

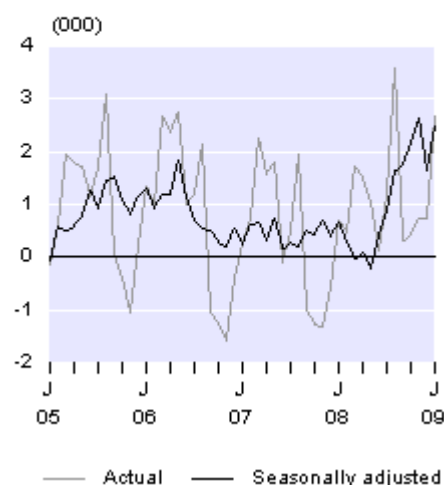
Embargoed until 10:45am – 21 August 2009

International Travel and Migration: July 2009

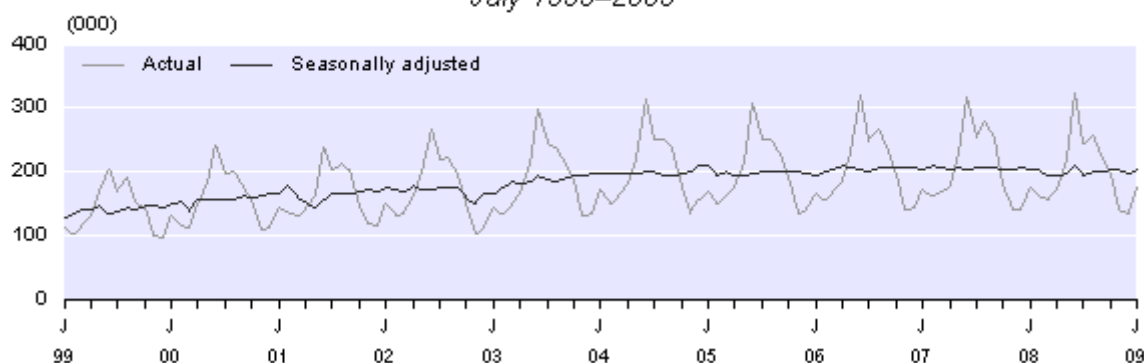
Highlights

- Visitor arrivals (176,200) were up less than 1 percent from July 2008 (175,700).
- There were more visitors from Australia (up 15,800), but fewer visitors from Japan (down 5,000), Korea (down 3,000), and China (down 2,700).
- Departures of New Zealand residents (198,400) were down 2 percent from July 2008 (202,200).
- New Zealand residents departed on fewer trips to Australia (down 2,800) and Fiji (down 1,200).
- Permanent and long-term arrivals exceeded departures by 2,500 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Monthly Net Permanent and Long-term Migration
July 2005–09



Monthly Visitor Arrivals
July 1999–2009



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Commentary

Visitor arrivals

Monthly visitor arrivals

Short-term overseas visitor arrivals to New Zealand numbered 176,200 in July 2009. While this figure is only up 500 (less than 1 percent) from July 2008 (175,700), it is the highest visitor arrival total ever recorded for a July month. Visitor arrivals have increased in three of the last four months, compared with the same month of the previous year.

Despite the increase in visitor arrivals, the estimated average number of visitors in New Zealand per day was down 6 percent to 105,900 in July 2009, from 112,400 in July 2008. The decrease was due to fewer visitors who arrived in previous months staying into July. The average length of stay of visitor arrivals decreased from 20 days in July 2008 to 19 days in July 2009, while the median length of stay (half stay shorter, and half stay longer than this duration) was unchanged at 8 days.

Monthly visitors by source country

In July 2009, visitor arrivals from Australia were up 15,800 (20 percent) compared with July 2008. A holiday (up 12,900 or 37 percent) and visiting friends and relatives (up 4,600 or 21 percent) were the main travel purposes contributing to this increase. However, there were fewer business travellers (down 1,700 or 12 percent).

