



Tāmaki-Makau-Rau – ‘Tāmaki of many lovers’

Tāmaki was a place that commanded people’s affection because of its fertility and physical location (Mead and Grove. Pg. 357)

INTRODUCTION: A SUPER CITY?

The formation of the new Auckland Council was heralded as a way of maximising economic potential and of producing a strong and cohesive city that will be a powerhouse of the New Zealand economy. While it is true that a large proportion of New Zealand’s population and businesses are Auckland based, this does not just result in riches and prosperity for all. Auckland City also contains some of New Zealand’s most socially deprived and impoverished communities, families, whānau and individuals.

The New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) is made up of the members of the Anglican Care Network, Baptist Churches of New Zealand, Catholic Social Services, Presbyterian Support New Zealand Inc., and the Methodist and The Salvation Army Churches. Its mission is to work towards a more just and compassionate New Zealand, taking a particular perspective on poor and vulnerable people, and maintaining a commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. NZCCSS has many Auckland based members. With the creation of the Auckland Council and the *super city*, NZCCSS established an Auckland Services Group consisting of representation from its Auckland based members.

The NZCCSS Auckland based Christian social service agencies work amongst these socially deprived and economically challenged communities, and provide support to many vulnerable whānau and families. This initial Auckland Vulnerability Report has gathered together some markers of vulnerability from both Government sources and from our own networks to act as a baseline from which to measure progress towards eliminating many of the drivers of vulnerability.

NZCCSS will continue to gather comparable data over the next few years. It will release these reports once or twice each year. The reports will be used to track progress towards how well the new local and national Government approaches have worked in reducing vulnerability and increasing fair and equitable access to economic and social resources for vulnerable whānau, families and individuals.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Who lives in Auckland?

Auckland’s working age population is 1,057,700 (or around 30% of NZ’s working age population). The median age is 33.9 years; 9.9% are 65 years and over and 22% is under 15 years (Schwartz, 2011).

Auckland’s population is younger than the national population. The median age for the national population is 36.8 years (Statistics New Zealand, National Population Estimates, March 2011).

Auckland’s population is also different in composition than NZ as a whole. There are proportionately fewer Māori and Pākehā, and proportionately more Pasifika and Asian peoples.

Population characteristics:

- 57% Pākehā (77% NZ)
- 19% Asian peoples (expected to be 27% of the population by 2021) (10% NZ)
- 14% Pasifika (expected to grow to 17% by 2021) (7% NZ)
- 11% Māori (15% NZ)

Tāmaki Makaurau is also a region of migrants. **Almost 40% of Auckland’s population was born overseas.**

Sources: Statistics New Zealand, Population Estimates; Schwartz, D. (2011). *MacroAuckland: Informing and Inspiring Generosity*. Auckland: Auckland Communities Foundation.

Nearly one quarter of Pasifika and one fifth of Māori live in hardship or severe hardship in Tāmaki Makaurau.

People living in significant or severe hardship in Auckland:

- 23% of Pasifika
- 20% of Māori
- 5% of Asian
- 4% of European or Other

Source: Schwartz, D. (2011).



WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT?

Tāmaki Makaurau has lower labour force participation and higher unemployment.

		Tāmaki Makaurau	NZ	source
Participation rate		67.5	68.7	Department of Labour: <i>Quarterly Regional Labour Market Update</i> / Statistics New Zealand: <i>Household labour Force Survey</i>
Employment rate		62.1	63.7	
Unemployment rate	total	7.9	6.6	
	male	7.3	6.2	
	female	8.7	7.0	
	Māori	N.A.	16.1	
Working age population		1,057,700	3,450,000	
Labour force numbers		714,000	2,369,000	
Not in the labour force		343,700	1,081,000	
No. employed		657,300	2,214,000	
No. unemployed		56,700	155,000	
Jobless		92,600	271,400	
Jobless rate		13%	11.4%	
Unemployment benefits		20,845	59,940	Department of Labour: <i>Quarterly Regional Labour Market Update</i> / Ministry of Social Development
	male	68.6	70.1	
	female	31.4	29.9	
	Māori	28.1	35.5	
	Pasifika	20.9	9.9	
	18-24	29.4	30.7	
	25-39	32.6	31.8	
	40-54	26.7	26.2	
	55-64	11.3	11.2	
Median weekly earnings for those in paid employment		\$800.00	\$767.00	Statistics New Zealand Incomes survey

Tāmaki Makaurau has a higher unemployment rate than the rest of Aotearoa New Zealand

The **unemployment rate** (the number of unemployed as a percentage of the labour force) for Auckland (7.9%) is higher than for New Zealand overall (6.6%).

Female unemployment in Auckland (8.7%) is significantly higher than New Zealand as a whole (7.0%).

The **jobless rate** (i.e. those either officially unemployed, available but not seeking work, or actively seeking but not available for work) is 13% in Auckland. The comparable rate for the whole country is 11.4%.

Māori comprise 11% of the Tāmaki Makaurau population, but 28.1% of those receiving unemployment benefits. However, this

rate is lower than for the country overall. Māori comprise 15% of Aotearoa New Zealand's population, but 36% of those in receipt of unemployment benefits.

Pasifika comprise 14% of Auckland's population, but 21% of the number receiving unemployment benefits. Pasifika comprise 7% of Aotearoa New Zealand's population, and 10% of total unemployment benefit recipients.

Tāmaki Makaurau is one of the country's **high unemployment areas**. Unemployment is currently highest in Northland (9.8%) and lowest in Southland (3.8%). Other areas where unemployment is higher than the national average are Waikato (7.3%), Gisborne / Hawkes Bay (7.9%), Bay of Plenty (7.4%), Manawatu/ Wanganui (6.9%), and Wellington (6.9%).



WHAT ARE AUCKLAND PRICES LIKE?

Auckland prices have **increased slightly faster** than for the nation as a whole. Increases in hourly earnings were slightly lower than the whole of New Zealand (but median weekly earnings are slightly higher than for the whole of the country).

We can get index data for the Auckland region at a broad category level.

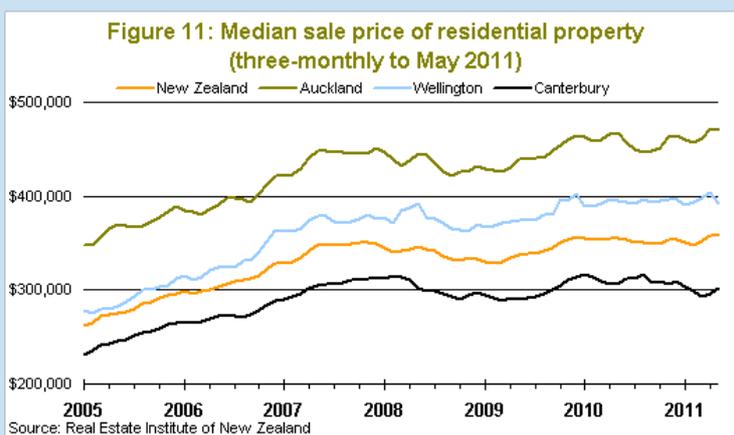
Category	Annual price change	
	Auckland	New Zealand
Food	4.8%	4.8%
Alcoholic beverages and tobacco	11.9%	11.4%
Clothing and footwear	-0.2%	1.2%
Housing and household utilities	4.8%	4.0%
Transport	8.0%	8.2%
Petrol (Current prices compared) http://www.pricewatch.co.nz/pricewatch.aspx	\$1.94 - \$2.07	\$2.05- \$2.06 Wellington – current; \$2.05- \$2.09 Northland
Total	4.8%	4.5%

Source: Statistics New Zealand Infoshare

Tāmaki Makaurau price changes during the March 2011 year

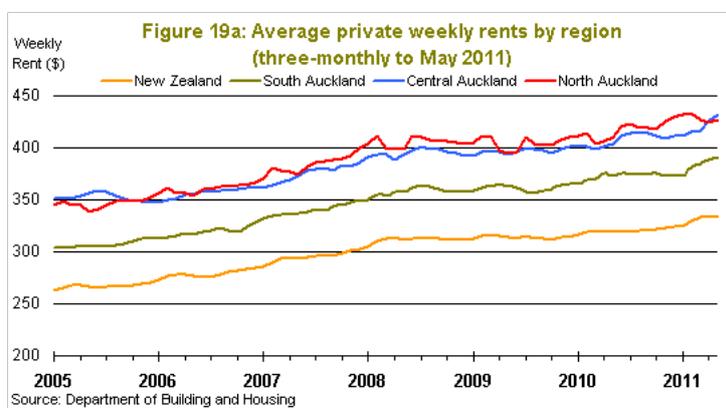
- Auckland experienced greater price increases for **alcoholic beverages and tobacco**, and **housing and housing utilities** than New Zealand as a whole in the year to March 2011.
- **Food prices** generally rose at the same rate as the rest of New Zealand.
- **Clothing and footwear** prices fell in Auckland and rose in New Zealand as a whole.
- **Transport costs** increased by 8% in the year to March 2011 in Auckland; they increased by 8.2% in the country overall.
- **Total average hourly earnings** increased by 2% in Auckland, and 2.6% in New Zealand as a whole over the year to March 2011 (Statistics New Zealand, Infoshare).

WHAT ARE HOUSING COSTS LIKE IN AUCKLAND?



- Housing in Tāmaki Makaurau is expensive.
 - **Median house prices** in Auckland rose by 2% to \$464,000 from \$455,000 in May 2010; fell by 2.6% to \$375,000 from \$385,000 in Wellington, and rose by 1.4% to \$308,000 in Canterbury in the year to May 2011.
 - **House sale numbers** in May 2011 were: 2,188 in Auckland, a 16.0% rise from 1,887 in May 2010; 573 in Wellington, a 4.6% rise from 548 in May 2010; 654 in Canterbury, a 9.9% fall from 726 in May 2010
- Source: <http://building.dbh.govt.nz/housing-market-activity>

Rents are higher in Central and North Auckland than anywhere else.



Average weekly market rent increased in all the main centres except Wellington during the May 2011 year:

- Central Auckland \$442, 6.9% ↑
- North Auckland \$446, 4.9% ↑
- South Auckland \$399, 6.4% ↑
- Christchurch \$313, 8.7% ↑
- Dunedin \$271, 4.6% ↑
- Hamilton \$303, 4.8% ↑
- Wellington \$400, 4.3% ↓ (last year's June Vulnerability report reported a "significant increase" in Wellington rents)

Source: Department of Building and Housing, market rent analysis

Part of the reason for Tāmaki Makaurau housing costs is likely to be that **houses are in short supply**.

- The housing shortfall in the Auckland region is estimated to be 90,575 dwellings in the 20 years to 2031 (Department of Building and Housing, 2010), p.8.
- The Salvation Army quotes work estimating the Auckland region will require 8,000 extra houses per year every year until 2026 (Salvation Army Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit, 2011) p.47.



- “*Year on year the demand remains high.* Emergency housing is not meeting the level of demand, neither is it meeting the variety of need there is, e.g. places for mums with older children. The government agencies do not know what to do either. The Boarding House Inquiry is important. Caravan parks seem to be filling the need because there is nothing else. Some boarding houses are profit driven, have minimal cleaning and services and inappropriate placements” (David Zussman, Trust Executive, Monte Cecilia Housing Trust, Mangere).

WHO ARE RECEIVING BENEFITS?

Thirty-one per cent of all of New Zealand’s beneficiaries live in Tāmaki Makaurau.

- **Māori** living in Tāmaki Makaurau comprise 11% of the population but 27.4% of benefit recipients.
- **Pasifika** peoples comprise 14% of the population, but 19.3% of total benefit recipients.
- Aucklanders are slightly **over-represented** among sickness beneficiaries and unemployment beneficiaries.
- They are **under-represented** among invalid’s benefit recipients, possibly because of the younger population.

All main benefits		Auckland	New Zealand
total		104,085 (31% of total NZ beneficiaries)	331,529
	Māori	27.4	32.5
	Pasifika	19.3	8.1
	18-24	17.8	18.3
	Caring for child under 6	22.7	21

Who receives Domestic Purposes Benefits?

Thirty-three per cent of all New Zealand’s Domestic Purposes Beneficiaries live in Tāmaki Makaurau.

- **Māori** comprise just over one third of all DPB recipients in Tāmaki Makaurau, but nearly half of DPB recipients throughout Aotearoa New Zealand
- **Pasifika** comprise almost one fifth of all DPB recipients in Auckland, but only 10% of national recipients.
- The two groups comprise almost 60% of all DPB recipients in Tāmaki Makaurau, where they comprise 25% of the population.
- **Young people** in Tāmaki Makaurau make up a slightly smaller proportion of DPB recipients than in the country as a whole.

DPB	Auckland	New Zealand
Total	37,528 (33% NZ total DPBs); (36% Auckland total benefits)	113,077 (34% of NZ’s total benefits)
% Māori	34.8	42.0
% Pasifika	23.6	10.1
%18-24	18.9	19.9

Who receives Sickness Benefits?

Thirty-six per cent of all New Zealand’s Sickness Beneficiaries live in Tāmaki Makaurau.

- Auckland sickness benefit recipients are more likely to have cardio-vascular conditions (6.9%) than sickness beneficiaries nationwide (5.4%).
- While psychiatric or psychological conditions are still the biggest group of incapacities, they are less common amongst Auckland sickness beneficiaries.
- Māori are over-represented (21.8%).
- Pasifika are not (13.5%).

Sickness	Auckland	New Zealand
Total	21,493 (36% NZ sickness total)	59,582
Incapacity group	37.3% psych conditions	42% psych conditions

Who receives Invalids Benefits?

