Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Australia's Migration Trends 2022–23

Australia's Migration Trends was prepared by:

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Terminology

Applicant Type—"Under the Migration Regulations 1994 (the Regulations), there are two types of applicants. These are primary applicants and secondary applicants. These terms are defined below:

- **Primary Applicant**—The primary applicant is the person who must satisfy the primary criteria for the grant of a visa under the Migration Regulations. Also known as the principal applicant.
- **Secondary Applicant**—Secondary applicants must satisfy the secondary criteria for the grant of a visa under the Migration Regulations. A secondary applicant is generally a dependant of the primary applicant.

Delivered—the number of places (outcome) or grants pertaining to permanent or temporary visas within the program year (financial year).

Outcome—For the purposes of Migration Program reporting, outcome refers to the number of visas granted that count toward the Migration Program (also termed places). Outcome includes primary applicants as well as secondary/dependant applicants.

Where a visa has a permanent residence pathway, e.g. from a provisional or 'first stage' visa to a permanent or 'second stage' visa, the applicant is counted to the Migration Program at grant of the provisional visa.

Some visas granted during a program year may not count toward the Migration Program, for example:

- If a person has already been granted a visa which counted toward the Migration Program, that person will not be counted again.
- Within the same program year, where a visa is granted and is later cancelled, the grant is excluded for the purposes of Migration Program outcome reporting.
- Where a Partner visa applicant does not progress to the second stage (permanent) visa, a place is returned to the program.
- If a Business Innovation and Investment visa (granted in an earlier year) is cancelled the place is returned to the program in the year of cancellation.

Places—in this report, each grant that counts toward the Migration Program outcome is a place delivered against the Migration Program places (planned level) for the year. When referring to Migration Program outcomes within the report, the terms 'grant' and 'place' may be used interchangeably.

Overview

In the 2021–22 financial year there was an incremental reopening of Australia's international borders, through the lifting of international travel restrictions imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, 2022–23, was the first full financial year for the borders to be fully open to international travellers since 2018–19.

For the 2022–23 financial year, the Migration Program and Humanitarian Program together delivered 212,879 permanent places, and granted in the same year more than 7.0 million temporary visas (Table 1). By comparison with the previous financial year, the number of permanent places (including humanitarian visa grants increased 35.7 per cent on the 156,863 places delivered, and the number of temporary visas granted increased by 205.9 per cent on the 2,296,827 granted.

Over the last 10 years (from 2013–14 to 2022–23) the number of:

- Permanent places increased 4.4 percent, on the 203,768 in 2013–14:
  - Migration Program—up 5004 places (2.6 per cent), on the 190,000 places in 2013–14
  - Humanitarian Program—up 4017 grants (29.2 per cent), on the 13,768 grants in 2013–14.
- Temporary visa grants—up 204,583 grants (3.0 per cent), on the 6,820,783 in 2013–14.

Table 1: Key statistics for 2022–23 financial year

Migration	Total
Permanent migrants	**212,879**
Migration Program outcome	195,004
Skill stream places	142,344
Family stream places (includes Child)	52,500
Special Eligibility stream places	160
Humanitarian Program visas granted	17,875
Temporary visas granted	**7,025,366**
Visitor visas granted	3,818,495
New Zealand citizen Special Category visas granted	1,428,081
Student visas granted	577,295
Temporary Resident (Other Employment) visas granted	464,539
Crew and Transit visas granted	402,150
Working Holiday Maker visas granted	224,431
Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted	102,565
Other Temporary visas granted	7,810
Citizenship	**Conferrals**
Conferrals of Australian citizenship	**192,947**

Source data: Department of Home Affairs

Permanent migration

The Migration Program outcome

In 2022–23, there were 195,004 places delivered under the Migration Program—up 35.8 per cent on the 143,556 places in 2021–22. This was comprised of:

- 142,344 Skill stream places
- 52,500 Family stream places (includes Child visas)
- 160 Special Eligibility places.

In 2022–23, the top three nationalities accounted 40.1 per cent of the places delivered under the Migration Program. These were nationals of:

1. India—41,145 places (21.1 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—23,936 places (12.3 per cent)
3. Philippines—13,085 places (6.7 per cent).

Growth in 2022–23, was strongest for nationals of:

1. India—up 16,821 places (69.2 per cent), from 24,324 places in 2021–22, to 41,145 places
2. New Zealand—up 6432 places (145.5 per cent), from 4421 places in 2021–22, to 10,853 places
3. People's Republic of China—up 5696 places (31.2 per cent), from 18,240 places in 2021–22, to 23,936 places.

Almost two-thirds (61.8 per cent) of migrants that obtained a permanent place in 2022–23, were migrants already in Australia on a temporary visa, with the remaining 38.2 per cent of places going to new arrivals.

Two-thirds (65.1 per cent) of these former temporary visa holders were granted a Skill stream visa, of which one-quarter (25.6 per cent) moved directly from a Temporary Work (Skilled Employment) visa.

The 2022–23 Migration Program was the largest program to date, with 5004 more places (2.6 per cent) than 190,000 places delivered a decade earlier in 2013–14. This was largely a result of the:

- Skill stream—up 13,794 places (10.7 per cent) on the 128,550 places delivered in 2013–14
- Family stream—down 8612 places (14.1 per cent) on the 61,112 places delivered in 2013–14.

The top three nationalities that maintained strong growth over this period were:

1. Nepal—up 7677 places (175.9 per cent) on the 4364 places in 2013–14, to 12,041 places
2. Philippines—up 2706 places (26.1 per cent) on the 10,379 places in 2013–14, to 13,085 places
3. India—up 2119 places (5.4 per cent) on the 39,026 places in 2013–14, to 41,145 places.

Skill stream visas

In 2022–23, there were 142,344 Skill stream places delivered, 53,281 more than in 2021–22. This was comprised of:

- 35,000 Employer Sponsored places
- 33,944 Regional places
- 32,100 Skilled Independent places
- 31,000 State/Territory Nominated places
- 5000 Business Innovation and Investment places
- 5000 Global Talent (Independent) places
- 300 Distinguished Talent places.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than four-in-ten (42.9 per cent) of all Skill stream places in 2022–23, namely:

1. India—36,251 places (25.5 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—13,532 places (9.5 per cent)
3. Nepal—11,304 places (7.9 per cent).

Among the top 10 nationalities, growth in 2022–23, was strongest for nationals of:

- India—up 16,670 places (85.1 per cent), from 19,581 places in 2021–22, to 36,251 places
- New Zealand—up 6533 places (163.1 per cent), from 4005 places in 2021–22, to 10,538 places
- Nepal—up 5256 places (86.9 per cent), from 6048 places in 2021–22, to 11,304 places.

The Skill stream comprised 73.0 per cent of the Migration Program outcome in 2022–23 (including Child visas); by comparison, in 2021–22 the share was 62.0 per cent.

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 2022–23, of the 142,344 Skill stream places delivered, less than half (48.4 per cent) went to Skill stream primary applicants, who comprised more than one-third (35.3 per cent) of the total Migration Program outcome.

Employer Sponsored visas

In 2022–23, there were 35,000 Employer Sponsored places delivered, an increase of 34.1 per cent on the 26,103 places delivered in 2021–22.

Nationals of the top three countries accounted for 44.7 per cent of Employer Sponsored places in 2022–23, and these same countries displayed the strongest growth on 2021–22, namely:

1. India—8187 places (23.4 per cent); up 2342 places (40.1 per cent) from 5845 places
2. United Kingdom—4324 places (12.4 per cent); up 1357 places (45.7 per cent) from 2967 places
3. Philippines—3123 places (8.9 per cent); up 972 places (45.2 per cent) from 2151 places.

Of the 35,000 Employer Sponsored places delivered in 2022–23, 43.2 per cent (15,127 places) were to primary applicants, with the top three nominated occupations accounting for 27.5 per cent of Employer Sponsored primary applicants, namely:

1. Software and Applications Programmer—1548 places (10.2 per cent)
2. Registered Nurses—1510 places (10.0 per cent)
3. Chefs—1103 places (7.3 per cent).[1]

Regional migration

In 2022–23, there were 33,944 Regional places delivered, an increase of 86.3 per cent on the 18,223 places delivered in 2021–22.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than half (57.9 per cent) of Regional places, namely:

1. India—12,192 places (35.9 per cent)
2. Nepal—4380 places (12.9 per cent)
3. Philippines—3098 places (9.1 per cent).

In 2022–23, nationals of the following countries accounted for more than two-thirds (69.7 per cent) of the increase in Regional places (increase of 15,721 places):

- India—up 6261 places (105.6 per cent) on the 5931 places in 2021–22
- Nepal—up 1908 places (77.2 per cent) on the 2472 places in 2021–22
- Philippines—up 1640 places (112.5 per cent) on the 1458 places in 2021–22
- People's Republic of China—up 1156 places (121.7 per cent) on the 950 places in 2021–22.

Of the Regional places delivered in 2022–23, 43.7 per cent (14,837 places) were to primary applicants, with the top three nominated occupations accounting for almost one-third (30.6 per cent) of Regional primary applicants, namely:

1. Accountants—2971 places (20.0 per cent)
2. Chefs—983 places (6.6 per cent)
3. Motor Mechanics—579 places (3.9 per cent).

Skilled Independent

In 2022–23, there were 32,100 Skilled Independent places delivered, an increase of 26,236 places on the 5864 places delivered in 2021–22. Of these, 53.8 per cent (17,266 places) were to primary applicants.

The Skilled Independent outcome was comprised of:

- 20,557 Points tested places
- 11,353 New Zealand stream places
- 190 Hong Kong stream places.

[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.

Nationals of the top three countries in 2022–23, accounted for more than half (55.2 per cent) of Skilled Independent places. These were nationals of:

1. New Zealand—9876 places (30.8 per cent)
2. India—5074 places (15.8 per cent)
3. Nepal—2763 places (8.6 per cent).

In 2022–23, of the Skilled Independent places delivered, 53.8 per cent (17,266 places) were to primary applicants, with the top three nominated occupations accounting for 39.0 per cent of Skilled Independent primary applicants, namely:

1. Registered Nurses—5360 places (31.0 per cent)
2. Early Childhood (Pre-primary School) Teachers—813 places (4.7 per cent)
3. Secondary School Teachers—563 places (3.3 per cent).

State/Territory Nominated

In 2022–23, there were 31,000 State/Territory Nominated places delivered, an increase of 60.0 per cent on the 19,376 places delivered in 2021–22.

Nationals of the top three countries in 2022–23, accounted for more than half (56.2 per cent) of State/Territory Nominated places. These were nationals of:

1. India—9740 places (31.4 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—4324 places (13.9 per cent)
3. Nepal—3367 places (10.9 per cent).

In 2022–23, almost two-thirds (61.9 per cent) of the increase in State/Territory Nominated places (increase of 11,624 places) was against nationals of the following countries:

- India—up 4354 places (80.8 per cent) on the 5386 places in 2021–22
- People's Republic of China—up 1881 places (77.0 per cent) on the 2443 places in 2021–22
- United Kingdom—up 963 places (130.1 per cent) on the 740 places in 2021–22.

In 2022–23, of the State/Territory Nominated places delivered, 59.2 per cent (18,355 places) were to primary applicants, with the top three nominated occupations accounting for 27.5 per cent of State/Territory Nominated primary applicants, namely:

1. Registered Nurses—2855 places (15.6 per cent)
2. Software and Applications Programmer—1247 places (6.8 per cent)
3. Accountants—941 places (5.1 per cent).

Business Innovation and Investment visas

In 2022–23, there were 5000 Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP) visa places delivered—down 52.4 per cent (5496 places) on the 10,496 places delivered in 2021–22. By stream, this was mainly (96.1 per cent) comprised of:

- 2437 Business Innovation places (48.7 per cent)
- 1299 Investor places (26.0 per cent)
- 799 Significant Business History places (16.0 per cent)
- 269 Significant Investor places (5.4 per cent).

Collectively, the top three nationalities accounted for almost three-quarters (73.5 per cent) of all BIIP visa places in 2022–23. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—2519 places (50.4 per cent)
2. Hong Kong—691 places (13.8 per cent)
3. Vietnam—463 places (9.3 per cent).

