Australian Government
Department of Home Affairs

Australia's Migration Trends, 2023–24

Australia's Migration Trends was prepared by:

Data Services Branch | Data and Economic Analysis Centre
Department of Home Affairs

Comments about this publication can be emailed to

© Commonwealth of Australia 2024

All material presented in this publication is provided under a Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 Australia licence.

For the avoidance of doubt, this means this licence only applies to material as set out in this document.



The details of the relevant licence conditions are available on the Creative Commons website (accessible using the links provided) as is the full legal code for the CC BY 3.0 AU licence.

Use of the Coat of Arms

The terms under which the Coat of Arms can be used are detailed on the It's an Honour website.

Contact us

Enquiries about the licence and any use of this document are welcome at:

Media and Communication Branch
Department of Home Affairs

PO Box 25
BELCONNEN ACT 2616

Table of Contents

Terminology 2

Overview 3

Permanent migration 4
- The Migration Program outcome 4
- Skill stream visas 5
- Family stream visas 12
- Special Eligibility visas 15
- Change of status—permanent visa places by last visa held where the applicant is in Australia 15

Humanitarian Program 16
- Offshore resettlement component 17
- Onshore protection component 17

Temporary visa grants 18
- Visitor visa grants 18
- New Zealand citizen Special Category visa grants 19
- Student visa grants 19
- Working Holiday Maker visa grants 21
- Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa grants 23
- Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) intra-company transfers 26
- Post-study work—Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485) grants 27

Temporary visa holders in Australia 28

Visa non-compliance 28
- Unlawful Non-Citizens in Australia 28
- Visa cancellations 29
- Compliance-related departures 29

Australian citizenship 30

Net overseas migration and population growth 31

Labour market outcomes 34
- The importance of migration in Australia's labour market 34
- Outcomes of Australia's migrant population stock 38
- Outcomes for recently arrived Skill stream migrants 39

Terminology

Applicant Type—"Under the Migration Regulations 1994 (the Regulations), there are two types of applicants. These are primary applicants and secondary applicants. These terms are defined below:

- **Primary Applicant**—The primary applicant is the person who must satisfy the primary criteria for the grant of a visa under the Migration Regulations. Also known as the principal applicant.
- **Secondary Applicant**—Secondary applicants must satisfy the secondary criteria for the grant of a visa under the Migration Regulations. A secondary applicant is generally a dependant of the primary applicant.

Delivered—the number of places (outcome) or grants pertaining to permanent or temporary visas within the program year (financial year).

Outcome—For the purposes of Migration Program reporting, outcome refers to the number of visas granted that count toward the Migration Program (also termed places). Outcome includes primary applicants as well as secondary/dependant applicants.

Where a visa has a permanent residence pathway, e.g. from a provisional or 'first stage' visa to a permanent or 'second stage' visa, the applicant is counted to the Migration Program at grant of the provisional visa.

Some visas granted during a program year may not count toward the Migration Program, for example:

- If a person has already been granted a visa which counted toward the Migration Program, that person will not be counted again.
- Within the same program year, where a visa is granted and is later cancelled, the grant is excluded for the purposes of Migration Program outcome reporting.
- Where a Partner visa applicant does not progress to the second stage (permanent) visa, a place is returned to the program.
- If a Business Innovation and Investment visa (granted in an earlier year) is cancelled the place is returned to the program in the year of cancellation.

Places—in this report, each grant that counts toward the Migration Program outcome is a place delivered against the Migration Program places (planned level) for the year. When referring to Migration Program outcomes within the report, the terms 'grant' and 'place' may be used interchangeably.

Overview

For the 2023–24 financial year, the Migration Program and Humanitarian Program together delivered 210,000 permanent places, and granted in the same year more than 7.9 million temporary visas (Table 1). By comparison with the previous financial year, the number of permanent places (including humanitarian visa grants decreased 1.4 per cent on the 212,879 places delivered, and the number of temporary visas granted increased by 12.9 per cent on the 7,025,366 granted.

Over the last 10 years (from 2014–15 to 2023–24) the number of:

- Permanent places increased 3.5 percent, on the 202,856 in 2014–15:
  - Migration Program—up 903 places (0.5 per cent), on the 189,097 places in 2014–15
  - Humanitarian Program—up 6241 grants (45.4 per cent), on the 13,759 grants in 2014–15.
- Temporary visa grants—up 752,167 grants (10.5 per cent), on the 7,180,570 in 2014–15.

Table 1: Key statistics for 2023–24 financial year

Migration	Total
Permanent migrants	**210,000**
Migration Program outcome	190,000
Skill stream places	137,100
Family stream places (includes Child)	52,720
Special Eligibility stream places	180
Humanitarian Program visas granted	20,000
Temporary visas granted	**7,932,737**
Visitor visas granted	4,713,442
New Zealand citizen Special Category visas granted	1,786,486
Crew and Transit visas granted	394,332
Student visas granted	376,731
Temporary Resident (Other Employment) visas granted	319,366
Working Holiday Maker visas granted	234,556
Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted	101,533
Other Temporary visas granted	6,291
Citizenship	**Conferrals**
Conferrals of Australian citizenship	**192,242**

Source data: Department of Home Affairs

Permanent migration

The Migration Program outcome

In 2023–24, there were 190,000 places delivered under the Migration Program—down 2.6 per cent on the 195,004 places in 2022–23. This was comprised of:

- 137,100 Skill stream places
- 52,720 Family stream places (includes Child visas)
- 180 Special Eligibility places.

In 2023–24, the top three nationalities accounted 44.0 per cent of the places delivered under the Migration Program. These were nationals of:

1. India—49,848 places (26.2 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—21,806 places (11.5 per cent)
3. Philippines—11,942 places (6.3 per cent).

Table 2 shows that growth in 2023–24, was strongest for nationals of the following three countries:

1. India—up 8703 places (21.2 per cent), on the 41,145 places in 2022–23
2. Afghanistan—up 3013 places (118.5 per cent), on the 2543 places in 2022–23
3. Pakistan—up 1950 places (39.6 per cent), on the 4927 places in 2022–23.

Table 2: Migration Program outcome—top 10 citizenships, 2021–22 to 2023–24

Citizenship country	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	% Change 2022–23 to 2023–24
India	24,324	41,145	49,848	21.2
People's Republic of China[1]	18,240	23,936	21,806	-8.9
Philippines	8,591	13,085	11,942	-8.7
Nepal	6,628	12,041	11,506	-4.4
United Kingdom	9,584	11,439	9,916	-13.3
Pakistan	3,734	4,927	6,877	39.6
Vietnam	6,492	6,571	6,698	1.9
Sri Lanka	2,801	4,482	5,672	26.6
Afghanistan	1,773	2,543	5,556	118.5
South Africa	3,305	5,434	4,620	-15.0
Other[2]	58,084	69,401	55,559	-19.9
Total	**143,556**	**195,004**	**190,000**	**-2.6**

Source data: Department of Home Affairs
1. Excludes Special Administrative Regions (SARs).
2. Includes citizenship not specified.
Note: Top 10 citizenship countries are based on 2023–24.

More than half (57.2 per cent) of migrants that obtained a permanent place in 2023–24, were migrants already in Australia on a temporary visa, with the remaining 42.8 per cent of places going to new arrivals.

Almost two-thirds (61.0 per cent) of those granted a Skill stream visa were former temporary visa holders, whereas more than half (52.1 per cent) of all temporary visa holders moved directly from either a Temporary Graduate visa (27.4 per cent) or a Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa (24.7 per cent).

The 190,000 places delivered under the 2023–24 Migration Program was slightly above that delivered a decade earlier, in 2014–15, of 189,097 places. This was largely a result of the:

- Skill stream—up 9326 places (7.3 per cent) on the 127,774 places delivered in 2014–15
- Family stream—down 8365 places (13.7 per cent) on the 61,085 places delivered in 2014–15.

The top three nationalities that maintained strong growth over this period were:

1. India—up 14,974 places (42.9 per cent) on the 34,874 places in 2014–15, to 49,848 places
2. Nepal—up 7376 places (178.6 per cent) on the 4130 places in 2014–15, to 11,506 places
3. Afghanistan—up 3551 places (177.1 per cent) on the 2005 places in 2014–15, to 5556 places.

Skill stream visas

In 2023–24, there were 137,100 Skill stream places delivered, a decrease of 3.7 per cent on the 142,344 places in 2022–23 (Table 3).

Table 3: Skill stream outcome by visa category, 2021–22 to 2023–24

Visa category	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	% Change 2022–23 to 2023–24
Employer Sponsored	26,103	35,000	36,825	5.2
Regional	18,223	33,944	32,300	-4.8
State/Territory Nominated	19,376	31,000	30,400	-1.9
Skilled Independent	5,864	32,100	30,375	-5.4
Global Talent (Independent)	8,776	5,000	5,000	0.0
Business Innovation and Investment[1]	10,496	5,000	1,900	-62.0
Distinguished Talent	225	300	300	0.0
Total	**89,063**	**142,344**	**137,100**	**-3.7**

Source data: Department of Home Affairs

1. Numbers are for net outcome. Visas cancelled under s134 of the *Migration Act 1958* are returned to the Program in the year in which they are cancelled.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for almost half (49.8 per cent) of all Skill stream places in 2023–24, namely:

1. India—45,820 places (33.4 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—11,520 places (8.4 per cent)
3. Nepal—10,891 places (7.9 per cent).

Among the top 10 nationalities (Table 4), growth in 2023–24, was strongest for nationals of:

- India—up 9569 places (26.4 per cent), on the 36,251 places in 2022–23
- Pakistan—up 1238 places (31.3 per cent), on the 3950 places in 2022–23
- Sri Lanka—up 913 places (24.2 per cent), on the 3775 places in 2022–23.

Table 4: Skill stream outcome—top 10 citizenships, 2021–22 to 2023–24

Citizenship country	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	% Change 2022–23 to 2023–24
India	19,581	36,251	45,820	26.4
People's Republic of China[1]	10,277	13,532	11,520	-14.9
Nepal	6,048	11,304	10,891	-3.7
Philippines	4,748	9,125	8,178	-10.4
United Kingdom	5,185	8,565	7,846	-8.4
Pakistan	2,854	3,950	5,188	31.3
Sri Lanka	2,031	3,775	4,688	24.2
South Africa	2,683	4,960	4,246	-14.4
Vietnam	3,527	3,108	2,881	-7.3
Iran	2,778	3,149	2,539	-19.4
Other[2]	29,351	44,625	33,303	-25.4
Total	**89,063**	**142,344**	**137,100**	**-3.7**

Source data: Department of Home Affairs
1. Excludes Special Administrative Regions (SARs).
2. Includes citizenship not specified.
Note: Top 10 citizenship countries are based on 2023–24.

The Skill stream comprised 72.2 per cent of the Migration Program outcome in 2023–24 (including Child visas); by comparison, in 2022–23 the share was 73.0 per cent.

The Skill stream is comprised of primary applicants (the visa holder who satisfies the primary criteria for the grant of a visa) and their accompanying family unit (secondary applicants), such as spouses and children. In 2023–24, of the 137,100 Skill stream places delivered, less than half (48.3 per cent) went to Skill stream primary applicants, who comprised around one-third (34.8 per cent) of the total Migration Program outcome.

Employer Sponsored visas

In 2023–24, there were 36,825 Employer Sponsored places delivered, an increase of 5.2 per cent on the 35,000 places delivered in 2022–23.

Nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than half (51.1 per cent) of Employer Sponsored places in 2023–24, namely:

1. India—10,966 places (29.8 per cent)
2. United Kingdom—4500 places (12.2 per cent)
3. Philippines—3368 places (9.1 per cent).

Of the main nationalities (Table 5) that obtained a place in 2023–24, growth was strongest for nationals of:

- India—up 2779 places (33.9 per cent), on the 8187 places in 2022–23
- People’s Republic of China—up 691 places (41.2 per cent), on the 1676 places in 2022–23
- Vietnam—up 301 places (41.6 per cent), on the 723 places in 2022–23.

Table 5: Employer Sponsored outcome—top 10 citizenships, 2021–22 to 2023–24

Citizenship country	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	% Change 2022–23 to 2023–24
India	5,845	8,187	10,966	33.9
United Kingdom	2,967	4,324	4,500	4.1
Philippines	2,151	3,123	3,368	7.8
People's Republic of China[1]	1,407	1,676	2,367	41.2
South Africa	1,487	1,796	1,417	-21.1
Ireland	791	1,402	1,154	-17.7
Vietnam	821	723	1,024	41.6
Sri Lanka	629	1,078	1,016	-5.8
Brazil	774	1,081	933	-13.7
Republic of Korea	604	894	844	-5.6
Other[2]	8,627	10,716	9,236	-13.8
Total	**26,103**	**35,000**	**36,825**	**5.2**

Source data: Department of Home Affairs
1. Excludes Special Administrative Regions (SARs).
2. Includes citizenship not specified.
Note: Top 10 citizenship countries are based on 2023–24.

Of the 36,825 Employer Sponsored places delivered in 2023–24, 39.6 per cent (14,582 places) were to primary applicants, with the top three nominated occupations accounting for 33.8 per cent of Employer Sponsored primary applicants, namely:

1. Registered Nurses—2360 places (16.2 per cent)
2. Chefs—1378 places (9.5 per cent)
3. Software and Applications Programmers—1191 places (8.2 per cent).[1]

Regional migration

In 2023–24, there were 32,300 Regional places delivered, a decrease of 4.8 per cent on the 33,944 places delivered in 2022–23.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than half (57.3 per cent) of Regional places, namely:

1. India—12,953 places (40.1 per cent)
2. Nepal—3301 places (10.2 per cent)
3. Pakistan—2245 places (7.0 per cent).

In 2023–24, among the top 10 nationalities (Table 6), growth was strongest for nationals of:

- India—up 761 places (6.2 per cent), on the 12,192 places in 2022–23
- Pakistan—up 491 places (28.0 per cent), on the 1754 places in 2022–23.

[1] Occupation level information is only available for Skill stream primary applicants and is based on the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO) Unit Group.

In contrast, nationals of the following countries fell substantially, namely:

- Philippines—down 1268 places (40.9 per cent) on the 3098 places in 2022–23
- Nepal—down 1079 places (24.6 per cent) on the 4380 places in 2022–23.

