

Embargoed until 10:45am – 21 October 2009

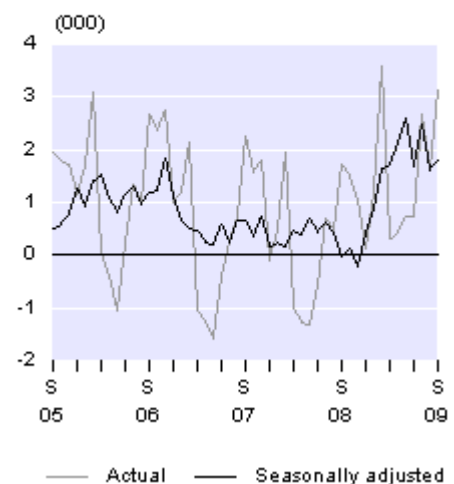
International Travel and Migration: September 2009

Highlights

- Visitor arrivals (172,400) were up 9 percent from September 2008 (157,700).
- There were more visitors from Australia (up 12,600), the United States (up 900), China and Indonesia (each up 800), but fewer visitors from Korea (down 1,500).
- Departures of New Zealand residents (193,300) were up 1 percent from September 2008 (192,000).
- New Zealand residents departed on more trips to Australia (up 3,200), and Fiji (up 1,700), but fewer trips to the United States (down 1,900).
- Permanent and long-term arrivals exceeded departures by 1,800 on a seasonally adjusted basis.

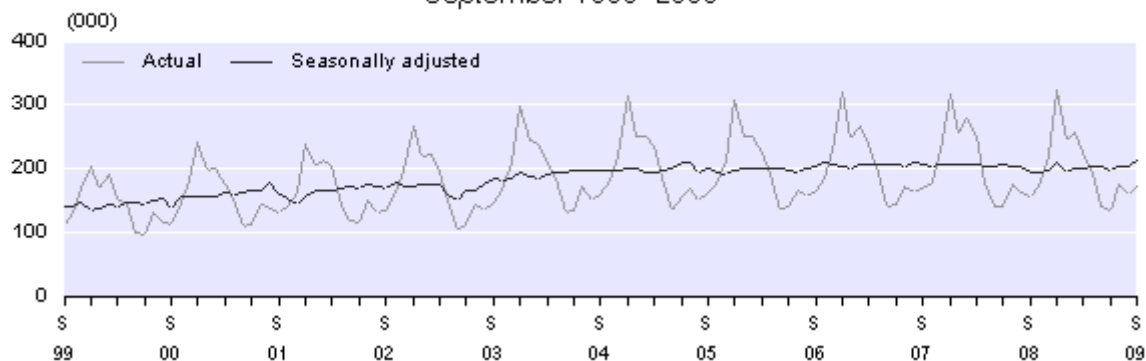
Monthly Net Permanent and Long-term Migration

September 2005–09



Monthly Visitor Arrivals

September 1999–2009



Geoff Bascand
Government Statistician

21 October 2009

ISSN 1179-0407

Commentary

Visitor arrivals

Monthly visitor arrivals

Short-term overseas visitor arrivals to New Zealand numbered 172,400 in September 2009, up 14,700 or 9 percent from September 2008 (157,700). This figure exceeds the previous high for a September month (168,800 in 2007).

The estimated average number of visitors in New Zealand per day was down 2 percent to 99,000 in September 2009, from 100,500 in September 2008. The average length of stay of visitor arrivals was 20 days in September 2009, unchanged from September 2008, while the median length of stay (half stay shorter, and half stay longer than this duration) decreased from 9 to 8 days.

Monthly visitors by source country

In September 2009, visitor arrivals from Australia were up 12,600 (15 percent) compared with September 2008. A holiday (up 9,100 or 25 percent) and visiting friends and relatives (up 4,400 or 17 percent) were the main travel purposes contributing to this increase. However, there were fewer business travellers (down 500 or 4 percent).

There were increases from all Australian states and territories, with the largest increases coming from Queensland (up 5,300 or 22 percent), Victoria (up 3,200 or 18 percent), and New South Wales (up 1,700 or 6 percent).

