

Visitor visa programme bi-annual report

1 July to 31 December 2016



Contents

About this report	1
Enquiries	1
Definition of terms	2
How to read this report	3
Background to the visitor visa programme	4
Executive summary	7
Section 1 Lodged	9
Section 2 Granted	17
Section 3 Grant rate	25
Section 4 Processing times	31
Section 5 Applications on hand	35
Section 6 Visa holders in Australia	37
Section 7 Approved Destination Status (ADS)	41
Section 8 Arrivals	43



About this report

This report provides quarterly data about the Visitor visa programme administered by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (the department). The report has been produced to assist tourism industry stakeholders and policymakers.

It is expected that this report will be further developed over time to increase and improve information sharing about the Visitor visa programme.

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 data about the Visitor visa programme, including the report and Visitor visa grants by subclass and citizenship from the 2005-06 to the 2014-15 financial year is available at the department's website at www.immi.gov.au/media/statistics/visitor.htm

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

Enquiries

Any comments or enquiries concerning this report should be sent to visa.reporting@border.gov.au quoting Report Id BR0112.

Definition of terms

Under the Migration Regulations 1994 (the Regulations), there are two types of Applicant type:

applicants. These are primary applicants and secondary applicants.

Approved Destination Status

(ADS):

Decided:

This scheme facilitates the travel of organised tour groups from the People's Republic

of China (PRC) to Australia by approved travel agents.

Auto grant: An automated process by which an electronic visa application is checked against

security and immigration risk business rules and, if the automated checks are satisfied, the visa is granted, often within minutes after lodgement. Electronic applications which do not satisfy automated checks are referred for manual

assessment by a visa processing officer.

The country of citizenship of the visa applicant or visa holder. Where a visa applicant Citizenship country:

> 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.

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.

Visa application lodged electronically, by eligible passport holders, via the eLodged:

departmental website. Visas that can be eLodged are the eVisitor (subclass 651) visa

and the Tourist (subclass 676) visa (also known as the e676).

Electronic Travel Authority. An electronic visa available to citizens from low risk ETA:

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

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 applicant: Used to refer to clients applying for a visa. Unless otherwise specified, the term

covers both primary and secondary applicants.

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) ADS	Tourist Visitor		
Sponsored Family Visitor visa (subclass 679) and	Sponsored Tourist		
Visitor (subclass 600) Sponsored Family stream visa	Sportoored roundt		
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) visa applications. A small percentage of these clients may now be lodging Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) (subclass 400) visas, 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) visas, which is not covered in this report.

Background to the Visitor visa programme

The Visitor visa programme 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 programme is made up of three subclasses the ETA (subclass 601), eVisitor (subclass 651) and Visitor (subclass 600) visa. The Visitor (subclass 600) visa has four streams, the Tourist stream, the Sponsored Family stream, the Business Visitor stream and the Approved Destination Status 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	✓		Both
600 - Business Visitor stream		✓	Outside Australia
600 - Sponsored Family stream	✓		Outside Australia
600 - Approved Destination Status stream	✓		Outside Australia

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 (subclass 676) was replaced by the Visitor (Subclass 600) Tourist stream visa. The
 online Tourist (Subclass 676) visa has been temporarily retained pending implementation of an
 online Visitor (subclass 600) visa.
- The Sponsored Family Visitor visa (subclass 679) was repealed and replaced by the Visitor (subclass 600 Sponsored Family stream visa.
- The ETA (Visitor) (subclass 976) was repealed and replaced by the ETA (subclass 601).
- The Business (Short Stay) (subclass 456) visa was repealed and replaced by the Visitor (subclass 600) Business Visitor stream visa.
- The Sponsored Business visitor (Short Stay) visa (subclass 459) was repealed and replaced by the Visitor (subclass 600) Business Visitor stream visa.
- 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).

As part of these changes work rights previously permitted in Business Visitor visa were moved to a new dedicated visa, the Temporary Work (Short Stay Activity) (subclass 400) visa. The new Business Visitor visas introduced on 23 March 2013 enable business visitors to undertake business visitor activities, including making general business and employment enquiries, attending conferences, negotiating and reviewing business contracts and making official government to government visits. A summary of the Visitor visa framework changes is provided in the table below. Visas granted before this date remain valid for use until they expire.

Background to the Visitor visa programme - continued

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

Tourism:

- 1. Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) (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 of Australia.
- 2. eVisitor (subclass 651 Tourist Entrant). This visa is designed for people outside of Australia who want to visit Australia for tourism 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 (subclass 600) Tourist stream visa. This visa allows people to visit Australia for tourism purposes. This may include a holiday or recreation, or to visit family and friends. This visa can be applied for either onshore or offshore and may also be used for other short-term non-work purposes including study for up to three months. This visa can also be applied for online (known as the 'e600') by eligible passport holders.
- 4. Visitor (subclass 600) Sponsored Family stream visa. This visa allows people who are outside of Australia and have an eligible sponsor in Australia (an eligible relative or Australian Government officialwilling 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.

Business:

- 5. Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) (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 of Australia.
- 6. eVisitor (subclass 651 Business Entrant). This visa is designed for people outside of Australia who want to visit Australia for short term business 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.
- 7. Visitor (subclass 600) Business Visitor stream visa. This visa allows people to visit Australia for business visitor activities 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 also be applied for online (known as the 'e600') by eligible passport holders.

Eligible Passports for Electronic Lodgement of Visitor Visa Applications

The Department continues to implement changes to support the progressive expansion of online lodgement of Visitor visa applications to all countries in 2014-15. Online lodgement of Visitor (subclass 600) visas was made available to additional countries from 1 August 2014, including all countries previously eligible for the online Tourist (subclass 676). There are currently over 200 countries with access to online lodgement, with additional countries to be provided access in 2015-16.

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.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa-1/600-/Visitor-e600-visa-online-applications

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

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

Background to the Visitor visa programme - 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 parents passport. Sponsors of Visitor (subclass 600) Sponsored Family stream visa 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 (subclass 600) Tourist stream visa.

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 o support.

Ability to work

Work on a Tourist (Subclass 676), Sponsored Family Visitor (Subclass 679) and Visitor (Subclass 600) Tourist, Sponsored Family and Business Visitor stream visas is not permitted. This is enforced by a mandatory 'no work' condition imposed on all Tourist and Sponsored Family stream visas. Work on a Business Visitor visa applied for before 23 March 2013 is permitted in very limited circumstances where the work is non-ongoing (no more than 6 weeks for the validity of the visa) and highly skilled in nature. Business Visitor visas applied for since 23 March 2013 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

Tourist (subclass 676), Sponsored Family Visitor (subclass 679) and Visitor (subclass 600) Tourist, Sponsored Family and Business Visitor stream visa holders could study for up to three months. This could be an award or non-award course, however, the entire course must not be longer than 3 months in duration.

Volunteering

Tourist and Visitor visa holders could be able to work as a volunteer where the work is genuinely voluntary and no remuneration is received in return for the activities.

Background to the Visitor visa programme - continued

Extending stay

Visitor visas cannot be 'extended'. However, Visitor visa holders could extend their stay in Australia by applying for another visa, such as a Visitor (subclass 600) Tourist stream visa, at least two weeks before their current visa expires. It is not possible to apply for other Visitor visas in Australia.

An additional visa could be granted if the applicant has complied with the conditions of their previous visa, meets all eligibility criteria for this visa, and does not have a 'No further stay' condition on their current visa.

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.

Processing standards

The Department aims to finalise 75 per cent of Visitor visa applications within the following timeframes:

- for non-sponsored visitors where the application is lodged onshore one working day for low risk applicants and one week for high risk applicants;
- for non-sponsored visitors where the application is lodged offshore one working day for low risk applicants and one month for high risk applicants;
- for sponsored visitors (all sponsored visitor applications are lodged onshore) 1.5 months.

The processing service standard applies where all documents are submitted with the application form. The process may be delayed if applications are incomplete or if additional information is required, including health examination and/or character checks.

Note: Low risk refers to people holding Electronic Travel Authority (ETA) eligible passports, and high risk refers to persons who are not ETA eligible.

Recent key initiatives

Priority consideration (fast-track) service

The Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) implemented a priority 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 (subclass 600), through a service delivery partner (SDP) in the relevant country.

Fast track in China was implemented in March 2016, with India and the UAE able to apply for the service as of 5 December 2016.

This service is expected to be available online in 2017.

