

BR0112

Visitor Visa Program Report

31 December 2017



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About this report

This report provides data about the Visitor visa programme administered by the Department of Home Affairs (the Department). The report has been produced to assist tourism industry stakeholders and policymakers.

This report is published every six months and further developments will occur over time to increase and improve information sharing about the Visitor visa program. Current and previous versions of this report are available on the Department's website at www.homeaffairs.gov.au/media/statistics/visitor.htm

Data is sourced from several departmental visa processing and recording systems. Data can be dynamic and there can be delays in transmission of information from the Department's global operations. Variations in figures between this report and previous reports can occur. Due to these issues, figures for the current financial year should always be considered provisional.

For privacy reasons < 5 has been used where a number in a table is between 1 and 4.

Further information about the Visitor visa program is available at www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Visi

Enquiries

Any comments or enquiries concerning this report should be sent to statistical.coordination@homeaffairs.gov.au quoting Report Id BR0112.

Definition of terms

Approved Destination Status

(ADS):

This scheme facilitates the travel of organised tour groups from the People's Republic of China (PRC) to Australia by approved travel agents.

Citizenship country:

The country of citizenship of the visa applicant or visa holder. Where a visa applicant or visa holder has more than one citizenship country, either the citizenship of the travel document or the citizenship nominated by the visa applicant is used.

Decided:

The term used for counts of decisions. See below for definition of 'decisions'.

Decisions:

An outcome where a decision-maker (including system-generated decision-making)

grants or refuses a visa or sponsorship application.

ETA:

Electronic Travel Authority. An electronic visa available to citizens from low risk countries. The term 'low risk' applies to countries which issue ETA eligible passports.

A list of these can be found on the Department's website.

Granted:

Unless otherwise specified, the number of visas granted includes primary and review

grants

In Australia:

In this report, refers to the location of the client at the time the application was lodged. An applicant in Australia may already hold a visa of the same kind or may be applying

for another type of visa.

Lodged:

Lodged is the count of paper applications receipted in a departmental office or

submitted electronically.

On hand:

A visa application, nomination or sponsorship that has not been finalised.

Outside Australia:

In this report, the term refers to the location of the client at the time of lodging the application.

Visa holders in Australia:

The number of visa holders lawfully in Australia. This is not a count of all valid visas, as a number of visa holders may be outside Australia on the snapshot date.

How to read this report

On 23 March 2013, significant changes were made to Visitor visas as part of the Australian Government's Visa Simplification and Deregulation project. These changes have been summarised in the tables below where relevant visas have been combined into Tourist and Business groups.

Visitor - Tourist visas	Tourist Group
ETA (Visitor) (subclass 976) and ETA (subclass 601 – Tourist)	ETA Tourist
Tourist (subclass 676), Visitor (subclass 600) Tourist stream and Visitor (subclass 600) Approved Desination Status (ADS) stream	Tourist Visitor
Sponsored Family Visitor (subclass 679) and	Sponsored Tourist
Visitor (subclass 600) Sponsored Family stream	Spanist St. Todilot
eVisitor (subclass 651 - Tourist Entrant)	eVisitor Tourist

Visitor - Business visas	Business Group
ETA (Business – Long Validity) (subclass 956),	
ETA (Business – Short Validity) (subclass 977) and	ETA Business
ETA (subclass 601 - Business)	
Business (Short Stay) (subclass 456) and Visitor (subclass 600) Business Visitor stream	Business Visitor
Superyacht crew (subclass 488) and Sponsored Business visitor (Short Stay) (subclass 459) visa	Sponsored Business
eVisitor (subclass 651 - Business Entrant)	eVisitor Business

Notes

- ETA Business Clients who previously lodged ETA (Business Long Validity) (subclass 956) visa applications and (Business Short Validity) (subclass 977) visa applications are now lodging ETA (subclass 601 Business) applications. A small percentage of these clients may now be lodging Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) (subclass 400) visa applications, which is not covered in this report.
- **Business Visitor** Clients who previously lodged Business (Short Stay) (subclass 456) visa applications are now lodging Visitor (subclass 600) Business Visitor stream visa applications. A small percentage of these clients may now be lodging Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) (subclass 400) visa applications, which is not covered in this report.

Background to the Visitor visa program

The Visitor visa program can be divided into two categories, Tourism and Business. Tourism may include a holiday or recreation, or visiting family and friends. The Business category allows business people to undertake business visitor activities. This may include attending meetings, conferences, site visits and exploring business opportunities. The visa holder cannot engage in work in Australia.

The Visitor visa program is made up of three subclasses, the ETA (subclass 601), the eVisitor visa (subclass 651) and the Visitor visa (subclass 600). The Visitor visa (subclass 600) has five streams, the Tourist stream, the Sponsored Family stream, the Business Visitor stream, the Approved Destination Status (ADS) stream and the Frequent Traveller stream. The below table outlines the activities allowed by each subclass and stream, and the location of the client at time of lodgement.

Subclass	Tourism	Business Visitor	Client Location
601 - Electronic Travel Authority	✓	✓	Outside Australia
651 - eVisitor	✓	✓	Outside Australia
600 - Tourist stream	✓		In or outside Australia
600 - Business Visitor stream		✓	Outside Australia
600 - Sponsored Family stream	✓		Outside Australia
600 - Approved Destination Status stream	✓		Outside Australia
600 - ADS stream	✓		China*
600 - Frequent Traveller stream	✓	✓	China*

^{*}The ADS and Frequent Traveller streams are only available to People's Republic of China (PRC) passport holders who are applying from within the PRC.

On 23 March 2013, the following significant changes were made to Visitor visas as part of the Australian Government's Visa Simplification and Deregulation project:

- The Tourist visa (subclass 676) was replaced by the Visitor visa (subclass 600) Tourist stream.
- The Sponsored Family Visitor visa (subclass 679) was repealed and replaced by the Visitor visa (subclass 600) Sponsored Family stream.
- The ETA (Visitor) (subclass 976) was repealed and replaced by the ETA (subclass 601).
- The Business (Short Stay) visa (subclass 456) was repealed and replaced by the Visitor visa (subclass 600) Business Visitor stream.
- The Sponsored Business visitor (Short Stay) visa (subclass 459) was repealed and replaced by the Visitor visa (subclass 600) Business Visitor stream.
- The Electronic Travel Authority (Business Short Validity) (subclass 977) was repealed and replaced by the Electronic Travel Authority (subclass 601).
- The Electronic Travel Authority (Business Long Validity) (subclass 956) was repealed and replaced by the Electronic Travel Authority (subclass 601).

Background to the Visitor visa program - continued

Visitor visa subclasses can be divided into Tourism and Business streams:

Tourism:

- 1. Electronic Travel Authority (subclass 601). This visa is designed for ETA eligible passport holders who are outside of Australia and who want to visit Australia for tourism or business visitor purposes. It allows an applicant to stay in Australia for up to 3 months on each visit within a 12 month period from the date of grant, or for the life of the passport if it is less than 12 months. It can be applied for online, through a travel agent, airline or specialist service provider or at an Australian visa office outside Australia.
- 2. eVisitor visa (subclass 651). This visa is designed for people outside Australia who want to visit Australia for tourism or business visitor purposes. It can only be lodged online and is available to certain European nationals, as it was introduced in October 2008 to meet the Australian Government's undertaking to have reciprocal short stay travel arrangements with the European Union. It allows a stay of up to 3 months on each visit within a 12 month period from the date of grant.
- 3. Visitor visa (subclass 600) Tourist stream. This stream of the Visitor visa allows people to visit Australia for tourism purposes. This may include a holiday or recreation, or to visit family and friends. This stream can also be used for other short-term non-work purposes including study for up to three months. This visa can be applied for online (known as the 'e600') by eligible passport holders, or by paper.
- 4. Visitor visa (subclass 600) Sponsored Family stream. This stream allows people who are outside Australia and have an eligible sponsor in Australia (an eligible relative or Australian Government official willing to sponsor them), to travel to Australia for a holiday and to visit family. This visa is intended for higher risk visitors and contains additional requirements which are designed to provide assurance that the visa holder will comply with their visa conditions and depart Australia before their visa expires. A formal sponsorship is to be completed by an Australian citizen/permanent resident and in some cases a security bond is requested where the decision maker has residual concerns about the visa applicant's intention to abide by the visa conditions.
- 5. Visitor visa (subclass 600) ADS stream. The ADS stream enables PRC passport holders who are members of approved tour groups to visit Australia for sightseeing and related activities only. This visa can only be applied for through an approved Chinese travel agent participating in the ADS scheme.
- 6. Visitor visa (subclass 600) Frequent Traveller stream. This stream enables PRC passport holders who reside in the PRC to visit Australia for multiple short stays of up to 3 months, for tourist or business visitor purposes, for a visa validity period of up to 10 years. This visa must be applied for online and from within China.