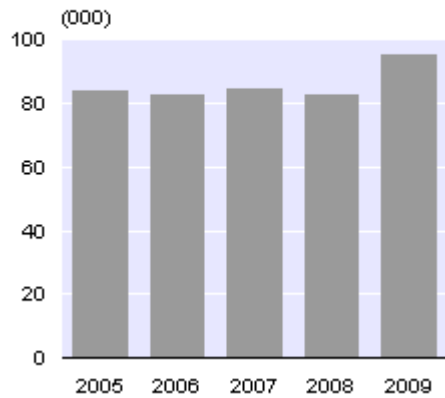
Although visitors from the United States were up 900 (10 percent) in September 2009, compared with September 2008, the numbers were still slightly lower than the level in September 2007.

There was also an increase in visitors from China (up 800 or 15 percent), the first increase since March 2009. Despite this increase, arrivals were still 1,900 lower than arrivals from China in September 2007. Between June and November 2008, there were large decreases in monthly visitor arrivals from China following the earthquake there in May and the Beijing Olympic Games in August.

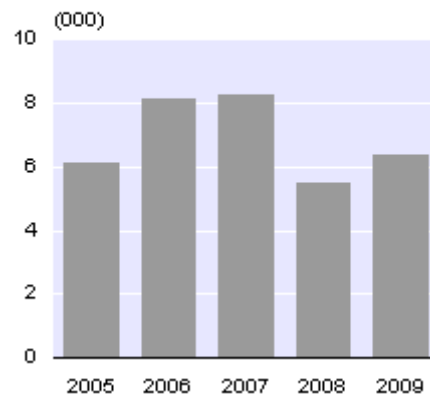
In contrast, there were significantly fewer visitor arrivals from Korea (down 1,500 or 33 percent). Decreases of at least 1,000 visitors from Korea have been recorded each month since September 2008. The drop in visitors from Japan (down 200 or 4 percent) in September 2009 was the lowest monthly decrease since July 2008.

There was also a decrease in visitor arrivals from South Africa (down 500 or 30 percent) in September 2009.

Visitors from Australia
Month of September



Visitors from China
Month of September

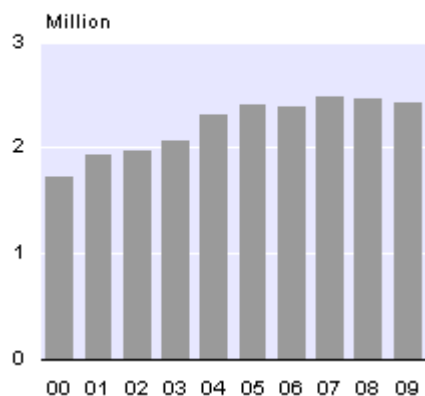


Note: Provisional international travel statistics, including weekly and four-weekly visitor arrival data, are available on the Statistics NZ website. This data is updated each week with the most recently available information on visitor arrivals from 10 major source countries.

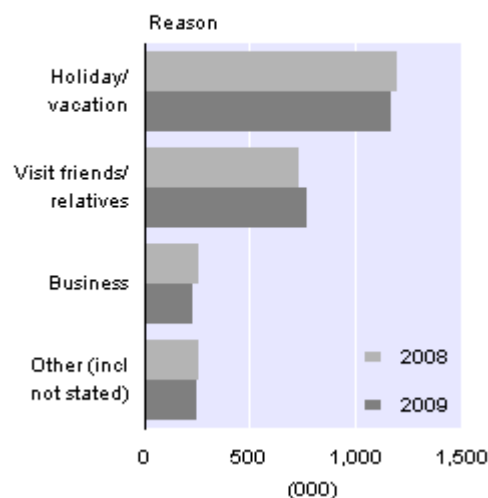
Annual visitor arrivals

During the September 2009 year, there were 2.430 million visitor arrivals, down 43,900 (2 percent) from the September 2008 year. A holiday was the main travel reason for 1.168 million visitors to New Zealand in the September 2009 year, down 28,000 (2 percent) from the previous year. Another 766,900 arrived to visit friends and relatives (up 31,200 or 4 percent), and 228,900 arrived for business (down 34,500 or 13 percent).

