

Overseas migration, Queensland, 2021–22

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

Key points

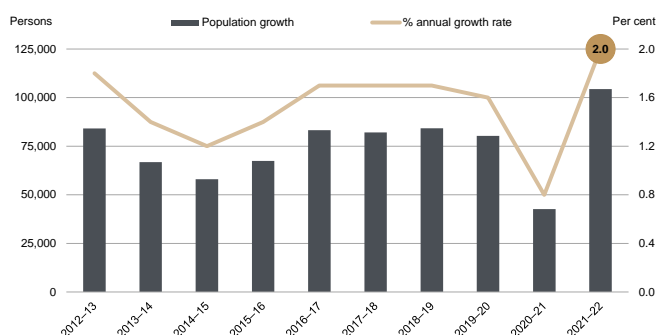
- Queensland's net overseas migration (NOM) rose from –12,860 in 2020–21 to 23,430 persons in 2021–22, reflecting the easing of international travel restrictions from late 2021.
- Temporary visa holders (16,630 persons) represented the largest component of Queensland's NOM in 2021–22, followed by permanent visa holders (5,280) and New Zealand citizens (2,950).
- In 2021–22, the top five sponsor industries for primary temporary skilled visas granted for nominated positions in Queensland were: health care and social assistance (23.1%); accommodation and food services (14.2%); professional, scientific and technical (13.0%); other services¹ (9.0%), and manufacturing (6.8%).

Net overseas migration

Population change and net overseas migration

Queensland has recorded strong population growth for many years, with annual growth reaching 2.6% at its peak in 2006–07 to 2008–09. Since then, annual population growth has moderated with levels generally below 2.0% per year over the recent decade. A notable drop in annual growth, to 0.8%, was recorded in 2020–21 and reflected the impact of border restrictions on NOM (Figure 1). The population growth rate in 2021–22 increased to 2.0%, the highest since 2011–12 (2.1%), and added 104,410 persons.

Figure 1 Population growth, Queensland



Source: ABS *National, state and territory population*, Dec 2022

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

Overseas migration data sources

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

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

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

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

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

Quarterly variability in NOM

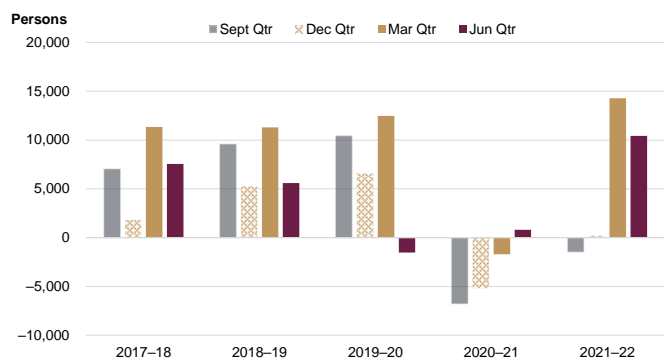
NOM was impacted as a direct result of the international border restrictions, with quarterly NOM data highly variable during the period. Between June quarter 2020 and December quarter 2021, Queensland either recorded NOM losses or historically low levels of NOM gains.

With the easing of travel restrictions, Queensland's NOM recovered to a gain of 14,269 persons in March quarter 2022, which was the highest March quarter figure recorded since 2009. Similarly, June quarter 2022 NOM (10,422 persons) was the highest recorded since 2012 (Figure 2).

repair and maintenance activities; and private households employing staff.

Queensland's quarterly NOM rebounded in March quarter 2022, after seven consecutive quarters of either losses or very small gains.

Figure 2 NOM by quarter, Queensland

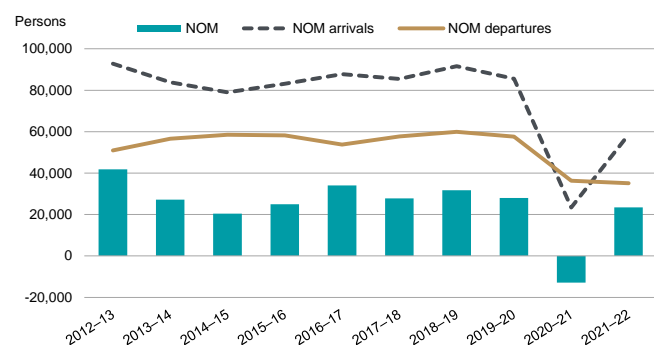


Source: ABS *National, state and territory population*, Dec 2022

Migrant arrivals and departures over time

There has been greater quarterly variability in migrant arrival numbers than for migrant departures since March quarter 2020. Annually, migrant arrivals in 2021–22 were more than double the number recorded in 2020–21, while migrant departures were stable across the two years (Figure 3). There were 58,580 migrant arrivals and 35,150 migrant departures, up 149.9% and down 3.2% respectively from the previous year.

Figure 3 NOM, arrivals & departures, Queensland



Source: ABS *National, state and territory population*, Dec 2022

Queensland accounted for 13.7% of Australia's total NOM gain in 2021–22 (170,920 persons), compared with 15.1% of the national NOM loss in 2020–21. Queensland recorded the third-largest share of Australia's NOM gain, behind New South Wales (36.4%) and Victoria (32.5%) in 2021–22.

