Population growth in all regions, at least in the short term

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All 16 regional council areas are projected to increase in population between now and 2028, Statistics New Zealand said today.

"The short-term trend partly reflects the current high level of arrivals into New Zealand, and the current low level of departures," population statistics manager Vina Cullum said.

"However, population growth will slow in the longer term as our population continues to age. This will see the number of deaths increase relative to births. Also, net migration (arrivals minus departures) exceeded 50,000 in 2014 and is unlikely to remain at that level."

Auckland will continue to be New Zealand's fastest growing region, and account for three-fifths of the country's population growth between 2013 and 2043. From an estimated population of 1.5 million in 2014, Auckland is projected to reach 2 million in the early 2030s. That means out of every 100 people in New Zealand, 34 currently live in Auckland, but this will increase to 37 in 2028 and 40 in 2043.

Natural increase (births minus deaths) is projected to account for three-fifths of Auckland's growth, and net migration the remaining two-fifths.

Of New Zealand's 67 territorial authority areas, 51 are projected to have more people in 2028 than in 2013. However, only 30 are projected to have more people in 2043 than in 2028.

The fastest population growth between 2013 and 2043 is expected in Selwyn and Queenstown-Lakes districts, up an average of 2.2 and 1.8 percent a year, respectively.

The projections are not predictions, but an indication of the size and composition of the future population. Statistics NZ produces low, medium, and high growth projections for every local area every 2–3 years to assist planning by communities, local councils, and government.

Ends

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Authorised by Liz MacPherson, Government Statistician, 19 February 2015