

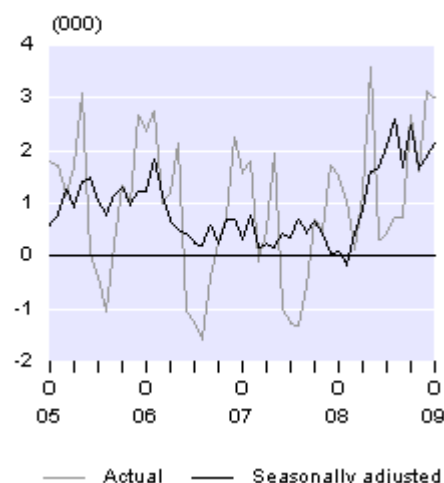
Embargoed until 10:45am – 23 November 2009

International Travel and Migration: October 2009

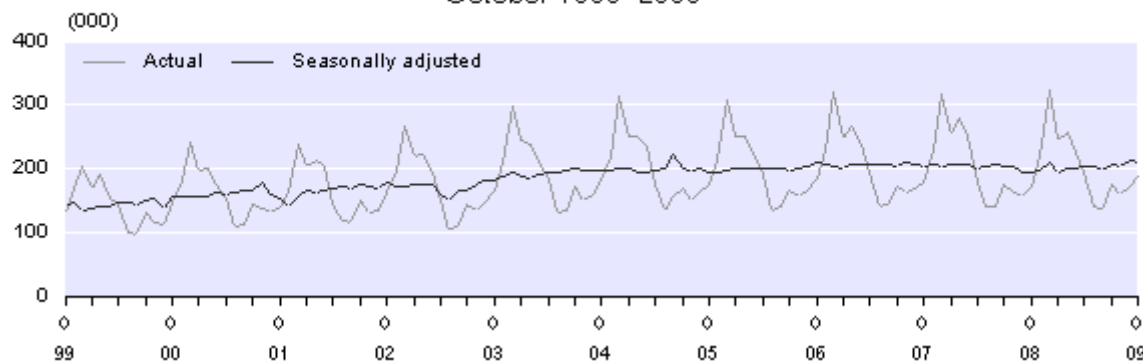
Highlights

- Visitor arrivals (187,400) were up 8 percent from October 2008 (173,900).
- There were more visitors from Australia (up 15,900) and China (up 1,100), but fewer visitors from Korea (down 1,900) and the United Kingdom (down 1,300).
- Overseas trips by New Zealand residents (176,500) were up less than 1 percent from October 2008 (175,900).
- New Zealand residents departed on more trips to Australia (up 2,400) and Samoa (up 1,200), but fewer trips to the United Kingdom (down 900).
- Permanent and long-term arrivals exceeded departures by 2,100 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Monthly Net PLT Migration
October 2005–09



Monthly Visitor Arrivals
October 1999–2009



Geoff Bascand
Government Statistician

23 November 2009
ISSN 1179-0407

Commentary

Visitor arrivals

Monthly visitor arrivals

Short-term overseas visitor arrivals to New Zealand numbered 187,400 in October 2009, up 13,400 or 8 percent from October 2008 (173,900). The October 2009 figure exceeds the previous high for an October month (186,600 in 2006).

The estimated average number of visitors in New Zealand per day was 108,000 in October 2009, similar to October 2008. The average length of stay of visitor arrivals was 21 days in October 2009 and the median length of stay (half stay shorter, and half stay longer than this duration) was nine days. Both were unchanged from October 2008.

Monthly visitors by source country

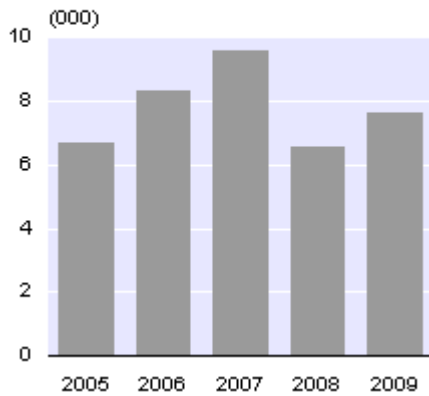
In October 2009, visitor arrivals from Australia were up 15,900 (22 percent) compared with October 2008. A holiday (up 10,500 or 41 percent) and visiting friends and relatives (up 6,200 or 24 percent) were the main travel purposes contributing to this increase. However, there were fewer travellers coming to attend conventions or conferences (down 800 or 23 percent).

