

MIGRANTS' COMMITMENT TO NEW ZEALAND

July 2012

Why is this important?

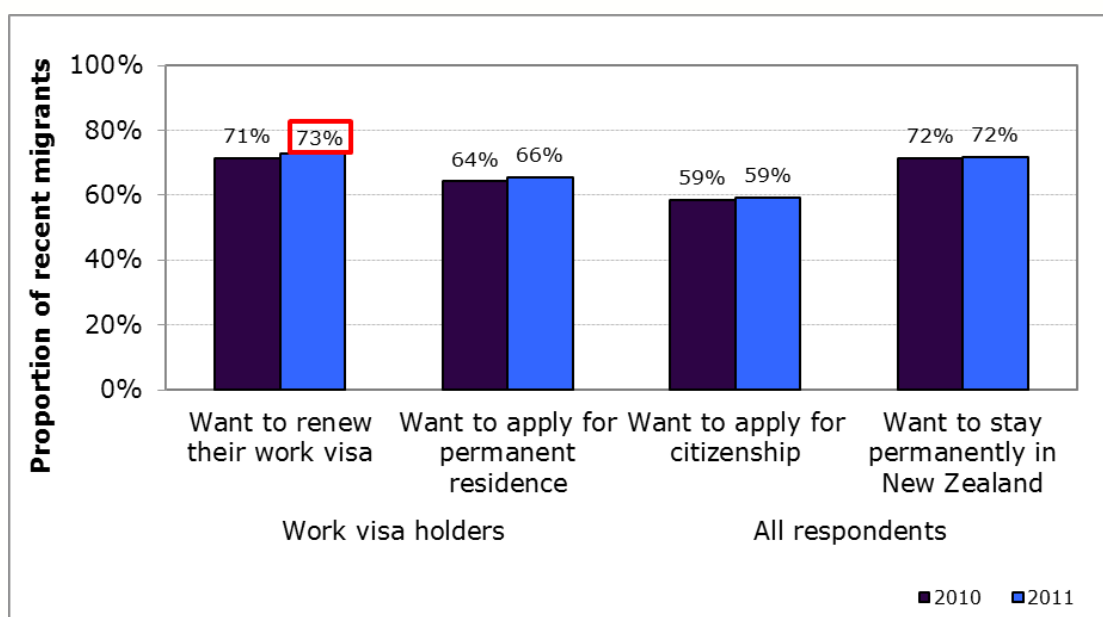
One measure of new migrants' ability to make the most of the opportunities New Zealand offers is their commitment to New Zealand. Becoming a citizen is one way that permanent residents can show their satisfaction with New Zealand and their intention to stay long-term.

What we found

Almost three quarters (72 percent) of recent migrants wanted to stay permanently in New Zealand, although fewer migrants (59 percent) wanted to apply for citizenship.

Two thirds of those on a work visa said they would like to apply for permanent residence.

Figure 1: Recent migrants' intentions on staying in New Zealand 2010-2011



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

= Significantly higher result compared with 2010

In 2010, migrants who stated they were not planning on staying in New Zealand permanently were asked their reasons for leaving. The most common reasons were to be near family and friends (47 percent), Immigration visa will run out (29 percent) and career opportunity/job offer in another country (24 percent).

Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme – Migrants Survey Indicators

They were also asked which country they were most likely to move on to. The majority planned to return to their home country (83 percent). Of the ten percent who did name a country other than their home country, the most common was Australia (56 percent).

Year on year changes

Work visa renewal

Migrants who were more likely to want to renew their work visa in 2011 compared with 2010 were:

- those whose highest qualification was a tertiary certificate or diploma.

Migrants who were less likely to want to renew their work visa in 2011 compared with 2010 were:

- those aged 18 to 19 or 40 to 49 years
- those from South Asia
- those from the Canterbury region
- those who had been in New Zealand up to 12 months.

Permanent residence

Migrants who were more likely to want to apply for permanent residence in 2011 compared with 2010 were:

- those from the Pacific or North America.

Migrants who were less likely to want to apply for permanent residence in 2011 compared with 2010 were:

- those from the Canterbury region
- those who had been in New Zealand up to 12 months.

Citizenship

Migrants who were more likely to want to apply for citizenship in 2011 compared with 2010 were:

- those aged 20 to 24 or 70 years and over
- those in unpaid employment
- those from South East Asia or the rest of Europe¹.

Migrants who were less likely to want to apply for citizenship in 2011 compared with 2010 were:

- those aged 50 to 59 years
- those from North Asia
- those from the Rest of the North Island²
- those who had been in New Zealand up to 6 months or from 6-12 months.

¹ Rest of Europe is all those from Europe excluding the UK/Ireland.

² Rest of the North Island is all those from the North Island excluding Auckland and Wellington.

Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme – Migrants Survey Indicators

Stay permanently

Migrants who were more likely to want to stay permanently in New Zealand in 2011 compared with 2010 were:

- those aged 20 to 24 years
- those who were approved under the Family partner category
- those in unpaid employment
- those from North America or the rest of Europe³
- those from the Wellington region.

Migrants who were less likely to want to stay permanently in New Zealand in 2011 compared with 2010 were:

- those aged 50 to 69 years
- those who were approved under an Essential skills work visa
- those from North Asia
- those from Canterbury region or the rest of the South Island⁴
- those who had been in New Zealand up to 12 months.

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.

³ See footnote 1

⁴ Rest of the South Island is all those from the South Island excluding Canterbury.

