



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

Settling in New Zealand

Migrants' perceptions of their experience

2015 Migrant Survey

New Zealand Government

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KEY FINDINGS

Almost eight out of ten of employed migrants stated that their occupation matched or partly matched their skills and qualifications and just under three-quarters of employed migrants stated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their main job.

Nine out of ten recent migrants were satisfied or very satisfied with life in New Zealand and over nine out of ten recent migrants would recommend New Zealand to friends and family in 2015.

Two-thirds of recent migrants feel either a lot or completely that New Zealand is their home, up slightly from 63 percent in 2014. Just three percent in each year did not consider New Zealand to be their home at all, and just over one in ten in each year felt only a little that New Zealand was their home.

Since coming to New Zealand, six out of ten migrants in 2015 felt that someone had treated them unfairly at least once or twice because they came from overseas, significantly more than in 2014. Since coming to New Zealand, around nine out of ten migrants in 2015 felt safe or very safe from crime in New Zealand.

Even for those migrants who had been here a short time, less than six months, the impact of discrimination was obvious, with 89 percent of those who had never faced discrimination reporting they felt safe or very safe compared with two percent of those who had faced discrimination five or more times.

BACKGROUND

The Migrant Survey has been conducted annually since 2009. The purpose of the survey is to build up an evidence base about recent migrants' settlement and labour market outcomes to better understand the experiences of those who have recently migrated to New Zealand.

This monitoring report summarises survey findings from 2012 to 2015 inclusive, and in particular migrants' satisfaction with life in New Zealand, their sense of belonging, and their working life. The sample comprises people on both temporary and resident class visas. There is more information about the respondents at the end of this report.

The table inset shows the overall respondent sample sizes achieved for each of the four surveys. These have been weighted to reflect their visa type, and it is these weighted results that are presented in this report. Surveys were conducted using a mixed-methodology approach, with migrants having the option of a telephone interview (although not in 2015), completing an online questionnaire or filling out a paper questionnaire.

Note that all differences that are statistically significant have been described as such.

Achieved sample sizes (All methods)

Year	Sample size
2012	2,454
2013	2,292
2014	2,084
2015	1,507

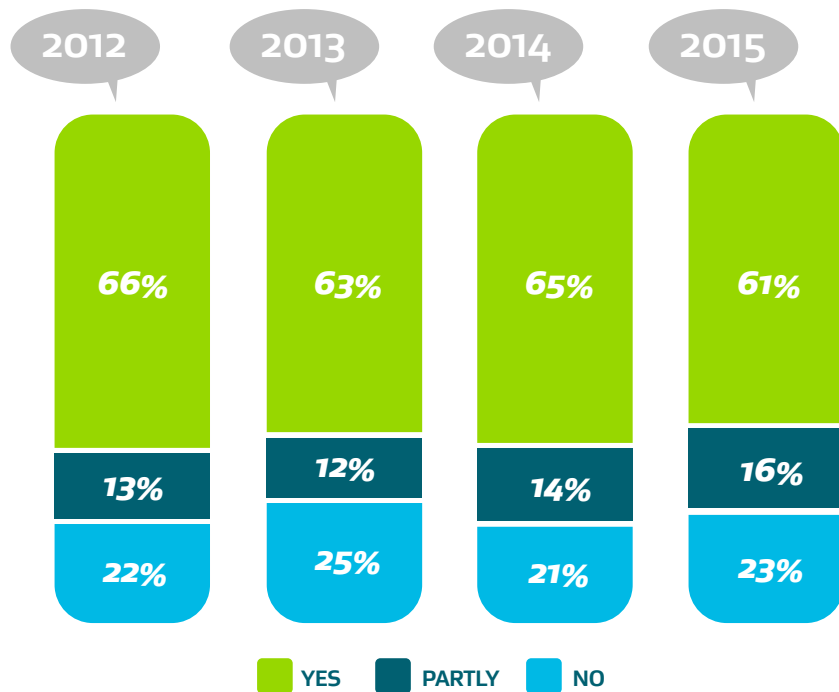
WORKING LIFE

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.

In 2015, 39 percent of recent migrants held a Bachelor's degree, 21 percent held a postgraduate certificate or higher, 20 percent held a tertiary certificate/diploma and 17 percent held a secondary/high school qualification. Around eight out of ten said they were working for a wage or salary.

Almost 8 out of 10 of employed migrants stated that their occupation matched or partly matched their skills and qualifications

Proportion of employed migrants whose occupation matched their skills and qualifications – 2012-2015



The proportion who stated that their occupation directly matched their skills and qualifications has declined slightly from 66 percent in 2012 to 61 percent in 2015.

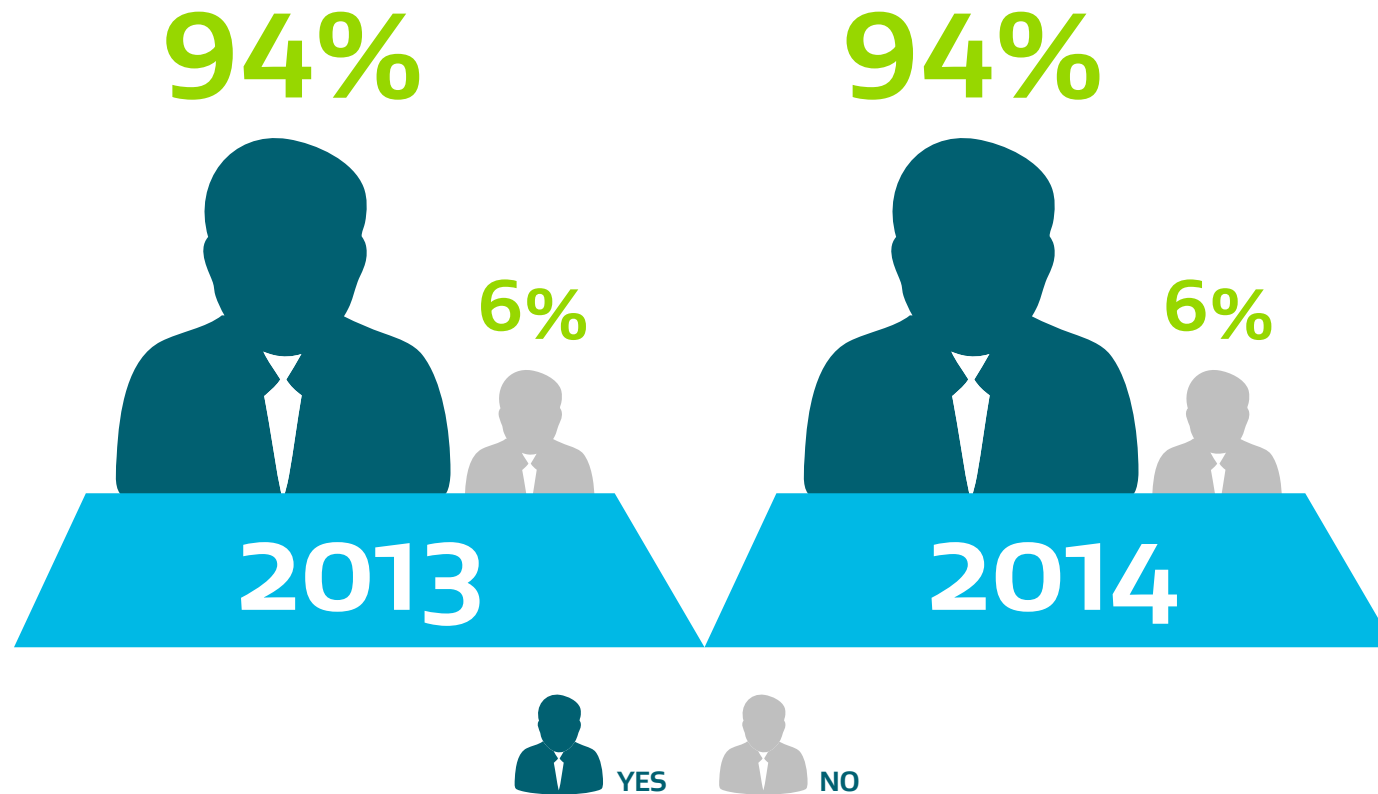
For those who stated that their occupation did not match their skills and qualifications, the main reasons given for this in 2015 were that the migrants decided to pursue a different career/job in New Zealand (38 percent), they couldn't get a job in the area of their qualifications and skills (36 percent) and they were over-qualified for their current job (29 percent). These are the same three main reasons as in 2012 to 2014, although fewer migrants stated that they were over-qualified for their current job in 2015 compared to previous years.

