QuickStats About Population Mobility

2006 Census

QuickStats About Population Mobility looks at where people (including overseas visitors) were on census night, who is most and least likely to move their usual residence, and population movements between areas (or internal migration) in the five years prior to the 2006 Census. Population mobility is just one factor that contributes to population change – external migration and births and deaths also shape our changing population.

Information in this *QuickStats* is based on New Zealand's 2006 Census of Population and Dwellings, held on 7 March 2006.

Census night population

- There were 4,143,279 people in New Zealand on census night, an increase of 322,530 (8.4 percent) since the 2001 Census.
- There were 4,027,947 people who usually live (usual residents) in New Zealand on census night.
- The number of overseas visitors in New Zealand on census night almost doubled in the 10 years between 1996 and 2006 – increasing from 63,243 to reach 115,332.

Population Counts
1996, 2001 and 2006 Censuses

	1996	2001	2006
Usual residents	3,618,303	3,737,277	4,027,947
Overseas visitors	63,243	83,472	115,332
Total census night population	3,681,546	3,820,749	4,143,279

Note: The census night population is the count of all people in New Zealand on census night. It includes overseas visitors, but excludes residents who were temporarily overseas on census night.

Usual residents elsewhere in New Zealand on census night

- On census night, the proportion of people who usually lived in another city or district (territorial authority) varied from place to place. In five cities or districts, over 10 percent of people who were in that place on census night usually lived elsewhere in New Zealand. These were Chatham Islands Territory (15.2 percent), Mackenzie District (14.3 percent), Queenstown-Lakes District (11.9 percent), Thames-Coromandel District (10.4 percent) and Ruapehu District (10.2 percent).
- Waitakere City had the lowest proportion of people who usually lived elsewhere in New Zealand (2.1 percent).

Overseas visitors

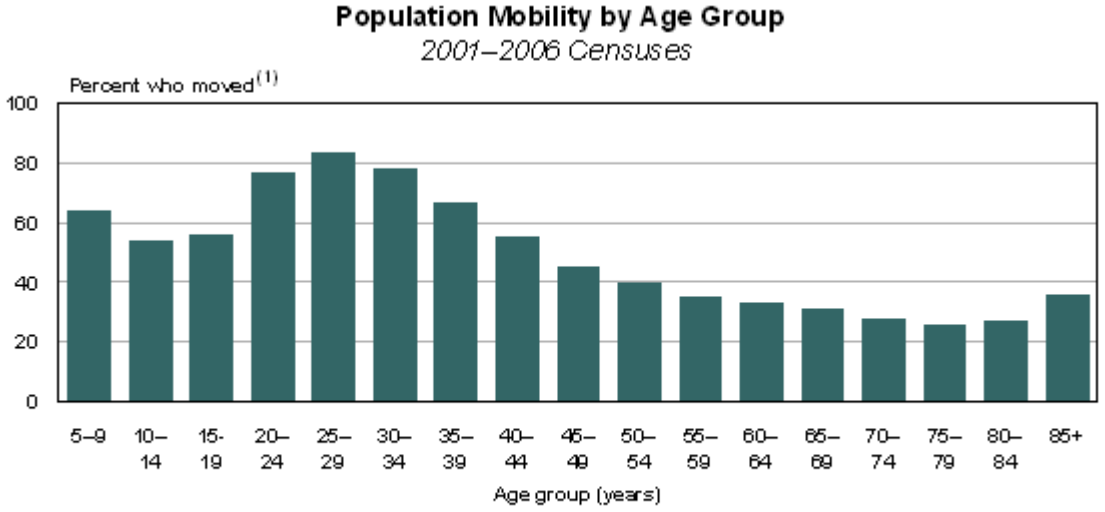
- Overseas visitors were most likely to be found in popular tourist destinations. The district with the highest proportion of overseas visitors was Queenstown-Lakes, where 1 in every 4 people (25.5 percent) counted on census night usually lived overseas. Three other districts recorded more than 1 in every 5 people as an overseas visitor on census night. They were Mackenzie (24.5 percent), Kaikoura (22.1 percent) and Westland (21.6 percent) districts.

Years at usual residence

- New Zealanders are becoming more mobile. In 2006, more than half (57.7 percent) of the total usually resident population had changed their usual residence at least once in the previous five years, and almost 1 in 4 people (24.8 percent) had moved within the past year. In 2001, the corresponding proportions were 55.4 and 24.2 percent, respectively.
- Almost 1 in 10 people (9.7 percent) in 2006 had lived at their usual residence for 20 years or more, compared with 10.7 percent in 2001.

