The Maori were New Zealand's first inhabitants and remain the island's most significant minority group (close to 10%).

Those New Zealanders who are of European descent make up the majority of the population (about 70%).

The primary people divisions (as of 2001 census) are:

European (69.8%)

Maori (7.9%)

Mixed (7.8%)

Asian (5.7%)

Pacific Islander (4.4%)

Unspecified (3.8%)

Other (.5%)

New Zealand has a rich cultural heritage given by both its Maori and European traditions. The Maori have a rich tradition of song, dance, oratory, woodcarving, weaving, and architecture. The Maori have an oral tradition that includes history, tales, poems, and legends which have been preserved for through many generations. The Maori have made an effort to preserve their culture. In the 1980's the Maori began a revival of their language and culture because of so many young Maori who did not know the language.

The "Pakeha" (European descent New Zealanders) continue many European traditions. At one time it was thought that London was the cultural capital of New Zealand. However, the people of New Zealand have slowly tried to break away from that mold.

Many notable writers and artists get their influence from the New Zealand experience. Katherine Mansfield (one of the 20th century's greatest short-story writers) founded the modern literary canon of New Zealand. Other famous authors in New Zealand include Frances Hodgkins, Colin McCahon, Sir Toss Woollaston, Frank Sargeson, Janet Frame, and Sylvia

Ashton-Warner. James K. Baxter is known for being New Zealand's preeminent poet. Kiri Te Kanawa is New Zealand's internationally acclaimed opera singer. Francis Hodgkins, a painter, was New Zealand's most famous artist in the twentieth century. Film-maker Peter Jackson has helped create New Zealand's most popular contemporary films. The Lord of the Rings trilogy is Jackson's most famous work. The films were extremely popular in the box office and The Return of the King won eleven Oscar awards.

New Zealanders call themselves "Kiwis," a name taken from the kiwi bird, a rare flightless bird from New Zealand. New Zealanders also refer to themselves as "En Zedders," a name based on the abbreviation "NZ." The Maori refer to the New Zealanders of European descent as "pakeha." A common greeting used by New Zealanders is "good day", which is pronounced like "geday" (just like the Crocodile Hunter pronounces it). New Zealanders informally call one another, "mate." The Maori traditional greeting is called the hongi, where two people touch their faces so that their noses are pressed together. It is thought that when this happens, the two people's spirits mingle.

Most New Zealanders enjoy a high standard of living. Most people live in single houses with plots of land and either flower or vegetable gardens that the New Zealanders enjoy looking after. Most families own their own houses. Most of the houses will include three to four bedrooms and a garage. High-rise apartment complexes can be found in the downtown areas of major cities. New Zealand families include an average of two to three children. The Maori families tend to be larger than the white families and Maori households often include the nuclear family plus grandparents, uncles, and aunts. The majority of the housing in New Zealand has been built since 1957. According to the CIA World Factbook, about 80% of the population lives in cities.

Because of New Zealand's mountainous terrain, the development of a railroad system has proved to be difficult. However, there is a government operated railroad system that links some of New Zealand's major cities. Therefore, the primary form of transportation in New Zealand is the car. There is on average, one car for every two people in New Zealand. Teenagers are able to get their driver's license at the age of 15. People travel between the North and South Islands on ferries that are able to carry their cars across the water.

New Zealanders celebrate Christmas (December 25) and Easter holidays. They also celebrate New Year's Day, Labor Day (fourth Monday in October), the official birthday of Queen Elisabeth (first Monday of June), Boxing Day (December 26), Anzac Day (April 25- honors New Zealanders and Australians who died in both world wars), and Waitangi Day (February 6- remembering the signing of the Treat of Waitangi between the Maori and Great Britain in 1840).

New Zealanders wear Western-style clothing, and they like to dress casually. Many men with white-collar jobs wear shorts and knee-high socks to work along with their white shirts and ties. Most of the Maori wear Western-style clothing, but they will wear traditional-style costumes for special occasions. Women may wear long white capes over their dresses. These white capes are decorated with black fringes.

New Zealanders eat on average, three main meals a day. Breakfast often consists of eggs, sausage, and bacon; lunch consists of a sandwich, hamburger, or meat pie; dinner consists of a

type of meat dish, often lamb. The most popular dinner entrée is roast lamb in mint sauce. This is traditionally served with roasted potatoes, roast kumara (New Zealand's sweet potato), and roast pumpkin. A popular traditional soup made from the toheroa (a rare clam found on the country's beaches) is considered a real delicacy. Desserts such as tarts and other pastries topped with fruit are popular. Ice cream topped with fruit pieces is very popular as well. A New Zealand favorite is the pavlova, which is a meringue covered with fruit and whipped cream. The New Zealanders snack around mid-morning (between 10 or 11am), as well as at bedtime (called supper). Afternoon tea is quite popular, and it often includes scones, cakes, and other pastries served with the tea (especially if they are entertaining guests). A famous Maori method of cooking is called the hangi. The hangi is a covered pit filled with fire- heated stones which meat and vegetables are left to steam for hours.

Rugby Union football is the favorite national sport. The national team is called the "All Blacks." They play teams from Australia, France, Britain, and other countries. New Zealanders enjoy playing rugby, soccer, hockey, cricket, softball, netball (a form of basketball), water sports (surfing, sailing, canoeing, kayaking, and rafting), skiing, and they compete in track and field. Women participate in all sports except professional rugby.

www.encyarta.msn.com

Timothy L. Gall, ed. *Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life*. Vol. 3. Detroit, Michigan: Gale Research, 1998.

