

Central Forecasting and Modelling Unit

Quarterly Migration Report

March 2008 Quarter

Michael Chang

May 2008

Data Source – Statistics New Zealand

Executive Summary

In the year ending March 2008 we saw the highest level of permanent and long-term (PLT) departures of 0 to 17 year-olds since 1993. Coupled with lower arrivals, we have seen a decline in net PLT migration from 4,262 in the March 2007 year to 1,505 in the March 2008 year.

For the March 2008 quarter, there was an overall net PLT migration inflow of 263. This consists of a net outflow of 161 pre-school-age children, a net outflow of 128 primary school-age children and a net inflow of 552 secondary school-age children. Overall, we are seeing higher outflows and lower inflows for all three age groups compared to same quarter last year.

Table 1. Net Migration for the Year and Quarter ending March 2008

Net Migration	Year Ending			Quarter Ending		
	March 2007 *	March 2008 *	Difference **	March 2007 *	March 2008 *	Difference **
Pre-School	681	57	-624	-41	-161	-120
Primary School	1,732	352	-1,380	277	-128	-405
Secondary School	1,849	1,096	-753	827	552	-275
Total	4,262	1,505	-2,757	1,063	263	-800

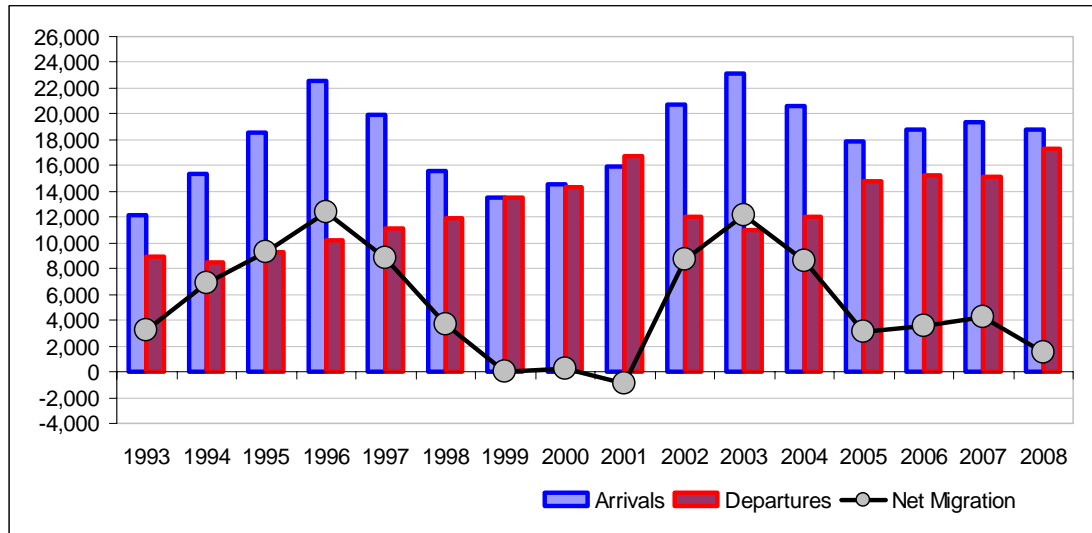
* Positive means there was a net migration inflow; negative represents a migration outflow.

** Positive means net migration has increased compared to same period last year.

Historical Overview of New Zealand Migration (March Years)

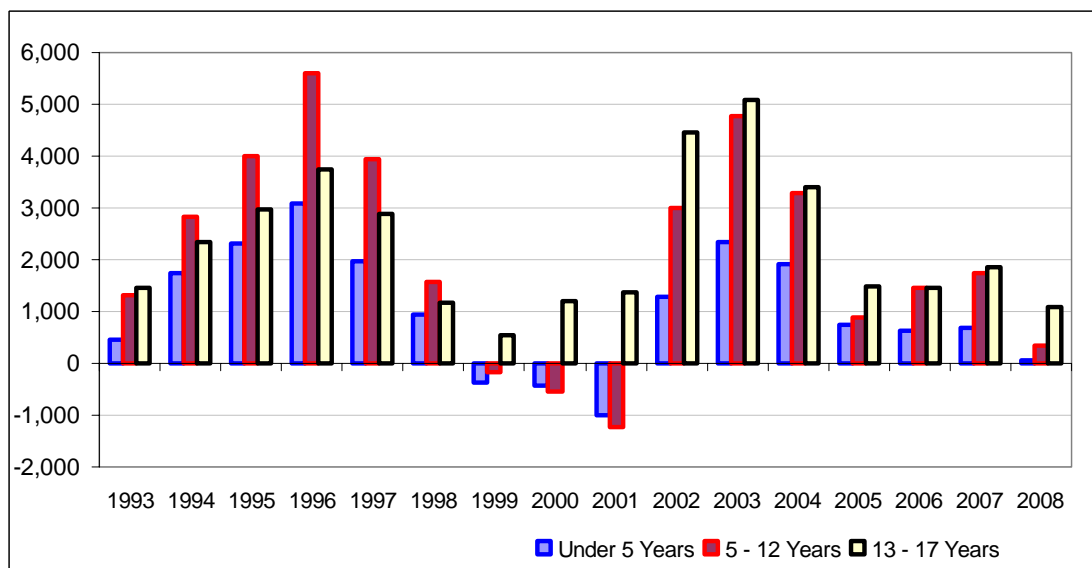
Net permanent and long-term (PLT) migration for school-age and pre-school-age children has varied considerably over the past decade, with high levels of migration seen in 1996 and 2003. For the year ending March 2008, we saw the highest level of PLT departures of 0 to 17 year-olds since 1993¹ (17,338). Coupled with lower arrivals, net PLT migration has fallen from 4,262 in 2007 to 1,505 in 2008.

Figure 1. Arrivals, Departures and Net PLT Migration of 0 to 17 Year-Olds Years Ended March 1993-2008



Secondary school-age (13 to 17 year-olds) migration shows distinctive patterns compared to other age groups. This group experienced consistent levels of net PLT migration inflows even in years where other age groups experienced net migration outflows. This is illustrated in Figure 2.

Figure 2. Net PLT Migration by Age Group, Years Ended March 1993-2008



¹ January 1992 is the first month in which the ministry has received PLT data from Statistics New Zealand. Year ending March 1993 is the first year of complete data.

Arrival Sources and Departure Destinations (March Quarter)

Net PLT migration does not always provide the full picture. For example, a high level of arrivals coupled with a high level of departures will result in low net migration figures. However, high arrivals could have a large impact on classrooms due to the diverse needs of children with different languages and cultural backgrounds.

For the March 2008 quarter, there were 5,730 pre-school-age and school-age children arrived in New Zealand and 5,467 departed overseas. The overall effect is a net PLT migration inflow of 263. Asia remains to be the region of migration arrival sources (representing 32.6% of overall arrivals) and Oceania is still the most popular departure destination (representing 77.1% of overall departures).

**Table 2. Permanent and Long-term Migration by Source / Destination
0 to 17 Year-Olds, March 2008 Quarter**

Region	Arrivals	Departures	Net Migration
Oceania	1,678	4,213	-2,535
Asia	1,866	428	1,438
Europe	1,044	415	629
Americas	369	241	128
Other	773	170	603
Total	5,730	5,467	263

Looking at the individual country levels, Australia topped the chart with 935 PLT migrants arriving in New Zealand in the March 2008 quarter. Australia is also by far the most popular departure destination with almost 4,000 0- to 17-year-olds headed over to Australia. Table 3 below shows the top 5 arrival sources and departure destinations in the March 2008 quarter.

**Table 3. Top 5 Arrival Sources and Departure Destinations
0 to 17 Year-Olds, March 2008 Quarter**

Country	Arrivals	Country	Departures
Australia	935	Australia	3,995
United Kingdom	769	United Kingdom	230
Republic of Korea	333	Republic of Korea	131
South Africa	295	USA	129
Fiji	252	China	63

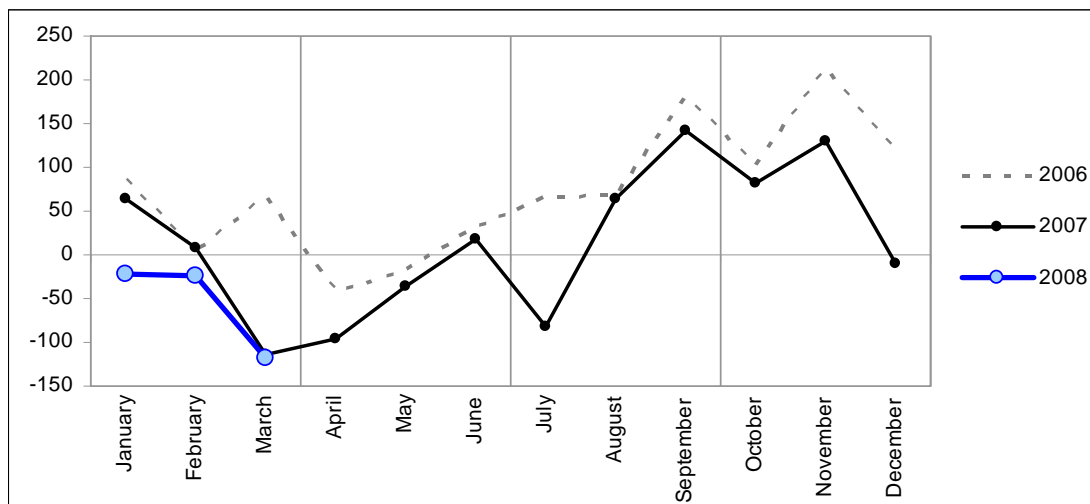
School-Age and Pre-School-Age Migration (March Quarter)

Overall, school-age and pre-school-age migration has tracked below the levels experienced in the same quarter of the previous year.

Pre-School PLT Migration

For the quarter ended March 2008, net PLT migration of pre-school-age children (0 to 4 year-olds) was -161 overall, representing a net outflow (Figure 3). This is lower than the migration outflow experienced in the March 2007 quarter (with an overall net migration of -41) and is considerably lower than the high levels of migrations seen in 2002 and 2003. The decrease is mostly due to higher level of departures (128 more compared to same time last year).

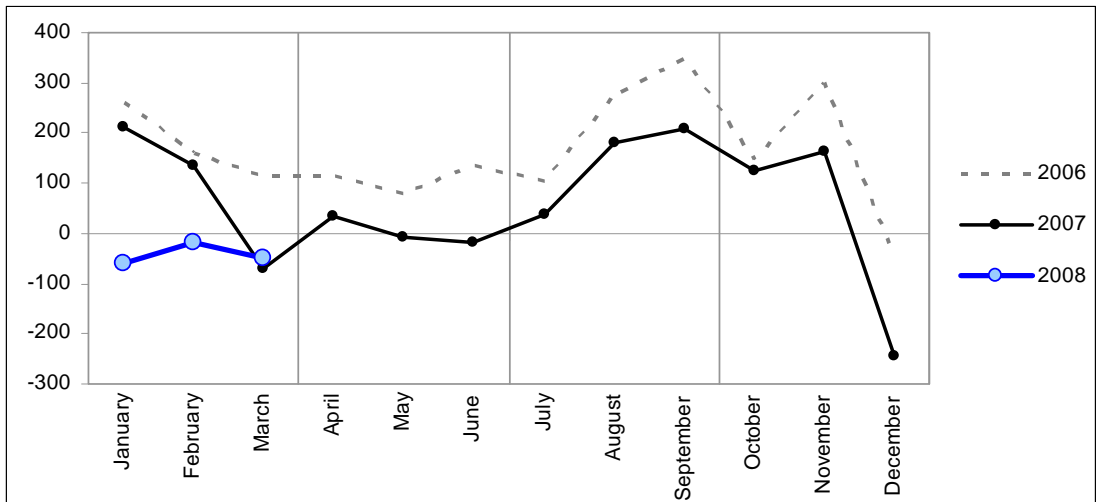
Figure 3. Monthly Net PLT Migration of Pre-School-Age Migrants (2006- 2008)



Primary School PLT Migration

For the quarter ended March 2008, net PLT migration of primary-school-age children (5 to 12 year-olds) was -128 overall, representing a net outflow (Figure 4). This compares to a migration inflow of 277 experienced in the March 2007 quarter and is considerably lower than the high levels of migrations seen in 2002 and 2003. The decrease is due to higher level of departures (286 more) and lower level of arrivals (119 less compared to same time last year).

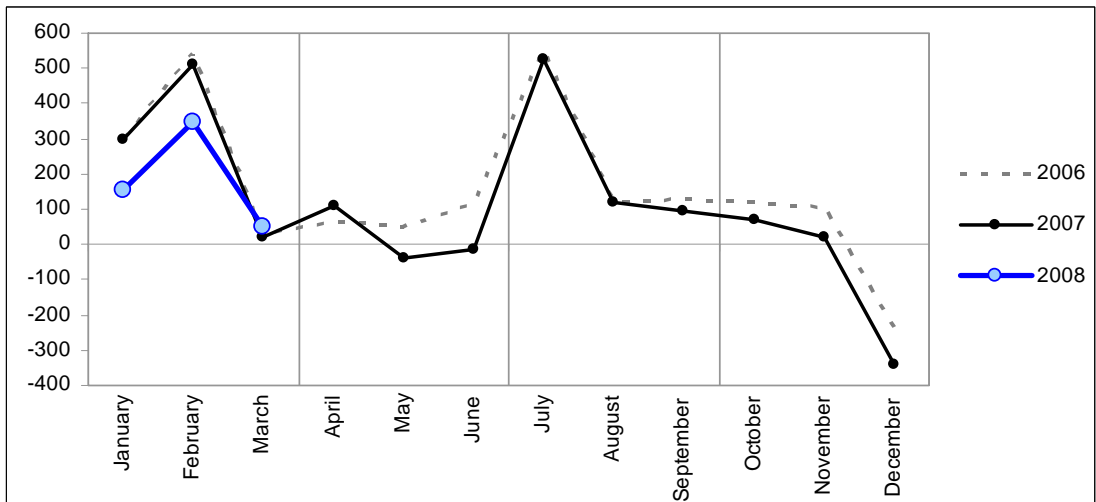
Figure 4. Monthly Net PLT Migration of Primary-Age Migrants (2006-2008)



Secondary School PLT Migration

For the quarter ended March 2008, net PLT migration of secondary-school-age children (13 to 17 year-olds) was 552 overall, and is the only age group we monitor that experienced a net migration inflow this quarter (Figure 5). However, this is still below the level of inflow experienced in the March 2007 quarter (with an overall net migration of 827) and is considerably lower than the high levels of migrations seen in 2002 and 2003. The decrease is mostly due to lower level of arrivals (198 less compared to same time last year).

Figure 5. Monthly Net PLT Migration of Secondary-Age Migrants (2006- 2008)



Appendix: Definitions

Permanent and Long-Term Arrivals consist of overseas migrants who arrive in NZ intending to stay for a period of 12 months or more, plus NZ residents returning after an absence of 12 months or more.

Permanent and Long-Term Departures include NZ residents departing for an intended period of 12 months or more plus overseas visitors departing from NZ after a stay of 12 months or more.

Net Permanent and Long-Term Migrants are calculated as the arrivals minus departures. Permanent and long-term migrants include students and those on working and holiday visas or permits, where the person does not intend (at least initially) to remain permanently in the country.

Note that the number of net PLT school-age migrants does not translate directly into the number of extra pupils in schools. Migrant children may enter schools as regular students (i.e. with their parents who become residents), foreign fee paying students, or they may not enter schools at all. A migrant may also indicate that they are here for a short-term visit but end up enrolling in a school over consecutive years or alternatively indicate that they are here on a permanent basis and end up only staying for a much shorter period. Hence the net PLT migration data is limited and should only be viewed as indicative of the number of migrant children here for an extended period.

Net inflow occurs when arrivals exceed departures.

Net outflow occurs when departures exceed arrivals.