

Embargoed until 10:45am – 01 March 2010

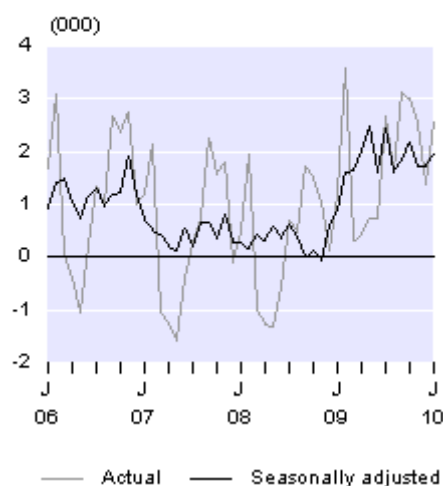
International Travel and Migration: January 2010

Highlights

- Visitor arrivals (256,700) were up 5 percent from January 2009 (244,000).
- There were more visitors from Australia (up 13,000), but fewer visitors from China (down 4,800).
- Overseas trips by New Zealand residents (106,800) were up 2 percent from January 2009 (105,100).
- New Zealand residents departed on more trips to Fiji (up 1,700), but fewer trips to Australia (down 2,000).
- Permanent and long-term arrivals exceeded departures by 2,000 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

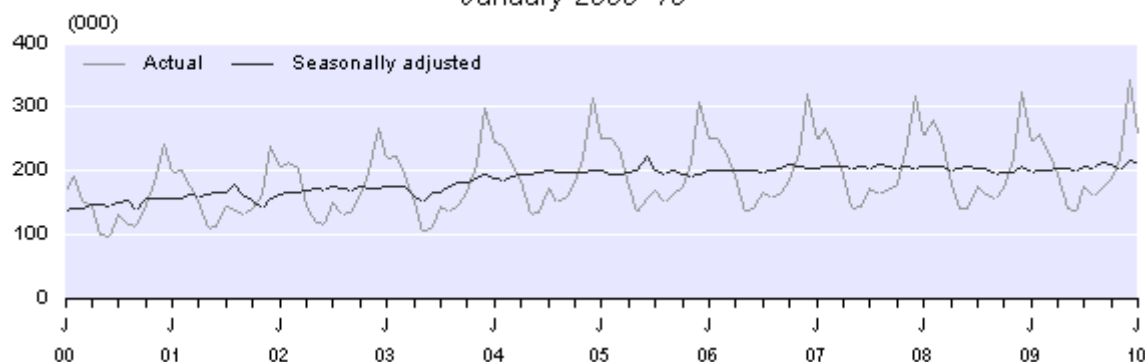
Monthly Net PLT Migration

January 2006–10



Monthly Visitor Arrivals

January 2000–10



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1 March 2010
ISSN 1179-0407

Commentary

Visitor arrivals

Monthly visitor arrivals

Short-term overseas visitor arrivals to New Zealand numbered 256,700 in January 2010, the highest number of visitor arrivals recorded for a January month. The total was up 12,600 (5 percent) from January 2009 (244,000) and surpassed the previous January high of 253,500 in 2008. Visitor arrivals have increased in eight of the last 10 months, compared with the same months of the previous year. The increase in visitor arrivals in January 2010 was attributable to an increase in air travel (up 15,700 or 7 percent), offset by fewer visitors arriving by cruise ship (3,700) compared with January 2009 (7,200).

The estimated average number of visitors in New Zealand per day was 211,500 in January 2010, up 6 percent from January 2009 (200,100). Holiday travellers accounted for 91,400 of the visitors in New Zealand per day in January 2010, up from 85,100 in January 2009. Travellers visiting friends and relatives averaged 85,400 per day in January 2010, up from 81,300 the previous January.

