

Table 1

**Population Summary for the Census Night and  
Census Usually Resident Population Counts, 1858–2001<sup>(1)</sup>**

Census Year	Census Night Population Count	Census Night Percentage Increase Over Previous Census		Census Usually Resident Population Count <sup>(2)</sup>	Census Usually Resident Percentage Increase Over Previous Census	
		Intercensal Period	Annual Average		Intercensal Period	Annual Average
1858	115,461	...	...	..	...	...
1874	344,985	...	...	..	...	...
1881	458,007	32.8	7.3	..	...	...
1886	534,030	16.6	5.1	..	...	...
1891	620,451	16.2	3.1	..	...	...
1896	668,652	7.8	1.5	..	...	...
1901	743,214	11.2	2.1	..	...	...
1906	815,862	9.8	1.9	..	...	...
1911	936,309	14.8	2.7	..	...	...
1916	1,058,313	13.0	2.5	..	...	...
1921	1,149,225	8.6	1.5	..	...	...
1926	1,271,667	10.7	2.3	..	...	...
1936	1,408,140	10.7	2.1	1,403,640	...	...
1945	1,573,812	11.8	1.1	1,569,216	11.8	1.1
1951	1,702,299	8.2	0.8	1,698,996	8.3	0.8
1956	1,939,473	13.9	2.4	1,930,482	13.6	2.3
1961	2,174,061	12.1	2.3	2,162,907	12.0	2.3
1966	2,414,985	11.1	2.1	2,403,624	11.1	2.1
1971	2,676,918	10.8	2.1	2,659,305	10.6	2.1
1976	2,862,630	6.9	1.3	2,845,998	7.0	1.4
1981	3,129,384	9.3	1.8	3,103,266	9.0	1.7
1986	3,175,737	1.5	0.3	3,143,307	1.3	0.3
1991	3,307,083	4.1	0.8	3,263,283	3.8	0.8
1996	3,434,949	3.9	0.8	3,373,926	3.4	0.7
2001	3,681,546	7.2	1.4	3,618,303	7.2	1.4
2001	3,820,749	3.8	0.7	3,737,280	3.3	0.6

(1) This table omits the Censuses of 1851, 1861, 1864, 1867 and 1871, as Māori censuses were not taken in those years.

(2) Basic counts of the census usually resident population have been available since the 1926 Census.

All cells in this table have been randomly rounded to base 3.