

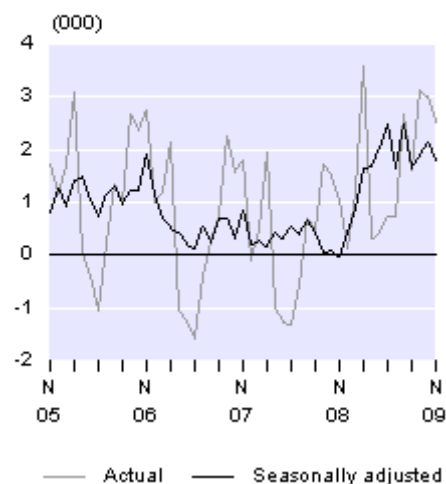
Embargoed until 10:45am – 21 December 2009

## International Travel and Migration: November 2009

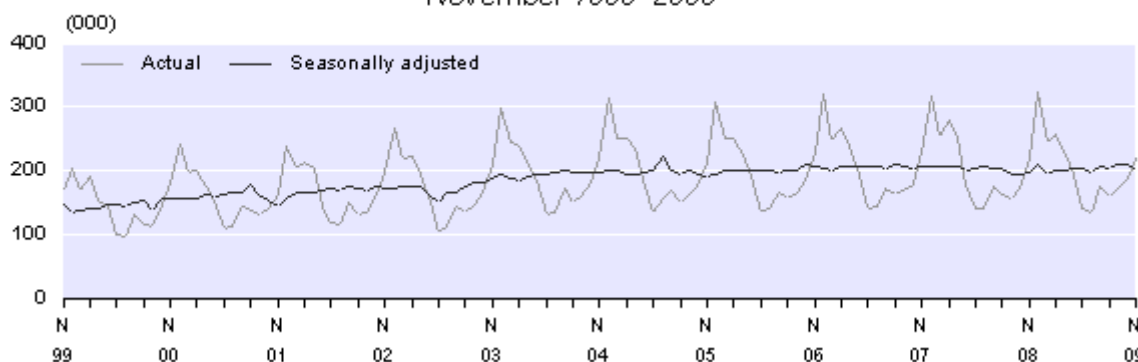
### Highlights

- Visitor arrivals (219,900) were up less than 1 percent from November 2008 (219,300).
- There were more visitors from Australia (up 7,300), but fewer visitors from the United States (down 2,400).
- Overseas trips by New Zealand residents (158,400) were up 2 percent from November 2008 (155,200).
- New Zealand residents departed on more trips to India (up 1,100) and the United States (up 1,000), but fewer trips to the Cook Islands and Australia (each down 800).
- Permanent and long-term arrivals exceeded departures by 1,800 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

Monthly Net PLT Migration  
November 2005–09



Monthly Visitor Arrivals  
November 1999–2009



Dallas Welch (Mrs)  
Acting Government Statistician

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# **Commentary**

## **Visitor arrivals**

### **Monthly visitor arrivals**

Short-term overseas visitor arrivals to New Zealand numbered 219,900 in November 2009, up 600 or less than 1 percent from November 2008 (219,300). The November 2009 figure is 10,000 fewer than the high for a November month (229,900 in 2006).

The estimated average number of visitors in New Zealand per day was 132,400 in November 2009, up less than 1 percent from November 2008 (131,800). The average length of stay of visitor arrivals was 23 days in November 2009, up from 22 days in November 2008, while the median length of stay (half stay shorter, and half stay longer than this duration) increased from 9 to 10 days.

### **Monthly visitors by source country**

In November 2009, visitor arrivals from Australia were up 7,300 (9 percent) compared with November 2008. A holiday (up 6,700 or 24 percent), visiting friends and relatives (up 2,500 or 9 percent), and business (up 1,300 or 10 percent) were the main travel purposes contributing to this increase. However, there were fewer travellers coming to attend conventions or conferences (down 2,900 or 53 percent).

