



KEY FACTS

- Approximately 130,000 Māori live in Australia. Two-thirds of Māori in Australia were born in New Zealand.
- Māori in Australia are less likely to have secondary or tertiary qualifications than others in Australia.
- Māori participation in the labour force and their rate of employment is similar to that of others in Australia.
- Working Māori are more likely to be in lower skilled occupations, compared with all workers in Australia.
- Māori in Australia have lower levels of income compared with others in Australia.
- Compared with Australian-born Māori, New Zealand-born Māori are more likely to participate in the labour market; be employed; and have higher incomes.

Australia has become home to a significant number of Māori, either born there or having migrated from New Zealand. This fact sheet summarises the demographic and socio-economic profile of Māori in Australia. The profile uses recent data from the 2011 Australia Census of Population and Housing, and previous censuses.¹

POPULATION SIZE

In 2011 there were 128,430 individuals who identified as Māori by ancestry.² Although it is difficult to determine the number of Māori globally, it is estimated that as many as one sixth of Māori live in Australia.

AGE AND SEX STRUCTURE

Māori in Australia are younger compared with the total Australian population. The age distribution (figure one) shows that there is a higher proportion of Māori under 30 years of age, and few aged over 40, compared with the total population. Furthermore, Australian-born Māori are a young population with 80 percent under 25 years. There has been little change in the age distribution of Māori in Australia since 2006.

The number of Māori in Australia has increased by 76 percent since 2001, from 72,970 to 128,430. New Zealand-born Māori make up two thirds of Māori in Australia, and the rate of growth for these and Australian-born Māori has been similar (just under 40 percent) since 2006. The growth rate of Māori in Australia since 2006 is almost five times that of the total Australian population.

Figure one: Age-sex structure of Māori living in Australia, 2006 and 2011 Census, compared with Total Australian population, 2011 Census.

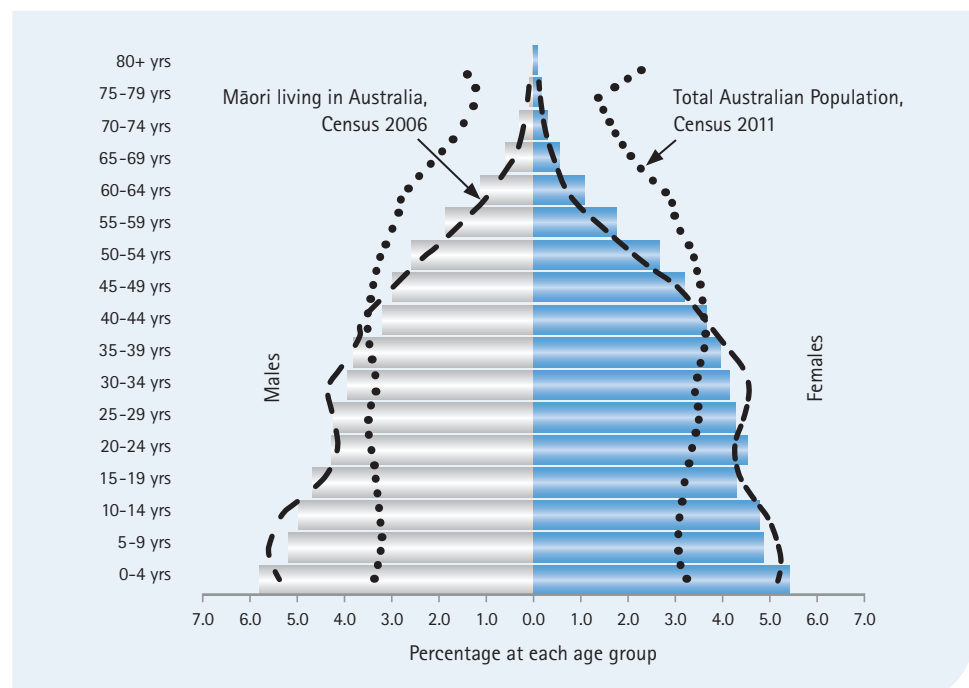


Table one: Population size and percentage change, Māori in Australia, 2001–2011.

