



Hot Off The Press

LATEST STATISTICS FROM STATISTICS NEW ZEALAND

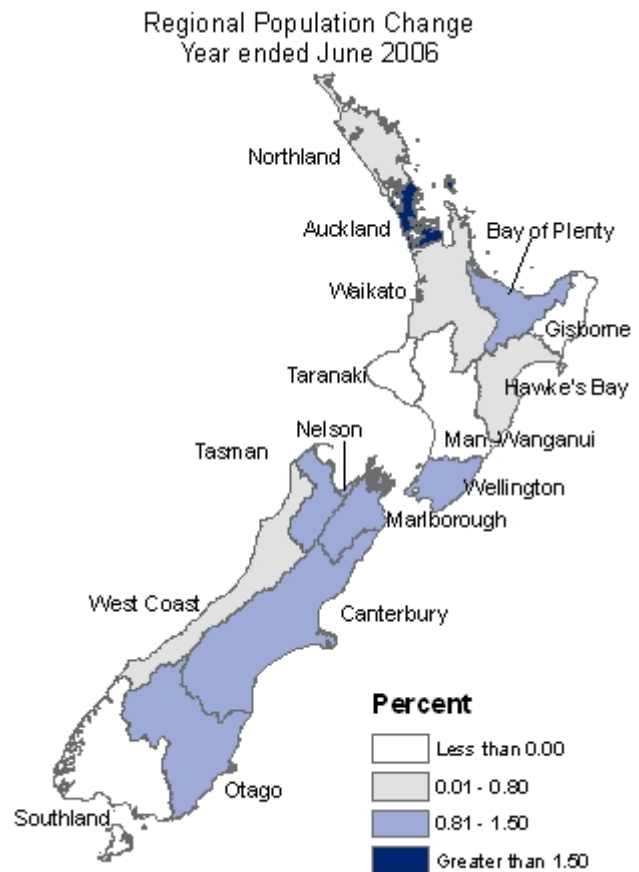
Embargoed until 10:45am – 20 October 2006

Subnational Population Estimates

At 30 June 2006

Highlights

- The population growth of both the North and South Islands was estimated to be 1.0 percent, during the June 2006 year.
- The fastest-growing regions were Auckland (up 1.6 percent), Nelson (up 1.4 percent) and Canterbury (up 1.3 percent), in the June 2006 year.
- The largest population increases among territorial authorities were in Manukau (6,500), Auckland (5,200) and Christchurch (4,400) cities, during the June 2006 year.
- Queenstown-Lakes, Selwyn, Rodney and Waimakiriri districts, and Tauranga and Manukau cities were the fastest-growing territorial authorities, in the June 2006 year.
- Over half of all New Zealanders (53.0 percent) were living in four main urban areas (Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch) at 30 June 2006.



Brian Pink
Government Statistician

20 October 2006
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Commentary

National population change

New Zealand's estimated resident population was 4,140,300 at 30 June 2006, an increase of 41,400 (1.0 percent) over the June 2005 figure. The increase in population resulted from natural increase (excess of births over deaths) of 30,700 people, and net external migration (excess of arrivals over departures) of 10,700 during the June 2006 year. In comparison, the New Zealand population increased by 37,400 (0.9 percent) in the June 2005 year, due to a smaller natural increase (28,900) and a lower net external migration (8,600).

North and South Island populations

The estimated resident population of the North Island grew by 1.0 percent (31,900) in the June 2006 year, to reach 3,148,400. This was a lower growth rate than the average annual rate of 1.3 percent during the 2002 to 2006 June years. An estimated 991,100 people lived in the South Island at 30 June 2006, an increase of 1.0 percent (9,500) from 30 June 2005. This compared with an average annual growth rate of 1.2 percent during the 2002 to 2006 June years.

At 30 June 2006, the North Island was home to 76.0 percent of New Zealand residents, up from 75.3 percent at 30 June 1996. The four northernmost regions (Northland, Auckland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty) contain just over half (52.1 percent) of the New Zealand resident population, and the southern North Island regions comprise the remaining 23.9 percent.