Net overseas migration age and sex profile

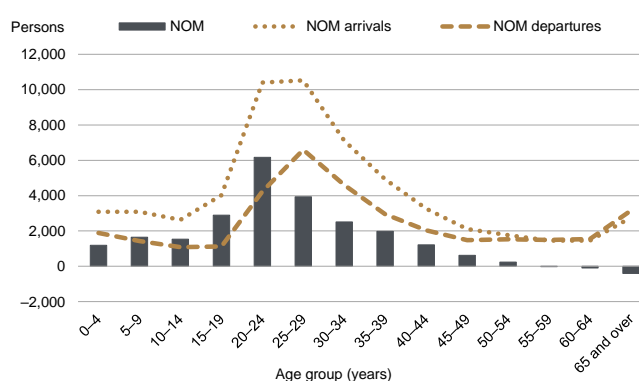
In 2021–22, overseas migrants aged between 20–34 years contributed the largest numbers of migrant arrivals to Queensland (47.8%), and the largest numbers of migrant departures (43.9%) (Figure 4).

In 2021–22:

- migrant arrivals to Queensland were greatest among 25–29 year olds (10,520 persons), followed by 20–24 year olds (10,400)
- migrant departures were greatest among 25–29 year olds (6,590 persons), followed by 30–34 year olds (4,600).

All age groups across 0–54 years experienced NOM gains ranging from 240 persons (50–54 years) up to 6,170 persons (20–24 years). Relatively small NOM losses were recorded in age groups 55 years and over, with the largest loss among those aged 65 years and over (–400 persons) (Figure 4).

Figure 4 NOM by age group, Queensland, 2021–22

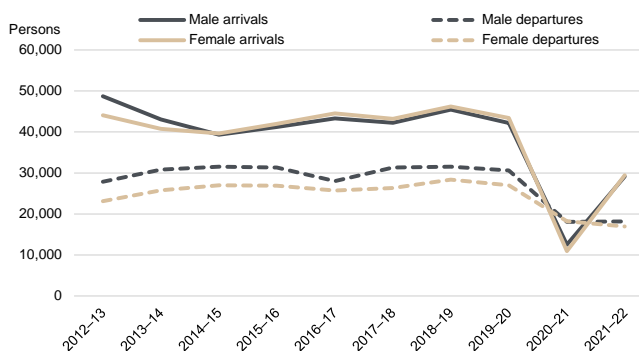


Source: ABS Data Explorer: *Net Overseas Migration: Arrivals, departures and net, State/territory, age and sex*

Females accounted for more than half (53.2%) of Queensland's NOM gain in 2021–22. Since 2012–13, females have accounted for more than half of annual NOM gains (or losses), peaking in 2014–15 (61.8%). Male and female migrant arrivals were at similar levels in 2021–22, although there were slightly fewer female departures (Figure 5).

Male migrant departures have remained higher than that of females every year since 2004–05, apart from 2020–21.

Figure 5 Migrant arrivals and departures by sex, Queensland



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

NOM by major grouping and visa type

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

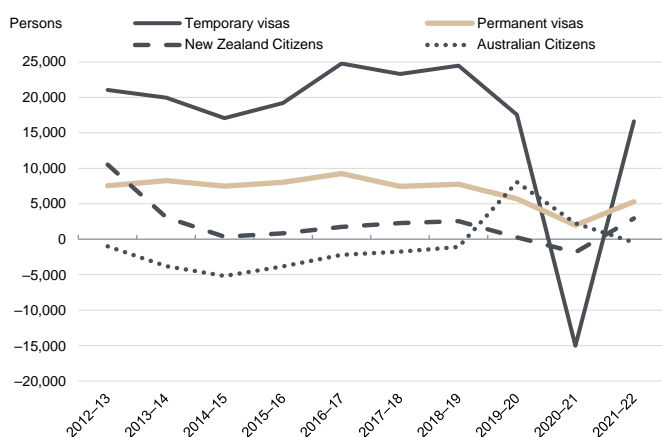
- temporary visas holders
- permanent visas holders
- New Zealand citizens
- Australian citizens.

The opening of the Australian international border during 2021–22 allowed the NOM to Queensland for all visa types to return to a more usual pattern. NOM gains were recorded for three of the five major visa groups, the exceptions being Australian citizens and 'Other' visas.

Temporary visa holders returned to be the largest contributor to NOM gain in Queensland in 2021–22, adding 16,630 persons, compared with a loss of 15,010 persons in 2020–21 (Table 1). Between 2012–13 and 2019–20, temporary visa holders added more than 17,000 persons to Queensland's population each year (Figure 6). In 2021–22, higher education students contributed the largest share of the NOM gain through temporary visa holders (6,720 persons or 40.4%), followed by those on visitor visas (3,390 or 20.4%).

There was a return to a NOM gain (2,950 persons) for New Zealand citizens in 2021–22, following a loss (–1,850) in 2020–21. After two years of NOM gains during the COVID affected period, there was a NOM loss of Australian citizens in 2021–22 (–450 persons). 'Other' visa holders recorded a fifth consecutive year of NOM losses (–980 persons) in 2021–22 (Table 1).

