Life in Christchurch Central City 2022

Summary Results

Survey in field: March 2022
Number of respondents: 3,165

Living in the Central City

Around a third (29%, n=630) of respondents would consider moving to the central city in the next 10 years. The proportion of respondents who would consider moving to the central city in the next one to two years remains unchanged from 2021 (7%, n=151). A further 21% (n=456) would consider a move to the central city in the next five to ten years. Respondents aged under 24 years tend to be more likely than others to consider a move to the central city.

The number of respondents who would not consider a move to the central city under any circumstances has increased to 62% (n=1354), up from 57% in 2021.

The main reasons respondents would not consider a move to the central city include:

- The housing in the central city does not meet their needs (56%, n=752)
- A lack of parking (56%, n=749)
- Lifestyle factors (51%, n=678).

4% (n=120) of respondents report living in the central city. Their main drawcards for living in the central city include:

- Being within walking distance to shops, cafes and restaurants (72%, n=73)
- It suits their lifestyle (64%, n=65)
- A preference for living in the central city (63%, n=64)

Housing in the Central City

Respondent's views on the range, affordability and design of housing in the central city remains unchanged from 2021.

Nearly a third (32%, n=820) agree or strongly agree that the central city provides a range of housing, while 68% (n=1718) disagree or strongly disagree that the housing is affordable. Only a quarter (25%, n=628) agree that housing in the central city is well designed.

For those considering a move to the central city, they are looking for homes that have privacy between neighbours (82%, n=466), are orientated to take advantage of the sun for warming and cooling breezes (79%, n=448), and have natural light (75%, n=426).

There was a preference from respondents to live in a central city neighbourhood with a mixture of activities, but where they still have their own personal outdoor space (37%, n=191, rating this as their number 1 option).

Those who would consider a move to the central city indicated a preference for neighbourhoods that are close to natural features, cafés, bars and restaurants (>80% and >65%, respectively).

Public Spaces and Facilities

In general, respondents are happy with the public spaces and facilities available in the central city. In particular, access to a range of cafes, bars and restaurants, and to parks, open spaces and other outdoor recreation opportunities are considered to be well provided for.

Urban areas in the central city are viewed positively by the majority of respondents; 58% (n=1499) think the central city has attractive and inviting open and green spaces, and a further 60% (n=1549) appreciate the streetscapes and public artworks.

Graffiti vandalism in the central city was an area identified as needing improvement with 45% (n=1121) of respondents disagreeing or strongly disagreeing that the central city is free of graffiti vandalism.

Visiting the Central City

There was a slight decrease in the number of respondents who had visited the central city for non-work or education purposes within the past 7 days of completing the survey (45% in 2022 (n=1171) versus 49% (n=1166) in 2021).

Over a third (39%, n=1000) of respondents said that Covid-19 had discouraged them from visiting the central city as often as they used to.

43% (n=1009) of respondents said they travel to the central city at least once a month or more to shop, eat or drink at cafés (60%, n=1400), and for fresh food and grocery shopping (49%, n=1143).

Of the 26% (n=648) of respondents who report working in the central city, 71% (n=452) work from home during their normal working week, up from 58% (n=454) in 2021. Most (85%, n=385) of these respondents also report working from home more often now compared to pre-Covid-19. This has also increased significantly since 2021 (68%, n=310).

Travel and the Central City

The majority of the respondents (61% n=1490) agree or strongly agree travel to the central city is easy.

Fewer agree or strongly agree that travel *within* the central city is easy (46%, n=1111). Those who do not find it easy attributed it being difficult to:

- The 30km/h speed limit (48%, n=311)
- The roadworks and road closures (47%, n=300)

Most respondents agree or strongly agree that it is easy to walk (78%, n=1772) and bike (66%, n=1089) in the central city. Around a third agree that travel in the central city by public transport (36%, n=599) and by car (33%, n=791) is easy.

Safety in the Central City

Although most respondents report feeling safe in the central city during the day (89%, n=2115), safety after dark remains a concern; 46% (n=1132) of respondents report feeling a bit or very unsafe in the central city after dark. The main reasons for feeling unsafe after dark are:

- People under the influence of drugs and alcohol (79%, n=890)
- Anti-social behaviour (77%, n=862)
- Homeless people (56%, n=622).

Pride in the Central City

47% (n=1189) of respondents agree or strongly agree that they feel a sense of pride in the central city. This is greater for those who live in the central city (66%, n=63). The main reasons respondents feel a sense of pride are:

- The Christchurch Botanic Gardens (84%, n=994)
- Tūranga Library (72%, n=858)
- Margaret Mahy Playground (69%, n=814)

Of the 23% (n= 588) of respondents who report feeling no sense of pride in the central city, the reasons commonly reported are derelict buildings, parking issues, and a lack of character and identity.

The central city received a Net Promoter Score (NPS) of -37 when respondents were asked whether they would recommend the central city to their friends and family. This is a decrease from 2021, when the central city received an NPS of -15.
In contrast, an NPS of 14 was calculated for respondents who live in the central city (promoter 36%, n=35; detractors 23%, n=22).
NPS = Promotors (score 9 or 10) – Detractors (score 0 – 6)

What people told us…

The lack of mature green-spaces, community events, empty lots and abandoned buildings still make it a really hard place to love.

Great potential, loving the new facilities, some of the 'dirty thirty' buildings still unrepaired and vandalized really bring down the feel of the city.

I would normally be in the city often, but just currently due to Covid limit my trips. This will change.

The city is definitely better than it was, with great strides being made. The lack of completion of major projects and the vacant land is a major drawback.

There are some parts/streets in the Central City that are lovely - grass berms with street trees, and even cycleways. More needs to be done to streets to make them more greener.

From what I've seen, housing in the city is either new build expensive apartments or older family homes- there isn't really something to suit every life stage and budget.

I'm very excited to see further development within the central city. Encouraging more business to be open later on weekdays would be a big draw for my household to visit more often. The parking structures are well spaced and affordable for when we need to drive in, and cycle lanes have been so well put to use by us.

Demographics

Grouped Age	24 years and under	25 - 49 years	50 - 64 years	65+ years
%	8%	36%	30%	25%

Ethnicity	%	Count
NZ European	83%	2377
Other (Please Specify)	9%	257
British & Irish	6%	183
Maori	5%	151
Other European	4%	102
Chinese	2%	45
Other Asian	1%	19
Indian	1%	30
Japanese	1%	15
Samoan	1%	15

Note: Only includes ethnic groups where 1% or more of respondents identifying with.

Ward	%
Banks Peninsula	3%
Burwood	4%
Cashmere	10%
Central	6%
Coastal	8%
Fendalton	11%
Halswell	9%
Harewood	6%
Heathcote	7%

Hornby	5%
Innes	5%
Linwood	7%
Papanui	3%
Riccarton	6%
Spreydon	6%
Waimairi	6%