

Families and households



- Around two thirds of all households in most of the eight cities contain one family.
- The number of households in Waitakere and Manukau grew by 10% more than the whole of New Zealand from 1991 to 2001.
- Manukau's rate of households with two families was more than four times that of the rest of New Zealand in 2001.

WHAT THIS IS ABOUT

Household composition can reflect the impact of changing social trends (e.g. later marriages, lower fertility rates and independent living), economic pressures (such as housing costs, tertiary education fees and incomes) and cultural preferences (e.g. extended family and intergenerational living). Changes in the number of households and people's living arrangements can have major implications for urban communities and their environments. These issues can directly impact on the appropriateness of existing housing stock, the types of dwellings people choose to live in, the amount of residential land used, the location of housing, and growth in associated social and physical infrastructure. Changing household composition can also have an impact on the demand for housing.

This section includes a number of Census derived measures that reflect the living arrangements within New Zealand's eight largest cities. Measures for this indicator include:

- Number of households
- Household composition
- Average household size (occupancy rates)
- Family type.

WHAT DID WE FIND?

Number of households

The number of households increased in the majority of our largest cities between 1991 and 2001, most at a greater rate than either the rest of New Zealand or the whole of New Zealand. The exceptions were Dunedin, Wellington and Christchurch. Over that same period Waitakere experienced the greatest percentage growth (24.2%) in households, (which was 10% higher than the whole of New Zealand), followed closely by Manukau (23.7%) and North Shore (21.3%).

TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS IN PRIVATE OCCUPIED DWELLINGS (1991, 1996, 2001)									
	1991	1996	2001	Change 1991 - 1996		Change 1996 - 2001		Change 1991 - 2001	
				Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
North Shore	54,411	60,327	66,015	5,916	10.9	5,688	9.4	11,604	21.3
Waitakere	44,826	50,049	55,653	5,223	11.7	5,604	11.2	10,827	24.2
Auckland	112,071	121,023	130,527	8,952	8.0	9,504	7.9	18,456	16.5
Manukau	67,140	74,157	83,019	7,017	10.5	8,862	12.0	15,879	23.7
Hamilton	34,737	37,515	40,962	2,778	8.0	3,447	9.2	6,225	17.9
Wellington	55,482	58,713	61,809	3,231	5.8	3,096	5.3	6,327	11.4
Christchurch	107,223	115,803	121,830	8,580	8.0	6,027	5.2	14,607	13.6
Dunedin	41,145	42,864	43,290	1,719	4.2	426	1.0	2,145	5.2
Rest of NZ	660,627	707,640	741,156	47,013	7.1	33,516	4.7	80,529	12.2
Total NZ	1,177,665	1,268,094	1,344,267	90,429	7.7	76,173	6.0	166,602	14.1

Data source: Statistics New Zealand - totals rounded.

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Household composition

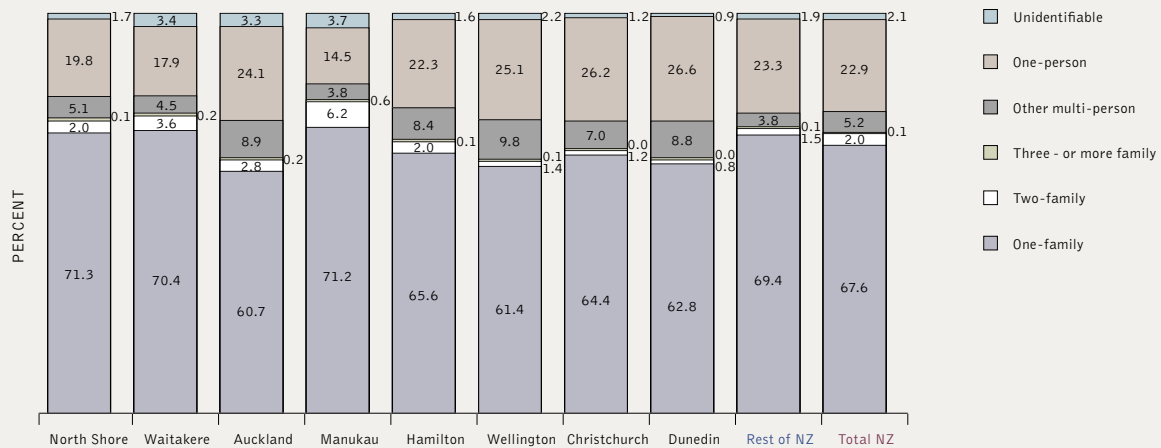
Household living arrangements in our big cities are becoming a lot more complex, with greater variations in the types of households and the length of time these households remain together. This measure looks at the different combinations of family and non-family households living in our cities.

