



Regional Migration Trends

Waikato Overview 2015/16



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New Zealand Government

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Waikato Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of Waikato's recent migrant population and migration trends. The report shows trends to 2015/16 and compares recent immigration patterns with previous years.

More Skilled Migrant Category principal applicant approvals over the past year in Waikato

In 2015/16, five percent (or 604 people) of New Zealand's Skilled Migrant Category principal applicants (permanent migrants) found employment in the Waikato region. This is an increase of 21 percent on the previous year. India, China and the United Kingdom were the top source countries of skilled migrants in the region.

The most common occupations of these migrants in Waikato were Registered Nurses (10 percent) and Retail Managers (9 percent).

Essential Skills temporary workers increased over the past year in Waikato

In 2015/16, 1,513 people were approved for the Essential Skills work visa in the region. This is an increase of five percent over the past year. India, the Philippines and the United Kingdom were the top source countries for Essential Skills workers in the region.

The most common occupations of Essential Skills workers in Waikato were Livestock Farmers (23 percent), Chefs (8 percent) and Retail Managers (6 percent).

International student numbers increased in Waikato

Waikato had the fourth largest share of international students in the country. In 2015/16, 5,036 international students were approved for study in Waikato, making up six percent of the total student visas granted. This is a 26 percent increase from the previous year,

Introduction

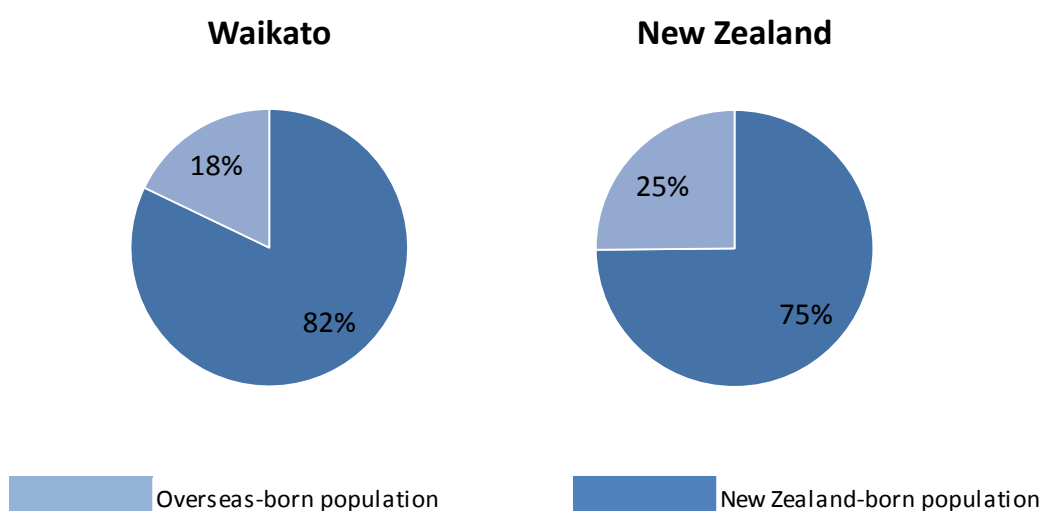
The lush farmland of the Waikato region is located south of Auckland. It served as the location of the Shire in “The Lord of the Rings” and “The Hobbit” films and has become a major tourist destination. The Waikato region’s main centre and largest city is Hamilton, located on the banks of the Waikato River. Hamilton is New Zealand’s fourth most populous city and is the sixth fastest-growing district in the country.

Waikato’s economy is strongly based on agriculture, especially dairy farming. The region’s largest employer is the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector which employs 11 percent of the labour force in the region, followed by the manufacturing sector and healthcare and social assistance¹.

As at 30 June 2016, Waikato region’s population was 449,200², which represents ten percent of New Zealand’s total population.

According to the 2013 Census, 18 percent of the region’s population were born overseas compared with 25 percent for New Zealand overall. The majority of new migrants³ coming into Waikato were from Asia (45 percent) and the United Kingdom and Ireland (16 percent).

