

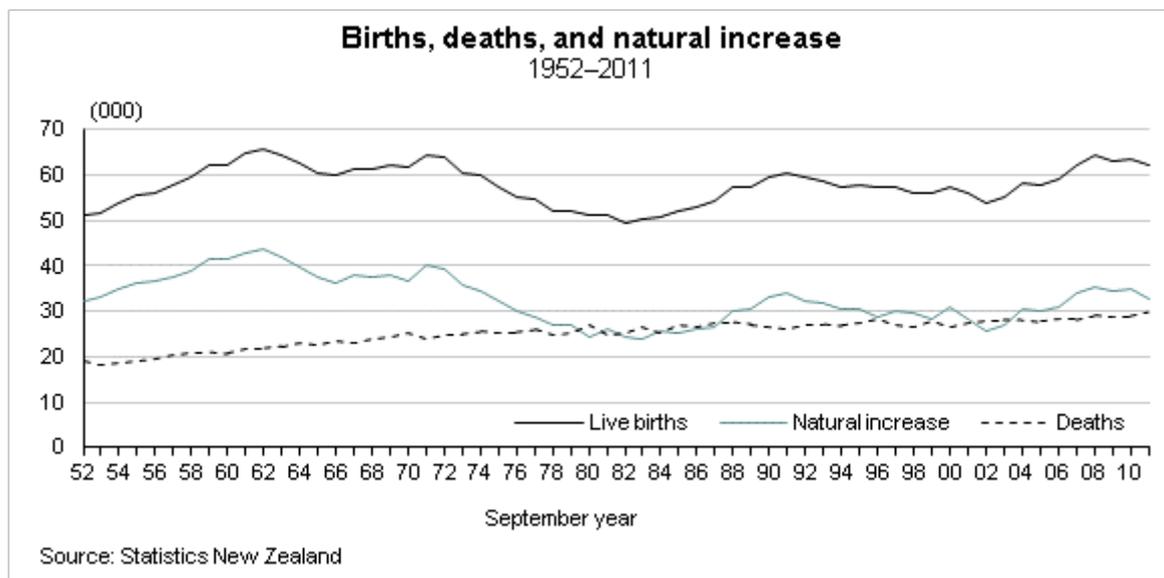
Births and Deaths: Year ended September 2011

Embargoed until 10:45am – 17 November 2011

Key facts

In the September 2011 year:

- 62,260 live births and 29,710 deaths were registered in New Zealand, resulting in a natural increase (live births minus deaths) of 32,550.
- There were 1,470 fewer births and 910 more deaths compared with the September 2010 year.
- The total fertility rate was 2.1 births per woman.
- The infant mortality rate was 4.8 per 1,000 live births.



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Commentary

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Live births down in the September 2011 year

There were 62,260 live births registered in New Zealand in the September 2011 year, down 1,470 (2 percent) from the September 2010 year.

Annual fluctuations in births, in part, reflect changes in the size and age of the population, the age at which women have children, and the number of children they have. In turn, the number of births influences the future size and age of the population.

The highest number of births ever recorded in any September year was 65,660, in 1962. At that time, New Zealand's population was just 2.5 million, compared with 4.4 million in 2011.

Regional live births

The Auckland region had the highest number of births in the September 2011 year (22,910), accounting for 37 percent of all live births registered in New Zealand. This was followed by the Canterbury (6,900), Wellington (6,560), and Waikato (5,980) regions. Together, these four regions accounted for just over two-thirds of all live births registered in the September 2011 year, which is consistent with their share of New Zealand's population.

