

MELAA in Auckland

2018 Census results

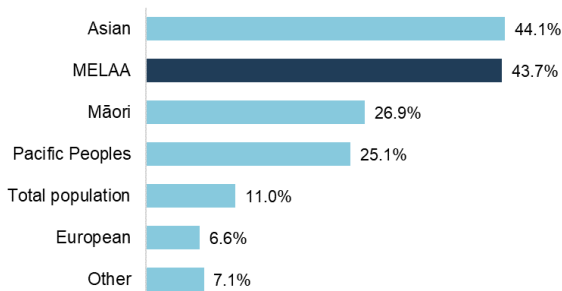
The 2018 New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings was held on 6 March 2018. This is the official count by Stats NZ of how many people and dwellings there are in New Zealand.

This information sheet provides an overview of initial results from the census for people in the broad MELAA category. This includes people of Middle Eastern, Latin American and African ethnicities. Ethnicity is self-perceived, and a person can be part of more than one ethnic group.

MELAA are a small but fast-growing group

At the 2018 Census there were 35,838 usual residents in Auckland who were in the broad MELAA category (2.3% of Auckland's population) – an increase of 10,893 people, or 43.7%, since the 2013 Census. The MELAA population has grown more rapidly than the wider Auckland population.

Population growth (2013 to 2018)



MELAA refers to Middle Eastern, Latin American and African. People could choose more than one ethnicity and categories are not exclusive.



35,838

people in 2018

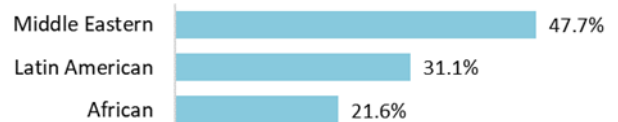
+ 10,893 (43.7%)

since the 2013 Census

The MELAA group is diverse

MELAA is one of the most diverse ethnic categories. The largest group (47.7%) identify with a Middle Eastern ethnicity.

Proportion of MELAA in the three main ethnic sub-groups (%)



MELAA Level 3 Ethnic Groups, 2018 Census

At a finer level of detail, there are 48 distinct ethnicities defined under MELAA. The four largest sub-groups are shown below.

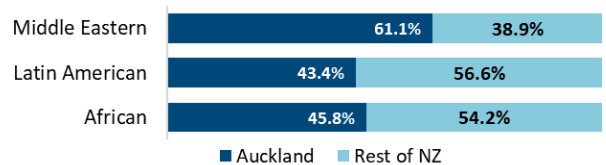
Proportion of MELAA in four largest sub-groups (%)



MELAA Level 4 Ethnic Groups, 2018 Census
(Those with percentage ≥ 5% in Auckland)

Half (51%) of those in the broad MELAA category in New Zealand live in Auckland. Almost two thirds (61.1%) of all NZ usual residents who identify with a Middle Eastern ethnicity live in Auckland.

Proportion of MELAA sub-groups living in Auckland



Dated: 10 February 2020

MELAA are the smallest ethnic group in Auckland

MELAA represent 2.3% of the Auckland population, up from 1.9% at the 2013 Census.

Ethnic group as % of Auckland total population (%)

	2013	2018
European	59.3	53.5
Asian	23.1	28.2
Pacific Peoples	14.6	15.5
Māori	10.7	11.5
MELAA	1.9	2.3
Other	1.2	1.1

MELAA refers to Middle Eastern, Latin American and African. People could choose more than one ethnicity and categories are not exclusive. Percentages will add to more than 100.

Across Auckland's 21 local board areas, Waitemātā (4.7%) and Puketāpapa (3.5%) have the largest proportion of usual residents who are in the broad MELAA category.

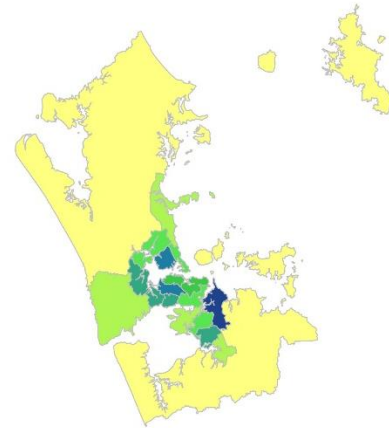
MELAA population by local board (2018)

	Number	%	Distribution of MELAA population (%)
Rodney	450	0.7%	1.3%
Hibiscus and Bays	1551	1.5%	4.3%
Upper Harbour	1887	3.0%	5.3%
Kaipātiki	2718	3.1%	7.6%
Devonport-Takapuna	1476	2.5%	4.1%
Henderson-Massey	3087	2.6%	8.6%
Waitākere Ranges	936	1.8%	2.6%
Aotea / Great Barrier	0	0.0%	0.0%
Waiheke	315	3.5%	0.9%
Waitemātā	3912	4.7%	10.9%
Whau	2286	2.9%	6.4%
Albert-Eden	2748	2.8%	7.7%
Puketāpapa	2163	3.8%	6.0%
Ōrākei	2127	2.5%	5.9%
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	1680	2.2%	4.7%
Howick	3540	2.5%	9.9%
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu	603	0.8%	1.7%
Ōtara-Papatoetoe	882	1.0%	2.5%
Manurewa	1962	2.1%	5.5%
Papakura	918	1.6%	2.6%
Franklin	585	0.8%	1.6%
Auckland total	35,838	2.3%	100.0%

