

Profile of Christchurch Residents

Key Information	Why is this Useful?	What is Happening?
Median age of City residents.	Changes in the median age of a population indicate whether the overall age distribution of residents is changing. Variations in the age structure affect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the type and size of households demand for educational, health and social services type and location of housing recreational needs the size and composition of the labour force local markets for goods and services. 	↑ The median age of Christchurch City's population has increased substantially over the last two decades from 27.9 in 1976 to 33.7 in 1996, indicating that the population is ageing.
Residents who identify with non-European ethnic groups.	Changes in the proportion of residents who identify with non-European ethnic groups provide an indication of how ethnically diverse the City's population is becoming.	↑ There has been an increase in the proportion of City residents who identify with non-European ethnic groups.
Proportion of privately-owned homes.	This can provide insight into population stability, the relative wealth of a community and change in lifestyles.	↓ In 1996 just under 70 per cent of dwellings were owner occupied compared with 74 per cent in 1991.
Proportion of one-family households.	This is an indicator of changes in household composition. Variations in household type is a major driving force behind the decrease in average household type.	↓ One-family households in Christchurch have decreased from 70 per cent of households in 1986 to 66 per cent in 1996.
Average size of households.	Again this is an indicator of changing household composition. Over time, changes in the average size of households will have a significant impact on the City's existing housing stock, the rate of residential land take up, the level and type of building activity and growth in associated infrastructure.	↓ The average number of people living in private households in the City has continued to decline, dropping to 2.6 in 1996.
Proportion of two-parent families.	This shows how families in Christchurch are changing.	↓ Two-parent families in the City have declined from 49.4 per cent of all families in 1986 to 42.2 per cent in 1996.
Five yearly employment.	Employment enables people to meet their needs and improve their living standards.	↑ Total employment in the City increased from 120,624 in 1991 to 143,082 in 1996. (also see Part 3, The City's Economy)
Population aged 15 years and over receiving one or more government-funded benefits.	This data can be used as an indicator of the community's reliance on the government for economic well-being. However, it is important to note that this information is significantly affected by variations in government policy. Therefore it is difficult to show comparisons over time.	● During the 12 months to 1996, 38 per cent of the Christchurch's population aged 15 years and over received one or more government-funded benefits.
Population aged 15 years and over receiving a total annual personal income of under \$30,000.	Personal income is an indicator of material well-being. An individual's level of income can determine his or her ability to purchase the goods and services needed to maintain a good quality of life.	● In 1996, 73 per cent of residents aged 15 years and over had an annual personal income of \$30,000 or less.
Median family income.	Family income is an indicator of material well-being. Income received by families has a major impact on their ability to meet basic needs such as food and clothing, to make rent or mortgage payments and to meet other costs such as health care and education.	● The median annual income for Christchurch families was just under \$39,000 in 1996.

Other Related Sections: Part 1: The City's People, Part 2 :The City's Natural and Physical Environment, Part 3: The City's Economy.

PART 1. THE CITY'S PEOPLE

The following section provides a profile of the people who normally live in Christchurch City and illustrates how the City's population has changed in recent years. This type of information may be used as a tool to help decision makers develop an understanding of the changing needs of the community and anticipate potential pressures on the wider environment.

The commentary and statistics which follow cover a wide range of topics including shifts in the age structure, ethnic diversity, changes in family type and household size, labour force participation and income and income maintenance.

Data used in this section has been obtained from Statistics New Zealand's 1996 Census of Population and Dwellings. Comparative information from previous censuses and population projections has also been incorporated where appropriate. More detailed tables are included in Appendix 1.

Gender

In line with national statistics, more females than males live in Christchurch. In 1996 females outnumbered males by about 10,000. Females and male comprised 52 per cent (159,393) and 48 per cent (149,643) of residents respectively (Appendix 1: Table 1).

The gender imbalance reflects differences in mortality at various ages and greater longevity amongst women. Although generally more boys than girls are born in any year, males normally experience a higher death rate than females at most ages and this gradually erodes their numerical advantage⁵. Figure 1.8 shows that in Christchurch during 1996 males outnumbered females in the early age groups. However, after the younger years, the number of females in each age group was generally higher. This disparity becomes particularly pronounced in the later age groups where nearly 62 per cent of residents older than 70 were female.

