Mahere Tāmaki Makaurau | AUCKLAND PLAN 2050

Pūrongo koke whakamua ia toru tau

Three Yearly Progress Report 2025

November 2025

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Executive Summary

The Auckland Plan 2050 sets out a long-term vision for Auckland to thrive and succeed. The plan provides broad direction to guide Auckland's growth and development through six outcomes and a Future Development Strategy.

Achieving the outcomes of the Auckland Plan 2050 will need the investment and action of central and local government, mana whenua, the private sector, non-government organisations and Auckland's communities.

A progress report against the six outcomes is published every three years to monitor the plan's progress and support evidence-based decision-making. This progress report supplements the Auckland Plan annual monitoring report and provides a more detailed analysis of trends for each of the plan's outcomes.[1]

This 2025 progress report outlines opportunities for greater progress in addressing challenges we face as a region. Auckland Council does not have all levers required to implement the plan's strategic direction or take those opportunities for progress. Many organisations and agencies play a role in delivering the Auckland Plan outcomes.

At the time of the last Three Yearly Progress report in early 2023, we were reporting on progress that occurred over the challenging COVID-19 period. While acute COVID-19 related disruptions are behind us, we continue to face the impacts from climate change and the urgent need for transformation to a low-carbon, inclusive society and economy.

The Auckland Plan identifies three core challenges for the region: managing high population growth, addressing environmental degradation, and ensuring shared prosperity for all Aucklanders. This progress report reveals that while Auckland has made progress on some fronts, these challenges remain as pressing as ever.

The Our Changing Context section (p.12) explores the policy shifts, economic conditions, and climate events that provide the backdrop for understanding progress. The Auckland's People section (p.14) describes the region's continued population growth and increasing diversity. These demographic shifts both create opportunities and increase the urgent need to address Auckland's challenges.

Progress snapshot

The following table summarises key progress against each of the Auckland Plan outcomes and identifies three opportunities for greater progress for each outcome.

[1] The Future Development Strategy is reported on annually in a separate monitoring report.

Belonging and Participation

Te whai pānga me te whai wāhi atu

All Aucklanders will be part of and contribute to society, access opportunities, and have the chance to develop to their full potential

How is this outcome progressing?	Opportunities for greater progress
• **Quality of life declining:** three-quarters of Aucklanders rate their quality of life positively, but this proportion has decreased. • **Weakened community connection and resilience:** sense of community has declined; more people report feeling lonely and trust in people and public institutions has declined. • **Health and wellbeing declining**: self-rated physical and mental health has declined with Māori, Pacific and younger people reporting poorer results. • **Aucklanders feel less safe** walking alone in local town centres at night and in the city centre. • **Diversity as a strength:** Auckland is becoming increasingly diverse and most Aucklanders feel accepted and valued. • **Persistent and deep-seated inequalities** between different socio-economic groups continues to be a major challenge – deprivation is concentrated in south and west Auckland. • **Rising cost of living** impacting all Aucklanders, but particularly those already most disadvantaged.	• **Supporting community connection and resilience:** initiatives to improve community connection and resilience should focus on providing safe and welcoming places and spaces for Aucklanders to interact. • **Improving mental and physical health:** growing inactivity contributes to worsening mental and physical health. Access to affordable places and spaces for activity, recreation and connection are vital, highlighting the critical role of council provision of these spaces. • **Supporting communities of greatest need:** high living costs and job insecurity continue to put pressure on Aucklanders, highlighting inequity. Targeted action and investment are needed to support those with the greatest needs.

Māori Identity and Wellbeing

Te tuakiri Māori me tōna oranga

A thriving Māori identity is Auckland's point of difference in the world – it advances prosperity for Māori and benefits all Aucklanders

How is this outcome progressing?	Opportunities for greater progress
• Overall **improvement in quality of life and wellbeing** but loneliness is growing among Māori. • **Economic measures improving**, but barriers to intergenerational wealth remain; educational attainment rates have remained relatively stable over time and household incomes are improving. • **Māori economy continues to grow** strongly in Auckland. • **Greater visibility of, and engagement in, Māori culture and heritage.** • **Te reo Māori resurgence** and demand for te reo courses is increasing among Māori and non-Māori. • Growing recognition of the need **to strengthen Māori representation and co-governance.** • **Political participation and voter turnout** remain areas for further work.	• **Improving housing outcomes for Māori:** Māori currently experiencing lower home ownership rates, higher rates of overcrowding, and are more likely to live in housing of poor quality (damp and mouldy). A focus on Māori-led solutions is needed to deliver more fit-for-purpose housing choices. • **Addressing climate change impacts on Māori:** Māori face the loss of physical structures and resources that are integral to the health and wellbeing of Māori. The impacts of climate change have the potential to exacerbate the existing disparity Māori are already experiencing. While there are initiatives underway, there is still room for further improvement. A Māori-led transition pathway, based on the principles of the Treaty, will be required.

	• **Improving health outcomes for Māori:** Self-rated measures of health have decreased which are aligned with key health indicators. More Māori-led solutions focusing on whānau are required to improve Māori health and reduce inequalities.

Homes and Places

Ngā kāinga me ngā wāhi haere noa

Aucklanders live in secure, healthy, and affordable homes, and have access to a range of inclusive public places

How is this outcome progressing?	Opportunities for greater progress
• **Auckland becoming more compact**, most growth (82%) in existing urban area; townhouses now over half of new dwellings. • **Housing supply increasing** with unprecedented catchup 2019-2022; new consents have declined over the past two years. • **Housing affordability remains major challenge** despite recent price falls. • **Severe housing deprivation and rough sleeping increasing.** • **Housing quality shows mixed progress**: damp and mould reduced with Healthy Homes Standards; growing uptake in more sustainable homes (e.g. Homestar certification) but still only small fraction of new homes. • **Overcrowding remains a challenge**, especially in South Auckland. • **Satisfaction with local environments declining**: a growing number of Aucklanders (33% of respondents to Quality of Life Survey) report that their area has worsened in the past 12 months, citing crime, housing intensification and roading developments. For those that report their area to have improved (15%) the main reasons include commercial and residential building developments, improved and/or new community amenities, and upgrades to roads. • **Greening under pressure:** new developments result in tree and vegetation being cleared, council and community groups increasing planting on public land. • **Māori face compounding housing disadvantages:** homeownership falling, overcrowding high, severe housing deprivation increasing.	• **Improving housing affordability and liveability:** Upzoning for greater housing capacity has improved housing and rental affordability. However, Auckland's housing remains severely unaffordable, and many people are experiencing housing stress. There is an urgent need to improve housing affordability for all Aucklanders, requiring multi-faceted solutions and sustained action from all stakeholders. Intensification must be done well with quality design and adequate green space to maintain liveability. • **Accelerating the shift to sustainable, climate-ready housing:** Action is needed to decarbonise the built environment through retrofitting existing homes and building to net-zero standards. Step change required in reducing embodied carbon and improving energy efficiency, with important health and wellbeing co-benefits. • **Protecting and expanding urban green space:** Green space is essential for health, wellbeing and climate resilience and under pressure from intensification. Significant amounts of tree canopy and vegetation is cleared in new developments. Strategic approach needed to protect existing green space, acquire new parkland and deploy nature-based solutions. Manaaki Tāmaki Makaurau: Auckland Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy recognises the need for a range of open spaces to better reflect the places Aucklanders use and value.

Transport and Access

Ngā mahi kawenga me te noho wātea mai

A low-carbon, safe transport system that delivers social, economic and health benefits for all

How is this outcome progressing?	Opportunities for greater progress
• **Transport emissions**: constitute the largest part of Auckland's total emissions and remain high. Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan outlines that a 64 per cent reduction in transport emissions by 2030 is needed to stay on track to meet Auckland's 2050 net zero emission target. • **Safety**: deaths and serious injuries on Auckland's roads remain high with 594 (31 deaths and 563 serious injuries) recorded in 2024. Provisional figures for 2025 are 49 deaths and 567 serious injuries. Central government policy changes and reduced funding are reshaping road safety priorities. • **Public transport**: boardings in 2025 were 89 million in 2025, more than doubling since 2022 (41m), but are still lower than in 2018 (92m). Public transport boardings are projected to reach 164 million trips annually by 2034. • **Infrastructure improvements**: frequent transit network (FTN) has grown from 9 to 40 routes since 2016, improving access, reliability, and low-emission travel, with more residents expected to live near FTN services by 2031.	• **Reducing transport related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions:** In order to meet its 2050 net zero emission target, Auckland must make progress on cutting transport emissions its largest source of greenhouse gases. While progress has been made through expanding public transport and active travel, shifting government priorities and the consequential reduction of funding are limiting Auckland Transport's ability to invest in the low-carbon, resilient network needed to meet Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri's climate goals. In the meantime, transport emissions continue to increase. • **Ensuring a safe transport system, free from deaths and serious injuries:** Auckland continues to face significant levels of death and serious injury across its network. Reduced government funding and new legislative requirements will impact progress in reducing harm and constrain Auckland Transport's ability to deliver safety initiatives. This means that the focus on targeted interventions, education, and community engagement to reduce deaths and serious injuries needs to continue. • **Targeting investment on the most significant challenges:** Auckland's 10-year transport investment plan faces a $564 million funding shortfall under the National Land Transport Plan, forcing transport projects to be scaled back and deferred. This reinforces the importance of targeting investment on the most significant issues.

Environment and Cultural Heritage

Te taiao me ngā tikanga ā-iwi tuku iho

Aucklanders preserve, protect and care for the natural environment as our shared cultural heritage, for its intrinsic value and for the benefit of present and future generations

How is this outcome progressing?	Opportunities for greater progress
• **Biodiversity:** The 2025 State of the Environment Report indicates that Auckland's natural environment remains under significant pressure from urban growth, land use change, and climate impacts. However, there have been some improvements seen in forest restoration, species diversity, and coastal water quality. • **Water management and resilience**: Auckland is enhancing water management and climate	• **Building resilient infrastructure systems:** Auckland is investing in climate resilience through the Storm Recovery Fund, including the Making Space for Water programme, using nature-based solutions to improve stormwater management and flood protection. Future opportunities lie in upgrading infrastructure, implementing real-time monitoring, and applying decision tools to strengthen climate and community resilience.

resilience through flood and stormwater investments and nature-based solutions, guided by the council's Water Strategy and Making Space for Water programme. • **Visibility of Māori culture and identity** has improved with te reo Māori names of parks and public spaces. • **Cultural heritage:** 113 sites of significance to mana whenua are now protected, 521 parks and landmarks have restored Māori place names, and initiatives continue to support Māori identity, culture, and kaitiakitanga.	• **Mitigating environmental pressures of growth by increased use of nature-based solutions:** Ensuring a healthy environment is fundamental to a resilient Tāmaki Makaurau and to our wellbeing in a changing climate. While restoration projects and investment in blue-green networks are driving positive gains, efforts to protect biodiversity and strengthen natural resilience must be scaled up to secure Auckland's long-term environmental and community wellbeing. • **Enhancing protection of our cultural heritage:** Protecting sites and cultural landscapes of significance to mana whenua is vital to sustaining Māori identity and heritage, yet rapid development and climate impacts are putting many at risk, underscoring the need for stronger statutory safeguards and genuine partnership with mana whenua to ensure their preservation.

Opportunity and Prosperity

Ngā angitū me ngā whai huatanga

Auckland is prosperous with many opportunities and delivers a better standard of living for everyone

How is this outcome progressing?	Opportunities for greater progress
• **Productivity growing but innovation eco-system needs strengthening:** labour productivity up since 2018, exceeding national growth, but still low compared to international peer cities. Technology sector showing strong momentum. • **Educational foundations weakening:** Educational achievement at decade-low levels; proportion holding higher-level qualifications falling; disparities widening with Māori and Pacific students half as likely to achieve university entrance. • **Skills shortages eased but due to weakening demand** rather than successful retention; Aucklanders continue to migrate to other parts of New Zealand and skilled workers to international destinations, particularly Australia. • **Prosperity not reaching all communities:** despite wage growth and narrowing ethnic wage gaps, more Aucklanders report insufficient income; **unemployment has risen sharply** with Māori and youth particularly affected; significant number of children in material hardship. • **Māori economy shows strong asset growth:** Iwi asset base and Māori businesses grown significantly; however, Māori remain underrepresented in high-skilled jobs and experience higher unemployment.	• **Strengthening education pathways and workforce adaptability:** Educational achievement is declining while the economy demands more high-skilled workers. Disparities widening with Māori and Pacific students achieving at half the rate of others. Addressing educational gaps and strengthening pathways from education to employment is fundamental to building a skilled workforce for productivity gains and ensuring all Aucklanders can participate in the economy. • **Retaining talent and attracting productive investment:** Housing affordability, cost of living, and infrastructure quality constraints are limiting Auckland's ability to retain skilled workers and attract productive investment. Addressing these structural challenges will strengthen Auckland's competitiveness, making it more liveable while enabling the talent attraction, investment, innovation and productivity growth needed for long-term prosperity. • **Transitioning to a low carbon, regenerative economy:** Auckland has demonstrated that economic growth and emissions reduction can occur simultaneously. A circular economy is a critical part of the transition and represents substantial economic potential for Auckland. Both national policy levers and city-level action are needed. Accelerating the transition to a circular economy requires strengthening innovation and

• **International connectivity recovering:** Exports have grown strongly; tourism recovering though still below pre-pandemic levels.	leveraging Auckland's strengths in technology and professional services to build competitive advantage in the global economy.

Connections between outcomes

The Auckland Plan's six outcome areas define what Auckland needs to achieve to remain a thriving place where people want to live, work and play. The tables above describe progress against individual outcomes. However, these outcomes are fundamentally interconnected. The relationship between Homes and Places and Transport and Access exemplifies this - urban development patterns drive transport needs and solutions. Both housing and mobility systems significantly influence environmental health and climate resilience. They also shape key elements of Belonging and Participation by determining whether all communities, especially those facing the greatest challenges, can access secure, affordable housing and sustainable transport options. Our natural environment underpins health and wellbeing while reinforcing identity and connection to place - particularly vital for Māori, given mana whenua’s profound physical and spiritual ties to the whenua. Advancing Māori wellbeing requires coordinated progress across housing, employment, education and health.

Economic prosperity creates opportunities and quality of life for everyone. A thriving economy both depends on and enables progress across all other outcome areas. Access to quality, affordable housing remains fundamental to attracting and retaining the skilled workforce essential for an innovative, resilient economy. The growing Māori economy contributes to Auckland's overall success while building intergenerational wealth for Māori communities.

Emerging themes and opportunities for greater progress

Two overarching themes continue to shape Auckland's development trajectory and cut across all outcome areas: persistent inequities that manifests across geographic and ethnic lines, and the transformational response required to address climate change and its impacts. These themes reflect and intersect with the core challenges outlined in the Auckland Plan.

Achieving equitable outcomes is essential across all areas - from education, health, and employment to income and housing - ensuring that every Aucklander can benefit from progress. Climate action demands comprehensive societal change with implications for every outcome area and has the potential to deepen existing disparities facing Māori communities. This transition encompasses transport decarbonisation, sustainable housing adoption, climate-resilient green infrastructure, skills development for a regenerative economy, and integrating Mātauranga Māori into adaptation strategies. Together, these interconnected themes highlight the importance of ensuring climate action is inclusive and equitable.

The priorities and opportunities identified in this 2025 report are largely consistent with previous assessments, reflecting Auckland's enduring structural challenges. These include housing affordability which remains a challenge despite substantial increases in supply in recent years; educational disparities, with the gap between Māori and Pacific students and their peers showing little improvement; and transport emissions which have proven resistant to reduction even as public transport networks have expanded and patronage has increased. Environmental degradation also continues despite some genuine progress in restoration efforts, impacted by the pace of urban growth and impacts of climate change. Meanwhile, social cohesion is eroding, which has the potential to affect our collective capacity to respond to shared challenges.

Data and trend analysis

This report uses data up to and including 2025 where available. It covers a broad range of measures and data sources vary in their frequency. To identify trends, data has been analysed as far back as possible, however there is variation in the time series of each measure. Many measures are only presented from the time of the plan's adoption in 2018. Where changes in percentages from year to year are reported as having increased or decreased, these are not necessarily statistically significant and require further time series to determine a real trend. There have been data constraints, largely due to data availability, that have prevented the identification of trends or results in some of the outcome areas. Measures and results are good indicators of progress but do not tell a complete story.

For each theme the corresponding indicators are listed in a table at the end of each section. Progress is assessed relative to the baseline year (2018 or nearest), and progress toward the outcome is indicated using five different symbols:

▲ Positive change ■ No change ▼ Negative change

... Insufficient data ▶ Change observed (directional indicator not applicable)

How have we assessed change over time?

Progress over time has been assessed by calculating the percentage change between the baseline year and the most recent year for each indicator. This approach has been applied consistently across all measures. A 5 per cent threshold has been used to interpret the magnitude of change - changes greater than ±5 per cent are considered meaningful (either positive or negative, depending on the indicator direction), while smaller changes are treated as indicating no substantial change.

For survey-based indicators expressed as percentages (for example, the proportion of people who rate their health positively), the absolute percentage point change can sometimes appear small even when the relative percentage change is meaningful. To ensure robust interpretation, statistical significance testing has been undertaken in selected cases to confirm whether observed changes reflect genuine differences rather than sampling variability.

For economic and other rate-based indicators (such as unemployment, inflation, or consumer and household price indices), small changes in percentage points can still represent substantial shifts in underlying conditions. In these cases, relative (percentage) change has been used to better reflect the scale and significance of change over time.

Our Changing Context

There have been a number of changes since the last Three Yearly Progress report. These include significant policy shifts at a national level, challenging economic conditions, and the devastating floods of 2023. Together these factors set the context for understanding the progress and challenges identified in this report.

Legislative reform

The coalition government's reform programme has wide-ranging implications for Auckland Plan outcomes, particularly in housing, urban development and transport.

Housing and urban development: The Government's 'Going for Housing Growth' programme aims to address housing shortage and affordability through comprehensive resource management reform. After repealing the *Natural and Built Environment Act 2023* and the *Spatial Planning Act 2023*, the government introduced targeted amendments to the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) including the *Fast-Track Approvals Act 2024*. The *Resource Management (Freshwater and Other Matters) Amendment Act 2024* introduced a number of changes that impact council policies on the environment such as excluding Te Mana o Te Wai and the hierarchy of obligations within the National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management 2020 from resource consent application and resource consent decision-making processes.

The Resource Management (Consenting and Other System Changes) Amendment Act 2025 introduced further changes including bespoke intensification plan change provisions for Auckland. In response, Auckland Council has withdrawn Plan Change 78 and its Medium Density Residential Standards (MDRS) and endorsed draft Plan Change 120 – Housing Intensification and Resilience for notification. Public notification is expected early November 2025. The draft plan change will introduce stronger rules to limit new homes in areas at risk of floods and other hazards while focusing development near town centres and major transport infrastructure. Full RMA replacement legislation (introducing a Planning Act and Natural Environment Act) is expected to be introduced in late 2025.

Transport policy: The Government Policy Statement on Land Transport 2024-2034 shifted priorities toward economic growth, productivity and value for money. This was a move away from mode shift and climate considerations, a focus of the previous Government Policy Statement. The Auckland Regional Fuel Tax scheme ended on 30 June 2024 (creating a $1.2 billion shortfall for council), and the National Land Transport Fund allocation has been reduced by $564 million over three years. Legislative change to enable time of use charging is under consideration. The recently introduced Local Government (Auckland Council) (Transport Governance) Amendment Bill aims to reform transport governance and planning. It proposes to make Auckland Council the Road Controlling Authority (planning, delivery functions, maintaining infrastructure), establish a regional transport committee responsible for preparing a 30-year transport plan for Auckland for approval by the Minister of Transport and Auckland Council, and the Regional Land Transport Plan for approval by Auckland Council. The legislation proposes to retain a transport council-controlled organisation with a focus on providing public transport services.

Economic challenges

After strong post-pandemic recovery through 2022-2024, the region now faces economic constraints. Provisional estimates show that the region's GDP contracted by -1.0 per cent in the year to June 2025, similar to the decline of -0.6 per cent for the rest of New Zealand (excl. Auckland). Unemployment is near six per cent and wage growth was stagnant in the year to June 2025. While cost of living pressures persist, positive signs include improved housing affordability (albeit housing is still severely unaffordable for many), business confidence returning to levels not seen since 2014 - 2015, and gradual visitor economy recovery. International trade tensions add further uncertainty to economic growth projections.

Consumer price inflation reached its highest rate in 2022, and while rates have declined, they remain above historical levels. As a result, many Aucklanders continue to experience increased living costs, with high interest rates and the costs of many everyday items increasing in price.[2]

Climate change impacts

Auckland experienced climate change devastation in early 2023, with January bringing half the region's annual rainfall - nine times the normal amount. The Auckland Anniversary Weekend floods and Cyclone Gabrielle caused tragic loss of life, displaced thousands, and damaged over 7,000 homes, with 1,200 high-risk properties eligible for buy-outs. The council has bought 792 properties and paid $863 million since the beginning of the buy-out programme. A joint $2 billion recovery programme was agreed between government and the council to address housing, infrastructure resilience and roading repairs. Beyond immediate impacts, these events affected community health, wellbeing and financial security. There was also environmental damage including marine sedimentation, tree loss and seabird habitat destruction. The expected increase in extreme weather frequency underscores the critical importance of both climate mitigation and adaptation strategies.

[2] PWC and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited (2024). Auckland Economic Monitor 2024.

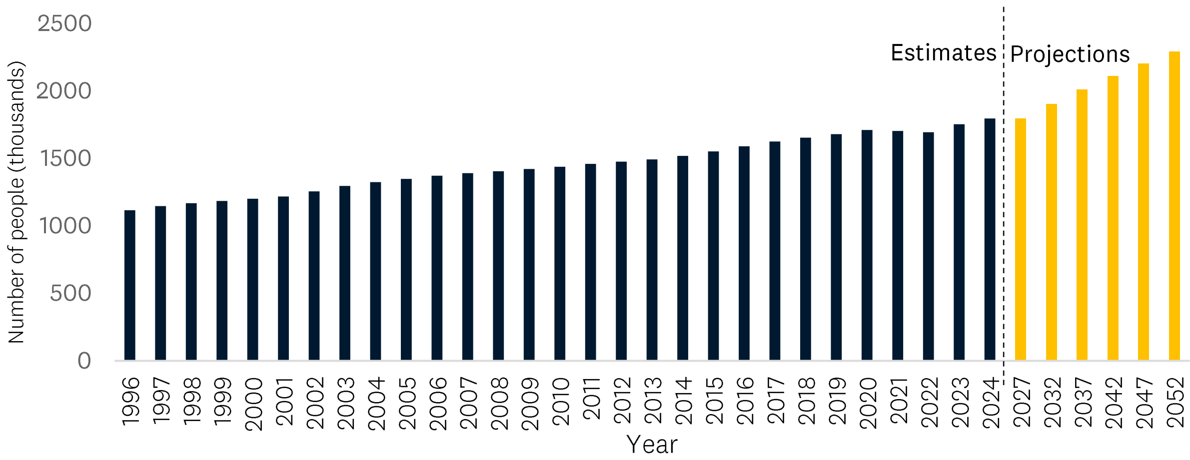
Auckland's People

Auckland is growing and its demographics are changing. This forms a crucial backdrop for understanding the region's progress across all Auckland Plan outcomes - from housing and transport needs to economic development, environmental pressures and community wellbeing.

Population growth

Since 1996, Auckland's population has grown by almost 700,000 people to reach an estimated 1.8 million people in 2024. This represents a 61 per cent increase. Growth is projected to continue over the next 30 years, at a somewhat slower rate (28 per cent), to reach 2.3 million by 2052 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Auckland population estimates (black) and projections (orange), by year (counts)



Source: Statistics NZ subnational population estimates at 30 June 1996-2024 and Auckland Growth Scenario version 1.1 projections.

Auckland's growth has been significant, including in comparison to other similar sized cities. Figure 2 shows Auckland's percentage growth since 2000 compared to a group of peer cities.[3] Only Brisbane has grown at a faster rate than Auckland since 2000; Auckland and Brisbane are the only cities to have grown by more than 50 per cent over that time. These cities (and others) are commonly used as benchmarks for Auckland by policymakers, media and researchers – typically highlighted as examples of good performance in areas like sustainable transport, innovation capacity, and productivity. However, Auckland's growth rate exceeds most of these aspirational peers, creating the dual challenge of improving performance while managing greater growth pressures.

[3] We have selected comparison cities for which population data was readily available. These cities are amongst commonly used cities in Auckland comparison groups (e.g. State of the City peer cities).

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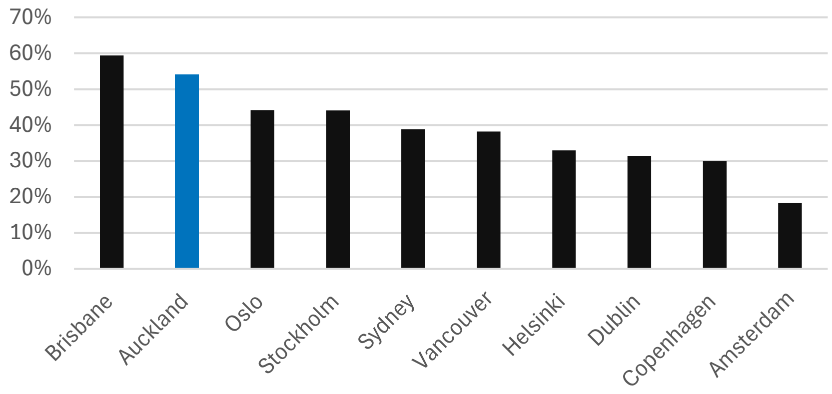
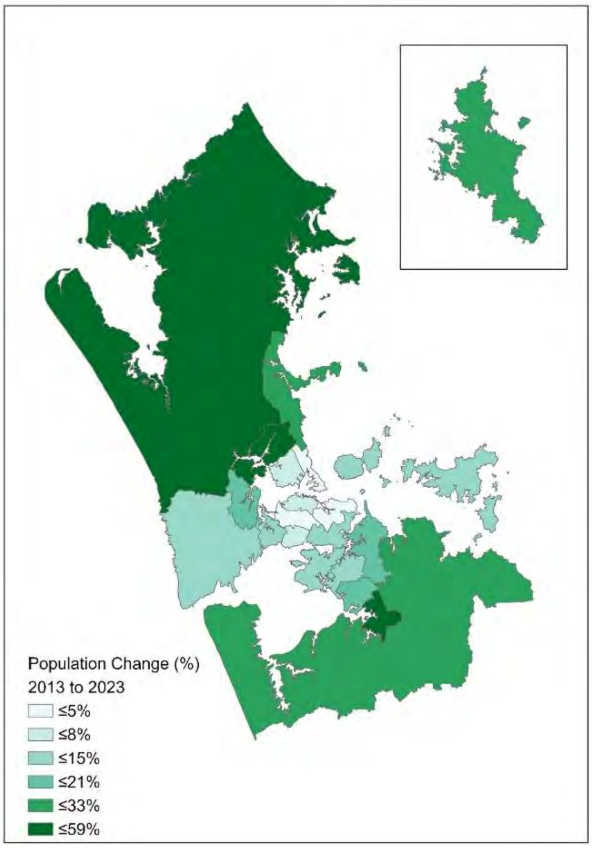
Figure 2: Total population growth (%) 2000 to 2025



Source: UN-HABITAT, Urban Indicators Database[4]

While growth has occurred across the region, the map below (Figure 3) shows how the rate of growth has varied in local board areas in the 10 years between the 2013 and 2023 Censuses. Papakura, Upper Harbour and Rodney local board areas experienced the highest percentage growth, while Albert-Eden, Devonport-Takapuna and Ōrākei experienced the lowest percentage growth. In absolute numbers, the Howick and Hibiscus and Bays local board areas experienced the highest population growth over the same period.

Figure 3: Population growth by local board 2013 - 2023



Source: Map produced by Auckland Council based on Stats NZ, Census 2013 and 2023 data.

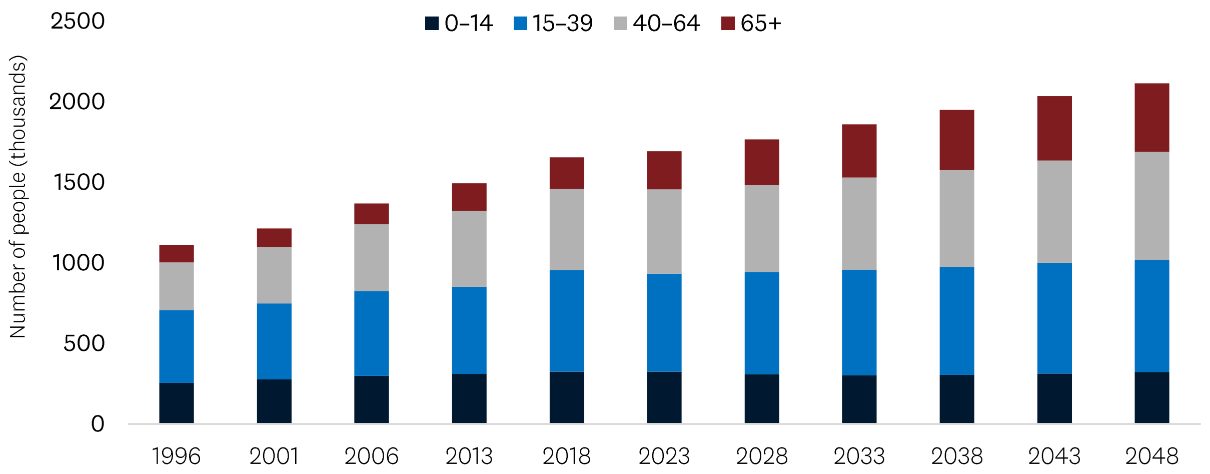
[4] Data obtained from the UN-HABITAT Urban Indicators Database. Population data differs slightly from council data.

Changing demographics

Auckland's population demographics is also changing, with our population becoming older and more diverse.

By 2048, 19 per cent of Auckland's population is expected to be over 65, compared to 13 per cent in 2023. While overall the population is ageing, almost one in five (19.2%) is under 15 years, reflecting the youthful age structure of our Māori and Pacific populations. Figure 4 shows population by age, past and future projections.

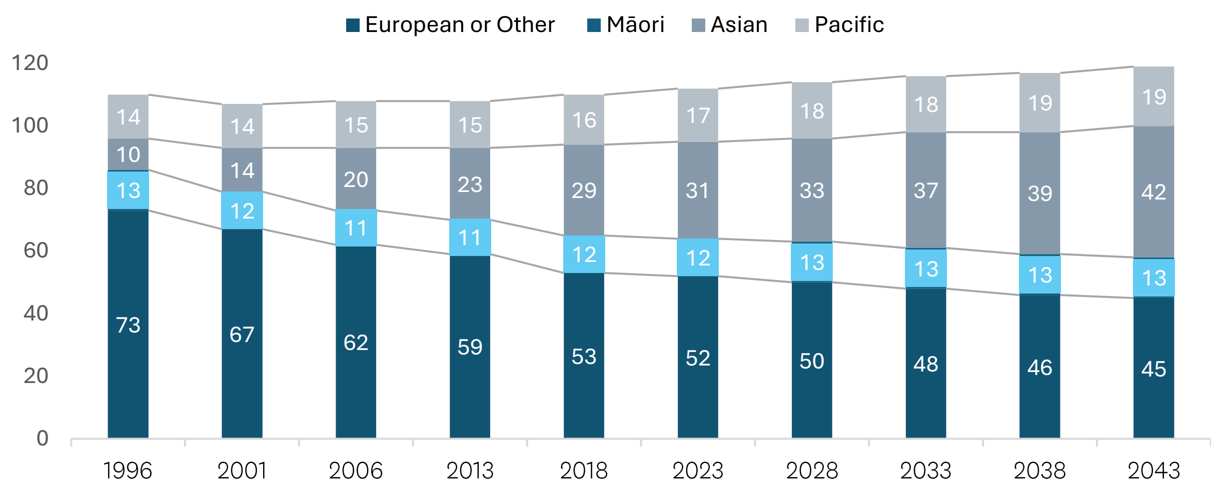
Figure 4: Population projections for Auckland, by age bracket (counts)



Source: Stats NZ subnational population projections, 2018 (base)-2048 update published in 2022.

Increasing ethnic diversity is another strong trend in Auckland, already one of the world's most diverse cities. In the future, Auckland will be even more diverse, with the growth rate of Asian, Māori and Pacific population groups exceeding that of the European group. Figure 5 shows how the proportion of each ethnic group has changed since 2021, and how it is projected to change in the future.

Figure 5: Population projections for Auckland, by ethnic group (%)



Source: Stats NZ subnational population projections, 2018 (base)-2048 update published in 2022.

Pūrongo koke whakamua ia toru tau

Between 2001 and 2023, the proportion of Aucklanders identifying with European ethnic groups decreased by 18.7 percentage points, while the proportion identifying with Asian ethnic groups has increased by 17.5 percentage points. These changes are due to immigration from Asian nations, higher birth rates amongst Asian Aucklanders, alongside declining birth rates of European Aucklanders, and outward internal migration of European Aucklanders. There have been gradual increases in the proportion of both Māori and Pacific peoples over this time.

The trend of an increasing proportion of Asian ethnic group Aucklanders is projected to continue. By 2043, similar numbers of Aucklanders are projected to be of European and Asian ethnic groups - 905,500 (45%) will identify as European or Other (including New Zealander), while 858,200 (42%) will identify as Asian.

Belonging and Participation

Te whai pānga me te whai wāhi atu

All Aucklanders will be part of and contribute to society, access opportunities, and have the chance to develop to their full potential.

Belonging and Participation

We know we are making progress toward this outcome when all Aucklanders are a part of and contribute to society, access opportunities and have the chance to develop to their full potential.

To track progress, we report against nine key themes that reflect the core directions and focus areas of the Belonging and Participation outcome. Each theme is accompanied by a success statement that describes what achieving the outcome looks like in practice.

In short, how are we progressing?

