

5-POPULATION

The first estimations of New Caledonia's population date back to the 1850's. At the time, there were between 30 and 40 000 individuals ; Melanesians were the only inhabitants of New Caledonia. Up until about 1900, the **native** population experienced rapid demographic decline. From early in the century to around 1920, this same population stabilised, then experienced slow growth that intensified after the Second World War, to the point of a demographic explosion after 1956.

From a population of 23 500 in 1900, the number of Europeans diminished greatly over the next two decades (less than 17 000 in 1920). Up until the Second World War, the European population was stable, then slowly began to increase, reaching 18 500 in 1945.

According to the 1996 census, the last in which questions relating to ethnicity were asked, there were 86 788 Melanesians and 67 151 Europeans, respectively 44.1% and 34.1% of the total population.

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The 2004 census showed a population of 230 789 inhabitants in New Caledonia, being 116 485 men and 114 304 women.

Almost all New Caledonia's inhabitants were of French **nationality**. Foreign nationals were mainly from Asian and Oceanian countries.

71.2% of the New Caledonia's population lived in the Southern province, 19.3% in the Northern province and 9.6% in the Loyalty islands province.

Average population **density** was 12.4 inhabitants per square km. The figure was only 4.6 in the Northern province, but went up to 11.1 in the Loyalty islands province and 23.4 in the Southern province. Maximum density was recorded in Nouméa with 2 000 inhabitants per square kilometre. At current growth rates, New Caledonia's population will pass the 250 000 mark in 2008, 300 000 in 2018, and will double in 36 years.

► **Native.** *Descendant of the first inhabitants of a region or specific area.*

► **Nationality.** *Status of a person, who is a member of a defined, recognised nation.*

► **Density.** *Ratio between the number of inhabitants and the land area (expressed in km²) for a given entity.*

SOURCES

[1] INSEE-ISEE, *Résultats du Recensement de la Population de la Nouvelle-Calédonie 2004*.

[2] ORSTOM, *Atlas de la Nouvelle-Calédonie*, Nouméa, 1981.

[3] INSEE-ITSEE, *Résultats des Recensements de la Population de la Nouvelle-Calédonie, 1956, 1963, 1969, 1976, 1983, 1989, 1996*.

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Rallu J.-L., *Population, migration et développement dans le Pacifique Sud*, UNESCO-ORSTOM-INED, 1997.

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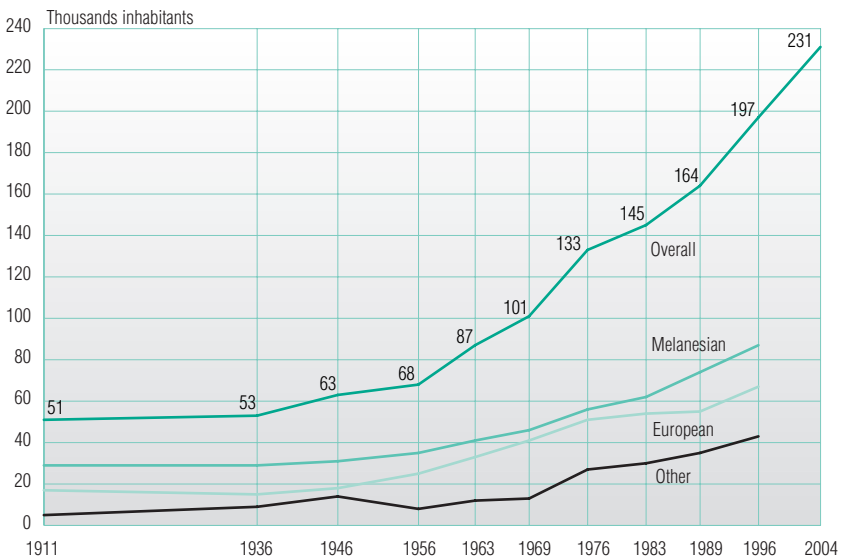
Population, land area and density by municipality and province (2004 census) [1]

	Land area	Population	% total population	Density
Belep	69.5	930	0.4	13.4
Boulouparis	865.6	2 089	0.9	2.4
Bourail	797.6	4 779	2.1	6.0
Canala	438.7	3 512	1.5	8.0
Dumbéa	254.6	18 602	8.1	73.1
Farino	48.0	459	0.2	9.6
Hienghène	1 068.8	2 627	1.1	2.5
Houaïlou	940.6	4 537	2.0	4.8
Île-des-Pins (L')	152.3	1 840	0.8	12.1
Kaala-Gomen	718.2	1 881	0.8	2.6
Koné	373.6	4 500	1.9	12.0
Kouaoua (b)	383.0	1 586	0.7	4.1
Koumac	550.0	3 003	1.3	5.5
La Foa	464.0	2 903	1.3	6.3
Lifou	1 207.1	10 320	4.5	8.5
Maré	641.7	7 401	3.2	11.5
Moindou	321.9	602	0.3	1.9
Mont-Dore (Le)	643.0	24 195	10.5	37.6
Nouméa	45.7	91 386	39.6	1 999.7
Ouvéa	656.8	2 114	0.9	3.2
Ouvéa	132.1	4 359	1.9	33.0
Paila	699.7	12 062	5.2	17.2
Poindimié	673.1	4 824	2.1	7.2
Ponérihouen	707.3	2 726	1.2	3.9
Pouébo	202.8	2 381	1.0	11.7
Pouembout	674.3	1 471	0.6	2.2
Poum	469.4	1 390	0.6	3.0
Poya (a)	845.8	2 600	1.1	3.1
Sarraméa	106.4	610	0.3	5.7
Thio	997.6	2 743	1.2	2.7
Touho	283.0	2 274	1.0	8.0
Voh	804.9	2 240	1.0	2.8
Yaté	1 338.4	1 843	0.8	1.4
Loyalty islands province	1 980.9	22 080	9.6	11.1
Northern Province	9 582.6	44 474	19.3	4.6
Southern Province	7 012.0	164 235	71.2	23.4
New Caledonia	18 575.5	230 789	100.0	12.4

(a) The municipality of Poya's division between the Northern and Southern provinces was set by decree dated April 26, 1989. The 2004 census recorded 122 inhabitants of Poya resident in the Southern province and 2 478 in the Northern province. (b) The municipality of Kouaoua is the result of a division of Canala in 1995, officially created by decree n°95-454 dated April 25, 1995.

Units : km², inhabitant, %, inh/km²

New Caledonia's population according to previous censuses [1 to 3]



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Given the diversity of **ethnic groups** in New Caledonia, and in order to reflect both family history and cultural identity, each individual was asked in the census of April 16, 1996, to state which ethnic group he/she felt part of, as opposed to the ethnic group of origin.

The following groups were designated : European, Indonesian, Melanesian, Ni-Vanuatu, Tahitian, Vietnamese, Wallis & Futuna islander, other Asian, other.

The Melanesian community accounted for 44.1% of the Territory's inhabitants in 1996, with a large majority in the Loyalty Islands (97.1%) and Northern (77.9%) provinces ; 25.5% in the Southern province's population were Melanesian.

