

Combining the figures in the above two tables, the following table shows the Maori rate of natural increase, and for comparison the European rate of natural increase :—

Table No. 33.—Table showing Rate of Natural Increase of Maori and European Population from 1939 to 1945

Year.	Maori.	European.	Year.	Maori.	European.
1939	26·28	9·53	1943	28·51	9·66
1940	29·36	11·95	1944	28·37	11·72
1941	24·18	12·97	1945	29·86	13·15
1942	27·50	11·13			

Because of the much greater reproduction rate of the Maori people, the potential Maori population is relatively much greater than that of the non-Maori people. This people is increasing at the rate of approximately 2·0 per cent. annually, as compared with just over 1 per cent. per annum of the non-Maori population. Because of this fact the age-structure of the Maori population is entirely different from that of the non-Maori people in that the former have a large preponderance of younger people and relatively fewer older people.

The following table shows the age distribution of the Maori population in 1943 :—

Table No. 34.—Table showing Percentage Age-distribution of Maori Population compared with that of European Population in 1943

	Maori Age-distribution. Per Cent.	European Age-distribution. Per Cent.
Under 15	46·5	24·8
15 to 64	50·5	66·8
64 and over	3·0	8·4
	100·0	100·0

III. EXPECTATION OF LIFE

An important question in any population study is that of the average expectation of life. The extension of the average age of the community raises important problems as to the support of the aged section. This question will be discussed under the heading of financial implications of changes in population. Over a period an extension of the average expectation of life is to some extent a reflection of changing living and health standards.

The following table shows the expectation of life at age 0 for the European population from 1891-95 to 1934-38 :—

Table No. 35.—Table showing Expectation of Life for the European Population, from 1891-95 to 1934-38

Period.	Males.	Females.
1891-1895	55·29	58·09
1896-1900	57·37	59·95
1901-1905	58·09	60·55
1906-1910	59·17	61·76
1911-1915	60·96	63·48
1921-1922	62·76	65·43
1925-1927	63·99	66·57
1931	65·04	67·88
1934-1938	65·46	68·45

The figures show a steady increase with a tendency for the rate of increase to lessen over recent years.

For Maoris the corresponding figures for the latest date available are 46·2 for both males and females.