

Ethnicity classification levels

The Stats NZ's Ethnicity New Zealand Standard Classification is a hierarchical structure with four levels, as illustrated in Figure 2 (see section 4.2). For the current details of the classification, see Ethnicity New Zealand Standard Classification 2005.

For mapping details for those systems using an earlier version of the Ethnicity New Zealand Standard Classification 2005 is provided by Stats NZ. See Stat NZ's Ethnicity New Zealand Standard Classification 2005 V2.0.0 to V2.1.0 V1.0.0.

Each level is described in more detail below, along with an example of the codes. In the following tables 'not further defined' is documented by 'nfd' and 'not elsewhere classified' is documented by 'nec'.

Note: The following information has been extracted from Stats NZ's Ethnicity Standard Classification 2005 – v2.1.0 (valid from 18 June 2020). For the most recent version of this information, refer to:

[Stats NZ's Ethnicity Classifications](#)

Level 1

Level 1 is the top level of the Stats NZ numbering hierarchy. As indicated in Figure 2 in section 4.2, all codes at the more detailed levels derive from five level 1 codes.

Level 2

Level 2 is a two-digit grouping. It includes six '9' series codes.

Level 3

Level 3 is a three-digit grouping and includes six '9' series codes.

Level 4

Level 4 is a four-digit grouping and includes six '9' series codes.

At the most detailed level of the classification structure (level 4), larger groups are disaggregated or differentiated according to:

- Geographic locality or origin (country, regions within a country, or island within a particular island group)
- Cultural differences (which include distinctions such as language and religious belief)
- Size.

Individual ethnic groups are classified into progressively broader groups according to geographic location or origin, cultural similarities, and size (in New Zealand). Many of the terms used for ethnic groups reflect geographic location or origin.

The size criterion helps to determine whether an ethnic group should be classified under an Other category at a particular level. Generally, the larger ethnic groups are disaggregated, while smaller ethnic groups fall into Other categories. Ethnic groups with very small numbers fall into Not elsewhere classified categories at level 4.

The category of Māori stands alone at all levels of the classification. This is in recognition of Māori as the tangata whenua (original inhabitants) of New Zealand and New Zealand's unique position as the only country where there is a commitment to the status, preservation and continuity of Māori cultural traditions (including language).

At levels 2, 3 and 4, distinctions between Pacific Island groups are made. This approach arose out of Recommendation 8 of the Ethnic Review Committee's report on ethnic statistics (Department of Statistics 1988). It reflects historical relationships with Pacific Island groups who represented a significant proportion of the migration flow into New Zealand. It also recognises the predicted increase in the proportion of the New Zealand population who are people of Pacific Island descent.

In the health and disability sector, Pacific Peoples, like Māori, have poorer on average health status. Both ethnic populations are the focus for one of the Government's key goals to reduce inequalities.