Age

- People aged 25 to 29 years were the most mobile, with more than 8 in every 10 (83.9 percent) having moved at least once in the five years prior to the 2006 Census. The least mobile age group was people aged 75 to 79 years, where only around 1 in 4 (26.4 percent) had moved during this time.
- In general, mobility declines with increasing age, except in the oldest age groups. In 2006, more than 1 in every 3 people (36.7 percent) aged 85 years and over had moved at least once in the previous five years.



(1) Percentage of people aged 5 years and over usually resident in New Zealand who changed their usual residence at least once between the 2001 and 2006 Censuses.

Location

- The most mobile regional population was found in the Waikato Region, where 3 in every 5 people (60.0 percent) had changed their usual residence since the time of the 2001 Census. The West Coast Region had the least mobile population during this time, with 1 in every 2 people (51.4 percent) recording a change of residence.
- Amongst the cities and districts (territorial authorities), Queenstown-Lakes had the most mobile population, where over 7 in every 10 people (72.1 percent) had changed their usual residence since the 2001 Census. The least mobile was Chatham Islands Territory, where just over 4 in 10 people (44.3 percent) had changed their usual residence at least once since 2001.
- Wairoa District recorded the highest proportion of people (17.0 percent) who had lived at their usual residence for 20 years or more. This compares with a national average of 9.7 percent.

Usual residence five years ago

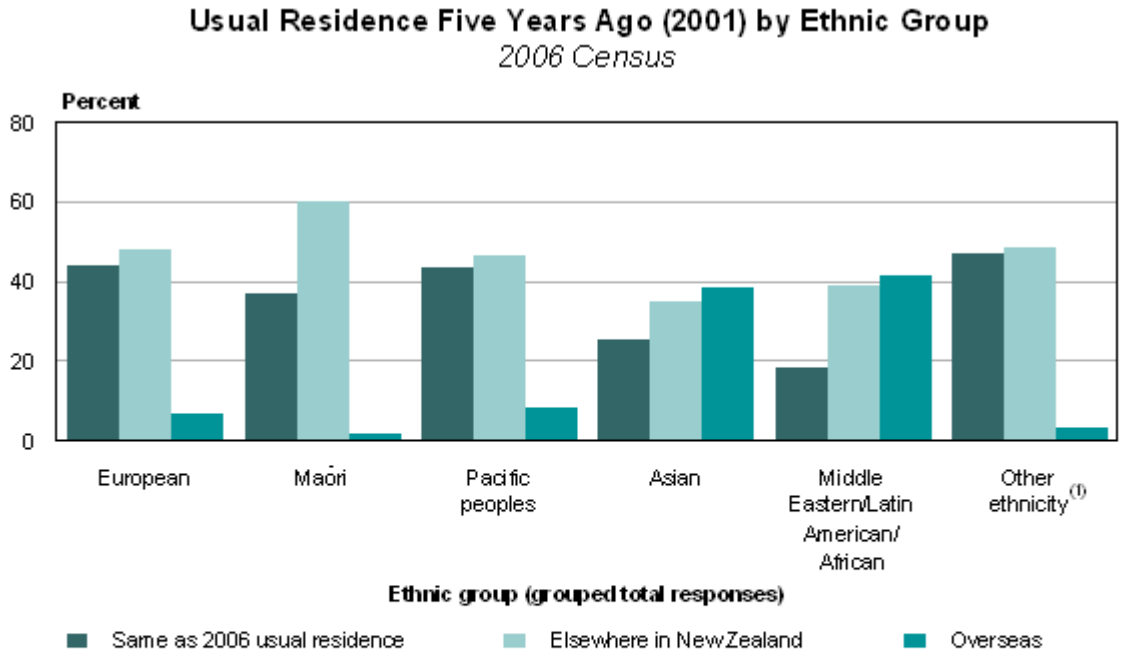
- More people are moving residence. At the time of the 2006 Census, over half (54.8 percent) of the usually resident population aged five years and over had moved residence at least once since the previous census in 2001. A further 1 in every 11 people (9.4 percent) were living overseas in 2001. The corresponding figures from the 2001 Census (looking back five years to the 1996 Census) were 49.4 percent and 7.0 percent, respectively.
- Of those who had lived overseas in 2001, more than 1 in 5 people (21.5 percent) had been born in New Zealand.

Age

- Young adults were more likely than older people to have moved residence at least once in the five years prior to the census.
- People aged 20 to 34 years were least likely to be at the same residence as they were five years earlier.
- Those most likely to have lived overseas five years earlier were people aged 30 to 34 years, with almost 1 in every 5 of these people (19.6 percent) living overseas five years ago in 2001.

