Overall student visa trends December 2016





Caveats and notes



1. Student visas verses visitor visas:

- Student visas only capture students who enter New Zealand with a student visa. These students are mostly those who are planning to study for more than three months.
- Students who undertake a course less than three months in duration are not required to enter on a student visa. Students who do choose to enter on a visitor visa (usually from visa-free nationalities) are not captured in this dashboard.
- Working holiday visas also allow students to study for up to six months. Those who enter NZ on a working holiday visa and plan on taking up this option are also not included in this dashboard. These factors will impact the private training establishments (PTE; including English Language Schools) numbers.

Student visas vs. enrolments:

There is a potential delay of up to three months between students having their visas approved and their actual
entry into New Zealand, therefore the figures shown here may not necessarily represent the actual number of
students currently in New Zealand.

3. Other exclusions:

• This dashboard excludes dependants, applicants under Section 61, and Variation of Conditions. Dashboards prior to May 2015 include approvals from "all" applicants, including dependants.



Executive summary



- 1. Total student visas (TSV), for 2016 decreased by 4% (-3,556) compared to 2015. First time student visas (FSV) decreased by 12% (-5,468), and returning student visas (RSV) increased by 4% (+1,912) compared to 2015.
- 2. However, when 2016 is compared to an average of the previous three years, there were increases for all types of visas. TSV increased by 10% (+7,887), FSV increased by 4% (+1447) and RSV increased by +16% (+6,430).
- 3. Indian FSV decreased by 5,180 (-41%) in 2016 when compared to 2015.
- The surge in FSV applications prior to Rule 18 implementation created a bubble of FSV in 2015 which has exacerbated the decline.
- Indian FSV decreased by 25% (-2,537) compared to an average of the previous three years. Indian TSV for the month of November 2016 (766) are now at the lowest since December 2013.
- Despite the decrease in FSV, total Indian student numbers from January to August 2016 had increased by 14% (compared to the same period in 2015), although student numbers slightly dropped in the private training enterprises (PTE) sector.
- 4. Chinese TSV increased by 9% (+2,575) from 2015 to 2016, which helped offset some of the decline in FSV from India. Compared to an average of the previous three years, the growth was 24% for China.
- FSV for China are up 27% (+2,029) compared to the average of the previous three years.
- Most FSV increase is from the PTE sector (+863).
- RSV for China are up 22% (+4,135), with increases at universities (+1,498), PTE (+1,059) and secondary schools (+1,042).

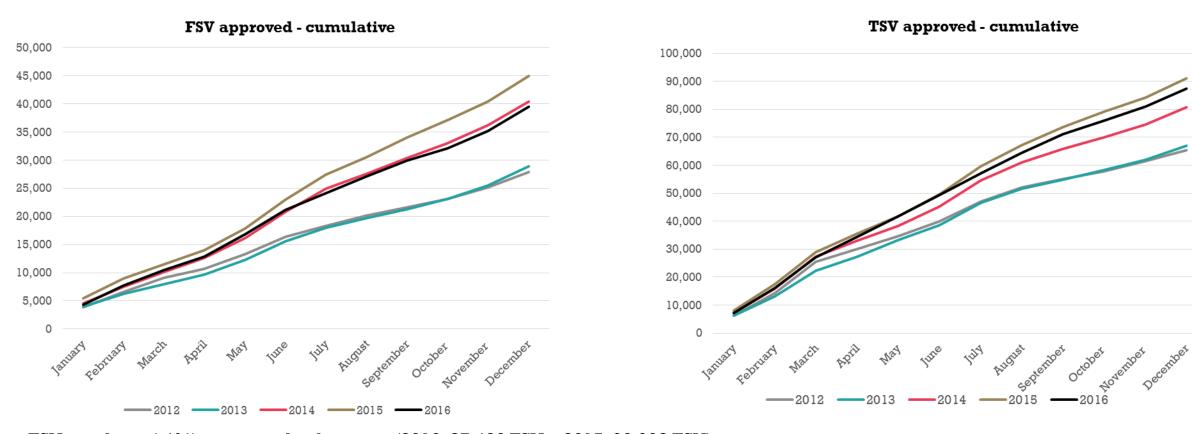
Outlook

- 5. Ministry of Education student numbers for 2016 are expected to be up 5-7% on 2015 numbers (unavailable until circa April 2017).
- 6. However, student numbers for 2017 are anticipated to be slightly down on 2016 numbers as the decline in Indian student visas begins to manifest in enrolments.

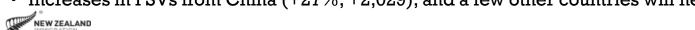


Comparison to previous years (Cumulative)



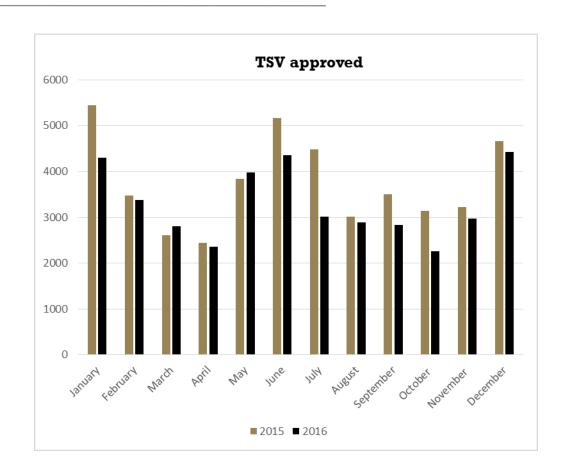


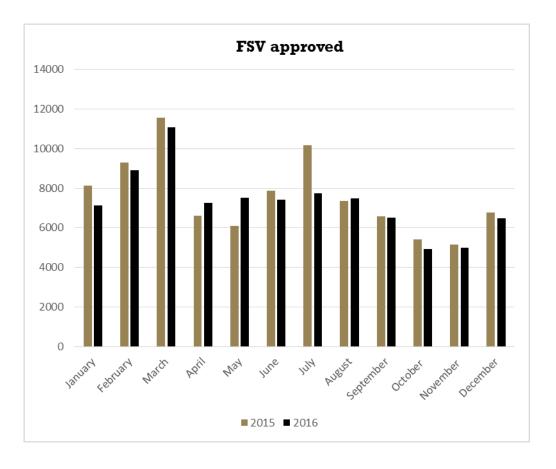
- TSV are down (-4%) compared to last year (2016: 87,436 TSV v 2015: 90,992 TSV)
- TSV increased (+10%, +7,877) compared to the average of the last three years.
- Overall FSV are down 12% (-5,468) compared to 2015 (2016: 39,533 vs. 2015: 45,001). However, they remain 4% up on the average of the previous two years (+1,447).
- RSV increased by 4% (+1,912) from 2015 which has partially offset the decrease in FSVs.
- The main decline in FSV compared to the three year average has come from India (-25%, -2,537). The 7,603 FSV issued to Indians is the lowest since 2013.
- Increases in FSVs from China (+27%, +2,029), and a few other countries will help cushion the decline in FSV from India.



Month-on-month comparison to previous year







- December 2016 FSV (-5%, -232) and RSV (-2%, -47) were both down compared to December 2015.
- The main driver of this drop was Indian TSV (-27%, -284). This was partially offset by increases in German, Chinese and Filipino visas.
- The main driver of the drop in FSV was also India (-26%, -197) and Japan (-120, -25%), which has also been partially offset by increases in German, Chinese and Filipino visas.



Trends by market

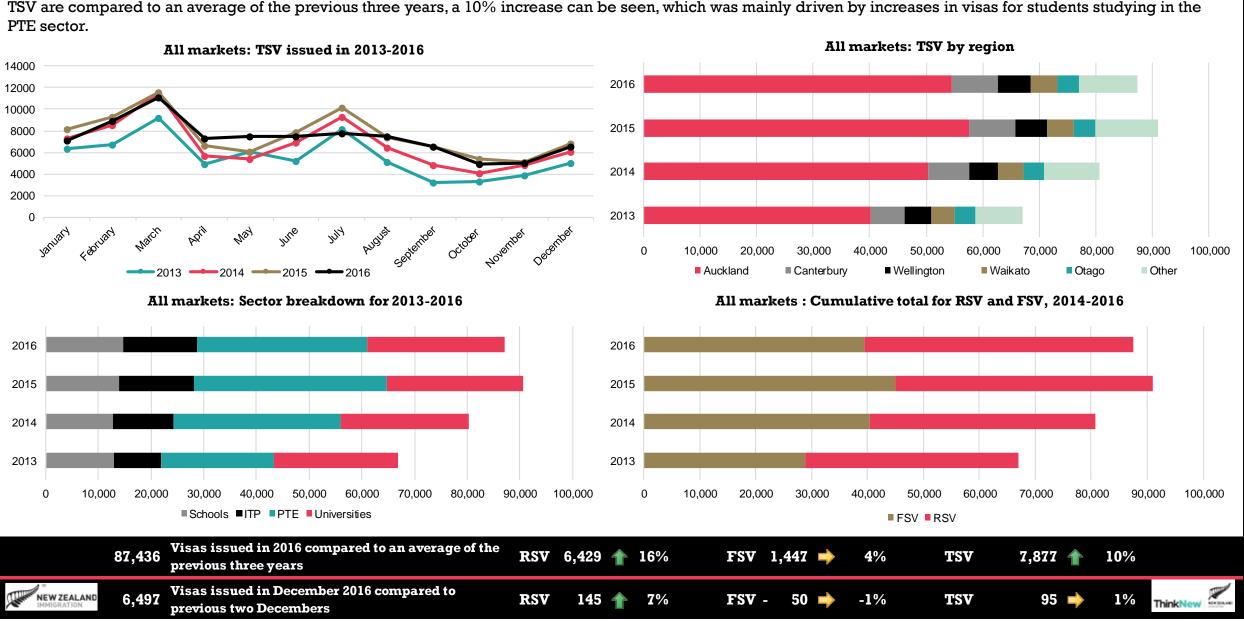




All markets

December 2016

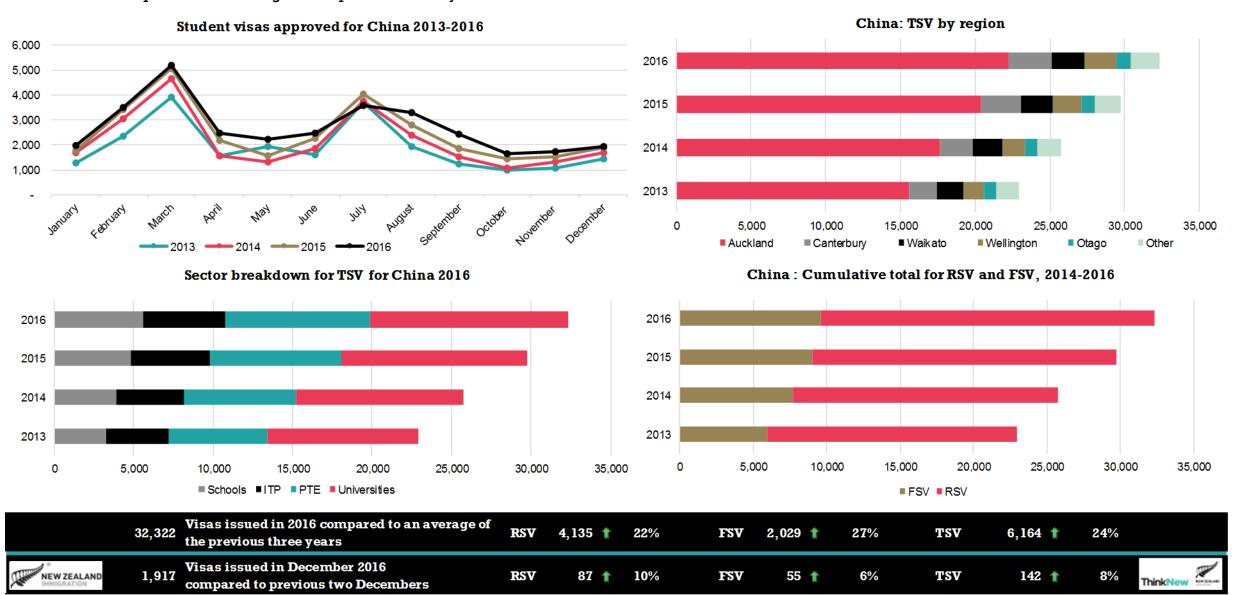
TSV, for 2016 decreased by 4% (-3,556) compared to 2015. FSV decreased by 12% (-5,468), and RSV increased by 4% (+1,912) compared to 2015. However, when TSV are compared to an average of the previous three years, a 10% increase can be seen, which was mainly driven by increases in visas for students studying in the



