



Australian Government  
Department of Home Affairs

# Australia's Migration Trends 2020–21

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# Table of Contents

Overview	2
Permanent migration	3
The Migration Program outcome	3
Skill stream visas	4
Family stream visas	8
Child stream visas	9
Special Eligibility visas	10
Change of status—permanent visa places by last visa held where the applicant is in Australia	10
Humanitarian Program	11
Offshore resettlement component	11
Onshore protection component	12
Temporary visa grants	12
Student visa grants	12
Visitor visa grants	13
Special Category visa grants to New Zealand citizens	15
Working Holiday Maker visa grants	15
Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa grants	16
Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) intra-company transfers	17
Post-study work—Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485) grants	18
Temporary visa holders in Australia	18
Visa non-compliance	19
Australian citizenship	20
Net overseas migration and population growth	21
Labour market outcomes	22
The importance of migration in our labour market	22
Outcomes of Australia's migrant population stock	24
Outcomes for recently arrived Skill stream and Family stream migrants	26

# Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic, which began in 2020, continues to have a significant impact on Australia's migration programs. International travel restrictions implemented in Australia and around the world have limited arrivals of both permanent and temporary migrants to Australia.

In the 2020–21 financial year, there were 165,999 permanent places delivered, and almost one million temporary visas granted (Table 1). By comparison with the previous financial year, the number of permanent places (including humanitarian visa grants) increased 8.1 per cent on the 153,537 places delivered, and the number of temporary visas granted decreased by 84.7 per cent on the 6.5 million granted.

**Table 1: Key statistics for 2020–21**

Migration	Total
<b>Permanent migrants</b>	<b>165,999</b>
Migration Program outcome	160,052
Skill stream places	79,620
Family stream places	77,372
Special Eligibility stream places	54
Child stream places	3,006
Humanitarian Program visas granted	5,947
<b>Temporary visas granted</b>	<b>993,708</b>
Crew and Transit visas granted	256,969
Student visas granted	232,750
Visitor visas granted	167,576
New Zealand citizen Special Category visas granted	143,023
Temporary Resident (Other Employment) visas granted	107,648
Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted	43,195
Working Holiday Maker visas granted	39,586
Other Temporary visas granted	2,961
<b>Citizenship</b>	<b>Conferrals</b>
<b>Conferrals of Australian citizenship</b>	<b>140,748</b>

Source data: Department of Home Affairs

# Permanent migration

## The Migration Program outcome

In 2020–21, the Migration Program outcome delivered 160,052 places—up 14.0 per cent on the 140,366 places in 2019–20. This was comprised of:

- 79,620 Skill stream places
- 77,372 Family stream places
- 54 Special Eligibility places
- 3006 Child stream places.

In 2020–21, the top three nationalities accounted for more than one-third (35.4 per cent) of the places delivered under the Migration Program. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—22,207 places (13.9 per cent)
2. India—21,791 places (13.6 per cent)
3. United Kingdom—12,703 places (7.9 per cent).

Growth in 2020–21, was strongest for nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—up 3620 places (19.5 per cent), from 18,587 places in 2019–20, to 22,207
2. Hong Kong—up 2921 places (210.0 per cent), from 1391 places in 2019–20, to 4312
3. Vietnam—2722 places (50.4 per cent), from 5398 places in 2019–20, to 8120.

More than two-thirds (67.5 per cent) of migrants that obtained a place in 2020–21, were migrants already in Australia on a temporary visa, with the remaining 32.5 per cent of places going to new arrivals.

Of these former temporary visa holders, more than half (52.5 per cent) were granted a Skill stream visa, of which almost half of these (46.3 per cent) moved directly from a Temporary Work (Skilled Employment) visa.

The 2020–21, Migration Program delivered 24,946 fewer places (13.5 per cent) than a decade earlier, with 184,998 places in 2011–12. This was largely a result of the:

- Skill stream—down 46,135 places (36.7 per cent)
- Family stream—up 18,768 places (32.0 per cent).

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

1. Vietnam—up 3347 places (70.1 per cent) on the 4773 places in 2011–12
2. Hong Kong—up 3275 places (315.8 per cent) on the 1037 places in 2011–12
3. Nepal—up 2242 places (90.7 per cent) on the 2472 places in 2011–12.

## Skill stream visas

In 2020–21, there were 79,620 Skill stream places delivered, 16,223 fewer than in 2019–20.

This was comprised of:

- 23,503 Employer Sponsored places
- 14,268 State/Territory Nominated places
- 13,585 Regional places
- 11,198 Business Innovation and Investment places
- 9584 Global Talent (Independent) places
- 7213 Skilled Independent places
- 269 Distinguished Talent places.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for around four-in-ten (40.9 per cent) of all Skill stream places in 2020–21, namely:

1. India—15,462 places (19.4 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—11,430 places (14.4 per cent)
3. United Kingdom—5660 places (7.1 per cent).

Despite the decrease in the number of places within the Skill stream in 2020–21, there was some growth among the main nationalities, namely:

- Hong Kong—up 2469 places (310.2 per cent); from 796 places in 2019–20, to 3265 places in 2020–21
- Iran—up 497 places (23.7 per cent); from 2093 places in 2019–20, to 2590 places in 2020–21
- Vietnam—up 171 places (6.7 per cent); from 2571 places in 2019–20, to 2742 places in 2020–21.

The Skill stream comprised 49.7 per cent of the Migration Program outcome in 2020–21, and 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.

The Skill stream is comprised of primary applicants (the main 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 2020–21, of the 79,620 Skill stream places delivered, less than half (45.3 per cent) went to Skill stream primary applicants, who comprised less than one-quarter (22.5 per cent) of the total Migration Program outcome.

## Employer Sponsored visas

In 2020–21, there were 23,503 Employer Sponsored places delivered, a decrease of 19.7 per cent on the 29,261 places delivered in 2019–20.

Nationals of the top three countries accounted for 40.8 per cent of Employer Sponsored places in 2020–21, namely:

1. India—4347 places (18.5 per cent)
2. United Kingdom—3419 places (14.5 per cent)
3. Philippines—1832 places (7.8 per cent).

In 2020–21, among the top 10 nationalities that received an Employer Sponsored place, nationals of South Africa were the only nationality to have recorded growth, an increase of 160 places (14.0 per cent) to 1305 places, whereas nationals of the People's Republic of China fell significantly and were down 1155 places (45.8 per cent), to 1369 places.

Of the 23,503 Employer Sponsored place delivered in 2020–21, 44.9 per cent (10,543 places) were to primary applicants, with the top three nominated occupations accounting for 22.5 per cent of Employer Sponsored primary applicants, namely:

1. Software and Applications Programmer—1298 places (12.3 per cent)
2. Registered Nurses—557 places (5.3 per cent)
3. Accountants—520 places (4.9 per cent).<sup>1</sup>

### **State/Territory Nominated**

In 2020–21, there were 14,268 State/Territory Nominated places delivered, a decrease of 33.6 per cent on the 21,495 places delivered in 2019–20.

Nationals of the top three countries in 2020–21, accounted for more than half (55.6 per cent) of State/Territory Nominated places. These were nationals of:

1. India—4052 places (28.4 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—2207 places (15.5 per cent)
3. Nepal—1669 places (11.7 per cent).

In 2020–21, among the top 10 nationalities that received a State/Territory Nominated place, nationals of Malaysia (451 places) were the only nationality to have recorded growth, an increase of 23 places (5.4 per cent) on the 428 places in 2019–20.

