

1917.  
NEW ZEALAND.

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# CENSUS OF THE MAORI POPULATION

(PAPERS RELATING TO).

*Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.*

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE HON. THE NATIVE MINISTER.

Native Department, 2nd July, 1917.

I HAVE the honour to submit the preliminary results of the census of the Maori population which was taken during the month of October last.

The total Maori population, according to the census, amounted to 49,776 persons. The following table shows the population as recorded in previous years:—

Year.	Persons.	Increase.	Decrease.
1867 (approximate estimate) .. .. .	38,540	..	..
1871 .. .. .	37,502	..	..
1874 (first census) .. .. .	45,470	..	..
1878 .. .. .	43,595	..	1,875
1881 .. .. .	44,097	502	..
1886 .. .. .	41,969	..	2,128
1891 .. .. .	41,993	24	..
1896 .. .. .	39,854	..	2,139
1901 .. .. .	43,143	3,289	..
1906 .. .. .	47,731	4,588	..
1911 .. .. .	49,844	2,113	..
1916 .. .. .	49,776	..	68

Since 1901 the figures show an increase until the last census, when a decrease of 68 as compared with 1911 is shown. How far the figures on this occasion are affected by enlistments it is difficult to say accurately, but they must be affected to some extent.

The details of the census are set out in the tables attached hereto.

Extracts from the reports of the Enumerators are attached.

It will be observed that the Enumerators for the North Island—Taranaki, and particularly Waikato Districts—report that some difficulty was experienced in obtaining information owing to the fear on the part of the Natives that the statistics were being obtained for the purposes of recruiting. How far this may have affected the accuracy of the figures of these districts it is impossible to say, but not, I am inclined to think, to any great extent.

The Enumerators generally report that, with the exception of the smallpox epidemic in 1913, and some cases of typhoid, the health of the Natives has been generally good, and that in most districts there has been continued improvement in the habits of life and industry of the Maoris, especially in districts where land is being opened up and settlement advancing, giving greater opportunities of employment, &c. On the whole the reports may be regarded as indicating satisfactory progress, but there is still much scope for improvement.

The census for the South Island was taken with the European census on this occasion, as the Natives and half-castes there are regarded as living as Europeans.

The agricultural statistics were not on this occasion taken with the census.

C. B. JORDAN, Under-Secretary.

## EXTRACTS FROM THE REPORTS OF THE ENUMERATORS.

Mr. C. P. NEWTON, Enumerator for the Counties of Mongonui, Whangaroa, Hokianga, Bay of Islands, Whangarei, Hobson, Otamatea, Rodney, Waitemata, Eden, Great Barrier, Waiheke and other islands in Hauraki Gulf.

A comparison of the figures with those of last census shows a total increase of 956 in the population, as against an increase of 831 in the previous five years. This is made up by a slight increase in most counties. The increase may undoubtedly be attributed to the continued improvements of living. Except for the epidemic of smallpox in 1913 the health of the Natives generally during the last five years has been good. Some few cases of typhoid, &c., have occurred, but the Health Department in all cases has taken prompt action to prevent the spread of the disease.

With the opening-up of the land for settlement and the better education of the younger generation it is evident that the Maoris of this district are becoming more civilized and industrious. Many are employed gum-digging, bushfelling, roadmaking, and working on farms for Europeans, and some are farming on their own account—chiefly dairy-farming. The Natives take their cream to the factory and receive their monthly cheque. This encourages them to work harder and makes them more independent and self-reliant.

The taking of the Maori census in the North was a matter of some difficulty, as the Native population is very scattered and is not so accessible as in districts where the land has been longer opened up. I am glad, therefore, of this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the manner in which the various sub-enumerators have carried out the work. Many of the sub-enumerators have complained of the reluctance of some of the Natives to supply information, thinking they were connected with the Recruiting Officers. I might mention that quite a large percentage of the Maoris who have enlisted have come from the northern districts.

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Mr. W. H. BOWLER, Enumerator for the Counties of Manukau, Franklin, Coromandel, Thames, Ohinemuri, Piako, Waikato, Raglan, Waipa, Matamata, West Taupo, Ohura, Waitomo, Awakino, and Kawhia.

