

International Travel and Migration: October 2011

Embargoed until 10:45am – 22 November 2011

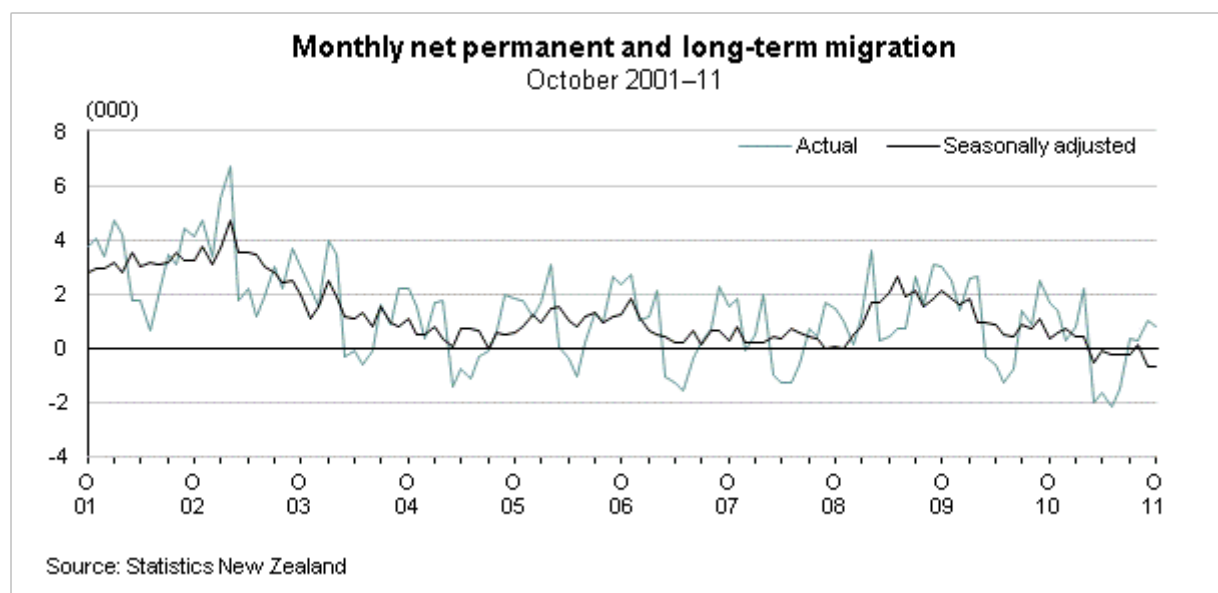
Key facts

In October 2011 compared with October 2010:

- Visitor arrivals (215,900) were up 31,000. The biggest changes were in arrivals from:
 - Australia (up 17,200)
 - South Africa (up 4,900)
 - the United Kingdom (up 2,800)
 - France (up 2,700)
 - Japan (down 2,400).
- Visitors arriving for the Rugby World Cup numbered 53,200 in October 2011. During the four months from July to October 2011, 133,200 visitors arrived for the tournament.
- Overseas trips by New Zealand residents (188,100) were up 7,500. The biggest changes were in departures to:
 - the United States (up 1,400)
 - Indonesia (up 800).

In October 2011:

- Seasonally adjusted figures showed a net loss of 600 migrants.



Dallas Welch (Mrs)
Acting Government Statistician

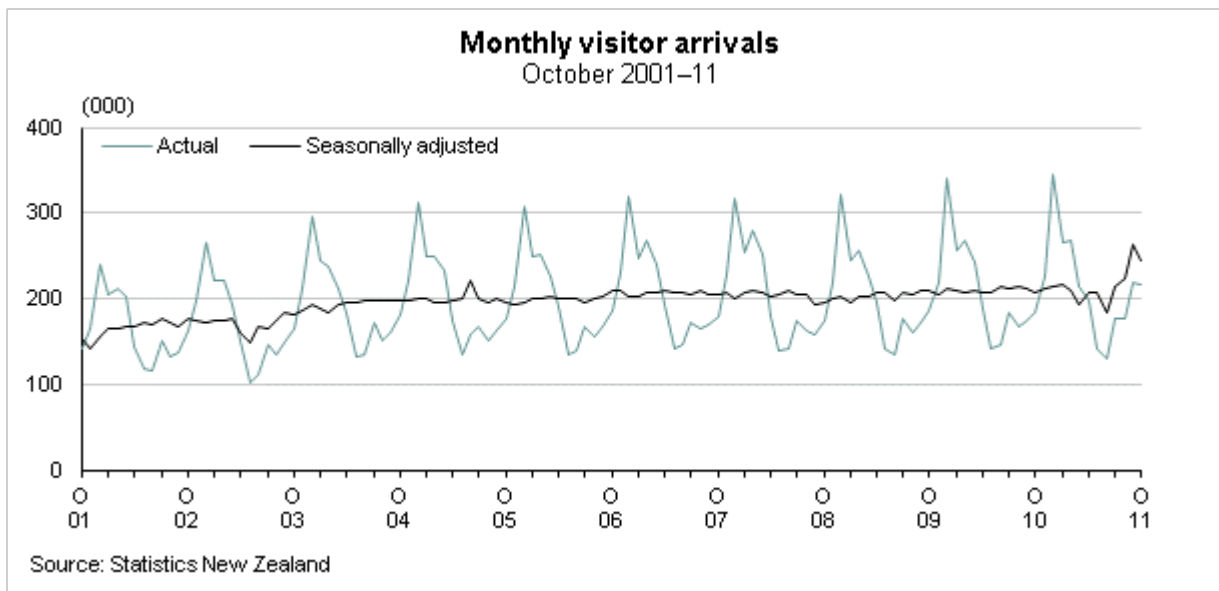
22 November 2011
ISSN 1179-0407

Commentary

- [Monthly visitor arrivals boosted by the Rugby World Cup](#)
- [Annual visitor arrivals increase](#)
- [More trips by New Zealand residents in October](#)
- [Annual trips by New Zealand residents up 3 percent](#)
- [Net loss of migrants continues in October](#)
- [First annual net loss of migrants since 2001](#)

Monthly visitor arrivals boosted by the Rugby World Cup

Short-term overseas visitor arrivals to New Zealand in October 2011 (215,900) were up 17 percent from October 2010 (184,900). This increase was due to the Rugby World Cup (RWC), held in New Zealand between 9 September and 23 October 2011.



Visitor arrivals by country of residence

The biggest changes in visitor arrivals by country of residence between October 2010 and October 2011 were in arrivals from:

- Australia (up 17,200)
- South Africa (up 4,900)
- the United Kingdom (up 2,800)
- France (up 2,700)
- Malaysia (up 2,000)
- China (up 2,000)
- Singapore (up 1,800)
- Korea (down 1,800)
- Japan (down 2,400).

Australia, South Africa, the United Kingdom (which includes England and Wales), and France all had teams that made it at least as far as the quarter-finals of the RWC, which were held on 8 and 9 October 2011.

Arrivals from Malaysia, China, and Singapore have been boosted by new flights from Singapore (from March 2011), Guangzhou (from April 2011), and Kuala Lumpur (from April 2011). Arrivals from China have now increased in every month since May 2010, compared with the same month of the previous year.

Arrivals from Japan and Korea have been decreasing since the Christchurch earthquake on 22 February 2011. Visits from Japan were further affected after that country experienced its own devastating earthquake and tsunami in March 2011.

Visitor arrivals by travel purpose

The biggest changes in visitor arrivals by travel purpose between October 2010 and October 2011 were in arrivals for:

- holidays (up 23,900)
- visiting friends and relatives (up 4,200).

Rugby World Cup visitor arrivals

There were 53,200 RWC visitor arrivals in October 2011, accounting for almost one-quarter of all arrivals during the month. When these are added to the 80,000 RWC arrivals between July and September 2011, there was a total of 133,200 visits for the tournament.