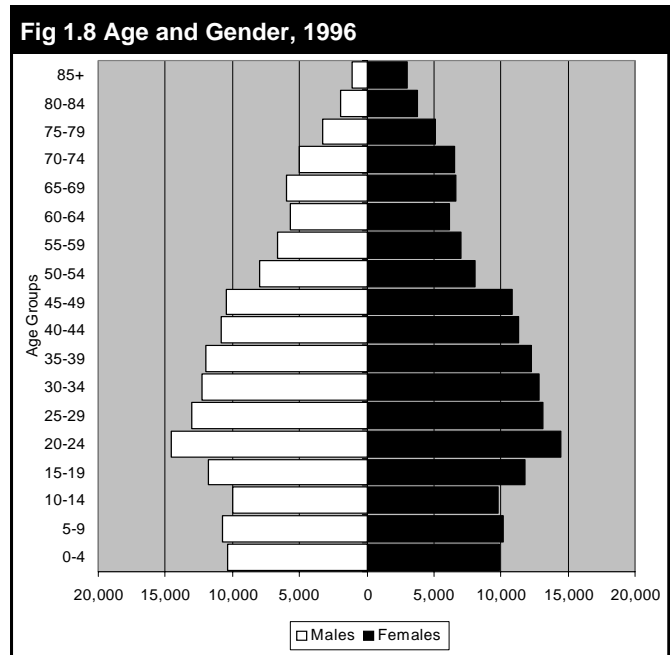
Age and gender projections suggest that although men can be expected to make up an increasing proportion of the elderly, it is likely that elderly women will still greatly outnumber elderly men in the foreseeable future (Figure 1.9 and Appendix 1: Table 1).

Age Composition

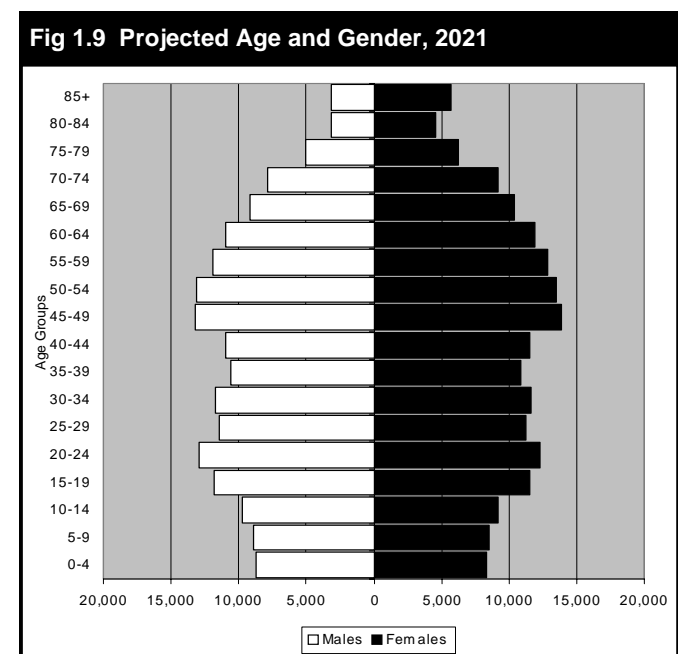
The age structure of Christchurch's population has undergone major changes in recent decades. Consistent with national trends the City's population is progressively ageing. Table 1.12 provides a series of indices which demonstrate this phenomenon.

The median age (the point at which half the population is older) is a particularly useful measure of change. Table 1.12 shows that the City's median age increased markedly from 27.9 years in 1976 to nearly

34 years in 1996. Over the next few decades the median age is expected to increase further to 42.1 years.



Source: Statistics New Zealand, *Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996*.



Source: Statistics New Zealand, *Population Projections (Adjusted 1996 Base)*.

⁵ Statistics New Zealand, *New Zealand Now People and Places, 1994*, P.23

Table 1.12 highlights a general reduction in the proportion of people aged 0-14 years (children)⁶ and an increase in the proportion and number of people aged 65 years and over. The changing balance of young and elderly is also reflected in the drop in the child/elderly ratio from two children for every person aged over 65 years in 1981 to 1.4 per elderly person in 1996. This overall trend is a result of lower birth rates, the passage of the large baby boom generation (born between 1946 and 1965) up the age scale, and increases in life expectancy. Long-term, both the number and proportion of children is expected to shrink while the City's elderly population will continue to swell. The wide-ranging effects of Christchurch's ageing population will become much more pronounced from 2011 when the baby boomers start to reach retirement age.

Ethnic Diversity

European

Christchurch's European ethnic group is large and also very diverse. It includes people who have migrated to New Zealand from countries such as Australia, England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and other European countries. It also comprises residents who were born in New Zealand and are descendants of European settlers and migrants.

Although Christchurch's population is gradually

becoming more ethnically diverse, proportionately more residents in the City still identify with the European ethnic group than in New Zealand as a whole. In 1996, 83.6 per cent of residents (258,378) in Christchurch City were European compared with 71.7 per cent nationally (Figure 1.10 and Appendix 1: Table 2).

