



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



Final population counts: 2016 Tokelau Census





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Introduction

Final population counts: 2016 Tokelau Census contains final population counts based on information collected in the 2016 Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings. The final counts include two different population concepts. These are the de jure usually resident population and the census night population.

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 completed on their behalf by the head of the household. These people are classified as absentees.

Comparison of absentee numbers over two censuses is limited as the number of people absent from Tokelau continually fluctuates. Appropriate population measures were developed for the 2006 and 2011 Tokelau censuses 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 comparing census data between 2006, 2011, and 2016. However, final population 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 the 2011 and 2016 Census data.

The 2016 Census de jure usually resident population count can be compared to the 2013 population counts. The same criteria for determining usual residents are used.

This is the first information release from the 2016 Tokelau Census.

De jure usually resident population count

The de jure usually resident population count from the 2016 Tokelau Census was 1,499.

Census night population count

The number of people counted as present in Tokelau on census night Tuesday, 18 October 2016 was 1,285.

Comparing the 2011 and 2016 de jure usually resident population count

The de jure usually resident population count from the 2016 Census was 1,499. This figure compares to the 2011 Tokelau de jure usually resident count of 1,411 people.

The de jure usual resident population increased by 6.2 percent.

The de jure population includes the usually resident population present in Tokelau on census night (1,197) and the usually resident absentee sub-population (302). This absentee sub-population was made up of 48 Tokelauan employees of the Tokelau Public Service (TPS) and their immediate families based in Apia, Samoa and 254 other international absentees.

Table 1 shows the changes in the de jure usual resident population counts between the 2011 and 2016 Censuses. TPS employees and their immediate families were asked to indicate their home atoll. In table 1, they have been allocated to the atoll they indicated. For other tables, they are separated by their place of usual residence, which is Samoa.

Table 1

Changes in de jure usually resident population count⁽¹⁾ by atoll, including TPS employees based in Samoa

Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings, 2011 and 2016

Atoll	2011 Census de jure usually resident population count	2016 Census de jure usually resident population count	Change 2011 to 2016	
			Number	Percent
Atafu	494	541	47	9.5
Fakaofu	510	506	-4	-0.8
Nukunonu	407	452	45	11.1
Total	1,411	1,499	88	6.2

1. Includes absentees, and employees of the TPS and their immediate families who are based in Apia, Samoa.

Source: Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings, 2011 and 2016

Table 2 shows the changes in the de jure usual resident population counts between the 2011 and 2016 censuses. In table 2 the TPS employees and their immediate families have been kept separate.

Table 2

Changes in de jure usually resident population count⁽¹⁾ by atoll, and TPS employees based in Samoa⁽²⁾

Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings, 2011 and 2016

Atoll	2011 Census de jure usually resident population count	2016 Census de jure usually resident population count	Change from 2011 to 2016	
			Number	Percent
Atafu	482	519	37	7.7
Fakaofu	490	484	-6	-1.2
Nukunonu	397	448	51	12.8
Samoa ⁽²⁾	42	48	6	14.3
Total	1,411	1,499	88	6.2

1. Includes absentees and employees of the TPS and their immediate families who are based in Apia, Samoa.

Source: Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings, 2011 and 2016

2. Includes TPS employees and their immediate families based in Apia, Samoa

Comparing the 2011 and 2016 census night population count

The number of people counted as present in Tokelau on census night Tuesday, 18 October 2016 was 1,285.

This figure compares to the 2011 Tokelau census night population count of 1,205 people. The census night population has increased by 6.6 percent.

Table 3 shows the changes in the census night population count between the 2011 and 2016 censuses.

Table 3

Changes in the census night population count⁽¹⁾ by atoll

Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings, 2011 and 2016

Atoll	2011 Census night population count	2016 Census night population count	Change 2011 to 2016	
			Number	Percent
Atafu	405	513	108	26.7
Fakaofu	480	391	-89	-18.5
Nukunonu	320	381	61	19.1
Total	1,205	1,285	80	6.6

1. Includes only those people present in Tokelau on census night.

Source: Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings, 2011 and 2016

Comparing the 2011 and 2016 census absentee counts

The number of usual residents absent from Tokelau on census night Tuesday, 18 October 2016 was 254. This excludes TPS employees and their immediate families who are based in Apia, Samoa.

This figure compares to the 2011 Tokelau census absentee count of 226 people. The absentee count has increased by 12.4 percent.

Table 4 shows the changes in the absentee population count between the 2011 and 2016 censuses. This table excludes TPS employees and their immediate families based in Apia, Samoa.

Table 4

Changes in the absentee count⁽¹⁾ by atoll				
Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings, 2011 and 2016				
Atoll	2011 Census absentee count	2016 Census absentee count	Change 2011 to 2016	
			Number	Percent
Atafu	97	106	9	9.3
Fakaofu	41	85	44	107
Nukunonu	88	63	-25	-28.4
Total	226	254	28	12.4

1. Usual residents absent from Tokelau on census night (excluding TPS employees and their immediate families based in Apia, Samoa).

Source: Tokelau Census of Population and Dwellings, 2011 and 2016

Population count definitions

De jure usually resident population

The de jure population count consists of the usually resident population present in Tokelau on census night, usual residents who were temporarily overseas at the time of the census (absentees), and employees of the TPS based in Apia, Samoa and their immediate families. For someone to be included as an absentee they need to usually live in Tokelau and only be away from Tokelau for less than 12 months.

Census night population count

The census night population count includes all people who were in Tokelau on census night Tuesday, 18 October 2016. This includes temporary visitors. The census night population count does not include people who normally live in Tokelau, but were absent on census night.

Further information

See following documents, available as PDFs from www.tokelau.org.nz or TokelauNSO.tk

- [2013 Population Count – Final Count](#) (available under heading 'Latest releases')
- [Usual Residence Criteria](#) (available under heading 'Counting the population').

For further information about the 2016 Tokelau Census please contact:

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