Nationals of the People's Republic of China continued to be the main recipients of BIIP visas, with significantly more BIIP places than any other nationality, and in 2022–23, was mainly comprised of:

- 1297 Business Innovation stream places
- 559 Significant Business History stream places
- 478 Investor stream places
- 119 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 2022–23, there were 5000 Global Talent (Independent) places delivered, a decrease of 43.0 per cent (3776 places) on the 8776 places delivered in 2021–22. Of these, 35.1 per cent (1754 places) were to primary applicants.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 42.9 per cent of Global Talent (Independent) places, namely:

1. India—931 places (18.6 per cent)
2. Hong Kong—671 places (13.4 per cent)
3. People's Republic of China—544 places (10.9 per cent).

In 2022–23, despite the overall fall among the top 10 nationalities, the number of places to nationals of Taiwan increased and was up 2.7 per cent (from 121 places in 2021–22 to 136 places in 2022–23).

Distinguished Talent

In 2022–23, there were 300 Distinguished Talent places delivered, an increase of 33.3 per cent on the 225 places delivered in 2021–22. Of these, 45.3 per cent (136 places) were to primary applicants.

Nationals of the top three countries in 2022–23, accounted for more almost one-quarter (24.3 per cent) of Distinguished Talent places. These were nationals of:

1. Brazil—32 places (10.7 per cent)
2. Sri Lanka—21 places (7.0 per cent)
3. United Kingdom—20 places (6.7 per cent).

Family stream visas

In 2022–23, there were 52,500 places delivered under the Family stream, a decrease of 3.3 per cent on the 54,294 places delivered (including Child visas) in 2021–22. Between 2013–14 and 2019–20, the Family stream's average share of the Migration Program was 31.9 per cent and in 2022–23, the share was 26.9 per cent. Although the Family stream's share may have fallen, the number of places still exceeded those of 2017–18 (51,082 places) and 2018–19 (50,495 places).

The Family stream's 52,500 places was comprised of:

- 40,500 Partner places
- 8500 Parent places
- 3000 Child places
- 500 Other Family places.

Nationals of the top three countries in 2022–23, accounted for more than one-third (36.6 per cent) of Family stream places delivered. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—10,402 places (19.8 per cent)
2. India—4882 places (9.3 per cent)
3. Philippines—3957 places (7.5 per cent).

In 2022–23, among the top 10 nationalities, solid growth occurred for nationals of:

- People's Republic of China—up 2445 places (30.7 per cent), on the 7957 places in 2021–22
- Afghanistan—up 2445 places (30.7 per cent), from 7957 places in 2021–22, to 10,402 places
- Vietnam—up 2445 places (30.7 per cent), from 7957 places in 2021–22, to 10,402 places

Partner visas

In 2022–23, there were 40,500 Partner places delivered, a decrease of 12.5 per cent on the 46,288 places delivered in 2021–22. This was comprised of:

- 39,043 Partner places
- 1457 Fiancé places.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than one-quarter (29.4 per cent) of Partner places in 2022–23. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—4728 places (11.7 per cent)
2. India—3815 places (9.4 per cent)
3. Philippines—3355 places (8.3 per cent).

Growth in Partner places in 2022–23, was strongest for nationals of the following countries:

- Afghanistan—up 552 places (35.8 per cent), from 1542 places in 2021–22, to 2094 places
- Pakistan—up 202 places (28.7 per cent), from 704 places in 2021–22, to 906 places.

Parent visas

In 2022–23, there were 8500 Parent visa places delivered, an increase of 88.9 per cent on the 4500 delivered in 2021–22. This was comprised of:

- 6800 Contributory Parent places
- 1700 non-contributory Parent places.

Nationals of the top three countries in 2022–23, accounted for more than three-quarters (77.4 per cent) of Parent places. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—5185 places (61.0 per cent)
2. India—783 places (9.2 per cent)
3. Vietnam—614 places (7.2 per cent).

Child stream visas

In 2022–23, there were 3000 Child visa places delivered, a decrease of 1.5 per cent on the 3006 places delivered in 2021–22 and was comprised of:

- 2938 Child visas places
- 62 Adoption visas places.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 41.1 per cent of places in this category in 2022–23. These were nationals of:

1. Philippines—537 places (17.9 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—385 places (12.8 per cent)
3. Thailand—312 places (10.4 per cent).

Other Family visas

In 2022–23, there were 500 Other Family visa places delivered, this was the same as the number of places delivered in 2021–22. This was comprised of:

- 297 Carer places
- 186 Remaining Relative places
- 17 Aged Dependent Relative places.

In 2022–23, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 60.4 per cent of places delivered in this category. These were nationals of:

1. Afghanistan—110 places (22.0 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—104 places (20.8 per cent)
3. Vietnam—88 places (17.6 per cent).

Special Eligibility visas

In 2022–23, there were 160 Special Eligibility places delivered, a decrease of 19.6 per cent on the 199 places delivered in 2021–22.

Nationals of the top five countries in 2022–23, accounted for more around one-third (33.8 per cent) of Special Eligibility places delivered, namely:

- India—12 places (7.5 per cent)
- Nigeria and the Republic of Korea—11 places each (6.9 per cent each)
- Fiji and Sri Lanka—10 places each (6.3 per cent each).

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

In 2022–23, there were 120,591 permanent places delivered to applicants in Australia on temporary visas, an increase of 31.6 per cent on the 91,644 places delivered in 2021–22.

Almost three-quarters (71.4 per cent) were to former holders of:

- Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa—30,864 places (25.6 per cent)
- Temporary Graduate visa—29,375 places (24.4 per cent)
- Student visa—25,804 places (21.4 per cent).

Growth was strong among former visa holders of:

- Temporary Graduate visa—up 10,070 places (52.2 per cent) on the 19,305 places in 2021–22
- Special Category visa—up 6148 places (150.6 per cent) on the 4082 places in 2021–22.

Students moving onto permanent residence whilst in Australia

In 2022–23, the number of permanent places obtained by former international students in Australia who transitioned directly from a Student visa was 25,804 places, an increase of 17.7 per cent on the 21,922 places delivered in 2021–22.

Despite the number of Student visa grants having increased between 2013–14 and 2019–20, the overall trend during this period of former international Students directly transitioning to a permanent visa, was downward and averaged 16,507 places each year. In the following three years, from 2020–21 to 2022–23, this downward trend reversed, with the number of places obtained by former international Students during this period having increased overall and averaged 23,673 places each year.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for more almost half (49.5 per cent) of these places in 2022–23. These were nationals of:

1. India—5915 places (22.9 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—3583 places (13.9 per cent)
3. Nepal—3272 places (12.7 per cent).

Growth among the top 10 nationalities in 2022–23 was strongest for nationals of:

- India—up 2562 places (76.4 per cent) on the 3353 places in 2021–22
- Nepal—up 1634 places (99.8 per cent) on the 1638 places in 2021–22.

Of these 25,804 former international students:

- 17,274 places were within the Skill stream, comprised of:
    - 6371 Regional places
    - 6000 State/Territory Nominated places
    - 2758 Skilled Independent places
    - 1459 Employer Sponsored places
    - 425 Global Talent (Independent) places
    - 199 Business Innovation and Investment Program places
    - 62 Distinguished Talent places.
- 8493 places were within the Family stream, comprised of:
    - 8424 Partner places
    - 34 Parent places
    - 28 Child places
    - 7 Other Family places.
- 37 places were within Special Eligibility.

Humanitarian Program

In 2022–23, there were 17,875 visas granted under the Humanitarian Program. This included 15,875 visas granted under the offshore (resettlement) component of the program to people affected by humanitarian crises around the world, and 2000 visas granted under the onshore (protection) component of the program.

Offshore resettlement component

The 15,875 visas granted in 2022–23, under the offshore resettlement component of the program represented 88.8 per cent of all places. This was comprised of:

- 9760 Refugee visas granted (61.5 per cent)
- 6115 Special Humanitarian visas granted (38.5 per cent).

Nationals of the top three countries in 2022–23, accounted for almost three-quarters (72.2 per cent) of visas granted through the offshore resettlement component. These were nationals of:

1. Afghanistan—7962 grants (50.2 per cent)
2. Iraq—2028 grants (12.8 per cent)
3. Myanmar—1475 grants (9.3 per cent).

In 2022–23, more than half (51.5 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 2645 visas granted (16.7 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 30,000 visas granted to vulnerable women and their dependants.

Onshore protection component

In 2022–23, there were 22,068 Protection visa applications lodged—an increase of 39.0 per cent on the 15,874 lodged the previous year. This comprised 18,736 Protection visa applications and 3332 Temporary Protection visa and Safe Haven Enterprise visa applications.

In addition to the 2000 Permanent Protection visas granted under the onshore component in 2022–23, there were:

- 2477 Temporary Humanitarian Concern visas granted to Ukrainian nationals in response to the military conflict in Ukraine
- 699 Safe Haven Enterprise visas granted—a five-year temporary visa
- 215 Temporary Protection visas granted—a three-year temporary visa.[2]

Final grant rates for Permanent Protection visas in 2022–23 varied widely. The top three countries of citizenship for Permanent Protection visa grants in 2022–23 were:

1. Myanmar—427 grants; final grant rate of 91.4 per cent
2. People's Republic of China—255 grants; final grant rate of 8.4 per cent
3. Pakistan—171 grants; final grant rate of 60.2 per cent.

Temporary visa grants

In 2022–23, there were 7,025,366 temporary visas granted, an increase of 205.9 per cent on the 2,296,827 visas granted the previous year. Of these, more than 3.8 million (54.4 per cent) were Visitor visa grants, and more than 1.1 million (20.3 per cent) Special Category visa grants to New Zealand citizens.

Visitor visa grants

In 2022–23, there were 3,818,495 Visitor visas granted, an increase of 2,686,605 grants on the 1,131,890 visas granted in 2021–22. By visa type, the number of Visitor visas granted in 2022–23 was comprised of:

- 3,377,219 tourist visa grants
- 441,276 business visitor visa grants.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 33.4 per cent of people granted a Visitor visa in 2022–23, namely:

1. United Kingdom—460,157 grants (12.1 per cent)
2. United States of America—456,565 grants (12.0 per cent)
3. India—357,038 grants (9.4 per cent).

[2] Safe Haven Enterprise visas (SHEV) and Temporary Protection visas (TPV) 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.

Nationals of the following countries predominantly drove the growth in Visitor visas in 2022–23:

- United States of America—up 358,937 grants on the 97,628 grants in 2021–22
- United Kingdom—up 299,316 grants on the 160,841 grants in 2021–22
- People's Republic of China—up 227,202 grants on the 44,348 grants in 2021–22
- India—up 156,713 grants on the 200,325 grants in 2021–22
- Republic of Korea—up 147,736 grants on the 24,912 grants in 2021–22
- Japan—up 140,856 grants on the 16,953 grants in 2021–22.

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

In 2022–23, Visitor visas granted by type for the purpose of:

- tourism, increased by 2,365,432 grants on the 1,011,787 granted in 2021–22, a result of:
  - Tourist—up 2,322,248 grants to 3,305,606 grants
  - Sponsored Family—up 43,127 grants to 71,550 grants
  - Frequent Traveller—up 43 grants to 49 grants.
- business, increased by 321,173 grants on the 120,103 granted in 2021–22, a result of:
  - Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Visitor—up 90,292 grants to 124,677 grants
  - Business Visitor (excludes APEC)—up 230,881 grants to 316,599 grants.

During the 10 years from 2013–14 to 2022–23, before the COVID-19 pandemic, Visitor visa grants were increasing each year to a peak of 5,686,318 in 2018–19, an increase of 42.5 per cent (1,696,070 grants) to on the 3,990,248 grants in 2013–14. In contrast, with the closure of international borders due to COVID, Visitor visa grants between 2018–19 and 2021–22 fell significantly and were down 80.1 per cent (4,554,428 grants) to just 1,131,890. In 2022–23, the first full-financial year of data since the lifting of border restrictions, Visitor visa grants were still 4.3 per cent (171,753 grants) below the 2013–14 level.

New Zealand citizen Special Category visa grants

In 2022–23, there were 1,428,081 Special Category visas granted to New Zealand citizens—up 372.5 per cent (1,125,855 grants) on the 302,226 granted in 2021–22.

Between 2013–14 and 2016–17, Special Category visa grants increased each year and were up 9.0 per cent (158,671 grants) to 1,921,561 grants in 2016–17. In contrast, Special Category visa grants during the period, 2013–14 to 2022–23, were down 19.0 per cent (334,809 grants) on the 1,7612,890 granted in 2013–14.

