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Department of Home Affairs

Australia's Migration Trends 2021–22 Highlights

Australia's Migration Trends was prepared by:

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Overview

The end of 2021 saw a staged reopening of Australia's international borders to fully vaccinated travellers with the lifting of international travel restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic. This began with Australian citizens and permanent residents, from November 2021, no longer requiring a travel exemption and then international students, skilled migrants, working holiday makers and humanitarian visa holders from mid-December 2021. The borders fully reopening from 21 February 2022.

In the 2021–22 financial year, the Migration Program and Humanitarian Program together delivered 156,863 permanent places, and granted in the same year, almost 2.3 million temporary visas (Table 1). By comparison with the previous financial year, the number of permanent places (including humanitarian visa grants) decreased 5.5 per cent on the 165,999 places delivered, and the number of temporary visas granted increased by 131.1 per cent on the 993,708 granted. Despite the increase in temporary visas, grants remained well below pre-COVID-19 levels, as compared to an annual average of 8.6 million over the three years 2016–17 to 2018–19.

Table 1: Key statistics for 2021–22 financial year

Migration	Total
Permanent migrants	**156,863**
Migration Program outcome	143,556
Skill stream places	89,063
Family stream places	51,288
Special Eligibility stream places	199
Child stream places	3,006
Humanitarian Program visas granted	13,307
Temporary visas granted	**2,296,827**
Visitor visas granted	1,131,890
New Zealand citizen Special Category visas granted	302,226
Crew and Transit visas granted	275,549
Student visas granted	263,737
Temporary Resident (Other Employment) visas granted	160,475
Working Holiday Maker visas granted	97,359
Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted	61,897
Other Temporary visas granted	3,604
Citizenship	**Conferrals**
Conferrals of Australian citizenship	**167,232**

Source data: Department of Home Affairs

Permanent migration

The Migration Program outcome

In 2021–22, the Migration Program outcome delivered 143,556 places—down 10.3 per cent on the 160,052 places in 2020–21. This was comprised of:

- 89,063 Skill stream places
- 51,288 Family stream places
- 199 Special Eligibility places
- 3006 Child stream places.

In 2021–22, the top three nationalities accounted for more than one-third (36.3 per cent) of the places delivered under the Migration Program. These were nationals of:

1. India—24,324 places (16.9 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—18,240 places (12.7 per cent)
3. United Kingdom—9584 places (6.7 per cent).

Growth in 2021–22, was strongest for nationals of:

1. India—up 2533 places (11.6 per cent), from 21,791 places in 2020–21, to 24,324 places
2. Nepal—up 1914 places (40.6 per cent), from 4714 places in 2020–21, to 6628 places
3. New Zealand—443 places (11.1 per cent), from 3978 places in 2020–21, to 4421 places.

Almost two-thirds (63.8 per cent) of migrants that obtained a place in 2021–22, were migrants already in Australia on a temporary visa, with the remaining 36.2 per cent of places going to new arrivals.

Two-thirds (66.6 per cent) of these former temporary visa holders were granted a Skill stream visa, of which more than one-quarter (28.8 per cent) moved directly from a Temporary Work (Skilled Employment) visa.

The 2021–22, Migration Program delivered 46,444 fewer places (24.4 per cent) than a decade earlier, with 190,000 places in 2012–13. This was largely a result of the:

- Skill stream—down 39,910 places (30.9 per cent) on the 128,973 places delivered in 2012–13
- Family stream—down 8897 places (14.8 per cent) on the 60,185 places delivered in 2012–13.

Over the 10 years from 2012–13, large falls were recorded for nationals of the following countries that have consistently ranked in the top four for the Migration Program outcome each year over this period, namely:

1. India—down 15,727 places (39.3 per cent), from 40,051 places in 2012–13, to 24,324 places
2. People's Republic of China—down 9094 places (33.3 per cent), from 27,334 places in 2012–13, to 18,240 places
3. United Kingdom—down 12,127 places (55.9 per cent), from 21,711 places in 2012–13, to 9584 places
4. Philippines—down 2048 places (19.2 per cent), from 10,639 places in 2012–13, to 8591 places.

Although most of the main nationalities recorded falls over this period, solid growth occurred for the following three nationalities:

1. Hong Kong—up 2900 places (216.9 per cent) on the 1337 places in 2012–13
2. Nepal—up 2521 places (61.4 per cent) on the 4107 places in 2012–13
3. Afghanistan—up 1450 places (448.9 per cent) on the 323 places in 2012–13.

Skill stream visas

In 2021–22, there were 89,063 Skill stream places delivered, 9443 more than in 2020–21.
This was comprised of:

- 26,103 Employer Sponsored places
- 19,376 State/Territory Nominated places
- 18,223 Regional places
- 10,496 Business Innovation and Investment places
- 8776 Global Talent (Independent) places
- 5864 Skilled Independent places
- 225 Distinguished Talent places.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for around four-in-ten (40.3 per cent) of all Skill stream places in 2021–22, namely:

1. India—19,581 places (22.0 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—10,277 places (11.5 per cent)
3. Nepal—6048 places (6.8 per cent).

Among the top 10 nationalities, growth in 2021–22, was strongest for nationals of:

- India—up 4119 places (26.6 per cent), from 15,462 places in 2020–21, to 19,581 places
- Nepal—2203 places (57.3 per cent), from 3845 places in 2020–21, to 6048 places
- Vietnam—785 places (28.6 per cent), from 2742 places in 2020–21, to 3527 places.

The Skill stream comprised 62.0 per cent of the Migration Program outcome in 2021–22 (including Child stream visas); by comparison, in 2020–21 the share was 49.7 per cent, which was the lowest proportional share of the Migration Program since 1996–97, when the Skill stream accounted for 47.1 per cent of the total program. In the intervening years, from 2005–06 to 2019–20, this proportion remained relatively constant, averaging at around 67.5 per cent—apart from a modest fall, down to 64.0 per cent in 2009–10, which coincided with the Global Financial Crisis. In the 10 years from 2012–13 to 2021–22, the Skill stream averaged at 65.5 per cent of the Migration Program.

The Skill stream is comprised of primary applicants (the visa holder who satisfies the primary criteria for the grant of a visa) and their accompanying family unit (secondary applicants), such as spouses and children. In 2021–22, of the 89,063 Skill stream places delivered, less than half (46.1 per cent) went to Skill stream primary applicants, who comprised two-sevenths (28.6 per cent) of the total Migration Program outcome.

Employer Sponsored visas

In 2021–22, there were 26,103 Employer Sponsored places delivered, an increase of 11.1 per cent on the 23,503 places delivered in 2020–21.

Nationals of the top three countries accounted for 42.0 per cent of Employer Sponsored places in 2021–22, namely:

1. India—5845 places (22.4 per cent)
2. United Kingdom—2967 places (11.4 per cent)
3. Philippines—2151 places (8.2 per cent).

Growth in 2021–22, was strongest for nationals of:

- India—up 1498 places (34.5 per cent), from 4347 places in 2020–21, to 5845 places
- Vietnam—up 411 places (100.2 per cent), from 410 places in 2020–21, to 821 places
- Philippines—up 319 places (17.4 per cent), from 1832 places in 2020–21, to 2151 places.

Of the 26,103 Employer Sponsored places delivered in 2021–22, 44.9 per cent (11,724 places) were to primary applicants, with the top three nominated occupations accounting for 29.8 per cent of Employer Sponsored primary applicants, namely:

1. Software and Applications Programmer—1492 places (12.7 per cent)
2. Chefs—1074 places (9.2 per cent)
3. Accountants—922 places (7.9 per cent).[1]

State/Territory Nominated

In 2021–22, there were 19,376 State/Territory Nominated places delivered, an increase of 35.8 per cent on the 14,268 places delivered in 2020–21.

Nationals of the top three countries in 2021–22, accounted for more than half (54.5 per cent) of State/Territory Nominated places. These were nationals of:

1. India—5386 places (27.8 per cent)
2. Nepal—2737 places (14.1 per cent)
3. People's Republic of China—2443 places (12.6 per cent).

Among the top 10 nationalities, growth in 2021–22, was strongest for nationals of:

- India—up 1334 places (32.9 per cent), from 4052 places in 2020–21, to 5386 places
- Nepal—up 1068 places (64.0 per cent), from 1669 places in 2020–21, to 2737 places
- Hong Kong—up 332 places (162.0 per cent), from 205 places in 2020–21, to 537 places.

In 2021–22, 59.4 per cent (11,502 places) were to primary applicants, with the top three nominated occupations accounting for 41.8 per cent of State/Territory Nominated primary applicants, namely:

1. Registered Nurses—2859 places (24.9 per cent)
2. Software and Applications Programmer—1277 places (11.1 per cent)
3. Accountants—673 places (5.9 per cent).

Regional migration

In 2021–22, there were 18,223 Regional places delivered, an increase of 34.1 per cent on the 13,585 places delivered in 2020–21.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than half (54.1 per cent) of Regional places, namely:

1. India—5931 places (32.5 per cent)
2. Nepal—2472 places (13.6 per cent)
3. Philippines—1458 places (8.0 per cent).

[1] Occupation level information is only available for Skill stream primary applicants and is based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) Unit Group.

