



# NEW ZEALAND WATERFRONT RESIDENTIAL MARKET UPDATE

## New Zealand’s waterfront residential market in 60 seconds

### Biggest trends

**Wider market neutral but facing into headwinds**  
The wider market has seen prices tracking sideways across most regions, although the lower South Island has seen some growth. Sales volumes remain reasonable, but elevated supply is keeping pressure off prices. After a confident start to the year, the Middle East crisis and resulting oil shock introduced some hesitation to the market but this is likely to fall away as the conflict resolves.

**Interest rates still the key influence**  
Interest rates remain well below recent peaks but have seen some upward pressure due to inflation concerns. The recent OCR increase was widely anticipated and largely reflected in mortgage rates, so is unlikely to materially shift the market. However, borrowing costs remain a key influence on affordability and buyer confidence.

**Waterfront activity rebounds faster than the market**  
Waterfront sales increased at a much faster rate than the mainstream market over the past year. Improved buyer confidence, greater activity from cash-rich purchasers and the opportunity to secure properties with genuinely limited supply are helping drive the stronger recovery.

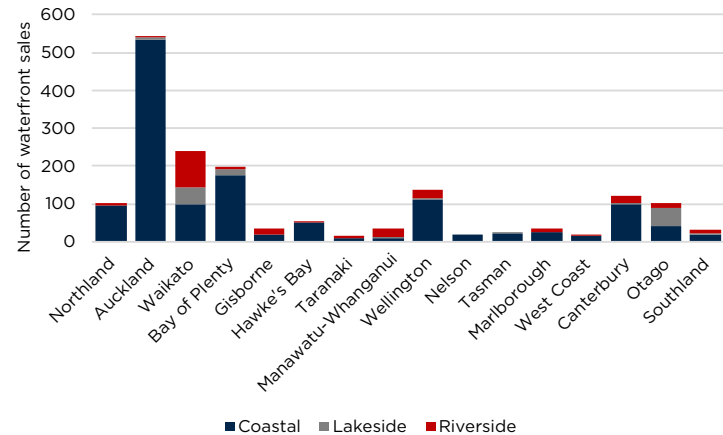
### Interesting facts

**Rotorua lakefront commands a standout premium**  
Lakefront properties in Rotorua District recorded the highest premium among the lakes analysed. This reflects the scarcity of genuine lakefront positions, expansive outlooks and direct access to recreation, supported by strong lifestyle and holiday-home demand.

**Overseas buyers adapting to sensitive land rules**  
Waterfront property remains highly attractive to Active Investor Plus applicants, although sensitive land requirements can severely narrow the properties actually available to them. Buyers are increasingly seeking specialist legal advice early, exploring alternative visa pathways where appropriate, or focusing on properties that are not sensitive land.

**Waterfront increasingly viewed as a legacy asset**  
Many buyers are looking beyond short-term market movements and purchasing waterfront property for long-term family use. Scarcity, lifestyle appeal and limited opportunities to buy are reinforcing its role as both a home and an asset intended to be held across generations.

Number of waterfront property sales by region and type



**Estimated number of waterfront property sales across all price points**

1,702

**Estimated number of waterfront sales above \$5M**

68

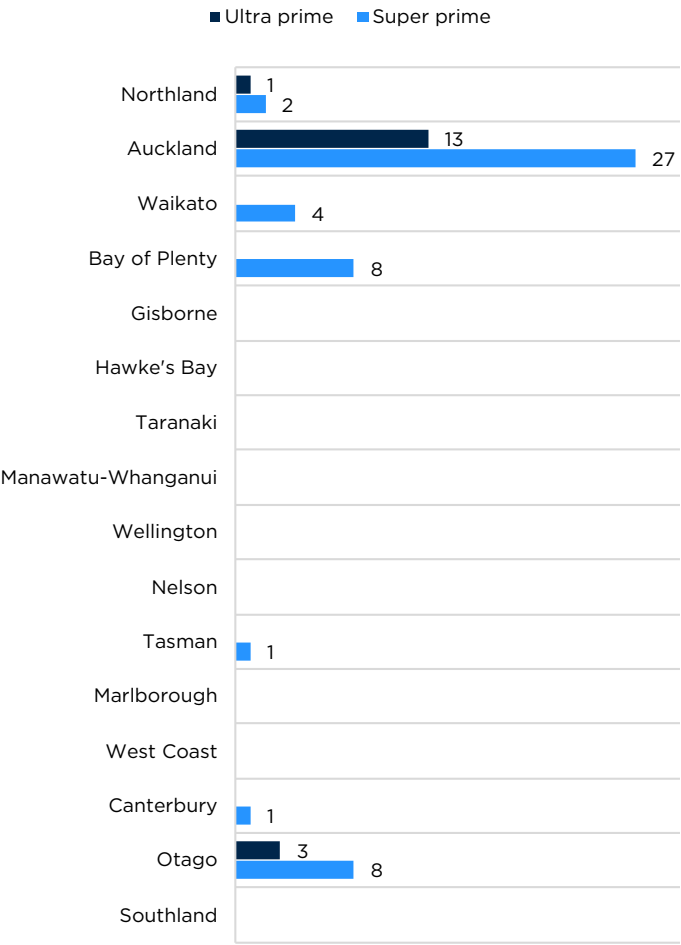
**Average price premium for waterfront properties**

45%

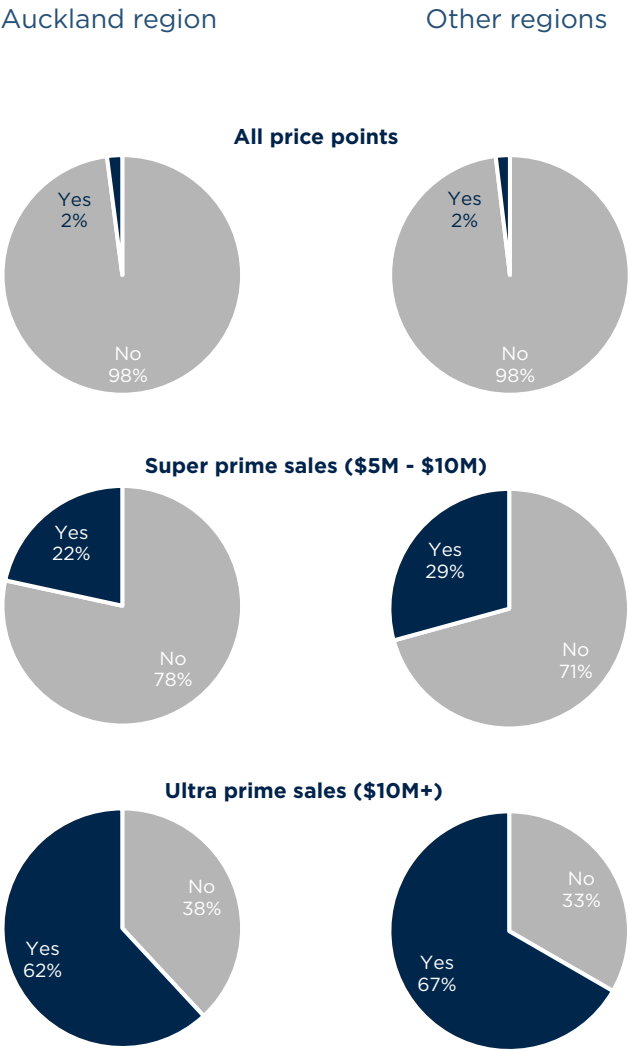
1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

# Super and Ultra Prime sales

Regional split of waterfront sales:  
Super (\$5M-\$10M) and Ultra Prime (\$10M+)



Waterfront sales as a proportion of all sales  
(Apr 2025 to Mar 2026)



Data: Bayleys analysis of REINZ data (including some sales not directly reported to REINZ).

