

Embargoed until 10:45am – 21 May 2010

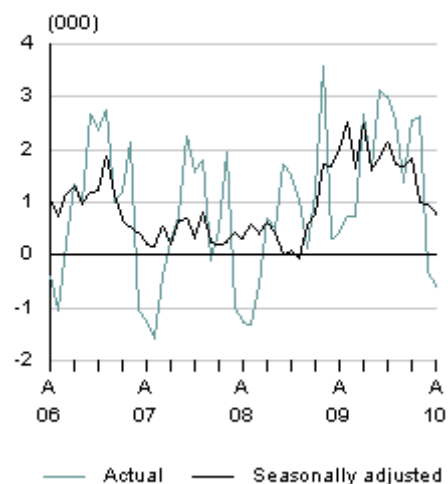
International Travel and Migration: April 2010

Highlights

- Visitor arrivals (188,000) were down 4 percent from April 2009 (195,900).
- More visitors arrived from Korea (up 1,300), but fewer arrived from the United Kingdom (down 3,700) and the United States (down 2,100).
- New Zealand residents departed on 163,000 overseas trips, similar to April 2009 (162,400).
- New Zealand residents departed on more trips to the United States (up 1,000), but fewer to Australia (down 2,600) and the United Kingdom (down 1,900).
- Permanent and long-term arrivals exceeded departures by 800 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Monthly net PLT migration

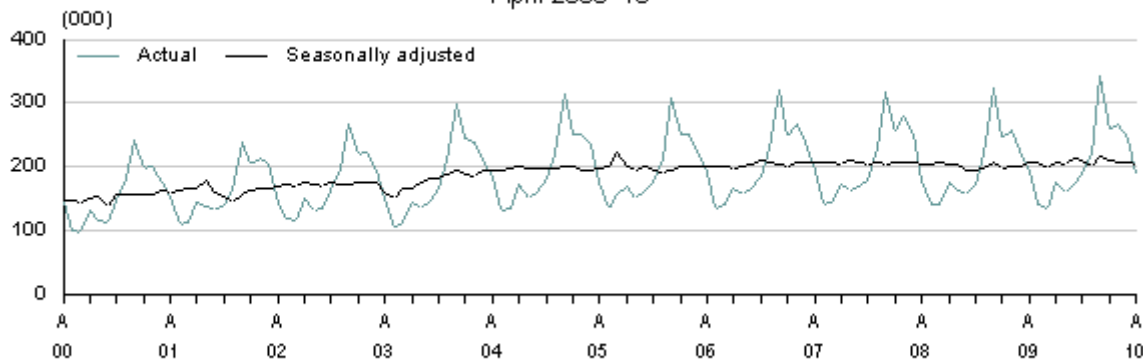
April 2006–10



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Monthly visitor arrivals

April 2000–10



Source: Statistics New Zealand

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Commentary

Visitor arrivals

Monthly visitor arrivals

Short-term overseas visitor arrivals to New Zealand numbered 188,000 in April 2010, down 7,900 (4 percent) from April 2009. This decrease was due to the earlier timing of Easter, and school holidays in some Australian states. Although the holiday periods began on 2 April in 2010, many visitors arrive shortly before holiday periods begin. The earlier holidays contributed to visitor arrivals increasing 7 percent in March 2010, compared with the previous March. In March and April 2010 combined, visitor arrivals were 2 percent above the same months of 2009.

The effect of the earlier holidays was shown by 16,300 fewer visitor arrivals during the 7–11 April period in 2010, compared with the same days in 2009. In 2009, these dates corresponded to the Tuesday before Easter until the Saturday during Easter.

The underlying trend, derived from the seasonally adjusted series, takes account of changes in the timing of holiday periods. The trend in visitor arrivals has declined 3 percent since a peak in November 2009. Prior to this, the trend had been increasing from a low in November 2008, during the global economic downturn.

