

TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU

EDUCATION, LEARNING AND SKILLS

A SNAPSHOT OF PROGRESS TOWARDS PARITY

PASIFIKA EDITION

THE BIGGEST PASIFIKA CITY IN THE WORLD¹

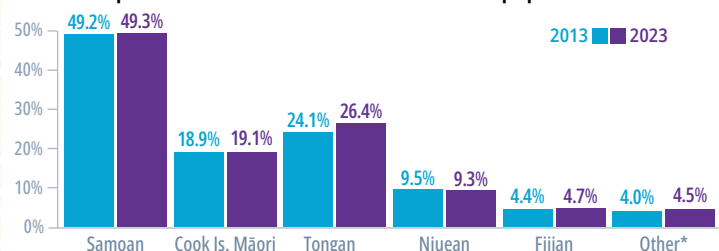
275,079

Pasifika in Tāmaki Makaurau in 2023
(17% of the city's total residents)

194,958

Pasifika in Tāmaki Makaurau in 2013
(14% of the city's total residents)

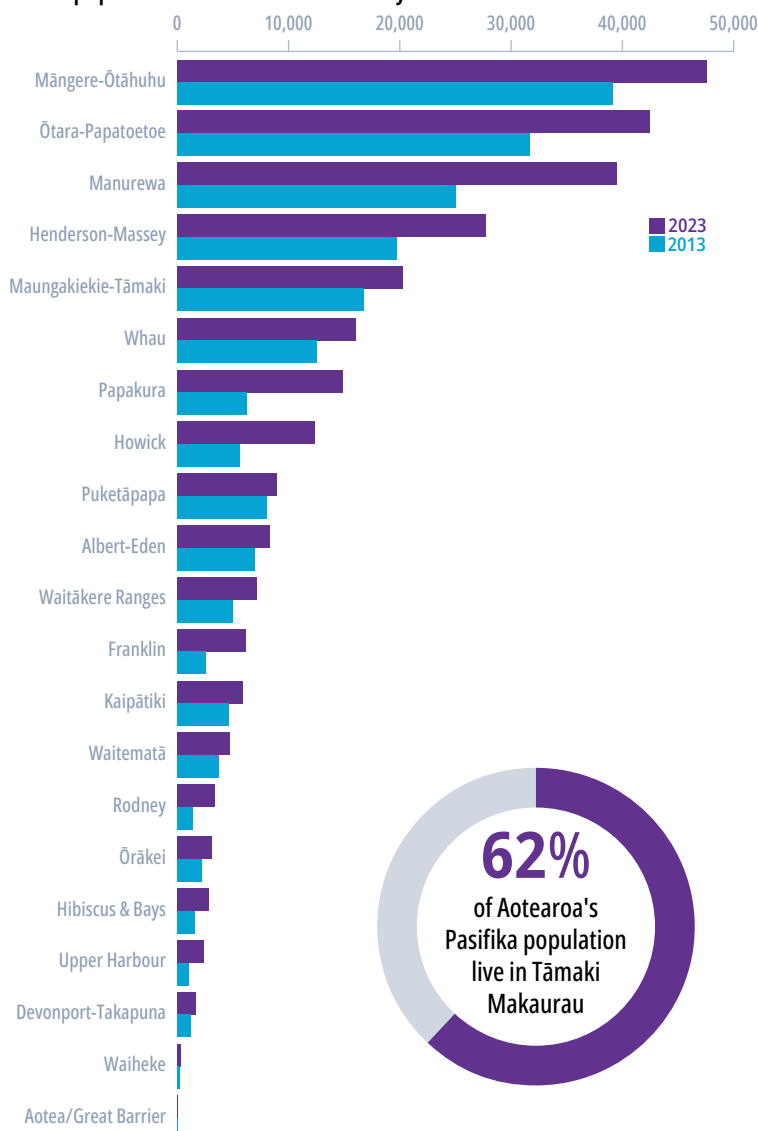
Ethnic composition of Tāmaki Makaurau's Pasifika population



MORE PASIFIKA PEOPLE ARE BORN IN AOTEAROA THAN OVERSEAS.