Skilled Principal residence category migrants were significantly more likely (80 percent) than all other visa streams to state that their occupation matched their skills and qualifications.

Over nine out of ten working recent migrants considered that their employer treated them fairly

Perceptions of fair or unfair treatment by employers can affect a migrant's feelings of being settled, and satisfaction with their experience and job in New Zealand.

Migrants' perceptions of whether employers treat them fairly in their jobs – 2013-2014



Note: The question wasn't asked in 2012 or 2015.

Within year differences in 2014

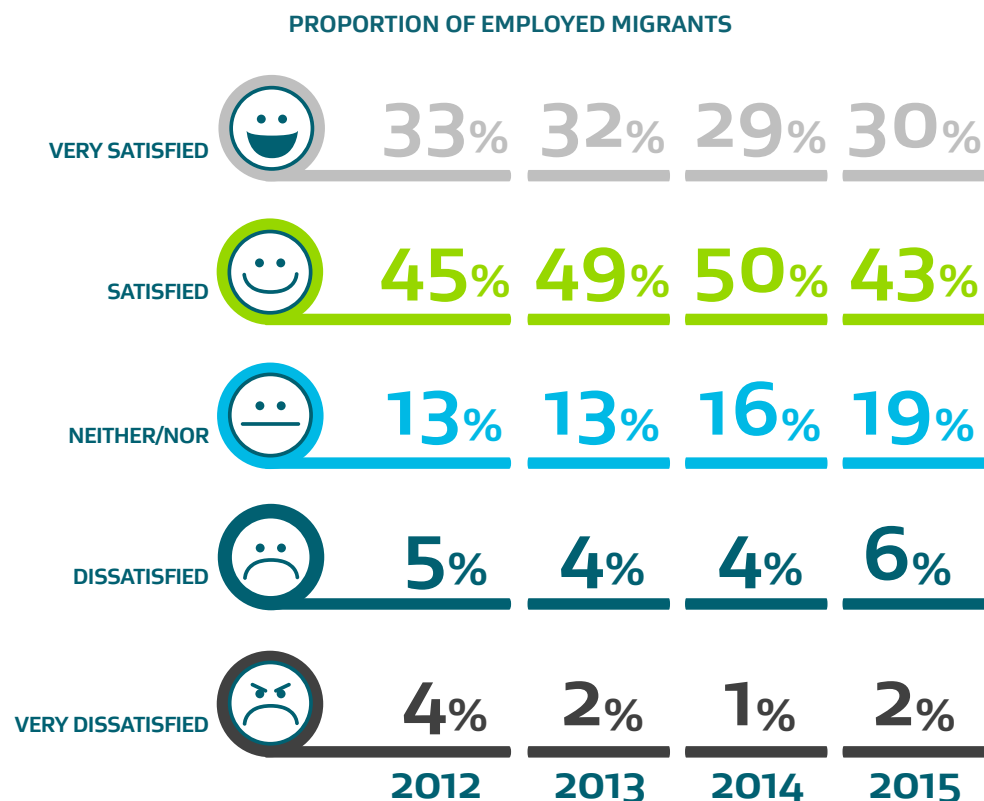
Migrants from the Canterbury region (98 percent) were significantly more likely than migrants from the Auckland region (92 percent) to say they were being treated fairly.

Around three-quarters of employed migrants are satisfied with their job

Participation in New Zealand's labour market is a crucial factor in helping newcomers settle in New Zealand, for both financial and social reasons. A lack of satisfaction with their job may lead to migrants feeling disengaged and lead to poor settlement outcomes.

In 2015, 73 percent of employed migrants stated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with their main job. This is lower than in 2014 (78 percent) but this difference is not statistically significant.

Employed migrants' satisfaction with their main job – 2012-2015



Year on year changes

Migrants through the Family Parent resident category were significantly more likely to be satisfied/ very satisfied with their job in 2015 (94 percent) compared to 2014 (59 percent).

Within year differences in 2015

Migrants through the Family work temporary category (68 percent), the Family Partner resident category (68 percent), the Skilled Secondary resident category (77 percent), Essential Skilled workers (79 percent) and the Skilled Principal resident category (81 percent) were significantly less likely to be satisfied/very satisfied with their job than migrants through the Family Parent resident category (94 percent).

Migrants from the Canterbury region (69 percent) and the Auckland region (71 percent) were significantly less likely than migrants from the Wellington region (88 percent) to be satisfied/very satisfied with their job.

Migrants who had lived in New Zealand for up to 6 months were significantly more likely (99 percent) than all other groups to be satisfied/very satisfied with their job. Migrants from China (57 percent) were significantly less likely than migrants from the UK/Ireland (81 percent), South Africa (86 percent) and the Philippines (87 percent) to be satisfied/very satisfied with their job.

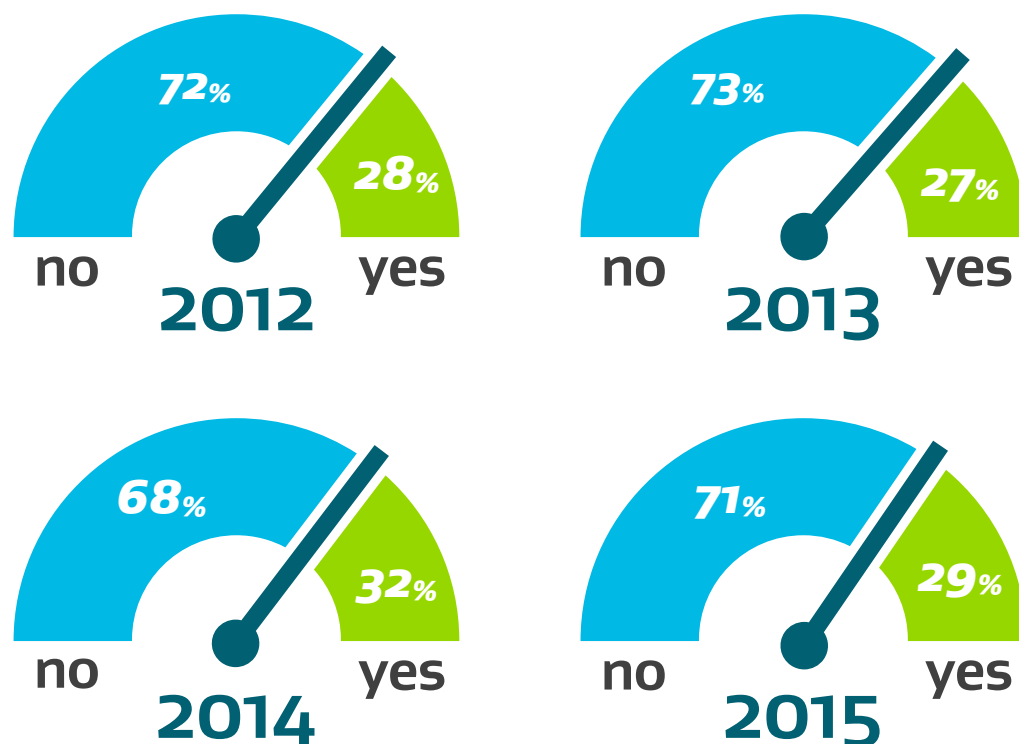
For those who stated that they were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with their main job, the main reasons given were that the salary was too low (49 percent in 2015), they were over-qualified for the job or the job wasn't challenging enough (39 percent in 2015), or that it was not their preferred occupation (25 percent in 2015).

Around 7 out of 10 recent migrants who were already in paid employment or looking for work, have had no difficulties in getting work

Participation in New Zealand's labour market is a crucial factor in helping newcomers settle in New Zealand, for both financial and social reasons.

For those who did have difficulty finding work, the main reasons given for this in 2015 were a lack of New Zealand work experience (38 percent), difficulties with the English language (23 percent) or that their skills or experience were not accepted by New Zealand employers (22 percent).

Recent migrants' experiences of difficulties in getting work – 2012-2015



Within year differences in 2015

Migrants on an Essential Skills work temporary visa (20 percent) and Skilled Principal residence category migrants (29 percent) were significantly less likely to have difficulty finding work than Family Parent resident category migrants (55 percent), Family Partner resident category migrants (44 percent) and Skilled Secondary residence category migrants (42 percent).