- **Quality of life impacted by reduced financial wellbeing** - Aucklanders' quality of life remains high at 75 per cent although this has declined from 82 per cent in 2022. Māori and Pacific respondents were less positive. Almost a third of Aucklanders said their quality of life has decreased over the past year (30%). Reduced financial wellbeing and reduced access to healthcare were key themes.
- **Growing sense of loneliness, isolation and declining trust** - Half of Aucklanders felt lonely or isolated sometimes, most of the time, or always, although most had someone they could turn to for practical support. However, Aucklanders' trust in people in their local area declined from 62 per cent in 2018 to 53 per cent in 2024. Trust in public institutions such as parliament, the courts and police, the educational system, and the health system also declined in 2023.
- **Pacific people were less likely to rate their mental health positively** - More than two-thirds (68%) of Aucklanders rated their mental health and wellbeing positively, although a decline from 2020. As in previous years, Pacific peoples were less likely to rate their mental health positively (61%).
- **Aucklanders feel less safe in town centres and the city centre** - Aucklanders' sense of safety walking alone at night in their local town centres and in the city centre during the day and at night has declined. However, Aucklanders' experience of crime in the last 12 months remains low. Online safety remains a concern.
- **Growing diversity continues to be valued and celebrated** – Almost three quarters of Aucklanders (67%) feel accepted and valued, an increase from 56 per cent in 2022. Most (70%) can participate in, perform or attend activities that align with their culture.
- **Growing inequity exacerbated by inflation** - Distinct geographical patterns of deprivation continue to exist across Auckland. Average annual household incomes continue to increase, but housing costs remain high. In June 2022, the annual inflation rate was 7.3 per cent, the highest annual rate since 1990, with housing and household utilities the main contributor to this increase. This is beginning to stabilise at 3 per cent in September 2025. However, the change in the household living costs Index provides insights into inflation experienced by different household groups. In 2024, just over one in five Aucklanders reported not having enough money to meet their everyday needs. Over a third of Aucklanders worry about their financial circumstances and a significant proportion have cut back on fresh fruit or vegetables, going to the doctor or put up with being cold to cut costs.

Opportunities for greater progress

The following areas have been identified as opportunities for greater progress.

Opportunity 1: Supporting community connection and resilience

Community connection and resilience remains a key issue. The pace of change and our growing diversity offers opportunities and challenges. Social cohesion has been weakened. Measures where we were doing well in 2020, such as trust in people and neighbourhood safety are now declining. While there are less COVID-19 related restrictions, social cohesion has not recovered, and the future remains uncertain. Trust in people and institutions has been eroded, which undermines co-operative behaviour and weakens positive relationships with others. We need to ensure that our community services and facilities continue to meet the needs of our more diverse population. The council's role in providing safe and welcoming places and spaces for Aucklanders to interact will continue to be important.

Opportunity 2: Improving mental and physical health

Good health is critical to wellbeing and enables people to participate in society. Auckland had been performing well on a number of health-related measures, but inequalities still persist. The impact of COVID-19 on Aucklanders' mental health was significant. Many Aucklanders continue to experience economic uncertainty, high costs of living, and related stress, which erodes mental and physical health. The council's investment in parks, sports and recreational facilities and walking and cycling infrastructure play a key role in promoting Aucklanders' mental and physical health by providing affordable places and spaces for activity, recreation and connection. Population growth and the changing nature of the population contribute to increased demand for council services.

Opportunity 3: Supporting communities of greatest need

COVID-19 exacerbated existing challenges, such as inequity. Supporting communities of greatest need has become more urgent given communities continue to experience the economic impacts of COVID-19. This emphasises the importance of supporting Aucklanders' resilience through targeted investment where the greatest needs lie, and where the greatest gains can be achieved. Failure to act will see inequity becoming worse and more deeply entrenched across generations. There is a need to ensure every Aucklander has opportunities to experience the social and economic benefits of Auckland's growth and can participate in and enjoy community and civic life.

An inclusive Auckland

What does success look like? All Aucklanders are a part of and contribute to society. They feel a sense of community or connection with others and are supported by strong social networks.

Most measures demonstrate a weakening of social cohesion. In 2024, 61 per cent of Aucklanders agreed that it is important to have a sense of community with people in their neighbourhood. Aucklanders' sense of community in their neighbourhood declined from 47 per cent in 2022 to 42 per cent in 2024. Respondents aged 65 and older (55%) were more likely to agree that they felt a sense of community in their local neighbourhood, while younger age groups were less likely to agree (around one-third of those aged between 18 and 34). In 2023, face-to-face contact with friends declined although non-face-to-face contact remained the same.

In 2024, half of Aucklanders felt lonely or isolated some or most of the time, although most had someone they could turn to for practical support. However, Aucklanders' trust in people in their local area declined from 62 per cent in 2018 to 53 per cent in 2024. In 2024, those aged between 18 and 34 and Pacific people were more likely than others to say they did not trust people in their local area. Trust in public institutions such as parliament, the courts and police, the educational system, and the health system declined in 2023. In 2024, trust in central and local government was also low (27%).

Voter turnout for local body elections in 2025 remained low at 29.3 per cent. In 2024, almost one in three Aucklanders had confidence that Auckland Council makes decisions in the best interests of Auckland (29%). A similar proportion believe the public has an influence on council decision-making (34%).

Inclusive Auckland indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Proportion of Aucklanders who feel a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood	50%	47%	42% (2024)	▼
Proportion of Aucklanders who agree that is important to have a sense of community with people in their neighbourhood	71%	71%	61% (2024)	▼
Social contact with friends – face-to-face at least once a week	75%	N/A	62% (2023)	▼
Social contact with friends – non-face-to-face at least once a week	79%	N/A	78% (2023)	■
Proportion of Aucklanders who felt lonely or isolated in the past year (sometimes, most or all of the time)	36%	52%	51% (2024)	▼
Proportion of Aucklanders who have someone to turn to for practical support	93%	90%	86% (2024)	▼
Trust in people	62%	N/A	53% (2024)	▼
Trust in public institutions				
• Trust held for courts	66%	N/A	57% (2023)	▼

Inclusive Auckland indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
• Trust held for the police	80%	N/A	73% (2023)	▼
• Trust held for the educational system	70%	N/A	55% (2023)	▼
• Trust held for the health system	72%	N/A	55% (2023)	▼
• Trust held for parliament	43%	N/A	35% (2023)	▼
• Trust in local government	N/A	N/A	27% (2023)	...
• Trust in central government	N/A	N/A	27% (2023)	...
Voter turnout - Auckland Council elections	35.3% (2019)	N/A	29.3% (2025)	▼
Proportion of Auckland residents that have confidence that Auckland Council makes decisions in the best interests of Auckland	29%	N/A	29% (2024)	■
Proportion of Auckland residents that believe the public has an influence on council decision-making	31%	N/A	34% (2024)	▲

Health and wellbeing

What does success look like? All Aucklanders are in good health, which means they can participate in employment, earn an adequate income, and actively participate in a range of social activities that have meaning to them.

In 2024, life expectancy for males in Auckland was 81.1 years and 84.3 years for females. Auckland has the highest rate of natural increase across New Zealand. Auckland's high natural increase is driven by the region's relatively young age structure, which generally leads to proportionally fewer deaths. The median age of the Auckland region's population is 35.9 years, compared with 38.1 years for New Zealand.

The proportion of Aucklanders who report good physical health has been declining since 2020. In 2024, 68 per cent of Aucklanders reported their physical health as 'good/very good or excellent' (75% in 2020). Māori (60%) and Pacific respondents (59%) were less likely to rate their physical health positively.

Almost a quarter of Aucklanders (24%) said they had faced barriers to seeking health-related treatment or advice in the previous 12 months. Rural Aucklanders (34%) and Māori respondents (37%) were more likely to say they had faced barriers to healthcare. Of those, two-thirds (66%) said that the wait time for an appointment was too long. Other factors cited were concern about the financial cost (50%) and not being able to get an appointment at a time that suited them, due to work and/or family needs (36%).

More than two-thirds (68%) of Aucklanders rated their mental health and wellbeing positively, compared to 73 per cent in 2020. Pacific respondents (61%) were less likely to rate their mental health and wellbeing positively.

The proportion of Aucklanders who stated that they often experience stress that had a negative effect on them has increased from 16 per cent in 2014 to 29 per cent in 2024. Younger Aucklanders (aged between 18 and 49), Māori (43%) and Pacific respondents (36%) were more likely to say that they had frequently experienced stress that had a negative impact on them in the previous 12 months.

Health and wellbeing indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Aucklanders' life expectancy	Male - 80.5 Female – 84.3 (2019)	Male – 81 Female - 84.3	Male - 81.1 Female - 84.3 (2024)	▬
Median age of the Auckland region’s population	34.7	N/A	35.9 (2023)	▶
Proportion of Aucklanders who rate their physical health positively	75% (2020)	70%	68% (2024)	▼
Percentage of Aucklanders who say they have faced barriers to healthcare	N/A	N/A	24% (2024)	...
Proportion of Aucklanders who rate their mental health positively	73% (2020)	65%	68% (2024)	▼
Experience of stress that has a negative effect - often	20%	28%	29% (2024)	▼

Safe places and spaces to interact

What does success look like? All Aucklanders can connect in safe and welcoming public places and spaces and are free from physical or emotional harm.

In 2024, almost two thirds of Aucklanders felt safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark (61%). However, just over a quarter felt that their local town centre is safe to walk alone at night (28%), a decline from 37 per cent in 2018.

Aucklanders’ sense of safety in the city centre after dark declined from 46 per cent in 2018 to 33 per cent in 2024. Aucklanders' safety in the city centre during the day also declined over the same period from 90 per cent to 77 per cent.

However, just under a fifth of Aucklanders experienced crime in the last 12 months in 2023 (18%). Just over a quarter agreed that Auckland is a safe and secure place to live (26% in 2024).

Aucklanders’ perceived safety when using the internet for online transactions also declined from 77 per cent in 2018 to 63.5 per cent in 2023. A significant proportion of Aucklanders worried about someone getting their credit card details and misusing them (62.5%).

Sense of safety indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Aucklanders' perceived safety walking alone in neighbourhood after dark	62%	N/A	61% (2024)	■
Percentage of Aucklanders that feel their local town centre is safe to walk alone in (night)	37%	29%	28% (2024)	▼
Aucklanders' perceived safety in city centre after dark - feel very/fairly safe	46%	N/A	33% (2024)	▼
Aucklanders' perceived safety in city centre during the day	90%	80%	77% (2024)	▼
Aucklanders' experience of crime in the last 12 months	N/A	N/A	18% (2023)	...
Aucklanders' perceptions that Auckland is a safe and secure place to live – agree	N/A	N/A	26% (2024)	...
Aucklanders' sense of safety when using the internet for online transactions	77%	N/A	63.5% (2023)	▼
Aucklanders feeling very or fairly worried about: Someone getting your credit card details and misusing them	N/A	N/A	62.5% (2023)	...

Accessible social and cultural infrastructure and services

What does success look like? All Aucklanders can access services and facilities that meet their needs.

Accessible services and facilities are essential in helping people to participate in society and create a sense of belonging. Social and cultural infrastructure refer to the system of services, networks and facilities/assets that support people and communities. It comprises a broad spectrum of community assets and may be provided by the public sector, the private sector or non-governmental organisations.

There is currently limited publicly available data to assess the accessibility of facilities and services delivered by providers including Auckland Council.

Councils have an important role in promoting community wellbeing through provision of services and facilities that are relevant and meet communities' needs.

Council-led community services are predominantly delivered through facilities, which rely on physical visits. Like other social infrastructure in education and health, the building portfolio is ageing, and it is difficult to adapt the physical space to other types of activities to meet the needs of today. As outlined in the New Zealand Infrastructure Strategy:

• education buildings are ageing (the schooling estate has an average age of 42 years) and there are varying levels of quality across primary and secondary schools due to deferred maintenance and capital investment.

• health and disability facilities are increasingly not fit-for-purpose due to growing diversity, rising rates of chronic disease, and increasing complexity in the way we care for people with illness, injury or disability.

In addition to providing the right type of services at the right location, supported by fit-for-purpose infrastructure, there are many other barriers that prevent people from accessing services including affordability, safety and social and cultural factors. For example, key barriers to accessing health care remain unchanged and include being unable to get an appointment within 24 hours and cost. There is a need to ensure that services and facilities are inclusive and accessible to all Aucklanders and services are responsive to different needs.

Supporting and working with communities to develop resilience

What does success look like? The council's services support activities that are community-led, through building local communities' capacity and capability to achieve their goals.

Recent events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and growing awareness of the climate crisis and the impact of geopolitical tensions, have all contributed to a climate of greater uncertainty. Supporting resilience means that Aucklanders have the capacity and capability to respond to change, whether in response to the impact of natural events, climate-induced change or the changing nature of work.

In 2024, almost two-thirds of Aucklanders felt they understood the potential future impacts of climate change for Auckland. However, just over a third of Aucklanders (37%) said they were 'worried' or 'very worried' about the impact of climate change on the future of Auckland and its residents, although this figure increased to 47 per cent for respondents aged between 18 and 24. Pacific (49%) and Māori (44%) respondents were also more likely to report that they were worried or very worried about the impacts of climate change. Water-related environmental issues (e.g. flooding and pollution) were most commonly reported as having been a problem in the last 12 months (58% and 55% respectively) followed by coastal erosion (47%).

Most households in Auckland felt prepared for an emergency – eight in ten Aucklanders had enough food for three days and almost third had an emergency plan.

Empowered Communities activities support the implementation of the Empowered Communities Approach through facilitation and delivery of activities and programmes that respond to community priorities. This includes provision of funding to community groups and organisations to deliver activities that achieve local board and regional outcomes. There is a continued effort to support and empower more resilient communities and enhance community capabilities across all local board areas.

Partnering with local organisations to operate arts and community venues helps build sector capacity as well as delivering a range of local activities and experiences. Across the region, 134 of 241 facilities are community-led.

Supporting communities indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Proportion of Aucklanders that felt that they understood the potential future impacts of climate change for Auckland	N/A	N/A	60% (2024)	...
Proportion of Aucklanders who worry about climate change impacts for Auckland	N/A	N/A	37% (2024)	...
Aucklanders' perceptions of environmental problems - too much water (e.g. flooding)	N/A	N/A	58% (2024)	...

Aucklanders' perceptions of environmental problems – water pollution	N/A	N/A	55% (2024)	…
Aucklanders' perceptions of environmental problems - coastal erosion	N/A	N/A	47% (2024)	…
Proportion of households that have enough food for three days (Auckland)	N/A	N/A	80.9% (2023)	…
Proportion of households that have an emergency plan	N/A	N/A	30% (2023)	…
Percentage of Empowered Communities activities that are community led	78% (2019)	84%	72% (2024)	▼
Percentage of Empowered Communities activities that build capacity and capability to assist local communities to achieve their goals	74% (2019)	78%	65% (2024)	▼
Percentage of arts, and culture programmes, grants and activities that are community led	N/A	83%	90% (2024)	…
Percentage of art facilities, community centres and hire venues network that are community led	N/A	56%	56% (2024)	…

Value and provide for Te Tīriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi

What does success look like? Aucklanders value Te Tiriti o Waitangi and actively participate in and support Māori culture.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi has been prominent across social and political debates during the past year.

In 2024, four in ten of Aucklanders rated their knowledge of te Tiriti o Waitangi as fair/well (42%), a decline from 48 per cent in 2018.

A relatively small proportion of Aucklanders reported that they could speak te reo Māori well or very well (4.5%), a slight decline on 2021 levels. However, 41.6 per cent could speak a few words or phrases. Of those, the most common ways they learnt the language were:

- through media (46.6%)
- through primary or secondary school (41%)
- at work (39.3%)
- through seeing te reo Māori writing in public places (30.9%).

Those who were able to speak a few words or phrases used at least some te reo Māori when speaking to adults and children in their home (29.1% and 25.5%).

Just under two thirds of Aucklanders agreed that Māori should be a core subject in primary schools, while just over half agreed that the Government should encourage and support the use of Māori in everyday situations (54.3%).

Pūrongo koke whakamua ia toru tau

Six in ten Aucklanders agreed that Ngā Toi Māori (Māori arts) help define who we are as New Zealanders and half agreed that they learn about Māori culture through Ngā Toi Māori. Aucklanders have also increasingly embraced Ngā Toi Māori over time, with overall attendance rates increasing from 23 per cent in 2020 to 27 per cent in 2023.

The celebration of Māori festivals and events is becoming more commonplace throughout the general population. In 2024, 63 per cent of New Zealanders celebrated Matariki, up from 60 per cent in 2023 and 51 per cent in 2022 (the first year it was designated as a public holiday). Around half of Aucklanders are increasingly likely to agree that Matariki helps them value te reo Māori, use Māori words and learn te reo Māori. Other Māori arts and cultural events are also found to be an impetus for Aucklanders to engage with Māori culture and to kōrero Māori.

Te Tiriti indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Aucklanders' rating of their knowledge of the Treaty of Waitangi	49%	N/A	42% (2024)	▼
Aucklanders' ability to speak te reo Māori in day-to-day conversation	5.6% (2021)	N/A	4.5% (2023)	■
Ways in which te reo Māori is learnt - through seeing te reo Māori writing in public places	N/A	N/A	30.9% (2023)	...
How much te reo Māori is spoken to children at home - some	N/A	N/A	25.5% (2023)	...
How much te reo Māori is spoken to adults at home - some	N/A	N/A	29.1% (2023)	...
Government should encourage and support the use of Māori in everyday situations - agree	58.5% (2021)	N/A	54.3% (2023)	▼
Māori should be a core subject in primary schools - Agree	63.7% (2021)	N/A	60.4% (2023)	■
Proportion of Aucklanders who agree Ngā Toi Māori help define who we are as New Zealanders	57% (2020)	N/A	60% (2023)	■
Proportion of Aucklanders who agree that they learn about Māori culture through Ngā Toi Māori	46% (2020)	N/A	50% (2023)	▲
Proportion of Aucklanders who have attended Ngā Toi Māori in the last 12 months	23% (2020)	N/A	27% (2023)	▲
Proportion of New Zealanders that celebrated Matariki	51% (2022)	60% (2023)	63% (2024)	▲

Recognise, value and celebrate Aucklanders' differences as a strength

What does success look like? All Aucklanders value increased diversity and feel accepted and valued, are able to express their identity, and can participate in activities that align with their culture.

Auckland is becoming increasingly diverse. There has been particularly strong growth in the proportion who identify with an Asian ethnicity – for example, between 2013 and 2023, the percentage of Aucklanders who identified with an Asian ethnicity increased from 23 per cent to 31 per cent. The majority of the Auckland Asian population identified as either Chinese (38.0%) or Indian (35.4%), however multiple ethnicities are represented in this broad category.

In 2023, Auckland had a disability rate lower than the national rate (14% compared to 17% nationally). Even so, over a quarter of disabled people lived in Auckland, reflecting its status as the largest region in New Zealand by population size. The low rate was driven by Auckland having a younger-than-average age profile, high proportion of Asian people, and high proportion of recent migrants (New Zealand has an 'acceptable standard of health' criteria which often stops disabled people or people with health conditions from immigrating to New Zealand).

Most Aucklanders (74%) feel able to express their identity. In 2024, just over two thirds of Aucklanders (67%) feel accepted and valued based on their identity (e.g. sexual, gender, ethnic, cultural, faith). Over two-thirds of Aucklanders (70%) felt that they can participate in, perform or attend activities that align with their culture. In 2023, 16 per cent often attended or participated in cultural festivals or cultural events.

In 2024, just under half of Aucklanders (45%) said racism or discrimination towards particular groups of people had been a 'big problem' or a 'bit of a problem' in their local area in the previous 12 months. However, just under a quarter experienced discrimination (23.5%) over the last 12 months, an increase from 17 per cent in 2018.

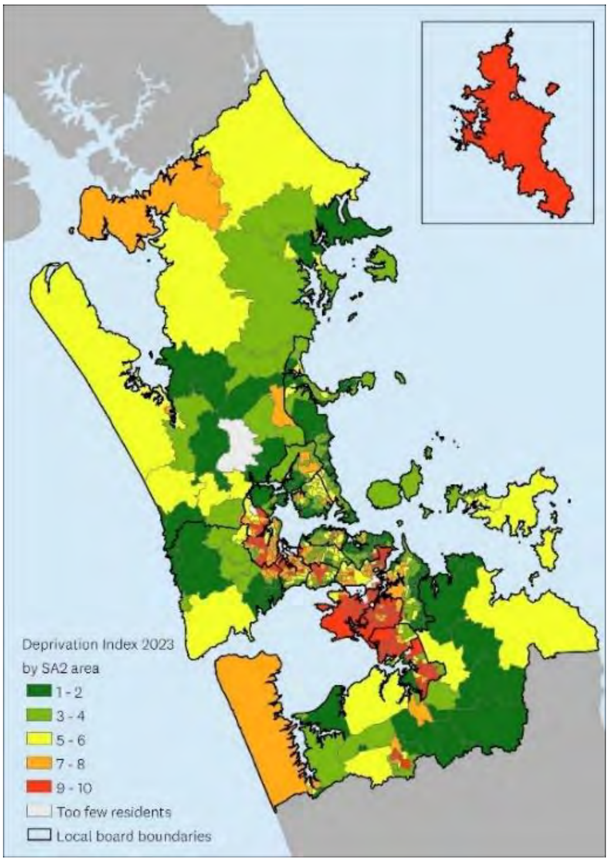
Diversity indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Ability to express identity - easy or very easy to be themselves	82%	78.4 (2021)	74% (2023)	▼
Proportion of Aucklanders who feel accepted and valued (e.g. sexual, gender, ethnic, cultural, faith)	N/A	56%	67% (2024)	...
Proportion of Aucklanders who can participate, perform, or attend activities that align with their culture	N/A	67%	70% (2024)	...
Proportion of Aucklanders who often attended or participated in any cultural festivals or cultural events	N/A	N/A	16% (2023)	...
Proportion of Aucklanders who said that racism or discrimination towards particular groups of people had been an issue in their local area in the past 12 months	43% (2020)	45%	45% (2024)	■
Proportion of Aucklanders experiencing discrimination in last 12 months	17%	N/A	23.5% (2023)	▼

Communities of greatest need

What does success look like? All Aucklanders have access to resources to fulfil their potential and disparities in outcomes within and between communities are reduced.

Distinct geographical patterns of socio-economic deprivation continue to exist across Auckland with the south and some areas in the west more deprived (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Map of Auckland region showing deprivation index by SA2 area in 2023



Source: Map produced by Auckland Council based on Stats NZ 2023 Census data.

The economic downturn of the past two years deepened during 2024, as Aucklanders faced economic pressures. Household living cost increases eased as the inflation rate decreased, but this was not enough to relieve the pressures on families.

The Consumers Price Index (CPI) measures how inflation affects New Zealand as a whole. In September 2025, the CPI rate was 3 per cent. This is down from 7.3 per cent in June 2022, which was the largest annual increase since 1990.

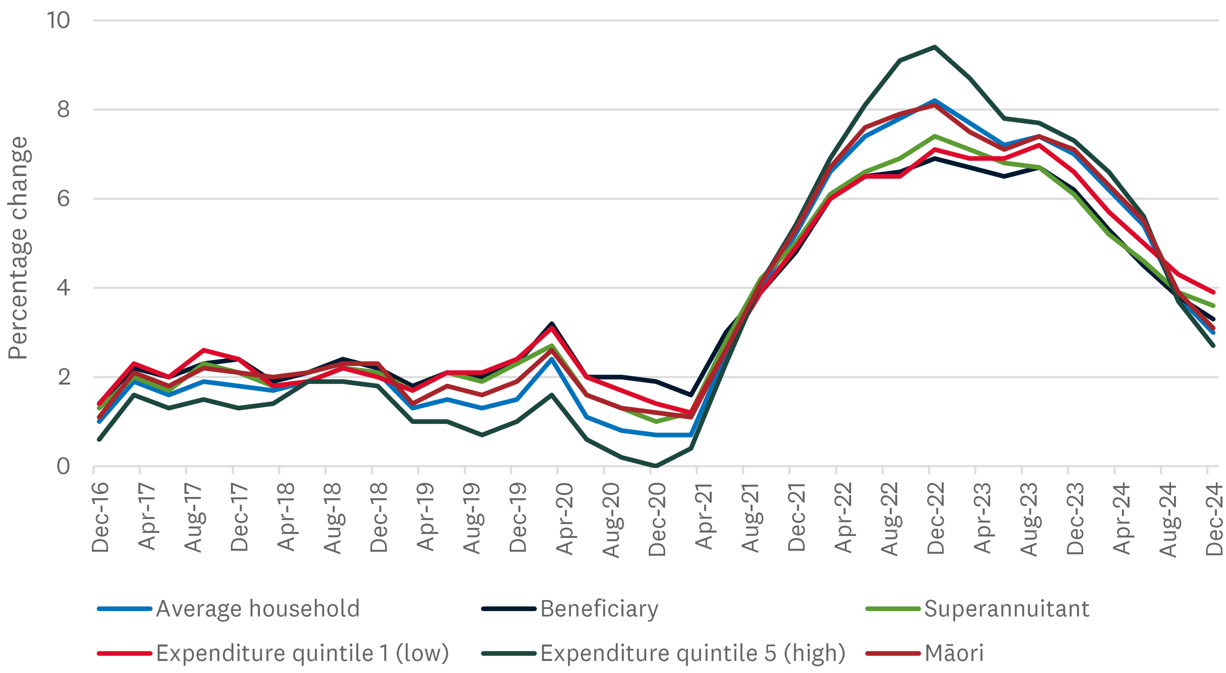
The average household income in Auckland increased but so did housing. The Household Living-costs Price Indexes (HLPIs) provide insights into inflation experienced by different household groups (Figure 7).[5] The cost of living for the average New Zealand household increased to 8.2 per cent in the 12 months to December 2022 before declining to 3.0 per cent in December 2024.[6] This is higher than the change

[5] The CPI captures the cost of building a new home, while the HLPIs capture mortgage interest payments.

[6] The household living-costs price indexes (HLPIs) measure how inflation affects 13 different household groups, plus an all-households group (average household). [Household living-costs price indexes: December 2024 quarter | Stats NZ]

indicated by the CPI, the official measure of inflation (7.2% to 2.2%).[7] The largest contributors to the increase in the cost of living were insurance, property rates and related services and rent. Household living cost pressures also remained high for people on low incomes, as they faced continuing high food and grocery price increases.

Figure 7: Annual percentage change, household living-costs price indexes, December 2016-2024



Source: Stats NZ, Household living-costs price indexes

The number of Aucklanders on benefits increased from 84,417 in 2018 to 128,364 in 2024.

In 2024, just over one in five Aucklanders reported not having enough money to meet their everyday needs, a slight increase from 2018.

Over a third of Aucklanders worry about the financial circumstances of themselves or their family. Māori (53%) and Pacific (52%) respondents were more likely to report that they had worried about their financial circumstances in the previous three months.

More than a third (37%) indicated that they could not access money to pay an unexpected $2000 bill within a week without going into debt.

The New Zealand General Social Survey asks a series of questions related to financial stress. In 2023, half of Aucklanders cut back on fresh fruit or vegetables in the last 12 months to keep costs down, up from 25.5 per cent in 2018. Almost a quarter put off going to the doctor (28%) and almost a third put up with being cold (31%).

[7] The consumers price index (CPI) measures how inflation affects New Zealand as a whole. [Household living costs increase 3.0 percent | Stats NZ]

Communities of greatest need indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Average household income in Auckland (current prices)	$122,322	$144,045	$165,997 (2025)	▲
Number of working age recipients of main benefits - Auckland	84,417	106,116	128,364 (2024)	▼
Proportion of Aucklanders who said they do not have enough money to meet their everyday needs	19%	18%	22% (2024)	▼
Proportion of Aucklanders who worry about financial circumstances	N/A	N/A	37% (2024)	...
Proportion of Aucklanders who will not be able to pay an unexpected bill of $2000 within a week without going into debt	N/A	N/A	37% (2024)	...
Proportion of Aucklanders who did the following a little or a lot in the last 12 months to keep costs down: Gone without or cut back on fresh fruit or vegetables	25.5%	N/A	50% (2023)	▼
Proportion of Aucklanders who did the following a little or a lot in the last 12 months to keep costs down: Put off going to the doctor	22.9%	N/A	28% (2023)	▼
Proportion of Aucklanders who did the following a little or a lot in the last 12 months to keep costs down: Put up with being cold	33.4%	N/A	31% (2023)	■

Arts, culture, sports and recreation

What does success look like? All Aucklanders can access, participate in and experience a wide range of activities that enhance their quality of life.

Aucklanders' quality of life remains high at 75 per cent although this has declined from 82 per cent in 2022. Māori and Pacific respondents were less positive (69% and 68% respectively). Almost a third of Aucklanders (30%) say their quality of life has decreased over the past year, compared to 40 per cent in 2022. Reduced financial wellbeing and the cost of living were key themes.

Aucklanders' perception of their family's wellbeing has also declined from 85 per cent in 2020 to 79 per cent in 2023.[8]

In 2023, two thirds of Aucklanders agreed that the arts are important to mental health and wellbeing (66%) and arts facilities are important to create vibrant places to live (68%). Just under half of Aucklanders agreed that their community has a broad range of arts and artistic activities that they can experience (47%).

In 2020, the creative sector generated $3.9 billion for Tāmaki Makaurau's economy and employed 32,000 people or 4 per cent of the city's workforce.

[8] Stats NZ (2024). Wellbeing Statistics: 2023 (updated).

Pūrongo koke whakamua ia toru tau

In 2023, three quarters of Auckland adults and nine in ten children take part in sports and recreation in any given week. Eight in ten Aucklanders said that they would like to be doing more physical activity. The main barrier is other commitments taking priority (e.g. work, family).

Quality of Life indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Proportion of Aucklanders who rate their quality of life positively	82%	82%	75% (2024)	▼
Change in quality of life compared with 12 months prior - decreased significantly and decreased to some extent	13%	40%	30% (2024)	▼
Proportion of Aucklanders who rate their family's wellbeing positively	85%	82.4 (2021)	79% (2023)	▼
Proportion of Aucklanders who believe the arts are good for their mental health and wellbeing	N/A	N/A	66% (2023)	...
Proportion of Aucklanders who agree that arts facilities are important to create a vibrant place to live	N/A	N/A	68% (2023)	...
Proportion of Aucklanders who agree that they learn about different cultures through the arts	69% (2020)	N/A	74% (2023)	▲
Proportion of Aucklanders who agree that the arts help to create connections between different people	N/A	N/A	58% (2023)	...
Proportion of Aucklanders who agree that their community has a broad range of arts and artistic activities they can experience	43% (2020)	N/A	47% (2023)	▲
Proportion of Aucklanders that attended or participated in any art forms in the last 12 months	74% (2020)	N/A	77% (2023)	▲
Proportion of Aucklanders that had actively participated in the arts in the previous 12 months	50% (2020)	N/A	54% (2023)	▲
Proportion of Auckland children who take part in sports and recreation in any given week	92%	90%	91% (2023)	■
Proportion of Auckland adults who take part in sports and recreation in any given week	72%	N/A	75% (2023)	■
Proportion of Aucklanders who want to participate more	77%	N/A	82% (2023)	▲

Spotlight: Social cohesion and trust

Social cohesion is the 'glue' that holds society together, built on shared values, trust, tolerance and cooperation.[9] Socially cohesive societies are better positioned to navigate complex societal challenges, for example, climate change, a public health crisis, or economic shocks, because there is a greater willingness to cooperate, accept trade-offs, and mobilise collectively.[10]

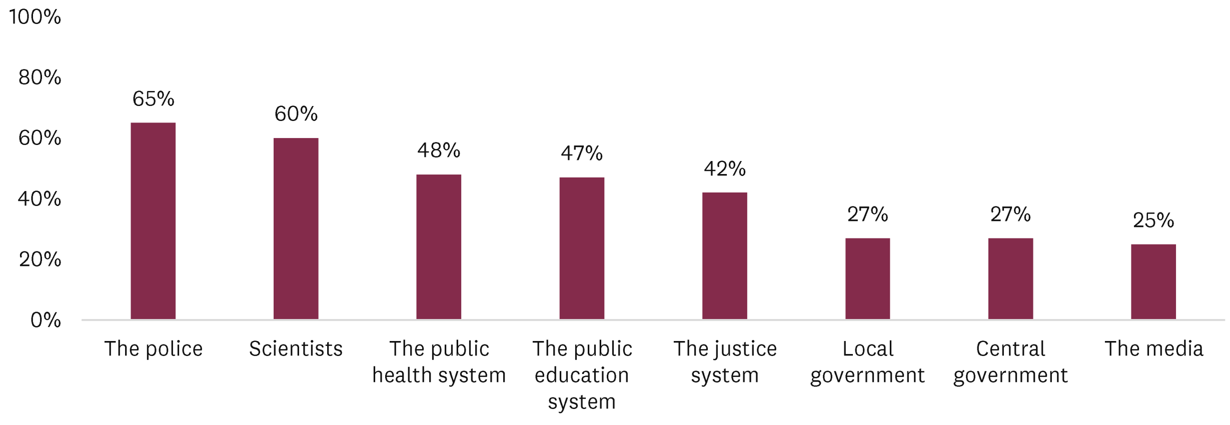
Trust is fundamental to social cohesion. Trust in others facilitates belonging and inclusion, while trust in institutions increases social, civic, political and economic participation, and provides resilience to the impacts of misinformation.[11]

Social cohesion and trust are declining globally. New Zealand has historically performed well in international comparisons - similar to Australia and Canada, but not as well as leading Scandinavian countries. However, recent research shows we are now falling behind Australia on every measure: belonging, sense of worth, participation and acceptance. Trust in institutions was noted as fragile on the national level.[12]

Auckland's 2024 Quality of Life Survey reveals declining levels of trust across nearly all measures. Fifty-three per cent of Aucklanders trust others in their local area, down nearly 10 percentage points from 2018. Trust varies significantly by age and ethnicity with young people, Māori and Pacific peoples reporting lower trust.

The same patterns emerged for institutional trust. Aucklanders reported high trust in police and scientists, but low trust in central and local government, and the media (Figure 8). Again, young people, Māori and Pacific respondents showed lower trust in each institution, while older and European respondents were more trusting. These findings generally align with the General Social Survey, although young people trusted some institutions more than older respondents in the national data.[13]

Figure 8. Aucklanders' perceptions of institutional trust in the 2024 Quality of Life survey (n = 2524)



[9] Forrest and Kearns (2001). Social cohesion, social capital and the neighbourhood.
[10] Eaqub and Collins (2025). Social cohesion in New Zealand. The Helen Clark Foundation.
[11] Gluckman and Sridhar (2025). Social cohesion: New Zealand's precious and fragile asset.
[12] Eaqub and Collins (2025). Social cohesion in New Zealand. The Helen Clark Foundation.
[13] This may be attributed to sample differences. Quality of Life data is Auckland-specific, while the General Social Survey combines views from across the country.

Pūrongo koke whakamua ia toru tau

Economic security matters enormously. Aucklanders with adequate income to meet every day needs show significantly higher trust across all measures, while those struggling financially report much lower trust. This is consistent with recent research at a national level.

