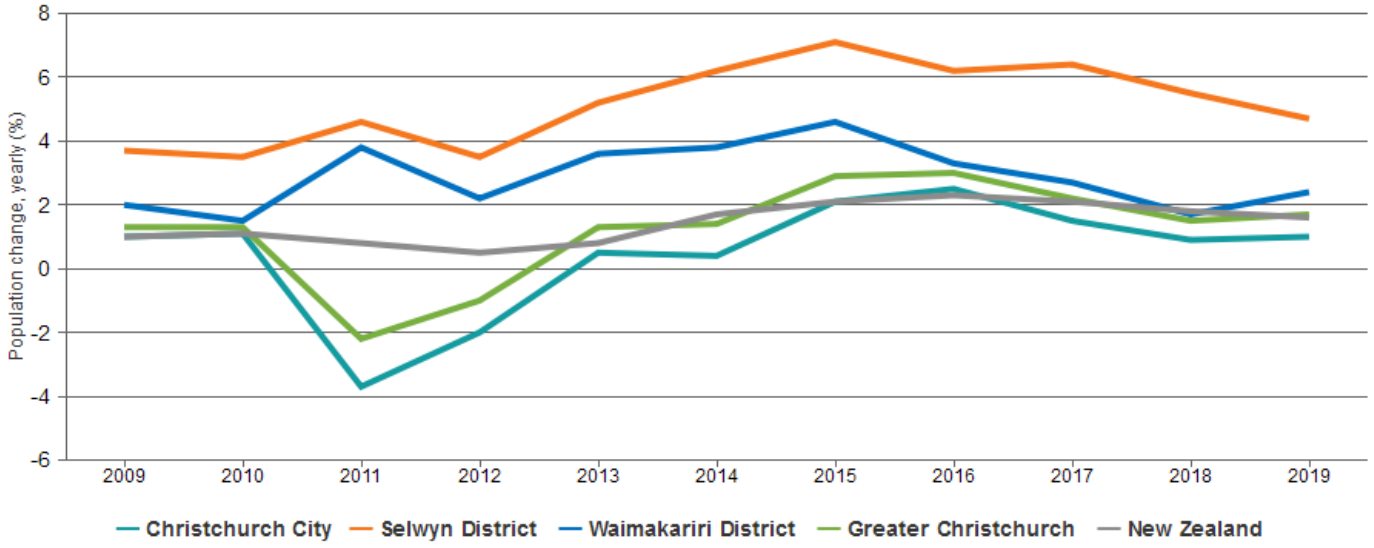
Our Population: Population change

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Population estimates produced by Statistics New Zealand estimate the annual change in the resident population. Population estimates are calculated using census data, net census undercount, residents temporarily overseas, and births, deaths and net migrations since census night [2]. Estimates are the best available measure of how many people usually live in an area each year and therefore are able to demonstrate annual fluctuations in the population, unlike the five-yearly census. This is valuable in the case of greater Christchurch, as the region has experienced unprecedented population change following the Canterbury earthquakes in September 2010 and February 2011.

This indicator presents the annual proportional change in estimated resident population for greater Christchurch, the Territorial Authorities within greater Christchurch, and New Zealand, using Statistics New Zealand data, 2009-2019.

Figure 2.1: Annual proportional change in estimated resident population for greater Christchurch, the Territorial Authorities within greater Christchurch, and New Zealand, 2009–2019



The figure shows that greater Christchurch's population has been increasing each year, since the decline seen in 2010–2011. In the year to June 2019, greater Christchurch's estimated resident population was 516,800, which was an increase of 1.7 percent from the year to June 2018, similar to the national increase of 1.6 percent over the same time period. The greater Christchurch population is dominated by Christchurch City, which had an estimated resident population of 387,7000 in the year to June 2019 and as a result the two areas show a similar trend. Until recently, Selwyn District was New Zealand's fastest growing Territorial Authority (at its peak growth, in the year to June 2017, the population increased by 6.4%), however the rate of population growth has slowed in the past two years. In the year to June 2019, Selwyn District had an estimated resident population of 66,300 (an increase of 4.7% from the previous year). In the last two years the population of Selwyn District has exceeded the population of Waimakariri District which, in the year to June 2019, was estimated to be 62,800.

Data Sources

Source: Statistics New Zealand.

Survey/data set: Subnational Population Estimates. Access publicly available data from the Statistics New Zealand website www.nzdotstat.stats.govt.nz/WBOS/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=TABLECODE7506
Source data frequency: Annually.

Metadata for this indicator is available at https://www.canterburywellbeing.org.nz/index-data

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