With 34.1% of the territory's population, Europeans formed the second largest ethnic group. Some 90% of Europeans lived in the Southern province, 56.7% in Nouméa and 24.2% in its three suburban municipalities (Dumbéa, Païta, Mont-Dore). 44.4% of Southern province inhabitants were European, compared to 16.9% of the population in the Northern province, and only 2% in the Loyalty islands province.

The Wallis & Futuna islander community accounted for 9% of New Caledonia's total population ; almost all (93%) were settled in **Greater Nouméa**.

All other ethnic groups identified in the census (Indonesian, ni-Vanuatu, Tahitian and Vietnamese) each represented less than 3% of the total population. The vast majority of these people resided in Greater Nouméa.

► **Ethnic group.** Group of individuals who share the same characteristics in terms of civilisation (language, culture, social structure). It remains the responsibility of each individual (of an age to do so) to make his/her own decision regarding their ethnic group.

The ethnicity question was removed from the 2004 census, the latest data available is from the 1996 census.

► **Greater Nouméa.** Comprises the municipalities of Nouméa, Dumbéa, Mont-Dore and Païta.

SOURCES

[1] INSEE-ITSEE, *Images de la population de la Nouvelle-Calédonie/Principaux résultats du recensement 1996*, INSEE Résultats, série Démographie-société, n°55, février 1997.

[2] INSEE-ITSEE, *Résultats des recensements de la population de la Nouvelle-Calédonie*, 1956, 1963, 1969, 1976, 1983, 1989, 1996.

ITSEE, *Recensement de la population de la Nouvelle-Calédonie/Principaux tableaux 1996*, Notes et Documents n°77, novembre 1997.

SEE ALSO

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Baudchon G. et Rallu J.-L., *Changement démographique et social en Nouvelle-Calédonie après les accords de Matignon*, Population, n°54 (3), INED, 1999.

Ouvrage Collectif, *L'Outre-Mer français dans le Pacifique*, Île de Lumière, 2003.

5.2 ETHNIC GROUPS

Population by ethnic groups* according to previous censuses [1 and 2]

	1956	1963	1969	1976	1983	1989	1996
Melanesian	34 969	41 190	46 200	55 598	61 870	73 598	86 788
European	25 160	33 355	41 268	50 757	53 974	55 085	67 151
Wallis & Futuna islander	///	///	///	9 571	12 174	14 186	17 763
Tahitian	///	///	///	6 391	5 570	4 750	5 171
Indonesian	///	///	///	5 111	5 319	5 191	5 003
Vietnamese	///	///	///	1 943	2 381	2 461	2 822
Ni-Vanuatu	///	///	///	1 050	1 212	1 683	2 244
Other	8 351	11 974	13 111	2 812	2 868	7 219	9 894
Total	68 480	86 519	100 579	133 233	145 368	164 173	196 836

* Before 1976, Wallis islander, Tahitian, Indonesian, Vietnamese and ni-Vanuatu communities were accounted for in the "other" category.

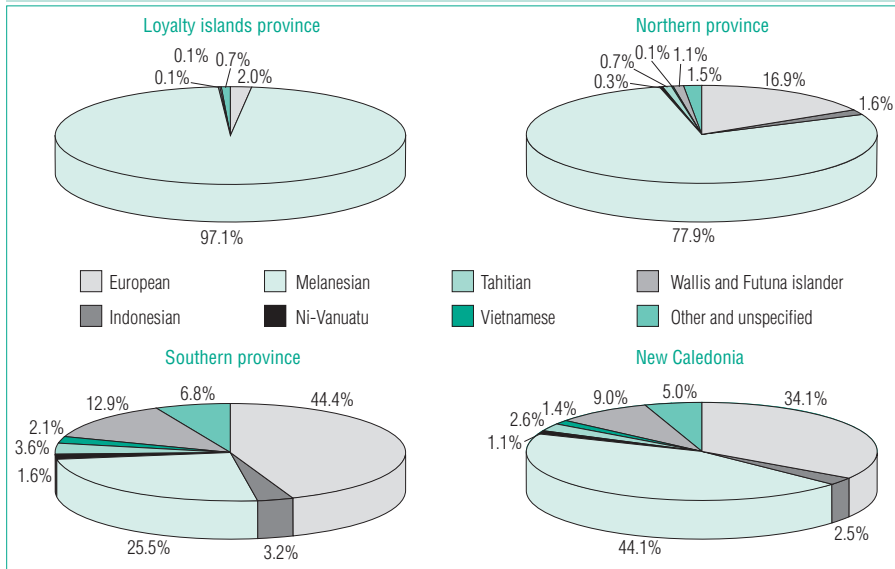
Unit : inhabitant

Ethnic group populations by province (1996 census) [1]

	Melanesian	European	Wallis/Futuna	Tahitian	Indonesian	Vietnamese	Ni-Vanuatu	Other	Total
Loyalty islands province	20 267	426	14	15	6	4	9	136	20 877
Northern province	32 246	6 985	450	287	646	58	112	629	41 413
Southern province including Greater Nouméa	34 275	59 740	17 299	4 869	4 351	2 760	2 123	9 129	134 546
New Caledonia	86 788	67 151	17 763	5 171	5 003	2 822	2 244	9 894	196 836
Structure	44.1	34.1	9.0	2.6	2.5	1.4	1.1	5.0	100.0

Units : inhabitant, %

Population by province and ethnic group (1996 census) [1]



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The 2004 census confirmed the youthfulness of New Caledonia's population : a little more than half (52%) of the population were under 30 years old.

The population has however aged slightly. Fifteen years earlier, over 64 year-olds and under 15 year-olds respectively accounted for 4.8% and 31.0% of the population. In 2004 these age groups respectively represented 6.2% and 27.9%.

This relatively young population is illustrated by the largely triangular shape of the **age pyramid**. The narrowing base does however reflect decreasing birth rates. The width of the diagram in the 30-44 age group matches high birth rates and the influx of population during the nickel boom in the 1970s. The opposite trend in the 20-29 age group can be explained by declining then stagnant birth rates in the 1980s, as well as the abolition of compulsory military service in 1998 and longer periods of study outside New Caledonia. The same phenomenon has been observed in French Polynesia.

The proportion of women is increasing but there is still a majority of men. In the 2004 census, 50.5% of the population was male, or 102 men for every 100 women. Mainly a result of successive immigration waves, the surplus of men is in decline ; 1989 and 1996 censuses showed a ratio of 105 men for every 100 women. In terms of age groups, males only represent the majority in the under 24s and 50-65 year-olds.

The **average age** was 30.2 years in 2004. The populations of the Loyalty Islands and Northern provinces remained the youngest, with averages of 27.6 and 28.2 years respectively, while the average age in the Southern province was 31.1 years.

► **Age pyramid.** Graphic representation of a population by age and gender. Each horizontal band indicates the number of individuals having reached an age within a given range.

► **Age group.** Group of individuals in a population whose age is within a given range. It is understood that the "under 20 years" age group includes all youths between 0 and 19 years old, up to the eve of their 20th birthday.

► **Average age.** Ratio between the sum of ages of all individuals in a population and their total number. It is the average age of all ages of a population.

