

Chapter 5

New Zealand movement

- At 30 June 2008, an estimated 521 223 New Zealand citizens were present in Australia, an increase of 3.3 per cent from a year earlier.
- The New Zealand-born in Australia continued to have a higher participation rate in the labour market than the Australia-born (78.5 per cent compared with 68.9 per cent).
- About 63.2 per cent of New Zealanders in Australia had described themselves as Australian residents on their last arrival in Australia.

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 because of 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 33 912 in 2007-08.

At 30 June 2008, an estimated 521 223 New Zealand citizens were present in Australia, compared with 504 430 at 30 June 2008. Some 272 799 New Zealanders (or 52.3 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.

In conjunction with those arrangements, 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.

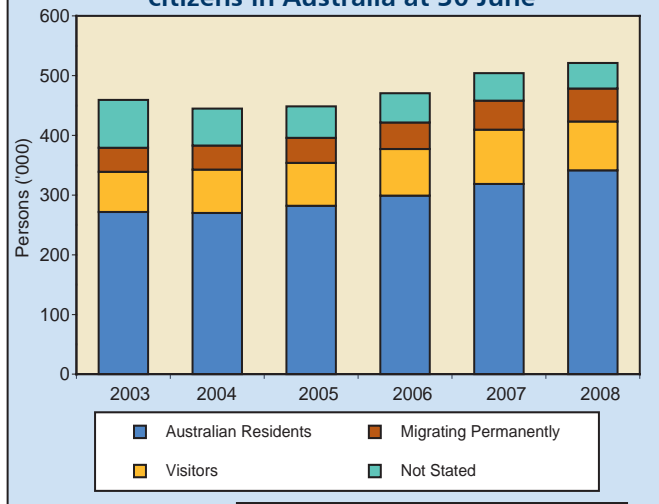
As a part of the 1 September 2007 reforms to General Skilled Migration (GSM), specific New Zealand permanent residence visas were abolished. From that date New Zealand citizens are required to apply for the same range of permanent visas as applicants from other countries. The difference is that those who are Special Category Visa holders and any accompanying secondary applicants are eligible to apply for and be granted an offshore GSM visa while they are in Australia.

Visas granted to New Zealand citizens under onshore permanent visa subclasses in 2007-08 totalled 1427 visas comprising 586 in the Skilled Independent category, 504 in the Employer Sponsored category, 147 in the Skilled Australian Sponsored category, 8 in the Business Skills category, 7 in the Distinguished Talent category and 175 in the Partner and other Family categories.

Other offshore permanent visa subclasses granted to New Zealand citizens in 2007-08 included a total of 220 visas comprising, 99 in the Skilled Independent category, 38 in the Employer Sponsored category, 35 in the Skilled Australian Sponsored category, 15 in the Skilled State/Territory Sponsored Visa Classes (SIR/STNI), 11 in the Business Skills category and 22 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 2007-08, 1313 visas were granted compared to 971 visas in 2006-07.

Fig. 5-1: Estimated number of New Zealand citizens in Australia at 30 June



Source Data: Stock of New Zealand Citizens, DIAC

Arrivals of New Zealand citizens

In 2007-08, a total of 1 392 136 New Zealand citizens came to Australia, an increase of 43 651 (or 3.2 per cent) from 1 348 485 in the previous year.

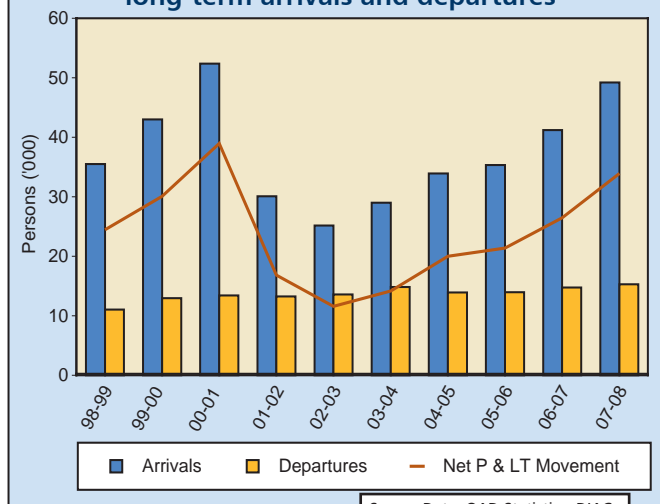
Permanent and long-term movement

In 2007-08 a total of 49 221 New Zealand citizens came to Australia permanently or as long-term (12 months or more) arrivals. This represented an increase of 19.4 per cent or 8004 persons from the 41 217 permanent and long-term arrivals in 2006-07.

New Zealand citizen permanent and long-term arrivals were made up of 34 494 (or 70.1 per cent) permanent arrivals and 14 727 (or 29.9 per cent) long-term arrivals.

In 2007-08, there were 15 309 permanent and long-term departures of New Zealand citizens from Australia, an increase on 2006-07 of 537 (or 3.6 per cent).

