

# A brief history of census

Here are some key facts on the history of census.

- 1851** First ever “Empire” census held (excluding Māori)
- 1858** The first census of Māori
- 1877** Law passed requiring a census to be held every five years
- 1901** The census asked how many domestic house servants people had
- 1921** Individual forms introduced
- 1951** Same questionnaire for both European and Māori introduced
- 1966** You were asked if you had a television and washing machine in your home (until 1981)
- 1996** Te Reo Māori and English forms introduced
- 2001** Questions on internet and mobile phone access introduced
- 2018** Questions about mould and dampness in homes introduced
- 2023** This year’s census takes place on March 7

## Did you know:

The census has been held every five years since 1881, except:

- 1931 because of the Great Depression
- 1941 because of the World War II
- 2011 because of the Christchurch earthquakes (which delayed it by two years).