China

December 2016

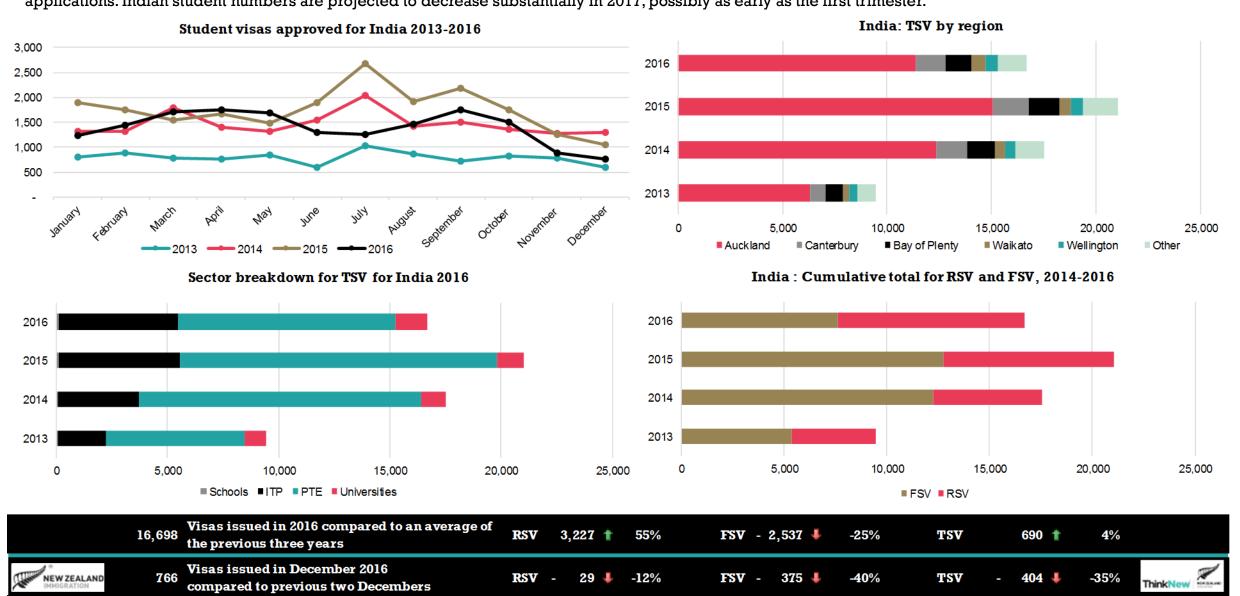
TSV increased by 9% (+2,575) from 2015 to 2016. However, when compared to an average of the previous three years, Chinese TSV increased by 24%. This rise was in all sectors, with the schools and PTE sectors showing the largest growth. Auckland led the growth in TSV; however all regions apart from Taranaki increased in Chinese TSV compared to an average of the previous three years.



India

December 2016

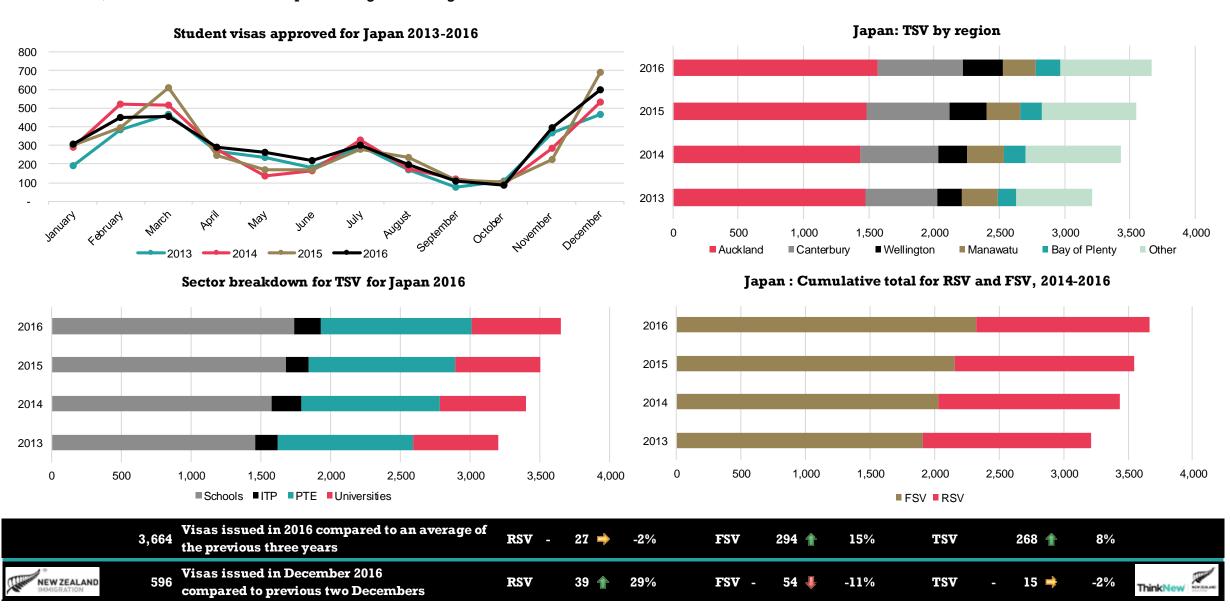
FSV for 2016 have dramatically decreased from 2015. The 2016 decrease has been exacerbated due to the inflation of Indian FSV immediately prior to the implementation of Rule 18 in October 2015. The subsequent increased scrutiny of FSV applications by Immigration NZ has decreased the number of successful applications. Indian student numbers are projected to decrease substantially in 2017, possibly as early as the first trimester.



Japan

December 2016

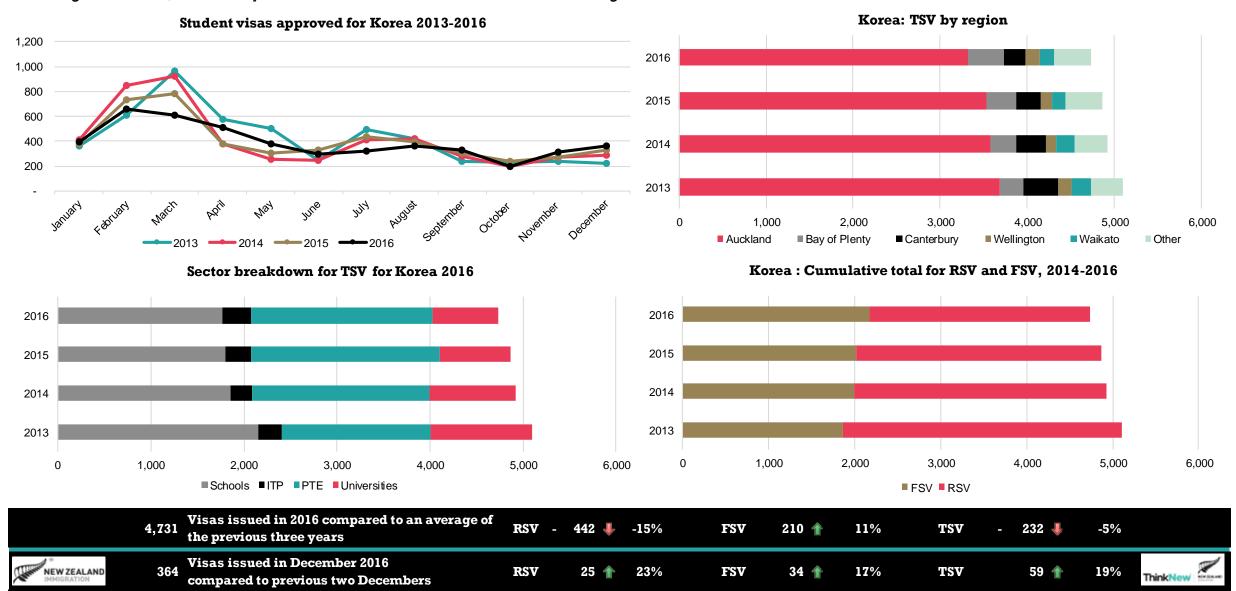
Japan TSV for 2016 are up 8% compared to an average of the previous three years. FSV have increased by 15% compared to the average of the previous three years, with the PTE, ITP and school sectors experiencing the most growth.



Korea

December 2016

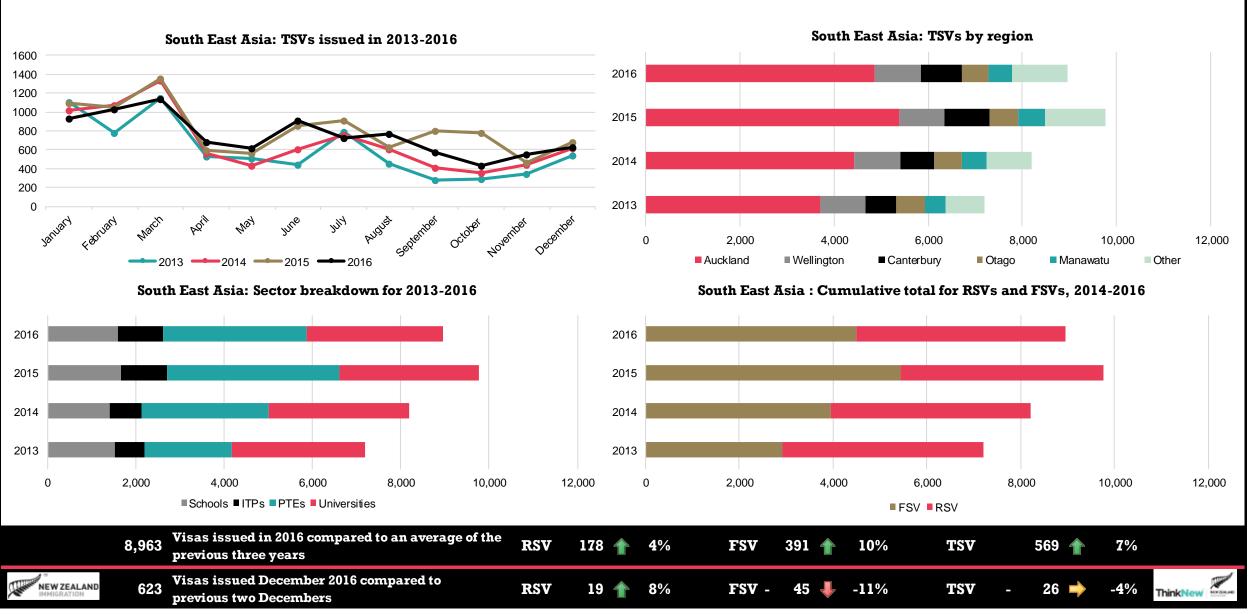
The Korean market has been declining for a number of years due to less than favourable economic conditions, coupled with an increase in the quality of Korean education. Korean FSV for 2016 are up 7% (+145) compared to 2015. FSVs are up 11% compared to the previous three years with secondary schools experiencing the largest increase, followed by the PTE sector. Korean FSV for 2016 were the highest since 2012.



South East Asia

December 2016

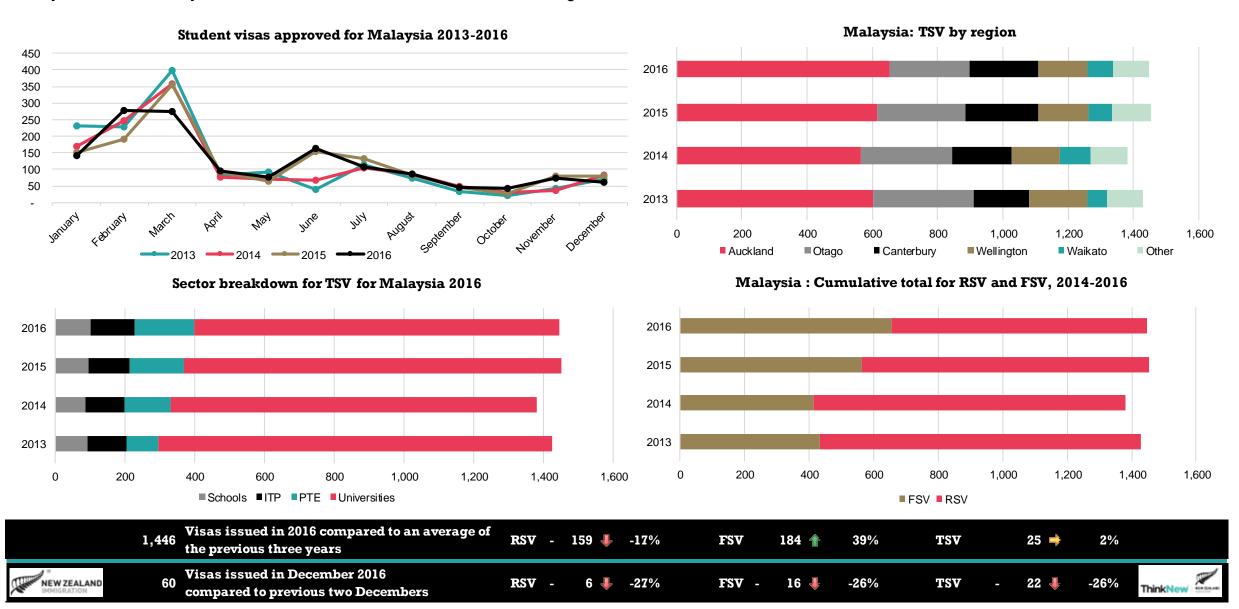
South East Asian TSV for 2016 are up 7% compared to an average of the previous three years. There was an 8% decrease in TSV from 2015 to 2016. This was mainly driven by a decrease in visas issued to Filipino students studying in PTE.



Malaysia

December 2016

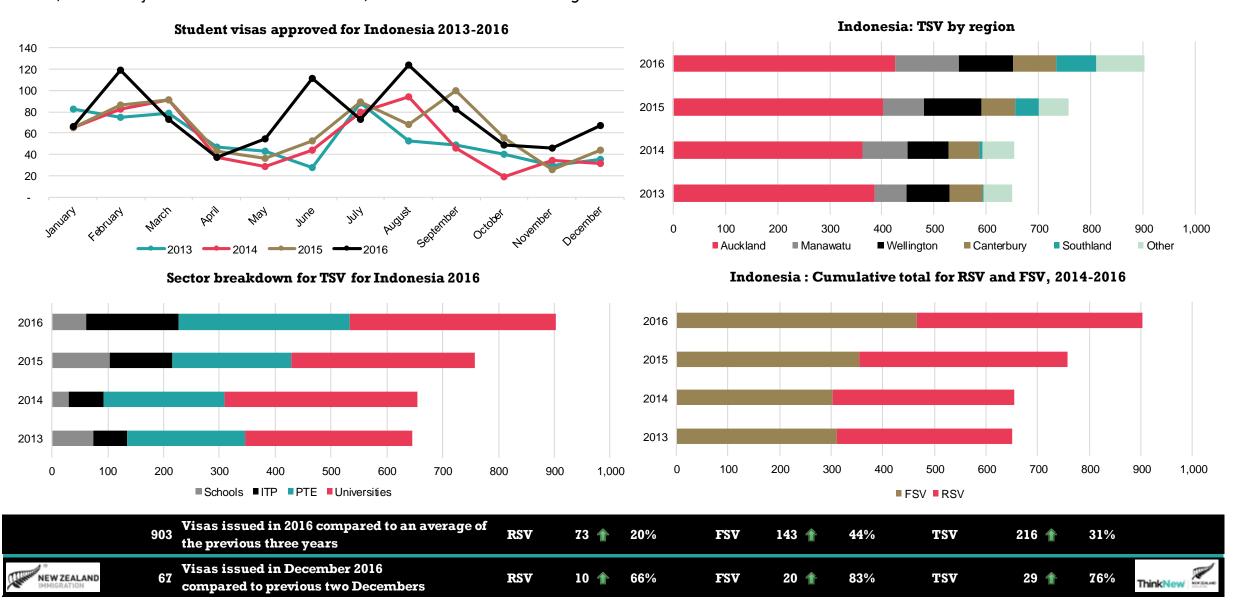
Malaysian FSV increased by 16%(+91) from 2015 to 2016. However, compared to the previous three years, TSV showed little change (+2%, +25). Over 70% of Malaysian students study in universities, but the PTE sector has been leading the increases since 2013.



Indonesia

December 2016

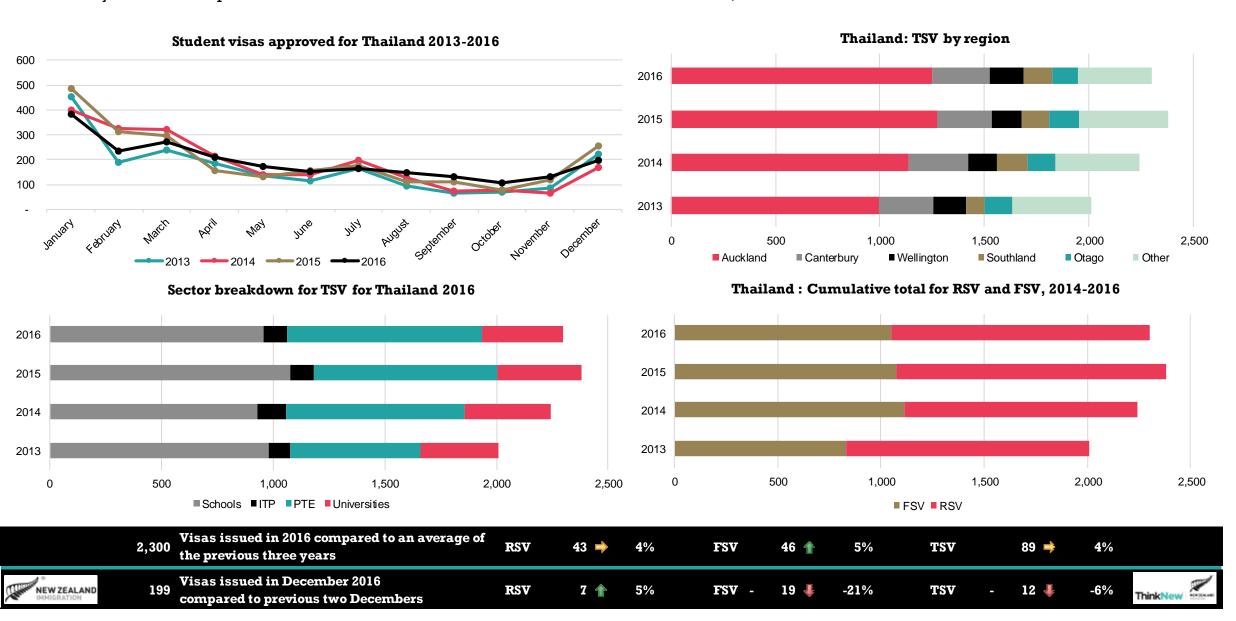
Indonesian TSV increased by 19% from 2015 to 2016. Compared to the previous three years, TSV increased by 31%. Most of this increase has been in the PTE sector, followed by the ITP sector. The Southland, Auckland and Manawatu regions have led the TSV increase



Thailand

December 2016

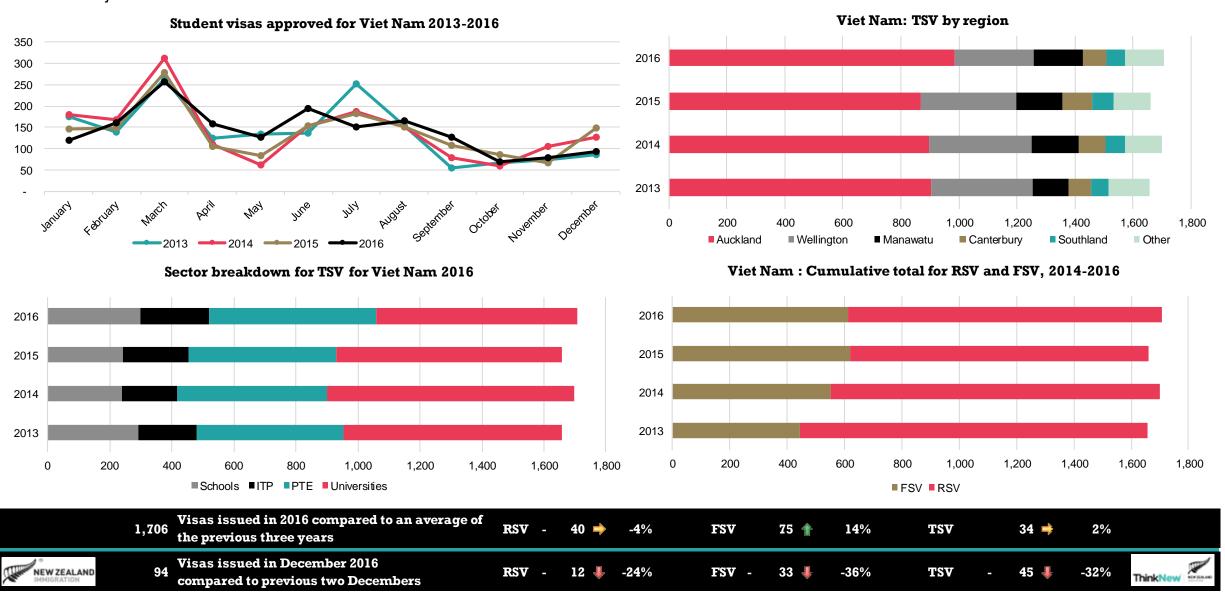
TSV for Thailand have showed a little growth. In 2016, TSV increased by 4% when compared to an average of the previous three years. However, they declined by 3% when compared to 2015 alone. The schools sector has seen the most visa decline, while visas for PTE have increased.



Viet Nam

December 2016

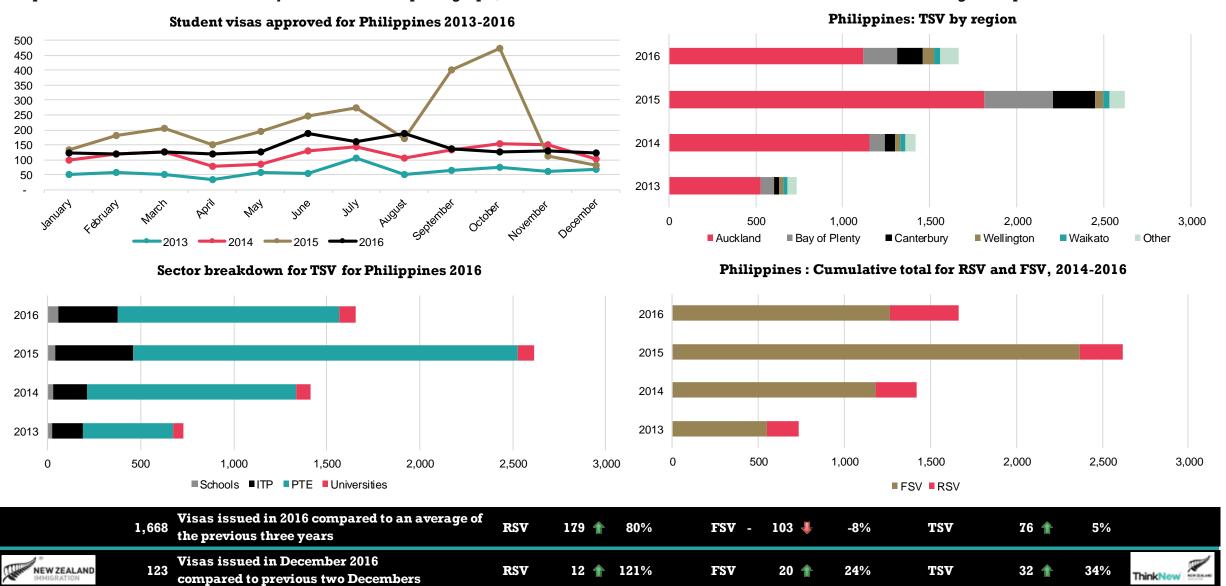
TSV for Viet Nam have slightly decreased. In 2016, they decreased by 2% when compared to an average of the previous three years. However, TSV increased by 3% compared to 2015 alone. Since 2015, visas issued for the universities sector have decreased, and visas issued for the Wellington region have decreased, but visas for study in Auckland have increased since 2015.



Philippines

December 2016

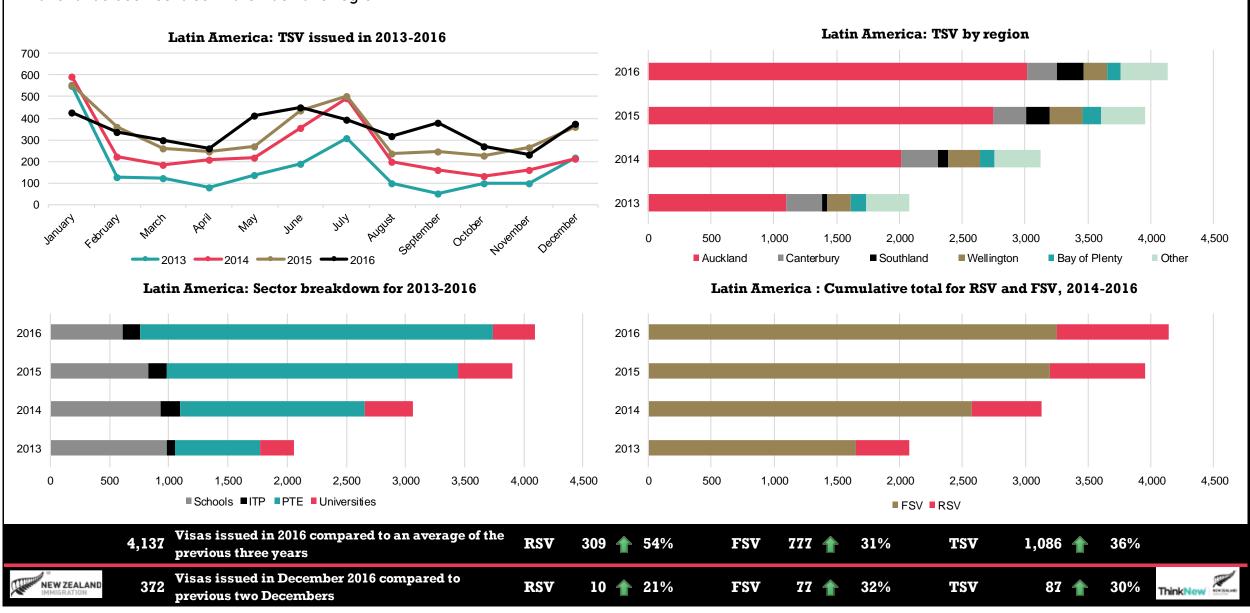
TSVs for the Philippines have increased by 5% compared to an average of the previous three years. However, since 2015, the number of TSVs for the Philippines has decreased by 36%. This was the result of the change to Rule 18, which impacted on visas issued to PTE students. The spike before this rule was reimplemented in late 2015 can clearly be seen in the top left graph, which means that the decrease in visas from 2015 to 2016 being more pronounced.