Figure 6 NOM by major grouping^(a), 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	
	2020–21	2021–22	2020–21	2021–22
	— persons —		— persons —	
Permanent	1,980	5,280	17,040	38,630
Family	1,210	2,410	10,260	15,620
Skill	840	2,280	7,220	17,510
Special eligibility and Humanitarian programs	120	660	390	6,560
Other permanent visas	–170	–70	–850	–1,070
Temporary	–15,010	16,630	–101,940	120,460
Vocational education & training sector	–1,680	1,130	–9,260	11,240
Higher education sector	–5,500	6,720	–37,350	74,110
Student other	–1,240	2,910	–5,640	12,760
Temporary skilled visas	100	2,030	–2,470	11,410
Visitor ^(a)	–900	3,390	–6,420	19,470
Working holiday	–1,780	1,610	–5,020	6,840
Other temporary visas	–3,990	–1,180	–35,800	–15,340
New Zealand citizen^(b)	–1,850	2,950	–250	4,490
Australian citizen	2,260	–450	15,100	–12,480
Other^(c)	–240	–980	–2,020	–3,620
Total^(d)	–12,860	23,430	–72,070	147,490

Figures in table rounded to nearest 10.

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

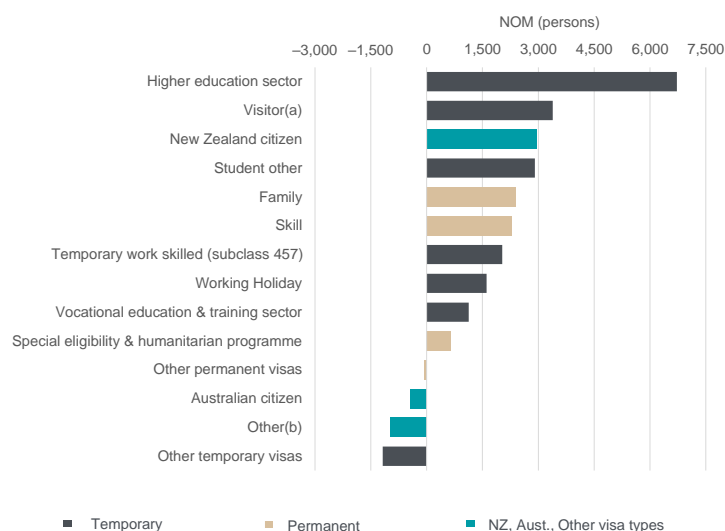
Source: ABS Data Explorer: *Net Overseas Migration: Arrivals, departures and net, State/territory, Major groupings and visas*

The return to a NOM gain of New Zealand citizens (in 2021–22 is in line with at least 16 years of annual gains to Queensland prior to 2020–21. The number of arrivals in 2021–22 was similar to that recorded in 2019–20 and higher than 2020–21, while departures were notably lower than both years—these movements were likely impacted by the additional restrictions on movements between Australia and New Zealand which continued into 2021–22.

By visa type, the largest NOM gain occurred among higher education sector visa holders (6,720 persons)

followed by visitors (3,390 persons) (Figure 7). Of permanent visa holders in 2021–22, only 'other' permanent visa holders (–70 persons) recorded a NOM loss.

Figure 7 NOM by visa type, Queensland 2021–22



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

Source: ABS *Overseas Migration*, 2021–22

Temporary visa holders

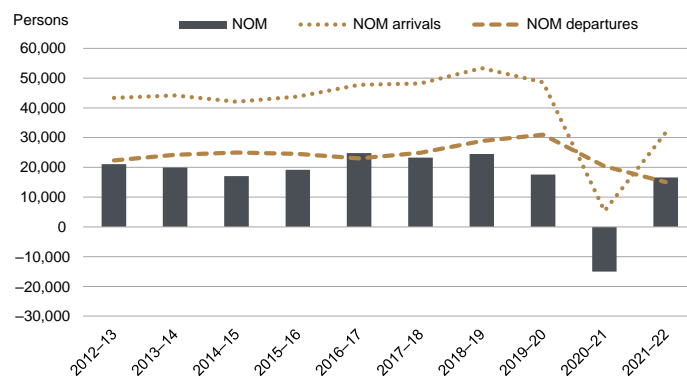
Temporary entrant visas permit people to come to Australia on a temporary basis for specific purposes.

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 17,560 persons in 2019–20 (Figure 8).

After a net loss of temporary visa holders (–15,010 persons) in 2020–21, a notable gain of 16,630 persons was recorded in 2021–22, with substantial increases in arrivals (31,660 persons, up from 5,350 persons in 2020–21), while departures continued to decline (from 20,360 to 15,030 persons).

Higher education visa holders accounted for 40.4% of the gain through all temporary visa holders and 28.7% of the Queensland's total NOM gain. Visitor visas were the second largest contributor, accounting for 20.4% of persons gained to Queensland's population on temporary visas, and 14.5% of Queensland's NOM gain.

