



Office of the Council for the  
Ongoing Government of Tokelau  
*Tokelau National Statistics Office*



# Nukunonu atoll profile: 2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings





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### **Acknowledgement**

The Office of the Council for the Ongoing Government of Tokelau thanks Statistics NZ for their assistance with the 2016 Tokelau Census and publication of associated reports.

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# Information about the data

## Comparing information between censuses

The Tokelau population has a unique composition. A significant proportion of the population temporarily leaves the islands (eg for healthcare, education). In 2016, core demographic information for people who usually live in Tokelau but were away on census night was provided on their behalf by the head of the household. More detailed information was provided by each individual present on Tokelau on census day.

It should be noted that comparison of absentee numbers over the two censuses should be used cautiously when being used for analysis as the number of people absent from Tokelau at any one time can fluctuate substantially. Appropriate population measures were developed for the 2006 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings to ensure all usual residents were counted – including those who were not present in Tokelau on census night. This methodology was repeated for 2016.

Users of Tokelau census data can be confident about comparing census data between the 2006, 2011, and 2016 Censuses. However, final population and dwelling count comparisons are not recommended before 2006. Inconsistencies in collection methodology and population count calculations mean data from censuses earlier than 2006 is not directly comparable with 2016 Census data.

## Rounding procedures

Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.

## Confidentiality

Statistics NZ and the Tokelau National Statistics Office have used confidentiality rules to process the data in this profile. This means that no individuals can be identified from the data.

For more information on confidentiality, please contact the Tokelau National Statistics Office.

## Multiple response variables

Some variables in the 2016 Tokelau Census allowed respondents to indicate more than one response to a question (eg ethnicity, and where people have lived overseas). For these variables, counts and percentages will not add up to the totals reported in tables.

## Source

Statistics NZ and the Tokelau National Statistics Office were the source of the information in this profile. All data is from the 2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings.

## More detail

For more information about the population counts, see [appendix](#).

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# 1 Introduction

Nukunonu is one of three atolls in Tokelau. *Nukunonu atoll profile* is one of a series prepared by the Tokelau National Statistics Office and Statistics NZ for each of the atolls of Tokelau. This profile is based on the 2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings held on 18 October 2016.

The atoll profiles provide basic comparisons between an atoll and Tokelau as a whole but do not compare the atolls with one another.

If you would like to know more about a topic found in the profile, please refer to one of the more detailed census reports available from the [Tokelau National Statistics Office](#).

Information on the other Tokelau census reports is at the end of this profile under [Further information](#).

## 2 Nukunonu population

### Usually resident population

On 18 October 2016, Nukunonu had a population of 452 people. This was an 11.1 percent increase from 2011, when Nukunonu had a population of 407.

Nukunonu was home to 30.2 percent of Tokelau's population.

Nukunonu's population, shown in figure 1, was made up of:

- 385 usual residents who were in Tokelau on census night
- 63 usual residents who were away from Tokelau on census night
- 4 Tokelau Public Service (TPS) employees and their immediate families who are currently based in Apia, Samoa but whose home atoll is Nukunonu.

Within Nukunonu, 14.1 percent of the population was absent from Tokelau on census night. This is slightly lower than the total proportion absent across Tokelau (17.5 percent). These percentages do not include TPS employees and their immediate families based in Apia.

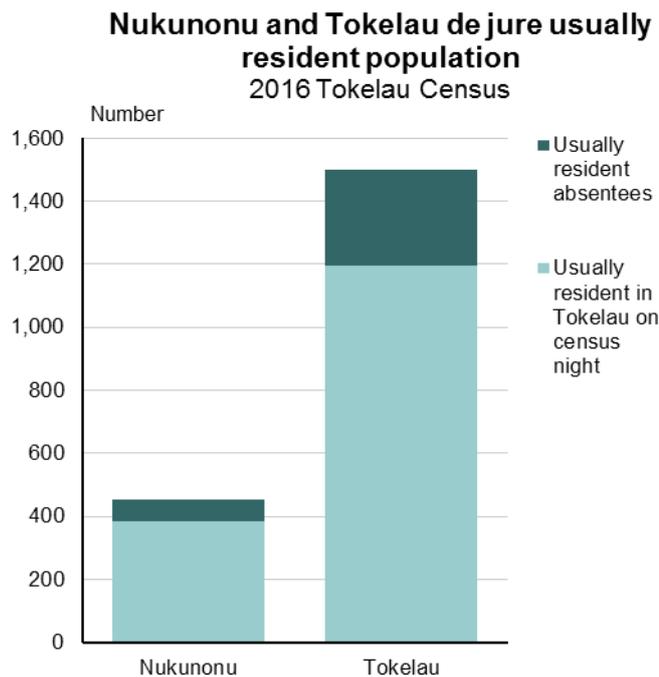
#### **De jure usually resident population**

Tokelau's de jure population includes people who usually live in Tokelau but were absent on census night. See the [appendix](#) for a detailed definition.

The de jure population for Tokelau in 2016 was 1,499. This includes the usually resident population present in Tokelau on census night (1,197 people) and the usually resident absentee sub-population (302 people).

This sub-population of absentees includes those who qualify as usual residents under specific immigration criteria. Tokelau's sub-population of absentees is made up of 48 TPS employees and their immediate families counted in Apia, Samoa, and 254 other international absentees.

**Figure 1**



Source: 2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings

## Less than one-third of Tokelau’s population lives on Nukunonu

On census night, 385 usual residents of Nukunonu were present in Tokelau. This was a 24.6 percent increase from 2011, when 309 usual residents were present in Tokelau on census night.

