OECD OURdata Index: 2019

New Zealand

12th Place

Legend:
- Data Availability
- Data Accessibility
- Government support for data reuse

Governance for Open Government Data

Institutional Governance

The New Zealand data agency Stats NZ is in charge of the open data policy.

The Government Chief Data Steward (GCDS) is responsible for the Open Data Programme and works closely with the Government Chief Digital Officer for cross-government data- and digital transformation.

Policy Framework

The 2011 Declaration on Open and Transparent Government sets forth the active release of high-value public data.

The 2017-2020 Open Data Action Plan aims to secure a coordinated approach to delivering open government data.

The 2018 Data Strategy and Roadmap highlights data (including open data) as a core government infrastructure.

Legal and Regulatory instruments

The Official Information Act 1982 ensures the availability of public sector information while maintaining personal privacy.

In 2018, Stats NZ launched a public consultation on new data and statistics legislation for better and more coherent public sector data management. The outcome is summarised in a report from 2019.

Enabling coherent policy implementation

→ The New Zealand Government Open Access and Licensing framework (NZGOAL) is a whole-of-government guideline for agencies intending to release their data as open data.
→ The 2011 New Zealand Data and Information Management Principles contain seven principles on public sector data management that support the 2011 declaration.

Open Government Data Portal

→ Data.gov.nz is the central portal for open data from the New Zealand government.
→ The Open Data Maturity Dashboard shows the progress made by government agencies in implementing open data practices.

Using data as a platform: ecosystem engagement and collaboration

→ Regular Open Data meetups are organised across New Zealand to promote the publication and re-use of open data.
→ In 2018, the cross-agency event DataLand NZ brought together people interested in open data with sponsors from the private and public sector. The main activity during the event was a hackathon.

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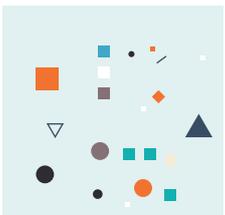
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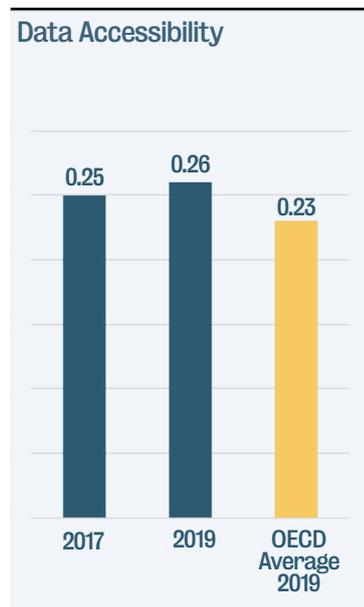
New Zealand

Good practice

The New Zealand Transport Agency's simple framework for opening data

The New Zealand Transport Agency has recently developed a simple (but comprehensive) framework that can aid government agencies in the quest to deliver high-value open data to the public. The framework consists of two layers: a primary layer which centres on planning, data preparation, quality assessment and reporting; and a governance layer which covers the role of data stewards, subject matter experts and data custodians to ensure the above procedures are carried out appropriately and in line with the prioritisation and mission of the organisation and central government.

Performance per Index Pillar

Data Availability

2017	2019	OECD Average 2019
0.20	0.21	0.20
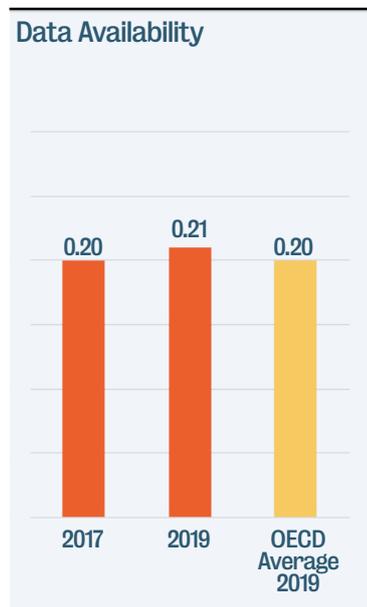
Since 2017, the New Zealand government has made great efforts to strengthen its open data policy and ensure external stakeholders are regularly involved in its design, with a positive impact on the overall data availability. Despite this progress, the availability of high-value datasets (as defined by the G8) on data.govt.nz has decreased.

Data Accessibility

2017	2019	OECD Average 2019
0.25	0.26	0.23

The policy framework and implementation level of re-usable data (in terms of technical requirements and licences) remains strong in New Zealand. As with many other OECD countries, the OGD portal does not allow citizens to contribute data or more actively provide feedback that could contribute to data quality and leverage an open data culture also outside the public sector.

Government Support for Data Reuse

2017	2019	OECD Average 2019
0.12	0.18	0.17
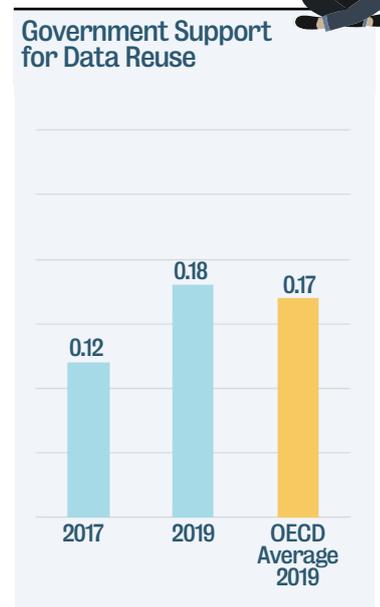
Under the lead of Stats NZ and institutional Data Champions, there has been a remarkable improvement in the support from the government to increase data literacy skills among public servants. This positively affects the score for Pillar 3. The relatively low overall score is contributed to weak efforts aimed at promoting re-use amongst external stakeholders and to monitor open data's impact.

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