



# Regional Migration Trends

## Canterbury Overview 2015/16



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Publishing date: December 2017

ISSN 2538-032X

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**New Zealand Government**

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## Canterbury Executive Summary

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

In 2015/16, 16 percent (or 1,772 people) of New Zealand's Skilled Migrant Category principal applicants (permanent migrants) found employment in the Canterbury region. This is an increase of 21 percent on the previous year. The Philippines, India and the United Kingdom were the top source countries of skilled migrants in the region.

The most common occupations of these migrants in Canterbury were Carpenters and Joiners (15 percent), Painting Trades Workers (6 percent) and Registered Nurses (4 percent).

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

In 2015/16, 7,204 people were approved for the Essential Skills work visa in the region. This is an increase of less than one percent over the past year. The Philippines and India were the top source countries for Essential Skills workers in the region.

The main occupations of Essential Skills workers in Canterbury in 2015/16 were Livestock Farmers (9 percent), Carpenters and Joiners (9 percent) and Aged and Disabled Carers (7 percent).

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

Canterbury has the second largest share of international students in the country. In 2015/16, 7,512 international students were approved for study in Canterbury, making up nine percent of the total student visas granted. This is an increase of 12 percent from the previous year.

## Introduction

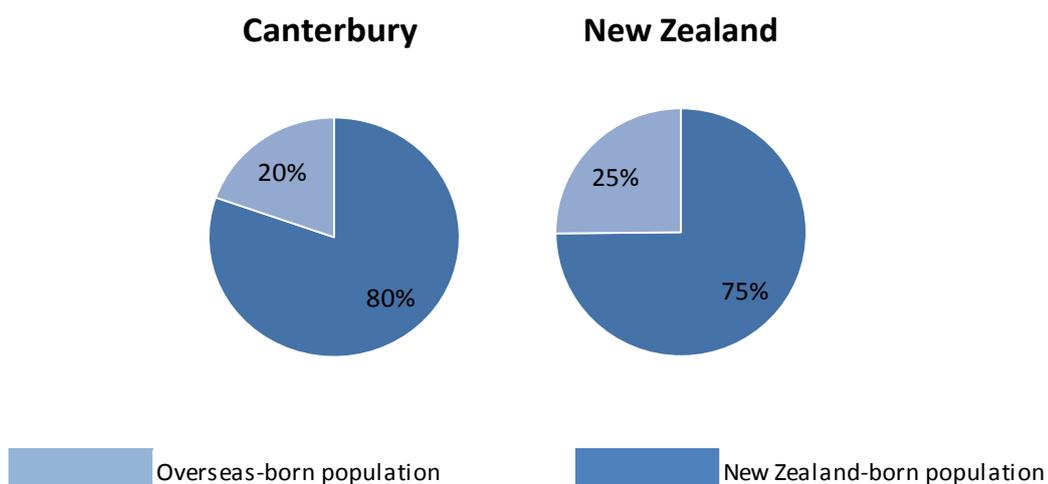
As New Zealand's largest region, Canterbury comprises of a series of majestic mountains, the city of Christchurch, the Canterbury Plains, major towns such as Timaru and Ashburton, and popular tourist centres such as Hanmer Springs and Kaikoura.

The Canterbury region continues its recovery from the major earthquakes of September 2010 and February 2011. The recovery is significantly aided by a temporary influx of migrant workers to assist with the rebuild. A growing construction workforce has driven the increase on the migration of migrant workers in recent years.<sup>1</sup>

As at 30 June 2016, Canterbury region's population was 600,100<sup>2</sup>, which represents 13 percent of New Zealand's total population.

According to the 2013 Census, 20 percent of the region's population were born overseas compared with 25 percent for New Zealand overall. The majority of new migrants<sup>3</sup> coming into Canterbury were from Asia (39 percent) and the United Kingdom and Ireland (26 percent).

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



Source: 2013 Census of Population and Dwellings, Statistics NZ

<sup>1</sup> Canterbury Development Corporation. (2017). *Christchurch and Canterbury Quarterly Economic Report March 2017 Quarter*.