On census night, 1,197 people in Tokelau qualified as usual residents under the [specified criteria](#) (excluding overseas visitors).

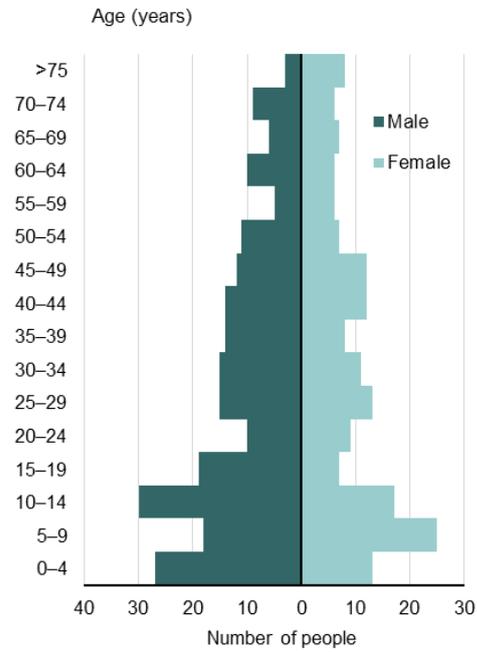
### Age and sex distribution

Figure 2 shows the age and sex characteristics of Nukunonu’s population. The figure shows the following details.

- Nukunonu has a very youthful population – 33.8 percent of its residents were under 15 years of age and over half (52.7 percent) were under 30 years.
- Only 14.3 percent of Nukunonu’s usual residents were 60 years and older, with only 6.8 percent over 70.
- There were differences between the numbers of females and males in each age group. There were more males in most of the age groups, with the largest differences being in the 0–4 and 10–14 age groups.

**Figure 2**

**Nukunonu age and sex distribution<sup>(1)</sup>**  
2016 Tokelau Census

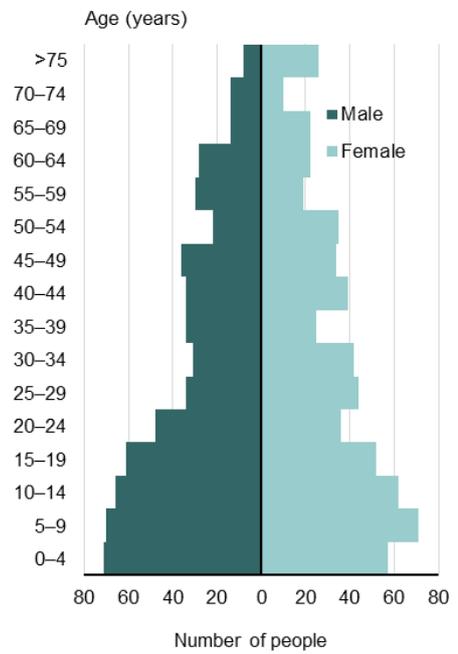


1. For usually resident population present in Nukunonu on census night.

Source: 2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings

**Figure 3**

**Tokelau age and sex distribution<sup>(1)</sup>**  
2016 Tokelau Census



1. For usually resident population present in Tokelau on census night (excludes Samoa).

Source: 2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings

### 3 Absentees

#### Almost two-thirds of Nukunonu’s absentees are under 30 years

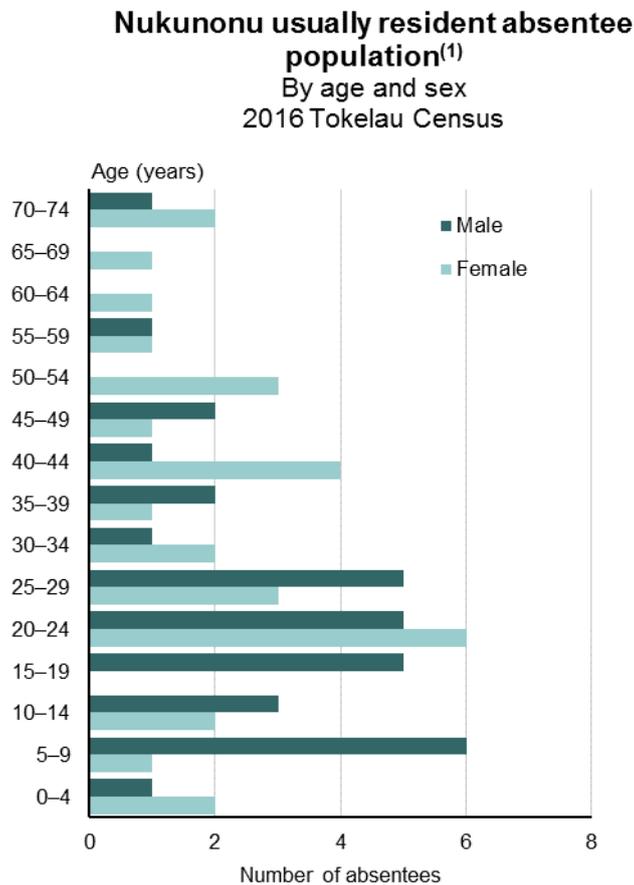
Nukunonu had a total of 63 absentees on census night (this excludes TPS employees and their immediate families in Samoa). This was a 28.4 percent decrease from the 2011 Census (88 absentees).

Of Nukunonu’s 63 absentees, 39 were aged under 30. The 20–24 age group had the most absentees (11).

Only five of Nukunonu’s absentees were over 60 years.

Slightly more males (33) than females (30) were absent on census night.

**Figure 4**



1. Usual residents absent from Nukunonu on census night.

Source: 2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings

## Most residents away for schooling and education purposes

The most common reason for absence was schooling and education. At the time of the 2011 Census, most Nukunonu absentees were away on holiday overseas. Table 1 shows the two most common reasons for absence.

**Table 1**

### The most common reasons for absence from Nukunonu

<b>Reason for absence</b>	<b>Percent of Nukunonu's population</b>
Schooling and education	31.7
On holiday overseas	20.6

Seventeen people had other reasons for being away on census night. The most common other reasons for absence were attending a funeral overseas and supporting family overseas for either a medical referral or education.

The most common reasons for absence from Tokelau are shown in table 2.

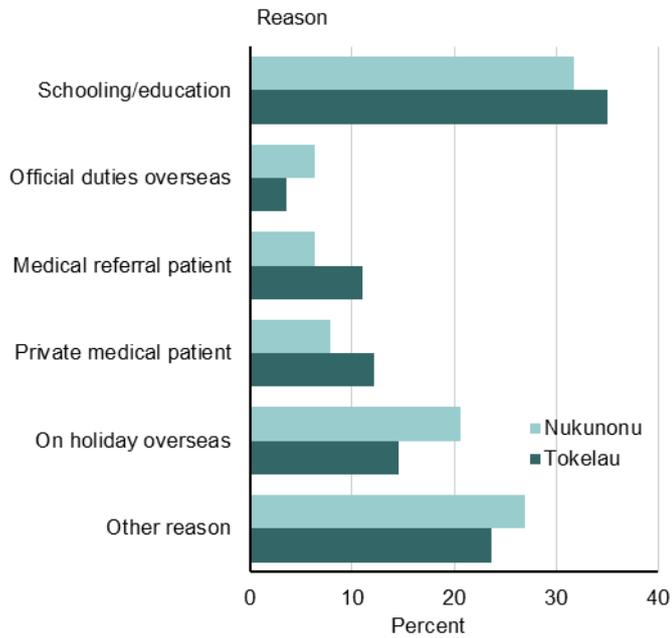
**Table 2**

### The most common reasons for absence from Tokelau

<b>Reason for absence</b>	<b>Percent of Tokelau's population</b>
Schooling and education	35.0
On holiday overseas	14.6

**Figure 5**

**Reason for absence from Nukunonu  
and Tokelau on census night<sup>(1)</sup>**  
2016 Tokelau Census



1. Usual resident population absent from Tokelau on census night.

Source: 2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings

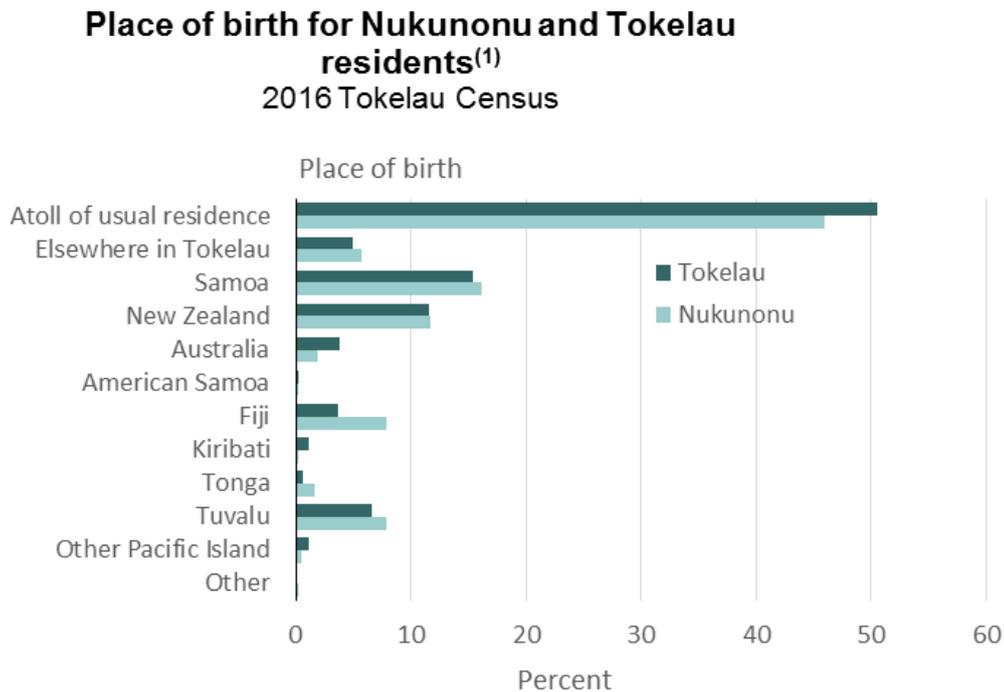
## 4 Migration

### Most Nukunonu residents born there

Of Nukunonu’s 385 usual residents present on Census day, 45.7 percent were born there. The other most common birth places were Samoa (16.1 percent), New Zealand (11.7 percent), Tuvalu and Fiji (both 7.8 percent).

Nukunonu had a higher proportion of residents born in Fiji (7.8 percent) compared with Tokelau’s total population, which had only 3.7 percent of residents born in Fiji.

**Figure 6**



1. For usually resident population present in Tokelau on census night.

Note: Percentages that are less than 1 percent do not show on the graph.

Source: 2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings.

