[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Use New Zealand English](/wiki/Template:Use_New_Zealand_English) [Template:Infobox settlement](/wiki/Template:Infobox_settlement) **Auckland** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) [Template:Respell](/wiki/Template:Respell)), in the [North Island](/wiki/North_Island) of [New Zealand](/wiki/New_Zealand), is the largest and most populous [urban area in the country](/wiki/Urban_areas_of_New_Zealand). Auckland has a population of [Template:NZ population data](/wiki/Template:NZ_population_data) - [Template:Decimals](/wiki/Template:Decimals) percent of New Zealand's population.[Template:NZ population data](/wiki/Template:NZ_population_data) It is part of the wider [Auckland Region](/wiki/Auckland_Region), which includes the rural areas and towns north and south of the urban area, plus the islands of the [Hauraki Gulf](/wiki/Hauraki_Gulf), resulting in a total population of [Template:NZ population data](/wiki/Template:NZ_population_data)[[1]](#cite_note-1) that is governed by the [Auckland Council](/wiki/Auckland_Council). Auckland also has the largest [Polynesian](/wiki/Polynesians) population of any city in the world.[[2]](#cite_note-2) In [Māori](/wiki/Māori_language), Auckland's name is **Tāmaki Makaurau** and the adaptation of Auckland, to suit Māori phonetic rules, is **Ākarana**.

The Auckland urban area (as defined by [Statistics New Zealand](/wiki/Statistics_New_Zealand)) ranges to [Waiwera](/wiki/Waiwera) in the north, [Kumeu](/wiki/Kumeu) in the northwest, and Runciman in the south. It is not contiguous; the section from Waiwera to [Whangaparāoa Peninsula](/wiki/Whangaparāoa_Peninsula) is separate from its nearest neighbouring suburb of [Long Bay](/wiki/Long_Bay,_New_Zealand). Auckland lies between the Hauraki Gulf of the Pacific Ocean to the east, the low [Hunua Ranges](/wiki/Hunua_Ranges) to the south-east, the [Manukau Harbour](/wiki/Manukau_Harbour) to the south-west, and the [Waitakere Ranges](/wiki/Waitakere_Ranges) and smaller ranges to the west and north-west. The central part of the urban area occupies a narrow [isthmus](/wiki/List_of_isthmuses) between the Manukau Harbour on the [Tasman Sea](/wiki/Tasman_Sea) and the [Waitemata Harbour](/wiki/Waitemata_Harbour) on the Pacific Ocean. It is one of the few cities in the world to have two harbours on two separate major bodies of water.

The 2014 [Mercer Quality of Living Survey](/wiki/Mercer_Quality_of_Living_Survey) ranked Auckland 3rd place in the world on its list,[[3]](#cite_note-3) while the [*Economist Intelligence Unit's*](/wiki/Economist_Intelligence_Unit) [World's most liveable cities](/wiki/World's_most_liveable_cities) index of 2015 ranked Auckland in 9th place.[[4]](#cite_note-4)In 2010, Auckland was classified as a [Beta World City](/wiki/Global_city) in the World Cities Study Group's inventory by [Loughborough University](/wiki/Loughborough_University).[[5]](#cite_note-5) In terms of population it is the largest [Oceanian](/wiki/Oceanian) city outside Australia.[[6]](#cite_note-6)

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## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

*Main article* [*History of Auckland*](/wiki/History_of_Auckland)

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|Lower Queen Street in 1919](/wiki/File:Lower_Queen_Street.jpg)

### Early history[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

The isthmus was settled by [Māori](/wiki/Māori_people) around 1350, and was valued for its rich and fertile land. Many [*pā*](/wiki/Pā_(Māori)) (fortified villages) were created, mainly on the volcanic peaks. Māori population in the area is estimated to have been about 20,000 people before the arrival of Europeans.[[7]](#cite_note-7)[[8]](#cite_note-8) The introduction of firearms at the end of the eighteenth century, which began in [Northland](/wiki/Northland_Region), upset the balance of power and led to devastating [intertribal warfare](/wiki/Musket_Wars) beginning in 1807, causing [iwi](/wiki/Iwi) who lacked the new weapons to seek refuge in areas less exposed to coastal raids. As a result, the region had relatively low numbers of Māori when European settlement of New Zealand began. There is, however, nothing to suggest that this was the result of a deliberate European policy.[[9]](#cite_note-9)[[10]](#cite_note-10) On 27 January 1832, Joseph Brooks Weller, eldest of the [Weller brothers](/wiki/Weller_brothers) of [Otago](/wiki/Otago) and Sydney bought land including the sites of the modern cities of Auckland and North Shore and part of Rodney District for "one large cask of powder" from "Cohi Rangatira".[[11]](#cite_note-11) After the signing of the [Treaty of Waitangi](/wiki/Treaty_of_Waitangi) in February 1840 the new Governor of New Zealand, [William Hobson](/wiki/William_Hobson), chose the area as his new [capital](/wiki/Capital_of_New_Zealand) and named it after [George Eden, Earl of Auckland](/wiki/George_Eden,_1st_Earl_of_Auckland) then [Viceroy of India](/wiki/Viceroy_of_India).[[12]](#cite_note-12) The land that Auckland was established on was given to the Governor by local Maori [iwi](/wiki/Iwi) [Ngāti Whātua](/wiki/Ngāti_Whātua) as a sign of goodwill and in the hope that the building of a city would attract commercial and political opportunities for the iwi. Auckland was officially declared New Zealand's capital in 1841[[13]](#cite_note-13) and the transfer of the administration from Russell (now [Old Russell](/wiki/Okiato)) in the Bay of Islands was completed in 1842. However, even in 1840 [Port Nicholson](/wiki/Port_Nicholson) (later [Wellington](/wiki/Wellington)) was seen as a better choice for an administrative capital because of its proximity to the [South Island](/wiki/South_Island), and Wellington became the capital in 1865. After losing its status as capital Auckland remained the principal city of the [Auckland Province](/wiki/Auckland_Province) until the provincial system was abolished in 1876.