Monthly visitors by source country

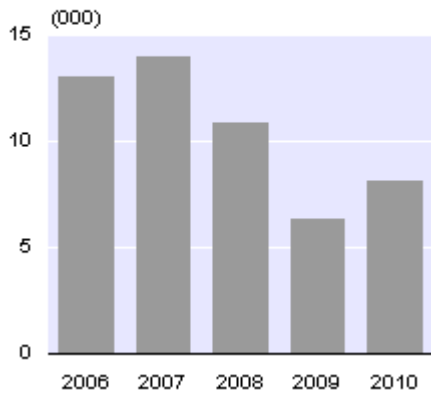
Visitor arrivals from Australia were up 13,000 (16 percent) in January 2010, compared with January 2009. This continues the large monthly increases which began in April 2009. A holiday (up 7,400 or 20 percent), visiting friends and relatives (up 2,800 or 8 percent), and business (up 1,400 or 20 percent) were the main travel purposes contributing to the increase from Australia in January 2010.

There were increases in visitors from all Australian states and territories, with the largest increases from New South Wales (up 6,300 or 20 percent), Queensland (up 2,000 or 10 percent), Victoria (up 1,900 or 10 percent), and Western Australia (up 800 or 12 percent).

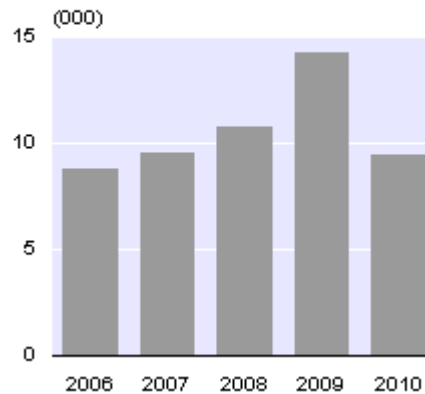
January 2010 also saw increases in visitor arrivals from Korea (up 1,900 or 30 percent), and Japan (up 1,200 or 16 percent). Although this is the first time since September 2007 that visitor arrivals from Japan have improved when compared with the same month of the previous year, arrivals were still almost half the peak of 16,000 in the January 2005 month. Similarly, visitor arrivals from Korea remained less than half the peak of 18,600 in January 2004.

There were fewer visitor arrivals from China (down 4,800 or 34 percent) and Hong Kong (down 1,000 or 41 percent) in January 2010, compared with January 2009. Visitor arrivals from these countries were affected by the timing of Chinese New Year, which occurred on 26 January in 2009, and on 14 February in 2010.

Visitors from Korea
Month of January



Visitors from China
Month of January



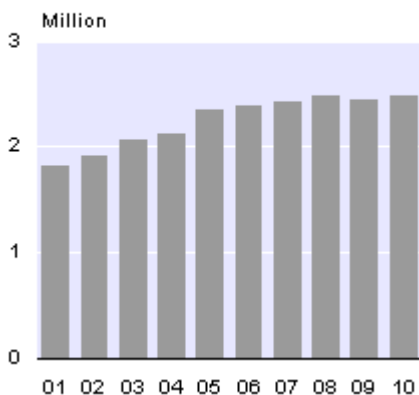
Note: Provisional international travel statistics, including weekly and four-weekly visitor arrival data, are available on the Statistics NZ website. This data is updated each week with the most recently available information on visitor arrivals from 10 major source countries.

Annual visitor arrivals

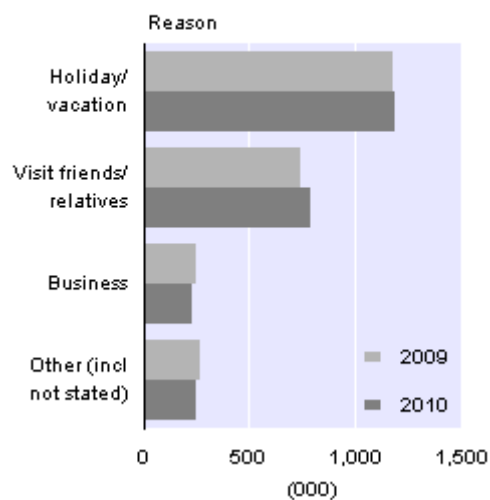
There were 2.471 million visitor arrivals in the January 2010 year, up 22,000 (1 percent) on the January 2009 year (2.449 million) and similar to the 2.472 million visitor arrivals in the January 2008 year. This is the first time since the year ended August 2008 that there has been an increase in annual visitor arrivals. However, the 2.471 million visitor arrivals in the year ended January 2010 were still down on the record annual total of 2.497 million in the March 2008 year.

