

Population growth

- City populations make up 45.9% of New Zealand's population.
- City populations have grown at a fast pace, especially in the Auckland region. Migration inflows have been a strong driver of this growth.
- City populations are very mobile with over 40% of residents shifting address in the last five years.

WHAT THIS IS ABOUT

Significant increases or declines in population have major effects on infrastructure, the economy and the nature of the city, such as future resource use and demand for goods and services. Tracking population growth in our largest cities ensures that funding, services and facilities are provided to meet the needs of fast growing communities. Population growth patterns also provide background information for other demographic trends.

This indicator covers the annual percentage population growth in cities using Census data. Measures for this indicator include:

- Population growth
- Internal migration
- Net external migration.

WHAT DID WE FIND?

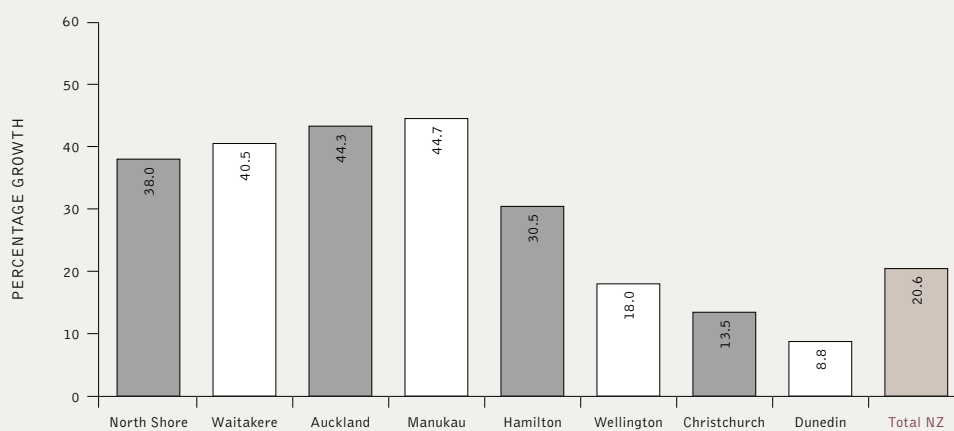
Population growth

Between 1996 and June 2001 population growth in New Zealand averaged around 3.3%, while growth in the eight largest cities averaged 5.3%. One of the main contributors to population growth in the largest cities is inward migration of people looking for employment and other economic opportunities. This is especially the case in the Auckland region where cities are growing at a greater rate than the rest of New Zealand.

Manukau experienced the highest population growth rate (11.4%) of the eight cities between 1996 and 2001, due to a combination of higher rates of natural increase than other cities and inward migration.

PROJECTED POPULATION GROWTH (2001 TO 2021)

Data source: Statistics New Zealand.



Population growth

Continued...



Population growth in all cities and in the rest of New Zealand was lower over the 1996-2001 period than over the 1991-1996 period. This was in large part due to higher migration outflows between 1996 and 2001 and declining rates of natural increase. There is now evidence that the tide is turning, with strong population inflows to New Zealand of returning expatriate residents and of new migrants seeking security in a time of world instability. It is estimated that since 2001, a further 123,381 people have made New Zealand's eight largest cities their home (over 60% of the nation's growth since 2001).

	2001 (March Census)	2001 (June est.)	2002 (June est.)	2006 (projection)	2011 (projection)	2016 (projection)	2021 (projection)
North Shore	184,821	194,200	198,900	216,000	229,200	242,200	255,100
Waitakere	168,753	176,200	180,700	195,600	209,600	223,300	237,100
Auckland	367,734	388,800	401,500	437,900	468,400	499,400	530,600
Manukau	283,200	298,200	307,100	333,400	358,800	383,900	409,700
Hamilton	114,921	119,500	122,000	129,200	136,100	142,900	150,000
Wellington	163,824	171,100	174,600	180,300	184,900	189,100	193,300
Christchurch	316,224	327,200	332,100	339,900	346,900	352,900	358,800
Dunedin	114,342	119,300	120,300	122,200	123,000	123,700	124,400
Rest of NZ	2,023,461	2,086,000	2,101,600	Not calculated			
Total NZ	3,737,277	3,880,500	3,938,800	4,109,300	4,248,300	4,378,600	4,505,900

Data source: Statistics New Zealand - totals rounded.

It is projected that 74.3% of New Zealand's total population growth in the next 19 years will take place in the eight largest cities, with the four cities in the Auckland region accounting for 60% of that growth.

Manukau is projected to become New Zealand's second largest city by around 2011 (currently Christchurch). This is in large part due to higher rates of natural increase among the Pacific Islands and Maori populations. Christchurch has a predominantly European population, an ethnic group that is trending toward lower birth rates throughout the country.

Internal migration

Internal migration is the movement of population within the national boundaries of a country, resulting from changes of usual residence. It is a significant contributor to population growth and decline in various locations. Internal migration is categorised as people usually resident in New Zealand aged five years or more in the 2001 Census who were not living in the same area five years prior to the Census.⁵

At any given time there are a large number of New Zealanders who are changing address. The 2001 Census found that more than half (52.1%) of people aged five years and over had lived at their current address for less than five years, and almost one in four had lived there for less than a year.⁶

Of the eight cities, Auckland, Christchurch and Manukau have experienced greater levels of internal migration, with overall inflows of 120,000 to 160,000 individuals between 1996 and 2001. Most cities experienced inflows of people that represented 40% to 45% of the total population of the city. Hamilton gained over half of its population increase (52.6%) between Census periods through internal migration, a greater percentage than any of the other largest cities.