[thumb|right|The urbanised extent of Auckland (red),](/wiki/File:Map_of_the_Auckland_urban_area,_2009,_cropped.jpg) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of)

In response to the ongoing rebellion by [Hone Heke](/wiki/Hone_Heke) in the mid-1840s the government encouraged retired but fit British soldiers and their families to migrate to Auckland to form a defence line around the port settlement as garrison soldiers. By the time the first [Fencibles](/wiki/Fencibles) arrived in 1848 the rebels in the north had been defeated so the outlying defensive towns were constructed to the south stretching in a line from the port village of Onehunga in the West to Howick in the east. Each of the four settlements had about 800 settlers, the men being fully armed in case of emergency but spent nearly all their time breaking in the land and establishing roads.

In the early 1860s Auckland became a base against the [Māori King Movement](/wiki/Māori_King_Movement).[[14]](#cite_note-14) Bridges span parts of both harbours, notably the [Auckland Harbour Bridge](/wiki/Auckland_Harbour_Bridge) crossing the Waitemata Harbour west of the [Auckland Central Business District](/wiki/Auckland_CBD) (CBD). The [Mangere Bridge](/wiki/Mangere_Bridge_(bridges)) and the [Upper Harbour Bridge](/wiki/Upper_Harbour_Bridge) span the upper reaches of the Manukau and Waitemata Harbours, respectively. In earlier times, [portage](/wiki/Portage) paths crossed the narrowest sections of the isthmus.

Several islands of the Hauraki Gulf are administered as part of Auckland, though they are not part of the Auckland metropolitan area. Parts of [Waiheke Island](/wiki/Waiheke_Island) effectively function as [Auckland suburbs](/wiki/Suburbs_of_Auckland), while various smaller islands near Auckland are mostly zoned 'recreational open space' or are nature sanctuaries.

Auckland also has a total length of approximately [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of rivers and streams, about 8 percent of these in urban areas.<ref name=DRAFTLTP2012Page12/>

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[thumb|left|View of the](/wiki/File:Auckland_cbd_view.jpg) [Central Business District](/wiki/Auckland_CBD) According to [NIWA](/wiki/National_Institute_of_Water_and_Atmospheric_Research), Auckland has a [subtropical climate](/wiki/Subtropical_climate), with warm, humid summers and mild, damp winters.[[18]](#cite_note-18) Under [Köppen's climate classification](/wiki/Köppen_climate_classification), the city has an [oceanic climate](/wiki/Oceanic_climate) (*Cfb*).<ref name=Peel>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> It is the warmest main centre of New Zealand and is also one of the sunniest, with an average of 2,003.1 sunshine hours per annum. The average daily maximum temperature is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in February and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) in July. The absolute maximum recorded temperature is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert),[[19]](#cite_note-19) while the absolute minimum is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). High levels of rainfall occur almost year-round with an average of [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) per year. Snowfall is extremely rare: the most significant fall since the start of the 20th century was on 27 July 1939, when snow stuck to the clothes of people outdoors just before dawn and five centimetres of snow reportedly lay on the summit of Mt Eden.<ref name=snow1>[Template:Cite journal](/wiki/Template:Cite_journal)</ref> Snowflakes were also seen on 28 July 1930 and 15 August 2011.[[20]](#cite_note-20)<ref name=snow2>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

The early morning calm on the isthmus during settled weather, before the sea breeze rises, was described as early as 1853: "In all seasons, the beauty of the day is in the early morning. At that time, generally, a solemn stillness holds, and a perfect calm prevails...".<ref name=1853\_morning>*Auckland, the Capital of New Zealand* – [Swainson, William](/wiki/William_Swainson_(lawyer)), Smith Elder, 1853</ref> Many Aucklanders use this time of day to walk and run in parks.

Auckland occasionally suffers from air pollution due to [fine particle](/wiki/Atmospheric_particulate_matter) emissions.[[21]](#cite_note-21) There are also occasional breaches of guideline levels of [carbon monoxide](/wiki/Carbon_monoxide).[[22]](#cite_note-22) While maritime winds normally disperse the pollution relatively quickly it can sometimes become visible as smog, especially on calm winter days.[[23]](#cite_note-23) [Template:Weather box](/wiki/Template:Weather_box)

## Demography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Historical populations](/wiki/Template:Historical_populations) [thumb|right|upright|Asians are Auckland's fastest growing ethnic group. Here,](/wiki/File:Lion_dancers_at_the_Auckland_lantern_festival_2010.jpg) [lion dancers](/wiki/Lion_dance) perform at the Auckland [Lantern Festival](/wiki/Lantern_Festival).|alt=Lion dancers wearing bright red and yellow costumes

Auckland is home to [Template:NZ population data](/wiki/Template:NZ_population_data) people according to Statistics New Zealand's [Template:NZ population data](/wiki/Template:NZ_population_data), [Template:Decimals](/wiki/Template:Decimals) percent of New Zealand's population.[[24]](#cite_note-24) Ethnic groups from all corners of the world have a presence in Auckland, making it by far the country's most [cosmopolitan](/wiki/Cosmopolitanism) city. [Europeans](/wiki/New_Zealand_European) make up the majority of Auckland's population, however substantial numbers of [Māori](/wiki/Māori_people), [Pacific Islander](/wiki/Pacific_Islander) and [Asian](/wiki/Asian_people) peoples exist as well. Auckland has the largest [Polynesian](/wiki/Polynesia) population of any city in the world.

