

2013 Census Usually Resident Population Counts

Embargoed until 10:45am – 15 October 2013

Key facts

New Zealand

New Zealand's census usually resident population count at 5 March 2013 was 4,242,048 – an increase of 214,101 people (5.3 percent) since the 2006 Census.

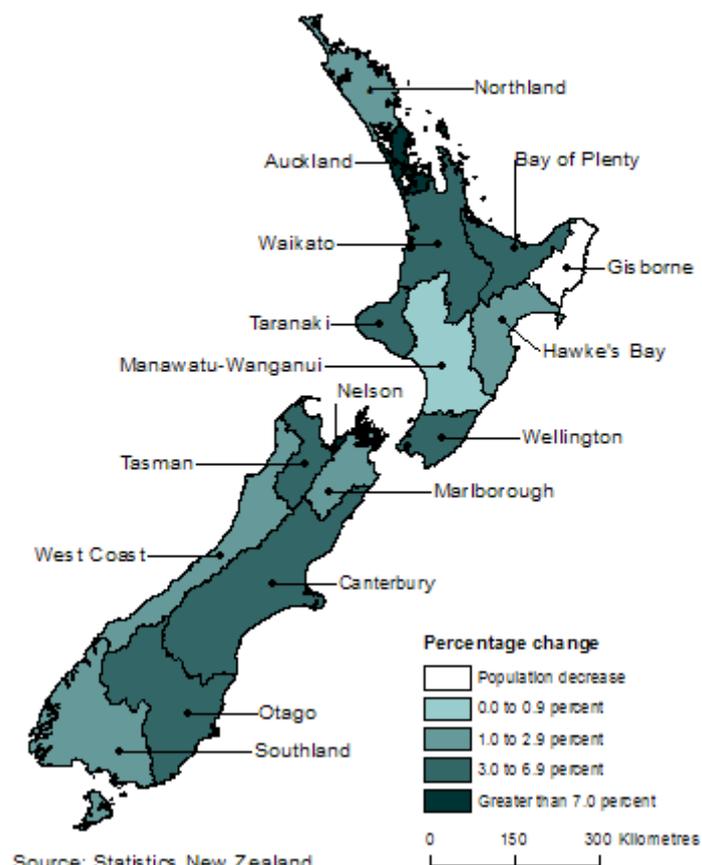
Regional council areas (regions)

- All regional council areas showed population growth or steady populations between 2006 and 2013, except for Gisborne, which had a small decline of 843 people.
- Auckland was the fastest-growing region, increasing 8.5 percent to 1,415,550 at the 2013 Census – the equivalent of adding a city about the size of Tauranga to the region.
- Nelson was the second-fastest-growing region, up 8.3 percent to 46,437 people.

Territorial authority areas (cities and districts)

- Forty-seven of the 67 territorial authority areas in New Zealand experienced population growth since the 2006 Census.
- Of the 10 areas with the fastest population growth since 2006, half were in the Canterbury region.
- Selwyn district was the fastest-growing territorial authority area, increasing by a third to 44,595 people.
- Queenstown-Lakes and Waimakariri were the next-fastest-growing districts, increasing by 22.9 percent and 16.7 percent, respectively.
- Christchurch city experienced a 2 percent decline in population, totalling 341,469 on 5 March 2013.

Change in census usually resident population count
By regional council area
2006–2013 Censuses



Commentary

- [New Zealand's population increases by over 200,000](#)
- [Auckland still fastest-growing region in New Zealand](#)
- [Rapid growth in Canterbury outside Christchurch city](#)
- [Selwyn fastest-growing territorial authority area](#)
- [Order of New Zealand cities changes only slightly](#)
- [Auckland local boards all grow](#)

The 33rd New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings was held on 5 March 2013. It was originally scheduled for March 2011 but was cancelled following the 22 February Christchurch earthquake. The national state of emergency and the likely impact on census results meant that the 2011 Census could not have been successfully completed at that time. The change in the data between 2006 and 2013 may be greater than in the usual five-year gap between censuses. Be careful when comparing trends.

This is a release of [census usually resident population counts](#) by regional council area, territorial authority area, and area unit. It also includes local board counts for Auckland.

The population number is lower than New Zealand's estimated resident population, which includes residents temporarily overseas at the time of the census and an adjustment for people missed by the census (net census undercount).

