

2023 Census results

Middle Eastern, Latin American and African (MELAA) group in Auckland

About the 2023 Census

The 2023 New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings was held on 7 March 2023.

This is the official count by Stats NZ of how many people and dwellings there are in New Zealand. It provides a snapshot of New Zealand on census day. Stats NZ used a combined census model in 2023 to produce the highest possible data quality. For more information on what this involved, go to:

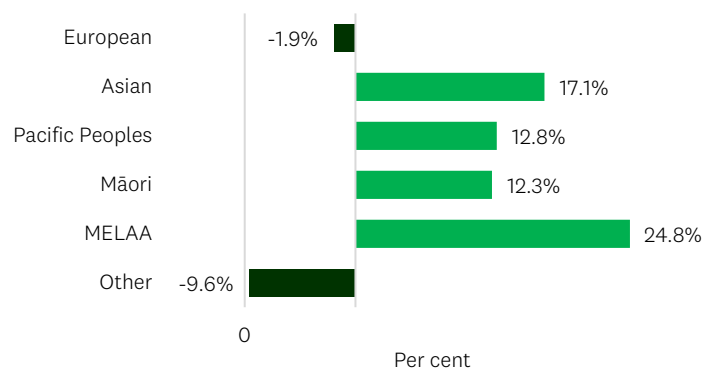
www.stats.govt.nz/topics/using-a-combined-census-model-for-the-2023-census/.

This summary report provides an overview of results from the census for people in the broad MELAA ethnic group. Ethnicity is self-reported, and a person can be part of more than one ethnic group.

MELAA is a small but fast-growing group

At the 2023 Census, 44,718 usual residents in Auckland identified with the broad MELAA category (2.7% of Auckland's population) – an increase of 8880 people, or 24.8%, since the 2018 Census. The MELAA population has grown more rapidly than the wider Auckland population (5.4%).

Population growth by ethnic group (2018 to 2023)

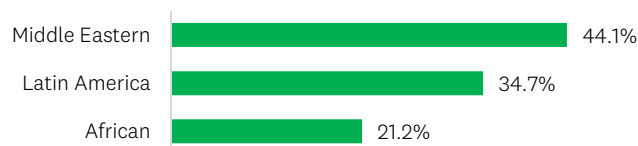


People could choose more than one ethnicity and therefore categories are not exclusive.

The MELAA group is diverse

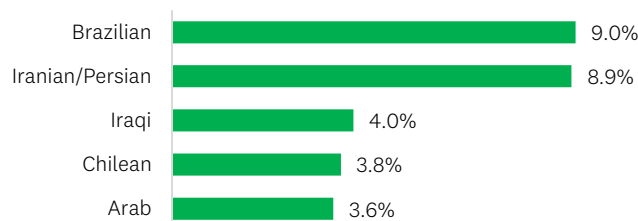
MELAA is one of the most diverse ethnic categories. The largest group (44.1%) identify with a Middle Eastern ethnicity.

Proportion of MELAA in the three main ethnic sub-groups



At a finer level of detail, there are 45 distinct ethnicities defined under MELAA. The five largest sub-groups are shown below.

Proportion of MELAA in the five largest sub-groups

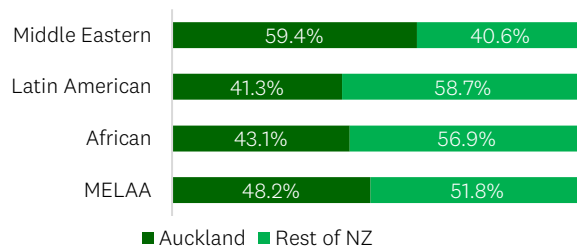


(Those with percentages ≥ 3% in Auckland)

Almost half (48.2%) of those in the broad MELAA category in New Zealand live in Auckland.

A relatively large proportion (59.4%) of New Zealand usual residents who identify with a Middle Eastern ethnicity live in Auckland.

Proportion of MELAA sub-groups living in Auckland



■ Auckland ■ Rest of NZ

The broad MELAA group is the smallest in Auckland

MELAA represent 2.7% of the Auckland population, up from 1.9% at the 2013 Census and up from 2.3% at the 2018 Census.

Ethnic group as proportion of Auckland total population (%)

	2013	2018	2023
European	59.3	53.5	49.8
Asian	23.1	28.2	31.3
Pacific Peoples	14.6	15.5	16.6
Māori	10.7	11.5	12.3
MELAA	1.9	2.3	2.7
Other	1.2	1.1	0.9

People could choose more than one ethnicity and therefore categories are not exclusive. Percentages will add to more than 100.

