

## Population

## Historic Population Growth

Christchurch City Population Summary for 1981 to 2012								
Year	Resident Population (Census)	Resident Population (Estimate - Excluding Undercount, March Year)	Resident Population (Estimate - Including Undercount, June Year)	Annual Numeric Change	Annual Percentage Change	5 Year Numeric Change	5 Year Percentage Change	Under-count Ratio Estimate to Census
1981	281721	284,933						
1986	288,948	293,833				7,227	2.6	
1987		293,310		-523	-0.2			
1988		294,100		790	0.3			
1989		294,440		340	0.1			
1990		295,830		1,390	0.5			
1991	296,061	300,497		4,667	1.6	7,113	2.5	
1992		301,360		863	0.3			
1993		305,400		4,040	1.3			
1994		310,720		5,320	1.7			
1995		316,800		6,080	2.0			
1996	316,611		325,250	-189	-0.1	20,550	6.9	1.027
1997			328,750	3,500	1.1			
1998			330,830	2,080	0.6			
1999			332,230	1,400	0.4			
2000			333,390	1,160	0.3			
2001	323,956		335,240	1,850	0.6	7,345	2.3	1.035
2002			340,140	4,900	1.5			
2003			347,000	6,860	2.0			
2004			352,400	5,400	1.6			
2005			356,100	3,700	1.0			
2006	348,435		361,800	5,700	1.6	24,479	7.6	1.038
2007			365,700	3,900	1.1			
2008			369,000	3,300	0.9			
2009			372,600	3,600	1.0			
2010			376,700	4,100	1.1			
2011	postponed to 2013		367,700	-9,000	-2.4			
2012			363,100	-4,600	-1.2			
Average Annual Change 1987-2010				3,093	0.9			
Average Annual Change 2002-2010				4,607	1.3			
Average Annual Change 2002-2012				2,533	0.7			

Source: Statistics New Zealand: Subnational Population Estimates.

## Key Points:

- At 30 June 2012, the estimated resident population of Christchurch was 363,100 - a decrease of 4,600 (1.2%) from June 2011.
- Between the 1981 and 2006 censuses, the usually resident population of Christchurch increased by 66,714 people; from 281,721 to 348,435.
- Between 1981 and 2006, 67% of population growth occurred during the inter-census periods 1991-1996 and 2001-2006, when the City gained an additional 45,030 people.
- Christchurch has experienced negative annual population growth four times since 1987. Between 1986 and 1987 by 523, between 1995 and 1996 by 189, between 2010 and 2011 by 9,000 and between 2011 and 2012 by 4,600.

## What is this about?

This table shows usually resident population counts for the two key resident population measures produced by Statistics New Zealand: the five yearly Census Usually Resident population count and the annual Estimated Usually Resident population count. Data is shown for Christchurch City (using the current territorial authority boundary) since 1981.

The overall size of a population has a major impact on the wider environment. It directly affects land use patterns, air quality, solid waste generation and water quality. It can also influence the size and composition of the labour force, place pressure on existing social services and recreational facilities and alter demands for goods and services.

Population growth is influenced by two main processes. The first is through natural increase (more births than deaths) and the second influence is as a result of migration. These two factors contribute greatly to the size and growth of Christchurch City's population.

## Data limitations:

Population estimates are produced annually, using data from the most recent census and are updated for estimates of births, deaths and net migration since the last census. Population estimates since 1996 have been adjusted to account for the census undercount - those who do not fill out the census and those who are temporarily overseas. These estimates are based on the year to June 30th. Prior to 1996, population estimates excluded the census undercount and were based on the year to March 31st.

## Related topics:

- Internal Migration
- External Migration
- Births and Deaths
- Fertility