



# Regional Migration Trends

## Auckland Overview **2015/16**



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**New Zealand Government**

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## **Auckland Executive Summary**

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

### **Almost half of Skilled Migrant Category principal applicants found employment in Auckland**

In 2015/16, 48 percent (or 5,382 people) of New Zealand's Skilled Migrant Category principal applicants (permanent migrants) found employment in the Auckland region. This is an increase of 16 percent on the previous year. India, China and the Philippines were the top source countries of skilled migrants in the region.

The most common occupations of these migrants in Auckland were Chefs (8 percent), ICT Support Technicians (8 percent) and Retail Managers (6 percent).

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

Most Essential Skills workers who entered New Zealand found employment in Auckland. In 2015/16, 11,249 people were approved for the Essential Skills work visa in the region. This is an increase of 30 percent over the past year. India, the Philippines and China were the top source countries for Essential Skills workers in the region.

The most common occupations of Essential Skills workers in Auckland in 2015/16 were Chefs (11 percent), Retail Managers (6 percent) and Café and Restaurant Managers (5 percent). The number of those working as Construction Trades Workers more than doubled over the year, driven by the demand for housing and infrastructure in the region.

### **International student numbers increased in Auckland**

Auckland has the largest share of international students in the country. In 2015/16, 62 percent (or 49,615 people) of student visas granted were for study in Auckland. This has increased by six percent over the past year.

## Introduction

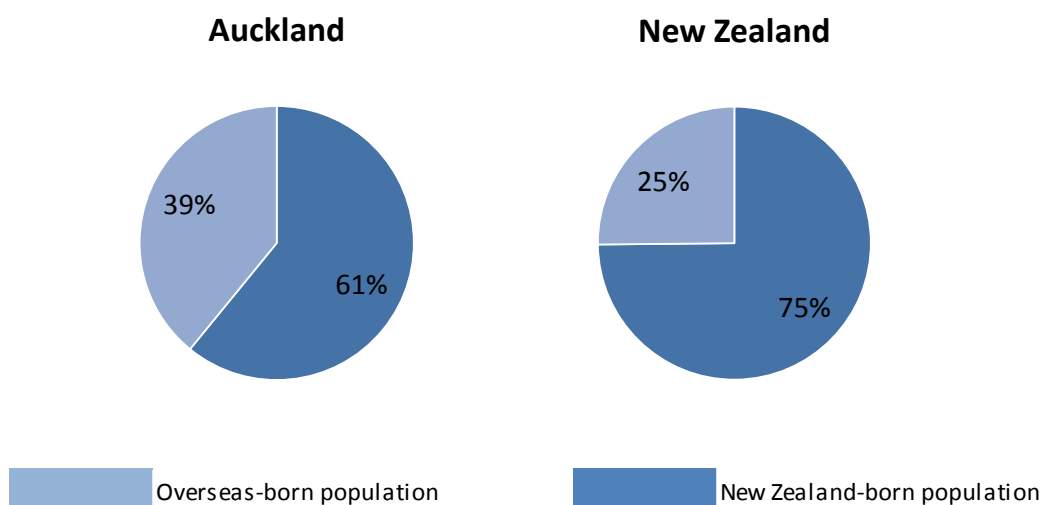
The Auckland region, located at the top of the North Island, extends from the mouth of the Kaipara Harbour to within a few kilometres of the mouth of the Waikato River. It is New Zealand's largest and most populated region, contributing 37 percent<sup>1</sup> to the country's economy.

Auckland is home to 66 percent of New Zealand's top 200 companies and 31 percent of firms overall. The key sectors underpinning Auckland's growth are its food and beverage sector and high-value manufacturing, and it is recognised as a centre for New Zealand's developing ICT industry.<sup>2</sup>

As at 30 June 2016, the Auckland region's estimated population was 1,614,300<sup>3</sup>, which represents 34 percent of New Zealand's total population.

According to the 2013 Census, 39 percent of the region's population were born overseas compared with 25 percent for New Zealand overall (or 18 percent excluding Auckland). The majority of new migrants<sup>4</sup> coming into Auckland were from Asia (53 percent), the United Kingdom and Ireland (12 percent) and the Pacific Islands (12 percent).