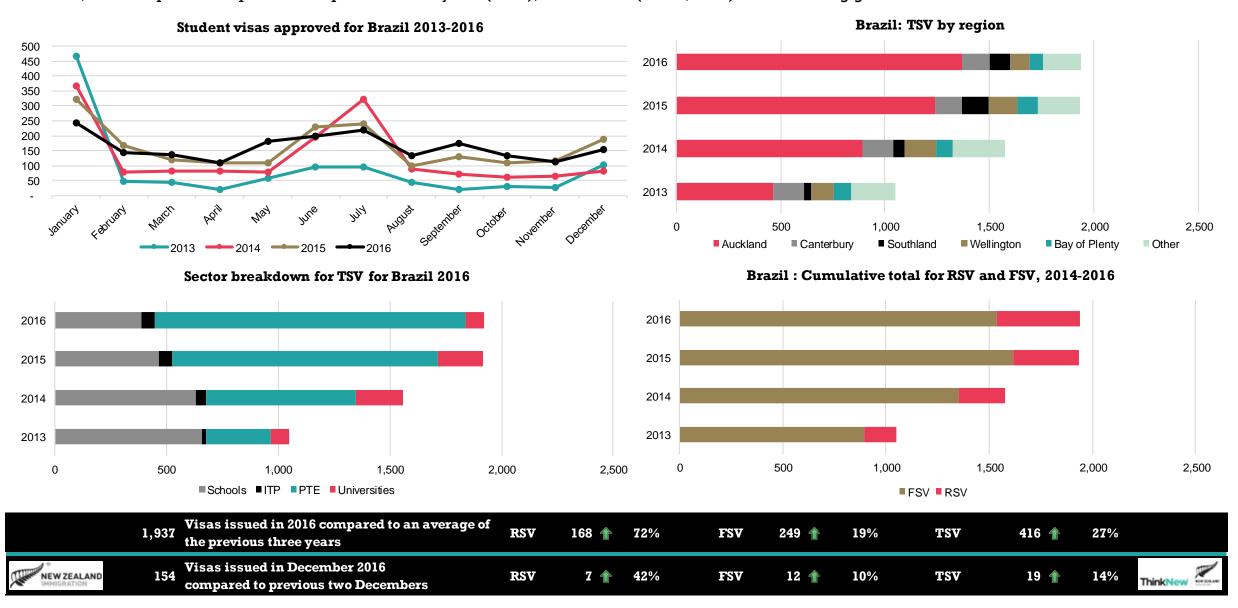
Latin America

December 2016

Latin America TSV for 2016 are up by 5% compared to 2015. TSV have increased by 36% compared to the previous three years. Most of the growth has been in the PTE and it has been centred in the Auckland region.



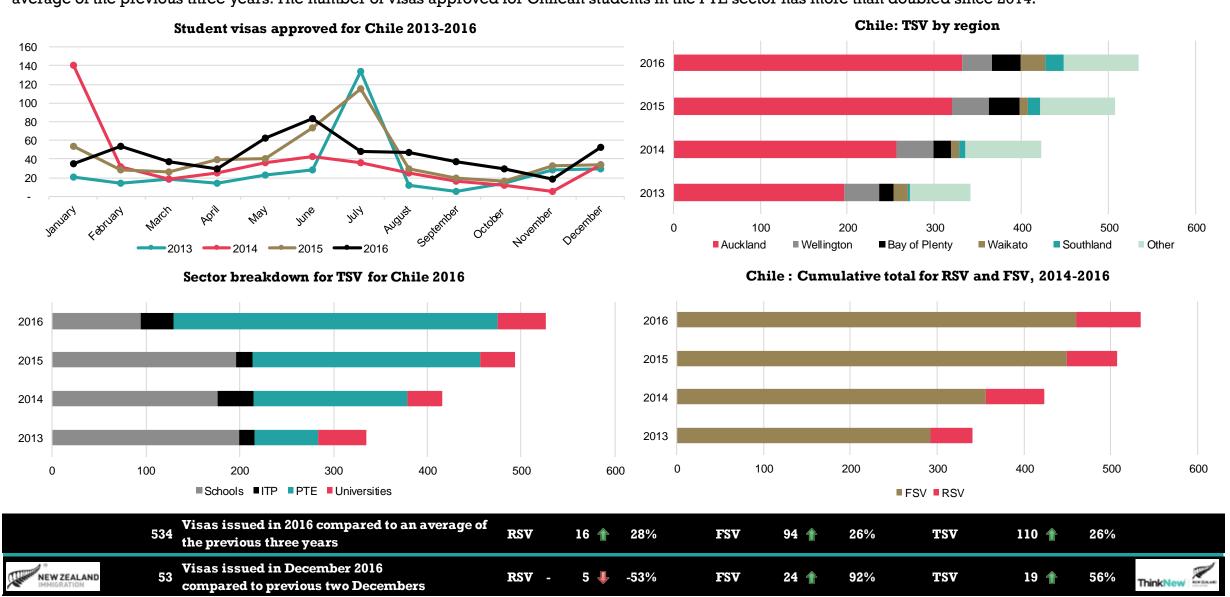
Brazilian TSV have increased by 27% in 2016 when compared to an average of the previous three years. Brazilian FSV for 2016 are down 5% (-79) compared to 2015. However, TSV are up 19% compared to the previous three years (+249), with the PTE (+86%, +512) sector showing growth.



Chile

December 2016

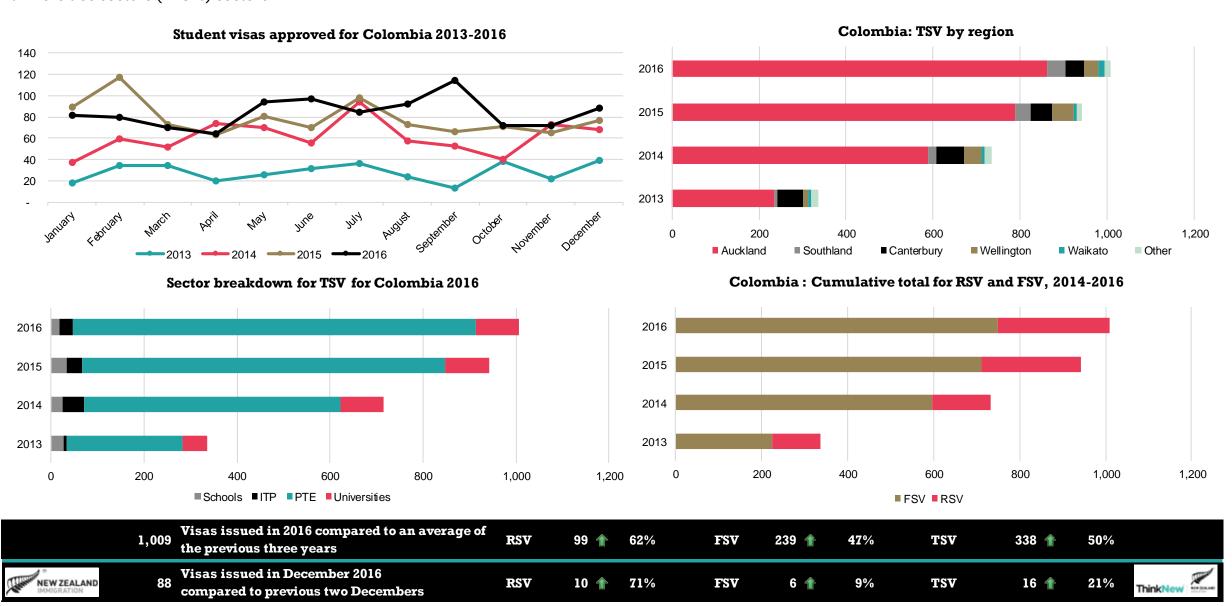
Chilean TSV for 2016 are down 5% compared to 2016. They increased by 26% compared to the average of the previous three years. There have been increases in Chilean student visas for study in the Auckland, Waikato and Southland regions. The PTE sector dominates this market, and has increased 118% compared to the average of the previous three years. The number of visas approved for Chilean students in the PTE sector has more than doubled since 2014.



Colombia

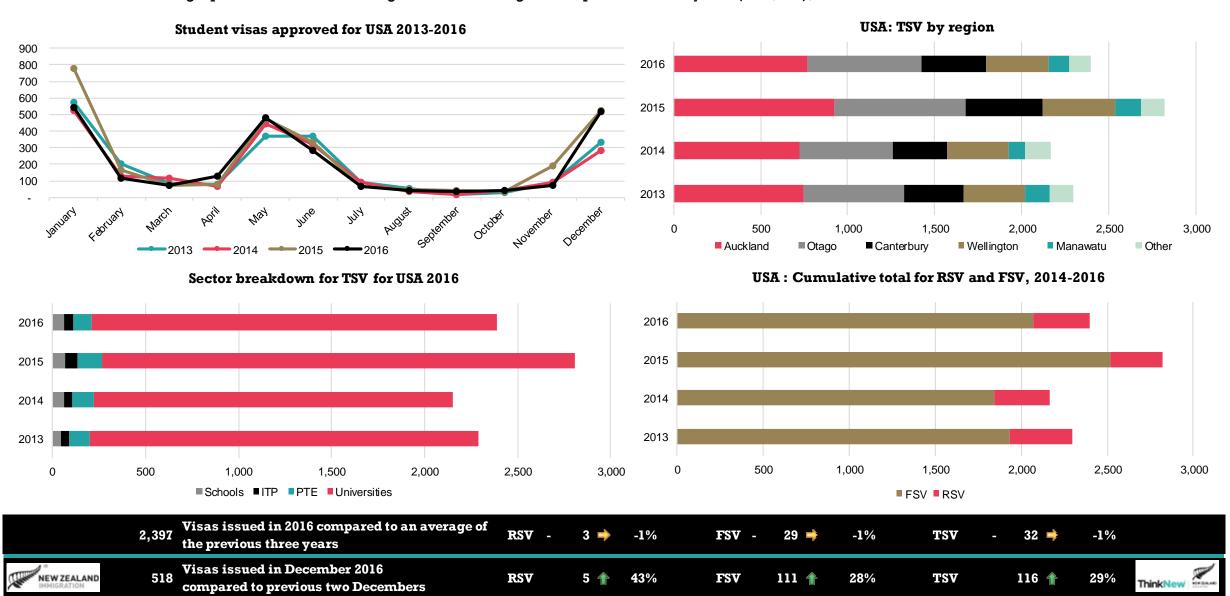
December 2016

Colombian TSV were up 7% in 2016 compared to 2015. Compared to the average of the previous three years, they are up 50% with growth in the PTE (+64%) and universities sectors (+18%) sectors.



December 2016

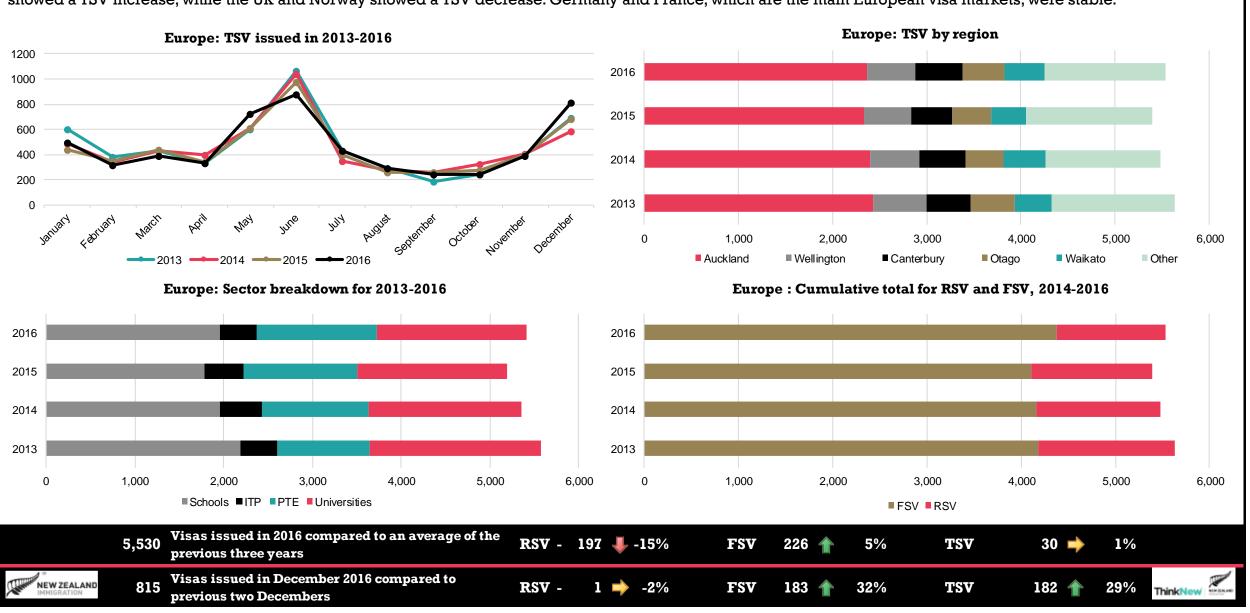
USA TSV for 2016 decreased by 15% from 2015. This was due to a processing delay, and was followed by approval spikes for January and December of 2015, which can be seen on the line graph. There was little change from the average of the previous three years (-1%, -32), which is a better indicator for this market.



