

New Zealand

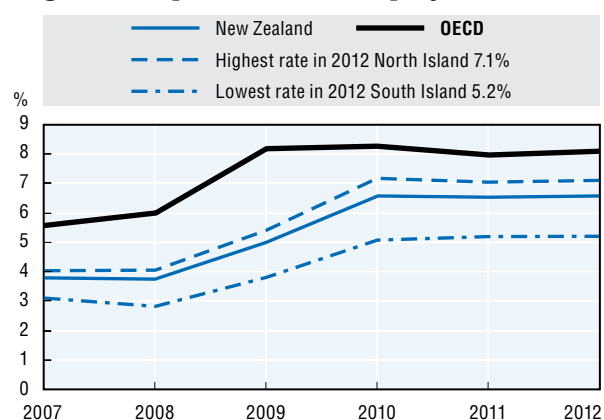
Recent policy developments

- The central government's Regional Strategy Fund, which supported the regional economic development plan, was brought to an end in 2010.
- Eight regional, city and district councils were amalgamated to form the Auckland Council in 2010. A Unitary Plan was established for the new entity, which stipulates development policies and replaces the previous seven district plans.
- In 2012, the government announced an eight-point reform programme for local government. This is part of the government's broader programme for building a more productive, competitive economy and better public services. The first points of the programme, passed in 2012, provide for: i) a new purpose statement; ii) new financial prudence requirements; iii) changes in the way councils are governed; and iv) changes in the process for reorganising local government.
- On 4 November 2013, the government passed the Local Government Act 2002 Amendment Bill (No. 3). The amendments in the bill include: i) encouraging more collaboration and shared services between local authorities; ii) facilitating more efficient and focused consultation on long-term plans and annual plans; iii) removing unnecessary duplication between annual plans and long-term plans; iv) enabling elected members to use technology to participate in council meetings, rather than attending in person. The bill also includes provisions that enable the Local Government Commission to establish local boards as part of new unitary authorities, and in existing unitary authorities, and create council-controlled organisations and joint committees as part of a reorganisation scheme.

Government structure	Municipal-level governments	Intermediate-level governments	Regional or state-level governments
Unitary	67		11
Regional development policy			
Lead ministry(ies) or committees	Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment		
Regional development framework	There is no general framework, but regions develop, implement, monitor and communicate regional economic development strategies.		
Urban development policy			
Lead ministry(ies) or committees			
Urban policy framework or strategy	No general framework exists.		
Rural development policy			
Lead ministry(ies) or committees	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forestry and Rural Development		
Rural policy framework or strategy			

Note: The functional urban areas have not been identified in New Zealand.

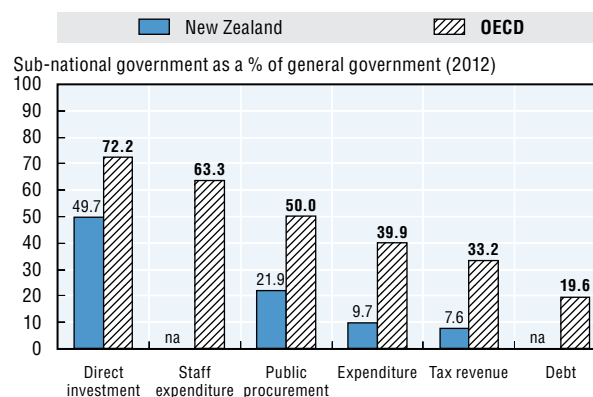
Regional disparities in unemployment trends



Since 2007, the unemployment rate has increased in both regions. In 2012, the highest unemployment rate was in North Island (7.1%). In 2012, the youth unemployment rate reached 17.8% in North Island and 13.7% in South Island.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933108453>

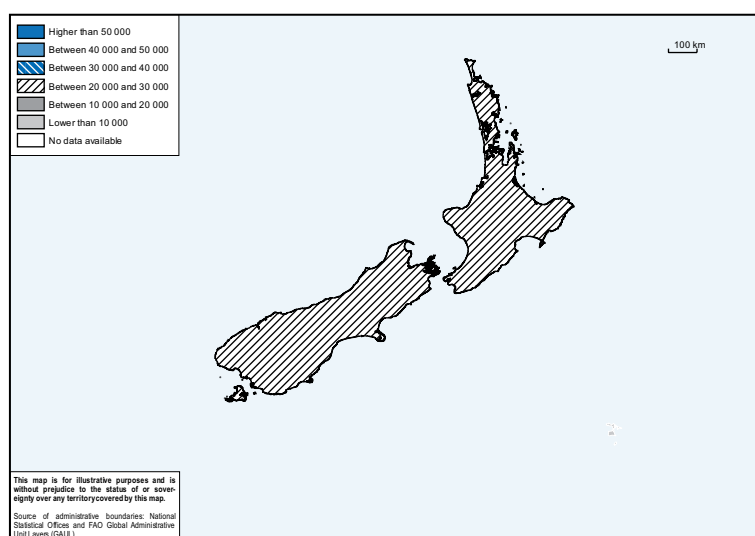
The role of sub-national governments in public finance



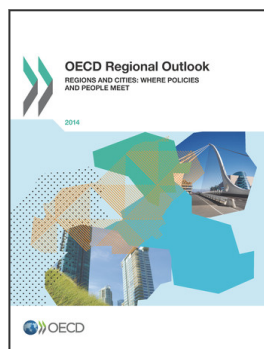
In New Zealand, 50% of the total public investment was carried out by sub-national governments (SNG), compared to 72% in the OECD area. SNG investment has slightly decreased in New Zealand, from USD 515 per capita in 2007 to USD 499 per capita in 2010.

StatLink <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/888933108472>

Regional differences in GDP per capita levels



New Zealand had the lowest regional disparities in GDP per capita in OECD countries.



From:

OECD Regional Outlook 2014

Regions and Cities: Where Policies and People Meet

Access the complete publication at:

<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264201415-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2014), "New Zealand", in *OECD Regional Outlook 2014: Regions and Cities: Where Policies and People Meet*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264201415-37-en>

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to rights@oecd.org. Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at info@copyright.com or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at contact@cfcopies.com.