

Broadbase International Ltd Newsletter – February 2010

In our newsletter this month we encourage you to re-evaluate your KiwiSaver, we take a closer look at the latest New Zealand Immigration statistics, remind you to register to vote in the UK general elections, and find out about the new application procedures for a British passport.

KiwiSaver

We don't think that it is too late to make or (or revise!) your New Year's resolution, and sorting out your KiwiSaver is a quick and painless task that will stand you in good stead for years to come.

New Zealanders have been quick to embrace the KiwiSaver retirement savings scheme, which was launched in July 2007, but many don't realise just how important it is to choose the right fund – or how easy it is to switch to a fund which is more appropriate for them. Most funds invested in KiwiSaver are in fact lodged with the six conservative "default" funds, so we're on a mission to get our clients in to more appropriate funds.

The first step is to [contact Jeremy](#) to get a copy of our KiwiSaver investor profile. Then answer the five questions and perform a quick calculation to find out which of the five main KiwiSaver fund types (Defensive, Conservative, Moderate, Balanced and Growth) may be appropriate for you. You may also like to take a look at the latest [Morningstar KiwiSaver Performance Survey](#) to check out how the KiwiSaver funds have been performing.

Then call us to discuss whether your current KiwiSaver fund is appropriate for your needs (or which fund may be best for you if you don't have a KiwiSaver yet). It's really easy to switch to another fund if that is what you decide to do, and it could make a huge difference to your retirement savings.

Click here for [more information about KiwiSaver](#) (and to check your eligibility if you're from the UK).

Latest Immigration Statistics

A lot of [New Zealand Immigration data and research](#) tends to be released in January, which also happens to be a month when there is a sudden up-surge of interest from Brits in emigrating to New Zealand. We've spent a few hours trawling through the reports to search out the data most relevant to prospective migrants from the UK and Ireland, particularly in relation to how migrants feel about life in New Zealand.

Do Brits Stay in New Zealand?

One question we've had for some time was finally answered: how many migrants from the UK end up leaving New Zealand? The research suggests that just **16%** of the 90,354 migrants from the UK who were granted permanent residence in New Zealand between 2002-2008 have since left (or been absent for more than 6 months).

When you consider that some of these migrants would not have intended to stay, and that some perhaps had to return for unforeseeable reasons such as family illness, 16% is probably not too bad - but considering the expense and hassle of emigrating from the UK, it does underline our conviction that [heaps of research and an open mind are two of your best assets when moving to New Zealand](#).

Migrant Numbers

The UK remained the top source of migrants to New Zealand in the 2008/2009 financial year, with 8,641 Brits making up 19% of the total number of people granted permanent residence. Overall numbers of Brits emigrating to New Zealand have remained fairly static compared to the 2007/2008 financial year.

2,339 of the Brits granted permanent residence were ages 19 or younger, and 3,217 were in the 30-44 age bracket.

Brits also top the tables of work permits, with 15% (over 20,000) of all work permits issued going to people from the UK last year. 26% of all New Zealand working holiday visas also went to Brits last year.

If you're interested in the likes, dislikes and general happiness levels of a group of recent migrants from the UK and Ireland, check the updated article [Will you like living in New Zealand?](#) on our UK website.

Register to Vote in UK Elections

Did you know that you may still be eligible to vote in UK Parliamentary elections and some European elections when you are living in New Zealand? As long as you are a British citizen and you've been on a UK

electoral register, you can [register with the UK Electoral Commission](#) to vote from overseas – and you can keep voting in UK elections for 15 years after you leave the UK. The next general election must be held by 3rd June this year and could be called at short notice, so don't delay if you'd like to vote! To find out more about voting in UK elections and registering to vote in New Zealand elections, take a look at our article on [Voting in New Zealand](#).

Applying for a UK Passport in New Zealand

From this month you'll need to take your completed UK passport application in to any Kiwibank or NZ Postshop, where they will check it over for you before forwarding it to the British High Commission in Wellington for processing. Apparently up to now almost 70% of the 20,000 passport applications they received every year at the High Commission were delayed because they were incomplete, so this could be a very handy service! For more information on applying for (or renewing) a British passport in New Zealand, and for the forms you'll need, [check the British High Commission website](#).

Important Dates

February 14th is Valentine's Day

[New Zealand school term dates](#) for the next few years have been confirmed, including amendments that allow the final stages of the Rugby World Cup to be held in the October school holidays in 2011.

Until Next Month...

Wishing you well until we are next in touch. Please feel free to contact us any time if you have any questions about the financial side of life in New Zealand.

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