Ethnic group

- Mobility varies by ethnicity. For example, people identifying with the Māori ethnic group were the most likely (60.3 percent) to have been living elsewhere in New Zealand five years earlier, while people identifying with the Other ethnicity and European ethnic groups were the most likely to be living at the same usual residence as they were in 2001.
- Around 2 in every 5 people identifying with the Asian (39.0 percent) and the Middle Eastern/Latin American/African (41.8 percent) ethnic groups had lived overseas in 2001.



(1)The 'Other ethnicity' category includes responses for a number of small ethnic groups and for New Zealander. For 2006, 'New Zealander' responses had the largest contribution towards the 'Other ethnicity' category.

Note: Includes all of the people who stated each ethnic group, whether as their only ethnic group or as one of several ethnic groups. Where a person reported more than one ethnic group, they have been counted in each applicable group.

Location

- Of the regions, the West Coast had the highest proportion of people (47.9 percent) living at the same usual residence as five years earlier, while Waikato Region had the lowest (38.7 percent).
- The Auckland Region had the highest proportion of people (14.4 percent) who had moved into a region from overseas between 2001 and 2006. Southland Region, with 3.8 percent, had the lowest.
- Of the cities and districts, Queenstown-Lakes had the lowest proportion of people (25.5 percent) who had lived at the same usual residence five years earlier. This was due to the high proportion of people who had lived elsewhere in New Zealand (55.7 percent) or overseas (18.7 percent) in 2001. Three districts recorded more than 15 percent of their usually resident population as living overseas in 2001 – Queenstown-Lakes District (18.7 percent), Auckland (17.8 percent) and North Shore (17.4 percent).

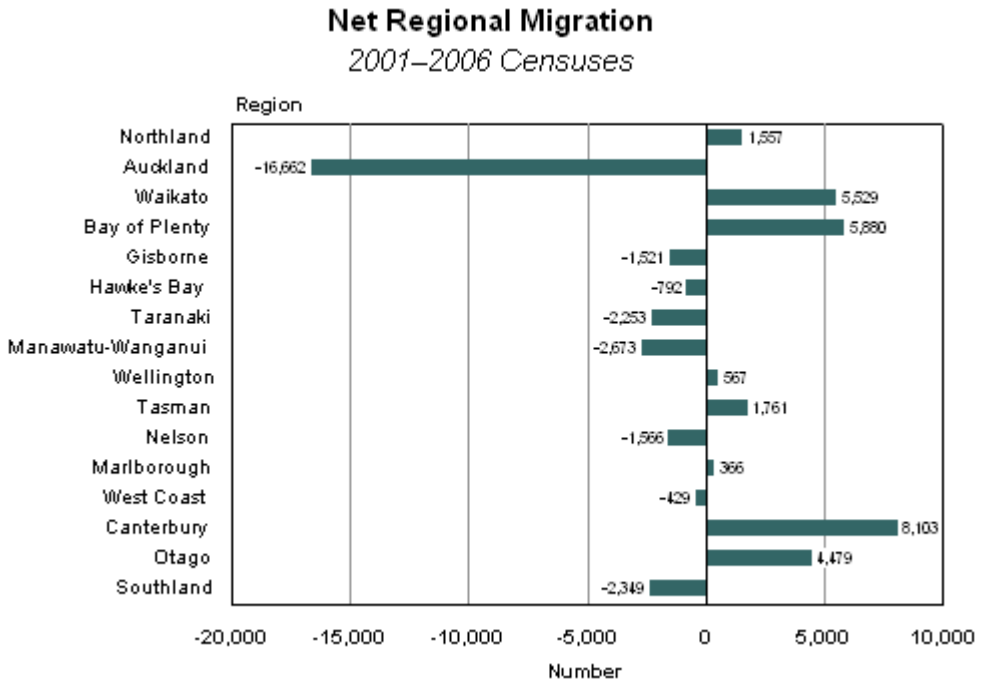
Movements between regions

At the time of the 2006 Census, 360,483 people said they had been living in a different regional council area than in 2001. Analysis of net migrations flows (gains or losses) between regions shows that some regions have gained or lost more than others. Net migration flows are derived from how many people indicated they moved into or out of a particular region since the 2001 Census.

Inter-regional movement in this *QuickStats* only looks at those people who were living in New Zealand both in 2001 and in 2006. It does not take into account any other movements in the five years between censuses, the impact of external migration (people moving into and out of New Zealand) or natural increase (babies born minus deaths).

Net regional flows

- Net migration gains were evident in half of the 16 regional council areas. The largest net gain was recorded in Canterbury (8,103).
- No region made gains from every other region, but Canterbury came close, with a net loss only to Wellington (-135). Auckland Region recorded the most losses (13) between 2001 and 2006, recording net gains from only two regions – Wellington (1,884) and Manawatu-Wanganui (48).



