

7. Living Standards in Niue

Population and Households

The estimated total population for the Niue HIES-2002 was 1720 (Census 2001-1736), and the total estimated households were 504 (Census 2001 – 508). The survey results shows that about 80% of the households either own their houses outright or housing is rent-free. In Niue the costs of housing are not a major factor when assessing the level of poverty.



Economy



The Niue economy has changed and developed significantly in recent years as economic and public sector reforms have been implemented. The government and the people have been rewarded with economic growth and increasing per capita incomes - \$8,831(2000-revised) to \$10,048 (2003). There are however clear signs that inequality is evident between those in the formal cash economy who are earning more income and those in the informal or traditional agricultural sector who are earning less income.

Employment



Employment in Niue predominantly exists within the public sector with some in the private sector. This has translated into an increased ownership of household and transport assets. This is placing ever-great demands on some households with low income to purchase store goods including food, pay bills, and make donations to the church. However this do not necessary imply that people were to go hungry as everyone in Niue either owns land or have access to farming land and the sea where food can be obtained for free. Generally, the communities have the collective responsibility to look after one another.

Welfare

The government provides child welfare allowances to all households with children. In addition hardship allowances are provided to households that are not able to meet their basic needs (around 8% of households in 2004). Old age pensions are available to women over the age of 55 years and 60 years for men.

Education and Health services

Education and health services of Niue is provided by the government free of charge which has relieved the households from those demands to the cash resources, but it is hard to gauge as for how long this opportunity will take. A change to this will indeed have a lot of impact on the household cash resources.



Transport and Communication

There is no public transport system in Niue apart from the privately owned buses that the government contracted to transport the pupils to school. However there is no shortage of transport in Niue. In the 2001 Census the ratio of private vehicle to persons was one vehicle shared by 2.2 persons (788:1736). This does not include government owned vehicles and those in rental businesses.

Telecommunication services are available to anyone at a reasonable price. Television is also available to anyone with a licence fee. Radio broadcasting is provided on free to air basis. Internet access is available free of charge but this is only limited to some villages with automatic telephones – Tuapa to Alofi.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1: Purchasing Power Parity Worksheet