Figure 8 Contribution to NOM, temporary visa holders, Queensland



Source: ABS *Overseas Migration*, 2021–22

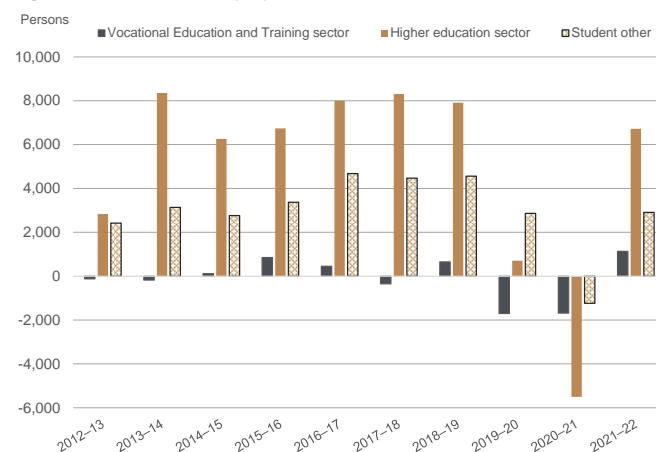
Student temporary visa holders

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.

In 2021–22 there was a recovery with a NOM gain of 10,760 students for Queensland. Higher education visa holders contributed the most to this increase, recovering from a loss of 5,500 students in 2020–21 to a gain of 6,720 students in 2021–22 (Figure 9). In each of the six years prior to 2019–20, higher education visa holders contributed more than 6,000 persons annually to Queensland's NOM, and the 2021–22 gain recovered to again be above this level.

Both vocational education and training (VET) (1,130 persons) and student other visas (2,910 persons) also recorded gains in the year to 30 June 2022. The gain for VET students was the largest since 2009–10 (2,640) and follows a period of variability between NOM gains and losses for this group.

Figure 9 NOM by type of student visa, Queensland



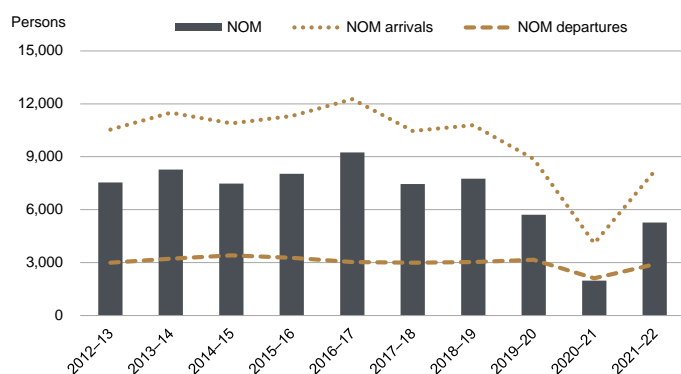
Source: ABS *Overseas Migration*, 2021–22

Permanent visa holders

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

There was NOM gain of 5,280 persons for permanent visa holders in 2021–22, more than double the gain in 2020–21 (1,980 persons), however still below the average of the previous 10 years. (Figure 10).

Figure 10 Contribution to NOM, permanent visa holders, Queensland



Source: ABS Overseas Migration, 2021–22

The NOM gain for permanent visa holders was primarily comprised of family visa holders (2,410 persons or 45.6%) and permanent skilled visa holders (2,280 persons or 43.2%), with a comparatively smaller contribution from special eligibility and humanitarian visa holders (660 persons or 12.5%).

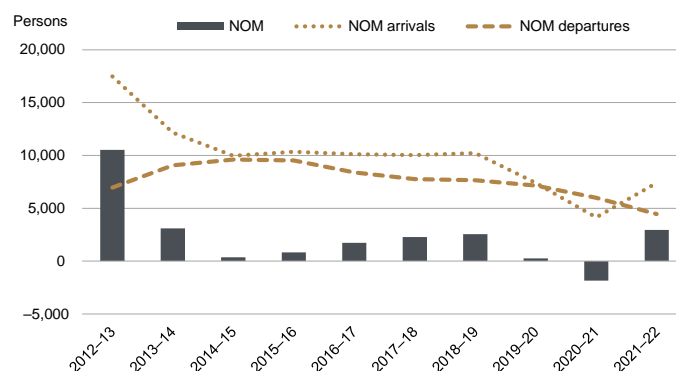
New Zealand citizens

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 been gains in most years of recent decades, with the loss in 2020–21 the first in the current timeseries (since 2004–05). There was a NOM gain of 2,950 New Zealand citizens to Queensland in 2021–22, which accounted for 12.6% of Queensland's overall NOM gain (Figure 11).

Queensland accounted for 39.7% of the national NOM gain of 7,440 New Zealand citizens in 2021–22.

