Our Population: Usually-resident population

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The census usually-resident population count includes residents who were present in New Zealand on census night.

This indicator presents the census usually-resident population change for greater Christchurch, the Territorial Authorities within greater Christchurch, and for New Zealand, using 2006, 2013, and 2018 Census data.

Table 1.1: Census usually resident population change for greater Christchurch, the Territorial Authorities within greater Christchurch, and New Zealand, 2006–2018

Area	Population			Change 2006-2013		Change 2013-2018	
	2006	2013	2018	Number	%	Number	%
Selwyn District	33,645	44,595	60,561	+10,950	+32.5	+15,956	+35.8
Christchurch City	348,459	341,469	369,006	-6,987	-2.0	+27,537	+8.1
Waimakariri District	42,834	49,989	59,502	+7,155	+16.7	+9,513	+19.0
Greater Christchurch	424,935	436,056	489,069	+11,118	+2.6	+53,016	+12.2
New Zealand	4,027,947	4,242,048	4,699,755	+214,101	+5.3	+457,707	+10.8

The table shows that the greater Christchurch population grew overall between 2006 and 2018. The greater Christchurch total population was 489,069 at the 2018 Census, having increased 12.2 percent since 2013. The New Zealand population increased by 10.8 percent in the same time period. The increase in greater Christchurch was largely driven by population growth in Selwyn and Waimakariri districts (35.8 and 19 percentage points, respectively) between 2013 and 2018. In 2018, Selwyn District was the second-fastest growing Territorial Authority in New Zealand, after the Queenstown-Lakes District, which had increased by 38.7 percent since 2013. In the same time period, Christchurch City experienced an increase in population size of 8.1 percent (reaching 369,006 people in 2018). This is in contrast to the decline in the Christchurch City population noted between 2006 and 2013, likely due to the impacts of the 2010 and 2011 earthquakes [1].

This indicator presents the 2018 Census usually-resident population for greater Christchurch and the Territorial Authorities within greater Christchurch, by ethnic group. As this indicator reports ethnic group total responses, people who identify with more than one ethnic group are included in each ethnic group they identify with, meaning that the percentages sum to more than 100. While, the 2018 Census had a lower than expected response rate impacting the quality and coverage of some census variables, the 2018 Census ethnicity data is rated as high quality by Statistics New Zealand.

Table 1.2: Census usually resident population for greater Christchurch, and the Territorial Authorities within greater Christchurch, by ethnic group (total responses), 2018

Area	European		Māori		Pacific		Asian		MELAA		Other	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Selwyn District	54,102	89.3	4,788	7.9	1,014	1.7	3,858	6.4	525	0.9	1,071	1.8
Christchurch City	287,307	77.9	36,642	9.9	14,178	3.18	54,984	14.9	5,580	1.5	5,007	1.4
Waimakariri District	55,299	92.9	5,097	8.6	822	1.4	1,719	2.9	249	0.4	816	1.4
Greater Christchurch	396,708	81.1	46,527	9.5	16,014	3.3	60,561	12.4	6,354	1.3	6,894	1.4
New Zealand	3,297,664	70.2	775,836	16.5	381,642	8.1	707,598	15.1	70,332	1.5	58,053	1.2

The table shows that at the time of the 2018 Census, the European ethnic group was the largest in the greater Christchurch area, with 81.1 percent of the usually resident population (396,708 people) identifying as being of European ethnicity. Over nine percent of the greater Christchurch population identified as being of Māori ethnicity and 12.4 percent identified as being of Asian ethnicity. Pacific, Middle Eastern/Latin American/African (MELAA) and Other ethnicities were identified by 3.3 percent, 1.3 percent, and 1.4 percent of the population, respectively. When compared with New Zealand overall, greater Christchurch had smaller proportions of residents identifying as being of Māori, Pacific, Asian or MELAA ethnicity. For example, 16.5 percent of the New Zealand population identified as being of Māori ethnicity, compared to just over 9.5 percent in greater Christchurch. Of the three Territorial Authorities in greater Christchurch, Christchurch City had the most ethnically diverse population in 2018, with 77.9 percent of residents identifying as European, followed by Asian (14.9%), Māori (9.9%), and Pacific (3.8%), with MELAA and Other ethnicities identified by less than two percent each. Waimakariri and Selwyn districts had similar proportions of residents identifying with different ethnicities, however Selwyn District had a slightly higher proportion of residents identifying as being of Asian ethnicity compared with Waimakariri District (6.4% and 2.9%, respectively).

Data Sources

Source: Statistics New Zealand.
Survey/data set: Census of Population and Dwellings. Access publicly available data from the Statistics New Zealand website: www.nzdotstat.stats.govt.nz/wbos/Index.aspx?DataSetCode=TABLECODE
Source data frequency: Census conducted every 5 years.

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

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