

New Zealand



Nearly 47 000 people were approved for residence in New Zealand in 2006-07 which was around 4 000 people less than in the previous year. The largest source countries were the United Kingdom (26%), China (12%), India (9%) and South Africa (8%).

Temporary labour migration continued to grow at a significant rate. Almost 115 500 work permits were granted in 2006-07, an increase of more than 16% from the previous year. Increases were due to greater numbers of working holiday makers, seasonal workers and foreign graduates. In contrast to the increase in temporary labour immigration, the number of student permits continued to decline, albeit at a lower pace than in previous years. The number of student permits granted reduced from almost 69 000 in 2005-06 to around 67 150 in 2006-07. This was attributable to a continuing decline of student numbers from China (about 20 200, less than half of the 2002-03 figure), while numbers from all other key source countries, with the exception of Japan, increased in 2006-07.

Given sustained economic growth, New Zealand has intensified its recruitment of temporary as well as permanent migrant workers in the past year – a process supported by the gradual implementation of the comprehensive Immigration Change Programme which brought about a number of significant policy changes in 2007. In August 2007, a new immigration bill was introduced to parliament and is currently being reviewed.

A new Immigration Advisers Licensing Act was passed in 2007. It requires anyone providing New Zealand immigration advice to be licensed (unless exempt). The Act also establishes the Immigration Advisers Authority, an independent Authority that will administer the licensing process for advisers both within New Zealand and abroad.

Important changes were also made to the Skilled Migrant Policy, notably in the allocation of points for different attributes (including increased number of bonus points for skilled employment, recognised qualifications and work experience in an identified future growth area) and a better definition of “skilled employment”).

In addition, a new Active Investor Migrant Category was introduced in November 2007.

Depending on the amount to be invested, candidates are ranked in different priority classes. Smaller investments require the additional passing of a special points test.

Changes were also made to the Family Sponsorship stream involving the development of a fourth stream for the partner and dependent children categories (as distinct from parent, adult children and adult sibling categories). This policy is designed to further facilitate the entry of skilled migrants to New Zealand and the return of New Zealanders who have been working overseas. This should be viewed in the context of a larger set of measures aimed at forming links with New Zealand expatriates while attracting a proportion of the highly skilled home. This is an important issue for New Zealand, since the total 87 000 permanent and long term arrivals in 2006-07 translated to a net migration gain of just 10 100 people.

Other changes included introducing character requirements for sponsors of some family migrants, a new minimum income requirement for sponsors of parents (to ensure they can support them while they are in New Zealand), and the introduction of a new multiple entry visitor visa for parents and grandparents to enable them to travel more easily to New Zealand.

Measures were introduced in April 2007 to help meet the labour requirements of the New Zealand horticulture and viticulture industries when no suitable New Zealanders are available. This allows employers to recruit with priority from the Pacific (and subsequently other countries), with workers having an opportunity to return the next season.

A Refugee Family Support Category replaced the Refugee Family Sponsored policy. The objective is to help refugees living in New Zealand to settle by allowing them to sponsor family members for residence while maintaining a clear prioritisation mechanism.

Finally, a range of measures was implemented in 2007 within the framework of the Settlement National Action Plan (SNAP). The plan aims, among other objectives, to address gaps in service delivery for migrants and the identification of good practice for new or extended services across a range of areas.

For further information...

