

New Zealand movement

The Trans-Tasman Travel Agreement

Since the 1920s there has been virtually unrestricted movement of people between Australia and New Zealand under various reciprocal entry arrangements. In 1973, the Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement was introduced which allows Australian and New Zealand citizens to enter each other's country freely to visit, live, work and remain indefinitely without the need to apply formally for authority to enter the other country.

On arrival in Australia, New Zealand passport holders are granted a Special Category visa in the immigration clearance process. As with all visa applicants, New Zealand citizens must satisfy certain health and character requirements. A Special Category visa remains valid for as long as its holder remains in Australia.

The size of the movement of New Zealanders to and from Australia responds to relative economic conditions in Australia and New Zealand such as differences in relative real incomes and employment opportunities. Traditionally, the number of New Zealanders in Australia increases in times of relative economic buoyancy in Australia and declines when economic conditions are slower.

The net permanent and long-term movement of New Zealanders to Australia rose steadily over the 1990s from less than 3000 in 1991-92 to just over 30 000 in 1999-2000 and 38 949 in 2000-01. However, net movement fell sharply in 2001-02 and again in 2002-03, largely reflecting a fall in arrivals from New Zealand. This probably reflects in part a correction following significant gains in arrivals prior to Australia-New Zealand negotiations of social security arrangements. Net movement has increased each year subsequently. It reached 26 445 in 2006-07.

At 30 June 2007, an estimated 504 000 New Zealand citizens were present in Australia, compared with 471 000 at 30 June 2006. 266 000 New Zealanders (or 52.7 per cent) had been in Australia for 12 months or more.

From the stock of New Zealanders, 63.2 per cent described themselves as Australian residents on incoming passenger cards.

New Zealand visa grants

On 26 February 2001, the Australian and New Zealand governments announced new bilateral social security arrangements which introduced a durable and equitable approach for sharing the social security costs of Australians and New Zealanders living in each other's countries. Under these arrangements, Australians and New Zealanders reliant on Australian age pensions, New Zealand superannuation and veterans' pensions are guaranteed continued payment of their entitlements regardless of which side of the Tasman

they choose to live. Where people have spent part of their working lives in both countries, both governments contribute to their retirement incomes. Both governments also contribute support for people with severe disabilities. The arrangement also recognises the right of each country to determine access to social security benefits not covered by the agreement and to set any related residence and citizenship rules according to their respective national legislative and policy frameworks.

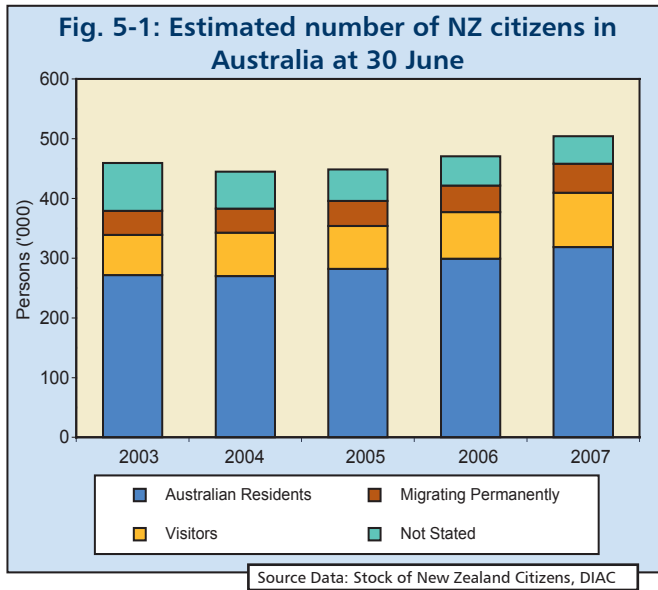
Accordingly, the Australian government also introduced new policies regarding residence and citizenship rules for New Zealand citizens who arrive in Australia on or after 27 February 2001. Under these rules, New Zealand citizens wishing to access certain social security payments, obtain Australian citizenship or sponsor their family members for permanent residence can do so only if they have applied for, and been granted, Australian permanent residence under a permanent residence visa subclass. These changes do not affect the Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement. The Special Category visa remains the primary means by which New Zealand citizens travel to and stay in Australia. New Zealand citizens coming to Australia permanently do not enter as part of Australia's annual Migration Program, but are included in settler arrival and net overseas migration figures.

Three new onshore permanent visa subclasses were created specifically to allow New Zealand citizens and their dependent family members to apply onshore for General Skilled Migration.