New Zealand's population increases by over 200,000

New Zealand's 2013 Census usually resident population count was 4,242,048. This was a 5.3 percent increase from the 2006 Census, when New Zealand's population was 4,027,947.

On average, the population grew by about 31,000 (0.7 percent) per year since the last census. This was about half the rate of growth between 2001 and 2006, when the population grew by about 58,000 per year (1.5 percent). The 2001 to 2006 growth rate was high for New Zealand historically.

Auckland still fastest-growing region in New Zealand

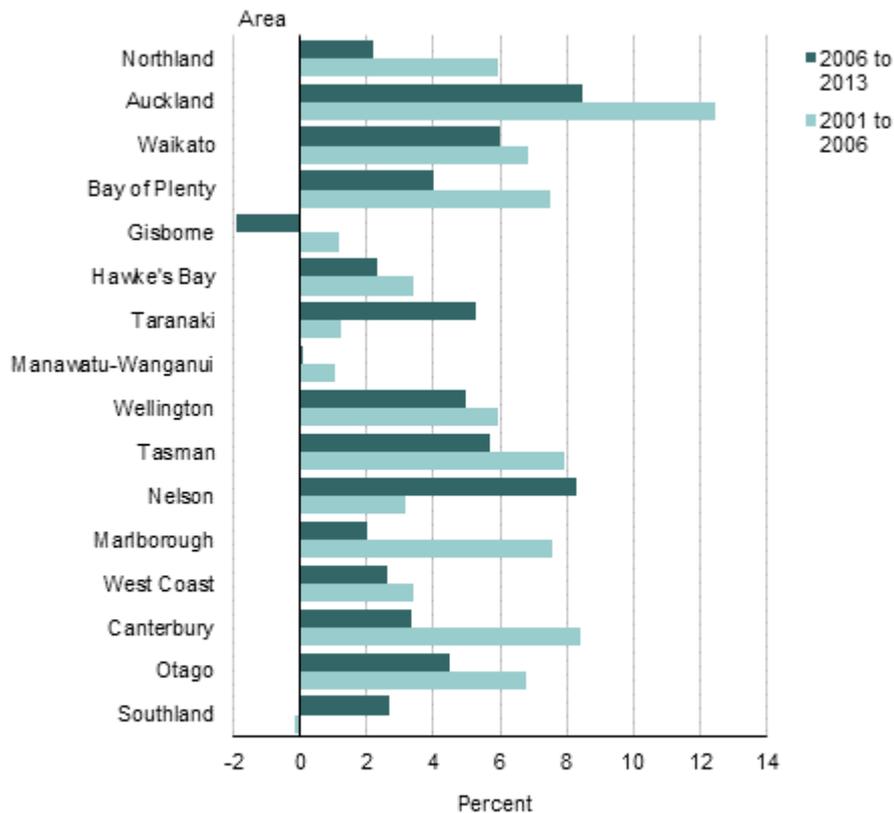
All regional council areas showed population growth or had steady populations between 2006 and 2013, except for Gisborne, which had a small decline.

Auckland was the fastest-growing region, increasing by 8.5 percent to 1,415,550 at the 2013 Census. Auckland accounted for over half of New Zealand's population growth between 2006 and 2013.

Nelson was the second-fastest-growing region, up 8.3 percent to 46,437, followed by Waikato, which increased 6 percent to 403,638.

Southland's population experienced an increase between 2006 and 2013, up 2.7 percent to 93,339. This was in contrast to being the only region to have a small decline between 2001 and 2006.

Change in census usually resident population count
 By regional council area
 2001–06 and 2006–13 Censuses



Note: This time series is irregular. Because the 2011 Census was cancelled after the Canterbury earthquake on 22 February 2011, the gap between this census and the last one is seven years. The change in the data between 2006 and 2013 may be greater than in the usual five-year gap between censuses. Be careful when comparing trends.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Rapid growth in Canterbury outside Christchurch city

Canterbury is the second-largest region in New Zealand after Auckland, with a census usually resident population count of 539,433. Despite the series of earthquakes beginning in 2010, the Canterbury population grew between 2006 and 2013 – up 17,601 people (3.4 percent). This was a smaller increase than between 2001 and 2006, when the population grew by 40,401 (8.4 percent).