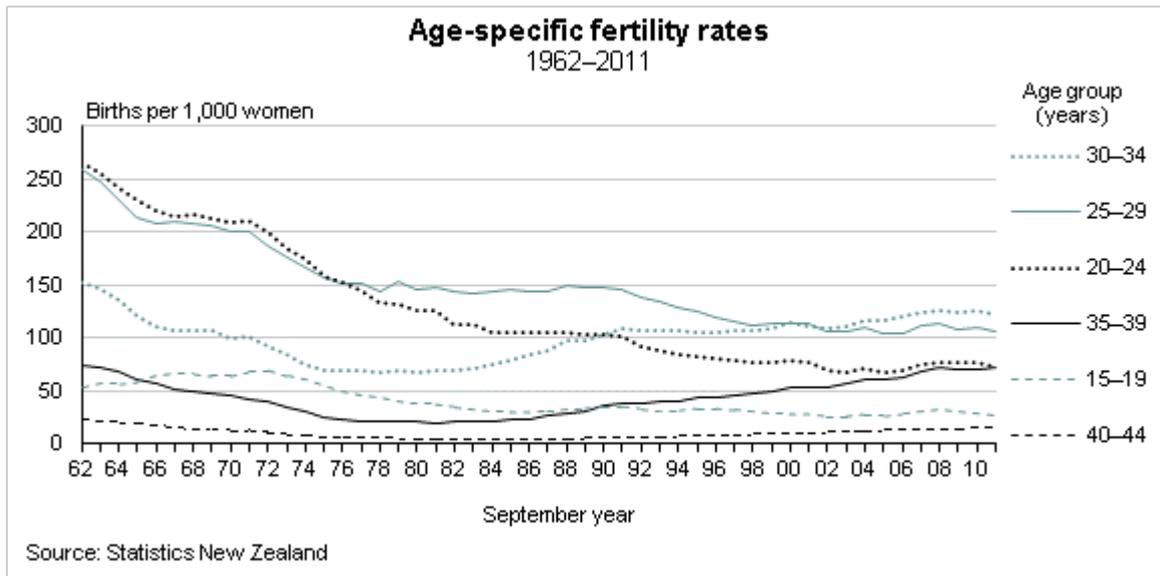
Fertility rates for regions are produced for the census years 1996, 2001, and 2006. You can find these rates on the [Births](#) page on the Statistics New Zealand website.

Women aged 30–34 years have the highest fertility rate

Age-specific fertility rates measure the number of live births 1,000 women in a particular age-group have in a given period (usually a year).

In the September 2011 year, women aged 30–34 years had the highest fertility rate (123 births per 1,000 women aged 30–34 years), followed by those aged 25–29 years (106 per 1,000) and 20–24 years (74 per 1,000).

Compared with the high fertility seen in the early 1960s, women in all age groups now have fewer babies. In 1962, women aged 20–24 years had the highest fertility rate (265 per 1,000), followed by those aged 25–29 years (259 per 1,000), and 30–34 years (152 per 1,000).

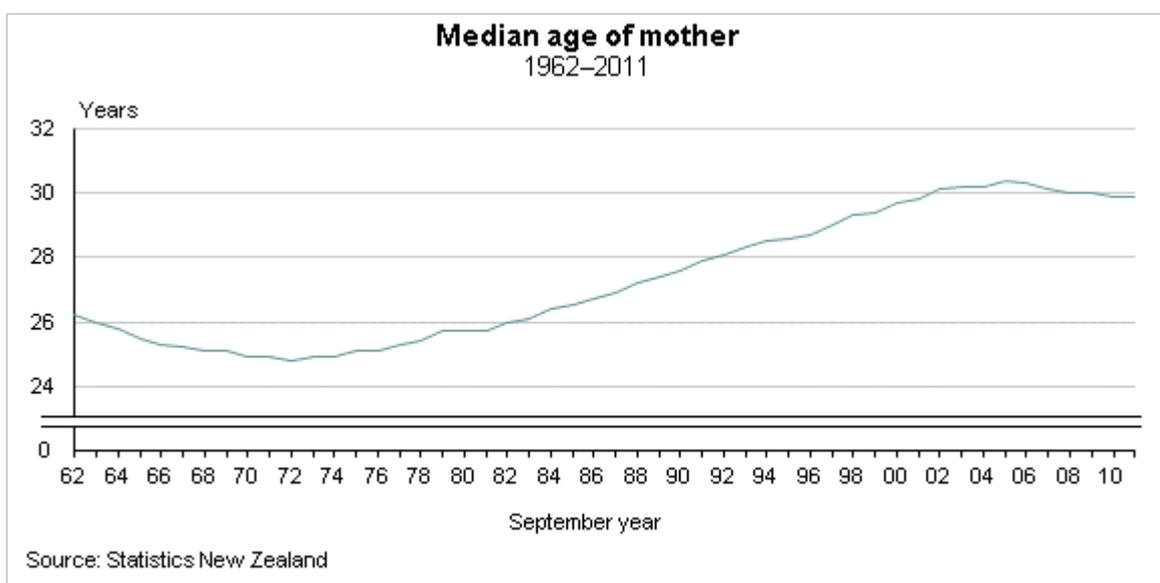


Fertility rates for women aged 40–44 years dropped from around 20 births per 1,000 in the early 1960s to around 4 per 1,000 in the mid-1980s, before increasing to 15 births per 1,000 in 2011. Among women aged 40–44 years who registered a baby in the September 2011 year, 43 percent were aged 40 years and 27 percent were aged 41 years.

