

At a glance

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IMMIGRATION SURVEY MONITORING PROGRAMME



SETTLEMENT OUTCOMES OF TEMPORARY MIGRANT WORKERS 2009 MIGRANTS SURVEY (PILOT)

Temporary migrants' settlement experiences are vital to the success of the New Zealand Residence Programme. More than 8 out of every 10 people approved permanent residence in New Zealand have previous experience as a temporary migrant. This 'At a Glance' presents key findings about the short-term settlement outcomes of temporary migrant workers from the 2009 Migrants Survey (Pilot).

The 2009 Migrants Survey (Pilot) took place between August and October 2009 and achieved a sample of 572 temporary workers.

KEY FINDINGS

New Zealand exceeded respondents' expectations on several factors.

A net 68 percent of temporary worker respondents found the environment or landscape was better than they had expected, and a net 53 percent were made to feel more welcome than they had expected to be.¹ Nearly all respondents (97 percent) had met new friends and 92 percent reported a high level of satisfaction with life here.

New Zealand's predominantly market-driven temporary work policies ensure positive employment outcomes for migrants. Ninety-six percent of Essential Skills respondents were employed and 77 percent reported that their job matched their skills and qualifications. Sixteen percent of Essential Skills respondents earned \$60,000 or more per year. Table 1 shows the labour market activity for the main groups under work permit policies.²

Table 1: Respondents' labour force activity by work permit group

Work permit group	Employed (%)	Looking for work (%)	Labour force participation rate (%)	Not in the labour force (%)
Essential Skills	96.1	1.2	97.2	2.8
Family-related	70.9	11.2	79.8	20.2
Study to work	90.0	6.9	96.7	3.3
Other workers	79.8	8.2	86.9	13.1
Total	82.1	6.8	88.0	12.0

Source: Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme 2009 Migrants Survey (Pilot).

PACIFIC

YOUTH

LISNZ

SETTLEMENT

ISMP

ECONOMIC

GLOBAL MOBILITY

REFUGEE

1. The net percentage is the difference between those reporting their experience was better than expected and those reporting their experience was worse than expected.

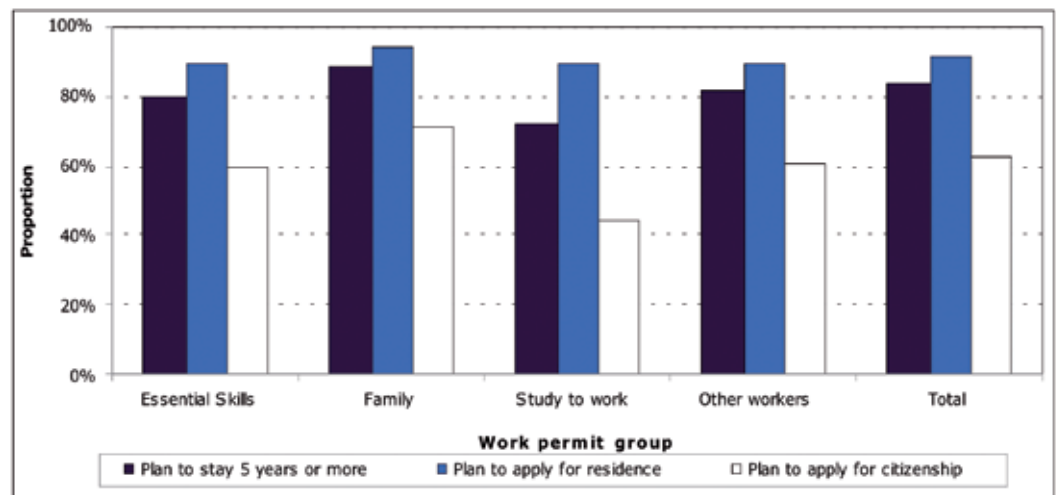
2. This 'At a Glance' combines temporary work policies into four groups. Essential Skills is a labour-market tested work policy for which applicants must have an offer of full-time work in New Zealand that meets specific criteria. Family-related includes all work policies assessed on the basis of a family relationship such as being the partner of a New Zealand resident or citizen. Study to work policies allow international students to get work experience after their study. Other workers policies include all other work policies, such as working holiday schemes.

As expected, former international students were highly qualified and had spent more time in New Zealand than other respondents. Most had jobs but they typically earned less than other respondents. This may reflect the time it takes graduates to find work that matches their skills and that young workers earn less than those with more experience. The economic downturn may have added to their difficulties, as a recession can affect young people disproportionately.³

Good English language skills were associated with positive employment outcomes. Temporary worker respondents with higher English language proficiency had less difficulty getting work, were more likely to work in a skilled job, and earned more money than respondents with lower English language skills.

Most respondents (92 percent) reported that they intended to stay in New Zealand and gain permanent residence (Figure 1), which is consistent with what has become the dominant pathway to permanent residence. This rate was consistently high across work categories and regions of origin.

Figure 1: Respondents' future intentions



Source: Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme, 2009 Migrants Survey (Pilot).

The Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme encompasses new migrants to New Zealand (temporary and permanent), employers, and the New Zealand public. Its purpose is to build an evidence base of information about migrants' settlement and labour market outcomes, employers' experiences with migrants, and community attitudes towards immigration and migrant integration.

→ For further information please contact research@dol.govt.nz, or visit www.immigration.govt.nz/research

3. Department of Labour (2010) *The Impact of the Recession on Young People*. Wellington: Department of Labour. www.dol.govt.nz/publications/lmr/hlfs-investigation-reports/recession-impact/recession-impact.pdf.