Government:

New Zealand is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary form of government modeled after the UK. Like the UK, New Zealand does not have a written constitution. The constitutional legislation is a combination of statutory and customary laws. The laws are placed together through precedent, tradition, and unwritten formal rules known as conventions. The Constitution Act of 1986 consolidated these laws.

Executive- Even though New Zealand is an independent member of the Commonwealth of Nations, the country still recognizes the British monarch as its sovereign or formal head of state. The governor-general of New Zealand represents the monarch. The monarch appoints the governor-general to a five-year term. The governor-general appoints the leader of the majority party in the legislature as the prime minister. The prime minister forms a cabinet of ministers and the governor-general appoints these ministers. The cabinet is responsible for the day-to-day administration of the government. The ministers of the cabinet are responsible for specific areas of policy. The governor-general gives the okay for parliamentary bills to become law.

Legislature- The parliament is composed of one chamber, the House of Representatives. The House of Representatives is made of 120 members. Half of the members are elected from voting districts (including six Maori representatives) and the other half are elected from party lists based on a party's share of the vote in national elections. The parliament has power to make laws. Legislative elections are held at least every three years.

Judiciary- Judges are appointed by the governor-general. This tradition was designed in order to supersede politics. The New Zealand judicial system includes district courts, a High court, a Court of Appeal, and a Supreme Court.

Political Parties- The National Party and the Labour Party are the two largest political parties in New Zealand. These two parties have largely dominated the politics of the country, fighting for control. Smaller parties are often asked to team up with one of the two largest parties. Some other important political parties are New Zealand First, ACT New Zealand, United Future, and the Green Party.

www.encyarta.msn.com

Timothy L. Gall, ed. Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations. "Asia & Oceania." Vol. 4. Farmington Hills, Michigan: Gale Group, 2001.

Economy:

New Zealand's GDP (purchasing power parity) in 2006 was 106 billion. The GDP (official exchange rate) in 2006 was 98.77 billion. The GDP per capita was \$26,000. The GDP composition by sector is:

Agriculture:	4.3%
Industry:	26.9.3%
Services:	68.8% (2005 est.)

Concerning the budget, New Zealand's revenues are: \$41.51 billion. Expenditures: \$36.99 billion; including capital expenditures of \$NA (2006 est.). Public debt: 19.9% of GDP (2006 est.). National external debt: \$47 billion (2006 est.).

The currency is the New Zealand dollar (NZD). The exchange rate is: New Zealand dollars per US dollar- \$1.55677 (2006).

Exports: \$23.69 billion (2006 est.)

New Zealand's export partners are:

Australia:	21.4%
United States:	14.1%
Japan:	10.6%
China:	5.1%
U.K.	4.7% (2005)

Imports: \$25.23 billion (2006 est.)

New Zealand's import partners are:

Australia:	20.9%
United States:	11%
Japan:	11%
China:	10.9%
Germany:	4.9% (2005 est.)

The Labor force is estimated at 2.18 million (2006 est.). The Labor force- by occupation is:

Agriculture: 10%

Industry: 25%

Services: 65% (1995 est.)

The unemployment rate is 8.3% (2006 est.). The population below the poverty line is not available.

In the last twenty years, New Zealand has moved from an agricultural economy to a more industrialized free market economy that can compete globally.

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishing- Most of the agricultural land is pastoral, and well suited for the raising of livestock. As of 1999, there were about forty million sheep that were being raised for their meat and wool. New Zealand has about nine million beef and dairy cows, as well as deer, goats, and pigs.

New Zealand's principal crops are barley, wheat, maize, and oats. The country produces many fruits and vegetables including grapes, apples, pears, kiwi fruit, potatoes, and peas. The horticultural production of wine, kiwi fruit, and squash has recently grown considerably. New Zealand's timber production comes from the 4.2 million acres of plantation forests. The Radiata pine is the most widely planted tree in New Zealand because of its rapid and straight growth. The pines are clear-cut and then replanted. The growth cycle lasts some 25 to 30 years. The timber is used to make sawn logs, wood pulp, paper, and building materials such as fiberboard.

Fish and other seafood are caught in New Zealand's economic zone. This zone is 200 nautical miles seaward from the main and offshore islands. When deep-sea fishing, fishermen must use large trawlers to catch valuable fish such as hoki, orange roughy, ling, squid, and hake.

Mining and Manufacturing- Gold is the most notable mineral that is mined. The majority of the gold is mined from the Macraes in the Otago region (southern South Island) and the Martha mine (northern North Island). Iron sand, limestone, and coal are also important minerals that New Zealand mines regularly. New Zealand produced 5.7 million short tons of coal in 2003. Approximately one-third of New Zealand's coal production is exported to Chile and Japan.

About one-fourth of industrial employment comes from the food, beverage, and tobacco business. Most food processing industries are located in urban areas and the meat-processing and dairy factories are located in the agricultural/rural areas of New Zealand. Winemaking is a growing business. The main production centers of wine are located in Marlborough, Hawkes Bay, and Gisborne.

Important industries to New Zealand's economy are producing machinery and equipment, metal products, processed timber, pulp and paper, textiles, clothing, footwear, and leather. Wool is used for clothing and for manufacturing carpet. Some wool is also exported in bulk for external processing into finished goods.

In 1995, New Zealand won the America's Cup, the international-yachting race trophy. Since then, the boatbuilding business has expanded.

Services- The Services part of the economy includes tourism, transportation, retail sales, hospitality, education, health, business consultancy, and banking. Tourism is one of the most important businesses, and is the country's highest earner of foreign exchange. Approximately 10% of New Zealand's jobs are in the tourism industry.