The estimated average number of visitors in New Zealand per day was 141,300 in April 2010, just below the 141,800 in April 2009. Holiday travellers accounted for 56,100 of the visitors in New Zealand per day in April 2010, up 2 percent from the previous April. Travellers visiting friends and relatives averaged 45,100 per day, down 7 percent from April 2009.

Monthly visitors by source country

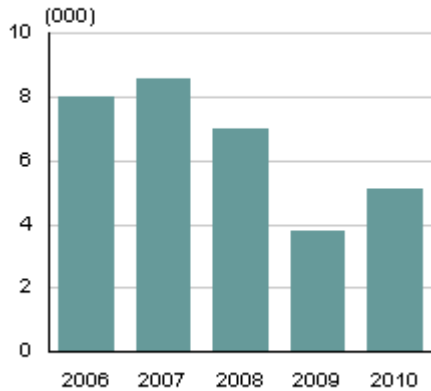
The 5,100 visitor arrivals from Korea in April 2010 were up 35 percent from the 3,800 arrivals in April 2009. However, this was only a partial recovery following declines from 8,600 in April 2007 and 7,000 in April 2008.

There were just 400 more visitor arrivals from Australia in April 2010, the smallest increase in the last 12 months. However, this was influenced by the earlier timing of Easter, and school holidays in some states. The earlier holidays contributed to 17,500 (20 percent) more visitors from Australia in March 2010, compared with March 2009. In March and April 2010 combined, visitors from Australia were up 10 percent compared with the same months of 2009.

There were fewer visitors from the United Kingdom (down 3,700 or 21 percent), the United States (down 2,100 or 15 percent), and Germany (down 800 or 23 percent) in April 2010. Most of the decrease from both the United Kingdom and Germany was in the first half of the month, before the volcanic eruption in Iceland disrupted air travel in Europe.

Visitors from Korea

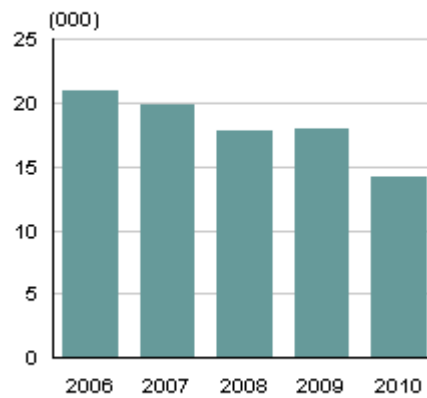
Month of April



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Visitors from the United Kingdom

Month of April



Source: Statistics New Zealand

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.

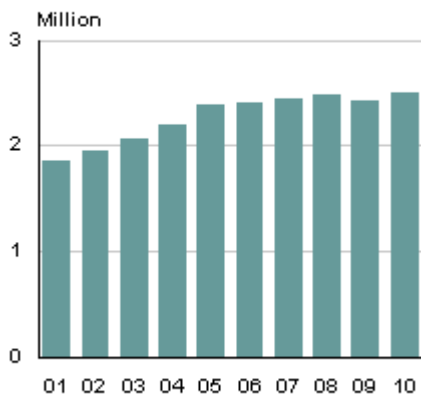
Annual visitor arrivals

Visitor arrivals numbered 2.491 million in the April 2010 year, up 74,000 (3 percent) from the April 2009 year (2.417 million).

A holiday was the main travel reason for 1.199 million visitors to New Zealand in the year ended April 2010, up 42,000 (4 percent) from the previous year. Another 789,200 arrived to visit friends and relatives (up 41,700 or 6 percent), and 239,000 arrived for business (down 3,100 or 1 percent).