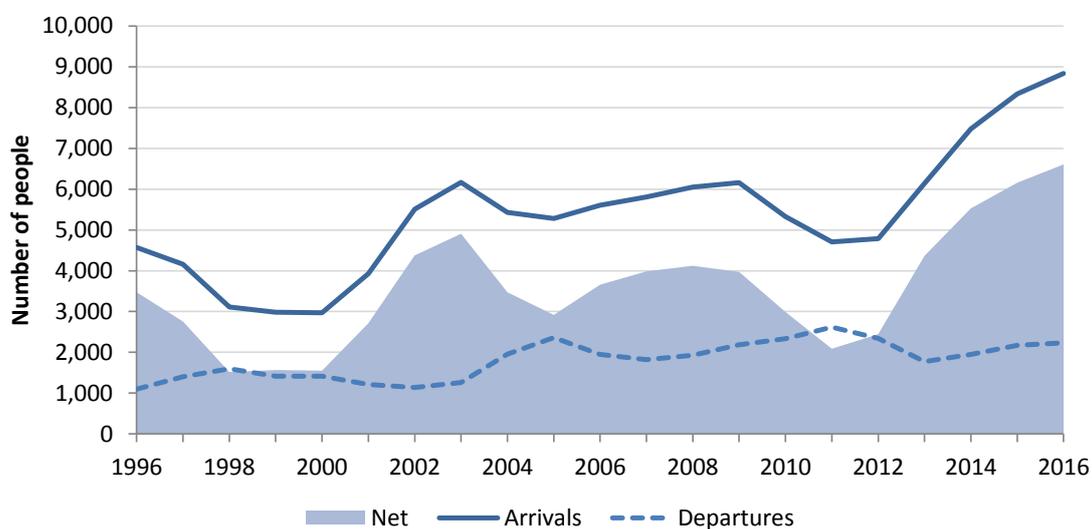
<sup>2</sup> Subnational Population Estimates as at 30 June 2016 (provisional), Statistics NZ.

<sup>3</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>4</sup> arrivals of non-New Zealand and non-Australian citizens than departures in the region. Net migration into Canterbury remains at a high level, which is a combination of high arrivals and low departures driven by a range of migrants, ie international students arriving to study and migrants arriving to work. In June 2016, there were 8,837 permanent and long-term arrivals in Canterbury, an increase from 8,332 arrivals recorded the previous year. Permanent and long-term departures totalled to 2,231 in 2016. This resulted in a net gain of 6,606 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 Canterbury 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>4</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 residence approvals has increased by 21 percent from 43,085 in 2014/15 to 52,052 in 2015/16.<sup>5</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 Canterbury region.

### Canterbury context

In 2015/16, the Canterbury region attracted 16 percent (or 1,772 people) of the SMC principal applicants to New Zealand. This is an increase of 21 percent from the 1,470 approved in the previous year (see Appendix Table 1).

#### Source country

The Philippines is the main source country of SMC principal applicants in Canterbury, followed by India and the United Kingdom. Together, the top three source countries represent more than half (57 percent) of the total approved SMC principal applicants in the region in 2015/16.