Eight of the 10 Canterbury territorial authority areas experienced population increase between 2006 and 2013.

Population counts⁽¹⁾ and change for the Canterbury regionBy territorial authority area
2006–2013 Censuses

Territorial authority area	Population count		Change (%)
	2006	2013	2006–2013
Kaikoura district	3,621	3,555	-1.8
Hurunui district	10,476	11,529	10.1
Waimakariri district	42,834	49,989	16.7
Christchurch city	348,456	341,469	-2.0
Selwyn district	33,642	44,595	32.6
Ashburton district	27,372	31,041	13.4
Timaru district	42,867	43,929	2.5
Mackenzie district	3,801	4,158	9.4
Waimate district	7,206	7,536	4.6
Waitaki district ⁽²⁾	20,223	20,826	3.0

1. Census usually resident population counts.

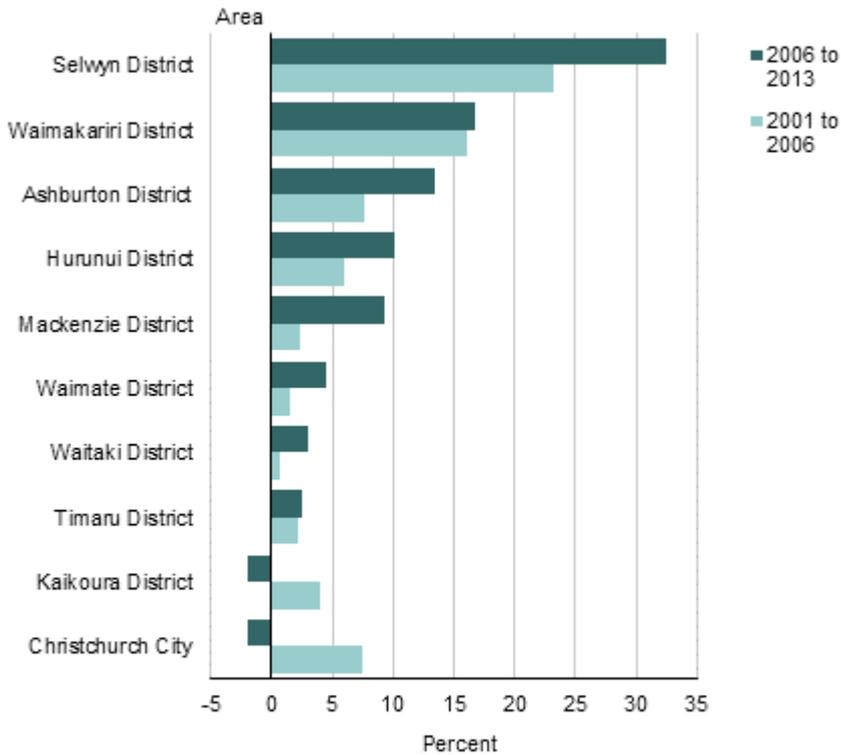
2. Waitaki district is partly in the Canterbury region and partly in the Otago region. The figures stated in the table are for the whole district.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

The territorial authority areas closest to Christchurch city experienced the greatest population growth, partly due to movement out of the city. Selwyn district gained 10,953 people (up 32.6 percent) and Waimakariri district gained 7,155 people (up 16.7 percent).

Christchurch city's population declined 2 percent to 341,469 people. Kaikoura district declined 1.8 percent to 3,555 people.

Change in census usually resident population count
 Canterbury region
 2001–06 and 2006–13 Censuses



Note: This time series is irregular. Because the 2011 Census was cancelled after the Canterbury earthquake on 22 February 2011, the gap between this census and the last one is seven years. The change in the data between 2006 and 2013 may be greater than in the usual five-year gap between censuses. Be careful when comparing trends.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Selwyn fastest-growing territorial authority area

Forty-seven of the 67 territorial authority areas experienced population growth since the 2006 Census.

Selwyn district was the fastest-growing territorial authority area, increasing by a third (10,953 people) to 44,595. Queenstown-Lakes and Waimakariri were the next-fastest-growing districts, increasing 22.9 percent and 16.7 percent, respectively. These three districts were also the fastest-growing between 2001 and 2006.

Five of the top 10 areas with the largest population growth were in the Canterbury region. Four were in the North Island: Carterton district, Tauranga city, Waikato district, and Waipa district.