Visas granted to New Zealand citizens under onshore permanent visa subclasses in 2006-07 totalled 976 visas comprising 248 in the Skilled Independent category, 345 in the Employer Sponsored category, 104 in the Skilled Australian Sponsored category, eight in the Business Skills category, five in the Distinguished Talent category and 266 in the Partner and other Family categories.

Other offshore permanent visa subclasses granted to New Zealand citizens in 2006-07 included a total of 110 visas comprising, 25 in the Skilled Independent category, 28 in the Employer Sponsored category, 11 in the Skilled Australian Sponsored category, eight in the Business Skills category and 38 in the Partner and other Family categories.

A temporary visa, the New Zealand Citizen Family Relationship visa (subclass 461) was created in 2001 to enable non-New Zealand citizen family members to accompany Special Category visa holders to Australia and/or allow them to remain onshore lawfully with work rights. In 2006-07, 971 visas were granted compared to 692 visas in 2005-06.



Arrivals of New Zealand citizens

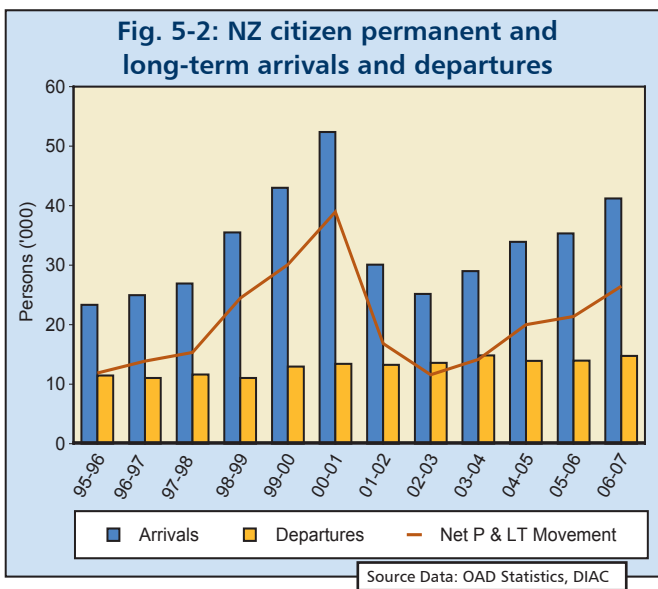
In 2006-07, a total of 1 348 485 New Zealand citizens came to Australia, an increase of 42 845 (or 3.3 per cent) from 1 305 640 in the previous year.

Permanent and long-term movement

In 2006-07 a total of 41 217 New Zealand citizens came to Australia permanently or as long-term (12 months or more) arrivals. This represented an increase of 16.7 per cent or 5892 persons from the 35 325 permanent and long-term arrivals in 2005-06.

New Zealand citizen permanent and long-term arrivals were made up of 28 307 (or 68.7 per cent) permanent arrivals and 12 910 (or 31.3 per cent) long-term arrivals.

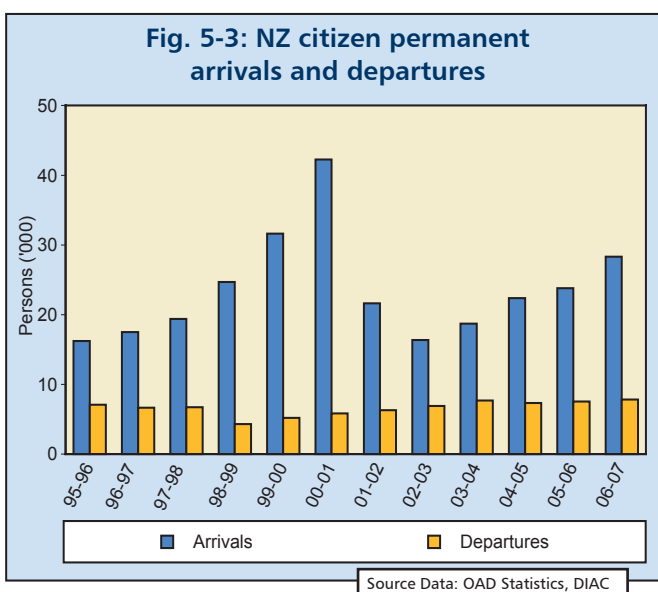
In 2006-07, there were 14 772 permanent and long-term departures of New Zealand citizens from Australia, an increase on 2005-06 of 825 (or 5.9 per cent).