One-family households remain the most common type of household both in our larger cities and in the rest of New Zealand. Around two thirds of all households in most of the eight cities contain one family. The proportion of one-family households is slightly lower in Auckland and Wellington, where there are higher proportions of one-person and other multi-person households. Wellington, Dunedin, Auckland, Christchurch and Hamilton all contain tertiary institutions and all have consistently higher proportions of non-family households than the rest of New Zealand.

In 2001, Manukau's rate of households with two families was 6.2%. This was more than four times that of the rest of New Zealand at 1.5%.

HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION (2001)

Data source: Statistics New Zealand, Census 2001



Average household size

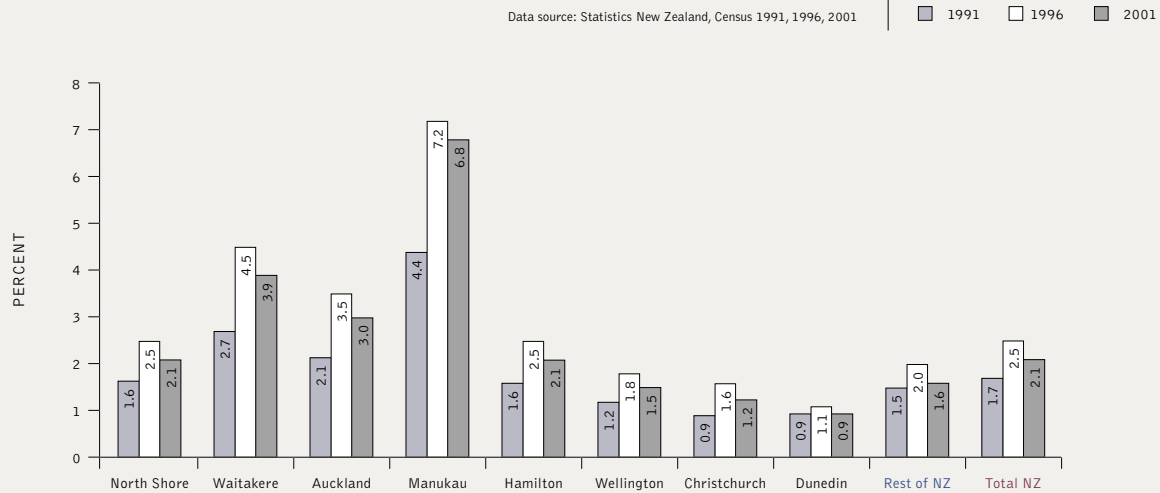
The average household size in the eight cities remained largely static in the ten years to 2001 compared to the rest of New Zealand. Due to the generally larger number of one-person households in the largest cities compared to the rest of New Zealand, the trend of declining household size may be to some extent being masked.

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PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH TWO OR MORE FAMILIES RESIDENT (1991, 1996, 2001)



Some of the reasons why households are getting smaller include: the general ageing of the population, meaning more older people living alone after partners have died; more women choosing not to marry and have children; smaller family sizes because of changed aspirations and the rising cost of raising children; delayed relationship formation; and delayed parenting by young people due to debt.

It is anticipated that this long-term trend will continue in the future as families get smaller and city populations progressively age.

AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD SIZE (1991, 1996, 2001)

	Average number of household members		
	1991	1996	2001
North Shore	2.8	2.8	2.8
Waitakere	3.1	3.1	3.0
Auckland	2.7	2.8	2.8
Manukau	3.4	3.4	3.4
Hamilton	2.9	2.9	2.8
Wellington	2.7	2.7	2.6
Christchurch	2.7	2.7	2.6
Dunedin	2.8	2.7	2.6
Total 8 cities	2.8	2.9	2.8
Rest of NZ	3.3	3.3	2.7
Total NZ	2.9	2.8	2.7

Data source: Statistics New Zealand, Census 1991, 1996, 2001

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FAMILY TYPE¹⁸

Like household composition patterns generally, family living arrangements are becoming a lot more complex in our cities, with greater variations in the types of families now occurring. These trends mirror national patterns, but tend to be more exaggerated in bigger cities.