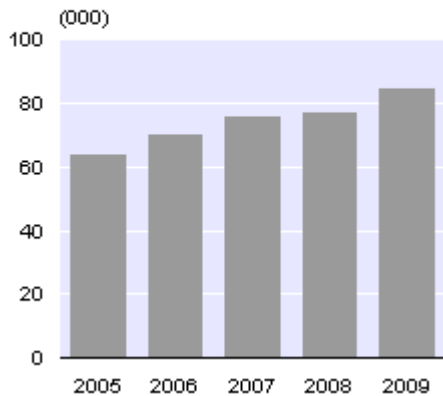
There were increases from all Australian states and territories except ACT and Tasmania, with the largest increases coming from New South Wales (up 3,400 or 12 percent), Queensland (up 1,600 or 8 percent), and Victoria (up 1,100 or 6 percent).

In contrast, there were fewer visitor arrivals from the United States (down 2,400 or 11 percent), including 1,700 fewer cruise passengers. There were also fewer visitor arrivals from Canada (down 900 or 15 percent), Ireland (down 600 or 33 percent), and Samoa (down 600 or 29 percent), compared with November 2008.

There was also a drop of 600 (down 12 percent) in visitor arrivals from Korea. This compares with decreases of at least 1,200 visitors from Korea which were recorded each month between September 2008 and October 2009. Visitors from China in November 2009 were down 400 (3 percent), compared with November 2008. This follows increases in September and October 2009, compared with the same months in 2008.

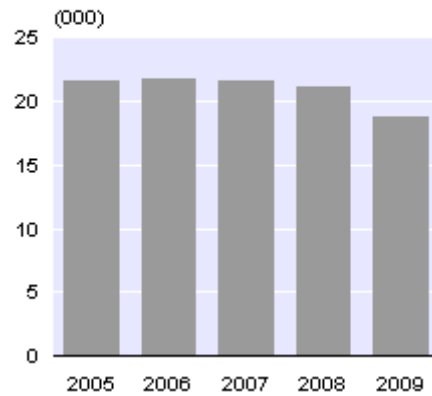
### Visitors from Australia

Month of November



### Visitors from the United States

Month of November



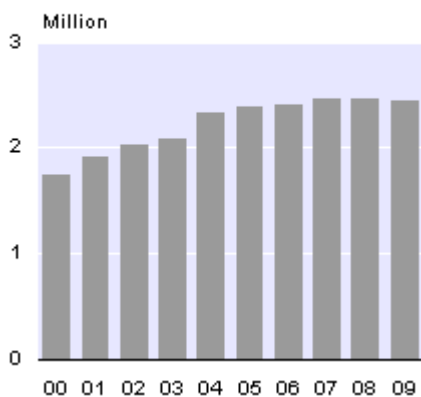
**Note:** Provisional international travel statistics, including weekly and four-weekly visitor arrival data, are available on the Statistics NZ website. This data is updated each week with the most recently available information on visitor arrivals from 10 major source countries.

### Annual visitor arrivals

During the November 2009 year, there were 2.439 million visitor arrivals, down 14,300 (1 percent) from the November 2008 year. A holiday was the main travel reason for 1.176 million visitors to New Zealand in the November 2009 year, down 3,600 (less than 1 percent) from the previous year. Another 778,400 arrived to visit friends and relatives (up 39,200 or 5 percent), and 229,800 arrived for business (down 28,100 or 11 percent).

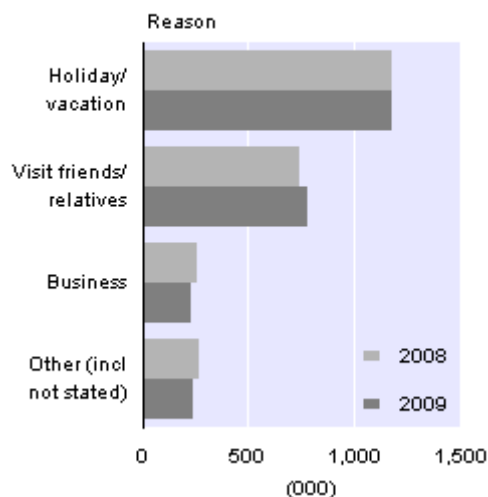
### Annual Visitor Arrivals

Year ended November



### Visitor Arrivals by Reason

Year ended November



### Annual visitors by source country

There were 1.069 million visitor arrivals from Australia in the November 2009 year, up 99,600 (10 percent) compared with the November 2008 year. However, fewer visitors came from Korea (down 29,300 or 36 percent), the United Kingdom (down 28,900 or 10 percent), Japan (down 25,200 or 24 percent), the United States (down 17,600 or 8 percent), and China (down 7,600 or 7 percent).

