Australian Bureau of Statistics

2009–10

3412.0

MIGRATION

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11.30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 16 JUN 2011

CONTENTS

INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Abul Majumder on Canberra (02) 6252 7083.

NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication brings together statistics on international migration into and out of Australia, internal migration (including interstate and intrastate) within Australia and information on overseas-born residents of Australia.

STATUS OF DATA WITHIN THIS PUBLICATION

The status of estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth, and the components of population change (natural increase, net interstate migration (NIM) and net overseas migration (NOM)), are referred to as either preliminary, revised or final. For further information see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

DATA NOTES

In this publication, figures have sometimes been rounded. Rounded figures and unrounded figures should not be assumed to be accurate to the last digit shown. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between the sums of component items and totals. Analysis featured in this publication is based on unrounded data. Calculations made on rounded data may differ to those published.

NET OVERSEAS MIGRATION

In 2007, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) introduced improved methods for calculating net overseas migration (NOM). These methods have been used in calculating Australia's official estimated resident population (ERP) since September quarter 2006. As a result, a break in the NOM time series exists from the 2006–07 financial year. Caution should be taken when comparing estimates over time. In 2009, the methodology used for preliminary NOM estimation was improved.

A time series of final NOM from 2004 onwards is available electronically as a data cube (in Supertable format) from the downloads tab of this publication on the ABS website.

FEATURE ARTICLE

International Students, Net Overseas Migration and Australia's Population Growth — The article explores the contribution that student visa holders have made to net overseas migration and ERP in recent years. It examines characteristics including age, sex, state and territory, student visa subclass and country of birth.

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

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ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
APH	Parliament of Australia
Aust.	Australia
DIAC	Australian Government Department of Immigration and Citizenship
DIMA	Australian Government Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
ELICOS	English language intensive courses for overseas students
ERP	estimated resident population
LTRD	long-term resident departure
LTRR	long-term resident return
LTVA	long-term visitor arrival
LTVD	long-term visitor departure
MER	migration effectiveness ratio
NIM	net interstate migration
NOM	net overseas migration
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
NZ	New Zealand
OAD	overseas arrivals and departures
PA	permanent arrival
PD	permanent departure
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SAR	Special Administrative Region
SLA	statistical local area
STRD	short-term resident departure
STRR	short-term resident return
STVA	short-term visitor arrival
STVD	short-term visitor departure
Tas.	Tasmania
TRIPS	Travel and Immigration Processing System
UK, CIs & IOM	United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man
USA	United States of America
VET	vocational education and training
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

CHAPTER 1 MAIN FEATURES

MIGRATION IN CONTEXT

- Each year Australia's population increases as a result of both natural increase (births minus deaths) and net overseas migration (NOM). In recent years NOM has accounted for over half of the population growth at the national level.
- In 2009–10, the preliminary estimate of NOM was 215,600 persons, representing 57% of Australia's population growth for the year.
- Net interstate migration in 2009–10, was a source of population loss for New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory, subtracting 10,500 persons, 3,000 persons and 800 persons respectively from their populations.

NET OVERSEAS MIGRATION (NOM)

- In 2009–10, NOM declined for the first time since 2003–04. Preliminary NOM in 2009–10 was estimated at 215,600 persons, which is 28% less than in 2008–09, when NOM was the highest on record at 299,900 persons.
- During 2009–10, NOM arrivals dropped by 11% (56,700 persons) compared to the previous year. However, NOM departures continued to increase with a growth of 13% (27,500 persons) from the previous financial year.
- NOM contributed the greatest number of people to the most populous states in 2009–10: New South Wales with a net of 66,000 persons, followed by Victoria (60,400) and Queensland (39,700). The Northern Territory had the lowest contribution with a net of 1,300 persons.
- In 2009–10, the population turnover due to overseas migration (gross overseas flows in relation to size of the population) was the highest in the Northern Territory at 4.1%. This was followed by Western Australia (3.9%), and the Australian Capital Territory (3.8%).
- An individual's actual travel behaviour and associated characteristics are only available from final NOM data. A time lag exists before capture of this final data as it can only be accurately recorded at the end of a 16 month reference period following a traveller's initial border crossing.
- Based on final NOM data from 2008–09 (a net of 299,900 persons), temporary visa holders contributed by far the most to NOM with 63% (a net of 189,200) of the total NOM figure for the year. Next were permanent arrivals at 29% (a net of 87,100). New Zealand citizens contributed 10% (a net of 30,200) to NOM, whereas Australian citizens with a net negative input to NOM contributed -1.0% (a net of -2,500).

AUSTRALIA'S DIVERSE POPULATION

- At 30 June 2010, data on the estimated resident population of Australia (22.3 million people) revealed that 27% of the population was born overseas (6.0 million people).
- Persons born in the United Kingdom continued to be the largest group of overseas-born residents, accounting for 5.3% of Australia's total population at 30 June 2010. Persons born in New Zealand accounted for 2.4% of Australia's total population, followed by persons born in China (1.7%), India (1.5%) and Italy (1.0%).

AUSTRALIA'S DIVERSE POPULATION *continued*

- The proportion of the Australian population who were born in the United Kingdom experienced a decline between 2000 and 2010 (5.9% in 2000 and 5.3% in 2010). Conversely, the proportions increased for people born in New Zealand (from 1.9% to 2.4%), China (from 0.8% to 1.7%) and India (from 0.5% to 1.5%).
- At 30 June 2010, the majority (76%) of all overseas-born Australian residents were of working age, 15–64 years (see table 4.5). The overseas-born population from Asia, America and Africa had proportionally larger young (0–14 years) and working age (15–64 years) populations compared to those from Europe.

INTERSTATE MIGRATION

- It is estimated that 331,400 people moved interstate during 2009–10. This is an 8% drop from the same period one year ago (359,900 persons), and a 17% drop from the peak interstate migration estimate (398,600 persons) in 2002–03. This decline has put interstate migration for 2009–10 almost at the same level as the 20 year low in 1993–94 (329,600 persons).
- Over the 10 years to June 2010, the only states to record average annual net interstate migration (NIM) gains were Queensland (25,900 persons), Western Australia (1,600 persons) and Tasmania (160 persons).
- Over the last decade Queensland consistently recorded an annual NIM gain from the rest of the country. However, the gain has gradually declined to be at a 10 year low in 2009–10 with a net gain of 9,600 persons.
- The highest population turnover from interstate migration in 2009–10, occurred in the Northern Territory where the gross flows represented 14.1% of the Northern Territory's total population. The Australian Capital Territory also recorded a high population turnover at 10.1% of its population.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, NET OVERSEAS MIGRATION AND AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION GROWTH

- In 2008–09, the net contribution of international students to the Australian population reached a record high of 122,400 students, contributing 27% of Australia's total population growth (453,200 persons) and 41% of Australia's total NOM estimate (299,900 persons) for the year.
- Student NOM is the net number of passengers travelling on student visas who contribute to net overseas migration. In 2008–09, there were 153,600 student NOM arrivals and 31,200 student NOM departures.
- Final 2008–09 data show that there was a net of 71,400 male student visa holders added to Australia's population in that year. In comparison, there was a smaller net of 51,000 female student visa holders.
- Victoria recorded the highest net contribution of international students in 2008–09 (43,600 persons), followed by New South Wales (40,400 persons) and Queensland (18,300 persons).
- Higher education and vocational education and training (VET) were the two top student visa subclasses contributing to NOM in 2008–09. Of the 122,400 students making a net contribution to NOM, 44% were travelling on higher education visas and 39% on VET visas. In 2004–05, 53% were on higher education and 11% on VET visas.
- For those travelling on student visas, people born in India and China were the main contributors to student NOM. Together they contributed around 50% or over for each year between 2004–05 and 2008–09.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, NET OVERSEAS MIGRATION AND AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION GROWTH *continued*

- Recent data released by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) show a large decline in the number of student visas granted in 2009–10 compared to 2008–09. DIAC granted 175,800 student visas in 2004–05 which increased to a record high of 319,600 in 2008–09. The number of visas granted in 2009–10 was 270,500.
- At 30 June 2010, there was a stock of 382,700 student visa holders residing in Australia, slightly lower than the stock at 30 June 2009 (386,300 students) and 83% higher than the stock at 30 June 2006 (209,200 students).

CHAPTER 2 MIGRATION IN CONTEXT

INTRODUCTION

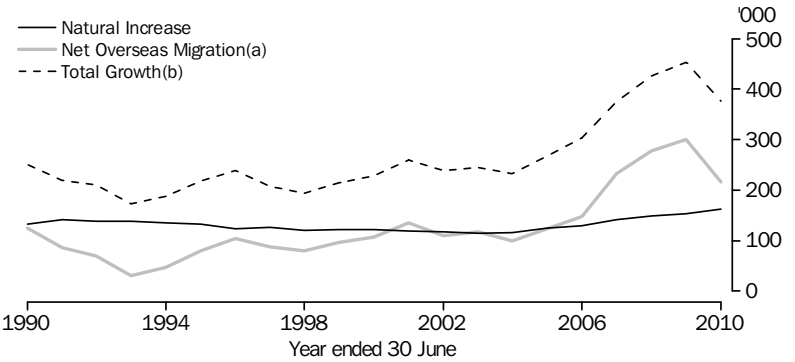
The provision of regular estimates of the growth, size and structure of the Australian population is one of the core functions of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). These official population estimates, termed the estimated resident population (ERP), are used for a wide variety of purposes including the distribution of Australian Government funds to state, territory and local governments, as well as in the determination of the number of seats for each state and territory in the House of Representatives.

At the national level there are two components of Australia's population growth: natural increase (the number of births minus the number of deaths) and net overseas migration (NOM — the net gain or loss of population through immigration to Australia and emigration from Australia). Population growth at the state and territory level has three components: natural increase, NOM and net interstate migration (NIM — the net gain or loss of population through the change of a person's place of usual residence from one state or territory to another state or territory).

MIGRATION AND POPULATION GROWTH

Each year Australia's population increases as a result of both natural increase and NOM. While natural increase has remained relatively stable, NOM has been far more volatile and in recent years has accounted for over half of the population growth at the national level (figure 2.1).

2.1 GROWTH AND COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE, Australia



(a) Contains a break in time series at 30 June 2006—see paragraphs 26–27 of the Explanatory Notes. Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.
(b) Up to 30 June 2006 estimates include intercensal discrepancy.

At 30 June 2010, the Australian population (ERP) was 22.3 million people. Over the preceding 12 months, the population increased by 377,100 persons, representing a growth rate of 1.7% (table 2.2). In 2009–10, the preliminary estimate of NOM was 215,600 persons, representing 57% of Australia's population growth for the year. The remainder (43%) of this growth was due to natural increase.

MIGRATION AND POPULATION GROWTH *continued*

Over the last 20 financial years, natural increase has generally contributed more to Australia's annual population growth than NOM. However during the past five years, NOM has increased to become the major contributor to population growth (figure 2.1). The contribution of NOM to population growth reached a high of 66% in 2008–09 and a low of 17% in 1992–93. The low coincided with an economic downturn in Australia in the early 1990s.

The year ended 30 June 2010 showed a continuation of trends in population growth observed over the past two decades, with relatively stable natural increase and fluctuating NOM. These fluctuations were largely the result of changes in the Australian Government's immigration targets, movement of New Zealand citizens to and from Australia, movement of temporary migrants, continuing demand for skilled migrants and an increase in international students studying in Australia. For a more in depth analysis of NOM see Chapter 3.

MIGRATION AND THE STATES AND TERRITORIES

All three components of population change: natural increase, NOM and NIM, contribute in varying degrees to the growth, size and structure of the population of each state and territory. While natural increase generally has a positive effect, NOM and NIM can have an impact by either adding to or reducing the size of the population.

All states and territories experienced positive population growth in the year ended 30 June 2010. New South Wales experienced the largest growth numerically at 105,400 persons (1.5%). However, Western Australia had the highest rate of growth at 2.2% with 49,100 persons (table 2.2). The proportion that each component contributed to population growth varied between the states and territories. Natural increase was the major contributor to population growth in Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory for the year ended 30 June 2010 (figure 2.3). In Queensland both natural increase and NOM evenly contributed to population growth. For the other states, NOM contributed the most to population growth.

2.2 COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE(a), Australia—Numbers and growth rates—2009–10

	NSW	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*	*Aust.*
Number ('000)									
ERP 30 June 2009	7 127.2	5 446.6	4 424.8	1 624.5	2 244.4	503.3	226.2	352.3	21 951.7
Natural increase	49.9	36.3	39.8	7.7	18.9	2.2	3.1	3.7	161.5
Net overseas migration	66.0	60.4	39.7	15.4	28.2	1.8	1.3	2.7	215.6
Net interstate migration	–10.5	2.6	9.6	–3.0	2.0	0.3	–0.8	–0.1	. .
Growth	***105.4***	***99.3***	***89.1***	***20.1***	***49.1***	***4.4***	***3.5***	***6.3***	***377.1***
ERP 30 June 2010	7 232.6	5 545.9	4 513.9	1 644.6	2 293.5	507.6	229.7	358.6	22 328.8
Growth rate (%)									
Natural increase	0.70	0.67	0.90	0.47	0.84	0.44	1.35	1.04	0.74
Net overseas migration	0.93	1.11	0.90	0.95	1.26	0.36	0.57	0.76	0.98
Net interstate migration	–0.15	0.05	0.22	–0.18	0.09	0.06	–0.37	–0.02	. .
Growth	***1.48***	***1.82***	***2.01***	***1.24***	***2.19***	***0.86***	***1.55***	***1.78***	***1.72***

. . not applicable

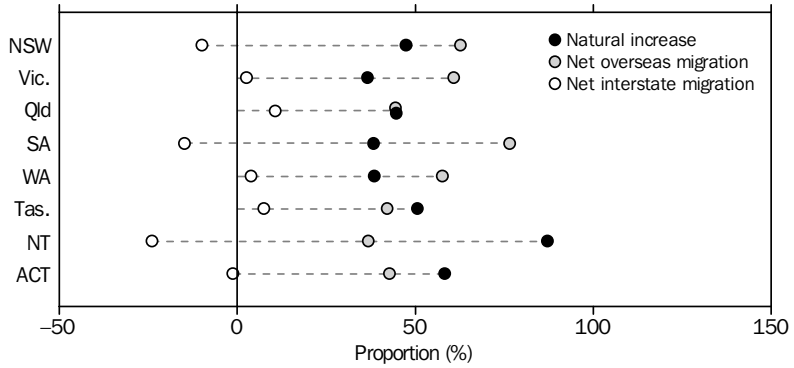
(a) Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

Net overseas migration

For the year ended 30 June 2010, all states and territories experienced positive NOM (figure 2.3). NOM was the major component of population growth in South Australia at 77% (15,400 persons), New South Wales at 63% (66,000 persons), Victoria at 61% (60,400 persons) and Western Australia at 58% (28,200 persons). The Australian Capital Territory, Tasmania and the Northern Territory also gained population through NOM but it was not the major component of their population growth. NOM accounted for 43% (2,700 persons) of population growth in 2009-2010 in the Australian Capital Territory, 42% (1800 persons) in Tasmania and 37% (1300 persons) of the Northern Territory's growth. Queensland was the only state where NOM and natural increase contributed almost equally to population growth in 2009-10 at 45% (39,700 and 39,800 persons respectively).

As shown in table 2.2, Western Australia had the highest NOM growth rate (1.3%) while Tasmania (0.4%) had the lowest.

2.3 POPULATION COMPONENTS, Proportion of total growth(a)—Year ended 30 June 2010(b)



(a) Each population component as a proportion of a state's or territory's population growth for the year ended 30 June 2010.
(b) Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary - see paragraph 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

Net interstate migration

Preliminary NIM was not the major component of population growth for any of the states and territories for the year ended 30 June 2010 (figure 2.3). However, it was a source of population loss for New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory, subtracting 10,500 persons, 3,000 persons and 800 persons respectively from their total population growth. Those states and territories where NIM contributed positively to population growth were Queensland (9,600 persons), Victoria (2,600 persons), Western Australia (2,000 persons) and Tasmania (300 persons). Overall, estimates of interstate migration for Australia showed there were 331,400 interstate movements for the year ended 30 June 2010.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON

Information in this section is from the Population Division of the United Nations' *World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision*[1]. International migration statistics presented therein are averaged over five years to improve comparability between countries. Note that NOM produced by the ABS differs from that provided by the United Nations, due to differences in methodology. The ABS estimates NOM at an average of 234,000 per year for 2005–10 and, using current estimates and projections, at 174,000 per year for

1 United Nations Population Division, World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision. Accessed 17 May 2011.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON *continued*

2010–15. The United Nations estimates Australia's NOM at an average of 225,000 per year for 2005–10 and 149,000 for 2010–15.

Table 2.4 illustrates selected countries that gain or lose population through net migration. As with Canada, Hong Kong, Italy, Singapore and Sweden, Australia also experienced high net international migration rates in 2005–10 (rates above 3.5 per 1,000 population). Some countries experienced lower rates of growth (e.g. Japan and Malaysia at 0.4 and 0.6 per 1,000 population respectively), while others had negative rates (e.g. Philippines -2.8 per 1,000 population). In numeric terms in the 2005–10 period, for the selected countries, the gains from net international migration ranged from an average 13,000 persons per year for New Zealand to 991,000 persons for the United States of America. The losses ranged from 6,000 persons for South Korea to an average 600,000 persons per year for India.

2.4 NET INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION, Selected countries(a)

	2005–2010		2010–2015		*Percentage change 2005–10 to 2010–15*
	Number	*Migration Rate*(b)	*Number*	*Migration Rate*(b)	
	'000	rate	'000	rate	%
Australia(c)	**234.0**	**11.1**	**174.0**	**7.7**	**–26.0**
Canada	220.0	6.6	196.0	5.6	–10.9
China(d)	–377.0	–0.3	–350.0	–0.3	–7.2
France	100.0	1.6	102.0	1.6	2.0
Greece	31.0	2.7	31.0	2.7	—
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	35.0	5.1	57.0	7.9	62.9
India	–600.0	–0.5	–263.0	–0.2	–56.2
Indonesia	–259.0	–1.1	–201.0	–0.8	–22.4
Italy	400.0	6.7	210.0	3.4	–47.5
Japan	54.0	0.4	54.0	0.4	—
Korea, Republic of (South)	–6.0	–0.1	–6.0	–0.1	—
Malaysia	17.0	0.6	17.0	0.6	—
New Zealand	13.0	3.1	14.0	3.2	7.7
Philippines	–247.0	–2.8	–200.0	–2.1	–19.0
Singapore	144.0	30.9	35.0	6.6	–75.7
South Africa	140.0	2.9	–60.0	–1.2	–142.9
Sweden	53.0	5.8	31.0	3.3	–41.5
United Kingdom	204.0	3.3	209.0	3.3	2.5
United States of America	991.0	3.3	996.0	3.1	0.5
Vietnam	–86.0	–1.0	–42.0	–0.5	–51.2

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Medium variant.

(b) Net overseas migration per 1,000 population.

(c) Data for Australia relates to current estimated resident population counts and projections. <Source: ABS>

(d) China (excludes SARs and Taiwan).

Source: United Nations Population Division, World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision. Accessed 17 May 2011

In the 2010–15 period, the United Nations estimates that while some countries will continue to gain population from net international migration, the rate of gain will be reduced in most cases. For example, in 2010–15 Singapore is estimated to gain an average of 35,000 persons per year from net international migration, a 76% decrease on the 2005–10 gain (144,000). Conversely, in 2010–15 period, Hong Kong is estimated to

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON *continued*

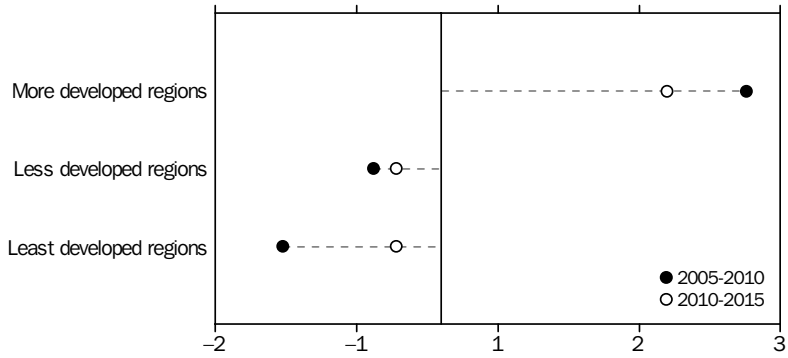
gain an average of 57,000 persons from net international migration, an increase of 63% on the 2005–2010 figure (35,000 persons).

For most of the countries that experienced negative net international migration in the selected periods, the loss in 2010–15 is estimated to be less than that experienced in 2005–2010. For China, the loss due to net international migration in 2010–15 was an average 350,000 persons per year, 7% less than the loss in the 2005–10 period (377,000 persons). On the other hand, in 2010–15 period, India and Indonesia are expected to lose an average of 263,000 and 201,000 persons per year respectively from net international migration, an increased loss of 56% and 22% on the 2005–2010 figures (600,000 and 259,000 persons).

The only country from those selected that is expected to experience a change from gains in net international migration to negative net international migration was South Africa which gained 140,000 per year in 2005–2010 and is expecting a net loss of 60,000 per year in 2010–2015, a decrease of 143%.

When examining the regions of the world (as defined by the United Nations Population Division) the estimates of international movements show the more developed regions gain population from migration whereas the less and least developed regions lose population from overseas migration (figure 2.5). The medium projection suggests that there will be a decline in the migration rate for the more developed regions. Over time the migration rate is projected to drop from 2.7 per 1,000 population in 2005–10 to 2.0 per 1,000 population in 2010–15. This indicates that over time, a smaller proportion of people will leave the less developed and least developed regions for the more developed regions. The less developed regions will reduce their net migration rate from –0.6 to –0.4 per 1,000 population while the least developed regions will reduce their net migration rate from –1.4 to –0.4 per 1,000 population.

2.5 NET GLOBAL MIGRATION RATES (a)



(a) Net overseas migration per 1,000 population. Medium variant.

Source: United Nations Population Division, World Population Prospects: The 2010 Revision. Accessed 17 May 2011.

CHAPTER 3 NET OVERSEAS MIGRATION

INTRODUCTION

Net overseas migration (NOM) is the net gain or loss of population through immigration to Australia and emigration from Australia. These flows of migration, in both directions, impact on issues such as Australia's skilled and unskilled labour supply, national income from the educational services provided to international students, housing availability, cultural diversity, social cohesion and Australia's international obligations to assist refugees. Variations in volume and the characteristics of travellers who arrive in, and depart from, Australia impact on policy decisions and future planning at all levels of government.

Australian citizens and permanent residents wishing to emigrate from, or return to, Australia, have always been free to do so at any time. Since the formal introduction of the Trans-Tasman travel agreement in 1973, New Zealand citizens have also been free to cross Australia's borders at any time. However, for those people wishing to immigrate to Australia from other parts of the world, the Australian government has long-standing formal immigration programs which are managed by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC).

In 2009–10, NOM declined for the first time since 2003–04. Preliminary NOM in 2009–10 was estimated at 215,600 persons, which is 28% (84,300 persons) less than in 2008–09, when NOM was the highest on record. The decline in 2009–10 is a contrast with three previous years of sharp growth. This brings NOM below the level recorded in 2006–07 when the new methodology in calculating NOM was first introduced (see paragraphs 26–27 of the Explanatory Notes).

3.1 NET OVERSEAS MIGRATION (NOM)(a)(b)—Australia

(a) Contains a break in series at 30 June 2006—see paragraphs 26–27 of the Explanatory Notes.
(b) Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

INTRODUCTION *continued*

Temporary migration has become increasingly important with more international students, business entrants, working holiday makers and other long-term visitors staying in Australia for periods up to four years or more. Over recent years, there has also been a continued increase of temporary entrants applying for permanent residence or other visas whilst onshore. These changing patterns in traveller behaviour over time have created challenges for the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in accurately measuring Australia's net overseas migration. In response to this challenge, the ABS made improvements to methodology and processing systems to more accurately capture these changes, and ultimately to improve the quality of NOM estimation. The Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship's ability to capture and process all traveller information combined with the ABS's improved methodology and additional processing, has placed Australia's measurement of NOM amongst the world's best practice.

Change in methods to improve NOM estimation

INTRODUCTION OF THE 12/16 MONTH RULE FOR ESTIMATING NOM

In 2007, to better measure the changes in traveller behaviour and in particular, to more accurately capture and measure temporary migration, the ABS introduced improved methods for calculating NOM. The key improvement was the introduction of the '12/16 month rule', whereby a traveller is included in the resident population if they are in Australia for a total of 12 months or more over a 16 month period, or conversely, subtracted from the population if they are away for a total of 12 months or more over a 16 month period. This has replaced the previous method (12/12 month rule) where a traveller had to be in, or away from, Australia for 12 continuous months.

The current methodology (12/16 month rule) has been calculated from December quarter 2003 to test systems and for quality assurance purposes. This was undertaken before the official release of these new NOM data from the 1 July 2006 when it was used in producing Australia's official estimated resident population (ERP) figures. Prior to this date, the previous methodology (12/12 month rule) had been used to produce the official ERP figures. The change in method has therefore resulted in a break in the official NOM time series at 30 June 2006. For further information on the '12/16 month rule' and the '12/12 month rule' refer to the Glossary and paragraphs 28 to 45 of the Explanatory Notes.

Analysis undertaken by the ABS comparing the previous method (12/12 month rule) to the current method (12/16 month rule) over a three year period (December quarter 2003 to September quarter 2006), shows the current method estimate to be on average 25% higher than the previous estimate. Additional information on the current methodology (12/16 month rule) and the reasons for the change in method can be found under the Explanatory Notes tab, available with the electronic release of the Migration, Australia 2008–09 publication in the Technical Note — '*12/16 month rule*' *Methodology for Calculating Net Overseas Migration from September quarter 2006 and onwards*.

ENHANCEMENTS TO PRELIMINARY NOM ESTIMATION

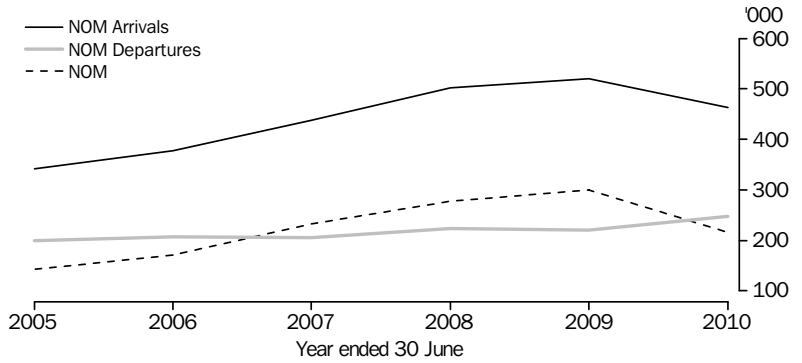
In 2009, the methodology used for preliminary NOM was improved. For further information see *Information Paper: Improving Net Overseas Migration Estimation, Mar 2010* (cat. no. 3412.0.55.001).

NOM ARRIVALS AND NOM DEPARTURES

Based on the current methodology (12/16 month rule — see Glossary), NOM is calculated by counting incoming international travellers who stay in Australia for 12 months or more and have been added to the population (NOM arrivals) and counting those outgoing international travellers (Australian residents and long-term visitors to Australia) who stay away from Australia for 12 months or more and have been subtracted from the population (NOM departures). At the national level, NOM is traditionally positive, with more NOM arrivals than NOM departures, thereby providing a net increase and adding people to Australia's population each year.

Using data based on the current methodology, over the six years 2004–05 to 2009–10 (i.e. all NOM data currently available using the 12/16 month rule), NOM has increased by 51% (from a net of 142,500 to a net of 215,600 persons) with NOM arrivals increasing by 36% (from 341,400 to 463,000 persons) and NOM departures increasing by 24% (198,900 to 247,500 persons) as seen in figure 3.2. In 2009–10, NOM arrivals dropped by 11% (56,700 persons) compared to the previous year. However, NOM departures continued to increase with a growth of 13% (27,500 persons) from the previous financial year. The result is a decline in NOM in 2009–10 when compared to the previous year.

3.2 COMPONENTS OF NOM(a)(b)—Australia



(a) These estimates use the '12/16 month rule' methodology for calculating NOM—see paragraphs 28–45 of the Explanatory Notes.
(b) Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

NOM AND POPULATION GROWTH

Each change to the inward and outward flow of NOM contributes to changes in the growth, size and structure of Australia's population. The official measure of Australia's population is based on the concept of usual residence. As such it includes all people, regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status, who usually live in Australia (for 12 months or more), with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families.

Australia's population increases each year as a result of both natural increase (births minus deaths) and NOM (NOM arrivals minus NOM departures). In 2009–10, preliminary NOM estimates added a net of 215,600 persons to Australia's population. This represents 57% of Australia's total population growth for the year (377,100 persons). The remaining 43% was due to natural increase (the number of births minus the number of deaths) with 161,500 persons.

NOM AND POPULATION GROWTH *continued*

Table 3.3 shows the components of population change over the previous 20 years and the impact NOM has had each year on Australia's population growth. During the majority of this time period, the contribution of NOM to population growth was less than half, whereas in the last four years it has been the major contributor, adding 62%, 65%, 66% and 57% respectively to Australia's total population growth for each year. This increase is partly due to improvements in methodology which better measures the actual true travel behaviour of migrants but also reflects the recent increases of temporary migrants arriving in Australia (see figure 3.13).

3.3 NOM AND COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE—Australia

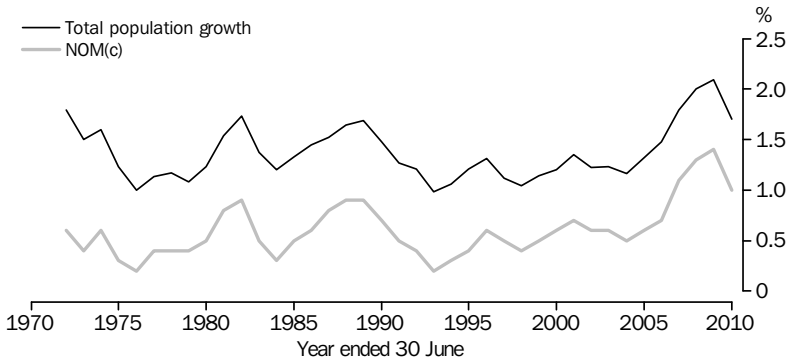
	COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE				POPULATION			
	Net overseas migration(a)	*Births*	*Deaths*	*Natural increase*	*At end of period*	*Growth*(b)	*Growth*(b)	*NOM proportion of total growth*
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%
1990–91	**86.4**	261.2	119.6	141.6	17 284.0	218.9	1.28	39.5
1991–92	**68.6**	259.2	120.8	138.4	17 494.7	210.6	1.22	32.6
1992–93	**30.0**	260.0	121.3	138.6	17 667.1	172.4	0.99	17.4
1993–94	**46.5**	258.3	123.5	134.8	17 854.7	187.6	1.06	24.8
1994–95	**80.1**	258.2	126.2	132.0	18 071.8	217.0	1.22	36.9
1995–96	**104.1**	250.4	126.4	124.0	18 310.7	239.0	1.32	43.6
1996–97	**87.1**	253.7	127.3	126.4	18 517.6	206.9	1.13	42.1
1997–98	**79.2**	249.1	129.3	119.9	18 711.3	193.7	1.05	40.9
1998–99	**96.5**	250.0	128.3	121.7	18 925.9	214.6	1.15	45.0
1999–2000	**107.3**	249.3	128.4	120.9	19 153.4	227.5	1.20	47.1
2000–01	**135.7**	247.5	128.9	118.6	19 413.2	259.9	1.36	52.2
2001–02	**110.6**	247.3	130.3	117.0	19 651.4	238.2	1.23	46.4
2002–03	**116.5**	246.7	132.2	114.4	19 895.4	244.0	1.24	47.7
2003–04	**100.0**	249.1	133.2	115.9	20 127.4	231.9	1.17	43.1
2004–05	**123.8**	255.9	131.4	124.6	20 394.8	267.4	1.33	46.3
2005–06	**146.8**	263.5	134.0	129.5	20 697.9	303.1	1.49	48.4
2006–07	**232.8**	277.7	136.0	141.7	21 072.5	374.6	1.81	62.2
2007–08	**277.3**	289.5	140.7	148.8	21 498.5	426.1	2.02	65.1
2008–09	**299.9**	297.1	143.7	153.3	21 951.7	453.2	2.11	66.2
2009–10(c)	**215.6**	302.2	140.6	161.5	22 328.8	377.1	1.72	57.2

(a) Contains a break in series at 30 June 2006—see paragraphs 26–27 of the Explanatory Notes.
(b) Prior to 2006–07, differences between growth and sum of components are due to intercensal discrepancy.
(c) Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

Australia's total population growth rate for 2009–10 was 1.7% with NOM contributing 1.0% to this growth (see figure 3.4). The peaks and troughs in Australia's annual population growth are clearly driven by NOM. Over time, however, the long-term trend shows that NOM has had an increasing contribution to Australia's population growth.

