

Subnational Population Estimates: At 30 June 2016 (provisional)

Embargoed until 10:45am – 21 October 2016

Key facts

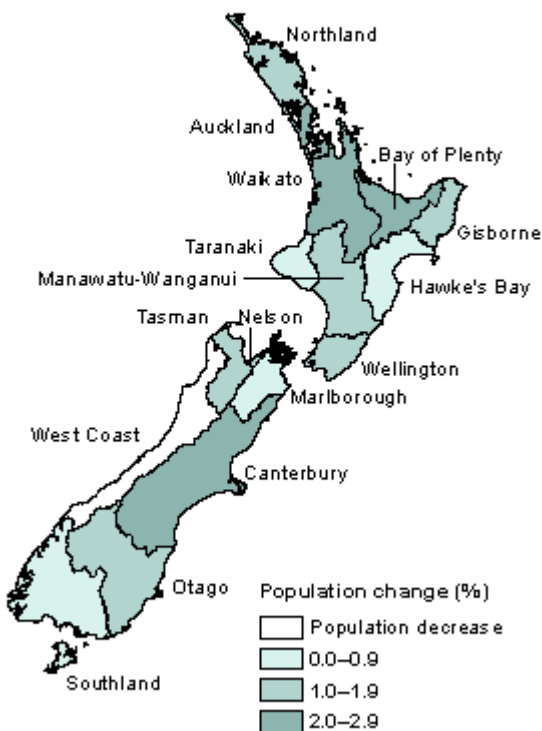
In the June 2016 year the estimates indicate:

- 15 of New Zealand's 16 regions experienced population growth.
- Auckland (2.8 percent), Canterbury and Waikato (both 2.3 percent), and Bay of Plenty (2.2 percent) regions grew faster than the national average (2.1 percent).
- Almost 80 percent of the population growth happened in the North Island, with Auckland accounting for about 46 percent growth.
- 64 of the 67 territorial authority areas had population growth.
- The three fastest-growing territorial authority areas were the Queenstown-Lakes (7.1 percent) and Selwyn (6.7 percent) districts, and Tauranga city (2.9 percent).
- Median age varies across New Zealand, from 31.8 years (Hamilton) to 52.4 years (Thames-Coromandel).

See the [commentary](#) and [tables](#) for more information, including annual results.

Regional population change

Year ended 30 June 2016



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Liz MacPherson, Government Statistician
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Commentary

- [Migration boost to New Zealand's population growth contributes to new record](#)
- [Population growth in most regions](#)
- [Three in four New Zealanders live in North Island](#)
- [Fastest-growing districts are in South Island](#)
- [Faster growth across Auckland local boards](#)
- [Median age differs by over 20 years across the country](#)
- [Find data tables and information about the estimates](#)

This information release contains provisional estimates of the resident population of New Zealand's 16 regional council areas (regions), 67 territorial authority areas, and 21 Auckland local board areas at 30 June 2016. Population estimates give the best available measure of the size and age-sex composition of the population usually living in each area. This is published on an annual basis.

Migration boost to New Zealand's population growth contributes to new record

New Zealand's population grew by 97,300 (2.1 percent) during the June 2016 year, to reach 4,693,000. This follows an increase of 86,000 (1.9 percent) in the previous June year. The last time New Zealand grew at a rate over 2 percent was 42 years ago.

Population growth in the latest year was due to a net international migration gain (more departures than arrivals) of 69,100, and a natural increase (more births than deaths) of 28,200. The net migration gain was the highest ever in a June year, and 10,800 higher than in the year to June 2015 (58,300).