Exchange rate - NZ\$ per US\$, 2002		2.20		Niue vs Oz		1.28	
Exchange rate - NZ\$ per A\$, 2002		1.13		Niue vs USA		1.72	
PPP Oz vs Usa, 2002		1.35		NZ\$/day, "poverty line" in 2002		3.79	
	Niue rough description	\$A	\$A in NZ\$	NZ\$	PPP Index		
1	price of a fixed common average consumption: Electricity - maybe the rate in the first tier of the pricing structure	\$723.00	\$816.99	\$1,896.00	2.32		
2	Rice, Sunwhite, Calrose 1kg bag	\$1.99	\$2.25	\$2.40	1.07		
3	Pepsi Cola, 330ml	\$1.00	\$1.13	\$2.00	1.77		
4	Rothmans, King size, single pack of 20 - any brand will do	\$6.00	\$6.78	\$6.00	0.88		
5	Restaurant meal or take-away food, coffee, etc. - maybe a burger, fries and coke	\$6.00	\$6.78	\$10.00	1.47		
6	Taxi - say 3 km trip	\$7.15	\$8.08	\$4.00	0.50		
7	VB, full strenght beer, 375ml can 1 cartoon unchilled - very imp	\$29.99	\$33.89	\$42.00	1.24		
8	Petrol, super - litre	\$0.92	\$1.04	\$1.45	1.39		
9	Ice cream, vanilla, 2 ltrs	\$4.40	\$4.97	\$8.40	1.69		
10	Biscuits, Arnotts, Milk Arrowroot, 250g	\$1.54	\$1.74	\$2.80	1.61		
11	Biscuits, Arnotts, SAO, 259g	\$1.72	\$1.94	\$2.40	1.23		
12	Telephone, annual rental plus 400 local calls	\$362.00	\$409.06	\$148.00	0.36		
13	Twisties, large packet, cheese flavored,25g	\$1.50	\$1.70	\$3.10	1.83		
14	Poulet (fresh fish) fillets - kilo	\$12.99	\$14.68	\$10.50	0.72		
15	Hire of Video cassette latest 2hour movie	\$4.95	\$5.59	\$5.00	0.89		
16	Gas bottle refill, 28lb,excluding delivery	\$38.00	\$42.94	\$60.00	1.40		
17	Canned mackerelin natural oil w/salt 256g	\$1.00	\$0.00	\$1.90	1.68		
18	English Loaf - something standard unsliced	\$2.50	\$2.83	\$2.00	0.71		
19	Baby food, Heinz, strained "small" tin	\$0.78	\$0.88	\$1.00	1.13		
20	Hazel Nut/chocolate//50 g//papar wrapped/Australia/Pink	\$1.00	\$1.13	\$1.20	1.06		
21	Coca-cola 1 bottle 1.25l	\$1.30	\$1.47	\$4.50	3.06		
22	Noodles, Maggi 2 minutes 85g	\$1.00	\$1.13	\$0.80	0.71		
23	Spaghetti,Vetta, No.1,500g	\$1.99	\$2.25	\$1.80	0.80		
24	Fruit Juice drink, mr Juicy, Orange 1 ltr	\$1.30	\$1.47	\$2.90	1.97		
25	Eggs, 60g/large - dozen	\$3.50	\$3.96	\$5.20	1.31		
26	Coffee, instant Nescafe 50g tin	\$2.90	\$3.28	\$6.80	2.08		
27	Local beef mince, 1kg	\$6.99	\$7.90	\$5.00	0.63		
28	Sugar, white, CSR 1kg	\$1.45	\$1.64	\$1.95	1.19		
29	cheese, kraft, processed cheddar 500g	\$3.75	\$4.24	\$3.80	0.90		
30	margarine,polyunsaturated 500g	\$2.50	\$2.83	\$3.25	1.15		
31	Scotch Whisky Johnnie Walker red label 750ml	\$31.99	\$36.15	\$60.00	1.66		
32	Tea bushels Blue label 250g	\$2.90	\$3.28	\$6.00	1.83		
33	Cooking oil, MeadowLea, 75cl	2.7	\$3.05	\$3.00	0.98		
34	Ice cream cone, Cornetto single cone	\$2.00	\$2.26	\$2.10	0.93		
35	Flour, Self raising, 1kg	\$2.20	\$2.49	\$2.30	0.93		
36	Onions	\$1.99	\$2.25	\$3.50	1.56		
37	Chicken, frozen, without giblets size 8-12	\$4.00	\$4.52	\$7.45	1.65		
38	Canned sliced pineapple, golden Circle 450g	\$1.40	\$1.58	\$2.30	1.45		
39	Local beef sausages, 1kg	\$5.40	\$6.10	\$6.50	1.07		
40	Local beef,blade, 1kg	\$10.00	\$11.30	\$12.90	1.14		
41	Island Cabbage	\$3.50	\$3.96	\$5.50	1.39		
42	Battery, 1.5 v pkt of 2 - base brand eg ACME	\$2.00	\$2.26	\$2.70	1.19		
43	Laundry powder, Cold power - 1 kilo	\$4.99	\$5.64	\$5.00	0.89		



Appendix 2: Diet Table for an adult Niuean

Meal	Food	Amount	Prices	Prices	Calories
Breakfast	Bread,white,sliced,prepacked	2 thick slices	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.20	186
	Tea,Indian,infused	1 cup	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.05	2
	Milk,UHT,standardised	50ml	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.10	22
	Sugar,Raw	1 tsp	\$ 0.01	\$ 0.01	16
	Margarine,polyunsaturated	3 tb	\$ 0.30	\$ 0.30	67
	Vegemite,Kraft	15g	\$ 0.05	\$ 0.05	28
Morning Snack	Banana,ripe,fresh	2 banana	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.10	344
	Water	2 cups			0
Lunch	Yam,flesh,boiled,drained	1 cups	\$ 0.60	\$ 0.60	158
	Tuna,fresh,baked	1 cups	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	611
	Lettuce,outer leaves,raw	2 cups	\$ 0.10	\$ 0.10	6
Afternoon Snack	Pawpaw,Australian,fresh	1 slice		\$ 0.10	30
	Coconut milk,raw	2 cups		\$ 1.00	550
Dinner	Tuna,Skipjack,raw	1 fillet	\$ 1.00	\$ 1.00	384
	Taro,common,corms,boiled	3 cups	\$ 0.75	\$ 0.75	561
	Cabbage,Chinese,raw	100g	\$ 0.55	\$ 0.55	10
Supper	Tea,Indian,infused	1 cup		\$ 0.05	2
	Milk,UHT,standardised	50ml		\$ 0.10	22
	Sugar,Raw	1 tsp		\$ 0.01	16
Drinks	Water	1L			
Total Cost/Calories			\$ 4.81	\$ 6.07	3,015
Calories			2100	3000	