

# Overseas migration, Queensland, 2019–20

Statistics in this release are partially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The closure of the international border by the Australian Government from 20 March 2020 directly impacted the level of international arrivals and departures, and consequently net overseas migration levels.

## Key points

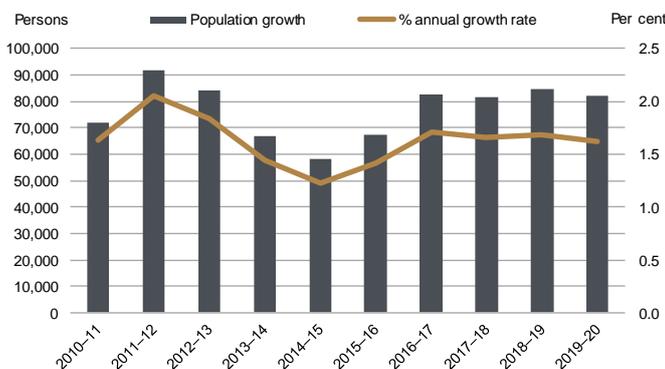
- Queensland's net overseas migration (NOM) was 28,625 persons in 2019–20, 9.8% lower than the 31,749 recorded in 2018–19.
- Temporary visa holders (61.9%) represented the largest contribution to Queensland's NOM in 2019–20, followed by Australian citizens (29.9%), permanent visa holders (19.8%) and New Zealand citizens (0.9%). A NOM loss occurred in the 'other' visa holder (–12.6%) category.
- In 2019–20, the top five sponsor industries for primary temporary skilled visas granted for nominated positions in Queensland were: health care and social assistance (24.3%); professional, scientific and technical (12.1%); other services<sup>1</sup> (10.6%); accommodation and food services (10.1%), and manufacturing (8.5%).

## Net overseas migration

### Population change and net overseas migration

Queensland recorded very strong population growth for many years. At its peak, from 2006–07 to 2008–09, over 100,000 persons were added each year, with the annual growth rate reaching 2.6% during this period. Since then, annual population growth in Queensland has moderated, falling to a low of 58,039 persons (1.2% growth rate) in 2014–15. Population growth in 2019–20 (83,302) was similar to the level in 2018–19 (84,460) with a slightly lower growth rate (1.6% compared with 1.7%) (Figure 1).

Figure 1 Population growth, Queensland



Source: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, March 2021

## 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 travellers (NOM arrivals) and outgoing travellers (NOM departures).

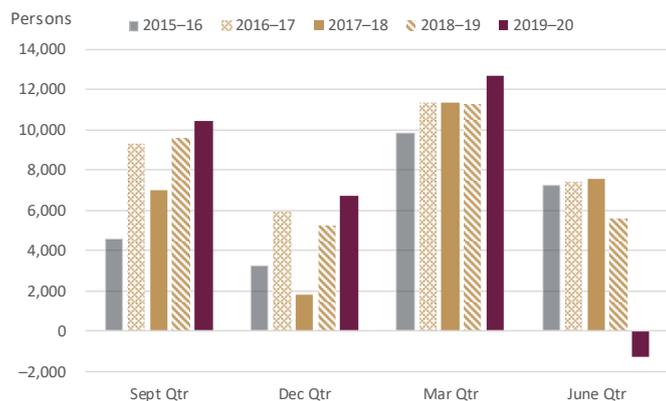
The ABS also compile NOM estimates by visa category, which differ from Department of Home Affairs movement figures in that only those travellers counted in the NOM definition are included.

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

For the first three quarters of 2019–20, Queensland's NOM was higher than the same quarter for each of the preceding four years, however in the June quarter of 2020, a NOM loss was recorded for Queensland of 1,267 persons (Figure 2). This aligned with the NOM loss reported for Australia for the same quarter (–5,877 persons).

The June quarter result was the first quarter of negative NOM for Queensland since the December quarter of 1994, and coincided with the Australian Government's closure of the international border in late March 2020.

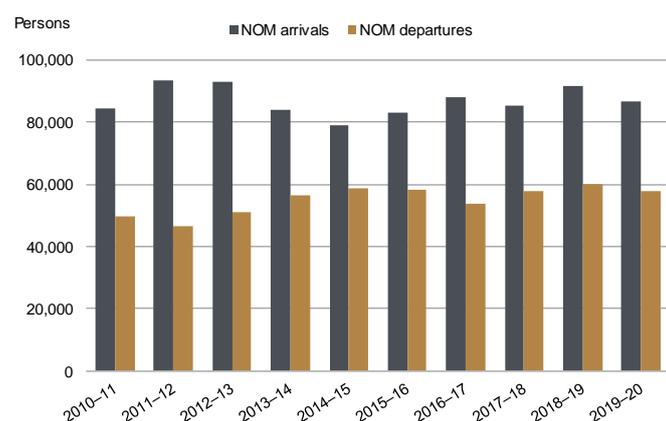
**Figure 2 NOM by year and quarter, Queensland**



Source: ABS 3101.0, *National, state and territory population*, March 2021

While both arrivals and departures in 2019–20 were lower overall than in the previous year (Figure 3), the 9.8% decrease in NOM can be attributed to the June quarter. There were 2,755 NOM arrivals and 4,022 NOM departures in the June 2020 quarter, down 87.3% and 75.0% respectively from the June 2019 quarter.

**Figure 3 NOM arrivals and departures, Queensland**



Source: ABS 3101.0, *National, state and territory population*, March 2021

Queensland accounted for 14.7% of Australia's total NOM gain in 2019–20, behind New South Wales (30.0%) and Victoria (31.6%). Queensland's share of Australia's total NOM increased in 2019–20 compared with 2018–19, up 1.6 percentage points.

**Net overseas migration age and sex profile**

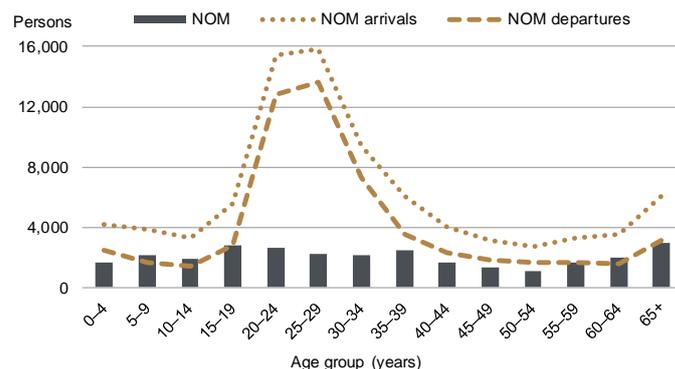
Overseas migrants aged in their twenties comprised the largest numbers of both international arrivals to, and departures from, Queensland in 2019–20 (Figure 4).