A holiday was the main travel reason for 1.188 million visitors to New Zealand in the year ended January 2010, up 10,500 (1 percent) from the previous year. Another 793,300 arrived to visit friends and relatives (up 47,600 or 6 percent), and 232,500 arrived for business (down 17,300 or 7 percent).

Annual Visitor Arrivals
Year ended January



Visitor Arrivals by Reason
Year ended January



Annual visitors by source country

There were 1.096 million visitor arrivals from Australia in the January 2010 year, up 117,700 (12 percent) from 2009. According to figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australians

departed on 8 percent more overseas trips in the December 2009 year, compared with 2008. This included 74,700 more trips to the United States and 167,800 more trips to Indonesia. New Zealand remains the most popular destination for Australians travelling abroad.

However, fewer visitors came from the United Kingdom (down 22,400 or 8 percent), Japan (down 20,300 or 20 percent), Korea (down 19,700 or 26 percent), and China (down 18,400 or 16 percent) in the January 2010 year, compared with the previous January year.

Visitor arrivals from Australia have more than doubled since the January 2000 year (527,200). In contrast, the number of visitor arrivals from Japan (79,600) in the January 2010 year was less than half the annual high (174,800) recorded in the January 2003 year. Similarly, the number of visitor arrivals from Korea (54,800) was less than half the annual high (130,700) recorded in the April 1997 year.

Departures of New Zealand residents

Monthly resident departures

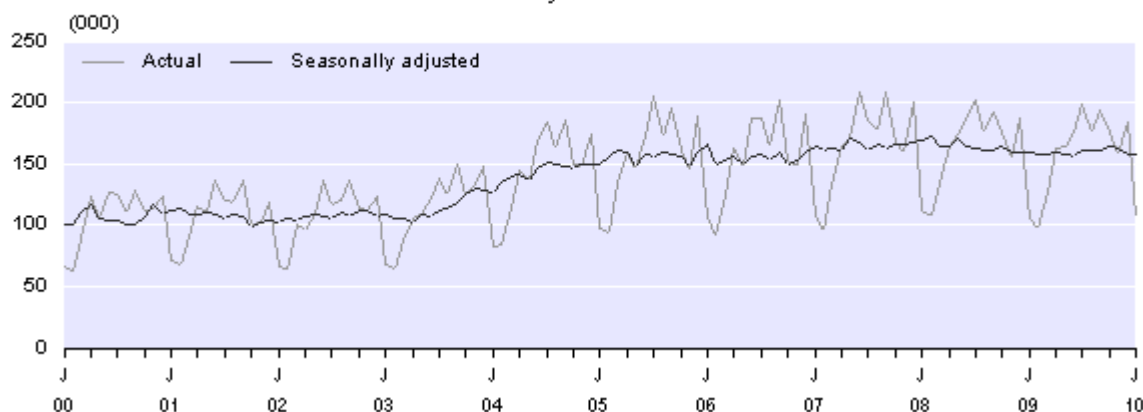
New Zealand residents departed on 106,800 short-term overseas trips in January 2010, up 1,700 (2 percent) from the 105,100 departures in January 2009. Despite the slight increase, these figures are both well below the January month high of 111,200 departures by New Zealand residents in January 2008.

In January 2010, New Zealand residents took fewer trips to Australia (down 2,000 or 3 percent) than in January 2009. However, they took more trips to Fiji (up 1,700 or 62 percent). Trips to Fiji have increased to the same levels as in January 2008 (4,500).

The estimated average number of New Zealand residents who were temporarily overseas per day during January 2010 was 121,000, down 3 percent from the average of 125,200 in January 2009. People who departed New Zealand primarily to visit friends and relatives accounted for just over half (61,600) of the January 2010 daily average. Holiday travellers overseas averaged 38,600 a day in January 2010, down 3,100 (8 percent) from January 2009.