Key drivers of social cohesion and trust include affluence and equality – the more prosperous citizens feel and the lower the wealth gap, the more conducive conditions are for strong social cohesion.[14] Contrary to some claims, ethnic diversity and immigration do not have negative impacts on the cohesion of a society – once socio-economic circumstances are controlled for, ethnic diversity usually has no impact or positive impacts on social cohesion. However, media environments do matter. Access to trustworthy information builds trust, while misinformation, echo chambers, and harmful online content erode it.[15,16]

Trust in others and in our public institutions can be improved, but there is no a single intervention that will accomplish this. Since economic security is one of the most powerful drivers of social cohesion, it will require coordinated efforts to improve wellbeing across health, housing, education and employment opportunities – particularly in the context of ongoing cost of living pressures felt across the region.

[14] Delhey et al. (2023). Social cohesion in international comparison: A review of key measures and findings.
[15] Gluckman and Sridhar (2025). Social cohesion: New Zealand's precious and fragile asset
[16] Prakash (2023). Social cohesion in Auckland: Results from the Quality of Life survey.

Māori Identity and Wellbeing

Te tuakiri Māori me tōna oranga

A thriving Māori identity is Auckland's point of difference in the world – it advances prosperity for Māori and benefits all Aucklanders.

Māori Identity and Wellbeing

We know we are making progress towards this outcome when a thriving Māori identity is Auckland's point of difference in the world – it advances prosperity for Māori and benefits all Aucklanders.

To track progress, we report against four key themes that reflect the core directions and focus areas of the Māori identity and wellbeing outcome. Each theme is accompanied by a success statement that describes what achieving the outcome looks like in practice.

Tāmaki Ora 2025-2027: Auckland Council Group's Māori Outcome Strategy and Performance Measurement Framework sets the direction for how we support Māori wellbeing and achieve meaningful outcomes with and for Māori across Tāmaki Makaurau. The strategy consists of seven pou representing the key areas of wellbeing that we have identified matter most to Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau – Iwi Ora (Iwi wellbeing), Te Taiao Ora (Environmental wellbeing), Tuakiri Ora (Cultural identity and wellbeing), Huatau Ora (Future wellbeing), Te Hapori Ora (Whānau and community wellbeing), Whai Rawa Ora (Economic wellbeing), and Marae Ora (Marae vitality). Where appropriate, the relevant Ora Outcome is indicated, which demonstrates strategic alignment between the Auckland Plan 2025 and Tāmaki Ora.

In short, how are we progressing?

- **Overall improvement in quality of life and wellbeing -** About 40 per cent of Māori Aucklanders reported improvement in quality of life in 2024 due to factors like lifestyle, healthcare and wellbeing, relationships and financial wellbeing. Māori generally rated their spiritual and whānau / relationship wellbeing positively. Self-reported mental health has been improving, but self-reported physical health declined slightly over the reporting period.
- **Loneliness growing among Māori** – Rates of Māori Aucklanders feeling lonely (always or most of the time) increased between 2018 and 2024. This is compounded by a declining proportion of Māori who report feeling a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood.
- **Economic measures improving, but barriers to intergenerational wealth remain** - Māori educational attainment rates have remained relatively stable over time, but household incomes are improving. However, Māori are still more likely than other groups to have lower rates of home ownership, to experience severe housing deprivation and have poorer housing outcomes. Lower home ownership rates hinder the growth and transmission of intergenerational wealth.
- **A thriving Māori economy** – The value and diversity of Auckland's Māori economy is continuously growing. The region holds the largest share of Aotearoa's $32 billion Māori economy (2023). Auckland's Māori economy also boasts the highest number of Māori businesses and the highest proportion of Māori employed in higher-wage, higher-skilled roles in New Zealand.
- **Greater visibility of Māori culture and heritage** - There has been increased public visibility and engagement with Māori culture in Tāmaki Makaurau, evidenced by the increased use and learning of te reo Māori, placed-based storytelling, increased protection of cultural heritage sites and increased engagement with Māori arts, festivals and events.
- **Te reo Māori resurgence boosts learning** – The proportion of Māori who speak te reo has remained stable at about 18 per cent since 2013, lower than for New Zealand as a whole. Auckland has the third lowest proportion of fluent te reo speakers in New Zealand, with many only able to speak a few words. However, te reo Māori has seen a resurgence in recent times and the demand for te reo courses is

increasing at all educational levels. Students engaging in Māori language learning by immersion Level 1 (81% - 100%) has been steadily growing since 2013, while enrolments at Auckland universities have increased by 44 per cent from 2013 to 2022.

- **Improving Māori representation and co-governance -** The 2023 public consultation on introducing Māori seats onto the Governing Body of Auckland Council highlighted both institutional and public recognition of the need for a deeper discussion about Māori representation in governance. Although the proposal was rejected in October 2023, there is an opportunity to consider this again in upcoming reviews (from 2028 onwards), including clear pathways with community engagement and legislative support. Co-governance / co-management arrangements between Māori and Auckland Council have increased since 2018 and help incorporate tikanga and Mātauranga Māori into Auckland Council's decision-making processes.
- **Lower voter turnout rates for Māori -** Political participation and voter turnout remain areas for further work. The proportion of Māori who vote in both local and general elections remain generally lower than for non- Māori groups.

Opportunities for greater progress

The following areas have been identified as opportunities for greater progress.

Opportunity 1: Improving housing outcomes for Māori

Auckland's housing challenges are hitting Māori particularly hard, as reflected across multiple indicators. Improving housing outcomes for Māori is critical to realising better wellbeing outcomes. While local and central government have different roles in supporting and enabling better housing outcomes for Māori (refer Māori housing section p.70), at the heart of any solutions is supporting Māori to develop the right solutions for whānau and communities.

Key opportunities include removing barriers to development on Māori land, supporting Māori community housing providers through planning provisions and consenting processes, and enabling innovative partnership models. Iwi-developer partnerships are already demonstrating success - for example, the Marutūāhu-Ockham partnership has delivered seven apartment blocks in Auckland on Treaty of Waitangi Settlement land.[17] Scaling up these approaches, alongside increased government investment in Māori housing providers and streamlined consenting processes for papakāinga, can accelerate progress toward housing outcomes that strengthen whakapapa and sustain future generations.

Huatau Ora in Tāmaki Ora is focused on future wellbeing and the realisation of housing aspirations and will see the development of an Auckland Council Māori Housing Strategy. This strategy will be informed by collaboration with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, other agencies and housing providers as well as Māori partners.

Opportunity 2: Addressing climate change impacts on Māori

Many of the climate change effects that are felt across Aotearoa also affect Auckland. However, Māori are disproportionately affected due to their strong connection to the whenua and wai. There is also a risk for climate change to impact culturally significant sites. This vulnerability is exacerbated by the socio-economic disparities faced by Māori.

The effect of climate change on Māori communities is increasingly becoming a priority in New Zealand, as is evident by the growing number of initiatives currently underway (both nationally and in Auckland) that help support Māori needs in climate adaptation and mitigation. These include Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri (Auckland's Climate Plan), Auckland Council's Urban Ngahere (Forest) Strategy, community recovery funding and several local community initiatives (e.g. Māra kai / community gardens) in Auckland, and the Māori Climate Platform, the National Adaptation Plan and the Emissions Reduction Plan nationally. These initiatives help to embed te ao Māori values and mana whenua partnership in climate action, but there is still room for further improvement, including:

- Adapting housing and community infrastructure in Māori communities that are especially vulnerable to climate-change related problems (e.g. providing flood resistance tools, insulation and elevated homes). This should be Māori-led to ensure adaptations are culturally appropriate and will not disconnect Māori from their communities and ancestral lands.

[17] NZ Herald (23 Sep 2025). Marutūāhu-Ockham partnership completes 720 Auckland apartments, seven blocks.

- Providing greater support and funding for Māori businesses to diversify into climate-positive industries (e.g. circular economy and recycling, sustainable agriculture and renewable energy).
- Strengthening co-governance / co-management to include Mātauranga Māori in the decision-making process surrounding adaptation and mitigation policies, including input from a variety of voices within the Māori community like rangatahi (who will inherit the land), elderly and disabled whānau.

Te Taiao Ora (environmental wellbeing) and Huatau Ora (future wellbeing) in Tāmaki Ora are focused on encouraging Māori kaitiakitanga in restoring the mauri of whenua, awa and taonga species as well as supporting Māori-led or co-design climate resilience and adaption initiatives. The aim is for kaitiakitanga values to be embedded and normalised across infrastructure, land and water management processes and to restore the mauri of people, places and ecosystems in Tāmaki Makaurau by 2034.

Opportunity 3: Improving health outcomes for Māori

Māori experience disproportionately poorer health outcomes in New Zealand compared to non-Māori groups. More than a third of Māori in Auckland face barriers to healthcare. While there are notable efforts underway to reduce disparities in health outcomes (e.g. He Kāmaka Waiora and Whanau Ora), some challenges remain.

An approach that supports Māori leadership in healthcare is essential to improving health equity for Māori. Policy changes that reduce the prominence of Māori-led health initiatives could potentially constrain Māori self-determination when it comes to healthcare. Embedding culturally sensitive healthcare practices could reduce barriers to engaging with the healthcare system for Māori. Enhanced training of healthcare providers to better understand and respect Māori cultural values could help ensure healthcare is delivered in a culturally sensitive way.

Wellbeing (Hauora)

What does success look like? Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau thrive physically, mentally, spiritually, and socially, supported by environments and systems that uphold te ao Māori and enable holistic wellbeing.

Improvements in quality of life

Te Whare Tapa Whā is a holistic Māori model of health and wellbeing, which describes wellbeing as a wharenui (meeting house). The four walls of the meeting house capture four key dimensions of Māori wellbeing: Taha Tinana (physical wellbeing), Taha Hinengaro (mental and emotional wellbeing), Taha Whānau (family and social wellbeing) and Taha Wairua (spiritual wellbeing). This model of health and wellbeing fosters a balanced approach that is culturally grounded in te ao Māori and supports self-determination. The interconnection of all four walls of the wharenui implies that if there is weakness in one area, then the whole structure is affected, making it crucial to provide a holistic lens to Māori wellbeing.

Sixty cent of Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau rated their physical health and wellbeing positively (i.e. good, very good or excellent) in 2024, and 64 per cent rated their mental health and wellbeing positively. In 2024, over three-quarters (78%) of Māori living in Tāmaki Makaurau rated their relationship health and wellbeing (e.g. with whānau and friends) positively and more than two thirds (68%) rated their spiritual health positively. Gaps still remain in physical health and wellbeing as Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau typically reported lower positive ratings than most other ethnic groups. There were no significant differences in terms of mental, relationship and spiritual health and wellbeing when compared to other ethnic groups and Auckland as a whole. About 37 per cent reported facing barriers to healthcare compared to 24 per cent for all Aucklanders in 2024.

Māori were less likely to rate their overall quality of life positively (69%), down from 76 per cent in both 2018 and 2022. However, there has been a marked increase in the proportion of Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau who reported improvement in their quality of life. About 40 per cent (2024) of Māori adults reported improvements in quality of life over the past 12 months, up from 27 per cent in 2022 and higher than improvements reported by all other ethnic groups and for Auckland as a whole. Māori were also least likely to report decreased quality of life. Some of the top reasons for improvements in quality of life in 2024 include better healthcare and wellbeing (41%), lifestyle (25%), relationships (22%) and financial wellbeing (20%).[18]

Education, employment and income

The proportion of Māori who have attained NCEA level 2 education or above has remained relatively stable at 68 per cent since 2018. NEET rates worsened after the first 2020 COVID-19 lockdown but have since recovered. The proportion of Māori youth in education, employment or training has declined from 83 per cent in 2018 to 77 per cent 2024.

The proportion of Māori employed in highly skilled and skilled roles has remained relatively stable since 2018, hovering at about 29 per cent and 12 per cent respectively.[19] These figures are lower than for Auckland as a whole and for all other major ethnic groups, except Pacific peoples. At 44 per cent in 2024,

[18] The Māori data derived from the Quality of Life survey is based on a relatively small sample size. This may limit the generalisability of the results.
[19] Data in this report for Māori employment by skill level may differ from that presented in the Auckland Plan 2025 Annual Monitoring Report due to variations in the definition or classification of skill level.

there is a disproportionately high share of Māori employed in low-skilled jobs in Auckland, which has remained relatively stable since 2018 (45%).

Individual and household incomes are improving and remain higher in comparison to Māori living outside of Tāmaki Makaurau. Mean annual income for Māori in Auckland has grown from $54,944 in 2018 to $78,451 in 2024. However, Māori are broadly underrepresented in management positions and higher-income groups.

Māori experience poorer housing outcomes

Despite improvements in income, this has not yet translated into widely distributed household wealth. Māori in Auckland continue to have lower rates of home ownership than the overall Auckland population (falling from 20 per cent in 2018 to 18 per cent in 2023 for individual home ownership and from 44 per cent in 2018 to 41 per cent in 2023 for household-level home ownership)[20] and are more likely to live in homes that are overcrowded, damp or missing basic amenities, which potentially increases health risks to tamariki and whānau. Māori are also more likely to experience severe housing deprivation and be sleeping rough. (See the Homes and Places chapter for more on Māori housing).

Targeted housing support, including a focus on Māori-led housing initiatives, strengthening co-governance partnerships, housing reforms and a focus on sustainable housing may be ways forward to deliver higher quality housing for Māori and to improve housing outcomes in the future.

In Tāmaki Ora, Marae Ora focuses on Māori-led aspirations for the development of housing and papakāinga to be realised through advice, land information, and planning and policy provision to address the many barriers to the development of Māori land.

Strong cultural wellbeing

Māori have strong pride in their culture. This is reflected through their tikanga, connection to whenua, whānau, iwi and hapū, language and cultural expression. Significant strides have been made in Auckland and nationally towards enhancing Māori cultural wellbeing. These efforts are evident in the noticeable revitalisation of te reo Māori, increased engagement in cultural activities (e.g. Matariki and Te Matatini) and strategic initiatives aimed at fostering a thriving Māori community. The Māori Outcomes Fund, for example, has been supporting Māori wellbeing and cultural identity in Tāmaki Makaurau since 2018 through its allocation of $150 million over two 10-year budget cycles. Areas such as revitalising the use of te reo Māori and supporting youth cultural programmes and large cultural events are covered by the fund.

Ngā Toi Māori (Māori arts) plays a particularly important role in the lives of Māori Aucklanders, not only as a form of entertainment, but also in sharing Māori culture, speaking and learning te reo Māori and for general health and wellbeing. Māori Aucklanders are more likely to embrace arts as part of their everyday lives, with about 72 per cent (2023) agreeing that it is good for their mental health and wellbeing. Ngā Toi Māori also helps Māori Aucklanders connect with their heritage – 68 per cent see it as a learning tool for Māori culture, 66 per cent say it motivates them to learn te reo and 68 per cent say it motivates them to kōrero Māori (2023). Participation in Ngā Toi Māori has increased over the years, with 54 per cent of Māori having participated in Ngā Toi Māori over the previous 12 months (2023), up from 39 per cent in 2020.

Auckland Council will work to ensure Māori culture and identity is reflected, celebrated and embedded in events in Tāmaki Makaurau through Tuakiri Ora (cultural identity wellbeing) in Tāmaki Ora.

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[20] Household-level home ownership refers to households with at least one Māori ethnic group member, by tenure type (i.e. whether the home is owned, partly owned, held in a family trust or not owned).

Sense of community

A strong sense of community is a fundamental aspect of Māori cultural wellbeing. It is underpinned by the principle of whanaungatanga, which fosters interconnectedness, kinship and sense of belonging through building and maintaining meaningful relationships. Historically, Māori kinship bonds were strong across New Zealand due to spatial proximity, which reinforced close ties with whānau, iwi, hapū and the wider community. However, the highly urbanised nature of some parts of New Zealand (including Auckland) is placing pressure on Māori kinship structures, bringing some challenges to Māori community wellbeing.

Taha Whānau sets the foundation of Māori belonging through family ties and connection with wider social networks. Whānau typically serves as a primary source for connection, support, cultural identity and the sharing of knowledge, but there is also an important role for the extended community and social circles to play in forging a core social structure that support general wellbeing for Māori in Auckland. Although the majority of Māori Aucklanders have rated their relationship health and wellbeing with whānau and friends positively, less than half (48%) report feeling a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood. This has remained largely unchanged since 2018. Moreover, the proportion of Māori who reported feeling lonely (always or most of the time) in the past 12 months has increased from 7 per cent in 2018 to 24 per cent in 2024 (compared to 16% for Aucklanders generally).[21]

Ensuring that whānau Māori are connected, included and thriving with Māori-led spaces and initiatives across the city, pathways for rangatahi and support for kaumatua are the focus of Te Hapori Ora (whānau and community wellbeing) in Tāmaki Ora.

Wellbeing indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Proportion of Māori adults who rated their physical health and wellbeing (taha tinana) as good, very good or excellent	N/A	62%	60% (2024)	...
Proportion of Māori adults who rated their mental health and wellbeing (taha hinengaro) as good, very good or excellent	N/A	61%	64% (2024)	...
Proportion of Māori adults who rated their relationship health and wellbeing (e.g. with whānau and friends) (taha whānau) as good, very good or excellent	N/A	N/A	78% (2024)	...
Proportion of Māori adults who rated their spiritual health and wellbeing (taha wairua) as good, very good or excellent	N/A	N/A	68% (2024)	...
Proportion of Māori adults who reported facing barriers to healthcare	N/A	N/A	37% (2024)	...
Proportion of Māori who rated their quality of life positively (good, very good or extremely good)	76%	76%	69% (2024)	▼
Proportion of Māori adults who reported improvement in quality of life	N/A	27%	40% (2024)	...

[21] The Māori data on loneliness is derived from the Quality of Life survey and based on a relatively small sample size. This may limit the generalisability of the results. The Māori respondents were also more likely to be younger which may also explain this trend.

Wellbeing indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Proportion of Māori school leavers with NCEA Level 2 or above	68.4%	62%	68.0% (2024)	■
Proportion of Māori youth in education, employment or training	82.9%	77.7%	76.6% (2024)	▼
Proportion of Māori employed in highly skilled roles	28.2%	29.1%	29.2% (2024)	■
Proportion of Māori employed in skilled roles	11.3%	11.5%	11.6% (2024)	■
Proportion of Māori employed in low-skilled roles	44.8%	43.8%	43.5% (2024)	■
Mean annual earnings for Māori in Auckland (current prices)	$54,944	$67,641	$78,451 (2024)	▲
Proportion of Māori that live in a home that they own, partly own or hold in a family trust (individual)	19.8%	N/A	18.1% (2023)	▼
Proportion of Māori that live in a home that they own, partly own or hold in a family trust (household)	43.5%	N/A	40.5% (2023)	▼
Proportion of Māori who agree that Ngā Toi Māori (Māori arts) is good for their mental health and wellbeing	N/A	N/A	72% (2023)	...
Proportion of Māori who view Ngā Toi Māori (Māori arts) as a learning tool for Māori culture	N/A	N/A	68% (2023)	...
Proportion of Māori who say Ngā Toi Māori (Māori arts) motivates them to learn te reo	N/A	N/A	66% (2023)	...
Proportion of Māori who say Ngā Toi Māori (Māori arts) motivates them to kōrero Māori	N/A	N/A	68% (2023)	...
Proportion of Māori who has participated in Ngā Toi Māori (Māori arts) over the previous 12 months	39% (2020)	N/A	54% (2023)	▲
Proportion of Māori who feel a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood	48%	54%	48% (2024)	■
Proportion of Māori who reported feeling lonely (always or most of the time) in the past 12 months	7%	12%	24% (2024)	▼

Economic prosperity (Rawa)

What does success look like? Māori participate fully and successfully in Auckland's economy, with growing Māori businesses, assets and employment opportunities that build intergenerational wealth.

A flourishing Māori economy with a diversified asset base

The economic scale and importance of the Māori economy is continuously growing. The total value of Aotearoa's Māori economy has grown from $17 billion (6.5% of GDP) in 2018 to $32 billion (8.9 % of GDP) in 2023, with the financial value of the asset base growing from $69 billion in 2018 to $126 billion in 2023. The Auckland region holds the largest share of the Māori economy's asset base, boasting a more diversified asset base with the real estate and property services sector (valued at $5.3 billion), and the professional, scientific, and technical services sector (valued at $4.7 billion) holding the largest shares. This distinguishes Auckland's Māori economy from the rest of New Zealand, which is predominantly focused on primary industries like agriculture, forestry and fishing. For Aotearoa's Māori economy, professional, scientific and technical services contributed the most to GDP in 2023, trumping agriculture, forestry and fishing which was the main contributors in 2018.

Across New Zealand, the share of self-employed Māori has risen by 49 per cent between 2018 and 2023, with a 31 per cent growth in Māori employers.[22] Tāmaki Makaurau leads the entrepreneurial race in Aotearoa, although underrepresented relative to the general population. The highest number of Māori-owned businesses are located in Auckland, with 5,394 of the 23,748 Māori businesses in New Zealand (2023) located there, up from 4,569 in 2018. This has also contributed to the growth in the number of Māori businesses and business owners registered with the Whāriki Māori Business Network.

A unique feature of Māori businesses is that they move beyond purely financial goals and also integrate social and cultural values like whānaungatanga, kaitiakitanga, manaakitanga and long-term intergenerational thinking into their business model. A strong consideration of the broader value and impact of their businesses on today's society and future generations helps create an economic framework that is purposeful and sustainable.

The Māori economy is thriving, but there are still opportunities for further diversification and growth. Being the largest urban centre in New Zealand, Auckland is uniquely positioned with strong access to international markets, advanced technology and infrastructure, a higher concentration of service industries, and a diverse population and workforce. Such factors help drive innovation and competition in a globalised economy, providing greater opportunity for cross-sector leadership.

Tāmaki Ora includes Whai Rawa Ora (economic wellbeing) with a focus on Māori business, landowners, and entrepreneurs driving a thriving, resilient Māori economy and growing intergenerational wealth.

Māori Aucklanders employed in higher-wage, higher-skilled roles

The largest share of the Māori workforce in Aotearoa is located in Auckland. Māori in Auckland are also employed in higher-wage, higher-skilled occupations compared to Māori in other parts of New Zealand. Nationally, there has been a growth in higher-skilled jobs filled by Māori. However, growth in skilled or highly skilled employment in Auckland has remained relatively stable over the past decade, hovering at around 40 per cent (39% in 2015 and 41% in 2024).

[22] Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (2023). Te Ōhanga Māori – The Māori Economy 2023 report.

Seventeen per cent of employees under 25 are rangatahi Māori (2024), up from 15 per cent in 2022. The role of rangatahi Māori in Auckland's economy is expected to grow in significance over time. Rangatahi Māori and Pacific youth accounted for 27 per cent of Auckland's population in 2022/2023 but 40 per cent of school leavers, (i.e. Auckland's future workforce).[23] With a younger population structure and higher birth rates compared to other ethnic groups, the Māori labour force is expected to continue increasing over time. This presents a role for central and local government to prepare for the increasing Māori labour force by providing avenues like tailored educational support (especially to boost levels of educational attainment and tackle education disparities) and ensuring that the Māori workforce can secure high-skilled, high-paying jobs to help grow personal and national prosperity. The recent implementation of pay transparency legislation [Employment Relations (Employee Remuneration Disclosure) Amendment Bill] in August 2025 is a step in the right direction to help identify and tackle ethnic pay gaps.

As one of the largest employers in Tāmaki Makaurau, Auckland Council is expanding Māori-specific internships, cadetships and opportunities across the group and supporting relevant development programmes for rangatahi Māori under Te Hapori Ora (whānau and community wellbeing) in Tāmaki Ora.

Structural barriers to intergenerational wealth

A large proportion of intergenerational wealth in New Zealand is held in non-financial assets, primarily real estate, making home ownership a good marker of individual and whānau wealth for Māori. Financial assets such as savings, KiwiSaver and other investments also play an important role.

Ancestral homes and land are often handed down through generations in Māori culture and are deeply connected to whakapapa and guardianship. In the early 1900s, Māori had the highest levels of home ownership in New Zealand (e.g. 70.5% of Māori dwellings were owner-occupied in the 1930s).[24] This has changed significantly over time. Māori home ownership in Auckland peaked in the 1980s and declined steadily in the following decades. It has shown improvement in recent years, but growth in home ownership has been slow. In Auckland, the share of Māori that live in a home that they own, partly own or hold in a family trust has declined from 20 per cent in 2018 to 18 per cent in 2023 (individual-level home ownership) and 44 per cent in 2018 to 41 per cent in 2023 (household-level home ownership).

Household wealth has been growing in other areas. Earnings from employment represent an important source of household wealth for Māori. The mean annual income for Māori Aucklanders has been continuously growing over time, increasing from $54,944 in 2018 to $78,451 in 2024, higher than the mean income for Māori in New Zealand as a whole. Growing household incomes provide opportunities to grow intergenerational wealth through avenues like increased investment in education, Māori businesses and real estate.

Although a large proportion of the Māori economy's asset base is held in Auckland and household incomes have been increasing over time, Māori still have lower levels of home ownership and incomes than the wider population. This continues to be a structural barrier to the growth and transfer of intergenerational wealth.

Unique challenges for Auckland's Māori economy

A major challenge, which comes with the growth of the Māori economy, is ensuring that the benefits of growth are equitably distributed among Māori across the region, including those in more deprived areas or

[23] Tātaki Auckland Unlimited (2023). Regional Workforce Plan 2022/2023 Progress Update Annex.
[24] Statistics New Zealand (2021). Te Pā Harakeke: Māori housing and wellbeing 2021.

with less access to education and training. Moreover, the highly urbanised nature of Auckland also brings a unique challenge as it contributes to a disconnect between Māori and their iwi, hapū and whenua, and the cultural, economic and social strength tied to those relationships.

To help tackle these challenges, there are regional and national initiatives that aim to support economic outcomes for Māori, including:

- Māori Development Fund (MDF) – there has been a new allocation of $40.21 million per annum in New Zealand's 2025 National Budget toward the MDF for the 2025/2026 financial year. The MDF is administered by Te Puni Kōkiri (Ministry of Māori Development) and provides grants to iwi, hapū and Māori businesses and organisations to advance their economic, social and cultural development.
- Tāmaki 10,000 (Te Pae Herenga o Tāmaki) – this is a regional strategy aimed at improving Māori employment and economic wellbeing in Auckland through collaborative efforts among iwi, urban Māori providers, education and training providers, funders and employers that aim to improve pathways to work, training and enterprise for Māori in the region.
- Whāriki Māori Business Network – this is the largest community platform to connect Māori businesses and professionals in New Zealand. They provide grants to boost Māori business visibility. Auckland Council supports this network to give effect to Whai Rawa Ora (economic wellbeing) in Tāmaki Ora.
- Social Procurement Innovation - Amotai is an intermediary that connects organisations looking to procure goods and services from Māori businesses. Amotai is explored in more detail in the Spotlight on page 53. Under Whai Rawa Ora (economic wellbeing) in Tāmaki Ora, by 2034, 10 per cent of influenceable council procurement spend will be directed to Māori-owned businesses.

Economic prosperity indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Contribution of the Māori economy to the New Zealand economy	$17 billion (6.5% of GDP)	N/A	$32 billion (8.9 % of GDP) (2023)	▲
Asset base of New Zealand's Māori economy	$69 billion	N/A	$126 billion (2023)	▲
Proportion of Māori employed in skilled and highly skilled roles	39.5%	41%	40.8% (2024)	■
Number of Māori-owned businesses located in Auckland	4,569	N/A	5,394 (2023)	▲
Proportion of employees under 25 that are rangatahi Māori	N/A	15%	17% (2024)	…
Mean annual earnings for Māori in Auckland (current prices)	$54,944	$67,641	$78,451 (2024)	▲

Cultural identity and expression (Tikanga me te Reo)

What does success look like? Te reo Māori and Māori cultural practices are valued, protected and flourishing throughout Auckland, with all residents having opportunities to engage with Māori culture.

Increased public visibility and support for Māori culture

There has been increasing public visibility in many aspects of Māori culture in Tāmaki Makaurau. This is reflected in increased use of te reo Māori, public artwork, public signage, Māori design, Māori place names and festivals. This growing visibility and engagement with Māori culture not only benefits Māori, but also contributes to a richer, more unified national identity.

Te reo Māori is a key component of Māori cultural identity. Attitudes towards te reo Māori have been improving in Auckland and across the motu over the years. There is support for its use in education and public life, with an increasing call for it to be a core subject in primary schools. Public initiatives like Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori (Māori language week) and Mahura Māori (a challenge to speak te reo Māori during the month of September) help support and encourage the use of te reo in everyday life.

Te Kete Rukuruku is a culture and identity initiative led by iwi in partnership with Auckland Council and local boards that enhances the visibility of te reo Māori in the names and narratives in public spaces. Since its launch in 2017, 521 sites in Auckland have received Māori names, with significant progress being made over the 2023/2024 year where 54 additional sites (including libraries, parks and plazas) were added. In 2024, 20 per cent of all parks in Auckland had te reo Māori names, up from 15 per cent in 2023. 73 per cent of Auckland buses had te reo bilingual announcements in 2023, while Auckland's libraries added a bilingual virtual reality experience. Place-based storytelling, which weaves Māori cultural narratives into the physical environment through Māori artwork and design, has also helped increase the visibility of Māori culture and heritage in Auckland. The Spotlight on Māori place-based storytelling in Tāmaki Makaurau (p. 54) has more on this.

Ensuring that te reo Māori and iwi identity has an increased presence and is seen, heard and celebrated through signage, audio, bilingual facilities and publications which reflect mana whenua stories and histories is a focus for Tuakiri Ora (cultural identity wellbeing) in Tāmaki Ora. Tuakiri Ora (cultural identity wellbeing) in Tāmaki Ora will see more mana whenua and mataawaka involved in the design and delivery of a greater number of events that reflect Māori culture and identity.

Fluency and use of te reo Māori relatively modest in Tāmaki Makaurau

More New Zealanders are viewing te reo Māori as an important part of national and cultural identity and see its value beyond Māori communities. While attitudes towards te reo Māori are improving, actual levels of fluency are relatively low among Māori in Auckland compared to more Māori-dense regions (i.e. regions with a relatively higher proportion of Māori residents). Density is found to be closely related to te reo Māori proficiency, with regions with higher Māori density reporting more fluency, conversational ability and everyday use. Although Auckland has the largest Māori population, density is relatively low, with Māori accounting for only 12 per cent of the region's population.

The percentage of the Māori ethnic group population in Auckland that speak te reo Māori has remained stable at approximately 18 per cent between 2013 and 2023, which is lower than for New Zealand as a whole (21% in 2023). Only about 5 per cent (2018) of the Māori population in Auckland speaks te reo fluently or very fluently, the third lowest proportion of fluent te reo speakers in New Zealand. About 59 per cent could speak no more than a few words or phrases in 2018, up from 50 per cent in 2013. In terms of ability to understand spoken Māori, 10 per cent are able to understand well or very well (2018), which declined from 16 per cent in 2013. In 2023, 16 per cent of Aucklanders identifying as Māori reported being able to hold a conversation in te reo, similar to 15 per cent in 2013. The 2023 Census found the two local boards areas in Auckland with the highest proficiency in te reo were Manurewa (22%), which has the largest Māori population in Auckland, and Māngere-Ōtāhuhu (21%).

Following the resurgence of te reo Māori, there has been growing interest from Māori and non-Māori in learning te reo across New Zealand. Enrolments in te reo courses have been increasing nationally across all levels of education. Student enrolment at universities continue to rise across the motu, showing a 75 per cent increase in enrolment in the tertiary sector from 2013 to 2022, with universities in Auckland showing a 44 per cent increase over this time. The number of Year 11 and 12 Māori students engaging in Māori language learning by immersion Level 1 (81% - 100%) in Auckland has been steadily growing since 2013.

Opportunities for marae in Tāmaki Makaurau

Marae are essential social, spiritual, educational and cultural hubs for mana whenua and mataawaka in Auckland. It is viewed by many Māori as tūrangawaewae, a place where they feel a sense of belonging. Marae can either be tribal-based (ancestral marae) or non-kin / community-based (community marae). Marae are also increasingly becoming a place of connection for wider communities, including non-Māori. There has been no update on data related to marae connection or visits since the last reporting period, which showed a diminishing connection to ancestral marae and declining visits to both ancestral and community marae.

Nonetheless, marae remain an important part of Māori cultural landscape and there are initiatives that continue to provide support in this regard. Auckland Council's Cultural Initiatives Fund supports marae development projects to boost cultural, social and economic development. The 2024/2025 Cultural Initiatives Fund will provide grants totalling $588,000 to seven cultural and community-based development projects.

It is also important to ensure that Auckland's marae have adequate physical infrastructure to continue providing vital services for the community. To support this, 22 mana whenua and mataawaka marae have received support to renew or upgrade marae infrastructure in 2024, up from 10 in 2018.

By 2027, more marae will be safe, functional and compliant for cultural, education and community use under Marae Ora (marae wellbeing) in Tāmaki Ora.

Increased protection of cultural heritage sites

Urbanisation and modern development have led to significant loss of Māori cultural heritage sites over time. Heritage sites can hold stories and histories critical to Māori identity and cultural practices making their protection essential for intergenerational transmission of Mātauranga Māori. There is also a duty for government to actively protect Māori interests and heritage to effectively uphold Treaty principles. Auckland Council has increased the formal protection of heritage sites across Auckland through the Auckland Unitary Plan, however there is still work to be done in terms of protecting Māori cultural heritage sites.

The number of protected heritage places in Auckland increased from 2,248 in 2018 to 2,459 in 2024. In addition, 22 historic heritage areas were also protected in 2024. Although the number of Māori cultural sites that are formally protected is increasing over time, the proportion of protected sites relative to the overall inventory of known sites remains small. In 2025, 122 sites of significance to mana whenua received statutory protection, compared to 75 in 2018. Of these, nine Māori Heritage Sites are protected through the Hauraki Gulf Islands District Plan. In 2024, 28 per cent of Auckland's protected heritage places relate to Māori-origin archaeology, up from 19 per cent in 2018.

Working with iwi and hapū to install tohu tangata whenua or pou (markers) alongside formal protection of Māori heritage sites help raise public awareness of the cultural and historic value of these sites.

Tuakiri Ora (cultural identity wellbeing) of Tāmaki Ora will see more sites of significance to Māori recognised and protected, thus safeguarding Māori cultural heritage for future generations.