There were increases from all Australian states and territories except Tasmania, with the largest increases coming from New South Wales (up 7,800 or 29 percent), Victoria (up 3,600 or 23 percent), and Queensland (up 3,300 or 19 percent).

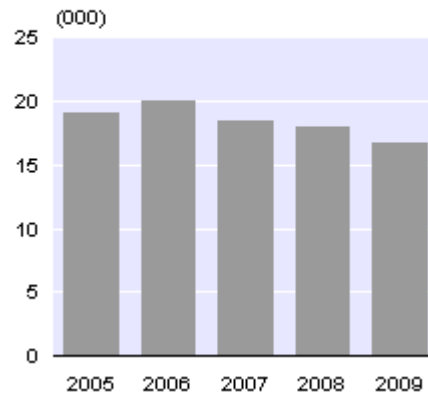
For the second consecutive month, there was an increase in visitors from China (up 1,100 or 17 percent). These increases follow decreases between April and August 2009. Despite the latest increase, arrivals were still 1,900 lower than arrivals from China in October 2007. Between June and November 2008, there were large decreases in monthly visitor arrivals from China, following the earthquake there in May and the Beijing Olympic Games in August.

In contrast, there were significantly fewer visitor arrivals from Korea (down 1,900 or 33 percent). Decreases of at least 1,200 visitors from Korea have been recorded each month since September 2008. There were also fewer visitor arrivals from the United Kingdom (down 1,300 or 7 percent), South Africa (down 700 or 40 percent), and India (down 600 or 10 percent).

Visitors from China
Month of October



Visitors from the United Kingdom
Month of October

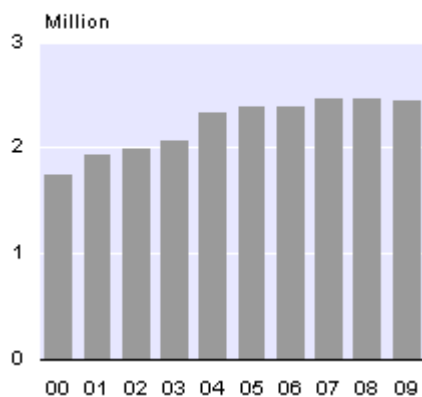


Note: Provisional international travel statistics, including weekly and four-weekly visitor arrival data, are available on the Statistics NZ website. This data is updated each week with the most recently available information on visitor arrivals from 10 major source countries.

Annual visitor arrivals

During the October 2009 year, there were 2.439 million visitor arrivals, down 24,400 (1 percent) from the October 2008 year. A holiday was the main travel reason for 1.177 million visitors to New Zealand in the October 2009 year, down 11,200 (1 percent) from the previous year. Another 773,600 arrived to visit friends and relatives (up 34,200 or 5 percent), and 228,300 arrived for business (down 32,900 or 13 percent).

Annual Visitor Arrivals
Year ended October



Visitor Arrivals by Reason
Year ended October



Annual visitors by source country

There were 1.061 million visitor arrivals from Australia in the October 2009 year, up 93,600 (10 percent) compared with the October 2008 year. However, fewer visitors came from Korea (down 32,500 or 38 percent), Japan (down 31,900 or 29 percent), the United

Kingdom (down 30,500 or 11 percent), the United States (down 15,600 or 7 percent), and China (down 9,700 or 8 percent).

The number of visitor arrivals from Japan (79,000) in the October 2009 year was less than half the annual high (174,800) recorded in the January 2003 year. Similarly, the number of visitor arrivals from Korea (53,100) was less than half the annual high (130,700) recorded in the April 1997 year.

Note: Detailed visitor data will be available in the October 2009 edition of *International Visitor Arrivals to New Zealand*, which can be ordered on the [Order and subscribe](#) page on the Statistics NZ website.