SOURCES

- [1] INSEE-ISEE, *Résultats du recensement de la population de la Nouvelle-Calédonie 2004*.
- [2] INSEE-ITSEE, *Recensements de la population de la Nouvelle-Calédonie 1976, 1983, 1989 et 1996*.
- [3] INED, *Tous les pays du monde*, Population et Sociétés n°414, Juillet-août 2005.
- [4] Institut de la Statistique de la Polynésie française (ISPF) : www.ispf.pf
- [5] Bureau de la Statistique de Wallis et Futuna : www.wallis.co.nc/stats

SEE ALSO

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Institut de la statistique et des Études Économiques (ISEE) : www.isee.nc

Total population by gender, age group and province (2004 census) [1]

	Loyalty islands province			Northern province			Southern province			New Caledonia		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
0 to 9 years	2 444	2 416	4 860	4 480	4 257	8 737	14 692	13 883	28 575	21 616	20 556	42 172
10 to 19 years	2 677	2 347	5 024	4 822	4 514	9 336	14 661	14 145	28 806	22 160	21 006	43 166
20 to 29 years	1 624	1 585	3 209	3 825	3 700	7 525	12 151	12 467	24 618	17 600	17 752	35 352
30 to 39 years	1 619	1 578	3 197	3 537	3 319	6 856	13 429	14 152	27 581	18 585	19 049	37 634
40 to 49 years	1 154	1 117	2 271	2 645	2 334	4 979	11 062	11 213	22 275	14 861	14 664	29 525
50 to 59 years	792	766	1 558	1 937	1 509	3 446	8 605	7 589	16 194	11 334	9 864	21 198
60 to 69 years	499	569	1 068	1 086	1 007	2 093	4 862	4 739	9 601	6 447	6 315	12 762
70 to 79 years	259	404	663	539	617	1 156	2 144	2 553	4 697	2 942	3 574	6 516
80 to 89 years	74	128	202	107	194	301	637	916	1 553	818	1 238	2 056
90 years and over	9	19	28	8	37	45	105	230	335	122	286	408
Overall	11 151	10 929	22 080	22 986	21 488	44 474	82 348	81 887	164 235	116 485	114 304	230 789

Unit : person

Populations by age group in selected countries mid-2005 [3 to 5]

	under 15 years	over 64 years
Japan	14	20
Germany	15	18
Spain	15	17
France	19	16
Australia	20	13
USA	21	12
New Zealand	22	12
China	22	8
New Caledonia	28	6
Wallis and Futuna	33	6
French Polynesia	30	5
Fiji	30	4
India	36	4
Vanuatu	42	3

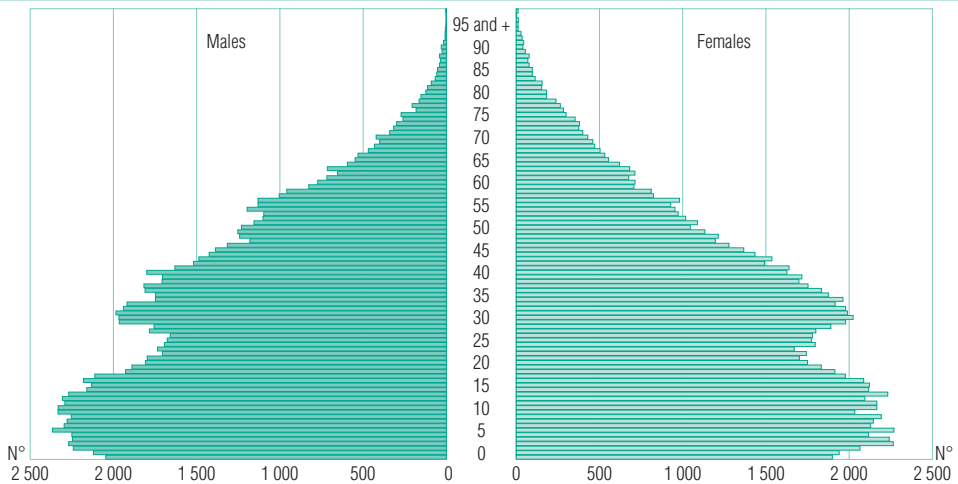
Unit : %

Population by age groups according to previous censuses [1 and 2]

	under 15 years	over 64 years
1976	38.6	3.7
1983	36.2	4.1
1989	31.0	4.8
1996	29.2	5.2
2004	27.9	6.2

Unit : %

Age pyramid according to the 2004 census* [1]



* Actual age at August 31, 2004.

5-POPULATION

The legal population of New Caledonia comprises all persons, French or foreign, residing in the Territory, with the exception of those present for short periods, such as tourists. It is measured during a **Population Census**. According to the last census (August 31, 2004), the population was determined at 230 789 people, an increase of 17.2% compared to the previous census in 1996.

Population growth has slowed down but remains high with an average annual growth rate of 1.9%. This is inferior to the previous census periods of 1983-1989 (2.1%) and 1989-1996 (2.6%), and especially the 1969-1976 period (4.1%, mainly due to the **nickel boom**). On the other hand, the current rate is higher than the 1976-1983 period (1.3%), which was marked by political instability.

Natural growth accounted for 80% of the population increase between 1996 and 2004, the other 20% from **net migration**. Demographic growth varies from province to province ; the population in the Southern province increased by 22% in eight years, by 7% in the Northern province and 8% in the Loyalty islands province. 61% of the population lived in the Southern province 35 years ago, compared to 71% in 2004.

In the interval between two censuses, it is possible to estimate population variations using the **births, deaths and marriages registry** data to calculate the natural surplus, to which is added approximate net migration based on trends observed between previous censuses.

Such a calculation brings the estimated population of New Caledonia to 236 528 inhabitants at January 1, 2006, and helps establish demographic indicators for 2005 that follow two long term trends, being slowing fertility and mortality rates. Natural growth stabilised at 1.2% (compared to 2.0% sixteen years ago and 2.6% thirty years ago). This rate is 0.4% in France and 2.2% in Vanuatu.

Of every 100 people residing in New Caledonia, 77 were born in the territory, 18 in France (Metropolitan France or her overseas departments/territories) and 5 abroad.

► **Population census.** According to the United Nations definition, a population census is the "collection, gathering, assessment, analysis and publication of demographic, economic and social data recorded at a given time, for all the inhabitants of a country". It provides periodical updates of information about a population ; detailed breakdowns by gender, age, marital status, occupation... In New Caledonia, censuses come under State responsibility undertaken by the National Institute of Statistics and Economic Surveys in partnership with ISEE. Until now occurring every 7 years, censuses will be organised every 5 years from now on, in accordance with census reform set up in Metropolitan France and overseas departments in 2004.

► **Population growth.** Total growth of the population resulting from the net effects of births and deaths (*natural growth*) and population movements (*net migration*) for a given period.

► **Nickel boom.** See 21.3.

► **Natural growth.** Surplus (or deficit) of births in relation to deaths for a given population over a given period. The natural growth rate is the ratio of the natural surplus to the average populations on January 1 of consecutive years.

► **Net migration.** For a given period, the difference between the number of people who have entered the territory and the number of people who have left the territory.

► **Births, deaths and marriages register.** See 5.5.

