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## Some reflections on the emerging mobility patterns of older New Zealanders

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### Abstract

Drawing on two official data sources, viz. 5-yearly census of population and dwellings, and migration statistics system, this paper provides an overview of recent mobility patterns of older Zealanders (aged 65+ years). The analysis features their internal and international movements, and covers both temporary mobility and long-term migration. Our findings indicate that short-term moves are far more prevalent, for both genres of movements. As elsewhere in the developed world, there is a growing trend among older New Zealanders for participation in leisure activities, and for overseas travel. The rate of departures for short-term overseas trips has more than doubled over the last two decades, aided among other things by cheaper airfares, and ease of international travel. A majority leave for Australia (the home of a sizeable expatriate community) or for the neighbouring Pacific Islands, but a growing number are becoming more adventurous heading for other, notably Asian, destinations. This trend coupled with greater discretionary spending power, lengthening third age, and burgeoning elderly numbers in the future would mean ever-growing business opportunities for the travel industry.

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