



# Regional Migration Trends

## Wellington Overview 2015/16



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**New Zealand Government**

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## Wellington Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of Wellington's 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 Wellington**

In 2015/16, 12 percent (or 1,220 people) of New Zealand's Skilled Migrant Category principal applicants (permanent migrants) found employment in the Wellington region. This is an increase of 16 percent on the previous year. India, the United Kingdom and China were the top source countries of skilled migrants in the region.

The most common occupations of these migrants in Wellington were Software and Applications Programmers (10 percent), Café and Restaurant Managers (6 percent), ICT Support Technicians (6 percent) and Registered Nurses (6 percent).

### **Essential Skills temporary workers increased over the past year in Wellington**

In 2015/16, 2,094 people were approved for the Essential Skills work visa in the region. This is an increase of two percent over the previous year. India, the United Kingdom and the Philippines were the top source countries for Essential Skills workers in the region.

The most common occupations of Essential Skills workers in Wellington were Chefs (10 percent), Café and Restaurant Managers (7 percent) and Aged and Disabled Carers (6 percent).

### **International student numbers continue to grow in Wellington**

Wellington had the third largest share of international students in the country. In 2015/16, 5,206 people were granted a student visa to study in Wellington, making up seven percent of the total student visas granted. This is a 12 percent increase from the previous year

## Introduction

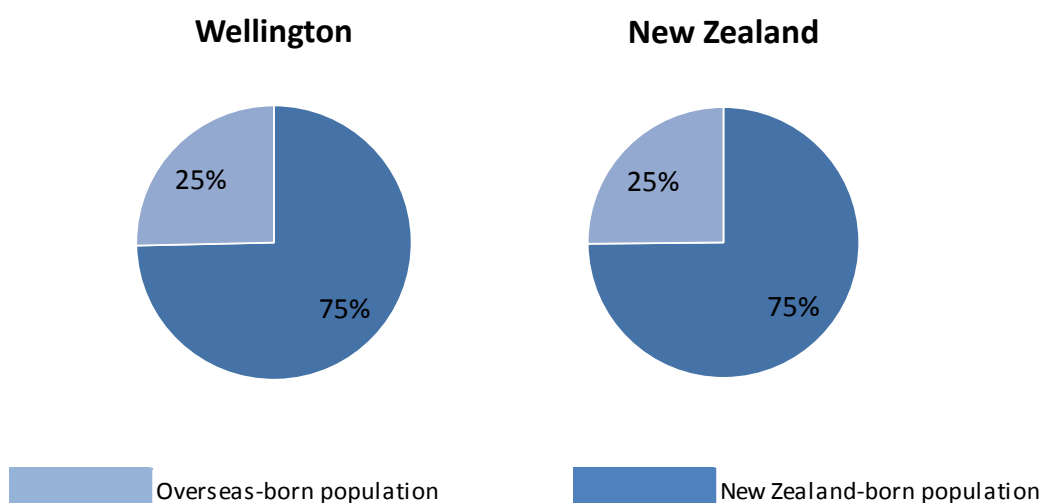
Wellington is New Zealand's centre of government and the world's southernmost capital region. Since 2011, it has been known as the 'coolest little capital in the world'. It is strikingly positioned on the Cook Strait, following the Kapiti Coastline to the northwest and encompassing the Rimutaka mountain ranges over to Wairarapa. Its five metropolitan areas are Wellington, Porirua, Hutt City, Upper Hutt and Masterton.

There are a number of sectors in the Wellington region that have significant competitive advantage, including screen and digital, ICT, high-value manufacturing, and the primary sector. Tertiary education and research are other important contributors to the local economy. Average salaries and education levels in the region are notably higher compared with the national average.

As at 30 June 2016, Wellington region's population was 504,900<sup>1</sup>, which represents 11 percent of New Zealand's total population.

According to the 2013 Census, 25 percent of the region's population were born overseas, similar with 25 percent for New Zealand overall. The majority of new migrants<sup>2</sup> coming into Wellington were from Asia (38 percent) and the United Kingdom and Ireland (22 percent).

