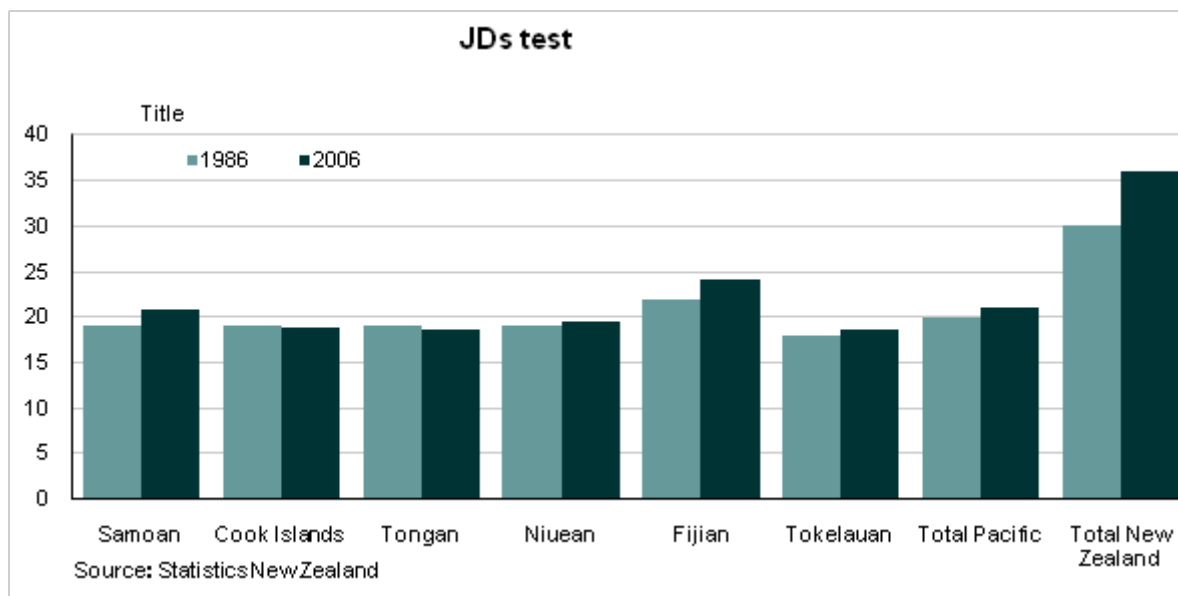


2006 Census of Population and Dwellings – Provisional Counts

Embargoed until 10:45am – 29 May 2006

Key facts

- The provisional census night population count of New Zealand on 7 March 2006 was **4,116,900**, up 296,150 (7.8 percent) from the 2001 Census.
- The South Island provisional census night population count exceeded one million for the first time.
- There has been consistent growth over the majority of the country since the 2001 Census.
- The regional council area with the greatest growth was **Auckland**, where the provisional census night population count indicated an increase of 145,060 (12.4 percent) to 1,318,700.
- The territorial authority with the greatest growth was **Queenstown-Lakes District**, with a provisional 29.2 percent increase in census night population since the 2001 Census.
- The provisional count of all occupied dwellings (private and non-private) was **1,469,700**, up 101,500 (7.4 percent) since the 2001 Census.