The following table shows the ethnic profile of Auckland's population, as recorded in the 2001, 2006, & 2013 [New Zealand Censuses](/wiki/New_Zealand_Census_of_Population_and_Dwellings).[[25]](#cite_note-25) The substantial percentage drop of 'Europeans' in 2006 was mainly caused by the increasing numbers of people from this group choosing to define themselves as 'New Zealanders', as a result of a media campaign that encouraged people to give the response 'New Zealander' even though this was not one of the groups listed on the census form. In the 2013 census fewer Europeans identify themselves as 'New Zealander', leading to a significant increase of numbers in 'Europeans'.[[26]](#cite_note-26)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **rowspan=2| Ethnic group** | **colspan=2| 2001 census** | **colspan=2| 2006 census** | **colspan=2| 2013 census** |
| **Number** | **(%)** | **Number** | **(%)** | **Number** | **(%)** |
| [European](/wiki/European_ethnic_groups) | 755,967 | 68.5 | 700,158 | 56.5 | 789,306 | 59.3 |
| [Māori](/wiki/Māori_people) | 127,704 | 11.6 | 137,304 | 11.1 | 142,770 | 10.7 |
| [Pacific Island](/wiki/Pacific_Islander) | 154,683 | 14.0 | 177,951 | 14.4 | 194,958 | 14.6 |
| [Asian](/wiki/Asian_people) | 151,644 | 13.8 | 234,279 | 18.4 | 307,233 | 23.1 |
| [Middle Easterners](/wiki/Middle_Easterners)/[Latin Americans](/wiki/Latin_Americans)/[Africans](/wiki/Africans) | 13,335 | 1.2 | 18,558 | 1.5 | 24,945 | 1.9 |
| 'New Zealanders' | [Template:N/a](/wiki/Template:N/a) | [Template:N/a](/wiki/Template:N/a) | 99,474 | 8.0 | 14,904 | 1.1 |
| Others | 276 | <0.1 | 648 | 0.1 | 735 | 0.1 |
| **Total responses** | '''1,102,818 |  | '''1,239,054 |  | '''1,331,427 |  |
| Not elsewhere included | 57,453 |  | 65,907 |  | 84,123 |  |
| **Total population** | '''1,160,271 |  | '''1,304,958 |  | '''1,415,550 |  |

### Nationalities and migration[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

{| class="infobox" style="float:right;" |colspan="2"|**Largest groups of foreign-born residents**[[27]](#cite_note-27)[[28]](#cite_note-28)|-\ !Nationality || Population (2013) |- | [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) || 87,057 |- | [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) || 70,491 |- | [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) || 43,407 |- | [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) || 39,087 |- | [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) || 35,583 |- | [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) || 30,612 |- | [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) || 19,953 |- | [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) || 19,470 |- | [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) || 18,621 |- | [Template:Flag](/wiki/Template:Flag) || 18,117 |- |} [thumb|right|Prime Minister](/wiki/File:Helen_Clark_welcomed_to_Hoani_Waititi_Marae_2006-02-06.jpg) [Helen Clark](/wiki/Helen_Clark) being welcomed onto Hoani Waititi [Marae](/wiki/Marae) in [Glen Eden](/wiki/Glen_Eden,_New_Zealand) in 2006. Auckland's population is predominantly of [European](/wiki/Europe) origin, though the proportion of those of [Asian](/wiki/Asia) or other non-European origins has increased in recent decades due to immigration,[[29]](#cite_note-29) and the [removal of restrictions directly or indirectly based on race](/wiki/Immigration_to_New_Zealand). Immigration to New Zealand is heavily concentrated towards Auckland (partly for job market reasons). This strong focus on Auckland has led the immigration services to award extra points towards immigration visa requirements for people intending to move to other parts of New Zealand.[[30]](#cite_note-30) However, this is partially offset by net emigration out of Auckland to other regions of New Zealand, mainly [Waikato](/wiki/Waikato) and [Bay of Plenty](/wiki/Bay_of_Plenty_Region).[[31]](#cite_note-31) At the 2013 Census, 39.1 percent of Auckland's population were born overseas; in the local board areas of Puketapapa and Howick, overseas-born residents outnumbered those born in New Zealand.[[27]](#cite_note-27)[[28]](#cite_note-28) Auckland is home to over half (51.6 percent) of New Zealand's overseas born population, including 72 percent of the country's Pacific Island-born population, 64 percent of its Asian-born population, and 56 percent of its Middle Eastern and African born population.[[27]](#cite_note-27)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:St_Mark's_Anglican_Church.jpg)[Anglican](/wiki/Anglican) church in [Remuera](/wiki/Remuera) Around 48.5 percent of Aucklanders at the 2013 census affiliated with [Christianity](/wiki/Christianity) and 11.7 percent affiliated with non-Christian religions, while 37.8 percent of the population were [irreligious](/wiki/Irreligion) and 3.8 percent objected to answering. [Roman Catholicism](/wiki/Catholic_Church) is the largest Christian denomination with 13.3 percent affiliating, followed by [Anglicanism](/wiki/Anglicanism) (9.1 percent) and [Presbyterianism](/wiki/Presbyterianism) (7.4 percent).[[27]](#cite_note-27) Recent immigration from Asia has added to the religious diversity of the city, increasing then number of people affiliating with [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism), [Hinduism](/wiki/Hinduism), [Islam](/wiki/Islam) and [Sikhism](/wiki/Sikhism), although there are no figures on religious attendance.[[32]](#cite_note-32) There is also a small, long-established [Jewish](/wiki/Jewish) community.[[33]](#cite_note-33)

## Lifestyle[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[thumb|Pedestrians on Vulcan Lane](/wiki/File:Vulcan_Lane,_Auckland,_2012.jpg) Auckland's lifestyle is influenced by the fact that while it is 70% rural in land area, 90% of Aucklanders live in urban areas<ref name=HISTORYMAKING>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref> – though large parts of these areas have a more suburban character than many cities in Europe and Asia.