Annual visitor arrivals

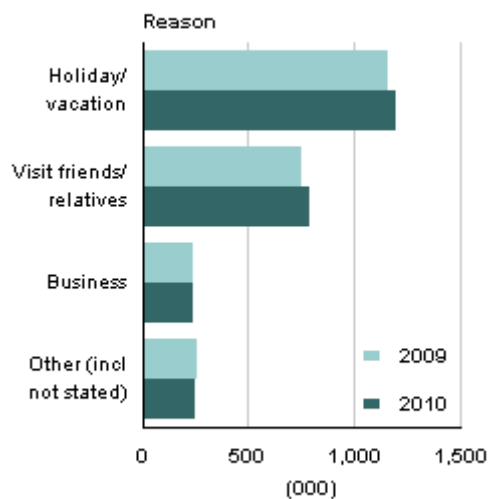
Year ended April



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Visitor arrivals by reason

Year ended April



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Annual visitors by source country

Visitor arrivals from Australia numbered 1.117 million in the April 2010 year, up 124,600 (13 percent) from 2009. The next highest increase was from France, up 3,000 (14 percent).

Fewer visitors came from Japan (down 16,800 or 18 percent), China (down 12,700 or 11 percent), the United Kingdom (down 12,300 or 5 percent), Korea (down 9,300 or 14 percent), and South Africa (down 7,300 or 30 percent) in the April 2010 year, compared with the April 2009 year.

Departures of New Zealand residents

Monthly resident departures

New Zealand residents departed on 163,000 short-term overseas trips in April 2010, just above the 162,400 trips in April 2009. This follows an increase of 13 percent in March 2010, compared with March 2009, which was helped by the earlier timing of Easter and the school holidays. Although these started on 2 April 2010, it is common to see increases in travel shortly before holiday periods begin.

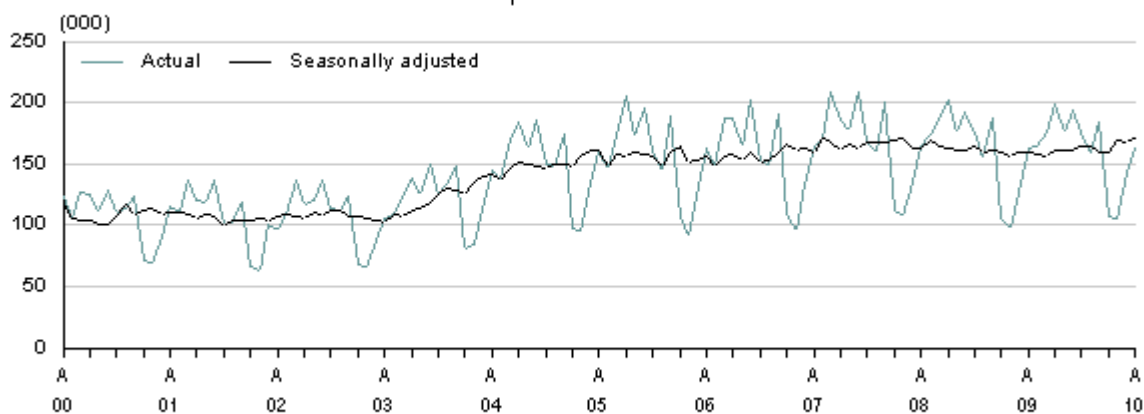
New Zealand residents took 1,000 more trips to the United States in April 2010, compared with the previous April. In contrast, there were 2,600 fewer trips to Australia and 1,900 fewer trips to the United Kingdom. The earlier holiday periods contributed to both decreases. The disruption to air travel in Europe caused by the volcanic eruption in Iceland also contributed to the decrease in trips to the United Kingdom.

The trend in New Zealand resident departures, derived from the seasonally adjusted series, reached a record high in April 2010. The latest figure just surpassed the previous high in January 2008, recorded before the economic downturn contributed to a 6 percent decrease in this series between January 2008 and April 2009.

The estimated average number of New Zealand residents who were temporarily overseas per day during April 2010 was 93,300, just below the average of 93,800 in April 2009.

