



# Commercial Accommodation Monitor:

May 2019

West Coast

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# Preface

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

- Buller District
- Grey District
- Westland 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 fell 3.6 percent to 69,830
- International guest nights fell 16.7 percent to 40,680
- Domestic guest nights rose 23.6 percent to 29,150
- The average length of stay fell from 1.53 nights to 1.51 nights
- The overall occupancy rate fell from 28.0 percent to 25.7 percent
- The occupancy rate, excluding holiday parks, was 31.5 percent in May 2019
- Accommodation capacity, excluding holiday parks, rose 5.1 percent.

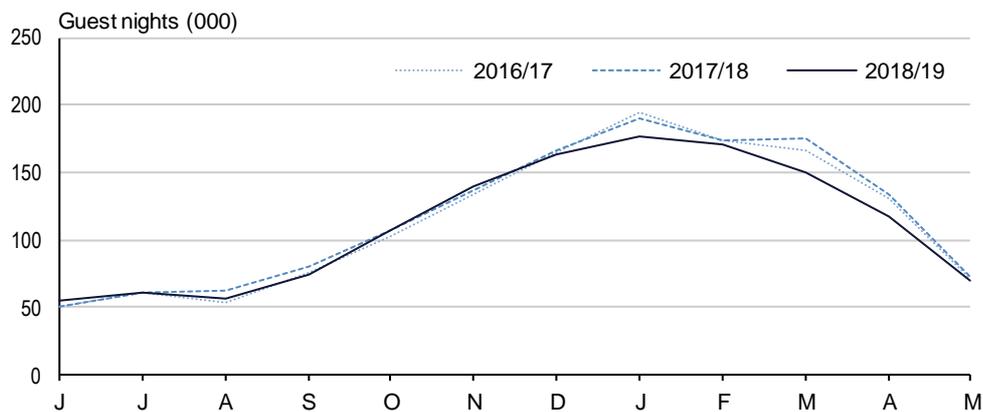
## Response rates for May 2019

The response rate for the West Coast RTO area was 78 percent for May 2019.

The proportion of the origin-of-guest estimate from unadjusted data was 75 percent.

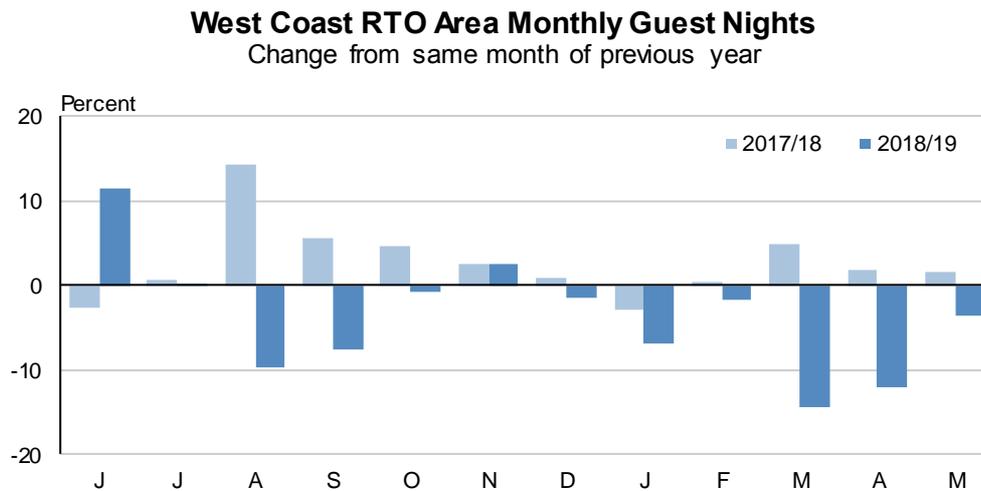
Figure 1.1

### West Coast RTO Area Monthly Guest Nights



Source: Stats NZ

Figure 1.2



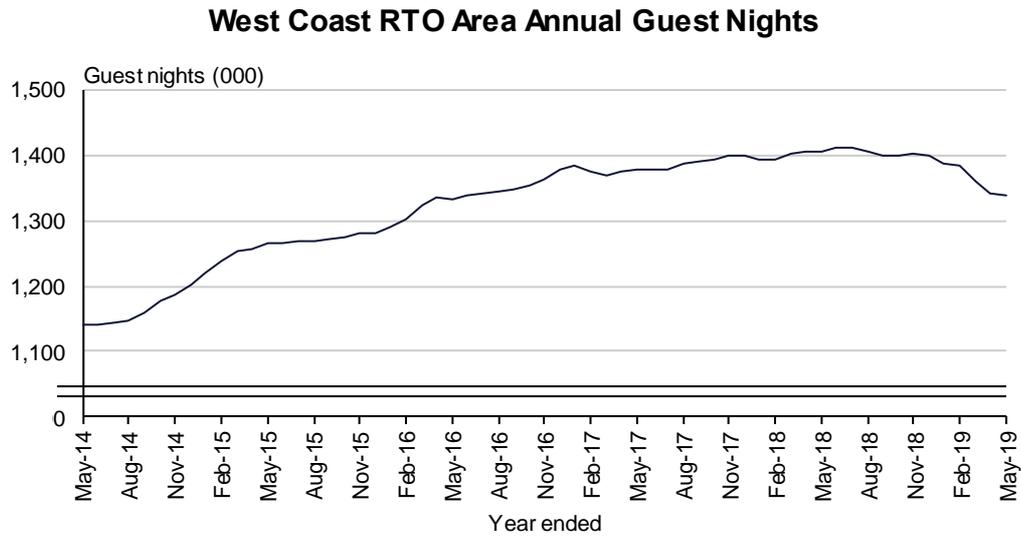
Source: Stats NZ

## Year ended highlights

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

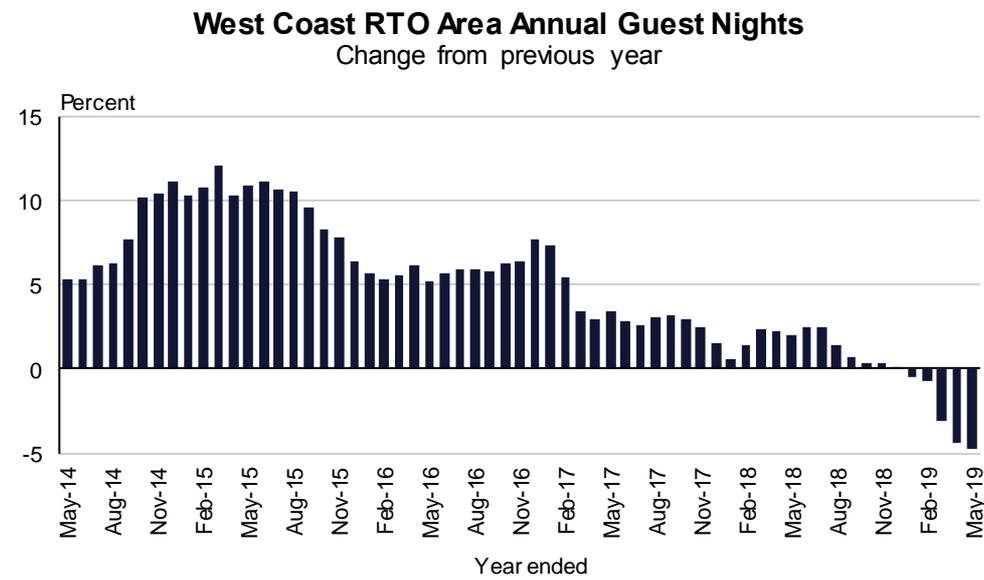
- Guest nights fell 4.7 percent to 1,339,446
- International guest nights fell 6.4 percent to 858,027
- Domestic guest nights fell 1.6 percent to 481,418
- The average length of stay remained at 1.43 nights
- The overall occupancy rate fell from 41.4 percent to 38.1 percent
- The occupancy rate, excluding holiday parks, was 43.3 percent for the year ended May 2019
- Accommodation capacity, excluding holiday parks, rose 4.7 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 a decrease of 3.6 percent in total guest nights for the West Coast RTO area. Backpackers had the largest decrease, followed by motels. Hotels had the only increase.

For the year ended May 2019, compared with the previous May year, total guest nights for the West Coast RTO area decreased 4.7 percent. Backpackers had the largest decrease, followed by holiday parks. Hotels had the only increase.

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

Table 2.1

**West Coast 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	
<b>Guest nights</b>						
<b>Total guest nights</b>	72,428	69,830	-3.6	1,405,712	1,339,446	-4.7
International	48,851	40,680	-16.7	916,473	858,027	-6.4
Domestic	23,576	29,150	23.6	489,239	481,418	-1.6
Hotels	25,270	28,415	12.4	389,875	428,762	10.0
Motels/apartments	22,485	20,948	-6.8	427,209	415,548	-2.7
Backpackers	11,837	8,809	-25.6	239,673	173,991	-27.4
Holiday parks	12,835	11,658	-9.2	348,955	321,146	-8.0
<b>Occupancy rates<sup>(3)</sup> (%)</b>						
Hotels	36.3	38.9	7.0	50.0	46.2	-7.6
Motels/apartments	37.4	34.7	-7.2	55.3	52.4	-5.2
Backpackers	28.5	19.6	-31.4	38.1	31.8	-16.7
Holiday parks	12.8	11.3	-11.5	27.7	24.9	-10.2
<b>Total</b>	28.0	25.7	-8.2	41.4	38.1	-7.9
Total excluding holiday parks <sup>(4)</sup>	34.1	31.5	-7.6	46.9	43.3	-7.6
<b>Average length of stay<sup>(5)</sup></b>						
Hotels	1.56	1.53	-1.9	1.39	1.38	-1.4
Motels/apartments	1.51	1.46	-3.6	1.41	1.42	0.5
Backpackers	1.51	1.60	6.2	1.36	1.37	1.0
Holiday parks	1.53	1.53	0.1	1.55	1.56	0.5
<b>Total</b>	1.53	1.51	-0.9	1.43	1.43	0.0
<b>Guest arrivals</b>						
Hotels	16,224	18,593	14.6	279,527	311,794	11.5
Motels/apartments	14,887	14,384	-3.4	302,558	292,825	-3.2
Backpackers	7,852	5,501	-29.9	176,161	126,608	-28.1
Holiday parks	8,411	7,630	-9.3	224,957	206,074	-8.4
<b>Total</b>	47,373	46,108	-2.7	983,202	937,301	-4.7
<b>Establishments</b>						
Hotels	29	30	3.4	29	30	3.4
Motels/apartments	71	72	1.4	71	72	1.4
Backpackers	21	23	9.5	21	23	9.5
Holiday parks	18	19	5.6	18	19	5.6
<b>Total</b>	139	144	3.6	139	144	3.6
<b>Capacity<sup>(6)</sup></b>						
Hotels	44,206	47,740	8.0	456,188	568,125	24.5
Motels/apartments	31,868	32,984	3.5	366,193	385,851	5.4
Backpackers	37,417	38,595	3.1	512,323	444,070	-13.3
Holiday parks	45,849	48,453	5.7	539,304	552,033	2.4
<b>Total</b>	159,340	167,772	5.3	1,874,008	1,950,079	4.1

(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:**

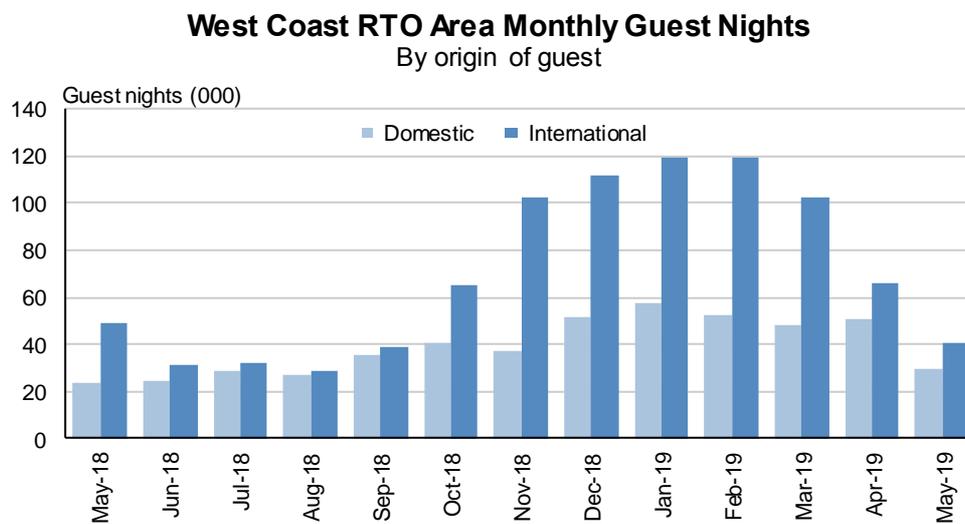
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### 3 Origin of guests

In May 2019, international guests accounted for 58.3 percent of all guest nights in the West Coast RTO area. When compared with May 2018, the number of international guest nights spent in the area in May 2019 was down 16.7 percent to 40,680. Domestic guest nights increased 23.6 percent, to 29,150, for the same period.

The proportion of the origin-of-guest estimate from actual data was 75 percent for May 2019.