Population growth in most regions

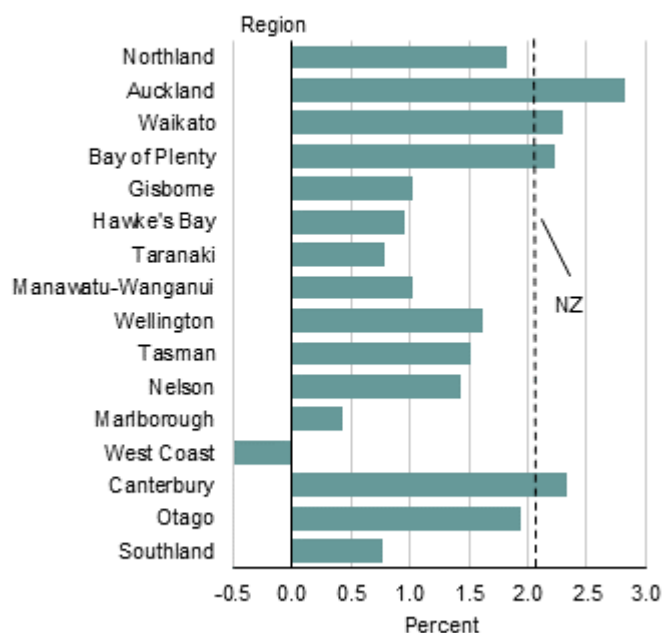
Fifteen of New Zealand's 16 regions experienced population growth during the June 2016 year. The Auckland (2.8 percent), Canterbury and Waikato (both 2.3 percent), and Bay of Plenty (2.2 percent) regions grew above the national average (2.1 percent).

Auckland was both the largest and fastest-growing region. At 30 June 2016, Auckland's population (over 1.6 million) accounted for more than one-third of New Zealand's total population. Auckland grew by 2.8 percent, with about 70 percent from net migration and the remaining from natural increase.

Net migration was the main contributor to growth in 13 of the regions, and contributed almost four-fifths to growth in South Island regions. The West Coast was the only region that had a net migration loss (more departures than arrivals). This resulted in a small population decrease (down 0.5 percent).

Regional population change

Year ended 30 June 2016



Source: Statistics New Zealand

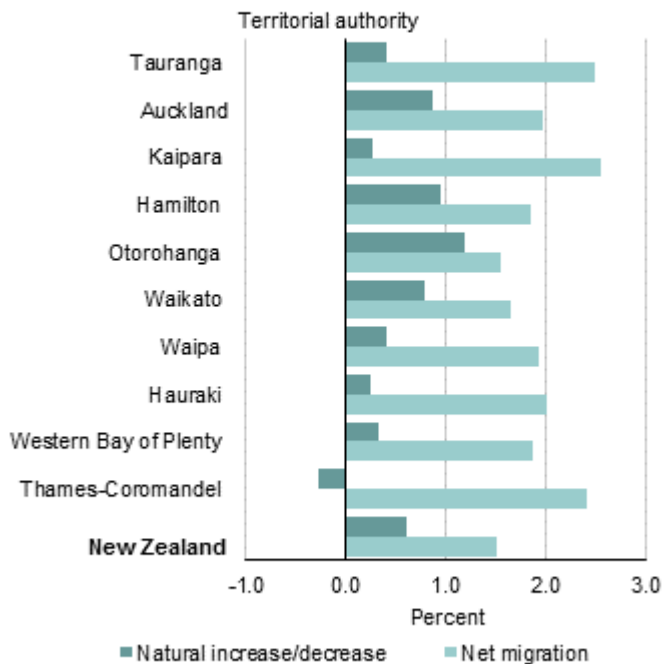
Three in four New Zealanders live in North Island

At 30 June 2016, the North Island was home for about 3.60 million people, which accounted for 77 percent of New Zealand's total population.

Overall, the North Island grew at a faster rate (2.2 percent) than the national average (2.1 percent). Most fast-growing territorial authority areas are concentrated in large cities and their surrounding neighbours. Tauranga city had the highest growth rate in the North Island during the June 2016 year (2.9 percent), followed by Auckland, Kaipara district, and Hamilton city (all 2.8 percent).

Natural increase/decrease and net migration

For fastest-growing areas in North Island
Year ended 30 June 2016



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Fastest-growing districts are in South Island