Europe

December 2016

European TSV for 2016 were flat, increasing by 3% from 2015. The movement from the average of the previous three years was also flat at 1%. Switzerland and Spain showed a TSV increase, while the UK and Norway showed a TSV decrease. Germany and France, which are the main European visa markets, were stable.

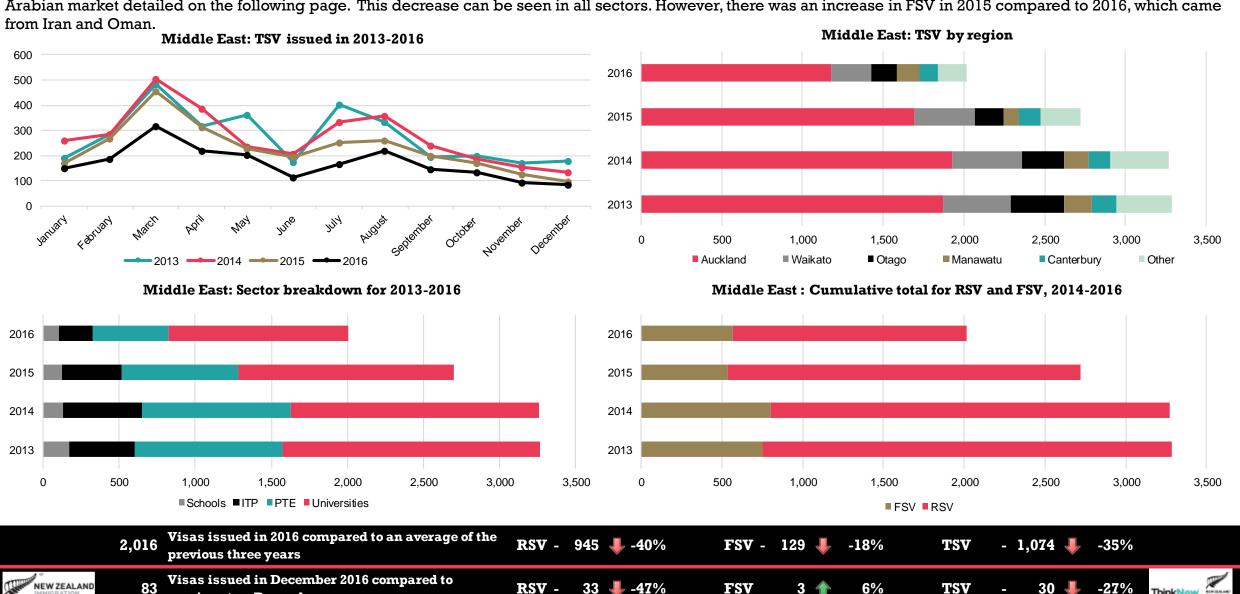


Middle East from Iran and Oman. 600

previous two Decembers

December 2016

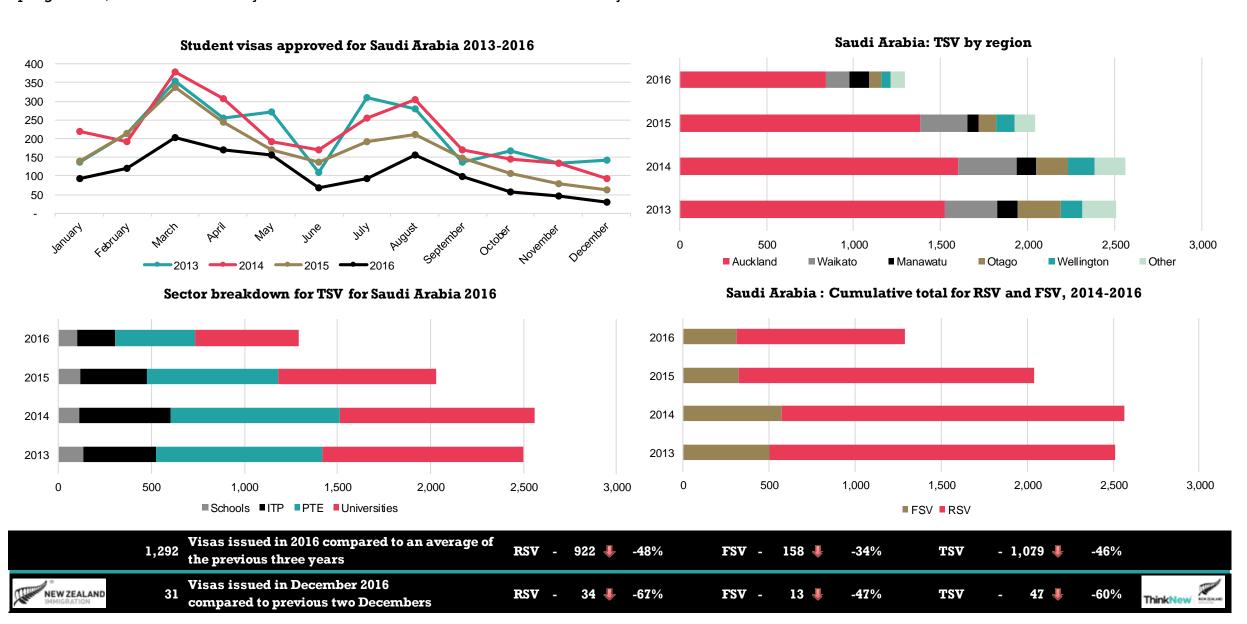
Middle East FSV for 2016 decreased by 35% (-1,074) compared to an average of the previous three years. This is almost entirely being driven by changes in the Saudi Arabian market detailed on the following page. This decrease can be seen in all sectors. However, there was an increase in FSV in 2015 compared to 2016, which came



Saudi Arabia

December 2016

Saudi Arabian TSV for 2016 decreased by 46% (-1,079) from an average of the previous three years. This is due to restrictions to the Saudi Arabian scholarships programme, which allowed many Saudi Arabians to come to New Zealand for study.



Trends by sector

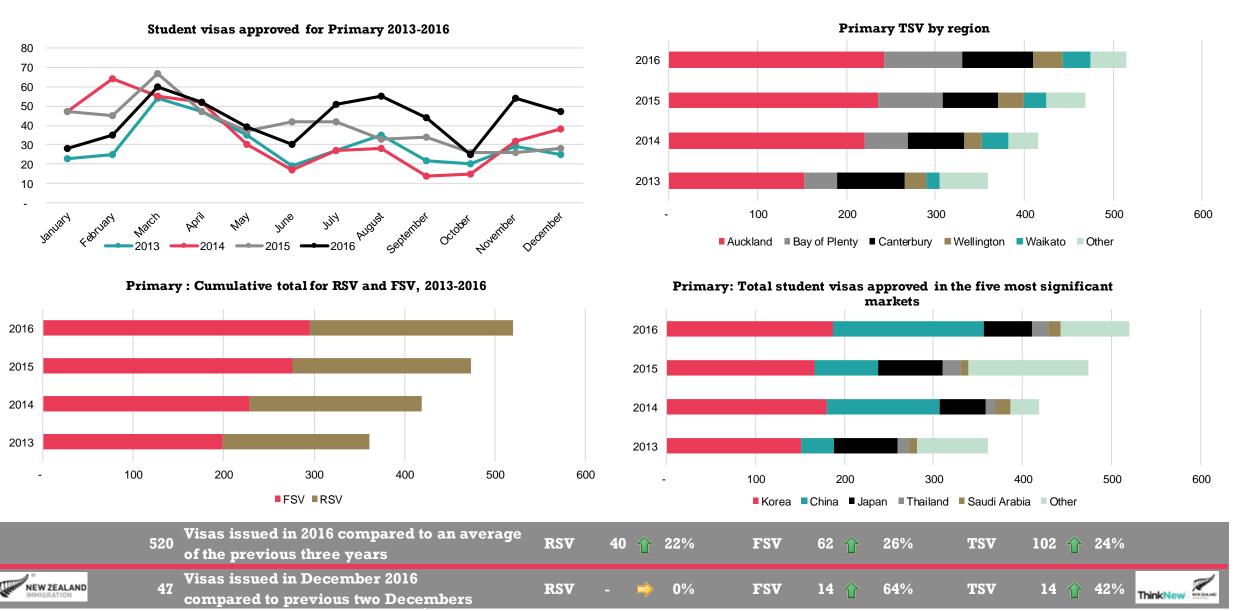




Primary

December 2016

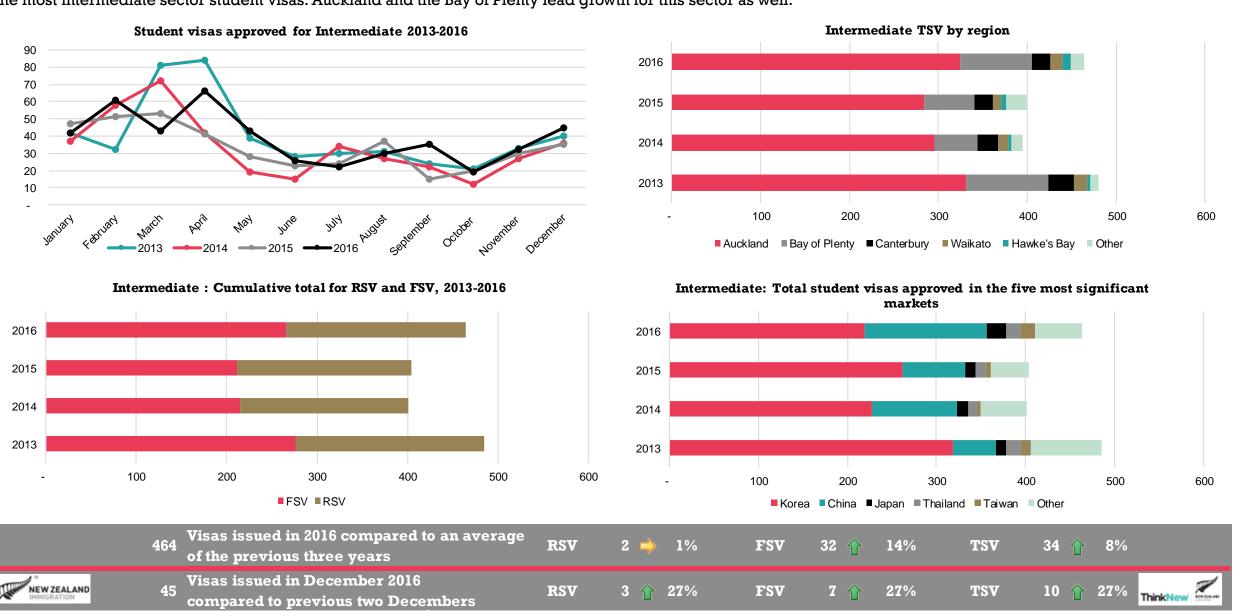
The primary school sector has grown to 520 TSV in 2016, an increase of 10% from 2015. The increase is 25% when compared to the average of the previous three years. Most of this growth has been driven by Chinese students, with Auckland and the Bay of Plenty regions showing the most growth.