Cultural identity and expression indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Proportion of all parks in Auckland with te reo Māori names	N/A	15% (2023)	20% (2024)	...
Proportion of the Māori ethnic group population in Auckland that speak te reo Māori	17.5%	N/A	17.8% (2023)	■
Proportion of the Māori ethnic group population in Auckland that could speak no more than a few words or phrases	58.7%	N/A	N/A	...
Proportion of the Māori ethnic group population in Auckland that could speak te reo fluently or very fluently	5.4%	N/A	N/A	...
Proportion of the Māori ethnic group population in Auckland that is able to understand te reo well or very well	10%	N/A	N/A	...
Number of mana whenua and mataawaka marae that received support to renew or upgrade marae infrastructure	10	18	22 (2024)	▲
Number of heritage places protected in the Auckland Unitary Plan	2,248	2,469	2,459 (2024)	▲
Number of protected heritage sites in Auckland of significance to mana whenua	75	109	122 (2025)	▲
Proportion of Auckland's protected heritage places related to Māori-origin archaeology	19%	24%	28% (2024)	▲

Governance and self-determination (Tino Rangatiratanga)

What does success look like? Māori have meaningful influence and leadership in decisions that affect their communities and future.

Strengthening Treaty-based governance

Governance frameworks are continuously evolving in Auckland to help support the inclusion of Māori voices and aspirations in regional decision-making. Including Māori in the decision-making process helps fulfil Treaty obligations by providing an avenue for tikanga and mātauranga to be included in decisions that affect Māori communities.

Auckland Council acknowledges its responsibility as a Treaty partner in recognising mana whenua as kaitiaki of Tāmaki Makaurau and has been taking steps to strengthen Treaty-based governance by providing mechanisms for mana whenua to engage in planning and management processes. This helps integrate mana whenua leadership into Auckland's governance structures. As of 2025, Auckland Council has formalised partnerships with mana whenua through ten co-governance / co-management arrangements, partnering in four co-governance arrangements and six co-management arrangements. The number of co-governance / co-management arrangements has increased from nine in 2018 to ten in 2025, with the addition of the Ōmaru Joint Management Committee in May 2025.

There has been an increasing recognition of Mātauranga Māori in these types of arrangements, particularly in the environmental / resource management space where co-governance / co-management arrangements have been put in place for Māori interest in the whenua. The Tūpuna Maunga Authority (which co-governs and manages Auckland's ancestral mountains and volcanic cones on behalf of 13 iwi and hapū) and Mutukāroa (Hamlins Hill) Management Trust (which manages the Mutukaroa Regional Park) are two examples of this relationship.

Enabling iwi to shape the future of Tāmaki Makaurau through recognised authority, strong relationships and partnerships is the focus of Iwi Ora (iwi wellbeing) in Tāmaki Ora, which will be explored in the upcoming reviews.

Increasing public recognition of Te Tiriti o Waitangi outcomes in governance frameworks

There has been increased public attention in Tāmaki Makaurau on recognising and providing for Te Tiriti o Waitangi outcomes within governance structures, but challenges remain. Auckland Council has taken steps to strengthen Treaty-based governance, including holding formal consultation in June 2023 on introducing Māori seats onto the Governing Body. The options consulted on included the Parliamentary model (Māori wards), the Royal Commission model or a different model. In October 2023, the proposal was rejected and postponed until (earliest) 2028. The majority of Māori respondents and Māori organisations supported the proposal, while a large proportion of non-Māori submissions did not.

Despite the outcome, the formal public process for Māori seats shows institutional recognition of the need for further public discussion on Māori representation in Auckland's governance. It also highlights the ongoing tension surrounding the expression and recognition of Māori rights to self-determination, to exercise authority and to make decisions that affect their whānau, hapū, iwi and communities.

Relatively low voter turnout

Civic participation is important in shaping decisions that affect Māori and their communities. Māori participation in the general and local elections has improved broadly over time but is still lower than for non-Māori.

Seventy per cent of Māori voted in the 2023 general elections, down slightly from 71 per cent in 2017. Notably, young Māori aged 18-24 saw increases in voter turnout between 2017 and 2023. The proportion of enrolled Māori that voted in the general elections increased by about 2 percentage points between 2017 and 2020 elections, with the largest increase in turnout reported for voters aged 18-24 years (8 percentage points). Although voter turnout declined between 2020 and 2023, there was a slight increase in voter turnout in the 18-24 age group.

The voter turnout for Auckland's local elections has been on a general downward trend since 2010. Twenty-five per cent of Māori electors voted in the 2022 Auckland local election compared with 37 per cent non-Māori electors, similar to 2019 when 25 per cent of Māori electors and 36 per cent non-Māori electors voted. Auckland Council's 2022 evaluation of the local government elections found that voter turnout is generally lower in lower socio-economic areas, and that young Aucklanders and Aucklanders of Māori descent are less likely to vote.

There are several factors that may be contributing to low voter turnout in Auckland, including life priorities, differences in knowledge about local government, difference in civics education, distrust of local government, and disengagement with local government.[25] The current voting process, which does not allow for electronic voting, may also be a hindrance, especially to young people. The inability to identify with local governance may also be a deterrent for Māori, although it also highlights a need for Māori to engage with the democratic process and to increase representation.

Iwi Ora (iwi wellbeing) of Tāmaki Ora will see more mana whenua entities supporting the direction that Tāmaki Makaurau is heading and have the resources and ability to influence decision-making to shape the future of Tāmaki Makaurau.

Governance and self-determination indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Number of co-governance/co-management arrangements	9	9	10 (2025)	▲
Proportion of Māori electors in Auckland that voted in the Auckland's local government elections	25% (2019)	25%	N/A	...
Māori voter turnout in the general election	71.1% (2017)	72.9% (2020)	70.3% (2023)	■

[25] Auckland Council (2022). 2022 Auckland local election voter turnout.

Spotlight: Advancing Māori Intergenerational Wealth through Social Procurement

Auckland's Māori economy is experiencing remarkable growth, with the Māori asset base expanding by 72 per cent between 2018 and 2023. This impressive growth demonstrates the increasing capacity of Māori businesses to generate prosperity. Yet creating sustainable opportunities for intergenerational wealth building for Māori remains challenging.

Building intergenerational wealth is essential for fostering long-term economic resilience, cultural vitality, and social wellbeing in Māori communities. Māori ownership of businesses, land and other assets provides the strongest foundation for expressing rangatiratanga (self-determination) while advancing cultural and social aspirations.

Amotai: Leading Social Procurement Innovation

At the forefront of this transformation is Amotai, a social procurement programme that plays a pivotal role in advancing supplier diversity. Established in 2018 under Auckland Council's social arm, The Southern Initiative, Amotai connects buyers with Māori and Pasifika-owned businesses, ensuring their integration into mainstream procurement processes.

From its origins in Tāmaki Makaurau, Amotai has scaled up to a nationwide level through strategic policy initiatives while simultaneously deepening its local impact. The programme now understands the specific conditions needed to create lasting wealth and wellbeing for Māori and Pacific communities.

The network's reach is substantial: more than 2,500 verified Māori and Pasifika-owned businesses are connected with 178 buyers across the country. In Tāmaki Makaurau specifically, 694 Māori-owned businesses participate in the network - 215 are mana whenua, while 479 have whakapapa connections to iwi outside of Tāmaki. Nationally, 2,073 Māori-owned businesses are registered with Amotai, including 489 mana whenua enterprises.

Auckland Council's Commitment to Economic Equity

Auckland Council demonstrates its commitment to social procurement through its Group Procurement Policy, which sets ambitious targets of 5 per cent direct spend and 15 per cent indirect spend with diverse suppliers, including Māori and Pacific-owned businesses. This commitment is translating into real economic impact: the council invested $46 million with Māori businesses in the past year - its highest investment to date.

The strategic importance of this approach extends beyond individual contracts. Māori and Pacific-owned businesses are twice as likely to operate in Tāmaki Makaurau's lower-income neighbourhoods, meaning every dollar spent with them generates stronger positive impacts on local employment and community wellbeing. Between 2021 and 2025, the $121 million spent with Māori and Pasifika businesses is estimated to have boosted $270 million in local economic activity - demonstrating the powerful multiplier effect of targeted procurement.

Through the expertise of Amotai and Auckland Council's commitment, social procurement is becoming a proven pathway for building the intergenerational wealth that strengthens Māori communities and advances economic justice across Tāmaki Makaurau.

Spotlight: Māori place-based storytelling in Tāmaki Makaurau

Auckland is increasingly embracing Māori cultural narratives in the built environment. This is evident through the integration of Māori art and design into public spaces, supported by the increased use of te reo Māori. These represent expressions of identity, guardianship, shared belonging and connection to place by creating a landscape where Auckland's indigenous heritage is visible, celebrated and preserved through time. The efforts not only honour tangata whenua and preserve Māori narratives but also provide an enriching experience for those who live in and visit Tāmaki Makaurau.

Karanga-ā-Hape Station: A Standout Example of Māori Design and Art in Urban Development

Māori design and public art play pivotal roles in narrating Māori stories and histories. From large carvings and sculptures to street murals, these all blend together to form visual representations of Māori identity and culture across Tāmaki Makaurau.

A landmark example of Māori design and art in urban development is the City Rail Link's Karanga-ā-Hape Station. Designed by Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki artist Reuben Kirkwood, the station's interior incorporates te ao Māori themes in its development, honouring the area's cultural and natural heritage. The work is unique as it was done in close collaboration with multiple iwi and hapū to ensure a rich cultural narrative and authenticity of the architectural design and artwork. The station features an installation inspired by the Maramataka, the traditional Māori lunar calendar. The design also includes motifs of pūpū rangi (kauri snails) and rays of sunlight on the ceiling, symbolising the area's natural history.

The design and artwork create a unique Māori experience within a modern transport hub. These are not just decorative but structurally integrated into different aspects of the station (entrances, ceilings, etc.) so commuters can experience multiple layers of a story as they move through the station, creating a narrative immersion into Māori culture.

Supporting Place-Based Storytelling in Auckland

Community-led initiatives further amplify Māori voices in public spaces. Events like the Karangahape Māori Art Hīkoi explore themes of resilience, identity and community through the lens of Māori public art and landmarks; the Te Paparahi Toi Māori walking guide offers a self-guided tour of over 80 sites across Auckland, highlighting Māori artworks and historical sites that reflect the city's heritage; and the Māngere Arts Centre provides a dedicated platform to showcase Māori and Pacific performing and visual arts, often showcasing local Māori stories grounded in whakapapa and place.

Auckland Council also actively supports Māori place-based storytelling by ensuring the narratives of mana whenua are embedded into the urban landscape through design principles, funding schemes, policies and cultural heritage protection. Initiatives include:

- The Regional Arts and Culture grants and the Cultural Initiatives Fund - both support Māori artists and community-led cultural projects.
- The Māori Design Hub within the Auckland Design Manual - this provides practical tools, case studies and guidance to embed Māori design principles into urban planning and development.
- Te Aranga Māori Design Principles – these are principles developed with mana whenua to guide how Māori cultural values, narratives and whakapapa could be expressed in the built environment. The council applies these design principles across major projects.
- Māori Cultural Heritage Programme – this ensures that Māori stories and ancestral connections are protected, celebrated and remain visible in contemporary Auckland.

Homes and Places

Ngā kāinga me ngā wāhi haere noa

Aucklanders live in secure, healthy, and affordable homes, and have access to a range of inclusive public places.

Homes and Places

We know we are making progress toward this outcome when Aucklanders live in secure, healthy, and affordable homes, and have access to a range of inclusive public places that support wellbeing and connection.

To track progress, we report against six key themes that reflect the core directions and focus areas of the Homes and Places outcome. Each theme is accompanied by a success statement that describes what achieving the outcome looks like in practice.

In short, how are we progressing?

- **Auckland is successfully growing as a compact city -** 82 per cent of new housing is occurring within the existing urban areas, and housing density is increasing. Townhouses now make up more than half of all new consents, up from less than a quarter in 2018. However, greater intensification in inner-city areas closer to jobs and transport would better support our compact urban form vision.
- **Housing supply made significant gains -** There has been a substantial increase in Auckland's housing supply since the Auckland Unitary Plan became operative in 2016. The period from 2019 to 2022 saw an unprecedented catch-up in housing supply with completions exceeding population-driven demand by 34,000 dwellings. However, the number of consents has dropped sharply from their 2022 peak to 14,295 in 2025 and are now only just keeping pace with current population growth.
- **Affordability remains severely challenged despite recent price falls -** Median house prices have dropped from a record $1.3 million in November 2021 to $990,000 in June 2025. But Auckland's median house price to median income ratio - median multiple - of 7.5 still makes it severely unaffordable by international standards. Two in five households spend over 30 per cent of income on housing, particularly affecting renters and low-income households. More Aucklanders are experiencing severe housing deprivation, up from 42,762 in 2018 to 48,159 in 2023. Rough sleeping has increased by almost 50 per cent between 2018 and 2023, and frontline organisations are reporting a worsening in the past year.
- **Housing quality shows mixed progress -** Damp and mould have reduced with the introduction of the Healthy Homes Standards (came into full effect in 2024) but still affects one in five households. Homestar certifications are growing but remain only just over 10 per cent of completions. Almost one in ten Auckland households are crowded or severely overcrowded, with concentrations in South Auckland where between 20 and 25 per cent of households are crowded or severely overcrowded.
- **Satisfaction with local environments is declining -** Aucklanders appear to be less satisfied with the environment in their local area. A declining percentage of Aucklanders agree that they feel very happy with the way their local area looks and feels. Thirty-three per cent of Aucklanders now report their area has worsened in the past year (up from 28% in 2018), citing crime, housing intensification and roading developments as their top reasons.
- **Māori face compounding housing disadvantages -** Home ownership has fallen to 18.1 per cent for individuals (37.3% for households), overcrowding affects over a quarter of Māori households, and severe housing deprivation increased 41 per cent between censuses while rough sleeping nearly doubled. Government investment aims to deliver 1,000 homes for Māori over three years.

Opportunities for greater progress

The following areas have been identified as opportunities for greater progress.

Opportunity 1: Improving housing affordability and liveability

Housing remains unaffordable despite recent improvements. Auckland has one of the most unaffordable housing markets in the OECD, with two in five households spending over 30 per cent of income on housing. The causes of the Auckland housing affordability crisis are complex and require co-ordinated action from all stakeholders - local and central government, developers, builders, investors and non-government organisations. Alongside legislative changes enabling intensification, solutions must include faster rollout of alternative home ownership models (such as build-to-own and shared ownership) to bring home ownership within reach for those locked out of the traditional market, and encouraging greater supply of quality rental housing through build-to-rent developments.

Critically, intensification must be done well to maintain and improve Auckland's liveability. With 33 per cent of Aucklanders reporting their local area has worsened, and housing intensification cited as one of the top three concerns, it is essential that quality design standards are met and that adequate green space and amenities accompany higher density development. Balancing these pressures is key to ensuring Auckland offers residents the best quality of life while addressing the affordability challenge.

Opportunity 2: Accelerating the shift to sustainable, climate-ready housing

Urgent action is needed to decarbonise Auckland's built environment in order to reach Auckland’s climate goals. Improving the energy performance of our existing housing stock and building new houses to net zero carbon or passive house standards are critical parts of the solution and deliver significant co-benefits for health and wellbeing. While Homestar certifications are growing (now 11 per cent of completions), the commonly achieved ratings of 6-7 fall short of world-leading standards for design, construction and energy efficiency, and only a few passive houses exist in the region.

With the government largely discontinuing the Building for Climate Change programme in favour of incentive-based approaches, accelerating uptake will require incentivising the construction sector to move faster towards providing sustainable housing and building resident demand for sustainable homes. The volume of housing construction projected for Auckland will substantially increase emissions unless there is a step change in reducing whole-of-life embodied carbon and transforming operational efficiency.

Opportunity 3: Protecting and expanding urban green space for climate resilience and liveability

Green space is essential to making cities more sustainable and liveable, providing critical benefits for health and wellbeing as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation. However, Auckland's pursuit of a more compact urban form is putting inevitable pressure on trees and green spaces. Research shows that the majority of tree canopy (over 95 per cent) is cleared prior to building in new developments, and private green space per person has been steadily declining due to infill development.

Auckland is at a critical point when it comes to the protection and valuing of our urban green space amidst growing intensification. Public urban green space must be a central requirement when planning for more compact cities, and as Auckland grows through urban development and intensification, there must be an increase in public green space and the greening of infill development. This highlights the need for protecting existing green spaces, acquiring new land for parks and making greater use of nature-based solutions. The latter includes integration of urban greenery into high-density areas, and green infrastructure to grow between buildings, upon and over buildings. By taking this strategic approach to planning and managing of nature and green spaces, we can maximise the role of these in climate change adaptation and mitigation, while at the same time contribute to greater liveability of higher density living.

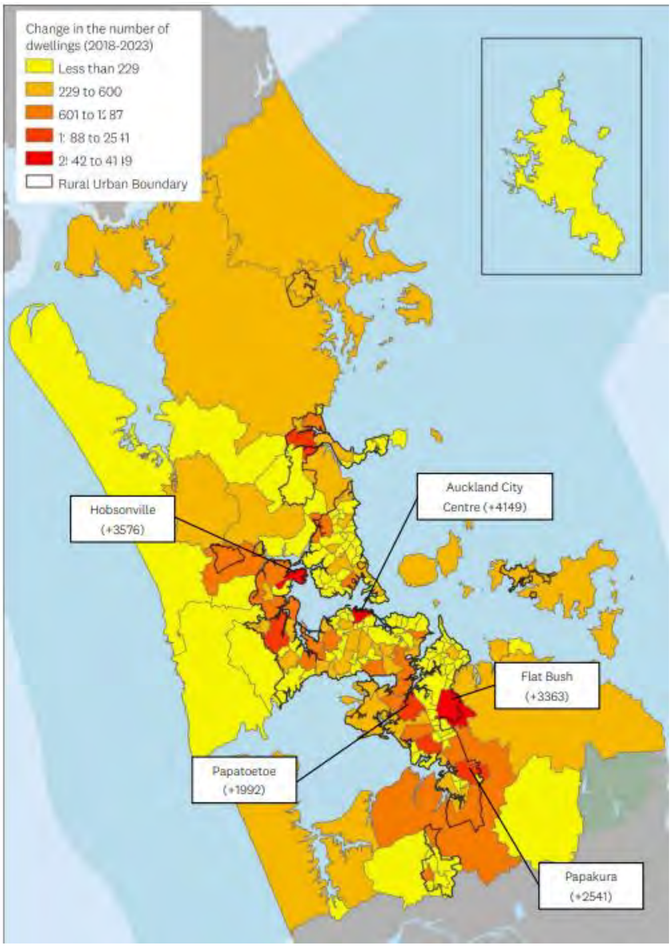
Urban form

What does success look like? Auckland grows through a quality compact urban form that enables more housing near jobs, services, and transport, reduces carbon emissions, and supports vibrant, resilient communities through well-sequenced development and infrastructure alignment.

Auckland's growth is generally in line with Auckland's vision for a compact urban form as set out in the Future Development Strategy. In 2023/24 most growth (82 per cent) occurred within the existing urban area.[26] This pattern has been largely consistent for the last five years.

The pattern of growth across Auckland between 2018 and 2023 shows that the highest change in the number of dwellings occurred in the City Centre and in areas on the outer edges of the existing urban area including Hobsonville, Flat Bush, Papakura and Papatoetoe (Figure 9).

Figure 9: Map showing the change in number of dwellings by SA3 between 2018 and 2023, with labels for the five areas with the highest change in the number of dwellings[27]



Source: Map produced by Auckland Council based on Stats NZ 2023 Census data.

Overall, housing density[28] has increased across Auckland. Between 2013 and 2023, it increased 18 per cent equating to an additional 18.3 private dwellings per square kilometre. The Waitematā Local Board area has

[26] The existing urban area is defined as the areas of Auckland with live urban zoning at 2016.
[27] Bade, D. (2025). Dwellings and Households in Tamaki Makaurau / Auckland – Census 2023. Auckland Council.
[28] Dwelling density refers to the number of dwellings in a given amount of land.

the highest housing density of the Auckland local board areas and had the highest numerical increase in density since 2013 (an increase of 23 per cent).[29] This area includes the city centre and inner-city residential suburbs that contain high rise apartment buildings. Other areas with significant increases in housing density include Upper Harbour (51%) and Papakura (46%). While Auckland is becoming denser, there is an opportunity for greater intensification in inner city areas that are closer to jobs, transport and amenities.

While most growth is anticipated to be through intensification in the existing urban area, urban expansion is provided for on the city's urban fringe. The 2016 operative Auckland Unitary Plan zoned approximately 15,000 hectares of rural land for future urban development (future urban areas). It was estimated that this land could accommodate approximately 137,000 homes and 67,000 jobs. Since then, 32 per cent of this land has been rezoned for different uses and a total of 13,260 dwellings have been consented (as at 30 June 2024).

Climate change considerations

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) restricted the council's ability to provide greater regulatory protection from natural hazards for Aucklanders' properties. In the year to June 2025, 1,941 dwellings (14% of total dwellings consented) were consented within hazard zones. Hazard zones include flood plains, flood prone areas, tsunami evacuation zones, areas of coastal inundation and erosion zones.

With climate change expected to increase the frequency and severity of flooding and coastal hazards, building in these areas poses risks to future residents and can result in significant costs for communities as demonstrated by the 2023 floods. Recent legislative change is enabling the council to introduce stronger rules to limit new homes in areas at high-risk of floods, coastal erosion and inundation, and the council is currently working on proposed Plan Change 120 to give effect to this.

Shifting housing typologies

Auckland's shifting housing typologies is also an important part of the story about our changing urban form. There has been a growing trend towards more intensive housing typologies, especially in the form of townhouses. The proportion of townhouses increased from 23 per cent of consents issued in 2017/2018 to 54 per cent in 2024/2025. Over the same period, the proportion of standalone houses decreased from 48 per cent to 32 per cent. Auckland City Centre, Papatoetoe, Hobsonville, Mount Wellington and Papakura have seen the biggest increases in the number of multi-unit dwellings.[30]

Urban form indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Share of consented dwellings with access to the Rapid Transit Network within 1000m	14.1%	11.8%	11.9% (2025)	▼
Share of consented dwellings that are multi-unit (apartments, townhouses and units)	46%	69%	65% (2025)	▲
Housing density (dwellings per square kilometer)	102.3	N/A	120.6 (2023)	▲

[29] Stats NZ (2025). Housing in Aotearoa New Zealand: 2025.
[30] Bade, D (2025). Dwellings and households in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland: results from the 2023 census. Auckland Council.

Urban form indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Dwellings consented in the future urban areas	1,569	1,881	1,659 (2025)	▶
Number and share of dwellings consented in hazard zones	1,984 16%	2,180 10%	1,941 (2025) 14%	▬
Share of consented dwellings that are townhouses	23%	56%	54% (2025)	▶
Share of consented dwellings that are apartments	23%	13%	10% (2025)	▶
Share of consented dwellings that are standalone houses	48%	27%	32% (2025)	▶

Housing supply

What does success look like? Auckland offers a diverse mix of well-designed homes at scale and in the right locations, keeping pace with population growth and meeting the changing needs of individuals, families and communities.

From shortage to surplus and back again

Auckland's rapid population growth has historically outstripped new housing completions, creating the city's well-documented housing shortage and affordability crisis. However, the Auckland Unitary Plan which became operative in 2016 is helping turn that picture around. The Plan enabled higher-density development across much of the city and has contributed to a substantial increase in Auckland's housing supply.

Data shows that in 2018 the number of consented dwellings outstripped the demand generated by new population growth for the first time (council monitors data from 2009), and 2019 marked the first year when the number of completed dwellings exceeded population-driven demand (refer Table 1). During the period from 2020-2022 international border restrictions suppressed population growth to a fraction of normal levels. This allowed significant catch-up of the housing stock with new housing completions exceeding demand from population growth by approximately 34,000 dwellings.

The combination of deteriorating economic conditions over the past couple of years, including higher interest rates and construction cost pressures, and population growth resuming at elevated levels – driven by pent-up migration demand - means housing supply has tightened again. New consents dropped to 14,295 in 2025 (FY), a 34 per cent decline from the historically high peak of 21,609 in 2022. Completed dwellings are now only just keeping pace with demand from population growth, and new dwelling consents falling below the levels needed to maintain this balance.

Table 1: Estimates of population change and new house consents and builds (completed)

Year (FY)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Population	1,520,400	1,552,800	1,589,800	1,625,100	1,654,800	1,680,500	1,712,000	1,704,000	1,694,400	1,755,200	1,797,300
Population growth (annual)	27,200	32,400	37,000	35,300	29,700	25,700	31,500	- 8,000	- 9,600	60,800	42,100
People per dwelling	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Dwellings needed for population growth	9,067	10,800	12,333	11,767	9,900	8,567	10,500	- 2,667	- 3,200	20,267	14,033
Consented dwellings	6,873	8,300	9,651	10,364	12,369	14,032	14,778	19,035	21,609	19,085	13,855
Surplus / deficit	-2,194	-2,500	-2,682	-1,403	2,469	5,465	4,278	21,702	24,809	-1,182	-178
Completed dwellings	4,322	5,414	6,730	7,416	9,433	9,151	10,982	14,421	12,900	15,263	19,140
Surplus / deficit	-4,745	-5,386	-5,603	-4,351	-467	584	482	17,088	16,100	-5,004	5,107

Source: Population estimates from Infometrics; consented dwellings and completed dwellings from Auckland Council.

Transformation in housing types

The growing housing supply over the past decade has been accompanied by a dramatic shift in housing typologies. Multi-unit dwellings – apartments, townhouses, flats, units and other dwellings (not including retirement village units) - now comprise 65 per cent of all new housing consents compared to just 32 per cent for standalone houses. This is an almost complete reversal of the 2016 picture, when multi-unit developments made up only 34 per cent and 59 per cent were standalone houses.

Future supply outlook

Looking ahead, MBIE's 2024 National Construction Pipeline report[31] projects that Auckland dwelling consents will start trending up again post-2025 with annual consents forecast to reach over 17,000 by 2029. Notwithstanding the inherent uncertainty of such projections, this trajectory suggests building levels that exceed the need generated by projected population growth[32], thereby helping address Auckland's housing shortage.

Gaps in meeting community needs

Despite Auckland's growing housing supply, there are concerns about the extent to which the growing housing supply meets the needs of low-income earners and the most vulnerable parts of our population. The number of Aucklanders experiencing severe housing deprivation is growing, and at the extreme end, rough sleeping is of growing concern (refer to Spotlight on Homelessness, p.72). The availability of suitable housing is a key contributing factor.

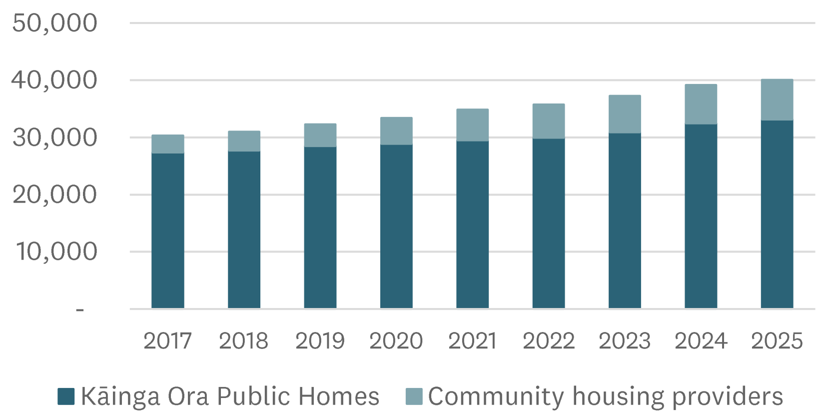
Social housing

Social housing is part of the solution to housing deprivation. Despite recent growth in social housing provision, demand continues to exceed supply as evidenced by the high number of people (6,723 as of

[31] MBIE (2024). National Construction Pipeline Report 2024. A forecast of building and construction activity, 12th edition.
[32] MBIE projects that 87,000 dwellings will be consented in the six years from 2024 to 2029. Dwellings needed from population growth is estimated to be approximately 42,000 (based on Council's population projections over the same period).

June 2025) on the public housing waiting list. Between 2017 and mid-2025 just under 10,000 public houses were added to Auckland's public housing stock by community housing providers and Kāinga Ora, bringing the total number of public homes in Auckland to just over 40,000. However, due to a change in funding, Kāinga Ora has cancelled a significant number of planned developments. In Auckland, 59 sites out of 147 sites earmarked for social housing are not proceeding to development, equating to 1,527 units.

Figure 10: Number of public homes in Auckland



Source: Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

The limited scale of social housing in Auckland reflects New Zealand's broader approach to social housing. The social rental housing stock makes up just under 4 per cent (3.8 per cent) of the total housing stock compared to the OECD average of 7 per cent. This places New Zealand well below international comparators such as the Netherlands (34 per cent), Denmark (21 per cent), and the UK (16 per cent).[33]

Housing supply indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
New dwellings consented	12,369	21,609	14,295 (2025)	▲
New dwellings consented by 1,000 residents	7.8	8.3	7.8 (2024)	■
New dwellings completed	9,433	12,900	15,436 (2025)	▲
Public housing stock	31,000	35,780	40,055 (2025)	▲

[33] OECD (n.d.) Affordable Housing Database.

Housing affordability

What does success look like? Aucklanders can access secure, healthy homes that are affordable to rent or own, with housing costs proportionate to income and rental options offering stability and dignity equal to ownership.

House prices show improvement, but affordability challenges persist

Housing affordability remains a major challenge in Auckland despite recent improvements. In June 2025, the median house price in Auckland was 990,000, down from a record high $1.3 million in November 2021. The median multiple - the ratio of median house prices to median household income (a key measure of housing affordability) - dropped to 7.5 in 2025 from almost 11 in 2021. However, Auckland remains severely unaffordable by international standards, with a ratio above 3.0 considered as unaffordable.[34]

Mortgage affordability has improved over the past couple of years, with the share of household income required to service a home loan[35] now at 47 per cent, down from 63 per cent in 2021 when it was at its highest. In 2015 it was 49 per cent. The number of years to save for a deposit has also reduced, now sitting at 10.5.[36]

The outlook on affordability will be dependent on how falling prices, income growth and interest rates interact. Auckland homeownership rates have remained unchanged between the 2018 and 2023 Census, sitting just below 60 per cent.

Rental market shows signs of improvement

There have been fluctuations in rental affordability over time. Low international net migration and rising incomes during the pandemic resulted in improved rental affordability, but as inward migration has bounced back and income increases have slowed, rental affordability has been slowly worsening over the past couple of years.

Recent research[37] has shown that Auckland rents have increased less than they would have if it had not been for the Auckland Unitary Plan which became operative in 2016, and which has driven a significant growth in housing supply and a change in housing types.

Housing cost burden affects two in five households

Affordable housing is defined as a ‘home that a household could occupy for less than 30 per cent of its income’. Thirty-nine per cent of Auckland households spend more than 30 per cent of disposable household income on housing cost, meaning their housing is effectively unaffordable. The high cost of housing in Auckland is particularly challenging for low-income households and renters who spend a greater proportion of their disposable income on housing. In 2024, households in the lowest income quintile (the lowest 20%) paid, on average, 49 per cent of their disposable income on housing costs. Meanwhile, households in the highest income quintile (the highest 20%) paid, on average, just 17 per cent of their disposable income on housing.

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[34] Demographia (2025). Demographia International Housing Affordability.
[35] An 80% loan to value (LVR) mortgage
[36] Cotality (2015). New Zealand Housing Affordability Report.
[37] Greenway-McGrevy (2023). Can zoning reform reduce housing costs? Evidence from rents in Auckland.

The high cost of housing is also reflected in Aucklanders' perception of housing costs. In 2024, 31 per cent of Aucklanders agreed that their housing costs were affordable, compared to 44 per cent in 2020. Results from the Quality of Life Surveys confirms a correlation between quality of life and perceptions of housing affordability, with those reporting unaffordable housing cost significantly more likely to report poor quality of life.

Severe housing deprivation continues to rise

The difficulty of finding affordable housing experienced by lower income households is a problem that has worsened in recent years. Recent Census data (2023) shows that there has been an increase in the number of Aucklanders that are experiencing severe housing deprivation, which include a range of inadequate housing situations, from sleeping without shelter to living in uninhabitable housing. This housing crisis is further evidenced by the dramatic increase in the number of people on the public housing register. Ten years ago the number was less than 2,000, while today in 2025 it is nearly 7,000. Today's numbers are trending down from the historically high levels of over 8,000 during and immediately after the pandemic.

Housing affordability indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Median house price	$850,000	$1,156,000	$990,000 (2025)	▼
Home ownership rates	59.4%	N/A	59.5% (2023)	▬
Median house price to median household income ratio	8.5	9.4	7.5 (2025)	▲
Rent affordability: rent as a percentage of household income	26.7%	26.0%	25.7% (2025)	▬
Housing cost overburden – renters: proportion of renting households spending more than 30 per cent of income on housing costs*	50% (2019)	47%	48% (2024)	▬
Housing cost overburden – owners: proportion of owner households spending more than 30 per cent of income on housing costs	31% (2019)	28%	33% (2024)	▼
Percentage of disposable income spent on housing by lowest income quintile (20%)	55.5% (2019)	41.6%	49.2% (2024)	▲
Percentage of disposable income spent on housing by highest income quintile (20%)	15.2% (2019)	15.1%	17% (2024)	▬
Percentage of Aucklanders who agree that their current housing costs are affordable	41% (2016)	34%	31% (2024)	▼
Percentage of Aucklanders who disagree that their current housing costs are affordable	44% (2020)	48%	49% (2024)	▬
Number of people on public housing wait list	3,609	8,550	6,723 (2025)	▼
Number of Aucklanders who are severely housing deprived	42,762	N/A	48,159 (2023)	▼

Housing quality and suitability

What does success look like? Auckland's housing stock is warm, dry, energy-efficient, and well-maintained, and suits the needs of their occupants, while contributing to better health outcomes, lower emissions, and long-term liveability for all residents.

Housing quality and suitability both have significant implications for health and wellbeing. While there has been recent progress in some areas, Auckland also faces ongoing challenges.

Progress on housing quality

There has been some progress in housing quality since the introduction of the Healthy Homes Standards regulations in 2019 (which came into effect fully in 2024), setting standards for heating, insulation, ventilation, moisture ingress, drainage and draught stopping. Between the 2018 and 2023 Census, there was a drop in the number of Auckland dwellings affected by dampness and mould. However, around 20 per cent of households still report their homes to be damp, and mould affects 17.4 per cent.

