



## FAQs and Facts about Cycling in New Zealand

Here are some frequently asked questions (FAQs) and detailed facts about cycling in New Zealand in 2001, the most recent date we have such full figures for.

### What's the overall profile of cycling in New Zealand?

At least 1 in 5 of New Zealanders cycle (at least 21%). Cycling is strongest in the South Island, among men, among younger people and as a form of (on-road) recreation.

Having said this, local authorities in the North Island are stronger in developing cycling strategies and significant transport planning for cycling. Regional and city councils lead the way, with district councils lagging by a good margin.

That is, local authorities appear to be encouraging cycling in areas that are weaker, though this may not be deliberate. Areas where cycling is relatively strong should not be neglected.

### How many cyclists are there in New Zealand?

About 1 in 5 people in New Zealand cycle. There are about 730,000 cyclists, or 21% of New Zealanders.

### How many people do different types of cycling?

Most adults do recreational (on-road) cycling, more so than any other type of cycling. About 15% of adults are recreational (on-road) cyclists, about 6% are off-road cyclists, and 1% respectively commute by cycle or cycle competitively. About 7% of adult cyclists commute to work.

## What sort of people cycle?

By raw numbers the biggest groups of cyclists are men and cyclists aged 35 – 49. But note that as a proportion of age groups, more younger people than older people cycle.

## Where is cycling strongest and weakest?

By raw numbers, more people cycle in Auckland than elsewhere.

But note that as a proportion of their respective populations, more people cycle in Canterbury/ Westland, Tasman and Wellington than elsewhere. Cycling is proportionally weakest in Northland. The South Island is proportionally stronger in cycling overall, including recreational, off-road and commuting.

## What regional and district authorities are doing the most about cycling?

Of the 107 regional and local authorities in New Zealand, about half have a specific cycling strategy in place, or a good equivalent in their transport plan. Most regional and city councils have a cycle strategy in place, but only a third of district councils do. Auckland is the only area where all local authorities have a cycle strategy.

## What detailed data are there?

The tables that follow provide the detailed data. These were collated from:

- SPARC studies of sports and active leisure in New Zealand for 2001 - see <http://www.sparc.org.nz/research-policy/participation-in-sport>
- NZ Census Travel-to-Work data 2001 – see [www.statisticsnz.co.nz](http://www.statisticsnz.co.nz)
- A review of local authority websites for cycling strategies or evidence of significant cycling-related transport planning

There are three points to note:

- The categories recreational (road) and off-road are mutually exclusive, while commuting and competitive cycling are not. The figures for recreational (road) and off-road cycling are therefore summed as a conservative estimate of total cycling.
- The figure for youth cycle commuting is an estimate only, pending more specific data from the Ministry of Transport.
- Cycling has increased by a significant margin since 2001. For example, cycle import figures suggest a 45% increase in cycle numbers since 2001. The best estimates suggest adult cyclists have increased by 24% to about 730,000, or about 25% of adults.

Participation in Cycling for Commuting, Sport, Recreation (Road), Off-Road, 2001

	Summary			Numbers					Percent of Total				
	% Commuting/ Total Population	% Cycling/ Total Population	% Commuting/ Cycling	Total	Cycle Commuting	Competitive	Recreational	Off-Road	Total	Commuting	Competitive	Recreational	Off-Road
Adults	1%	22%	7%	588,623	40,666	29,881	411,381	177,242	22%	1%	1%	15%	6%
Youth	2%	20%	9%	143,971	12,286	7,372	136,821	7,151	20%	2%	1%	19%	1%
Total	2%	21%	7%	732,594	52,952	37,253	548,202	184,392	21%	2%	1%	16%	5%

	Summary			Numbers					Percent				
	% Commuting/ Total Population	% Cycling/ Total Population	% Commuting/ Cycling	Total Cycling	Cycle Commuters	Competitive	Recreational	Off-Road	Total	Commuting	Competitive	Recreational	Off-Road
Adults	1%	22%	7%	588,623	40,666	29,881	411,381	177,242	22%	1%	1%	15%	6%
Men	2%	27%	9%	353,652	31,313	20,772	223,009	130,644	27%	2%	2%	17%	10%
Women	1%	16%	4%	233,852	9,353	9,104	187,907	45,945	16%	1%	1%	13%	3%
% Men				60%	77%	70%	54%	74%					

	Summary			Numbers					Percent				
	% Commuting/ Total Population	% Cycling/ Total Population	% Commuting/ Cycling	Total Cycling	Cycle Commuters	Competitive	Recreational	Off-Road	Total	Commuting	Competitive	Recreational	Off-Road
18 - 24 yrs	3%	37%	8%	126,059	10,137	5,580	79,218	46,842	37%	3%	2%	23%	14%
25 - 34 yrs	2%	33%	7%	171,952	11,715	11,050	107,076	64,877	33%	2%	2%	20%	12%
35 - 49 yrs	2%	23%	7%	195,357	13,803	9,851	149,858	45,500	23%	2%	1%	18%	5%
50 - 64 yrs	1%	10%	9%	57,988	5,005	1,604	51,112	6,876	10%	1%	0%	9%	1%

	Summary			Numbers					Percent				
	% Commuting/ Total Population	% Cycling/ Total Population	% Commuting/ Cycling	Total Cycling	Cycle Commuters	Competitive	Recreational	Off-Road	Total	Commuting	Competitive	Recreational	Off-Road
North Island	1%	19%	5%	561,030	26,529	32,015	403,173	157,857	19%	1%	1%	14%	5%
South Island	3%	26%	10%	175,532	17,151	6,228	116,481	59,051	26%	3%	1%	17%	9%
Northland	1%	13%	5%	12,975	597	599	10,380	2,595	13%	1%	1%	10%	3%
Greater Auckland	1%	18%	3%	149,979	4,920	8,185	109,053	40,927	18%	1%	1%	13%	5%
Auckland	1%	21%	4%	60,019	2,172	3,804	42,549	17,470	21%	1%	1%	15%	6%
North Harbour/ Waitakere	0%	18%	3%	56,009	1,536	3,285	41,616	14,393	18%	0%	1%	13%	5%
Counties Manukau	0%	13%	3%	32,761	969	1,290	24,764	7,997	13%	0%	1%	10%	3%
Waikato	2%	22%	7%	54,393	3,879	3,877	39,371	15,022	22%	2%	2%	16%	6%
Bay of Plenty	1%	23%	6%	39,487	2,415	776	29,486	10,001	23%	1%	0%	17%	6%
Hawkes Bay/ Eastland	2%	20%	8%	26,382	1,995	1,706	22,313	4,069	20%	2%	1%	17%	3%
Taranaki/ Wanganui/ Manawatu	2%	22%	8%	50,508	4,005	2,211	37,474	13,034	22%	2%	1%	16%	6%
Wellington	1%	25%	5%	78,516	4,041	6,281	46,167	32,349	25%	1%	2%	15%	10%
Tasman	3%	26%	11%	25,743	2,817	1,408	18,502	7,240	26%	3%	1%	18%	7%
Canterbury/ Westland	3%	28%	11%	104,558	11,364	2,858	69,580	34,978	28%	3%	1%	19%	9%
Otago/ Southland	1%	22%	7%	45,232	2,970	1,962	28,399	16,833	22%	1%	1%	14%	8%

## Local Authorities with Cycle Strategies

	Percent with Strategy	Number with Strategy	Total Authorities
New Zealand	49%	52	107
North Island	47%	29	62
South Island	38%	11	29
Regional authorities	77%	10	13
District councils	29%	18	63
City councils	81%	13	16
Northland	25%	1	4
Greater Auckland	100%	8	8
Auckland	100%	2	2
North Harbour/ Waitakere	100%	3	3
Counties Manukau	100%	3	3
Waikato	33%	4	12
Bay of Plenty	50%	4	8
Hawkes Bay/ Eastland	53%	8	15
Taranaki/ Wanganui/ Manawatu	29%	4	14
Wellington	44%	4	9
Tasman	100%	3	3
Canterbury/ Westland	38%	6	16
Otago/ Southland/ Chatham Is.	20%	2	10