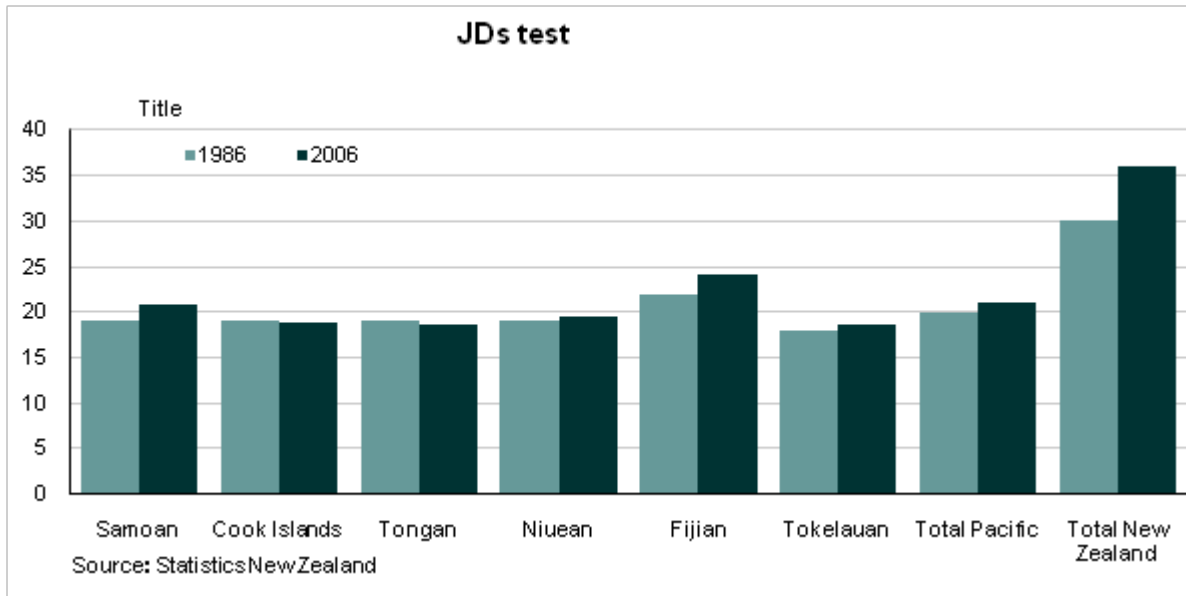
Brian Pink
Government
Statistician

1 February 2007
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Commentary

Provisional 2006 Census counts

The thirty-second New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings was held on 7 March 2006. This Hot Off The Press details the provisional census night population and dwelling counts of New Zealand's regional council and territorial authority areas. The figures provide an approximate count of where New Zealand residents and overseas visitors were in New Zealand on census night.



Users of population data need to be aware of the differences in definition and coverage when choosing a population measure. The provisional census counts provide only an early indication of the number of people that Statistics New Zealand believes to have been in different local authority areas on census night. They do not give a measure of how many people usually live in a local authority area. For planning purposes, users of population data who want an accurate measure of the number of people who usually live in an area are advised to use population estimates.

New Zealand's provisional census night population of 4,116,900 was an increase of 296,150 (7.8 percent) on the 2001 Census figure. This compares with a 3.8 percent increase in the period between the 1996 and 2001 censuses.

The North Island's census night population increased by 231,820 (8.1 percent) to 3,102,500, while in the South Island there was an increase of 64,530 (6.8 percent) to 1,013,800. The North Island has retained three-quarters of the provisional census night population. Once visitors have been excluded, the census usually resident population count of the South Island is likely to be less than one million.

There has been little change in dwelling occupancy rates. The average number of people per dwelling on census night was 2.80, marginally up on the 2.79 recorded in 2001. The 1996 Census occupancy rate was 2.87.

Trends revealed by the provisional census night figures are generally consistent with published population estimates based on the 2001 Census.

Regional council areas

Since the 2001 Census, regions indicating the greatest growth are Auckland, with a provisional census night population increase of 12.4 percent (145,060), Canterbury (8.6 percent or 42,650) and Marlborough (7.9 percent or 3,370). On census night, the provisional population count for the Gisborne Region showed an increase of 9.9 percent or 4,360. However, this increase was due to the presence of cruise ships in the oceanic Gisborne Region. Without the inclusion of these ships, the census night increase for Gisborne would be closer to 1 percent.

Auckland was the region with the highest population (1,318,700), giving it 32.0 percent of New Zealand's provisional census night population. It had more than twice as many people as the next largest regions, Canterbury and Wellington, which had census night populations of 537,600 and 451,400, respectively.

No region recorded a decrease in provisional census night population. This compares with the previous intercensal period when five regions (Southland, Gisborne, Taranaki, Manawatu-Wanganui and West Coast) recorded decreases in census night population. On census night 2006, the smallest percentage increases were for Southland (0.2 percent) and Manawatu-Wanganui (0.6 percent). This compares with decreases of 6.3 percent and 3.4 percent, respectively, in the period between the 1996 and 2001 censuses.

The regions with the smallest numerical increases were Southland (up 230 to 94,600) and Taranaki (up 920 to 103,600).

The West Coast region had the smallest census night population, with 35,500 people. The next smallest regions were Nelson and Marlborough, with 44,900 and 45,900, respectively.