NOM arrivals to Queensland were greatest among 25–29 year olds (15,860 persons) followed by 20–24 year olds (15,430). NOM departures were also greatest among these two age groups: 25–29 year olds (13,670) and 20–24 year olds (12,810). Despite these movements, the greatest NOM gain was among those aged 65 years and over at 2,980 persons (10.4% of the total gain), followed

by 15–19 year olds with 2,790 persons (9.7% of the total gain).

The gain in the oldest age group was driven by a 77.3% increase in NOM arrivals over the year to 6,080 persons, while NOM departures (3,090) were similar to the 2018–19 level (3,080). Persons aged 65 years and older comprised only 1.1% (or 350 persons) of Queensland's total NOM in 2018–19, while the largest previous NOM gain for this group occurred in 2012–13 (410 persons).

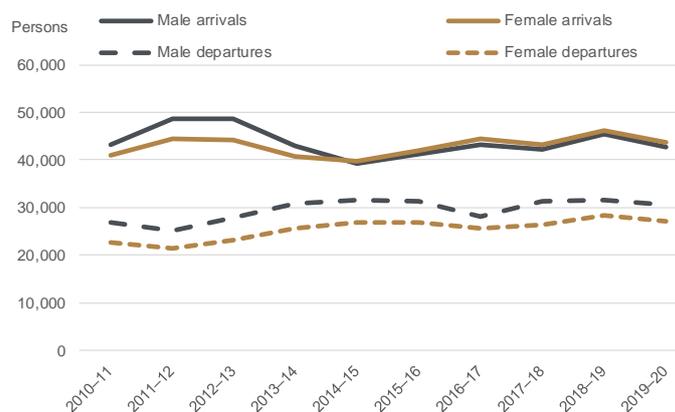
**Figure 4 NOM by age group, Queensland, 2019–20**



Source: ABS: ABS.Stat *Net Overseas Migration: Arrivals, departures and net, State/territory, Age and sex*, April 2021

Females accounted for more than half of NOM to Queensland (58.1%) in 2019–20. Over the past 10 years, males had a higher contribution to NOM in only one year (2011–12). The contribution of females to NOM peaked in 2014–15 (61.9%), the same year that female NOM arrivals first outnumbered males. NOM departures of males remained consistently higher than females across the 10 years to 2019–20 (Figure 5).

**Figure 5 NOM arrivals and departures by sex, Queensland**



Source: ABS ABS.Stat *Net Overseas Migration: Arrivals, departures and net, State/territory, age and sex*, April 2021

## Net overseas migration 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.

Temporary visa holders have consistently been the largest contributor to NOM in Queensland over the 10-year time series (Figure 6), adding 17,730 persons in 2019–20 (61.9% of NOM). In the same year, permanent visa holders added 5,680 persons (19.8%), New Zealand citizens contributed 270 persons (0.9%), while there was a net gain of 8,560 Australian citizens (29.9%) returning to Queensland from overseas (Table 1).

**Table 1** NOM by visa type, Queensland and rest of Australia, 2019–20

| Visa type                                     | Queensland    |              | Rest of Australia |              |
|---|---------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|
|   | persons       | %            | persons           | %            |
| <b>Permanent</b>                              | <b>5,680</b>  | <b>19.8</b>  | <b>40,900</b>     | <b>24.7</b>  |
| Family  | 1,530         | 5.3          | 12,420            | 7.5          |
| Skill   | 2,330         | 8.1          | 16,430            | 9.9          |
| Special eligibility and Humanitarian programs | 1,870         | 6.5          | 11,010            | 6.6          |
| Other permanent visas                         | -40           | -0.1         | 1,020             | 0.6          |
| <b>Temporary</b>                              | <b>17,730</b> | <b>61.9</b>  | <b>98,900</b>     | <b>59.7</b>  |
| Vocational education & training sector        | -1,620        | -5.7         | -8,780            | -5.3         |
| Higher education sector                       | 930           | 3.2          | 11,240            | 6.8          |
| Student other                                 | 3,050         | 10.7         | 8,000             | 4.8          |
| Temporary skilled visas (457)                 | 2,000         | 7.0          | 7,380             | 4.5          |
| Visitor <sup>(a)</sup>                        | 13,400        | 46.8         | 85,530            | 51.6         |
| Working holiday                               | 2,170         | 7.6          | 14,240            | 8.6          |
| Other temporary visas                         | -2,190        | -7.6         | -18,710           | -11.3        |
| <b>New Zealand citizen</b>                    | <b>270</b>    | <b>0.9</b>   | <b>920</b>        | <b>0.6</b>   |
| <b>Australian citizen</b>                     | <b>8,560</b>  | <b>29.9</b>  | <b>29,510</b>     | <b>17.8</b>  |
| <b>Other<sup>(b)</sup></b>                    | <b>-3,610</b> | <b>-12.6</b> | <b>-4,430</b>     | <b>-2.7</b>  |
| <b>Total<sup>(c)</sup></b>                    | <b>28,630</b> | <b>100.0</b> | <b>165,800</b>    | <b>100.0</b> |

Figures in table rounded to nearest 10.

(a) Includes tourists, business visitors, medical treatment and other.

(b) Includes residents returning (i.e. non-Australian citizens who are permanent residents), onshore visas and visa unknown.

(c) Figures in this table have been rounded and, as such, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals.

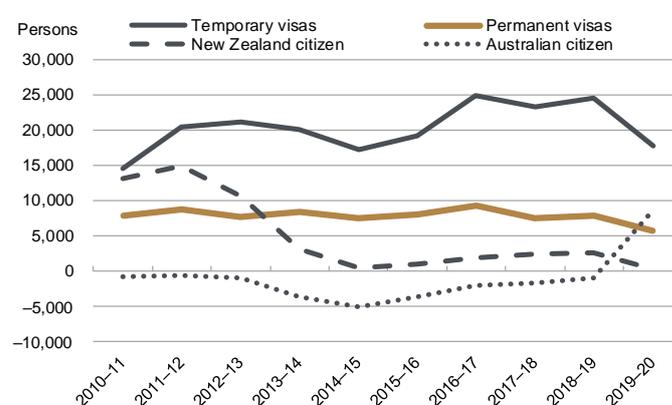
Source: ABS *Net Overseas Migration: Arrivals, departures and net, State/territory, Major groupings and visas - Financial years, 2004–05 onwards*, April 2021

The substantial net gain of 8,560 Australian citizens follows nine consecutive years of net losses, and partly reflects the impact of COVID-19 on the travel decisions of Australians citizens in the latter part of 2019–20.

In contrast, the contribution of New Zealand citizens to Queensland's NOM declined to the lowest level and share of the past 10 years (270 and 0.9% in 2019–20) (Figure 7). This compares with 2010–11, when they accounted for 37.7% of the total NOM gain to Queensland.

Similar shifts in the contribution of visa types and categories to total NOM occurred at the national level.

**Figure 6** NOM by major grouping<sup>(a)</sup>, Queensland



(a) Excl. other visa types, incl. residents returning (i.e. non-Aust. citizens who are permanent residents), onshore visas and visa unknown.

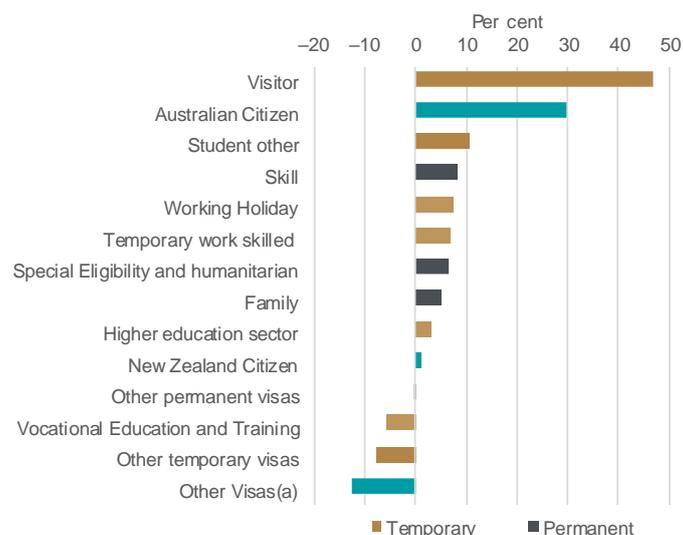
Source: ABS *Net Overseas Migration: Arrivals, departures and net, State/territory, Major groupings and visas - Financial years, 2004–05 onwards*, April 2021

The contribution to Queensland's NOM gain from people on temporary visitor visas nearly doubled between 2018–19 and 2019–20 (24.5% up to 46.8%), with visitor visa holders accounting for just under half of the total net gain from NOM in 2019–20 (Figure 7).

The higher education sector, which was the highest contributor to NOM of any visa type in 2018–19 with a NOM gain of 7,910 persons, was significantly impacted in 2019–20 and accounted for only 3.2% of total NOM to Queensland (930 persons).

Student other visa holders were less affected and accounted for 1 in 10 of the net gain in 2019–20. The permanent skill visa was the only permanent visa type to make the top five largest categories, with a slightly higher contribution than that of working holiday makers (8.1% and 7.6% respectively).

**Figure 7 Share of NOM by visa type, Queensland**



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

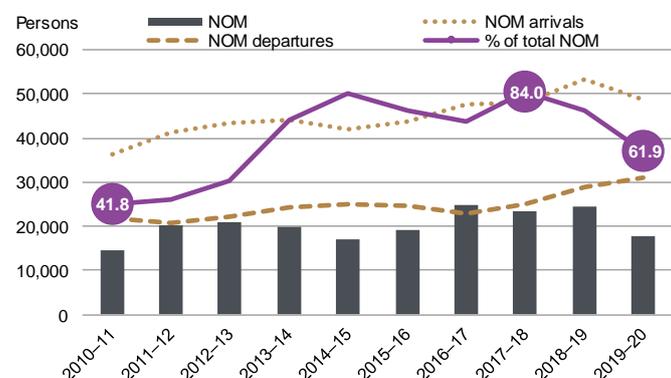
Source: ABS *Net Overseas Migration: Arrivals, departures and net, State/territory, age and sex, April 2021*

**Temporary visa holders**

Temporary entrant visas permit people to come to Australia on a temporary basis for specific purposes. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the main contributors were international students, working holiday makers, tourists, business visitors, and those on temporary work visas.

The contribution of temporary visa holders to Queensland's total NOM peaked in 2017–18 at 84.0% (23,310 persons), and subsequently declined to 61.9% (17,730 persons) in 2019–20 (Figure 8). The decline in both proportion and level of temporary NOM was driven by both a drop in the number of arrivals (down 8.9% on the previous year) and an increase in the number of departures (up by 7.0%).

**Figure 8 Contribution to NOM, temporary visa holders, Queensland**



Source: ABS 3412.0, *Migration, Australia, 2019–20*

Of the temporary visa holders added to Queensland's population in 2019–20, visitors were the largest contributor to total NOM (46.8%), followed by student other (10.7%), working holiday (7.6%) and temporary work skilled (7.0%) (Table 1). As noted previously, the higher education sector in particular, incurred a significant reduction in 2019–20 as a result of international border closures.

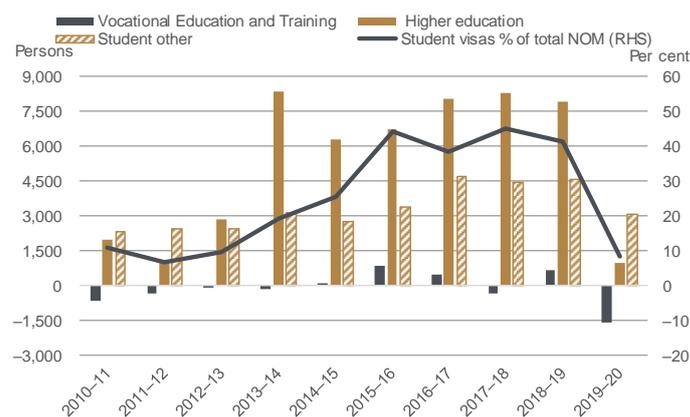
**Student temporary visa holders**

The number of temporary visa holders contributing to NOM from the higher education sector and student other visas was relatively stable between 2016–17 and 2018–19, however in 2019–20, significant decreases in NOM were experienced across all types of students (Figure 9). Fewer than 1 in 10, (8.2%) net overseas migrants to Queensland were student temporary visa holders in 2019–20, down from 41.3% the previous year.

The decline in temporary students in Queensland's total NOM was due to both a drop in the number of NOM arrivals and an increase in NOM departures for all temporary student categories.

Of the three student temporary visa types, those on Student other visas made the largest contribution to Queensland NOM in 2019–20 (3,050 persons), which was the first time since 2011–12. Student other visa holders combined with the smaller contribution from the higher education sector (930), to offset the NOM loss of 1,620 persons on temporary visas from the vocational education and training (VET) sector.

**Figure 9 Contribution to NOM by type of student visa, Queensland**



Source: ABS 3412.0, *Migration, Australia, 2019–20*

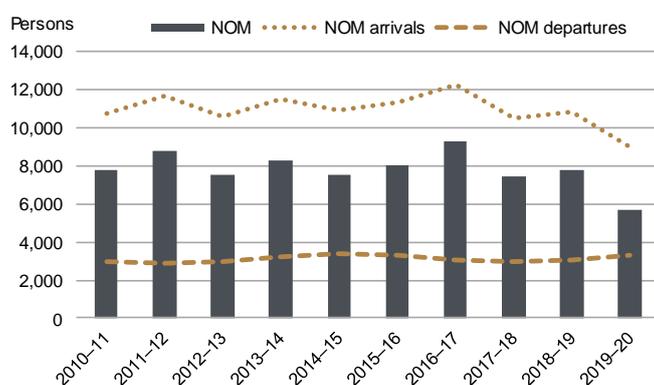
Contributions from the VET sector remained small (or even negative) over the 10-year period since 2010–11 and were their lowest at –1,620 persons in 2019–20.