China Initiatives

DIBP has introduced a number of key measures that are designed to support the growth of visitors from China. These include:

Trial 10-year Frequent Traveller Visitor visa in China

On 12 December 2016 a trial of the new 10-year 'Frequent Traveller' Visitor visa commenced for holders of passports from the People's Republic of China who are applying from within China. The Frequent Traveller visa for a visa application charge of \$1000 will incorporate collection of biometrics. The visa will allow multiple short stays of up to three months for tourist or business visit purposes for up to 10 years. The visa will complement existing visitor visas and will be suited to travellers from China who have known long term plans for frequent short-term travel to Australia.

Online Lodgement in Simplified Chinese

From 12 December 2016, applicants in China can now lodge an application in simplified Chinese through a new online service provided through our service delivery partner's website.

Approved Destination Scheme

Online lodgments for Chinese citizens applying through the Approved Destination Scheme (ADS) was introduced as a phased approach with the first group of agents provided access on 1 July 2016 with all agents applying online by 1 December 2016.

Three-year Validity Visitor Visa

During 2016 the Department commenced trials of three year extended validity Visitor visas (subclass 600 – Tourist and Business Visitor streams) for eligible passport holders from Vietnam, India, Thailand and Chile.

Eligible applicants with a history of compliant travel to Australia will be granted a three-year validity, multiple-entry visa, which will permit a stay in Australia of up to three months per visit. There is no new client process or additional charge for this service. Eligibility is determined by the Department with regular and compliant travellers offered a long term visa option. It is not available to all applicants.

Executive Summary

Key Points

- This executive summary covers the Tourist and Business group visa statistics for the Visitor visa programme from 1 July 2016 to 31 December 2016 (July-December 2016). 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 steady increase in Visitor visa application lodgements, with almost 2.9 million applications under the Visitor visa programme (Tourist and Business group) during July-December 2016, up 12.5 per cent compared with the same period in 2015. China was the largest source country for visitor visa application lodgements with 476,267 lodgments ahead of the UK and USA with 344,265 and 267,273 lodgments respectively.
- Visitor Tourist visas accounted for the majority of visa applications lodged with 2,624,893 applications during July-December 2016, up 13.0 per cent compared with the same period in 2015 (2,322,927).
- Visitor Business visa applications increased during July-December 2016 to 239,294 up 7.8 per cent compared with the same period in 2015 (221,915).
- A total of 2,542,325 Visitor Tourist visas were granted during July-December 2016, a 13.5 per cent increase compared with the same period in 2015 (2,240,897). Business Visitor visa grants increased by 7.7 per cent during July-December 2016 (230,560) compared with the same period in 2015 (214,097)
- Visitor Tourist visas granted under the Approved Destination Status (ADS) scheme decreased slightly to 95,854 (down 7.4 per cent) during July-December 2016 compared with the same period in 2015 (103,516).
- 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 2016 increased slightly to 97.6 per cent, compared with 97.2 per cent during the same quarter 2015.
- During July-December 2016, there were 3,028,000 arrivals on Visitor visas (Tourist and Business group), a 13.6 per cent increase compared with the same period in 2015 (2,666,000).
- On 31 December 2016, there were 565,759 Visitor visa (Tourist and Business group) holders in Australia. This is a 9.4 per cent increase compared with the same day on 31 December 2015 (517,090).

1 Applications lodged

From July-December 2016, nearly 2.9 million Visitor (Tourist and Business group) visa applications were lodged, up 12.5 per cent compared with the same period in 2015 (approximately 2.5 million applications).

China was the largest source country for visitor visa application lodgements during July-December 2016 with 476,267 lodgements up 12.3 per cent, ahead of the UK up 6.1 per cent (344,265) and the USA, up 14.9 per cent (267,273) compared with same period in 2015.

Tourist Group

Visitor – Tourist visas accounted for the majority of visa applications lodged during July-December 2016, with 2,624,893 applications. This was a 13.0 per cent increase compared with the same period in 2015 (2,322,927). In addition to continued growth from the top three source countries of China, USA and UK, this increase was also driven by growth in lodgements by citizens of:

- Japan (up 20.0 per cent to 195,042)
- Malaysia (up 13.7 per cent to 173,086)
- South Korea (up 16.9 per cent to 116,377)
- India (up 19.5 per cent to 103,447)
- Germany (up 11.0 per cent to 89,867)

Business Group

Visitor – Business visa lodgements increased by 7.8 per cent, with 239,294 applications lodged during July-December 2016, compared with the same period in 2015 (221,915).

In addition to the top three source countries China, USA, UK the five largest increases in Visitor – Business visa applications were from citizens of:

- Singapore (up 25.2 per cent to 12,513)
- Indonesia (up 20.1 per cent to 7,651)
- Vietnam (up 15.1 per cent to 5,548)
- South Korea (up 10.9 per cent to 11,100)
- Japan (up 9.0 per cent to 15,671)

2 Visas granted

Tourist Group

A total of 2,542,325 Visitor – Tourist visas were granted during July-December 2016. This was a 13.5 per cent increase compared with the same period in 2015. The ETA Tourist and Visitor – Tourist represented the largest visa grants in the Tourist Group, up 10.8 per cent and 16.0 per cent respectively compared with the same period in 2015.

Executive Summary – continued

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

- 1. China (up 12.2 per cent to 405,721)
- 2. UK (up 6.3 per cent to 324,664)
- 3. USA (up 17.9 per cent to 236,481)
- 4. Japan (up 20.0 per cent to 194,975)
- 5. Malaysia (up 13.7 per cent to 172,849)

Business Group

Visitor – Business visa grants increased by 7.7 per cent during July-December 2016 with 230,560 visa grants compared with the same period in 2015 with 214,097 visa grants. This can be mostly attributed to a rise in applications from China (up 23.7 per cent).

Sponsored Family Visitor visa

There was an increase in the number of Sponsored Family Visitor visas, with 16,226 visas granted during July-December 2016 compared with the same period in 2015 (10,793). This may be attributable to the increased number of finalised Sponsored Family Visitor stream applications as result of streamlined processing.

The top five countries for Visitor – Sponsored Family visa grants were:

- 1. Vietnam (up 53.0 per cent to 3.195)
- 2. Philippines (up 58.0 per cent to 1,916)
- 3. India (up 39.6 per cent to 1,877)
- 4. China (up 34.5 per cent to 1,578)
- 5. Bangladesh (up 29.6 per cent to 1,564)

3 Grant rates

The grant rate for all Visitor visas for the December quarter 2016 increased slightly to 97.6 per cent, compared with 97.2 per cent for the same guarter in 2015.

4 Processing times

Tourist Group

During the December quarter 2016, 75 per cent of Visitor Tourist visa applications (including ADS applications) were processed within 14 calendar days compared to 10 calendar days for the same quarter in 2015. This may be attributable to an overall increase in volumes of applications being processed.

Business Group

During the December guarter 2016, 75 per cent of Visitor - Business visa applications were processed within six calendar days. This is consistent with the processing times for the same period in 2015. Processing times may vary where applications are incomplete at time of lodgement or where additional supporting information is required.

Business Group

The number of applications on hand for Visitor – Business visa applications also increased. On 31 December 2016, there were 7,051 applications on hand, an increase of 26.6 per cent compared with 31 December 2015 (5,570).

5. Visa holders In Australia

On 31 December 2016, there were 565,759 Visitor (Tourist and Business Group) visa holders in Australia. This was a 9.4 per cent increase compared with 517,090 Visitor (Tourist and Business Group) visa holders in Australia on 31 December 2015.

The Visitor visa (subclass 600) made up the largest cohort with 247,709 visa holders in Australia, followed by the ETA (subclass 601) with 192,294 visa holders and the eVisitor (subclass 651) with 122,155 visa holders in Australia on 31 December 2016. 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)

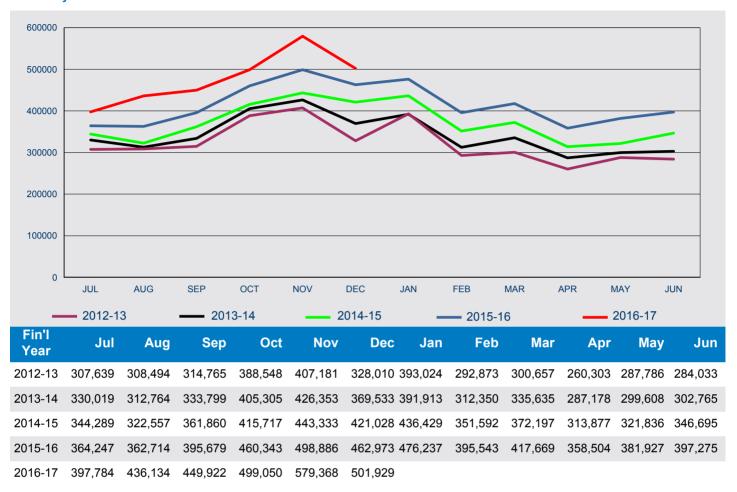
A total of 95,854 Visitor – Tourist (ADS Stream) visas were granted to citizens from China under the ADS scheme during July-December 2016. This was a decrease of 7.4 per cent compared with the same period in 2015, with 103,516 visa grants. This decrease is likely a result of the growth of independent travel from China which is reflected in the increase under the Tourist -Visitor stream.