RWC arrivals were identified from people who answered 'yes' to a question on arrival cards asking "Are you here for the Rugby World Cup?" A small proportion of arrival cards did not include this question, and any people arriving for the tournament who used these cards will not be included in the RWC figures.

Over 41 percent of the RWC arrivals were from Australia. The next most common source countries were the United Kingdom (which includes England, Scotland, and Wales), France, and South Africa.

Rugby World Cup visitor arrivals		
Country of residence	October 2011	July–October 2011
Australia	26,500	55,200
the United Kingdom	6,300	19,100
France	2,800	11,100
South Africa	4,900	8,500
the United States	1,800	5,500
Ireland	900	4,300
Argentina	400	3,000
Japan	600	2,800
Canada	800	2,800
Singapore	1,100	2,000
Hong Kong	1,000	1,500
Fiji	300	1,400

Only 63 percent (34,900) of the RWC arrivals from Australia were Australian citizens. Another 11,800 were New Zealand citizens now living across the Tasman. There were also visits from 3,500 United Kingdom citizens, 2,300 Irish citizens, 900 South African citizens, and 500 French citizens now living in Australia.

Men accounted for 71 percent (94,400) of the RWC arrivals. The most common age groups of those arriving for the tournament were 25–29 years (16,800) and 30–34 years (16,100).

Annual visitor arrivals increase

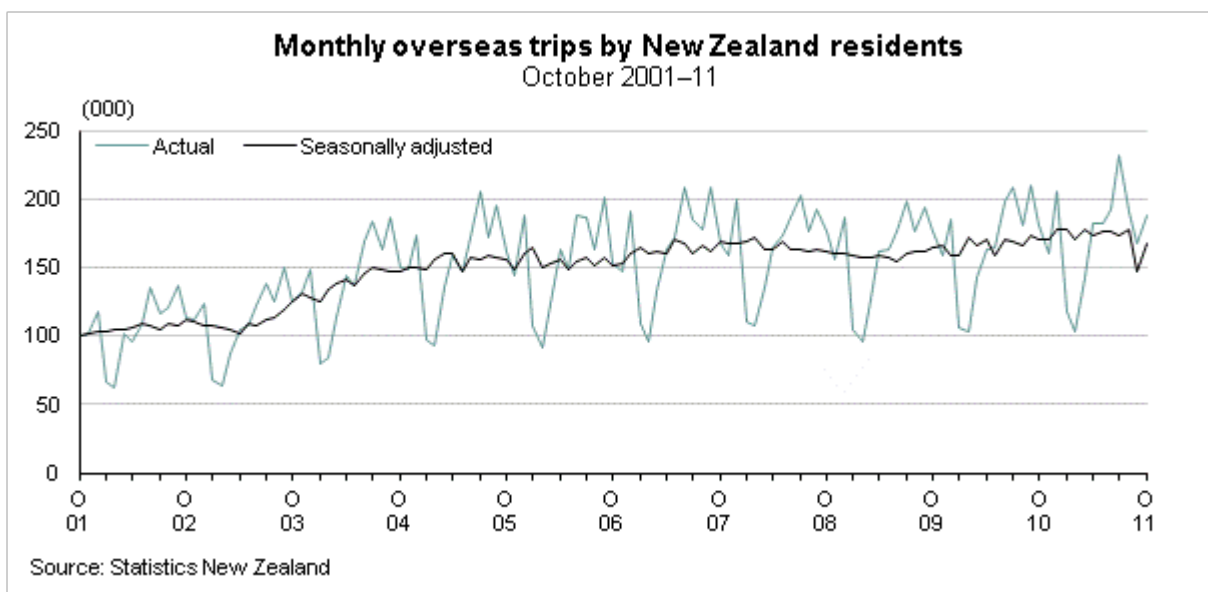
There were 2.579 million visitor arrivals to New Zealand in the October 2011 year. This was up 3 percent from the October 2010 year (2.514 million). A number of major events have affected visitor arrivals in 2011, including the Canterbury earthquakes, flight disruptions due to volcanic ash, and the Rugby World Cup.