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

- India—down 2097 places (34.1 per cent) on the 6149 places in 2019–20
- People's Republic of China—down 1409 places (39.0 per cent) on the 3616 places in 2019–20.

In 2020–21, 58.1 per cent (8286 places) were to primary applicants, with the top three nominated occupations accounting for 42.7 per cent of State/Territory Nominated primary applicants, namely:

1. Registered Nurses—1537 places (18.5 per cent)
2. Software and Applications Programmer—1141 places (13.8 per cent)
3. Accountants—863 places (10.4 per cent).

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

## Regional migration

In 2020–21, there were 13,585 Regional places delivered, a decrease of 41.9 per cent on the 23,372 places delivered in 2019–20.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than half (52.4 per cent) of Regional places, namely:

1. India—4638 places (38.9 per cent)
2. Philippines—1289 places (9.5 per cent)
3. Nepal—1198 places (8.8 per cent).

A significant proportion (42.0 per cent) of the decrease (9787 places) in Regional places was from nationals of:

- India—down 2947 places (34.1 per cent) on the 7585 places in 2019–20
- People's Republic of China—down 1161 places (60.3 per cent) on the 1925 places in 2019–20.

In 2020–21, 43.6 per cent (5918 places) were to primary applicants, with the top three nominated occupations accounting for more than one-third (35.4 per cent) of Regional primary applicants, namely:

1. Registered Nurses—1353 places (22.9 per cent)
2. Accountants—480 places (8.1 per cent)
3. Software and Applications Programmer—264 places (4.5 per cent).

## Business Innovation and Investment visas

In 2020–21, there were 11,198 Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP) visa places delivered, an increase of 153.3 per cent (6778 places) on the 4420 places delivered in 2019–20. By stream, this was mainly (99.1 per cent) comprised of:

- 6330 Business Innovation places (56.5 per cent)
- 1855 Significant Business History places (16.6 per cent)
- 1522 Investor places (13.6 per cent)
- 1288 Significant Investor places (11.5 per cent)
- 97 Business Skills places (0.9 per cent).

Collectively, the top three nationalities accounted for 72.6 per cent of all BIIP visa places in 2020–21. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—5157 places (46.1 per cent)
2. Hong Kong—1828 places (16.3 per cent)
3. Vietnam—1144 places (10.2 per cent).

Chinese nationals continued to be the main recipients of BIIP visas, with significantly more BIIP places than any other nationality, and in 2020–21, was mainly comprised of:

- 2878 Business Innovation stream places
- 980 Significant Business History stream places
- 777 Significant Investor stream places
- 419 Investor stream places
- 58 Business Skills 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 2020–21, there were 9584 Global Talent (Independent) places delivered, an increase of 133.2 per cent (5475 places) on the 4109 places delivered in 2019–20. Of these, 41.3 per cent (3958 places) were to primary applicants.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for almost one-third (31.3 per cent) of Global Talent (Independent) places, namely:

1. India—1116 places (11.6 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—969 places (10.1 per cent)
3. Hong Kong—910 places (9.5 per cent).

## Skilled Independent

In 2020–21, there were 7213 Skilled Independent places delivered, a decrease of 44.5 per cent on the 12,986 places delivered in 2019–20. Of these, 56.6 per cent (4083 places) were to primary applicants.

The Skilled Independent outcome was comprised of:

- 3894 Points tested places—down 4313 places (52.6 per cent) on the 8207 delivered in 2019–20
- 3319 New Zealand stream places—down 1460 places (30.6 per cent) on the 4779 delivered in 2019–20.

Nationals of the top three countries in 2020–21, accounted for more than two-thirds (69.6 per cent) of Skilled Independent places. These were nationals of:

1. New Zealand—2939 places (40.7 per cent)
2. India—1140 places (15.8 per cent)
3. People's Republic of China—941 places (13.0 per cent).

## Distinguished Talent

In 2020–21, there were 269 Distinguished Talent places delivered, the highest number to date—an increase on the previous constant number of 200 places delivered each year since 2011–12. Of these, 46.1 per cent (124 places) were to primary applicants.

Nationals of the top three countries in 2020–21, accounted for more than one-third (37.2 per cent) of Distinguished Talent places. These were nationals of:

- United States of America—41 places (15.2 per cent)
- United Kingdom—36 places (13.4 per cent)
- People's Republic of China—23 places (8.6 per cent).

## Family stream visas

In 2020–21, the Family stream outcome delivered 77,372 places, an increase of 84.4 per cent on the 41,961 places delivered in 2019–20. This was comprised of:

- 72,376 Partner places
- 4500 Parent places
- 496 Other Family places.

This was the largest number of Family stream places delivered since 1987–88, when there were approximately 77,500 places delivered.<sup>2</sup>

Nationals of the top three countries in 2020–21, accounted for almost one-third (30.4 per cent) of Family stream places delivered. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—10,297 places (13.3 per cent)
2. United Kingdom—6942 places (9.0 per cent)
3. Philippines—6296 places (8.1 per cent).

Growth in 2020–21, was strongest for nationals of:

- People's Republic of China—up 4667 places (82.9 per cent) on the 5630 places in 2019–20
- Philippines—up 3905 places (163.3 per cent) on the 2391 places in 2019–20
- United Kingdom—up 3797 places (120.7 per cent) on the 3145 places in 2019–20.

## Partner visas

In 2020–21, there were 73,376 Partner places delivered—up 95.0 per cent on the 37,118 places delivered in 2019–20. This was comprised of:

- 70,372 Partner places
- 2004 Fiancé places.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than one-quarter (28.5 per cent) of Partner places in 2020–21. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—7765 places (10.7 per cent)
2. United Kingdom—6657 places (9.2 per cent)
3. Philippines—6218 places (8.6 per cent).

Growth in Partner places in 2020–21, was strongest for nationals of the following countries:

- People's Republic of China—up 4212 places (118.5 per cent) on the 3553 places in 2019–20
- Philippines—up 3880 places (166.0 per cent) on the 2338 places in 2019–20
- United Kingdom—up 3869 places (138.8 per cent) on the 2788 places in 2019–20.

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<sup>2</sup> [Historical Migration Statistics](#), Table 3.1 Australia's permanent migration outcome by stream, from 1984–85.

## Parent visas

In 2020–21, there were 4500 Parent visa places delivered, an increase of 2.3 per cent on the 4399 places delivered in 2019–20. This was comprised of:

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

Nationals of the top three countries in 2019–20, accounted for almost three-quarters (71.6 per cent) of Parent places. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—2455 places (54.6 per cent)
2. India—476 places (10.6 per cent)
3. Vietnam—290 places (6.4 per cent).

## Other Family visas

In 2020–21, there were 496 Other Family visa places delivered, an increase of 11.7 per cent on the 444 places delivered in 2019–20. This was comprised of:

- 344 Carer places
- 78 Remaining Relative places
- 65 Orphan Relative places
- 9 Dependent Relative places.

In 2020–21, nationals of the top three countries accounted for half (50.6 per cent) of places delivered in this category. These were nationals of:

1. Vietnam—119 places (24.0 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—77 places (15.5 per cent)
3. Philippines—55 places (11.1 per cent).

## Child stream visas

In 2020–21, there were 3006 Child visa places delivered, an increase of 21.2 per cent on the 2481 places delivered in 2019–20. This was comprised of:

- 2960 Child visas places
- 46 Adoption visas places.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 45.2 per cent of places in this category in 2020–21. These were nationals of:

1. Philippines—572 places (19.0 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—480 places (16.0 per cent)
3. India—308 places (10.2 per cent).