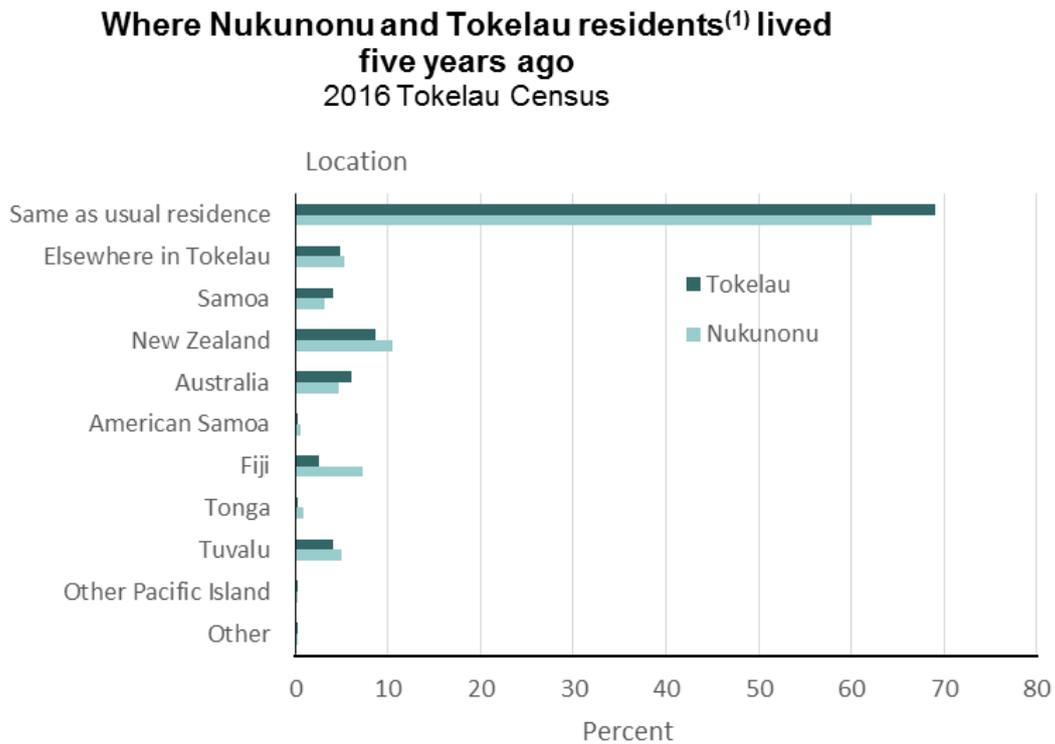
### Most residents lived in Nukunonu five years ago

The most common location residents lived in five years ago was Nukunonu. At the time of the 2011 Census, 62.2 percent of residents, aged five or older, were on Nukunonu.

Of those who were not on Nukunonu five years ago, most were in New Zealand (10.5 percent), Fiji (7.3 percent), or elsewhere in Tokelau (5.2 percent).

Similar to the results for birth place, Nukunonu had a higher percentage of residents living in Fiji five years ago (7.3 percent), compared with the percentage of Tokelau’s total population (2.6 percent).

**Figure 7**



1. For usually resident population present in Tokelau on census night.

Note: Percentages that are less than 1 percent do not show on the graph.

Source: 2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings.

## More than half of residents had lived overseas before

The proportion of residents aged five years and over who stated they had lived overseas for at least six months was 51.5 percent.

New Zealand was the most common country Nukunonu residents had lived in overseas before (30.8 percent). This was followed by Samoa (18.0 percent) and other Pacific islands (13.3 percent).

The second most common country lived in differed from the total Tokelau population – for the Tokelauan population as a whole, this was Australia.

## 5 Social profile

### Over half of Nukunonu residents can speak English

Most people on Nukunonu can speak Tokelauan, and over half can speak English. The language of English proficiency is an increase from the 2011 Census when 47.6 percent of Nukunonu residents could speak English.

The most common languages people said they could have an everyday conversation in are shown in table 3.

**Table 3**

#### Most common languages residents can have an everyday conversation in

Language spoken	Number of people	Percent of Nukunonu's population
Tokelauan	325	84.4
English	211	54.8
Samoan	116	30.1
Tuvaluan	50	13.0

On census night in 2016, 10 people from Nukunonu were too young to talk.

### Over half of residents can speak more than one language

Most people in Nukunonu (56.9 percent) could speak two or more languages.

The greatest number of languages spoken by any Nukunonu resident was five.

**Table 4**

#### Number of languages spoken

Number of languages spoken	Number of people	Percent of Nukunonu's population
1	164	42.6
2	113	29.4
3 or more	106	27.5

More people on Nukunonu spoke two or more languages when compared with all of Tokelau (51.9 percent).

### Tokelauan spoken most often

People were asked what language they speak most often. Most Nukunonu residents stated this was Tokelauan.

Although a high number of people said they could speak Samoan (see table 3), only 2.3 percent of Nukunonu residents reported this as the language they spoke most often.

**Table 5**

**Most common languages spoken most often**

Language spoken	Number of people	Percent of Nukunonu's population
Tokelauan	281	73.0
English	42	10.9
Tuvaluan	24	6.2

If the language people spoke most often was not listed, they were asked to write what that language was. Nukunonu was the only atoll where people used this 'other' option (17 people), with all of these respondents reporting they spoke Fijian or Tongan most often.

## Most residents are full-Tokelauan

On census night, most residents on Nukunonu reported their ethnicity as being full-Tokelauan. In addition, there were 14.5 percent who identified as being part-Tokelauan.

**Table 6**

**Most common ethnic group combinations on Nukunonu**

Ethnic group combination	Percent of Nukunonu's population
Tokelauan	55.3
Part Tokelauan/ Samoan	12.2
Samoan	8.8
Tuvaluan	8.3

## Sixty percent of adults 15 years and older are married

At the 2016 Census, 60.0 percent of adults in Nukunonu were married and 31.0 percent had never been married. These rates are very similar to those for the overall Tokelau population.

