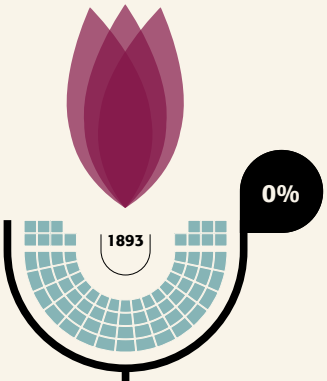
Celebrating

120 years

of women's suffrage

Women's achievements in New Zealand

Suffrage means the right to vote in political elections. This graphic illustrates women's participation in New Zealand life and society over the past 120 years.

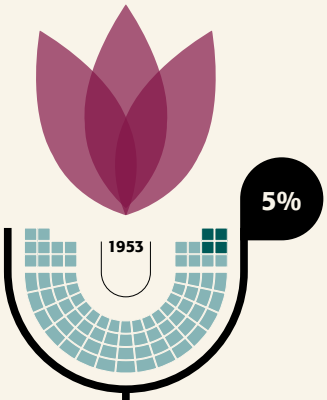


Working-age women in employment: **26%**

Higher-education students percent female: **39%**

Average age at first birth: **22.5**

Average number of children: **5**

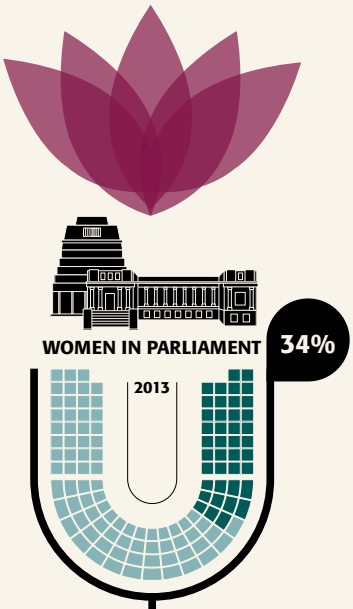


Working-age women in employment: **25%**

Higher-education students percent female: **24%**

Average age at first birth: **23.2**

Average number of children: **4**



Working-age women in employment: **58%**

Higher-education students percent female: **56%**

Average age at first birth: **28**

Average number of children: **2**

1893

Electoral Act 1893
Women gain right to vote in national elections

1953

1949
Māori MP
Iriaka Rātana

1947
Cabinet Minister
Mabel Howard

1933
Member of Parliament
Elizabeth McCombs

1893
Mayor
Elizabeth Yates

2013

FEMALE FIRSTS

2013
Government Statistician
Liz MacPherson

2011
Awarded the Rutherford Medal
Prof Christine Winterbourn

2004
Principal Judge of Supreme Court
Rt Hon Dame Sian Elias

1999
Elected Prime Minister
Rt Hon Helen Clark

1999
Pacific MP
Luamanuvao Winnie Laban

1997
Prime Minister
Rt Hon Dame Jenny Shipley

1996
Asian MP
Pansy Wong

1990
Governor-General
Dame Catherine Tizard

Sources: Statistics New Zealand (Yearbooks, Census, Household Labour Force Survey), Ministry of Education. Thank you to the Ministry for Culture and Heritage for advice on historical context.

Visit **www.stats.govt.nz** or scan the QR code to explore more statistics.

Note: Statistics displayed in this infographic provide a representation of trends in employment, education, and childbearing. Data sources, classifications, and definitions have changed over time; therefore the statistics should be seen as a snapshot in time, rather than a directly comparable time series.

MINISTRY OF WOMEN'S AFFAIRS
MINITATANGA MŌ NGĀ WĀHINE

STATISTICS

Statistics New Zealand
TATAURANGA AOTEAROA