7. Arrivals data

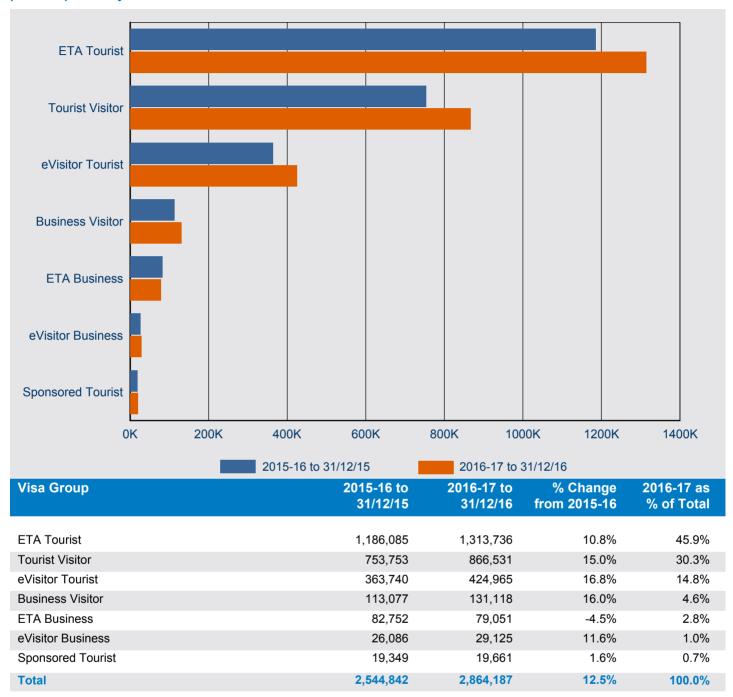
During July-December 2016, there were 3,028,000 arrivals on Visitor (Tourist and Business Group) visas, a 13.6 per cent increase compared with the same period in 2015 (2,666,000). The top five countries for arrivals on Visitor visas were:

- 1. China (up 10.5 per cent to 476,168)
- 2. UK (up 5.7 per cent to 350,257)
- 3. USA (up 16.8 per cent per cent to 283,943)
- 4. Malaysia (up 18.1 per cent to 229,461)
- 5. Japan (up 20.8 per cent to 221,972

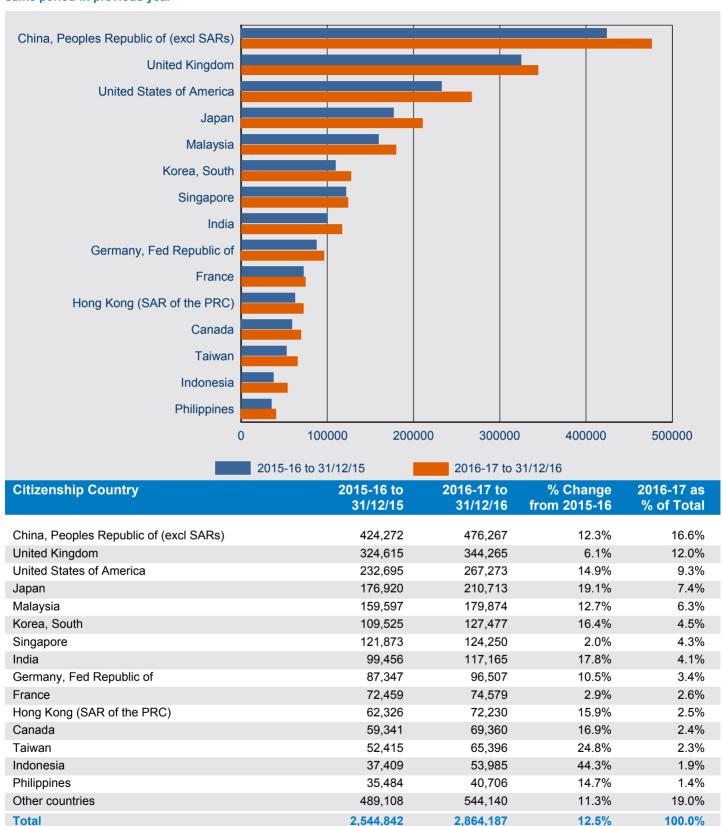
1.01 Number of Visitor visa applications lodged in 2016-17 to 31 December 2016 by month - comparison with previous four financial years



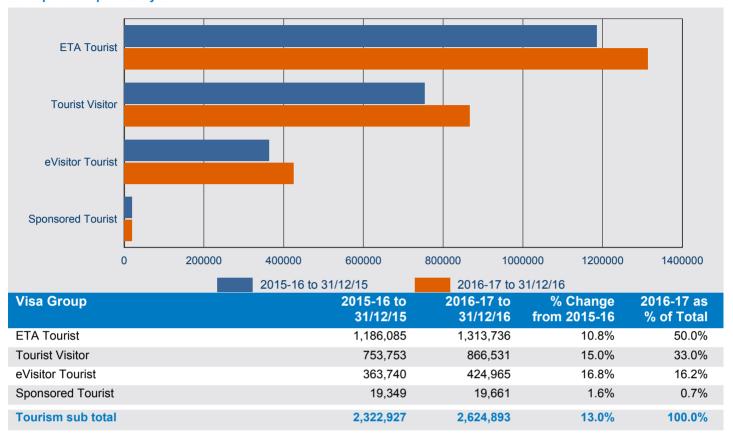
1.02 Number of Visitor visa applications lodged in 2016-17 to 31 December 2016 by visa group - comparison with same period in previous year



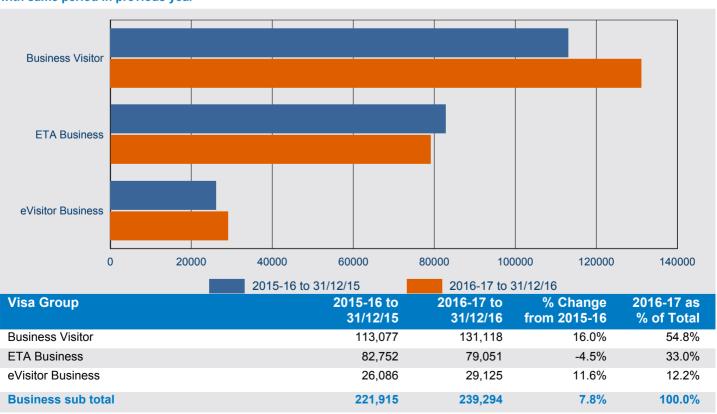
1.03 Number of Visitor visa applications lodged in 2016-17 to 31 December 2016 by citizenship country - comparison with same period in previous year



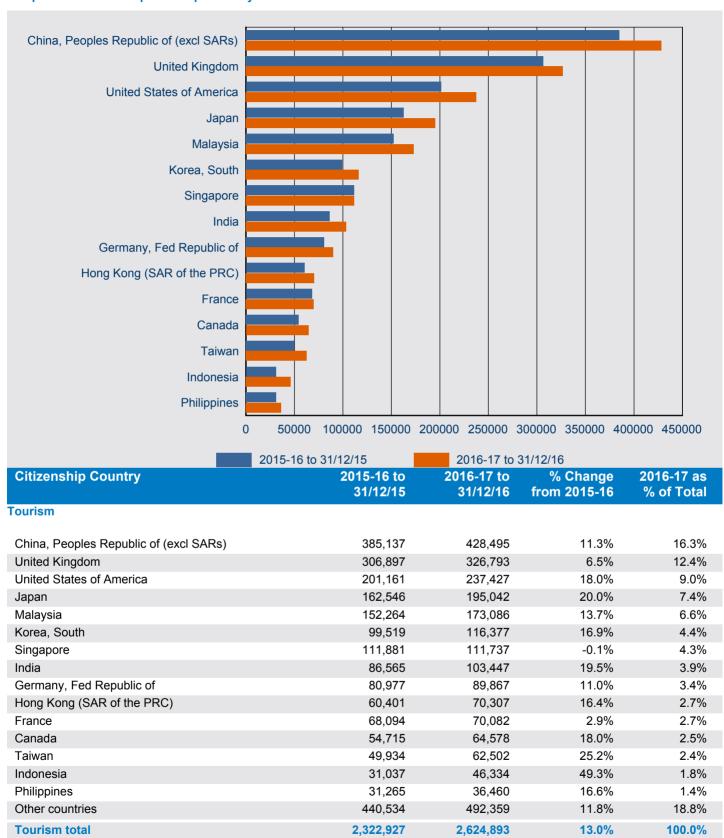
1.04 Number of tourism Visitor visa applications lodged in 2016-17 to 31 December 2016 by visa group - comparison with same period in previous year



