



Country profile – Iran

Population

As at the end of June 2016, 55,650 Iranian-born people were living in Australia, 98.0 per cent more than the number at 30 June 2006. This is equivalent to 0.8 per cent of Australia's overseas-born population and 0.2 per cent of Australia's total population.

For Australia's Iranian-born migrants:

- The median age of 36.8 years was 0.6 years below that of the general population.
- Males outnumbered females—52.6 per cent compared with 47.4 per cent.

Permanent migration

Australia's permanent Migration Program incorporates economic and family migration and is the main pathway to permanent residence. The only other pathway for permanent residence is on humanitarian grounds. It includes the Skill stream, Family stream and Special Eligibility visas. Child visas now sit outside the Migration Program.

Skill stream visas

Workers with the skills, qualifications and entrepreneurship most needed in the Australian economy would enter in the Skill stream. The Skill stream comprises four components. The largest is Points Tested Skilled Migration, followed by Employer Sponsored visas, Business Innovation and Investment visas in addition, a small number of Distinguished Talent visas.

Family stream

The Family stream allows the permanent migration of close family members, of Australian citizens, permanent residents, and eligible New Zealand citizens. It focuses on partners and parents, but also provides the opportunity for additional family members, such as aged dependent relatives, carers, remaining relatives and orphan relatives, to join their family in Australia.

Special Eligibility visas

Special Eligibility visas allow former residents and certain people who served in the Australian Defence Force to live in Australia as permanent residents.

Child visas

Child visas sit outside the managed Migration Program. Grants of these visas do not count against the planned levels for the Family stream. The Child visa category comprises Child and Adoption visas, with Orphan Relative being removed from this visa category from 2015–16.

Table 1: Permanent migrant places granted, 2012–13 to 2016–17

Migration category	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	% change 2015–16 to 2016–17
Skilled migration (points tested)						
Skilled Regional	162	102	64	51	52	2.0
Skilled Independent	734	837	1,419	970	1,019	5.1
State/Territory Nominated	509	404	1,353	466	488	4.7
Skilled migration (non-points tested)						
Business Innovation and Investment	194	274	312	339	309	-8.8
Distinguished Talent	< 5	< 5	0	5	0	-100
Employer Sponsored	188	186	202	176	226	28.4
Total: Skilled visa places granted	1,788	1,807	3,350	2,007	2,094	4.3
Skilled visas as a proportion of all permanent visas (%)	79.9	59.1	75.1	68.9	77.0	n/a
Family and Child migration						
Child	15	20	18	30	23	-23.3
Partner	360	350	383	355	289	-18.6
Parent	56	63	35	55	55	0.0
Other Family	14	9	< 5	11	< 5	-90.9
Total: Family and Child visa places granted	445	442	437	451	368	-18.4
Family and Child visas as a proportion of all permanent visas (%)	19.9	14.4	9.8	15.5	13.5	n/a
Special Eligibility						
Special Eligibility	5	< 5	0	0	< 5	n/a
Total places granted	2,238	3,060	4,458	2,913	2,721	-6.6
Humanitarian visas¹						
Offshore resettlement component (country of birth)	468	427	331	337	139	-58.8
Onshore protection component (citizenship)	1,343	382	340	118	118	0.0

Source: Department of Home Affairs

1. Permanent visas record a person's nationality with one exception, the offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program. This program records a person's country of birth.

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Temporary migration

People can come to Australia for a temporary stay for a range of purposes, for example, visiting Australia for tourism or attending a conference, or for more specific purposes, such as medical treatment, study, skilled work, working holidays or other specialist activities.

There are six main categories of temporary residents, which can cover stays of more than three months in Australia.

Visitor visas

Visitor visas are mostly used by people visiting Australia for holidays, tourism and recreation, or to see family and friends. People may also use Visitor visas for certain short-term business activities that do not entail working in Australia.

Working Holiday Maker Program

The Working Holiday Maker Program allows young adults to have an extended holiday in each other's country and engage in short-term work and study.

Student visa

The Student visa program enables international students to come to Australia to study full-time in a registered course.

Other temporary visas

Other temporary visas include visas that allow people to undertake short-term, non-ongoing highly specialised work, enrich social and cultural development, strengthen international relations or provide training opportunities of benefit to Australia.

New Zealand citizens

Under the 1973 Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement, New Zealand citizens can enter and leave Australia freely and live in Australia indefinitely on grant of a Special Category visa (subclass 444).

The following table shows the size and composition of the Student visa program, Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) and Visitors from Iran.

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Table 2: Temporary visas granted by selected categories, 2012–13 to 2016–17

Temporary visa category	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	% change 2015–16 to 2016–17
International Students						
English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students	7	5	7	< 5	9	200.0
Schools	24	16	35	24	46	91.7
Vocational Education and Training	78	54	96	48	56	16.7
Higher Education	926	788	841	637	656	3.0
Postgraduate Research	710	652	631	570	654	14.7
Non-Award	11	6	< 5	12	18	50.0
Foreign Affairs or Defence	0	0	0	0	0	n/a
Total: International Student visa grants	1,756	1,521	1,612	1,294	1,439	11.2
Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457)¹	483	441	405	340	320	-5.9
Visitors						
Tourist	6,861	5,750	7,509	8,672	10,510	21.2
Business visitor	751	483	542	585	805	37.6
Total: Visitor visa grants	7,612	6,233	8,051	9,257	11,315	22.2
Other temporary visa grants	1,435	1,648	1,926	1,654	1,297	-21.6
Total temporary visa grants	11,286	9,843	11,994	12,545	14,371	14.6

Source: Department of Home Affairs

1. Data excludes Temporary Work (Skilled) (Independent Executive) visa.

Main occupations

The following table shows the main occupations for nationals of Iran, based on Points Tested Skilled Migration outcomes and Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) grants.