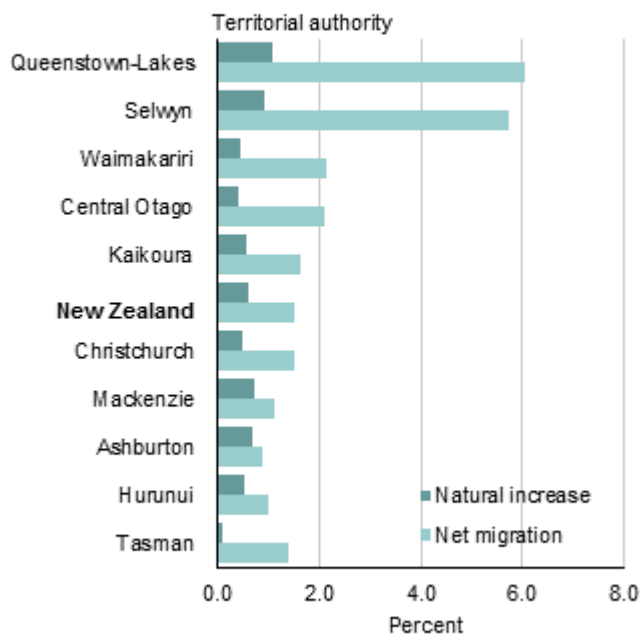
The South Island had the fastest-growing districts in the June 2016 year. Queenstown-Lakes experienced the highest growth (7.1 percent), followed by Selwyn (6.7 percent). Their growth rates were much higher than in the rest of the country. Net migration gain contributed 85 percent and 86 percent, respectively, to the total growth.

Overall, the South Island population grew by 20,100 (1.9 percent) in the year to June 2016. The growth rate for the South Island has continued to increase for the last five years since a 0.3 percent decrease due to the Christchurch earthquakes. The South Island's total increase was made up of natural increase of 4,300 and net migration of 15,800.

Of the 23 territorial authority areas in the South Island, only two had population decreases: Buller (down 1.2 percent) and Grey (down 0.6 percent).

Natural increase and net migration

For fastest-growing areas in South Island
Year ended 30 June 2016



Source: Statistics New Zealand

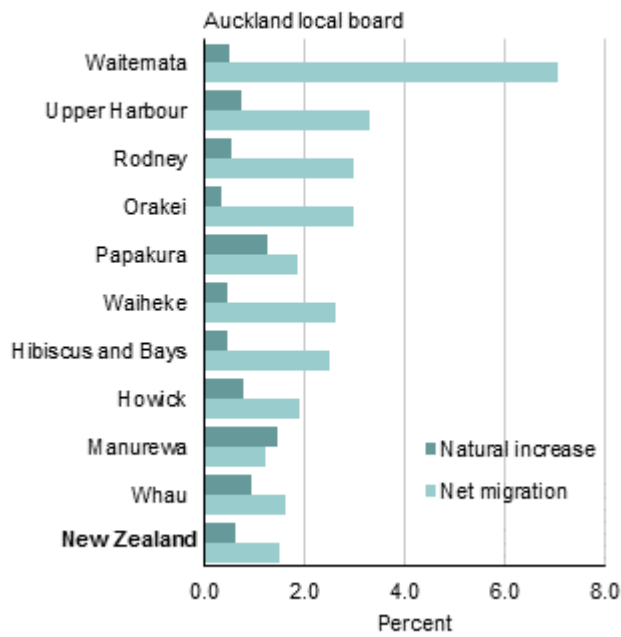
Faster growth across Auckland local boards

The population increased in all 21 local board areas within Auckland. Waitemata was the fastest-growing local board area, increasing by 7,100 (7.5 percent). The next fastest-growing areas were: Upper Harbour (4.0 percent), Rodney (3.5 percent), Orakei (3.3 percent), and Papakura and Waiheke (both 3.1 percent). The remaining areas grew at a rate between 1.2 and 3.0 percent.

All 21 local board areas experienced gains from natural increase. All but one had net migration gain. Mangere-Otahuhu had a small net migration loss.