Business:

- 7. Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) (subclass 601). As noted above, the ETA can be used for tourism or business visitor purposes.
- 8. eVisitor visa (subclass 651). As noted above, the eVisitor visa can be used for tourism or business visitor purposes.
- 9. Visitor visa (subclass 600) Business Visitor stream. This stream allows people to visit Australia for business visitor purposes. Business visitor activities may include making general business or employment enquiries, investigating, negotiating, signing or reviewing a business contract, activities carried out as part of an official government-to-government visit and participating in conferences, trade fairs or seminars as long as the visa holder is not being paid by the organisers for their participation. This visa can be applied for online (known as the 'e600') by eligible passport holders, or by paper.
- 10. Visitor visa (subclass 600) Frequent Traveller stream. As noted above, the Frequent Traveller stream can be used for tourism or business visitor purposes.

Eligible Passports for Electronic Lodgement of Visitor Visa Applications

The Department continues to implement changes to support the progressive expansion of online Visitor visa application lodgement to all countries. There are currently over 200 countries with access to online lodgement.

For a list of eligible passports for Visitor e600, ETA 601 and eVisitor 651 online applications please refer to the Department's website.

For e600: www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/600-/Visitor-e600-visa-online-applications

For ETA 601: www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/601-

For eVisitor 651: www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/651-

Background to the Visitor visa program - continued

Family members

Since 23 March 2013, all accompanying family members must lodge separate Visitor visa applications, including children younger than 18 years of age who are included on their parent's passport. Sponsors of Visitor visa (subclass 600) Sponsored Family stream applicants must include all visiting family members on the sponsorship form.

Family members who are accompanying Business Visitors and are not themselves intending to engage in business visitor activities while in Australia could consider applying for the Visitor visa (subclass 600) - Tourist stream.

Visa Requirements

To be eligible for a Visitor visa, the applicant genuinely intends to stay temporarily in Australia for the purpose for which the visa is granted (for tourism or business visitor purposes).

Applicants must also meet certain health and character requirements, and could be asked to undergo a health examination and/or provide police certificates for each country they have lived in for 12 months or more over the last 10 years since turning 16.

In order to meet the financial requirements for the grant of a Visitor visa, applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have access to adequate means to support themselves (and their family where relevant) during their stay in Australia, including health insurance where required. They could be asked to provide evidence of their adequate means of support.

Ability to work

Work is not permitted on Visitor visas. This is enforced by a mandatory 'no work' condition imposed on all Tourist, Sponsored Family and ADS stream visas. Holders of Business Visitor stream and Frequent Traveller stream visas can undertake business visitor activities but not otherwise work. Business visitor activities include making general business enquiries, attending conferences and contractual negotiations and making government-to-government visits.

Where a person is found to be working in breach of their visa conditions, they could face visa cancellation and an exclusion period.

Ability to study

Holders of Visitor visas (subclass 600) in the Tourist stream, Sponsored Family stream, Business Visitor stream, or Frequent Traveller stream, can study for up to three months. This can be an award or non-award course, but the entire course must not be longer than 3 months in duration.

Extending stay

Visitor visas cannot be 'extended'. However, Visitor visa holders may extend their stay in Australia by applying for another visa, which may include a Visitor visa (subclass 600) - Tourist stream, at least two weeks before their current visa expires. The Tourist stream is the only stream of the Visitor visa that can be applied for inside Australia.

Visa refusals

A decision to refuse a Visitor visa application is made when the delegate of the Minister for Immigration and Border Protection is not satisfied that the applicant meets the legal criteria for grant of a visa. When refusing a visa application, the Department provides an applicant, or their agent, with a written decision record that sets out the reason for the decision and any review rights.

Reasons for refusal of Visitor visa applications could include:

- failure to meet financial, health or character requirements; and/or
- failure to satisfy the Department that the applicant is a genuine visitor.

Background to the Visitor visa program - continued

Processing times

Global Visitor visa application processing times are published on the Department's website at: http://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/about/access-accountability/service-standards/global-visa-citizenship-processing-times

The published processing times are updated on a monthly basis to reflect current caseloads and processing pressures. Processing times are impacted each month by changes in application volumes, seasonal peaks, complex cases and incomplete applications.

Recent key initiatives

Expansion of online lodgement

The Department continued its expansion of online lodgement, with nationals of India and Indonesia able to lodge Visitor visa (subclass 600) applications online from July and November 2017, respectively.

Priority consideration (fast-track) service

The Department implemented a new service providing priority processing to certain Visitor visa (subclass 600) applicants for an additional service charge. The fast-track service is available to eligible passport holders from China, India or the United Arab Emirates who apply for either the Tourist or Business Visitor stream of the Visitor visa, through a service delivery partner in the relevant country.

Fast-track in China was implemented in March 2016, with India and the UAE able to apply for the service from 5 December 2016. The service became available online from 1 July 2017.

Six year validity Visitor visa

On 20 November 2017, a new long validity Visitor visa (subclass 600) commenced for holders of passports from Singapore. This visa allows multiple short stays of up to three months for tourist or business visitor purposes for up to six years.

Executive Summary

Key Points

- This executive summary covers the Tourist and Business group visa statistics for the Visitor visa program from 1 July 2017 to 31 December 2017 (July-December 2017). The terminology used in this executive summary to describe Tourist and Business group visas and subclasses are referenced on page 3 of this report.
- There was a sustained increase in Visitor Visa application lodgements with 3,071,987 applications lodged under the Visitor visa program (Tourist and Business visa group) during July-December 2017, up 6 per cent compared to the same period in 2016. China was the largest source country for visitors to Australia with 542,396 lodgments ahead of the UK and USA with 359,260 and 284,968 lodgements respectively.
- Tourist Visitor visas accounted for the majority of visa applications lodged with 2,808,293 applications during July-December 2017, up 5.7 per cent compared with the same period in 2016 (2,655,964). Business Visitor visa application lodgements increased during July-December 2017 to 263,694 up 8.3 per cent compared with the same period in 2016 (243,444).
- A total of 2,691,096 Tourist Visitor visas were granted during July-December 2017, a 4.8 per cent increase compared with the same period in 2016 (2,566,882). Business Visitor visa grants increased by 9.5 per cent to 256,617 grants in 2017-18, up from 234,380 grants compared with the same period in 2016.
- The grant rate statistics in this report are calculated quarterly. The grant rate for all Visitor visas (Tourist and Business group) for the December quarter 2017 was 96.9 per cent, down slightly from the 97.6 per cent for the corresponding quarter in 2016.
- During July-December 2017, there were 3,251,462 arrivals on Visitor visas (Tourist and Business group), a 7 per cent increase compared with the same period in 2016 (3,039,208).
- As at 31 December 2017, there were 609,620 Visitor visa (Tourist and Business group) holders in Australia. This is a 7.8 per cent increase compared to 31 December 2016 (565,759).

1 Applications lodged

From July-December 2017, 3,071,987 Visitor visa (Tourist and Business group) applications were lodged, up 6 per cent compared with the same period in 2016 (2,899,408 applications).

China was the largest source country for Visitor visa application lodgements during July-December 2017 with 542,396 lodgements (up 12.3 per cent compared to the same period in 2016), ahead of the UK (up 3 per cent to 359,260) and the USA (up 4.7 per cent to 284,968).

Tourist Group

The Tourist group accounted for the majority of Visitor visa applications lodged during July-December 2017, with 2,808,293 applications. This was a 5.7 per cent increase compared with the same period in 2016 (2,655,964).

In addition to continued growth from the top three source countries of China, UK and USA, other source countries with strong growth in lodgements included:

- India (up 20.5 per cent to 124,402)
- Hong Kong (up 11.4 per cent to 80,127)
- South Korea (up 15.5 per cent to 136,397)

Business Group

A total of 263,694 Visitor – Business visa applications were lodged during July-December 2017, up 8.3 per cent compared to the same period in 2016 (243,444).

The top five sources countries for Visitor – Business visa applications were:

- 1. China (down 3.1 per cent to 46,500)
- 2. USA (up 3.7 per cent to 32,295)
- 3. UK (up 6.7 per cent to 19,147)
- 4. Japan (up 19.2 per cent to 18,994)
- 5. India (up 18.2 per cent to 16,240).

2 Visas granted

Tourist Group

A total of 2,691,096 Visitor – Tourist visas were granted during July-December 2017, a 4.8 per cent increase compared with the same period in 2016 (2,566,882).

The ETA Tourist and Tourist - Visitor represented the largest visa grants in the Tourist Group, with 1,330,508 (down from 1,338,148) and 880,125 (up from 793,061) visas granted respectively, compared with the same period in 2016.

Executive Summary - continued

The top five countries for Visitor – Tourist visa grants were:

- 1. China (up 12.7 per cent to 457,036)
- 2. UK (up 2.7 per cent to 337,492)
- 3. USA (up 5 per cent to 251,996)
- 4. Japan (down 0.8 per cent to 194,961)
- 5. Malaysia (down 7.9 per cent to 162,706).

Business Group

Visitor – Business visa grants increased by 9.5 per cent during July-December 2017 with 256,617 visa grants compared with the same period in 2016 (234,380). There was particularly significant growth in application numbers for Japan (up 19.4 per cent) and India (up 25.5 per cent).