Annual Visitor Arrivals
Year ended September



Visitor Arrivals by Reason
Year ended September



Annual visitors by source country

There were 1.045 million visitor arrivals from Australia in the September 2009 year, up 77,800 (8 percent) compared with the September 2008 year. However, fewer visitors came from Japan (down 32,500 or 29 percent), Korea (down 31,700 or 37 percent), the

United Kingdom (down 29,600 or 10 percent), the United States (down 17,300 or 8 percent), and China (down 13,800 or 12 percent).

The number of visitor arrivals from Japan (79,700) in the September 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 (55,000) was less than half the annual high (130,700) recorded in the April 1997 year.

Note: Detailed visitor data will be available in the September 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

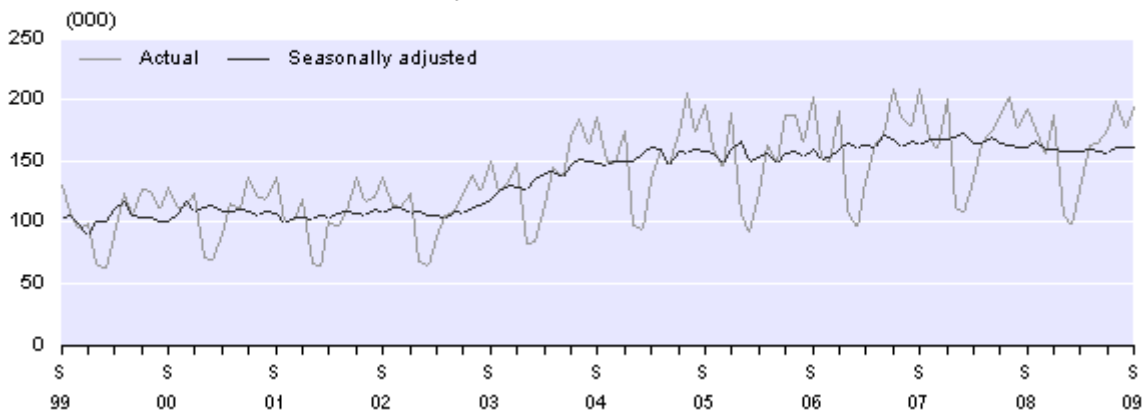
New Zealand residents departed on 193,300 short-term overseas trips in September 2009, up 1,200 (1 percent) on September 2008. September 2009 is the second consecutive month in which departures of New Zealand residents have been greater than the same month of the previous year, after nine months of decline.

In September 2009, there were more trips to Australia (up 3,200 or 4 percent). There were also more trips to Fiji (up 1,700 or 16 percent), and India (up 700 or 47 percent). However, there were fewer trips to the United States (down 1,900), France (down 600), and Canada and Hong Kong (each down 500), with the percentage drop for the four countries varying from 16 to 26 percent, respectively.

The estimated average number of New Zealand residents who were temporarily overseas during September 2009 was 114,900 per day, down 3 percent from the average of 118,800 in September 2008. The average intended absence (17 days) of residents who departed in September 2009, and the median (10 days), were both unchanged from September 2008.

