



# Commercial Accommodation Monitor:

## May 2019

### Taupo

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# Preface

Commercial Accommodation Monitor: May 2019 – Taupo presents comprehensive and impartial information on short-term commercial accommodation for the Taupo 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:

- Taupo 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 June 2019 monitor will be released on 14 August 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

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# 1 Highlights

## Monthly highlights

In May 2019 compared with May 2018:

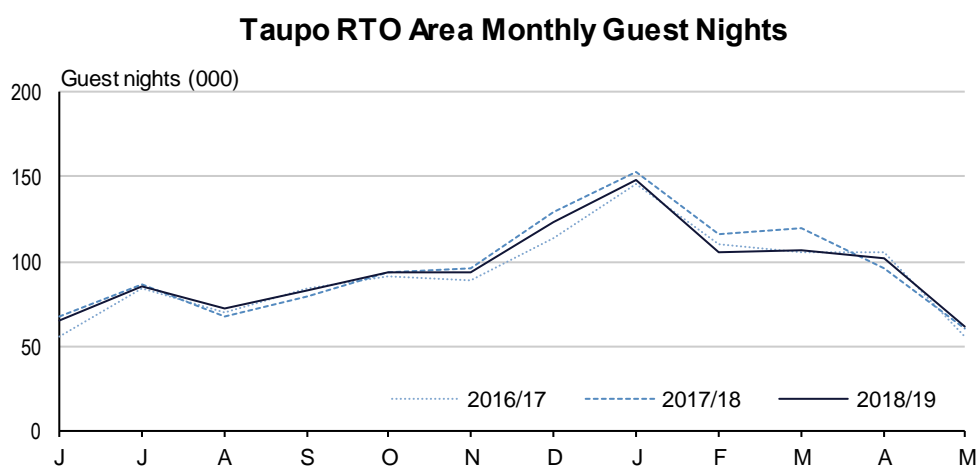
- Guest nights rose 0.7 percent to 61,036
- International guest nights fell 8.1 percent to 18,941
- Domestic guest nights rose 5.2 percent to 42,094
- The average length of stay rose from 1.78 nights to 1.81 nights
- The overall occupancy rate fell from 29.6 percent to 28.2 percent
- The occupancy rate, excluding holiday parks, was 37.4 percent in May 2019
- Accommodation capacity, excluding holiday parks, fell 5.2 percent.

## Response rates for May 2019

The response rate for the Taupo RTO area was 80 percent for May 2019.

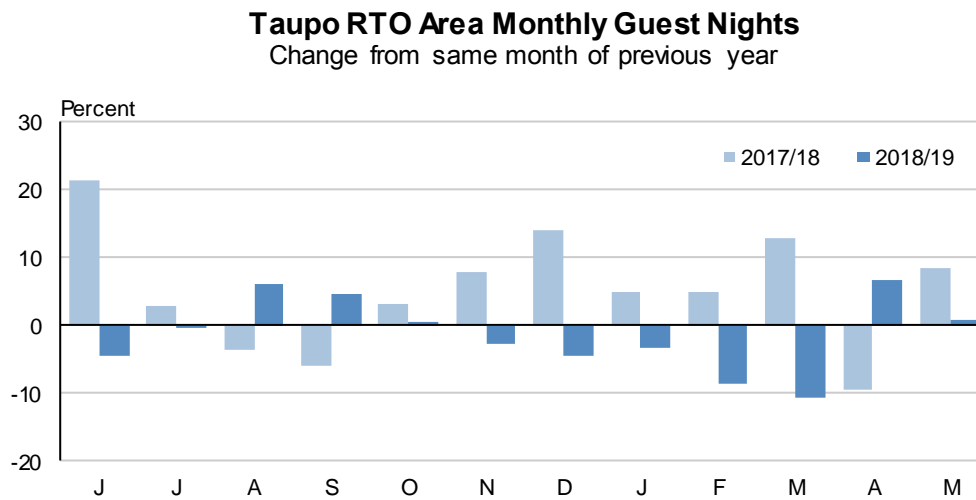
The proportion of the origin-of-guest estimate from unadjusted data was 64 percent.

Figure 1.1



Source: Stats NZ

Figure 1.2



Source: Stats NZ

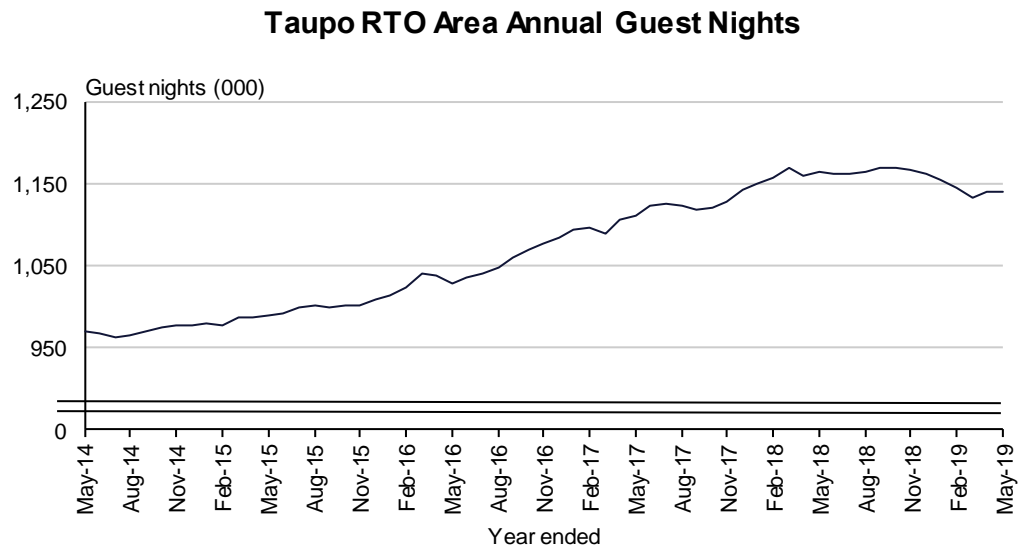
## Year ended highlights

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

- Guest nights fell 2.1 percent to 1,139,230
- International guest nights fell 5.5 percent to 407,839
- Domestic guest nights fell 0.1 percent to 731,391
- The average length of stay rose from 1.83 nights to 1.84 nights
- The overall occupancy rate fell from 42.7 percent to 40.9 percent
- The occupancy rate, excluding holiday parks, was 51.6 percent for the year ended May 2019
- Accommodation capacity, excluding holiday parks, rose 0.3 percent.

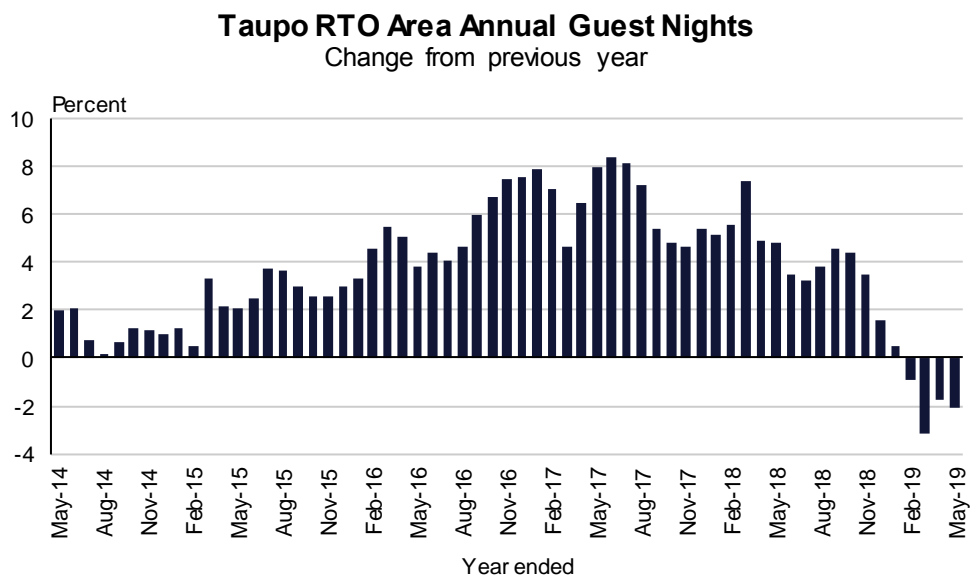


Figure 1.3



Source: Stats NZ

Figure 1.4



Source: Stats NZ

## 2 Accommodation variables

In May 2019, compared with May 2018, there was an increase of 0.7 percent in total guest nights for the Taupo RTO area. Motels had the largest increase, followed by hotels. Backpackers had the only decrease.

For the year ended May 2019, compared with the previous May year, total guest nights for the Taupo RTO area decreased 2.1 percent. Motels had the largest decrease, followed by backpackers. Hotels had the only increase.

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

Table 2.1

**Taupo Accommodation Variables**

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

Accommodation type	Monthly			Annual		
	May		Percentage change	Year ended		Percentage change
	2018	2019		May 2018	May 2019	
Guest nights						
Total guest nights	60,622	61,036	0.7	1,163,933	1,139,230	-2.1
International	20,614	18,941	-8.1	431,757	407,839	-5.5
Domestic	40,008	42,094	5.2	732,176	731,391	-0.1
Hotels	12,781	14,210	11.2	231,553	234,611	1.3
Motels/apartments	26,846	28,642	6.7	525,058	508,729	-3.1
Backpackers	12,280	9,244	-24.7	181,054	175,222	-3.2
Holiday parks	8,716	8,941	2.6	226,268	220,668	-2.5
Occupancy rates <sup>(3)</sup> (%)						
Hotels	41.3	44.6	7.9	57.1	58.2	2.0
Motels/apartments	42.1	42.9	2.0	61.0	58.5	-4.1
Backpackers	34.6	26.3	-23.9	43.0	40.0	-6.9
Holiday parks	10.0	10.1	0.8	20.3	19.6	-3.6
Total	29.6	28.2	-4.8	42.7	40.9	-4.1
Total excluding holiday parks <sup>(4)</sup>	39.0	37.4	-4.2	53.5	51.6	-3.6
Average length of stay <sup>(5)</sup>						
Hotels	1.95	1.90	-2.5	1.91	1.99	4.6
Motels/apartments	1.52	1.62	6.2	1.60	1.58	-1.3
Backpackers	2.01	2.02	0.4	1.92	2.01	4.7
Holiday parks	2.29	2.22	-3.1	2.43	2.37	-2.3
Total	1.78	1.81	1.6	1.83	1.84	0.6
Guest arrivals						
Hotels	6,567	7,485	14.0	121,501	117,723	-3.1
Motels/apartments	17,612	17,700	0.5	327,330	321,490	-1.8
Backpackers	6,097	4,569	-25.1	94,199	87,083	-7.6
Holiday parks	3,810	4,035	5.9	93,161	92,971	-0.2
Total	34,085	33,789	-0.9	636,190	619,267	-2.7
Establishments						
Hotels	8	8	0.0	8	8	0.0
Motels/apartments	61	60	-1.6	61	60	-1.6
Backpackers	15	13	-13.3	15	13	-13.3
Holiday parks	11	11	0.0	11	11	0.0
Total	95	92	-3.2	95	92	-3.2
Capacity <sup>(6)</sup>						
Hotels	16,492	16,492	0.0	194,180	194,180	0.0
Motels/apartments	33,976	33,883	-0.3	398,719	401,638	0.7
Backpackers	31,930	27,714	-13.2	355,904	356,014	0.0
Holiday parks	39,835	39,835	0.0	457,257	474,153	3.7
Total	122,233	117,924	-3.5	1,406,060	1,425,985	1.4

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

(2) Irregular events, such as airshow s 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:**

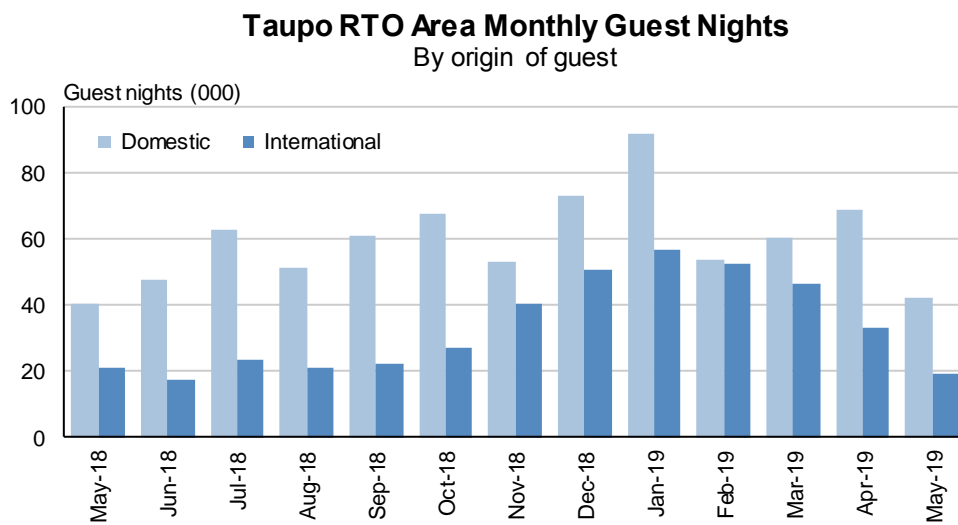
C confidential

### 3 Origin of guests

In May 2019, international guests accounted for 31 percent of all guest nights in the Taupo RTO area. When compared with May 2018, the number of international guest nights spent in the area in May 2019 was down 8.1 percent to 18,941. Domestic guest nights increased 5.2 percent, to 42,094, for the same period.

The proportion of the origin-of-guest estimate from actual data was 64 percent for May 2019.

Figure 3.1



Source: Stats NZ

Table 3.1

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

		Taupo RTO <sup>(1)</sup> area			New Zealand		
		Origin of guest		Total	Origin of guest		Total
		Domestic	International		Domestic	International	
<b>Month</b>							
2018	May	40,008	20,614	60,622	1,493,682	1,047,474	2,541,156
	Jun	47,367	17,215	64,582	1,443,331	824,407	2,267,738
	Jul	62,704	23,162	85,866	1,688,075	989,310	2,677,385
	Aug	50,916	20,816	71,731	1,571,502	952,679	2,524,181
	Sep	61,107	21,834	82,941	1,701,704	1,046,180	2,747,884
	Oct	67,512	26,656	94,168	1,954,146	1,314,205	3,268,352
	Nov	53,043	40,220	93,263	1,804,941	1,730,166	3,535,107
	Dec	72,793	50,775	123,568	2,289,702	1,908,866	4,198,568
2019	Jan	91,420	56,300	147,720	2,879,204	2,088,517	4,967,720
	Feb	53,375	52,428	105,803	1,988,788	2,026,586	4,015,374
	Mar	60,323	46,421	106,744	2,125,847	1,882,162	4,008,009
	Apr	68,738	33,070	101,808	2,123,710	1,480,938	3,604,648
	May	42,094	18,941	61,036	1,592,880	970,273	2,563,153
		Percent change from the current month of the previous year					
		5.2	-8.1	0.7	6.6	-7.4	0.9
<b>Year ended</b>							
May 2018		732,176	431,757	1,163,933	22,306,970	17,627,681	39,934,652
May 2019		731,391	407,839	1,139,230	23,163,829	17,214,290	40,378,119
		Percent change from previous year					
		-0.1	-5.5	-2.1	3.8	-2.3	1.1

(1) Regional tourism organisation

## 4 National results

In May 2019, a total of 2,563,000 guest nights were spent in short-term commercial accommodation in New Zealand, an increase of 22,000 nights (0.9 percent) from May 2018. The North Island recorded an increase (up 41,000 or 2.6 percent) while the South Island recorded a decrease (down 19,000 or 2.0 percent).

Three of the four accommodation types recorded an increase in guest nights in May 2019, compared with May 2018.

Holiday parks had the largest increase in guest nights (up 22,000 or 6.2 percent), followed by hotels (up 5,000 or 0.5 percent), and motels (up 5,000 or 0.6 percent). Backpackers had the only decrease in guest nights (down 10,000 or 3.0 percent).

Refer to Table 4.1 for comparisons of data.

Table 4.1

### Taupo 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>May month</b>					
<b>Taupo RTO area</b>					
Hotels	11,254	12,781	14,210	13.6	11.2
Motels	25,462	26,846	28,642	5.4	6.7
Backpackers	10,181	12,280	9,244	20.6	-24.7
Holiday parks	9,045	8,716	8,941	-3.6	2.6
Total	55,941	60,622	61,036	8.4	0.7
<b>New Zealand</b>					
Hotels	1,009,132	1,045,838	1,050,622	3.6	0.5
Motels	790,712	801,086	805,797	1.3	0.6
Backpackers	346,181	333,259	323,335	-3.7	-3.0
Holiday parks	354,802	360,974	383,399	1.7	6.2
Total	2,500,827	2,541,156	2,563,153	1.6	0.9
<b>Year ended May</b>					
<b>Taupo RTO area</b>					
Hotels	218,622	231,553	234,611	5.9	1.3
Motels	540,163	525,058	508,729	-2.8	-3.1
Backpackers	161,039	181,054	175,222	12.4	-3.2
Holiday parks	190,412	226,268	220,668	18.8	-2.5
Total	1,110,235	1,163,933	1,139,230	4.8	-2.1
<b>New Zealand</b>					
Hotels	13,690,406	14,216,390	14,494,310	3.8	2.0
Motels	12,235,245	12,356,450	12,484,662	1.0	1.0
Backpackers	5,175,497	5,154,024	4,976,545	-0.4	-3.4
Holiday parks	7,710,793	8,207,789	8,422,602	6.4	2.6
Total	38,811,942	39,934,652	40,378,119	2.9	1.1

## 5 Regional comparison

In May 2019, Auckland recorded the largest increase in guest nights (up 13,000 or 2.4 percent) from May 2018. This was followed by Wellington (up 11,000 or 5.2 percent), Waikato (up 7,000 or 7.6 percent), Hawke's Bay (up 6,000 or 7.8 percent), and Canterbury (up 3,000 or 1.2 percent).

Queenstown recorded the largest decrease (down 11,000 or 4.8 percent), followed by Fiordland (down 4,000 or 12 percent), Wanaka (down 3,000 or 8.0 percent), Ruapehu (down 3,000 or 16 percent), and Marlborough (down 3,000 or 6.5 percent).

Table 5.1

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

RTO area	May guest nights								
	Domestic			International			Total		
	2018	2019	Percent age change	2018	2019	Percent age change	2018	2019	Percent age change
Northland	72,853	75,094	3.1	36,087	34,261	-5.1	108,940	109,355	0.4
Auckland	301,848	334,746	10.9	257,500	237,879	-7.6	559,348	572,625	2.4
Coromandel	27,084	29,542	9.1	12,276	9,442	-23.1	39,360	38,984	-1.0
Waikato	74,566	87,497	17.3	21,430	15,801	-26.3	95,996	103,298	7.6
Bay of Plenty	56,245	54,649	-2.8	24,125	25,532	5.8	80,370	80,181	-0.2
Rotorua	76,852	89,677	16.7	72,423	60,458	-16.5	149,276	150,135	0.6
Taupo	40,008	42,094	5.2	20,614	18,941	-8.1	60,622	61,036	0.7
Whakatane-									
Kawerau	10,676	13,005	21.8	2,779	2,333	-16.1	13,455	15,338	14.0
Gisborne	22,911	25,331	10.6	3,183	3,025	-5.0	26,094	28,356	8.7
Taranaki	37,145	35,149	-5.4	7,859	7,662	-2.5	45,004	42,812	-4.9
Hawke's Bay	60,512	66,419	9.8	17,354	17,487	0.8	77,866	83,906	7.8
Ruapehu	13,828	11,889	-14.0	5,999	4,849	-19.2	19,826	16,738	-15.6
Manawatu	37,923	41,157	8.5	5,299	4,439	-16.2	43,222	45,596	5.5
Whanganui	11,966	11,436	-4.4	1,882	2,312	22.8	13,848	13,748	-0.7
Wairarapa	14,371	14,324	-0.3	1,807	2,044	13.1	16,178	16,367	1.2
Kapiti-Horowhenua	12,758	14,569	14.2	2,067	1,670	-19.2	14,825	16,239	9.5
Wellington	148,275	158,652	7.0	57,318	57,718	0.7	205,593	216,370	5.2
Marlborough	30,496	28,788	-5.6	12,386	11,316	-8.6	42,882	40,105	-6.5
Nelson-Tasman	49,499	52,572	6.2	24,636	22,944	-6.9	74,135	75,515	1.9
Canterbury	134,963	140,088	3.8	107,894	105,700	-2.0	242,857	245,788	1.2
Hurunui	15,593	14,027	-10.0	5,881	7,256	23.4	21,474	21,283	-0.9
Mackenzie	14,757	15,934	8.0	39,896	38,199	-4.3	54,653	54,132	-1.0
Timaru	13,413	11,321	-15.6	4,923	5,390	9.5	18,336	16,711	-8.9
West Coast	23,576	29,150	23.6	48,851	40,680	-16.7	72,428	69,830	-3.6
Wanaka	13,428	15,142	12.8	29,380	24,249	-17.5	42,808	39,391	-8.0
Queenstown	73,835	69,713	-5.6	152,295	145,612	-4.4	226,130	215,325	-4.8
Waitaki	10,900	11,767	8.0	11,117	8,584	-22.8	22,017	20,351	-7.6
Central Otago	10,157	11,751	15.7	3,772	3,408	-9.6	13,929	15,160	8.8
Dunedin	46,042	50,275	9.2	21,364	17,841	-16.5	67,406	68,115	1.1
Clutha	3,720	3,395	-8.8	1,328	1,295	-2.5	5,048	4,690	-7.1
Fiordland	10,330	8,770	-15.1	25,011	22,250	-11.0	35,341	31,020	-12.2
Southland	23,153	24,957	7.8	8,738	9,697	11.0	31,891	34,654	8.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,493,682</b>	<b>1,592,880</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>1,047,474</b>	<b>970,273</b>	<b>-7.4</b>	<b>2,541,156</b>	<b>2,563,153</b>	<b>0.9</b>



Table 5.2

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

RTO area	May 2019 occupancy rate					
	Accommodation type					
	Hotels	Motels	Backpackers	Holiday parks	Total	Total excluding holiday parks <sup>(2)</sup>
	Percent					
Northland	38.3	45.8	24.0	11.4	21.4	37.2
Auckland	74.4	58.9	42.1	23.1	58.9	63.9
Coromandel	36.5	27.9	10.4	10.6	13.8	21.5
Waikato	62.6	59.6	20.4	12.9	37.1	50.9
Bay of Plenty	52.2	58.2	39.7	18.7	34.2	49.6
Rotorua	70.1	54.8	20.9	18.6	40.9	47.0
Taupo	44.6	42.9	26.3	10.1	28.2	37.4
Whakatane-Kawerau	C	54.5	C	7.8	17.9	48.5
Gisborne	C	59.8	C	7.9	21.9	57.1
Taranaki	41.7	49.9	31.9	13.1	31.5	43.6
Hawke's Bay	60.9	64.4	45.2	15.9	41.5	58.0
Ruapehu	30.3	15.1	9.6	13.0	15.4	15.8
Manawatu	42.6	56.8	C	C	38.9	C
Whanganui	C	47.3	39.6	C	26.9	C
Wairarapa	C	47.5	C	9.4	22.5	39.9
Kapiti-Horowhenua	C	58.8	C	10.7	16.6	24.5
Wellington	77.1	67.7	C	C	66.1	C
Marlborough	36.8	49.0	22.2	18.7	29.5	36.8
Nelson-Tasman	43.3	41.8	37.5	10.6	24.4	40.1
Canterbury	63.2	48.1	35.0	14.0	37.3	49.4
Hurunui	C	42.3	C	12.2	23.3	32.8
Mackenzie	C	40.7	C	23.6	40.3	48.1
Timaru	C	47.5	C	13.6	25.2	41.6
West Coast	38.9	34.7	19.6	11.3	25.7	31.5
Wanaka	38.2	38.4	44.7	13.8	26.5	40.9
Queenstown	61.8	36.9	57.0	19.0	50.5	55.4
Waitaki	28.0	47.0	19.3	10.4	21.8	34.3
Central Otago	C	47.2	C	3.4	11.0	32.9
Dunedin	64.5	69.9	37.7	22.5	52.6	60.5
Clutha	C	35.6	C	6.3	15.8	32.7
Fiordland	32.1	34.6	29.0	16.7	25.8	32.0
Southland	40.8	57.3	27.2	10.6	34.6	43.4
<b>Total</b>	61.9	50.5	34.4	13.2	37.0	50.0

(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>