## Special Eligibility visas

In 2020–21, there were 54 Special Eligibility places delivered, a decrease of 33.3 per cent on the 81 places delivered in 2019–20.

Nationals of the top three countries in 2020–21, accounted for more than one-third (35.2 per cent) of Special Eligibility places delivered, namely:

- India—9 places (16.7 per cent)
- Greece and Philippines—5 places each (9.3 per cent each).

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

In 2020–21, there were 107,997 permanent places delivered to applicants in Australia on temporary visas, an increase of 19.3 per cent on the 90,499 places delivered in 2019–20.

Almost three-quarters (70.1 per cent) were to former holders of:

- Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa—29,294 places (27.1 per cent)
- Student visa—23,292 places (21.6 per cent)
- Visitor visa—23,155 places (21.4 per cent).

Growth was strong among former visa holders of:

- Visitor visa—up 11,362 places (96.3 per cent) on the 11,793 places in 2019–20
- Student visa—up 6704 places (40.4 per cent) on the 16,588 places in 2019–20
- Working Holiday Maker—up 2743 places (75.1 per cent) on the 3653 places in 2019–20.

Of note was the fall in permanent places to former visa holders of a Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa—down 14.9 per cent (5133 places) on the 34,427 places delivered in 2019–20.

## Students moving onto permanent residence whilst in Australia

In 2020–21, the number of permanent places obtained by former international students in Australia who transitioned directly from a Student visa was 23,292 places, an increase of 40.4 per cent on 2019–20.

Despite the number of Student visa grants increasing in recent years, the overall trend in former international Students directly transitioning to a permanent visa has been downward since 2012–13, when it peaked at 30,170 places.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for almost one-third (32.0 per cent) of these places in 2020–21. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—3279 places (14.1 per cent)
2. India—2335 places (10.0 per cent)
3. Vietnam—1834 places (7.9 per cent).

Growth among the top 10 nationalities in 2020–21 was strongest for nationals of:

- Vietnam—up 725 places (65.4 per cent) on the 1109 places in 2019–20
- Brazil—up 708 places (79.9 per cent) on the 886 places in 2019–20.

Of these 23,292 former international students:

- 14,510 places were within the Family stream, comprised of:
  - 14,435 Partner places
  - 68 Other Family places
  - 7 Parent places
- 8762 places were within the Skill stream, comprised of:
  - 2588 Regional places
  - 2439 State/Territory Nominated places
  - 1692 Global Talent (Independent) places
  - 876 Employer Sponsored places
  - 673 Skilled Independent places
  - 456 Business Innovation and Investment Program places
  - 38 Distinguished Talent places.
- 20 places were within Special Eligibility.

## Humanitarian Program

In 2020–21, there were 5947 visas granted under the Humanitarian Program. This included 4558 visas granted under the offshore (resettlement) component of the program to people affected by humanitarian crises around the world, and 1389 visas granted under the onshore (protection) component of the program.

### Offshore resettlement component

The 4558 visas granted in 2020–21, under the offshore resettlement component of the program represented 76.6 per cent of all places. This was comprised of:

- 2053 Refugee visas granted (45.0 per cent)
- 2505 Special Humanitarian visas granted (55.0 per cent).

Nationals of the top three countries in 2020–21, accounted for almost two-thirds (61.5 per cent) of visas granted through the offshore resettlement component. These were nationals of:

1. Iraq—1585 grants (34.8 per cent)
2. Myanmar—656 grants (14.4 per cent)
3. Afghanistan—562 grants (12.3 per cent).

In 2020–21, the Government continued its commitment to resettling highly vulnerable women and children with 595 visas granted (13.1 per cent of the delivered program) to vulnerable women and their families.

## Onshore protection component

In 2019–20, there were 14,146 Protection visa applications lodged—a decrease of 46.1 per cent on the 26,269 lodged the previous year. This comprised 11,684 Protection visa applications from non-IMAs<sup>3</sup> and 2462 applications from IMAs<sup>4</sup>.

In addition to the 1389 Permanent Protection visas granted under the onshore component in 2020–21, there were:

- 1041 Safe Haven Enterprise visas granted—a five-year temporary visa
- 464 Temporary Protection visas granted—a three-year temporary visa.

Final grant rates for non-IMAs in 2020–21 varied widely. The top three countries of citizenship for non-IMA grants in 2020–21 were:

1. Iran—202 grants; final grant rate of 68.2 per cent
2. Pakistan—151 grants; final grant rate of 42.2 per cent
3. Turkey—103 grants; final grant rate of 70.5 per cent.

## Temporary visa grants

In 2020–21, there were 993,708 temporary visas granted, a decrease of 84.7 per cent on the 6,477,462 visas granted the previous year. Of these, 256,969 (25.9 per cent) were Crew and Transit visa grants, and 232,750 (23.4 per cent) were Student visa grants. By comparison, in 2019–20, almost 4.1 million (62.6 per cent) were Visitor visa grants, and almost 1.4 million (21.6 per cent) were Special Category visa grants to New Zealand citizens.

### Student visa grants

In 2020–21, there were 232,750 Student visas granted, a decrease of 31.6 per cent (107,402 grants) on the 340,152 visas granted in 2019–20. Two-thirds (66.0 per cent) of Student visa grants were to people already in Australia on a temporary visa (153,504 grants).

Despite the fall in Student visa grants in 2020–21, the number of grants was still larger than the 230,794 granted in 2006–07.

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<sup>3</sup> The term non-IMA refers to people who have arrived in Australia lawfully (for example, on a valid visa). In this report, non-IMA applications include a small number of unauthorised air arrivals.

<sup>4</sup> The term IMA refers to Illegal Maritime Arrivals—persons who entered Australia by sea without authority and became an unlawful non-citizen upon entry. All babies born to IMA parents are also an IMA. 2019–20 and 2020–21 data includes subsequent IMA applications lodged.

By reporting category, the number of Student visas granted in 2020–21 was comprised of:

- 134,030 Higher Education grants
- 79,614 Vocational Education and Training grants
- 9091 Postgraduate Research grants
- 5778 Independent ELICOS grants<sup>5</sup>
- 2655 Schools grants
- 1142 Foreign Affairs of Defence grants
- 440 Non-Award grants.

There were decreases recorded across all reporting categories in 2020–21, when compared to the previous year. Of note were large falls in the following reporting categories:

- Higher Education—down 40,784 grants (23.3 per cent) on the 174,814 grants in 2019–20
- Independent ELICOS—down 27,790 grants (82.8 per cent) on the 33,568 grants in 2019–20.

The Postgraduate Research category decreased the least—down 1220 grants (11.8 per cent) on the 10,311 grants in 2019–20.

Nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than half (52.7 per cent) of Student visas granted in 2020–21. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—55,157 grants (23.7 per cent)
2. India—47,031 grants (20.2 per cent)
3. Nepal—20,585 grants (8.8 per cent).

During the 10 years from 2011–12, the annual number of Student visas granted fell 8.0 per cent. Offsetting the decrease over this period was growth in:

- Higher Education—up 20,870 grants (18.4 per cent) on the 113,160 grants in 2011–12
- Vocational Education and Training—up 9669 grants (13.8 per cent) on the 69,945 grants in 2011–12.

An analysis of the main source countries for Student visa grants, by citizenship and client location over this same 10-year period has identified that, Student visas granted in Australia, since 2011–12, have continued to exceed those granted from outside Australia for nationals of:

- Republic of Korea
- Taiwan
- Italy.