Regional population change

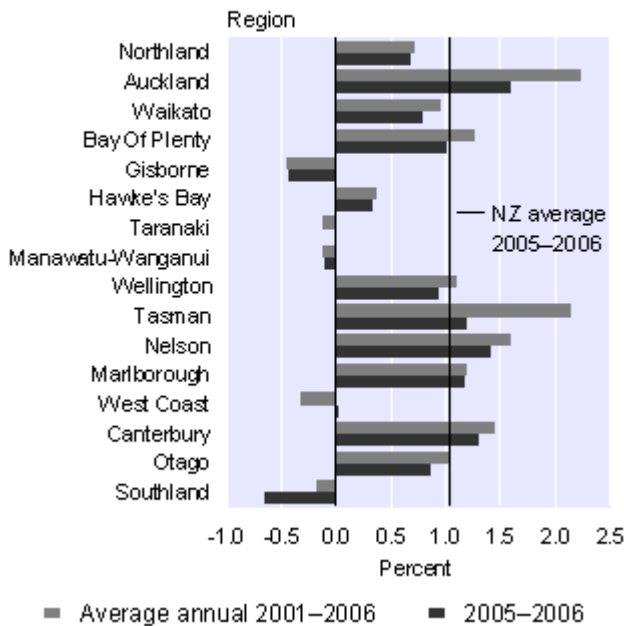
Auckland Region, with an estimated resident population of 1,358,200 at 30 June 2006, was home to 32.8 percent of New Zealand residents, and 43.1 percent of North Island residents, up from 32.6 percent and 42.9 percent, respectively, at 30 June 2005. Canterbury Region, with an estimated resident population of 533,200, was home to 53.8 percent of South Island residents, up from 53.6 percent a year earlier.

Twelve of the 16 regions recorded population increases during the June 2006 year. However, the growth rate for 11 of those regions was lower than the average annual growth rate during the 2002 to 2006 June years. Three of the four regions recording population decreases had a smaller decrease in the June 2006 year than their average annual decrease since 2001.

Annual Population Change

Regional council areas

At 30 June 2001–2006



Six regions had growth rates at or above the 1.0 percent national average during the June 2006 year: Auckland (1.6 percent), Nelson (1.4 percent), Canterbury (1.3 percent), Tasman and Marlborough (1.2 percent each), and Bay of Plenty (1.0 percent). Of the remaining regions, Wellington and Otago (0.9 percent each), Waikato (0.8 percent), Northland (0.7 percent), Hawke's Bay (0.3 percent) and West Coast (less than 0.1 percent) had positive growth rates below the national average. The Taranaki, Manawatu-Wanganui, Gisborne and Southland regions had population decreases.

During the June 2006 year, the largest numerical increases in population within regions were in Auckland (21,100), Canterbury (6,800), Wellington (4,300), Waikato (3,000), Bay of Plenty (2,600) and Otago (1,700).

In the June 2006 year, 10 regions had population increases from gains in both natural increase and net migration (internal and external migration combined). Of these regions, all five situated in the North Island received more than half their growth through natural increase: Waikato (93 percent), Northland (89 percent), Wellington (86 percent), Bay of Plenty (67 percent) and Auckland (66 percent), while five regions in the South Island received most growth through net migration: Marlborough (78 percent), Nelson (77 percent), Tasman (61 percent), Otago (58 percent) and Canterbury (57 percent). The remaining six regions had net migration losses, ranging from 100 people (West Coast) to 1,600 people (Manawatu-Wanganui).

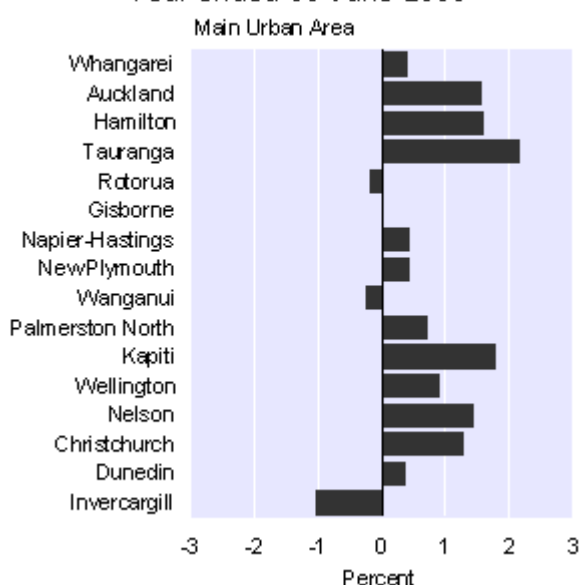
Urban areas

At 30 June 2006, the estimated resident population of the 16 main urban areas was 2,992,200 (72.3 percent of New Zealand's population). A further 245,300 people lived in secondary urban areas (5.9 percent of New Zealand's population). The main and secondary urban populations increased by 35,100 (1.2 percent) and 500 (0.2 percent), respectively, during the June 2006 year.