Natural increase and net migration

For fastest-growing Auckland local board areas
Year ended 30 June 2016

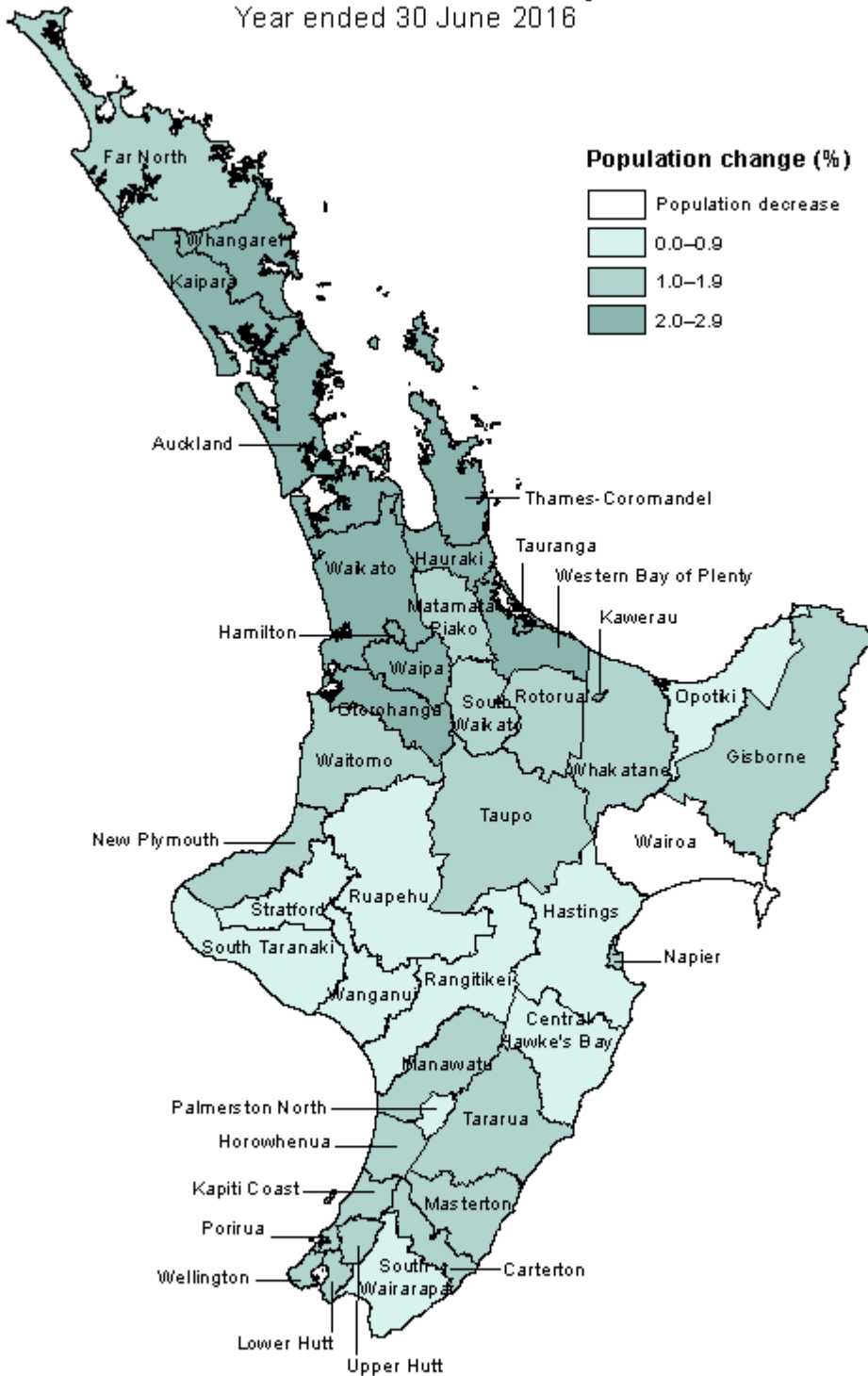


Source: Statistics New Zealand

Population change

North Island territorial authority areas

Year ended 30 June 2016

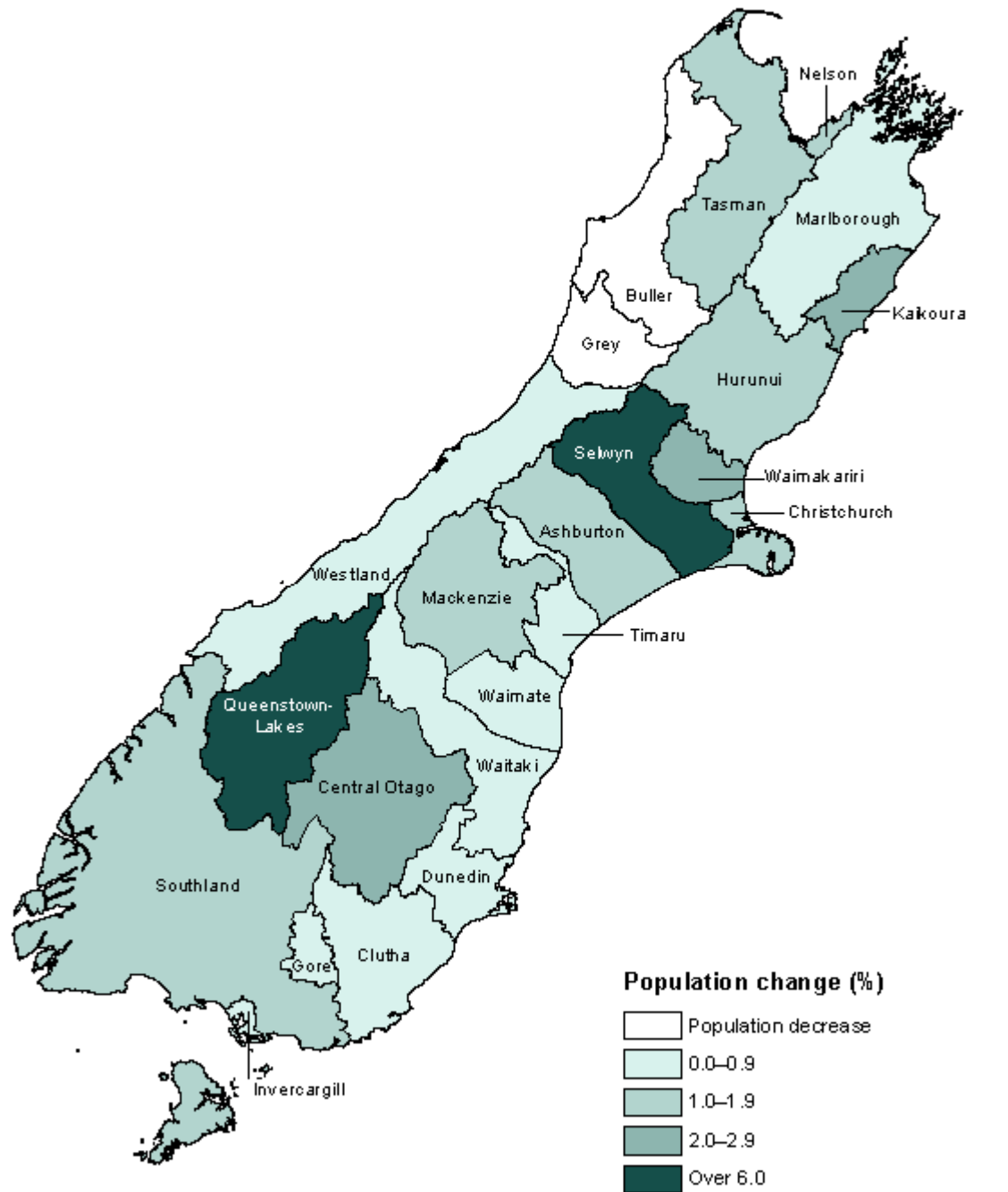


