



New Zealand
Immigration Service
Te Ratonga Menene

Immigration Research Programme

Trends in Residence Approvals 2000/2001

Volume 1

August 2001



**Trends in Residence Approvals
2000/2001**

Volume 1

New Zealand Immigration Service
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1 Executive Summary

1.1 Introduction

This is the first in a series of annual reports that will be produced to provide information on trends in residence approvals. The reports will be completed quarterly, but published annually. They will enable trends in residence approvals to be monitored and will eventually form a time series that will enable comparison of recent trends with those identified in previous years. The current report provides data for the 2000/2001 financial year, from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001. Below is a brief summary of residence approvals in this year. More detailed information on approvals in each residence category can be found in the relevant sections of the report.

1.2 Summary of Residence Approvals in 2000/2001

A total of 44,598 people were approved for residence in 2000/2001. Fifty-four percent of these migrants were approved under the General Skills Category and 28 percent through the Family Category. Six percent of approvals were through the Business Categories, 4 percent through the Humanitarian Category, 3 percent through the Samoan Quota and 2 percent through the Refugee Quota. The remaining 3 percent of approvals were through various 'other' categories.

The top three source countries of residence approvals were Great Britain (accounting for 13 percent of all approvals), India (13 percent) and China (12 percent).

1.3 General Skills and Business Categories

1.3.1 GENERAL SKILLS CATEGORY APPROVALS IN 2000/2001

In 2000/2001, 24,031 (54 percent of all residence approvals) were approved through the General Skills Category. The top three source countries of approvals were India (18 percent), Great Britain (15 percent) and South Africa (15 percent). There was an average of 2.6 people per General Skills Category application.

1.3.2 BUSINESS CATEGORY APPROVALS IN 2000/2001

In 2000/2001, 2,670 people (6 percent of all residence approvals) were approved for residence through the Business Categories. The majority of approvals were in the Investor Category (96 percent), 2 percent were in the Entrepreneur Category and 1 percent were in the Employees of Relocating Businesses Category. Overall, there was an average of 3.4 people per residence application in the Business Categories.

The largest proportion of approvals through the Investor Category were from China (46 percent), followed by Taiwan (26 percent) and South Korea (8 percent).

1.4 Family Category

1.4.1 FAMILY CATEGORY APPROVALS IN 2000/2001

In 2000/2001, 12,685 people (28 percent of all residence approvals) were approved for residence through the Family Category. Nearly half of these approvals (49 percent) were through the Family Marriage sub-category, 34 percent were through the Family Parent sub-category, 6 percent were through the Family de-facto sub-category and 5 percent were through the Family Dependent Child sub-category. The remaining Family Category approvals were in the Family Adult Child, Family Sibling and Family Same Sex sub-categories. There was an average of 1.3 people per Family Category application.

The largest source country of approvals through the Family Marriage sub-category was Great Britain (14 percent), followed by China (12 percent) and India (8 percent). The largest source country of approvals through the Family Parent sub-category was China (23 percent), followed by Fiji (14 percent) and India (14 percent).

1.4.2 HUMANITARIAN CATEGORY APPROVALS IN 2000/2001

In 2000/2001, 1,939 people (4 percent of all residence approvals) were approved for residence through the Humanitarian Category. The largest source country of approvals was Iraq (16 percent), followed by China (14 percent) and Fiji (13 percent). There was an average of 2.6 people per Humanitarian application.

1.5 Refugees

1.5.1 QUOTA REFUGEE APPROVALS IN 2000/2001

In 2000/2001, 769 people were accepted for resettlement to New Zealand under the Refugee Quota Programme. The top three source countries of approvals were Myanmar (25 percent), Somalia (19 percent) and Ethiopia (18 percent). There was an average of 3.1 people per Refugee Quota application.

1.5.2 Successful refugee status claimants residence approvals in 2000/2001

In 2000/2001, 698 successful refugee status claimants were approved for residence. The largest source country of approvals was Iran (22 percent), followed by Sri Lanka (15 percent) and Afghanistan (12 percent). There was an average of 2.2 people per successful refugee status residence application.

1.6 Temporary to Permanent Immigration

People who are in New Zealand on temporary permits are a potentially valuable source of residents. Temporary to permanent migration can be looked at from two perspectives, including, the proportion of current residents who had previously held a temporary permit, and the take-up of residence by those who previously held a temporary permit.

1.6.1 RESIDENTS WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY HELD A TEMPORARY PERMIT

In total, 53 percent of principal applicants approved for residence in 2000/2001 had previously held a student, work or visitor permit at some stage since July 1997¹. Of the top ten residence approval nationalities in 2000/2001, the highest proportion of principal applicants who had held a temporary permit prior to being approved for residence were from Fiji and the Philippines (67 and 66 percent respectively).

1.6.2 CUMULATIVE TAKE-UP OF RESIDENCE BY THOSE WHO HELD A STUDENT OR WORK PERMIT BETWEEN 1997/1998 AND 2000/2001

Between 1997/1998 and 2000/2001 there has been an increase in the number of people approved for both student and work permits. There has also been an increase in these years in the number of people who have held these temporary permits who have subsequently become residents.

There was consistent pattern in the take-up of residence in the years after a person was approved for a work permit. For example, of the principal applicants approved for work permits in 1997/1998, 8 percent had become residents in the same year, 20 percent by the following year and 28 percent by the year following this. Of those approved for work permits in 1998/1999, 8 percent became residents the same year, 21 percent by the following year and 27 percent by the year following this. Similar patterns of residence approvals are emerging for the cohorts approved for work permits in 1999/2000 and 2000/2001.

The take-up of residence each year after a principal applicant was issued with a student permit showed a similar pattern to those approved for work permits. However, a lesser proportion of students than workers went on to become residents over the years.

1.7 Conclusions

A total of 44,598 people were approved for residence in 2000/2001. As with previous years, the majority of these approvals were through the General Skills Category and the Family Categories. The three largest source countries of approvals were Great Britain, India and China.

The analysis of temporary to permanent immigration indicates that there are significant links between temporary and permanent residence. Over half of all principal applicants approved for residence in 2000/2001 had previously held a student, work or visitor permit at some stage since July 1997². This trend is also evident in the cumulative take-up of residence by those who were previously issued with a work or student permit between 1997/1998 and 2000/2001.

This series of annual reports will enable trends in residence approvals to be monitored over time.

¹ This figure does not include people who visited New Zealand for up to three months (or up to six months for Great Britain citizens) from countries that New Zealand has visa-waiver agreements with. These people are currently recorded in MIS in a format that is not available for analysis and therefore the number of people who have previously visited New Zealand is substantially under-reported.

² As indicated, this figure is probably under-reported due to some visitors not being analysed.

2 Introduction and Background

2.1 Introduction

This is the first in a series of reports that will be produced annually to provide information on trends in residence approvals. The reports will enable trends in residence approvals to be monitored and will provide data that is important for policy decisions and for organisational and financial planning. The reports will be compiled quarterly, but only published once annual figures are available. The reports will eventually form a time series that will enable a comparison of recent trends with those identified in previous years.

There was some data that, although of interest, was not available from the Management Information System (MIS)³ for this initial report. It is likely that subsequent reports will include the following additional information: a points profile for General Skills migrants, a points profile for Business Investor migrants, IELTS⁴ scores for migrants (with a breakdown in each skill area) and data on the occupations of migrants, including the occupational classification of job offers in New Zealand. Future reports will be adapted where necessary to monitor new policy initiatives, such as any increases in the number of approvals set by government, management of the Samoan Quota and changes to immigration selection criteria.

This report provides data for the 2000/2001 financial year, from 1 July 2000 to 30 June 2001. In some places, data from previous years is provided to put the current year in context and to illustrate the dynamics of the migration process.

2.2 Objectives

The main aim of this report was to identify, discuss and compare trends and patterns in various aspects of residence approvals in the 2000/2001 financial year. The specific research objectives were:

1. to identify the policy categories and sub-categories migrants were approved for residence under;
2. to describe the demographic characteristics of migrants approved for residence;
3. to develop a profile of the characteristics of those approved for residence under the Business Categories (Entrepreneur, Investor and Employees of Relocating Businesses Categories);
4. to develop a profile of the characteristics of those approved for residence under the General Skills Category, including those who were granted approval in principle and issued with an open work permit;

³ The Management Information System (MIS) is the New Zealand Immigration Service's statistical reporting tool.

⁴ International English Language Testing System.

5. to develop a profile of those approved for residence under each of the family sponsored immigration sub-categories (spouse/partners, dependent children, parents and siblings/adult children);
6. to provide some analysis of those who were previously on temporary permits (work, student or Long Term Business Visas (LTBVs)) who have gone on to become residents; and
7. to eventually develop a time series analysis by comparing patterns identified with those of previous quarters.

2.3 Report Structure

The report is presented in nine main parts. Following this introduction, section three describes the methodology used and discusses some limitations of the data. Section four provides a summary of the characteristics of all those approved for residence in 2000/2001. The next two sections provide a breakdown on those approved under the General Skills and Business Categories, and the Family Category (including the Humanitarian Category). The following section describes the characteristics of refugees in New Zealand. The characteristics of those residents who were previously in New Zealand on a temporary permit are then examined. The final section summarises the data and draws some conclusions.

2.4 Background

Immigration policies influence the type and source countries of immigration to New Zealand. Changes in immigration policy over the years has seen a shift from a system based on a country of origin principle to one based on skill and family connections.

Briefly, people from Europe, especially Great Britain and Ireland, have a long history of immigration to New Zealand. This is a reflection of immigration policy which for more than a century allowed unrestricted access to people of British and Irish birth and descent. This ceased in 1974 after deteriorating economic conditions in New Zealand and a record influx of migrants in the early 1970s led to a review of immigration policy in 1973. From 1974 British migrants were required to obtain entry permits as were other people wishing to immigrate to New Zealand. Since then, there have been a number of changes in immigration policy.

In the early 1980s the main method of regulating immigration was the occupational priority list, which allowed for the entry and residence of people who had skills that were in short supply in New Zealand. In 1986 there was a major review of immigration policy. This led to a change from selecting migrants from traditional source countries, to selection based on personal qualities, employment history, qualifications and potential to contribute to New Zealand. In 1991, there was a shift towards a skills stream based on human capability accumulation, and the points system was introduced. Under this system, which still operates today, applicants can be approved for residence if they achieve a minimum number of points. Applicants must meet the prerequisite English, character and health requirements and achieve a minimum of ten points for qualifications. Applicants can then gain points for other factors, such as, work experience, age and settlement factors. The General Skills

policy was introduced in October 1995. This modified the previous points system to place more emphasis on the transferability of human capability to New Zealand.

Family reunification also accounts for a large part of migrant flows to New Zealand. This category allows for New Zealand citizens and residents to sponsor people to live in New Zealand if they are married to or in a de-facto (including same-sex) relationship with the person, and, in some cases, to sponsor parents, children, and adult siblings to New Zealand.

Other policies allow for the immigration of investors and entrepreneurs, for some people to enter New Zealand under specific humanitarian provisions and for refugee resettlement. There are also immigration flows based on international agreements. This includes the Samoan Quota. Australians also have the right to reside in New Zealand⁵.

Figure 2.1 shows the number of people approved for residence under the various policy categories between 1992/1993 and 2000/2001. More people have been approved under the General or General Skills Category than any other category.

Figure 2.1. Total residence approvals by category from 1992/1993 to 2000/2001.

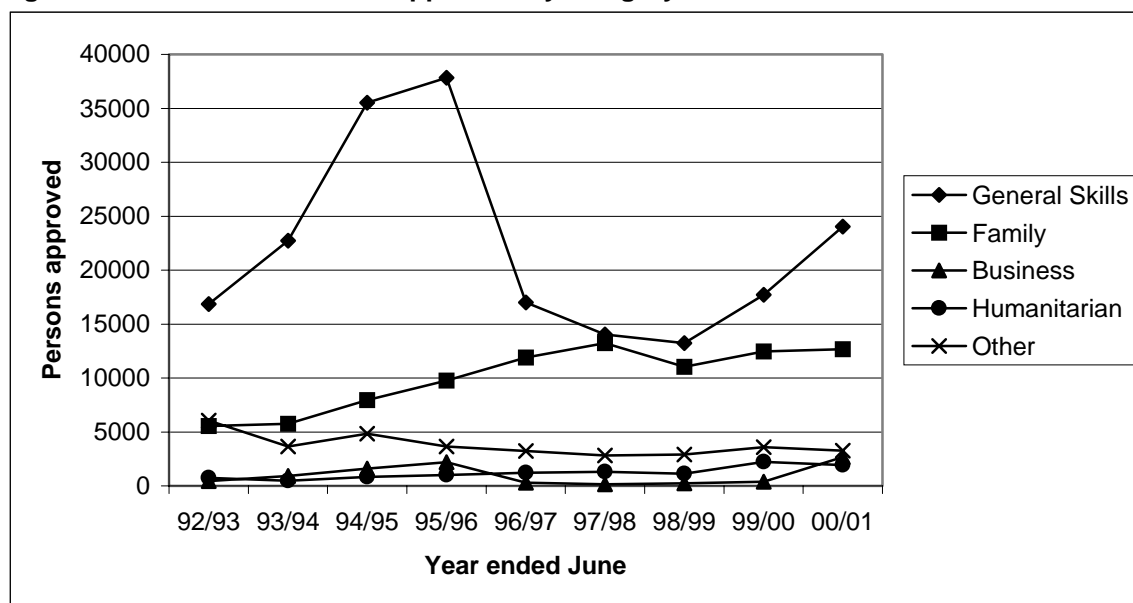
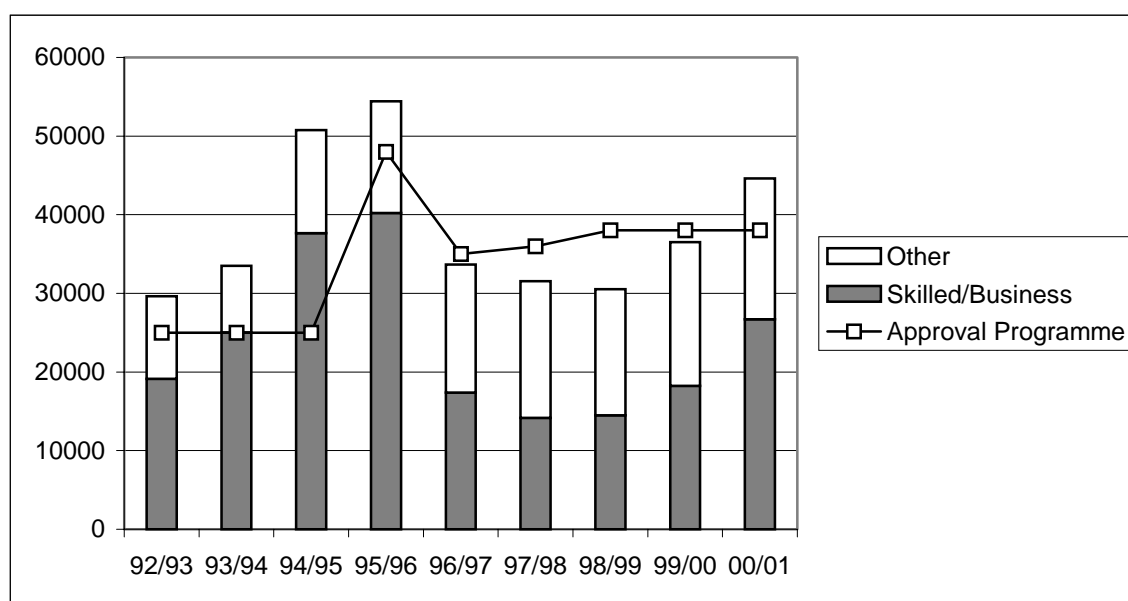


Figure 2.2, below, illustrates the overall numbers of people approved for residence over the past nine years compared with the number of approvals set by the government for each year. These are grouped into the Skilled/Business residence stream and ‘other’ residence categories. The Skilled/Business stream includes General/General Skills⁶ Categories and all Business Categories. The ‘other’ stream includes the Family and Humanitarian Categories, the Samoan Quota and various ‘other’ approvals, such as refugees.

⁵ Citizens and residents of Australia are not required to have either a visa or permit for New Zealand and are therefore not included in the data in this report.

⁶ The ‘General Category’ has been operating since 1991. A review of immigration policy resulted in the introduction of a number of adjustments implemented in the ‘General Skills Category’ from October 1995.

Figure 2.2. People approved for residence compared with the approval programme from 1992/1993 to 2000/2001.