Twenty-four per cent of New Zealand’s Invalids Beneficiaries live in Auckland

- People receiving benefits in Tāmaki Makaurau are less likely to be receiving Invalids benefits than the population at large (possibly influenced by the population being more youthful).
- Psychiatric disorders still predominate, followed by intellectual disability (12.2%), and musculoskeletal disorders.
- Cardio-vascular disorders are still slightly more common (8.1%) than for Aotearoa New Zealand (7.5%) as a whole.
- Māori are over-represented (20.4%).
- Pasifika are not (14.0).

		Auckland	New Zealand
Total		20,050 (24% NZ total INV)	85,055
	Incapacity group	30.5% psych conditions	30% Psych conditions
		20% of total Auckland beneficiaries	25% of total NZ beneficiaries



Who are receiving unemployment benefits?

Thirty-four per cent of New Zealand’s unemployment beneficiaries live in Tāmaki Makaurau.

- Māori comprise 11% of the Auckland population, but 28.1% of those receiving unemployment benefits. However, this rate is lower than for the country overall. Māori comprise 15% of Aotearoa New Zealand’s population, but 36% of those in receipt of unemployment benefits.
- Pasifika comprise 14% of Auckland’s population, but 21% of the number receiving unemployment benefits. Pasifika comprise 7% of Aotearoa New Zealand’s population, and 10% of total unemployment benefit recipients.

- People on unemployment benefits in Auckland are more likely to be caring for a child under age 6 (8.9%) than in Aotearoa New Zealand as a whole (7.5%).

Unemployment	Auckland	New Zealand
Total	20,845 (34% of total NZ UBs)	59,940
Māori	28%	36%
Pasifika	21%	9.9%
18-24	29%	31%
	20% of Auckland’s total benefit population	18% or NZ’s total benefit population
Caring for a child under 6	8.9%	7.5%

Sources: MSD fact sheets; Department of Labour regional labour market report, Auckland, March 2011

HOW MANY CHILDREN LIVE IN BENEFIT DEPENDENT HOUSEHOLDS?

How many children aged less than 18 years were included in working age main benefits in the Auckland region at the end of March 2011?

Benefit group	Ethnic group of the Caregiver					Total
	Māori	NZ European	Other	Pacific Island	Unspecified	
DPB related	23,878	14,108	8,175	17,179	997	64,337
IB	961	923	726	1,086	35	3,731
SB related	1,024	940	2,455	1,883	72	6,374
UB related	1,213	813	1,600	3,039	93	6,758
Other Main Benefits	269	147	712	897	35	2,060
Total	27,345	16,931	13,668	24,084	1,232	83,260

Sources: MSD fact sheets

Percentage of benefit dependent children included in benefits by benefit type

Benefit group	Ethnic group of the Caregiver					Total (may not add to 100 due to rounding)
	Māori	NZ European	Other	Pacific Island	Unspecified	
DPB related	37%	22%	13%	27%	1%	100%
IB	26%	25%	19%	29%	1%	100%
SB related	16%	15%	38%	30%	1%	100%
UB related	18%	12%	24%	45%	1%	100%
Other Main Benefits	13%	7%	35%	43%	2%	100%
Total	33%	20%	16%	29%	2%	100%



NOTES:

The table includes working age caregivers (18 to 64 years)

This is a count of children, not benefits.

Clients with more than one child aged less than 18 years will be counted more than once

DPB is Domestic Purposes Benefit

DPB related includes DPB-Caring for Sick or Infirm, DPB-Sole Parent,

DPB-Woman Alone and Emergency Maintenance Allowance

IB is Invalid's Benefit

SB related is Sickness Benefit and Sickness Benefit Hardship

UB related is Unemployment Benefit and Unemployment Benefit Hardship

Other Benefits include Emergency Benefit, Independent Youth Benefit,

Unemployment Benefit Training,

Unemployment Benefit Hardship Training, Unemployment Hardship

Students and Widow's Benefit

There are 83,260 children in the Auckland region included in main working age benefits.

Around 77% of those children have caregivers who are DPB recipients (79% nationally).

Which children are included in what benefit?

- Around 33% of all children in benefit dependent families have a Māori caregiver (29% have a Pasifika caregiver, and 20% have a NZ European / Pākehā caregiver).
- Nearly 40% of children in **DPB recipient households** have a Māori caregiver
- **Invalid's benefit** - Just under 30% of children included in invalids' benefits have a Pasifika caregiver.
- **Sickness benefits** - Nearly 40% (38.5%) of children included in Sickness benefits have an "Other" caregiver. (Largest groups in the 'Other' category are likely to be Asian peoples, or 'New Zealander' - Statistics New Zealand).
- **Unemployment benefits** - Almost 45% (44.9%) of children included in unemployment benefits have a Pasifika caregiver.