Territorial authorities

Provisional census night figures show that when compared with the 2001 Census, the Queenstown-Lakes District had the greatest percentage increase (29.2 percent to 32,500) of any territorial authority. The next largest increases were for Selwyn District (22.3 percent to 34,200), Manukau City (16.4 percent to 330,600), Rodney District (15.8 percent to 89,600) and Waimakariri District (15.2 percent to 42,200).

Other territorial authorities indicating significantly above-average census night growth between 2001 and 2006 were the cities of Tauranga (up 14.0 percent to 104,700), North Shore (up 12.1 percent to 207,600) and Hamilton (up 11.8 percent to 131,700), and the districts of Central Otago (up 14.7 percent to 17,150), Franklin (up 12.8 percent to 58,600) and Papakura (up 10.5 percent to 44,600).

Territorial authorities with provisionally the greatest numerical increases were the cities of Manukau (up 46,600), Auckland (up 39,630), Christchurch (up 26,730) and North Shore (up 22,340).

The highest provisional population counts were in the cities of Auckland (419,800), Christchurch (359,900), Manukau (330,600), North Shore (207,600) and Waitakere (183,700). The five most populous districts were Rodney (89,600), Whangarei (74,100), Hastings (72,400), Rotorua (70,400) and New Plymouth (69,000).

The territorial authority with the greatest decline in the past five years was Chatham Islands Territory with a decrease of 11.2 percent to 630. Other districts showing significant percentage

decreases were Wairoa (down 7.6 percent to 8,440), South Taranaki (down 5.6 percent to 25,700) and Ruapehu (down 5.3 percent to 14,400). In the cases of Wairoa and Ruapehu, these decreases were considerably smaller than those of the previous intercensal period (9.5 percent and 17.1 percent, respectively). The provisional census night population count for South Taranaki indicates continued decline at a similar rate as for the 2001 Census count.

Far fewer territorial authorities showed a decline in census night population between 2001 and 2006 than in the previous intercensal period. In addition, the rate of decline between 2001 and 2006 is generally smaller than for areas that declined between 1996 and 2001.

In the five years since the last census, the largest numerical decline in population was recorded in South Taranaki District, with a decrease of 1,520, slightly less than in the previous intercensal period. The next largest numerical decreases were in Ruapehu District (down 800), South Waikato District (down 770) and Wairoa District (down 690).

The territorial authority with the smallest provisional census night population was Chatham Islands Territory, with 630 people. The next smallest populations were Kaikoura and Mackenzie districts with 4,810 and 5,390 people, respectively.

Dwellings

The provisional count of occupied dwellings in New Zealand on census night was 1,469,700. This was an increase of 101,500 (7.4 percent) compared with the 2001 Census, and up from the previous intercensal increase of 6.6 percent.