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www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook

Literacy:

Approximately 99% of males and females, 15 years of age and older, can read and write (2003 est.).

www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook

Land/Geography:

The country of New Zealand is a part of the Pacific/Oceania islands of the Pacific Ocean. New Zealand's South and North Islands are the 2nd and 3rd largest among the Pacific/Oceania islands. The total land area of New Zealand is 267,990 square kilometers. This includes the north and south islands, as well as some uninhabited and inhabited islands. The inhabited islands are the Antipodes Islands, Auckland Islands, Bounty Islands, Campbell Islands, Chatham Islands, and Kermadec Islands.

Mount Cook, located on the South Island, is the highest mountain in New Zealand. The mountain reaches the height of 12,316 feet. The Tasman Glacier is part of Mount Cook, and is the largest of approximately 360 glaciers. New Zealand has another 18 mountains that are higher than 10,000 feet. The South Island is covered with the Southern Alps, stretching some 300 miles across the island. The eastern side of the Southern Alps descends into rolling hills and fertile plains. The western side of the Alps has a narrow strip of coastline between the mountains and the coast. South of the Southern Alps are the hills and plains of the Otago Plateau. These hills and plains are bordered on the west by the wilderness of Fiordland National Park. In the north, the Alps break into several other mountain ranges such as the Richmond Range, which covers the northeastern region of the island.

On the North Island, mountains rarely exceed 3,000 feet, except for several volcanic peaks. Mount Ruapehu is the highest volcanic mountain on the North Island at 9,177 feet. This volcano erupted in 1995 and 1996, leaving large clouds of ash and lahars (concrete-like mixtures of volcanic ash and mud) that slid down its slopes. Most of the volcanoes are considered active, even though many have not erupted in the last two centuries.

New Zealand resides in the Ring of Fire, a region of the Pacific Ocean where the movement of tectonic plates creates volcanic and seismic activity. The North Island has a long history of volcanic activity. Some scientists suggest that there have been a number of huge eruptions over

the last 30,000 years. Earthquakes frequently occur in New Zealand, but they are minor for the most part.

The largest lake in New Zealand is Lake Taupo. It covers 234 square miles in the crater of an extinct volcano. Lake Taupo reaches the depths of 531 feet. The lake outlets into the Waikato River. This river, the longest in New Zealand, has a length of 264 miles and flows northwest into the Tasman Sea. Most of the rivers in the South Island were created from the glacial lakes of the Southern Alps. These rivers flow southeastward, emptying into the Pacific Ocean.

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History

Early Maori Life

The ancestors of the Maori were the first people to settle in New Zealand. The Maori called the island Aotearoa, "Land of the Long White Cloud." They did not have written records, so the date when they arrived is unknown. However, the Maori have oral traditions that say the people migrated from other Pacific Islands centuries before the Europeans came.

The main Maori migration is thought to have taken place between AD 900 and 1350. The Maori oral tradition says that the explorer Kupe found the islands. The Maori settlers came to the island by canoe. The Maori fished, hunted fur seals and moa birds (wingless), gathered wild flowers, and cultivated Kumara (sweet potato) and hue (gourd) crops that they brought from central Polynesia.

Maori groups built wooden forts, called pa, all over the Islands. The population was estimated at 85,000 in 1769, when European contact had been made. The Maori traveled widely reciprocating the exchange of goods. Mythology, religion, and rituals played a big part in the Maori culture. The Maori also enjoyed singing, dancing, oratory, weaving, and woodcarving.

Ritual cannibalism was practiced on the bodies of enemies. Prisoners of war were made into slaves or wives. The Maori society was somewhat of an egalitarian society. Men and women both had formal roles in social rituals. There were men and woman of high and low status.

European Contact

The first introduction of the Europeans with the Maori occurred in 1642, when Abel Tasman, a navigator of the Dutch East India Company, sailed around the west coast of the South Island. Apparently the Maori killed four of Tasman's men. That was the first and last visit by Europeans until British explorer Captain James Cook and his crew arrived in 1769. Sealing expeditions were going on in the 1790's and oceangoing whalers began making visits around 1800. Shore whaling, trading, and lumbering became popular in the 1820's. Before the late 1830's, there were about 1,000 permanent settlers and many more temporary settlers.

Living among the Europeans changed the way of life for the Maori. The Europeans brought with them new plants and animals (potatoes and pigs), and metal tools. These things made life better. However, the Europeans also brought their guns and their diseases. Their guns brought on the Musket Wars (1818-35), which left thousands dead. The Europeans influenza and measles diseases brought a great loss of life to the Maori. By the 1850's the Maori population had dropped from 85,000 in 1769 to 60,000.

British Rule

The Maori chieftains made an agreement with Britain in 1840 called the Treaty of Waitangi. The chieftains ceded sovereignty to Queen Victoria, but they kept their territorial rights. May 21, 1840, New Zealand's North Island was declared a British colony. In June, British officials annexed the South Island and declared it part of the country.

Misunderstandings between Britain and the Maori led to several conflicts. The Maori tribes united and created a Maori pan-tribal organization called the Maori King Movement in 1858. The Maori proclaimed their first king Te Wherowhero, reigning as Potatau I.

Further misunderstandings and tensions led to the New Zealand Wars, which broke out in 1860. The war lasted until 1872. The Maori won many battles using trench-warfare techniques, but the numbers and resources of Britain proved too much for the Maori. Some Maori resistance continued until the last armed conflict in 1916.

European Settlement and Government Until 1890

The New Zealand Company was a major organizer of colonization in Europe and founded the cities of Wellington, Nelson, Wanganui, and New Plymouth by 1842. Companies associated with the New Zealand Company founded the cities of Dunedin in 1848 and Christchurch in 1850. Provincial governments formed in the early 1850's and took over the organization and control of European settlement. In 1854, a national parliament met for the first time.

