

# Overseas migration, Queensland, 2020–21

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

## Key points

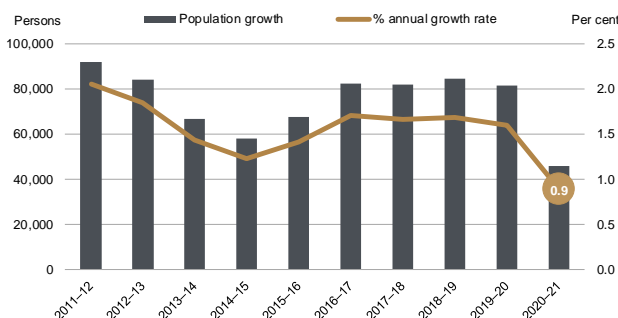
- Queensland's net overseas migration (NOM) was -14,370 persons in 2020–21, which was the first loss through overseas migration since the time series began in 1972, and down from a gain of 27,970 persons in 2019–20.
- Temporary visa holders (-15,920 persons) represented the largest negative component of Queensland's NOM in 2020–21, followed by New Zealand citizens (-2,150). Australian citizens (2,150) were the largest positive contributor to NOM in 2020–21 followed by permanent visa holders (1,800).
- In 2020–21, the top five sponsor industries for primary temporary skilled visas granted for nominated positions in Queensland were: health care and social assistance (30.7%); accommodation and food services (12.6%); professional, scientific and technical (11.5%); other services<sup>i</sup> (7.5%), and construction (6.4%).

## Net overseas migration

### Population change and net overseas migration

Queensland has 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, with growth between 1.6% and 1.7% in each of the four years to 2019–20 (Figure 1). The population growth rate in 2020–21 fell to 0.9% (45,925), the lowest growth rate for Queensland since the early 1940s.

Figure 1 Population growth, Queensland



Source: ABS *National, state and territory population*, Dec 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 persons (NOM arrivals) and outgoing persons (NOM departures).

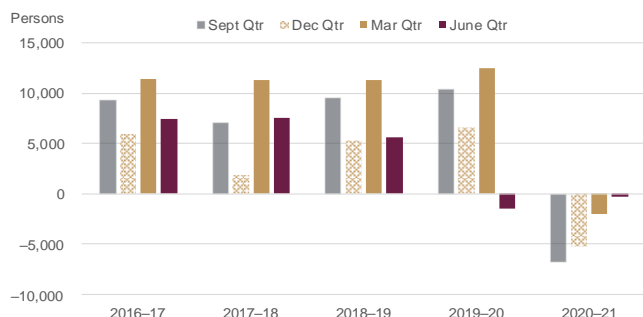
The ABS also compiles NOM estimates by visa category, which differ from Department of Home Affairs movement figures in that only those travellers counted in the NOM definition are included.

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

Queensland recorded NOM losses in all four quarters of 2020–21, reflecting the ongoing impact of the Australian Government's closure of the international border (Figure 2). Queensland's NOM losses reduced in size with each quarter, from a loss of 6,787 persons in the September quarter 2020 to a loss of 307 persons in the June quarter 2021. This reflected progressive increases in quarterly arrivals (from 2,768 to 7,783), while quarterly NOM departures from Queensland moderated over the year.

Queensland's NOM losses have decreased with each successive quarter since September quarter 2020.

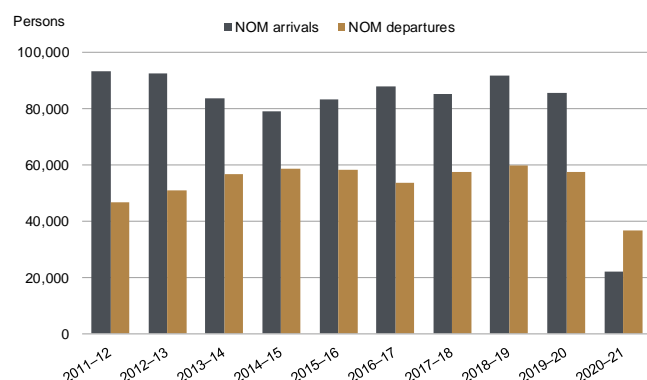
**Figure 2 NOM by year and quarter, Queensland**



Source: ABS National, state and territory population, Dec 2021

Overall, both arrivals and departures in 2020–21 were notably lower than in 2019–20 (Figure 3). There were 22,213 NOM arrivals and 36,579 NOM departures, down 74.0% and 36.5% respectively from the previous year.

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



Source: ABS National, state and territory population, Dec 2021

Queensland accounted for 16.2% of Australia's total NOM loss in 2020–21 (–88,763 persons), compared with 14.5% of the national NOM gain in 2019–20. Queensland accounted for the second-largest share of Australia's NOM loss, behind Victoria (63.2%).

**Net overseas migration age and sex profile**

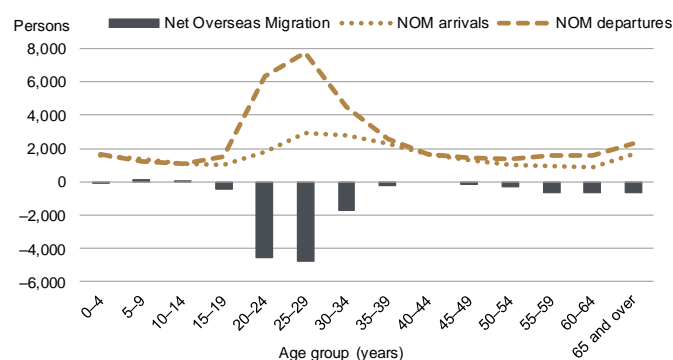
In 2020–21, overseas migrants in age groups between 25–39 years contributed the largest numbers of international arrivals to Queensland, while the largest number of departures was in the 20–34 years age bracket (Figure 4). In 2020–21:

- NOM arrivals to Queensland were greatest among 25–29 year olds (2,960 persons) followed by 30–34 year olds (2,790).
- NOM departures were greatest among 25–29 year olds (7,780 persons) followed by 20–24 year olds (6,370).