Top 10 territorial authority areas with increased populations			
2013 Census			
Territorial authority area	Population count ⁽¹⁾		Increase (%)
	2006	2013	2006–2013
Selwyn district	33,642	44,595	32.6
Queenstown-Lakes district	22,959	28,224	22.9
Waimakariri district	42,834	49,989	16.7
Carterton district	7,098	8,235	16
Ashburton district	27,372	31,041	13.4
Tauranga city district	103,881	114,789	10.5
Waikato district	57,585	63,378	10.1
Hurunui district	10,476	11,529	10.1
Waipa district	42,501	46,668	9.8
Mackenzie district	3,801	4,158	9.4

1. Census usually resident population count.
Source: Statistics New Zealand

Carterton district was the fastest-growing territorial authority area in the North Island, increasing its population to 8,235 people (up 16 percent). Carterton had the fourth-fastest population growth among territorial authority areas.

There were 20 territorial authority areas with lower census usually resident population counts in 2013 than in 2006. Of these, three-quarters were in the North Island.

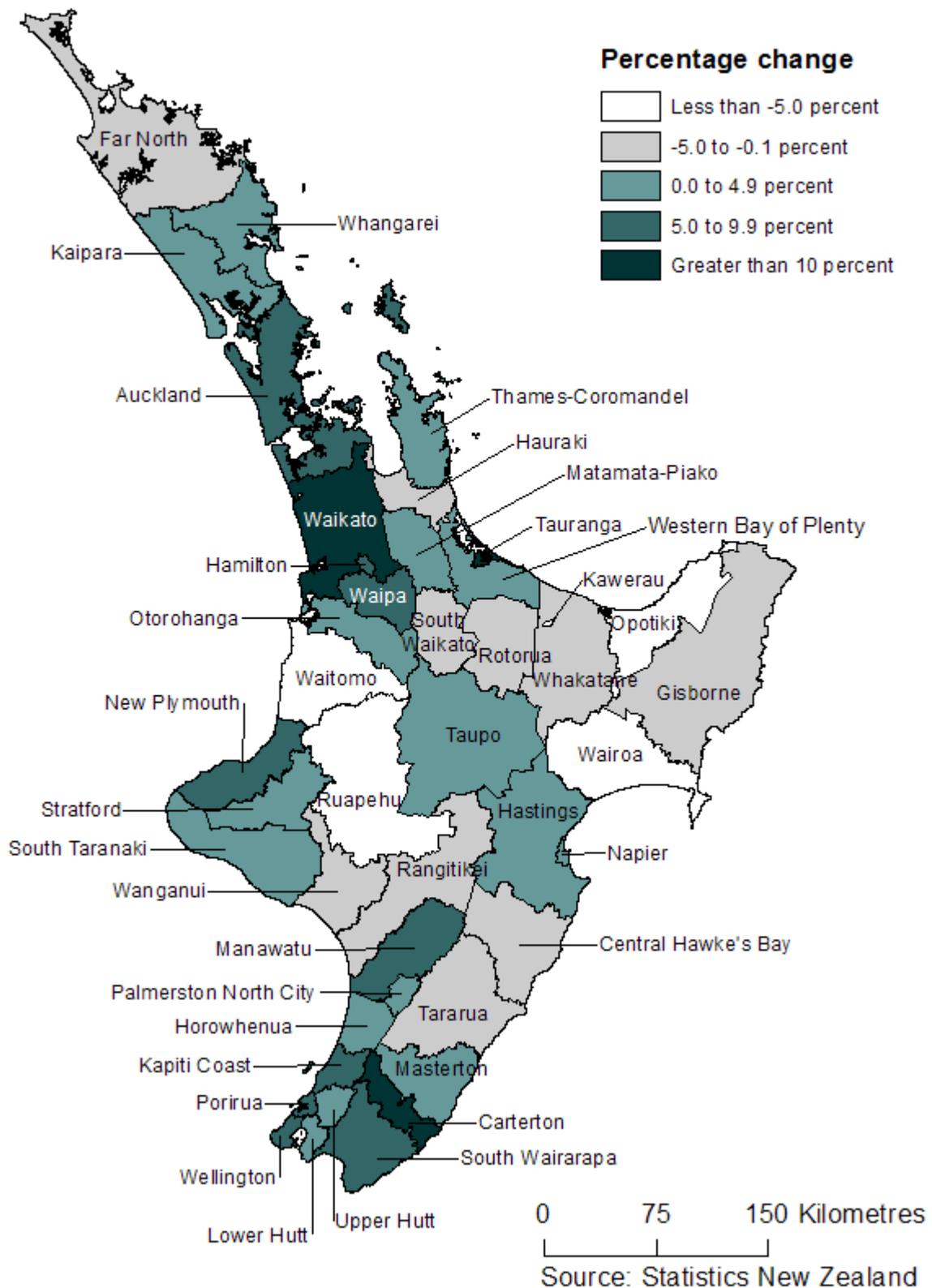
Order of New Zealand cities changes only slightly

