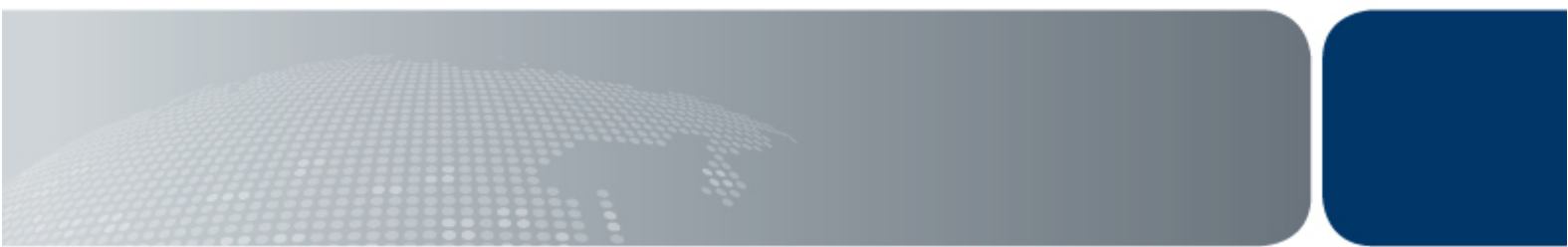




Australian Government
Department of Immigration
and Citizenship

Working Holiday Maker visa program report

31 December 2011



people our business

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About this report

This report provides program year data on the Working Holiday Maker program administered by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (the department). The report has been provided to assist policymakers and stakeholder organisations.

It is expected that this report will be published every six months, and that further development will occur over time to increase and improve information sharing about the Working Holiday Maker visa program.

It is important to note that the information used in this report comes from a new data source. Consequently, figures for previous financial years have been revised and may differ slightly from those previously published by the department.

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 issues can occur. Due to these issues, data from the current financial year should always be considered provisional.

Further information about the Working Holiday Maker program is available on the department's website at: www.immi.gov.au/visitors/working-holiday/

Enquiries

Any comment or enquiries concerning this report should be sent to visa.reporting@immi.gov.au quoting report id BR0110.

Definition of terms

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 used for the visa label or the citizenship nominated by the visa applicant is used.
Granted:	Unless otherwise specified, the number of visas granted includes all visa grants.
Snapshot date:	The snapshot date is a point in time at which a count is undertaken. In this report, the number of visa holders in Australia at a point in time is used.
Visa applicant:	Used to refer to clients applying for a visa.
Working Holiday Maker:	Refers collectively to both the Working Holiday (Subclass 417) visa and the Work and Holiday (Subclass 462) visa.

Background to the Working Holiday Maker visa program

The Working Holiday Maker (WHM) program's purpose is to foster closer ties and cultural exchange between Australia and partner countries, with particular emphasis on young adults. It has been in existence since 1975. It was initially comprised of a relatively small number of Commonwealth countries, but has since grown to encompass 26 partner nations and regions from across the globe (as at 31 December 2011). Papua New Guinea and Argentina have signed WHM agreements with Australia since 30 June 2011, but neither are yet in effect. (Argentina's agreement is expected to come into effect on 29 February 2012.)

Australia has an overarching bilateral agreement, usually in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding, with each partner country. Of the 28 partner countries, 19 are Working Holiday (Subclass 417) visa agreements, and nine are Work and Holiday (Subclass 462) visa agreements. The key differences between the two visas are that Work and Holiday agreements generally have caps on the number of visas granted annually and additional eligibility requirements.

WHM agreements are reciprocal in nature, providing Australians with similar opportunities overseas. In considering whether to add new WHM partner countries, the Australian Government weighs a range of factors, including the ability of the prospective partner to offer reciprocity to Australians, and the strength of any cultural or people to people links.

Eligibility Requirements

All Working Holiday Maker visa applicants must:

- be aged 18-30 at time of application;
- hold a passport from an eligible partner country; and
- not be accompanied by dependent children during the stay in Australia;

Additional requirements for Work and Holiday applicants:

- must have functional English;
- must have completed or be studying towards a tertiary qualification; and
- must provide a letter of home government support in association with their visa application.

Partner Countries

Working Holiday (Subclass 417):

- Belgium
- Canada
- Cyprus
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Hong Kong (HKSAR)
- Ireland
- Italy
- Japan
- Korea, Republic of
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Sweden
- Taiwan
- United Kingdom

Work and Holiday (Subclass 462):

- Argentina
- Bangladesh
- Chile
- Indonesia
- Malaysia
- Papua New Guinea
- Thailand
- Turkey
- United States of America

Background to the Working Holiday Maker visa program - continued

Working while in Australia

All Working Holiday Makers may work for the full duration of their 12 month stay in Australia, but may not remain with any one employer for longer than six months (by operation of mandatory visa condition 8547).

Studying while in Australia

All Working Holiday Makers are entitled to study for a period of up to four months during their 12 month stay in Australia (by operation of mandatory visa condition 8548).

Second Working Holiday

Clients are generally limited to holding only one Working Holiday visa or Work and Holiday visa in their lifetime. However, on 1 November 2005, the second Working Holiday visa initiative was introduced. This initiative allows first time Working Holiday (subclass 417) visa holders who undertake 88 days 'specified work' in regional Australia during their stay to acquire eligibility for a second such visa. The initiative is not available to Work and Holiday (subclass 462) holders.

Processing Times

The visa processing service standard for first Working Holiday (Subclass 417) visa applications is that 75 per cent are finalised within six calendar days of lodgement. In 2010 11, 80.4 per cent of first Working Holiday visas were finalised within service standards. The service standard for second Working Holiday (Subclass 417) visa applications is that 75 per cent are finalised within 21 calendar days of lodgement. In 2010 11, 74.2 per cent of second Working Holiday visas were finalised within service standards. This is indicative of a transition to an enhanced integrity framework visa processing model, which has temporarily resulted in finalisations falling marginally below service standards.

Recent developments in the Working Holiday Maker program

- 2 November 2011** Arrangement with Argentina
Australia signed a Work and Holiday (Subclass 462) visa arrangement with Argentina on 2 November 2011. It is expected to come into effect on 29 February 2012.
- 12 October 2011** Arrangement with Papua New Guinea
Australia signed a Work and Holiday (Subclass 462) visa arrangement with Papua New Guinea on 12 October 2011. It will come into effect in coming months.
- 15 May 2011** Biometric Data Collection
If a client lodges a Working Holiday Maker visa application with the Australian Immigration Office in Dhaka, Bangladesh or Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia they will be required to attend a Visa Application Centre in person to provide their biometrics.
- 31 December 2010** Arrangement with Bangladesh
Australia's Work and Holiday (Subclass 462) visa arrangement with Bangladesh came into effect on 31 December 2010.

Australia's Working Holiday Maker visa agreements

Commencement Date	Country / Region	Type of Agreement	Annual Cap
Signed 2 November 2011 – not yet in effect	Argentina	Work and Holiday (SC 462)	500
Signed 12 October 2011 – not yet in effect	Papua New Guinea	Work and Holiday (SC 462)	100
2010	Bangladesh	Work and Holiday (SC 462)	100
2009	Indonesia	Work and Holiday (SC 462)	100
2009	Malaysia	Work and Holiday (SC 462)	100
2007	Turkey	Work and Holiday (SC 462)	100
2007	United States of America	Work and Holiday (SC 462)	N/A
2006	Chile	Work and Holiday (SC 462)	1500
2006	Netherlands	Working Holiday (SC 417)	N/A
2005	Estonia	Working Holiday (SC 417)	N/A
2005	Thailand	Work and Holiday (SC 462)	500
2004	Belgium	Working Holiday (SC 417)	N/A
2004	France	Working Holiday (SC 417)	N/A
2004	Italy	Working Holiday (SC 417)	N/A
2004	Taiwan	Working Holiday (SC 417)	N/A
2002	Cyprus	Working Holiday (SC 417)	N/A
2002	Finland	Working Holiday (SC 417)	N/A
2001	Denmark	Working Holiday (SC 417)	N/A
2001	Hong Kong Special Administrative Region	Working Holiday (SC 417)	N/A
2001	Norway	Working Holiday (SC 417)	N/A
2001	Sweden	Working Holiday (SC 417)	N/A
2000	Germany	Working Holiday (SC 417)	N/A
1996	Malta	Working Holiday (SC 417)	N/A
1995	Korea, Republic of	Working Holiday (SC 417)	N/A
1980	Japan	Working Holiday (SC 417)	N/A
1975	Canada	Working Holiday (SC 417)	N/A
1975	Ireland	Working Holiday (SC 417)	N/A
1975	United Kingdom	Working Holiday (SC 417)	N/A

Executive summary

Working Holiday Maker visa grants in 2011-12 to 31 December 2011

First Working Holiday (Subclass 417) visa program

In the six months to 31 December 2011, the first Working Holiday visa program grew by 11.4 per cent. This marks a continued return to positive growth from the decline experienced in 2009-10, and largely appears to be associated with the wider global economic situation in 2010-11. The most notable visa grant growth has been seen within the country caseloads of HKSAR of the PRC (+54.9%), Taiwan (+43.1%), Italy (+30%), Ireland (+24.8%) and Japan (+21.2%). The Kingdom of the Netherlands experienced negative growth for the six month period to 31 December 2011 (-7.5%).

Second Working Holiday (Subclass 417) visa program

In the six months to 31 December 2011, the second Working Holiday visa program grew by 34.5 per cent. This is largely the result of a flow-on effect from the positive growth experienced by the first Working Holiday visa program in 2010-11. There is a direct but delayed flow-on relationship between the rate of first Working Holiday visa grants and the rate of second Working Holiday visa grants, but it usually takes 12-18 months to be reflected in the data. Thus, where there has been an increase or decrease in the first Working Holiday visa grants, a similar but delayed trend will follow in second Working Holiday visa grants.

Combined Working Holiday (Subclass 417) visa program

The combined Working Holiday visa program (first and second) grew by 14.1 per cent overall in the six months to 31 December 2011. This figure marks a continued healthy growth of the program following the uncharacteristic decline in visa grants experienced in 2009-10, noting that with the exception of 2009-10, the program has steadily grown each year for the last decade. Program growth is expected to continue for the foreseeable future, but to an extent this will be partly contingent upon the wider global economic situation.

Work and Holiday (Subclass 462) visa program

In the six months to 31 December 2011, the Work and Holiday visa program grew by 1.7 per cent. The most notable visa grant growth has been seen within the country caseloads of Indonesia (+43.9%) and Chile (+25.4%).

Working Holiday Makers in Australia at 31 December 2011

Working Holiday (Subclass 417) visa holders

As at 31 December 2011, there were 130 612 Working Holiday visa holders in Australia (combined first and second visas). This is a 14.5 per cent increase over the number of Working Holiday visa holders in Australia at 31 December 2010, and reflects the larger number of visas granted in the six months to 31 December 2011 compared to the same period in 2010.

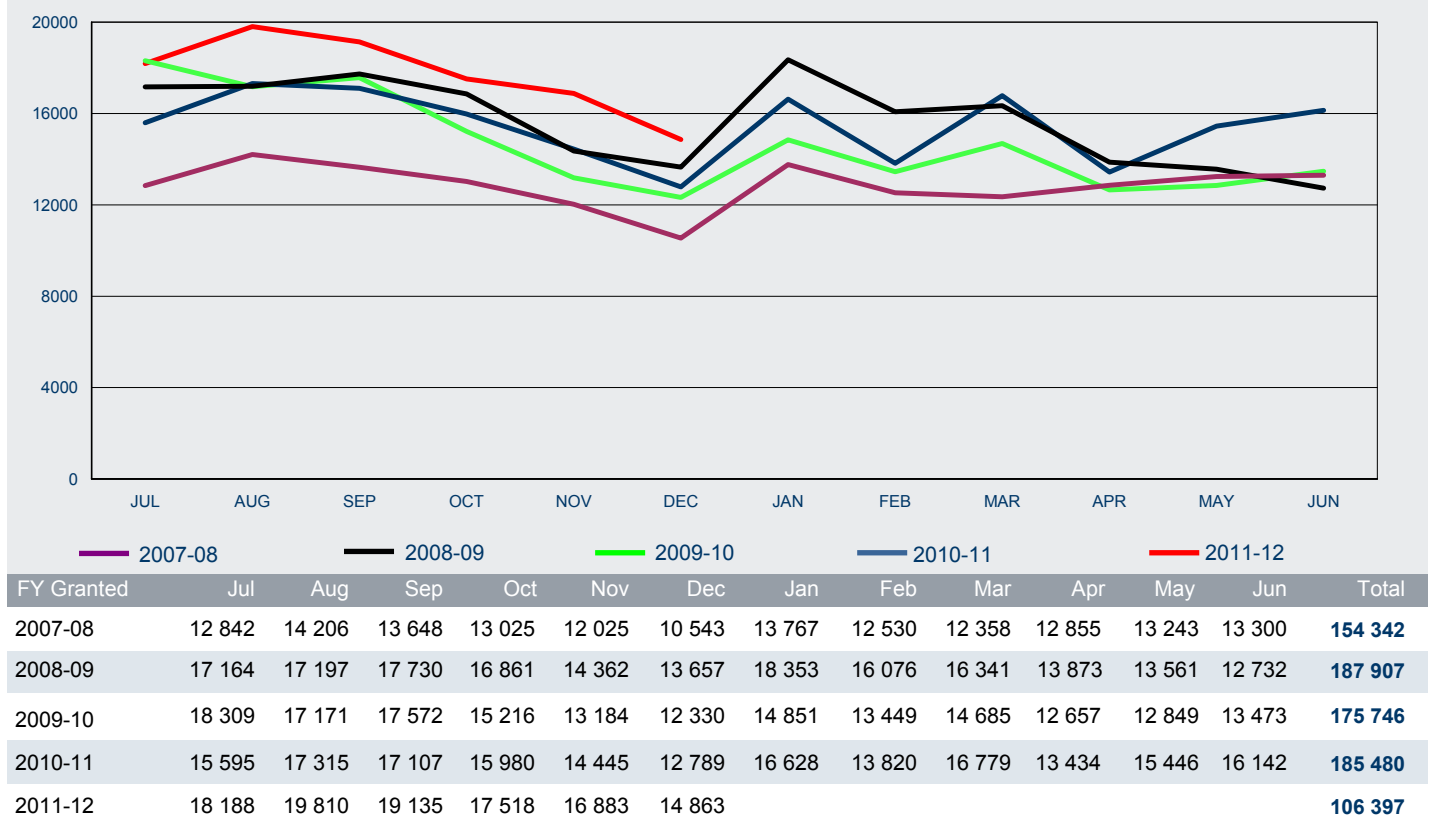
Work and Holiday (Subclass 462) visa program

As at 31 December 2011, there were 4 226 Work and Holiday visa holders in Australia. This is a 4.2 per cent increase over the number of Work and Holiday visa holders in Australia at 31 December 2010.

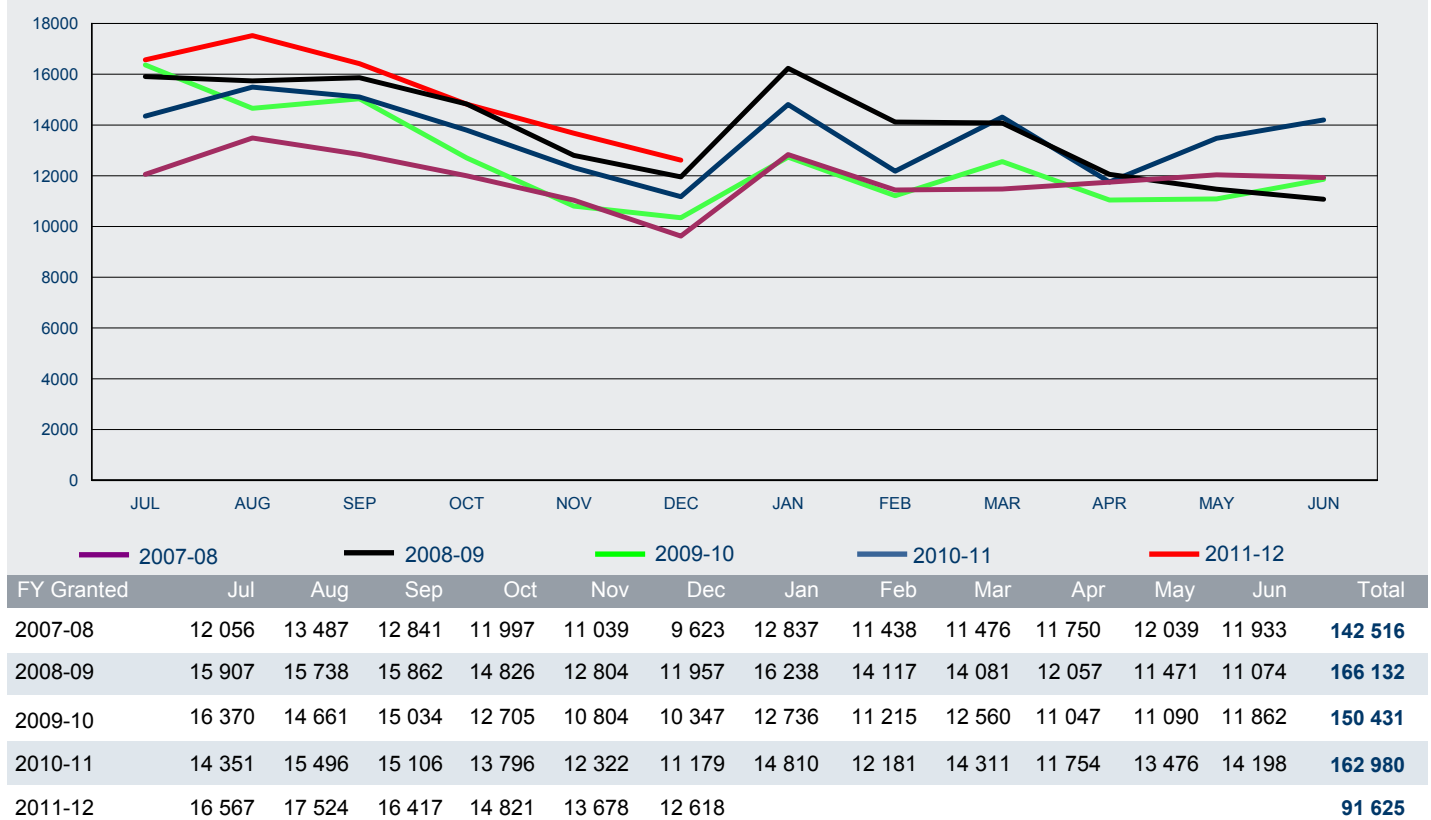
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1.01 Total number of Working Holiday (subclass 417) visa applications granted in 2011-12 to 31 December 2011 by month - comparison with previous four financial years

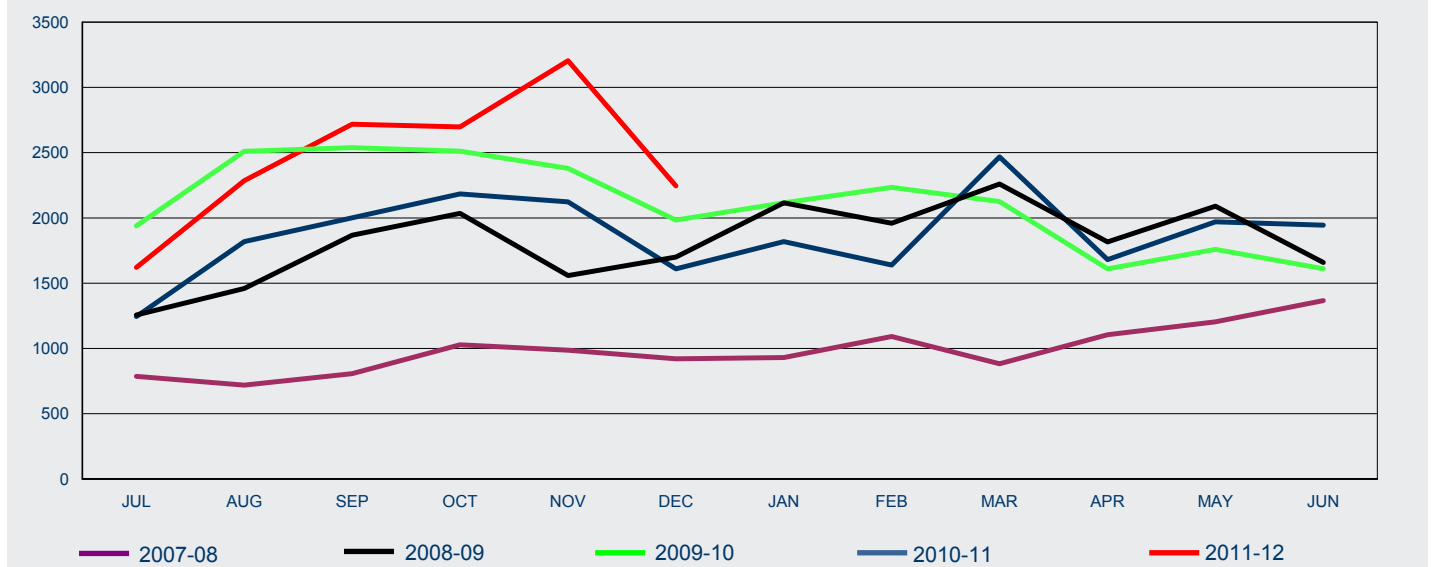


1.02 Number of first Working Holiday (subclass 417) visa applications granted in 2011-12 to 31 December 2011 by month - comparison with previous four financial years



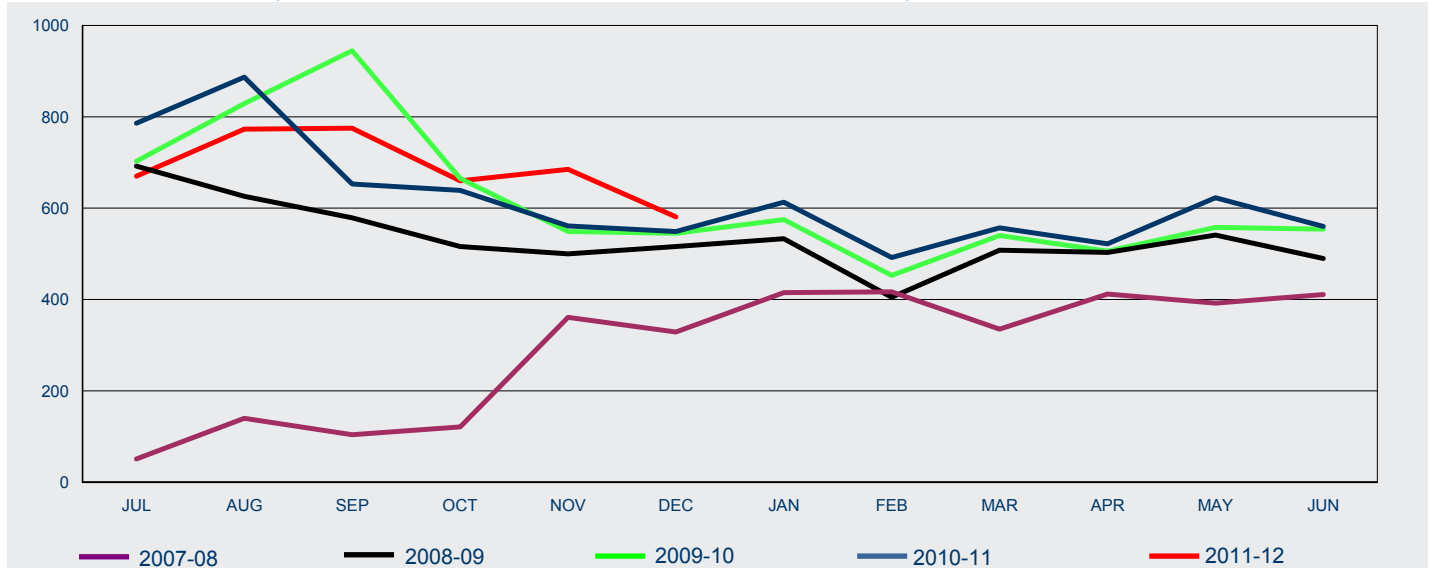
1 Granted

1.03 Number of second Working Holiday (subclass 417) visa applications granted in 2011-12 to 31 December 2011 by month - comparison with previous four financial years