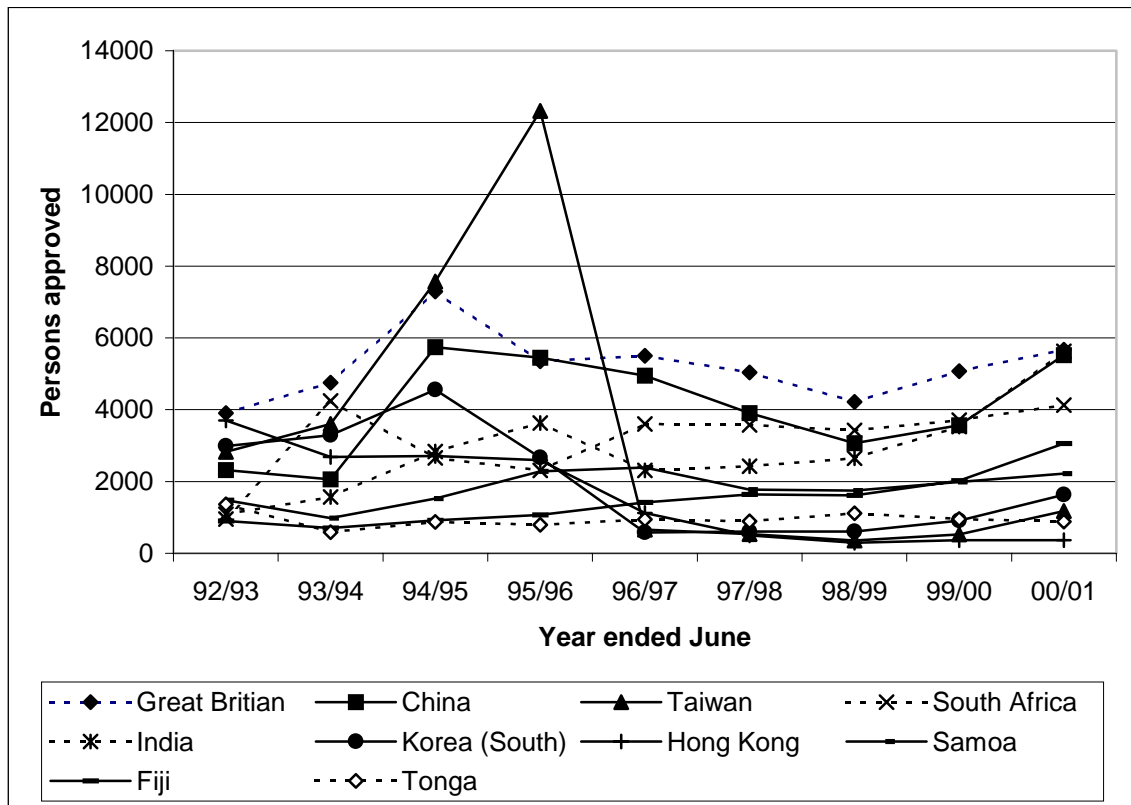
In addition to immigration residence approvals, New Zealand’s population is affected by other migration flows including trans-Tasman migration, the arrival and departure of New Zealand and Australian citizens and the arrival and departure of visitors and people on temporary work or student permits.

2.5 Source Countries

Migrants come to New Zealand from a diverse range of countries, with people from over 140 countries gaining residence each year. Great Britain, the People’s Republic of China and South Africa have been the largest residence markets for the past several years. Together, they accounted for 37 percent of all migrants in 1998/1999 and 34 percent in 1999/2000. India has also been a significant source of migrants in recent years and in 2000/2001 was one of the largest residence markets for New Zealand. Other significant sources of migrants include the Asia and Pacific regions, with Samoa consistently featuring strongly in flows in recent years. Immigration flows from Pacific nations reflect strong international and family linkages between New Zealand and other Pacific nations. Residence flows from the Pacific are partially underpinned by the Samoan Quota, under which up to 1,100 Samoan citizens may be granted residence each financial year.

Figure 2.3 shows trends in residence approvals for the top ten source countries over the past nine years. The number of people approved for residence from these countries can vary substantially from year to year. For example, in 1994/1995 and 1995/1996 large numbers of residence approvals were from Taiwan, and after this the number of Taiwanese residence approvals decreased. From 1996/1997 through to 2000/2001 the residence approvals from the top ten countries have been relatively stable, although the current increase in migrants from India and China is of note.

Figure 2.3. Top ten source countries for residence approvals from 1992/1993 to 2000/2001.



3 Methodology

3.1 Introduction

This report is based on an analysis of certain variables from the New Zealand Immigration Service's (NZIS's) Management Information System (MIS).

The data for the report was generated using Microsoft Access to query MIS on the variables of interest. The MIS data that the report is based on was generated between 20 July and 27 July 2001 and relate to the data as it was recorded in that week.

This data was then imported into Access and Excel for further analysis.

3.2 Definitions and classifications

Below is a description of some of the key immigration terms used in the report. Further descriptions of the Immigration Programme and residence approval categories are included in Appendix B.

Management Information System (MIS): MIS is the NZIS's reporting tool. MIS draws data on a weekly basis from the NZIS's records.

MIS went 'live' on 1 October 1997. However, data is available from MIS from 1 July 1997 as it was imported into MIS from the previous 'Residence Information Management System' (RIMS). Data prior to July 1997 was obtained for this report from RIMS.

Permit: A permit allows a person to remain in New Zealand in accordance with the permit's conditions. All permits expire when the holder leaves New Zealand (if not before).

Unless otherwise specified, 'permit' is used throughout this report to denote both permits and visas. In the NZIS's operational reporting, an application is said to be finalised when either a visa is issued to an offshore applicant, or a permit is issued to an onshore applicant. When a person arrives at a New Zealand border with a visa they are issued with a corresponding permit – which is not counted again.

Principal applicant: The principal applicant is the person assessed against the policy criteria.

Residence policy: People wishing to migrate to New Zealand may gain residence under one of the categories listed in Appendix B. Residence applications are considered on the basis of whether the 'principal applicant' meets the policy criteria. The principal applicant may include their partner and dependent children in the application. All applicants must meet standard health and character requirements.

Residence streams: In some places throughout the report, data is broken down into the 'Skilled/Business' residence stream and 'other' residence categories. The Skilled/Business stream includes the General and General Skills Categories and all Business Categories. The other residence categories include the Family and Humanitarian Categories, the Samoan Quota, refugees, Ministerial direction and

various 'other' approvals. A full breakdown of these streams is provided in Appendix A.

Visa: A visa indicates that the issuing officer knows of no reason why the visa holder should not be granted a permit on arrival in New Zealand.

Year: The data is reported by financial year. The financial year runs from 1 July to 30 June.

3.3 Limitations

The data reported relates to the number of people approved for residence rather than the number of migrants arriving in the 2000/2001 year. People approved for residence have one year in which to move to New Zealand, however, some people may be approved for residence and then decide not to take it up. Also, MIS data reflects the total number of applications for residence, rather than the number of people approved. In some cases an applicant may have more than one residence application recorded in the NZIS's records (and therefore in MIS) in the period of interest. This typically occurs for administrative purposes, for example, an Immigration Officer may discover that he or she has spelt an applicant's surname incorrectly and then will reissue the application, therefore a new application is recorded in the NZIS's records. To address this issue, any duplicate client codes were removed before the data was analysed.

Also, the data used in this report relates to the date the residence application was decided, rather than the date the residence application was completed. This distinction is made in MIS where date decided refers to the date the decision was made to approve a person for residence and the date completed refers to the date the application was completed and the visa or permit label was issued and endorsed in the applicant's passport. It is possible that a small number of decided applications will not go on to be completed. Date decided was used in this report to be consistent with other NZIS reporting, such as the MIS Monthly Report.

Section eight looks at the links between temporary and permanent immigration, including an analysis of those approved for residence in 2000/2001 who had previously held a work, visitor or student permit. A caveat with regard to data on visitors to New Zealand is that people who visit New Zealand for up to three months (or up to six months for Great Britain citizens) from countries that New Zealand has visa-waiver agreements with are currently recorded in MIS in a format that is not available for analysis. Therefore, the number of people who had held a visitor permit prior to being approved for residence is substantially under-reported. A full list of the countries to which New Zealand has granted a visa-waiver is included in Appendix D.

4 Summary of Residence Approvals in 2000/2001

4.1 Introduction

This section provides an overview of the characteristics of those approved for residence in the 2000/2001 financial year. Data is presented at a high level for all residence categories, including proportions approved in each residence category, the nationalities of approvals and the age ranges of approvals. More detailed information on the characteristics of approvals in each residence category is provided in further sections of the report. A brief description of those declined for residence in 2000/2001 is also included.

Appendix E provides a breakdown of all Residence approvals in 2000/2001 by category of approval and nationality.

4.2 People Declined for Residence

A total of 3,893 people had their applications for residence declined in 2000/2001⁷. The majority of these people (80 percent) were declined because they failed the policy criteria. Some examples of failing the policy criteria include not having sufficient points for residence under the General Skills Category and not having a ‘genuine and stable marriage’ in the Family Marriage sub-category. Eleven percent failed the English language requirements and 5 percent were declined on character grounds. The remaining 4 percent were declined for various ‘other’ reasons.

The largest source country of declined applications was India (15 percent), followed by Fiji (12 percent), China (11 percent) and Great Britain (7 percent).

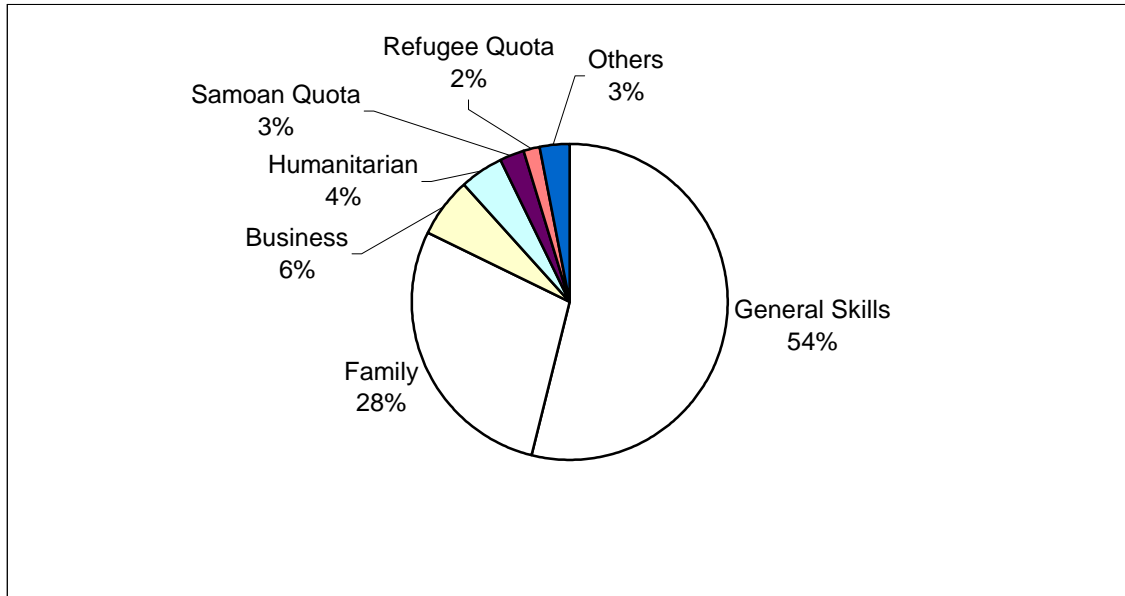
4.3 Residence Approvals by Category

Figure 4.1 below shows the total numbers of people approved for residence in 2000/2001 and the category of approval⁸.

⁷ Administrative applications issued for reasons such as ‘declined lapsed’, ‘inactivated/duplicate application’ and ‘refused to consider’ were not counted in the total decline figure.

⁸ Residence permits that were issued for the administrative reasons of ‘replace’, ‘sponsor process’ or ‘confirmation’ were not counted in the data in this report.

Figure 4.1. Residence approvals by category in 2000/2001. Year total = 44,598.



A total of 44,598 people were approved for residence in 2000/2001. The majority of migrants were approved under the General Skills and Family Categories. Together, these categories accounted for over 80 percent of residence approvals. These categories have typically accounted for the majority of approvals in previous years (see Figure 2.1).

Table 4.1 (over page) provides a more detailed breakdown of residence approvals in 2000/2001 including the categories and sub-categories of approvals.

Table 4.1 Residence approvals by category and sub-category in 2000/2001. Year total = 44,598.

Category	Number of people approved	Proportion of all residence Approvals
1995 General Skills Category	23,980	
1991 General Category	51	
General/General Skills Category Total	24,031	54%
Family Marriage	6,077	
Family Parent	4,351	
Family de-facto	820	
Family Child Dependent	650	
Family Child Adult	398	
Family Sibling	333	
Family Same Sex	56	
Family Category Total	12,685	28%
Investor Category	2,567	
Entrepreneur Category	64	
Employees of Businesses Relocating	34	
1991 Business Investment Category	4	
1995 Business Investor	1	
Business Category Total	2,670	6%
Humanitarian Category Total	1,939	4%
Samoan Quota Total	1200	3%
Refugee Protection	617	
Refugee Other	55	
Refugee Women at Risk	51	
Refugee Medical	41	
Refugee Emergency	5	
Refugee Quota Total	769	2%
Refugee Status	698	
Ministerial Direction	462	
Transition 33(2)	98	
Section 35A	46	
'Other' Total	1,304	3%
Overall Total	44,598	100%

4.4 Number of people per application

Overall, there was an average of 2.0 people per residence application. The smallest application size was one person and the largest application size was 13 people.

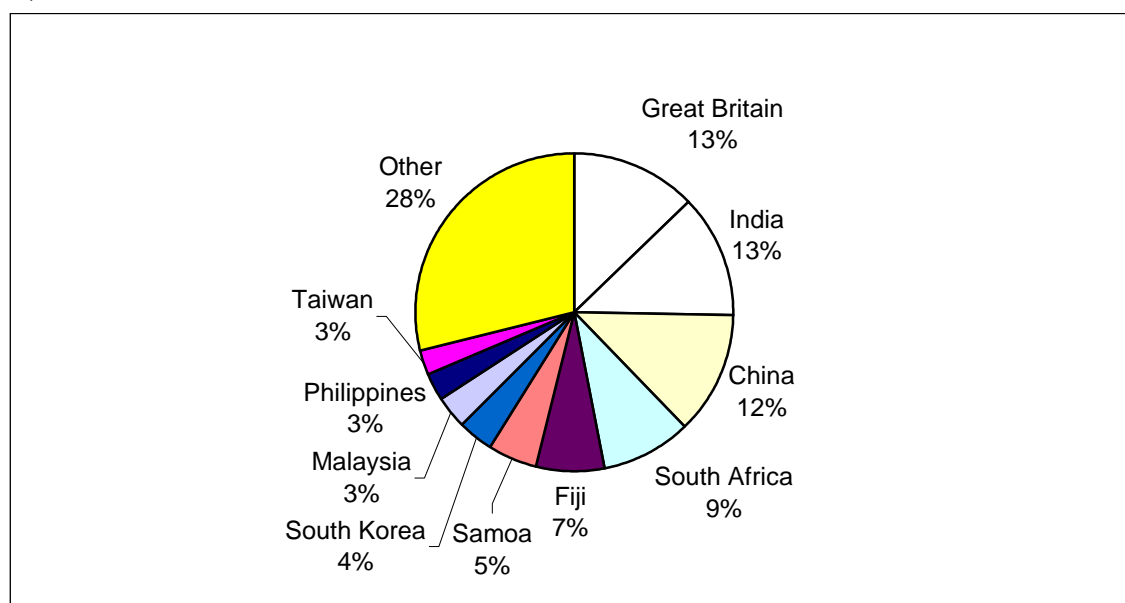
Applications in the Skilled/Business stream were on average larger than applications through other categories. There was an average of 2.6 people per Skilled/Business application and 1.5 people for other applications.

4.5 Nationality of approvals

4.5.1 NATIONALITY OF ALL RESIDENCE APPROVALS

Figure 4.2 below illustrates the nationalities of residence approvals in 2000/2001. Great Britain, India and China were the single largest source countries (accounting for 13, 13 and 12 percent of all residence approvals respectively). This differed from 1999/2000 when the three largest source countries were Great Britain (13 percent), South Africa (10 percent) and China (10 percent). In 1999/2000, India made up just under 10 percent of all residence approvals.

Figure 4.2. Residence approvals by top ten nationalities for 2000/2001. Year total = 44,598.



