Ethnic Composition, Size and Growth

The number in each of the region’s ethnic groups has grown but less so for the Māori population. The European-origin population group grew by 14 per cent during the period 1996–2006, accounting for about 69.5 per cent of the region’s growth, while the Māori population grew by 8.0 per cent, accounting for 24.7 per cent of growth. The region’s Pacific population grew by almost 31 per cent, but contributed just 2.5 per cent of growth. The region’s Asian population more than doubled between 1996 and 2006, but similarly accounted for only 3 per cent of growth, while the relatively small MELAA population grew by 85 per cent, contributing to just 0.3 per cent of the growth.

As elsewhere in New Zealand, the age structures of the region’s major ethnic groups differ markedly, with the European-origin population relatively old, the Māori and Pacific populations extremely young, and the Asian population falling in between, closer to the national level. The situation is again similar by age. The share of the Bay of Plenty Region’s population has a greater share as age increases. Within the Asian population, the largest share is at younger ages, while the European-origin population has a greater share at older ages. The Māori population grows by almost 31 per cent, contributing to just 0.3 per cent of the growth.

Regional Age Composition and Ageing

The population of the Bay of Plenty region has grown steadily over the past twenty-six years, from 194,622 in 1986 to approximately 277,300 in 2012, an increase of 43 per cent. Steady growth is anticipated throughout the projection period with the population reaching approximately 317,370 by 2031 (14.5 per cent above 2011). The majority of the growth (80%) is projected to be in the population over 65 years of age (Figure 1).

The Tauranga City population increased by 93.4 per cent over the period 1986-2012 (contributing to 68.0 per cent of the region’s growth). As elsewhere in New Zealand, the age structures of the region’s major ethnic groups differ markedly, with the European-origin population relatively old, the Māori and Pacific populations extremely young, and the Asian population falling in between, closer to the national level. The situation is again similar by age. The share of the Bay of Plenty Region’s population has a greater share as age increases. Within the Asian population, the largest share is at younger ages, while the European-origin population has a greater share at older ages. The Māori population grows by almost 31 per cent, contributing to just 0.3 per cent of the growth.

Natural Increase Implications of Changing Age Structure

For the Bay of Plenty Region, the ratio of elderly (65+ years) to children (0-14 years) is projected to increase rapidly from its present 7 elderly for every 10 children to 13 in 10 by 2031. This profound shift will then contribute to diminishing levels of natural increase.

Both Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty are expected to have more elderly than children by 2016.

For most of the Bay of Plenty Region’s TAs, proportions at the key reproductive ages (20-39 years) decline steadily across the period. Kaikoura and Ōpōtiki are exceptions, with proportions projected to rise slightly, to end the period just above 2011 levels. The projected declines are greatest for Western Bay of Plenty and Whakatāne. However most notable are the relatively low proportions already at these ages in Western Bay of Plenty and Whakatāne, and the fact that all Bay of Plenty TAs have lower proportions than is the case nationally. These low proportions will drive down natural increase in these areas.

Natural increase for Kawerau and Ōpōtiki (more births than deaths) is projected to fall to low levels by the end of the projection period. However no Bay of Plenty Region TA is expected to experience natural decline during the projection period.

For the full report:

http://www.waikato.ac.nz/nidea/
Components of Change

Population growth in the Bay of Plenty Region has been mostly due to natural increase, where births exceed deaths, augmented by sizeable net migration gains across the 1992-1998 and 2001-2006 periods. Net migration decline, where more people are leaving the area than coming in, stands out as an anomalous situation for the region between 2011-2012 period (Figure 2).

Districts where net migration gains contributed to greater than average growth over the 1986-2012 period were Tauranga City and Western Bay of Plenty. Natural increase mainly contributed to growth for Ōpōtiki, Whakatāne and Rotorua. In the case of Kawerau, which experienced overall decline, natural increase was strong, but was fully offset by net migration loss.

Components of change by age showed that between both 1996 - 2001 and 2001-2006, the BOP Region experienced notable net migration loss at 15-24 years of age, while equally notable net migration gains were experienced at all other ages.

**Figure 2: Natural Increase, Net Migration and Net Change 1991-2012, Bay of Plenty Region**

Age Structure and Population Ageing

The age structure indicates that all age groups above 40 years grew across the period 1996-2012, while numbers in several younger age groups declined. Compared to all of New Zealand the Bay of Plenty Region’s age structure is a somewhat older than that of the national population, and ageing faster.

The age-sex structures of the Territorial Authorities (TAs) within the Bay of Plenty Region differ greatly. By comparison with other cities, Tauranga City has a smaller proportion of people in their twenties and thirties, and along with the Region’s other TA’s has an ‘hourglass’ age structure, typically—but not always—reflecting net migration loss at young adult ages. Rotorua, Whakatāne and Kawerau are very much a reflection of the trends at other ages; each TA in fact shows a sizeable decline in birth numbers over the period, a reflection of the net loss of people at key reproductive age.

Population Projections

More than four-fifths of the Bay of Plenty Region’s projected growth will be at 65+ years, while decline is expected at 40-54 years of age as the baby boomer cohort moves into the older age groups.

Tauranga City is projected to experience overall gains in all broad age groups, and all other TAs are expected to see decline across most younger and middle age groups. Kawerau is projected to experience decline in all age groups below 75 years, and a further two TAs (Whakatāne and Ōpōtiki) in all but one age group below 65 years, while decline at 0-24 and 40-54 years is projected for Rotorua. By contrast, all TAs are projected to experience substantial growth in both numbers and proportions at 65+ years, with this growth accounting for all growth (and/or offsetting decline) in all but Tauranga City.

Labour Market Implications of Projected Change in Age Structure

The Bay of Plenty Region is likely to see further reduction in people at labour market ‘entry’ (15-24 years) than ‘exit’ (55-64 years) age across most of the projection period, falling from 11 ‘entrants’ per 10 ‘entrants’ in 2012, to just 8 per 10 between 2016 and 2021, before rising to around 9 per 10 in 2031; this is when the recently born baby blip will have reached the labour market. However these population-based ratios may say little about labour market availability, given that many aged 15-24 years are engaged in education.

Reflecting its relative youthfulness overall, Kawerau currently (2012) has the highest ratio of people at labour market entry to exit age.