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



Source: 2013 Census of Population and Dwellings, Statistics NZ

<sup>1</sup> Regional Gross Domestic Product: Year ended March 2016, Statistics NZ

<sup>2</sup> New Zealand Trade and Enterprise. (2016). *Auckland Investment Profile*

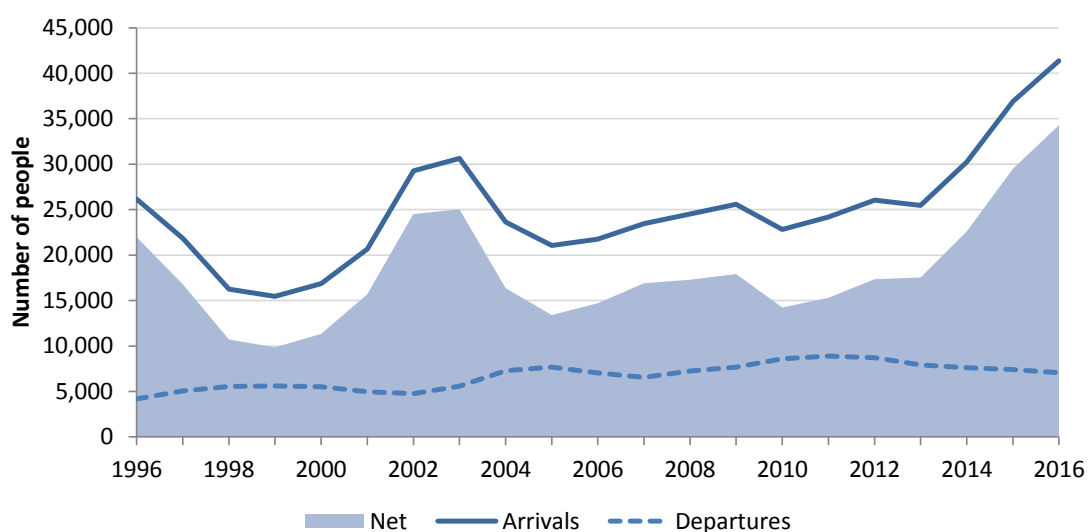
<sup>3</sup> Subnational Population Estimates as at 30 June 2016 (provisional), Statistics NZ.

<sup>4</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>5</sup> arrivals of non-New Zealand and non-Australian citizens than departures in the region. In June 2016, there were 41,364 permanent and long-term arrivals in Auckland, an increase from 36,888 arrivals recorded the previous year. Permanent and long-term departures totalled 7,065 in 2016. This resulted in a net gain of 34,299 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 Auckland 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>5</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>6</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 Auckland region.

### Auckland context

In 2015/16, the Auckland region attracted almost half (48 percent or 5,382 people) of the SMC principal applicants to New Zealand. This is an increase of 16 percent from the 4,641 approved the previous year (see Appendix Table 1).

#### Source country

India is the main source country of SMC principal applicants in Auckland, followed by China and the Philippines. Together, the top three source countries represent more than half (58 percent) of the total approved SMC principal applicants in the region in 2015/16.

