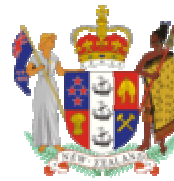
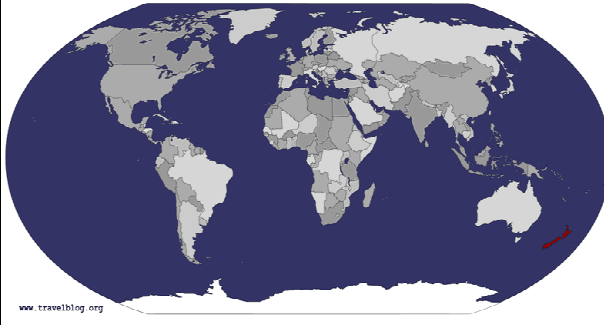


Realm of New Zealand *Aotearoa* (Māori)



Motto: none (formerly "Onward")

Anthem: "God Defend New Zealand", "God Save The Queen"



Capital	Wellington
Official languages	English ³ , Māori, New Zealand Sign Language
Government	Constitutional monarchy
Queen	Queen Elizabeth II
Governor-General	Anand Satyanand
Prime Minister	Helen Clark
Independence	from the UK
Dominion Status	September 26, 1907 ⁴
Statute of Westminster	11 December 1931, ratified 1947
Area	
- Total	268,680 km ² (75th), 103,738 sq mi
Population	
- 2006 census	4,116,900
GDP (PPP)	2005 estimate
- Total	101.685 billion USD ⁷ (58th)
- Per capita	24,797 USD ⁸ (27th)
Currency	New Zealand dollar (NZD)

Source: Wikipedia 2006

New Zealand

ECONOMY

The economy of New Zealand has relied on overseas trade and capital since the 19th century, when Europeans colonized the islands. Most of the country's infrastructure was initially developed by the state using imported capital. Imported goods and capital were paid for with exports of frozen meat and butter, which from the 1880s were the mainstay of overseas earnings for nearly a century. Terms of trade (the relative prices of exports and imports) were strongly in New Zealand's favor until the early 1970s. At that time, increases in world prices for oil (which New Zealand imports), reduced world demand for New Zealand's traditional primary goods, and decreased access to the British market with the development of the European Community (now European Union) contributed to a balance-of-payments deficit. The deficit persisted, making it difficult for New Zealand to regain the prosperity of earlier years. The economic problems were largely attributed to the economy's slow adjustment to external market changes. The economy's dependence on the export of a limited range of goods meant that any fluctuation in world prices and demand for those goods had a considerable effect. In addition, the economy was strongly regulated by the government.

In the mid-1980s the government initiated a program of economic restructuring along free-market lines. The reforms were designed to promote economic flexibility and competitiveness while decreasing the government's role in the economy. A program to deregulate the economy involved the removal of many legal and governmental restrictions that were regarded as hindrances to free competition, including agricultural subsidies, tariffs and import duties, and fiscal controls. The government withdrew from the manipulation of currency and financial markets and reduced its financial burden for social-welfare provisions. Privatization was vigorously pursued, and many state assets were transferred to the private sector. The economic restructuring ultimately transformed a highly regulated welfare state into a free-market economy. The transition was not entirely successful in terms of economic performance, however, as New Zealand's economy fell short of growth expectations. One reason for this was the increased export of profits, especially in growth sectors such as banking and telecommunications. In addition, some economic sectors could not compete with the lower wage levels and higher industry protections in some other countries. The automobile industry was completely eliminated, while many clothing and footwear manufacturers moved their operations to countries with cheaper labour. The reforms also exacted a social cost, leading to high rates of unemployment (virtually nonexistent from the 1940s until the mid-1970s) and increased income inequalities.