## Location of waterfront sales

Sales across all prices



Super Prime (\$5M-\$10M) and Ultra Prime (\$10M+) sales



## Notable transactions



### 22 Quinces Landing, Kerikeri, Northland

**Features** 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms  
**Sale price** \$3,037,000  
**Contact** Irene Bremner



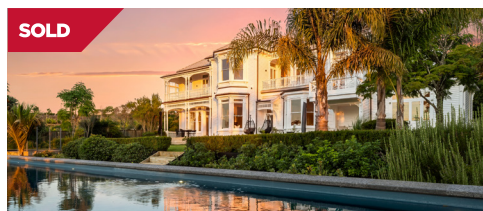
### 3 Kuaka Grove, One Tree Point, Northland

**Features** 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms  
**Sale price** \$5,500,000  
**Contact** Brad McKegg



### 10 Ida Way, Omaha, Auckland

**Features** 4 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms  
**Sale price** \$6,500,000  
**Contact** Mark Bycroft,  
Heather Walton-Bycroft



### 137 Ridge Road, Scotts Landing, Auckland

**Features** 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms  
**Sale price** \$4,400,000  
**Contact** Heather Walton-Bycroft,  
Mark Bycroft



### 27 Marine Parade, Herne Bay, Auckland

**Features** 5 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms  
**Sale price** \$38,000,000  
**Contact** Edward Pack



### 4 Margaret Place, Hahei, Waikato

**Features** 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms  
**Sale price** \$6,990,000  
**Contact** Belinda Sammons,  
Kylie Pullen



### 101 Beach Road, Whangamata, Waikato

**Features** 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms  
**Sale price** \$4,600,000  
**Contact** Dale Sholson,  
Gordon McGregor



### 553 River Road, Fairfield, Waikato

**Features** 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms  
**Sale price** \$2,600,000  
**Contact** Rachel Waldegrave



### 144 Marine Parade, Mt Maunganui, Bay of Plenty

**Features** 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms  
**Sale price** \$7,800,000  
**Contact** Sharon Hall



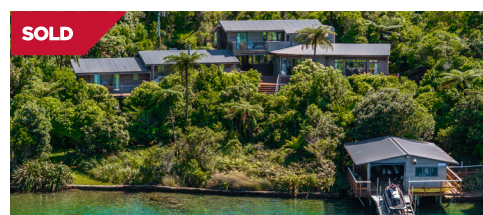
### 20 Okawa Bay Road, Lake Rotoiti, Bay of Plenty

**Features** 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms  
**Sale price** \$2,950,000  
**Contact** Beth Millard, Jacque Bishop,  
Rebecca McMaster



### 4/308 Oriental Parade, Oriental Bay, Wellington

**Features** 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms  
**Sale price** \$3,200,000  
**Contact** Ann Curtis



### 1 Ruakaka Bay, Marlborough Sounds, Marlborough

**Features** 6 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms  
**Sale price** \$2,750,000  
**Contact** Jeremy Ryan



### 11 Beach Road, Akaroa, Canterbury

**Features** 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms  
**Sale price** \$3,100,000  
**Contact** Chris Mangels, Chris Jones



### 12 de Bettencor Place, Cromwell, Otago

**Features** 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms  
**Sale price** \$3,300,000  
**Contact** Renee Harrold

