

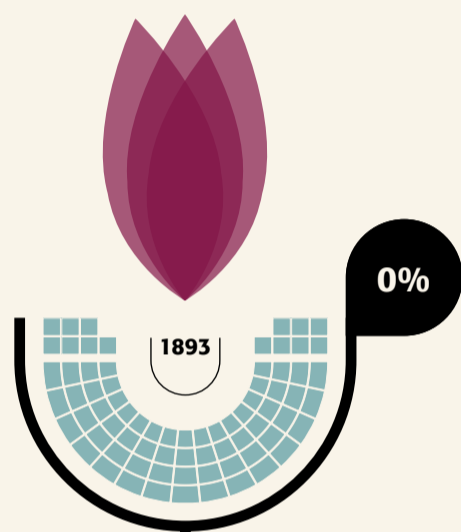
Celebrating

# 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%



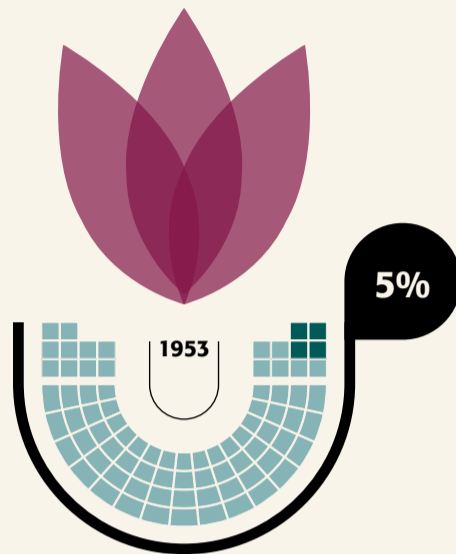
Average age at first birth:

22.5



Average number of children:

5



Working-age women in employment:

25%



Higher-education students percent female:

24%



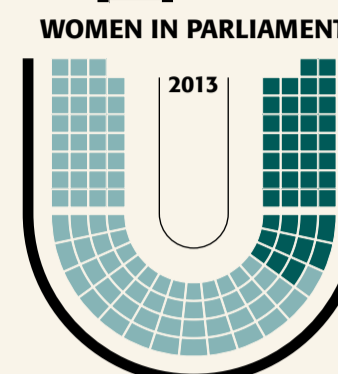
Average age at first birth:

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



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

**1949**  
Māori MP  
Iriaka Rātana

**1997**  
Prime Minister  
Rt Hon Dame Jenny Shipley

**1947**  
Cabinet Minister  
Mabel Howard

**1996**  
Asian MP  
Pansy Wong

**1933**  
Member of Parliament  
Elizabeth McCombs

**1990**  
Governor-General  
Dame Catherine Tizard

**1893**  
Mayor  
Elizabeth Yates

**Electoral Act 1893**  
Women gain right to vote in national elections

1893



**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](http://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.

