

Embargoed until 10:45am – 21 July 2010

## International Travel and Migration: June 2010

### Highlights

In June 2010 compared with June 2009:

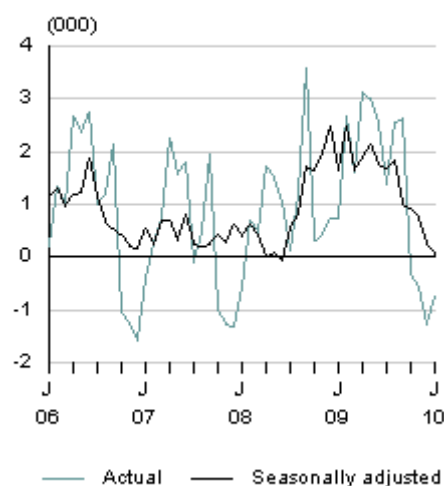
- Visitor arrivals (145,800) were up 8 percent from June 2009 (135,200).
- There were more visitors from Australia (up 5,300), China, and Japan (each up 2,900).
- New Zealand residents departed on 198,800 overseas trips, up 13 percent from June 2009 (176,300).
- New Zealand residents departed on more trips to Australia (up 8,400), the United States (up 3,000), and the United Kingdom (up 2,600).

In June 2010:

- Permanent and long-term arrivals exceeded departures by 100 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

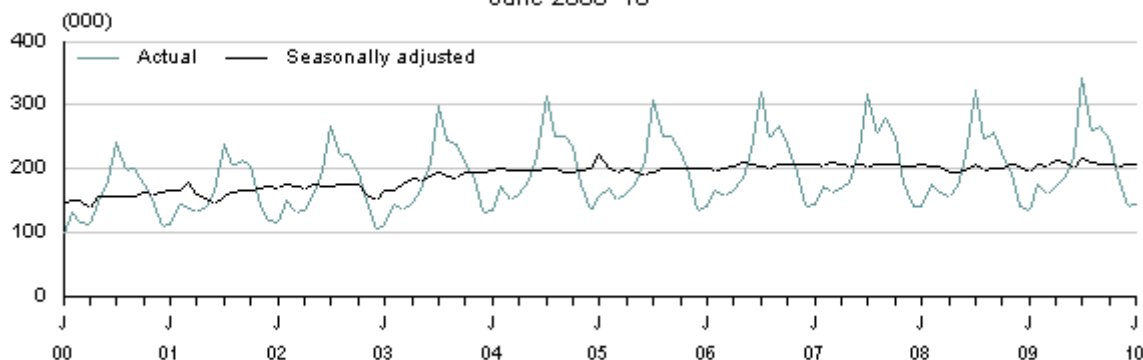
### Monthly net PLT migration

June 2006–10



### Monthly visitor arrivals

June 2000–10



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# Commentary

## Visitor arrivals

### Monthly visitor arrivals

Short-term overseas visitor arrivals to New Zealand numbered 145,800 in June 2010, up 8 percent from 135,200 in June 2009. The 2010 figure was the second-highest for a June month, behind 2005 (157,500) when numbers were boosted by the British and Irish Lions rugby tour.

The underlying trend, derived from the seasonally adjusted series, indicates that visitor arrivals have declined 2 percent since a peak in November 2009. Before this, the trend had been increasing from a low in November 2008, which was during the global economic downturn.

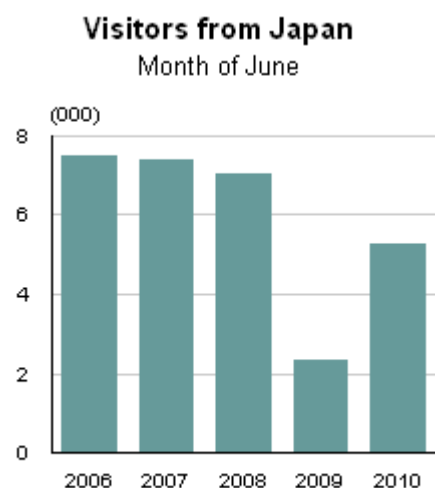
The estimated average number of visitors in New Zealand per day was 91,400 in June 2010, up 2 percent from 89,800 in June 2009. The number of visitors in the country is typically lowest in June. In comparison, the peak month of January 2010 saw an average of 211,500 visitors in New Zealand per day.

### Monthly visitors by source country

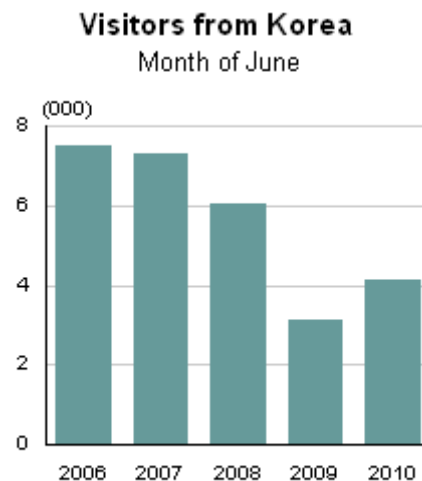
In June 2010, visitor arrivals from Australia numbered 76,200, up 5,300 (7 percent) from June 2009. This adds to a 9 percent increase between June 2008 and June 2009. The latest increase from Australia included 3,000 more holiday visitors, 1,500 more arrivals to visit friends and relatives, and 700 more business visitors.

Combined visitor arrivals from China, Japan, and Korea were up 6,900 (86 percent) in June 2010. The H1N1 pandemic affected numbers travelling from those countries in June 2009. The number of visitors from China in June 2010 (5,500) was similar to the average for the June months between 2006 and 2008, prior to the H1N1 outbreak. However, arrivals from Japan and Korea were still well below June 2008 levels.

There were fewer visitors from the United Kingdom (down 1,100 or 13 percent) and the United States (down 1,000 or 8 percent) in June 2010. Visitor arrivals from these countries were the lowest for a June month since 2000 and 1999, respectively.



Source: Statistics New Zealand



Source: Statistics New Zealand

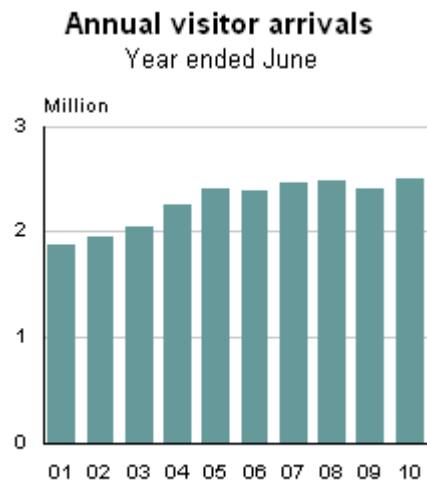
**Note:** Provisional international travel statistics, including weekly and four-weekly visitor arrival data, are available on the Statistics NZ website. This data is updated each week with the most recently available information on visitor arrivals from 10 major source countries.

### Annual visitor arrivals

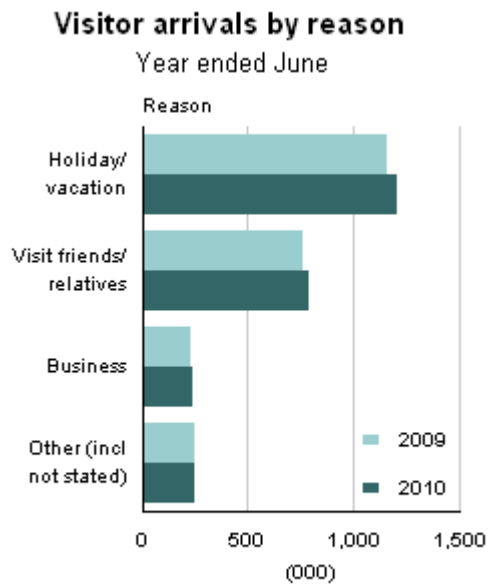
Annual visitor arrivals to New Zealand numbered 2.501 million in the June 2010 year, the first time the 2.5 million mark has been surpassed. This milestone was almost reached in 2008, but the global economic downturn contributed to a decline in visitor numbers after a peak of 2.497 million in the March 2008 year.

