

Nelson Population and Household Projections: 2018-2048

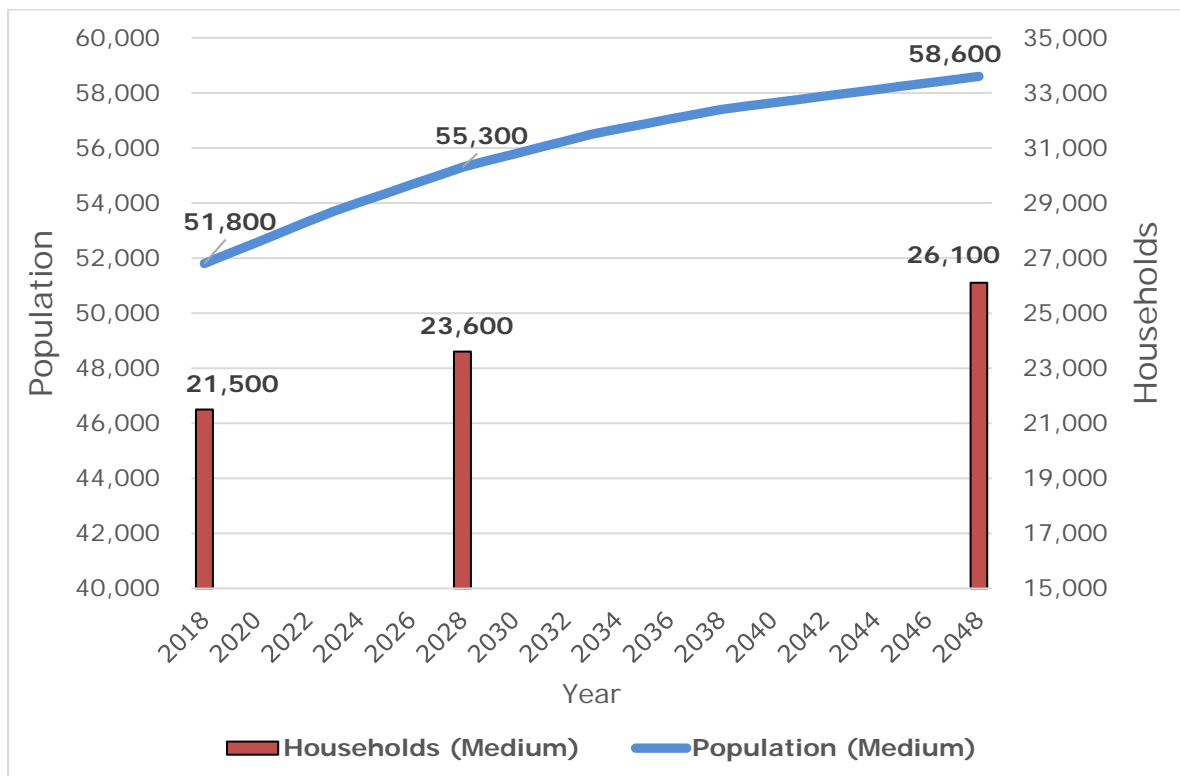
This information is based on [population projections](#) by Statistics New Zealand published on 14 December 2016. Statistics New Zealand consider the medium projection is suitable for assessing future population change.

Method: Household projections have been derived from the 2016 population projections using ratios from Statistics New Zealand's 2015 population and household projections, and will be revised when official household projections are updated later in 2017. As the Statistics NZ projections end at 2043 (population) and 2038 (households), projections to 2048 have been extrapolated using growth rates from the five years ending 2043 and 2038 respectively. This is to align with Nelson City Council's 30-year Infrastructure Strategy and with the long-term timeframe required by the National Policy Statement for Urban Development Capacity (2018-2048).

Projections are not predictions and should be used as an indication of the overall trend, rather than as exact forecasts.