For more detailed data about visitor arrivals, see the Excel tables in the 'Downloads' box.

More trips by New Zealand residents in October

New Zealand residents departed on 4 percent more overseas trips in October 2011 (188,100) than in October 2010 (180,600). The main reason for the increase was the later timing of school holidays. School holidays usually start in September, but were moved to October in 2011 to coincide with the Rugby World Cup finals.

When overseas trips in September and October 2011 are combined – to account for the later school holidays – there was a decrease of 9 percent, compared with the same two months in 2010. This was because the decrease of 42,600 in September was only partly offset by the increase of 7,500 in October. The overall decrease in trips may have been because people stayed in New Zealand to watch the Rugby World Cup. The jump in overseas visitors because of the tournament may also have affected the availability of seats on international flights.



Overseas trips by country of main destination

The biggest changes in overseas trips by country of main destination (where the person will spend the most time when overseas) between October 2010 and October 2011 were in trips to:

- the United States (up 1,400)
- Indonesia (up 800)
- the United Kingdom (up 700)
- China (up 700).

In contrast, each of these countries experienced fewer visits in September 2011, compared with September 2010. This suggests the later school holidays in 2011 affected when people travelled to these destinations.

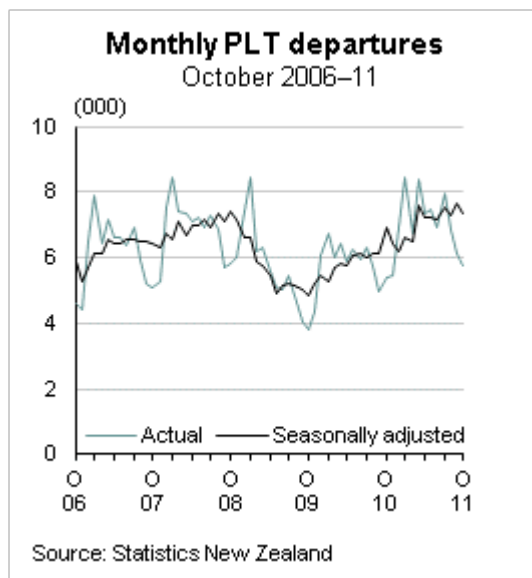
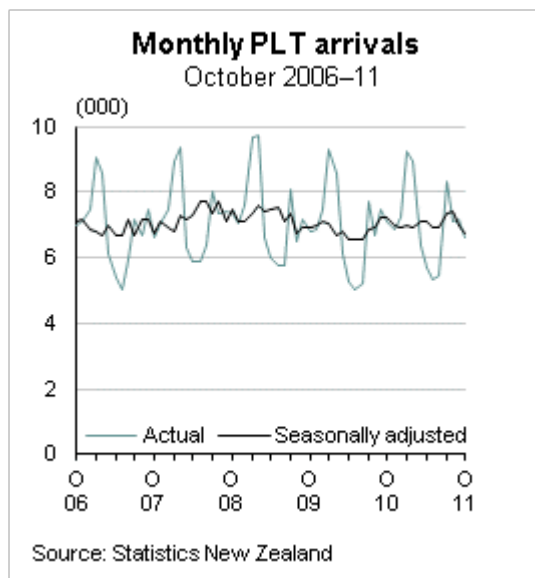
Annual trips by New Zealand residents up 3 percent

Short-term departures of New Zealand residents in the October 2011 year (2.066 million) were up 3 percent from the October 2010 year (2.002 million). Much of the increase came from trips to Asia (up 10 percent), boosted by new flights to Singapore, Guangzhou, and Kuala Lumpur. There were also more trips to the Cook Islands, the United States, and Fiji, but fewer to Japan following its devastating earthquake and tsunami in March 2011.