Only age groups 5–9 years and 10–14 years experienced overall gains through NOM, with gains of 80 and 40 persons respectively.

The largest NOM losses were in the 25–29 years (–4,830 persons) and 20–24 years age groups (–4,580) (Figure 4). These population losses reflect declines across a range of temporary visa types discussed further below.

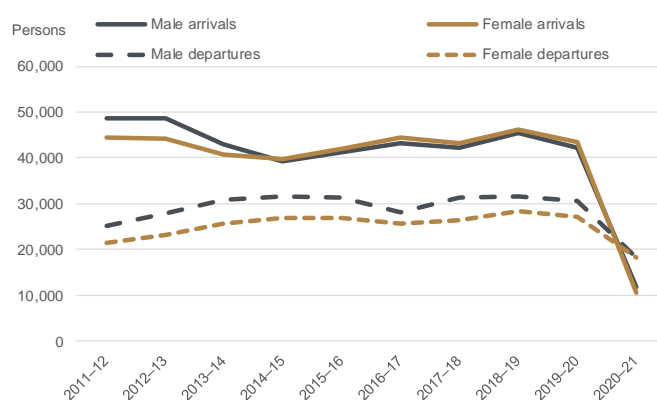
**Figure 4 NOM by age group, Queensland, 2020–21**



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

Females accounted for more than half (54.2%) of Queensland's NOM loss in 2020–21. Since 2012–13, females have accounted for more than half of annual NOM gains, peaking in 2014–15 (61.9%). Female NOM arrivals outnumbered males each year between 2014–15 and 2019–20. In 2020–21, male arrivals exceeded females by 1,280 arrivals (Figure 5). Male NOM departures have remained higher than females every year since 2004–05.

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



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

## Net overseas migration by major grouping and visa type

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

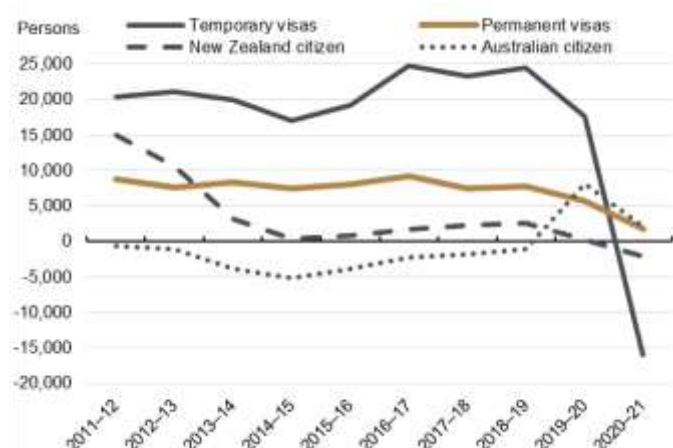
- temporary visas holders
- permanent visas holders
- New Zealand citizens
- Australian citizens.

The closure of the Australian international border impacted on both the decision and ability to travel for holders of all visa types. NOM in Queensland declined between 2019–20 and 2020–21 across certain major visa groups.

While temporary visa holders have accounted for the greatest share of NOM to Queensland each year since 2006–07, in 2020–21 there was a net loss of 15,920 persons on temporary visas — the largest contributor to Queensland's overall NOM loss. Prior to this, over the nine years from 2011–12, temporary visa holders added more than 17,000 persons to the Queensland population each year (Figure 6). In 2019–20, there was a net gain of 17,570 persons on temporary visas, representing 62.8% of the total NOM gain of 27,970 (Table 1).

Permanent visa holders and Australian citizens were the only two major visa groupings recording NOM gains in Queensland in 2020–21, adding 1,800 and 2,150 persons respectively. A NOM loss was recorded for both New Zealand citizens (–2,150 persons) and other visa holders (–240 persons) (Table 1).

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



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

Source: ABS Data Explorer: *Net Overseas Migration: Arrivals, departures and net, State/territory, Major groupings and visas*

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

Visa type	Queensland		Rest of Australia	
	2019–20	2020–21	2019–20	2020–21
	— persons —		— persons —	
<b>Permanent</b>	<b>5,710</b>	<b>1,800</b>	<b>40,730</b>	<b>16,680</b>
Family	1,540	1,130	12,380	10,270
Skill	2,330	760	16,450	6,940
Special eligibility and Humanitarian programs	1,900	100	10,980	370
Other permanent visas	–40	–190	900	–900
<b>Temporary</b>	<b>17,570</b>	<b>–15,920</b>	<b>99,310</b>	<b>–104,640</b>
Vocational education & training sector	–1,700	–1,700	–9,040	–9,540
Higher education sector	700	–5,580	9,220	–37,900
Student other	2,860	–1,280	7,480	–5,640
Temporary skilled visas (457)	1,990	40	7,200	–2,340
Visitor <sup>(a)</sup>	13,410	–890	87,450	–6,370
Working holiday	2,510	–1,770	15,920	–4,970
Other temporary visas	–2,200	–4,750	–18,940	–37,860
<b>New Zealand citizen</b>	<b>260</b>	<b>–2,150</b>	<b>1,110</b>	<b>–240</b>
<b>Australian citizen</b>	<b>8,050</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>27,970</b>	<b>15,950</b>
<b>Other<sup>(b)</sup></b>	<b>–3,600</b>	<b>–240</b>	<b>–4,420</b>	<b>–2,150</b>
<b>Total<sup>(c)</sup></b>	<b>27,970</b>	<b>–14,370</b>	<b>164,730</b>	<b>–74,390</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.