Figure 1: Proportion of the overseas-born and the New Zealand-born population in the Waikato region and New Zealand overall, 2013



Source: 2013 Census of Population and Dwellings, Statistics NZ

¹ MBIE *Regional Economic Activity Report*

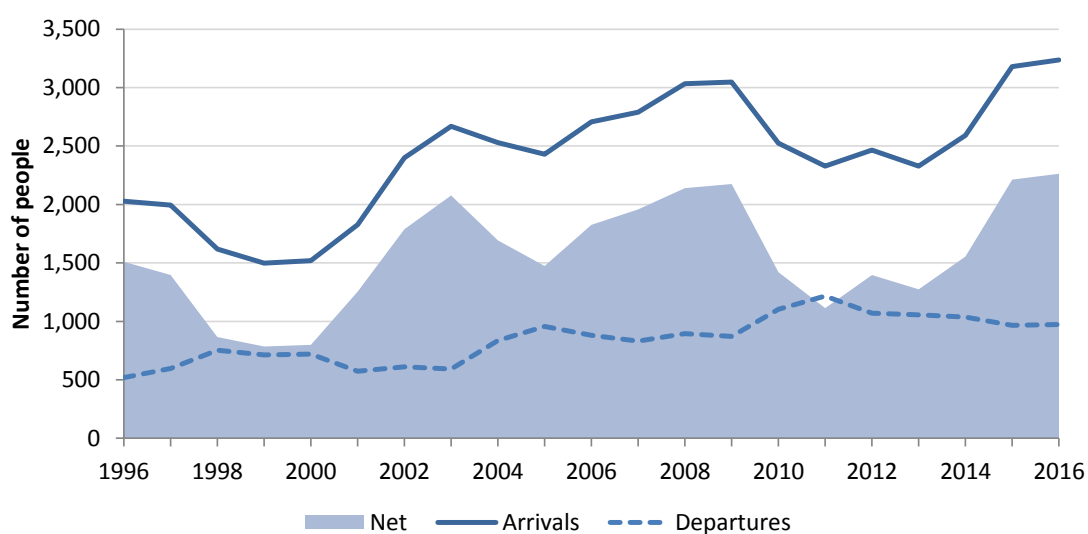
² Subnational Population Estimates as at 30 June 2016 (provisional), Statistics NZ.

³ Those who have been living in New Zealand for under two years at the time of the 2013 Census.

New Zealand’s population is affected by migration flows. Apart from new resident migrants, this includes the arrival and departures of temporary migrants on work and student visas.

Figure 2 below shows that there have been more permanent and long-term⁴ arrivals of non-New Zealand and non-Australian citizens than departures in the region. In June 2016, there were 3,237 permanent and long-term arrivals in Waikato, an increase from 3,179 arrivals recorded the previous year. Permanent and long-term departures totalled 974 in 2016. This resulted in the net gain of 2,263 in 2016 which is the highest net gain recorded in the region over the last 20 years. Note that these figures are based on people’s intention rather than their actual stay in New Zealand.

Figure 2: Annual permanent and long-term migration (excluding New Zealand and Australian citizens) to the Waikato region, year to June 1996-2016



Source: Permanent and long-term statistics, Statistics NZ

Note: Net migration flow is the difference between the number of permanent and long-term (PLT) arrivals and departures.

⁴ An arrival or departure is ‘permanent and long-term’ if the intended length of stay or absence is 12 months or more.

Residence Approvals

Permanent residence provides a person with the right to live in New Zealand and to gain access to all the work, business, education, property, and health privileges available to New Zealanders.

People who wish to migrate permanently to New Zealand must enter through one of the three residence streams of the New Zealand Residence Programme (NZRP). These are:

- Skilled/Business Stream
- Family Stream
- International/Humanitarian Stream.

This chapter describes the trends in the number of people coming in on a residence visa rather than a number at a single point in time. After a decrease from the previous year, the number of New Zealand residence approvals has increased by 21 percent from 43,085 in 2014/15 to 52,052 in 2015/16.⁵

New Zealand needs skilled migrants to contribute to skills acquisition, productivity and growth in a range of industries. Most migrants under the NZRP were approved under the Skilled/Business Stream (57 percent). Within the Skilled/Business Stream, the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) has the largest number of residence approvals (50 percent in 2015/16). The SMC is a points-based system designed to ensure people migrating to New Zealand have the skills, qualifications and work experience that New Zealand needs.

In 2015/16, 49 percent of residence approvals under the SMC were principal applicants (13,096 people) and 51 percent were secondary applicants (12,660). Secondary applicants include partners and/or dependent children of principal applicants. Regional breakdown of data for secondary applicants is not available.