In 2021–22, more than two-thirds (68.2 per cent) of the increase in Regional places (increase of 4638 places) was against nationals of the following countries:

- India—up 1293 places (27.9 per cent) on the 4638 places in 2020–21
- Nepal—up 1274 places (106.3 per cent) on the 1198 places in 2020–21
- Pakistan—up 596 places (78.2 per cent) on the 762 places in 2020–21.

In 2021–22, 46.2 per cent (8428 places) were to primary applicants, with the top three nominated occupations accounting for more than one-third (35.7 per cent) of Regional primary applicants, namely:

1. Accountants—1376 places (16.3 per cent)
2. Registered Nurses—1162 places (13.8 per cent)
3. Enrolled and Mothercraft Nurses—472 places (5.6 per cent).

Business Innovation and Investment visas

In 2021–22, there were 10,496 Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP) visa places delivered, a decrease of 6.3 per cent (702 places) on the 11,198 places delivered in 2020–21. By stream, this was mainly (96.7 per cent) comprised of:

- 6035 Business Innovation places (57.5 per cent)
- 2007 Investor places (19.1 per cent)
- 1437 Significant Business History places (13.7 per cent)
- 673 Significant Investor places (6.4 per cent).

Collectively, the top three nationalities accounted for two-thirds (66.9 per cent) of all BIIP visa places in 2021–22. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—4070 places (38.8 per cent)
2. Iran—1610 places (15.3 per cent)
3. Hong Kong—1340 places (12.8 per cent).

Chinese nationals continued to be the main recipients of BIIP visas, with significantly more BIIP places than any other nationality, and in 2021–22, was mainly comprised of:

- 2546 Business Innovation stream places
- 628 Significant Business History stream places
- 483 Investor stream places
- 324 Significant Investor stream places.

Global Talent (Independent)

The Global Talent Program, introduced on 4 November 2019, offers a streamlined priority visa pathway for highly skilled and talented individuals in selected industries to work and live permanently in Australia.

In 2021–22, there were 8776 Global Talent (Independent) places delivered, a decrease of 8.4 per cent (808 places) on the 9584 places delivered in 2020–21. Of these, 38.4 per cent (3373 places) were to primary applicants.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 40.2 per cent of Global Talent (Independent) places, namely:

1. India—1398 places (15.9 per cent)
2. Hong Kong—1115 places (12.7 per cent)
3. People's Republic of China—1011 places (11.5 per cent).

In 2021–22, among the top 10 nationalities, growth was strongest for nationals of:

- India—up 282 places (25.3 per cent), from 1116 places in 2020–21, to 1398 places
- Hong Kong—up 205 places (22.5 per cent), from 910 places in 2020–21, to 1115 places.

In contrast, nationals of the following countries fell substantially, namely:

- Bangladesh—down 349 places (58.7 per cent) on the 595 places in 2020–21
- Iran—down 340 places (40.0 per cent) on the 850 places in 2020–21.

Skilled Independent

In 2021–22, there were 5864 Skilled Independent places delivered, a decrease of 18.7 per cent on the 7213 places delivered in 2020–21. Of these, 49.0 per cent (2871 places) were to primary applicants.

The Skilled Independent outcome was largely comprised of:

- 3998 New Zealand stream places—up 679 places (20.5 per cent) on the 3319 delivered in 2020–21
- 1839 Points tested places—down 2055 places (52.8 per cent) on the 3894 delivered in 2020–21.

Nationals of the top three countries in 2021–22, accounted for almost eight-in-ten (79.1 per cent) of Skilled Independent places. These were nationals of:

1. New Zealand—3557 places (60.7 per cent)
2. India—699 places (11.9 per cent)
3. People's Republic of China—381 places (6.5 per cent).

Distinguished Talent

In 2021–22, there were 225 Distinguished Talent places delivered, a decrease of 16.4 per cent on the 269 places delivered in 2020–21. Of these, 41.3 per cent (93 places) were to primary applicants.

Nationals of the top three countries in 2021–22, accounted for more than one-third (34.2 per cent) of Distinguished Talent places. These were nationals of:

1. Iran—28 places (12.4 per cent)
2. United States of America—26 places (11.6 per cent)
3. United Kingdom—23 places (10.2 per cent).

Family stream visas

In 2021–22, the Family stream outcome delivered 51,288 places, a decrease of 33.7 per cent on the 77,372 places delivered in 2020–21, but in line with average number of places delivered over the last 10 years. This was comprised of:

- 46,288 Partner places
- 4500 Parent places
- 500 Other Family places.

Nationals of the top three countries in 2021–22, accounted for almost one-third (31.9 per cent) of Family stream places delivered. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—7664 places (14.9 per cent)
2. India—4428 places (8.6 per cent)
3. United Kingdom—4276 places (8.3 per cent).

In 2021–22, among the top 10 nationalities, nationals of Afghanistan were the only nationality to have recorded growth, an increase of 296 places (22.0 per cent) to 1640 places.

In 2021–22, almost one-third (31.8 per cent) of the fall in Family stream places (decrease of 26,084 places) was against nationals of the following countries:

- Philippines—down 2995 places (47.6 per cent) on the 6296 places in 2020–21
- United Kingdom—down 2666 places (38.4 per cent) on the 6942 places in 2020–21
- People's Republic of China—down 2633 places (25.6 per cent) on the 10,297 places in 2020–21.

Partner visas

In 2021–22, there were 46,288 Partner places delivered, a decrease of 36.0 per cent on the 72,376 places delivered in 2020–21. This was comprised of:

- 43,809 Partner places
- 2479 Fiancé places.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than one-quarter (28.2 per cent) of Partner places in 2021–22. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—5078 places (11.0 per cent)
2. United Kingdom—4027 places (8.7 per cent)
3. India—3954 places (8.5 per cent).

Over the last 10 years, with the exception of Indian nationals in 2012–13, the main source of Partner visa migrants has been from the People's Republic of China.

Parent visas

In 2021–22, there were 4500 Parent visa places delivered. This was the same number of places delivered in 2020–21 and was comprised of:

- 3600 Contributory Parent places
- 900 non-contributory Parent places.

Nationals of the top three countries in 2021–22, accounted for almost three-quarters (73.8 per cent) of Parent places. These were nationals of:

1. People’s Republic of China—2556 places (56.8 per cent)
2. India—462 places (10.3 per cent)
3. Vietnam—301 places (6.7 per cent).

Other Family visas

In 2021–22, there were 500 Other Family visa places delivered, an increase of 0.8 per cent on the 496 places delivered in 2020–21. This was comprised of:

- 265 Orphan Relative places
- 165 Carer places
- 54 Remaining Relative places
- 16 Aged Dependent Relative places.

In 2021–22, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 29.8 per cent of places delivered in this category. These were nationals of:

1. Afghanistan—82 places (16.4 per cent)
2. Ethiopia—34 places (6.8 per cent)
3. Vietnam—33 places (6.6 per cent).

Child stream visas

In 2021–22, there were 3006 Child visa places delivered. This was the same number of places delivered in 2020–21 and was comprised of:

- 2916 Child visas places
- 90 Adoption visas places.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than one-third (36.2 per cent) of places in this category in 2021–22. These were nationals of:

1. Philippines—504 places (16.8 per cent)
2. People’s Republic of China—293 places (9.7 per cent)
3. India—290 places (9.6 per cent).

Special Eligibility visas

In 2021–22, there were 199 Special Eligibility places delivered, an increase of 268.5 per cent on the 54 places delivered in 2020–21.

Nationals of the top three countries in 2021–22, accounted for more than four-in-ten (44.2 per cent) of Special Eligibility places delivered, namely:

- Philippines—38 places (19.1 per cent)
- India and United Kingdom—25 places each (12.6 per cent each).

Change of status—permanent visa places by last visa held where the applicant is in Australia

In 2021–22, there were 91,644 permanent places delivered to applicants in Australia on temporary visas, a decrease of 15.1 per cent on the 107,997 places delivered in 2020–21.

Almost three-quarters (73.8 per cent) were to former holders of:

- Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa—26,418 places (28.8 per cent)
- Student visa—21,922 places (23.9 per cent)
- Temporary Graduate visa—19,305 places (21.1 per cent).

Growth was strong among former visa holders of:

- Temporary Graduate visa—up 2011 places (11.6 per cent) on the 17,294 places in 2020–21
- Special Category visa—up 534 places (15.1 per cent) on the 3548 places in 2020–21.

Of note was the fall in permanent places to former visa holders of a:

- Visitor visa—down 10,827 places (46.8 per cent) on the 23,155 places in 2020–21
- Working Holiday Maker visa—down 3135 places (49.0 per cent) on the 6396 places in 2020–21
- Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa—down 2876 places (9.8 per cent) on the 29,294 places delivered in 2020–21.