4.5.2 NATIONALITY OF SKILLED/BUSINESS AND OTHER APPROVALS

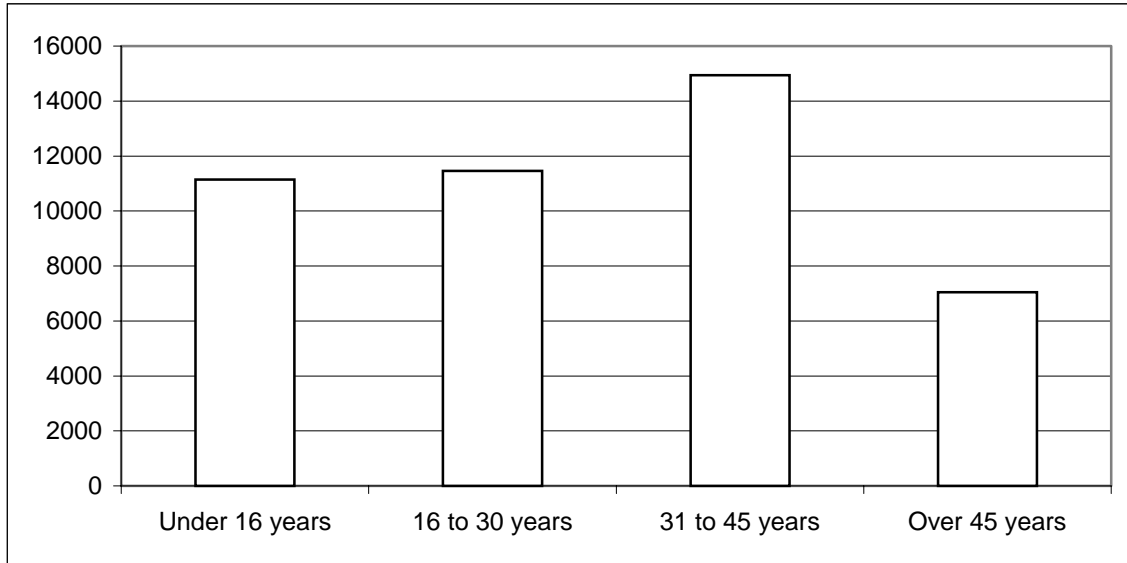
The largest source country of residence approvals in the Skilled/Business residence stream was India (16 percent). This was followed by Great Britain (14 percent), South Africa (13 percent) and China (12 percent).

The largest source of residence approvals through other residence categories was China (13 percent), followed by Samoa (12 percent), Great Britain (11 percent) and Fiji (9 percent).

4.6 Age ranges of approvals

Figure 4.3 shows the age ranges of all residence approvals in 2000/2001. A large proportion of migrants (34 percent) were aged between 31 and 45 years. A quarter of migrants were under the age of 16, and 26 percent were aged between 16 and 30 years. A smaller proportion of migrants (16 percent) were over the age of 45.

Figure 4.3. Age range of residence approvals in 2000/2001. Year total = 44,598



5 General Skills and Business Categories

5.1 Introduction

This section provides a breakdown and analysis of residence approvals through the General Skills and Business Categories in 2000/2001. It is likely that future reports will include data that was not available for this report. This includes; a points profile for General Skills migrants (for example, numbers with job offers in New Zealand and numbers with New Zealand qualifications), IELTS scores for General Skills migrants (with a breakdown in each skill area), a points profile for Business Investor migrants and the occupations of the migrants.

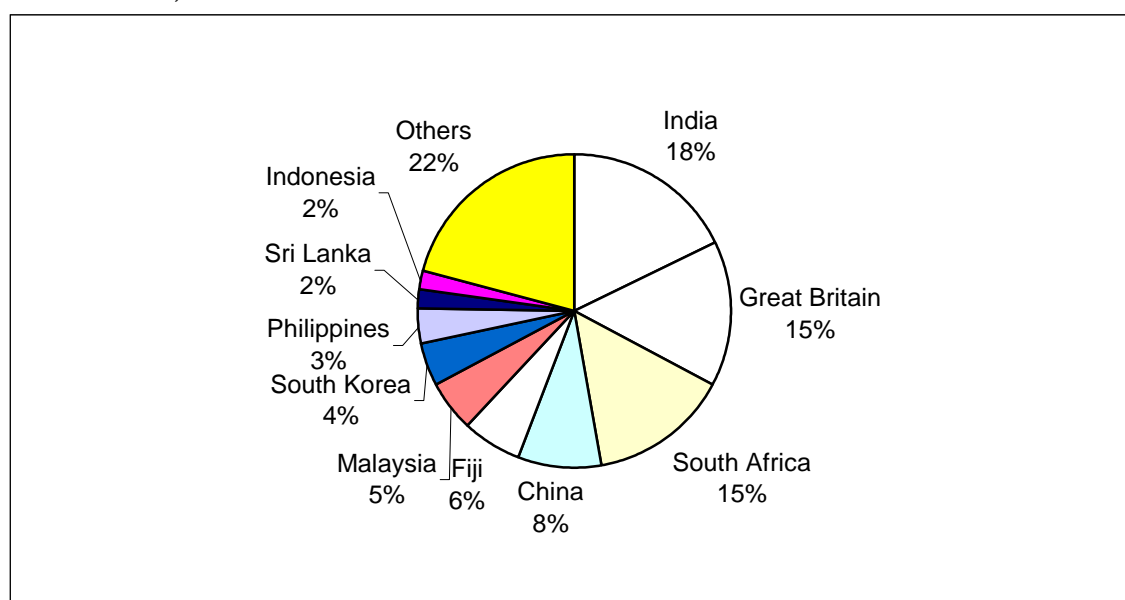
5.2 General Skills Category

The General Skills points system is designed to select highly skilled migrants who are likely to settle well and make a positive contribution to New Zealand. Further information on the General Skills Category and on the points system for 2000/2001 can be found in Appendices B and C.

5.2.1 GENERAL SKILLS CATEGORY APPROVALS IN 2000/2001

In the 2000/2001 year, 54 percent (24,031)⁹ of all residence approvals were through the General Skills Category. The top ten nationalities of migrants approved under this category are illustrated below in Figure 5.1. The three largest source countries were India (18 percent), Great Britain (15 percent) and South Africa (15 percent).

Figure 5.1. General Skills Category approvals by top ten nationalities for 2000/2001.
Year total = 24,031.



⁹ This figure includes 51 people approved under the 1991 General Category as well as those approved through the 1995 General Skills Category.

5.2.2 NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER APPLICATION

There was an average of 2.6 people listed on each General Skills Category application. The smallest application size was one person and the largest application size was 10 people.

5.2.3 AGE AND GENDER OF APPROVALS

Figures 5.2 and 5.3, below, show the age ranges and gender of those approved for residence through the General Skills Category in 2000/2001. Forty percent of approvals were between the ages of 31 and 45 years, 30 percent were under 16 years and 22 percent were between 16 and 30 years. Seven percent of approvals were over the age of 45.

The small proportion of General Skills migrants over the age of 45 is a reflection of the points system which does not allow principal applicants to be older than 56 at the time the application is made. Maximum points for age are awarded to those between 25 and 29 years with points for age decreasing after this. Zero points are awarded for age to those between 50 and 55 years (see Appendix C).

There was a slightly higher proportion of males approved through the General Skills Category (51 percent) than females (49 percent). Of the principal applicants approved through the General Skills Category, 63 percent were male and 37 percent were female. Of the non-principal applicants approved through the General Skills Category, 56 percent were female and 44 percent were male.

Figure 5.2. Age ranges of General Skills approvals in 2000/2001. Year total =24,031.

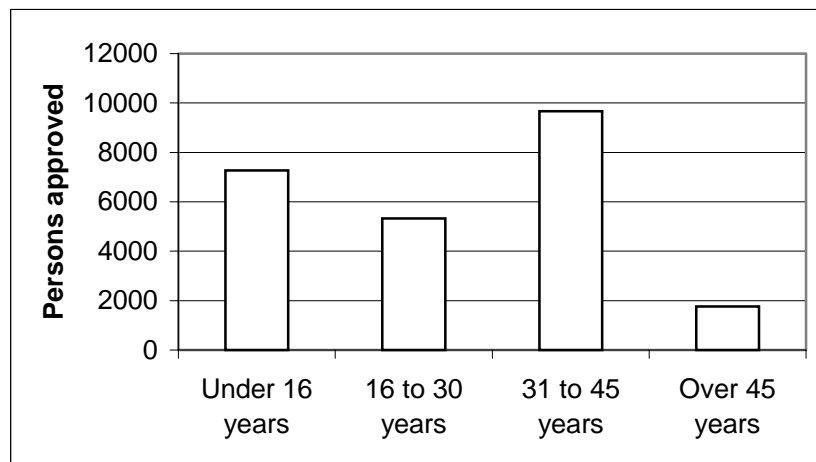
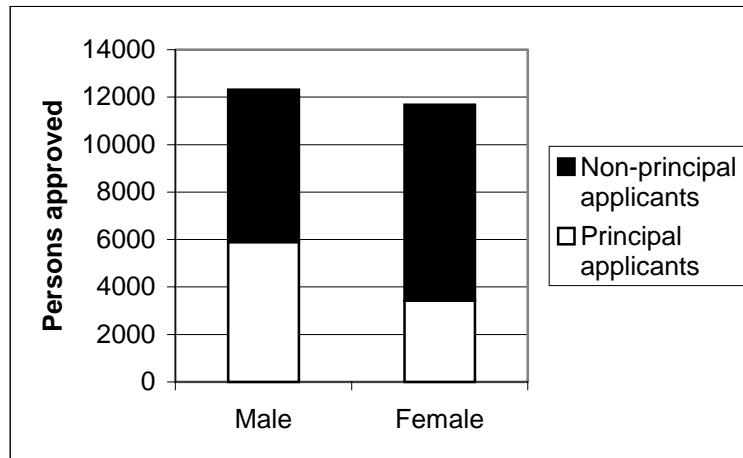


Figure 5.3. Gender of General Skills approvals in 2000/2001¹⁰. Year total = 24,031.



5.2.4 APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE

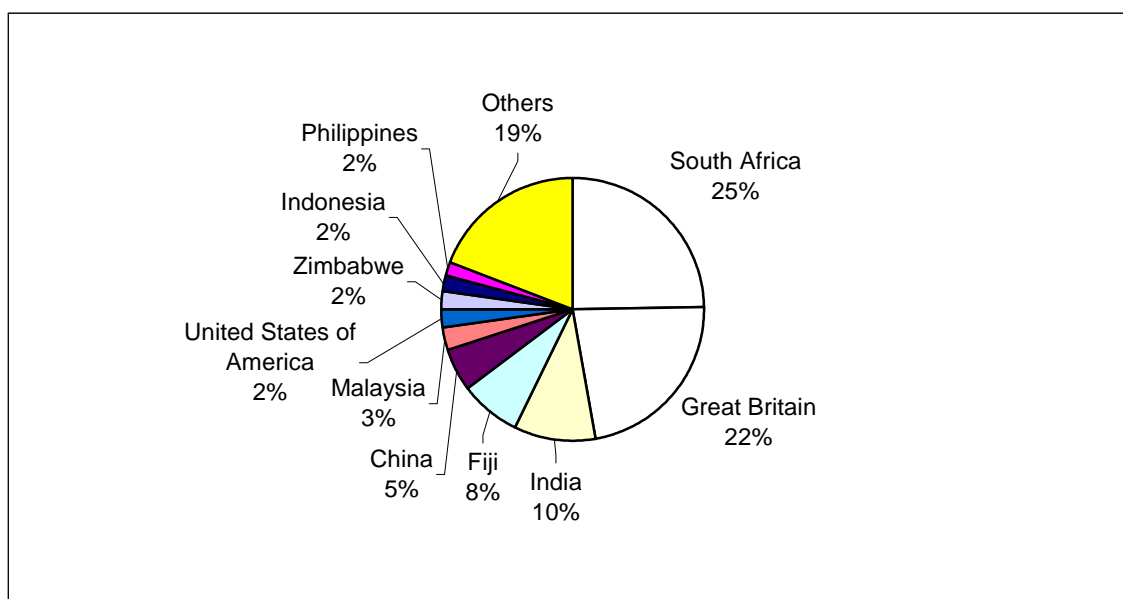
Since March 2000, principal applicants through the General Skills Category who are within five points of the passmark, who have not been awarded points for an offer of employment and who meet the necessary health, character and English language requirements, may apply for an open work visa or permit. A work permit enables such applicants to search for a job in New Zealand for up to six months with the aim of gaining a job offer and sufficient points for residence. The residence application is deferred for a period of up to nine months and then further assessed if an acceptable offer of employment is provided to the NZIS within the deferral period.

Between March 2000 and 30 June 2001, 975 principal applicants¹¹ were granted approval in principle and issued with an open work permit to job search in New Zealand. Figure 5.4 shows the nationalities of those issued with open work permits. The largest source country was South Africa (25 percent), followed by Great Britain (22 percent) and India (10 percent).

¹⁰ The gender of 0.1 percent of those approved under the General Skills Category in 2000/2001 was recorded as 'unknown'.

¹¹ Of these people, 85 were approved in the last three months of the 1999/2000 financial year and 890 were approved in the 2000/2001 financial year.

Figure 5.4. Nationalities of those issued with open work permits to job search in New Zealand. March 2000 to June 2001 total = 975.



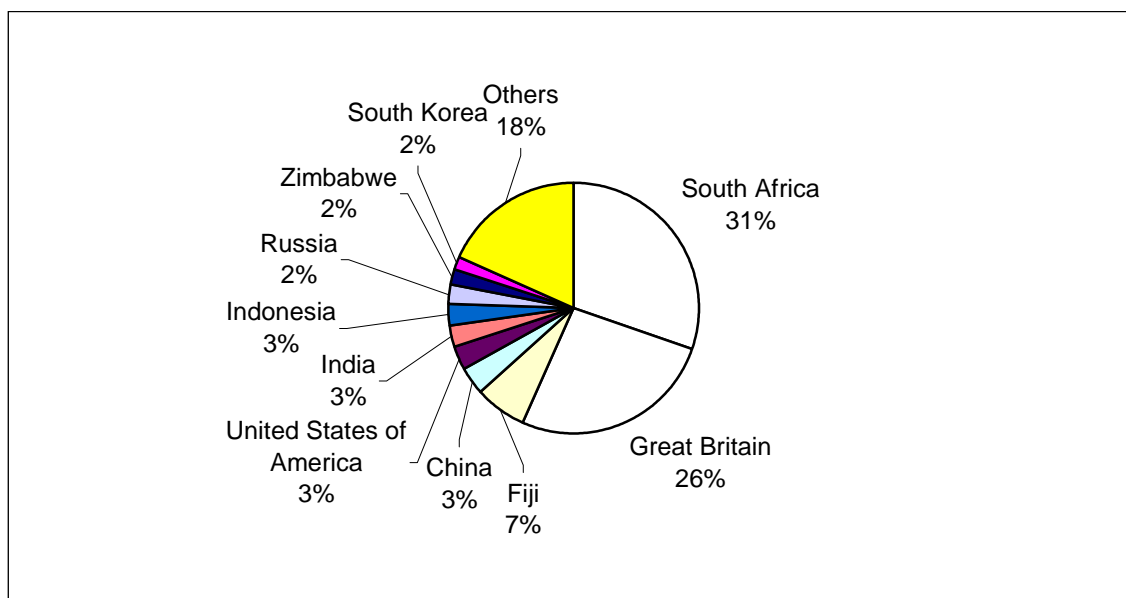
Of all the principal applicants granted an open work permit to job search in New Zealand between March 2000 and June 2001, 443 (45 percent) had become residents through the General Skills Category by the end of 2000/2001¹².

Figure 5.5 shows the nationalities of those who went on to become residents. The largest source country was South Africa (31 percent), followed by Great Britain (26 percent) and Fiji (7 percent). It is interesting to note that although India was in the top three countries of people approved with open work permits, they were only the sixth largest country to go from open work permits to residence.

It is likely that further people issued with open work permits between March 2000 and July 2001 will go on to become residents subsequent to the 2000/2001 financial year. In the longer term, the cumulative take-up of residence by those granted open work permits to search for a job in New Zealand will be of interest.

¹² Of these people, 3 were approved in the last three months of the 1999/2000 financial year and 440 were approved for residence in the 2000/2001 financial year.

Figure 5.5. Nationalities of those approved for residence through the General Skills Category who had been issued an open work permit between 1 March 2000 and 30 June 2001. March 2000 to June 2001 total = 443.