The number of visitor arrivals from Japan (78,900) in the November 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 (52,500) was less than half the annual high (130,700) recorded in the April 1997 year.

## Departures of New Zealand residents

### Monthly resident departures

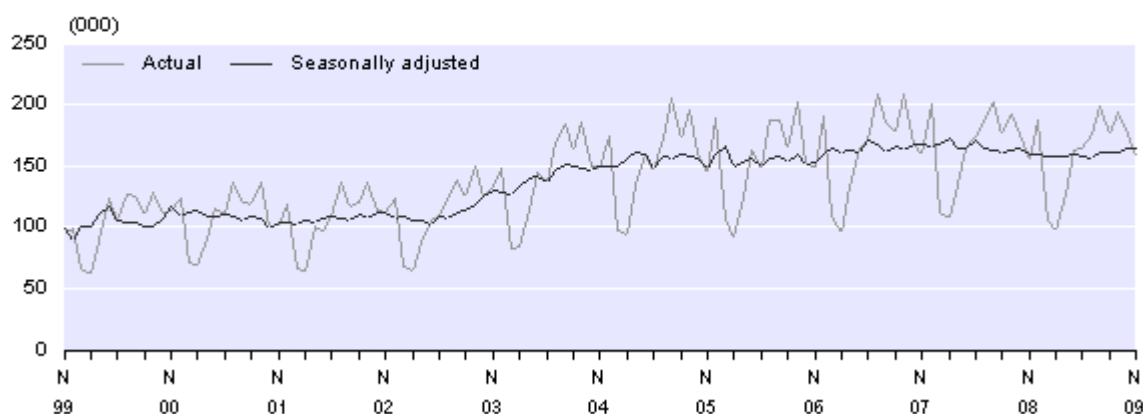
New Zealand residents departed on 158,400 short-term overseas trips in November 2009, up 3,200 (2 percent) on November 2008. November 2009 is the fourth consecutive month in which departures of New Zealand residents have been greater than the same month of the previous year, after nine months of decline.

In November 2009, there were more trips to India (up 1,100 or 22 percent), the United States (up 1,000 or 19 percent), Indonesia (up 600 or 142 percent), and Samoa (up 500 or 17 percent). There were fewer trips to the Cook Islands (down 800 or 18 percent) and Australia (down 800 or 1 percent).

The estimated average number of New Zealand residents who were temporarily overseas during November 2009 was 87,300 per day, down 3 percent from the average of 89,600 in November 2008. The average intended absence of residents who departed in November 2009 was 23 days, unchanged from November 2008, while the median absence decreased from 10 to 9 days.