Median age of mother

The median age (half are younger and half older than this age) of New Zealand women giving birth is now 30 years, compared with 26 years in the early 1960s. The median age dropped to just under 25 years in the early 1970s. Although there has been a significant increase in the median age since the 1970s, it has been relatively stable at around 30 years in the past decade.

While there has been a small decrease in the median age since the September 2005 year (down from 30.4 to 29.9 years), this does not necessarily indicate a reversal in the trend towards older childbearing, but reflects changes in age structure within the childbearing age group. The median age of women aged 15–39 years is now one year younger than in 2001.



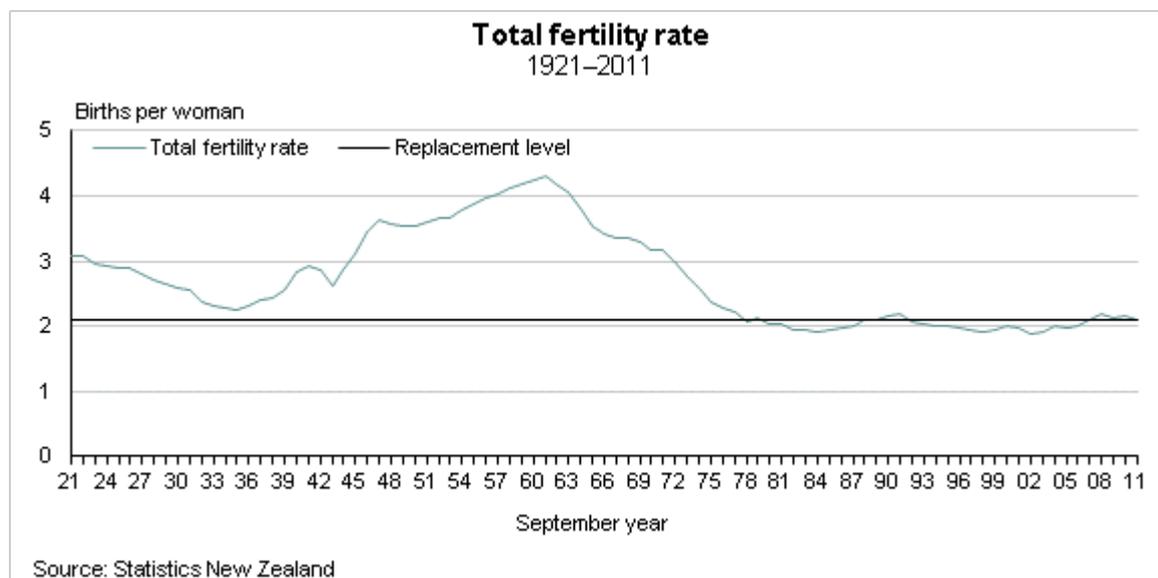
The median age of women giving birth to their first child (based on children in the current relationship only) was 28 years in the year ended September 2011. This has been relatively stable over the last decade.

Total fertility rate

The total fertility rate summarises the age-specific fertility rates into a single number indicator of fertility. It indicates, on average, the number of babies a woman would have in her lifetime if the age-specific fertility rates in a given period stayed the same throughout her life.

The total fertility rate for the September 2011 year was 2.09 births per woman – down from 2.15 in the September 2010 year. Annual fluctuations in the total fertility rate do not necessarily indicate changes in family size, but rather changes in the timing of births.

New Zealand's total fertility rate has been relatively stable over the last three decades, averaging 2.02 births per woman. During this period, the total fertility rate varied from 1.89 births per woman (in 2002) to 2.19 (in 1991 and 2008). In contrast, fertility rates increased dramatically from the mid-1940s, peaking at 4.31 births per woman in 1961. New Zealand then experienced decreasing fertility over the following 20 years.



Deaths number 29,710 in the September 2011 year

The number of deaths registered during the September 2011 year was 29,710, up 910 from 28,790 in 2010. The number of deaths is gradually increasing due to population growth in the older age groups, partly offset by longer life expectancy. Deaths increased from 20,330 in the September 1957 year to 25,070 in the September 1970 year – an increase of nearly 5,000 in 13 years. Deaths increased at a slower rate over the next 41 years to 29,710 in the September 2011 year. Statistics NZ's mid-range [population projections](#) (series 5) indicate deaths will continue to increase, surpassing 40,000 in 2029 and 50,000 in 2042.

Deaths are increasingly concentrated in the older age groups. The median age at death in the September 2011 year was 77 years for males and 83 years for females, compared with 72 years for males and 78 years for females in 1991. Only 5 percent of the deceased were aged under 40 years in the September 2011 year, compared with 8 percent in 1991.