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



Source: 2013 Census of Population and Dwellings, Statistics NZ

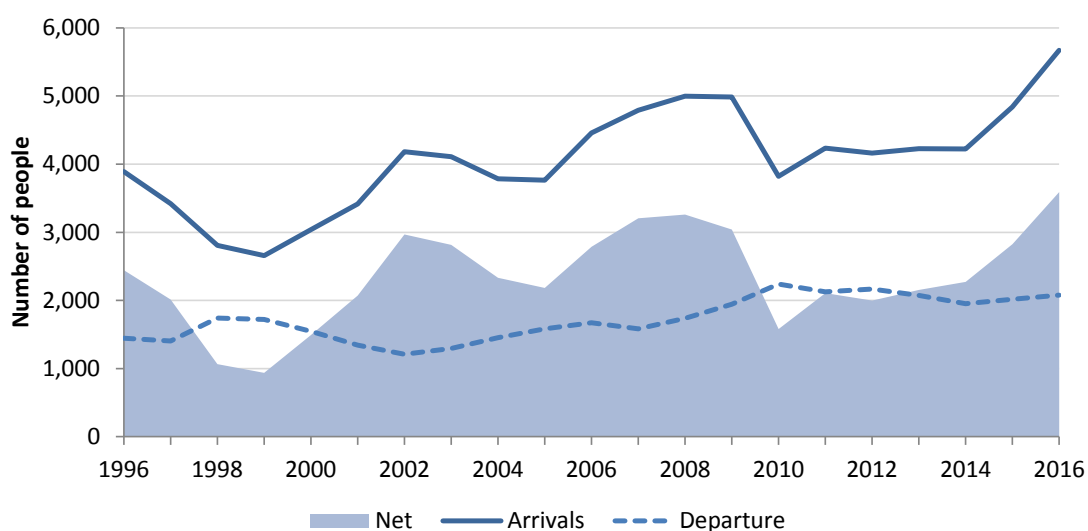
<sup>1</sup> Subnational Population Estimates as at 30 June 2016 (provisional), Statistics NZ.

<sup>2</sup> 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-term<sup>3</sup> arrivals of non-New Zealand and non-Australian citizens than departures in the region. In June 2016, there were 5,669 permanent and long-term arrivals in Wellington, an increase from 4,840 arrivals recorded the previous year. Permanent and long-term departures totalled 2,079 in 2016. This resulted in a net gain of 3,590 in 2016, 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 Wellington 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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.<sup>4</sup>

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 Wellington region.

### Wellington context

In 2015/16, the Wellington region attracted 11 percent (or 1,220 people) of the SMC principal applicants to New Zealand. This is an increase of 16 percent from the 1,055 approved in the previous year (see Appendix Table 1).

#### Source country

India continues to be the main source country of SMC principal applicants in Wellington, followed by the United Kingdom and China. Together, the top three source countries represent just over half (53 percent) of the total approved SMC principal applicants in the region in 2015/16.

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<sup>4</sup> MBIE. (2016). *Migration Trends 2015/16*

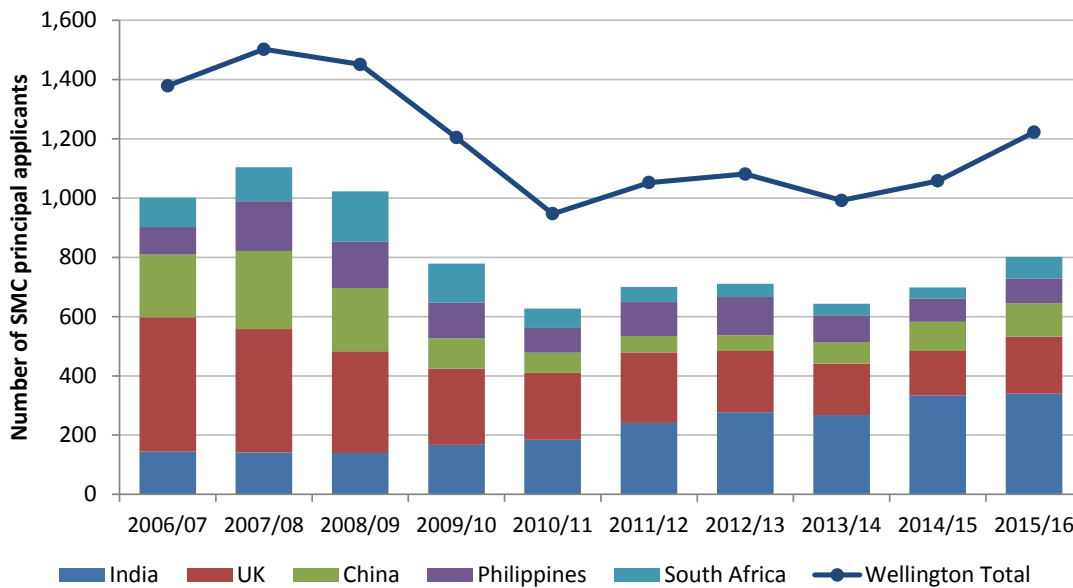
**Table 1: Top source countries of Skilled Migrant Category principal applicants in Wellington, 2011/12 to 2015/16**