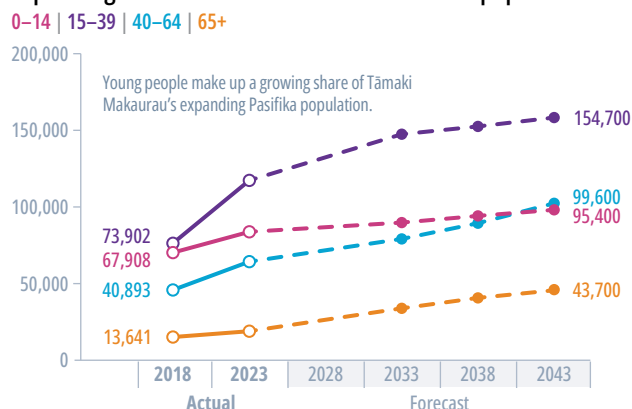
In 2023, only **32%** of Pasifika in Tāmaki Makaurau were born in the Pacific Islands (**38%** in 2013).

Pasifika population in Tāmaki Makaurau by local board



GROWING ECONOMIC AND VOTING POWER

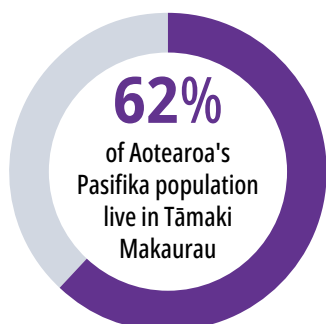
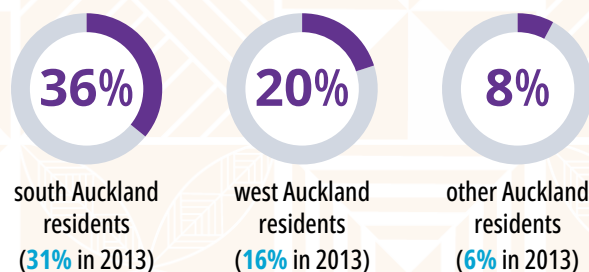
Expected growth of Tāmaki Makaurau's Pasifika population



In 2024, more than **1 in 4 (28%)** babies born in Tāmaki Makaurau were Pasifika

In 2033, **25%** of job entrants aged 15-24 in Tāmaki Makaurau will be Pasifika

Proportion of Pasifika residents by area in 2023



BEING BILINGUAL²

Bilingualism supports Pasifika identity and improves educational, social and employment outcomes. Maintaining heritage languages alongside English builds resilience and cognitive strength.³

In Tāmaki Makaurau in 2023 ...

53% of Samoans (57% in 2013) could hold a conversation in their heritage language.

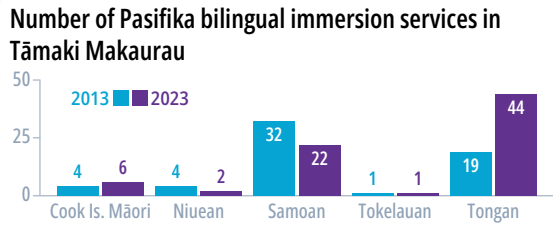
39% of Tongans (54% in 2013) could hold a conversation in their heritage language.

WHY THE SIGNIFICANT DROP IN TONGAN SPEAKERS?

PASIFIKA LANGUAGE IN EARLY LEARNING IN 2023

26,532 Pasifika children aged 0–4 in Tāmaki Makaurau (23,979 in 2013)

11.8% of Pasifika children attended bilingual and/or immersion ECE services⁵



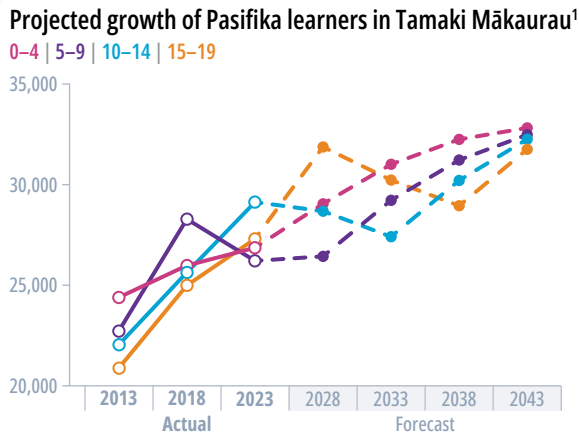
IN SCHOOL²

Pasifika students in Tāmaki Makaurau ...