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

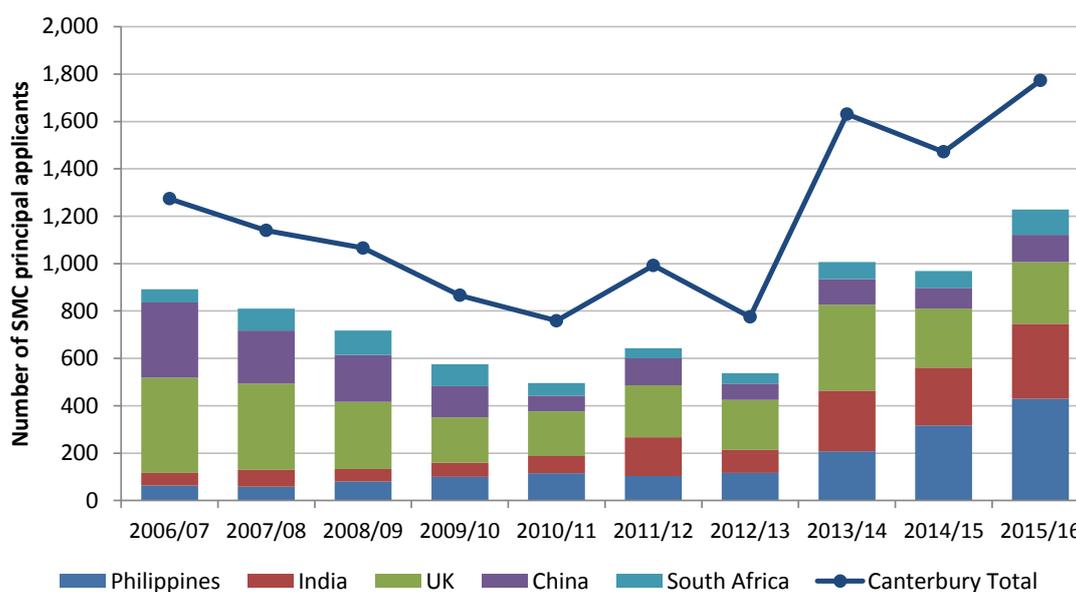
**Table 1: Top source countries of Skilled Migrant Category principal applicants in Canterbury, 2011/12 to 2015/16**

Source country of principal applicant	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Philippines	104 (10%)	117 (15%)	208 (13%)	317 (22%)	430 (24%)
India	163 (16%)	97 (13%)	256 (16%)	244 (17%)	316 (18%)
UK	219 (22%)	211 (27%)	363 (22%)	249 (17%)	261 (15%)
China	114 (11%)	69 (9%)	108 (7%)	88 (6%)	115 (6%)
South Africa	43 (4%)	43 (6%)	72 (4%)	71 (5%)	106 (6%)

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Figure 3 below shows that the number of SMC principal applicants coming into Canterbury has been markedly increasing over time, especially since the 2011 earthquake. Historically, the United Kingdom was the main source of SMC principal applicants in the region up until 2014/15. There has been a significant increase in the number of applicants coming from the Philippines and India in recent years.

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

The main occupations of skilled migrants in Canterbury in 2015/16 were Carpenters and Joiners (15 percent), Painting Trades Workers (6 percent) and Registered Nurses (4 percent).

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

	Number of applicants <sup>6</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>				
Construction Trades Workers	297	480	↑	Philippines, UK
Automotive and Engineering Trades Workers	156	174	↑	Philippines, India
Engineering, ICT and Science Technicians	114	145	↑	India, China
Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers	75	138	↑	India, China
Health Professionals	193	132	↓	Philippines, UK
Design, Engineering, Science and Transport Professionals	116	122	↑	UK, Philippines
Food Trades Workers	82	103	↑	India, China
Electrotechnology and Telecommunications Trades Workers	56	88	↑	Philippines, South Africa
ICT Professionals	72	71	↓	India, China
Business, Human Resource and Marketing Professionals	45	62	↑	India, UK
<b>Top 10 occupations (4-digit level ANZSCO)</b>				
Carpenters and Joiners	141	269	↑	Philippines, UK
Painting Trades Workers	69	104	↑	Philippines, Brazil
Registered Nurses	158	78	↓	Philippines, India
Civil Engineering Professionals	79	73	↓	UK, Philippines
Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers	48	64	↑	Philippines, Bangladesh
Chefs	61	61	n/c	India, China
Metal Fitters and Machinists	63	58	↓	India, Philippines
Retail Managers	30	57	↑	India, China
ICT Support Technicians	28	47	↑	India, Philippines
Architectural, Building and Surveying Technicians	30	43	↑	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>6</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>7</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 Canterbury 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.

### Canterbury context

Canterbury is the second main region for employment of Essential Skills workers. In 2015/16, 7,204 people were approved to work in Canterbury under the Essential Skills work policy (see Appendix Table 2). There has been a small increase of 0.5 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 Canterbury over the last five years. Together, the top five source countries accounted for 64 percent of the total number of Essential Skills workers coming to jobs in the region.