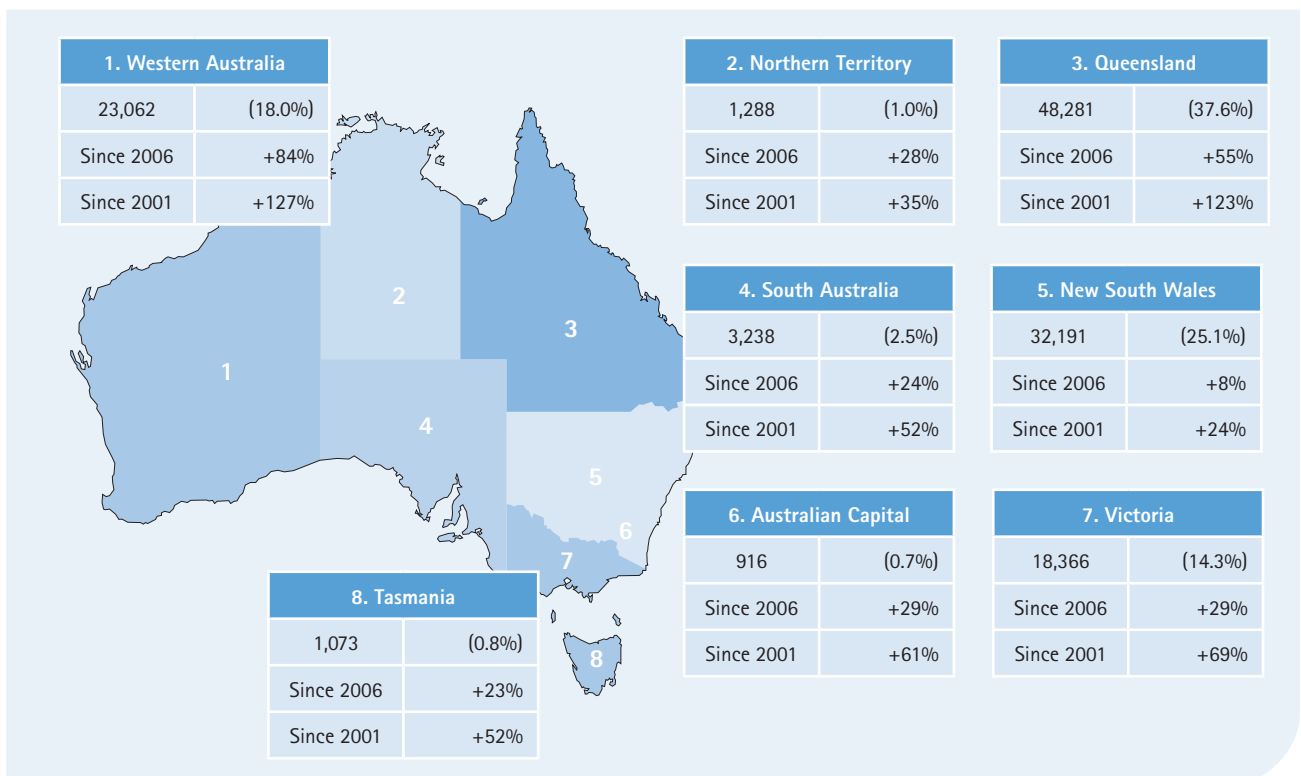
	2001		2006		2011		% Change 2001–06	% Change 2006–11	% Change 2001–11
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent			
Population with Māori Ancestry	72,970	100.0	92,917	100.0	128,430	100.0	+27.3	+38.2	+76.0
NZ-born Māori	49,241	67.5	59,157	63.7	82,579	64.3	+20.1	+39.6	+67.7
Australian-born Māori	20,596	28.2	30,939	33.3	42,837	33.4	+50.2	+38.5	+108.0
Māori born elsewhere	3,133	4.3	1,041	1.1	1,316	1.0	n/a	+26.4	n/a
Birth place not stated			1,780	1.9	1,698	1.3	n/a	-4.6	n/a
Total NZ-born population	355,765	100.0	389,465	100.0	483,398	100.0	+9.5	+24.1	+35.9
NZ-born Māori	49,241	13.8	59,157	15.2	82,579	17.1	+20.1	+39.6	+67.7
NZ-born non-Māori	306,524	86.2	317,110	81.4	387,693	80.2	n/a	+22.3	n/a
Ancestry not stated			13,198	3.4	13,126	2.7	n/a	-0.5	n/a
Total Australian Population	19,413,240		19,855,287		21,507,719		+2.3	+8.3	+10.8

WHERE MĀORI LIVE IN AUSTRALIA

Over three quarters of Māori live in New South Wales, Queensland or Western Australia. Since 2001, there has been a shift from a traditional hub of New South Wales to Western

Australia and Queensland, where numbers of Māori have more than doubled since 2001. The Māori population in New South Wales has only increased by 24 percent over the same period.

