



The New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study



Regional Commute Times for Adult New Zealanders, 2015

The time it takes to commute to and from work is something that most people face on a daily basis. Are there differences in average commute times between regions in New Zealand?

The New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study (NZAVS) asked adults aged 18 and over how many hours in the last week they spent travelling or commuting. These responses were broken down to show regional differences in commute times. The Auckland region was found to have the longest average (median) commute time. These responses were further broken down to examine the distribution of commute times within Auckland.

The data reported below are drawn from the 2014/15 wave of data collection, sampling 15,822 New Zealanders.

HOURS SPENT COMMUTING PER WEEK BY REGION

The NZAVS asked people how many hours they spent commuting with the following question:

Please estimate how many hours you spent doing each of the following things last week.
(please enter '0 hours' if you did not do that activity last week)

(g) Travelling/commuting

Participants' responses to this question are divided by the New Zealand region they live in, in the bar graph below:

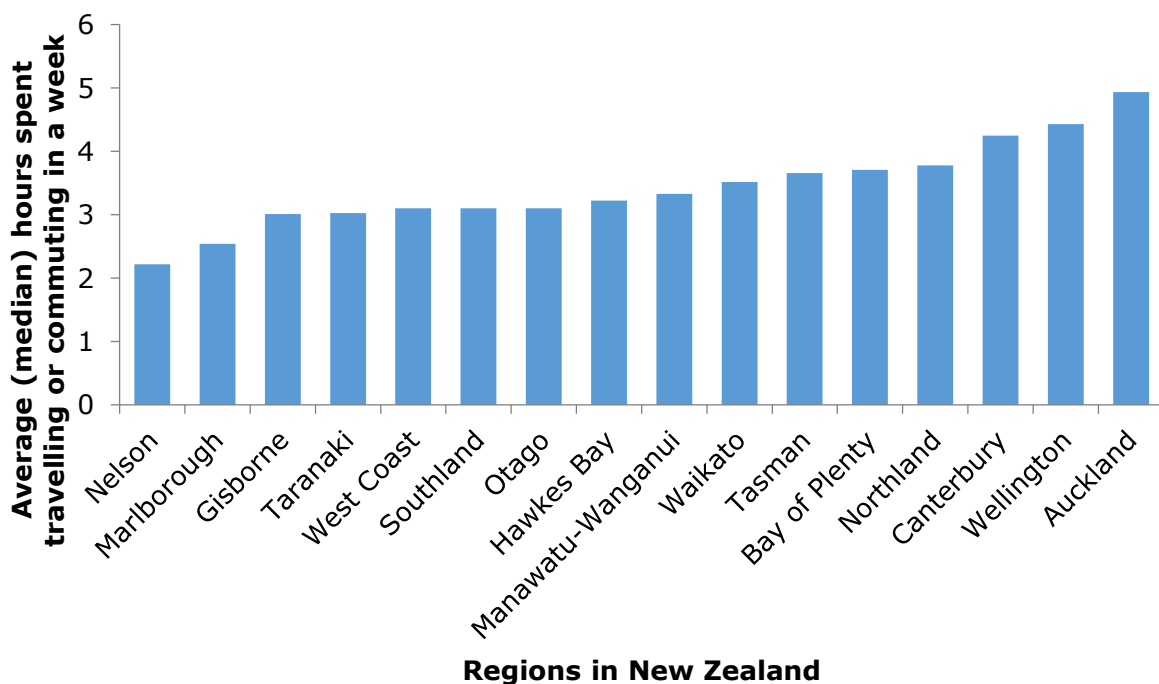


Figure 1. Participants' response to being asked to estimate the hours they spent travelling/commuting in the past week.

The results show that for the New Zealand regions:

- The Auckland region had the longest average (median) commute time, with an average (median) of just under 5 hours.
- The Wellington and Canterbury regions had the second and third longest commute times respectively, with average (median) commute times of 4.4 hours in Wellington and 4.2 hours in Canterbury.
- The Nelson region had the shortest average (median) commute time at 2.2 hours.

Hours Spent Commuting in Auckland

So what's the breakdown for hours spent travelling or commuting for people in the Auckland region?

- 25% of people in the Auckland Region spend less than 2 hours commuting per week.
- 50% of people in the Auckland Region spend more than 5 hours commuting per week.
- 25% of people in the Auckland Region spend more than 8 hours commuting per week.

“Though the Auckland region has the longest average commute time, the Wellington and Canterbury regions are not far behind.”



SUMMARY

- The region with the longest average commute time is Auckland with just under 5 hours.
- Though the Auckland region has the longest average commute time, the Wellington and Canterbury regions are not far behind.
- The region with the shortest average commute time is Nelson with 2 hours 15 minutes.

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