

***Regions and Cities at a Glance 2020** provides a comprehensive assessment of how regions and cities across the OECD are progressing in a number of aspects connected to economic development, health, well-being and net zero-carbon transition. In the light of the health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the report analyses outcomes and drivers of social, economic and environmental resilience. Consult the full publication [here](#).*

---

## OECD REGIONS AND CITIES AT A GLANCE - COUNTRY NOTE

# NEW ZEALAND

---

- A. Resilient regional societies**
- B. Regional economic disparities and trends in productivity**
- C. Well-being in regions**
- D. Industrial transition in regions**
- E. Transitioning to clean energy in regions**

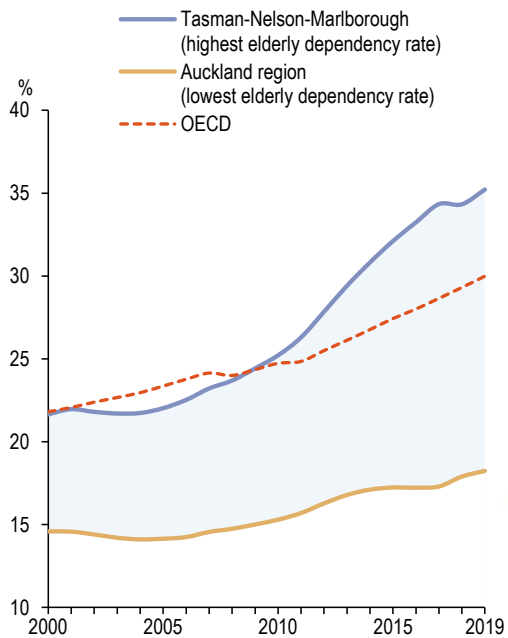


## A. Resilient regional societies

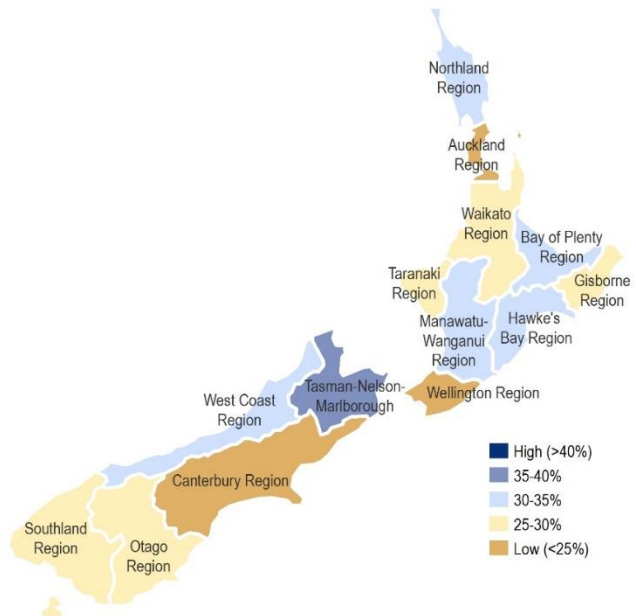
### Ageing is unevenly spread across New-Zealand regions

The elderly dependency rate has been increasing in all types of regions in New Zealand since 2005. Tasman-Nelson-Marlborough region has the highest elderly dependency rate (35%) among regions in New Zealand. The gap with Auckland region, the region with the lowest elderly dependency rate with 18 of elderly for every 100 persons in their working-age in 2019, has increased significantly (Figures A3 and A4).