I regret to have to report that the figures show a serious decrease compared with the figures obtained in 1911. The figures certainly give one ground for thought. Unlike the European population, the Maoris cannot be augmented by immigration, and the race must stand or fall by its own natural increase or decrease. I am not, however, inclined to take an altogether pessimistic view of the position, as I think I am safe in saying the figures now returned are not entirely accurate and that they underestimate the Maori population in the district. I say this advisedly, and with a full appreciation of the valuable efforts of the sub-enumerators, who have apparently carried out a difficult task in a conscientious and capable manner. Practically all of them, however, report that the Maoris have been reluctant to give them information, and that they have had great difficulty in carrying out their duties owing to it being suspected that the taking of the census had something to do with recruiting. Curiously enough, the Natives of this particular district are practically all opposed to the idea that they should be called upon to assist actively in the present crisis. It is difficult to arrive at a proper idea of the working of the Maori mind. Personally I think that the "king" idea was greatly responsible for the attitude taken up. Whatever the reason, I think that the decrease in the figures, as compared with those of the last census, is attributable not so much to loss by enlistments as to concealment of information, owing to fear that the census returns may be used for military purposes later on.

There is in this connection one phase of the position which calls for immediate and careful consideration: that is, the matter of insistence upon the children attending school. Two of the sub-enumerators referred particularly to this. The sub-enumerator for the part of Franklin County states that after a visit to Te Rata the children would not go to school, as it was thought that "if the children went to school their fathers would have to go to fight." The sub-enumerator for the Waipa County states that the Natives appear to fear compulsory military service, and adds, "I would recommend that some steps be taken to reassure them on this point, as I find that the children are being kept from school through the idea prevailing that the school rolls will be used to obtain names for conscription. I think I am safe in saying that not more than 30 per cent. of the Maori children of school age are at present attending school."

Socially and economically I fear there is not much improvement to report. Since the smallpox epidemic there has been no noticeable outbreak of disease, but at the same time there have been continual cases of fever and other ailments which have taken a steady toll of a race which it is obviously difficult to educate to an appreciation of the laws of hygiene and sanitation.

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Judge BROWNE, Enumerator for the Counties of Opotiki, Whakatane, Tauranga, Rotorua, and East Taupo.

The time occupied in taking the census was much longer than was anticipated, owing to the very bad weather which prevailed almost continuously during the period sub-enumerators were engaged on the work.

The condition of the Natives on the coast of the Bay of Plenty has improved very considerably since the last census was taken, and the outlook is now very hopeful indeed. They have, with the

object of obtaining separate holdings, availed themselves largely of any opportunities that have arisen of partitioning the blocks on which they are living or which they can profitably utilize. They build comfortable houses on and fence and grass these holdings out of the proceeds of the sales or leases of their surplus land, and in some cases even out of the proceeds of their labour. They have made very considerable progress in this direction during the last two years, and there is every chance that the progress will continue. The old communal system is practically dead in most parts of this district.

To the east of Opotiki the Natives are engaged mostly in sheep-farming, but in the vicinity of Whakatane, Ruatoki, and Tauranga they are large suppliers of milk to the factories near their kaingas. They have always grown large quantities of maize for market, and of late the supply has increased very considerably. Many of them own horses and drays and take contracts. Some parts of the district are wholly dependent on Maori labour, which is not always obtainable, for the Maoris in many cases prefer to work on their own farms.

It is pleasing to note, too, the progress made during recent years by the Ureweras living at Ruatoki. Not so very long ago they were probably the most backward people in New Zealand but they are now, with some success, genuinely endeavouring to improve themselves and their mode of living, and to make their country productive. They are large suppliers of milk to the cheese-factory at Ruatoki, and a considerable portion of the Ruatoki Valley is now under cultivation. They are, however, in want of expert guidance and advice in the matter of purchasing stock and as to proper methods of cultivation, and from a productive point of view it would be worth the Government's while to pay some attention to them, and show them how best to stock and utilize their land. These people take to work naturally, are eager to learn, and I have no doubt as to their future.

Inland, in the East Taupo County, the progress is not so marked. As a general rule Maori progress synchronizes with the progress of European settlement. There is no European settlement to speak of in this county, and consequently the Natives living in it are practically in the same condition as they were at the date of the last census. The land in the county is very poor, and the conditions of life are much harder than they are on the coast.

As to the health of the Natives, I have not noticed any very great improvement since the last census was taken. There have been the usual outbreaks of enteric, typhoid, and measles, and the usual number of deaths from those diseases. There are always cases of consumption amongst them as well. Most of them have wooden houses now, and are living much more comfortably than in past times, but until there is some radical change effected in their sanitary arrangements, &c., I do not think that any diminution can be hoped for, either in sickness or in the death-rates.