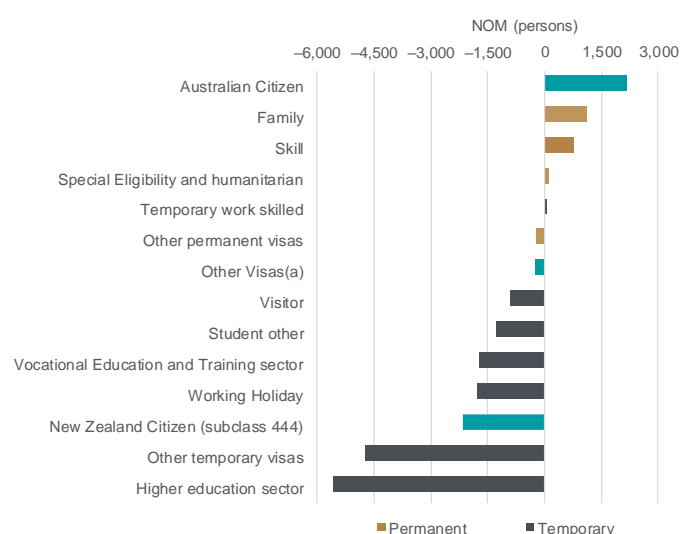
Source: ABS Data Explorer: *Net Overseas Migration: Arrivals, departures and net, State/territory, Major groupings and visas*

Notably, there was a NOM gain in Australian citizens in Queensland in both 2019–20 and 2020–21, whereas prior to this there were nine years of NOM losses for this visa type. Further visa types that recorded NOM losses in 2020–21 after consistent historical annual NOM gains in Queensland were all types of student visas, visitor visas, working holiday visas, and New Zealand citizens.

The NOM loss of 2,150 New Zealand citizens in 2020–21 follows at least 16 years of annual gains to Queensland. The number of arrivals in 2020–21 was around half that recorded in 2019–20 (–47.7%), while departures were 15.7% lower — both directly impacted by the closure of Australia's international border and restrictions on movements between Australia and New Zealand.

By visa type, the largest NOM loss occurred among higher education sector visa holders (–5,580 persons) followed by other temporary visa holders (–4,750 persons) (Figure 7). Of permanent visa holders in 2020–21, only other permanent visa holders (–120 persons) recorded a NOM loss.

**Figure 7 NOM by visa type, Queensland 2020–21**



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

Source: ABS Data Explorer: *Net Overseas Migration: Arrivals, departures and net, State/territory, Major groupings and visas*

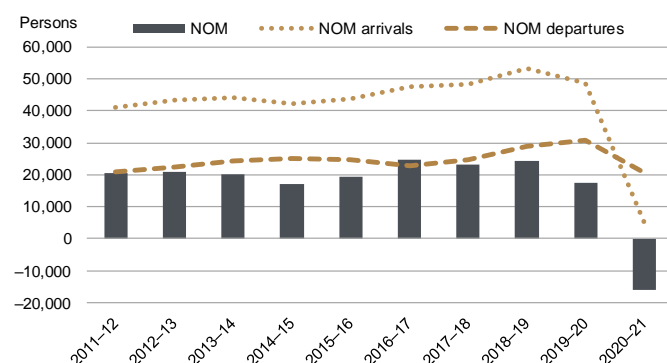
### Temporary visa holders

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.

Between 2012–13 and 2019–20, temporary visa holders contributed more than half of Queensland's total NOM gain each year, with a gain of 17,570 persons in 2019–20 (Figure 8). In 2020–21, there was a net loss of temporary visa holders (–15,920 persons), with substantial drops in numbers of both arrivals (from 48,570 persons in 2019–20 to 4,700) and departures (from 31,000 to 20,620 persons).

In 2020–21, temporary work skilled visas recorded the only NOM gain (40 persons) of any temporary visa type.

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



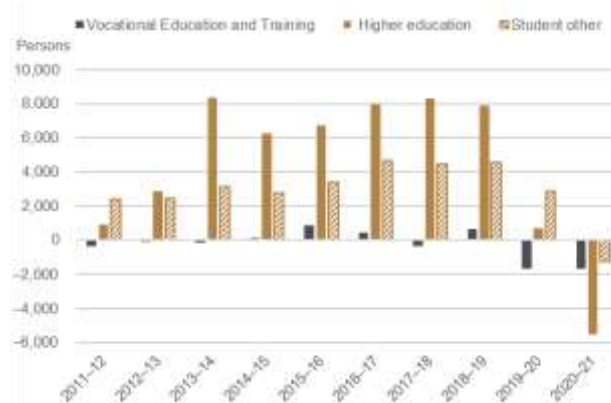
Source: ABS Overseas Migration, 2020–21

### Student temporary visa holders

International students were disproportionately affected by the international border closure, with NOM losses recorded for all student visa types in 2020–21, following a notable contraction in numbers in 2019–20 for both higher education and student other visa types. NOM for higher education visa holders dropped from a small gain of 700 persons in 2019–20 to a loss of 5,580 persons in 2020–21 (Figure 9).

In the six years prior to 2019–20, higher education visa holders had consistently contributed more than 6,000 persons annually to Queensland's NOM.