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

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

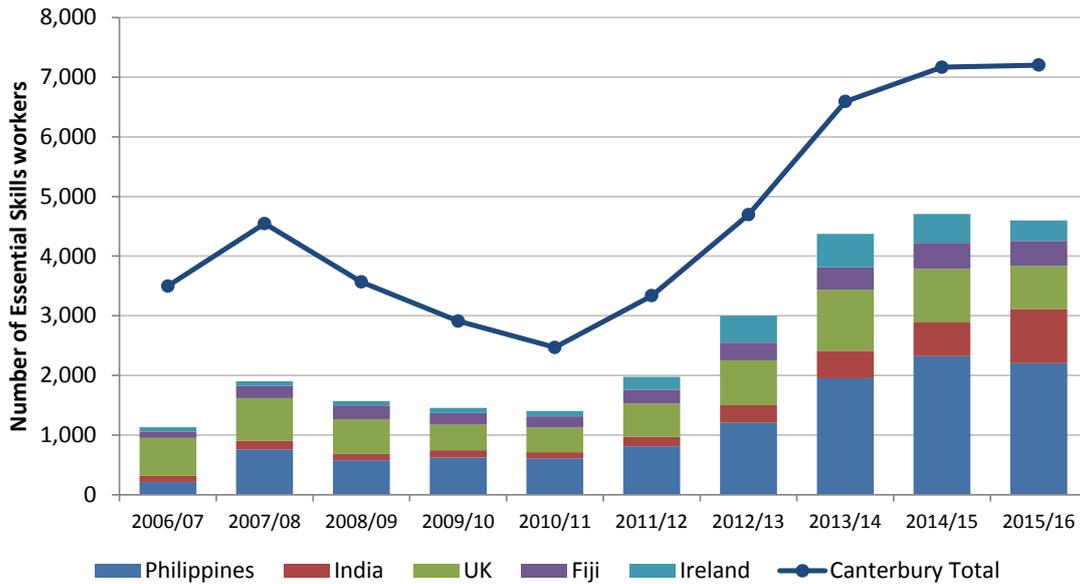
**Table 3: Source country of Essential Skills workers in Canterbury, 2011/12 to 2015/16**

Source country of Essential Skills workers	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Philippines	810 (24%)	1,207 (26%)	1,954 (30%)	2,323 (32%)	2,207 (31%)
India	161 (5%)	294 (6%)	461 (7%)	567 (8%)	908 (13%)
UK	560 (17%)	752 (16%)	1,025 (16%)	896 (13%)	723 (10%)
Fiji	229 (7%)	295 (6%)	373 (6%)	436 (6%)	420 (6%)
Ireland	216 (6%)	455 (10%)	558 (8%)	484 (7%)	339 (5%)

Source: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Figure 4 below shows that the number of Essential Skills workers arriving into the Canterbury region has been generally increasing but has slowed down in recent years. The Philippines remain as the main source of Essential Skills workers in the region. While the number of temporary migrants from the United Kingdom has been stable over time, the number of temporary migrants coming in from India has increased by 60 percent over the past year.

**Figure 4: The top five source countries of Essential Skills workers in the Canterbury 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 Canterbury. It also lists the main source countries for each occupation group. The most common occupations of Essential Skills workers in Canterbury in 2015/16 were Livestock Farmers (9 percent), Carpenters and Joiners (9 percent) and Aged and Disabled Carers (7 percent).