NOM AND POPULATION GROWTH *continued*

3.4 POPULATION GROWTH RATE AND NOM CONTRIBUTION(a)(b)—Australia



(a) Contains a break in series at 30 June 2006—see paragraphs 26–27 of the Explanatory Notes.
(b) Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.
(c) The contribution that NOM makes to total population growth.

NOM BY AGE AND SEX

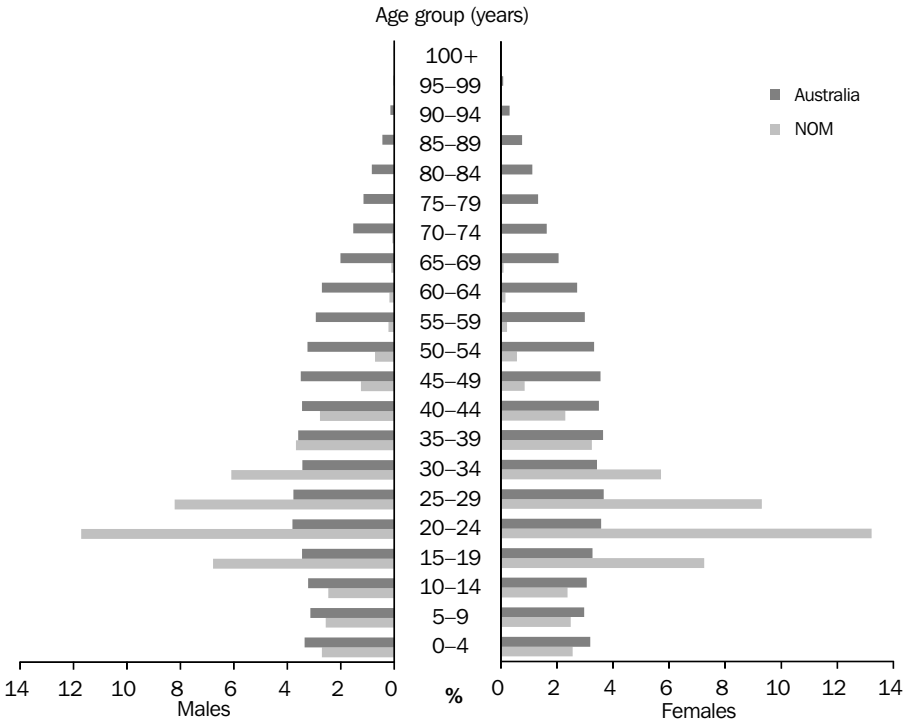
The net of overseas migration by age and sex is the difference between each arrival added to the population by age and sex (NOM arrivals) and each departure subtracted from the population by age and sex (NOM departures). For those travellers contributing to NOM in 2009–10, the sex ratio (the number of males per 100 females) was 102. For those contributing to NOM arrivals it was 100, whereas for those contributing to NOM departures it was 106 males per 100 females.

The main effect of NOM on the age structure of Australia's population is that it results in a larger proportion of persons of early working age (15–34 years) as shown in figure 3.5. Each year, however, NOM has little effect on the overall age structure of Australia's total population when compared to the far stronger impact that an increase in the birth rate can provide, in particular to that of an ageing population. In addition, the impact temporary migration has on the NOM population age structure is substantial for persons aged 15–34 years (see figure 3.17). However, once temporary migrants are removed from the age structure, those migrants left in Australia have very little impact on Australia's age structure.

In 2009–10, persons aged 15–34 years comprised 68% of the net contribution to NOM compared to 28% of Australia's total population. Persons aged 0–14 years comprised 15% of the net contribution to NOM and 19% of Australia's population, and persons aged 65 years and over comprised just 0.4% of the net contribution to NOM but 13% of Australia's population (see figure 3.5).

Just four years earlier in 2005–06, prior to the large increase in temporary arrivals (with data also based on the 12/16 month rule — see Glossary), persons aged 15–34 years comprised 58% of the net contribution to NOM, 10 percentage points lower than in 2009–10. The majority of this recent growth is mainly from international students aged in their early 20s.

3.5 AUSTRALIAN AND NOM POPULATION STRUCTURES, Age and sex—2009–10(a)



(a) Estimates for 2009 –10 are preliminary —see paragraphs 9 –10 of the Explanatory Notes.

NOM AND THE STATES AND TERRITORIES

In 2009–10, NOM contributed the greatest number of people to the most populous states: New South Wales with a net of 66,000 persons, followed by Victoria (60,400) and Queensland (39,700). The Northern Territory had the lowest with a net of 1,300 persons.

MEDIAN AGE

For those contributing to NOM in 2009–10, the median ages varied between arrivals, departures and between each of the states and territories. Overall, travellers arriving in Australia were younger than those departing as was the case for each of the states and territories. The highest median ages for NOM arrivals were recorded from travellers migrating to the Northern Territory (29.0 years), New South Wales (26.9 years) and Western Australia (26.8 years). The lowest median age was recorded for NOM arrivals to Victoria (26.0 years). The median age for all NOM arrivals was 26.5 years.

In comparison, the highest median ages for NOM departures were for travellers from the Northern Territory (30.4 years), followed by the Australian Capital Territory (29.3 years) and New South Wales (28.8 years). The lowest median ages for NOM departures were from Victoria (27.5 years). This compares to an overall median age for NOM departures of 28.3 years, 1.8 years higher than arrivals.

SEX RATIO

The sex ratio of travellers who contributed to NOM in 2009–10 also varied between arrivals, departures and between the states and territories. Overall, more males travel across Australia's border than females. The highest sex ratios recorded for NOM arrivals were from travellers migrating to the Northern Territory (113 males per 100 females) and

NOM AND THE STATES AND TERRITORIES *continued*

SEX RATIO *continued*

the Australian Capital Territory and Western Australia (105 each). The lowest sex ratios were recorded for NOM arrivals to Queensland (97 males per 100 females), and Victoria and New South Wales (99 each). Males and females had an equal ratio (100 males per 100 females) for all NOM arrivals to Australia in 2009–10.

Conversely, the highest sex ratios recorded for NOM departures were from the Northern Territory (146 males per 100 females) and Western Australia (114). In contrast, the lowest sex ratios for NOM departures were recorded in Tasmania (102) and South Australia (103). The sex ratio for all NOM departures from Australia in 2009–10 was 106 males per 100 females.

3.6 NOM, Selected characteristics—State & territory—2009–10(a)

	NOM		NOM ARRIVALS			NOM DEPARTURES		
State or territory	no.	%	*Overseas arrivals* no.	*Median age* years	*Sex ratio*(b) ratio	*Overseas Departures* no.	*Median age* years	*Sex ratio*(b) ratio
NSW	66 034	30.6	154 680	26.9	98.9	88 646	28.8	104.0
Vic.	60 420	28.0	116 722	26.0	99.4	56 302	27.5	105.1
Qld	39 696	18.4	89 337	26.2	97.0	49 641	28.0	105.7
SA	15 371	7.1	26 139	26.3	101.1	10 768	27.7	102.9
WA	28 243	13.1	58 655	26.8	104.5	30 412	28.6	114.3
Tas.	1 831	0.8	4 131	26.7	99.1	2 300	28.7	101.8
NT	1 292	0.6	5 274	29.0	113.0	3 982	30.4	146.4
ACT	2 693	1.2	8 104	26.5	104.7	5 411	29.3	104.7
Australia(c)	**215 576**	**100.0**	**463 044**	**26.5**	**99.7**	**247 468**	**28.3**	**106.3**

(a) Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.
(b) Males per 100 females.
(c) Includes other territories.

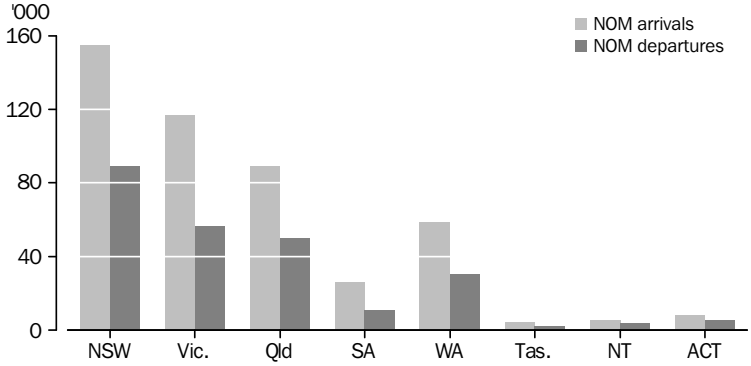
OVERSEAS FLOWS

Much of the migration of travellers across Australia's border occurred within the more populated states as seen in figure 3.7. New South Wales had the largest number of NOM arrivals (154,700 persons) and the largest number of NOM departures (88,600 persons). Conversely, Tasmania had the smallest flows with both the smallest number of arrivals (4,100 persons) and the smallest number of departures (2,300 persons).

NOM AND THE STATES AND TERRITORIES *continued*

OVERSEAS FLOWS *continued*

3.7 OVERSEAS MIGRATION FLOWS, State and territory—2009–10(a)

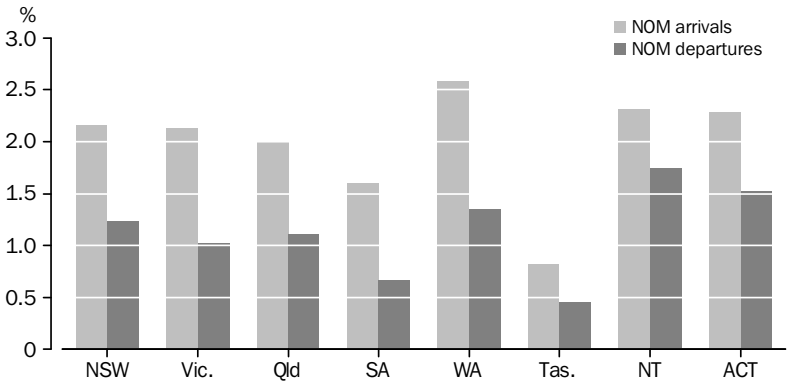


(a) Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

The combined flows of overseas migration (arrivals and departures) show there were 710,500 people crossing Australia's border who impacted on NOM in 2009–10. Of these, there were 463,000 arrivals contributing to NOM (NOM arrivals) and 247,500 departures contributing to NOM (NOM departures).

However, the effect of these flows varies for each state and territory. In order to assess this effect, it is useful to consider the size of each flow as a proportion of a state or territory's population (figure 3.8).

3.8 OVERSEAS MIGRATION FLOWS, Proportion of population(a)—2009–10(b)



(a) Each flow as a proportion of a state's or territory's total population at 31 December 2009.
(b) Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

Western Australia experienced the greatest effect proportionally from NOM arrivals in 2009–10, with a 2.6% increase to its population, while the Northern Territory showed a 1.7% loss from NOM departures, the largest loss of all the states and territories. In contrast, the effect NOM arrivals and NOM departures had on Tasmania's population was small at 0.8% and 0.5% respectively.

NOM AND THE STATES AND TERRITORIES *continued*

POPULATION TURNOVER

In 2009–10, the population turnover due to overseas migration (gross overseas flows in relation to size of the population) was the highest in the Northern Territory at 4.1% (i.e. NOM arrivals and NOM departures combined). This was followed by Western Australia (3.9%), and the Australian Capital Territory (3.8%). Of the remaining states and territories, New South Wales's population turnover from overseas migration was 3.4%, Queensland's and Victoria's population turnover was 3.1% each and South Australia 2.3%. Tasmania had the lowest population turnover due to NOM in 2009–10 at 1.3%.

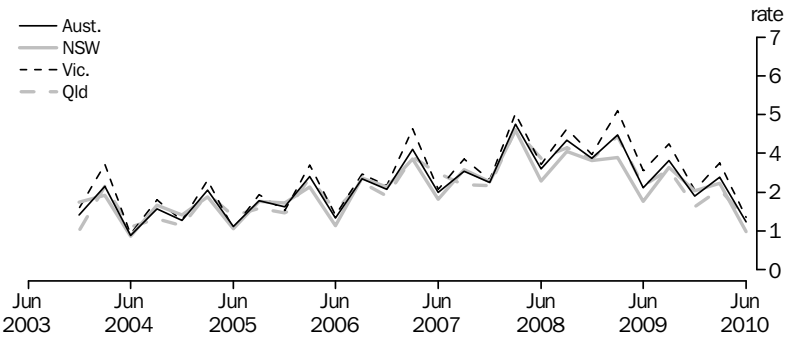
NOM RATES (QUARTERLY)

Net overseas migration has a notable impact on the population of Australia's states and territories. The net overseas migration rate (NOM per 1,000 population) shows how the impact varies between the states and territories and over time.

Using data based on the improved methodology for NOM with the time series starting from December quarter 2003 (i.e. all quarterly NOM data currently available using the 12/16 month rule), the quarterly NOM rates for each state and territory are presented in figures 3.9 to 3.11.

The three graphs (figures 3.9 to 3.11), clearly show the seasonality of overseas migration with the March quarter providing the highest rates each year for the majority of the states and territories.

3.9 QUARTERLY NOM RATES(a)(b), NSW, Vic., Qld and Aust.



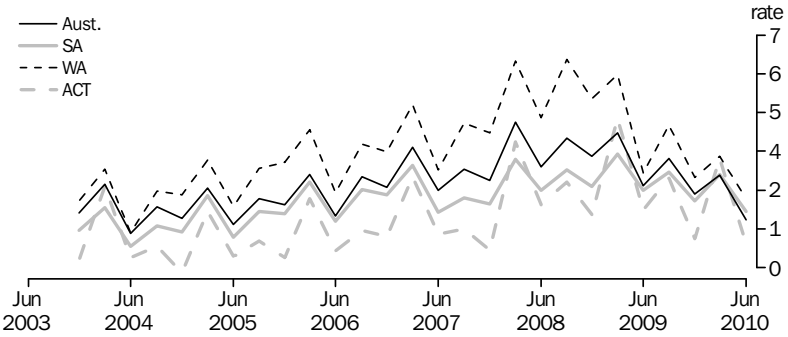
(a) NOM per 1,000 estimated resident population.
(b) These rates are based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology for calculating NOM—see paragraphs 26–27 of the Explanatory Notes. Estimates for September 2009 and onwards are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

Figure 3.10 shows that the quarterly NOM rates for Western Australia displayed strong seasonality for the period between December quarter 2003 to June quarter 2010. During this time period almost all states and territories recorded their highest NOM rate in March 2008 or March 2009. The exceptions were Western Australia which recorded its peak at 6.3 per 1,000 population in the September quarter 2008 (figure 3.10) and the Northern Territory which recorded its peak at 3.7 per 1,000 population in June 2009. The peak national NOM rate was recorded in March quarter 2008 at 4.4 per 1,000 population. Compared to March quarter 2009, NOM rates in March quarter 2010 for all states and territories and Australia were lower. The largest decline was recorded in Western Australia with a difference of –2.5 per 1,000 population.

NOM AND THE STATES AND TERRITORIES *continued*

NOM RATES (QUARTERLY) *continued*

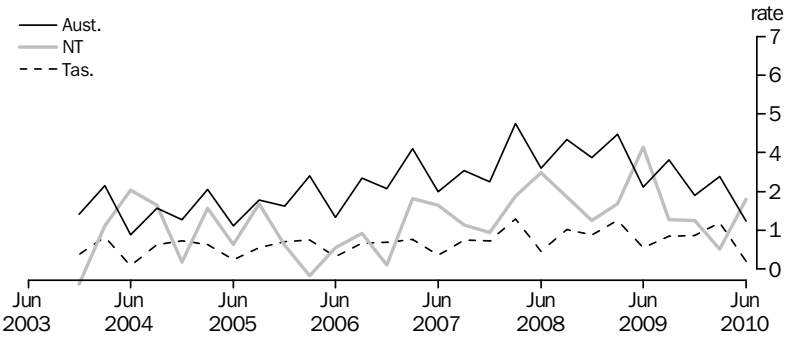
3.10 QUARTERLY NOM RATES(a)(b), SA, WA, ACT and Aust.



(a) NOM per 1,000 estimated resident population.
(b) These rates are based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology for calculating NOM—see paragraphs 26–27 of the Explanatory Notes. Estimates for September 2009 and onwards are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

For Western Australia, the NOM rates over time were higher than the total Australian rate, whereas rates in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland were fairly consistent with that of Australia (figure 3.9). The remaining states and territories were below the national rate, with Tasmania and the Northern Territory (figure 3.11) not displaying as strong seasonality as that shown by the other states and territories.

3.11 QUARTERLY NOM RATES(a)(b), NT, Tas. and Aust.



(a) NOM per 1,000 estimated resident population.
(b) There rates are based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology for calculating NOM—see paragraphs 26–27 of the Explanatory Notes. Estimates for September 2009 and onwards are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

TRAVELLER CHARACTERISTICS FROM FINAL NOM

An individual's actual true travel behaviour and associated characteristics are only available from final NOM data, as these can only be accurately recorded at the end of the 16 month reference period following a traveller's initial border crossing. However, a traveller may make a number of border crossings (movements) during the initial reference quarter (i.e. the quarter at the beginning of the 16 month period used to calculate NOM) and may have different characteristics linked to each crossing.

TRAVELLER CHARACTERISTICS FROM FINAL NOM *continued*

Characteristics of travellers are collected for each movement across Australia's border from a combination of passport, visa and passenger card information. Some of these characteristics are prone to variation with each movement due to the fact that the information on passenger cards are self reported.

Although traveller characteristics are recorded in the *Overseas Arrivals and Departures* (OAD) collection for each and every movement, the characteristics assigned to an individual traveller in the NOM system are based on the rules applied by the current methodology (12/16 month rule) for calculating NOM. To calculate NOM, this method uses the most appropriate 'initial category of travel' (see Glossary) and therefore must be assigned to one and only one movement for the reference quarter. It is from this one specific movement during a quarter that all characteristics for an individual traveller are compiled and recorded in the NOM data collection.

THE TRAVELLERS' CHARACTERISTICS DATABASE

With the introduction of '12/16 month rule' methodology for estimating NOM, the ABS also developed an analytical data set called the Travellers' Characteristics Database. These improvements allow the derivation of an individual's actual true travel behaviour (using final NOM data) and record certain characteristics for any traveller who has contributed to NOM whether they are a NOM arrival or a NOM departure. The database provides for additional analysis on final NOM data that was not previously available. The following analysis on visas, temporary migration and main reason for journey has used data extracted from the Travellers' Characteristics Database. All data from the Travellers' Characteristics Database is based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology. For additional information and the list of variables available, see paragraph 65 of the Explanatory Notes.

Factors that should be taken into account when analysing data from the Travellers' Characteristics Database include the impact of global and regional events, legislative changes in Australia and abroad, and economic activity, all of which can change traveller behaviour.

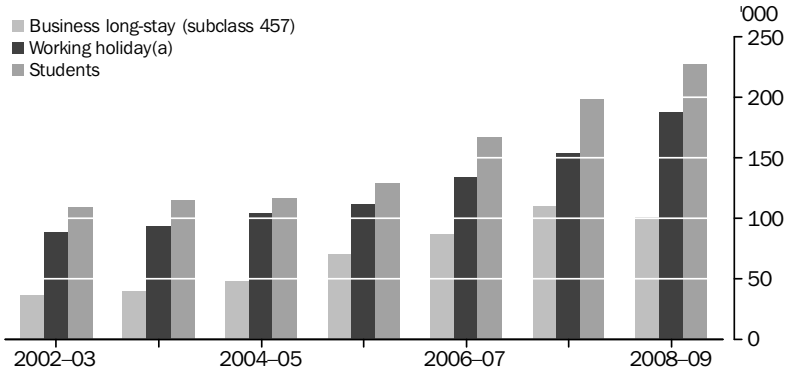
NOM by Major groupings and Visa

The Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) manages and grants visas each year in accordance with relevant legislation, government planning and policy. In recent years, the number of temporary visas being granted by DIAC has increased substantially. For example, from 2002–03 to 2008–09 the number of student visas being granted increased by 108%. The number of working holiday visas granted increased by 111% over the same period. However, the number of business long-stay (subclass 457) visas granted increased 175% from 2002–03 to 2008–09 (figure 3.12)[2].

2 DIAC 2010, Population Flows: Immigration aspects 2008–09 edition, Ch 3.

NOM by Major groupings and Visa continued

3.12 TEMPORARY VISAS GRANTED IN RECENT YEARS



(a) These working holiday visas are the initial and subsequent visas granted onshore and offshore.

Source: DIAC, 2010. Population flows: Immigration aspects 2008–09 edition, Ch 3.

It is important to note that there is a difference between when and how many visas are granted by DIAC; and when and how they may impact on NOM and therefore Australia's estimated resident population (ERP). For example, for many visas there can be a lag between a visa being granted and the actual use of that visa by the applicant on entering Australia. Also, some travellers who have been granted permanent or long-term temporary visas may end up staying in Australia for a short period of stay or not at all and therefore will not have contributed to NOM as they do not meet the '12/16 month rule' (see Glossary). In addition, travellers may also apply for, and be granted, a different visa whilst in Australia or overseas. However, without an additional border crossing within the reference quarter to capture a traveller's change of visa, the NOM system is unable to incorporate these occurrences. For example, a traveller who has already arrived in Australia on one type of visa (and recorded in the NOM system) may subsequently apply for, and be granted, a different visa by DIAC whilst onshore, which is not recorded in the NOM system until they leave Australia's shores for 12 months or more over a 16 month reference period (i.e. become a NOM departure).

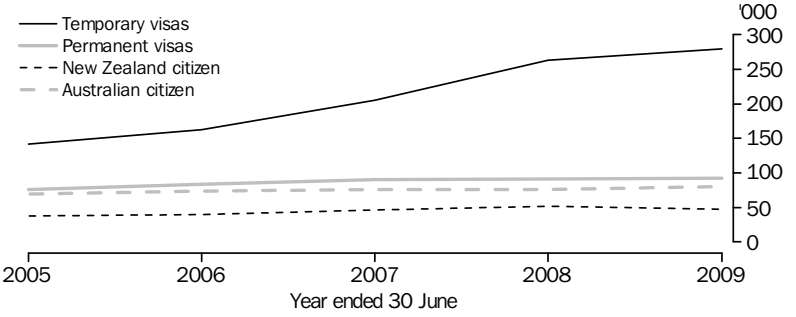
Figures 3.13 to 3.15 show NOM arrivals, NOM departures and NOM by major visa and non-visa groupings based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology. The four major groupings (temporary visa holders; permanent visa holders; New Zealand citizens; and Australian citizens) are all major overseas flows into, and out of, Australia and impact strongly on Australia's NOM estimates and therefore the official population estimates. Australian citizens do not require a visa to enter or exit Australia. Likewise, New Zealand citizens are not required to apply for a visa before arrival in Australia but are issued with a specific New Zealand citizen visa at the Australian border. Other visas that have a smaller impact on NOM estimates not identified in the following graphs include residents returning (i.e. non Australian citizens who are permanent residents), onshore visas and visa unknown.

The impact of the major groups on NOM estimates can be better explained by first comparing NOM arrivals to NOM departures (figures 3.13–3.14). For the five years from 2004–05 to 2008–09 (i.e. all final NOM data currently available from the Travellers' Characteristics Database), temporary visa holders arriving in Australia increased 97% from 141,500 to 279,200 persons respectively. In comparison, temporary visa holders

NOM by Major groupings and Visa continued

departing only increased by 51% or 59,500 to 90,000 persons respectively. This resulted in an increase of the net number of temporary visa holders contributing to NOM of 130%, from a net of 82,000 persons in 2004–05 to a net of 189,200 persons in 2008–09.

3.13 NOM ARRIVALS(a), Major groupings(b)—Australia

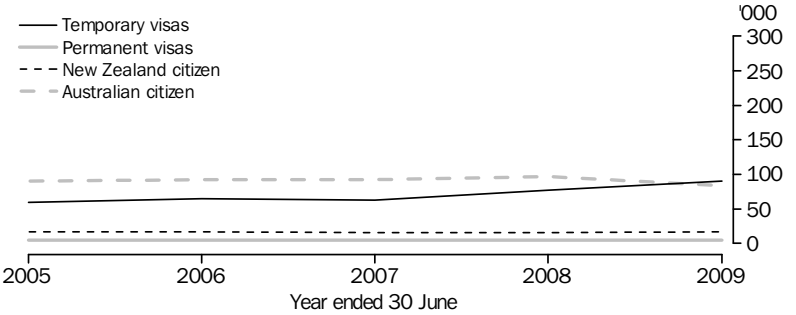


(a) These estimates use the '12/16 month rule' methodology for calculating NOM—see paragraphs 26–27 of the Explanatory Notes.
(b) Does not include onshore and other visa types. The visa category information in this table represents the visa at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.

For the same years (2004–05 to 2008–09), arrivals for those holding a permanent visa increased 22% from 75,600 to 92,400 persons. Interestingly, there was a small proportion (6%) of permanent visa holders in 2008–09 who became NOM departures as they had left Australia. In 2004–05, 4,400 persons with a permanent visa had left Australia which had increased to 5,300 persons in 2008–09. In total, this resulted in an increase of the net number of permanent visa holders contributing to NOM of 22%, from a net of 71,100 persons in 2004–05 to a net of 87,100 persons in 2008–09.

Over the same five year period, New Zealand citizen arrivals contributing to NOM increased 25% from 38,000 persons in 2004–05 to 47,600 in 2008–09, whereas New Zealand citizen departures remained stable, with only a slight decline from 17,400 to 17,300 persons respectively. This resulted in an increase of the net number of New Zealanders contributing to NOM of 46%, from a net of 20,600 persons in 2004–05 to a net of 30,200 persons in 2008–09.

3.14 NOM DEPARTURES(a), Major groupings(b)—Australia



(a) These estimates use the '12/16 month rule' methodology for calculating NOM—see paragraphs 26–27 of the Explanatory Notes.
(b) Does not include onshore and other visa types. The visa category information in this table represents the visa at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.

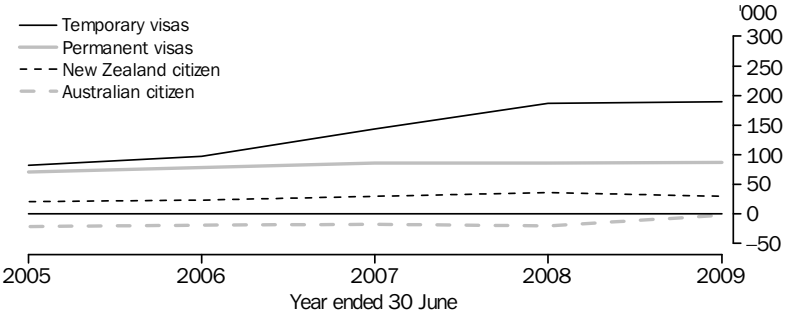
NOM by Major groupings and Visa continued

Australian citizen arrivals contributing to NOM increased by 16% from 69,300 persons to 80,600 persons respectively, whereas Australian citizen departures decreased by 8% from 90,800 departures in 2004–05 to 83,100 Australian citizens leaving in 2008–09. This resulted in Australian citizens contributing negatively to NOM, from a net of –21,400 persons in 2004–05 to a net of –2,500 persons in 2008–09. Generally, Australian citizens have a net negative contribution to NOM figures as more Australians depart from the country each year than return.

Up until 2008–09, Australian citizen arrivals and departures contributing to NOM had changed little. From 2007–08 to 2008–09, Australian citizens who returned to Australia and contributed to NOM arrivals increased by 4,600 persons (6%). Also in the same period, the number of Australian citizens who left the country, thus contributing to NOM departures dropped by 13,100 persons (14%). The combined effect of an increase in arrivals and decrease in departures for Australian citizens during 2008–09 showed the net loss to the population drop from –20,300 persons in 2007–08 to –2,500 persons in 2008–09.

Over the five years from 2004–05 to 2008–09, the majority of growth in NOM has been the result of temporary visa holders increasing by 130%. During this same period, the net number of permanent visa holders contributing to NOM increased by 22% whereas the net number of New Zealand citizens increased by 46%. On the other hand, the net number of Australian citizens who contribute negatively to NOM showed a decrease of 88% with most of the decrease occurring in 2008–09.

3.15 NOM(a), Major groupings(b)—Australia



(a) These estimates use the '12/16 month rule' methodology for calculating NOM—see paragraphs 26–27 of the Explanatory Notes.
(b) Does not include onshore and other visa types. The visa category information in this table represents the visa at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.

Proportionately in 2008–09, temporary visa holders contributed by far the most to NOM with 63% of the total NOM figure for the year. At a distant second were permanent arrivals at 29%. New Zealand citizens contributed 10% to NOM whereas Australian citizens, with a negative input to NOM figures, contributed close to –1% to NOM in 2008–09.

NOM by Major groupings and Visa—2008–09

Table 3.16 shows a further breakdown of the types of visas groups which have contributed to NOM in 2008–09. It provides an insight into the main groups which contributed to the recent changes experienced in Australia's NOM figures.

NOM by Major groupings and Visa—2008–09 continued

3.16 NOM, by major groupings and visa(a)—Australia—2008–09

	NOM arrival		NOM departure		NOM	
Major groupings and visa	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Temporary visas	***279 166***	***53.7***	***89 950***	***40.9***	***189 216***	***63.1***
Vocational education and training sector	53 568	10.3	5 555	2.5	48 013	16.0
Higher education sector	72 081	13.9	18 120	8.2	53 961	18.0
Student other	27 937	5.4	7 548	3.4	20 389	6.8
Business long-stay (subclass 457)	44 018	8.5	13 559	6.2	30 459	10.2
Visitor(b)	42 399	8.2	20 844	9.5	21 555	7.2
Working holiday	34 296	6.6	10 477	4.8	23 819	7.9
Other temporary visas	4 867	0.9	13 847	6.3	–8 980	–3.0
Permanent visas	***92 390***	***17.8***	***5 284***	***2.4***	***87 106***	***29.0***
Family	34 139	6.6	2 207	1.0	31 932	10.6
Skill	46 654	9.0	3 036	1.4	43 618	14.5
Special eligibility and humanitarian	11 597	2.2	41	—	11 556	3.9
New Zealand citizen	***47 554***	***9.1***	***17 338***	***7.9***	***30 216***	***10.1***
Australian citizen	***80 596***	***15.5***	***83 132***	***37.8***	***–2 536***	***–0.8***
Other(c)	***20 079***	***3.9***	***24 217***	***11.0***	***–4 138***	***–1.4***
Total	**519 785**	**100.0**	**219 921**	**100.0**	**299 864**	**100.0**

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) The visa category information in this table represents the number of visas based on the visa type at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM. Therefore, the number of visas in this table should not be confused with information on the number of visas granted by DIAC.