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



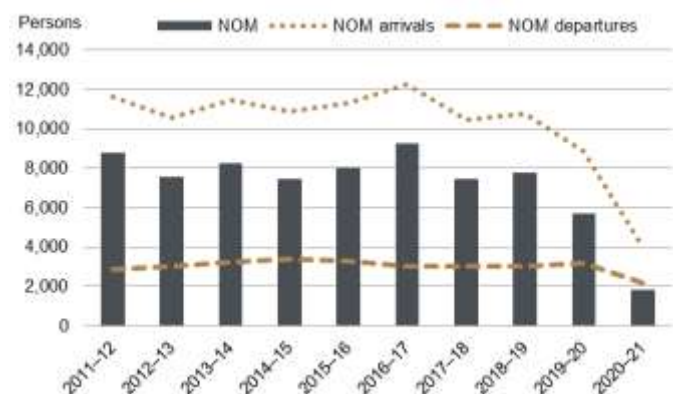
Source: ABS Overseas Migration, 2020–21

### 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.

Contrasting with the NOM loss for temporary visa holders, there was NOM gain for permanent visa holders in 2020–21 of 1,800. However, this gain was less than a third of that recorded in 2019–20 (5,710 persons), and just under a quarter of the level recorded in 2018–19 (7,750) (Figure 10).

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



Source: ABS Overseas Migration, 2020–21

The NOM gain for permanent visa holders was primarily comprised of family visa holders (1,130 persons or 62.8%) and, to a lesser extent, permanent skilled visa holders (760 persons or 42.2%), with a small contribution from special eligibility and humanitarian visa holders (100 persons or 5.6%).

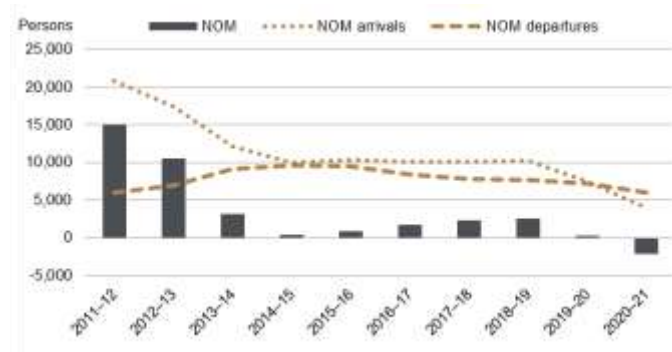
**New Zealand citizens**

*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 over time, with the most recent peak gain of 14,910 persons in 2011–12. The loss of 2,150 persons recorded in 2020–21 was the first loss in the time series (from 2006–07) and accounted for 15.0% of Queensland's overall NOM loss (Figure 11).

Queensland accounted for 90.0% of the national NOM loss of 2,390 New Zealand citizens in 2020–21.

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

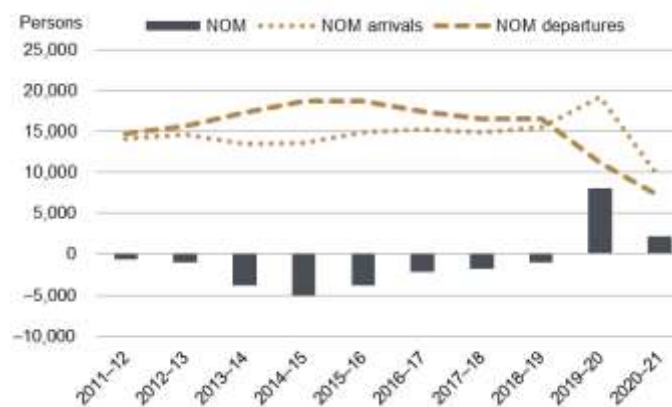


Source: ABS Overseas Migration, 2020–21

**Australian citizens**

For the second consecutive year, Queensland experienced a net gain of Australian citizens (2,150 persons). Historically, Queensland has experienced a small net loss of Australian citizens most years in the time series (from 2006–07). The gain in 2020–21 was substantially smaller compared with 2019–20 (8,050 persons), due to arrivals more than halving (–51.7%, to 9,290 persons), while departures declined by just over one-third (–36.3%, to 7,140 persons) (Figure 12).

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



Source: ABS Overseas Migration, 2020–21

**Net overseas migration by country of birth**

In line with the overall NOM loss to Queensland in 2020–21, fewer countries of birth recorded a NOM gain than in 2020–19, and gains were relatively small (Table 2). People born in Tonga and South Africa recorded the largest gains (540 and 480 persons respectively), followed by those born in Australia (390 persons).

Key countries of birth for NOM have traditionally reflected the demand for higher education and both temporary and permanent employment from middle-income countries. In 2020–21, the losses were largest for migrants with a country of birth in Asia, accounting for 80.6% of the total NOM loss from Queensland.

This was predominantly driven by the loss of 6,110 Chinese-born persons in 2020–21, which followed a loss of 1,090 persons in 2019–20 — the only two years in the time series (from 2006–07) where a net outflow has been recorded (Figure 13). Notable losses were also recorded in 2020–21 for persons born in New Zealand (–1,620 persons), South Korea (–1,360) and India (–1,350).