SOURCES

- [1] Institut de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (ISEE), *Statistiques de l'état civil*, 2006
- [2] Institut National des Études Démographiques (INED), *Tous les pays du monde*, Population et Sociétés n°414, Juillet-août 2005.
- [3] Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) : www.abs.gov.au
- [4] Statistics New Zealand : www.stats.govt.nz
- [5] Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (INSEE) : www.insee.fr
- [6] Institut de la Statistique de la Polynésie française (ISPF) : www.ispf.pf
- [7] Bureau de la Statistique de Wallis et Futuna : www.wallis.co.nc/stats
- [8] INSEE-ISEE, *Résultats du recensement de la population de la Nouvelle-Calédonie 2004*.
- [9] INSEE-ITSEE, *Recensements de la population de la Nouvelle-Calédonie 1969, 1976, 1983, 1989 et 1996*.

SEE ALSO

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Rallu J.-L., *Population, migration et développement dans le Pacifique Sud*, UNESCO-INED, 1997.

5.4 POPULATION GROWTH

Population growth since 1965 [1]

	Population at January 1	Live births (1)	Deaths (2)	Natural surplus (1 - 2)	Natural growth rate	Apparent net migration (a)
1965	88 000	3 119	783	2 336	2.6	2 664
1970	108 000	3 922	1 047	2 875	2.6	5 125
1975	132 000	4 115	923	3 192	2.4	-2 192
1980	139 000	3 668	1 008	2 660	1.9	-524
1985	153 072	3 619	891	2 728	1.8	28
1990	168 635	4 378	928	3 450	2.0	1 078
1995	192 010	4 242	1 020	3 222	1.7	389
2000	211 200	4 566	1 077	3 489	1.6	571
2001	215 260	4 326	1 131	3 195	1.5	932
2002	219 387	4 194	1 121	3 073	1.4	1 132
2003	223 592	4 102	1 121	2 981	1.3	1 305
2004	227 878	3 978	1 116	2 862	1.2	1 518
2005	232 258	4 051	1 142	2 909	1.2	1 361
2006	236 528	///	///	///	///	///

(a) The net migration here is determined by the difference between population variation and net natural growth. This is called apparent net migration.

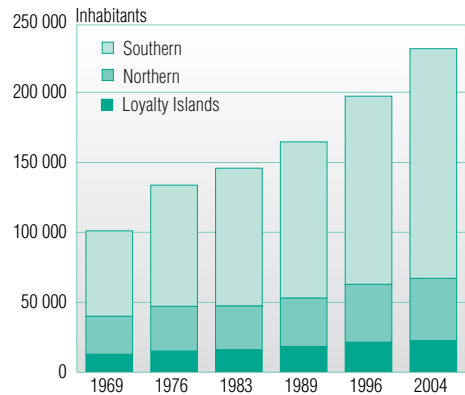
Units : number, %

Natural growth rate for selected countries (mid-2005) [2 to 7]

Vanuatu	2.2
Fiji	1.7
India	1.6
Wallis & Futuna	1.4
French Polynesia	1.3
New Caledonia	1.2
Australia	0.6
China	0.6
USA	0.6
France	0.4
Spain	0.1
Japan	0.1

Unit : %

Population by province according to previous censuses [8 to 9]



Average annual population growth by province between censuses [8 to 9]

	1969-1976	1976-1983	1983-1989	1989-1996	1996-2004
Loyalty islands province	2.5	0.9	2.4	2.2	0.7
Northern province	2.4	-0.3	1.6	2.6	0.9
Southern province	5.1	1.8	2.1	2.7	2.4
New Caledonia	4.1	1.3	2.1	2.6	1.9

Unit : %

Population structure by place of birth according to previous censuses [8 to 9]

	1976	1983	1989	1996	2004
New Caledonia	74.6	76.8	78.0	76.7	76.8
Metropolitan France and its overseas departments	12.2	11.6	10.8	12.4	13.9
French overseas territories	6.9	5.6	5.3	5.1	4.2
Foreign countries	6.3	6.0	5.8	5.8	5.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Unit : %

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According to the **births, deaths and marriages register**, 4 051 babies were born in New Caledonia in 2005, 70.3% of mothers residing in the Southern province, 18.2% in the Northern province and 10.5% in the Loyalty islands province.

Births rates are declining : from a highpoint in 2000 associated with the “millennium” effect, the number of births has consistently dropped. In spite of this, the number of births remains high ; the youthfulness of the population is effectively a guarantee of significant growth potential. In other words, the decrease in fertility recorded since the 1960s is compensated by the increase in the number of women of child-bearing age.

In relation to the whole population, the large number of births means a high **birth rate** although this is weakening as time goes by. This rate was 17.2‰ in 2005, compared to 26.2‰ in 1980 and 34.5‰ in 1965.

The current birth rate places New Caledonia between French Polynesia (18‰) and New Zealand (14‰), far above Metropolitan France (13‰), but much lower than many Pacific islands, such as Vanuatu (31‰).

The **fertility indicator** amounted to 2.2 children per woman in 2005. In the longer term, this indicator shows a downward trend (3.6 in 1981 and 2.6 in 1995) but remains far superior to the **generation renewal level**. Provincial disparities are considerably less nowadays : in 2005 the fertility indicator was 2.7 in the Loyalty Islands (5.8 in 1981), 2.1 in the North (5.5 in 1981) and 2.2 in the South (2.9 in 1981).

The average age for first pregnancies has gone up. In 1981, New Caledonian women became first-time mothers at an average age of 23.7 years old on average, as opposed to 26.9 years in 2005. This can be explained by longer studies, more women in employment, and better use of contraception. The later age for first pregnancy results in a proportional delay in the arrival of any siblings, which also has consequences for the decreasing fertility rate.

► **Births, deaths and marriages register.** *Municipal public service responsible for issuing birth and death certificates as well as marriage, divorce, and widowhood deeds.*

► **Birth rate.** *Ratio of live birth numbers over a year to the total population in the middle of the year.*

► **Fertility rate.** *Ratio of the number of children born to women from a same generation to the total population of that generation at the beginning of a given period. The sum of all fertility rates for women aged 14 to 49 years (for the same year) is called the **fertility indicator**.*

► **Fertility indicator.** *The sum of the fertility rates by age recorded over a given year, for women aged 14 to 49 years. This indicator gives the number of children that a woman would have over her entire life based on current fertility rates currently recorded for each age.*

► **Generation renewal level.** *It is considered that the renewal of generations is assured when 2.08 children are born per woman : 2 to replace the woman herself and her partner; 0.05 because there are more baby boys than girls (105 boys for 100 girls), and 0.03 to take into account the low mortality rate for women before they reach the average child-bearing age.*

SOURCES

- [1] Institut de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (ISEE), *Statistiques de l'état civil*, 2006.
- [2] Institut National des Études Démographiques (INED), *Tous les pays du monde*, Population et Sociétés n°414, Juillet-août 2005.
- [3] Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) : www.abs.gov.au
- [4] Statistics New Zealand : www.stats.govt.nz
- [5] Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (INSEE) : www.insee.fr
- [6] Institut de la Statistique de la Polynésie française (ISPF) : www.ispf.pf
- [7] Bureau de la Statistique de Wallis et Futuna : www.wallis.co.nc/stats

SEE ALSO

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Rallu J.-L., *Population, migration et développement dans le Pacifique Sud*, UNESCO-INED, 1997.