## Visitor visa grants

In 2020–21, there were 167,576 Visitor visas granted, a decrease of 95.9 per cent on the 4,056,603 visas granted in 2019–20. Of these, more than half (54.5 per cent) were granted to people already in Australia on a temporary visa.

By visa type, the number of Visitor visas granted in 2020–21 was comprised of:

- 115,494 tourist visa grants
- 52,082 business visitor visa grants.

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<sup>5</sup> ELICOS—English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 46.2 per cent of people granted a Visitor visa in 2020–21, namely:

1. People's Republic of China—38,844 grants (23.2 per cent)
2. India—29,502 grants (17.6 per cent)
3. Philippines—9069 grants (5.4 per cent).

In 2020–21, almost half (49.6 per cent) of the fall in Visitor visa grants (decrease of 3,889,027 grants) was notably against nationals of the following countries:

- People's Republic of China—down 505,973 grants (92.9 per cent) on the 544,817 grants in 2019–20
- United Kingdom—down 470,633 grants (98.1 per cent) on the 479,662 grants in 2019–20
- United States of America—down 448,706 grants (98.6 per cent) on the 455,029 grants in 2019–20
- Japan—down 310,279 grants (97.7 per cent) on the 317,479 grants in 2019–20
- India—down 193,283 grants (86.8 per cent) on the 222,785 grants in 2019–20.

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

In 2020–21, Visitor visas granted for the purpose of:

- tourism, decreased 96.9 per cent on the 3,713,992 granted in 2019–20, a result of:
  - Tourist—down 3,462,910 grants (96.8 per cent), to 114,577 grants
  - Sponsored Family—down 26,792 grants (96.7 per cent), to 917 grants
  - Approved Destination Status (ADS)—no visas granted in 2020–21, compared to 107,219 grants in 2019–20
  - Frequent Traveller—no visas granted in 2020–21, compared to 1577 grants in 2019–20.
- business, decreased 84.8 per cent on the 342,611 granted in 2019–20, a result of:
  - Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Visitor—down 16,767 grants (27.9 per cent), to 43,326 grants
  - Business Visitor (excludes APEC)—down 273,762 grants (96.9 per cent), to 8756 grants.

During the 10 years from 2011–12 to 2020–21, before the COVID-19 pandemic, Visitor visa grants were increasing each year (up to 2018–19) and were up 59.8 per cent (2,127,835 grants) to 5,686,318 grants on the 3,558,483 grants in 2011–12. In contrast, with the closure of international borders due to COVID, over the 10 years to 2020–21, Visitor visa grants fell significantly, and were down 95.3 per cent (3,390,907 grants), a result of:

- tourist visas—down 2,979,666 grants (96.3 per cent) on the 3,095,160 grants in 2011–12, with:
  - Tourist—down 2,826,689 grants (96.1 per cent) on the 2,941,266 grants in 2011–12
  - Sponsored Family—down 12,885 grants (93.4 per cent) on the 13,802 grants in 2011–12
  - Frequent Traveller—no visas granted in 2020–21; introduced in 2016–17, since then there have been 16,691 grants
  - Approved Destination Status (ADS)—no visas granted in 2020–21, compared to 140,092 grants in 2011–12.
- business visitor visas—down 411,241 grants (88.8 per cent) on the 463,323 grants in 2011–12, with:
  - APEC Business Visitor—up 9476 grants (28.0 per cent) on the 33,850 grants in 2011–12
  - offset by—Business Visitor (excludes APEC)—down 420,717 grants (98.0 per cent) on the 429,473 grants in 2011–12.

## Special Category visa grants to New Zealand citizens

In 2020–21, there were 143,023 Special Category visas granted to New Zealand citizens—down 89.8 per cent on the 1,396,835 granted in 2019–20. In contrast, Special Category visa grants during the period, 2011–12 to 2019–20, fell 16.6 per cent on the 1,675,697 granted in 2011–12.

## Working Holiday Maker visa grants

In 2020–21, there were 39,586 Working Holiday Maker visas granted, a decrease of 73.5 per cent on the 149,249 visas granted in 2019–20. This was the eighth consecutive decrease since the program peaked in 2012–13, with 258,248 visas granted.

This was comprised of:

- 31,207 Working Holiday visa grants:
  - 1749 First Working Holiday visa grants
  - 20,982 Second Working Holiday visa grants.
  - 8476 Third Working Holiday visa grants.
- 8379 Work and Holiday visa grants:
  - 397 First Work and Holiday visa grants
  - 5585 Second Work and Holiday visa grants
  - 2397 Third Work and Holiday visa grants.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 39.4 per cent of all Working Holiday Maker visa grants in 2020–21. These were nationals of:

1. United Kingdom—7433 grants (18.8 per cent)
2. France—4399 grants (11.1 per cent)
3. Taiwan—3765 grants (9.5 per cent).

In 2020–21, there were 183,406 fewer Working Holiday Maker visas granted than a decade earlier, in 2011–12 (222,992 grants). By visa type, this comprised:

- Working Holiday—down 183,437 grants (85.5 per cent) on the 214,644 granted in 2011–12; a combination of:
  - First visa—down 182,394 grants (98.1 per cent) on the 184,143 grants in 2011–12
  - Second visa—up 9519 grants (31.2 per cent) on the 30,501 grants in 2011–12
  - Third visa—with 10,551 visas granted since their introduction in 2019–20.
- Work and Holiday—up 31 grants (0.4 per cent) on the 8348 granted in 2011–12; a combination of:
  - First visa—down 7951 grants (95.2 per cent) on the 8348 grants in 2011–12
  - Second visa—with 21,262 visas granted in the five years since their introduction in 2016–17.
  - Third visa—with 3000 visas granted since their introduction in 2019–20.

## Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa grants

In 2020–21, there were 43,195 Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted, a decrease of 21.5 per cent on the 55,060 visas granted in 2019–20. This was comprised of:

- 23,158 visa grants to primary applicants
  - 17,778 granted to applicants in Australia
  - 5380 granted to applicants outside Australia.
- 20,037 visa grants to secondary applicants
  - 11484 granted to applicants in Australia
  - 8553 granted to applicants outside Australia.

In 2020–21, there were 81,878 fewer Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted than a decade earlier, in 2011–12 (125,073 grants).<sup>6</sup> This was comprised of:

- primary applicants—down 45,155 grants (66.1 per cent) on the 68,313 grants in 2011–12; a combination of:
  - visas granted outside Australia—down 34,533 grants (86.5 per cent) on the 39,913 grants in 2011–12
  - visas granted in Australia—down 10,622 grants (37.4 per cent) on the 28,400 grants in 2011–12.
- secondary applicants—down 36,723 grants (64.7 per cent) on the 56,760 grants in 2011–12; a combination of:
  - visas granted outside Australia—down 30,507 grants (78.1 per cent) on the 39,060 grants in 2011–12
  - visas granted in Australia—down 6216 grants (35.1 per cent) on the 17,700 grants in 2011–12.

## Primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa grants

In 2020–21, there were 23,158 visas granted to primary applicants, a decrease of 18.5 per cent on the 28,414 granted in 2019–20.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for almost half (46.3 per cent) of these primary visas granted in 2020–21, namely:

1. India—5154 grants (22.3 per cent)
2. United Kingdom—3811 grants (16.5 per cent)
3. Philippines—1748 grants (7.5 per cent).