Positive aspects of Auckland life are its mild climate, plentiful employment and educational opportunities, as well as numerous leisure facilities. Meanwhile, traffic problems, the lack of good public transport, and increasing housing costs have been cited by many Aucklanders as among the strongest negative factors of living there,<ref name=criticisms>[Central Transit Corridor Project](http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/auckland/transport/ctc/theproject.asp) ([Auckland City](/wiki/Auckland_City) website, includes mention of effects of transport on public satisfaction)</ref> together with crime.[[34]](#cite_note-34) Nonetheless, Auckland ranked 3rd in a survey of the [quality of life](/wiki/Mercer_Quality_of_Living_Survey) of 215 major cities of the world (2015 data).[[35]](#cite_note-35)<ref name=top\_cities>[Quality of Living global city rankings 2009](http://www.mercer.com/referencecontent.htm?idContent=1173105) ([Mercer Management Consulting](/wiki/Mercer_Management_Consulting). Retrieved 2 May 2009).</ref> In 2006, Auckland placed 23rd on the [UBS](/wiki/UBS) list of the world's richest cities.[[36]](#cite_note-36) In 2010, Auckland was ranked by the [Mercer](/wiki/Mercer_(consulting_firm)) consulting firm as 149th of 214 centres on a scale of cost of living, i.e. making it among the most affordable cities world-wide to live in, with living expense of $20,000 per year, based on the comparative cost of 200 aspects of life including housing, transport, food, clothing, household goods.[[37]](#cite_note-37)

### Leisure[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[right|thumb|Sailboats at](/wiki/File:Two_sailboats_on_the_main_Takapuna_boat_ramp.jpg) [Takapuna](/wiki/Takapuna) Beach on the [North Shore](/wiki/North_Shore_City)

One of Auckland's nicknames, the "City of Sails", is derived from the popularity of sailing in the region. 135,000 [yachts](/wiki/Yacht) and [launches](/wiki/Launch_(boat)) are registered in Auckland, and around 60,500 of the country's 149,900 registered yachtsmen are from Auckland,[[38]](#cite_note-38)[[39]](#cite_note-39) with about one in three Auckland households owning a boat.[[40]](#cite_note-40) The [Viaduct Basin](/wiki/Viaduct_Basin), on the western edge of the CBD, hosted two [America's Cup](/wiki/America's_Cup) challenges ([2000 Cup](/wiki/2000_America's_Cup) and [2003 Cup](/wiki/2003_America's_Cup)). The Waitemata Harbour is home to several notable yacht clubs and marinas, including the [Royal New Zealand Yacht Squadron](/wiki/Royal_New_Zealand_Yacht_Squadron) and [Westhaven Marina](/wiki/Westhaven_Marina), the largest of the [Southern Hemisphere](/wiki/Southern_Hemisphere).[[39]](#cite_note-39)[[41]](#cite_note-41) The Waitemata Harbour has several popular swimming beaches, including [Mission Bay](/wiki/Mission_Bay,_New_Zealand) and [Kohimarama](/wiki/Kohimarama,_New_Zealand) on the south side of the harbour, and Stanley Bay on the north side. On the eastern coastline of the North Shore, where the Rangitoto Channel divides the inner Hauraki Gulf islands from the mainland, there are excellent swimming beaches at Cheltenham and Narrow Neck in [Devonport](/wiki/Devonport,_New_Zealand), [Takapuna](/wiki/Takapuna), Milford, and the various beaches further north in the area known as East Coast Bays. The west coast has popular surf spots such as [Piha](/wiki/Piha), [Muriwai](/wiki/Muriwai) and [Bethells Beach](/wiki/Bethells_Beach). The [Whangaparaoa Peninsula](/wiki/Whangaparaoa_Peninsula), [Orewa](/wiki/Orewa), [Omaha](/wiki/Omaha,_New_Zealand) and [Pakiri](/wiki/Pakiri), to the north of the main urban area, are also popular. Many Auckland beaches are patrolled by [surf lifesaving](/wiki/Surf_lifesaving) clubs, such as [Piha Surf Life Saving Club](/wiki/Piha_Surf_Life_Saving_Club) the home of [Piha Rescue](/wiki/Piha_Rescue). All surf lifesaving clubs are part of the [Surf Life Saving Northern Region](/wiki/Surf_Life_Saving_Northern_Region).

[Queen Street](/wiki/Queen_Street,_Auckland), [Britomart](/wiki/Britomart_Transport_Centre), [Ponsonby Road](/wiki/Ponsonby,_New_Zealand), [Karangahape Road](/wiki/Karangahape_Road), [Newmarket](/wiki/Newmarket,_New_Zealand) and [Parnell](/wiki/Parnell,_New_Zealand) are popular retail areas, whilst the [Otara](/wiki/Otara) and [Avondale](/wiki/Avondale,_Auckland) [fleamarkets](/wiki/Fleamarket) offer an alternative shopping experience on weekend mornings. Most shopping malls are located in the middle- and outer-suburbs, with [Sylvia Park](/wiki/Sylvia_Park) and [Westfield Albany](/wiki/Westfield_Albany) being the largest.

### Arts and culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[thumb|The modern section of the](/wiki/File:Auckland_Art_Gallery_-_Extension.jpg) [Auckland Art Gallery](/wiki/Auckland_Art_Gallery), completed in 2011

A number of arts events are held in Auckland, including the [Auckland Festival](/wiki/Auckland_Festival), the Auckland Triennial, the [New Zealand International Comedy Festival](/wiki/New_Zealand_International_Comedy_Festival), and the [New Zealand International Film Festival](/wiki/New_Zealand_International_Film_Festival). The [Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra](/wiki/Auckland_Philharmonia_Orchestra) is the city and region's resident full-time symphony orchestra, performing its own series of concerts and accompanying opera and ballet. Events celebrating the city's cultural diversity include the [Pasifika Festival](/wiki/Pasifika_Festival), Polyfest, and the [Auckland Lantern Festival](/wiki/Lantern_Festival), all of which are the largest of their kind in New Zealand. Additionally, Auckland regularly hosts the [New Zealand Symphony Orchestra](/wiki/New_Zealand_Symphony_Orchestra) and [Royal New Zealand Ballet](/wiki/Royal_New_Zealand_Ballet).