The 2 million visitor mark was reached in the November 2002 year, just 10 years after the 1 million milestone (in the April 1992 year).

Almost half of all visitors in the June 2010 year were arriving for a holiday (1.206 million). Another 786,500 arrived to visit friends and relatives, and 245,300 arrived for business.



Source: Statistics New Zealand



Source: Statistics New Zealand

### Annual visitors by source country

Despite the similarity in overall visitor numbers between the June 2010 year (2.501 million) and the March 2008 year (2.497 million), there were significant changes by country between these periods. The 970,500 visitors from Australia in the March 2008 year accounted for 39 percent of all visitors to New Zealand. In the June 2010 year, visitors from Australia had increased (by 149,000 or 15 percent) to 1.119 million, and accounted for 45 percent of all visitors.

The increase from Australia was offset by decreases from most other main visitor source countries. Compared with the March 2008 year, there were fewer visitors from the United Kingdom (down 44,300 or 15 percent), Japan (down 32,900 or 28 percent), Korea (down 30,600 or 33 percent), the United States (down 28,700 or 13 percent), and China (down 19,100 or 15 percent) in the June 2010 year.

## Detailed tables about visitor arrivals

The *International Visitor Arrivals to New Zealand* report, released monthly, contains detailed tables about the number and characteristics of visitor arrivals to New Zealand. It has previously been available only by subscription, but will now be available for free on Statistics NZ's website. This report is released two working days after the International Travel and Migration information release, meaning the June 2010 report will be available from 23 July 2010. The report will be accessible from the [International Visitor Arrivals to New Zealand](#) homepage.

## Departures of New Zealand residents

### Monthly resident departures

New Zealand residents departed on 198,800 short-term overseas trips in June 2010, up 22,500 (13 percent) from the 176,300 trips in June 2009. The highest departure total for a June month was 208,300 in 2007.

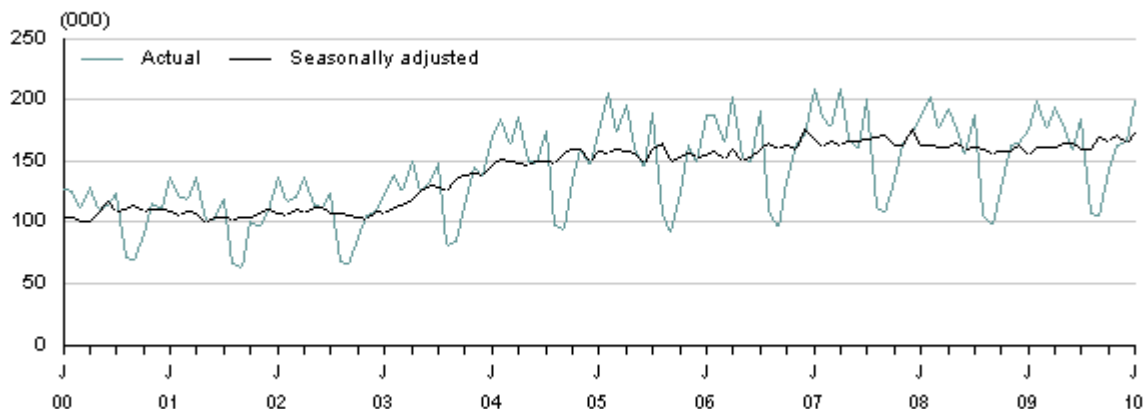
New Zealand residents took 8,400 more trips to Australia in June 2010, compared with the previous June. There were also more trips to the United States (up 3,000), the United Kingdom (up 2,600), and China (up 1,800).

