

## New Zealand



Note: This map is for illustrative purposes and is without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory covered by these maps.

The OECD, in cooperation with the EU, has developed a harmonised definition of functional urban areas (FUAs). Being composed of a city (or core) and its commuting zone, FUAs encompass the economic and functional extent of cities based on daily people's movements (OECD, 2012); (Dijkstra, Poelman, & Veneri, 2019). The definition of FUA aims at providing a functional/economic definition of cities and their area of influence, by maximising international comparability and overcoming the limitation of using purely administrative approaches. At the same time, the concept of FUA, unlike other approaches, ensures a minimum link to the government level of the city or metropolitan area.

FUAs are listed below by size, according to four classes:

- Small FUAs, with population between 50,000 and 100,000
- Medium-sized FUAs, with population between 100,000 and 250,000
- Metropolitan FUAs, with population between 250,000 and 1.5 million
- Large metropolitan FUAs, with population above 1.5 million

A city is a group of local administrative units (i.e. LAU for European countries, such as municipality, local authorities, etc.) where at least 50% of its population live in an urban centre. An urban centre is defined as a cluster of contiguous grid cells of one square kilometer with a density of at least 1,500 inhabitants per square kilometer and a population of at least 50,000 inhabitants overall.

The commuting zone is composed of the local administrative units for which at least 15% of their workforce commute to the city. Commuting zones of the functional areas are identified based on commuting data (travel from home-to-work). Commuting data are also used to define whether more than one city share the same commuting zone in a single polycentric functional urban area.

The list of functional urban areas takes into account the results of the consultation with the European National Statistical Institutes launched by Eurostat in June 2011 on the definition of cities and by the OECD with Delegates from the Working Party on Territorial Indicators. This list of functional urban areas may be reviewed on the basis of additional comments provided by countries. The OECD Metropolitan Database provides a set of economic, environmental, social and demographic modelled indicators on around 700 OECD metropolitan areas (functional urban areas with 250 000 or more inhabitants).

Additionally, interactive maps, histograms and summary profiles of each metropolitan area are available on the [OECD Regions and Cities Data Visualisation tool](#).

The geographic building blocks of FUAs in New Zealand are the Statistical Areas Level 1 (SA1). Commuting data comes from the 2013 Census.

Functional Urban Areas in New Zealand were delineated by Stats NZ. The delineation adopted some methodological differences. Smaller cities were taken into account (starting from 5 000 inhabitants), and the commuting zone is defined based on a higher share of the workforce commuting to the city (40%). Only FUAs above 50 000 inhabitants are included in the OECD database. [More information on the methodology available here](#).

**Table 1. List of functional urban areas**

FUA name	FUA code	Population in 2015 (GHS)	Share of population living in the city (%)
Auckland	NZL01	1 426 000	92
Christchurch	NZL02	439 000	86
Dunedin	NZL06	119 000	87
Hamilton	NZL04	188 000	80
Hastings	NZL11	71 000	64
Invercargill	NZL14	54 000	82
Napier	NZL13	60 000	97
Nelson	NZL09	72 000	77
New Plymouth	NZL08	75 000	67
Palmerston North	NZL07	92 000	79
Rotorua	NZL12	61 000	73
Tauranga	NZL05	130 000	88
Wellington	NZL03	395 000	90
Whangarei	NZL10	72 000	63

Note: This document includes information as of 2022.

## References

Dijkstra, L., H. Poelman and P. Veneri (2019), "The EU-OECD definition of a functional urban area", OECD Regional Development Working Papers, No. 2019/11, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/d58cb34d-en>.

OECD (2012), Redefining "Urban": A New Way to Measure Metropolitan Areas, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264174108-en>.