Maori

In 1996, 21,462 Christchurch residents identified with the Maori ethnic group, up from 15,354 in 1991. This group was the second largest in Christchurch, comprising 6.9 per cent of residents compared with 5.3 per cent in 1991⁷. Nationally, 14.5 per cent of residents were Maori (Figure 1.10 and Appendix 1: Table 2).

Pacific Island

Christchurch has a small Pacific Island community which has grown marginally since 1991. In 1996 the Pacific Island ethnic group comprised 1.9 per cent of the population (5,979 people) compared with 1.7 per cent in 1991. Nationally, nearly 5 per cent of the population were Pacific Islanders in 1996 (Figure 1.10 and Appendix 1: Table 2).

⁶ The actual number of children grew during the early 1990s in response to a brief increase in births.

⁷ Some of this increase may be due to changes in the Census question relating to ethnicity.

Table 1.12 Historical and Projected Usually Resident Population

Year	0-14 years	%	15-64 years	%	65+ years	%	Total	Median Age	Ratio Children per Elderly Person*
Historical									
1976								27.9	
1981	63,531	23.1	179,889	65.3	32,070	11.6	275,490	30.0	2.0:1
1986	58,020	20.6	187,950	66.8	35,313	12.6	281,283	31.7	1.6:1
1991	56,448	19.5	193,662	67.0	38,793	13.4	288,903	32.8	1.5:1
1996	59,997	19.4	207,129	67.0	41,904	13.6	309,030 (Unadjusted)	33.7	1.4:1
Projected									
2001	63,000	19.1	223,450	67.7	43,650	13.2	330,100	35.2	1.4:1
2006	61,200	18.0	232,350	68.5	45,550	13.4	339,100	37.0	1.3:1
2011	58,600	16.9	238,900	68.9	49,000	14.1	346,500	38.9	1.2:1
2016	55,450	15.7	240,450	68.2	56,550	16.0	352,450	40.8	1.0:1
2021	53,400	14.9	239,850	67.0	64,600	18.1	357,850	42.1	0.8:1

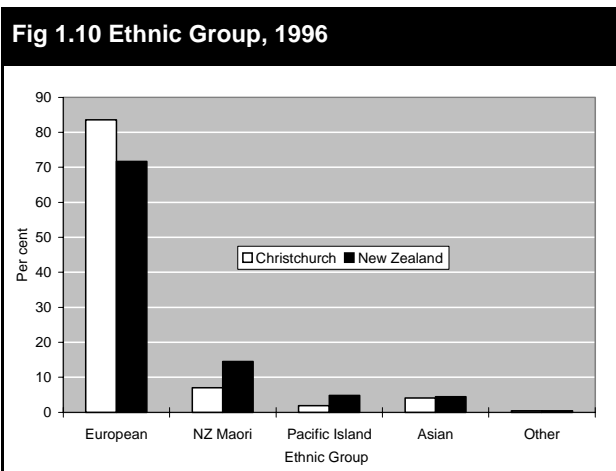
* Children = 0-14 yrs , Elderly = 65 years and over.

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings 1976-1996 and Population Projections (Adjusted 1996 base).

PART 1. THE CITY'S PEOPLE

Asian

Christchurch has a growing Asian community. Numbers have been boosted by a significant increase in migration during the early to mid-1990s, resulting from shifts in immigration policy. In 1996 Asians comprised 4.1 per cent of residents (12,597 people), up from 2.0 per cent (5,934 people) in 1991. New Zealand-wide, the Asian ethnic group comprised 4.4 per cent of the population in 1996 (Figure 1.10 and Appendix 1: Table 2).



Source: Statistics New Zealand, *Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996*.

Country of Birth

In 1996 the vast majority of Christchurch residents (251,115 people or 81.2 per cent) were born in New Zealand. This compared with 78.7 per cent of residents nationally.

Of the 57,915 Christchurch residents born overseas in 1996, 30 per cent had lived in New Zealand under 10 years and 21 per cent for less than five years.

Between 1991 and 1996 there were some notable changes to the number of foreign-born residents in Christchurch and their birthplace distribution, reflecting changes in immigration policy during the 1990s. Overall, the number of overseas-born residents increased by over 15,500 during the five years to 1996. They included more residents born in Australia, the United States of America and Canada.

There was also a substantial increase in the number of residents indicating one of several Asian countries as their place of birth. The number of those born in Korea, for example, grew from 96 to 1,800. A similar trend can be seen among those who stated their birthplace as Taiwan or Malaysia (Figure 1.11). In contrast, fewer people in 1996 named the United Kingdom – New Zealand's traditional migrant source – as their place of birth. However, those born in the United Kingdom still made up the largest overseas-born group. They were followed by people born in Asia, Europe, Australia and the Pacific Islands. A large group of residents did not specify their country of birth in 1996 (Table 1.13 and Appendix 1: Table 3).

