

Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme – Migrants Survey Indicators

MIGRANTS' EXPECTATIONS OF LIFE IN NEW ZEALAND

July 2012

Why is this important?

Understanding the difference between migrants' expectations of life in New Zealand and their actual experience once they are here may help identify issues with unrealistic expectations or differences in the quality of information migrants got before they came to New Zealand that may reduce the likelihood of a successful settlement.

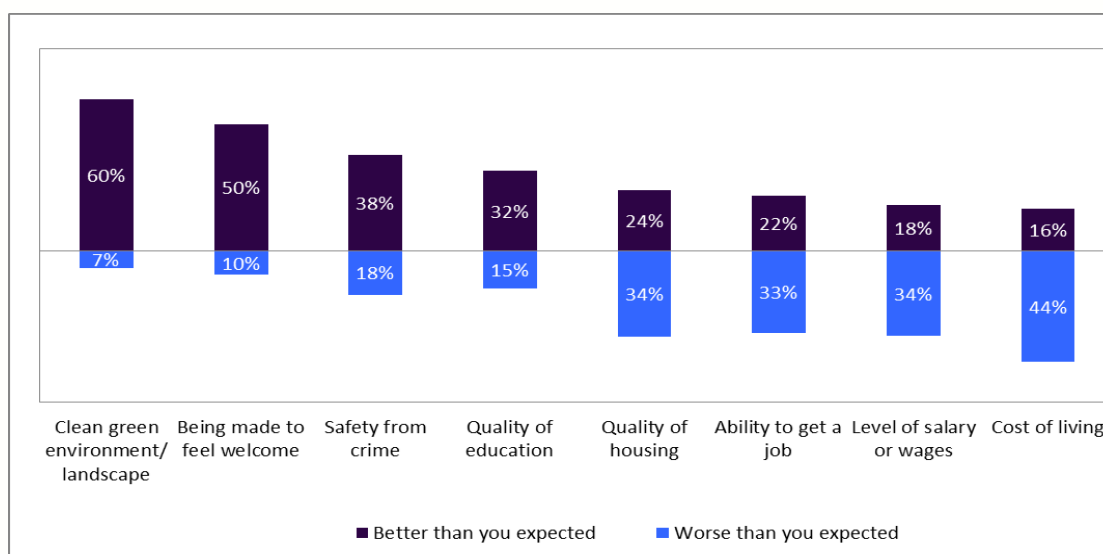
What we found

New Zealand's clean, green environment was the aspect that was most likely to exceed migrants' expectations, with 60 percent of recent migrants rating it better than expected and only 7 percent rating it worse.

Social factors such as feeling welcome and safety from crime also exceeded expectations with 50 percent of recent migrants finding being made to feel welcome better than expected and 38 percent of recent migrants finding their safety from crime better than expected.

Economic factors were the most likely to disappoint, with the cost of living the most likely to be worse than expected (44 percent), followed by the quality of housing and the level of salary or wages (34 percent), and the ability to get a job (33 percent).

Figure 1: Aspects of New Zealand that recent migrants found better or worse than expected 2010



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

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Migrants from the Pacific were more likely than migrants from other regions to rate the quality of education (61 percent), the level of salary or wages (52 percent), the quality of housing (50 percent), and the ability to get a job (40 percent) as better than expected. Those from South Asia were more likely than others to rate the clean, green environment or landscape as better than expected (81 per cent) while those from South Africa were more likely than others to rate their safety from crime as better than expected (60 percent).

Although half of all recent migrants stated that being made to feel welcome was better than expected, those from North Asia were the least likely to state this (35 percent).

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.