### Monthly New Zealand-resident Short-term Departures

*November 1999–2009*



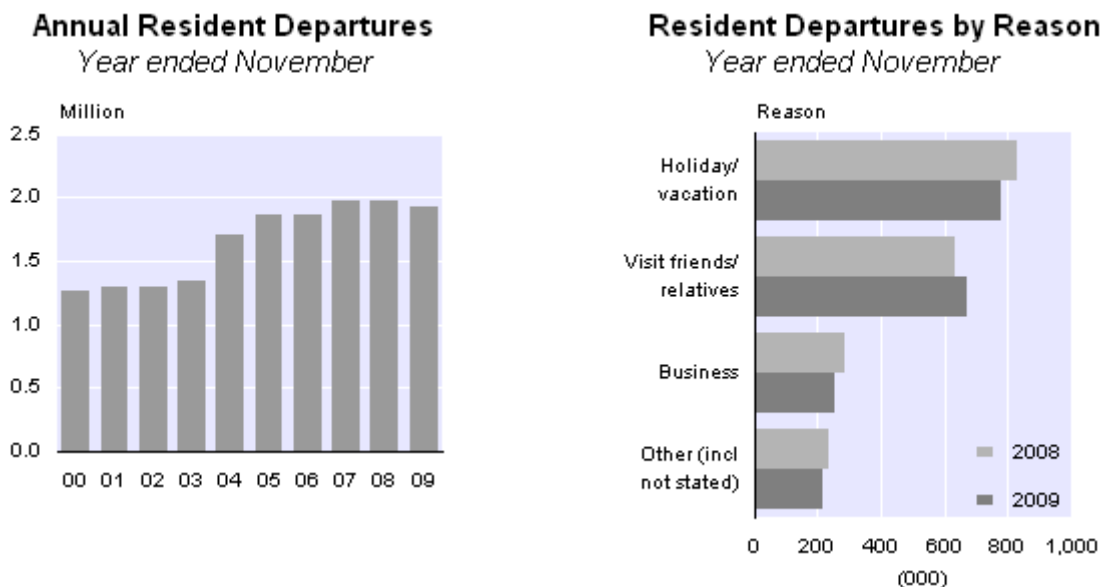
### Annual resident departures

Short-term departures of New Zealand residents in the November 2009 year numbered 1.921 million, down 58,400 (3 percent) from the November 2008 year.

Trips to Australia (942,600), the most popular destination, were down 7,600 (1 percent) from the previous year. There were also fewer trips to Fiji (down 9,300 or 9 percent), the United Kingdom (down 6,500 or 7 percent), and the United States (down 5,900 or 6 percent).

A holiday was the main travel reason for 775,900 New Zealand residents who departed in the November 2009 year, down 52,200 (6 percent) from the previous year. Another 668,100

departed to visit friends and relatives (up 35,700 or 6 percent). Departures for business purposes (256,000) were down 27,900 (10 percent) from the year ended November 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. 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 November 2009, compared with 1,000 in November 2008. There were 1,600 (27 percent) fewer PLT departures, including 1,500 fewer departures to Australia, and 200 fewer departures to the United Kingdom. Since February 2009, PLT departures have fallen by at least 1,000 each month compared with the same month of the previous year.

PLT arrivals were down 200 from November 2008, resulting from 400 fewer arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens, partly offset by 200 more arrivals of New Zealand citizens. Arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens have been declining since April 2009, compared with the same months in 2008.

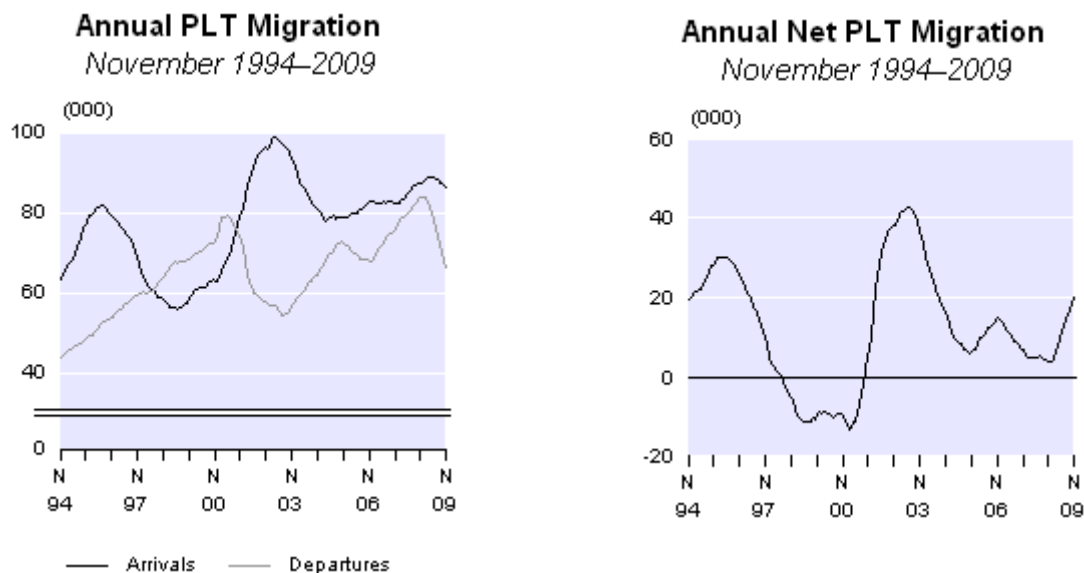
On a seasonally adjusted basis, PLT arrivals exceeded PLT departures by 1,800 in November 2009, down from 2,100 in October 2009, and slightly below the average of 1,900 experienced since February 2009.