5.5 BIRTHS-FERTILITY

Numbers of births, birth and fertility rates [1]

	Total births	Live births	Birth rate	Births out of wedlock	Percentage of births outside wedlock	Fertility indicator
1965	///	3 119	34.5	///	///	///
1970	///	3 922	35.0	///	///	///
1975	///	4 115	31.1	///	///	///
1980	3 750	3 668	26.2	1 830	48.8	///
1985	3 651	3 619	23.4	1 840	50.4	3.00
1990	4 419	4 378	25.6	2 632	59.6	3.19
1995	4 284	4 242	21.9	2 557	59.7	2.59
2000	4 599	4 566	21.4	3 085	67.1	2.59
2001	4 362	4 326	19.9	2 893	66.3	2.43
2002	4 224	4 194	18.9	2 755	65.2	2.33
2003	4 127	4 102	18.2	2 794	67.7	2.27
2004	4 003	3 978	17.3	2 636	65.9	2.18
2005	4 106	4 051	17.2	2 792	68.0	2.20

Units : number, % inhabitants, %, number of children per woman

Birth rate and fertility indicator in selected countries (mid-2005) [2 to 7]

	Fertility indicator	Birth rate		Fertility indicator	Birth rate
Vanuatu	4.8	31	USA	2.0	14
India	3.0	25	France	1.9	13
Wallis and Futuna	2.7	19	Australia	1.8	13
Fiji	2.7	21	China	1.6	12
French Polynesia	2.5	18	Japan	1.3	9
New Caledonia	2.2	17	Spain	1.3	11
New Zealand	2.0	14	Germany	1.3	9

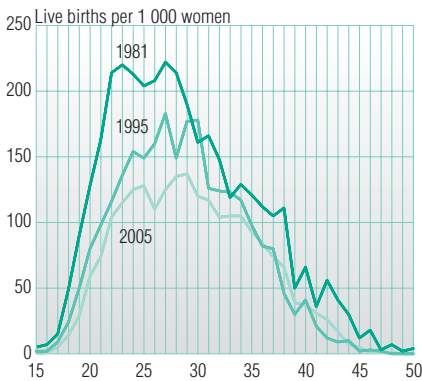
Units : number of children per woman, % inhabitants

Average age of mothers in order of children born [1]

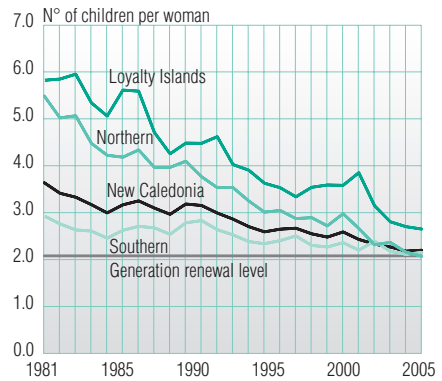
	Year of birth									
	1981	1985	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
1	23.7	24.1	24.6	25.8	26.2	26.4	26.5	26.4	26.8	26.9
2	25.3	25.7	27.0	27.1	28.2	28.1	28.4	28.7	28.9	29.1
3	26.8	27.7	28.9	29.2	29.8	30.4	30.0	30.4	30.7	31.2
4	28.1	28.7	30.3	30.6	31.8	31.5	31.9	32.1	32.3	32.8
5	30.0	30.5	31.4	31.4	32.4	33.4	33.6	33.7	33.9	33.8
6	31.8	32.9	33.4	33.3	33.8	33.7	34.4	34.8	36.5	35.7
7	33.5	35.2	34.9	34.2	35.3	34.1	34.7	35.9	35.2	36.0
8	34.8	34.2	35.2	37.1	38.5	37.5	36.8	35.0	35.8	36.9
9	37.0	37.2	37.0	35.9	37.4	38.3	33.7	38.8	37.0	///
10 and +	38.2	39.2	40.0	39.3	36.3	37.0	42.0	///	34.3	40.5
Overall	26.6	26.5	26.6	27.2	27.7	27.9	28.2	28.3	28.6	28.5

Unit : year

Fertility by age of mother [1]



Fertility indicator by province [1]



5-POPULATION

There were 1 142 deaths in New Caledonia in 2005. The number of deaths has stabilised around 1 100 per year since 1999, after a long period of relative stability (1970-1999) of approximately 1 000 per year. The number of deaths has therefore increased little over the longer term (1 047 deaths in 1970, 1 008 in 1980, 928 in 1990). In relation to a constantly growing population this means a lower **mortality rate** : at 4.9‰ in 2005, it is relatively stable in comparison to the beginning of the 1990s, and a significant reduction in relation to 1980 (7.2‰) and 1970 (9.3‰). The current rate places New Caledonia among countries with the lowest mortality rates in the Pacific islands.

The low mortality rate, attributable to the youthfulness of the New Caledonia's population, is also directly related to progress in medicine and better prevention. This also leads to increased **life expectancy** which reflects a general improvement in the population's health. Accordingly in 2005, life expectancy at birth in New Caledonia was 71.9 years for men and 78.6 years for women, respectively 6.5 and 6.3 more years than 20 years earlier ; provincial disparities have also diminished as well. In Metropolitan France, it is 76.8 years for men and 83.8 years for women. Although life expectancy in New Caledonia remains lower than in most European countries, it is higher than in other Pacific countries.

These results are also illustrated in the **infant mortality rate** which has constantly decreased, reaching 6.4‰ in 2005, as opposed to 10.7‰ in 1990 and 41.1‰ in 1970. This rate places New Caledonia at the same level as many industrialised nations, among the leading Pacific countries with Australia and New Zealand, and far ahead of Vanuatu (27‰) or Fiji (16‰).

The main **causes of death** in New Caledonia in 2004 were tumours (24.9%) and cardiovascular illnesses (22.6%).

► **Mortality rate.** Ratio of the number of deaths for a given period (usually one year) to the average total population for the same period.

► **Life expectancy (or average life span).** Estimate of the average number of years a person can expect to live, in relation to age specific mortality rates for a given year or period of time.

► **Infant mortality rate.** Ratio of the number of children who die before their first birthday, to the number of live births for the year.

► **Causes of death.** See 6.4.

SOURCES

- [1] Institut de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (ISEE), *Statistiques de l'état civil*, 2006
- [2] Institut National des Études Démographiques (INED), *Tous les pays du monde*, Population et Sociétés n°414, Juillet-août 2005.
- [3] Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) : www.abs.gov.au
- [4] Statistics New Zealand : www.stats.govt.nz
- [5] Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (INSEE) : www.insee.fr
- [6] Institut de la Statistique de la Polynésie française (ISPF) : www.ispf.pf
- [7] Bureau de la Statistique de Wallis et Futuna : www.wallis.co.nc/stats

SEE ALSO

- Institut de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (ISEE) : www.isee.nc
Institut de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (ISEE), *Bilan Économique et Social 2005*.
Population Reference Bureau : www.prb.org
Rallu J.-L., *Population, migration et développement dans le Pacifique Sud*, UNESCO-INED, 1997.