Monthly New Zealand-resident Short-term Departures

January 2000–10

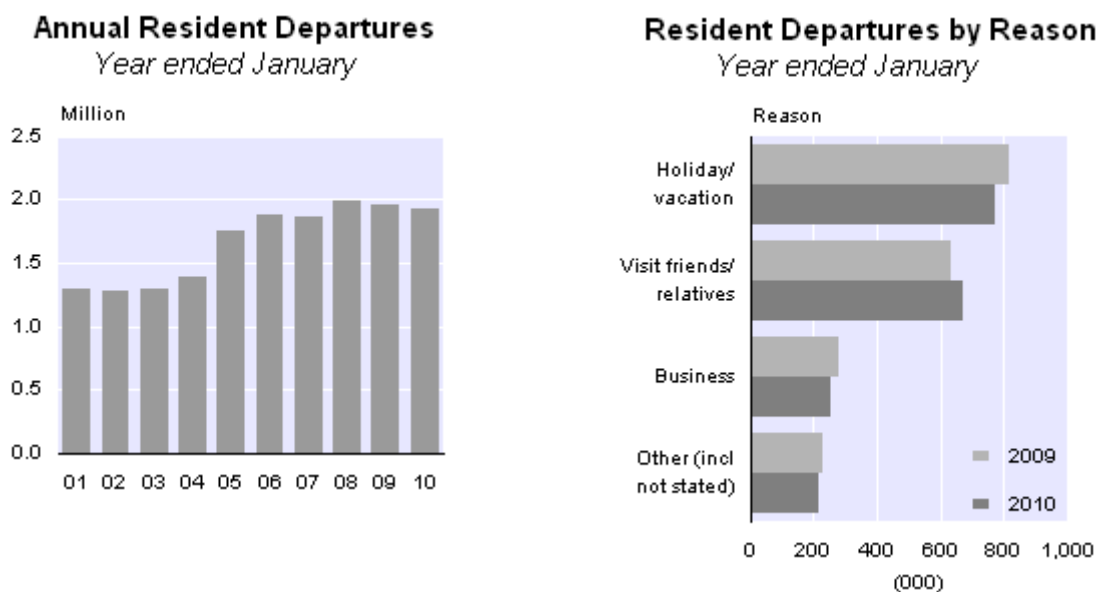


Annual resident departures

Short-term departures of New Zealand residents in the January 2010 year numbered 1.920 million, down 41,000 (2 percent) from 2009.

Trips to Australia (942,300), the most popular destination, were down 10,600 (1 percent) from the previous year. There were also fewer trips to the United Kingdom (down 6,200 or 7 percent), the United States (down 4,200 or 5 percent), and Fiji (down 3,700 or 4 percent). However, there were more trips to Samoa (up 3,800 or 10 percent).

A holiday was the main travel reason for 774,100 New Zealand residents who departed in the January 2010 year, down 41,100 (5 percent) from the previous year. Another 669,200 departed to visit friends and relatives (up 36,100 or 6 percent). Departures for business purposes (257,900) were down 20,400 (7 percent) from the year ended January 2009.



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

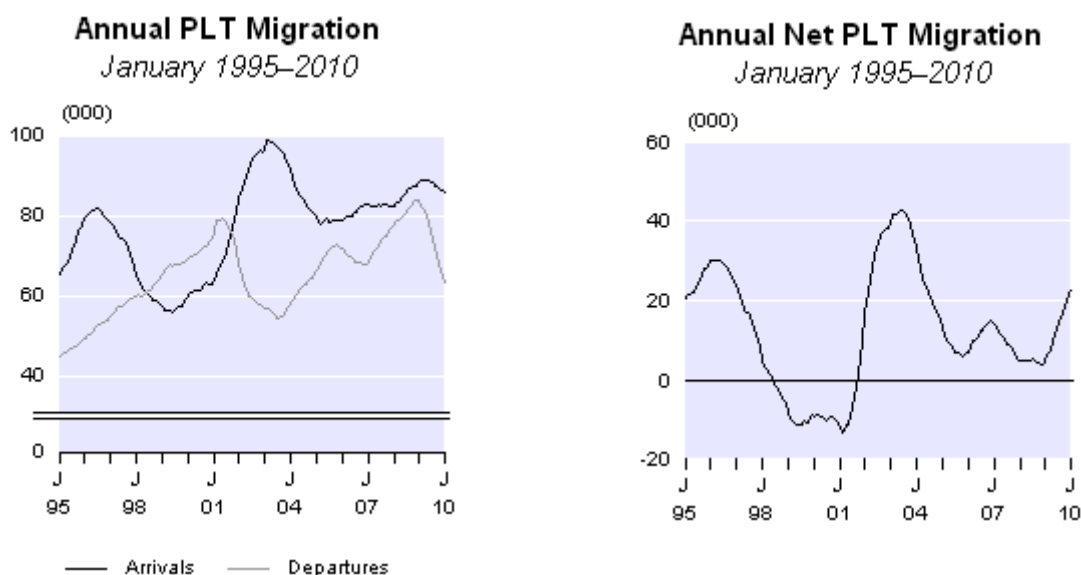
PLT arrivals exceeded departures by 2,500 in January 2010, compared with 1,200 in January 2009. This is the highest net gain for a January month since 2004 (4,000). The increase was driven by 1,700 (30 percent) fewer PLT departures to Australia. PLT arrivals overall were down 400 from January 2009, although there were 200 more PLT arrivals of New Zealand citizens.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, PLT arrivals exceeded departures by 2,000 in January 2010, up from 1,700 in December 2009, and similar to the average of 1,900 experienced since February 2009.

