



## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Iain Lees-Galloway	<b>Portfolio</b>	Immigration
<b>Title of Cabinet paper</b>	Oral Item: Immigration Dashboard – June Quarter 2019	<b>Date to be published</b>	18 October 2019

### List of documents that have been proactively released

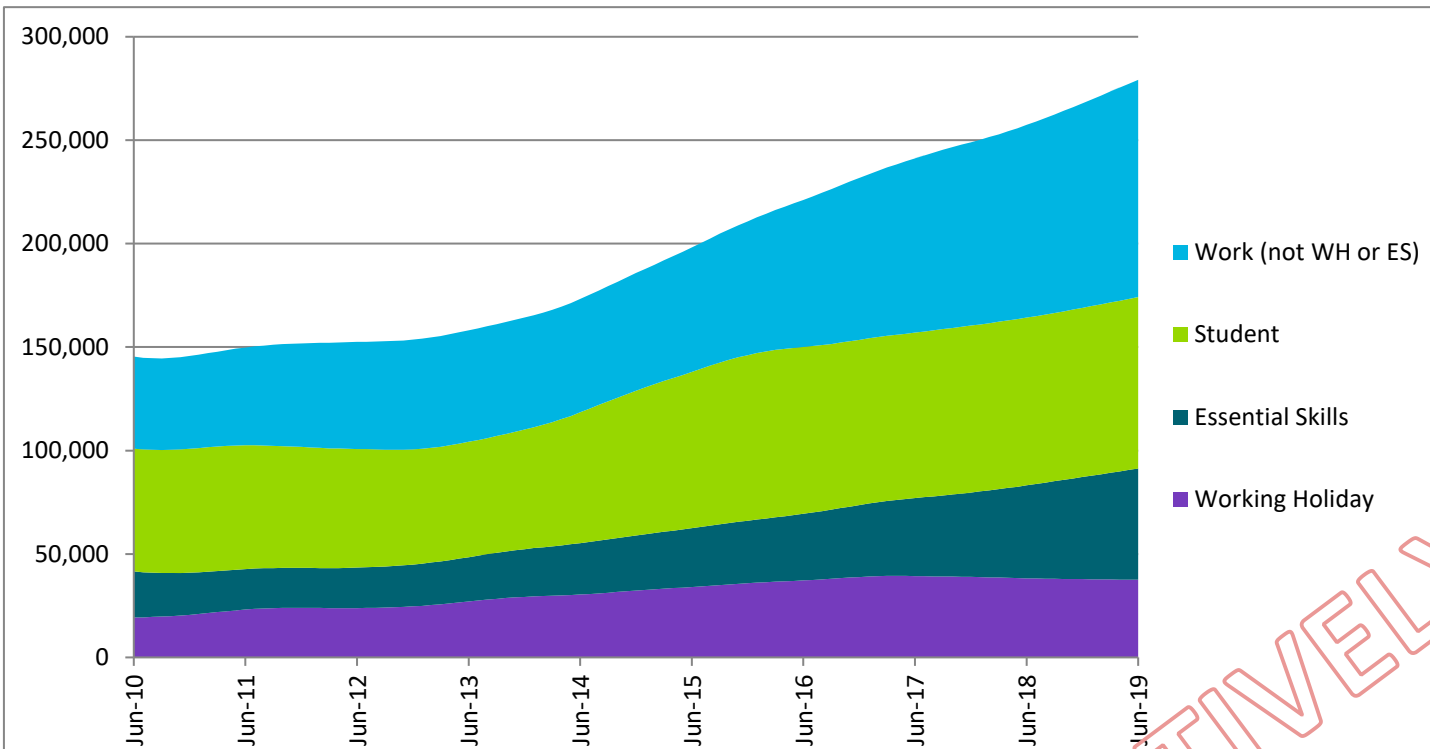
<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
28 August 2019	Oral Item: Immigration Dashboard – June Quarter 2019	Office of Minister of Immigration
28 August 2019	DEV-19-MIN-0224: Oral Item: Immigration Dashboard – June Quarter 2019	Cabinet Office

### Information redacted

**NO**

Any information redacted in this document is redacted in accordance with MBIE's policy on Proactive Release and is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

This graph captures the seasonally adjusted trend in the number of temporary work visa holders present in New Zealand as at 30 June for each year since 2010 for work and student categories