## Just under half of adults in Nukunonu smoke cigarettes

On Nukunonu, 49.4 percent of adults 15 years or older stated they smoked cigarettes regularly, that is, at least once one cigarette a day. This is slightly lower than the proportion of the total Tokelau population who smoke regularly (50.1 percent).

Of the Nukunonu residents who did not smoke regularly, 20.2 percent reported they had previously been a regular smoker.

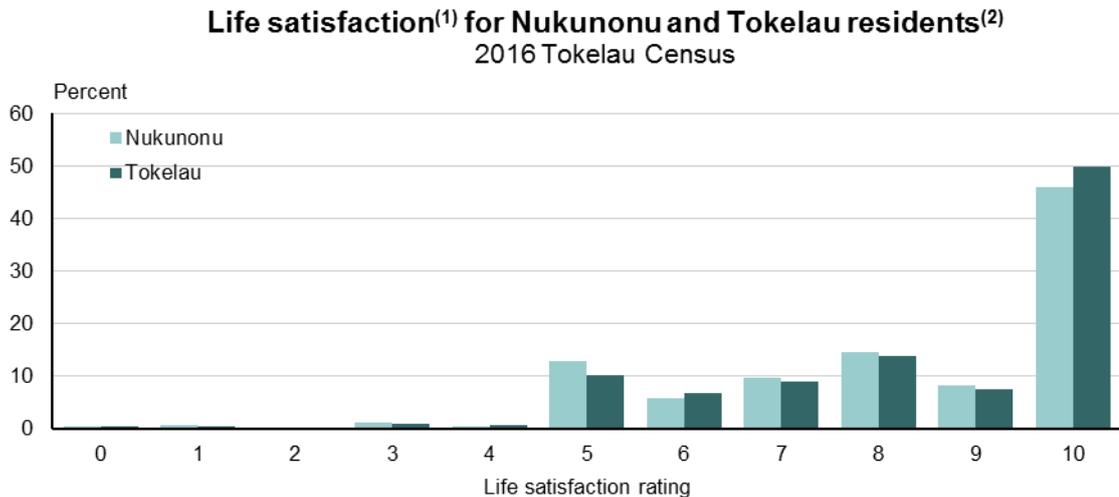
## 6 Quality of life

### Most residents had high levels of life satisfaction

Adults 15 years and over were asked to rate their level of life satisfaction on a scale of 0–10, with 0 being completely dissatisfied with their life and 10 being completely satisfied with their life. On Nukunonu, 68.6 percent of residents reported their life satisfaction as 8 or higher and only 2.7 percent gave a rating of 4 or lower. These results are comparable with the whole of Tokelau where 71.3 percent reported 8 or higher and 2.5 percent reported their life satisfaction as being 4 or lower.

The most common response for Nukunonu was 10. Figure 8 provides the full breakdown of people’s life satisfaction ratings.

**Figure 8**



1. The rating scale goes from 0–10, where 0 is 'completely dissatisfied' and 10 is 'completely satisfied'.
2. For usually resident population present in Tokelau on census night.

Source: 2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings

### Most Nukunonu residents rated their health as ‘good’

Adults 15 years or older were asked to rate their own health on a five-point scale from poor to excellent. Table 7 shows the proportion of responses for each category.

**Table 7****Self-assessed health ratings for Nukunonu and Tokelau residents**

<b>Self-assessed health</b>	<b>Percent of Nukunonu's population</b>	<b>Percent of Tokelau's population</b>
Poor	1.2	1.6
Fair	17.3	20.3
Good	39.6	41.3
Very good	24.3	20.4
Excellent	17.6	16.5

## 7 Education

### Most 3- to 5-year-olds are in early childhood education

For the first time, information on early childhood education was collected in the census. Of those Nukunonu residents who were aged between three and five years old, 88.5 percent were attending early childhood education at the time of the census.

### Most residents reached year 12-foundation level while at school

On Nukunonu, the most common year level adults 15 years or older reached while at school was year 12-foundation (48.8 percent) (this only refers to the highest level reached at secondary school or lower). This proportion is higher than that for Tokelau's total population (42.6 percent). Year 12-foundation is the highest level people in Tokelau can reach at secondary school.

Only 3.3 percent of Nukunonu residents reported they reached up to year 6. This is similar to the total proportion of the Tokelau population (3.5 percent).

On Nukunonu, 18.2 percent of residents reached between years 6–9, slightly higher than the percentage for the whole of Tokelau (13.6 percent).

### Nearly three-quarters of residents have at least a school qualification

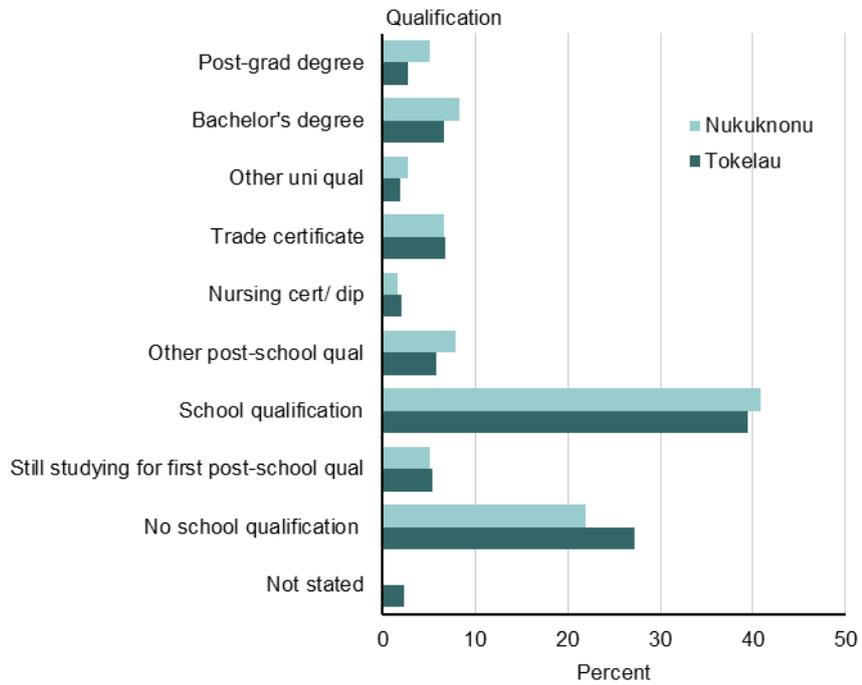
Most Nukunonu residents (72.9 percent) had a school qualification or higher. There were 16.1 percent of people who had a university qualification (bachelor's degree, post-school qualification, or other university qualification). A further 5.1 percent were still studying towards their first post-school qualification.