Monthly New Zealand-resident Short-term Departures

September 1999–2009

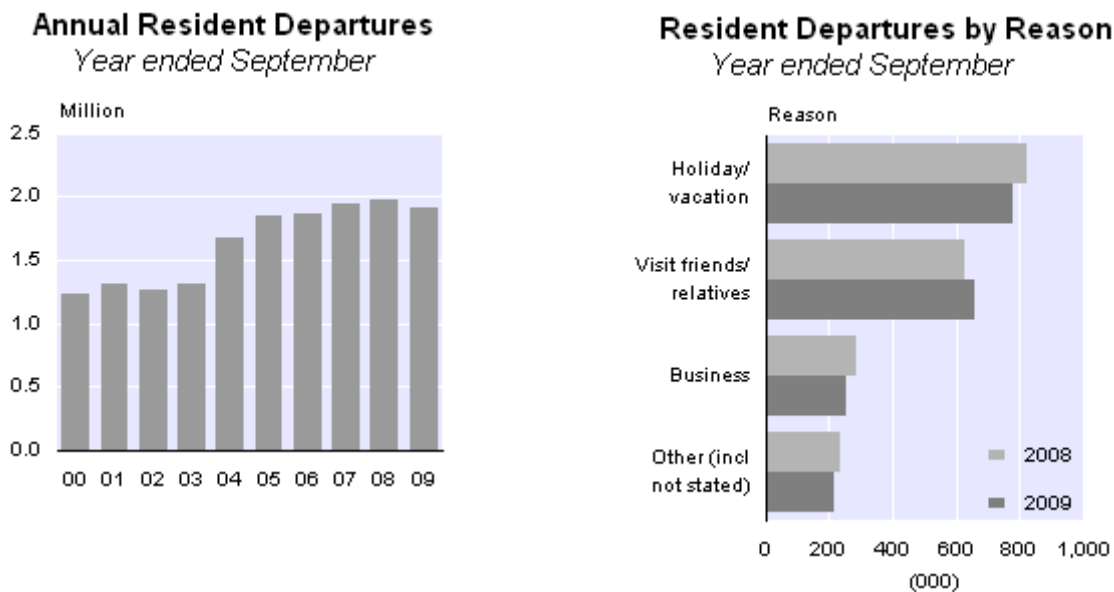


Annual resident departures

Short-term departures of New Zealand residents in the September 2009 year numbered 1.917 million, down 58,700 (3 percent) from the September 2008 year.

Trips to Australia (940,900), the most popular destination, were down 9,300 (1 percent) from the previous year. There were also fewer trips to Fiji (down 7,800 or 8 percent), the United States (down 7,300 or 8 percent), and the United Kingdom (down 5,400 or 6 percent).

A holiday was the main travel reason for 781,000 New Zealand residents who departed in the September 2009 year, down 44,100 (5 percent) from the previous year. Another 660,200 departed to visit friends and relatives (up 32,100 or 5 percent). Departures for business purposes (256,900) were down 30,000 (10 percent) from the year ended September 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 3,100 in September 2009, compared with 1,700 in September 2008. There were 1,700 (29 percent) fewer PLT departures, including 1,500 fewer departures to Australia and 200 fewer to the United Kingdom. Monthly PLT departures have fallen by at least 1,000 compared with the same month of the previous year since February 2009.

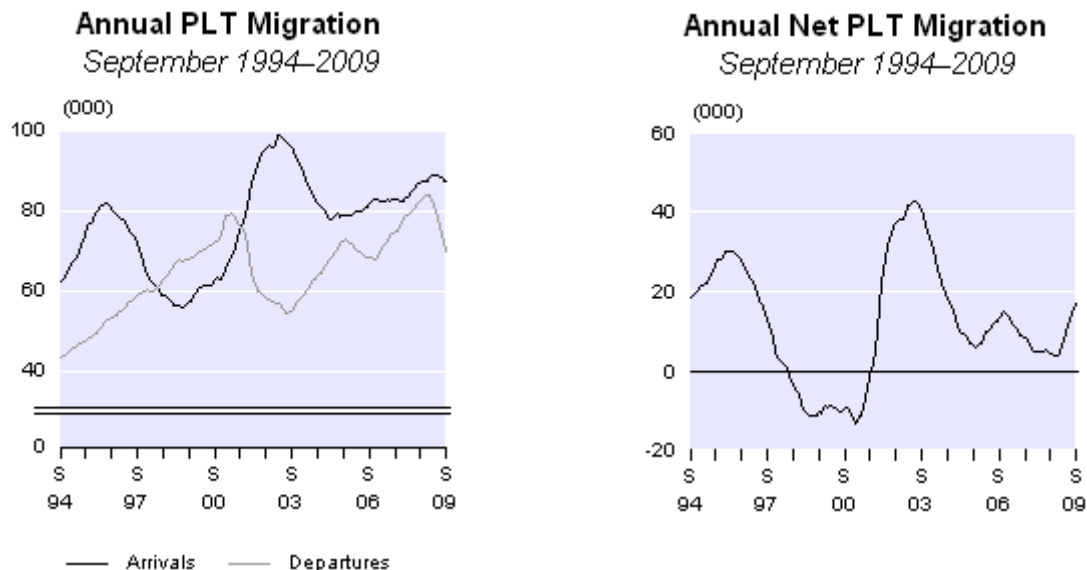
PLT arrivals were down 300 from September 2008, resulting from 400 fewer arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens, partly offset by 100 more arrivals of New Zealand citizens. Arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens have been declining since April 2009.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, PLT arrivals exceeded PLT departures by 1,800 in September 2009, up from 1,600 in August 2009, and similar to levels experienced since February 2009.

