

Regional profile Tāmaki Makaurau

Foundation North Strategy Review -
Evidence Review

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Prepared by



Summary

This report provides a regional profile of Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland). It includes an analysis of population, social and environmental indicator data, including changes since 2018. The full regional profile is available on request.

Key findings

- The Auckland Region is super diverse, vibrant and fast growing. It has a younger demographic profile than the national average.
- Māori and Pacific Peoples are disproportionately represented across several key indicators of disadvantage within Auckland and nationwide. These include socioeconomic deprivation, unemployment, lower income, lower educational outcomes, housing deprivation, access to amenities and health inequity.
- Communities in Aotea/Great Barrier, Manurewa, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu and Ōtara-Papatoetoe are disproportionately and consistently represented across many of these same indicators of disadvantage.
- Auckland's air and recreational water sites are more polluted than the national average and are declining in parts of the region. Indigenous forest cover and access to nature are highly concentrated in a small number of areas, with very little in the urban areas.
- Wellbeing has declined nationally since 2018 in several key indicators such as life satisfaction and loneliness, and Māori and Pacific Peoples report consistently lower wellbeing than the general population. Wellbeing is slightly lower in Auckland than at the national level.
- Measures of trust tend to be high in Auckland, as is the number of people engaged in sports and recreation, and arts and culture, with increased participation over recent years.

Summary of key data

Population

- Auckland is home to approximately a third of New Zealand's population and is expected to grow by 28% by 2053. This is faster than the national average, with the highest growth predicted in Franklin.
- 11% of Auckland's population identify as Māori, with the greatest number of Māori people living in Manurewa, Henderson-Massey and Papakura.
- Pacific Peoples make up 15% of Auckland's population, higher than the national average, with the greatest numbers living in Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Henderson-Massey and Maungakiekie-Tāmaki.
- Areas with particularly high ethnic diversity include Henderson-Massey, Howick, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Manurewa, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki, Ōtara-Papatoetoe, Papakura, Puketāpapa and Whau.
- The population of New Zealand is ageing, but Auckland has a younger demographic profile than the national average. Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Manurewa, Ōtara-Papatoetoe and Papakura

have particularly high numbers of younger people and are predicted to remain the youngest parts of Auckland in 2053.

- 40% of Auckland's population was born overseas, with 6% having arrived in NZ in the last five years. Howick, Puketāpapa and Upper Harbour have the highest proportion of overseas-born residents, and in Waitemātā, 17% of the population are recent migrants.
- 5% of New Zealand's population identify as LGBTQ+, and this rate is higher for Māori and young people. Waitemātā, Waiheke, and Albert-Eden have particularly large LGBTQ+ populations.
- In Auckland, 17% of the population, 24% of Māori, 21% of Pacific Peoples and 10% of children have a disability.

Social Indicators

- Aotea/Great Barrier, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Manurewa, and Ōtara-Papatoetoe have high proportions of the local population living in the most deprived deciles 9-10, between 67% and 80% of the general population. Even within the least deprived areas of Auckland, Māori and Pacific Peoples are disproportionately likely to live in deciles 9-10.
- In Aotea/Great Barrier, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Manurewa and Ōtara-Papatoetoe, 60% of people or fewer are in full or part-time employment. Overall, employment has dropped since 2018.
- Māori, Pacific Peoples and young people are less likely to be in employment than the general population. In Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Mangere, Manurewa, Ōtara-Papatoetoe and Papakura, 9-10% of Māori and 7-8% of Pacific Peoples are unemployed.
- Median income is lower for Māori, Pacific Peoples and young people, even in high wage-earning areas. In Albert-Eden, Maungakiekie-Tāmaki, Papakura and Waitemātā, Māori and Pacific Peoples earn more than 20% less than the average for each area.
- Prior participation in ECE is lowest in Aotea/Great Barrier, Manurewa and Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, and tends to be lower for Māori and Pacific Peoples than the overall population. School transience rates are highest in Aotea/Great Barrier, Manurewa and Maungakiekie-Tāmaki.
- Since 2018, fewer students are achieving NCEA Levels 2 and 3, and more are achieving Level 1 or below. Māori and Pacific students are more likely than the general population to achieve Level 1 or below, but this varies substantially by area. In Manurewa, Papakura and Puketāpapa, around 50% of Māori students achieve Level 1 or below, and 38-44% of Pacific students. Note that Māori learners do significantly better in Māori medium education, with the Ministry of Education recognising that the mainstream education system has historically underserved Māori learners (Ministry of Education 2024¹).
- In Auckland, 15% of young people are not in education, employment or training. This is higher than the national average and has increased by 2.5% since 2018.
- Auckland has a higher rate of severe housing deprivation than the national average, and this has risen since 2018. In Aotea/Great Barrier, Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Manurewa and Ōtara-Papatoetoe, over 5% of the population is severely housing-deprived. Māori and Pacific Peoples are more likely to be severely housing-deprived, and this has risen more sharply since 2018.
- 9% of Auckland's population have access to less than seven basic amenities, compared to 7% nationally. In Aotea/Great Barrier, Manurewa and Maungakiekie-Tāmaki, this rises to 13-26%.

