



ROB LAW MAXRECRUITMENT

Rob Law Maxrecruitment is a leading recruitment consultancy in the fields of Civil, Structural, Electrical, Mechanical and Environmental Engineering Infrastructure, Construction, Print & Packaging and Labour Hire & Manufacturing.

Immigration Hints - Updated 01/03/2011

March 2011 Economic Situation Update

New Zealand's economy has been affected by the Global Financial Crisis like most countries. Architecture and Residential construction went into recession in the latter half of 2008. Most industries expect difficult trading conditions through 2011 – 2012 however the government is planning to bring forward certain infrastructure projects to partially offset these job losses with significant investment in power, roading and rail.

In the short term, the need for temporary migrant workers in some sectors will be subdued as employers find the labour and skills they need internally. In sectors where shortages persist, such as engineering, teaching, and health care, demand for high-skilled workers will continue.

Unemployment levels in New Zealand are now 6.8% - up from 4% in 2009. This compares with Australia at 5.1% and is significantly better than figures published for the UK at 7.9%, the EU at 9.6% and USA at 9.8%.

Christchurch Earthquake

The major earthquake that shook Christchurch on the 22nd February 2011 will have an impact on the New Zealand economy and labour market but is not expected to be

considerable. Outside Christchurch there has been no loss of life or damage to buildings and New Zealand is still considered a safe country to live, work and travel.

How does this affect overseas candidates?

There will always be opportunities for well-qualified candidates with appropriate work experience, and particularly those jobs on the Immediate Skills Shortage List (ISSL) and Long Term Skills Shortage List LTSSL. These 'Skills in Demand Lists' are updated every 6 months and you can find them on the New Zealand Immigration Website: www.immigration.govt.nz

Due to the current employment market, fewer employers will be looking overseas so candidates should be prepared to visit New Zealand to obtain a job offer. Skype interviews are becoming increasingly popular and we are able to record Skype interviews to pass on digital copies of these to prospective employers. Nothing beats a face-to-face meeting however.

An interesting statistic found on the Department of Labour website, there is a strong link between temporary and permanent migration. Most permanent migrants (84 percent in 2009/10) had previously held a temporary visa in New Zealand.

In 2009/2010 the numbers of new New Zealand Residents was 45,000 with the main source countries being UK - 17%, China - 13%, and South Africa - 12%. 27,000 of these were approved under the Skilled Migrant Category. 130,000 temporary work permits were approved with the main source countries being the UK - 14%, India - 9%, China - 8% including 23,000 for essential skills work (work for which there is a shortage of New Zealanders).

A Desirable Location

New Zealand has been seen as a desirable place to live for many years and has attracted a steady flow of migrants. Originally they came from the United Kingdom but more recently have arrived from most countries in the world with Asian countries being a main source of migrant growth.

New Zealand has a high degree of social and political stability and a modern social welfare system which includes universal entitlement to primary and secondary education, subsidised access to health services for all residents, income support for low and middle income families, and a range of benefits and pensions. The population is mainly European, with around 68% of residents designating themselves as being of European descent, 14.6% as New Zealand Māori, 6.9% as Pacific Islanders, 9.2% as Asian and 0.9% as other.

Our land area is greater than the United Kingdom – but holds only 4½ million people. If you want a beach to yourself in summer, you can usually find one – but if you want people on your beach, you'll find them clustered close to a main centre. With an estimated population of 1.5 million people, the Greater Auckland Region is home to 33% of New Zealanders and is the fastest growing region.

New Zealand climate is moderate in every respect, without extremes found in many areas of the world. In summer, only Hawkes Bay and Gisborne on the east coast of the North Island, and Canterbury and Central Otago in the South Island regularly reach beyond 30°C. In winter, the cities of Christchurch and further south occasionally see snow – but only for a day or so. Those who actually enjoy snow can find it in depth on ski fields in both North and South Island high-country that lie within a four hour drive of all main cities.

Southern Hemisphere Seasons

New Zealand has opposite seasons to the Northern Hemisphere, with our summer falling at the end of year in December. So try not to be too confused at Christmas when you find yourself at the beach swimming!