In November 2009, there were net inflows of migrants from the United Kingdom (1,400), India (300), and China, Germany, France, and the United States (each 200). There was a net outflow

of 800 PLT migrants to Australia, the lowest outflow to Australia for a November month since 2002, and a decrease from the net outflows of 2,600 in November 2008 and 1,900 in November 2007.

### Annual PLT migration

A drop in departures was the major contributor to the increase in annual net migration, up from 3,600 in the November 2008 year, to 20,000 in the November 2009 year. In the year ended November 2009, there were 66,500 PLT departures, down 17,300 (21 percent), from the November 2008 year. Over the same period, there were 86,500 PLT arrivals, down 800 (1 percent). The latest annual net migration total is the highest since the July 2004 year (20,600).



The net PLT migration gain of 20,000 in the year ended November 2009 was higher than the annual average of 11,400 for the December years 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 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 November 2009, there were net PLT inflows from the United Kingdom (9,200), India (5,900), China (3,700), the Philippines and Fiji (each 2,400), and Germany (1,600).

The net PLT outflow to Australia was 19,500 in the November 2009 year, compared with a net outflow of 35,300 in the November 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 34,100 PLT departures to Australia, partly offset by 14,600 PLT arrivals from Australia. Almost 9 in every 10 PLT departures to Australia were New Zealand citizens (29,800). Of the PLT arrivals from Australia, two-thirds were New Zealand citizens (9,800), similar to levels observed over the past decade.

### Annual PLT migration by citizenship

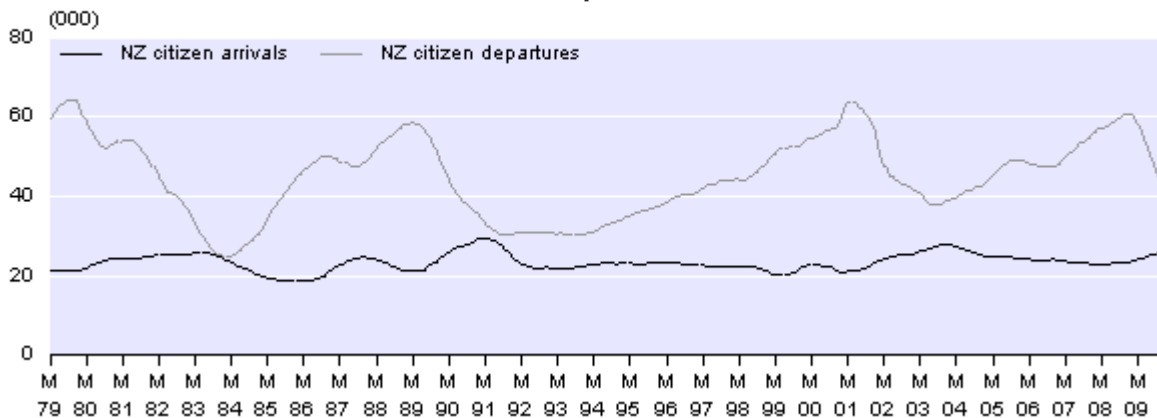
A net inflow of 37,200 non-New Zealand citizens and a net outflow of 17,100 New Zealand citizens were recorded in the year ended November 2009.

