

Australian Government

Department of Home Affairs

Australia's Migration Trends 2018–19 Highlights

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Overview

In the 2018–19 financial year, there were 179,085 permanent places delivered, and more than 8.8 million temporary visas granted (Table 1). These were increases of 0.2 per cent and 1.4 per cent, respectively, on the previous financial year.

Table 1: Key statistics for 2018–19

Migration	Total
Permanent migrants	**179,085**
Migration Program outcome	160,323
Skill stream places	*109,713*
Family stream places	*47,247*
Special Eligibility stream places	*115*
Child stream places	3,248
Humanitarian Program visas granted	18,762
Temporary visas granted	**8,818,837**
Visitor visas granted	5,686,318
New Zealand citizen Special Category visas granted	1,889,988
Student visas granted	405,742
Crew and Transit visas granted	347,744
Working Holiday Maker visas granted	209,036
Temporary Resident (Other Employment) visas granted	186,148
Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted	81,975
Other Temporary visas granted	11,886
Citizenship	**Conferrals**
Conferrals of Australian citizenship	**127,674**

Source data: Department of Home Affairs

Permanent migration

The Migration Program outcome

In 2018–19, the Migration Program outcome delivered 160,323 places—down 1.3 per cent on 2017–18. This was comprised of:

- 109,713 Skill stream places
- 47,247 Family stream places
- 115 Special Eligibility places
- 3248 places delivered under the Child stream.

In 2018–19, the top three nationalities accounted for almost half (44.6 per cent) of the places delivered under the Migration Program. These were nationals of:

1. India—33,611 places (21.0 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—24,282 places (15.1 per cent)
3. United Kingdom—13,689 places (8.5 per cent).

Slightly more than half (52.6 per cent) of migrants that obtained a place in 2018–19, were migrants already in Australia on a temporary visa, with the remaining places going to new arrivals.[1]

Of these former temporary visa holders, almost three-quarters (74.0 per cent) were granted a Skill stream visa—the majority of these (58.1 per cent) moved directly from a Temporary Work (Skilled Employment) visa.

Growth in 2018–19, was strongest for nationals of:

1. United States of America—up 1030 places (37.0 per cent) on the 2782 places in 2017–18
2. Nepal—up 1029 places (33.6 per cent) on the 3067 places in 2017–18
3. New Zealand—up 914 places (17.3 per cent) on the 5295 places in 2017–18.

In 2018–19, Australia's Migration Program delivered 8300 fewer places (4.9 per cent) than a decade earlier, in 2009–10, of which the number of places in the:

- Skill stream increased 1845 places (1.7 per cent), with:
  - Points tested visas—up 348 places (0.6 per cent)
  - Employer Sponsored visas—up 1025 places (2.5 per cent)
  - Business Innovation and Investment visas—up 472 places (7.0 per cent).
- Family and Child stream delivering 9759 fewer places (16.2 per cent), with:
  - Partner visas—down 4837 places (10.8 per cent)
  - Parent visas—down 2682 places (28.3 per cent)
  - Child visas—down 296 places (8.4 per cent)
  - Other Family visas—down 1944 places (78.8 per cent).

[1] This is marginally higher than the average for the last five years—49.0 per cent of the 2013–14 to 2017–18 Migration Program places delivered went to people already in Australia. When analysing migration data, care needs to be taken to not double count these migrants into Australia's annual intake of immigrants.

Skill stream visas

In 2018–19, there were 109,713 Skill stream places delivered, 1386 fewer than in 2017–18. Nationals of India (28,743 places), People's Republic of China (14,964 places), and the United Kingdom (10,534 places) accounted for almost half (49.4 per cent) of all Skill stream places.

Growth within the Skill stream in 2018–19, was strongest for nationals of:

1. Nepal—up 964 places (37.4 per cent) on the 2575 places in 2017–18
2. New Zealand—up 955 places (19.1 per cent) on the 4989 places in 2017–18
3. United Kingdom—up 536 places (5.4 per cent) on the 9998 places in 2017–18.

In 2018–19, the number of places delivered within the Skill stream was comprised of:

- 60,240 points tested places
- 42,012 Employer Sponsored places
- 7261 Business Innovation and Investment places
- 200 Distinguished Talent places.

The Skill stream comprised 68.4 per cent of the Migration Program outcome in 2018–19. This proportion has remained relatively constant for the past 13 years, since 2005–06—apart from a modest fall, to 64.0 per cent, in 2009–10, coinciding with the global financial crisis.

The Skill stream is comprised of primary applicants (the main 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 2018–19, of the 109,713 Skill stream places delivered, less than half (46.2 per cent) went to Skill stream primary applicants, who comprised less than one-third (31.6 per cent) of the total Migration Program outcome.

Points tested skilled migration visas

In 2018–19, the number of points tested places delivered within the Skill stream fell 11.6 per cent, from 68,111 places in 2017–18, to 60,240 places.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than half (56.2 per cent) of all points tested visa places delivered in 2018–19, namely, nationals of:

1. India—21,440 places (35.6 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—6795 places (11.3 per cent)
3. New Zealand—5631 places (9.3 per cent).

Indian nationals have been the main contributor of points tested skilled visas since 2007–08 when they surpassed the United Kingdom, and in 2012–13 their contribution peaked at 24,812 places—3372 places more than the 21,440 places contributed by this cohort in 2018–19 (constituting a fall of 13.7 per cent).

In 2018–19, despite the overall fall in points tested visa places, there was growth amongst nationals of the top 10 countries, namely:

- New Zealand—up 1138 places (25.3 per cent) on the 4493 places in 2017–18
- Nepal—up 416 places (22.8 per cent) on the 1827 places in 2017–18.

For points tested visas in 2018–19:

- Skilled Independent visas (34,247 places) fell 12.5 per cent on the 39,137 places delivered in 2017–18, with its share of points tested visas being 56.9 per cent—just below the average of 59.1 per cent for this category since 2009–10
- State/Territory Nominated visas (25,346 places) fell 7.5 per cent on the 27,400 places delivered in 2017–18, with its share of points tested visas being 42.1 per cent—well above the average of 33.8 per cent for this category since 2009–10
- Skilled Regional visas (647 places) fell 58.9 per cent on the 1574 places delivered in 2017–18, with its share of points tested visas being 1.1 per cent—well below the average of 7.1 per cent for this category since 2009–10.

Employer Sponsored visas

In 2018–19, there were 42,012 Employer Sponsored places delivered, an increase of 18.3 per cent on the 35,528 places delivered in 2017–18.

Nationals of the top three countries accounted for 42.8 per cent of Employer Sponsored places in 2018–19, namely:

1. United Kingdom—7256 places (17.3 per cent)
2. India—7224 places (17.2 per cent)
3. Philippines—3484 places (8.3 per cent).

Most of the growth in Employer Sponsored visas in 2018–19, was due to nationals of:

- India—up 2076 places (40.3 per cent) on the 5148 places in 2017–18
- United Kingdom—up 921 places (14.5 per cent) on the 6335 places in 2017–18
- Nepal—up 548 places (73.3 per cent) on the 748 places in 2017–18.

The number of Employer Sponsored places delivered in 2018–19, was comprised of:

- 33,025 Employer Nomination Scheme places
- 8987 Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme places.

Over the last 10 years, from 2009–10, the number of Employer Sponsored places delivered increased by 2.5 per cent, with:

- Employer Nomination Scheme—up 2757 places (9.1 per cent)
- Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme—down 1226 places (12.0 per cent).

Business Innovation and Investment visas

In 2018–19, there were 7261 Business Innovation and Investment Program (BIIP) visa places delivered. By stream, this was mainly (97.0 per cent) comprised of:

- 3908 Business Innovation places—53.8 per cent share of BIIP
- 1380 Significant Business History places—19.0 per cent share of BIIP
- 1169 Investor places—16.1 per cent share of BIIP
- 587 Significant Investor places—8.1 per cent share of BIIP.

In 2018–19, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 82.5 per cent of all BIIP visa places. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—5209 places (71.7 per cent)
2. Vietnam—478 places (6.6 per cent)
3. Hong Kong—303 places (4.2 per cent).