For more detailed data overseas trips by New Zealand residents, see the Excel tables in the 'Downloads' box.

Net loss of migrants continues in October

Seasonally adjusted permanent and long-term (PLT) migration figures showed a net loss (an excess of departures over arrivals) of 600 migrants in October 2011. Since the February 2011 earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand has had a net loss of migrants in all months except August 2011.



Unadjusted figures showed a net inflow of 800 migrants in October 2011, compared with 1,700 in October 2010. The main changes were:

- 600 more departures of New Zealand citizens to Australia
- 300 fewer arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens, including 400 fewer on student visas but 200 more on work visas
- 200 fewer arrivals of New Zealand citizens.

Migrants who arrived on student visas numbered 2,700 in the August to October 2011 months combined. The comparable figure between August and October 2009 was 2,600, but this increased to 3,700 in the same months of 2010. The changes were mainly driven by a rise then fall in the number of students arriving from India.

In October 2011, there were net gains of migrants from the United Kingdom (900), China (400), India (300), Germany, and Ireland (each 200). The net gain from India was half that recorded in October 2010 (600).

There was a net loss of 2,700 migrants to Australia, up from 1,900 in October 2010. The latest figure is the highest net loss recorded for an October month since 1988 (2,900).

Migration to and from Christchurch since the February earthquake

Five hundred Christchurch residents moved overseas in October 2011, up from 400 in October 2010. Since the devastating earthquake on 22 February 2011, there have been 6,000 departures from Christchurch, compared with 3,700 during the same period in 2010.

Four hundred migrants arrived from overseas to settle in Christchurch in October 2011, down from 600 in October 2010. Since the February earthquake, there have been 3,200 arrivals to Christchurch, compared with 4,300 during the same period in 2010.

First annual net loss of migrants since 2001

There were 84,300 PLT arrivals in the October 2011 year, up 2 percent from the October 2010 year. There were 84,400 PLT departures, up 20 percent from the previous year. This meant that there was a net loss of 100 migrants in the October 2011 year, the first annual net loss since the September 2001 year (1,700).

Net losses were recorded between the July 1998 year and the September 2001 year. The highest net loss during this period was 13,200 in the February 2001 year. The highest net loss recorded since the PLT migration series started, in April 1921, was 43,600 people in the July 1979 year. Net losses continued throughout most of the 1980s.

After the net loss in the September 2001 year, net migration rose substantially. New Zealand experienced a record net gain of 42,500 migrants in the May 2003 year. The most recent high was a net gain of 22,600 migrants in the January 2010 year. The net migration balance has steadily decreased since then.

New Zealand's net loss of migrants in the October 2011 year was due to a net loss of 35,000 people to Australia. This is only just below the highest recorded net loss to Australia (35,400 people in the December 2008 year). The October 2011 year figure resulted from 49,500 departures to Australia, offset by 14,500 arrivals from Australia. In both directions, most migrants were New Zealand citizens.

There were net gains of migrants from most other countries, led by the United Kingdom (5,700), India (5,100), and China (4,600) in the October 2011 year.

For more detailed data about permanent and long-term migration, see the Excel tables in the 'Downloads' box.

Definitions

About the International Travel and Migration statistics

International travel and migration statistics count passengers arriving into and departing from New Zealand. Passengers are split into one of three passenger types: overseas visitors, New Zealand-resident travellers, and permanent and long-term migrants.

Arrivals and departures of overseas visitors and New Zealand resident travellers are key indicators of tourism and travel. Permanent and long-term migration is a component in New Zealand's population change (along with births and deaths), measuring changes in the characteristics of the population as well as population size.

More definitions

Citizenship: determined from the country that issued the passport the person uses when arriving or departing. A person may hold passports from more than one country.

Country of main destination: the country where a New Zealand-resident traveller will spend the most time while overseas. Departure cards do not ask travellers which other countries they intend to visit on the same trip.

Country of residence: for arrivals, this is the country the person last lived in for 12 months or more. For departures, it is the country the person will next live in for 12 months or more.

