

Overseas migration, Queensland, 2022–23

The Australian Government closed its international border from 20 March 2020. Restrictions on cross-border movements were in place for nearly two years, impacting overseas migration levels. On 21 February 2022, Australia reopened to fully vaccinated visa holders, and from 6 July 2022, vaccination requirements were lifted for all arrivals.

Key points

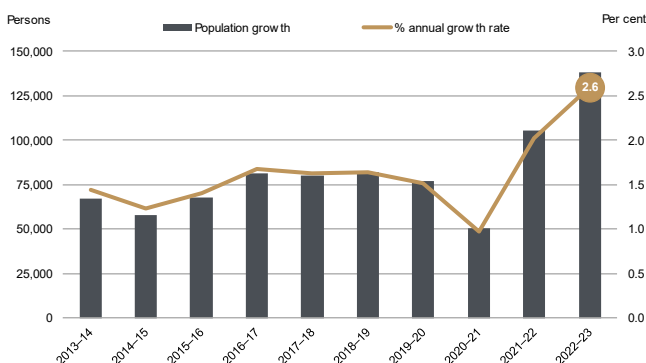
- Queensland's net overseas migration (NOM) rose from 29,620 in 2021–22 to 84,000 persons in 2022–23, reflecting primarily the increase in migrant arrivals, while migrant departures remained steady.
- Temporary visa holders (76,280 persons) represented the largest component of Queensland's NOM in 2022–23, followed by New Zealand citizens (7,470) and permanent visa holders (6,970).
- In 2022–23, the top five sponsor industries for primary temporary skilled visas granted for nominated positions in Queensland were: health care and social assistance (18.9%); professional, scientific and technical (14.4%); other services¹ (12.7%); accommodation and food services (11.9%); and manufacturing (7.9%).

Net overseas migration

Population change and net overseas migration

Queensland has recorded strong population growth for many years, and in 2022–23 recorded 2.6% growth, matching the previous peak recorded in 2006–07 to 2008–09. This growth corresponds to an increase of 138,472 persons over the year. Over the decade to June 2021, annual population growth was lower than 2.0% per year, with a notable drop recorded in 2020–21 (1.0%), reflecting the impact of border restrictions on NOM (Figure 1).

Figure 1 Population growth, Queensland



Source: ABS *National, state and territory population*, Dec 2023

¹ Other Services includes a broad range of personal services; religious, civic, professional and other interest group services;

Overseas migration data sources

Overseas migration is defined as the movement of people across international borders. This migration makes a significant contribution to population change in Queensland and Australia. There are two main sources of overseas migration data featured in this publication.

The Australian Department of Home Affairs collects and publishes information on the visa categories of all persons arriving in and departing from Australia, providing data on all cross-border movements irrespective of the duration of the movement.

For the purposes of population estimation, these data are used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to construct estimates of net overseas migration (NOM), with an international traveller counting towards NOM if their duration of stay in or out of Australia is for 12 months or more during a 16-month reference period—this 12-month period does not have to be continuous. Using this '12/16 month' rule, conceptually, NOM is the difference between the number of incoming persons (migrant arrivals) and outgoing persons (migrant departures).

The ABS also compiles NOM estimates by visa category, which differ from Department of Home Affairs movement figures in that only those travellers counted in the NOM definition are included.

For a more detailed explanation of NOM data, refer to the technical notes at the end of this publication.

Quarterly variability in NOM

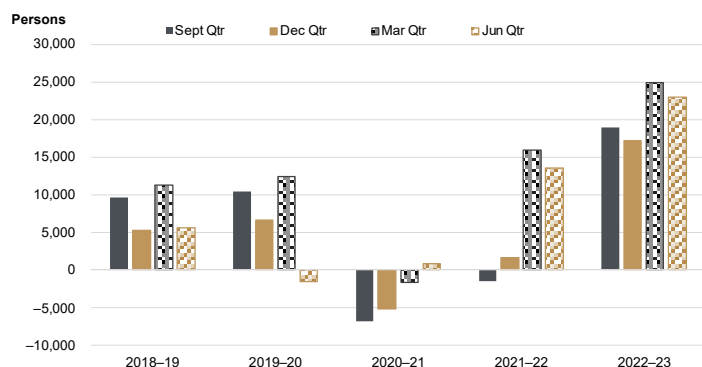
NOM was impacted as a direct result of the international border restrictions, with quarterly NOM data highly variable during the restricted period. Between June quarter 2020 and December quarter 2021, Queensland recorded either NOM losses or historically low levels of NOM gains.

Following the removal of travel restrictions, Queensland's NOM recovered to a gain of 24,887 persons in March quarter 2023, which was the highest quarterly figure recorded in the current timeseries (since July 2006ⁱ). Similarly, June quarter 2023 NOM (22,982 persons) was the second-highest recorded quarterly figure (Figure 2).

selected repair and maintenance activities; and private households employing staff.

Queensland's NOM in March quarter 2023 was the highest quarterly figure recorded in the current timeseries.

Figure 2 NOM by quarter, Queensland

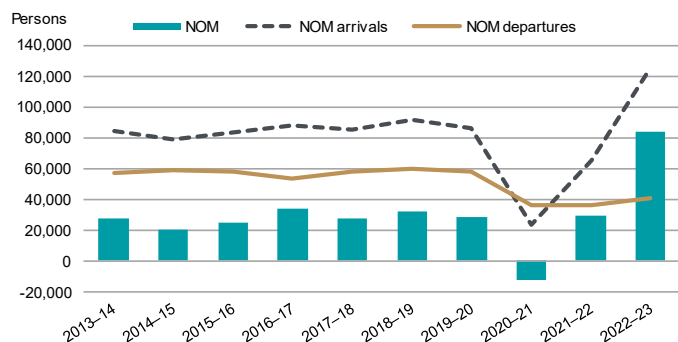


Source: ABS National, state and territory population, Dec 2023

Migrant arrivalsⁱⁱ and departuresⁱⁱⁱ over time

There has been greater quarterly variability in migrant arrival numbers than in migrant departures since March quarter 2020. Annually, migrant arrivals in 2022–23 were almost double the number recorded in 2021–22, while migrant departures were only slightly higher in comparison (Figure 3). There were 124,640 migrant arrivals and 40,640 migrant departures, up 90.5% and 13.5% respectively from the previous year.