³ The resident population estimates were obtained by updating Census usually resident population counts at 6 March 2001, for births, deaths and net migration of residents during the period 7 March 2001 to 30 June 2001. The base population has also been adjusted for the number of residents undercounted by the Census, as measured by the 2001 Post-enumeration Survey, and for the estimated number of residents temporarily overseas.

⁴ Medium scenario. These projections have as a base the estimated resident population of each area at 30 June 2001. Note that figures are rounded and therefore totals might not agree.

⁵ The following groups of people were excluded: people who did not specify a usual New Zealand address for Census night 2001 or five years earlier (1996) and were classified as having 'no fixed abode', or had an 'overseas' or 'New Zealand not further defined' address. Definition taken from Statistics New Zealand website 27 February 2003.

⁶ Statistics New Zealand.

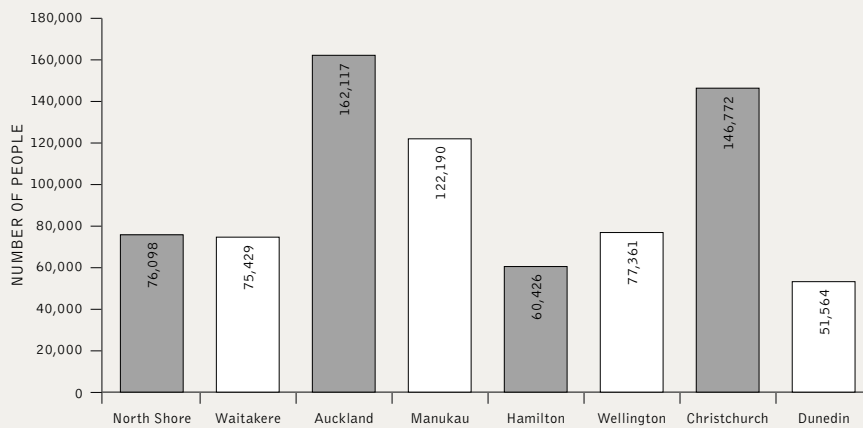
Population growth

Continued...

Generally speaking, much of the internal migration flow takes place within the main urban areas. This is largely a factor of the proportion of New Zealand's population who live in our largest cities (45.9%). Of the 1.7 million New Zealanders who changed their usual address within New Zealand between 1996 and 2001, 71.8% were living in main urban areas.⁷

INTERNAL MIGRATION (1996 TO 2001)

Data source: Statistics New Zealand



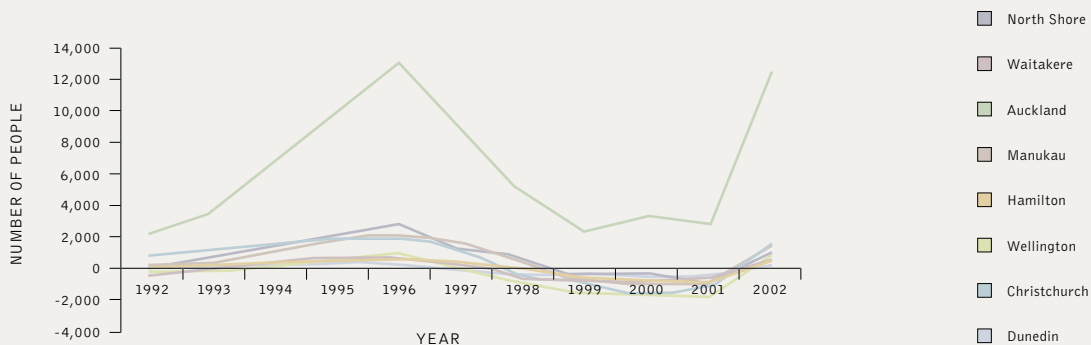
Net external migration

Net external migration is the number of overseas arrivals into each city less the number of overseas departures. This measure highlights the number of New Zealand nationals and migrants arriving and leaving our large cities. Net external migration is a key component of population growth and in New Zealand cities is one of the key drivers of variations in the rate of growth. While external migration data is useful in determining the number of arrivals from overseas it should be considered alongside ethnicity data which is perhaps a better reflection of where external migrants choose to settle.⁸

All of the eight cities saw a peak in external migration around 1996, which was followed by a period of decline for most of the late 1990s. External migration picked up again in 2001, with all cities seeing large increases in external migration in 2001 and 2002. This trend is consistent with national external migration over the same time period.

NET EXTERNAL MIGRATION (1992 TO 2002)

Data source: Statistics New Zealand, INFOS time series



⁷ Statistics New Zealand.

⁸ External migration data should be treated with some caution: While Auckland appears to be well above the other large cities in terms of net migration, this may be partly due to the fact that when filling out the Customs arrival card, people often do not discern the difference between Auckland city and other cities in the Auckland region. As well as this, Auckland may also be the first stop for many migrants who are unsure where they intend to live on a permanent basis.