Important institutions include the [Auckland Art Gallery](/wiki/Auckland_Art_Gallery), [Auckland War Memorial Museum](/wiki/Auckland_War_Memorial_Museum), [New Zealand Maritime Museum](/wiki/New_Zealand_Maritime_Museum), [National Museum of the Royal New Zealand Navy](/wiki/Torpedo_Bay_Navy_Museum), and the [Museum of Transport and Technology](/wiki/Museum_of_Transport_and_Technology)/. The Auckland Art Gallery is considered the home of the visual arts in New Zealand with a collection of over 15,000 artworks, including prominent New Zealand and Pacific Island artists, as well as international painting, sculpture and print collections ranging in date from 1376 to the present day. In 2009 the Gallery was promised a gift[[42]](#cite_note-42) of fifteen works of art by New York art collectors and philanthropists [Julian and Josie Robertson](/wiki/Julian_Robertson) – including well-known paintings by [Paul Cézanne](/wiki/Paul_Cézanne), [Pablo Picasso](/wiki/Pablo_Picasso), [Henri Matisse](/wiki/Henri_Matisse), [Paul Gauguin](/wiki/Paul_Gauguin) and [Piet Mondrian](/wiki/Piet_Mondrian). This is the largest gift ever made to an art museum in Australasia.

### Parks and nature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[thumb|right|](/wiki/File:Albert_Park,_Auckland,_NZ.jpg)[Albert Park](/wiki/Albert_Park,_Auckland) in downtown Auckland [thumb|right|View from the top of](/wiki/File:View_of_Aukland_from_outside_city.JPG) [Maungawhau / Mount Eden](/wiki/Maungawhau)

[Auckland Domain](/wiki/Auckland_Domain) is one of the largest parks in the city, close to the [Auckland CBD](/wiki/Auckland_CBD) and having a good view of the [Hauraki Gulf](/wiki/Hauraki_Gulf) and [Rangitoto Island](/wiki/Rangitoto_Island). Smaller parks close to the city centre are [Albert Park](/wiki/Albert_Park,_Auckland), [Myers Park](/wiki/Myers_Park,_Auckland), [Western Park](/wiki/Western_Park,_Auckland) and [Victoria Park](/wiki/Victoria_Park,_Auckland).

While most volcanic cones in the [Auckland volcanic field](/wiki/Auckland_volcanic_field) have been affected by quarrying, many of the remaining cones are now within parks, and retain a more natural character than the surrounding city. Prehistoric earthworks and historic fortifications are in several of these parks, including [Mount Eden](/wiki/Mount_Eden) / Maungawhau, [North Head](/wiki/North_Head,_New_Zealand) and [Maungakiekie / One Tree Hill](/wiki/One_Tree_Hill,_New_Zealand).

Other parks around the city are in [Western Springs](/wiki/Western_Springs), which has a large park bordering the [MOTAT](/wiki/MOTAT) museum and the [Auckland Zoo](/wiki/Auckland_Zoo). The [Auckland Botanic Gardens](/wiki/Auckland_Botanic_Gardens) are further south, in [Manurewa](/wiki/Manurewa).

Ferries provide transport to parks and nature reserves at [Devonport](/wiki/Devonport,_New_Zealand), [Waiheke Island](/wiki/Waiheke_Island), Rangitoto Island and [Tiritiri Matangi](/wiki/Tiritiri_Matangi). The [Waitakere Ranges](/wiki/Waitakere_Ranges) Regional Park to the west of Auckland offers beautiful and relatively unspoiled [bush](/wiki/The_Bush#New_Zealand) territory, as do the [Hunua Ranges](/wiki/Hunua_Ranges) to the south.

### Sport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

Locations

[Rugby union](/wiki/Rugby_union), [cricket](/wiki/Cricket), [rugby league](/wiki/Rugby_league), football and [netball](/wiki/Netball) are widely played and followed. Auckland has a considerable number of rugby union and cricket grounds, and venues for basketball, motorsports, tennis, badminton, netball, swimming, soccer, rugby league, and many other sports.

* [Eden Park](/wiki/Eden_Park) is the city's primary stadium and a frequent home for international [rugby union](/wiki/Rugby_union) and [cricket](/wiki/Cricket) matches, in addition to [Super Rugby](/wiki/Super_Rugby) matches where the [Blues](/wiki/Blues_(Super_Rugby)) play their home games.
* [North Harbour Stadium](/wiki/North_Harbour_Stadium) is mainly used for [rugby union](/wiki/Rugby_union) and [Football(soccer)](/wiki/Football(soccer)) matches, but is also used for concerts. Home Stadium for [North Harbour](/wiki/North_Harbour_Rugby_Union) in the [ITM Cup](/wiki/ITM_Cup).
* [Mt Smart Stadium](/wiki/Mt_Smart_Stadium) is used mainly for [rugby league](/wiki/Rugby_league) matches and is home to the [New Zealand Warriors](/wiki/New_Zealand_Warriors) of the [NRL](/wiki/NRL), and is also used for concerts, previously hosting the Auckland stop of the [Big Day Out](/wiki/Big_Day_Out) music festival every January.
* [ASB Tennis Centre](/wiki/ASB_Tennis_Centre) is Auckland's primary tennis centre, hosting international tournaments for men and women ([ASB Classic](/wiki/WTA_Auckland_Open)) in January each year. ASB Bank took over the sponsorship of the men's tournament from 2016, the event formerly being known as the [Heineken Open](/wiki/Heineken_Open_(tennis)).
* [Vector Arena](/wiki/Vector_Arena) is an indoor arena. It is primarily used for concerts and international [netball](/wiki/Netball) matches.
* [Trusts Stadium](/wiki/Trusts_Stadium) is an indoor arena which primarily hosts netball matches, and is the home of the [Northern Mystics](/wiki/Northern_Mystics) of the [ANZ Championship](/wiki/ANZ_Championship). It is also where the [2007 World Netball Championships](/wiki/2007_World_Netball_Championships) were held.
* [North Shore Events Centre](/wiki/North_Shore_Events_Centre) is an indoor arena, primarily used for basketball. It is home to the [New Zealand Breakers](/wiki/New_Zealand_Breakers).
* [Pukekohe Park Raceway](/wiki/Pukekohe_Park_Raceway) is a motorsports venue that hosts [V8 Supercars](/wiki/V8_Supercars) races annually, along with other motorsports events.
* [Western Springs Stadium](/wiki/Western_Springs_Stadium) hosts many large-scale concerts, as well as Speedway racing during the summer, as it has done since 1929.