Fig. 5-2: New Zealand citizen permanent and long-term arrivals and departures



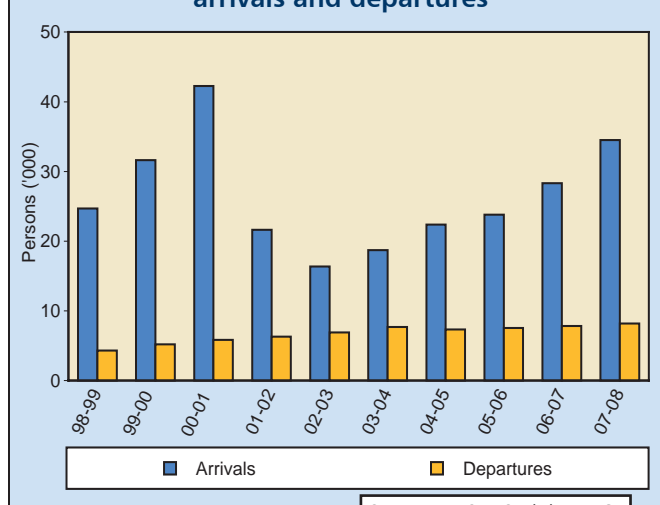
Source Data: OAD Statistics, DIAC

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. Permanent arrivals for New Zealand citizens for 2007-08 totalled 34 494.

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 an 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.

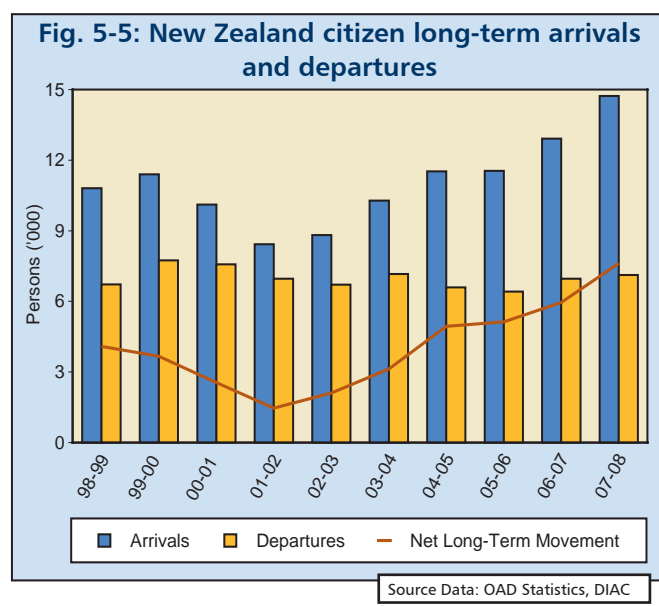
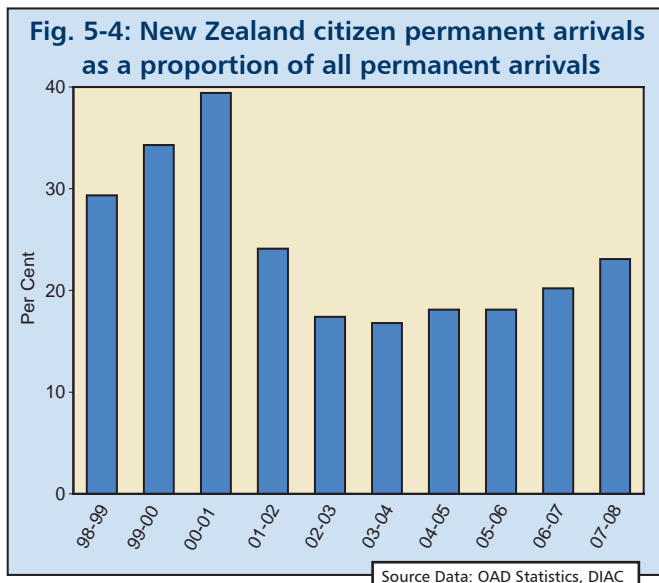
Fig. 5-3: New Zealand citizen permanent arrivals and departures



Source Data: OAD Statistics, DIAC

Long-term arrivals

In 2007-08, there were 14 727 long-term arrivals, similar to the previous year. Of this 12 097 (82.1 per cent) were long-term visitors. The remaining 2630 long-term arrivals were residents returning to Australia.



New Zealanders in the labour market

At June 2008, the New Zealand-born in Australia had a high participation rate (78.5 per cent) compared with the Australia-born (68.9 per cent) and all migrants from the Main English Speaking Countries (MESC) (67.0 per cent). This is partly related to the concentration of New Zealanders in the young adult age groups.

Also at June 2008, the New Zealand-born had an unemployment rate of 4.0 per cent, slightly less than the 4.1 per cent for the Australia-born and higher than the 2.7 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), construction (10.3 per cent), healthcare and social assistance (10.1 per cent), and retail trade (9.2 per cent).