Figure 3 NOM, arrivals and departures, Queensland



Source: ABS National, state and territory population, Dec 2023

Queensland accounted for 16.2% of Australia's total NOM gain in 2022–23 (518,090 persons), compared with 14.5% in 2021–22. Queensland recorded the third-largest share of Australia's NOM gain, behind New South Wales (33.6%) and Victoria (29.8%) in 2022–23.

Net overseas migration age and sex profile

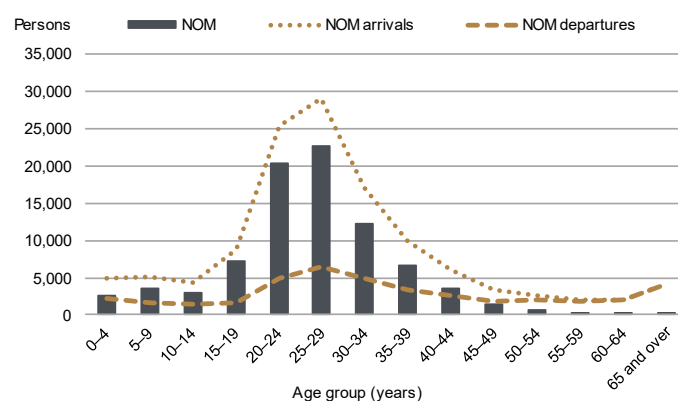
In 2022–23, overseas migrants aged 20–34 years contributed the largest numbers of migrant arrivals to Queensland (57.3%), and the largest numbers of migrant departures (40.0%) (Figure 4).

In 2022–23:

- migrant arrivals to Queensland were greatest among 25–29-year-olds (29,030 persons), followed by those aged 20–24 years (25,380)
- migrant departures were also greatest among 25–29-year-olds (6,390 persons), followed by those aged 20–24 years (4,990).

All age groups experienced NOM gains, ranging from 40 persons for those aged 65 years and over, up to a gain of 22,640 persons for 25–29-year-olds (Figure 4).

Figure 4 NOM by age group, Queensland, 2022–23

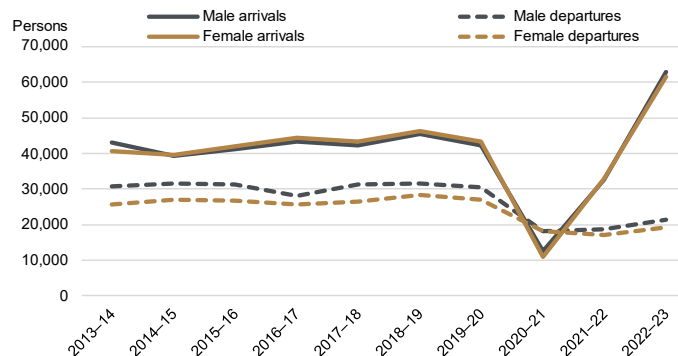


Source: ABS Data Explorer: Net Overseas Migration: Arrivals, departures and net, State/territory, age and sex.

Females accounted for just over half (50.4%) of Queensland's NOM gain in 2022–23. Since 2012–13, females have accounted for more than half of annual NOM gains (or losses), peaking in 2014–15 (61.8%). Male migrant arrivals and departures were higher than those for females in 2022–23, with the differential for migrant departures slightly higher, resulting in a larger NOM gain from females (Figure 5).

Female migrant departures have only once been higher than males – in 2020–21, during the period of disruption due to the COVID-19 related travel restrictions.

Figure 5 Migrant arrivals and departures by sex, Queensland



Source: ABS Data Explorer: Net Overseas Migration: Arrivals, departures and net, State/territory, age and sex.

NOM by major grouping and visa type

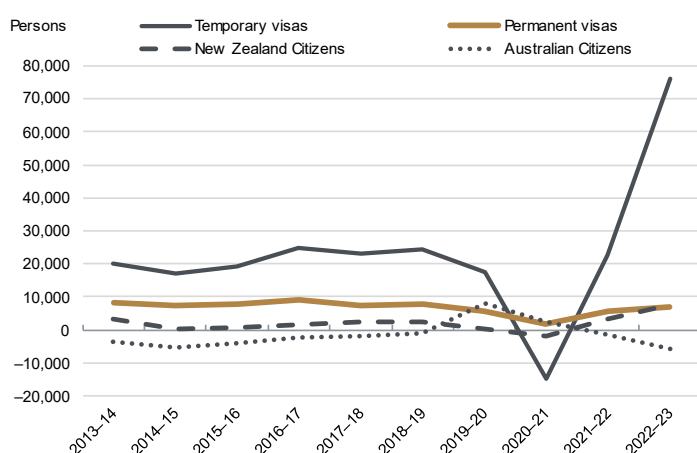
NOM estimates produced by the ABS are available for the following major groupings:

- temporary visas holders
- permanent visas holders
- New Zealand citizens
- Australian citizens.

Following the removal of international travel restrictions during 2021–22, NOM to Queensland for all visa types has recovered, and in 2022–23 reached levels well above the average of pre-pandemic years. NOM gains were recorded for three of the five major visa groups, the exceptions being Australian citizens and 'Other' visas^{iv}.

Temporary visa holders were the largest contributor to Queensland's NOM gain in 2022–23, adding 76,280 persons, which was over three times higher than both the NOM gain experienced in 2021–22 (22,820 persons) and the average gain for the decade preceding the pandemic period (Table 1) (Figure 6).

Figure 6 NOM by major grouping^(a), Queensland



(a) Excludes other visa types^{iv}

Source: ABS Data Explorer: *Overseas migration, arrivals, departures, state/territory, visa and citizenship groups - financial years, 2004-05 onwards.*

In 2022–23, higher education students contributed the largest share of the NOM gain through temporary visa holders (20,500 persons or 26.9%), followed by those on student other visas (14,800 or 19.4%) and those on working holiday visas (13,440 or 17.6%).

NOM gain through New Zealand citizens also doubled in 2022–23 compared to the 2021–22 level (7,470 and 3,430 persons respectively) and was the highest recorded since 2012–13. The number of arrivals from New Zealand in 2022–23 (13,020 persons) was the highest recorded in the past decade, although still well below the peak in 2011–12 (20,850). Departures (5,550 persons) were also higher, however still well below the

7,660 departures recorded in 2018–19, the year immediately preceding the pandemic. Queensland received 30.9% of the national NOM gain for New Zealand citizens, down from 38.6% in 2021–22.