Departures of New Zealand residents

Monthly resident departures

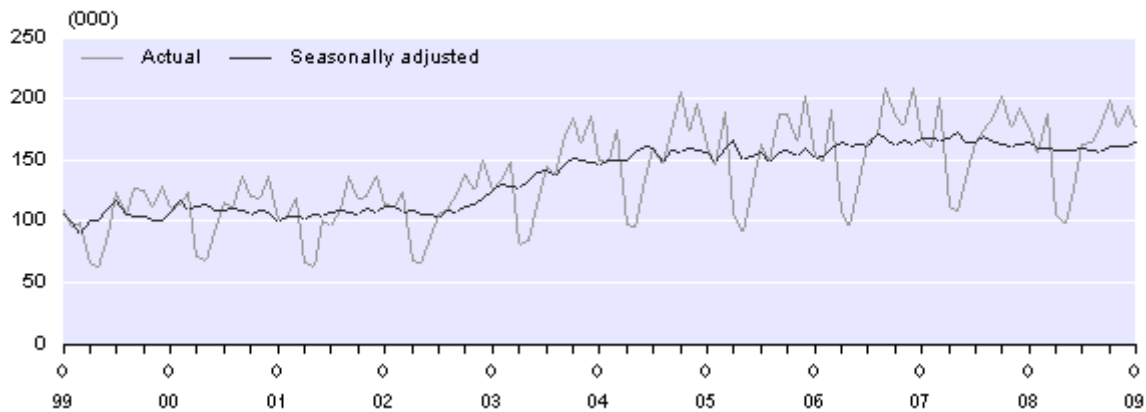
New Zealand residents departed on 176,500 short-term overseas trips in October 2009, up 600 (less than 1 percent) on October 2008. October 2009 is the third consecutive month in which departures of New Zealand residents have been greater than the same month of the previous year, after nine months of decline.

In October 2009, there were more trips to Australia (up 2,400 or 3 percent). Following the tsunami, which occurred at the end of September, there were more trips to Samoa (up 1,200 or 37 percent) in October 2009. New Zealand residents visiting friends or family in Samoa increased by 1,600 (219 percent), compared with October 2008. In contrast, the number of holidaymakers dropped by 400 (21 percent). Of those New Zealand residents visiting Samoa in October 2009, those who were born in Samoa increased by 1,300 (226 percent) when compared with October 2008.

There were fewer trips to the United Kingdom (down 900 or 19 percent), Malaysia (down 600 or 39 percent), and India (down 500 or 15 percent).

The estimated average number of New Zealand residents who were temporarily overseas during October 2009 was 105,700 per day, down 4 percent from the average of 110,100 in October 2008. The average intended absence of residents who departed in October 2009 was 15 days, down from 16 days in October 2008. The median absence was eight days, unchanged from October 2008.

Monthly New Zealand-resident Short-term Departures October 1999–2009



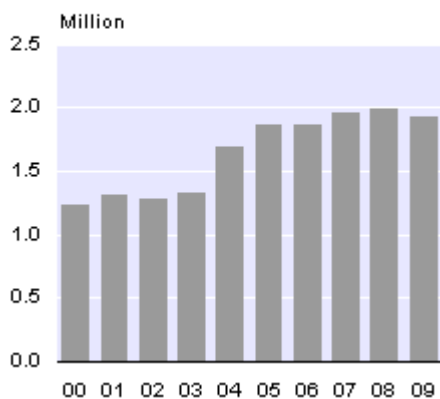
Annual resident departures

Short-term departures of New Zealand residents in the October 2009 year numbered 1.918 million, down 65,900 (3 percent) from the October 2008 year.

Trips to Australia (943,300), the most popular destination, were down 11,500 (1 percent) from the previous year. There were also fewer trips to Fiji (down 9,100 or 9 percent), the United States (down 7,800 or 8 percent), and the United Kingdom (down 6,300 or 7 percent).

A holiday was the main travel reason for 778,300 New Zealand residents who departed in the October 2009 year, down 52,000 (6 percent) from the previous year. Another 664,300 departed to visit friends and relatives (up 30,700 or 5 percent). Departures for business purposes (255,600) were down 30,000 (11 percent) from the year ended October 2008.

Annual Resident Departures
Year ended October



Resident Departures by Reason
Year ended October



Note: Provisional international travel statistics, including weekly and four-weekly resident departure data, are available on the Statistics NZ website. This data is updated each week with the most recently available information on resident departures to 10 major destination countries.