HOW MANY CARE AND PROTECTION NOTIFICATIONS HAVE THERE BEEN IN AUCKLAND?

Quarter	C&P Notifications	C&P Notifications with Ethnicity Māori	C&P Notifications FARs	C&P Notifications FARs with Ethnicity Māori	Investigations Completed
Jan-Mar 2010	13,209	5,599 (42.4%)	5,521	2,638 (47.8%)	2,569
Oct-Dec 2010	9,183	4,110 (44.8%)	5,513	2,602 (47.2%)	2682*
Jan-Mar 2011	8,770	3,941 (44.9%)	5,326	2,576 (48.4%)	2464*

Source: MSD

NOTES:

- C&P notifications: The numbers in the tables do not represent the number of distinct clients. Some clients may have multiple notifications during the period.
- Investigations Completed: Investigations carried out and completed within a certain time period are not necessarily related to the notifications received within that same period.
- From the September Quarter 2009 this data will include full assessments carried out which includes Child & Family Assessments and Formal Investigations.
- **Māori children and rangatahi are over represented** in notifications, constituting between 42 and 45% in the March 2009 and 2010 quarters.
- A disproportionate number of notifications that required further action in the March 2009 and 2010 quarters were also for Māori children and rangatahi (between 47 and 48%).
- Notifications requiring further action fell by 3.5% in the northern region between 2010 and 2011.



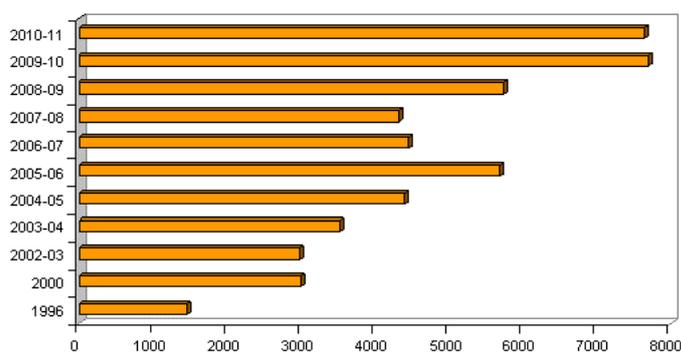
WHAT DO OUR COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS SEE?

“The cost of living is so high, people just can’t keep up.”

Diane Robertson, Auckland City Mission

“Clients, even those who have cars, cannot come because they have no money to put fuel in their cars to get here” Ian Foster, South Auckland Christian Foodbank.

Annual Total Food Parcel Numbers
2002 - 2011



Source: Auckland City Mission, Food parcel numbers

- Auckland City Mission experienced close to a 20% increase in demand over last year, “pushing usage to an all-time high.” For the year ending this June 2011, Auckland City Missioner Diane Robertson estimates 9,000 food parcels. “That’s up from 7,700 the year before, which saw a 2,000 year-on-year increase before that as well” ... “Since the Auckland City Mission first started keeping records, food parcel issues have grown from 1,457 in 1996 to a projected 9,000 for the year ending June 2011” (Auckland City Mission press statement, June 2011).
- Foodbanks are starting to look at some creative options for dealing with the demand. Increasingly they are dealing with chronic need rather than intermittent crises. For example, Diane Robertson explains that “social agencies running them are exploring the need to change mandates so they can work toward finding systemic cures rather continuing to present as a band-aid solution” (Auckland City Mission press statement, June 2011).
- Families seeking help from budgeting services went up by almost 70% in the three months after government required anyone wanting a hardship grant to get budgeting assistance, according to the heads of 22 North Island budget services (TV1 news, April 7, 2011)

- For many turning up at the Auckland City Mission’s food bank’s doorstep, debt was the crippling factor. “There’s simply not enough money to go around and food is seen as a discretionary item. Mission staff spent time with applicants analysing their income, household make-up and levels of debt, social welfare entitlements and such with the aim of helping them to become more self-sufficient” (Auckland City Mission, *Press statement*, June 2011).
- People wanting help in Mangere have jumped 60% since Christmas (Darryl Evans Mangere Budgeting Services).

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It is recommended that readers check original data sources where possible.

DISCLAIMER:

While every effort has been made by NZCCSS to accurately collect and interpret statistics and data provided in this report it is recommended that readers check original data sources where possible.

Vulnerability Reports are available on our website

www.justiceandcompassion.org.nz

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