Regional data on residence approvals is only available for SMC principal applicants who specified their region of employment. The following section will focus on SMC principal applicants with a job or job offer in the Waikato region.

⁵ MBIE. (2016). *Migration Trends 2015/16*

Waikato context

In 2015/16, the Waikato region attracted five percent (or 604 people) of the Skilled Migrant Category principal applicants to New Zealand. This is an increase from the 501 approved in the previous year (see Appendix Table 1).

Source country

India is the main source country of SMC principal applicants in Waikato, followed by China and the United Kingdom. Together, the top three source countries represent 57 percent of the total approved SMC principal applicants in the region in 2015/16.

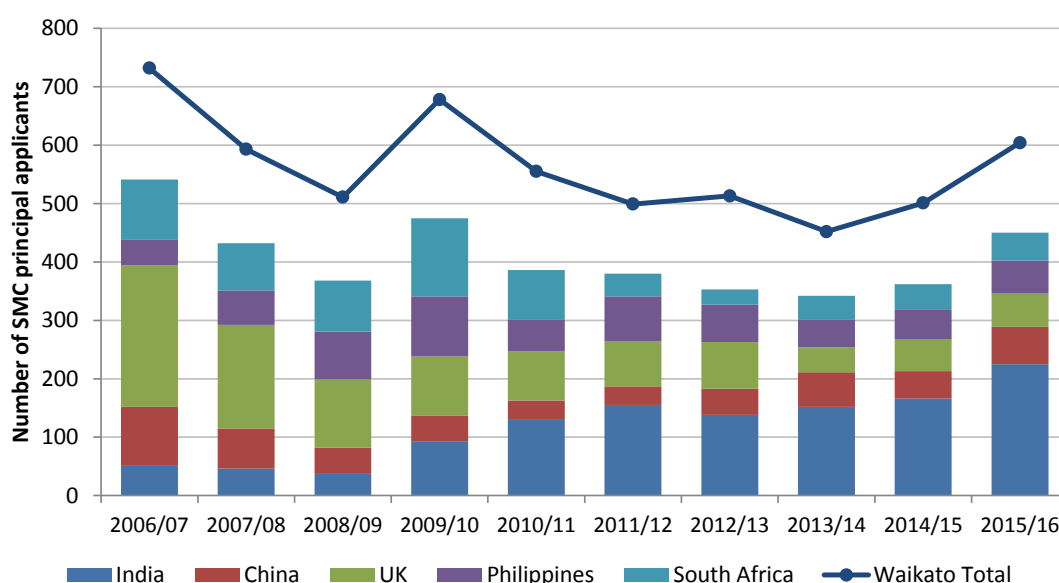
Table 1: Top source countries of Skilled Migrant Category principal applicants in Waikato, 2011/12 to 2015/16

Source country of principal applicant	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
India	155 (31%)	138 (27%)	152 (34%)	166 (33%)	225 (37%)
China	32 (6%)	45 (9%)	59 (13%)	47 (9%)	64 (11%)
UK	77 (15%)	80 (16%)	43 (10%)	55 (11%)	57 (9%)
Philippines	77 (15%)	64 (12%)	47 (10%)	50 (10%)	56 (9%)
South Africa	39 (8%)	26 (5%)	41 (9%)	44 (9%)	48 (8%)

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

The trend over the last decade shows that the number of SMC principal applicants in the region has been decreasing (see Figure 3 below). However, there has been a steady increase over the last three years. The number of SMC principal applicants from the United Kingdom has been declining over the last ten years. The United Kingdom was the main source of skilled migrants in the region up until 2008/09. In contrast, the number of skilled migrants coming in from India has been increasing over time and has been the main source of skilled migrants in the region for the last six years.

Figure 3: The top five source countries of Skilled Migrant Category principal applicants in Waikato, 2006/07 to 2015/16



Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Occupations

Table 2 below shows the main occupations of SMC principal applicants with a job or job offer in the Waikato region in 2015/16. It also lists the top source countries for each occupation group.

The main occupations of skilled migrants in Waikato in 2015/16 were Registered Nurses (10 percent) and Retail Managers (9 percent).