Student visa grants

In 2022–23, there were 577,295 Student visas granted (the highest to date), an increase of 118.9 per cent (313,558 grants) on the 263,737 visas granted in 2021–22. Of these, 35.9 per cent of Student visa grants were to people already in Australia on a temporary visa (207,316 grants).

By reporting category, the number of Student visas granted in 2022–23 was comprised of:

- 300,144 Higher Education grants
- 153,043 Vocational Education and Training (VET) grants
- 74,627 Independent ELICOS grants[3]
- 17,432 Non-Award grants
- 16,798 Postgraduate Research grants
- 10,691 Schools grants
- 4560 Foreign Affairs of Defence grants.

There were increases recorded across all reporting categories in 2022–23, when compared to the previous year, however, the main drivers of growth in Student visa grants were the following reporting categories:

- Higher Education—up 149,547 grants (99.3 per cent) on the 150,597 grants in 2021–22
- VET—up 79,486 grants (108.1 per cent) on the 73,557 grants in 2021–22
- ELICOS—up 58,116 grants (352.0 per cent) on the 16,511 grants in 2021–22.

Nationals of the top three countries accounted for 41.9 per cent of Student visas granted in 2022–23. These were nationals of:

1. India—102,696 grants (17.8 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—98,506 grants (17.1 per cent)
3. Nepal—40,731 grants (7.1 per cent).

The number of Student visa grants in 2022–23 recorded by both nationals of India and the People's Republic of China were the largest to date, with previous maximums for:

- India of 66,449 grants in 2018–19
- People's Republic of China of 87,731 grants in 2017–18.

In 2022–23, there was a change in the largest source country for Student visa grants, with nationals of India surpassing those of the People's Republic of China (who had been the largest source since 2009–10).

During the 10 years from 2013–14 to 2022–23, the annual number of Student visas granted increased 97.7 per cent, and in 2022–23, surpassed the previous peak in of 405,742 grants in 2018–19. The main reporting categories with high growth over this 10-year period were:

- Higher Education—up 83,420 grants (97.0 per cent) on the 152,344 grants in 2013–14
- VET—up 52,138 grants (152.3 per cent) on the 60,648 grants in 2013–14
- ELICOS—up 34,111 grants (141.0 per cent) on the 30,964 grants in 2013–14.

Over this same 10-year period, there has been significant growth in grants to nationals of the top five countries for Student visas, namely:

1. India—up 68,566 grants on the 34,130 grants in 2013–14
2. People's Republic of China—up 38,191 grants on the 60,315 grants in 2013–14
3. Nepal—up 30,080 grants on the 10,651 grants in 2013–14
4. Colombia—up 29,459 grants on the 6954 grants in 2013–14
5. Philippines—up 21,536 grants on the 6239 grants in 2013–14.

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

Working Holiday Maker visa grants

In 2022–23, there were 224,431 Working Holiday Maker visas granted, an increase of 130.5 per cent (127,072 grants) on the 97,359 visas granted in 2021–22. This was the highest number of Working Holiday Maker visas granted since 2014–15 (226,812) and was 13.1 per cent down on the peak in 2012–13 of 258,248 visas granted.

Working Holiday Maker visa grants in 2022–23 were comprised of:

- 178,306 Working Holiday visa grants
    - 141,135 First Working Holiday visa grants
    - 18,736 further Working Holiday visa grants[4]
- 46,125 Work and Holiday visa grants
    - 34,464 First Work and Holiday visa grants
    - 7685 further Work and Holiday visa grants.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 38.6 per cent of all Working Holiday Maker visa grants in 2022–23. These were nationals of:

1. United Kingdom—38,177 grants (17.0 per cent)
2. France—26,896 grants (12.0 per cent)
3. Ireland—21,525 grants (9.6 per cent).

The increase in the number of Working Holiday Maker visa grants in 2022–23, was most notable among the following nationalities:

- United Kingdom—up 18,087 grants (90.0 per cent) on the 20,090 grants in 2021–12
- France—up 16,809 grants (166.6 per cent) on the 10,087 grants in 2021–22
- Ireland—up 11,034 grants (105.2 per cent) on the 10,491 grants in 2021–22
- Taiwan—up 10,386 grants (202.0 per cent) on the 5142 grants in 2021–22.

In 2022–23, there were 15,161 fewer Working Holiday Maker visas granted than a decade earlier, in 2013–14 (239,592 grants). This comprised:

- Working Holiday visa—down 51,072 grants (22.3 per cent) on the 229,378 granted in 2013–14
- Work and Holiday visa—up 35,911 grants (351.6 per cent) on the 10,214 granted in 2013–14.

Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa grants

In 2022–23, there were 102,565 Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted, an increase of 65.5 per cent on the 61,987 visas granted in 2021–22. This was comprised of:

- 51,605 visa grants to primary applicants
    - 21,977 granted to applicants in Australia
    - 29,628 granted to applicants outside Australia.
- 50,960 visa grants to secondary applicants
    - 13,129 granted to applicants in Australia
    - 37,871 granted to applicants outside Australia.

[4] Further visa includes 'Second' and 'Third' visas granted, and those defined as a Nil Visa Application Charge.

In 2022–23, there were 3994 more Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted than a decade earlier, in 2013–14 (98,571 grants).[5] This was comprised of:

- primary applicants—down 334 grants (0.6 per cent) on the 51,939 grants in 2013–14
- secondary applicants—up 4328 grants (9.3 per cent) on the 46,632 grants in 2013–14.

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

- visas granted outside Australia—up 11,978 grants (21.6 per cent) on the 55,481 grants in 2013–14
- visas granted in Australia—down 7984 grants (18.5 per cent) on the 43,090 grants in 2013–14.

Primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa grants

In 2022–23, there were 51,605 visas granted to primary applicants, an increase of 61.0 per cent on the 32,062 granted in 2021–22.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for almost half (49.1 per cent) of these primary visas granted in 2022–23, namely:

1. India—12,146 grants (23.5 per cent)
2. Philippines—7103 grants (13.8 per cent)
3. United Kingdom—6106 grants (11.8 per cent).

Driving the growth in the number of these visas granted in 2022–23, were nationals of:

- Philippines—up 4108 grants (137.2 per cent) on the 2995 grants in 2021–12
- India—up 3213 grants (36.0 per cent) on the 8933 grants in 2021–12
- United Kingdom—up 2004 grants (48.9 per cent) on the 4102 grants in 2021–12
- Sri Lanka—up 1129 grants (159.0 per cent) on the 710 grants in 2021–12.

The top three sponsor industries accounted for almost half (46.2 per cent) of primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted in 2022–23. These were:

1. Other Services—8830 grants (17.1 per cent)
2. Professional Scientific and Technical Services—8552 grants (16.6 per cent)
3. Health Care and Social Assistance—6466 grants (12.5 per cent).

In 2022–23, the top three nominated occupations accounted for 14.2 per cent of primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa applications granted. These were:

1. Software Engineer—2967 grants (5.7 per cent)
2. Chef—2409 grants (4.7 per cent)
3. ICT Business Analyst—1928 grants (3.7 per cent).

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

Overall, almost two-thirds (64.4 per cent) of primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted in 2022–23, were granted to applicants who had previously held a visa—33,220 grants.

Collectively, the top three categories, by previously visa held, accounted for 42.2 per cent of primary visas granted in 2022–23, namely:

1. Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)—10,484 grants (20.3 per cent)
2. Visitor—7530 grants (14.6 per cent)
3. Student—3775 grants (7.3 per cent).

In 2022–23, of the 51,605 visas granted to primary applicants, 21,977 (42.6 per cent) were to people already in Australia. By last visa held, the top three categories accounted for almost two-thirds (64.6 per cent) of primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted in Australia in 2022–23. These were:

1. Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)—8423 grants (38.3 per cent)
2. Student—3133 grants (14.3 per cent)
3. Temporary Graduate—2639 grants (12.0 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 2022–23, there were 6223 Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted for an intra-company transfer, an increase of 54.4 per cent on the 4031 visas granted in 2021–22.

Primary applicants accounted for 47.7 per cent (2968) of these visa grants, and increased 61.2 per cent on the 1841 visas granted in 2021–22.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 44.1 per cent of primary intra-company transfer visas granted in 2022–23. These were nationals of:

1. Japan—631 grants (21.3 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—434 grants (14.6 per cent)
3. India—245 grants (8.3 per cent).

In 2022–23, the top three sponsor industries accounted for 44.3 per cent of Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) primary intra-company transfer visa grants. These were:

1. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services—690 grants (23.2 per cent)
2. Other Services—317 grants (10.7 per cent)
3. Financial and Insurance Services—307 grants (10.3 per cent).

In 2022–23, the top three nominated occupations in this category accounted for more than one-quarter (25.6 per cent) of Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) primary intra-company transfer visa grants. These were:

1. Corporate General Manager—359 grants (12.1 per cent)
2. Sales and Marketing Managing—224 grants (7.5 per cent)
3. Chief Executive or Managing Director—176 grants (5.9 per cent).

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

In 2022–23, there were 179,017 Temporary Graduate visas granted.[6] This was an increase of 115,231 grants on the 63,786 granted the previous year. By stream, this comprised:

- 125,090 Post-Study Work visa grants
- 53,927 Graduate Work visa grants.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 60.4 per cent of Temporary Graduate visa grants in 2022–23, namely:

1. India—63,189 grants (35.3 per cent)
2. Nepal—26,440 grants (14.8 per cent)
3. People's Republic of China—18,457 grants (10.3 per cent).

Growth in the number of visas grants (115,231) in 2022–23 was largely due to increases in the number of grants to nationals of:

- India—up 38,560 grants (156.6 per cent) on the 24,629 grants in 2021–22
- Nepal—up 17,137 grants (184.2 per cent) on the 9303 grants in 2021–22.

Temporary visa holders in Australia

At 30 June 2023, there were 2,463,244 people in Australia on a temporary visa—an increase of 533,831 people (27.7 per cent) on the 1,929,413 at 30 June 2022.

This was comprised of holders of the following visa types:

- 697,957 Special Category
- 568,753 Student
- 383,785 Temporary Resident (Other Employment)
- 330,449 Visitor
- 176,856 Bridging
- 137,391 Working Holiday Maker
- 130,004 Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)
- 19,790 Temporary Protection
- 13,838 Crew and Transit
- 4421 Other Temporary.

Most of the increase in temporary visa holders (as at 30 June 2023) was due to increases in the number of:

- Temporary Resident (Other Employment) visa holders—up 217,971 (131.5 per cent) on the 165,814 at 30 June 2022
- Student visa holders—up 210,834 (58.9 per cent) on the 357,919 at 30 June 2022
- Visitor visa holders—up 110,842 (50.5 per cent) on the 110,842 at 30 June 2022.

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

Collectively, the top three nationalities accounted for half (50.4 per cent) of all temporary visa holders in Australia at 30 June 2023. These were nationals of:

1. New Zealand—698,101 people (28.3 per cent)
2. India—350,300 people (14.2 per cent)
3. People's Republic of China—194,074 people (7.9 per cent).

Of note were increases for the number of nationals in Australia on a temporary visa at 30 June 2023, for the following three countries:

1. India—up 66,391 people (23.4 per cent) on the 283,909 at 30 June 2022
2. People's Republic of China—up 53,658 people (38.2 per cent) on the 140,416 at 30 June 2022
3. Philippines—up 39,391 people (76.0 per cent) on the 51,809 at 30 June 2022.

Visa non-compliance

Unlawful Non-Citizens in Australia

Australia's Unlawful Non-Citizen (UNC) population is the number of people at a given point in time who remain in Australia after their visa has expired or been cancelled.

Australia's UNC population at 30 June 2023 was estimated at 69,900 people, slightly more than the 66,800 people estimated at 30 June 2022—an accumulated estimate of more than 70 years of regulated migration.[7]

More than eight-in-ten (83.7 per cent) of UNCs in Australia at 30 June 2023 arrived on one of the following visa categories:

- Visitor—an estimated 40,000 people (57.3 per cent)
- Student—an estimated 12,300 people (17.7 per cent)[8]
- Temporary Resident—an estimated 4300 people (6.2 per cent)
- Working Holiday—an estimated 1700 people (2.5 per cent).

Almost one-third (32.3 per cent) of UNCs estimated at 30 June 2023 were citizens of the following countries:

1. People's Republic of China—an estimated 10,300 people (14.8 per cent)
2. Malaysia—an estimated 6500 people (9.2 per cent)
3. Unites States of America—an estimated 5800 people (8.3 per cent).