Source: Statistics New Zealand

Population change

South Island territorial authority areas

Year ended 30 June 2016

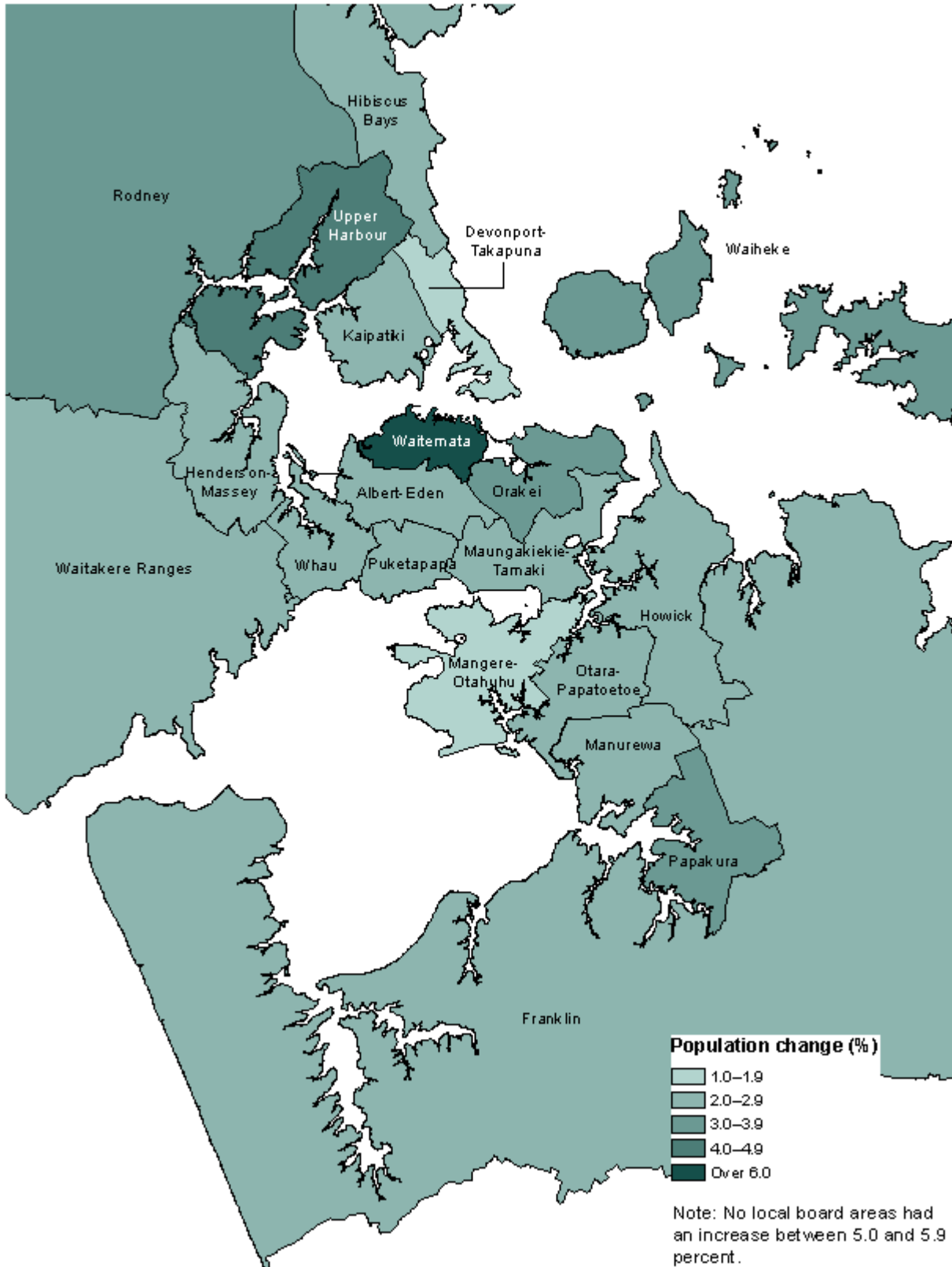


Source: Statistics New Zealand

Population change

Auckland local board areas

Year ended 30 June 2016



Source: Statistics New Zealand

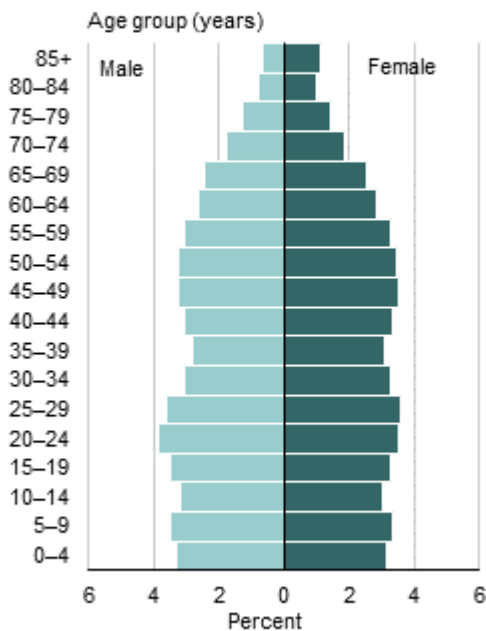
Median age differs by over 20 years across the country

Median age varies across New Zealand from 31.8 years (Hamilton) to 52.4 years (Thames-Coromandel). Of the 67 territorial authorities, 14 had a younger median age than the national average (37.1 years).