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



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

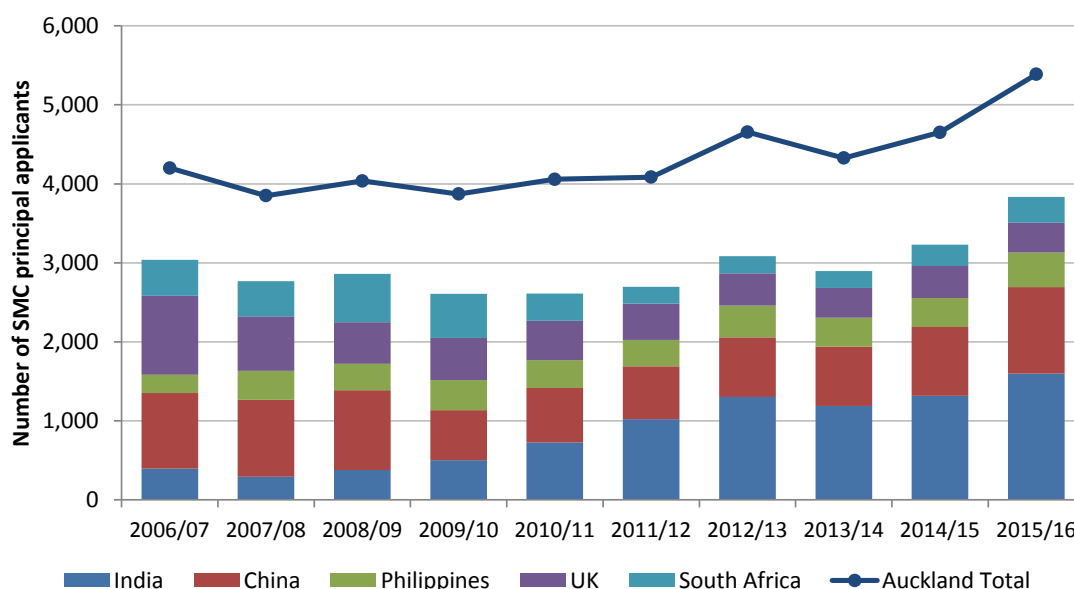
Source country of principal applicant	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
India	1,022 (25%)	1,301 (28%)	1,189 (27%)	1,317 (28%)	1,597 (30%)
China	668 (16%)	755 (16%)	752 (17%)	871 (19%)	1,096 (20%)
Philippines	336 (8%)	403 (9%)	366 (8%)	366 (8%)	436 (8%)
UK	457 (11%)	409 (9%)	375 (9%)	407 (9%)	378 (7%)
South Africa	214 (5%)	216 (5%)	213 (5%)	270 (6%)	328 (6%)

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Overall, the number of SMC principal applicants coming into the Auckland region has been steadily increasing over the last decade. Figure 3 below shows that there has been a significant increase in the number of applicants coming from India over the last ten years. On the other hand, the number of migrants from the United Kingdom has been declining, with the number of applicants more than halving over the last ten years.

Over the past year, there has an increase in the number of SMC principal applicants from the top five source countries, except from the UK.

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

The main occupations of skilled migrants in Auckland in 2015/16 were Chefs (8 percent), ICT Support Technicians (8 percent) and Retail Managers (6 percent).



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

	Number of applicants <sup>7</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>				
Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers	518	696	↑	India, China
Engineering, ICT and Science Technicians	649	694	↑	India, China
Food Trades Workers	470	610	↑	India, China
ICT Professionals	538	571	↑	India, China
Business, Human Resource and Marketing Professionals	454	521	↑	China, India
Health Professionals	361	329	↓	Philippines, India
Specialist Managers	248	276	↑	UK, South Africa
Design, Engineering, Science and Transport Professionals	253	273	↑	China, India
Electrotechnology and Telecommunications Trades Workers	160	232	↑	India, Philippines
Education Professionals	196	228	↑	China, India
<b>Top 10 occupations (4-digit level ANZSCO)</b>				
Chefs	373	429	↑	China, India
ICT Support Technicians	408	411	↑	India, China
Retail Managers	237	310	↑	India, China
Software and Applications Programmers	294	302	↑	India, China
Cafe and Restaurant Managers	175	248	↑	India, China
Registered Nurses	280	248	↓	Philippines, India
Accountants	132	160	↑	China, India
Advertising and Marketing Professionals	114	131	↑	China, UK
Bakers and Pastrycooks	72	127	↑	India, China
Contract, Program and Project Administrators	75	109	↑	China, India

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>7</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>8</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 Auckland 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.

### Auckland context

Auckland is the main region for employment of Essential Skills workers. In 2015/16, 11,249 people were approved to work in Auckland under the Essential Skills work policy (see Appendix Table 2). There has been an increase of 30 percent (or 2,581 people) 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 Auckland over the last five years. Together, the top five source countries accounted for over half (58 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 Auckland, followed by the Philippines and China. Over the past year, there has been an increase in the number of Essential Skills workers from all top five source countries.