The top five countries for Visitor – Business visa grants were:

- 1. China (down 0.9% per cent to 45,168)
- 2. USA (up 3.6 per cent to 32,202)
- 3. UK (up 7.7 per cent to 18,981)
- 4. Japan (up 19.4 per cent to 18,977)
- 5. India (up 25.5 per cent to 15,938).

Sponsored Family Visitor visa

A total of 16,418 Sponsored Family Visitor visas were granted during July-December 2017, up 1.2 per cent compared to the same period in 2016 (16,224).

3 Grant rates

The grant rate for all Visitor visas for the December quarter 2017 decreased slightly to 96.9 per cent, compared to 97.6 per cent for the corresponding quarter in 2016.

4 Processing times

Tourist Group

During the December quarter 2017, 75 per cent of Visitor – Tourist visa applications (including Approved Destination Status (ADS) applications) were processed within 14 calendar days. This is consistent with the processing times for the same period in 2016.

Business Group

During the December quarter 2017, 75 per cent of Visitor – Business visa applications were processed within 6 calendar days. This is consistent with the processing times for the same period in 2016.

5 Visa holders In Australia

On 31 December 2017, there were 609,620 Visitor (Tourist and Business Group) visa holders in Australia. This was a 7.8 per cent increase from 565,759 Visitor visa holders in Australia on 31 December 2016.

The Visitor visa (subclass 600) made up the largest cohort with 274,632 visa holders in Australia, followed by the subclass 601 ETA with 194,730 visa holders and subclass 651 eVisitor with 139,877 visa holders in Australia on 31 December 2017. The number of Visitor visa holders in Australia at any given time is influenced by a range of factors, including exchange rates, holiday periods and major events.

6 Approved Destination Status (ADS)

A total of 96,860 Tourist Visitor visas were granted to citizens from China under the ADS scheme during July-December 2017. This was an increase of 1 per cent compared with the same period in 2016 (95,854 grants).

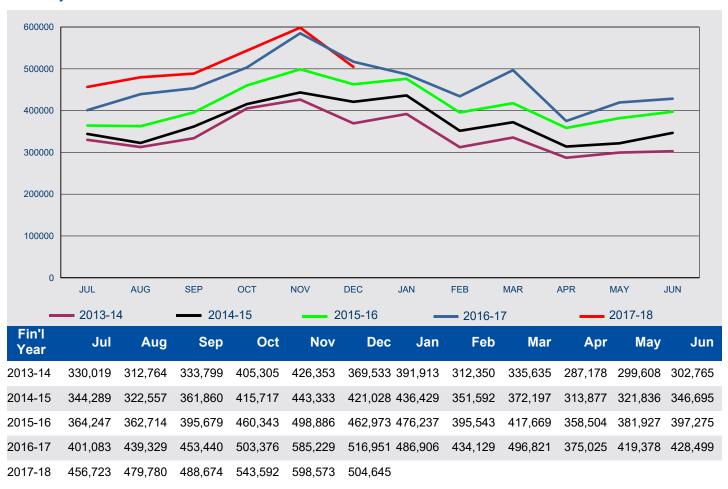
7 Arrivals data

During July-December 2017, there were 3,251,462 arrivals on Visitor (Tourist and Business Group) visas, a 7 per cent increase compared to the same period in 2016 (3,039,208).

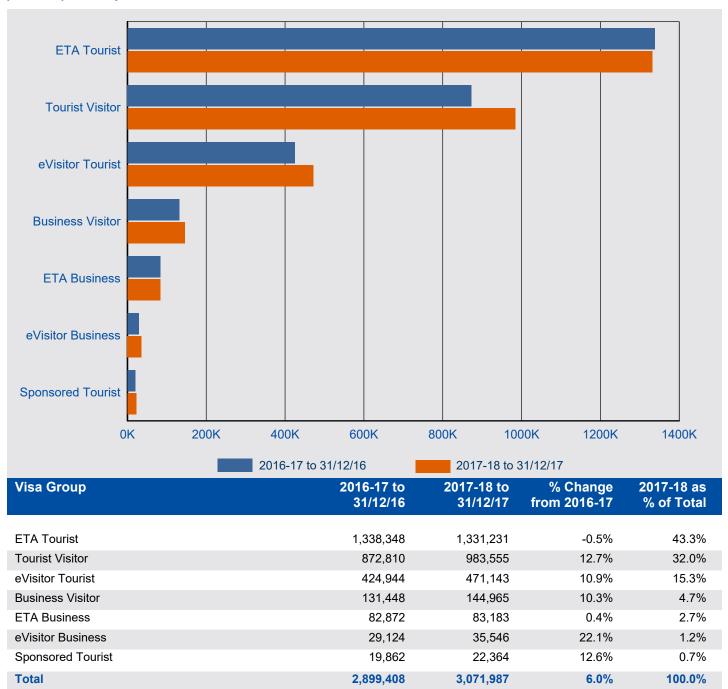
The top five countries for arrivals on Visitor visas were:

- 1. China (up 15.7 per cent to 551,703)
- 2. UK (up 4.2 per cent to 366,263)
- 3. USA (up 5.1 per cent to 299,955)
- 4. Japan (up 1.4 per cent to 225,325)
- 5. Malaysia (down 8.4 per cent to 210,950).

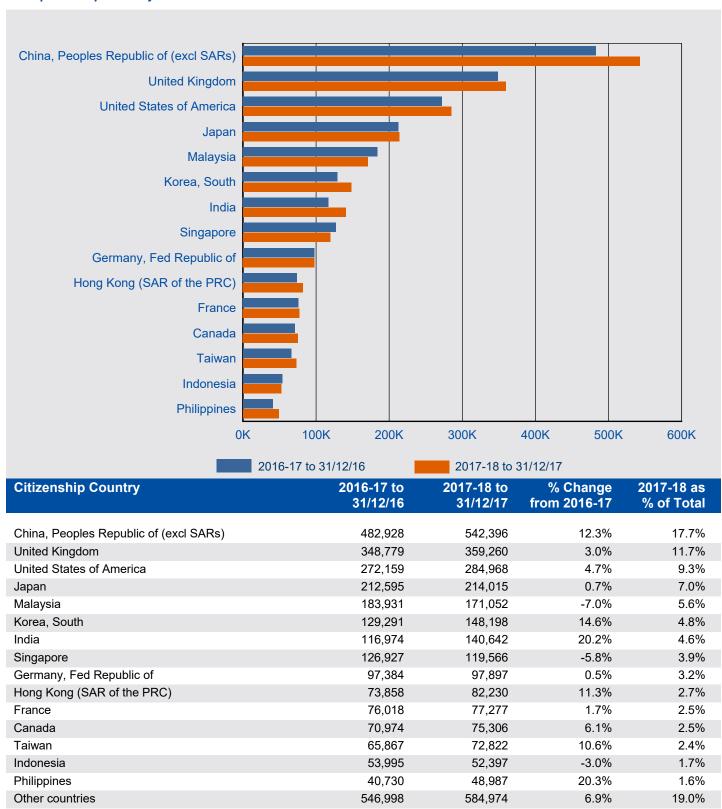
1.01 Number of Visitor visa applications lodged in 2017-18 to 31 December 2017 by month - comparison with previous four financial years



1.02 Number of Visitor visa applications lodged in 2017-18 to 31 December 2017 by visa group - comparison with same period in previous year



1.03 Number of Visitor visa applications lodged in 2017-18 to 31 December 2017 by citizenship country - comparison with same period in previous year