PLT arrivals of New Zealand citizens numbered 25,800 in the November 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 43,000 PLT departures of New Zealand citizens in the November 2009 year, down 13,700 from the previous November year.

### Annual PLT Migration of New Zealand Citizens

*March 1979 year onwards*

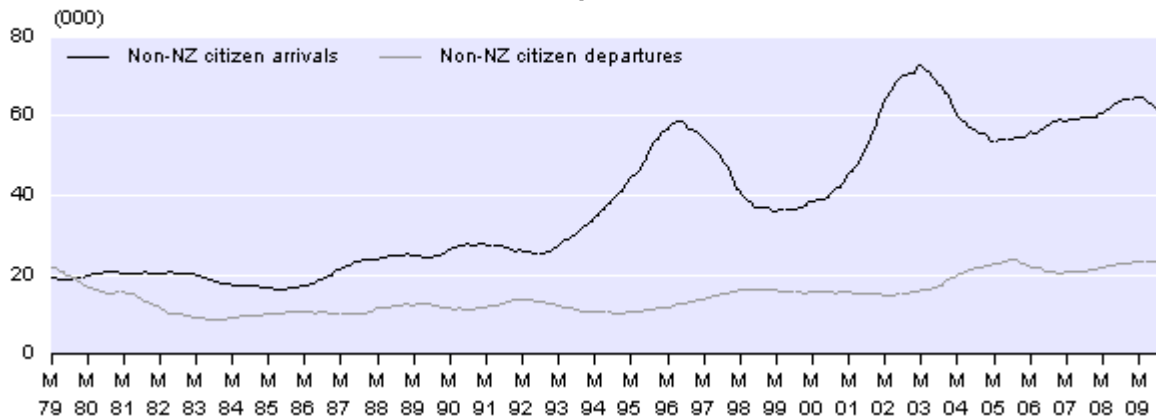


PLT arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens were less than 30,000 a year between 1979 and 1992, then doubled to reach a peak of 58,800 in the July 1996 year. Another peak of 72,800 was reached in the February 2003 year. The changes in arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens reflect changes in arrivals of temporary workers (including working holidaymakers) and overseas students staying for 12 months or more, as well as arrivals for residence. Although arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens have generally been increasing since 2005, the 60,700 arrivals in the November 2009 year were down 3,300 from the November 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 23,500 PLT departures of non-New Zealand citizens in the November 2009 year, up 600 from the November 2008 year.

## Annual PLT Migration of Non-New Zealand Citizens

March 1979 year onwards



### Annual PLT migration by permit type

In the November 2009 year, 29,800 PLT arrivals were Australian or New Zealand citizens who did not require a permit to remain in New Zealand. Of the 56,800 PLT arrivals who did require a permit, 22,000 arrived on work permits, 15,800 arrived on student permits, 13,800 arrived on residence permits, and 4,600 arrived on visitor permits. Compared with the November 2008 year, there were more PLT arrivals on student permits (up 500), but fewer arrivals on work permits (down 1,900), and on residence permits (down 800). The majority of residence approvals in recent years have been granted onshore, to people who arrived on other permit types.

### 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	<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.
October 2 009	<a href="#">Rates of Travel to New Zealand by Country of Residence: 2009</a> examines the rates of travel to New Zealand when adjusted for the population of each source country.
May 2009	<a href="#">Visitors from the Republic of Korea, 1989–2008</a> examines the large fluctuations in the number of visitors from Korea, and the characteristics of these visitors.

### Occupation data

From October 2009, Statistics NZ has adopted the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) for classifying the occupations of permanent and long-term migrants. A discussion of the reasons for, and implications of, the changes is on the [Statistics NZ website](#). As a result, there are new occupation tables on Infoshare, with details given on the [Infoshare data changes by date](#) webpage.

For technical information contact:  
Nick Thomson  
Christchurch 03 964 8700  
**Email:** [demography@stats.govt.nz](mailto:demography@stats.govt.nz)

**Next release ...**

*International Travel and Migration: December 2009* will be released on 4 February 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 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