

Annual Population Report 2019

Overview

Significant revisions have been made by Statistics New Zealand to the June 2018 population estimates it published last year. The total New Zealand population is now smaller than previously estimated in 2018, but the population of the Manawatū-Whanganui region is now larger than previously estimated.

The population of the Manawatū region is estimated to have reached 120,000 people as at 30 June 2019, increasing by 1,600 people (1.4% increase) in the past 12 months. Estimated population growth for New Zealand was 1.6%.

Palmerston North's population is estimated to have increased by 1,000 people in the last 12 months, an increase of 1.2%, reaching 88,300 as at 30 June 2019.

Manawatū District's population is estimated to have increased to 31,700 as at June 2019, increasing by 700 people, 2.2% increase, in the last year.

The Manawatū-Whanganui region population is estimated to have reached 249,700 people, increasing by 3,500 people in the year to June 2019, an increase of 1.4%. This is the largest annual increase in the annual population estimates series, which began in 1991.

Annual population estimates

Annual provisional population estimates were released by Statistics New Zealand on 22 October, which show the population of the Manawatū region reached 120,000 in June 2019. The Statistics New Zealand estimates suggest the region's population increased by 1,600 people from June 2018, an increase of 1.4%. The strongest rate of population growth in the region was in the 65 years and over age group, which increased by 3.3% between 2018 and 2019. The weakest growth was in the 40 – 64 years age group, which increased by 0.3% in the last year.

Estimated population by age group			
Age group	30 June 2018	30 June 2019	Annual change
Palmerston North city			
0-14 Years	17,200	17,300	0.6%
15-39 Years	32,900	33,400	1.5%
40-64 Years	24,700	24,800	0.4%
65 Years and over	12,500	12,800	2.4%
Total	87,300	88,300	1.2%
New Zealand			
0-14 Years	948,600	957,500	0.9%
15-39 Years	1,632,300	1,661,700	1.8%
40-64 Years	1,516,400	1,529,100	0.8%
65 Years and over	743,700	768,800	3.4%
Total	4,841,000	4,917,000	1.6%

Source: Statistics New Zealand

The median age of the City's population is estimated to have remained at 33.9 years in June 2019, while the median age for Manawātū district increased from 41.2 to 41.3 years between 2018 and 2019. The median age for the New Zealand population is estimated to have increased from 37.3 years in 2018 to 37.4 years in 2019. New Zealand's median age peaked at 37.6 years in 2013 but declined between 2013 and 2018. A decline in the number of people migrating overseas and an increase in the number of people arriving from overseas contributed to the decline in the median age.

Manawātū-Whanganui region

The Manawātū-Whanganui region population is estimated to have increased by 3,500 people between June 2018 and June 2019, an annual increase of 1.4%.

Natural population growth in the Manawātū-Whanganui region (the difference between births and deaths) was 900 people while migration contributed an additional 2,600 people. The region had the eighth fastest growth rate out of the sixteen regions. Regions which experienced a weaker rate of population growth than the Manawātū-Whanganui region in the year to June 2019 were Hawke's Bay, Taranaki, Wellington, Nelson, Gisborne, Marlborough, Southland and West Coast.

Estimated population as at 30 June			2018 to 2019 change	
	2018	2019	Number ¹	% change
Manawatū district	31,100	31,700	700	2.2%
Horowhenua district	34,300	35,000	700	2.1%
Rangitīkei district	15,500	15,750	250	1.7%
Whanganui district	46,700	47,300	600	1.2%
Palmerston North city	87,300	88,300	1,000	1.2%
Tararua district	18,500	18,650	150	0.9%
Ruapehu district	12,650	12,750	100	0.6%
<i>Manawatū region</i>	<i>118,400</i>	<i>120,000</i>	<i>1,600</i>	<i>1.4%</i>
<i>Horizons North-West</i>	<i>74,850</i>	<i>75,800</i>	<i>950</i>	<i>1.3%</i>
<i>Horizons South-East</i>	<i>171,200</i>	<i>173,650</i>	<i>2,450</i>	<i>1.4%</i>
Total Manawatū-Whanganui region	246,200	249,700	3,500	1.4%
New Zealand	4,841,000	4,917,000	76,000	1.6%

¹Note: rounding of the population estimates means the reported increase in the number of people on an annual basis is different from the difference between the June 2018 and June 2019 totals.

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Manawatū district and Horowhenua district had the fastest rates of population growth in the Manawatū-Whanganui region, with annual growth rates of 2.2% and 2.1% respectively between 2018 and 2019.

Comparison with other Cities

Auckland is estimated to have accounted for 22% of total population growth over the last year, but its growth rate of 1.5% was slightly below the 1.6% growth rate for New Zealand.

Palmerston North has a 1.8% share of the national population and is the 9th largest territorial authority – the largest territorial authorities ranked by size are Auckland, Christchurch, Wellington, Hamilton, Tauranga, Dunedin, Lower Hutt and Whangarei.