5.3 Business Categories

Business immigration policy seeks to increase New Zealand's level of human and investment capital as well as increase enterprise and innovation and foster international links.

In March 1999 a new business policy was introduced. The new business immigration policy recognises that there are distinct markets for business immigration and provides business people who wish to migrate to New Zealand with a greater range of opportunities than were previously available. The categories introduced in March 1999 were: the Investor Category, Entrepreneur Category, and Employees of Relocating Businesses Category. In addition, a temporary category, the Long Term Business Visa, was introduced. More detail on these categories can be found in Appendix B.

5.3.1 TOTAL BUSINESS APPROVALS IN 2000/2001

In 2000/2001, 2,670 people (6 percent of all residence approvals) were approved for residence through the Business Categories. The majority of these approvals were in the Investor Category (96 percent), 64 approvals (2 percent) were in the Entrepreneur Category and 34 approvals (1 percent) were in the Employees of Relocating Businesses Category. Less than 1 percent of approvals were through the now closed Business Investor Category, which operated between 1995 and 1999.

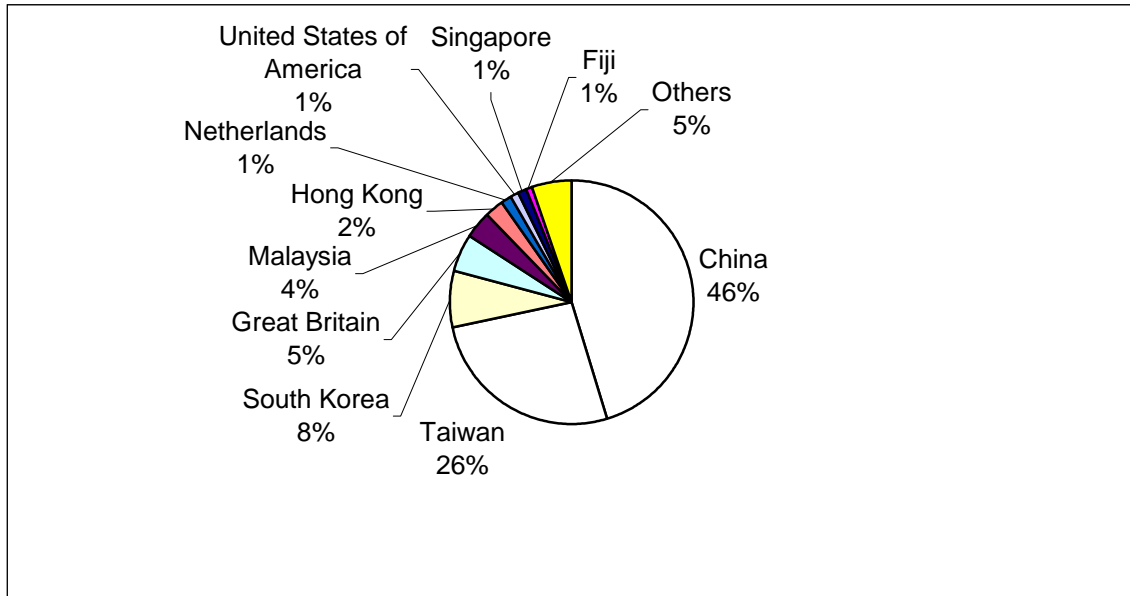
5.3.2 NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER APPLICATION

Overall, there was an average of 3.4 people per Business residence application in 2000/2001. The Investor Category had an average of 3.4 people per application and the Entrepreneur Category an average of 3.0 people per application. Employees of Relocating Businesses Category applications were smaller on average (2.4 people).

5.3.3 INVESTOR CATEGORY

Figure 5.6 shows the nationalities of those approved for residence through the Investor Category in 2000/2001. The largest source country was China (46 percent), followed by Taiwan (26 percent) and South Korea (8 percent).

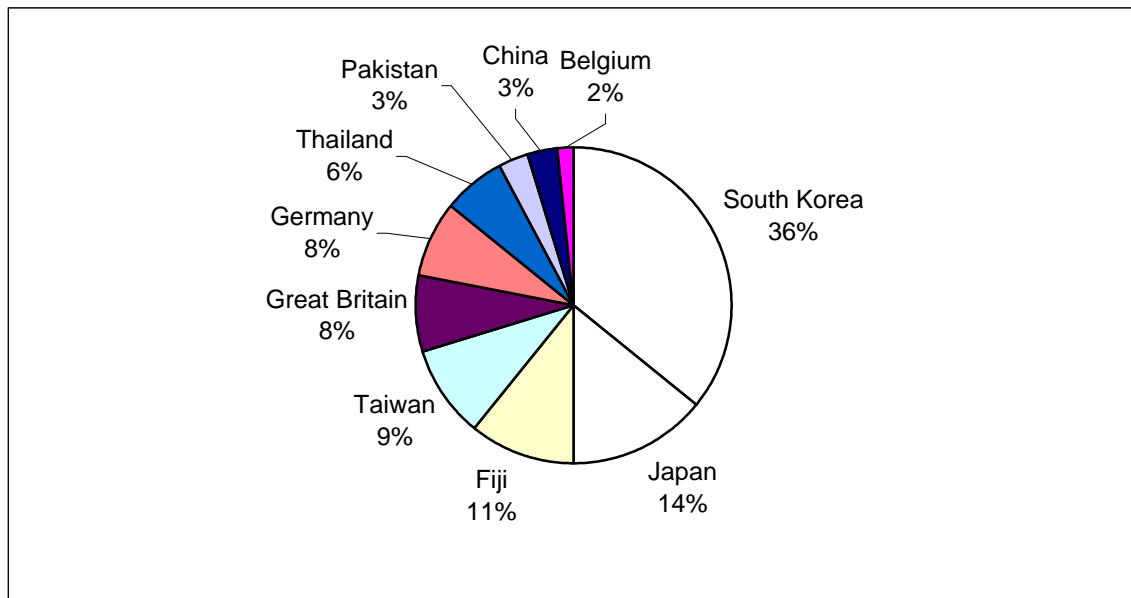
Figure 5.6. Nationalities of Investor Category approvals in 2000/2001. Year total = 2,567.



5.3.4 ENTREPRENEUR CATEGORY

Figure 5.7 shows the nationalities of those approved through the Entrepreneur Category in 2000/2001. The largest source country of approvals was South Korea (36 percent), followed by Japan (14 percent) and Fiji (11 percent). However, note that only 64 people were approved in this category.

Figure 5.7. Nationalities of Entrepreneur Category approvals in 2000/2001¹³. Year total = 64.



5.3.4 LONG TERM BUSINESS VISAS AND THE ENTREPRENEUR CATEGORY

The Long Term Business Visa (LTBV) is a temporary immigration category that caters for people who are interested in applying for residence through the Entrepreneur Category, or those who are interested in establishing a business in New Zealand but not living permanently in New Zealand.

Since March 1999 when the category was introduced, 3,115 people were approved for LT BVs¹⁴. In 2000/2001, nine people who had held a LT BV at some stage since the policy was introduced had become residents through the Entrepreneur Category. Four of these people were from Germany, three were from South Korea, one was from Japan and one was from China.

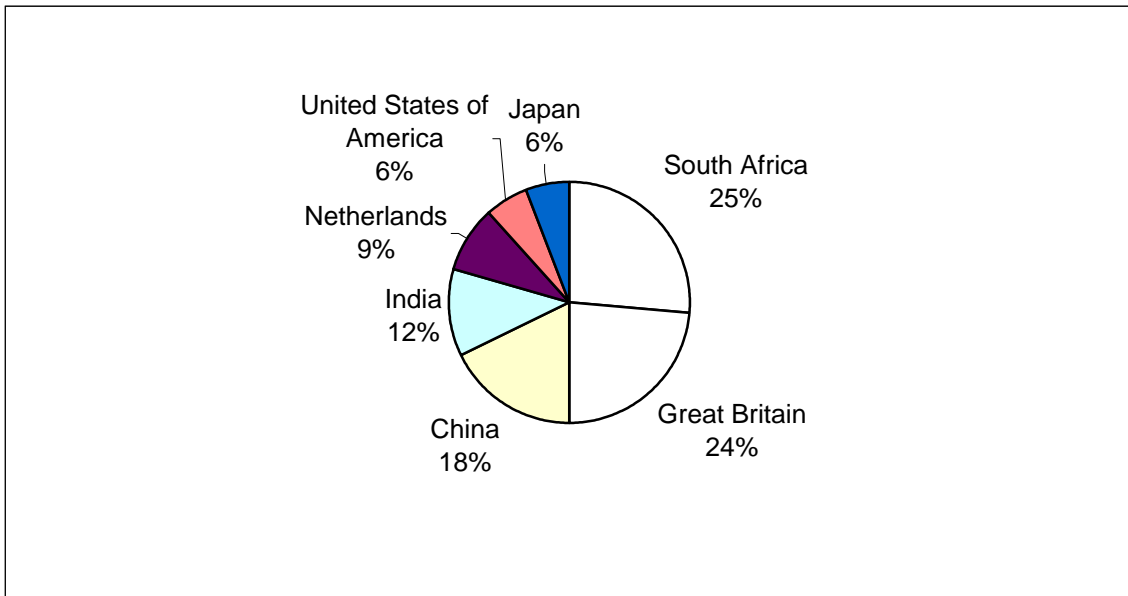
5.3.5 EMPLOYEES OF RELOCATING BUSINESSES CATEGORY

Figure 5.8 shows the nationalities of approvals through the Employees of Relocating Businesses Category. The largest source country was South Africa (25 percent), followed by Great Britain (24 percent) and China (18 percent). Note that only 34 people were approved under this category.

¹³ Only people from these ten countries were approved through the Entrepreneur Category in 2000/2001.

¹⁴ This includes principal and secondary applicants.

Figure 5.8. Nationalities of Employees of Relocating Businesses Category approvals in 2000/2001¹⁵. Year total = 34.



¹⁵ Only people from these countries were approved through the Employees of Relocating Businesses Category in 2000/2001.

6 Family Category

6.1 Introduction

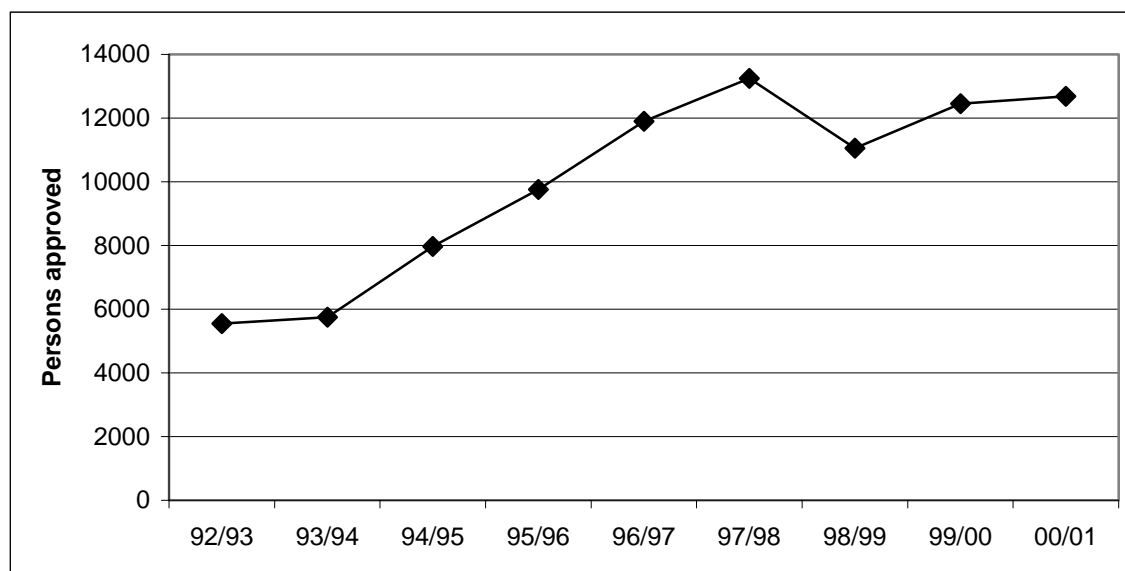
This section provides a breakdown of those approved through the Family Category overall, and its various sub-categories. The characteristics of those approved through the Humanitarian Category are also examined.

6.2 Family Category approval trends over time

The Family Category enables close family members of New Zealand residents and citizens to be granted residence.

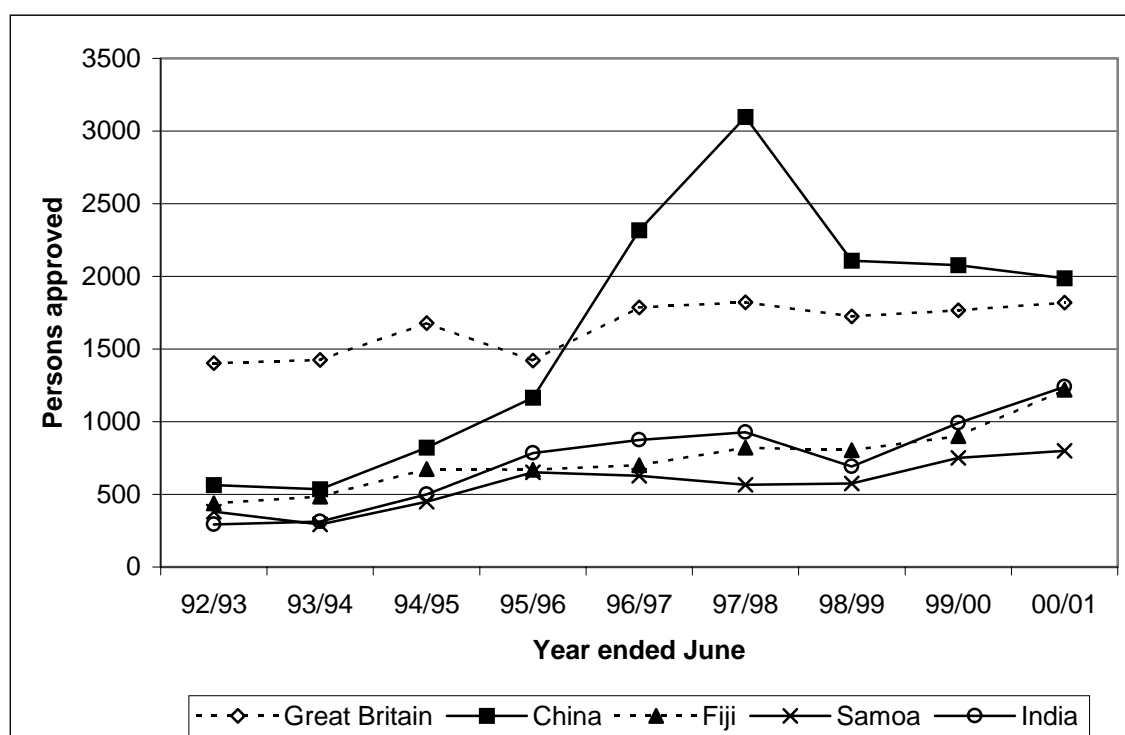
Figure 6.1 shows approvals through the Family Category between 1992/1993 and 2000/2001. The number of people approved through the Family Category increased between 1993/1994 and 1997/1998 and has since levelled off. Approvals through the Family Category have remained relatively stable in the last two years.

Figure 6.1. Total approvals through the Family Category between 1992/1993 and 2000/2001.



The top five nationalities of approvals through the Family Category in recent years are illustrated in Figure 6.2 below. China has been the largest source of approvals through the Family Category since 1996/1997. Approvals from Great Britain, Fiji, Samoa and India have been relatively stable over the years, although, an increase in people from India and Fiji is of note in recent years.