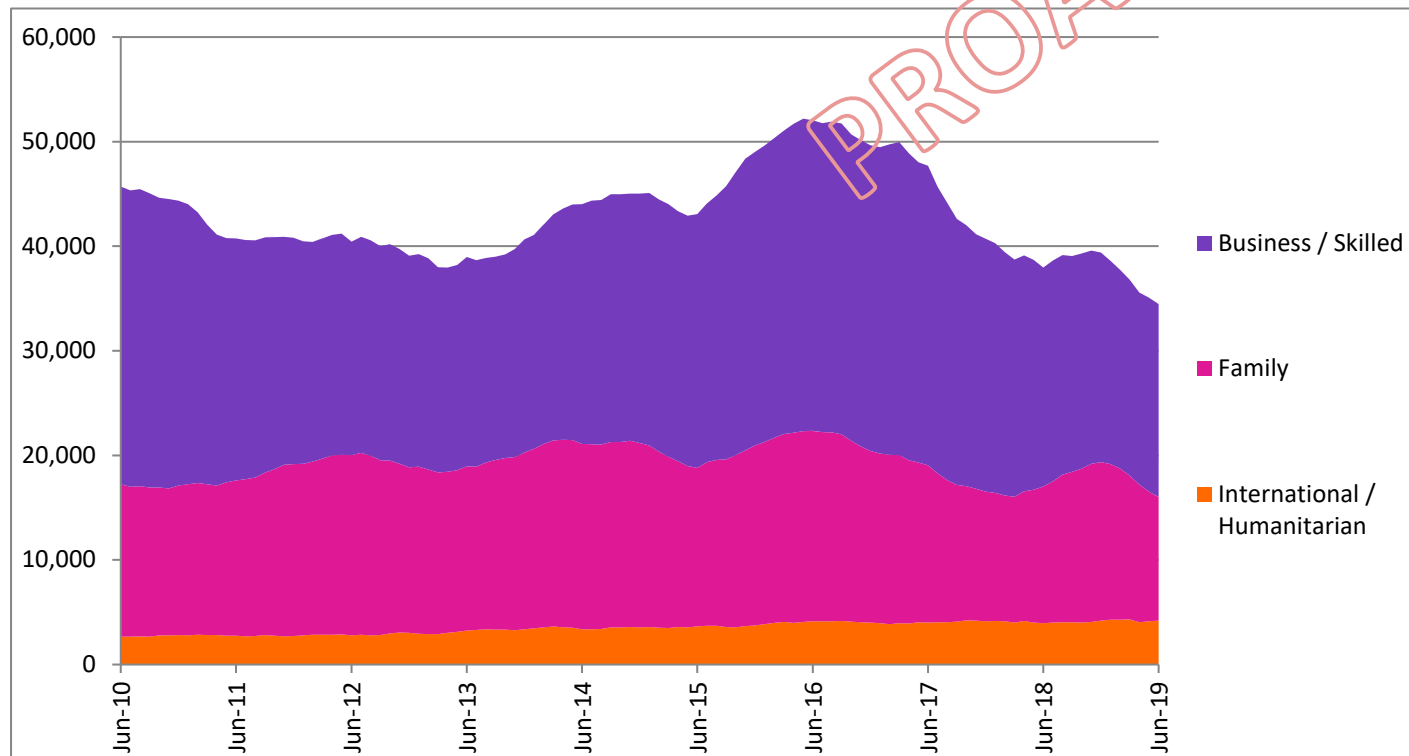


## Temporary Visa Trends

- The current economic climate with low unemployment has increased demand for skilled and seasonal migrant labour to fill regional labour gaps
- The number of people on Essential Skill visas has increased with more visa holders across all ANZSCO skill levels
- The Essential Skills (ES) visa increase may also be partly attributable to the increased points requirement for the Skilled Migrant Category (SMC) Residence visa meaning fewer people are transitioning from ES to SMC visa types
- The increased pressure in the ES visa category would be tempered by proposed policy changes to employer-assisted work visas. The changes seek to ensure that visas are granted for genuine regional shortages and that employers recruit New Zealanders first
- The increasing number of ES visa approvals is likely to lead to pressure on the SMC Resident Visa category as highly skilled migrants seek to live here permanently
- The makeup of post-study work visa holders is expected to alter as the effect of 2018 policy changes is seen. The proportion of visa holders who studied in PTEs is expected to drop, while the number of those from polytechnics and universities is expected to increase
- The table below shows the seasonally adjusted trend of people in NZ on temporary visas as at June

	As at June 2017	As at June 2018	As at June 2019
Student	79,999	81,101	82,831
Essential Skills	37,671	44,913	53,824
Working Holiday	39,317	38,243	37,514
Work (not WH or ES)	84,213	93,124	105,010

This graph captures the number of residence visas approved each year from 2010 to the year ended June 2019 for the international/humanitarian, family, and business/skilled residence categories.