42,205 primary school aged in 2023 (39,799 in 2016)

27,001 secondary school aged in 2023 (22,470 in 2016)

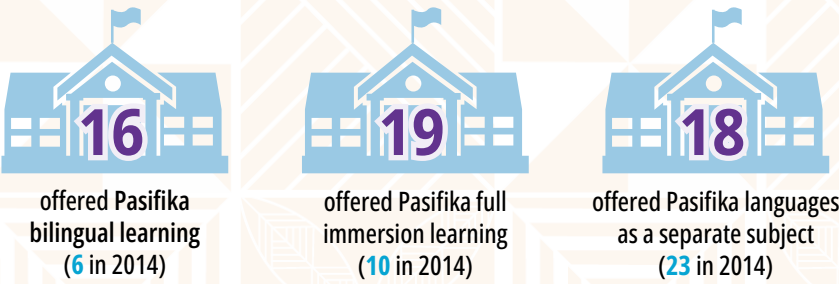
made up **half** of all students in Tāmaki Makaurau schools with high socio-economic barriers in 2024



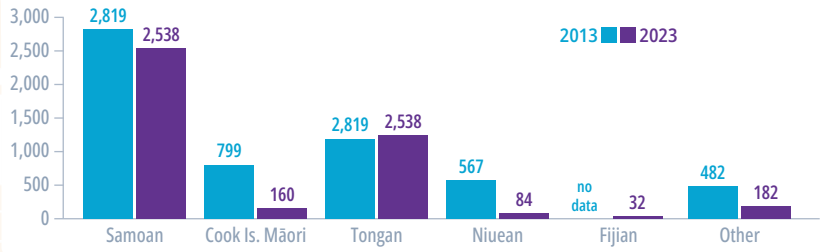
PASIFIKA LANGUAGE IN SCHOOLS

Students' prior knowledge is key to new learning. Supporting Pasifika students in their first languages helps them access concepts and deepens understanding.⁴

Tāmaki Makaurau schools in 2024



Number of Pasifika students learning Pasifika languages in Tāmaki Makaurau (2014 v 2024)

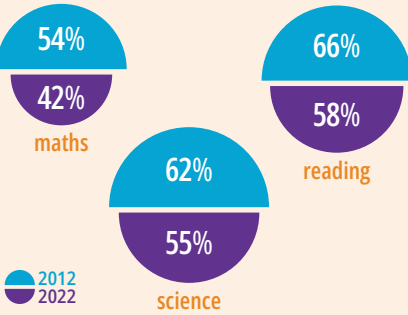


SHOULD WE BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE DECLINE IN PASIFIKA STUDENTS LEARNING THEIR HERITAGE LANGUAGES?

PISA PERFORMANCE OF PASIFIKA 15-YEAR-OLDS IN AOTEAROA²

The Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) is a global test held every three years that assesses how well 15-year-olds apply their maths, reading and science skills to real-world problems.

Performance of Pasifika 15-year-olds at or above the minimal levels (2012 v 2022)



Over the last decade, average maths, reading and science results for Pasifika students across Aotearoa have declined.



Tāmaki Makaurau schools with rolls of 50% or more Pasifika students in 2024 (89 in 2016)

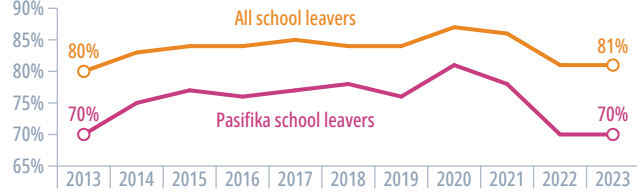
THE INCREASE IN PASIFIKA LEARNERS WILL REQUIRE TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU TO EXPAND ITS BILINGUAL SUPPORT, INCLUSIVE CURRICULA AND TEACHER TRAINING TO MEET NEEDS EFFECTIVELY.

