

Passenger Arrivals in New Zealand

BACKGROUND

The number of people entering New Zealand is relevant to environmental health for a number of reasons. An increase in the number of people entering New Zealand can lead to an increased biosecurity risk, by increasing the potential for the introduction of pests and disease into the country. Furthermore, tourists to New Zealand place an increased pressure on the environment, by placing additional pressure on local infrastructure and services. Tourism can also have benefits, such as encouraging economic activity, which can lead to increased funding of environmental programmes.

The indicator presents the annual number of passenger arrivals to New Zealand from 1961 to 2011 (Statistics New Zealand 2011c). The data record arrivals to, and departures from, New Zealand for the following groups:

- Short-term overseas visitors (overseas residents arriving for a stay of less than 12 months)
- Short-term New Zealand –resident visitors (New Zealand students who had been overseas for less than 12 months)
- Permanent residents (which includes overseas residents intending to stay more than 12 months, and New Zealand residents returning after being overseas for more than 12 months).

In general, when interpreting these data, a similar number of people were leaving New Zealand as were arriving, and therefore there was not necessarily an increase in overall population size due to these passenger arrivals.

The data takes into account international air and sea passengers. The international airports in New Zealand are: Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and Queenstown. The major seaports are: Auckland, Tauranga, Napier, Wellington, Christchurch (Lyttelton), Nelson and Dunedin.

References

- Statistics New Zealand. (2011c). Hot Off The Press: International Travel and Migration. Wellington: Statistics New Zealand.