Figure 11 Contribution to NOM, New Zealand citizens, Queensland

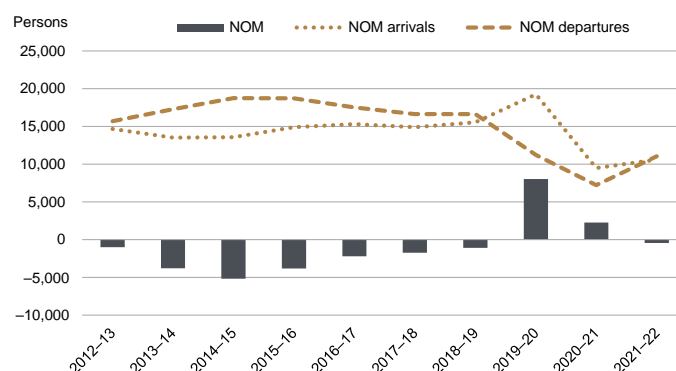


Source: ABS Overseas Migration, 2021–22

Australian citizens

Historically, Queensland has experienced a small net loss of Australian citizens most years in the time series (from 2006–07). However, during the first two COVID affected years there were net gains for this group. In 2021–22, there was a return to a net loss (–450 persons), due to departures increasing more rapidly than arrivals (up 53.3% and 11.9% respectively). Both arrivals and departures of Australian citizens were well below the levels experienced in the pre-COVID period (Figure 12).

Figure 12 Contribution to NOM, Australian citizens, Queensland



Source: ABS Overseas Migration, 2021–22

Net overseas migration by country of birth

The countries of birth of those contributing to the NOM gain in Queensland were less concentrated in 2021–22 compared with previous years.

While people born in India again accounted for the largest proportion of the NOM gain to Queensland in 2021–22, representing 1 in 10 additions to the population from NOM (11.6%), this was a notably lower proportion than in 2018–19 (last full year pre-COVID pandemic), when they accounted for 1 in 5 additions. In overall numbers, Indian born NOM additions decreased by 64.6% compared with 2018–19.

People born in New Zealand and the Philippines also recorded gains of over 2,000 persons (2,110 and 2,080 persons respectively) (Table 2).

Key countries of birth for NOM have traditionally reflected the demand for higher education and both temporary and permanent employment from middle-income countries. Following losses or substantial contractions in NOM in 2020–21 for the usual key source countries (India, Philippines and China), 2021–22 saw a recovery. China and India returned to the top 10 for NOM gains, while Hong Kong (1,310 persons or 5.6% of the total) entered the top 10 for the first time.

The United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man (UK, CI and IOM) historically always featured in the top 10 countries of birth for NOM gain to Australia for the period prior to the COVID pandemic. However, NOM from this country has not fully recovered from the loss in 2020–21 (–250 persons), contributing only 780 persons in 2021–22, well below the annual average NOM gain prior to the pandemic, and ranking the UK, CI and IOM 11th for NOM gain to Queensland.

Table 2 NOM by country of birth, Queensland

Country of birth	Rank	2021–22	2020–21	2021–22
		—persons—		%
India	1	2,720	–1,230	11.6
New Zealand	2	2,110	–1,470	9.0
Philippines	3	2,080	290	8.9
China	4	1,400	–6,030	6.0
Hong Kong	5	1,310	–30	5.6
Afghanistan	6	1,240	190	5.3
South Africa	7	1,180	490	5.0
Samoa	8	990	280	4.2
Thailand	9	890	–150	3.8
Nepal	10	860	–140	3.7
Other	..	8,670	–5,030	37.0
Total	..	23,430	–12,860	100.0

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

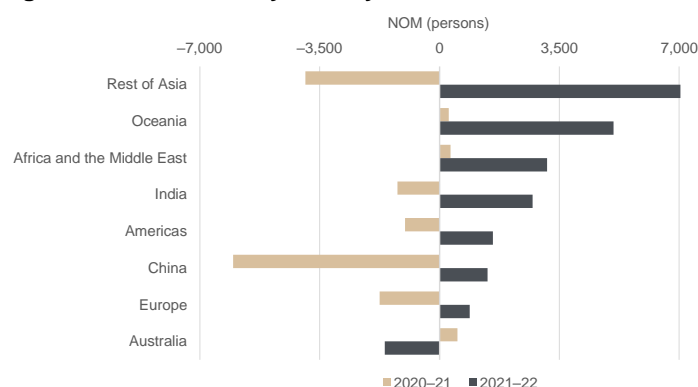
Source: ABS *Overseas Migration*, 2021–22

As a group, persons born in countries in the ‘Rest of Asia’ (excluding India and China) contributed the largest proportion to Queensland’s NOM gain (43.8%), followed by those born in Oceania (21.7%). Together these two broad groups accounted for nearly two-thirds of Queensland’s NOM gain in 2021–22.

A return to NOM gain for most groups was seen in 2021–22, except for those born in Australia, and the

regions of Oceania, and Africa and the Middle East, who also recorded gains in 2020–21 (Figure 13).

Figure 13 NOM by country of birth, Queensland



Source: ABS *Overseas Migration*, 2021–22

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 2018². Visa grant figures in this section are sourced from Department of Home Affairs and are not comparable to NOM figures released by the ABS.