**A3. Elderly dependency rate, regional gap**  
Small regions (TL3)



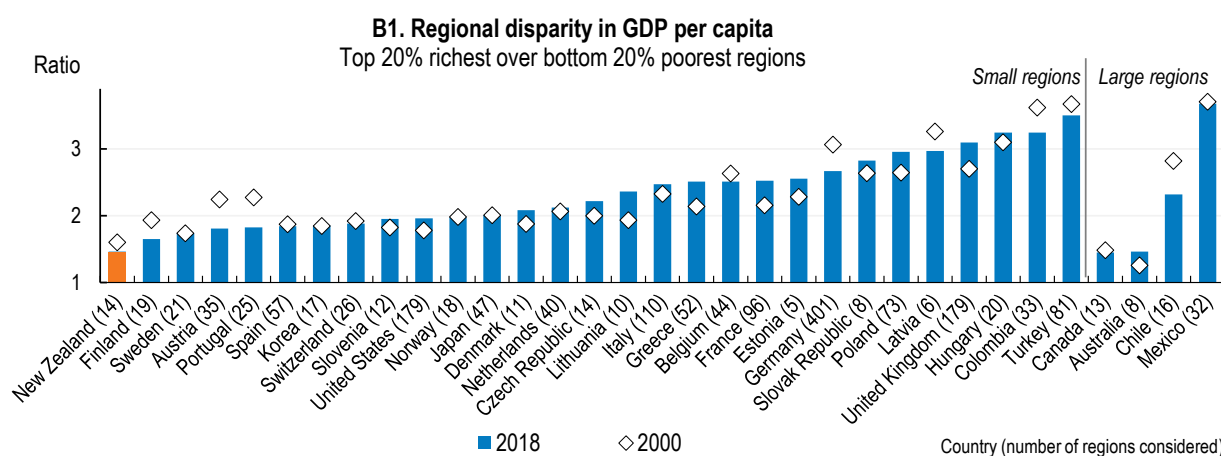
**A4. Elderly dependency rate, 2019**  
Small regions (TL3)



## B. Regional economic disparities and trends in productivity

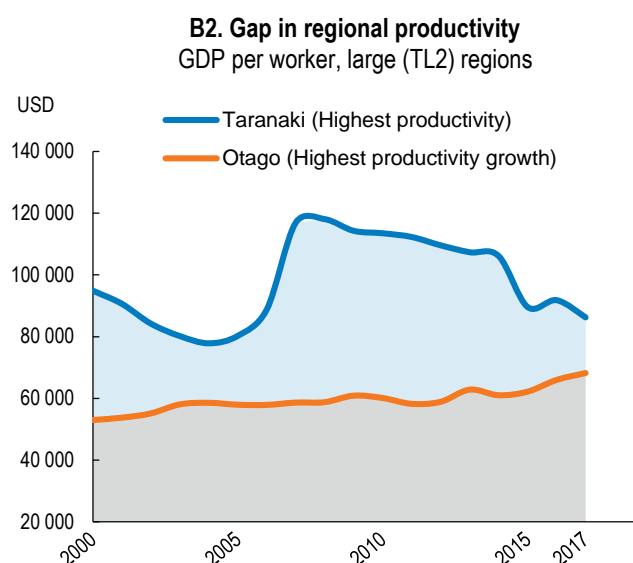
### Regional economic gaps have declined since 2000, partially due to lower growth of the most productive regions

Regional disparities in terms of GDP per capita have slightly decreased in New Zealand in recent years, after a period of growth between 2007 and 2014, during which Taranaki – the region with the highest GDP per capita up to 2014 – benefitted from growth in forestry, fishing, and mining activities. Since 2014, the regional disparities has fallen by 9%, and in 2018 New Zealand had the lowest regional disparities among 29 OECD countries with comparable data, when the richest and poorest regions representing at least 20% of the population are taken into account (Figure B1).



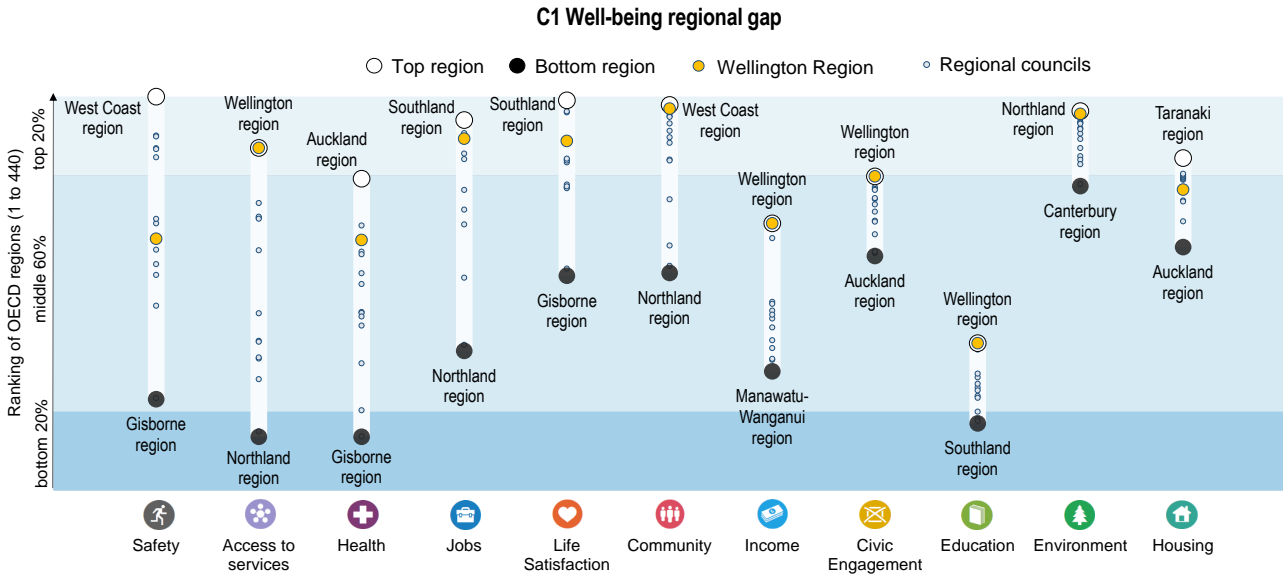
Note: A ratio higher than two means that 20% of the national population living in the richest regions have more than the double of GDP per capita than the 20% population living in the poorest regions.