Table 2: Occupations of Skilled Migrant Category principal applicants with a job or job offer in Waikato, 2014/15 and 2015/16

	Number of applicants ⁶		Change over the past year	Top 2 source countries for each occupation
	2014/15	2015/16		
Top 5 occupations (2-digit level ANZSCO)				
Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers	74	101	↑	India, China
Health Professionals	108	92	↓	India, Philippines
Engineering, ICT and Science Technicians	41	65	↑	India, China
Food Trades Workers	48	46	↓	India, China
Business, Human Resource and Marketing Professionals	21	37	↑	India, South Africa
Top 5 occupations (4-digit level ANZSCO)				
Registered Nurses	76	62	↓	India, Philippines
Retail Managers	45	56	↑	India, China
Cafe and Restaurant Managers	20	36	↑	India, China
Chefs	35	32	↓	India, China
Livestock Farmers	28	25	↓	South Africa, India

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Note 1: Occupations are based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO). Data are reported at both a high level breakdown (ie 2-digit level ANZSCO) and a more detailed breakdown (ie 4-digit level ANZSCO) of occupations.

Note 2: Due to the small number of counts for the region, only the top five occupations are reported.

⁶ Applicants whose occupations were not coded to ANZSCO or were classified as 'responses out of the current definition of the labour force' are excluded from the count.

Temporary Workers

The temporary work policy allows people to enter New Zealand for a variety of work-related purposes. Work visas allow employers to recruit temporary workers from overseas to fill skill shortages, while still protecting employment opportunities for New Zealand workers.

There are three main work policies. These are:

- Essentials Skills policy
- Working Holiday Schemes
- Family policy.

This chapter describes the trends in the number of people coming in on a temporary work visa rather than a number at a single point in time. In 2015/16, 192,688 people were granted work visas in New Zealand, an increase of 13 percent from 170,814 in 2014/15. Of these, 16 percent were approved for the Essential Skills visa.⁷

Regional data on temporary work visa approvals is only available for Essential Skills visa holders. The next section will focus on temporary migrants who were granted Essential Skills visas for employment in the Waikato region.

Essential Skills workers

The Essential Skills policy facilitates the entry of people required on a temporary basis to fill shortages where there are no suitably qualified New Zealand citizens or residents for the work offered. It is a labour market tested visa which means that employers in New Zealand have proven that they made genuine efforts to attract and recruit New Zealanders to fill a position but have been unable to find such people.

The number of approved Essential Skills workers in New Zealand has been gradually increasing over time. In 2015/16, 31,766 people were approved to work in New Zealand under the Essential Skills work policy, an increase of 11 percent from 28,548 in 2014/15. The increase in the number of temporary workers indicates an ongoing demand for labour in New Zealand.

Waikato context

Waikato is the fifth main region for employment of Essential Skills workers. In 2015/16, a total of 1,513 people were approved to work in Waikato under the Essential Skills work policy (see Appendix Table 2). There has been an increase of five percent in the number of approved workers in the region over the previous year (compared to an 11 percent increase nationwide).

Source country

Table 3 below shows the top five source countries of Essential Skills workers in Waikato over the last five years. Together, the top five source countries accounted for 63 percent of the total number of Essential Skills workers coming to jobs in the region.

In 2015/16, India was the main source country of Essential Skills workers in Waikato, followed by the Philippines and the United Kingdom.