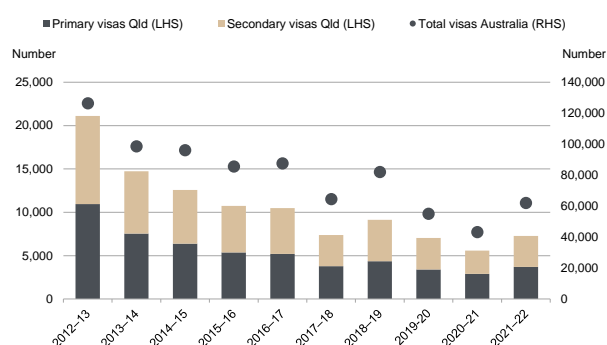
Note that not all visa grants will result in people arriving to Queensland.

Visa grants

The annual grant of temporary skilled visas for both primary and secondary applicants³ in Queensland increased by 30.1% between 2020–21 (5,585 visa grants) and 2021–22 (7,267). In general terms, the granting of temporary skilled visas for Queensland has declined in almost every year since peaking in 2011–12 (21,489 visa grants).

Queensland’s overall decline in temporary (skilled) visas granted for both applicant types has generally reflected the national trend since 2011–12 (Figure 14).

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



Source: Department of Home Affairs *BP0014 Temporary Work (Skilled) visas granted 2021–22 to 30 June 2022*, November 2022

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

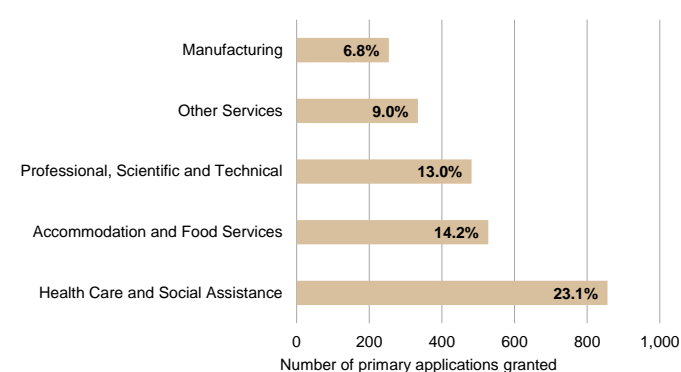
³ A secondary applicant is generally a dependant of the primary applicant and can work and study in Australia.

Queensland was the third-highest nominated position location for primary visa grants in 2021–22 (11.6%), behind New South Wales (43.6%) and Victoria (28.0%).

Sponsor industry

In 2021–22, the top five sponsor industries⁴ for primary temporary skilled visas granted for nominated positions in Queensland were health care and social assistance (23.1%), accommodation and food services (14.2%), professional, scientific and technical (13.0%), other services (9.0%), and manufacturing (6.8%) (Figure 15).

Figure 15 Top five nominated sponsor industries, nominated positions in Queensland, 2021–22



Source: Department of Home Affairs *BP0014 Temporary Resident (Skilled) visas granted 2021–22 to 30 June 2022*, November 2022

Health care and social assistance accounted for more than 1 in 5 (23.1%) of the temporary skilled work visas granted for positions located in Queensland in 2021–22, and has been the industry with the highest share since 2014–15.

The sponsor industries of manufacturing 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 manufacturing decreasing from 16.1% in 2012–13 to 6.8% in 2021–22, and mining down from 10.9% to 5.6% over the same period.

Nominated occupation

The top three nominated occupations⁵ for primary visas granted for Queensland in 2021–22 were:

- resident medical officer (12.4%)
- chef (9.2%)
- software engineer (3.7%).

Four occupations have consistently ranked in the top five for Queensland over the past five years: resident medical officer, chef, café or restaurant manager, and cook. The number of visa grants to cooks has been steadily

declining over the last 10 years, from 621 visa grants in 2012–13 to 78 visa grants in 2021–22.

Resident medical officer has been the occupation with the largest proportion of primary visa grants since 2016–17, and has grown from 1.9% of all occupations for visa grants to Queensland in 2012–13 to 12.4% in 2021–22.

Country of citizenship

The United Kingdom continued to be the country of citizenship most frequently cited in primary visas granted for nominated positions in Queensland (14.3%), followed by India (12.7%) and the Philippines (11.0%).

Together, these three countries accounted for 38.0% of primary visa grants in 2021–22 (Table 3), a similar proportion to 2020–21.

Table 3 Top 10 citizenship countries, primary applicants, Queensland, 2021–22

Country of citizenship		Visas granted	
		no.	%
1	United Kingdom	531	14.3
2	India	470	12.7
3	Philippines	408	11.0
4	South Africa	210	5.7
5	Korea, South	142	3.8
6	China ^(a) , People's Republic of	117	3.2
7	Brazil	115	3.1
8	Malaysia	114	3.1
9	Ireland, Republic of	104	2.8
10	Sri Lanka	103	2.8
	Other	1,397	37.6
	Total	3,711	100.0

(a) Excludes Special Administrative Regions and Taiwan.

Source: Department of Home Affairs *BP0014 Temporary Resident (Skilled) visas granted 2021–22 to 30 June 2022*, November 2022

Location within Queensland

Around 1 in 4 temporary skilled visas in 2021–22 were granted for nominated positions located in the Brisbane Inner City Statistical Area Level 4 (SA4) (26.3% or 766 visa grants) (Table 4).