Winter: June, July, August

Spring: September, October, November

Summer: December, January, February

Autumn: March, April, May

While there's not a huge temperature variation between seasons in New Zealand, we do look forward to summer barbeques and swims in the warmer months, generally November to April. The average maximum temperature during summer ranges between 22-30 °C (72-86°F) and the minimum temperature during winter ranges from 1 - 10°C (34 - 50°F) with the Auckland/Northland regions being the warmer parts of New Zealand and Otago/Southland regions being the cooler parts of New Zealand and the Wellington/Central regions in between.

You can find more about our climate for specific areas on the New Zealand Tourism website: www.newzealand.com/travel

New Zealand History

The earliest known residents of New Zealand were the Moriori. The Maori are thought to have arrived from Polynesia around 700 years ago, populating New Zealand with tribal groups that were frequently at war with each other and with the

Mori who were driven out to a last outpost in the Chatham Islands. As neither race had a written language, history of pre-European times is a mixture of myth, legend and oral history.

New Zealand was 'discovered' by Abel Tasman in 1642, but he did not land on New Zealand. Cook was the first European to land here in 1769 and produced early coastal maps of the country. The land was settled by Europeans in the early 1800's seeking whales, seals, then timber and finally gold in 1861. Sheep farming for wool was developed and the first shipment of frozen meat took place from Dunedin in 1882.

In 1840 the Treaty of Waitangi was signed by Maori Chiefs and the Crown to give sovereignty to Britain, to halt inter-tribal warfare and bring the rule of law to the country. Not everyone agreed and certainly there were dubious land deals carried out, resulting in the Maori Land Wars in the late 1840's and the 1860's. Reparations have been paid over the past 20 years and are ongoing with the Treaty of Waitangi being a hot political topic.

In 1867, four Maori seats were allocated in Parliament - this has been extended to seven to cover the 210,000 voters currently on the Maori electoral role.

In 1893 New Zealand was the first country in the world to give women the vote – and of course it didn't stop there, we recently had a woman Prime Minister for nine years. We've also had a female Governor General and a Chief Executive of our largest public company, Telecom. Women here can do anything - and currently outnumber males graduating from our universities

In 1907 New Zealand became a Dominion, and in 1947 established separate sovereignty within the Commonwealth. Queen Elizabeth remains our Head of State through her representative, the Governor General. Opinion polls currently support the status quo, though it is regularly debated.

Today's New Zealand is a cosmopolitan blend of nationalities - most cities have a diverse mix of cultures and you can get just about any type of food you may want here. New Zealanders love the sunshine and you will see the beaches overflowing on a sunny day with any excuse to light the BBQ (Barbie) and eat outdoors.

Auckland, the City of Sails, is our major city with plenty of attractions including shopping, fishing, and sightseeing. The coastal areas of the Bay of Plenty attracts sun-seekers as does the Hawkes Bay with a thriving wine and horticulture industry and vineyard restaurants and farmers markets for foodies to enjoy. The central plateau surrounding Taupo has an abundance of fresh water trout fishing, snow

sports in the winter and water sports on the lake in the summer – Taupo is one of New Zealand’s most popular family holiday spots. Wellington is the restaurant capital of New Zealand with hundreds of cool places to eat and a thriving arts scene and the national museum, Te Papa on its vibrant waterfront. In the South Island Nelson is often touted as New Zealand’s sunniest city and is the gateway to the Abel Tasman National Park with some amazing walks. Blenheim has some of our best vineyards and is where the world famous ‘Kiwi Sav’ comes from. Enroute to Christchurch you can whale watch in Kaikoura or try one of the local delicacies, New Zealand crayfish. Inland from Christchurch are the ski-fields of the Southern Alps and a trampers’ paradise. Queenstown, New Zealand’s adventure capital is an 8 hour drive from Christchurch through stunning scenery. Further south you can travel through Southland and if you are lucky sample our most sought after Bluff oysters – if you are lucky to be there during the oyster season. West Coast Whitebait is another treat many visitors to New Zealand love to try, but again only when in season.

Transport to New Zealand

New Zealand is served by a range of international airlines providing a variety of potential stopovers for flights from Europe via the East, or through America. Both Air New Zealand and QANTAS have modern fleets and an excellent reputation for service. If your long-haul tastes are more exotic, you can sample Singapore, Hong Kong, Thai, Malaysian, Brunei, Japanese, Taiwanese, Chinese, Korean, Indonesian, Emirates, Chilean, Argentinean airlines.