Figure two: Number (and percent) of Māori living in each state in 2011, and growth rate since 2001 and 2006.

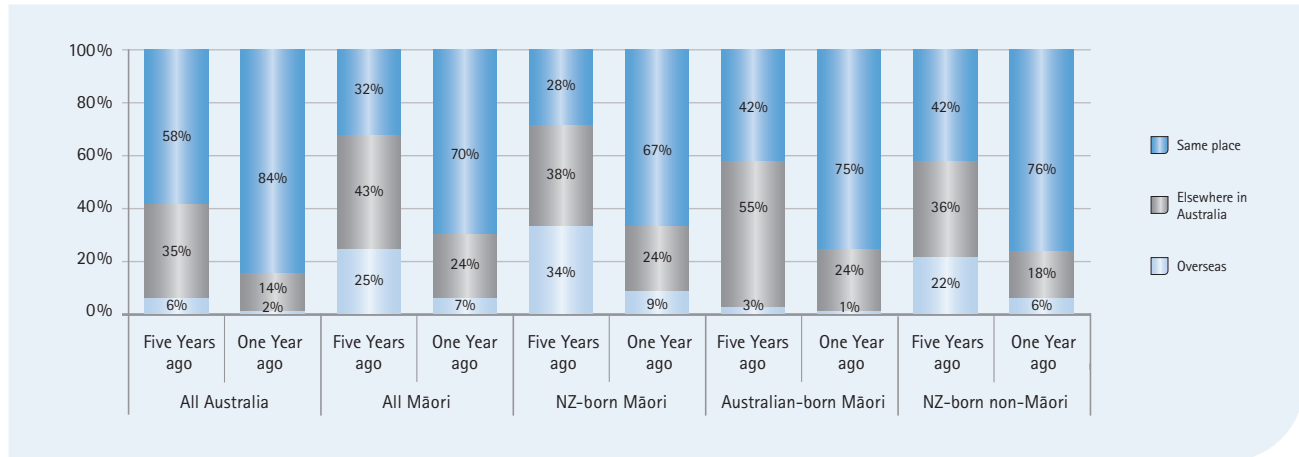


MĀORI MIGRATION

Māori in Australia are far more mobile than others in Australia. Just under one third of Māori (30 percent) lived somewhere else in Australia or overseas one year ago, compared with one sixth (16 percent) of the overall Australian population. Two thirds of Māori in Australia (68 percent) lived somewhere

else five years ago, compared with 42 percent for all living in Australia. For New Zealand-born Māori in Australia, approximately one-third arrived five or less years ago, and a further third arrived between 1996 and 2005.

Figure three: Where people lived one and five years ago, Census 2011.



CITIZENSHIP

Only one sixth (16.6 percent) of New Zealand-born Māori have Australian citizenship, compared with over one-third (38.0 percent) of New Zealand-born non-Māori, and two thirds (63.7 percent) of everyone not born in Australia. Half of New Zealand-born Māori (52 percent) who arrived in Australia prior to 1971, are Australian citizens with the level decreasing the more recently they arrived. The reduced citizenship rates since 2001 reflect legislative changes that provided New Zealand citizens with special provisions to live in Australia without needing citizenship. However, lack of citizenship means that Māori are unable to access many government services, including social security.