With a productivity growth of more than 1.4% per year over the period 2010-17, Otago and Tasman-Nelson-Marlborough regions had the highest productivity growth and converged towards the productivity level of Taranaki, the national frontier in terms of labour productivity (Figure B2).



C. Well-being in regions

**New Zealand faces large regional disparities in 7 out of 11 well-being dimensions, with the largest disparities in the dimensions of safety and access to services**



Note: Relative ranking of the regions with the best and worst outcomes in the 11 well-being dimensions, with respect to all 440 OECD regions. The eleven dimensions are ordered by decreasing regional disparities in the country. Each well-being dimension is measured by the indicators in the table below.

While all New Zealand's regions are in the middle 60% of OECD regions in the income dimension, they are among the top 25% of OECD regions in the dimension of environment. In comparison, outcomes across regions are relatively unequal in the dimension of access to services. While Wellington is in the top 20% of OECD regions in access to broadband, Northland region is in the bottom 20% of OECD regions (Figure C1).

The average of the top performing New Zealand's regions is above the average of the top OECD regions in 6 out of 13 well-being indicators, particularly in terms of homicide rates and exposure to air pollution (Figure C2).

**C2. How do the top and bottom regions fare on the well-being indicators?**

	Country Average	OECD Top 20% regions	New Zealander regions	
			Top 20%	Bottom 20%
<b>Safety</b> Homicide Rate (per 100 000 people), 2016-18	1.0	0.7	0.5	1.4
<b>Access to services</b> Households with broadband access (%), 2019	87.0	91.3	93.0	77.1
<b>Health</b> Life Expectancy at birth (years), 2018 Age adjusted mortality rate (per 1 000 people), 2018	81.5 10.2	82.6 6.6	82.3 6.7	80.4 9.2
<b>Jobs</b> Employment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019 Unemployment rate 15 to 64 years old (%), 2019	76.2 4.3	76.0 3.3	80.3 3.7	72.5 5.3
<b>Life Satisfaction</b> Life satisfaction (scale from 0 to 10), 2014-18	7.3	7.3	7.6	7.2
<b>Community</b> Perceived social network support (%), 2014-18	95.2	94.1	96.9	93.2
<b>Income</b> Disposable income per capita (in USD PPP), 2018	19 864	26 617	22 370	16 744
<b>Civic engagement</b> Voters in last national election (%), 2019 or latest year	79.0	84.2	83.2	75.8
<b>Education</b> Population with at least upper secondary education, 25-64 year-olds (%), 2019	63.7	90.3	69.6	52.0
<b>Environment</b> Level of air pollution in PM 2.5 (µg/m³), 2019	5.0	7.0	5.2	7.4
<b>Housing</b> Rooms per person, 2018	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.0

Note: OECD regions refer to the first administrative tier of subnational government (large regions, Territorial Level 2); New Zealand is composed of 14 large regions. Visualisation: <https://www.oecdregionalwellbeing.org>.