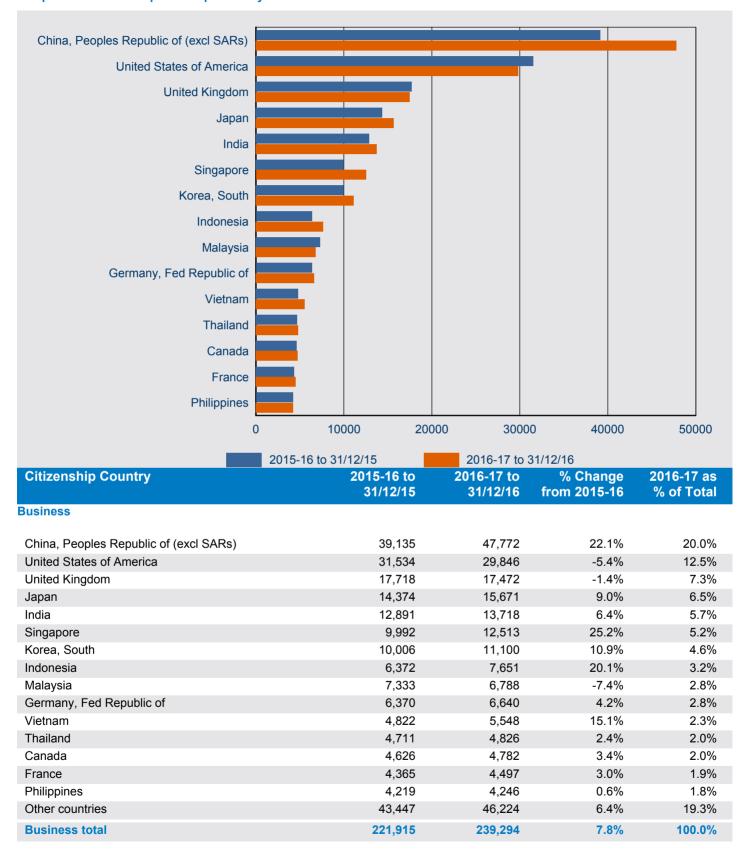
1.05 Number of business Visitor visa applications lodged in 2016-17 to 31 December 2016 by visa group - comparison with same period in previous year



1.06 Number of tourism Visitor visa applications lodged in 2016-17 to 31 December 2016 by citizenship country comparison with same period in previous year

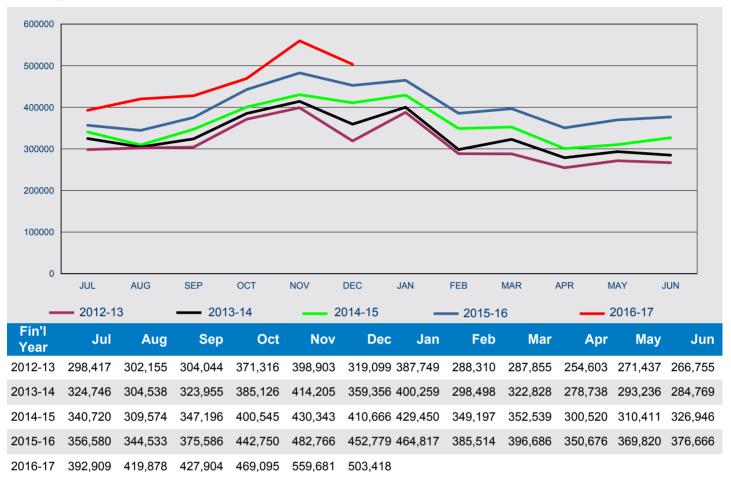


1.07 Number of business Visitor visa applications lodged in 2016-17 to 31 December 2016 by citizenship country comparison with same period in previous year

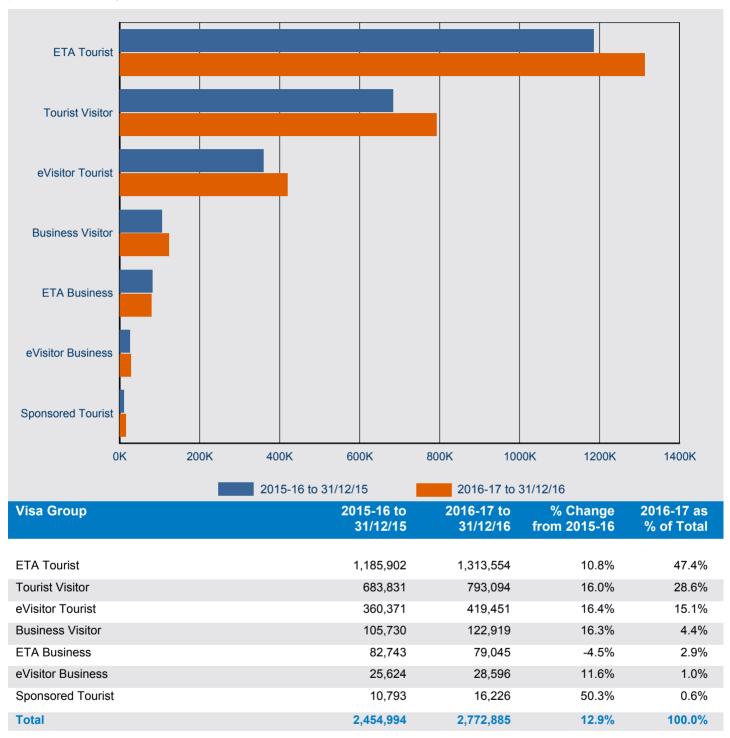




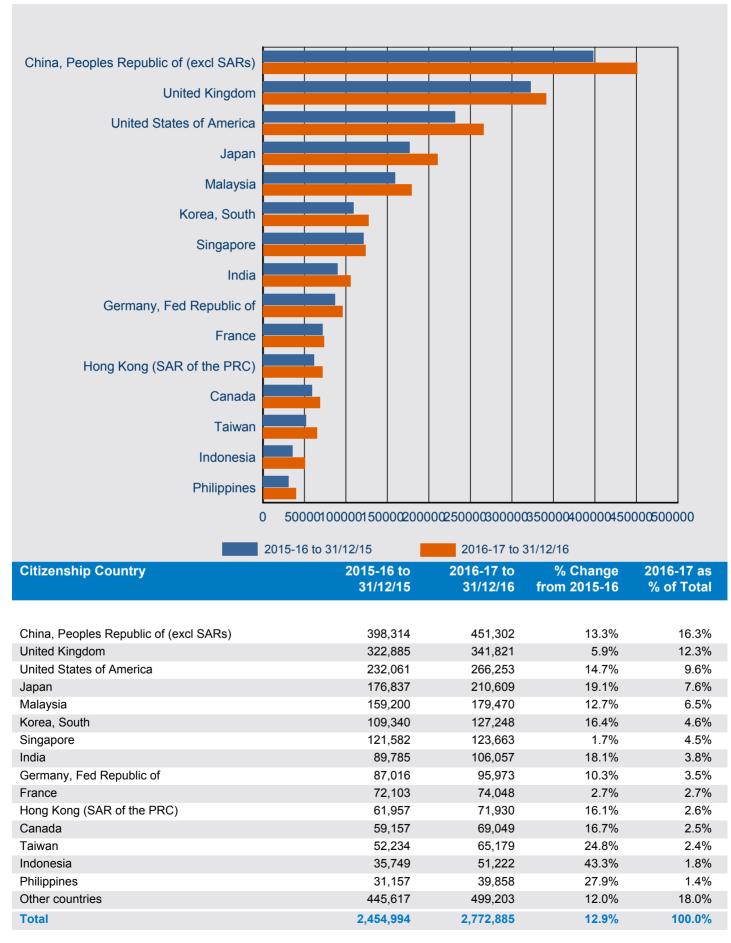
2.01 Number of Visitor visa applications granted in 2016-17 to 31 December 2016 by month - comparison with previous four financial years



