



Te Puni Kōkiri
REALISING MĀORI POTENTIAL

Te Rāngai Mahi Māori in the Workforce



KEY FACTS

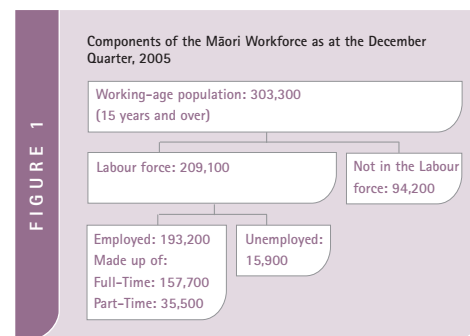
- During the last ten years the Māori working age population has steadily increased from 264,100 in December 1995 to 303,300 in December 2005, an increase of 14.8 percent.
- The participation rate² of Māori in the labour force increased from 62.1 percent in December 1995 to 68.9 percent in December 2005.
- In December 2005 there were 193,200 employed Māori, 54,100 more than in December 1995.
- The strong economy of recent years, as well as increased levels of education and industry training, has helped to reduce Māori unemployment.

This information looks at Māori participation in the workforce. The information comes from Statistics New Zealand's Household Labour Force Survey, the principal labour force survey conducted in New Zealand.

WHAT IS THE WORKFORCE?

The workforce is comprised of people aged 15 and over. This term is referred to as the working age population. These people may or may not be in the labour force. If they are in the labour force they will be either employed or unemployed. If they are not in the labour force, they may be retired, studying, have family commitments, or other commitments which prevent them from entering the labour force.

The relationship between these groups can be seen in Figure 1.



Source: December Quarter 2005 Household Labour Force Survey, Statistics New Zealand.

THE MĀORI WORKING AGE POPULATION

During the last ten years the Māori working age population has steadily increased from 264,100 in December 1995 to 303,300 in December 2005, an increase of 14.8 percent.

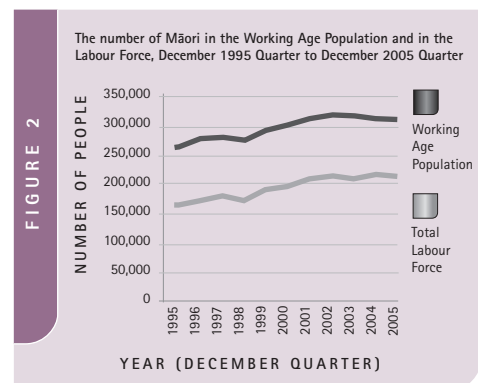
The Māori working age population is set to continue increasing. By 2021, the Māori population in New Zealand is projected to increase from 15 percent to 17 percent. The percentage of Māori in the 15–64 year age group is also projected to increase slightly, from 60 percent to 62 percent of the total Māori population.¹

LABOUR FORCE

The labour force is defined as those people aged 15 years and over who regularly work for financial gain, work without pay in a family business, or are unemployed and actively seeking part-time or full-time work.

As the working age population has grown over the last 10 years, so too has the labour force. The labour force has increased from 164,100 in the December 1995 to 209,100 in December 2005, an increase of 45,000 or 27.4 percent.

The participation rate² of Māori in the labour force increased from 62.1 percent in December 1995 to 68.9 percent in December 2005. The increase is a result of the labour force growing at a faster rate than the working age population.



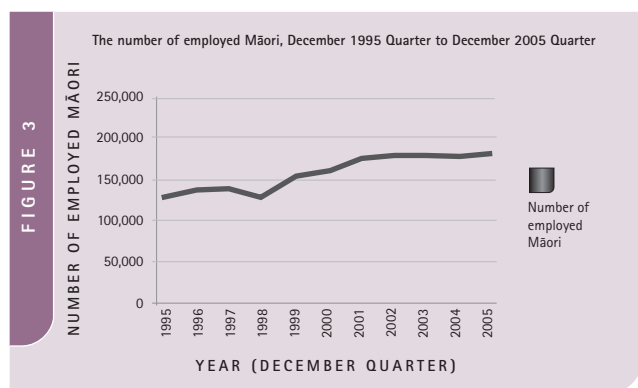
Source: Household Labour Force Survey, Statistics New Zealand.