2,899,408

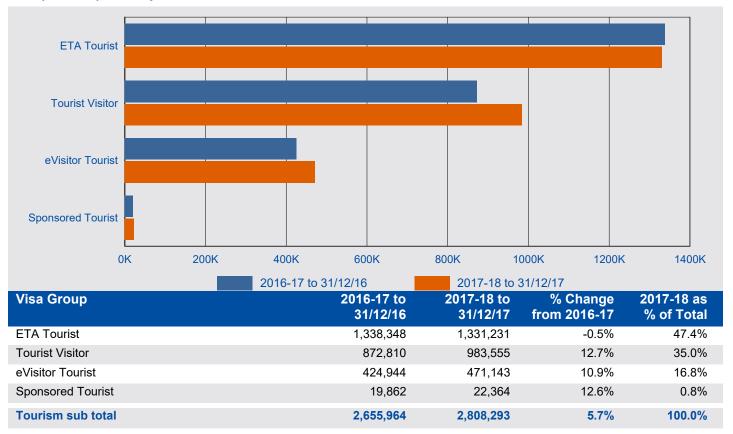
3,071,987

6.0%

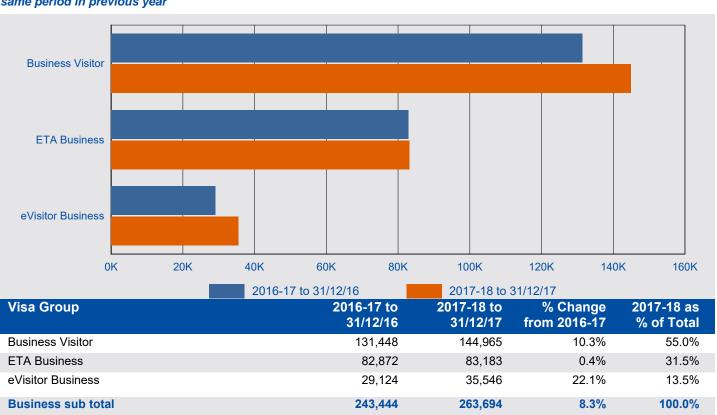
Total

100.0%

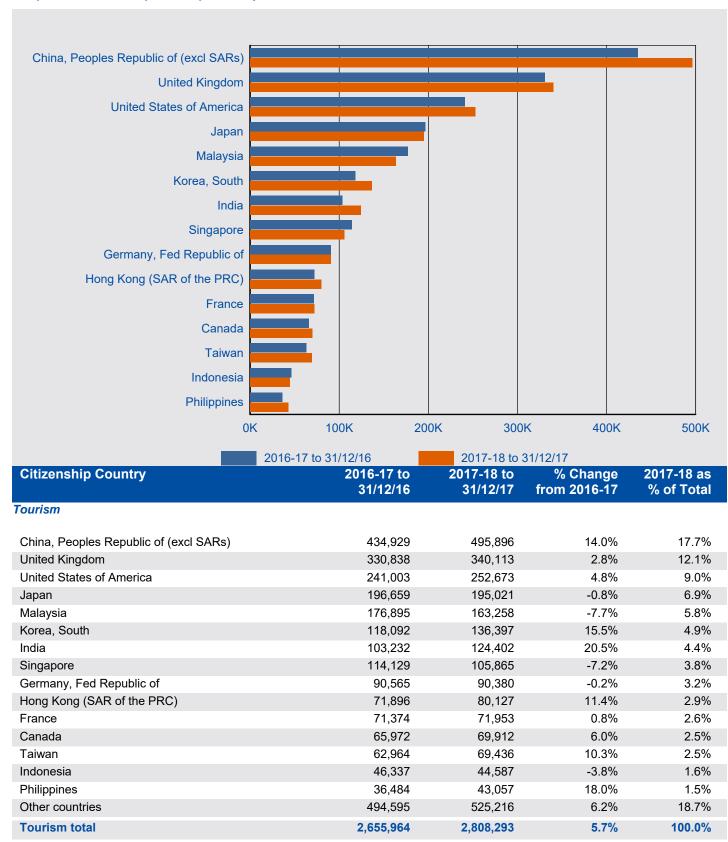
1.04 Number of tourism Visitor visa applications lodged in 2017-18 to 31 December 2017 by visa group - comparison with same period in previous year



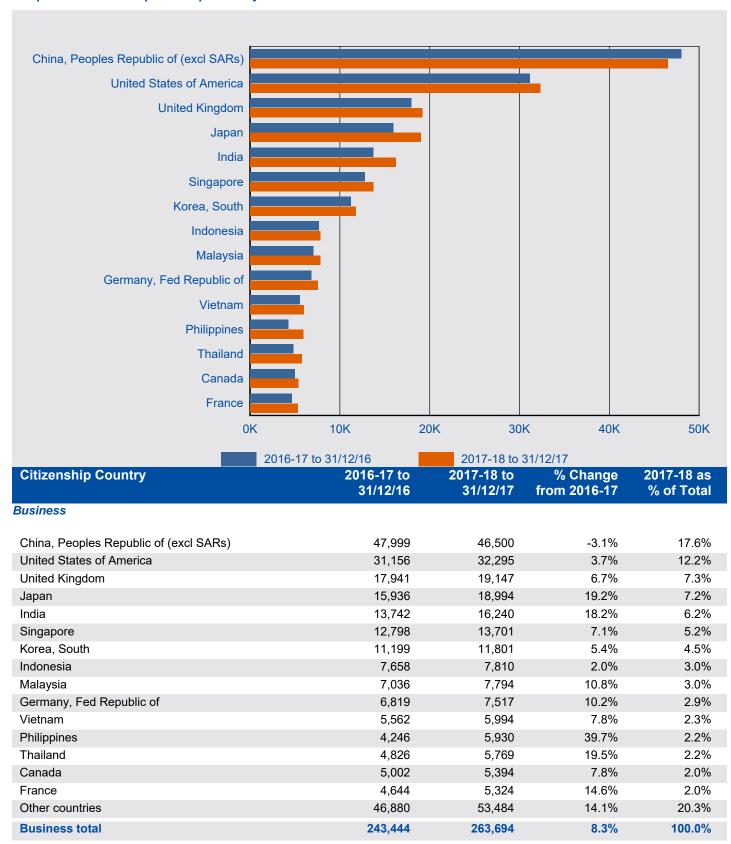
1.05 Number of business Visitor visa applications lodged in 2017-18 to 31 December 2017 by visa group - comparison with same period in previous year



1.06 Number of tourism Visitor visa applications lodged in 2017-18 to 31 December 2017 by citizenship country - comparison with same period in previous year

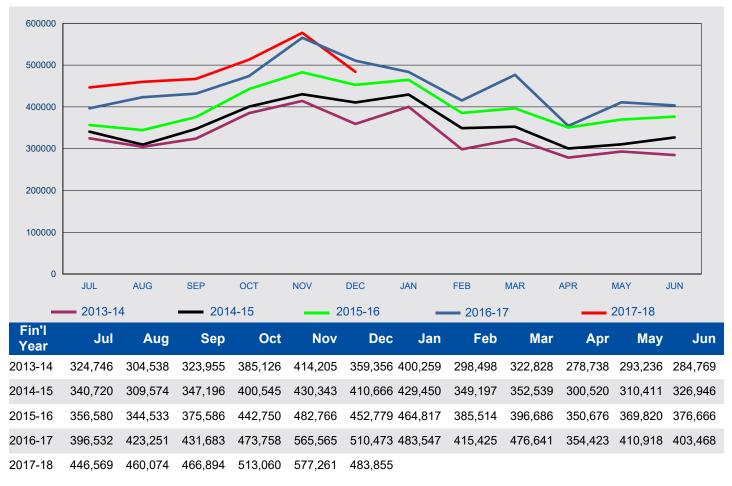


1.07 Number of business Visitor visa applications lodged in 2017-18 to 31 December 2017 by citizenship country comparison with same period in previous year