It is important to note that several people are absent from Nukunonu to gain further education. This is evident from schooling and education being the most common reason for people's absence on census night.

**Figure 9**

**Highest qualification for Nukunonu and Tokelau residents<sup>(1)</sup>**

2016 Tokelau Census



1. For usually resident population present in Tokelau on census night.

Source: 2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings

## 8 Labour force

### Most people do paid work on Nukunonu

Of the adult population on Nukunonu, 70.2 percent stated they currently do paid work. This is higher than the proportion for all Tokelauan residents (59.8 percent).

The 2016 proportion of Nukunonu residents doing paid work is lower than five years ago. In 2011, 76.2 percent of its residents were in paid employment.

### Almost half of residents are labourers in agriculture or in fisheries

On Nukunonu, most people (43.3 percent) who work for pay are employed as labourers in agriculture or in fisheries. This group includes people working as:

- village workers
- foremen
- machine operators
- drivers
- cleaners/porters.

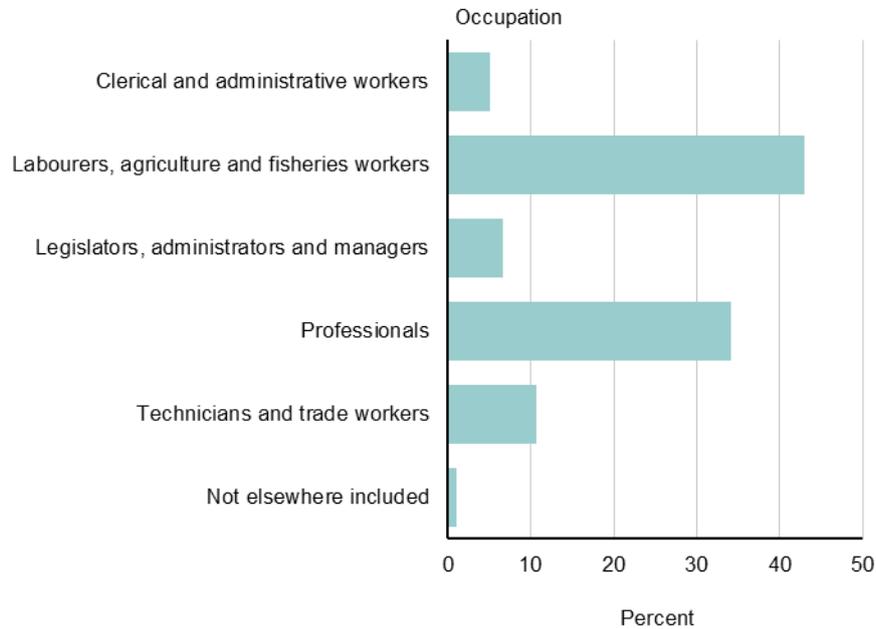
The second most common occupation group was professionals (34.3 percent). The proportion of professionals in Nukunonu was slightly higher than in Tokelau as a whole (32.8 percent).

Professionals include people working as:

- doctors, dentists, dental nurses, or nurses
- teachers
- police officers
- finance officers, education officers, or environment officers.

**Figure 10**

**Occupation groups for Nukunonu residents<sup>(1)</sup>**  
2016 Tokelau Census



1. For the employed usually resident population present in Nukunonu on census night, aged 15 years and over. 'Employed' means they were in paid employment.

Source: 2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings

## High number of Nukunonu residents do unpaid work

Unpaid work is an important part of Tokelau's culture. On Nukunonu, 62.4 percent of people, 15 years or older, stated they were involved in some form of unpaid work. This is lower than the percentage for all of Tokelau (79.2 percent).

Nukunonu men and women do different types of unpaid work.

- Women are more likely than men to be involved in making cloth, garments, or mats, and village weaving.
- Men are more likely than women to be involved in building or repairing boats and helping with the village fishing.

Similar numbers of men and women were involved in village cleaning and looking after family and relatives.

Table 8 shows the most common types of unpaid work done by Nukunonu residents.