After two years of NOM gains during the COVID-19 affected period, NOM losses of Australian citizens in 2022–23 increased to –5,590 persons, nearly four times larger than the NOM loss experienced in 2021–22 (–1,490), and the largest in the current timeseries.

Other visas recorded a NOM loss in 2022–23, for the sixth consecutive year.

Table 1 NOM by visa type, Queensland and rest of Australia

Visa type	Queensland		Rest of Australia	
	2021–22	2022–23	2021–22	2022–23
	— persons —		— persons —	
Permanent	5,820	6,970	41,630	50,600
Family	2,620	1,760	16,920	13,260
Skill	2,540	4,020	18,630	25,830
Special eligibility and Humanitarian programs	700	1,310	6,970	11,280
Other permanent visas	–50	–130	–880	230
Temporary	22,820	76,280	143,940	400,880
Vocational education & training sector	1,600	6,330	12,870	25,770
Higher education sector	7,520	20,500	75,360	155,160
Student other	3,310	14,800	13,900	45,160
Temporary skilled visas	2,300	6,470	13,390	36,660
Visitor(a)	4,560	11,650	25,750	75,010
Working holiday	3,090	13,440	12,800	53,120
Other temporary visas	450	3,070	–10,140	10,010
New Zealand citizen^(b)	3,430	7,470	5,460	16,740
Australian citizen	–1,490	–5,590	–13,700	–29,450
Other^(c)	–960	–1,130	–3,360	–4,670
Total^(d)	29,630	84,000	173,960	434,090

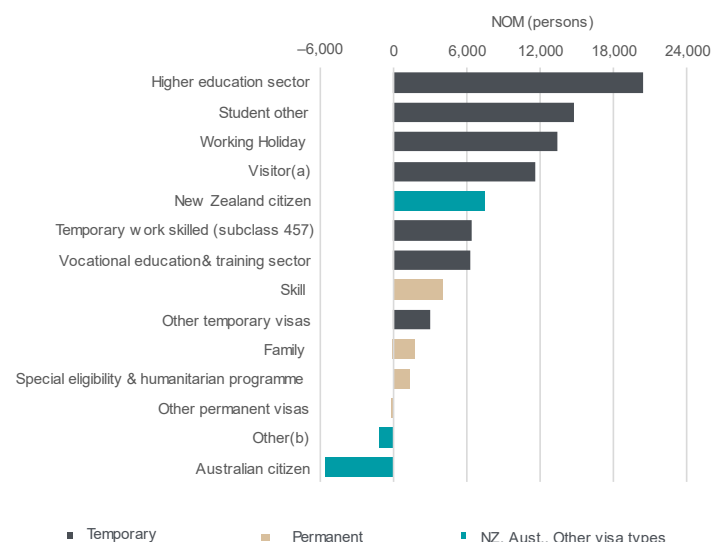
Figures in table rounded to nearest 10.

- (a) Includes tourists, business visitors, medical treatment and other.
- (b) Visa subclass 444 is granted to New Zealand citizens upon arrival in Australia if they have not already been granted another visa.
- (c) Includes residents returning (i.e. non-Australian citizens who are permanent residents), onshore visas and visa unknown.
- (d) Figures in this table have been rounded and, as such, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals.

Source: ABS Data Explorer: *Overseas migration, arrivals, departures, state/territory, visa and citizenship groups - financial years, 2004–05 onwards.*

By visa type, the largest NOM gain occurred among higher education sector visa holders (20,500 persons) followed by student 'other' visas (14,800 persons) (Figure 7). Of permanent visa holders in 2022–23, only 'other' permanent visa holders (–130 persons) recorded a NOM loss.

Figure 7 NOM by visa type, Queensland, 2022–23



- (a) Includes tourists, business visitors, medical treatment and other.
- (b) Includes other visa types, including residents returning (i.e. non-Australian citizens who are permanent residents), onshore visas and visa unknown.

Source: ABS *Overseas Migration*, 2022–23

Temporary visa holders

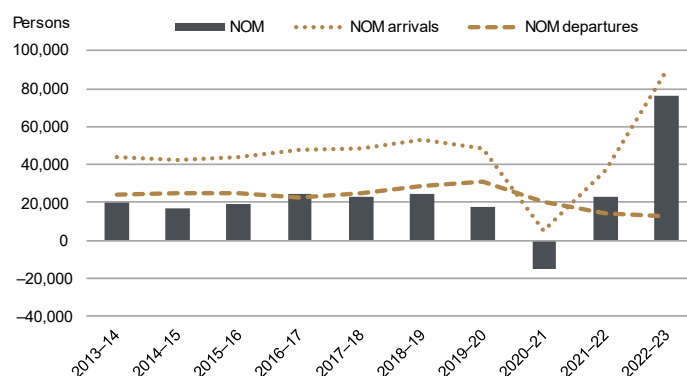
Temporary entrant visas permit people to come to Australia on a temporary basis for specific purposes.

With the exception of a net loss of temporary visa holders in 2020–21 (–15,010 persons), between 2012–13 and 2022–23, temporary visa holders contributed more than half of Queensland's total NOM gain each year. A notable gain of 76,280 persons was recorded in 2022–23, which is over three times higher than 2021–22, and more than twice the previous highest gain recorded in the current timeseries (34,310 in 2008–09) (Figure 8). A substantial increase in arrivals (89,220 persons, up from 37,420 persons in 2021–22) and a continuation of the recent declines in departures (12,940 persons, down from 14,600 persons in 2021–22) have contributed to this record NOM gain for temporary visa holders.

Higher education visa holders accounted for 26.9% of the gain through all temporary visa holders and 24.4% of the Queensland's total NOM gain. Student 'other' visas were the second largest contributor, accounting for 19.4% of persons gained to Queensland's population on temporary visas, and 17.6% of Queensland's NOM gain.

The NOM gain through working holiday visa holders more than quadrupled to 13,440 in 2022–23, due to strong arrivals (14,100) and very few departures (660).

