



Media Release
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Selwyn leads the nation in population and economic growth

The Selwyn district had the highest population and economic growth in New Zealand over the past 10 years, according to new figures.

Annual economic profile figures released by analysts Infometrics show over the decade from 2009 to 2019, the district's population grew by an average of 5.2% per year, ahead of the Queenstown Lakes district (4.5%), while GDP grew by an annual average of 6.5%, again ahead of Queenstown Lakes (4%).

The district also had the largest growth in population in the country over the 2019 year (5.3%), and the second largest growth in GDP (6.8%) just behind Hawke's Bay (6.9%).

The figures show Selwyn continues to outperform national and regional growth indicators. National GDP grew by 3% nationally last year and 2.3% in Canterbury, while the national population growth was 1.6% and 1.8% in Canterbury.

During 2019, employment in Selwyn grew by 3.8%, the third highest growth in job numbers nationally. Unemployment remained almost unchanged at 2.4%, compared to 3.8% in Canterbury and 4.3% nationally.

The tourism market in Selwyn grew by 15.7% over the 2019 year, bringing in just over \$59 million to the district.

Mayor Sam Broughton says it is good to see so many people recognising what a great place Selwyn is to live and the district was in a good position to keep it that way.

"We welcome the people who have joined us in calling Selwyn home over the last 10 years. We knew this place was good, and now we share this with many new arrivals.

Our planning and investment in quality infrastructure means we can cater for future growth which continues to bring many new amenities to existing residents."

Selwyn also fared well for the year in new wellbeing indicators monitored by Infometrics.

Housing and rental affordability were better than the national average in 2019. The district had one of the lowest crime rates and highest life expectancies in the country, and was lower than the national average for work place injuries, suicide, and people presenting with mental health issues.

The figures are a positive reflection of how good life is in Selwyn, Mayor Broughton says.

“The evidence shows that Selwyn remains a very safe place to live and raise a family, and that the opportunities here and a bit of fresh air are good for the soul.”

Within the district, the figures show Lincoln was the fastest growing town in the district in 2019, with its population increasing by 10% to 7,380 people, while West Melton saw the biggest change in population over the decade growing by almost 17% to 2250.

Dairy farming and manufacture of dairy products were the biggest employers in the region last year, followed by defence, higher education and housing construction. Over the decade, manufacturing, construction and primary industry were the biggest contributors to economic growth.

In 2019 primary industries (agriculture, forestry and fishing) made up 17.6% of the district's GDP, followed by manufacturing (12.6%) and construction (8.1%).

Key figures

2019	Selwyn	National average
Population growth	5.3%	1.6%
Economic growth	6.8%	3%
Increase in jobs	3.8%	1.9%
Life expectancy	84.3 years	81.8 years
Average house price	\$555,988	\$687,099
Crime rate	94.6 crimes per 10,000 people	344.1 per 10,000 people

The 2019 Infometrics Annual Economic Profile is available at www.selwyn.govt.nz/services/business/our-economy

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