⁷ MBIE. (2016). *Migration Trends 2015/16*

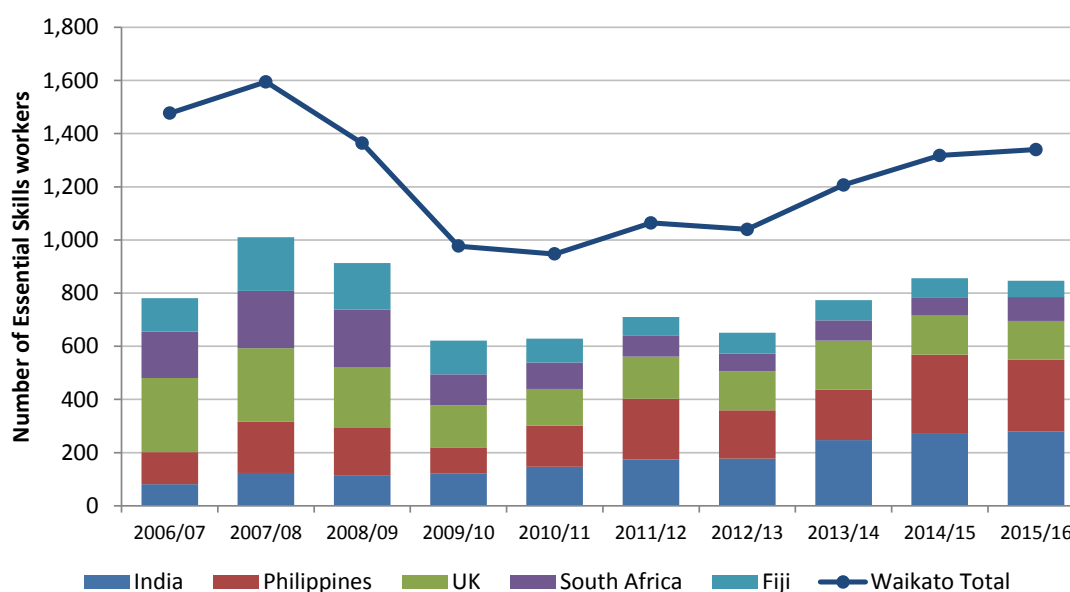
Table 3: Source country of Essential Skills workers in Waikato, 2011/12 to 2015/16

Source country of Essential Skills workers	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
India	174 (16%)	177 (17%)	247 (20%)	270 (20%)	279 (21%)
Philippines	229 (22%)	182 (18%)	190 (16%)	298 (23%)	271 (20%)
UK	158 (15%)	147 (14%)	184 (15%)	147 (11%)	145 (11%)
South Africa	78 (7%)	67 (6%)	77 (6%)	67 (5%)	90 (7%)
Fiji	71 (7%)	78 (8%)	76 (6%)	74 (6%)	62 (5%)

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

The number of Essential Skills workers arriving in the region has been gradually increasing over time. The United Kingdom has been the main source country of Essential Skills workers in Waikato until 2009/10 (see Figure 4 below). Since then, the number of Essential Skills workers from the United Kingdom has been decreasing over time, while the number of workers coming in from India and the Philippines has been showing an increasing trend.

Figure 4: The top five source countries of Essential Skills workers in the Waikato region, 2006/07 to 2015/16



Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Occupations

Table 4 below shows the main occupations of approved Essential Skills workers who received an offer of employment in the Waikato region. It also lists the main source countries for each occupation group. The most common occupations of Essential Skills workers in Waikato in 2015/16 were Livestock Farmers (23 percent), Chefs (8 percent) and Retail Managers (6 percent).

Table 4: Occupations of Essential Skills workers in Waikato, FY 2014/15 and 2015/16

	Number of applicants		Change over the past year	Top 2 source countries for each occupation
	2014/15	2015/16		
Top 10 occupations (2-digit level ANZSCO)				
Farmers and Farm Managers	356	313	↓	Philippines, India
Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers	121	150	↑	India, UK
Food Trades Workers	145	148	↑	India, South Korea
Health Professionals	126	101	↓	UK, Philippines
Automotive and Engineering Trades Workers	92	75	↓	South Africa, Philippines
Design, Engineering, Science and Transport Professionals	47	50	↑	UK, South Africa
Farm, Forestry and Garden Workers	33	46	↑	Philippines, UK
Sports and Personal Service Workers	37	46	↑	India, UK
Engineering, ICT and Science Technicians	18	44	↑	India, South Africa
Skilled Animal and Horticultural Workers	37	39	↑	UK, Ireland
Top 10 occupations (4-digit level ANZSCO)				
Livestock Farmers	351	307	↓	Philippines, India
Chefs	107	101	↓	South Korea, India
Retail Managers	63	77	↑	India, China
Cafe and Restaurant Managers	49	53	↑	India, UK
Livestock Farm Workers	32	43	↑	Philippines, UK
General Practitioners and Resident Medical Officers	55	40	↓	UK, US
Registered Nurses	45	40	↓	Philippines, India
Agricultural, Forestry and Horticultural Plant Operators	40	36	↓	Ireland, UK
Animal Attendants and Trainers	30	27	↓	UK, Ireland
Sportspersons	15	26	↑	India, UK

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Note: Occupations are based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO). Data presented at both a high level breakdown (ie 2-digit level ANZSCO) and a more detailed breakdown (ie 4-digit level ANZSCO) of occupations.

International Students

International education makes a considerable contribution to New Zealand’s economy. The economic value of international education was estimated to be \$4.0 billion in 2015/16⁸.

