NEW ZEALAND

INTRODUCTION
The Polynesian Maori reached New Zealand sometime between A.D. 1250 and 1300. In 1840, their chieftains entered into a compact with Great Britain, the Treaty of Waitangi, in which they ceded sovereignty to Queen Victoria while retaining territorial rights. The British colony of New Zealand became an independent dominion in 1907. In recent years, the government has sought to address longstanding Maori grievances.

GOVERNMENT
Chief of State
Queen ELIZABETH II represented by Governor-General Dame Patricia Lee REDDY
Head of Government
Prime Minister Jacinda ARDERN
Government Type
parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm
Capital
Wellington
Legislature
unicameral House of Representatives - commonly called Parliament (120 seats)

GEOGRAPHY
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

as of October 2021

ECONOMY
Economic Overview
high-income Pacific island economy; strong agriculture, manufacturing, tourism, and energy sectors; reliant on Chinese market for exports; sustained growth; low unemployment; high living standards; sharp growth post COVID-19 lockdown
GDP (Purchasing Power Parity) $215.6 billion (2020 est.)
GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) $42,400 (2020 est.)
Industries - agriculture, forestry, fishing, logs/wood articles, manufacturing, mining, construction, financial services, real estate services, tourism
Agricultural products - milk, beef, kiwi fruit, apples, potatoes, mutton, grapes, wheat, barley, green onions/shallots
Exports $50.43 billion (2020 est.)
dairy products, sheep/goat meat, lumber, beef products, fruits
partners: China 28%, Australia 14%, US 9%, Japan 6% (2019)
Imports $47.86 billion (2020 est.)
cars, crude and refined petroleum, delivery trucks, gas turbines (2019)
partners: China 18%, Australia 15%, US 9%, Japan 6%, Germany 5% (2019)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY
Population
5 million (July 2021 est.)
Population Growth
1.28% (2021 est.)
Ethnicity
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.)
Language
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.)
Religion
Christian 37.3%, Hindu 2.7%, Maori 1.3%, Muslim, 1.3%, Buddhist 1.1%, other religion 1.6%, no religion 48.6%, objected to answering 6.7% (2018 est.)