Level	Code	Descriptor	Level	Code	Descriptor	Level	Code	Descriptor
Level 4	44411	Afghan	Level 3	127	German	Level 1	3	Pacific Peoples
Level 2	53	African	Level 4	12711	German	Level 4	37199	Pacific Peoples nec
Level 3	531	African	Level 4	53122	Ghanaian	Level 2	30	Pacific Peoples nfd
Level 4	53116	African American	Level 3	123	Greek	Level 3	300	Pacific Peoples nfd
Level 4	53199	African nec	Level 4	12311	Greek	Level 4	30000	Pacific Peoples nfd
Level 4	53100	African nfd	Level 4	37122	Hawaiian	Level 4	44414	Pakistani
Level 4	12949	Africaner	Level 4	42111	Hong Kong Chinese	Level 4	51124	Palestinian
Level 4	12911	Albanian	Level 4	12926	Hungarian	Level 4	37135	Papua New Guinean
Level 4	51111	Algerian	Level 4	12927	Icelandic	Level 4	52127	Peruvian
Level 4	12943	American	Level 2	43	Indian	Level 4	37137	Pitcairn Islander
Level 4	43117	Anglo Indian	Level 3	431	Indian	Level 3	124	Polish
Level 4	51112	Arab	Level 4	43199	Indian nec	Level 4	12411	Polish
Level 4	52111	Argentinian	Level 4	43100	Indian nfd	Level 4	12932	Portuguese
Level 4	12912	Armenian	Level 4	43114	Indian Tamil	Level 4	52128	Puerto Rican
Level 1	4	Asian	Level 4	61113	Indigenous American	Level 4	43115	Punjabi
Level 4	44499	Asian nec	Level 4	37112	Indigenous Australian	Level 2	95	Refused to Answer
Level 2	40	Asian nfd	Level 4	41412	Indonesian	Level 3	955	Refused to Answer
Level 3	400	Asian nfd	Level 4	51115	Iranian/Persian	Level 4	95555	Refused to Answer
Level 4	40000	Asian nfd	Level 4	51116	Iraqi	Level 2	96	Repeated Value
Level 4	51113	Assyrian	Level 4	12116	Irish	Level 3	966	Repeated Value
Level 3	128	Australian	Level 4	51117	Israeli/Jewish	Level 4	96666	Repeated Value
Level 4	12811	Australian	Level 3	126	Italian	Level 1	9	Residual Categories
Level 4	12913	Austrian	Level 4	12611	Italian	Level 2	98	Response Outside Scope
Level 4	44412	Bangladeshi	Level 4	53113	Jamaican	Level 3	988	Response Outside Scope
Level 4	12914	Belgian	Level 3	442	Japanese	Level 4	98888	Response Outside Scope
Level 4	12916	Belorussian	Level 4	44211	Japanese	Level 2	97	Response Unidentifiable
Level 4	43111	Bengali	Level 4	51118	Jordanian	Level 3	977	Response Unidentifiable
Level 4	44417	Bhutanese	Level 4	41416	Karen	Level 4	97777	Response Unidentifiable
Level 4	52112	Bolivian	Level 4	53114	Kenyan	Level 4	12934	Romani
Level 4	12516	Bosnian	Level 4	37124	Kiribati	Level 4	12933	Romanian
Level 4	52113	Brazilian	Level 3	443	Korean	Level 4	37138	Rotuman
Level 3	121	British and Irish	Level 4	44311	Korean	Level 4	12935	Russian
Level 4	12199	British nec	Level 4	51119	Kurd	Level 2	31	Samoan
Level 4	12100	British nfd	Level 4	41413	Lao	Level 3	311	Samoan
Level 4	12915	Bulgarian	Level 2	52	Latin American	Level 4	31111	Samoan
Level 4	41411	Burmese	Level 3	521	Latin American	Level 4	12119	Scottish
Level 4	53123	Burundian	Level 4	52199	Latin American nec	Level 4	12514	Serbian
Level 3	412	Cambodian	Level 4	52100	Latin American nfd	Level 4	61116	Seychellois
Level 4	41211	Cambodian	Level 4	12928	Latvian	Level 4	43116	Sikh
Level 4	42112	Cambodian Chinese	Level 4	51120	Lebanese	Level 4	42114	Singaporean Chinese
Level 4	12945	Canadian	Level 4	12929	Lithuanian	Level 4	44111	Sinhalese
Level 4	53118	Caribbean	Level 4	12513	Macedonian	Level 4	12937	Slavic
Level 4	12111	Celtic nfd	Level 4	41414	Malay	Level 4	12938	Slovak
