NZ’S GROWING PAINS

MIGRATION NATION

Any day now, our population will hit five million, so is it time for a comprehensive long-term policy to address our ageing workforce, skilled-migrant shortages and rural flight? by JOANNE BLACK & SALLY B mondell

When Joy Yalogo first started teaching at Auckland’s Avondale College and asked her students where they were from, some of the replies baffle her.

"Not, Miss."
"Sure? What’s that?"
"That’s where I was born, Miss."

Yalogo, 32, an Englishwoman with an English father and a Filipino mother, had never been to New Zealand before she was recruited by the college to help ease our severe nationwide shortage of maths teachers.

An excellent teacher, Yalogo was excited and enthusiastic about her move to the country—so much so that she became something of a poster girl for immigration.

But when she walked into her first class in 2017, the geography teacher of South Pacific was as foreign as her new neighborhood.

"Some of the places where my students were from I hadn’t realised were even countries."

Like her students, she set about learning. "I teach them maths; they teach me their culture. I’m growing as well."

Soon, she could greet her students in their own languages and, having arrived in New Zealand knowing no one, she understands few. And she’s not alone.

Yalogo and her husband, James—who works in public health—arrived during the biggest period of new migration in New Zealand’s history. As the country continues

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So far both locals and migrants about about it. It is normal for all the people who move there to be a facili in front of every class and enough discourse issues on every walk.

You’ve heard this. There is still a level of ambivalence about this country’s rapid growth in immigration.

Any day now, New Zealand will reach the milestone of five million people. Not only will this fifth million be New Zealand’s fastest, but it will be the first time that the main driver has been net migration—the number of annual arrivals declining. Previously, the main
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Community to New Zealand's growing population is a concern, but the number of births is declining. Having achieved the first million in 1950, New Zealand had 34 developed countries in 1950. As a result, many are shifting interest to the number of births. Having achieved the first million in 1950, New Zealand had 34 developed countries in 1950. As a result, many are shifting interest to the number of births. Having achieved the first million in 1950, New Zealand had 34 developed countries in 1950. As a result, many are shifting interest to the number of births. Having achieved the first million in 1950, New Zealand had 34 developed countries in 1950. As a result, many are shifting interest to the number of births. Having achieved the first million in 1950, New Zealand had 34 developed countries in 1950. As a result, many are shifting interest to the number of births.
The race to reproduce

As birth rates decline, nations are incentivising their citizens to “do it for your country.”

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By SaltyBlunder

A part from moving its immigration streams, there is a lot New Zealand can do to influence the size of its population, even if it’s a stretch.

New Zealand’s total fertility rate (TFR) is about 1.66 births per woman and although that’s higher than many OECD countries, Europe being described as “the continent of the empty crib,” it is still below the TFR of 2.1, known as the “replacement rate,” which maintains population size.

From a global perspective, this is not unusual. From 1950 to 2020, the global fertility rate dropped from 3.2 to 2.5 births per woman. Today, one-third of the world’s population lives in a country in which fertility rate is below 2.1.

Of the nearly twenty nations that were population episodes in 2020, most will take place in less-developed regions. These countries have the highest fertility rate in the world, with an estimated rate in 2025 of 2.7. Children per woman, followed by Japan at 1.3.

But even in sub-Saharan Africa, the United Nations TFR dropped from 5.2 to 4.6 births per woman between 1980 and 1990.

The combination of low fertility and increasing longevity is resulting in aging and shrinking populations in many countries. Facing a diminishing share of the working-age population or the elderly population, the populations of countries in Europe have introduced policies designed to increase fertility rates.

The incentive range from tax breaks and cash to housing incentives, longer paid parental leave and improved services in parks. For example, in France, the government has increased the child benefit to €1,000 per month, and in some cities, like Paris, they offer free public transport for families with children.

In Japan, the government has introduced policies to encourage couples, such as increased pay for parents, free childcare, and relaxation of work hours.

In New Zealand, the government is considering increasing the age of retiring, so that more people can stay in the workforce. They are also looking at increasing the number of childcare centers and improving the quality of childcare.

In South Korea, the government has introduced policies to increase fertility rates, such as paid parental leave, and free childcare for lower-income families.

These policies show that the government is serious about increasing fertility rates.

In conclusion, while it is difficult to increase fertility rates, governments around the world are taking steps to encourage couples to have more children. The future of many countries depends on their ability to do so.

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It's no surprise that those on a short-term visa face the toughest of all. The growing number of people caught in a temporary-employment loop—where good jobs for long periods of time is rare—is leading to higher levels of stress and anxiety among New Zealanders.

The experience of being caught in a cycle of temporary work has significant economic consequences for the country. A recent report by the Reserve Bank of New Zealand found that a significant portion of the workforce is trapped in low-skilled, low-wage jobs, with little prospect of advancement or upward mobility. This has led to increased poverty and inequality, as well as a decline in the overall productivity of the economy.

To cope with the challenges posed by the growing number of temporary workers, the government has announced a number of measures, including a new temporary visa category that allows workers to stay in the country for up to two years, and the introduction of a new temporary wage subsidy program to support employers who are struggling to find permanent workers.

However, many critics argue that these measures are too little, too late, and that the government needs to take a more proactive role in addressing the issues faced by temporary workers. They call for increased investment in education and skills development, as well as better protections for workers in temporary roles, to help ensure that the country is able to meet the demands of a rapidly changing labor market.
NZ’s Growing Pains

If New Zealand were to experience an increase in migration and immigration on a scale not seen before, what would be the impact on the country? How would this affect the economy, education, social services, and the overall quality of life for New Zealanders?

Building a future

We can boost our population of highly educated and skilled immigrants but global competition for those "packaged and ready to work" says Jackson. It's growing, he says, those countries that will succeed in the immigration market are those that create "enlightened policies to bring in younger humans not necessarily to geographically fit into the workforce but like positive migration, building a good "that will be able to cope in the future."

How many people? Anticipating future population growth is a non-trivial task. A 2002 Tertiary Education paper predicted the New Zealand population growth would be at about 0.5 million by 2030. Ten years later, a paper from the New Zealand Institute of Economic Research had a population goal of 15 million by 2035. The old way you could get to that would be double the baby boom and quadruple the migration," says Jackson.

"You are not going to have that many children. The 15 million people will still be a lot of people. But what we need are people with some skills. We need to have more people with some skills. They are not going to have this large number of children."

The current process of immigration is not sustainable. The government needs to plan for a future where the population is balanced and not just focused on children. "We need to increase the number of people with skills. We need to have more people with skills."

Child Poverty

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