

than one-half of New Zealand's 50 top companies are based in Auckland.

English is the only language universally understood by business people in New Zealand. There is no official state church, although the majority of the population is Christian.

Local Customs

Since most New Zealanders are of European origin, Canadian visitors will usually feel quite at home.

General Information

Public Holidays.

New Year's Day — January 1

New Zealand statutory holiday — January 2

Waitangi Day — February 6

Good Friday to Easter Monday — March or April

Anzac Day — April 25

Queen's Birthday — June (first Monday)

Labour Day — October (fourth Monday)

Christmas and Boxing Day — December 25 and 26

Weights and Measures. Conversion to the metric system has been completed and is almost universally used.

Electricity. New Zealand uses the Multiple Earthed Neutral System, i.e. system earthed (grounded) at all consumer, as well as generating points.

Distribution: 33 kV and 12 kV 50 Hz

Consumer supply: 11 kV, 400 V and 230 V 50 Hz

- 11 kV (3 phase)
- 400 V (3 phase and Neutral)
- 230 V (3 phase and Neutral)

New Zealand, Australia, British Standard Specifications and some IEC (e.g. IEC72 Electrical Motors) are acceptable, as are U.S. Underwriter's Specifications for use in hazardous locations.

Local Time. Standard New Zealand Time is 17 hours ahead of Ottawa (Eastern Standard Time). For example, 12:00 noon (Standard New Zealand Time) on the twelfth equals 7:00 p.m. EST in Toronto on the eleventh. The time difference varies with the introduction of daylight-saving time in New Zealand (November to February) and in Canada (April to October).