

International Travel and Migration: May 2016

Embargoed until 10:45am – 22 June 2016

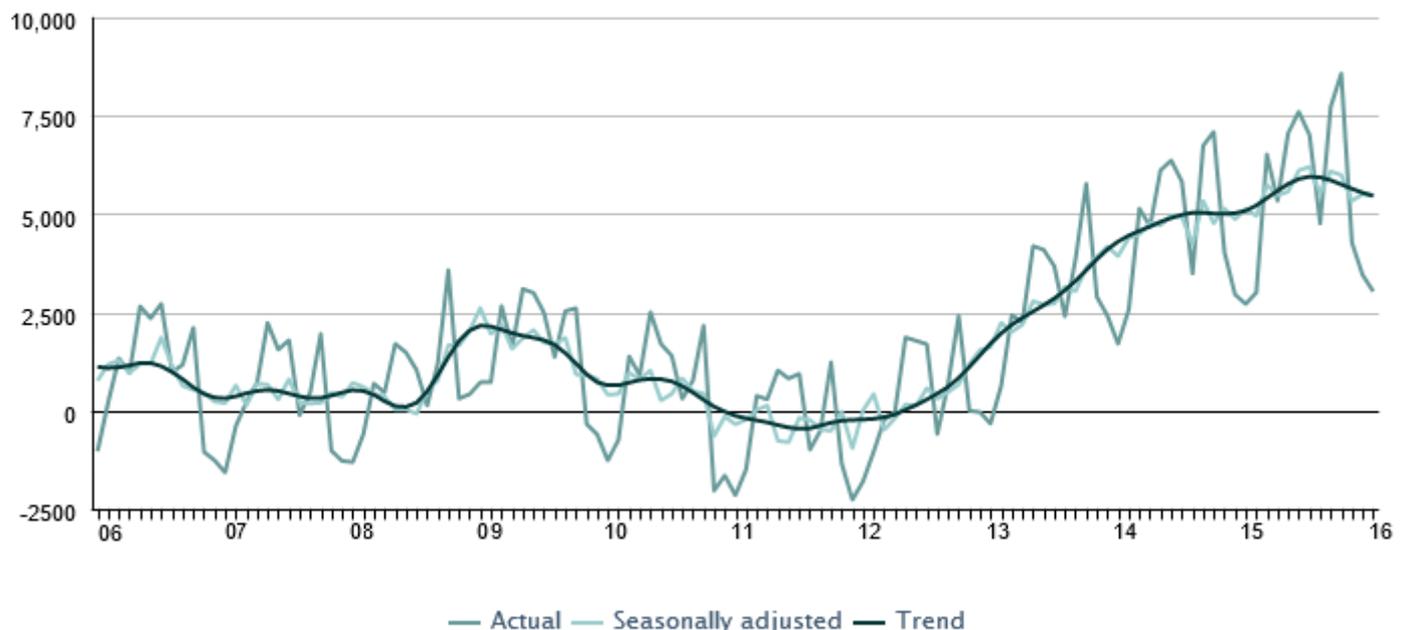
Key facts

In May 2016 compared with May 2015:

- Visitor arrivals (193,600) were up 16,900. The biggest changes were in arrivals from:
 - China (up 4,300)
 - Malaysia (up 2,200)
 - Korea (up 1,300)
 - the United States (up 1,200)
 - Japan (up 1,200).
- Overseas trips by New Zealand residents (210,600) were up 1,200. The biggest changes were in departures to:
 - Cook Islands (up 1,200)
 - China (up 1,000)
 - Australia (down 1,400).

In May 2016, seasonally adjusted figures showed a net gain of 5,500 migrants.

Monthly net permanent and long-term migration
May 2006–16



Source: Statistics New Zealand

See the [commentary](#) and [tables](#) for more information, including annual results.

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Commentary

- Holiday visitor arrivals from China exceed those from Australia in May
- Annual visitors arrivals a record 3.29 million in May 2016 year
- Resident departures increase slightly in May
- Annual trips by New Zealand residents reach 2.45 million
- Declining trend in monthly net gain of migrants
- Annual net gain of migrants now a record 68,400

Holiday visitor arrivals from China exceed those from Australia in May

Visitor arrivals numbered 193,600 in May 2016, a new May record. For only the second time on record, holiday visitor arrivals from China exceeded those from Australia (22,200 compared with 20,200). The only other time when holiday visitor arrivals from China surpassed those from Australia was February 2015.

Visitor arrivals were up 16,900 (10 percent) in May 2016 from May 2015.