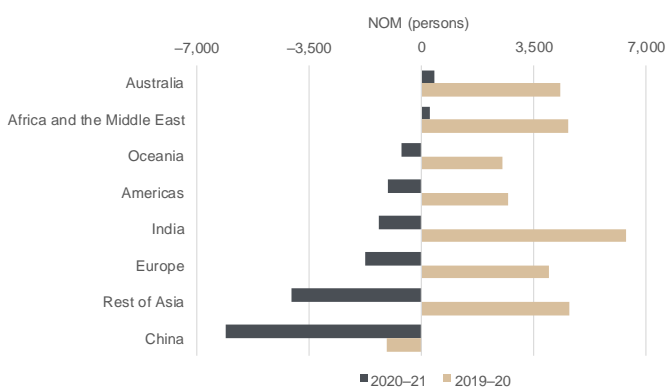
People born in India have typically accounted for a large portion of the gain through overseas migration to Queensland. Gains of over 6,000 persons were recorded in each of 2018–19 and 2019–20, however there was a loss of 1,350 Indian-born migrants in 2020–21.

**Table 2 NOM by country of birth, Queensland**

Country of birth	Rank in 2020–21	2020–21	2019–20
		—persons—	
Tonga	1	540	510
South Africa	2	480	1,680
Australia	3	390	4,340
Solomon Islands	4	300	110
Philippines	5	290	2,580
Samoa	6	210	390
Afghanistan	7	170	210
Vanuatu	8	130	600
Iran	9	70	400
United Arab Emirates	10	60	100
Other	..	–17,010	17,050
Total	..	–14,370	27,970

Source: ABS *Overseas Migration*, 2020–21

**Figure 13 NOM by country of birth, Queensland**



Source: ABS *Overseas Migration*, 2020–21

## 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>ii</sup>

In 2020–21, there were 19,640 permanent additions to Queensland under the Migration Program (similar to 2019–20), comprising 2,229 settler arrivals and 17,411 persons granted permanent residence while residing in Queensland on a temporary visa (Table 3).

In previous years, the skilled stream has accounted for the largest proportion of the Migration Program. There were 9,026 permanent additions to Queensland of skilled visa holders during 2020–21, accounting for 46.0% of Queensland's permanent additions.

**Table 3 Permanent additions<sup>(a)</sup> by migration pathway — settler arrivals and onshore program, Queensland, 2020–21**

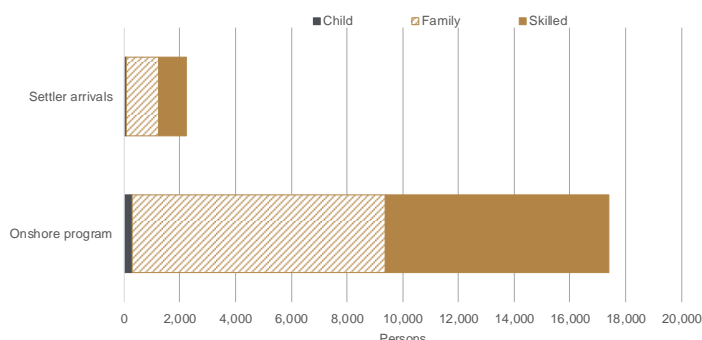
Visa type	Onshore program	Settler arrivals	Total permanent additions	
	persons		persons	%
Child	281	79	360	1.8
Family	9,082	1,172	10,254	52.2
Skilled	8,048	978	9,026	46.0
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>17,411</b>	<b>2,229</b>	<b>19,640</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Per cent				
Child	78.1	21.9	..	100.0
Family	88.6	11.4	..	100.0
Skilled	89.2	10.8	..	100.0
<b>Total<sup>(a)</sup></b>	<b>88.7</b>	<b>11.3</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.

Source: Department of Home Affairs BP00241 *Permanent additions to Australia's resident population 2020–21*, November 2021

**Figure 14 Permanent additions by migration pathway and visa type, 2020–21, Queensland**



Source: Department of Home Affairs BP00241 *Permanent additions to Australia's resident population 2020–21*, November 2021

The shift to permanent additions coming predominantly via the onshore pathway reflected the restrictions at the international border (Figure 14). This shift continued a pattern seen since 2018–19, when persons already onshore in Queensland accounted for 52.9%, increasing to 71.4% in 2019–20 and 88.7% in 2020–21.

Both the child and family visa types had notably higher proportions of onshore arrivals in 2020–21 (78.1% and 88.6% respectively) compared with 2019–20 (47.0% and 64.0% respectively). In 2020–21, almost all (97.2%) family visa holder permanent additions entered Queensland under the partner visa category (9,972 persons) compared with 91.3% (5,749) in 2019–20.

Persons with a family visa type accounted for the largest proportion of permanent additions to Queensland, representing 52.2% (or 10,254) of total permanent additions in 2020–21 compared with 32.1% (or 6,297) in 2019–20.

**Skilled visa holders**

Skilled visa holders accounted for 46.0% (9,026 persons) of Queensland's permanent additions to the Migration Program in 2020–21, down from 65.9% in 2019–20. Employer sponsored visa holders in 2020-21 accounted for the largest share of the skilled visa category with 32.3% or 2,915 persons, followed by regional visa holders 19.3% (1,741). As a share of skilled visa holders, regional visa holders increased from 7.5% in 2018–19 to 24.7% in 2019–20, then decreased to 19.3% in 2020–21.

Of the 2,915 permanent additions gained by Queensland under the employer sponsored visa category in 2020–21, 95.1% were onshore (2,773 onshore plus 142 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 13.4% of additions nationally under an employer sponsored visa in 2020–21. It was the third-largest share after New South Wales (46.1%) and Victoria (24.8%).

**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 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 Geographical 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 Australian Government's [data.gov.au](http://data.gov.au) website.

Of the 30,470 total permanent residents who settled in Queensland in 2020–21 according to the Settlement Database, only 0.8% (or 240 persons) were under the Humanitarian stream, 45.9% (13,978) were under the Family stream, while those on Skilled visas were the largest stream with 16,252 additions (53.3%).