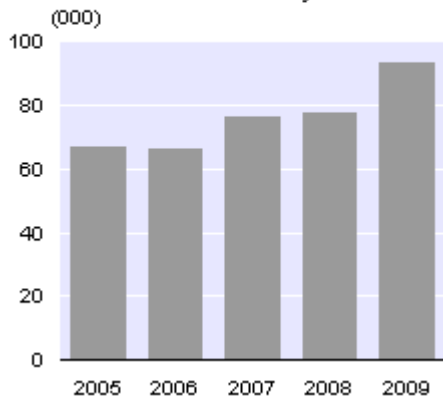
By Australian state of residence, much of the increase came from New South Wales (up 10,000 or 33 percent), while there were also more arrivals from Queensland (up 2,800 or 14 percent), Victoria (2,300 or 16 percent), and Western Australia (up 600 or 10 percent).

In contrast, there were significantly fewer visitor arrivals from Japan (down 5,000 or 57 percent), Korea (down 3,000 or 37 percent), and China (down 2,700 or 39 percent) in the July 2009 year. Visitor arrivals from Japan and China have dropped sharply since concerns over the worldwide H1N1 influenza outbreak emerged in late April 2009. Large decreases in visitor arrivals from Korea were being recorded before the H1N1 outbreak.

There were also decreases in visitor arrivals from the United Kingdom (down 1,300 or 10 percent), the United States (down 700 or 5 percent), and South Africa (down 700 or 46 percent) in July 2009.

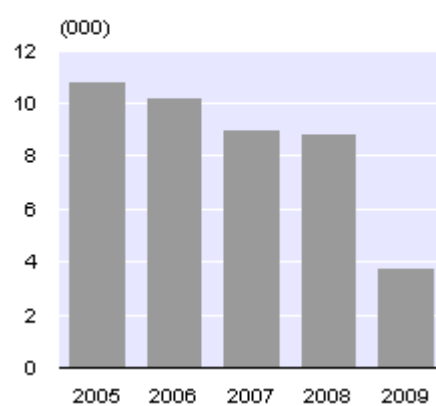
Visitors from Australia

Month of July



Visitors from Japan

Month of July



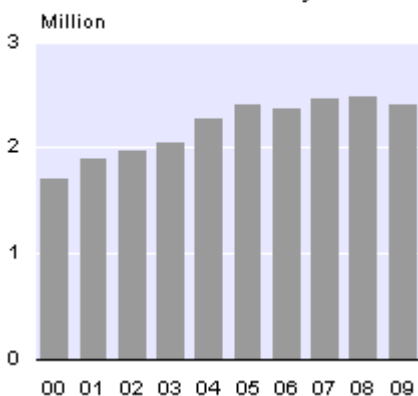
Note: Provisional international travel statistics, including weekly and four-weekly visitor arrival data, are available on the Statistics NZ website. This data is updated each week with the most recently available information on visitor arrivals from 10 major source countries.

Annual visitor arrivals

During the July 2009 year, there were 2.412 million visitor arrivals, down 70,600 (3 percent) from the July 2008 year. A holiday was the main travel reason for 1.156 million visitors to New Zealand in the July 2009 year, down 50,800 (4 percent) from the previous year. Another 760,700 arrived to visit friends and relatives (up 27,200 or 4 percent), and 232,200 arrived for business (down 33,300 or 13 percent).