Permanent and long-term migration

Definition

Permanent and long-term (PLT) arrivals include people who arrive in New Zealand intending to stay for a period of 12 months or more (or permanently), plus New Zealand residents returning after an absence of 12 months or more. The former group may include people with New Zealand residency, as well as students and holders of work permits. PLT departures include New Zealand residents departing for an intended period of 12 months or more (or permanently), plus overseas visitors departing New Zealand after a stay of 12 months or more.

Monthly PLT migration

PLT arrivals exceeded departures by 3,000 in October 2009, compared with 1,500 in October 2008. There were 2,000 (35 percent) fewer PLT departures, including 1,800 fewer departures to Australia, and 200 fewer departures to the United Kingdom. Monthly PLT departures have fallen by at least 1,000 compared with the same month of the previous year since February 2009.

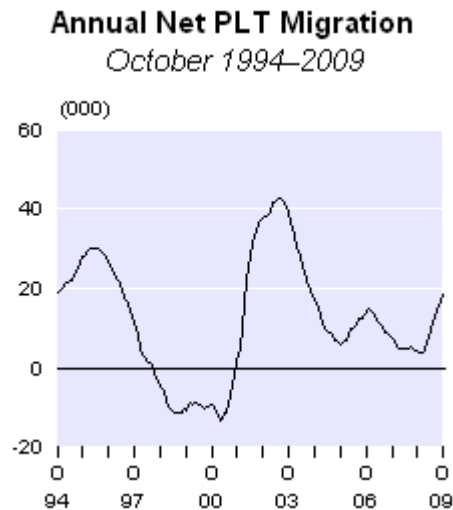
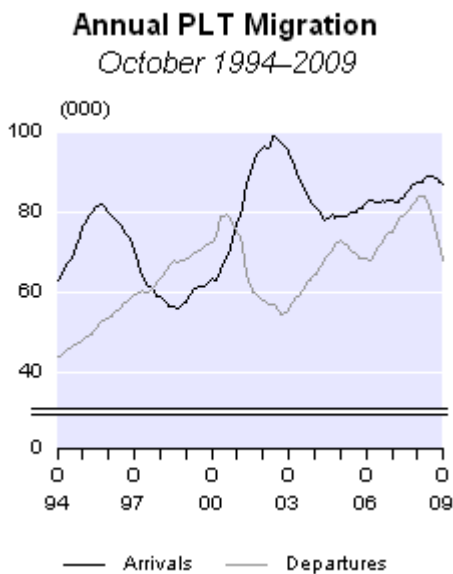
PLT arrivals were down 500 from October 2008, resulting from 600 fewer arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens, partly offset by 100 more arrivals of New Zealand citizens. Arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens have been declining since April 2009.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, PLT arrivals exceeded PLT departures by 2,100 in October 2009, up from 1,900 in September 2009, and similar to levels experienced since February 2009.

In October 2009, there were net inflows of migrants from the United Kingdom (1,300), India (400), and China (300). There was a net outflow of 800 PLT migrants to Australia, the lowest outflow to Australia for an October month since 2002, and a decrease from the outflows of 2,700 in October 2008 and 2,000 in October 2007.

Annual PLT migration

In the year ended October 2009, there were 86,700 PLT arrivals, down 700 (1 percent) from the October 2008 year. Over the same period, there were 68,100 PLT departures, down 14,900 (18 percent). The drop in departures was the major contributor to the increase in net migration from 4,300 in the October 2008 year, to 18,600 in the October 2009 year. The latest figure is the highest annual net migration total since the August 2004 year (19,300).



The net PLT migration gain of 18,600 in the year ended October 2009 was higher than the annual average of 11,400 for the December years 1990–2008. Net PLT migration varied substantially within this 19-year period. The net gain peaked at 30,200 in the April 1996 year and again at 42,500 in the May 2003 year. Net outflows were experienced during most of 1998–2001, with the largest being a net loss of 13,200 people in the February 2001 year.

Annual PLT migration by country

In the year ended October 2009, there were net PLT inflows from the United Kingdom (9,200), India (5,900), China (3,600), the Philippines (2,600), Fiji (2,500), and Germany and South Africa (each 1,500).