Migrants from the Rest of South Island region were significantly less likely (15 percent) to have difficulty finding work than migrants from the Auckland region (36 percent).

Migrants from the UK/Ireland were significantly less likely (5 percent) to have difficulty finding work than migrants from Fiji (28 percent), Philippines (30 percent), India (44 percent) and China (58 percent).

Migrants from South Africa were significantly less likely (16 percent) to have difficulty finding work than migrants from India (44 percent) and China (58 percent).

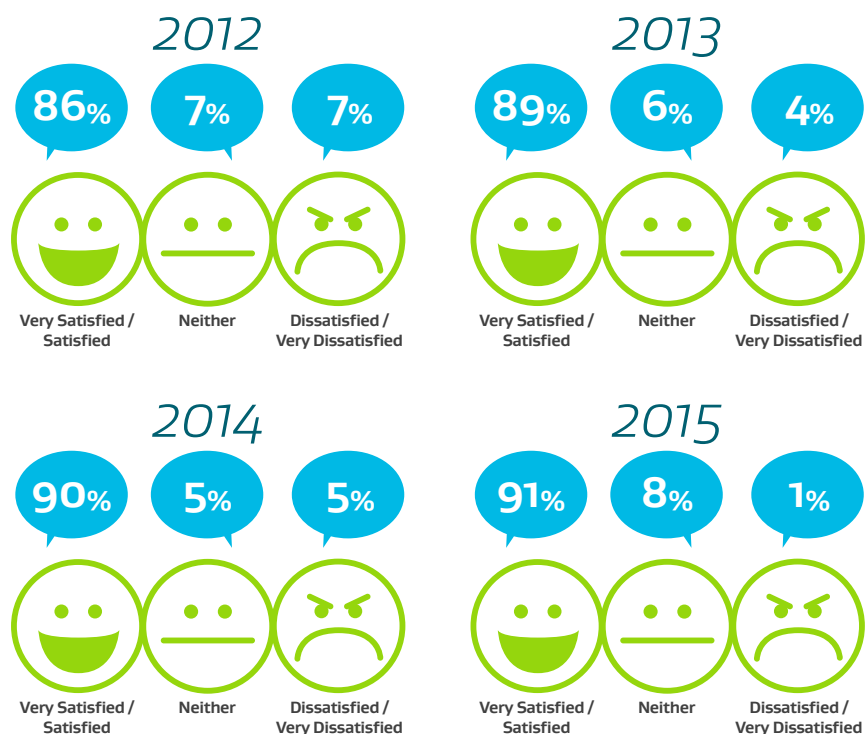
MIGRANTS' SATISFACTION WITH LIFE IN NEW ZEALAND

Nine out of ten recent migrants were satisfied or very satisfied with life in New Zealand.

Satisfaction with life in New Zealand means newcomers are more likely to settle well and to encourage others to visit or migrate to New Zealand. It is also useful to find out the factors which contribute to life satisfaction.

The overall proportion of recent migrants who were satisfied or very satisfied increased from 86 percent in 2012 to 91 percent in 2015.

Recent migrants' satisfaction with life in New Zealand – 2012-2015



Year on year changes

At a total level, migrants were significantly less likely to be dissatisfied/very dissatisfied with life in New Zealand in 2015 (1 percent), compared to 2014 (5 percent).

Migrants through the Family Parent residence category were significantly less likely to be dissatisfied/very dissatisfied with life in New Zealand in 2015 (0 percent) than in 2014 (8 percent).

Migrants from the Rest of North Island region were significantly less likely to be dissatisfied/very dissatisfied with life in New Zealand in 2015 (0 percent) than in 2014 (6 percent).

Migrants who had lived in New Zealand for 1-2 years were significantly less likely to be dissatisfied/very dissatisfied with life in New Zealand in 2015 (0 percent) than in 2014 (3 percent).

Migrants from India were significantly less likely to be dissatisfied/very dissatisfied with life in New Zealand in 2015 (0 percent) than in 2014 (3 percent). Migrants from the Philippines were significantly more likely to be satisfied/very satisfied with life in New Zealand in 2015 (98 percent) than in 2014 (88 percent).

Within year differences in 2015

Migrants from the Auckland region (90 percent) were significantly less likely to be satisfied/very satisfied with life in New Zealand than those from the Rest of the South Island region (98 percent).

Migrants from China (86 percent) were significantly less likely to be satisfied/very satisfied with life in New Zealand than those from the US (97 percent), South Africa (98 percent) or the Philippines (98 percent). Migrants from India (90 percent) were significantly less likely to be satisfied/very satisfied with life in New Zealand than those from South Africa (98 percent) or the Philippines (98 percent).

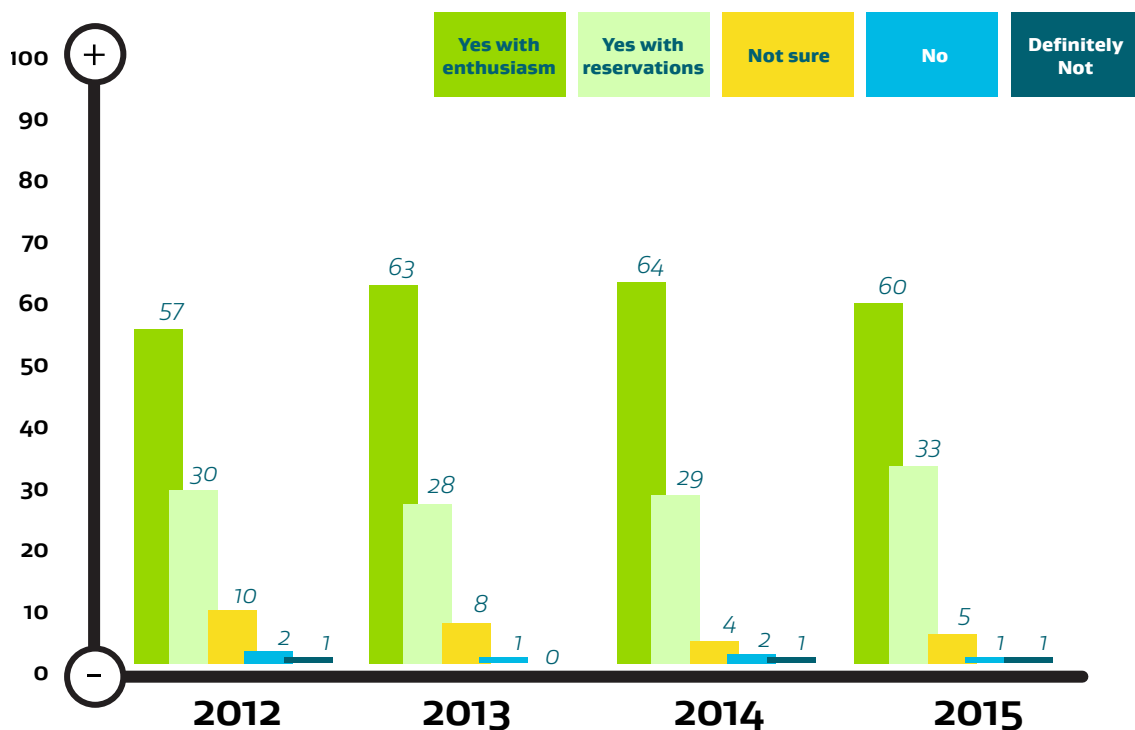
Over nine out of ten recent migrants would recommend New Zealand to friends and family

A personal recommendation from a friend or family member may make the difference for migrants in deciding which country to migrate to. That New Zealand has a good reputation is vital in competing with other traditional migrant-receiving countries in attracting skilled migrants. A willingness to recommend New Zealand is also an indication of satisfaction with life in New Zealand.

Over nine out of ten (93 percent) recent migrants would recommend New Zealand to friends and family in 2015. This is the same as in 2014 (93 percent), similar to 2013 (91 percent) and slightly higher than in 2012 (87 percent).

Slightly fewer recent migrants would recommend New Zealand with enthusiasm in 2015 than in 2014, down four percentage points to 60 percent, although this is not a significant difference.

Recent migrants' who would recommend New Zealand – 2012-2015



Year on year changes

Migrants from China were significantly less likely to say Yes with enthusiasm in 2015 (42 percent), compared to 2014 (59 percent). They were significantly more likely to say Yes with reservations in 2015 (51 percent), compared to 2014 (33 percent).

Within year differences in 2015

Migrants from the Family Parent residence category were significantly more likely (70 percent) to say Yes with enthusiasm than migrants from the Family Partner residence category (56 percent).