The trend in New Zealand resident departures (169,600), derived from the seasonally adjusted series, is at an all time high. This series has been increasing since March 2009, and has surpassed the previous peak in January 2008 (167,700).

The estimated average number of New Zealand residents who were temporarily overseas during June 2010 was 118,900 per day, up 8,400 (8 percent) from the average in June 2009.

### Monthly New Zealand-resident short-term departures

June 2000–10



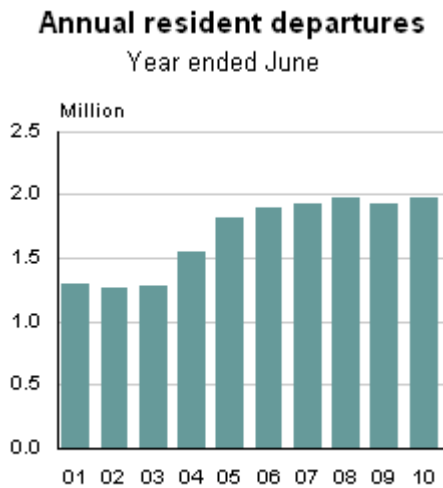
Source: Statistics New Zealand

### Annual resident departures

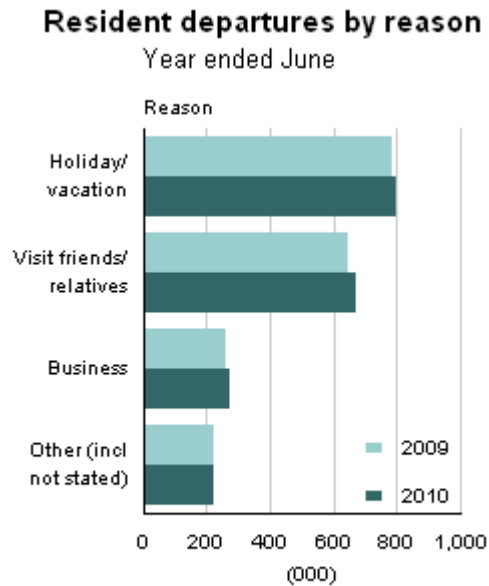
Short-term departures of New Zealand residents in the June 2010 year numbered 1.968 million, up 48,400 (3 percent) from the June 2009 year.

New Zealand residents departed on more trips to Australia (up 14,800 or 2 percent), Fiji (up 6,200 or 7 percent), and China (up 4,000 or 7 percent) in the June 2010 year. However, the 97,300 trips to Fiji were still well below the 109,800 trips to that country in the June 2006 year.

A holiday was the main travel purpose for 799,700 New Zealand residents who departed in the June 2010 year, up 16,900 (2 percent) from the previous year. Another 672,200 departed to visit friends and relatives (up 24,600 or 4 percent). Departures for business purposes (272,500) were up 10,900 (4 percent) from the June 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 100 (rounded figure) in June 2010, the lowest number since the series briefly fell below zero in November 2008. The monthly seasonally adjusted series has steadily decreased from 1,800 in January 2010. The decrease in the net series in recent months has been due to a fall in arrivals and a rise in departures.

