

Country paper – New Zealand

A. On your country's currently available international migration statistics

1. Measurement

- What are the criteria applied to identify migrant stock in your country? Is it place of birth, citizenship or background (e.g. origin of parents or the language spoken in the household)?

The criteria for identifying the migrant stock in New Zealand is place of birth. The migrant stock in New Zealand is the overseas born population as derived from the usually resident population in the Census of Population and Dwellings. In terms of identifying recent migrants a time criterion of five to ten years would usually be applied.

- What socio-economic characteristics of the migrants are collected?

All variables collected within the New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings. For example age, sex, ethnic groups, religious affiliation, marital status, languages spoken, tenure holder, highest qualification, sources of personal income, total personal income, labour force status, status in employment, occupation and industry.

Passenger arrivals: date of birth, sex, occupation and country of birth.

2. Concepts and definitions

- How many types of international migrants are categorized in your country? e.g. Lifetime migrant, Recent migrant, Return migrant, Multiple migrant, Refugees, Internally displaced person (IDP)

Statistics New Zealand migration data categorises the following types of international migrants: permanent arrivals and departures, long-term overseas visitor arrivals and departures and long-term New Zealand residents returning and departing.

Immigration New Zealand categorises the following types of international migrants: skilled migrant, family (marriage, parent, child, humanitarian, partnership and other), employees of businesses, entrepreneur category, investor/business investor, refugee, Samoan quota and other.

- What are the definitions used for categorizing the different types of migrants?

Statistics New Zealand categories:

Permanent arrivals: people who arrive in New Zealand intending to stay permanently.

Permanent departures: New Zealand residents departing permanently
Long-term overseas visitor arrivals: overseas visitors who arrive in New Zealand intending to stay for a period of 12 months or more.
Long-term overseas visitor departures: overseas visitors departing New Zealand after a stay of 12 months or more.
Long-term New Zealand residents returning: New Zealand residents returning after an overseas stay of 12 months or more.
Long-term New Zealand residents departing: New Zealand residents departing for an overseas stay of 12 months or more.

Immigration New Zealand categories:

Skilled migrant: Applicants must meet a minimum threshold of 100 points to register an expression of interest in this pool. Expressions of interest are selected from the pool based on a selection point that currently can change fortnightly. After initial verification, applicants are invited to apply through the skilled migrant category.

Family (marriage, parent, child, humanitarian, partnership and other): Enables New Zealand citizens and residents to sponsor family members who do not qualify for residence under any other residence policies. Family sponsors register their relative by way of a ballot from which a set number of applicants are drawn annually. This quota only operates when there are sufficient places in the Family Sponsored Stream (that is, at times of low demand).

Employees of relocating businesses: Established for key people in a business relocating to New Zealand who do not qualify for residence under any other residence category. There is a two year employment period before the residence permit is endorsed.

Entrepreneur category: Established for people who can demonstrate they have successfully set up and operated a business in New Zealand.

Investor/business investor: Applicants must first submit an expression of interest, after which they may be invited to apply for residence. The minimum amount of investment is NZ\$2 million, and these funds are held by the New Zealand Government for five years. Applicants may withdraw up to NZ\$1 million after two years to invest in a business that will benefit New Zealand. Applicants must be no older than 54 years and have at least five years business experience. Conditions will apply for the first five years post residence.

Refugee: New Zealand provides assistance to mandated refugees (people determined to be refugees by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) before arrival in New Zealand). The Government sets the number of places available for mandated refugees under the Refugee Quota.

Samoan quota: Allows for up to 1,100 Samoan citizens, including partners and dependent children, to be granted residence in New Zealand each year. Applicants must have an acceptable offer of employment, be aged 18-45 years, and meet minimum income requirements if they have dependents. Places in this quota are balloted.

- How do elements such as residence, time or duration of stay, and purpose of stay, feature in the definitions?

As per definitions above.

3. Sources of data

- What are the existing sources of migrant stock data in your country?

The five yearly New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings.

- Does a coordination mechanism exist among different sources within the country to produce aggregate statistics? If so, how?

Not applicable.

4. Policy relevance

- Is the currently available migration data sufficient for policy development?

During the content consultation for the 2006 Census, there was user demand for questions in the census on citizenship and residency status. The information need had arisen because of recent growth in immigration, particularly in the numbers of people in New Zealand on temporary permits (eg visitor, student, work). There is a need to differentiate between temporary residents and those who have acquired permanent residency status. This is because the two groups have different needs in the community, and different services are available depending on whether people are arriving in New Zealand with the intention of staying temporarily or permanently.

Statistics New Zealand concluded that citizenship and residency are complex topics and it would not be possible to meet the full information needs with one simple question in the census. Some users would have been satisfied with a simple measure of citizenship, while others thought that citizenship data would only be valuable if residency status was collected as well.

