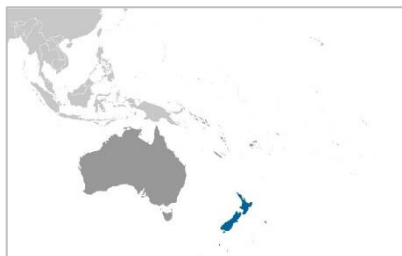




NEW ZEALAND



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

King CHARLES III; represented by Governor-General Dame Cindy KIRO

Head of Government

Prime Minister Chris HIPKINS

Government Type

parliamentary democracy under a constitutional monarchy; a Commonwealth realm

Capital

Wellington

Legislature

unicameral House of Representatives commonly called Parliament (121 seats)

Ambassador to US

Ambassador Bede Gilbert CORRY

US Ambassador

Ambassador Thomas Stewart UDALL

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

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) \$219.8 billion (2021 est.)

GDP per capita (Purchasing Power Parity) \$42,900 (2021 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 \$54.78 billion (2021 est.)

milk cream powders, lumber, beef, butter, mutton (2021)

partners: China 33%, Australia 12%, US 11%, Japan 6%, South Korea 3% (2021)

Imports \$62.86 billion (2021 est.)

cars, refined petroleum, crude petroleum, delivery trucks, broadcasting equipment, gas turbines (2021)

partners: China 22%, Australia 15%, US 7%, Japan 6%, Thailand 5% (2021)

PEOPLE & SOCIETY

Population

5.1 million (2023 est.)

Population Growth

1.06% (2023 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.)