Four urban areas – Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington and Christchurch – were home to 53.0 percent (2,194,800) of New Zealand residents at 30 June 2006, up from 51.6 percent at 30 June 2001. Auckland Urban Area contained 52.6 percent (1,260,900) of the North Island main urban population at 30 June 2006. Christchurch contained 62.6 percent (372,500) of the South Island main urban population.

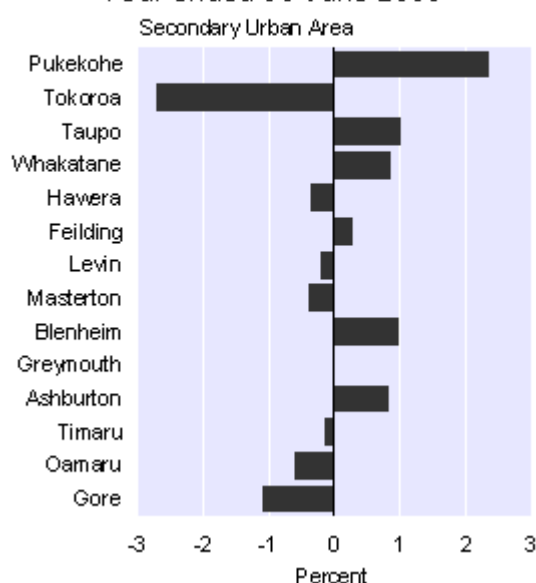
Main Urban Area Population Change

Year ended 30 June 2006



Secondary Urban Area Population Change

Year ended 30 June 2006



In the June 2006 year, Tauranga (2.2 percent) was the fastest-growing main urban area, followed by Kapiti (1.8 percent), Hamilton (1.6 percent), Auckland (1.5 percent), Nelson (1.4 percent) and Christchurch (1.3 percent). Seven main urban areas recorded positive growth rates below the average of 1.2 percent, and three areas – Rotorua, Wanganui and Invercargill – had population decreases.

Six of the 14 secondary urban areas recorded positive growth rates, ranging between 0.3 percent (Feilding) and 2.3 percent (Pukekohe), during the June 2006 year. The remaining secondary urban areas recorded population decreases, ranging from less than 0.1 percent (Greymouth) to 2.7 percent (Tokoroa).

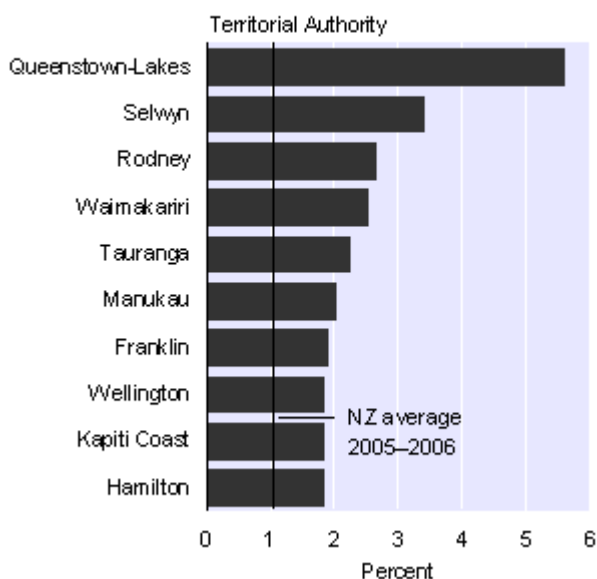
Population of territorial authorities

The combined population of the 16 cities grew by 31,500 (1.3 percent) during the June 2006 year, to reach 2,513,700, while the combined population of the districts grew by 9,900 (0.6 percent) to reach 1,625,400. The proportion of New Zealand residents living in cities at 30 June 2006 was 60.7 percent, compared with 59.5 percent at 30 June 2001.

In the June 2006 year, 41 of the 73 territorial authorities had population increases and 32 had population decreases. Of the 41 territorial authorities recording increases, 21 had growth rates above the 1.0 percent national average during the June 2006 year.