Monthly New Zealand-resident short-term departures

April 2000–10



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Annual resident departures

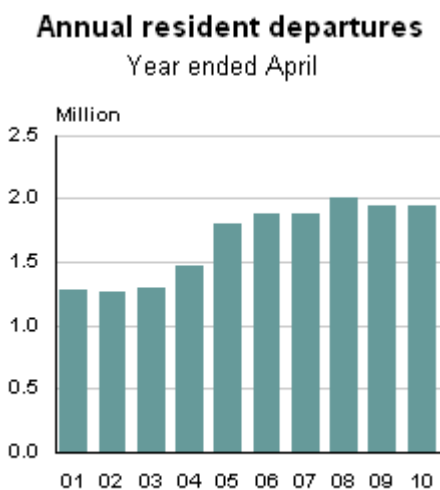
Short-term departures of New Zealand residents in the April 2010 year numbered 1.944 million, just above the 1.940 million departures in the April 2009 year.

New Zealand residents departed on 96,600 trips to Fiji in the April 2010 year, up 3,700 (4 percent) compared with 2009. However, this was still well below the April year high of 109,200 trips to Fiji in 2006.

There were also more trips to South Africa (up 2,800 or 23 percent), Thailand (up 2,500 or 9 percent), Singapore (up 2,300 or 18 percent), and Samoa (up 2,100 or 5 percent) compared with the April 2009 year.

Trips to Europe were down 10,700 (6 percent) compared with 2009, including 4,800 (5 percent) fewer trips to the United Kingdom. There were also fewer departures to Hong Kong (down 2,100 or 11 percent) in the April 2010 year.

A holiday was the main travel purpose for 785,400 New Zealand residents who departed in the April 2010 year, down 14,200 (2 percent) from the previous year. Another 670,800 departed to visit friends and relatives (up 27,400 or 4 percent). Departures for business purposes (268,000) were up 1,200 (less than 1 percent) from the April 2009 year.



Source: Statistics New Zealand



Source: Statistics New Zealand

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

Seasonally adjusted net PLT migration was 800 in April 2010, the lowest since December 2008 (500). The monthly seasonally adjusted series had averaged 1,900 between February 2009 and January 2010. The decrease in the net series in recent months has been due to both a decrease in arrivals and an increase in departures.

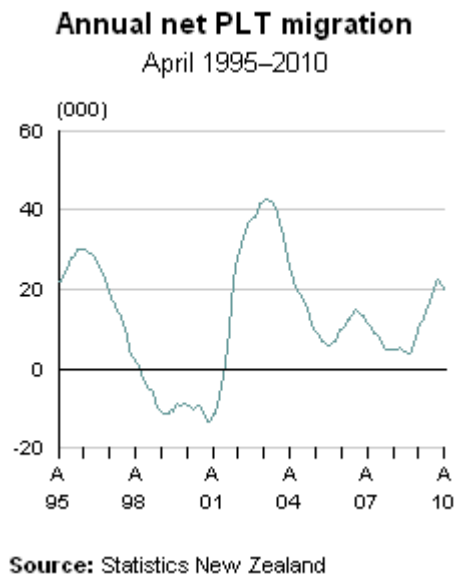
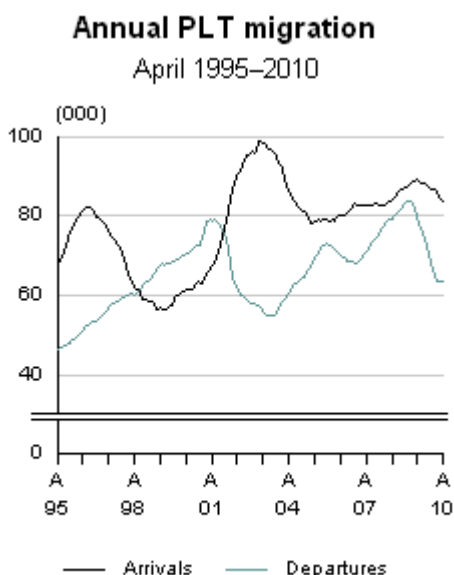
On an unadjusted basis, PLT departures exceeded arrivals by 600 in April 2010, compared with an inflow of 400 in April 2009. Net outflows of 1,300 were recorded in the months of April 2007 and 2008. The decrease in net migration in April 2010, compared with April 2009, was mainly due to 700 fewer arrivals and 300 more departures of non-New Zealand citizens. Arrivals and departures of New Zealand citizens were little changed from April 2009.