Main teams

* Formerly the Auckland Blues, the [Blues](/wiki/Blues_(Super_Rugby)), a team in [Super Rugby](/wiki/Super_Rugby). Auckland is also home to three [ITM Cup](/wiki/ITM_Cup) rugby teams: [Auckland](/wiki/Auckland_Rugby_Football_Union), [North Harbour](/wiki/North_Harbour_Rugby_Union) and [Counties Manukau](/wiki/Counties_Manukau_Rugby_Union).
* Previously the Auckland Warriors, the [New Zealand Warriors](/wiki/New_Zealand_Warriors) is a team in Australia's [NRL](/wiki/NRL) competition. They play their home games at [Mt Smart Stadium](/wiki/Mt_Smart_Stadium) in Auckland, although some games are played at [Eden Park](/wiki/Eden_Park).
* Auckland's men's first class cricket team, the [Auckland Aces](/wiki/Auckland_Aces), play their home matches at [Eden Park](/wiki/Eden_Park). The women's equivalent (the [Auckland Hearts](/wiki/Auckland_Hearts)) play at Melville Park in [Epsom](/wiki/Epsom,_New_Zealand).
* [Auckland City](/wiki/Auckland_City_FC) and [Waitakere United](/wiki/Waitakere_United) are football teams which play in the [ASB Premiership](/wiki/ASB_Premiership).
* The [Northern Mystics](/wiki/Northern_Mystics) netball team compete in the [ANZ Championship](/wiki/ANZ_Championship) and play their home games at [Trusts Stadium](/wiki/Trusts_Stadium).
* The [New Zealand Breakers](/wiki/New_Zealand_Breakers) is a team in the [NBL](/wiki/Australian_National_Basketball_League) and play their home matches primarily at [North Shore Events Centre](/wiki/North_Shore_Events_Centre), although some games are played at [Vector Arena](/wiki/Vector_Arena).

Major events

Annual sporting events include:

* The [ASB Classic](/wiki/WTA_Auckland_Open) men's and women's Tennis events, held annually in January (the men's event having been named the [Heineken Open](/wiki/Heineken_Open_(tennis)) prior to 2016).
* The [Auckland Marathon](/wiki/Auckland_Marathon) (and half-marathon), an annual marathon which draws thousands of competitors.
* The [Auckland Harbour Crossing Swim](/wiki/Auckland_Harbour_Crossing_Swim) from the North Shore to the [Viaduct Basin](/wiki/Viaduct_Basin), Auckland CBD, is a yearly summer event, covering 2.8 km (often with some considerable counter-currents) and attended by over a thousand mostly amateur competitors. It is New Zealand's largest ocean swim.[[43]](#cite_note-43)\* The 'Round the Bays' [fun-run](/wiki/Road_running), starting in the city and going [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) along the waterfront to the suburb of [St Heliers](/wiki/Saint_Heliers). It attracts many tens of thousands of people and has been an annual March event since [1972](/wiki/Timeline_of_New_Zealand_history#1970s).[[44]](#cite_note-44)

Auckland hosted the [1950 British Empire Games](/wiki/1950_British_Empire_Games) and the 14th [Commonwealth Games in 1990](/wiki/1990_Commonwealth_Games),[[12]](#cite_note-12) and hosted a number of matches (including the semi-finals and the final) of the [2011 Rugby World Cup](/wiki/2011_Rugby_World_Cup).[[45]](#cite_note-45) The [2012 ITU World Triathlon Series](/wiki/2012_ITU_World_Triathlon_Series) Grand Final events were held in the [Auckland CBD](/wiki/Auckland_CBD) in October 2012.[[46]](#cite_note-46) The 2013 Series kicks off in April in Auckland and will continue there yearly for at least 3 more years.[[47]](#cite_note-47)

### Horse and greyhound racing[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

There are two thoroughbred racecourses in the city, at [Ellerslie](/wiki/Ellerslie,_New_Zealand) and [Avondale](/wiki/Avondale,_Auckland). The former hosts the [Auckland Cup](/wiki/Auckland_Cup) and [New Zealand Derby](/wiki/New_Zealand_Derby) in March, and the [Railway Stakes](/wiki/Railway_Stakes_(New_Zealand)) on New Year's Day, as well as many other feature events throughout the year. The famed "Ellerslie Hill" is part of what is generally recognized as one of the great steeplechase courses in world racing. The premier jumping events (the Great Northern Hurdles and [Great Northern Steeplechase](/wiki/Great_Northern_Steeplechase)) are held at the beginning of September. There is also a racecourse at [Pukekohe Park Raceway](/wiki/Pukekohe_Park_Raceway), inside the motor racing track.

Harness racing is held at [Alexandra Park](/wiki/Alexandra_Park,_Auckland) in [Greenlane](/wiki/Greenlane). The [Auckland Trotting Cup](/wiki/Auckland_Trotting_Cup) is held on 31 December, with many other feature events spread throughout the year. Greyhound racing is held at Manukau Stadium.

