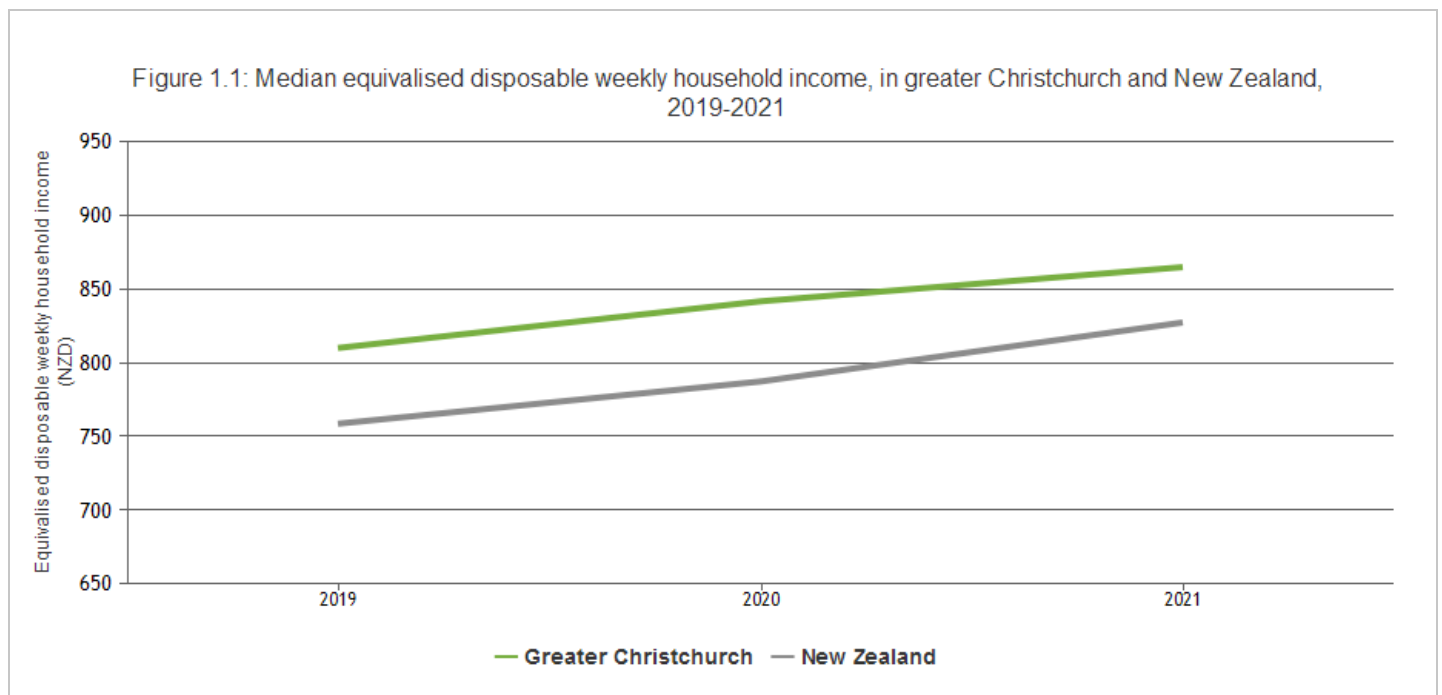


Income: Household income

Downloaded from <https://www.canterburywellbeing.org.nz/our-wellbeing/income/household-income/> on 12/03/2025 5:41 PM