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Visitor arrivals by country of residence

The biggest changes in visitors by country of residence between May 2015 and 2016 were in arrivals from:

- China (up 4,300 to 29,000)
- Malaysia (up 2,200 to 4,700)
- Korea (up 1,300 to 4,900)
- the United States (up 1,200 to 14,400)
- Japan (up 1,200 to 5,600).

In May 2016, the median age of a visitor arriving from China was 53 years. This compares with a median age of 41 years for all other visitor arrivals.

Visitor arrivals from Malaysia increased 88 percent between the two May months, mainly driven by holiday arrivals.

Visitor arrivals by travel purpose

The biggest changes in visitors by travel purpose between May 2015 and 2016 were in arrivals for:

- holidays (up 12,900 to 87,600)
- business (up 2,900 to 25,600)
- education (up 1,000 to 4,000).

Visitors from China, Malaysia, Korea, and Japan boosted holiday arrivals. In contrast, Australia dominated the increase in business arrivals.

Annual visitor arrivals a record 3.29 million in May 2016 year

Visitor arrivals to New Zealand were a record 3.29 million in the May 2016 year. They rose by 314,100 from the May 2015 year, an 11 percent increase.

The biggest changes in visitors by country of residence between the May years were in arrivals from:

- China (up 84,700 to 394,500)
- Australia (up 84,000 to 1.36 million)
- the United States (up 24,300 to 255,300).

Holiday-makers and visits to friends and relatives accounted for 81 percent (2.66 million) of the visitor arrivals in the May 2016 year. This was up 12 percent (282,900) from the May 2015 year.

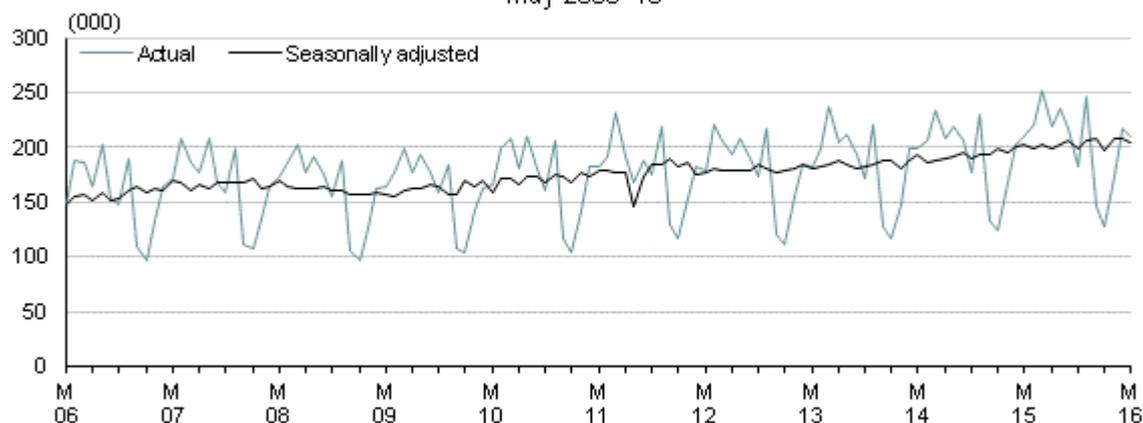
For more detailed data about visitor arrivals, see the Excel tables in the 'Downloads' box.

Resident departures increase slightly in May

New Zealand-resident travellers departed on 210,600 overseas trips in May 2016, up just 1 percent from May 2015. This was a new May record, surpassing the previous record of May 2015 by 1,200 trips.

Monthly overseas trips by New Zealand residents

May 2006–16



Source: Statistics New Zealand

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) between May 2015 and 2016 were in trips to:

- Cook Islands (up 1,200 to 8,200)
- China (up 1,000 to 8,400)
- Australia (down 1,400 to 90,900).

Annual trips by New Zealand residents reach 2.45 million

New Zealand residents departed on a record 2.45 million overseas trips in the May 2016 year. This was up 124,400 (5 percent) from the May 2015 year.

The biggest changes in New Zealand-resident departures by country of main destination between the May years were in departures for:

- Australia (up 32,000 to 1.14 million)
- Fiji (up 18,000 to 152,900)
- the United Kingdom (up 11,400 to 112,800).

