



**NEW ZEALAND MAORI POPULATION**—All persons of half or more Maori ancestry are defined as Maoris.

The growth rate of Maoris in the population approaches twice that of the population taken as a whole; an average annual increase in 1966-71 of 2.5 percent as compared with 1.4 percent for the total population. (Nevertheless the growth rate showed a slight fall when compared with the previous intercensal periods.)

The population growth rate among the Maoris is predominantly a result of natural increase, whereas in the total population natural increase is normally supplemented by sizeable increments from migration.

When studying growth rates of the Maori population, however, it should be noted that, as a result of intermarriage, there are increasing numbers of Maori children (half or more Maori) who have one parent not counted in the Maori population i.e., if a full Maori male marries a full European female or vice versa, the resulting progeny are all counted in the Maori population; this undoubtedly contributes to the high Maori percentage increase.

The decline in the number of Maoris during the early years of European settlement and throughout most of the nineteenth century is a matter of history. The present century has witnessed a resurgence of vitality among the Maori people which has been reflected in a strikingly high birth rate.

The increasing urbanisation of the Maori population as younger Maoris seek better job opportunities in the cities and boroughs is a population trend of considerable sociological significance.

A statement of N.Z. Maori population is now given for each census from 1901.

Year	New Zealand Maori Population	Intercensal Increase	Intercensal Increase	Average Annual Increase
<b>*Includes members of New Zealand armed forces overseas at census date,</b>				
	number		percent	
1901	45,549	3,435	8.2	1.6
1906	50,309	4,760	10.5	2.0
1911	52,723	2,414	4.8	1.0
1916	52,997	2,274	0.5	0.1
1921	56,987	3,990	7.5	1.6
1926	63,670	6,683	11.7	2.2
1936	82,326	18,656	29.3	2.6
1945	98,744	16,418	19.9	1.9
1945*	100,044	17,718	21.5	2.1
1951	115,676	16,932	17.1	2.9
1951 *	115,740	15,696	15.7	2.7
1956	137,151	21,475	18.6	3.5
1956*	137,341	21,601	18.7	3.5
1961	167,086	29,935	21.8	4.0
1961*	167,390	30,049	21.9	4.0
1966	201,159	34,073	20.4	3.8
1966*	201,479	34,089	20.4	3.8
1971	227,414	26,255	13.1	2.5
1971*	227,741	26,262	13.0	2.5

Of the 227,414 Maoris at the 1971 Census, 213,472 were in the North Island. Most Maoris used to live in rural communities. A marked change has, however, taken place during and since the war as a result of employment conditions. As late as the 1936 Census only 8,249 Maoris (10 percent) dwelt in cities, boroughs, or independent town districts. By the 1971 Census the comparative figure was 132,970 (58.5 percent); the largest concentration is in Southern Auckland urban area, where 20,675 Maoris were enumerated in 1971.

The Maori population, which until recently was not greatly affected by external migration, is a much younger population than the non-Maori.

The following table for 1966 shows the high proportion (50.3 percent) of Maori children under 15 years compared with the total population (32.6 percent), and the low proportion of people in the older age groups.

Age Group (Years)	Percentage in Age Groups (1966 Census)	
	New Zealand Maori	Total Population
Under 15	50.3	32.6
15 - 19	9.8	9.2
20 - 44	29.2	31.1
45 - 59	7.5	15.1
60 and over	3.2	12.0
Totals	100.0	100.0