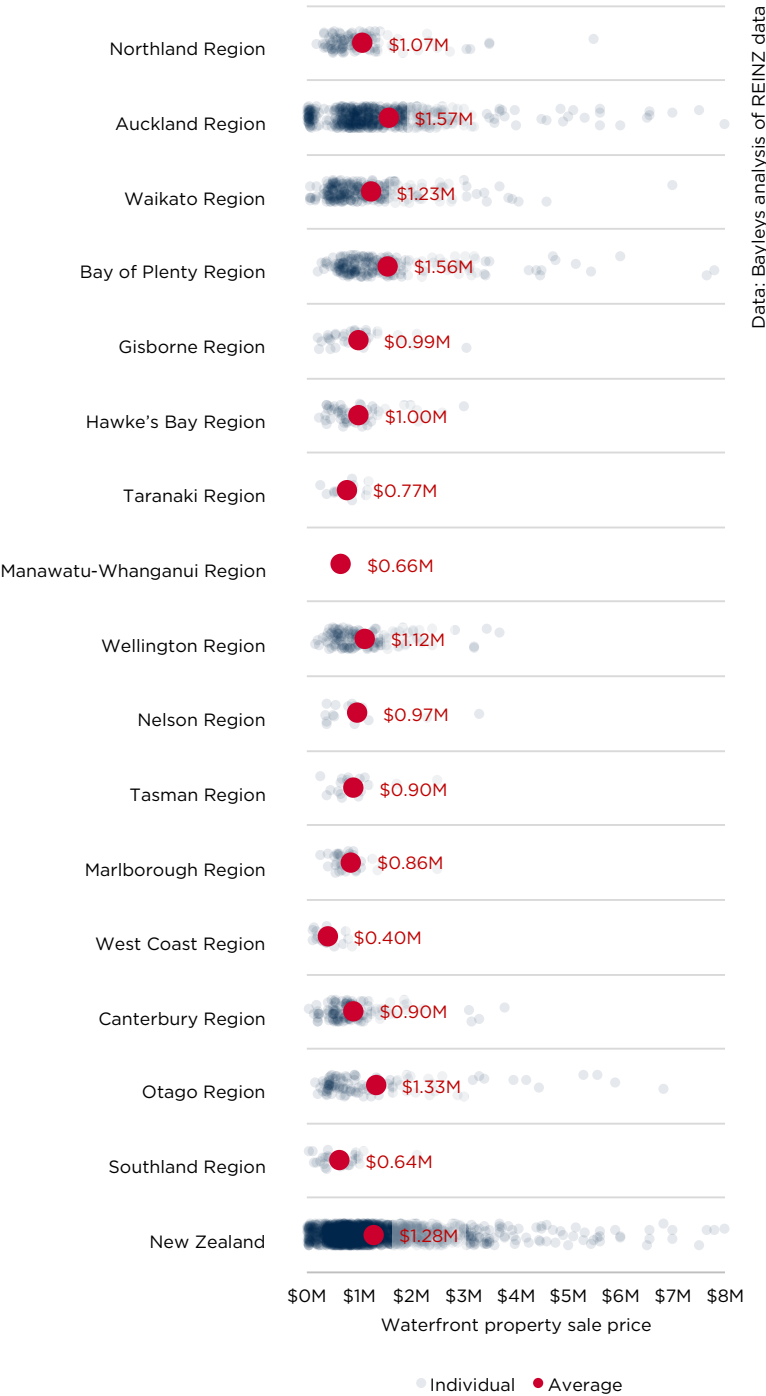


### 8 Mission Cove, Company Bay, Otago

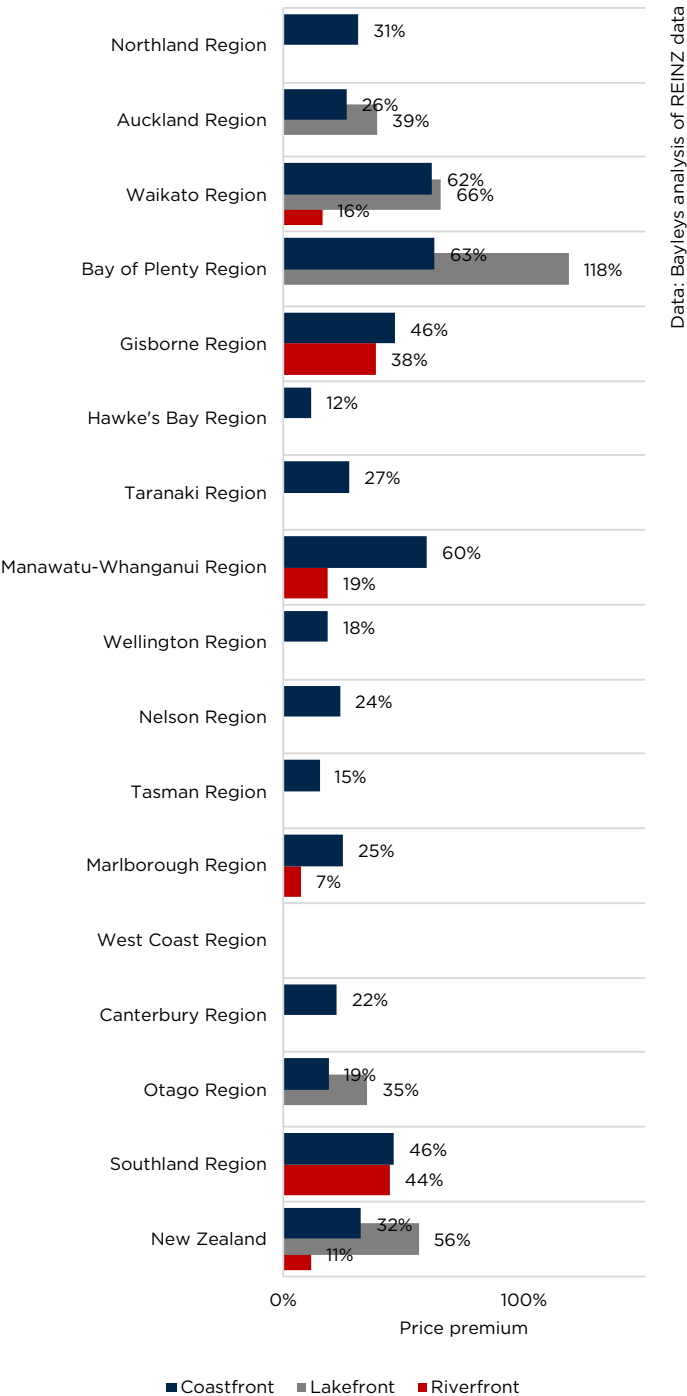
**Features** 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms  
**Sale price** \$2,096,000  
**Contact** Alice Munro,  
Abbey Cochrane

# Market indicators

Sale prices for waterfront properties by region



Waterfront price premiums by region and type



**Data:** Bayleys analysis of REINZ data. Method uses various data sources and geographic systems to identify sales of waterfront properties. Price premiums are assessed by comparing the prices for waterfront properties against non-waterfront properties in the same local area. Some types of waterfront properties may not be available in some regions or there may be insufficient sales to reliably estimate price premiums. Graph (left) excludes sales above \$8M for ease of viewing. Sales with unusually low prices may involve properties that are leasehold or have defects.

**Johnny Sinclair**  
National Director Residential  
[johnny.sinclair@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:johnny.sinclair@bayleys.co.nz)

**Chris Farhi, MRICS**  
Head of Insights, Data & Consulting  
[chris.farhi@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:chris.farhi@bayleys.co.nz)

**Eos Li, CFA**  
Senior Analyst - Insights, Data & Consulting  
[eos.li@bayleys.co.nz](mailto:eos.li@bayleys.co.nz)

Bayleys believes this information is reliable but does not invite reliance on it and excludes liability for any opinions, statements, or analyses provided.  
**All content is copyright Bayleys Real Estate 2026 and may not be reproduced without expressed permission.**  
BAYLEYS REAL ESTATE LTD, AUCKLAND CENTRAL, LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008

**0800 BAYLEYS**  
[bayleys.co.nz/insightsanddata](https://bayleys.co.nz/insightsanddata)  
LICENSED UNDER THE REA ACT 2008



ALTOGETHER BETTER

Residential / Commercial / Rural / Property Services