A premier became the leader of the parliament and took over many of the tasks of governor. The Maori leaders were ignored as the central government gained more and more control at the local level. Julius Vogel, a colonial treasurer, influenced parliament to organize and subsidize immigration. The European population grew from 1,000 people in the 1830's to 60,000 people in 1858.

Over 100,000 Europeans immigrated in the 1870's. By the early 1880's, European immigrants numbered some 500,000. With the 1861 discovery of gold in the Otago region of the South Island, many gold miners came to New Zealand from Australia, the United States, and Europe. During this time, European settlement was in camps and towns. Life was difficult and crime was high.

New Zealand's politics from the 1850's to the 1880's were controlled by a small ruling class of men who became rich through business and sheep farming. The middle and working classes demanded equality. This led to the right to vote. All men were given the right to vote in 1881,

and all women were given the right to vote in 1893. In 1890, the ruling class lost its power to the Liberal party, a political party formed of middle and working class politicians.

Liberal Government and World War I

Three politicians led the reformist Liberal government from 1891-1912; John Balance (1891-1893); Richard Seddon (1893-1906); and Joseph Ward (1906-1912). Seddon led 6,600 New Zealand troops to fight alongside the British in the Boer War (1899-1902). This kept New Zealand from becoming part of the Commonwealth of Australia that was formed in 2001. The Liberal policies established a social welfare system, as well as labor, land, and industry reforms. The Industrial Conciliation and Arbitration Act of 1894 were formed to institutionalize labor unions and reduce strikes. The state bought and subdivided gentry and Maori land for small farmers to use. The state gave credit at a low rate to farmers for farms and workers for houses. The government expanded the railways throughout New Zealand, assisted and regulated new industries.

In the mid-1880's New Zealand switched from net importer to net exporter of goods and capital. Protein industries exported refrigerated meat, cheese, and butter to the British market and throughout the world. During this switch to net exporter, the wool exports continued, but public works, organized immigration, and extractive industries fell into a decline. These industries were eventually replaced by the protein industries. The government tightly regulated the products, which helped maintaining their quality.

New Zealand changed from a colony to a dominion in 1907. Premiers began taking the title of prime minister ever since. The Reform party took over power from the Liberal party in 1912. William Massey was head of the Reform party and served as New Zealand's prime minister from 1912-1925. Another political party, The Labour Party, was created in 1916.

New Zealand participated in World War I by supplying 100,000 troops to the Allied forces. At the time, New Zealand's population was a little more than 1 million. Unfortunately, 60,000 of New Zealand's 100,000 troops were killed. Politicians and historians claimed that New Zealand earned full nationhood through their contribution and their loss.

The Great Depression and Reform

The protein industries expanded in most of the 1920's, but the country was not able to avoid the global economic collapse of the Great Depression. The reform government was replaced in 1928 and rightist and centrist parties led until 1935 when the first Labor government was elected.

The Labor government was in power from 1935-1949 and was led by Michael Savage (1935-1939) and Peter Fraser (1940-1949). This government developed a comprehensive social security system of welfare benefits and healthcare. The government also expanded the free education system.

The Labor government disagreed with Britain's policies concerning Italy's invasion of Ethiopia in 1935 and the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). However, during World War II, New Zealand

supported Britain by supplying 200,000 soldiers. New Zealand also assisted the United States in its Pacific campaign, with an increase in its food and factory production. In 1951, the mutual-defense alliance between Australia, New Zealand, and the United States (ANZUS) was formed. This led to better policy coordination between the three countries. The United States eventually replaced Britain as New Zealand's primary partner in international relations.

National Party Dominance

The National Party defeated the Labour Party in the 1949 elections. Sidney Holland led in the defeat of the Labour Party, and he became prime minister. Between the election of 1949 and the early 1980's, the political power switched back and forth between these two parties, but the National Party held the power for longer periods.

In addition, dramatic social changes occurred between the 1950's and the early 1980's. There was a massive Maori urban migration. Many Maori were involved in political protests and radical activism concerning their own peoples concerns. The Maori population grew from 45,000 in 1896 to 523,000 in 1996. Other social changes included a movement of women into the work force, new waves of immigration, and 1960's nonconformist youth.

Third Power of Reform

The Labor Party and David Lange defeated Robert Muldoon and the National Party in 1984. Lange initiated a third reform in New Zealand. The Labor Party set out to deregulate the economy and society and take the state out of both. This government genuinely attempted to address Maori grievances. Several major settlements were made between the government and the Maori. The Labor government also adopted an antinuclear policy. This was directed against French nuclear testing in the Pacific and the U.S. Navy docking its nuclear-armed ships on New Zealand harbors. This led to the suspension of the ANZUS treaty. In June 1987, New Zealand's ban on nuclear-carrying ships in its territorial waters became law. The government passed the New Zealand Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament, and Arms Control Bill.

The Labor government won reelection in 1987. After Lange's illness and the declining popularity of the government, the Labor government was taken over by the National Party, led by James Brendan Bolger.

Recent Developments

The National Party barely beat out the Labour Party in the 1993 parliamentary election. Helen Clark replaced Michael Moore as party leader. Clark was New Zealand's first woman to head a major political party.

In 1996, the majority-vote electoral system was replaced by the mixed-member proportional system. This system limited the dominance of the two largest parties, and forced them to form coalitions with smaller parties. The National Party and James Brendan Bolger were in coalition with the New Zealand First party. They won the election. However, Bolger was forced to resign

as Prime Minister and head of the National Party. Jenny Shipley replaced Bolger in November of 1997. Shipley was New Zealand's first female prime minister.