Chinese nationals have been the main recipients of BIIP visas since 2003–04, and their share of each year's total has been relatively unchanged since 2012–13, averaging 72.2 per cent. This share was significantly more than for nationals of any other country, and in 2018–19, BIIP visas granted to Chinese nationals was mainly comprised of:

- 2930 Business Innovation stream places
- 1002 Significant Business History stream places
- 710 Investor stream places
- 410 Significant Investor stream places.

The Business Innovation and Investment Program superseded the Business Skills program on 1 July 2012. After a short transition period, the Business Innovation and Investment (Provisional/Permanent) visa has been the main source of BIIP visas, with an average share of 83.9 per cent since 2014–15.

Family stream visas

In 2018–19, the Family stream outcome delivered 47,247 places—down 1.0 per cent on the 47,732 places delivered in 2017–18. This was comprised of:

- 39,918 Partner places
- 6805 Parent places
- 524 Other Family places.

In 2018–19, nationals of the top three countries accounted for over one-third (34.9 per cent) of the number of places delivered. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—8882 places (18.8 per cent)
2. India—4421 places (9.4 per cent)
3. Vietnam—3187 places (6.7 per cent).

Despite the slight fall in Family stream places delivered in 2018–19, there was some modest growth among the main nationalities. Of note were nationals of:

- United States of America—up 711 places (63.6 per cent) on the 1118 places in 2017–18
- Republic of Korea—up 352 places (52.0 per cent) on the 677 places in 2017–18
- India—up 219 places (5.2 per cent) on the 4202 places in 2017–18.

Partner visas

In 2018–19, there were 39,918 Partner places delivered—up 0.3 per cent on the 39,799 places delivered in 2017–18. This was comprised of:

- 37,473 Partner places (93.9 per cent)
- 2445 Fiancé places (6.1 per cent).

In 2018–19, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 28.4 per cent of Partner places, namely:

1. People's Republic of China—4850 places (12.1 per cent)
2. India—3803 places (9.5 per cent)
3. Vietnam—2697 places (6.8 per cent).

The strongest growth in 2018–19, was due to nationals of:

- United States of America—up 713 places (66.9 per cent) on the 1065 places in 2017–18
- People's Republic of China—up 601 places (14.1 per cent) on the 4249 places in 2017–18
- Republic of Korea—up 360 places (59.6 per cent) on the 604 places in 2017–18.

Until 2008–09, the United Kingdom was the main source country for Partner visas. Since then, with the exception of Indian nationals in 2012–13, the main source of Partner visa migrants has been from the People's Republic of China.

Parent visas

In 2018–19, there were 6805 Parent visa places delivered—down 7.7 per cent on the 7371 places delivered in 2017–18. This was comprised of:

- 5587 Contributory Parent places
- 1218 non-contributory Parent places.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than three-quarters (74.0 per cent) of places in this category in 2018–19, namely:

1. People's Republic of China—3974 places (58.4 per cent)
2. India—610 places (9.0 per cent)
3. Vietnam—451 places (6.6 per cent).

Chinese nationals have continued to be the main recipient of Parent visas since 2008–09, mainly with Contributory Parent visas. Contributory Parent visas were introduced in 2003–04. In 2010–11, corresponding to a rise in the Chinese middle class, there was a sudden and sustained increase in the share of Contributory Parent visas granted to Chinese nationals, compared to non-contributory Parent visas, from 72.2 per cent in 2009–10 to 89.5 per cent in 2010–11, and averaging at 84.2 per cent since then to 2018–19.

Of note were parent visas delivered to nationals of the United Kingdom, which in 2018–19, grew for the first time since its peak in 2008–09, at 1902 places.

Other Family visas

In 2018–19, there were 524 Other Family visa places delivered—down 6.8 per cent on the 562 places delivered in 2017–18. This was comprised of:

- 281 Carer places
- 163 Orphan Relative places
- 73 Remaining Relative places
- 7 Aged Dependent Relative places.

In 2018–19, nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than one-quarter (26.7 per cent) of places delivered in this category. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—58 places (11.1 per cent)
2. Philippines—43 places (8.2 per cent)
3. Vietnam—39 places (7.4 per cent).

Child visas

In 2018–19, there were 3248 Child visa places delivered—down 3.0 per cent on the 3350 places delivered in 2017–18. This was comprised of:

- 3133 Child visas places
- 115 Adoption visas places.

In 2018–19, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 42.1 per cent of places in this category. These were nationals of:

1. Philippines—491 places (15.1 per cent)
2. India—443 places (13.6 per cent)
3. People's Republic of China—433 places (13.3 per cent).

Special Eligibility visas

In 2018–19, there were 115 Special Eligibility places delivered—down 51.3 per cent on the 236 places delivered in 2017–18.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for more than one-third (33.9 per cent) of places in this category in 2018–19, namely:

- Papua New Guinea—14 places (12.2 per cent)
- United Kingdom—13 places (11.3 per cent)
- South Africa—12 places (10.4 per cent).

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

In 2018–19, there were 84,260 permanent places obtained by applicants while in Australia on a Temporary visa. Most of these places (79.2 per cent) went to former holders of:

- Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa—38,310 places (45.5 per cent)
- Student visa—14,732 places (17.5 per cent)
- Student Graduate visas (subclass 476 and subclass 485)—13,715 places (16.3 per cent).

Students moving onto permanent residence whilst in Australia

In 2018–19, the number of permanent places obtained by former international students in Australia who transitioned directly from a Student visa was 14,732 places, an increase of 12.1 per cent on 2017–18.

Despite the number of Student visa grants increasing in recent years, the overall trend for the permanent visa transitions has been downward since 2012–13, when it peaked at 30,170 places.

For 2018–19, nationals of the top three countries that transitioned directly from a Student visa to a permanent visa, were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—2595 places (17.6 per cent)
2. India—2155 places (14.6 per cent)
3. Vietnam—1221 places (8.3 per cent).

Of these 14,732 former international students:

- 8210 places were within the Skill stream
- 6509 places were within the Family stream
- 13 places were within Special Eligibility.

Almost eight-in-ten (79.1 per cent) of these former international students obtained a Partner visa (44.0 per cent) or a points tested visa (35.1 per cent). Most of the growth in 2018–19 was due to increases in Employer Sponsored and Partner visas, namely:

- Employer Sponsored—up 1516 places (129.8 per cent) to 2684 places
  - Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme—up 1243 places (148.3 per cent) to 2081 places
  - Employer Nomination Scheme—up 273 places (82.7 per cent) to 603 places.
- Partner—up 865 places (15.4 per cent) to 6484 places.

Humanitarian Program

In 2018–19, there were 18,762 visas granted under the Humanitarian Program. This included 17,112 visas granted under the offshore (resettlement) component of the program to people affected by humanitarian crises around the world, and 1650 visas granted under the onshore (protection) component of the program.

The number of visas granted in 2018–19, under the offshore resettlement component of the program represented 91.2 per cent of all places. This was comprised of:

- 9451 Refugee visas granted (55.2 per cent)
- 7661 Special Humanitarian visas granted (44.8 per cent).

The top three countries of birth granted a visa through the offshore resettlement component accounted for almost two-thirds (65.5 per cent) of offshore visa grants, namely:

- Iraq—7095 grants (41.5 per cent)
- Democratic Republic of Congo—2114 grants (12.4 per cent)
- Myanmar—1995 grants (11.7 per cent).

In addition to the 1650 Permanent Protection visas granted under the onshore component in 2018–19, there were:

- 2512 Safe Haven Enterprise visas granted—a five-year temporary visa
- 362 Temporary Protection visas granted—a three-year temporary visa.

Temporary visa grants

In 2018–19, there were 8,818,837 temporary visas granted, an increase of 1.4 per cent on the 8,694,048 visas granted the previous year. Of these, almost 5.7 million (64.5 per cent) were Visitor visa grants, and almost 1.9 million (21.4 per cent) were Special Category visa grants to New Zealand citizens.

Over the 10 years from 2009–10, the number of temporary visas granted has increased by almost 3.1 million, with Visitor visas accounting for 72.8 per cent of the total growth.