Of the 69,900 UNCs in Australia at 30 June 2023:

- 48,500 (69.4 per cent) were male
- 21,500 (30.8 per cent) were female.

[7] Most UNCs—people at a given point in time who remain in Australia after their visa has expired or been cancelled—only overstay their visa for a short period before departing voluntarily. There is constant movement into and out of the UNC pool as people overstay their visas and as peoples' status is resolved, for example through departure or removal. Estimates are rounded to the nearest 100.

[8] Includes Student Guardian visas (Subclass 580 and 590).

Visa cancellations

In 2022–23, there were 15,717 visa cancellations, a decrease of 37.3 per cent on the 25,074 visa cancellations in 2021–22.[9] Of the visa cancellations in 2022–23, 89.5 per cent were either:

- temporary resident visas (30.1 per cent)
- Student visas (30.0 per cent), or
- Visitor visas (29.4 per cent).

Nationals of the top three countries accounted for 30.4 per cent of visa cancellations in 2021–22. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—2050 visa cancellations (13.0 per cent)
2. India—1702 visa cancellations (10.8 per cent).
3. United Kingdom—1025 visa cancellations (6.5 per cent).

Compliance-related departures

Non-citizens who do not hold a valid visa and do not make suitable arrangements to depart Australia are subject to removal.

The Department provides services and support to assist unlawful non-citizens who have been located, to resolve their immigration status through departures from Australia. These departures are comprised of people that were residing in the community (Returns) or in onshore immigration detention (Removals).

There were 8286 departures (Returns and Removals) from Australia in 2022–23, down 2.3 per cent on the 8478 departures in 2021–22.[10] This was comprised of:

- 6012 Returns from the community
- 2274 Removals from onshore immigration detention.

The majority of these departures were for those that arrived on a Visitor visa (42.5 per cent) or those that arrived on a Student visa (24.4 per cent).

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than one-quarter (29.9 per cent) of all departures. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—1038 departures (12.5 per cent)
2. India—887 departures (10.7 per cent)
3. Malaysia—551 departures (6.6 per cent).

Australian citizenship

In 2022–23, 192,947 people were conferred Australian citizenship, an increase of 15.4 per cent on the 167,232 conferrals in 2021–22 (Figure 1).

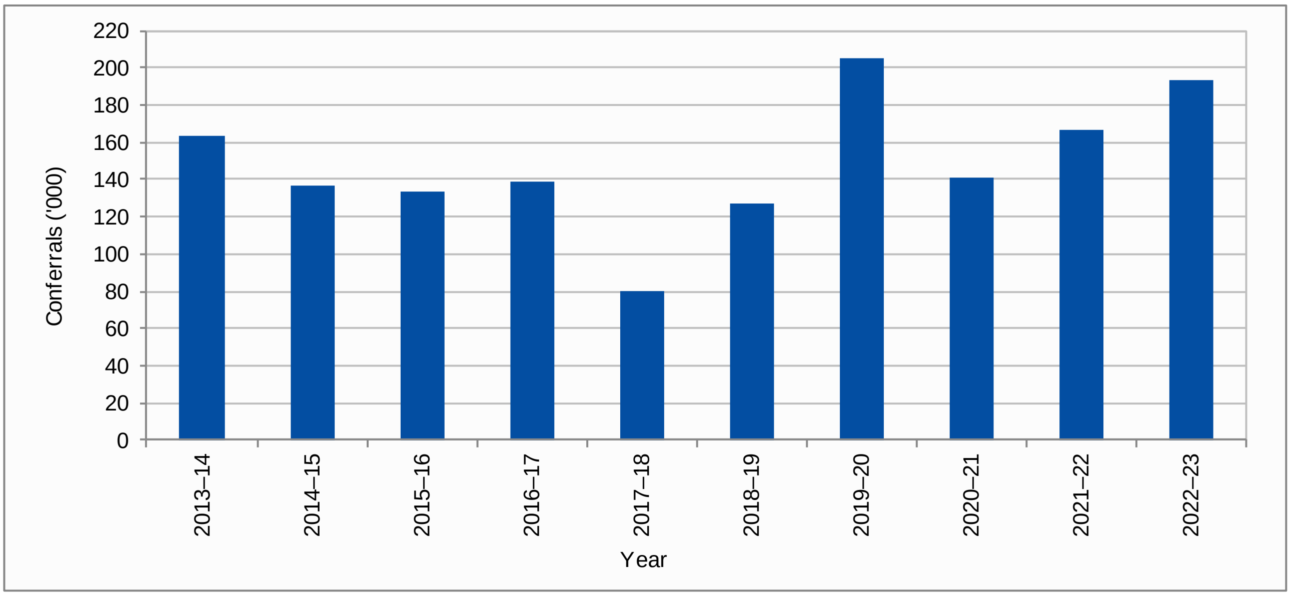
[9] Includes s501 visa cancellations. A large proportion of visa cancellations are voluntary, with non-citizens requesting cancellation of their temporary visa. For example, when a person holding a Temporary Work visa has departed Australia at the end of their contract and no longer requires their visa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

[10] 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 (36.4 per cent) of all conferrals in 2022–23.[11] These were:

1. India—40,361 conferrals (20.9 per cent)
2. United Kingdom—17,303 conferrals (9.0 per cent)[12]
3. Philippines—12,650 conferrals (6.6 per cent).

Figure 1: Conferrals of Australian citizenship, 2013–14 to 2022–23



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.[13] 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).

In the decade to December 2022, NOM accounted for over half (58.4 per cent) of the more than 3.3 million increase in Australia's population, to 26.3 million people. Consequently, the share of Australia's overseas-born population rose from 27.7 per cent (at 30 June 2013) to 29.5 per cent (at 30 June 2022).[14]

[11] Former citizenship is defined as the most recently recorded citizenship prior to conferral.

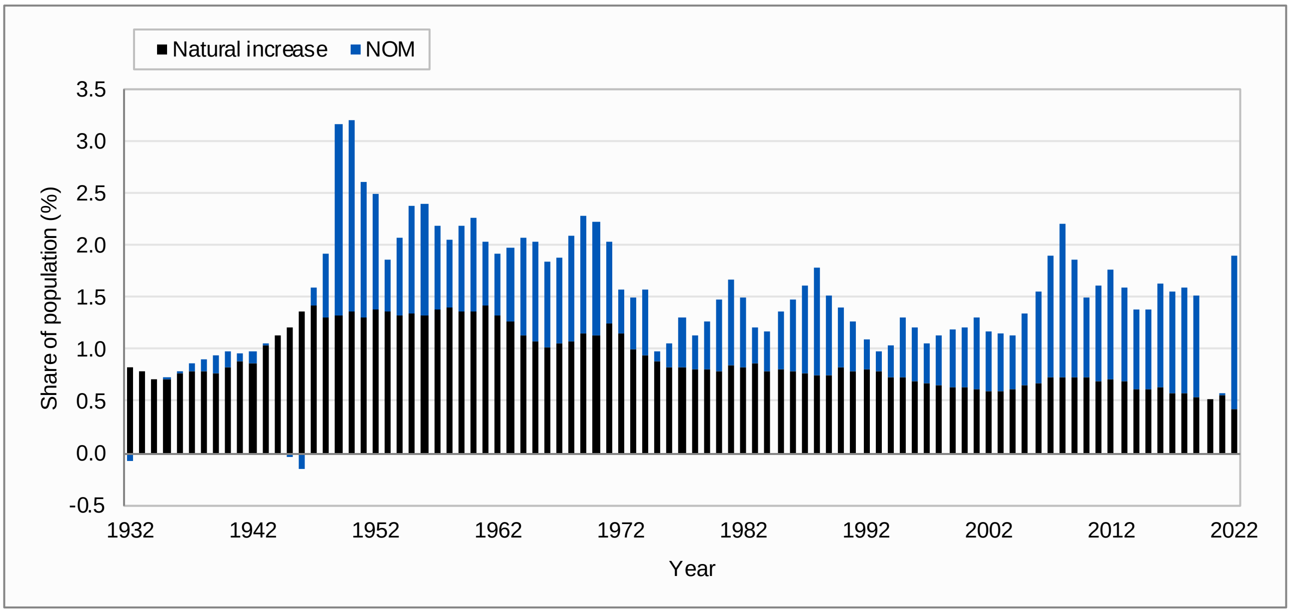
[12] Includes Isle of Man.

[13] 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.

[14] ABS, October 2023, Australia's Population by Country of Birth – estimated resident population, country of birth as at 30 June,1996 to 2022

As shown in Figure 2, NOM's share of population growth, 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. For the year ending December 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, NOMs share of population was 1.0 per cent, and for the same period during the pandemic in 2020 it was -0.02 per cent (-5000 people). NOM, being negative, slightly reduced the growth in population as opposed to NOM typically (and substantially) adding to it. By comparison, for the year ending December 2022, NOM peaked at a preliminary estimate of 387,000 people—a population share of 1.5 per cent—surpassing the previous peak of 315,700 people for the year ending December 2008.

Figure 2: Components of Australia's population growth as a share of population, 1932 to 2022



Source data: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2019, Historical population and ABS, 2023, National, state and territory population.

NOM can be analysed in many different ways, in particular:

- NOM arrivals and NOM departures, where a person moved into and out of the population
- a person's temporary (such as a Student or Visitor) or permanent (such as Skill or Family) visa category.

Prior to the pandemic, an analysis of NOM by visa category 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).

There was disruption to the flow of NOM arrivals in 2020, 2021 and early 2022, due to the international border restrictions in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. For the year ending 31 December 2022, NOM arrivals peaked at 619,600. This was largely a flow-on-effect due to the international border restrictions and was 1.9 per cent above the 607,900 for the year ending December 2019.

People who arrived on a temporary visa accounted for 70.6 per cent of these arrivals (437,600), of which 54.1 per cent (236,600) were international students.

Noting, NOM departures for the COVID-year ending December 2022 were 232,600. This was:

- not too different from the previous two years—11.2 per cent above the 209,200 for the year ending December 2021, and 3.2 per cent below the 240,300 for the year ending December 2020
- significantly less (35.4 per cent) than the (10-year period) peak of 360,300 for the year ending December 2019.

Unlike in each year examined from 2010 to 2022, NOM departures of international students for the year to December 2022 (7.4 per cent) were well below the proportional average (19.9 per cent) of all Student visa departures to 2021. The decrease in NOM departures of international students was largely the result of the preceding border restrictions imposed at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Therefore, based on the above analysis of NOM arrivals/departures, the main driver of growth in NOM for the year ending December 2022 was the NOM arrival/departure of international students.

Labour market outcomes

The importance of migration in Australia's labour market

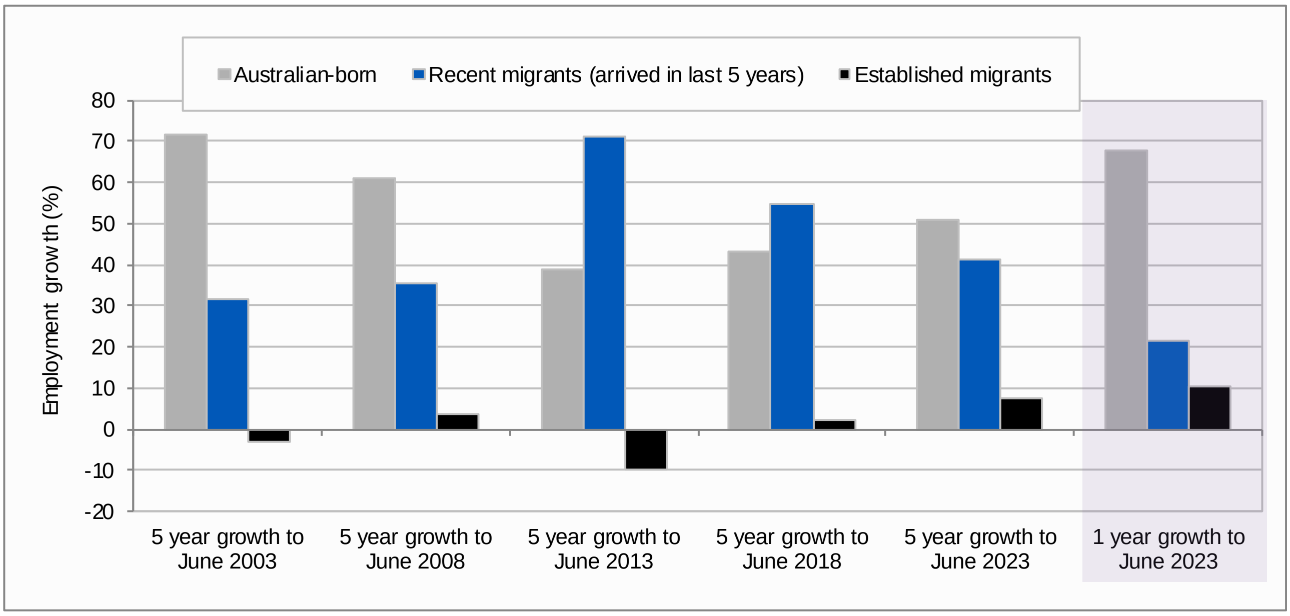
Migration is an important component of workforce growth, with new migrants the main contributors to employment growth in the Australian workforce. Over the past two decades, migration has increasingly underpinned employment growth.