Intermediate

December 2016

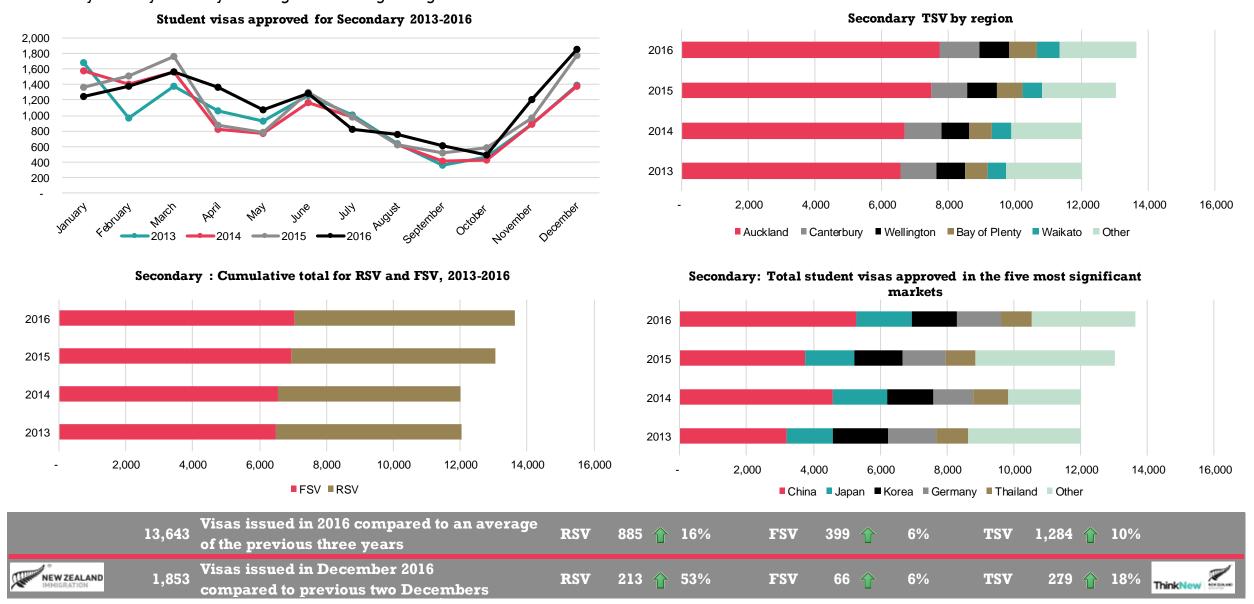
The intermediate school sector increased by in 5% over 2015 to reach 464 TSV. China has been the main growth market here, although Korea remains the market with the most intermediate sector student visas. Auckland and the Bay of Plenty lead growth for this sector as well.



Secondary

December 2016

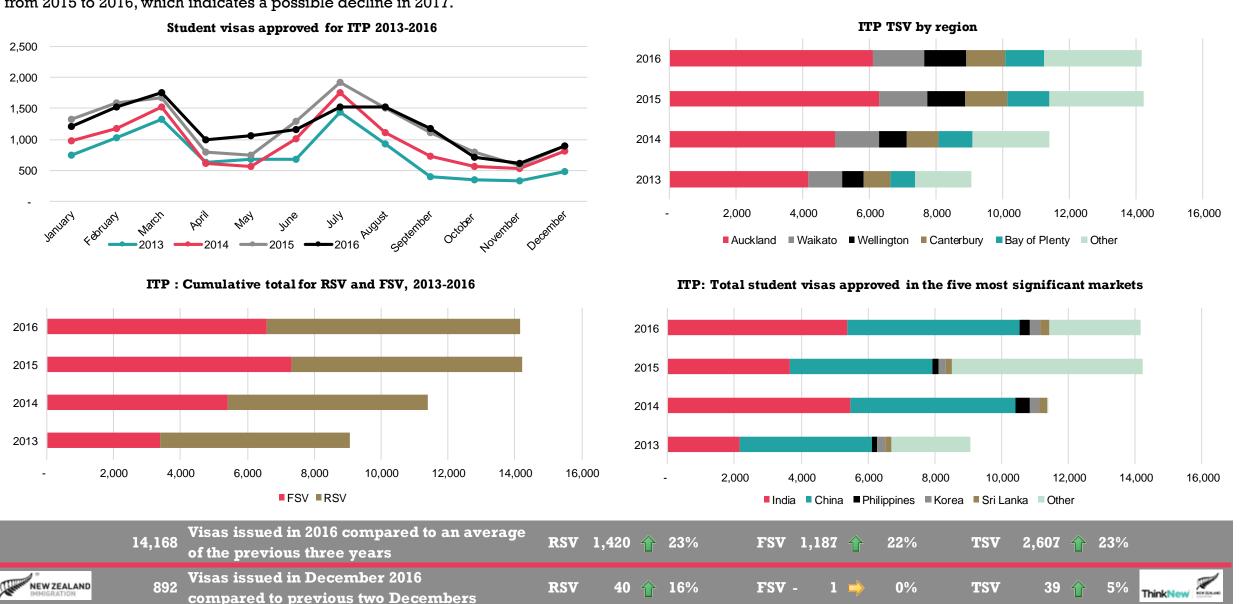
The secondary school sector increased by 5% from 2015 to 2016 to reach 13,643 TSV. RSV for this sector increased by 16% to reach 6,590 visas, and now account for 48% of secondary school visas, which is higher than any of the years from 2013-2015. China and Japan showed the most market growth with Auckland, Waikato, Canterbury and Bay of Plenty showing the most regional growth.



ITP

December 2016

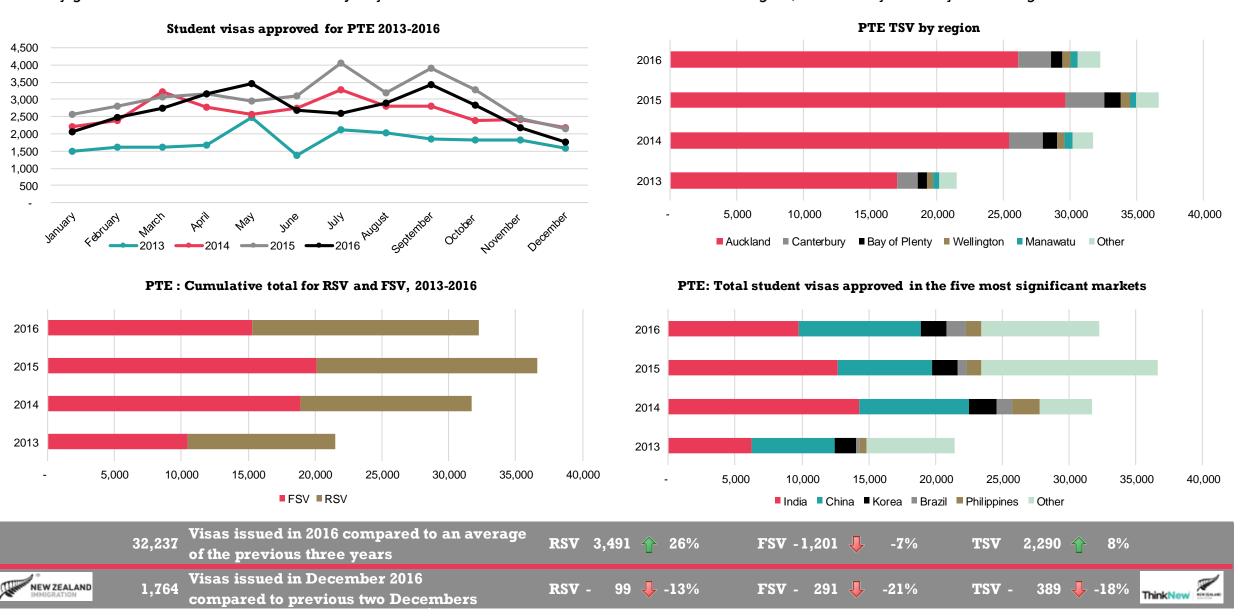
The ITP sector was flat in 2016 compared to 2015. However, TSV were up 23% compared to an average of the previous three years. Since 2013, TSV have increased to 14,168 from 9,063. Most growth has been in the Indian market, with the main growth regions being Auckland, Waikato and Wellington. There was a decline in FSV from 2015 to 2016, which indicates a possible decline in 2017.



PTE

December 2016

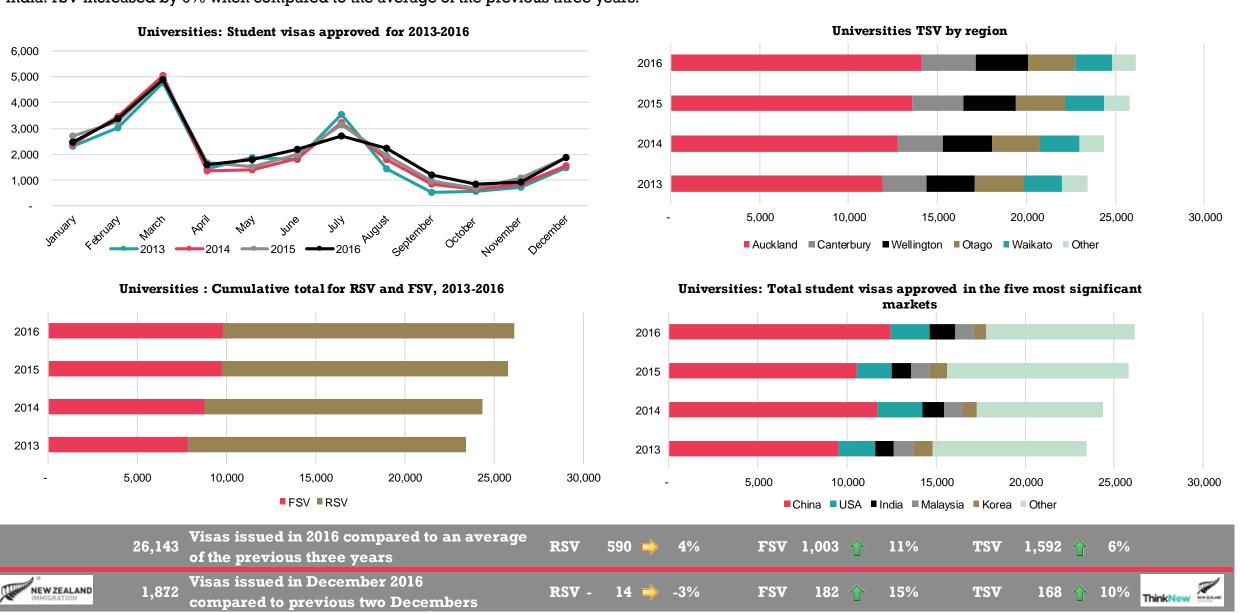
The PTE sector's FSV in 2016 have declined by 24% (-4,833) compared to 2015. This has been mainly driven by a decrease in Indian FSV which has been partially offset by growth from China and Brazil. The majority of the decline has been centred in the Auckland region, with the Bay of Plenty also being affected.



Universities

December 2016

University TSV changed little from 2015 to 2016, increasing by 1%. This growth has mainly been centred in Auckland, with the main growth markets being China and India. TSV increased by 6% when compared to the average of the previous three years.