Visitor visa grants

In 2018–19, there were 5,686,318 Visitor visas granted, an increase of 0.8 per cent on the 5,639,167 visas granted in 2017–18. By visa type, this was comprised of:

- 5,181,536 tourist visa grants
- 504,782 business visitor visa grants.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 37.8 per cent of people granted a Visitor visa in 2018–19, namely:

1. People's Republic of China—938,136 grants (16.5 per cent)
2. United Kingdom—621,954 grants (10.9 per cent)
3. United States of America—591,171 grants (10.4 per cent).

Nationals of the following countries predominantly drove the growth in Visitor visas in 2018–19:

- United States of America—up 57,080 grants (10.1 per cent) on the 564,874 grants in 2017–18
- Japan—up 13,017 grants (3.3 per cent) on the 397,242 grants in 2017–18
- India—up 12,150 grants (4.5 per cent) on the 268,194 grants in 2017–18.

The main countries, which exhibited sustained growth over the decade since 2009–10, were:

- People's Republic of China—up 691,826 grants (280.9 per cent)
- United States of America—up 227,231 grants (57.6 per cent)
- India—up 181,475 grants (183.6 per cent).

Tourist visas and business visitor visas can be analysed by categories to identify where growth is occurring within these visas.

In 2018–19, Visitor visas granted for the purpose of tourism grew 1.1 per cent on 2017–18, as a result of:

- Tourist—up 1.2 per cent, to 4,941,789 grants
- Sponsored Family—up 11.7 per cent, to 34,933 grants
- Approved Destination Status (ADS)—down 2.7 per cent, to 200,038 grants
- Frequent Traveller—down 28.5 per cent, to 4776 grants.

Visitor visas granted for business purposes fell 1.7 per cent in 2018–19, as a result of:

- Business Visitor (excludes Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC))—down 17.4 per cent, to 401,697 grants offset by
- APEC Business Visitor—up 282.1 per cent, to 103,085 grants.

Further analysis identifies that, over the 10 years from 2009–10:

- Tourist visas grew 69.1 per cent, as a result of:
  - Tourist—up 1,980,236 grants (66.9 per cent)
  - Approved Destination Status (ADS)—up 119,803 grants (149.3 per cent)
  - Sponsored Family—up 12,155 grants (53.4 per cent)
  - Frequent Traveller—was introduced in 2016–17, since then there have been 15,114 grants.
- Business visas grew 32.9 per cent, as a result of:
  - Business Visitor (excludes APEC)—up 22,001 grants (5.8 per cent)
  - APEC Business Visitor—130,066 visas granted in the two years since the stream was separately introduced in 2017–18.

Special Category visa grants to New Zealand citizens

In 2018–19, there were 1,889,988 Special Category visas granted to New Zealand citizens—up 1.8 per cent on the 1,856,614 granted in 2017–18. Since 2009–10, grants to New Zealand citizens on this visa have risen by 27.1 per cent on the 1,487,375 granted in 2009–10.

Student visa grants

In 2018–19, there were 405,742 Student visas granted, an increase of 7.3 per cent (27,450 grants) on the 378,292 visas granted in 2017–18. Nationals of the top three countries accounted for 45.1 per cent of Student visas granted in 2018–19. These were nationals of:

1. People's Republic of China—84,819 grants (20.9 per cent)
2. India—66,449 grants (16.4 per cent)
3. Nepal—31,799 grants (7.8 per cent).

Driving the growth in the number of Student visas granted in 2018–19, were nationals of:

- India—up 16,980 grants (34.3 per cent) on the 49,469 grants in 2017–18
- Philippines—up 5507 grants (94.6 per cent) on the 5822 grants in 2017–18
- Nepal—up 5220 grants (19.6 per cent) on the 26,579 grants in 2017–18.

By reporting category, most of the growth in Student visa grants in 2018–19, was driven by increases in:

- Higher Education—up 8.8 per cent, to 216,724 grants
- Vocational Education and Training—up 11.3 per cent, to 100,905 grants.

During the 10 years from 2009–10, the annual number of Student visas granted grew 50.0 per cent. The main categories with high growth were:

- Higher Education—up 97,720 grants (82.1 per cent)
- Vocational Education and Training—up 28,875 grants (40.1 per cent)
- Independent ELICOS—up 5274 grants (15.0 per cent).

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

In 2018–19, there were a record high of 63,994 Temporary Graduate visas granted.[2] This was an increase of 23.9 per cent on the 51,656 visas granted the previous year.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 62.0 per cent of Temporary Graduate visa grants in 2018–19, namely:

1. India—19,420 grants (30.3 per cent)
2. People's Republic of China—12,709 grants (19.9 per cent)
3. Nepal—7533 grants (11.8 per cent).

Of the 63,994 visas granted in 2018–19, 54,781 were in the Post-Study Work stream and 9213 were in the Graduate Work stream. There has been strong growth in the Post-Study work stream since 2015–16, whereas the Graduate Work stream has been trending down.

Working Holiday Maker visa grants

In 2018–19, there were 209,036 Working Holiday Maker visas granted, a decrease of 0.7 per cent on the 210,456 granted in 2017–18. This was the sixth consecutive decrease since the program peaked in 2012–13, with 258,248 visas granted.

This was comprised of:

- 180,223 Working Holiday visa grants
  - 142,805 First Working Holiday visa grants
  - 37,418 Second Working Holiday visa grants.
- 28,813 Work and Holiday visa grants
  - 23,012 First Work and Holiday visa grants
  - 5801 Second Work and Holiday visa grants.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for 39.1 per cent of all Working Holiday Maker visa grants in 2018–19. These were nationals of:

1. United Kingdom—35,948 grants (17.2 per cent)
2. France—24,413 grants (11.7 per cent)
3. Republic of Korea—21,380 grants (10.2 per cent).

Over the 10 years from 2009–10, Working Holiday Maker visas grew 14.1 per cent, with:

- Working Holiday visas increasing by 2.5 per cent; a combination of:
  - First visa—down 7626 grants (5.1 per cent)
  - Second visa—up 12,103 grants (47.8 per cent).
- Work and Holiday visas increasing by 288.2 per cent; a combination of:
  - First visa—up 15,590 grants (210.1 per cent)
  - Second visa—with 9549 visas granted in the three years since their introduction in 2016–17.

[2] A temporary visa (only available to recently graduated international students) that includes work rights.

Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa grants

In 2018–19, there were 81,975 Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted, an increase of 27.2 per cent on the 64,470 granted in 2017–18. This was comprised of:

- 41,221 visa grants to primary applicants
- 40,754 visa grants to secondary applicants.

Over the 10 years to 2018–19, the number of grants of Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas grew 20.6 per cent, on the 67,979 granted in 2009–10. [3] This growth was comprised of grants to applicants:

- outside Australia—up 8558 grants (21.5 per cent), to 48,365 grants
- in Australia—up 5438 grants (19.3 per cent), to 33,610 grants.

Primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa grants

In 2018–19, there were 41,221 visas granted to primary applicants, an increase of 19.7 per cent on the 34,446 grants in 2017–18.

Collectively, nationals of the top three countries accounted for almost half (48.8 per cent) of these primary visa grants in 2018–19, namely:

1. India—10,234 grants (24.8 per cent)
2. United Kingdom—6891 grants (16.7 per cent)
3. Philippines—2987 grants (7.2 per cent).

Driving the growth in primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa grants in 2018–19, were nationals of:

- India—up 2318 grants (29.3 per cent) on the 7916 grants in 2017–18
- United Kingdom—up 1039 grants (17.8 per cent) on the 5852 grants in 2017–18
- Ireland—up 585 grants (39.7 per cent) on the 1472 grants in 2017–18.

In 2018–19, the top three sponsor industries accounted for almost half (46.7 per cent) of all primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted. These were:

1. Other Services—7825 grants (19.0 per cent)
2. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services—5931 grants (14.4 per cent)
3. Information Media and Telecommunications—5501 grants (13.3 per cent).

Overall, three-quarters (75.1 per cent) of primary Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visas granted in 2018–19, were granted to applicants who had previously held a visa—30,958 grants. Of these, the top three previously held visa categories were:

1. Visitor—8699 grants (28.1 per cent)
2. Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment)—7753 grants (25.0 per cent)
3. Working Holiday Maker—5677 grants (18.3 per cent).

[3] These figures excludes the defunct Subclass 457 Independent Executives visa (44 grants in 2009–10), and may thus differ from other published data.

Almost two-thirds (63.7 per cent) of primary grants, where a previous visa was held, were granted to applicants in Australia. Most of these were to primary applicants who had last held a Temporary Resident (Skilled Employment) visa (32.0 per cent) or a Working Holiday Maker visa (26.2 per cent).

Visa non-compliance

In 2018–19, there were 53,993 visa cancellations, a decrease of 6.0 per cent on the 57,429 visa cancellations in 2017–18.[4] Almost two-thirds (62.7 per cent) of visa cancellations in 2018–19, were either Student visas (33.0 per cent) or temporary resident visas (29.7 per cent).

Non-citizens who do not hold a valid visa and do not make arrangements to depart Australia are subject to removal. There were 9195 departures (returns and removals) from Australia in 2018–19—down 34.1 per cent on 2017–18.[5] The majority of assisted or managed departures were for those that arrived on a Visitor visa (45.8 per cent) or those that arrived on a Student visa (21.2 per cent).

Australian citizenship

In 2018–19, there were 127,674 people conferred Australian citizenship, an increase of 58.3 per cent on the 80,649 conferrals in 2017–18.

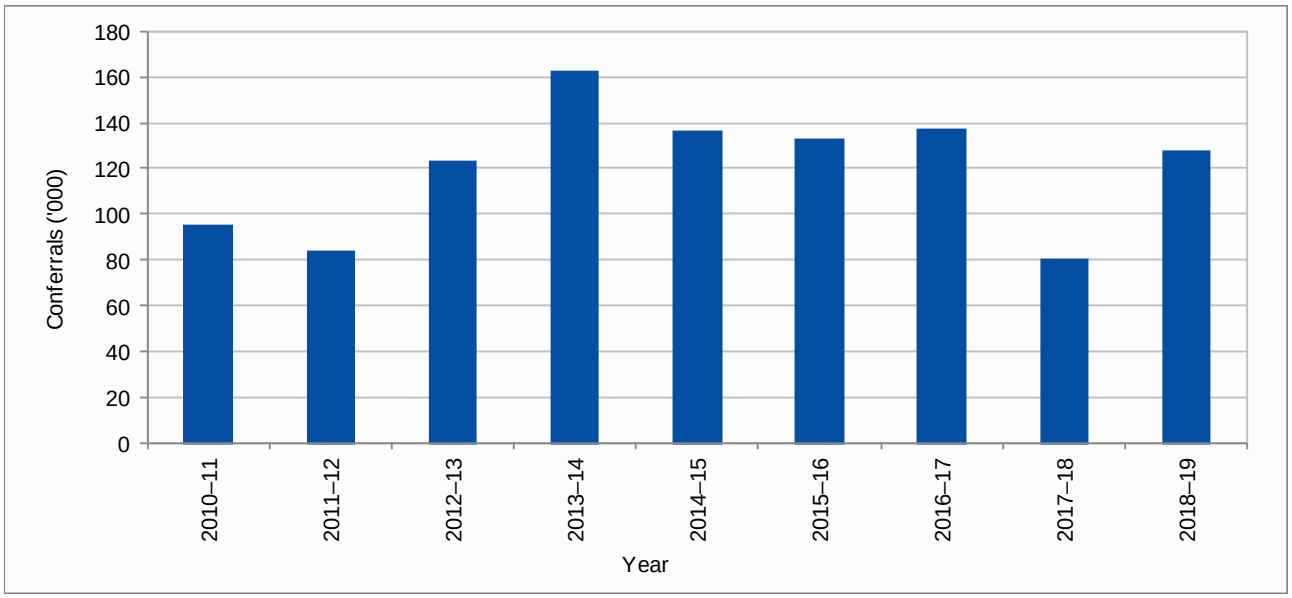
Collectively, the top three countries of former citizenship accounted for 40.0 per cent of all conferrals in 2018–19. These were:

1. India—28,470 conferrals (22.3 per cent)
2. United Kingdom—13,366 conferrals (10.5 per cent)[6]
3. Philippines—9267 conferrals (7.3 per cent).

Strengthened identity and integrity measures have contributed to the variability in conferrals across program years (Figure 1).

[4] 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.
[5] Figures may differ from those previously published due to revisions undertaken at the commencement of the program year.
[6] Includes Isle of Man.

Figure 1: Conferrals of Australian citizenship, 2010–11 to 2018–19



Source data: Department of Home Affairs

Net overseas migration and population growth

Population growth in Australia is driven by two components: natural increase and net overseas migration (NOM). 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.[7] Australia's migration programs for permanent residence, together with the annual changes in arrivals and departures of migrants on temporary visas, are the primary determinants of NOM.

Since 2001, NOM accounted for over half the increase in Australia's population each year (Figure 2). In 2018, preliminary NOM increased 2.8 per cent on 2017, to 248,400 people, accounting for 61.4 per cent of the increase in the population that year. In the decade to December 2018, NOM accounted for 59.5 per cent of the 3.7 million increase in the population to 25.2 million people. Consequently, the share of overseas-born people rose from 25.8 per cent to 29.4 per cent at June 2018.[8]

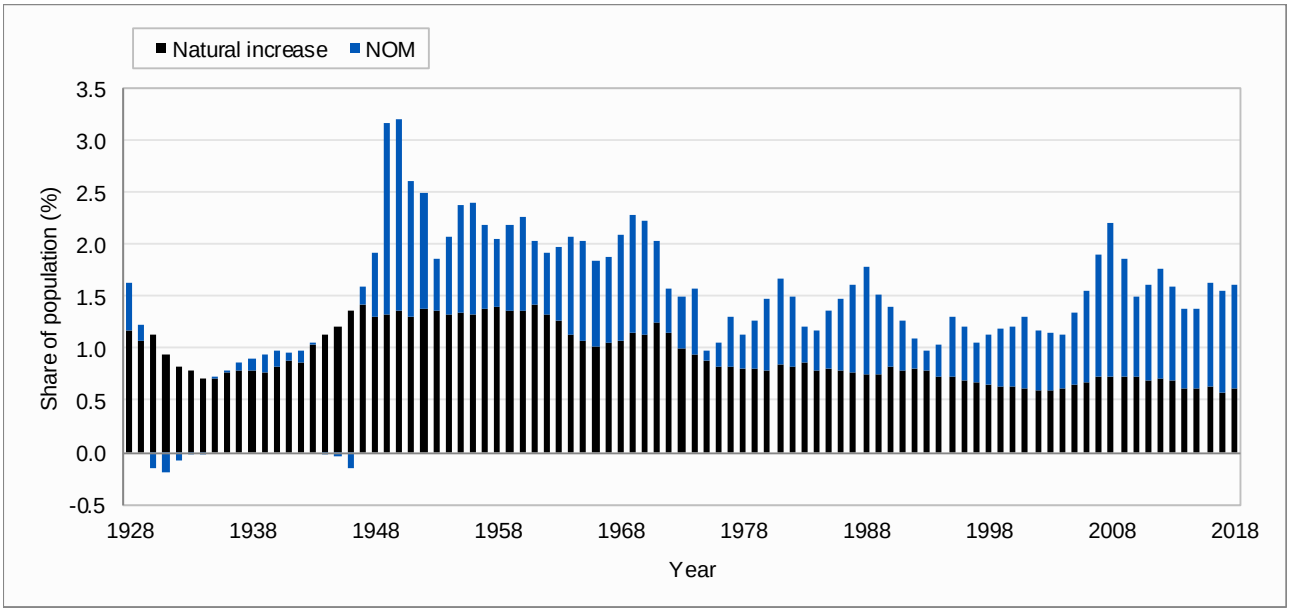
As shown in Figure 2, NOM's share of population, reached its peak in the first few years that followed the end of World War II, and in 1949 was 1.9 per cent. By 1975, the share of population had fallen to 0.1 per cent. NOM peaked for the year ending December 2008 at 315,700 people, a population share of 1.5 per cent, by comparison, NOM's share of population for 2018 was 1.0 per cent.

The main determinants of changes in NOM are the number of migrants on temporary visas, and Australia's planned permanent migration programs (Migration Program and Humanitarian Program). An analysis of NOM over the 10 year period for the year ending December 2009 to the year ending December 2018, identified that NOM was largely affected by rapid increases in international student numbers (since 2012) and more recently Visitors (since 2016).

[7] 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 have 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.

[8] Latest data available at time of this report is, as at June 2018: ABS, Migration, Australia, cat. no. 3412.0.

Figure 2: Components of Australia's population growth as a share of population, 1928 to 2018



Source data: Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), 2016, Australian Historical Population Statistics, cat. no. 3105.0.65.001 and ABS, 2018, Australian Demographic Statistics, cat. no. 3101.0.

Labour market outcomes

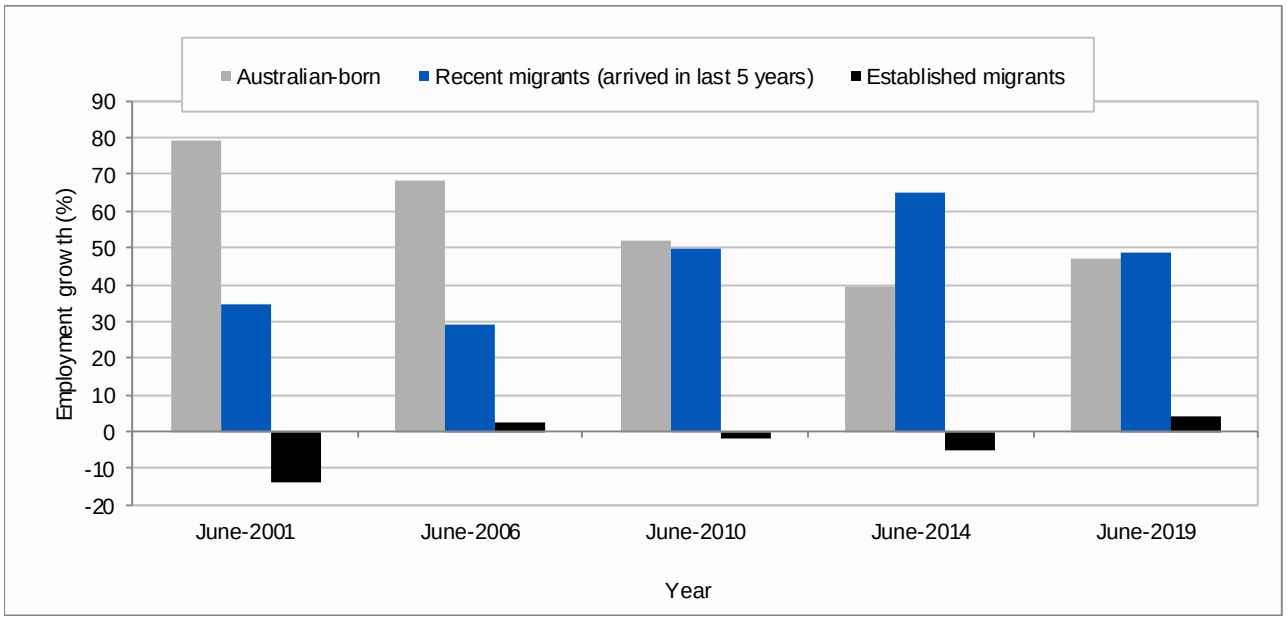
The importance of migration in our labour market

In the 12 months to June 2019, Australia experienced the highest annual average employment rate in 11 years with 62.4 per cent of the civilian population employed, and the lowest annual average unemployment rate in eight years of 5.1 per cent.[9]

Migration is an important component to these outcomes with new migrants the main contributors to employment growth in the Australian workforce. At June 2019, Australia's workforce stood at 12.9 million, which was 11.7 per cent more than five years ago in June 2014. New migrants (those who arrived in the preceding five years) accounted for 48.6 per cent of these additional jobs, whereas Australian-born accounted for 47.1 per cent and established migrants accounted for 4.3 per cent (Figure 3).

[9] Based on financial year averages of ABS, July 2019, Labour Force, Australia, cat.no. 6291.0.55.001, LM7 cube

Figure 3: Contribution of migration to employment growth, June 2001 to June 2019



Source data: ABS, July 2019, Labour Force, Australia, cat no. 6291.0.55.001, LM7 cube

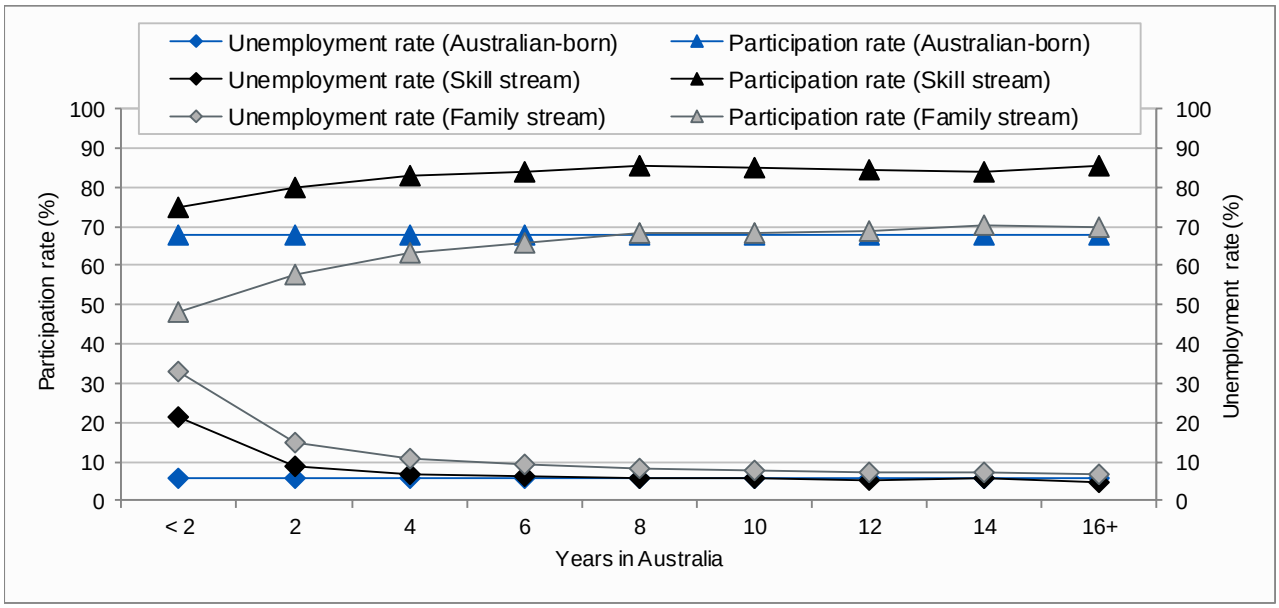
One of the main reasons new migrants make a strong contribution to workforce growth is their overall numbers entering the workforce. In absolute terms, the effect of ageing on the Australian-born population means that in the decade to June 2019, the net increase of recent migrants in the workforce was almost six times that of the Australia-born population—more than double than in the preceding decade to June 2009.

In addition, new migrants have high rates of employment, which further adds to the impact they have on workforce growth. 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.

These changes are more pronounced for migrants selected on the basis of their skills and qualifications (Skill stream migrants as opposed to Family stream migrants) (Figure 4). Based on labour market outcomes at the time of the 2016 Census (of primary and secondary visa holders combined):

- The most recent of arrivals (those who arrived between 2015 and August 2016) had not yet adjusted to the labour market, and had a high unemployment rate:
  - 21.3 per cent for Skill stream migrants
  - 32.8 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:
  - Unemployment rate:
    - 14.5 percentage points for Skill stream migrants in the first 4 years, and a further 1.2 percentage points over the following 10 years
    - 22.1 percentage points for Family stream migrants in the first 4 years, and a further 3.6 percentage points in the following 10 years.
  - Participation rate:
    - 8.4 percentage points for Skill stream migrants in the first 4 years, and a further 0.9 percentage points over the following 10 years
    - 15.0 percentage points for Family stream migrants in the first 4 years, and a further 7.3 percentage points in the following 10 years.

Figure 4: Unemployment and participation rates at the time of the 2016 Census, by time in Australia



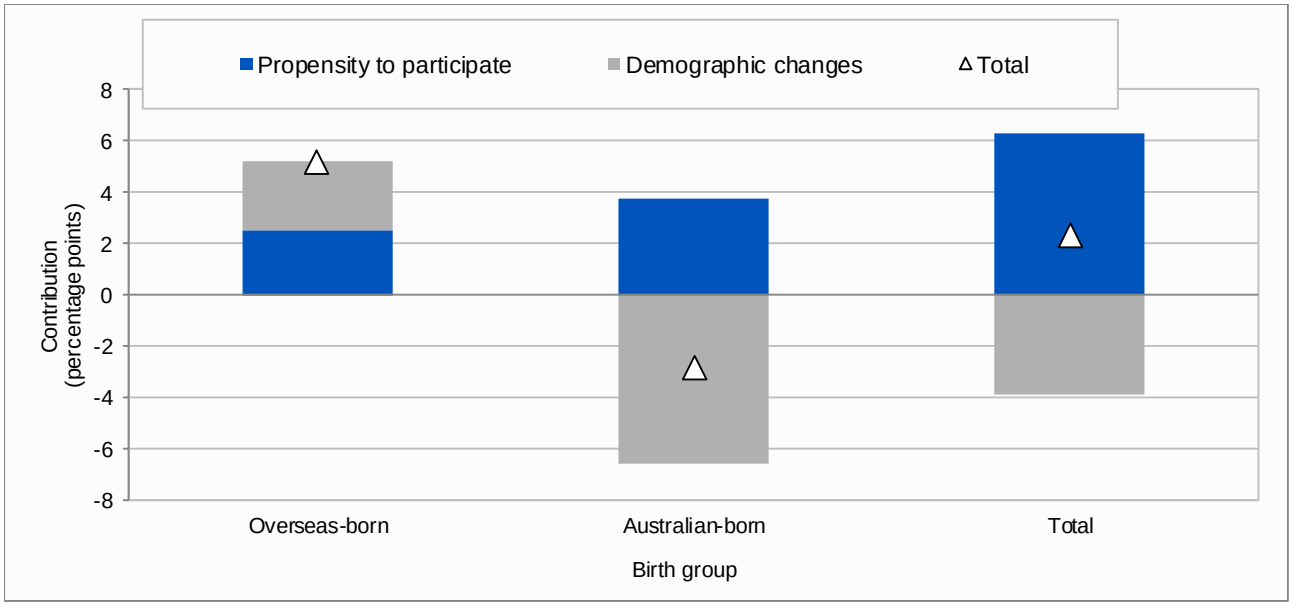
Source data: ABS, Australian Census and Migrants Integrated Dataset, 2016

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 2000–01 and 2018–19, the annual average labour force participation rate for Australia increased by 2.3 percentage points as a result of a combination of the following (Figure 5):

- Migrants **added** 5.2 points—2.7 points added due to the effects of young migrants entering the workforce, and 2.5 points added due to an increase in propensity to work
- Australia-born **deducted** 2.9 points—6.6 points deducted due to the effects of an ageing population, and 3.7 points added due to an increase in propensity to work.

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

Figure 5: Contributions to change in the labour force participation rate, between 2000–01 and 2018–19



Source data: ABS, July 2019, Labour Force, Australia, cat no. 6291.0.55.001, LM5 cube

Outcomes of Australia's migrant population stock

The migrant unemployment rate at 30 June 2019 was 5.4 per cent (based on three-month averages). This was slightly higher than the Australian-born rate of 5.0 per cent.[10] This is not unusual, as the rate of unemployment among migrants and Australian-born have been operating in close alignment since mid-2012 (Figure 6).

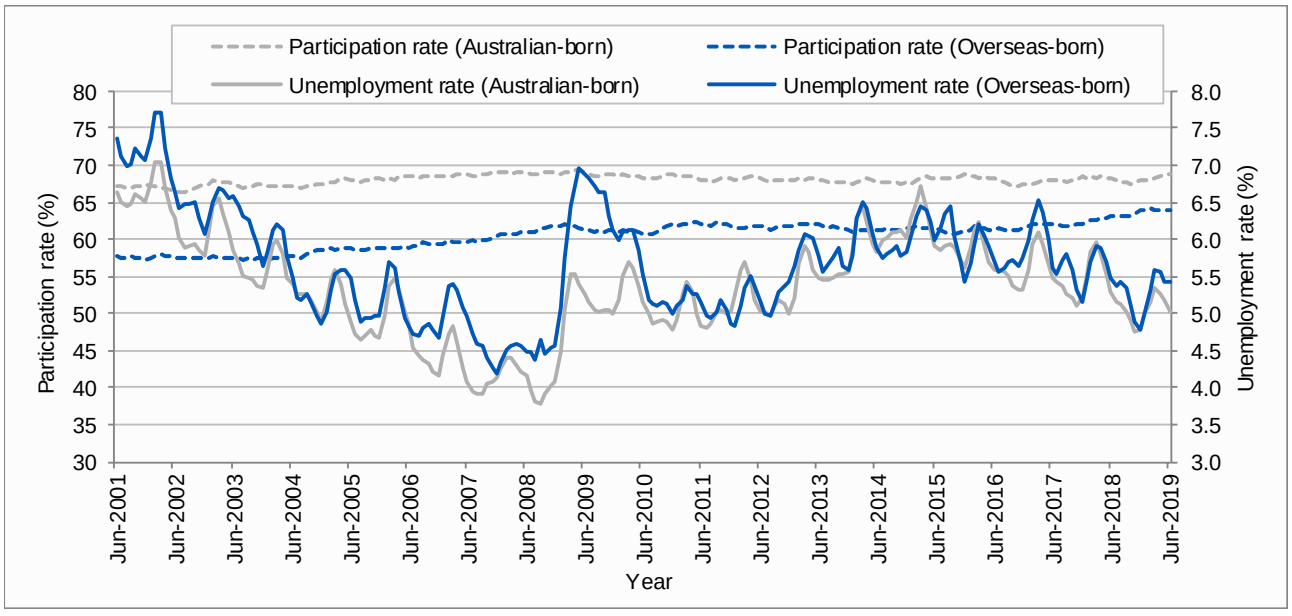
Figure 6 also shows that the labour force participation rate of Australia's migrants is consistently lower than that of the Australian-born, by an average of 4.9 percentage points at June 2019 (63.9 per cent compared to 68.8 per cent). This difference is largely attributed to the impact of age on labour force participation, with the median age of Australia's migrant population, at June 2018, being 9.9 years older than that of the Australian-born (43.7 years compared to 33.8 years, respectively).[11]

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 of these visas types have very high rates for participation in the labour force. These 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 2008, 18.0 per cent of Australia's migrants were aged 65 years and over, compared with just 11.5 per cent of the Australian-born, a difference of 6.5 percentage points. By 2018, these proportions had converged to 20.0 per cent and 13.9 per cent respectively, a difference of 6.1 percentage points.[12]

Figure 6: Unemployment and participations rates by birth group, June 2001 to June 2019



Source data: ABS, July 2019, Labour Force, Australia, cat no. 6291.0.55.001, LM7 cube (three-month averages)

[10] ABS, July 2019, Labour Force, Australia, cat no. 6291.0.55.001, LM7 cube, based on monthly averages.

[11] ABS, April 2019, Migration, Australia, 2017–18, cat.no. 3412.0.

[12] ABS, April 2019, Migration, Australia, 2017–18, ABS STAT, cat.no.3412.0

Outcomes for recently arrived Skill stream and Family 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 (Partner visa) migrants of Australia's permanent Migration Program. It comprises an introductory survey at the six-month stage of settlement and a follow-up survey of these same migrants at the 18-month stage of settlement.

The analysis in this section is limited to primary applicants from the CSAM, and based on the introductory and follow-up surveys of those who arrived in Australia between January and July of 2017, or who were granted their permanent visa in this period after having lived in Australia as a temporary resident. It focuses on employment levels, earnings and the skill level at which the migrant is employed.

Employment outcomes of recent migrants

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 compared to the Australian general population.[13] These outcomes, with a comparison to changes in the Australian labour market over the same period, included:

- employment to population ratio—up 5.5 percentage points; from 88.4 per cent to 94.0 per cent (compared to an increase of 0.9 points for the general population to 61.9 per cent)
- unemployment rate—down 4.2 percentage points; from 7.0 per cent to 2.8 per cent (compared to a fall of 0.2 points for the general population to 5.5 per cent)
- labour force participation rate—up 1.6 percentage points; from 95.1 per cent to 96.7 per cent (compared to an increase of 0.8 points for the general population to 65.5 per cent)
- median annual full-time earnings—up $8,000 on average; from $65,000 to $73,000 (compared to an increase of $1,600 for the general population to $76,300)
- highly skilled employment to population ratio—up 7.7 percentage points; from 62.2 per cent to 69.9 per cent.[14]

[13] Employment Outcome figures for Australian civilian population aged 15 years and over sourced from ABS, Labour Force, Australia, November 2018 release, 6202.0 (Trended), data presented is for November 2016 and November 2017 for comparison with the CSAM survey of migrants at their six-month and 18-month stages of settlement. Earnings figures for Australian employees sourced from ABS, Employee Earnings and Hours, May 2018 release, 6306.0, data presented is for May 2016 for and May 2018 for comparison with the CSAM survey of migrants at their six-month and 18-month stages of settlement—May being the closest date to the date the CSAM surveys were conducted (around November).

[14] 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:

- 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.

Family stream (Partner visa) migrants

Partner Migrants (primary applicants from the Partner visa category of the Family stream), also reported improved employment outcomes between the two surveys, including:

- employment to population ratio—up 4.7 percentage points, from 61.9 per cent to 66.6 per cent
- unemployment rate—down 6.7 percentage points, from 17.1 per cent to 10.5 per cent
- median annual full-time earnings—up $4,000; from $51,000 to $55,000.

Despite these improvements, the employment outcomes of Partner Migrants remained below that of the general population, in particular in terms of their unemployment rate (10.5 per cent compared to 5.5 per cent) and median annual full-time earnings ($55,000 compared to $76,300). In addition, while employment was up, the proportion in the labour force was down, indicating that some Family stream Partner visa migrants may be withdrawing from the labour market, possibly, as their spouses find employment or due to difficulties gaining employment.

Labour market outcomes of temporary residents in Australia

The impact of migration on Australia's labour market is not limited to the effects of permanent migrants alone; it also extends to those migrants in Australia on temporary visas with work rights. This section analyses some of the labour market outcomes of temporary residents (people who stayed or intended to stay in Australia for twelve months or more) in Australia. The analysis uses data from the 2016 Australian Census and Temporary Entrants Integrated Dataset (ACTEID) to compare labour market performance by visa type and return to education.

ACTEID focuses on temporary residents, comprised of:

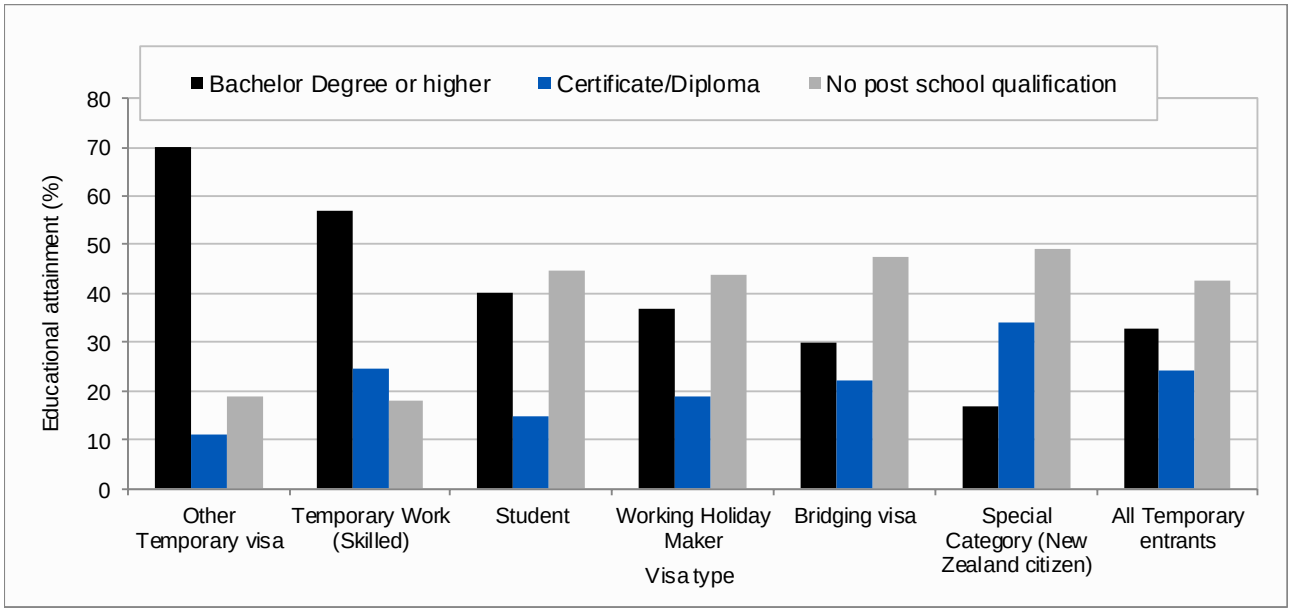
- Special Category visa—New Zealand citizens
- Working Holiday Maker program—Working Holiday visa and Work and Holiday visa
- Student visas
- Temporary Work (Skilled) visa
- Other temporary visas (for example, other temporary work visas and skilled graduate visas)
- Bridging visas.

In line with ABS labour force reporting, only temporary residents 15 years of age and over are considered in this analysis.

Education levels

Based on the 2016 Census, temporary residents who held a Temporary Work (Skilled) or Other temporary visa had, on average, higher levels of educational attainment (Figure 7).

Figure 7: Educational attainment by visa type, 15 years and over, 2016



Source data: ABS, 2016 ACTEID
Note: Excludes level of education not stated and inadequately described.

In particular, the level of post school qualification were as follows:

- Temporary Work (Skilled)—81.7 per cent (57.0 percentage points tertiary qualified)
- Other temporary visas—81.1 per cent (70.0 percentage points tertiary qualified)
- Working Holiday Makers—56.2 per cent (37.1 percentage points tertiary qualified)
- Student—55.2 per cent (40.1 percentage points tertiary qualified).

Labour market outcomes and the returns on education level

Labour market outcomes for temporary residents are mixed when compared with outcomes for the general population (as measured at the time of the 2016 Census). This is because, on aggregate their employment to population ratio and participation rate are similar to or better than that of the general population, whereas their unemployment rate is substantially worse:

- employment to population ratio of 60.6 per cent, compared to 60.1 per cent
- participation rate of 68.4 per cent, compared 64.6 per cent
- unemployment rate of 11.5 per cent, compared to 6.9 per cent.

Disaggregating by visa type reveals the exceptions, with those temporary residents on a Temporary Work (Skilled) visa in particular having substantially better rates of employment, participation and unemployment than the general population (Table 2). This was as expected as these migrants were sponsored to fill a position with an employer.

Table 2: Labour market outcomes by visa type, 15 years and over, 2016

Visa type	Employment to population ratio	Participation rate	Unemployment rate
Bridging	50.0	61.1	18.2
Special Category (New Zealand citizen)	69.6	75.7	8.0
Temporary Work (Skilled)	82.2	85.6	4.0
Working Holiday Maker	74.4	83.9	11.3
Student	41.4	51.8	20.1
Other temporary	66.9	74.9	10.8
Total[1]	**60.6**	**68.4**	**11.5**

Source data: ABS, 2016 ACTEID
1. Excludes not stated.

Analysis of all temporary residents reveals that 24.9 per cent were working in a semi-skilled occupation, followed by 19.8 per cent in highly skilled and 15.5 per cent in low skilled occupations, and with the remaining 39.8 per cent not working.

Stratifying outcomes by education levels shows that increased education correlates with higher skilled employment (Figure 8). For example, of those temporary residents with the following levels of education, the proportion in highly skilled employment was:

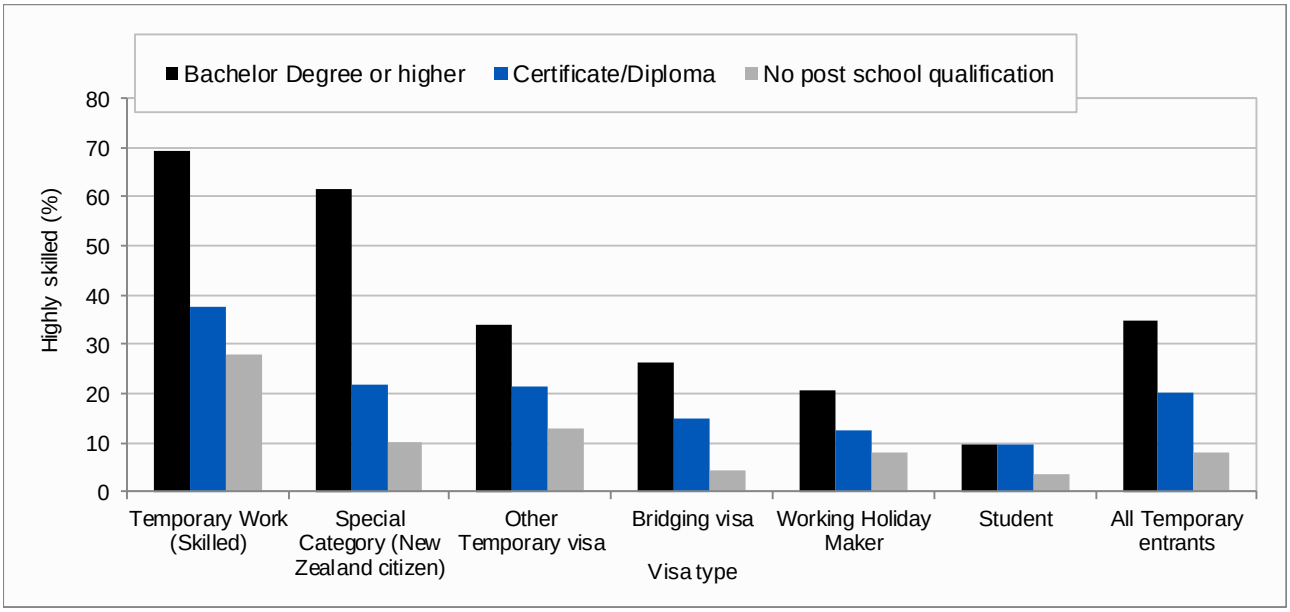
- Bachelor Degree or higher—34.8 per cent
- Certificate/Diploma—20.1 per cent
- No post school qualification—8.1 per cent.

In other words, compared to having no post school qualification, having a diploma or certificate qualification lifted the proportion in highly skilled employment by 12.0 percentage points, and a tertiary qualification lifted it by 26.7 percentage points. These rates of up-lift varied considerably by visa type, for example:

- Student visa holders—up-lift of 6.1 percentage points from having a tertiary qualification; to
- Special Category visa holders—up-lift of 51.4 percentage points from having a tertiary qualification.

This variation between visa subclasses was as expected. Although both international students and Special Category visa temporary residents had high rates of postgraduate education (57.7 per cent and 62.8 per cent respectively), those on a Student visa were able to work only limited hours, such that 84.7 per cent worked less than 25 hours per week, compared to 14.5 per cent for Special Category visa holders. Therefore, in absolute terms, few Student visa holders end up working in highly skilled work.

Figure 8: Highly skilled employment outcomes by educational level and visa type, 15 years and over, 2016



Source data: ABS, 2016 ACTEID
Note: Excludes level of education not stated and inadequately described; and skill level not ascertainable.

Earnings—Education level has a pronounced impact on the annual earnings of temporary residents. Those with a tertiary qualification were more likely to be earning within the top quartile of the Australian workforce—for example, 23.0 per cent of temporary residents were earning $78,000 or more per year (Figure 9).[15]

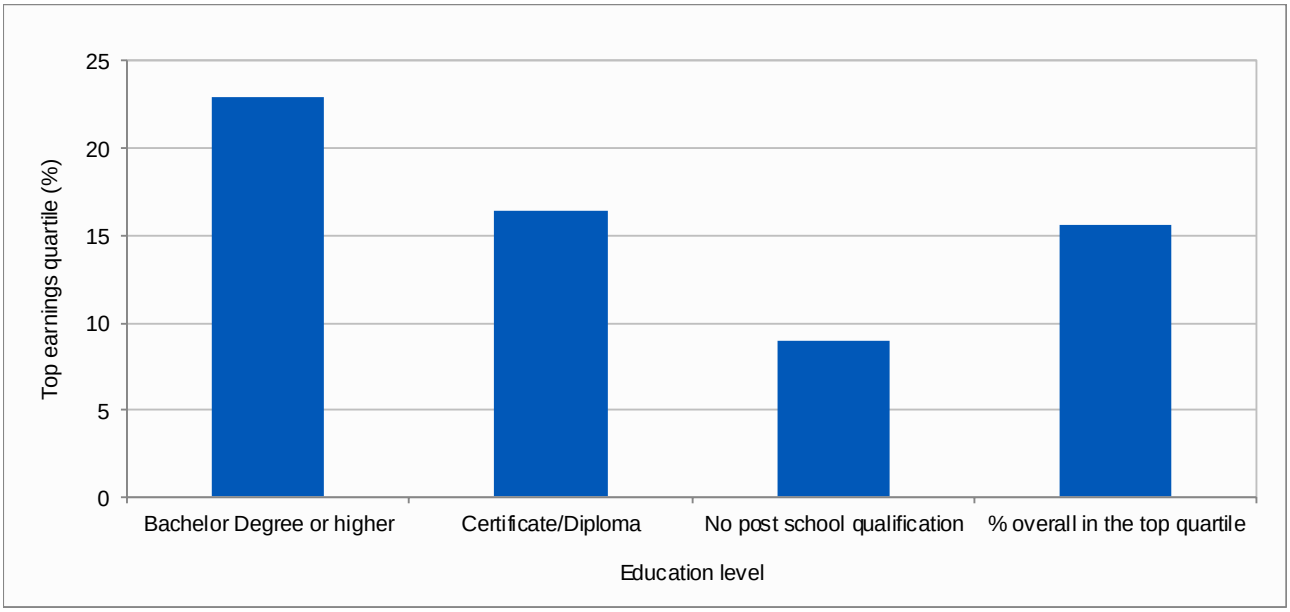
By visa type, the proportion earning $78,000 per year or more, ranged from:

- Student visa—2.1 per cent; to
- Temporary Work (Skilled) visa—35.8 per cent.

That Student visa holders had a low proportion with earnings within the top quartile was as expected given there are conditions on their visas that limit the number of hours they can work.

[15] Top quartile earnings for Australia at time of the Census was $83,200 and over, derived from ABS, Employee Earnings and Hours, Australia, May 2016 cat. no. 6306.0—the closest match for which income data is available for temporary entrants is $78,000 and over.

Figure 9: Temporary resident earnings by education level, in Australia's top quartile, 15 years and over, 2016



Source data: ABS, 2016 ACTEID

Note: Excludes level of education not stated and inadequately described; and income levels that are negative, nil or not stated. The top quartile earnings in this figure are $78,000 per year and over—the closest match to the Australian top quartile ($83,200 and over) for which income data is available for temporary entrants.

The top three visa types with earnings in the top quartile, for each education level, were:

- Tertiary qualification:
  - Temporary Work (Skilled)—48.2 per cent
  - Special Category visa—44.9 per cent
  - Bridging visa—9.1 per cent.
- Certificate Diploma:
  - Special Category visa—22.4 per cent
  - Temporary Work (Skilled) visa—17.6 per cent
  - Other temporary visa—9.7 per cent.
- No post school qualification
  - Temporary Work (Skilled) visa—21.5 per cent
  - Special Category visa—12.6 per cent
  - Other temporary visas—7.0 per cent.

Summary

Based on the 2016 census, most temporary entrants work in semi-skilled work. Those on a Temporary Work (Skilled) visa and New Zealand citizen Special Category visa have the strongest employment outcomes, with Student visa holders the weakest outcomes. With the exception of Temporary Work (Skilled) visa holders, temporary residents have high rates of unemployment, the level of which is dependent on the purpose of their visa and duration of stay. All have high participation in the labour force apart from Student and Bridging visa holders. Education is an important enabler of better labour market outcomes, as demonstrated by the proportions in highly skilled employment and earnings in the Australian top quartile.