In January 2010, there were net inflows of migrants from the United Kingdom (1,100), India, and China (each 400). There was a net outflow of 2,100 PLT migrants to Australia, the lowest for a January month since 2004, and a decrease from the net outflow of 4,100 in both January 2008 and 2009.

Annual PLT migration

Net migration was 22,600 in the January 2010 year, compared with 4,500 in the year ended January 2009. The increase in net migration was due to fewer departures. The 63,400 PLT departures in the January 2010 year were down 20,200 (24 percent) from the January 2009 year. Over the same period, there were 86,000 PLT arrivals, down 2,200 (2 percent). The latest annual net migration total is the highest since the May 2004 year (24,000).



The net PLT migration gain of 22,600 in the January 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 January 2010, there were net PLT inflows from the United Kingdom (8,900), India (5,900), and China (3,900), all of which were up from the January 2009 year. However, there were decreases in net migration from the Philippines, Fiji, and South Africa.

The net PLT outflow to Australia was 16,000 in the January 2010 year, less than half of the outflow of 35,400 in the January 2009 year. The latest net outflow resulted from 31,100 PLT departures to Australia, partly offset by 15,100 PLT arrivals from Australia. Almost 9 in every 10 PLT departures to Australia were New Zealand citizens (27,000). Of the PLT arrivals from Australia, two-thirds were New Zealand citizens (10,300), similar to levels observed over the past decade.

PLT departures to Australia decreased in all age groups in the January 2010 year, compared with the year ending January 2009. The largest numerical decrease was in the 20–24 year age group, down 2,800 or 33 percent, while the largest percentage decreases were in the 40–44 year

and 45–49 year age groups (both down 43 percent). PLT departures to Australia in the January 2010 year were evenly split between males and females (both 15,500). In the previous January year, there were slightly more PLT departures of males (25,000) than females (23,500).

Annual PLT migration by citizenship

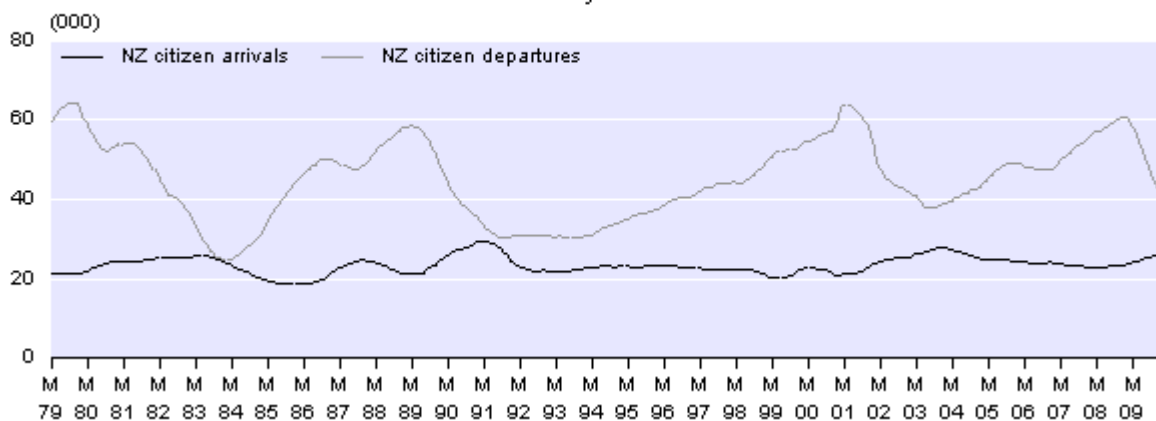
A net inflow of 36,000 non-New Zealand citizens and a net outflow of 13,400 New Zealand citizens were recorded in the January 2010 year.