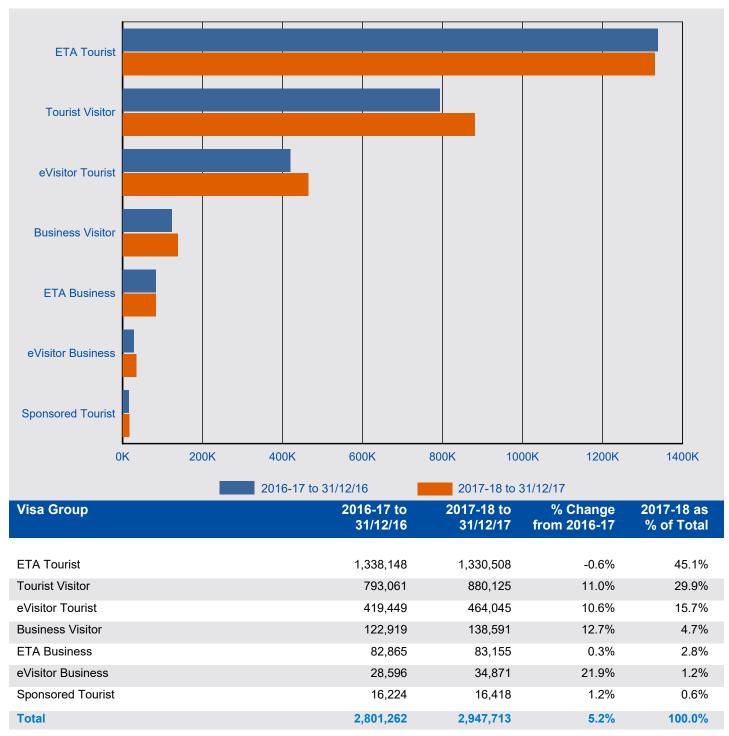


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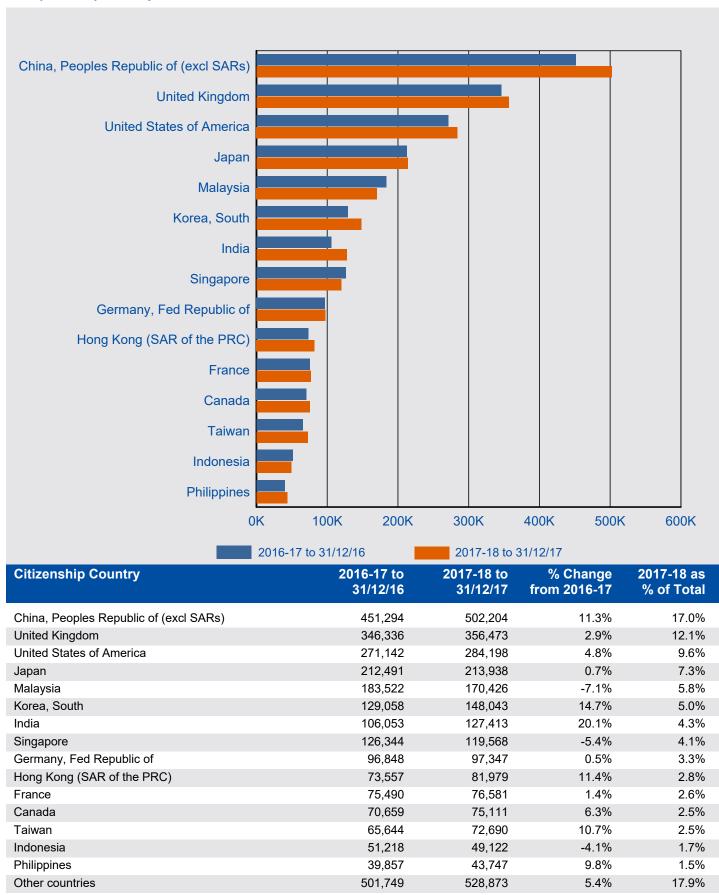
2.01 Number of Visitor visa applications granted in 2017-18 to 31 December 2017 by month - comparison with previous four financial years



2.02 Number of Visitor visa applications granted in 2017-18 to 31 December 2017 by visa group - comparison with same period in previous year



2.03 Number of Visitor visa applications granted in 2017-18 to 31 December 2017 by citizenship country - comparison with same period in previous year



2,801,262

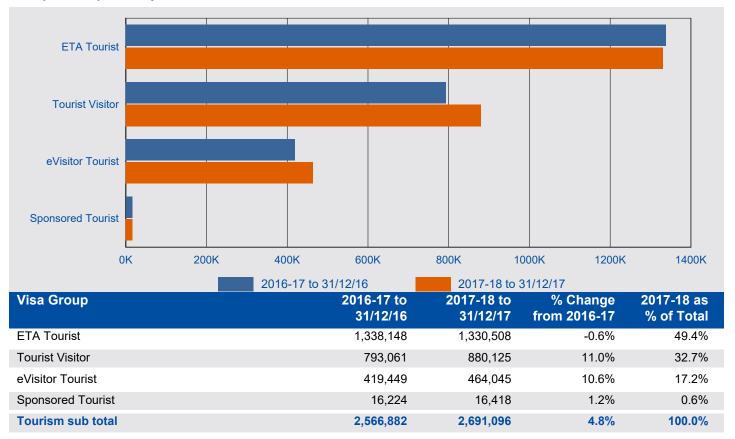
2,947,713

Total

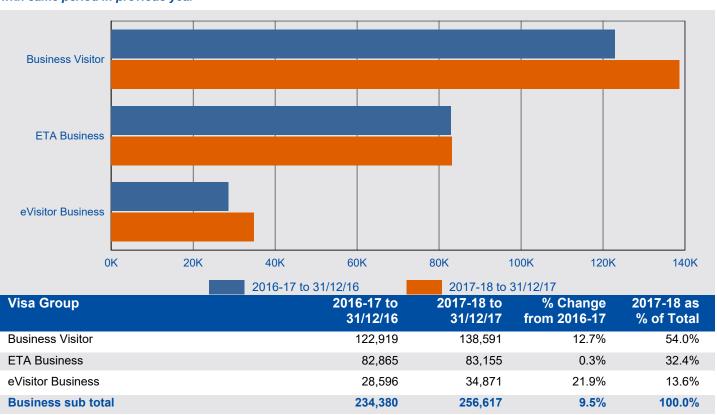
100.0%

5.2%

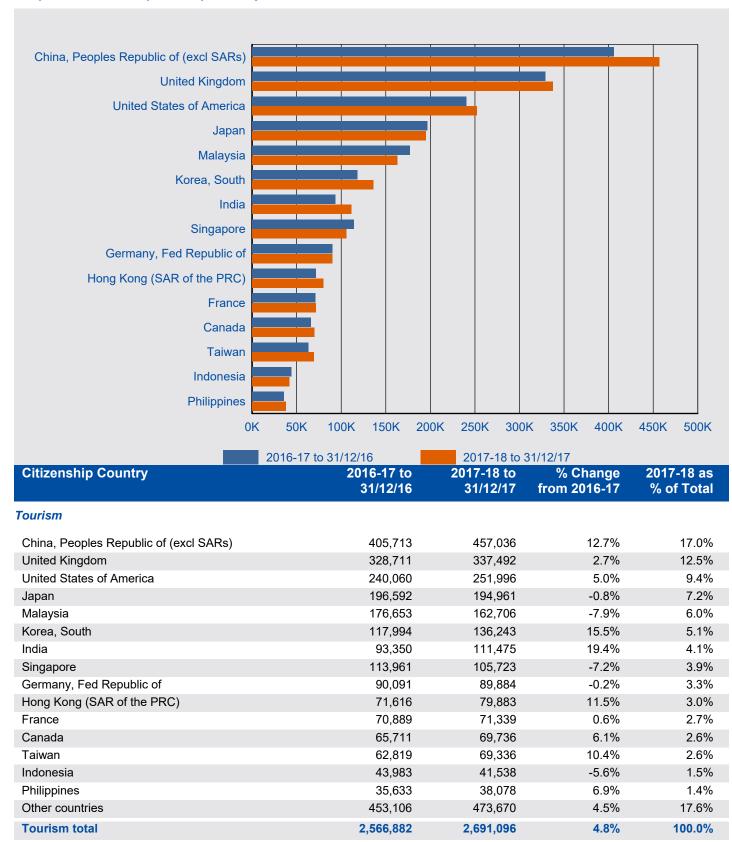
2.04 Number of tourism Visitor visa applications granted in 2017-18 to 31 December 2017 by visa group - comparison with same period in previous year



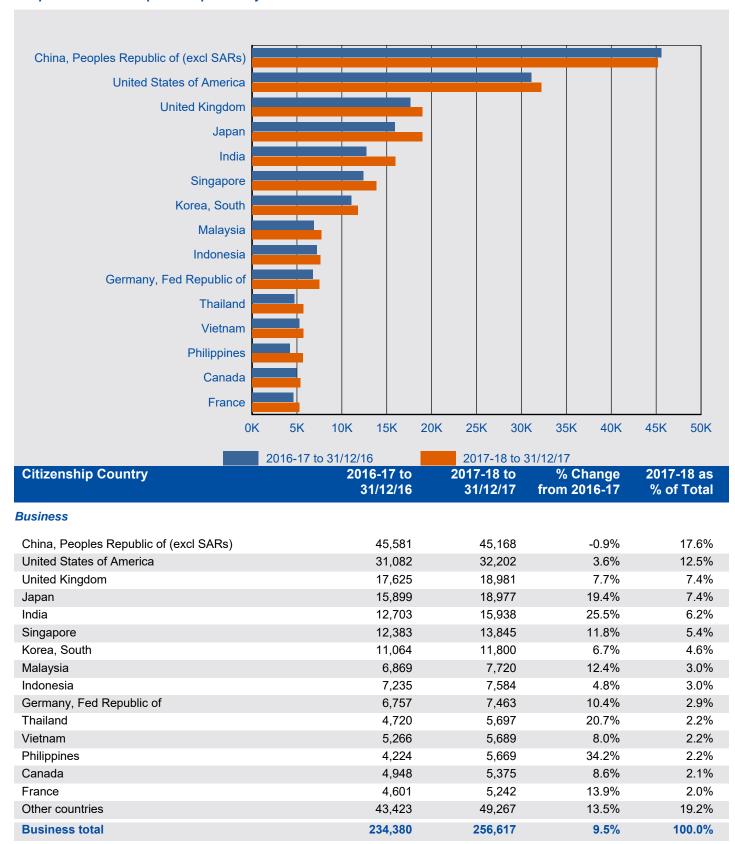
2.05 Number of business Visitor visa applications granted in 2017-18 to 31 December 2017 by visa group - comparison with same period in previous year



2.06 Number of tourism Visitor visa applications granted in 2017-18 to 31 December 2017 by citizenship country - comparison with same period in previous year



2.07 Number of business Visitor visa applications granted in 2017-18 to 31 December 2017 by citizenship country comparison with same period in previous year



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For this section:

A grant rate is defined as:

Number of grants x 100

Number of decisions

where the number of decisions equals the number of grants plus the number of refusals.

A grant rate of 0.00% indicates that no applications were decided during the reporting period.