The order of New Zealand's cities, in terms of total population, only varied slightly between 2001 and 2013. Auckland, Christchurch, and Wellington continue to be New Zealand's largest cities. Tauranga city overtook Lower Hutt city to be ranked sixth largest city in 2006, while in 2013 Porirua city overtook Invercargill city to be ranked 10th.

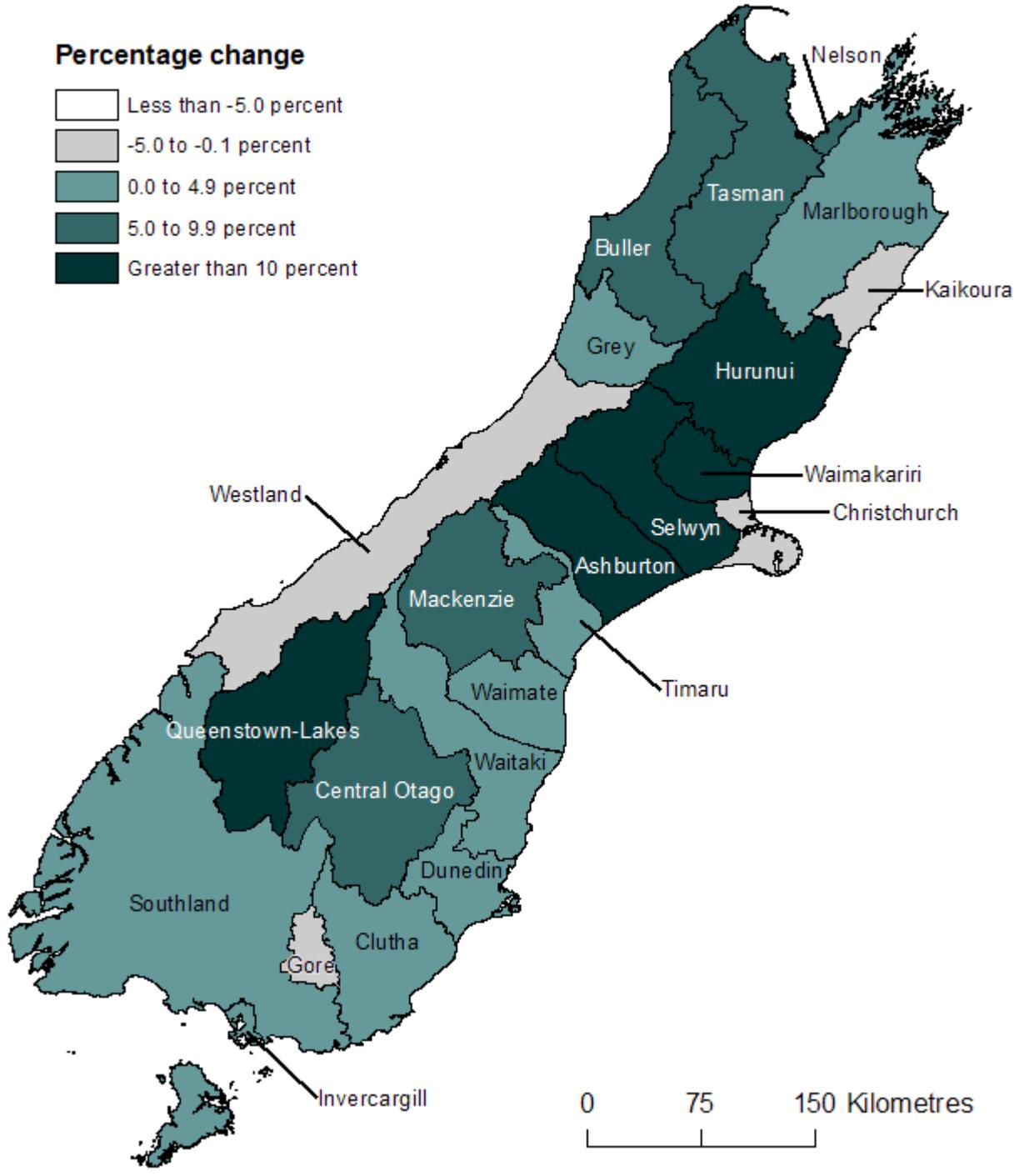
Population counts⁽¹⁾ for New Zealand cities						
2001–2013 Censuses						
City	2001		2006		2013	
	Rank	Count	Rank	Count	Rank	Count
Auckland	1	1,160,271	1	1,304,958	1	1,415,550
Christchurch	2	324,081	2	348,456	2	341,469
Wellington	3	163,824	3	179,466	3	190,956
Hamilton	4	116,604	4	129,588	4	141,615
Dunedin	5	114,342	5	118,683	5	120,246
Tauranga	7	91,143	6	103,881	6	114,789
Lower Hutt	6	95,490	7	97,701	7	98,238
Palmerston North	8	73,965	8	77,727	8	80,079
Napier	9	53,658	9	55,359	9	57,240
Porirua	11	47,370	11	48,546	10	51,717
Invercargill	10	49,830	10	50,328	11	51,696
Nelson	12	41,568	12	42,888	12	46,437
Upper Hutt	13	36,372	13	38,415	13	40,179