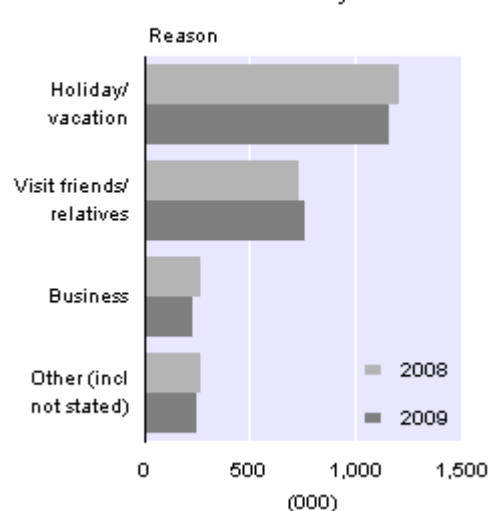
Annual Visitor Arrivals

Year ended July



Visitor Arrivals by Reason

Year ended July



Annual visitors by source country

There were 1.024 million visitor arrivals from Australia in the July 2009 year, up 54,800 (6 percent) compared with the July 2008 year. However, fewer visitors came from Japan (down 31,300 or 27 percent), the United Kingdom (down 29,600 or 10 percent), Korea (down 29,500 or 33 percent), the United States (down 20,800 or 10 percent), and China (down 18,100 or 15 percent).

The number of visitor arrivals from Japan (83,400) in the July 2009 year was less than half the annual high (174,800) recorded in the January 2003 year. Similarly, the number of visitor arrivals from Korea (58,700) was less than half the annual high (130,700) recorded in the April 1997 year.

Note: Detailed visitor data will be available in the July 2009 edition of International Visitor Arrivals to New Zealand, which can be ordered on the [Order and subscribe](#) page on the Statistics NZ website.

Departures of New Zealand residents

Monthly resident departures

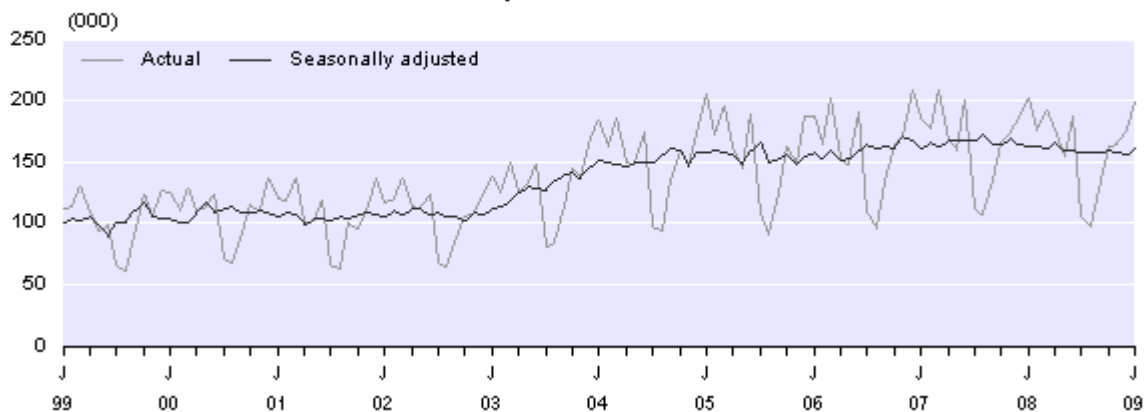
New Zealand residents departed on 198,400 short-term overseas trips in July 2009, down 3,800 (2 percent) from the 202,200 departures in July 2008. July 2009 is the ninth consecutive month in which departures of New Zealand residents were lower than for the same month of the previous year.

In July 2009, there were fewer trips to Australia (down 2,800 or 3 percent), Fiji (down 1,200 or 8 percent), and China (down 800 or 19 percent). There were more trips to the Cook Islands (up 800 or 13 percent) and the United Kingdom (up 800 or 6 percent).

The estimated average number of New Zealand residents who were temporarily overseas during July 2009 was 133,500 per day, down 4 percent from the average of 139,500 in July 2008. The average intended absence of residents who departed in July 2009 was 18 days, down from 19 days in July 2008. The median was 10 days, the same as in July 2008.