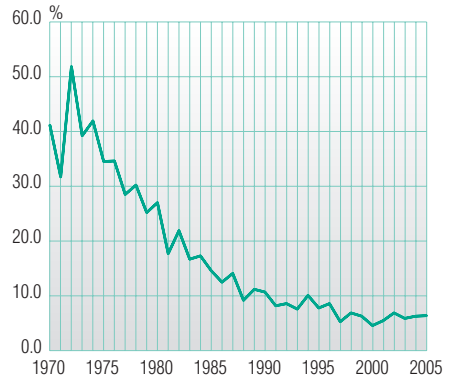
5.6 MORTALITY-LIFE EXPECTANCY

Deaths and mortality rates [1]

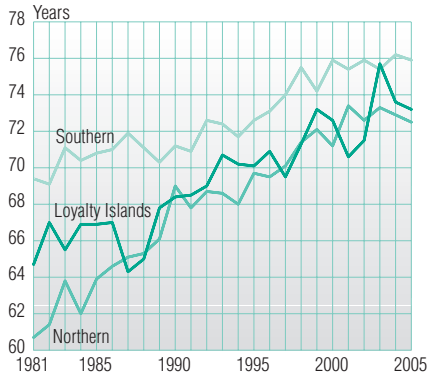
	Deaths	Mortality rate	Infant deaths before 1st birthday	Infant mortality rate
1965	783	8.7	na	na
1970	1 047	9.3	161	41.1
1975	923	7.0	142	34.5
1980	1 008	7.2	99	27.0
1990	928	5.4	47	10.7
1995	1 020	5.3	33	7.8
2000	1 077	5.1	21	4.6
2001	1 131	5.2	24	5.5
2002	1 121	5.1	29	6.9
2003	1 121	5.0	24	5.9
2004	1 116	4.9	25	6.3
2005	1 142	4.9	26	6.4

Units : number, ‰ inhabitants, ‰ births

Infant mortality rates [1]



Life expectancy at birth by province [1]



Life expectancy at birth [1]

	Men	Women	Overall
1981	62.8	70.8	66.5
1985	65.4	72.3	68.6
1990	67.9	73.2	70.3
1995	68.4	75.8	71.7
2000	71.7	78.8	74.7
2001	72.1	77.7	74.8
2002	71.2	79.2	74.8
2003	72.1	78.6	75.3
2004	72.1	79.1	75.5
2005	71.9	78.6	75.2

Unit : year

Life expectancy by gender and age in 2005 [1]

	Men	Women	Overall
0	71.9	78.6	75.2
10	62.7	69.2	65.9
20	53.1	59.5	56.2
30	44.5	49.8	47.1
40	35.2	40.3	37.7
50	26.3	31.1	28.7
60	18.5	22.1	20.4
65	14.8	18.3	16.6
70	11.6	14.7	13.3
75	9.0	11.4	10.4
80	7.0	8.9	8.1
85	5.3	6.5	6.1
90	3.6	5.9	5.2
95	5.1	5.9	5.6

Unit : year

Life expectancy at birth for selected countries mid-2005 [1 to 7]

	Mortality rate	Infant mortality rate	Life expectancy at birth
Japan	8	3	82
Spain	9	4	81
France	9	4	80
Australia	7	5	80
New Zealand	7	5	79
Germany	10	4	79
USA	8	7	78
New Caledonia	5	6	75
Wallis and Futuna	6	6	74
China	6	27	72
French Polynesia	5	5	71
Fiji	6	16	68
Vanuatu	6	27	67
India	8	64	62

Units : ‰ inhabitants, ‰ births, year

5-POPULATION

940 marriages were celebrated in New Caledonia in 2005 : 29% of newly weds under **customary civil status** and 71% under common law. Apart from 1997 and 1998, in which 1 005 marriages were recorded each year, the number of marriages has been stable at under 1 000 per year. In relation to a constantly growing population it brings the **marriage rate** down to 4.0‰ in 2005, as opposed to 5.9‰ thirty years earlier.

This rate is lower than in Metropolitan France and most European countries. It is far from the rates recorded in the 1968-1971 period, at the time of the nickel boom (approximately 8.0‰).

For 85.2% of men who married in 2005, it was their first marriage, as opposed to 88.1% for women. Twenty years before these percentages were 89.9 and 90.9 respectively.

Age at the time of a first marriage tends to be older : in 2005, men married for the first time at an average age of 34.0 years (as opposed to 27.7 years in 1980) and women at 30.9 years (as opposed to 23.4 years in 1980), respectively 6 and 7 years later than 25 years earlier. This does not however affect the arrival of the first child (on average only 3 years later in 2005 than in 1980). Consequently, the proportion of **legitimate child** births has diminished to 32.0% in 2005, as opposed to 51.2% in 1980. Conversely, the number of marriages in which at least one child becomes legitimate rose from 27.3% in 1981 to 49.6% in 2005.

Men marry younger women. Although on average for the 2000-2005 period, men under the age of 20 married women who were 3 years older than them, the opposite trend was true for men over 25 years, more so as age advances : the older the husband, the greater the age difference with the wife : 1 year for 25-29 year olds, 7 years between 40 and 49, and 11 years for men over 60.

2 unions in 10 are remarriages for at least one of the spouses. 35% of divorcees who remarry do so in the three years following legal divorce.

PACS - the French Civil Unions legislation is not applicable in New Caledonia.

▶ **Customary civil status.** See 4.1.

▶ **Marriage rate.** Ratio of the number of marriages celebrated over a given period (usually a year) to the total population in the middle of that period.

▶ **Legitimate child.** Term used for a child born to a married couple, as opposed to natural child (or illegitimate child) borne of a non-married couple.

▶ **PACS - French Civil Unions legislation.**

Contract between two persons over the age of 18, of different or same sex, providing a legal framework for living together. Adopted in France under legislation dated November 15, 1999, it establishes the rights and obligations for both partners, in terms of material support, dwellings, wealth, taxes and social rights. However, it has no effect on direct descendancy or parental authority if one of the parties is already a parent.

SOURCES

- [1] Institut de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (ISEE), *Statistiques de l'état civil*, 2006
- [2] Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) : www.abs.gov.au
- [3] Statistics New Zealand : www.stats.govt.nz
- [4] Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (INSEE) : www.insee.fr
- [5] Institut de la Statistique de la Polynésie française (ISPF) : www.ispf.pf
- [6] Bureau de la Statistique de Wallis et Futuna : www.wallis.co.nc/stats
- [7] INSEE-ISEE, Résultats du Recensement de la Population de la Nouvelle-Calédonie 2004.

SEE ALSO

Institut de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (ISEE) : www.isee.nc

Institut de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (ISEE), *Bilan Économique et Social 2005*.