¹ <https://web-assets.education.govt.nz/s3fs-public/2024-05/BN-1321550-Maori-education-overview.pdf>.

Māori and Pacific Peoples are more likely to lack access to basic amenities, particularly in areas with high overall rates.

- Public housing has increased in Auckland since 2018 by 28%, but the number of applicants on the housing register has grown by 66%. Transitional housing has increased by 137%, and the wait time for housing has increased by 54%. Māori and Pacific Peoples are disproportionately represented on the housing register.
- In Auckland, around 14% of the population are disabled (17% nationally). Māori and Pacific Peoples have higher incidence of disabilities in Auckland (24% and 21% respectively) and 10% of children aged 0-14 years. Disabled people generally are more likely to experience adverse outcomes in several areas of wellbeing including housing, employment, income, social wellbeing, and discrimination.
- The percentage of people with unmet health needs due to costs or wait time has increased since 2018, and Māori and Pacific People were more likely to have unmet needs than the general population.
- Voter participation in Auckland was 4% lower in 2023 than in 2020, and Māngere, Manurewa and Panmure-Ōtāhuhu had particularly low turnout at below 70%. Turnout was lower for Māori and young people than for the general population.
- Reports of discrimination are rising in Aotearoa, and 24% of Aucklanders reported experiencing discrimination in 2023. Reported discrimination is particularly high in Counties Manukau and West Auckland. Māori and Pacific Peoples were both more likely to experience discrimination than the general population and the LGBTQ+ population experiences higher rates of discrimination than the general population.
- Aucklanders' report feeling lonelier than the general population, and this has risen since 2018, with 19% of the population feeling lonely some, most or all of the time in 2023. This figure was highest for recent migrants, at 27% of the population. However, trust in other New Zealanders and in Parliament was high, especially amongst new migrants.
- Auckland residents' rate lower in several measures of wellbeing (such as life satisfaction and community support) than the general population, and these wellbeing indicators have dropped since 2018. Māori and Pacific Peoples reported consistently lower wellbeing than the general population.
- Many parts of Auckland have high access to health-promoting amenities (such as pools, libraries, and playing fields) and are characterised as reasonably healthy by the Healthy Location Index. Albert-Eden and Papakura, however, have low access to health-promoting amenities and high access to detrimental ones (such as liquor stores).
- Over 80% of adults and young people in Auckland reported being physically active, and around a quarter of adults and over 40% of young people are members of a club or gym. Māori and Pacific Peoples were less likely than the general population to have engaged in recent physical activity.
- Participation in culture and the arts has risen since 2022/23 and is higher in Auckland than the rest of New Zealand, with 91% of Aucklanders attending at least one event in 2025. Nationally, more Māori, Pacific Peoples and younger people attended arts and culture events than the general population. Aucklanders were more likely to have attended cultural events such as Pride, Chinese New Year and Diwali, as well as Māori and Pacific cultural events, than the national average.

Environmental Indicators

- Auckland's recreational water sites (i.e. rivers, lakes, beaches) show declining water quality over time and tend to be more polluted than the national average. Albert-Eden and Henderson-Massey have the highest incidence of red alerts.
- Most of Auckland has very little indigenous forest and shrubland cover in comparison to the national average of 32%, with the exception of Aotea/Great Barrier (89%), the Waitākere Ranges (76%), and Waiheke (46%).
- Auckland has a high number of introduced pest and weed species, with approximately four new species naturalised per year, and over 400 threatened or at-risk native species. Native biodiversity has increased in recent years thanks to ongoing reforestation, habitat restoration and pest eradication.
- Around 14% of Auckland's land area constitutes public access parks, reserves, easements or other conservation land. However, this is highly concentrated in the Waitākere Ranges, Waiheke and Aotea/Great Barrier Island, with the lowest accessibility in Franklin at only 8% of the land area.
- There have been improvements in native forest cover and wetland condition in Auckland since 2018, but estuary health is declining, with 42% of sites in poor or marginal condition, largely due to sedimentation.