**Table 4: Occupations of Essential Skills workers in Canterbury, 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>				
Construction Trades Workers	1,477	1,099	↓	Philippines, UK
Farmers and Farm Managers	642	663	↑	Philippines, India
Carers and Aides	508	624	↑	Philippines, Fiji
Automotive and Engineering Trades Workers	421	454	↑	Philippines, India
Construction and Mining Labourers	346	454	↑	Philippines, UK
Farm, Forestry and Garden Workers	453	400	↓	Philippines, India
Factory Process Workers	358	389	↑	Fiji, Samoa
Food Trades Workers	370	376	↑	China, India
Sales Assistants and Salespersons	188	286	↑	India, UK
Hospitality, Retail and Service Managers	226	262	↑	India, China
<b>Top 10 occupations (4-digit level ANZSCO)</b>				
Livestock Farmers	627	654	↑	Philippines, India
Carpenters and Joiners	764	631	↓	Philippines, UK
Aged and Disabled Carers	422	475	↑	Philippines, Fiji
Livestock Farm Workers	427	347	↓	Philippines, India
Chefs	284	259	↓	China, India
Retail Supervisors	157	216	↑	India, UK
Structural Steel Construction Workers	176	205	↑	Philippines, UK
Meat, Poultry and Seafood Process Workers	136	153	↑	Fiji, Philippines
Nursing Support and Personal Care Workers	81	142	↑	Philippines, Fiji
Structural Steel and Welding Trades Workers	164	142	↓	Philippines, India

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>8</sup>.

In 2015/16, a total of 91,261 international students<sup>9</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>10</sup>.

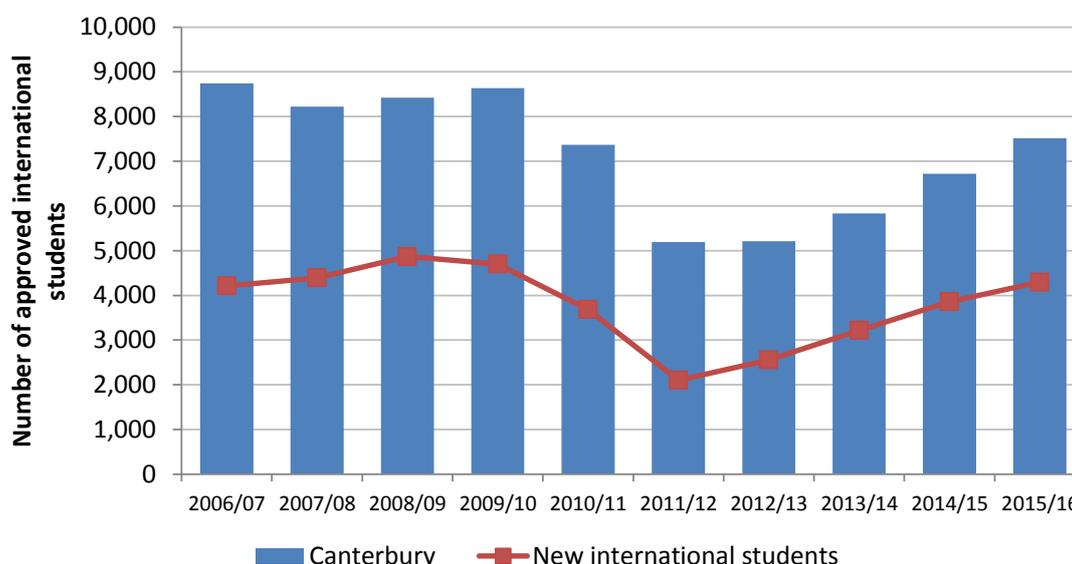
### Canterbury context

International students are an important component of migration flows into New Zealand. Attracting international students into Canterbury 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.

Canterbury is home to a number of tertiary education institutions including the two universities, the University of Canterbury and Lincoln University. The Canterbury region has the second largest share of international students in the country after Auckland<sup>11</sup>.

In 2015/16, 7,512 international students were approved for study in Canterbury, making up nine percent of the total student visas granted. This is an increase of 12 percent from 6,720 in 2014/15 (see Figure 5 below). Over the year, there has been a ten percent increase in the number of new international students in the region.

**Figure 5: Approved international students in the Canterbury 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>8</sup> Infometrics and the National Research Bureau. (2016). *The Economic Impact of International Education 2015/16*. Wellington: Education New Zealand.

<sup>9</sup> This includes primary and secondary school students.

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

<sup>11</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											% 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.