Monthly New Zealand-resident Short-term Departures

July 1999–2009

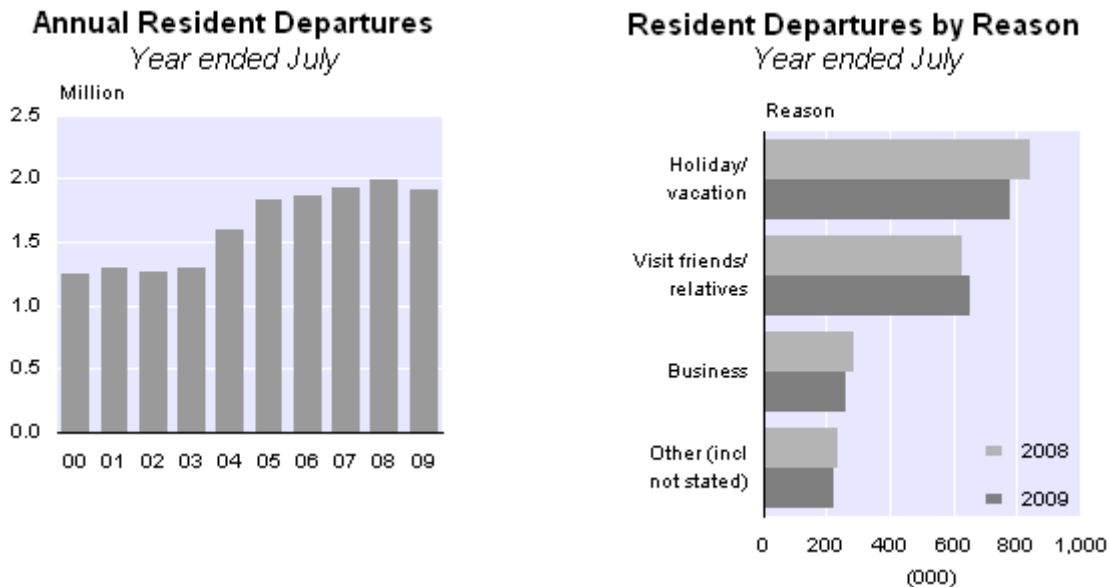


Annual resident departures

Short-term departures of New Zealand residents in the July 2009 year numbered 1.916 million, down 78,000 (4 percent) from the July 2008 year.

Trips to Australia (934,000), the most popular destination, were down 33,200 (3 percent) from the previous year. There were also fewer trips to Fiji (down 8,300 or 8 percent), France (down 6,700 or 33 percent), the United Kingdom (down 5,800 or 6 percent), China (down 4,900 or 8 percent), and New Caledonia (down 4,100 or 35 percent).

A holiday was the main travel reason for 780,400 New Zealand residents who departed in the July 2009 year, down 59,500 (7 percent) from the previous year. Another 653,200 departed to visit friends and relatives (up 24,800 or 4 percent). Departures for business purposes (259,600) were down 28,300 (10 percent) from the year ended July 2008.



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. Included in the former group are 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 2,700 in July 2009, compared with 700 in July 2008. The increase was mainly due to 1,900 (26 percent) fewer PLT departures, including 1,500 fewer departures to Australia and 200 fewer to the United Kingdom. PLT arrivals were up 100 from July 2008, resulting from 400 more arrivals of New Zealand citizens offset by 300 fewer arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens.

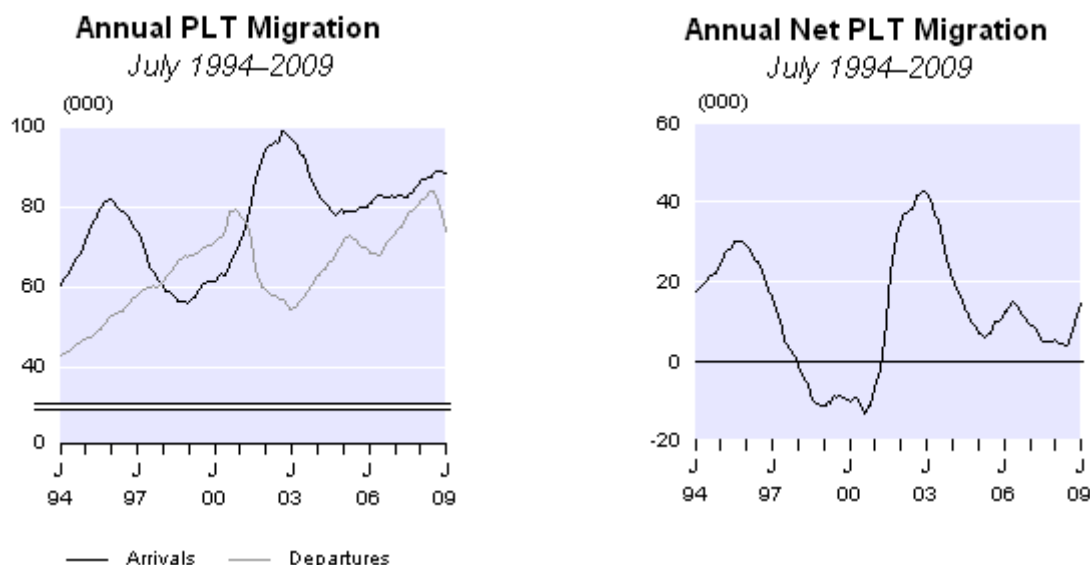
On a seasonally adjusted basis, PLT arrivals exceeded PLT departures by 2,500 in July 2009. This was up from 1,600 in June 2009 but similar to levels experienced in April (2,100) and May (2,600). The May 2009 figure was the highest since July 2003 (2,800).