In September 2009, there were net inflows of migrants from the United Kingdom (1,200), India (400), and China (300). There was a net outflow of 700 PLT migrants to Australia, the lowest outflow to Australia for a September month since 2003, and a decrease from the outflows of 2,400 in September 2008 and 1,800 in September 2007.

Annual PLT migration

In the year ended September 2009, there were 87,200 PLT arrivals, up 600 (1 percent) from the September 2008 year. Over the same period, there were 70,200 PLT departures, down 12,100 (15 percent). As a result, net PLT migration was 17,000 in the September 2009 year, up from 4,400 in the September 2008 year. The latest figure is the highest annual net migration total since the September 2004 year (17,800).



The net PLT migration gain of 17,000 in the year ended September 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 September 2009, there were net PLT inflows from the United Kingdom (9,200), India (5,900), China (3,600), the Philippines (2,700), Fiji (2,600), South Africa (1,700), and Germany (1,500).

The net PLT outflow to Australia was 23,100 in the September 2009 year, compared with a net outflow of 33,900 in the September 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 37,400 PLT departures to Australia, partly offset by 13,200 PLT arrivals from Australia. Almost 9 in every 10 PLT departures to Australia were New Zealand citizens (32,900). Of the PLT arrivals from Australia, two-thirds were New Zealand citizens (9,500), similar to levels observed over the past decade.

Annual PLT migration by citizenship

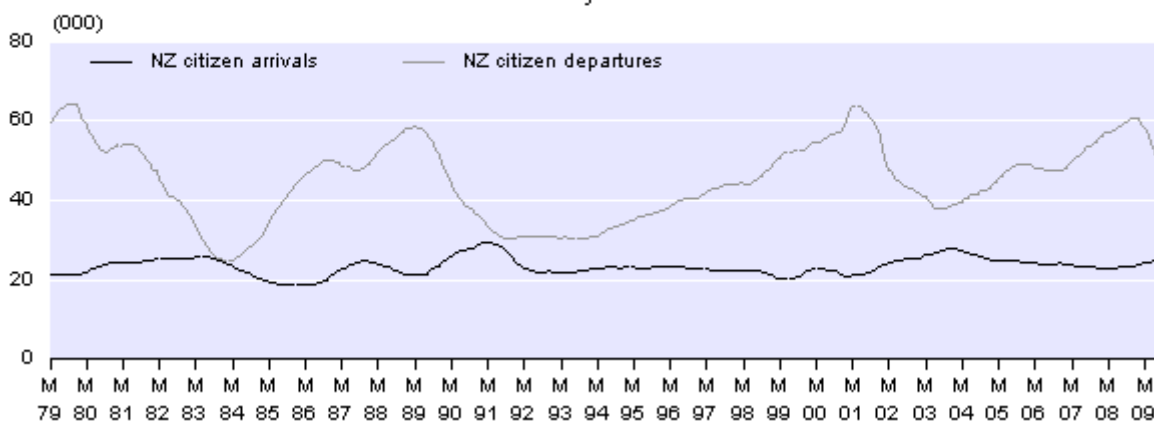
A net inflow of 38,200 non-New Zealand citizens and a net outflow of 21,200 New Zealand citizens were recorded in the year ended September 2009.

PLT arrivals of New Zealand citizens numbered 25,600 in the September 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 46,700 PLT departures of New Zealand citizens in the September 2009 year, down 12,900 from the previous year.