In April 2010, net inflows of migrants came from India (400) and Japan (200). The net outflow of 1,500 PLT migrants to Australia was down from 1,600 in April 2009, and 3,200 in April 2008.

Annual PLT migration

Net migration was 20,000 in the April 2010 year, compared with 9,200 in the April 2009 year. Annual net migration has decreased from a high of 22,600 in the January 2010 year.

The 63,700 PLT departures in the April 2010 year were down 20 percent from 79,800 departures in the April 2009 year. The 83,600 PLT arrivals were also down, by 6 percent, from the 89,000 arrivals in the April 2009 year.



Source: Statistics New Zealand

The net PLT migration gain of 20,000 in the April 2010 year was higher than the annual average of 11,900 for the December years 1990–2009. Net PLT migration varied substantially within this 20-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 April 2010, the highest net PLT inflows were from the United Kingdom (8,000), India (5,600), and China (3,700). Substantial decreases in net PLT inflows were recorded for South Africa (down 1,900), the Philippines (down 1,700), and Fiji (down 1,700).

The net PLT outflow to Australia was 14,800 in the April 2010 year, well down from 32,000 in the April 2009 year. The latest net outflow resulted from 30,500 PLT departures to Australia, partly offset by 15,700 PLT arrivals from Australia. Almost 9 in every 10 PLT departures to Australia were New Zealand citizens (26,300). Of the PLT arrivals from Australia, two-thirds were New Zealand citizens (10,700), similar to levels observed over the past decade.

Annual PLT migration by citizenship

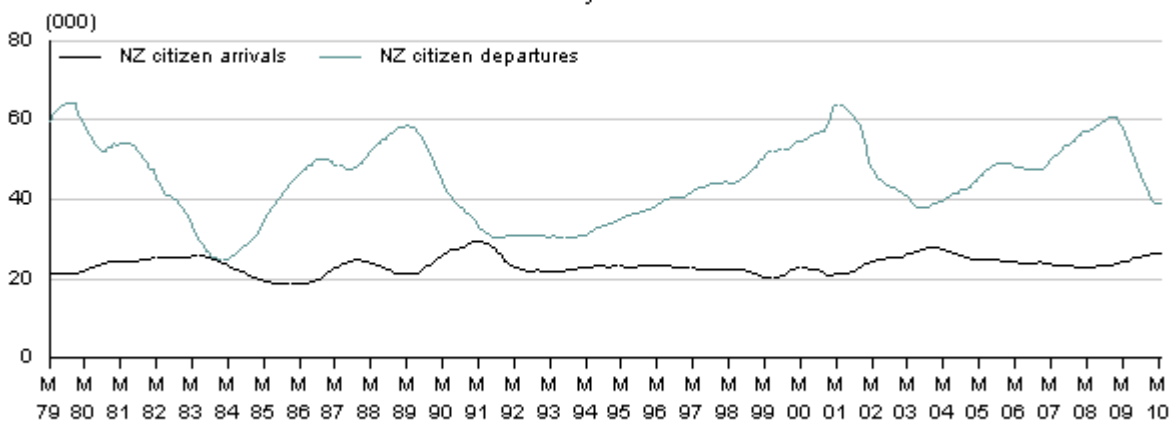
There was a net outflow of 12,500 New Zealand citizens in the April 2010 year, the lowest for an April year since 1995 (12,400). The net inflow of 32,400 non-New Zealand citizens was the lowest April year figure since 2005 (30,700).