Figure 6.2. Top five nationalities of Family Category approvals between 1992/1993 and 2000/2001¹⁶

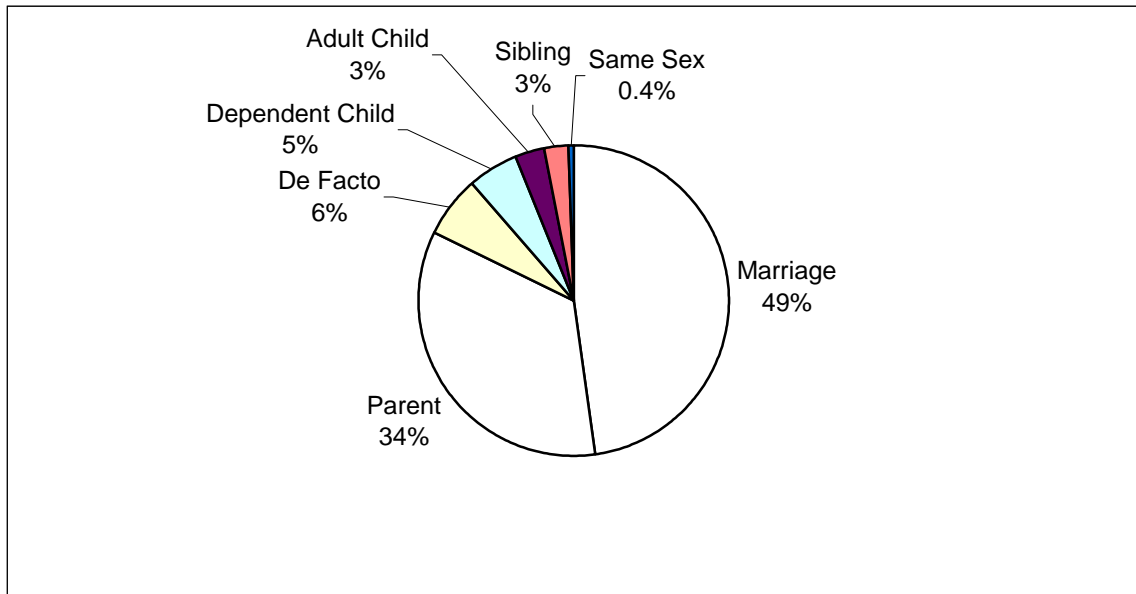


6.3 Family Category approvals in 2000/2001

In 2000/2001 a total of 12,685 people (28 percent of all residence approvals) were approved for residence through the Family Category. Figure 6.3 below shows the sub-categories that people were approved under. Nearly half of the people approved were the spouse of a New Zealand citizen or resident, 34 percent were the parent of a person living in New Zealand, 6 percent were the de-facto partner of a New Zealand citizen or resident and 5 percent were the dependent child of a person living in New Zealand.

¹⁶ These figures represent the nationalities that have most consistently been in the top five source countries of Family Category approvals between 1992/1993 and 2000/2001. In 1994/1995 and 1995/1996 Hong Kong appeared in the top five nationalities of approvals and in 1998/1999 Tonga was in the top five nationalities.

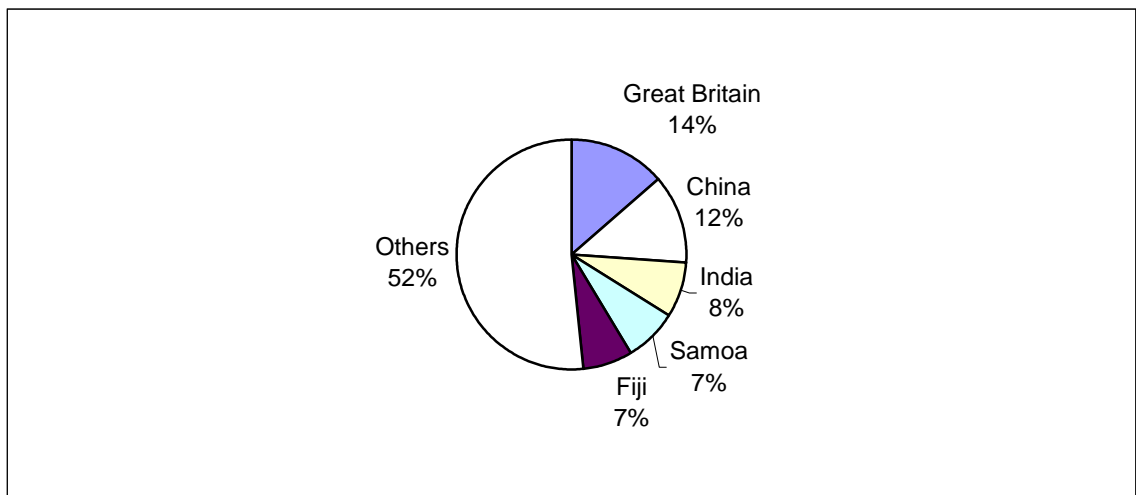
Figure 6.3. Approvals through the Family Category in 2000/2001. Year total = 12,685.



6.3.1 FAMILY MARRIAGE

Figure 6.4 below shows the top five nationalities of those approved through the Family Marriage sub-category in 2000/2001. The largest source of approvals was Great Britain (14 percent), followed by China (12 percent) and India (8 percent).

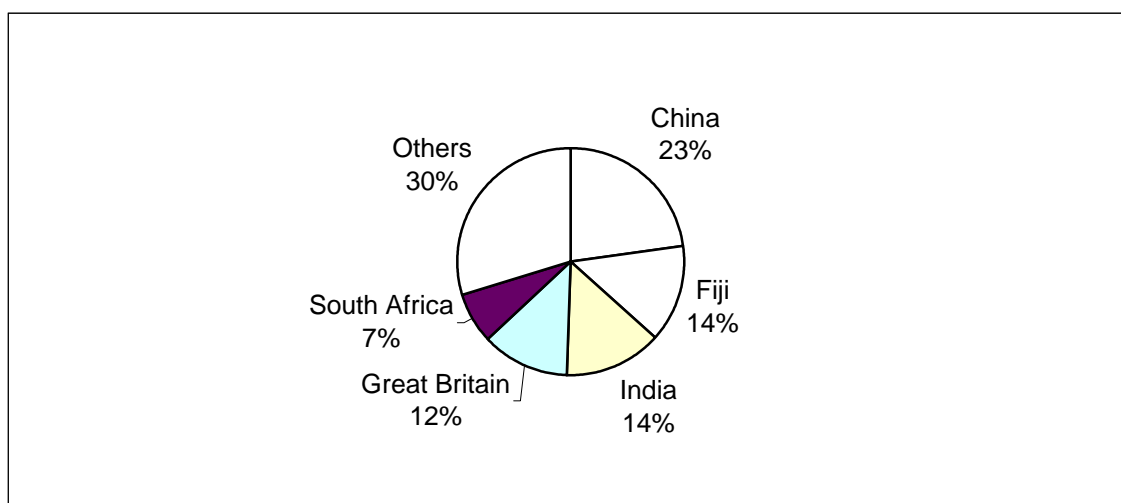
Figure 6.4. Top five nationalities of Family Marriage approvals in 2000/2001. Year total = 6,077.



6.3.2 FAMILY PARENT

The top five nationalities of approvals through the Family Parent sub-category in 2000/2001 are shown in Figure 6.5 below. The largest source country was China (23 percent), followed by Fiji (14 percent) and India (14 percent).

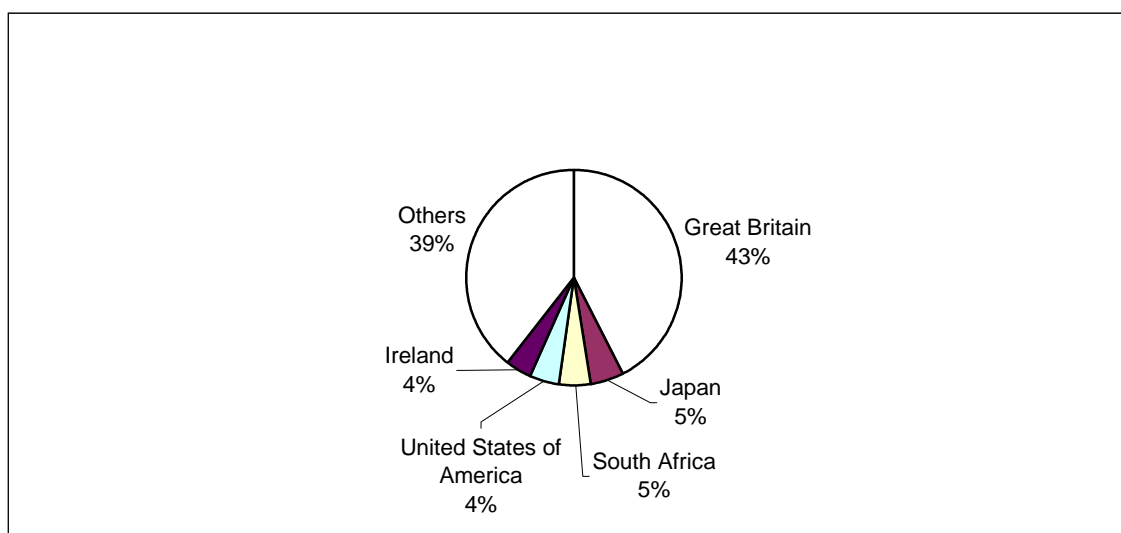
Figure 6.5. Top five nationalities of Family Parent approvals in 2000/2001. Year total = 4,351.



6.3.3 FAMILY DE-FACTO

Figure 6.6 shows the top five nationalities of approvals through the Family de-facto and Family Same Sex sub-categories. A large proportion of approvals were from Great Britain (43 percent). Five percent of approvals were from Japan and 5 percent were from South Africa.

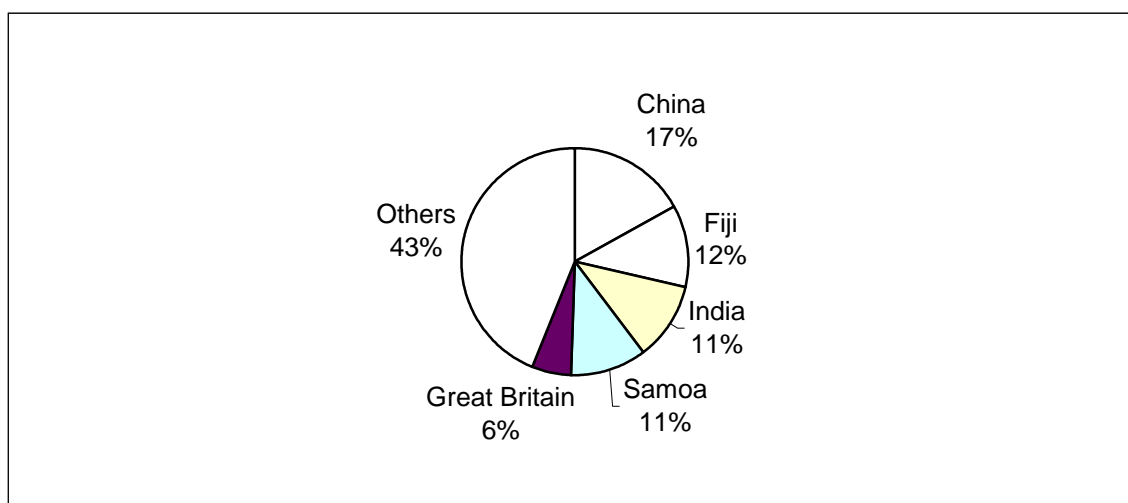
Figure 6.6. Top five nationalities of Family de-facto (including same sex) approvals in 2000/2001. Year total = 876.



6.3.4 'OTHER' FAMILY APPROVALS

Figure 6.7 shows the nationalities of those approved through 'other' Family sub-categories in 2000/2001. This includes Family Dependent Child, Family Adult Child and Family Sibling. The largest source country of approvals through these sub-categories was China (17 percent), followed by Fiji (12 percent) and India (11 percent).

Figure 6.7. Top five nationalities of 'other' Family approvals in 2000/2001. Year total = 1,437.



6.3.5 NUMBERS OF PEOPLE PER APPLICATION

The average number of people per Family application was 1.3. The majority of applications (78 percent) consisted of only one person. The largest sized application was 12 people.

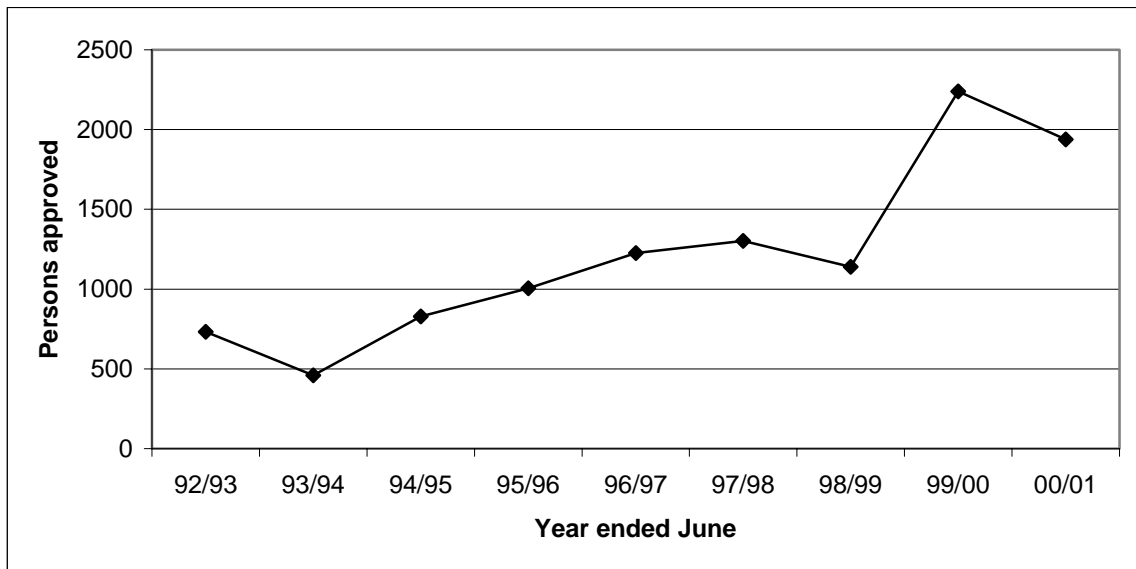
6.4 Humanitarian Category

The Humanitarian Category enables family members of New Zealanders to be granted residence where serious humanitarian circumstances exist. Migrants under this category must have a family member who is a resident/citizen of New Zealand to sponsor their application.

6.4.1 HUMANITARIAN CATEGORY APPROVAL TRENDS OVER TIME

Figure 6.8 shows the number of people approved for residence through the Humanitarian Category between 1992/1993 and 2000/2001. The number of people approved through the Humanitarian Category has gradually increased over time, with a sharp increase between 1998/1999 and 1999/2000. In 2000/2001 there was a decrease in the numbers approved compared to 1999/2000.

Figure 6.8. Number of Humanitarian Category approvals between 1992/1993 and 2000/2001.



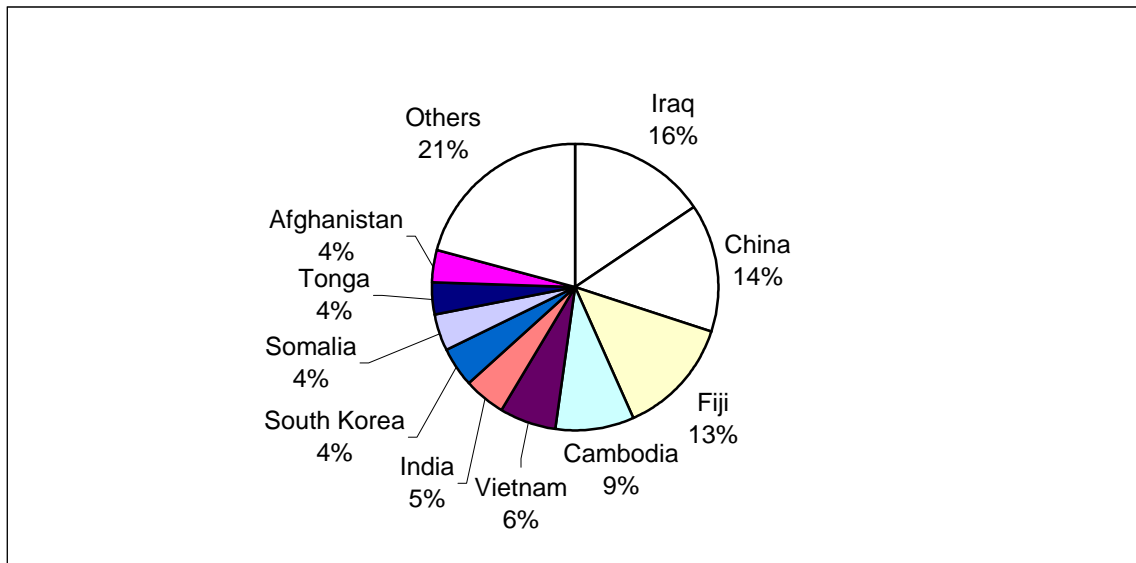
6.4.2 HUMANITARIAN APPROVALS IN 2000/2001

In 2000/2001, 1,939 people (4 percent of all residence approvals) were approved for residence through the Humanitarian category.

6.4.3 NATIONALITIES OF HUMANITARIAN APPROVALS IN 2000/2001

Figure 6.9 shows the nationalities of people approved for residence through the Humanitarian Category in 2000/2001. The largest source country of Humanitarian approvals was Iraq (16 percent), followed by China (14 percent) and Fiji (13 percent).

Figure 6.9. Nationalities of Humanitarian Category approvals in 2000/2001. Year total = 1,939.



6.4.4 NUMBERS OF PEOPLE PER APPLICATION

There was an average of 2.6 people per Humanitarian application in 2000/2001. The smallest size application was one person and the largest application was 11 people.

7 Refugees

7.1 Introduction

New Zealand is a signatory to the 1951 United Nations Convention and the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees. New Zealand accepts an annual Quota of refugees, as well as people who claim asylum in New Zealand and who are found upon investigation to have a justified fear of persecution in their homeland. More information on refugees and refugee procedures in New Zealand can be found in Appendix B.

7.2 Quota Refugees

New Zealand accepts an annual Quota of refugees under the Refugee Quota Programme. These people are mandated as in need of resettlement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

7.2.1 NUMBERS AND COMPOSITION OF QUOTA IN 2000/2001

In 2000/2001, 769 people were accepted for resettlement to New Zealand under the Refugee Quota Programme. Table 7.1 shows the composition of the refugee cases accepted under the Quota.

Table 7.1. Composition of the Refugee Quota in 2000/2001

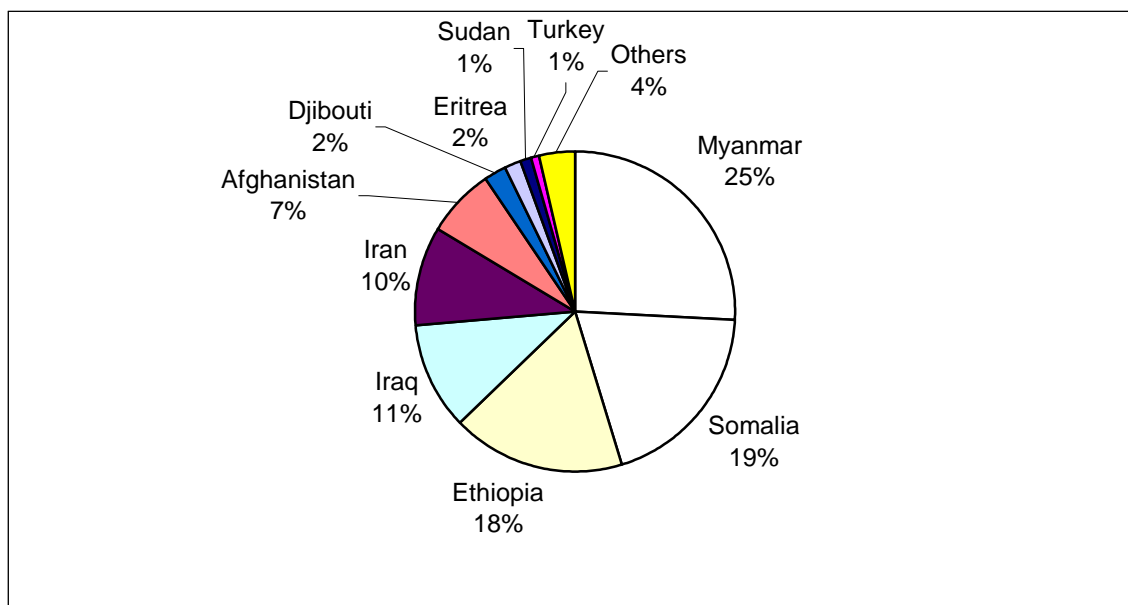
Sub-category	Number of people	Proportion
Protection	617	80%
Women at Risk	51	7%
Medical	41	5%
Emergency	5	1%
Other	55	7%
Total	769	100%

7.2.2 NATIONALITIES OF QUOTA REFUGEES IN 2000/2001

People from a number of countries have been resettled in New Zealand through the Quota in recent years. The main source countries in the past five years include Iraq, Iran, Ethiopia and Somalia.

Figure 7.1 shows the nationalities of those accepted for resettlement in New Zealand in 2000/2001. The largest source country was Myanmar (25 percent), followed by Somalia (19 percent) and Ethiopia (18 percent).

Figure 7.1. Nationalities of Quota refugees accepted for resettlement in 2000/2001.
Year total = 769.



7.2.3 NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER APPLICATION

There was an average of 3.1 people per Refugee Quota application. The smallest application size was one person and the largest application size was 11 people.

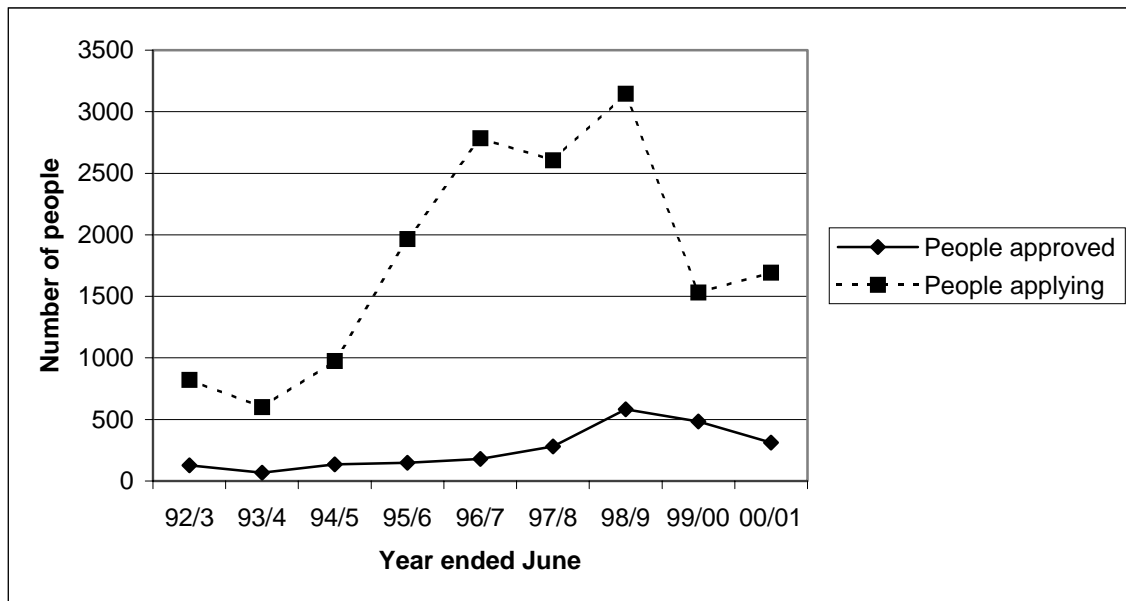
7.3 Successful Refugee Status Claimants

As a signatory to the 1951 United Nations Convention and the 1967 Protocol on the Status of Refugees, New Zealand is obliged to consider all claims for refugee status (also called political asylum). Successful refugee status claimants are asylum seekers who have had their status as refugees confirmed and are legally allowed to remain in New Zealand. Generally asylum seekers claim refugee status after they arrive in New Zealand – at the border or when their temporary permit expires.

7.3.1 SUCCESSFUL REFUGEE STATUS CLAIMANTS TRENDS OVER TIME

As is illustrated in Figure 7.2 there was an increase in the number of successful refugee status claimants, as well as in the number of people applying for refugee status between 1992/1993 and 1998/1999. The number of successful refugee status claimants has decreased over the last two financial years (as has the number of people applying for refugee status in New Zealand).

Figure 7.2. Successful refugee status claims between 1992/1993 and 2000/2001¹⁷.



7.3.2 SUCCESSFUL REFUGEE STATUS CLAIMANTS IN 2000/2001

In 2000/2001, 312 people were found to have successful claims for refugee status.

7.3.3 SUCCESSFUL REFUGEE STATUS CLAIMANTS GRANTED RESIDENCE IN 2000/2001

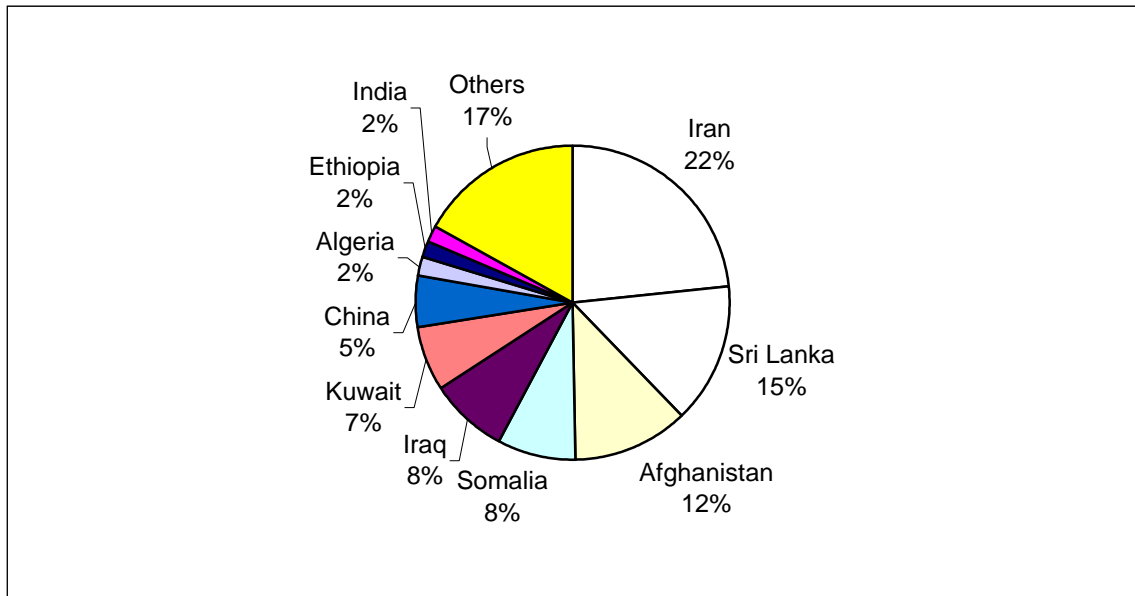
Residence is approved separately to refugee status. In 2000/2001, 698 successful refugee status claimants were approved for residence.

7.3.4 NATIONALITIES OF SUCCESSFUL REFUGEE STATUS CLAIMANTS GRANTED RESIDENCE

Figure 7.3 shows the nationalities of the successful refugee status claimants approved for residence in 2000/2001. The largest proportion of successful refugee status claimants were from Iran (22 percent), followed by Sri Lanka (15 percent) and Afghanistan (12 percent).

¹⁷ These figures show the number of people with recognised claims for refugee status. The residence application is processed separately from the refugee status claim. The majority of people with successful refugee status claims will go on to be granted residence.

Figure 7.3. Successful refugee status claimants granted residence in 2000/2001.
Year total = 698.



7.3.5 NUMBER OF PEOPLE PER APPLICATION

There was an average of 2.2 successful refugee status claimants per residence application. The smallest application size was one person and the largest application size was 13 people.

8 Temporary to Permanent Immigration

8.1 Introduction

People who are in New Zealand on temporary permits are a potentially valuable source of residents. Those in New Zealand on work permits often have skills that are in demand and have proven New Zealand work experience. Those here on student permits are likely to be young and able to offer employers recognised New Zealand qualifications. Having participated in New Zealand society, both workers and students are likely to settle well and contribute to advancing the government's growth policies.

It is increasingly being accepted that linking temporary immigration policy with residence policy can have significant benefits for both migrants and New Zealand. For example, as is discussed in Section 5.2.4 above, from 1 March 2000, people applying for residence under the General Skills Category who come within five points of the passmark may apply for a visa or permit to search for a job in New Zealand. This policy facilitates the approval of migrants who would otherwise have been declined for residence and maximises the proportion of employed General Skills migrants.

The analysis below looks at temporary to permanent immigration from two perspectives. Firstly, the proportion of principal applicants approved for residence in 2000/2001 who previously held a work, student or visitor permit is investigated, and secondly the cumulative residence take-up to the end of 2000/2001 by those issued with a work or a student permit between 1997/1998 and 2000/2001 is examined.

8.2 Residents who had previously held a temporary permit

In total, 11,790 principal applicants (53 percent of all principal applicants)¹⁸ approved for residence in 2000/2001 had previously held a student, work or visitor permit¹⁹ at some stage since July 1997²⁰. However, note the limitations section of the report (Section 3.3) regarding the undercounting of residents with previous visitor permits.

A smaller proportion of principal applicants approved for residence through the Skilled/Business stream (45 percent) than other categories (60 percent) had held a temporary permit prior to being approved for residence.

8.2.1 NATIONALITY OF RESIDENTS WHO PREVIOUSLY HELD A TEMPORARY PERMIT

As is illustrated in Figure 8.1 below, the proportions of principal applicants who had held a temporary permit at some stage prior to being approved for residence varied by nationality. Of the top ten residence approval nationalities in 2000/2001, the highest

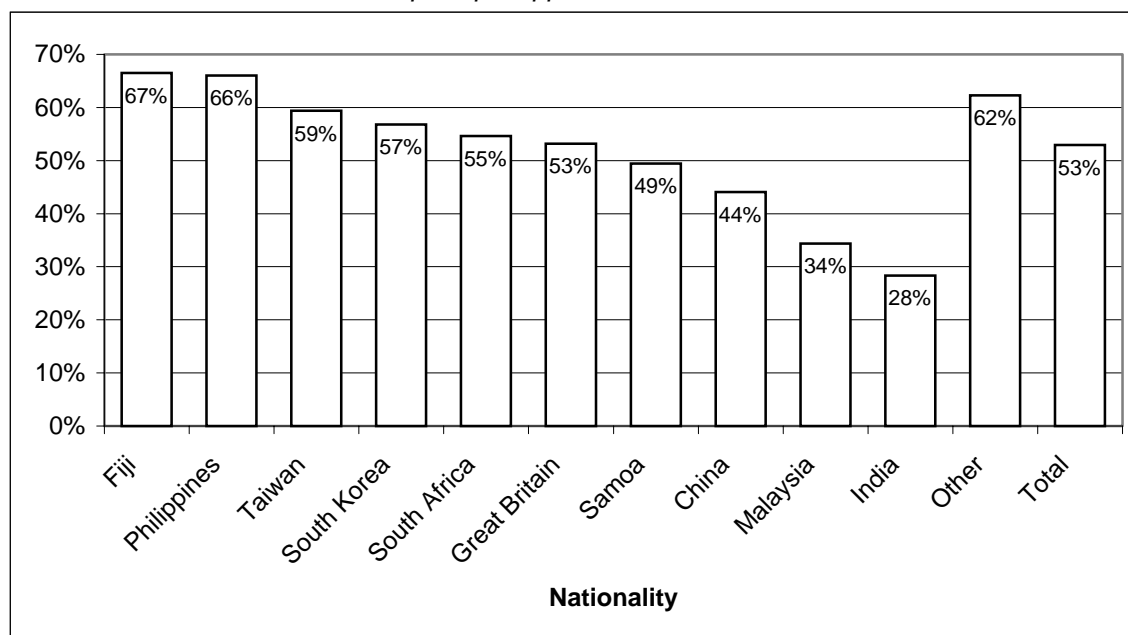
¹⁸ Only the principal applicant on the residence application was included in this analysis as they are the person assessed against the policy criteria.

¹⁹ 'Permit' in this section of the report is used to denote both permits and visas. In the NZIS's operational reporting, an application is said to be finalised when either a visa is issued to an offshore applicant, or a permit is issued to an onshore applicant. When a person arrives at a New Zealand border with a visa they are issued with a corresponding permit – which is not counted again.

²⁰ The analysis went back as far as 1 July 1997. This is as far back as reliable data was available from MIS.

proportion of principal applicants who had held a temporary permit prior to being approved for residence were from Fiji and the Philippines (67 and 66 percent respectively). A smaller proportion of principal applicants from Malaysia and India had held a temporary permit prior to being approved for residence in New Zealand (34 and 28 percent respectively).

Figure 8.1. Proportion of principal applicants approved for residence in 2000/2001 who had held a temporary permit at some stage since July 1997 by top ten residence nationalities. Year total = 11,790 principal applicants.

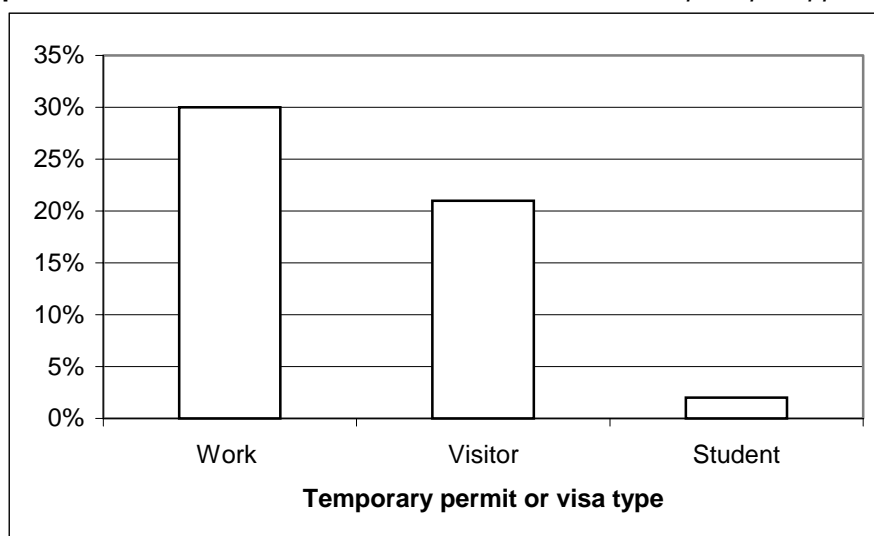


8.2.2 TYPE OF TEMPORARY PERMIT MOST RECENTLY HELD

Figure 8.2 shows the type of temporary permit most recently held by principal applicants prior to being approved for residence in 2000/2001. Work permits were the most common temporary permit type and student permits were the least common. Thirty percent of principal applicants had most recently held a work permit, 21 percent a visitor permit²¹ and 2 percent a student permit.

²¹ This figure does not include people who visited New Zealand for up to three months (or up to six months for Great Britain citizens) from countries that New Zealand has visa-waiver agreements with. These people are currently recorded in MIS in a format that is not available for analysis and therefore the number of people who have previously visited New Zealand is substantially under-reported. It is likely that if people from visa-waiver countries were included in the analysis that visitor permits would have been the most common temporary permit type held prior to being approved for residence. A full list of visa-waiver countries is included in Appendix D.

Figure 8.2. Most recent temporary permit type held by principal applicants prior to being approved for residence in 2000/2001. Year total = 11,790 principal applicants.



The top three source countries of those approved for residence in 2000/2001 who had most recently held a work permit were Great Britain (23 percent), South Africa (10 percent) and China (7 percent). The top three source countries of those approved for residence in 2000/2001 who had most recently held a visitor permit were China (15 percent), Fiji (13 percent), followed by Samoa (10 percent). Of those who most recently held student permits prior to being approved for residence in 2000/2001, 25 percent were from China, 8 percent were from South Korea and 6 percent were from Taiwan.

8.3 Cumulative take-up of residence by those who held a student or work permit between 1997/1998 and 2000/2001

Tables 8.1 to 8.3, below, show the total principal applicants approved for work and student permits between 1997/1998 and 2000/2001 and the cumulative number of people subsequently approved for residence. Each table also shows the number of people approved for residence in each year as a proportion of the total number of people approved for student or work permits in each year. If a person had more than one work or student permit in a year, only their most recent permit was counted. However, if a person had more than one work or student permit over the four-year period they will be captured more than once in the data. For example, if a person had a work permit in 1997/1998 and then again in 1998/1999 they will be recorded once in 1997/1998 and once in 1998/1999. Therefore, a person's tendency to be approved for residence or not will also be counted in each of these years.

As is illustrated in Tables 8.1 to 8.3, an increasing number of people have been approved for both work and student permits over the years. Of particular note is the increase in both work²² and student²³ permits in 2000/2001.

²² There are a number of factors that could account for the increase in work permits in 2000/2001, including; the recent lifting of the cap on working holidays, people being issued interim work permits through the October 2000 Transitional Policy, work permits issued for 'job search' purposes and the possibility that the increase is being driven by increasing skill shortages.

²³ Factors that could account for the increase in student permits in 2000/2001 include; offshore growth in visas issued due to marketing efforts, growth in people coming to New Zealand for short term

The take-up of residence each year after a principal applicant was issued a work permit was relatively consistent for each cohort of work permit holders (see Table 8.2). For example, of the cohort approved for work permits in 1997/1998, 8 percent had become residents in the same year, 20 percent by the following year and 28 percent by the year following this. Of the cohort approved for work permits in 1998/1999, 8 percent became residents the same year, 21 percent by the following year and 27 percent by the year following this. Similar patterns of residence approvals are evident for the cohorts approved for work permits in 1999/2000 and 2000/2001.

The take up of residence each year after a principal applicant was issued with a student permit showed a similar pattern to those approved for work permits, although a lesser proportion of students than workers went on to become residents over the years (see Table 8.3).

Overall, of those approved for a work permit in 1997/1998, 31 percent had become residents by 2000/2001. Twenty-seven percent of those approved for a work permit in 1998/1999 had become residents by 2000/2001, as had 21 percent of those approved for a work permit in 1999/2000. Nine percent of those approved for a work permit in 2000/2001 had become residents by the end of 2000/2001.

Of those approved for a student permit in 1997/1998, 14 percent had become residents by the end of 2000/2001. Of those approved for a student permit in 1998/1999, 13 percent had become residents by the end of 2000/2001, as had 9 percent of those approved for a student permit in 1999/2000 and 3 percent of those approved for a student permit in 2000/2001.

Future reports will monitor the subsequent take-up of residence by those approved for student and work permits between 1997/1998 and 2000/2001, and will also investigate the take-up of residence by those approved with student and work permits after 2000/2001.

English courses, students getting a separate permit each semester as they do not have the money for the full course fees and people being issued interim student permits through the October 2000 Transitional Policy.

Table 8.1. Total principal applicants approved for student and work permits between 1997/1998 and 2000/2001 and the numbers subsequently approved for residence between 1997/1998 and 2000/2001²⁴.

Year subsequently approved for residence	Year approved for student or work permit			
	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001
1997/1998	2,209 (5%)			
1998/1999	6,281 (14%)	3,116 (6%)		
1999/2000	9,038 (21%)	8,241 (15%)	4,015 (6%)	
2000/2001	10,632 (24%)	11,462 (21%)	9,485 (15%)	5,546 (6%)

TOTAL PRINCIPAL APPLICANTS APPROVED FOR WORK AND STUDENT PERMITS IN EACH YEAR			
43,822	53,508	62,303	92,015

Table 8.2. Total principal applicants approved for work permits between 1997/1998 and 2000/2001 and the numbers subsequently approved for residence between 1997/1998 and 2000/2001.

Year subsequently approved for residence	Year approved for work permit			
	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001
1997/1998	1,973 (8%)			
1998/1999	5,241 (20%)	2,591 (8%)		
1999/2000	7,242 (28%)	6,494 (21%)	3,277 (10%)	
2000/2001	8,192 (31%)	8,582 (27%)	7,148 (21%)	4,375 (9%)

Total principal applicants approved for work permits in each year			
26,105	31,310	33,954	46,479

Table 8.3. Total principal applicants approved for student permits between 1997/1998 and 2000/2001 and the numbers subsequently approved for residence between 1997/1998 and 2000/2001.

Year subsequently approved for residence	Year approved for student permit			
	1997/1998	1998/1999	1999/2000	2000/2001
1997/1998	238 (1%)			
1998/1999	1,060 (6%)	535 (2%)		
1999/2000	1,841 (10%)	1,811 (8%)	764 (3%)	
2000/2001	2,499 (14%)	2,978 (13%)	2,428 (9%)	1,235 (3%)

Total principal applicants approved for student permits in each year			
17,920	22,416	28,552	46,038

Figures 8.3 and 8.4, below, provide a graphical representation of Tables 8.2 and 8.3. As is illustrated in Figure 8.3, the cumulative take-up of residence by those previously approved for a work permit tends to be greatest the year after the work permit was issued and then tails-off.

²⁴ Work permits were not counted if they were issued for the reason of 'replace', 'vary conditions' or 'assess overseas recruitment'.

Figure 8.4 shows that the cumulative take-up of residence by those previously approved for a student permit tends to increase by approximately equal amounts each year after a student permit was issued.

Figure 8.3. Cumulative residence take-up by principal applicants approved for a work permit between 1997/1998 and 2000/2001.

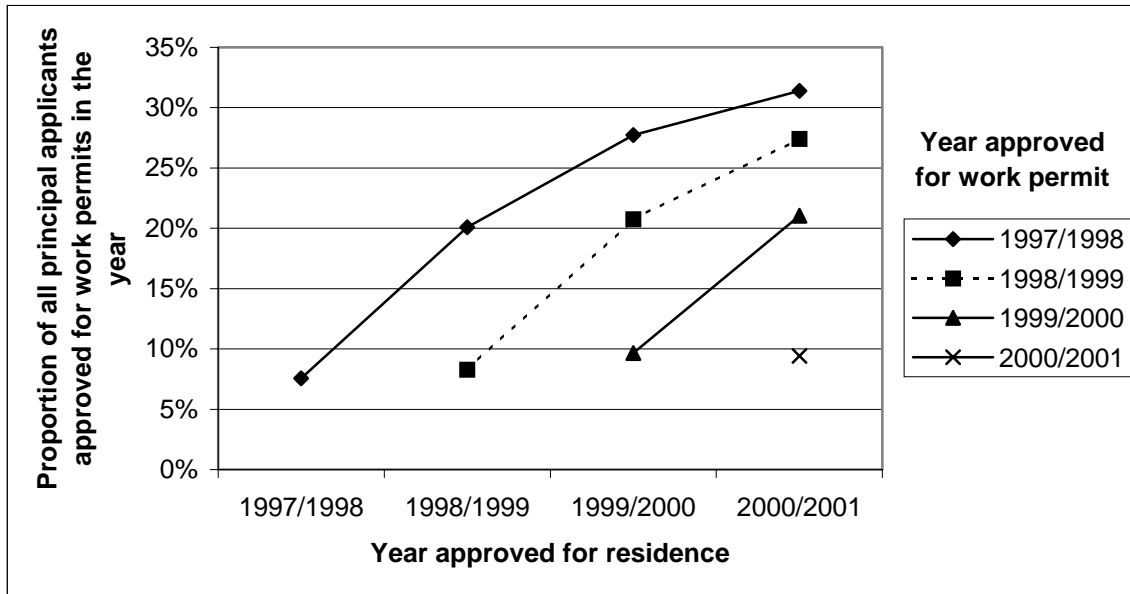
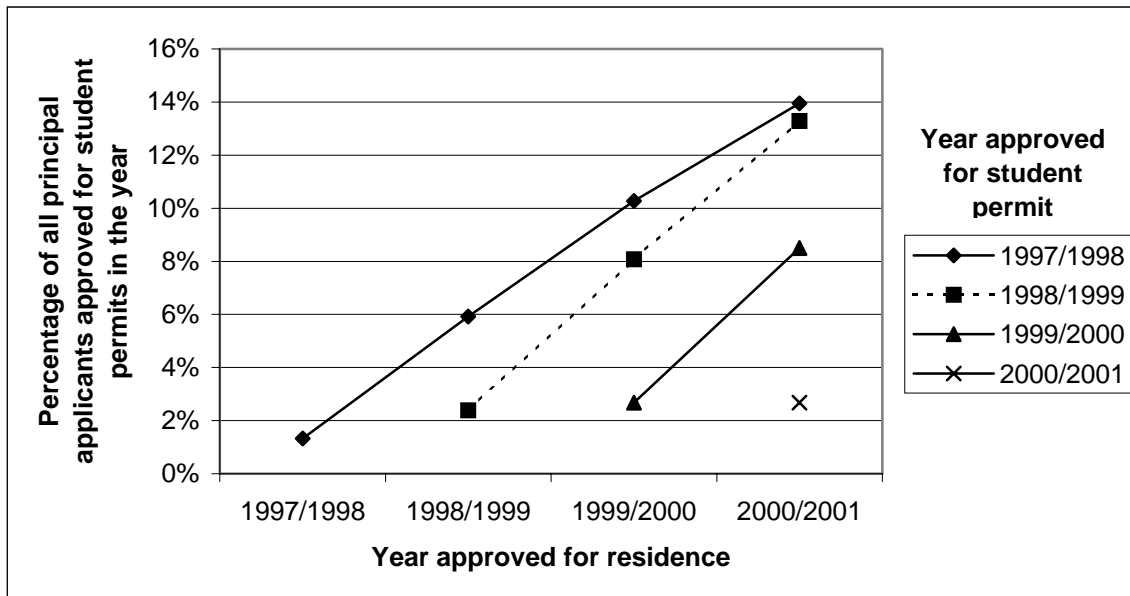


Figure 8.4. Cumulative residence take-up by principal applicants approved for a student permit between 1997/1998 and 2000/2001.



9 Conclusions

The main aim of this report was to identify, discuss and compare trends and patterns in various aspects of residence approvals in the 2000/2001 financial year.

A total of 44,598 people were approved for residence in 2000/2001. As with previous years, the majority of these approvals were through the General Skills Category and the Family Categories. The three largest source countries of approvals were Great Britain, India and China. In comparison, in 1999/2000 the top three source countries of residence approvals were Great Britain, South Africa and China.

The largest source country of residence approvals through the Skilled/Business residence stream was India, followed by Great Britain and South Africa. The largest source country of residence approvals through other residence categories (including the Family Category, refugees, and various 'other' approvals) was China, followed by Samoa and Great Britain.

Of the principal applicants who were within five points of the General Skills passmark and who were approved with an open work permit to job search in New Zealand between March 2000 and June 2001, just under half had become residents through the General Skills Category by the end of 2000/2001. The largest source countries of those going from open work permits to residence were South Africa, Great Britain and Fiji. Although India was the third largest source country issued with open work permits to search for a job in New Zealand, they were only the sixth largest source country to go from open work permits to residence.

The analysis of temporary to permanent immigration indicates that there are significant links between people who enter New Zealand temporarily and those who are subsequently approved for residence. In total, 53 percent of all principal applicants approved for residence in 2000/2001 had previously held a student, work or visitor permit at some stage since July 1997. Fiji and the Philippines had the largest proportion of people who had previously held temporary permits prior to being approved for residence.

The take-up of residence by those issued with a work or student permit between 1997/1998 and 2000/2001 is also of interest. There was a consistent pattern in the take-up of residence by those approved for both work and student permits in each year. The take-up of residence by those previously approved for a work permit tends to be greatest the year after the work permit was issued, and then tails off. The take-up of residence by those previously approved for a student permit tends to increase by approximately equal amounts each year after the student permit was issued. Over the years, a greater proportion of workers than students had gone on to become residents.

Overall, this report improves our understanding of residence approvals in 2000/2001. Subsequent reports will put data from the current year in context and eventually form a time series that will enable trends to be monitored over time.

Appendix A: Breakdown of Residence Streams²⁵

Stream	Categories
Skilled/Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General/General Skills Category • Entrepreneur Category • Investor Category • Employees of Businesses Relocating
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Category • Humanitarian Category • Refugee Quota Programme • Successful Refugee Status Claimants • Samoan Quota • Ministerial direction • October 2000 Transitional policy • Section 35A • Transition 33(2) compliance • Transition 33(2) voluntary

²⁵ From 1 October 2001, three new residence streams will operate with separate sub-approvals in each. These include the Skilled/Business Stream, the Family Sponsored Stream and the International/Humanitarian Stream.

Appendix B: Residence Approval Categories

The Immigration Programme

In managing immigration, the Government sets an approval programme (or upper limit) on the number of persons that may be granted residence.²⁶ The importance of stability in immigration flows is one of the factors taken into account by the Government when setting the approval programme. In 1999/2000 and 2000/2001, the approval programme was set at 38,000 residence approvals.

In addition to refugees and asylum seekers, the approval programme includes residence²⁷ approvals under the following Categories:

- General Skills (the 'points test');
- Business (including the 'Investor', 'Entrepreneur', 'Long-Term (temporary) Business Visa' and 'Employees of Relocating Companies' sub-categories);
- Family;
- Humanitarian; and
- Samoan Quota.

The Family, Humanitarian and Business Categories are entirely demand driven - there is no limit on the number of persons that can be granted residence under these categories. At present, the General Skills Category acts as a residual²⁸ to make up the approval programme. The category consists of a points system under which applicants must exceed an automatic fail mark in order to be eligible. A floating passmark that can adjust up or down depending on the number of applications and approvals, operates to deliver within 10% of the approval programme. However, the automatic fail mark serves to set a quality standard below which the passmark cannot fall. Therefore, there must be sufficient demand for New Zealand residence in order to meet the approval programme.

The General Skills Category

Immigration policy's key contribution to human capability is through the General Skills Category. The points system is designed to select highly skilled migrants who are likely to settle well and make a positive contribution to New Zealand. Thus the key objectives of the General Skills Category are to increase New Zealand's human capability base and foster international linkages while maintaining social cohesion.

Points are awarded for a range of human capital and settlement factors such as:

- qualifications;
- employability (including work experience, age and an offer of employment); and

²⁶ It should be noted that the approval programme relates to residence approvals rather than arrivals.

²⁷ Applications for residence are assessed in terms of whether the principal applicant meets the eligibility criteria. With the exception of some sub-categories in the Family Category, principal applicants may be accompanied by their spouse/partner and dependent children who are also afforded the status of resident. All migrants to New Zealand must meet health and character requirements.

²⁸ From 1 October 2001, the General Skills Category will no longer make up the residual of approvals under the immigration programme. The General Skills Category will be changed to have its own separate sub-target (combined with the Business Categories) of 60 percent of all immigration approvals.

- settlement factors (including settlement funds, spousal qualifications, family sponsorship and New Zealand work experience).

All applicants and accompanying family members (over the age of 16) are required to meet a minimum standard of English. Accompanying family members may alternatively pre-purchase English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) training.

Appendix C provides a more detailed breakdown of the General Skills points system for 2000/2001.

New Zealand has been operating a points system since 1991 as the ‘General Category’ until October 1995. A review of immigration policy resulted in the introduction of a number of adjustments implemented in the General Skills Category from October 1995. The 1995 changes were intended to encourage the selection of migrants likely to be able to match their capability with opportunities in New Zealand.

Further immigration policy adjustments were introduced in 1998 and 1999. These more recent changes were designed to introduce more flexibility into qualifying criteria and to remove barriers to obtaining residence. These changes included:

- introducing English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) pre-purchasing;
- reducing the minimum pass mark from 25 to 24 points;
- enabling applicants with insufficient points to be granted residence approval in principle and issued with a work permit enabling them to job search in New Zealand with the aim of gaining a job offer and sufficient points for residence; and
- increasing the points allocation for a New Zealand qualification.

The Business Categories

Business immigration policy seeks to contribute to the development of a culture of enterprise and innovation in New Zealand as well as developing New Zealand’s human capability base and fostering international linkages.

A major review resulted in the introduction of a new business policy in March 1999. Prior to this, the Business Investment Category operated in 1991 and was replaced by the Business Investor Category in 1995. The new business immigration policy recognises that there are distinct markets for business people who wish to migrate to New Zealand with a greater range of options.

The following categories were introduced in March 1999.

Investor Category – for persons with funds to invest in New Zealand. Applicants are assessed by a points system which allocates points for: age, business experience and investment funds.

Entrepreneur Category – for persons who have successfully established a business that is benefiting New Zealand in some way.

Long Term Business Visa (LTBV) - a ‘stepping stone’ to the Entrepreneur Category, the LTBV enables potential migrants to be granted a temporary work permit in order to establish a business in New Zealand. Applicants must have (among other things), a

satisfactory business plan, access to sufficient funds and a genuine interest in establishing a business in New Zealand.

Employees of Relocating Businesses Category - enables key employees of businesses relocating to New Zealand to be granted residence. Applicants must demonstrate that they are not eligible for residence under any other category.

Family Category

This category enables the close family members of New Zealand residents and citizens to be granted residence. The current objective of the Family Category is to allow individuals to maintain and be part of a family unit while reinforcing the Government's overall objectives in immigration policy. All applicants must be sponsored by a New Zealand resident or citizen. The following family members of New Zealanders may be eligible:

- spouses, de-facto partners, dependent children; and
- parents, siblings, adult children.

Parents must meet a 'centre of gravity' test²⁹. Siblings and adult children must be single, with no children of their own and with no immediate family members in the country.

A major policy review of Family Sponsored Immigration policy has recently been undertaken. As part of this review a number of changes will be made to introduce more flexibility into the Family Sponsored Stream. These changes will be effective from 1 October 2001 and involve broadening the definition of 'dependent children' to include children under the age of 25 and 'parents' to include grandparents and legal guardians where parents are deceased. Also, married siblings/adult children and their dependants can be sponsored where the principal applicant has a job offer. A new Family Quota will be established for parents, siblings and adult children of New Zealanders who do not meet normal family policy. The Quota size will be announced each year depending on the number of approvals made under the Family Sponsored Immigration policy overall. Also from 1 October 2001, a Domestic Violence Policy will be introduced that will enable ex-partners of New Zealanders to apply for residence when their relationship has ended due to domestic violence, and they cannot return home for cultural and social reasons.

A Refugee Family Sponsored Policy will also be established from 1 July 2002 with 300 places for family members of New Zealand residents who are former refugees who are unable to gain entry through any other category. In addition, the Government is considering a Pacific Access Category.

Humanitarian Category

The Humanitarian Category enables family members of New Zealanders to be granted residence where serious humanitarian circumstances exist. Migrants under this

²⁹ The centre of gravity is deemed to be in New Zealand if the parent(s) have an equal or greater number of their adult children living in New Zealand than in any other country. For parents with dependent children, the number of dependent children must be equal to or fewer than the number of adult children living in New Zealand.

category must have a family member who is a resident/citizen of New Zealand to sponsor their application. In addition, the following criteria must be met:

- the applicant or a New Zealand party are suffering serious physical and/or serious emotional harm;
- the granting of residence in New Zealand is the only reasonable solution to the serious physical/emotional harm; and
- the granting of residence would not be contrary to the public interest.

The Humanitarian Category was included in the review of Family Sponsored Immigration policy noted above. As a result, the Humanitarian Category will be closed from October 2001.

Samoa Quota

New Zealand has particularly close links with Samoa, as reflected in the Treaty of Friendship signed by New Zealand and Samoa in 1962 when Samoa became independent. The Samoan Quota scheme reflects this unique relationship. Under the scheme, 1,100 Samoans may be granted residence in New Zealand annually. The key requirement is that applicants have a job offer. There is generally a high level of demand for places under the scheme. Procedural changes were introduced in 1999 to improve the application process.

The Refugee Quota Programme

New Zealand accepts up to 750 refugees who have been mandated as in need of resettlement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The Refugee Quota Programme contributes to New Zealand's international humanitarian objectives and reflects New Zealand's commitment to the principle of 'international burden sharing' in refugee matters.

Refugees accepted for resettlement spend their first six weeks in New Zealand at the NZIS's Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre. This Centre provides initial accommodation and orientation services in addition to medical screening/treatment. At the end of the six-week period, sponsors assist refugees to settle into local communities.

To assist the UNHCR to provide protection to the most vulnerable refugee cases, the Quota is divided into sub-categories. In 2000/2001 these were:

women at risk	75 places
medical/disabled	75 places
protection cases	600 places
Total	750 places

These categories operate as 'targets' rather than absolute limits. Flexibility is exercised in managing the overall quota. For example, if there are insufficient referral to meet the 'women-at-risk' target, then these places could be used for protection cases.

Refugee Status Claimants (or Asylum Seekers)

As a signatory to the 1951 United Nations Convention and the 1967 Protocol on the Status of Refugees, New Zealand is obliged to consider all claims for refugee status (also called political asylum). The number of claimants has increased significantly in the past ten years.

All claims are considered, in the first instance, by the Refugee Status Branch of the NZIS. Unsuccessful claimants have the opportunity to lodge an appeal against the NZIS's decision to the Refugee Status Appeals Authority (RSAA). The RSAA is an independent body.

Claimants are generally granted a work permit while their claim is being determined. They are also entitled to receive welfare assistance (income support, accommodation assistance, health care and education).

Appendix C: Points System – General Skills Category 2000/2001

Points factor Points

QUALIFICATIONS

1 General

Principal applicants must obtain a minimum of 10 points for qualifications

Qualifications Table

Category A	Level 8	12
	Level 7	11
Category B	Level 8	11
	Level 7	10
Category C	Level 7	11
	Level 6	10
	Level 5	10
Category D	Level 5	11
	Level 4	10
	Level 3	10

2 New Zealand (additional 2 points)

New Zealand qualification that is recognised for points (except for qualifications gained with NZODA assistance) 2

EMPLOYABILITY

3 Work experience

Principal applicants must obtain at least 1 point for lawfully obtained work experience, unless they have completed a qualification in New Zealand that is eligible for points and was not obtained with NZODA assistance.

2 years	1
4 years	2
6 years	3
8 years	4
10 years	5
12 years	6
14 years	7
16 years	8
18 years	9

20 years 10

4 Offer of employment 5

5 Age

18-24 years 8

25-29 10

30-34 8

35-39 6

40-44 4

45-49 2

50-55 0

(56 and over must not be approved under the General Skills category)

SETTLEMENT FACTORS

Maximum points for settlement factors 7

6 Settlement Funds

NZ\$100,000 1

NZ\$200,000 2

7 Spousal qualifications

Category B, Level 7; Category C, Level 5 or 6, Category D, Level 3 or 4
1

Category A, Level 7 or 8, Category B, Level 8, Category C, Level 7, Category D,
Level 5 2

8 Family sponsorship

Sponsorship by a close family member 3

9 New Zealand work experience

1 year 1

2 years 2

Appendix D: Visa Waiver Countries

Visits up to 3 months, except for Great Britain (visits up to six months)

Citizens of:

Andorra	Ireland	Portugal*
Argentina	Israel	Qatar
Austria	Italy	San Marino
Bahrain	Japan	Saudi Arabia
Belgium	Korea (South)	Singapore
Brazil	Kiribati	Slovenia
Brunei	Kuwait	South Africa
Canada	Liechtenstein	Spain
Chile	Luxembourg	Sweden
Denmark	Malaysia	Switzerland
Finland	Malta	Tuvalu
France	Mexico	United Arab Emirates
Germany	Monaco	United States of America **
Greece	Nauru	Uruguay
Hong Kong ***	Netherlands	Vatican City
Hungary	Norway	Zimbabwe
Iceland	Oman	

* Portuguese passport holders must also have the right to live permanently in Portugal.

** Including nationals of the USA.

*** Residents of Hong Kong travelling on Hong Kong Special Administrative Region or British National (Overseas) passports.

Visits up to 6 months: British citizens, and other British passport holders who produce evidence of the right to reside permanently in the United Kingdom.

Appendix E: Residence Approvals in 2000/2001 – Nationalities and Categories of Approvals

Country	Business	Family	General Skills	Humanitarian	Other ³⁰	Refugee ³¹	TOTAL
Afghanistan	9	20	1	71		135	236
Albania		1	6				7
Algeria		2				15	17
American Samoa		6		1	1		8
Angola						1	1
Argentina		10	9		1		20
Armenia			4				4
Australia		1					1
Austria		17	13		1		31
Azerbaijan		2	1				3
Bahrain						8	8
Bangladesh		96	83		3		182
Belarus		5	10			2	17
Belgium	1	5	18				24
Belize		1					1
Bermuda	1						1
Bolivia		5	2				7
Bosnia & Herzegovina		7	1				8
Botswana		1					1
Brazil	1	34	21				56
Brunei Darussalam	3		1	1			5
Bulgaria		17	51	1			69
Burma			1				1
Burundi						5	5
Cambodia	4	193	1	174	2	4	378
Canada	4	154	170		3		331
Chad	1						1
Chile		14	2	1			17
China	1170	1987	2041	278	10	37	5523
Colombia		9	8	4		4	25
Congo		1	1			5	7
Costa Rica		3	1				4
Croatia	2	17	9	2			30
Cuba		2					2
Czech Republic		13	15			10	38
Democratic Republic of Congo						5	5
Denmark	1	27	14				42
Djibouti						18	18
Ecuador		3	3				6
Egypt		36	70				106
El Salvador		1					1
Eritrea						13	13
Estonia			4				4

³⁰ Includes Samoan Quota, Ministerial Direction, Section 35A and Transition 33(2) approvals.

³¹ This includes successful refugee status seekers and those approved through the Refugee Quota Programme.

Residence Approvals in 2000/2001 – Nationalities and Categories of Approvals (cont.)

Country	Business	Family	General Skills	Humanitarian	Other	Refugee	TOTAL
Ethiopia		13		2	1	146	162
Fiji	33	1220	1470	260	75		3058
Finland		6	7				13
France	7	51	45	3	4		110
French Polynesia		1	2				3
Georgia		1	2				3
Germany	11	112	225	4	2		354
Ghana		8	5		1		14
Great Britain	137	1820	3636	17	57		5667
Greece		3					3
Grenada	1						1
Guatemala		3					3
Haiti			2				2
Hong Kong	61	110	154	20	21		366
Hungary		8	17				25
Iceland			7				7
India	15	1239	4251	90	21	11	5627
Indonesia	11	112	469	5	9	4	610
Iran		57	32	11	9	240	349
Iraq		118	59	303	5	138	623
Ireland	11	86	105				202
Israel		12	38	4			54
Italy		28	17		1		46
Jamaica		3	1	2			6
Japan	22	249	256	1	4		532
Jordan	1	7	62				70
Kazakstan	4	9	16				29
Kenya		3	15				18
Kiribati		4	7	2			13
Kuwait		1	5			47	53
Kyrgyzstan		4					4
Laos		3			1	5	9
Latvia		6	2	1			9
Lebanon		17	4	5			26
Liberia					1		1
Libya						2	2
Lithuania			1				1
Luxembourg	2		1				3
Macau	5	5	3	2		1	16
Macedonia		20	46	5			71
Madagascar		1					1
Malawi			4				4
Malaysia	96	137	1283	12	8	1	1537
Maldives			8				8
Malta			1				1
Mauritius			7	1			8
Mexico		11	7				18
Moldova			3				3
Mongolia		1					1
Morocco		8		3		7	18

Residence Approvals in 2000/2001 – Nationalities and Categories of Approvals (cont.)

Country	Business	Family	General Skills	Humanitarian	Other	Refugee	TOTAL
Mozambique			2				2
Myanmar		9	3			204	216
Namibia		2	21	1		1	25
Nauru	5	7					12
Nepal		5	44	5			54
Netherlands	42	74	220	2	1		339
New Caledonia	1	2					3
New Zealand		3	3			1	7
Nicaragua		1	3				4
Nigeria		16	15			3	34
North Korea		1					1
Norway		11	2				13
Oman		1	1			2	4
Pacific Island Trust Territory			1				1
Pakistan	2	113	250	8	1	4	378
Palestine		3	5			1	9
Panama			3				3
Papua New Guinea		20	7		3		30
Paraguay		2	1				3
Peru		14	14	2	2		32
Philippines		331	821	9	13		1174
Poland		22	42		3		67
Portugal	2	5	8				15
Qatar			1	1			2
Reunion		1	2				3
Romania		19	117	1	1		138
Russia	4	190	294	10	1	3	502
Rwanda			6			1	7
Samoa		799	26	70	1324		2219
Saudi Arabia		1	1				2
Senegal			1				1
Seychelles			4				4
Sierra Leone		3				6	9
Singapore	26	32	329		5		392
Slovakia		7	14				21
Slovenia		1	1				2
Solomon Islands		10	14	2			26
Somalia		36		80	16	206	338
South Africa	18	564	3489	42	18	2	4133
South Korea	219	246	1072	85	7		1629
Spain		15	4				19
Sri Lanka	4	130	514	23	1	103	775
St Vincent and the Grenadines		1					1
Sudan		5	16			14	35
Swaziland		1					1
Sweden	1	25	20		1		47
Switzerland	1	32	48	2	2		85
Syria		8		29		11	48

Residence Approvals in 2000/2001 – Nationalities and Categories of Approvals (cont.)

Country	Business	Family	General Skills	Humanitarian	Other	Refugee	TOTAL
Taiwan	682	132	348	7	4		1173
Tanzania		4	1				5
Thailand	9	307	81	10	4	5	416
Togo		1					1
Tokelau			1				1
Tonga		511	200	72	102		885
Trinidad and Tobago			1	3			4
Tunisia		2				7	9
Turkey		22	17			13	52
Tuvalu		8	2	11	17		38
Uganda			2				2
Ukraine	1	47	53	2			103
United States of America	34	389	469	4	26		922
Uruguay		1		2			3
Uzbekistan	1	10	5				16
Vanuatu		1	1				2
Venezuela		3	3				6
Vietnam		148	12	124	1	4	289
Yemen		1	5			2	8
Yugoslavia		69	74	13		4	160
Zambia			16				16
Zimbabwe	4	54	458	16	12		544
UNKNOWN		20	7	17		6	50
TOTAL	2670	12685	24031	1939	1806	1467	44598