Type of Dwellings

Most Christchurch residents (298,500) live in private dwellings. City-wide, there were 116,166 private dwellings in 1996 and 453 non-private dwellings such as rest homes, hospitals and prisons.

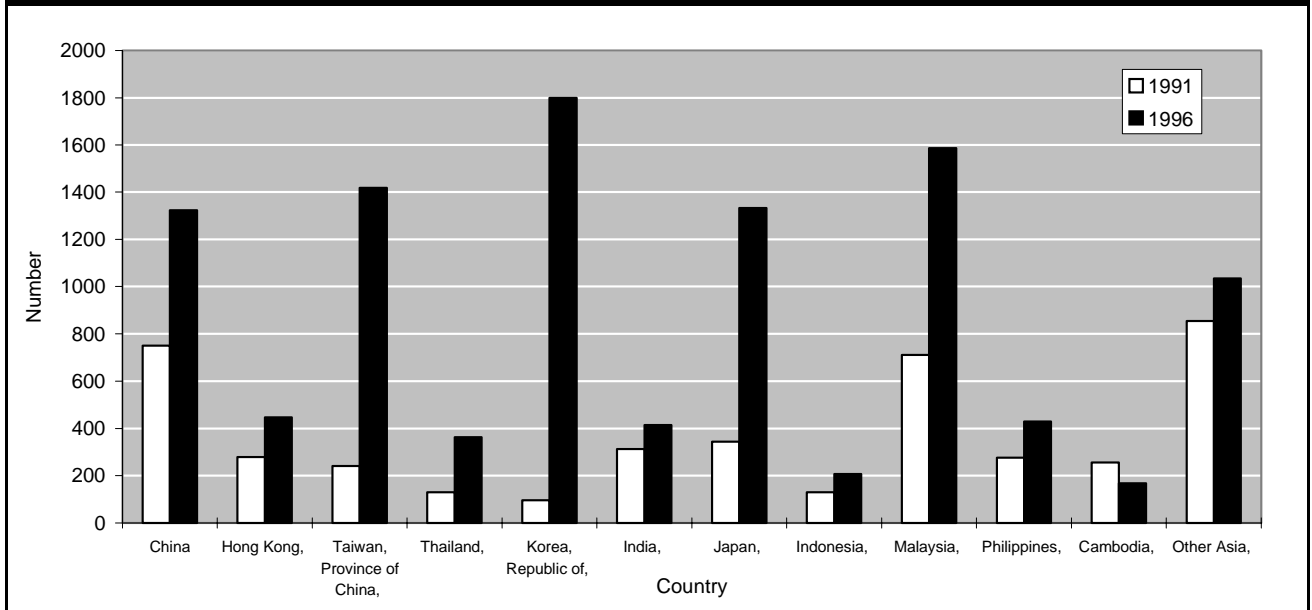
Christchurch residents live in a variety of different types of private dwellings. They do so for various reasons including family circumstances, financial necessity, location and lifestyle preferences. In 1996 the most popular type of home was the conventional detached house (75.4 per cent of private dwellings), detached house (75.4 per cent of private dwellings),

Table 1.13 Country of Birth (Usually Resident in NZ and Born Overseas), 1996

Country Of Birth	New Zealand	%	Christchurch City	%
Australia	54,585	7.1	4,863	8.4
United States of America	11,625	1.5	1,215	2.1
Canada	7,440	1.0	699	1.2
United Kingdom	230,049	29.9	19,821	34.2
Europe	55,875	7.3	5,091	8.8
Pacific Island	99,402	12.9	3,216	5.6
Asia	117,792	15.3	10,524	18.2
Other	29,448	3.8	2,172	3.8
Not Specified	163,875	21.3	10,314	17.8
Total (Residents Born Overseas)	770,091	100.0	57,915	100.0

Source: Statistics New Zealand, *Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996*.

Fig 1.11 Christchurch Residents Who were Born in Asia



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996.

followed by two or more houses or flats joined together (24 per cent). In contrast, less than 1 per cent of dwellings were baches, huts or temporary premises intended for short-term accommodation (Appendix 1: Table 4 also see Table 2.20 in Part 2: The Natural and Physical Environment).

Home Ownership and Renting

Privately-owned homes (with and without a mortgage) still vastly outnumber those that are rented. However, in recent years, home ownership in the City has declined while the amount of rental accommodation has grown proportionately.

In 1996 just under 70 per cent of dwellings were owner occupied compared with 74 per cent in 1991. In contrast, around 25.4 per cent of private dwellings in the City were rented in 1996, up from 22.8 per cent in 1991.

Possible influences on declining home ownership include the burden of student loan obligations, a return to later forming of couple households, later childbirth and the increase in child-free couples.