The net PLT outflow to Australia was 21,200 in the October 2009 year, compared with a net outflow of 34,600 in the October 2008 year. The annual net outflow to Australia has been decreasing since the record highs of 35,400 in the December 2008 and January 2009 years. The latest net outflow resulted from 35,600 PLT departures to Australia, partly offset by 14,400 PLT arrivals from Australia. Almost 9 in every 10 PLT departures to Australia were New Zealand citizens (31,200). Of the PLT arrivals from Australia, two-thirds were New Zealand citizens (9,600), similar to levels observed over the past decade.

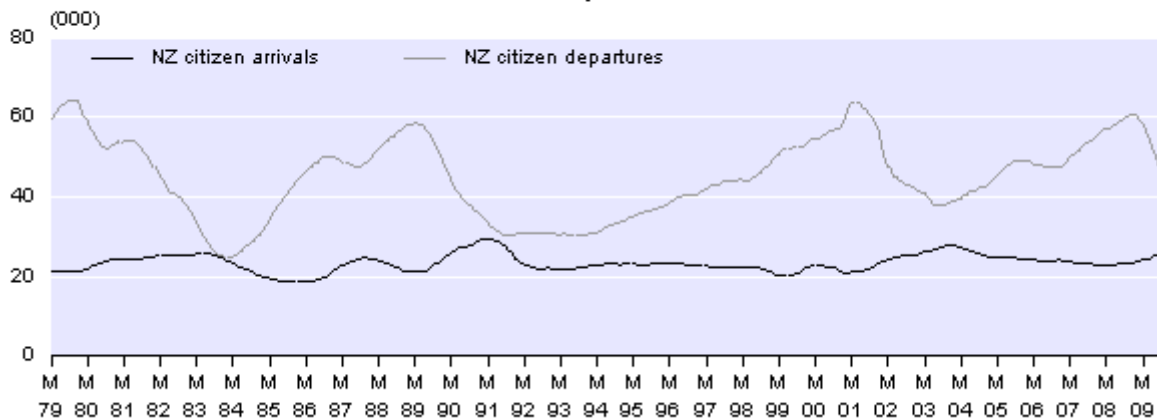
Annual PLT migration by citizenship

A net inflow of 37,600 non-New Zealand citizens and a net outflow of 19,000 New Zealand citizens were recorded in the year ended October 2009.

PLT arrivals of New Zealand citizens numbered 25,700 in the October 2009 year, above the average of 23,400 recorded for the 1979–2008 December years, but below peaks in the March 1991 year (29,600) and the October 2003 year (27,800). Arrivals of New Zealand citizens tend to show relatively little variation year-to-year, and the variation that does occur often follows trends in departures of New Zealand citizens a few years earlier.

PLT departures of New Zealand citizens have shown much more annual variation than arrivals of New Zealand citizens. The highest number of departures of New Zealand citizens was 64,300 in the October 1979 year, but by the January 1984 year, this had decreased to a low of 24,400. There were 44,700 PLT departures of New Zealand citizens in the October 2009 year, down 15,600 from the previous year.

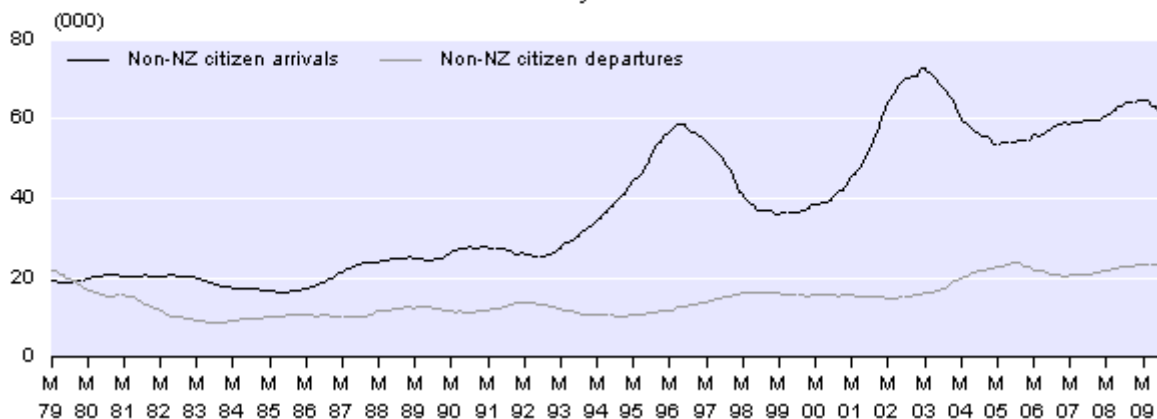
Annual PLT Migration of New Zealand Citizens
March 1979 year onwards