In the five years leading up to June 2003, new migrants (those who arrived in the preceding five years) accounted for 31.6 per cent of total growth in jobs, whereas Australian-born accounted for 71.6 per cent and established migrants -3.3 per cent (that is, their exiting of the workforce pulled employment growth down) (Figure 3). Since then the impact of newly arriving migrants on growth in jobs has increased.

At June 2023, Australia's workforce stood at almost than 14.1 million, which was 11.7 per cent more than five years earlier in June 2018. New migrants accounted for 41.4 per cent of these additional jobs, whereas Australian-born accounted for 51.1 per cent and established migrants 7.5 per cent.

Between June 2022 and June 2023, employment increased by 410,300. The Australian-born accounted for 68.0 per cent of this increase in employment, whereas new migrants accounted for 21.4 per cent and established migrants for 10.6 per cent.

Figure 3: Contribution of migration to employment growth, as at June of 2003 to 2023



Source data: ABS, July 2023, 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 2023, the net increase of migrants in the workforce (up by 1.4 million) was 9.2 per cent greater than for the Australian-born (up 1.2 million).

In addition, new migrants have high rates of employment as discussed below, which also contributes to their impact on workforce growth.[15] 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.

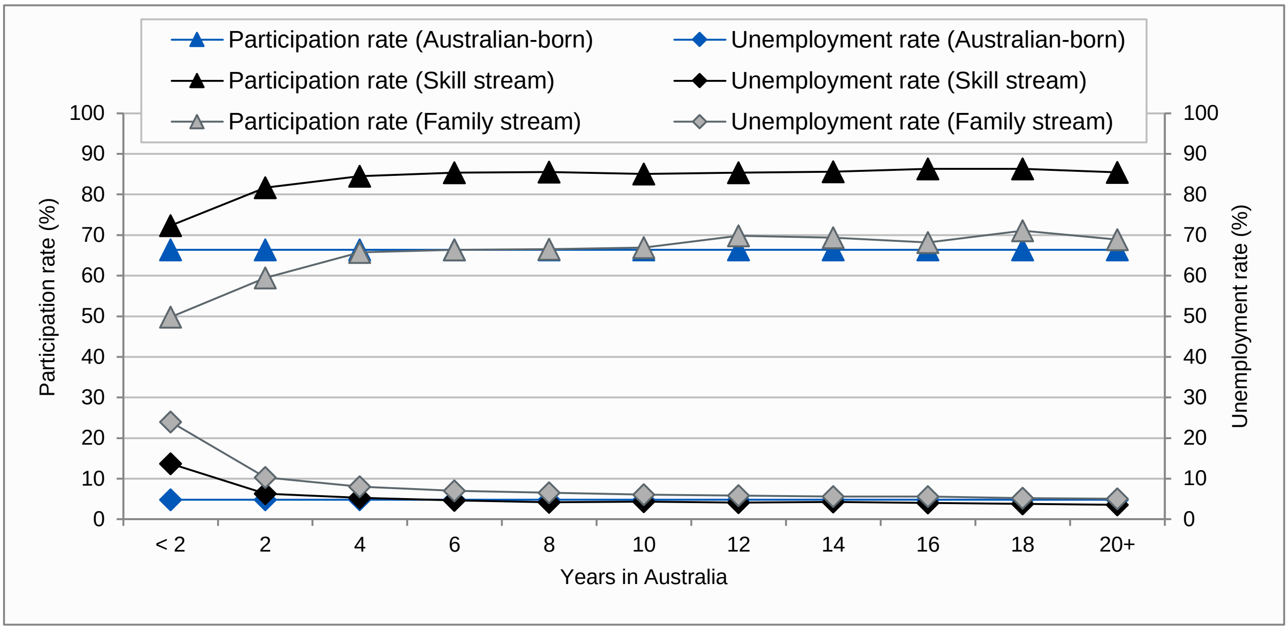
The higher rates of employment for migrants are more pronounced for migrants selected on the basis of their skills and qualifications (Skill stream migrants as opposed to Family stream migrants) (Figure 4). Based on labour market outcomes at the time of the 2021 Census (of primary and secondary visa holders combined):

- the most recent of arrivals (those who arrived between 2020 and August 2021) had potentially not yet adjusted to the labour market, and had a high unemployment rate:
  - 13.7 per cent for Skill stream migrants
  - 24.0 per cent for Family stream migrants.

[15] See section: “Outcomes for recently arrived Skill 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:
  - unemployment rate, of:
    - 8.4 percentage points for Skill stream migrants in the first 4 years, and a further 1.0 percentage points over the following 10 years
    - 15.9 percentage points for Family stream migrants in the first 4 years, and a further 2.4 percentage points in the following 10 years.
  - participation rate, of:
    - 12.1 percentage points for Skill stream migrants in the first 4 years, and a further 1.1 percentage points over the following 10 years
    - 15.9 percentage points for Family stream migrants in the first 4 years, and a further 3.6 percentage points in the following 10 years.

Figure 4: Unemployment and participation rates at the time of the 2021 Census, by time in Australia



Source data: ABS, Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset, 2021

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 2002–03 and 2022–23, the annual average labour force participation rate for Australia increased by 2.8 percentage points as a result of a combination of the following:

- Migrants **added** 6.5 points—3.0 points added due to the age profile of migrants becoming younger over the 20-year period, and 3.4 points added due to an increase in propensity to work amongst migrants[16]
- Australia-born **deducted** 3.7 points—7.6 points deducted due to the effects of an ageing population, and 3.9 points added due to an increase in propensity to work amongst Australian-born.

[16] Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Underlying the migrant's contribution to growth in labour force participation over this 20-year period, was increasing levels of migration in the first 10 years, followed by decreasing (although less rapidly) levels over the following 9 years, before increasing in the final year. Between 2002–03 and 2012–13 (initial 10 years), annual Migration Program outcomes increased from 108,072 to 190,000, and Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa grants increased from 36,691 to 126,357, respectively. In the following 9 years, these somewhat decreased to 143,556 and 61,987, respectively, by 2021–22, before increasing again in 2022–23, to fill skill shortages that eventuated due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migration.[17]

Correspondingly, over the initial 10 years, the change in the annual average labour force participation rate was 1.6 percentage points, compared to 0.9 percentage points in the following 9 years, reflecting the drop in migration numbers before increasing in 2022–23 by 0.7 percentage points on the previous year.

Further decomposition revealed that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the participation rate fell 0.3 percentage points between 2018–19 and 2020–21. This comprised:

- Migrants **adding** 0.3 points due to an increase in propensity to work
- Australia-born **deducting** 0.5 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.[18]

In the most recent period, between 2019–20 and 2022–23, with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic lessening, and the reopening of the borders from February 2022, 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 1.2 percentage points. This comprised the following:

- Migrants **adding** 1.4 points—0.3 points added due to the effects of more established migrants (35 years of age and over) entering the workforce, and 1.1 points added due to an increase in propensity to work[19]
- Australia-born **deducting** 0.2 points—1.2 points deducted due to the effects of an ageing population, and 1.0 points added due to an increase in propensity to work.

It can therefore be seen from Table 2 that, overall, migration bolstered Australia's labour force participation rate through new migrants attaining rates well in excess of that for the resident population.

[17] Interim Report of the inquiry into Australia's Skilled Migration Program

[18] Figures may not sum due to rounding.

[19] Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Table 2: 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			
2002–03 and 2022–23 — (20-year period)	-7.6	3.0	-4.6
2002–03 and 2012–13 — (10-year period)	-3.1	1.4	-1.7
2013–14 and 2021–22 — (9-year period)	-3.2	1.1	-2.2
2021–22 and 2022–23 — (1-year period)	-0.2	0.1	-0.1
2016–17 and 2018–19 — (2-year period pre-COVID)	-0.8	0.4	-0.4
2018–19 and 2020–21 — (2 year period during COVID)	-0.7	0.0	-0.7
2019–20 and 2022–23 — (3 year period exiting COVID)	-1.2	0.3	-0.9
Propensity to participate change			
2002–03 and 2022–23 — (20-year period)	3.9	3.4	7.4
2002–03 and 2012–13 — (10-year period)	1.7	1.6	3.2
2013–14 and 2021–22 — (9-year period)	1.6	1.5	3.1
2021–22 and 2022–23 — (1-year period)	0.4	0.4	0.8
2016–17 and 2018–19 — (2-year period pre-COVID)	0.8	0.5	1.4
2018–19 and 2020–21 — (2 year period during COVID)	0.1	0.3	0.4
2019–20 and 2022–23 — (3 year period exiting COVID)	1.0	1.1	2.1
Total change			
2002–03 and 2022–23 — (20-year period)	-3.7	6.5	2.8
2002–03 and 2012–13 — (10-year period)	-1.4	3.0	1.6
2013–14 and 2021–22 — (9-year period)	-1.6	2.6	0.9
2021–22 and 2022–23 — (1-year period)	0.2	0.5	0.7
2016–17 and 2018–19 — (2-year period pre-COVID)	0.0	1.0	1.0
2018–19 and 2020–21 — (2 year period during COVID)	-0.5	0.3	-0.3
2019–20 and 2022–23 — (3 year period exiting COVID)	-0.2	1.4	1.2

Source data: ABS, July 2023, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, LM5 cube

1. Specified time-period order based on that of the analysis provided in the text. Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Outcomes of Australia's migrant population stock

The migrant unemployment rate at 30 June 2023 was 3.7 per cent (based on three-month averages), only slightly above than the Australian-born rate of 3.5 per cent.

For migrants, the 2022–23 financial was a period where unemployment rates were at their lowest and participation rates at their highest, in the last 20 years (Figure 5). For Australian-born, their unemployment rates were also at a 20-year low, whilst their participation rate was commensurate with the pre-COVID-19 levels of the 2018–19 financial year.

Since January 2000, both migrant and Australian-born unemployment rates were mostly aligned, with the exception of the approximately 12 months following the impact of the 2009 global financial crisis (Figure 5). During that crisis migrants were impacted more heavily, with their unemployment rate increasing more than that for the Australian born. Similarly, 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).

