



New Zealand



Background	The Polynesian Maori reached New Zealand in the late 1200s. In 1840, their chieftains signed the Treaty of Waitangi with Great Britain, ceding sovereignty while retaining territorial rights. The British colony of New Zealand became an independent dominion in 1907.
Capital	name: Wellington
Government type	parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm
Area	total : 268,838 sq km land: 264,537 sq km water: 4,301 sq km
Climate	temperate with sharp regional contrasts
Natural resources	natural gas, iron ore, sand, coal, timber, hydropower, gold, limestone
Population	total: 5,161,211 (2024 est.)
Population growth rate	0.95% (2024 est.)
Ethnic groups	European 64.1%, Maori 16.5%, Chinese 4.9%, Indian 4.7%, Samoan 3.9%, Tongan 1.8%, Cook Islands Maori 1.7%, English 1.5%, Filipino 1.5%, New Zealander 1%, other 13.7% (2018 est.)
Religions	Christian 37.3% (Catholic 10.1%, Anglican 6.8%, Presbyterian and Congregational 5.2%, Pentecostal 1.8%, Methodist 1.6%, Church of Jesus Christ 1.2%, other 10.7%), Hindu 2.7%, Maori 1.3%, Muslim, 1.3%, Buddhist 1.1%, other religion 1.6% (includes Judaism, Spiritualism and New Age religions, Baha'i, Asian religions other than Buddhism), no religion 48.6%, objected to answering 6.7% (2018 est.)
Languages	English (de facto official) 95.4%, Maori (de jure official) 4%, Samoan 2.2%, Northern Chinese 2%, Hindi 1.5%, French 1.2%, Yue 1.1%, New Zealand Sign Language (de jure official) 0.5%, other or not stated 17.2% (2018 est.)
Executive branch	chief of state: King CHARLES III (since 8 September 2022); represented by Governor-General Dame Cindy KIRO (since 21 October 2021) head of government: Prime Minister Christopher LUXON (since 27 November 2023)
Diplomatic representation in the US	chief of mission: Ambassador Rosemary BANKS (since 17 June 2024)
Diplomatic representation from the US	chief of mission: Ambassador (vacant); Chargé d'Affaires David GEHRENBECK (since January 2025); note - also accredited to Samoa
Economic overview	high-income, globally integrated Pacific island economy; strong agriculture, manufacturing, and tourism sectors; reliant on Chinese market for exports; recovery trajectory following deep post-pandemic recession; challenges of fiscal deficits, below-average productivity, cost of living, and drop in net migration
Real GDP (purchasing power parity)	\$257.117 billion (2024 est.) \$257.443 billion (2023 est.) \$253.903 billion (2022 est.)
Real GDP per capita	\$48,200 (2024 est.) \$49,100 (2023 est.) \$49,600 (2022 est.)
Exports	\$61.799 billion (2024 est.) \$59.029 billion (2023 est.) \$57.485 billion (2022 est.)
Exports - partners	China 28%, USA 12%, Australia 12%, Japan 6%, S. Korea 3% (2023)
Exports - commodities	milk, wood, beef, butter, sheep and goat meat (2023)
Imports	\$67.998 billion (2024 est.) \$68.412 billion (2023 est.) \$71.35 billion (2022 est.)
Imports - partners	China 20%, Australia 11%, USA 9%, S. Korea 7%, Japan 7% (2023)
Imports - commodities	refined petroleum, cars, gas turbines, broadcasting equipment, trucks (2023)

Population Pyramid

