This bulletin contains information on overseas arrivals to Queensland between 1996 and 2001. The data on which this information is based were obtained from unpublished results from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2001 Census of Population and Housing. Please note that persons who did not state their place of usual residence, employment status, income level, etc. were redistributed across other categories on a share of population basis.

Key points

- A total of 128,500 persons or 3.9 per cent of the usual resident population of Queensland in 2001 had been residents of an overseas country in 1996.
- Of these overseas arrivals, 26.5 per cent were born in New Zealand, 20.9 per cent in Asia and 11.8 per cent in the United Kingdom and Ireland.
- Most overseas arrivals between 1996 and 2001 settled in Brisbane (57.9 per cent) and Moreton (26.0 per cent) statistical divisions.
- Slightly more females than males were among the overseas arrivals, especially in the 25-34 years age group.
- Overseas arrivals had a younger age profile than the general population.
- The representation of managers, administrators and professionals was high among overseas arrivals compared with the rest of the population. However, overseas arrivals were more likely to be unemployed than the general population.
- The proportion of overseas arrivals with an income above $15,000 was comparable with the rest of the population.

Introduction

The latest Census of Population and Housing included questions on where the respondent’s usual address was in 2001 and in 1996. The Census questionnaire also asked the country of birth of the respondent. The results from these questions allow the identification of overseas arrivals to Queensland between 1996 and 2001, and the identification of additional information about these people.

This bulletin presents a range of comparisons between overseas arrivals and the incumbent Queensland population (defined as persons who did not move from a Queensland usual residence between 1996 and 2001, persons who moved within a Queensland statistical division and persons who moved between Queensland statistical divisions). It should be noted that the data on overseas arrivals include a substantial number of Australian-born persons who were living overseas in 1996 and who returned to live in Queensland between 1996 and 2001.

With the two previous census bulletins on interstate and intrastate migration, net migration levels were shown. However, this is not possible with overseas arrivals because if a person is no longer a resident of Australia, they will not have filled out a 2001 Census form. The data also exclude those persons aged less than five years in 2001, as they obviously had no address in 1996.

Migration status

Queensland’s usual resident population aged five years and over was 3,261,300 at the time of the 2001 Census. Nearly half (49.1 per cent) of these Queensland residents were living in the same place in 2001 as in 1996. A further 30.1 per cent of the population moved but were in the same statistical division as in 1996, 9.3 per cent moved between statistical divisions in Queensland, 7.5 per cent moved from interstate and 3.9 per cent moved from overseas (see Figure 1 and Table 1).

This bulletin presents information on the 3.9 per cent of Queensland residents in 2001 who had moved to Queensland from overseas since 1996. Previous bulletins provided information on interstate migrants (7.5 per cent of residents) and intrastate migrants (9.3 per cent).

Figure 1: Usual residents aged five years and over by usual address five years earlier, Queensland, 2001

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Migration status</th>
<th>Persons ('000)</th>
<th>Per cent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did not move</td>
<td>1,601.1</td>
<td>49.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moved within same SD</td>
<td>983.2</td>
<td>30.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moved between Qld SDs</td>
<td>303.2</td>
<td>9.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qld incumbent population</td>
<td>2,887.5</td>
<td>88.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moved from interstate</td>
<td>245.3</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moved from overseas</td>
<td>128.5</td>
<td>3.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qld migrants</td>
<td>373.8</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>3,261.3</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SD = statistical division

Source: ABS, 2001 Census, unpublished data (OESR estimates)

The migration data shown in this bulletin differ from some of the information in various ABS publications. See the technical note at the end of this bulletin.
Birthplace of overseas arrivals

In 2001, there were 128,500 persons residing in Queensland who had been residing overseas in 1996. New Zealand was the birthplace of 26.5 per cent of these overseas arrivals, followed by Asia with 20.9 per cent (see Figure 2). Traditional source regions of the United Kingdom and Ireland and balance of Europe were the birthplace of only a fifth (19.7 per cent) of overseas arrivals. Australian-born persons returning from a period of residence overseas to settle in Queensland contributed another 15.8 per cent.

Figure 2: Overseas arrivals by region of birth, Queensland, 1996 to 2001

Source: ABS, 2001 Census, unpublished data (OESR estimates)

Regional destination of overseas arrivals

The majority of overseas arrivals settled in the south-east corner of Queensland, with about 84 per cent of arrivals settling in either Brisbane (57.9 per cent) or Moreton (26.0 per cent) statistical divisions (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Overseas arrivals by statistical division of settlement, Queensland, 1996 to 2001

(a) Western Queensland comprises South West, Central West and North West statistical divisions.
Source: ABS, 2001 Census, unpublished data (OESR estimates)

Sex and age of overseas arrivals

Of total overseas arrivals to Queensland between 1996 and 2001, 62,200 were males and 66,300 were females, representing a male to female ratio of 48:52. The imbalance in gender numbers is mainly due to the greater number of women compared with men in the 25-34 years age group (see Figure 4).

Figure 4: Sex and age of overseas arrivals, Queensland, 1996 to 2001

Source: ABS, 2001 Census, unpublished data (OESR estimates)

With a median age group of 25-34 years, overseas arrivals had a markedly younger profile than the incumbent Queensland population with a median age group of 35-44 years (see Figure 5).

The biggest difference between overseas arrivals and the incumbent Queensland population was in the 25-34 years age group, which accounted for 25.5 per cent of overseas arrivals and 14.4 per cent of the incumbent population. In the older age groups (from 55-64 years onwards), the proportion of overseas arrivals was less than half that of the incumbent population.

Figure 5: Age structure of overseas arrivals to Queensland, 1996 to 2001, and incumbent Queensland population, 2001

Source: ABS, 2001 Census, unpublished data (OESR estimates)

Occupations of overseas arrivals

The most noticeable aspect of the occupational status of overseas arrivals was the high representation in the managers, administrators and professionals category. A total of 30.7 per cent of overseas arrivals were in this group compared with only 24.5 per cent of the incumbent Queensland population (see Figure 6).

Compared with the incumbent population, the overseas arrivals group was under-represented in the tradespersons and related workers category and in the intermediate production and transport workers category.
Unemployment of overseas arrivals

At the time of the 2001 Census, overseas arrivals in the labour force had an unemployment rate of 13.8 per cent (see Figure 7). This was substantially higher than the 7.6 per cent for the incumbent Queensland population, but was similar to the interstate arrivals rate of 13.9 per cent.

Income levels of overseas arrivals

Almost one in five (18.5 per cent) overseas arrivals reported a nil or negative income level compared with only 6.0 per cent of the incumbent Queensland population (see Figure 9). The other major difference was the relatively low proportion of overseas arrivals in the $8,320 to $15,599 annual income range (or $160 to $300 a week) at 16.2 per cent compared with 25.2 per cent for the incumbent Queensland population.
Technical note

The ABS has published information on interstate migration in *Census of Population and Housing: Population Growth and Distribution, Australia, 2001*, cat. no. 2035.0, and *Australian Demographic Statistics, December quarter 2002*, cat. no. 3101.0. The ABS method of determining net migration includes both Census data and Medicare change-of-address data.

The estimates shown in this bulletin are based solely on usual residence Census data, and exclude persons whose usual address in 1996 was either ‘Queensland undefined’, ‘migratory and off-shore’ or ‘no usual address’. Persons who had a ‘not stated’ place of usual residence in 1996 were redistributed on a share of population basis.

Queensland Treasury

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