Students moving onto permanent residence whilst in Australia

In 2021–22, the number of permanent places obtained by former international students in Australia who transitioned directly from a Student visa was 21,922 places, a decrease of 5.9 per cent on the 23,292 places delivered in 2020–21.

Despite the number of Student visa grants having increased between 2012–13 and 2018–19, the overall trend during this period in former international Students directly transitioning to a permanent visa was downward and averaged 18,447 places each year. During the COVID-19 pandemic, from 2019–20 to 2021–22, this downward trend reversed with the number of places obtained by former international Students having increased overall and averaged over this period 20,601 places each year.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than one-third (36.0 per cent) of these places in 2021–22. These were nationals of:

1. India—3353 places (15.3 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—2907 places (13.3 per cent)
3. Nepal—1638 places (7.5 per cent).

Growth among the top 10 nationalities in 2021–22 was strongest for nationals of:

- India—up 1018 places (43.6 per cent) on the 2335 places in 2020–21
- Nepal—up 550 places (50.6 per cent) on the 1088 places in 2020–21.

Of these 21,922 former international students:

- 11,091 places were within the Skill stream, comprised of:
  - 4408 Regional places
  - 3934 State/Territory Nominated places
  - 1109 Employer Sponsored places
  - 936 Global Talent (Independent) places
  - 461 Business Innovation and Investment Program places
  - 197 Skilled Independent places
  - 46 Distinguished Talent places.
- 10,813 places were within the Family stream, comprised of:
  - 10,776 Partner places
  - 21 Parent places
  - 16 Other Family places.
- 18 places were within Special Eligibility.

Humanitarian Program

In 2021–22, there were 13,307 visas granted under the Humanitarian Program. This included 11,545 visas granted under the offshore (resettlement) component of the program to people affected by humanitarian crises around the world, and 1762 visas granted under the onshore (protection) component of the program.

Offshore resettlement component

The 11,545 visas granted in 2021–22, under the offshore resettlement component of the program represented 86.8 per cent of all places. This was comprised of:

- 7233 Refugee visas granted (62.7 per cent)
- 4312 Special Humanitarian visas granted (37.3 per cent).

Nationals of the top three countries in 2021–22, accounted for more than three-quarters (78.7 per cent) of visas granted through the offshore resettlement component. These were nationals of:

1. Afghanistan—5326 grants (46.1 per cent)
2. Iraq—2111 grants (18.3 per cent)
3. Myanmar—1645 grants (14.2 per cent).

In 2021–22, half (50.2 per cent) of all visas granted under the offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program went to females. During this time, the Government continued its commitment to resettling highly vulnerable women and children with 897 visas granted (7.8 per cent of the delivered program) to vulnerable women and their families. Since the establishment of the Woman at Risk visa in 1989, there have been more than 27,400 visas granted to vulnerable women and their dependants.

Onshore protection component

In 2021–22, there were 15,874 Protection visa applications lodged—an increase of 12.2 per cent on the 14,146 lodged the previous year. This comprised 10,564 Protection visa applications and 5310 Temporary Protection visa and Safe Haven Enterprise visa applications.

In addition to the 1762 Permanent Protection visas granted under the onshore component in 2021–22, there were:

- 1782 Temporary Humanitarian Concern visas granted to Ukrainian nationals in response to the military conflict in Ukraine
- 1169 Safe Haven Enterprise visas granted—a five-year temporary visa
- 293 Temporary Protection visas granted—a three-year temporary visa.[2]

Final grant rates for Permanent Protection visas in 2021–22 varied widely. The top three countries of citizenship for Permanent Protection visa grants in 2021–22 were:

1. Iran—218 grants; final grant rate of 80.7 per cent
2. People's Republic of China—149 grants; final grant rate of 3.8 per cent
3. Pakistan—140 grants; final grant rate of 52.6 per cent.

Temporary visa grants

In 2021–22, there were 2,296,827 temporary visas granted, an increase of 131.1 per cent on the 993,708 visas granted the previous year. Of these, 1,131,890 (49.3 per cent) were Visitor visa grants, 302,226 (13.2 per cent) were Special Category visa grants, 275,549 (12.0 per cent) were Crew and Transit visa grants, and 263,737 (11.5 per cent) were Student visa grants.

Visitor visa grants

In 2021–22, there were 1,131,890 Visitor visas granted, an increase of 964,314 grants on the 167,576 visas granted in 2020–21. Of these, more than nine-in-ten (97.3 per cent) were granted to people who were outside Australia, by comparison, in 2020–21, due to border restrictions in place as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, just over half (54.5 per cent) of Visitor visas were granted to people already in Australia on a temporary visa.

By visa type, the number of Visitor visas granted in 2021–22 was comprised of:

- 1,011,787 tourist visa grants
- 120,103 business visitor visa grants.

[2] SHEVs and TPVs are not included in overall Humanitarian Program numbers as these visas are managed outside of the program. These numbers include grants of initial and subsequent SHEVs and TPVs.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 40.5 per cent of people granted a Visitor visa in 2021–22, namely:

1. India—200,325 grants (17.7 per cent)
2. United Kingdom—160,841 grants (14.2 per cent)
3. United States of America—97,628 grants (8.6 per cent).

In 2021–22, more than half (52.3 per cent) of the increase in Visitor visa grants (increase of 964,314 grants) was against nationals of the following countries:

- India—up 170,823 grants on the 29,502 grants in 2020–21
- United Kingdom—up 151,812 grants on the 9029 grants in 2020–21
- United States of America—up 91,305 grants on the 6323 grants in 2020–21
- Singapore—up 90,215 grants on the 5614 grants in 2020–21.

Tourist visas and business visitor visas can be analysed by visa sub-type to identify where growth is occurring within these visa types.

In 2021–22, Visitor visas granted by type for the purpose of:

- tourism, increased by 896,293 grants on the 115,494 granted in 2020–21, a result of:
    - Tourist—up 868,781 grants to 983,358 grants
    - Sponsored Family—up 27,506 grants to 28,423 grants
    - Approved Destination Status (ADS)—no visas granted in both of 2020–21 and 2021–22, compared to 107,219 grants in 2019–20
    - Frequent Traveller—six grants, no visas granted in 2020–21, compared to 1577 grants in 2019–20.
- business, increased by 68,021 grants on the 52,082 granted in 2020–21, a result of:
    - Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Visitor—down 8941 grants to 34,385 grants
    - Business Visitor (excludes APEC)—up 76,962 grants to 85,718 grants.

During the 10 years from 2012–13 to 2021–22, before the COVID-19 pandemic, Visitor visa grants were increasing each year (up to 2018–19) and were up 51.6 per cent (1,935,678 grants) to 5,686,318 grants on the 3,750,640 grants in 2012–13. In contrast, with the closure of international borders due to COVID, over the 10 years to 2021–22, Visitor visa grants fell significantly, and were down 69.8 per cent (2,618,750 grants), a result of:

- tourist visas—down 2,275,298 grants (69.2 per cent) on the 3,287,085 grants in 2012–13, with:
    - Tourist—down 2,122,101 grants (68.3 per cent) on the 3,105,459 grants in 2012–13
    - Sponsored Family—up 10,691 grants (60.3 per cent) on the 17,732 grants in 2012–13
    - Frequent Traveller—introduced in 2016–17, since then there have been 16,697 grants
    - Approved Destination Status (ADS)—no visas granted in 2021–22, compared to 163,894 grants in 2012–13.
- business visitor visas—down 343,452 grants (74.1 per cent) on the 463,555 grants in 2012–13, with:
    - APEC Business Visitor—down 19,410 grants (36.1 per cent) on the 53,795 grants in 2012–13
    - Business Visitor (excludes APEC)—down 324,042 grants (79.1 per cent) on the 409,760 grants in 2012–13.

New Zealand citizen Special Category visa grants

In 2021–22, there were 302,226 Special Category visas granted to New Zealand citizens—up 111.3 per cent (159,203 grants) on the 143,023 granted in 2020–21.

Between 2012–13 and 2016–17, Special Category visa grants increased each year and were up 12.7 per cent (216,411 grants) to 1,921,561 grants in 2016–17. In contrast, Special Category visa grants during the period, 2012–13 to 2021–22, fell 82.3 per cent (1,402,924 grants) on the 1,705,150 granted in 2012–13.

Student visa grants

In 2021–22, there were 263,737 Student visas granted, an increase of 13.3 per cent (30,987 grants) on the 232,750 visas granted in 2020–21. Of these, 41.0 per cent of Student visa grants were to people already in Australia on a temporary visa (108,038 grants).

By reporting category, the number of Student visas granted in 2021–22 was comprised of:

- 150,597 Higher Education grants
- 73,557 Vocational Education and Training (VET) grants
- 16,511 Independent ELICOS grants[3]
- 8806 Postgraduate Research grants
- 7259 Non-Award grants
- 4051 Schools grants
- 2956 Foreign Affairs of Defence grants.

There were increases recorded across all reporting categories in 2021–22, when compared to the previous year, with the exception of the following reporting categories:

- VET—down 6057 grants (7.6 per cent) on the 79,614 grants in 2020–21
- Postgraduate Research—down 285 grants (3.1 per cent) on the 9091 grants in 2020–21.