Source country of principal applicant	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
India	241 (23%)	277 (26%)	268 (27%)	334 (32%)	340 (28%)
UK	238 (23%)	207 (19%)	173 (17%)	150 (14%)	192 (16%)
China	55 (5%)	53 (5%)	71 (7%)	99 (9%)	113 (9%)
Philippines	115 (11%)	129 (12%)	92 (9%)	78 (7%)	84 (7%)
South Africa	51 (5%)	45 (4%)	39 (4%)	37 (3%)	73 (6%)

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Figure 3 below shows that the number of SMC principal applicants coming into Wellington has been steadily increasing over time. The United Kingdom was the main source of skilled migrants in the region up until 2010/11, when India took over. The number of skilled migrants coming from India has been markedly increasing over time.

**Figure 3: The top five source countries of Skilled Migrant Category principal applicants in Wellington, 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 Wellington region in the 2015/16 year. It also lists the top source countries for each occupation group.

The main occupations of skilled migrants in Wellington in 2015/16 were Software and Applications Programmers (10 percent), Café and Restaurant Managers (6 percent), ICT Support Technicians (6 percent) and Registered Nurses (6 percent).



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

	Number of applicants <sup>5</sup>		Change over the past year	Top 2 source countries for each occupation
	2014/15	2015/16		
<b>Top 10 occupations (2-digit level ANZSCO)</b>				
ICT Professionals	243	263	↑	India, China
Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers	111	144	↑	India, China
Health Professionals	128	120	↓	Philippines, India
Engineering, ICT and Science Technicians	89	107	↑	India, UK
Business, Human Resource and Marketing Professionals	94	102	↑	UK, China
Design, Engineering, Science and Transport Professionals	70	90	↑	UK, US
Food Trades Workers	76	73	↓	India, China
Specialist Managers	53	62	↑	UK, South Africa
Education Professionals	31	37	↑	UK, Pakistan
Office Managers and Program Administrators	23	34	↑	UK, India
<b>Top 10 occupations (4-digit level ANZSCO)</b>				
Software and Applications Programmers	128	125	↓	India, China
Cafe and Restaurant Managers	49	75	↑	India, China
ICT Support Technicians	51	68	↑	India, UK
Registered Nurses	85	68	↓	Philippines, India
Chefs	51	52	↑	India, China
Retail Managers	37	45	↑	India, China
ICT Support and Test Engineers	35	41	↑	India, Philippines
Multimedia Specialists and Web Developers	20	41	↑	UK, France
Contract, Program and Project Administrators	19	27	↑	UK, India
Accountants	13	24	↑	China, UK

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Note: 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.

<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>6</sup>

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 Wellington 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.

### Wellington context

Wellington is the fourth main region for employment of Essential Skills workers. In 2015/16, a total of 2,094 people were approved to work in Wellington under the Essential Skills work policy (see Appendix Table 2). There has been an increase of two 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 Wellington over the last five years. Together, the top five source countries accounted for over half (56 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 Wellington, followed by the United Kingdom and the Philippines.