The number of settlers arriving under the Humanitarian stream in 2020–21 was less than 10% of the level in 2019–20 (2,625 persons).

One in five (22.9%) permanent settlers to Queensland under the Humanitarian Program in 2020–21 were born in Afghanistan, followed by those born in Iran with 1 in 10 humanitarian permanent settlers (10.8%), narrowly ahead of those born in Australia<sup>iii</sup> (9.6%) (Table 4).

While Iraq was the leading country of birth in 2019–20, recording 1,072 persons, there were only 16 permanent settlers to Queensland in 2020–21 who were born in Iraq. The numbers of humanitarian settlers born in Ethiopia, Papua New Guinea and Turkey all decreased by more than half compared with the 2019–20 level.

**Table 4 Top 10 countries of birth, Humanitarian Program permanent settlers, Queensland**

Country of birth	Permanent settlers				
	2019–20		2020–21		%
	persons	rank	persons	rank	
Afghanistan	41	15	55	1	22.9
Iran	49	10	26	2	10.8
Australia <sup>iii</sup>	17	25	23	3	9.6
Pakistan	18	23	18	4	7.5
Venezuela	18	23	18	5	7.5
Iraq	1,072	1	16	6	6.7
Ethiopia	122	3	10	7	4.2
Papua New Guinea	45	14	7	8	2.9
Sri Lanka	0	35	5	9	2.1
Turkey	34	16	5	10	2.1
Other	1,209	..	57	..	23.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,625</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>100.0</b>

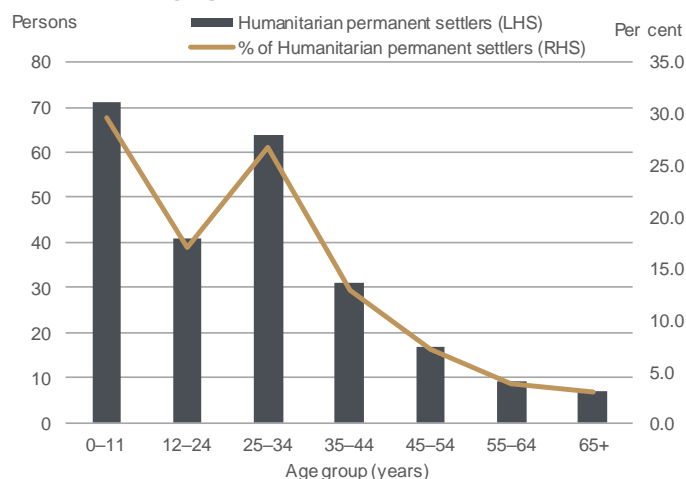
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Source: Department of Home Affairs Permanent Settlers (All Streams) in Queensland with a Date of Settlement between 01 July 2020 and 30 June 2021, July 2021

The age structure of migrants within the Humanitarian Program is very young, with around three-quarters of permanent settlers to Queensland under the Humanitarian Program in 2020–21 aged under 35 years (73.3% or 176 permanent settlers) (Figure 15). Perhaps more notably, almost half were under 25 years of age (46.7%), and 3 in 10 were children aged under 12 years (29.6%).

The concentration of Humanitarian settlers in the younger age groups was also evident in 2019–20, with 75.3% under 35 years of age and 30.4% aged under 12 years.

**Figure 15 Humanitarian Program permanent settlers by age group, Queensland, 2020–21**



Source: Department of Home Affairs Permanent Settlers (All Streams) in Qld with Date of Settlement 01 July 2020 and 30 June 2021, July 2021

Almost half (47.9%) of permanent settlers to Queensland under the Humanitarian Program in 2020–21 were located within the local government area (LGA) of Brisbane (C) (Table 5).

**Table 5 LGAs with over 10 Humanitarian Program permanent settlers, Queensland, 2020–21**

Local Govt. Area (LGA)	Permanent settlers	
	persons	%
Brisbane (C)	115	47.9
Logan (C)	20	8.3
Toowoomba (R)	20	8.3
Gold Coast (C)	19	7.9
Townsville (C)	11	4.6
Rest of Qld	55	22.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>240</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 01 July 2020 and 30 June 2021, July 2021

Queensland accounted for around 1 in 8 permanent settlers nationally under the Humanitarian Program in 2020–21 (12.4%), the third highest of the states and territories behind Victoria (33.4%) and New South Wales (28.1%).

For permanent settlers under the Humanitarian Program with a settlement date in 2020–21 and with a recorded address, Brisbane (C) had the highest number of settlers of all LGAs within Australia and accounted for 6.0% of the national total.



## Temporary (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 2018<sup>iv</sup>. Visa figures in this section are sourced from Department of Home Affairs and are not comparable to NOM figures released by the ABS.

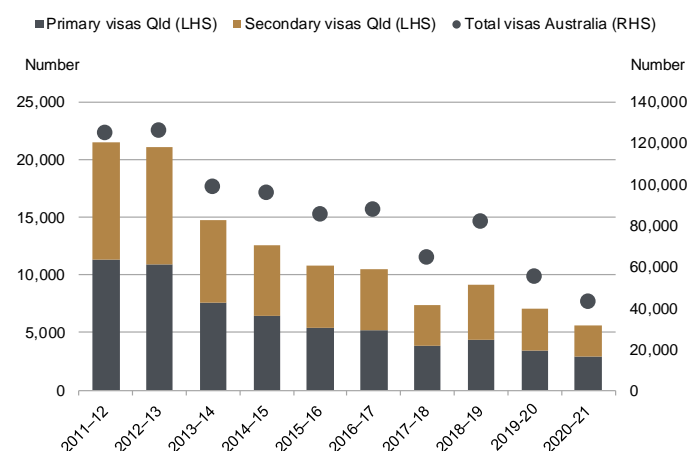
A business can sponsor a skilled worker if they cannot find an appropriately skilled Australian citizen or permanent resident to fill a position listed in the combined eligible skilled occupations list<sup>v</sup>. The principal data collected on 457 and 482 visa holders are sourced from the visa application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

### Visa grants

The annual grant of temporary skilled visas for both primary and secondary applicants<sup>vii</sup> in Queensland decreased by 20.6% between 2019–20 (7,032 visas) and 2020–21 (5,585). 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 generally reflected the national trend since 2011–12 (Figure 16).