### 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 needs. It has two components: the Migration Program for skilled and family migrants, and the Humanitarian Program for refugees and others in humanitarian need. National planning levels for the number of visas granted under each program are set annually by the Australian Government.*

In 2019–20, Queensland's population grew by 5,680 persons from the overseas migration of permanent visa holders, which was fewer than the contribution recorded in 2018–19 (7,760 persons). This reflected a decline in arrivals (down by 17.1%), and a smaller increase in departures of permanent visa holders (up by 7.6%) (Figure 10).

**Figure 10 Contribution to NOM, permanent visa holders, Queensland**



Source: ABS 3412.0, *Migration, Australia*, 2019–20

Permanent skill visa holders accounted for 2 in 5 (41.0%) of the total gain from permanent visa holders, followed by special eligibility and humanitarian visa holders (32.9%), with the balance being people holding family visas. Skill visa holders have accounted for the largest contribution of permanent visas to NOM since 2014–15.

### New Zealand citizens

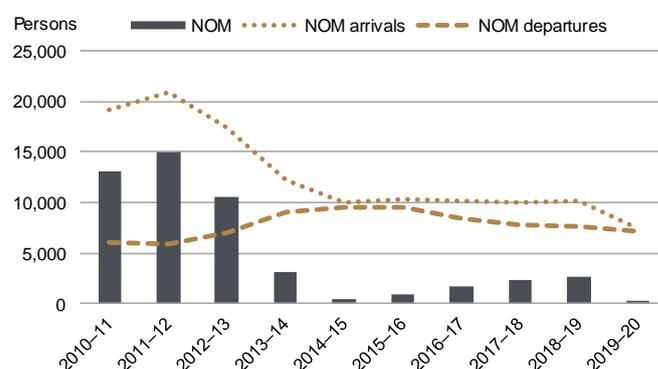
*New Zealand citizens can travel to Australia without a visa and will usually be granted a Special Category visa (subclass 444) on arrival in Australia. This visa is unique under Australian migration law as it is a temporary visa that allows New Zealanders to remain in Australia indefinitely with no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

The contribution of New Zealand citizens to NOM has varied considerably since 2004–05 with separate peaks of 16,740 persons in 2007–08 and 14,910 persons in 2011–12. This variability has been primarily the result of large fluctuations in New Zealand citizen arrivals. However, arrivals stabilised at about 10,000 per annum in recent years, before declining to 7,500 in 2019–20.

Departures of New Zealand citizens have been generally more stable than arrivals over time. Consequently, the contribution of New Zealanders to NOM has ranged from a peak of 16,740 persons recorded in 2007–08 to a new low of 270 persons recorded in 2019–20 (Figure 11). New Zealand citizens accounted for 0.9% of Queensland's overall NOM gain, the lowest level recorded in the available time series (between 2004–05 and 2019–20).

The NOM gain from New Zealand citizens at the national level was also greatly reduced, dropping from 8,130 persons to 1,190 persons between 2018–19 and 2019–20. Around 1 in 5 (22.7%) of the national NOM gain of New Zealanders was to Queensland.

**Figure 11 Contribution to NOM, New Zealand citizens, Queensland**



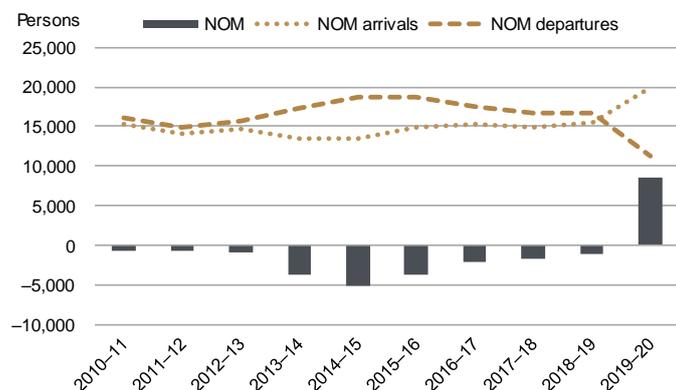
Source: ABS 3412.0, *Migration, Australia*, 2019–20

### Australian citizens

For the first time since 2009–10, Queensland experienced a net gain of Australian citizens in 2019–20 (8,560 persons). Historically, Queensland has experienced a small net loss of Australian citizens for most years since 2004–05 with the most recent exceptions around the time of the global financial crisis (2008–09 and 2009–10). The net gain in 2019–20 was significantly larger than previous gains, driven by a distinct drop in departures (down 32.1% to 11,290 persons) and a corresponding increase in arrivals to the highest level in the time series since 2004–05 (up 27.8% to 19,850 persons) (Figure 12).

The restrictions on travel both to and from Australia with the introduction of the international border closure has had a direct impact on the contribution of Australian citizens to Queensland's NOM, accounting for 29.9% of the total NOM gain in 2019–20.

**Figure 12 Contribution to NOM, Australian citizens, Queensland**



Source: ABS 3412.0, Migration, Australia, 2019-20

**Country of birth composition of NOM**

People born in India again accounted for the largest proportion of the NOM gain to Queensland in 2019-20, representing 1 in 5 additions to the population from NOM (21.4%). In overall numbers, Indian born NOM additions decreased by 20.1% between 2018-19 and 2019-20.

Australian born NOM additions saw a significant increase, changing from a net loss of 2,620 persons in 2018-19 to account for 16.3% (4,670 persons) of Queensland's NOM in 2019-20. The United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man also experienced a notable increase (up 58.5% or 860 persons) to 8.1% (Table 2) to be the 4<sup>th</sup> highest country of birth for NOM additions to Queensland's population in 2019-20.