In 2015/16, a total of 91,261 international students⁹ were approved to study in New Zealand, an 8 percent increase from 84,856 in 2014/15.

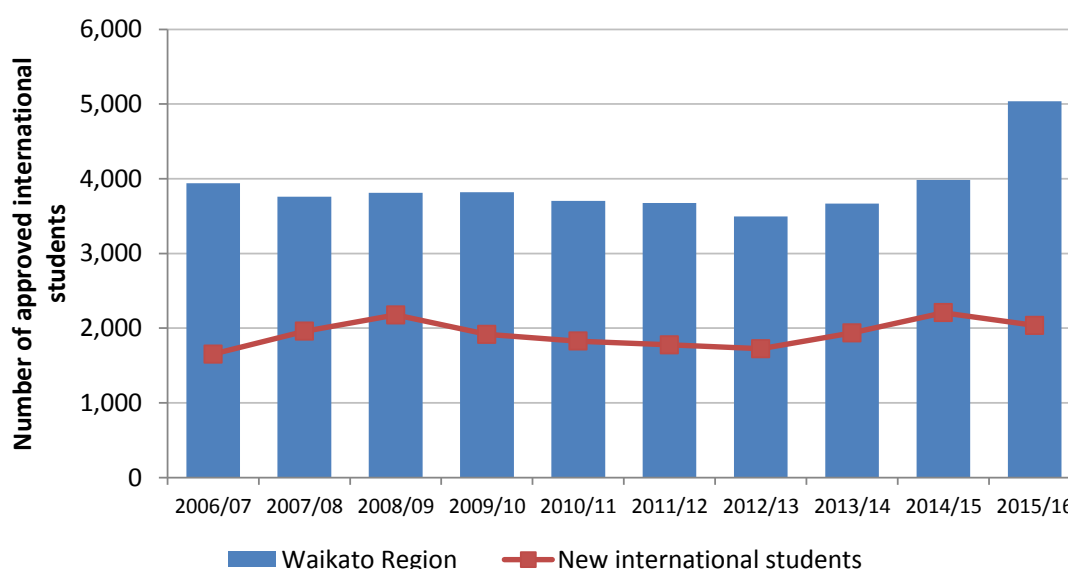
International students have identified that they chose to study in New Zealand because of the quality and cost of education, opportunities to work after graduation and to apply for residence, and opportunities to study in an English-speaking country¹⁰.

Waikato context

International students are an important component of migration flows into New Zealand. Attracting international students into Waikato plays an important role in bringing value into the region. Graduates with the skills and qualifications the region needs are encouraged to stay on and work after completing their studies.

Waikato is home to the University of Waikato and the Waikato Institute of Technology. Waikato has the fourth largest share of international students in the country¹¹. In 2015/16, 5,036 international students were approved for study in Waikato, making up six percent of the total student visas granted. This is a 26 percent increase from 3,985 in 2014/15 (see Figure 5 below). Over the year, there has been a small decrease in the number of new international students in the region, down eight percent over the year.

Figure 5: Approved international students in the Waikato Region, 2006/07 to 2015/16



Note: This is a count of individuals approved for a student visa rather than the number of visa applications.

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

⁸ Infometrics and the National Research Bureau. (2016). *The Economic Impact of International Education 2015/16*. Wellington: Education New Zealand.

⁹ This includes primary and secondary school students.

¹⁰ Department of Labour (2010). *Life After Study: International students’ settlement experiences in New Zealand*.

¹¹ Export education levy statistics 2016, Ministry of Education.

Appendices

Appendix Table 1: Region of skilled employment for Skilled Migrant Category principal applicants, 2009/10 to 2015/16

Region	Financial Year							% change since 2014/15
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	
Auckland	3,706	4,002	4,063	4,648	4,310	4,641	5,382	16%
Canterbury	861	754	990	774	1,624	1,470	1,772	21%
Wellington	1,194	939	1,045	1,076	991	1,055	1,220	16%
Waikato	670	553	493	512	452	501	604	21%
Bay of Plenty	407	438	305	276	398	461	584	27%
Otago	288	313	378	162	374	328	368	12%
Hawkes Bay	137	139	87	125	134	147	226	54%
Manawatu-Whanganui	211	201	190	171	188	160	206	29%
Northland	205	203	146	143	142	168	203	21%
Taranaki	202	174	133	168	166	142	169	19%
Southland	93	97	131	64	140	135	155	15%
Nelson/Marlborough/Tasman	147	126	168	73	163	114	160	40%
Other	186	153	130	107	124	133	178	34%
Total where region is known	8,307	8,093	8,259	8,301	9,219	9,465	11,227	19%
Total SMC principal migrants	11,800	9,903	9,408	9,109	10,312	10,621	13,096	23%