**Figure 16 Temporary work (skilled) visas granted, Queensland and Australia**

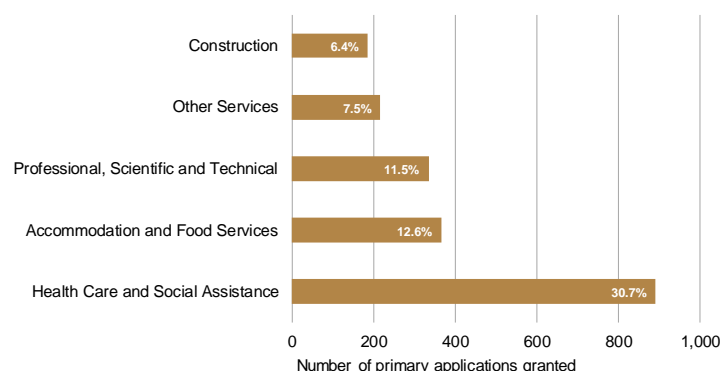


Source: Department of Home Affairs BP0014 Temporary Work (Skilled) visas granted 2020–21 to 30 June 2021, November 2021

Queensland was the fourth-highest nominated position location for primary visa grants in 2020–21 (12.6%), behind New South Wales (44.4%), Victoria (24.0%) and Western Australia (13.3%).

In 2020–21, the top five sponsor industries<sup>viii</sup> for primary temporary skilled visas granted for nominated positions in Queensland were health care and social assistance (30.7%), accommodation and food services (12.6%), professional, scientific and technical (11.5%), other services (7.5%), and construction (6.4%) (Figure 17).

**Figure 17 Top five nominated sponsor industries, nominated positions in Queensland, 2020–21**



Source: Department of Home Affairs BP0014 Temporary Resident (Skilled) visas granted 2020–21 to 30 June 2021, July 2021

Health care and social assistance accounted for 3 in 10 (30.7%) of the temporary skilled work visas granted for positions located in Queensland in 2020–21, the highest share reported in the past 10 years, and 6.3 percentage points higher than 2019–20.

The sponsor industries of construction and mining have both seen notable declines over the past decade in their share of the total visa grants to Queensland for temporary skilled workers, with construction decreasing from 18.5% in 2011–12 to 6.4% in 2020–21, and mining down from 16.7% in 2011–12 to 5.3% in 2020–21.

The top three nominated occupations<sup>ix</sup> for primary visas granted for Queensland in 2020–21 were:

- resident medical officer (17.1%)
- chef (6.1%)
- cook (3.8%).

These occupations were also ranked in the top three occupations in 2019–20. Resident medical officer has increased substantially compared with 10 years earlier, growing from 1.9% in 2011–12 to 17.1% in 2020–21, which was 4.3 percentage points higher than in 2019–20.

The United Kingdom continued as the country of citizenship most frequently cited in primary visas granted for nominated positions in Queensland (20.3%), followed by India (10.1%) and the Philippines (9.3%). Together, these three countries accounted for 39.8% of primary visa grants in 2020–21 (Table 6), a similar proportion to 2019–20.

**Table 6** Top 10 citizenship countries, primary applicants, Queensland, 2020–21

Country of citizenship		Visas granted	
		no.	%
1	United Kingdom	592	20.3
2	India	295	10.1
3	Philippines	271	9.3
4	Korea, South	132	4.5
5	South Africa	123	4.2
6	Ireland, Republic of	112	3.8
7	Brazil	105	3.6
8	United States of America	94	3.2
9	Malaysia	89	3.1
10	Canada	85	2.9
	Other	1,012	34.8
	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,910</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Department of Home Affairs *BP0014 Temporary Resident (Skilled) visas granted 2020–21 to 30 June 2021, July 2021*

Around 1 in 4 temporary skilled visas were granted for nominated positions located in the Brisbane Inner City Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4) (26.3% or 766 visa grants) (Table 7). Nearly 1 in 3 temporary skilled visas were granted for nominated positions located outside of South East Queensland (31.1% or 905 visa grants)<sup>x</sup>.

**Table 7** Temporary resident (skilled) visa grants (primary applicants) by nominated position location, Queensland, 2020–21

Nominated position location <sup>(a)</sup>	Visas granted	
	no.	%
Brisbane Inner City	766	26.3
Gold Coast	327	11.2
Sunshine Coast	195	6.7
Brisbane - South	163	5.6
Wide Bay	153	5.3
Townsville	146	5.0
Brisbane - North	141	4.8
Mackay – Isaac – Whitsunday	138	4.7
Cairns	133	4.6
Central Queensland	133	4.6
Ipswich	115	4.0
Brisbane – East	85	2.9
Darling Downs – Maranoa	85	2.9
Moreton Bay – North	82	2.8
Logan – Beaudesert	78	2.7
Toowoomba	59	2.0
Queensland – Outback	58	2.0
Brisbane – West	34	1.2
Moreton Bay – South	18	0.6
Not specified	<5	0.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,910</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) 2016 Australian Statistical Geography Standard, SA4

Source: Department of Home Affairs *BP0014 Temporary Resident (Skilled) visas granted 2020–21 to 30 June 2021, July 2021*

### Visa holders living in Queensland

There were 6,840 primary temporary resident (skilled) visa holders living in Queensland as at 30 June 2021, a decrease of 17.6% from a year earlier. Nationally, the number of visa holders in Australia declined by 22.9% over the same period. Queensland accounted for 12.4% of the national total of visa holders living in Australia (55,030) at 30 June 2021.