Estimated population as at 30 June			2018 to 2019 change	
Major urban area	2018	2019	Number	% change
Tauranga city	140,800	144,700	3,900	2.7%
Whangarei district	93,700	96,000	2,300	2.5%
Hamilton city	165,900	169,500	3,600	2.2%
New Plymouth district	83,100	84,400	1,300	1.6%
Auckland	1,618,400	1,642,800	24,400	1.5%
Rotorua district	74,000	75,100	1,000	1.4%
Napier city	64,100	65,000	900	1.4%
Christchurch city	380,200	385,500	5,300	1.4%
Hastings district	84,000	85,000	1,000	1.2%
Palmerston North city	87,300	88,300	1,000	1.2%
Lower Hutt city	107,600	108,700	1,100	1.0%
Dunedin city	130,500	131,700	1,300	1.0%
Wellington city	209,000	210,400	1,400	0.7%
New Zealand	4,841,000	4,917,000	76,000	1.6%

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Revisions to June 2018 population estimates

Major urban area revisions

Statistics New Zealand has made substantial revisions to the population estimates previously published for June 2018. The revisions are based on a change in approach taken by Statistics New Zealand for measuring long-term overseas migration flows. The estimated population of New Zealand has been revised down by 44,500 people as a result of these changes.

The largest revision was for Auckland, where Statistics New Zealand has estimated it had overstated its June 2018 population by 77,500 people. Among the major cities, downwards revisions only occurred in university cities, where the reductions from the original estimates ranged from a 4.8% reduction in Auckland to a 0.2% reduction in Dunedin.

Change in estimated population as at 30 June 2018				
Major urban area	Original estimate	Revised estimate	Revision	
	Number	Number	Number	% change
Tauranga city	135,000	140,800	5,800	4.1%
Hastings district	80,600	84,000	3,400	4.0%
Whangarei district	91,400	93,700	2,300	2.5%
Napier city	62,800	64,100	1,300	2.0%
Rotorua district	72,500	74,000	1,500	2.0%
Lower Hutt city	105,900	107,600	1,700	1.6%
New Plymouth district	81,900	83,100	1,200	1.4%
Dunedin city	130,700	130,500	-200	-0.2%
Palmerston North city	88,700	87,300	-1,400	-1.6%
Hamilton city	169,300	165,900	-3,400	-2.0%
Christchurch city	388,400	380,200	-8,200	-2.2%
Wellington city	216,300	209,000	-7,300	-3.5%
Auckland	1,695,900	1,618,400	-77,500	-4.8%
New Zealand	4,885,500	4,841,000	-44,500	-0.9%

Source: Statistics New Zealand

The current estimates for June 2018 and June 2019 are provisional and will not be finalised until 30 March, when revised estimates based on the 2018 Census will be published for 2014 to 2019.

Manawatū region revisions

The revisions to the two councils in the Manawatū region resulted in a reduction in the estimated population of Palmerston North and an increase in the estimated population of Manawatū District. There was a reduction of 1,400 people to the original estimate for Palmerston North's population as at June 2018 (from 88,700 people to 87,300) and an increase of 200 people to the original estimate for Manawatū district's population as at June 2018 (from 30,900 people to 31,100)

The biggest changes to the 2018 estimates for the Manawatū region and New Zealand were for the 15 – 39 years age group. The reduction in the Manawatū region in this age group was 1,300 people, a decline of 3.1%. This revision was expected due to a decline in tertiary student numbers in Palmerston North and nationally. The only positive revision in the estimates for the region's population was in the 0 – 14 years age group, with an increase of 300 from the original estimate.

Change in estimated population as at 30 June 2018				
Age group	Original estimate	Revised estimate	Revision	
	Number	Number	Number	% change
Palmerston North city				
0-14 Years	17,000	17,200	200	1.2%
15-39 Years	34,100	32,900	-1,200	-3.6%
40-64 Years	24,900	24,700	-200	-0.8%
65 Years and over	12,600	12,500	-100	-0.8%
Total	88,700	87,300	-1,400	-1.6%
New Zealand				
0-14 Years	944,600	948,600	4,000	0.4%
15-39 Years	1,680,800	1,632,300	-48,500	-3.0%
40-64 Years	1,513,100	1,516,400	3,300	0.2%
65 Years and over	746,900	743,700	-3,200	-0.4%
Total	4,885,500	4,841,000	-44,500	-0.9%

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Manawatū-Whanganui region revisions

The revisions by Statistics New Zealand resulted in an upwards revision of 2,500 people to the June 2018 Manawatū-Whanganui population. The revisions resulted in increases in the estimated populations of five councils in the region and reductions in two councils.

Change in estimated population as at 30 June 2018				
	Original estimate	New estimate	Revision	
	Number	Number	Number	% change
Horowhenua district	33,000	34,300	1,300	3.9%
Tararua district	17,900	18,500	600	3.4%
Whanganui district	45,200	46,700	1,500	3.3%
Rangitikei district	15,150	15,500	350	2.3%
Manawatū district	30,900	31,100	200	0.6%
Ruapehu district	12,750	12,650	-100	-0.8%
Palmerston North city	88,700	87,300	-1,400	-1.6%
<i>Manawatū region</i>	<i>119,600</i>	<i>118,400</i>	<i>-1,200</i>	<i>-1.0%</i>
<i>Horizons North-West</i>	<i>73,100</i>	<i>74,850</i>	<i>1,750</i>	<i>2.4%</i>
<i>Horizons South-East</i>	<i>170,500</i>	<i>171,200</i>	<i>700</i>	<i>0.4%</i>
Total Manawatū-Whanganui Region	243,700	246,200	2,500	1.0%
New Zealand	4,885,500	4,841,000	-44,500	-0.9%

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