In the same year, almost 1 in 3 temporary skilled visas were granted for nominated positions located outside of South East Queensland (31.1% or 905 visa grants)⁶.

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

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

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

Table 4 Temporary resident (skilled) visa grants (primary applicants) by nominated position location, Queensland, 2021–22

Nominated position location ^(a)	Visas granted	
	no.	%
Brisbane Inner City	1,132	30.5
Gold Coast	328	8.8
Mackay - Isaac - Whitsunday	194	5.2
Brisbane - South	185	5.0
Cairns	180	4.9
Central Queensland	171	4.6
Townsville	166	4.5
Ipswich	162	4.4
Wide Bay	159	4.3
Sunshine Coast	158	4.3
Darling Downs - Maranoa	150	4.0
Brisbane - North	148	4.0
Queensland - Outback	131	3.5
Brisbane - East	105	2.8
Logan - Beaudesert	104	2.8
Moreton Bay - North	81	2.2
Toowoomba	63	1.7
Moreton Bay - South	47	1.3
Brisbane - West	45	1.2
Not Specified	<5	0.1
Total	3,711	100.0

(a) 2016 Australian Statistical Geography Standard, SA4

Source: Department of Home Affairs *BP0014 Temporary Resident (Skilled) visas granted 2021–22 to 30 June 2022*, November 2022

Visa holders living in Queensland

There were 6,770 primary temporary resident (skilled) visa holders living in Queensland on 30 June 2022, slightly fewer than a year earlier (–1.0%). Nationally, the number of visa holders in Australia declined by 5.9% over the same period. Queensland accounted for 13.1% of the national total of visa holders living in Australia (51,770) on 30 June 2022.

In 2021–22, more than 2 in 5 (45.8%) 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 (9.3%), resident medical officer (8.0%) and software engineer (2.7%).

The top two occupations were also the top two for people on skilled work visas in Queensland in 2020–21, however 'software engineer' increased to become the third-largest occupation for persons on skilled work visas living in Queensland in 2021–22, slightly outnumbering 'cooks'.

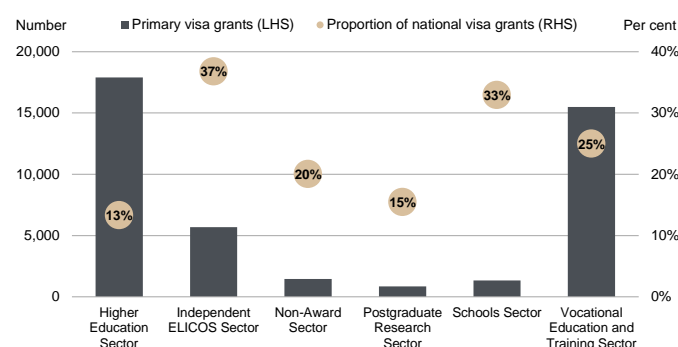
Student visas

In 2021–22, 47,604 student visas were granted for education providers registered in Queensland, and 89.7% of these were primary visa grants. Compared with 2020–21, this represented an increase of 8,199 student visas granted (20.8%), however this was still 24.0% lower than the 2019–20 level (62,645 student visa grants).

In 2021–22, the higher education sector accounted for the largest proportion (41.9%) of the primary student visa grants in Queensland, followed by the VET sector (36.3%), with these two sectors combined accounting for nearly 8 in 10 primary applicant student visa grants.

With similar outcomes to 2019–20, Queensland's primary visa grants for the higher education sector in 2021–22 accounted for 13.3% of the national total for this sector. Compared with its share of the national population, Queensland was overrepresented in the independent ELICOS⁷, schools and VET sectors (36.8%, 32.9% and 25.0% respectively) (Figure 16).

Figure 16 Student visa grants and national share, by sector, for Queensland registered providers 2021–22



Source: Department of Home Affairs *BP0015 Student visa grant rate in 2021–22 to 30 June 2022*, July 2022

A comparison of Queensland's student visa grants in 2021–22 with 2019–20, shows declines across all sectors. The largest decreases proportionally were in the non-award (65.9%), schools (54.8%) and independent ELICOS (53.2%) sectors.

Half of primary applications (50.5%) for student visas granted in 2021–22 for study in institutions registered in Queensland were granted to citizens from just five countries (Table 5):

- People's Republic of China (7,589 visa grants)
- India (5,777)
- Nepal (3,394)
- Brazil (2,878)
- Colombia (1,917).

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

Table 5 Top 10 citizenship countries, temporary student visas granted^(a) in 2021–22, Queensland^(b)

Country of citizenship		Visas granted	
		no.	%
1	China ^(c) , People's Republic of	7,589	17.8
2	India	5,777	13.5
3	Nepal	3,394	7.9
4	Brazil	2,878	6.7
5	Colombia	1,917	4.5
6	Thailand	1,846	4.3
7	Philippines	1,547	3.6
8	Korea, South	1,523	3.6
9	Japan	1,363	3.2
10	Taiwan	1,126	2.6
	Other	13,742	32.2
	Total	42,702	100.0

(a) Primary applications only.