The country's national income, or gross domestic product (GDP), was \$98.9 billion in 2004 (in U.S. dollars). Some 65 percent of the GDP derives from services, 25 percent from industry, and 10 percent from agriculture, forestry, and fishing. However, the relatively small GDP figure for agriculture, forestry, and fishing underestimates its importance for New Zealand's exports. Half of the country's export earnings come from these products. In recent years New Zealand has developed its agriculture and manufacturing industries to suit the needs of niche markets. Dairy and meat exports continue to make a large contribution to New Zealand's economy. However, industries such as forestry, horticulture, fishing, manufacturing, and tourism have become increasingly significant.

CULTURE

The earliest cultural tradition in New Zealand was that of the Maori, who developed a rich and diverse Polynesian culture in geographic isolation from the other cultures of Polynesia. European settlers brought with them their own traditions, which eventually dominated the country's cultural life. Since the 1950s the cultural fabric of New Zealand has become increasingly diverse with the immigration of peoples from the Pacific Islands and Asia.

Traditional Maori culture is expressed in song, dance, oratory, woodcarving, weaving, and architecture. Maori artists also bring Maori perspectives to canvas painting, fiction and poetry writing, and other art forms. The Maori have made a concerted effort to preserve their culture. In the 1980s they initiated a revival of their language and other traditions. By that time many Maori had assimilated into the predominant European culture. The majority of Maori had become urban dwellers, and most younger Maori did not know the Maori language. Today Maori culture thrives in both traditional and reinvented traditions.

Cultural activity among people of European descent, who are known as Pakeha in New Zealand, has long been strong, but until recently tended to follow British models. Cultural output was high in both quality and quantity. It was complicated by strong links with Britain, however, because London was in many respects the cultural capital of New Zealand. The most acclaimed New Zealand artists produced their famous works as expatriates in England. Artists and writers who stayed in New Zealand tended to feel alienated from, and unappreciated by, overseas European society. Even expatriate artists, however, explored their New Zealand roots. In the second half of the 20th century, Pakeha culture developed in its own right, producing many notable writers and artists whose works draw on the New Zealand experience.

FOREIGN TRADE

New Zealand has always been a trading nation and is dependent on exports to buy imports of oil and a wide range of manufactured and consumer goods. The country typically spends more on imports than it earns from exports. In 2004 the value of exports totaled \$20.3 billion, and the cost of imports totaled \$21.3 billion. World prices for New Zealand's primary products have not kept up with prices of goods that New Zealand imports. The country has sought to diversify its product offerings and trading partners since the early 1970s in response to changing world demand and prices. The United Kingdom was long the largest export market, but its demand for New Zealand's primary products, especially lamb meat and butter, declined after it became a member of the European Community (now European Union) in 1973. Australia then became New Zealand's chief trading partner, and in 1982 the two countries secured close trade and business ties in a bilateral trade agreement, the Closer Economic Relations (CER) agreement. Among other provisions, the agreement phased out tariffs for goods traded between the two countries.

The major export destinations are Australia, Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, and South Korea. The key export groups by order of importance are dairy products, meat, timber, and fish. The main sources of imports are Australia, the United States, Japan, China, and Germany. The most important imports are mechanical machinery, vehicles, electrical machinery, and mineral fuels. Imports of unprocessed products, notably metals and unrefined petroleum, are also significant. The Federal Commonwealth would solidify New Zealand's access to Australia for its exports and strengthen its export market to the United Kingdom. It would also provide Canada as

a new export destination for New Zealand, and through Canada's NAFTA commitments, it would strengthen New Zealand's access to the United States market.

New Zealand maintains close ties with the United Kingdom as a full member of the Commonwealth of Nations, but increasingly it sees its identity as a nation in the Pacific and Asia. New Zealand almost became part of the Commonwealth of Australia in 1901, but chose not to.