1. Census usually resident population counts. **Source:** Statistics New Zealand

Change in census usually resident population count
By North Island territorial authority area
2006–2013 Censuses



Change in census usually resident population count
 By South Island territorial authority area
 2006–2013 Censuses



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Auckland local board areas all grow

All Auckland local board areas experienced population growth between 2006 and 2013. Upper Harbour, Waitemata, and Howick experienced the fastest rates of growth.

The Auckland region makes up around a third of the New Zealand population. On 1 November 2010, Auckland Council became a unitary authority, when Auckland regional council area and seven territorial authority areas – Rodney district, North Shore city, Waitakere city, Auckland city, Manukau city, Papakura district, and Franklin district – amalgamated.

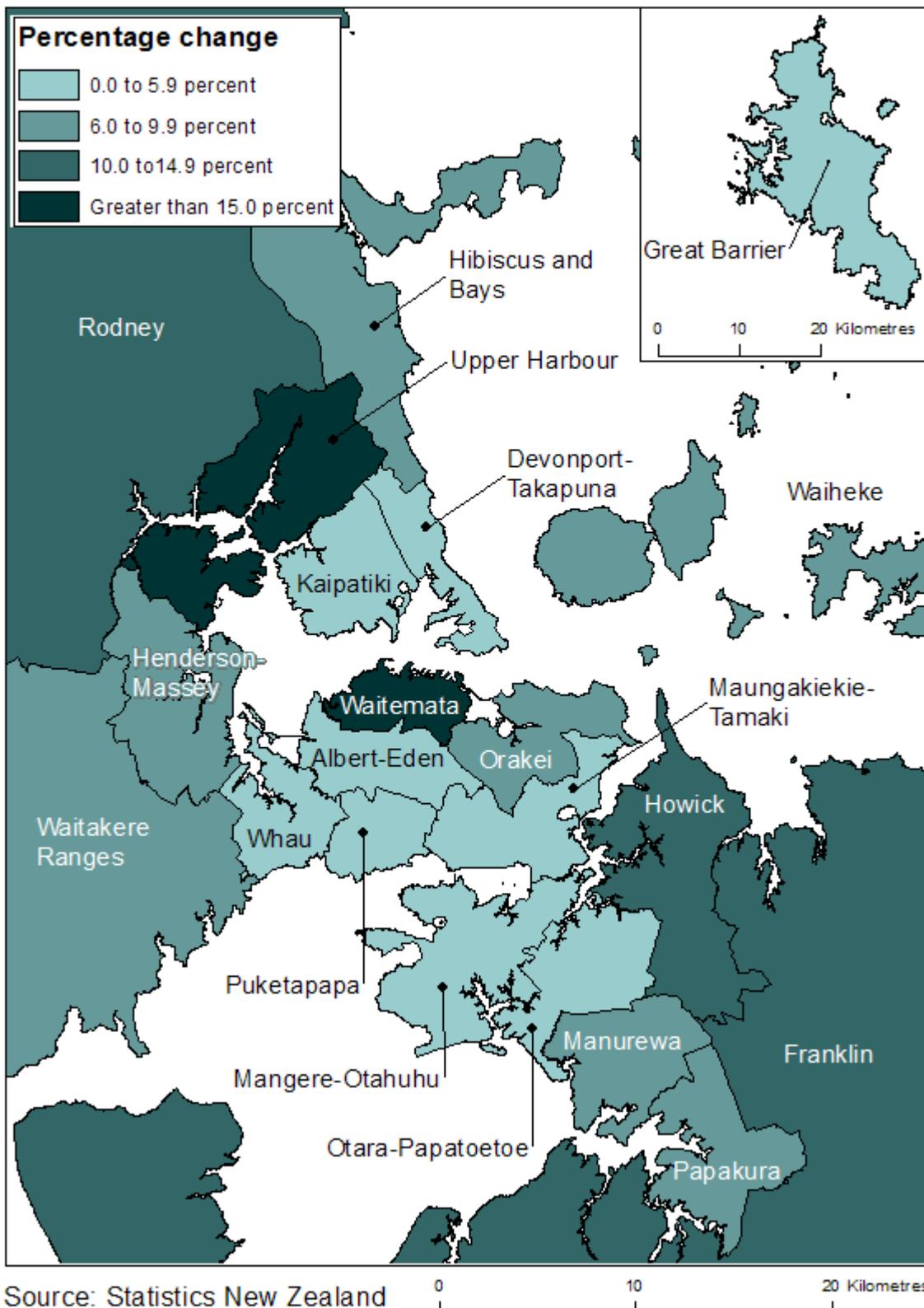
Because of Auckland's large population, counts are provided below for 21 local board areas to provide lower level information about Auckland.

Population counts⁽¹⁾ and change for Auckland local board areas			
2006–2013 Censuses			
Local board area	Population count		Increase (%)
	2006	2013	2006–2013
Rodney	49,359	54,879	11.2
Hibiscus and Bays	81,858	89,832	9.7
Upper Harbour	42,873	53,670	25.2
Kaipatiki	79,131	82,494	4.2
Devonport-Takapuna	52,653	55,470	5.4
Henderson-Massey	98,787	107,685	9.0
Waitakere Ranges	45,498	48,396	6.4
Great Barrier	894	939	5.0
Waiheke	7,797	8,340	7.0
Waitemata	62,928	77,136	22.6
Whau	69,171	72,594	4.9
Albert-Eden	90,978	94,695	4.1
Puketapapa	50,805	52,938	4.2