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<sup>6</sup> MBIE. (2016). *Migration Trends 2015/16*

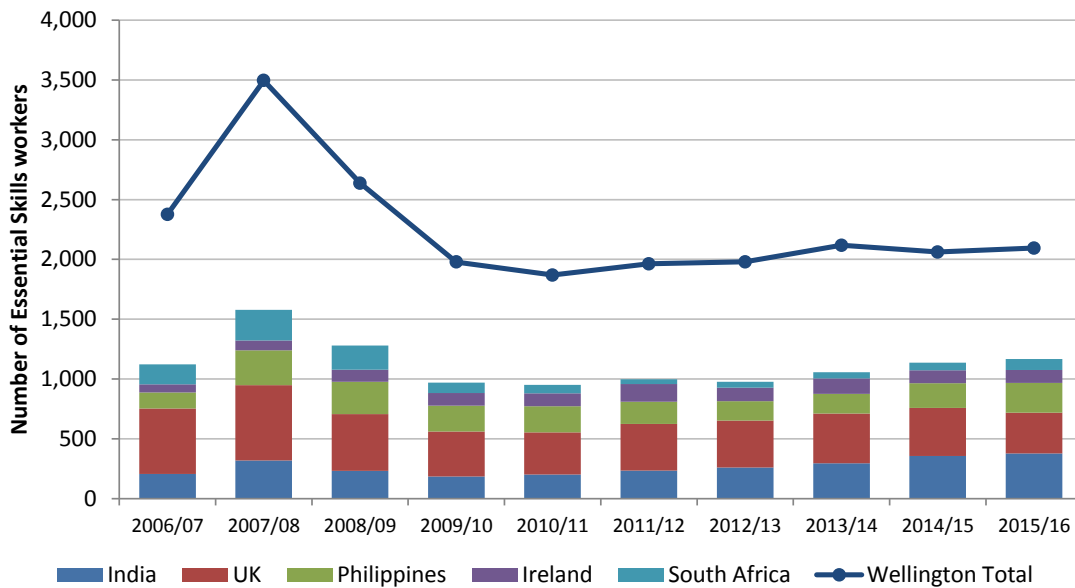
**Table 3: Source country of Essential Skills workers in Wellington, 2011/12 to 2015/16**

Source country of Essential Skills workers	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
India	235 (12%)	261 (13%)	296 (14%)	356 (17%)	377 (18%)
UK	389 (20%)	392 (20%)	415 (20%)	403 (20%)	342 (16%)
Philippines	187 (10%)	161 (8%)	164 (8%)	206 (10%)	249 (12%)
Ireland	146 (7%)	114 (6%)	131 (6%)	109 (5%)	108 (5%)
South Africa	42 (2%)	48 (2%)	50 (2%)	63 (3%)	91 (4%)

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Figure 4 below shows that the number of Essential Skills workers coming into the Wellington region has been stable over time. However, the number of workers arriving from the United Kingdom has been showing a decreasing trend over the years. In contrast, the number of workers arriving from India has been increasing over the same period.

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



Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

## Occupations

Table 4 below shows the main occupations of Essential Skills workers who received an offer of employment in Wellington. It also lists the main source countries for each occupation group. The most common occupations of Essential Skills workers in Wellington in 2015/16 were Chefs (10 percent), Café and Restaurant Managers (7 percent) and Aged and Disabled Carers (6 percent).

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

	Number of applicants		Change over the past year	Top 2 source countries for each occupation
	2014/15	2015/16		
<b>Top 10 occupations (2-digit level ANZSCO)</b>				
Food Trades Workers	256	295	↑	India, Thailand
Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers	235	283	↑	India, UK
ICT Professionals	220	170	↓	India, UK
Health Professionals	178	166	↓	UK, Philippines
Carers and Aides	110	135	↑	Philippines, India
Business, Human Resource and Marketing Professionals	93	84	↓	UK, US
Engineering, ICT and Science Technicians	75	74	↓	UK, India
Design, Engineering, Science and Transport Professionals	87	73	↓	UK, US
Specialist Managers	58	68	↑	South Africa, UK
Education Professionals	52	57	↑	UK, Canada
<b>Top 10 occupations (4-digit level ANZSCO)</b>				
Chefs	202	219	↑	India, Thailand
Cafe and Restaurant Managers	108	146	↑	India, UK
Aged and Disabled Carers	98	120	↑	Philippines, India
Retail Managers	85	96	↑	India, China
Software and Applications Programmers	75	77	↑	India, Brazil
Registered Nurses	61	69	↑	Philippines, India
General Practitioners and Resident Medical Officers	55	54	↓	UK, Ireland
Cooks	35	49	↑	India, Italy
Structural Steel Construction Workers	21	42	↑	Philippines, UK
Retail Supervisors	38	40	↑	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 2015/16<sup>7</sup>.

