

GMS Flash Alert

Immigration

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New Zealand – Active Investor Plus Visa Revised

New Zealand's Active Investor Plus Visa programme introduced in April 2025 significant changes to simplify the investment process, including the creation of two distinct investment categories and reduced minimum investment thresholds. These changes are intended to incentivise direct investment and promote greater economic benefit for New Zealand.¹

WHY THIS MATTERS

The revised Active Investor Plus Visa programme provides globally mobile investors and their families with more flexibility, more favourable terms, and accessible pathways to New Zealand residence.

The introduction of the 'Growth and Balanced' categories lowers investment barriers and broadens the range of acceptable investment vehicles, which may encourage a wider pool of applicants.

For HR leaders, global mobility managers, and global compensation teams, these changes may affect talent acquisition and retention strategies for executive and specialist roles, especially for multinational organisations seeking to relocate senior personnel through investment migration.

Context

Prior to April 2025, the Active Investor Plus Visa required higher minimum investment amounts (NZD 15 million or weighted equivalent) and imposed more restrictive criteria, including an English-language requirement and stricter residency obligations. Applications under the previous Investor 1 and Investor 2 visa categories are no longer accepted, though those in progress will continue to be processed.

Key Highlights

Introduction of Two Investment Categories

- Growth category: Minimum investment NZD 5 million in higher-risk assets (managed funds, direct investments in New Zealand businesses) over three years.
- Balanced category: Minimum investment NZD 10 million in mixed/lower-risk assets, including bonds and property, over five years.

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Lower Minimum Investment Thresholds

Minimum investment reduced from NZD 15 million (previous requirement) to NZD 5 million (Growth) and NZD 10 million (Balanced).

Expanded Investment Options

Balanced category investors may now invest in bonds and property-type assets.

Simplified Immigration Requirements

- English-language requirement removed.
- Reduced time required to be spent in New Zealand for active investors.

Application Volumes and Economic Impact

- Between 1 April and 25 September 2025, 348 applications (1,122 people) received; potential minimum investment of NZD \$2.1 billion.
- 251 applications approved in principle; 62 resident visas granted, with committed investments totaling NZD \$398.9 million.
- Average approval in principle: 26 working days.

Transition Arrangements

Applications under previous settings can no longer be transitioned to new settings; Investor 1 and Investor 2 discontinued visas for new applications.

KPMG INSIGHTS

Companies may wish to coordinate with legal and tax professionals to ensure investment and migration compliance, particularly as the visa categories differ in risk and residency obligations.

Questions about eligibility and applications, as well as the impact of this new programme on individuals and organisations, should be directed to a qualified immigration adviser or a member of the immigration team with KPMG in New Zealand (see the Contacts section).

FOOTNOTE:

1 Immigration New Zealand (INZ), "[Active Investor Plus Visa](#) Overview," published on 29 September 2025.

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Contact Us

For additional information or assistance, please contact your local GMS or People Services professional* or one of the following professionals with the KPMG International member firm in Australia*:



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* Please note the KPMG International member firm in the United States does not provide immigration or labour law services. However, KPMG Law LLP in Canada can assist clients with U.S. immigration matters.

+ Please also note that the KPMG International member firm in Australia is currently providing New Zealand immigration services.

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