Migrants from China (42 percent) and India (55 percent) were significantly less likely than migrants from the UK/Ireland (79 percent), Philippines (81 percent), Fiji (86 percent) and South Africa (89 percent) to say Yes with enthusiasm.

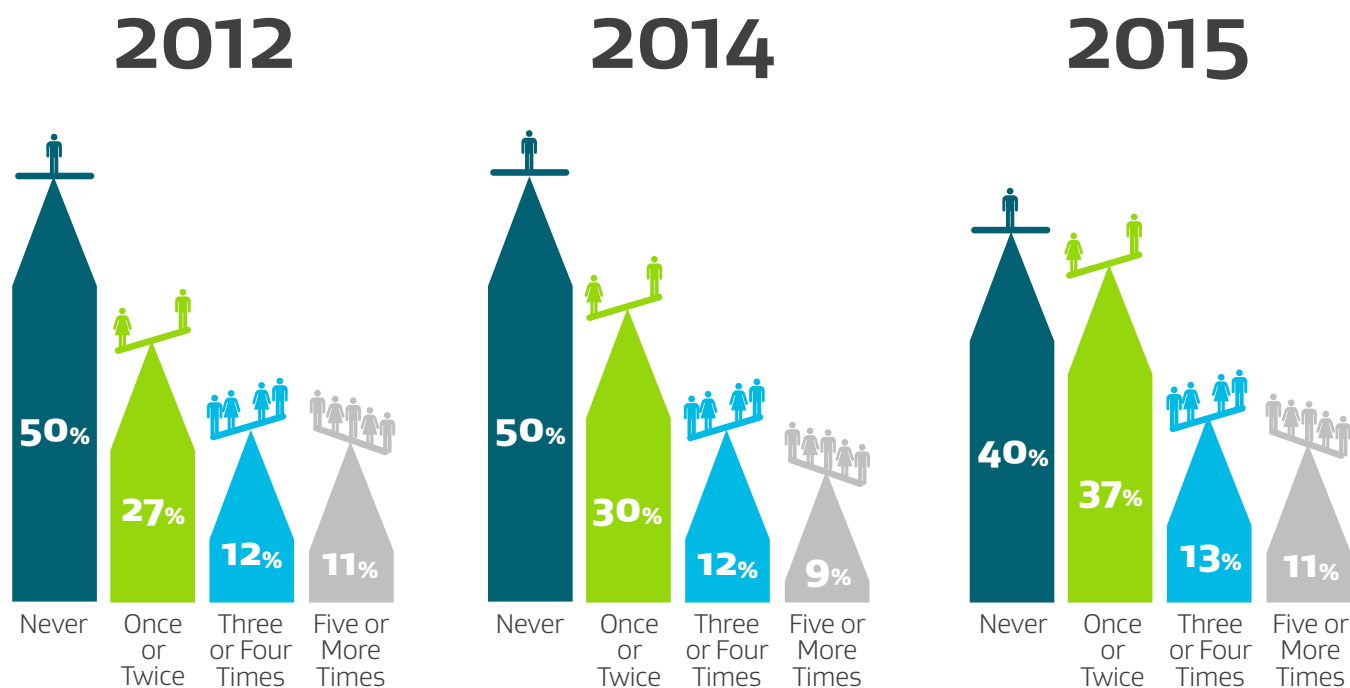
Migrants from China (51 percent) were significantly more likely than migrants from Fiji (10 percent), South Africa (11 percent), Philippines (14 percent), UK/Ireland (19 percent), and India (33 percent) to say Yes with reservations.

Most migrants have faced discrimination in New Zealand

Experiences of discrimination and crime can impact negatively on migrants' integration, ability to contribute and sense of being welcome and belonging in New Zealand. Safety also features as a reason for choosing New Zealand as a place to live for some categories of migrant.

Since coming to New Zealand, six out of ten (60 percent) migrants in 2015 felt that someone had treated them unfairly at least once or twice because they came from overseas, significantly more than in 2014 (50 percent). Most of this increase has been in the 'once or twice' category, rather than at the higher levels.

Migrants' perception of unfair treatment since coming to New Zealand – 2012, 2014 and 2015



Note: Not asked in 2013.

Year on year changes – Discrimination

Overall, migrants were significantly more likely to report they had faced some level of discrimination in 2015 (60 percent) compared to 2014 (50 percent).

Migrants from the Family Partner residence category were significantly more likely to report some level of discrimination in 2015 (65 percent) compared to 2014 (53 percent). Migrants from the Working Holiday Schemes were significantly more likely to report some level of discrimination in 2015 (79 percent) compared to 2014 (41 percent).

Migrants from the Rest of South Island region were significantly more likely to report some level of discrimination in 2015 (80 percent) compared to 2014 (51 percent).

Migrants from the Philippines were significantly less likely to report some level of discrimination in 2015 (49 percent) compared to 2014 (68 percent).

The most common place for recent migrants to encounter discrimination was at work (48 percent), followed by in a public place such as a street (37 percent) and applying for a job (34 percent).

Within year differences in 2015

Migrants from the Family Parent residence category were most likely (77 percent) to report no discrimination than all other streams. Migrants from the Working Holiday Schemes were significantly more likely to report some level of discrimination (79 percent) than Family Parent residence category migrants (23 percent), Family workers (47 percent), Essential Skilled workers (54 percent) and Skilled Secondary residence category migrants (60 percent).

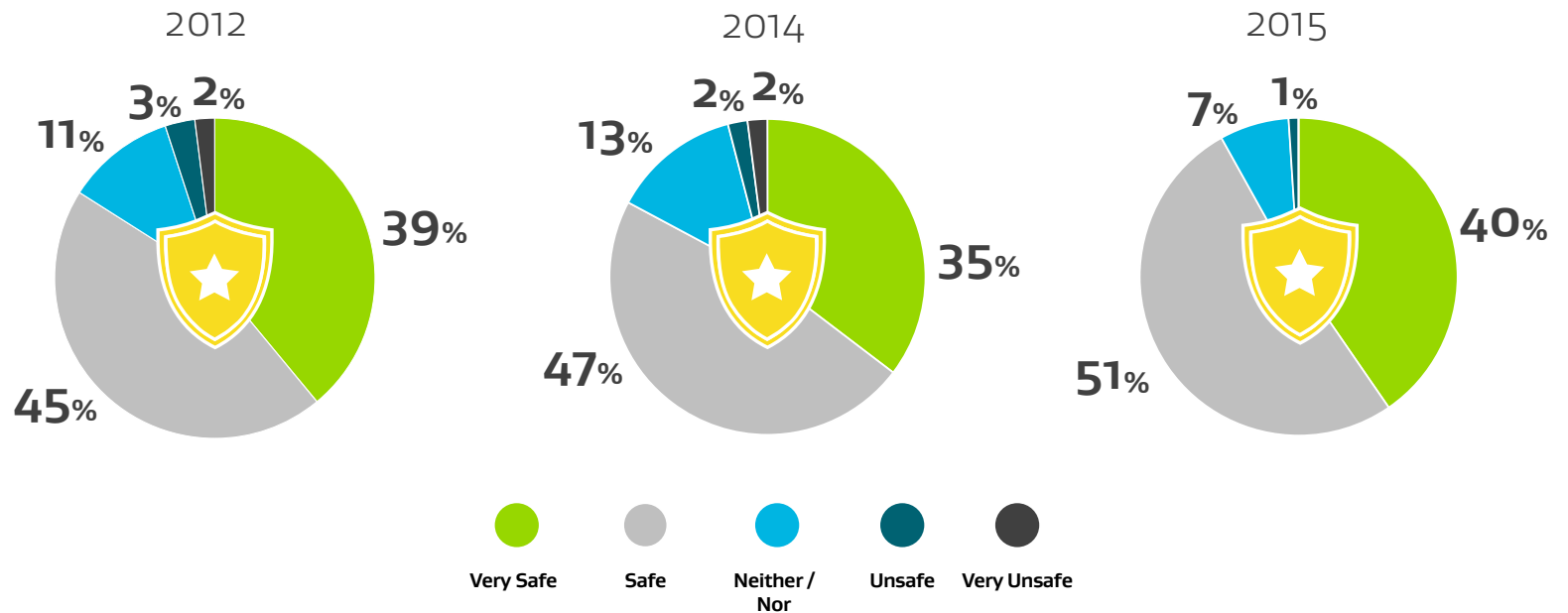
Migrants from the Rest of the South Island were significantly more likely to report some level of discrimination (80 percent) than migrants from Auckland (60 percent), Canterbury (53 percent) or the Rest of the North Island (54 percent).

