

➤ At a glance

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IMMIGRATION SURVEY MONITORING PROGRAMME



**SETTLEMENT OF PACIFIC MIGRANTS
 2009 MIGRANTS SURVEY (PILOT)**

Pacific people have a long history of settlement in New Zealand, with several waves of migration from various parts of the Pacific throughout the last 150 years. Pacific people in New Zealand are now a diverse group with ancestral links to many parts of the Pacific. New Zealand's special relationship with the Pacific led to the establishment of special immigration policies, such as the Samoan Quota and Pacific Access Category, with some of the Pacific countries.

The 2009 Migrants Survey (Pilot) took place between August and October 2009 and achieved a sample of 458 Pacific and 2,614 non-Pacific respondents.

KEY FINDINGS

Forty-three percent of respondents from the Pacific came through the Samoan Quota and Pacific Access Category. These policies have more relaxed requirements for skills and qualifications as well as a lower income threshold for migrants' prospective jobs in New Zealand compared with other immigration policies, especially the Skilled Migrant Category.

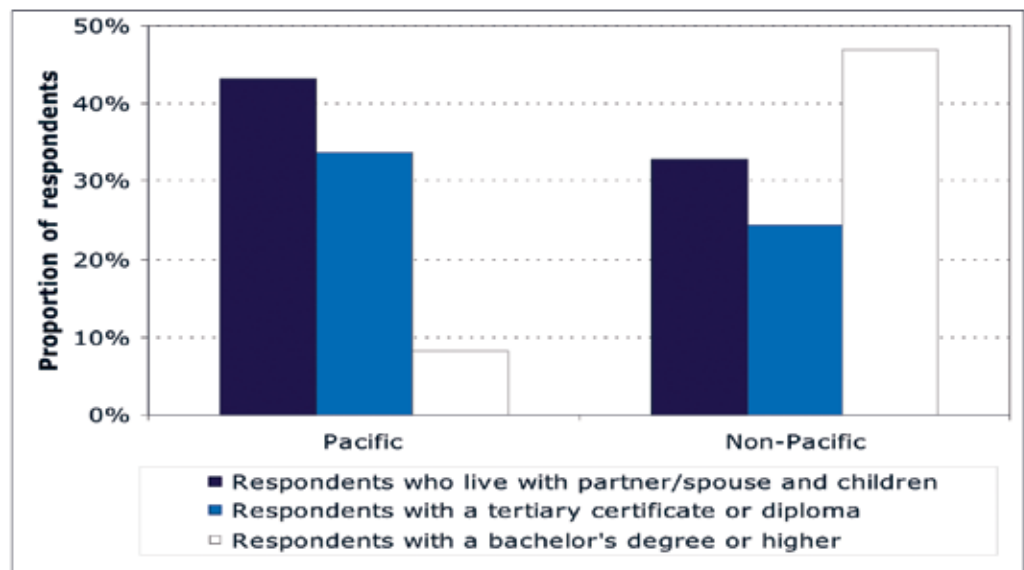
In this context, the policy settings for the Samoan Quota and Pacific Access Category are reflected in the characteristics of the respondents from the Pacific.

Figure 1 shows that migrants from the Pacific move as a family unit and a significant number have a tertiary certificate or diploma.

Forty-three percent of respondents from the Pacific live with a partner and children compared with 33 percent for respondents from non-Pacific countries.

About one in three (34 percent) respondents from the Pacific held a tertiary certificate or diploma as their highest qualification.

Figure 1: Family membership and highest qualification

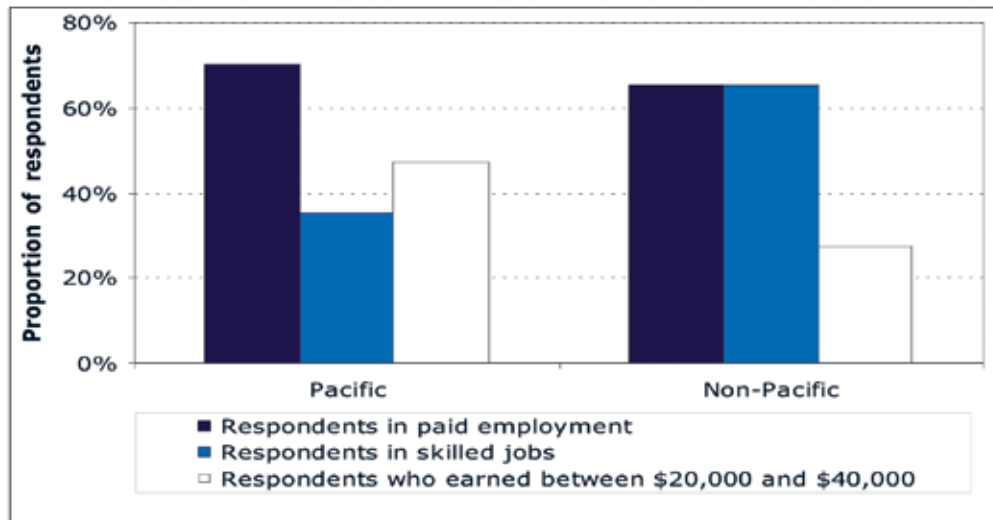


Source: Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme, 2009 Migrants Survey (Pilot).

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In terms of contributions to the labour market, Figure 2 shows that Pacific respondents' participation in paid employment is comparable to respondents from non-Pacific countries. However, only 35 percent of Pacific respondents were employed in skilled jobs.¹ This is also reflected in their income with almost half (47 percent) Pacific respondents earning between \$20,000 and \$40,000 from their main job. This income level is consistent with the minimum income requirement of \$30,556.24 for the Samoan Quota and Pacific Access Category.

Figure 2: Employment and income



Source: Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme, 2009 Migrants Survey (Pilot).

Social and economic opportunities (such as the ability to get a good job, to enter a good education system, and to be with family) were the main reasons respondents from the Pacific came to New Zealand. This is in contrast to respondents from non-Pacific countries whose top three reasons for coming to New Zealand were to be with family, the relaxed pace of life, and the environment/landscape.

A quarter of respondents from the Pacific experienced discrimination in New Zealand. Nonetheless, in terms of settlement in New Zealand, respondents from the Pacific reported that most aspects of life in New Zealand generally exceeded their expectations.

The Immigration Survey Monitoring Programme encompasses new migrants to New Zealand (temporary and permanent), employers, and the New Zealand public. Its purpose is to build an evidence base of information about migrants' settlement and labour market outcomes, employers' experiences with migrants, and community attitudes towards immigration and migrant integration.

➔ For further information please contact research@dol.govt.nz, or visit www.immigration.govt.nz/research

1. The Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupation (ANZSCO) defines five skill levels based on formal education and training, previous experience, and on-the-job training. A skilled job in the context of this report aligns with ANZSCO skill levels 1, 2, and 3.