The top three sponsor industries accounted for more than half (51.2 per cent) of primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted in 2020–21. These were:

1. Information Media and Telecommunications—4632 grants (20.0 per cent)
2. Health Care and Social Assistance—3791 grants (16.4 per cent)
3. Professional Scientific and Technical Services—3433 grants (14.8 per cent).

Information Media and Telecommunications in 2020–21, was the only sponsor industry to have recorded growth, with primary visa grants up by 1034 grants (28.7 per cent) on the 3598 granted in 2019–20.

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<sup>6</sup> Excludes a small number of visas granted in 2011–12 under the defunct Subclass 457 Independent Executive visa.

Of note, in 2020–21, there were large falls on the number of visas granted in 2019–20 for the following sponsor industries:

- Other Services—down 2589 grants (58.6 per cent) on the 4416 grants in 2019–20
- Professional, Scientific and Technical Services—down 1492 grants (30.3 per cent) on the 4925 grants in 2019–20.

In 2020–21, the top three nominated occupations accounted for 16.7 per cent of primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa applications granted. These were:

1. Software Engineer—1566 grants (6.8 per cent)
2. Resident Medical Officer—1311 grants (5.7 per cent)
3. Developer Programmer—993 grants (4.3 per cent).

Overall, almost nine-in-ten (89.6 per cent) primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted in 2020–21, were granted to applicants who had previously held a visa—20,756 grants.

Collectively, the top three categories, by previously visa held, accounted for 66.4 per cent of primary visas granted in 2020–21, namely:

1. Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)—10,600 grants (45.8 per cent)
2. Visitor—2657 grants (11.5 per cent)
3. Working Holiday Maker—2112 grants (9.1 per cent).

In 2020–21, of the 23,158 visas granted to primary applicants, 17,778 (76.8 per cent) were to people already in Australia. By last visa held, the top three categories accounted for over three-quarters (79.7 per cent) of primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted in Australia in 2020–21. These were:

1. Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)—10,224 grants (57.5 per cent)
2. Working Holiday Maker—2035 grants (11.4 per cent)
3. Temporary Graduate—1911 grants (10.7 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 2020–21, there were 3387 Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted for an intra-company transfer, a decrease of 10.5 per cent on the 3786 visas granted in 2019–20.

Primary applicants accounted for 44.9 per cent (1521) of these visa grants, and fell 17.3 per cent on the 1840 visas granted in 2019–20.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than half (53.8 per cent) of primary intra-company transfer visas granted in 2020–21. These were nationals of:

1. Japan—470 grants (30.9 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—229 grants (15.1 per cent)
3. Republic of Korea—120 grants (7.9 per cent).

In 2020–21, the top three sponsor industries accounted for 46.6 per cent of Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) primary intra-company transfer visa grants. These were:

1. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services—332 grants (21.8 per cent)
2. Mining—189 grants (12.4 per cent)
3. Manufacturing—188 grants (12.4 per cent).

In 2020–21, the top four nominated occupations in this category accounted for more than one-quarter (29.5 per cent) of Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) primary intra-company transfer visa grants. These were:

- Corporate General Manager—186 grants (12.2 per cent)
- Chief Executive or Managing Director—152 grants (10.0 per cent)
- Sales and Marketing Manager—111 grants (7.3 per cent).

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

In 2020–21, there were 53,236 Temporary Graduate visas granted.<sup>7</sup> This was a decrease of 15.5 per cent on the 63,016 granted the previous year.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 60.6 per cent of Temporary Graduate visa grants in 2020–21, namely:

1. India—17,052 grants (32.0 per cent)
2. Nepal—9348 grants (17.6 per cent)
3. People's Republic of China—5887 grants (11.1 per cent).

Falls in the number of visa grants in 2020–21 were significant among nationals of:

- People's Republic of China—down 4178 grants (41.5 per cent) on the 10,065 grants in 2019–20
- India—down 2610 grants (13.3 per cent) on the 19,662 grants in 2019–20
- Pakistan—down 682 grants (28.0 per cent) on the 2433 grants in 2019–20.

Of the 53,236 visas granted in 2020–21, 45,724 were in the Post-Study Work stream and 7512 were in the Graduate Work stream.

## **Temporary visa holders in Australia**

At 30 June 2021, 1,688,700 people were in Australia on a temporary visa—a decrease of 311,512 people (15.6 per cent) on the 2,000,212 at 30 June 2020.

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<sup>7</sup> A temporary visa (only available to recently graduated international students) that includes work rights.

This was comprised of holders of the following visa types:

- 663,902 Special Category
- 374,056 Student
- 310,760 Bridging
- 131,279 Temporary Resident (Other Employment)
- 99,029 Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)
- 40,810 Visitor
- 36,526 Working Holiday Maker
- 18,328 Temporary Protection
- 9874 Crew and Transit
- 4136 Other Temporary.

Most of the decrease was due to significant falls in the number of:

- Student visa holders—down 181,254 (32.6 per cent)
- Visitor visa holders—down 52,684 (56.4 per cent)
- Working Holiday Maker visa holders—down 49,165 (57.4 per cent).

Collectively, the top three nationalities accounted for more than half (59.1 per cent) of all temporary visa holders in Australia at 30 June 2021. These were nationals of:

1. New Zealand—664,038 people (39.3 per cent)
2. India—206,467 people (12.2 per cent)
3. People's Republic of China—127,488 people (7.5 per cent).

Of note were decreases for the number of nationals in Australia on a temporary visa at 30 June 2021, for the following three countries:

1. People's Republic of China—down 76,799 people (37.6 per cent) on the 204,287 at 30 June 2020
2. India—down 55,757 people (21.3 per cent) on the 262,224 at 30 June 2020
3. United Kingdom—down 17,544 people (28.3 per cent) on the 62,082 at 30 June 2020.

## Visa non-compliance

In 2020–21, there were 26,720 visa cancellations, a decrease of 54.9 per cent on the 59,234 visa cancellations in 2019–20.<sup>8</sup> Almost nine-in-ten (89.5 per cent) of visa cancellations in 2020–21 were either Student visas (50.3 per cent) or temporary resident visas (39.2 per cent).

Nationals of the top three countries accounted for 41.8 per cent of visa cancellations in 2020–21. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—5583 visa cancellations (20.9 per cent)
2. India—3758 visa cancellations (14.1 per cent).
3. United Kingdom—1833 visa cancellations (6.9 per cent).

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<sup>8</sup> 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.

Non-citizens who do not hold a valid visa and do not make suitable arrangements to depart Australia are subject to removal. There were 10,841 departures (returns and removals) from Australia in 2020–21, up 1.6 per cent on the 10,673 departures in 2019–20.<sup>9</sup> This was comprised of:

- 9807 Returns from the community
- 1034 Removals from onshore immigration detention.

The majority of assisted or managed departures were for those that arrived on a Visitor visa (48.3 per cent) or those that arrived on a Student visa (25.1 per cent).

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than one-quarter (29.7 per cent) of all departures. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—1287 departures (11.9 per cent)
2. India—1279 departures (11.8 per cent)
3. United Kingdom—655 departures (6.0 per cent).