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT & OUTCOMES²

ATTAINMENT OF PASIFIKA SCHOOL LEAVERS FROM TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU

NCEA Level 2+

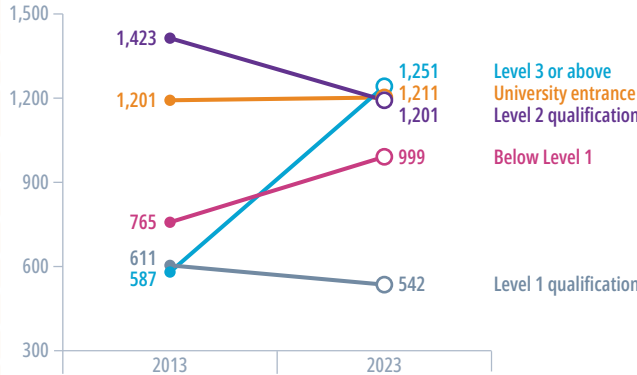
Achievement of NCEA Level 2+ by Tāmaki Makaurau's Pasifika school leavers compared to all school leavers



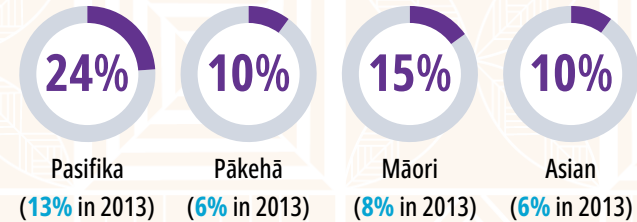
BEFORE COVID-19, PASIFIKA ACHIEVEMENT WAS RISING AND THE GAP WAS CLOSING. WHAT'S BEING DONE NOW TO REGAIN THAT PROGRESS?

Highest qualifications of school leavers

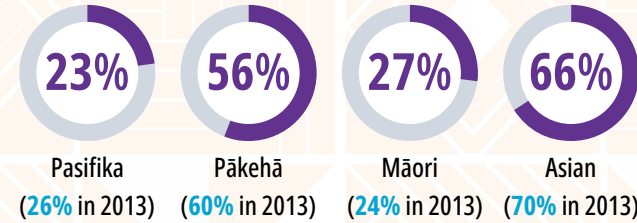
Number of Pasifika school leavers by highest attainment (2013 v 2023)



Tāmaki Makaurau's school leavers with NCEA Level 3+



Tāmaki Makaurau's school leavers with University Entrance



WHILE MORE PASIFIKA STUDENTS IN TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU ARE ATTAINING NCEA LEVEL 3 OR ABOVE AS THEIR HIGHEST QUALIFICATION, FEWER ARE PROGRESSING TO UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE WHEN COMPARED TO OTHER ETHNICITIES.

IN TERTIARY²

The total enrolments of Pasifika students in tertiary education have **reduced** since 2014.

34,650

Pasifika students enrolled in all tertiary institutions across Aotearoa in 2023 (36,200 in 2014)

PARITY AT HIGHER-LEVEL DEGREES IS INCREASING.