Figure 3.1



Source: Stats NZ

Table 3.1

**West Coast and New Zealand Monthly Guest Nights***By origin of guest*

		West Coast RTO <sup>(1)</sup> area			New Zealand			
		Origin of guest		Total	Origin of guest		Total	
		Domestic	International		Domestic	International		
<b>Month</b>								
2018	May	23,576	48,851	72,428	1,493,682	1,047,474	2,541,156	
	Jun	24,244	31,307	55,551	1,443,331	824,407	2,267,738	
	Jul	28,459	32,290	60,748	1,688,075	989,310	2,677,385	
	Aug	26,640	29,059	55,700	1,571,502	952,679	2,524,181	
	Sep	35,354	38,793	74,147	1,701,704	1,046,180	2,747,884	
	Oct	40,649	65,530	106,179	1,954,146	1,314,205	3,268,352	
	Nov	37,595	102,538	140,133	1,804,941	1,730,166	3,535,107	
	Dec	51,329	111,833	163,162	2,289,702	1,908,866	4,198,568	
	2019	Jan	57,220	118,964	176,184	2,879,204	2,088,517	4,967,720
		Feb	52,125	119,031	171,156	1,988,788	2,026,586	4,015,374
		Mar	47,957	102,001	149,959	2,125,847	1,882,162	4,008,009
		Apr	50,696	66,002	116,697	2,123,710	1,480,938	3,604,648
May		29,150	40,680	69,830	1,592,880	970,273	2,563,153	
Percent change from the current month of the previous year								
		23.6	-16.7	-3.6	6.6	-7.4	0.9	
<b>Year ended</b>								
May 2018		489,239	916,473	1,405,712	22,306,970	17,627,681	39,934,652	
May 2019		481,418	858,027	1,339,446	23,163,829	17,214,290	40,378,119	
Percent change from previous year								
		-1.6	-6.4	-4.7	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

### West Coast 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>West Coast RTO area</b>					
Hotels	17,318	25,270	28,415	45.9	12.4
Motels	22,971	22,485	20,948	-2.1	-6.8
Backpackers	17,511	11,837	8,809	-32.4	-25.6
Holiday parks	13,523	12,835	11,658	-5.1	-9.2
Total	71,323	72,428	69,830	1.5	-3.6
<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>West Coast RTO area</b>					
Hotels	304,136	389,875	428,762	28.2	10.0
Motels	433,728	427,209	415,548	-1.5	-2.7
Backpackers	304,199	239,673	173,991	-21.2	-27.4
Holiday parks	336,149	348,955	321,146	3.8	-8.0
Total	1,378,211	1,405,712	1,339,446	2.0	-4.7
<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-									
Kaw erau	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
Haw ke'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
Manaw atu	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-Horow henua	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
Queenstow n	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>	<b>61.9</b>	<b>50.5</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>50.0</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 West Coast RTO area.

Table 6.1

<b>Local Authority and West Coast Accommodation Results<sup>(1)</sup></b>					
Accommodation type	May 2019 results				
	Establish-ments	Capacity	Guest Nights	Average stay length	Occupancy rate
	Number			Days	Percent
<b>Buller District</b>					
Hotels	11	6,386	3,306	1.57	33.80
Motels	19	6,169	3,106	1.54	32.52
Backpackers	9	11,718	C	C	C
Holiday parks	7	18,228	C	C	C
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>42,501</b>	<b>11,827</b>	<b>1.57</b>	<b>17.41</b>
<b>Grey District</b>					
Hotels	6	7,316	6,233	1.48	59.62
Motels	18	6,789	4,744	1.48	42.71
Backpackers	5	6,913	C	C	C
Holiday parks	3	9,021	C	C	C
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>30,039</b>	<b>14,768</b>	<b>1.52</b>	<b>31.80</b>
<b>Westland District</b>					
Hotels	13	34,038	18,876	1.54	35.40
Motels	35	20,026	13,099	1.43	32.68
Backpackers	9	19,964	5,719	1.66	25.12
Holiday parks	9	21,204	5,541	1.40	11.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>95,232</b>	<b>43,235</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>27.43</b>
<b>West Coast Regional Tourism Organisation area</b>					
Hotels	30	47,740	28,415	1.53	38.90
Motels	72	32,984	20,948	1.46	34.71
Backpackers	23	38,595	8,809	1.60	19.59
Holiday parks	19	48,453	11,658	1.53	11.34
<b>Total</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>167,772</b>	<b>69,830</b>	<b>1.51</b>	<b>25.67</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>