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<sup>8</sup> MBIE. (2016). *Migration Trends 2015/16*

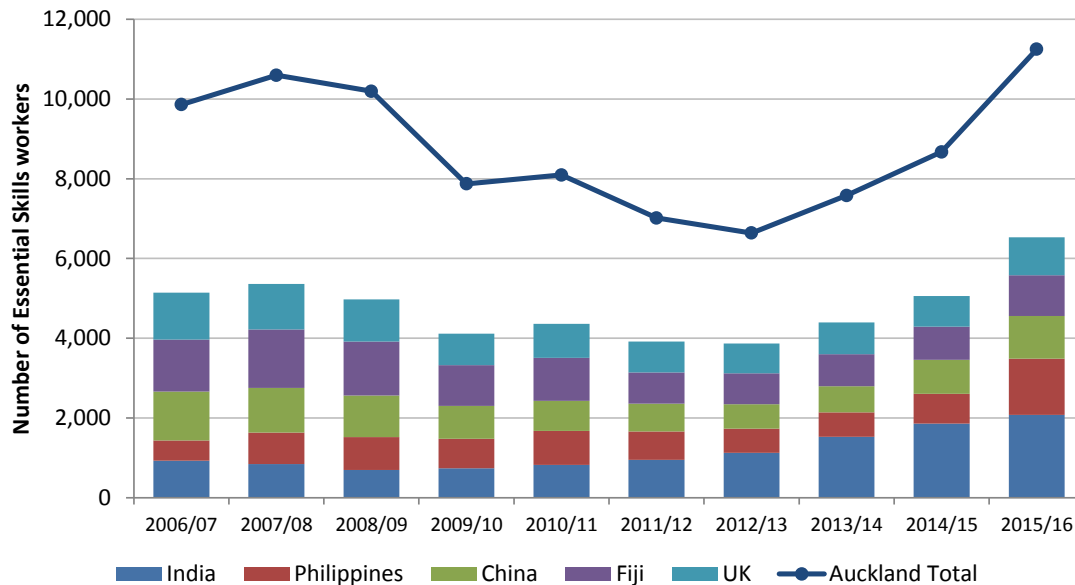
**Table 3: Source country of Essential Skills workers in the Auckland region, 2011/12 to 2015/16**

Source country of Essential Skills workers	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
India	951 (14%)	1,127 (17%)	1,530 (20%)	1,862 (21%)	2,080 (18%)
Philippines	710 (10%)	608 (9%)	610 (8%)	743 (9%)	1,408 (13%)
China	696 (10%)	608 (9%)	655 (9%)	855 (10%)	1,069 (10%)
Fiji	782 (11%)	778 (12%)	805 (11%)	831 (10%)	1,026 (9%)
UK	779 (11%)	748 (11%)	794 (10%)	770 (9%)	947 (8%)

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Figure 4 below shows that the number of Essential Skills workers arriving into Auckland has been increasing after experiencing a decrease in previous years. The number of Essential Skills workers coming from India has markedly increased in the last ten years. The Philippines also shows an increase in the number of Essential Skills workers coming into the region. On the other hand, the number of migrants from the United Kingdom has been decreasing over the last ten years.

**Figure 4: The top five source countries of Essential Skills workers in the Auckland 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 the Auckland region. It also lists the main source countries for each occupation group.

The most common occupations of Essential Skills workers in Auckland in 2015/16 were Chefs (11 percent), Retail Managers (6 percent) and Café and Restaurant Managers (5 percent). The number of those working as Construction Trades Workers has more than doubled over the year, most likely to be driven by the demand for housing and infrastructure in Auckland.