Figure 8 Contribution to NOM, temporary visa holders, Queensland



Source: ABS *Overseas Migration*, 2022–23

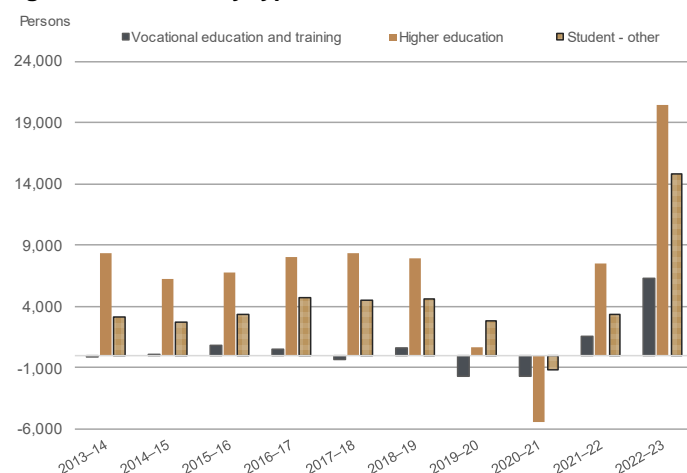
Student temporary visa holders

International border closures during the pandemic disproportionately affected international students, with NOM losses recorded for all student visa types in 2020–21, following a notable contraction in numbers in 2019–20. The recovery in international student numbers experienced in 2021–22 was surpassed in 2022–23, with a record NOM gain of 41,630 students for Queensland. This figure is over three times higher than in 2021–22, and more than double the previous peak recorded in 2008–09 (18,280 persons).

Higher education visa holders contributed the most to this increase, with a gain of 20,500 students in 2022–23 (Figure 9). This figure alone exceeds the annual NOM gain for all student visa types in previous years and is more than 2.5 times larger than the 2021–22 gain.

Both vocational education and training (VET) (6,330 persons) and student 'other' visas (14,800) also recorded gains in the year to 30 June 2023. The gain for VET students was the largest since 2008–09 (6,980) and follows a period of fluctuation between gains and losses.

Figure 9 NOM by type of student visa, Queensland



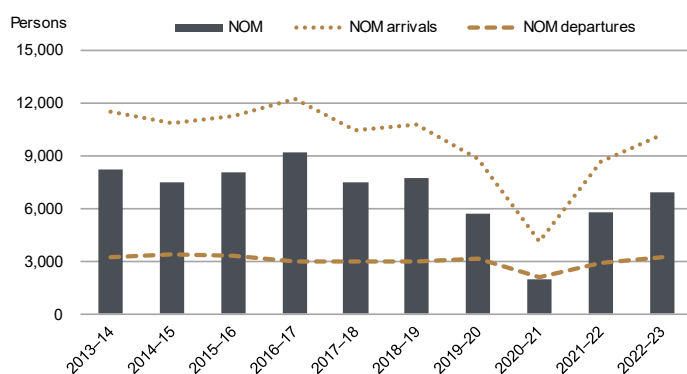
Source: ABS *Overseas Migration*, 2022–23

Permanent visa holders

Permanent visa holders reflect visas granted under Australia's permanent immigration program, which is designed to meet Australia's economic and social objectives. It has two components: the Migration Program for skilled and family migrants, and the Humanitarian Program for refugees and others in humanitarian need.

There was a NOM gain of 6,970 permanent visa holders in 2022–23, up by nearly 20% from the gain in 2021–22 (5,820 persons). Numbers were, however, still below the level in each of the five years immediately prior to the period affected by border restrictions (Figure 10).

Figure 10 Contribution to NOM, permanent visa holders, Queensland



Source: ABS Overseas Migration, 2022–23

The NOM gain for permanent visa holders was primarily comprised of permanent skilled visa holders (4,020 persons or 57.7%), followed by family visa holders (1,760 or 25.3%) and special eligibility and humanitarian visa holders (1,310 or 18.8%).

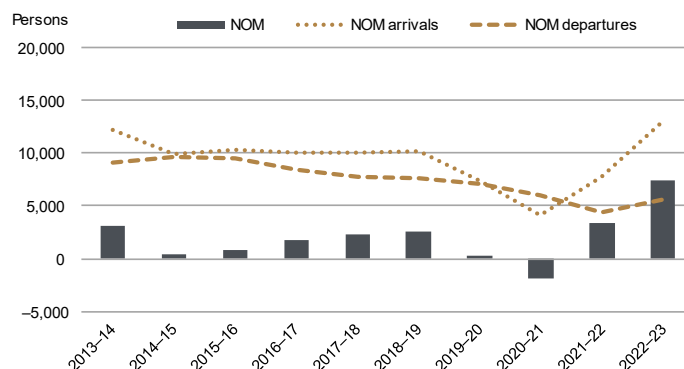
New Zealand citizens

New Zealand citizens can travel to Australia without a visa and will usually be granted a Special Category visa (subclass 444) on arrival in Australia. This visa is unique under Australian migration law as it is a temporary visa that allows New Zealanders to remain in Australia indefinitely with no associated employment restrictions. As a result, many New Zealand citizens do not consider applying for a permanent visa.

Queensland accounted for 30.9% of the national NOM gain of 24,210 New Zealand citizens in 2022–23.

Queensland has experienced a NOM gain of New Zealand citizens every year in the current timeseries, with the exception of 2020–21. In 2022–23 there was a NOM gain of 7,470 New Zealand citizens, which accounted for 8.9% of Queensland's overall NOM gain (Figure 11). The gain for New Zealand citizens was the largest since 2012–13 (10,530 persons) and was driven by a marked increase in migrant arrivals (up 67.6%), combined with a more moderate recovery in migrant departures (27.9%).

Figure 11 Contribution to NOM, New Zealand citizens, Queensland

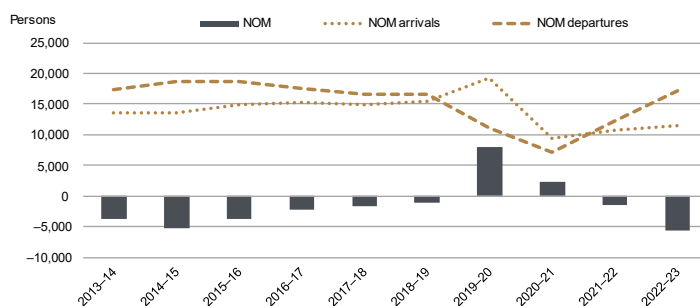


Source: ABS Overseas Migration, 2022–23

Australian citizens

Historically, Queensland has experienced a small net loss of Australian citizens most years in the time series (from 2006–07). However, during the first two pandemic-affected years there were net gains for this group. In 2021–22, there was a return to a loss of Australian citizens (–1,490 persons), with a more substantial loss recorded in 2022–23 (–5,590 persons)—the largest recorded in the time series (since 2006–07). This was due to departures increasing more rapidly than arrivals (up 39.0% and 6.4% respectively). While arrivals of Australian citizens in 2022–23 were below the levels experienced in the pre-pandemic period, departures have recovered to levels similar to the pre-pandemic years and were the highest since 2016–17 (Figure 12).

