

## Population Density by Territorial Authority

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Population density affects the environment and ecosystem in a number of ways**
- **Population density varied markedly in territorial authorities: ranging from 1278 people/km<sup>2</sup> to less than 1 people/km<sup>2</sup>**
- **Average population density 16 people/km<sup>2</sup> in 2013**



Source: [http://www.ehow.com/how\\_4899359\\_calculate-population-growth-rate.html](http://www.ehow.com/how_4899359_calculate-population-growth-rate.html)

### Population density affects environment and ecosystem in a number of ways

Population density is an important factor in the health of the environment and ecosystems. For example, high population density can promote sustainable development if planned for appropriately, but conversely it can also place a heavy burden on the surrounding environment.

### Population density varied markedly in Territorial Authorities

As a large amount of the land was covered by national parks and the population concentrated in cities and towns, the density of population varied markedly in Territorial Authorities (TAs): ranging from 1278 people/km<sup>2</sup> to less than 1 people/km<sup>2</sup> (Statistic New Zealand, 2013).

In general, the main urban areas had the highest population densities (Figure 1). The top three most densely populated TAs in the North Island (as well as in all of New Zealand) were (Figure 1):

- Hamilton City                      1278 people/km<sup>2</sup>
- Tauranga City                        850 people/km<sup>2</sup>
- Wellington City                      658 people/km<sup>2</sup>

While the three most densely populated TAs in the South Island were (Figure 1):

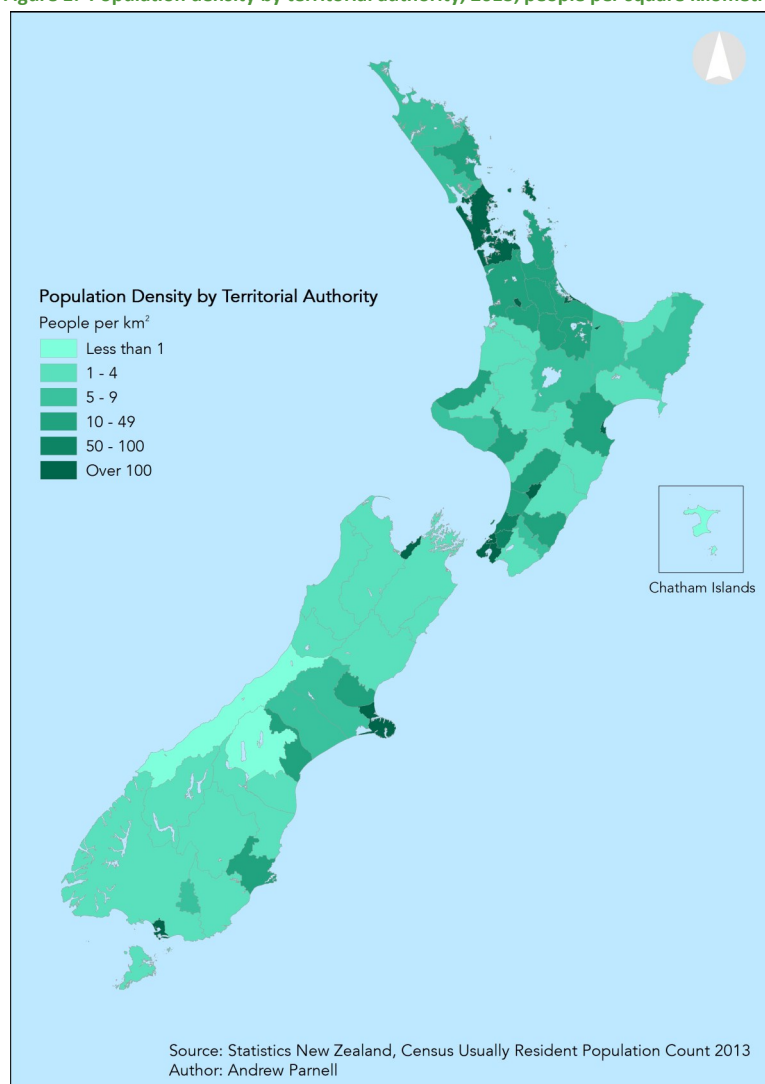
- Christchurch City                    241 people/km<sup>2</sup>
- Invercargill City                      131 people/km<sup>2</sup>
- Nelson City                            109 people/km<sup>2</sup>

## Average population density 16 people/km<sup>2</sup> in 2013

In the 2013 Census, based on the usually resident population count, New Zealand had an overall population density of 16 people/km<sup>2</sup>, compared to 15 people/km<sup>2</sup> in 2006 (Statistic New Zealand, 2013).

In the 2006 Census, North Shore City had the highest population density in New Zealand. On the 1 November 2010, North Shore City had amalgamated into the Auckland area along with six other TAs (Statistics New Zealand, 2013). Therefore, to a certain extent, population density are dependent on the land area size and urban nature of the TA, as well as where the administrative boundaries are located.

**Figure 1: Population density by territorial authority, 2013, people per square kilometre (km<sup>2</sup>)**



**Note:**

- On 1 November 2010, Auckland Council became a unitary authority, when Auckland regional council area and seven territorial authority areas – Rodney district, North Shore city, Waitakere city, Auckland city, Manukau city, Papakura district, and Franklin district – amalgamated.
- On 6 March 2006, Banks Peninsula District Council amalgamated with the Christchurch City Council. For the purposes of time series, Banks Peninsula data for 2001 and 2006 have been incorporated under Christchurch City.

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**References:**

- Briggs D. 1999. Environmental Health Indicators: Framework and methodologies. Geneva: World Health Organization.
- Statistics New Zealand. (2013). Census Usually Resident Population Counts.