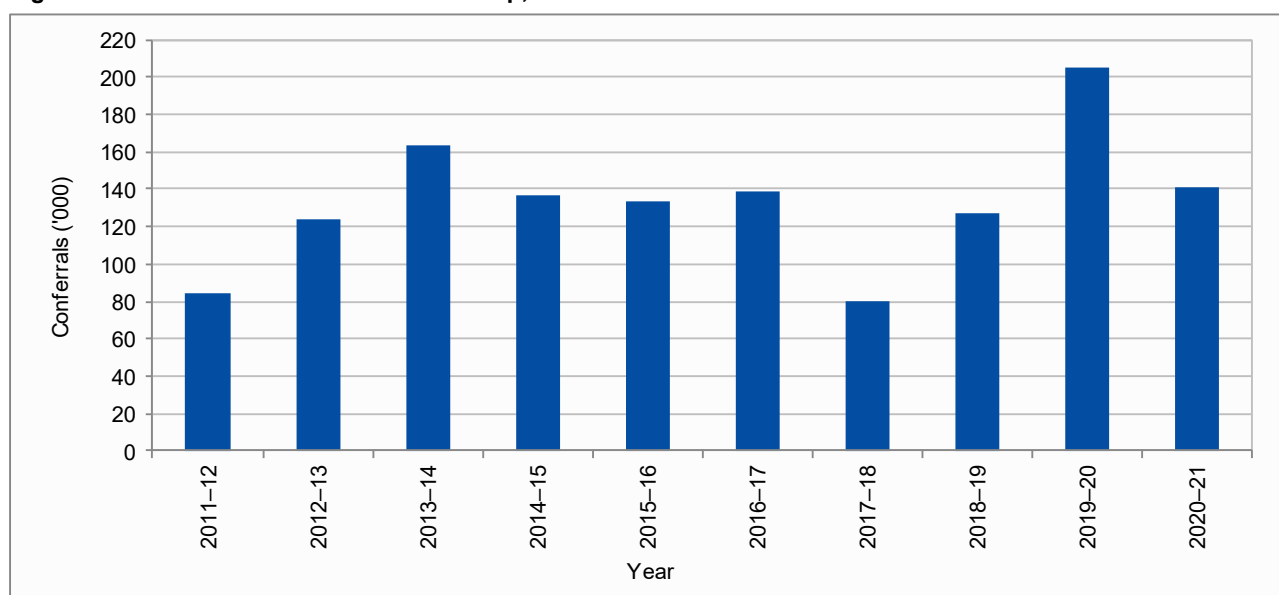
## Australian citizenship

In 2020–21, there were 140,748 people conferred Australian citizenship, a decrease of 31.3 per cent on the 204,817 conferrals in 2019–20 (Figure 1).

Collectively, the top three countries of former citizenship accounted for 35.8 per cent of all conferrals in 2020–21. These were:

1. India—24,205 conferrals (17.2 per cent)
2. United Kingdom—17,374 conferrals (12.3 per cent)<sup>10</sup>
3. Philippines—8788 conferrals (6.2 per cent).

**Figure 1: Conferrals of Australian citizenship, 2011–12 to 2020–21**



Source data: Department of Home Affairs

<sup>9</sup> Figures may differ from those previously published due to revisions undertaken at the commencement of the program year.

<sup>10</sup> Includes Isle of Man.

# Net overseas migration and population growth

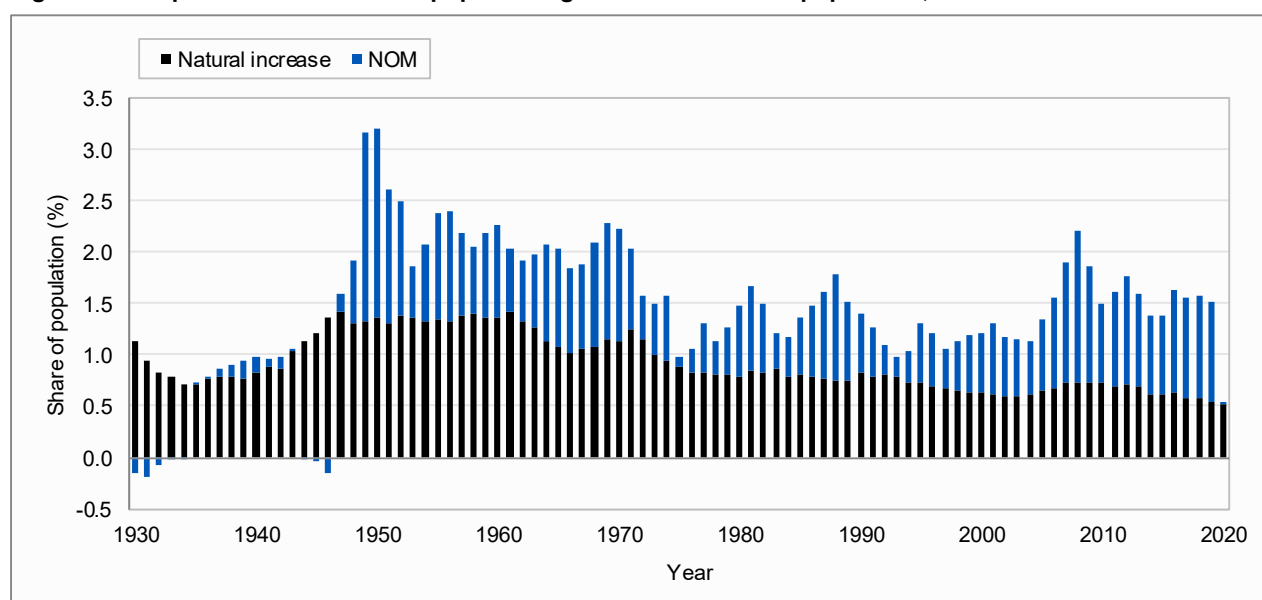
Natural increase and net overseas migration (NOM) are the two components that drive Population growth in Australia. Natural increase measures the excess of births over deaths. NOM is a measure of the net gain or loss of population through migration into and from Australia.<sup>11</sup> The main determinants 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 15 years from 2005 to 2019, NOM accounted for more than half the increase in Australia's population (Figure 2). In 2020, with the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ABS estimate of preliminary NOM was down 98.7 per cent on 2019, to 3300 people, and accounted for 2.4 per cent of the increase in the population in 2020. In the decade to December 2020, NOM accounted for 57.1 per cent of the 3.5 million increase in the population to 25.7 million people. Consequently, the share of Australia's overseas-born population rose from 26.7 per cent (June 2010) to 29.8 per cent (June 2020).<sup>12</sup>

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 2020 was just 0.01 per cent due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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, 1930 to 2020**



Source data: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2016, Historical population and ABS, 2020, National, state and territory population.

<sup>11</sup> 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.

<sup>12</sup> Latest data available at time of this report is, as at June 2020: ABS, Migration, Australia.