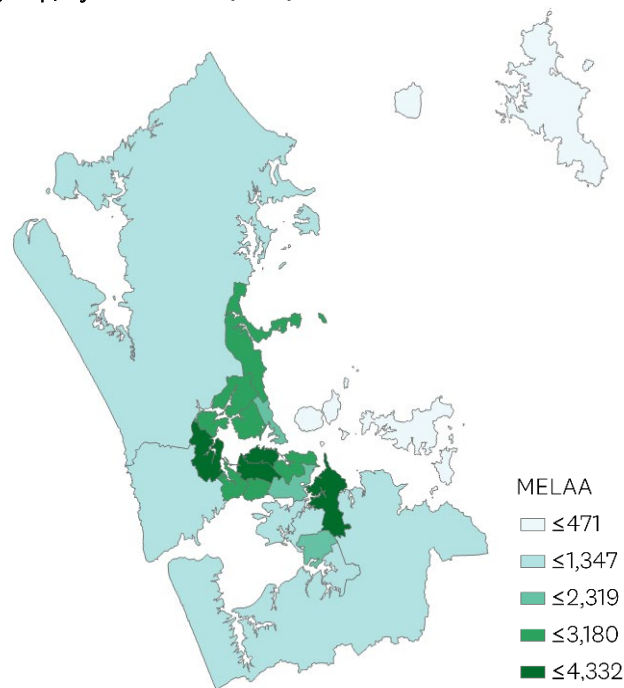
As shown in the table below, across Auckland's 21 local board areas, Waiheke (5.1%), Waitemātā (4.8%) and Puketāpapa (4.6%) have the largest proportion of usual residents who are in the broad MELAA category. Howick has the largest number of those who identify in the MELAA category across all the local boards.

MELAA population by local board (2023)

Local Board (ordered north to south)	Number	%	Distribution of MELAA population in Auckland
Rodney	945	1.2	2.1
Hibiscus and Bays	2,505	2.2	5.6
Upper Harbour	2,778	3.6	6.2
Kaipātiki	3,180	3.6	7.1
Devonport-Takapuna	1,812	3.1	4.1
Henderson-Massey	3,564	2.9	8.0
Waitākere Ranges	1,347	2.5	3.0
Aotea / Great Barrier	9	0.7	0.0
Waiheke	471	5.1	1.1
Waitemātā	3,903	4.8	8.7
Whau	2,832	3.5	6.3
Albert-Eden	3,342	3.5	7.5
Puketāpapa	2,610	4.6	5.8
Ōrākei	2,790	3.4	6.2
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	2,319	3.0	5.2
Howick	4,332	2.8	9.7
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu	804	1.0	1.8
Ōtara-Papatoetoe	855	1.0	1.9
Manurewa	2,091	2.1	4.7
Papakura	1,257	1.7	2.8
Franklin	969	1.1	2.2
Auckland total	44,718	2.7	100.0

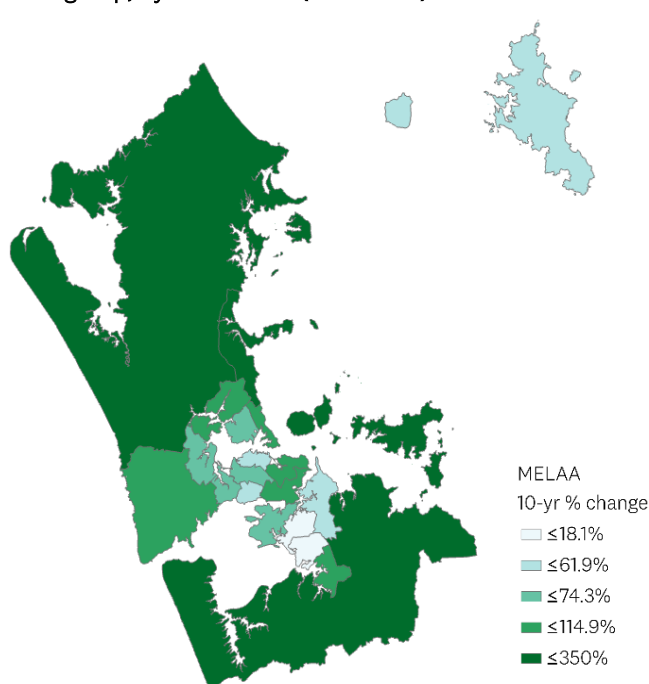
The map below shows a visual representation of the first column of the previous table. The largest populations are in Howick, Waitemātā and Henderson-Massey.

