



# Commercial Accommodation Monitor:

## January 2019

Wanaka

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# Preface

Commercial Accommodation Monitor: January 2019 – Wanaka presents comprehensive and impartial information on short-term commercial accommodation for the Wanaka Regional Tourism Organisation (RTO) area, from the Accommodation Survey. This survey is run by Stats NZ on behalf of the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment.

The data relates to the areas covered by the following local authority:

- part of Queenstown-Lakes District

Comparisons of monthly data with the same month of the previous year need to be treated with caution, as data for one period may be influenced by events for which there is no equivalent in the previous period (eg Chinese New Year, Easter).

More data and commentary is available on the stats NZ website ([www.stats.govt.nz](http://www.stats.govt.nz)).

The February 2019 monitor will be released on 15 April 2019.

Liz MacPherson

**Government Statistician**

## Standards and further information

### Percentage changes

Percentage movements are, in a number of cases, calculated using data of greater precision than that published. This could result in slight variations.

### Rounding procedures

On occasion, figures are rounded to the nearest thousand or some other convenient unit. This may result in a total disagreeing slightly with the total of the individual items as shown in tables. Where figures are rounded the unit is in general expressed in words below the table headings, but where space does not allow this the unit may be shown as (000) for thousands, etc.

### Source

All data is compiled by Stats NZ, except where otherwise stated. Both administrative and survey data has been used in this report.

### Liability

While all care and diligence has been used in processing, analysing and extracting data and information in this report, Stats NZ gives no warranty it is error free and will not be liable for any loss or damage suffered as a result of the use, directly or indirectly, of information in this report.

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# 1 Highlights

## Monthly highlights

In January 2019 compared with January 2018:

- Guest nights fell 4.8 percent to 130,951
- International guest nights fell 0.3 percent to 67,347
- Domestic guest nights fell 9.1 percent to 63,605
- The average length of stay fell from 2.31 nights to 2.28 nights
- The overall occupancy rate fell from 72.6 percent to 67.5 percent
- The occupancy rate, excluding holiday parks, was 76.6 percent in January 2019
- Accommodation capacity, excluding holiday parks, rose 0.2 percent.

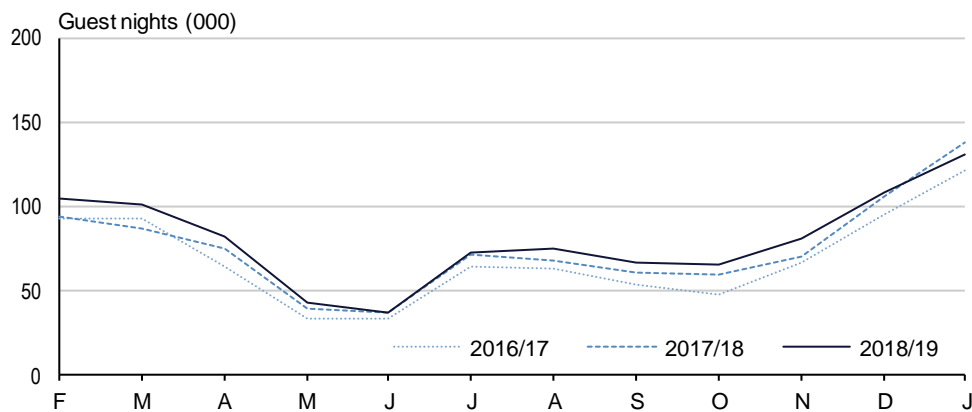
## Response rates for January 2019

The response rate for the Wanaka RTO area was 87 percent for January 2019.

The proportion of the origin-of-guest estimate from unadjusted data was 83 percent.

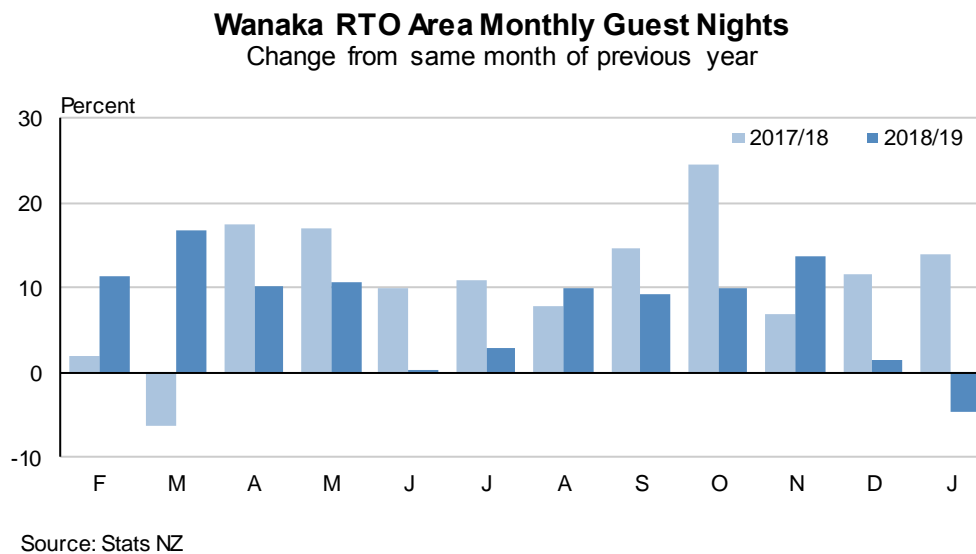
Figure 1.1

### Wanaka RTO Area Monthly Guest Nights



Source: Stats NZ

Figure 1.2

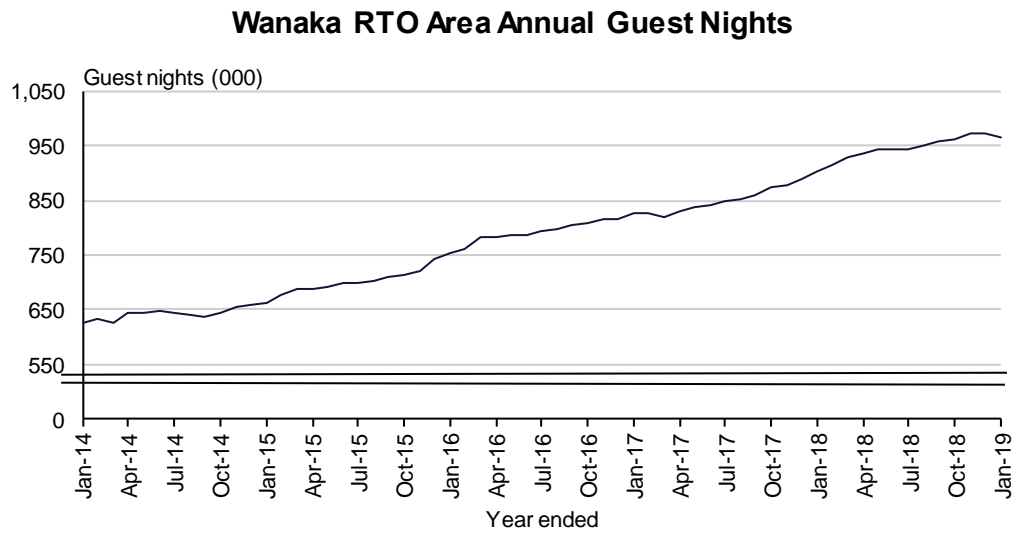


## Year ended highlights

For the year ended January 2019 compared with the previous year:

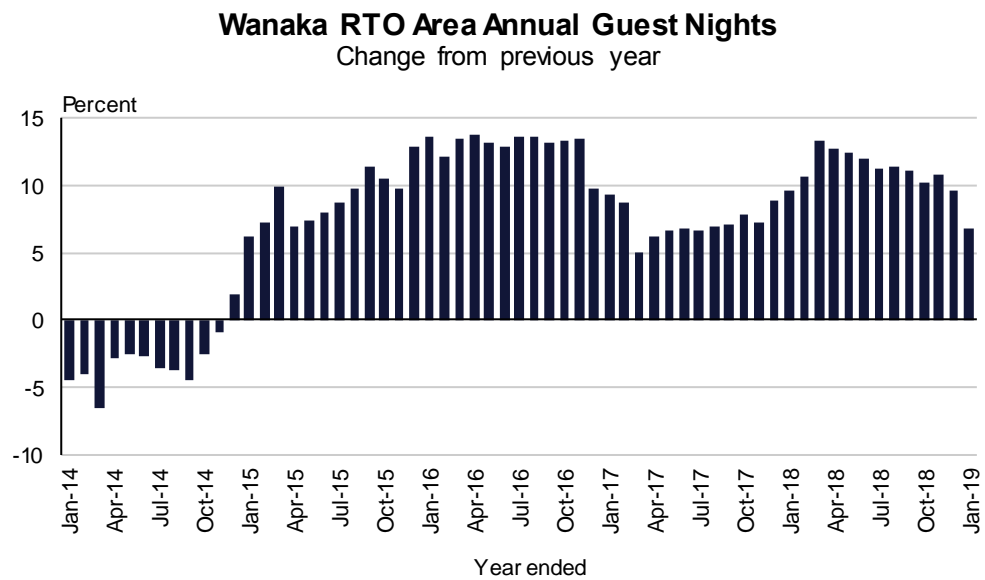
- Guest nights rose 6.9 percent to 966,421
- International guest nights rose 9.6 percent to 604,825
- Domestic guest nights rose 2.6 percent to 361,596
- The average length of stay fell from 2.24 nights to 2.07 nights
- The overall occupancy rate rose from 45.8 percent to 46.7 percent
- The occupancy rate, excluding holiday parks, was 68.3 percent for the year ended January 2019
- Accommodation capacity, excluding holiday parks, rose 0.6 percent.

Figure 1.3



Source: Stats NZ

Figure 1.4



Source: Stats NZ

## 2 Accommodation variables

In January 2019, compared with January 2018, there was a decrease of 4.8 percent in total guest nights for the Wanaka RTO area. Backpackers had the largest decrease, followed by hotels. Motels had the only increase.

For the year ended January 2019, compared with the previous January year, total guest nights for the Wanaka RTO area increased 6.9 percent. Holiday parks had the largest increase, followed by motels. Backpackers had the only decrease.

See table 2.1 for comparisons of data across the main accommodation variables.

Table 2.1

**Wanaka Accommodation Variables***By accommodation type  
Monthly and year ended<sup>(1)(2)</sup>*

Accommodation type	Monthly			Annual		
	January		Percentage change	Year ended		Percentage change
	2018	2019		January 2018	January 2019	
Guest nights						
Total guest nights	137,568	130,951	-4.8	904,439	966,421	6.9
International	67,581	67,347	-0.3	551,867	604,825	9.6
Domestic	69,987	63,605	-9.1	352,572	361,596	2.6
Hotels	23,607	21,308	-9.7	225,853	234,853	4.0
Motels/apartments	24,993	25,312	1.3	226,122	240,157	6.2
Backpackers	17,399	14,768	-15.1	154,607	151,880	-1.8
Holiday parks	71,570	69,564	-2.8	297,858	339,531	14.0
Occupancy rates <sup>(3)</sup> (%)						
Hotels	79.6	71.9	-9.6	62.5	66.3	6.1
Motels/apartments	88.4	89.3	1.0	72.2	75.4	4.5
Backpackers	88.3	72.7	-17.7	71.3	65.5	-8.2
Holiday parks	61.3	59.4	-3.1	25.8	27.8	7.8
Total	72.6	67.5	-7.0	45.8	46.7	2.1
Total excluding holiday parks <sup>(4)</sup>	85.3	76.6	-10.2	68.5	68.3	-0.4
Average length of stay <sup>(5)</sup>						
Hotels	2.15	2.17	0.8	2.26	C	C
Motels/apartments	2.33	2.29	-1.8	2.31	2.24	-2.9
Backpackers	1.69	2.03	20.6	2.14	C	C
Holiday parks	2.61	2.38	-8.7	2.22	1.96	-11.5
Total	2.31	2.28	-1.3	2.24	2.07	-7.4
Guest arrivals						
Hotels	10,960	9,810	-10.5	99,890	C	C
Motels/apartments	10,713	11,051	3.2	97,806	106,995	9.4
Backpackers	10,325	7,270	-29.6	72,136	C	C
Holiday parks	27,459	29,219	6.4	134,251	172,938	28.8
Total	59,457	57,349	-3.5	404,083	466,079	15.3
Establishments						
Hotels	9	9	0.0	9	9	0.0
Motels/apartments	20	21	5.0	20	21	5.0
Backpackers	9	9	0.0	9	9	0.0
Holiday parks	6	6	0.0	6	6	0.0
Total	44	45	2.3	44	45	2.3
Capacity <sup>(6)</sup>						
Hotels	14,260	14,260	0.0	168,320	166,985	-0.8
Motels/apartments	10,447	10,540	0.9	125,362	123,798	-1.2
Backpackers	17,050	17,050	0.0	194,264	199,910	2.9
Holiday parks	47,399	47,399	0.0	555,358	558,085	0.5
Total	89,156	89,249	0.1	1,043,304	1,048,778	0.5

(1) Reclassifications, new businesses, ceased businesses, and temporary closures may affect figures.

(2) Irregular events, such as airshows and Easter, may affect percentage changes and other figures.

(3) Occupancy rates are calculated as the ratio of used stay-unit nights to available stay-unit nights.

(4) Holiday parks often have high capacity and can mislead when included in total occupancy rates.

(5) Average length of stay is calculated as the ratio of guest nights to guest arrivals.

(6) Capacity is calculated as the number of available stay-units multiplied by the number of days in the month.

**Symbol:**

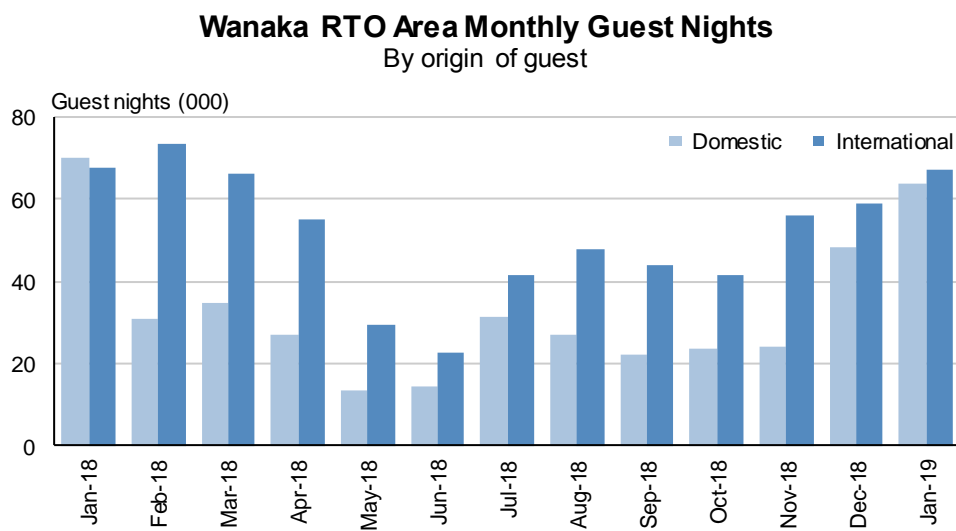
C confidential

### 3 Origin of guests

In January 2019, international guests accounted for 51.4 percent of all guest nights in the Wanaka RTO area. When compared with January 2018, the number of international guest nights spent in the area in January 2019 was down 0.3 percent to 67,347. Domestic guest nights decreased 9.1 percent, to 63,605, for the same period.

The proportion of the origin-of-guest estimate from actual data was 83 percent for January 2019.

Figure 3.1



Source: Stats NZ

Table 3.1

**Wanaka and New Zealand Monthly Guest Nights***By origin of guest*

		Wanaka RTO <sup>(1)</sup> area			New Zealand		
		Origin of guest		Total	Origin of guest		Total
		Domestic	International		Domestic	International	
Month							
2018	Jan	69,987	67,581	137,568	2,851,307	2,117,813	4,969,120
	Feb	31,045	73,418	104,464	1,938,307	2,092,637	4,030,944
	Mar	34,921	66,364	101,285	2,180,388	1,996,067	4,176,455
	Apr	27,225	55,186	82,411	1,860,719	1,569,372	3,430,091
	May	13,428	29,380	42,808	1,493,682	1,047,474	2,541,156
	Jun	14,233	22,923	37,156	1,443,331	824,407	2,267,738
	Jul	31,278	41,487	72,765	1,688,075	989,310	2,677,385
	Aug	27,164	47,691	74,855	1,571,502	952,679	2,524,181
	Sep	22,305	44,075	66,381	1,701,704	1,046,180	2,747,884
	Oct	23,892	41,637	65,529	1,954,146	1,314,205	3,268,352
	Nov	24,045	56,136	80,181	1,804,941	1,730,166	3,535,107
	Dec	48,454	59,180	107,635	2,289,702	1,908,866	4,198,568
2019	Jan	63,605	67,347	130,951	2,879,204	2,088,517	4,967,720
Percent change from the current month of the previous year							
		-9.1	-0.3	-4.8	1.0	-1.4	0.0
Year ended							
January 2018		352,572	551,867	904,439	22,231,557	17,302,538	39,534,095
January 2019		361,596	604,825	966,421	22,805,700	17,559,881	40,365,581
Percent change from previous year							
		2.6	9.6	6.9	2.6	1.5	2.1

(1) Regional tourism organisation

## 4 National results

In January 2019, a total of 4,968,000 guest nights were spent in short-term commercial accommodation in New Zealand, relatively unchanged (0.0 percent) from 4,969,000 nights in January 2018. The North Island recorded an increase (up 22,000 or 0.8 percent) while the South Island recorded a decrease (down 24,000 or 1.1 percent).

The accommodation types recorded mixed results in guest nights in January 2019, compared with January 2018. Backpackers had the largest decrease in guest nights (down 25,000 or 4.2 percent), followed by hotels (relatively unchanged down 2,000 or 0.1 percent). Holiday parks had the largest increase in guest nights (up 14,000 or 0.8 percent), followed by motels (up 11,000 or 0.9 percent).

For the year ended January 2019, there were 40,366,000 guest nights, an increase of 831,000 (2.1 percent) from the previous January year.

Refer to Table 4.1 for comparisons of data.

Table 4.1

### Wanaka and New Zealand Guest Nights

*By accommodation type  
Monthly and year ended*

Accommodation type	Total guest nights			Percentage change	
	2017	2018	2019	2017 to 2018	2018 to 2019
<b>January month</b>					
<b>Wanaka RTO area</b>					
Hotels	22,018	23,607	21,308	7.2	-9.7
Motels	24,262	24,993	25,312	3.0	1.3
Backpackers	17,315	17,399	14,768	0.5	-15.1
Holiday parks	57,164	71,570	69,564	25.2	-2.8
Total	120,760	137,568	130,951	13.9	-4.8
<b>New Zealand</b>					
Hotels	1,310,167	1,388,775	1,386,816	6.0	-0.1
Motels	1,368,206	1,321,337	1,332,732	-3.4	0.9
Backpackers	593,516	579,891	555,372	-2.3	-4.2
Holiday parks	1,627,566	1,679,117	1,692,800	3.2	0.8
Total	4,899,455	4,969,120	4,967,720	1.4	0.0
<b>Year ended January</b>					
<b>Wanaka RTO area</b>					
Hotels	200,115	225,853	234,853	12.9	4.0
Motels	209,629	226,122	240,157	7.9	6.2
Backpackers	154,302	154,607	151,880	0.2	-1.8
Holiday parks	260,688	297,858	339,531	14.3	14.0
Total	824,735	904,439	966,421	9.7	6.9
<b>New Zealand</b>					
Hotels	13,583,699	14,011,409	14,455,060	3.1	3.2
Motels	12,157,155	12,312,320	12,494,615	1.3	1.5
Backpackers	5,162,619	5,196,435	5,036,791	0.7	-3.1
Holiday parks	7,652,988	8,013,932	8,379,116	4.7	4.6
Total	38,556,462	39,534,095	40,365,581	2.5	2.1

## 5 Regional comparison

In January 2019, Rotorua recorded the largest decrease in guest nights (down 20,000 or 7.3 percent) from January 2018. This was followed by West Coast (down 13,000 or 7.0 percent), Dunedin (down 8,000 or 8.1 percent), Central Otago (down 8,000 or 10.6 percent), and Wanaka (down 7,000 or 4.8 percent).

Auckland recorded the largest increase (up 21,000 or 3.0 percent), followed by Coromandel (up 17,000 or 9.1 percent), Waikato (up 16,000 or 10.0 percent), Mackenzie (up 8,000 or 7.9 percent), and Queenstown (up 4,000 or 1.0 percent).

Table 5.1

**Regional Tourism Organisation Areas' Monthly Guest Nights***By origin of guest*

RTO area	January guest nights								
	Domestic			International			Total		
	2018	2019	Percent age change	2018	2019	Percent age change	2018	2019	Percent age change
Northland	267,363	269,735	0.9	101,824	96,035	-5.7	369,187	365,770	-0.9
Auckland	355,679	356,626	0.3	352,664	373,060	5.8	708,344	729,686	3.0
Coromandel	145,100	166,121	14.5	44,167	40,349	-8.6	189,267	206,470	9.1
Waikato	109,401	126,199	15.4	46,787	45,656	-2.4	156,188	171,855	10.0
Bay of Plenty	140,258	132,045	-5.9	33,619	35,361	5.2	173,877	167,406	-3.7
Rotorua	141,896	139,839	-1.4	138,883	120,569	-13.2	280,780	260,408	-7.3
Taupo	91,002	91,420	0.5	61,721	56,300	-8.8	152,723	147,720	-3.3
Whakatane-									
Kawerau	55,549	53,718	-3.3	10,648	6,768	-36.4	66,196	60,485	-8.6
Gisborne	60,628	64,368	6.2	8,863	8,628	-2.7	69,491	72,995	5.0
Taranaki	75,701	77,548	2.4	16,800	15,851	-5.6	92,501	93,399	1.0
Hawke's Bay	125,345	129,854	3.6	44,936	40,007	-11.0	170,281	169,860	-0.2
Ruapehu	25,738	22,928	-10.9	24,956	26,237	5.1	50,694	49,165	-3.0
Manawatu	37,194	40,568	9.1	8,445	7,313	-13.4	45,639	47,881	4.9
Whanganui	17,397	18,850	8.4	5,313	4,442	-16.4	22,711	23,292	2.6
Wairarapa	26,958	29,696	10.2	7,320	6,035	-17.6	34,278	35,731	4.2
Kapiti-Horowhenua	32,788	34,351	4.8	5,783	6,396	10.6	38,571	40,748	5.6
Wellington	144,837	149,214	3.0	95,996	91,702	-4.5	240,834	240,917	0.0
Marlborough	54,262	56,816	4.7	47,036	45,998	-2.2	101,298	102,814	1.5
Nelson-Tasman	190,065	186,586	-1.8	88,022	86,344	-1.9	278,087	272,930	-1.9
Canterbury	218,176	218,468	0.1	216,075	218,984	1.3	434,250	437,452	0.7
Hurunui	34,678	34,338	-1.0	15,493	17,498	12.9	50,171	51,836	3.3
Mackenzie	31,582	34,645	9.7	69,148	74,064	7.1	100,730	108,709	7.9
Timaru	28,508	26,236	-8.0	12,478	12,112	-2.9	40,985	38,348	-6.4
West Coast	70,164	57,220	-18.4	119,188	118,964	-0.2	189,352	176,184	-7.0
Wanaka	69,987	63,605	-9.1	67,581	67,347	-0.3	137,568	130,951	-4.8
Queenstown	96,673	105,235	8.9	279,006	274,303	-1.7	375,679	379,538	1.0
Waitaki	39,182	36,496	-6.9	24,285	26,399	8.7	63,468	62,894	-0.9
Central Otago	58,683	53,568	-8.7	14,546	11,878	-18.3	73,229	65,446	-10.6
Dunedin	47,656	46,344	-2.8	49,687	43,142	-13.2	97,343	89,487	-8.1
Clutha	5,862	7,131	21.7	4,857	5,291	8.9	10,718	12,422	15.9
Fiordland	25,256	26,674	5.6	75,792	78,182	3.2	101,048	104,856	3.8
Southland	27,738	22,761	-17.9	25,894	27,301	5.4	53,632	50,062	-6.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,851,307</b>	<b>2,879,204</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>2,117,813</b>	<b>2,088,517</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	<b>4,969,120</b>	<b>4,967,720</b>	<b>0.0</b>

Table 5.2

**Regional Tourism Organisation Areas' Monthly Occupancy Rates<sup>(1)</sup>***By accommodation type*

RTO area	January 2019 occupancy rate					
	Accommodation type					
	Hotels	Motels	Backpackers	Holiday parks	Total	Total excluding holiday parks <sup>(2)</sup>
	Percent					
Northland	68.0	73.7	58.0	44.9	53.6	67.3
Auckland	77.4	63.3	63.9	40.7	67.7	71.5
Coromandel	60.4	71.6	37.0	48.1	50.4	55.9
Waikato	56.6	66.2	63.5	41.1	54.7	62.9
Bay of Plenty	63.2	74.1	50.6	47.8	55.3	62.6
Rotorua	81.9	76.9	39.1	49.8	60.8	63.8
Taupo	72.8	75.0	60.7	35.0	57.9	69.2
Whakatane-Kawerau	C	72.8	C	C	42.4	C
Gisborne	C	77.0	C	32.1	42.1	65.6
Taranaki	46.7	56.5	38.1	55.9	52.1	49.5
Hawke's Bay	76.1	81.0	57.4	51.0	64.4	73.1
Ruapehu	56.8	36.5	24.9	52.2	37.9	35.1
Manawatu	35.1	49.9	C	C	38.9	C
Whanganui	C	53.9	65.1	C	43.5	C
Wairarapa	C	62.5	C	26.5	38.3	53.9
Kapiti-Horowhenua	C	59.1	C	30.7	33.9	38.4
Wellington	70.2	66.5	C	C	62.9	C
Marlborough	74.9	77.1	51.9	45.1	58.4	67.1
Nelson-Tasman	67.9	72.9	68.6	53.8	61.4	70.3
Canterbury	73.3	68.0	51.1	35.7	55.0	64.4
Hurunui	C	65.9	C	35.5	45.6	54.0
Mackenzie	C	74.9	C	67.5	75.2	79.1
Timaru	C	63.9	C	32.4	42.4	56.4
West Coast	59.2	67.1	50.9	45.8	55.0	58.7
Wanaka	71.9	89.3	72.7	59.4	67.5	76.6
Queenstown	84.4	77.7	74.0	56.0	76.4	79.6
Waitaki	47.4	66.1	47.0	11.3	20.0	54.7
Central Otago	C	83.0	C	28.8	38.1	66.6
Dunedin	57.9	64.6	43.1	51.8	56.1	57.2
Clutha	C	54.5	C	28.9	39.7	50.4
Fiordland	C	78.0	C	61.8	68.9	72.9
Southland	52.0	51.5	44.2	28.5	42.8	49.4
<b>Total</b>	71.6	68.3	54.9	41.4	56.7	65.5

(1) Occupancy rates are calculated as the ratio of stay unit nights to monthly capacity.

(2) Occupancy rates excluding holiday parks are included because the capacity of holiday parks can distort the total occupancy rates.

**Symbols:**

C confidential

... not applicable

## 6 Accommodation Survey technical notes

### Data source

We collect data from accommodation providers or their representatives each month, mostly via a postal survey.

### Coverage

The Accommodation Survey covers most short-term commercial accommodation in New Zealand.

The target population for this survey is all accommodation providers with the following characteristics:

- operating on a commercial basis
- providing mainly short-term (less than one month) accommodation
- economically significant (generally meaning being GST-registered and having a turnover of at least \$30,000 per year)
- included in class 4400 (accommodation) or class 4520 (pubs, taverns, and bars) in ANZSIC06 (Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 2006)
- classified to 'hotels', 'motels', 'backpacker accommodation', or 'holiday parks'.

Excluded:

- hosted accommodation (such as 'bed & breakfast' establishments)
- marine vessels (such as cruise ships)
- private dwellings
- tramping huts (non-commercial)
- event-specific accommodation (such as temporary campervan parks)
- businesses that cease operation or no longer provide short-term commercial accommodation
- businesses that temporarily shut down (eg for renovations) – we remove them from the survey until they re-open.

### Accommodation type classification

The predominant capacity provided by a business determines the accommodation type. For instance, if the business provides both motel and camping ground accommodation, but the majority of its stay units are motel rooms, then we classify it as a motel. We use the New Zealand Accommodation Classification, broadly defined below:

- hotels (including resorts)
- motels (including motor inns and serviced apartments)
- backpacker accommodation (including short-stay hostels)
- holiday parks (including caravan parks and camping grounds).

### Confidentiality

'C' symbols are used in the tables where information has been suppressed. We do not release data from individual businesses.

## Changes to survey content

Establishments may change the way they operate over time. If they do, they may be reclassified from one accommodation type to another. For example, if a holiday park adds sufficient motel units that it is operating more as a motel than a holiday park, it will be subject to reclassification to the 'motels' accommodation type. This type of change will tend to reduce surveyed guest nights and other figures for holiday parks (because there would be one fewer holiday park) while boosting guest nights and other figures for motels (because there would be one more motel).

Guest night and other movements, where the latest month is compared with the same month of the previous year, are affected for 12 months from the time that any reclassification is done. After 12 months, the reclassified establishment will appear in the same accommodation type in both comparison months.

Reclassifications of establishments are not the only changes that affect survey content and figures for the Accommodation Survey:

- When establishments temporarily cease operations, we take them out of the survey until they re-open. These changes affect figures for the number of establishments and available capacity.
- Businesses that start up, shut down, or move into or out of the short-term commercial accommodation industry also affect survey figures.

## Survey errors

This survey aims for 100 percent coverage of the accommodation businesses in New Zealand (a full census). However, in practice, the overall response rate is usually between 76 and 80 percent. We estimate values for the remaining units based on the characteristics of similar establishments in the same or similar regions. This introduces unknown errors into the estimates, and users of the data should bear this in mind. The size of these unknown errors is difficult to quantify.

Other errors include respondent error, and errors in coverage, classification, and processing. Our editing processes identify and remove many errors, but some will likely remain. We cannot quantify the effect of the remaining errors.

## Comparability

Accommodation Survey statistics are not always on the same basis as statistics from other sources. For example, 'average length of stay' in the Accommodation Survey is for all guests (domestic plus international), but in the [International Visitor Arrivals to New Zealand](#) reports, it is only for international guests.

## More information

For further information on the Accommodation Survey, refer to webpage <https://www.stats.govt.nz/topics/accommodation>