

Net External Migration

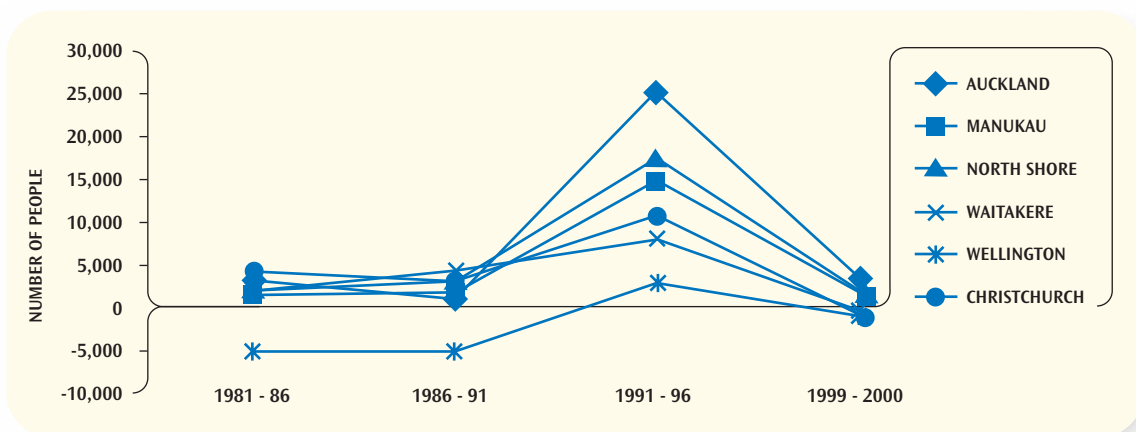
What this is about...

Net external migration is the number of overseas arrivals into each city less the number of overseas departures. The indicator highlights the number of New Zealand nationals and migrants arriving and leaving the six largest cities and provides an insight into the relative attractiveness of working and living in this country.

What did we find ?

- The four largest cities in the Auckland Region saw more people arrive than leave in the 1980s. However, this was not the case in Wellington and Christchurch where there was a net migration loss until 1991, consistent with national trends.
- Between 1991 and 1996, the net external migration trend reversed, with all six cities experiencing significant net gains. Auckland and Christchurch City had the biggest increases over this time. The main reason for the change between 1991 and 1996 was the increasing level of immigration. For example, in 1996 around 50% of all new immigrants were living in the Auckland Region.
- The Auckland Region wasn't the only city influenced by immigration during the 1990s. Some cities and regions undertook targeted marketing campaigns to attract new residents during the mid 1990s. For example Christchurch City went from a net external migration loss of 420 people to a net external migration increase of 12,590.
- External migration flows, both nationally and into the six largest cities, have slowed considerably in the last five years. For the first time since 1990, overall departures exceeded arrivals in 1999, resulting in a net outflow of 14,000 people from New Zealand.⁵ Since 1995, there has been a downward trend for permanent and long-term migrant arrivals. For example, in 1999 there were 26% less permanent and long term migrant arrivals in the six largest cities than in 1996.

NET EXTERNAL MIGRATION TRENDS, BY CITY (1981 TO 2000)



Data Source: Statistics New Zealand

Immigrants into New Zealand tend to come from the same countries. Since 1996, Australia and the United Kingdom (UK) have been the most common source countries. However, it should be noted that New Zealanders returning home are also included in these figures and are likely to have a significant impact on results.

**COUNTRY OF LAST RESIDENCE⁶ FOR PERMANENT
AND LONG TERM ARRIVALS INTO NEW ZEALAND, BY CITY (1996 TO 1999)**

	Ranking #1	Ranking #2	Ranking #3	Ranking #4	Ranking #5
Auckland	UK	Australia	Japan	China	India
Manukau	Australia	UK	Western Samoa	Hong Kong	Taiwan
North Shore	UK	Australia	South Africa	Taiwan	Japan
Waitakere	Australia	UK	China	Western Samoa	Hong Kong
Wellington	UK	Australia	USA	Japan	India
Christchurch	UK	Australia	Japan	Taiwan	Malaysia

Data Source: Statistics New Zealand

5 Statistics New Zealand. 1999. Demographic Trends. Wellington.

6 Country of last residence does not necessarily indicate that the individual is a citizen of that country.