Fastest-growing Territorial Authorities

Year ended 30 June 2006



The highest rates of population growth during the June 2006 year were in Queenstown-Lakes District (5.5 percent), Selwyn District (3.3 percent), Rodney District (2.6 percent), Waimakiriri District (2.5 percent), Tauranga City (2.2 percent), Manukau District (2.0 percent), Franklin District (1.9 percent), Wellington and Hamilton cities, and Kapiti Coast District (1.8 percent each), Western Bay of Plenty District (1.7 percent), Hurunui District (1.6 percent) and Waitakere City (1.5 percent). Among territories with population decreases, the rates ranged between less than 0.1 percent (Kaipara, Whakatane, Horowhenua and Buller districts) and 3.5 percent (Ruapehu District).

Seventeen territorial authorities with the largest population increases comprised 95 percent (39,500) of the New Zealand population increase during the June 2006 year. They were Manukau City (6,500), Auckland City (5,200), Christchurch City (4,400), Wellington City (3,300), North Shore City (3,100), Waitakere City (2,800), Hamilton City, Rodney District and Tauranga City (2,300 each), Queenstown-Lakes District (1,300), Franklin and Selwyn districts (1,100 each), Waimakiriri District (1,000), Kapiti Coast District (800), Western Bay of Plenty District (700), and Nelson and Palmerston North cities (600 each).

Final figures

The population estimates for the June 2006 year quoted above and contained in the appended tables are provisional. Processing of final statistics will be completed in November 2006.

2006 Census of Population and Dwellings

The 2006 Census was held on Tuesday, 7 March 2006. The base estimated resident population at 30 June 2006, derived from the 2006 Census usually resident count, will be available in August 2007. Population estimates published in this release are the last estimates to be based on the 2001 Census.

Final counts (census night and usually resident) from the 2006 Census will be available from 6 December 2006. For more information see the Technical notes of this release.

For technical information contact:
Joel Watkins or Kirsten Nissen
Christchurch 03 964 8700
Email: demography@stats.govt.nz

Technical notes

Population measures

There are three population measures commonly produced by Statistics New Zealand: census night population count, census usually resident population count and estimated resident population.

The census night population count of New Zealand is a count of all people present in New Zealand on a given census night. This count includes visitors from overseas who are counted on census night, but excludes residents who are temporarily overseas on census night.

The census usually resident population count of New Zealand is a count of all people who usually live in New Zealand, and are present in New Zealand, on a given census night. This count excludes visitors from overseas and residents who are temporarily overseas on census night.

The estimated resident population of New Zealand is an estimate of all people who usually live in New Zealand at a given date. This estimate includes all residents present in New Zealand and counted by the census (census usually resident population count), residents who are temporarily overseas (who are not included in the census), and an adjustment for residents missed or counted more than once by the census (net census undercount). Visitors from overseas are excluded.

Users of Statistics New Zealand's Hot Off The Press and media releases need to be aware that the population counts published in any release of 2001 or 2006 Census of Population and Dwellings data will differ from the estimated resident population.

The reference date for subnational population estimates is 'at 30 June', which is in line with international practice. This release contains the estimated resident populations of regional councils, territorial authorities (cities and districts), and main and secondary urban areas in New Zealand.

Base population

The estimated resident population at 30 June in the year of the latest available census (2001) forms the base population for deriving the estimated resident population at a given date after the latest census. This base population in turn is used to derive post-censal population estimates and population projections. The base population is also used in the revision of the intercensal population estimates for the five-year period prior to the latest census.

The estimated resident population of each area at 30 June 2001 is based on the census usually resident population count from the 2001 Census (held 6 March 2001), updated for: net census undercount (as measured by the 2001 Post-enumeration Survey (PES)); the number of residents temporarily overseas on census night; births, deaths and net permanent and long-term migration between 7 March 2001 and 30 June 2001; and reconciliation with demographic estimates at ages 0–9 years.

Following the 2001 PES, the 1996 PES results were revised. (For more details, refer to *A Report on the Post-enumeration Survey 2001*, available on the Statistics New Zealand website.) As a result, the base population at 30 June 1996 was revised.

Boundaries

Subnational population estimates at 30 June 1996–2000 are based on 2001 regional council, territorial authority and urban area boundaries. The estimates are based on the revised base population at 30 June 1996 and the base population at 30 June 2001.