Rental accommodation in Christchurch is provided by private individuals and a number of organisations including Housing New Zealand, real estate agencies and the Christchurch City Council. Since 1991 there has been a marked increase in the amount of privately provided rental accommodation in the City. In 1996, 17,919 rental properties were provided privately compared with 12,069 in 1991. Conversely, the amount of rental accommodation provided by a variety of other organisations has decreased (Appendix 1: Table 5).

⁸ A 'household' for census purposes comprises a person or persons.

For those who rent in Christchurch the average weekly rent paid for permanent private dwellings in 1996 was \$155.22, compared with \$160.93 for New Zealand as a whole.

Household Type

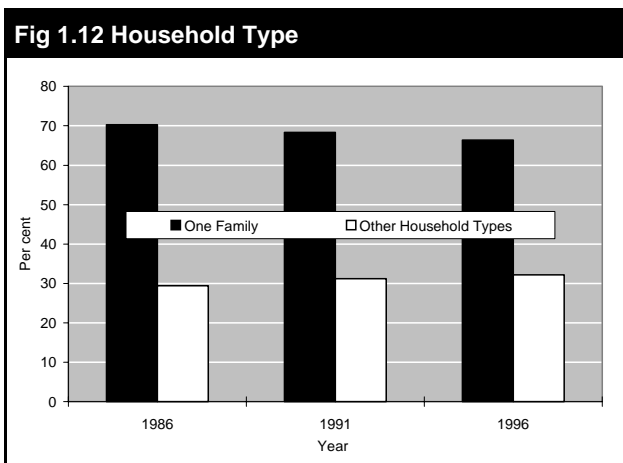
The majority of households⁸ in the City comprise one family. Although this type of household has grown numerically in recent years, proportionately it actually decreased from 70.2 per cent in 1986 to 66.3 per cent in 1996. In contrast, there has been a small percentage increase in some other household types:- one family plus other, multiple family and single person households (Figure 1.12 and Appendix 1: Table 6).

The proportional decline in one-family households and growth in other household types in Christchurch is similar to New Zealand as a whole and reflects a variety of demographic and social changes. These include:

- An increasing number of elderly people (particularly women) who are more likely to live alone;
- More divorces and separations and the trend towards later marriage, leading to an increase in single-person and non-family households; and
- Increased migration from Asia (statistics show that Asian families are twice as likely as New Zealand families to share their homes with others).

Average Household size

The 'type' of households in Christchurch is not only changing, but households are also getting smaller. In 1976 the average household occupancy rate for the City was 3.1 people. This declined to 2.8 by 1986 and



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1986-1996.

reached an all time low of 2.6 in 1996. This trend is expected to continue in the future, placing additional pressure on existing housing and residential land stocks and associated services.

Average household size is decreasing because the rate of household formation is exceeding the rate of population growth. Factors which have contributed to the accelerating rate of household formation in recent years include:

- The rise in divorce and separation which has the tendency to split households into two;
- The trend toward marriage at older ages, resulting in people spending greater time in multiple person households (eg flats) or living alone rather than in family households; and
- More elderly people and greater life expectancy (particularly among women) resulting in more people living for longer periods on their own.

Families

Family Type⁹

The make-up of Christchurch families has changed significantly over the last decade. The once typical family, comprising two parents with at least one dependent child, now accounts for a smaller share of total families than it did ten years ago. In 1986 two-parent families comprised 49.4 per cent of families compared with 42.2 per cent in 1996.

The decline in the two-parent family has been offset by an increase in one-parent families and couples without children¹⁰. During the ten years to 1996, one-parent families increased from 15.3 to 18 per cent while couples without children grew from 35.3 to 39.8 per cent (Figure 1.13 and Appendix 1: Table 7).

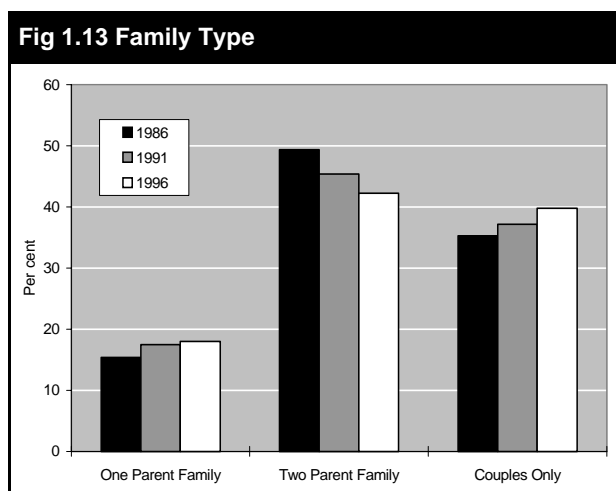
The increase in divorce and separation and falling marriage rates as couples delay or avoid formal marriage ties have been major contributors to the growing number of one-parent families in recent years. Growth in the number of couples without children

reflects two main trends: the general ageing of the population, which has shifted large numbers of people into the age groups where life without children is likely, and the postponement of childbearing by young couples.