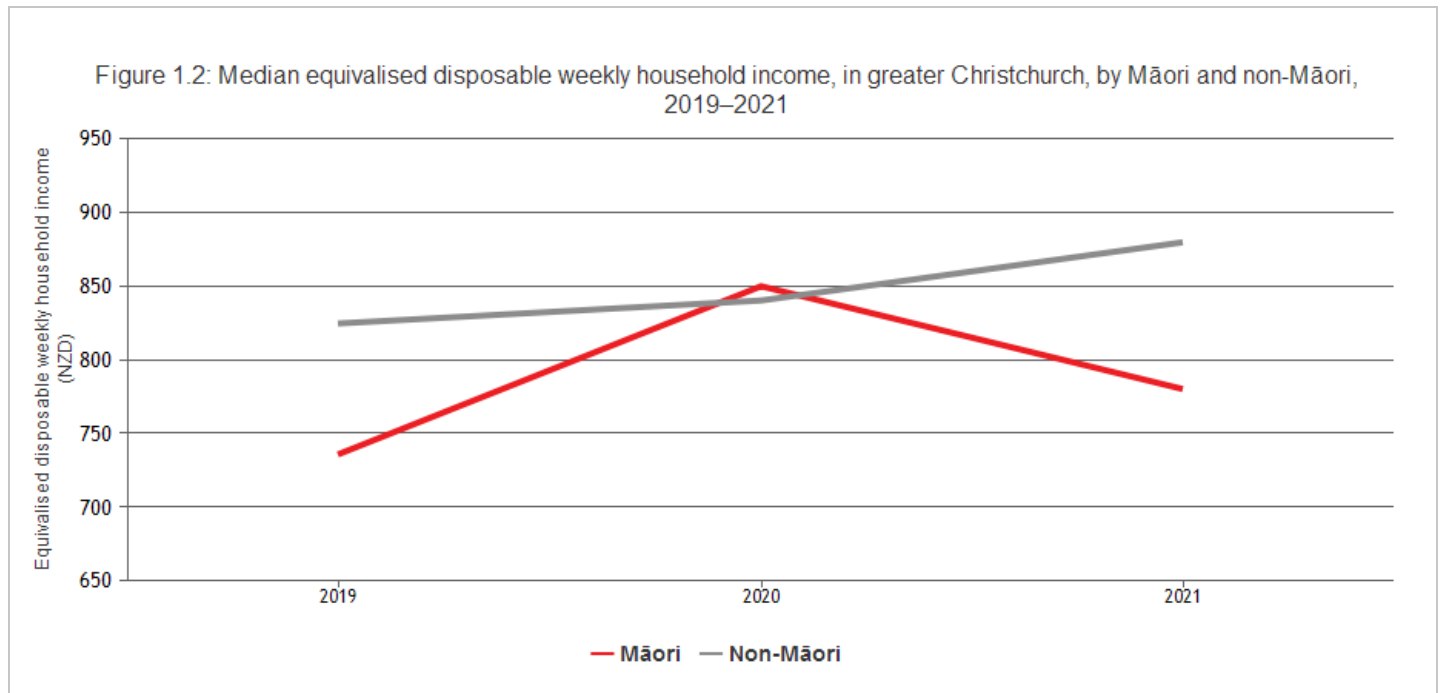
With an adequate income, a household can access essential services and items and can participate in social and recreational activities in the community. For families with sufficient income, children are more likely to experience higher educational achievement, higher economic status in their adult life, and better health and wellbeing [5]. It is well known that income disparity exists across ethnic groups in New Zealand [6]. These differences mean that Māori, Asian, Pacific, and Middle Eastern/Latin American/African (MELAA) population groups are likely to be disproportionately affected in terms of the income-related determinants of health and wellbeing.

This indicator presents median equivalised disposable (after tax) weekly household income for greater Christchurch and New Zealand, 2019 to 2021 (excluding investment income). Median disposable household income is the dollar amount whereby half the households have a disposable income above that amount, and half the households have an income below that amount (data are 'equivalised' based on household composition).



The figure shows that the median equivalised disposable weekly household income in greater Christchurch increased year-on-year, by approximately \$55 overall between 2019 and 2021; compared with a \$69 increase across New Zealand in the same time period. The difference between greater Christchurch and New Zealand overall was +\$38 per week in 2021.

Breakdown by ethnicity



The figure shows a substantial income disparity between Māori and non-Māori ethnic groups in greater Christchurch for 2019–2021. Equivalised disposable weekly household income for Māori shows notable variability, due to smaller absolute numbers, but there is a picture of lower disposable weekly household income (compared with non-Māori). In 2021, the median equivalised disposable weekly household income in greater Christchurch for Māori was substantially below that of non-Māori (\$780 for Māori and \$880 for non-Māori; \$100 difference). This approximately 12 percent difference (Māori vs non-Māori) in greater Christchurch is consistent with that previously reported for New Zealand overall [6].