(b) Visitor visas include tourists, business visitors, medical treatment and other.

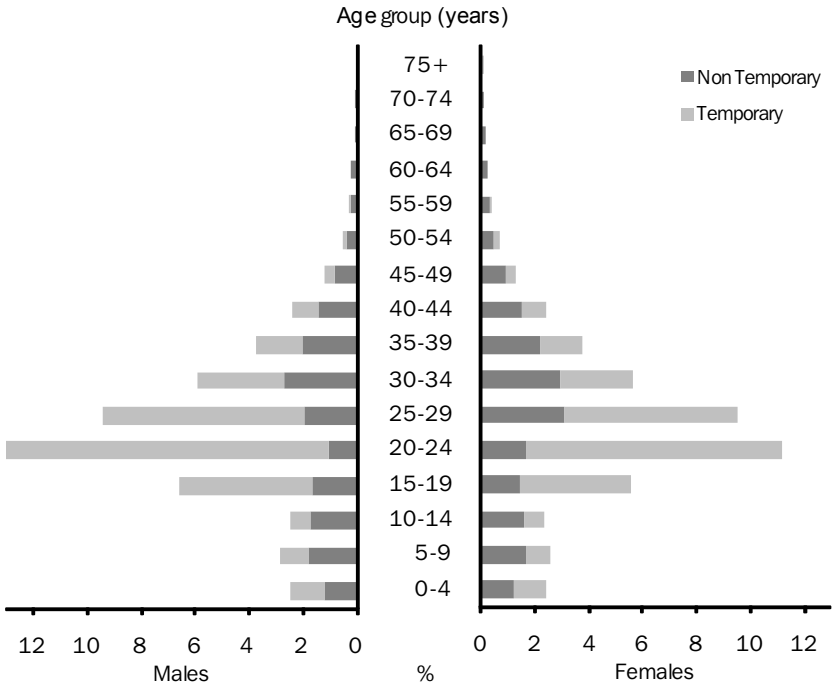
(c) Includes residents returning (i.e. non Australian citizens who are permanent residents), onshore visas and visa unknown.

TEMPORARY VISAS—2008–09

In 2008–09, the number of temporary visa holders arriving in Australia was 279,200 persons, representing 54% of all NOM arrivals. The number of temporary visa holders departing was 90,000 persons, representing 41% of all NOM departures for the year. This resulted in a net of 189,200 temporary visa holders contributing to NOM, or 63% of NOM in 2008–09. Four years earlier in 2004–05 (also based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology), temporary visa holders accounted for 58% of the total NOM figure for that year.

When examining the population structure of NOM by age and sex in 2008–09 (figure 3.17), temporary visa holders in the early working age group (15–34 years) contributed by far the most to NOM. With temporary visa holders contributing 63% of the total NOM figure for the year, those temporary visa holders aged 15–34 years contributed 51% of the total NOM figure. The remaining 15–34 year olds (non temporary visa holders) only contributed 17%. Temporary visa holders aged 35 years and over comprised 6% of NOM whereas non temporary visa holders for the same age group comprised 11%. Similarly for those aged 0–14 years, temporary visa holders and non temporary visa holders comprised 6% and 9% respectively of the total NOM figure for 2008–09.

3.17 NOM POPULATION STRUCTURES BY TEMPORARY AND NON TEMPORARY VISAS(a), Age and Sex—2008–09



(a) The visa category information in this table represents the number of visas based on the visa type at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.

NOM by Major groupings and Visa—2008–09 continued

International Student visas—2008–09

In 2008–09, international students made up the largest group of temporary visa holders arriving, with 153,600 student arrivals representing 30% of all NOM arrivals. The number of international students departing was 31,200 persons representing 14% of all NOM departures. This resulted in a net of 122,400 students contributing to NOM, or 41% of NOM in 2008–09. Within this group of students, those travelling on higher education visas were the largest group, contributing to NOM for the year with a net 54,000 students representing 18% of the total NOM figure. The vocational education and training sector represented 16% (a net 48,000 students) whereas all other student visas accounted for 7% (a net 20,400 students) of the total NOM figure for 2008–09. The number of student visas granted by DIAC has increased strongly over recent years from 171,600 in 2003–04[3] to 278,200 in 2007–08[4].

The large difference between NOM arrivals and NOM departures for international students as seen in 2008–09 (table 3.16), is, in part, the result of the time lag effect of a student's course duration. For example, a student arriving today will not necessarily become a NOM departure until the end of their course in two, three or four years' time.

3 DIAC 2005, Population Flows: Immigration aspects 2003–04 edition, Ch 5 p 62.
4 DIAC 2009, Population Flows: Immigration aspects 2007–08 edition, Ch 3 p 55.

NOM by Major groupings and Visa—2008–09 continued

International Student visas—2008–09 continued

However, the difference can also be due to a change of a student's circumstances at the end of their study time. For example, after completing their studies a student may apply for an onshore permanent residence visa or another visa such as a bridging or a temporary business long-stay (subclass 457) visa. Therefore, some students may change their visa and residency status whilst onshore. In these instances, the original student visa recorded as a NOM arrival has now changed to a new visa or residency status and therefore will not be recorded as the corresponding student visa with a NOM departure for this particular traveller. A NOM departure will not be recorded until they have left Australia and have remained away for 12 months or more in the 16 month reference period. It is only at this stage that the NOM system will record the change of visa by a traveller either to an onshore or other type of visa.

Care should therefore be taken with student visas when analysing the net figure (i.e. NOM) on its own, as should all other temporary visas such as business long-stay (subclass 457), working holiday makers and other long-term visitors. Over the last 10 years, onshore permanent visas granted by DIAC have increased fourfold from close to 15,000 persons in 1998–99 to nearly 63,400 in 2008–09[5].

Business long-stay (subclass 457) visas—2008–09

In 2008–09, the number of temporary business long-stay (subclass 457) visa holders arriving in Australia ready for work was 44,000 persons representing 8% of all NOM arrivals. The number of business long-stay (subclass 457) visa holders departing was 13,600 persons representing 6% of all NOM departures for the year. This resulted in a net of 30,500 business 457 visa holders contributing to NOM, or 10% of NOM in 2008–09.

Whilst a business 457 visa holder can stay in Australia for up to four years, they too, like students, can apply for other visas during their stay. In 2007–08, just under 25,000 people who last held a business 457 visa were granted a permanent residence visa. The majority of these (88%) were granted a permanent residence visa under the Employer Nomination Scheme, the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme, a Labour Agreement or under the Skilled Independent visa program[6]. The strong representation of 457 visas in NOM figures is likely to be the result of Australia's buoyant economy over recent years with low unemployment and recognition of skill shortages for specific occupations. Temporary business long-stay (subclass 457) visas granted by DIAC increased strongly from 2006–07 to 2007–08 with 87,300 grants and 110,600 grants respectively.

Visitor visas—2008–09

In 2007–08, over 3.6 million visitor visas were granted by DIAC. The vast majority of these were short-term, for stays of less than 12 months. However, the number of long-term visitors (i.e. staying 12 months or more) arriving in Australia in 2008–09 was 42,400 persons, representing 8% of all NOM arrivals. The number of long-term visitors departing was 20,800 persons, representing 9% of all NOM departures for the year. This resulted in a net of 21,600 long-term visitors contributing to NOM, or 7% of NOM in 2008–09. Of this net 21,600 visitors, 74% were tourist, 16% were business visitors, 3% were sponsored family visitors, and the remaining 7% were other visitors.

5 DIAC 2010, Population Flows: Immigration aspects 2008–09 edition, Ch 2 p 45.
6 DIAC 2009, Population Flows: Immigration aspects 2007–08 edition, Ch 3 p 59.

NOM by Major groupings and Visa—2008–09 continued

Working holiday visas—2008–09

Australia's strong economic standing during recent international financial events and low unemployment rates over the last few years have increased the appeal for international travellers to visit and work temporarily in Australia. Working holiday makers are permitted to stay for a period of up to 12 months from the date of initial entry to Australia. However, the fact that many working holiday makers stay more than 12 months and therefore contribute to NOM estimates can be, in part, the result of those working holiday visa holders who have undertaken seasonal work in regional Australia being eligible to apply for a second working holiday visa. For example, there were 11,800 second working holiday visas granted by DIAC in 2007–08[7]. It can also be that those who have arrived on a working holiday visa may have applied for, and been granted, a different visa whilst onshore.

In 2008–09, the number of working holiday visa holders arriving in Australia and staying 12 months or more was 34,300 persons, representing 7% of all NOM arrivals. The number of working holiday visa holders departing was 10,500 persons, representing 5% of all NOM departures for the year. This resulted in a net of 23,800 working holiday visa holders contributing to NOM, or 8% of NOM in 2008–09.

PERMANENT VISAS—2008–09

In 2008–09, the number of permanent visa holders arriving in Australia was 92,400 persons, representing 18% of all NOM arrivals. The number of permanent visa holders departing was 5,300 persons, representing 2% of all NOM departures for the year. This resulted in a net of 87,100 permanent visa holders contributing to NOM, or 29% of NOM in 2008–09. Just four years earlier in 2004–05 (also based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology), permanent visa holders accounted for 50% of the total NOM figure for that year.

Whilst a person may seek a permanent visa from DIAC (158,600 permanent visas were granted by DIAC in 2007–08)[8], there can be a number of reasons as to why there is not a direct correlation with the number of permanent visas recorded by the NOM processing system (91,500 permanent visas holders were counted in NOM arrivals in 2007–08). First, a visa being granted may not necessarily result in a traveller actually arriving in Australia. Reasons for not arriving may include a change of mind or change of circumstances resulting in the traveller delaying or cancelling their planned permanent arrival. Second, a traveller with a permanent visa may initially stay for a short period (less than 12 months) in Australia before returning to their previous home to finalise their affairs overseas (with the intention of returning to Australia at later date). If they do not remain in Australia long enough to meet the requirements of the '12/16 month rule' (see Glossary) they are not included in the NOM counts for that period. Third, a person may already be in Australia using another visa (e.g. student or subclass 457) and be granted an onshore permanent visa. This change in visa to a permanent visa is not recorded in the NOM system until they leave Australia's shores for 12 months or more over a 16 month reference period (i.e. become a NOM departure).

7 DIAC 2009, Population Flows: Immigration aspects 2007–08 edition, Ch 3 p 53.
8 DIAC 2009, Population Flows: Immigration aspects 2007–08 edition, Ch 2 p 24.

NOM by Major groupings and Visa—2008–09 continued

Family visas—2008–09

In

2008–09, the number of permanent family visa holders (granted offshore) arriving in Australia was 34,100 persons, representing 7% of all NOM arrivals. The number of permanent family visa holders departing was 2,200 persons, representing 1% of all NOM departures for the year. This resulted in a net of 31,900 family visa holders contributing to NOM, or 11% of NOM in 2008–09.

Skilled visas—2008–09

The number of permanent skilled visa holders (granted offshore) arriving in Australia in 2008–09 was 46,700 persons, representing 9% of all NOM arrivals. The number of permanent skilled visa holders departing was 3,000 persons representing 1% of all NOM departures for the year. This resulted in a net of 43,600 skilled visa holders contributing to NOM, or 15% of NOM in 2008–09.

Special Eligibility and Humanitarian visas—2008–09

Special Eligibility visas referred to in this section mainly relate to any former citizens and residents requiring special visas to enter the country. It produces very small numbers and has therefore been combined with Humanitarian visas.

The Humanitarian Program and visas are managed by the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship. The offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program has two categories: refugees and a special humanitarian program[9].

During 2008–09, the number of permanent special eligibility and humanitarian visa holders (granted offshore) arriving in Australia was 11,600 persons, representing 2% of all NOM arrivals. The number of special and humanitarian visa holders departing was 40 persons, representing 0.02% of all NOM departures for the year. This resulted in a net of 11,600 special and humanitarian visa holders contributing to NOM, or 4% of NOM in 2008–09.

NEW ZEALAND CITIZENS—2008–09

The number of New Zealand citizens arriving in Australia in 2008–09 was 47,600 persons, representing 9% of all NOM arrivals. The number of New Zealand citizens departing was 17,300 persons, representing 8% of all NOM departures for the year. This resulted in a net of 30,200 New Zealand citizens contributing to NOM, or 10% of NOM in 2008–09.

AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS—2008–09

In 2008–09, the number of Australian citizens arriving in Australia was 80,600 persons, representing 16% of all NOM arrivals. The number of Australian citizens departing was 83,100 persons, representing 38% of all NOM departures for the year. This resulted in a negative net of –2,500 Australian citizens contributing to NOM, or –0.8% of NOM in 2008–09.

9 DIAC 2010, Population Flows: Immigration aspects 2008–09 edition, Ch 4 p 80.

Self Reported Temporary NOM Arrivals and Main Reason for Journey

The following analysis on temporary NOM arrivals is based on final data which have been self reported and collected from Australia's incoming passenger card (i.e. self identified by a traveller in box B of the incoming passenger card, see Appendix — Passenger Cards p 93). It uses the 'initial category of travel' (see Glossary) variable from the Travellers' Characteristics Database to extract those travellers who have ticked box B on the incoming passenger card. The data analysed below are not the same as the previous analysis on temporary visas although similar results can be found for most countries of birth listed in table 3.18. The main reason for using self reported temporary NOM arrivals here, was to also capture information on the temporary status of New Zealanders which cannot be collected from visa information for this nationality.

A self reported temporary NOM arrival is any traveller who has identified themselves as a visitor or temporary entrant on Australia's incoming passenger card; who are not currently counted within the population; and then contributed to net overseas migration and the population by staying in Australia for 12 months or more over a 16 month reference period.

3.18 SELF REPORTED TEMPORARY NOM ARRIVALS(a), Main reason for journey & top 10 countries of birth(b)—Australia—2008–09(c)

	NOM ARRIVALS(d)	TEMPORARY NOM ARRIVALS(a)		MAIN REASON FOR JOURNEY OF TEMPORARY NOM ARRIVALS						
Country of Birth				*Convention or conference*	*Business*	*Visiting friends or relatives*	*Holiday*	*Employment*	*Education*	*Other & not stated*
	no.	no.	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
India	67 773	53 931	80	2	19	4	2	4	60	9
China(e)	48 223	36 707	76	—	5	6	3	3	77	6
UK, CI & IOM(f)	47 881	26 830	56	1	8	13	31	26	5	16
NZ	44 869	21 465	48	2	5	28	19	19	3	23
Korea, South	16 907	15 080	89	—	2	9	34	5	37	12
Nepal	11 602	10 962	94	1	29	3	1	2	59	6
USA	13 050	10 898	84	3	15	13	30	11	9	19
Philippines	15 334	9 763	64	9	16	11	6	22	19	18
Malaysia	12 716	9 749	77	1	4	8	19	4	54	10
South Africa	14 461	9 477	66	3	20	7	14	28	11	17
Total	**519 785**	**324 080**	**62**	**1**	**10**	**9**	**15**	**10**	**41**	**13**

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Includes any temporary visitor arrival who has contributed to NOM by staying in Australia for 12 months or more and is added to the population.

(b) The top ten countries have been calculated from final data on all temporary NOM arrivals for 2008–09.

(c) Estimates for 2008–09 are final—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

(d) Includes permanent arrivals, residents returning and other.

(e) China (excludes SARs and Taiwan).

(f) United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

For 2008–09, there were 324,100 self reported temporary NOM arrivals who contributed to NOM (see table 3.18). This was 62% of all NOM arrivals with the remainder being permanent arrivals, Australian residents returning and a few from other categories. Of the countries of birth contributing to temporary NOM arrivals, India added the most with 53,900 persons arriving, followed by China (36,700 persons), the United Kingdom (26,800 persons) and New Zealand (21,500 persons).

Self Reported Temporary NOM Arrivals and Main Reason for Journey continued

Travellers who contributed to NOM during 2008–09 were born in over 200 countries. The majority of the top ten countries of birth (of those who contributed to temporary NOM arrivals) recorded a higher proportion of temporary entrants than non-temporary entrants. For example, 94% of all NOM arrivals for Nepal were self reported temporary arrivals followed closely by South Korea (89%) and the United States of America (84%). New Zealand was the only country in the top ten to record under half at 48%.

The main reason for journey is self reported by a traveller on Australia's incoming or outgoing passenger card and is only asked for two specific groups of people. One group is 'visitor or temporary entrants' and the other is 'Australian residents departing temporarily'. The following information is based on answers from the 'visitor or temporary entrants' group collected on the incoming passenger card.

Using final NOM data, table 3.18 shows the main reason for journey of the top ten countries of birth for the self reported temporary NOM arrivals in 2008–09. When examining the main reason for journey of temporary NOM arrivals, 77% of China-born arrivals reported education as their main reason for journey, followed by India (60%), Nepal (59%), and Malaysia (54%). Education was also the most commonly reported reason of all temporary NOM arrivals with 41% indicating that it was their main reason for journey. This was followed at a distant second by holiday (15%).

Employment was reported as the main reason to travel to Australia by 28% of all self reported temporary NOM arrivals born in South Africa, 26% for the United Kingdom and 22% for the Philippines. Business was reported as the main reason by 29% of temporary NOM arrivals from Nepal followed by South Africa (20%) and India (19%).

The highest proportion of self reported temporary entrants who stayed more than 12 months in Australia and had initially selected holiday as their main reason for journey were born in South Korea (34%) and in the United Kingdom (31%). The largest proportion of travellers who stated they were visiting friends or relatives were born in New Zealand (28%).

CHAPTER 4 AUSTRALIA'S DIVERSE POPULATION

INTRODUCTION

The cultural and linguistic diversity of Australia's resident population has been reshaped over many years by migration. Successive waves of migrants to, and from, every area of the world have contributed to the ever-changing mosaic of Australia's diverse population. Historically, more people immigrate to, than emigrate from, Australia. At 30 June 2010, data on the estimated resident population of Australia (22.3 million people) revealed that 27% of the population was born overseas (6.0 million people). This continues the historical trend of a large proportion of overseas-born among Australia's population.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON

Comparison of selected countries, based on data from the United Nations' *Trend in International Migration Stock: The 2008 Revision*[10] (see table 4.1), shows that in 2010, Australia had one of the highest proportions of overseas-born residents (27%); third highest behind Singapore (41%) and Hong Kong (39%).

PROPORTION OF OVERSEAS–BORN, Selected countries

4.1

	1990	*1995*	*2000*	*2005*	*2010*
	%	%	%	%	%
Australia(a)	**22.8**	**23.0**	**23.0**	**24.2**	**26.8**
Canada	16.2	17.2	18.1	19.5	21.3
China(b)	—	—	—	—	0.1
France	10.4	10.5	10.6	10.6	10.7
Greece	4.1	5.1	6.7	8.8	10.1
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	38.9	39.1	40.0	39.5	38.8
India	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.4
Indonesia	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Italy	2.5	3.0	3.7	5.2	7.4
Japan	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.7
Korea, Republic of (South)	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.1
Malaysia	5.6	5.8	6.7	7.9	8.4
New Zealand	15.5	16.1	17.7	20.9	22.4
Papua New Guinea	0.8	0.7	0.5	0.4	0.4
Philippines	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5
Singapore	24.1	28.5	33.6	35.0	40.7
South Africa	3.3	2.7	2.3	2.6	3.7
Sweden	9.1	10.3	11.2	12.3	14.1
United Kingdom	6.5	7.2	8.1	9.7	10.4
United States of America	9.1	10.5	12.1	13.0	13.5
Vietnam	—	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
World	**2.9**	**2.9**	**2.9**	**3.0**	**3.1**

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Estimated resident population at 30 June for selected years. Data for 2010 is preliminary. <Source: ABS cat. no. 3101.0>

(b) China (excludes SARs and Taiwan).

Source: United Nations' Population Division, Trend in International Migration Stock: The 2008 Revision. Accessed 8 March 2011.

10 United Nations Population Division, Trend in International Migration Stock: The 2008 Revision. Accessed 8 March 2011.

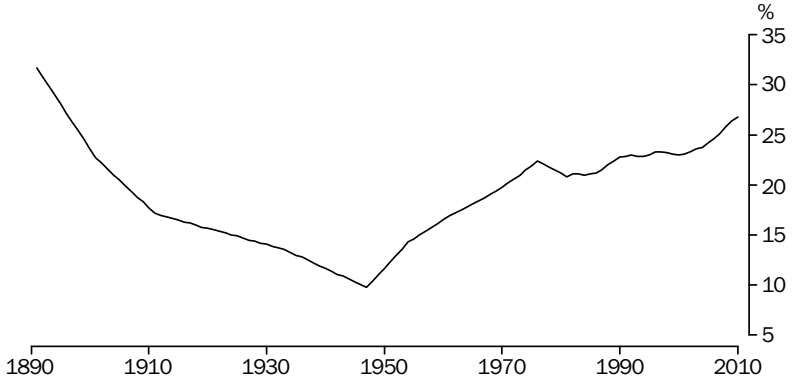
INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON *continued*

In 2010, the smallest proportions of overseas-born populations were to be found in China, Indonesia and Vietnam, with 0.1% each. The growth in the proportion of overseas-born in Australia, between 1990 and 2010, was constant; increasing 4 percentage points over the twenty years. However, the magnitude of the growth was lower than that experienced by Singapore; increasing 17 percentage points.

HISTORY OF OVERSEAS-BORN IN AUSTRALIA

High levels of immigration to Australia in the years before 1891 resulted in 32% of the population being reported as overseas-born in the 1891 census. By 1901, this proportion had fallen to 23%, 4 percentage points below current levels (see figure 4.2). The proportion fell to a low of 10% in 1947, due to low levels of migration during World War I, the Great Depression and World War II. The proportion then rose rapidly as a result of high levels of post-war migration, especially from war-torn Europe, under Arthur Calwell's concept of 'Populate or Perish'[11]. From the beginning of the 1970s until the late 1980s, the proportion of the population born overseas remained steady at about 20% and, following an increase in immigration levels at the end of the 1980s, rose to 23% in 1990. Further arrivals of migrants in the 1990s and 2000s contributed to the increase in the overseas-born population, with their proportion of the overall resident population rising to 27% by 30 June 2010.

4.2 AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION BORN OVERSEAS(a)(b)



(a) Census years only until 1981. Post 1981 based on estimated resident population at 30 June.
(b) Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

REGIONS OF BIRTH

The makeup of Australia's overseas-born population has been greatly affected by successive waves of migration to Australia since World War II. At first, most of these immigrants were born in countries in North–West Europe, including the United Kingdom and Germany. These people were followed by large numbers of migrants born in Southern and Eastern Europe, including Italy, Greece and Yugoslavia. In the 1970s, many migrants arrived in Australia from South–East Asia, including Vietnam, the Philippines and Cambodia.

The proportion of immigrants born in North–West Europe has, in recent years, been in decline, falling from 7.8% in 2000 to 7.1% in 2010 (see table 4.3). However, North-West Europe still holds the largest proportion of overseas-born in Australia's population. The share of Southern and Eastern Europe migrants is also in decline from 4.5% in 2000 to

11 Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) website <http://www.immi.gov.au/about/anniversary/journey.htm>. Accessed

REGIONS OF BIRTH *continued*

3.7% in 2010. Over the past decade, migrants born in the remaining regions of the world increased within Australia's population, especially those from the Asian regions. For example, immigrants form North-East Asia increased their representation from 1.7% in 2000 to 3.0% in 2010. The Americas, while increasing their representation, have the smallest proportion of the Australian population, with 1.1%.

4.3 REGIONS OF BIRTH, Proportion of Australia's population—Selected years at 30 June

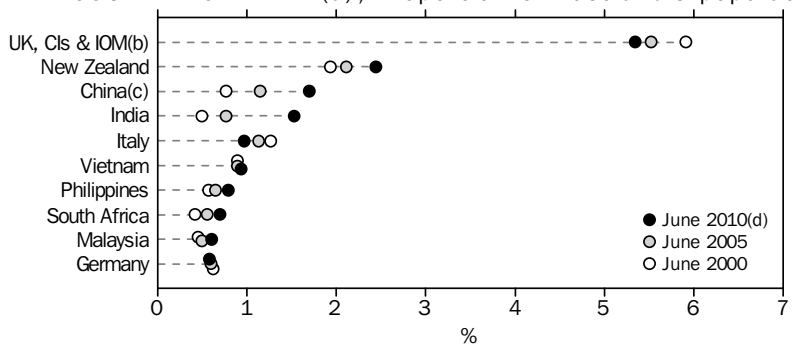
	2000	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*(a)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Australia	**77.0**	**75.8**	**75.4**	**74.9**	**74.2**	**73.6**	**73.2**
Oceania and Antarctica (excl. Aust.)	2.5	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.1
North-West Europe	7.8	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.2	7.1
Southern and Eastern Europe	4.5	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8	3.7
North Africa and the Middle East	1.2	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.5
South-East Asia	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4	3.5
North-East Asia	1.7	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.6	2.8	3.0
Southern and Central Asia	1.0	1.4	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.4	2.5
Americas	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.8	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.3

(a) Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraph 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

MAIN COUNTRIES OF BIRTH

At 30 June 2010, persons born in the United Kingdom continued to be the largest group of overseas-born residents, accounting for 5.3% of Australia's total population. Persons born in New Zealand accounted for 2.4% of Australia's total population, followed by persons born in China (1.7%), India (1.5%) and Italy (1.0%).

4.4 COUNTRY OF BIRTH(a), Proportion of Australia's population



(a) Based on the top 10 countries of birth (excluding Australia) at 30 June 2010.
(b) United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.
(c) China (excludes SARs and Taiwan).
(d) Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

The proportion of the Australian population who were born in the United Kingdom experienced a decline between 2000 and 2010 (5.9% in 2000 and 5.3% in 2010). This was also apparent for persons born in Italy (1.3% and 1.0%). Conversely, the proportions increased for people born in New Zealand (from 1.9% to 2.4%), China (from 0.8% to 1.7%) and India (from 0.5% to 1.5%).

MAIN COUNTRIES OF BIRTH *continued*

Between 2000 and 2010, persons born in Nepal had the highest rate of increase in Australia's population (of the top 50 countries of birth at 30 June 2010) with an average annual growth rate of 29.1%. However, this growth began from a small base of 2,300 persons at 30 June 2000. The second fastest increase over this period was in the number of persons born in Sudan (20.1% per year on average), followed by those born in India (13.5%), Bangladesh (12.9%), and Zimbabwe and Pakistan (10.5% each). Of the top 50 countries of birth, the number of persons born in Hungary decreased the most, with an average annual decrease of 1.3%, closely followed by both Poland and Italy, with an average annual decrease of 1.1% each. The next largest decreases were of persons born in Malta (0.7%) and Greece and Cyprus (0.6% each).

AUSTRALIA-BORN AND OVERSEAS-BORN

During the 10 years to June 2010, the number of Australia-born residents increased at an average rate of 1.0% per year, while the number of overseas-born residents increased at an average 3.1% per year. The age structures of the two groups are distinctive, as reflected in table 4.5 and figure 4.6.

Major age groups and the overseas-born

At 30 June 2010, the majority (76%) of all overseas-born Australian residents were of working age, 15–64 years (see table 4.5). In comparison, the proportions of overseas-born residents aged 65 years and older and 0–14 years were 18% and 6% respectively.

4.5 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, Country of birth and age group—30 June 2010(a)

	POPULATION			PROPORTION		
	0–14	*15–64*	*65 and over*	*0–14*	*15–64*	*65 and over*
Region of birth	no.	no.	no.	%	%	%
Oceania and Antarctica (excl. Aust.)	63 397	565 813	52 593	9.3	83.0	7.7
North–West Europe	72 234	1 067 911	451 938	4.5	67.1	28.4
Southern and Eastern Europe	9 635	473 512	346 054	1.2	57.1	41.7
North Africa and the Middle East	26 301	272 873	41 761	7.7	80.0	12.2
South–East Asia	49 479	683 454	55 357	6.3	86.7	7.0
North–East Asia	32 097	583 938	48 037	4.8	87.9	7.2
Southern and Central Asia	41 057	478 315	35 454	7.4	86.2	6.4
Americas	21 274	206 213	22 072	8.5	82.6	8.8
Sub–Saharan Africa	36 019	234 962	22 195	12.3	80.1	7.6
Total overseas–born	***351 493***	***4 566 991***	***1 075 461***	***5.9***	***76.2***	***17.9***
Total Australia–born	***3 878 712***	***10 523 584***	***1 932 606***	***23.7***	***64.4***	***11.8***
Total	**4 230 205**	**15 090 575**	**3 008 067**	**18.9**	**67.6**	**13.5**

(a) Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary —see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

The overseas-born population from Asia, America and Africa had proportionally larger young (0–14 years) and working age (15–64 years) populations compared to those from Europe. Among all the regions, Sub-Saharan Africa had the highest proportion aged 0–14 years (12%), followed by Oceania and Antarctica (excl. Aust.), and the Americas (9% each). The overseas-born population of Southern and Eastern Europe had the highest proportion (42%) of the resident population who were aged 65 years and over, followed by North–West Europe (28%) and North Africa and the Middle East (12%). European migration peaked in the years post World War II, with many of these migrants now being

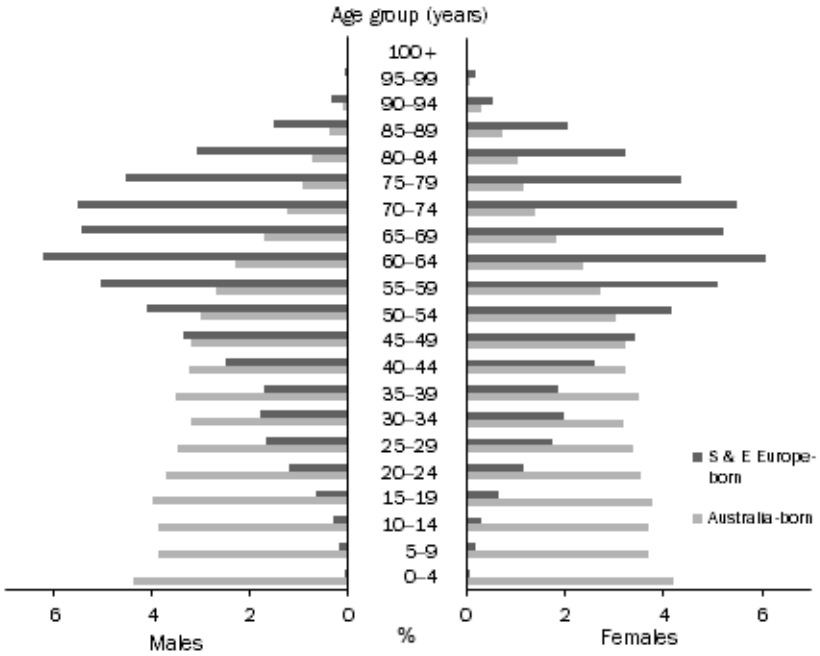
Major age groups and the overseas-born continued

retired. The Asian and Sub-Saharan Africa groups are part of more recent migration streams, highly represented by younger working age people, their children and international students.