Population estimates at 30 June 2001–2006 are based on boundaries at 1 July 2006. The 2004 review of subnational area boundaries included moving most of Temple View Area Unit from Waipa District to Hamilton City. Population estimates from 2001 onwards for Hamilton City and Waipa District incorporate the 2004 boundary review. On 5 March 2006, Banks Peninsula District was amalgamated with Christchurch City and, as a result, estimates for Christchurch City from 2001 onwards have been revised to incorporate this change. Estimates for other territorial authorities, regional councils and urban areas have remained unchanged.

Subnational population estimates at 30 June 1996–2006 are available on the Statistics New Zealand website (www.stats.govt.nz). The population series is also available on INFOS (DPE).

The population of the North Island is the sum of the population of North Island regions, and the population of the South Island is the sum of the population of South Island regions.

Urban areas are defined on the basis of the 1996 Census usually resident population count. Main urban areas have a 1996 Census usually resident population count of 30,000 or more, whereas secondary urban areas have a 1996 Census usually resident population count between 10,000 and 29,999. As a result, Greymouth is still classified as a secondary urban area, even though the 2001 Census usually resident population count and the estimated resident populations at 30 June 2001–2005 fall below the 10,000 population mark.

Estimating population change

Subnational resident population estimates are derived by updating the base population of each area for natural increase (excess of births over deaths), net permanent and long-term migration and internal migration. Owing to the delays between the occurrence of births and deaths and the registration of the event, it is necessary to estimate births and deaths to produce timely resident population estimates. Symptomatic data series (eg residential building consents and electoral enrolments) are used to estimate the internal migration component.

Estimated natural increase and net migration for regional councils have been included in Table 4 of this release. Components of population change for territorial authorities and urban areas are available on request.

Rounding

All figures in this release have been rounded independently. Population estimates for areas of less than 10,000 have been rounded to the nearest 10. Populations between 10,000 and 20,000 have been rounded to the nearest 50. Populations of 20,000 or more have been rounded to the nearest 100. Population changes have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Results from the 2006 Census of Population and Dwellings

The 2006 Census usually resident population counts for all standard geographic areas will be released progressively on the Statistics New Zealand website from 6 December 2006 onwards. The 2006 Census website (www.stats.govt.nz/census/2006-census/output-2006-census) provides information about the 2006 Census Products and Services and their release timetable.

Availability of other subnational population estimates

The estimates in this release are provisional. Final estimates for regional councils, territorial authorities and urban areas will be available on the Statistics New Zealand website (www.stats.govt.nz) by 30 November 2006. It is generally expected that there will be limited demand for 2001-based estimates at 30 June 2006 for other subnational areas (eg wards and area units), user-defined areas, and by five-year age group and sex, due to availability of the 2006 Census usually resident counts from December. However, 2001-based estimates at 30 June 2006 for other subnational areas, and by five-year age group and sex, can be requested from January 2007 by contacting the Population Statistics Unit (email: demography@stats.govt.nz).

2006 base population estimates

Population estimates at 30 June 2006 based on the 2006 Census results are planned to become available in August 2007. Subnational population estimates at 30 June 2006 for regional councils, territorial authorities and urban areas based on the 2006 Census results will be available in August 2007 from the web page of subnational population estimates tables (<http://www.stats.govt.nz/tables/subnat-pop-estimates-tables>). Subnational population estimates at 30 June 2007 based on the 2006 Census will be available on the Statistics New Zealand website (www.stats.govt.nz) in October 2007.

More information

For more information, follow the [link](#) from the Technical notes of this release on the Statistics New Zealand website.

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Timing

Timed statistical releases are delivered using postal and electronic services provided by third parties. Delivery of these releases may be delayed by circumstances outside the control of Statistics NZ. Statistics NZ accepts no responsibility for any such delays.

Next release

Subnational Population Estimates: At 30 June 2007 will be released in October 2007.

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Tables

The following tables can be downloaded from the Statistics New Zealand website in Excel 97 format. If you do not have access to Excel 97 or higher, you may use the [Excel file viewer](#) to view, print and export the contents of the file.

List of tables

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2. Estimated resident population, territorial authorities
3. Estimated resident population, urban areas
4. Components of population change, regional council areas