Dependent Children Families

In line with national trends, the traditional two-child family has been overtaken by the one-child family as the most common type in Christchurch (Appendix 1: Table 8). In the latest census, around 20 per cent of all families with children (including adult and dependent) contained three or more children, 37.2 per cent had two children, while nearly 42.6 per cent contained just one.

Most of the focus on families centres around those with dependent children. The 1996 census defines a 'dependent' child as one who is under 18 years old and not in full-time employment (that is, still at school, in tertiary training, unemployed or working less than 30 hours per week). Of those families with dependent children only 19 per cent had three or more children, 39 per cent comprised two children and 42 per cent comprised one child.



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1986-1996.

Workforce¹¹

The City's labour¹² force grew considerably between 1991 and 1996 from 134,655 to 154,788. During this period full and part-time employment increased numerically while unemployment declined (Table 1.14).

Figures from the 1996 census contrasted dramatically to those of the previous five years from 1986 to 1991

⁹A 'family' is defined as either a couple (from a legal or a de facto marriage) with or without a child (or children) who usually live in the same household.

¹⁰The 'couples' family type include all couples who have chosen to remain childless, as well as younger couples who have not yet had children and older couples who have reached the 'empty nest' stage ie their children have grown up and left home.

	1991	% of Labour Force 1991	1996	% of Labour Force 1996	Numeric Change 1991-1996	% Change 1991-1996
Labour Force						
Full time in Labour Force	97,551	72.4	108,000	69.8	10,449	10.7
Part time in Labour Force	23,073	17.1	35,082	22.7	12,009	12.3
Unemployed and Actively Seeking Work	14,031	10.4	11,706	7.6	-2325	-2.4
Total Labour Force	134,655	100.0	154,788	100.0	20,133	20.6
Non Labour Force	97,107		89,616		-7491	-7.7
Not Specified	1,305		4,629		3324	254.7
Total Working Age Population	233,067		249,033		15,966	6.9

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1991-1996.

when the labour force actually contracted. This was largely in response to the 1987 share market crash and the restructuring of the New Zealand economy. In 1996, 69.8 per cent of people in Christchurch's labour force were employed full time (working 30 hours or more per week), 22.7 per cent were employed on a part-time basis and 7.6 per cent were unemployed (Figure 1.14 and Table 1.14). These figures were similar to those recorded nationally at that time (Appendix 1: Table 9).

Participation in full-time and part-time work varied in relation to gender. Males accounted for 62 per cent of people working full time in 1996, while females dominated the part-time category comprising 71.3 per cent of part-time workers.

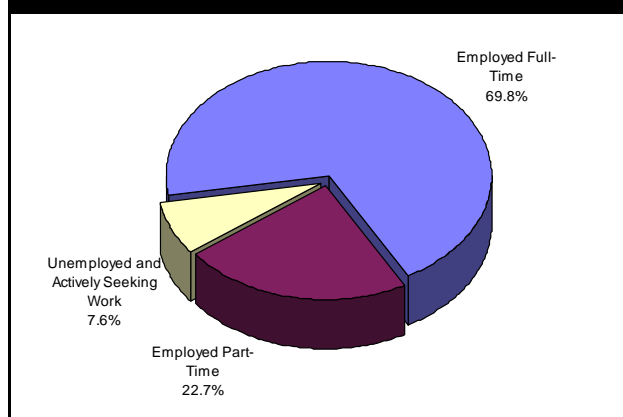
The growth of part-time employment was a major trend. While the majority of workers still worked full time, the level of part-time employment increased steadily. In 1996 part-time workers comprised 22.7 per cent of the labour force compared with 17.1 per cent in 1991. Part-time employment was boosted by large numbers of women combining unpaid work at home with paid employment, and increasing numbers of young people combining study with part-time jobs (Table 1.14 and Appendix 1: Table 9).

In addition to residents who were either working or looking for employment in 1996, just over 89,600 people aged 15 years and over were not involved in regular paid work. According to the census, many of these residents were involved in a variety of other activities both for their own household and other households including housework, gardening and caring for others.

Occupation

Christchurch residents were involved in a diverse range of occupations in 1996. In line with national trends, *service and sales* was the largest occupational group in Christchurch, accounting for 16 per cent of residents aged 15 years and over. This group was followed by *clerks* (14.5 per cent) and people engaged

Fig 1.14 Work Status 1996 (Population Aged 15 years and Over)



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996.

in *professional* occupations (12.5 per cent). In contrast, the proportion of *agricultural and fishery* workers was considerably less in the City than in the whole country (Figure 1.15 and Appendix 1: Table 10).

