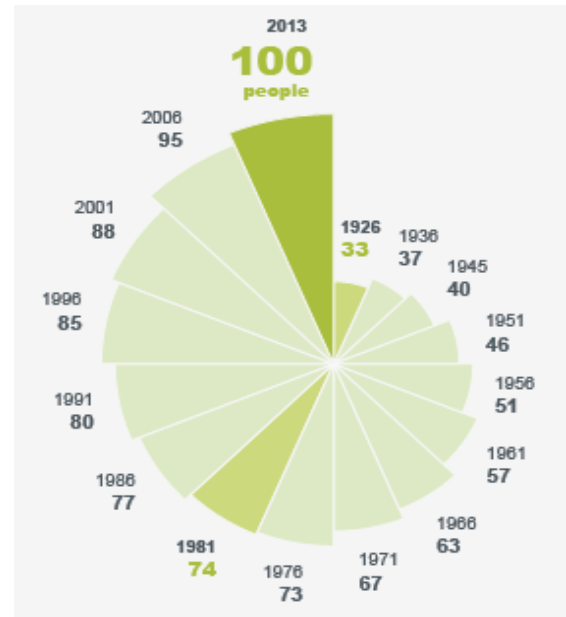


**Population Change**

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

- **Population growth can have a major effect on the health of the environment**
- **New Zealand’s population increased to 4.5 million in 2013**
- **New Zealand’s population has tripled since 1926 and is expected to reach 5 million in 2026.**

Figure 1: New Zealand as a village of 100 people, 1926-2013



Source: Statistics New Zealand. (2013)

**Population growth can have a major effect on the health of the environment**

Population growth can have a major effect on the health of the environment. Positive outcomes from population growth and higher density living include (Kerr 1997):

- economic development and growth
- increased funding for programmes related to environmental issues
- public transport
- reticulated water supplies

Conversely, rapid population growth can place heavy demands on the environment, if not managed carefully. Population growth can lead to (Briggs 1999):

- air pollution
- poorer drinking water quality
- waste and sanitation issues
- increased vector-borne disease.

A decreasing population size can put pressure on essential services. Fewer ratepayers can make it difficult to maintain basic infrastructure.

Table 1: Estimated total population 2011-2013

Year	Estimated population	Increase	
		Number	Percent
2011	4,422,500	--	--
2012	4,452,900	30,400	0.7
2013	4,504,600	51,700	1.2

Source: Statistics New Zealand, 2014

Note: Year to 31 December

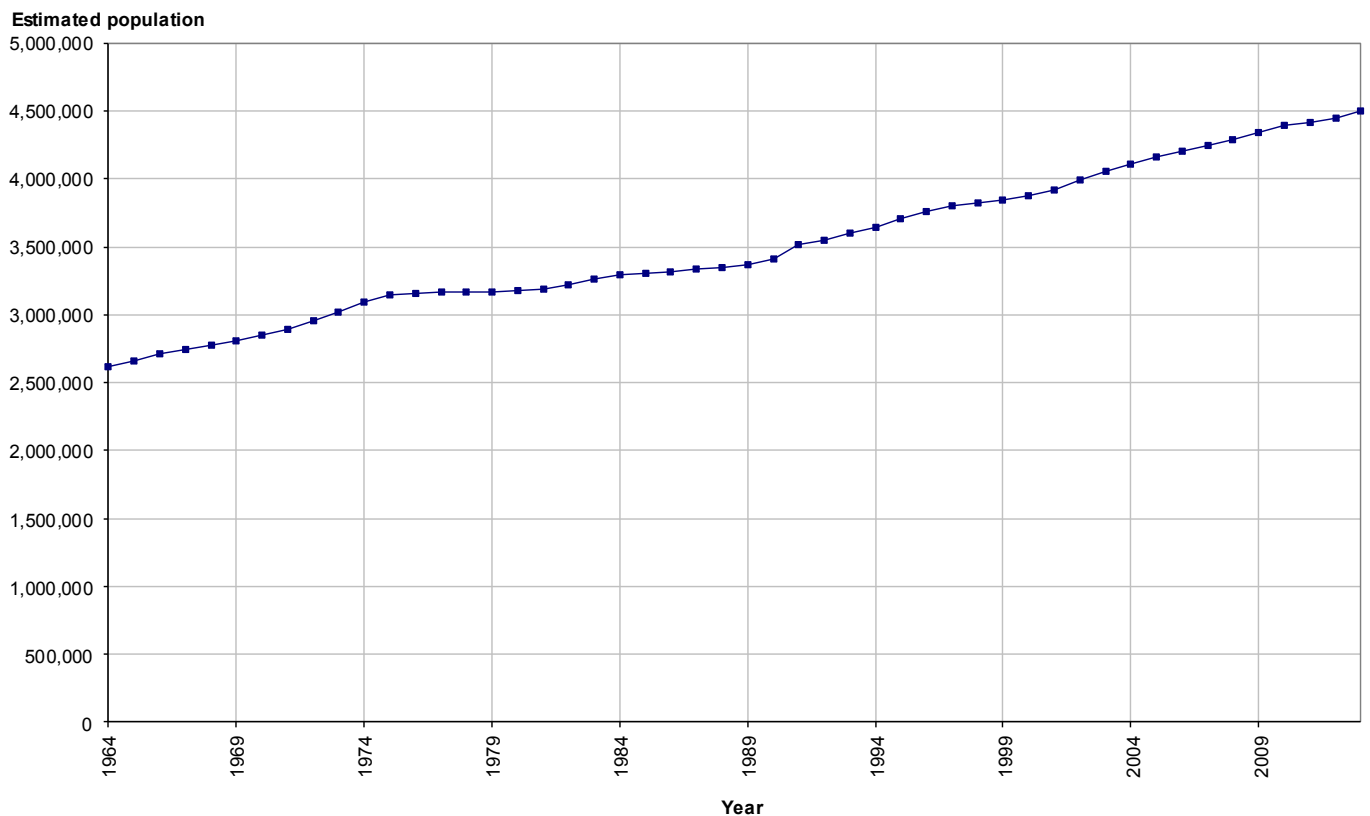
**New Zealand’s population increased to 4.5 million in 2013**

The estimated total population in New Zealand by 31 December 2013 hit 4.5 million. Compared to 2012, population increased by 0.1 million (1.2%). (Table 1)

**New Zealand’s population has tripled since 1926 and is expected to reach 5 million in 2026.**

Up until 2013, the New Zealand’s population had tripled since 1926 (Figure 1). In the past 50 years, New Zealand population has increased by 72%: from 2.6 million in 1964 to 4.5 million in 2013 (Figure 2). Except in 1977-1979 when the population remained relatively stable, the New Zealand population has increased each year. The total population is expected to reach 5 million in 2026 (Statistics New Zealand, 2009).

**Figure 2: Estimated total population in New Zealand, 1964-2013**



Source: Statistics New Zealand, 2014

Note: Year to 31 December

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