Nationals of the top three countries accounted for almost half (48.1 per cent) of Student visas granted in 2021–22. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—53,629 grants (20.3 per cent)
2. India—42,627 grants (16.2 per cent)
3. Nepal—30,667 grants (11.6 per cent).

During the 10 years from 2012–13, the annual number of Student visas granted increased 1.7 per cent. Offsetting any of the decreases that occurred over this period among the reporting categories was growth in:

- Higher Education—up 23,328 grants (18.3 per cent) on the 127,269 grants in 2012–13
- VET—up 14,994 grants (25.6 per cent) on the 58,563 grants in 2012–13.

[3] ELICOS—English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students.

An analysis of nationals of the top five countries for Student visa grants, over this same 10-year period has identified that only nationals from India and Nepal maintained growth in the number of Student visas granted, namely:

1. People's Republic of China—down 386 grants on the 54,015 grants in 2012–13
2. India—up 17,819 grants on the 24,808 grants in 2012–13
3. Nepal—up 23,555 on the 7112 grants in 2012–13
4. Vietnam—down 1482 grants on the 10,725 grants in 2012–13
5. Brazil—down 2014 grants on the 10,682 grants in 2012–13.

Working Holiday Maker visa grants

In 2021–22, there were 97,359 Working Holiday Maker visas granted, an increase of 145.9 per cent (57,773 grants) on the 39,586 visas granted in 2020–21. This was the first increase since the program peaked in 2012–13, with 258,248 visas granted.

This was comprised of:

- 79,896 Working Holiday visa grants
- 17,463 Work and Holiday visa grants.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 41.8 per cent of all Working Holiday Maker visa grants in 2021–22. These were nationals of:

1. United Kingdom—20,090 grants (20.6 per cent)
2. Ireland—10,491 grants (10.8 per cent)
3. France—10,087 grants (10.4 per cent).

In 2021–22, there were 160,889 fewer Working Holiday Maker visas granted than a decade earlier, in 2012–13 (258,248 grants). This comprised:

- Working Holiday visa—down 169,335 grants (67.9 per cent) on the 249,231 granted in 2012–13
- Work and Holiday visa—up 8446 grants (93.7 per cent) on the 9017 granted in 2012–13.

Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa grants

In 2021–22, there were 61,987 Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted, an increase of 43.5 per cent on the 43,195 visas granted in 2020–21. This was comprised of:

- 32,062 visa grants to primary applicants
    - 17,686 granted to applicants in Australia
    - 14,376 granted to applicants outside Australia.
- 29,925 visa grants to secondary applicants
    - 11,478 granted to applicants in Australia
    - 18,447 granted to applicants outside Australia.

In 2021–22, there were 64,370 fewer Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted than a decade earlier, in 2012–13 (126,357 grants).[4] This was comprised of:

- primary applicants—down 36,423 grants (53.2 per cent) on the 68,485 grants in 2012–13
- secondary applicants—down 27,947 grants (48.3 per cent) on the 57,872 grants in 2012–13.

By client location over this same period, this decrease comprised:

- visas granted outside Australia—down 39,708 grants (54.7 per cent) on the 72,531 grants in 2012–13
- visas granted in Australia—down 24,662 grants (45.8 per cent) on the 53,826 grants in 2012–13.

Primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa grants

In 2021–22, there were 32,062 visas granted to primary applicants, an increase of 38.4 per cent on the 23,158 granted in 2020–21.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for half (50.0 per cent) of these primary visas granted in 2021–22, namely:

1. India—8933 grants (27.9 per cent)
2. United Kingdom—4102 grants (12.8 per cent)
3. Philippines—2995 grants (9.3 per cent).

The top three sponsor industries accounted for almost half (47.3 per cent) of primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted in 2021–22. These were:

1. Professional Scientific and Technical Services—5592 grants (17.4 per cent)
2. Information Media and Telecommunications—5153 grants (16.1 per cent)
3. Health Care and Social Assistance—4420 grants (13.8 per cent).

Driving most of the growth (50.3 per cent) in primary visa grants were the following two sponsor industries:

- Other Services—up 2317 grants (126.8 per cent) on the 1827 grants in 2020–21
- Professional Scientific and Technical Services—up 2159 grants (62.9 per cent) on the 3433 grants in 2020–21.

In 2021–22, the top three nominated occupations accounted for 20.1 per cent of primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa applications granted. These were:

1. Software Engineer—2969 grants (9.3 per cent)
2. Chef—1988 grants (6.2 per cent)
3. Resident Medical Officer—1500 grants (4.7 per cent).

Overall, almost three-quarters (74.2 per cent) of primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted in 2021–22, were granted to applicants who had previously held a visa—23,802 grants.

Collectively, the top three categories, by previously visa held, accounted for 54.4 per cent of primary visas granted in 2021–22, namely:

1. Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)—10,749 grants (33.5 per cent)
2. Visitor—3771 grants (11.8 per cent)
3. Temporary Graduate—2920 grants (9.1 per cent).

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[4] Excludes a small number of visas granted in 2012–13 under the defunct Subclass 457 Independent Executive visa.

In 2021–22, of the 32,062 visas granted to primary applicants, 17,686 (55.2 per cent) were to people already in Australia. By last visa held, the top three categories accounted for more than eight-in-ten (83.3 per cent) of primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted in Australia in 2021–22. These were:

1. Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)—9432 grants (53.3 per cent)
2. Temporary Graduate—2795 grants (15.8 per cent)
3. Student—2514 grants (14.2 per cent).

Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) intra-company transfers

Intra-company transfers, also known as intra-corporate transfers or posted workers, are movements of employees in the same company, transferred temporarily to a different country, to provide services for a limited period.

In 2021–22, there were 4031 Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted for an intra-company transfer, an increase of 19.0 per cent on the 3387 visas granted in 2020–21.

Primary applicants accounted for 45.7 per cent (1841) of these visa grants, and increased 21.0 per cent on the 1521 visas granted in 2020–21.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 44.6 per cent of primary intra-company transfer visas granted in 2021–22. These were nationals of:

1. Japan—449 grants (24.4 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—230 grants (12.5 per cent)
3. India—142 grants (7.7 per cent).

In 2021–22, the top three sponsor industries accounted for 45.7 per cent of Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) primary intra-company transfer visa grants. These were:

1. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services—445 grants (24.2 per cent)
2. Financial and Insurance Services—222 grants (12.1 per cent)
3. Information Media and Telecommunications—175 grants (9.5 per cent).

In 2021–22, the top three nominated occupations in this category accounted for more than one-quarter (26.6 per cent) of Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) primary intra-company transfer visa grants. These were:

1. Corporate General Manager—187 grants (10.2 per cent)
2. Chief Executive or Managing Director—161 grants (8.7 per cent)
3. Sales and Marketing Manager—142 grants (7.7 per cent).

Post-study work—Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485) grants

In 2021–22, there were 63,786 Temporary Graduate visas granted.[5] This was an increase of 19.8 per cent on the 53,236 granted the previous year.

[5] A temporary visa (only available to recently graduated international students) that includes work rights.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for almost two-thirds (64.1 per cent) of Temporary Graduate visa grants in 2021–22, namely:

1. India—24,629 grants (38.6 per cent)
2. Nepal—9303 grants (14.6 per cent)
3. People's Republic of China—6982 grants (10.9 per cent).

Growth in the number of visas grants (10,550) in 2021–22 was largely due to increases in the number of grants to nationals of:

- India—up 7577 grants (44.4 per cent) on the 17,052 grants in 2020–21
- People's Republic of China—up 1095 grants (18.6 per cent) on the 5887 grants in 2020–21.

Of the 63,786 visas granted in 2021–22, 54,730 were in the Post-Study Work stream and 9056 were in the Graduate Work stream.

Temporary visa holders in Australia

At 30 June 2022, 1,929,413 people were in Australia on a temporary visa—an increase of 240,713 people (14.3 per cent) on the 1,688,700 at 30 June 2021.

This was comprised of holders of the following visa types:

- 668,273 Special Category
- 357,919 Student
- 344,832 Bridging
- 219,607 Visitor
- 165,814 Temporary Resident (Other Employment)
- 94,573 Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)
- 40,912 Working Holiday Maker
- 20,774 Temporary Protection
- 12,969 Crew and Transit
- 3740 Other Temporary.

Most of the increase in temporary visa holders at 30 June 2022 was due to increases in the number of:

- Visitor visa holders—up 178,797 (438.1 per cent) on the 40,810 at 30 June 2021
- Temporary Resident (Other Employment) visa holders—up 34,535 (26.3 per cent) on the 131,279 at 30 June 2021
- Bridging visa holders—up 34,072 (11.0 per cent) on the 310,760 at 30 June 2021.

Collectively, the top three nationalities accounted for more than half (56.6 per cent) of all temporary visa holders in Australia at 30 June 2022. These were nationals of:

1. New Zealand—668,419 people (34.6 per cent)
2. India—283,909 people (14.7 per cent)
3. People's Republic of China—140,416 people (7.3 per cent).