In 1999, the Labor Party won 49 seats and became the majority government. The Labor Party was in coalition with the progressive Alliance Party. Helen Clark was New Zealand's prime minister. The Labor Party won the majority government in 2002 and 2005. Clark is currently serving her third term as prime minister of New Zealand. The Labor Party is in coalition with several minor parties including the New Zealand First party and the United Future party.

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Timothy L. Gall, ed. Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations. "Asia & Oceania." Vol. 4. Farmington Hills, Michigan: Gale Group, 2001.

Christian History

The Christian work in New Zealand was to the indigenous peoples, The Maoris, and to the white settler immigrants. The first Christian mission in New Zealand was opened in 1814 by Anglican chaplain Samuel Marsden. This ministry worked mainly with the Maoris.

Wesleyan Methodists opened a mission on the northern coast of North Island in 1822. Maori violence caused the missionaries to leave, but they returned later and baptized their first convert in 1830.

Catholics began working in New Zealand in 1828. About 1,000 Maori converts took place by 1853.

Christianity has continued to grow as a whole in New Zealand despite its recent decline in a few denominations.

David B. Barrett, George T. Kurian, and Todd M. Johnson. World Christian Encyclopedia. Vol. 1. Oxford University Press, 2001.

Religions

Non-Christian

Indigenous (Traditional) Religion

Many Maori still practice a traditional indigenous religion. However, the majority of the population call themselves Christians.

Other religions include a *Hindu community*, small numbers of *Chinese folk-religionists*, *Jews*, *Baha'is*, *Buddhists*, and others.

Non-religious

Over 35% of the people of New Zealand claim to be non-religious. This group amounts to over 1,350,000 people. The non-religious group rose from 1.1% in 1951 to over 26% by 1996. With a growth rate of +1.9% the number is likely over 1,600,000 today. The presence of these persons points to the rapid secularization of the society. The tendency toward secularization is especially strong among young people. While church attendance declined to around 14% in 2000, only 19% of the attenders were in their 30s and less than 8% in their 20s.

Christian Cults and Sects

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon) church grew in numbers from 4,060 (.3%) in 1926 to 25,564 (1%) in 1966. As of 1990, the percentage rose to 2.3% of the population. The majority of the work is with the Maoris. In 1971, Mormon Maoris were approximately 7.2% of the Maori population.

Jehovah's Witnesses began working in New Zealand in 1904. By 1995, the Jehovah's Witnesses population grew to 19,200 (0.6%).

Christian Scientists have decreased in numbers and percentage since 1951.

Catholic and Orthodox

The Catholic Church began its work in New Zealand in 1828. A Catholic mission began among the Maori and there were approximately 1,000 conversions by 1853. The Catholic population in 1971 was about 17.8%. It declined to 14.6% by 1990.

Greek and Russian Orthodox churches have small populations of followers in New Zealand. The followers are mostly immigrants from Europe since World War II.

Evangelical and Protestant Churches

Anglican Church

Anglican chaplain Samuel Marsden opened the first Anglican mission in New Zealand in 1814. He persuaded the CMS to send more missionaries to the Maori. By 1838, there were 35 more Anglican missionaries, 21 schools, 178 communicants, and 2,176 Maoris attending church services. A written language was developed by missionaries. Later, portions of the Bible and other Christian literature were translated. The British colonization and the fight over the land between the British and the Maoris (especially from 1840-1870), caused the church growth to slow down. By 1900, 69 Maoris had been ordained.

After 1914, the Maoris requested an Anglican organization of their own. They were granted the Anglican organization. By 1926, 1/3 of the Maori populations were Anglican. Many of the settlers that came after the 1840 treaty were Anglican. In 1851, many Anglicans arrived in New Zealand and established the city of Christchurch on the South Island. The Anglican Church in Christchurch is currently the largest church in New Zealand.

Wesleyan Methodists

Methodists have been doing work on the northern coast of the North Island since 1822. The first Maori baptism occurred in 1830. In 1926, 8.9% of the population was identified as Methodists. However, as of 1995, fewer than 5% of the population claimed to be Methodist.

Presbyterian Church

The first Presbyterian minister came to New Zealand in 1839. Presbyterian ministers from Scotland, Ireland, and Canada spread throughout the country. In 1926, 23.5% of the population was Presbyterian. However, by 1990 the percentage dropped to 16.4%.

Baptists

The first Baptist pastor came to New Zealand in 1851. The Baptist Union of New Zealand was formed in 1882. This agency was involved in both foreign and domestic ministry. Most of the Baptists in New Zealand reside in the Auckland area. The Baptist denomination in New Zealand has declined from 1.9% in 1926 to 1% in 1990.

Pentecostal Churches

Pentecostal/Charismatic churches grew rapidly in the 1990's. They spread across older churches and numbered some 590,000 people (6% Pentecostals, 71% Charismatics, and 23% Independents).

Other small Christian denominations include the *Christian Brethren*, *Salvation Army*, *Disciples*, *Seventh-Day Adventists* (which have 13 primary and 2 secondary schools), and *Lutherans*.

David B. Barrett, George T. Kurian, and Todd M. Johnson. *World Christian Encyclopedia*, Vol. 1. Oxford University Press, 2001; *Operation World*

People Groups

18513

American (13,283)

The Primary language of Americans is English. The primary religion of Americans is Christianity (78%). Approximately 50% of the Christian population is evangelical. Americans have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, Gospel Recordings, and Radio broadcasts.

18469

Anglo-Australian (69,691)

The Primary language of Anglo-Australian is English. The primary religion of Anglo-Australian is Christianity (67%). About 28% of the Christian population is evangelical. Anglo-Australians have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, Gospel Recordings, and Radio broadcasts.