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Note: 'Other' includes Gisborne and West Coast

Appendix Table 2: Number of people granted Essential Skills work visas by region of employment, 2006/07 to 2015/16

Region	Financial Year										% change since 2014/15
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	
Auckland	9,860	10,585	10,191	7,873	8,094	7,016	6,639	7,580	8,668	11,249	30%
Canterbury	3,499	4,545	3,567	2,910	2,469	3,335	4,694	6,592	7,166	7,204	1%
Otago	3,259	3,904	3,206	2,645	2,531	2,482	2,604	2,927	3,190	3,914	23%
Wellington	2,376	3,496	2,637	1,978	1,869	1,963	1,979	2,119	2,061	2,094	2%
Waikato	1,673	1,776	1,492	1,100	1,086	1,198	1,195	1,342	1,450	1,513	4%
Southland	562	778	790	624	721	713	737	752	935	1,074	15%
Bay of Plenty	1,526	1,529	1,035	833	826	809	709	920	998	1,022	2%
Nelson/Marlborough/Tasman	1,274	1,886	1,285	748	609	659	641	756	796	950	19%
Manawatu-Whanganui	589	667	573	480	481	462	455	507	515	496	-4%
Hawkes Bay	955	750	382	304	299	284	331	380	429	438	2%
Northland	347	346	309	256	270	247	269	320	380	453	19%
Taranaki	551	854	595	496	514	505	479	710	424	288	-32%
West Coast	148	144	173	171	142	175	170	211	213	270	27%
Gisborne	116	91	111	88	111	152	172	181	193	152	-21%
Total where region is known	26,735	31,351	26,346	20,506	20,022	20,000	21,074	25,297	27,418	31,117	13%
Total Essential Skills workers	31,015	36,333	29,626	22,947	22,341	22,065	22,406	26,497	28,548	31,766	11%

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

Appendix Table 3: Number of people granted student visas by region of study, 2006/07 to 2015/16

Region	Financial Year										% change since 2014/15
	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	
Auckland	29,866	30,774	33,278	33,952	36,499	34,741	31,984	38,929	46,697	49,615	6%
Canterbury	8,746	8,224	8,422	8,639	7,367	5,189	5,215	5,832	6,720	7,512	12%
Wellington	4,805	4,508	4,231	4,422	4,371	4,162	4,148	4,204	4,628	5,206	12%
Waikato	3,942	3,761	3,810	3,821	3,705	3,674	3,494	3,667	3,985	5,036	26%
Otago	3,312	3,220	3,360	3,556	3,629	3,524	3,526	3,587	3,749	4,012	7%
Manawatu-Whanganui	2,369	2,249	2,220	2,283	2,327	2,494	2,240	2,247	2,314	2,282	-1%
Bay of Plenty	996	1,079	1,396	1,520	2,238	2,057	1,792	2,311	2,680	2,088	-22%
Nelson/Marlborough/Tasman	649	728	796	882	886	830	673	671	1,023	1,083	6%
Southland	185	187	226	344	434	501	526	648	767	934	22%
Hawkes Bay	494	517	555	543	598	689	543	623	745	878	18%
Taranaki	512	442	474	544	546	536	463	517	549	531	-3%
Northland	444	433	467	518	426	472	425	417	451	484	7%
Other	113	97	62	68	53	36	32	49	41	28	-32%
Total where region is known	56,433	56,219	59,297	61,092	63,079	58,905	55,061	63,702	74,349	79,689	7%
Total students	67,149	69,105	73,107	72,755	74,096	68,905	64,189	73,423	84,856	91,261	8%

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Note 1: 'Other' includes Gisborne and West Coast.

Note 2: This includes secondary school and tertiary students.

Note 3: This is a count of individuals approved for a student visa rather than the number of visa applications. The number of approved student visa holders will be lower than the number of student enrolments reported by the Ministry of Education.

