

# Overseas worker arrivals continue strong bounce back following the removal of pandemic travel restrictions

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The number of people arriving in New Zealand on work visas continues to steadily climb back towards pre-Covid levels.

The latest figures from the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment show 18,627 people arrived in NZ on work visas in October this year, following 19,533 arrivals in September and 17,436 in August.

After falling away to just a few hundred a month during between April 2020 and March 2022 due to pandemic travel restrictions, the number of arrivals recovered quickly. They rose to several thousand a month between April and August 2022, passing 10,000 a month from September 2022, and remaining above 15,000 a month for all of this year. In the 12 months to end of October this year 202,770 people arrived in NZ on work visas. That is, however, still significantly below the 242,931 that arrived pre-Covid in the year to October 2019. (See graph below for the annual trends since 2014).

The flow looks unlikely to slow with 19,194 work visa applications approved in October, following on from 17,958 approvals in September, suggesting arrival numbers are likely to stay around existing levels for the next few months at least.



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