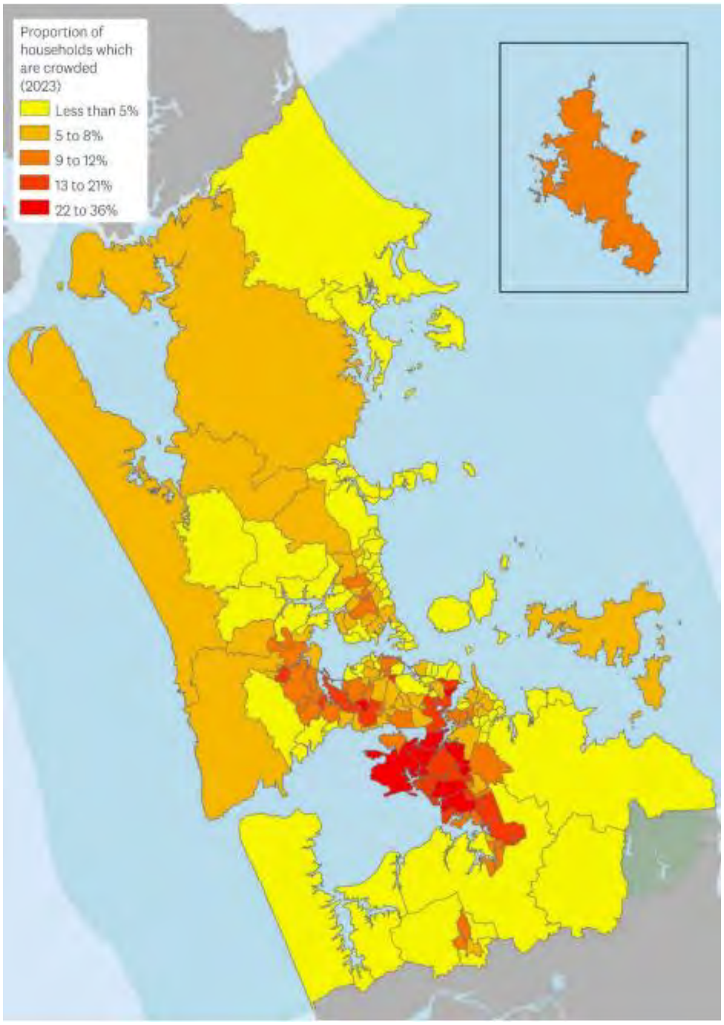
Significant disparities persist, with dwellings in three local boards much more likely to be affected by dampness and mould: Māngere-Ōtāhuhu (32.6% damp; 30.1% mould), Ōtara-Papatoetoe (30.1% damp; 28.5% mould), and Aotea/Great Barrier (32.7% damp; 26.5% mould). These issues disproportionately affect Māori and Pacific households, as rental homes - which these communities are more likely to occupy - are known to be of poorer quality than owner-occupied dwellings.

Housing suitability challenges

Housing suitability remains a significant concern. Almost one in ten (8.8%) Auckland households are living in crowded or severely overcrowded conditions (Figure 11)[38], unchanged between the 2018 and 2023 Census. Overcrowding is more prevalent in South Auckland – Māngere-Ōtāhuhu (25.4%), Ōtara-Papatoetoe (24.3%) and Manurewa (19.7%).

[38] Crowded is defined as one additional bedroom needed, severely crowded is defined as two or more additional bedrooms needed.

Figure 11: Proportion of households that are crowded (2023)



Source: Map produced by Auckland Council based on Stats NZ 2023 Census data.

With medium density housing becoming more common, ensuring the quality and suitability of this housing typology is critical. Recent research[39] into Auckland's medium density housing reveals some issues of concern. These primarily centre on overheating in upper storey levels, inadequate storage, lack of outdoor space and privacy concerns leading residents to keep curtains closed throughout the day. Overall, the research highlights that while medium density housing meets some needs for smaller households, significant improvements in design standards are needed to better serve larger families and enhance overall housing suitability (see Spotlight: Getting density right – why design matters on page 74).

The overall perception of housing suitability has declined over time, with 72 per cent of respondents to the 2024 Quality of Life Survey agreeing that the type of home they live in suits their needs and the needs of others in their household, compared to 81 per cent in 2016.

[39] Ovenden, K. & McKelvie, M. (2024). [Life in medium density housing in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland]

Climate considerations

Both retrofitting Auckland's existing housing stock and ensuring new homes factor in climate impacts is critical for reducing carbon emissions through improved energy efficiency. While progress is being made, as reflected in the growing number of dwellings receiving Homestar certification, much more can be done.

In 2025, 1,683 of new Auckland homes achieved Homestar certification, a similar number to the year before. Both 2024 and 2025 were much higher numbers than any other previous year and are attributable to big Kāinga Ora housing projects being completed. The number of Homestar certified dwellings accounted for 11 per cent of all completed dwellings in 2025.

Accelerating the uptake of sustainable building methods is critical to achieving our climate goals. MBIE's Building for Climate Change programme, which aims to improve energy efficiency and reduce whole-of-life embodied carbon in building and construction, has been largely discontinued. Instead, the Government is intending to incentivise low-carbon building and retrofits to improve energy efficiency through a series of initiatives, including making changes to the building consents system, making standardised green building designs freely and publicly available, and improving tools and information to support low-carbon building choices.[40]

Housing quality indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Percentage of dwellings with mould (always / sometimes)	21.2%	N/A	17.4% (2023)	▲
Percentage of dwellings with dampness	24.8%	N/A	20.1% (2023)	▲
Number of Homestar rated dwellings (certified)	383	1,420	2,914 (2025)	▲
Percentage of completed dwellings that are Homestar rated	1.7% (2019)	1.6%	10.9% (2025)	▲
Percentage of households that are living overcrowded	8.9%	N/A	8.8% (2023)	■
Percentage of households that are living severely overcrowded	2.7%	N/A	2.8% (2023)	■
Percentage of Aucklanders who agree that the type of home they live in suits their needs and the needs of others in their household	81% (2016)	74%	72% (2024)	▼
Percentage of Aucklanders who disagree that the type of home they live in suits their needs and the needs of others in their household	N/A	17%	15% (2024)	...

[40] Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (2025). Refocused climate work programme for building and construction. Cabinet paper proactively released.

Quality urban spaces

What does success look like? Aucklanders have easy access to open and green public spaces that are vibrant and safe, and that improve their lives and strengthen our city’s climate resilience.

Overall, Aucklanders appear to be less satisfied with the environment in their local area. While there has been little change since 2022 in the number of Aucklanders who report thinking their areas are a great place to live, and those who are really happy with the way their local area looks and feels, the longer-term trend is downward. A small but growing number of Aucklanders think their local area is becoming a worse place to live: in 2024, 33 per cent said their local area had become a worse place to live in the 12 months prior, compared to 28 per cent in 2018. When asked why their local area was becoming a worse place to live, the three most common themes were perceptions of increased crime, housing intensification, and problems with roading developments. Of those who said their local area had become a better place to live in the 12 months prior (15 per cent of respondents), reasons for this related to commercial and residential building developments, improved and/or new community amenities, and upgrades to roads.

The quantity and quality of our open spaces and green spaces are central to understanding progress related to this theme. So is understanding access to open and green space. The council is working to address the shortage of data in this area. Auckland's pursuit of a more compact urban form is putting inevitable pressure on trees and green spaces, particularly on private land where over half of the city's tree canopy is located. While recent data shows some encouraging gains in vegetation cover due to council and community planting efforts, this masks significant losses occurring in redevelopment areas. In 2018 Auckland's tree canopy coverage was 18 per cent - below the 30 per cent target set in the Urban Ngahere Strategy - and inequitably distributed across the region. Updated tree canopy data is forthcoming later this year. See the Spotlight: Balancing growth with green (p.75) for more detailed analysis of the trends and strategic responses.

Quality of built and natural environment indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Percentage of Aucklanders who agree that the general area or neighbourhood they live in suits their needs or the needs of others in their household	84%	77%	73% (2023)	▼
Percentage of Aucklanders who disagree that the general area or neighbourhood they live in suits their needs or the needs of others in their household	N/A	11%	9% (2023)	...
Percentage of Aucklanders who agree/strongly agree that they feel really happy with the way their local area looks and feels	61%	56%	57% (2023)	▼
Percentage of Aucklanders who disagree/strongly disagree that they feel really happy with the way their local area looks and feels	N/A	N/A	21% (2023)	...
Percentage of Aucklanders who agree that their city/local area is a great place to live	79%	75%	72% (2023)	▼
Percentage of Aucklanders who disagree that their city/local area is a great place to live	N/A	9%	9% (2023)	...

Quality of built and natural environment indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Percentage of Aucklanders who felt that their city/local area has got better as a place to live compared with 12 months ago	N/A	12%	15% (2023)	...
Percentage of Aucklanders who felt that their city/local area has got worse as a place to live compared with 12 months ago	28%	40%	33% (2023)	▼
Vegetation canopy cover	26.6% (2017)	N/A	27.4% (2024)	▬
Tree canopy cover	18%	N/A	Forthcoming	...

Māori housing

What does success look like? Whānau Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau live in warm, safe, affordable homes that strengthen whakapapa and sustain future generations.

Auckland’s housing challenges are hitting Māori communities particularly hard, with concerning trends across multiple indicators. Māori households face significantly lower homeownership rates than the general population, experience higher rates of overcrowding, are more likely to live in housing of poor quality (damp and mouldy), and in homes that don't meet their needs.

Māori are also more likely to experience housing stress. Between the 2018 and 2023 Census, the number of Māori in Auckland experiencing severe housing deprivation increased by 41 per cent while the number of Māori sleeping rough nearly doubled. This deterioration occurred during a period when the overall Māori population grew by just 12 per cent, highlighting that these are not simply demographic shifts but genuine crises of housing access and affordability.

The council has a role in enabling Māori housing, which we do through our planning provisions, regulatory and advocacy roles. Council’s Māori housing unit supports Māori housing and papakāinga aspirations through providing expert advice, comprehensive guidance and land information to Māori landowners and developers throughout the development process and ensuring streamlined access to necessary resources and support. In addition, the unit seeks collaboration and funding opportunities with government agencies for housing construction.

Central government holds the biggest levers in housing – through policy and legislation, funding and delivery of public housing, and infrastructure investment. The change of government has meant some change in direction over the past three years.

Amongst the Government’s current actions to improve housing outcomes for Māori is Government investment of up to $446 million over three years (2024-2027) to deliver 1,000 homes for Māori. Budget 2025 commits new funding to deliver around 550 additional social homes in Auckland in 2025/2026, with the new places to be available for tenanting by November 2026. The Government is also setting a new direction on papakāinga. As part of resource management reforms, new environmental standards will be introduced to ensure that all district plans contain provisions enabling papakāinga developments on Māori land.

Māori housing indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Māori home ownership (individual; own or partly own)	19.8%	N/A	18.1% (2023)	▼
Māori home ownership (household, own or partly own)	43.5%	N/A	40.5% (2023)	▼
Māori living in crowded households	25.6%	N/A	26.5% (2023)	■
Maori living in severely crowded households	10.5%	N/A	11.5% (2023)	▼
Percentage of Maori living in damp dwellings (always/sometimes)	38.0%	N/A	31.9% (2023)	▲
Percentage of Maori living in mouldy dwellings (always/sometimes)	33%	N/A	28% (2023)	▲
Maori experiencing severe housing deprivation	6,861	N/A	9,678 (2023)	▼
Māori homelessness (rough sleeping)	90	N/A	177 (2023)	▼
Māori spending more than 30% on housing cost	39%	34%	41% (2024)	■
Māori renters spending more than 30% on housing cost	47%	39%	50% (2024)	▼
Māori owners spending more than 30% on housing cost	25%	27%	29% (2024)	▼
Percentage of Maori who agree that the type of home they live in suits their needs and the needs of others in their household	71%	N/A	63% (2024)	▼

Spotlight: Homelessness – a deepening crisis

In 2023, an estimated 48,159 Aucklanders were experiencing severe housing deprivation[41], up from 42,762 in 2018 (12.6 per cent increase). Auckland has a disproportionate share (43 per cent) of New Zealand's severely housing deprived population. This is attributed to several factors, including affordability and availability of suitable housing.

Pacific peoples and Māori are more likely to experience severe housing deprivation, at rates of 7.6 per cent and 4.8 per cent respectively, compared to 1.1 per cent of Europeans. But other population groups are also overrepresented amongst the severely housing deprived, including disabled, new migrants and LGBTIQ+ populations.[42]

People without shelter (i.e. sleeping rough) are at the extreme end of hardship. This group is estimated to have grown by almost 50 percent, from 510 in 2018 to 747 in 2023. Māori are overrepresented amongst those sleeping rough.

Frontline organisations in Auckland that work directly with homeless people also report a worsening in the past year. The number of people known to them to be sleeping rough - in cars, streets and local parks – stood at 809 in May 2025, almost doubling from 426 in September 2024. In addition, there is an unknown number of homeless people who are transient and mobile.

The true scale of homelessness in Auckland is not known. Stats NZ for example, cautions that Census estimates are conservative due to the inherent challenges in collecting accurate data on people experiencing severe housing deprivation.

The worsening homelessness crisis is driven by a combination of factors, including:

- family breakdowns and domestic abuse
- loss of employment
- mental health and addiction
- shortage of social and affordable housing
- stricter eligibility criteria for emergency housing support.

The government's commitment to ending the large-scale use of emergency housing resulted in changes to eligibility criteria in August 2024. Making it more difficult to access emergency housing appears to have contributed to the worsening of the homelessness crisis in the past year. A June 2024 Homelessness Insight report states that for households exiting emergency housing in December 2024, it is unknown how 14 per cent of them have resolved their housing emergency, and they may be living without shelter.[43]

The current trend highlights the need for urgent and coordinated action to address homelessness in Auckland. International examples show that progress is possible. Finland has set a national goal of eliminating homelessness by 2027 and is currently the only country in the EU where homelessness is declining. Finland has achieved substantial reductions in long-term homelessness through a Housing First model, which prioritises permanent housing as the first step, followed by tailored support services to

[41] Statistics New Zealand defines the severely housing deprived population as living: without shelter, in temporary accommodation, sharing someone else's private dwelling, in uninhabitable housing.
[42] Statistics New Zealand (2025). Housing in Aotearoa 2025.
[43] Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (2025). Homelessness Insights. June 2025.

address health, social and economic challenges. This success has been underpinned by strong political commitment, integrated service delivery, and sustained investment in social housing.

Spotlight: Getting density right - why design matters

Good design in housing and the urban environment is vital for fostering liveability and wellbeing, while also achieving better environmental and climate outcomes. As Auckland increasingly intensifies – townhouses, flats and units now account for 54 per cent of new building consents – it is critical that we get design and quality right and ensure positive density outcomes.

Well-designed homes are more than shelter – they directly impact our physical and mental health. Good design brings natural light into living spaces in the winter and enables air to flow naturally through the house to cool it down in the summer. It positions windows and balconies to ensure privacy, while maintaining connection to the street. It provides adequate storage and living space, access to attractive outdoor areas where people can connect, and safe footpaths and play areas away from traffic. Well-designed homes are also attractive, with quality materials, trees and landscaping, and screening of utilities that enhance the look and feel of our neighbourhoods and enable a sense of pride in where we live.

Good design also builds community. Well-designed neighbourhoods provide easy walking, cycling and public transport access to shops, jobs, services, and education. They create spaces where people can enjoy walking and playing, connect with others and access nature – fundamental needs that support liveability.

What is happening to quality and design in Auckland?

Monitoring of the housing outcomes being delivered under the Auckland Unitary Plan has identified that many homes are not meeting the quality built environment objectives of the Regional Policy Statement to be attractive, healthy, safe, functional and climate resilient.[44] Issues with the quality of homes being delivered have also been identified in recent research on Life in Medium Density Housing in Tāmaki Makaurau.[45]

This monitoring and research have identified poor levels of privacy in many homes due to houses being too close together and with windows and balconies looking into other people's living spaces. Indoor and outdoor living spaces and storage areas have been found to be inadequate for meeting people's day to day needs, and many homes are over-heating in the summer due to increasing climate temperatures and large windows facing north that are unable to be opened for natural airflow. Poor quality and little planting is provided, adding to homes over-heating and limiting the ability for climate resilience and access to green space.

While there are shortcomings in some developments, there are also several examples of developers who are leading the way in providing quality living environments and climate resilient housing for our communities. These include for example Kotuitui II, The Isaac, Cohaus terraces and apartments and Vinegar Lane. With continuing growth and intensification anticipated for Auckland, it is critical that all housing achieves good standards of design and quality to provide the best and most liveable homes and neighbourhoods for Aucklanders now and into the future.

[44] Auckland Council (2022). Auckland Unitary Plan Section 35 Monitoring: B2.3 A quality built environment.
[45] Ovenden, K. & McKelvie, M. (2024). Life in medium density housing in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland.

Spotlight: Balancing growth with green

Urban tree canopy and green space provide essential health and wellbeing benefits for people while delivering crucial ecosystem services for climate change mitigation and adaptation, including temperature regulation, stormwater management, air quality improvement and carbon sequestration.

However, intensification in the pursuit of a more compact urban form inevitably puts pressure on Auckland's urban trees and green spaces. Tree and vegetation loss is occurring on private land, and private green space per person has been steadily declining due to infill development.[46]

Recent council research shows that the majority of tree canopy (over 95%) is cleared prior to building in new developments across Auckland. The dramatic scale of loss in intensive redevelopment can be seen in recent developments, where significant removal of private green space and tree canopy has occurred over just a few years (See Figure 12; from Mt Roskill).

Figure 12: Aerial images of recent urban housing regeneration showing loss of green space and tree canopy due to more intensive development. Left image 2017; right image 2025. Auckland Council.

Other research from Waitematā Local Board covering 2008 to 2018 found that 61 hectares of tree canopy was lost through 12,879 individual tree removal events, with only 38 per cent attributed to development and more than half occurring for no obvious development-related reason. While the research is somewhat dated, the pattern it reveals remains highly relevant.

Regional level data on tree canopy cover will be available later in 2025 and will further inform our understanding. Results from 2018 LiDAR analysis revealed that average tree canopy coverage across the urban area was 18 per cent. The council's Urban Ngahere Strategy sets an aspirational goal of 30 per cent tree canopy cover, with no local board area having less than 15 per cent. The results highlighted that tree canopy cover is inequitably distributed, with some local board areas enjoying coverage as high as 30 per cent, while others have as little as 8 per cent (primarily in South Auckland).

More recent analysis using aerial imagery and AI techniques provides vegetation canopy cover data (including all vegetation except grassland[47]) for 2017 and 2024. While this methodology is not directly

[46] The Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment (2023) in the report '[Are we building harder, hotter cities? The vital importance of green spaces'] reported that Auckland lost 30 per cent of its urban green space per capita between 1980 and 2017.
[47] The aerial imagery and AI technique captures more vegetation (trees under 3 metres, shrubs and low-lying vegetation except grassland) than the LiDAR imagery, which only captures tree canopy cover above 3 metres.

comparable to the LiDAR-derived tree canopy data, it reveals that vegetation canopy coverage across sixteen predominantly urban boards increased marginally from 27.9 per cent to 29.3 per cent.[48] While it is encouraging to see a net gain, it is important to understand that it does not tell us anything about vegetation quality, condition or structural changes such as tree height. The data masks concentrated losses in redevelopment areas offset by gains from replanting in public places by council and community groups, and growth of existing vegetation.

These trends highlight that increasing intensification must be accompanied by increasing greening of the city. Achieving the Urban Ngahere Strategy targets will require urban development to play a more significant role in protecting mature trees and vegetation and contributing to urban reforestation. Manaaki Tāmaki Makaurau: Auckland Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy recognises these challenges, taking a broad view of open space that encompasses green spaces, blue spaces, and grey spaces to better reflect the places Aucklanders use and value. As private green space becomes scarcer with intensification, the strategy emphasises making the most of all opportunities to provide space for Aucklanders, including better utilising streets, buildings, and communal spaces, alongside continued investment in public green space provision and nature-based solutions.

[48] Vegetation canopy cover across all 16 local boards have been calculated as the weighted average – dividing the total canopy cover area by the total land area of the local boards. This approach is consistent with best practice in statistical reporting.

Transport and Access

Ngā mahi kawenga me te noho wātea mai

A low-carbon, safe transport system that delivers social, economic and health benefits for all.

Transport and Access

We know we are achieving this outcome when Auckland has a low-carbon, safe transport system that delivers social, economic and health benefits for all.

To track progress, we report against four key themes that reflect the core directions and focus areas of the Transport and Access outcome. Each theme is accompanied by a success statement that describes what achieving the outcome looks like in practice.

In short, how are we progressing?

- **Improvements in public transport use -** Public transport use has significantly increased since the COVID-19 pandemic, from 41 million boardings in 2022 to 89 million (of which 70 million are buses) in 2025, expected to reach 164 million by 2034.
- **Expansion of frequent transit routes -** Since 2016, Auckland's Frequent Transit Network (FTN) has expanded from nine to 40 bus routes, significantly improving the reach and reliability of public transport across the city. The FTN continues to play a key role in enabling accessible, frequent, and low-emission travel for Aucklanders, with a growing share of the population expected to live within 500 metres of an FTN service by 2031.
- **Deaths and serious injuries are high -** Deaths and serious injuries on Auckland's roads remain high, with 594 (31 deaths and 563 serious injuries) recorded in 2024. Provisional figures for 2025 are 49 deaths and 567 serious injuries.
- **Public perceptions of safety have declined -** fewer people feeling safe using public transport or cycling. Changes to national policy, including the new Setting of Speed Limits Rule, the 2024 Government Policy Statement on Land Transport, and reduced safety infrastructure funding, have required Auckland Transport to reassess its road safety priorities and delivery approach.
- **Greenhouse gas emissions from transport are increasing -** Transport is Auckland's largest source of emissions, accounting for 46.8 per cent of the region's total, mostly from road transport. The Transport Emissions Reduction Pathway (TERP) sets out how emissions could be reduced by 64 per cent by 2030 to meet the required goal of net zero for the region by 2050. Auckland Transport aims to reduce the transport network's operational and embodied emissions by 50 per cent by 2030/31, supported by its 2024 Sustainability Strategy.
- **Transport equity is an ongoing challenge -** Many residents, particularly in high-deprivation areas in the west and south, face limited access to affordable and reliable transport, as well as higher exposure to safety risks and other harms.

Opportunities for greater progress

The following areas have been identified as opportunities for greater progress.

Opportunity 1: Reducing transport related greenhouse gas emissions

Transport is Auckland's largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, mostly from road-based travel, with emissions continuing to increase. Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan outlines that a 64 per cent reduction in transport emissions by 2030 is needed to stay on track to meet Auckland's 2050 net zero emission target, which will require major increases in walking, cycling, and public transport use. Since 2016, Auckland's Frequent Transit Network has expanded from nine to 40 routes, at the same time public transport boardings have increased from 43 million boardings in 2022 to 89 million in 2025, including 77 million bus trips. Total patronage, including commercial services, is expected to reach 164 million trips per year by 2034.

Emissions from transport infrastructure, while excluded from Auckland's regional inventory, make up a significant share of Auckland Transport's (AT) organisational footprint. AT aims to reduce these embodied emissions by 50 per cent by 2031 while also cutting operational emissions and improving network equity and resilience. Achieving these goals requires sustained investment in active and public transport and supportive regulation. However, changes in central government priorities, emphasising economic growth, productivity, and resilience, have reduced available funding, requiring AT to reprioritise planned investments.

The Auckland Council Group is required to prepare an annual climate statement disclosing the risks and opportunities associated with transitioning to a low-carbon, climate-resilient Auckland. This will inform group-wide investments and support progress toward emissions reduction and climate adaptation goals.

Opportunity 2: Ensuring a safe transport system, free from deaths and serious injuries

Deaths and serious injuries remain high at 594 in 2024 (31 fatalities and 563 serious injuries). The 2024 Quality of Life Survey also showed declining perceptions of personal safety on public transport both from crime and illness, and only 20 per cent of respondents considered the local cycling network to be safe.

A refocus of central government transport priorities, shifting emphasis away from system design and infrastructure investment toward enforcement, has reduced funding available for Auckland Transport's road safety engineering and speed management programmes. This has significantly affected the delivery of safety initiatives and will impact progress in reducing deaths and serious injuries. To comply with new legislation, speed limits must be increased on 1,561 road sections across 1,540 roads, and variable speed limits installed at 153 schools, covering approximately 577 kilometres of the Auckland Transport network. The cost of implementing these changes is estimated at $8.8 million. Further consultation will need to be undertaken to support communities that have a desire for a return to lower speed limits.

To enable a reduction in deaths and serious injuries on Auckland's transport network, there will continue to be a focus on delivering safety interventions near schools and at high-risk locations, delivering coordinated road safety education, and supporting increased police enforcement. There is also greater focus on understanding risks and opportunities in local communities, enabling greater engagement in solutions that work for each community and the Auckland region.

Opportunity 3: Targeting investment on the most significant challenges

The Regional Land Transport Plan (RLTP) sets out Auckland's proposed 10-year capital investment in transport, funded jointly by central and local government and aligned with the Long-Term Plan (LTP). For 2024 – 2027, the National Land Transport Plan (NLTP) allocated $8.4 billion to Auckland, $564 million less than requested, leading Auckland Transport (AT) to revise its 2025 capital programme to $1.35 billion and defer or rephase several projects. Reductions occurred across public transport ($210 million), network and safety ($204 million), renewals and resilience ($102 million), and urban development ($62 million).

Significant changes are proposed to the governance and delivery of Auckland's transport system under the Local Government (Auckland Council) (Transport Governance) Amendment Bill. Proposals include establishing an Auckland Regional Transport Committee (ARTC) which would develop a 30-year transport plan jointly approved by Auckland Council and the Minister of Transport. The Bill also proposes to transfer most transport functions to Auckland Council (except public transport service delivery), allocate local transport decision-making to local boards, and create a statutory transport CCO for public transport. Auckland Council is developing a Transport Policy Statement to guide principles and priorities for the region, which will inform the proposed 30-year transport plan.

Emissions, environmental protection and resilience

What does success look like? Transport related emissions are reduced and the transport system can withstand and adapt to changing conditions, shocks and stresses

Transport remains the largest source of emissions for Auckland as a whole, accounting for 46.8 per cent of Auckland's gross total, with 78.5 per cent of that from on-road transport. Transport emissions were at their highest in 2019. COVID-related lockdowns resulted in significantly lower transport emissions in 2020, but they have resumed an upward trend since. Transport emissions were up 10 per cent from 2022 to 2023. Emissions are still lower than pre-COVID levels, but on the current trajectory they may be back at those same levels within a couple of years.

Auckland's per capita transport emissions are 2.35 tCO2e (2021); many times higher than comparator cities: Barcelona (0.56), Sydney (0.92), Amsterdam (0.77), Oslo (0.66), Copenhagen (0.53), Vancouver (1.37). These figures show the scale of Auckland's challenge, but it also illustrates that there are solutions. Reducing transport emissions is critical to Auckland achieving its climate goals of halving emissions by 2030 and achieving net zero emissions by 2050. As outlined in out in Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan, reducing transport emissions is key to achieving these goals, which will require action from council, government, businesses, and communities.

The Transport Emissions Reduction Pathway (TERP) described what would be needed for transport in 2030 if Auckland was on-track to meet its goal of net zero emissions by 2050. In this modelled pathway, Auckland would see 64 per cent lower emissions from transport in 2030 compared to 2018 through:

- Significant reduction in private car use,
- Avoidance of trips where possible, and
- Use of more efficient and renewable fuels where car travel is unavoidable.

Reducing vehicle kilometres travelled (VKT) not only cuts emissions but also reduces congestion and improves air quality. In 2024 Auckland Council endorsed the findings of Auckland's Vehicle Kilometres Reduction programme to inform Auckland Council and Auckland Transport's transport, land-use, and communications planning, with an emphasis on the need to support active and public transport and enable a quality compact urban environment.

A progress snapshot of the council's implementation in 2024/2025, of Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan, will be reported in Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri Auckland's Climate Plan Progress Snapshot 2025.

Public transport emissions

Public transport is central to lowering emissions by shifting travel from private cars. While expanding bus and train services does increase emissions from those services, the overall impact is positive because public transport is more efficient per passenger than individual car use.

Emissions from public transport will become lower. AT's Low Emission Bus Road Map, updated in 2023, sets out a plan for the transition from diesel to low-emissions electric bus fleet by 2035 (currently 19 per cent of the bus fleet are low emissions as of May 2025). Rail is already fully electrified, and two hybrid and two electric ferries are expected to be in operation by the end of 2025.

Embodied Emissions

Greenhouse gas emissions are not only generated using vehicles but also embodied through the construction, renewal, and maintenance of Auckland's $30.47 billion transport network – including local roads, footpaths, cycleways, and public transport facilities.

AT has committed to a 50 per cent reduction in embodied emissions by 2031 from a 2022 baseline. The use of low carbon concrete is important in helping to achieve this reduction, with Practice Note 05 providing guidance to developers on how to apply it to AT projects. Some successes include the Point Chevalier to Westmere improvement project achieved a 24 per cent emissions reduction by using low-carbon concrete. The project also recycled aggregates from the excavation work replacing the need to use virgin aggregates. The Eastern Busway Project achieved a 40 per cent emissions reduction in the past 12 months primarily through low carbon concrete for the piers of the Rā Hihi flyover.

These initiatives align with AT's broader Sustainability Strategy (2024), which sets transport system wide goals for emissions reduction, resilience, and equity.

Climate change and resilience risks

Auckland's transport network and activities faces increasing risks from climate change and systemic pressures, some of the key ones are summarised below, with further details available through AT's 2025 Climate Transition Plan.

- Landslides: Increased rainfall raises the already high risk of landslides disrupting roads and services. A newly developed Landslide Framework helps AT understand the susceptibility of the road network to landslide risk and supports proactive prevention where funding is available.
- Energy Security: Greater reliance on electricity heightens exposure to supply interruptions, limited suppliers, and price or emissions volatility. A strategic view of this risk is being developed.
- Bitumen Supply: Maintaining 7,500 km of roads relies on imported bitumen (25% of road pavement costs). Risks come from oil price fluctuations, limited storage capacity, supply chain dependence, climate-related disruption to works.

AT will also be assessing wider impacts of the transport system on nature using the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) and Locate, Evaluate, Assess, Prepare (LEAP) framework. This work recognises how the transport system depends on the environment and prepares for possible future reporting requirements.

Transport related emissions indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Gross transport related emissions (GHG) (kilotonnes of CO_2e) – Regional emissions	12,243	10,656.27	10,919 (2023)	▲
Embodied greenhouse gas emissions associated with infrastructure construction, maintenance and renewals – not part of gross emissions profile (kilotonnes of CO_2e)	N/A	156,000	N/A	...
Number of low emissions buses (total fleet is 1,350 buses)	N/A	N/A	224 (2025)	...

Safety

What does success look like? There are no more deaths or serious injuries on Auckland's transport system

Deaths and serious injuries (DSI) are high. In 2024, there were 31 deaths and 563 serious injuries. Provisional data for 2025 suggests a potential increase to 49 deaths and 567 serious injuries. Public perceptions of safety on the transport network are also declining. The 2024 Quality of Life Survey showed that only 20 per cent of people felt the local bike network was safe, and fewer respondents than in 2022 felt that public transport was safe from crime, harassment, or health risks.

A significant factor that will affect the ability to reduce DSIs is the government's new Speed Limit Rule, which requires blanket reversal of previous targeted speed limit reductions without consideration of local context. This approach conflicts with Auckland Council and Auckland Transport's previous Safe System Approach, which is supported by a comprehensive body of evidence and includes setting safe speeds proactively to ensure the safety of all road users.

In addition to the new rule, the 2024 Government Policy Statement (GPS) on Land Transport has removed ring-fenced funding for safety infrastructure. This means funding for safety infrastructure will be limited due to competing demands for Auckland Transport (AT) only funded projects.

Between 2020 and 2023, Auckland Transport implemented safe speeds across more than 2,800 km of roads in Auckland, with reductions in DSIs confirmed through monitoring and an independent evaluation. In response to the new Speed Limit Rule, AT launched the Speed Limit Reversal programme to comply with the rule's requirements and deadlines set by the Minister of Transport, competing required changes by 1 July 2025. This involved:

- Reversing permanent 30 km/h speed limits on local roads near schools implemented on or after 1 January 2020 (the road outside the gate will need to be changed to a variable speed limit).
- Reversing lower speed limits on urban connectors implemented on or after 1 January 2020, except where they are related to significant land use change.

Compliance with this new rule required speed limit increases on 1,540 of Auckland's roads and 153 schools required to have variable speed limits installed.

Following community concerns over raising speed limits from 30 km/h to 50 km/h in residential and school areas. AT has proposed engaging with local communities and boards to identify areas where there is strong support for improved local road safety and lower speed limits (AT Board August 2025).

Safety indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Number of deaths	59	48	49 (2025)	▲
Number of serious injuries	678	523	567 (2025)	▲
Percentage of people who agreed that public transport is safe from crime or harassment	56%	44%	28% (2024)	▼
Percentage of people who feel safe from catching COVID-19 and other illnesses on public transport	N/A	25%	22% (2024)	...
Percentage of people who feel the local bike network is safe	N/A	N/A	20% (2024)	...

Travel choices

What does success look like? More people are walking, cycling, and using public transport, and fewer are relying on private vehicles. Everyone can easily and safely access the services and amenities they need, sustainably, and equitably

Public transport (PT) use has significantly increased since the COVID-19 pandemic, increasing from just over 41 million boardings in 2022 to 89 million in 2025, and expected to reach 164 million by 2034. Cycling trips have also increased, and rail boardings are recovering after significant declines.

Public transport boardings and use of active travel and micromobility need to significantly increase to meet our climate goals, which means improving access to these modes, and maintaining and renewing existing PT infrastructure. Some significant developments include:

- The City Rail Link (CRL) is a critical part of improving Auckland's transport system, transforming Britomart, officially renamed Waitematā Station in September 2025, into a through-station and adding new city stops to enable frequent, high-capacity services. Expected to deliver $13.2 billion in long-term benefits, the CRL will improve reliability, reduce congestion, and support housing and economic growth. Auckland Council and AT are working with the Ministry of Transport to assess wider economic and land use benefits; this follows a recommendation from the Auditor General for a benefits realisation plan. A report on this plan is expected to be published in early 2026.

- The **frequent transit network** has expanded from limited coverage in 2016 to more than 40 routes today, running at least every 15 minutes from 7am to 7pm, seven days a week. Nine of these routes were funded through the Climate Action Transport Targeted Rate (CATTR). Alongside this, 23 km of new cycleways have been delivered since 2023, and smart detection technology installed at 20 intersections (29 in total) to improve safety for all modes of transport.