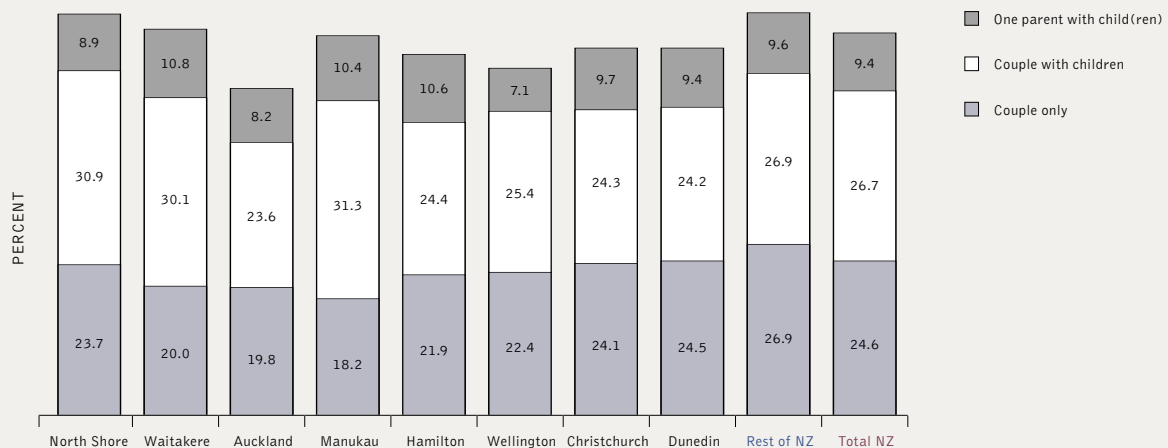
Census data shows that there have been marked changes in the composition of one-family households in our large cities. While the traditional family, comprising two parents and at least one child, is still the dominant family type, it now accounts for a smaller share of total families than it did ten years ago.

The decline in two parent families in larger cities is similar to national trends. Dunedin has seen the greatest decline in this category (18.2%) followed by Christchurch (8.0%) and Hamilton (6.3%). Figures for the rest of New Zealand (12.6%) and total New Zealand (7.6%) show that this is a trend throughout the nation.

Manukau, Waitakere and North Shore have a higher proportion of couple with children families than other large cities, the rest of New Zealand and New Zealand as a whole. An increase in the number of couples without children, and in one-parent families has had a big influence on this pattern.

FAMILY TYPE AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS IN PRIVATE OCCUPIED DWELLINGS (2001)

Data source: Statistics New Zealand, Census 2001



A relatively recent phenomenon is the rise in the number of blended family living arrangements, including step children and half siblings. Another family group, which differs in makeup in our large cities compared to the rest of New Zealand, are couple-only families. There are two distinct groups within this family category; first, couples whose children have become independent adults and left home; and second, those who have chosen not to have children, are unable to do so or who have not yet begun childbearing.

The number of couple-only families is rising in the largest cities. Hamilton saw the greatest percentage increase in this category between 1991 and 2001 (18.1% or 1,374 people), followed by Manukau and Wellington with 16.7% (2,160 people) and 14.7% (2,007 people) respectively.

The one-parent family is an important category to track as it is often reflected in other indicators of disadvantage - a large number of one-parent families are reliant on welfare or have low incomes. This impacts on their ability to meet basic needs and participate in their communities.

¹⁸ The concept of 'family' explored in the Census is fairly ethnocentric and is still based around predominantly European definitions of nuclear family structures. As our cities are becoming more diverse ethnically and socially it may be beneficial to broaden definitions of family in order to explore the more complex notions of households.

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The number of one-parent families as a proportion of all family types has continued to rise over the last decade. The increases have been steady but not large. A range of factors can influence these trends, including increased divorce and separation, and falling marriage rates as couples delay or avoid formal marriage ties.

PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN FAMILY TYPE (1991 TO 2001)										
	North Shore	Waitakere	Auckland	Manukau	Hamilton	Wellington	Christchurch	Dunedin	Rest of NZ	Total NZ
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Couple only	14.7	12.5	10.9	16.7	18.1	14.5	13.8	12.2	21.8	18.5
Couple only with others	77.7	76.1	77.0	63.6	92.9	52.4	77.6	67.8	63.6	68.6
Couple with children	7.1	-1.1	10.3	3.1	-6.3	-0.9	-8.0	-18.2	-12.6	-7.6
Couple with children and others	94.0	51.1	50.0	43.1	44.1	11.1	40.8	2.2	16.0	30.7
One parent family	32.9	27.5	2.2	17.4	18.7	12.7	16.9	11.7	18.0	17.0
One parent family with others	62.6	60.2	22.2	43.9	53.5	24.6	29.5	22.4	28.6	32.5
Two family households	55.2	81.0	61.4	86.9	60.3	44.9	48.8	5.3	20.0	43.1
Three or more families	40.0	104.5	73.5	117.3	50.0	20.0	75.0	-20.0	4.7	51.8
Total	21.9	24.6	17.5	24.3	18.7	12.2	14.1	5.8	13.6	15.2

Data source: Statistics New Zealand, Census 1991, 1996, 2001

PEOPLE

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

ECONOMIC STANDARD OF LIVING

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

HOUSING

HEALTH

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

BUILT ENVIRONMENT

SAFETY

SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS

CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS