

A horizontal teal bar with a white circular icon containing a spiral pattern, positioned to the left of the main title.

# New Zealand arrival and departure information

Consultation



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# 1 Purpose and summary

## Purpose of consultation

We are seeking feedback from organisations and people who use information made available from the New Zealand passenger arrival and departure cards.

This paper details proposed changes to the questions on the New Zealand passenger departure card as well as related changes to arrival and departure information.

This consultation is being undertaken by Statistics New Zealand, New Zealand Customs Service, and the Ministry of Business, Employment, and Innovation as part of a wider government initiative to streamline international travel, which aims to:

- more efficiently collect departure information
- reduce the compliance burden on passengers
- maintain the quality of official statistics
- still meet the information needs for enforcement and compliance purposes.

The proposed changes in this paper are a result of a review of information needs and an evaluation of alternative ways to meet these in consultation with a wide range of users of departure information.

## Summary of proposed changes

### Overall impact on statistical data

While most information about international travel and migration will stay the same, it is proposed that the following would change.

Country of birth	Will only be available for permanent and long-term migrants travelling on New Zealand passports.
Overseas port	Will refer to the closest port to New Zealand in a passenger's journey. This may not be their port of embarkation/disembarkation.
Country of residence (for permanent and long-term departures)	Will be based on the 'Country you will spend the most time in while overseas' rather than 'Which country will you next live in for 12 months or more?'.
Country of residence (for overseas visitor departures)	Will become the country of last permanent residence copied from the person's arrival record.

### Overall impact on departure card

The following questions will remain on the departure card, but will only be asked of people who are living in New Zealand for 12 months or more:

- occupation or job
- full contact or residential address in New Zealand.

We are proposing to remove the following questions from the departure card; however, this information is available elsewhere:

- nationality
- family name/given or first names
- country of birth
- overseas port where you will leave THIS aircraft/ship
- Which country will you next live in for 12 months or more?
- I have lived in NZ for '12 months or more' or 'less than 12 months'
- On this visit, I have been in New Zealand for a period of: \_\_\_\_\_

We are proposing to remove the following requirement from the card, although there is no alternative source for this information:

- Signature [There is no statistical purpose for the signature.]

## What happens next?

The proposal is now open to interested parties for review and comment. All feedback will be considered, and a report outlining the final decision on the simplified departure card will be released in early 2013.

We hope to introduce the simplified departure card in mid-2013.

## How would the proposed changes affect you?

Please tell us what you think about the proposed changes that are outlined in this consultation paper.

- What arrival and departure information do you use and for what purpose?
- How will the proposed changes affect your use of the information?
- Any other comments or questions about the changes?

There are three ways you can send us your feedback:

- [complete the online questionnaire form](#)
- email to [demography@stats.govt.nz](mailto:demography@stats.govt.nz)
- post to:  
Arrival and Departure Information Feedback  
Population Statistics Unit  
Statistics New Zealand  
Private Bag 4741  
Christchurch 8140

Your feedback should reach Statistics NZ by Friday 7 December 2012.

[See the complete guidelines for sending your feedback.](#)



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## 2 Background to streamlining the passenger experience

Statistics NZ, NZ Customs Service, and the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment are proposing to simplify the departure card as part of a wider government initiative to streamline international travel. Improving the collection of arrival and departure information is a specific recommendation.

The change to departure information is one of a number of projects, either underway or proposed, to improve the passenger experience.

### What have we been working on?

The first phase of the project was to review the need for the information currently collected on the departure card. We have already consulted with key stakeholders, including statistical data users and government agencies that use departure information. The review concluded that most of the information collected on the card is still important for statistical, and/or enforcement purposes. Border agencies' information requirements at departure are collected from the passenger's passport or provided by airlines under legislation.

The next step was to consider alternative sources of the information, which would remove the need to ask passengers for it.

We found that some information continues to be best sourced from the passenger, either because there is no alternative source; the alternative source does not meet the required quality; or there are difficulties integrating information from the alternative source.