In July 2009, there were net inflows of migrants from India (900), China (500), Germany, and the United Kingdom (each 300). There was a net outflow of 900 PLT migrants to

Australia, down from the outflows of 2,700 in July 2008 and 2,200 in July 2007, and the lowest outflow to Australia for a July month since 2003.

Annual PLT migration

In the year ended July 2009, there were 88,400 PLT arrivals, up 2,300 (3 percent) from the July 2008 year. Over the same period, there were 73,900 PLT departures, down 7,000 (9 percent). As a result, net PLT migration was 14,500 in the July 2009 year, up from 5,200 in the July 2008 year. The latest figure is the highest annual net migration total since the December 2006 year (14,600).



The net PLT migration gain of 14,500 in the year ended July 2009 was higher than the annual average of 11,400 for the December years from 1990–2008. Net PLT migration varied substantially within this 19-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 generally experienced during 1998–2001, with the highest being a net loss of 13,200 people in the February 2001 year.

Annual PLT migration by country

In the year ended July 2009, there were net PLT inflows from the United Kingdom (9,300), India (6,000), China (3,400), the Philippines (3,200), Fiji (2,900), and South Africa (2,100).

The net PLT outflow to Australia was 26,900 in the July 2009 year, compared with a net outflow of 32,300 in the July 2008 year. The annual net outflow to Australia has been decreasing since the record highs of 35,400 in the December 2008 and January 2009 years. The latest net outflow resulted from 40,700 PLT departures to Australia, partly offset by 13,800 PLT arrivals from Australia. Almost 9 in every 10 PLT departures to Australia were New Zealand citizens (36,200). Of the PLT arrivals from Australia, two-thirds were New Zealand citizens (9,100), similar to levels observed over the past decade.

Annual PLT migration by citizenship

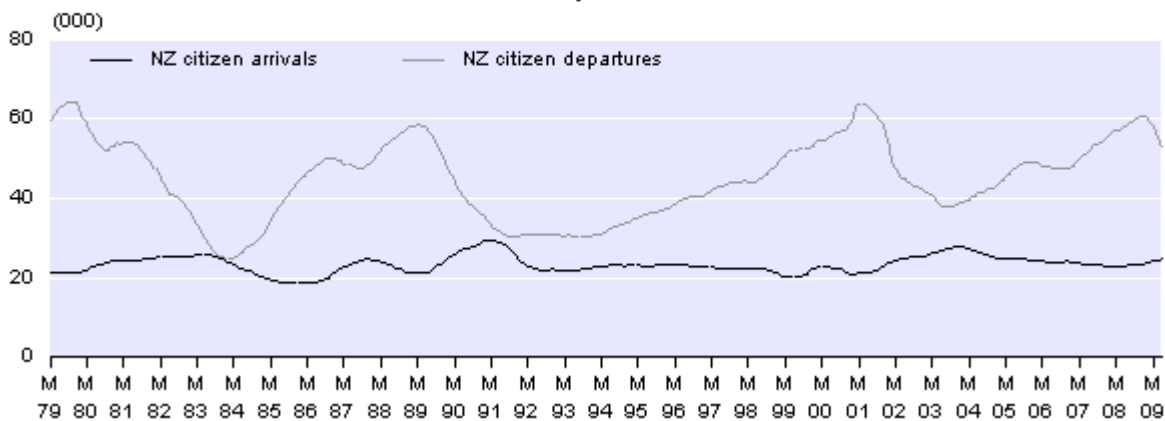
A net inflow of 39,900 non-New Zealand citizens and a net outflow of 25,400 New Zealand citizens were recorded in the year ended July 2009.