18472

Anglo-Canadian (5,100)

The primary language of the Anglo-Canadian is English. The primary religion of the Anglo-Canadian is Christianity (75%). Approximately 31% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Anglo-Canadians have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, Gospel Recordings, and Radio broadcasts.

18473

Anglo-New Zealander (2,845,457)

The primary language of the Anglo-New Zealander is English. The primary religion of the Anglo-New Zealander is Christianity (76%). About 24% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Anglo-New Zealanders have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts.

00000

Anglo-South African (15,000)

The primary language of the Anglo-South African is English. The primary religion of the Anglo-South African is Christianity.

The Anglo-South Africans have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts.

18474

Anglo-Romani Gypsy (1,231)

The primary language of the Anglo-Romani is Romani, Vlax. The primary religion of the Anglo-Romani Gypsy is Christianity. Approximately 29.45% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Anglo-Romani Gypsy has access to Bible translations, Jesus films, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts.

18478

Arab (4,915)

The primary language of the Arab people is Arabic. The primary religion of the Arab people is Islam. About 30% of the Arab population practices Christianity. Approximately 14% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Arab people have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, Gospel recording, and radio broadcasts.

18480

Austrian, Bavarian (1,500)

The primary language of the Austrian people is Bavarian. The primary religion is Christianity (78%). About 37% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Austrian, Bavarian people have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts.

18482

British (English) (286,963)

The British (English) speak English. The primary religion of the British is Christianity. About 27% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The British have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts.

18485

British (Scottish) (103,000)

The primary language of the British (Scottish) is English. The primary religion is Christianity. Approximately 28% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The British have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts.

9614

Bukabukan (410)

The primary language of the Bukabukan is Pukapuka. The primary religion of the Bukabukan is Christianity (80%). About 5% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Bukabukan are Polynesian Pacific islanders that migrated to New Zealand. They are also located on the Cook Islands (1,000) and French Polynesia (1,700). The Bukabukan people work as fishermen and agriculturalists.

The Bukabukan do not have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, Gospel recordings, or radio broadcasts.

9615

Cook Islands Maori (47,000)

The primary language of the Cook Islands Maori is Rarotongan. The primary religion of the Cook Islands Maori is Christianity (85%). Approximately 40% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Cook Islands Maori has access to Bible translations and Gospel recordings, but do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

18488

Croat (3,600)

The primary language of the Croat is Croatian. The primary religion of the Croat is Christianity (90%). Approximately 3.57% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Croats have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, and Gospel recordings. They do not have access to radio broadcasts.

18489

Danish (3,600)

The primary language of the Danish is Danish. The primary religion of the Danish is Christianity (90%). Approximately 50% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Danish have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Gospel recordings.

00000

Deaf (unknown)

The primary language of the deaf is New Zealand Sign Language. The primary religion of the deaf is Christianity.

The deaf have access to the Jesus film, but do not have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, or radio broadcasts.

The first school for the deaf in New Zealand was founded in 1878.

18490

Dutch (47,000)

The primary language of the Dutch is Dutch. The primary religion of the Dutch is Christianity. About 38% of the Christian population is evangelical.

The Dutch has access to Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Gospel recordings.

00000

European, generic (38,000)

The primary language of the European, generic is English. The primary religion is unknown.

However, the European, generic do have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, Gospel recordings, and radio broadcasts.

18491

Fijian (7,900)

The primary language of the Fijian is Fijian. The primary religion of the Fijian is Christianity (84%). Approximately 14.83% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Fijian people have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, and Gospel recordings. They do not have access to radio broadcasts.

00000

Filipino, Tagalog (8,700)

The primary language of this people group is Tagalog. The primary religion is Christianity.

The Filipino, Tagalog have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Gospel recordings.

00000

French (5,900)

The primary language of the French is French. The primary religion of the French is Christianity.

The French have access to Bible translations, radio broadcasts, Gospel recordings, and Jesus films.

18492

German, generic (18,000)

The Primary language of the German people is German. The primary religion of the Germans is Christianity (88%). Approximately 26% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Germans have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Gospel recordings.

18494

Greek (3,600)

The primary language of the Greek is Greek. The primary religion of the Greek is Christianity (90%). About 40% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Greeks have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Gospel recordings.

18495

Han Chinese, Cantonese (43,000)

The primary language of the Han Chinese, Cantonese is Chinese, Yue. The primary religion of the Han Chinese is Christianity (51%). Approximately 46% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Han Chinese has access to Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Gospel recordings.

00000

Han Chinese, Hakka (unknown)

The primary language of the Han Chinese, Hakka is Chinese, Hakka. The primary religion of the Han Chinese, Hakka is Ethnic religions.

The Hakka have access to translations of the Bible, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Gospel recordings.

00000

Han Chinese, Mandarin (16,000)

The primary language of the Han Chinese, Mandarin is English. The Han Chinese, Mandarin are non-religious. About 20% of the population is Christian (13% of Mandarin Christians are Evangelical).

The Mandarin has access to Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Gospel recordings.

00000

Han Chinese, Wu (7,900)

The primary language of this people group is Han Chinese, Wu. The primary religion is Ethnic Religions. The Christian population is unknown.

The Wu have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, and Gospel recordings. They do not have access to radio broadcasts.

18496

Hungarian (2,869)

The primary language of this people group is Hungarian. The primary religion of the Hungarian people is Christianity (85%). Approximately 50% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Hungarian people have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Gospel recordings.

18497

Indo-Pakistani (30,949)

The primary language of the Indo-Pakistani is Hindi. The primary religion of the Indo-Pakistani is Hinduism. Approximately 7% of the population is Christian (6.5% of Indo-Pakistani Christians are Evangelical).