www.immigration.govt.nz/

www.dol.govt.nz/actreview/

Flow data on foreigners

Migration flows (foreigners) <i>National definition</i>	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)																																	
					1995-2000	2001-2006	2006																																	
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>																																								
Inflows	15.2	9.8	13.2	12.0	10.1	11.8	49.8																																	
Outflows	2.9	4.0	7.5	5.0	3.8	6.5	20.5																																	
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type <i>Permit based statistics (standardised)</i>	Thousands		% distribution		<p>Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Nationality</th> <th>1995-2005 annual average</th> <th>2006</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>United Kingdom</td> <td>~15</td> <td>77.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>China</td> <td>~10</td> <td>67.9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>India</td> <td>~8</td> <td>~8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South Africa</td> <td>~5</td> <td>~5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fiji</td> <td>~3</td> <td>~3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Samoa</td> <td>~2</td> <td>~2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Korea</td> <td>~1</td> <td>~1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Philippines</td> <td>~1</td> <td>~1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>United States</td> <td>~1</td> <td>~1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tonga</td> <td>~1</td> <td>~1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Nationality	1995-2005 annual average	2006	United Kingdom	~15	77.5	China	~10	67.9	India	~8	~8	South Africa	~5	~5	Fiji	~3	~3	Samoa	~2	~2	Korea	~1	~1	Philippines	~1	~1	United States	~1	~1	Tonga	~1	~1
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Work	14.5	12.9	24.4	23.6																																				
Family (incl. accompanying family)	34.8	31.7	58.6	57.9																																				
Humanitarian	4.9	5.2	8.2	9.6																																				
Free movements	5.2	5.0	8.8	9.0																																				
Others	-	-	-	-																																				
Total	59.4	54.8																																						
Temporary migration	2000	2005	2006	Annual average		<p>Inflows of asylum seekers</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th rowspan="2">1995</th> <th rowspan="2">2000</th> <th rowspan="2">2005</th> <th rowspan="2">2006</th> <th colspan="2">Average</th> <th>Level ('000)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>1995-2000</th> <th>2001-2006</th> <th>2006</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="8"><i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>0.2</td> <td>0.4</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.4</td> <td>0.2</td> <td>0.3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)	1995-2000	2001-2006	2006	<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>									0.2	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.3						
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International students	45.8	69.2	67.1	72.6																																				
Trainees	0.8	1.8	1.2	1.5																																				
Working holiday makers	13.0	29.0	32.5	22.0																																				
Seasonal workers	..	2.9	5.6	4.2																																				
Intra-company transfers																																				
Other temporary workers	24.1	44.3	47.3	38.1																																				

Macroeconomic, demographic and labour market indicators

Macroeconomic indicators	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level																																																																																																														
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Real GDP (growth, %)	4.2	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.6	3.1																																																																																																															
GDP/capita (growth, %) – level in US Dollars	2.6	1.5	1.0	0.9	1.6	1.8	23 350																																																																																																														
Employment (growth, %) – level in thousands	4.5	1.7	2.8	2.1	1.3	2.7	2 117																																																																																																														
Unemployment (% of labour force)	6.2	6.0	3.7	3.8	6.5	4.4																																																																																																															
Components of population growth	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		<p>Total population</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2"></th> <th rowspan="2">1995</th> <th rowspan="2">2000</th> <th rowspan="2">2005</th> <th rowspan="2">2006</th> <th colspan="2">Average</th> <th>Level ('000)</th> </tr> <tr> <th>1995-2000</th> <th>2001-2006</th> <th>2006</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td colspan="8"><i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>15.9</td> <td>4.8</td> <td>9.3</td> <td>11.1</td> <td>9.4</td> <td>12.2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Natural increase</td> <td>8.1</td> <td>7.7</td> <td>7.6</td> <td>7.5</td> <td>7.8</td> <td>7.2</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Net migration</td> <td>7.7</td> <td>-2.9</td> <td>1.7</td> <td>3.6</td> <td>1.6</td> <td>5.0</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="8"><i>(Annual growth %)</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Native-born</td> <td>..</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>-0.2</td> <td>0.1</td> <td>0.5</td> <td>0.5</td> <td>3 260</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foreign-born</td> <td>..</td> <td>3.0</td> <td>5.5</td> <td>4.6</td> <td>2.3</td> <td>4.7</td> <td>880</td> </tr> <tr> <td>National</td> <td>..</td> <td>..</td> <td>..</td> <td>..</td> <td>..</td> <td>..</td> <td>..</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Foreign</td> <td>..</td> <td>..</td> <td>..</td> <td>..</td> <td>..</td> <td>..</td> <td>..</td> </tr> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Naturalisations</th> <th rowspan="2">1995</th> <th rowspan="2">2000</th> <th rowspan="2">2005</th> <th rowspan="2">2006</th> <th colspan="2">Average</th> <th>Level</th> </tr> <tr> <th>1995-2000</th> <th>2001-2006</th> <th>2006</th> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="8"><i>As a percentage of foreign population</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>..</td> <td>..</td> <td>..</td> <td>..</td> <td>..</td> <td>..</td> <td>29 017</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level ('000)	1995-2000	2001-2006	2006	<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>								Total	15.9	4.8	9.3	11.1	9.4	12.2		Natural increase	8.1	7.7	7.6	7.5	7.8	7.2		Net migration	7.7	-2.9	1.7	3.6	1.6	5.0		<i>(Annual growth %)</i>								Native-born	..	0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.5	0.5	3 260	Foreign-born	..	3.0	5.5	4.6	2.3	4.7	880	National	Foreign	Naturalisations	1995	2000	2005	2006	Average		Level	1995-2000	2001-2006	2006	<i>As a percentage of foreign population</i>									29 017
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Notes and sources are at the beginning of the Chapter.