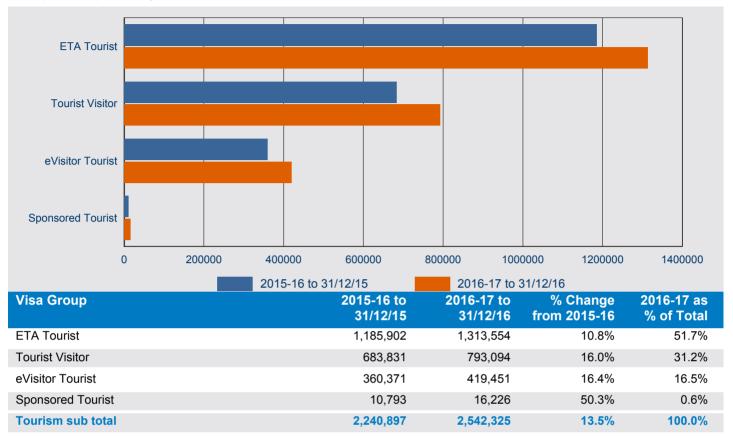
2.02 Number of Visitor visa applications granted in 2016-17 to 31 December 2016 by visa group - comparison with same period in previous year



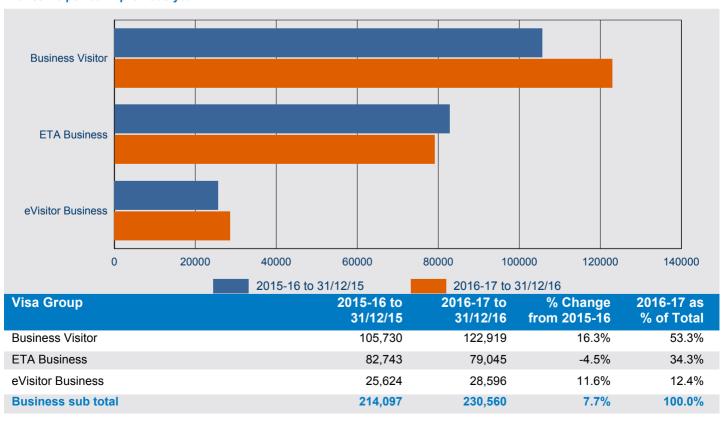
2.03 Number of Visitor visa applications granted in 2016-17 to 31 December 2016 by citizenship country - comparison with same period in previous year



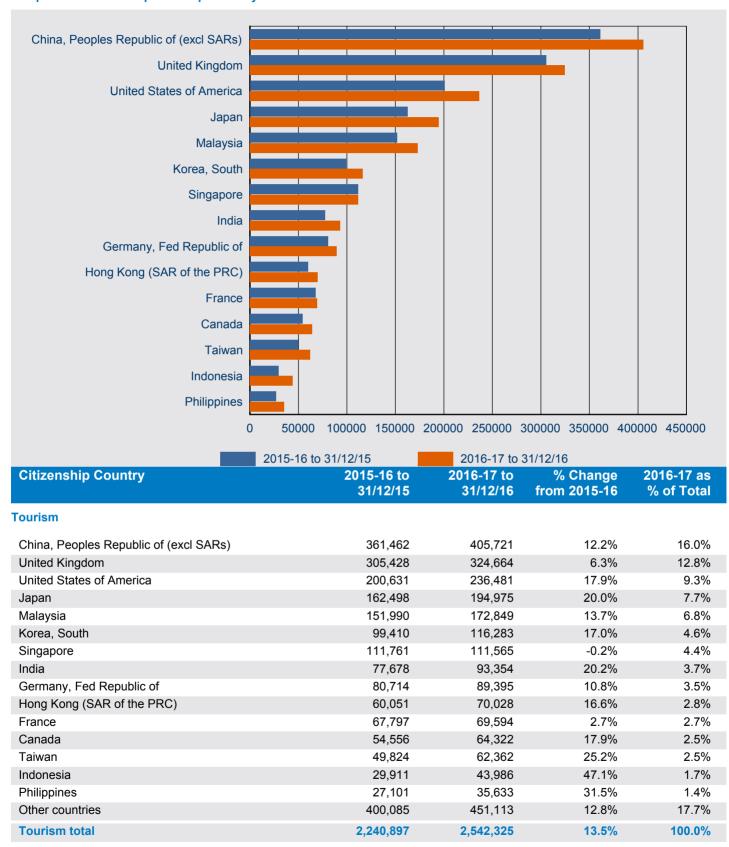
2.04 Number of tourism Visitor visa applications granted in 2016-17 to 31 December 2016 by visa group - comparison with same period in previous year



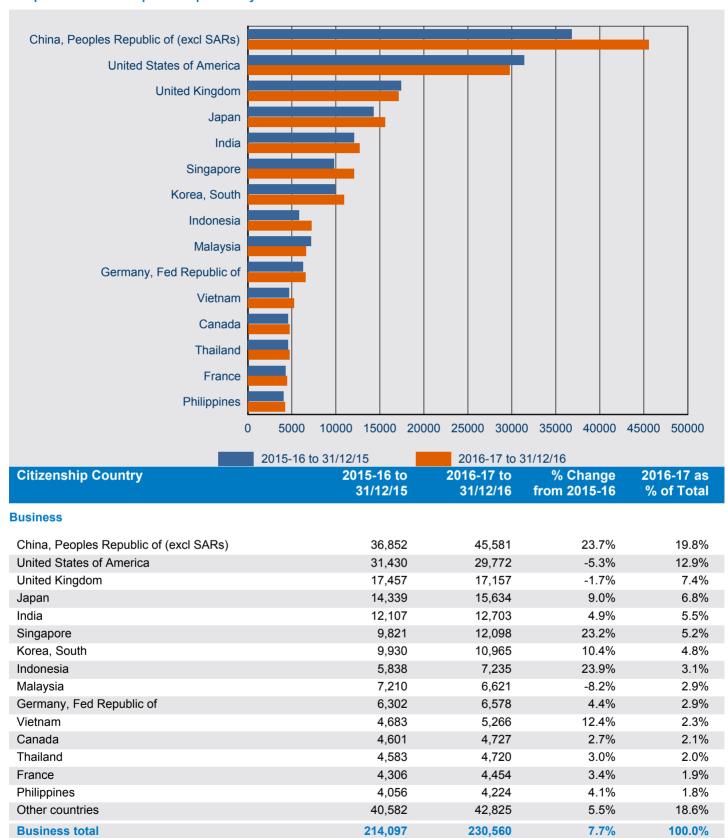
2.05 Number of business Visitor visa applications granted in 2016-17 to 31 December 2016 by visa group - comparison with same period in previous year

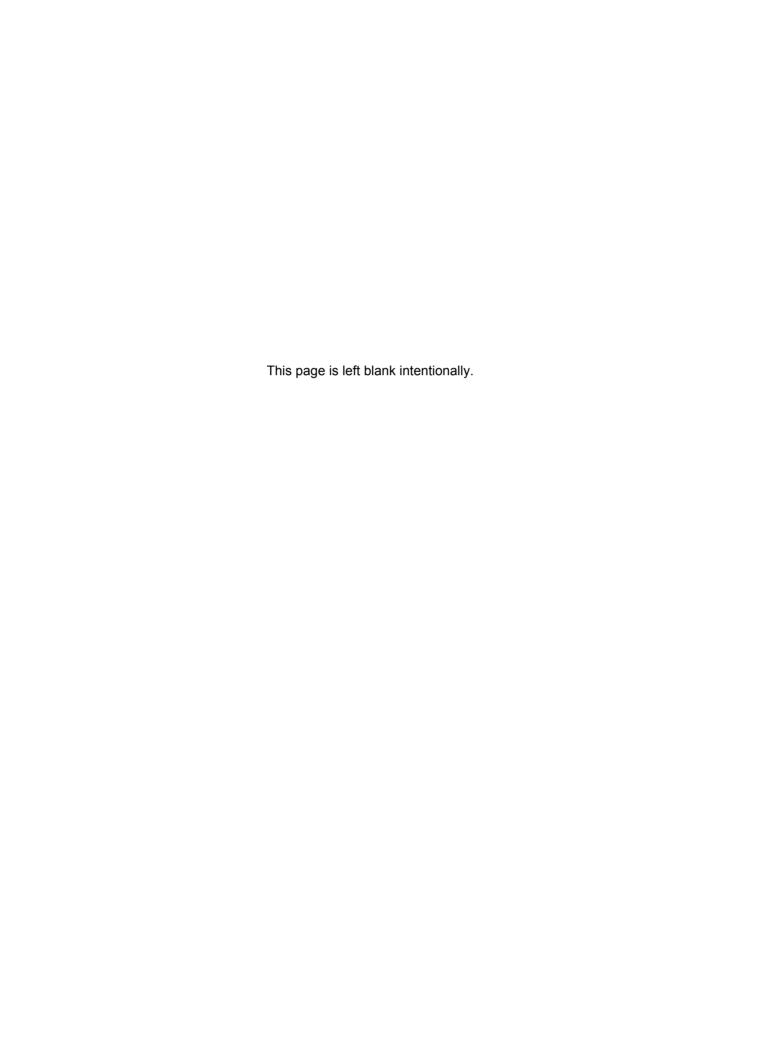


2.06 Number of tourism Visitor visa applications granted in 2016-17 to 31 December 2016 by citizenship country comparison with same period in previous year