Trends by region

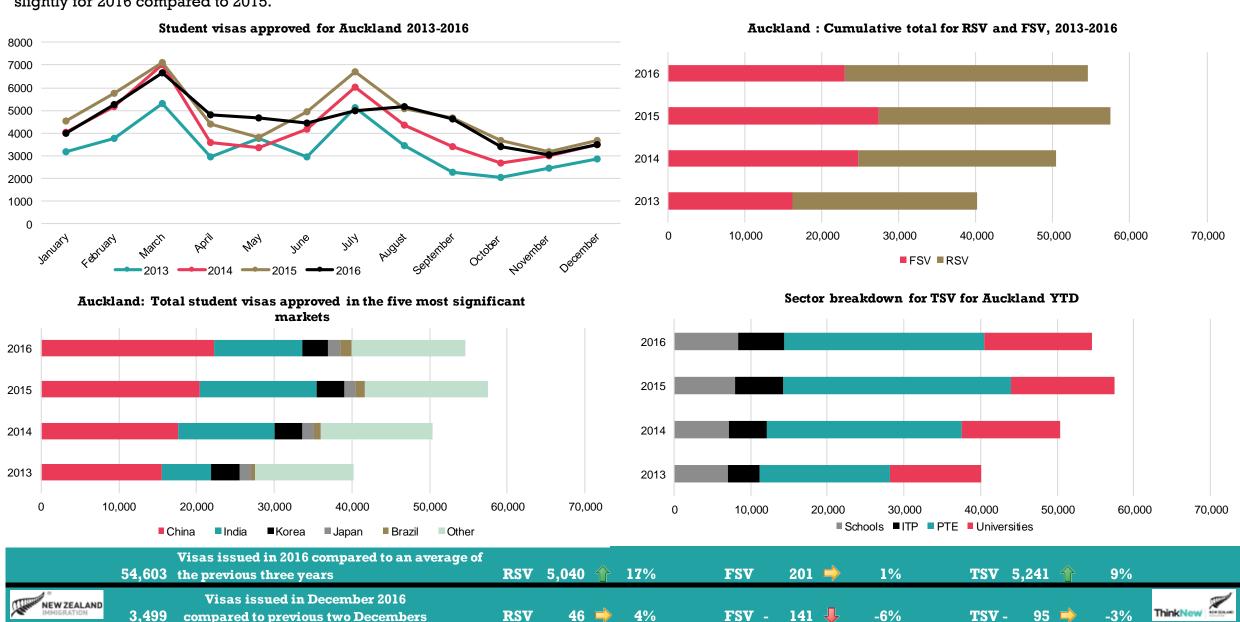




Auckland

December 2016

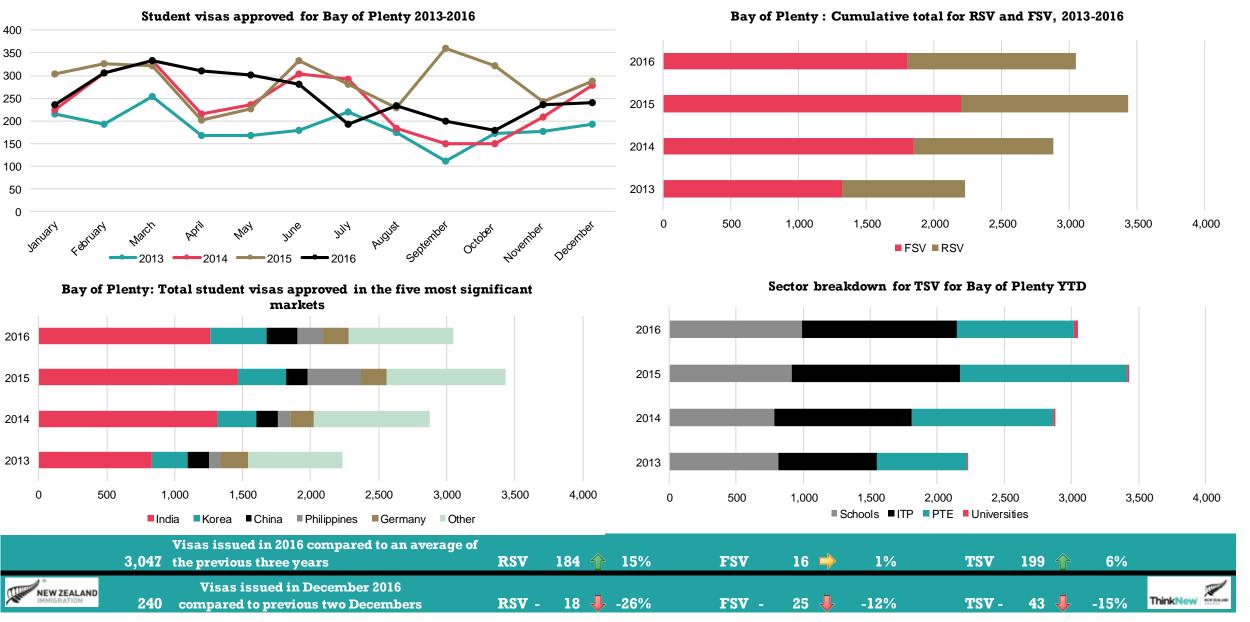
Visas for Auckland decreased by 5% from 2015 to 2016, but showed a 9% increase compared to the average of the previous three years. Both the increase and the decrease were driven by PTE students from India. ITP students have also decreased slightly from 2015 to 2016. School and universities students have both increased slightly for 2016 compared to 2015.



Bay of Plenty

December 2016

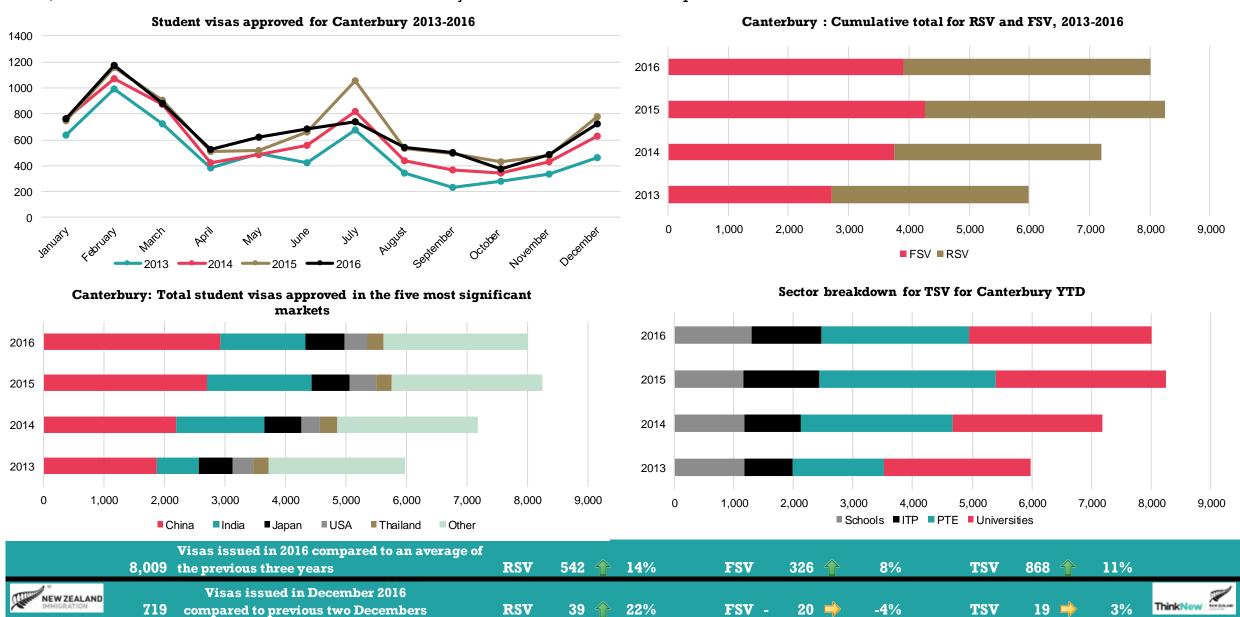
Despite the 6% student visas increase in 2016 compared to an average of the three years from 2013-2016, there was a 12% decline in TSV for PTE students. PTE students also showed a 30% decline from 2015 to 2016. The number of ITP sector students has also declined since 2015. However, the school sector has shown growth.



Canterbury

December 2016

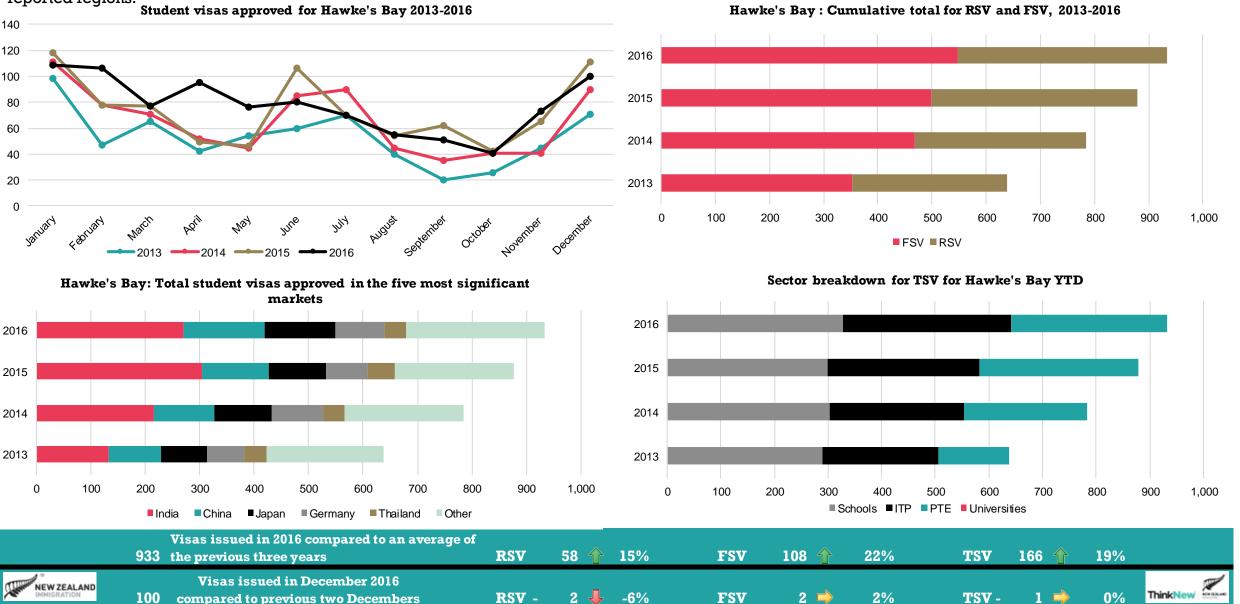
There has been an 11% increase in TSV from 2016 compared to an average of the three years from 2013 to 2016. There was a 16% decline in PTE students from 2015 to 2016, and a 9% decline in ITP students. These declines mainly came from the Indian and Filipino markets.



Hawke's Bay

December 2016

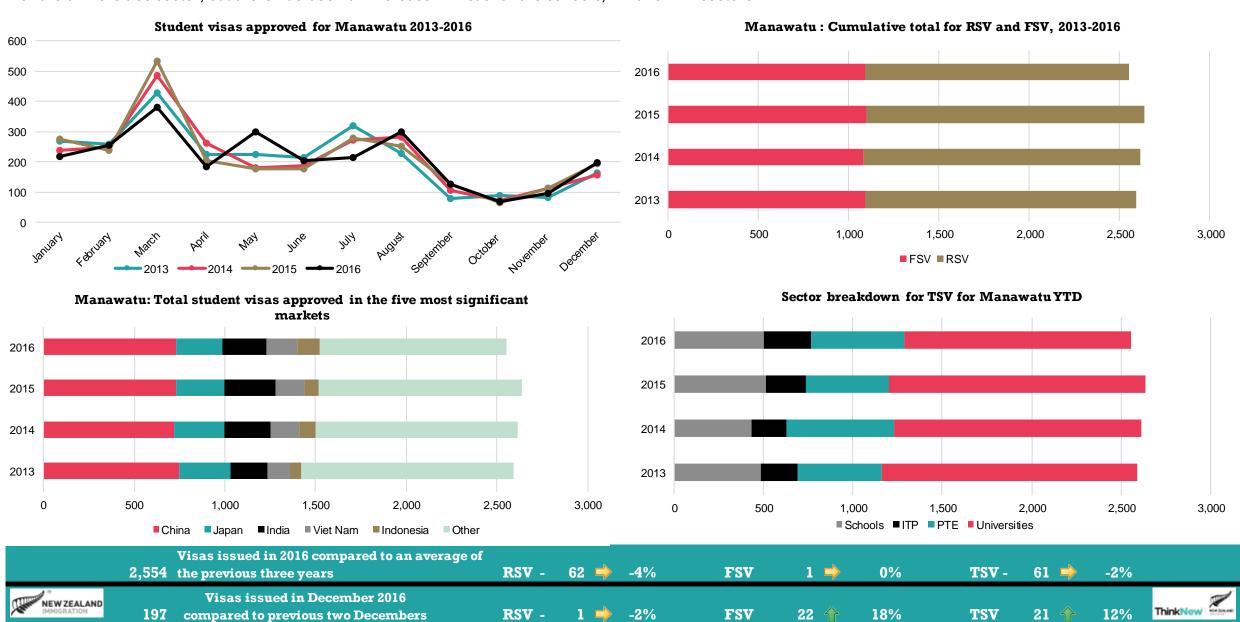
TSV showed a 19% increase in 2016 compared to an average of the three years from 2013 to 2016 across all sectors. This increase has come from China, India and Japan. There has been an 11% decline in Indian students from 2015 to 2016. There was also a slight decrease in PTE visas issued from 2015 to 2016, but an 11% increase in ITP students has more than offset this decrease. Overall, visas issued to international students in Hawke's Bay increased by 6% from 2015 to 2016, the highest percentage among reported regions.



Manawatu

December 2016

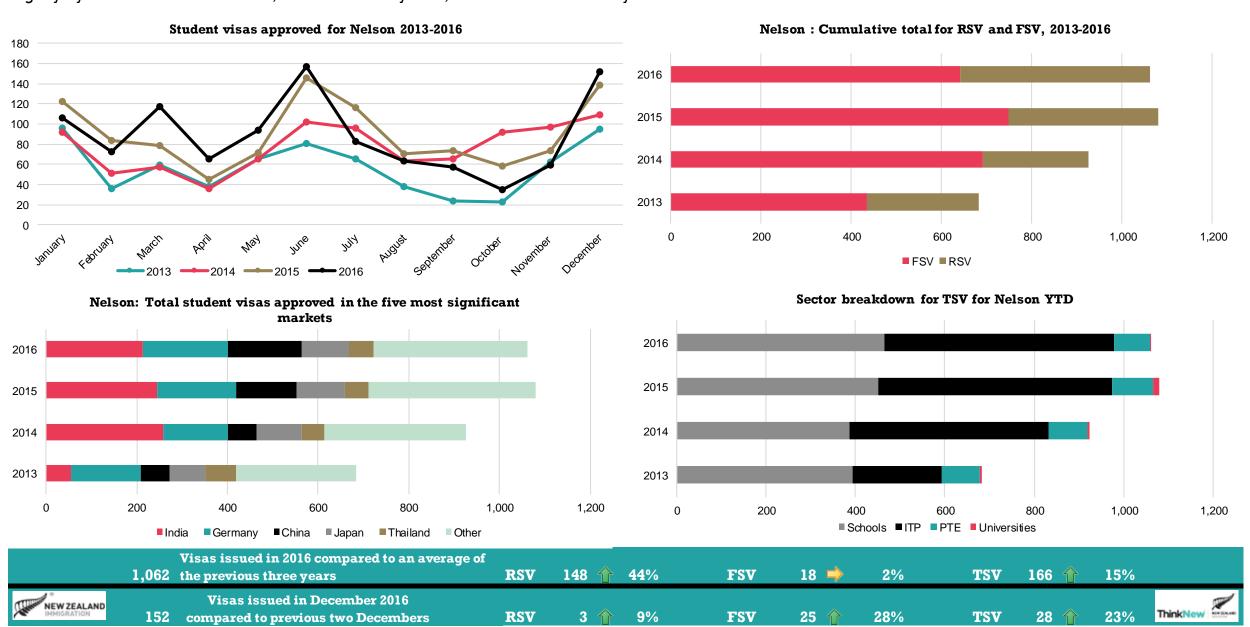
TSVs have been stable in Manawatu, decreasing by 2% in 2016 compared to an average of the previous three years. There was a 11% decrease in visas issued for the universities sector, but there has been an increase in visas for the schools, ITP and PTE sectors.



