

Life in Christchurch Transport and Housing 2021

Summary Results

Survey in field: October 2021

Number of respondents: 3300

Overall, there were some positive results from the transport questions with the perception of cycling safety improving year-on-year, and road and footpath satisfaction both increasing. Public transport is an area that needs improvement, with the proportion of respondents using public transport decreasing slightly each year.

This is the first time housing questions have been incorporated in the Life in Christchurch surveys.

The housing results revealed that the most popular housing type amongst respondents is a stand-alone single storey detached house that has three bedrooms. Energy efficiency was an important feature that most respondents value highly, and became of particular importance when considering developing housing for our aging population. The affordability of homes is an ongoing issue, with increasing house prices and the majority of respondents considering anything over \$500,000 as unaffordable.

TRAVEL BY CAR

- Travel by car remains high amongst respondents at 97% (n=2622), although 26% (n=670) report using it less often. This is consistent with previous years.
- 57% (n=1477) of those who travel by car travel to work by car at least once a week. 81% (n=1441) travel to work by themselves.
- Of those who travel to the Central City for work (37%, n=573), 30% (n=321) park in on-street car parking, mainly due to it being close to work and cost effective.
- 60% (n=1559) find it easy or very easy to travel by car in Christchurch due to it being the most convenient mode of transport, traffic flow and the availability of parking.

Parking buildings are way too expensive for workers. You can blab on all you like about public transport but if it is not working (and it is not), then something has to give - When I drive I am either dropped off and picked up or I park for free and walk...

drivers arent courteous, signage isnt always clear, but its still a lot easier and quicker for me to travel by car than public transport

Parking is free and easy where I work and I travel over 10km. If I had to pay for parking I would be much more likely to cycle or use the bus.

TRAVEL BY BICYCLE

- 37% (n=1000) travel by bicycle at least once a month, a slight decrease from the previous year at 39%. Of those who travel by bike, 26% (n=255) travel by e-bike at least once a month.
- 52% (n=509) travel by bike to work at least once a week.
- The main reasons 11% of respondents find it difficult to travel by bicycle are:
 - Sharing the road with cars (77%)
 - Inconsiderate and dangerous drivers (75%)
- The feeling of safety while travelling by bicycle continues to increase, with 46% feeling safe or very safe. This is compared to 35% in 2019.
- Encouragingly, 34% (n=340) of those who travel by bike, report using it more often now compared to 12 months prior.
- The majority of respondents report being able to reach their doctor, supermarket and park or an open space within 15 minutes by bike.

the major cycleways have made cycling far safer and more pleasant, they are the best thing that has happened to Christchurch in my 36 years living here

ONLY use cycleways - love cycling but wont ride on the roads - too damn dangerous

It has got better in the last 5 years in terms of safety - vehicles seem more cycle aware, but it can still be dangerous

TRAVEL BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

- 24% (n=634) of respondents have travelled by public transport more once a month in the last 12 months. This is a decrease from 2020 at 29%.
- More direct routes (42%, n=814), a more frequent service (33%, n=639) and a reduction in fares (28%, n=534) would encourage respondents to travel by public transport.
- The majority of respondents are happy with the information provided at bus shelters (55%, n=338), however there is room for improvement, with 31% (n=193) dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the number of bus shelters, and 31% (n=159) dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with the lighting at bus shelters.
- The large majority of respondents do not know how much an adult or child standard fare is for a bus trip in Christchurch.
- 25% (n=154) of those who use public transport, report using it less often now compared to 12 months prior.

I would much prefer to travel by bus to and from work, or to cycle from time to time. Bus would be 1h45m and cycling on very busy and dangerous roads

Some kind of weather protection would be nice. It's not easy to wait under the sun or the rain.

I wish that wearing masks on buses was more strongly enforced (including drivers). Lack of mask wearing puts me off getting on a bus right now.

Public transport needs to be a time efficient option for me to use it. It currently takes twice the amount of time on a bus as it does to drive or cycle

WALKING

- 62% (n=1667) walk more than once a month to work, education, shopping, social activities and sport and recreation.
- 32% (n=526) walk to other activities including shopping, social activities and sport and recreation 2 to 4 times a week.
- The majority of respondents could not reach their work, education or doctor within 15 minutes by walking, most would be able to reach a supermarket (59%) or park or open space (94%) within that time.

I enjoy walking, so if time and distance permit I usually choose to walk, otherwise I bus if destination is on route or I use my car.

chch is very flat but also very spread out so walking anywhere thats not within the same suburb takes a very long time

The central city is very walkable but the suburbs less so.

ROADING AND FOOTPATHS

- There has been an increase in those satisfied with the condition of our roads, at 30% (n=784) up from 23% in 2020.
- The main factors driving dissatisfaction with roads are:
 - Road surfaces are not smooth (80%)
 - Ongoing patch repairs (79%)
 - Potholes in the roads (73%)
- Satisfaction with the condition of footpaths has also seen an improvement, at 43% satisfaction, up from 39% in 2020.

Very poor standard of roadworks - it is disappointing to see the result of inner city roading work compared to motorways

So variable! Some roads are perfect, and some a full of potholes. it is a mixed bag.

Cycling on the roads means bumpy ride and frequent punctures from glass and debris

I live in the central city and it's great. I'm embarrassed and angry when I go to the East of the city and the streets are in such poor conditions

NEIGHBOURHOOD PREFERENCE

- Respondents would most prefer to live in a neighbourhood that:

- Has a mixture of activities (67%, n=2066)
- Is away from busy roads (48%, n=1467)
- Is away from industrial areas (45%, n=1377)
- Is within walking or cycling distance of the Central City (41%, n=1276)
- A safe neighbourhood (79%, n=2445), proximity to shops, parks and other community facilities (69%, n=2138), and the character of the neighbourhood (58%, n=1807) were the most important features respondents wanted in a neighbourhood.

Every neighbourhood should be a 15 minute neighbourhood that enables people to meet their basic needs without having to get into a car. Christchurch is currently dominated by sprawl and forces people into cars.

More street trees please! The streets with trees have such a different feel. And more rain gardens. Love those!

We want to be able to be in close proximity of our own community facilities in a safe characterful neighborhood landscaped with trees and gardens

CURRENT HOUSING NEEDS

- The majority of respondents would like to live in a stand-alone single storey detached home (55%, n=1596) with three bedrooms (51%, n=1476), is energy efficient, orientated to take advantage of the sun and has a freehold title.
- 68% (n=1913) of respondents disagree or strongly disagree that there are affordable homes in Christchurch, with 66% (n=3106) considering \$500,000 or less to be an affordable home.
- Privacy is most important consideration when respondents think about living in an apartment or townhouse. Lack of privacy and the intensity of the development are the main deterrents to living in an apartment or townhouse.

As a young person I have had to become accustomed with the idea that I will probably not be buying a house in the near future.

Energy efficiency of new houses is still below that of other countries. Living in NZ is like going back 15-20 years in other countries

Old houses are super bad, no insulation, single glazing, and damaged. New builds are expensive and small and too dense.

I have lived and rented apartments before. However they were different to ones I have seen in NZ. Overseas apartments have shared recreational facilities such as a pool, gym, cafe, rooftop, shops etc.

The apartments currently built are not fit for long-term family living. They are far too small, lack storage, adequate outdoor living space and privacy

As a uni student, I can't afford to buy a house. It will take a long time to build up funds for that and renting is not appropriate for my situation which makes things pretty stressful and difficult

FUTURE HOUSING NEEDS

- Respondents' housing preference shifts slightly when thinking about their housing needs in 10 years. Respondents would still prefer a stand-alone single storey detached home, with only two bedrooms, is energy efficient, orientated to take advantage of the sun and has an internal garage.
- The main priorities when providing housing for an aging population are energy efficient homes (84%, n=2226) and homes that are easy to heat (81%, n=2148).
- Having access to a range of transport options and being close to shopping centres and key services were the most important considerations when thinking about new housing developments.
- 57% (n=1553) think the rules should be changed to allow more homes to be built in locations already developed.

Additional homes to both bring down prices and allow the city to grow should be a massive priority. Changing all of those regulations listed above is a great start

Creating communities or housing where a range of ages and stages can co-exist. Accessibility for prams/wheelchair/walking frames etc

Housing designs that encourage incidental activity would assist in keeping people healthier and more mobile into older age therefore reducing special requirements needs to later in life

RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Grouped Age	24 years and under	25 - 49 years	50 - 64 years	65+ years
%	4%	40%	29%	27%

Ethnicity	%	Count
NZ European	83%	2158
Other (Please specify)	8%	212
British & Irish	6%	156
Maori	5%	126
Other European	4%	92
American	2%	57
Australian	1%	24
Canadian	1%	27
Chinese	1%	26
Samoan	1%	14
Filipino	1%	14

Note: Only includes ethnic groups with 1% or more responses.

Where do you live?	%	Count
I live in Christchurch (including Banks Peninsula)	95%	2939
I live elsewhere in Canterbury (e.g. Rolleston, Lincoln, Rangiora, Kaiapoi)	3%	108
I don't live in Christchurch or Canterbury, I live in...	1%	43

Ward	%
Banks Peninsula	4%
Burwood	5%
Cashmere	9%
Central	7%
Coastal	7%
Fendalton	9%
Halswell	9%
Harewood	5%
Heathcote	9%
Hornby	3%
Innes	4%
Linwood	7%
Papanui	3%
Riccarton	6%
Spreydon	6%
Waimairi	6%