2.07 Number of business Visitor visa applications granted in 2016-17 to 31 December 2016 by citizenship country comparison with same period in previous year





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 2016 and 31 December 2016 by visa group - comparison with previous four periods

Visa Group	01/10/15 to 31/12/15	01/01/16 to 31/03/16	01/04/16 to 30/06/16	01/07/16 to 30/09/16	01/10/16 to 31/12/16
Business					
Business Visitor	95.1%	95.1%	95.2%	92.5%	96.4%
ETA Business	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
eVisitor Business	98.5%	98.6%	98.2%	98.6%	99.3%
All Business	97.4%	97.5%	97.1%	96.1%	97.8%
Tourism ETA Tourist	100.09/	100.09/	100.0%	100.00/	100.0%
	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
eVisitor Tourist	99.3%	99.1%	99.0%	99.1%	99.5%
Sponsored Tourist	67.7%	69.7%	73.5%	76.8%	81.3%
Tourist Visitor	92.0%	92.9%	92.7%	92.3%	93.1%
All Tourism	97.2%	97.4%	96.9%	97.1%	97.5%
All	97.2%	97.4%	96.9%	97.0%	97.6%

3.02 Grant rate for Tourist Visitor visa applications decided in the 3 month period between 1 October 2016 and 31 December 2016 by citizenship country - comparison with previous four periods

Citizenship Country	01/10/15 to 31/12/15	01/01/16 to 31/03/16	01/04/16 to 30/06/16	01/07/16 to 30/09/16	01/10/16 to 31/12/16
China, Peoples Republic of (excl SARs)	95.7%	95.7%	94.9%	94.6%	95.7%
India	92.5%	93.1%	93.7%	93.7%	92.9%
Indonesia	93.2%	93.2%	96.3%	93.3%	94.3%
Philippines	84.1%	88.9%	89.6%	90.8%	89.2%
Vietnam	86.8%	87.8%	88.8%	86.2%	86.1%
Brazil	98.8%	98.8%	98.3%	98.2%	98.3%
Thailand	90.6%	94.8%	95.0%	93.1%	90.5%
South Africa	98.5%	98.0%	98.2%	97.9%	97.9%
Fiji	85.1%	77.8%	77.4%	82.3%	92.5%
Sri Lanka	85.5%	91.1%	92.2%	91.3%	91.9%
Argentina	99.3%	98.7%	98.9%	99.4%	98.9%
Papua New Guinea	91.3%	91.0%	73.5%	81.7%	84.4%
Russian Federation	74.4%	79.8%	80.4%	85.3%	87.9%
Nepal	77.4%	85.0%	84.4%	89.4%	88.9%
Chile	99.0%	99.3%	99.0%	99.1%	98.8%
Other countries	81.5%	82.5%	83.8%	83.8%	84.9%
All Tourist Visitor	92.0%	92.9%	92.7%	92.3%	93.1%

3.03 Grant rate for Sponsored Tourist visa applications decided in the 3 month period between 1 October 2016 and 31 December 2016 by citizenship country - comparison with previous four periods

Citizenship Country	01/10/15 to 31/12/15	01/01/16 to 31/03/16	01/04/16 to 30/06/16	01/07/16 to 30/09/16	01/10/16 to 31/12/16
Vietnam	66.0%	67.9%	74.3%	76.3%	79.8%
Philippines	66.7%	74.5%	79.6%	80.7%	85.6%
India	78.7%	78.9%	86.6%	86.4%	90.5%
Bangladesh	86.9%	85.0%	86.8%	86.7%	94.2%
China, Peoples Republic of (excl SARs)	72.9%	74.0%	77.7%	83.9%	84.2%
Nepal	83.3%	86.5%	86.7%	88.7%	91.3%
Pakistan	57.5%	64.1%	71.9%	75.2%	79.0%
Sri Lanka	86.0%	87.8%	80.4%	84.0%	90.2%
Iran	57.9%	68.0%	62.1%	68.0%	75.3%
Cambodia	71.9%	76.3%	70.5%	81.4%	85.5%
Lebanon	20.3%	22.7%	25.2%	39.1%	43.2%
Zimbabwe	73.5%	77.8%	75.3%	74.6%	83.7%
Russian Federation	78.3%	74.6%	74.6%	69.5%	87.5%
Fiji	56.3%	66.7%	64.2%	73.2%	69.5%
Serbia	46.9%	59.3%	60.0%	53.4%	82.8%
Other countries	56.2%	55.6%	59.3%	64.4%	69.6%
All Sponsored Tourist	67.7%	69.7%	73.5%	76.8%	81.3%

3.04 Grant rate for Business Visitor visa applications decided in the 3 month period between 1 October 2016 and 31 December 2016 by citizenship country - comparison with previous four periods

Citizenship Country	01/10/15 to 31/12/15	01/01/16 to 31/03/16	01/04/16 to 30/06/16	01/07/16 to 30/09/16	01/10/16 to 31/12/16
China, Peoples Republic of (excl SARs)	96.4%	96.2%	95.6%	94.4%	97.4%
India	95.8%	94.9%	95.8%	89.8%	94.1%
Korea, South	99.9%	99.9%	100.0%	99.4%	99.9%
Singapore	99.9%	100.0%	100.0%	87.1%	98.9%
Indonesia	97.1%	94.0%	96.1%	95.6%	98.5%
Vietnam	95.9%	96.5%	96.9%	96.0%	96.0%
Japan	99.8%	99.8%	99.9%	99.2%	99.8%
Thailand	99.3%	99.7%	99.9%	99.2%	99.4%
Philippines	95.0%	92.1%	95.1%	96.2%	95.9%
Malaysia	99.9%	99.7%	99.7%	87.9%	99.5%
Papua New Guinea	97.5%	97.5%	89.1%	94.1%	94.9%
Taiwan	99.6%	99.5%	99.2%	97.3%	99.2%
South Africa	97.7%	98.5%	97.1%	97.3%	96.6%
United Kingdom	92.3%	95.9%	95.1%	75.0%	96.3%
Fiji	95.1%	94.7%	88.0%	93.6%	96.4%
Other countries	83.9%	86.5%	87.3%	85.2%	88.3%
All Business Visitor	95.1%	95.1%	95.2%	92.5%	96.4%

3.05 Grant rate for subclass 651 eVisitor visa applications decided in the 3 month period between 1 October 2016 and 31 December 2016 by citizenship country - comparison with previous four periods

Citizenship Country	01/10/15 to 31/12/15	01/01/16 to 31/03/16	01/04/16 to 30/06/16	01/07/16 to 30/09/16	01/10/16 to 31/12/16
Andorra	100.0%	100.0%	92.9%	100.0%	100.0%
Austria	99.6%	99.5%	99.5%	99.8%	100.0%
Belgium	99.7%	99.2%	99.3%	99.6%	99.7%
Bulgaria	85.5%	80.3%	82.3%	83.7%	82.6%
Croatia	88.4%	85.8%	85.8%	82.9%	86.6%
Cyprus	99.6%	99.2%	99.4%	98.6%	99.3%
Czech Republic	99.3%	99.6%	99.2%	98.7%	99.4%
Denmark	99.8%	99.6%	99.5%	99.5%	99.9%
Estonia	98.2%	99.2%	97.3%	98.5%	98.4%
Finland	99.8%	99.3%	99.5%	99.7%	99.8%
France	99.4%	99.2%	99.1%	99.2%	99.7%
Germany, Fed Republic of	99.7%	99.6%	99.5%	99.7%	99.8%
Greece	98.1%	99.0%	96.3%	97.9%	99.2%
Hungary	98.1%	98.2%	97.2%	97.6%	98.3%
Iceland	99.2%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Ireland, Republic of	99.0%	99.0%	98.6%	99.1%	99.6%
Italy	99.4%	99.4%	99.4%	99.7%	99.6%
Latvia	93.1%	90.8%	90.5%	93.4%	92.8%
Liechtenstein	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Lithuania	94.3%	93.0%	94.5%	93.7%	96.2%
Luxembourg	100.0%	100.0%	98.2%	100.0%	100.0%
Malta	98.9%	100.0%	96.9%	99.3%	100.0%
Monaco	100.0%	100.0%	83.3%	100.0%	100.0%
Netherlands, Kingdom of The	99.4%	99.3%	99.2%	99.6%	99.8%
Norway	99.5%	99.6%	99.1%	99.0%	99.9%
Poland	99.6%	99.7%	99.5%	99.5%	99.6%
Portugal	99.2%	99.4%	98.9%	99.4%	99.8%
Romania	82.8%	74.7%	80.6%	78.6%	81.2%
San Marino	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Slovakia	98.3%	96.8%	97.1%	96.9%	97.3%
Slovenia	98.8%	99.2%	99.7%	99.8%	99.2%
Spain	99.4%	99.6%	99.5%	99.5%	99.8%
Sweden	99.7%	99.3%	99.2%	99.3%	99.8%
Switzerland	99.6%	99.6%	99.7%	99.8%	100.0%
United Kingdom	99.5%	99.4%	99.2%	99.4%	99.8%
Vatican City State Holy See	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
All	99.3%	99.1%	98.9%	99.1%	99.5%



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 2016 and 31 December 2016 by citizenship country - comparison with previous four periods

Citizenship country	Percentile	1/10/15 to 31/12/15	1/01/16 to 31/03/16	1/04/16 to 30/06/16	1/07/16 to 30/09/16	1/10/16 to 31/12/16
China, Peoples	25th percentile	1	1	1	1	1
Republic of (excl SARs)	50th percentile (Median)	3	2	3	2	2
0/11(3)	75th percentile	5	4	4	4	5
India	25th percentile	4	5	3	7	14
	50th percentile (Median)	7	7	7	11	18
	75th percentile	11	13	12	15	23
Indonesia	25th percentile	2	2	3	4	3
	50th percentile (Median)	4	4	5	6	5
	75th percentile	7	6	7	8	7
Philippines	25th percentile	4	5	8	8	2
	50th percentile (Median)	14	12	27	14	6
	75th percentile	31	26	35	21	10
Vietnam	25th percentile	7	7	9	6	7
	50th percentile (Median)	9	9	11	8	9
	75th percentile	12	13	13	11	12
Brazil	25th percentile	0	0	0	0	0
	50th percentile (Median)	3	0	1	0	3
	75th percentile	7	6	7	10	16
Thailand	25th percentile	8	9	12	11	4
	50th percentile (Median)	10	12	14	13	6
	75th percentile	12	13	16	14	8
South Africa	25th percentile	13	11	9	20	21
	50th percentile (Median)	17	17	15	23	27
	75th percentile	25	21	20	28	33
Fiji	25th percentile	25	19	11	13	11
	50th percentile (Median)	29	28	14	15	14
	75th percentile	34	51	18	20	19
Sri Lanka	25th percentile	7	5	4	5	6
	50th percentile (Median)	10	7	7	8	8
	75th percentile	14	11	12	11	13
Other countries	25th percentile	3	2	2	3	4
	50th percentile (Median)	10	8	10	11	13
	75th percentile	19	19	20	20	25
All	25th percentile	2	2	2	1	2
	50th percentile (Median)	4	4	4	5	5
	75th percentile	10	9	10	12	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 2016 and 31 December 2016 by citizenship country - comparison with previous four periods

Citizenship country	Percentile	1/10/15 to 31/12/15	1/01/16 to 31/03/16	1/04/16 to 30/06/16	1/07/16 to 30/09/16	1/10/16 to 31/12/16
China, Peoples	25th percentile	1	1	1	1	1
Republic of (excl SARs)	50th percentile (Median)	2	2	3	2	2
0/11(0)	75th percentile	4	4	5	4	5
India	25th percentile	2	1	1	1	1
	50th percentile (Median)	6	4	4	5	7
	75th percentile	8	7	7	8	13
Korea, South	25th percentile	0	0	0	0	0
	50th percentile (Median)	0	1	1	3	0
	75th percentile	3	3	3	15	1
Singapore	25th percentile	0	0	1	1	0
	50th percentile (Median)	1	1	2	3	0
	75th percentile	3	4	4	6	2
Indonesia	25th percentile	0	0	0	0	0
	50th percentile (Median)	1	1	1	1	1
	75th percentile	3	3	3	3	1
Vietnam	25th percentile	1	1	1	2	1
	50th percentile (Median)	3	2	6	3	5
	75th percentile	7	4	8	10	6
Japan	25th percentile	0	0	1	0	0
	50th percentile (Median)	0	1	1	1	0
	75th percentile	2	3	5	5	1
Thailand	25th percentile	2	2	4	4	0
	50th percentile (Median)	4	4	7	8	2
	75th percentile	6	7	10	10	5
Philippines	25th percentile	1	2	4	4	1
	50th percentile (Median)	3	6	7	7	3
	75th percentile	6	9	11	11	7
Malaysia	25th percentile	0	0	0	0	0
	50th percentile (Median)	1	1	1	2	0
	75th percentile	3	1	6	12	2
Other countries	25th percentile	1	1	1	2	1
	50th percentile (Median)	5	6	5	7	5
	75th percentile	13	13	13	14	14
All	25th percentile	1	1	1	1	1
	50th percentile (Median)	3	2	3	3	2
	75th percentile	6	6	7	8	6

5 Applications on hand

5 Applications on hand

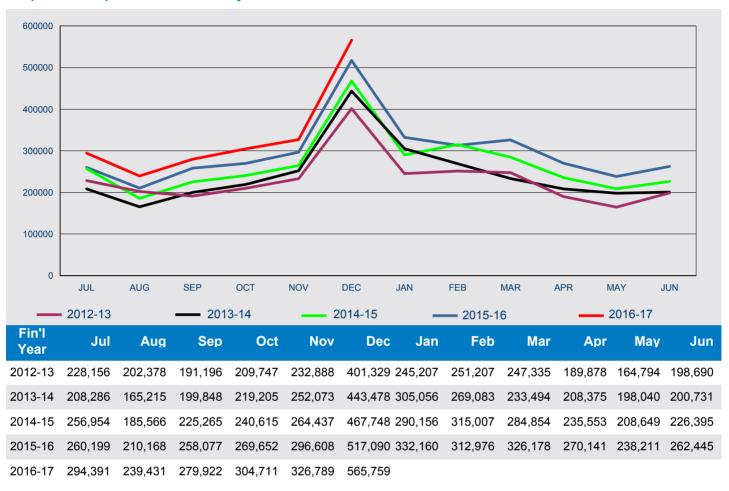
5.01 Number of Visitor visa applications on hand at 31 December 2016 by visa group - comparison with previous four periods

Visa Group	On hand at 31/12/15	On hand at 31/03/16	On hand at 30/06/16	On hand at 30/09/16	On hand at 31/12/16	
Tourism						
Tourisiii						
Tourist Visitor	43 724	48 576	51 618	52 446	58 832	
ETA Tourist	39	41	48	37	56	
eVisitor Tourist	1 284	875	1 787	3 311	3 918	
Sponsored Tourist	6 081	5 770	4 383	4 217	3 091	
sub total Tourism	51 128	55 262	57 836	60 011	65 897	
Business						
Business Visitor	5 459	6 744	6 910	6 468	6 749	
ETA Business	9	9	6	5	< 5	
eVisitor Business	102	112	200	339	299	
Sponsored Business	0	0	0	0	0	
sub total Business	5 570	6 865	7 116	6 812	7 051	
Total	56 698	62 127	64 952	66 823	72 948	

6 Visa holders in Australia

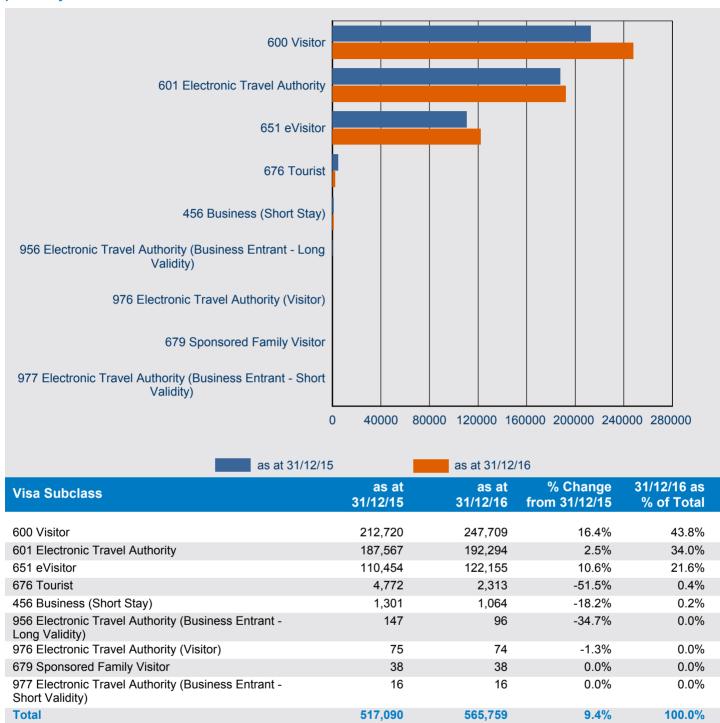
6 Visa holders in Australia

6.01 Number of Visitor visa holders in Australia at the end of each month in 2016-17 to 31 December 2016 by month comparison with previous four financial years



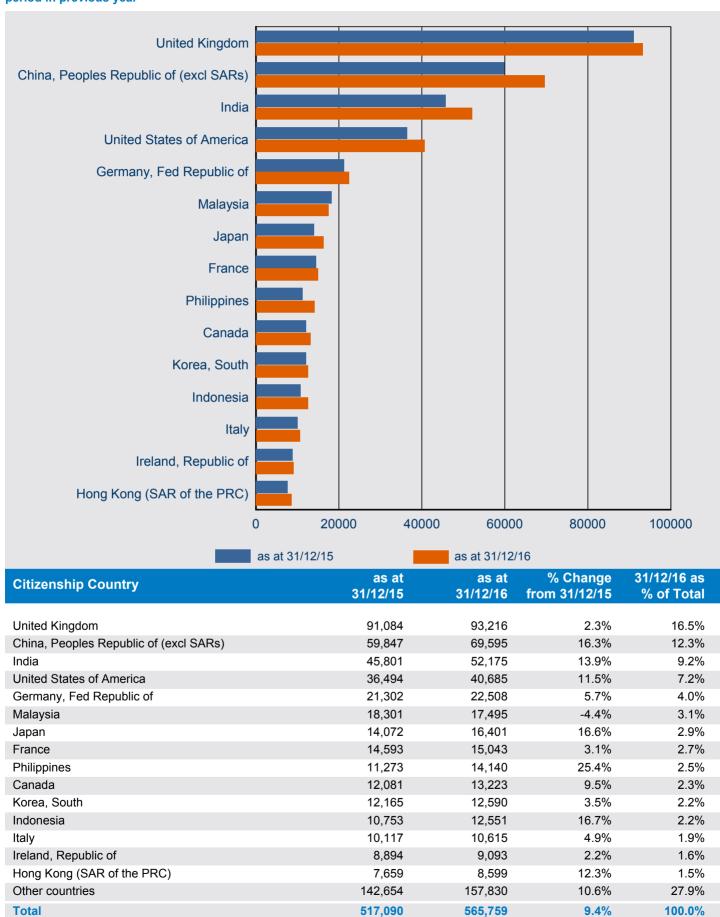
6 Visa holders in Australia

6.02 Number of Visitor visa holders in Australia as at 31 December 2016 by visa subclass - comparison with same date in previous year



6 Visa holders in Australia

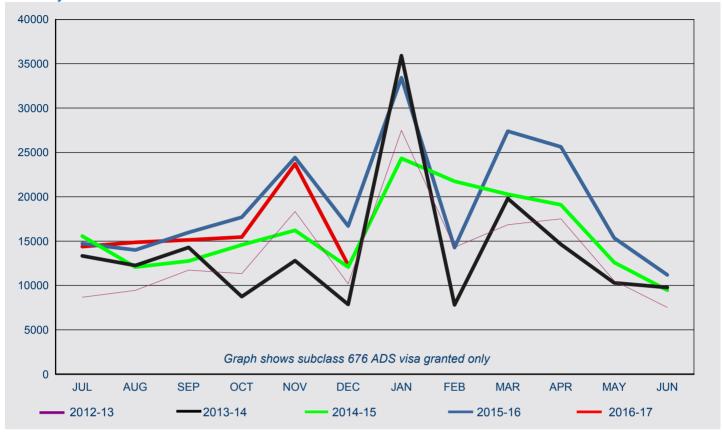
6.03 Number of Visitor visa holders in Australia as at 31 December 2016 by citizenship country - comparison with same period in previous year



7 Approved Destination Status (ADS)

7 Approved Destination Status (ADS)

7.01 Number of subclass 676 and subclass 600 visa applications granted in 2016-17 to 31 December 2016 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
2012-13	8,673	9,445	11,728	11,340	18,336	10,181	27,492	14,305	16,839	17,511	10,522	7,522	163.894
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							95,854

subclass 676/600 non-ADS for PRC

FY Granted	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
2012-13	18,909	18,262	17,626	15,108	20,473	19,731	33,006	10,615	14,937	15,153	16,277	20,550	220.647
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	43,624	38,281	61,463	72,207							308,289

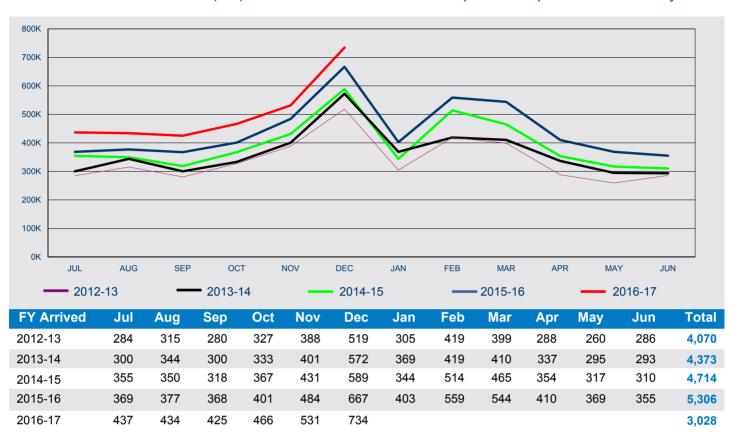
Total subclass 676/600 for PRC

FY Granted	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
2012-13	27,582	27,707	29,354	26,448	38,809	29,912	60,498	24,920	31,776	32,664	26,799	28,072	384,541
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	58,756	53,745	85,171	84,515							404,143

8 Arrivals

8 Arrivals

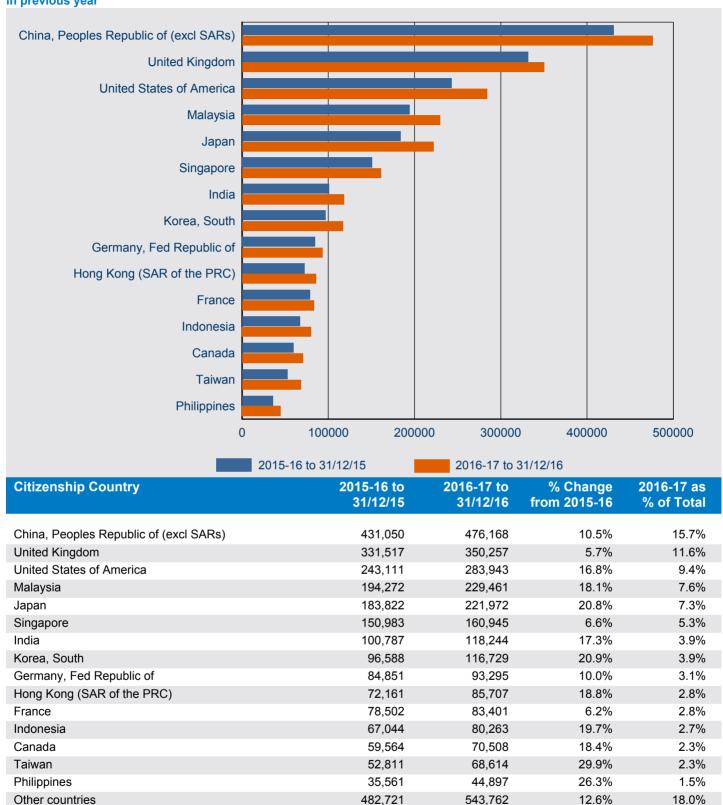
8.01 Number of Visitor visa arrivals ('000) in 2016-17 to 31 December 2016 - comparison with previous four financial years



8 Arrivals

Total

8.02 Number of Visitor visa arrivals in 2016-17 to 31 December 2016 by citizenship country - comparison with same period in previous year



2,665,345

13.6%

3,028,166

100.0%

