

8 April 2024

Buddhika Daluwatte
NMIT

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Tēnā koe Buddhika

Official Information Act (OIA) request: Household income and home ownership

On 7 March 2024, you contacted Stats NZ requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *“the Household Expenditure (1966-1981), Household disposable median annual income (2019-2023 and 1966-1981), Home Ownership (1966-1981), and the ratio between household income to housing market price (1966-1981).”*

For some background information, the data Stats NZ produces has changed considerably from 1966 to now. The Household Economic Survey (HES) was first instituted (as the Household Social Survey) in 1973. Further to this, we do not always have complete records of all data collected historically, for example, our digital databases for HES only go back to 1989.

For clarity, I will respond to each part of your request separately.

- *“Household Expenditure (1966-1981)”*

Please see attached documents containing scans of the Household Survey Reports from 1973 – 1982. These contain all household income and expenditure statistics published by Stats NZ for the stated time periods.

For the period of 1966 – 1972, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

- *“Household disposable median annual income (2019-2023)”*

Your request for this information is refused under section 18(d) of the Act on the basis that the information requested is already publicly available. You can find this information on the Stats NZ website at the links below:

- [Household income and housing-cost statistics: Year ended June 2023 | Stats NZ](#)

info@stats.govt.nz
toll-free 0508 525 525
stats.govt.nz

- [Household income and housing-cost statistics: Year ended June 2022 | Stats NZ](#)
- [Household income and housing-cost statistics: Year ended June 2021 | Stats NZ](#)
- [Household income and housing-cost statistics: Year ended June 2020 – corrected | Stats NZ](#)
- [Household income and housing-cost statistics: Year ended June 2019 | Stats NZ](#)

- *“Household disposable median annual income (1966-1981)”*

Please see attached documents containing scans of the Household Survey Reports from 1973 – 1982. These contain all household income and expenditure statistics published by Stats NZ for the stated time periods.

For the period of 1966 – 1972, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

While we cannot provide you with Household income statistics for this period, we would like to make you aware of some publicly available information that may be useful to you. [“The New Zealand Official Yearbook”](#) provides annual statistical information on life in New Zealand from 1893 to 2010. The following yearbooks include income and taxation data that may be useful to you:

- Income data for 1966 – 1969: [THE NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL YEAR-BOOK, 1970 \(stats.govt.nz\)](#)
- Income data for 1967 – 1970: [THE NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL YEAR-BOOK, 1971 \(stats.govt.nz\)](#)
- Income data for 1968 – 1971: [THE NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL YEAR-BOOK, 1972 \(stats.govt.nz\)](#)
- Income data for 1969 – 1972: [NEW ZEALAND 1973, OFFICIAL YEARBOOK \(stats.govt.nz\)](#)
- Income data for 1970 – 1973: [THE NEW ZEALAND OFFICIAL YEAR-BOOK, 1974 \(stats.govt.nz\)](#)

- *“Home Ownership (1966-1981)”*

Your request for this information is refused under section 18(d) of the Act on the basis that the information requested is already publicly available. You can also find this information on Stats NZ’s website here: [The New Zealand Official Yearbook](#). This information is collected through census and therefore is only available for census years (1966, 1971, 1976 and 1981).

info@stats.govt.nz
toll-free 0508 525 525
stats.govt.nz

To find this information, select the Yearbook published a few years after the census dates you wish to see (for example, select 1974 for the 1966 and 1971 census numbers). Use “Ctrl+F” to search for “tenure of dwelling”.

- *“the ratio between household income to housing market price (1966-1981).”*

This part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.


It is possible you could estimate this yourself using the information on incomes provided to you in this response, and housing cost information which can also be found in [The New Zealand Official Yearbook](#).

Should you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact Stats NZ at: OfficeoftheGSCE@stats.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

It is Stats NZ’s policy to proactively release its responses to official information requests where possible. This letter, with your personal details removed, will be published on the Stats NZ website. Publishing responses creates greater openness and transparency of government decision-making and helps better inform public understanding of the reasons for decisions.

Nāku noa, nā



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