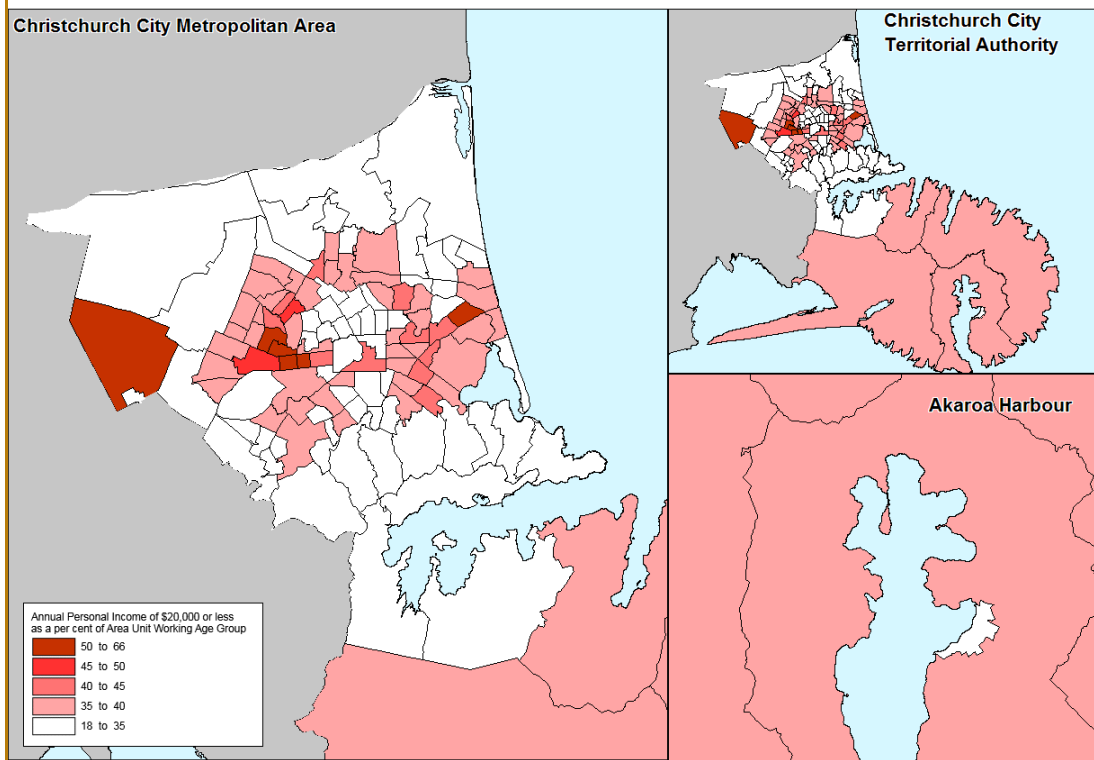


Economic Standard of Living

Personal Income

Proportion of Population with Income of \$20,000 or less, by Area Unit, 2013



Source: Statistics New Zealand: Census of Population and Dwellings.

Key Points:

- In 2013, the area units with the greatest proportion of the working age population (15 years and over) earning under \$20,000 were Papanui (66%), Ilam (61%), Upper Riccarton (58%), Riccarton West (58%), Wharenui (54%) and Aranui (51%).
- Other area units with a large proportion of the working age population earning under \$20,000 include Jellie Park (49%), Sockburn (47%), Woolston West (44%), Linwood East (43%), Riccarton (43%) and Shirley East (43%).
- Area units with the lowest proportion of the working age population earning under \$20,000 include Mt Pleasant (25%), Hagley Park, Merivale (26%), Halswell Domain (27%), Hagley Park (27%) and Moncks Bay (27%).
- Other area units with smaller proportions include: Governors Bay, Sumner, Yaldhurst and Westmorland, all of which have only 28% of their working age population earning \$20,000 or less.

What is this about?

This map shows the distribution of residents aged 15 years and over in Christchurch who earn less than \$20,000 per year, as a proportion of the stated population within each area unit. Personal income represents the before-tax income for an individual in the 12 months ended 31 March 2013, and is collected as an income range rather than an actual dollar figure.

An individual's level of income can determine his or her ability to purchase goods and services which are needed to maintain their standard of living. To maintain an ongoing standard of living it is important that a person's income increases at a rate consistent with the rate of inflation or else their spending power will decline.

Data limitations:

Percentages are calculated using the total people stated (i.e. the total of those that completed the question) rather than the total population of people aged 15 years and over. Individual percentages are therefore likely to be higher than those based on total population.

Caution should be used when interpreting income data, because of the relatively high percentage in the 'Not stated' category.

Non-response rates for 2013: Total personal income: 9.7 percent, of which 4.9 were substitute records. High non-response rates can lead to bias in the data. This bias affects the aggregates and the distribution with the proportion of people in low-income bands being under-counted. The bias will mean that the data is not fit for use for certain purposes. Distributional statistics like averages and medians will be biased by the undercount of people in the low-income bands, while disparities at regional or ethnic group level may be understated for the regions and ethnic groups with high non-response rates. Population-based funding models that use income as a variable, and small area regional analysis for territorial local authorities and others, will also be affected by the bias.

Statistics New Zealand has categorised the quality of the personal income data as "Moderate: fit for use-- with some data quality issues to be aware of."