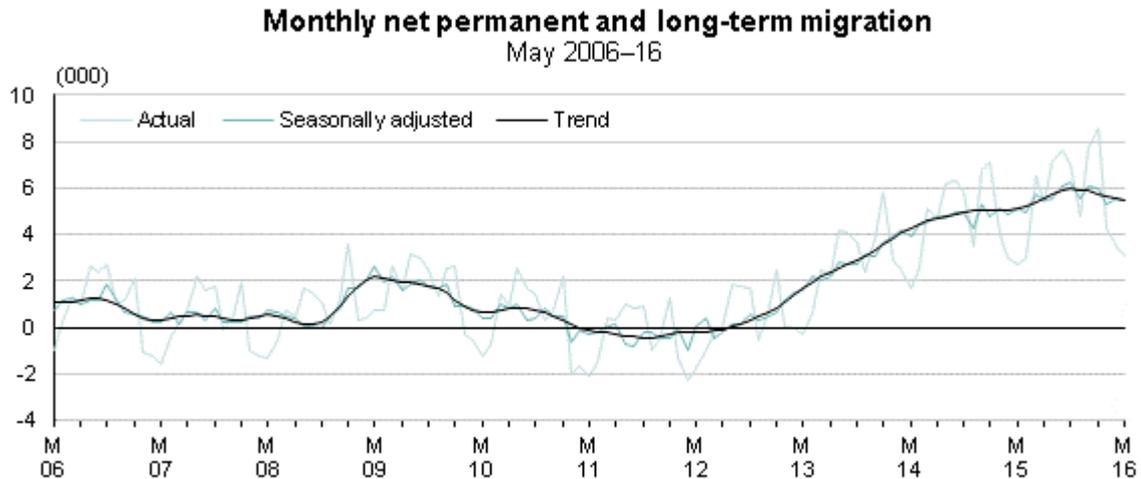
The median length of time a New Zealand resident spent in Australia in the May 2016 year was 7 days. This compares with a median length of absence of 15 days for all other countries.

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

Declining trend in monthly net gain of migrants

Seasonally adjusted permanent and long-term (PLT) migration figures showed a net gain (more arrivals than departures) of 5,500 migrants in May 2016. Since reaching a peak of 6,200 in November 2015, the seasonally adjusted net gain in migrants has averaged 5,700 a month.

While the monthly net gain of migrants is still positive and remains high relative to historic levels, there is now a declining trend in the net gain.



Source: Statistics New Zealand

There was a small seasonally adjusted net gain of 100 migrants from Australia in May 2016. This continued the regular net gains from Australia during the last year, broken only by a small net loss in April 2016.

Annual net gain of migrants now a record 68,400

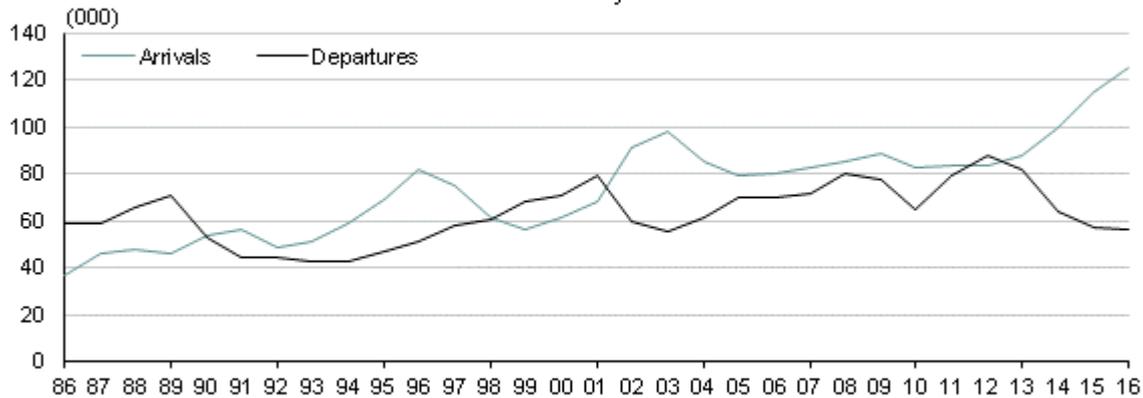
Unadjusted figures showed a record net gain of 68,400 migrants in the May 2016 year. This is the 22nd month in a row that the annual net gain in migrants has set a new record. Before this period, the record was a net gain of 42,500 migrants in the year ended May 2003.

The countries that contributed the biggest net gains in migration in the year ended May 2016 were:

- India (12,300)
- China (9,700)
- the Philippines (5,100)
- the United Kingdom (3,900).

Net migration is calculated from permanent and long-term arrivals less permanent and long-term departures. The new record annual net gain in migrants in the May 2016 year, compared with the May 2015 year, was driven primarily by more arrivals. Migrant arrivals were a record 124,800 in the May 2016 year, up 9,700 (8 percent) from the May 2015 year. New Zealand citizens returning to live in New Zealand accounted for one-quarter (30,700) of all migrant arrivals. Migrant departures (56,400) fell slightly (down 900 or 2 percent) from the May 2015 year.