PLT arrivals of New Zealand citizens numbered 25,200 in the July 2009 year, above the average of 23,400 recorded for the 1979–2008 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 50,700 PLT departures of New Zealand citizens in the July 2009 year, down 7,800 from the previous year.

Annual PLT Migration of New Zealand Citizens

March 1979 year onwards

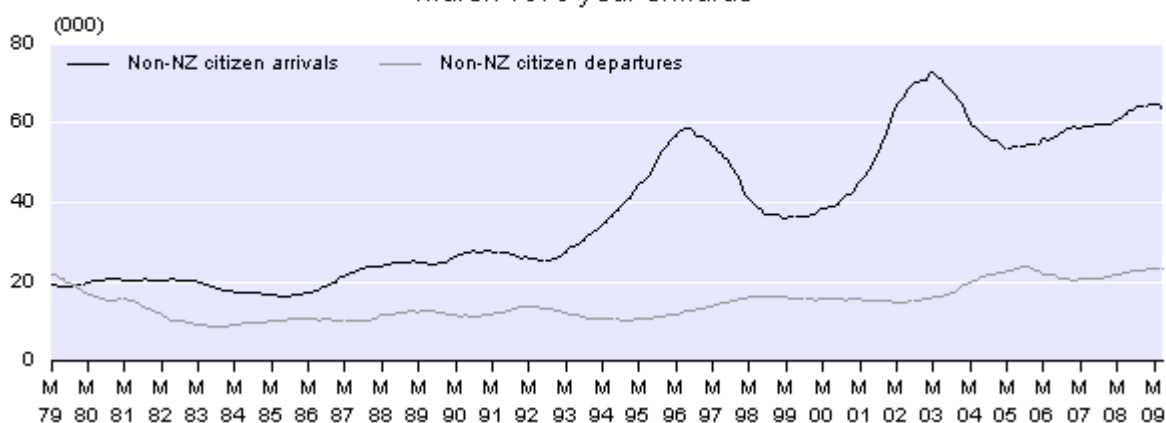


PLT arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens were less than 30,000 a year between 1979 and 1992, then doubled to reach a peak of 58,800 in the July 1996 year. Another peak, of 72,800, was reached in the February 2003 year. The changes in arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens reflect changes in arrivals of temporary workers (including working holidaymakers) and overseas students staying for 12 months or more, as well as arrivals for residence. Arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens have generally been increasing since 2005, with 63,100 in the July 2009 year (up 200 from the July 2008 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 23,200 PLT departures of non-New Zealand citizens in the July 2009 year, up 800 from the July 2008 year.

Annual PLT Migration of Non-New Zealand Citizens

March 1979 year onwards



Annual PLT migration by permit type

In the July 2009 year, 29,100 PLT arrivals were Australian or New Zealand citizens who did not require a permit to remain in New Zealand. Of PLT arrivals who did require a permit, 23,100 arrived on work permits, 16,300 arrived on student permits, 14,300 arrived on residence permits, and 5,100 arrived on visitor permits. Compared with the July 2008 year, there were more PLT arrivals on student permits (up 1,900), but fewer arrivals on residence permits (down 900). The majority of residence approvals in recent years have been granted onshore, to people who arrived on other permit types.

