

# Strong arrivals of non-NZ citizens, relaxation of border restrictions & changes to immigration settings drive record net migration gain

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Source: [123rf.com](#)

Provisional estimates show New Zealand experienced a record net migration gain of 96,200 in the July year, Statistics NZ says.

The gain stems from net gains of non-NZ citizens, follows progressive relaxation of Covid-19-related border restrictions from early 2022, and changes to immigration settings, says Statistics NZ. The gain reverses a net migration loss of 14,500 in the July 2022 year. The previous net migration peak of 91,700 in the March 2020 year was partly due to travellers arriving in late 2019 and early 2020 prolonging their NZ stay as Covid-19 border and travel restrictions took effect, Statistics NZ says.

“The record net migration gain in the July 2023 year follows 12 months of a fully open New Zealand border and equates to a net gain of about 19 people per 1,000 population,” Statistics NZ population indicators manager Tehseen Islam says.

Islam says the July-year gain comprised a net gain of 135,600 non-NZ citizens and a net migration loss of 39,400 NZ citizens.

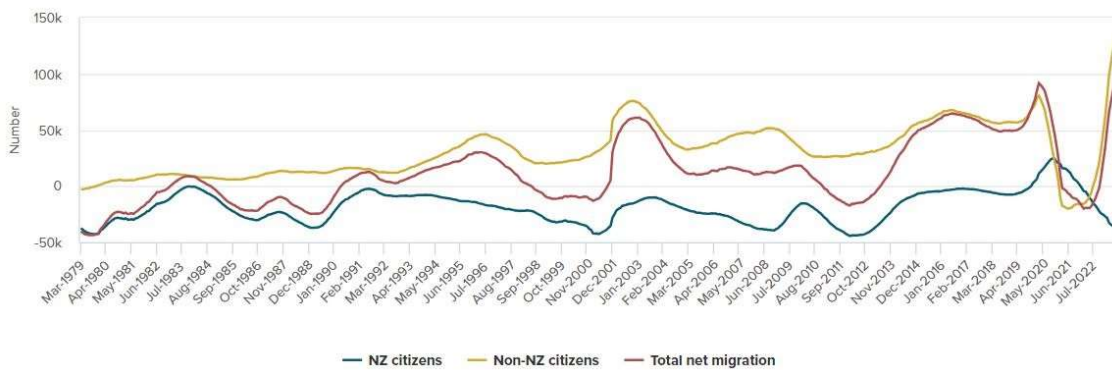
“The net gain of non-New Zealand citizens continues to set new records, while the net loss of New Zealand citizens is approaching the record loss of 44,400 in the February 2012 year,” Islam says.

Statistics NZ says people from India, the Philippines, China, South Africa, and Fiji drove net migration gains. It says the July 2023 year saw provisional annual records for:

- total migrant arrivals of 208,400 – before the 2023 record levels, the previous record was 184,900 in the March 2020 year
- migrant arrivals of non-New Zealand citizens, with 182,500
- total net migration gain of 96,200
- net migration gain of non-New Zealand citizens, of 135,600 – before the 2023 record levels, the previous record was 80,400 in the March 2020 year.

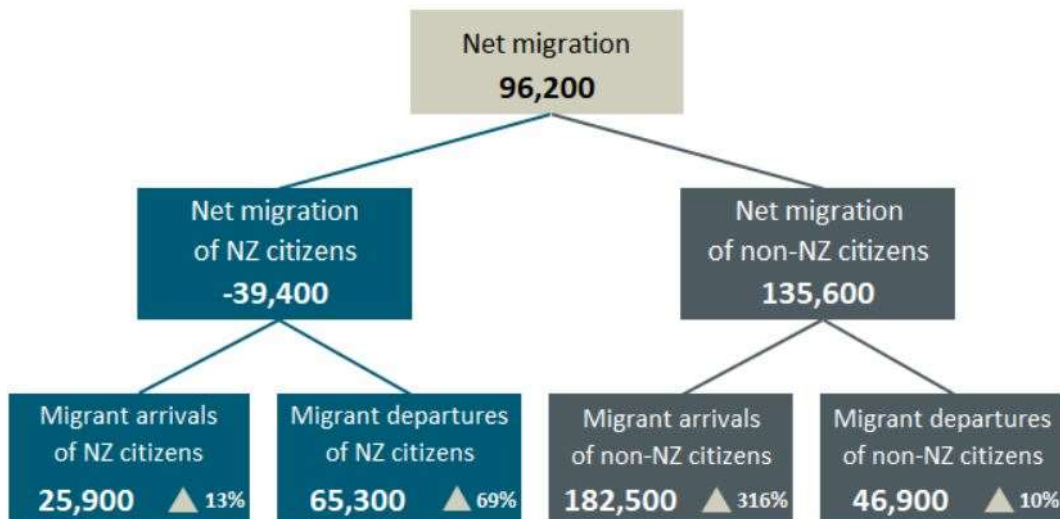
Statistics NZ describes migrants as people changing their country of residence, regardless of their country of citizenship or visa status. It uses a 12-month threshold to distinguish migrants from non-migrants.

Annual net migration, by citizenship, rolling year ended, March 1979–July 2023



### International migration estimates (provisional)

Year ended July 2023



Notes: Estimates are provisional as of 12 September 2023.

Percentage changes are indicative of the July 2023 year compared with the July 2022 year.

Source: Stats NZ