In some cases, alternative information sources have been identified to replace questions on the departure card. These sources provide similar information and reduce passenger burden by enabling the simplification of the departure card. In some cases, this may result in small changes to coverage or definitions. These changes are outlined in this paper.

Although we are not proposing to change the arrival card, Statistics NZ will make similar changes to arrival statistical data so it remains consistent with departure statistical data. It is hoped to simplify the more complex arrival card in future.

More improvements to the collection of arrival and departure information may also be possible in the future to further reduce passenger burden (eg passengers supplying the information electronically prior to travel).



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## 3 Detailed information on proposed changes to statistical data

Here is more detail about proposed changes to statistical data. Although the arrival card is not changing at this stage, changes are proposed for both arrivals and departures data for two of the elements – country of birth and overseas port – for consistency. Changes to country of residence are also proposed, but only for departures.

### **Country of birth**

Country of birth can be sourced from passport records for New Zealand passport holders. Initial consultation has indicated that this will meet the primary identified data need of measuring the migration of overseas-born New Zealand citizens.

It is therefore proposed that country of birth is removed from the departure card and sourced from passport records for permanent and long-term migrants travelling on New Zealand passports. Country of birth data for non-New Zealand passport holders and short-term travellers (New Zealand-resident travellers and overseas visitors) would no longer be available. For these passengers, the country of citizenship (nationality) generally gives very similar results to country of birth. Country of residence is also available.

### **Overseas port of embarkation/disembarkation**

Overseas port is currently based on the port where the passenger gets on or off the flight to or from New Zealand.

The great majority of flights only visit one overseas port but passengers are still asked to state this port on the arrival/departure cards.

Furthermore, the overseas port of embarkation/disembarkation is only for the flight to/from New Zealand. Any ports reached by connecting flights are not known. The country of residence and country of main destination data fulfils this data need.

We propose that overseas port is removed from the departure card and derived from air route information instead. For the small number of flights where there is more than one overseas port, the closest port to New Zealand will be selected. This will change the nature of the data for a small proportion of passengers as air route data cannot differentiate where passengers get on or off their flight to/from New Zealand. Historical data using this definition will be made available back to 1990.

### **Country of residence (for permanent and long-term departures)**

To simplify the departure card, it is proposed that this is taken from a question shared with short-term New Zealand-resident travellers, asking for the 'Country you will spend the most time in while overseas'. This differs slightly from the current question that asks 'Which country you will next live in for 12 months or more?' This change is not expected to affect the data significantly.

### **Country of residence (for overseas visitor departures)**

Visitors are currently asked their country of residence on both the arrival and departure cards. It is proposed to ask this information only on the arrival card and use that information for visitor departures. This does change the definition from the 'country of next permanent residence' to the 'country of last permanent residence', but in most cases, these are the same. The country of last permanent residence is also more likely to be the country where the person was living when they made the decision to visit New Zealand.



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## 4 Detailed information on impact to the departure card

Here are the proposed changes to the questions on the departure card. No changes are proposed for the arrival card at this point in time.

Please note that this section is primarily for government agencies authorised to access the departure card for border security and enforcement purposes.

### 1. Questions remaining on the departure card

#### **Passport number**

#### **Birth date**

#### **Flight number/name of ship**

#### **Departure date**

These questions are all needed to link the departure card to passport and flight information for each passenger.

#### **Main purpose of your trip**

People living in New Zealand will still be asked this question as there is no other source of this information.

#### **How long will you be away from New Zealand?**

Although time away from New Zealand could be calculated from the time between departure and arrival, this information is only available when the passenger returns to New Zealand. This question will be retained on the card to give more timely information, and to identify those who do not intend to return.

### 2. Questions remaining in a modified form on the departure card

#### **Occupation or job**

Currently, all passengers fill in their occupation although it is only required for some. It is proposed that the occupation question on the departure card is only completed by people living in New Zealand for 12 months or more. This would meet the main statistical data need (the occupation of permanent and long-term migrants) while greatly reducing the number of passengers who have to respond to this question.

#### **Full contact or residential address in New Zealand**

All passengers complete their address although it is only required for some. It is proposed that the address question on the departure card is only completed by people living in New Zealand for 12 months or more. This means temporary visitors will no longer be asked for a New Zealand address at the end of their visit.

### 3. Questions removed from the departure card

#### **Nationality as shown on passport**

##### **Family name**

##### **Given or first name**

Identical information on passenger name and nationality are available from the passenger's passport record held electronically by the NZ Customs Service. Passengers should not have to provide duplicate information, so it is proposed that nationality and name questions are removed from the departure card.

This information has no statistical purpose. Border purposes are met from information collected from the passport at departure.

#### **I have lived in NZ for: '12 months or more' or 'less than 12 months'**

This question has been used by Statistics NZ to determine passenger type (New Zealand-resident traveller, overseas visitor, or permanent and long-term migrant). It is proposed that this be replaced by a question similar to 'Are you living, working, or studying in New Zealand for 12 months or more (or have been until today)?' This will reduce the number of questions needed to determine passenger type.

Furthermore, length of time already spent in New Zealand can be determined from a passenger's travel history.

#### **On this visit, I have been in New Zealand for a period of \_\_\_\_\_**

This question was used to determine length of stay for overseas visitors. However, visitor departures can be matched back to visitor arrivals for a more accurate measurement of length of stay.

It is proposed that this question is removed from the departure card and that the time between arrival and departure records is used instead.

#### **Signature**

The signature is used by government agencies for enforcement purposes. Initial consultation with these agencies indicates that there is willingness to remove the need for this question, to reduce the information required from passengers. It is therefore proposed that the need for a signature is removed from the card.



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## 5 Guidelines for sending your feedback

### How would the proposed changes affect you?

Please tell us what you think about the proposed changes.

- What arrival and departure information do you use and for what purpose?
- How will the proposed changes affect your use of the information?
- Any other comments or questions about the changes?

### Other background information to consider when you give your feedback

Please note the following criteria for retaining arrival and departure information, while you consider your answers to the questions.

Due to the limited size of the departure card and that 5 million passengers a year are required to complete it, arrival and departure information must be:

- of national significance
- providing information not available elsewhere
- of interest to a wide audience
- consistent over time
- cost-effective to process.

International travel and migration are Tier 1 statistics. The criteria and principles of Tier 1 statistics are outlined in <http://www.statisphere.govt.nz/tier1-statistics.aspx>.

### How to send your feedback

There are three ways you can send your feedback:

- [complete the online questionnaire form](#)
- email to [demography@stats.govt.nz](mailto:demography@stats.govt.nz)
- post to:

Arrival and Departure Information Feedback  
Population Statistics Unit, Statistics New Zealand  
Private Bag 4741, Christchurch 8140

Please include your name, organisation you represent if applicable, and contact details.

Deadline for sending your feedback is: Friday 7 December 2012.

### Information and help

If you have any queries or would like help with your submission, please send an email to [demography@stats.govt.nz](mailto:demography@stats.govt.nz) or phone Megan Murphy on 0508 525 525.

### Reporting back

A report outlining the final decisions will be released in early 2013, and sent to all those who provided feedback.





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## Appendix 2: Proposed questions on simplified departure card

The following questions are proposed for the simplified departure card. These may change given the outcome of user submissions, and formal design and testing of the simplified card.

- Flight number/name of ship
- Departure date
- Passport number
- Birth date
- Are you living, studying, or working in New Zealand for 12 months or more (or have been until today)?

If yes, please answer the following questions:

- How long do you intend to be away from New Zealand?
- Country you will spend the most time in while overseas
- Occupation
- Residential or contact address in New Zealand
- Main purpose of your trip (if you are not leaving permanently):
  - visiting friends or relatives
  - holiday
  - education
  - business
  - conference or convention
  - other

A cash reporting statement will still be included on the card and passengers will be required to confirm, by tick box, that they have read and understood the statement.