## Residence Visa Trends

- The number of residence visa approvals has continued to fall, while temporary visa approvals continue to steadily increase
- The family category continues to be dominated by partnership visa approvals. The closure of EOI selections from the Parent category in 2016 has resulted in the number of parent category approvals ceasing as the final applications under consideration are assessed. A decision to re-open selections in this category would see an expected increase in approvals to the cap determined by Cabinet from the 2020/2021 year.
- The table below shows the number of residence visas approved for the years ending June 2017-2019

	Year end June 2017	Year end June 2018	Year end June 2019
Business / Skilled	28,646	20,920	18,453
Family	15,017	13,090	11,841
International / Humanitarian	4,021	3,938	4,183

## TEMPORARY VISA CATEGORIES

### Essential Skills

- ES Visa holder numbers are increasing reflecting a combination of labour demand and regional shortages
- Changes to the points requirements for the SMC Residence Visa have results in fewer ES holders moving to residence
- The Government has consulted on proposed changes to employer-assisted temporary work visas. The changes seek to ensure that these visas are granted for genuine regional shortages and that employers recruit New Zealanders first. It is likely that these changes, if agreed, would temper some of the growth in the number of lower-skilled temporary migrants here over time
- The table shows the stock and distribution of skill level in ES visa holders as at 30 June for the past three years

ANZSCO Level	Number of Visa Holders 06/17	Number of Visa Holders 06/18	Number of Visa Holders 06/19
1 – Highly Skilled	6,747	6,893	7,967
2	7,706	8,906	10,416
3 – Skilled	10,991	14,437	18,143
4	6,698	8,093	8,991
5 – Low-skilled	4,360	5,617	6,978
(not recorded)	110	151	219
Total	36,612	44,097	52,714

### Working Holiday Schemes

- Numbers of people on the WHS are capped for 31 of the 45 countries in the scheme meaning there is little fluctuation across years (although there is seasonal fluctuation within years)
- Over 80% of WH visa holders leave upon completion of their Working Holiday. Those who stay and eventually become Residents typically spend several years transitioning through other work visa categories like Essential Skills
- In the 12 months to 30 June 2019, a total of 3,008 people who had previously first entered New Zealand on WHS visas became resident visa holders. A breakdown to the permanent visa categories is below

Year Ended 30 June 2019	Count	Proportion
Resident (Partnership)	1,581	53%
Resident (Skilled)	916	30%
Resident (from Work)	470	16%
Resident (Other*)	51	1%

\*Includes International/Humanitarian, replacement visas where original was lost and Business/Entrepreneur

### Student

- As of 30 June 2019, there were 76,989 student visa holders in NZ.
- The table shows the stock and distribution of student as at 30 June for the past three years

Category	Provider Type	No. of Visa Holders 06/17	No. of Visa Holders 06/18	No. of Visa Holders 06/19
Fee-Paying	PTE	19,867	16,855	14,235
	Universities	16,260	16,568	18,603
	Polytechnics	10,490	10,051	9,325
	Schools	11,249	11,217	11,120
Dependent		13,287	16,018	20,589
Exchange/Other		3,062	2,952	3,095

### Post-Study Work

- 2018 policy changes to post-study work rights are expected to have a downwards impact on the number of these visa holders, particularly in relation to those who have studied at a PTE. The new settings apply to students beginning their study after August 2018, meaning the effects will take some time to be reflected in the data
- The table shows the stock and composition of visa holders as at 30 June for the past three years

Study Level	No. of Visa Holders 06/17	No. of Visa Holders 06/18	No. of Visa Holders 06/19
PTE	18,163	16,504	15,320
Polytechnic	6,761	8,112	10,357
University	3,968	4,290	5,775
Schools/other	53	47	38

## RESIDENCE VISA CATEGORIES

### Skilled Migrant Category

- For the quarter ended 30 June 2019, 3657 skilled migrant visa applicants were approved. Of those, 1680 were principal applicants and 1977 were secondary applicants
- In the 2018/19 year, the number of SMC visas granted fell 28% compared to the 2017/18 year
- The 2016/2017 changes to the Skilled Migrant category, including a points increase for selection and the introduction of remuneration thresholds, can account for the decrease of numbers in this visa category.
- The table shows the number of principal applicant skilled migrants who were approved for a visa for the quarter ended 30 June 2019 by skill level:

ANZSCO Level	Number of Visa Holders
1 – Highly Skilled	1,182
2	282
3 – Skilled	198
4 & 5 – Low-skilled	6

### Family

- For the quarter ended 30 June 2019, 2292 family visa applicants were approved. Numbers of approvals of partner visas have been steady over the last two years.
- If selections in the Parent category are recommenced it will cause upward pressure on the Family Stream approval numbers from the 2020/2021 year, however this would be limited by any cap agreed for the category. INZ has only a small number of EOIs remaining to process from the October 2016 selection, meaning the current cap of 2000 was not reached in 2018/2019 year and is likely to be under 30 visa approvals in the 2019/2020 year (excluding any Ministerial Discretion approvals).

### International/Humanitarian

- For the quarter ended 30 June 2019, 918 International/Humanitarian visa applicants were approved.
- The 2020 quota increase to 1500 refugees will see numbers of visa holders rise in the International/Humanitarian visa category.