PLT arrivals of New Zealand citizens numbered 26,400 in the April 2010 year, above the average of 23,500 recorded for the 1979–2009 December years, but below the peaks of 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. PLT departures of New Zealand citizens numbered 38,900 in the April 2010 year, well down from 56,600 in the April 2009 year.

Annual PLT migration of New Zealand citizens

March 1979 year onwards



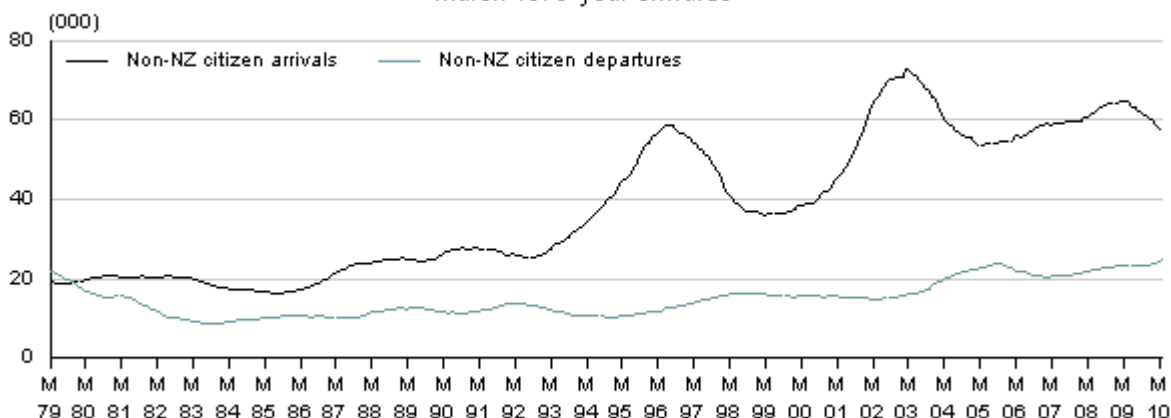
Source: Statistics New Zealand

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. The 57,200 non-New Zealand citizen arrivals in the April 2010 year were down from 64,500 the previous April 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. In the April 2010 year, there were 24,800 PLT departures of non-New Zealand citizens, up from 23,200 in the April 2009 year.

Annual PLT migration of non-New Zealand citizens

March 1979 year onwards



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Annual PLT migration by permit type

In the April 2010 year, 30,400 PLT arrivals were Australian or New Zealand citizens who did not require a permit to remain in New Zealand. Of the 53,300 PLT arrivals who did require a permit, 20,300 arrived on work permits, 15,100 arrived on student permits, 13,300 arrived on residence permits, and 4,000 arrived on visitor permits. Compared with the April 2009 year, there were fewer arrivals on each of these permit types, the biggest decrease being 3,600 fewer arrivals on work permits.

Recent international travel and migration articles

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

May 2010	International travel from New Zealand regions, 2009 analyses the number of departures, rate of travel, and characteristics of travellers from each of New Zealand's regions.
April 2010	New Zealand's International Migration Statistics, 1860–1921 provides some background to historical data recently released in Infoshare.
December 2009	Business Travel to and from New Zealand: 1989–2009 examines changes in the number and characteristics of people travelling to and from New Zealand for business over the past two decades.

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Next release ...

International Travel and Migration: May 2010 will be released on 21 June 2010.

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.

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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 overseas visitor arrivals, by travel purpose and country of last permanent residence
5. Short-term New Zealand-resident traveller departures, by country of main destination
6. Permanent and long-term arrivals, by country of last permanent residence
7. Permanent and long-term departures, by country of next permanent residence
8. Net permanent and long-term migration, by country of last/next permanent residence
9. Permanent and long-term migration, by country of citizenship