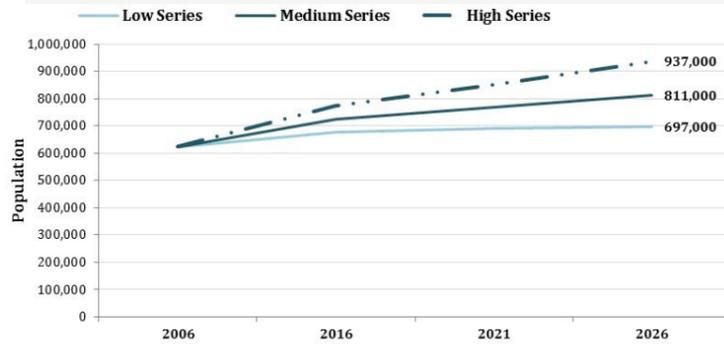


## Projections: Māori Futures

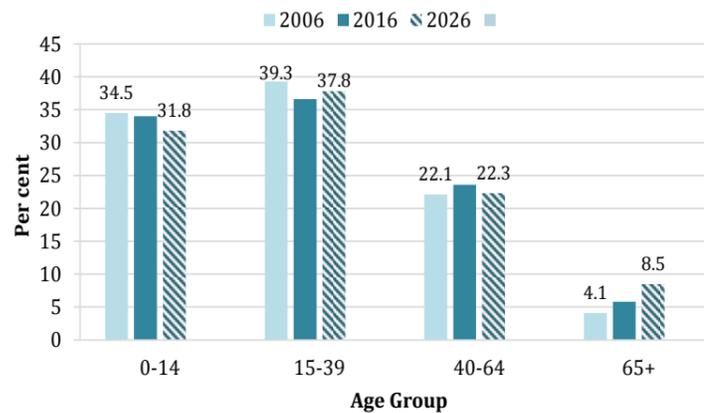
Population projections provide a useful starting point for anticipating future population change. Under the medium series produced by Statistics New Zealand, the number of Māori is projected to reach 811,000 by 2026, with 697,000 and 937,000 as the lower and upper bounds (Figure 6). The projected Māori growth rate of 1.3 per cent per annum exceeds the European rate (0.4 per cent), but is substantially lower than the expected growth for both Asian and Pasifika peoples (3.4 per cent and 2.4 per cent respectively). For Māori and Pasifika peoples, growth will continue to be driven by natural increase; for Asian peoples future growth will be driven almost entirely by migration. Ethnic differences in growth rates have consequences for Māori demographic visibility. By 2026 the number of Māori and people from all Asian ethnic groups combined will be close to parity.

Figure 6: Projected Māori Population, Series 6, 2006 (base) - 2026



Source: Statistics New Zealand  
Notes: Based on the estimated (ERP) Māori population (at June 2006)

Figure 7: Age-Group Share of Māori Population, 2006, 2016, 2026



For Māori, growth will occur unevenly across the different age groups, with the greatest increase at the kaumātua ages. The number of older Māori will more than double so that, by 2026, one out of nine Māori will be aged at least 65 years (Figure 7). Tamariki will continue to make up a substantial, though declining, proportion of the Māori population, reflecting declining fertility and gradual population ageing. The proportion of Māori at the working ages (15-64 years) will remain steady at around 60 per cent. It should be noted that the projections shown here are based on the 2006 estimated resident population (ERP) of Māori. Revised projections based on the 2013 Census were not available at the time of writing.

## Summary

- In the 2013 Census, 598,602 individuals identified as ethnic Māori. They comprised nearly 15 per cent of the New Zealand population responding to the ethnicity question. The Māori ancestry population was larger still at 668,724 persons. Māori have much higher demographic visibility than Indigenous peoples in the other colonial settler states.
- The number of Māori increased, on average, by 0.8 per cent per annum between 2006 and 2013. This was significantly below the 2001-2006 annual growth rate (1.4 per cent), and partly reflects a decline in the rate of natural increase (the excess of births over deaths).
- In 2013 the Māori median age (23.9 years) was much younger than the New Zealand median age (38.0 years). The youthful Māori population offers a potential for a collateral “demographic dividend”, with benefits for Māori and New Zealand.

The number of Māori is projected to reach 811,000 by 2026, with the greatest increase at the kaumātua ages. By 2026, the number of Māori and people from all Asian ethnic groups combined will be close to parity.

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## TE AO HURIHURI POPULATION: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

Tahu Kukutai and Moana Rarere

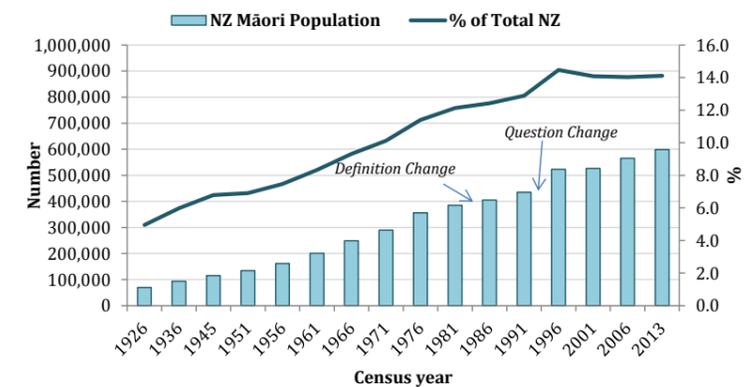
The NIDEA Te Ao Hurihuri series uses data from the New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings to examine key aspects of Māori population change.