Additional information at area unit level

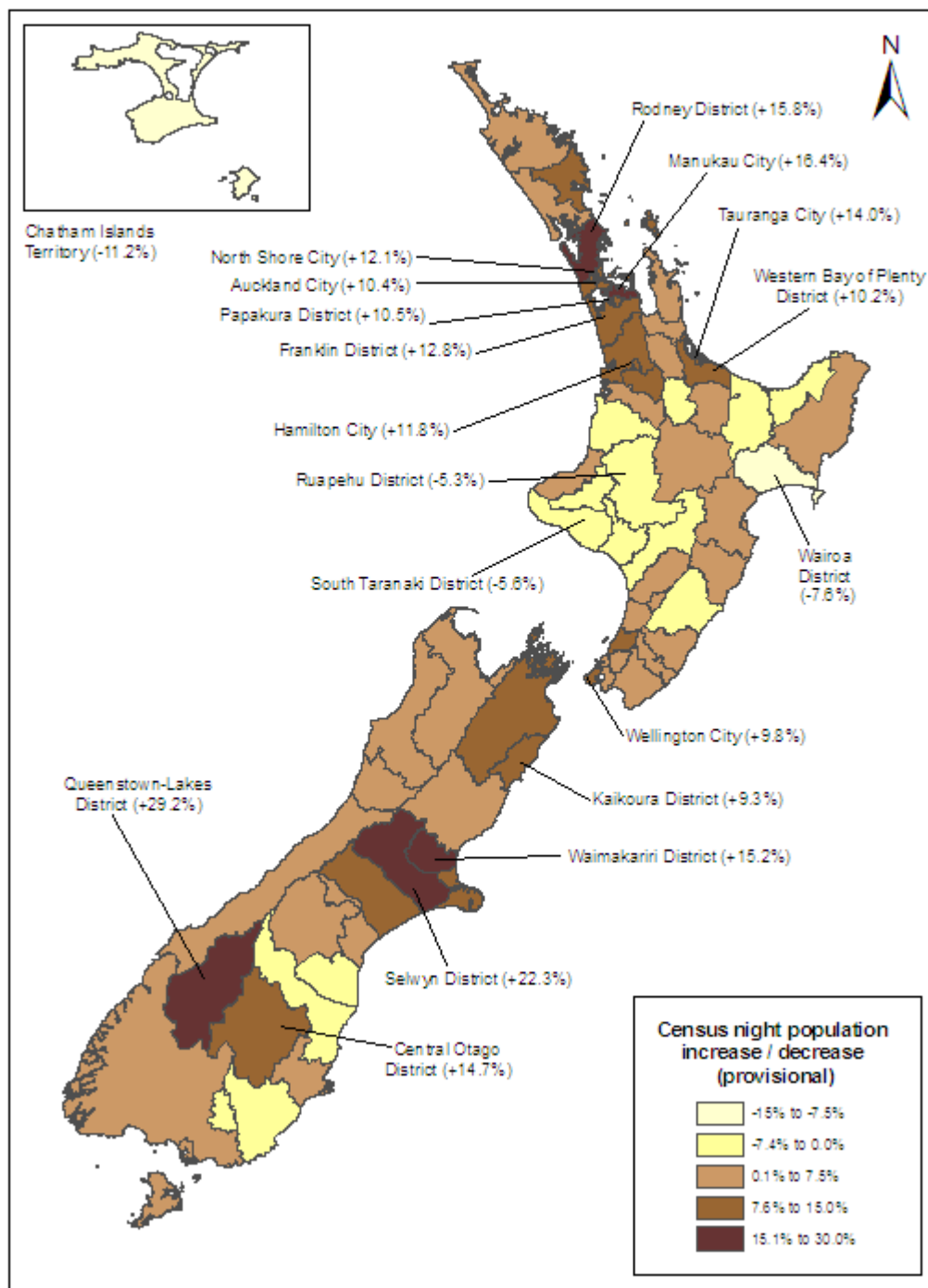
Additional information at area unit level can be found on the Statistics NZ website at www.stats.govt.nz.

Final counts

Final census population counts on a usual residence and census night basis, and counts of both occupied and unoccupied dwellings, will be available in late November 2006.

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Significant Changes in Provisional Census Night Population in Territorial Authorities between the 2001 and 2006 Censuses



Technical notes

Limitations of provisional census night counts

Users of population data need to be aware of the differences in definition and coverage when choosing a population measure. Provisional census counts provide only an early indication of the number of people that Statistics New Zealand believes to have been in different local authority areas on census night. The provisional census counts do not give a measure of how many people usually live in a local authority area. For planning purposes, local authorities and other users of population data who want an accurate measure of the number of people who usually live in an area are advised to use population estimates.

Population counts

Two sets of population counts are released from the census: census night population counts and census usually resident population counts. Census counts give a snapshot of the population, and are not adjusted for residents missed or counted more than once, or residents who are temporarily overseas.

Census night population counts are counts of the number of people at the place they were enumerated on census night. This count includes overseas visitors as well as visitors from elsewhere in New Zealand. It excludes New Zealand residents temporarily overseas.

Census usually resident population counts are counts of all people who usually live in New Zealand, or in an area of New Zealand, and are present in New Zealand on a given census night. These counts exclude visitors from overseas and exclude residents who are temporarily overseas on census night. Residents who are in New Zealand but away from their usual address on census night are allocated back to the area where they usually live and form part of the census usually resident population count of that area. These counts from the 2006 Census will be released in late November 2006.

The provisional counts

The provisional counts are early estimates of census night counts. They represent estimates based on administrative returns, not from census forms processed. Data for the provisional counts comes from the fieldbooks used by collectors. The provisional count is calculated by a count of the number of forms collected from the field as at 10 April 2006, plus the number of forms that were known to be outstanding. Outstanding forms are those which collectors have given out and recorded in their fieldbooks but which had not been collected by 10 April 2006.

The provisional counts are counts of people and occupied dwellings on census night (7 March 2006). They cover all people in New Zealand on census night including overseas visitors but excluding New Zealand residents temporarily overseas on census night.

