

ROTORUA DISTRICT AGE PROFILE

Information on Rotorua's age profile is important for measuring economic, social and demographic change.

KEY POINTS:

- Although Rotorua currently has a youthful population profile compared with other parts of New Zealand, the District population is growing older.
- There are more women than men aged 65+.
- Suburbs with particularly high numbers of older people include Springfield, Glenholme and Fenton.



The median age of Rotorua residents is currently 34.0 years, compared with 35.0 for all of New Zealand. However, the number of people in Rotorua's younger age groups is diminishing over time while older age groups are increasing (refer Table 1). The 55 and over age group in Rotorua increased from 19.1% of the population in 2001 to 21.0% in 2006. The 65+ age group increased from 10.6% to 11.1% over the same period. Population ageing is a feature of most areas throughout New Zealand.

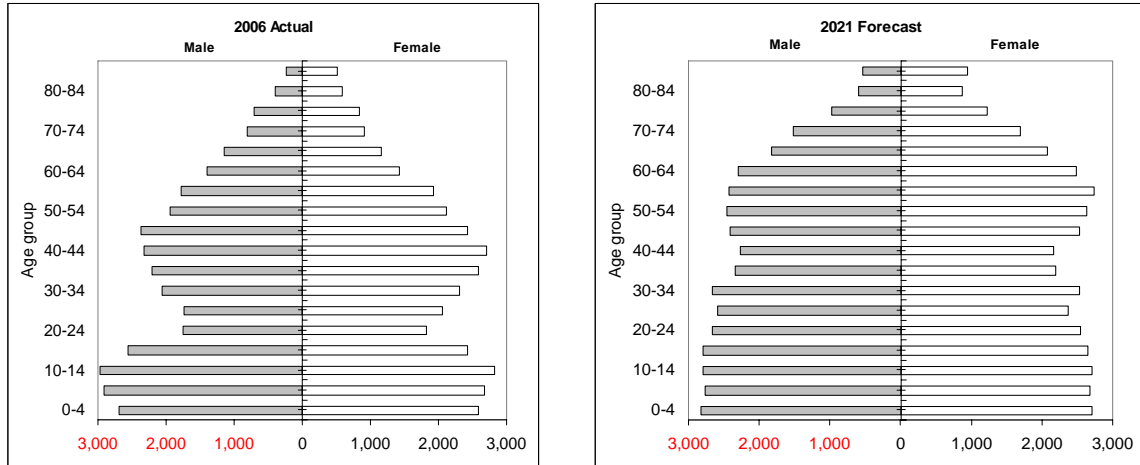
Table 1: Age profile, Rotorua District, 1996 – 2006

Age range	1996		2001		2006	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Less Than 55	53,310	82.6%	52,191	81.0%	52,068	79.0%
55-59 Years	2,661	4.1%	2,961	4.6%	3,714	5.6%
60-64 Years	2,184	3.4%	2,499	3.9%	2,823	4.3%
65+ Years	6,354	9.9%	6,822	10.6%	7,296	11.1%
Total Population	64,509	100.0%	64,473	100.0%	65,901	100.0%

Population projections

Within the next 15 years, the number of Rotorua people in the 50+ age range is forecast to almost double (refer Figure 1). Part of this increase is due to the ageing of those currently aged in their 40s-60s – the baby boomer generation – that appear as a bulge in Rotorua's age profile. Also, due to an increasingly longer life expectancy, the number of people aged 85 and over in Rotorua is projected to almost double by the year 2021 (from 744 to 1,470).

Figure 1: Age-gender profile, Rotorua District, 2006 – 2026 (projected)



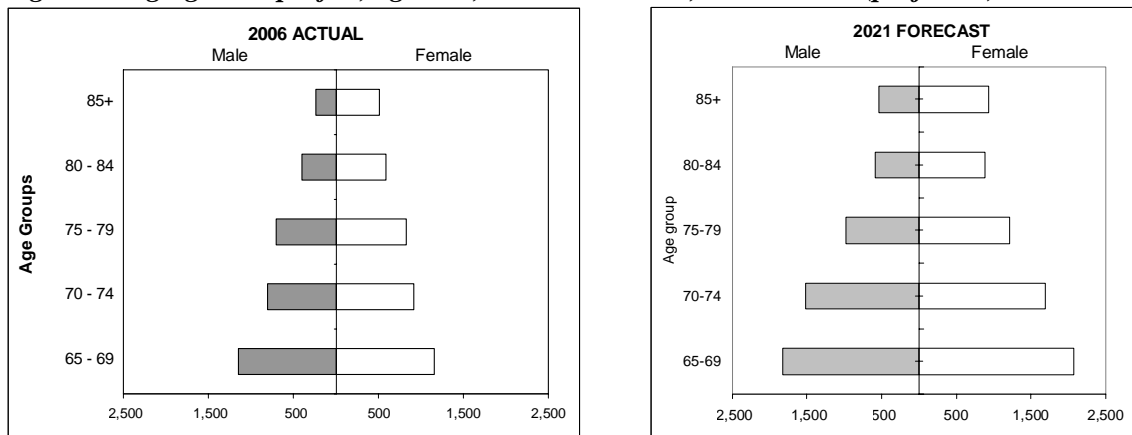
Source: Statistics New Zealand

Note: 2021 projections are from the 1996 Census base, assuming medium fertility, medium mortality, and medium migration.

Gender

Figure 2 shows more clearly the projected growth in the number of Rotorua residents aged 65+. It also shows that there is currently a higher number of females than males in this age group, and that this gender difference is forecast to continue. As at Census night 2006, 55.0% (4,011) of Rotorua people aged 65+ were women compared with 45.0% (3,288) who were men. This ratio is expected to continue as the overall population ages. By the year 2021 there is expected to be 6,800 women and 5,440 men in Rotorua aged 65+.

Figure 2: Age-gender profile, age 65+, Rotorua District, 2006 – 2026 (projected)



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Note: Refer Figure 1.

Suburbs and rural communities

Appendix 1 shows the age profile of different suburbs and rural communities in the Rotorua District. The areas with the highest number of people aged 65+ as at Census night 2006 include Springfield (726), Glenholme East (579), Fenton (372) and Lynmore (369). This corresponds with areas of overall high population and/or areas with high numbers of pensioner units, retirement villages and rest homes. The highest *percentages* of people aged 65+ are in Glenholme East (29.2%), and Fenton (26.7%).

Over the previous ten year period, the largest increases in the number of older people in Rotorua were in the Fenton and Lynmore areas. Specifically, the number of Lynmore residents aged 65+ increased from 264 in 1996 to 369 in 2006, and the number of Fenton residents aged 65+ increased from 303 to 372 during the same period. The largest *percentage* increases were in Owkata South (increasing from 6.2% to 10.8% of all residents) and Fenton (increasing from 22.2% to 26.7%).

Figure 3: Rotorua Suburbs



Note: Based on official statistical areas