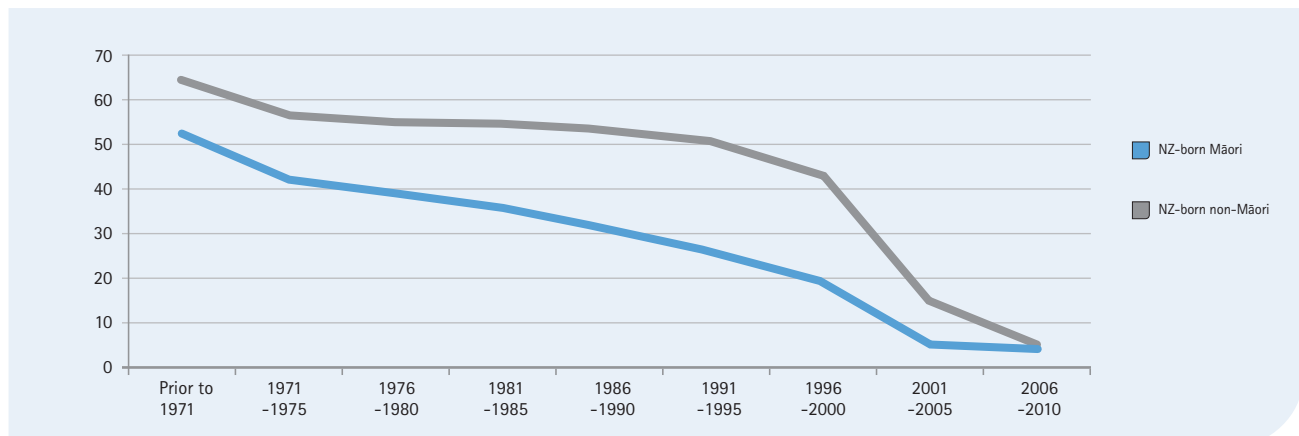
MĀORI IDENTIFICATION BY ANCESTRY

New Zealand-born Māori identified themselves more strongly as being Māori than Australian-born Māori. Over half (54 percent) of New Zealand-born Māori gave Māori as their sole ancestry, compared with 23 percent of Australian-born Māori.

TE REO MĀORI

A small proportion (6.3 percent) of Māori in Australia spoke te reo Māori at home in 2011, a small increase from the 5.7 per cent recorded in 2006. Furthermore, 8.2 percent of New Zealand-born Māori spoke te reo Māori at home, compared with 2.4 percent of Australian-born Māori.

Figure four: Proportion of NZ-born Māori and Non-Māori with Australian citizenship by period of arrival, Census 2011.



EDUCATION

Māori in Australia are less likely to have a secondary or tertiary qualification than other people living in Australia. This likelihood reduces further if they are born in New Zealand. Less than half of New Zealand-born Māori aged 20–64 have a Year 12 or equivalent school qualification. Although Australian-born Māori have a higher rate of school qualifications (54 percent), it is still less than New Zealand-born non-Māori (57 percent) and Australian total (59 percent).

MĀORI IN THE LABOUR FORCE

Māori participation in the labour force and their rate of employment is similar to that of others in Australia. When looking at those in the prime working ages of 25–54 (figure five) we see that most Māori (84 percent) are participating in the labour force (ie. they are either employed, or seeking employment). This level of participation is similar to the total rate for Australia (83 percent). More Māori males (93 percent) are in the labour force, compared to Māori females (76 percent), a gender difference consistently found in Māori and non-Māori, New Zealand-born and Australian-born. Although New Zealand-born Māori participate at a higher rate than that

Well over half (59 percent) of prime working age Māori (25 – 54 years) in Australia have no tertiary qualification, compared with 37 percent of the total prime working age population, and 41 percent of New Zealand-born non-Māori.

of all Australians (85 percent vs 83 percent), Australian-born Māori are lower, with 79 percent.

Employment rates for the prime working age group show similar patterns to Labour Force participation. Māori have similar employment rates to overall Australian rates (78 percent for Māori compared with 79 percent overall). Females have lower employment rates than males, with the difference being greater for Māori. New Zealand-born Māori have higher rates than Australian-born Māori (79 percent vs 74 percent).

Figure five: Age Standardised rates of Labour Force Participation (left) and Employment (right) for Prime working age population (25–54 years) by sex, Census 2011.



■ OCCUPATIONS

Māori tend to be in lower skilled occupations compared with Australian workers overall. Less than one-third of prime working age Māori are in high skilled occupations such as managers, professionals, and technicians and trades workers, compared with over half for all workers in Australia.

Conversely, almost half of Māori are employed in lower skilled jobs, such as machinery operators and drivers, and labourers, compared with 16 percent for all workers in Australia. These differences in occupation have shown little change since 2006.

Table two: Occupations of those employed, 25–54 years, Census 2011.