Despite this progress, challenges remain in increasing use of public transport. Public perceptions show declining satisfaction with public transport, particularly around reliability, frequency, affordability and ease of access. The 2024 Auckland Council report on Perceptions of Public Transport, Cycling, and Walking Among Auckland Drivers found that many residents view public transport and cycling as less convenient, more stressful, and less safe than driving, with reliability and frequency identified as key drivers. Research also shows that the greatest potential for mode shift exists closer to the city centre, where alternative transport options are already more viable. Improving service quality and reliability across the wider network will be essential to encourage sustained behaviour change and reduce car dependency.

Currently, 45 per cent of Aucklanders live within 500 meters of a frequent or rapid public transport service, with the goal of increasing this to 52 per cent by 2026 and 57 per cent by 2031. Key projects supporting these targets include the Eastern Busway and Northwest Rapid Transit, along with Plan Change 120, which directs housing growth toward areas with strong transport links.

Congestion remains a significant economic challenge, costing an estimated $2.6 billion annually by 2026 in lost productivity and consumer spending. To address this, the government has proposed the Land Transport Management (Time of Use Charging) Amendment Bill, aiming to reduce congestion and improve traffic flow. The Bill proposes that the Minister for Transport would be responsible for deciding how any revenue generated is spent.

Aucklanders are also facing growing cost pressures, with average weekly household transport costs increasing from an average weekly of $234 in 2019 to $295 in 2023. Purchase of vehicles as a proportion of household expenditure increased by 32 per cent, from $77 in 2019 to $101 in 2023. Passenger transport services expenditure increased by 28 per cent, from $81 to $103, while private transport supplies and services increased by 19 per cent from $76 to $91.

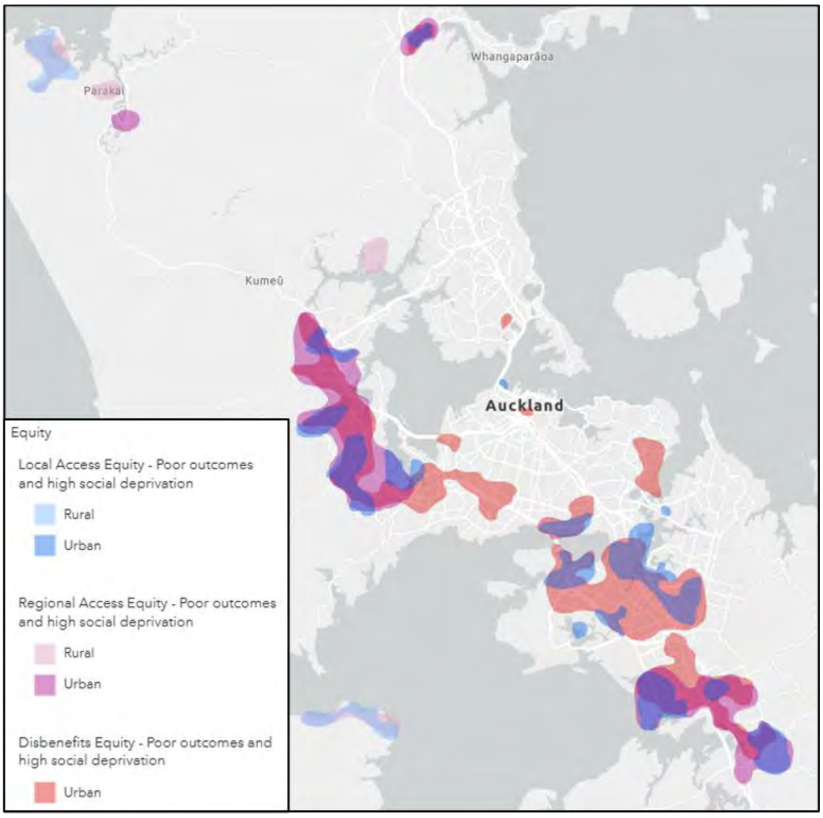
Transport inequity

Transport inequity remains a critical system challenge. Two types of inequities persist:

- Spatially oriented problems: These occur when people in areas of high socio-economic deprivation face poor or unaffordable access to all services essential to people's wellbeing, or are exposed to transport related harms such as noise, personal safety risks, and severance.
- System wide problems: These arise when the transport system does not consistently meet the physical access or personal safety needs of all users, including people with disabilities, caregivers, older adults, women, youth, LGBTQIA+ individuals and some ethnic minority groups.

As highlighted in AT's Future Connect spatial map below, high-deprivation communities are concentrated in the west and south of Auckland, where residents may face greater barriers to accessing transport. While poor transport outcomes can also occur outside these areas, populations experiencing multiple overlapping disadvantages are considered equity priority areas for Auckland Transport and will be a focus for transport system improvements.

Figure 13: Auckland communities where high deprivation and poor transport outcomes overlap.



Source: Future Connect – Auckland Transport's Network Plan.

Addressing these gaps is important to achieving Auckland's equity, emissions, and mode shift goals. AT's Sustainability Strategy and Disability Action Plan aim to embed equity and accessibility across planning, operations, and investments. These include training, signage, and communications, and ensuring the benefits of decarbonisation are distrusted fairly, which is alignment with the TERP.

Travel choices indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Percentage of people who agreed they use public transport at least weekly	27%	16%	26% (2024)	■
Percentage of people who agreed that public transport is easy to get to	50%	59%	40% (2024)	▼
Percentage of people who agreed that public transport is frequent	43%	48%	34% (2024)	▼
Percentage of people who agreed that public transport is reliable	39%	41%	27% (2024)	▼
Percentage of people who agreed that public transport is affordable	35%	33%	27% (2024)	▼
Percentage who agreed they felt it is easy to travel without a private car (new question)	N/A	N/A	22% (2024)	...
Percentage of people who agreed they felt public transport is a practical alternative to driving (new question)	N/A	N/A	23% (2024)	...
Number of cycle counts (millions) – Year December to December	3.65	2.88	3.42 (2024)	▼
Total number of public transport boardings – rail, bus, ferry (millions) - Year July to June	92.33	41.22	88.8 (2025)	▼
Number of boardings on rail (millions) – Year July to June	20.14	7.12	13.72 (2025)	▼
Number of boardings on ferries (millions) – Year July to June	6.04	2.71	4.93 (2025)	▼
Number of bus boardings (millions) – Year July to June	66.16	31.38	70.17 (2025)	▲
Average weekly household transport related expenditure ($NZ)	$234 (2019)	N/A	$294 (2023)	▼
Percentage of household expenditure spent on transport	15.1% (2019)	N/A	16.2% (2023)	▼

Investment

What does success look like? Investments prioritise reduction of emissions and improved road safety, as well as other significant challenges like the need to upgrade rail and other public transport networks

The costs of operating public transport are funded through a combination of user pays (fares), ratepayer public subsidy through Auckland Council funding, the National Land Transport Fund (NLTF) through New Zealand Transport Agency Waka Kotahi (NZTA), and other funding such as commercial advertising.

Analysis presented to the Transport, Resilience and Infrastructure Committee (Resolution number TICCC/2025/23) demonstrated that while patronage has recovered to 86 per cent of pre-COVID-19 levels, even at full recovery, current increased operating costs would require significantly higher public subsidy than in 2019. This presents a critical financial sustainability challenge for funding partners, particularly as Auckland maintains relatively affordable short-distance fares - ranking 7th among 44 global cities.

As reported in AT's Statement of Intent (2023 to 2027), this is creating pressure on farebox recovery rates (the percentage of the total public transport operation costs recovered through fares) which are currently at 34 per cent (2025) and increase from 31 per cent in 2024. A fare cap of $50 over seven days was introduced in 2024 for public transport users in Auckland.

The 2024 to 2027 NLTF allocated $3.89 billion to Auckland Transport in transport capital funding, which was around $580 million less than AT had sought. This led to AT revising its proposed 3-year capital programme down from $4.47 billion to $3.89 billion, descoping, rephasing or deferring several projects. AT's roads and public transport maintenance and operating programmes are largely funded.

This results in the following deferrals:

1. $210 million reduction in public transport investment. This was mainly driven by the reduction in funding for the decarbonisation of ferries stage 1 and Rosedale Bus Station and Corridor.
2. $204 million reduction in network and safety investment. This was mainly driven by the reduction in funding for the road safety programme and time of use programme (congestion).
3. $102 million reduction renewals and resilience investment. This was mainly driven by the reduction in funding for the renewals road pavement (road resurfacing and rehabilitation) and renewals streets programmes (renewal of cycleways, footpaths, stormwater, etc.).
4. $62 million reduction in urban development investment. This was mainly driven by the reduction in funding for new cycling projects.

The Local Government (Auckland Council) (Transport Governance) Amendment Bill proposes to make significant changes to how decisions on transport are made. The Bill proposes to:

- Establish a new Auckland Regional Transport Committee (ARTC) to develop a 30-year transport plan for Auckland for joint approval by the Minister of Transport and Auckland Council. The ARTC would have up to three members (who must be members of the Governing Body) appointed by the Mayor in consultation with the Governing Body, and up to three members appointed by the Minister of Transport, with a jointly appointed independent chair.
- Transfer most transport functions (with the exception of public transport service provision) from Auckland Transport to Auckland Council. Auckland Council would become the Road Controlling Authority for Auckland
- Allocate decision making for local transport functions on local roads to local boards

Pūrongo koke whakamua ia toru tau

- Establish a statutory transport council-controlled organisation (CCO) to provide public transport services within Auckland, with Auckland Council responsible for all other transport functions.

Auckland Council is currently developing an Auckland Council Transport Policy Statement which include principles and strategic priorities for the region and will be used to inform development of the proposed 30-year Transport Plan for Auckland.

Spotlight: Frequent Transit Network Improvements

The Frequent Transit Network (FTN) forms the backbone of Auckland's public transport system. FTN services operate at least every 15 minutes from 7am to 7pm, seven days a week, with additional peak services and later-night trips into the city centre. The network includes trains and ferries but is primarily made up of frequent bus services, which generally benefit from priority measures such as bus lanes.

Since 2016, Auckland has expanded FTN bus routes from 9 to 40. Public transport usage has grown alongside these improvements. Boardings, which reached 100 million in 2019, fell during COVID-19 but have rebounded from just over 41 million in 2022 to 89 million in 2025, with 71 million of these on buses. Auckland Transport expects total public transport patronage, including commercial services, to reach 164 million trips per year by 2034.

The Climate Action Transport Targeted Rate (CATTR), introduced by Auckland Council in 2023, has supported the delivery of nine additional fast bus routes over the last three years, with further routes planned through 2027. The FTN will continue to play an important role in enabling accessible, frequent, and low-emission transport for Aucklanders, with more of the population expected to live within 500m of an FTN service by 2031.

Overall, the expansion and operation of the FTN is a significant achievement. The use of CATTR funding is also an achievement demonstrating how targeted investment for a specific challenge can deliver multiple co-benefits and greater value for money.

Continued investment is required to maintain an efficient frequent bus network and provide the facilities customers expect as patronage grows. This includes removing chokepoints in the city centre where many bus routes converge, improving stations, providing layovers, and ensuring depots are available to support the electrified fleet. CATTR will continue to provide funding to support these upgrades.

Route	Boardings	Notes
WX1 - Westgate to City Centre (Express)	942,000	12 months to June 2025 Exceeding patronage forecasts since implementation
11 (11T and 11W) - Westgate to City Centre	863,000	12 months to June 2025
12 - Henderson to Constellation	Limited data (recently implemented April 2025)	Previously route 120 had the highest patronage of any non-frequent route
13 - Henderson to Te Atatu	682,000	12 months to June 2025
65 - Glen Innes to Point Chevalier	377,000	First 6 months of 2025
67 (67A & 67B) – New Lynn to Onehunga (and Otahuhu)	285,000	First 6 months of 2025
74 - Onehunga to Glen Innes	609,000	12 months to June 2025
76 - City Centre to Glen Innes	632,000	12 months to June 2025
94 - Takapuna to Beach Haven	650,000	Mid-July 2024 (launch) to July 2025

Environment and Cultural Heritage

Te taiao me ngā tikanga ā-iwi tuku iho

Aucklanders preserve, protect and care for the natural environment as our shared cultural heritage, for its intrinsic value and for the benefit of present and future generations.

Environment and Cultural Heritage

We know we have achieved this outcome when Aucklanders preserve, protect and care for the natural Environment as our shared cultural heritage, for its intrinsic value and for the benefit of present and future generations

To track progress, we report against four key themes that reflect the core directions and focus areas of the Environment and Cultural Heritage outcome. Each theme is accompanied by a success statement that describes what achieving the outcome looks like in practice.

In short, how are we progressing?

- **The environment is still under pressure:** Auckland's natural environment continues to face significant pressures, with fragmented urban forests, poor soil quality, stressed wetlands, declining freshwater quality, and deteriorating marine ecosystems, driven by population growth and land use change, and increasing impacts from climate change.
- **Some improvements are evident:** Auckland has seen improvements in its natural environment, including increases in indigenous forest and scrubland, increased abundance and richness of native species in managed sites, better coastal water quality, stable marine sediment contaminants, generally good air quality with declining traffic pollution.
- **Water management and climate resilience:** Auckland is strengthening its water management and climate resilience through strategic investment in flood resilience, stormwater infrastructure, and nature-based solutions, including the blue-green network, guided by the Water Strategy and the Making Space for Water programme.
- **Progress for our cultural heritage:** 113 sites of significance to mana whenua now formally protected, Māori place names restored across 521 parks and landmarks through Te Kete Rukuruku, and ongoing initiatives supporting Māori identity, culture, and kaitiakitanga.

Opportunities for greater progress

The following areas have been identified as opportunities for greater progress.

Opportunity 1: Building resilient infrastructure systems

Auckland is continuing to strengthen the resilience of its infrastructure to climate change and extreme weather. Significant investment through the Storm Recovery Fund including the Making Space for Water programme (including nature-based solutions such as blue-green networks) is improving stormwater management and providing better flood protection. There is opportunity to further upgrade infrastructure and implement real time monitoring and apply decision assessment tools, ensuring that investments support both climate and community resilience.

Opportunity 2: Mitigating environmental pressures of growth by increased use of nature-based solutions

The 2025 State of the Environment Report indicates that much of Auckland's environment remains in poor condition, reflecting decades of pressure from urban growth and land and water management practices. Climate change is intensifying these challenges, putting further strain on natural systems and compounding existing issues.

There have been some positive trends, including the restoration of indigenous forest and scrubland, wetland and stream rehabilitation, and improvements in coastal water quality. Auckland Council is also investing in the region's blue-green network - a connected system of streams, creeks, wetlands, parks, and green spaces that manage water naturally. This approach represents a nature-based solution that supports biodiversity, builds resilience, and contributes to emissions reduction.

More broadly, as Auckland grows it is important to be protecting and enhancing biodiversity with effective control of pest mammals and plants, and by enhancing forest extent and connectivity across Auckland.

These efforts need to be scaled up and accelerated to achieve lasting improvements and enable Auckland to adapt to a changing climate. A healthy natural environment underpins many of the outcomes sought through the Auckland Plan and is essential to the region's long-term wellbeing.

Opportunity 3: Enhancing protection of our cultural heritage

The protection of sites of significance, including cultural landscapes, enriches the lives of the wider community and the nation. The kōrero associated with each site underpins Māori culture and identity.

As of 2025, 113 sites of significance to mana whenua have statutory protection under Schedule 12: Sites and Places of Significance to Mana Whenua in the Auckland Unitary Plan. Ensuring the protection of these sites requires adequate resourcing and streamlined processes to provide formal statutory safeguards. This should include the identification, recognition, and protection of cultural landscapes.

Partnering with and resourcing mana whenua is essential for the effective preservation of Māori cultural heritage. Rapid and extensive development across Tāmaki Makaurau, as well as accelerating impacts of climate change and natural hazards, places thousands of remaining sites of significance and cultural landscapes at serious risk of degradation or permanent loss.

Our natural environment and cultural heritage

What does success look like? We are protecting natural environments and cultural heritage in ways that support physical, cultural and spiritual wellbeing

The State of the Environment 2025 report covers indicators of environmental health for Tāmaki Makaurau's air, land, freshwater and marine ecosystems. The report should be referred to for a detailed review and evaluation.

Areas of progress highlighted in the report include:

- Forest and scrubland cover: between 2018 and 2023, net gains of 1,021 hectares (ha) of indigenous forest and 4,534 ha of indigenous scrub/shrubland were recorded.
- Native species: the abundance and richness of native plant and bird populations have increased in forest and wetland sites where pest animals are controlled, and indigenous vegetation dominates.
- Coastal water quality: conditions are improving at most monitoring sites, particularly at open coast and outer estuarine sites with high exposure to marine waters.
- Marine sediment contaminants levels remain stable despite ongoing urbanisation.
- Air quality and greenhouse gas emissions: overall air quality is good with positive trends, and traffic pollution (e.g., particulate matter) is decreasing particularly in the CBD. Between 2016 and 2023, greenhouse gas emissions decreased whilst transport related greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase and remain the largest contributor of emissions.

Many of Auckland's environmental domains remain in poor condition, reflecting decades of change, use, and damage, with some still declining. Population growth has driven increased activity through changing land uses, new development, housing, and other environmental modifications (e.g., changes to water channels). Land cover has shifted, with urban areas (including built-up and parkland) expanding by 23 per cent since 1999, now accounting for 12 per cent of the region.

One of the most notable changes highlighted over the past five years is the increasing impact of climate change on the natural environment, as detected through monitoring. Auckland is experiencing higher temperatures, more frequent droughts, more intense rainfall events, and rising sea levels. Over the past century, the mean annual temperature has increased by approximately 1.7°C, with stream and coastal water temperatures also rising. Measurements from the Port of Auckland tide gauge indicate an average sea level rise of around 1.6 mm per year since 1899, with acceleration in recent decades. Other key issues highlighted in the State of the Environment Report include:

- Urban forest fragmentation: Urban forests remain isolated and disturbed, with higher pest plant numbers and lower native species richness.
- Soil quality: Soil health has not improved and remains poor in agricultural areas.
- Wetlands under pressure: 88 per cent of wetlands continue to face stress from reduced water quality, exotic plants, pest mammals, and catchment modifications
- Freshwater decline: Rivers and lakes show declining water quality, with widespread issues of nutrients, faecal contamination, and metals in urban areas.
- Marine ecology decline: Estuaries and subtidal reefs show ecological decline linked to sedimentation, marine heatwaves, and extreme weather events.

Pūrongo koke whakamua ia toru tau

Auckland Council delivers a range of plans and strategies to address key environmental issues. For example, Auckland's Water Strategy (2022) guides decision-making and investment to improve water quality, while Making Space for Water provides $760 million over ten years to prepare for and reduce flood risks through improvements to stormwater systems.

Innovative approaches are being applied through targeted programmes. Under the Strategic Approach to Sediment, artificial intelligence (AI) is being combined with cameras and turbidity sensors to deliver real-time alerts on erosion and sediment control performance. Similarly, the Ngahere Programme AI project uses artificial intelligence to identify areas with potential for increased canopy cover, supporting more systematic and efficient urban forest management. This technology also tracks progress towards Auckland's Urban Ngahere Strategy goals - to lift regional canopy cover from 18 per cent to 30 per cent, and to ensure all local board areas reach at least 15 per cent canopy cover.

Funding provided through the Natural Environment Targeted Rate and the Water Quality Targeted Rate continue to enable council to deliver a range of programmes to address risks and impacts to the natural environment.

Over the past three years:

- More than 120 km of walking tracks have been upgraded to protect kauri, with the Te Ngāherehere o Kohukohuni / Hunua Ranges confirmed as one of Aotearoa's largest kauri dieback-free forests.
- Pest control has expanded across 45,000 hectares, supported by community-led biodiversity initiatives
- A Waterways Protection Fund and Wetland Restoration Project (co-funded with Fonterra) have supported projects protecting riparian margins and wetlands through fencing and planting. Environmental modelling suggests an annual reduction of 3,500 kg of nitrogen entering waterways.

When it comes to valuing our cultural heritage there has been some progress through updates to the Auckland Unitary Plan (AUP).

- **Plan Change 81 (November 2024):** Added 11 new historic heritage places and areas, including Parkfield Terra Parkfield Terrace (Grafton), Puhoi Township, Findlay Street and Hewson Street (Ellerslie) and Jervois Road (Herne Bay). Sites range from the former Crown Lynn Ceramic House to the Wilsons Portland Cement dam in Warkworth.
- **Plan Change 102 (February 2025):** Added seven Sites of Significance to Mana Whenua, including coastal areas (Komahunga, Korotiti), awa (Te Wai o Ruarangi / Ōruarangi Awa and Waitomokia Creek), Pā sites (Karearea and Whakahuranga), Pahurehure Islands, and Manukapua.
- **Plan Modification 15 (February 2025):** Added five new Māori heritage sites on Aotea / Great Barrier - Hirakimata, Poutekorua, Ruahine, Komahunga and Korotiti.

Natural Environment and Cultural Heritage Indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Number of kauri safe tracks (kilometres)	26	114	123 (2025)	▲
Number of trees planted in Hunua Ranges Regional Park	86,500	N/A	1,000,000 (2025)	▲
Hectares of pest plant control in regional parks	N/A	1,600	2,554 (2025)	...
Hectares of pest animal control (possums)	N/A	24,000	45,500 (2025)	...
Percentage of time our beaches are suitable for swimming (summer season)	83.4%	75.4%	84.5% (2025)	▬
Number of species led eradication projects for the Hauraki Gulf islands	N/A	9	9 (2025)	...
Total number of protected cultural heritage places	2,248	2,469	2,459 (2024)	▼
Percentage of protected cultural heritage places related to Māori origin (archaeology)	19	24	27 (2024)	▲
Total number of sites and places of significance to mana whenua	75	105	113 (2025)	▲

Te ao Māori and te taiao

What does success look like? Māori culture is visible from the mountains to the sea (ki uta ki tai) and the mauri is strong: our taonga ecosystems (water, soil, land, ocean) are full of life (biodiversity) and are food gathering places.

Visibility of te reo Māori culture continues to grow across Auckland's public spaces. Through Te Kete Rukuruku (launched 2017), Māori names are being restored or newly gifted to local parks and landmarks. By the end of 2024, 521 sites had been named, with recent additions across Māngere-Ōtāhuhu, Waitākere Ranges, and Whau local boards, bringing the total number of parks with Māori or Māori / English names to 924.

There is no new data on the proportion of public spaces within the city centre incorporating Māori design elements and guided by Te Aranga Design Principles. Recent projects included artworks in Myers Park, Victoria Street upgrades, and Māori narratives in City Rail Link stations. Ongoing initiatives, such as the Pūmanawa Downtown West redevelopment, continue this integration in partnership with mana whenua (see Spotlight: Māori place-based storytelling in Tāmaki Makaurau p.54).

The Māori Outcomes Fund continues to support culture, identify, and kaitiakitanga initiatives, including pest eradication (Tū Mai Taonga), digital storytelling, marae led climate responses, and adaptive management planning. Some highlights from 2025 include: a 60m mural at Go Media Stadium, Matariki programmes across major cultural institutions, support for Autaia Haka Theatre and M9 (a groundbreaking oratory and performance Kaupapa blending modern TED style talks with traditional Māori oratory / performance) and wider use of karakia and mihi whakatau at public events.

Te ao Māori and te taiao indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Number of parks with te reo Māori names	N/A	706	924 (2024)	...
Percentage of the urban CBD area using Māori design elements	N/A	22	N/A	...
Number of programmes and initiatives contributing to visibility and present of Māori identify	127 (2021)	101	97 (2024)	▼

Aucklanders as active stewards of the environment

What does success look like? Aucklanders are active kaitiaki and stewards giving back to our place and making sustainable choices, leaving our natural ecosystems and cultural heritage in a better state than they found it

Auckland Council continues to support community groups regenerating their local areas, with over 500 environmental initiatives and 300 broader sustainability projects. School engagement in sustainability has slightly declined from 66 per cent (2023) to 63 per cent (2025).

Natural Environment Targeted Rate: Since 2024, over $1.7 million has been awarded to community-led conservation projects, supporting 520 initiatives. This funding has prioritised project management, coordination, fieldwork, and operational costs for habitat protection, restoration planting, and pest control.

Education and Community Climate Action (ECCA): Since 2024, ECCA has delivered over 300 sustainability initiatives, engaging over 80,000 Aucklanders. The programme supports Māori and Pacific-led climate resilience, youth environmental leadership, and household energy efficiency.

Making Space for Water: The multi-faceted flood resilience programme provides residents with tools such as Flood Viewer, a digital mapping tool that helps households understand flood risk. The tool was recognised as runner-up in the New Zealand Spatial Excellence Awards – Community Impact category. The programme also supports communities to take part in activities such as stream clean-ups and awa restoration, with 1,424 volunteers participating between December 2023 and December 2024, and a further 1,307 people joining community resilience events between January 2024 and June 2025.

Aucklanders as stewards indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Funding for communities (NZ$, millions)	$2m	$2.4m	$3m (2025)	▲
Number of community groups enhancing the environment	450	369	520 (2025)	▲
Percentage of schools engaged in sustainability education	60% (2021)	66%	63% (2025)	■
Total public transport boardings (millions)	92.33	41.22	88.8 (2025)	▼

Auckland's Growth

What does success look like? Auckland is a green, low-carbon and zero waste city

Following the extreme storm events of early 2023, Auckland is strengthening its resilience to flood and extreme weather through infrastructure upgrades, community engagement, and flood resilience programmes. The $2 billion Auckland Storm Recovery Fund, shared between council and central government, supports infrastructure repairs, natural hazard risk reduction, and voluntary buyouts of high-risk properties, recognising that such events are likely to become more frequent due to climate change.

Launched in 2024, in response to the extreme storms and funded through the storm recovery fund, the Making Space for Water Programme provides funds to accelerate projects focused on smarter planning for extreme storms, infrastructure upgrades, maintenance and implementing nature-based solutions such as blue-green networks. Key developments include:

- Blue-green networks: $53 million works at Harania and Te Ararata Creeks in Mangere, with planning underway at Clover Drive, Henderson and Wairau Valley, integrating flood protection with green spaces.
- Flood Viewer: Nearly 1.3 million users have accessed this tool since 2023 to understand local flood risks.
- Flood intelligence and maintenance: Real-time monitoring, predictive tools, hotspot cameras, and targeted stormwater management are improving response and safety across urban and rural areas.

Auckland's thirty-year water strategy continues to guide council investment and actions, highlighting achievements in recycled water and efficiency programmes, though some initiatives remain delayed. Achieving long-term water security, efficiency, and sustainability requires ongoing effort, monitoring, and innovation.

Other significant work being undertaken by the council group to deliver resilient infrastructure are definitions of acceptable levels of risk to support decision making, cumulative loss modelling for council group assets, guidelines for infrastructure planning, and modelling climate scenarios to understand impacts on water sources.

Auckland Airport has completed a major stormwater expansion in 2023, including installation of 3,500 meters of new stormwater pipes to enhance flood resilience, and deployment of wetland biofilter technology to maintain high water quality in the Manukau Harbour.

The Waste Management and Minimisation Plan 2024 has refocused council efforts on reducing emissions and consumption, emphasising redesign, reuse, and reduction, and strengthening partnerships with iwi and communities to target key waste streams.

Waste to landfill is declining, reflecting shifts in disposal practices and construction activity. Many of Auckland's closed landfills are inactive or have been repurposed as parks or reserves. However, they remain long-term environmental, health, and financial risks, especially in coastal and flood-prone areas, requiring ongoing monitoring and adaptation planning.

Since 2023, Auckland Council has developed an Investment Impact Assessment (IIA) tool and separately now required to undertake climate transition planning. Both are used to assess whether investments are delivering value across our priorities and to inform trade-off decisions that need to be made during financial planning.

- **Investment Impact Assessment Tool:** used to test group investments against a range of service delivery, financial and strategic priorities. Council continues to update and improve the tool and criteria definitions.
- **Climate transition planning**: part of the council group's Climate Related Disclosures, requiring testing of decisions against climate risks and opportunities.

Below is a summary of some finding from using the IIA tool on areas relevant to achieving a low-carbon, green and resilient city from investments included in the Long-term Plan 2024-2034. More detail on the IIA can be found in the Long-term Plan 2024.

Criteria (priority)	Findings
Emissions reduction	Approximately $4.8 billion (around 13%) of the council's 10-year capex on infrastructure investment is in line with the emissions reduction goals under Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan and avoiding or minimising embodied and operational emissions as much as practicable.
Green infrastructure / nature-based solutions	Approximately $3.3 billion (around 9%) of the council's capex on infrastructure investment is in green infrastructure. Additionally, the Investment Impact Assessment identified approximately $7.2 billion (around 20%) of capex investment that has significant or moderate positive impacts on the environment.
Resilience	Approximately $14.1 billion (around 38%) of the council's 10-year capex on infrastructure investment was identified as increasing the resilience of the surrounding existing community and/or ecosystems to natural hazards and climate change in the long-term (30+ years). These investments are highly aligned to climate resilience and adaptation goals in Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan.
Growth	Approximately $11.6 billion (around 31%) of the council's 10-year capex on infrastructure investment was identified as providing infrastructure that supports development planned in Spatial Priority Areas in the next 10 years or is of regional benefit (servicing live-zoned land or enabling bulk infrastructure).

Waste indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Domestic waste collected through Auckland Council's kerbside refuse service (tonnes)	179,989	193,714	189,742 (2025)	▼
Total domestic kerbside refuse per capita (kilograms)	142	142	131 (2025)	▲
Total waste to landfill per capita (kilogram, annual)	992	804	673 (2025)	▲
Percentage of water loss from network leakages per year	13%	11.4%	11.6% (2023)	▲
Gross greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) (kilotonnes of CO2e)	12,060 (2016)	10,656	10,919 (2023)	▲

Spotlight: The value of long-term environmental monitoring

Long-term environmental monitoring is essential for understanding change in natural systems. It allows us to detect trends, understand relationships with natural variation such as weather events and climate conditions, and respond effectively to emerging pressures.

Under Section 35 of the Resource Management Act (RMA), Auckland Council (like all regional and unitary authorities) is legally required to monitor and report every five years on the state of the natural environment. This includes air quality, freshwater, marine and coastal environments, land and soil, biodiversity and ecosystems, and climate change impacts. Auckland's State of the Environment Report provides an evidence base for decision-making, informs planning, and contributes to national environmental reporting.

Air quality is an example of the value of long-term monitoring. Auckland Council has been monitoring air quality for over four decades, enabling a robust scientific understanding of pollutant levels, trends, and sources. Monitoring shows air quality is generally good, though local activities such as transport, domestic heating, and industry continue to influence pollutant levels. Auckland has not exceeded national air quality standards since 2022. Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) concentrations have declined by about 5 per cent per year, with a 20 per cent drop in the central city over the past five years. In contrast, particulate matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$) levels have remained relatively stable, with some signs of worsening. Sea spray contributes about 45 per cent of PM_{10}, motor vehicles 30 per cent, and wood burning 10 per cent. For $PM_{2.5}$, motor vehicles contribute over 40 per cent. As tailpipe emissions fall, non-tailpipe emissions (e.g., brake and tyre wear) are becoming more significant, reflecting the changing nature of urban pollution.

Long-term monitoring also shows how interventions work. Since 2020, traffic pattern changes along Queen Street (prioritising public transport and active modes) have halved vehicle counts and reduced nitrogen dioxide levels by nearly 50 per cent, creating a more breathable city centre.

Advances in technology are expanding how we monitor the environment. New tools such as environmental DNA (eDNA), artificial intelligence (AI), and drones are improving our ability to detect and understand change. For instance, Auckland Council's sediment monitoring now combines AI-enabled cameras and turbidity sensors to provide real-time alerts on erosion and sediment control performance. This is important as sediment remains a strategic issue for Auckland, with increasing muddiness/sedimentation in our harbours and estuaries resulting in poor ecological health in many locations. The storms of 2023 demonstrated the potential for extreme weather events to mobilise large amounts of material and affect estuarine health.

Looking ahead, new challenges mean we need to keep evolving and adapting our monitoring. For example, emerging contaminants may require new monitoring investment. These include non-natural chemicals such as microplastics and pesticide residues, which are increasingly found in soil, air, and marine environments but whose impacts on human and ecosystem health are still poorly understood.

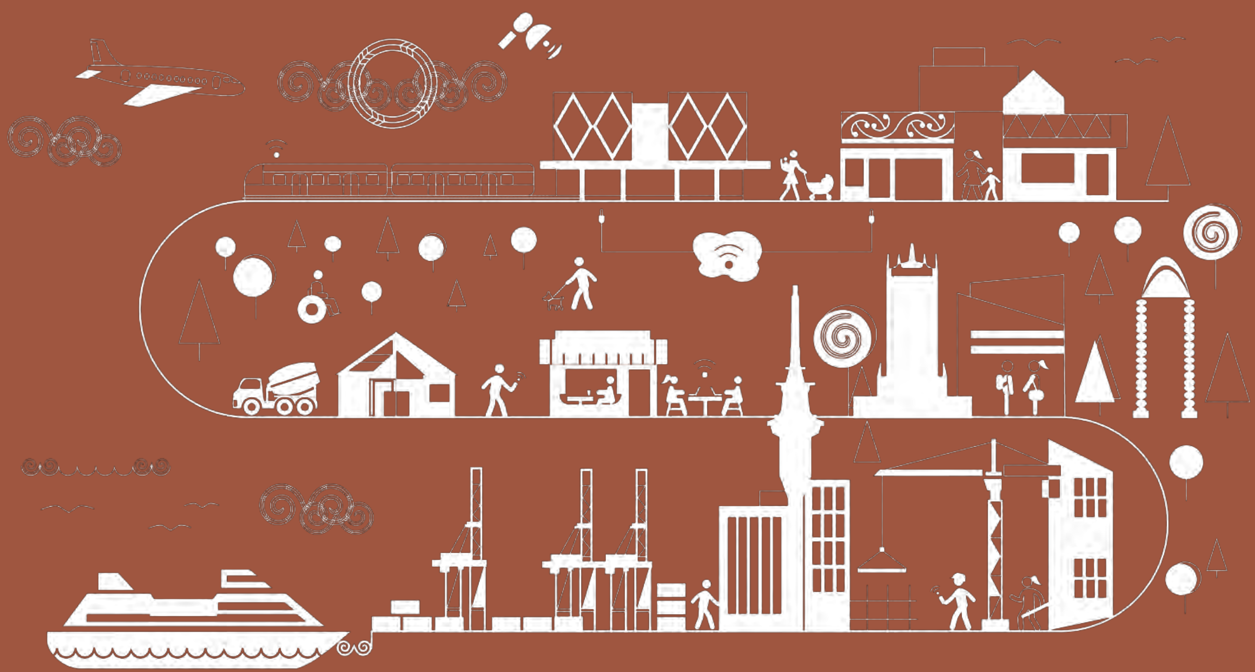
The changing climate and increasing severity of extreme weather events will continue to influence what and how we monitor. Shifts in temperature, rainfall, and disturbance events can alter pollutant behaviour, exacerbate erosion and flooding, and create conditions for new pests and diseases to thrive. As our environment changes, maintaining and adapting long-term monitoring will be critical to protect ecosystem health and support informed, resilient decision-making.