You can generally fly to New Zealand from any part of the world, and our major airports of Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch have daily arriving and departing international flights.

Within New Zealand

Air Travel

There is an excellent internal air service between main cities in New Zealand run by Air New Zealand the prime operator, with JetStar in competition on most routes. Smaller towns and cities are served by Air New Zealand Link using a variety of twin prop aircraft. You can normally fly between major cities for \$50 - \$100 with smaller towns being slightly more expensive. Select cheap flights internally can be ‘grabbed’ on Air New Zealand’s “Grab a Seat”

Check for low price options on www.airnz.co.nz, www.jetstar.co.nz and www.grabaseat.co.nz

Rail

The main reason to choose a rail journey in New Zealand is scenery. While our rail network isn't vast, there are some incredible voyages available. You'll see things that simply can't be seen from the road. Kiwi Rail is the Government owned passenger rail service in New Zealand. There is only one Auckland to Wellington passenger train, The Overlander, takes 12 hours. It is great scenery through the central North Island. The train runs daily in summer, but only Friday, Saturday and Sunday in the winter months (except for school holidays when it operates daily).

Tourist excursions are run daily from Picton to Christchurch on the TranzCoastal, and from Christchurch to Greymouth on the TranzApline - rated one of the world's great scenic railway journeys - and from Dunedin through the Taieri Gorge. Steam train excursions also operate on KiwiRail tracks from time to time - www.tranzscenic.co.nz and www.taieri.co.nz

Local commuter rail services operate in both the Auckland and Wellington.

Road Transport

We drive on the left hand side and our roads will get you where you want to go in a reasonable manner. There is a 100 kph (60mph) open road limit – and an active police force with hidden radar cameras. In built-up areas the limit is 50kph (30mph) or 70kph (42mph) on the fringe. Some CBD areas now operate a 30kph (18mph).

Ask for details about the 'give way to the right' rule when you pick up your rental car. Roads in New Zealand are generally of a high standard. State Highway 1 spans the length of the country from Cape Reinga in the far north passes through Auckland, Hamilton, Wellington, across the Cook Strait to Picton, down the east coast through Christchurch, Dunedin and on to Bluff at the very bottom of the South Island.

Our highways are not European motorway standard, but (apart from the Auckland area) are not European crowded either. Half the population of New Zealand resides north of Hamilton and this can cause congestion when they all want to drive on the north-south link at the same time! Major new motorways are being built in and around Auckland to alleviate this.

Rush-hour traffic between 7.30 – 9am and 5 – 6.30pm is standard, but again outside of Auckland it is generally free flowing.

There are good long distance coach services covering all cities in both islands.

See - www.intercitycoach.co.nz

Ferry

There are competing rail/road ferry services across Cook Strait – The Interislander and Bluebridge – run between North and South Islands. The ferry takes about three hours with marvelous views of the Marlborough Sounds.

There are road and rail connections from Picton to Christchurch, but the total journey from Wellington to Christchurch takes all day. In a hurry you can fly between Wellington and Christchurch in 45 minutes, often cheaper than the ferry, but missing the tourist experience!

If you drive, you'll probably take a winery lunch in Blenheim, stop to view the fur seal colony in Kaikoura and spend an extra day whale-watching at Kaikoura en route!

See - www.interislandline.co.nz www.bluebridge.co.nz
www.kaikoura.co.nz

Social Services

In terms of social reform, New Zealand was at the forefront early last century in looking after those less fortunate. There are social security services available for unemployed residents, solo parents, unsupported children, invalids etc.

State pensions were introduced in 1898 and are paid from age 65 to both men and women, with a married couple receiving a pension indexed to 60% of the national average wage. Any pension entitlement from an overseas government has to be claimed and is deducted from the New Zealand Pension.

Hospital Care for NZ Residents is excellent and free – though there may be a long waiting list for elective surgery. Many take out medical insurance and use private hospitals to avoid waiting lists. Visitors are liable for their own medical costs and are advised to purchase travel insurance - unless there is a country-to-country reciprocal agreement, such as Australia and the UK. It is uncommon for New Zealand employers to pay private health insurance, unless they are an overseas owned company.