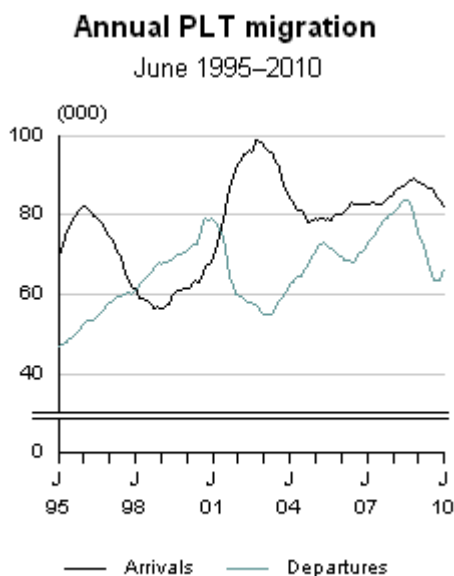
On an unadjusted basis, PLT departures outnumbered arrivals by 700 in June 2010, a reversal from 700 more arrivals than departures in June 2009. The decrease in net migration in June 2010, compared with June 2009, was due to 500 fewer arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens and 900 more departures of New Zealand citizens.

In June 2010, there were net inflows of migrants from India (400), China, and the Philippines (each 200). The net outflow of 1,800 PLT migrants to Australia was up from 1,200 in June 2009,

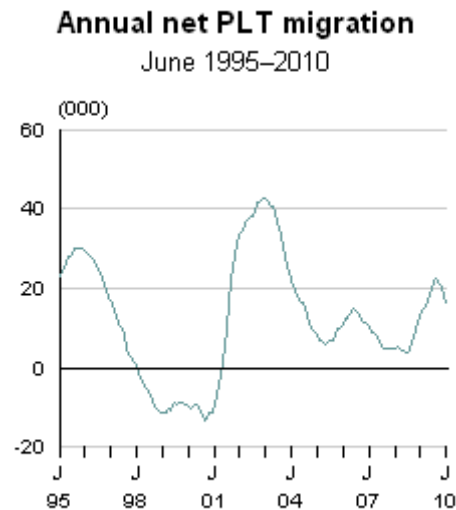
but still well down from the net outflow of 2,900 in June 2008. There was also a net outflow of 200 migrants to the United Kingdom in June 2010, compared with a net inflow of 300 in June 2009.

### Annual PLT migration

Net migration was 16,500 in the June 2010 year, compared with 12,500 in the June 2009 year. The 65,800 PLT departures in the June 2010 year were down 13 percent from the June 2009 year. The 82,300 PLT arrivals were also down, by 7 percent.



Source: Statistics New Zealand



Source: Statistics New Zealand

The net PLT migration gain of 16,500 in the June 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 June 2010 year, the net inflow of migrants from the United Kingdom was 7,100, down from 9,100 the previous year. Net inflows were also recorded from India (5,600) and China (3,600) in the June 2010 year.

The net PLT outflow to Australia was 15,900 in the June 2010 year, well down from 28,700 in the June 2009 year. The latest net outflow resulted from 31,700 departures to Australia being partly offset by 15,800 arrivals from Australia. The majority of migrants in both directions were New Zealand citizens.

### Annual PLT migration by citizenship

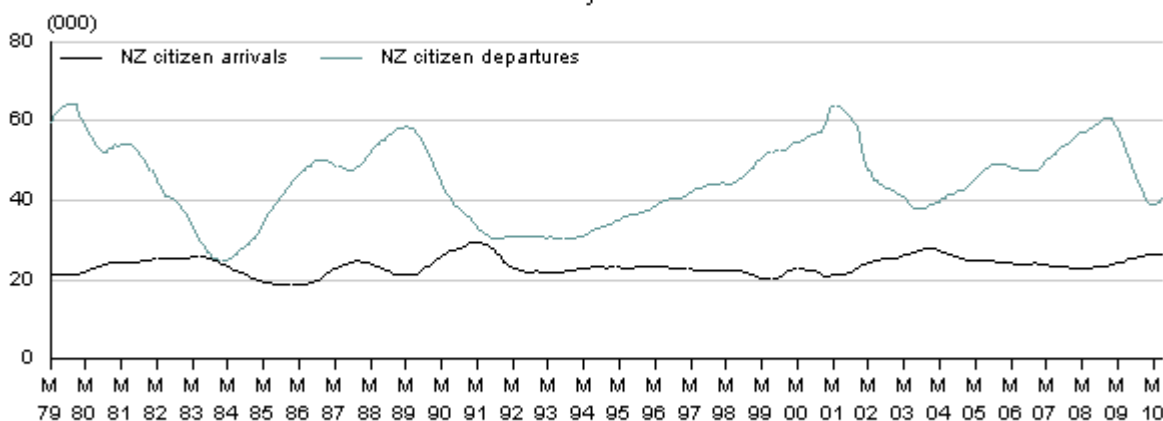
There was a net outflow of 14,200 New Zealand citizens in the June 2010 year, the lowest outflow for a June year since 2003 (11,500). The net inflow of 30,700 non-New Zealand citizens was the lowest for a June year since 2000 (23,200).