Migrants from India were significantly more likely to report some level of discrimination (67 percent) than migrants from the Philippines (49 percent), UK/Ireland (40 percent) and Fiji (35 percent). Migrants from China were significantly more likely to report some level of discrimination (62 percent) than migrants from the UK/Ireland (40 percent) and Fiji (35 percent).

Most migrants feel safe from crime in New Zealand

Around nine out of ten (91 percent) migrants in 2015 felt safe or very safe from crime in New Zealand. This is significantly higher than in 2014 (82 percent).

Migrants' perception of safety from crime since coming to New Zealand – 2012, 2014 and 2015



Year on year changes – Safety from crime

Migrants through the Skilled Principal residence category were significantly less likely to say they felt unsafe/very unsafe in 2015 (1 percent) compared to 2014 (5 percent).

Migrants living in the Rest of the North Island region were significantly more likely to say they felt safe/very safe in 2015 (94 percent) compared to 2014 (82 percent). Migrants living in the Auckland region were significantly more likely to say they felt safe/very safe in 2015 (89 percent) compared to 2014 (78 percent).

Migrants who had lived in New Zealand for 3-5 years were significantly more likely to say they felt safe/very safe in 2015 (91 percent) compared to 2014 (77 percent) and significantly less likely to say they felt unsafe/very unsafe in 2015 (6 percent) compared to 2014 (1 percent).

Migrants from India were significantly less likely to say they felt unsafe/very unsafe in 2015 (0 percent) compared to 2014 (3 percent). Migrants from the UK/Ireland were significantly more likely to say they felt safe/very safe in 2015 (97 percent) compared to 2014 (80 percent).

Within year differences in 2015

Migrants through the Family Parent resident category (84 percent) and Family Partner resident category (86 percent) were significantly less likely than Essentials skills workers (94 percent) to say they felt safe/very safe.

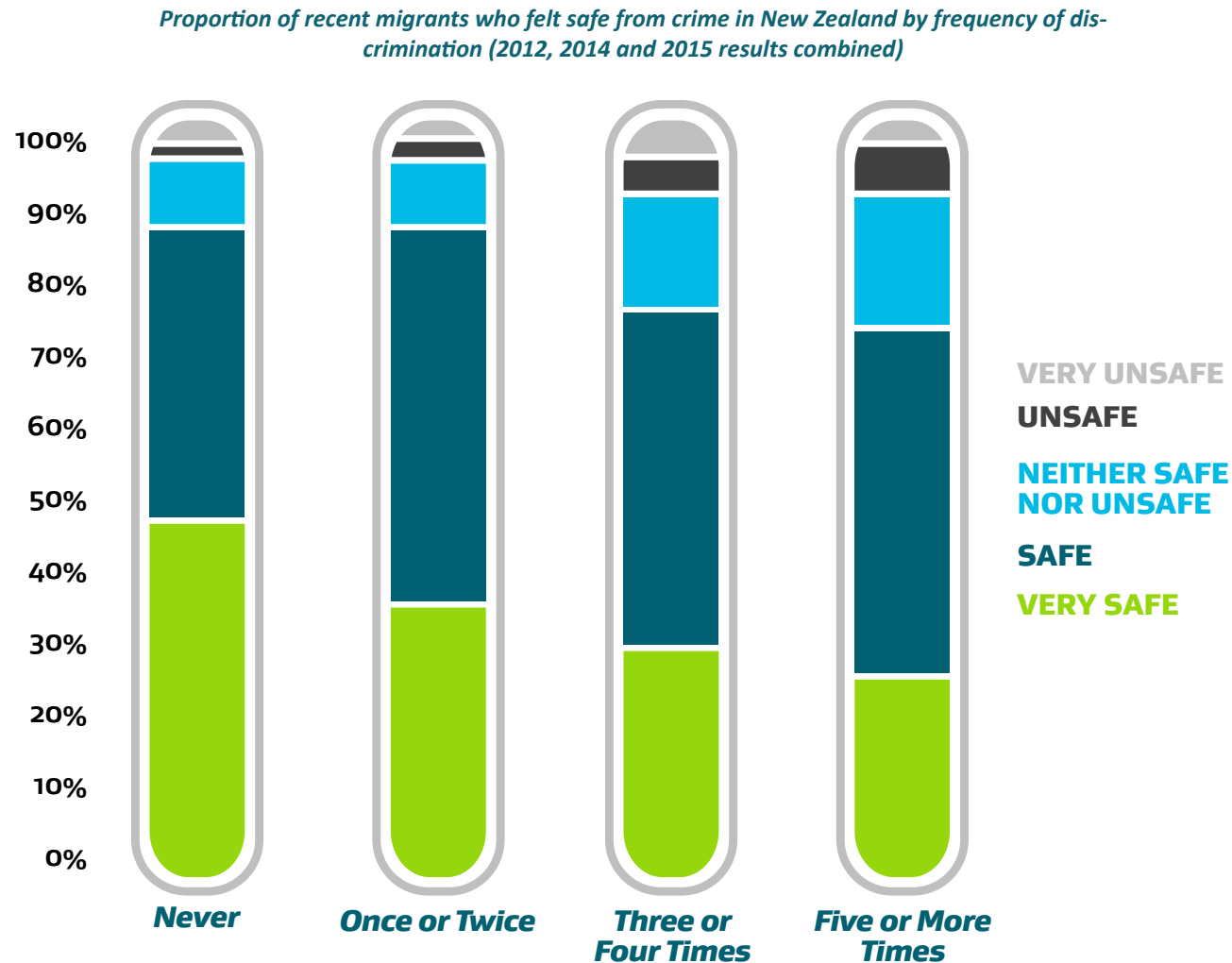
Migrants from the Auckland region (89 percent) were significantly less likely than migrants from the Wellington region (96 percent) to say they felt safe/very safe.

Migrants who had lived in New Zealand for up to 6 months were the most likely to feel safe/very safe (100 percent), more likely than any other group.

Migrants from China were significantly less likely (77 percent) to say they felt safe/very safe than migrants from India (90 percent), Philippines (94 percent), the US (96 percent), UK/Ireland (97 percent) or South Africa (99 percent). Migrants from South Africa were more likely (99 percent) than China (77 percent), Fiji (87 percent) or India (90 percent) to say they felt safe/very safe.

The more discrimination migrants face, the less safe they feel.

Given that migrants are going to face more instances of discrimination the longer they are in New Zealand, as time goes by and discrimination faced rises, so does the feeling of not being safe here.



Even for those migrants who had been here a short time, less than six months, the impact of discrimination was obvious, with 89 percent of those who had never faced discrimination reporting they felt safe or very safe compared with 2 percent of those who had faced discrimination five or more times.

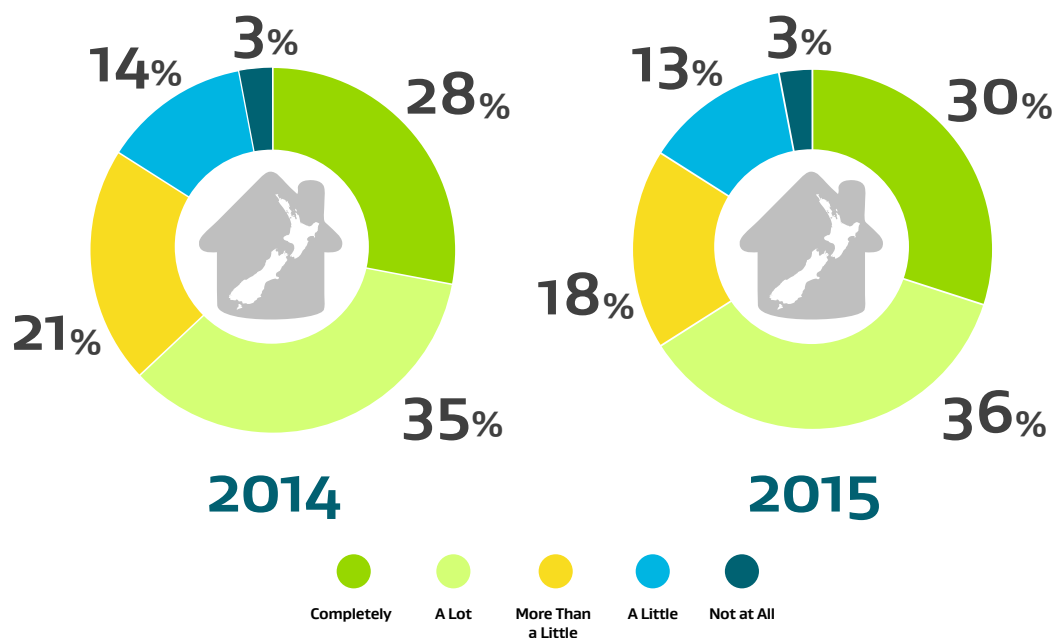
MIGRANTS' SENSE OF BELONGING IN NEW ZEALAND

Around two-thirds of recent migrants feel that New Zealand is their home

A sense of belonging means feeling connected and accepted within one's community. How strongly a person feels connected to the country can affect their participation in society, such as whether they vote, and also their general motivation, health and happiness.