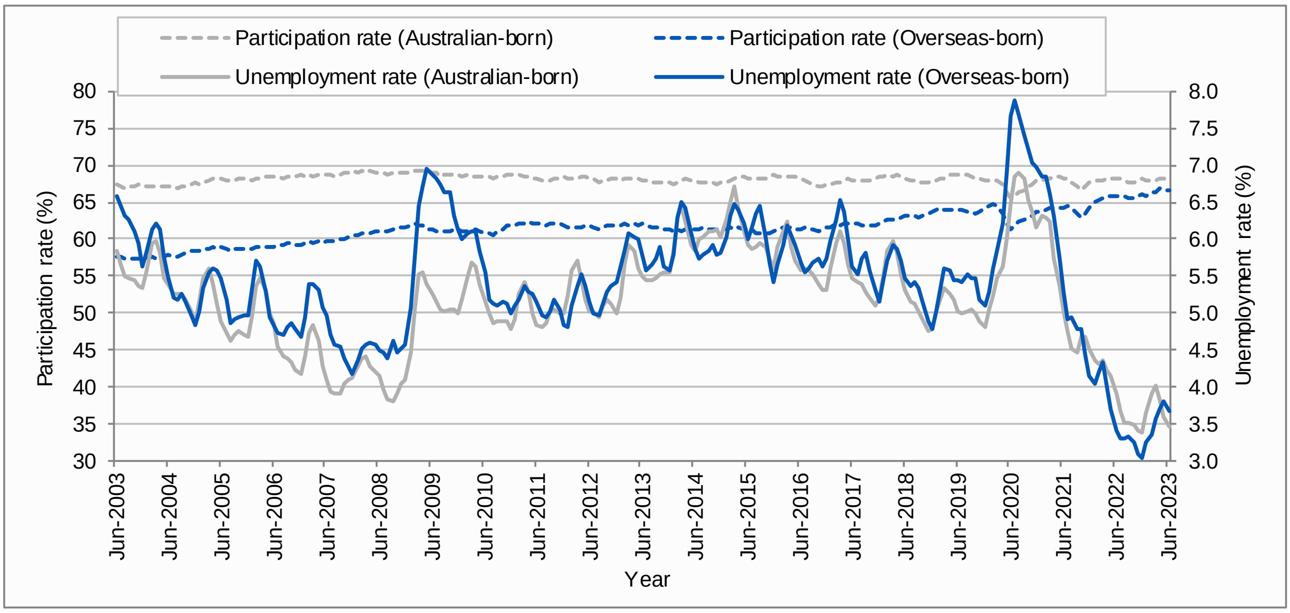
Figure 5 also shows that the labour force participation rate of Australia's migrants was consistently lower than that of the Australian-born (but converging) with a gap of 1.6 percentage points at June 2023 (66.6 per cent compared to 68.2 per cent, respectively). This difference is largely attributable to the impact of age on labour force participation, with the median age of Australia's migrant population at June 2022, being 10.2 years older than that of the Australian-born (44.7 years compared to 34.5 years, respectively).[20]

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 2002, 17.9 per cent of Australia's migrants were aged 65 years or over, compared with just 11.1 per cent of Australian-born, a difference of 6.8 percentage points. By 2022, these proportions had converged to 21.3 per cent and 15.3 per cent, respectively, a difference of 6.0 percentage points.[21]

Figure 5: Unemployment and participation rates by birth group, June 2003 to June 2023



Source data: ABS, July 2023, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, LM7 cube (three-month averages)

[20] ABS, October 2023, Population by Country of Birth 2021–22, Median Age, June 1996 to June 2022.
[21] ABS, October 2023, Australia's Population by Country of Birth, Data Explorer, estimated resident population, country of birth, age and sex as at 30 June 1996 onwards.

Outcomes for recently arrived Skill 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 Skill stream primary applicants from the CSAM, who settled in Australia between January and July of 2020, founded on an introductory survey at their six-month settlement period and the second-survey at the 18-month stage of settlement for these same migrants (conducted around November 2021 respectively).

Employment outcomes of recent Skill stream migrants

Between the six-month and 18-month 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 12-month period (Table 3).[22] These employment outcomes included:

- employment to population ratio—up 3.3 percentage points; from 89.1 per cent to 92.4 per cent (compared to an increase of 1.6 points for the general population to 63.3 per cent)
- unemployment rate—down 3.7 percentage points; from 7.0 per cent to 3.3 per cent (compared a decrease of 2.1 points for the general population to 4.3 per cent)
- labour force participation rate—down 0.3 percentage points; from 95.9 per cent to 95.6 per cent (compared to an increase of 0.2 points for the general population to 66.1 per cent)
- median annual full-time earnings—up $10,500; from $72,800 to $83,300 (compared to an estimated increase of $2,200 for the general population)[23]
- highly skilled employment to population ratio—up 3.5 percentage points; from 67.0 per cent to 70.6 per cent.[24]

The reporting categories for Skilled Migrants were Employer Sponsored, State/Territory Nominated, Offshore Independent, Onshore Independent and Other Skilled (Table 3).[25] Between the six-month and 18-month stages of settlement, migrants from all categories reported improved employment outcomes apart from Employer Sponsored migrants. There was little change in employment outcomes for Employer Sponsored migrants, given there was less room for improvement as they already had very strong employment outcomes at the six-month stage of settlement, such as near full employment of 94.9 per cent.

[22] Employment Outcome figures for Australian civilian population aged 15 years and over sourced from ABS, Labour Force, Australia, released December 2022. Data presented is November 2020 and November 2021 'Original' for comparison with the CSAM survey of migrants at their six-month and 18-month stages of settlement.
[23] Average annual increase between ABS Earnings and Hours May 2018, and May 21 releases.
[24] 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.

[25] 'Offshore' and 'Onshore' refer to the location of the migrant at the time of their visa grant, for example, migrants in Australia on a temporary visa who were granted an Independent skilled visa, would be classified as an Onshore Independent migrant.

Table 3: Change in employment outcomes for Skilled Migrants (primary applicants) – between six-month and 18-month stages of settlement (2020-2021 CSAM)

Outcomes (weighted)	All Skill stream categories	Employer Spon.	State/ Territory Nom.	Offshore Indep.	Onshore Indep.	Other Skilled[1]	General Pop.[2]
Sample size	**9,745**	**1,727**	**3,870**	**132**	**1,516**	**2,500**	**N/A**
At six months							
Employment outcomes (%)							
Employed	89.1	94.9	87.6	73.4	90.6	84.9	61.8
By skill level of job[4]:							
Highly skilled	*67.0*	*75.9*	*66.7*	*68.2*	*71.8*	*54.0*	*N/A*
Semi-skilled	*17.0*	*16.1*	*14.5*	*3.9*	*16.0*	*23.1*	*N/A*
Low skilled	*5.2*	*2.9*	*6.3*	*1.2*	*2.9*	*7.7*	*N/A*
Unemployed	6.7	2.2	8.4	22.9	6.2	8.6	4.2
Not in labour force	4.1	2.9	4.0	3.8	3.2	6.5	34.0
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Unemployment rate	7.0	2.2	8.8	23.8	6.4	9.2	6.4
Participation rate	95.9	97.1	96.0	96.2	96.8	93.5	66.0
Earnings ($'000)							
Sample size: employed[3]	**8,613**	**1,637**	**3,405**	**95**	**1,379**	**2,097**	**N/A**
Median annual full-time earnings	72.8	84.1	65.0	91.0	78.5	67.0	79.6
At 18 months							
Employment outcomes (%)							
Employed	92.4	92.9	93.6	90.5	93.5	89.5	63.3
By skill level of job[4]:							
Highly skilled	*70.6*	*73.8*	*72.8*	*84.1*	*74.9*	*59.5*	*N/A*
Semi-skilled	*17.4*	*16.3*	*15.7*	*4.2*	*15.9*	*23.4*	*N/A*
Low skilled	*4.4*	*2.9*	*5.1*	*2.2*	*2.7*	*6.6*	*N/A*
Unemployed	3.1	2.5	3.1	7.0	2.6	4.1	2.8
Not in labour force	4.4	4.5	3.4	2.5	3.9	6.4	33.9
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Unemployment rate	3.3	2.6	3.2	7.1	2.7	4.4	4.3
Participation rate	95.6	95.5	96.6	97.5	96.1	93.6	66.1
Earnings ($'000)							
Sample size: employed[3]	**8,853**	**1,586**	**3,569**	**118**	**1,396**	**2,184**	**N/A**
Median annual full-time earnings	83.3	100.0	75.0	116.4	90.0	80.0	83.0
Change in outcomes							
Employment outcomes (percentage point)							
Employed	3.3	-2.0	6.0	17.2	2.9	4.5	1.6
By skill level of job[4]:							
Highly skilled	*3.5*	*-2.1*	*6.0*	*15.9*	*3.1*	*5.4*	*N/A*
Semi-skilled	*0.5*	*0.2*	*1.2*	*0.3*	*-0.1*	*0.3*	*N/A*
Low skilled	*-0.7*	*0.0*	*-1.2*	*1.0*	*-0.2*	*-1.2*	*N/A*
Unemployed	-3.6	0.4	-5.4	-15.9	-3.6	-4.5	-1.4
Not in labour force	0.3	1.6	-0.6	-1.2	0.7	-0.1	-0.1
Total	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Unemployment rate	-3.7	0.4	-5.6	-16.6	-3.7	-4.8	-2.1
Participation rate	-0.3	-1.6	0.6	1.2	-0.7	0.1	0.2
Earnings ($'000)							
Median annual full-time earnings	10.5	15.9	10.0	25.4	11.5	13.0	2.2

Note: Table 1 includes only those respondents who participated in both the introductory and follow-up 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 those previously published for the 'At six months'. Spon. = Sponsored, Nom. = Nominated, Indep. = Independent, N/A = not available.

1. Other Skilled category includes family sponsored migrants. Note: Family stream migrants are not presented in this table.

2. General Pop. = General Population. Employment Outcome figures for Australian civilian population aged 15 years and over sourced from ABS, Labour Force, Australia, released December 2022. Data presented is November 2020 and 2021 'Original', for 'At six months' and, 'At 18 months' 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 18 months'—the closest dates to the survey dates for which data is available at time of publication; earnings data 'At six months' utilises a midpoint estimate. Change in earnings is an annual average.

3. Sample size excludes respondents not working, for 'employed'.

4. See definition of skill level provided at footnote 22 page 28.

Migrants from the Offshore Independent and State/Territory Nominated categories had, on average, greater improvement in employment outcomes than those from other reporting categories.[26] Improvements for migrants granted an Offshore Independent visa included:

- employment to population ratio—up 17.2 percentage points; from 73.4 per cent to 90.5 per cent
- unemployment rate—down 16.6 percentage points; from 23.8 per cent to 7.1 per cent
- proportion in highly skilled employment—up 15.9 percentage points; from 68.2 per cent to 84.1 per cent.

Improvements for migrants granted a State/Territory Nominated visa included:

- employment to population ratio—up 6.0 percentage points; from 87.6 per cent to 93.6 per cent
- unemployment rate—down 5.6 percentage points; from 8.8 per cent to 3.2 per cent
- proportion in highly skilled employment—up 6.0 percentage points; from 66.7 per cent to 72.8 per cent.

Employment outcomes for Skill stream primary applicants by gender

An analysis of Skill stream primary applicants by gender identified that both males and females reported improvement in labour market outcomes. These improvements are well above any change in the labour market outcomes of the respective Australian general population by gender. Overall males performed slightly better than females, although in particular cases females had stronger improvements, such as their employment to population ratio and unemployment rate.[27]

These labour market outcomes included:

- Females:
    - employment to population ratio—up 3.7 percentage points; from 87.5 per cent to 91.2 per cent (compared to an increase of 6.4 points for the female general population to 63.3 per cent)
    - unemployment rate—down 4.3 percentage points; from 8.1 per cent to 3.8 per cent (compared to a decrease of 2.3 points for the female general population to 4.2 per cent)
    - labour force participation rate—down 0.4 percentage points; from 95.3 per cent to 94.9 per cent (compared to an increase of 0.5 points for the female general population to 61.7 per cent)
    - median annual full-time earnings—up $9,800; from $70,200 to $80,000 (compared to an estimated increase of $2,200 for the general population)[28]
    - proportion in highly skilled employment—up 3.1 percentage points; from 73.0 per cent to 76.1 per cent.
- Males:
    - employment to population ratio—up 3.0 percentage points; from 90.3 per cent to 93.3 per cent (compared to an increase of 1.2 points for the male general population to 67.7 per cent)
    - unemployment rate—down 3.3 percentage points; from 6.2 per cent to 2.9 per cent (compared to a decrease of 1.9 points for the male general population to 4.3 per cent)
    - labour force participation rate—down 0.2 percentage points; from 96.3 per cent to 96.1 per cent (compared to a decrease of 0.2 points for the male general population to 70.7 per cent)
    - median annual full-time earnings—up $11,000; from $75,000 to $86,000 (compared to an estimated increase of $2,200 for the general population)
    - proportion in highly skilled employment—up 3.9 percentage points; from 62.9 per cent to 66.8 per cent.

[26] Note: figures may not sum due to rounding.
[27] Note: figures may not sum due to rounding.
[28] Note: for the general population, full-time earnings by gender is not available.