5.7 MARRIAGES

Marriage statistics [1]

	Marriages	Marriage rate	Average age at time of 1st marriage	
			Men	Women
1965	594	6.6	///	///
1970	974	8.7	///	///
1975	788	5.9	///	///
1980	781	5.6	27.7	23.4
1985	794	5.1	29.2	25.4
1990	887	5.2	29.2	25.9
1995	875	4.5	30.8	27.6
2000	995	4.7	32.0	28.7
2001	925	4.3	32.4	29.4
2002	905	4.1	32.8	30.0
2003	873	3.9	33.1	30.3
2004	895	3.9	33.7	30.6
2005	940	4.0	34.0	30.9

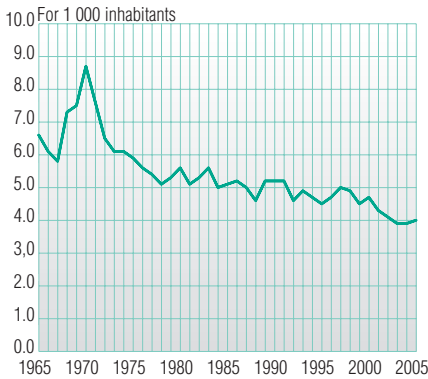
Units : number, %, year

Marriage rates in selected countries mid-2005 [2 to 6]

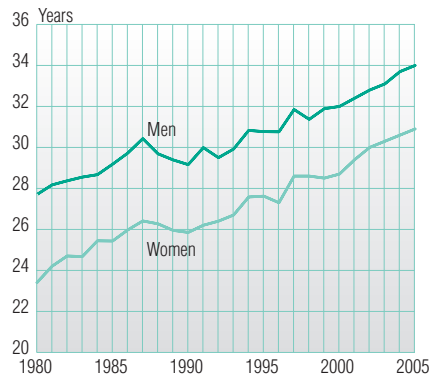
USA	7.8
Wallis and Futuna	6.9
Denmark	6.9
Australia	5.4
Greece	5.2
Spain	5.1
New Zealand	5.0
Germany	4.8
France	4.5
Sweden	4.3
French Polynesia	4.2
New Caledonia	4.0

Unit : %

Marriage rates [1]



Average age at first marriage by gender [1]

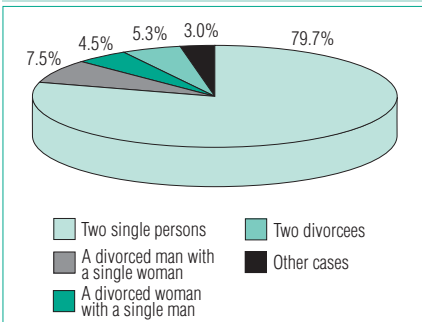


Population aged 15 and over by gender, age group and marital status (2004 census) [7]

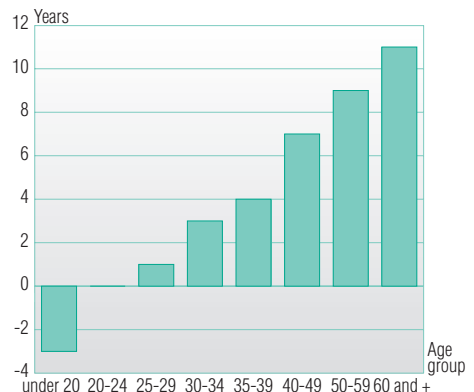
	Men				Total	Women				Total
	Single	Married	Widowed	Divorced/separated		Single	Married	Widowed	Divorced/separated	
15 to 29 years	26 576	1 506	13	52	28 147	24 893	2 998	62	90	28 043
30 to 39 years	11 014	7 105	26	440	18 585	9 682	8 608	140	619	19 049
40 to 49 years	5 526	8 399	72	864	14 861	4 739	8 436	443	1 046	14 664
50 to 59 years	3 049	7 190	224	871	11 334	1 905	6 086	900	973	9 864
60 to 69 years	1 269	4 293	369	516	6 447	881	3 242	1 615	577	6 315
70 to 79 years	461	1 874	437	170	2 942	509	1 184	1 699	182	3 574
80 years and over	141	502	257	40	940	243	215	1 010	56	1 524
Total	48 036	30 869	1 398	2 953	83 256	42 852	30 769	5 869	3 543	83 033

Unit : number

Marriages by previous marital status of the spouses (2000-2005) [1]



Age difference between husband and wife by age group of the husband (average 2000-2005) [1]



5-POPULATION

The 247 pronounced divorces in 2004 translates into a **divorce rate** of 8.1 per 1 000 married couples. Detailed analysis shows the rate was very low in the Loyalty Islands (1.7‰), and higher in the Northern (8.6‰) and Southern (10.8‰) provinces.

The rate had reduced significantly between 1981 (8.8‰) and 2002 (5.8‰) but has since risen again : 7.6‰ in 2002 and 8.3‰ in 2003. In Metropolitan France, the trend is different with a constant rise to 10.3‰ in 2003, as opposed to 9.4‰ in 2000, 8.4‰ in 1990 and 6.3‰ in 1980.

2 888 legal divorce judgements were handed down in the **Courts of Nouméa** over the last fifteen years, an annual average of 193 divorces, for an average 922 marriages per year.

Average figures for the last 15 years show that the average duration of a marriage before divorce was 13.4 years, and this has consistently risen : 11.1 years in 1981, 12.9 years in 1990 and 14.5 in 2004. Marrying older, combined with longer marriages, means a higher average age at the time of the legal divorce.

In fact, for the 1990-2004 period, the average age for divorce was 42 for men and 38 for women ; in fifteen years the average age went from 40 in 1990 to 45 in 2004 for men and from 37 to 42 years old for women.

Over the fifteen year period, the average age for divorcees at the time of their marriage was respectively 28 and 25 years, which is 5 years less than the average age for marrying in terms of the population as a whole. This confirms the notion that early marriage is a factor in divorce.

Over the same period, more than half of women (55%) who divorced got married before age 25, while only one in five women marry before the age of 25. The trend was less prevalent among men : respectively 1/3 and barely one in ten.

Slightly more than three of every four (77.6%) divorces pronounced between 1990 and 2004 were handed down with "reciprocal fault", 15% in favour of the woman, and 8% in favour of the man.

► **Pronounced divorce.** All divorces are the result of a judgement handed down by a court of law before being recorded in the marriage register of the registry where the marriage was celebrated. Pronounced divorces are the sum of direct divorce judgements and judgements converting legal separation into divorce. Legal separation judgements, which can be revoked and do not allow remarriage, are not included in divorce statistics.

Divorces pronounced in New Caledonia dissolve marriages in which at least one of the spouses resides in the territory, regardless of where the marriage was celebrated.

Pronounced divorce relates to marriages recorded under both common law and **customary civil status** ; the marriage dissolution procedure specific to customary civil status is rarely used.

► **Customary civil status.** See 4.1.

► **Divorce rate.** Ratio of the number of divorces in a specific year to the average total population for that year or to the annual average number of married couples.

► **Courts of Nouméa.** See 7.1.

SOURCES

[1] Institut de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (ISEE), *Statistiques de l'état civil*, 2006

[2] Institut National de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (INSEE), *Tableaux de l'Économie Française 2005/2006*. Disponible sur : www.insee.fr

SEE ALSO

Institut de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (ISEE), *Bilan Économique et Social 2005*, juin 2006

Institut national des Études Démographiques (INED), *Séparation et divorce : quelles conséquences sur la réussite scolaire des enfants ?* Population et société, mai 2002.

Loi n°2004-439 du 26 mai 2004 relative au divorce, JONC du 8 juin 2004, Imprimerie administrative, Nouméa.