Regional deaths

Regional figures are based on the usual residence of the deceased, not the place of death. Statistics NZ does not compile statistics on place of death.

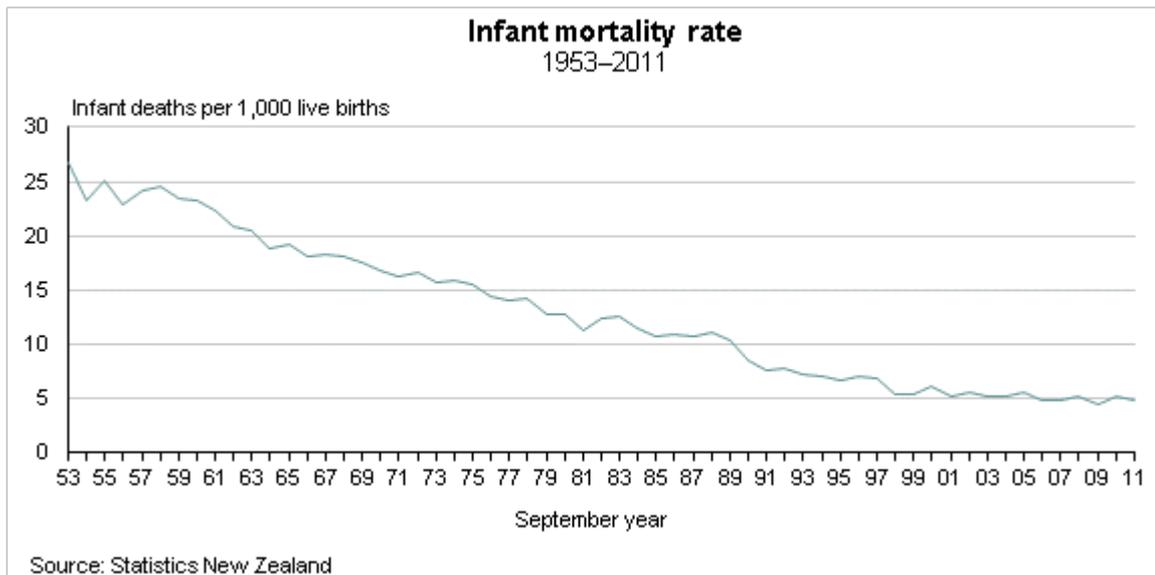
During the September 2011 year, the Auckland region had the highest number of deaths (7,460). Although the Auckland region is home to approximately one-third of New Zealand's population, it only accounted for one-quarter of New Zealand's deaths. This is due to the region's relatively young age structure. The median age of the Auckland region's population is 34 years, compared with 37 years for the national population.

More deaths were recorded in the Canterbury region in the September 2011 year (4,510) up from 4,190 in the September 2010 year. Part of the increase in deaths in Canterbury can be directly attributed to the earthquake on 22 February 2011. However, more deaths were also registered throughout the rest of the year.

Infant mortality rate down to 4.8 per 1,000 live births

During the September 2011 year, the number of infant deaths (under one year of age) registered in New Zealand was 300.

The infant mortality rate (infant deaths per 1,000 live births) has dropped over the last 40 years. In the September 2011 year, the infant mortality rate was 4.8 per 1,000, down from 5.2 in the September 2001 year. The decline in the infant mortality rate has been smaller in the last decade than in previous decades. The rate declined from 22.4 (in 1961), to 16.3 (in 1971), to 11.2 (in 1981), to 7.6 (in 1991).



For more detailed data see the Excel tables in the [Tables](#) section.

Definitions

About Births and Deaths

Statistics on births and deaths record the number of births and deaths registered in New Zealand each year. The Births and Deaths information release also includes a range of birth and death rates. These numbers and rates provide information about the structure New Zealand's population and how it changes over time

More definitions

Deaths: deaths registered in New Zealand by date of registration.

Estimated de facto population: an estimate of all people present in a given area at a given date. The estimated de facto population of New Zealand includes all people present in New Zealand. Visitors from overseas are included, but New Zealand residents who are temporarily overseas are excluded.

Estimated resident population: an estimate of all people who usually live in a given area at a given date. The estimated resident population of New Zealand includes all residents present in New Zealand. Visitors from overseas are excluded and New Zealand residents who are temporarily overseas are included.

Live births: live births registered in New Zealand by date of registration.

For more definitions, see [Glossary of Common Terms](#).

Related links

Upcoming releases

Births and Deaths: Year ended December 2011 will be released on 17 February 2012.