Primary Health Care, doctors, dentists and opticians are pay as you go. Most medicines are subsidised for residents; you pay a minimum of \$15 per item on your prescription and a visit to a GP will cost between \$30 and \$55. Visits to a GP and prescriptions for NZ Residents are lower for those under 6 years and those over 65 years.

If you suffer an accident in New Zealand, partial cost of treatment, rehabilitation and compensation are covered by the Government Accident Compensation scheme

(ACC). This is funded by levies on employment and motor vehicle registration. It means however that you are unlikely to be able to take the person or organisation causing the accident to court for damages.

See - www.acc.govt.nz

Dentists are not subsidised and a simple tooth-ache may cost you \$120 plus.

Emigrating to New Zealand

As New Zealand is a desirable place to live, migrants are chosen who are most likely to find work and contribute to the country's economy. Rules for immigration are used to control numbers that won't cause a crisis in our small population.

Some work permits are for short periods, of 1 to 3 years in duration, and are called *Temporary Visas*. These include the Working Holiday Visa for those under 30 years old, the Essential Skills Visa for those whose occupation are on the ISSL and the LTSSL. Other work permits are more permanent and even offer the benefits of becoming a resident. These are called *Work to Resident Visa* and include the Skilled Migrant Category Visa, the Accredited Employer Visa. If you don't qualify under the category you are most interested in, it is worth taking a look at the others.

The 'rules' are published quite clearly on the New Zealand Immigration Website at www.immigration.govt.nz. Do not ignore these rules. You must be able to comply in every detail!

How to do it?

The method you employ depends upon the time available and your confidence in meeting requirements.

1. If time is not a problem and you have over 100 points, complete the expression of interest (EOI) and join the queue. Once you are invited to apply for residence, 140+ points will quickly achieve your objective. In some months 120 to 135 points may achieve residence depending upon demand. Usually to reach 140 points you will require a job offer – but 125 points may not, depending on your circumstances.
2. If you are confident of meeting Immigration Dept requirements and your qualifications and skills are on the Skills in Demand Lists, you can come to New Zealand on a visitor's visa. While here you can obtain a job offer for a fixed term of employment and apply for a work permit for up to two years. You can then apply for residence at your leisure while working here and with

the extra points for job offer and NZ work experience, residence will follow.

N.B. Current time frames for a Work Visa to be processed from within New Zealand are up to 8 weeks (Feb 2011).

Finding Employment

Except in the case of a very specific skill shortage, you will not gain a job offer by firing off CVs at random and waiting for someone to call you.

The computer age has made CV distribution too easy. We get 150 CVs each week from around the world with only two or three raising any immediate commercial interest and only a few each year gaining a job offer without coming here.

You have to be something very special if employers are going to take notice while you are not in New Zealand. You still have to deal with documentation that may take months, give your notice, sell your house and car, placate your mother in law, convince your partner that it is a good idea to leave your friends behind, say goodbye to the dog, and get on a plane, making sure you appease the kids by a stopover at Disneyland on the way here.

There are many stories of recruits who stumble at each step – and some who finally arrive months or years later than expected.

Unless we have advertised a specific job overseas employers are unlikely to take interest unless the overseas resident has a definite commitment to come here. This can be by submission of 'Expression of Interest' to the Immigration Office of the Department of Labour, or simply by booking a flight and coming as a visitor to look for work opportunities. Obviously an employer will take more interest when they can meet the applicant face to face.

If you come to New Zealand, be flexible! Jobs are harder to fill in the provinces, so that could be your answer to obtaining an offer of employment and getting that allusive work visa. Identify potential locations for your career before you rent a house. Most cities have excellent short-term fully furnished apartments that can be rented on a weekly/monthly basis. Families could also look at 'Motels' – self-catering accommodation usually costing around \$100 - 150 per night. Young single visitors find 'backpacker' accommodation readily available, clean and inexpensive during a short visit.