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

(c) Excludes Special Administrative Regions and Taiwan.

Source: Department of Home Affairs BP0015 Pivot Table: Student visas granted pivot table. Accessed 14/12/2022

With the exception of South Korea (–4.9%), the top 10 countries all saw increases in the number of primary visas granted for students compared with 2020–21. The largest percentage increase was for grants to students who were citizens of Thailand (up 175.9% or 1,177 visa grants).

Primary student visa grants for a small group of countries⁸ were higher than the pre-COVID level (2018–19 used for comparison), including: Thailand, Indonesia, Argentina, Kenya, Fiji and Zimbabwe, with visa grants to students who were citizens of either Kenya or Fiji more than double the level recorded in 2018–19 (pre-COVID).

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 pathway⁹

In 2021–22, there were 19,967 permanent additions to Queensland under the Migration Program (similar to 2020–21), comprising 7,584 settler arrivals and 12,383 persons granted permanent residence while residing in Queensland on a temporary visa (Table 6).

Table 6 Permanent additions^(a) by migration pathway — settler arrivals and onshore program, Queensland, 2021–22

Visa type	Onshore program	Settler arrivals	Total permanent additions	
	persons		persons	%
Child	185	323	508	2.5
Family	5,336	3,164	8,500	42.6
Skilled	6,862	4,094	10,956	54.9
Special eligibility	0	<5	<5	0.0
Total^(a)	12,383	7,584	19,967	100.0
	Per cent			
Child	36.4	63.6	..	100.0
Family	62.8	37.2	..	100.0
Skilled	62.6	37.4	..	100.0
Special eligibility	0.0	100.0		
Total^(a)	62.0	38.0	..	100.0

.. = 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 2021–22, January 2023

⁸ Countries of citizenship where more than 100 primary student visas were granted in 2021–22 were included in the list.

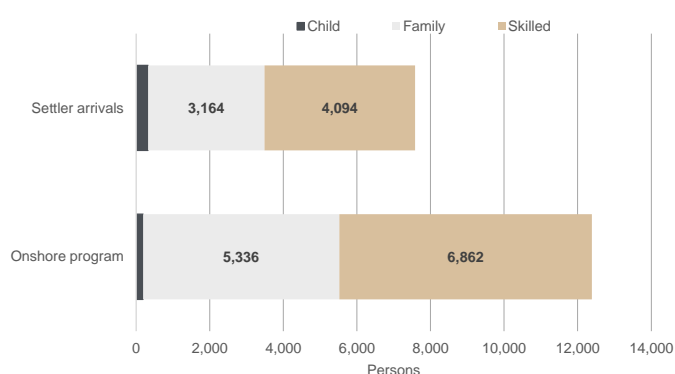
⁹ Data based on visa sub-class at time of arrival for settlers.

The skilled stream returned to account for the largest proportion of the Migration Program in 2021–22 (54.9% or 10,956 persons), compared with 46.0% in 2020–21 (Figure 17). There were 8,500 permanent additions to Queensland of family visa holders during 2021–22, accounting for a further 42.6% of Queensland's permanent additions.

in Australia permanently. Queensland was the intended residence for 12.6% of permanent additions nationally under an employer sponsored visa, which was the third-largest share after New South Wales (42.2%) and Victoria (29.6%).

The increase in permanent additions coming via Settler arrivals from 11.3% in 2020–21 to 38.0% in 2021–22 reflected the lifting of restrictions at the international border. Settler arrivals still accounted for a smaller proportion than was recorded in 2018–19 (47.1%).

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



Source: Department of Home Affairs BP00241 *Permanent additions to Australia's resident population 2021–22*, January 2023

Both family and skilled visa types continued to record marginally more permanent additions through the onshore program than settler arrivals (62.8% and 62.6% respectively), however these proportions were lower than recorded in the previous year (88.6% and 89.2% respectively in 2020–21).

In both 2020–21 and 2021–22, almost all family visa holder permanent additions entered Queensland under the partner visa category, 94.3% or 8,014 persons in 2021–22, and 97.2% (9,972 persons) in 2020–21.

Skilled visa holders

Persons with a skilled visa type accounted for the largest proportion of permanent additions to Queensland, representing just over half (54.9% or 10,956 persons) of total permanent additions in 2021–22, up from 46.0% in 2020–21, although lower than the two-thirds recorded in 2019–20 (65.9%).

Employer sponsored visa holders in 2021–22 accounted for the largest share of the skilled visa category with 29.0% or 3,182 persons, followed by regional visa holders 23.9% (2,614 persons).

Of the permanent additions gained by Queensland under the employer sponsored visa category in 2021–22, 86.0% were onshore. Under this scheme, skilled workers who are nominated by their employer can live and work



Technical notes

Net overseas migration (NOM)

NOM data sourced from: ABS, *National, state and territory population*, published 15 December 2022.

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 2021 are final, based on actual traveller behaviour. Estimates for 30 September 2021 to 31 March 2022 are revised and estimates for 30 June 2022 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.