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Wide image](/wiki/Template:Wide_image)

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Britomart_Outside_Facade.jpg)[Britomart Transport Centre](/wiki/Britomart_Transport_Centre) looking northeast

Most major international corporations have an Auckland office, as the city is the economic capital of the nation. The most expensive office space is around lower [Queen Street](/wiki/Queen_Street,_Auckland) and the [Viaduct Basin](/wiki/Viaduct_Basin) in the [Auckland CBD](/wiki/Auckland_CBD), where many financial and business services are located, which make up a large percentage of the CBD economy.[[48]](#cite_note-48) A large proportion of the technical and trades workforce is based in the industrial zones of [South Auckland](/wiki/South_Auckland).

The largest commercial and industrial areas of Greater Auckland are in the southeast of [Auckland City](/wiki/Auckland_City) and the western parts of Manukau City, mostly bordering the [Manukau Harbour](/wiki/Manukau_Harbour) and the [Tamaki River](/wiki/Tamaki_River) estuary.

The sub-national GDP of the Auckland region was estimated at US$47.6 billion in 2003, 36% of New Zealand's national GDP, 15% greater than the entire South Island.[[49]](#cite_note-49) Auckland's status as the largest commercial centre of the country reflects in the high median personal income (per working person, per year) which was NZ$44,304 (approx. US$33,000) for the region in 2005, with jobs in the Auckland CBD often earning more.[[50]](#cite_note-50) The median personal income (for all persons older than 15 years of age, per year) was NZ$22,300 (2001),[[51]](#cite_note-51) behind only [North Shore City](/wiki/North_Shore_City) (also part of the Greater Auckland area) and [Wellington](/wiki/Wellington). While office workers still account for a large part of Auckland's commuters, large office developments in other parts of the city, for example in [Takapuna](/wiki/Takapuna) or [Albany](/wiki/Albany,_New_Zealand), both on the North Shore, are slowly becoming more common, reducing concentration on the Auckland CBD somewhat.

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[thumb|upright|The](/wiki/File:University_of_Auckland_Clock_Tower.jpg) [University of Auckland](/wiki/University_of_Auckland) clock tower building is a 'Category I' historic place, completed in 1926[[52]](#cite_note-52)

### Primary and secondary[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

The Auckland urban area has 340 primary schools, 80 secondary schools, and 29 composite (primary/secondary combined) schools as of February 2012, catering for nearly quarter of a million students. The majority are state schools, but 63 schools are state-integrated and 39 are private.[[53]](#cite_note-53) The city is home to some of the largest schools in New Zealand, including [Rangitoto College](/wiki/Rangitoto_College) in the East Coast Bays area, the largest school in New Zealand with [Template:NZ school roll data](/wiki/Template:NZ_school_roll_data) students as of [Template:NZ school roll data](/wiki/Template:NZ_school_roll_data)

### Tertiary[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

Auckland has a number of important educational institutions, including some of the largest universities in the country. Auckland is a major centre of overseas language education, with large numbers of foreign students (particularly East Asians) coming to the city for several months or years to learn English or study at universities – although numbers New Zealand-wide have dropped substantially since peaking in 2003.[[54]](#cite_note-54) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), there are around 50 [New Zealand Qualifications Authority](/wiki/New_Zealand_Qualifications_Authority) (NZQA) certified schools and institutes teaching English in the Auckland area.[[55]](#cite_note-55) Amongst the more important tertiary educational institutes are the [University of Auckland](/wiki/University_of_Auckland), [Auckland University of Technology](/wiki/Auckland_University_of_Technology), [Massey University](/wiki/Massey_University), [Manukau Institute of Technology](/wiki/Manukau_Institute_of_Technology) and [Unitec New Zealand](/wiki/Unitec_New_Zealand).

## Housing[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

Housing varies considerably between some suburbs having [state owned housing](/wiki/State_housing) in the lower income neighbourhoods, to palatial waterfront estates, especially in areas close to the Waitemata Harbour. Traditionally, the most common residence of Aucklanders was a standalone dwelling on a '[quarter acre'](/wiki/Quarter_acre) (1,000 m²).[[56]](#cite_note-56) However, subdividing such properties with 'infill housing' has long been the norm. Auckland's housing stock has become more diverse in recent decades, with many more apartments being built since the 1970s – particularly since the 1990s in the CBD.<ref name=DBHreport>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Nevertheless, the majority of Aucklanders live in single dwelling housing and are expected to continue to do so – even with most of future urban growth being through intensification.[[56]](#cite_note-56) Auckland's housing is amongst the least affordable in the world, based on comparing average house prices with average household income levels[[57]](#cite_note-57) and house prices have grown well above the rate of inflation in recent decades.[[58]](#cite_note-58) In April 2015, [Quotable Value](/wiki/Quotable_Value_Limited) reported the average house price for Auckland metro was [NZ$](/wiki/NZ$)809,200, compared with $458,300 in Wellington, $473,100 in Christchurch and $375,900 in Hamilton.[[59]](#cite_note-59) There is significant public debate around why Auckland's housing is so expensive, often referring to a lack of land supply,[[58]](#cite_note-58) the easy availability of credit for residential investment<ref name=bloomberg>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> and Auckland's high level of liveability.

In some areas, the Victorian [villas](/wiki/Villa) have been torn down to make way for redevelopment. The demolition of the older houses is being combated through increased heritage protection for older parts of the city.[[60]](#cite_note-60) Auckland has been described as having 'the most extensive range of timbered housing with its classical details and mouldings in the world', many of them Victorian-Edwardian style houses.[[61]](#cite_note-61)

## Government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

### Local[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Aucklandtownhallnight.jpg)[Auckland Town Hall](/wiki/Auckland_Town_Hall) The [Auckland Council](/wiki/Auckland_Council) is the [local council](/wiki/Regions_of_New_Zealand) with jurisdiction over the city of Auckland, along with surrounding rural areas, parkland, and the islands of the Hauraki Gulf.