See: www.jasons.com Hard copies are available free at airports on your arrival. If you can obtain AA Accommodation guides, they are even more comprehensive

CV's

Your CV is your advertising brochure which has but one purpose – to sell your working abilities to a potential employer so he gives perhaps \$300 worth of his valuable time for you to convince him to employ you. The person reading the CV is busy and wants to find basic information needed to make a preliminary decision as quickly as possible. The secret is not too little and certainly not too much. Briefly:

- Personal and contact details
- Tertiary qualifications and important skill courses relevant to the job with dates and institutions
- List specific skills where specialist software is concerned
- List work experience and details relevant to the job with dates
- Provide a couple of past employer verbal referees

Usually two to five pages will cover all levels of experience. Written testimonials are helpful but we insist on speaking directly with referees and only use verbal references with our client. Make sure they are of high quality relating to your working environment.

Make sure your CV is up to date, includes your current employment and is well presented as a Word document, or pdf, in English.

Use your spell check –we are often amazed by poor quality CVs with spelling mistakes throughout. Dates are essential; include the months not just the year that you worked there. Don't claim degrees from non-accredited universities - we have a list of over 400 such institutions and ignore all such applicants.

We would also comment on your English language ability. Although 6.5 may be the minimum IELTS score for Immigration - it won't necessarily get you a professional career. Technical people must be capable of very clear communication in both technical and conversational English.

A cover letter should outline your availability for interviews and/or travel to New Zealand and any progress you may have made with New Zealand Immigration.

www.roblawmax.co.nz/usefultools/

Salaries

We believe a NZ\$ salary of about 1.8 to 2.0 times GBP is achievable and will give you an equivalent standard of living, considering our lower cost and tax structures.

The below is the salary survey off TradeMe (December 2010) – www.trademe.co.nz

Category	Median Pay	Range
Accounting	\$65k	\$39k - \$125k
Agriculture, fishing & forestry	\$40k	\$27k - \$85k
Banking, finance & insurance	\$65k	\$37k - \$135k
Construction & architecture	\$65k	\$30k - \$125k
Customer Service	\$40k	\$28k - \$65k
Education	\$55k	\$30k - \$75k
Engineering	\$75k	\$40k - \$135k
Government & council	\$55k	\$35k - \$125k
Healthcare	\$55k	\$30k - \$135k
Hospitality & tourism	\$35k	\$25k - \$55k
HR & Recruitment	\$57k	\$40k - \$125k
IT	\$85k	\$45k - \$182k
Legal	\$70k	\$45k - \$115k
Manufacturing & operations	\$40k	\$27k - \$85k
Marketing, media & Comms	\$60k	\$32k - \$120k
Office & administration	\$40k	\$30k - \$60k
Retail	\$35k	\$25k - \$65k
Sales	\$55k	\$32k - \$105k
Science & technology	\$55k	\$35k - \$100k
Trades & services	\$45k	\$27k - \$75k
Transport & logistics	\$45k	\$28k - \$85k

Taxation

New Zealand tax rates (per dollar)	from 1/10/2010:
up to \$14,000	10.5 cents
from \$14,001 to \$48,000	17.5 cents
from \$48,001 to \$70,000	30 cents
\$70,001 and over	33 cents

Every employee pays an ACC levy of 2.04 cents per dollar on top of personal income tax.

GST is rated at 15% of sales on all goods and services and is included in all prices unless stated.

In June 2010 the median income in New Zealand was \$529.00 and the New Zealand minimum wage will be \$13 per hour as April 2011.

Fringe Benefit Tax is charged on employment 'perks' like company cars, pension, medical insurance etc paid by the employer. There is no Capital Gains Tax, no Death Duties and no Stamp Duty on house sales.

Relative Living Costs

A family of four will typically spend \$300 per week on groceries. New Zealand has a number of large supermarkets owned by two supermarket groups. It has been argued there is a lack of competition in the supermarket industry in New Zealand and pressure is mounting on retailers to keep prices down, and affordable.

Housing affordability is similar to that in other developed countries, and New Zealand still has one of the highest percentages of people who own their own home in the OECD.

Housing

Migrants to New Zealand considering living in Auckland may discover that the average house price is approximately NZ\$500,000 however another new immigrant who is thinking of purchasing a property in Southland may discover the average price is only approximately NZ \$125,500.

National property statistics are published regularly by Quotable Value NZ - see

www.gv.co.nz. Median prices for the 12 months to December 2010 show the wide variation between different cities around the country.