Population estimates

Statistics New Zealand publishes population estimates at regular intervals (quarterly for national estimates and annually for subnational estimates). The population estimates refer to the estimated resident population and differ from census counts.

The estimated resident population of New Zealand includes all residents present in New Zealand and counted by the census (census usually resident population count), residents who are temporarily overseas (who are not included in the census), and an adjustment for residents missed or counted more than once by the census (net census undercount). Visitors from overseas are excluded.

Users of population data need to be aware of the differences in definition and coverage when choosing a population measure.

The current population estimates are based on the 2001 Census of Population and Dwellings. They are derived by updating the 2001 Census usually resident population counts, for net census undercount, residents temporarily overseas on census night, and natural increase (excess of births over deaths) and net permanent and long-term migration following the 2001 Census.

The latest national population estimates (at 31 March 2006) were released on 12 May 2006. The estimated resident population based on the 2006 Census will be available mid-2007. The estimated resident population based on the 2001 Census will continue to be published until the 2006-base estimates become available.

Overseas visitors and residents temporarily overseas

Estimates calculated from sampled short-term visitor arrival records indicate that there were about 184,900 short-term overseas visitors in New Zealand on census night (7 March 2006). Estimates calculated from sampled short-term New Zealand resident departure records show that there were about 58,600 New Zealand residents temporarily overseas on census night.

Data quality

The provisional counts are an estimate based on administrative records and are subject to error due to incorrect counting of figures in the fieldbook and data entry errors.

The final census counts may also be different from the provisional counts because of factors which are unknown at 10 April 2006. For example, there will be census forms that have been returned after 10 April that are not part of the provisional count. Final census counts are calculated from fully processed census forms and will be available in late November 2006.

Rounding

Provisional figures in this release have been rounded to reflect the imprecise nature of the counts, while historical data have been rounded to base three. As a result of this process, the sum of component items in tables may not be exactly equal to the totals, and totals between tables may differ. All percentages in this release have been calculated using rounded figures.

Time series

Users of the data should note that the time series data from the 1996 and 2001 censuses are final counts, obtained from the final census datasets using current (2006) geographic boundaries for regional councils and territorial authorities.

On 6 March 2006, Banks Peninsula District Council amalgamated with the Christchurch City Council. This amalgamation impacts on the release of data at the Territorial Authority level. For

the purposes of time series, Banks Peninsula data for 1996, 2001 and 2006 have been incorporated under Christchurch City.

Scope of the census

The census covers all dwellings in New Zealand on 7 March 2006 and every man, woman, child and baby alive in New Zealand on 7 March 2006 who was:

- on New Zealand soil
- on a vessel in New Zealand waters or
- on a passage between New Zealand ports.

Overseas residents and other people in diplomatic residences in New Zealand, including housekeeping staff, uniformed military personnel or members of diplomats' families, are included in the census, as are foreign military personnel and their families located in New Zealand on census night (including foreign warships in New Zealand territorial waters on census night). New Zealand military, naval and diplomatic personnel and their families located outside New Zealand on census night, are not included in the census.

The geographic coverage of the census includes the North Island, South Island, Stewart Island and the Chatham Islands, plus off-shore islands including the Kermadec Islands, Campbell Island, Three Kings Islands, Auckland Islands, Mayor Island, Motiti Island, White Island, Moutohora Island, Antipodes Islands, Bounty Islands and Snares Islands. The Ross Dependency is excluded from the population count.

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Timing

Timed statistical releases are delivered using postal and electronic services provided by third parties. Delivery of these releases may be delayed by circumstances outside the control of Statistics NZ. Statistics NZ accepts no responsibility for any such delays.

Next release ...

2006 Census of Population and Dwellings – Final Counts: 2006 will be released in late November 2006.

Tables

The following tables can be downloaded from the Statistics New Zealand website in Excel 97 format. If you do not have access to Excel 97 or higher, you may use the [Excel file viewer](#) to view, print and export the contents of the file.

List of tables

1. 2006 Census of population and dwellings, changes in census night population count for regional councils
2. 2006 Census of population and dwellings, changes in occupied dwelling count for regional councils
3. 2006 Census of population and dwellings, changes in census night population count for territorial authorities
4. 2006 Census of population and dwellings, changes in occupied dwelling count for territorial authorities

Correction

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