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Mr. TEUTENBERG, Enumerator for the Counties of Hawke's Bay, Waipawa, Waipukurau, Patangata, Dannevirke, Woodville, Pahiatua, Eketahuna, Mauriceville, Masterton, Akitio, Castlepoint, Wairarapa South, and Featherston.

The figures disclose a net decrease of thirty-five over the whole of the counties affected. It must be noted, however, that the present returns exclude the population of Te Haroto Village, on the Napier-Taupo Road, which on the occasion of the last census was included partly in Hawke's Bay and partly in Wairoa County.

It may be remarked that in some of the counties the population shows a somewhat marked decrease and in others a corresponding increase. This is, of course, largely attributable to Natives moving from one district to another, either to take up shearing and other work or to attend tangis, Native Land Court sittings, &c.

In regard to general conditions affecting occupation, industries, &c., there has been practically no alteration worth recording since the last census was taken, and there is therefore but little that could be added to the report then made. A fair proportion of the men seem to be intermittently engaged in some kind of work, principally shearing during the season, and at other times fencing, scrub-cutting, &c. In a few cases Maoris are successfully farming their own land and raising sheep and cattle, but as a general rule any work that is undertaken is in the employ of the European.

The general health of the Natives appears to have been on the average satisfactory. No epidemics of any kind have been reported, and the Maoris, under the guidance of the local Maori Councils, are said to be observing proper methods of sanitation.

The sub-enumerators engaged were all men personally known to me, and were in every case not only thoroughly acquainted with their respective districts, but had also for many years been closely in touch with the Maori population. I have every confidence, therefore, in expressing the opinion that the census returns on this occasion are as accurate as it is possible to obtain them under the prevailing conditions.

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Mr. J. B. HACKWORTH, Enumerator for the Counties of Hutt, Makara, Horowhenua, Kairanga, Manawatu, Oroua, Pohangina, and Kiwitea.

As to the general state of health and habits of the Maoris within the counties named, I gather from the sub-enumerators that no serious illnesses have been reported. The Maoris are living in well-built houses and in European fashion. The children are being well cared for, and generally speaking are healthy. One sub-enumerator, however, reports that there have been occasional periods of sickness among children, with fatalities that might have been avoided if the services of a skilled nurse had been available.

As evidence of industry, each of the sub-enumerators mentions that the collection of the census this time had been rendered more difficult from their having to follow up the Natives scattered about the districts, either cropping their own lands or working for Europeans. More Native land is being cropped than usual, and many Maoris are taking an active part in the dairy industry.

On comparing the figures with the 1911 census it will be noticed that there is a very small decrease (fifteen), but it must not be forgotten that the counties mentioned have been a "happy-hunting-ground" for the recruiting sergeant.

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Mr. H. CARR, Enumerator for the Counties of Waiapu, Waikohu, Cook, and Wairoa.

The general health of the Maoris appears on the whole satisfactory. No epidemics or diseases have been reported.

Industrially the Maori looks mainly to sheep-farming, supported by cropping and cultivating for their own needs. In the Waiapu district the communal system of sheep-farming is firmly established, and probably on that account these Natives are as prosperous as anybody in the Dominion. The Cook County people have evidenced a desire to do likewise, and have started sheepraising at Waihirere, Whangara, and Puatai on a fairly extensive scale. At Nuhaka also mixed farming is still the chief industry of the local Natives.

Socially, it is apparent that in certain parts of the districts the drink problem amongst the Natives is causing their leaders and well-wishers some considerable alarm.

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Judge JACK, Enumerator for the Counties of Patea, Hawera, Waimate West, Eltham, Stratford, Whangamomona, Clifton, Taranaki, and Egmont.

Nearly all the sub-enumerators report a difficulty experienced in gathering information from the Natives. The cause of this difficulty is the existence of a strong suspicion in the Maori mind that the taking of the census at the present time is allied in a sinister manner with the intended enforcement of compulsory military service, and, as this is a question to which the Maoris of Taranaki have strong antipathy, they have in nearly all instances been passively antagonistic to the compilation of the census, and two or three of the sub-enumerators report that a few of the old people were actively antagonistic to them. The chief result of this antagonism is in the failure of two of the sub-enumerators to obtain the names of some of the children. In Taranaki County the sub-enumerator reported he had omitted six children because he could not obtain their names. In Hawera County the sub-enumerator stated that he had counted sixty-five children whose names he was unable to obtain. In both these instances the numbers of the children stated have been included in the figures for the respective counties.