Arrivals on work permits in the July 2009 year were up 100 from the previous year. However, arrivals on work permits in the combined four-month period from April to July 2009 were 1,000 lower than for the same months in 2008.

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 of the Statistics NZ website. The most recent releases are:

May 2009	<i>Visitors from the Republic of Korea, 1989–2008</i> examines the large fluctuations in the number of visitors from Korea, and the characteristics of these visitors.
April 2009	<i>Visitors from the Americas</i> examines changes in the number of visitors from the United States, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile between 1979 and 2008.
March 2009	<i>Christmas travel 2008</i> examines travel to and from New Zealand around the peak Christmas period.

Availability of data on Infoshare and INFOS

Statistics NZ has completed a review of international travel and migration outputs available on Infoshare (www.stats.govt.nz/infoshare), a free-of-charge online tool that provides access to a range of time-series data, and INFOS. The review was to ensure information remains relevant and easily accessible. A new international travel and migration group (ITM) is now available and can be found under 'Tourism' on the 'Browse' page of the Infoshare database. This will replace the external migration (EMI) group. To

allow users time to familiarise themselves with the ITM group, EMI will remain available until 30 September 2009. To help users move from EMI to ITM outputs, a webpage called International travel and migration data on Infoshare has been established to provide a concordance between EMI and ITM outputs, as well as information on the data available in ITM.

For technical information contact:
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Next release ...

International Travel and Migration: August 2009 will be released on 21 September 2009.

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-of-charge 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

In the preparation of international travel and migration statistics, the passenger type (overseas visitor, New Zealand-resident traveller, or permanent and long-term (PLT) migrant) is primarily determined by the passenger's response, on the arrival or departure card, to the questions on where they live and their length of stay or absence. If the person's intention changes 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.

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 months more comparable.

An improved seasonal adjustment process was adopted in March 2009. The new process continues to use Statistics NZ's standard seasonal adjustment package, X-12-ARIMA, but incorporates 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). The additional adjustments for the monthly series are:

- PLT arrivals: no additional adjustments
- PLT departures: no additional adjustments
- visitor arrivals: Chinese New Year, Easter, April/May school holidays, June/July school holidays, daily trading day
- visitor departures: Chinese New Year, Easter, September/October school holidays
- New Zealand-resident traveller arrivals: Easter, April/May school holidays, September/October school holidays, weekday/weekend trading day
- New Zealand-resident traveller departures: Chinese New Year, Easter, April/May school holidays, June/July school holidays, September/October school holidays, weekday/weekend trading day
- all composite series (total arrivals, total departures, total passenger movements, net PLT migration) are a combination of the series above.

Quarterly seasonally adjusted series were introduced in April 2009. 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. The additional adjustments made to the quarterly series are:

- PLT arrivals: no additional adjustments
- PLT departures: no additional adjustments
- visitor arrivals: Easter, June/July school holidays
- visitor departures: Easter, September/October school holidays
- New Zealand-resident traveller arrivals: September/October school holidays
- New Zealand-resident traveller departures: Easter, April/May school holidays, June/July school holidays
- all composite series (total arrivals, total departures, total passenger movements, net PLT migration) are a combination of the series above.

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 prior to 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.

Permit type

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.

The determination of passenger type (as an overseas visitor, New Zealand-resident traveller, or PLT migrant) by Statistics NZ is independent of the permit type a person holds. Passenger type 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.

Permit type data is available from July 2003 for arrivals of short-term overseas visitors and PLT migrants. It is not available for arrivals of short-term New Zealand-resident travellers or for departures of any passenger type.

Processing system

The current international travel and migration processing system, which incorporates scanning and image recognition technology, was first used to process the June 2004 arrival and departure cards. The determination of passenger type (overseas visitor, New Zealand-resident traveller, or PLT migrant) and capture of the information required for the sample are done automatically for the majority of the cards. Operator intervention is only required for approximately one-tenth of the cards. The system is used only for the production of statistics.

Users should be aware of the changes to the processing system when comparing data for June 2004 onwards with data for earlier periods.

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