One of the reasons for not including these questions in the census was the range of data available from arrival and departure cards. From 1 July 2003, permanent and long term migrants have been split into three different classes: permanent migrants; long-term visitors; and New Zealand residents overseas for a long-term absence. From 1 July 2003, Statistics New Zealand has been receiving permit-type information with the passport details about migrants that are received from New Zealand Customs. Combining the new permit-type variable and the extra classes with variables such as age, occupation and location should give a significantly improved insight into migration flows, and go a long way towards satisfying the information needs that

were expressed during consultation for the 2006 Census. The first release of permanent and long term migration data split into the three classes was in October 2003.

The Longitudinal Survey of Immigrants will also provide a rich source of information about the settlement patterns of migrants.

- If not, identify the gaps and deficiencies in the currently available migration statistics? (With respect to categories, characteristics, push and pull factors, impact, integration etc)

See above.

- Are data users (policy makers) consulted for the migration data needs?

During consultation on the census topics, a number of key government agencies were consulted. Due to the strong interest in citizenship and related topics, Statistics New Zealand organised a workshop to discuss information needs and potential data uses. The workshop participants were selected from a group that Statistics New Zealand already knew had a strong interest in these topics; namely the Labour Market Policy Group of the Department of Labour, Immigration New Zealand, the Department of Internal Affairs, and Waikato University. However, it was recognized that other agencies and community groups would also have an interest in this topic and the minutes from this workshop were subsequently disseminated to a wider group.

There is a strong relationship between Statistics New Zealand and data suppliers and users of information from the arrival and departure cards: New Zealand Customs, Immigration New Zealand and the Ministry of Tourism.

5. Dissemination

- What is the mode and frequency of disseminating migration data?

Data from both the Population Census and Migration Statistics is disseminated from Statistics New Zealand in hard copy and on the web. Data from the census is disseminated five yearly and migration statistics are disseminated monthly.

- Do you share your country's international migration data with other countries?|

Yes.

If so, how?

Via the web and customised data requests.

B. On the upcoming census

- Is international migration topic included in the upcoming census questionnaire?

A question on international migration is not specifically asked in the New Zealand Census of Population and Dwellings. However, questions on birthplace and usual residence are asked and allow this information to be derived (they were part of the New Zealand 2006 Census from which data is shortly due for release).

- If so, what are the questions that will be included under the international migration topic of the census questionnaire?

Refer section A 1 above.

C. What are your country's best practices and challenges that your country faces in terms of international migration data collection, data analysis and data dissemination that you want to share with the participants of the Expert Group Meeting?

Statistics New Zealand and other Government agencies are committed to best practice in data collection and dissemination. However, there are a number of challenges faced by New Zealand in maintaining information coverage and data quality. A significant challenge is the retention of collection mechanisms such as arrival and departure cards. The data collection environment is under some pressure to maximise passenger flows and minimise administrative burden because of the competing priorities of information gathering, border security, efficiency and profitability of the transport networks and customer satisfaction.

Solutions to these challenges have downstream effects on both data analysis and data dissemination. Data users have multiple types of needs and these needs evolve over time. From one perspective, there is a very strong need for historical information both in its own right and as a contributing element of trend analysis. This requires careful maintenance of information in consistent and comparable form over a long period of time, which necessitates retention of key questions at the data collection phase. Competing with this requirement, new needs for data develop in a changing world to maintain the relevance of the information for data users. This may require new information from data collection phases or new ways of aggregating, disaggregating and presenting data. The solutions to challenges for new data needs are not always compatible with satisfying the needs for historical data. To adequately meet both of these groups of needs, careful and timely

analysis is required. This implies the availability of skilled and experienced data analysts in a world in which retention of skills and experience are increasingly major issues, but are essential assets if these challenges are to be met.

Dissemination has a number of challenges of long-standing: data should be accurate, timely and relevant. But there are some emerging challenges, many of which require the development of new skill-sets or new technologies. Dissemination is increasingly multi-modal, with a growing reliance on internet as the primary vehicle for delivering information to end-users. This requires an excellent knowledge of who the users of the data are, where they are and what their changing needs are. This is increasingly difficult to determine as the range of information users increases in terms of both content and complexity. Information is increasingly required not just at the broad summary level, but also is required at the very detailed level in a form that is compatible with an ever-increasing integration of data from various independent sources. Integration of data is fast becoming the norm in many countries as a means of increasing the depth of understanding of migration processes as well as at the more mundane level of surveillance and control of migrants.

The biggest challenge though is the growing need for comparable international data sources. One of the most rapidly developing objectives of data analysts working in the migration field is to understand the diaspora of their respective countries. There is currently no way of directly measuring the diaspora of any country. The OECD ex-pats project, in which Statistics New Zealand was a participant, has gone part of the way towards addressing this need but there is a very long way to go before the information could be regarded as sufficiently complete to meet user needs. Not only does each country have a significant diaspora, but each country also has a portion of somebody else's diaspora. Increasingly the opportunities associated with diasporas are being recognised as crucial for maintaining the global networks at all levels of international exchange as well as risks, in some cases, to national securities. In a world where labour and leisure markets are intricately interlinked, the challenge is to enable increasingly rapid collection, analysis and dissemination of information without compromising the relevance and reliability of the data.