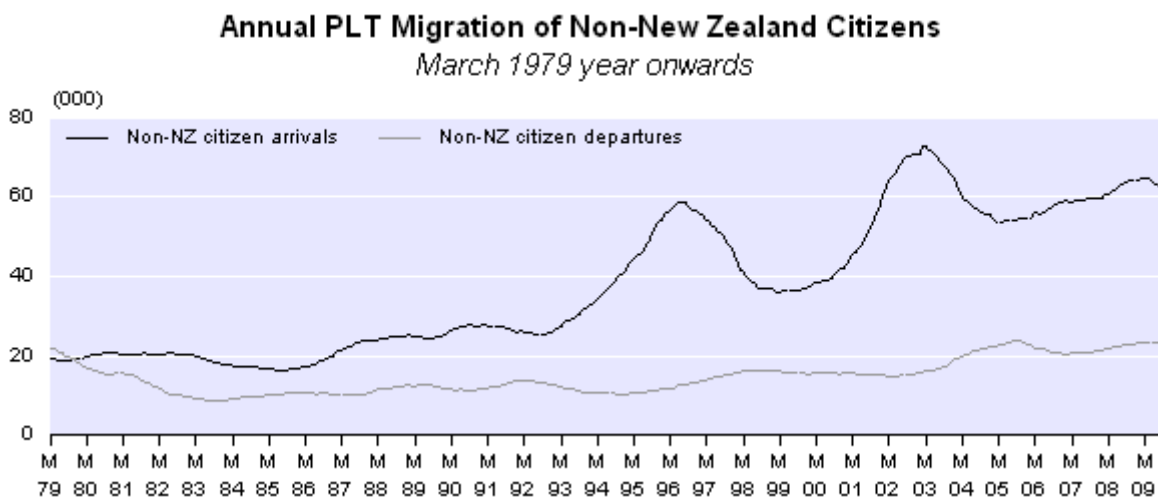
Annual PLT Migration of New Zealand Citizens

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. Although arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens have generally been increasing since 2005, the 61,600 arrivals in the September 2009 year were down 1,800 from the September 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 23,400 PLT departures of non-New Zealand citizens in the September 2009 year, up 800 from the September 2008 year.



Annual PLT migration by permit type

In the September 2009 year, 29,500 PLT arrivals were Australian or New Zealand citizens who did not require a permit to remain in New Zealand. Of the 57,700 PLT arrivals who did require a permit, 22,300 arrived on work permits, 16,000 arrived on student permits, 14,100 arrived on residence permits, and 4,800 arrived on visitor permits. Compared with the September 2008 year, there were more PLT arrivals on student permits (up 1,000), but fewer arrivals on residence permits (down 700). The majority of residence approvals in recent years have been granted onshore, to people who arrived on other permit types.

While arrivals on work permits in the September 2009 year were down 900 from the previous year, they have decreased by 1,700 in the combined six months from April to September 2009, compared with the same six 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 on the Statistics NZ website. The most recent releases are:

October 2009	<u>Rates of Travel to New Zealand by Country of Residence: 2009</u> examines the rates of travel to New Zealand when adjusted for the population of each source country.
May 2009	<u>Visitors from the Republic of Korea, 1989–2008</u> examines the large fluctuations in the number of visitors from Korea, and the characteristics of these visitors.
April 2009	<u>Visitors from the Americas</u> examines changes in the number of visitors from the United States, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile between 1979 and 2008.

Occupation data

From October 2009, Statistics New Zealand will be adopting 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 New Zealand website](#).

Availability of data on Infoshare

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. 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. The ITM group has replaced the external migration (EMI) group, which means that users will no longer be able to extract EMI data. 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:
 Nick Thomson or Ian Richards
 Christchurch 03 964 8700
Email: demography@stats.govt.nz

Next release ...

International Travel and Migration: October 2009 will be released on 23 November 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.

Copyright

Information obtained from Statistics NZ may be freely used, reproduced, or quoted unless otherwise specified. In all cases Statistics NZ must be acknowledged as the source.

Liability

While care has been used in processing, analysing and extracting information, Statistics NZ gives no warranty that the information supplied is free from error. Statistics NZ shall not be liable for any loss suffered through the use, directly or indirectly, of any information, product or service.

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