New Zealand average	\$378k		
Auckland Region	\$490k	Palmerston North	\$280k
Tauranga	\$429k	Wellington	\$416k
Hamilton	\$337k	Christchurch	\$349k
New Plymouth	\$305k	Dunedin	\$254k
Napier	\$326k	Invercargill	\$211k
Queenstown	\$573k		

Housing sales prices slumped 7.4% during 2008 and have stayed relatively stable since then, in line with world trends. The housing market is still slow and recovery is expected to take some time.

A wide selection of houses, both for sale and to rent, are detailed on www.trademe.co.nz

A mortgage currently costs around 6 to 7% interest rate – and has been stable for the past year. Interest rates are expected to rise gradually over the coming years.

Petrol

Currently (late February 2010) around \$2.00 per litre for unleaded 91 octane in main centres, but this varies frequently up or down linked to exchange rate and the world price for oil. The price rises further away from a distribution port. The Far North or West Coast South Island may be 10 cents higher than main cities.

Banking

People coming to New Zealand are often concerned about opening a bank account. There are six major banks with branches throughout the country. Since the worldwide credit crisis, retail deposits in New Zealand banks have been government guaranteed.

- National Bank of New Zealand - www.nationalbank.co.nz
- Bank of New Zealand - www.bnz.co.nz
- WestpacTrust - www.westpac.co.nz
- ANZ Banking Group - www.anz.co.nz
- ASB Bank (Auckland Savings Bank) - www.asb.co.nz

- Kiwi Bank – www.kiwibank.co.nz

All, except for KiwiBank, are Australian owned – the National Bank is owned by the ANZ, but has consistently polled higher in terms of customer satisfaction. The ASB is owned by Commonwealth Bank of Australia. Your own bank overseas will have a relationship with one or other of the above and will transfer funds and arrange for accounts to be opened for you before you arrive if you wish.

- TSB (Taranaki Savings Bank) is big in the New Plymouth Area and runs ‘no fees’ and interest paying cheque accounts subject to minimum balances - www.tsb.co.nz
- SBS (Southland Building Society) has branches mainly in the South Island – www.sbs.net.nz

There are plenty of ATM ‘Money Machines’ highly visible on the streets of all city centres, shopping malls and airports; most will accept VISA and internationally recognised overseas ATM cards.

The New Zealand Education System

There have always been questions on ‘How good is the NZ Education System?’ particularly in comparison with the UK and OECD countries. In terms of education, the fact is that those who do achieve here compare favourably with those in any other country.

In urban areas there is wide availability of Pre-school with most parents having access to 20 hours of free schooling per week. Primary School (Year 1 – 6) is from the 5th birthday. Intermediate School (Year 7 & 8) starts after age 11 and Secondary School from age 13 (Year 9 – 13). The school year commences in February with three four throughout the year. Holidays of two weeks are in mid-late April, mid-late July, mid October with the Christmas holidays of approximately 6 weeks from mid December to late January.

While public school education is free, most schools have an ‘Activities Charge’ to cover costs over the standard curriculum. Schools in lower socio-economic areas are resourced at a higher level by central government and have lower ‘Activity’ charges.

More details of the schooling system and regional school listings can be found on New Zealand Education Department website - www.education.govt.nz and New Zealand school listings website or on the Ministry of Education website - www.minedu.govt.nz

There are several excellent private schools around the country that consistently perform at the top level internationally in terms of scholarship. They may have

slightly different school terms. Costs of private education may vary - but for example, Samuel Marsden Collegiate School for girls and Scots College for boys in Wellington publish costs between \$10k and \$13k per year.

www.marsden.school.nz and www.scotscollege.school.nz

Tertiary education is subsidised for New Zealand residents, but is otherwise available on the basis of 'User Pays'. Student loans are available to fund students through University or Polytechnic with repayment of loans start through the tax system once employment income passes a threshold level. Overseas students pay their own education costs in full.