FY Granted	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
2007-08	786	719	807	1 028	986	920	930	1 092	882	1 105	1 204	1 367	11 826
2008-09	1 257	1 459	1 868	2 035	1 558	1 700	2 115	1 959	2 260	1 816	2 090	1 658	21 775
2009-10	1 939	2 510	2 538	2 511	2 380	1 983	2 115	2 234	2 125	1 610	1 759	1 611	25 315
2010-11	1 244	1 819	2 001	2 184	2 123	1 610	1 818	1 639	2 468	1 680	1 970	1 944	22 500
2011-12	1 621	2 286	2 718	2 697	3 205	2 245							14 772

1.04 Total number of Work and Holiday (subclass 462) visa applications granted in 2011-12 to 31 December 2011 by month - comparison with previous four financial years



FY Granted	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Total
2007-08	51	140	104	121	361	329	415	417	335	412	392	411	3 488
2008-09	692	626	579	516	500	516	533	405	508	503	541	490	6 409
2009-10	703	829	945	665	549	545	575	453	540	506	558	554	7 422
2010-11	786	887	653	639	561	549	613	492	557	522	623	560	7 442
2011-12	670	773	775	660	685	581							4 144

1 Granted

1.05 Total number of Working Holiday (subclass 417) visa applications granted in 2011-12 to 31 December 2011 by citizenship country - comparison with the previous four financial years

Citizenship Country	2007-08 to 31/12/07	2008-09 to 31/12/08	2009-10 to 31/12/09	2010-11 to 31/12/10	2011-12 to 31/12/11	% Change from 2010-11	2011-12 as a % of Total
United Kingdom	17 324	20 918	19 788	19 866	20 793	4.7%	19.5%
Korea, South	14 822	17 401	17 461	14 002	15 201	8.6%	14.3%
Germany, Fed Republic of	8 567	10 489	11 499	10 995	12 145	10.5%	11.4%
Ireland, Republic of	8 416	12 847	6 945	8 923	11 911	33.5%	11.2%
France	5 388	8 586	10 518	10 566	11 089	4.9%	10.4%
Taiwan	2 233	4 564	4 618	6 007	9 112	51.7%	8.6%
Italy	2 010	2 554	3 242	3 871	5 091	31.5%	4.8%
Canada	4 479	5 039	4 844	4 571	4 546	-0.5%	4.3%
Japan	5 027	4 674	3 944	3 342	3 964	18.6%	3.7%
Sweden	2 681	2 947	2 952	2 861	3 289	15.0%	3.1%
HKSAR of the PRC	669	1 142	1 676	1 760	2 822	60.3%	2.7%
Netherlands, Kingdom of The	2 115	2 511	2 605	2 485	2 358	-5.1%	2.2%
Estonia	258	609	733	941	1 073	14.0%	1.0%
Denmark	645	767	814	765	901	17.8%	0.8%
Belgium	593	662	765	784	818	4.3%	0.8%
Finland	550	665	646	672	732	8.9%	0.7%
Norway	429	445	563	572	415	-27.4%	0.4%
Malta	61	63	46	62	58	-6.5%	0.1%
Cyprus	5	17	10	12	15	25.0%	0.0%
Not Specified	17	71	113	174	64	-63.2%	0.1%
Total	76 289	96 971	93 782	93 231	106 397	14.1%	100.0%

1.06 Number of first Working Holiday (subclass 417) visa applications granted in 2011-12 to 31 December 2011 by citizenship country - comparison with the previous four financial years

Citizenship Country	2007-08 to 31/12/07	2008-09 to 31/12/08	2009-10 to 31/12/09	2010-11 to 31/12/10	2011-12 to 31/12/11	% Change from 2010-11	2011-12 as a % of Total
United Kingdom	16 256	19 012	17 061	17 474	17 760	1.6%	19.4%
Korea, South	13 389	14 914	14 140	11 613	12 678	9.2%	13.8%
Germany, Fed Republic of	8 143	9 909	10 829	10 360	11 362	9.7%	12.4%
France	5 131	8 108	9 772	9 779	10 141	3.7%	11.1%
Ireland, Republic of	7 797	10 901	3 913	7 317	9 134	24.8%	10.0%
Taiwan	2 159	4 085	3 482	5 083	7 275	43.1%	7.9%
Italy	1 909	2 388	3 017	3 508	4 561	30.0%	5.0%
Canada	4 326	4 804	4 561	4 303	4 187	-2.7%	4.6%
Japan	4 209	3 613	3 086	2 723	3 299	21.2%	3.6%
Sweden	2 606	2 840	2 805	2 744	3 135	14.2%	3.4%
HKSAR of the PRC	634	1 054	1 533	1 514	2 345	54.9%	2.6%
Netherlands, Kingdom of The	2 048	2 408	2 496	2 389	2 209	-7.5%	2.4%
Denmark	629	750	796	736	854	16.0%	0.9%
Estonia	228	563	503	705	792	12.3%	0.9%
Belgium	562	609	725	737	750	1.8%	0.8%
Finland	522	622	603	636	687	8.0%	0.7%
Norway	424	433	547	563	392	-30.4%	0.4%
Malta	58	56	42	55	51	-7.3%	0.1%
Cyprus	5	16	9	11	13	18.2%	0.0%
Not Specified	8	9	1				
Total	71 043	87 094	79 921	82 250	91 625	11.4%	100.0%

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1.07 Number of second Working Holiday (subclass 417) visa applications granted in 2011-12 to 31 December 2011 by citizenship country - comparison with the previous four financial years

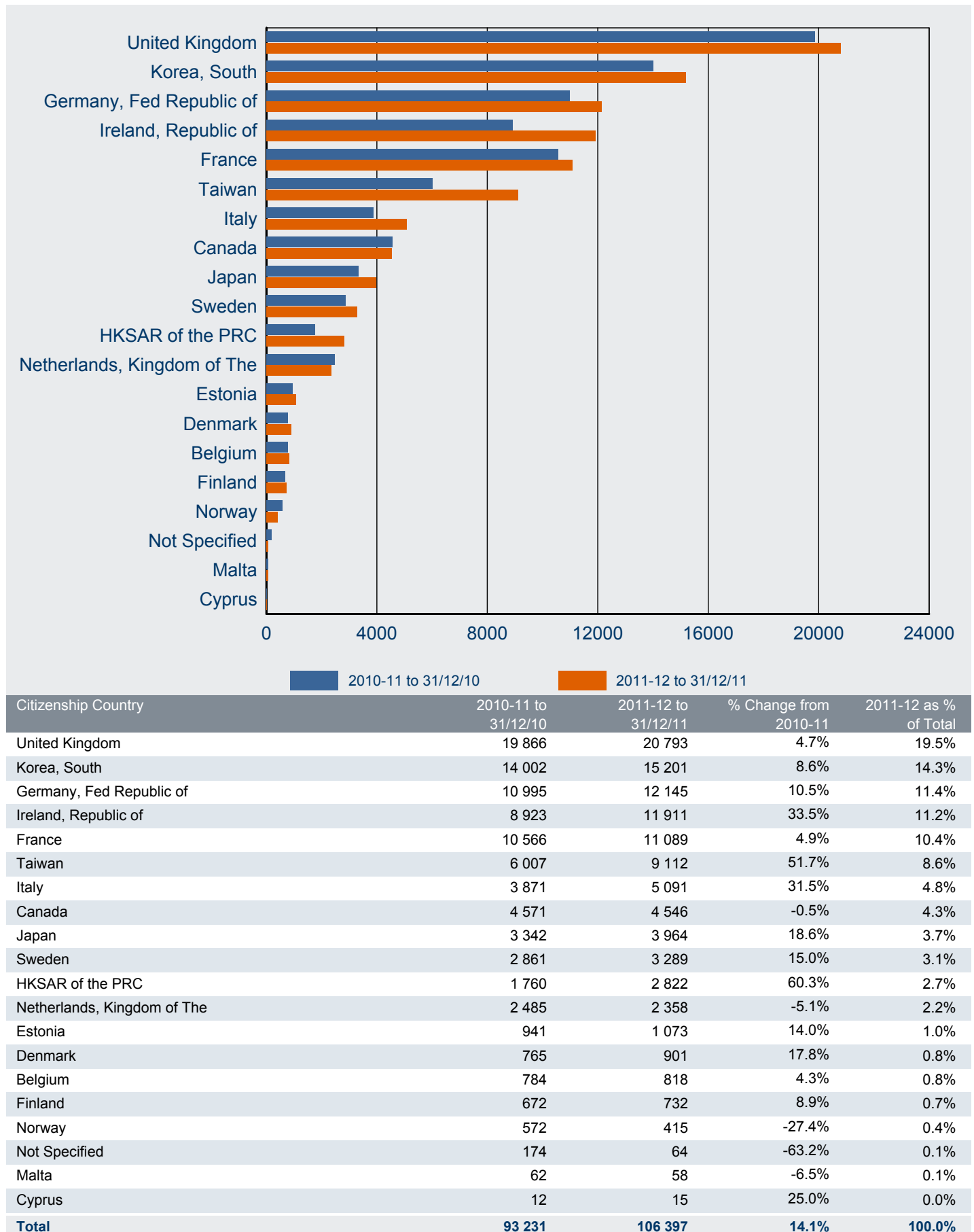
Citizenship Country	2007-08 to 31/12/07	2008-09 to 31/12/08	2009-10 to 31/12/09	2010-11 to 31/12/10	2011-12 to 31/12/11	% Change from 2010-11	2011-12 as a % of Total
United Kingdom	1 068	1 906	2 727	2 392	3 033	26.8%	20.5%
Ireland, Republic of	619	1 946	3 032	1 606	2 777	72.9%	18.8%
Korea, South	1 433	2 487	3 321	2 389	2 523	5.6%	17.1%
Taiwan	74	479	1 136	924	1 837	98.8%	12.4%
France	257	478	746	787	948	20.5%	6.4%
Germany, Fed Republic of	424	580	670	635	783	23.3%	5.3%
Japan	818	1 061	858	619	665	7.4%	4.5%
Italy	101	166	225	363	530	46.0%	3.6%
HKSAR of the PRC	35	88	143	246	477	93.9%	3.2%
Canada	153	235	283	268	359	34.0%	2.4%
Estonia	30	46	230	236	281	19.1%	1.9%
Sweden	75	107	147	117	154	31.6%	1.0%
Netherlands, Kingdom of The	67	103	109	96	149	55.2%	1.0%
Belgium	31	53	40	47	68	44.7%	0.5%
Denmark	16	17	18	29	47	62.1%	0.3%
Finland	28	43	43	36	45	25.0%	0.3%
Norway	5	12	16	9	23	155.6%	0.2%
Malta	3	7	4	7	7	0.0%	0.0%
Cyprus		1	1	1	2	100.0%	0.0%
Not Specified	9	62	112	174	64	-63.2%	0.4%
Total	5 246	9 877	13 861	10 981	14 772	34.5%	100.0%

1.08 Number of Work and Holiday (subclass 462) visa applications granted in 2011-12 to 31 December 2011 by citizenship country - comparison with the previous four financial years

Citizenship Country	2007-08 to 31/12/07	2008-09 to 31/12/08	2009-10 to 31/12/09	2010-11 to 31/12/10	2011-12 to 31/12/11	% Change from 2010-11	2011-12 as a % of Total
United States of America	531	2 470	3 247	3 167	3 330	5.1%	80.4%
Chile	343	462	223	248	311	25.4%	7.5%
Thailand	98	157	461	485	302	-37.7%	7.3%
Malaysia			98	100	100	0.0%	2.4%
Indonesia			81	66	95	43.9%	2.3%
Turkey		7	10	1	4	300.0%	0.1%
Iran	134	333	116	8	2	-75.0%	0.0%
Total	1 106	3 429	4 236	4 075	4 144	1.7%	100.0%

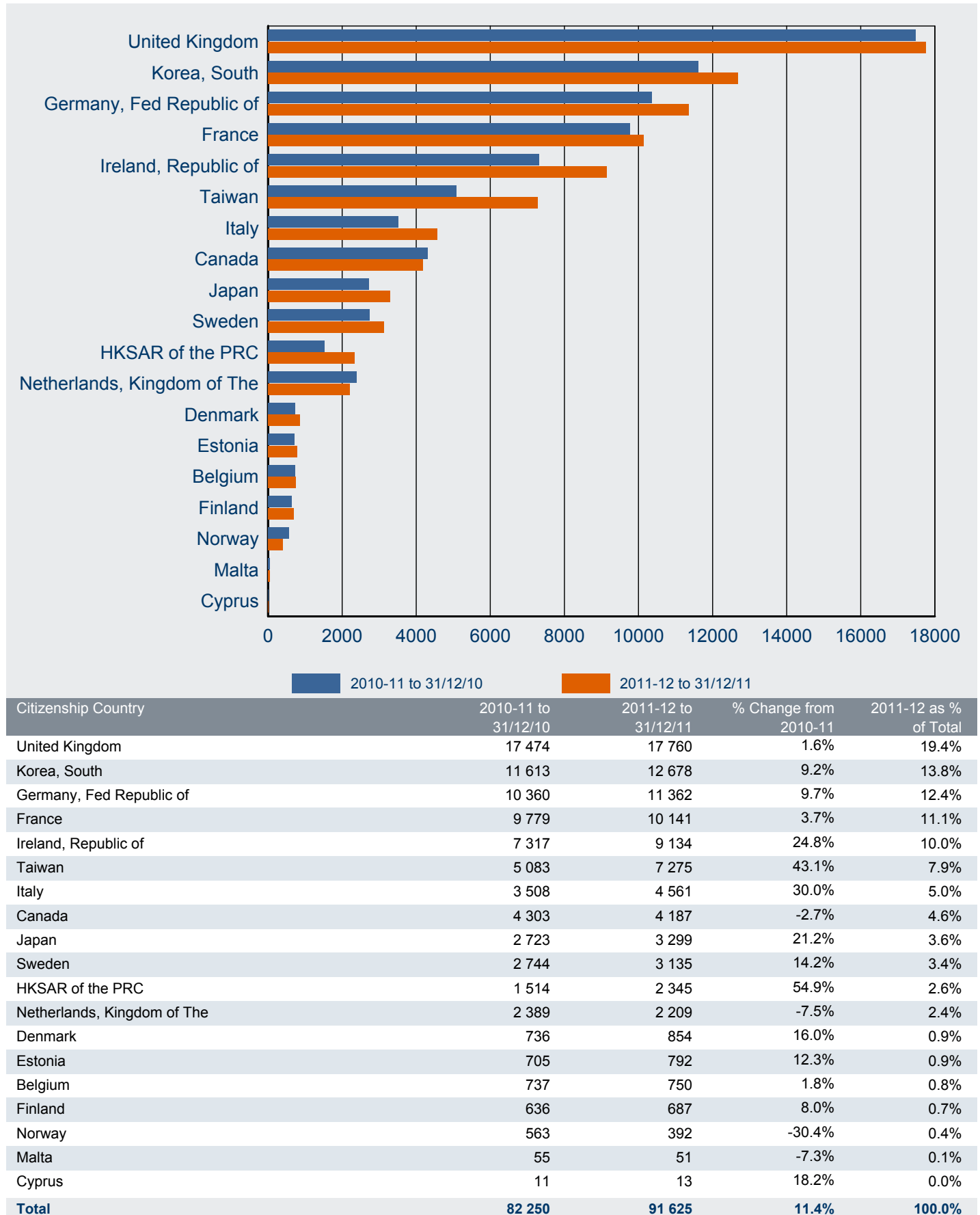
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1.09 Total number of Working Holiday (subclass 417) visa applications granted in 2011-12 to 31 December 2011 by citizenship country - comparison with the previous financial year



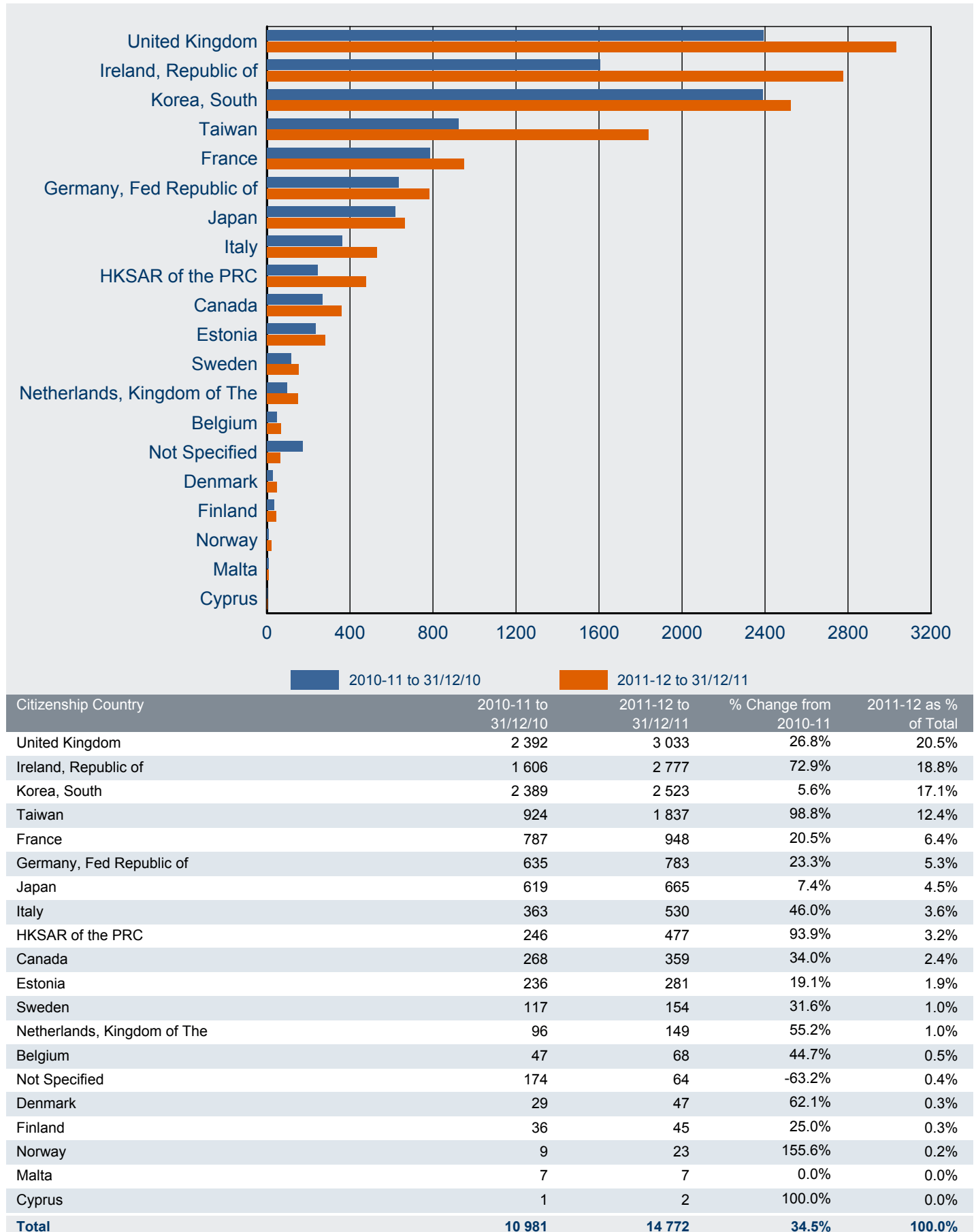
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1.10 Number of first Working Holiday (subclass 417) visa applications granted in 2011-12 to 31 December 2011 by citizenship country - comparison with the previous financial year



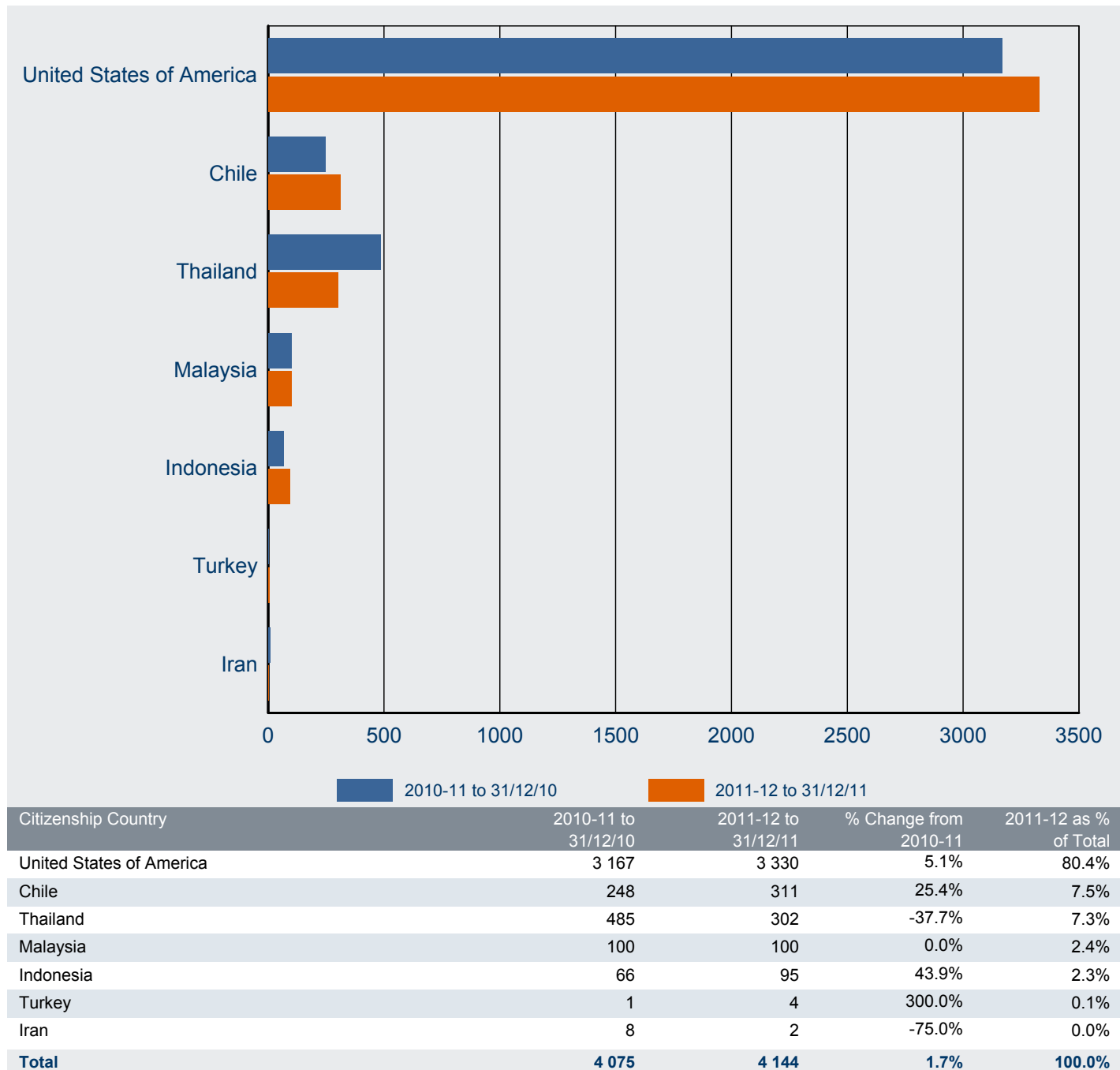
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1.11 Number of second Working Holiday (subclass 417) visa applications granted in 2011-12 to 31 December 2011 by citizenship country - comparison with the previous financial year



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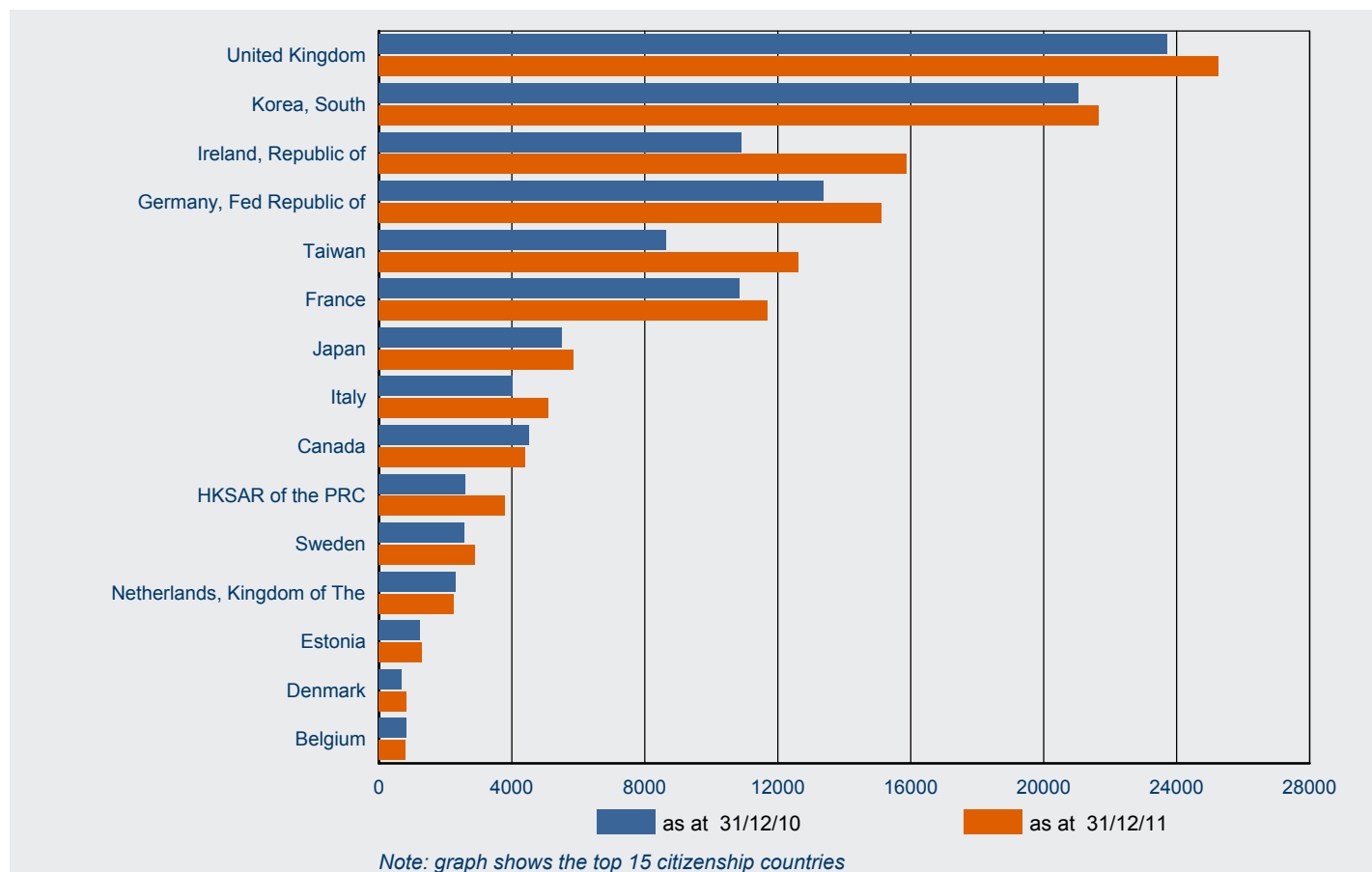
1.12 Number of Work and Holiday (subclass 462) visa applications granted in 2011-12 to 31 December 2011 by citizenship country - comparison with the previous financial year



2 Visa Holders in Australia

2 Visa holders in Australia

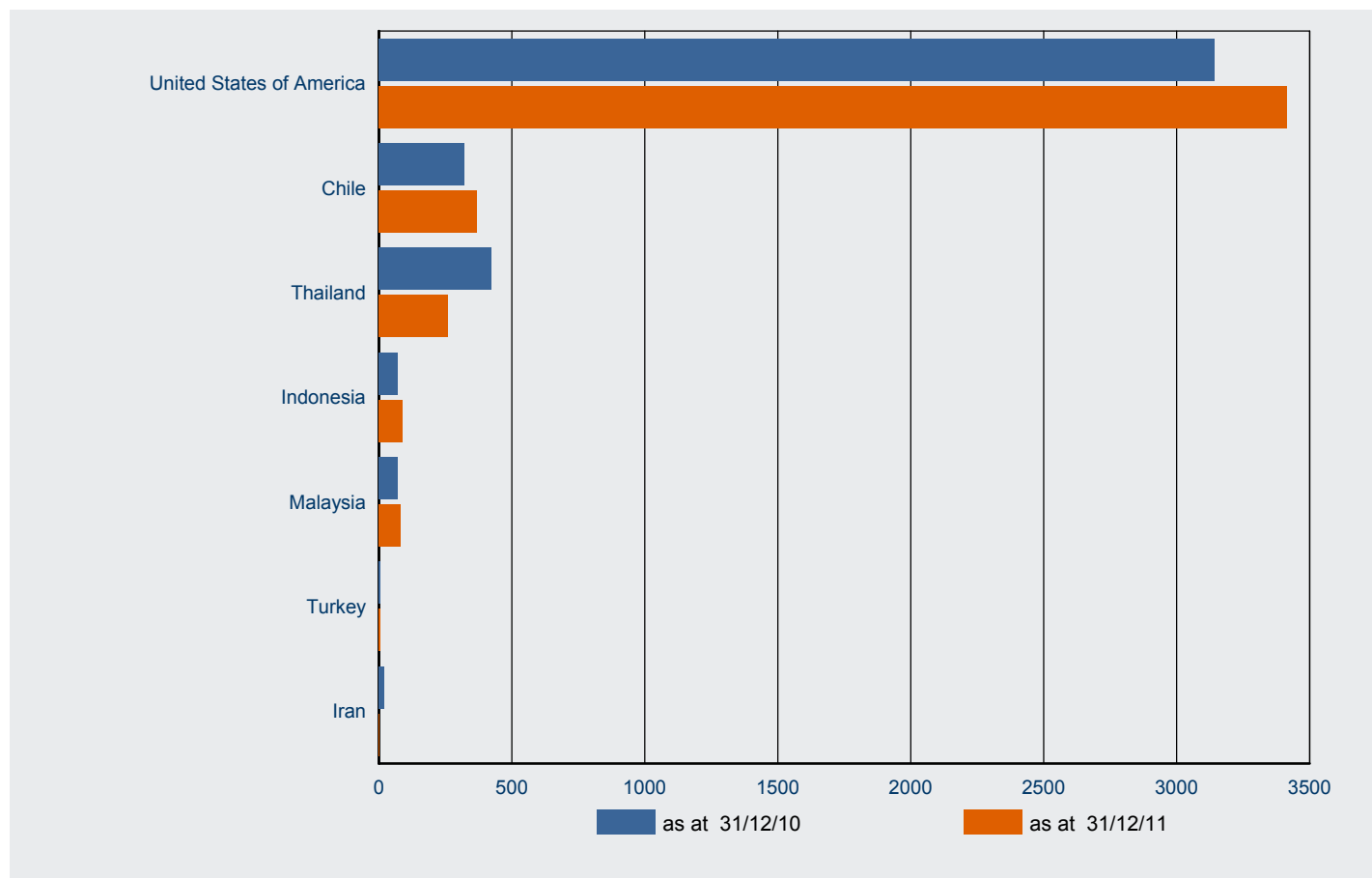
2.01 Total number of Working Holiday (subclass 417) visa holders in Australia as at 31 December 2011 by citizenship country - comparison with the same date in the previous year



Citizenship Country	31/12/10	31/12/11	% Change from 31/12/10	31/12/11 as % of Total
United Kingdom	23 717	25 271	6.6%	19.3%
Korea, South	21 059	21 665	2.9%	16.6%
Ireland, Republic of	10 894	15 874	45.7%	12.2%
Germany, Fed Republic of	13 383	15 123	13.0%	11.6%
Taiwan	8 637	12 637	46.3%	9.7%
France	10 849	11 702	7.9%	9.0%
Japan	5 509	5 860	6.4%	4.5%
Italy	4 029	5 107	26.8%	3.9%
Canada	4 517	4 391	-2.8%	3.4%
HKSAR of the PRC	2 610	3 801	45.6%	2.9%
Sweden	2 576	2 879	11.8%	2.2%
Netherlands, Kingdom of The	2 296	2 249	-2.0%	1.7%
Estonia	1 221	1 305	6.9%	1.0%
Denmark	694	814	17.3%	0.6%
Belgium	832	785	-5.6%	0.6%
Finland	614	697	13.5%	0.5%
Norway	395	276	-30.1%	0.2%
Malta	51	65	27.5%	0.0%
Cyprus	11	13	18.2%	0.0%
Not Specified	199	98	-50.8%	0.1%
Total	114 093	130 612	14.5%	100.0%

2 Visa holders in Australia

2.02 Total number of Work and Holiday (subclass 462) visa holders in Australia as at 31 December 2011 by citizenship country - comparison with the same date in the previous year



Citizenship Country	31/12/10	31/12/11	% Change from 31/12/10	31/12/11 as % of Total
United States of America	3 142	3 414	8.7%	80.8%
Chile	323	370	14.6%	8.8%
Thailand	424	261	-38.4%	6.2%
Indonesia	71	90	26.8%	2.1%
Malaysia	71	83	16.9%	2.0%
Turkey	6	6	0.0%	0.1%
Iran	20	2	-90.0%	0.0%
Total	4 057	4 226	4.2%	100.0%

3 Second Working Holiday (subclass 417) visa program

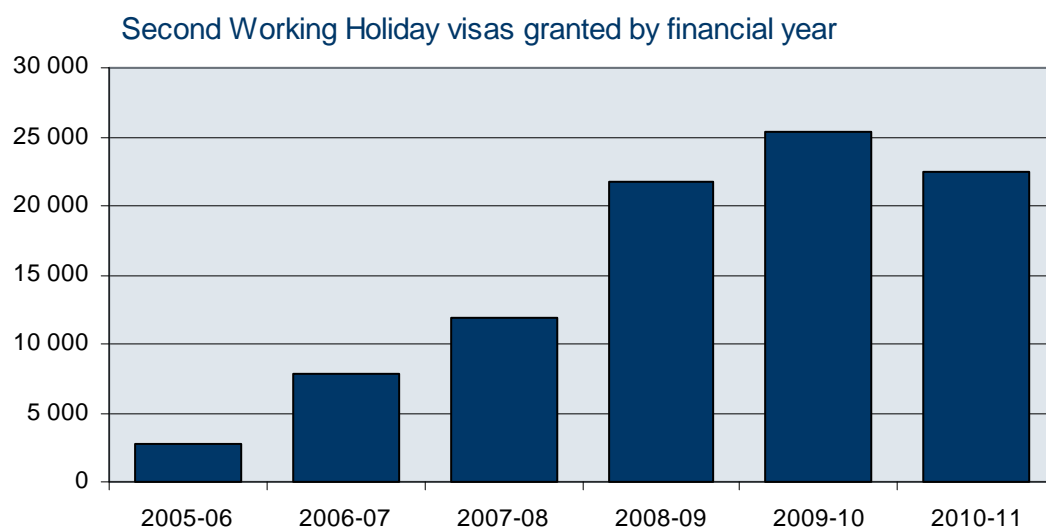
3 Second Working Holiday (subclass 417) Visa Program

Background to the second Working Holiday visa program

The second Working Holiday (subclass 417) visa program was introduced on 1 November 2005. It provides first Working Holiday visa holders with an opportunity to extend their stay in Australia for a further 12 months, if they undertake three months (88 days) specified work in regional Australia during their stay. Specified work includes employment in the agriculture, mining and construction industries. The initiative provides an incentive for Working Holiday visa holders to focus their travel and incidental work activities in regional areas. It also plays a valuable support role for these key industries, which have been identified as encountering serious and persistent labour shortages in regional Australia.

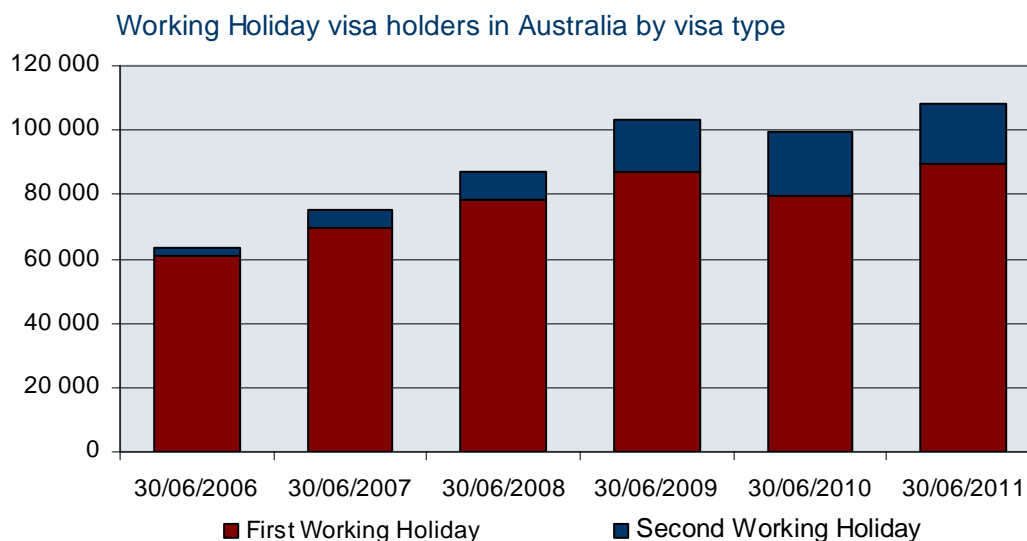
Visa grants since program commencement on 1 November 2005

The number of Second Working Holiday visa grants has grown rapidly since the program commenced in late 2005. There were 2 692 grants in 2005-06, compared with 22 500 in 2010-11. This is slightly more than an eightfold increase over six years.



Second Working Holiday visa holders in Australia – share of the overall WHV Program

Since its introduction in 2005, the second Working Holiday visa program has grown to constitute 13.9 per cent of overall Working Holiday by 31 December 2011. This compares with just 3.3 per cent share of overall Working holiday visa holders in Australia as at 30 June 2006.



3 Second Working Holiday (subclass 417) Visa Program

Industry sector breakdown

In 2010-11, around 90 per cent of the approximately 25 000 second Working Holiday visa applicants indicated they engaged in agricultural work to acquire eligibility, nine per cent undertook construction work, and one per cent undertook mining work.