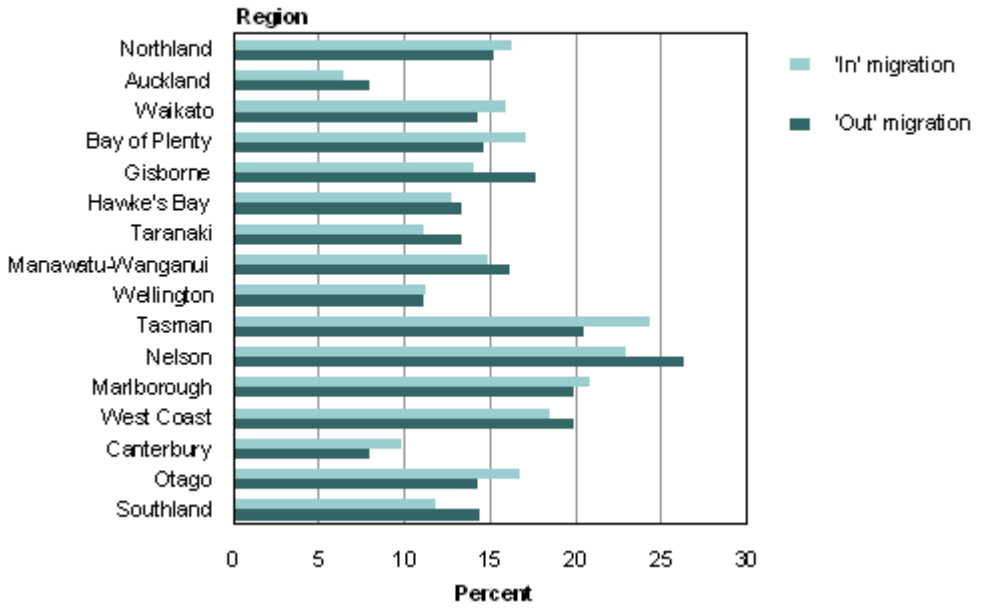
- Among the regional council areas, Auckland had the largest total population growth between 2001 and 2006, at 12.4 percent. However, it experienced a net loss of 16,662 people, due to internal migration (people moving within New Zealand). This is because the number of people who were living in the Auckland Region in 2001 and had moved to another region in New Zealand in 2006 (75,963), exceeded the number of people who had moved from another region in New Zealand to the Auckland Region (59,301).
- While the net loss is the largest of any region, the population of Auckland Region is much larger than that of other regions and the proportional exchange of people is the smallest of any region, with 7.9 percent of the population moving to other regions in New Zealand, and 6.3 percent of the 2006 Census population having moved into Auckland from other regions.
- Between the 2001 and 2006 Censuses, the largest inter-regional net flow (5,847) was between the Auckland and Waikato regions, resulting from the movement of 18,783 people from Auckland to Waikato and 12,936 people in the opposite direction.

Net Migration Losses of More than 1,000 People by Regional Council Area *2001–2006 Censuses*		
Source region	**Destination region**	**Net flow**
Auckland	Waikato	5,847
Auckland	Bay of Plenty	3,423
Auckland	Northland	3,420
Wellington	Auckland	1,884
Auckland	Otago	1,842
Waikato	Bay of Plenty	1,674
Southland	Otago	1,638
Auckland	Canterbury	1,596
Southland	Canterbury	1,338
Nelson	Tasman	1,191
Manawatu	Waikato	1,146

- Despite Auckland Region recording the largest net loss (-16,662) between 2001 and 2006, only 7.9 percent of the population in 2001 had moved out of the region, the lowest proportion for any region. In contrast, in Nelson Region, 26.2 percent of the 2001 population had left for other regions, yet the net migration loss was only -1,556, reflecting the considerable migration into the region.

Proportion of the Population Moving Into and Out of Regions

2001–2006 Censuses



Age

- For the 15- to 24-year age group, regions with the largest net gains between the 2001 and 2006 Censuses were Otago (5,517), Wellington (4,965), Auckland (4,425) and Canterbury (2,964).
- For those aged 15 to 24 years, the Bay of Plenty (-3,141), Northland (-2,964), Hawke's Bay (-2,592) and Taranaki (-2,163) regions had the largest net internal migration losses.
- Auckland Region (-13,848) recorded the largest net outflow of people aged 25 to 64 years.
- Bay of Plenty (6,213), Waikato (4,059) and Northland (3,546) regions recorded the largest net inflows of people aged 25 to 64 years.
- The Bay of Plenty Region (1,467) had the largest net migration gain for the 65 years and over age group.

Next release ...

2006 Census: QuickStats About Māori will be released on 21 March 2007.

For further information ...

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Tables

The following tables are available on the Statistics New Zealand website (www.stats.govt.nz) in downloadable Microsoft 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 this file.

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