From 1989 to 2010 Auckland was governed by several separate city and district councils. In the late 2000s (decade), New Zealand's central government and parts of Auckland's society felt that this large number of councils, and the lack of strong regional government (with the [Auckland Regional Council](/wiki/Auckland_Regional_Council) having only limited powers) were hindering Auckland's progress. A [Royal Commission on Auckland Governance](/wiki/Royal_Commission_on_Auckland_Governance) was set up in 2007,[[62]](#cite_note-62)[[63]](#cite_note-63) and in 2009 recommended a unified local governance structure for Auckland, amalgamating the councils.[[64]](#cite_note-64) Government subsequently announced that a "super city" would be set up with a single mayor by the time of New Zealand's local body elections in 2010.[[65]](#cite_note-65)[[66]](#cite_note-66)Many aspects of the reorganisation [were or are still controversial](/wiki/Auckland_Council#Establishment), from matters such as the form of representation for Maori, the inclusion or exclusion of rural council areas in the city, to the role of [council-controlled organisations](/wiki/Council-controlled_organisation) that are intended to place much of the day-to-day business of council services at arms length from the elected Council.

In October 2010, [Manukau City](/wiki/Manukau_City) mayor [Len Brown](/wiki/Len_Brown) was elected the mayor of the amalgamated [Auckland Council](/wiki/Auckland_Council). He was re-elected for a second term in October 2013. Twenty councillors make up the remainder of the Auckland Council governing body, elected from thirteen electoral wards.

### National[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=24)]

Between 1842 and 1865, Auckland was the capital city of New Zealand. Parliament met in what is now [Old Government House](/wiki/Old_Government_House,_Auckland) on the [University of Auckland's](/wiki/University_of_Auckland) City campus. The capital was moved to the more centrally located [Wellington](/wiki/Wellington) in 1865.

Auckland, because of its large population, is covered by 22 general electorates and three Maori electorates,[[67]](#cite_note-67) each returning one member to the [New Zealand House of Representatives](/wiki/New_Zealand_House_of_Representatives). The governing [National Party](/wiki/New_Zealand_National_Party) holds thirteen general electorates, the opposing [Labour Party](/wiki/New_Zealand_Labour_Party) holds eight general electorates and all three Maori electorates, and [ACT](/wiki/ACT_New_Zealand) holds the remaining electorate ([Template:NZ electorate link](/wiki/Template:NZ_electorate_link)).

In addition, there are a varying number of Auckland-based List MPs, who are elected via party lists. As of December 2015, there are twelve list MPs in the House who contested Auckland-based electorates at the [Template:NZ election link](/wiki/Template:NZ_election_link): six from National, four from [Green](/wiki/Green_Party_of_Aotearoa_New_Zealand), and one each from Labour and [New Zealand First](/wiki/New_Zealand_First).

### Other[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

The administrative offices of the [Government of the Pitcairn Islands](/wiki/Politics_of_the_Pitcairn_Islands) is situated in Auckland.[[68]](#cite_note-68)

## Transport[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[thumb|right|Ferry travel is a popular type of public transport for some Auckland destinations](/wiki/File:Devonport_Wharf_Kea_Ferry.jpg) [thumb|right|An *AT* train at the](/wiki/File:Britomart01.jpg) [Britomart Transport Centre](/wiki/Britomart_Transport_Centre) [thumb|Tram in the](/wiki/File:Tram_in_the_Wynyard_Quarter,_Auckland.jpg) [Wynyard Quarter](/wiki/Wynyard_Quarter) on Auckland's waterfront [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

### Travel modes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

Road and rail

Private vehicles are the main form of transportation within Auckland, with around 7% of journeys in the Auckland region being undertaken by bus (2006 data),[[69]](#cite_note-69) and 2% undertaken by train and ferry.[[69]](#cite_note-69) For trips to the city centre at peak times the use of public transport is much higher, with more than half of trips are undertaken by bus, train or ferry.[[70]](#cite_note-70) Auckland still ranks quite low in its use of public transport, having only 46 public transport trips per capita per year,[[70]](#cite_note-70)[[71]](#cite_note-71) while Wellington has almost twice this number at 91, and Sydney has 114 trips.[[72]](#cite_note-72) This strong roading focus results in substantial [traffic congestion](/wiki/Traffic_congestion) during peak times.[[73]](#cite_note-73) Bus services in Auckland are mostly radial, with few cross-town routes. Late-night services (i.e. past midnight) are limited, even on weekends. A major overhaul of Auckland's bus services is planned to be implemented by 2016, significantly expanding the reach of "frequent" bus services: those that operate at least every 15 minutes during the day and early evening, every day of the week.[[74]](#cite_note-74) Rail services operate along four lines travel between the CBD and the west, south and south-east of Auckland, with longer-distance trains operating to Wellington only a few times each week.[[75]](#cite_note-75) Following the opening of Britomart Transport Centre in 2003, major investment in Auckland's rail network occurred, involving station upgrades, rolling stock refurbishment and infrastructure improvements.[[76]](#cite_note-76)[[77]](#cite_note-77) The rail upgrade has included [electrification of Auckland's rail network](/wiki/Auckland_railway_electrification), with electric trains constructed by [Construcciones y Auxiliar de Ferrocarriles](/wiki/Construcciones_y_Auxiliar_de_Ferrocarriles) commencing service in April 2014.[[78]](#cite_note-78) A number of proposed projects to further extend Auckland's rail network were included in the 2012 [Auckland Plan](/wiki/Auckland_Plan), including the [City Rail Link](/wiki/City_Rail_Link), rail to [Auckland Airport](/wiki/Auckland_Airport), the [Avondale-Southdown Line](/wiki/Avondale-Southdown_Line) and rail to the [North Shore](/wiki/North_Shore_City).

Other modes

[Auckland's ports](/wiki/Ports_of_Auckland) are the second largest of the country, behind the [Port of Tauranga](/wiki/Port_of_Tauranga),[[79]](#cite_note-79)