Level 4	12112	Channel Islander	Level 4	42113	Malaysian Chinese	Level 4	12515	Slovenian
Level 4	52114	Chilean	Level 4	43118	Malaysian Indian	Level 4	37141	Solomon Islander
Level 4	41417	Chin	Level 4	44418	Maldivian	Level 4	53119	Somali
Level 2	42	Chinese	Level 4	12930	Maltese	Level 4	12948	South African European
Level 3	421	Chinese	Level 4	12117	Manx	Level 4	43119	South African Indian
Level 4	42199	Chinese nec	Level 1	2	Māori	Level 3	125	South Slav
Level 4	42100	Chinese nfd	Level 2	21	Māori	Level 4	12599	South Slav nec
Level 4	52115	Colombian	Level 3	211	Māori	Level 4	12500	South Slav nfd
Level 4	53124	Congolese	Level 4	21111	Māori	Level 2	41	Southeast Asian
Level 2	32	Cook Islands Maori	Level 4	61115	Mauritian	Level 4	41499	Southeast Asian nec
Level 3	321	Cook Islands Maori	Level 4	52123	Mexican	Level 3	410	Southeast Asian nfd
Level 4	32100	Cook Islands Maori	Level 2	51	Middle Eastern	Level 4	41000	Southeast Asian nfd
Level 4	12113	Cornish	Level 3	511	Middle Eastern	Level 4	12939	Spanish
Level 4	12511	Croatian	Level 4	51199	Middle Eastern nec	Level 3	441	Sri Lankan
Level 4	12918	Cypriot nfd	Level 4	51100	Middle Eastern nfd	Level 4	44199	Sri Lankan nec
Level 4	12919	Czech	Level 1	5	Middle Eastern/Latin American/African	Level 4	44100	Sri Lankan nfd
Level 4	12512	Dalmatian	Level 4	44419	Mongolian	Level 4	44112	Sri Lankan Tamil
Level 4	12920	Danish	Level 4	51122	Moroccan	Level 4	53125	Sudanese
Level 2	94	Don't Know	Level 4	37130	Nauruan	Level 4	12940	Swedish
Level 3	944	Don't Know	Level 4	44413	Nepali	Level 4	12941	Swiss
Level 4	94444	Don't Know	Level 4	12947	New Caledonian	Level 4	51125	Syrian
Level 3	122	Dutch	Level 2	11	New Zealand European	Level 4	37140	Tahitian
Level 4	12211	Dutch	Level 3	111	New Zealand European	Level 4	42116	Taiwanese
Level 4	52118	Ecuadorian	Level 4	11111	New Zealand European	Level 4	41415	Thai
Level 4	51114	Egyptian	Level 4	61118	New Zealander	Level 4	44415	Tibetan
Level 4	12114	English	Level 4	37145	Ni Vanuatu	Level 2	35	Tokelauan
Level 4	53120	Eritrean	Level 4	53115	Nigerian	Level 3	351	Tokelauan
Level 4	12921	Estonian	Level 2	34	Niuean	Level 4	35111	Tokelauan
Level 4	53121	Ethiopian	Level 3	341	Niuean	Level 2	33	Tongan
Level 4	44416	Eurasian	Level 4	34111	Niuean	Level 3	331	Tongan
Level 1	1	European	Level 4	12931	Norwegian	Level 4	33111	Tongan
Level 4	12999	European nec	Level 2	99	Not Stated	Level 4	51127	Turkish
Level 2	10	European nfd	Level 3	999	Not Stated	Level 4	37144	Tuvaluan
Level 3	100	European nfd	Level 4	99999	Not Stated	Level 4	12942	Ukrainian
Level 4	10000	European nfd	Level 2	44	Other Asian	Level 4	52129	Uruguayan
Level 2	36	Fijian	Level 3	444	Other Asian	Level 4	52130	Venezuelan
Level 3	361	Fijian	Level 1	6	Other Ethnicity	Level 3	413	Vietnamese
Level 4	36111	Fijian	Level 2	61	Other Ethnicity	Level 4	41311	Vietnamese
Level 4	43112	Fijian Indian	Level 3	611	Other Ethnicity	Level 4	42115	Vietnamese Chinese
Level 3	411	Filipino	Level 4	61199	Other Ethnicity nec	Level 4	12121	Welsh
Level 4	41111	Filipino	Level 2	12	Other European	Level 4	53126	Zambian
Level 4	12922	Finnish	Level 3	129	Other European	Level 4	12950	Zimbabwean European
Level 4	12923	Flemish	Level 2	37	Other Pacific Peoples			
Level 4	12924	French	Level 3	371	Other Pacific Peoples			
			Level 4	61117	Other South African			
			Level 3	414	Other Southeast Asian			
			Level 4	53127	Other Zimbabwean			