I have only to add that the general health of the Natives in the counties allotted to me has been good, except for an outbreak of typhoid near Normanby, in the Hawera County, about a year ago. This carried off some young children, but the epidemic did not spread.

As to occupation of the Natives, an increasing number of them are taking up dairy-farming and appear to be making a success of it. Under recent legislation, by which they have been enabled to get freehold titles to their unleased areas, it is hoped that those families who have a disposition towards industry will be enabled to arrange the necessary finance to enable them to start in dairy-farming.

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Mr. A. H. MACKAY, Enumerator for the Counties of Wanganui, Waimarino, Waitotara, Rangitikei, and Kaitieke.

The population of the combined counties is 2,571. The population of Waitotara, Wanganui, Rangitikei, and Waimarino Counties is 2,334, which is an increase of 228 since the last census was taken.

The sub-enumerators appointed by me were well acquainted with their respective districts and were personally interviewed by me prior to taking up their duties.

The general health of the Maoris is very good, and in some counties they are very industrious.

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TABLE SHOWING THE MAORI POPULATION IN EACH COUNTY IN 1916, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO SEX AND AGE.

Table with columns for Counties, Maoris, Half-castes, and age groups (Under 5, 5 and under 10, 10 and under 15, 15 and under 20, 20 and under 25, 25 and under 30, 30 and under 35, 35 and under 40, 40 and under 45, 45 and under 50, 50 and under 55, 55 and under 60, 60 and under 65, 65 and under 70, 70 and over, Total). Rows list counties such as Mangonui, Whangara, Hokianga, Bay of Islands, Whangarei, Hobson, Otamatea, Rodney, Waitemata, Eden, Islands in Hauraki, Gulf, Great Barrier, Manukau, Franklin, Raglan, Waikato, Waipa, Kawhia, Awakino, Waikato, Ohura, West Taupo, Matamata, Piako, Ohinemuri, Thames, Coromandel, Tauranga, Rotorua, East Taupo, Whakatane, Opoitiki, Waipapu, Waikohu, Cook, Waikato, Hawke's Bay, Waipawa, Waipukurau, Patangata.

MAORI POPULATION BY AGES AND SEXES, CENSUS, 1916—continued. TABLE SHOWING THE MAORI POPULATION IN EACH COUNTY IN 1916, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO SEX AND AGE—continued.

Age in Years.

Table with columns for Counties, Maoriffs, Half-castes, and age groups (Under 5 to 70 and over). Rows list counties such as Dannevirke, Woodville, Clifton, etc., with corresponding population counts for males (M.) and females (F.) in each age group, plus totals and 'Not specified' counts.

MAORI POPULATION BY AGES AND SEXES, CENSUS, 1916—continued.

TABLE SHOWING THE MAORI POPULATION IN EACH COUNTY IN 1916, CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO SEX AND AGE—continued.

Counties.	Maoris.		Half-castes.		Age in Years.																Total.																	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	Under 5.		5 and under 10.		10 and under 15.		15 and under 20.		20 and under 25.		25 and under 30.		30 and under 35.		35 and under 40.			40 and under 45.		45 and under 50.		50 and under 55.		55 and under 60.		60 and under 65.		65 and under 70.		70 and over.		Not specified.		
					M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.
Malvern ..	1	..	1	..	1	..	4	..	4	..	6	..	4	..	2	..	2	..	2	..	5	..	1	..	4	..	3	..	3	..	1	..	3	..	4	..	4	
Mount Herbert ..	43	37	16	24	8	11	9	9	8	1	6	4	2	8	2	2	2	2	2	6	5	1	1	3	4	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	120
Akaroa ..	13	12	4	4	4	1	1	7	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	4	4	4	2	2	2	4	4	5	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	33	
Chatham Islands ..	91	82	40	45	22	25	24	23	14	22	13	13	8	7	8	7	8	4	4	2	4	5	4	4	4	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	258		
Waikawa ..	24	43	4	4	5	6	5	4	2	8	4	3	4	6	1	1	2	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	75		
Ellesmere ..	14	7	5	6	3	1	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	32			
Ashburton ..	7	3	3	4	1	2	2	1	1	3	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	17			
Geraldine ..	48	51	13	13	13	9	7	9	15	8	3	3	3	3	3	4	4	6	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	125		
Levels ..	8	9	7	12	4	3	4	4	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	36			
Waimate ..	18	31	4	1	2	7	4	5	1	4	3	3	2	1	3	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	54			
Waitaki ..	15	15	5	2	2	3	4	1	3	3	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	37			
Waikouaiti ..	14	19	3	1	1	1	3	3	1	1	4	2	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	3	3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	37			
Peninsula ..	17	12	7	15	2	3	4	4	7	4	2	2	4	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	51			
Taieri ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3			
Bruce ..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1			
Clutha ..	7	8	8	7	1	2	5	4	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	30			
Southland ..	23	12	5	3	6	..	1	2	9	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	43			
Wallace ..	28	25	20	19	12	6	7	7	4	1	3	1	1	6	2	2	2	2	1	3	3	1	3	3	1	3	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	92			
Stewart Island ..	3	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4			
<b>Maori Wives</b>	24,019	21,849	1,914	1,615	3,831	3,686	3,520	3,278	3,335	2,886	2,150	2,107	1,802	1,912	1,613	1,576	1,300	1,143	1,237	1,122	2,058	1,740	1,879	1,536	922	688	611	465	624	455	373	299	585	502	100	62,49,397		
<b>Totals</b>	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	379		
<b>Totals</b>	24,019	21,849	1,914	1,615	3,831	3,686	3,520	3,278	3,335	2,886	2,150	2,107	1,802	1,912	1,613	1,576	1,300	1,143	1,237	1,122	2,058	1,740	1,879	1,536	922	688	611	465	624	455	373	299	585	502	100	441,49,776		