PLT arrivals of New Zealand citizens numbered 26,200 in the June 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 40,400 in the June 2010 year, well down from 52,500 in the June 2009 year, and 58,300 in the June 2008 year.

### Annual PLT migration of New Zealand citizens

March 1979 year onwards



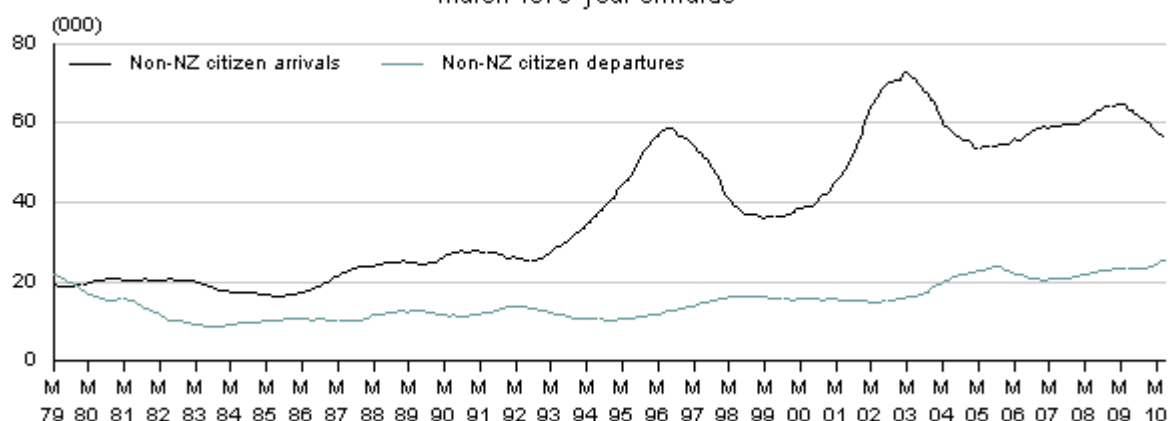
Source: Statistics New Zealand

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 56,100 non-New Zealand citizen arrivals in the June 2010 year were down from 63,400 the previous June 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 June 2010 year, there were 25,400 PLT departures of non-New Zealand citizens, up from 23,300 in the June 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 June 2010 year, 30,200 PLT arrivals were Australian or New Zealand citizens who did not require a permit to remain in New Zealand. Of those who did require a permit, 19,700 arrived on work permits, 15,100 arrived on student permits, 13,100 arrived on residence permits, and 3,800 arrived on visitor permits. Compared with the June 2009 year, there were fewer arrivals on each of these permit types, the biggest decrease being 3,700 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	<a href="#">International travel from New Zealand regions, 2009</a> analyses the number of departures, rate of travel, and characteristics of travellers from each of New Zealand's regions.
April 2010	<a href="#">New Zealand's International Migration Statistics, 1860–1921</a> provides some background to historical data recently released in Infoshare.
December 2009	<a href="#">Business Travel to and from New Zealand: 1989–2009</a> 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: July 2010* will be released on 20 August 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](http://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 citizenship