

In the early years the immigration was obviously very much more important than the natural increase, but from approximately 1880 to the present date natural increase has been of very much more importance than immigration. This is an obvious movement with a growing population, despite the fall in the birth-rate which was previously noted.

II. THE MAORI POPULATION

As stated earlier, estimates of the Maori population about the year 1840 showed that there were around 110,000 in New Zealand as a whole. The first real census was taken in the years 1857–58, and the details of this and subsequent censuses are shown in the following table:—

Table No. 25.—Table showing Maori Population at Successive Censuses, and Intercensal Movements, from 1857–58 to 1945

Census.	Maori Population.			Numerical Increase.			Centesimal Increase.		
	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1857–58 ..	31,667	24,303	56,049*	..	..	..	..	..	..
1874 ..	25,294	21,264	47,330†	–6,373	–3,039	–8,719	–20.1	–12.5	–15.6
1878 ..	24,906	20,636	45,542	–388	–628	–1,788	–1.5	–3.0	–3.8
1881 ..	25,420	20,721	46,141	514	85	599	2.1	0.4	1.3
1886 ..	23,809	20,118	43,927	–1,611	–603	–2,214	–6.3	–2.9	–4.8
1891 ..	23,983	20,194	44,177	174	76	250	0.7	0.4	0.6
1896 ..	22,796	19,317	42,113	–1,187	–877	–2,064	–4.9	–4.3	–4.7
1901 ..	24,300	21,249	45,549	1,504	1,932	3,436	6.6	10.0	8.2
1906 ..	26,845	23,464	50,309	2,545	2,215	4,760	10.5	10.4	10.5
1911 ..	27,950	24,773	52,723	1,105	1,309	2,414	4.1	5.6	4.8
1916 ..	27,453	25,544	52,997	–497	771	274	–1.8	3.1	0.5
1921 ..	30,015	26,972	56,987	2,562	1,428	3,990	9.3	5.6	7.5
1926 ..	33,258	30,412	63,670	3,243	3,440	6,683	10.8	12.8	11.7
1936 ..	42,863	39,463	82,326	9,605	9,051	18,656	28.9	29.8	29.3
1945 ..	50,275	48,469	98,744	7,412	9,006	16,418	17.3	22.8	19.9

* Includes 79 sex not stated.

† Includes 772 sex not stated.

NOTE.—Minus sign (–) signifies a decrease.

Some idea of the geographical distribution of the Maoris is shown in the next table:—

Table No. 26.—Table showing Provincial Distribution of Maori Population in 1936 and 1945

	1936.	1945.
Auckland ..	59,215	72,252
Hawke's Bay ..	6,633	7,363
Taranaki ..	4,280	4,728
Wellington ..	8,969	10,965
Total, North Island ..	79,097	95,308
Marlborough ..	586	669
Nelson ..	246	302
Westland ..	144	151
Canterbury ..	1,407	1,501
Otago—		
Otago portion ..	413	383
Southland portion ..	433	430
Total, South Island ..	3,229	3,436
Total, Dominion ..	82,326	98,744

As giving some idea of the racial purity of the Maori race, the following table shows the distribution of the various classes comprising the Maori race.