Areas with young median ages can indicate a high proportion of children living in the area. For example, Kawerau has over one-quarter of its population (25.1 percent) aged under 15 years. The national average is 19.6 percent. In other areas, such as Wellington city, which has tertiary education facilities and young working professionals, a younger median age can indicate a net inflow of young adults (aged 15–29 years).

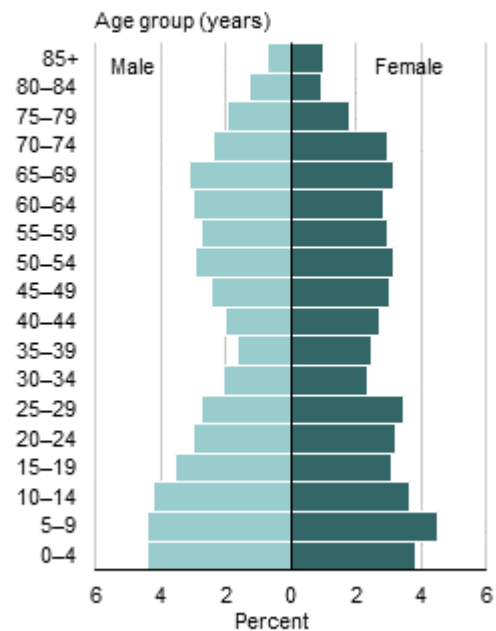
Areas with an older age structure have a higher proportion of people aged 65 years and over (65+), and are likely to have more deaths. In the June 2016 year, the Kapiti Coast, Thames-Coromandel, and Horowhenua districts were the only areas with natural decrease (more deaths than births).

New Zealand population
At 30 June 2016
(Median age = 37.1 years)



Source: Statistics New Zealand

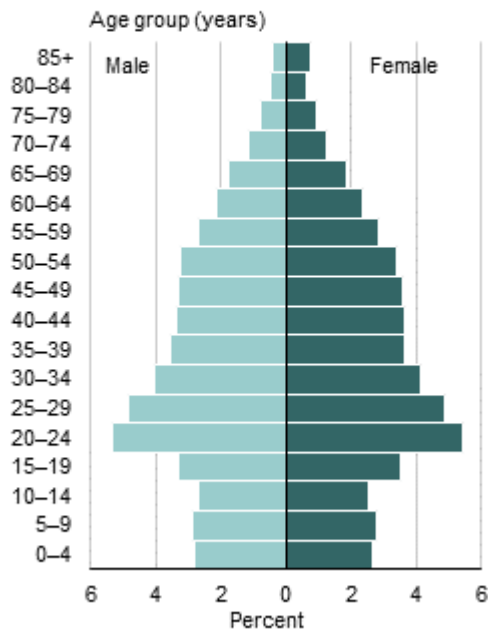
Kawerau population
At 30 June 2016
(Median age = 36.7 years)



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Wellington population

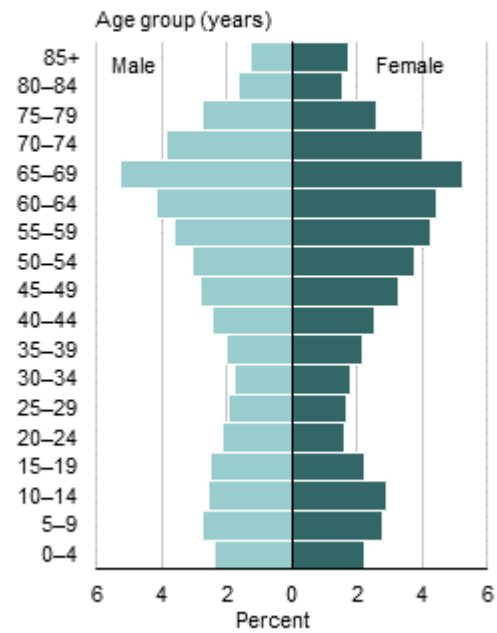
At 30 June 2016
(Median age = 33.8 years)



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Thames-Coromandel population

At 30 June 2016
(Median age = 52.4 years)



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Find data tables and information about the estimates

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

See [DataInfo+](#) for information on definitions and data quality. These sections were previously included in this release.