Incomes Sources and Incomes¹³

Income Sources

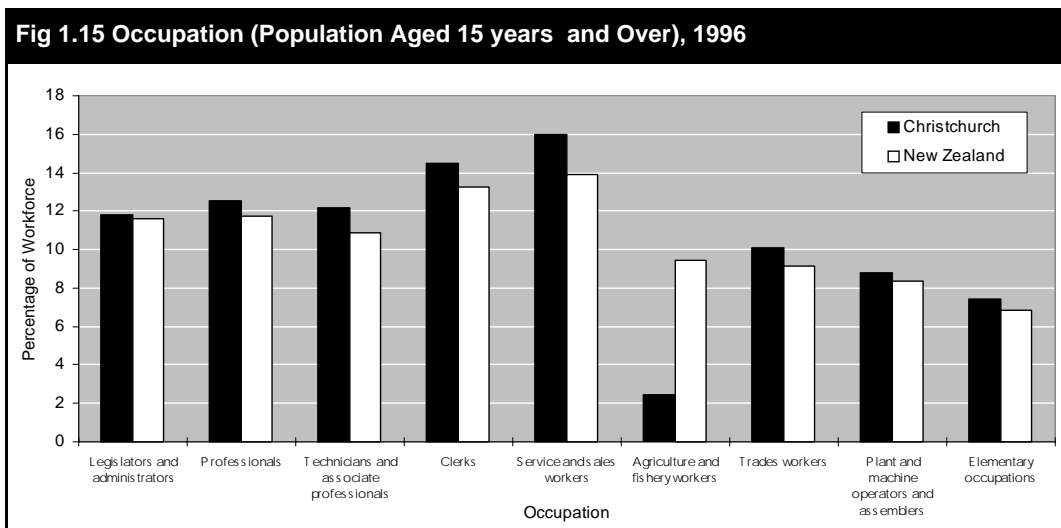
Although few people in Christchurch have no income at all, there is considerable variation in the sources and the amount of income that individuals receive. In 1996 *wage and salaries* was the most common source of income for Christchurch residents. In the 12 months prior to the 1996 census, nearly 57 per cent of residents aged 15 years and over received income from wages and salaries (Appendix 1: Table 11).

¹¹ Also see Part 3, The City's Economy.

¹² Christchurch City's labour force includes people aged over 15 years who regularly work full or part time and those who are unemployed but are actively looking for either full or part-time work. Full-time workers work 30 hours or more per week. Part-time workers work between 1 and 29 hours per week.

¹³ Data on sources of income includes all the persons who specified each income source, whether as their only source or one of several sources. Where a person reported more than one, they have been counted in each applicable source.

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Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996.

Government-funded benefits were also a major income source. Of Christchurch residents aged 15 years and over, 94,719 said that they had received one or more government benefits during the 12 months to March 1996. They represented 38 per cent of the 15 plus population. New Zealand superannuation made up the largest number of payments, followed by the unemployment benefit. (Table 1.15, Appendix 1: Table 11.)

Sources of income varied markedly with gender. More males received income from wage and salaries and from self employment than females in 1996, reflecting their higher rates of participation in the paid labour force. Females more commonly received income from government benefits.

Personal Income

Seventy three per cent of all Christchurch residents aged 15 years and over indicated they had an annual personal income of \$30,000 or less in 1996. At the other end of the scale, only 2.3 per cent of residents received an annual income of more than \$70,000

(Figure 1.16, Appendix 1: Table 12).

The income distribution of residents who worked full and part-time showed a somewhat different picture. Just under 55 per cent of people who worked full time (30 hours or more) had an annual gross income of \$30,000 or less, while 6.2 per cent received \$70,000 or more.

The majority of part-time workers (79.5 per cent), who worked less than 30 hours per week, had incomes under \$20,000.