Level	Code	Descriptor	Level	Code	Descriptor
Level 1	1	European	Level 1	4	Asian
Level 2	10	European nfd	Level 2	40	Asian nfd
Level 2	11	New Zealand European	Level 2	41	Southeast Asian
Level 2	12	Other European	Level 2	42	Chinese
Level 3	100	European nfd	Level 2	43	Indian
Level 3	111	New Zealand European	Level 2	44	Other Asian
Level 3	121	British and Irish	Level 3	400	Asian nfd
Level 3	122	Dutch	Level 3	410	Southeast Asian nfd
Level 3	123	Greek	Level 3	411	Filipino
Level 3	124	Polish	Level 3	412	Cambodian
Level 3	125	South Slav	Level 3	413	Vietnamese
Level 3	126	Italian	Level 3	414	Other Southeast Asian
Level 3	127	German	Level 3	421	Chinese
Level 3	128	Australian	Level 3	431	Indian
Level 3	129	Other European	Level 3	441	Sri Lankan
Level 4	10000	European nfd	Level 3	442	Japanese
Level 4	11111	New Zealand European	Level 3	443	Korean
Level 4	12100	British nfd	Level 3	444	Other Asian
Level 4	12111	Celtic nfd	Level 4	40000	Asian nfd
Level 4	12112	Channel Islander	Level 4	41000	Southeast Asian nfd
Level 4	12113	Cornish	Level 4	41111	Filipino
Level 4	12114	English	Level 4	41211	Cambodian
Level 4	12116	Irish	Level 4	41311	Vietnamese
Level 4	12117	Manx	Level 4	41411	Burmese
Level 4	12119	Scottish	Level 4	41412	Indonesian
Level 4	12121	Welsh	Level 4	41413	Lao
Level 4	12199	British nec	Level 4	41414	Malay
Level 4	12211	Dutch	Level 4	41415	Thai
Level 4	12311	Greek	Level 4	41416	Karen
Level 4	12411	Polish	Level 4	41417	Chin
Level 4	12500	South Slav nfd	Level 4	41499	Southeast Asian nec
Level 4	12511	Croatian	Level 4	42100	Chinese nfd
Level 4	12512	Dalmatian	Level 4	42111	Hong Kong Chinese
Level 4	12513	Macedonian	Level 4	42112	Cambodian Chinese
Level 4	12514	Serbian	Level 4	42113	Malaysian Chinese
Level 4	12515	Slovenian	Level 4	42114	Singaporean Chinese
Level 4	12516	Bosnian	Level 4	42115	Vietnamese Chinese
Level 4	12599	South Slav nec	Level 4	42116	Taiwanese
Level 4	12611	Italian	Level 4	42199	Chinese nec
Level 4	12711	German	Level 4	43100	Indian nfd
Level 4	12811	Australian	Level 4	43111	Bengali
Level 4	12911	Albanian	Level 4	43112	Fijian Indian
Level 4	12912	Armenian	Level 4	43114	Indian Tamil
Level 4	12913	Austrian	Level 4	43115	Punjabi
Level 4	12914	Belgian	Level 4	43116	Sikh
Level 4	12915	Bulgarian	Level 4	43117	Anglo Indian
Level 4	12916	Belorussian	Level 4	43118	Malaysian Indian
Level 4	12918	Cypriot nfd	Level 4	43119	South African Indian
Level 4	12919	Czech	Level 4	43199	Indian nec
Level 4	12920	Danish	Level 4	44100	Sri Lankan nfd
Level 4	12921	Estonian	Level 4	44111	Sinhalese
Level 4	12922	Finnish	Level 4	44112	Sri Lankan Tamil
Level 4	12923	Flemish	Level 4	44199	Sri Lankan nec
Level 4	12924	French	Level 4	44211	Japanese
Level 4	12926	Hungarian	Level 4	44311	Korean
Level 4	12927	Icelandic	Level 4	44411	Afghan
Level 4	12928	Latvian	Level 4	44412	Bangladeshi
Level 4	12929	Lithuanian	Level 4	44413	Nepali
Level 4	12930	Maltese	Level 4	44414	Pakistani
Level 4	12931	Norwegian	Level 4	44415	Tibetan
Level 4	12932	Portuguese	Level 4	44416	Eurasian
Level 4	12933	Romanian	Level 4	44417	Bhutanese
Level 4	12934	Romani	Level 4	44418	Maldivian
Level 4	12935	Russian	Level 4	44419	Mongolian
Level 4	12937	Slavic	Level 4	44499	Asian nec
Level 4	12938	Slovak			
Level 4	12939	Spanish			
Level 4	12940	Swedish			
Level 4	12941	Swiss			
Level 4	12942	Ukrainian			
Level 4	12943	American			
Level 4	12945	Canadian			
Level 4	12947	New Caledonian			
Level 4	12948	South African European			
Level 4	12949	Afrikaner			
Level 4	12950	Zimbabwean European			
Level 4	12999	European nec			