The Indo-Pakistani has access to Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Gospel recordings.

00000

Indonesian (2,100)

The primary language of this people group is Indonesian. The primary religion is Islam. The Christian population is unknown.

The Indonesian people have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

18498

Irish (75,000)

The primary language of the Irish is English. The primary religion of the Irish is Christianity. Approximately 35% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Irish has access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

18499

Italian (5,100)

The primary language of this people group is Italian. The primary religion is Christianity (83%). Approximately 35% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Italian people group has access to Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Gospel recordings.

9626

Japanese (7,500)

The primary language of this people group is Japanese. The primary religion of the Japanese is Buddhism. The Christian population is unknown. However, the evangelical Christian population is 9.27%.

The Japanese have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Gospel recordings.

18501

Jew (6,969)

The primary language of the Jewish people is English. The primary religion is Judaism. About .3% of the population is Christian. Approximately .16% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Jews have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Gospel recordings.

00000

Khmer (4,700)

The primary language of the Khmer people group is Khmer, Central. The Khmer are refugees to New Zealand from Cambodia. Many came over in the late 1970's to get away from the violence there. The primary religion of the Khmer is Buddhism. The Christian population is unknown.

As of 2006, Dutch missionaries were leading the Khmer Christian Church. The Khmer has access to Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Gospel recordings.

00000

Korean (13,000)

The primary language of the Korean people is Korean. The primary religion is Christianity. The percentage of Christians is unknown.

The Korean people have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Gospel recordings.

00000

Malay (3,000)

The primary language of this people group is Malay. The Malay are immigrants from Malaysia to New Zealand. The primary religion of the Malay is Islam. The Christian population is unknown.

The Malay has access to Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Gospel recordings. Malay is the official language of Malaysia, Brunei, and Singapore.

9627

Maori, New Zealanders (356,000)

The primary languages of the Maori is Maori and English. The primary religion of the Maori is Christianity (67.2%). Approximately 34% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Maori have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, and Jesus films. The Maori do not have access to radio broadcasts.

9629

Niuean (20,000)

This Pacific Island people number around 20,000 76 percent of Niuean people reported an affiliation with a Christian religion. The most common religious affiliation was Presbyterian (49 percent of those with an affiliation) – followed by Catholic (13 percent), Latter-day Saints (11 percent), Anglican (5 percent) and Methodist (4 percent). In 2001, 22 percent of Niuean people said they had no religious affiliation. Among the total Pacific population, the equivalent figure was 12 percent.

The primary language of the Niuean is Niue. The primary religion of the Niuean is Christianity (89%). Approximately 50% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Niuean has access to Bible translations and Gospel recordings. They do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

The Niue language is spoken in Niue, Cook Islands, Tonga, and New Zealand.

00000

Pacific Islanders, generic (3,800)

The primary language of the Pacific Islanders is English. The primary religion is unknown. Pacific Islanders have access to Bible translations, radio broadcasts, Gospel recordings, and Jesus films.

9630

Persian (2,000)

The primary language of the Persian is Farsi, Western. Persians are also known as Iranians. The primary religion of the Persian is Islam. About 10% of the population are Christians. Approximately 1.6% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Persian has access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

18502

Pitcairner (205)

The primary language of the Pitcairner is Pitcairn-Norfolk. It is a mixture of Tahitian and 18th-century English. The primary religion is Christianity (90%). Approximately 38% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Pitcairner has access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

18503

Polish (4,000)

The primary language of this people group is Polish. The primary religion is Christianity. Approximately 50% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Polish has access to Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Gospel recordings.

9633

Rakahanga-Manihiki (3,280)

The primary language of this people group is Rakahanga-Manihiki. The primary religion of the Rakahanga-Manihiki is Christianity (85%). Approximately 50% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

Rakahanga-Manihiki language is also spoken in the Northern Cook Islands as well as Rakahanga and Manihiki islands. The people work as fishermen and agriculturalists.

The Rakahanga-Manihiki does not have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, or Gospel recordings.

18504

Romanian (400)

The primary religion of this people group is Romanian. The primary religion of the Romanians is Christianity (84%). Approximately 31% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Romanian people group has access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

18505

Russian (2,869)

The primary language of this people group is Russian. The primary religion of the Russian people is Christianity (70%). About 32% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Russian people group has access to Bible translations, Jesus films, radio broadcasts, and Gospel recordings.

18506

Samoan (103,000)

The primary language of the Samoan people is Samoan. The primary religion of the Samoan people is Christianity (90%). Approximately 50% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Samoan people have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, and Jesus films. They do not have access to radio broadcasts.

The Samoan language is the official language in Samoa and American Samoa.

18507

Serb (1,231)

The primary language of the Serb is Serbian. The primary religion of the Serb is Christianity (82%). Approximately 35% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Serbs have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

18508

Slovene (1,640)

The primary language of the Slovene is Slovenian. The primary religion of the Slovene people group is Christianity (90%). About 20% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Slovene has access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

Slovenian is an Indo-European language belonging to the family of the South Slavic languages. It is mainly spoken in Slovenia.

00000

Somali (2,000)

The primary language of this people group is Somali. The primary religion of the Somali is Islam. The Christian population is unknown.

The Somali people do have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

00000

South Asian, generic (5,200)

The primary language of the South Asian people is English. The primary religion of the people is Hinduism. The Christian population is unknown.

The South Asian people do have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

00000

Spaniard (2,800)

The primary language of the Spaniard is Spanish. The primary religion of the Spaniard is Christianity.