MAORI POPULATION AT SUCCESSIVE CENSUSES.

TABLE SHOWING THE MAORI POPULATION OF NEW ZEALAND, WITH THE NUMBERS UNDER AND OVER 15 YEARS OF AGE, ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF A CENSUS TAKEN IN OCTOBER, 1916, AS COMPARED WITH THE NUMBERS IN 1901, 1906, AND 1911.

	Total Persons, 1901.	Males.			Females.			Total Increase, 1906-1901.*	Total Persons, 1906.	Males.			Females.			Total Increase, 1901-1906.*
		Under 15.		Not specified.	Under 15.		Not specified.			Under 15.		Not specified.	Under 15.		Not specified.	
		Under 15.	Over 15.		Under 15.	Over 15.				Under 15.	Over 15.		Under 15.	Over 15.		
North Island	40,707	7,998	13,909	16	7,187	11,584	13	3,605	44,962	9,179	14,915	67	8,195	12,551	55	4,255
South Island	1,916	396	628	1	353	538	..	-291	2,256	490	710	10	432	606	8	340
Stewart Island	112	29	37	..	20	26	..	-5	100	20	39	1	11	29	..	-12
Chatham Islands—																
Maoris ..	181	42	49	..	45	45	..	2	172	48	41	..	35	48	..	-9
Morioris ..	31	6	9	..	6	10	..	11	30	4	14	..	3	9	..	-1
Maori wives living with European husbands	196	..	..	..	..	196	..	33	211	..	..	..	..	211	..	15
Totals ..	43,143	8,471	14,632	17	7,611	12,399	13	3,289	47,731	9,741	15,719	78	8,676	13,454	63	4,588

	Total Persons, 1911.	Males.			Females.			Total Increase, 1906-1911.*	Total Persons, 1916.	Males.			Females.			Total Increase, 1911-1916.*
		Under 15.		Not specified.	Under 15.		Not specified.			Under 15.		Not specified.	Under 15.		Not specified.	
		Under 15.	Over 15.		Under 15.	Over 15.				Under 15.	Over 15.		Under 15.	Over 15.		
North Island	46,632	9,694	15,205	34	8,982	12,747	20	1,670	47,545	10,247	14,648	97	9,429	13,065	59	913
South Island	2,681	579	804	3	570	725	..	425	1,590	379	432	2	351	423	3	-1,091
Stewart Island	63	14	28	..	8	13	..	-37	4	..	3	..	..	1	..	-59
Chatham Islands—																
Maoris ..	204	48	57	..	52	47	..	32	253	60	69	1	70	53	..	49
Morioris ..	15	1	6	..	4	4	..	-15	5	..	2	..	..	3	..	-10
Maori wives living with European husbands	249	..	..	..	..	249	..	38	379	..	..	..	..	..	379	130
Totals ..	49,844	10,336	16,100	37	9,566	13,785	20	2,113	49,776	10,686	15,154	100	9,850	13,545	441	2,252

\* The minus (-) indicates decrease.

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