Tertiary Education:

- Auckland University - www.auckland.ac.nz
- Auckland University of Technology (AUT) - www.aut.ac.nz
- Waikato University, Hamilton - www.waikato.ac.nz
- Massey University, Palmerston North/Auckland/Wellington - www.massey.ac.nz
- Victoria University, Wellington - www.vuw.ac.nz
- Canterbury University, Christchurch - www.canterbury.ac.nz
- Lincoln University, Agricultural, south of Christchurch - www.lincoln.ac.nz
- Otago University, Dunedin - www.otago.govt.nz

Auckland and Canterbury are the main educators for 'pure' BE Engineers in Mechanical, Civil, Electrical, Process and Materials Engineering disciplines. Massey has been taking an increasing share of the student market with BTech and more recently BEng degrees in more focussed subjects – but their product is aimed at industry and so far not readily accepted by mainstream Engineering Consultants. Medical degrees are provided by Otago and Auckland, veterinary by Massey. New Zealand degrees in Engineering, Medicine and Agricultural Sciences are recognised internationally to be of the highest standards.

Outside the universities, there are Polytechnics and Universal College of Learning (UCOL) serving major population areas to provide local education at diploma and trade certificate level, but they tend to specialise. Many Polytechnics now also offer degree courses. All tertiary qualifications, curricula and standards are controlled by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority (NZQA) - www.nzqa.govt.nz

Useful Data

New Zealand Public Holidays

- New Year (2 days) - January 1st and 2nd (Monday & Tuesday if these dates are a weekend)
- Waitangi Day - 6th February
- Easter - Friday and Monday
- Anzac Day - 25th April
- Queens Birthday - 1st Monday in June
- Labour Day - 4th Monday in October
- Christmas (2 days) - 25th and 26th December (Monday & Tuesday if the dates are a weekend)

There is one additional day 'Anniversary Day' which is specific to each province. In Wellington it is the nearest Monday to the 22nd January and in Auckland usually occurs one week later. This can catch out even New Zealand travellers!

Currency Exchange Rates

Exchange rates have fluctuated widely in recent months. They can be checked daily by going to <http://www.bnz.co.nz/personal-banking/footer/rates-and-fees/foreign-currency-rates-fees-and-rebates/foreign-exchange-rates>

Travelling Distances

	From Auckland	From Wellington
To Whangerei	169km	827km
To Hamilton	126km	532km
To New Plymouth	357km	355km
To Gisborne	499km	538km
To Taupo	278km	380km
To Napier	421km	323km
To Wellington	658km	
	From Christchurch	
To Wellington	439km	
To Picton	336km	
To Nelson	424km	

To Greymouth	258km
To Dunedin	362km
To Queenstown	486km
To Invercargill	579km

Population Centres

Figures are approximate and sources vary depending upon where boundaries are set.

Auckland	1,400,000	www.aucklandnz.com
Hamilton	118,000	www.hamiltoncity.co.nz
Tauranga	100,000	www.tauranga.govt.nz
Rotorua	50,000	www.rotoruanz.com
New Plymouth	67,000	www.newplymouthnz.com
Gisborne	45,000	www.gisbornenz.com
Napier	54,000	www.napierplanning.govt.nz
Hastings District	70,000	www.hastingsdc.govt.nz
Palmerston North	76,000	www.palmy.net.nz
Wairarapa	30,000	www.mstn.govt.nz
Wellington City	180,000	www.wellington.govt.nz
Wellington Region Kapiti and Wairarapa	450,000	Includes Hutt, Upper Hutt, Porirua,
Nelson	44,000	www.nelsoncitycouncil.co.nz
Blenheim	27,000	www.marlborough.govt.nz
Greymouth	10,000	www.greymouthnz.co.nz
Christchurch	316,000	www.christchurchnz.net
Dunedin	120,000	www.cityofdunedin.com
Invercargill	52,000	www.invercargill.org.nz

Useful Websites

Food Prices - www.woolworths.co.nz

Hardware - www.mitre10.co.nz

Real Estate - www.trademe.co.nz

Trade Registration

Some trades and professions require you to be registered in New Zealand

Electricians see - www.ewrb.govt.nz

Plumbers and Gasfitters - www.pgdp.co.nz

Architects - www.nzrab.org.nz

Disclaimer

The information in this document is not intended to replace that of a professional immigration advisor. New Zealand law states that you must be a registered Immigration Advisor to provide advice or answer any immigration queries. We recommend you first look at the excellent New Zealand Immigration Website - www.immigration.govt.nz if you have any further queries or contact your closest New Zealand Embassy or Consulate.