Number of usual residents identifying with a MELAA ethnic group, by local board (2023)



The following map shows that between 2013 and 2023 the largest percentage changes were in Rodney (+350%), Waiheke (+303%) and Franklin (+289%). These large proportional increases are due to very low MELAA populations in 2013.

Percentage change of usual residents identifying with a MELAA ethnic group, by local board (2013-2023)



Auckland's MELAA population has a high proportion of adults in their 30s

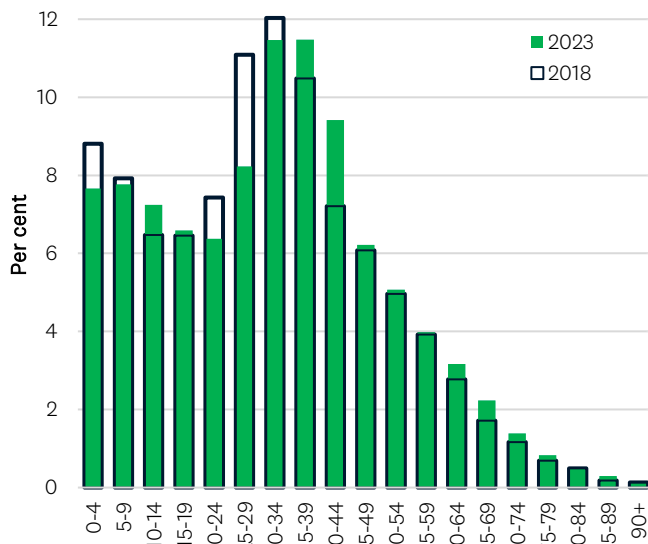
As the age structure chart shows below, 22.9% of the MELAA population in Auckland was aged between 30 and 39, slightly up from 22.5% in 2018.

Over three quarters (76.2%) of the MELAA population was aged below 40, slightly down from 77.9% in 2018.

The greatest change between 2018 and 2023 was in the 25-29 age group, falling from 11.1% to 8.2%.

In 2023, a relatively small proportion (5.4%) were aged 65 years or older, compared to 13.3% of the rest of Auckland's population.

MELAA age structure (2018 compared with 2023)



MELAA ethnicity by broad age group, compared to the rest of the Auckland population (2023)

Age	MELAA		Rest of Auckland	
	Numbers	%	Numbers	%
0-14	10,137	22.7	308,706	19.2
15-64	32,187	72.0	1,085,703	67.4
65 +	2,394	5.4	217,359	13.5
Total	44,718	100.0	1,611,768	100.0

In 2023, the Auckland MELAA population included:



10,137

children aged under 15 years

+1824 (+21.9%)

since the 2018 Census



2394

people aged over 65

+843 (+54.4%)

since the 2018 Census

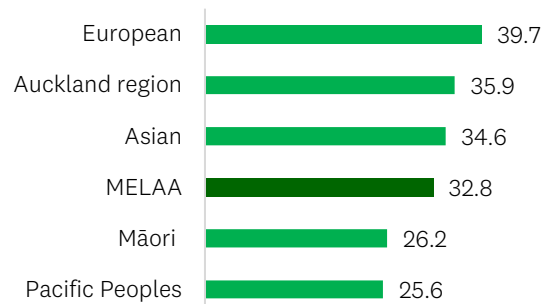
The following table shows a further breakdown of the age structure of the MELAA group. Those of Middle Eastern ethnicity had a much higher proportion of aged over 65 than the other ethnic groups.

The three largest MELAA ethnic groups by broad age group and median age (2023)

Age group	Middle Eastern (%)	Latin American (%)	African (%)
0-14	23.0	19.8	27.2
15-64	68.4	78.1	68.9
65 +	8.6	2.1	4.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0
Median age (years)	34.2	33.3	28.2

The median age of the MELAA population in Auckland was 32.8 years, compared with 30.8 years in 2018. The median age for the entire Auckland population was 35.9 years in 2023.

Median age (2023) (years)



Further information

This document was prepared in November 2024 by the Social and Economic Research and Evaluation team at Auckland Council as part of a series of [census summaries](#), available on Knowledge Auckland (www.knowledgeauckland.org.nz). For further information or queries on the census please contact us at census@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz.