



# Commercial Accommodation Monitor:

March 2019

Northland

[newzealand.govt.nz](http://newzealand.govt.nz)

**Reproduction of material**

Material in this report may be reproduced and published, provided that it does not purport to be published under government authority and that acknowledgement is made of this source.

**Citation**

Stats NZ (2019). *Commercial Accommodation Monitor: March 2019– Northland*. Wellington:  
Stats NZ.

**Published in May 2019 by**

Stats NZ  
Tatauranga Aotearoa  
Wellington, New Zealand

---

# Preface

Commercial Accommodation Monitor: March 2019 – Northland presents comprehensive and impartial information on short-term commercial accommodation for the Northland 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 authorities:

- Far North District
- Kaipara District
- Whangarei 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 April 2019 monitor will be released on 17 June 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.

### Stats NZ Information Centre

For help finding and using statistical information available on our website, contact the Information Centre:

Email:	info@stats.govt.nz
Phone toll-free:	0508 525 525
Phone international:	+64 4 931 4600
Fax:	+64 4 931 4610
Post:	P O Box 2922, Wellington 6140, New Zealand
Website:	www.stats.govt.nz

### Contact for the Commercial Accommodation Monitor

Mark Darbyshire  
Wellington 04 931 4600  
Email: info@stats.govt.nz

# Contents

<b>List of tables and figures .....</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>1 Highlights .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Monthly highlights .....	1
Year ended highlights .....	2
<b>2 Accommodation variables .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3 Origin of guests .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4 National results .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>5 Regional comparison .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>6 Local authority area results .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>7 Accommodation Survey technical notes .....</b>	<b>13</b>

# List of tables and figures

## Tables by chapter

### 2 Accommodation variables

2.1 Northland accommodation variables by accommodation type .....	5
---	---

### 3 Origin of guests

3.1 Northland and New Zealand monthly guest nights by origin of guest.....	7
--	---

### 4 National results

4.1 Northland and New Zealand guest nights by accommodation type.....	8
---	---

### 5 Regional comparison

5.1 Regional tourism organisation areas' monthly guest nights by origin of guest.....	10
---	----

5.2 Regional tourism organisation areas' monthly occupancy rates by accommodation type .....	11
--	----

### 6 Local authority results

6.1 Local authority and Northland accommodation results.....	12
--	----

## Figures by chapter

### 1 Highlights

1.1 Northland RTO area monthly guest nights .....	1
---	---

1.2 Northland RTO area monthly guest nights, change from same month of previous year.....	2
---	---

1.3 Northland RTO area annual guest nights .....	3
--	---

1.4 Northland RTO area annual guest nights, change from previous year.....	3
--	---

### 3 Origin of guests

3.1 Northland RTO area monthly guest nights, by origin of guest.....	6
--	---

# 1 Highlights

## Monthly highlights

In March 2019 compared with March 2018:

- Guest nights fell 9.9 percent to 191,821
- International guest nights fell 7.0 percent to 76,240
- Domestic guest nights fell 11.7 percent to 115,581
- The average length of stay rose from 2.07 nights to 2.20 nights
- The overall occupancy rate fell from 37.1 percent to 34.9 percent
- The occupancy rate, excluding holiday parks, was 58.2 percent in March 2019
- Accommodation capacity, excluding holiday parks, rose 0.6 percent.

## Response rates for March 2019

The response rate for the Northland RTO area was 82 percent for March 2019.

The proportion of the origin-of-guest estimate from unadjusted data was 68 percent.

Figure 1.1

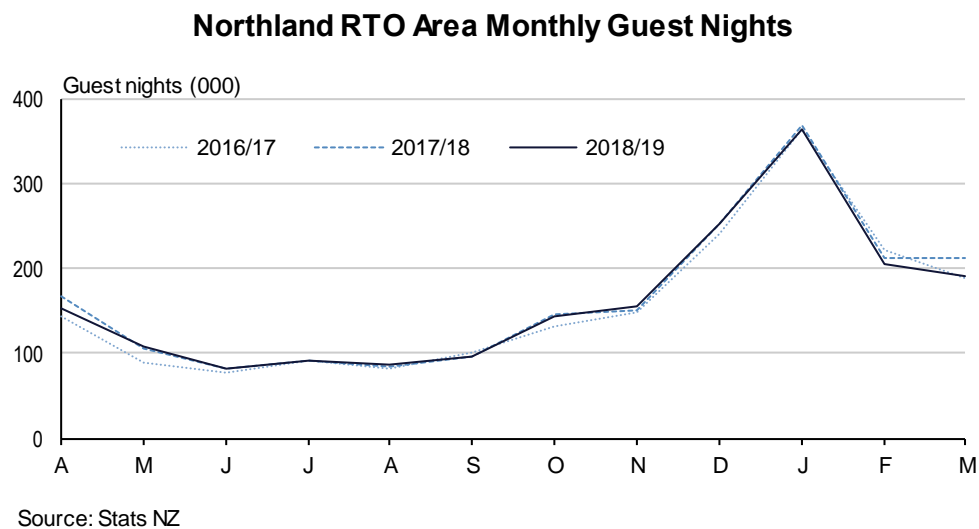
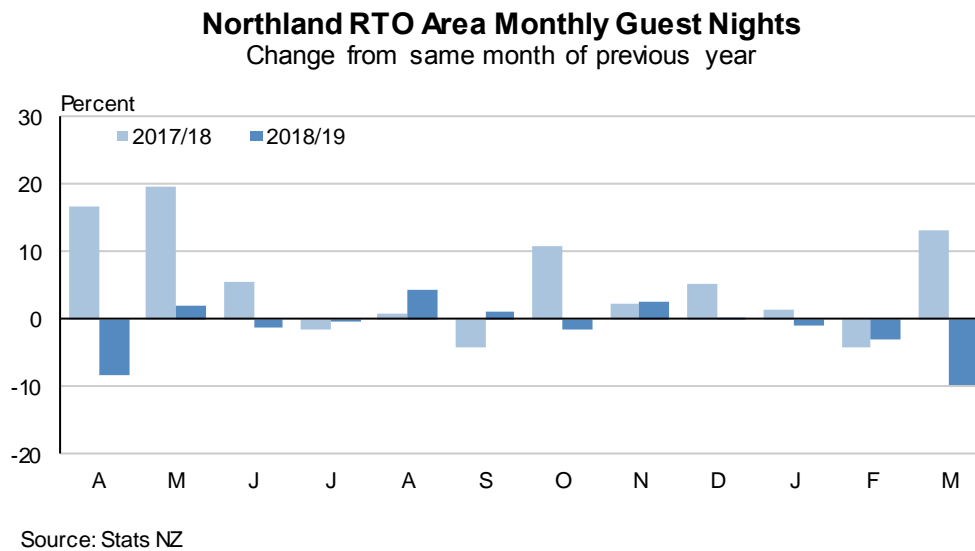


Figure 1.2



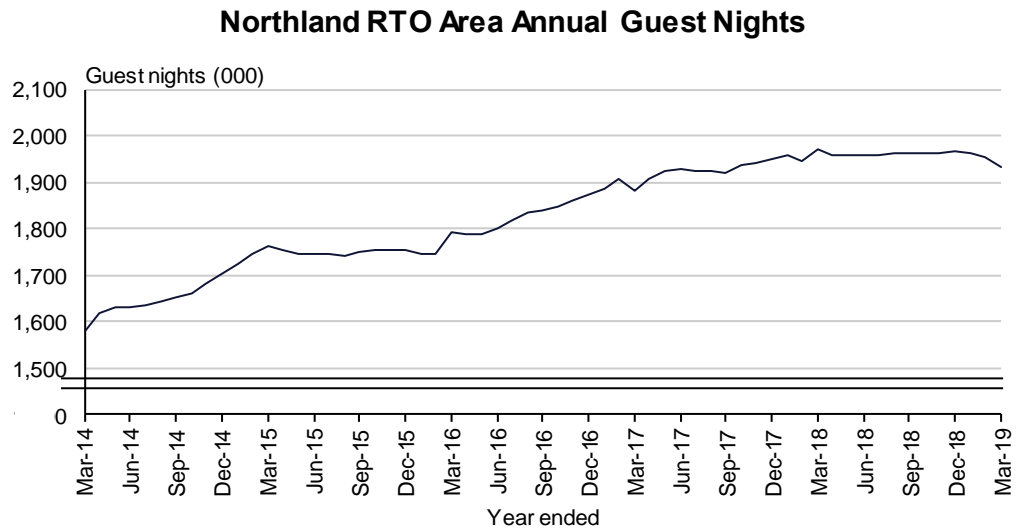
## Year ended highlights

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

- Guest nights fell 1.9 percent to 1,934,250
- International guest nights fell 7.0 percent to 653,490
- Domestic guest nights rose 0.9 percent to 1,280,761
- The average length of stay rose from 2.21 nights to 2.30 nights
- The overall occupancy rate fell from 29.7 percent to 29.5 percent
- The occupancy rate, excluding holiday parks, was 47.7 percent for the year ended March 2019
- Accommodation capacity, excluding holiday parks, rose 0.6 percent.

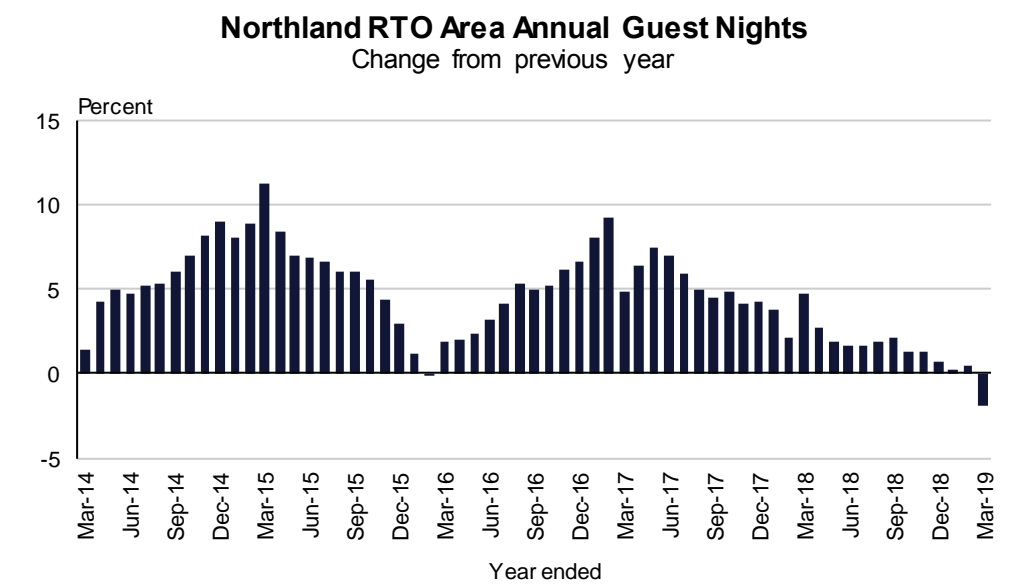


Figure 1.3



Source: Stats NZ

Figure 1.4



Source: Stats NZ

## 2 Accommodation variables

In March 2019, compared with March 2018, there was a decrease of 9.9 percent in total guest nights for the Northland RTO area. Motels had the largest decrease, followed by holiday parks.

For the year ended March 2019, compared with the previous March year, total guest nights for the Northland RTO area decreased 1.9 percent. Hotels had the largest decrease, followed by motels. Holiday parks had the only increase.

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

Table 2.1

## Northland Accommodation Variables

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

Accommodation type	Monthly			Annual		
	March		Percentage change	Year ended		Percentage change
	2018	2019		March 2018	March 2019	
<b>Guest nights</b>						
<b>Total guest nights</b>	212,845	191,821	-9.9	1,971,467	1,934,250	-1.9
International	82,014	76,240	-7.0	702,692	653,490	-7.0
Domestic	130,831	115,581	-11.7	1,268,776	1,280,761	0.9
Hotels	39,885	35,699	-10.5	352,842	323,247	-8.4
Motels/apartments	70,641	60,675	-14.1	654,827	631,818	-3.5
Backpackers	18,220	16,770	-8.0	181,346	177,260	-2.3
Holiday parks	84,099	78,677	-6.4	782,453	801,925	2.5
<b>Occupancy rates<sup>(3)</sup> (%)</b>						
Hotels	65.5	60.8	-7.1	47.1	45.5	-3.3
Motels/apartments	73.1	70.0	-4.2	57.4	57.8	0.8
Backpackers	42.4	39.7	-6.3	39.8	35.9	-9.8
Holiday parks	21.3	19.9	-6.6	17.1	17.6	2.9
<b>Total</b>	37.1	34.9	-5.9	29.7	29.5	-0.8
Total excluding holiday parks <sup>(4)</sup>	61.6	58.2	-5.5	49.3	47.7	-3.2
<b>Average length of stay<sup>(5)</sup></b>						
Hotels	1.66	1.90	13.9	1.74	1.68	-3.1
Motels/apartments	2.02	1.96	-3.2	1.99	2.04	2.6
Backpackers	2.58	2.63	2.1	2.49	2.73	9.8
Holiday parks	2.30	2.55	11.1	2.72	2.91	6.9
<b>Total</b>	2.07	2.20	6.2	2.21	2.30	4.0
<b>Guest arrivals</b>						
Hotels	23,963	18,838	-21.4	202,912	191,890	-5.4
Motels/apartments	34,954	31,025	-11.2	328,949	309,323	-6.0
Backpackers	7,075	6,380	-9.8	72,877	64,891	-11.0
Holiday parks	36,585	30,793	-15.8	287,871	276,013	-4.1
<b>Total</b>	102,576	87,037	-15.1	892,608	842,116	-5.7
<b>Establishments</b>						
Hotels	28	28	0.0	28	28	0.0
Motels/apartments	122	118	-3.3	122	118	-3.3
Backpackers	27	27	0.0	27	27	0.0
Holiday parks	44	44	0.0	44	44	0.0
<b>Total</b>	221	217	-1.8	221	217	-1.8
<b>Capacity<sup>(6)</sup></b>						
Hotels	33,945	34,782	2.5	396,780	396,684	0.0
Motels/apartments	48,112	47,988	-0.3	564,248	559,064	-0.9
Backpackers	35,371	35,309	-0.2	394,679	407,992	3.4
Holiday parks	182,621	183,551	0.5	2,101,374	2,091,700	-0.5
<b>Total</b>	300,049	301,630	0.5	3,457,081	3,455,440	0.0

(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:**

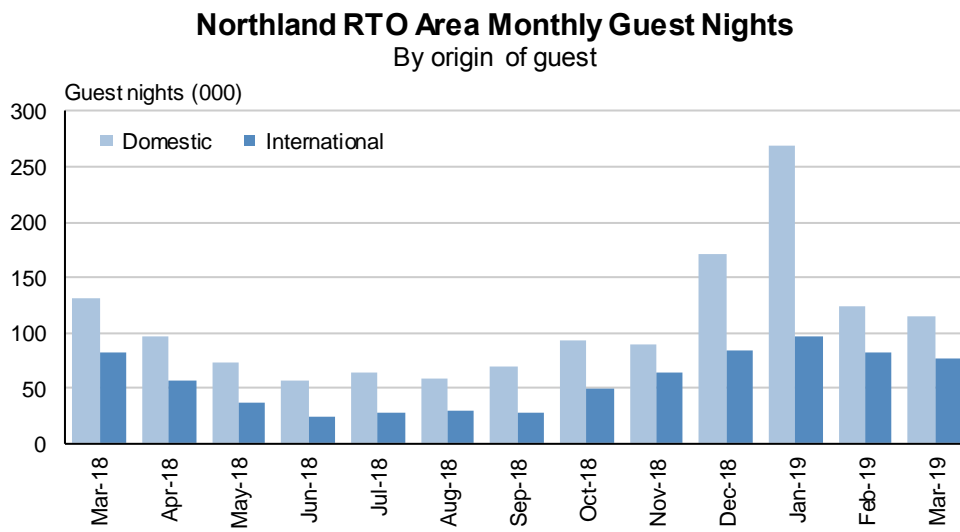
C confidential

### 3 Origin of guests

In March 2019, international guests accounted for 39.7 percent of all guest nights in the Northland RTO area. When compared with March 2018, the number of international guest nights spent in the area in March 2019 was down 7.0 percent to 76,240. Domestic guest nights decreased 11.7 percent, to 115,581, for the same period.

The proportion of the origin-of-guest estimate from actual data was 68 percent for March 2019.

Figure 3.1



Source: Stats NZ

Table 3.1

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

		Northland RTO <sup>(1)</sup> area			New Zealand			
		Origin of guest		Total	Origin of guest		Total	
		Domestic	International		Domestic	International		
<b>Month</b>								
2018	Mar	130,831	82,014	212,845	2,180,388	1,996,067	4,176,455	
	Apr	96,550	57,326	153,876	1,860,719	1,569,372	3,430,091	
	May	72,853	36,087	108,940	1,493,682	1,047,474	2,541,156	
	Jun	56,923	24,776	81,699	1,443,331	824,407	2,267,738	
	Jul	63,618	27,127	90,744	1,688,075	989,310	2,677,385	
	Aug	57,762	29,213	86,975	1,571,502	952,679	2,524,181	
	Sep	69,608	26,955	96,563	1,701,704	1,046,180	2,747,884	
	Oct	93,710	49,515	143,225	1,954,146	1,314,205	3,268,352	
	Nov	89,919	64,612	154,530	1,804,941	1,730,166	3,535,107	
	Dec	170,427	83,177	253,604	2,289,702	1,908,866	4,198,568	
	2019	Jan	269,735	96,035	365,770	2,879,204	2,088,517	4,967,720
		Feb	124,075	82,429	206,504	1,988,788	2,026,586	4,015,374
Mar		115,581	76,240	191,821	2,125,847	1,882,162	4,008,009	
		Percent change from the current month of the previous year						
		-11.7	-7.0	-9.9	-2.5	-5.7	-4.0	
<b>Year ended</b>								
March 2018		1,268,776	702,692	1,971,467	22,336,355	17,589,971	39,926,326	
March 2019		1,280,761	653,490	1,934,250	22,801,640	17,379,925	40,181,565	
		Percent change from previous year						
		0.9	-7.0	-1.9	2.1	-1.2	0.6	

(1) Regional tourism organisation

## 4 National results

In March 2019, a total of 4,008,000 guest nights were spent in short-term commercial accommodation in New Zealand, a decrease of 168,000 nights (4.0 percent) from March 2018. Both the North Island (down 42,000 or 1.8 percent) and South Island (down 127,000 or 7.0 percent) recorded a decrease.

All four accommodation types recorded a decrease in guest nights in March 2019, compared with March 2018.

Holiday parks had the largest decrease in guest nights (down 93,000 or 9.8 percent), followed by motels (down 37,000 or 2.9 percent), backpackers (down 29,000 or 5.2 percent), and hotels (down 10,000 or 0.7 percent).

Refer to Table 4.1 for comparisons of data.

**Table 4.1**

### Northland 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>March month</b>					
<b>Northland RTO area</b>					
Hotels	38,352	39,885	35,699	4.0	-10.5
Motels	64,464	70,641	60,675	9.6	-14.1
Backpackers	20,013	18,220	16,770	-9.0	-8.0
Holiday parks	65,512	84,099	78,677	28.4	-6.4
Total	188,341	212,845	191,821	13.0	-9.9
<b>New Zealand</b>					
Hotels	1,319,617	1,397,036	1,387,506	5.9	-0.7
Motels	1,218,959	1,269,177	1,232,259	4.1	-2.9
Backpackers	564,612	559,803	530,928	-0.9	-5.2
Holiday parks	762,854	950,438	857,316	24.6	-9.8
Total	3,866,041	4,176,455	4,008,009	8.0	-4.0
<b>Year ended March</b>					
<b>Northland RTO area</b>					
Hotels	346,353	352,842	323,247	1.9	-8.4
Motels	626,417	654,827	631,818	4.5	-3.5
Backpackers	175,696	181,346	177,260	3.2	-2.3
Holiday parks	732,789	782,453	801,925	6.8	2.5
Total	1,881,254	1,971,467	1,934,250	4.8	-1.9
<b>New Zealand</b>					
Hotels	13,608,694	14,159,505	14,457,750	4.0	2.1
Motels	12,116,088	12,378,138	12,437,360	2.2	0.5
Backpackers	5,160,611	5,181,864	4,982,850	0.4	-3.8
Holiday parks	7,532,883	8,206,819	8,303,605	8.9	1.2
Total	38,418,275	39,926,326	40,181,565	3.9	0.6

## 5 Regional comparison

In March 2019, West Coast recorded the largest decrease in guest nights (down 25,000 or 14.4 percent) from March 2018. This was followed by Northland (down 21,000 or 9.9 percent), Nelson-Tasman (down 21,000 or 12.3 percent), Rotorua (down 17,000 or 7.1 percent), and Taupo (down 13,000 or 10.7 percent).

Waikato recorded the largest increase (up 13,000 or 8.8 percent), followed by Wellington (up 9,000 or 3.4 percent), Hawke's Bay (up 6,000 or 5.0 percent), Mackenzie (up 3,000 or 3.3 percent), and Manawatu (up 3,000 or 4.7 percent).

Table 5.1

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

RTO area	March guest nights								
	Domestic			International			Total		
	2018	2019	Percent age change	2018	2019	Percent age change	2018	2019	Percent age change
Northland	130,831	115,581	-11.7	82,014	76,240	-7.0	212,845	191,821	-9.9
Auckland	353,304	357,966	1.3	354,927	344,393	-3.0	708,230	702,359	-0.8
Coromandel	62,894	59,593	-5.2	39,304	37,919	-3.5	102,197	97,512	-4.6
Waikato	99,683	116,496	16.9	47,209	43,289	-8.3	146,892	159,785	8.8
Bay of Plenty	87,268	86,971	-0.3	33,039	32,754	-0.9	120,307	119,725	-0.5
Rotorua	116,347	111,971	-3.8	120,608	108,239	-10.3	236,955	220,211	-7.1
Taupo	66,345	60,323	-9.1	53,251	46,421	-12.8	119,596	106,744	-10.7
Whakatane-									
Kaw erau	22,399	19,900	-11.2	7,715	6,558	-15.0	30,115	26,458	-12.1
Gisborne	33,932	33,693	-0.7	6,169	7,973	29.2	40,102	41,666	3.9
Taranaki	57,008	55,293	-3.0	14,311	13,433	-6.1	71,318	68,726	-3.6
Haw ke's Bay	80,692	87,818	8.8	39,168	38,041	-2.9	119,860	125,859	5.0
Ruapehu	26,282	25,998	-1.1	20,739	18,535	-10.6	47,021	44,534	-5.3
Manaw atu	47,135	51,700	9.7	9,490	7,594	-20.0	56,625	59,293	4.7
Whanganui	15,314	14,421	-5.8	6,001	5,175	-13.8	21,315	19,596	-8.1
Wairarapa	23,807	22,020	-7.5	5,819	5,126	-11.9	29,626	27,146	-8.4
Kapiti-Horow henua	23,636	25,039	5.9	5,597	5,078	-9.3	29,234	30,117	3.0
Wellington	165,718	176,228	6.3	98,819	97,365	-1.5	264,537	273,593	3.4
Marlborough	50,044	43,693	-12.7	45,183	40,894	-9.5	95,226	84,587	-11.2
Nelson-Tasman	93,265	76,216	-18.3	76,562	72,740	-5.0	169,826	148,955	-12.3
Canterbury	196,520	192,844	-1.9	211,054	205,767	-2.5	407,574	398,611	-2.2
Hurunui	26,286	19,974	-24.0	14,505	11,825	-18.5	40,791	31,799	-22.0
Mackenzie	23,388	24,687	5.6	61,972	63,511	2.5	85,359	88,197	3.3
Timaru	24,909	19,356	-22.3	13,274	12,424	-6.4	38,183	31,781	-16.8
West Coast	58,327	47,957	-17.8	116,780	102,001	-12.7	175,107	149,959	-14.4
Wanaka	34,921	32,912	-5.8	66,364	58,436	-11.9	101,285	91,348	-9.8
Queenstow n	85,949	81,259	-5.5	255,533	256,779	0.5	341,482	338,037	-1.0
Waitaki	28,275	23,635	-16.4	22,968	21,035	-8.4	51,242	44,669	-12.8
Central Otago	27,592	21,979	-20.3	10,827	7,530	-30.4	38,419	29,509	-23.2
Dunedin	57,143	59,184	3.6	51,315	38,534	-24.9	108,457	97,719	-9.9
Clutha	7,275	6,858	-5.7	5,489	5,475	-0.3	12,764	12,334	-3.4
Fiordland	26,017	24,794	-4.7	72,109	66,346	-8.0	98,126	91,140	-7.1
Southland	27,883	29,489	5.8	27,953	24,732	-11.5	55,836	54,221	-2.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,180,388</b>	<b>2,125,847</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>1,996,067</b>	<b>1,882,162</b>	<b>-5.7</b>	<b>4,176,455</b>	<b>4,008,009</b>	<b>-4.0</b>



Table 5.2

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

RTO area	March 2019 occupancy rate					
	Accommodation type					
	Hotels	Motels	Backpackers	Holiday parks	Total	Total excluding holiday parks <sup>(2)</sup>
	Percent					
Northland	60.8	70.0	39.7	19.9	34.9	58.2
Auckland	85.3	71.0	60.9	33.7	71.7	76.8
Coromandel	58.8	59.4	31.5	24.0	31.0	47.6
Waikato	83.0	71.9	50.3	30.7	55.6	69.7
Bay of Plenty	83.0	73.6	49.5	29.9	47.8	65.7
Rotorua	85.9	76.7	36.4	34.7	57.8	64.2
Taupo	65.1	66.5	50.6	24.7	48.6	60.3
Whakatane-Kaw erau	C	70.6	C	14.2	26.4	63.5
Gisborne	C	72.4	C	15.5	29.7	62.3
Taranaki	49.9	62.7	36.5	32.1	44.8	53.1
Haw ke's Bay	75.1	78.3	82.0	31.3	60.1	78.6
Ruapehu	53.3	37.3	30.8	39.2	37.8	37.5
Manaw atu	54.9	71.2	C	C	50.5	C
Whanganui	C	56.8	52.6	C	38.6	C
Wairarapa	C	63.7	C	20.1	34.4	53.4
Kapiti-Horow henua	C	73.9	C	19.4	27.1	35.8
Wellington	86.7	80.8	C	C	76.9	C
Marlborough	74.0	77.1	51.3	40.2	56.3	66.7
Nelson-Tasman	67.5	69.6	66.9	21.5	43.1	68.1
Canterbury	81.5	77.2	52.3	26.5	55.7	70.7
Hurunui	58.7	56.1	32.9	20.7	35.0	47.3
Mackenzie	C	70.8	C	47.8	67.5	77.5
Timaru	C	68.5	C	26.2	41.3	62.4
West Coast	61.5	68.8	44.3	35.4	51.6	58.0
Wanaka	68.0	84.6	77.6	36.9	55.3	76.1
Queenstow n	86.2	75.1	80.1	44.6	76.9	82.1
Waitaki	52.6	72.0	46.5	9.0	19.5	59.4
Central Otago	C	75.5	C	8.2	20.0	54.7
Dunedin	81.2	81.1	44.9	44.4	67.2	73.1
Clutha	C	63.3	C	19.4	32.4	50.8
Fiordland	81.0	73.1	67.0	52.5	65.7	73.3
Southland	57.8	61.9	45.9	25.6	46.4	55.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>78.7</b>	<b>71.5</b>	<b>53.9</b>	<b>25.7</b>	<b>53.2</b>	<b>68.8</b>

(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 Local authority area results

Table 6.1 shows results for the individual local authority areas in the Northland RTO area.

Table 6.1

### Local Authority and Northland Accommodation Results<sup>(1)</sup>

Accommodation type	March 2019 results				
	Establish-ments	Capacity	Guest Nights	Average stay length	Occupancy rate
	Number			Days	Percent
<b>Far North District</b>					
Hotels	19	24,831	29,795	2.06	65.17
Motels	81	31,093	39,510	1.99	71.55
Backpackers	22	31,434	15,795	2.64	42.15
Holiday parks	23	95,697	39,312	2.58	19.14
<b>Total</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>183,055</b>	<b>124,412</b>	<b>2.24</b>	<b>38.24</b>
<b>Whangarei District</b>					
Hotels	6	8,184	C	C	C
Motels	29	14,725	19,155	1.99	69.26
Backpackers	3	2,759	C	C	C
Holiday parks	13	58,404	28,039	3.11	20.70
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>84,072</b>	<b>53,581</b>	<b>2.33</b>	<b>32.82</b>
<b>Kaipara District</b>					
Hotels	3	1,767	C	C	C
Motels	8	2,170	2,011	1.34	53.08
Backpackers	2	1,116	C	C	C
Holiday parks	8	29,450	11,326	1.73	21.02
<b>Total</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>34,503</b>	<b>13,828</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>22.57</b>
<b>Northland Regional Tourism Organisation area</b>					
Hotels	28	34,782	35,699	1.90	60.80
Motels	118	47,988	60,675	1.96	70.01
Backpackers	27	35,309	16,770	2.63	39.74
Holiday parks	44	183,551	78,677	2.55	19.94
<b>Total</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>301,630</b>	<b>191,821</b>	<b>2.20</b>	<b>34.94</b>

(1) The Accommodation Survey is designed at the regional (RTO by accommodation type) level to meet data quality standards. Care should therefore be taken with data at the local authority level.

**Symbol:**

C confidential

... not applicable

## 7 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>