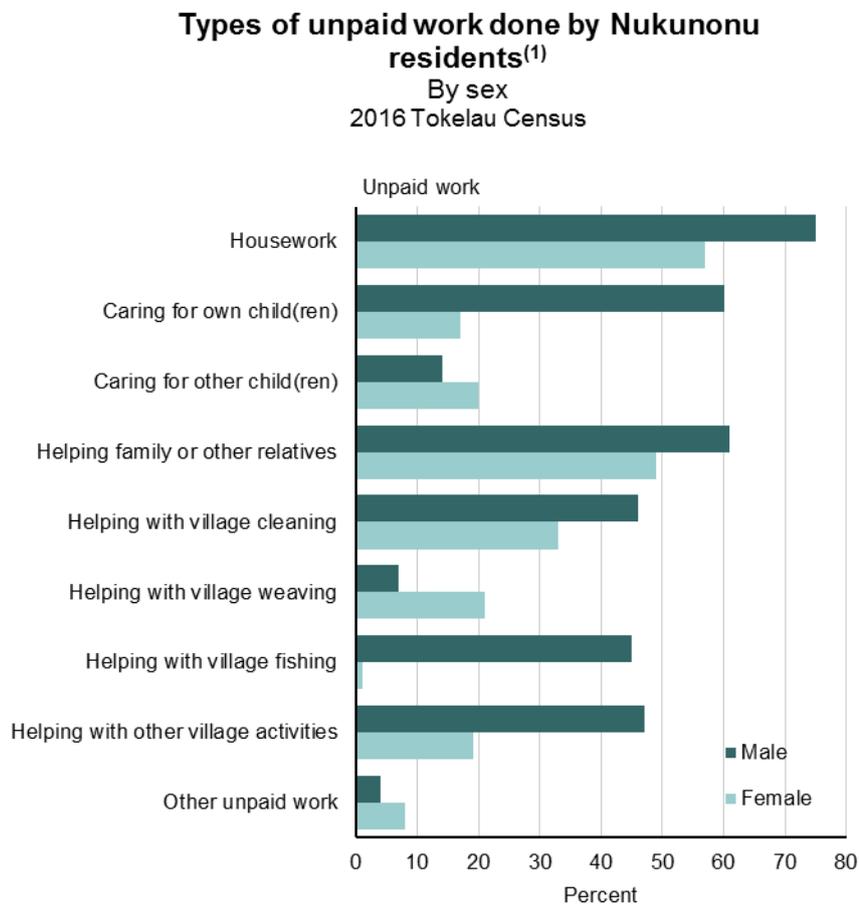
**Table 8**

**Most common types of unpaid work on Nukunonu**

Type of unpaid work	Number of people	Percent of Nukunonu's adult population
Housework	132	51.8
Helping family or other relatives	110	43.1
Caring for own child(ren)	82	32.2

The proportions shown on table 8 are lower than in all of Tokelau, with the largest difference in housework. For all of Tokelau, 71.3 percent of the adult population did housework compared with 51.8 percent for Nukunonu.

**Figure 11**



1. For the usually resident population present in Nukunonu on census night, aged 15 years and over, who carried out unpaid work in the seven days before census day  
Source: 2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings

## 9 Housing

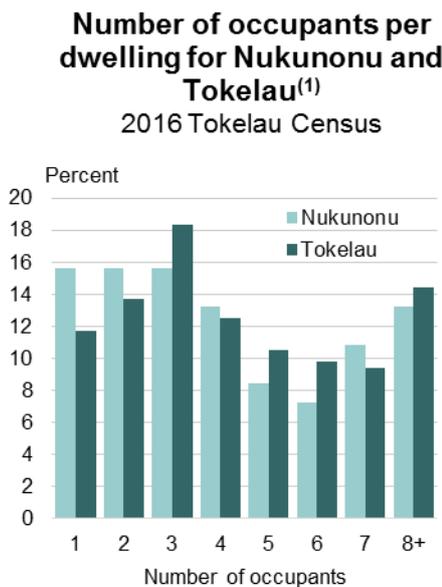
### Most households have four more or more occupants

At the time of the 2016 Census, 54.7 percent of Nukunonu households had four or more occupants, similar to that for the whole of Tokelau (56.9 percent).

On Nukunonu:

- A similar proportion of households had one (11 households), two (12 households), or three (11 households) occupants on census day. The total proportion of households in Nukunonu with one to three occupants on Census day was 45.3 percent.
- The most common number of occupants was 3 for both Nukunonu and Tokelau as a whole.
- The greatest number of occupants in a household was 15.

Figure 12



1. For private occupied dwellings

Source: 2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings

### Most households have ‘just enough money’

Households were asked how their income met their everyday needs. The most common response on Nukunonu was that they had ‘just enough money’ (41.5 percent of households). The proportion of households that said they did not have enough money was 28.0 percent. This compared with 30.5 percent of households that reported having either enough money or more than enough money.

Nukunonu’s responses were similar to that of Tokelau’s (see table 9).

**Table 9****Comparison of income adequacy between Nukunonu and whole of Tokelau**

<b>Income adequacy</b>	<b>Percent of Nukunonu's population</b>	<b>Percent of Tokelau's population</b>
Not enough money	28.0	22.4
Only just enough money	41.5	39.0
Enough money	22.0	32.3
More than enough money	8.5	6.3

## Some households still have outdoor shower and toilet facilities

Compared with the total Tokelau population, Nukunonu has a higher percentage of households whose main shower and toilet facilities are outside.

On Nukunonu:

- 34.9 percent of households have a private flush toilet outside
- 57.8 percent have their shower facility outside.

For all of Tokelau the percentages were 21.6 and 47.1, respectively.