**Table 2 Country of birth composition of NOM, Queensland**

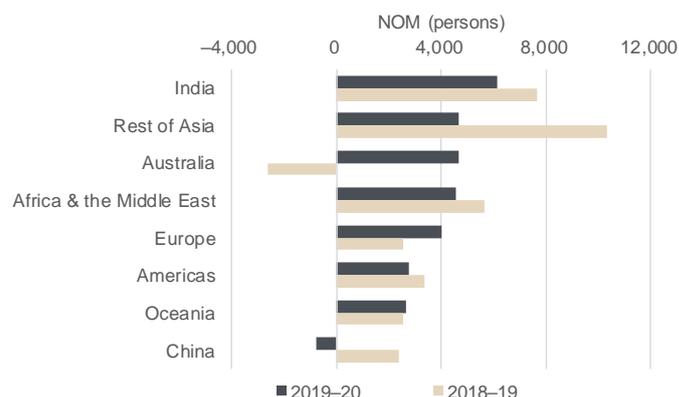
| Country of birth             | Rank | 2019-20       | 2018-19       | 2019-20      |
|------------------------------|------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
|                              |      | —persons—     | —persons—     | —%—          |
| India                        | 1    | 6,140         | 7,680         | 21.4         |
| Australia                    | 2    | 4,670         | -2,620        | 16.3         |
| Philippines                  | 3    | 2,580         | 3,690         | 9.0          |
| UK, CIs & IOM <sup>(a)</sup> | 4    | 2,330         | 1,470         | 8.1          |
| South Africa                 | 5    | 1,690         | 1,670         | 5.9          |
| Colombia                     | 6    | 1,130         | 1,080         | 3.9          |
| Nepal                        | 7    | 1,120         | 2,260         | 3.9          |
| Vietnam                      | 8    | 920           | 800           | 3.2          |
| Brazil                       | 9    | 650           | 1,220         | 2.3          |
| Thailand                     | 10   | 590           | 690           | 2.1          |
| Other                        | ..   | 6,810         | 13,930        | 23.8         |
| Total                        | ..   | <b>28,630</b> | <b>31,870</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

(a) United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

Source: ABS Net overseas migration by Country of birth, Reference period by State/territory – Financial years, 2004-05 to 2019-20, April 2021

Key countries of origin for NOM largely reflect the demand for higher education and both temporary and permanent employment from middle income countries. The proportion of NOM from Asian born migrants fell from 64.0% in 2018-19 to 34.9% in 2019-20, partly driven by the net outflows of Chinese born migrants for the first time since the series began in 2004-05 (Figure 13).

**Figure 13 Country of birth composition of NOM, Queensland**



Source: ABS 3412.0, Migration, Australia, 2019-20

**Permanent additions**

Visa 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 permanent additions under the Migration Program.

Permanent additions 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.

**Permanent additions by migration pathway<sup>2</sup>**

In 2019-20, there were 19,631 permanent additions to Queensland under the Migration Program (up 12.9% on 2018-19), comprising 5,617 settler arrivals and 14,014 persons granted permanent residence while residing in Queensland on a temporary visa. (Table 3 and Figure 13).

Persons with a skilled visa type accounted for the largest proportion of permanent additions to Queensland, representing 65.9% of total permanent additions in 2019-20. There were 6,297 permanent additions to

Queensland of family visa holders during the same time period, accounting for 32.1% of Queensland's permanent additions via the Migration Program.

**Table 3 Permanent additions<sup>(a)</sup> by migration pathway — settler arrivals and onshore program, Queensland, 2019–20**

| Visa type                          | Onshore program | Settler arrivals | Total permanent additions |              |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
|                                    | persons         | persons          | persons                   | %            |
| Child                              | 171             | 193              | 364                       | 1.9          |
| Family                             | 4,028           | 2,269            | 6,297                     | 32.1         |
| Skilled                            | 9,815           | 3,122            | 12,937                    | 65.9         |
| Special eligibility <sup>(b)</sup> | 0               | 33               | 33                        | 0.2          |
| <b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>         | <b>14,014</b>   | <b>5,617</b>     | <b>19,631</b>             | <b>100.0</b> |
|                                    | Per cent        |                  |                           |              |
| Child                              | 47.0            | 53.0             | ..                        | 100.0        |
| Family                             | 64.0            | 36.0             | ..                        | 100.0        |
| Skilled                            | 75.9            | 24.1             | ..                        | 100.0        |
| Special eligibility <sup>(b)</sup> | 0.0             | 100.0            | ..                        | 100.0        |
| <b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>         | <b>71.4</b>     | <b>28.6</b>      | <b>..</b>                 | <b>100.0</b> |

.. = not applicable

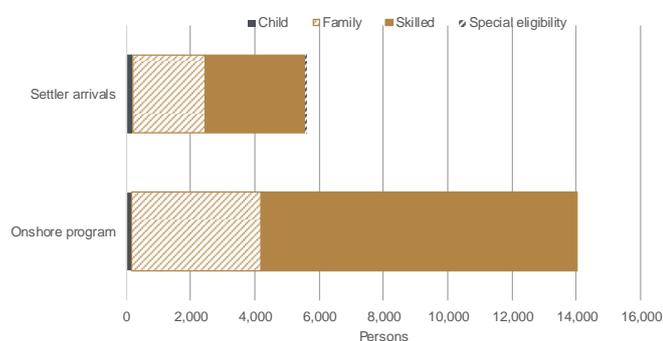
(a) Permanent additions under the Migration Program only. Permanent additions under non-program migration are not presented.

(b) Former Resident (subclass 151) visa — covers two groups of people seeking to remain in or to return to Australia as permanent residents who had never acquired Australian citizenship.

Source: Department of Home Affairs, BP00241 *Permanent additions to Australia's resident population 2019–20*, October 2020

In 2019–20, more than 7 in 10 (71.4%) permanent additions to Queensland through the Migration Program were awarded to persons onshore who were previously on a temporary visa (Figure 13).

**Figure 13 Permanent additions by migration pathway and visa type, 2019–20, Queensland**



Source: Department of Home Affairs, BP00241 *Permanent additions to Australia's resident population 2019–20*, October 2020

This was driven principally by an increase in skilled visa holders, where more than three-quarters (75.9%) of the permanent additions were persons already onshore in

Australia, compared with 64.1% in 2018–19. Both the child and family visa types had notably higher proportions of onshore arrivals in 2019–20 than in 2018–19 (47.0% and 64.0% respectively, compared with 14.3% and 24.4%).

In 2019–20, more than 9 in 10 (91.3%) family visa holder permanent additions entered Queensland under the partner visa category (5,749 persons) compared with 84.1% (3,627 persons) in 2018–19.

### Skilled visa holders

Skilled visa holders accounted for 65.9% (12,937 persons) of Queensland's permanent additions to the Migration Program in 2019–20. Employer sponsored visa holders accounted for the largest share of the skilled visa category with 30.6% or 3,965 persons, followed by regional visa holders 24.7% (3,199). As a share of skilled visa holders, regional visa holders increased from 7.5% (948 persons) in 2018–19 to 24.7% (3,199) in 2019–20.

Queensland gained 3,965 permanent additions under the employer sponsored visa category in 2019–20 (3,460 onshore plus 505 settler arrivals). Under this scheme, skilled workers who are nominated by their employer can live and work in Australia permanently. Queensland was the intended residence for 13.6% of additions nationally under an employer sponsored visa in 2019–20. It was the third-largest share after New South Wales (45.1%) and Victoria (27.2%).

## Permanent settlers — Humanitarian Program

*Visa figures in this section are sourced from the Department of Home Affairs' Settlement Database (SDB) and are not comparable to NOM figures released by the ABS.*

This section contains figures of settlers who have been granted a permanent or provisional visa and are currently recorded as residing in Queensland.

Address information is only the settler's latest known residential (or intended residential) address at the time the data report was compiled. Address information is only updated if the Department is notified. Some settlers have no address details recorded.

The SDB location data are based on the 2011 Australian Standard Geographic Classification (ASGC).

More information on the data and reporting limitations associated with the SDB data collection can be found in the caveats section of each settlement data report release on the data.gov.au website.

Of the 36,908 total permanent residents who settled in Queensland in 2019–20, 7.1% (or 2,625 persons) were under the Humanitarian stream, 37.7% (13,929) were under the Family stream, while those on Skilled visas were the largest stream with 20,354 additions (55.1%).

Two in five (40.8%) permanent settlers to Queensland under the Humanitarian Program in 2019–20 were born in Iraq. The next-largest country of birth was the Democratic Republic of Congo (11.2%) followed by Ethiopia (4.6%) and The Republic of the Union of Myanmar (4.0%) (Table 4). Iraq was also the leading country of birth in 2018–19 (800 persons). These four countries of birth accounted for more than 6 in 10 permanent settlers in Queensland with a settlement date in 2019–20 (60.7%) within the Humanitarian program.

In 2019–20, nearly all the Humanitarian settlers residing in Queensland were issued visa grants while offshore (99.8%), similar to the proportion recorded in 2018–19 (98.6%).

**Table 4 Top 10 countries of birth, Humanitarian Program permanent settlers, settlement date in 2019–20, Queensland**

| Country of birth       | Permanent settlers |           |              |           |              |
|------------------------|--------------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
|                        | 2018–19            |           | 2019–20      |           |              |
|                        | persons            | rank      | persons      | rank      | %            |
| Iraq                   | 800                | 1         | 1,072        | 1         | 40.8         |
| DRC <sup>(a)</sup>     | 607                | 2         | 294          | 2         | 11.2         |
| Ethiopia               | 85                 | 8         | 122          | 3         | 4.6          |
| Myanmar <sup>(b)</sup> | 237                | 4         | 106          | 4         | 4.0          |
| Kenya                  | 102                | 7         | 90           | 5         | 3.4          |
| Burundi                | 160                | 5         | 86           | 6         | 3.3          |
| Eritrea                | 49                 | 11        | 81           | 7         | 3.1          |
| CAR <sup>(c)</sup>     | 58                 | 9         | 76           | 8         | 2.9          |
| Uganda                 | 11                 | 25        | 50           | 9         | 1.9          |
| Iran                   | 50                 | 10        | 49           | 10        | 1.9          |
| Other                  | 878                | ..        | 599          | ..        | 22.8         |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>3,037</b>       | <b>..</b> | <b>2,625</b> | <b>..</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

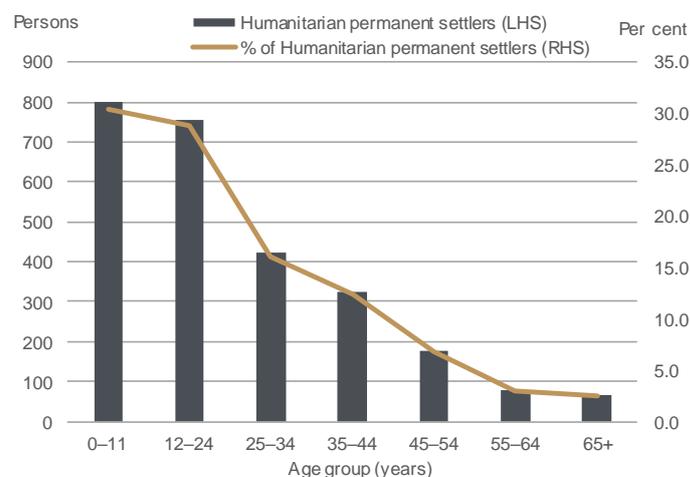
.. = not applicable

- (a) Democratic Republic of Congo  
 (b) The Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
 (c) Central African Republic

Source: Department of Home Affairs, *Permanent Settlers (All Streams) in Queensland with a Date of Settlement between 01 July 2019 and 30 June 2020*, July 2020

The age structure of migrants within the humanitarian program is very young, with more than three-quarters of permanent settlers to Queensland under the Humanitarian Program in 2019–20 aged younger than 35 years (75.3% or 1,977 permanent settlers) (Figure 14). Perhaps more notably, more than half were under 24 years of age (59.2%), and around one-third were children under 12 years (30.4%).

**Figure 14 Humanitarian Program permanent settlers by age group, Queensland, 2019–20**



Source: Department of Home Affairs, *Permanent Settlers (All Streams) in Queensland with a Date of Settlement between 01 July 2019 and 30 June 2020*, July 2020

Almost 8 in 10 (78.9%) permanent settlers to Queensland under the Humanitarian Program in 2019–20 were located within the three local government areas (LGAs) of Toowoomba (R), Logan (C) and Brisbane (C) (Table 5).

**Table 5 LGAs with over 100 Humanitarian Program permanent settlers, Queensland, 2019–20**

| LGA            | Permanent settlers |              |
|----------------|--------------------|--------------|
|                | persons            | %            |
| Toowoomba (R)  | 961                | 36.6         |
| Logan (C)      | 591                | 22.5         |
| Brisbane (C)   | 519                | 19.8         |
| Townsville (C) | 252                | 9.6          |
| Cairns (R)     | 132                | 5.0          |
| Rest of Qld    | 170                | 6.5          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>2,625</b>       | <b>100.0</b> |

(C) = City (R) = Regional Council

Source: Department of Home Affairs, *Permanent Settlers (All Streams) in Queensland with a Date of Settlement between 07 July 2019 and 30 June 2020*, July 2020

Queensland accounted for around 1 in 6 permanent settlers nationally under the Humanitarian Program in 2019–20 (17.9%), the third-highest of the states and territories behind New South Wales (36.7%) and Victoria (29.0%).

For permanent settlers under the Humanitarian Program with a settlement date in 2019–20 and with a recorded address, Toowoomba (R), Logan (C) and Brisbane (C), respectively had the third, fifth and sixth-highest number of settlers of all LGAs within Australia.

## Temporary (skilled) visas

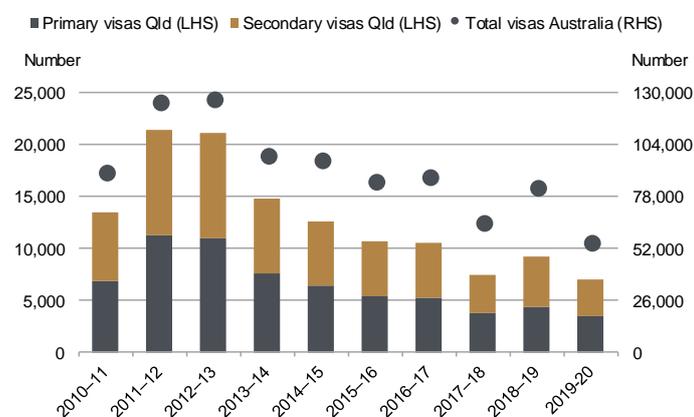
On 18 April 2017, the Australian Government announced that the Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) would be abolished and replaced with the new Temporary Skill Shortage (subclass 482) visa from March 2018<sup>3</sup>. Visa figures in this section are sourced from Department of Home Affairs and are not comparable to NOM figures released by the ABS.

A business can sponsor a skilled worker if they cannot find an appropriately skilled Australian citizen or permanent resident to fill a position listed in the combined eligible skilled occupations list<sup>4</sup>. The principal data collected on 457 and 482 visa holders are sourced from the visa application and grant process<sup>5</sup>.

The annual grant of temporary skilled visas for both primary and secondary applicants<sup>6</sup> in Queensland decreased by 23.1% between 2018–19 (9,142 visas) and 2019–20 (7,032). In general terms, the granting of temporary skilled visas for Queensland has declined in almost every year since peaking in 2011–12 (21,489 visas).

Queensland's overall decline in temporary (skilled) visas granted for both applicant types has reflected the national trend since 2011–12 (Figure 15).

**Figure 15 Temporary work (skilled) visas granted, Queensland and Australia**

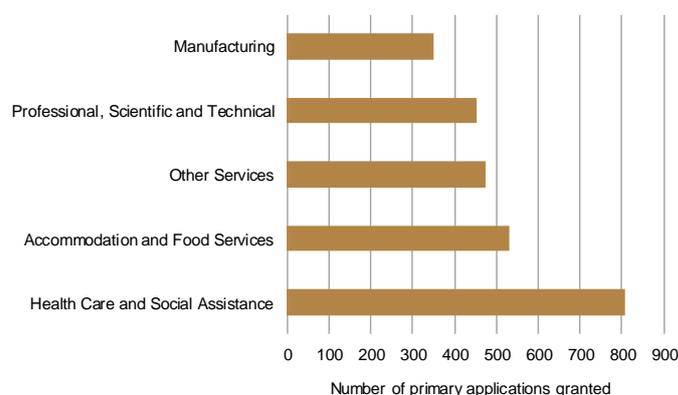


Source: Department of Home Affairs, BP0014 Temporary Work (Skilled) visas granted 2019–20 to 30 June 2020, July 2020

Queensland was the third-highest nominated position location for primary visa grants in 2019–20 (12.0%), behind New South Wales (44.7%) and Victoria (26.2%).

In 2019–20, the top five sponsor industries<sup>7</sup> for primary temporary skilled visas granted for nominated positions in Queensland were health care and social assistance (24.3%), professional, scientific and technical (12.1%), other services (10.6%) accommodation and food services (10.1%), and manufacturing (8.5%) (Figure 16).

**Figure 16 Top five nominated sponsor industries, nominated positions in Queensland, 2019–20**



Source: Department of Home Affairs, BP0014 Temporary Resident (Skilled) visas granted 2019–20 to 30 June 2020, July 2020

One of the most significant changes among sponsor industries during the past decade has been in mining. Mining has declined steadily as a share of total temporary skilled visas granted to sponsor industries between 2011–12 and 2017–18, decreasing from 16.7% to 2.3%. Since then it has increased modestly to 5.5% in 2019–20.

The top three nominated occupations<sup>8</sup> for primary visas granted for Queensland in 2019–20 were:

- resident medical officer (12.9%)
- cook (3.5%)
- chef (3.4%).

These were also the top three in 2018–19, although chef (4.7%) outranked cook (3.9%).

The United Kingdom continued as the country of citizenship most frequently cited in primary visas granted for nominated positions in Queensland (599 visas), followed by India (413 visas) and the Philippines (372 visas). Together, these three countries accounted for 4 in 10 (40.6%) primary visa grants in 2019–20 (Table 6).

Nearly 1 in 3 temporary skilled visas were granted for nominated positions located in the Brisbane Inner City Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4) (31.7% or 1,080 visa grants) (Table 7). Almost 1 in 3 temporary skilled visas were granted for nominated positions located outside of South East Queensland (32.0% or 1,090 visa grants)<sup>9</sup>.

**Table 6 Top 10 citizenship countries, primary applicants, Queensland, 2019–20**

| Country of citizenship |   | Visas granted |            |
|------------------------|---|---------------|------------|
|                        |   | no.           | %          |
| 1                      | United Kingdom                              | 599           | 17.6       |
| 2                      | India                                       | 413           | 12.1       |
| 3                      | Philippines                                 | 372           | 10.9       |
| 4                      | South Africa                                | 215           | 6.3        |
| 5                      | China <sup>(a)</sup> , People's Republic of | 210           | 6.2        |
| 6                      | Canada                                      | 123           | 3.6        |
| 7                      | United States of America                    | 119           | 3.5        |
| 8                      | Ireland, Republic of                        | 114           | 3.3        |
| 9                      | Korea, South                                | 97            | 2.8        |
| 10                     | Japan                                       | 78            | 2.3        |
|                        | Other                                       | 1,066         | 31.3       |
|                        | <b>Total</b>                                | <b>3,406</b>  | <b>100</b> |

(a) Excludes Special Administrative Regions and Taiwan.

Source: Department of Home Affairs, *BP0014 Temporary Resident (Skilled) visas granted 2019–20 to 30 June 2020*, July 2020

**Table 7 Temporary resident (skilled) visa grants (primary applicants) by nominated position location, Queensland, 2019–20**

| Nominated position location <sup>(a)</sup> | Visas granted |              |
|--|---------------|--------------|
|  | no.           | %            |
| Brisbane Inner City                        | 1,080         | 31.7         |
| Gold Coast                                 | 257           | 7.5          |
| Central Queensland                         | 220           | 6.5          |
| Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday                | 191           | 5.6          |
| Cairns                                     | 163           | 4.8          |
| Sunshine Coast                             | 159           | 4.7          |
| Ipswich                                    | 150           | 4.4          |
| Townsville                                 | 147           | 4.3          |
| Brisbane - South                           | 143           | 4.2          |
| Wide Bay                                   | 131           | 3.8          |
| Moreton Bay - North                        | 127           | 3.7          |
| Brisbane - North                           | 126           | 3.7          |
| Logan - Beaudesert                         | 98            | 2.9          |
| Darling Downs - Maranoa                    | 87            | 2.6          |
| Brisbane - East                            | 85            | 2.5          |
| Toowoomba                                  | 82            | 2.4          |
| Queensland - Outback                       | 69            | 2.0          |
| Brisbane - West                            | 59            | 1.7          |
| Moreton Bay - South                        | 31            | 0.9          |
| Not Specified                              | <5            | 0.1          |
| <b>Total</b>                               | <b>4,360</b>  | <b>100.0</b> |

(a) 2016 Australian Statistical Geography Standard, SA4

Source: Department of Home Affairs, *BP0014 Temporary Resident (Skilled) visas granted 2019–20 to 30 June 2020*, July 2020

## Significant Investor visas

The Significant Investor visa (SIV) is a pathway to provide for significant migrant investment into Australia under the Business Innovation and Investment visa program<sup>10</sup>.

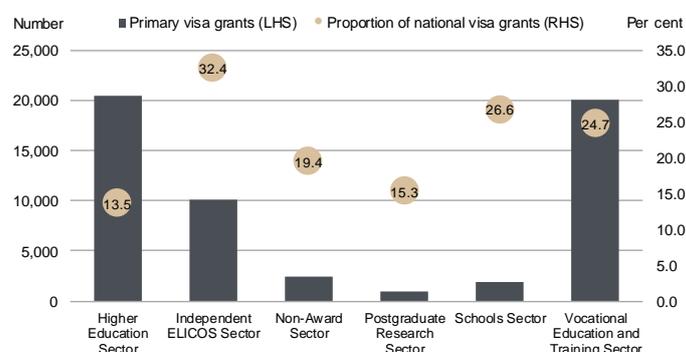
Queensland was the third-highest nominated state or territory for SIV grants in 2019–20 with (8.9% or 12 visas granted), significantly lower than New South Wales (43.7%, 59 visas granted) and Victoria (37.0%, 50 visas granted). Together, New South Wales and Victoria accounted for 8 in 10 of the 135 SIVs granted nationally in that year<sup>11</sup>.

The number of SIV grants with Queensland as the nominated state in 2019–20 was similar to 2018–19, (6.8%, 13 visas granted) and 2017–18, (5.2%, 10 visas granted). The number of SIVs granted in those years for Australia was 191 and 174 respectively.

## Student visas

In 2019–20, there were 62,645 student visas granted for education providers registered in Queensland, and 89.2% of these were primary visa grants. Compared with 2018–19, this represented a decrease of 14,210 student visas granted (–18.5%). In 2019–20, as in previous years, the higher education sector accounted for the largest proportion (36.6%) of the primary student visa grants in Queensland, followed closely by the VET sector (35.9%) and the independent English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students (ELICOS) sector (18.0%).

With similar outcomes to 2018–19, in 2019–20 Queensland's primary visa grants for the higher education sector accounted for 13.5% of the national total for this sector. Compared to its share of national population, Queensland was overrepresented in the independent ELICOS, schools and VET sectors (32.4%, 26.6% and 24.7% respectively) (Figure 17).

**Figure 17 Student visa grants and national share, by sector for Queensland registered providers 2019–20**

Source: Department of Home Affairs, *BP0015 Student visa grant rate in 2019–20 to 30 June 2020*, July 2020

A comparison of Queensland's student visa grants in 2019–20 with 2018–19, shows decreases across all sectors. The largest decreases proportionally were in the non-award, schools and higher education sectors at 43.3%, 35.2% and 25.0%, respectively.

More than half of primary applications for student visas granted in 2019–20 for study in institutions registered in Queensland were granted to citizens from just five countries (Table 8):

- People's Republic of China (9,347 visas)
- India (7,729 visas)
- Brazil (5,085 visas)
- Colombia (4,082 visas)
- South Korea (2,438 visas).

In 2018–19, the largest number of visas was also granted to students from the People's Republic of China. After eight years of growth, student visas for students from the People's Republic of China declined by 20.9% between 2018–19 (11,821) and 2019–20.

**Table 8 Top 10 citizenship countries, temporary student visas granted<sup>(a)</sup> in 2019–20, Queensland<sup>(b)</sup>**

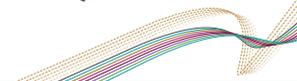
| Country of citizenship |   | Visas granted |              |
|------------------------|---|---------------|--------------|
|                        |   | no.           | %            |
| 1                      | China <sup>(c)</sup> , People's Republic of | 9,347         | 16.7         |
| 2                      | India                                       | 7,729         | 13.8         |
| 3                      | Brazil                                      | 5,085         | 9.1          |
| 4                      | Colombia                                    | 4,082         | 7.3          |
| 5                      | South Korea                                 | 2,438         | 4.4          |
| 6                      | Nepal                                       | 2,168         | 3.9          |
| 7                      | Japan                                       | 2,038         | 3.6          |
| 8                      | Philippines                                 | 1,870         | 3.3          |
| 9                      | Taiwan                                      | 1,597         | 2.9          |
| 10                     | Thailand                                    | 1,590         | 2.8          |
|                        | Other                                       | 17,954        | 32.1         |
|                        | <b>Total</b>                                | <b>55,898</b> | <b>100.0</b> |

(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 in 2019–20 to 30 June 2020 – comparison with previous years*, July 2020



## Technical notes

### Net overseas migration (NOM)

Data sourced from: ABS 3101.0, *Australian demographic statistics*, September 2019, published 19 March 2020.

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 31 December 2019 are final, based on actual traveller behaviour. Estimates for 31 December 2019 onwards 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.*

### 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.

<sup>1</sup> Other Services includes a broad range of personal services; religious, civic, professional and other interest group services; selected repair and maintenance activities; and private households employing staff.

<sup>2</sup> Data based on visa sub-class at time of arrival for settlers.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Work/457-abolition-replacement>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Work/Work/Skills-assessment-and-assessing-authorities/skilled-occupations-lists>. The Queensland Skilled Occupation Lists (QSOL) reflect demand for positions specifically in Queensland:  
<https://migration.qld.gov.au/skilled-occupation-lists/>

<sup>5</sup> A Temporary Work (Skilled) (subclass 457) visa allows the visa holder to stay for up to four years for business purposes. A Temporary Skill Shortage (subclass 482) visa allows the visa holder to stay up to either two or four years (depending on the 'stream' under which they were granted a visa and the individual conditions applicable to the visa holder). Not all persons granted a 457 or 482

visa will utilise the visa to stay in Australia. Further information on these visas can be found in the [list of Australian visas](#).

<sup>6</sup> A secondary applicant is generally a dependant of the primary applicant and can work and study in Australia.

<sup>7</sup> Sponsors self-identify with an industry classification when lodging a nomination or sponsorship.

<sup>8</sup> Occupation that the primary visa holder will be filling — not the previous or usual occupation of the visa applicant.

<sup>9</sup> 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.

<sup>10</sup> <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/business-innovation-and-investment-188/significant-investor-stream#Overview>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/research-and-statistics/statistics/visa-statistics/work/significant-investor-visa>