Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Compendium

Australia's Migration Trends 2018–19

Australia's Migration Trends Compendium was prepared by:

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Migration Program visas

Australia's permanent Migration Program incorporates economic and family migration, and is the main pathway to permanent residence. The only other way for migrants to obtain permanent residence is to be accepted into Australia on humanitarian grounds. The Migration Program has two major streams—Skill stream and Family stream, and a small number Child stream visas and Special Eligibility visas.

Skill stream visas

The Skill stream is designed for workers who have the skills, qualifications and entrepreneurship that will contribute to the Australian economy. There are four components:

1. Points Tested Skilled Migration
2. Employer Sponsored
3. Business Innovation and Investment
4. Distinguished Talent.

For further information see Work-stream and business investment stream permanent visas.

Points tested visas

Applicants must be invited to apply by the Australian Government and are subject to a points test. There are three visa categories:

1. Skilled Independent
2. State/Territory Nominated
3. Skilled Regional.

Permanent Employer Sponsored visas

Applicants must be sponsored by an Australian employer to fill a genuine job vacancy in the employer's business. These workers can be from outside Australia or living in Australia on a temporary visa. There are two visa categories:

1. Employer Nomination Scheme
2. Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme.

Business Innovation and Investment visas

The Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP) is for migrants with a demonstrated history of success or talent in innovation, investment and business, who are nominated by a state or territory government or the Australian Trade and Investment Commission. There are three visa subclasses:

1. Business Talent (Permanent) visa—two streams:
    i. Venture Capital Entrepreneur
    ii. Significant Business History.
2. Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional) visa—seven streams:
    i. Business Innovation
    ii. Business Innovation Extension
    iii. Significant Investor
    iv. Significant Investor Extension
    v. Investor
    vi. Premium Investor
    vii. Entrepreneur.
3. Business Innovation and Investment (Permanent) visa.

Family stream

The Family stream of the Migration Program allows the permanent migration of close family members of Australian citizens, of permanent residents, and of eligible New Zealand citizens. There are three visa categories:

1. Partner
2. Parent
3. Other Family.

For further information see Family stream permanent residence visas.

Child stream

Child stream visas allow the permanent migration of children of Australian citizens, of permanent residents, and of eligible New Zealand citizens. There are two visa categories:

1. Child
2. Child – Adoption.

Special Eligibility visas

Special Eligibility visas allow former residents and certain people who served in the Australian Defence Force to live in Australia as permanent residents. It also includes visas granted under Ministerial intervention.

For further information see Former Resident visa.

Temporary visas

People travel to Australia and stay temporarily for a range of reasons, including visiting Australia for tourism or attending a conference, undertaking medical treatment, study, skilled work or a working holiday.

There are eight main categories reflecting these reasons that can cover stays of more than three months in Australia:

1. Visitors
2. Working Holiday Makers
3. International students
4. Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)
5. Temporary Resident (Other Employment)
6. Other Temporary
7. Crew and Transit
8. New Zealand citizens.

Visitor visas

Visitor visas are mostly used by people visiting Australia for holidays, tourism and recreation, or to see family and friends. People may also use Visitor visas for certain short-term business activities that do not entail working in Australia. There are three visa subclasses:

1. Electronic Travel Authority (subclass 601)—allows visits to Australia for tourism or business activities
2. Visitor visa (subclass 600)—allows visits to Australia for tourism or business activities. There are five visa streams:
    i. Tourist
    ii. Business Visitor
    iii. Sponsored Family
    iv. Approved Destination Status (ADS)—for people from the People's Republic of China travelling in an organised tour group.
    v. Frequent Traveller—for passport holders from the People's Republic of China.
3. eVisitor visa (subclass 651)—allows visits to Australia for tourism or business activities.

For further information see Visiting family or friends.

Working Holiday Maker visas

The Working Holiday Maker Program is a program between agreement countries that allows young adults to have an extended holiday and engage in short-term work and study. There are two visa subclasses:

1. Working Holiday visa (subclass 417)
2. Work and Holiday visa (subclass 462).

For further information see Working holiday.

Student visas

The Student visa program enables international students to come to Australia to study full-time in a registered course. Student visa (subclass 500), allows the visa holder to undertake study within the following categories:

- English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students (ELICOS)
- Schools
- Vocational Education and Training (VET)
- Higher Education
- Postgraduate Research
- Non-award
- Foreign Affairs or Defence.

For further information see Studying in Australia.

Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas

Allow a business to sponsor a skilled overseas worker if they cannot find an appropriately skilled Australian citizen or permanent resident to fill a skilled position.

There are two visa subclasses that fall within this category:

1. Temporary Work (Skilled) (subclass 457)—closed to new applications from 18 March 2018
2. Temporary Skill Shortage (subclass 482)—commenced 18 March 2018.

For further information see repeal of the Temporary Work (Skilled) visa or Temporary Skill Shortage visa.

Temporary Resident (Other Employment) visas

Visas in the Temporary Resident (Other Employment) visa category allow people to undertake short-term, non-ongoing highly specialised work, enrich social and cultural development, strengthen international relations, or provide training opportunities of benefit to Australia. The main visa types included in this category are:

- Post Study Work
- Highly Specialised Work
- Entertainment
- Invited for Other Social and Cultural Activity
- Seasonal Worker Program
- Graduate Work
- Research Activities
- Short Stay Specialist
- Diplomatic
- Religious Work.

For further information see Visa list.

Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485)

The Temporary Graduate visa is one of the main visa types included in Temporary Resident (Other Employment) visas, and provides recent Student visa graduates an opportunity to remain and work temporarily in Australia. There are two streams:

1. Graduate Work
2. Post-Study Work.

For further information see Temporary Graduate visa.

Other Temporary visas

Visas in the Other Temporary category cater for a range of situations not covered elsewhere, such as providing care and support to a Student visa holder or receiving medical treatment. The following visa types comprise Other Temporary visas:

1. Border
2. Criminal Justice
3. Medical Treatment
4. Student Guardian.

New Zealand citizens

Under the 1973 Trans-Tasman Travel Arrangement, New Zealand citizens can enter and leave Australia freely and live in Australia indefinitely on grant of a temporary Special Category visa (subclass 444).

As with other potential migrants, New Zealand citizens are eligible to apply for a permanent visa.

For further information see New Zealand citizens.

Humanitarian Program visas

Australia's Humanitarian Program has an offshore resettlement component and an onshore protection component. For further information see Australia's Refugee and Humanitarian Program.

Offshore resettlement component

The offshore component of the Humanitarian Program has two categories:

1. Refugee—four visa subclasses:
   i. Refugee visa (subclass 200)
   ii. In-country Special Humanitarian Program visa (subclass 201)
   iii. Emergency Rescue visa (subclass 203)
   iv. Woman at Risk visa (subclass 204).
2. Special Humanitarian Program—Global Special Humanitarian visa (subclass 202).

Onshore protection component

The onshore protection component is for people seeking asylum in Australia who have their claims assessed in Australia. A permanent visa is available for people who arrived in Australia legally. A Temporary Protection visa is available for Illegal Maritime Arrivals and Unauthorised Air Arrivals found to engage in Australia's non-refoulement obligations. These grants are not counted towards the Humanitarian Program but are in addition to current places available.

Visa non-compliance

The Department's approach to compliance applies to the full continuum of departmental activity—pre-border, at the border, and post border. Visas can be cancelled for a range of non-compliance reasons, for example, where a visa holder breaches a condition of their visa, provides incorrect information to the Department (at, or post the border), or engages in certain criminal activity. When a person's visa is cancelled (if they are in Australia) the person becomes an Unlawful Non-Citizen (UNC) and arrangements are made to resolve their immigration status and/or their removal from Australia.

Net Overseas Migration

Net Overseas Migration (NOM) is a measure of the net gain, or loss, of population through migration into and outside of Australia. The compilation of NOM is a joint exercise between the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Department. The ABS is responsible for calculating preliminary and final NOM estimates and, as of October 2019, the Centre for Population, based in Treasury, is responsible for NOM forecasts. This forecast takes into account the expected effects of announced policy decisions.

NOM is one component of population growth, the other being natural increase—births less deaths. NOM is based on an international traveller's duration of stay and is the difference between:

- **NOM arrivals**—the number of incoming travellers who stay in Australia for 12 months or more during a 16-month period ('12-in-16-month rule'), and are added to the population
- **NOM departures**—the number of outgoing travellers (Australian residents and long-term visitors to Australia) who leave Australia for 12 months or more during a 16-month period, and are subtracted from the population.

The '12-in-16-month rule' applies when counting NOM arrivals or departures. Therefore people who are not permanent residents of Australia can be counted as NOM arrivals or departures regardless of visa type, even if they leave Australia briefly, provided their time in Australia adds up to at least 12 months in a 16-month window. It therefore includes permanent and temporary migrants, as well as New Zealand and returning Australian citizens.

Final NOM, is based on a person's actual travel movements, where the '12-in-16-month rule' can be fully applied. As a result, final NOM data is not available until 18 months after the reference quarter.

For further information see Australian Demographic Statistics or Migration Australia.

Citizenship in Australia

The *Australian Citizenship Act 2007* (the Citizenship Act) defines who is, who can become, and who ceases to be, an Australian citizen. Most people who acquire Australian citizenship do so automatically, for example, by being:

- born in Australia to an Australian citizen or permanent-resident parent
- born in Australia and being ordinarily resident in Australia throughout the first 10 years of their life
- a permanent resident who is adopted in Australia by an Australian citizen.

Non-citizens who wish to acquire Australian citizenship must lodge an application, meet certain legal requirements, and be approved to acquire Australian citizenship. The legal requirements that must be met are different for each Australian citizenship application pathway, and each pathway caters for particular categories of non-citizens. There are four pathways:

1. Citizenship by conferral
2. Citizenship by descent
3. Citizenship by adoption
4. Citizenship by resumption.

For further information see Applying for citizenship.

Labour market

This Department employs information from a variety of sources to examine the labour market outcomes of both new and established migrants. This includes the Department's Continuous Survey of Australia's Migrants (CSAM), which reports on outcomes for recently arrived migrants and their spouses.

CSAM is an ongoing set of surveys primarily designed to provide information on labour market outcomes of recent migrants, and their spouses, from Australia's permanent Migration Program. It provides data across the various visa categories of the Skill stream, and the Partner visa category of the Family stream (which comprises around 85 per cent of the Family stream).

Labour market outcomes of migrants are captured at their six-month and 18-month settlement periods. Migrants are surveyed six months after arrival (in the case of offshore migrants) or six months after visa grant (in the case of onshore migrants). A follow-up survey is then conducted 12 months later to examine how outcomes for a given cohort have changed.

For further information see Continuous Survey of Australia's Migrants.