In 2020–21, more than 4 in 10 (45.6%) temporary resident skilled visa holders in Queensland were in nominated occupations within the Professionals major grouping, with the most common nominated individual occupations being chef (7.7%), resident medical officer (7.6%) and cook (2.9%). These three occupations were also the top three occupations for people on skilled work visas in Queensland in 2019–20.

## 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>xi</sup>. Data for 2020–21 were not available at the time this report was prepared.

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) and Victoria (37.0%, 50 visas). Together, New South Wales and Victoria accounted for 8 in 10 of the 135 SIVs granted nationally in that year<sup>xii</sup>.

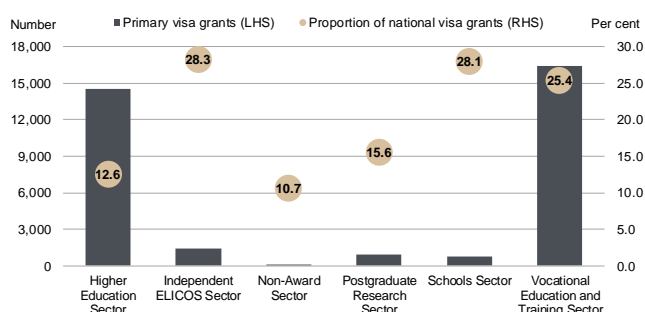
The number of SIV grants with Queensland as the nominated state in 2019–20 was similar to 2018–19, (6.8%, 13 visas granted) and 2017–18, (5.2%, 10 visas). The number of SIVs granted in those years for Australia was 191 and 174 respectively.

## Student visas

In 2020–21, there were 39,405 student visas granted for education providers registered in Queensland, and 86.6% of these were primary visa grants. Compared with 2019–20, this represented a decrease of 23,240 student visas granted (–37.1%). In 2020–21, the VET sector accounted for the largest proportion (48.2%) of the primary student visa grants in Queensland, followed by the higher education sector (42.5%), with these two sectors combined accounting for 9 in 10 primary applicant student visa grants.

With similar outcomes to 2019–20, Queensland's primary visa grants for the higher education sector in 2020–21 accounted for 12.6% of the national total for this sector. Compared with its share of the national population, Queensland was overrepresented in the independent ELICOS<sup>xiii</sup>, schools and VET sectors (28.3%, 28.1% and 25.4% respectively) (Figure 18).

**Figure 18 Student visa grants and national share, by sector, for Queensland registered providers 2020–21**



Source: Department of Home Affairs BP0015 Student visa grant rate in 2020–21 to 30 June 2021, July 2021

A comparison of Queensland's student visa grants in 2020–21 with 2019–20, shows decreases across all sectors. The largest decreases proportionally were in the non-award, independent ELICOS and schools sectors with declines of 98.1%, 85.7% and 61.0%, respectively.

More than half of primary applications (55.7%) for student visas granted in 2020–21 for study in institutions registered in Queensland were granted to citizens from just five countries (Table 8):

- People's Republic of China (7,453 visas)
- India (5,687 visas)
- Brazil (2,042 visas)
- Nepal (1,991 visas)
- Colombia (1,834 visas).

**Table 8 Top 10 citizenship countries, temporary student visas granted<sup>(a)</sup> in 2020–21, Queensland<sup>(b)</sup>**

Country of citizenship		Visas granted	
		no.	%
1	China <sup>(c)</sup> , People's Republic of	7,453	21.8
2	India	5,687	16.7
3	Brazil	2,042	6.0
4	Nepal	1,991	5.8
5	Colombia	1,834	5.4
6	South Korea	1,602	4.7
7	Philippines	1,196	3.5
8	Taiwan	974	2.9
9	Japan	900	2.6
10	Hong Kong <sup>(d)</sup>	765	2.2
	Other	9,684	28.4
	<b>Total</b>	<b>34,128</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.
- (d) Special Administrative Region of China.

Source: Department of Home Affairs BP0015 Pivot Table: Student visas granted pivot table. Accessed 24/11/202

There was a decline in the number of primary visas granted for students from most countries, with Brazil, Colombia and Japan all less than half their respective 2019–20 level. Few countries had increases in primary student visa grants between 2019–20 and 2020–21. However, of countries with more than 50 visa grants, Iran (12.8%) and Zimbabwe (17.2%) both had increases compared with 2019–20.



## Technical notes

### Net overseas migration (NOM)

Data sourced from: ABS, *National, state and territory population*, published 16 December 2021.

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 September 2020 are final, based on actual traveller behaviour. Estimates for 30 September 2020 to 31 March 2021 are revised and estimates for 30 June 2021 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>i</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>ii</sup> Data based on visa sub-class at time of arrival for settlers.

<sup>iii</sup> Country of birth 'Australia' in the Humanitarian stream indicates that the individual was born in Australia to parents who were not permanent residents.

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>xiii</sup> ELICOS is the common abbreviation for English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students.