Data Sources

Source: Statistics New Zealand.

Survey/data set: New Zealand Household Economic Survey. Custom data request for greater Christchurch region.

Source data frequency: Annually.

Metadata for this indicator is available at <https://www.canterburywellbeing.org.nz/our-wellbeing/index-data>

REFERENCES

This is the full reference list for **Income**.

- 1 Braveman P, Sadegh-Nobari T, Egerter S (2011) Early Childhood Experiences and Health. Exploring the Social Determinants of Health. *Issue Brief #2, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation*.
- 2 Marmot M (2004) Social Causes of Social Inequalities in Health In: Anand S, Peter F, Sen. AK, editors. Public health, ethics, and equity. Oxford: Oxford University Press on Demand.
- 3 Marmot M, Bell R (2012) Fair society, healthy lives. *Public Health* 126: S4-10.
- 4 Kawachi I, Kennedy BP (1997) Health and social cohesion: why care about income inequality? *BMJ* 314: 1037-1040.
- 5 Meyer S (2002) *The influence of parental incomes on children's wellbeing*. Wellington: Knowledge Management Group, Ministry of Social Development, Te Manatu - Whakahiato Ora.
- 6 Statistics NZ (2022) Labour market statistics about income. Retrieved from <https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/labour-market-statistics-income-june-2022-quarter/>
- 7 Perry B (2017) *Household incomes in New Zealand: Trends in indicators of inequality and hardship 1982 to 2016*. Wellington: Ministry of Social Development.
- 8 Hyslop D, Suresh Yahanpath S (2005) *Income Growth and Earnings Variations in New Zealand, 1998—2004: New Zealand Treasury working paper 05/11*. Wellington: New Zealand Treasury.
- 9 Levin KA, Torsheim T, Vollebergh W, Richter M, Davies CA, et al. (2011) National Income and Income Inequality, Family Affluence and Life Satisfaction Among 13 year Old Boys and Girls: A Multilevel Study in 35 Countries. *Social Indicators Research* 104: 179-194.
- 10 Diener E, Tay L, Oishi S (2013) Rising income and the subjective well-being of nations. *J Pers Soc Psychol* 104: 267-276.
- 11 Diener E, Ng W, Harter J, Arora R (2010) Wealth and happiness across the world: material prosperity predicts life evaluation, whereas psychosocial prosperity predicts positive feeling. *J Pers Soc Psychol* 99: 52-61.
- 12 Kahneman D (1999) Objective happiness. In: Kahneman D, Diener E, Schwartz N, editors. Well-being: The foundations of hedonic psychology. New York: Russell Sage Foundation. pp. 3–25.
- 13 Sengupta NK, Osborne D, Houkamau C, Hoverd WJ, Wilson MS, et al. (2012) How much happiness does money buy? Income and subjective well-being in New Zealand. *New Zealand Journal of Psychology* 41: 21-34.
- 14 Chaudry A, Wimer C (2016) Poverty is not just an indicator: The relationship between income, poverty, and child well-being. *Academic Pediatrics* 16: S23-S29.
- 15 Cooper K, Stewart K (2017) Does money affect children's outcomes? An update. CASEpaper 203, London, United Kingdom.
- 16 Gibb S, Fergusson D, Horwood L (2012) Childhood family income and life outcomes in adulthood: Findings from a 30-year longitudinal study in New Zealand. *Social Science and Medicine* 74: 1979-83.
- 17 Poulton R, Caspi A, Milne B, Thomson W, Taylor A., Sears M, Moffitt T (2002) Association between children's experience of socioeconomic disadvantage and adult health: A life-course study. *The Lancet* 360: 1640-1645.
- 18 Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (2020) Child poverty measures, targets and indicators. Retrieved from <https://dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/reducing-child-poverty/child-poverty-measures-targets-and-indicators>.