3.01 Grant rate of Visitor visa applications decided in the 3 month period between 1 October 2017 and 31 December 2017 by visa group - comparison with previous four periods

Visa Group	01/10/16 to 31/12/16	01/01/17 to 31/03/17	01/04/17 to 30/06/17	01/07/17 to 30/09/17	01/10/17 to 31/12/17
Business					
Business Visitor	96.4%	96.4%	95.7%	93.8%	94.5%
ETA Business	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
eVisitor Business	99.3%	98.1%	97.7%	97.9%	98.5%
All Business	97.8%	97.8%	97.2%	96.2%	96.8%
Tourism					
ETA Tourist	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
eVisitor Tourist	99.5%	98.8%	97.7%	98.3%	99.1%
Sponsored Tourist	82.1%	80.9%	78.7%	77.4%	79.2%
Tourist Visitor	93.1%	92.1%	92.4%	90.5%	91.8%
All Tourism	97.6%	97.1%	96.6%	96.1%	97.0%
All	97.6%	97.2%	96.6%	96.1%	96.9%

3.02 Grant rate for Tourist Visitor visa applications decided in the 3 month period between 1 October 2017 and 31 December 2017 by citizenship country - comparison with previous four periods

Citizenship Country	01/10/16 to 31/12/16	01/01/17 to 31/03/17	01/04/17 to 30/06/17	01/07/17 to 30/09/17	01/10/17 to 31/12/17
China, Peoples Republic of (excl SARs)	95.7%	95.9%	95.6%	92.7%	94.4%
India	92.9%	90.6%	92.9%	91.7%	93.3%
Indonesia	94.3%	92.6%	95.6%	93.4%	93.3%
Philippines	89.3%	90.1%	88.6%	87.3%	91.8%
Vietnam	86.1%	83.7%	86.3%	84.2%	83.8%
South Africa	97.9%	97.7%	95.8%	97.1%	96.3%
Brazil	98.3%	94.6%	90.4%	92.4%	95.3%
Thailand	90.5%	92.7%	87.7%	88.4%	85.2%
Sri Lanka	91.9%	90.4%	85.8%	88.0%	86.9%
Fiji	92.5%	85.7%	83.4%	85.6%	87.4%
Argentina	98.9%	97.3%	95.6%	95.2%	97.8%
Russian Federation	87.9%	84.5%	81.6%	86.0%	86.9%
Chile	98.8%	96.9%	96.3%	95.8%	98.1%
Nepal	88.9%	87.3%	89.9%	91.8%	92.8%
Papua New Guinea	84.4%	81.0%	82.8%	82.6%	83.0%
Other countries	84.9%	81.0%	83.1%	81.5%	82.4%
All Tourist Visitor	93.1%	92.1%	92.4%	90.5%	91.8%

3.03 Grant rate for Sponsored Tourist visa applications decided in the 3 month period between 1 October 2017 and 31 December 2017 by citizenship country - comparison with previous four periods

Citizenship Country	01/10/16 to 31/12/16	01/01/17 to 31/03/17	01/04/17 to 30/06/17	01/07/17 to 30/09/17	01/10/17 to 31/12/17
India	90.8%	89.1%	88.9%	84.0%	85.3%
Vietnam	80.2%	79.4%	76.3%	70.9%	72.0%
Philippines	85.9%	88.3%	87.8%	83.7%	84.7%
Bangladesh	94.5%	92.5%	92.3%	90.5%	93.1%
China, Peoples Republic of (excl SARs)	85.2%	81.5%	81.5%	79.5%	81.9%
Nepal	91.3%	92.0%	89.2%	92.2%	92.6%
Sri Lanka	90.7%	91.0%	84.7%	86.7%	91.7%
Pakistan	80.2%	79.1%	79.5%	74.8%	75.6%
Cambodia	86.5%	88.0%	84.3%	85.4%	88.0%
Iran	78.7%	82.7%	67.6%	71.9%	75.5%
Lebanon	45.0%	47.0%	45.7%	37.8%	40.7%
Zimbabwe	83.7%	84.5%	83.5%	86.1%	73.4%
Russian Federation	88.2%	78.0%	75.0%	87.5%	81.9%
Fiji	69.5%	69.0%	68.3%	73.0%	66.3%
Myanmar	84.9%	83.8%	76.8%	79.2%	94.0%
Other countries	70.4%	65.4%	58.5%	63.4%	65.3%
All Sponsored Tourist	82.1%	80.9%	78.7%	77.4%	79.2%

3.04 Grant rate for Business Visitor visa applications decided in the 3 month period between 1 October 2017 and 31 December 2017 by citizenship country - comparison with previous four periods

Citizenship Country	01/10/16 to 31/12/16	01/01/17 to 31/03/17	01/04/17 to 30/06/17	01/07/17 to 30/09/17	01/10/17 to 31/12/17
China, Peoples Republic of (excl SARs)	97.4%	96.2%	96.4%	95.1%	95.8%
India	94.1%	95.9%	95.9%	94.6%	95.9%
Indonesia	98.5%	96.6%	93.4%	86.3%	94.5%
Singapore	98.9%	99.8%	99.6%	95.0%	95.6%
Vietnam	96.0%	95.4%	94.7%	94.9%	94.6%
Korea, South	99.9%	99.9%	99.8%	99.4%	99.6%
Japan	99.8%	100.0%	99.6%	99.5%	99.8%
Philippines	96.0%	94.6%	95.0%	93.8%	95.9%
Thailand	99.4%	99.1%	99.5%	99.3%	99.0%
Malaysia	99.5%	99.7%	98.9%	86.3%	93.9%
South Africa	96.6%	98.2%	97.6%	97.4%	96.9%
Taiwan	99.2%	99.7%	99.4%	95.4%	96.6%
Papua New Guinea	94.9%	97.8%	97.5%	96.6%	97.0%
Bangladesh	85.3%	87.8%	92.2%	85.7%	85.8%
Pakistan	80.4%	80.1%	77.9%	72.2%	74.7%
Other countries	89.9%	91.5%	89.6%	88.8%	87.3%
All Business Visitor	96.4%	96.4%	95.7%	93.8%	94.5%

3.05 Grant rate for subclass 651 eVisitor visa applications decided in the 3 month period between 1 October 2017 and 31 December 2017 by citizenship country - comparison with previous four periods

Citizenship Country	01/10/16 to 31/12/16	01/01/17 to 31/03/17	01/04/17 to 30/06/17	01/07/17 to 30/09/17	01/10/17 to 31/12/17
Andorra	100.0%	96.4%	100.0%	92.3%	84.8%
Austria	100.0%	99.3%	97.3%	97.2%	98.7%
Belgium	99.7%	98.9%	98.8%	99.2%	99.4%
Bulgaria	82.8%	75.2%	71.3%	81.8%	86.4%
Croatia	86.6%	80.1%	77.4%	78.7%	86.8%
Cyprus	99.3%	97.5%	93.9%	97.5%	99.4%
Czech Republic	99.4%	97.8%	97.4%	98.3%	99.2%
Denmark	99.9%	99.5%	98.8%	99.1%	99.7%
Estonia	98.4%	96.1%	93.8%	96.6%	97.8%
Finland	99.8%	98.6%	98.0%	98.3%	99.7%
France	99.7%	98.9%	98.7%	98.9%	99.2%
Germany, Fed Republic of	99.8%	99.4%	99.0%	99.4%	99.7%
Greece	99.2%	97.8%	95.4%	95.8%	98.5%
Hungary	98.3%	96.8%	92.4%	96.7%	98.1%
Iceland	100.0%	99.5%	98.1%	98.3%	100.0%
Ireland, Republic of	99.6%	98.7%	97.9%	98.5%	99.2%
Italy	99.6%	98.8%	98.5%	98.9%	99.4%
Latvia	92.8%	91.6%	79.8%	85.8%	89.8%
Liechtenstein	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Lithuania	96.2%	90.9%	87.0%	89.2%	91.5%
Luxembourg	100.0%	100.0%	98.7%	96.0%	100.0%
Malta	100.0%	97.2%	92.4%	94.0%	96.7%
Monaco	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Netherlands, Kingdom of The	99.8%	99.1%	99.0%	99.2%	99.6%
Norway	99.9%	98.7%	98.4%	97.8%	99.6%
Poland	99.6%	99.0%	98.4%	98.6%	99.1%
Portugal	99.8%	98.9%	98.5%	99.0%	99.5%
Romania	81.2%	70.1%	63.0%	69.5%	76.6%
San Marino	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	0.0%	85.7%
Slovakia	97.3%	96.2%	92.0%	93.3%	95.7%
Slovenia	99.2%	98.6%	98.7%	99.6%	99.4%
Spain	99.8%	99.1%	98.8%	99.2%	99.7%
Sweden	99.8%	99.0%	97.8%	99.0%	99.5%
Switzerland	100.0%	99.3%	99.1%	98.9%	98.9%
United Kingdom	99.8%	99.3%	98.4%	99.0%	99.6%
Vatican City State Holy See	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
All	99.5%	98.7%	97.7%	98.4%	99.2%

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4 Processing times

This section contains information on 25, 50 and 75 percentile processing times for visitor visa applications.

In general terms:

25 percentile means that 25 per cent of applications granted during the period were processed within the number of

days shown in the tables. Conversely, 75 per cent took longer than the number of days shown. This measure gives an indication of how long it is taking to process the more straight-forward visitor visa

applications.

