



KEY FACTS

- Between 2003 and 2008, the median weekly personal income of Māori increased by 34% from \$372 to \$500.
- In this period, Māori in the 25-44 age group had the highest weekly income of all age groups in the Māori population increasing from \$473 to \$638.
- In 2008, Māori living in the Southland region had the highest weekly income of all Māori regional populations with \$588.
- Between 2003 and 2008, Māori with post compulsory qualifications had higher weekly incomes than those with school qualifications and those without qualifications.

Income is an important measure of progress in the lives of Māori individuals and whānau because how much people earn has a significant impact on their economic and social wellbeing. This fact sheet shows the changes and shifts in the median weekly personal income¹ of Māori between 2003 and 2008².

INCOME

Between 2003 and mid 2008, the weekly income of Māori increased by \$128 or 34%³. This partly reflects the strong performance of Māori in the labour market during recent years where the Māori population experienced significant gains in employment, high labour force participation, and low unemployment levels⁴.

AGE

Māori aged 25-44 years had the highest weekly income of all age groups within the Māori population. Their weekly income rose from \$473 to \$638 between 2003 and 2008, an increase of 35%. The corresponding changes for the other age groups are shown in the following graph.

MĀORI AND THE TOTAL POPULATION⁵

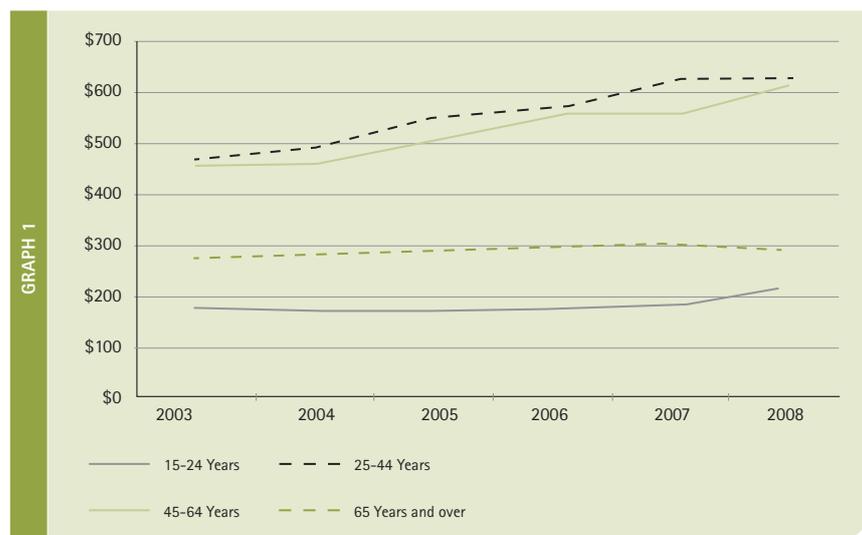
Even though Māori weekly income had increased from \$372 to \$500 (or 34%) between 2003 and 2008, the levels were still less than for the total population which increased from \$403 to \$537 (or 33%).

REGIONS

In 2008, Māori living in Southland had the highest weekly income (\$588), followed by: Canterbury (\$560); and Wellington (\$542).

Māori living in the Taranaki region had the highest dollar increase in weekly income (\$212), followed by Canterbury (\$195) and Southland (\$181). Taranaki had the largest percentage increase in weekly income (65%).

GRAPH 1: MĀORI PERSONAL WEEKLY INCOME BY AGE GROUPS, 2003 AND 2008



Source: Statistics New Zealand, New Zealand Income Survey, 2003 and 2008





TABLE 1: MĀORI PERSONAL WEEKLY INCOME BY REGIONAL COUNCIL AREA, 2003 AND 2008

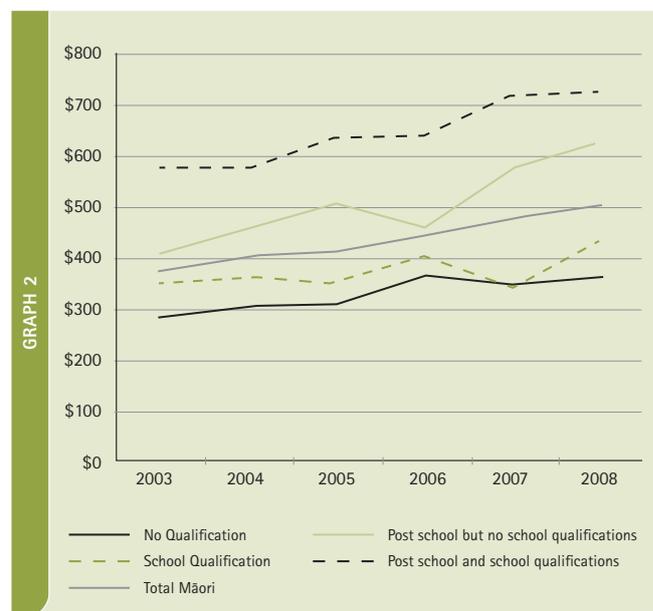
Region	Year		Change in personal income, 2003–2008	
	2003 \$	2008 \$	Amount \$	Percent %
Northland	305	404	99	32.5
Auckland	438	517	79	18.0
Waikato	360	488	128	35.6
Bay of Plenty	322	411	89	27.6
Gisborne/Hawke's Bay	360	506	146	40.6
Taranaki	326	538	212	65.0
Manawatu-Wanganui	308	450	142	46.1
Wellington	405	542	137	33.8
Nelson/Tasman/Marlborough/West Coast	417	502	85	20.4
Canterbury	365	560	195	53.4
Otago	420	360	-60	-14.3
Southland	407	588	181	44.5
New Zealand	372	500	128	34.4

HIGHEST QUALIFICATIONS

Between 2003 and 2008 Māori with post-compulsory qualifications (with or without a school qualification) had a higher weekly income than those with only a school qualification or those with no qualification. The changes in weekly income by level of qualification were:

- post-school and school qualification: a 26% increase from \$575 to \$722
- post-school but no school qualification: a 54% increase from \$405 to \$625
- school qualification: a 24% increase from \$349 to \$433
- no qualification: a 26% increase from \$285 to \$359.

GRAPH 2: MĀORI PERSONAL WEEKLY INCOME BY HIGHEST QUALIFICATION AND TOTAL, 2003 – 2008



Source: Statistics New Zealand, New Zealand Income Survey, 2003–2008

Technical Notes

All references to income in this fact sheet are to median weekly personal income.

Random Rounding: In order to protect confidentiality, Statistics New Zealand's policy is to randomly round figures to base three. As a result, individual rows and columns may not add properly, and figures in tables may differ slightly to figures in other publications.

Median Weekly Personal Income: Dollar amounts are gross and have not been inflation-adjusted.

- 1 Median weekly personal income is the amount where half the population earn more, and half earn less, than this amount.
- 2 It is based on data collected from the New Zealand Income Survey that is conducted by Statistics New Zealand.
- 3 Only the usually resident non-institutionalised civilian population of New Zealand aged 15 years and over are included in this report.
- 4 It will be important to take note of forthcoming New Zealand Income Survey data due to be released in late 2009, this data may begin to reflect the implications of the current economic recession on Māori Income patterns.
- 5 "Total Population" refers to all people in New Zealand, including Māori.
- 6 Regional Council areas are reported in this section.

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