Ensuring a healthy environment is fundamental to a resilient Tāmaki Makaurau and our wellbeing in the face of a changing climate. Monitoring and reporting on our environment and our partnership with Iwi Mana Whenua who bring their Mātauranga Māori, are critical to navigating these challenges and opportunities.

Opportunity and Prosperity

Ngā angitū me ngā whai huatanga

Auckland is prosperous with many opportunities and delivers a better standard of living for everyone.



Opportunity and Prosperity

We know we are making progress when Auckland is prosperous with many opportunities and delivers a better standard of living for everyone

To track progress against this outcome, we report against six key themes that reflect the core directions and focus areas of the Opportunity and Prosperity outcome. Each theme is accompanied by a success statement that describes what achieving the outcome looks like in practice.

In short, how are we progressing?

- Productivity growing but innovation ecosystem needs strengthening: Labour productivity has grown 5 per cent since 2018, exceeding national growth rates, though Auckland remains below international peer cities (e.g. Copenhagen, Dublin, Vancouver). Technology sector shows strong momentum with early-stage investment nearly tripling to $397 million and tech exporter revenues growing 23 per cent in the past year.
- Low-carbon transition progressing: Carbon intensity has decreased since 2016, demonstrating emissions reduction alongside economic growth. Auckland businesses are developing circular economy approaches and capacity. Weakening national policy support makes city-level action more critical. Without sustained momentum, Auckland risks falling behind international peer cities that are investing heavily in their innovation ecosystems and green economies.
- Educational foundations weakening as economy demands more skills: Educational achievement has deteriorated to decade-low levels, with 12 per cent leaving school without NCEA Level 1 and only 33 per cent of 20-24 year-olds holding Level 4+ qualifications (down from 41% in 2018). Disparities are widening - Māori and Pacific students are half as likely to achieve university entrance. This mismatch could limit Auckland's ability to fill high-skilled jobs that now comprise 39 per cent of employment.
- Auckland struggling to retain talent despite economic opportunities: Auckland continues to lose residents to other parts of New Zealand, driven primarily by housing affordability and cost of living pressures. Skilled New Zealanders are leaving for international destinations, particularly Australia, in search of better economic opportunities and quality of life. Labour shortages have eased but due to weakening demand rather than successful retention.
- Prosperity not reaching all communities despite economic growth: Despite wage growth to $1,400 median weekly earnings and narrowing ethnic wage gaps, 22 per cent report insufficient income (up from 19% in 2018), and 62,200 children live in material hardship. Unemployment has risen sharply to 5.8 per cent, with Māori (12.4%) and youth (11.3%) particularly affected. Geographic disparities persist with South and East Auckland residents much less likely to report adequate incomes.
- Māori economy shows strong asset growth, but workforce gaps remain: Iwi asset base has grown 72 per cent to $21.5 billion and Māori businesses increased to 5,394, demonstrating economic capability. However, Māori remain underrepresented in high-skilled jobs (29% vs 39% average) and experience significantly higher unemployment (12.4%), highlighting persistent barriers to full economic participation.
- International connectivity recovering: Exports have grown strongly by 12.6 per cent to $21.5 billion, led by manufacturing, information services, and professional services. Tourism is recovering (contributing $6 billion to GDP) though still below pre-pandemic levels. Business confidence has improved to highest level since 2014 but remains vulnerable to global volatility.

Opportunities for greater progress

The following areas have been identified as opportunities for greater progress.

Opportunity 1: Strengthening education pathways and workforce adaptability to support productivity growth

Auckland's economy continues to demand high-skilled workers, yet educational achievement is declining and disparities are widening. Students are leaving school without adequate qualifications at rates not seen in a decade, while the proportion holding higher-level qualifications has fallen significantly. Māori and Pacific students achieve university entrance at less than half the rate of other students, while those facing socioeconomic barriers are four times less likely to succeed.

These educational challenges translate directly into labour market difficulties. The share of youth not in employment, education or training (NEET rates) have risen, unemployment has increased sharply (particularly for Māori and young people), and labour force participation has declined. Meanwhile, Auckland's economy continues generating opportunities in professional services, technology, and knowledge-intensive sectors that drive productivity growth.

Addressing educational disparities and strengthening pathways from education to employment - including early childhood education, school-to-tertiary transitions, apprenticeships, and lifelong learning - is fundamental to building the skilled workforce needed for productivity gains and ensuring all Aucklanders can participate in the economy. Without intervention, Auckland risks a two-tier economy where some communities thrive while others are excluded from quality employment opportunities.

Opportunity 2: Retaining talent and attracting productive investment to strengthen economic competitiveness

Regions that successfully balance economic opportunity with quality of life attract the skilled talent and productive investment that create the conditions for innovation and drive long-term prosperity. There are current constraints which are holding Auckland back. These include housing affordability, cost of living and infrastructure quality. Addressing these will create multiple benefits: making Auckland more liveable for current and future residents, attracting and retaining the talent needed for innovation, directing investment toward productive sectors that drive growth, and creating conditions for sustained productivity gains.

Opportunity 3: Transitioning to a low carbon, regenerative economy

Auckland has demonstrated that economic growth and emissions reduction can occur simultaneously, with carbon intensity decreasing substantially while the economy has grown. Research has found that decisive climate action could deliver significant additional economic gain and thousands of jobs. The circular economy is an integral part of the solution, representing billions in potential additional economic activity. Auckland businesses are increasingly building circular economy capacity and adopting circular business approaches. Changing national policy direction means that there are now fewer national policy levers, making city-level action ever more important. Accelerating this transition requires strengthening innovation and leveraging Auckland's strengths in technology and professional services to build competitive advantage globally. The transition to low-carbon, resource-efficient business models represents both an innovation opportunity and a productivity opportunity - driving new technologies, business models, and more efficient resource use.

Economic resilience through innovation and productivity

What does success look like? Auckland harnesses innovation and emerging technologies to lift productivity and create sustainable prosperity that enhances wellbeing for all communities.

Overall Auckland has demonstrated considerable economic resilience over the past three years, particularly during the post-pandemic recovery. The region contributed 38 per cent of the country's economic output in 2024. However, after relatively strong GDP growth from 2022 to 2024, provisional estimates show that the region's GDP contracted by -1.0 per cent in the year to June 2025, similar to the decline of -0.6 per cent for the rest of New Zealand (excl. Auckland). Lifting Auckland's productivity and innovation capacity is critical to creating sustainable prosperity that will enhance the wellbeing of our communities and strengthen our economic resilience.

Productivity performance

Auckland labour productivity is higher than the rest of New Zealand, reflecting its strength in high-value industries, and the benefits of scale and density. Auckland's average labour productivity (GDP per filled job) was $160,047 in the year to March 2024 – 5 per cent higher in real terms than in 2018 ($152,619). Auckland's average annual productivity growth (0.8%) has marginally exceeded the annual national average (0.6%) over the past 10 years.

However, cities such as Brisbane, Vancouver, Dublin and Copenhagen have much higher levels of productivity[49], indicating significant room for Auckland to do better. A recent paper from the Council's Chief Economist Unit[50] highlights several constraints on the region's productivity growth, including high housing costs deterring skilled talent, capital tied up in housing diverting productive investment, and dispersed urban growth increasing infrastructure costs and congestion. Addressing these issues through effective land use, infrastructure pricing, and prioritised investment is crucial for future growth.

The potential of the technology sector

Auckland's technology sector plays a particularly vital role in building a more resilient and higher value economy. Auckland is home to 107 of New Zealand's top 200 Technology companies (TIN200), and with their strong R&D spending, job creation, and export earnings, this sector has a central role in driving diversification and productivity growth. Cleantech, software solutions and healthtech are leading the way.

In 2025 five of the ten fastest growing tech exporters were from Auckland with total revenues growing by 23 per cent, from $4.1 billion to $5.0 billion. In 2024, Auckland's TIN200 companies recorded early-stage capital investment of almost $400 million, more than doubling since 2022 ($147 million).

TIN200 companies are playing a major role in driving New Zealand's innovation economy. In 2024, TIN200 companies' R&D investment was $1.97 billion, accounting for nearly half of all business led R&D ($4b) in New Zealand.[51]

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[49] PWC and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited (2024). Auckland Economic Monitor 2024.
[50] Auckland Council Chief Economist Unit (Q1 & Q2 2025). Auckland Economic Quarterly. Boosting Auckland's productivity.
[51] Technology Investment Limited (2025. Technology Investment Report (2025).

The start-up and innovation ecosystem

Auckland is home to 283 startups, comprising 58 per cent of all startups in New Zealand. With the strongest startup ecosystem in the country, it also ranks fourth in Australia and Oceania. However, Auckland's global startup ranking has slipped from 112 in 2022 to 115 in 2025, suggesting increased competition from other cities investing in their innovation ecosystem.

While Auckland has strengths in technology and other high-value sectors, translating this into broader productivity gains across the economy requires stronger innovation networks and collaboration. A persistent weakness in Auckland's innovation ecosystem is limited university-industry collaboration. The share of University of Auckland publications co-authored with industry remains around 4 per cent, compared to 8-10 per cent for leading research universities in Denmark, Sweden, Finland and the Netherlands. This gap has shown little improvement over time, suggesting that knowledge transfer between research institutions and businesses remains underdeveloped.

Strengthening these connections is critical for innovation-led productivity growth. Universities generate research and talent, while businesses provide real-world application and commercialisation pathways. Without robust collaboration, Auckland risks leaving valuable innovation potential untapped, limiting its ability to harness emerging technologies and create the sustainable prosperity its communities need.

Low-carbon, regenerative economy

The transition to a low-carbon economy represents a significant opportunity to enhance Auckland's economic resilience, productivity, and innovation. Shifting to a green economy fundamentally means moving toward a system that is low carbon, resource efficient, and socially inclusive - creating new business models, technologies, and employment opportunities in the process. Auckland businesses are already building capacity in circular business approaches and adopting circular approaches that demonstrate this transition in practice (see Spotlight: Progressing the circular economy transition, p. 117).

Auckland is making measurable progress on decarbonisation. Carbon intensity - emissions per unit of GDP - indicates how efficiently an economy uses carbon-based resources to generate economic output. Lower carbon intensity generally indicates a more sustainable economy with less environmental impact. In 2023, Auckland's net emissions were 64 t CO_2e per million $NZ GDP, and gross emissions were 68 t CO_2e per million $NZ GDP. Both net and gross emissions per million $NZ GDP decreased substantially by 26 per cent and 27 per cent respectively since the 2016 baseline year. This demonstrates that economic growth and emissions reduction can occur simultaneously.

The economic opportunity from decisive climate action is substantial. Research[52] projects that if Auckland pursues action limiting warming to 1.5°C, the region will reach its "turning point" in 2037, when the economic benefits of action begin to outweigh upfront costs. This decisive action pathway could deliver $22 billion of additional economic gain to Auckland's economy by 2050, along with 19,000 additional jobs. Lack of action could cost the economy $0.8 billion.

[52] Deloitte (2023). Tamaki Makaurau Auckland's Turning Point. The Cost of Climate Action vs Decisive Action.

Innovation and productivity indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Auckland's share of national GDP	37.5%	37.3%	38.1% (2024)	■
GDP growth (annual, March)	4.6%	4.8%	-1.0% (2025)[53]	▼
Labour productivity - GDP per filled job (constant 2024 dollars)	$152,619	$156,991	$160,047 (2024)	▲
Number and share of NZ's top 200 Tech companies (TIN200)	120 (60%) (2020)	112 (56%)	107 (54%) (2025)	▶
Total Auckland TIN200 company revenue	$6.5b (2020)	$8b	$10.5b (2025)	▲
Early-Stage Company Investment (TIN200) ($m)	$128m (2020)	$147m	$397m (2024)	▲
Global Startup Ecosystem Ranking	124 (2020)	112	115 (2025)	▲
University - industry collaboration: percentage of University of Auckland publications co-authored with industry	4.2% (2015-2018)	4% (2019-2022)	N/A	…
Emissions intensity – t CO_2e per million $NZ GDP				
Net	82	64	64 (2023)	▲
Gross	87	68	68 (2023)	▲

Attracting and retaining talent, skills and investment

What does success look like? Auckland attracts and retains skilled people and smart capital because it offers quality employment opportunities, is an attractive place to live and work, and provides access to international markets and diverse talent pools.

Businesses' ability to find both skilled and unskilled labour has been improving, moving from a situation of acute shortages in 2022 to much less constraint by late 2023 and continuing to improve into 2025. Labour is *the* limiting factor[54] on increasing turnover for only 4 per cent of firms in 2025, well below pre-pandemic levels (16% in 2018), and the record high levels during the pandemic (35% in 2022). Yet there are still sectors in which firms are reporting skills shortages persisting, including some advanced manufacturing and ICT.[55]

[53] Provisional data for June 2025.
[54] The QSBO survey asks "what single factor, if any, is most limiting your ability to increase turnover?"
[55] RNZ (5 Dec. 2024). Labour market under further pressure as NZers head overseas. https.

International migration

Auckland net international migration for the year to June 2024 was 38,800, increasing from 25,000 in the year to June 2019. The COVID-19 years were anomalies (in the year to 2022 net international migration was at a record low of -9,900). While net international migration figures are positive, they do not tell us anything about the demographics and skill levels of the people Auckland loses compared to those gained. Regional international migration figures are not readily available, but national figures show that international migration is at the highest level in a decade, reflecting tough economic conditions and the perception of better opportunities elsewhere.

In the year to July 2025 73,400 New Zealanders emigrated, with 58 per cent of them going to Australia. Meanwhile, migrant arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens over the same period was 114,700 (out-numbering arrivals of New Zealand citizens; 25,800), with 65 per cent being from Asia – mainly India, China, Philippines and Sri Lanka. The second largest group was from Europe at 11 per cent.

Internal migration

Meanwhile the internal (domestic) migration data shows that Auckland has been losing residents to other parts of New Zealand over a number of years. The outflow in 2024 was the lowest since 2019 - though still representing a net loss of 8,200 people (up 67% from 2023). The top destination cities are Waikato District, Christchurch, Tauranga, Hamilton, and Wellington.

Key drivers include Auckland's rising living costs, especially housing affordability, and increased remote work acceptance allowing people to relocate while maintaining Auckland employment connections. This migration pattern suggests many residents believe they can achieve a better quality of life elsewhere in New Zealand.

Foreign direct investment

Total foreign direct investment[56] flow into New Zealand has varied significantly year on year. It reached a high of $14 billion in the year to March 2023 and has dropped to $2.7 billion in the year to March 2025. Total foreign direct investment data is not readily available for Auckland, but data on foreign direct investment that comes through the Overseas Investment Office (OIO) is available. However, this only includes investment in sensitive land, significant business assets (>$100 million) or fishing quota. There was a significant drop in foreign direct investment (as approved by the OIO) between 2022 to 2024, which is reflective of the disruption caused by the pandemic and New Zealand’s closed borders. Over the longer-term there has been a notable downward trajectory in OIO approved foreign direct investment (refer Figure 14).

Over the three-year period from 2022 to 2024 total OIO approved FDI investments were $552 million, dominated by real estate (63%), Agribusiness (32%), and relatively minor investment in consumer discretionary and materials. By comparison, in the three-year period between 2017 and 2019[57,] foreign investment was almost seven times bigger at $3.7 billion, and while real estate was still dominant (44%), there was much greater sector diversity.

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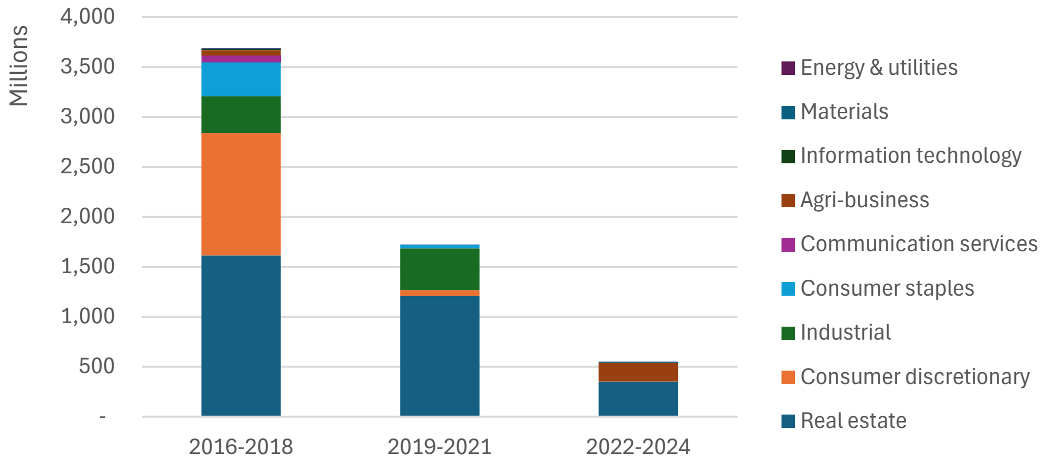
[56] FDI is where a non-resident investor owns equity which gives them 10 percent or more of voting shares in a New Zealand business (StatsNZ definition).
[57] The period 2018 to 2020 provides for a better comparison as it contains 2018 which was the peak year and removes the distortion from COVID-19.

Pūrongo koke whakamua ia toru tau

Figure 14: Net foreign investment in Auckland – Overseas Investment Office approved



Source: KPMG Foreign Direct Investment Interactive Dashboard

Attracting and retaining talent, skills and investment indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Ease of finding labour – skilled	-52%	-82%	35% (2025)	▲
Ease of finding labour - unskilled	-39%	-78%	33% (2025)	▲
Labour as the limiting factor to increasing production	16.2%	34.6%	4.0% (2025)	▲
Skilled migrant visa approvals	17,532 (2019)	12,411	14,379 (2025)	▼
New Zealand citizens – migrant departures	42,382	38,726	73,406 (2025)	▶
Non-New Zealand citizens – migrant arrivals	102,804	43,958	114,700 (2025)	▶
Internal migration	-12,200 (2019)	-11,700	-8,200 (2024)	▲
Foreign direct investment (approved by OIO)	$1,634,262,681	$278,055,223	$33,246,644 (2024)	▼

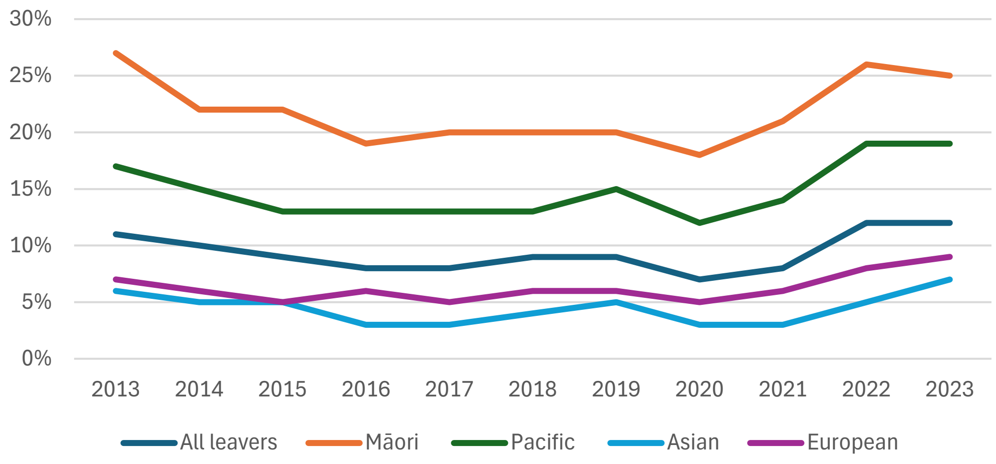
Skills and Employment

What does success look like? All Aucklanders have the skills and opportunities they need to thrive as the nature of work changes, with continuous learning and development enabling them to adapt throughout their lives and achieve meaningful employment.

Skills development

The proportion of students leaving school without at least level 1 has been increasing since the start of the pandemic and is now back to the levels of 10 years ago (figure 15). Māori and Pacific school leavers are much more likely to leave school with no qualifications widening educational disparities.

Figure 15: Proportion of students leaving school without at least NCEA level 1 by ethnicity



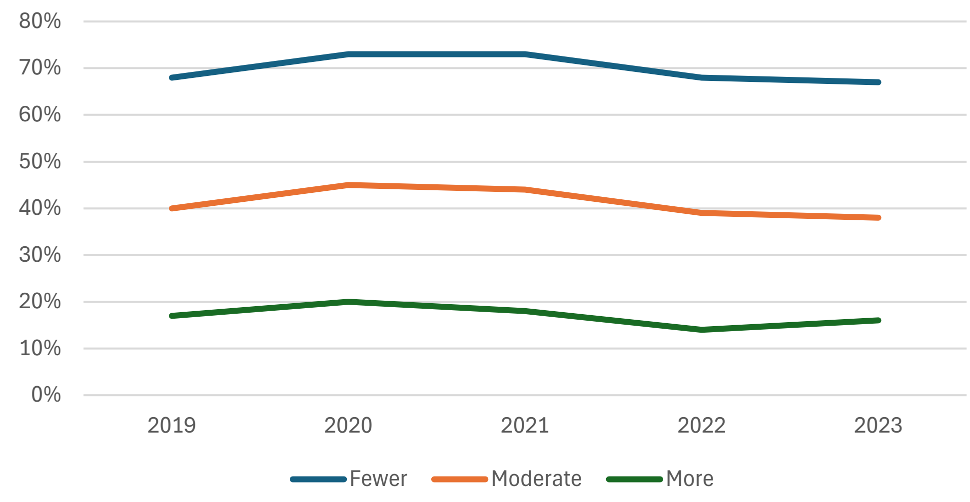
Source: Ministry of Education, Education Counts.

The proportion of students obtaining university entrance (UE) or higher also reflects the same trends and disparities. Forty-nine per cent of students left school with UE in 2023. Māori (27%) and Pacific (23%) school leavers were less than half as likely to obtain UE as Asian (66%) and European (56%) students. For all ethnic groups, except Māori, there has been a decline in the proportion of school leavers with UE compared to before the pandemic (2019). Students who face fewer socioeconomic barriers[58] are four times more likely to achieve UE than students facing more barriers (Figure 16), highlighting how educational inequality is being reinforced across generations.

[58] The school decline system was replaced in 2023 with a School Equity Index, based on 37 socioeconomic factors that estimates the extent to which socioeconomic factors create obstacles for students' educational success. This enables comparison on educational attainment by school equity index, which reflect the extent to which students face socioeconomic barriers to educational attainment.

Pūrongo koke whakamua ia toru tau

Figure 16: Proportion of school leavers with university entrance by equity index



Source: Ministry of Education, Education Counts.

The decline extends to higher qualifications, with only about one-third of 20-24 year-olds now holding Level 4+ qualifications, down significantly from just over 40 per cent in 2018. The fall in educational achievement is mainly explained by the disruption caused by the pandemic, which has had ongoing impacts on learners' progress, especially for students in poorer communities.[59] School-to-tertiary transition rates within one year of leaving school remain relatively low at 62 per cent in 2023, compared to 64 per cent in 2018.

The proportion of youth (15-24 year-olds) not in employment, education or training (NEET) has also risen to 14.2 per cent reflecting worsening labour market conditions and returning to levels last seen during the height of the pandemic. High NEET rates are concerning for all young people, but particularly for Māori and Pacific youth who experience rates almost double those of European and Asian youth.

These trends - declining qualifications, low tertiary transitions, and rising NEET rates - are concerning for future workforce adaptability. They suggest that not all communities are reaching their educational potential, creating risks that economic transformation will benefit some while leaving others behind. The Spotlight: Wellbeing and potential of Auckland's youth (p. 119) addresses these issues in more detail.

Skill development indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Proportion of school leavers without NCEA level 1	9%	12%	12% (2023)	▼
Proportion of school leavers achieving University Entrance	49%	49%	49% (2023)	■
Māori	24%	24%	27%	
Pacific	23%	23%	23%	
Asian	70%	69%	66%	
European	58%	56%	56%	

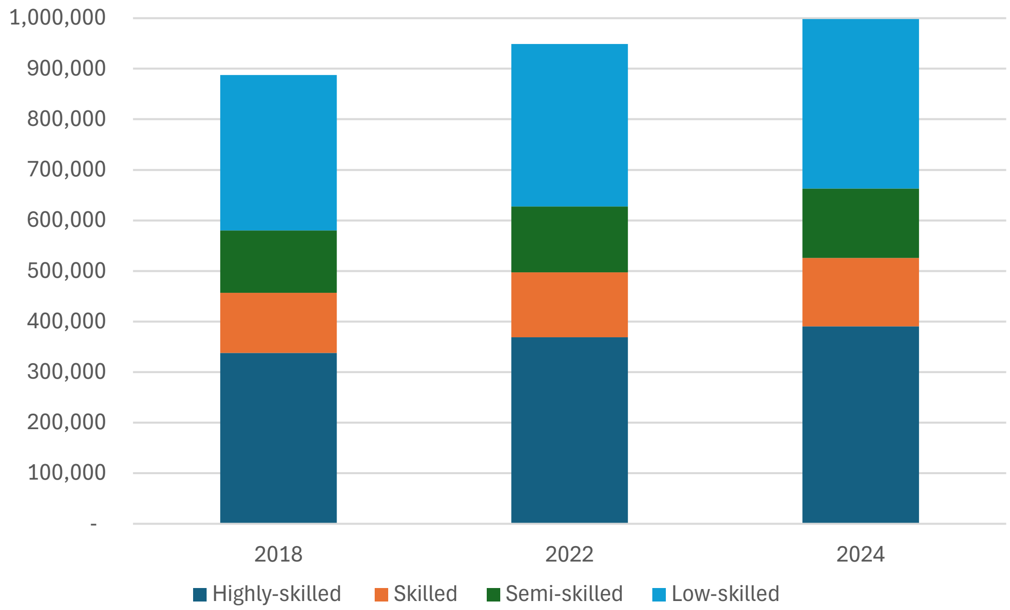
[59] Education Review Office (2023). Long Covid: Ongoing impacts of Covid-19 on schools and learning.

Percentage of 20–24-year-olds with level 4 qualification or above	40.7%	35.7%	32.6% (2025)	▼
Percentage of school leavers who transition to tertiary education within a year of completing	64.1%	59.7%	62.2% (2023)	▬
NEET rates	11.8%	11.9%	14.2% (2025)	▼

Employment by skill level

Auckland maintains a strong base of high-skilled employment. High skilled jobs comprised 39 per cent of Auckland jobs, while low skilled jobs made up 34 per cent (Figure 17).[60] The number of highly skilled workers is growing faster than the total workforce.

Figure 17: Employment by broad skill level



Source: Infometrics

A shift to a more knowledge-intensive economy is crucial to Auckland's economic future as knowledge intensive companies create high-value jobs, attract skilled talent, and generate greater economic returns per employee compared to traditional industries. In 2024 knowledge intensive employment made up 36 per cent of total employment, compared to 33 per cent nationally. This share has remained largely unchanged over the past 10 years.

The highest number of knowledge-intensive jobs are found in hospitals, IT, management consulting, education and engineering.

[60] High skilled occupations typically require a Bachelors degree or higher qualification. They include professionals such as accountants, teachers and engineers, and most managers and executives. This category is consistent with skill level one of the Australia New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO). Low skilled occupations typically require an NZ Register Level 3 qualification or lower. They include a range of lower skilled occupations from general clerks, caregivers, sales assistants, cleaners and labourers. This category is consistent with skill level four and five of the ANZSCO classification.

Employment by industry

Auckland's economy is predominantly service-based, with other services (44.6%) and high-value services (34.8%) together accounting for almost 80 per cent of jobs.

At an industry level, professional, scientific and technical services was the largest employer in Auckland in 2024 accounting for 12.5 per cent of total employment, followed by construction (10.7%), health care and social assistance (9.2%), retail trade (8.7%) and manufacturing (8.5%). The top three employing industries are also the industries that have made the largest contribution to employment growth in Auckland between 2018 and 2024, adding just over 25,000 jobs.

Table 2 Employment by industry

	2018	2024	Change
Professional, scientific and technical services	108466	124592	15%
Construction	81913	107198	31%
Health care and social assistance	75332	91356	21%
Retail trade	78228	87246	12%
Manufacturing	82249	84487	3%
Education and training	67217	70268	5%
Wholesale trade	63027	67008	6%
Accommodation and food services	58398	63517	9%
Administrative and support services	55292	57310	4%
Transport, postal and warehousing	42486	47281	11%
Financial and insurance services	34564	42234	22%
Public administration and safety	32401	39743	23%
Other services	32636	36044	10%
Rental, hiring and real estate services	24221	26135	8%
Information media and telecommunications	23127	22845	-1%
Arts and recreation services	14754	16821	14%
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	8375	7512	-10%
Electricity, gas, water and waste services	4718	6084	29%
Mining	413	396	-4%
Total	**887816**	**998080**	

Source: Infometrics

Professional, scientific and technical services made the largest contribution to overall GDP growth in Auckland between 2018 and 2024. The industry grew by 4.7 per cent annually over the period and contributed $4.4 billion to the region's total growth of $24 billion. Information media and telecommunications was the second largest contributor to growth ($2.8 billion) despite accounting for relatively fewer jobs. This reflects differences in labour productivity. Manufacturing was the largest detractor from growth over the period, shrinking by 0.6 per cent annually.[61]

[61] PWC and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited (2025). Auckland Economic Monitor 2025.

Employment by skill level and industry indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Total jobs	887,815	948,877	998,081 (2024)	▲
Highly-skilled jobs (total / share of all jobs)	338,044 (38%)	368,945 (39%)	390,195 (39%) (2024)	■
Skilled (total / share of all jobs)	118,839 (13%)	128,121 (14%)	135,728 (14%) (2024)	■
Semi-skilled (total / share of all jobs)	123,255 (14%)	130,536 (14%)	137,129 (14%) (2024)	■
Low-skilled (total / share of all jobs)	307,677 (35%)	321,275 (34%)	335,029 (34%) (2024)	■
Employment in advanced industries as share of total employment	35.1%	36%	36.1% (2024)	■

Labour market pressures and income challenges

Labour market conditions have deteriorated over the past three years, with rising unemployment and income inadequacy revealing that not all communities are prospering.

The past three years have seen rising labour market pressures. Unemployment has increased sharply to 5.8 per cent in 2025, up from 3.3 per cent in 2022, with Māori (12.4%) and young people aged 20-24 (11.3%) experiencing particularly high rates. Labour force participation has declined to 71.3 per cent, with Māori experiencing the largest drop to 65 per cent.

Income trends present a complex picture. Real median weekly earnings have grown over time to $1,400 in 2025, though growth has been stagnant over the past year. The European sub-group has the highest average weekly earnings, but income gaps between ethnic groups are slowly narrowing as Māori (9%), Pacific (8%) and Asian (9%) wage growth has exceeded European (5%) growth since 2018. In the past three years only, Māori has experienced the highest growth in real weekly earnings, amounting to 9 per cent, compared to 3 percent for Europeans and Pacific peoples, and just 1 per cent for Asians.

The narrowing income gap is also reflected in a decreasing Gini index for Auckland. In the year ended June 2024, the Gini index[62,63] for Auckland was 34.3, down from 35.5 the previous year, and above the Gini index for New Zealand (33.3).

Despite improvements in average income, many Aucklanders struggle with inadequate incomes. In 2024, 22 per cent said their total income was not sufficient to meet everyday needs, up from 19 per cent in 2018. Meanwhile, one third (33%) of Auckland respondents said they have 'more than enough' or 'enough' money to meet their everyday needs, down from almost half (41%) in 2018. There are significant geographical disparities – residents in South Auckland (28%) and East Auckland (26%) are much less likely to report that

[62] The Gini index is a common method used to measure inequality in a distribution. A higher Gini index indicates greater inequality in a population (0 equals perfect equality; 100 equals perfect inequality).
[63] The Gini index for equivalised household income before housing costs.

their total income was sufficient compared to residents in North (38%) and Central Auckland (38%). Over a third of Aucklanders worry about their financial circumstances, with Māori (53%) and Pacific (52%) respondents particularly affected. Younger people are more likely to experience both income inadequacy and financial worry than older respondents.

The child poverty statistics also reveal significant challenges. 14.9 per cent of Auckland children (approximately 62,200) were living in households experiencing material hardship[64] in 2024, up from 13.3 per cent in 2019. National data shows Māori and Pacific children are more than twice as likely to experience material hardship compared to European and Asian children (regional data breakdowns are not available).

Labour market pressures and income challenges indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Labour force participation rate (average annual June data)	70.7%	72.3%	71.3% (2025)	
Māori	69.9%	67.9%	65.1%	
Pacific	63.7%	64.3%	65.8%	
Asian	71.4%	75.8%	76.1%	
European	72.9%	73.2%	72.6%	
Unemployment rate (average annual, June data)	4.3%	3.3.%	5.8% (2025)	
Māori	8.5%	6.3%	12.4%	
Pacific	8.1%	6.2%	11.0%	
20-24 year olds	9.0%	7.0%	11.3%	
Average weekly earnings ($2025)	$1,333	$1,342	$1,400 (2025)	
Māori	$1,234	$1,234	$1,343	
Pacific	$1,131	$1,187	$1,224	
Asian	$1,197	$1,295	$1,302	
European	$1,481	$1,511	$1,556	
Gini coefficient	37.1	31.8	34.3 (2024)	
Proportion of Aucklanders reporting having more than enough money or enough money to meet everyday needs	41%	43%	33% (2024)	
Proportion of Aucklanders reporting not having enough money to meet everyday needs	19%	18%	22% (2024)	
Percentage of Auckland children in poverty	13.3% (2019)	N/A	14.9% (2024)	

[64] Material hardship is defined as living in households that go without six (or more) of 17 items identified as essential for wellbeing. For example, going without fresh fruit and vegetables, doctor's and dentist visits, being unable to pay utility bills, and not replacing/repairing appliances.

Economic opportunities for Māori

What does success look like? Māori businesses and communities are significant drivers of Auckland's economy, with advanced skills and entrepreneurial capability creating unique opportunities that deliver benefits for all Aucklanders.

Māori businesses and iwi organisations play a critical role in the region's economy, with a distinctive approach that integrates social, cultural, environmental, spiritual and economic objectives. While the Māori economy shows strong asset growth, persistent skills and employment gaps suggest opportunities to unlock even greater economic contribution.[65]

Māori businesses and asset base

Māori businesses in Auckland totalled 5,394 in 2023, up from 4,827 in 2021. Construction was the largest industry for Māori businesses in Auckland, accounting for 1,578 or 29 per cent of all Māori businesses in Auckland. The sector largely consists of small businesses. The second largest industry was professional, scientific and technical services, accounting for 1,020 businesses (19%) of all businesses, followed by rental, hiring and real estate services (338; 6%).