Two-thirds (66 percent) of recent migrants feel either a lot or completely that New Zealand is their home, up slightly from 63 percent in 2014. Just three percent in each year did not consider New Zealand to be their home at all, and just over one in ten in each year (14 percent in 2014 and 13 percent in 2015) felt only a little that New Zealand was their home.

Extent to which migrants feel New Zealand is their home – 2014-2015



Year on year changes

Migrants from the Family Parent residence category were significantly less likely to say they belong a little or not at all in 2015 (10 percent) compared to 2014 (24 percent).

Migrants from the Family Partner residence category were significantly more likely to say they belong a lot or completely in 2015 (73 percent) compared to 2014 (62 percent).

Migrants from the Philippines were significantly more likely to say they belong a lot or completely in 2015 (89 percent) compared to 2014 (78 percent).

Within year differences in 2015

Migrants from the Working Holiday Scheme category were significantly less likely (36 percent) to say they belong a lot or completely than all other categories.

Migrants through the Family Parent resident category were significantly less likely (63 percent) to say they belong a lot or completely than those here on an Essential Skills work visa (80 percent).

The feeling of belonging increases with time spent in New Zealand, with those here for more than five years significantly more likely (85 percent) than those here for 6-12 months (42 percent) to say they belong a lot or completely.

Migrants from the UK/Ireland (62 percent) and China (63 percent) were significantly less likely to say they belong a lot or completely than migrants from South Africa (86 percent), Fiji (88 percent) and the Philippines (89 percent).

Making friends and socialising in New Zealand

Socialising and making friends can help newcomers understand and integrate into New Zealand society through providing a network of practical and emotional support.

Migrants were just as likely to be friends with New Zealanders as with people from their home country

Around a quarter of recent migrants stated that most or all of their friends were New Zealanders and more than half stated that none or only a few of their friends were New Zealanders. These proportions did not change much from 2012 to 2015.

The proportions were similar for friendships with people from their home country, although an increasing proportion of recent migrants stated that most or all of their friends were from their home country, from 23 percent in 2012 to 27 percent in 2013 and 30 percent in 2015. Just over half stated that none or only a few of their friends were from their home country in each year.

A declining proportion of recent migrants stated that none or only a few of their friends were from other countries, from 80 percent in 2012 to 76 percent in 2013 and 69 percent in 2015. Just over one in ten (12 percent) recent migrants stated most or all of their friends were from other countries, up slightly from the seven to eight percent in 2012-2013.

Four out of ten migrants socialised often with New Zealanders or people from their home country

In 2015, four out of ten (40 percent) recent migrants stated that they often or very often socialised with New Zealanders, down from 46 percent in 2013 and 43 percent in 2012. Similar proportions in each year (just over two out of ten, or 22 to 23 percent) said that they never or seldom socialised with New Zealanders.

Over four out of ten (45 percent) recent migrants stated that they often or very often socialised with people from their home country in 2015, the same as the proportion in 2013 although up slightly from 2012 (41 percent). A declining proportion said that they never or seldom socialised with people from their home country, from 28 percent in 2012 to 25 percent in 2013 and 23 percent in 2015.

An increasing proportion of recent migrants said that they often or very often socialised with people from other countries, from 25 percent in 2012 to 30 percent in 2013 and 35 percent in 2015. This is reflected in a declining proportion that stated they never or seldom socialised with people from other countries (36, 32 and 24 percent in 2012, 2013 and 2015 respectively).

Sports clubs were the most popular option amongst social groups or clubs

Over six out of ten (63 percent) recent migrants stated they belonged to one or more social groups or clubs in 2015, a higher proportion than in 2014 (55 percent) and slightly higher than in 2013 (59 percent), although the change was not statistically significant.

In 2015, the most common social group or club to belong to was a sports club or group (26 percent), followed by a religious group (21 percent), a job-related association (11 percent) or a hobby or cultural club or group (11 percent).

Migrants' membership of social groups or clubs – 2013-2015

	2013	2014	2015
A sports club or group	24%	22%	26%
A religious group (eg, attending a church, temple, mosque, or synagogue)	22%	20%	21%
A job related association (eg, a professional body or union)	13%	12%	11%
A hobby or cultural club or group (eg, a choir, film group, gardening, or mah-jong club)	12%	10%	11%
An ethnic association	6%	5%	7%
A service club (eg, Rotary, or Lions) or community/voluntary group	10%	7%	6%
A youth club or group (eg, Scouts, or Guides)	1%	2%	1%
Parent/family group or school committee	n/a	0%	1%
Other groups or clubs	0%	1%	2%
None of these	41%	45%	37%

Year on year changes

Migrants from China were significantly more likely in 2015 (58 percent) to belong to a social group or club than in 2014 (38 percent).

Within year differences in 2015

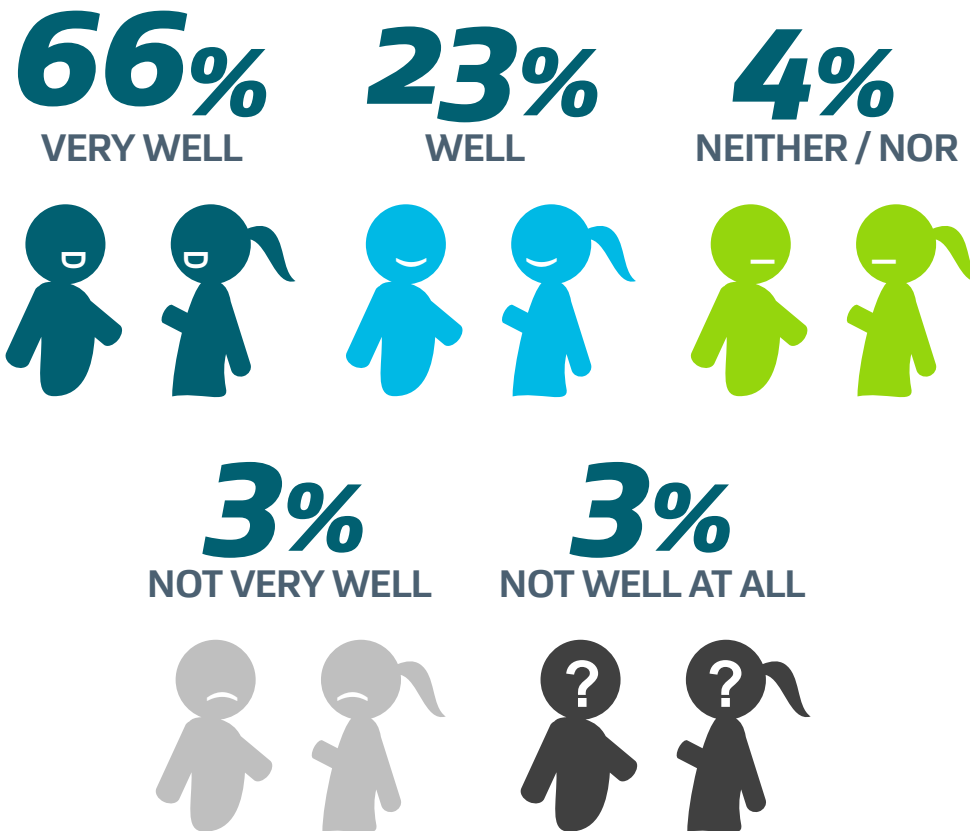
Migrants from the UK/Ireland (58 percent), China (58 percent) and India (60 percent) were significantly less likely to belong to a social group or club than migrants from Fiji (81 percent).