PLT arrivals of New Zealand citizens numbered 26,300 in the January 2010 year, above the average of 23,500 recorded for the 1979–2009 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 39,700 PLT departures of New Zealand citizens in the January 2010 year, down from 60,500 the previous January year.

Annual PLT Migration of New Zealand Citizens

March 1979 year onwards

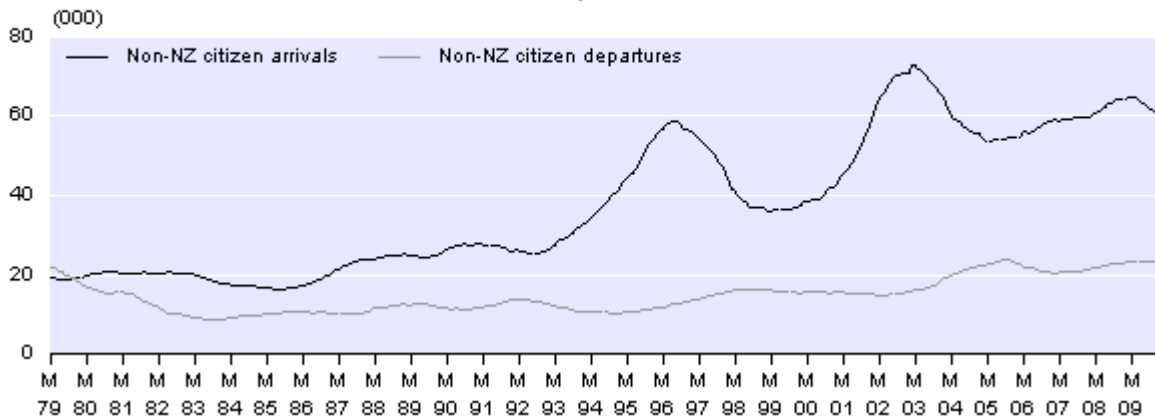


PLT arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens were less than 30,000 a year between 1979 and 1992, then doubled to reach a peak of 58,800 in the July 1996 year. Another peak of 72,800 was reached in the February 2003 year. The changes in arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens reflect changes in arrivals of temporary workers (including working holidaymakers) and overseas students staying for 12 months or more, as well as arrivals for residence. At 59,700, arrivals in the January 2010 year were down by 4,700 from the previous January 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 23,700 PLT departures of non-New Zealand citizens in the year ended January 2010, up 500 from the January 2009 year.

Annual PLT Migration of Non-New Zealand Citizens

March 1979 year onwards



Annual PLT migration by permit type

In the January 2010 year, 30,200 PLT arrivals were Australian or New Zealand citizens who did not require a permit to remain in New Zealand. Of the 55,800 PLT arrivals who did require a permit, 21,400 arrived on work permits, 15,800 arrived on student permits, 13,700 arrived on residence permits, and 4,400 arrived on visitor permits. There were fewer arrivals on work permits (down 2,700), visitor permits (down 1,000), and residence permits (down 900) in the January 2010 year compared with the previous January year. The majority of residence approvals in recent years have been granted onshore, to people who arrived on other permit types.

In the January 2010 year, there were more PLT arrivals on student permits (up 300) compared with the January 2009 year. The increase in arrivals on student permits was driven by more students arriving from India (up 800) and China (up 500), offset by decreases in students from the United Kingdom and South Africa (both down 300), and the Philippines and Fiji (both down 200).

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:

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.
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.

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Next release ...

International Travel and Migration: February 2010 will be released on 19 March 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 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