

Frequently asked questions

A particular meshblock does not have a value for NZDep2006. Why?

A number of meshblocks (493) have been omitted from the index (most of these meshblocks are oceanic, sea inlets or river estuaries). They contain very few people in total. The values for a further 40 meshblocks have been withheld for technical reasons as explained in *NZDep2006 Index of Deprivation* (Salmond, Crampton & Atkinson, 2007).

The following meshblocks have had their deprivation values withheld:

0172807 0173806 0340500 0364601 0780408 0952022 1104900 1179606 1204924 1204925
1239300 1254505 1867008 1869800 1875001 1883804 2003505 2004101 2216200 2343701
2416402 3138801 3138802 3174400 3174500 3174600 3174700 3174800 3174900 3175000
3175100 3175200 3175300 3175400 3175500 3175700 3175801 3175802 3175803 3175900

How are very small meshblocks handled in NZDep2006?

Meshblocks with populations of less than 100 people have been joined with neighbouring meshblocks to make small-areas with at least 100 people before creating the index. In the file *NZDep2006.txt* (or *NZDep2006.xls*) the small-area scale value has been assigned to each component meshblock. Note that if any meshblock, or joined meshblocks, forming a small-area have more than one proportion (out of nine) based on fewer than 20 people the NZDep2006 value is considered unreliable and has been withheld. These are the 40 meshblocks listed above, which comprised 22 small-areas (out of a total of 23,786 NZDep2006 small-areas).

How are empty meshblocks handled in NZDep2006?

Meshblocks are areas where people live, but not necessarily all the time (such as holiday homes). Meshblocks may also have unoccupied houses which would have been occupied in the past, and may be occupied in the future. Empty meshblocks were agglomerated with connected non-empty meshblocks for the purposes of creating our small areas—for which the index is calculated—on the assumption that

future occupation will, to some extent, mirror the localised small neighbourhoods. The alternative was to remove such meshblocks from the index. This could give rise to a geo-coded address in the future for which no NZDep value at all was available. In this situation the observation would be 'missing' in any analysis, whereas, in the procedure adopted, the observation would be available with the best estimate of a deprivation score. When mapping NZDep in colour by meshblocks, therefore, it may be advisable to leave any empty meshblocks uncoloured.

The distribution of NZDep_score_2006 does not have mean = 1000 and standard deviation = 100. Why?

The first principal component was created from a file of 23,786 small areas with populations (as far as possible) of 100 persons or more. Typically, each small area is one or two meshblocks. In the file of 23,786 small areas the mean is 1000 and the standard deviation is 100. For usage we have provided the file of all meshblocks giving each component meshblock of any small area the small area NZDep_score_2006 value.

The distribution of NZDep2006 does not have exactly 10 percent in each of its 10 categories. Why?

NZDep2006 was created from our small areas, not from meshblocks. See comments about NZDep_score_2006 in the paragraph above.

Can I compare NZDep scores between different censuses?

Comparisons of areas as small as a single meshblock, across time, may not be meaningful. Comparisons of areas at a higher aggregation, such as Territorial Authorities, or Area Units, should be reasonable, although we advise caution in interpreting small changes over time as being practically meaningful.

Comparing relationships between deprivation and another variable, over time, is reasonable.

See the discussion in Appendix five of the report *NZDep2006 Index of Deprivation*.

All the meshblocks on Great Barrier / Matakana / Chatham / Stewart Island(s) have the same value for NZDep. Why?

These islands do not form part of the Primary Sampling Units used by Statistics New Zealand for survey purposes. There is therefore no way to automatically establish any subset of connected meshblocks on any of these islands for NZDep purposes unless *all* of them have usually-resident populations of 100 or more. This was not the case for any of these islands in 2006.