Most migrants can have a conversation about everyday things in English

The ability to speak English in a predominantly English-speaking country such as New Zealand will impact on a migrant's ability to interact and do everyday things in New Zealand society, and to develop social and professional networks that provide a sense of belonging and acceptance outside a migrant's immediate family and cultural group.

In 2015, migrants were asked how well they could have a conversation about everyday things in English. Around 9 out of 10 (89 percent) of recent migrants stated that they could have a conversation about everyday things in English well (23 percent) or very well (66 percent).

Migrants' ability to converse about everyday things in English – 2015



Within year differences in 2015

Migrants in the Auckland region (86 percent) were significantly less likely than migrants from the Wellington region (97 percent) and the Rest of the South Island region (96 percent) to say they could have a conversation about everyday things in English well or very well.

Migrants through the Family Parent resident category were significantly less likely (43 percent) than all other streams (83 percent to 95 percent) to say they could have a conversation about everyday things in English well or very well.

Migrants from China (53 percent) were significantly less likely than all other countries to say they could have a conversation about everyday things in English well or very well. Migrants from China (53 percent), the Philippines (96 percent) and India (97 percent) were significantly less likely than migrants from South Africa (100 percent) or the US (100 percent) to say they could have a conversation about everyday things in English well or very well.

Around two-thirds of eligible recent migrants voted in the general election

The extent to which migrants participate in democratic processes, such as the national general election, is an indicator of their commitment and sense of belonging to New Zealand. Voter turnout rates also help to show how recent migrants feel about government. This includes the confidence they have in political institutions, the importance they attach to them, and whether they feel their participation can make a difference.

Every three years, in the year after an election, we ask migrants if they were eligible to vote and if they voted.

In 2013, we asked about intention to vote. It's worth noting that 95 percent of eligible voters said they would vote but in 2014 when asked if they had voted, 70 percent said yes. It appears that intentions far outstrip behaviour on this issue.

To be eligible to vote, migrants must be a resident of New Zealand, be 18 or older and have lived here for 12 months or more. These results represent only those that were on a resident visa. It is also only those years when migrants were asked about behaviour, not intentions.

Around two-thirds of those who said they were eligible to vote, said they voted (66 percent in the 2011 election and 70 percent in the 2014 election). This is lower than the national average of 78 percent.

There were no significant differences by visa type, region of New Zealand, length of time resident in New Zealand or the country of origin.

¹Source: http://www.stats.govt.nz/browse_for_stats/snapshots-of-nz/nz-social-indicators/Home/Trust%20and%20participation%20in%20government/voter-turnout.aspx (Accessed 14 July 2016)

MIGRANTS' COMMITMENT TO NEW ZEALAND

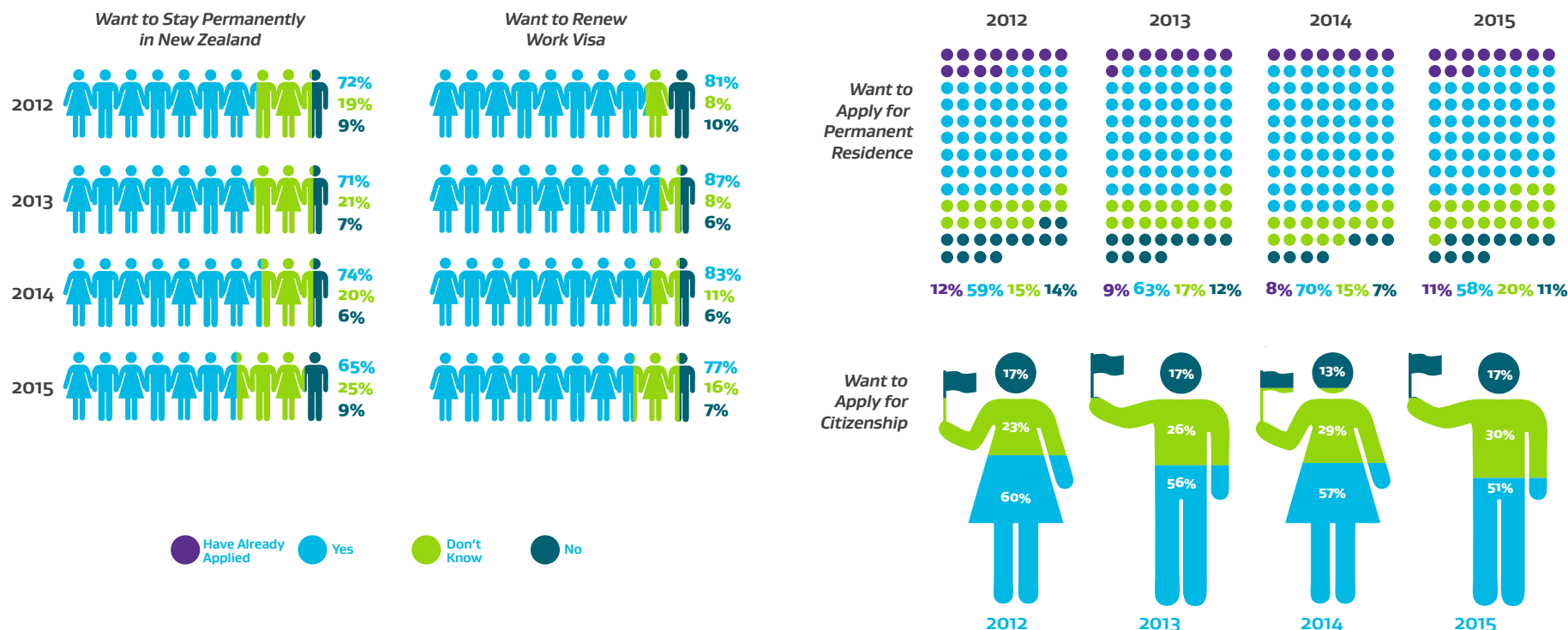
One measure of new migrants' ability to make the most of the opportunities New Zealand offers is their commitment to New Zealand. Becoming a citizen is one way that permanent residents can show their satisfaction with New Zealand and their intention to stay long-term.

Most migrants want to stay here permanently

In 2015, almost two-thirds (65 percent) of recent migrants wanted to stay permanently in New Zealand, although fewer migrants (52 percent) wanted to apply for citizenship (including one percent that had already done so). Nine percent said that they did not want to stay permanently in New Zealand, and 17 percent did not want to apply for citizenship (the balances were unsure).

Most recent migrants (seven out of ten, or 70 percent) said they would like to apply for permanent residence (including 11 percent that have already done so), while almost eight out of ten (77 percent) wanted to renew their work visa. Around one in ten (11 percent) did not want to apply for permanent residence, and seven percent did not want to renew their work visa (the balances were unsure).

Recent migrants' intentions on staying in New Zealand – 2012-2015



Year on year changes for those who want to stay permanently

There were no significant differences by stream, region, length of time in New Zealand or country of origin.

Within year differences in 2015 for those who want to stay permanently

Migrants on a Working Holiday Scheme were significantly less likely (30 percent) than all other streams (which ranged from 76 percent to 88 percent) to want to stay permanently.

Migrants in the Rest of the South Island region were significantly less likely (45 percent) than those in the Rest of the North Island (74 percent) to want to stay permanently.

Migrants who had lived in New Zealand for less than 6 months (23 percent) and those here between 6-12 months (49 percent) were significantly less likely than those here 3-5 years (73 percent) and more than 5 years (84 percent) to want to stay permanently.

Migrants from the US (33 percent) and UK/Ireland (63 percent) were significantly less likely than migrants from India (83 percent), Philippines (94 percent), South Africa (96 percent) and Fiji (98 percent) to want to stay permanently.

Planned time spent living in New Zealand

In 2015, recent migrants who did not intend staying permanently in New Zealand (nine percent), or did not know whether they would (25 percent), most commonly said either that they intended to stay three to five years or that they did not know how long they would stay (24 percent each), followed by 20 percent that said they intended to stay for more than five years.

Reasons for leaving New Zealand and destination

In 2012 and 2014, 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 (59 percent in 2014), career opportunity/job offer in another country (43 percent in 2014) and immigration visa will run out (34 percent in 2014).

In 2014, 65 percent of migrants planning to leave New Zealand intended to return to their home country and 19 percent intended to move to a new country.

Of those who had another destination in mind, Australia was the most common (38 percent) followed by the United Kingdom (25 percent).