Permanent arrivals

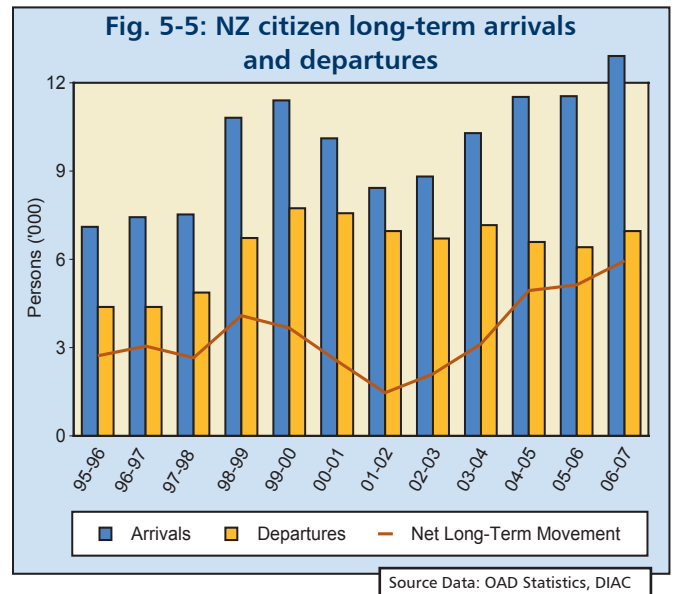
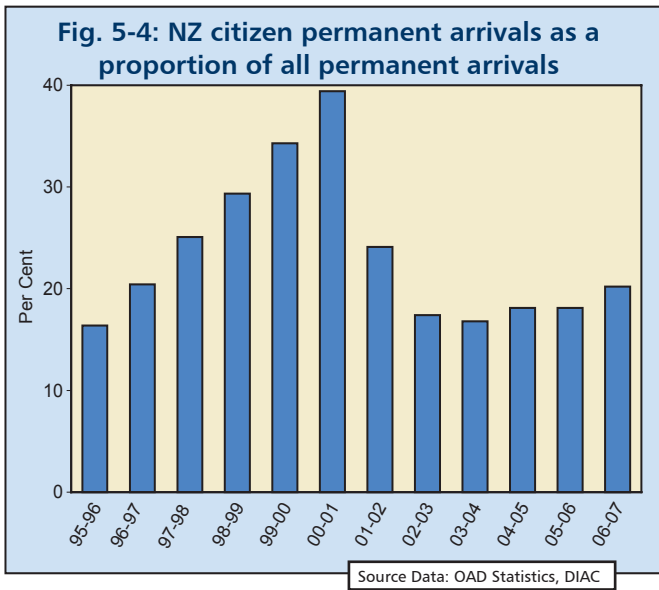
The overall number of New Zealand citizens migrating to Australia increased consistently during the 1990s from less than 5000 in 1990-91 to 42 254 in 2000-01. However, permanent arrival of New Zealand citizens dropped in both 2001-02 and 2002-03 (16 364), before increasing the following year. Total permanent arrivals for New Zealand citizens for 2006-07 was 28 307.

This large fall was probably influenced by the Australian and New Zealand governments' new bilateral social security arrangements announced on 26 February 2001. But the fall also coincided with improvement in the New Zealand economy. In recent years, the New Zealand labour market has shown strong employment growth, lower unemployment rates and higher wages growth, especially in the public sector.



Long-term arrivals

In 2006-07, there were 12 910 long-term arrivals, similar to the previous year. Of this 10 374 (80.4 per cent) were long-term visitors. The remaining 2536 long-term arrivals were residents returning to Australia. The number of long-term residents returning to Australia and long-term visitors to Australia has remained relatively constant for 2004-05 and 2005-06 but has increased in 2006-07.



New Zealanders in the labour market

At June 2007, the New Zealand-born in Australia had a high participation rate (78.0 per cent) compared with the Australia-born (68.6 per cent) and all migrants from the Main English Speaking Countries (MESC) (66.2 per cent). This is partly related to the concentration of New Zealanders in the young adult age groups.

Also at June 2007, the New Zealand-born had an unemployment rate of 4.0 per cent, less than the 4.1 per cent for the Australia-born and higher than the 3.5 per cent for MESC migrants.

According to the 2006 Census, the largest numbers of New Zealand-born were employed in the major industry sectors of manufacturing (12.1 per cent of employed New Zealand-born), construction (10.3 per cent), healthcare and social assistance (10.1 per cent), and retail trade (9.2 per cent).