Labour market outcomes of the children of migrants

The impacts of migration extend through to the next generation, and this is particularly pertinent to Australia, with 48.2 per cent of Australian's having an overseas-born parent.[29] This section analyses some of the settlement outcomes of these 'children' (once they are of working age). The analysis uses data from the 2021 Census of Population and Housing to compare labour market performance and return to education for the following three groups of people:

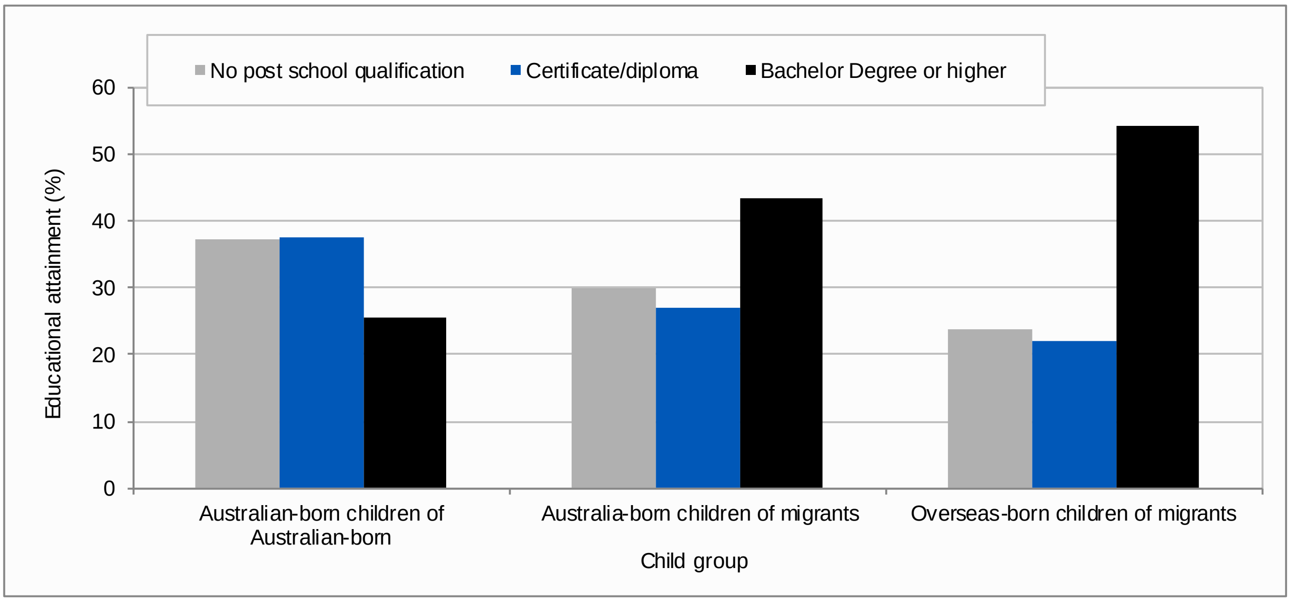
1. Australian-born children of Australian-born—people born in Australia with at least one Australian-born parent.
2. Australian-born children of migrants—people born in Australia with both parents born overseas.
3. Overseas-born children of migrants—people born overseas who arrived in Australia up to 15 years of age.

Only people between the ages of 15 and 34 years were selected. This was to focus the analysis on the effects of educational attainment on labour market outcomes. Also excluded are people who arrived in Australia after 15 years of age and those in full-time study.

Education levels

Based on the 2021 Census, overseas-born children who grew up in Australia had, on average, higher levels of educational attainment than people of a similar age who were born in Australia (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Educational attainment by child group (15-34 years of age), 2021



Source data: ABS, 2021 Census of Population and Housing
Note: Excludes not stated and inadequately described.

In particular, the level of post school qualification were as follows:

[29] ABS, Media Release, 28 May 2022, [2021 Census: Nearly half of Australians have a parent born overseas](#).

- Australian-born children of Australian–born—62.9 per cent, comprised of 25.5 percentage points who specified a bachelor degree or higher qualification
- Australian-born children of migrants—70.2 per cent, comprised of 43.3 percentage points who specified a bachelor degree or higher qualification
- Overseas-born children of migrants—76.3 per cent, comprised of 54.3 percentage points who specified a bachelor degree or higher qualification.

Overseas-born children of migrants not only had these higher levels of educational attainment, they were also 2.3 and 3.7 times more likely to have a postgraduate qualification, than children born in Australia to parents who are migrants or Australian-born, respectively.

Labour market outcomes and the returns on education level

Despite children of migrants being more highly educated, they have similar employment outcomes to those born to Australian-born parents:

- Australian-born children of Australian-born:
  - employment to population rate of 81.4 per cent
  - unemployment rate of 5.7 per cent
  - participation rate of 86.3 per cent.
- Australian-born children of migrants:
  - employment to population rate of 80.4 per cent
  - unemployment rate of 5.8 per cent
  - participation rate of 85.4 per cent.
- Overseas-born children of migrants:
  - employment to population rate of 78.7 per cent
  - unemployment rate of 6.0 per cent
  - participation rate of 83.7 per cent.

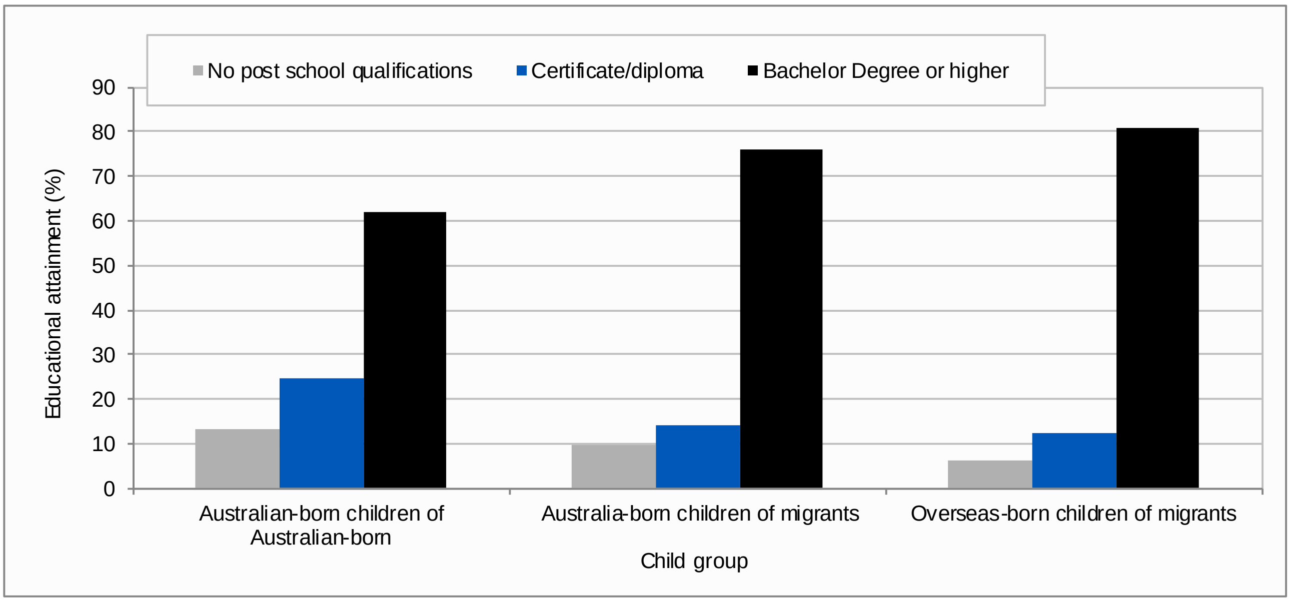
However, the returns on higher education become evident when stratifying outcomes by education levels. Such analysis shows that increased education delivers strong improvements across all three groups (Figure 7). For example, for Australian-born children of Australian-born, the proportion in highly skilled[30] work was:

- 61.8 per cent for those with a bachelor degree or higher qualification
- 24.7 per cent for those with a certificate/diploma qualification
- 13.5 per cent for those with no post school qualification.

[30]Skill level of employment is based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO):

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

Figure 7: Highly skilled employment by child group (15-34 years of age) and educational attainment, 2021



Source data: ABS, 2021 Census of Population and Housing
Note: Excludes not stated and inadequately described.

In other words, within this group, a bachelor degree or higher qualification lifts the rate of highly skilled employment 37.2 percentage points, compared to having a certificate or diploma. The story for Australian-born children of migrants and for Overseas-born children of migrants is similar, with a bachelor degree or higher qualification lifting the rate of highly skilled employment by 62.0 percentage points and 68.5 percentage points respectively.

Increased education delivers improvements against other measures as well, including:

- **Unemployment rates**—The unemployment rates for those with a bachelor degree or higher qualification was lower than it was for those with only a certificate or diploma qualification:
  - Australian-born children of Australian-born—2.9 percentage points lower (1.9 per cent compared to 4.8 per cent)
  - Australian-born children of migrants—3.3 percentage points lower (3.0 per cent compared to 6.3 per cent)
  - Overseas-born children of migrants—0.8 percentage points lower (4.9 per cent compared to 5.8 per cent).
- **Participation rates**—There were improvements in labour force participation rates for those with a bachelor degree or higher qualification, compared to those with only a certificate or diploma qualification. Namely:
  - Australian-born children of Australian-born—6.6 percentage points higher (96.0 per cent compared to 89.4 per cent)
  - Australian-born children of migrants—10.2 percentage points higher (94.7 per cent compared to 84.5 per cent)
  - Overseas-born children of migrants—5.2 percentage points higher (89.5 per cent compared to 84.3 per cent).

- **Earnings**—Education level has a pronounced impact on the annual earnings of these groups. Those with a bachelor degree or higher qualification, compared to those with only a certificate or diploma qualification, were more likely to be earning within the top quartile for the Australian workforce ($91,000 or more per year). Namely:
  - Australian-born children of Australian-born—17.2 percentage points higher (31.7 per cent compared to 14.5 per cent)
  - Australian-born children of migrants—18.9 percentage points higher 32.9 per cent compared to 14.0 per cent)
  - Overseas-born children of migrants—12.8 percentage points higher (22.0 per cent compared to 9.2 per cent).

Overall, this analysis shows that education is an important enabler of good labour market outcomes for both the children of migrants and children of Australian-born parents.

Labour market outcomes of temporary residents in Australia

The impact of migration on Australia's labour market is not limited to the effects of permanent migrants alone; it also extends to those migrants in Australia on temporary visas with work rights. This section analyses some of the labour market outcomes of temporary residents (people who stayed or intended to stay in Australia for twelve months or more) in Australia. The analysis uses data from the 2021 Australian Census and Temporary Entrants Integrated Dataset (ACTEID) to compare labour market performance by visa type and return to education.

ACTEID focuses on temporary residents, comprised of:

- Special Category visa—New Zealand citizens
- Working Holiday Maker program—Working Holiday visa and Work and Holiday visa
- Student visas
- Temporary Work (Skilled) visa
- Other temporary visas (for example, other temporary work visas and skilled graduate visas)
- Bridging visas.

In line with ABS labour force reporting, only temporary residents 15 years of age and over are considered in this analysis.

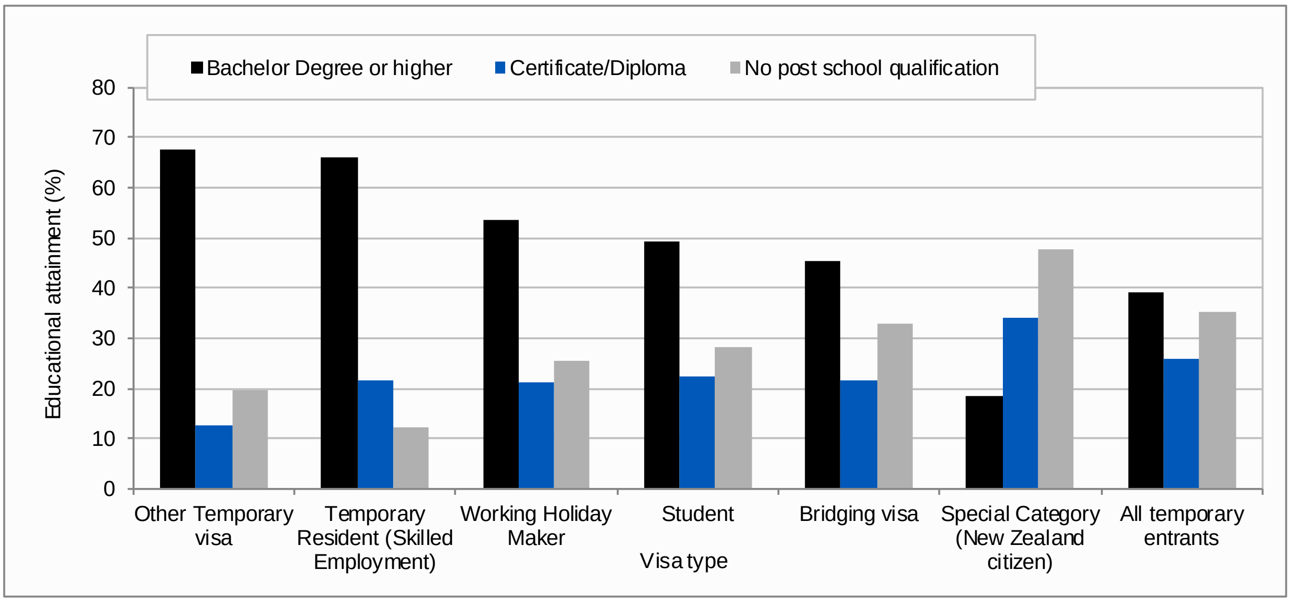
Education levels

Based on the 2021 Census, temporary residents had higher education levels than those in Australia at the time of the 2016 Census, namely:

- Bachelor Degree or higher—39.0 per cent compared to 32.9 per cent at the time of the 2016 Census
- Certificate/Diploma level—25.9 per cent compared to 24.3 per cent at the time of the 2016 Census.