Table 6: Regional outcome—top 10 citizenships, 2021–22 to 2023–24

Citizenship country	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	% Change 2022–23 to 2023–24
India	5,931	12,192	12,953	6.2
Nepal	2,472	4,380	3,301	-24.6
Pakistan	1,358	1,754	2,245	28.0
Philippines	1,458	3,098	1,830	-40.9
People's Republic of China[1]	950	2,106	1,380	-34.5
Sri Lanka	699	1,068	1,357	27.1
South Africa	464	1,262	1,050	-16.8
United Kingdom	583	1,141	729	-36.1
Bangladesh	315	457	495	8.3
Iran	170	402	495	23.1
Other[2]	3,823	6,084	6,465	6.3
Total	**18,223**	**33,944**	**32,300**	**-4.8**

Source data: Department of Home Affairs
1. Excludes Special Administrative Regions (SARs).
2. Includes citizenship not specified.
Note: Top 10 citizenship countries are based on 2023–24.

Of the Regional places delivered in 2023–24, 42.7 per cent (13,796 places) were to primary applicants, with the top three nominated occupations accounting for 29.2 per cent of Regional primary applicants, namely:

1. Accountants—2272 places (16.5 per cent)
2. Chefs—944 places (6.8 per cent)
3. Industrial, Mechanical and Production Engineers—809 places (5.9 per cent).

State/Territory Nominated

In 2023–24, there were 30,400 State/Territory Nominated places delivered, a decrease of 1.9 per cent on the 31,000 places delivered in 2022–23.

Nationals of the top three countries in 2023–24, accounted for more than half (56.0 per cent) of State/Territory Nominated places. These were nationals of:

1. India—11,064 places (36.4 per cent)
2. People’s Republic of China—3179 places (10.5 per cent)
3. Nepal—2773 places (9.1 per cent).

Although there were fewer State/Territory Nominated places in 2023–24, down 600 places on the previous year (Table 7), it was nationals of the following countries that helped stemmed the decrease:

- India—up 1324 places (13.6 per cent) on the 9740 places in 2022–23
- Sri Lanka—up 572 places (68.6 per cent) on the 834 places in 2022–23.

Table 7: State/Territory Nominated outcome—top 10 citizenships, 2021–22 to 2023–24

Citizenship country	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	% Change 2022–23 to 2023–24
India	5,386	9,740	11,064	13.6
People's Republic of China[1]	2,443	4,324	3,179	-26.5
Nepal	2,737	3,367	2,773	-17.6
Sri Lanka	444	834	1,406	68.6
Philippines	995	1,135	1,262	11.2
United Kingdom	740	1,703	1,163	-31.7
Pakistan	688	908	1,162	28.0
South Africa	224	965	770	-20.2
Malaysia	514	716	628	-12.3
Iran	265	828	576	-30.4
Other	4,940	6,480	6,417	-1.0
Total	**19,376**	**31,000**	**30,400**	**-1.9**

Source data: Department of Home Affairs
1. Excludes Special Administrative Regions (SARs).
Note: Top 10 citizenship countries are based on 2023–24.

In 2023–24, of the State/Territory Nominated places delivered, 55.6 per cent (16,910 places) were to primary applicants, with the top three nominated occupations accounting for 26.0 per cent of State/Territory Nominated primary applicants, namely:

1. Registered Nurses—2021 places (12.0 per cent)
1. Software and Applications Programmer—1507 places (8.9 per cent)
2. Accountants—863 places (5.1 per cent).

Skilled Independent

In 2023–24, there were 30,375 Skilled Independent places delivered, a decrease of 5.4 per cent on the 32,100 places delivered in 2022–23.

Nationals of the top three countries in 2023–24, accounted for 54.3 per cent of Skilled Independent places. These were nationals of:

1. India—9631 places (31.7 per cent)
2. Nepal—4090 places (13.5 per cent)
3. People’s Republic of China—2769 places (9.1 per cent).

Growth in 2023–24 among the main nationalities (Table 8) was strongest for nationals of the following countries:

- India—up 4557 places (89.8 per cent) on the 5074 places in 2022–23
- Nepal—up 1327 places (48.0 per cent) on the 2763 places in 2022–23.

Table 8: Skilled Independent outcome—top 10 citizenships, 2021–22 to 2023–24

Citizenship country	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	% Change 2022–23 to 2023–24
India	699	5,074	9,631	89.8
Nepal	55	2,763	4,090	48.0
People's Republic of China[1]	381	2,351	2,769	17.8
Philippines	80	1,738	1,695	-2.5
United Kingdom	134	1,076	1,257	16.8
Pakistan	117	583	1,025	75.8
South Africa	60	718	899	25.2
Iran	54	847	840	-0.8
Sri Lanka	25	616	806	30.8
Hong Kong (SAR of the PRC)[2]	52	699	788	12.7
Other[3]	4,207	15,635	6,575	-57.9
Total	**5,864**	**32,100**	**30,375**	**-5.4**

Source data: Department of Home Affairs
1. Excludes Special Administrative Regions (SARs).
2. PRC = People's Republic of China.
3. Includes citizenship not specified.
Note: Top 10 citizenship countries are based on 2023–24.

In 2023–24, of the Skilled Independent places delivered, 61.3 per cent (18,614 places) were to primary applicants, with the top three nominated occupations accounting for 40.2 per cent of Skilled Independent primary applicants, namely:

1. Registered Nurses—5278 places (28.4 per cent)
2. Chefs—1125 places (6.0 per cent)
3. Software and Applications Programmers—1082 places (5.8 per cent).

Global Talent (Independent)

The Global Talent Program, introduced on 4 November 2019, offers a streamlined priority visa pathway for highly skilled and talented individuals in selected industries to work and live permanently in Australia.

In 2023–24, there were 5000 Global Talent (Independent) places delivered, the same number of places that were delivered in 2022–23. Of these, 33.5 per cent (1677 places) were to primary applicants.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for half (50.4 per cent) of Global Talent (Independent) places, namely:

1. India—1155 places (23.1 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—761 places (15.2 per cent)
3. Hong Kong—603 places (12.1 per cent).

Of the main nationalities (Table 9) that obtained a place in 2023–24, growth was strongest for nationals of:

- India—up 224 places (24.1 per cent) on the 931 places in 2022–23
- People's Republic of China—up 217 places (39.9 per cent) on the 544 places in 2022–23
- Taiwan—up 108 places (79.4 per cent) on the 136 places in 2022–23.

Table 9: Global Talent (Independent) outcome—top 10 citizenships, 2021–22 to 2023–24

Citizenship country	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	% Change 2022–23 to 2023–24
India	1,398	931	1,155	24.1
People's Republic of China[1]	1,011	544	761	39.9
Hong Kong (SAR of the PRC)	1,115	671	603	-10.1
Taiwan	121	136	244	79.4
Iran	510	359	231	-35.7
Pakistan	221	212	228	7.5
Vietnam	247	204	176	-13.7
United States of America	484	194	163	-16.0
United Kingdom	588	268	152	-43.3
Bangladesh	246	119	140	17.6
Other[2]	2,835	1,362	1,147	-15.8
Total	**8,776**	**5,000**	**5,000**	**0.0**

Source data: Department of Home Affairs
1. Excludes Special Administrative Regions (SARs).
2. Includes citizenship not specified.
Note: Top 10 citizenship countries are based on 2023–24.

Business Innovation and Investment visas

In 2023–24, there were 1900 Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP) visa places delivered—down 62.0 per cent (3100 places) on the 5000 places delivered in 2022–23. By stream, this was mainly (85.8 per cent) comprised of:

- 788 Business Innovation places (41.5 per cent)
- 402 Significant Business History places (21.2 per cent)
- 265 Investor places (13.9 per cent)
- 175 Significant Investor places (9.2 per cent).

Collectively, the top three nationalities accounted for almost three-quarters (74.6 per cent) of all BIIP visa places in 2023–24. These were nationals of:

1. People’s Republic of China—1049 places (55.2 per cent)
2. Vietnam—191 places (10.1 per cent)
3. Hong Kong—178 places (9.4 per cent).

Nationals of the People’s Republic of China continued to be the main recipients of BIIP visas, with significantly more BIIP places than any other nationality, and in 2023–24, was mainly comprised of:

- 391 Business Innovation stream places
- 304 Significant Business History stream places
- 149 Investor stream places
- 117 Significant Investor stream places.

Distinguished Talent

In 2023–24, there were 300 Distinguished Talent places delivered, the same number of places delivered in 2022–23. Of these, 46.7 per cent (140 places) were to primary applicants.

Nationals of the top three countries in 2023–24, accounted for more than one-quarter (26.7 per cent) of Distinguished Talent places. These were nationals of:

1. United Kingdom—32 places (10.7 per cent)
2. Brazil—26 places (8.7 per cent)
3. Iran—22 places (7.3 per cent).

Family stream visas

In 2023–24, there were 52,720 places delivered under the Family stream, an increase of 0.4 per cent on the 52,500 places delivered in 2022–23.

The Family stream's 52,720 places was comprised of:

- 40,720 Partner places
- 8500 Parent places
- 3000 Child places
- 500 Other Family places.

Nationals of the top three countries in 2023–24, accounted for more than one-third (37.5 per cent) of Family stream places delivered. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—10,284 places (19.5 per cent)
2. Afghanistan—5484 places (10.4 per cent)
3. India—3994 places (7.6 per cent).

In 2023–24, among the top 10 nationalities (Table 10), solid growth occurred for nationals of:

- Afghanistan—up 3016 places (122.2 per cent) on the 2468 places in 2022–23
- Pakistan—up 701 places (71.8 per cent) on the 977 places in 2022–23
- Vietnam—up 350 places (10.1 per cent) on the 3461 places in 2022–23.

Table 10: Family stream outcome—top 10 citizenships, 2021–22 to 2023–24

Citizenship country	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	% Change 2022–23 to 2023–24
People's Republic of China[1]	7,957	10,402	10,284	-1.1
Afghanistan	1,692	2,468	5,484	122.2
India	4,718	4,882	3,994	-18.2
Vietnam	2,962	3,461	3,811	10.1
Philippines	3,805	3,957	3,744	-5.4
United Kingdom	4,374	2,872	2,062	-28.2
Thailand	1,785	1,862	1,762	-5.4
Pakistan	875	977	1,678	71.8
United States of America	1,917	1,671	1,366	-18.3
Lebanon	811	457	1,209	164.6
Other[2]	20,392	19,491	17,326	-11.1
Total	**51,288**	**52,500**	**52,720**	**0.4**

Source data: Department of Home Affairs
1. Excludes Special Administrative Regions (SARs).
2. Includes citizenship not specified.
Note: Top 10 citizenship countries are based on 2023–24.

Partner visas

In 2023–24, there were 40,720 Partner places delivered, an increase of 0.5 per cent on the 40,500 places delivered in 2022–23. This was comprised of:

- 39,009 Partner places
- 1711 Fiancé places.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 30.3 per cent of Partner places in 2023–24. These were nationals of:

1. Afghanistan—5228 places (12.8 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—3802 places (9.3 per cent)
3. India—3289 places (8.1 per cent).

Growth in Partner places in 2023–24 (Table 11) was strongest for nationals of the following countries:

- Afghanistan—up 3134 places (149.7 per cent) on the 2094 places in 2022–23
- Lebanon—up 726 places (174.9 per cent) on the 415 places in 2022–23
- Pakistan—up 642 places (70.9 per cent) on the 906 places in 2022–23.

An analysis of historical data over the decade to 2023–24 reveals that, nationals of the People's Republic of China were the main source of Partner visa migrants up until 2022–23, only surpassed by nationals of Afghanistan in 2023–24.

Table 11: Partner outcome—top 10 citizenships, 2021–22 to 2023–24

Citizenship country	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	% Change 2022–23 to 2023–24
Afghanistan	1,542	2,094	5,228	149.7
People's Republic of China[1]	5,078	4,728	3,802	-19.6
India	3,954	3,815	3,289	-13.8
Philippines	3,258	3,355	3,278	-2.3
Vietnam	2,421	2,502	3,039	21.5
United Kingdom	4,027	2,535	1,835	-27.6
Pakistan	704	906	1,548	70.9
Thailand	1,569	1,541	1,546	0.3
United States of America	1,845	1,591	1,266	-20.4
Lebanon	760	415	1,141	174.9
Other[2]	21,130	17,018	14,748	-13.3
Total	**46,288**	**40,500**	**40,720**	**0.5**

Source data: Department of Home Affairs
1. Excludes Special Administrative Regions (SARs).
2. Includes citizenship not specified.
Note: Top 10 citizenship countries are based on 2023–24.

Parent visas

In 2023–24, there were 8500 Parent visa places delivered, the same number delivered in 2022–23. This was comprised of:

- 6800 Contributory Parent places
- 1700 non-contributory Parent places.

Nationals of the top three countries in 2023–24, accounted for more than three-quarters (81.7 per cent) of Parent places. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—5948 places (70.0 per cent)
2. India—510 places (6.0 per cent)
3. Vietnam—489 places (5.8 per cent).

Child visas

In 2023–24, there were 3000 Child visa places delivered, the same number delivered in 2022–23. This was comprised of the following visa groupings:

- Child visas—2626 places
- Orphan Relative visas—294 places
- Adoption visas—80 places.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 34.9 per cent of places in this category in 2023–24. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—422 places (14.1 per cent)
2. Philippines—418 places (13.9 per cent)
3. Thailand—206 places (6.9 per cent).

Other Family visas

In 2023–24, there were 500 Other Family visa places delivered, the same number delivered in 2022–23. This was comprised of:

- 276 Carer places
- 204 Remaining Relative places
- 20 Aged Dependent Relative places.

In 2023–24, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 53.8 per cent of places delivered in this category. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—112 places (22.4 per cent)
2. Vietnam—79 places (15.8 per cent)
3. Afghanistan—78 places (15.6 per cent).

Special Eligibility visas

In 2023–24, there were 180 Special Eligibility places delivered, an increase of 12.5 per cent on the 160 places delivered in 2022–23.