PLT arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens were less than 30,000 a year between 1979 and 1992, then doubled to reach a peak of 58,800 in the July 1996 year. Another peak of 72,800 was reached in the February 2003 year. The changes in arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens reflect changes in arrivals of temporary workers (including working holidaymakers) and overseas students staying for 12 months or more, as well as arrivals for residence. Although arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens have generally been increasing since 2005, the 61,000 arrivals in the October 2009 year were down 2,900 from the October 2008 year.

PLT departures of non-New Zealand citizens have generally been increasing since 1984, corresponding with the general increase in arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens. There were 23,500 PLT departures of non-New Zealand citizens in the October 2009 year, up 800 from the October 2008 year.

Annual PLT Migration of Non-New Zealand Citizens
March 1979 year onwards



Annual PLT migration by permit type

In the October 2009 year, 29,600 PLT arrivals were Australian or New Zealand citizens who did not require a permit to remain in New Zealand. Of the 57,100 PLT arrivals who did require a permit, 22,200 arrived on work permits, 15,900 arrived on student permits, 13,800 arrived on residence permits, and 4,700 arrived on visitor permits. Compared with the October 2008 year, there were more PLT arrivals on student permits (up 800), but fewer arrivals on work permits (down 1,500), and on residence permits (down 800). The majority of residence approvals in recent years have been granted onshore, to people who arrived on other permit types.

Recent international travel and migration articles

Statistics NZ has recently released a number of articles on international travel and migration topics. These can be accessed on the [International travel and migration articles](#) page on the Statistics NZ website. The most recent releases are:

October 2009	Rates of Travel to New Zealand by Country of Residence: 2009 examines the rates of travel to New Zealand when adjusted for the population of each source country.
May 2009	Visitors from the Republic of Korea, 1989–2008 examines the large fluctuations in the number of visitors from Korea, and the characteristics of these visitors.
April 2009	Visitors from the Americas examines changes in the number of visitors from the United States, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile between 1979 and 2008.

Occupation data

From October 2009, Statistics New Zealand has adopted the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) for classifying the occupations of permanent and long-term migrants. A discussion of the reasons for, and implications of, the changes is on the [Statistics NZ website](#). As a result, there will be new occupation tables on Infoshare, with details given here on the [Infoshare data changes by date](#) webpage.

Availability of data on Infoshare

Statistics NZ has completed a review of international travel and migration outputs available on Infoshare (www.stats.govt.nz/infoshare), a free-of-charge online tool that provides access to a range of time-series data. The review was to ensure information remains relevant and easily accessible. A new international travel and migration group (ITM) is now available and can be found under '**Tourism**' on the '**Browse**' page of the Infoshare database. The ITM group has replaced the external migration (EMI) group, which means that users will no longer be able to extract EMI data. To help users move from EMI to ITM outputs, a webpage called [International travel and migration data on](#)

Infoshare has been established to provide a concordance between EMI and ITM outputs, as well as information on the data available in ITM.

For technical information contact:
Nick Thomson or Ian Richards
Christchurch 03 964 8700
Email: demography@stats.govt.nz

Next release ...

International Travel and Migration: November 2009 will be released on 21 December 2009.

Technical notes

Nature of data

The statistics in this release are based on final international travel and migration counts. They relate to the number of passenger movements, rather than to the number of people – that is, the multiple movements of individual people during a given reference period are each counted separately.

Free online database

A large number of international travel and migration tables are available through Statistics NZ's Infoshare database (www.stats.govt.nz/infoshare), a free online tool that provides access to a range of time-series data. The international travel and migration subject can be found under **Tourism** on the **Browse** page of the database.