# Labour market outcomes

## The importance of migration in our labour market

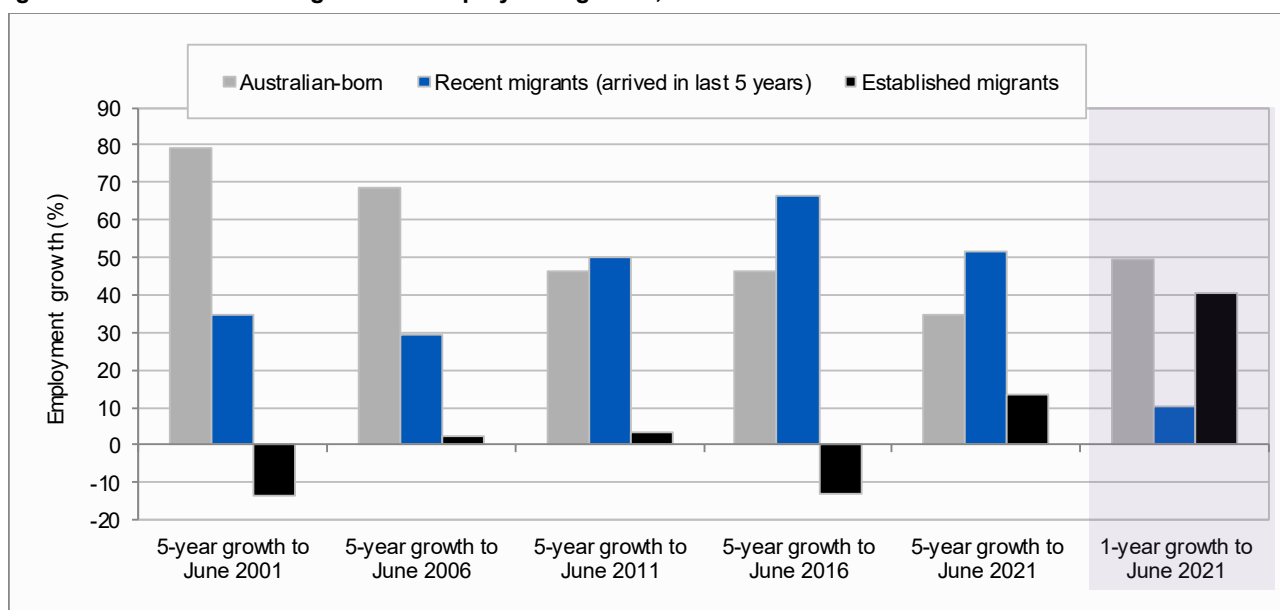
Migration is an important component of workforce growth, with new migrants the main contributors to employment growth in the Australian workforce. Over the past two decades, migration has increasingly underpinned employment growth.

In the five years leading up to June 2001, new migrants (those who arrived in the preceding five years) accounted for 34.5 per cent of total growth in jobs, whereas Australian-born accounted for 79.0 per cent and established migrants -13.6 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 2021, Australia's workforce stood at almost 13.2 million, which was 9.8 per cent more than five years earlier in June 2016. New migrants accounted for 51.8 per cent of these additional jobs, whereas Australian-born accounted for 34.9 per cent and established migrants 13.3 per cent (Figure 3).

Between June 2020 and June 2021, employment increased by 776,700. The Australian-born accounted for 49.3 per cent of this increase in employment, whereas established migrants accounted for 40.4 per cent and new migrants for 10.3 per cent.

**Figure 3: Contribution of migration to employment growth, as at June of 2001 to 2021**



Source data: ABS, July 2021, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, LM7 cube

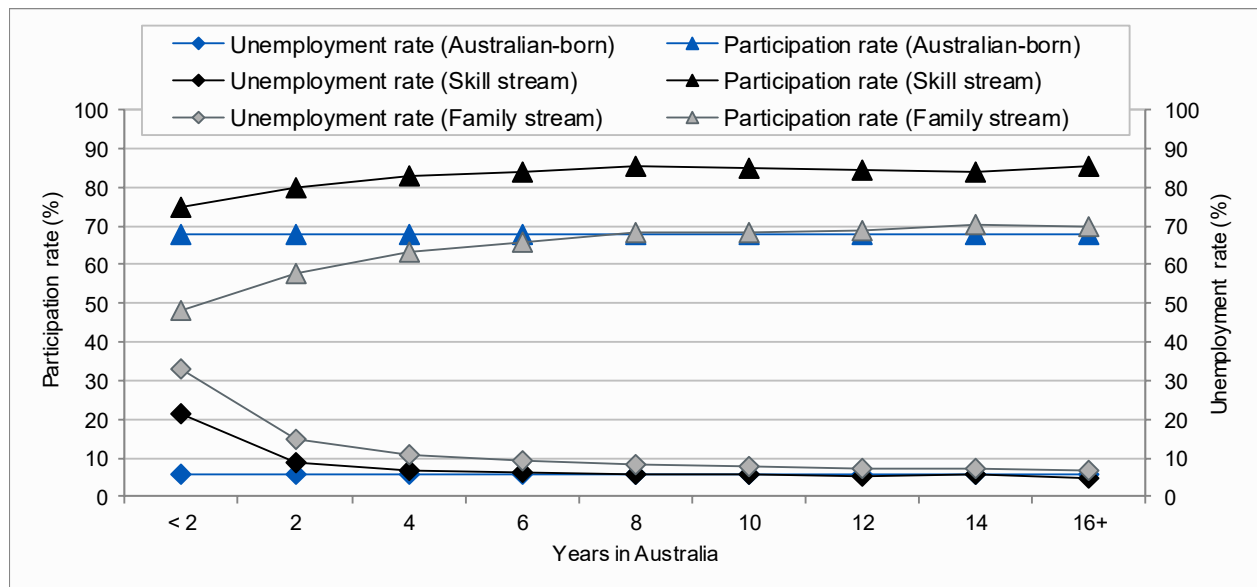
One of the main reasons new migrants make a strong contribution to workforce growth is that their overall numbers entering the workforce exceed that for Australian-born. In absolute terms, the effect of ageing on the Australian-born population means that in the decade to June 2021, the net increase of migrants in the workforce (up by almost 1.2 million) was more than 150 per cent greater than for the Australian-born (up by almost 0.8 million). This difference is more than twice what it was in the preceding decade to June 2011, where the net increase in the workforce for migrants was 75 per cent greater than that for Australian-born.

In addition, new migrants have high rates of employment, which further adds to the impact they have on workforce growth. 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 obvious, because 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:
  - 21.3 per cent for Skill stream migrants
  - 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:
  - 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.
  - 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**



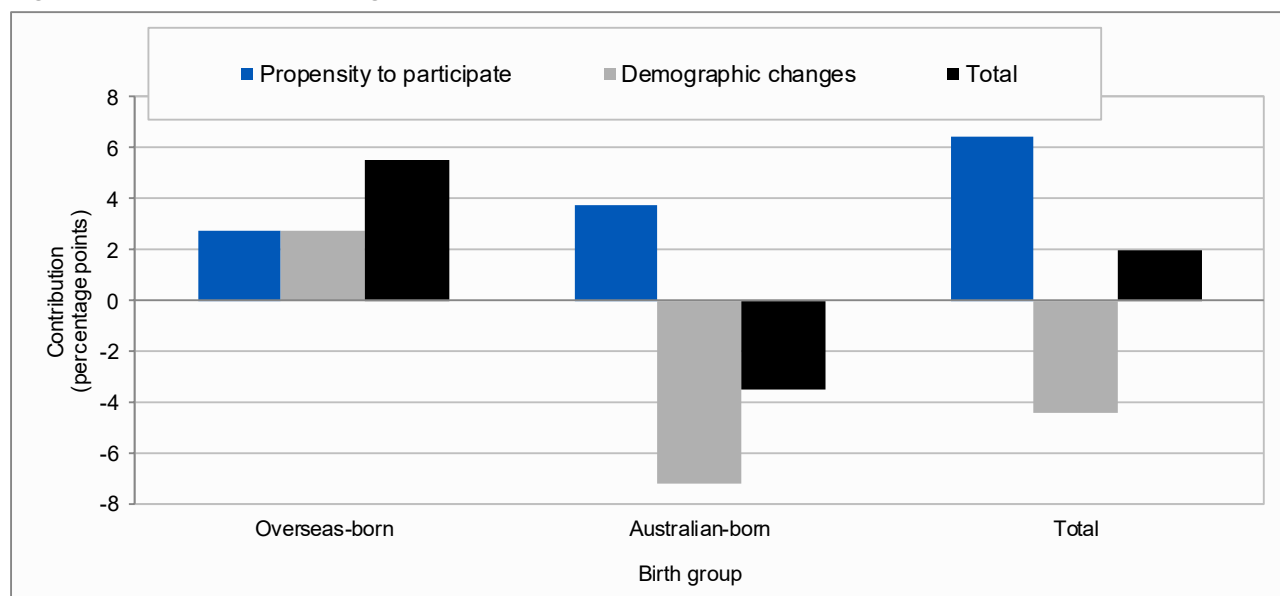
Source data: ABS, Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset, 2016