Figure 12 Contribution to NOM, Australian citizens, Queensland



Source: ABS Overseas Migration, 2022–23

Net overseas migration by country of birth

The countries of birth of those contributing to the NOM gain in Queensland were less concentrated in 2022–23 compared with pre-pandemic years.

While people born in India again accounted for the largest proportion of the NOM gain to Queensland in 2022–23, representing nearly 1 in 8 additions to the population from NOM (13.2%), this was a notably lower proportion than in 2018–19 (last full year pre-COVID

pandemic), when they accounted for almost 1 in 4 additions (24.2%). However, in overall numbers, Indian-born NOM additions increased by 44.5% compared with 2018–19 and are the highest level recorded since the current timeseries began.

People born in China and the Philippines also recorded gains of over 7,000 persons (7,850 and 7,650 persons respectively), with the 2022–23 NOM gain from China over six times larger than the previous year (Table 2).

Key countries of birth for NOM have traditionally reflected the demand for higher education and both temporary and permanent employment from middle-income countries. Following losses or substantial contractions in NOM in 2020–21 for the usual key source countries (India, Philippines and China), the recovery started in 2021–22 continued in 2022–23. China and India remain in the top 10 countries of birth for NOM gains, while Japan (2,360 persons or 2.6% of the total) entered the top 10 for the first time in the decade to 2022–23.

After a loss in 2020–21 (–250 persons) followed by a small gain in 2021–22 (920), the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man (UK, CI and IOM) has returned to the top 10 countries of birth for NOM gain to Queensland, with a gain of 3,880 persons, the highest since 2012–13.

Colombia and Brazil also returned to the top 10 for NOM gains, with arrivals from both countries at their highest levels since the current timeseries from 2006–07 began (5,440 and 3,960 persons respectively).

Table 2 NOM by country of birth, Queensland

Country of birth	Rank	2022–23	2021–22	2022–23
		—persons—		%
India	1	11,100	3,580	13.2
China	2	7,850	1,290	9.3
Philippines	3	7,650	2,330	9.1
Colombia	4	5,440	290	6.5
New Zealand	5	5,150	2,190	6.1
Brazil	6	3,960	950	4.7
UK, CI & IOM	7	3,880	920	4.6
Taiwan	8	2,850	730	3.4
Japan	9	2,360	630	2.8
South Africa	10	2,310	1,330	2.8
Other	..	31,450	15,450	37.4
Total	..	84,000	29,690	100.0

Figures in table rounded to nearest 10 and, as such, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals.

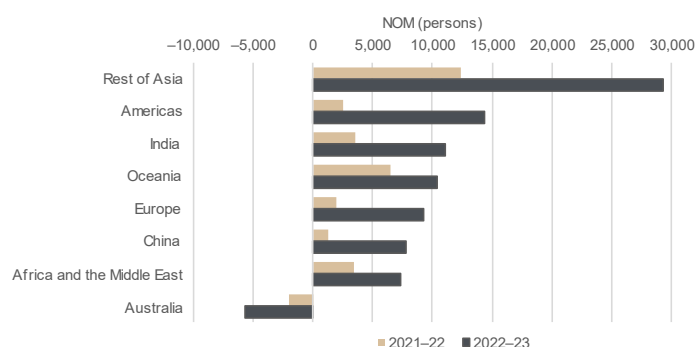
Source: ABS *Overseas Migration, 2022–23*

As a group, persons born in countries in the ‘Rest of Asia’ (excluding India and China) contributed the largest proportion to Queensland’s NOM gain (34.9%), and when combined with India and China, the total NOM gain from

people with an Asian country of birth accounted for nearly 6 in 10 of the total NOM gain to Queensland (57.5%) in 2022–23.

A dramatic increase in NOM gains for most groups was seen in 2022–23, with a six-fold increase in gains for persons born in the Americas and China (Figure 13).

Figure 13 NOM by country of birth (broad group), Queensland



Source: ABS *Overseas Migration, 2022–23*

Department of Home Affairs data

Temporary resident (skilled) visas

The Australian Government abolished the Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) and replaced it with the new Temporary Skill Shortage (subclass 482) visa from March 2018². The time series, Temporary resident (skilled) visa data, reported below includes both visa types.

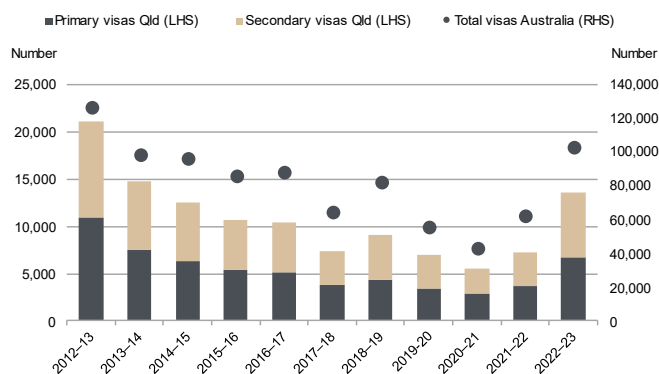
Visa grant figures in this section are sourced from Department of Home Affairs and are not comparable to NOM figures released by the ABS.

Note that not all visa grants will result in people arriving to Queensland.

Visa grants

The annual grant of temporary skilled visas for both primary and secondary applicants³ in Queensland increased by 87.5% between 2021–22 (7,267 visa grants) and 2022–23 (13,627). This was the second consecutive year of growth in visa grants, following a declining trend for visa grants between 2012–13 and the low recorded in 2020–21. The number of visa grants for temporary skilled visas in 2022–23 was the highest since 2013–14 and reflected the increase at the national level (Figure 14).

Figure 14 Temporary resident (skilled) visas granted, Queensland and Australia



Source: Department of Home Affairs BP0014 Temporary Work (skilled) visas granted 2022–23 to 30 June 2023, October 2023.