Of note were increases for the number of nationals in Australia on a temporary visa at 30 June 2022, for the following three countries:

1. India—up 77,442 people (37.5 per cent) on the 206,467 at 30 June 2021
2. Nepal—up 20,597 people (25.5 per cent) on the 80,835 at 30 June 2021
3. People's Republic of China—up 12,928 people (10.1 per cent) on the 127,488 at 30 June 2021.

Visa non-compliance

In 2021–22, there were 25,064 visa cancellations, a decrease of 6.2 per cent on the 26,715 visa cancellations in 2020–21.[6] More than eight-in-ten (84.7 per cent) of visa cancellations in 2021–22 were either Student visas (63.0 per cent) or temporary resident visas (21.7 per cent).

Nationals of the top three countries accounted for 43.7 per cent of visa cancellations in 2021–22. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—6985 visa cancellations (27.9 per cent)
2. India—2569 visa cancellations (10.2 per cent).
3. United Kingdom—1409 visa cancellations (5.6 per cent).

Non-citizens who do not hold a valid visa and do not make suitable arrangements to depart Australia are subject to removal. There were 8381 departures (returns and removals) from Australia in 2021–22, down 22.7 per cent on the 10,848 departures in 2020–21.[7] This was comprised of:

- 7128 Returns from the community
- 1253 Removals from onshore immigration detention.

The majority of assisted or managed departures were for those that arrived on a Visitor visa (39.2 per cent) or those that arrived on a Student visa (25.7 per cent).

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than one-quarter (27.8 per cent) of all departures. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—920 departures (11.0 per cent)
2. India—892 departures (10.6 per cent)
3. Vietnam—522 departures (6.2 per cent).

Australian citizenship

In 2021–22, 167,232 people were conferred Australian citizenship, an increase of 18.8 per cent on the 140,748 conferrals in 2020–21 (Figure 1).

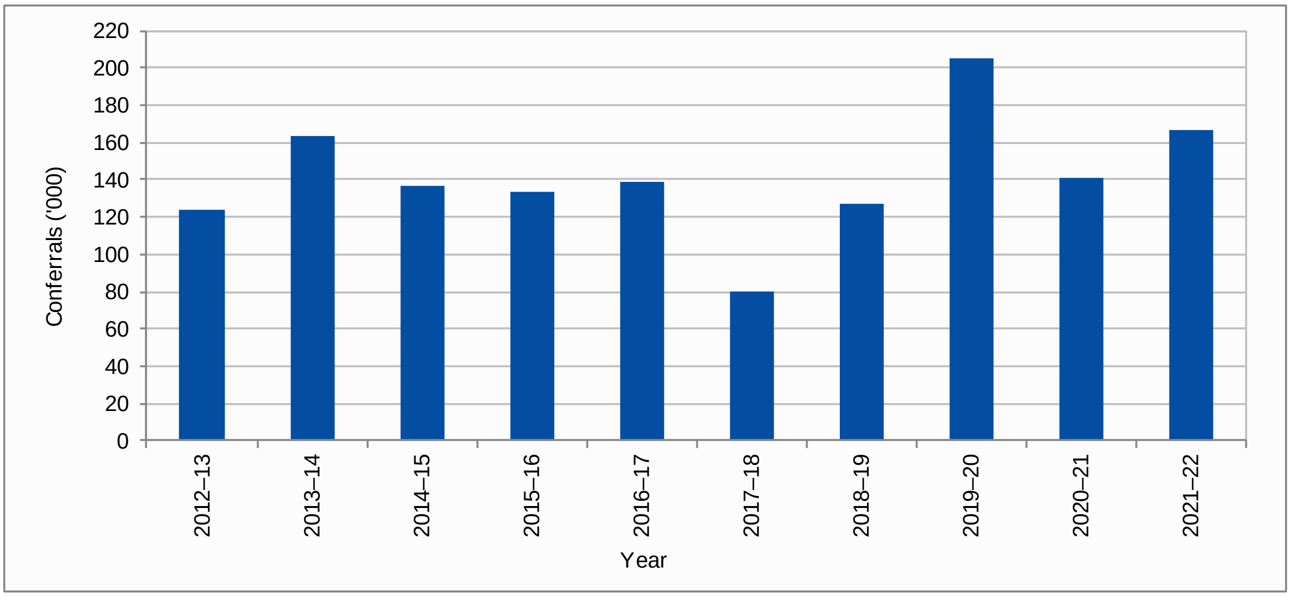
[6] Includes s501 visa cancellations. A large proportion of visa cancellations are voluntary, with non-citizens requesting cancellation of their temporary visa. For example, when a person holding a Temporary Work visa has departed Australia at the end of their contract and no longer requires their visa or is seeking to access their superannuation entitlements accrued while working in Australia.

[7] Figures may differ from those previously published due to revisions undertaken at the commencement of the program year.

Collectively, the top three countries of former citizenship accounted for more than one-third (36.2 per cent) of all conferrals in 2021–22. These were:

1. India—30,160 conferrals (18.0 per cent)
2. United Kingdom—19,259 conferrals (11.5 per cent)[8]
3. Philippines—11,156 conferrals (6.7 per cent).

Figure 1: Conferrals of Australian citizenship, 2012–13 to 2021–22



Source data: Department of Home Affairs

Net overseas migration and population growth

Natural increase and net overseas migration (NOM) are the two components that drive population growth in Australia. Natural increase measures the excess of births over deaths. NOM is a measure of the net gain or loss of population through migration into and from Australia.[9] The main determinants of changes in NOM are the annual number of arrivals and departures of migrants on temporary visas, and Australia's planned permanent migration programs (Migration Program and Humanitarian Program).

[8] Includes Isle of Man.

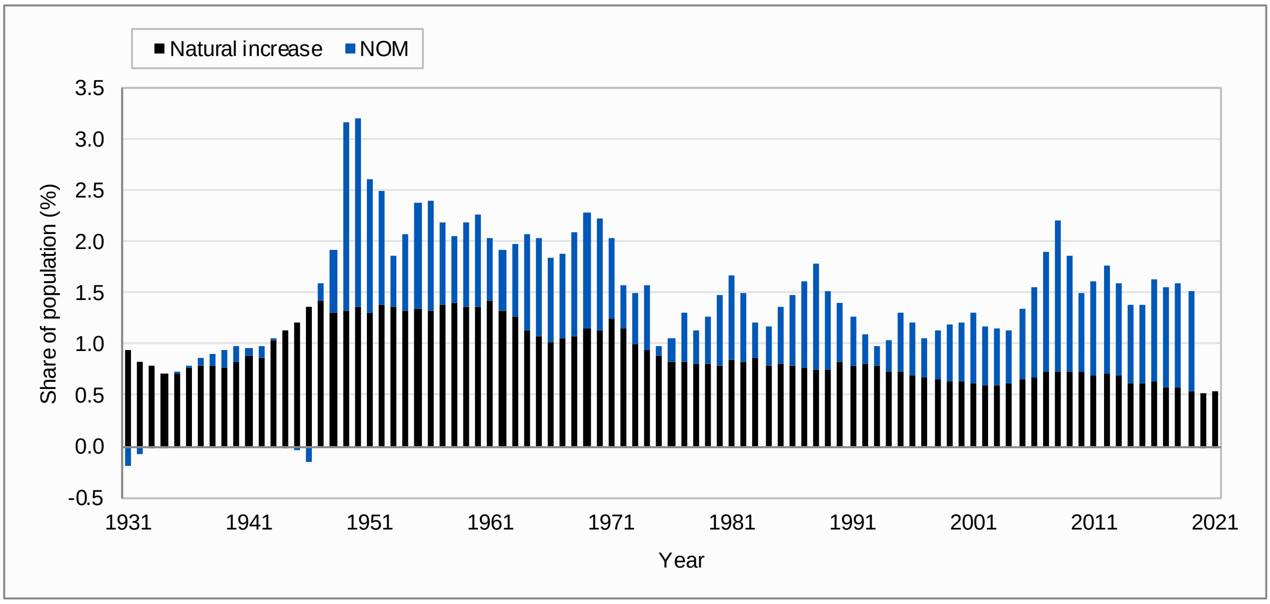
[9] NOM is based on an international traveller's duration of stay (this includes Australian citizens, permanent residents and long-term visitors). Specifically, those international travellers who had been in Australia for at least 12 months out of the past 16 months. The requirement for migrants counted under NOM to have resided in (or been absent from) Australia for a certain length of time, enables NOM to form part of annual estimates of population—officially measured as the 'estimated resident population' by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

In the 15 years from 2005 to 2019, NOM accounted for more than half the increase in Australia's population (Figure 2). From 2020, with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, NOM as a proportion of population has fallen significantly with the 2021 ABS estimate of preliminary NOM down 101.5 per cent on 2019, to negative 3600 people an increase of 1400 people on 2020.[10] In the decade to December 2021, NOM accounted for 55.3 per cent of the 3.2 million increase in the population, to 25.8 million people. Consequently, the share of Australia's overseas-born population rose from 26.9 per cent (June 2011) to 29.1 per cent (June 2021).[11]

As shown in Figure 2, NOM's share of population, reached its peak in the first few years that followed the end of World War II, and in 1949 was 1.9 per cent. By 1975, the share of population had fallen to 0.1 per cent. NOM peaked for the year ending December 2008 at 315,700 people, a population share of 1.5 per cent. By comparison, NOM's share of population for 2021 was -0.01 per cent due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, that is, NOM, being negative, slightly reduced the growth in population, as opposed to NOM typically substantially adding to it.