### Population Size

The New Zealand Census provides at least three ways to identify as Māori: by descent, ethnicity and iwi. Each definition is conceptually distinct and yields populations of different sizes. Ethnicity is the concept most widely used in Māori official statistics and in this brief.

Changing Census practices make it difficult to analyse Māori population trends over time as data are not always comparable. Complexities notwithstanding, Figure 1 clearly shows that Māori have made substantial demographic gains over the last century. In 1926 Māori numbered about 70,000 and made up five per cent of the New Zealand population. In 2013 there were 598,602 ethnic Māori, comprising 14.1 per cent of the Usually Resident Population (URP). If we exclude non-respondents to the ethnicity question, the

Figure 1: Number and Proportion of Māori



Source: NZ Census of Population & Dwellings, various years

Notes: Māori included those defined as “any degree” Māori from 1926-1981, and Māori ethnicity (alone or combined) from 1986. Census night population count used until 1991, then Usually Resident Population count.

Maori share rises to 14.9 per cent. At 668,724 persons, the Māori ancestry population was larger still. The URP excludes those temporarily overseas on Census night, as well as those missing (the “undercount”). The 2013 net Māori undercount (6.1 per cent) was almost double the undercount in 2006 (3.1 per cent). (SNZ 2014).

While the number of Māori is small compared to Indigenous populations in North America, Māori are unique in having a high level of demographic visibility in their homeland (Table 1). In Canada, for example, Indigenous peoples comprise less than five per cent of the national population and, in the United States, less than two per cent. Although comparable in size with Māori, Indigenous Australians comprise just 2.5 per cent of their national population.

Table 2: Number and size of Indigenous populations in the population Census, select countries, c. 2010

Indigenous Group	Number (n)	% of Total Population (1)	Total Population
Māori	598,605	14.9	4,242,048
Canada Aboriginal, First Nations, Inuit, Metis & Other	2,801,375	4.2	33,476,688
Australia Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander	548,368	2.5	21,507,717
American Indian & Alaska Native (alone or in combination)	5,220,579	1.7	308,745,538

Notes: (1) NZ percentage excludes NEI

Source: New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings 2013; National Household Survey (Canada) 2011; Australia Census of Population and Housing 2011; United States Census 2010

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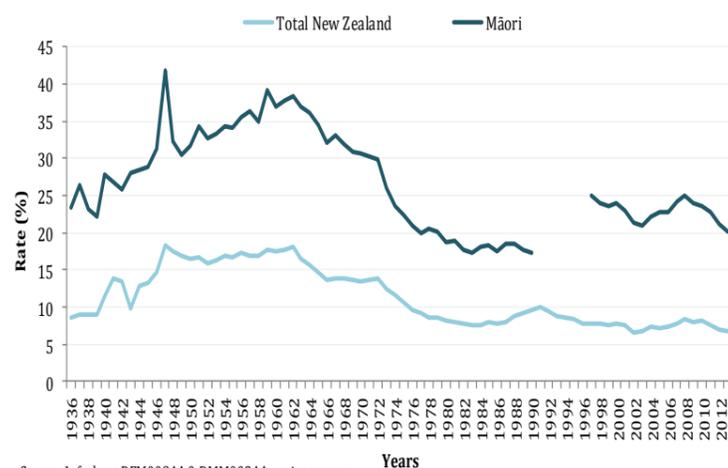
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## Population Growth

The two-year delay in the Census due to the Christchurch earthquakes means that the Māori intercensal growth rate between 2006 and 2013 is not comparable with earlier five-year census periods. As such, the average annual rates of growth shown in Figure 2 are more informative. Between 2006 and 2013 the number of Māori increased, on average, by 0.8 per cent per annum. This was significantly below the 2001-2006 rate (1.4 per cent), and partly reflects a decline in the rate of natural increase (the excess of births over deaths), as shown in Figure 3.