Of the top 50 countries of birth at 30 June 2010, Nepal-born, Taiwan-born and Bangladesh-born residents had the highest proportions (96%, 92% and 92% respectively) of all overseas-born residents aged 15–64 years. Following closely behind were those persons born in Hong Kong and Vietnam (90% each). The top five countries of birth with the highest proportion of their populations aged 65 years and older were Italy (56%), Greece (55%), Hungary (51%), the Netherlands (43%), and Malta (42%). Among the overseas-born residents, Sudan-born had the highest proportion (19%) of residents aged 0–14 years, followed by the United States of America (16%), Singapore, Afghanistan, South Africa and Pakistan (12% each), and Zimbabwe and Thailand (11% each).

Figure 4.6 shows a comparison between the age and sex structures associated with the Australia-born population and the Southern and Eastern Europe-born population. As demonstrated, the Southern and Eastern Europe-born population was considerably older than the Australia-born population, with the largest proportion of the population being in the 60–64 years age group with 6.2% for males and 6.1% for females. In comparison, the most populous age group for the Australia-born population was the 0–4 years age group with 4.4% for males and 4.2% for females. The inverted pyramid shape of the Southern and Eastern Europe-born age structure is due to a large number of Southern and Eastern Europeans migrating to Australia in the period post World War II (over 60 years ago) and declining numbers of migrants arriving from that region in subsequent years.

4.6 POPULATION STRUCTURES, Australia-born and Southern and Eastern Europe-born(a)—Age and sex—30 June 2010(b)



(a) Age and sex of Australia-born persons as a proportion of all Australia-born persons. Age and sex of Southern and Eastern Europe-born persons as a proportion of all Southern and Eastern Europe-born persons.
(b) Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

4.7 AUSTRALIA'S TOP 50 COUNTRIES OF BIRTH(a), Median age, sex ratio and estimated resident population—30 June 2010(b)

	MEDIAN AGE				
Selected countries of birth	*Persons*	*Males*	*Females*	*Sex ratio*(c)	*ERP*
Nepal	25.9	26.1	25.6	171.0	29 589
Sudan	26.7	26.5	26.8	115.0	26 199
Korea, Republic of (South)	29.0	28.3	29.8	91.9	100 255
Afghanistan	29.1	28.8	29.4	117.4	26 527
Thailand	30.1	27.1	32.2	53.3	53 393
India	30.3	29.6	31.5	140.8	340 604
Pakistan	30.5	30.3	30.9	155.9	31 277
Taiwan	30.6	30.1	30.9	72.9	38 025
Bangladesh	31.0	31.3	30.5	146.6	28 179
Japan	31.9	30.1	32.7	56.3	52 111
Indonesia	32.4	31.3	33.2	79.6	73 527
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	33.5	32.6	34.2	84.2	379 776
Singapore	34.2	33.5	34.8	82.7	58 903
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	36.1	34.2	38.1	93.5	90 295
Iraq	36.3	37.6	35.0	107.8	48 348
Zimbabwe	36.8	37.4	36.2	100.1	31 779
Malaysia	36.9	35.4	38.4	87.0	135 607
United States of America	37.4	38.5	36.2	102.4	83 996
Iran	37.8	37.8	37.8	113.3	33 696
Canada	38.3	38.9	37.6	90.0	44 118
South Africa	38.6	38.3	38.8	99.5	155 692
France	38.7	37.5	40.0	109.2	30 631
New Zealand	39.2	39.1	39.3	105.5	544 171
Philippines	39.5	35.4	42.1	58.9	177 389
Papua New Guinea	39.6	39.2	40.1	84.5	31 225
Russian Federation	40.6	38.8	41.6	63.1	22 804
Fiji	40.9	40.7	41.0	88.5	62 778
Burma (Myanmar)	41.1	40.6	41.6	96.0	22 173
Sri Lanka	41.1	40.5	41.8	106.5	92 243
Cambodia	41.8	42.3	41.4	85.8	31 397
Vietnam	42.1	42.9	41.4	88.3	210 803
Turkey	44.7	44.8	44.5	108.0	39 989
Ireland	45.2	43.6	46.8	116.5	72 378
Mauritius	45.8	44.7	46.7	100.5	27 026
Chile	47.0	46.1	47.8	93.8	28 574
Lebanon	47.0	46.9	47.1	111.0	90 395
Bosnia and Herzegovina	47.1	47.2	47.0	100.9	37 470
UK, CIs & IOM	53.5	52.9	54.1	103.4	1 192 878
Serbia (includes Kosovo)	53.7	54.0	53.5	101.2	42 064
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	54.6	55.1	54.1	103.0	49 704
Egypt	55.6	54.4	56.8	113.0	41 163
Poland	57.0	56.6	57.4	80.1	58 447
Cyprus	59.4	59.4	59.4	98.2	20 910
Croatia	59.5	60.3	58.8	104.0	68 319
Germany	61.3	61.3	61.3	92.2	128 558
Netherlands	63.1	63.0	63.2	104.6	88 609
Malta	63.2	63.2	63.1	104.9	48 870
Hungary	65.5	66.7	64.4	102.6	22 660
Greece	66.4	66.5	66.4	97.5	127 195
Italy	67.5	66.8	68.3	106.8	216 303
Total overseas–born	***44.7***	***44.3***	***45.1***	***98.8***	***5 993 945***
Total Australia–born	***33.4***	***32.4***	***34.4***	***99.3***	***16 334 902***
Total	**36.9**	**36.0**	**37.8**	**99.2**	**22 328 847**

(a) Top 50 countries of birth (excluding Australia). Sorted by median age (persons) lowest to highest.

(b) Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraph 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

(c) Males per 100 females

Median age of persons born overseas

The median age of all Australian residents born overseas at 30 June 2010 was 44.7 years, compared to 33.4 years for those born in Australia (see table 4.7). Migrants who were part of the major post-second World War migration streams of the late 1940s and 1950s are now in the older age groups. Of the top 50 countries of birth at 30 June 2010, Italy had the oldest median age at 67.5 years, followed by Greece (66.4) and Hungary (65.5). The youngest median ages were for persons born in Nepal (25.9 years), Sudan (26.7), the Republic of South Korea (29.0) and Afghanistan (29.1), the more recent migrant groups.

A comparison of the median age for each of the top 50 countries of birth by sex at 30 June 2010 (see table 4.7), reveals that women had a much older median age than men for the Philippines (42.1 and 35.4 years respectively), Thailand (32.2 and 27.1 years respectively) and Hong Kong (38.1 and 34.2 years respectively).

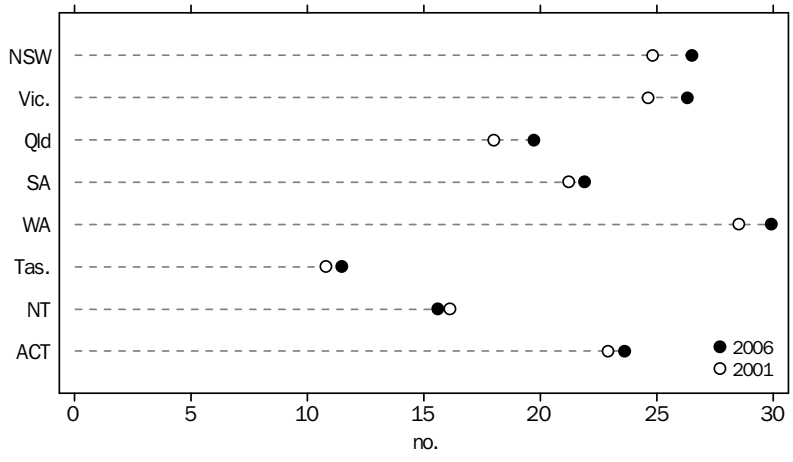
Sex ratio

At 30 June 2010, the sex ratio (males per 100 females) of the overseas-born population was the same as the Australia-born population (99 males per 100 females), see table 4.7. The sex ratio varied for different countries of birth, with Nepal (171 males per 100 females), Pakistan (156), Bangladesh (147), and India (141) having the highest sex ratios of males to females. The lowest sex ratios were recorded for persons born in Thailand (53 males per 100 females), Japan (56) and the Philippines (59).

STATE AND TERRITORY COMPOSITION BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Australia's estimated resident population by country of birth at the state and territory level is only available for census years (i.e. 1996, 2001 and 2006). Graph 4.8 illustrates the total percentage of overseas-born residents in each of the respective states at 30 June 2001 and 2006.

4.8 PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE BORN OVERSEAS, State and territory—30 June 2001 and 2006



At 30 June 2006, Western Australia recorded the highest proportion of overseas-born residents (30%) in their population. Tasmania had the lowest proportion of overseas-born residents (11%), well below the Australian level of 25% recorded in 2006.

For further detail, table 5.8 from *Migration, Australia 2008–09* (cat. no. 3412.0) shows the composition by country of birth for each state and territory, for the top 10 countries ranked at the national level, at 30 June 2006. Data for 2011 will be made available after the release of the 2011 Census data.

CHAPTER 5 INTERSTATE MIGRATION

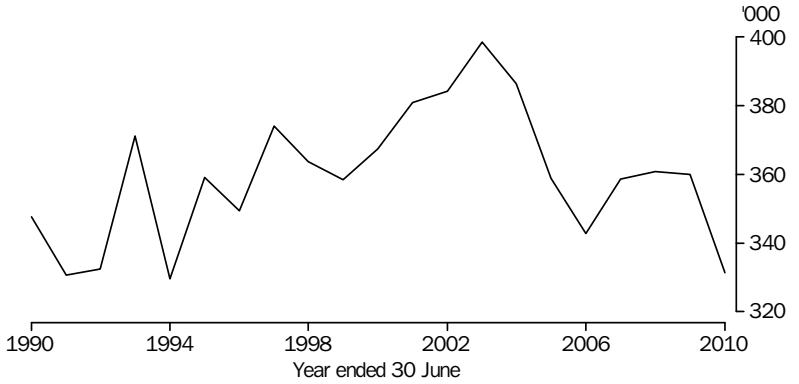
INTRODUCTION

Interstate migration is the movement of people from one state or territory of usual residence to another state or territory of usual residence. It is an important component required to calculate Australia's estimated resident population at the state and territory level. State and territory population estimates are used in planning for development and services, and towards the allocation of GST revenue to the states and territories.

There is no direct measure of interstate migration within Australia on a quarterly basis, unlike that of natural increase (births minus deaths) and net overseas migration (NOM arrivals minus NOM departures). Medicare Australia data, which supplies change of address information to the ABS, is the most effective source currently available from a range of potential sources of administrative data (see paragraphs 55 to 58 of the Explanatory Notes). Therefore, estimates of interstate migration are modelled using Medicare change of address data. The model is reviewed and updated every five years using data from the latest Census of Population and Housing. For more information, see *Information Paper: Review of Interstate Migration Method, March 2009* (cat. no. 3106.0.55.001).

It is estimated that 331,400 people moved interstate during 2009–10. This is an 8% drop from the same period one year ago (359,900 persons), and a 17% drop from the peak interstate migration estimate (398,600 persons) in 2002–03. This decline has put interstate migration for 2009–10 almost at the same level as the 20 year low in 1993–94 (329,600 persons). With the exception of 2006–07 and 2007–08, interstate migration has followed a general downward trend since 2002–03.

5.1 INTERSTATE MIGRATION, Australia(a)



(a) Estimates for 2006–07 to 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

INTRODUCTION *continued*

It is important to note that the total number of persons who moved is likely to be less than the total recorded, after return and repeat movements are taken into account. In addition, for each flow from one state or territory to another, there is a counter flow.

TRENDS IN NET INTERSTATE MIGRATION (NIM)

There were an average of 366,300 interstate moves per year over the 10 years to June 2010, with the main movements being northward to Queensland. Table 5.2 shows that Queensland (25,900 persons), Western Australia (1,600 persons) and Tasmania (160 persons) were the only states to record average annual net interstate migration (NIM) gains over this period.

Over the decade ending June 2010, Queensland consistently recorded an annual NIM gain from the rest of the country. However, the gain in NIM has gradually declined since the 10 year peak in 2002–03, when Queensland gained 38,000 persons, to a 10 year low in 2009–10 with a net gain of 9,600 persons.

Western Australia recorded an average net gain in the past 10 years due to the gains recorded from 2003–04 onwards; gains which ranged between 2,000 persons in 2009–10 and 5,200 persons in 2006–07. In the first three years of the past decade, NIM losses ranging between 2,000 persons and 3,600 persons were recorded in Western Australia.

Tasmania's NIM fluctuated throughout the past decade with slightly more net gains than net losses. Tasmania experienced net losses in the first two years of the past decade. Since 2002–03, Tasmania has generally had more positive flows into the state.

The remaining states and territories recorded NIM losses with New South Wales recording the largest annual average net loss (23,700 persons) followed by South Australia (3,000 persons), the Northern Territory (640 persons), the Australian Capital Territory (200 persons) and Victoria (180 persons).

Both New South Wales and South Australia recorded a net loss from interstate migration, for each year in the past decade ending June 2010. For the Northern Territory, the Australian Capital Territory and Victoria, NIM fluctuated between annual net losses and net gains.

5.2 NET INTERSTATE MIGRATION—2000–01 to 2009–10(a)

	NSW	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*
2000–01	–16 315	5 163	20 024	–2 418	–3 110	–2 136	–1 592	407
2001–02	–25 102	3 609	30 035	–1 308	–3 582	–1 423	–1 998	–197
2002–03	–32 467	–743	37 984	–1 191	–1 972	1 993	–2 768	–802
2003–04	–31 098	–3 051	35 498	–2 910	2 095	2 574	–1 487	–1 586
2004–05	–26 321	–3 070	30 371	–3 226	2 241	267	610	–842
2005–06	–25 576	–1 831	26 607	–2 711	3 933	–82	–553	258
2006–07	–27 404	–2 418	27 044	–3 658	5 188	–926	253	1 921
2007–08	–21 937	–2 736	23 088	–4 499	4 808	344	1 197	–265
2008–09	–19 831	698	18 388	–4 676	4 825	672	746	–822
2009–10	–10 540	2 555	9 576	–2 964	1 962	322	–842	–69
Annual average 2000–01 to 2009–10	**–23 659**	**–182**	**25 862**	**–2 956**	**1 639**	**161**	**–643**	**–200**

(a) Estimates for 2006–07 to 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

NET INTERSTATE MIGRATION, 2009–10

All states and territories experienced a significant change in interstate migration when 2008–09 and 2009–10 were compared. Of all states and territories, Queensland continued to record the largest net gain in interstate migration in 2009–10 (9,600 persons). However, this net gain was distinctly smaller than net gains in previous years. The net gain in 2009–10 was nearly 50% lower than the 2008–09 net gain (18,400 persons) and 75% lower than the 10 year peak gain of 38,000 persons in 2002–03.

In 2009–10, net gains were also recorded by Victoria (2,600 persons), Western Australia (2,000 persons) and Tasmania (320 persons). For Victoria, the net gain was up 700 persons from the previous year while Western Australian's net gain was down 4,800 persons from the previous year. Tasmania continued its recent positive net interstate migration in 2009–10 (320 persons) but it was considerably less than the peak net gain of 2,600 persons in 2003–04.

New South Wales continued to record the largest net loss of all states and territories due to NIM in 2009–10 (10,500 persons). However, the loss of people from NIM was less than at any time during the last 10 years. The loss in 2009–10 was slightly more than half the loss from the previous year and roughly two-thirds down on the 10 year peak loss of 32,500 in 2002–03. In 2009–10, a net loss was recorded by South Australia (3,000 persons), continuing the series of losses over the 10 year period. The Australian Capital Territory also recorded a NIM loss (70 persons) although this was less than the 2008–09 loss of 820 persons.

POPULATION FLOWS, 2009–10

The most popular destination for Australians moving interstate continued to be Queensland which received the largest number of arrivals during 2009–10 (86,400 persons). The next largest arrivals occurred in New South Wales followed by Victoria, with 83,000 and 63,100 arrivals respectively. The most common moves were between these three eastern states accounting for 47% of all interstate moves.

5.3 INTERSTATE MIGRATION FLOWS—2009–10(a)

	DEPARTURES FROM:								
	NSW	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*	*Total arrivals*(b)
Arrivals to:									
NSW	. .	20 088	35 355	4 989	7 525	2 118	2 969	9 938	82 982
Vic.	22 686	. .	17 594	6 544	8 109	3 185	2 451	2 527	63 096
Qld	42 044	18 605	. .	5 823	8 295	3 193	5 208	3 237	86 405
SA	4 628	5 552	4 548	. .	2 458	634	2 257	624	20 701
WA	8 297	8 422	8 696	2 849	. .	1 443	2 605	879	33 191
Tas.	2 405	2 731	3 341	691	1 660	. .	419	260	11 507
NT	3 320	2 783	4 482	2 007	2 284	315	. .	471	15 662
ACT	10 142	2 360	2 813	762	898	297	595	. .	17 867
Total departures(b)	93 522	60 541	76 829	23 665	31 229	11 185	16 504	17 936	331 411
Net	**–10 540**	**2 555**	**9 576**	**–2 964**	**1 962**	**322**	**–842**	**–69**	. .

. . not applicable

(a) Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Excludes Other Territories—see paragraphs 55–56 of the Explanatory Notes.

POPULATION FLOWS, 2009–10 *continued*

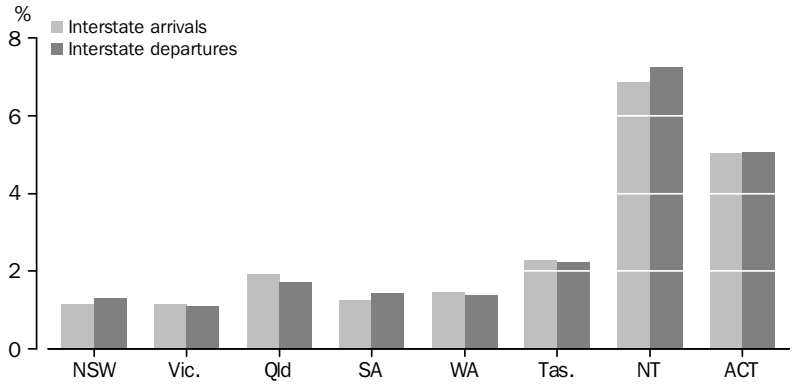
Table 5.3 shows that the most prevalent moves were from New South Wales to Queensland (42,000 persons). The counter flows from Queensland to New South Wales were the second largest (35,400 persons), followed by the flows from New South Wales to Victoria (22,700 persons) and Victoria to New South Wales (20,100 persons). In terms of net flows, Queensland gained the highest number of interstate movers from New South Wales with 6,700 persons. The next highest gain was Victoria from New South Wales with 2,600 persons. With the exceptions of Western Australia and Tasmania, all states and territories had higher flows to Queensland than from Queensland.

Flows of people between the mainland eastern states were larger than those between the other states and territories. Queensland, being the main beneficiary from interstate migration, was the prime destination for people departing from Western Australia (8,300 persons), the Northern Territory (5,200 persons) and Tasmania (3,200 persons) in 2009–10. The Australian Capital Territory received its largest inflow of interstate migrants from its neighbour, New South Wales with 10,100 persons. The reverse flow from the Australian Capital Territory to New South Wales (9,900 persons) was also the largest for the territory. A cross-border exchange between South Australia and Victoria was also evident. The interstate migration outflow from South Australia to Victoria was the highest recorded for the state (6,500 persons). Conversely, South Australia received its highest inflow from Victoria (5,600 persons).

Interstate flows as a proportion of population

The impact of interstate migration flows on each state and territory population varies. One way of measuring the effect is to calculate each flow as a proportion of each state or territory's population (figure 5.4).

5.4 INTERSTATE MIGRATION FLOWS, Proportion of population(a)—2009–10(b)



(a) Each flow as a proportion of each state or territory population at 31 December 2009.
(b) Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

In 2009–10, the Northern Territory experienced the greatest impact from both interstate arrivals and interstate departures. These flows represented 6.9% and 7.2% of the Northern Territory's population respectively. The Australian Capital Territory experienced the next greatest impact with a 5.0% and 5.1% change in its population through interstate arrivals and departures respectively. Victoria's population felt the lowest impact from interstate migration flows with a 1.1% change through both its interstate arrivals and departures.

POPULATION TURNOVER, 2009–10

Population turnover measures the gross flow in each state or territory in relation to the size of the population and reveals the level of turnover experienced by a population. Gross flows can also be used to analyse population redistribution.

Table 5.5 shows that the level of population turnover for 2009–10 varied considerably between the states and territories. The highest population turnover occurred in the Northern Territory where the gross flows represented 14.1% of the Northern Territory's total population. This high level of mobility reflects the fact that the Northern Territory experiences a large number of temporary or short-term interstate moves. These moves are possibly driven by employment conditions and could include Defence Force personnel and workers involved in the mining and associated industries. The Australian Capital Territory also recorded a high population turnover (10.1% of the territory's total population) reflecting the large number of Commonwealth employees, Defence Force personnel, and students.

While Victoria had the third highest number of gross moves (123,600 moves) in 2009–10, it had the lowest population turnover (2.2% of the state's total population). Similarly, the 176,500 gross moves for New South Wales translated to only 2.5% of the state's population turnover.

5.5 POPULATION TURNOVER AND MIGRATION EFFECTIVENESS RATIOS (MER)—2009–10(a)

	Interstate arrivals	*Interstate departures*	*Net interstate moves*	*Gross interstate moves*	*Population*(b)	*Population turnover*(c)	*Interstate (MER)*(d)
	no.	no.	no.	no.	'000	%	%
NSW	82 982	93 522	–10 540	176 504	7 184.3	2.5	–6.0
Vic.	63 096	60 541	2 555	123 637	5 499.8	2.2	2.1
Qld	86 405	76 829	9 576	163 234	4 472.6	3.6	5.9
SA	20 701	23 665	–2 964	44 366	1 634.8	2.7	–6.7
WA	33 191	31 229	1 962	64 420	2 269.7	2.8	3.0
Tas.	11 507	11 185	322	22 692	505.4	4.5	1.4
NT	15 662	16 504	–842	32 166	228.0	14.1	–2.6
ACT	17 867	17 936	–69	35 803	355.0	10.1	–0.2
Total	**331 411**	**331 411**	. .	**662 822**	**22 151.9**	**3.0**	. .

. . not applicable
(a) Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes
(b) Estimated resident population at 31 December 2009.
(c) Gross interstate movements as a percentage of the population at 31 December 2009.
(d) Net interstate migration divided by gross interstate migration expressed as a percentage.

Population redistribution

Another way of looking at interstate migration is to assess how effective migration has been in redistributing the population. This method, known as the migration effectiveness ratio (MER), compares the total net gain or loss to the gross moves and is expressed as a percentage (Bell, 1995)[12]. Table 5.5 shows that in 2009–10, Queensland had the highest MER (5.9%), gaining 6 persons for every 100 interstate moves in or out of Queensland. South Australia and New South Wales also recorded a high MER albeit negative (–6.7% and –6.0% respectively). This indicates that both states each lost 7 to 6

12 Bell, M. 1995, Internal Migration in Australia 1986–91: overview report, Bureau of Immigration Multicultural and Population Research, Canberra, p109.

Population redistribution continued

persons for every 100 interstate moves. The comparative figures for 2008–09 were losses of 10 persons each for South Australia and New South Wales.

Both the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory (each with similar numbers of arrivals and departures) demonstrate that high population turnover does not necessarily lead to population redistribution at the territory level. While the Northern Territory's population turnover was 14%, it lost around three persons for every 100 interstate moves in or out of the territory for 2009–10. Similarly, the Australian Capital Territory with a population turnover of 10%, recorded a minimum loss (less than one person) for every 100 movements in or out of the territory for the year.

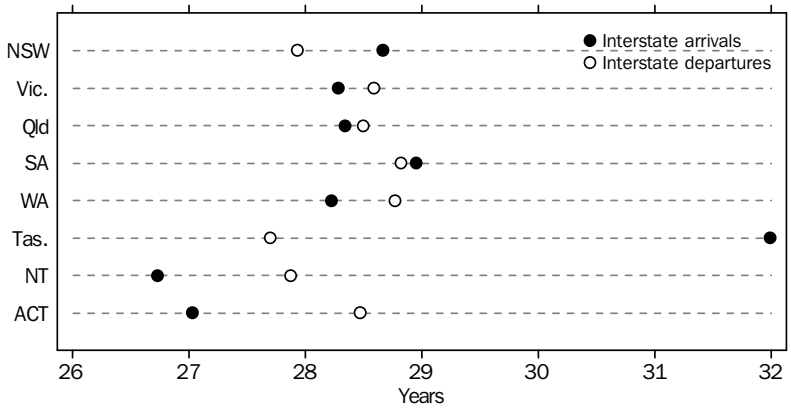
AGE STRUCTURE OF INTERSTATE MIGRANTS

Median age of interstate migrants

In 2009–10, the median age of all interstate movers was 28.4 years. Median ages for arrivals were lower than the median ages for departures for most states and territories. Only New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania had older arrivals than departures. Differences between the arrival and departure median ages were slight in the case of New South Wales (28.7 and 27.9 years respectively) and South Australia (29.0 and 28.8 years respectively). Tasmania recorded the oldest arrivals median age in the nation. It was more popular with the older age group of movers, with people moving into the state having a median age of 32.0 years and people departing a median age of 27.7 years. This large differential contributes to the faster ageing of the Tasmanian population compared to other states and territories (for more information see *Australian Demographic Statistics, June 2010* (cat.no.3101.0)).

All other states and territories had higher departure median ages than their arrival median ages. Most differences were small, with the largest differences in the Australian Capital Territory (27.0 years for arrivals and 28.5 years for departures) and the Northern Territory (27.9 and 26.7 years respectively). The two territories had a higher proportion of interstate arrivals aged under 35 years than the states; 71% for both the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory. This has contributed to the low median age of arrival for the two territories.

5.6 MEDIAN AGE OF INTERSTATE ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES—2009–10(a)



(a) Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

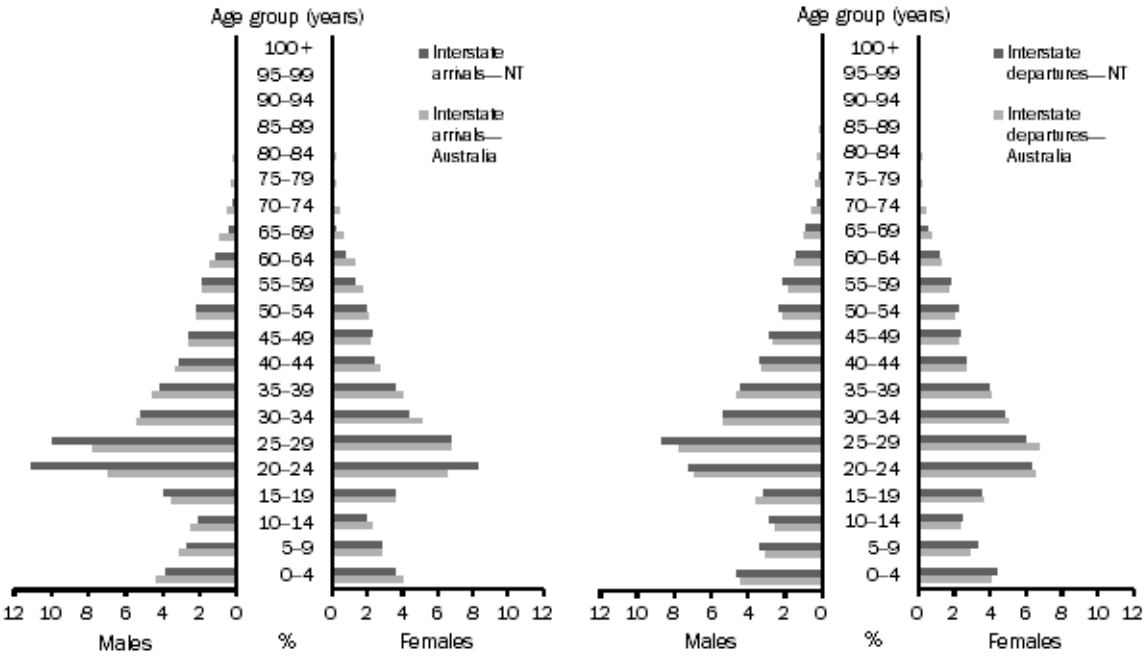
Median age of interstate migrants continued

All states and territories display some similar characteristics in their age and sex distributions. The most common ages for both interstate arrivals and departures were the 20–24 and 25–29 years age groups. The peak declines gradually, the older the age groups. There are, however, some differences amongst the states and territories. In 2009–10, the older age groups (45 years and older) featured more prominently in arrivals to Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania, whereas in the Northern Territory and Australian Capital Territory, the younger age groups were better represented, when compared with all interstate movers. For interstate departures, Queensland and Tasmania had more people in the older age groups leaving than the proportion of national movers. Only the Australian Capital Territory had more people in the younger age groups (20–34 years) leaving compared to movers at the national level.

Figure 5.7 shows the age and sex breakdown of the Northern Territory interstate movers compared with all interstate movers within Australia in 2009–10. For interstate movers at the total national level, there must always be a counter flow. Therefore, national interstate arrivals will always be equal to national interstate departures for each age and sex.

In the Northern Territory, the peak age group for interstate arrivals in 2009–10 was 20–24 years for both males and females. Males recorded 11.1% of the total arrivals to the Northern Territory for the year and females recorded 8.3%. This is higher than the proportion at the national level for all interstate arrivals with males recording 6.9% and females 6.7%. From the 30–34 years age group upwards, the cumulative proportion of interstate arrivals into the Northern Territory was lower than the proportion at the national level.