Changes in passenger type

Passenger type (overseas visitor, New Zealand-resident traveller, or permanent and long-term (PLT) migrant) is based on the time spent in and out of New Zealand, determined from past arrivals and departures of a person, and responses to questions on the arrival or departure card. Responses to the questions, and therefore the passenger type allocated, may be based on intentions. If a person's intentions change later during the trip, this passenger type may no longer be correct. For example, a person may come to New Zealand with the declared intention of settling permanently (PLT migrant), but in fact may return overseas after a few months (overseas visitor). Data users should recognise the limitations inherent in the information supplied by travellers.

Permit type

The determination of passenger type by Statistics NZ is independent of the permit type a person holds.

With the exception of New Zealand citizens, Australian citizens, and a small number of other people exempt under the Immigration Act 1987, everyone entering New Zealand is required to obtain a permit to remain in New Zealand. People already in New Zealand can apply for a permit renewal or a new permit of a different type. However, Statistics NZ only holds data on the permit type that an individual was given on arrival.

Sampling accuracy

The statistics for short-term passenger movements by country (that is, overseas visitor arrivals by country of last permanent residence, and New Zealand-resident departures by country of main destination) are derived from a systematic random sample taken each month from arrival and departure cards, and are therefore subject to sampling errors. However, total counts for arrivals and departures of overseas visitors and New Zealand

residents are actual counts, which are not subject to sampling errors. Figures for PLT arrivals and departures are also actual counts and have no sampling errors.

New Zealand-resident short-term departures

The commentaries relating to New Zealand-resident short-term departures are based on data for the country of main destination – that is, the country where each departing person intended to spend most of their time while away from New Zealand.

Seasonally adjusted and trend series

The purpose of seasonally adjusting a time series is to measure and remove the varying seasonal components in the series (for example, there are more visitor arrivals during the New Zealand summer, due to the warmer weather and longer daylight hours). This makes the data for adjacent periods more comparable.

The seasonal adjustment process for international travel and migration statistics uses Statistics NZ's standard seasonal adjustment package, X-12-ARIMA, with enhancements which allow the specification and adjustment of additional calendar effects. These include the number and type of trading days in the month (as more people generally arrive and depart on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday), and holiday periods, which have important effects on travel but in different months each year (eg Easter can be in March or April).

Both monthly and quarterly seasonally adjusted series are available. The quarterly series are adjusted independently of the adjustments made to the monthly series. Hence, quarterly figures may not equal the sum of monthly seasonally adjusted figures.

Seasonally adjusted and trend data back to January 1996 are subject to revision each period. The size of these revisions is expected to be minimal, with the largest revisions occurring in the periods immediately before the current month or quarter. Data before January 1996 is not revised. This cut-off is used because of the change to a four-term school year in 1996, which resulted in changes to the seasonal patterns of the New Zealand-resident arrivals and departures series.

Processing system

The international travel and migration processing system incorporates scanning and image recognition technology. All arrival and departure cards are processed, but for around 9 in 10 cards the required information is captured automatically and no operator intervention is needed.

More information

For more information, follow the [link](#) from the technical notes of this release on the Statistics NZ website.

Copyright

Information obtained from Statistics NZ may be freely used, reproduced, or quoted unless otherwise specified. In all cases Statistics NZ must be acknowledged as the source.

Liability

While care has been used in processing, analysing and extracting information, Statistics NZ gives no warranty that the information supplied is free from error. Statistics NZ shall not be liable for any loss suffered through the use, directly or indirectly, of any information, product or service.

Timing

Timed statistical releases are delivered using postal and electronic services provided by third parties. Delivery of these releases may be delayed by circumstances outside the control of Statistics NZ. Statistics NZ accepts no responsibility for any such delays.

Tables

The following tables are printed with this Hot Off the Press and can also be downloaded from the Statistics New Zealand website in Excel format. If you do not have access to Excel, you may use the [Excel file viewer](#) to view, print, and export the contents of the file.

1. International travel and migration, by direction and passenger type, actual counts
2. International travel and migration, by direction and passenger type, seasonally adjusted and trend series
3. Short-term overseas visitor arrivals, by country of last permanent residence
4. Short-term New Zealand-resident traveller departures, by country of main destination
5. Permanent and long-term arrivals, by country of last permanent residence
6. Permanent and long-term departures, by country of next permanent residence
7. Net permanent and long-term migration, by country of last/next permanent residence
8. Permanent and long-term migration, by country of citizenship