

23 June 2026

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai /
Conservation House
18 Manners Street
Wellington 6011
doc.govt.nz
Ref: OIAD-9278

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation, received on 10 June 2026, in which you asked for:

In regard to the Tongariro Crossing please supply the following numbers:

1. *“For the year ending the 31st March 2026 the total number of people walking the Crossing.”*
2. *“The numbers for each month for the year ending 31st March 2026.”*
3. *“The total numbers for the following years ending the 31st March: 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022.”*

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982.

For context, we estimate around 100,000 people currently visit the Tongariro Alpine Crossing (TAC) annually. However, it isn't possible to be exact because people walk the full track in both directions and make return trips at both ends, and our monitoring equipment cannot distinguish between activities or individuals. Visitor activity on TAC is strongly influenced by weather, tourism trends and other factors each year, and has been gradually recovering from the impact of the global pandemic.

It is important to note that all estimates provided below have a margin of error of +/- 10% and that activity counting devices on the track are not an exact count of visits or visitors.

1. *For the year ending the 31st March 2026 the total number of people walking the Crossing.*

In the year ending **31 March 2026**, we estimate **82,000** people walked the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. Please note:

- This is an estimate of the number of people completing the *full* crossing and does not include people making return trips from Mangatepopo car park.
- Activity counter data and staff observations suggest that an increasing number of people are choosing to make return walks rather than attempt the *full* crossing, which we currently estimate to be 20% of all activity.
- In 2025/2026 there were two fires in Tongariro National Park resulting in closures and restrictions on access, and there were more bad weather days than in previous years.

2. The numbers for each month for the year ending 31st March 2026.

Month	Percentage of counter activity	Modelled number of people to the nearest 100
April 2025	9.8%	8,200
May 2025	4.0%	3,400
June 2025	0.7%	600
July 2025	0.5%	400
August 2025	0.6%	500
September 2025	0.5%	400
October 2025	2.4%	2,000
November 2025	12.6%	10,600
December 2025	14.4%	12,000
January 2026	16.2%	13,600
February 2026	17.5%	14,700
March 2026	20.9%	17,600

3. The total numbers for the following years ending the 31st March:
2025, 2024, 2023, 2022.

Estimated annual visitor numbers for years ending 31 March, to the nearest 1,000 are:

2022: 55,000

2023: 77,000

2024: 105,000

2025: 110,000

2026: 82,000

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) may be published on the Department's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Catherine Wilson
Director Heritage and Visitors
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai