RLB CRANE INDEX®

Q1 – 2026 25TH EDITION

Rider Levett Bucknall

NEW ZEALAND

Q1 2026 RLB CRANE INDEX® HIGHLIGHTS

- Cranes across the seven major centres now total 102, a decrease of 14 cranes nationally. The Crane Index is now at its lowest point since 2016.
- The Auckland crane index was broadly steady, with Auckland remaining the busiest centre with 58 long-term cranes
- Christchurch recorded the largest fall this quarter, with all cranes removed from One New Zealand Stadium (Te Kaha)
- Dunedin and Hamilton recorded net gains, Tauranga remained stable, while Queenstown and Wellington softened
- The residential crane index remains stable at 132 points, represented by 29 long-term residential cranes nationally
- The non-residential index fell by 16% to 128 points, representing 73 non-residential long-term cranes
- Residential cranes now account for 28.2% of all long-term cranes nationally (up from 25.0% in the previous edition)
- Civil cranes now number 28 across the centres — almost matching the residential sector
- With One New Zealand Stadium (Te Kaha) almost complete, crane activity is now spread across major construction sites rather than a single dominant project

NEW ZEALAND

The number of long-term cranes across New Zealand's main centres fell from 116 in Q3 2025 to 102 in Q1 2026. The national RLB Crane Index® fell from 147 to 129 points, a 12.1% fall.

The New Zealand construction market remains weak, with the Crane Index now at its lowest point since 2016. The decline in the Crane Index reflects the completion of several large projects along with the completion of several aged care developments in Auckland.

But there are tentative signs of a recovery in construction activity, led by residential construction. Lower interest rates are the key driver of the expected recovery – the Reserve Bank of New Zealand cut the official cash rate from 5.5% in July 2024 to 2.25% in November 2025. Stronger population growth will also support demand, but any rebound is likely to be uneven and sector specific.

New Zealand's residential crane index value remains at 132 index points, unchanged from the previous edition. The current index value represents 29 long-term residential cranes, well below the high of 76 recorded in Q3 2022. Residential cranes now make up 28.2% of all long-term cranes in New Zealand.

Residential construction continues to face headwinds, but long-term residential crane numbers have held steady. The residential crane index remains at 132 points, represented by 29 long-term cranes across the key centres, suggesting the sector has stabilised at a low base while developers remain selective on new multi-unit commencements.

Non-residential construction, by contrast, has weakened further. The non-residential index has fallen by 16% to 128 points (73 cranes), driven largely by the wind down of recreation work in Christchurch and a reduction in commercial and aged care cranes. Offsetting this, civil, civic and health-related projects recorded net increases, pointing to continued public and infrastructure-led activity.

Auckland remains the epicentre of crane activity, hosting 58 long-term cranes – more than half the national total – although the city recorded a small net decline. Christchurch experienced the largest fall (down 15 cranes) following the removal of all cranes from One New Zealand Stadium (Te Kaha). Dunedin and Hamilton recorded modest gains, Tauranga remained stable, while Queenstown and Wellington softened.

Nationally, fifty-six cranes were removed from sites, while forty-two new cranes were placed on sites.

A lower crane count aligns with official statistics showing the New Zealand construction sector remains weak. The total volume of building work put in place in 2025 was down 8.5% from 2024 (to $28.2 billion), although new building consents increased 9.3% in the year ended January 2026 (to 36,944 dwellings).

Q1 2026 RLB CRANE INDEX® SUMMARY

CITIES	
AUCKLAND	–
CHRISTCHURCH	↑
DUNEDIN	↓
HAMILTON	↓
QUEENSTOWN	–
TAURANGA	–
WELLINGTON	↑

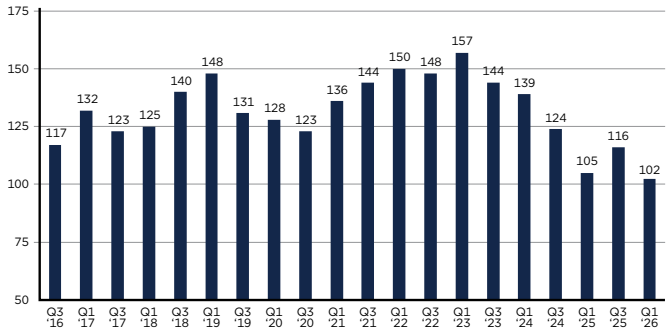
KEY SECTORS		
AGED CARE	↑	HEALTH
CIVIC	↓	HOTEL
CIVIL	–	MIXED USE
COMMERCIAL	↑	RECREATION
DATA CENTRE / INDUSTRIAL	–	RESIDENTIAL
EDUCATION	↓	RETAIL

LEGEND

↓ INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CRANES
↑ DECREASE IN NUMBER OF CRANES
– CRANE NUMBERS STEADY

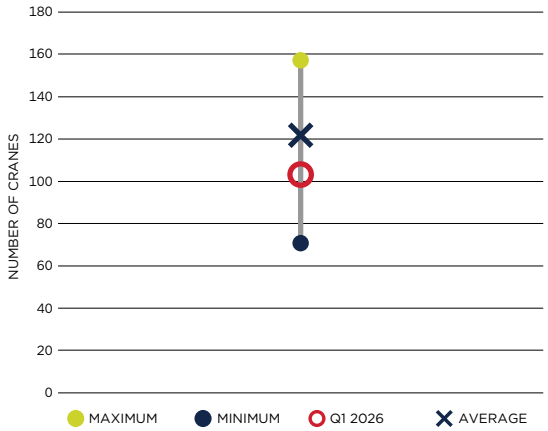
CRANE ACTIVITY - NEW ZEALAND

NUMBER OF CRANES



NEW ZEALAND

HISTORICAL METRICS – NEW ZEALAND



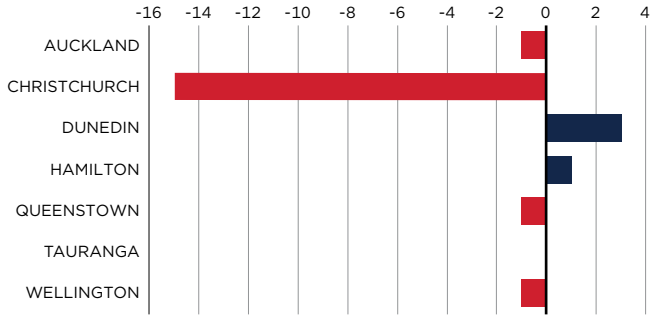
This historical metrics chart illustrates current crane activity within a specific location, contextualised against the historical highs, lows, and averages across 19 half yearly observations from Q1 2014 to Q1 2026.

CRANE ACTIVITY – NEW ZEALAND

	OPENING COUNT Q3 2025	%	MOVEMENT +	-	NET	CLOSING COUNT Q1 2026	%
AUCKLAND	**59**	50.9%	*26*	*-27*	*-1*	**58**	56.3%
CHRISTCHURCH	**23**	19.8%	*4*	*-19*	*-15*	**8**	8.7%
DUNEDIN	**0**	0.0%	*3*	*0*	*3*	**3**	2.9%
HAMILTON	**3**	2.6%	*2*	*-1*	*1*	**4**	3.9%
QUEENSTOWN	**12**	10.3%	*2*	*-3*	*-1*	**11**	10.7%
TAURANGA	**14**	12.1%	*3*	*-3*	*0*	**14**	13.6%
WELLINGTON	**5**	4.3%	*2*	*-3*	*-1*	**4**	3.9%
TOTAL	**116**	**100%**	**42**	**-56**	**-14**	**102**	**100%**

NEW ZEALAND NET CRANE MOVEMENT BY CITY

NUMBER OF CRANES REMOVED / ADDED

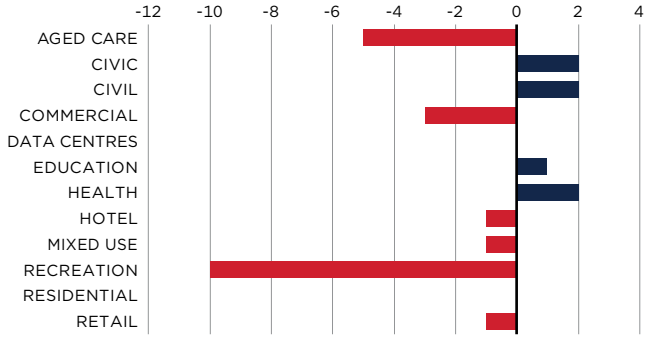


CRANE ACTIVITY – NEW ZEALAND BY SECTOR

	OPENING COUNT Q3 2025	%	MOVEMENT +	-	NET	CLOSING COUNT Q1 2026	%
AGED CARE	**9**	7.8%	*0*	*-5*	*-5*	**4**	3.9%
CIVIC	**5**	4.3%	*3*	*-1*	*2*	**7**	6.8%
CIVIL	**26**	22.4%	*13*	*-11*	*2*	**28**	28.2%
COMMERCIAL	**14**	12.1%	*4*	*-7*	*-3*	**11**	10.7%
DATA CENTRES	**4**	3.4%	*4*	*-4*	*0*	**4**	3.9%
EDUCATION	**2**	1.7%	*3*	*-2*	*1*	**3**	2.9%
HEALTH	**6**	5.2%	*3*	*-1*	*2*	**8**	7.8%
HOTEL	**5**	4.3%	*1*	*-2*	*-1*	**4**	3.9%
MIXED USE	**5**	4.3%	*1*	*-2*	*-1*	**4**	3.9%
RECREATION	**10**	8.6%	*0*	*-10*	*-10*	**0**	0.0%
RESIDENTIAL	**29**	25.0%	*10*	*-10*	*0*	**29**	28.2%
RETAIL	**1**	0.9%	*0*	*-1*	*-1*	**0**	0.0%
TOTAL	**116**	**100%**	**42**	**-56**	**-14**	**102**	**100%**

NET CRANE MOVEMENT BY SECTOR

NUMBER OF CRANES REMOVED / ADDED

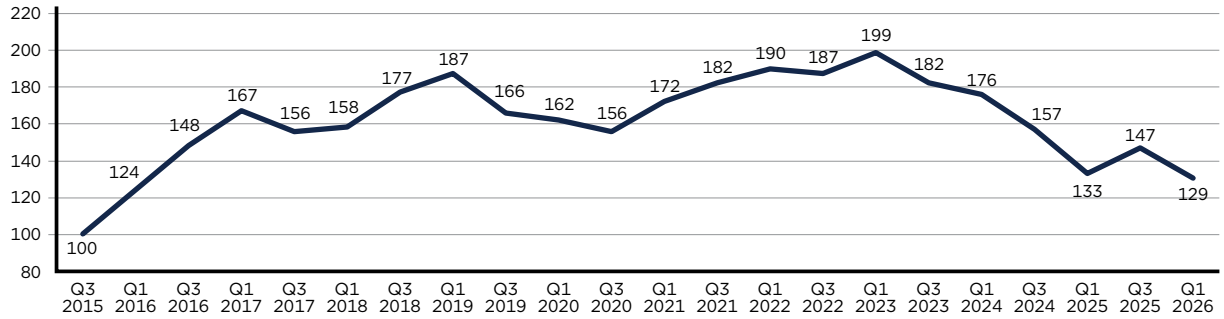


NEW ZEALAND

RLB CRANE INDEX® – NEW ZEALAND

The New Zealand RLB Crane Index® fell by 12.1% to 129 index points, representing a decrease of 14 cranes.

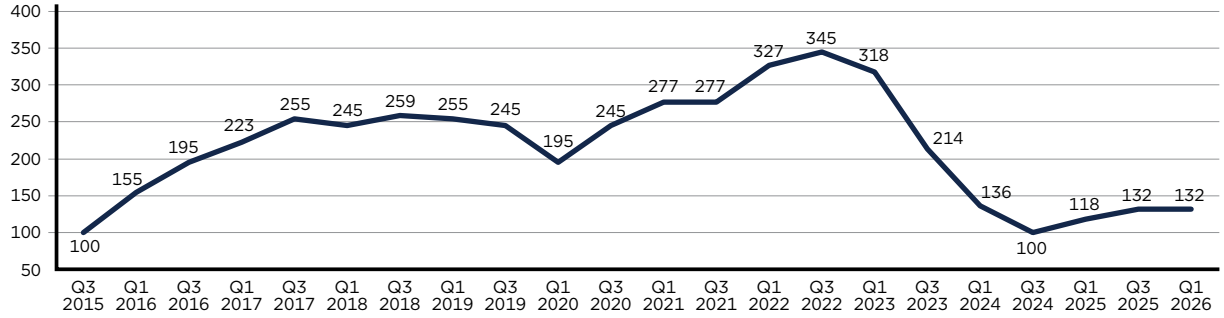
BASE: Q3 2015 = 100



RESIDENTIAL INDEX

The residential index has stabilised with 29 residential long-term cranes recorded across centres nationally.

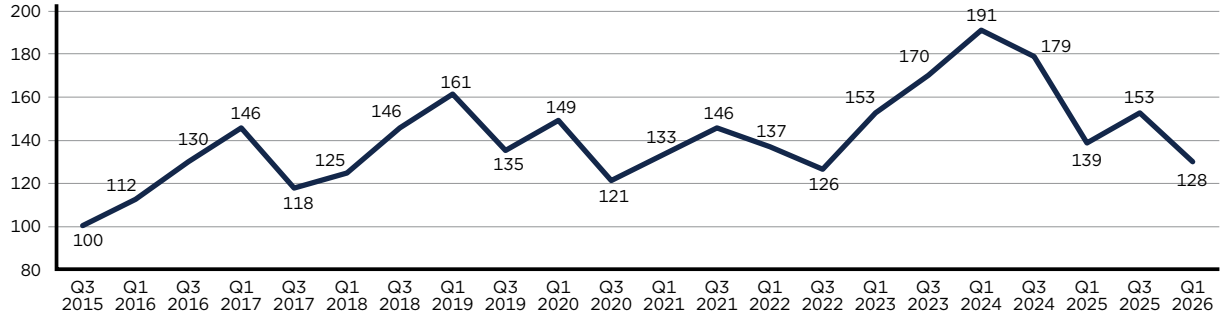
BASE: Q3 2015 = 100



NON-RESIDENTIAL INDEX

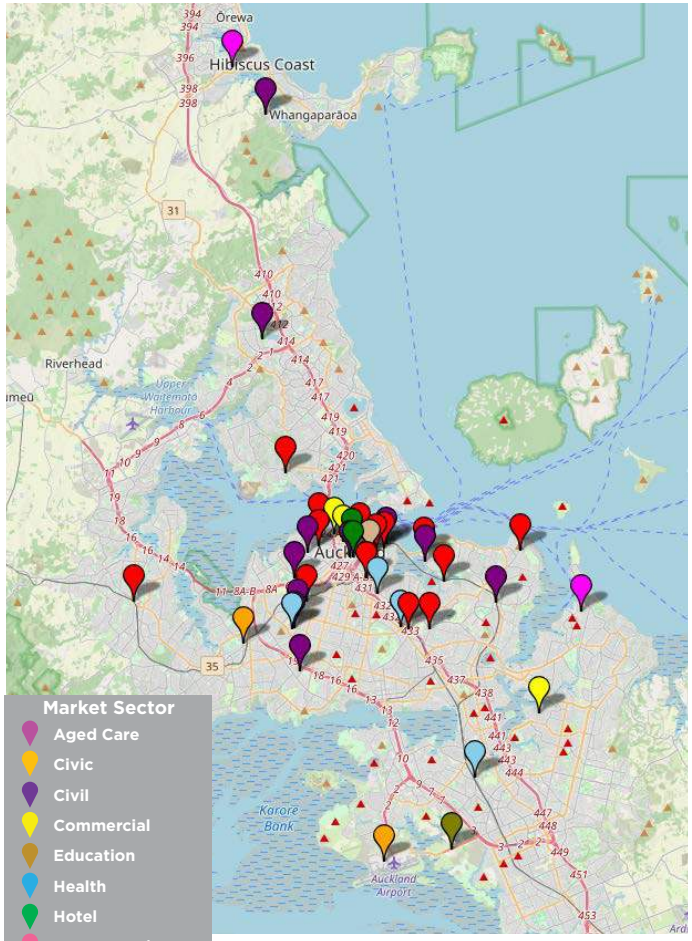
The non-residential index has fallen to 128 index points, down 16% from 153 in the previous edition, representing 73 non-residential long-term cranes across New Zealand's major centres.

BASE: Q3 2015 = 100



AUCKLAND

Auckland's RLB Crane Index® fell marginally from 179 to 176 points in Q1 2026. The city now hosts 58 long-term cranes, down from 59 in the previous edition, with 26 cranes added and 27 removed.



CRANE ACTIVITY – AUCKLAND

	OPENING COUNT Q3 2025	%	MOVEMENT +	-	NET	CLOSING COUNT Q1 2026	%
AGED CARE	7	11.9%	0	-5	-5	2	3.4%
CIVIC	4	6.8%	1	0	1	5	8.6%
CIVIL	18	30.5%	13	-9	4	22	37.9%
COMMERCIAL	5	8.5%	1	-3	-2	3	5.2%
DATA CENTRES	4	6.8%	1	-4	-3	1	1.7%
EDUCATION	0	0.0%	2	0	2	2	3.4%
HEALTH	2	3.4%	2	0	2	4	6.9%
HOTEL	2	3.4%	0	0	0	2	3.4%
MIXED USE	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
RECREATION	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
RESIDENTIAL	17	28.8%	6	-6	0	17	29.3%
RETAIL	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
TOTAL	**59**	**100%**	**26**	**-27**	**-1**	**58**	**100%**

KEY SECTORS

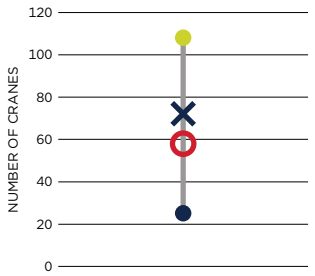
- AGED CARE
- CIVIC
- CIVIL
- COMMERCIAL
- DATA CENTRE / INDUSTRIAL
- EDUCATION
- HEALTH
- HOTEL
- RESIDENTIAL

OVERALL STATUS

LEGEND

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CRANES | DECREASE IN NUMBER OF CRANES | CRANE NUMBERS STEADY

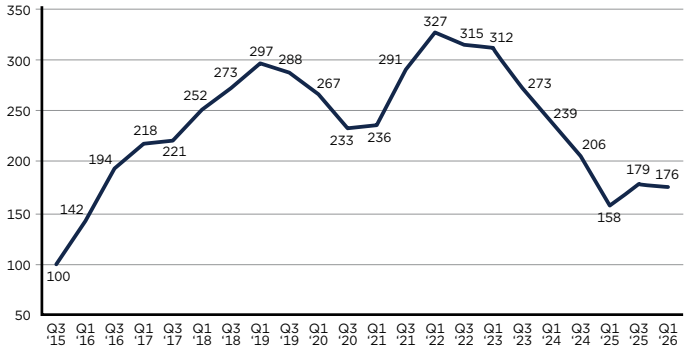
HISTORICAL METRICS – AUCKLAND



This historical metrics chart illustrates current crane activity within a specific location, contextualised against the historical highs, lows, and averages across 19 half yearly observations from Q1 2014 to Q1 2026.

RLB CRANE INDEX® – AUCKLAND

BASE: Q3 2015 = 100



AUCKLAND

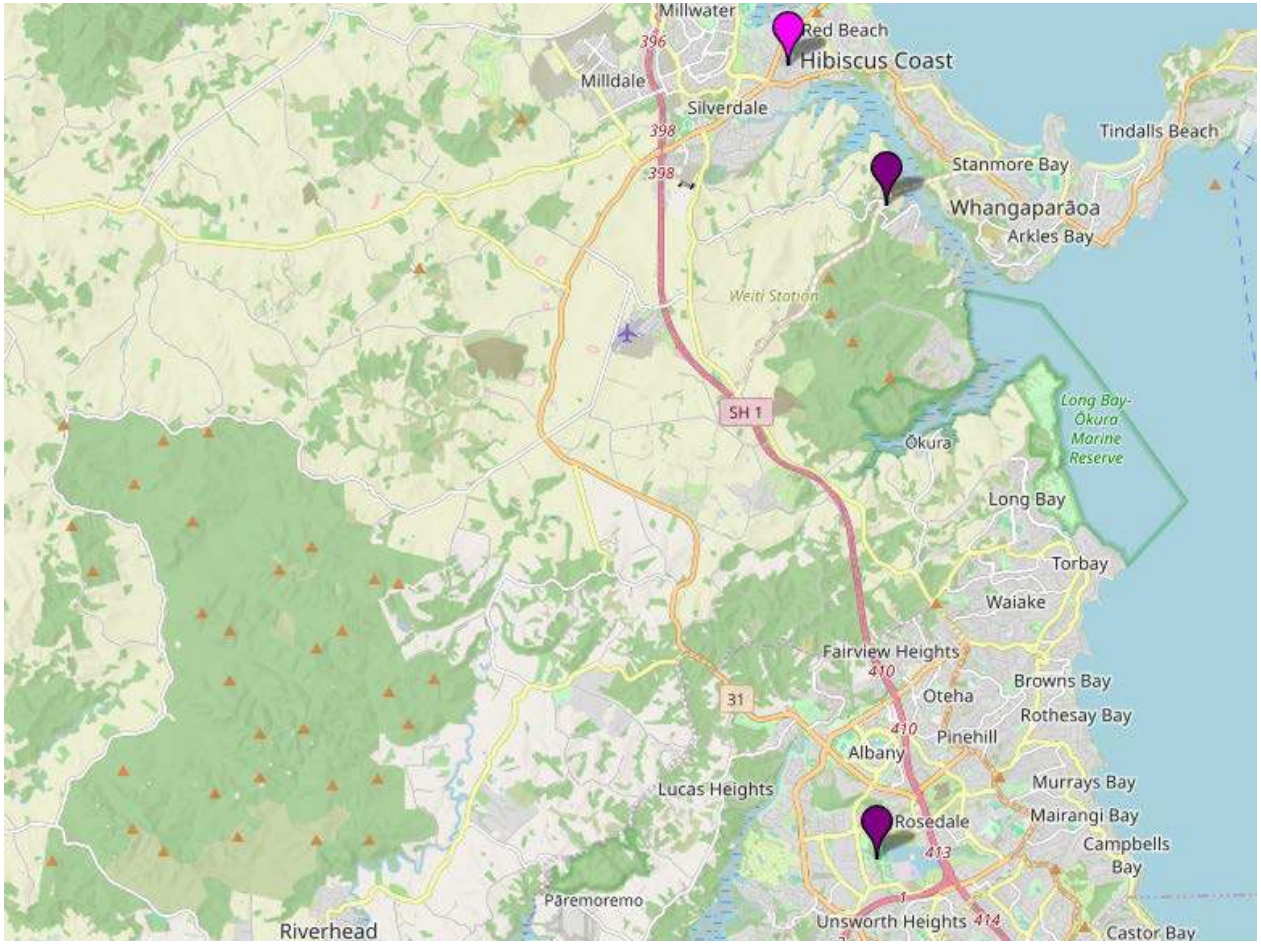
Crane numbers suggest Auckland remains near the bottom of the cycle, with activity concentrated in infrastructure-led work and selective residential developments rather than a broad-based recovery.

Currently, there are 17 residential long-term cranes, the same as in Q3 2025. Six new cranes commenced on residential projects in this edition, offset by six removals. The proportion of residential cranes remained steady at around 29% of all long-term cranes, well down from 40 to 60% over the 2016 to 2022 period.

Residential long-term crane numbers in Auckland remained steady, supported by a continued development pipeline from developers such as Simplicity Living, which added two new tower cranes to its latest Morningside project.

Consistent with the previous quarter, Tier 2 contractors Kalmar and CMP continue to lead the Auckland crane count, while many Tier 1 contractors maintain historically low levels of crane activity.

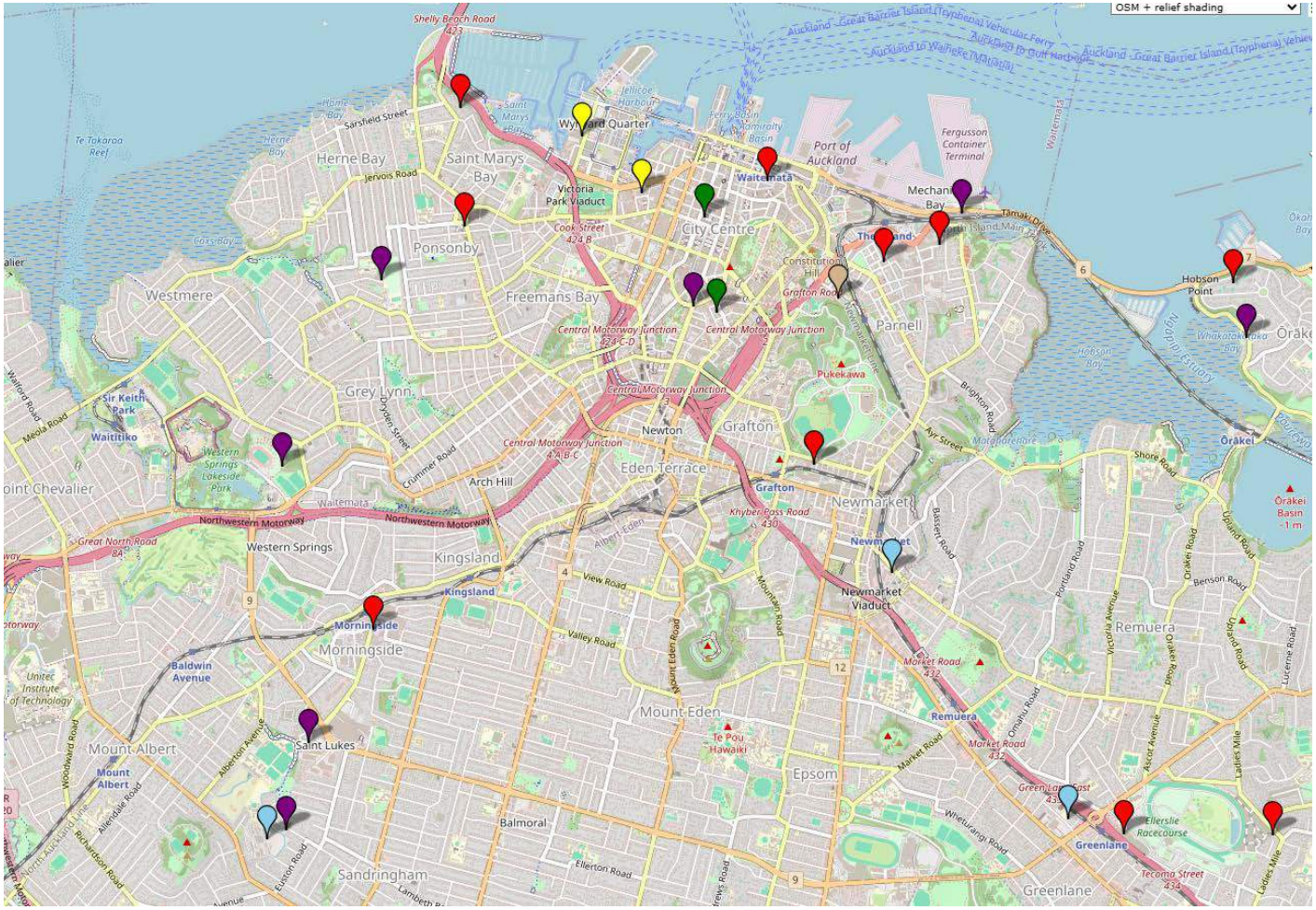
The total value of building work put in place in 2025 in Auckland was down 8.4 per cent compared to 2024 (to $12.5 billion). The number of new Auckland building consents has risen, up 13.3 per cent in the year ended January 2026 (to 15,779 dwellings).



AUCKLAND

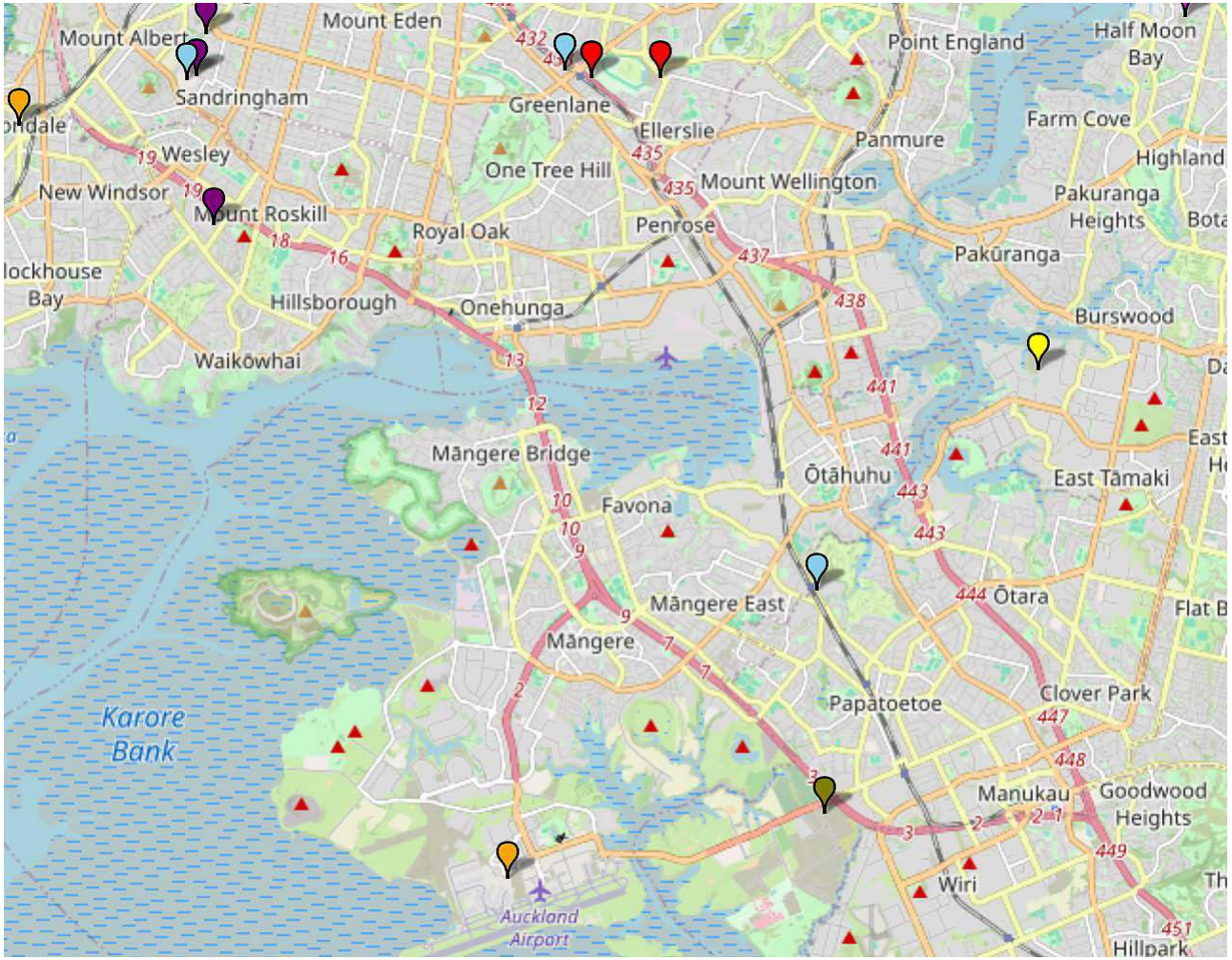
Current activity by sector:

- Aged Care: Metlifecare Gulf Rise; Summerset Village
- Civic: Domestic Processor -Buildings and Piers (4 cranes); Te Hono Community Centre & Library project
- Civil: Orakei Infrastructure and Pedestrian Works (5 cranes); Bledisloe wharf extension (4 cranes); Ō Mahurangi – Penlink Project (4 cranes); Glen Innes Station Pedestrian Overbridge; Rosedale Park; SH1 Papakura to Drury Motorway Upgrade; Watercare Central Interceptor (5 cranes); Watercare Mid-Town
- Commercial: Fisher and Paykel Healthcare; 35 Graham Street; Orams Marine Building and Retail
- Data Centres / Industrial: Puhinui Road, Wiri
- Education: Carlaw Park Student Village (2 cranes)
- Health: Allevia Health - Urology Institute; Kakariki Stage 2 Development; MPI; Middlemore Hospital.
- Hotel: DoubleTree Hilton; Moxy Hotel
- Residential: Simplicity Living, Ascot Avenue, (2 cranes); Simplicity Living Morningside (2 cranes); 87 Shelly Beach Road, Saint Mary's Bay; Chelsea Rise Apartments; Elysian Apartments; Kensington Park; Orakei Residential House; Ockham "Station M"; Pompallier on Ponsonby; 819 Riddell Road, St Heliers; Seascape Custom Street Residential; Sero Apartments; The Domain Collection; The Hill; York House



Cranes were removed from:

- Aged Care: Huapai Country Club; Metlifecare Fairway Gardens; Parkside Village - Metlifecare; Summerset Village; The Foundation Village Stage 2
- Civil: Watercare Central Interceptor (7 cranes); Watercare Midtown; Central Plant & Tunnel Auckland Hospital
- Commercial: Fisher & Paykel Appliances HQ (2 cranes); Fisher and Paykel Healthcare
- Data Centres / Industrial: HV2 CDC Data Centre (3 cranes); Hobsonville Road
- Residential: The Viridian (2 cranes); 161 Hendon Avenue, Mount Roskill; Fabric 2 Apartments; Fiore 5; Reiputa - Simplicity Living



CHRISTCHURCH

Christchurch's RLB Crane Index® fell by 65% in Q1 2026, falling from 74 to 26 points. The city now has 8 long-term cranes, down from 23 in the previous edition, with 4 cranes added and 19 removed.

Christchurch's crane count fell to 8 cranes in Q1 2026, down from 23. The large decline was mainly due to the near-completion of One New Zealand Stadium (Te Kaha), Christchurch, where all ten cranes have now been removed.

Overall, four long-term cranes were added to developments in Christchurch, and 19 were removed.

CRANE ACTIVITY – CHRISTCHURCH

	OPENING COUNT Q3 2025	%	MOVEMENT +	-	NET	CLOSING COUNT Q1 2026	%
AGED CARE	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
CIVIC	0	0.0%	1	0	1	1	12.5%
CIVIL	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
COMMERCIAL	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
DATA CENTRES	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
EDUCATION	1	4.3%	0	-1	-1	0	0.0%
HEALTH	2	8.7%	0	0	0	2	25.0%
HOTEL	2	8.7%	1	-1	0	2	25.0%
MIXED USE	3	13.0%	0	-2	-2	1	12.5%
RECREATION	10	43.5%	0	-10	-10	0	0.0%
RESIDENTIAL	4	17.4%	2	-4	-2	2	25.0%
RETAIL	1	4.3%	0	-1	-1	0	0.0%
TOTAL	**23**	**100.0%**	**4**	**-19**	**-15**	**8**	**100.0%**

KEY SECTORS

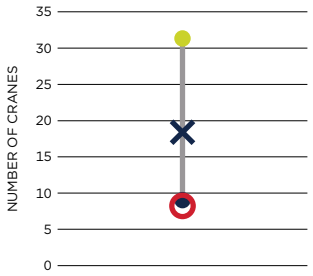
- CIVIC
- EDUCATION
- HEALTH
- HOTEL
- MIXED USE
- RECREATION
- RESIDENTIAL
- RETAIL

OVERALL STATUS

LEGEND

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CRANES | DECREASE IN NUMBER OF CRANES | CRANE NUMBERS STEADY

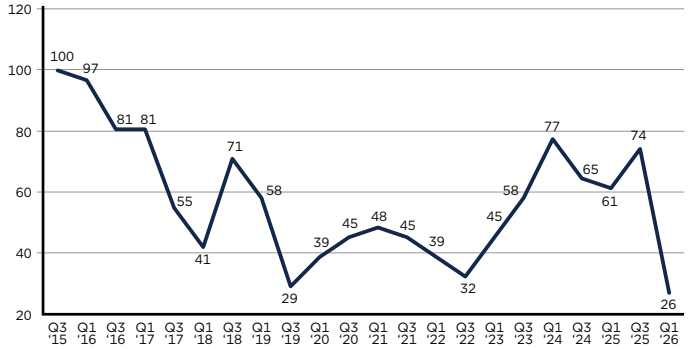
HISTORICAL METRICS – CHRISTCHURCH



This historical metrics chart illustrates current crane activity within a specific location, contextualised against the historical highs, lows, and averages across 19 half yearly observations from Q1 2014 to Q1 2026.

RLB CRANE INDEX® – CHRISTCHURCH

BASE: Q3 2015 = 100



CHRISTCHURCH

Current activity by sector:

- Civic: Canterbury Museum Redevelopment
- Health: Christchurch Hospital Waipapa Tower 3 (2 cranes)
- Hotel: Project Ark (2 cranes)
- Residential: Student Accommodation, Oxford Terrace (2 cranes)
- Mixed Use / Other: Corner of Cambridge and Hereford Street

Cranes were removed from:

- Retail: High Street
- Mixed Use / Other: Hereford Street; Office Development on Corner of Manchester Street and High Street
- Recreation: One New Zealand Stadium (Te Kaha) (ten cranes)
- Residential: Lichfield Street (two cranes); Montreal Street; Kilmore Street
- Education: University of Otago Christchurch Redevelopment
- Hotel: Corner of Cashel Street and Manchester Street

The total value of building work put in place in 2025 in Canterbury was down 0.8% compared to 2024 (to $5.1b). The number of new Canterbury building consents has risen, up 11.6% in the year ended January 2026 (to 7,398 dwellings).

DUNEDIN

Dunedin's RLB Crane Index® rose from 0 to 300 points. The city now has 3 long-term cranes, up from 0 in the previous edition, with 3 cranes added and 0 removed.

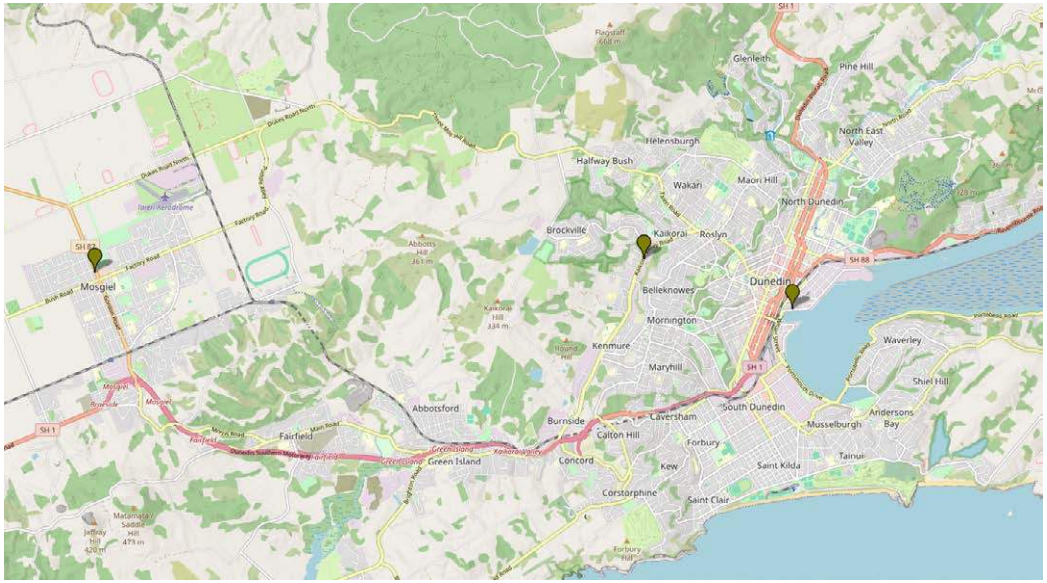
The total value of building work put in place in 2025 in the South Island (excluding Canterbury) was up 0.4% compared to 2024 (to $3.7b). The number of new building consents in the South Island (excluding Canterbury) has risen, up 10.9% in the year ended January 2026 (to 4,062 dwellings).

Current activity by sector:

- Data centres / Industrial: Farra Fabrication - Roof Replacement; NPD - Kaikorai Valley; NPD - Mosgiel

CRANE ACTIVITY – DUNEDIN

	OPENING COUNT Q3 2025	%	MOVEMENT +	-	NET	CLOSING COUNT Q1 2026	%
AGED CARE	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
CIVIC	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
CIVIL	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
COMMERCIAL	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
DATA CENTRES	0	0.0%	3	0	3	3	100.0%
EDUCATION	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
HEALTH	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
HOTEL	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
MIXED USE	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
RECREATION	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
RESIDENTIAL	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
RETAIL	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
TOTAL	0	N/A	3	0	3	3	100%



KEY SECTORS

DATA CENTRE / INDUSTRIAL

OVERALL STATUS

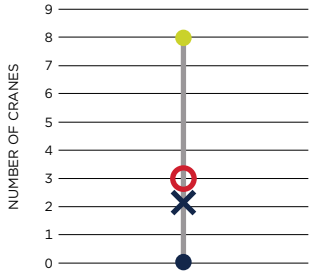
LEGEND

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CRANES

DECREASE IN NUMBER OF CRANES

CRANE NUMBERS STEADY

HISTORICAL METRICS – DUNEDIN



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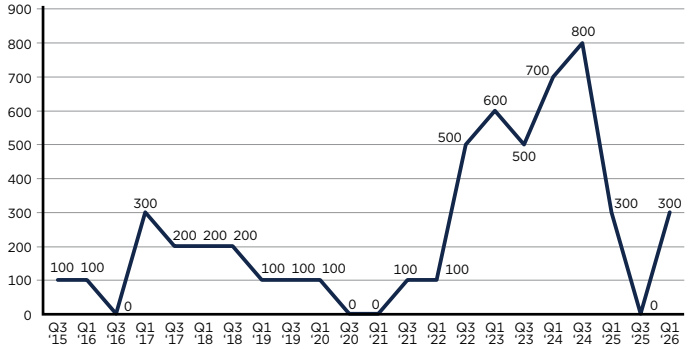
RLB CRANE INDEX® – DUNEDIN

BASE: Q3 2015 = 100



HAMILTON

Hamilton's RLB Crane Index® rose from 150 to 200 points. The city now has 4 long-term cranes, up from 3 in the previous edition, with 2 cranes added and 1 removed.

The Hamilton region currently hosts 4 cranes, up from 3 previously.

The total value of building work put in place in 2025 in the Waikato region was down 10.7% compared to 2024 (to $2.6b). The number of new Waikato building consents has risen, up 8.5% in the year ended January 2026 (to 3,028 dwellings).

Current activity by sector:

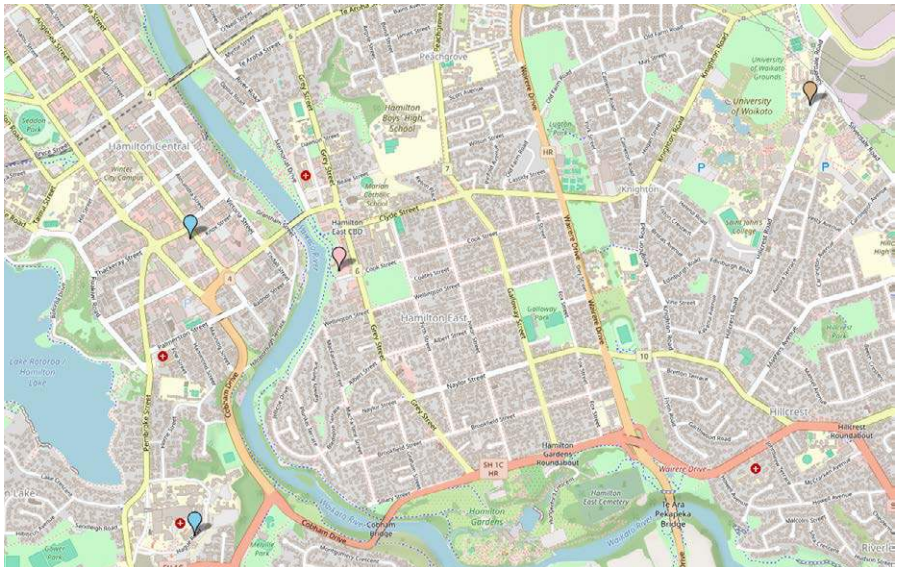
- Education: New Zealand Graduate School of Medicine
- Health: Anglesea Medical Precinct Renovation; Waikato Mental Health
- Mixed Use / Other: 1 Cook Street

Cranes were removed from:

- Health: Waikato Mental Health

CRANE ACTIVITY – HAMILTON

	OPENING COUNT Q3 2025	%	MOVEMENT +	-	NET	CLOSING COUNT Q1 2026	%
AGED CARE	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
CIVIC	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
CIVIL	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
COMMERCIAL	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
DATA CENTRES	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
EDUCATION	0	0.0%	1	0	1	1	25.0%
HEALTH	2	66.7%	1	-1	0	2	50.0%
HOTEL	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
MIXED USE	1	33.3%	0	0	0	1	25.0%
RECREATION	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
RESIDENTIAL	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
RETAIL	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
TOTAL	**3**	**100%**	**2**	**-1**	**1**	**4**	**100%**



KEY SECTORS

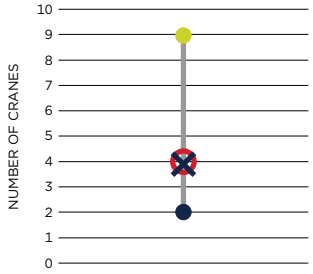
EDUCATION	↑
HEALTH	↑
MIXED USE	↑

OVERALL STATUS

LEGEND

↑ INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CRANES
↑ DECREASE IN NUMBER OF CRANES
↑ CRANE NUMBERS STEADY

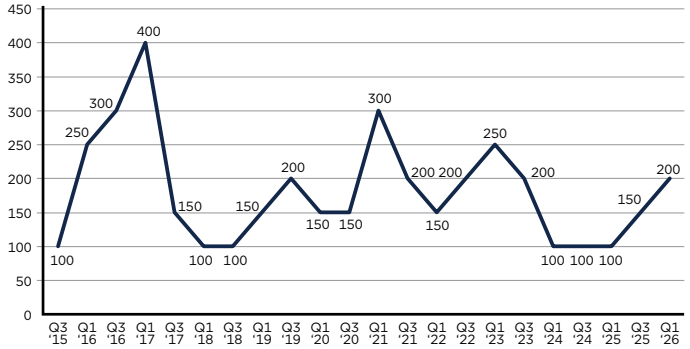
HISTORICAL METRICS – HAMILTON



This historical metrics chart illustrates current crane activity within a specific location, contextualised against the historical highs, lows, and averages across 19 half yearly observations from Q1 2014 to Q1 2026.

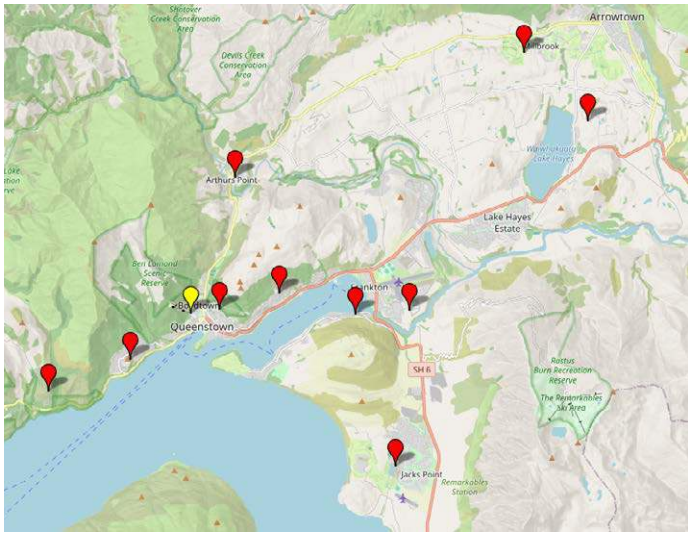
RLB CRANE INDEX® – HAMILTON

BASE: Q3 2015 = 100



QUEENSTOWN

Queenstown's RLB Crane Index® fell from 400 to 367 points. The city now has 11 long-term cranes, down from 12 in the previous edition, with 2 cranes added and 3 removed.



CRANE ACTIVITY – QUEENSTOWN

	OPENING COUNT Q3 2025	%	MOVEMENT +	-	NET	CLOSING COUNT Q1 2026	%
AGED CARE	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
CIVIC	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
CIVIL	1	8.3%	0	-1	-1	0	0.0%
COMMERCIAL	2	16.7%	0	-1	-1	1	9.1%
DATA CENTRES	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
EDUCATION	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
HEALTH	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
HOTEL	1	8.3%	0	-1	-1	0	0.0%
MIXED USE	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
RECREATION	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
RESIDENTIAL	8	66.7%	2	0	2	10	90.9%
RETAIL	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
TOTAL	**12**	**100%**	**2**	**-3**	**-1**	**11**	**100%**

KEY SECTORS

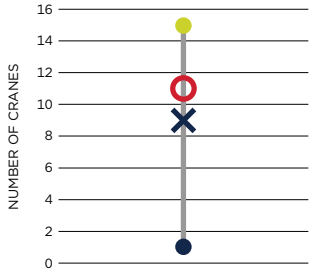
- CIVIL
- COMMERCIAL
- HOTEL
- RESIDENTIAL

OVERALL STATUS

LEGEND

- INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CRANES
- DECREASE IN NUMBER OF CRANES
- CRANE NUMBERS STEADY

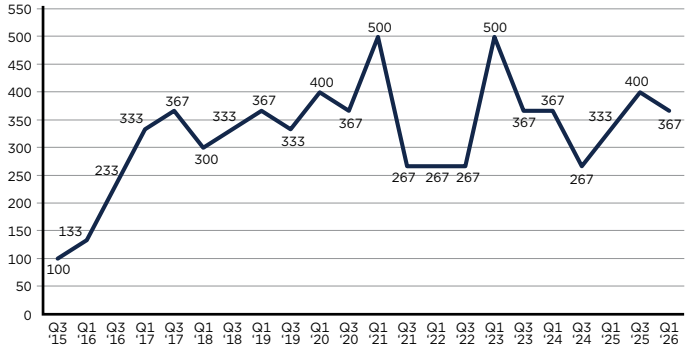
HISTORICAL METRICS – QUEENSTOWN



This historical metrics chart illustrates current crane activity within a specific location, contextualised against the historical highs, lows, and averages across 19 half yearly observations from Q1 2014 to Q1 2026.