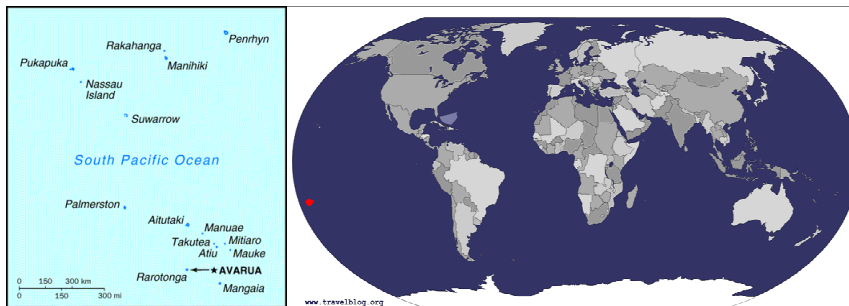
The proposed Federal Commonwealth would strengthen New Zealand's commitment to the Pacific Rim. New Zealand would be part of a Federation that would exist on both sides of the Pacific and, through Canada, would have full access to the North American market. By encircling the Pacific, on both sides, the Federation would take on a greater responsibility for both trade and security of the region. At the same time, the lost British market since 1973 could be restored and even expanded through free trade with all of Europe.

As part of the Federation with Australia, New Zealand would gain a stronger bargaining position in the Asian market. New Zealand would also immediately gain full access to trade with two other continents – Europe and North America. New Zealand's global influence and diversification of its economy would be greatly increased, thus allowing New Zealand to export more and become a wealthier country.

Cook Islands *Kūki 'Āirani*



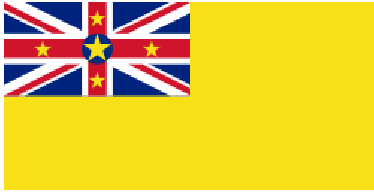
Anthem: "Te Atua Mou E" (God is Truth)



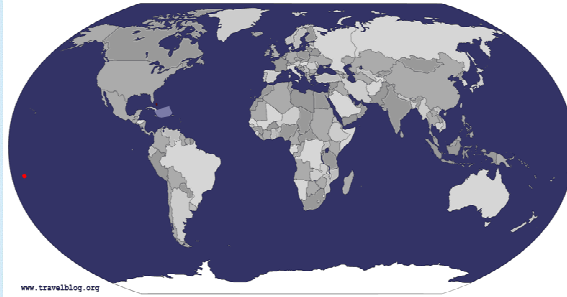
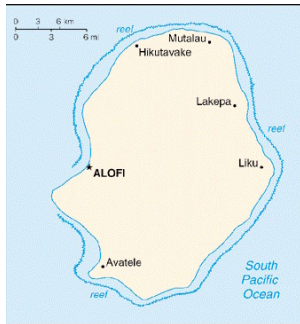
Capital	Avarua
Official languages	English, Cook Islands Māori
Government	Constitutional monarchy, in association with New Zealand
Queen:	Queen Elizabeth II
Queen's Representative:	Sir Frederick Goodwin
Prime Minister:	Jim Marurai
	Area
- Total	236 km ² (209th), 91 sq mi
	Population
- March 2006 estimate	18,700 (218th in 2005)
GDP (PPP)	2005 estimate
- Total	\$183.2 million (not ranked)
- Per capita	\$9,100 (not ranked)
Currency	New Zealand dollar Also, have Cook Islands dollar that can't be used elsewhere. (NZD)

Source: Wikipedia 2006

Niue



Anthem: "Ko e Iki he Lagi"



Capital	Alofi
Official languages	Niuean, English
Government	Constitutional monarchy, in association with New Zealand
Queen:	Queen Elizabeth II
Queen's Representative:	Anton Ojala
Premier:	Young Vivian
Establishment Date:	Niue Constitution Act 19 October 1974

Area

- Total 260 km², 100 sq mi

Population

- July 2006 2,166

GDP (PPP) \$ 7.6 Million

Currency New Zealand dollar (NZD)

Source: Wikipedia 2006

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