Occupation	Total Australian		All Māori	
	Percent (%)	% change since 2006	Percent (%)	% change since 2006
Managers	14.2	-0.3	8.3	0.0
Professionals	24.5	+1.6	10.2	+0.6
Technicians and Trades Workers	14.3	-0.1	13.3	-1.1
Community and Personal Service Workers	9.1	+0.7	9.9	+0.1
Clerical and Administrative Workers	15.5	-0.4	14.3	+0.6
Sales Workers	7.0	-0.3	5.7	+0.2
Machinery Operators and Drivers	6.9	-0.2	19.9	+1.4
Labourers	8.5	-1.0	18.5	-1.8

In part these differences in occupation are related to the industries where Māori work. Although the majority of industries where Māori work are similar to that for all workers

in Australia, a higher proportion of New Zealand-born Māori worked in construction, manufacturing and mining (32 percent compared with 20 percent of all Australian workers).



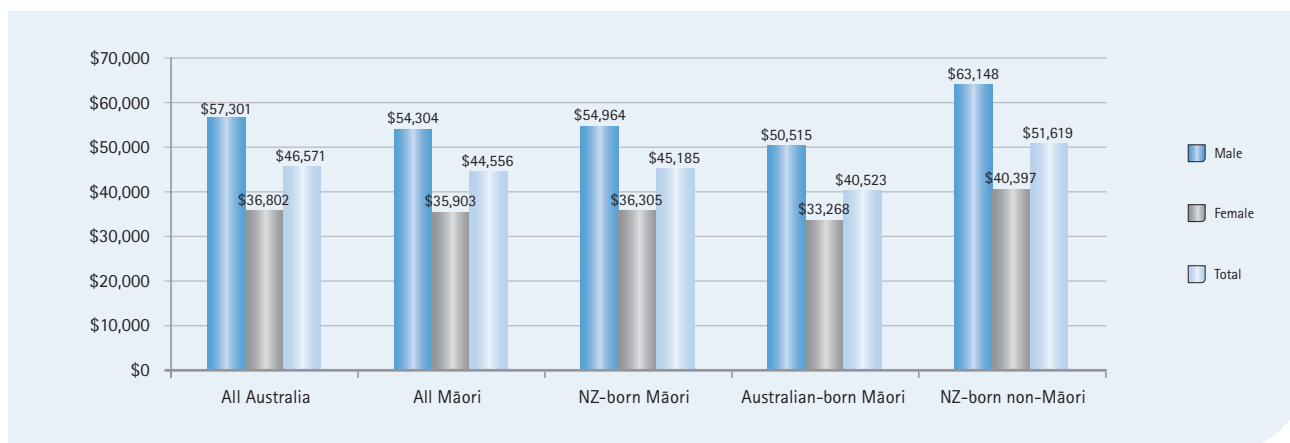


INCOME

Māori in Australia, on average, earn less than others, and far less than New Zealand-born non-Māori. Figure six shows that the median incomes of prime working age Māori (\$44,556) are lower than that of the total population (\$46,571), whereas New Zealand-born non-Māori experience a median income over 10 percent higher (\$51,619) than the total population.

Māori women have a lower median income compared with Māori men (\$35,903 compared with \$53,304). This gender difference, consistent across all groups in figure six, is partly due to the lower labour force participation rates of women.

Figure six: Median annual income by sex, 25–54 years, Census 2011.



NOTES

- The sources for the statistics in this factsheet are the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Census of Population and Dwellings, 2001 to 2011.
- Māori are identified in the Census through a question that asks for a respondent's ancestry. For reasons amply covered by Hamer (2007), this number is likely to under-represent the number of Māori in Australia, and should thus be taken as a minimum. The actual number of individuals of Māori descent is difficult to estimate with any degree of precision, but may be in the range of 140,000 to 160,000.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about Māori overseas and the 2011 Australian Census refer to:

- Kukutai and Pawar (2013) *Demographic Profile of Māori living in Australia in 2011* <http://www.waikato.ac.nz/nidea/research/nidea-discussion-papers>
- Te Puni Kōkiri (2012) *Every Māori Counts: A factsheet on Māori overseas based on Kea New Zealand's Every Kiwi Counts survey 2011* <http://www.tpk.govt.nz/en/in-print/our-publications/fact-sheets/every-Māori-counts/>
- Hamer (2007) *Māori in Australia* <http://www.tpk.govt.nz/en/in-print/our-publications/publications/Māori-in-australia/?q=Australia>



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