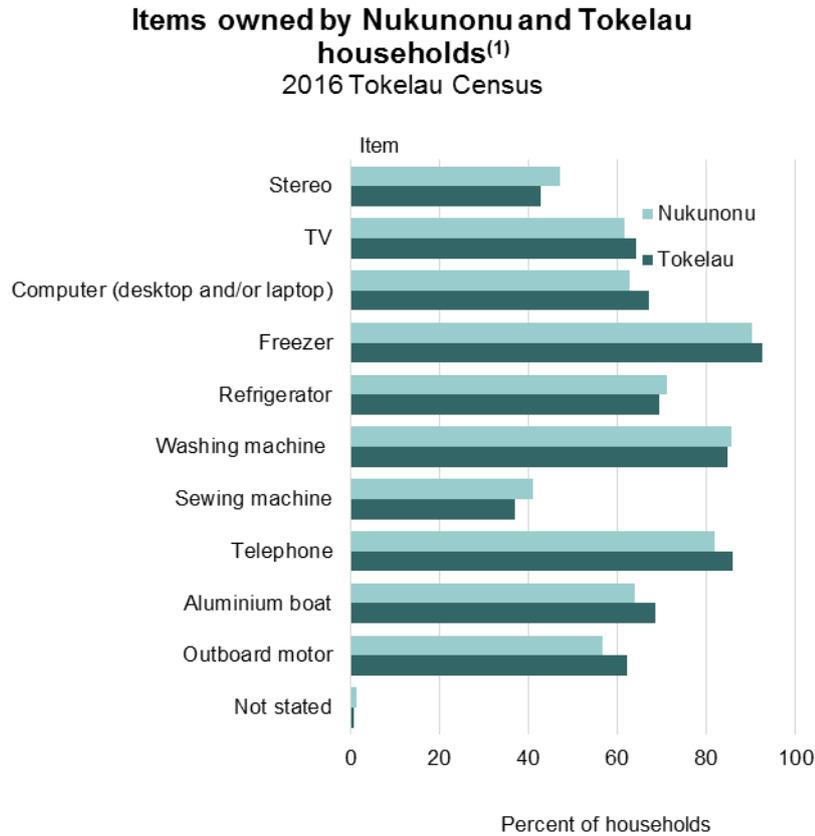
Few Nukunonu households share their toilet and shower facilities, similar to the whole of Tokelau.

## Over half of Nukunonu households have televisions and computers

About 60 percent of households from Nukunonu had access to working televisions and computers/laptops.

Almost all households own freezers and washing machines. However, 9.6 percent of households did not have a freezer and 14.5 percent did not own a washing machine.

Figure 13



1. For private occupied dwellings

Source: 2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings

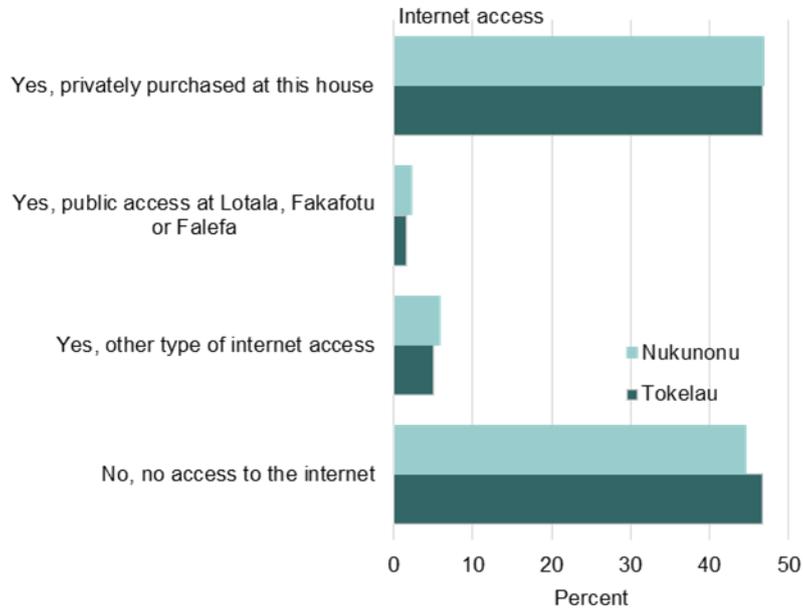
### Similar rates of internet access for Nukunonu and the whole of Tokelau

Just over half of Nukunonu households (55.4 percent) had internet access in some form on the day of the census. This was consistent with the rate for all of Tokelau (53.1 percent). Internet access includes internet purchased privately, public access, or some other kind of access (eg through a neighbour’s router).

This is a considerable increase from 2011, when only 39.0 percent of Nukunonu households could access the internet.

Figure 14

**Type of internet access for Nukunonu and Tokelau<sup>(1)</sup>**  
 2016 Tokelau Census



1. For private occupied dwellings

Source: 2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings

## Further information

For more information about the 2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings, see the following documents, which are available as PDFs from [www.tokelau.org.nz](http://www.tokelau.org.nz) or [TokelauNSO.tk](http://TokelauNSO.tk):

- [2013 Population Count – Final Count](#) (available under heading 'Latest releases')
- [Usual Residence Criteria](#) (available under heading 'Counting the population').
- [Final population counts: 2016 Tokelau Census](#)
- [2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings](#)

Or contact:

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## Appendix: Population count definitions

### De jure usually resident population

This population count includes the usually resident population present in Tokelau on census night plus usual residents who are temporarily overseas at the time of the census. Those temporarily overseas include Tokelauan employees of the Tokelau Public Service based in Apia and their immediate families and usual residents who are temporarily overseas.

### Usually resident population present in Tokelau on census night

The usually resident population present in Tokelau on census night is a count of all people who usually live in Tokelau on census night.

This count excludes visitors from overseas and excludes residents who are temporarily overseas on census night. Residents who are in Tokelau and were away from their usual address (ie another atoll) on census night are counted as part of the population of the atoll where they usually live.

While the other population counts provide national and atoll population counts, the usually resident population present in Tokelau on census night will be of most use to analysts and policymakers as it provides the widest range of information. The full set of census information was collected for these respondents, as they were present on census night.

Other population counts contain only limited information provided on behalf of absentees.

Data in chapters 4 to 8 in this report use the usually resident population present in Tokelau as the base for analysis.