Demographic Trends

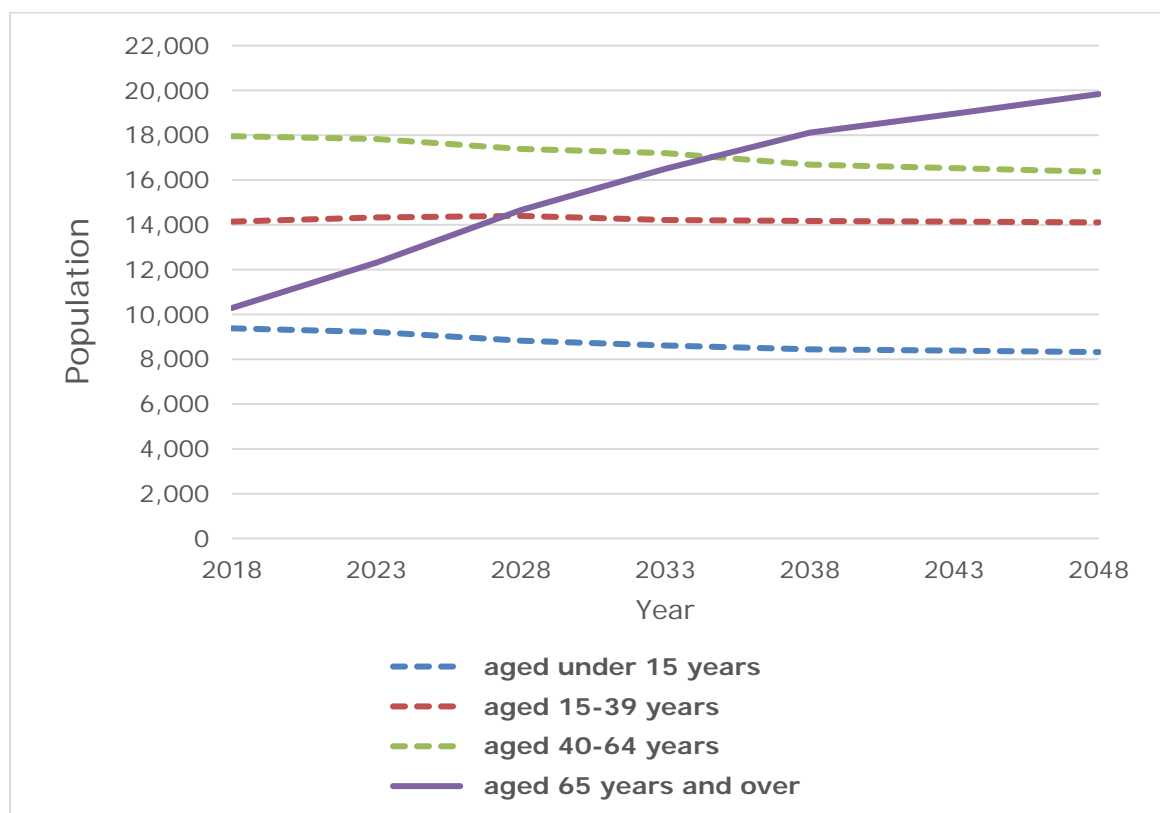
Fig 1: Population and household projections (medium), 2018-2048, Nelson



Nelson – population trends

- Nelson’s population is expected to grow by 3,500 residents over the next ten years, to 55,300 in 2028, at an average annual growth rate of 0.7 percent.
- Population growth is expected to slow down over time, based on the assumptions that deaths will increase while births decrease slightly, and that migration rates also remain constant.
- Nelson’s population is likely to grow by a further 3,300 over the 20 years between 2028 and 2048, to 58,600 in 2048, at an average annual growth rate of 0.3 percent.
- Nelson’s population is ageing and the median age is projected to increase from 44 in 2018 to 52 in 2048.
- The proportion of the population aged 65 years and over will increase from 20% in 2018 to 27% in 2028 and is likely to make up a third of the population in 2048.
- The proportion of the population aged under 15 years will decrease from 18% in 2018, to 16% in 2028 and to 14% by 2048.

Fig 2: Population projections by age groups (medium), 2018-2048, Nelson



Nelson - households

- The number of households in Nelson is projected to increase by 2,100 in the ten years between 2018 and 2028, to 23,600.
- The number of households in Nelson is projected to increase by another 2,500 in the twenty years between 2028 and 2048, to 26,100.
- Overall there is a trend towards smaller households with nearly all the growth being one-person households and couple-without-children households.

Table 1: Population and household projections (medium), 2018-2048, Nelson

	2018	2028	2048
Population	51,800	55,300	58,600
Households	21,500	23,600	26,100
Median age	44	47	52
Aged 65 years and over	10,290 20%	14,660 27%	19,840 34%
Aged 40-64	17,960 35%	17,390 31%	16,370 28%
Aged 15-39	14,140 27%	14,400 26%	14,110 24%
Aged under 15 years	9,380 18%	8,830 16%	8,320 14%

Alternative scenarios

While Statistics New Zealand consider the medium projection is suitable for assessing future population change, the low and high projections indicate the impact on population size from more conservative and optimistic demographic scenarios.

Statistics New Zealand revise population projections every few years to take account of changes in demographic trends, particularly net migration.

The following chart illustrates trends in population growth since 2006 and the projected trends for the low, medium, and high growth scenarios.

Fig 3: Population estimates, 2006-2016, and projections (low, medium, high), 2013-2048, Nelson