The Spaniards have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

00000

Swedish (1,900)

The primary language of this people group is Swedish. The primary religion of the Swedish is Christianity.

The Swedish have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

18509

Tahitian (327)

The primary language of this people group is Tahitian. Tahitian is one of two official languages of French Polynesia. The primary religion of the Tahitian is Christianity (90%). Approximately 37% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Tahitian people have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, and Jesus films. They do not have access to radio broadcasts.

00000

Tamil (6,200)

The primary language of this people group is Tamil. The primary religion of the Tamil is Hinduism. The Christian population is unknown.

The Tamil have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

Tamil is a classical language that is the oldest of the Dravidian language family. It is one of the official languages in India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and Singapore.

00000

Thai, Northeastern (3,200)

The primary language of this people group is Thai, Northeastern. The primary religion is Buddhism. The Christian population is unknown.

The Thai, Northeastern has access to portions of Bible translations, Gospel recordings, Jesus films, and radio broadcasts.

18510

Tokelauan (5,100)

The primary language of this people group is Tokelauan. It is one of the two official languages of Tokelau. The primary religion of the Tokelauan is Christianity (79%). About 50% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Tokelauan have portions of the Bible translated. They do not have access to Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, or Jesus films.

18511

Tongan (32,000)

The primary language of this people group is Tongan. The primary religion of the Tongan is Christianity (90%). Approximately 50% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Tongan have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, and Jesus films. They do not have access to radio broadcasts.

18512

Tuvaluan (654)

The primary language of this people group is Tuvaluan. The primary religion of the Tuvaluan is Christianity (90%). About 47% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Tuvaluan have access to Bible translations and Gospel recordings. They do not have access to Jesus films or radio broadcasts.

00000

Ukrainian (400)

The primary language of this people group is Ukrainian. The primary religion of the Ukrainian people is Christianity (77%). The percentage of Evangelical Christians is unknown.

The Ukrainian people have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

18514

Vietnamese (4,000)

The primary language of this people group is Vietnamese. The primary religion of the Vietnamese is Buddhism. The Christian population is unknown, but the Evangelical Christian population is listed as about 6%.

The Vietnamese have access to Bible translations, Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, and Jesus films.

18516

Welsh (10,000)

The primary language of this people group is Welsh. The primary religion of the Welsh is Christianity (85%). Approximately 37% of the Christian population is Evangelical.

The Welsh have access to Bible translations, Jesus films, and Gospel recordings. They do not have access to radio broadcasts.

www.joshuaproject.net and www.peoplegroups.org; www.ethnologue.com and www.wikipedia.org

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and churches should take the opportunities to share the Good News that New Zealand's freedom of religion provides.
2. Evangelical Christians and churches should recognize the harmful effects of growing secularism in New Zealand society. This same tendency is apparent in many other countries where Christianity is considered the primary religion of the nation. Evangelicals should develop strategies for reaching the secular peoples of the world and adjust these strategies to each region of the world. A program to develop the strategies and train people to use them is imperative.
3. Evangelical Christians and churches should develop methods for evangelizing the non-religious in New Zealand and other parts of the world. Almost one half the people in New Zealand either are non-religious or follow other religious systems.
4. Evangelical Christians should develop strategies to reach the Chinese in New Zealand. This effort may have to be divided into at least four approaches each designed for a different group of Han Chinese (see People Group section). Over 64,000 Chinese await the Gospel in New Zealand. Specialized ministries to these groups are imperative. While 64% of the Chinese claim to be Christian, only 12% attend church.
5. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to reach several of the largely unreached people groups and those who are highly influenced by sectarian groups (both western sects and others). Unreached peoples in New Zealand should include the vast numbers who are Christian in name but not zealous or even faithful in their religious practice (See People Group Profiles). Many groups will be reported as 80% but only 20% evangelical.
6. Evangelical Christians and churches should find means to aid the church groups in New Zealand to make effective contact with the secular societies.
7. Several people groups (see People Group profiles) are primarily Christian, but do not have translations of the Bible available. Other groups that do not claim to be Christian

also are in need of Christian resources. Some people groups do not have access to Gospel recordings, radio broadcasts, or Jesus films.

8. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek means to help the churches of New Zealand experience genuine revival and thereby be able to influence the society in a more satisfactory way.
9. Evangelical Christians and churches should continue to pray for the peoples of New Zealand and also consider short-term mission efforts in these islands.

Links:

www.newzealand.com

www.discovernewzealand.com

www.nz.com

www.entertainmentnz.com

www.nzs.com

www.nzherald.co.nz

www.yellowpages.co.nz

www.scoop.co.nz

www.beehive.govt.nz

www.parliament.nz

www.newsroom.co.nz

www.snowbound.co.nz

www.snow.co.nz

www.mfat.govt.nz

www.customs.govt.nz

www.athletics.org.nz

www.moh.govt.nz

www.airnewzealand.com

www.newzealandphotography.co.nz

www.onlinenewspapers.com/nz.htm

www.maori.org.nz

www.travelcafenz.com

www.nzbirds.com

www.newzealandfauna.com

www.activenewzealand.com

www.allblacks.com (New Zealand's Professional Rugby Team)

- In 2001 Higher proportions of Niuean people in older age groups reported having a religious affiliation than their younger counterparts, as figure 3.1 shows. In 2001, 91 percent of Niueans aged between 45 and 64 reported a religious affiliation, whereas the equivalent proportion for those aged between 25 and 34 years was 75 percent.
- Overseas-born Niueans were more likely to report a religious affiliation than New Zealand-born Niueans (90 percent and 74 percent respectively). The older age structure of the overseas-born population may be a contributing factor.
- By comparison, almost a third of the total New Zealand population said they had no religious affiliation.