Australia's Migration Trends 2013–14 at a glance

Introduction

Australia's Migration Trends 2013–14 is an annual publication providing a detailed collection of information and statistics about the department's initiatives and activities. This *at a glance document* provides a brief overview of the publication's main findings.

The full version of *Australia's Migration Trends* can be accessed via www.immi.gov.au.

Major developments in 2013–14

- From late 2013, the Department of Immigration and Citizenship was renamed the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP). Additionally, Settlement and Multicultural Affairs responsibility was transferred to the Department of Social Services, and the responsibility for Adult Migrant English Program moved to the Department of Industry and Science. The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) became a portfolio agency under the Immigration and Border Protection Portfolio.
- To effectively protect the Australian community from transnational criminal threats posed by illicit imports, and to facilitate the movement inside and outside of Australia of legitimate goods, services and people, the government is establishing the Australian Border Force (ABF). The ABF will combine the front-line functions of DIBP and ACBPS brought together under DIBP.
- In 2013–14, the department raised the visa thresholds for the Business Innovation and Investment Programme to improve the quality of applicants ensuring that the human capital of these applicants most effectively enhances the Australian economy.
- Changes to the Significant Investor visa (SIV) were announced for implementation by mid-2015. These changes aim to enhance the competitiveness of the programme and include: improving processing times; the creation of a new Premium Investor visa with Austrade as the nominator; and introduction of a residency requirement of 180 days per year for secondary SIV applicants.
- On 22 March 2014, following the release of the Review of the Student Visa Assessment Level Framework 2013, streamlined visa processing was extended to 19 non-university providers registered to deliver degree-level courses to international students.
- The government also intends to further extend streamlined visa processing arrangements to low immigration-risk education providers offering advanced diploma level courses. This will provide direct access to streamlined visa processing arrangements for eligible education providers in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) and Higher Education sectors.

- In 2014, an independent review of integrity in the subclass 457 visa programme was undertaken. The review's terms of reference were to examine the integrity of the subclass 457 visa programme in the context of a series of reforms made to the programme over recent years. The panel's report was released following the review's 22 recommendations that aim to make it easier for businesses to access skilled workers, while ensuring that a strong integrity framework underpins the 457 visa programme. The government response to the report was released on 18 March 2015 and supports in principle, all 22 recommendations. Implementation of some of the recommendations is already in progress, including the re-establishment of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Skilled Migration and changes to the English language requirement. It is anticipated that implementation of all recommendations will be progressed by the end of 2015.
- A key government commitment has been to ensure that illegal arrivals are not granted permanent protection visas, but would instead be granted temporary protection should they be found to engage Australia's protection obligations. On 5 December 2014, amendments to the *Migration Act 1958* were passed which, among other measures, established a Temporary Protection visa (TPV) and a Safe Haven Enterprise visa (SHEV). Anyone who has arrived in Australia illegally and has not yet had a protection visa granted will now only be eligible for the grant of a TPV or SHEV.

Australia's Population

Migration continues to be the major component of population growth in Australia. Between June 1996 and June 2013, Australia's overseas-born population grew by 51.2 per cent to 6.4 million people.

Table 1: Main birthplaces of our migrants

Country of birth	Estimated resident population at 30 June 2013
United Kingdom	1,222,570
New Zealand	608,820
People's Republic of China	427,590
India	369,680
Vietnam	215,460
Other countries	3,567,270
Total	6,411,390

Source: ABS Migration, Australia (3412.0)

The substantial growth in overseas-born residents is changing Australia's ethnic composition. In the past 17 years the number of China-born Australian residents has more than tripled to 427,590 people. This rate of growth was surpassed by India-born residents, which increased more than four-fold to 369,680 people over the same period while Australian residents born in the United Kingdom increased by only 5.0 per cent to 1,222,570.

Since September 2005, net overseas migration (NOM) has exceeded the natural increase component of population growth. For the year ending December 2013, preliminary NOM accounted for 59.5 per cent of total population growth, or 235,800 people.

The Migration Programme

The Migration Programme is the main pathway to permanent residence in Australia. It has two main categories—the Family stream which enables the migration of immediate family members and the Skill stream, which targets migrants who have the skills, proven entrepreneurial ability or outstanding capabilities that will contribute to the Australian economy.

The Migration Programme outcome for 2013–14 was 190,000 places, the same level as the previous programme year. It comprised 128,550 places in the Skill stream, 61,112 in the Family stream and the remaining 338 in the Special Eligibility visa category. Since 1997–98, the Skill stream has been the main component of the Migration Programme, increasing from

51.5 per cent in 1997–98 to 67.7 per cent in 2013–14.

India, the People's Republic of China and the United Kingdom were the top three source countries under the Migration Programme. Together, they comprised 46.9 per cent of the total Migration Programme in 2013–14. Growth on 2012–13 was mixed, with modest falls in citizens from India (2.6 per cent) and China (2.0 per cent), whereas grants to nationals of the United Kingdom (7.0 per cent) grew.

Table 2: Main source countries of Australia's Migration Programme

Citizenship	Migration Programme visa places 2013–14
India	39,026
People's Republic of China	26,776
United Kingdom	23,220
Philippines	10,379
Pakistan	6275
Other countries	84,324
Total	190,000

Source data: Migration Reporting, DIBP

The planning level for the 2014–15 Migration Programme has remained the same as the previous year at 190,000 places, comprising 60,885 places under the Family stream, 128,550 places under the Skill stream and 565 Special Eligibility places.

Humanitarian Programme

Australia's Humanitarian Programme has an offshore resettlement component and an onshore protection component. The offshore resettlement component is for people outside of Australia who are in need of resettlement, and the onshore protection component is for people who have already arrived in Australia seeking to have their asylum claims assessed in Australia. It comprises people seeking protection who arrived in Australia as either illegal maritime arrivals, unauthorised air arrivals or legally on valid visas.

In 2013–14, a total of 13,768 visas were granted, constituting 11,016 under the offshore resettlement component and 2752 under the onshore protection component.

In 2013–14, 18,718 Protection visa applications and refugee status determination requests from people seeking asylum in Australia were made, a decrease of 30.3 per cent on the previous year.

Temporary entry

Depending on the purpose and duration of their visit, people can come to Australia on either a Visitor visa or a temporary resident visa. Visitor visas are mostly used by people visiting Australia for holidays, tourism, recreation, or to see family and friends. Temporary resident visas are designed for specific purposes such as study, working holidays or other specialist activities that are of benefit to Australia.

In 2013–14, more than 4.7 million temporary resident and Visitor visas were granted. Of these, almost 4.0 million were Visitor visas. The top source country and main driver of growth for Visitor visas was the People's Republic of China (549,458 grants). This surpasses the United Kingdom (546,911 grants) which had been the main source of Visitor visas since 2002–03.

Table 3: Visitor and temporary resident visas granted

Category	Grants 2013–14
Visitors[1]	3,969,215
Working Holiday Makers	239,592
Students	292,060
Temporary Work (Skilled)[2]	98,571
Temporary Graduate	22,867
Other temporary visas[3]	83,034
Total	4,705,339

Source data: Visa Reporting, DIBP

1. Visitor visas are reported as offshore grants only and exclude a small number where the client is onshore.
2. Excludes subclass 457 Independent Executive.
3. Excludes Bridging visas.

The Working Holiday Maker Programme encourages cultural exchange and closer ties by allowing young adults from Australia and partner countries to have an extended holiday in each other's country, during which they can engage in short-term work and study. In 2013–14, 239,592

visas were granted, a fall of 7.2 per cent on the 258,248 visas granted in 2012–13.

The programme consists of two visa subclasses, the Working Holiday (subclass 417) visa and the Work and Holiday (subclass 462) visa. In 2013–14, Working Holiday visa grants fell 8.0 per cent to 229,378 while the number of Work and Holiday visas grew 13.3 per cent to 10,214 grants.

The 2013–14 programme year saw strong growth in Student visas granted—up 12.6 per cent on the previous year, to reach their second highest level of 292,060 grants. Growth in Student visas was driven by a 26.3 per cent increase in offshore grant numbers, from 141,810 in 2012–13 to 179,147 grants for 2013–14. This growth follows the implementation of new streamlined visa processing arrangements in March 2012, and expanded post-study work arrangements in March 2013.

Temporary Work (Skilled) (subclass 457) visa grants fell 22.0 per cent in 2013–14, from 126,348 in 2012–13 to 98,571. This reflects labour market conditions that occurred through the year. Among those receiving visas in 2013–14, the top three nationalities were India (24,521 grants), the United Kingdom (16,708 grants) and the People's Republic of China (6159 grants).

Labour market outcomes

The labour market outcomes of Australia's migrant population are commensurate with those born in Australia. During 2013–14, Australia's migrants had an average unemployment rate of 5.9 per cent over the year, a figure only slightly higher than the 5.8 per cent for those born in Australia.

The labour force participation rate of Australian-born remained higher than that of overseas-born by an average of 6.3 percentage points over 2013–14. However, the increasing share of skilled migrants coming through the Migration Programme means this gap is narrowing—down from 9.8 percentage points in 2002–03.

According to the latest information from the department's Continuous Survey of Australia's Migrants, employment outcomes of Skill stream migrants were strong and better overall than that of the Australian population. Skill stream Primary Applicants—the visa applicant selected for skilled migration—had an unemployment rate of 5.7 per cent. This was commensurate with Australia's overall unemployment rate of 5.8 per cent, and is especially favourable given that these migrants were new to Australia. The labour force participation rate for Skill stream Primary Applicants over the survey period was 95.6 per cent—far higher than the national rate of 64.8 per cent.

Australian Citizenship

The promotion of Australian citizenship and the rights and responsibilities it entails is an ongoing priority of the Australian Government. In 2013–14, a record 163,017 people were conferred Australian citizenship—up 32.1 per cent on the previous year and 20.5 per cent on the previous peak in 2006–07 of 135,256 conferrals.

The highest number was from India (27,827), displacing the United Kingdom (25,884) which had been the top source country for the past 11 years. This was followed by the Philippines (11,628), South Africa (9286) and the People's Republic of China (9203).

Table 4: Australian citizenship conferrals—top five countries of original citizenship, 2013–14

Country of original Citizenship	Citizenship Conferrals
India	27,827
United Kingdom	25,884
Philippines	11,628
South Africa	9,286
People's Republic of China	9,203
Other countries[1]	79,189
Total	163,017

Source data: Citizenship Programme Management, DIBP

1. Includes not stated former nationality.