Orakei	74,520	79,536	6.7
Maungakiekie-Tamaki	66,375	70,005	5.5
Howick	113,505	127,125	12.0
Mangere-Otahuhu	68,151	70,959	4.1
Otara-Papatoetoe	72,324	75,660	4.6
Manurewa	77,190	82,242	6.5
Papakura	41,559	45,633	9.8
Franklin	58,602	65,322	11.5

1. Census usually resident population counts.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Change in census usually resident population count
 By Auckland local board area
 2006–2013 Censuses



For more detailed data see the Excel tables in the 'Downloads' box.

Definitions

About census usually resident population counts

Census usually resident population counts are a count of everyone who usually lives in New Zealand, or in a particular area, and is present in New Zealand on census night.

These census counts are the basis for, but are different to, population estimates and projections.

Census counts are used by government agencies for planning and making decisions about allocating resources. Census counts are also used to determine electorate boundaries.

More definitions

Area unit: Area units are aggregations of meshblocks. They are non-administrative areas that are in between meshblocks and territorial authorities in size. Area units must either define, or aggregate to define, regional councils, territorial authorities, and urban areas.

Area units within urban areas normally contain a population of 3,000–5,000.

Census usually resident population count: The census usually resident population count of New Zealand is a count of all people who usually live in, and were present in New Zealand on census night. Excluded are:

- overseas visitors
- New Zealand residents temporarily overseas.