Prior to the pandemic, an analysis of NOM over the 10-year period for the year ending December 2010, to the year ending December 2019, identified that NOM was largely affected by rapid increases in international student numbers (since 2012) and more recently Visitors (since 2016).

Figure 2: Components of Australia's population growth as a share of population, 1931 to 2021



Source data: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2019, Historical population and ABS, 2022, National, state and territory population.

[10] NOM estimates cannot be finalised until 16 months after the reference period, as such, preliminary estimates of NOM are subject to revision and may differ from statistics previously published.

[11] Latest data available at time of this report is, as at June 2021: ABS, Australia's Population by Country of Birth.

Labour market outcomes

The importance of migration in our labour market

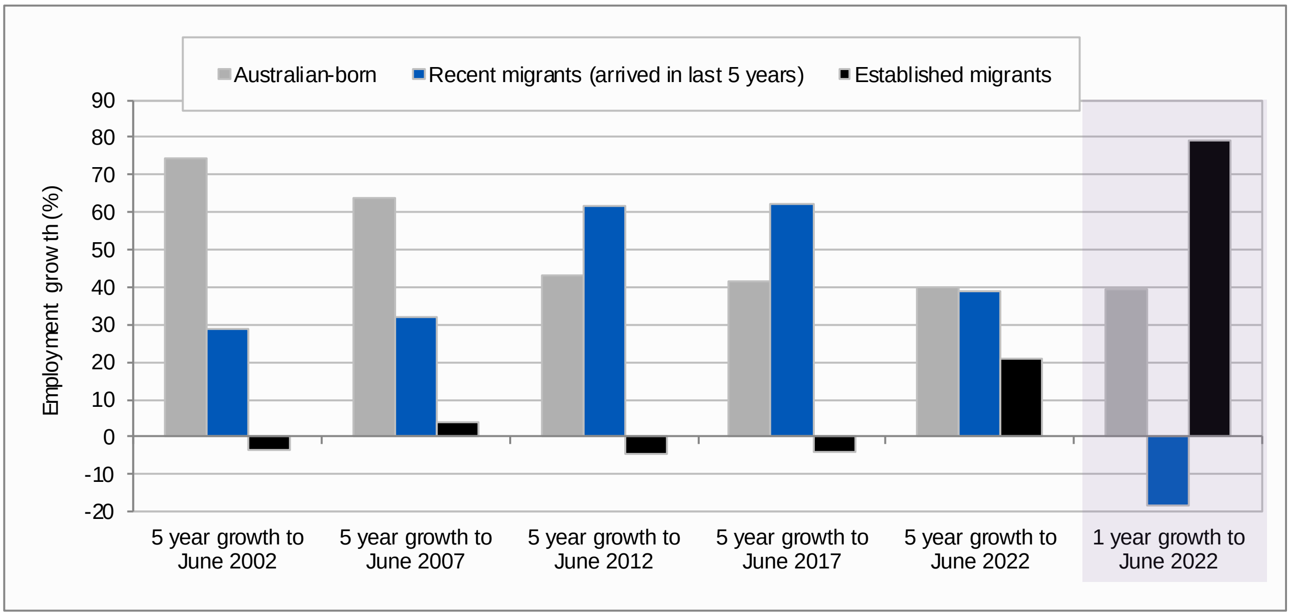
Migration is an important component of workforce growth, with new migrants the main contributors to employment growth in the Australian workforce. Over the past two decades, migration has increasingly underpinned employment growth.

In the five years leading up to June 2002, new migrants (those who arrived in the preceding five years) accounted for 29.0 per cent of total growth in jobs, whereas Australian-born accounted for 74.4 per cent and established migrants –3.4 per cent (that is, their exiting of the workforce pulled employment growth down). Since then the impact of newly arriving migrants on growth in jobs has increased.

At June 2022, Australia's workforce stood at more than 13.6 million, which was 11.1 per cent more than five years earlier in June 2017. New migrants accounted for 38.8 per cent of these additional jobs, whereas Australian-born accounted for 40.1 per cent and established migrants 21.1 per cent (Figure 3).

Between June 2021 and June 2022, employment increased by 432,600. The Australian-born accounted for 39.4 per cent of this increase in employment, whereas established migrants accounted for 78.9 per cent and new migrants for -18.3 per cent.

Figure 3: Contribution of migration to employment growth, as at June of 2002 to 2022



Source data: ABS, July 2022, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, LM7 cube

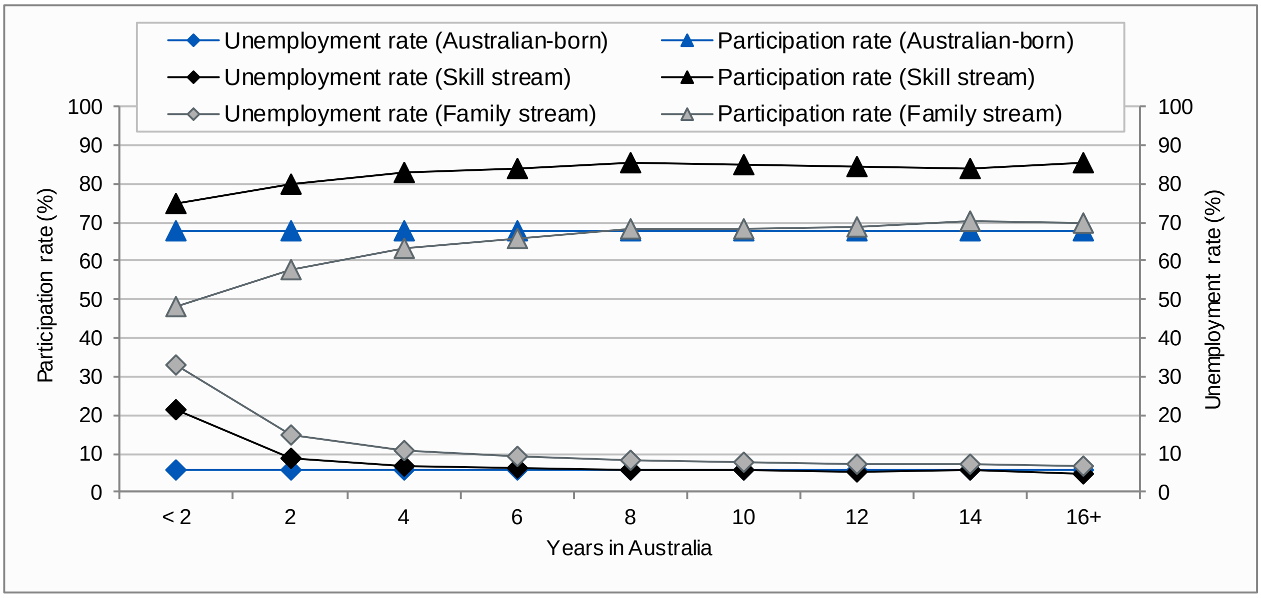
One of the main reasons new migrants make a strong contribution to workforce growth is that their overall numbers entering the workforce exceed that for Australian-born. In absolute terms, the effect of ageing on the Australian-born population means that in the decade to June 2022, the net increase of migrants in the workforce (up by more than 1.3 million) was almost 1.5 times greater (45.5 per cent) than for the Australian-born (up 0.9 million).

In addition, new migrants have high rates of employment as discussed below, which further ads to the impact they have on workforce growth.[12] This is despite the offsetting factor; that it takes some time for new migrants to settle into the Australian labour market and for their participation rate and unemployment rate to improve.

The higher rates of employment for migrants are more pronounced for migrants selected on the basis of their skills and qualifications (Skill stream migrants as opposed to Family stream migrants) (Figure 4). Based on labour market outcomes at the time of the 2016 Census (of primary and secondary visa holders combined):

- the most recent of arrivals (those who arrived between 2015 and August 2016) had potentially not yet adjusted to the labour market, and had a high unemployment rate:
  - o 21.3 per cent for Skill stream migrants
  - o 32.8 per cent for Family stream migrants.
- unemployment rates and participation rates improve rapidly in the first few years of living in Australia, and then more slowly, with improvements in:
  - o unemployment rate, of:
    - 14.5 percentage points for Skill stream migrants in the first 4 years, and a further 1.2 percentage points over the following 10 years
    - 22.1 percentage points for Family stream migrants in the first 4 years, and a further 3.6 percentage points in the following 10 years.
  - o participation rate, of:
    - 8.4 percentage points for Skill stream migrants in the first 4 years, and a further 0.9 percentage points over the following 10 years
    - 15.0 percentage points for Family stream migrants in the first 4 years, and a further 7.3 percentage points in the following 10 years.