5.8 DIVORCES

Pronounced divorces [1]

	Pronounced divorces	Inhabitants at July 1	Divorces per 1 000 inhabitants	Married couples (a)	Divorces per 1 000 married couples
1981	184	142 650	1.3	21 024	8.8
1985	207	154 450	1.3	22 414	9.2
1990	157	170 899	0.9	24 286	6.5
1995	181	193 816	0.9	26 840	6.7
2000	159	213 230	0.7	27 362	5.8
2001	230	217 324	1.1	28 190	8.2
2002	219	221 490	1.0	28 998	7.6
2003	246	225 735	1.1	29 793	8.3
2004	247	230 068	1.1	30 600	8.1

(a) The number of married couples corresponds to the number of married women.

Units : number, ‰

Pronounced divorces in Metropolitan France [2]

	Divorces per 1 000 married couples
1960	2.9
1970	3.3
1980	6.3
1990	8.4
1995	9.6
2000	9.4
2001	9.3
2002	9.5
2003	10.3

Unit : ‰

Pronounced divorces by duration of marriage (1984-2004) [1]

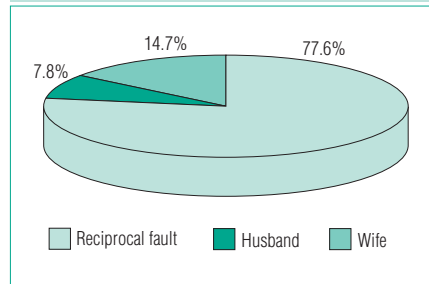


Pronounced divorces by gender and age group at the time of marriage (1990-2004 average) [1]

	Men		Women	
	Number	%	Number	%
- than 20 years	67	2.3	433	15.0
20 to 24 years	929	32.2	1 158	40.1
25 to 29 years	885	30.6	715	24.8
30 to 34 years	494	17.1	313	10.8
35 to 39 years	224	7.8	157	5.4
40 to 44 years	138	4.8	62	2.1
45 to 49 years	86	3.0	28	1.0
50 to 54 years	34	1.2	12	0.4
55 to 59 years	19	0.7	7	0.2
60 years and +	12	0.4	3	0.1

Units : number, ‰

Divorces by nature of judgement whom in favour (1990-2004 average) [1]



5-POPULATION

In 2004, a total 64 345 **ordinary households** were recorded in New Caledonia, with 7% in the Loyalty islands province, 17.2% in the Northern province and 75.1% in the Southern province (90% of these in the four municipalities of the Greater Nouméa).

The average size of a household was 3.5 individuals, lower than in 1996 (3.8), in accordance with the long term downward trend (4.2 in 1976, 4.1 in 1983, 4.0 in 1989). Fewer births and younger generations moving away from home explain the decrease.

In twenty years (1983 to 2004), the average size of a household dropped from 5.3 to 4.5 individuals in the Loyalty Islands, from 4.4 to 4.0 individuals in the Northern province, and 3.9 to 3.3 individuals in the Southern province.

Two-person households are the most common in New Caledonia : they represent almost one household in four (21.7%). Provincial analysis shows that large families are common in the Loyalty islands province where nearly half of households comprise 5 or more people, while households with 2 individuals or less represent only one quarter. The opposite is found in the Southern province : close to half of households (42.2%) are made up of two individuals or less, and less than a quarter (22.5%) comprise 5 or more people.

In 2004, couples with or without **children** accounted for about half of households (53%) ; one-person households accounted for 18%, and single parent families for 8% of all households.

In comparison to the 1996 census, the most significant change relates to **single parent families** which increased by one-third (or 1 260 more families), followed by one-person households (+28.1%) and couples with or without children (+23.2%).

► **Ordinary households.** *As defined for a population census, an ordinary household comprises all usual occupants, regardless of the relationships between them, in a private dwelling (separate and independent premises), used as the main residence, with the exception of all mobile dwellings.*

An ordinary household can be limited to a single individual ; it can also include boarders or sub-tenants who do not have independent accommodation.

By definition, the number of ordinary households equals the number of main residences.

► **Children.** *For census purposes, a child is any person aged under 15 years at the census reference date.*

► **Single parent family.** *Comprises a single parent with one or more unmarried child(ren).*

SOURCE

[1] INSEE-ISEE, *Recensements de population 2004, 1996, 1989, 1983.*

SEE ALSO

Institut de la Statistique et des Études Économiques (ISEE) : www.isee.nc

5.9 HOUSEHOLDS

Number of ordinary households and their average size by province, according to previous census results [1]

	1976	1983	1989	1996	2004
Loyalty islands province	///	2 913	3 151	3 890	4 926
Northern province	///	7 007	7 498	9 511	11 077
Southern province	///	25 187	29 617	38 096	48 342
New Caledonia	30 540	35 107	40 266	51 497	64 345
Average size of the households	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.8	3.5

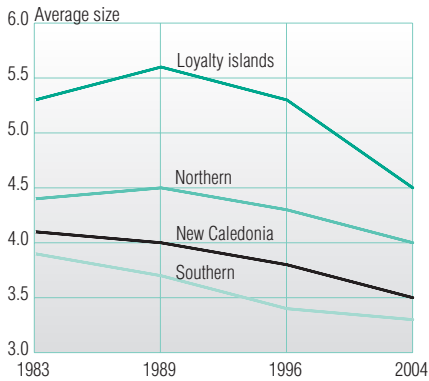
Units : number, household population

Ordinary households by size and province of residence [1]

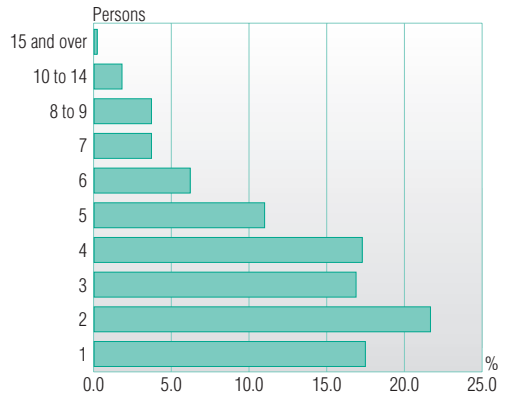
	Loyalty islands province	Northern province	Southern province	New Caledonia
1 person	668	1 871	8 690	11 229
2 persons	522	1 758	11 695	13 975
3 persons	609	1 698	8 599	10 906
4 persons	802	1 828	8 472	11 102
5 persons	810	1 342	4 908	7 060
6 persons	590	951	2 467	4 008
7 persons	401	577	1 408	2 386
8 and 9 persons	352	676	1 331	2 359
10 to 14 persons	157	336	667	1 160
15 persons and more	15	40	105	160
Overall	4 926	11 077	48 342	64 345
Average size of the households	4.5	4.0	3.3	3.5

Units : number, household population

Average size of households by province according to previous censuses [1]



Ordinary households by size [1]



Composition of ordinary households [1]

	1996	2004	Variation 2004/1996
Person alone	8 764	11 229	28.1
Couple with or without children	27 549	33 950	23.2
Single-parent family	3 968	5 228	31.8
Other cases	11 216	13 938	24.3
Overall	51 497	64 345	24.9

Units : number, %

Composition of ordinary households at 2004 census [1]