The iwi asset base has seen significant growth, rising by 72 per cent from $12.5 billion in 2018 to $21.5 billion in 2023, reflecting their critical role in realising economic opportunities and driving wellbeing outcomes for current and future generations of Māori. The biggest asset holders by sector were real estate and property services ($5.3 billion), and professional, scientific, and technical services ($4.7 billion). Overall, the Māori asset base in Auckland is diverse and differs from the rest of the country by not being concentrated in agriculture, forestry and fishing.

Māori workforce and skills

There has been a small shift in the proportion of Māori employed in high-skilled jobs since 2018. However, Māori are still much less likely to be employed in high-skilled jobs than the average for employed Aucklanders. In 2024, 29 per cent of employed Māori were employed in high-skilled occupations, lower than the average for Auckland (39%). The low-skilled category accounted for 44 per cent of employment of Māori, compared to 34 per cent for Auckland.

The under representation of Māori in high-skilled jobs, combined with poorer educational and labour market outcomes (e.g. lower earnings, higher unemployment) highlights the critical importance of addressing these disparities.

Māori economy indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Number of Māori businesses	4,569	4,827 (2021)	5,394 (2023)	▲
Iwi asset base	$12.5billion (2018)	N/A	$21.5billion (2023)	▲

[65] PWC and Tātaki Auckland Unlimited (2025). Auckland Economic Monitor 2025.

Māori economy indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Māori in high-skilled jobs	28.2%	29.1%	29.1% (2024)	▬
Māori in low-skilled jobs	44.8%	43.8%	43.5% (2024)	▬
Māori weekly earnings	$1,234	$1,234	$1,343 (2025)	▲
Māori unemployment rate	8.5%	6.3%	12.4% (2025)	▼

Global connectivity and business environment

What does success look like? Auckland leverages its position as New Zealand's gateway to deliver high-value products and services to global markets, supported by streamlined regulatory processes and quality infrastructure that enables business success.

Exports

The value of Auckland's exports has continued to increase over time, barring a dip during the pandemic. Exports have recovered and are now at a higher level than pre-pandemic. Total exports from Auckland were $21.5 billion in 2024, an increase of 12.6 per cent on the previous year. By comparison exports increased by 4.0 per cent in New Zealand.

In 2024, half of Auckland's total exports ($21.5b) were from manufacturing ($10.6b). This includes machinery and other equipment manufacturing ($2.2b), fruit, oil, cereal and other food product manufacturing ($2.0b), information media and telecommunications ($2.2b), and professional, scientific and technical services ($1.9b).[66]

Tourism

The tourism was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic, but there are strong signs of recovery, albeit all indicators are still below pre-COVID-19 levels. In the year to March 2024 tourism contributed $6 billion to Auckland's GDP. Tourism spending has recovered strongly, since 2022 reflecting both increased visitor numbers and a shift in spending patterns.

Confidence indicators

Both consumer and business confidence are strong indicators of the sense of stability and security within an economy.

Consumer confidence in Auckland is relatively weak reflecting the challenging economic environment. Concerns around macroeconomic conditions globally, as well as higher unemployment and the after-effects of higher price levels domestically, are having a dampening effect on spending. While consumer confidence was starting to trend up in 2024, it fell again in the March 2025 quarter, after which we have

[66] Infometrics Auckland Regional Economic Profile.

seen slight improvement. Recent weak GDP data for 2025 will likely result in lower consumer confidence again, but it is not yet reflected in the data we monitor.

In 2022 and 2023, Auckland business confidence fell to levels not seen since the Global Financial Crisis. Despite a brief post-election boost, confidence waned again during early 2024, but business confidence has been improving in the past year, rising for four consecutive quarters to reach its highest level since 2014 by June 2025.

However, recent political and economic volatility globally has reduced business confidence in some of our main trading partners. In turn, this has likely created some pessimism among Auckland's export-focussed businesses. While this is not yet reflected in the data, some downturn may be expected in business confidence in subsequent quarters.[67]

Global connectivity and business environment indicators	Baseline (2018)	2022	Latest result	Progress
Export value (current prices)	$16.8b	$15.8b	$21.5b (2024)	▲
Annual export growth	8.6%	5.5%	12.6% (2024)	▲
Tourism sector contribution to total GDP	5.4%	2.0%	3.8% (2024)	▼
Tourism contribution to GDP (2024$)	$7.4b	$2.9b	$6b (2024)	▼
Tourism spend (current prices)	$8.6b	$4.2b	$8.4b (2025)	■
Business confidence (June) (net % of firms expecting improving economic conditions in the short term)	-25.1%	-71.6%	35.2% (2025)	▲
Consumer confidence (June) (<100 = pessimists outnumber optimists	109	74	96 (2025)	▼

[67] RNZ (26/9/2025). Consumer confidence remains weak – ANZ-Roy Morgan Index.

Spotlight: Progressing the circular economy transition

Te Tāruke-ā-Tāwhiri: Auckland's Climate Plan calls for a regenerative, zero-waste, circular economy as a core component of Auckland's transition to a zero-carbon future. Moving beyond today's "take-make-waste" model is both a climate imperative and an economic opportunity. Research[68] suggests that Auckland has the potential to unlock between $6.3 - $8.8 billion in additional economic activity by 2030 while simultaneously reducing carbon emissions by 2,700 $ktCO_2e$ by transitioning to a circular economy.

The circular economy is imperative in the transition to a zero-carbon future. A circular economy preserves the value and circulation of materials and resources in the economy for as long as possible while minimising waste. It addresses pressing challenges of resource depletion and scarcity, environmental degradation, greenhouse gas emissions and economic inequality.

Growing global momentum

There has been growing momentum behind the circular economy transition globally over the past decade, at both city and national levels. In 2024, three-quarters of respondents to a 2024 OECD survey of cities and regions[69] had circular economy strategies, including Amsterdam, Glasgow, Helsinki and Valencia. At a national level, in 2023, 24 of 27 EU member states had national circular economy strategies, roadmaps or action plans. The European Commission is due to adopt a Circular Economy Act in 2026, as a cornerstone of Europe's new clean industrial policy[70]. In New Zealand, there has been policy change at the national level which reduces the potential to transition to a circular economy. This includes reducing the scope of the Plastics Transition Bans, the Plastic innovation Fund, and the Waste Minimisation Fund. The second Emissions Reduction Plan removed the entire chapter dedicated to accelerating a circular economy. This policy retreat makes city-level action even more critical.

Auckland's circular economy in practice

For Auckland's circular economy opportunity to be realised it requires action across all sectors of the economy. Food systems, transport, and the built environment are priority sectors where circular approaches can cut waste, reduce costs, and lower pollution. The transition requires a fundamental shift in existing business practices. For Auckland businesses, embracing circularity means going beyond zero-waste initiatives to pursue new product innovations, new business models, product stewardship and industry collaboration on shared challenges.

There are positive signs that the circular economy 'sector' is growing in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland. Circularity's XLabs – Aotearoa's first circular economy programme, based in Auckland – is helping build circular economy capability and design the kinds of solutions that are needed to transition to a zero-carbon future. Over 350 businesses have been involved in their online XLabs Learn programme since 2020, touching 25,000 employees, and designing more than 50 solutions with the potential to reduce over 766,968 tonnes of waste to landfill. About 90 per cent of participating businesses have been Auckland-based.

Among the Auckland businesses is Maritime EV, which credits XLabs with equipping them with the circular economy lens to bring a more multi-dimensional way of solving deep, systemic challenges – in their case,

[68] Sustainable Business Network (2018). The Circular Economy Opportunity for Auckland and how businesses can realise it.
[69] The OECD Survey: The Circular Economy in Cities and Regions in the European Union received 64 responses from 48 cities, 15 regions and 1 province from 21 countries.
[70] OECD (2025). The Circular Economy in Cities and Regions of the European Union.

how to decarbonise ferry transport. Their first fully electric ferry launched in Auckland this year and will service the Half Moon Bay route from late 2025.

Spotlight: The wellbeing and potential of Auckland's youth

The wellbeing of our children and young people is critical for Auckland's - and New Zealand's - future prosperity. Our people are our greatest resource if we are to have a productive, innovative and prosperous economy. However, Auckland's young people face considerable, difficulties, including high NEET (not in education, employment and training) rates, unemployment and declining educational achievements, all worsened by the pandemic and recent economic conditions. Mental health issues are also on the rise with one in five (21%) experiencing high levels of psychological distress.[71]

These challenges are especially acute for the fast-growing Māori and Pacific population groups, who face stark disparities with NEET rates almost double that of other population groups. Tackling these inequalities is vital - left unaddressed, they threaten future economic growth, social cohesion, and resilience.

Strengthening education and employment pathways is essential. Auckland Council's Māori and Pacific Trades Training (MPTT) program demonstrates what is possible through their industry-led and learner (ākonga)-centred approach, providing targeted vocational training and employer connections. In 2024, MPTT achieved a full roll of 100 per cent across all their training programmes in construction and technology, with youth aged 16-24 comprising 51 per cent of their ākonga. The results included 89 per cent achieving pathway success, 42 per cent transitioned into employment (54% starting on a living wage) and 90 per cent progressing into higher-level trade study.

Fostering youth civic engagement is also critical. The 2024-2034 Long-Term Plan consultation saw only 12 per cent of feedback from those aged 15-24, while only 25 per cent of 18-24-year-olds voted in the 2022 Auckland elections. National election turnout was higher at 74 per cent.

To address the challenge of increasing youth voices in civic matters, Auckland Council's social innovation unit, the Southern Initiative, launched Buzzly in 2023. Buzzly is an online platform that encourages young people to voice their opinions and contribute to decision-making. Youth can share their thoughts through engaging challenges, making participation easier and more inclusive. To achieve the greatest impact, Buzzly's goal is to reach youth aged 18-24 in low socio-economic neighbourhoods. In 2024 Buzzly promoted a 'challenge' on how the council can better connect with youth and ensure their voices are included in planning Auckland's future. This received 34 submissions. All respondents were under the age of 25 with 52.9 per cent aged 18-25 and 47.1 per cent under 18 years old. Further, the submissions reflected Auckland's multicultural character, with representation across major ethnic groups. This demonstrated that rangatahi will participate when provided with accessible platforms.

By investing in education, employment and civic engagement, particularly for Māori and Pacific youth, we create pathways for young people to realise their potential. This collective effort not only addresses immediate challenges but also builds a resilient, prosperous future where opportunity and prosperity are accessible to all, ensuing New Zealand's continued growth and social cohesion for generations to come.

[71] Ministry of Social Development (2025) Annual Report on the Child and Youth Strategy / the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy and the Child Poverty Related Indicators.

Data Sources

Belonging and Participation

Measure	Source
Proportion of Aucklanders that feel a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders that agree that it is important to have a sense of community with people in their neighbourhood	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders that had face-to-face contact (and non-face-to-face contact) with friends at least once a week	New Zealand General Social Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who felt lonely or isolated in the past year	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who have someone to turn to for practical help if they were faced with a serious illness or injury, or a difficult time	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who said you can trust others	Quality of Life Survey
Aucklanders' trust held for courts	New Zealand General Social Survey
Aucklanders' trust held for the police	New Zealand General Social Survey
Aucklanders' trust held for the educational system	New Zealand General Social Survey
Aucklanders' trust held for the health system	New Zealand General Social Survey
Aucklanders' trust for parliament	New Zealand General Social Survey
Aucklanders' trust in local government	Quality of Life Survey
Aucklanders' trust in central government	Quality of Life Survey
Voter turnout in Auckland Council elections	Auckland Council
Proportion of Auckland residents that have confidence that Auckland Council makes decisions in the best interests of Auckland	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Auckland residents that believe the public has an influence on council decision-making	Quality of Life Survey
Life expectancy in Auckland	Stats NZ life expectancy tables
Median age of the Auckland region's population	Statistics New Zealand: Census of population and dwellings
Aucklanders' physical health	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who say they have faced barriers to healthcare	Quality of Life Survey
Aucklanders' mental health	Quality of Life Survey
Aucklanders' experience of stress that had a negative effect on them	Quality of Life Survey
Aucklanders' sense of safety walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark	Quality of Life Survey
Aucklanders' sense of safety in the city centre during the day and after dark	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders that feel their local town centre is safe to walk alone in (day and night)	Auckland Council

Pūrongo koke whakamua ia toru tau

Measure	Source
Aucklanders experience of crime in the last 12 months	New Zealand General Social Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders' who agree that Auckland is a safe and secure place to live	Citizen Insight Monitor
Aucklanders' sense of safety when using the internet for online transactions	New Zealand General Social Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who feel worried about someone getting their credit card details and misusing them	New Zealand General Social Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders that felt that they understood the potential future impacts of climate change for Auckland	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who worry about climate change impacts for Auckland	Quality of Life Survey
Aucklanders' perceptions of environmental problems	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of households that have enough food for three days (Auckland)	New Zealand General Social Survey
Proportion of households that have an emergency plan (Auckland)	New Zealand General Social Survey
Proportion of Empowered Communities' activities that are community led	Auckland Council
Percentage of Empowered Communities' activities that build capacity and capability to assist local communities to achieve their goals	Auckland Council
Percentage of arts, and culture programmes, grants and activities that are community led	Auckland Council
Percentage of arts facilities, community centres and hire venues network that is community led	Auckland Council
Aucklanders' rating of their knowledge of the Treaty of Waitangi	Auckland Council
Aucklanders' ability to speak te reo Māori in day-to-day conversations	New Zealand General Social Survey
Ways in which te reo Māori is learnt – through seeing te reo Māori writing in public places	New Zealand General Social Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who agreed that some te reo Māori is spoken to children at home	New Zealand General Social Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who agreed that some te reo Māori is spoken to adults at home	New Zealand General Social Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who agree government should encourage and support the use of Māori in everyday situations	New Zealand General Social Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who agree Māori should be a core subject in primary schools	New Zealand General Social Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who agree Ngā Toi Māori (Māori arts) help define who we are as New Zealanders	Auckland Council, Aucklanders and the Arts 2023
Proportion of Aucklanders who agree that they learn about Māori culture through Ngā Toi Māori (Māori arts)	Auckland Council, Aucklanders and the Arts 2023
Proportion of Aucklanders who have attended Ngā Toi Māori (Māori arts) in the last 12 months	Auckland Council, Aucklanders and the Arts 2023
Proportion of New Zealanders that celebrated Matariki	Ministry for Culture and Heritage: New Zealanders' engagement with Matariki Report
Ethnic identity - the ethnic group or groups a person identifies with or has a sense of belonging to	Statistics New Zealand: Census of population and dwellings
Disability rate - Auckland	Disability Survey

Pūrongo koke whakamua ia toru tau

Measure	Source
Aucklanders' ability to express their identity	New Zealand General Social Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who feel accepted and valued based on their identity (e.g. sexual, gender, ethnic, cultural, faith)	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who can participate in, perform or attend activities that align with their culture	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who attended or participated in any cultural festivals or cultural events often	Public perceptions of immigration survey, MBIE
Proportion of Aucklanders who said that racism or discrimination towards particular groups of people had been an issue in their local area in the previous 12 months.	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders experiencing discrimination in last 12 months	New Zealand General Social Survey
NZ Deprivation Index - Relative deprivation across Auckland	Department of Public Health, University of Otago, Wellington
Consumer Price Index annual percentage change (NZ)	Statistics New Zealand
Household Living Costs Price Index annual percentage change (NZ)	Statistics New Zealand
Average annual household income (current prices)	Infometrics: Regional Economic Profile
Number of working age recipients of main benefits - Auckland	Ministry of Social Development
Proportion of Aucklanders who report not having enough money to meet their everyday needs	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who worry about financial circumstances	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who will not be able to pay an unexpected bill of $2000 within a week without going into debt	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who did the following a little or a lot in the last 12 months to keep costs down: Gone without or cut back on fresh fruit or vegetables	Stats NZ, New Zealand General Social Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who did the following a little or a lot in the last 12 months to keep costs down: Put off going to the doctor	Stats NZ, New Zealand General Social Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who did the following a little or a lot in the last 12 months to keep costs down: Put up with being cold	Stats NZ, New Zealand General Social Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who rate their quality of life positively	Quality of Life Survey
Aucklanders’ quality of life compared with 12 months prior	Quality of Life Survey
Aucklanders' perception of their family’s wellbeing	Stats NZ, New Zealand General Social Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who agree the arts are good for their mental health and wellbeing	Auckland Council, Aucklanders and the Arts 2023
Proportion of Aucklander who agree that arts facilities are important to create a vibrant place to live	Auckland Council, Aucklanders and the Arts 2023
Proportion of Aucklanders who agree that they learn about different cultures through the arts	Auckland Council, Aucklanders and the Arts 2023
Proportion of Aucklanders who agree that the arts help to create connections between different people	Auckland Council, Aucklanders and the Arts 2023

Measure	Source
Proportion of Aucklanders who agreed that Auckland/their local area has a broad range of arts and artistic activities that they can experience and participate in	Auckland Council, Aucklanders and the Arts 2023
Proportion of Aucklanders that attended or participated in any artforms in the last 12 months	Auckland Council, Aucklanders and the Arts 2023
Proportion of Aucklanders that had actively participated in the arts in the previous 12 months	Auckland Council, Aucklanders and the Arts 2023
Proportion of Auckland children who take part in sports and recreation in any given week	Sports NZ, Active New Zealand Survey
Proportion of Auckland adults who take part in sports and recreation in any given week	Sports NZ, Active New Zealand Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders who want to participate more in more sports and recreation	Sports NZ, Active New Zealand Survey

Māori identity and Wellbeing

Measure	Source
Proportion of Māori respondents who rated their physical health (taha tinana) as excellent, very good or good	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Māori respondents who rated their mental health (taha hinengaro) as excellent, very good or good	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Māori respondents who rated their relationship health and wellbeing (e.g. with whānau and friends) (taha whānau) as good, very good or excellent	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Māori respondents who rated their spiritual health (taha wairua) as excellent, very good or good	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Māori respondents who reported facing barriers to healthcare	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Māori respondents who rated their quality of life as good, very good or extremely good	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Māori respondents who reported feeling a sense of community with others in their neighbourhood	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Māori respondents who reported improvement in quality of life	Quality of Life Survey
Proportion of Māori respondents who reported feeling lonely (always or most of the time) in the past 12 months	Quality of Life Survey
Percentage of Māori school leavers with NCEA Level 2 or above	Ministry of Education, Infometrics: Regional Economic Profile
Proportion of Māori youth in education, employment or training	Stats NZ, Household Labour Force Survey (HLFS): Auckland Council, calculations
Proportion of Māori in Tāmaki Makaurau by skill level (employment)	Infometrics: Regional Economic Profile
Proportion of Māori who agree that Ngā Toi Māori (Māori arts) is good for their mental health and wellbeing	Auckland Council, New Zealanders and the arts

Pūrongo koke whakamua ia toru tau

Measure	Source
Proportion of Māori who view Ngā Toi Māori (Māori arts) as a learning tool for Māori culture	Auckland Council, New Zealanders and the arts
Proportion of Māori who say Ngā Toi Māori (Māori arts) motivates them to learn te reo	Auckland Council, New Zealanders and the arts
Proportion of Māori who say Ngā Toi Māori (Māori arts) motivates them to kōrero Māori	Auckland Council, New Zealanders and the arts
Proportion of Māori who has participated in Ngā Toi Māori (Māori arts) over the previous 12 months	Auckland Council, New Zealanders and the arts
Contribution of the Māori economy to the New Zealand economy	BERL: Te Ōhanga Māori i Tāmaki Makaurau: Auckland's Māori Economy
Auckland's Māori asset base relative to rest of New Zealand asset base	BERL: Te Ōhanga Māori i Tāmaki Makaurau: Auckland's Māori Economy
Number of Māori-owned businesses located in Auckland and New Zealand	BERL: Te Ōhanga Māori i Tāmaki Makaurau: Auckland's Māori Economy
Proportion of employees under 25 that are rangatahi Māori	Auckland Council Group: Māori Outcomes Report
Proportion of Māori that live in a home that they own, partly own or hold in a family trust	Statistics New Zealand: Census of population and dwellings
Mean annual earnings for Māori in Auckland (current prices, March year)	Infometrics: Regional Economic Profile
Proportion of all parks in Auckland with te reo Māori names	Auckland Council Group: Māori Outcomes Report
Self-rated te reo Māori proficiency	Statistics New Zealand: Te Kupenga
Proportion of people who could hold a conversation in te reo Māori	BERL: Mapping te reo Māori
The top five Auckland local board areas for te reo Māori proficiency	BERL: Mapping te reo Māori
Number of Year 11 and 12 Māori students in Tāmaki Makaurau engaging in Māori language learning, by immersion level (Level 1 81% - 100%), Tāmaki Makaurau and Rest of Aotearoa	Ministry of Education
Number of mana whenua and mataawaka marae that received support to renew or upgrade marae infrastructure	Auckland Council Annual Report
Number of protected heritage sites in Auckland of significance to mana whenua	Auckland Plan 2050 Annual Monitoring Report
Proportion of Auckland's protected heritage places related to Māori-origin archaeology	Auckland's Heritage Counts Report
Number of co-governance/co-management arrangements	Auckland Plan 2050 Annual Monitoring Report, Ngā Mātārae
Māori voter turnout in the general election	Electoral Commission
Proportion of Māori and non-Māori electors in Auckland that voted in the Auckland's local government elections	Auckland Council

Homes and Places

Measure	Source
Share of consented dwellings with access to the Rapid Transit Network within 1000m	Auckland Council Monthly Housing Update
Share of consented dwellings that are multi-unit (apartments, townhouses and units)	Auckland Council Monthly Housing Update
Housing density (dwellings per square kilometer)	Stats NZ, Census
Number of dwellings consented in the future urban areas	Auckland Council Monthly Housing Update
Number and share of dwellings consented in hazard zones	Auckland Council Monthly Housing Update
Share of consented dwellings that are townhouses	Auckland Council Monthly Housing Update
Share of consented dwellings that are apartments	Auckland Council Monthly Housing Update
Share of consented dwellings that are standalone houses	Auckland Council Monthly Housing Update
Number of new dwellings consented	Auckland Council Monthly Housing Update
New dwellings consented by 1,000 residents	Auckland Council Monthly Housing Update; Stats NZ - Population data
Number of new dwellings completed	Auckland Council Monthly Housing Update
Public housing stock	Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
Median house price	Auckland Council Monthly Housing Update
Home ownership rates	Stats NZ, Census
Median house price to median household income ratio	REINZ for median house price; Stats NZ for median household income
Rent affordability: rent as a percentage of household income	Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment – rent data; Stats NZ – household income data
Proportion of renting households spending more than 30 per cent of income on housing costs*	Stats NZ: Household Economic Survey; custom request
Proportion of owner households spending more than 30 per cent of income on housing costs*	Stats NZ: Household Economic Survey; custom request
Percentage of disposable income spent of housing by lowest income quintile (20%)	Stats NZ: Household Economic Survey; custom request
Percentage of disposable income spent of housing by highest income quintile (20%)	Stats NZ: Household Economic Survey; custom request
Percentage of Aucklanders who agree that their current housing costs are affordable	Quality of Life Survey
Percentage of Aucklanders who disagree that their current housing costs are affordable	Quality of Life Survey
Number of people on public housing waitlist	Ministry of Housing and Urban Development
Number of people who are severely housing deprived	Stats NZ, Census
Percentage of dwellings with mould (always / sometimes)	Stats NZ, Census

Pūrongo koke whakamua ia toru tau

Measure	Source
Percentage of dwellings with dampness	Stats NZ, Census
Number of Homestar rated dwellings (certified)	New Zealand Green Building Council, custom request
Percentage of completed dwellings that are Homestar rated	New Zealand Green Building Council, custom request; Auckland Council Monthly Housing Update
Percentage of households that are living overcrowded	Stats NZ, Census
Percentage of households that are living severely overcrowded	Stats NZ, Census
Percentage of Aucklanders who agree that the type of home they live in suits their needs and the needs of others in their household	Quality of Life Survey
Percentage of Aucklanders who disagree that the type of home they live in suits their needs and the needs of others in their household	Quality of Life Survey
Percentage of Aucklanders who agree that the general area or neighbourhood they live in suits their needs or the needs of others in their household	Quality of Life Survey
Percentage of Aucklanders who disagree that the general area or neighbourhood they live in suits their needs or the needs of others in their household	Quality of Life Survey
Percentage of Aucklanders who agree/strongly agree that they feel really happy with the way their local area looks and feels	Quality of Life Survey
Percentage of Aucklanders who disagree/strongly disagree that they feel really happy with the way their local area looks and feels	Quality of Life Survey
Percentage of Aucklanders who agree that their city/local area is a great place to live	Quality of Life Survey
Percentage of Aucklanders who disagree that their city/local area is a great place to live	Quality of Life Survey
Percentage of Aucklanders who felt that their city/local area has got better as a place to live compared with 12 months ago	Quality of Life Survey
Percentage of Aucklanders who felt that their city/local area has got worse as a place to live compared with 12 months ago	Quality of Life Survey
Vegetation canopy cover	Auckland Council
Tree canopy cover	Auckland Council: Auckland's Urban Forest Canopy Cover: State and Change (2013-2016/2018) (2021 update)
Māori home ownership (individual; own or partly own)	Stats NZ, Census
Māori home ownership (household, own or partly own)	Stats NZ, Census
Māori living in crowded households	Stats NZ, Census
Maori living in severely crowded households	Stats NZ, Census
Percentage of Maori living in damp dwellings (always/sometimes)	Stats NZ, Census
Percentage of Maori living in mouldy dwellings (always/sometimes)	Stats NZ, Census
Maori experiencing severe housing deprivation	Stats NZ, Census
Māori homelessness (rough sleeping)	Stats NZ, Census
Māori (total) spending more than 30% on housing cost	Stats NZ: Household Economic Survey; custom request
Māori renters spending more than 30% on housing cost	Stats NZ: Household Economic Survey; custom request
Māori owners spending more than 30% on housing cost	Stats NZ: Household Economic Survey; custom request
Percentage of Maori who agree that the type of home they live in suits their needs and the needs of others in their household	Quality of Life
Homelessness data	Stats NZ, Census

Transport and Access

Measure	Source
Deaths and serious injuries	Auckland Transport Safety Performance Dashboard – Board Reports
Setting of Speed Limits impacts on reducing deaths and serious injuries	Auckland Council's submission on Draft Land Transport Rule: Setting of Speed Limits 2024
Public transport boarding numbers (bus, ferry, train)	Auckland Transport Metro Patronage Data
Cycle movements	Auckland Transport monthly cycle monitoring reports
Frequent Transport Network (FTN) boarding number	Auckland Transport Metro Patronage Data
Number of electric buses	Auckland Transport media release (April 2025)
Greenhouse gas emissions (regional and transport related)	Auckland's greenhouse gas inventory to 2023, Knowledge Auckland
Per capita transport emissions (tCO2e)	C40 Greenhouse gas emissions interactive dashboard
Greenhouse gas emissions for Auckland Transport (operational and embodied)	Auckland Transport Climate Transition Plan 2025
Transport related risks	Auckland Transport Climate Transition Plan 2025
Public perception of various transport issues – personal safety (crime, harassment and health), use, reliability, frequency, affordability, ease of use	Quality of Life Survey 2024 – Auckland report, Knowledge Auckland
Average weekly household transport related expenditure ($NZ)	Stats NZ, HES Household Economic Survey and HES (Income)
Percentage of household costs spent on transport	Stats NZ, HES Household Economic Survey and HES (Income)

Environment and Cultural Heritage

Measure	Source
Kilometres of tracks made kauri safe	Natural environment and water quality targeted rates report 2024/2025. Policy and Planning Committee, 11 September, 2025
Number of trees planted in the Hunua ranges	Watercare Quarterly reports
Hectares of pest plant control / year (in regional parks)	Natural environment and water quality targeted rates report

Measure	Source
	2024/2025. Policy and Planning Committee, 11 September, 2025
Hectares of pest animal control / year (in regional parks)	Natural environment and water quality targeted rates report 2024/2025. Policy and Planning Committee, 11 September, 2025
Percentage of time beaches are swimmable in summer	Auckland Plan Annual Scorecard measure
Number of species-led projects on Gulf islands	Auckland Plan Annual Scorecard measure
Total number of protected heritage sites	Auckland's Heritage Counts 2024 Annual Summary
Total number of protected sites and places of significance to mana whenua	Auckland's Heritage Counts 2024 Annual Summary
Percentage of protected heritage places related to Māori origin archaeology	Auckland's Heritage Counts 2024 Annual Summary
Number of parks given te reo names / year	Te Pūrongo a Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau Ngā Huanga Māori – Progress report 2023/24 (Te reo Māori)
Number of annual programmes contributing to visibility and presence of Māori identity	Te Pūrongo a Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau Ngā Huanga Māori – Progress report 2023/24 (Te reo Māori)
Percentage of city center / CBD area with Māori design elements (Māori design markers)	Auckland Design Manual, Hoa Hoa Māori / Māori Design
Māori Outcomes Fund highlights	Ākina Māori Outcomes – Highlights and Successes 2023 to 2024, Knowledge Auckland
Kilometres of cycleways and walkways added to the cycle network / year	Auckland Transport Annual Report
Total public transport boardings	Auckland Plan Annual Scorecard measure
Total funding to community groups ($)	Natural environment and water quality targeted rates report 2024/2025. Policy and Planning Committee, 11 September, 2025
Number of community groups / initiatives funded	Natural environment and water quality targeted rates report 2024/2025. Policy and Planning Committee, 11 September, 2025
Percentages of schools engaged in sustainability education	Sustainability Initiatives report 2024/25, Environmental Services
Domestic waste collected through Auckland Council's kerbside refuse service (tonnes)	Auckland Plan Annual Scorecard measure
Total domestic kerbside refuse per capita (kilograms)	Auckland Council Annual Report

Measure	Source
Total waste to landfill (kg per capita)	Auckland Council Annual Report
Greenhouse gas emissions (regional)	Auckland's greenhouse gas inventory to 2023, Knowledge Auckland

Opportunity and Prosperity

Measure	Source
Auckland's share of national GDP	Infometrics, Auckland economic profile
GDP growth (annual, March)	Infometrics, Auckland economic profile
Labour productivity - GDP per filled job (constant 2024 dollars)	Infometrics, Auckland economic profile
Number and share of NZ's top 200 Tech companies (TIN200)	Technology Investment Network
Total Auckland TIN200 company revenue	Technology Investment Network
Early-Stage Company Investment (TIN200) ($m)	Technology Investment Network
Global Startup Ecosystem Ranking	StartupBlink: Global Startup Ecosystem Index 2025
University - industry collaboration: percentage of University of Auckland publications co-authored with industry	Leiden rankings
Emissions intensity – emissions per unit of GDP	Auckland Council: Auckland's Greenhouse Gas Inventory
Ease of finding labour – skilled	NZIER's Quarterly Survey of Business Opinion
Ease of finding labour - unskilled	NZIER's Quarterly Survey of Business Opinion
Labour as the limiting factor to increasing production	NZIER's Quarterly Survey of Business Opinion
Foreign Direct Investment flow into New Zealand (annual, March)	Stats NZ; InfoShare: Economic Indicators: International Investments, BPM6 Annual, Balance of payments financial account, foreign investment in NZ (Annual-Mar)
Skilled migrant visa approvals	Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment
New Zealand citizens – migrant departures	Stats NZ, International migration: July 2025
Non-New Zealand citizens – migrant arrivals	Stats NZ, International migration: July 2025
Internal migration	Stats NZ, Aotearoa Data Explorer: Subnational population component changes and median age (RC, TALB),

Measure	Source
	at 30 June 2018-24 (2025 boundaries)
Foreign direct investment (approved by OIO)	KPMG Foreign Direct Investment Interactive Dashboard
Proportion of school leavers without NCEA level 1	Ministry of Education, Education Counts
Proportion of school leavers achieving University Entrance	Ministry of Education, Education Counts
Percentage of 20–24-year-olds with level 4 qualification or above	Stats NZ, Household Labour Force Survey
Percentage of school leavers transition to tertiary education within a year of completing	Ministry of Education, Education Counts
NEET rates: Percentage of 15–24-year-olds who are not engaged in Education, Employment, or Training	Stats NZ, Household Labour Force Survey
Total number of jobs	Infometrics, Auckland economic profile
Highly-skilled jobs (total / share of all jobs)	Infometrics, Auckland economic profile
Skilled (total / share of all jobs)	Infometrics, Auckland economic profile
Semi-skilled (total / share of all jobs)	Infometrics, Auckland economic profile
Low-skilled (total / share of all jobs)	Infometrics, Auckland economic profile
Employment in advanced industries as share of total employment	Infometrics, Auckland economic profile
Labour force participation rate (average annual June data)	Stats NZ, Household Labour Force Survey
Unemployment rate (average annual, June data)	Stats NZ, Household Labour Force Survey
Average weekly earnings ($2025)	Stats NZ, Household Labour Force Survey
Gini coefficient	Stats NZ; custom request
Proportion of Aucklanders reporting having more than enough money or enough money to meet everyday needs	Qualify of Life Survey
Proportion of Aucklanders reporting not having enough money to meet everyday needs	Qualify of Life Survey
Percentage of Auckland children in poverty	Stats NZ
Number of Māori businesses	Infometrics, Auckland economic profile; Berl: Te Ōhanga Māori Dashboard
Iwi asset base	Berl: Te Ōhanga Māori Dashboard

Pūrongo koke whakamua ia toru tau

Measure	Source
Māori in high-skilled jobs	Infometrics, Auckland economic profile
Māori in low-skilled jobs	Infometrics, Auckland economic profile
Māori weekly earnings	Infometrics, Auckland economic profile
Māori unemployment rate	Stats NZ, Household Labour Force Survey
Export value (current prices)	Infometrics, Auckland economic profile
Annual export growth	Infometrics, Auckland economic profile
Tourism sector contribution to total GDP	Infometrics, Auckland economic profile
Tourism contribution to GDP (2024$)	Infometrics, Auckland economic profile
Tourism spend (current prices)	Infometrics, Auckland economic profile
Business confidence (June) (net % of firms expecting improving economic conditions in the short term)	NZIER's Quarterly Survey of Business Opinion
Consumer confidence (June)	NZIER's Quarterly Survey of Business Opinion

Find out more: phone 09 301 0101, email
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theaucklandplan.govt.nz and aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Auckland Council
Te Kaunihera o Tāmaki Makaurau