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 2020–21, the annual average labour force participation rate for Australia increased by 2.0 percentage points as a result of a combination of the following (Figure 5):

- Migrants **added** 5.5 points—2.8 points added due to the effects of young migrants entering the workforce, and 2.7 points added due to an increase in propensity to work, comprised of:
  - Females added 3.2 points—1.3 points added due to a decrease in average age, and 1.9 points added due to an overall increase in propensity to work
  - Males added 2.3 points—1.5 points added due to a decrease in average age, and 0.9 points added due to an overall increase in propensity to work.
- Australia-born **deducted** 3.5 points—7.2 points deducted due to the effects of an ageing population, and 3.7 points added due to an increase in propensity to work, comprised of:
  - Females deducted 0.3 points—3.4 points deducted due to an increase in average age, and 3.1 points added due to an increase in propensity to work
  - Males deducted 3.2 points—3.8 points deducted due to an increase in average age, and 0.6 points added due to an overall increase in propensity to work.

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

**Figure 5: Contributions to change in the labour force participation rate, between 2001–02 and 2020–21**



Source data: ABS, July 2021, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, LM5 cube

## Outcomes of Australia’s migrant population stock

The migrant unemployment rate at 30 June 2021 was 5.3 per cent (based on three-month averages). This was slightly higher than the Australian-born rate of 5.0 per cent. From mid-2012 to March 2020, both migrant and Australian-born unemployment rates had been operating in close alignment (Figure 6). From April 2020, following the advent in Australia of the COVID-19 pandemic (in March 2020), 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).

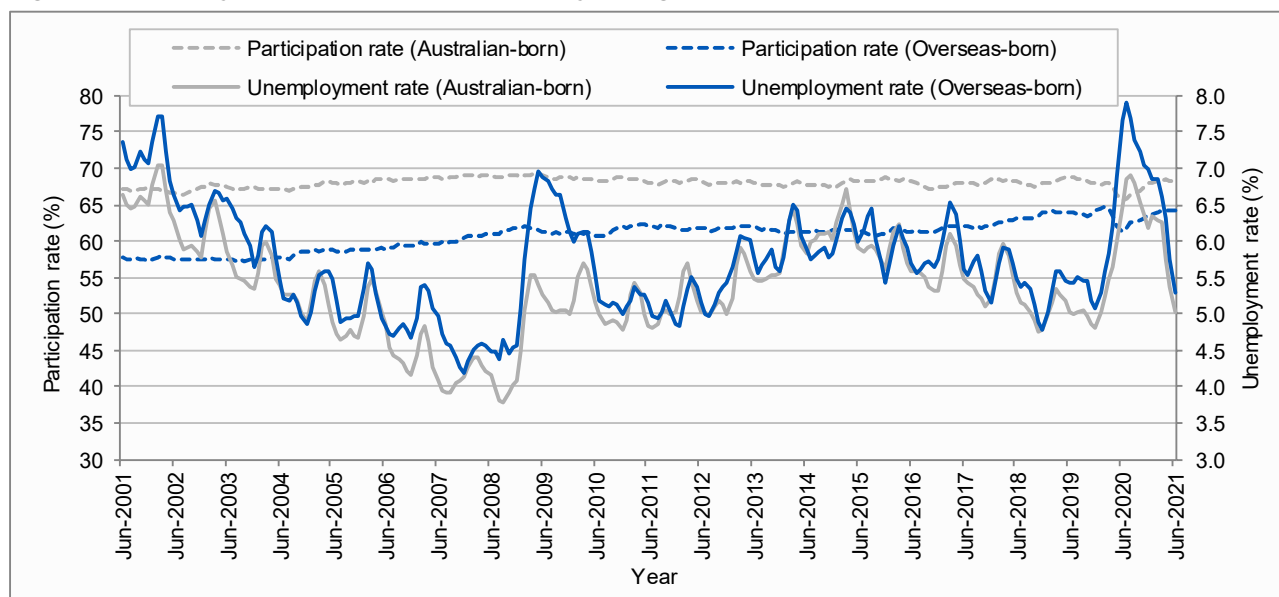
Figure 6 also shows that the labour force participation rate of Australia's migrants has been consistently lower than that of the Australian-born (but converging) with a gap of 4.1 percentage points at June 2021 (64.2 per cent compared to 68.3 per cent, respectively). This difference is largely attributable to the impact of age on labour force participation, with the median age of Australia's migrant population at June 2020, being 10.0 years older than that of the Australian-born (44.03 years compared to 34.03 years, respectively).<sup>13</sup>

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 of these visas types have very high rates for participation in the labour force. These 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 2010, 18.1 per cent of Australia's migrants were aged 65 years or over, compared with just 11.9 per cent of Australian-born, a difference of 6.2 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.<sup>14</sup>

**Figure 6: Unemployment and participation rates by birth group, June 2001 to June 2021**



Source data: ABS, July 2021, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, LM7 cube (three-month averages)

<sup>13</sup> ABS, April 2020, Migration, Australia.

<sup>14</sup> ABS, April 2020, Migration, Australia, ABS STAT.

## 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 2019, founded on an introductory survey at their six-month settlement period and a follow-up survey at their 18-month settlement period (conducted around October 2019 and 2020, 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.<sup>15</sup> These employment outcomes included:

- employment to population ratio—up 0.2 percentage points; from 91.2 per cent to 91.4 per cent (compared to a decrease of 1.3 points for the general population to 61.1 per cent)
- unemployment rate—up 0.3 percentage points; from 4.9 per cent to 5.2 per cent (compared to an increase of 1.6 points for the general population to 6.6 per cent)
- labour force participation rate—up 0.6 percentage points; from 95.8 per cent to 96.4 per cent (compared to a decrease of 0.3 points for the general population to 65.4 per cent)
- highly skilled employment to population ratio—up 0.8 percentage points; from 68.8 per cent to 69.6 per cent.<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Employment Outcome figures for Australian civilian population aged 15 years and over sourced from ABS, Labour Force, Australia, November 2019 release (data presented is for October 2019 and October 2020 for comparison with the CSAM survey of migrants at their six-month and 18-month stages of settlement).

<sup>16</sup> 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.

## Employment outcomes of recent Family stream migrants

Between the six-month and 18-month 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 0.5 percentage points, from 63.4 per cent to 64.0 per cent (2.9 points above that for the general population of 61.1 per cent)
- unemployment rate—down 1.4 percentage points, from 16.0 per cent to 14.6 per cent (7.9 points above that for the general population of 6.6 per cent)
- labour force participation rate—down 0.6 percentage points; from 75.5 per cent to 74.9 per cent (9.4 points above that for the general population of 65.4 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.