



Environmental Health Indicators for New Zealand

NUMBER OF PASSENGER ARRIVALS TO NEW ZEALAND

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.

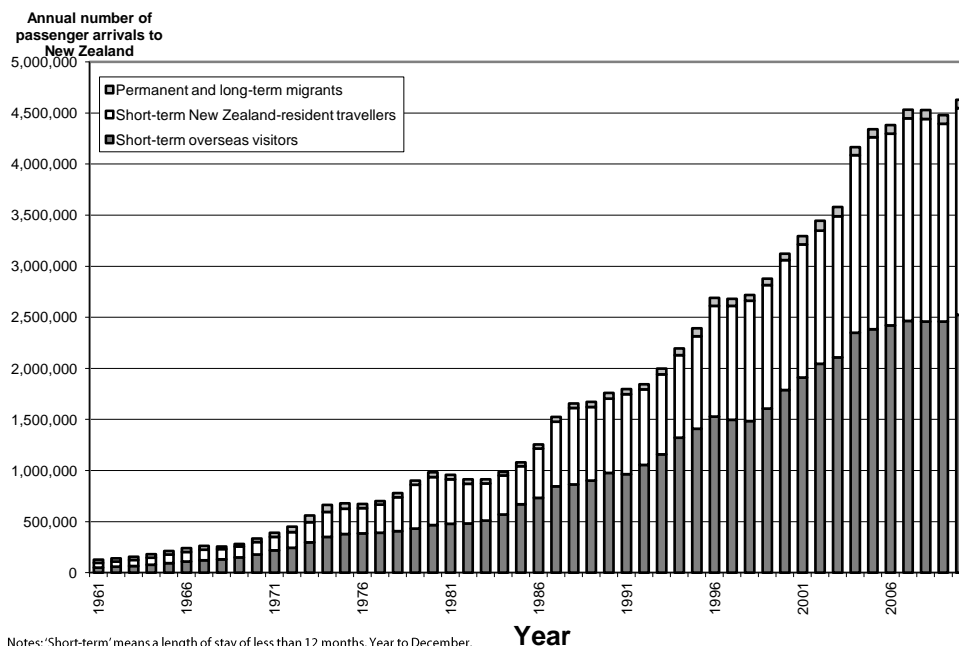
The indicator presents the annual number of passenger arrivals into New Zealand from 1961 to 2010 (Statistics New Zealand (2010)). The data records arrivals to, and departures from, New Zealand for the following groups:

- short-term overseas visitors (overseas residents arriving for a stay of less than 12 months)
- short-term New Zealand-resident visitors (New Zealand residents 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 take 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.

Figure 1:
ANNUAL NUMBER OF PASSENGER ARRIVALS TO NEW ZEALAND BY TYPE OF VISITOR, 1961 - 2010



Notes: 'Short-term' means a length of stay of less than 12 months. Year to December.
Source: Statistics New Zealand (2010) – International Travel and Migration.

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Current situation

Figure 1 shows a dramatic increase in the annual number of passenger arrivals into New Zealand over the past 50 years. The increase is mainly accounted for by short-term visitors, of whom the majority were overseas visitors. In 2010, an estimated 2.53 million short-term overseas visitors arrived in New Zealand, an increase of 3.5% from 2009.

References

- Statistics New Zealand: International Travel and Migration, December 2010.