Family Income

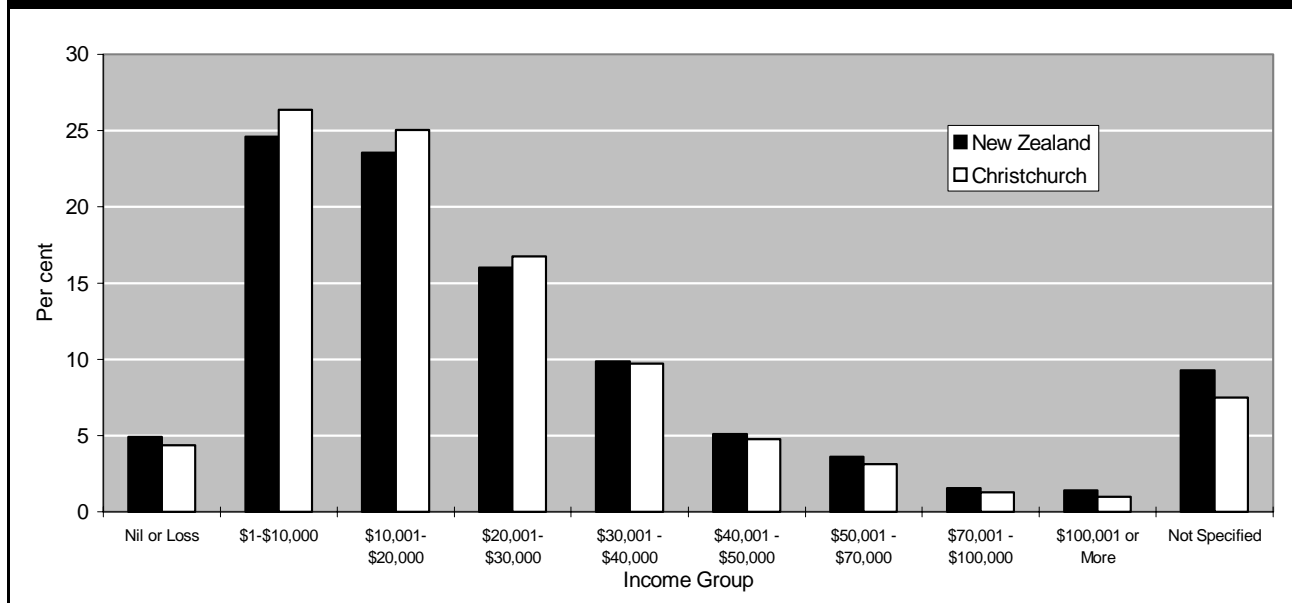
Family income is defined as the income of couples and people with children. Thirty two per cent of families in Christchurch received a before tax income of \$30,000 or less for the 12 months to March 1996, while 31 per cent of families had an annual income over \$50,000 (Figure 1.17 and Appendix 1: Table 13). The median income for Christchurch families was \$38,947 compared with \$39,205 nationally.

Table 1.15 Populations Receiving Government Benefit Payments (Population Aged 15 years and Over), 1996

Number of Benefit Payments	New Zealand	%	Christchurch City	%
One Income Support Payment	892,386	32.0	84,627	34.0
Two or More Income Support Payments	94,842	3.4	10,092	4.1
No Income Support Payments	1,643,874	59.0	144,150	57.9
Not Specified	155,118	5.6	10,164	4.1
Total Residents Aged 15	2,786,220	100.0	249,033	100.0

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996.

Fig 1.16 Personal Income (Population Aged 15 years and Over), 1996



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996.

Monitoring Poverty, Hardship and Community Well-Being in Christchurch City

The Christchurch City Council is actively involved in monitoring well-being issues in the city.

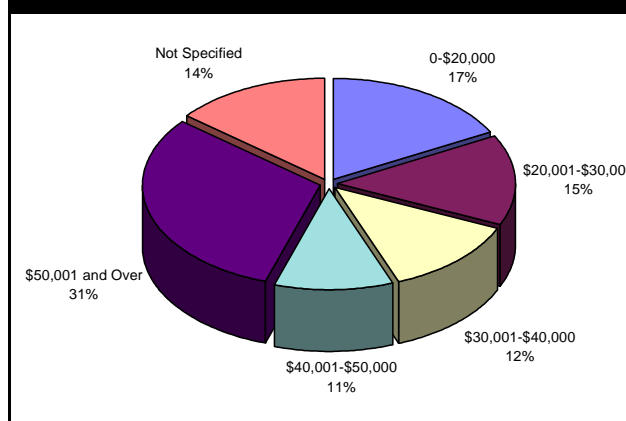
A web site currently provides a range of information relating to the Social Monitoring Programme, a three year research study of poverty and hardship in Christchurch. This includes an overview of the programme and the methodology used, a summary of main findings, copies of reports produced, longer term goals of the programme and references to related work.

This can be accessed at: <http://www.ccc.govt.nz/programmes/socialmonitoring/>

New Zealand's six largest local authorities are currently developing a social indicators project to measure quality of life and well-being issues in our largest cities. The selected indicators will provide an understanding of how strong our communities are and the pressures they are under. A joint report will be produced by the six councils in September/October 2000.

For further information about the Christchurch City Council's monitoring of well-being issues, please contact the Co-ordinator, Kath Jamieson, Research and Policy Adviser at the Christchurch City Council, PO Box 237, Christchurch, phone 371 1885, fax 371 1572 or e-mail Kath.Jamieson@ccc.govt.nz

Fig 1.17 Total Annual Family Income, 1996



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census of Population and Dwellings, 1996.