Nelson

December 2016

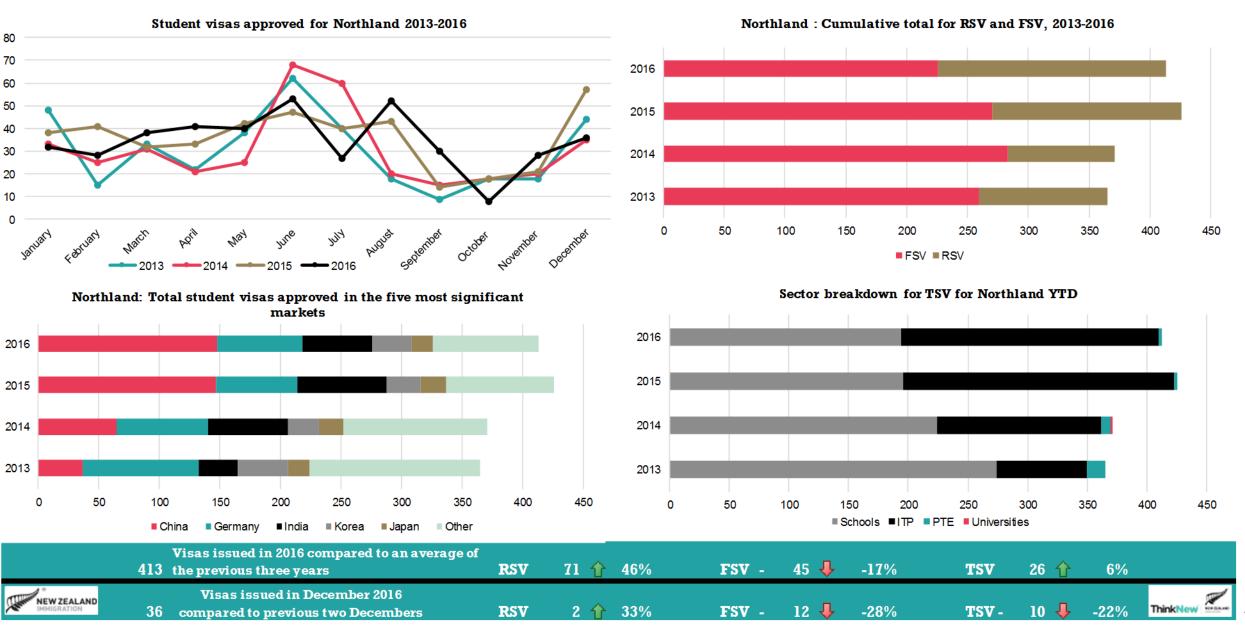
TSV have increased by 15% in Nelson compared to an average of the three years from 2013 to 2015. This was driven by the schools and ITP sectors. TSV declined slightly by 2% flat from 2015 to 2016, FSVs declined by 14%, while RSVs increased by 26%.



Northland

December 2016

TSV for Northland increased by 6% compared to the average of the previous three years. The main driver of this was ITPs. Visas issued to school students have declined since 2013. The ITP sector also drove the -3% decline in visas issued from 2015 to 2016.



Otago

December 2016

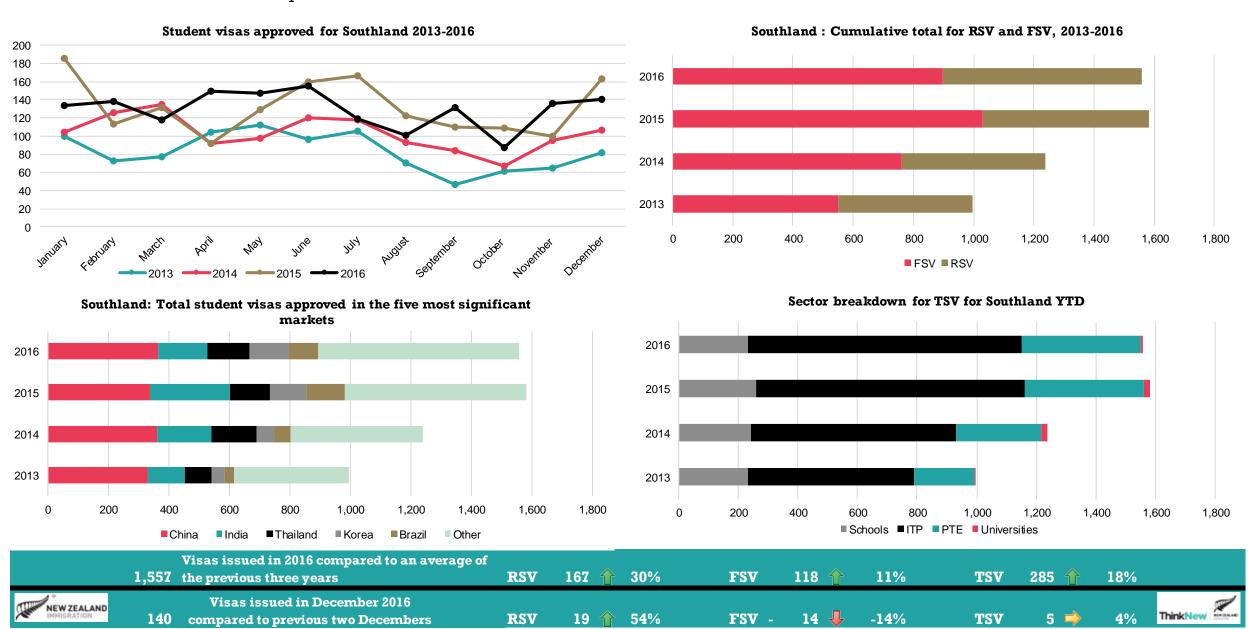
Otago has been relatively stable in 2016 compared to the average of the previous three years. ITP sector TSV have increased from 2015 to 2016, while universities sector TSV have declined, keeping the whole region's results relatively unchanged. Over 70% of international students in Otago are in the universities sector.



Southland

December 2016

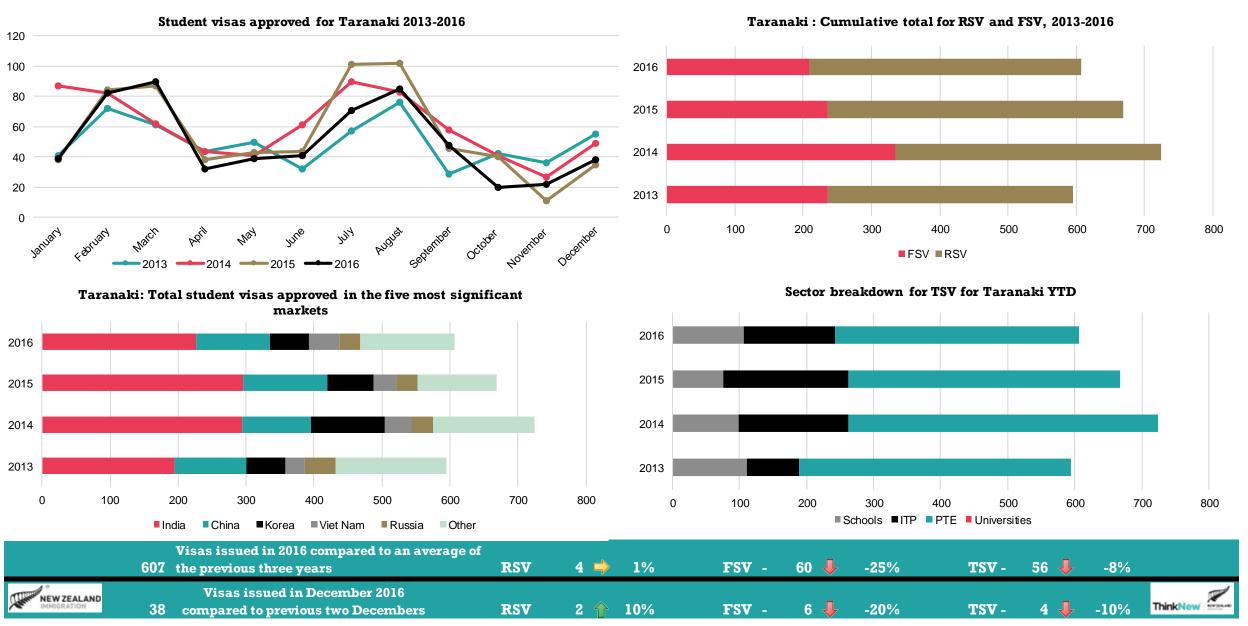
There has been an 18% increase in TSVs for Southland compared to the average of the previous three years, driven by increases in the ITP and PTE sectors. In 2016, the schools sector declined when compared to 2015. This 10% decline in the schools sector resulted in an overall 2% decline in TSV from 2015 to 2016.



Taranaki

December 2016

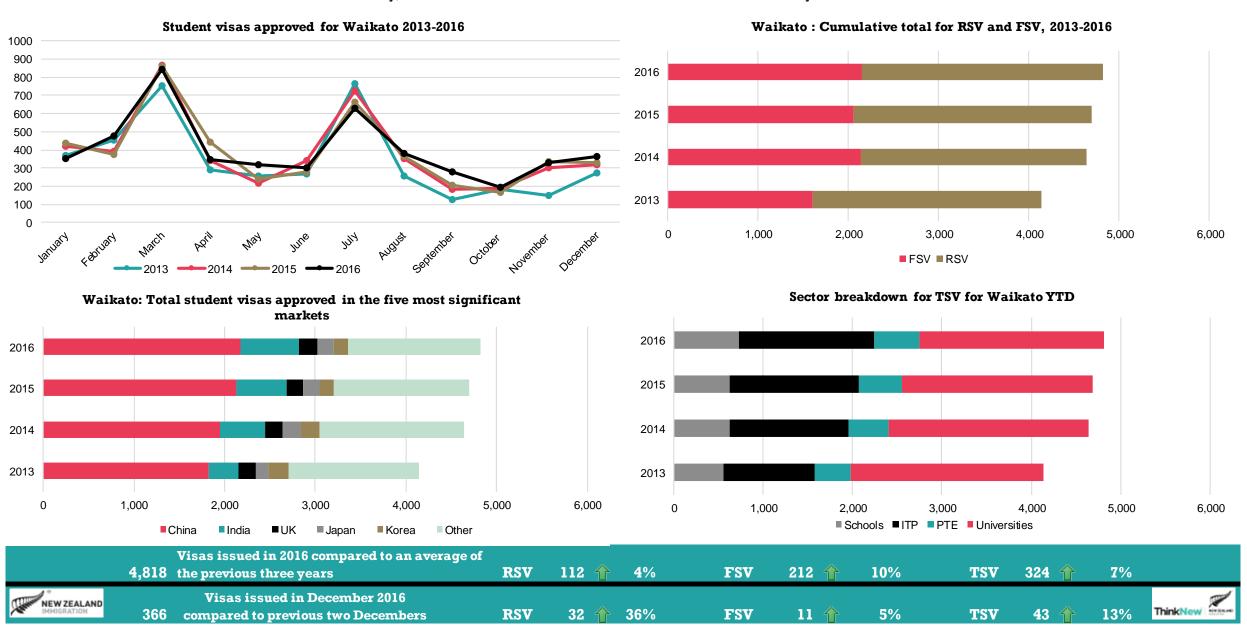
The Taranaki region has shown a decline in TSV in 2016 compared to an average of the previous three years. The decline is driven by the PTE sector, which made up 60% of international students in 2016.



Waikato

December 2016

TSVs increased by 7% in 2016, when compared to the previous three years. This was driven by increases in TSVs for the ITP and schools sectors. Waikato showed an increase in students from China and India. Unusually, the number of Indian students for 2016 has increased by 3% since 2015.



Wellington

December 2016

There was a 12% increase in the number of international student visas for the Wellington region, which was mainly driven by the ITP sector. Universities and schools have been stable in terms of student numbers. Wellington has also seen an overall increase in Chinese and Indian TSV.