50 percentile more commonly known as the median, it means that 50 per cent of applications granted during the

period were processed within the number of days shown in the tables. Conversely, 50 per cent took longer than the number of days shown. This measure gives an indication of how long it is taking to

process the typical visitor visa applications.

75 percentile means that 75 per cent of applications granted during the period were processed within the number of

days shown in the tables. Conversely, 25 per cent took longer than the number of days shown. This measure gives an indication of how long it is taking to process the more complex visitor visa

applications.

4 Processing times

4.01 Processing time (in calendar days) for Tourist Visitor visa applications granted in the 3 month period between 1 October 2017 and 31 December 2017 by citizenship country - comparison with previous four periods

Citizenship country	Percentile	1/10/16 to 31/12/16	1/01/17 to 31/03/17	1/04/17 to 30/06/17	1/07/17 to 30/09/17	1/10/17 to 31/12/17
China, Peoples	25th percentile	1	1	2	2	2
Republic of (excl SARs)	50th percentile (Median)	2	2	3	3	3
o, ii io)	75th percentile	5	4	6	6	5
India	25th percentile	14	15	17	9	14
	50th percentile (Median)	18	20	29	22	21
	75th percentile	23	26	105	28	101
Indonesia	25th percentile	3	2	2	2	1
	50th percentile (Median)	5	5	5	4	3
	75th percentile	7	7	7	6	5
Philippines	25th percentile	2	1	4	6	4
	50th percentile (Median)	6	3	7	8	8
	75th percentile	10	6	13	13	15
Vietnam	25th percentile	7	9	14	11	7
	50th percentile (Median)	9	13	17	15	12
	75th percentile	12	16	21	20	15
South Africa	25th percentile	21	19	11	22	15
	50th percentile (Median)	27	26	15	28	22
	75th percentile	102	102	22	103	29
Brazil	25th percentile	0	0	0	0	0
	50th percentile (Median)	3	0	3	0	1
	75th percentile	16	9	10	6	6
Thailand	25th percentile	4	4	3	7	4
	50th percentile (Median)	6	6	5	9	6
	75th percentile	8	7	7	12	8
Sri Lanka	25th percentile	6	9	7	11	10
	50th percentile (Median)	8	12	14	15	14
	75th percentile	13	16	21	21	19
Fiji	25th percentile	11	6	5	4	9
	50th percentile (Median)	14	9	9	7	13
	75th percentile	19	14	17	11	16
Other countries	25th percentile	4	3	3	2	4
	50th percentile (Median)	13	13	10	10	15
	75th percentile	25	29	25	23	28
All	25th percentile	2	1	2	2	2
	50th percentile (Median)	5	4	5	5	5
	75th percentile	14	12	14	13	14

4 Processing times

4.02 Processing time (in calendar days) for Business Visitor visa applications granted in the 3 month period between 1 October 2017 and 31 December 2017 by citizenship country - comparison with previous four periods

Citizenship country	Percentile	1/10/16 to 31/12/16	1/01/17 to 31/03/17	1/04/17 to 30/06/17	1/07/17 to 30/09/17	1/10/17 to 31/12/17
China, Peoples	25th percentile	1	0	1	1	1
Republic of (excl SARs)	50th percentile (Median)	2	1	3	2	2
<i>Or</i> (13)	75th percentile	5	3	5	5	4
India	25th percentile	1	2	3	2	3
	50th percentile (Median)	7	7	10	7	7
	75th percentile	13	14	15	14	16
Indonesia	25th percentile	0	0	0	0	0
	50th percentile (Median)	1	1	1	1	1
	75th percentile	1	3	3	3	2
Singapore	25th percentile	0	0	0	0	0
	50th percentile (Median)	0	0	1	1	1
	75th percentile	2	3	4	3	3
Vietnam	25th percentile	1	1	3	2	2
	50th percentile (Median)	5	3	6	9	4
	75th percentile	6	7	8	12	10
Korea, South	25th percentile	0	0	0	0	0
	50th percentile (Median)	0	0	1	0	1
	75th percentile	1	1	4	3	2
Japan	25th percentile	0	0	0	0	0
	50th percentile (Median)	0	0	0	0	0
	75th percentile	1	2	1	2	1
Philippines	25th percentile	1	1	1	2	3
	50th percentile (Median)	3	2	4	5	5
	75th percentile	7	5	7	7	7
Thailand	25th percentile	0	1	1	1	1
	50th percentile (Median)	2	3	2	5	1
	75th percentile	5	5	4	9	3
Malaysia	25th percentile	0	0	0	0	0
	50th percentile (Median)	0	0	0	2	0
	75th percentile	2	1	1	4	1
Other countries	25th percentile	1	1	1	1	1
	50th percentile (Median)	5	4	5	5	5
	75th percentile	14	13	13	13	13
All	25th percentile	1	0	1	1	1
	50th percentile (Median)	2	1	3	3	2
	75th percentile	6	5	7	7	6

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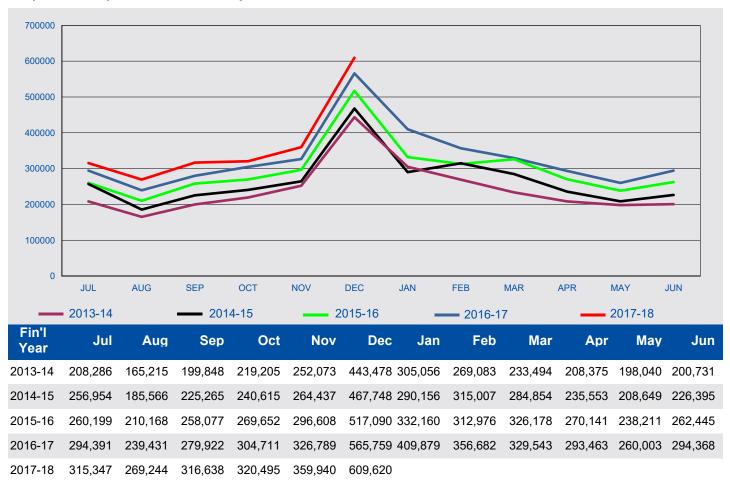
5 Applications on hand

5 Applications on hand

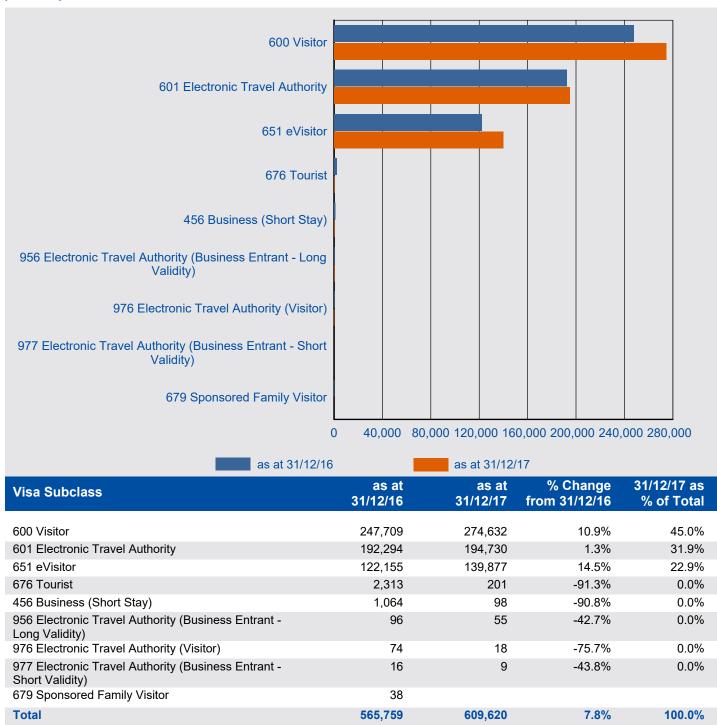
5.01 Number of Visitor visa applications on hand at 31 December 2017 by visa group - comparison with previous four periods

Visa Group	On hand at 31/12/16	On hand at 31/03/17	On hand at 30/06/17	On hand at 30/09/17	On hand at 31/12/17
Tourism					
Tourist Visitor	58 837	54 703	64 762	59 516	78 838
ETA Tourist	41	51	51	56	69
eVisitor Tourist	3 881	3 355	2 353	1 573	3 175
Sponsored Tourist	3 614	3 437	3 986	4 987	5 020
sub total Tourism	66 373	61 546	71 152	66 132	87 102
Business					
Business Visitor	6 204	8 146	8 791	6 454	5 058
ETA Business	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5	< 5
eVisitor Business	293	340	298	127	211
Sponsored Business	0	0	0	0	0
sub total Business	6 500	8 489	9 092	6 582	5 270
Total	72 873	70 035	80 244	72 714	92 372

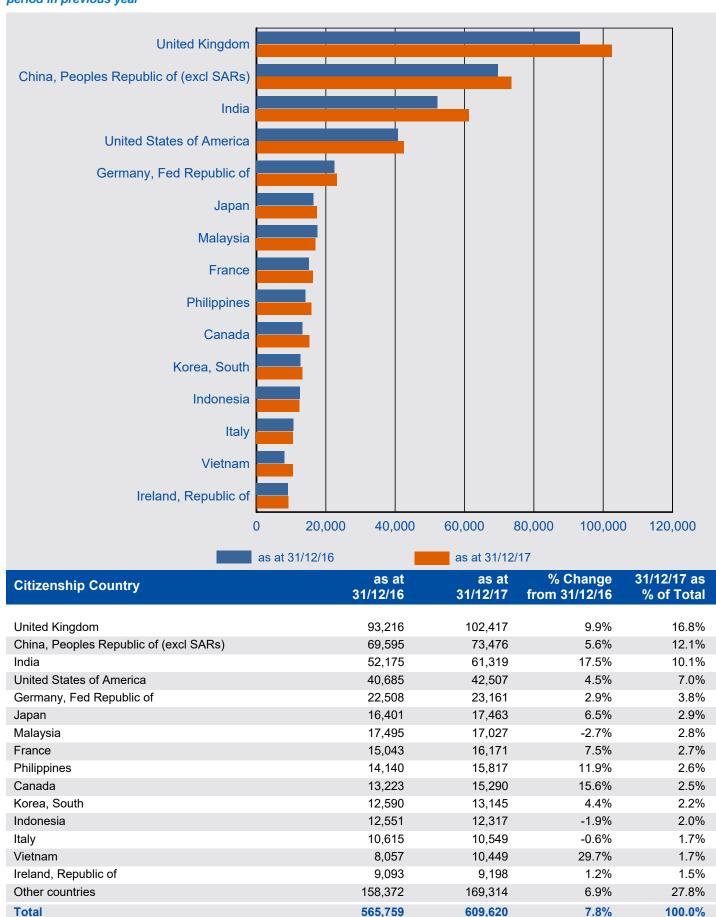
6.01 Number of Visitor visa holders in Australia at the end of each month in 2017-18 to 31 December 2017 by month - comparison with previous four financial years



6.02 Number of Visitor visa holders in Australia as at 31 December 2017 by visa subclass - comparison with same date in previous year



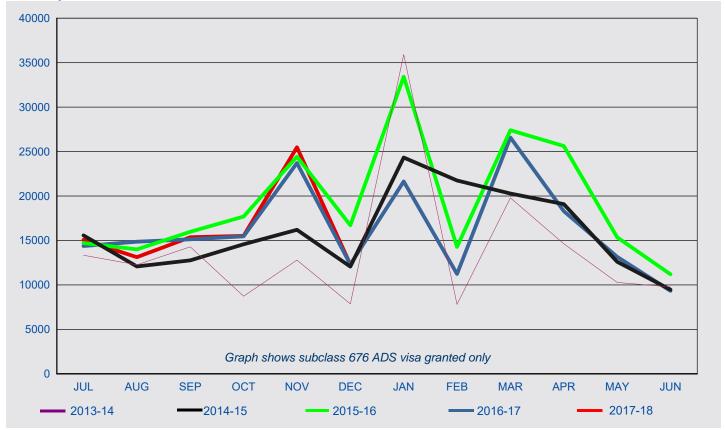
6.03 Number of Visitor visa holders in Australia as at 31 December 2017 by citizenship country - comparison with same period in previous year



7 Approved Destination Status (ADS)

7 Approved Destination Status (ADS)

7.01 Number of subclass 676 and subclass 600 visa applications granted in 2017-18 to 31 December 2017 under the tourism stream where the citizenship country is Peoples Republic of China (PRC) by visa type - comparison with previous four financial years



subclass 676/600 ADS for PRC

FY Granted	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
2013-14	13,343	12,258	14,287	8,737	12,795	7,865	35,916	7,816	19,793	14,628	10,284	9,775	167.497
2014-15	15,572	12,077	12,765	14,571	16,207	12,068	24,333	21,748	20,278	19,093	12,603	9,470	190,785
2015-16	14,722	13,995	15,980	17,690	24,426	16,703	33,421	14,277	27,402	25,628	15,359	11,201	230,804
2016-17	14,378	14,864	15,132	15,464	23,708	12,308	21,640	11,235	26,580	18,297	13,158	9,333	196,097
2017-18	15,066	13,124	15,368	15,521	25,480	12,301							96,860

subclass 676/600 non-ADS for PRC

FY Granted	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
2013-14	26,512	23,118	20,302	20,141	29,628	35,135	41,988	12,995	22,790	20,227	24,292	28,886	306,014
2014-15	33,023	24,364	29,732	29,598	37,201	43,101	53,650	22,572	24,934	25,713	28,572	36,355	388,815
2015-16	41,055	34,315	36,120	36,635	49,431	59,217	59,720	22,939	37,298	34,892	38,764	46,681	497,067
2016-17	49,051	43,663	43,623	38,281	61,463	72,071	57,882	31,006	51,510	37,660	47,778	63,316	597,304
2017-18	64,227	57,204	54,355	46,239	67,307	65,489							354,821

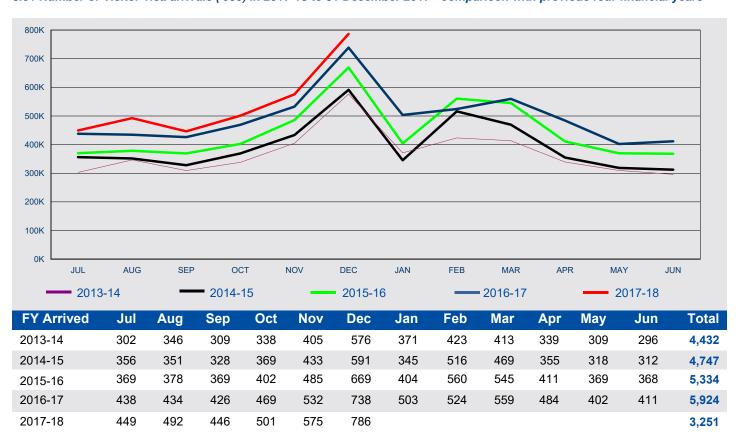
Total subclass 676/600 for PRC

FY Granted	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
2013-14	39,855	35,376	34,589	28,878	42,423	43,000	77,904	20,811	42,583	34,855	34,576	38,661	473,511
2014-15	48,595	36,441	42,497	44,169	53,408	55,169	77,983	44,320	45,212	44,806	41,175	45,825	579,600
2015-16	55,777	48,310	52,100	54,325	73,857	75,920	93,141	37,216	64,700	60,520	54,123	57,882	727,871
2016-17	63,429	58,527	58,755	53,745	85,171	84,379	79,522	42,241	78,090	55,957	60,936	72,649	793,401
2017-18	79,293	70,328	69,723	61,760	92,787	77,790							451,681

8 Arrivals

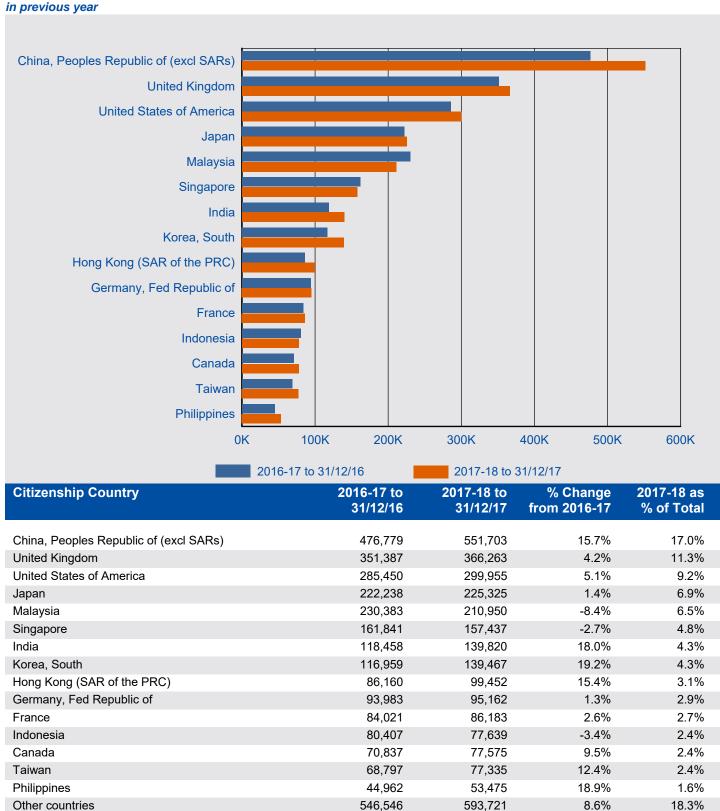
8 Arrivals

8.01 Number of Visitor visa arrivals ('000) in 2017-18 to 31 December 2017 - comparison with previous four financial years



8 Arrivals

8.02 Number of Visitor visa arrivals in 2017-18 to 31 December 2017 by citizenship country - comparison with same period in previous year



3,039,208

3,251,462

Total

100.0%

7.0%