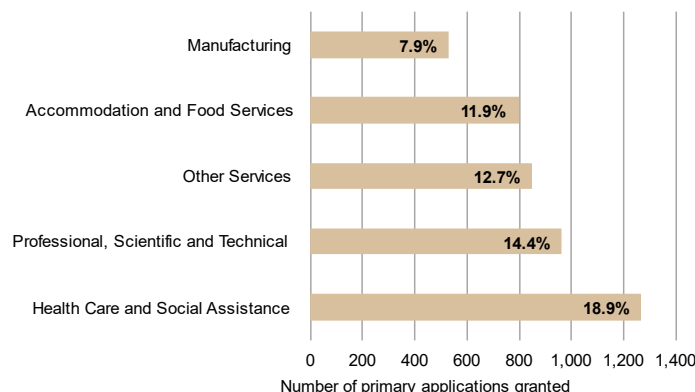
Queensland was the third-highest nominated position location for primary visa grants in 2022–23 (13.0%), behind New South Wales (41.5%) and Victoria (27.9%).

Sponsor industry

In 2022–23, the top five sponsor industries⁴ for primary temporary skilled visas granted for nominated positions in Queensland were health care and social assistance (18.9%), professional, scientific and technical (14.4%),

other services (12.7%), accommodation and food services (11.9%), and manufacturing (7.9%) (Figure 15).

Figure 15 Top five nominated sponsor industries, nominated positions in Queensland, 2022–23



Source: Department of Home Affairs BP0014 Temporary Work (Skilled) visas granted 2022–23 to 30 June 2023, October 2023.

Health care and social assistance accounted for almost 1 in 5 (18.9%) of the temporary skilled work visas granted for positions located in Queensland in 2022–23 and has been the industry with the highest share since 2014–15. The number of visa grants for health care and social assistance in 2022–23 (1,268 visa grants) was also the highest for any industry in the past 10 years.

The sponsor industries of education and training and mining have both seen notable declines compared with the proportions of visa grants for temporary skilled workers recorded a decade earlier, with education and training decreasing from 7.0% in 2013–14 to 1.7% in 2022–23, and mining down from 9.6% to 5.6% over the same period.

Nominated occupation

The top three nominated occupations⁵ for primary visas granted for Queensland in 2022–23 were:

- resident medical officer (10.0%)
- chef (6.5%)
- motor mechanic (general) (3.9%).

Three occupations have consistently ranked in the top five for Queensland over the past five years: resident medical officer, chef, and cook. The number of visa grants to cooks has been steadily declining over the last 10 years, from 469 visa grants in 2013–14 to 146 visa grants in 2022–23. For the first time since 2012–13, café or restaurant manager has dropped out of the top five and has been replaced with motor mechanic (general),

² <https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Work/457-abolition-replacement>

³ A secondary applicant is generally a dependant of the primary applicant and can work and study in Australia.

⁴ Sponsors self-identify with an industry classification when lodging a nomination or sponsorship.

⁵ Occupation that the primary visa holder will be filling — not the previous or usual occupation of the visa applicant.

which has seen an increase from 59 visas granted in 2021–22 to 264 in 2022–23.

Resident medical officer has been the occupation with the largest proportion of primary visa grants since 2016–17, and grew from 1.8% of all occupations for visa grants to Queensland in 2013–14, to a high of 17.1% in 2020–21, however has subsequently declined to 10.0% in 2022–23.

Country of citizenship

For the first time since the timeseries commenced in 2005–06, the Philippines became the country of citizenship most frequently cited in primary visas granted for nominated positions in Queensland (15.6%), followed by the United Kingdom (13.8%) and India (12.4%).

Together, these three countries accounted for 41.8% of primary visa grants in 2022–23, up from 38.0% in 2021–22 (Table 3).

Table 3 Top 10 citizenship countries, primary applicants, Queensland, 2022–23

Country of citizenship		Visas granted	
		no.	%
1	Philippines	1,047	15.6
2	United Kingdom	926	13.8
3	India	833	12.4
4	South Africa	407	6.1
5	Sri Lanka	299	4.5
6	China ^(a) , People's Republic of	254	3.8
7	Korea, South	209	3.1
8	Brazil	179	2.7
9	Ireland, Republic of	161	2.4
10	Malaysia	147	2.2
	Other	2,248	33.5
	Total	6,710	100.0

(a) Excludes Special Administrative Regions and Taiwan.

Source: Department of Home Affairs *BP0014 Temporary Work (skilled) visas granted 2022–23 to 30 June 2023*, October 2023.

Location within Queensland

More than 1 in 4 temporary skilled visas in 2022–23 were granted for primary applicants with nominated positions located in the Brisbane Inner City Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4) (28.7% or 1,927 visa grants) (Table 4).

In the same year, almost 1 in 3 temporary skilled visas were granted for nominated positions located outside of South East Queensland (32.2% or 2,159 visa grants)⁶.

Table 4 Temporary resident (skilled) visa grants (primary applicants) by nominated position location, Queensland, 2022–23

Nominated position location ^(a)	Visas granted	
	no.	%
Brisbane Inner City	1,927	28.7
Gold Coast	590	8.8
Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday	440	6.6
Brisbane - South	424	6.3
Central Queensland	364	5.4
Sunshine Coast	297	4.4
Ipswich	292	4.4
Darling Downs - Maranoa	276	4.1
Cairns	265	3.9
Brisbane - North	263	3.9
Townsville	259	3.9
Wide Bay	256	3.8
Logan - Beaudesert	232	3.5
Brisbane - East	225	3.4
Queensland - Outback	158	2.4
Toowoomba	141	2.1
Moreton Bay - North	121	1.8
Brisbane - West	86	1.3
Moreton Bay - South	86	1.3
Not Specified	8	0.1
Total	6,710	100.0

(a) 2016 Australian Statistical Geography Standard, SA4

Source: Department of Home Affairs *BP0014 Temporary Work (skilled) visas granted 2022–23 to 30 June 2023*, October 2023.

Visa holders living in Queensland

There were 9,336 primary temporary skilled visa holders with a nominated position location in Queensland on 30 June 2023, a notable increase from a year earlier (38.0%) and the highest figure since June 2018. Nationally, the number of visa holders also increased by 35.9% over the same period. Queensland accounted for 13.3% of the national total of visa holders (70,377) on 30 June 2023.

In 2022–23, more than 2 in 5 (45.0%) temporary skilled visa holders in Queensland were in nominated occupations within the Professionals major grouping, while the most commonly nominated individual occupations were chef (8.9%), resident medical officer (7.5%) and motor mechanic (general) (3.4%).

The top two occupations were also the top two for the past four years, with 'motor mechanic (general)' surpassing 'software engineer' to become the third-

⁶ For the purposes of this publication, South East Queensland is defined as the aggregation of the Greater Brisbane Greater Capital City Statistical Area with the Gold Coast and Sunshine Coast SA4s.

largest occupation for skilled work visas with a nominated location in Queensland in 2022–23.

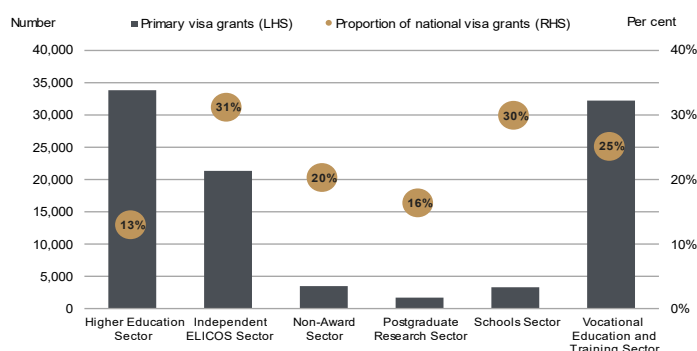
Student visas

In 2022–23, 107,250 student visas were granted for education providers registered in Queensland, and 89.2% of these were primary visa grants. Compared with 2021–22, this represented a 125.3% increase in the number of student visas granted and is the highest figure recorded since the current timeseries began in 2005–06.

In 2022–23, the higher education sector accounted for the largest proportion (35.4%) of the primary student visa grants in Queensland, followed closely by the VET sector (33.6%). These two sectors combined accounted for nearly 7 in 10 primary student visa grants.

With similar outcomes to 2021–22, Queensland's primary visa grants for students in the higher education sector in 2022–23 accounted for 13.0% of the national total for this sector. Compared with its share of the national population (20.5%), Queensland was overrepresented in the independent ELICOS⁷, schools and VET sectors (31.1%, 29.8% and 25.1% respectively) (Figure 16).

Figure 16 Primary student visa grants and national share, by sector, for Queensland registered providers 2022–23



Source: Department of Home Affairs *BP0015 Pivot Table: Student visas granted pivot table*. Accessed 04/01/2024.

A comparison of Queensland's student visa grants in 2022–23 with 2021–22, shows significant increases across all sectors. Except for the higher education sector, primary student visa grants have more than doubled compared with the previous year, and for all except the non-award sector (–17.6%), have returned to levels higher than the pre-pandemic period (2018–19). The largest increase proportionally was for primary student grants in the independent ELICOS sector (up 75.1% on 2018–19 and 273.8% on 2021–22). Compared with the pre-pandemic year, primary visa grants were also notably higher for postgraduate research (47.6%), VET (46.6%) and higher education (23.9%) sectors.

Over half (53.7%) of primary student visa grants in 2022–23 for study in institutions registered in Queensland were granted to citizens from just five countries (Table 5):

- India (14,566 visa grants)
- People's Republic of China (13,196)
- Colombia (9,076)
- Brazil (7,944)
- Philippines (6,626).

Table 5 Top 10 citizenship countries, temporary student visas granted^(a) in 2022–23, Queensland^(b)

Country of citizenship		Visas granted	
		no.	%
1	India	14,566	15.2
2	China ^(c) , People's Republic of	13,196	13.8
3	Colombia	9,076	9.5
4	Brazil	7,944	8.3
5	Philippines	6,626	6.9
6	Thailand	4,008	4.2
7	Nepal	3,573	3.7
8	Japan	2,417	2.5
9	Korea, South	2,086	2.2
10	Pakistan	2,019	2.1
	Other	30,205	31.6
Total		95,716	100.0

(a) Primary applications only.

(b) Granted for study at an education provider registered in Queensland.

(c) Excludes Special Administrative Regions and Taiwan.

Source: Department of Home Affairs *BP0015 Pivot Table: Student visas granted pivot table*. Accessed 04/01/2024.

All top 10 countries saw increases in the number of primary visas granted for students compared with 2021–22. The largest percentage increase in grants to students was to citizens of Colombia (up 373.4% or 7,159 visa grants).

However, not all countries in the top 10 returned to levels at or above pre-pandemic levels, with South Korea (–22.7%), Nepal (–21.9%), and Japan (–3.8%) all recording primary student grants in 2022–23 that were lower than the in 2018–19.

Notable increases in primary student visa grants were recorded for Kenya and Fiji in 2022–23, both more than 10 times higher than their pre-pandemic levels (compared with 2018–19) and exceeding 1,200 students for the first time in the current timeseries.

⁷ ELICOS is the common abbreviation for English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students.

Migration Program

Figures in this section are sourced from the Department of Home Affairs and are not comparable to NOM figures released by the ABS. This section contains figures on outcomes under the permanent Migration Program.

Migration program outcomes consist of two components:

1. Persons who were in Australia on a temporary basis and were granted a permanent visa while in Australia. These are referred to as 'onshore'.
2. Persons who made an initial arrival from overseas on a permanent visa granted while they were outside Australia. These are termed 'settler arrivals'.

The state of intended residence is derived from information given by settler arrivals on passenger cards and the current state of residence of persons within the onshore component.

Onshore protection permanent visa grants are excluded.

Migration program outcome by migration pathway⁸

In 2022–23, the total permanent Migration program outcome for Queensland was 24,927 places, comprising 7,749 settler arrivals and 17,178 persons granted permanent residence while residing in Queensland on a temporary visa (Table 6).

Table 6 Migration program outcomes^(a) by migration pathway — settler arrivals and onshore program, Queensland, 2022–23

Visa type	Onshore program	Settler arrivals	Total permanent additions	
	persons	persons	persons	%
Family	4,503	2,385	6,888	27.6
Skilled	12,675	5,364	18,039	72.4
Special eligibility	0	0	0	0.0
Total^(a)	17,178	7,749	24,927	100.0
	Per cent			
Family	65.4	34.6	..	100.0
Skilled	70.3	29.7	..	100.0
Special eligibility	0.0	0.0
Total^(a)	68.9	31.1	..	100.0

.. = not applicable

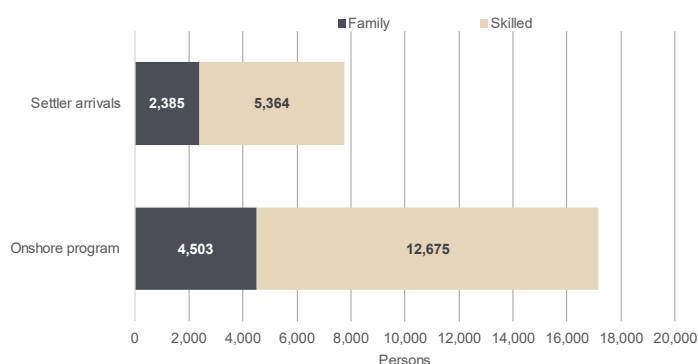
(a) Outcomes under the Migration Program only. Outcomes under non-program migration are not presented.

Source: Department of Home Affairs BP0068L *Permanent Migration Program (Skilled & Family) Outcomes Snapshot – Annual Statistics 2013–14 to 2022–23*, accessed January 2024

The skilled stream returned to account for the largest proportion of the Migration Program in 2022–23 (72.4% or 18,039 persons), increasing from a low of 49.1% in 2020–21. There were 6,888 places delivered to Queensland for family visa holders during 2022–23, accounting for a further 27.6% of Queensland's migration program outcome.

As a proportion of the total Migration program, 31.1% of outcomes were to offshore applicants, down from 2021–22, however higher than both 2019–20 and 2021–22 (25.2% and 26.3% respectively). Onshore migration program places have consistently been higher than settler arrivals over the 10 years to 2022–23.

Figure 17 Permanent additions by migration pathway and visa type, 2021–22, Queensland



Source: Department of Home Affairs BP00241 *Permanent additions to Australia's resident population 2022–23*, January 2024

Both family and skilled migration pathways recorded more permanent additions through the onshore program than settler arrivals (65.4% and 70.3% respectively).

In 2022–23 most migration program places for family visa holders were given to people on partner visas, 80.7% or 5,559 persons, compared with 12.7% on parent visas (876 persons).

Skilled visa holders

Persons with a skilled visa type accounted for the largest proportion of permanent additions to Queensland, representing more than 7 in 10 (72.4% or 18,039 persons) of total migration program outcomes in 2022–23, up from 58.5% in 2021–22, and the highest proportion over the last decade.

Skilled independent visa holders in 2022–23 accounted for the largest share of the skilled visa category with around 1 in 3 (32.3%) or 5,824 persons, followed by employer-sponsored visa holders 25.6% (4,624 persons).

Of the migration program outcomes for Queensland under the skilled independent visa type in 2022–23, 84.1% were onshore, including 90.0% of primary

⁸ Data based on visa sub-class at time of arrival for settlers.



applicants – the highest proportion of all the skilled visa types. Under this visa type, invited workers, eligible New Zealand citizens⁹ and eligible Hong Kong or British National (Overseas) passport holders can live and work permanently in Australia. New Zealand citizens accounted for 45.4% of the total outcomes for skilled independent visa holders in 2022–23, followed by Indian citizens (9.5%).

Queensland accounted for a larger proportion of the national skilled independent visa holder migration program outcomes in the last five years (18.1% in 2022–23), up from less than 9% in the five years to 2017–18, and coinciding with the introduction of the New Zealand stream in this visa type.

⁹ The Skilled Independent (subclass 189) (New Zealand stream) visa permanently closed to new applications on 1 July 2023.



Technical notes

Net overseas migration (NOM)

NOM data sourced from: ABS, *National, state and territory population*, published 14 December 2023.

NOM statistics from the September quarter 2011 onwards have been revised based on new methods introduced by the ABS to account for Department of Home Affairs' discontinuation of outgoing passenger cards.

NOM estimates prior to 30 June 2022 are final, based on actual traveller behaviour. Estimates for 30 September 2022 to 31 March 2023 are revised and estimates for 30 June 2023 are preliminary based on modelled traveller behaviour and are subject to revisions.

Estimates for the September quarter 2006 onwards use an improved methodology based on the '12/16 month' rule and are not directly comparable with estimates from earlier periods. As a result, in the NOM section of this publication, analysis of time series data has only been undertaken from 2006–07 onwards.

Refer to the methodology section of the source publication for further information.

Migration Program

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

Australia's Migration Program is set annually and runs from 1 July to 30 June of each financial year. The size and composition of the Migration Program is set each year through the Australian Government's Budget process.

There are three streams in the Migration Program:

- The Skill stream is designed to improve the productive capacity of the economy and fill skill shortages in the labour market, including those in regional Australia.
- The Family stream enables Australian citizens and permanent residents to reunite with family members from overseas. The Family stream includes the Partner and Child visa categories, which are demand driven.
- The Special Eligibility stream covers visas for those in special circumstances that do not fit into the other streams. This can include permanent residents returning to the country after a period away.

Disclaimer

Population and migration data in this report were the most recent available at the time of preparation. Complete accuracy of figures is not claimed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics or the Department of Home Affairs and should not be assumed.

ⁱ Due to changes in the methods used to measure overseas migration estimates, caution should be used comparing them over time. This is especially so for estimates based on the '12/12 month rule' method (prior to 1 July 2006) compared to those using the '12/16 month rule' method.

In Australia, for the purposes of overseas migration (or international migration), a person is added to the population if they have been (or expect to be) residing in Australia for 12 months or more (i.e. an overseas migrant arrival) thus becoming an Australian resident. Likewise, an Australian resident is removed from the population if they leave Australia for 12 months or more (i.e. an overseas migrant departure). The 12 months does not have to be continuous and is measured over a 16-month period.

Prior to 1 July 2006, overseas migration estimation methods used a '12/12 month rule' to determine if a traveller contributed to Australia's estimated resident population (ERP). For a person to have immigrated or emigrated, they must have stayed in, or been absent from, Australia for a continuous period of 12 out of 12 months.

ⁱⁱ Overseas migrant arrivals (immigrants) are incoming international travellers who stay in Australia for 12 months or more over a 16-month period, who are not currently counted within the population, and are then added to Australia's population.

ⁱⁱⁱ Overseas migrant departures (emigrants) are outgoing international travellers who leave Australia for 12 months or more over a 16-month period, who are currently counted within the population, and are then subtracted from the population.

^{iv} Other visas include residents returning (i.e. non-Australian citizens who are permanent residents), onshore visas and visa unknown.