Figure 4: Unemployment and participation rates at the time of the 2016 Census, by time in Australia



Source data: ABS, Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset, 2016

[12] See section: "Outcomes for recently arrived Skill stream and Family stream migrants".

The influence of migration on the demographic composition of Australia is what underpins its impact on the Australian labour market, with changes in this demographic composition largely reflected by the ageing of the population. For example, between 2001–02 and 2021–22, the annual average labour force participation rate for Australia increased by 2.3 percentage points as a result of a combination of the following:

- Migrants **added** 6.2 points—3.0 points added due to the effects of more established young migrants entering the workforce, and 3.2 points added due to an increase in propensity to work
- Australia-born **deducted** 3.9 points—7.8 points deducted due to the effects of an ageing population, and 3.9 points added due to an increase in propensity to work.

Underlying the migrant's contribution to growth in labour force participation over this 20-year period, was increasing levels of migration in the first 11 years, followed by decreasing (but less rapidly) levels over the following 9 years. Between 2001–02 and 2012–13 (initial 11 years), annual Migration Program outcomes increased from 93,054 to 190,000, and Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa grants increased from 33,301 to 126,357, respectively. In the following 9 years, these somewhat decreased to 143,556 and 61,987, respectively, in 2021–22. Correspondingly, over the initial 11 years, the change in the annual average labour force participation rate was 1.7 percentage points, compared to 0.9 percentage points in the following 9 years, reflecting the drop in migration numbers.

Further decomposition revealed that over the pre-COVID-19 period, between 2016–17 and 2018–19, there was a total change in the participation rate of 1.0 percentage points, however, during COVID, the change between 2018–19 and 2020–21 resulted in the total change in the participation rate contracting - 0.3 percentage points. This comprised:

- Migrants **adding** 0.3 points due to an increase in propensity to work
- Australia-born **deducting** 0.6 points—0.7 points deducted due to the effects of an ageing population, or a decision to leave the workforce due to labour market conditions at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, and 0.1 points added due to an increase in propensity to work.

In the most recent period, between 2019–20 and 2021–22, with the impact of COVID lessening and the opening of the borders, there was improvement in Australia's labour market, including that of the labour force participation rate. There was a total increase in the labour force participation rate over this period of 0.5 percentage points (Table 2), comprising:

- Migrants **adding** 1.0 points—0.3 points added due to the effects of more established migrants (35 years of age and over) entering the workforce, and 0.7 points added due to an increase in propensity to work
- Australia-born **deducting** 0.5 points—1.1 points deducted due to the effects of an ageing population, or a decision to leave the workforce due to the labour market conditions that had arisen because of the COVID-19 pandemic, and 0.6 points added due to an increase in propensity to work.

Table 2: Decomposition of Australia's labour-force participation rate between 2019–20 and 2021–22

Age group	Australian-born Male	Australian-born Female	Australian-born Total	Overseas-born Male	Overseas-born Female	Overseas-born Total	Overall Total
Population composition change							
15 - 19	0.0	0.0	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
20 - 24	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.6
25 - 34	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	-0.2	-0.2	-0.3	-0.5
35 - 44	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3
45 - 54	-0.1	-0.2	-0.3	0.1	0.1	0.2	-0.1
55 - 64	-0.1	-0.1	-0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.0
65+	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2
All age groups	-0.5	-0.6	-1.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	-0.8
Propensity to participate change							
15 - 19	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2
20 - 24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2
25 - 34	-0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
35 - 44	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.2
45 - 54	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
55 - 64	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.3
65+	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1
All age groups	0.1	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.5	0.7	1.3
Total change	**-0.4**	**-0.1**	**-0.5**	**0.4**	**0.6**	**1.0**	**0.5**

Source data: ABS, July 2022, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, LM5 cube
Note: Cells less than zero highlighted in red.

It can therefore be seen from Table 3 that, overall, migration bolstered Australia's labour force participation rate through new migrants attaining rates well in excess of that for the resident population.

Table 3: Contributions to change in the labour force participation rate, between specified time-period[1]

Total changes among all age groups	Australian-born	Overseas-born	Overall Total
Population composition change			
2001–02 and 2021–22 — (20-year period)	-7.8	3.0	-4.8
2001–02 and 2012–13 — (11-year period)	-3.3	1.4	-2.0
2013–14 and 2021–22 — (9-year period)	-3.5	1.2	-2.2
2016–17 and 2018–19 — (2-year period pre-COVID)	-0.9	0.5	-0.4
2018–19 and 2020–21 — (2 year period during COVID)	-0.7	0.0	-0.7
2019–20 and 2021–22 — (2 year period during COVID)	-1.1	0.3	-0.8
Propensity to participate change			
2001–02 and 2021–22 — (20-year period)	3.9	3.2	7.1
2001–02 and 2012–13 — (11-year period)	2.1	1.6	3.7
2013–14 and 2021–22 — (9-year period)	1.7	1.5	3.2
2016–17 and 2018–19 — (2-year period pre-COVID)	0.8	0.6	1.4
2018–19 and 2020–21 — (2 year period during COVID)	0.1	0.3	0.4
2019–20 and 2021–22 — (2 year period during COVID)	0.6	0.7	1.3
Total change			
2001–02 and 2021–22 — (20-year period)	-3.9	6.2	2.3
2001–02 and 2012–13 — (11-year period)	-1.3	3.0	1.7
2013–14 and 2021–22 — (9-year period)	-1.8	2.8	0.9
2016–17 and 2018–19 — (2-year period pre-COVID)	-0.1	1.0	1.0
2018–19 and 2020–21 — (2 year period during COVID)	-0.6	0.3	-0.3
2019–20 and 2021–22 — (2 year period during COVID)	-0.5	1.0	0.5

Source data: ABS, July 2022, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, LM5 cube
1. Specified time-period order based on that of the analysis provided in the text.

Outcomes of Australia's migrant population stock

The migrant unemployment rate at 30 June 2022 was 3.4 per cent (based on three-month averages), only slightly lower than the Australian-born rate of 3.9 per cent. That would appear to be the lowest unemployment rate (since 1991) for migrants recorded, and the lowest for the Australian-born since October 2008. This result comes on the back of population growth slowing with fewer long-term temporary migrants in Australia, improvements in the job market, and the emergence from the border restrictions imposed during 2020 and 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

From mid-2012 to March 2020, both migrant and Australian-born unemployment rates were operating in close alignment (Figure 5). From April 2020, following the advent in Australia of the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment increased notably, with the migrant unemployment rate reaching a high of 7.9 per cent in July 2020, and the Australian-born a high of 6.9 per cent in August 2020.

The subsequent fall in unemployment rates for migrants and the Australian-born occurred most rapidly between April 2021 and June 2021, with the rate for migrants falling 1.0 percentage points (from 6.3 per cent) and the rate for Australian-born falling 0.7 percentage points (from 5.7 per cent).

Figure 5 also shows that the labour force participation rate of Australia's migrants was consistently lower than that of the Australian-born (but converging) with a gap of 2.4 percentage points at June 2022 (65.7 per cent compared to 68.1 per cent, respectively). This difference is largely attributable to the impact of age on labour force participation, with the median age of Australia's migrant population at June 2021, being 10.9 years older than that of the Australian-born (45.1 years compared to 34.2 years, respectively).[13]

While this gap in labour force participation is substantial, new migrants are, on average, younger than the Australian population and arriving through either the Skill stream or temporary work visas (both visas types have very high rates for participation in the labour force). The younger profile and predominance of these visas have had the combined effect of:

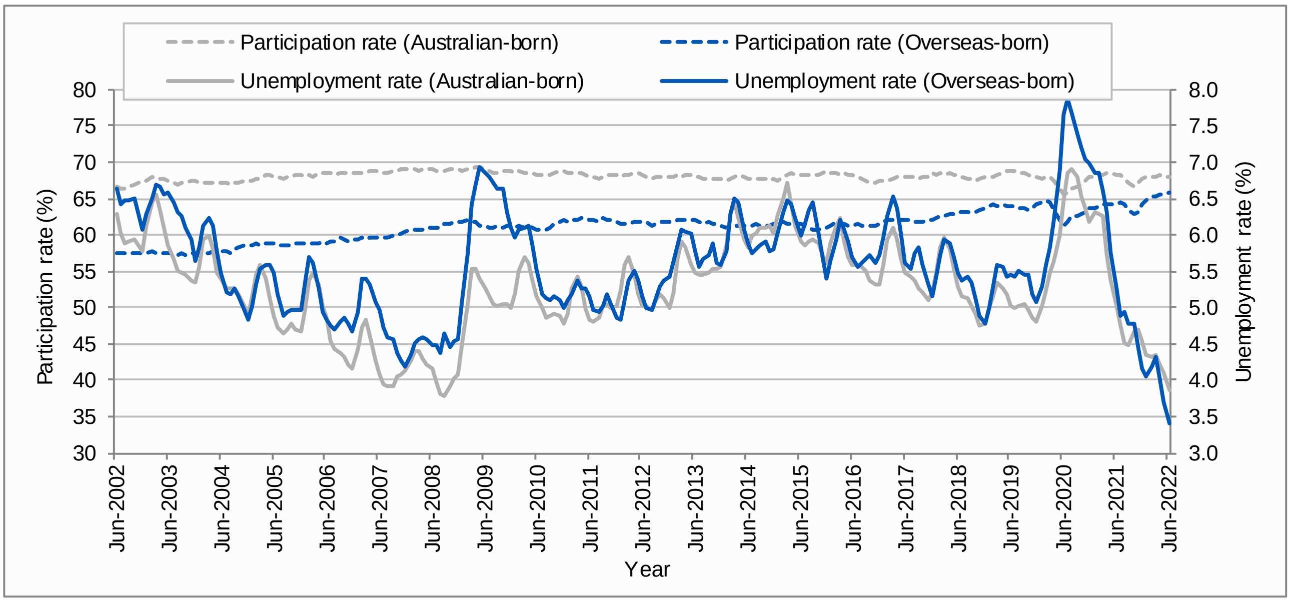
- increasing labour force participation among migrants
- reducing the proportion of migrants of retirement age, relative to that of the Australian-born population of retirement age.