Related links

- [Next releases](#)
- [Past releases](#)
- [Data quality](#)
- [Related information](#)

Next releases

Final estimates for regional councils, territorial authority areas, Auckland local board areas, urban area, and area units by five-year age group and sex, at 30 June 2016, will be released on [NZ.Stat – Subnational population estimates tables](#) on 17 November 2016.

Final estimates for wards, community boards, subdivisions, constituencies, and district health boards by five-year age group and sex, at 30 June 2016, will be released on [NZ.Stat – Subnational population estimates tables](#) in December 2016.

Subnational Population Estimates: At 30 June 2017 (provisional) will be released in October 2017.

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Past releases

[Subnational Population Estimates](#) has links to past releases. Note, these information releases contain provisional estimates.

[Subnational population estimates tables](#) has final estimates for past years.

Data quality

[Subnational Population Estimates – DataInfo+](#)

General methodology used to produce subnational population estimates statistics.

[Subnational Population Estimates concepts – DataInfo+](#)

Definitions of terms used in this release.

[Principles and protocols for producers of Tier 1 statistics](#)

Statistics in this release are produced in accordance with the Official Statistics System principles and protocols for producers of Tier 1 statistics for quality. They conform to the Statistics NZ Methodological Standard for Reporting of Data Quality.

Related information

[Evaluation of alternative data sources for population estimates](#) assesses a diverse range of existing administrative and commercial data sources that might be useful for producing subnational population estimates.

Evaluation of administrative data sources for subnational population estimates describes the potential for four administrative data sources to improve subnational population estimates, building on the paper above.

National Population Estimates show quarterly and annual changes in the population of New Zealand.

Subnational Population Projections indicate the future population of regional council and territorial authority areas.

Area unit population projections indicate the future population of area units ('suburbs').

Local population trends has graphs and tables for each regional council, territorial authority, and Auckland local board area.

How accurate are population estimates and projections? An evaluation of Statistics New Zealand population estimates and projections, 1996–2013 evaluates the accuracy of recent national and subnational population estimates and projections.

Measuring uncertainty in the 2013-base estimated resident population evaluates the accuracy of recent national and subnational population estimates and projections.

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Tables

See the Excel tables in the 'Downloads' box on this page. If you have problems viewing the files, see [opening files and PDFs](#).

1. Estimated resident population, regional council areas, at 30 June 2013, 2015, and 2016
2. Estimated resident population, territorial authority and Auckland local board areas, at 30 June 2013, 2015, and 2016
3. Estimated resident population by broad age group, regional council areas, at 30 June 2013, 2015, and 2016
4. Estimated resident population by broad age group, territorial authority and Auckland local board areas, at 30 June 2013, 2015, and 2016
5. Components of population change, regional council areas
6. Components of population change, territorial authority and Auckland local board areas

Estimated resident population 2013-base available on NZ.Stat

[Use NZ.Stat](#) to access subnational resident population data. For subnational population estimates tables, select the following:

Data by theme: **Population estimates**

Tables available:

1. [Subnational population estimates \(RC, AU\), by age and sex, at 30 June 1996, 2001, 2006–16 \(2017 boundaries\)](#)
2. [Subnational population estimates \(TA, AU\), by age and sex, at 30 June 1996, 2001, 2006–16 \(2017 boundaries\)](#)
3. [Subnational population estimates \(UA, AU\), by age and sex, at 30 June 1996, 2001, 2006–16 \(2017 boundaries\)](#)
4. [Subnational population component changes and median age \(RC, TA\), at 30 June 2013–16 \(2017 boundaries\)](#)

Once finalised on 17 November 2016, the estimates will be updated on [NZ.Stat – Subnational population estimates tables](#).

[More information about NZ.Stat](#) can be found on our website.

Access more data on Infoshare

[Use Infoshare](#) to access time-series data specific to your needs. For this release, select the following categories from the homepage:

Subject category: **Population**
Group: **Population Estimates**

The time series can be downloaded in Excel or comma delimited format. More information [about Infoshare](#) can be found on our website.

Next releases

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