Level	Code	Descriptor	Level	Code	Descriptor
Level 1	2	Māori	Level 1	5	Middle Eastern/Latin American/African
Level 2	21	Māori	Level 2	51	Middle Eastern
Level 3	211	Māori	Level 2	52	Latin American
Level 4	21111	Māori	Level 2	53	African
Level 1	3	Pacific Peoples	Level 3	511	Middle Eastern
Level 2	30	Pacific Peoples nfd	Level 3	521	Latin American
Level 2	31	Samoan	Level 3	531	African
Level 2	32	Cook Islands Maori	Level 4	51100	Middle Eastern nfd
Level 2	33	Tongan	Level 4	51111	Algerian
Level 2	34	Niuean	Level 4	51112	Arab
Level 2	35	Tokelauan	Level 4	51113	Assyrian
Level 2	36	Fijian	Level 4	51114	Egyptian
Level 2	37	Other Pacific Peoples	Level 4	51115	Iranian/Persian
Level 3	300	Pacific Peoples nfd	Level 4	51116	Iraqi
Level 3	311	Samoan	Level 4	51117	Israeli/Jewish
Level 3	321	Cook Islands Maori	Level 4	51118	Jordanian
Level 3	331	Tongan	Level 4	51119	Kurd
Level 3	341	Niuean	Level 4	51120	Lebanese
Level 3	351	Tokelauan	Level 4	51122	Moroccan
Level 3	361	Fijian	Level 4	51124	Palestinian
Level 3	371	Other Pacific Peoples	Level 4	51125	Syrian
Level 4	30000	Pacific Peoples nfd	Level 4	51127	Turkish
Level 4	31111	Samoan	Level 4	51199	Middle Eastern nec
Level 4	32100	Cook Islands Maori	Level 4	52100	Latin American nfd
Level 4	33111	Tongan	Level 4	52111	Argentinian
Level 4	34111	Niuean	Level 4	52112	Bolivian
Level 4	35111	Tokelauan	Level 4	52113	Brazilian
Level 4	36111	Fijian	Level 4	52114	Chilean
Level 4	37112	Indigenous Australian	Level 4	52115	Colombian
Level 4	37122	Hawaiian	Level 4	52118	Ecuadorian
Level 4	37124	Kiribati	Level 4	52123	Mexican
Level 4	37130	Nauruan	Level 4	52127	Peruvian
Level 4	37135	Papua New Guinean	Level 4	52128	Puerto Rican
Level 4	37137	Pitcairn Islander	Level 4	52129	Uruguayan
Level 4	37138	Rotuman	Level 4	52130	Venezuelan
Level 4	37140	Tahitian	Level 4	52199	Latin American nec
Level 4	37141	Solomon Islander	Level 4	53100	African nfd
Level 4	37144	Tuvaluan	Level 4	53113	Jamaican
Level 4	37145	Ni Vanuatu	Level 4	53114	Kenyan
Level 4	37199	Pacific Peoples nec	Level 4	53115	Nigerian
Level 1	9	Residual Categories	Level 4	53116	African American
Level 2	94	Don't Know	Level 4	53118	Caribbean
Level 2	95	Refused to Answer	Level 4	53119	Somali
Level 2	96	Repeated Value	Level 4	53120	Eritrean
Level 2	97	Response Unidentifiable	Level 4	53121	Ethiopian
Level 2	98	Response Outside Scope	Level 4	53122	Ghanaian
Level 2	99	Not Stated	Level 4	53123	Burundian
Level 3	944	Don't Know	Level 4	53124	Congolese
Level 3	955	Refused to Answer	Level 4	53125	Sudanese
Level 3	966	Repeated Value	Level 4	53126	Zambian
Level 3	977	Response Unidentifiable	Level 4	53127	Other Zimbabwean
Level 3	988	Response Outside Scope	Level 4	53199	African nec
Level 3	999	Not Stated	Level 1	6	Other Ethnicity
Level 4	94444	Don't Know	Level 2	61	Other Ethnicity
Level 4	95555	Refused to Answer	Level 3	611	Other Ethnicity
Level 4	96666	Repeated Value	Level 4	61113	Indigenous American
Level 4	97777	Response Unidentifiable	Level 4	61115	Mauritian
Level 4	98888	Response Outside Scope	Level 4	61116	Seychellois
Level 4	99999	Not Stated	Level 4	61117	Other South African
			Level 4	61118	New Zealander
			Level 4	61199	Other Ethnicity nec