Annual permanent and long-term migration Year ended May 1986–2016



Source: Statistics New Zealand

The current run of annual net gains in migration follows a period of net losses in late 2011 and 2012. The most-recent annual net loss of migrants was in the December 2012 year (1,200). Since then, migrant arrivals have increased 39,600 and migrant departures have fallen 30,000, to produce a record 68,400 net gain of migrants in the May 2016 year. The change in migrant arrivals was primarily driven by more non-New Zealand citizens arriving, while the fall in migrant departures was driven by fewer New Zealand citizens leaving.

The increase in migrant arrivals between the May 2015 year and May 2016 year was led by:

- Australia (up 1,800 to 25,700)
- China (up 1,700 to 11,800)
- South Africa (up 1,300 to 3,100)
- the Philippines (up 1,000 to 5,500).

Migrant departures to Australia fell by 1,400 between the two May years, as fewer New Zealand citizens chose to migrate to Australia. This led to a net gain of 1,700 migrants from Australia in the May 2016 year. May was the eighth consecutive month to show an annual net gain.

PLT migrant arrivals by visa type

The biggest changes in migrant arrivals by visa type between the May years were:

- work visas (up 3,800 to 38,900)
- student visas (up 2,100 to 27,800)
- New Zealand and Australian citizens (up 1,700 to 36,300).

People arriving on work visas mostly came from the United Kingdom, France, Germany, and Australia. The most-common occupations of migrants arriving on work visas in the latest year (for those who specified their occupation on the arrival card) were hospitality workers, food trade workers, and engineering professionals. People arriving on work visas include working holidaymakers.

People arriving on student visas mostly came from India, China, and the Philippines.

PLT migration by New Zealand region

All regions had a net gain of international migrants in the May 2016 year, led by Auckland (31,600) and Canterbury (7,000). The next-biggest net gains were in Wellington, Waikato, and Bay of Plenty.

Over half of all arrivals who stated an address on their arrival card indicated they would reside in Auckland.

Of those who stated an address on their departure card, 42 percent were migrating from the Auckland region. In comparison, the Auckland region is home to 34 percent of New Zealand's population (at 30 June 2015).

For more detailed data about PLT migration, see the Excel tables in the 'Downloads' box.

Definitions

See [International Travel and Migration concepts – DataInfo+](#) for definitions of terms used in this release.

The link to definitions is also available on the 'Related links' page of this release.

Related links

- [Next release](#)
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Next release

International Travel and Migration: June 2016 will be released on 21 July 2016.

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

Past releases

[International Travel and Migration](#) has links to past releases.

Data quality

[International Travel and Migration – DataInfo+](#)

General methodology used to produce international travel and migration statistics.

[International Travel and Migration concepts – DataInfo+](#)

Definitions of terms used in this release.

[Principles and protocols for producers of Tier 1 statistics](#)

Statistics in this release are produced in accordance with the Official Statistics System principles and protocols for producers of Tier 1 statistics for quality. They conform to the Statistics NZ Methodological Standard for Reporting of Data Quality.

Related information

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

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 2pm on a Friday.

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

[Tourism research and data](#) from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment includes results from the International Visitor Survey, Domestic Travel Survey, and tourism forecasts.

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

[Cruise New Zealand data](#) has figures on cruise ship visits and cruise passengers. This includes passengers considered to be 'in transit' by the Immigration Act 2009, who are not included in international travel and migration statistics.

Information about international migration

Statistics NZ's [Migration](#) web page lists migration-related data sources, such as the Longitudinal Immigration Survey (2005–09).

[Migration trends](#) provides information from the Labour and Immigration Research Centre, part of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, which publishes research reports and information about the immigration research programme.

[Immigration New Zealand statistics](#) include application and approval numbers for the main immigration visa types.

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Data quality

See [International Travel and Migration – DataInfo+](#) for the general methodology used to produce international travel and migration statistics.

The link to methodology is also available on the 'Related links' page of this release.

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Tables

See the following Excel tables in the 'Downloads' box on this page. If you have problems viewing the files, see [opening files and PDFs](#).

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. Overseas visitor arrivals, by country of last permanent residence
4. Overseas visitor arrivals, by travel purpose and country of last permanent residence
5. 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, actual counts
10. Permanent and long-term migration, by citizenship, seasonally adjusted series
11. Permanent and long-term migration, by New Zealand region
12. Permanent and long-term arrivals, by visa type and country of last permanent residence

Access more data on Infoshare

Infoshare allows you to organise data in the way that best meets your needs. You can view the resulting tables onscreen or download them.

Use Infoshare

For this release, select the following categories from the Infoshare homepage:

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