RLB CRANE INDEX® – QUEENSTOWN

BASE: Q3 2015 = 100



QUEENSTOWN

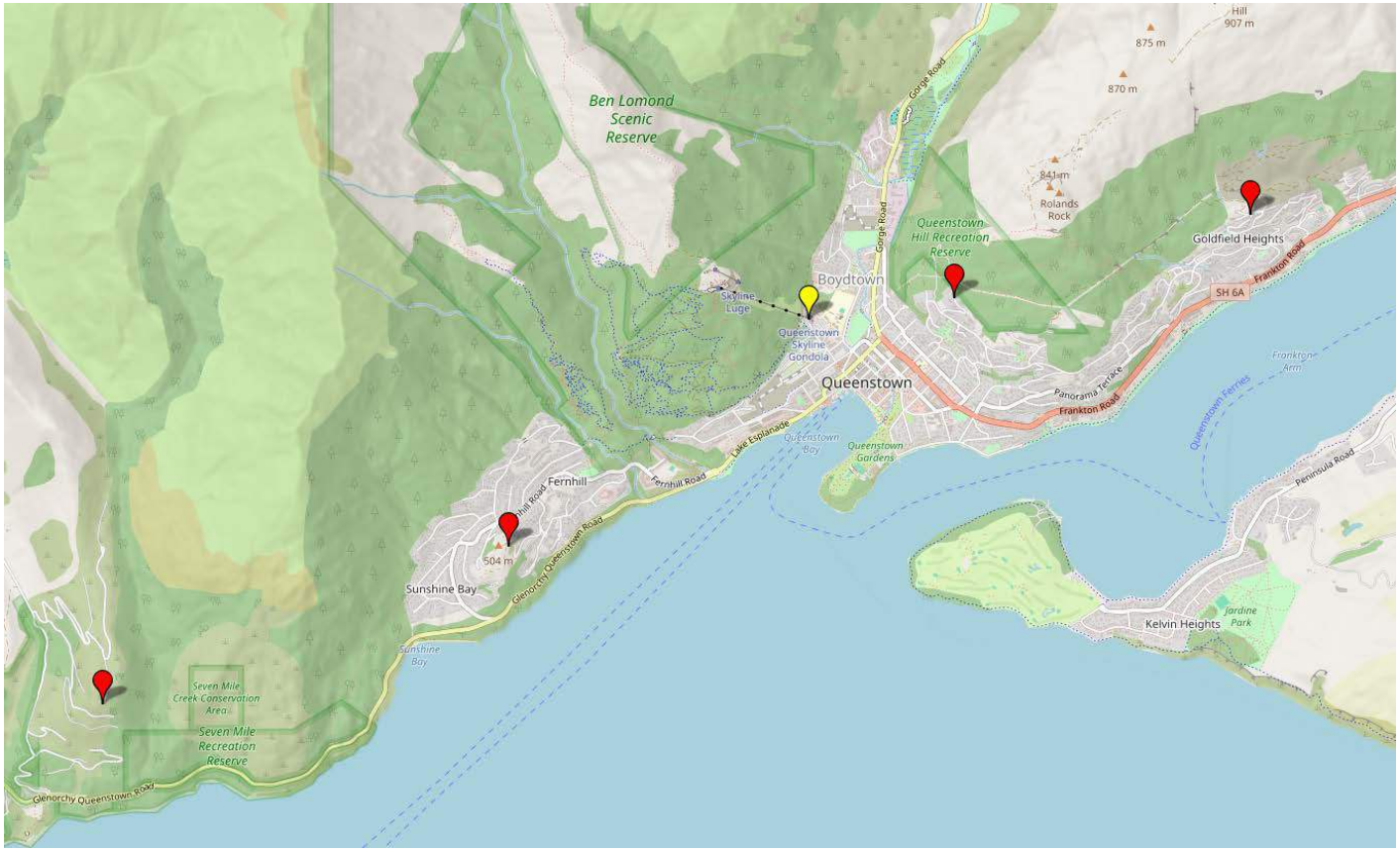
Residential cranes account for 10 of the 11 cranes in Queenstown.

Current activity by sector:

- Commercial: Skyline (Queenstown)
- Residential: Ploughman's Lane (Millbrook); 23 Summit Lane (Ben Lomond); Tree Tops Rise (Queenstown); Pinnacle Place (Queenstown); Willow Place (Kelvin Heights); Wilding Road (Lake Hayes); Canyon Ridge (Arthur's Point); Chandler Lane (Fernhill); Alpine Residences (Jacks Point); Mountain Oak (Queenstown)

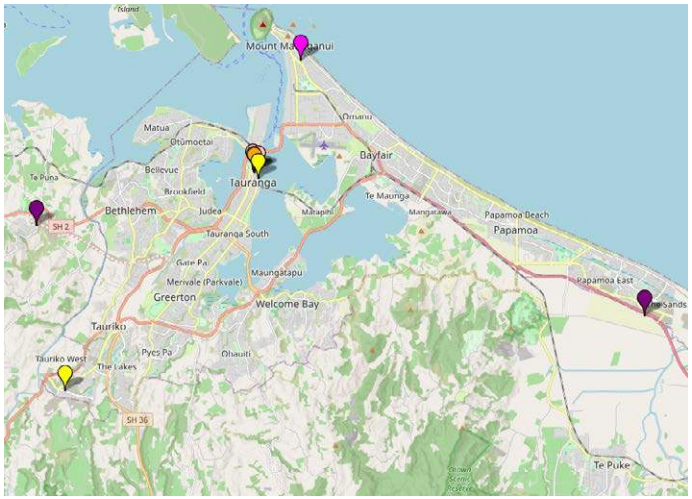
Cranes were removed from:

- Hotel: ROKI (Queenstown)
- Residential: Frontier, Elm Avenue (Queenstown)
- Civil: 2 Shotover Delta Road (Queenstown)



TAURANGA

Tauranga's RLB Crane Index® remained stable at 700 index points. The city has 14 long-term cranes, with 3 cranes added and 3 removed.



CRANE ACTIVITY – TAURANGA

	OPENING COUNT Q3 2025	%	MOVEMENT +	-	NET	CLOSING COUNT Q1 2026	%
AGED CARE	2	14.3%	0	0	0	2	14.3%
CIVIC	1	7.1%	1	-1	0	1	7.1%
CIVIL	6	42.9%	0	0	0	6	42.9%
COMMERCIAL	3	21.4%	1	-1	0	3	21.4%
DATA CENTRES	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
EDUCATION	1	7.1%	0	-1	-1	0	0.0%
HEALTH	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
HOTEL	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
MIXED USE	1	7.1%	1	0	1	2	14.3%
RECREATION	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
RESIDENTIAL	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
RETAIL	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
TOTAL	**14**	**100%**	**3**	**-3**	**0**	**14**	**100%**

KEY SECTORS

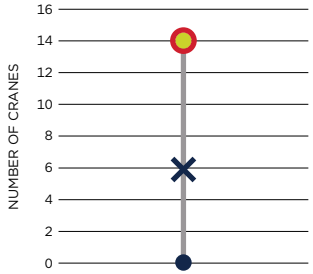
- AGED CARE
- CIVIC
- CIVIL
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATION
- MIXED USE

OVERALL STATUS

LEGEND

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CRANES | DECREASE IN NUMBER OF CRANES | CRANE NUMBERS STEADY

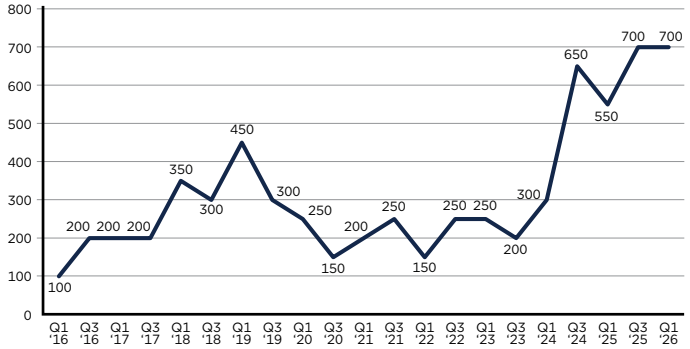
HISTORICAL METRICS – TAURANGA



This historical metrics chart illustrates current crane activity within a specific location, contextualised against the historical highs, lows, and averages across 19 half yearly observations from Q1 2014 to Q1 2026.

RLB CRANE INDEX® – TAURANGA

BASE: Q1 2016 = 100



TAURANGA

Current activity by sector:

- Aged Care: The Pitau (2 cranes)
- Civic: Te Manawataki CWEM
- Civil: Papamoa Eastern Interchange; Tauranga Northern Link (5 cranes)
- Commercial: Craigs Investment Partners House; Panorama Towers; Tauranga Truck Stops
- Mixed Use / Other: Northern Quarter; Tauranga Moana Courthouse

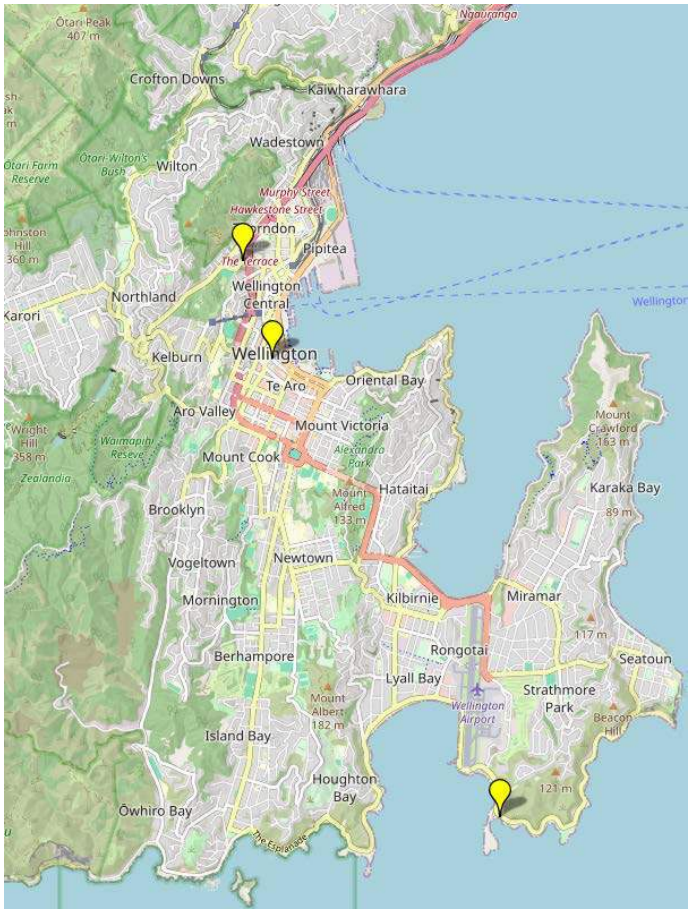
Cranes were removed from:

- Tauranga City Council Office (Tauranga, Commercial)
- Te Manawataki Community Hub (Tauranga, Civic)
- Mount Maunganui College (Mount Maunganui, Education)

The total value of building work put in place in 2025 in the North Island (excluding the Auckland, Waikato, and Wellington regions) was down 11.3% compared to 2024 (to $4.8b). The number of new building consents in the region has also fallen, down 8.4% in the year ended January 2026 (to 4,534 dwellings).

WELLINGTON

Wellington's RLB Crane Index® fell from 56 to 44 points. The city now has 4 long-term cranes, down from 5 in the previous edition, with 2 cranes added and 3 removed.



Current activity by sector:

- Parliament Buildings; Sludge Minimisation Facility (2 cranes); Wellington Town Hall Annex

Cranes were removed from:

- Civil: Wellington Waterfront
- Commercial: 61 Molesworth Street; ESR Sequencing Laboratory

The total value of building work put in place in 2025 in Wellington was down 11.8% compared to 2024 (to $2.5b). But the number of new Wellington building consents has risen, up 15.5% in the year ended January 2026 (to 2,142 dwellings).

CRANE ACTIVITY – WELLINGTON

	OPENING COUNT Q3 2025	%	MOVEMENT +	-	NET	CLOSING COUNT Q1 2026	%
AGED CARE	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
CIVIC	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
CIVIL	1	20.0%	0	-1	-1	0	0.0%
COMMERCIAL	4	80.0%	2	-2	0	4	100.0%
DATA CENTRES	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
EDUCATION	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
HEALTH	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
HOTEL	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
MIXED USE	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
RECREATION	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
RESIDENTIAL	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
RETAIL	0	0.0%	0	0	0	0	0.0%
TOTAL	**5**	**100%**	**2**	**-3**	**-1**	**4**	**100%**

KEY SECTORS

CIVIL

COMMERCIAL

OVERALL STATUS

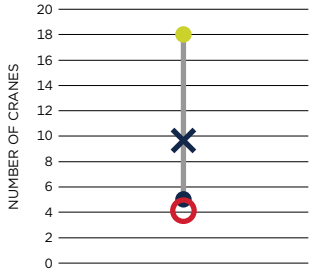
LEGEND

INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CRANES

DECREASE IN NUMBER OF CRANES

CRANE NUMBERS STEADY

HISTORICAL METRICS – WELLINGTON



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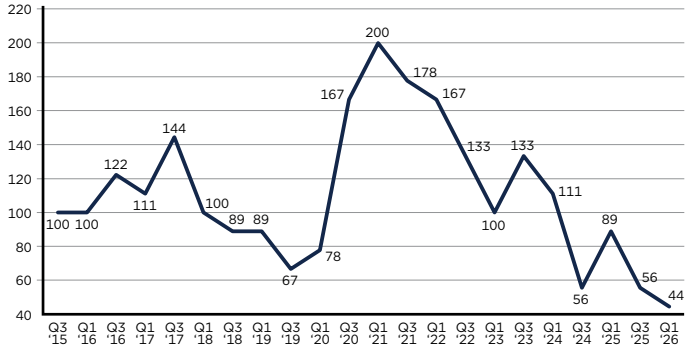
RLB CRANE INDEX® – WELLINGTON

BASE: Q3 2015 = 100



ABOUT THE RLB CRANE INDEX®

The RLB Crane Index® is published by Rider Levett Bucknall biannually in Australia, New Zealand, USA, Gulf States and Southern Africa. The New Zealand RLB Crane Index® tracks the numbers of cranes in key cities in New Zealand.

The RLB Crane Index® gives a simplified measure of the current state of the construction industry's workload in each of these locations.

Each RLB office physically counts all fixed cranes on each city's skyline twice yearly. This count provides the base information for the index. The information is then applied to a base date (fourth edition Q3 2015), which enables the RLB Crane Index® to be calculated, and highlights the relative movement of crane data over time for each city.

Subsequent movements in crane numbers are applied to the base RLB Crane Index® to highlight the crane movements in each city over time based on the relative count in Q3 2015.

Using the RLB Crane Index® table data makes for quick comparisons in determining city by city crane activity. For example, when comparing Auckland cranes for the base period of Q3 2015, against the count in Q1 2021, the following formula can be used to determine the percentage increase (or decrease):

$$\text{PERCENTAGE CHANGE} = \left[\frac{\text{CRANE INDEX}_{CP} - \text{CRANE INDEX}_{PP}}{\text{CRANE INDEX}_{PP}} \right] \times 100$$

where Crane Index$_{cp}$ is the RLB Crane Index$_{cp}$ for the current period and Crane Index$_{pp}$ is the RLB Crane Index® for the previous period.

LOCALITY MAPS

The RLB Crane Index® locality maps offer a pictorial representation of the collected data for each city using a pin locator for the approximate location and sector of the development to where cranes are located.

The pins color indicates the market sector of the development. The pins are not an indication of the numbers of cranes in that location.

The location of the pins is indicative only and have been positioned to convey the general spread of cranes within a city and to indicate the spread of cranes within market sectors.

Locality maps have been created by RLB at GPSVisualiser.com using Leaflet and map data from OpenStreetMap.org

CONTACT DETAILS

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