EMPLOYMENT

In December 2005 there were 193,200 employed Māori, 54,100 more than in December 1995.



Source: Household Labour Force Survey, Statistics New Zealand.

During the last nine³ years, employment has been steadily increasing. The industries with the biggest growth during this time have been Wholesale and Retail Trade with 9,600 workers, Manufacturing with 7,500 workers, Health and Community Services with 6,300 workers, Property and Business Services with 6,200 workers, Education with 2,600 workers, and the Construction industry with 5,000 workers.

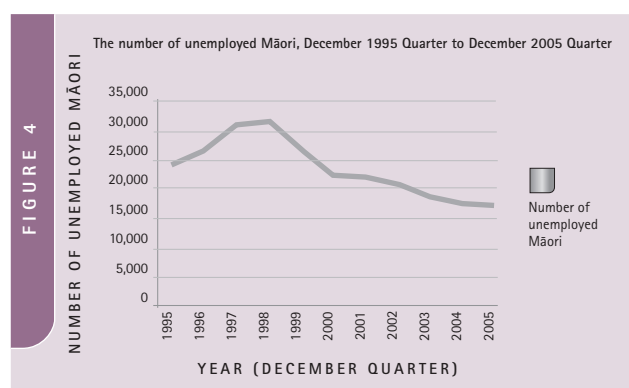
The industries with the least increase have been Communication Services, with a decrease of 1,500 workers, and both the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing industry and the Mining industry where there has been an increase of just 600 in each industry.

FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Between December 1995 and December 2005 there was a slight increase in the percentage of Māori employed full-time. In December 1995, 78.6 percent of employed Māori were employed full-time. By December 2005 this had increased to 81.6 percent. The corresponding part-time figures were 21.4 percent and 18.4 percent respectively.

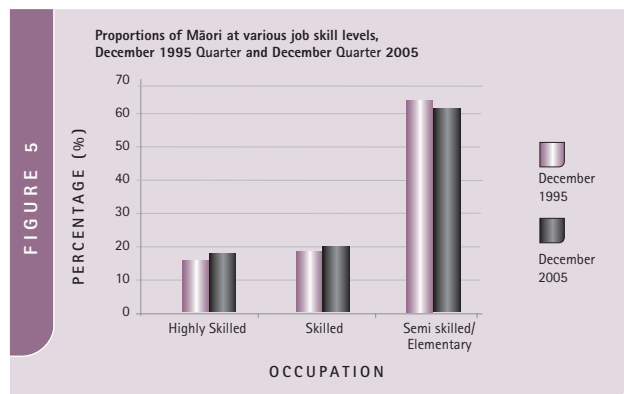
UNEMPLOYMENT

During the last 10 years the number of unemployed Māori has been steadily decreasing as shown in Figure 4.



Source: Household Labour Force Survey, Statistics New Zealand.

The strong economy of recent years, as well as increased levels of education and industry training, has helped to reduce Māori unemployment. There has also been a slight increase in the proportion of Māori with "highly skilled" and "skilled"⁴ skills which may help to maintain the gains in employment. These increases in skill levels have been offset by a decrease in the proportion of Māori with "semi skilled/elementary" skill levels.



Source: Household Labour Force Survey, Statistics New Zealand.

FOOTNOTES 1 Source: Series 6, National Māori Population Projections, 2001(base)-2021, Statistics New Zealand. 2 The number of Māori in the labour force expressed as a percentage of the Māori working age population. 3 Te Puni Kōkiri only has ANZSIC 1 Digit industry data from 1996 so we can not report by 10 years as is reported in the rest of this fact sheet. 4 These three skill levels are based on the Department of Labour definitions where highly skilled are managers, legislators and professionals; skilled are associate professionals, technicians and trade workers; all others are semi-skilled/elementary.

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