Table 3: Main occupations, 2012–13 to 2016–17

Period	Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) ¹	No. of migrants	Points Tested Skilled Migration	No. of migrants
2016–17				
	General practitioners and resident medical officers	54	Civil engineering professionals	125
	University lecturers and tutors	32	Industrial, mechanical and production engineers	115
	Software and applications programmers	10	Software and applications programmers	75
	ICT business and systems analysts	< 5	Computer network professionals	67
	Life scientists	< 5	Chemical and materials engineers	60
	Civil engineering draftspersons and technicians	< 5	Other engineering professionals	56
	General managers	< 5	Electrical engineers	49
	Advertising, public relations and sales managers	< 5	Electronics engineers	41
	Corporate services managers	< 5	Civil engineering draftspersons and technicians	31
	Importers, exporters and wholesalers	< 5	Generalist medical practitioners	23
2015–16				
	General practitioners and resident medical officers	64	Industrial, mechanical and production engineers	141
	University lecturers and tutors	28	Civil engineering professionals	128
	Software and applications programmers	11	Software and applications programmers	80
	General managers	8	Chemical and materials engineers	43
	Corporate services managers	5	Other engineering professionals	43
	Cafe and restaurant managers	< 5	Computer network professionals	40
	Computer network professionals	< 5	Electrical engineers	39
	Architectural, building and surveying technicians	< 5	Electronics engineers	33
	ICT support technicians	< 5	Social professionals	22
	Other engineering professionals	< 5	Mining engineers	20

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Table 3: (continued) Main occupations

Period	Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) ¹	No. of migrants	Points Tested Skilled Migration	No. of migrants
2014–15				
	General practitioners and resident medical officers	56	Industrial, mechanical and production engineers	210
	University lecturers and tutors	44	Civil engineering professionals	185
	Software and applications programmers	13	Software and applications programmers	171
	Other medical practitioners	6	Electrical engineers	74
	Electronics engineers	5	Other engineering professionals	67
	Other engineering professionals	< 5	Computer network professionals	65
	Mechanical engineering draftspersons and technicians	< 5	Chemical and materials engineers	52
	General managers	< 5	Mining engineers	52
	Management and organisation analysts	< 5	Electronics engineers	50
	Industrial, mechanical and production engineers	< 5	Generalist medical practitioners	45
2013–14				
	General practitioners and resident medical officers	76	Industrial, mechanical and production engineers	149
	University lecturers and tutors	32	Civil engineering professionals	89
	Contract, program and project administrators	8	Software and applications programmers	88
	Other medical practitioners	7	Electrical engineers	35
	General managers	6	ICT business and systems analysts	34
	Industrial, mechanical and production engineers	6	Other engineering professionals	33
	Advertising and marketing professionals	5	Chemical and materials engineers	32
	Civil engineering professionals	5	Electronics engineers	32
	Advertising, public relations and sales managers	< 5	Computer network professionals	22
	Medical laboratory scientists	< 5	Accountants	19

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Table 3: (continued) Main occupations

Period	Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) ¹	No. of migrants	Points Tested Skilled Migration	No. of migrants
2012–13				
	General practitioners and resident medical officers	85	Industrial, mechanical and production engineers	135
	University lecturers and tutors	31	Civil engineering professionals	109
	Electrical engineers	11	Software and applications programmers	98
	Contract, program and project administrators	11	Other engineering professionals	38
	Software and applications programmers	8	Electrical engineers	36
	Industrial, mechanical and production engineers	6	Chemical and materials engineers	35
	Computer network professionals	5	Electronics engineers	32
	Civil engineering professionals	5	ICT business and systems analysts	30
	Cafe and restaurant managers	< 5	Hairdressers	19
	Other medical practitioners	< 5	Generalist medical practitioners	17

Source: Department of Home Affairs

1. Data excludes Temporary Work (Skilled) (Independent Executive) visa.

Note: Occupation level information is available for primary applicants only, based on Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations unit level data.

Geographic distribution

The following table shows the geographic distribution of migrants, based on permanent additions from the Skill, Family and Humanitarian streams, international student arrivals, and Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) grants.

Permanent additions are the sum of those granted a permanent residency visa while in Australia, and those who applied and granted a visa offshore, who have subsequently entered Australia during the reporting period.

Table 4: Geographic distribution

Population (%)	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT
Census 2016								
Proportion of all persons	32	25	20	7	10	2	1	2
Proportion of Iranian-born	40	29	11	8	10	1	0	1
Permanent additions - 2016–17 (%)								
Humanitarian Program	24	26	14	13	9	14	0	0
Skill stream (primary)	34	38	12	6	8	1	0	2
Skill stream (dependent)	30	43	11	7	8	0	0	1
Family stream	40	25	12	10	10	1	0	2
Temporary migration - 2016–17 (%)								
International student arrivals	33	33	16	5	8	2	0	3
Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) (primary) grants	36	33	16	2	11	0	1	1

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics and Department of Home Affairs

Country ranking

This table uses rankings to show the significance of Iranian migration for the past five financial years.

Table 5: Country ranking, 2012–13 to 2016–17

Ranked position of migrants	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17
Population in Australia ¹	29	28	27	27	28
Points Tested Skilled Migration	13	12	6	11	10
Employer Sponsored	29	30	31	32	29
Total Skill stream	13	13	9	13	13
Total Family and Child stream	29	31	32	29	31
International students	27	27	28	34	33
Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) ²	30	27	30	31	32
Visitors	40	45	41	41	42

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics and Department of Home Affairs

1. Population level data is by country of birth and lags one year behind the financial year specified. Data based on the estimated residential population at 30 June; 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016.

2. Data excludes Temporary Work (Skilled) (Independent Executive) visa.

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