MIGRANTS' EXPECTATIONS OF LIFE IN NEW ZEALAND AND REASONS FOR COMING

New Zealand's clean, green environment was the aspect of life in New Zealand that was most likely to exceed migrants' expectations and economic factors were the most likely to disappoint

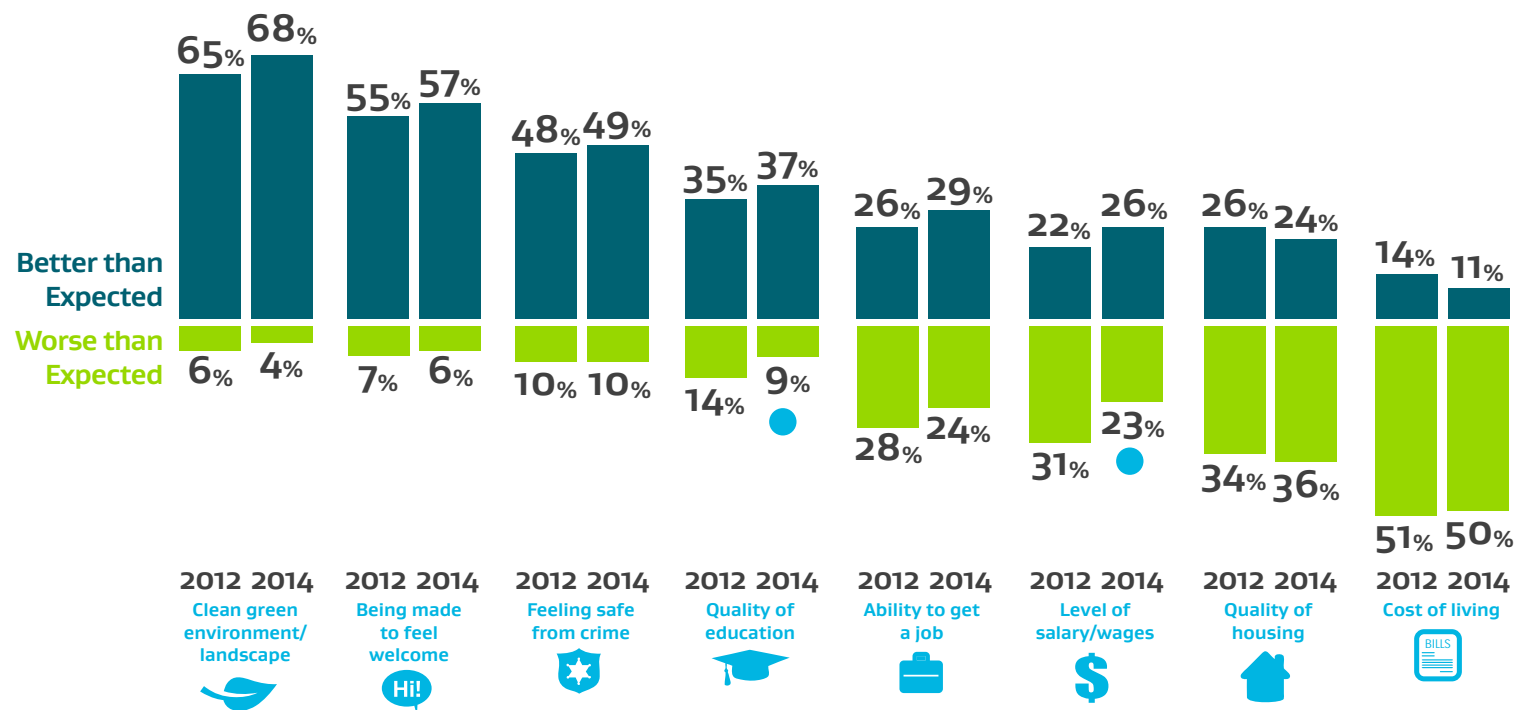
Understanding the difference between migrants' expectations of life in New Zealand and their actual experience once they are here may help identify issues with unrealistic expectations or differences in the quality of information migrants got before they came to New Zealand that may reduce the likelihood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

New Zealand's clean, green environment was the aspect that was most likely to exceed migrants' expectations, with almost seven out of ten (68 percent) recent migrants rating it better than expected in 2014, up slightly from 65 percent in 2012, and only four percent rating it worse (six percent in 2012).

Social factors such as feeling welcome and safety from crime also exceeded expectations with 57 percent of recent migrants in 2014 (55 percent in 2012) finding being made to feel welcome better than expected and 49 percent of recent migrants finding their safety from crime better than expected (48 percent in 2012).

Economic factors were the most likely to disappoint, with the cost of living the most likely to be worse than expected (50 percent in 2014 and 51 percent in 2012), followed by the quality of housing (36 percent in 2014 and 34 percent in 2012), the level of salary or wages (23 and 31 percent) and the ability to get a job (24 and 28 percent).

Aspects of New Zealand that recent migrants found better or worse than expected – 2012 and 2014



Changes between years marked with a ● were significant. All other changes are not significant.

The main reason for coming to New Zealand was the environment and landscape

Understanding the reasons migrants came to New Zealand will help craft the appropriate messages to attract appropriately skilled migrants to consider New Zealand as a destination ahead of other traditional migrant-receiving countries that New Zealand is in competing with. This will help ensure prospective migrants have accurate information and do not come with unrealistic expectations for what their New Zealand experience will be like.

Recent migrants were asked about their main reasons for coming to New Zealand in 2013 and 2015. Most commonly, over half of migrants were attracted by the New Zealand environment and landscape (51 percent and 62 percent in 2013 and 2015 respectively), followed by the relaxed pace of life (46 percent and 56 percent respectively). In 2013, the ability to get a good job was a factor for 38 percent of migrants, while in 2015 safety from crime and violence was a key reason for 37 percent.

Reasons for coming to New Zealand – 2013 and 2015

	2013	2015
Environment/landscape	51%	62%
Relaxed pace of life	46%	56%
Safety from crime and violence	29%	37%
Ability to get a good job	38%	35%
Recreation and leisure activities	26%	29%
To be with family and friends	33%	28%
Good education system	22%	20%
Lack of interracial, ethnic or religious tensions	13%	19%
Good provision of services	10%	14%
Good housing	6%	8%

Demographic profile of recent migrants

		2012	2013	2014	2015
Gender	Female	47%	51%	48%	48%
	Male	53%	49%	52%	52%
Age group	18-19 years	1%	1%	0%	0%
	20-24 years	16%	13%	11%	6%
	25-29 years	30%	33%	32%	29%
	30-39 years	31%	31%	38%	43%
	40-49 years	13%	12%	11%	11%
	50-59 years	6%	5%	4%	4%
	60-69 years	3%	4%	2%	5%
	70 years +	1%	1%	1%	2%
Visa type	Skilled Principal	13%	12%	11%	11%
	Skilled Secondary	8%	7%	6%	6%
Time in NZ	Family Parent	4%	5%	4%	5%
	Family Partner	9%	11%	10%	9%
	Work- Working Holiday	19%	18%	16%	20%
	Work- Essential Skills	11%	10%	12%	12%
	Work- Family	13%	12%	12%	12%
	Work- Other	23%	25%	28%	24%
	Up to 6 months	9%	1%	2%	4%
	6-12 months	15%	17%	13%	17%
Time in NZ	1-2 years	26%	32%	24%	21%
	3-5 years	34%	33%	43%	41%
	More than 5 years	14%	16%	17%	16%
	Not sure/Won't say	1%	1%	1%	0%

		2012	2013	2014	2015
Region	Auckland Region	47%	43%	51%	51%
	Wellington Region	11%	12%	10%	9%
	Rest of North Island	18%	18%	17%	16%
	Canterbury Region	12%	14%	15%	14%
	Rest of South Island	11%	12%	8%	10%
	Not sure/Won't say	0%	0%	0%	1%
Country	UK/Ireland	19%	18%	18%	16%
	Other	36%	36%	38%	43%
Origin	China	11%	12%	13%	12%
	India	11%	12%	11%	12%
	Philippines	7%	7%	7%	6%
	United States	7%	6%	5%	5%
	Fiji	5%	5%	3%	3%
	South Africa	5%	3%	5%	2%
	Asia	41%	42%	42%	42%
	Europe	34%	36%	36%	37%
Origin	North America	9%	8%	9%	9%
	Oceania	7%	6%	6%	5%
	Africa	5%	4%	5%	3%
	South America	3%	3%	3%	3%



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