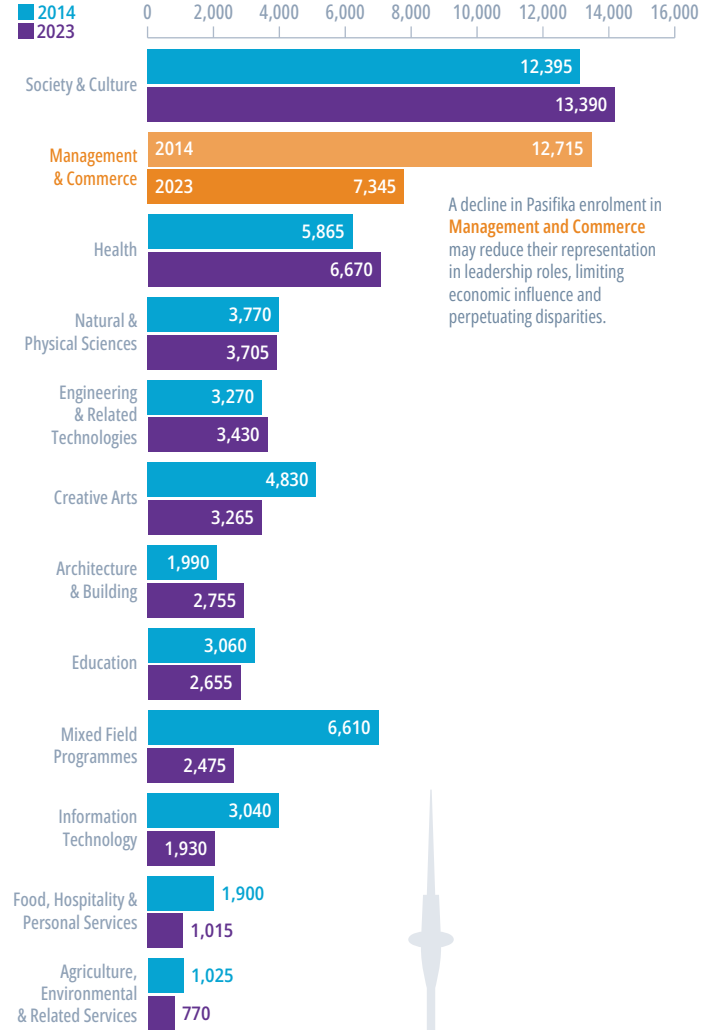
Change in national Pasifika tertiary enrolments (2014–2023)

Provider type	% change
Universities	▲ 26%
Polytechnics	▼ 13%
Wānanga	▼ 22%
Private training establishments	▼ 24%

Pasifika university enrolments and entry into higher-level degrees have risen significantly over the past decade

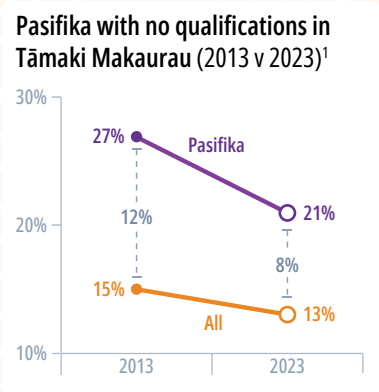
Qualification type	2014	% change	2023
Doctoral degrees	215	▲ 105%	440
Master's degrees	695	▲ 86%	1,290
Honours degrees	1,120	▲ 50%	1,815

Pasifika enrolments by field of study across all of Aotearoa's tertiary institutions (2014 v 2023)