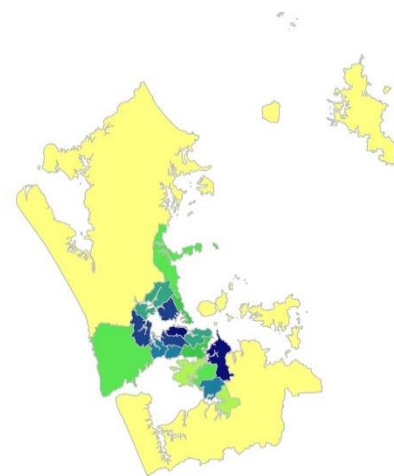
The maps below show the number of the usually resident population in Auckland's 21 local board areas who identify with a MELAA ethnicity, over time. There has been an increase in all local board areas, particularly in Waitemātā.

Number of local board population identifying with a MELAA ethnicity (2006, 2013 and 2018)

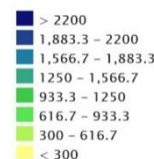
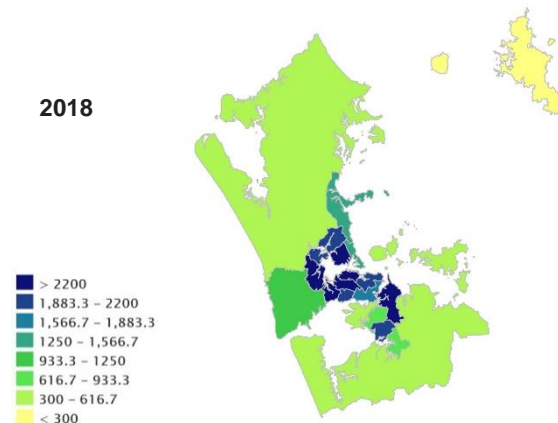
2006



2013



2018



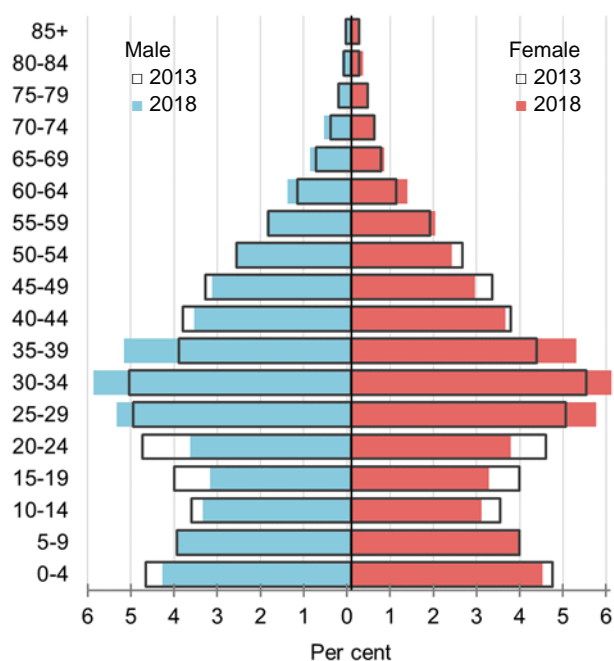
Auckland's MELAA population has a high proportion of young adults

As the age/sex chart shows below, at the 2018 Census, a third (33.6%) of the MELAA population in Auckland was aged between 25 and 39 years, up from 28.9% in 2013.

During that time there was a decrease in the proportion aged 15 to 24 years (17.3% in 2013 and 13.9% in 2018).

In 2018, a relatively small proportion (4.3%) were aged 65 years or older, compared to 12.2% of the rest of Auckland's population.

MELAA age /sex structure (2013 compared with 2018)



Age	MELAA		Other Ethnicities	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
0-14	8313	23.2	305,532	19.9
15-64	25,956	72.5	1,042,752	67.9
65 +	1551	4.3	187,626	12.2
Total	35,820	100.0	1,535,910	100.0

In 2018 the Auckland MELAA population included



8313

children aged under 15 years

+ 2205 (36.1%)

since the 2013 Census



1551

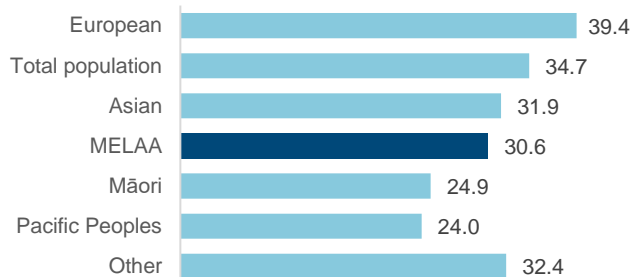
people over 65

+ 594 (62.1%)

since the 2013 Census

At the 2018 Census, the median age of the MELAA population in Auckland was 30.6 years, compared with 34.7 years overall in Auckland. MELAA females (30.6 years) have a lower median age than MELAA males (31.0 years).

Median age (2018) (years)



A note on data sources

In response to issues with the 2018 Census, Stats NZ has, for the first time, used administrative and other data to help fill gaps caused by response rates that were lower than anticipated. More information on data sources used by variable is available on the Stats NZ website. Stats NZ [rates the quality of ethnicity data as high.](#)

Further information

For further information on Auckland related census data, please visit our interactive census data mapping site www.censusauckland.co.nz or contact the Research and Evaluation Unit at census@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz