

EMPLOYED MIGRANTS WHOSE OCCUPATIONS IN NEW ZEALAND MATCHED THEIR SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

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Why is this important?

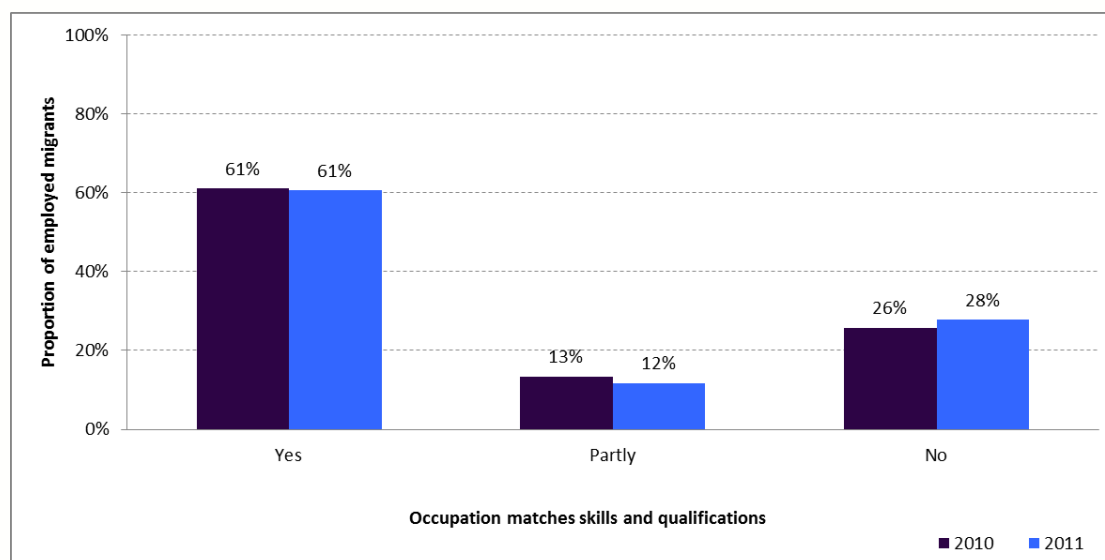
Attracting and retaining migrants who will contribute to the employment needs of New Zealand's changing economy is a priority. Not being able to use all their skills and qualifications productively may affect a migrant's feelings of being settled, particularly where they believe they are overqualified for their role.

What we found

Almost three quarters (74 percent in 2010 and 72 percent in 2011) of employed migrants stated that their occupation matched or partly matched their skills and qualifications. The proportion who stated that their occupation directly matched their skills and qualifications (61 percent) was the same in 2010 and 2011.

The most likely to report a match were principal applicants through the Skilled Migrant Category, with 81 percent in 2010 and 84 percent in 2011 stating that their occupation matched their skills and qualifications.

Figure 1: Proportion of employed migrants whose occupation matched their skills and qualifications 2010-2011



Source: Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme Migrants' Survey (2010 & 2011)

↳ Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme – Migrants Survey Indicators

For those who stated that their occupation did not match their skills and qualifications, the main reasons given for this in 2011 were that they couldn't get a job in the area of their qualifications and skills (36 percent) and they were over-qualified for their current job (35 percent). These are the same two main reasons as in 2010, although more migrants stated that they were over-qualified for their current job (39 percent) than that they couldn't get a job in the area of their qualifications and skills (33 percent).

Year on year changes

Those who were more likely to state their occupation matched their skills and qualifications in 2011 compared with 2010 were:

- those from North America or South Asia.

Those who were less likely to state their occupation matched their skills and qualifications in 2011 compared with 2010 were:

- those aged 50-59 years
- those who were approved under the Family partner category
- those in unpaid employment
- those whose highest qualification was a Secondary or High school qualification
- those from the rest of the South Island¹
- those who had lived in New Zealand for 6 to 12 months or more than 5 years.

The purpose of the Immigration Settlement Monitoring Programme is to improve our understanding of migrants' settlement and labour market outcomes, employers' experience with migrants, and community attitudes towards immigration.

These indicators are available at:

<http://www.dol.govt.nz/research/migration/ismp/ismpindicators.asp>

Contact the Labour and Immigration Research Centre at research@dol.govt.nz or visit us at www.dol.govt.nz/research.

¹ Rest of the South Island is all those from the South Island excluding Canterbury.