**Table 4: Occupations of Essential Skills workers in Auckland region, 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	1,183	1,489	↑	India, South Korea
Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers	1,265	1,470	↑	India, China
Construction Trades Workers	421	856	↑	Philippines, Fiji
Automotive and Engineering Trades Workers	475	755	↑	Philippines, Fiji
Engineering, ICT and Science Technicians	438	528	↑	India, China
Health Professionals	393	518	↑	Philippines, UK
Business, Human Resource and Marketing Professionals	351	474	↑	South Africa, China
Specialist Managers	349	460	↑	South Africa, UK
Other Technicians and Trades Workers	322	384	↑	Fiji, South Africa
ICT Professionals	347	366	↑	India, South Africa
<b>Top 10 occupations (4-digit level ANZSCO)</b>				
Chefs	1,004	1,231	↑	India, South Korea
Retail Managers	541	632	↑	India, China
Cafe and Restaurant Managers	474	543	↑	India, UK
Carpenters and Joiners	189	463	↑	Philippines, Fiji
Truck Drivers	254	283	↑	Fiji, India
Motor Mechanics	198	281	↑	Fiji, South Africa
Registered Nurses	221	273	↑	Philippines, India
ICT Support Technicians	234	243	↑	India, China
Retail Supervisors	208	217	↑	India, Japan
Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers	81	191	↑	China, Philippines

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>9</sup>.

In 2015/16, a total of 91,261 international students<sup>10</sup> were approved to study in New Zealand, an 8 percent increase from 84,856 in 2014/15.

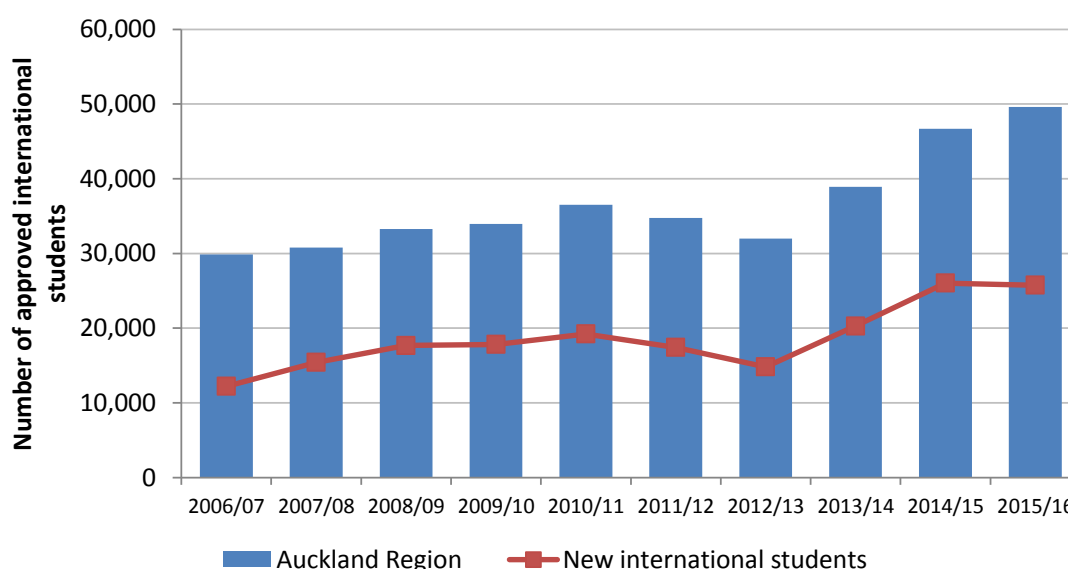
International students have identified that they chose to study in New Zealand because of the quality and cost of education, opportunities to work after graduation and to apply for residence, and opportunities to study in an English-speaking country<sup>11</sup>.

### Auckland context

International students are an important component of migration flows into Auckland, the main study destination for international students. Attracting international students into Auckland 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.

Auckland continues to have the largest share of international students in the country<sup>12</sup>. In 2015/16, 49,615 international students were approved for study in Auckland, making up 62 percent of student visas granted. This is an increase of six percent from 46,697 in 2014/15 (see Figure 5 below). Over the year, there has been a small decrease (one percent) in the number of new international students in the region.

**Figure 5: Approved international students in the Auckland 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>9</sup> Infometrics and the National Research Bureau. (2016). *The Economic Impact of International Education 2015/16*. Wellington: Education New Zealand.

<sup>10</sup> This includes primary and secondary school students.

<sup>11</sup> Department of Labour (2010). *Life After Study: International students’ settlement experiences in New Zealand*.

<sup>12</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.