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

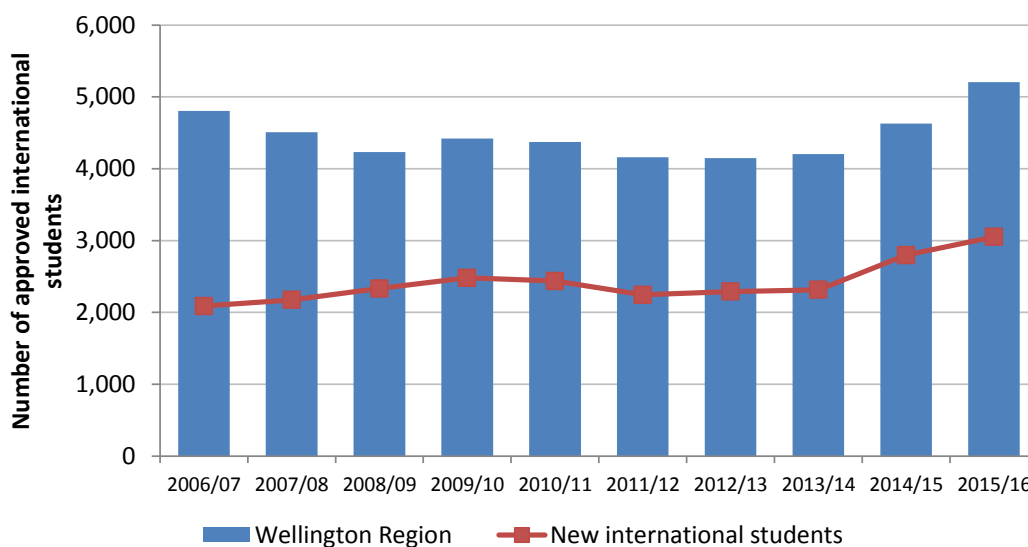
International students have identified that they chose to study in New Zealand because of the quality and cost of education, opportunities to work after graduation and to apply for residence, and opportunities to study in an English-speaking country<sup>9</sup>.

### Wellington context

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

Wellington has the third largest share of international students in the country, after Auckland and Canterbury<sup>10</sup>. In 2015/16, 5,206 international students were approved for study in Wellington, making up seven percent of the total student visas granted. This is a 12 percent increase from 4,628 in 2014/15 (see Figure 5 below). Over the year, there has been a nine percent increase in the number of new international students in the region.

**Figure 5: Approved international students in the Wellington 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

<sup>7</sup> Infometrics and the National Research Bureau. (2016). *The Economic Impact of International Education 2015/16*. Wellington: Education New Zealand.

<sup>8</sup> This includes primary and secondary school students.

<sup>9</sup> Department of Labour (2010). *Life After Study: International students' settlement experiences in New Zealand*.

<sup>10</sup> 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%
<b>Total SMC principal migrants</b>	<b>11,800</b>	<b>9,903</b>	<b>9,408</b>	<b>9,109</b>	<b>10,312</b>	<b>10,621</b>	<b>13,096</b>	<b>23%</b>

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%
<b>Total where region is known</b>	<b>26,735</b>	<b>31,351</b>	<b>26,346</b>	<b>20,506</b>	<b>20,022</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>21,074</b>	<b>25,297</b>	<b>27,418</b>	<b>31,117</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Total Essential Skills workers</b>	<b>31,015</b>	<b>36,333</b>	<b>29,626</b>	<b>22,947</b>	<b>22,341</b>	<b>22,065</b>	<b>22,406</b>	<b>26,497</b>	<b>28,548</b>	<b>31,766</b>	<b>11%</b>

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%
<b>Total students</b>	<b>67,149</b>	<b>69,105</b>	<b>73,107</b>	<b>72,755</b>	<b>74,096</b>	<b>68,905</b>	<b>64,189</b>	<b>73,423</b>	<b>84,856</b>	<b>91,261</b>	<b>8%</b>

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.