Time-series analysis shows the volatility of Māori population growth over the last century. The 1950s and 1960s were the decades of the greatest growth. Improvements in mortality coupled with high fertility saw Māori growth rates peak at about 4.0 per cent per annum. Internationally such levels are now rarely seen, even in many of the world's least developed countries. The period of rapid growth ended with the onset of the Māori

Figure 3: Rates of Natural Increase, Māori and Total NZ, 1926 to 2013

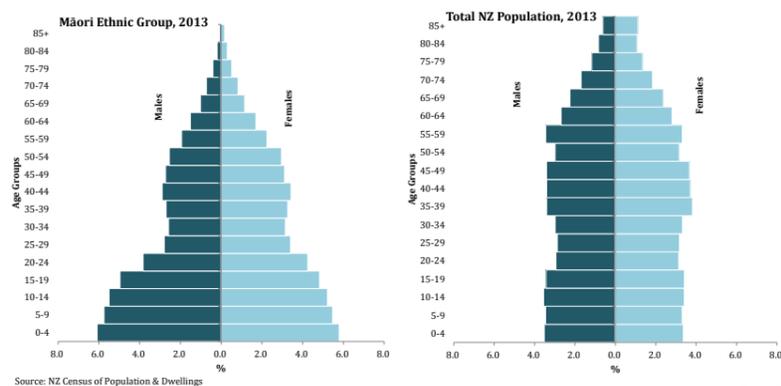


Source: Infoshare DFM008AA & DMM003AA, various years

## Age-Sex Structure

Along with size and growth, age structure is a core feature of Māori demography. At just under 24 years, the Māori median age in 2013 was much younger than the New Zealand median age of 38.0 years. The different age structures are evident in Figure 4. The triangular shape of the Māori age-sex pyramid, with the large base of tamariki (0-14) and rangatahi (15-19), contrasts sharply with the cylindrical shape of the national age-sex structure.

Figure 4: Age-Sex Structure, Māori and Total NZ, 2013



Source: NZ Census of Population & Dwellings

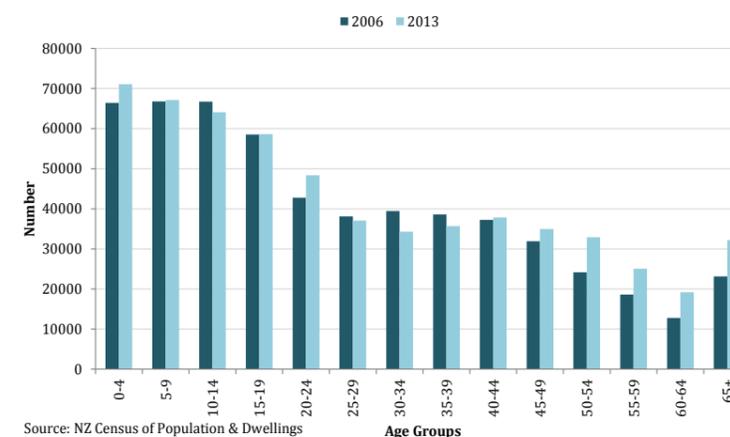


## Size and Relative Share of Age Groups

While the Māori population is structurally young, the number of older Māori has grown significantly in the last decade. Between 2001 and 2013 the number of Māori aged 65 years and older almost doubled, from 17,637 to 32,184. The increase was largely owing to improvements in survivorship and outpaced the growth of older people nationally. The burgeoning population of older Māori expands the potential pool of those able to take up kaumātua and kuia roles in whānau and communities. As more Māori reach advanced ages, different forms of support, both social and material, will be needed to expand their opportunities to live fulfilling lives.



Figure 5: Number of Māori by Age Group, 2006 and 2013



Source: NZ Census of Population & Dwellings

Intergenerational relations is an important feature of Te Ao Māori and is partly influenced by the absolute and relative size of the age groups. Figure 5 shows the large increase in the number of older Māori between 2006 and 2013, as well as an absolute decline in the number of Māori at the younger working ages (25-39 years). This partly reflects the effects of emigration. While the number of tamariki (0-14 years) increased between 2006 and 2013 (from 199,920 to 202,314), their overall proportion declined from 35.3 to 33.8 per cent.

## The Potential for a Māori Demographic Dividend

The ageing of New Zealand's population is largely driven by the ageing of the Pākehā (NZ European) population, and accelerated by the outwards migration of those aged 30 to 39 years. As the Pākehā 'Baby Boomers' retire over the next twenty or so years, they will be replaced by relatively smaller cohorts. Unless there is a very large and sustained increase in migration, New Zealand is likely to face substantial labour shortages over the next 20 to 30 years, particularly in non-urban areas already subject to accelerated ageing. All other factors remaining constant, the young will be in short-supply but will benefit from increasing competition for their labour and skills (Jackson 2011a).

For Māori, there are potential windfalls to be made. A large share of Māori are at the ages in which most educational qualifications are gained (usually 15-24 years), or are entering the labour-market. While the proportion of Māori aged 0-14 years has been declining since at least 2001, the Māori share of the national population at those ages is still growing.

In 2013, Māori comprised nearly one quarter of all New Zealand children; by 2026 the projected share will be around 29 per cent. The divergent Māori and Pākehā age structures —one youthful, the other ageing—creates the potential for what Jackson calls a "collateral Māori demographic dividend" (2011b), with benefits not only for Māori, but for New Zealand generally. However, this window of demographic opportunity is finite. The potential to gain from a youthful Māori population will only be realised through immediate strategic planning and investment in rangatahi Māori in areas such as education and training.