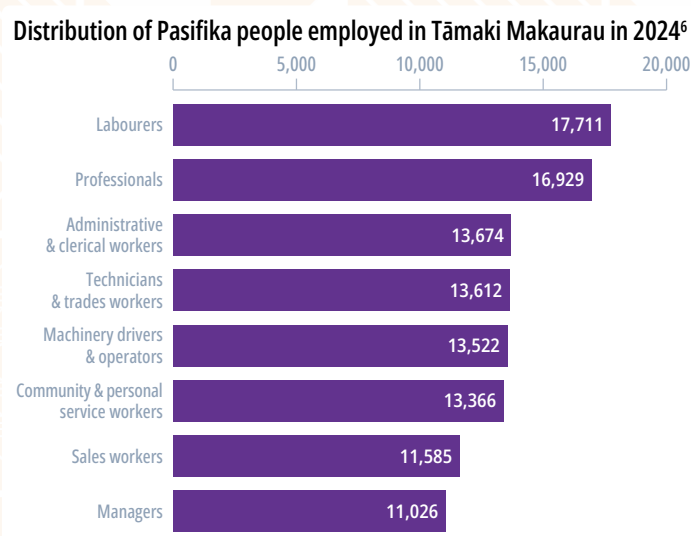
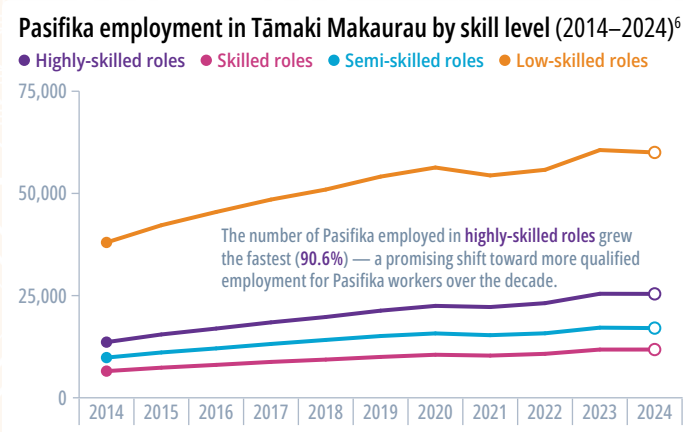


A decline in Pasifika enrolment in Management and Commerce may reduce their representation in leadership roles, limiting economic influence and perpetuating disparities.

SKILLS & WORK



THE PROPORTION OF PASIFIKA AGED 15+ IN TĀMAKI MAKĀURAU WITH NO QUALIFICATIONS HAS SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED. THIS HAS NARROWED THE SKILLS GAP BETWEEN PASIFIKA AND THE TOTAL POPULATION.



INCOME¹

Median weekly income by highest level of qualification (2013 v 2023)

Highest level of qualification	Ethnic group	2013	2023
No qualification	European	\$600	\$940
	Asian / Other	\$444	\$891
	Māori	\$533	\$767
	Pasifika	\$552	\$891
School qualification	European	\$750	\$1,151
	Asian / Other	\$543	\$988
	Māori	\$664	\$1,146
	Pasifika	\$566	\$1,040
Bachelor's degree or higher	European	\$1,105	\$1,534
	Asian / Other	\$800	\$1,304
	Māori	\$986	\$1,534
	Pasifika	\$921	\$1,458

Tāmaki Makaurau's Pasifika population has consistently had **lower median incomes** than the city's other major ethnic groups.

Tāmaki Makaurau median weekly income

	2014	2024
Pasifika residents	\$415	\$884
Total residents	\$575	\$1,055



While all ethnic groups show an overall upward trend in income, the gap between Pasifika and higher-earning groups like Europeans and Asians appears to have widened, especially since 2021.

REFERENCES

*The "Other" ethnicity category includes Indigenous Australians, Hawaiians, I-Kiribati, Nauruans, Papua New Guineans, Pitcairn Islanders, Rotumans, Tahitians, Solomon Islanders, Ni-Vanuatu, Tuvaluans, and Tokelauans

1. Statistics New Zealand (2025). *Statistics New Zealand website*. Retrieved 30 April 2025 from <https://www.stats.govt.nz>
2. Ministry of Education (2025). *Education Counts website*. Retrieved 30 April 2025 from <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz>
3. May, S., Hill, R., & Tiakiwai, S. (2004). *Bilingual/immersion education: Indicators of good practice*. Ministry of Education.
4. Ministry for Pacific Peoples (2021). *Pacific Languages Strategy 2022–2032*. <https://www.mpp.govt.nz/assets/Reports/Pacific-Languages-Strategy-2022/Pacific-Languages-Strategy-English.pdf>

5. Ministry of Education (2025). *Pacific Languages in Early Learning. 2023 ECE Census Results*. https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/247099/ECE-Census-2023-Pacific-languages-in-Early-Learning.pdf
6. Infometrics (2025). *Pacific Peoples employment growth (2024)*. <https://rep.infometrics.co.nz/auckland/ethnicity/labour-market/growth?compare=new-zealandðnicity=pacific-peoples>