New Zealand-resident travellers: people who live in New Zealand and are travelling overseas for less than 12 months.

Overseas visitors: people who live overseas and are visiting New Zealand for less than 12 months.

Passenger type: each passenger is classed as an overseas visitor, a New-Zealand resident traveller, or a permanent and long-term migrant. Passenger type is not related to legal permanent residence in a country or the visa type a person holds. It is based on the time spent in and out of New Zealand. This is primarily determined from responses on the arrival and departure cards to questions about how long the person is in or away from New Zealand, and where they last lived and will next live for 12 months or more.

Permanent and long-term arrivals: people from overseas arriving to live in New Zealand for 12 months or more (including permanently), and New Zealanders returning after an absence of 12 months or more overseas.

Permanent and long-term departures: New Zealanders departing for an absence of 12 months or more (including permanently), and people from overseas who are departing after a stay of 12 months or more in New Zealand.

Travel purpose: The main purpose for the visit to New Zealand or trip overseas. Categories are holiday, visiting friends and relatives, business, conferences and conventions, education, and other.

Related links

Upcoming releases

International Travel and Migration: November 2011 will be released on 21 December 2011.

The [Release calendar](#) lists all our upcoming information releases by date of release.

Past releases

See [International Travel and Migration – information releases](#) for links to past releases.

Related information

Information about international travel

[International Visitor Arrivals to New Zealand](#) contains detailed tables about the number and characteristics of visitor arrivals. It is released two working days after each *International Travel and Migration* information release.

[Provisional international travel statistics](#) provide the latest weekly and four-weekly figures for visitor arrivals and New Zealand-resident traveller departures, including figures for 10 major source and destination countries. These are released weekly, usually at 3pm on a Friday.

[International travel and migration articles](#) are occasional publications that provide analysis of selected topics.

Statistics NZ's [Tourism](#) web page lists tourism-related data sources, such as the Accommodation Survey and the Tourism Satellite Account.

[The Tourism Strategy Group research website](#) (part of the Ministry of Economic Development) provides tourism data such as the International Visitor Survey and tourism forecasts.

[Tourism New Zealand](#) provides guides to New Zealand's key tourism markets, which include the outlook for future months.

Information about international migration

[International travel and migration articles](#) are occasional publications that provide analysis of selected topics.

Statistics NZ's [Migration](#) web page lists migration-related data sources, such as the Longitudinal Immigration Survey.

[Labour and Immigration Research Centre](#), on the Department of Labour's website, includes information about the immigration research programme and published research reports.

[Immigration New Zealand statistics](#), published by the Department of Labour, include application and approval numbers for the main immigration visa types.

Data quality

Data source

International travel and migration statistics are based on electronic arrival and departure records for each international passenger supplied to Statistics New Zealand by the New Zealand Customs Service. These electronic records include flight and passport details, such as date of travel, date of birth, sex, and country of citizenship.

The New Zealand Customs Service also supplies Statistics NZ with arrival and departure cards completed by passengers. Additional detail such as country of residence and travel purpose is captured from these cards and added to the information from electronic records.

Arrival and departure cards are owned by Immigration New Zealand, and are used to administer numerous New Zealand laws in addition to the production of statistics. Statistics NZ captures information from the cards only for statistical purposes, and passes the cards to Immigration NZ after data capture is complete.

A copy of the [arrival card](#) (PDF, 84kb) is available on the New Zealand Customs Service website. A copy of the [departure card](#) is available on the Statistics NZ website. These are for reference only.

Accuracy of the data

Data collection

Statistics NZ scans every arrival and departure card, and uses image recognition technology to automatically recognise and code responses. Processing staff then manually capture any required information not captured automatically – as not every response can be clearly recognised by automated software.

The imaging system automatically determines all of the information required for around 9 in every 10 cards, meaning about 1 million records are completed manually each year.

Some response fields are required from every card. These include passport number and birth date, which are used to match each card with the corresponding electronic record containing flight and passport details. Some fields are only required for certain passenger types, or for a sample of passengers.