The census usually resident population count of an area in New Zealand is a count of all people who usually live in that area and were present in New Zealand on census night. Excluded are:

- visitors from overseas
- visitors from elsewhere in New Zealand
- residents temporarily overseas on census night.

For example, a person who usually lives in Christchurch city and is in Wellington city on census night will be included in the census usually resident population count of Christchurch city.

Local boards: Local boards were introduced as part of the new local government arrangements for Auckland in 2010. Local boards share governance with a council's governing body and each has complementary responsibilities, guaranteed by legislation. Local boards can propose bylaws and they gather community views on local and regional matters. Local legislation enacted in 2012 allows for the establishment of local boards in areas of new unitary authorities which are predominantly urban and have a population of more than 400,000. The boundaries of local boards cannot be abolished or changed except through a reorganisation process.

Regional council: Regional councils were established in November 1989 after the abolition of the 22 local government regions. The Local Government Act 2002 requires the boundaries of regions to conform as far as possible to one or more water catchments. When determining regional boundaries, the Local Government Commission gave consideration to regional communities of interest when selecting water catchments to be included in a region. It also

considered factors such as natural resource management, land use planning and environmental matters.

Regional councils are defined at meshblock and area unit level.

Regional councils cover every territorial authority in New Zealand with the exception of Chatham Islands Territory. The seaward boundary of the regions is the 12 mile (19.3km) New Zealand territorial limit. Generally regional councils contain complete territorial authorities. Where territorial authorities straddle regional council boundaries, the affected area has been statistically defined in complete area units.

Territorial authority: A territorial authority is defined under the Local Government Act 2002 as a city council or district council. There are 67 territorial authorities, comprising 13 cities, 53 districts and 1 territory.

When defining the boundaries of territorial authorities, the Local Government Commission placed considerable weight on the 'community of interest'. While the size of a community was a factor, the relevance of the components of the community to each other and the capacity of the unit to service the community in an efficient manner, were the factors on which the Commission placed most emphasis.

Territorial authorities are defined at meshblock and area unit level.

Unitary authority: A unitary authority is a territorial authority (district or city) which also performs the functions of a regional council. New Zealand has five unitary authorities: Gisborne District, Nelson City, Tasman District, Marlborough District, and the new Auckland Council.

The Chatham Islands Council is not usually considered a unitary authority, although it acts as a regional council for the purposes of the Resource Management Act 1991.

Related links

Upcoming releases

The next census releases, on 3 December, will be:

- *2013 Census population and dwelling tables*
- *2013 Census QuickStats about national highlights*
- *2013 Census QuickStats about Māori.*

[2013 Census products and services release schedule](#) lists more upcoming census releases.

[The release calendar](#) lists all our upcoming information releases by date of release.

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Related information

[Customised data requests](#) will be available from 3 December.

Data quality

This section contains information that does not change between releases.

Census counts not directly comparable with estimated resident population

Census counts are not directly comparable with our regularly published population estimates. The estimated resident population is higher than the census usually resident population count because the estimates make an allowance for net census undercount and residents who are temporarily overseas at the time of the census. They also have a different reference date – 5 March for the 2013 Census and 30 June for population estimates.

Currently, population estimates are based on 2006 Census data. New national and subnational estimates using the 2013 Census results as a base will be published in August 2014, after estimates of net census undercount (from the 2013 Post-enumeration Survey) and residents temporarily overseas (from international travel and migration data) are available.

2013 Post-enumeration Survey results to be released March 2014

The Post-enumeration Survey is a sample survey to check the accuracy of coverage (census undercount and overcount) of the Census of Population and Dwellings.

Seven-year gap between censuses may affect trends

Because the 2011 Census was cancelled after the Canterbury earthquake on 22 February 2011, the gap between this census and the last one is seven years. The change in the data between 2006 and 2013 may be greater than in the usual five-year gap between censuses. Be careful when comparing trends.

More information

[More information about census usually resident population counts](#)

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Tables

The following tables are available in Excel format from the 'Downloads' box. If you have problems viewing the files, see [opening files and PDFs](#).

1. Census usually resident population count and change, by regional council area, 2001, 2006, and 2013 Censuses
2. Census usually resident population count and change, by territorial authority area and Auckland local board area, 2001, 2006, and 2013 Censuses
3. Census usually resident population count and change, by territorial authority area and area unit, 2001, 2006, and 2013 Censuses