5.7 INTERSTATE MOVERS FOR THE NORTHERN TERRITORY AND AUSTRALIA, Age and sex(a)—2009–10(b)



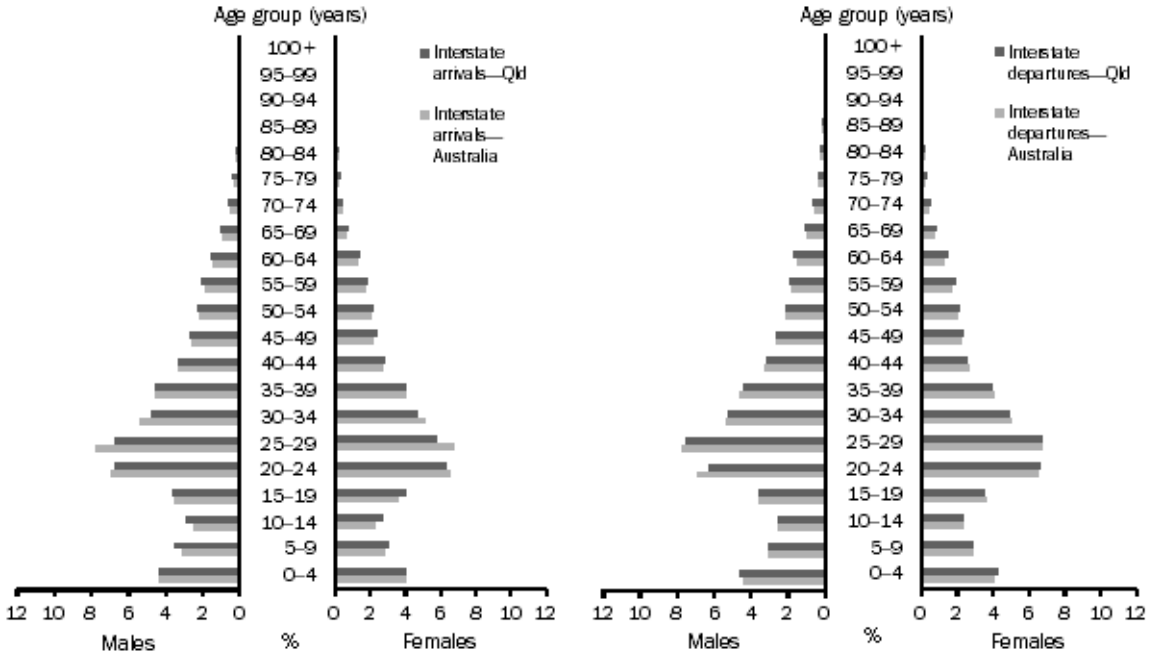
(a) Age and sex of interstate arrivals as a proportion of all interstate arrivals.
(b) Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

Median age of interstate migrants continued

For interstate departures from the Northern Territory in 2009–10, the peak age group was 25–29 years for males, recording 8.4% of the total departures from the Northern Territory for the year. This was nearly one percentage point higher than males aged 25–29 years (7.7%) at the national level. Whereas, for females, the peak age group in the Northern Territory was 20–24 years at 6.0%. Unlike males, this was lower than females aged 20–24 years (6.8%) at the national level for all interstate departures. The proportion of interstate departures from the Northern Territory was higher in the older age groups than at the national level. Proportions for both interstate arrivals to, and interstate departures from the Northern Territory declined rapidly to almost zero at 70–74 years of age.

Figure 5.8 shows the age and sex breakdown of Queensland interstate movers compared with all interstate movers within Australia in 2009–10. Similar to the Northern Territory, the proportion of interstate arrivals for Queensland peaked in the 20–24 years age group for both males and females. Males recorded 6.7% of the total arrivals to Queensland for the year and females recorded 6.4%. Unlike the Northern Territory, Queensland's proportions for interstate arrivals aged 20–24 years was lower than the national level for all interstate arrivals with males recording 6.9% and females 6.7%. The proportion of interstate arrivals for Queensland shows that the state is more popular with the older age groups. Both males and females aged 40 years and over had an arrival rate higher than the national rate.

5.8 INTERSTATE MOVERS FOR QUEENSLAND AND AUSTRALIA, Age and sex(a)—2009–10(b)



(a) Age and sex of interstate arrivals as a proportion of all interstate arrivals.
(b) Estimates for 2009–10 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

The peak age group for people departing Queensland in 2009–10 was the 25–29 years age group for both males and females. Males recorded 7.5% of the total departures from Queensland for the year and females recorded 6.8%, both marginally lower than the proportion recorded at the national level of 7.7% and 6.8% respectively. Even though

Median age of interstate migrants continued

Queensland received a higher proportion of arrivals at the older age groups, more people departed Queensland at the older age groups (45 years onwards) than at the national level.

CHAPTER 6

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, NET OVERSEAS MIGRATION AND AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION GROWTH

INTRODUCTION

The international education sector is important to Australia for a number of reasons. In 2010, the Australian Government appointed the Hon Michael Knight AO to undertake a strategic review of the student visa program. It was noted in the call for submissions that:

> 'The international education sector is important to Australia in establishing bilateral ties with key partner countries and supports employment in a broad range of occupations in the Australian economy as well as delivering high-value skills to the economy.'[13]

The movement of international students into and out of Australia is measured from information provided on incoming and outgoing passenger cards. This information allows for the calculation of net overseas migration (NOM) and thus, students contributing to Australia's estimated resident population (ERP). In 2008–09, the net number of international students being added to Australia's population reached an all time high of 122,400 students. These international students contributed 27% of Australia's population growth in 2008–09.

The education industry has generated a substantial income for the Australian economy. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) estimated that in 2008–09, education related spending by international students (including New Zealand citizens), which includes tuition fees and living expenses, was $15.9 billion in export earnings. This was nearly double that estimated in 2004–05, $8.0 billion.[14]

This article considers those people travelling on temporary student visas who arrive in, or depart from, Australia and the contribution that they make to NOM and hence the official population of Australia. The following analysis on international students is split into two main sections. The first section, with the bulk of the analysis, uses ABS data looking at international students who are included in NOM. It examines various characteristics of these international students including age, sex, visa subclass, country of birth and the state or territory in which they usually reside in Australia. These characteristics are only available with final NOM data from the ABS and the data in this article are the most recent available. Due to the time lag required for final NOM data, the aim of the second section is to use data from the Australian Government Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) on visa grants to give an indication of the current trends on various student visas.

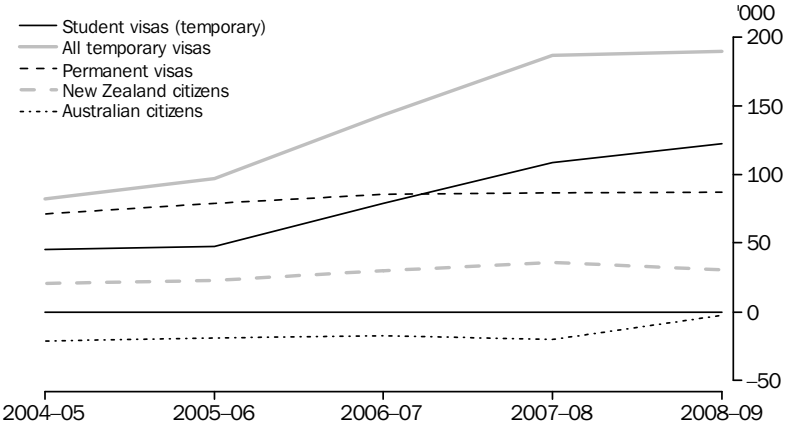
It is important to note that international students travel on a student visa which is a temporary visa issued by DIAC. Therefore, in the majority of cases, a student's duration in the official population count is for a temporary period of time. The exceptions are for those students who apply for and are granted permanent residency whilst onshore.

13 DIAC 2011, Visa, Immigration and Refugees, Student Visa Program Review
14 International Trade in Goods and Services, Australia, Apr 2011, cat. no. 5368.0, monthly

INTRODUCTION *continued*

While the temporary visa group (which includes international students) is one of the major groups contributing to NOM, it has become increasing significant (see figure 6.1). This is mainly due to the increase in student numbers over recent years. Between 2004–05 and 2008–09, the temporary visa group averaged 62% of NOM while the student visa subgroup averaged 36% of NOM. By 2008–09, the student visa subgroup was by far the largest subgroup contributing to Australia's population growth.

6.1 NOM(a), Major groups(b) and student visas—Australia—2004–05 to 2008–09



(a) All net overseas migration (NOM) estimates in this graph are final and based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology. The '12/16 month rule' has only been applied for Australia's official estimated resident population (ERP) back to September quarter 2006. Data presented in this graph will not align with NOM or ERP prior to this time.
(b) Does not include onshore and other visa types. The visa category information represents the visa at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.

ABS DATA SOURCE, DEFINITIONS AND DATA LIMITATIONS

The data used in this article are based on final NOM data from the ABS analytical Travellers' Characteristics Database and covers the 2004–05 to 2008–09 financial year period. An individual's actual travel behaviour and associated characteristics are only available from final NOM data, as these details can only be accurately recorded at the end of a 16 month reference period following a traveller's initial border crossing.

'*12/16 month rule*' *methodology for NOM*

Internationally, NOM is defined on the net gain or loss of population through immigration to a country (NOM arrivals) and emigration from a country (NOM departures), based on an international traveller's duration of stay being in or out of that country for 12 months or more.

Australia's official ERP applies a '12/16 month rule' for calculating NOM and counts any traveller who is in Australia for a total of 12 months or more over a 16 month period, or conversely, excludes from ERP a traveller who is out of Australia for a total of 12 months or more over a 16 month period. It should be noted that NOM data based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology were not used in Australia's official population counts until September quarter 2006.

All ABS data for NOM in this article are based on the current '12/16 month rule' methodology for calculating NOM. NOM estimates on this basis are only available from December quarter 2003. Further information on this methodology and the reasons for the change in method can be found under the Explanatory Notes tab, available with the

'12/16 month rule' methodology for NOM continued

electronic release of *Migration, Australia, 2008–09* (cat. no. 3412.0) in the Technical Note —*'12/16 month rule' Methodology for Calculating Net Overseas Migration from September quarter 2006 and onwards*. For further information on NOM arrivals; NOM departures; the '12/16 month rule'; or ERP see the Glossary attached to this publication.

Student NOM is the net gain or loss of population through persons immigrating to Australia on a temporary student visa (student NOM arrivals) or emigrating from Australia on a temporary student visa (student NOM departures). As with total NOM, it is based on an international traveller's duration of stay being in or out of Australia for 12 months or more.

Data limitations

It is important to note that the majority of analysis on ABS data in this article refers to the net contribution to population change of persons travelling on temporary student visas. The *net contribution* is the difference between NOM arrivals and NOM departures in a reference period for persons holding a temporary student visa at the time of arrival or departure. This is shown as the student *net* overseas migration figure throughout the article (i.e. student NOM).

Not all persons arriving on a student visa will leave on a student visa, as on the completion of a course, a student may apply for another visa and depart Australia on that visa. For example, after completing their studies a student may apply for an onshore permanent residence visa; another student visa; or another visa such as a bridging or temporary business long-stay (subclass 457) visa. Therefore, some students may change their visa and residency status whilst onshore. In these instances, the original student visa recorded as a student NOM arrival now changed to a new visa or residency status and will not be recorded as a corresponding student NOM departure for this particular traveller. A traveller's NOM departure is not recorded until the traveller has left Australia and has remained away for 12 months or more in the 16 month reference period. It is only at this stage that the NOM system will record the change of visa by a traveller. Care should therefore be taken with student visas when analysing the net figure (i.e. student NOM) on its own.

In instances where former student visa holders do not depart Australia at the end of their course but apply for new visas, some apply for and are issued with another student visa. Data from DIAC for the six months ending December 2010 indicates that 56,800 visas were granted (most being onshore applications), where the last visa held was a student visa[15]. Of these visa grants, 30% of previous students were issued with another student visa, 25% were issued with tourist visas and a further 16% were issued with graduate-skilled visas. The comparative proportions for the six months ended December 2009 were 29%, 26% and 17% respectively.

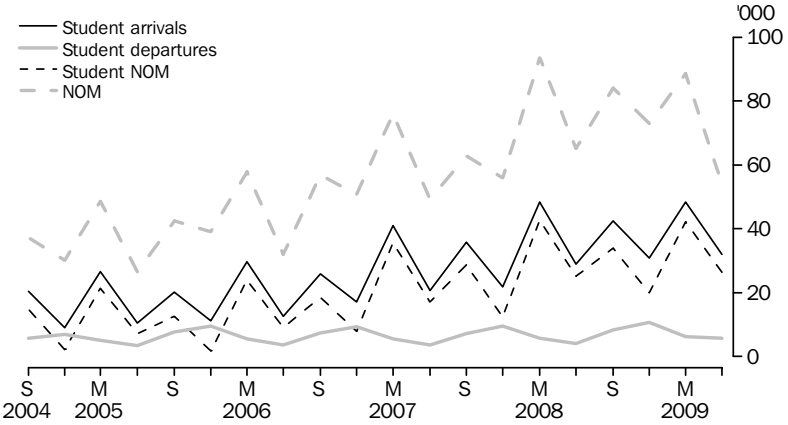
The net contribution of student arrivals and departures is also seasonal. The peak in student NOM occurs in the March quarter and, to a lesser extent, in the September quarter, the traditional start of education courses in Australia. The low point in student NOM occurs in the December quarter, the traditional end of study courses in Australia. The seasonality of student arrivals and departures is clearly evident in figure 6.2. Also evident is the strong impact that students have on NOM, with quarterly NOM mainly rising and falling in line with the flows of international students.

15 DIAC 2011, BR0097 Student visa program report 2010–11 to 31 December 2010, p 68.

Data limitations

continued

6.2 NOM(a), Student visas(b)—Australia—Sep Qtr 2004 to Jun Qtr 2009



(a) All net overseas migration (NOM) estimates in this graph are final and based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology. The '12/16 month rule' has only been applied for Australia's official estimated resident population (ERP) back to September quarter 2006. Data presented in this graph will not align with NOM or ERP prior to this time.
(b) The visa category information represents the number of visas based on visa type at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.

NEW ZEALAND CITIZENS

Since the introduction of the Trans-Tasman travel agreement in 1973, New Zealand citizens are free to visit, live and work in Australia at any time. New Zealand citizens are not required to apply for a visa before entering Australia. They need only hold a valid New Zealand passport and are issued with a specific New Zealand citizen visa (Special Category Visa) at the Australian border.

New Zealand citizens are an important contributor to NOM (10% in 2008–09) and some New Zealanders may well come to Australia for study. However, as New Zealand citizens do not travel on student visas, it is not easy to identify New Zealand students and include them in student NOM arrival and student NOM departure statistics. Therefore, New Zealand citizens are not included in the following analysis.

NOM AND AUSTRALIA'S OFFICIAL POPULATION GROWTH

As mentioned earlier, Australia's official estimated resident population (ERP) now uses the '12/16 month rule' for calculating NOM and this methodology was not used in Australia's official population counts until September quarter 2006. Data based on this methodology is available back to December quarter 2003.

Between 2004–05 to 2008–09, total NOM increased by 110%, from 142,500 persons in 2004–05 to 299,900 persons in 2008–09. In 2008–09, NOM contributed 66% to Australia's population growth, up from 62% in 2006–07 — the year when the '12/16 month rule' method was introduced into official ERP.

Temporary NOM (the net contribution of persons travelling on temporary visas) was the main reason for the increase in Australia's population growth. When 2004–05 and 2008–09 were compared temporary NOM increased 131%, from 82,000 persons in 2004–05 to 189,200 persons in 2008–09. In 2008–09, temporary NOM contributed 42% of Australia's population growth, up from 38% in 2006–07 — the year when the '12/16 month rule' method was introduced into official ERP.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS CONTRIBUTING TO NOM

The ABS Demography program's main interest in international students in Australia is in the impact they have on NOM and hence, the Australian population. International students who contribute to NOM are those travelling on temporary student visas on arrival in, or departure from, Australia.

There are large differences between student visa arrivals and student visa departures for the five year period reviewed in this article, from 2004–05 to 2008–09. Two major factors contribute to the disparity between student arrivals and student departures which are used to calculate the net figure (NOM) for any given period. The first is the result of the time lag effect of a student's course duration. For example, a student arriving today will not necessarily become a NOM departure until the course has ended, in two, three, or four years' time. Thus, when there is a large increase experienced in student arrivals, there will be an interval before a consequential increase in student departures may be experienced. The second factor is that the circumstances of students can also change at the end of their study time whereby they apply for a different visa whilst onshore. Thus it is unlikely to be able to calculate an exact net figure (NOM) for each visa subclass, particularly for some temporary visa holders such as students — see *Data limitations* from earlier in this chapter.

The main growth in NOM over the five year period ending June 2009 was in the number of student arrivals (see table 6.3). In 2008–09, there were 153,600 student NOM arrivals and 31,200 student NOM departures. This equates to a net contribution (NOM) of 122,400 students being added to Australia's population for the year. In 2004–05 the comparative numbers for students were 66,500 NOM arrivals and 21,300 NOM departures, for a student NOM of 45,300 persons. While the number of student NOM arrivals more than doubled when 2004–05 and 2008–09 were compared, NOM departures of students only increased by 47% over the same period. In percentage terms, NOM arrivals of students represented 30% of all NOM arrivals in 2008–09 while NOM departures of students represented 14% of all NOM departures. The comparative student proportions for 2004–05 were lower at 19% for NOM arrivals and 11% for NOM departures.

6.3 NOM(a), Student, temporary and total visas(b)—Australia—2004–05 to 2008–09

	STUDENT VISAS(b)			ALL TEMPORARY VISAS(b)			ALL VISAS(b)		
	NOM arrival	*NOM departure*	*NOM*	*NOM arrival*	*NOM departure*	*NOM*	*NOM arrival*	*NOM departure*	*NOM*
	NUMBER(no)								
2004–05	66 546	21 296	45 250	141 507	59 507	82 000	341 395	198 892	142 503
2005–06	73 590	26 253	47 337	162 278	65 372	96 906	377 882	206 430	171 452
2006–07	104 638	25 743	78 895	205 571	62 513	143 058	437 510	204 686	232 824
2007–08	135 165	26 423	108 742	263 757	77 229	186 528	501 339	224 007	277 332
2008–09	153 586	31 223	122 363	279 166	89 950	189 216	519 785	219 921	299 864
	PROPORTION OF ALL NOM ARRIVALS, NOM DEPARTURES AND NOM(%)								
2004–05	19.5	10.7	31.8	41.4	29.9	57.5	100.0	100.0	100.0
2005–06	19.5	12.7	27.6	42.9	31.7	56.5	100.0	100.0	100.0
2006–07	23.9	12.6	33.9	47.0	30.5	61.4	100.0	100.0	100.0
2007–08	27.0	11.8	39.2	52.6	34.5	67.3	100.0	100.0	100.0
2008–09	29.5	14.2	40.8	53.7	40.9	63.1	100.0	100.0	100.0
	GROWTH ON PREVIOUS YEAR(%)								
2005–06	10.6	23.3	4.6	14.7	9.9	18.2	10.7	3.8	20.3
2006–07	42.2	–1.9	66.7	26.7	–4.4	47.6	15.8	–0.8	35.8
2007–08	29.2	2.6	37.8	28.3	23.5	30.4	14.6	9.4	19.1
2008–09	13.6	18.2	12.5	5.8	16.5	1.4	3.7	–1.8	8.1
	AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE(%)								
2004–05 to 2008–09	23.3	10.0	28.2	18.5	10.9	23.2	11.1	2.5	20.4

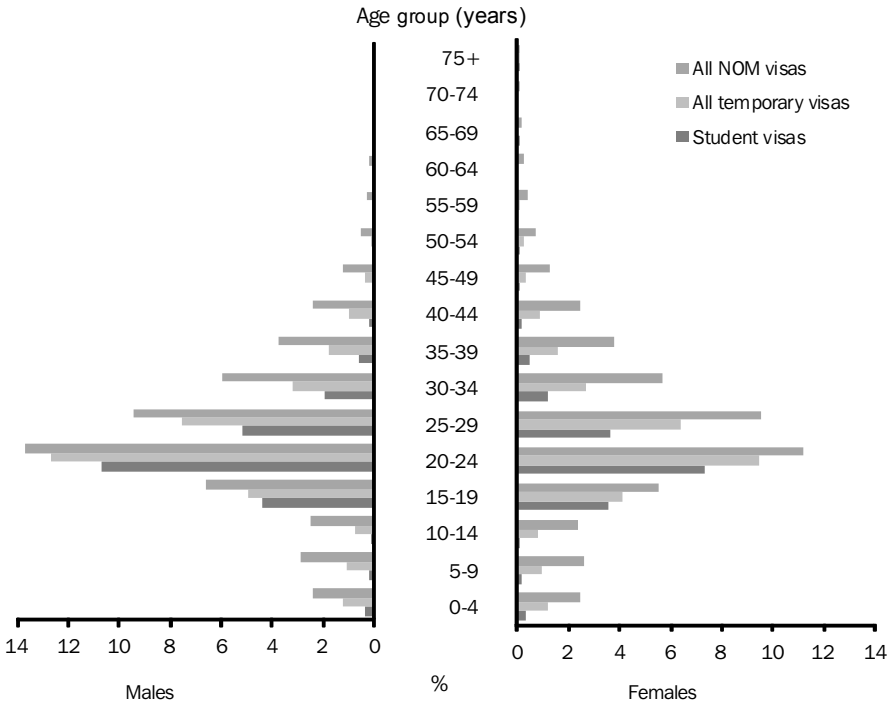
(a) All net overseas migration (NOM) estimates in this table are final and based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology. The '12/16 month rule' has only been applied for Australia's official estimated resident population (ERP) back to September quarter 2006. Data presented in this table will not align with NOM or ERP prior to this time.

(b) The visa category information represents the number of visas based on the visa type at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.

International students by age and sex

The age structure of student visa holders contributing to NOM is different to the age structure of all temporary visa holders and to that of total NOM. Student visa holders are a subgroup of the temporary visa group and the temporary visa group is a subgroup of total NOM. The remaining composition of total NOM is non-temporary visa holders which includes those travelling on permanent visas, New Zealand citizens, Australian citizens and 'other' persons travelling (e.g. non-Australian citizens who are permanent residents and those on onshore and unknown visas).

6.4 NOM(a), TEMPORARY AND STUDENT VISA POPULATION STRUCTURES(b)(c), Age and sex, Australia—2008–09



(a) All NOM estimates in this graph are final and are based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology.
(b) The visa category information represents the number of visas based on the visa type at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.
(c) Age and sex of student, temporary and all NOM visas as a proportion of total NOM.

International students by age and sex continued

During 2008–09, the net of student arrivals minus student departures (a student NOM of 122,400 persons) was the largest individual sub-group contributing to NOM (299,900 persons). Not surprisingly, student visa holders were young, with 93% (113,600 persons) of all students being in the 15 to 34 years age group. In all, travellers on student visas contributed 65% of all temporary NOM and 41% of the total NOM figure for the year. The graph above (figure 6.4) shows the contribution each sub-group made (by age and sex) to the overall total NOM figure.

Students were also present in the ages below 15 years of age. Mainly these children are secondary visa holders, accompanying a parent travelling on a primary student visa. In 2008–09, these children represented around 3% of student NOM visa holders.

There were more males travelling on student visas than females. Final 2008–09 data show that there was a net of 71,400 male student visa holders added to Australia's population in that year. In comparison, there was a smaller net of 51,000 female student visa holders. This equates to 58% of student NOM being male and 42% being female.

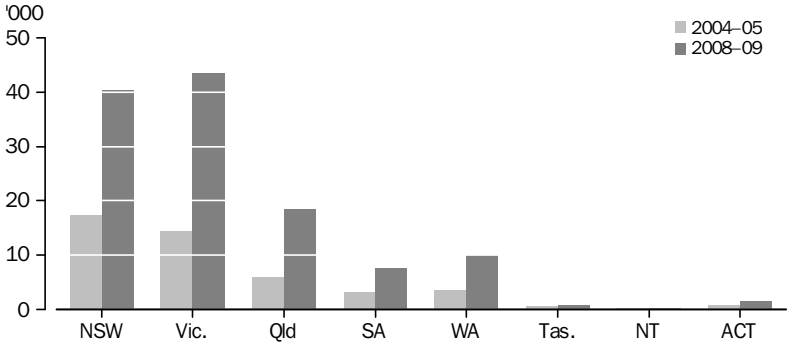
International students by State and Territory

When 2004–05 and 2008–09 were compared, all states and territories recorded increased growth from the net contribution of persons travelling on international student visas. Victoria recorded the highest net contribution of international students in 2008–09 (43,600 students) compared with New South Wales who had the highest in 2004–05

International students by State and Territory continued

(17,300 students). For the two periods being compared, the Northern Territory recorded the highest proportional increase (367%), however, the numbers involved were small. Queensland recorded the next highest proportional increase (215%, increasing from 5,800 in 2004–05 to 18,300 students in 2008–09), followed by Victoria (205%, increasing from 14,300 students to 43,600 students) and Western Australia (181%, increasing from 3,600 students to 10,000 students). For Australia, the net contribution to NOM of international students increased 170%, up from 45,300 in 2004–05 to 122,400 in 2008–09.

6.5 NOM(a), STUDENT VISAS(b), States and territories—2004–05 and 2008–09



(a) All net overseas migration (NOM) estimates in this graph are final and based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology. The '12/16 month rule' has only been applied for Australia's official estimated resident population (ERP) back to September quarter 2006. Data presented in this graph will not align with NOM or ERP prior to this time.
(b) The visa category information represents the number of visas based on the visa type at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.

International students by Visa subclasses

In the period 2004–05 to 2008–09, there were seven main student visa subclasses making a net contribution to student NOM (see table 6.6). The largest student visa group contributing to NOM was the higher education subclass. During the first four years of the five year period, the higher education subclass contributed over 50% of student NOM, peaking at 58% in 2005–06. By 2008–09, while still remaining the largest of all the subclasses, the higher education subclass had fallen to 44% of student NOM.

6.6 NOM(a), Student visa subclass(b)—2004–05 to 2008–09

	NUMBER OF STUDENT VISAS					PROPORTION OF ALL STUDENT VISAS				
	2004–05	*2005–06*	*2006–07*	*2007–08*	*2008–09*	*2004–05*	*2005–06*	*2006–07*	*2007–08*	*2008–09*
Student visa subclass(b)	no.	no.	no.	no.	no.	%	%	%	%	%
STUDENT NOM ARRIVALS										
570–ELICOS(c)	6 093	7 910	9 785	10 360	12 031	9.2	10.7	9.4	7.7	7.8
571–Schools	6 496	6 644	9 446	10 884	7 136	9.8	9.0	9.0	8.1	4.6
572–VET(d)	7 986	10 493	19 970	31 419	53 568	12.0	14.3	19.1	23.2	34.9
573–Higher education(e)	32 746	42 037	57 943	73 149	72 081	49.2	57.1	55.4	54.1	46.9
574–Postgraduate research(e)	9 354	2 295	2 633	3 106	4 013	14.1	3.1	2.5	2.3	2.6
575–Non-award(f)	1 697	1 622	1 582	2 555	1 918	2.6	2.2	1.5	1.9	1.2
576–AusAID/Defence	1 758	2 052	2 364	2 248	2 008	2.6	2.8	2.3	1.7	1.3
Other student visas	416	537	915	1 444	831	0.6	0.7	0.9	1.1	0.5
All students	**66 546**	**73 590**	**104 638**	**135 165**	**153 586**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
STUDENT NOM DEPARTURES										
570–ELICOS(c)	506	596	753	782	884	2.4	2.3	2.9	3.0	2.8
571–Schools	1 245	1 653	1 694	1 865	2 090	5.8	6.3	6.6	7.1	6.7
572–VET(d)	3 082	3 412	3 369	4 064	5 555	14.5	13.0	13.1	15.4	17.8
573–Higher education(e)	9 005	14 781	16 026	15 629	18 120	42.3	56.3	62.3	59.1	58.0
574–Postgraduate research(e)	4 960	3 329	1 446	1 189	1 298	23.3	12.7	5.6	4.5	4.2
575–Non-award(f)	251	298	308	376	501	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.4	1.6
576–AusAID/Defence	1 465	1 820	1 832	2 109	2 243	6.9	6.9	7.1	8.0	7.2
Other student visas	782	364	315	409	532	3.7	1.4	1.2	1.5	1.7
All students	**21 296**	**26 253**	**25 743**	**26 423**	**31 223**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
STUDENT NOM										
570–ELICOS(c)	5 587	7 314	9 032	9 578	11 147	12.3	15.5	11.4	8.8	9.1
571–Schools	5 251	4 991	7 752	9 019	5 046	11.6	10.5	9.8	8.3	4.1
572–VET(d)	4 904	7 081	16 601	27 355	48 013	10.8	15.0	21.0	25.2	39.2
573–Higher education(e)	23 741	27 256	41 917	57 520	53 961	52.5	57.6	53.1	52.9	44.1
574–Postgraduate research(e)	4 394	–1 034	1 187	1 917	2 715	9.7	–2.2	1.5	1.8	2.2
575–Non-award(f)	1 446	1 324	1 274	2 179	1 417	3.2	2.8	1.6	2.0	1.2
576–AusAID/Defence	293	232	532	139	–235	0.6	0.5	0.7	0.1	–0.2
Other student visas	–366	173	600	1 035	299	–0.8	0.4	0.8	1.0	0.2
All students	**45 250**	**47 337**	**78 895**	**108 742**	**122 363**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) All net overseas migration (NOM) estimates in this table are final and based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology. The '12/16 month rule' has only been applied for Australia's official estimated resident population (ERP) back to September quarter 2006. Data presented in this table will not align with NOM or ERP prior to this time.

(b) The visa category information represents the number of visas based on the visa type at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.

(c) English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students.

(d) Vocational Education and Training.

(e) Due to legislative change, from 1 July 2004, the Masters by Coursework qualification moved from the Postgraduate Research Sector to the Higher Education Sector.

(f) Includes study abroad, foundation, bridging and other courses not leading to an Australian award.

All educational subclasses varied their proportional representation of all students between 2004–05 and 2008–09. A comparison of 2004–05 and 2008–09 shows that with the exception of the vocational education and training (VET) subclass, the remaining subclasses decreased their proportional share of all student visas. The VET subclass was

International students by Visa subclasses continued

the only student visa group to increase its proportion of student NOM in each of the five years, increasing from 11% in 2004–05 to 39% in 2008–09.

The net increase in students using VET visas was in part due to the disparity between arrivals and departures. While the numbers of students arriving on VET visas grew strongly over the five year period (increasing nearly seven fold, from 8,000 persons in 2004–05 to 53,600 persons in 2008–09) the number of students departing on VET visas, increased at a slower rate (increasing nearly twice, from 3,100 persons in 2004–05 to 5,600 persons in 2008–09). Time lags in course durations and individuals changing to another visa whilst onshore are the most likely reason for this disparity — see *Data limitations* from earlier in this chapter.

International students by country of birth

The source countries of birth for travellers arriving and departing Australia on student visas numbered over 200 countries. In 2008–09, the top 10 countries of birth contributed 83% of student NOM. As the majority of students are within this range of countries, the remainder of this section of analysis will focus on the top 10 countries of birth.

When 2004–05 and 2008–09 were compared, seven of the top 10 countries were contributors to the top 10 in both years (see table 6.7). In 2008–09, Nepal, Saudi Arabia and Mauritius were within the top 10 countries having replaced South Korea, Bangladesh and Hong Kong, which had been included in 2004–05.

In 2008–09, the number of student NOM arrivals exceeded the number of student NOM departures in all top 10 country of birth categories. There were 58 times more student NOM arrivals from Nepal (10,700 persons) than student NOM departures to Nepal (fewer than 200 persons). Similarly, there were 20 times more arrivals than departures for India-born. Course durations and changes to an individual's travel visa should be kept in mind when analysing student arrival and departure data — see *Data limitations* from earlier in this chapter.

International students by country of birth continued

6.7 NOM(a), Student visas(b)—Country of birth(c)—2004–05 and 2008–09

	NUMBER			PROPORTION		
Country of birth(c)	*Student NOM arrivals* no.	*Student NOM departures* no.	*Student NOM* no.	*Student NOM arrivals* %	*Student NOM departures* %	*Student NOM* %
2004–05						
China(d)	15 931	2 323	13 608	23.9	10.9	30.1
India	9 553	666	8 887	14.4	3.1	19.6
Korea, Republic of (South)	4 208	1 518	2 690	6.3	7.1	5.9
Malaysia	4 275	1 823	2 452	6.4	8.6	5.4
Bangladesh	2 005	215	1 790	3.0	1.0	4.0
Indonesia	3 317	1 981	1 336	5.0	9.3	3.0
Thailand	2 729	1 594	1 135	4.1	7.5	2.5
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	2 860	1 757	1 103	4.3	8.3	2.4
Sri Lanka	1 210	161	1 049	1.8	0.8	2.3
Vietnam	1 300	336	964	2.0	1.6	2.1
Other countries	19 158	8 922	10 236	28.8	41.9	22.6
All countries	**66 546**	**21 296**	**45 250**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
2008–09						
India	45 199	2 244	42 955	29.4	7.2	35.1
China(d)	29 941	5 291	24 650	19.5	16.9	20.1
Nepal	10 697	183	10 514	7.0	0.6	8.6
Vietnam	6 808	772	6 036	4.4	2.5	4.9
Malaysia	5 529	2 050	3 479	3.6	6.6	2.8
Thailand	4 778	1 600	3 178	3.1	5.1	2.6
Saudi Arabia	4 006	836	3 170	2.6	2.7	2.6
Indonesia	4 655	2 122	2 533	3.0	6.8	2.1
Sri Lanka	2 680	205	2 475	1.7	0.7	2.0
Mauritius	2 354	125	2 229	1.5	0.4	1.8
Other countries	36 939	15 795	21 144	24.1	50.6	17.3
All countries	**153 586**	**31 223**	**122 363**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**

(a) All net overseas migration (NOM) estimates in this table are final and based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology. The '12/16 month rule' has only been applied for Australia's official estimated resident population (ERP) back to September quarter 2006. Data presented in this table will not align with NOM or ERP prior to this time.

(b) The visa category information represents the number of visas based on the visa type at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.

(c) Top 10 countries of birth, based on travellers contributing to student NOM in 2004–05 and 2008–09.

(d) China (excludes SARs and Taiwan).

In proportional terms, travellers from half of the top 10 countries of birth (based on 2008–09 student NOM) increased or maintained their net contribution to total NOM each year, for the five years ending 2008–09 (see table 6.8). For the remaining countries in the top 10, China, Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, Indonesia and Sri Lanka recorded annual fluctuations. In each case the number of people contributing to student NOM was higher in 2008–09 than in 2004–05.

International students by country of birth continued

6.8 NOM(a), Student visas(b)—Country of birth(c)—2004–05 to 2008–09

Country of birth(c)	*2004–05*	*2005–06*	*2006–07*	*2007–08*	*2008–09*
	NUMBER(no)				
India	8 887	11 772	23 232	33 252	42 955
China(d)	13 608	12 513	18 795	25 813	24 650
Nepal	188	681	3 618	7 286	10 514
Vietnam	964	1 299	2 118	4 271	6 036
Malaysia	2 452	1 712	2 520	3 510	3 479
Thailand	1 135	1 463	2 178	2 773	3 178
Saudi Arabia	425	719	1 151	3 226	3 170
Indonesia	1 336	1 100	1 719	2 160	2 533
Sri Lanka	1 049	1 622	2 321	2 739	2 475
Mauritius	335	588	821	1 832	2 229
Other countries	14 871	13 868	20 422	21 880	21 144
All countries – total student NOM	**45 250**	**47 337**	**78 895**	**108 742**	**122 363**
All countries – total NOM	**142 503**	**171 452**	**232 824**	**277 332**	**299 864**
	PROPORTION OF STUDENT NOM(%)				
India	19.6	24.9	29.4	30.6	35.1
China(d)	30.1	26.4	23.8	23.7	20.1
Nepal	0.4	1.4	4.6	6.7	8.6
Vietnam	2.1	2.7	2.7	3.9	4.9
Malaysia	5.4	3.6	3.2	3.2	2.8
Thailand	2.5	3.1	2.8	2.6	2.6
Saudi Arabia	0.9	1.5	1.5	3.0	2.6
Indonesia	3.0	2.3	2.2	2.0	2.1
Sri Lanka	2.3	3.4	2.9	2.5	2.0
Mauritius	0.7	1.2	1.0	1.7	1.8
Other countries	32.9	29.3	25.9	20.1	17.3
All countries – % of student NOM	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
	PROPORTION OF TOTAL NOM(%)				
India	6.2	6.9	10.0	12.0	14.3
China(d)	9.5	7.3	8.1	9.3	8.2
Nepal	0.1	0.4	1.6	2.6	3.5
Vietnam	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.5	2.0
Malaysia	1.7	1.0	1.1	1.3	1.2
Thailand	0.8	0.9	0.9	1.0	1.1
Saudi Arabia	0.3	0.4	0.5	1.2	1.1
Indonesia	0.9	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8
Sri Lanka	0.7	0.9	1.0	1.0	0.8
Mauritius	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.7	0.7
Other countries	10.4	8.1	8.8	7.9	7.1
All countries – % of total NOM	**31.8**	**27.6**	**33.9**	**39.2**	**40.8**

(a) All net overseas migration (NOM) estimates in this table are final and based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology. The '12/16 month rule' has only been applied for Australia's official estimated resident population (ERP) back to September quarter 2006. Data presented in this table will not align with NOM or ERP prior to this time.

(b) The visa category information represents the number of visas based on the visa type at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.

(c) Top 10 countries of birth, based on travellers contributing to student NOM in 2008–09.

(d) China (excludes SARs and Taiwan).

International students by country of birth continued

For those travelling on student visas, people born in India and China were the main contributors to student NOM. Together they contributed around 50% or over for each year between 2004–05 and 2008–09. China was the highest contributor in 2004–05 and 2005–06, at 30% and 26% respectively. People born in India recorded the highest proportion of travellers for the period 2006–07 to 2008–09, increasing from 29% to 35%.

In 2008–09, India-born travellers on student visas contributed 14% of total NOM (up from 6% in 2004–05) while China-born travellers on student visas contributed 8% in 2008–09 (down from 10% in 2004–05). The remaining top 10 countries made a combined net contribution to NOM of 11% in 2008–09 and 6% in 2004–05. Overall, student NOM increased its net contribution to total NOM to 41% in 2008–09, up from 32% in 2004–05.

GROWTH RATES BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Nepal-born travellers on student visas showed the highest growth on a year to year basis, with a peak growth of 431% between 2005–06 and 2006–07 (see table 6.9). While most countries recorded positive growth on a yearly basis, there were countries that had the occasional negative growth. For example, Malaysia fell to –30% between 2004–05 and 2005–06, while Sri Lanka fell to –10% between 2007–08 and 2008–09. Between 2007–08 and 2008–09, just over half of the top 10 countries recorded the lowest annual percentage growth of the four year period.

All of the top 10 countries of birth recorded positive average annual growth rates. The average annual growth rate for Nepal-born was the highest recorded over the period ending June 2009 (174%), followed by Saudi Arabia (65%) and Mauritius (61%). It should be noted that the countries recording the highest annual growth rates were not the countries making the highest numeric contribution to student NOM. While India and China were the two top countries numerically over the period, India had an average annual growth rate of 48% (mid range) and China had a growth rate of 16% (third lowest). The average annual growth rate for student NOM was 28% while the average annual growth rate for total NOM was 20%.

International students by country of birth continued

GROWTH RATES BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH *continued*

6.9 NOM(a), Student visas(b)—Country of birth, Annual growth and average annual growth rate(c)—2005–06 to 2008–09

	GROWTH ON PREVIOUS YEAR				AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE
	2005–06	*2006–07*	*2007–08*	*2008–09*	*2004–05 to 2008–09*
Country of birth(c)	%	%	%	%	%
India	32.5	97.3	43.1	29.2	48.3
China(d)	–8.0	50.2	37.3	–4.5	16.0
Nepal	262.2	431.3	101.4	44.3	173.5
Vietnam	34.8	63.0	101.7	41.3	58.2
Malaysia	–30.2	47.2	39.3	–0.9	9.1
Thailand	28.9	48.9	27.3	14.6	29.4
Saudi Arabia	69.2	60.1	180.3	–1.7	65.3
Indonesia	–17.7	56.3	25.7	17.3	17.3
Sri Lanka	54.6	43.1	18.0	–9.6	23.9
Mauritius	75.5	39.6	123.1	21.7	60.6
Other countries	–6.7	47.3	7.1	–3.4	9.2
All countries – student NOM	**4.6**	**66.7**	**37.8**	**12.5**	**28.2**
All countries – total NOM	**20.3**	**35.8**	**19.1**	**8.1**	**20.4**

(a) All net overseas migration (NOM) estimates in this table are final and based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology. The '12/16 month rule' has only been applied for Australia's official estimated resident population (ERP) back to September quarter 2006. Data presented in this table will not align with NOM or ERP prior to this time.
(b) The visa category information represents the number of visas based on the visa type at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.
(c) Top 10 countries of birth, based on travellers contributing to student NOM in 2008–09.
(d) China (excludes SARs and Taiwan).

MEDIAN AGE BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH

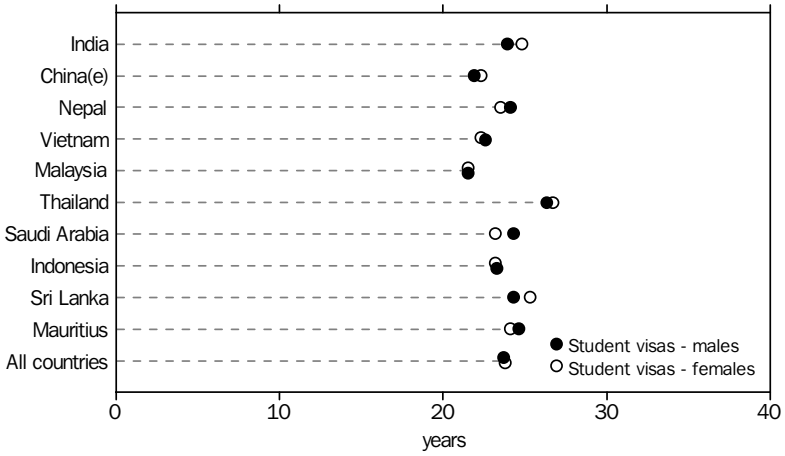
Travellers making a net contribution to student NOM while residing in Australia are usually younger than travellers contributing to total NOM. In 2008–09, the median age of people travelling on student visas was 23.7 years for males and 23.8 years for females (see figure 6.10). For all people contributing to NOM, the median age was higher at 27.1 years for males and 27.0 years for females.

Of the top 10 countries of birth for student visa holders in 2008–09, males and females born in Malaysia recorded the youngest median ages (21.5 years each). The highest median ages were recorded by Thailand-born student visa holders, for both males (26.3 years) and females (26.7 years).

International students by country of birth continued

MEDIAN AGE BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH *continued*

6.10 NOM(a), Student visas(b), Country of birth(c), Median age, Australia—2008–09



(a) All NOM estimates in this graph are final and based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology.
(b) The visa category information represents the number of visas based on the visa type at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.
(c) Top 10 countries of birth, based on travellers contributing to student NOM in 2008–09.
(d) China (excludes SARs and Taiwan).

SEX RATIOS BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH

More males than females travelled on student visas in 2008–09 (see figure 6.11). The sex ratio (the number of males per 100 females) was 129 males for every 100 females. The sex ratio for total NOM during 2008–09 also indicated more males than females travelling, at 111 males per 100 females.

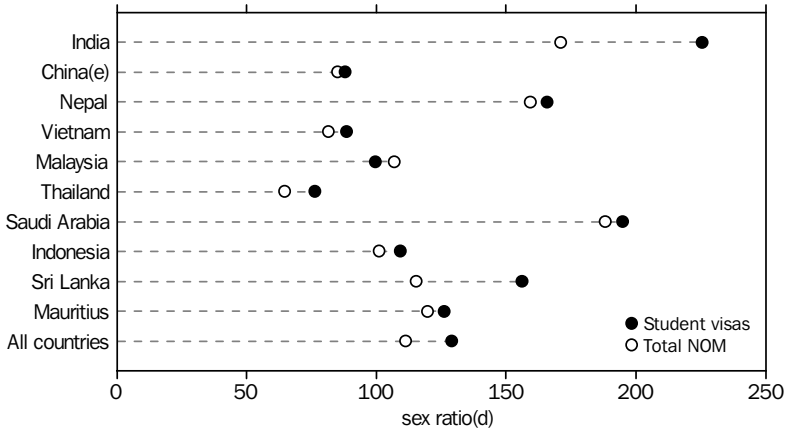
Of the top 10 countries (based on the net contribution to student NOM in 2008–09), students born in India had the highest sex ratio at 226 males per 100 females, followed by students born in Saudi Arabia (195 males per 100 females). The lowest sex ratios were recorded by Thailand-born (76 males per 100 females) and China-born and Vietnam-born (88 males per 100 females each).

When the sex ratios of student visa holders were compared with those for total NOM, all countries with the exception of Malaysia recorded more males than females. Malaysia-born had a student sex ratio of just under 100 males per 100 females (99.7 males) and a total NOM sex ratio of 107 males per 100 females. Examples of country comparisons with a large differential include India-born with 226 males per 100 females for student visa holders compared with 171 males per 100 females for total NOM; and Sri Lanka-born with a sex ratio of 156 males per 100 females for student visa holders compared with 115 males per 100 females for total NOM.

International students by country of birth continued

SEX RATIOS BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH *continued*

6.11 NOM(a), Student visas(b), Country of birth(c), Sex ratio(d), Australia—2008–09



(a) All NOM estimates in this graph are final and are based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology.
(b) The visa category information represents the number of visas based on the visa type at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.
(c) Top 10 countries of birth, based on travellers contributing to student NOM in 2008–09.
(d) Males per 100 females.
(e) China (excludes SARs and Taiwan).

STATE AND TERRITORY BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Victoria and New South Wales were, in most instances, the main destinations for students making a net contribution to student NOM in 2008–09 (see table 6.12). For India-born student visa holders 46% studied in Victoria, 20% studied in New South Wales and 19% studied in Queensland. For China-born student visa holders 39% studied in New South Wales and 33% in Victoria. Student visa holders from some countries in the top 10 used the courses offered by the states and territories on a more selective basis (e.g. 70% of Sri Lanka-born selected Victoria, while 68% of Thailand-born selected New South Wales). For other countries of birth, e.g. Malaysia and Saudi Arabia, the students were more evenly distributed across the states and territories.

International students by country of birth continued

STATE AND TERRITORY BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH *continued*

6.12 NOM(a), Student visas(b)—States and territories and Country of birth, Proportion for each country of birth, Australia(c)—2008–09

Country of birth (c)	*NSW* %	*Vic.* %	*Qld* %	*SA* %	*WA* %	*Tas.* %	*NT* %	*ACT* %	*Aust.* (d) no.
India	20.1	45.7	18.8	7.3	7.2	0.2	0.1	0.5	42 955
China(e)	38.8	32.6	11.9	7.9	5.1	1.2	0.1	2.3	24 650
Nepal	57.4	25.0	9.9	3.3	3.5	0.2	0.4	0.4	10 514
Vietnam	31.1	45.7	8.3	5.3	7.0	0.3	0.5	1.8	6 036
Malaysia	14.1	40.4	12.6	12.8	14.9	2.6	0.3	2.3	3 479
Thailand	67.5	15.1	9.7	1.6	4.8	1.0	—	0.3	3 178
Saudi Arabia	32.6	24.6	18.5	7.5	10.3	2.9	0.1	3.5	3 170
Indonesia	62.2	20.8	5.4	–2.6	12.1	0.2	0.4	1.5	2 533
Sri Lanka	9.7	70.3	8.6	3.8	6.6	0.1	0.1	0.8	2 475
Mauritius	16.8	45.4	2.7	0.6	33.9	0.3	—	0.3	2 229
Other countries	40.0	21.7	19.1	4.7	12.3	0.4	0.4	1.4	21 144
All countries	**33.0**	**35.6**	**15.0**	**6.2**	**8.2**	**0.6**	**0.2**	**1.3**	**122 363**

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) All NOM estimates in this table are final and based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology.
(b) The visa category information represents the number of visas based on the visa type at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.
(c) Top 10 countries of birth, based on travellers contributing to student NOM in 2008–09.
(d) Includes Other Territories.
(e) China (excludes SARs and Taiwan).

For travellers making a net contribution to student NOM in 2008–09, the state of Victoria was the highest recipient (43,600 persons). Table 6.13 shows that India-born student visa holders contributed 45% of all student travellers to that state, followed by China-born student visa holders (18%). New South Wales was the next highest recipient of students (40,400 persons). China-born student visa holders recorded 24% of students to that state, followed by India-born student visa holders (21%). While Tasmania only received a small number of students (740), and people born in China and India were the main contributors (a combined 53% of students), people born in Malaysia and Saudi Arabia also made substantial contributions with each country contributing 12% of students to the state of Tasmania.

6.13 NOM(a), Student visas(b)—States and territories and Country of birth, Proportion for each state and territory, Australia(c)—2008–09

Country of birth(c)	*NSW*	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*	*Aust.*(d)
Selected countries(%)									
India	21.3	45.0	44.1	41.9	31.0	14.3	18.8	15.1	35.1
China(e)	23.7	18.5	16.0	25.8	12.7	38.4	12.2	37.8	20.1
Nepal	14.9	6.0	5.7	4.6	3.7	2.7	15.1	2.8	8.6
Vietnam	4.6	6.3	2.7	4.3	4.2	2.7	10.3	7.0	4.9
Malaysia	1.2	3.2	2.4	5.9	5.2	12.3	3.7	5.2	2.8
Thailand	5.3	1.1	1.7	0.7	1.5	4.2	0.4	0.6	2.6
Saudi Arabia	2.6	1.8	3.2	3.2	3.3	12.3	1.1	7.3	2.6
Indonesia	3.9	1.2	0.7	–0.9	3.1	0.5	4.1	2.5	2.1
Sri Lanka	0.6	4.0	1.2	1.2	1.6	0.3	0.7	1.4	2.0
Mauritius	0.9	2.3	0.3	0.2	7.6	0.8	0.4	0.5	1.8
Other countries	20.9	10.5	22.0	13.2	26.0	11.5	33.2	19.8	17.3
All countries(no.)	**40 419**	**43 582**	**18 304**	**7 542**	**9 973**	**740**	**271**	**1 530**	**122 363**

(a) All NOM estimates in this table are final and based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology.

(b) The visa category information represents the number of visas based on the visa type at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.

(c) Top 10 countries of birth, based on travellers contributing to student NOM in 2008–09.

(d) Includes Other Territories.

(e) China (excludes SARs and Taiwan).

International students by country of birth continued

STUDENT VISA SUBCLASS BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Travellers making a net contribution to student NOM from the top 10 countries of birth in 2008–09 used specific education sector visa subclasses (see table 6.14). Students born in the majority of the top 10 countries used the VET or higher education visa subclasses the most. India-born students, the largest group of all student NOM, were highly represented in these two subclasses: VET (55%) and higher education (44%). China-born students, the second highest contributor to student NOM, mainly used the higher education subclass (64%). These two visa subclasses were not always the main two subclasses chosen by students from specific countries. For example, for Thailand-born students, 77% used the English language intensive courses for overseas students (ELICOS) subclass while 14% of Malaysia-born students used the postgraduate research subclass as their second highest course selection.

6.14 NOM(a), Student visa subclass(b)—Country of birth, Proportion for each country of birth, Australia(c)—2008–09

	STUDENT VISA SUBCLASS(b)								
Country of birth(c)	*570–ELICOS*(d)	*571–Schools*	*572–VET*(e)	*573–Higher education*	*574–Post-graduate research*	*575–Non-award*	*576–AusAID/Defence*	*Other student visas*	*Total student visas*
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	no.
India	0.1	0.2	55.4	43.7	0.3	0.3	0.1	—	42 955
China(f)	2.0	14.5	15.6	64.2	1.5	1.7	—	0.6	24 650
Nepal	0.1	0.1	85.5	14.0	0.3	—	0.1	—	10 514
Vietnam	3.4	14.3	4.4	72.9	2.0	—	0.3	2.7	6 036
Malaysia	0.7	4.8	8.2	66.3	13.7	6.0	0.1	0.1	3 479
Thailand	77.1	1.0	22.1	–1.5	0.5	0.7	–0.1	0.1	3 178
Saudi Arabia	22.1	0.1	3.4	69.4	3.0	2.0	—	0.1	3 170
Indonesia	2.6	2.1	58.9	34.4	12.5	6.4	–17.4	0.4	2 533
Sri Lanka	0.2	0.4	18.6	74.9	4.1	0.8	0.8	0.3	2 475
Mauritius	1.1	—	58.5	39.9	—	0.4	—	—	2 229
Other countries	33.8	1.2	32.0	25.8	5.1	1.8	0.6	–0.2	21 144
All countries	**9.1**	**4.1**	**39.2**	**44.1**	**2.2**	**1.2**	**–0.2**	**0.2**	**122 363**

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) All NOM estimates in this table are final and based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology.

(b) The visa category information represents the number of visas based on the visa type at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.

(c) Top 10 countries of birth, based on travellers contributing to student NOM in 2008–09.

(d) English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students.

(e) Vocational Education and Training.

(f) China (excludes SARs and Taiwan).

International students by country of birth continued

STUDENT VISA SUBCLASS BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH *continued*

In 2008–09, the net contribution to student NOM from students holding higher education subclass visas was 44% (see table 6.14). Table 6.15 shows that students born in India made the main net contribution of 35% to the higher education visa subclass. India-born students were also the main net contributor to the second largest student subclass of VET, causing 50% of the VET visas contribution to NOM for the year. While the schools subclass representation was low (4% of all student visa holders contributing to NOM), 71% of the contribution to NOM from this visa subclass was from students born in China. It should also be noted that 64% of the contribution to NOM from ELICOS students was from students with countries of birth outside the top 10 countries. Countries outside the top 10 countries of birth included Brazil (16% of the net contribution to ELICOS students), Colombia (14%), South Korea (9%) and Turkey (4%).

6.15 NOM(a), Student visa subclass(b)—Country of birth, Proportion for each student visa subclass, Australia(c)—2008–09

	STUDENT VISA SUBCLASS(b)								
Country of birth(c)	*570–ELICOS*(d)	*571–Schools*	*572–VET*(e)	*573–Higher education*	*574–Post-graduate research*	*575–Non-award*	*576–AusAID/Defence*	*Other student visas*	*Total student visas*
Selected countries(%)									
India	0.2	1.9	49.6	34.7	4.6	9.4	–9.4	2.3	35.1
China(f)	4.4	70.7	8.0	29.3	13.4	29.0	–3.8	52.2	20.1
Nepal	0.1	0.3	18.7	2.7	1.0	0.1	–3.8	—	8.6
Vietnam	1.8	17.1	0.5	8.2	4.4	0.2	–8.9	54.2	4.9
Malaysia	0.2	3.3	0.6	4.3	17.5	14.8	–2.1	0.7	2.8
Thailand	22.0	0.7	1.5	–0.1	0.6	1.6	0.9	1.3	2.6
Saudi Arabia	6.3	—	0.2	4.1	3.5	4.5	–0.4	0.7	2.6
Indonesia	0.6	1.1	3.1	1.6	11.7	11.5	187.2	3.7	2.1
Sri Lanka	—	0.2	1.0	3.4	3.7	1.4	–8.1	2.3	2.0
Mauritius	0.2	—	2.7	1.6	—	0.6	—	—	1.8
Other countries	64.1	4.9	14.1	10.1	39.6	26.8	–51.5	–17.4	17.3
All countries(no.)	**11 147**	**5 046**	**48 013**	**53 961**	**2 715**	**1 417**	**–235**	**299**	**122 363**

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) All NOM estimates in this table are final and based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology.

(b) The visa category information represents the number of visas based on the visa type at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.

(c) Top 10 countries of birth, based on student visa holders contributing to NOM in 2008–09.

(d) English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students.

(e) Vocational Education and Training.

(f) China (excludes SARs and Taiwan).

Student visa subclass by State and Territory

In 2008–09, the student visa subclass containing the highest contribution of any visa subclass contributing to NOM was the higher education subclass (54,000 students). Of all the states and territories where students resided, Victoria had the highest representation (35%) in this subclass (see table 6.16). Victoria also had the highest proportionate representation for many of the other visa subclasses. For the ELICOS subclass, the highest proportion of students making a net contribution to student NOM resided in New South Wales (49%), with Victoria having a lower proportion (17%). Western Australia maintained a relatively even proportion from each student visa subclass.

Student visa subclass by State and Territory continued

6.16 NOM(a), Student visa subclass(b)—States and territories, Proportion for each student visa subclass, Australia—2008–09

	NSW	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*	*Aust.*(c)
Student visa subclass(b)	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	no.
570–ELICOS(d)	49.4	17.1	20.5	2.6	9.0	0.3	0.2	0.9	11 147
571–Schools	33.2	35.0	11.0	9.4	8.0	1.1	0.2	2.0	5 046
572–VET(e)	32.2	39.7	14.6	5.3	7.2	0.3	0.1	0.6	48 013
573–Higher education	30.7	35.5	14.2	7.7	8.9	0.9	0.3	1.9	53 961
574–Postgraduate research	27.7	32.6	19.4	7.7	8.7	0.6	0.1	3.1	2 715
575–Non-award	22.7	56.6	11.9	0.1	8.0	0.3	–0.1	0.4	1 417
576–AusAID/Defence	–13.6	40.0	–35.7	72.8	4.7	0.4	–2.1	33.6	–235
Other student visas	43.1	40.1	4.0	8.4	1.3	1.0	0.3	1.7	299
Total student visas	**33.0**	**35.6**	**15.0**	**6.2**	**8.2**	**0.6**	**0.2**	**1.3**	**122 363**

(a) All NOM estimates in this table are final and based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology.
(b) The visa category information represents the number of visas based on the visa type at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.
(c) Includes Other Territories.
(d) English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students.
(e) Vocational Education and Training.

The contribution to NOM for each state and territory was largest from students using the higher education subclass of visa, ranging from 41% in New South Wales to 66% in the Australian Capital Territory, in 2008–09 (see table 6.17). Students using the VET visa subclass had the second highest contribution to NOM for each state and territory. Outside these two main visa subclasses the ELICOS visa subclass was well represented in New South Wales (14%), Queensland (12%) and Western Australia (10%), while the schools subclass was proportionally most evident in Tasmania (8%), the Australian Capital Territory (7%), and South Australia (6%) in 2008–09.

6.17 NOM(a), Student visa subclass(b)—States and territories, Proportion for each state and territory, Australia—2008–09

	NSW	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*	*Aust.*(c)
Student visa subclass(b)(%)									
570–ELICOS(d)	13.6	4.4	12.5	3.9	10.1	5.1	8.1	6.5	9.1
571–Schools	4.1	4.1	3.0	6.3	4.0	7.8	4.1	6.7	4.1
572–VET(e)	38.2	43.7	38.3	33.7	34.6	19.5	26.2	19.9	39.2
573–Higher education	40.9	43.9	41.9	55.3	47.9	64.6	58.7	65.8	44.1
574–Postgraduate research	1.9	2.0	2.9	2.8	2.4	2.2	1.1	5.6	2.2
575–Non-award	0.8	1.8	0.9	—	1.1	0.5	–0.4	0.4	1.2
576–AusAID/Defence	0.1	–0.2	0.5	–2.3	–0.1	–0.1	1.8	–5.2	–0.2
Other student visas	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.3	—	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.2
Total student visas(no.)	**40 419**	**43 582**	**18 304**	**7 542**	**9 973**	**740**	**271**	**1 530**	**122 363**

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
(a) All NOM estimates in this table are final and based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology.
(b) The visa category information represents the number of visas based on the visa type at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.
(c) Includes Other Territories.
(d) English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students.
(e) Vocational Education and Training.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND THE MOST RECENT ABS DATA AVAILABLE

The most recent ABS data available indicates that NOM has peaked at an all-time high in March quarter 2008, adding a net of 93,500 persons to the Australian population in that quarter — see *Australian Demographic Statistics, September quarter, 2010* (cat. no. 3101.0). The net count of international students contributing to this peak in March 2008 was 42,600 persons or 46% of the total NOM for this quarter. As noted at the beginning of this article, by 2008–09, the student visa group was by far the largest group contributing to Australia's population growth. It was also noted that seasonality of international students (which peaks in a March quarter) also heavily influences the rise and fall of the total NOM estimates each quarter.

The most recent preliminary NOM data available at September quarter 2010 (which is modelled data and unable to provide information on students) is showing a sharp decline in NOM estimates when compared with the same quarter in the previous year. This, in part, is due to the large numbers of temporary visa holders (including students) who have arrived in recent years and are now starting to depart Australia in larger numbers. For example, for the September quarter 2010, preliminary data shows 67,700 departures was the largest ever recorded for any September quarter. Departures of students are also increasing with the review of rules for eligibility to obtain onshore permanent residence visas or other visas[16]. The sharp decline in NOM is also due to the decline in arrivals which, when compared with the same quarter in the previous year, has been dropping steadily since the peak of the March quarter 2008. The combination of a decline in NOM arrivals and an increase in NOM departures has strongly impacted the net figure that is calculated for NOM.

The contribution that student visa holders are having on the sharp decline in preliminary NOM estimates is not yet evident until the NOM data is finalised by the ABS. As mentioned earlier in this article, details of an individual's actual behaviour and associated characteristics can only be accurately recorded at the end of the 16 month reference period following a traveller's initial border crossing. However, supporting information from DIAC shows the number of student visa grants is dropping. Student visa grants from DIAC[17] are down from a peak of 319,600 in 2008–09 to 270,500 in 2009–10. The number of student visas being granted by DIAC can be seen as a precursor to the number of student arrivals likely to contribute to NOM.

The next section will use the most recent DIAC data available to give an early indication of the likely trends in various student visa subclasses that may impact on future NOM and therefore the future population counts for Australia.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND THE MOST RECENT DIAC DATA AVAILABLE

The Australian Migration Program is administered by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC). The program changes over time, as do the 'push' and 'pull' factors for migrants throughout the world. As recently as 16 December 2010, Senator Chris Evans and Minister Chris Bowen MP announced an Australian Government review of the student visa program, with the report due in mid-2011.

> 'The review is tasked with enhancing the continued competiveness of the international education sector, as well as strengthening the integrity of the Student visa program.'[18]

16 APH 2010, Overseas students: immigration policy changes 1997–May 2010.
17 DIAC 2011, BR0097 Student visa program report 2010–11 to 31 December 2010, p 32.
18 DIAC 2010, Media releases, Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, 2010 Chris Bowen MP, 16 December, Review of student visa program.

Student applications granted

Recent data from DIAC were released in the *Student visa program report 2010–11 to December 2010* and include time series data to December 2010, 18 months after the reference period of the majority of ABS final NOM data discussed in this article. In this report, DIAC advises that:

> '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, the current financial year should always be considered provisional.'[19]

In addition to this, each quarter DIAC release the *Student Visa Program Quarterly Report* with the most recent being 31 March 2011. This report is a valuable resource for anyone who have an interest in the international student sector.

Table 6.18 shows a fall in the number of international student visa applications granted in 2009–10 (270,500 persons). Over the period 2004–05 to 2008–09, DIAC recorded strong growth in the numbers of student visas being granted. In 2008–09, international student applications granted rose to a peak of 319,600 persons or 15% higher than the previous year (2007–08). A year later in 2009–10, the number of student applications granted had fallen 15% to 270,500 persons.

The student program administered by DIAC comprises seven subclasses that broadly reflect Australia's education sectors. Between 2004–05 and 2008–09, the higher education sector and the VET sector remained the largest two visa subclasses granted, averaging around 46% and 23% respectively over the period. The proportion of higher education sector visas, while showing some minor fluctuations, remained relatively stable. However, the VET sector more than doubled, increasing each year from 14% in 2004–05 to 32% in 2008–09.

6.18 STUDENT APPLICATIONS GRANTED, Student visa subclass—2004–05 to 2009–10

	2004–05	*2005–06*	*2006–07*	*2007–08*	*2008–09*	*2009–10*
Student visa subclass(%)						
570–ELICOS(a)	12.8	14.0	13.1	11.0	11.4	13.0
571–Schools	7.2	6.6	7.1	6.1	4.4	4.6
572–VET(b)	14.4	15.7	19.0	24.6	32.5	26.6
573–Higher education(c)	47.1	49.1	48.5	46.8	41.9	44.0
574–Postgraduate research(c)	6.3	2.9	2.5	2.5	2.6	3.5
575–Non-award(d)	10.1	9.3	7.7	7.5	5.9	6.7
576–AusAID/Defence	2.0	2.4	2.0	1.6	1.3	1.6
Total (no.)	**175 818**	**191 347**	**230 807**	**278 715**	**319 632**	**270 499**

(a) English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students.
(b) Vocational Education and Training.
(c) Due to legislative change, from 1 July 2004, the Masters by Coursework qualification moved from the Postgraduate Research Sector to the Higher Education Sector.
(d) Includes study abroad, foundation, bridging and other courses not leading to an Australian award.
Source: Department of Immigration and Citizenship, BR0097 Student visa program report 2010–11 to 31 December 2010, p 12.

19 DIAC 2011, BR0097 Student visa program report 2010-11 to 31 December 2010, p 1.

Student applications granted continued

In 2009–10, the higher education sector increased its representation of all student visas by 2 percentage points (up to 44% in 2009–10) when compared with 2008–09. By contrast, the VET sector's proportional representation of all visas granted to students had fallen by 6 percentage points (down to 27% in 2009–10).

Table 6.19 shows that on a year-to-year basis, the highest annual growth in student applications granted was recorded in 2006–07 and 2007–08, each year increasing 21% on the previous period. The VET sector increased the most in proportional term, increasing by 56% in 2007–08 and 51% in 2008–09. Between 2004–05 and 2009–10, the average annual growth rate in student applications granted was 9%. The VET sector had the highest average annual growth rate at 23% over the six year period.

6.19 STUDENT APPLICATIONS GRANTED, Student visa subclass—Annual growth and average annual growth rate—2004–05 to 2009–10

	GROWTH ON PREVIOUS YEAR						AVERAGE ANNUAL GROWTH RATE
	2004–05	*2005–06*	*2006–07*	*2007–08*	*2008–09*	*2009–10*	*2004–05 to 2009–10*
Student visa subclass	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
570–ELICOS(a)	1.8	18.7	13.6	0.6	19.4	–3.3	9.4
571–Schools	–12.7	–0.4	29.2	3.7	–16.8	–11.4	–0.3
572–VET(b)	2.3	18.3	46.0	56.4	51.4	–30.6	23.2
573–Higher education(c)	50.3	13.6	19.1	16.4	2.7	–11.1	7.5
574–Postgraduate research(c)	–70.5	–49.9	6.5	18.1	19.9	12.1	–3.3
575–Non-award(d)	26.5	–0.1	–0.6	17.6	–8.6	–4.5	0.4
576–AusAID/Defence	–3.3	29.1	1.6	–2.7	–10.2	3.9	3.5
Total	**2.4**	**8.8**	**20.6**	**20.8**	**14.7**	**–15.4**	**9.0**

(a) English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students.
(b) Vocational Education and Training.
(c) Due to legislative change, from 1 July 2004, the Masters by Coursework qualification moved from the Postgraduate Research Sector to the Higher Education Sector.
(d) Includes study abroad, foundation, bridging and other courses not leading to an Australian award.
Source: Department of Immigration and Citizenship, BR0097 Student visa program report 2010–11 to 31 December 2010, p 12.

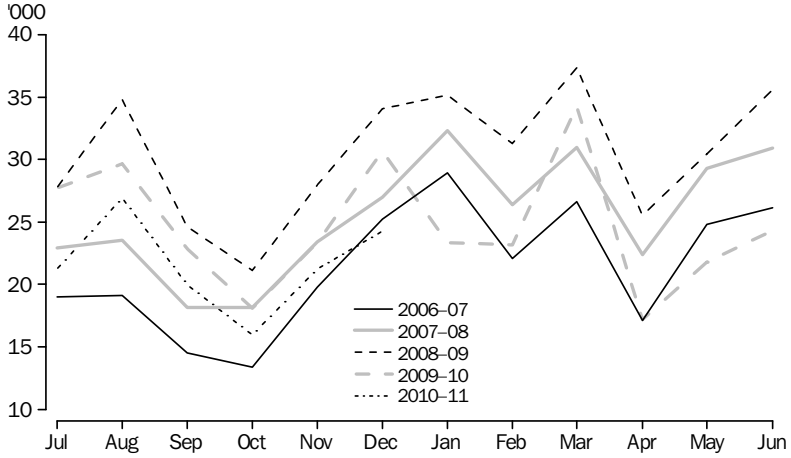
Student applications lodged

Student applications lodged to DIAC to December 2010 indicate that numbers are falling (see figure 6.20) from a peak in 2008–09 (365,800 persons). In the six months ending December 2010, 129,600 applications were lodged, compared with the same six months of 2009 when 152,400 applications for student visas were lodged[20].

20 DIAC 2011, BR0097 Student visa program report 2010–11 to 31 December 2010, p 24.

Student applications lodged continued

6.20 INTERNATIONAL APPLICATIONS FOR STUDENT VISAS, Australia—Jul 2006 to Dec 2010



Source: Department of Immigration and Citizenship, BR0097 Student visa program report 2010–11 to 31 December 2010, p 24

Stock of student visa holders

At 30 June 2010, there were 382,700 student visa holders residing in Australia, slightly lower than the stock at 30 June 2009 (386,300 persons) and 83% higher than at 30 June 2006 (209,200 persons).[21] Students engaged in the higher education sector at 30 June 2010 contributed 52% of the stock of all student visa holders in Australia followed by students in the VET sector (32%). Citizens of India and China (each representing 21%) comprised the highest proportions of the stock of all student visa holders residing in Australia.

New source of data for projections of NOM from DIAC

On 3 June 2011, the Minister for Immigration and Citizenship, Chris Bowen MP, released a new quarterly report: *The Outlook for Net Overseas Migration: May 2011*, as a first step towards a comprehensive annual report on Australia's future immigration levels. This quarterly report will provide forecasts and projections of NOM by flow and major visa component over the next five years. This report noted that:

> 'recent reforms to temporary and permanent skilled migration as well as changes to student visa settings have had an impact in reducing NOM by restoring the balance between inflows and outflows of temporary migrants including international students. The more recent decline in NOM is due in part to the lower numbers of international student arriving. It is also driven by increased numbers of students departing Australia.'[22]

This has reduced the student's impact on NOM. Although this is not yet apparent in the final NOM data from the ABS due to the time lags, it is evident in the latest visa grants data from DIAC.

SUMMARY

The introduction of the Travellers' Characteristics Data Base has enabled the ABS to investigate information about travellers who contribute to NOM. In this instance the investigations have concentrated on the characteristics of students who have been added to or removed from Australia's population through NOM.

21 DIAC 2011, BR0097 Student visa program report 2010–11 to 31 December 2010, p 16.
22 DIAC 2011, The Outlook for Net Overseas Migration: May 2011, p 7.

International students contributing to NOM

International students contributing to NOM (the key focus of this article and the net contribution of persons travelling on temporary student visas) was the main reason for the increase in NOM between 2004–05 and 2008–09. Student NOM rose 170% over the period, increasing from 45,300 persons in 2004–05 to 122,400 persons in 2008–09. In 2008–09, student NOM contributed 27% of Australia's population growth, up from 21% in 2006–07 — the year when the new '12/16 month rule' method was introduced into official ERP.

The main reason for the growth in student NOM was the disparity in growth between student NOM arrivals and student NOM departures. Over the five year period, student NOM arrivals increased 131%, increasing from 66,500 persons in 2004–05 to 153,600 in 2008–09. Over the same period, student NOM departures also increased, but at a lesser rate. Student NOM departures increased 47%, increasing from 21,300 persons in 2004–05 to 31,200 persons in 2008–09.

The two main factors contributing to the disparity in growth between student arrivals and student departures were the time lag effect in a student's course duration and the propensity for the circumstances of students to change at the completion of their courses whereby they apply for a different visa whilst onshore — see Data limitations from earlier in this chapter.

Median age and sex ratio

Student NOM travellers were younger than all NOM travellers. In 2008–09, the median age of students contributing to NOM was 23.7 years for males and 23.8 years for females. For all NOM travellers, the median ages were 27.1 years for males and 27.0 year for females.

In 2008–09, more males than females contributed to NOM at both the student and total NOM levels. The student NOM sex ratio (129 males per 100 females) was also higher than the total NOM sex ratio (111 males per 100 females).

State and Territory breakdown

When 2004–05 and 2008–09 were compared, all states and territories recorded increased population growth from the net contribution of persons travelling on student visas. In 2008–09, Victoria was the main net recipient of international students (43,600 persons) followed by New South Wales (40,400 persons). Queensland recorded a proportional increase of 215% over the four year period ending June 2009, followed by Victoria at 205%.

In 2008–09, the higher education subclass (54,000 persons) made the largest net contribution to student NOM. Victoria was the main recipient (35%) for this subclass and many of the remaining subclasses. The ELICOS subclass was an exception with 49% of this group residing in New south Wales.

The main student visa type for all states and territories was the higher education subclass, ranging from 41% in New South Wales to 66% in the Australian Capital Territory. The VET visa subclass was the second most used student visa, ranging from 19% in Tasmania to 44% in Victoria.

Student visa subclasses

The main student visa subclasses for students making a net contribution to NOM, over most of the five year period ending June 2009, were higher education (44% in 2008–09) and VET (39% in 2008–09).

Student visa subclasses continued

A comparison of 2004–05 and 2008–09 shows that the VET subclass was the only major visa subclass where student visa holders increased their proportion of student NOM, increasing from 11% in 2004–05 to 39% in 2008–09. While the students with the higher education subclass visa remained the top contributors to student NOM in 2008–09 (44%), the proportion decreased from 2004–05 (52%).

Country of birth analysis

In 2008–09, the main source countries of birth for students contributing to student NOM were India (35%), China (20%) and Nepal (9%). Overall, the top 10 source countries contributed 83% of student NOM. Four years earlier, in 2004–05, the main source countries were China (30%), India (20%) and South Korea (6%). All countries in the top 10 source countries saw student NOM arrivals exceed student NOM departures.

Over the four year period ending June 2009, all top 10 countries increased their average annual contribution to student NOM. Nepal-born recorded the highest average annual growth rate (174%) followed by Saudi Arabia-born students (65%) and Mauritius-born students (61%). India-born students and China-born students (the top two contributing countries) had lower average annual growth rates at 48% and 16% respectively. The average annual growth rate for student NOM was 28% while the average annual growth rate for total NOM was 20%.

DISCUSSION

International migration is a volatile phenomenon influenced by a wide range of demographic, social, economic and political determinants and consequences at the global, regional and national level. Australia's formal migration program is long-standing and is currently administered by DIAC. The program changes over time in line with global events (e.g. Global Financial Crisis and humanitarian demands) and Australia's specific requirements (e.g. skill shortages/oversupply and the importance of the education industry to Australia's economy).

Student migration policy, as part of Australia's migration policy, has undergone many reforms and initiatives before, during and after the timeframe of this study[23]. For example: a major international marketing campaign to promote Australia's education and training services industry overseas was undertaken in May 1998; from July 2001, overseas students who met specific requirements were allowed to make onshore applications for permanent residency status on completion of their courses; April 2005 saw the lowering of student visa assessment levels; from May 2006, there was an increase in the base level of English language proficiency requirement; April 2008 saw the granting of students the right to work while studying; while in February 2010 a new, more targeted, Skilled Occupations List (SOL) was introduced. This last change to the skilled migration program included, as well as the SOL, a review of the points test used to assess applicants, and the potential to cap visa grants to people in particular occupations. These changes 'aimed to delink student visas from permanent migration status'[24]. Policy changes can be expected to continue into the future. The announcement of the Australian Government review of the student visa program in December 2010 is evidence of the focus on international students and migration.

23 APH 2010, Overseas students: immigration policy changes 1997–May 2010, p various.
24 APH 2010, Overseas students: immigration policy changes 1997–May 2010, p 13.

DISCUSSION *continued*

It is clear that international students have been a key driver in the growth of NOM and therefore Australia's population over recent years. It is also clear that international students are playing a key role in the recent sharp decline in NOM estimates, where this decline is a combination of a decline in student arrivals and an increase in student departures.

The focus of this article has been discussion on those international students who contribute to net overseas migration and hence contribute to changes in the official estimates of the population of Australia that are produced by the ABS. It is hoped the analysis undertaken here provides an insight into the characteristics of these international students and is a useful resource for future research.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains statistics relating to overseas migration, interstate migration and the estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth. It also includes contextual information such as international migration statistics of other countries.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

2 After the 1981 Census, the concept of what constitutes the population of Australia and the states and territories was changed so that it was defined in terms of the number of usual residents — these new estimates (termed the estimated resident population, or ERP) were adopted as the official population series. Prior to this the population had been defined as the number of people actually present at a given time — at the time of the Census this meant the number of people actually counted and therefore included foreign tourists but excluded Australians abroad. Population estimates based on the concept of usual residence were constructed back to 1971.

3 A detailed account of the introduction of the ERP series is available in *Methods and Procedures in the Compilation of Estimated Resident Population 1981 and in the Construction of the 1971–81 Time Series* (cat. no. 3103.0).

Method of estimation

4 Two main steps are involved in estimating the national and state/territory population:

- calculating the base population (Census year population estimates); and
- updating this base population (post-censal population estimates).

5 The post-censal population estimates are updated each quarter and derived by bringing forward the base population by ageing the base, then adjusting for subsequent components of population growth, i.e. births, deaths, overseas and interstate migration. This method is called the cohort component method.

6 The following equation is known as the demographic balancing equation (Shryock, Siegel and Associates, 1976) and is used to update the base population

$$P_{t+1} = P_t + B_{t,t+1} - D_{t,t+1} + NOM_{t,t+1} + NIM_{t,t+1} + e_{t,t+1}$$

P_t = the estimated resident population at the end of period t

P_{t+1} = the estimated resident population at the end of period $t+1$

$B_{t,t+1}$ = births occurring during the period t, $t+1$

$D_{t,t+1}$ = deaths occurring during the period t, $t+1$

$NOM_{t,t+1}$ = net overseas migration during the period t, $t+1$

$NIM_{t,t+1}$ = net interstate migration during the period t, $t+1$

$e_{t,t+1}$ = residual error for the period t, $t+1$

7 After each Census, estimates for the preceding intercensal period are revised by incorporating an additional adjustment for residual error (intercensal discrepancy) to ensure that the total intercensal increase agrees with the difference between the estimated resident populations at the two 30 June dates in the respective Census years.

Method of estimation continued

8 A complete explanation of the methods and conceptual basis for population estimates used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in the production of population estimates is given in *Population Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2009* (cat. no. 3228.0.55.001).

Status of quarterly ERP data

9 Population estimates are referred to as either preliminary, revised or final. Preliminary estimates are generally made available five to six months after the reference quarter. Revised estimates are generally published each March for the financial year ending 21 months previously, and each September for the calendar year ending 21 months previously. Final estimates are published for the previous five-yearly intercensal period after each Census.

10 The following table shows the current status of ERP and the components of population change: natural increase, net overseas migration (NOM) and net interstate migration (NIM).

STATUS OF QUARTERLY ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION (ERP) DATA—as at 29 March 2011

	Census base	*Natural increase*	*Net overseas migration*	*Net interstate migration*	*ERP STATUS*
Sep. 1996–Jun. 1997	Final rebased — based on 2001 Census	Final	Final	Final — rebased to 2001 Census	FINAL
Sep. 1997–Jun. 2001	Final rebased — based on 2001 Census	Final	Final — category jumping set to zero	Final — rebased to 2001 Census	FINAL
Sep. 2001–Jun. 2006	Final rebased – based on 2006 Census	Final	Final — includes migration adjustment using matched passenger cards	Final — rebased to 2006 Census	FINAL
Sep. 2006–Jun. 2009	Revised estimate — based on 2006 Census	Revised — based on date of occurrence	Final — improved method of NOM introduced and used for Sep. quarter 2006 onwards. Final NOM estimates are based on actual traveller behaviour.	Preliminary — modelled - expansion factors based on 2006 Census	REVISED
Sep. 2009–onwards	Preliminary estimate — based on 2006 Census	Preliminary — based on date of registration	Preliminary — based on international movement data for the reference quarter, adjusted by information derived from travellers with the same characteristics from the corresponding quarter one year earlier.	Preliminary — modelled - expansion factors based on 2006 Census	PRELIMINARY

Population estimates by country of birth

11 Quarterly population estimates by country of birth are compiled and published annually as at 30 June for Australia as a whole. These estimates, produced by single year of age and sex, classify the population according to countries of birth.

12 Quarterly population estimates by country of birth for post-censal years are compiled by updating the Census year estimates in accordance with births, deaths and overseas migration. Each component of change is first converted to financial year of birth. The population for each country of birth by birth cohort are then updated.

13 For more detailed information see Chapter 2 — Estimating National and State Population in *Population Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2009* (cat. no. 3228.0.55.001).

Diplomatic personnel

14 Australia's ERP and estimates of NOM include all people, regardless of nationality or citizenship, who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families. Therefore, foreign diplomatic personnel and their families are considered out of scope and were removed from NOM estimates from 1 July 2006. The previous methodology for estimating NOM was unable to exclude diplomatic personnel and their families. However, with the improved NOM methodology, refinements to the NOM processing system have enabled this to occur through the use of visa information.

NET OVERSEAS MIGRATION

15 According to recommendations of the United Nations an international migrant is defined as "*any person who changes his or her country of usual residence*" (United Nations 1998). For the purposes of estimating NOM, and thereby Australia's official ERP counts, a person is regarded as a usual resident if they have been (or expected to be) residing in Australia for a period of 12 months or more. As such, NOM and ERP estimates include all people, regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status, who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families.

16 Conceptually, the term NOM is based on an international travellers' duration of stay being in or out of Australia for 12 months or more. It is the difference between the number of incoming travellers who stay in Australia for 12 months or more and are added to the population (NOM arrivals) and the number of outgoing travellers who leave Australia for 12 months or more and are subtracted from the population (NOM departures). With the introduction of the improved methods for estimating NOM, this 12 months *does not have to be continuous* and is measured over a 16 month reference period. For example whether a traveller is in or out of the population is determined by their exact duration of stay in or away from Australia over the subsequent 16 months after arrival or departure.

Source of overseas migration data

17 The ABS statistics on overseas migration are calculated using administrative data collected and compiled by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) under the authority of the Migration Regulations (*Migration Act, 1958*). At present, the main source of data on overseas migration is the incoming and outgoing passenger cards completed by all persons arriving in or departing from Australia. Data from passports and visa (entry permit) applications and approvals are also provided by DIAC's Travel and Immigration Processing System (TRIPS). Information from these three data sources are collected, compiled and matched together by DIAC.

18 Quarterly NOM estimates are sourced from the processed monthly overseas arrivals and departures (OAD) data (compiled using matched TRIPS data) and monthly extracts of unmatched TRIPS records. Unmatched TRIPS records are those where a movement has been recorded by DIAC within the TRIPS system but the data has not been able to be matched with either a passenger card, passport or visa permit.

19 Statistics on overseas migration exclude: multiple movements; the movements of operational air and ships' crew; transit passengers who pass through Australia but are not cleared for entry; passengers on pleasure cruises commencing and finishing in Australia and undocumented arrivals. From 1 July 2006 onwards, foreign diplomatic personnel and their families are also excluded.

20 Quarterly NOM estimates contribute to quarterly ERP and are released in *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0). Statistics on OAD and related data quality issues are published on a monthly basis in *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia* (cat. no. 3401.0).

Reasons for change of methods used to estimate NOM

21 During a reconciliation of 1996–2001 intercensal population growth estimates (including measures of immigration, emigration and NOM) with the results of the *2001 Census of Population and Housing*, the ABS identified that inconsistent results were arising from a 1998 passenger card processing change and the measurement of temporary visitors' duration of stay in Australia, or Australian residents' temporary duration of absence from Australia.

22 The ABS noted that the precise measurement of duration of stay in Australia or absence from Australia using a comparison of border crossing transactions may lead to a misleading categorisation of frequent travellers to short-term, when their overall period of stay or absence in a broader context was long-term punctuated by short journeys. For example, an international student in Australia for a three or four year course of study,

Reasons for change of methods used to estimate NOM continued

who leaves Australia briefly each year for holiday or other reasons, would incorrectly not be added to estimates of Australia's population. This was because after the passage of time, they did not spend a continuous period of 12 months in Australia during their long-term period of stay in Australia (the previous method of measurement). This was inconsistent with the intention behind the definition of a long-term migrant as set out in the *United Nations Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1 (1998, 18)* and the ABS Estimated Resident Population conceptual definition. The use of single continuous periods of stay as the criteria (i.e. 12 continuous months) for classifying travellers into the non-permanent migration categories (e.g. short-term visitor, long-term visitor) was seen as a major shortcoming in the measurement of NOM and consequently estimates of Australia's resident population.

23 Further, there were some travellers such as permanent immigrants and emigrants who were not asked their intended duration of stay or absence on Australian passenger cards, yet it was observed that after a passage of less than a year, some permanent immigrants departed Australia and some permanent emigrants returned to Australia. The ABS also identified a need to convert the multiple border movements information for frequent travellers within a reference period to individual person estimates together with their travel history over time to avoid double counting.

24 The method for estimating NOM was reviewed in 2004 in response to the issues arising with the previous estimation of category jumping, i.e. changes between stated intention and actual duration of stay of travellers to/from Australia. The review also addressed the changing patterns of travel into and out of Australia, in particular the increased propensity for travellers to interrupt longer periods of stay or absence with short-term trips.

25 The methodology and estimation system adopted by the ABS for measuring NOM and the contribution to Australia's ERP more closely aligns with the international definitions set out by the United Nations. The ABS has not changed the statistical conceptual definition of net overseas migration. However, the method of measurement has changed.

26 The ABS developed and introduced an improved method, called the '12/16 month rule' methodology, for estimating NOM. It has been used in calculating Australia's official ERP since September quarter 2006. The '12/16 month rule' methodology is a result of reviewing the treatment of temporary migrants (both long-term and short-term) who are away from or resident in Australia for a period of 12 months or more.

27 Estimates of NOM based on the previous methods and those based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology are not comparable. The key change is the introduction of a '12/16 month rule' for measuring a person's residency in Australia, replacing the previous '12/12 month rule'.

Estimating NOM with the '12/16 month rule'

28 The current NOM estimation methods employ a '12/16 month rule' where the traveller can be added or subtracted from NOM if they have stayed in or been absent from Australia for a period of 12 months or more over a 16 month period. This period of 12 months does not have to be continuous. Although a traveller states their intended duration of stay on a passenger card, for NOM purposes the ABS now measures an individual's actual travel behaviour.

29 To measure a traveller's actual duration of stay the ABS uses a unique personal identifier provided with the administrative data supplied by DIAC. To be able to apply the '12/16 month rule', the personal identifier is used to match a traveller's movements over time and construct a movement history for each arrival and departure record.

Estimating NOM with the '12/16 month rule' continued

TRAVELLERS VS MOVEMENTS

30 Conceptually, NOM estimates should be based on counts of travellers, rather than counts of overseas movements, since travellers may have more than one movement in a particular reference period. Under the previous system of NOM estimation, a number of adjustments to overseas arrivals and departures were required. These mainly comprised adjustments designed to reflect differences between stated travel intentions and actual travel behaviour. However, adjustments were also required to transform numbers of overseas movements into numbers of travellers.

31 One of the central changes with the '12/16 month rule' methodology is that all estimation is based on actual individual travellers and their travel histories (using de-identified data), rather than in the previous methodology when an aggregation of movements represented travellers.

FINAL NOM ESTIMATES

32 It is with the final NOM estimates that the '12/16 month rule' can be fully applied. A traveller's actual duration of stay can only be calculated when data on overseas movements become available for the 16 months following a reference period. Final NOM estimation methods use ERP flags to determine if a traveller, through their actual duration of stay in or out of Australia, should be included or excluded from NOM estimates and consequently ERP estimates.

PRELIMINARY NOM ESTIMATES

33 Preliminary estimates of NOM are required five to six months after the reference quarter for the production of quarterly estimates of the population of Australia, and the states and territories. At that time, complete traveller histories for the 16 months following a reference quarter cannot be produced. Migration adjustments are calculated from changes in behaviour from final estimates one year earlier for the same groups of travellers. These migration adjustments are applied to travellers who are grouped according to their 'initial category of travel', age, country of citizenship and state/territory of usual/intended residence. The adjustments account for differences between their intended duration of stay and their actual duration of stay.

34 Preliminary estimates using the improved method for estimating NOM using a 'two year ago' propensity model were implemented in official ABS population estimates for September quarter 2006 with the release of the December quarter 2006 issue of *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0).

35 In 2009, changes to the *Federal Financial Relations Act 2009*, enabled the use of an additional quarter of travellers' movement data allowing for the methodology used in preliminary NOM estimates to be improved. Using the additional one quarter of movement data (the quarter after the reference period) has enabled two key changes to the methodology for estimating preliminary NOM:

- changing from a 'two year ago' to a 'one year' ago propensity model; and
- reducing the pool of travellers using the propensity model.

36 Preliminary estimates using the '12/16 month rule' methodology for estimating NOM using the 'one year ago' propensity model were implemented in the ABS' official NOM and population estimates for September quarter 2008 with the release of the September quarter 2009 issue of *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0).

37 For further information on the improvements to preliminary NOM estimation and changes to the revision schedule for NOM, see the *Information Paper: Improving Net Overseas Migration Estimation, Mar 2010* (cat. no. 3412.0.55.001). For further information on the '12/16 month rule' methodology see the *Technical Note: '12/16 month rule' Methodology for Calculating Net Overseas Migration from September quarter 2006 onwards* in this publication. For more detailed information see

Estimating NOM with the '12/16 month rule' continued

Information Paper: Statistical Implications of Improved Methods for Estimating Net Overseas Migration, Australia, 2007 (cat. no. 3107.0.55.005), and the *Information Paper: Improved Methods for Estimating Net Overseas Migration, Australia, 2006* (cat. no. 3107.0.55.003).

Estimating NOM with a '12/12 month rule'

38 Prior to 1 July 2006, NOM estimation methods used a '12/12 month rule' to determine if a traveller contributed to ERP. This meant that in order for a person to contribute to NOM they must stay in or be absent from Australia for a continuous period of 12 out of 12 months. It compared data on actual travel movements over a 12 month period with data on individual travellers' duration of stay as recorded on their passenger cards. In order to conduct such a comparison, data for a 15 month period (i.e. one year plus one quarter) were required. For more information see the Technical Note in *Migration, Australia, 2006–07* (cat. no. 3412.0) — *Measuring Net Overseas Migration, Method Used September quarter 2001 to June quarter 2006* and *Demography Working Paper 2003/5 — Net Overseas Migration: Adjusting for Actual Duration of Stay or Absence* (cat. no. 3137.0).

CATEGORY JUMPING

39 Many overseas travellers stay (or are away) shorter or longer periods than initially intended, as recorded on their passenger cards. From July 1982 to June 1997, NOM estimates included an adjustment for the net effect of category jumping. Category jumping is a measure of the discrepancy between movements recorded as short-term, long-term or permanent at the time of movement, and the category recorded at the completion of a journey. Twelve months after a reference period it was determined whether the number of initially-recorded short-term, long-term and permanent arrivals and departures matched actual patterns of movement.

40 For example, some visitors on arrival may state that they intend to stay in Australia for more than 12 months. However, they may change their travel plans and depart the country after only six months. Since migration figures were affected by this change in travel behaviour, an adjustment was incorporated into the NOM estimate and ERP.

41 The method used to estimate category jumping up until June 1997 inclusive was based on aggregate flows of traveller movements rather than individual travellers. Until June 1998, the measurement of duration of stay or absence on the second leg of travel was based on passenger reporting on the arrival or departure card. This self reported duration was used to determine the time at which a person arrived (for visitors) or left Australia (for Australian residents). However, from July 1998 onwards, implementation of a new passenger card design and processing system enabled DIMA (now DIAC) to derive actual duration of stay or absence by matching both arrival and departure cards rather than relying on passengers reporting their duration of stay or absence.

MATCHING TRAVELLER MOVEMENTS

42 Despite this improvement in the quality of actual duration of stay or absence data, the above estimation method appeared incapable of producing acceptable estimates of category jumping. Given that category jumping had only a small effect on ERP and that estimates produced by the above method seemed highly volatile, the ABS decided to set category jumping estimates to zero until an improved estimation technique was developed. They were set to zero from September quarter 1997 to June quarter 2001.

43 Through the provision of additional data from DIAC, the ABS had the ability to match traveller movements over time. This enabled a movement history to be constructed for those arriving and departing and thus calculate an actual duration of stay. Matching traveller movements enabled the adjustment of permanent and long-term movement. This adjustment (termed 'migration adjustment') allowed for components of NOM to be presented on an adjusted basis.

Estimating NOM with a '12/12 month rule' continued

44 For more information on category jumping and the interim methods of adjusting NOM for the previous (12/12) method, see *Demography Working Paper 2003/5 – Net Overseas Migration: Adjusting for Actual Duration of Stay or Absence* (cat. no. 3137.0). Adjustments applied to overseas migration estimates have also been discussed in a special article in *Migration, Australia, 2002–03* (cat. no. 3412.0).

ADJUSTMENT METHODS AND REVISION STATUS

45 Due to changes in the methods used to adjust NOM estimates, caution should be used comparing estimates over time. The table below describes the adjustment methods that have been applied to NOM estimates from September quarter 1996 and onwards.

NOM ADJUSTMENT METHODS USED—September quarter 1996 onwards

Period	*Status of NOM*	*Adjustment method*
September 1996 – June 1997	Final	'Category jumping' adjustments applied using previous methodology (12/12 month rule)(a)
September 1997 – June 2001	Final	No adjustments applied (i.e. 'category jumping' set to zero) (12/12 month rule)
September 2001 – June 2006	Final	Migration adjustments applied, based at the aggregate level (12/12 month rule)(b)
September 2006 – June 2009	Final	Actual duration of stay/absence, based at the individual traveller level (12/16 month rule)(c)
September 2009 and onwards	Preliminary	Migration adjustments applied, based at the individual traveller level (12/16 month rule) and a one year ago propensity model.(c)(d)

(a) See Appendix 3 in Demographic Estimates and Projections: Concepts, Sources and Methods (cat. no. 3228.0).
(b) See Technical Note: Measuring Net Overseas Migration, Method Used September quarter 2001 to June quarter 2006 in Migration, Australia, 2006–07 (cat.no.3412.0).
(c) See Technical Note: Improved Methods for Calculating Net Overseas Migration from September quarter 2006 onwards in Migration, Australia, 2007–08 (cat.no.3412.0).
(d) See Information Paper: Improving net overseas migration estimation (cat.no. 3412.0.55.001).

PERMANENT RESIDENCY GRANTS

46 A number of people arriving temporarily in Australia are subsequently granted permanent residency. These permanent residency grants contribute to the Australian Government's immigration targets but may be unrelated to the stated intentions of travellers on arrival. Accordingly, they are not included in unadjusted permanent arrivals as they did not arrive in Australia on a permanent basis but would be included in final NOM figures from 1 July 2006 onwards. The proportions of temporary arrivals subsequently gaining onshore grants of permanent residency are not estimated in ABS statistics.

47 For more information on onshore additions to the population see the DIAC publication *Immigration Update*, or *Population Flow: Immigration aspects* available on the DIAC web site, <http://www.immi.gov.au>.

NET INTERSTATE MIGRATION

48 At the national level, population change is the result of births, deaths and net overseas migration. At the state/territory level, an extra component of population change exists — net interstate migration (NIM). This is the net difference between arrivals to a state/territory from the rest of Australia and departures from that state/territory to the rest of Australia. Interstate migration is therefore an important determinant of population change and distribution of the states and territories.

49 Within Australia, there is no requirement for a person who changes their state of usual residence to register their move. Unlike overseas movements, which are recorded at Australia's borders, there are no direct quarterly measure of arrivals and departures between the states and territories. To be able to measure state/territory population change on a quarterly basis estimates of interstate migration are therefore required.

Sources of interstate migration data

50 The Census is one source of information, with people being asked where they lived one year ago and five years ago. However, as the Census is held only every five years, this is insufficient for producing quarterly interstate migration estimates. Another source of data is therefore necessary.

Sources of interstate migration data continued

51 Interstate migration is a key determinant of the accuracy of state and territory population estimates. Data on interstate migration cannot be directly estimated unlike that of natural increase and net overseas migration. Instead, post-censal quarterly estimates of interstate migration are modelled using administrative by-product data. Over time, the ABS has used a number of administrative data sources to produce quarterly estimates of interstate migration, including electoral roll registrations and family allowance payments. Currently the ABS uses information on interstate change of address advised to Medicare Australia and to the Department of Defence in the case of the military.

52 Due to incomplete coverage and the non-compulsory nature of available administrative (indirect) data sources, post-censal quarterly estimates of interstate migration have long been considered the weakest measure of a component of population change.

Rebasing and re-derivation of interstate migration

53 The Medicare-based model used for generating post-censal estimates of interstate migration is largely superseded when new Census information becomes available. For example, every five years, after data from the following Census have been finalised, the modelled estimates are reviewed against, and potentially replaced by, the interstate migration estimates that are calculated from the Census (i.e. rebased to the Census). This is known as the re-derivation of interstate migration.

54 Part of the process of rebasing Census counts for the ERP of the states and territories is the re-derivation of interstate migration for the intercensal period. The overall approach is to minimise state intercensal discrepancy using information from the two Census questions on usual residence one year ago and five year ago to estimate interstate movements. Where this Census information does not reduce the intercensal discrepancy, the rebased interstate migration estimates remain largely unchanged from the Medicare-based model.

Interstate migration method

55 Post-censal quarterly estimates of net interstate migration are created for the states and territories (excluding Other Territories) using interstate change of address advised to Medicare Australia and to the Department of Defence in the case of the military. Medicare data are adjusted by means of expansion factors. These expansion factors are used to account for an under coverage of Medicare data by various ages and sex. For example, it is known that some people, particularly younger Medicare card holders, do not register changes of address with Medicare, or do so long after the fact.

56 Expansion factors are used in the calculation of post-censal quarterly estimates of net interstate migration and remain constant throughout the intercensal period until once again they are reviewed after final data from the following Census of Population and Housing becomes available. They are calculated for each state and territory (excluding Other Territories), single year of age, sex and movement direction (i.e. arrivals or departures).

DEFENCE FORCE ADJUSTMENT

57 Adjustments to compensate for interstate defence force movements not covered by Medicare are applied to the quarterly interstate migration estimates. These adjustments are estimated using counts of defence force personnel by age, sex and state/territory, obtained from the Department of Defence, with 70% of any change in quarterly defence force numbers assumed to be due to interstate migration not otherwise covered by the Medicare model.

58 For further information on the process of estimating interstate migration and the administrative data used, see the *Demography Working Paper: 2004/1 Review of Interstate Migration Method* (cat. no. 3106.0.55.001) and the *Information Paper: Evaluation of Administrative Data Sources for Use in Quarterly Estimation of*

Interstate migration method continued

Interstate Migration, 2006 to 2011 (cat. no. 3127.0.55.001) and *Population Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2009* (cat. no. 3228.0.55.001).

COUNTRY CLASSIFICATION

59 The classification of countries in this publication is the *Standard Australian Classification of Countries*. For more detailed information, refer to the ABS publication *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) Second Edition* (cat. no. 1269.0). This replaced previous revision and the *Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics* (ASCCSS) used in earlier issues of this publication.

60 The statistics on country of birth, citizenship, residence or main destination have certain limitations because of reporting on passenger cards. For instance, the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man (UK, CI & IOM) includes England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man. Similarly the United States of America includes 'America (undefined)'.

STATE AND TERRITORY CLASSIFICATION

61 Prior to the 1996 Census, no external territories were included in geographical Australia although Census data were collected for Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Following amendments to the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901* effective from July 1992, the two external territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands became part of geographical Australia. Since the 1996 Census, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and the Jervis Bay Territory (previously linked to the Australian Capital Territory for statistical purposes) comprise a pseudo 'ninth state/territory' of Australia. They are included in state nine 'Other Territories'.

62 Although the *Census and Statistics Act 1905* does not require quarterly estimation of the population for the territories, estimates for the Northern Territory, the Australian Capital Territory and the Other Territories are produced as these territories are included in the geographical area of Australia, and, with the states, sum to the Australian population.

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS AVAILABLE

63 Additional demographic information is available on the ABS web site, *Themes — Demography* page. Users can also access the full range of electronic ABS data free of charge on the ABS web site <http://www.abs.gov.au>.

64 The ABS may have other relevant data available on request. Generally, a charge is made for providing this information. Inquiries should be made to the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

65 With the introduction of '12/16 month rule' methodology for estimating NOM, the ABS also developed an analytical data set called the Travellers' Characteristics Database. The improvements allow the derivation of an individual's actual true travel behaviour (using final NOM data) and record certain characteristics for any traveller who has contributed to NOM whether they are a NOM arrival or a NOM departure. The database provides for additional analysis on final NOM data that was not previously available. The following variables may be made available on request for final data only:

- Age (as at 30 June);
- Citizenship (nationality);
- Country of birth;
- Initial category of travel;
- Marital status (not available for Australian and New Zealand citizens);
- Reference year (available from 2004 — final data only);
- Sex;
- Type of traveller (based on actual recorded duration of stay in or out of Australia);
- Visa type;
- Australian residents:
    - Country spent/intend to spend most time abroad;

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS AVAILABLE *continued*

- Main reason for journey (only available for temporary resident departures);
- State or territory of intended address/state or territory of residence;

- Overseas visitors:
  - Country of residence;
  - Main reason for journey (only available for temporary visitor arrivals); and
  - State or territory of intended address/in which most time was spent.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

66 This publication draws extensively on information provided by DIAC. The ABS also uses information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated; without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

INCOMING CARD – FRONT

Incoming passenger card • Australia

PLEASE COMPLETE IN ENGLISH WITH A BLUE OR BLACK PEN

- Family/surname
- Given names
- Passport number
- Flight number or name of ship
- Intended address in Australia

State

- Do you intend to live in Australia for the next 12 months? Yes No
- If you are **NOT an Australian citizen**:
  - Do you have tuberculosis? Yes No
  - Do you have any criminal conviction/s? Yes No

YOU MUST ANSWER EVERY QUESTION – IF UNSURE, ✕ Yes

Are you bringing into Australia:

1.	Goods that may be prohibited or subject to restrictions, such as medicines, steroids, pornography, firearms, weapons or illicit drugs?	Yes	No
2.	More than 2250mL of alcohol or 250 cigarettes or 250g of tobacco products?	Yes	No
3.	Goods obtained overseas or purchased duty and/or tax free in Australia with a combined total price of more than AUD$900, including gifts?	Yes	No
4.	Goods/samples for business/commercial use?	Yes	No
5.	AUD$10,000 or more in Australian or foreign currency equivalent? **Note**: If a customs or police officer asks, you must report travellers cheques, cheques, money orders or other bearer negotiable instruments of any amount.	Yes	No
6.	Any food - includes dried, fresh, preserved, cooked, uncooked?	Yes	No
7.	Wooden articles, plants, parts of plants, traditional medicines or herbs, seeds, bulbs, straw, nuts?	Yes	No
8.	Animals, parts of animals, animal products including equipment, pet food, eggs, biologicals, specimens, birds, fish, insects, shells, bee products?	Yes	No
9.	Soil, items with soil attached or used in freshwater areas ie. sports/recreational equipment, shoes?	Yes	No
10.	Have you been in contact with farms, farm animals, wilderness areas or freshwater streams/lakes etc in the past 30 days?	Yes	No
11.	Were you in Africa, South/Central America or the Caribbean in the last 6 days?	Yes	No

DECLARATION
The information I have given is true, correct and complete. I understand failure to answer any questions may have serious consequences.

YOUR SIGNATURE Day Month Year

TURN OVER THE CARD
English

INCOMING CARD - BACK

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS IN AUSTRALIA

Phone ( )
E-mail
OR
Address State

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS (FAMILY OR FRIEND)

Name
E-mail, Phone OR Mail address

PLEASE COMPLETE IN ENGLISH

- In which country did you board this flight or ship?
- What is your usual occupation?
- Nationality as shown on passport
- Date of birth Day Month Year

PLEASE ✕ AND ANSWER A OR B OR C

A Migrating permanently to Australia

B Visitor or temporary entrant

- Your intended length of stay in Australia Years Months OR Days
- Your country of residence
- Your main reason for coming to Australia (✕ one only)

Convention/conference 1 Employment 4 Holiday 7
Business 2 Education 5 Other 8
Visiting friends or relatives 3 Exhibition 6

C Resident returning to Australia

- Country where you spent most time abroad

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE COMPLETED BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD. PRESENT THIS CARD ON ARRIVAL WITH YOUR PASSPORT.

Information sought on this form is required to administer immigration, customs, quarantine, statistical, health, wildlife and currency laws of Australia and its collection is authorised by legislation. It will be disclosed only to agencies administering these areas and those entitled to receive it under Australian law. The leaflet *Safeguarding your personal information* is available at Australian ports and airports.

11091507

15 (Design date 11/09)

Incoming passenger card used from November 2009.

OUTGOING CARD - FRONT

Outgoing passenger card • Australia

PLEASE COMPLETE IN ENGLISH WITH A BLUE OR BLACK PEN

- Family/surname
- Given names
- Passport number
- Flight number or name of ship
- Country where you will get off this flight
- What is your usual occupation?
- Nationality as shown on passport
- Date of birth (Day / Month / Year)

PLEASE ☒ AND ANSWER D OR E OR F

D Visitor or temporary entrant departing ☐

- State where you spent most time: NSW ☐ Vic ☐ Qld ☐ SA ☐ WA ☐ Tas ☐ NT ☐ ACT ☐ Other ☐
- Country of Residence

E Australian resident departing temporarily ☐

- In which State do you live? NSW ☐ Vic ☐ Qld ☐ SA ☐ WA ☐ Tas ☐ NT ☐ ACT ☐ Other ☐
- Intended length of stay overseas: Years / Months / Days OR
- Country where you will spend most time abroad
- Main reason for overseas travel (✕ one only):
  - Convention/conference ☐ 1
  - Business ☐ 2
  - Visiting friends or relatives ☐ 3
  - Holiday ☐ 4
  - Employment ☐ 5
  - Education ☐ 6
  - Exhibition ☐ 7
  - Other ☐ 8

F Australian resident departing permanently ☐

- In which State did you live? NSW ☐ Vic ☐ Qld ☐ SA ☐ WA ☐ Tas ☐ NT ☐ ACT ☐ Other ☐
- What is your country of future residence?

DECLARATION *The information I have given is true, correct and complete.*

YOUR SIGNATURE — Day / Month / Year

TURN OVER THE CARD

English

OUTGOING CARD - BACK

- Are you taking out of Australia AUD$10,000 or more in Australian or foreign currency equivalent? If answered 'Yes' you must complete a Cross Border Movement – Physical Cash (AUD$10,000 or more) Report to present with this card.

  Note: If a customs or police officer asks, you must report travellers cheques, cheques, money orders or other bearer negotiable instruments of any amount.

  Yes ☐ No ☐

- **Did you know?**

  You can find any lost superannuation accounts you may have by visiting www.ato.gov.au/superseeker

  You will need to provide your Australian tax file number, address and date of birth to access the system.

  If you worked in Australia on a temporary resident visa you can claim your superannuation money back. For more information on how to apply visit www.ato.gov.au/departaustralia

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE COMPLETED BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD. PRESENT THIS CARD, ON DEPARTURE WITH YOUR BOARDING PASS AND PASSPORT.

Information sought on this form is required to administer immigration, customs, quarantine, statistical, health, wildlife and currency laws of Australia and its collection is authorised by legislation. It will be disclosed only to agencies administering these areas and those entitled to receive it under Australian law. The leaflet *Safeguarding your personal information* is available at Australian ports and airports.

11091606

16 (Design date 11/09)

Outgoing passenger card used from November 2009.

GLOSSARY

12/12 month rule A method for measuring an overseas traveller's duration of stay or absence in which the 12 month usual residence criterion in population estimates is measured across a 12 month period. Under a '12/12 month rule', overseas travellers must be resident in Australia for a *continuous* 12 month period or more to be included in the estimated resident population. Similarly, Australian residents travelling overseas must be absent from Australia for a *continuous* 12 month period or more to be removed from the estimated resident population.

12/16 month rule A method for measuring an overseas traveller's duration of stay or absence which takes an approach to measure usual residence that *does not have to be continuous*, as opposed to the *continuous* approach used under a '12/12 month rule'. Under a '12/16 month rule', incoming overseas travellers (who *are not* currently counted in the population) must be resident in Australia for a total period of 12 months or more, during the 16 month follow-up period to then be included in the estimated resident population. Similarly, those travellers departing Australia (who *are* currently counted in the population) must be absent from Australia for a total of 12 months or more during the 16 month follow-up period to then be subtracted from the estimated resident population.

The 12/16 month rule therefore takes account of those persons who may have left Australia briefly and returned, while still being resident for 12 months out of 16. Similarly, it takes account of Australians who live most of the time overseas but periodically return to Australia for short periods.

Australian resident For estimated resident population statistics, the Census year population estimates classify a person as an Australian resident if the person has (in the most recent Census) reported a usual address in Australia where the person has lived or intends to live for six months or more in the Census year. The post-censal estimates, while based on the Census data, are updated with international migration data that have a criterion of one year or more of intended stay in or departure from Australia.

Average annual growth rate The average annual growth rate, *r*, is calculated as a percentage using the formula:

$$r = \left[\left(\frac{P_n}{P_0} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1 \right] \times 100$$

where:

P_n is the population at the end of the period

P_0 is the population at the start of the period

n is the length of the period between P_n and P_0 in years.

Category jumping Category jumping was the term used to describe changes between intended and actual duration of stay of travellers to/from Australia, such that their classification as short-term or as long-term/permanent movers is different at arrival/departure from that after 12 months. For more information see *Migration, Australia, 2002–03,* (cat. no. 3412.0), Chapter 6, 'Special article: Adjustments to overseas migration estimates'.

The Australian resident component of category jumping for a reference quarter was estimated by comparing the number of residents departing short-term in that quarter with all residents who left in that quarter and return in the following 12 months, to obtain the net number of Australian residents who 'jumped category'.

Category jumping *continued*

Similarly, the number of overseas visitors arriving short-term in a quarter was compared with all overseas visitors who arrived in that quarter and depart in the following 12 months, to obtain the net number of overseas visitors 'who jumped category'.

Estimates of category jumping were derived by subtracting the Australian resident component from the overseas visitor component.

Category jumping is no longer used following the implementation of the '12/16 month rule' methodology for estimating net overseas migration.

Category of movement

Category of movement is of particular relevance to the overseas arrivals and departures (OAD) collection. OAD are classified according to length of stay (in Australia or overseas), as recorded by travellers on passenger cards or derived with reference to previous border crossings. There are three main categories of movement and 10 sub-categories:

- permanent movement:
  - permanent arrival (PA);
  - permanent departure (PD);
- long-term movement — has a duration of stay (or absence) of one year or more:
  - long-term resident returning (LTRR);
  - long-term visitor arrival (LTVA);
  - long-term resident departure (LTRD);
  - long-term visitor departure (LTVD);
- short-term movement — has a duration of stay (or absence) of less than one year:
  - short-term resident returning (STRR);
  - short-term visitor arrival (STVA);
  - short-term resident departure (STRD); and
  - short-term visitor departure (STVD).

A significant number of travellers (i.e. overseas visitors to Australia on arrival and Australian residents going abroad) state exactly 12 months or one year as their intended period of stay. Many stay for less than that period and on their departure from, or return to, Australia are therefore classified as short-term. Accordingly, in an attempt to maintain consistency between arrivals and departures, movements of travellers who report their actual or intended period of stay as being one year exactly are randomly allocated to long-term or short-term in proportion to the number of movements of travellers who report their actual length of stay as up to one month more, or one month less, than one year.

Census

The complete enumeration of a population or groups at a point in time with respect to well-defined characteristics (e.g. Population, Manufacturing, etc.). When the word is capitalised, "Census" usually refers to the national *Census of Population and Housing.*

Census count

The Census of Population and Housing enumerates persons on the basis of where they were located on Census Night. The Census also compiles information on people according to their place of usual residence. This information is coded to Census collection districts (CDs). This means that Census counts of people can be produced according to their location on Census Night as well as their place of usual residence. Characteristics of households are based on persons usually resident in a dwelling.

Country of birth

The classification of countries is the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC). For more detailed information refer to *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) Second Edition* (cat. no. 1269.0).

Country of residence

Country of residence refers to the country in which travellers regard themselves as living or as last having lived.

Emigration

The process of leaving one country to take up permanent or semi-permanent residence in another.

Estimated resident population (ERP)

The estimated resident population (ERP) is the official measure of the population of Australia. It is based on the concept of usual residence. For the purpose of ERP, a person is regarded as a usual resident if they have been (or are expected to be) residing in Australia for a period of 12 months or more. As such, it refers to all people, regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families.

Family stream

Those categories of the Migration Program where the core eligibility criteria are based on a close family relationship with an Australian citizen or permanent resident sponsor. The immediate accompanying families of principal applicants in the family stream (e.g. children of spouses) are also counted as part of the family stream.

This definition of family stream is used by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) who administer the Migration Program.

Humanitarian Program

The Humanitarian Program provides protection to refugees and resettlement to those for whom it may be the appropriate durable solution. The Humanitarian Program is administered by DIAC.

Initial category of travel

Predominantly used to assist in the estimation of preliminary net overseas migration (NOM). Like category of movement, all overseas arrivals and departures are classified according to length of stay (in Australia or overseas), as recorded by travellers on passenger cards or derived with reference to previous border crossings. However, unlike the category of movement, all travellers are assigned to one, and only one, initial category of travel during the reference quarter. This removes the potential for a traveller to be included more than once in different categories of travel if they have made multiple overseas movements during the reference quarter.

For the purposes of estimating NOM, the rule used to assign an initial category of travel to each traveller is as follows:

- Travellers who have any permanent or long-term movement (one year or more) recorded during the reference quarter have their last permanent/ long-term movement assigned as their initial category of travel; and
- Travellers who only have a history of short-term movements (less than one year) recorded during the reference quarter have their first movement assigned as their initial category of travel.

For the purposes of calculating NOM, there are three main initial categories of travel and 10 sub-categories:

- permanent traveller:
  - permanent arrival (PA);
  - permanent departure (PD);
- long-term traveller — has a duration of stay (or absence) of one year or more:
  - long-term resident returning (LTRR);
  - long-term visitor arrival (LTVA);
  - long-term resident departure (LTRD);
  - long-term visitor departure (LTVD);
- short-term traveller — has a duration of stay (or absence) of less than one year:
  - short-term resident returning (STRR);
  - short-term visitor arrival (STVA);
  - short-term resident departure (STRD); and
  - short-term visitor departure (STVD).

Intended length of stay

On arrival in Australia, all overseas visitors are asked to state their 'Intended length of stay in Australia'. On departure from Australia, all Australian residents are asked to state their 'Intended length of stay overseas'.

Intercensal discrepancy Intercensal discrepancy is the difference between two estimates at 30 June of a Census year population, the first based on the latest Census and the second arrived at by updating the 30 June estimate of the previous Census year with intercensal components of population change which take account of information available from the latest Census. It is caused by errors in the start and/or finish population estimates and/or in estimates of births, deaths or migration in the intervening period which cannot be attributed to a particular source.

Intercensal error Intercensal error is the difference between two estimates at 30 June of a Census year population, the first based on the latest Census and the second arrived at by updating the 30 June estimate of the previous Census year with intercensal components of population change which do not take account of information available from the latest Census.

Immigration The process of entering one country from another to take up permanent or semi-permanent residence.

Internal migration The difference between the number of persons who have changed their place of usual residence by moving into a defined geographical area within Australia and the number who have changed their place of usual residence by moving out of that defined geographical area during a specified time period. This difference may be either positive or negative.

Interstate migration See net interstate migration.

Long-term arrivals Long-term arrivals comprise:
- overseas visitors who state that they intend to stay in Australia for 12 months or more (but not permanently); and
- Australian residents returning after an absence of 12 months or more overseas

Long-term departures Long-term departures comprise:
- Australian residents who state that they intend to stay abroad for 12 months or more (but not permanently); and
- overseas visitors departing who stayed 12 months or more in Australia.

Main reason for journey Overseas visitors/temporary entrants arriving in Australia and Australian residents departing temporarily from Australia are asked to state their main reason for journey. All statistics relating to main reason for journey use the following categories:
- convention/conference;
- business;
- visiting friends/relatives;
- holiday;
- employment;
- education; and
- other.

Main state or territory of stay Overseas visitors are asked on departure for the name of the state or territory in which they spent the most time.

Median age For any distribution the median age is that age which divides the relevant population into two equal parts, half falling below the value, and half exceeding it. Where the age for a particular record has not been stated, that record is excluded from the calculation.

Migration The movement of people across a specified boundary for the purpose of establishing a new or semi-permanent residence. Migration can be international (migration between countries) and internal (migration within a country).

Migration adjustment The ABS applies a number of adjustments to overseas arrivals and departures data in order to produce estimates of net overseas migration (NOM). These mainly comprise adjustments designed to reflect differences between stated travel intentions and actual travel behaviour, but also include adjustments to transform numbers of overseas

Migration adjustment *continued*

movements into numbers of travellers. Migration adjustments replaced the 'category jumping' adjustments previously applied to NOM estimates.

Migration effectiveness ratio (MER)

The net gain or loss of persons from or to a population divided by the total gross moves (i.e. arrivals plus departures) and expressed as a percentage. The lower the ratio, the less the effectiveness of migration as a process of population redistribution.

Migration Program

The annual planned (non-Humanitarian) permanent intake administrated by DIAC which regulates the number of visas granted for permanent entry from offshore and for permanent resident status onshore. It does not include New Zealand citizens, Australian citizens returning after permanently departing, residents of external territories such as Norfolk Island, and persons granted Australian citizenship overseas.

Natural increase

Excess of births over deaths.

Net interstate migration (NIM)

The difference between the number of persons who have changed their place of usual residence by moving into a given state or territory and the number who have changed their place of usual residence by moving out of that state or territory. This difference can be either positive or negative.

Net overseas migration (NOM)

Net overseas migration is the net gain or loss of population through immigration to Australia and emigration from Australia. It is:

- based on an international travellers' duration of stay being in or out of Australia for 12 months or more; and
- the difference between:
  - the number of incoming international travellers who stay in Australia for 12 months or more, who *are not* currently counted within the population, and are then added to the population (NOM arrivals); and
  - the number of outgoing international travellers (Australian residents and long-term visitors to Australia) who leave Australia for 12 months or more, who *are* currently counted within the population, and are then subtracted from the population (NOM departures).

Under the current method for estimating final net overseas migration this term is based on a traveller's *actual* duration of stay or absence using the '12/16 month rule'. Preliminary NOM estimates are modelled on patterns of traveller behaviours observed in final NOM estimates for the same period one year earlier.

Net overseas migration rate

The net overseas migration rate is the number of NOM travellers in a given period divided by the population sending or receiving the NOM travellers at a given period. It is calculated per 1,000 population.

NOM arrivals

NOM arrivals are all overseas arrivals that contribute to net overseas migration (NOM). It is the number of incoming international travellers who stay in Australia for 12 months or more, who *are not* currently counted within the population, and are then added to the population.

Under the current method for estimating final net overseas migration this term is based on a traveller's *actual* duration of stay or absence using the '12/16 month rule'.

NOM departures

NOM departures are all overseas departures that contribute to net overseas migration (NOM). It is the number of outgoing international travellers (Australian residents and long term visitors to Australia) who leave Australia for 12 months or more, who *are* currently counted within the population, and are then subtracted from the population.

Under the current method for estimating final net overseas migration this term is based on a traveller's *actual* duration of stay or absence using the '12/16 month rule'.

Other territories

Following amendments to the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901* effective from July 1992, the two external territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands became part of geographical Australia. Since the 1996 Census, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and the Jervis Bay Territory (previously linked to the Australian Capital Territory for

Other territories *continued*
statistical purposes) comprise a pseudo 'ninth state/territory' of Australia. They are included in state nine 'Other Territories'.

Overseas arrivals and departures (OAD)
Overseas arrivals and departures (OAD) refer to the recorded arrival or departure of persons through Australian air or sea ports (excluding operational air and ships' crew). Statistics on OAD relate to the number of movements of travellers rather than the number of travellers (i.e. the multiple movements of individual persons during a given reference period are all counted).

Overseas migration
See net overseas migration (NOM).

Overseas migration adjustment
See Migration adjustment.

Passenger card
Passenger cards are completed by nearly all passengers arriving in, or departing from, Australia. Information including occupation, nationality, intended length of stay, main reason for journey, and state or territory of intended stay/residence is collected.

Percentage points
Units of difference between two percentages.

Permanent arrivals
Permanent arrivals (settlers) comprise:
- travellers who hold migrant visas (regardless of stated intended period of stay);
- New Zealand citizens who indicate an intention to migrate permanently; and
- those who are otherwise eligible to settle (e.g. overseas-born children of Australian citizens).

This definition of settlers is used by DIAC. Prior to 1985 the definition of settlers used by the ABS was the stated intention of the traveller only. Numerically the effect of the change in definition is insignificant. The change was made to avoid the confusion caused by minor differences between data on settlers published separately by the ABS and DIAC.

Permanent departures
Permanent departures are Australian residents (including former settlers) who on departure state that they are departing permanently.

Permanent visa
Permission to travel to, enter and/or remain in Australia for a period of time or indefinitely.

Place of usual residence
See usual residence.

Population age-sex pyramid
A population age-sex pyramid is a bar chart graphically representing the age structure of the population, usually in five-year age groups, for males and females separately. The age structure of the population usually approximates the shape of a pyramid because mortality progressively reduces the number in each birth cohort as it ages. The age pyramid is useful to show the existence of unusually large or small cohorts, and in this way, not only conveys a lot about a country's past demographic history, but also a great deal about its demographic future.

Population growth
For Australia, population growth is the sum of natural increase and net overseas migration. For states and territories, population growth also includes net interstate migration. After the Census, intercensal population growth also includes an allowance for intercensal discrepancy.

Population growth rate
Population change over a period as a proportion (percentage) of the population at the beginning of the period.

Population turnover
Population turnover is the sum of interstate arrivals and departures during a year expressed as a proportion of the resident population of the state or territory at the beginning of a time period. Population turnover can also incorporate overseas arrivals and departures (as used for net overseas migration estimates) to and from each state or territory during a year.

Return migration
Return migration is the emigration of former settlers to their country of birth.

Self reported temporary NOM arrival

A self reported temporary NOM arrival is any traveller who has identified themselves as a visitor or temporary entrant on Australia's incoming passenger card; who *are not* currently counted within the population; and then contributed to net overseas migration and the population by staying in Australia for 12 months or more over a 16 month reference period.

Sex ratio

The sex ratio relates to the number of males per 100 females. The sex ratio is defined for total population, at birth, at death and among age groups by selecting the appropriate numerator and denominator of the ratio.

Short-term arrivals

Short-term arrivals comprise:
- overseas visitors who intend to stay in Australia for less than 12 months; and
- Australian residents returning after a stay of less than 12 months overseas.

Short-term departures

Short-term departures comprise:
- Australian residents who intend to stay abroad for less than 12 months; and
- overseas visitors departing after a stay of less than 12 months in Australia.

Skill stream

Those categories of the Migration Program where the core eligibility criteria are based on the applicant's employability or capacity to invest and/or do business in Australia. The immediate accompanying families of principal applicants in the skill stream are also counted as part of the skill stream.

This definition of skill stream is used by DIAC who administer the Migration Program.

State or territory of intended address/where lived

Overseas visitors are asked on arrival in Australia for their state or territory of intended address. On departure from Australia, overseas visitors are asked the state or territory where they spent most time.

Australian residents are asked on departure for the state or territory in which they live/lived. Residents returning to Australia are asked for their state or territory of intended address.

State or territory of intended stay

See State or territory of intended address/where lived.

State or territory of usual residence

State or territory of usual residence refers to the state or territory and SLA of usual residence of the estimated resident population.

In the case of overseas movements, state or territory of usual residence refers to the state or territory regarded by the traveller as the one in which he/she lives or has lived. State or territory of intended residence is derived from the intended address given by settlers, and by Australian residents returning after a journey abroad. Particularly in the case of the former, this information does not necessarily relate to the state or territory in which the traveller will eventually establish a permanent residence.

State or territory where spent most time

See Main state or territory of stay.

Step migration

Step migration is the emigration of former settlers to a country other than their country of birth.

Student net overseas migration (student NOM)

Student NOM is the net number of passengers travelling on student visas who contribute to net overseas migration. For further information see net overseas migration (NOM).

Student NOM arrivals

Student NOM arrivals are NOM arrivals for passengers travelling on student visas. For further information see NOM arrivals.

Student NOM departures

Student NOM departures are NOM departures for passengers travelling on student visas. For further information see NOM departures.

Temporary entrants

See temporary visas.

Temporary visas Temporary entrant visas are visas permitting persons to come to Australia on a temporary basis for specific purposes which result in some benefit to Australia. Main contributors are international students, Temporary Resident visas (including temporary business entrants and working holiday makers) and visitors.

Temporary NOM arrivals Temporary NOM arrivals are all temporary overseas arrivals that contribute to net overseas migration (NOM). It is the number of incoming international travellers who stay in Australia for 12 months or more and are added to the population but are not migrating permanently.

Under the current method for estimating final net overseas migration, this term is based on a traveller's *actual* duration of stay or absence using the 12/16 rule.

Temporary resident visas Temporary resident visas are visas issued to allow persons who intend to work or temporarily reside in Australia and can include working holiday makers, long term business entrants. These types of temporary resident visas are granted on the basis of there being an economic, social, cultural or sporting benefit to Australia. Initial stay in Australia is generally for more than three months but not more than four years.

Usual residence Usual residence within Australia refers to that address at which the person has lived or intends to live for a total of six months or more in a given reference year.

Visa Permission or authority granted by the Australian government to foreign nationals to travel to, enter and/or remain in Australia for a period of time or indefinitely. Visas are managed by DIAC.

Visitor visas Visitor visas are visas issued to persons who intent to stay in a Australia for a short period of time. Visitor visas include tourism, short stay business, visiting relatives and medical treatment.

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