Nationals of the top three countries in 2023–24, accounted for more than one-third (36.1 per cent) of Special Eligibility places delivered, namely:

1. India—34 places (18.9 per cent)
2. Philippines—20 places (11.1 per cent)
3. Pakistan—11 places each (6.1 per cent).

Change of status—permanent visa places by last visa held where the applicant is in Australia

In 2023–24, there were 108,730 permanent places delivered to applicants in Australia on temporary visas, a decrease of 9.8 per cent on the 120,591 places delivered in 2022–23.

More than two-thirds (70.0 per cent) were to former holders of:

- Temporary Graduate visa—29,787 places (27.4 per cent)
- Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa—26,892 places (24.7 per cent)
- Student visa—19,393 places (17.8 per cent).

Growth was strong among former visa holders of:

- Temporary Activity visa—up 7824 places (159.9 per cent) on the 4894 places in 2022–23
- Visitor visa—up 945 places (6.8 per cent) on the 13,799 places in 2022–23.

Students moving onto permanent residence whilst in Australia

In 2023–24, the number of permanent places obtained by former international students in Australia who transitioned directly from a Student visa was 19,393 places, a decrease of 24.8 per cent on the 25,804 places delivered in 2022–23.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for half (50.2 per cent) of these places in 2023–24. These were nationals of:

1. India—5552 places (28.6 per cent)
2. People’s Republic of China—2289 places (11.8 per cent)
3. Nepal—1900 places (9.8 per cent).

In 2023–24, 41.5 per cent of the fall in these places (decrease of 6411 places, Table 12) was notably against nationals of the following countries:

- Nepal—down 1372 places on the 3272 places in 2022–23
- People’s Republic of China—down 1294 places on the 3583 places in 2022–23.

Table 12: Permanent migration places granted to former international students in Australia, top 10 citizenships, 2021–22 to 2023–24

Citizenship country	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	% Change 2022–23 to 2023–24
India	3,353	5,915	5,552	-6.1
People's Republic of China[1]	2,907	3,583	2,289	-36.1
Nepal	1,638	3,272	1,900	-41.9
Vietnam	1,561	1,461	1,156	-20.9
Pakistan	808	834	972	16.5
Brazil	1,216	1,210	719	-40.6
Philippines	1,078	1,090	711	-34.8
Colombia	820	745	563	-24.4
Sri Lanka	492	615	547	-11.1
Thailand	550	541	465	-14.0
Other[2]	7,499	6,538	4,519	-30.9
Total	**21,922**	**25,804**	**19,393**	**-24.8**

Source data: Department of Home Affairs
1. Excludes Special Administrative Regions (SARs).
2. Includes citizenship not specified.
Note: Top 10 citizenship countries are based on 2023–24.

Of these 19,393 former international students:

- 13,303 places were within the Skill stream, comprised of:
  - 4829 Regional places
  - 3717 State/Territory Nominated places
  - 3203 Skilled Independent places
  - 1171 Employer Sponsored places
  - 237 Global Talent (Independent) places
  - 84 Business Innovation and Investment Program places
  - 62 Distinguished Talent places.
- 6062 places were within the Family stream, comprised of:
  - 5992 Partner places
  - 50 Child places
  - 11 Other Family places
  - 9 Parent places.
- 28 places were within Special Eligibility.

Humanitarian Program

In 2023–24, there were 20,000 visas granted under the Humanitarian Program. This included 16,750 visas granted under the offshore (resettlement) component of the program to people affected by humanitarian crises around the world, and 3250 visas granted under the onshore (protection) component of the program.

Offshore resettlement component

The 16,750 visas granted in 2023–24, under the offshore resettlement component of the program represented 83.8 per cent of all places. This was comprised of:

- 9762 Refugee visas granted (58.3 per cent)
- 6988 Special Humanitarian visas granted (41.7 per cent).

Nationals of the top three countries in 2023–24, accounted for more than two-thirds (69.3 per cent) of visas granted through the offshore resettlement component. These were nationals of:

1. Afghanistan—6961 grants (41.6 per cent)
2. Syria—2804 grants (16.7 per cent)
3. Iraq—1843 grants (11.0 per cent).

In 2023–24, more than half (51.8 per cent) of all visas granted under the offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program went to females. During this time, the Government continued its commitment to resettling highly vulnerable women and children with 2159 visas granted (12.9 per cent of the delivered program) to vulnerable women and their families. Since the establishment of the Woman at Risk visa in 1989, there have been more than 32,200 visas granted to vulnerable women and their dependants.

Onshore protection component

In 2023–24, there were 25,789 Protection visa applications lodged—an increase of 16.9 per cent on the 22,068 lodged the previous year. This comprised 25,210 Protection visa applications and 579 Temporary Protection visa and Safe Haven Enterprise visa applications.

In addition to the 3250 Permanent Protection visas granted under the onshore component in 2023–24, there were:

- 14,540 permanent Resolution of Status visas granted
- 538 Safe Haven Enterprise visas granted—a five-year temporary visa
- 265 Temporary Humanitarian Concern visas granted to Ukrainian nationals in response to the military conflict in Ukraine
- 218 Temporary Protection visas granted—a three-year temporary visa.[2]

Final grant rates for Permanent Protection visas in 2023–24 varied widely. The top three countries of citizenship for Permanent Protection visa grants in 2023–24 were:

1. Myanmar—900 grants; final grant rate of 99.45 per cent
2. People’s Republic of China—304 grants; final grant rate of 10.16 per cent
3. Malaysia—257 grants; final grant rate of 22.99 per cent.

[2] Safe Haven Enterprise visas (SHEV) and Temporary Protection visas (TPV), Resolution of Status (RoS) and Temporary Humanitarian Concern visas are not included in overall Humanitarian Program numbers as these visas are managed outside of the program. These numbers include grants of initial and subsequent SHEVs and TPVs.

Temporary visa grants

In 2023–24, there were 7,932,737 temporary visas granted, an increase of 12.9 per cent on the 7,025,366 visas granted the previous year. Of these, more than 4.7 million (59.4 per cent) were Visitor visa grants, and almost 1.8 million (22.5 per cent) Special Category visa grants to New Zealand citizens.

Visitor visa grants

In 2023–24, there were 4,713,442 Visitor visas granted, an increase of 894,947 grants on the 3,818,495 visas granted in 2022–23 (Table 13). By visa type, the number of Visitor visas granted in 2023–24 was comprised of:

- 4,202,441 tourist visa grants
- 511,001 business visitor visa grants.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 34.4 per cent of people granted a Visitor visa in 2023–24, namely:

1. People's Republic of China—583,183 grants (12.4 per cent)
2. United States of America—559,620 grants (11.9 per cent)
3. United Kingdom—479,042 grants (10.2 per cent).

Nationals of the following countries predominantly drove the growth in Visitor visas in 2023–24:

- People's Republic of China—up 311,633 grants on the 271,550 grants in 2022–23
- Republic of Korea—up 181,740 grants on the 172,648 grants in 2022–23
- Japan—up 167,636 grants on the 157,809 grants in 2022–23
- United States of America—up 103,055 grants on the 456,565 grants in 2022–23.

Table 13: Visitor visas granted—top 10 citizenship countries, 2021–22 to 2023–24

Citizenship country	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	% Change 2022–23 to 2023–24
People's Republic of China[1]	44,348	271,550	583,183	114.8
United States of America	97,628	456,565	559,620	22.6
United Kingdom	160,841	460,157	479,042	4.1
Republic of Korea	24,912	172,648	354,388	105.3
Japan	16,953	157,809	325,445	106.2
India	200,325	357,038	287,259	-19.5
Singapore	95,829	219,986	230,411	4.7
Malaysia	39,960	147,838	172,617	16.8
Germany	32,662	116,444	134,282	15.3
Taiwan	7,833	72,318	131,982	82.5
Other[2]	410,599	1,386,142	1,455,213	5.0
Total	**1,131,890**	**3,818,495**	**4,713,442**	**23.4**

Source data: Department of Home Affairs
1. Excludes Special Administrative Regions (SARs).
2. Includes citizenship not specified.
Note: Top 10 citizenship countries are based on 2023–24.

Visitor visas can be analysed by visa type providing a more targeted approach to identifying where the growth in the number of visas granted is occurring. Those granted for:

- tourism, increased by 825,222 grants on 2022–23 to 4,202,441 grants, mainly:
  - Tourist visa grants—98.1 per cent or 4,123,499 grants
  - Sponsored Family visa grants—1.3 per cent or 53,737 grants.
- business increased by 69,725 grants on 2022–23 to 511,001 grants, comprising:
  - Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Business Visitor—34.6 per cent or 176,712 grants
  - Business Visitor (excludes APEC)—65.4 per cent or to 334,289 grants.

During the 10 years from 2014–15 to 2023–24, before the COVID-19 pandemic, Visitor visa grants were increasing each year to a peak of 5,686,318 in 2018–19, an increase of 32.0 per cent (1,378,211 grants) on the 4,308,107 grants in 2014–15. In contrast, with the closure of international borders due to COVID, Visitor visa grants between 2018–19 and 2021–22 fell significantly and were down 80.1 per cent (4,554,428 grants) to just 1,131,890. In 2023–24, Visitor visa grants were 9.4 per cent (405,335 grants) above the number granted in 2014–15, with those granted for the purpose of tourism up 6.8 per cent (261,077 grants) and business up 14.7 per cent (65,316 grants).

New Zealand citizen Special Category visa grants

In 2023–24, there were 1,786,486 Special Category visas granted to New Zealand citizens—up 25.1 per cent (358,405 grants) on the 1,428,081 granted in 2022–23.

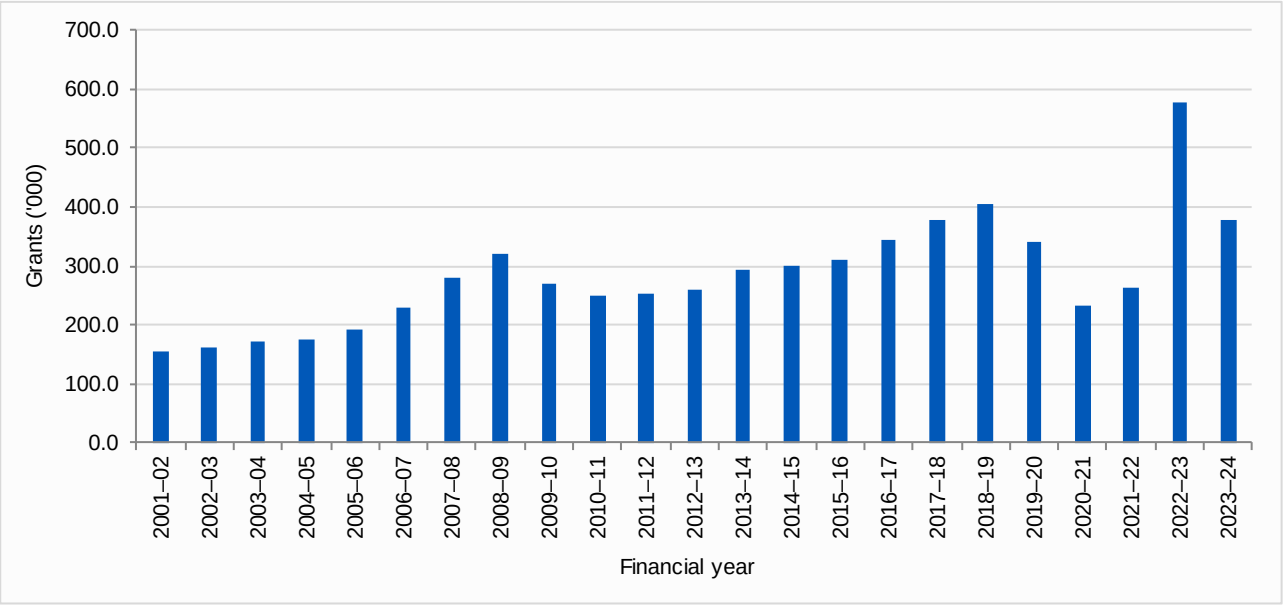
Between 2014–15 and 2016–17, Special Category visa grants increased each year and were up 6.9 per cent (123,341 grants) to 1,921,561 grants in 2016–17. In contrast, Special Category visa grants during the period, 2014–15 to 2022–23, were down 0.7 per cent (11,734 grants) on the 1,798,220 granted in 2014–15.

Student visa grants

In 2023–24, there were 376,731 Student visas granted, a decrease of 34.7 per cent (200,564 grants) on the peak that occurred in 2022–23 of 577,295 visas granted. As Figure 1 shows, the number of Student visas granted in 2023–24 was more in line with the pre-COVID level of 378,292 visas granted in 2017–18.

Of the 376,731 Student visas granted in 2023–24, 28.7 per cent of visas granted (107,934), were to people already in Australia on a temporary visa. This was the lowest proportion of Student visas granted in Australia since 2006–07 (27.1 per cent), which was the lowest proportion recorded since 2001–02.

Figure 1: Student visas granted, 2001–02 to 2023–24



Source data: Department of Home Affairs

By reporting category, the number of Student visas granted in 2023–24 was comprised of:

- 227,230 Higher Education grants
- 65,616 Vocational Education and Training (VET) grants
- 39,020 Independent ELICOS grants[3]
- 17,663 Non-Award grants
- 12,796 Postgraduate Research grants
- 9778 Schools grants
- 4628 Foreign Affairs of Defence grants.

There were decreases recorded across most or the reporting categories in 2023–24, when compared to the previous year. Of note as Table 14 shows, were large falls in the following reporting categories:

- VET—down 87,427 grants (57.1 per cent)
- Higher Education—down 72,914 grants (24.3 per cent).

Table 14: Student visas granted by reporting category, 2021–22 to 2023–24

Reporting category	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	% Change 2022–23 to 2023–24
Higher Education	150,597	300,144	227,230	-24.3
VET	73,557	153,043	65,616	-57.1
Independent ELICOS	16,511	74,627	39,020	-47.7
Non-Award	7,259	17,432	17,663	1.3
Postgraduate Research	8,806	16,798	12,796	-23.8
Schools	4,051	10,691	9,778	-8.5
Foreign Affairs or Defence	2,956	4,560	4,628	1.5
Total	**263,737**	**577,295**	**376,731**	**-34.7**

Source data: Department of Home Affairs

[3] ELICOS—English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students.

Nationals of the top three countries accounted for 42.6 per cent of Student visas granted in 2023–24. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—90,573 grants (24.0 per cent)
2. India—50,516 grants (13.4 per cent)
3. Nepal—19,397 grants (5.1 per cent).

By comparison with 2022–23, there were large falls in 2023–24 (Table 15) in the number of visa granted among nationals of the following countries:

- India—down 52,180 grants (50.8 per cent)
- Nepal—down 21,334 grants (52.4 per cent)
- Columbia—down 20,547 grants (56.5 per cent).

Table 15: Student visas granted—top 10 citizenships, 2021–22 to 2023–24

Citizenship country	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	% Change 2022–23 to 2023–24
People's Republic of China[1]	53,629	98,506	90,573	-8.1
India	42,627	102,696	50,516	-50.8
Nepal	30,667	40,731	19,397	-52.4
Colombia	6,978	36,413	15,839	-56.5
Vietnam	9,243	18,814	15,436	-18.0
Philippines	7,855	27,775	13,651	-50.9
Brazil	8,668	23,970	12,835	-46.5
Indonesia	7,789	14,765	10,251	-30.6
Bangladesh	3,702	9,338	10,143	8.6
Bhutan	2,583	15,552	9,787	-37.1
Other[2]	89,996	188,735	128,303	-32.0
Total	**263,737**	**577,295**	**376,731**	**-34.7**

Source data: Department of Home Affairs
1. Excludes Special Administrative Regions (SARs).
2. Includes citizenship not specified. Note: Top 10 citizenship countries are based on 2023–24.

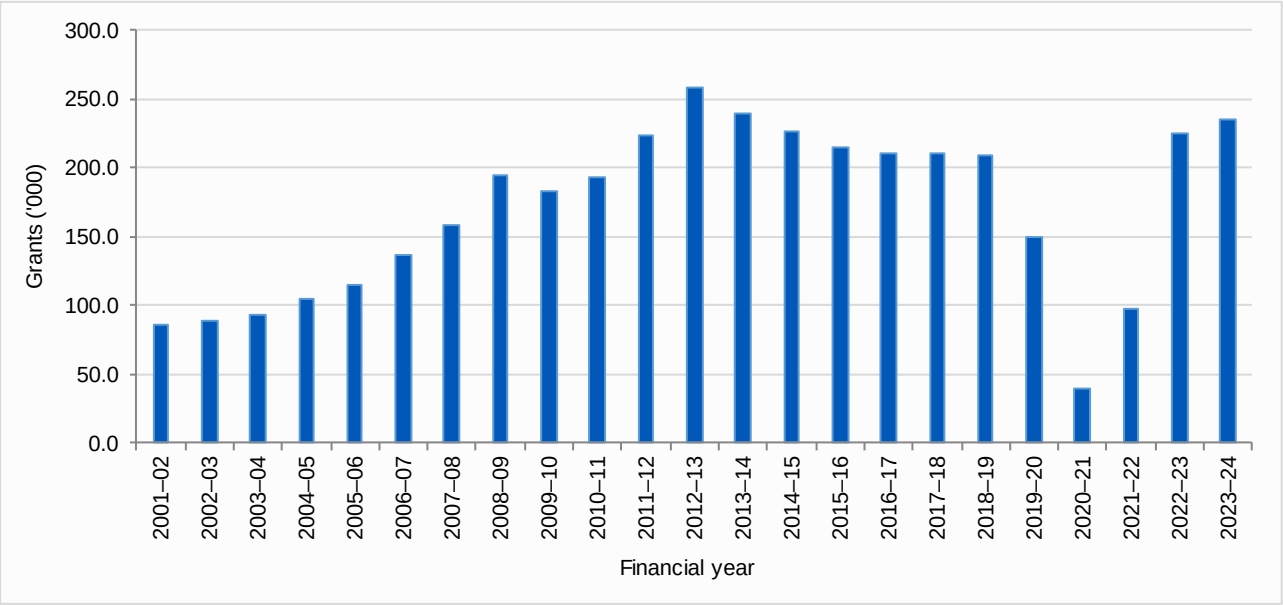
During the 10 years from 2014–15 to 2023–24, there has been significant growth in grants to nationals of the top five countries for Student visas, namely:

1. People's Republic of China—up 24,836 grants on the 65,737 grants in 2014–15
2. India—up 20,943 grants on the 29,573 grants in 2014–15
3. Nepal—up 10,410 grants on the 8987 grants in 2014–15
4. Colombia—up 8496 grants on the 7343 grants in 2014–15
5. Vietnam—up 5153 grants on the 10,283 grants in 2014–15.

Working Holiday Maker visa grants

In 2023–24, there were 234,556 Working Holiday Maker visas granted, an increase of 4.5 per cent (10,125 grants) on the 224,431 visas granted in 2022–23. This was the highest number of Working Holiday Maker visas granted since 2013–14 (239,592) and was 9.2 per cent down on the peak in 2012–13 of 258,248 visas granted (Figure 2).

Figure 2: Working Holiday visa grants, 2001–02 to 2023–24



Source data: Department of Home Affairs

Working Holiday Maker visa grants in 2023–24 were comprised of:

- 193,922 Working Holiday visa grants
  - 154,704 First Working Holiday visa grants
  - 39,218 further Working Holiday visa grants[4]
- 40,634 Work and Holiday visa grants
  - 24,939 First Work and Holiday visa grants
  - 15,695 further Work and Holiday visa grants.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 42.3 per cent of all Working Holiday Maker visa grants in 2023–24 (Table 16). These were nationals of:

1. United Kingdom—47,238 grants (20.1 per cent)
2. France—30,004 grants (12.8 per cent)
3. Ireland—21,997 grants (9.4 per cent).

The increase in the number of Working Holiday Maker visa grants in 2023–24, was most notable among the following nationalities:

- United Kingdom—up 9061 grants (23.7 per cent) on the 38,177 grants in 2022–23
- France—up 3108 grants (11.6 per cent) on the 26,896 grants in 2022–23
- Japan—up 2697 grants (18.7 per cent) on the 14,398 grants in 2022–23.

[4] Further visa includes ‘Second’ and ‘Third’ visas granted, and those defined as a Nil Visa Application Charge.

Table 16: Working Holiday Maker visas granted—top 10 citizenships, 2021–22 to 2023–24

Citizenship country	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	% Change 2022–23 to 2023–24
United Kingdom	20,090	38,177	47,238	23.7
France	10,087	26,896	30,004	11.6
Ireland	10,491	21,525	21,997	2.2
Japan	5,170	14,398	17,095	18.7
Republic of Korea	5,932	14,785	14,984	1.3
Italy	5,792	13,745	14,662	6.7
Taiwan	5,142	15,528	14,560	-6.2
Germany	6,798	13,644	13,550	-0.7
Indonesia	1,352	8,127	9,016	10.9
Canada	3,295	5,460	5,471	0.2
Other[1]	23,210	52,146	45,979	-11.8
Total	**97,359**	**224,431**	**234,556**	**4.5**

Source data: Department of Home Affairs
1. Includes citizenship not specified.
Note: Top 10 citizenship countries are based on 2023–24.

The number of Working Holiday Maker visas granted in 2023–24, was 3.4 per cent (7744 grants) higher than a decade earlier, in 2014–15 (226,812 grants). This comprised:

- Working Holiday visa—down 20,908 grants (9.7 per cent) on the 214,830 granted in 2014–15
- Work and Holiday visa—up 28,652 grants (239.1 per cent) on the 11,982 granted in 2014–15.

Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa grants

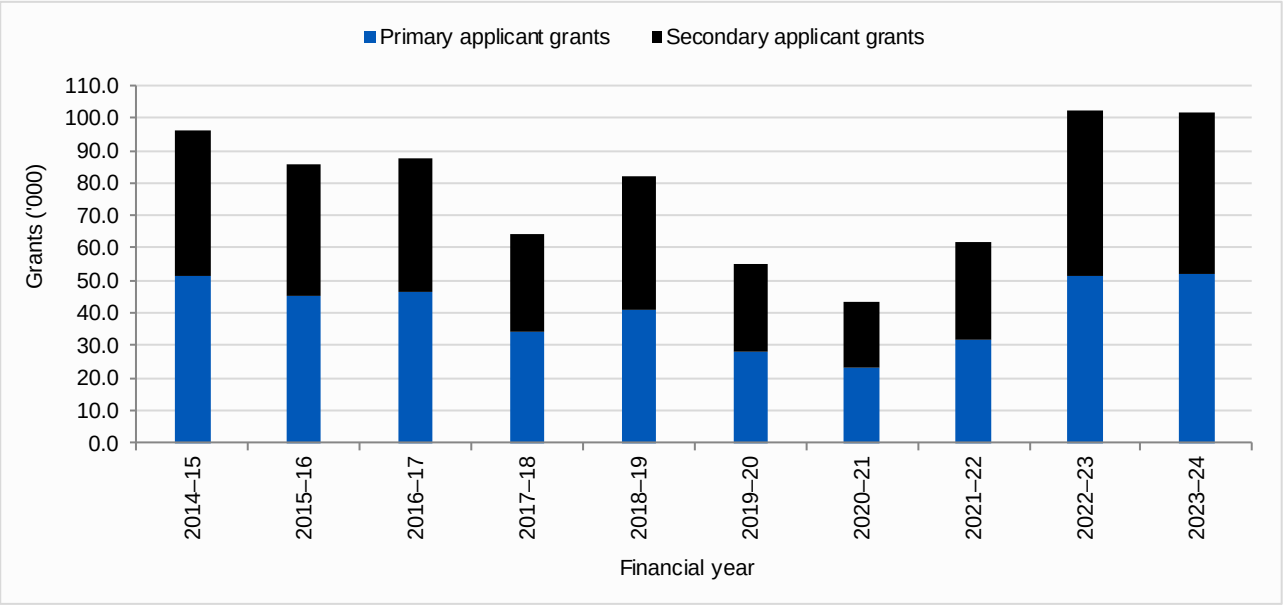
In 2023–24, there were 101,533 Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted, a decrease of 1.0 per cent on the 102,565 visas granted in 2022–23. This was comprised of:

- 52,101 visa grants to primary applicants
  - 25,705 granted to applicants in Australia
  - 26,396 granted to applicants outside Australia.
- 49,432 visa grants to secondary applicants
  - 14,025 granted to applicants in Australia
  - 35,407 granted to applicants outside Australia.

In 2023–24, there were 5449 more Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted than a decade earlier, in 2014–15 (96,084 grants – Figure 3). This was comprised of:

- primary applicants—up 976 grants (1.9 per cent) on the 51,125 grants in 2014–15
- secondary applicants—up 4473 grants (9.9 per cent) on the 44,959 grants in 2014–15.

Figure 3: Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa grants by applicant type, 2014–15 to 2023–24

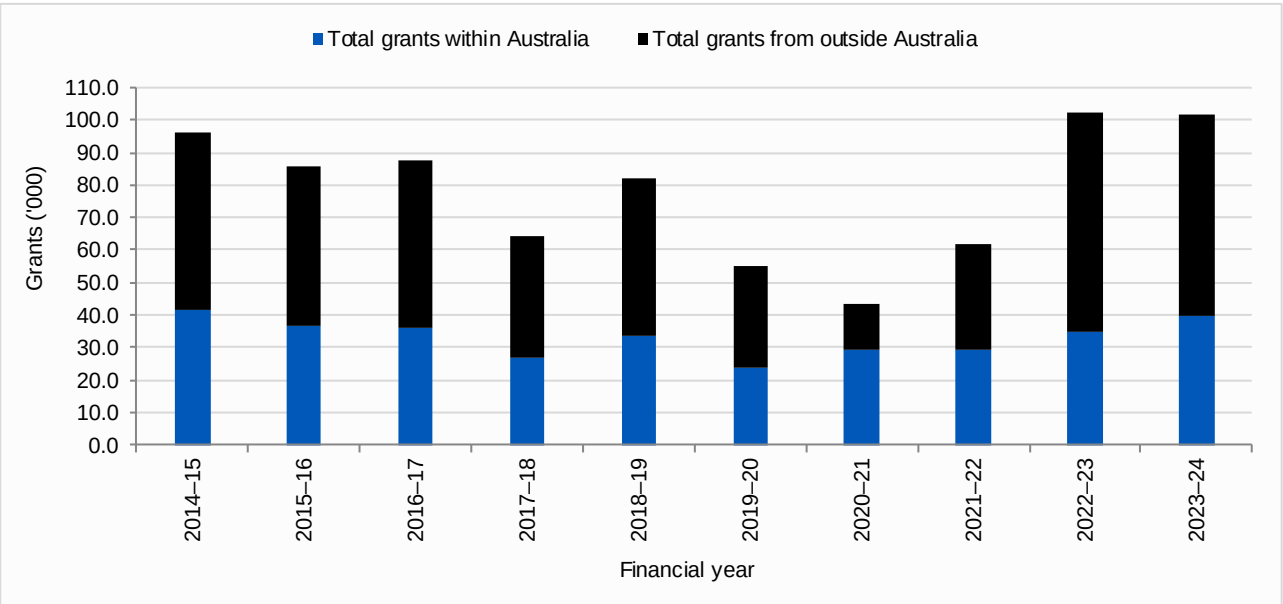


Source data: Department of Home Affairs

By client location over this same period (Figure 4), this increase comprised:

- visas granted outside Australia—up 7114 grants (13.0 per cent) on the 54,689 grants in 2014–15
- visas granted in Australia—down 1665 grants (4.0 per cent) on the 41,395 grants in 2014–15.

Figure 4: Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa grants by client location, 2014–15 to 2023–24



Source data: Department of Home Affairs

Primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa grants

In 2023–24, there were 52,101 visas granted to primary applicants, an increase of 1.0 per cent on the 51,605 granted in 2022–23.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries (Table 17) accounted for almost half (45.8 per cent) of these primary visas granted in 2023–24, namely:

1. Philippines—9,378 grants (18.0 per cent)
2. India—7773 grants (14.9 per cent)
3. United Kingdom—6716 grants (12.9 per cent).

India nationals in 2023–24 fell 36.0 per cent (4373 grants) on 2022–23, whereas, strong growth in the number of visas granted in 2023–24, was driven by nationals of:

- Philippines—up 2275 grants (32.0 per cent) on the 7103 grants in 2022–23
- Ireland—up 1349 grants (73.6 per cent) on the 1834 grants in 2022–23.

Table 17: Primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted—top 10 citizenships, 2021–22 to 2023–24

Citizenship country	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	% Change 2022–23 to 2023–24
Philippines	2,995	7,103	9,378	32.0
India	8,933	12,146	7,773	-36.0
United Kingdom	4,102	6,106	6,716	10.0
Ireland	1,386	1,834	3,183	73.6
Peoples Republic of China[1]	1,076	1,637	2,033	24.2
South Africa	954	1,848	1,952	5.6
Sri Lanka	710	1,839	1,807	-1.7
United States of America	772	1,111	1,061	-4.5
Nepal	463	813	1,017	25.1
Malaysia	807	1,079	976	-9.5
Other	9,864	16,089	16,205	0.7
Total	**32,062**	**51,605**	**52,101**	**1.0**

Source data: Department of Home Affairs
1. Excludes Special Administrative Regions (SARs).
Note: Top 10 citizenship countries are based on 2023–24.

The top three sponsor industries accounted for 42.4 per cent of primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted in 2023–24. These were:

1. Health Care and Social Assistance—8001 grants (15.4 per cent)
2. Professional Scientific and Technical Services—7813 grants (15.0 per cent)
3. Other Services—6287 grants (12.1 per cent).

In 2023–24, the top three nominated occupations accounted for 12.6 per cent of primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa applications granted. These were:

1. Resident Medical Officer—2406 grants (4.6 per cent)
2. Chef—2279 grants (4.4 per cent)
3. Software Engineer—1878 grants (3.6 per cent).

Overall, more than two-thirds (67.7 per cent) of primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted in 2023–24, were granted to applicants who had previously held a visa—35,293 grants.

Collectively, the top three categories, by previously visa held, accounted for 38.4 per cent of primary visas granted in 2023–24, namely:

1. Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)—7473 grants (14.3 per cent)
2. Visitor—7194 grants (13.8 per cent)
3. Working Holiday Maker—5345 grants (10.3 per cent).

In 2023–24, of the 52,101 visas granted to primary applicants, 25,705 (49.3 per cent) were to people already in Australia. By last visa held, the top three categories accounted for more than half (53.6 per cent) of primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted in Australia in 2023–24. These were:

1. Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)—6405 grants (24.9 per cent)
2. Working Holiday Maker—4815 grants (18.7 per cent)
3. Student—2567 grants (10.0 per cent).

Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) intra-company transfers

Intra-company transfers, also known as intra-corporate transfers or posted workers, are movements of employees in the same company, transferred temporarily to a different country to provide services for a limited period.

In 2023–24, there were 6461 Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted for an intra-company transfer, an increase of 3.8 per cent on the 6223 visas granted in 2022–23.

Primary applicants accounted for 52.3 per cent (3376) of these visa grants, and increased 13.7 per cent on the 2968 visas granted in 2022–23.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than half (56.6 per cent) of primary intra-company transfer visas granted in 2023–24. These were nationals of:

1. United Kingdom—766 grants (22.7 per cent)
2. People’s Republic of China—648 grants (19.7 per cent)
3. Japan—498 grants (14.8 per cent).

In 2023–24, the top three sponsor industries accounted for 45.3 per cent of Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) primary intra-company transfer visa grants. These were:

1. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services—727 grants (21.5 per cent)
2. Information Media and Telecommunications—430 grants (12.7 per cent)
3. Other Services—371 grants (11.0 per cent).

In 2023–24, the top three nominated occupations in this category accounted for 20.0 per cent of Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) primary intra-company transfer visa grants. These were:

1. Corporate General Manager—253 grants (7.5 per cent)
2. Mechanical Engineering Technician—214 grants (6.3 per cent)
3. Sales and Marketing Managing—207 grants (6.1 per cent).

Post-study work—Temporary Graduate visa (subclass 485) grants

In 2023–24, there were 110,468 Temporary Graduate visas granted.[5] This was a decrease of 68,549 grants on the 179,017 granted the previous year. By stream, this comprised:

- 96,367 Post-Study Work visa grants
- 14,010 Graduate Work visa grants
- 91 Replacement visa grants.[6]

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 65.0 per cent of Temporary Graduate visa grants in 2023–24, namely:

1. India—36,626 grants (33.2 per cent)
2. Nepal—17,997 grants (16.3 per cent)
3. People's Republic of China—17,165 grants (15.5 per cent).

Falls in the number of visa grants in 2023–24 (Table 18) were significant among the following nationalities:

- India—down 26,563 grants (42.0 per cent) on 2022–23
- Nepal—down 8443 grants (31.9 per cent on 2022–23
- Philippines—down 3666 grants (60.6 per cent) on 2022–23.

Table 18: Temporary Graduate visas granted—top 10 citizenships, 2021–22 to 2023–24

Citizenship country	2021–22	2022–23	2023–24	% Change 2022–23 to 2023–24
India	24,629	63,189	36,626	-42.0
Nepal	9,303	26,440	17,997	-31.9
People's Republic of China[1]	6,982	18,457	17,165	-7.0
Pakistan	2,053	7,501	4,969	-33.8
Sri Lanka	2,476	6,807	4,271	-37.3
Vietnam	1,538	4,509	3,111	-31.0
Philippines	1,733	6,048	2,382	-60.6
Indonesia	1,146	3,589	2,266	-36.9
Bangladesh	841	2,526	2,151	-14.8
Malaysia	1,109	3,587	2,075	-42.2
Other[2]	11,976	36,364	17,455	-52.0
Total	**63,786**	**179,017**	**110,468**	**-38.3**

Source data: Department of Home Affairs
1. Excludes Special Administrative Regions (SARs).
2. Includes citizenship not specified.
Note: Top 10 citizenship countries are based on 2023–24.

[5] A temporary visa (only available to recently graduated international students) that includes work rights.
[6] The replacement stream visa was available to those impacted by the travel restrictions during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This visa from 1 July 2024 is no longer available.

Temporary visa holders in Australia

At 30 June 2024, there were 2,691,026 people in Australia on a temporary visa—an increase of 277,782 people (9.2 per cent) on the 2,463,244 at 30 June 2023.

This was comprised of holders of the following visa types:

- 717,765 Special Category
- 608,262 Student
- 361,606 Temporary Resident (Other Employment)
- 337,845 Visitor
- 297,372 Bridging
- 173,216 Working Holiday Maker
- 168,725 Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)
- 15,347 Crew and Transit
- 5727 Temporary Protection
- 5161 Other Temporary.

Most of the increase in temporary visa holders (as at 30 June 2024) was due to increases in the number of:

- Bridging visa holders—up 120,516 (68.1 per cent) on the 176,856 at 30 June 2023
- Student visa holders—up 39,509 (6.9 per cent) on the 568,753 at 30 June 2023
- Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa holders—up 38,721 (29.8 per cent) on the 130,004 at 30 June 2023.
- Working Holiday Maker—up 35,825 (26.1 per cent) on the 137,391 at 30 June 2023.

Collectively, the top three nationalities accounted for almost half (48.7 per cent) of temporary visa holders in Australia at 30 June 2024, namely:

1. New Zealand—717,904 people (26.7 per cent)
2. India—378,088 people (14.0 per cent)
3. People's Republic of China—215,742 people (8.0 per cent).

Of note were increases for the number of nationals in Australia on a temporary visa at 30 June 2024, for the following countries:

1. India—up 27,788 people (7.9 per cent) on the 350,300 at 30 June 2023
2. People's Republic of China—up 21,668 people (11.2 per cent) on the 194,074 at 30 June 2023
3. Philippines—up 20,651 people (22.6 per cent) on the 91,200 at 30 June 2023
4. New Zealand—up 19,803 people (2.8 per cent) on the 698,101 at 30 June 2023.

Visa non-compliance

Unlawful Non-Citizens in Australia

The *'Migration Act 1958'* defines an unlawful non-citizen (UNC) as:

'A non-citizen in the migration zone who is not a lawful non-citizen is an unlawful non-citizen.'

Individuals who are not Australian citizens, and who remain in Australia after their visa has either expired or been cancelled, are referred to as UNCs.

The UNC estimate includes anyone who has overstayed their visa or had their visa cancelled before the reference date and has yet to have their immigration status resolved on that date.

The estimate excludes non-citizens who arrived before 1 September 1994, when the new *Migration Reform Act 1992* (the Migration Reform Act or MRA) and *Migration Regulations 1994* came into effect and the status 'Unlawful Non-Citizen' and mandatory detention were introduced.

At 30 June 2024, there were an estimated 75,400 UNCs in Australia. This estimate excludes persons in held and community detention.[7]

Almost one-third (31.6 per cent) of UNCs estimated at 30 June 2024 were citizens of the following countries:

1. People's Republic of China—an estimated 10,900 people (14.5 per cent)
2. Malaysia—an estimated 7100 people (9.5 per cent)
3. Unites States of America—an estimated 5700 people (7.6 per cent).

Of the estimated 75,400 UNCs in Australia at 30 June 2024:

- 51,600 (68.4 per cent) were male
- 23,900 (31.7 per cent) were female.

Visa cancellations

In 2023–24, there were 28,844 visa cancellations, an increase of 83.5 per cent on the 15,715 visa cancellations in 2022–23.[8] Of the visa cancellations in 2023–24, 92.8 per cent were either:

- Student visas (48.4 per cent)
- Visitor visas (28.4 per cent), or
- Temporary Resident visas (16.0 per cent).

Nationals of the top three countries accounted for 35.6 per cent of visa cancellations in 2023–24.[9] These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—5061 visa cancellations (17.5 per cent)
2. India—3145 visa cancellations (10.9 per cent).
3. United States of America—2059 visa cancellations (7.1 per cent).

Compliance-related departures

Non-citizens who do not hold a valid visa and do not make suitable arrangements to depart Australia are subject to removal.

[7] Most UNCs—people at a given point in time who remain in Australia after their visa has expired or been cancelled—only overstay their visa for a short period before departing voluntarily. There is constant movement into and out of the UNC pool as people overstay their visas and as peoples' status is resolved, for example through departure or removal. Estimates are rounded to the nearest 100.

[8] Includes s501 visa cancellations. A large proportion of visa cancellations are voluntary, with non-citizens requesting cancellation of their temporary visa. For example, when a person holding a Temporary Work visa has departed Australia at the end of their contract and no longer requires their visa or is seeking to access their superannuation entitlements accrued while working in Australia.

[9] Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

The Department provides services and support to assist unlawful non-citizens who have been located, to resolve their immigration status through departures from Australia. These departures are comprised of people that were residing in the community (Returns) or in onshore immigration detention (Removals).

There were 7942 departures (Returns and Removals) from Australia in 2023–24, down 7.5 per cent on the 8585 departures in 2022–23.[10] This was comprised of:

- 5178 Returns from the community
- 2764 Removals from onshore immigration detention.

The majority of these departures were for those that arrived on a Visitor visa (39.8 per cent) or those that arrived on a Student visa (23.2 per cent).

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than one-quarter (27.8 per cent) of all departures.[11] These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—856 departures (10.8 per cent)
2. India—805 departures (10.1 per cent)
3. Malaysia—543 departures (6.8 per cent).

Australian citizenship

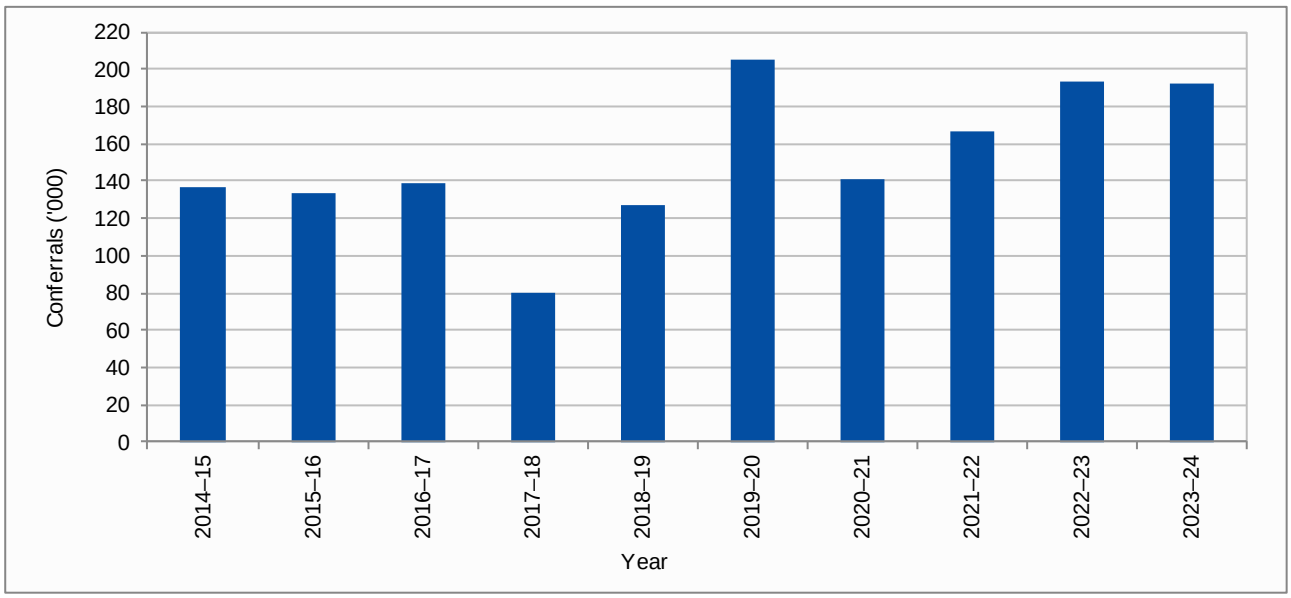
In 2023–24, 192,242 people were conferred Australian citizenship, compared to 192,947 conferrals in 2022–23 (Figure 5).

Collectively, the top three countries of former citizenship accounted for more than one-third (38.1 per cent) of all conferrals in 2023–24.[12] These were:

1. India—28,969 conferrals (15.1 per cent)
2. New Zealand—27,825 conferrals (14.5 per cent)
3. United Kingdom—16,503 conferrals (8.6 per cent).

[10] Figures may differ from those previously published due to revisions undertaken at the commencement of the program year.
[11] Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.
[12] Former citizenship is defined as the most recently recorded citizenship prior to conferral.

Figure 5: Conferrals of Australian citizenship, 2014–15 to 2023–24



Source data: Department of Home Affairs

Net overseas migration and population growth

Natural increase and net overseas migration (NOM) are the two components that drive population growth in Australia. Natural increase measures the excess of births over deaths. NOM is a measure of the net gain or loss of population through migration into and from Australia.[13] The main determinants of changes in NOM are the annual number of arrivals and departures of migrants on temporary visas, and Australia's planned permanent migration programs (Migration Program and Humanitarian Program).

In the decade to December 2023, NOM accounted for almost two-thirds (63.7 per cent) of the 3.7 million increase in Australia's population, of almost 27.0 million people. Consequently, the share of Australia's overseas-born population rose from 28.0 per cent (at 30 June 2014) to 30.7 per cent (at 30 June 2023).[14]

NOM as a share of population surged in the aftermath of World War II and in 1949 was 1.83 per cent, whereas, by 1975, the share of population had fallen to 0.1 per cent.[15] For the year ending December 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, NOM's share of population was 1.0 per cent, and for the same period during the pandemic in 2020 it was -0.02 per cent (-5000 people).[16] NOM, being negative, slightly reduced the growth in population as opposed to NOM typically (and substantially) adding to it.

This was due to the international border restrictions in place at that time, with very limited international flights to and from Australia, and travellers unable to come to Australia unless they fell within an exempt category or granted an individual travel exemption.

[13] NOM is based on an international traveller's duration of stay (this includes Australian citizens, permanent residents and long-term visitors). Specifically, those international travellers who had been in Australia for at least 12 months out of the past 16 months. The requirement for migrants counted under NOM to have resided in (or been absent from) Australia for a certain length of time, enables NOM to form part of annual estimates of population—officially measured as the 'estimated resident population' by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

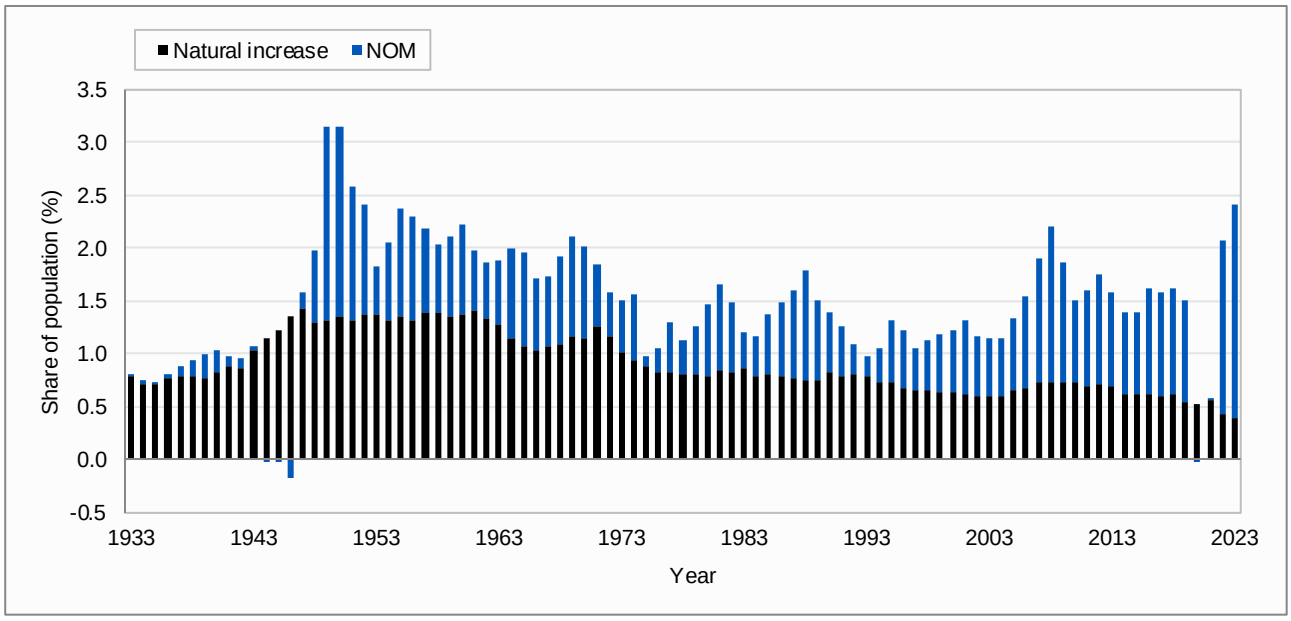
[14] ABS, October 2023, Australia's Population by Country of Birth – estimated resident population, country of birth as at 30 June,1996 to 2023

[15] ABS Historical population statistics were revised with the July 2024 release.

[16] Note: Figures related to NOM are rounded to the nearest 100.

By comparison, for the year ending December 2023, NOM as a share of Australia's population was 2.03 per cent and surpassed for the first time the previous high of 1.83 per cent in 1949—a preliminary estimate of 547,300 people (Figure 6).

Figure 6: Components of Australia's population growth as a share of population, 1933 to 2023



Source data: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), July 2024, Historical population and ABS, June 2024, National, state and territory population.

NOM can be analysed in many different ways, in particular:

- NOM arrivals and NOM departures, where a person moved into and out of the population
- a person's temporary (such as a Student or Visitor) or permanent (such as Skill or Family) visa category.

Prior to the pandemic, an analysis of NOM by visa category over the 10-year period for the year ending December 2010, to the year ending December 2019, identified that NOM was largely affected by rapid increases in international student numbers (since 2012) and more recently Visitors (since 2016).

There was disruption to the flow of NOM arrivals in 2020, 2021 and early 2022, due to the international border restrictions in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. For the year ending 31 December 2023, NOM arrivals peaked at 751,500. This was largely a flow-on-effect due to the international border restrictions and was 23.6 per cent above the pre-pandemic high of 607,900 for the year ending December 2019.

People who arrived on a temporary visa accounted for 74.6 per cent of these arrivals (560,300), of which 48.5 per cent (272,000) were international students. Although not as significant as the number of NOM arrivals of international students, NOM arrivals of Working Holiday Makers at 31 December 2023 did reach a new high of 85,400, far exceeding the 10–year average to 2019 of 50,900 NOM arrivals.

Noting that the number of NOM arrivals has increased due to the flow-on effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, NOM departures have not yet normalised to pre-pandemic levels.

NOM departures for the year ending December 2023 were 204,200. This was:

- not too different from the previous two years—7.3 per cent below the 220,300 for the year ending December 2022, and 2.4 per cent below the 209,200 for the year ending December 2021
- significantly less (43.3 per cent) than the (10-year period) peak of 360,300 for the year ending December 2019.

As Table 19 shows, NOM departures for long-term temporary resident visa categories have remained low since 2021, namely: Student, Working Holiday Maker and Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment).

Table 19: NOM departures for the year ending 31 December 2010 to 2023, by selected temporary visa categories

Year	Total NOM Departures	Student	Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)	Visitor	Working holiday
2010	253,100	48,500	13,500	17,000	16,200
2011	242,800	49,300	12,400	15,500	14,900
2012	238,100	45,900	15,900	11,600	18,600
2013	270,300	43,800	20,700	16,500	23,700
2014	276,400	44,600	22,200	11,100	28,300
2015	286,500	43,700	20,300	15,500	28,000
2016	275,800	45,400	17,000	15,400	27,500
2017	289,700	51,700	15,400	22,900	23,300
2018	282,200	59,900	15,200	14,500	23,500
2019	360,300	98,800	16,200	32,100	26,900
2020	240,300	75,100	11,800	12,700	16,300
2021	209,200	37,400	9,800	17,500	6,100
2022	220,300	16,000	6,800	15,800	2,600
2023	204,200	22,600	5,600	18,600	4,400

Source data: ABS and Department of Home Affairs.
Note: Estimates for the year ending 31 December 2010 to 2022 are final. Estimates for the year ending 31 December 2023 are preliminary. Figures rounded to the nearest 100.

Unlike in each year examined from 2010 to 2023, NOM departures of international students for the year to December 2023 (11.1 per cent, up 3.8 percentage points on 2022) were well below the proportional average (19.9 per cent) of all Student visa departures to 2021. Of note, Working Holiday Maker NOM departures have since 2021 averaged just 2.1 per cent of all NOM departures, compared with the long-term average to 2020 of 8.2 per cent.

Therefore, based on the above analysis of NOM arrivals/departures, it is therefore the decrease in the proportion of NOM departures where NOM arrivals have greatly increased among visa categories that are driving the increase in NOM, and mainly international students; a result of the preceding border restrictions imposed at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Labour market outcomes

The importance of migration in Australia's labour market

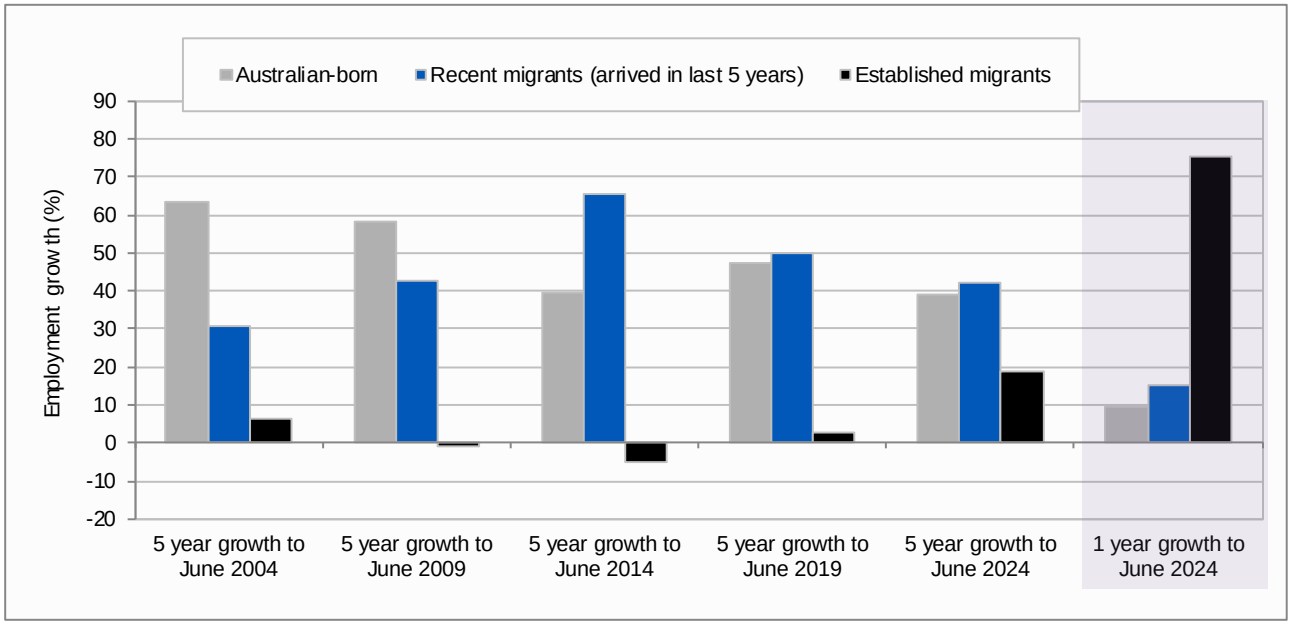
Migration is an important component of workforce growth, with new migrants the main contributors to employment growth in the Australian workforce. Over the past two decades, migration has increasingly underpinned employment growth.

In the five years leading up to June 2004, new migrants (those who arrived in the preceding five years) accounted for 30.5 per cent of total growth in jobs, whereas Australian-born accounted for 63.2 per cent and established migrants 6.3 per cent (Figure 7). Since then the impact of newly arriving migrants on growth in jobs has increased.

At June 2024, Australia's workforce stood at almost than 14.5 million, which was 12.5 per cent more than five years earlier in June 2019. New migrants accounted for 42.1 per cent of these additional jobs, whereas Australian-born accounted for 39.3 per cent and established migrants 18.6 per cent.

Between June 2023 and June 2024, employment increased by 392,400. The Australian-born accounted for 9.4 per cent of this increase in employment, whereas new migrants accounted for 15.2 per cent and established migrants for 75.3 per cent.

Figure 7: Contribution of migration to employment growth, as at June of 2004 to 2024



Source data: ABS, July 2024, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, LM7 cube

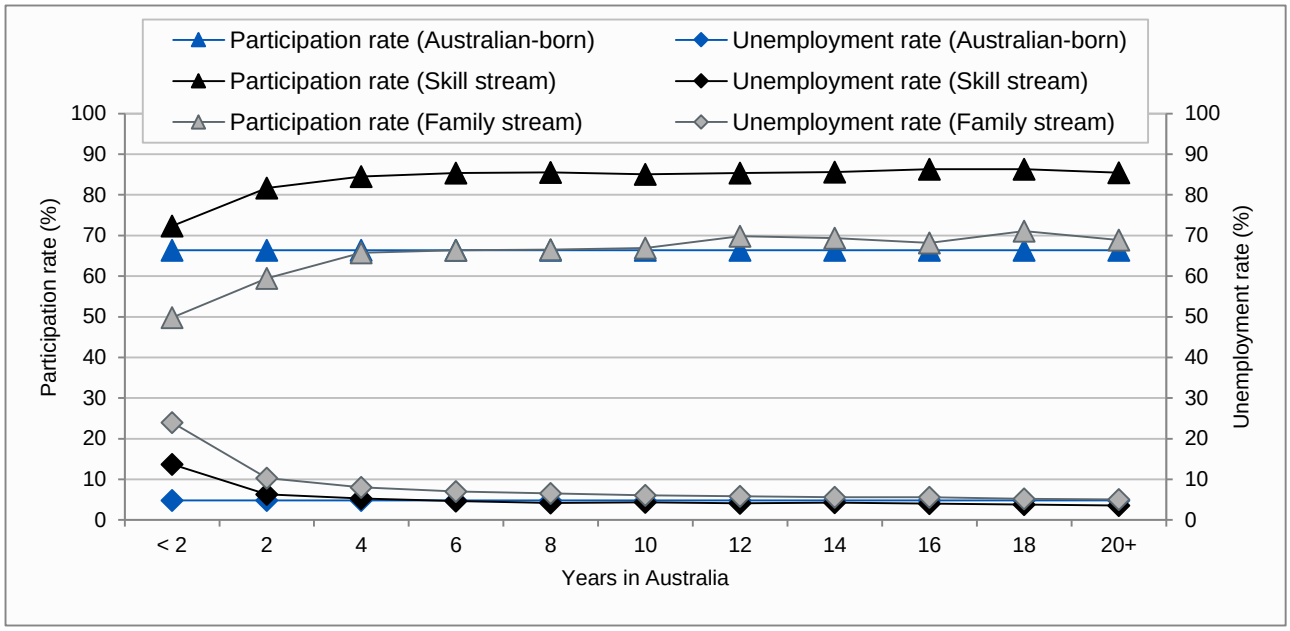
One of the main reasons new migrants make a strong contribution to workforce growth is that their overall numbers entering the workforce exceed that for Australian-born. In absolute terms, the effect of ageing on the Australian-born population means that in the decade to June 2024, the net increase of migrants in the workforce (up by 1.7 million) was 33.2 per cent greater than for the Australian-born (up 1.2 million).

In addition, new migrants have high rates of employment as discussed below, which also contributes to their impact on workforce growth.[17] This is despite the offsetting factor; that it takes some time for new migrants to settle into the Australian labour market and for their participation rate and unemployment rate to improve.

The higher rates of employment for migrants are more pronounced for migrants selected on the basis of their skills and qualifications (Skill stream migrants as opposed to Family stream migrants) (Figure 8). Based on labour market outcomes at the time of the 2021 Census (of primary and secondary visa holders combined):

- the most recent of arrivals (those who arrived between 2020 and August 2021) had potentially not yet adjusted to the labour market, and had a high unemployment rate:
  - 13.7 per cent for Skill stream migrants
  - 24.0 per cent for Family stream migrants.
- unemployment rates and participation rates improve rapidly in the first few years of living in Australia, and then more slowly, with improvements in:
  - unemployment rate, of:
    - 8.4 percentage points for Skill stream migrants in the first 4 years, and a further 1.0 percentage points over the following 10 years
    - 15.9 percentage points for Family stream migrants in the first 4 years, and a further 2.4 percentage points in the following 10 years.
  - participation rate, of:
    - 12.1 percentage points for Skill stream migrants in the first 4 years, and a further 1.1 percentage points over the following 10 years
    - 15.9 percentage points for Family stream migrants in the first 4 years, and a further 3.6 percentage points in the following 10 years.

Figure 8: Unemployment and participation rates at the time of the 2021 Census, by time in Australia



Source data: ABS, Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset, 2021

[17] See section: "Outcomes for recently arrived Skill stream migrants".

The influence of migration on the demographic composition of Australia is what underpins its impact on the Australian labour market, with changes in this demographic composition largely reflected by the ageing of the population. For example, between 2003–04 and 2023–24, the annual average labour force participation rate for Australia increased by 2.4 percentage points as a result of a combination of the following:

- Migrants **added** 6.9 points—3.5 points added due to the age profile of migrants becoming younger over the 20-year period, and 3.4 points added due to an increase in propensity to work amongst migrants
- Australian-born **deducted** 4.5 points—8.3 points deducted due to the effects of an ageing population, and 3.8 points added due to an increase in propensity to work amongst Australian-born.

Underlying the migrant's contribution to growth in labour force participation over this 20-year period, was increasing levels of migration in the first 9 years, followed by decreasing (although less rapidly) levels over the following 9 years, before increasing in 2022–23, to fill skill shortages that eventuated due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on migration.[18] Table 20 illustrates this with the annual Migration Program outcome and Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa grants, noting the 2023–24 program year had similar outcomes to 2022–23.

Table 20: Migration Program outcome and Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa grants, 2003–04 to 2023–24

Financial year	Migration Program outcome	Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa grants[1]
2003–04	114,362	39,557
2004–05	120,064	48,581
2005–06	142,933	71,160
2006–07	148,200	87,313
2007–08	158,630	110,579
2008–09	171,318	101,288
2009–10	168,623	67,986
2010–11	168,685	90,128
2011–12	184,998	125,073
2012–13	190,000	126,357
2013–14	190,000	98,571
2014–15	189,097	96,084
2015–16	189,770	85,611
2016–17	183,608	87,580
2017–18	162,417	64,470
2018–19	160,323	81,975
2019–20	140,366	55,060
2020–21	160,052	43,195
2021–22	143,556	61,987
2022–23	195,004	102,565
2023–24	190,000	101,533

Source data: Department of Home Affairs
1. Excludes Temporary Work (Skilled) (Independent Executive) visa.

Corresponding to the changes in migration levels, over the initial 9 years, the change in the annual average labour force participation rate was 1.7 percentage points, compared to just 0.2 percentage points in the following 9 years, to 2021–22, reflecting the drop in migration numbers. Since then, to 2023–24, the change in the annual average labour force participation rate has increased by 1.0 percentage points.

[18] Interim Report of the inquiry into Australia's Skilled Migration Program

Further decomposition revealed that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the participation rate fell 0.1 percentage points between 2018–19 and 2020–21. This comprised:

- Migrants **adding** 0.3 points due to an increase in propensity to work
- Australia-born **deducting** 0.4 points—0.6 points deducted due to the effects of an ageing population, or a decision to leave the workforce due to labour market conditions at the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, and 0.1 points added due to an increase in propensity to work.[19]

In the most recent period, between 2019–20 and 2023–24, with the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic lessening, and the reopening of the borders from February 2022, there was improvement in Australia's labour market, including that of the labour force participation rate. There was a total increase in the labour force participation rate over this period of 1.6 percentage points. This comprised the following:

- Migrants **adding** 2.2 points—1.0 points added due to the effects of more established migrants (35 years of age and over) entering the workforce, and 1.2 points added due to an increase in propensity to work
- Australia-born **deducting** 0.6 points—1.7 points deducted due to the effects of an ageing population, and 1.1 points added due to an increase in propensity to work.

It can therefore be seen from Table 21 that, overall, migration bolstered Australia's labour force participation rate through new migrants attaining rates well in excess of that for the resident population.

Table 21: Contributions to change in the labour force participation rate, between specified time-period[1]

Total changes among all age groups	Australian-born	Overseas-born	Overall Total
Population composition change			
2003–04 and 2023–24 — (20-year period)	-8.3	3.5	-4.8
2003–04 and 2012–13 — (9-year period)	-2.9	1.3	-1.5
2013–14 and 2021–22 — (9-year period)	-3.6	0.9	-2.6
2021–22 and 2023–24 — (2-year period)	-0.9	0.8	-0.1
2016–17 and 2018–19 — (2-year period pre-COVID)	-1.0	0.4	-0.6
2018–19 and 2020–21 — (2 year period during COVID)	-0.6	0.0	-0.5
2019–20 and 2023–24 — (4 year period exiting COVID)	-1.7	1.0	-0.7
Propensity to participate change			
2003–04 and 2023–24 — (20-year period)	3.8	3.4	7.2
2003–04 and 2012–13 — (9-year period)	1.7	1.5	3.2
2013–14 and 2021–22 — (9-year period)	1.4	1.4	2.8
2021–22 and 2023–24 — (2-year period)	0.6	0.5	1.0
2016–17 and 2018–19 — (2-year period pre-COVID)	0.8	0.5	1.3
2018–19 and 2020–21 — (2 year period during COVID)	0.1	0.3	0.4
2019–20 and 2023–24 — (4 year period exiting COVID)	1.1	1.2	2.4
Total change			
2003–04 and 2023–24 — (20-year period)	-4.5	6.9	2.4
2003–04 and 2012–13 — (9-year period)	-1.2	2.8	1.7
2013–14 and 2021–22 — (9-year period)	-2.2	2.3	0.2
2021–22 and 2023–24 — (2-year period)	-0.3	1.3	1.0
2016–17 and 2018–19 — (2-year period pre-COVID)	-0.3	0.9	0.7
2018–19 and 2020–21 — (2 year period during COVID)	-0.4	0.3	-0.1
2019–20 and 2023–24 — (4 year period exiting COVID)	-0.6	2.2	1.6

Source data: ABS, July 2024, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, LM5 cube
1. Specified time-period order based on that of the analysis provided in the text. Figures may not sum due to rounding.
Note: ABS source data is subject to revision, as such the statistics reported may differ from those previously published.

[19] Figures may not sum due to rounding.

Outcomes of Australia's migrant population stock

The migrant unemployment rate at 30 June 2024 was 3.9 per cent (based on three-month averages), this was slightly below the Australian-born rate of 4.0 per cent.

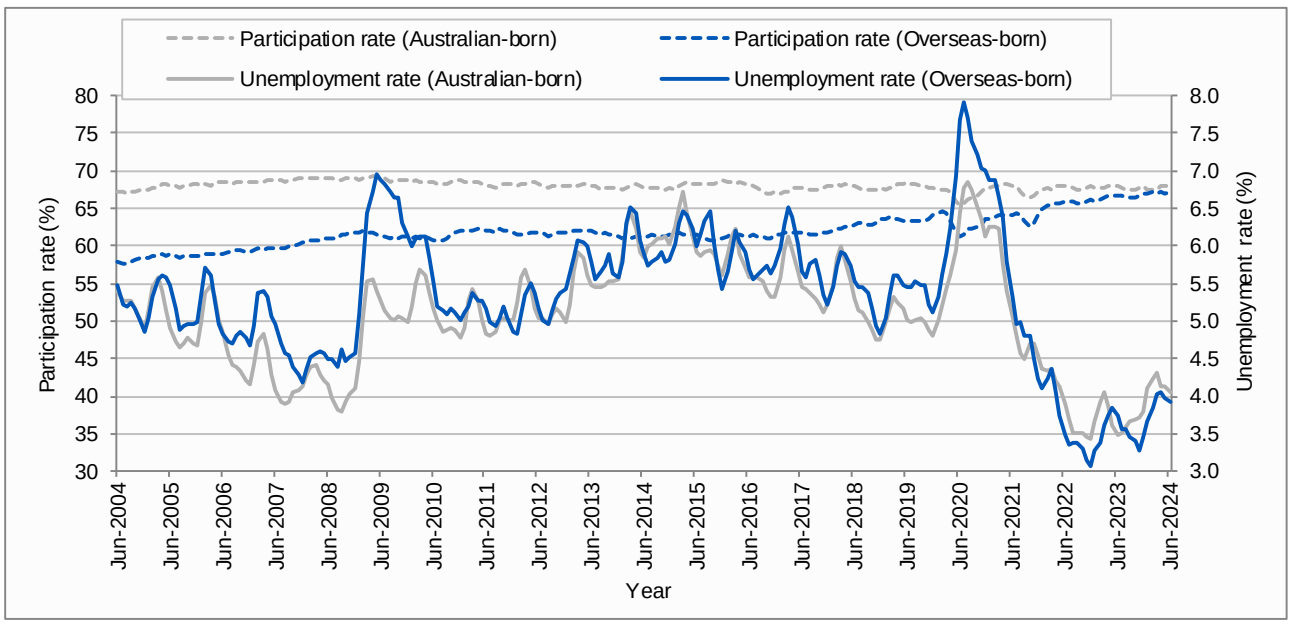
For migrants, the 2022–23 and 2023–24 financial years, were a period where unemployment rates were at their lowest (averaging 3.4 per cent and 3.7 per cent respectively) and participation rates at their highest, over the last 20 years (Figure 9). For Australian-born, unemployment rates in 2023–24 have trended up on the 20-year lows of the 2022–23 financial year, whilst their participation rate was commensurate with the pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels of the 2018–19 financial year.

Since January 2000, both migrant and Australian-born unemployment rates were mostly aligned, with the exception of the approximately 12 months following the impact of the 2009 global financial crisis (Figure 9). During that crisis migrants were impacted more heavily, with their unemployment rate increasing more than that for the Australian born. Similarly, from April 2020, following the advent in Australia of the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment increased notably, with the migrant unemployment rate reaching a high of 7.9 per cent in July 2020, and the Australian-born a high of 6.9 per cent in August 2020.

The subsequent fall in unemployment rates for migrants and the Australian-born occurred most rapidly between April 2021 and June 2021, with the rate for migrants falling 1.1 percentage points (from 6.4 per cent) and the rate for Australian-born falling 0.7 percentage points (from 5.8 per cent).

Figure 9 also shows that the labour force participation rate of Australia's migrants was consistently lower than that of the Australian-born (but converging) with a gap of 0.8 percentage points at June 2024 (67.1 per cent compared to 68.0 per cent, respectively).[20] This difference is largely attributable to the impact of age on labour force participation, with the median age of Australia's migrant population at June 2023, being 8.8 years older than that of the Australian-born (43.5 years compared to 34.7 years, respectively).[21]

Figure 9: Unemployment and participation rates by birth group, June 2004 to June 2024



Source data: ABS, July 2024, Labour Force, Australia, Detailed, LM7 cube (three-month averages)

[20] Note: Figures may not sum due to rounding.

[21] ABS, April 2024, Population by Country of Birth 2022–23, Median Age, June 1996 to June 2023.

While this gap in labour force participation is substantial, new migrants are, on average, younger than the Australian population and arriving through either the Skill stream or temporary work visas (both visas types have very high rates for participation in the labour force). The younger profile and predominance of these visas have had the combined effect of:

- increasing labour force participation among migrants
- reducing the proportion of migrants of retirement age, relative to that of the Australian-born population of retirement age.

For example, in 2003, 18.1 per cent of Australia's migrants were aged 65 years or over, compared with just 11.1 per cent of Australian-born, a difference of 7.0 percentage points. By 2023, these proportions had converged to 20.5 per cent and 15.6 per cent, respectively, a difference of 4.9 percentage points.[22]

Outcomes for recently arrived Skill stream migrants

The Continuous Survey of Australia's Migrants

The Department of Home Affairs' Continuous Survey of Australia's Migrants (CSAM) examines labour market and other settlement outcomes of recently arrived Skill stream and Family stream migrants of Australia's permanent Migration Program.

The analysis in this section is limited to Skill stream primary applicants from the CSAM, who settled in Australia between January and July of 2021, founded on an introductory survey at their six-month settlement period and the second-survey at the 18-month stage of settlement for these same migrants (conducted around November 2022 respectively).

Employment outcomes of recent Skill stream migrants

Between the six-month and 18-month stages of settlement, Skilled Migrants (that is, primary applicant migrants of the Skill stream) demonstrated improved employment outcomes. These improvements are well above any change in the labour market outcomes of the Australian general population over this same 12-month period (Table 22).[23] These employment outcomes included:

- employment to population ratio—up 0.8 percentage points; from 92.5 per cent to 93.3 per cent (compared to an increase of 1.5 points for the general population to 64.6 per cent)
- unemployment rate—down 0.7 percentage points; from 3.2 per cent to 2.5 per cent (compared a decrease of 1.0 points for the general population to 3.3 per cent)
- labour force participation rate—up 0.1 percentage points; from 95.6 per cent to 95.8 per cent (compared to an increase of 0.8 points for the general population to 66.7 per cent)[24]
- median annual full-time earnings—up $15,000; from $80,000 to $95,000 (compared to an estimated increase of $3,100 for the Australian general population)[25]
- highly skilled employment to population ratio—up 1.8 percentage points; from 75.2 per cent to 76.9 per cent.[26]

[22] ABS, April 2024, Australia's Population by Country of Birth, Data Explorer, estimated resident population, country of birth, age and sex as at 30 June 1996 onwards.

[23] Employment Outcome figures for Australian civilian population aged 15 years and over sourced from ABS, Labour Force, Australia, released June 2024. Data presented is November 2021 and November 2022 'Original' for comparison with the CSAM survey of migrants at their six-month and 18-month stages of settlement.

[24] Note: figures may not sum due to rounding.

[25] Average annual increase between ABS Earnings and Hours May 2018, and May 21 releases.

[26] Note: figures may not sum due to rounding. In this report a migrant's level of employment is defined based on their working in occupations defined in the Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations (ANZSCO), namely:

The reporting categories for Skilled Migrants were Employer Sponsored, State/Territory Nominated, Offshore Independent, Onshore Independent and Other Skilled (Table 22).[27] Between the six-month and 18-month stages of settlement, migrants from all categories reported improved employment outcomes apart from Employer Sponsored migrants. There was little change in employment outcomes for Employer Sponsored migrants, given there was less room for improvement as they already had very strong employment outcomes at the six-month stage of settlement, such as near full employment of 95.8 per cent.

Migrants from the Offshore Independent and Other Skilled categories had, on average, greater improvement in employment outcomes than those from other reporting categories.[28] Improvements for migrants granted an Offshore Independent visa included:

- employment to population ratio—up 6.2 percentage points; from 89.1 per cent to 95.3 per cent
- unemployment rate—down 4.2 percentage points; from 7.2 per cent to 3.0 per cent
- proportion in highly skilled employment—up 5.2 percentage points; from 84.6 per cent to 89.7 per cent.

Improvements for migrants granted an Other Skilled visa included:

- employment to population ratio—up 6.3 percentage points; from 78.7 per cent to 85.0 per cent
- unemployment rate—down 1.8 percentage points; from 7.5 per cent to 5.7 per cent
- proportion in highly skilled employment—up 7.3 percentage points; from 69.5 per cent to 76.8 per cent.

- highly skilled employment if ANZSCO skill level 1 or 2, which requires an Associate Degree, Advanced Diploma or Diploma level qualification, or higher
- semi-skilled employment if ANZSCO skill level 3 or 4, which requires Certificate III or IV level qualification
- low skilled employment if ANZSCO skill level 5, which requires Certificate I or II level qualification, or lower.

[27] 'Offshore' and 'Onshore' refer to the location of the migrant at the time of their visa grant, for example, migrants in Australia on a temporary visa who were granted an Independent skilled visa, would be classified as an Onshore Independent migrant.

[28] Note: figures may not sum due to rounding.

Table 22: Change in employment outcomes for Skilled Migrants (primary applicants) – between six-month and 18-month stages of settlement (2021-2022 CSAM)

Outcomes (weighted)	All Skill stream categories	Employer Spon.	State/ Territory Nom.	Offshore Indep.	Onshore Indep.	Other Skilled[1]	General Pop.[2]
Sample size	**8,734**	**1,668**	**4,148**	**154**	**1,229**	**1,535**	**N/A**
At six months							
Employment outcomes (%)							
Employed	92.5	95.8	93.7	89.1	94.5	78.7	63.1
By skill level of job[4]:							
Highly skilled	*75.2*	*78.2*	*74.7*	*84.6*	*73.7*	*69.5*	*N/A*
Semi-skilled	*14.4*	*16.3*	*14.5*	*3.1*	*17.3*	*6.8*	*N/A*
Low skilled	*3.0*	*1.3*	*4.5*	*1.5*	*3.5*	*2.4*	*N/A*
Unemployed	3.1	1.6	3.3	7.0	2.7	6.4	2.8
Not in labour force	4.4	2.6	3.0	3.9	2.8	14.9	34.1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Unemployment rate	3.2	1.7	3.4	7.2	2.8	7.5	4.3
Participation rate	95.6	97.4	97.0	96.1	97.2	85.1	65.9
Earnings ($'000)							
Sample size: employed[3]	**7,025**	**1,494**	**3,312**	**116**	**1,041**	**1,062**	**N/A**
Median annual full-time earnings	80.0	92.5	72.8	100.0	85.2	95.8	83.0
At 18 months							
Employment outcomes (%)							
Employed	93.3	94.3	94.6	95.3	94.9	85.0	64.6
By skill level of job[4]:							
Highly skilled	*76.9*	*76.1*	*77.3*	*89.7*	*76.8*	*76.8*	*N/A*
Semi-skilled	*13.9*	*16.3*	*13.9*	*3.4*	*15.5*	*6.6*	*N/A*
Low skilled	*2.5*	*1.9*	*3.4*	*2.2*	*2.6*	*1.7*	*N/A*
Unemployed	2.4	1.6	2.4	3.0	1.9	5.1	2.2
Not in labour force	4.2	4.0	3.1	1.7	3.2	9.9	33.3
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Unemployment rate	2.5	1.7	2.5	3.0	2.0	5.7	3.3
Participation rate	95.8	96.0	96.9	98.3	96.8	90.1	66.7
Earnings ($'000)							
Sample size: employed[3]	**6,872**	**1,373**	**3,279**	**132**	**999**	**1,089**	**N/A**
Median annual full-time earnings	95.0	110.0	83.0	110.6	100.0	103.6	86.1
Change in outcomes							
Employment outcomes (percentage point)							
Employed	0.8	-1.4	0.9	6.2	0.4	6.3	1.5
By skill level of job[4]:							
Highly skilled	*1.8*	*-2.1*	*2.6*	*5.2*	*3.1*	*7.3*	*N/A*
Semi-skilled	*-0.5*	*0.0*	*-0.7*	*0.3*	*-1.8*	*-0.2*	*N/A*
Low skilled	*-0.4*	*0.6*	*-1.1*	*0.7*	*-0.9*	*-0.8*	*N/A*
Unemployed	-0.7	0.0	-0.9	-4.0	-0.8	-1.3	-0.7
Not in labour force	-0.1	1.4	0.1	-2.2	0.4	-5.0	-0.8
Total	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Unemployment rate	-0.7	0.1	-0.9	-4.2	-0.8	-1.8	-1.0
Participation rate	0.1	-1.4	-0.1	2.2	-0.4	5.0	0.8
Earnings ($'000)							
Median annual full-time earnings	15.0	17.5	10.2	10.6	14.8	7.8	3.1

Note: Table 1 includes only those respondents who participated in both the introductory and follow-up surveys and earnings flagged as outliers or where stated income is markedly different between the surveys, were rectified/confirmed in subsequent surveys—therefore results may differ slightly from those previously published for the 'At six months'. Spon. = Sponsored, Nom. = Nominated, Indep. = Independent, N/A = not available.

1. Other Skilled category includes family sponsored migrants. Note: Family stream migrants are not presented in this table.
2. General Pop. = General Population. Employment Outcome figures for Australian civilian population aged 15 years and over sourced from ABS, Labour Force, Australia, released June 2024. Data presented is November 2021 and 2022 'Original', for 'At six months' and, 'At 18 months' respectively. Earnings figures for Australian employees sourced from ABS, Employee Earnings and Hours, May 2021 and May 2023 releases, for 'At six months' and, 'At 18 months'—the closest dates to the survey dates for which data is available at time of publication; earnings data 'At 18 months' utilises a midpoint estimate.
3. Sample size excludes respondents not working, for 'employed'.
4. See definition of skill level provided at footnote 26 pp. 39-40.

Employment outcomes for Skill stream primary applicants by gender

An analysis of Skill stream primary applicants by gender identified that both males and females reported improvement in labour market outcomes (Table 23). These improvements are well above any change in the labour market outcomes of the respective Australian general population by gender. Overall males performed slightly better than females, although females had a notably higher proportion working in highly skilled jobs.

These labour market outcomes included:

- Females:
  - employment to population ratio—up 0.7 percentage points; from 91.6 per cent to 92.3 per cent (compared to an increase of 1.6 points for the female general population to 60.6 per cent)
  - unemployment rate—down 1.3 percentage points; from 3.9 per cent to 2.6 per cent (compared to a decrease of 1.0 points for the female general population to 3.3 per cent)
  - labour force participation rate—down 0.5 percentage points; from 95.2 per cent to 94.7 per cent (compared to an increase of 1.0 points for the female general population to 62.7 per cent)
  - median annual full-time earnings—up $8,000; from $78,000 to $86,000 (compared to an estimated increase for the Australian general population at this time of $3,100)[29]
  - proportion in highly skilled employment—up 1.7 percentage points; from 78.9 per cent to 80.6 per cent.
- Males:
  - employment to population ratio—up 0.9 percentage points; from 93.1 per cent to 94.0 per cent (compared to an increase of 1.4 points for the male general population to 68.6 per cent)
  - unemployment rate—down 0.4 percentage points; from 2.9 per cent to 2.5 per cent (compared to a decrease of 1.0 points for the male general population to 3.3 per cent)
  - labour force participation rate—up 0.5 percentage points; from 95.9 per cent to 96.4 per cent (compared to an increase of 0.7 points for the male general population to 71.0 per cent)
  - median annual full-time earnings—up $14,200; from $85,800 to $100,000 (compared to an estimated increase for the Australian general population at this time of $3,100)
  - proportion in highly skilled employment—up 1.8 percentage points; from 72.8 per cent to 74.6 per cent.

[29] Note: for the general population, full-time earnings by gender is not available.

Table 23: Change in employment outcomes for Skilled Migrants (primary applicants) by gender – between six-month and 18-month stages of settlement (2021-2022 CSAM)

Outcomes (weighted)	All Skill stream migrants[1]	Males	Females	Male General Pop.[2]	Female General Pop.[2]	General Pop.[2]
Sample size	**8,734**	**5,345**	**3,383**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**
At six months						
Employment outcomes (%)						
Employed	92.5	93.1	91.6	67.3	59.0	63.1
By skill level of job[3]:						
Highly skilled	*75.2*	*72.8*	*78.9*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*
Semi-skilled	*14.4*	*17.1*	*10.1*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*
Low skilled	*3.0*	*3.3*	*2.5*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*
Unemployed	3.1	2.7	3.7	3.0	2.6	2.8
Not in labour force	4.4	4.1	4.8	29.7	38.4	34.1
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Unemployment rate	3.2	2.9	3.9	4.3	4.3	4.3
Participation rate	95.6	95.9	95.2	70.3	61.6	65.9
Earnings ($'000)						
Sample size: employed (f/t)	**7,025**	**4,490**	**2,529**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**
Median annual full-time earnings	80.0	85.8	78.0	n/a	n/a	83.0
At 18 months						
Employment outcomes (%)						
Employed	93.3	94.0	92.3	68.6	60.6	64.6
By skill level of job[3]:						
Highly skilled	*76.9*	*74.6*	*80.6*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*
Semi-skilled	*13.9*	*16.6*	*9.5*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*
Low skilled	*2.5*	*2.8*	*2.1*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*
Unemployed	2.4	2.4	2.5	2.3	2.0	2.2
Not in labour force	4.2	3.6	5.3	29.0	37.3	33.3
Total	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Unemployment rate	2.5	2.5	2.6	3.3	3.3	3.3
Participation rate	95.8	96.4	94.7	71.0	62.7	66.7
Earnings ($'000)						
Sample size: employed (f/t)	**6,872**	**4,419**	**2,448**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**N/A**
Median annual full-time earnings	95.0	100.0	86.0	n/a	n/a	86.1
Change in outcomes						
Employment outcomes (%)						
Employed	0.8	0.9	0.7	1.4	1.6	1.5
By skill level of job[3]:						
Highly skilled	*1.8*	*1.8*	*1.7*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*
Semi-skilled	*-0.5*	*-0.4*	*-0.6*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*
Low skilled	*-0.4*	*-0.5*	*-0.4*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*N/A*
Unemployed	-0.7	-0.3	-1.2	-0.7	-0.6	-0.7
Not in labour force	-0.1	-0.5	0.5	-0.7	-1.0	-0.8
Total	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**
Unemployment rate	-0.7	-0.4	-1.3	-1.0	-1.0	-1.0
Participation rate	0.1	0.5	-0.5	0.7	1.0	0.8
Earnings ($'000)						
Median annual full-time earnings	15.0	14.2	8.0	n/a	n/a	3.1

Note: Table 1 includes only those respondents who participated in both the introductory and follow-up surveys and earnings flagged as outliers or where stated income is markedly different between the surveys were rectified/confirmed in subsequent surveys. N/A = not available.

1. All skilled migrants includes other gender and gender not specified.

2. General Pop. = General Population. Employment Outcome figures for Australian civilian population aged 15 years and over sourced from ABS, Labour Force, Australia, released June 2024. Data presented is November 2021 and 2022 'Original', for 'At six months' and, 'At 18 months' respectively. Earnings figures for Australian employees sourced from ABS, Employee Earnings and Hours, May 2021 and May 2023 releases, for 'At six months' and, 'At 18 months'—the closest dates to the survey dates for which data is available at time of publication; earnings data 'At 18 months' utilises a midpoint estimate.

3. Sample size excludes respondents not working, for 'employed'.

4. See definition of skill level provided at footnote 26 pp 39-40.