The [Release calendar](#) lists all our upcoming information releases by date of release.

Past releases

See [Births and deaths – information releases](#) for links to past releases.

Related information

See [Births](#) for links to reports and articles and information about birth statistics and birth rates.

See [Deaths](#) for links to reports and articles and information about death statistics and death rates.

Data quality

This section contains information about data that does not change between releases.

- [Data source](#)
- [Rounding](#)
- [Confidentiality](#)
- [More information](#)
- [Timing of published data](#)

Data source

Under the provisions of the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act 1995, every birth and death occurring in New Zealand must be registered with Births, Deaths, and Marriages (a division of the Department of Internal Affairs).

Statistics New Zealand receives a monthly electronic file of registered births and deaths from Births, Deaths and Marriages. Statistics NZ is responsible for processing and publishing statistics derived from the birth and death registrations.

Rounding

Birth and death figures contained in the tables attached to this information release are unrounded. All other figures have been rounded. This may result in a total differing slightly from the sum of its components. Derived figures (eg percentage annual increase) have been calculated using unrounded data.

Confidentiality

In order to comply with Statistics NZ's confidentiality protocols, some categories are collapsed or aggregated in tables and datasets.

More information

For more technical information, see [Information about Births](#) or [Information about Deaths](#).

Births

Births data from 1991 are based on births registered in New Zealand to mothers resident in New Zealand by date of registration. Before 1991, births data are based on births registered in New Zealand to mothers resident in New Zealand and mothers visiting from overseas by date of registration. Births data exclude late registrations under section 16 of the Births, Deaths, Marriages, and Relationships Registration Act 1995. Section 16 births are those that were not registered in the ordinary way at the time the birth occurred. For more information about the history and characteristics of late registrations, see [Late birth registrations](#).

Children of this relationship

The birth registration forms ask whether there are any other children of this relationship. However, it is possible that children from previous relationships are included. This question does not produce an accurate measure of all live births to a woman (which is needed for accurate measures of birth parity). For privacy reasons, it is deemed unacceptable to ask women about children outside their current relationship.

Deaths

Deaths data from 1991 onwards are based on deaths registered in New Zealand of New Zealand residents by date of registration. Before 1991, deaths data are based on deaths registered in New Zealand of New Zealand residents and people visiting from overseas by date of registration.

Demographic rates

Demographic rates from 1991 onwards are calculated using the mean estimated resident population. Rates before 1991 are calculated using the mean estimated de facto population.

Demographic rates based on the mean estimated resident population are provisional for the reference period of this information release because the population estimates used to calculate the rates are provisional. Publication of final rates in Infoshare will coincide with the publication of the next information release. The difference between provisional and final rates is generally small (less than plus or minus 1 per 100,000).

Age-specific fertility rates, median age of mother, and total fertility rates before 1981 are based on December years.

Replacement level fertility

Replacement level fertility is the average number of children a woman needs to have to produce one daughter who survives to childbearing age. Replacement level fertility is also described as the total fertility rate required for the population to replace itself in the long term, without migration.

The internationally accepted replacement level is 2.1 births per woman. Replacement level fertility allows for child mortality (children who die before reaching reproductive age) and the birth of more boys than girls. On average, throughout the world, 105 boys are born for every 100 girls. The actual replacement level will vary slightly from country to country, depending on child mortality rates. In countries with high child mortality, the total fertility rate will need to be higher than 2.1 births per woman to achieve replacement level.

Timing of published data

Statistics NZ aims to publish Births and Deaths within 7 weeks of the end of the reference period.

Timed statistical releases are delivered using postal and electronic services provided by third parties. Delivery of these releases may be delayed by circumstances outside the control of Statistics NZ. Statistics NZ accepts no responsibility for any such delays.

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Email: info@stats.govt.nz

Tables

The following tables are included with this release. They are available in Excel format from the 'Downloads' box of *Births and Deaths: Year ended September 2011* on the Statistics NZ website.

If you do not have access to Excel, you may use the [Excel file viewer](#) to view, print, and export the contents of the file.

1. Births, deaths, and selected rates, 1995–2011
2. Live births by regional council, 1998–2011
3. Deaths by regional council, 1998–2011
4. Age-specific fertility rates, 1995–2011
5. Live births by mother's age, 1995–2011
6. Deaths by age and sex, September year 2011

Access more data on Infoshare

Use [Infoshare](#), a free, online database to access a range of time-series data specific to your needs.

To access the release time series on Infoshare, select the following categories from the homepage:

Subject category: **Population**

Groups: **Births, birth rates, deaths, and death rates**