In particular, temporary residents at the time of the 2021 Census who held a Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa or Other Temporary visa had, on average, higher levels of educational attainment (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Educational attainment by visa type, 15 years and over, 2021



Source data: ABS, 2021 ACTEID
Note: Excludes level of education not stated and inadequately described.

The level of post school qualification by visa category were as follows:

- Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)—87.9 per cent (66.2 percentage points tertiary qualified)
- Other Temporary visa—80.3 per cent (67.6 percentage points tertiary qualified)
- Working Holiday Makers—74.4 per cent (53.4 percentage points tertiary qualified)
- Student—71.7 per cent (49.2 percentage points tertiary qualified)
- Bridging visa—67.0 per cent (45.5 percentage points tertiary qualified)
- Special Category (New Zealand citizen)—52.4 per cent (18.3 percentage points tertiary qualified).[31]

Labour market outcomes and the returns on education level

The labour market outcomes for temporary residents are mixed when compared with outcomes for the general population (as measured at the time of the 2021 Census). This is because, on aggregate, their employment to population ratio and participation rate was largely better than that of the general population, whereas their unemployment rate was higher:

- employment to population ratio of 68.0 per cent, compared to 61.5 per cent
- participation rate of 73.0 per cent, compared 64.8 per cent
- unemployment rate of 6.9 per cent, compared to 5.1 per cent.

Disaggregating by visa type reveals the exceptions, with those temporary residents on a Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa in particular having substantially better rates of employment, participation and unemployment, than the general population (Table 4). This was as expected as these migrants were sponsored to fill a position with an employer.

[31] A tertiary qualification for this purpose is defined as having a Bachelor Degree or higher qualification.

Table 4: Labour market outcomes by visa type, 15 years and over, 2021

Visa type	Employment to population ratio (%)	Participation rate (%)	Unemployment rate (%)
Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)	84.3	86.8	2.8
Working Holiday Maker	85.7	90.6	5.4
Special Category (New Zealand citizen)	67.9	71.9	5.6
Other Temporary visa	78.6	83.7	6.1
Bridging visa	62.4	67.7	7.8
Student	63.6	70.6	10.0
Total[1]	**68.0**	**73.0**	**6.9**

Source data: ABS, 2021 ACTEID

1. Excludes not stated and not applicable. Order based on unemployment rate at the time of the 2021 Census.

Skill level returns on education

Analysis of all temporary residents reveals that 28.2 per cent were working in a semi-skilled occupation, followed by 22.7 per cent in highly skilled and 15.6 per cent in low skilled occupations, and with the remaining 33.5 per cent not working.

Stratifying outcomes by education levels shows that increased education correlates with higher skilled employment (Figure 9). For example, of those temporary residents with the following levels of education, the proportion in highly skilled employment was:

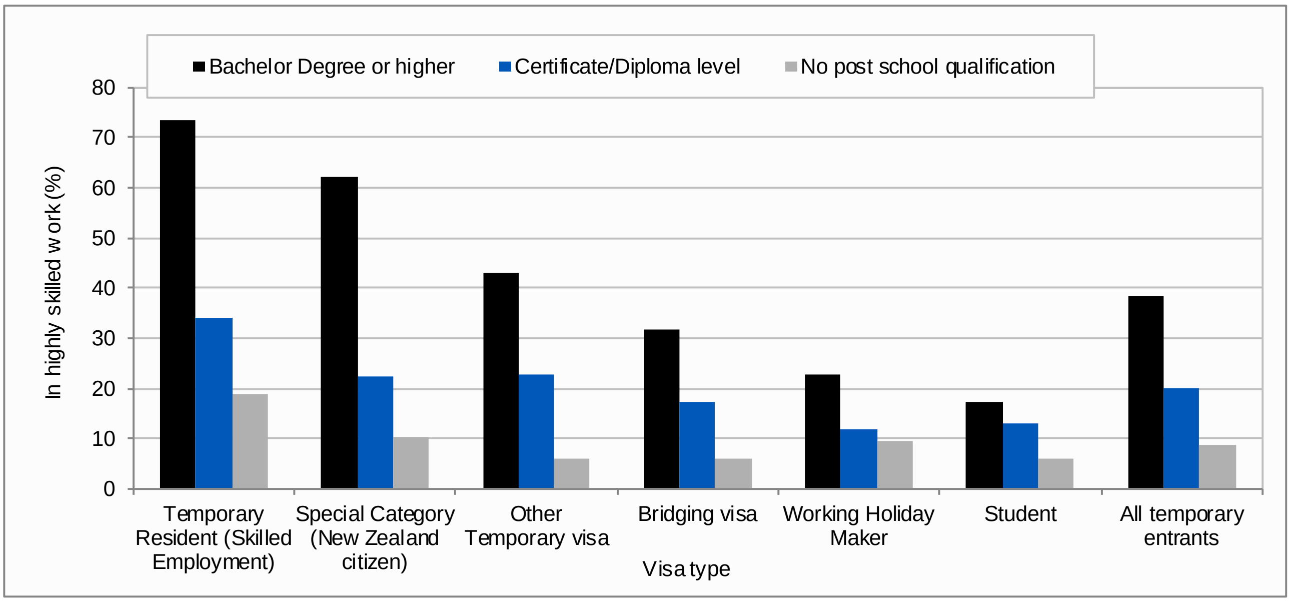
- Bachelor Degree or higher—38.4 per cent
- Certificate/Diploma—20.1 per cent
- No post school qualification—8.6 per cent.

Compared to having no post school qualification, having a diploma or certificate qualification lifted the proportion in highly skilled employment by 11.5 percentage points, and a Bachelor Degree or higher qualification lifted it by 29.8 percentage points. These rates of up-lift varied considerably by visa type, for example:

- Bachelor Degree or higher:
    - Student visa holders—up-lift of 11.3 percentage points; to
    - Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa holders—up-lift of 54.5 percentage points.
- Certificate/Diploma:
    - Working Holiday Maker visa holders—up-lift of 2.7 percentage points; to
    - Other Temporary visa holders—up-lift of 17.1 percentage points.

This variation between visa subclasses was as expected. Although international students had high rates of educational attainment (49.2 per cent with a Bachelor Degree or higher qualification), almost three-quarters (71.7 per cent) worked less than 25 hours per week. Largely this was because they were subject to the work conditions of their visa. However, during 2021, in response to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Australian Government did relax the enforcement of the 40 hour work limitation for international students working in the following critical sectors: Agriculture; Tourism; Hospitality; Health care; Aged care; and Disability services.

Figure 9: Highly skilled employment by educational level and visa type, 15 years and over, 2021



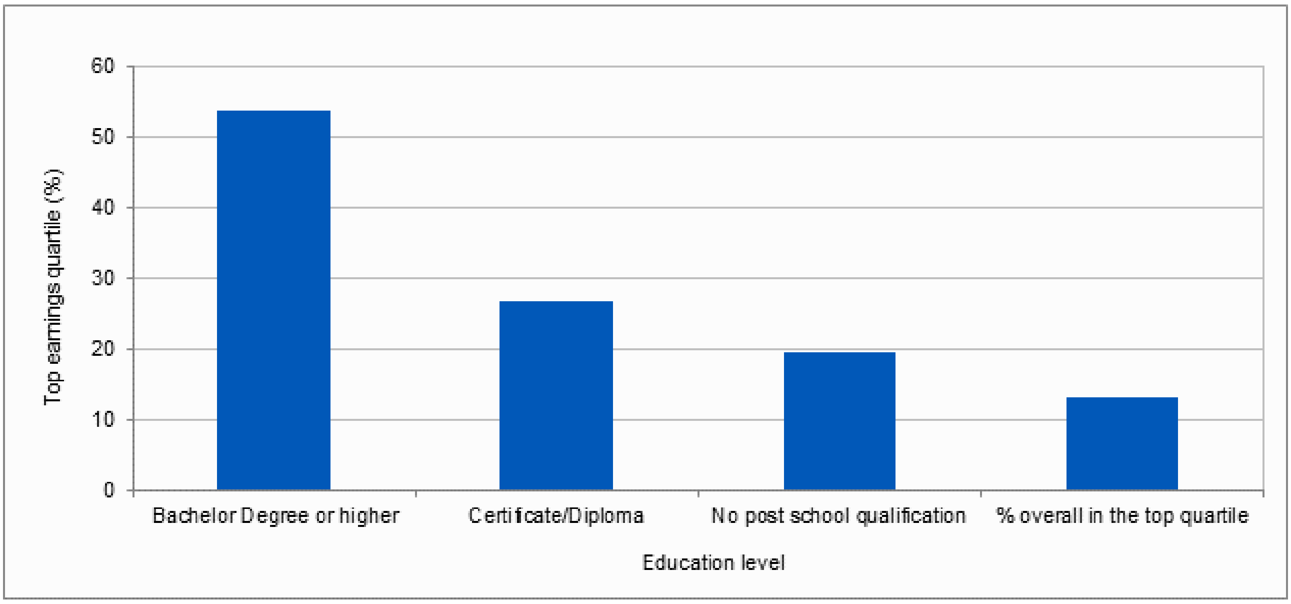
Source data: ABS, 2021 ACTEID

Note: Excludes level of education not stated and inadequately described; and skill level not determined and not stated.

Earnings and education

Education level has a pronounced impact on the annual earnings of temporary residents. Of those temporary migrants' whose annual incomes fell within the top quartile of the Australian workforce, $91,000 or more per year, 53.7 per cent had a Bachelor Degree or higher qualification (Figure 10).[32]

Figure 10: Top quartile earnings of temporary residents by education level, 15 years and over, 2021



Source data: ABS, 2021 ACTEID

Note: Excludes level of education not stated and inadequately described; and income levels that are negative, nil or not stated. The top quartile earnings in this figure are $91,000 per year and over—the closest match to the Australian top quartile ($94,300 and over) for which income data is available for temporary entrants.

[32] Top quartile earnings for Australia at time of the Census was $94,300 and over, derived from ABS, Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia, May 2021 cat. no. 6306.0—the closest match for which income data is available for temporary entrants is $91,000 and over.

The top three visa types with earnings in the top quartile, for each education level, were:

- Bachelor Degree or higher qualification (53.7 per cent):
  - Special Category (New Zealand citizen)—48.5 per cent
  - Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)—27.6 per cent
  - Bridging visa—10.3 per cent.
- Certificate or Diploma (26.9 per cent):
  - Special Category (New Zealand citizen)—80.8 per cent
  - Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)—7.2 per cent
  - Bridging visa—6.0 per cent.
- No post school qualification (19.4 per cent):
  - Special Category (New Zealand citizen)—80.4 per cent
  - Bridging visa—7.1 per cent
  - Other Temporary visa—3.8 per cent.

Summary

Based on the 2021 Census, the largest proportion of temporary entrants work in semi-skilled work. Those on a Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa and a New Zealand citizen Special Category visa have the strongest employment outcomes, with Student visa holders the weakest outcomes.

With the exception of Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa holders, temporary residents had higher rates of unemployment than the Australian general population at the time of the 2021 Census, the level of which is dependent on the purpose of their visa and duration of stay, and the number competing for work during this period of the COVID-19 pandemic. All have high participation in the labour force, however, this is somewhat lower for Student and Bridging visa holders.

Stratifying skill levels and earnings by education level, reveals that education is an important enabler of better labour market outcomes, with increased education correlating with higher skill levels and earnings within the top quartile for Australian workers.