For example, in 2011, 18.8 per cent of Australia's migrants were aged 65 years or over, compared with just 12.0 per cent of Australian-born, a difference of 6.8 percentage points. By 2020, these proportions had converged to 20.6 per cent and 14.5 per cent, respectively, a difference of 6.1 percentage points. However, for 2021, very few new migrants were added to the population as a result of the border restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the proportions aged 65 years or over diverged to a difference of 6.8 percentage points (21.6 per cent for migrants and 14.8 per cent for the Australian-born).[14]

[13] ABS, April 2022, Population by Country of Birth 2020–21, Median Age

[14] ABS, April 2022, Australia's Population by Country of Birth, Data Explorer, estimated resident population, country of birth, age and sex as at 30 June 1996 onwards.

Figure 5: Unemployment and participation rates by birth group, June 2002 to June 2022



Source data: ABS, July 2022, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, LM7 cube (three-month averages)

Outcomes for recently arrived Skill stream and Family stream migrants

The Continuous Survey of Australia's Migrants

The Department of Home Affairs' Continuous Survey of Australia's Migrants (CSAM) examines labour market and other settlement outcomes of recently arrived Skill stream and Family stream migrants of Australia's permanent Migration Program.

The analysis in this section is limited to primary applicants from the CSAM, who settled in Australia between January and July of 2017, founded on an introductory survey at their six-month settlement period and the recent edition of a third-survey at the 2.5-year stage of settlement for these same migrants (conducted around November 2019 respectively).

Employment outcomes of recent Skill stream migrants

Between the six-month and 2.5-year stages of settlement, Skilled Migrants (that is, primary applicant migrants of the Skill stream) demonstrated improved employment outcomes. These improvements are well above any change in the labour market outcomes of the Australian general population over this same two-year period (Table 4).[15] These employment outcomes included:

[15] Employment Outcome figures for Australian civilian population aged 15 years and over sourced from ABS, Labour Force, Australia, released October 2021. Data presented is November 2017 and November 2019 'Original' for comparison with the CSAM survey of migrants at their six-month and 2.5-year stages of settlement.

- employment to population ratio—up 4.1 percentage points; from 89.2 per cent to 93.3 per cent (compared to an increase of 0.6 points for the general population to 62.8 per cent)
- unemployment rate—down 3.6 percentage points; from 7.1 per cent to 3.5 per cent (compared to a decrease of 0.3 points for the general population to 4.8 per cent)
- labour force participation rate—up 0.7 percentage points; from 96.0 per cent to 96.7 per cent (compared to an increase of 0.4 points for the general population to 65.9 per cent)
- highly skilled employment to population ratio—up 3.4 percentage points; from 64.7 per cent to 68.0 per cent.[16]

Employment outcomes of recent Family stream migrants

Between the six-month and 2.5-year stages of settlement, Family Migrants (that is, primary applicant migrants from the Family stream) also reported improved employment outcomes between the two surveys. This included:

- employment to population ratio—up 4.9 percentage points, from 65.6 per cent to 70.5 per cent (7.7 points above that for the general population of 62.8 per cent)
- unemployment rate—down 4.4 percentage points, from 14.6 per cent to 10.2 per cent (5.4 points above that for the general population of 4.8 per cent)
- labour force participation rate—up 1.7 percentage points; from 76.8 per cent to 78.5 per cent (12.6 points above that for the general population of 65.9 per cent).

Despite these improvements, employment outcomes of Family Migrants remained below that of the general population in terms of their unemployment rate, and above in terms of employment to population ratio and participation rate.

[16] In this report a migrant's level of employment is defined based on their working in occupations defined in the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), namely:

- highly skilled employment if ANZSCO skill level 1 or 2, which requires an Associate Degree, Advanced Diploma or Diploma level qualification, or higher
- semi-skilled employment if ANZSCO skill level 3 or 4, which requires Certificate III or IV level qualification
- low skilled employment if ANZSCO skill level 5, which requires Certificate I or II level qualification, or lower.

Table 4: Employment outcomes by visa stream

Outcomes (weighted)	All surveyed migrants[1]	Skill stream			Partner Migrant		General Pop.[2]
		Skilled Migrant	Migrating Unit Spouse	Non-Migrating Unit Spouse	Partner Migrant	Non-Migrating Unit Spouse	
Sample size: employment (for all three surveys)	**9,928**	**5,016**	**3,033**	**495**	**1,879**	**1,674**	**N/A**
At six months							
Employment (%)							
Employed	72.7	89.2	60.2	81.4	65.6	87.1	62.2
By skill level of job[3]:							
Highly skilled	*38.4*	*64.7*	*26.9*	*52.3*	*24.0*	*48.0*	*N/A*
Semi-skilled	*23.3*	*19.4*	*20.5*	*22.5*	*27.0*	*30.2*	*N/A*
Low skilled	*11.1*	*5.1*	*12.9*	*6.6*	*14.6*	*8.9*	*N/A*
Unemployed	10.3	6.8	14.6	6.6	11.2	4.1	3.3
Not in labour force	17.0	4.0	25.2	12.0	23.2	8.8	34.5
Total:	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Unemployment rate	12.4	7.1	19.5	7.5	14.6	4.5	5.0
Participation rate	83.0	96.0	74.8	88.0	76.8	91.2	65.5
Earnings and hours ($'000)							
Sample size: employed (full-time)	**5,359**	**3,678**	**974**	**238**	**707**	**1,070**	**N/A**
Median annual full-time earnings	59.8	68.6	54.0	70.0	52.0	64.5	76.3
At 2.5-years							
Employment (%)							
Employed	78.6	93.3	72.3	80.4	70.5	84.8	62.8
By skill level of job[3]:							
Highly skilled	*41.5*	*68.0*	*33.5*	*50.8*	*25.6*	*47.8*	*N/A*
Semi-skilled	*26.6*	*20.7*	*27.1*	*21.5*	*30.6*	*28.2*	*N/A*
Low skilled	*10.5*	*4.6*	*11.8*	*8.1*	*14.3*	*8.8*	*N/A*
Unemployed	6.6	3.4	9.0	6.9	8.0	4.4	3.2
Not in labour force	14.8	3.3	18.7	12.7	21.5	10.8	34.1
Total:	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Unemployment rate	7.8	3.5	11.0	7.9	10.2	5.0	4.8
Participation rate	85.2	96.7	81.3	87.3	78.5	89.2	65.9
Earnings and hours ($'000)							
Sample size: employed (full-time)	**6,046**	**3,984**	**1,298**	**246**	**764**	**967**	**N/A**
Median annual full-time earnings	70.0	82.5	65.0	75.0	58.0	73.0	79.6

Note: Table includes only those respondents who participated in all three surveys, and earnings flagged as outliers or where stated income is markedly different between the surveys, were rectified/confirmed in subsequent surveys—therefore results may differ slightly from any previously published for 'At six months'. N/A = not available.
1. 'All surveyed migrants' excludes Non-Migrating Unit Spouse of the Skill stream and Non-Migrating Unit Spouse of Partner Migrants, as these respondents were either born in Australia or migrated to Australia as part of a different migrating unit to their spouse.
2. General Pop. = General Population. Employment Outcome figures for Australian civilian population aged 15 years and over sourced from ABS, Labour Force, Australia, released October 2021. Data presented is November 2017, and 2019 'Original', for 'At six months', and 'At 2.5 years' respectively. Earnings figures for Australian employees sourced from ABS, Employee Earnings and Hours, May 2018 and May 2021 releases, for 'At six months', and 'At 2.5 years—the closest dates to the survey dates for which data is available at time of publication; earnings data 'At 2.5 years' utilises a midpoint estimate.
3. See, footnote 17 in the main body of report for definitions of skill level.