

New Zealand

In total, net inflows in 2009/2010 equalled 16 500, an increase of one-third over the previous year. The rise in net migration was driven by more New Zealanders returning home and fewer leaving. In particular, some important changes were recorded with respect to flows to/from Australia and the United Kingdom, the two major destination countries of New Zealanders. The negative migration net balance with Australia was substantially reduced in parallel with the highest positive net migration on record with the United Kingdom. In contrast, fewer foreigners came in (56 100 compared with 63 400 in 2008/2009) and more left the country (25 400 compared with 23 300).

Permanent residence approvals remained stable in 2009/10 with nearly 46 000 persons approved. Since 2006/07, the planning level has remained unchanged at 45 000-50 000 approvals per year.

The two largest source countries (the United Kingdom and China) of permanent residents declined by 10% and 13%, to 7 800 and 5 900, respectively. South Africa, Philippines and India are the following three major source countries. While immigration of South Africans remained stable, immigrating Filipinos and Indians increased both in absolute and relative terms.

After an annual average growth of 14% over the last decade, the growth in the immigration of temporary workers slowed down in 2008/09 and decreased by 5% in 2009/2010, to 130 000. This is mainly driven by the large fall in the number of people admitted under the Essential Skills Policy, down 23% to 22 720. The Essential Skills Policy facilitates the entry of temporary workers to fill shortages where suitable New Zealand citizens or residents are not available for the work offered.

The admissions for seasonal work, subject to a labour market test, fell by 19% in 2009/2010. In contrast, non-labour market tested categories continued to increase – by 3% for the Working Holiday Workers and by 16% for the Study-to-work Policies. This later programme allows applicants who completed a course or qualification in New Zealand that would qualify for points under the skilled migration category to obtain a work visa or 12 or 24 months. Since 1 October 2010, applicants for the China Working Holiday Scheme (WHS) are now required to have their senior high school qualification and to prove their proficiency in English.

A new Immigration Act came into force in November 2010. It uses the single term “visa” for both the authorisation to travel to and the authorisation to stay in New Zealand. The terms “permit” and “exemption” are no longer used. Beyond the terminology changes, major changes have been introduced to the sponsorship regulation. The sponsor is now responsible for maintenance, accommodation and repatriation (or deportation) for the sponsored person. For temporary entry visas, this broader obligation is in place for the whole time of the sponsored person’s stay in New Zealand. Furthermore, sponsors can now be governmental or non-governmental organisations, as well as individuals.

In late 2009, several amendments have been made to the student visa policy, with the aim of giving more flexibility to students who come for a short period of study (by delivering visas that allow to study multiple courses or that allow multiple short periods of stay over several years) as well as making it more difficult for students to change courses.

The Retirement Visa Policy was implemented in March 2010. This policy enables high-income people of retirement age to live in New Zealand, if they can make an economic investment in New Zealand.

The “Silver Fern” Policies, designed to bring young skilled people into New Zealand and to provide them with a pathway to residence, was implemented in April 2010. Under this policy, 300 “silver fern job-search visas” are available each year. When the policy was launched in April 2010, the available places for 2010/11 were filled within a half hour. When the successful applicants have found a skilled job which meets the requirements for skilled work under the skilled migration category, they receive a “silver fern practical experience visa”, enabling them to work for up to 2 years in that job.

For further information:

www.immigration.govt.nz/

www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/general/generalinformation/research/

www.dol.govt.nz/actreview/

www.immigration.govt.nz/migrant/general/generalinformation/immigrationact/

www.investmentnow.govt.nz/index.html

Recent trends in migrants' flows and stocks

NEW ZEALAND

Migration flows (foreigners) National definition	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
					2000-04	2005-09	2009			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Inflows	9.8	13.1	11.0	10.1	11.1	11.4	43.6			
Outflows	4.0	7.4	5.4	5.5	6.1	5.6	23.6			
Migration inflows (foreigners) by type	Thousands		% distribution		Inflows of top 10 nationalities as a % of total inflows of foreigners					
Permit based statistics (standardised)	2008	2009	2008	2009						
Work	12.8	11.6	24.7	24.6						
Family (incl. accompanying family)	30.4	29.3	58.8	61.1						
Humanitarian	3.7	3.1	7.1	6.6						
Free movements	4.8	3.6	9.4	7.7						
Others	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0						
Total	51.7	47.2	100.0	100.0						
Temporary migration	2005	2008	2009	Average 2005-09						
<i>Thousands</i>										
International students	70.0	73.8	73.4	70.9						
Trainees	1.8	1.1	1.3	1.3						
Working holiday makers	29.0	40.3	40.9	35.8						
Seasonal workers	2.9	10.4	7.8	6.7						
Intra-company transfers	..	..	..	..		
Other temporary workers	44.2	47.7	37.4	46.8						
Inflows of asylum seekers	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	336			
Components of population growth	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Per 1 000 inhabitants</i>										
Total	5.6	11.4	9.1	12.7	13.2	11.0	55			
Natural increase	7.7	7.5	8.2	7.9	7.2	7.8	34			
Net migration	-2.9	1.7	0.9	4.9	4.3	2.5	21			
Stocks of immigrants	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level ('000)			
<i>Percentage of the total population</i>										
Foreign-born population	17.2	20.3	22.3	22.7	18.5	21.6	981			
Foreign population	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Naturalisations	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
<i>Percentage of the foreign population</i>										
	..	..	..	..	..	..	18 730
Labour market outcomes	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
<i>Employment/population ratio</i>										
Native-born men	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign-born men	..	..	..	..	..	..
Native-born women	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign-born women	..	..	..	..	..	..
<i>Unemployment rate</i>										
Native-born men	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign-born men	..	..	..	..	..	..
Native-born women	..	..	..	..	..	..
Foreign-born women	..	..	..	..	..	..
Macroeconomic indicators	2000	2005	2008	2009	Average		Level			
<i>Annual growth in %</i>										
Real GDP	2.5	3.2	-1.1	0.8	3.7	1.6				
GDP/capita (level in USD)	1.8	2.1	-2.0	-0.4	2.3	0.5	23 746			
Employment (level in thousands)	1.9	3.0	0.6	-1.1	2.8	1.4	2 165			
<i>Percentage of the labour force</i>										
Unemployment	6.1	3.8	4.2	6.2	5.1	4.3				

Notes and sources are at the end of the chapter.

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