## D. Transitioning to clean energy in regions

**While most regions in New Zealand have fully transitioned to clean electricity generation, Waikato – the largest electricity producer – is halfway from reaching this objective**

While 9 out of 10 regions in New Zealand produced 99% or more of their electricity using renewables and without using coal in 2017, Waikato – which generated close to 50% of New Zealand’s electricity – was halfway from achieving a full transition to clean electricity production. In 2017, Waikato produced 61% of its electricity using renewable sources and 6% using coal-fire power. In contrast, Canterbury and Southland – which generated 35% of electricity in the country – produced 100% of their electricity using only renewable sources (Figure D1).

**D1. Transition to renewable energy, 2017**

	Total electricity generation (in GWh per year)	Regional share of renewables in electricity generation (%)	Regional share of coal in electricity generation (%)	Greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generated (in Ktons of CO <sub>2</sub> eq.)	
Waikato Region	21 325	61%	6%	4 865	Wai.
Canterbury Region	10 242	100%	0%	246	Can.
Southland Region	4 854	100%	0%	113	Sou.
Otago Region	3 188	100%	0%	74	Ota.
Bay of Plenty Region	1 531	100%	0%	53	Bay.
Wellington Region	953	100%	0%	10	Wel.
Hawke's Bay Region	591	99%	0%	18	Haw.
Manawatu-Wanganui Region	413	100%	0%	5	Man.
Taranaki Region	184	100%	0%	4	Tar.
Tasman-Nelson-Marlborough	184	100%	0%	4	Tas.

Relative to the average of OECD regions, carbon efficiency in the production of electricity is very high across regions in New Zealand. While OECD regions emitted, on average, around 380 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per gigawatt hour of electricity produced in 2017, Canterbury and Waikato – the top and bottom regions in terms of carbon efficiency in New Zealand – emitted around 24 and 230 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per gigawatt hour of electricity generated, respectively (D2).

**D2. Contribution to total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from electricity production, 2017**

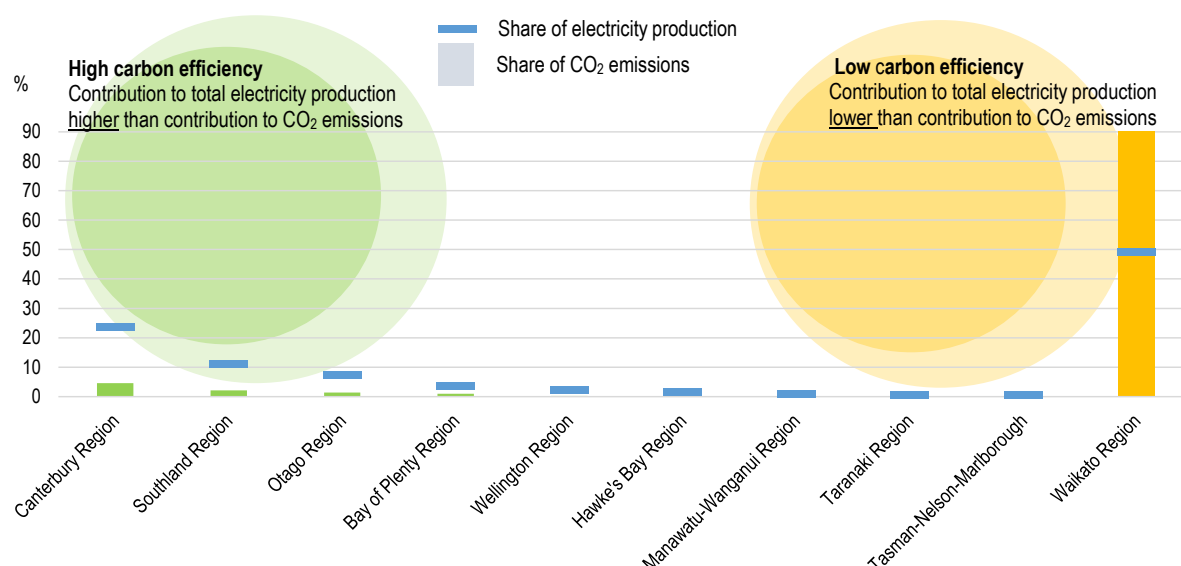


Figure notes: Regions are arranged in Figure D1 by total generation, and in Figure D2 according to gap between share of electricity generation and share of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (most positive to most negative). These estimates refer to electricity production from the power plants connected to the national power grid, as registered in the Power Plants Database. As a result, small electricity generation facilities disconnected from the national power grid might not be captured. Renewable energy sources include hydropower, geothermal power, biomass, wind, solar, wave and tidal and waste. See [here](#) for more details.