Changes in recorded passenger intentions

All arrivals and departures are processed so they can be allocated to one of three passenger types: overseas visitors, New Zealand-resident travellers, and permanent and long-term migrants.

A person may change their intentions after their arrival or departure, which may mean the recorded passenger type becomes incorrect. Statistics NZ does not revise published statistics to adjust for such changes.

Sampling

Some fields are only collected for a sample of passengers. Data from the sample is used to estimate the characteristics of the full population. This still provides a good picture of the characteristics of travellers, while greatly decreasing the time and cost of capturing the data.

All figures for permanent and long-term migrants are actual counts (not derived from a sample). Arrival and departure totals for overseas visitors and New Zealand-resident travellers are also actual counts. More detailed data for overseas visitors and New Zealand-resident travellers, such as figures by country or travel purpose, are derived from a sample.

The sample ratios currently used are:

- Overseas visitor arrivals: 1 in 16
- Overseas visitor departures: 1 in 26
- New Zealand-resident traveller arrivals: 1 in 26
- New Zealand-resident traveller departures: 1 in 20.

Figures derived from a sample may contain sample error (a difference from the actual figure). Small numbers are more likely to contain a large sample error as a percentage of the actual figure, and should be used with caution.

Tables showing the sample errors for selected cell sizes are available from the [Information about international travel and migration](#) page on the Statistics NZ website.

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 that 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 can occur 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 traveller series.

Interpreting the data

Passenger counts

The statistics in this release relate to the number of passenger movements to and from New Zealand, rather than to the number of people – that is, the multiple movements of individual people during a given reference period are each counted separately. For example, a New Zealand resident making five business trips overseas within a year would be counted as five arrivals and five departures.

Timing of published data

Final international travel and migration statistics: released approximately three weeks after the end of the reference month. This delay is longer for December and January data due to the peak travel period coinciding with the Christmas and New Year holidays.

New Zealand and overseas port data: becomes available two working days after the international travel and migration release.

Provisional international travel statistics: normally released at 3pm every Friday on the [Provisional international travel statistics](#) web page. These show the latest weekly and four-weekly figures for visitor arrivals and New Zealand-resident traveller departures, including figures for 10 major source and destination countries. No further data is available until the monthly release of final statistics.

Confidentiality

Statistics NZ releases statistics derived from arriving and departing passenger records. It does not release the records of individual passengers.

More information

More [information about international travel and migration](#) is available on our website.

Liability

While all care and diligence has been used in processing, analysing, and extracting data and information in this publication, Statistics NZ gives no warranty it is error-free and will not be liable for any loss or damage suffered by the use directly, or indirectly, of the information in this publication.

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.

Crown copyright©



This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand licence. You are free to copy, distribute, and adapt the work, as long as you attribute the work to Statistics NZ and abide by the other licence terms. Please note you may not use any departmental or governmental emblem, logo, or coat of arms in any way that infringes any provision of the Flags, Emblems, and Names Protection Act 1981. Use the wording 'Statistics New Zealand' in your attribution, not the Statistics NZ logo.

Contacts

For media enquiries contact:

Nicholas Thomson

Christchurch 03 964 8700

Email: demography@stats.govt.nz

For technical information contact:

Nicholas Thomson

Christchurch 03 964 8700

Email: demography@stats.govt.nz

For general enquiries contact our Information Centre:

Phone: 0508 525 525 (toll free in New Zealand)

+64 4 931 4600 (outside of New Zealand)

Email: info@stats.govt.nz

Tables

The following tables are included with this release. They are available in Excel format from the 'Downloads' box of *International Travel and Migration: October 2011* on the Statistics NZ website.

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

Access more data on Infoshare

Use [Infoshare](#), a free, online database to access time-series data specific to your needs. To access the release time series on Infoshare, select the following categories from the homepage:

Subject category: **Tourism**

Group: **International Travel and Migration**