

Overseas migration, Queensland, 2023–24

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Overseas migration 2023–24, released 13 December 2024; ABS Data Explorer: Overseas migration, arrivals, departures, state/territory, visa and citizenship groups; National, state and territory population, Dec 2023, released 12 December 2024

Key points

- Queensland's net overseas migration (NOM) rose from 29,620 in 2021–22 to 86,010 persons in 2022–23, before decreasing to 74,930 in 2023–24. These changes were driven primarily by changes to migrant arrival patterns.
- Temporary visa holders (57,310 persons) represented the largest component of Queensland's NOM in 2023–24, followed by New Zealand citizens (12,880) and permanent visa holders (9,020).
- In 2023–24, the top five sponsor industries for primary temporary skilled visas granted for nominated positions in Queensland were: health care and social assistance (18.6%); manufacturing (14.7%); professional, scientific and technical (12.2%); accommodation and food services (10.6%); and other servicesⁱ (9.3%).

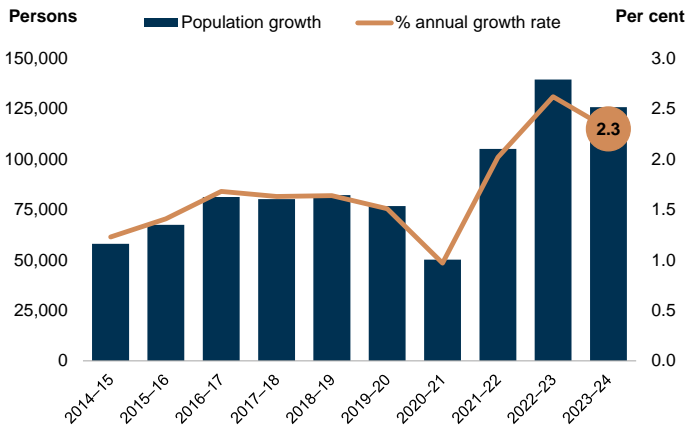
Net overseas migration

Overall population change

Queensland has recorded strong population growth for many years, and in 2022–23 grew by 2.6%, matching the previous peak recorded in each of the three years 2006–07 to 2008–09. Growth in 2023–24, while still strong, moderated to 2.3% adding 125,845 residents.

In each of the years from 2014–15 to 2020–21, annual population growth was lower than 2.0% per year, with a notable drop recorded in 2020–21 (1.0%), reflecting the impact of border restrictions on NOM (Figure 1).

Figure 1 Population growth, Queensland

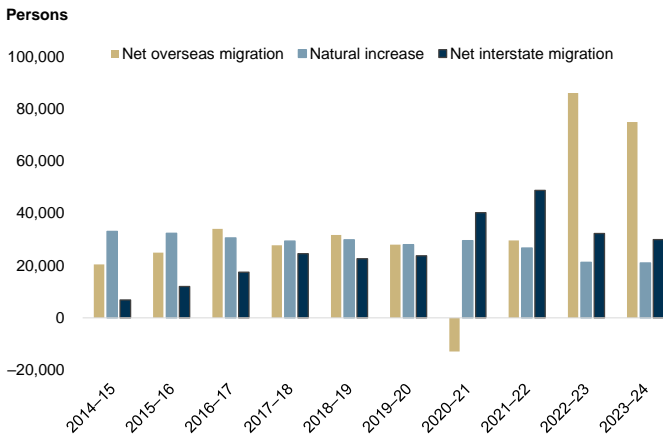


NOM was the most significant contributor to Queensland's population over the last two years, adding 86,010 and 74,930ⁱⁱ residents respectively. Around 3 in every 5 additional residents over the two years 2022–23 and 2023–24 were attributed to NOM (Figure 2).

Notably, while Queensland's overall NOM count fell slightly in 2023–24, its share of Australia's NOM increased from 16.1% in 2022–23 to 16.8% in 2023–24.

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

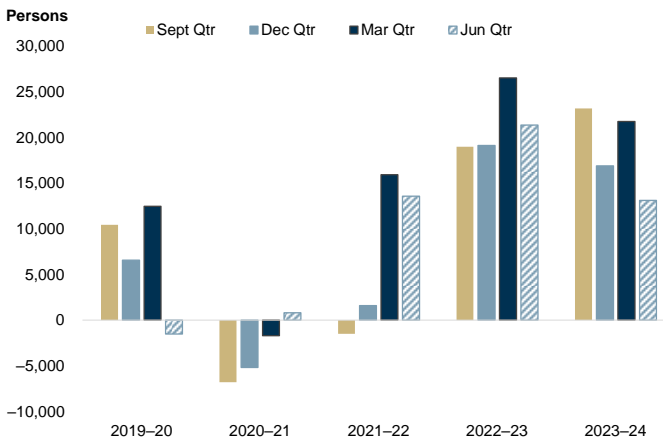
Figure 2 Components of growth, Queensland



Quarterly variability in NOM

NOM was impacted as a direct result of the international border restrictions, with quarterly NOM data highly variable during the restricted period. Between June quarter 2020 and December quarter 2021, Queensland recorded either NOM losses or historically low levels of NOM gains (Figure 3).

Figure 3 NOM by quarter, Queensland



Following the removal of travel restrictions, Queensland's NOM recovered to reach 26,520 persons in March quarter 2023 — the highest quarterly figure recorded in the current timeseries (since July 2006ⁱⁱⁱ). Six of the highest recorded

quarterly NOM figures in the current time series occurred in the most recent eight quarters.

Differences in NOM data sources and definitions

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**).

Migrant arrivals and departures include persons on temporary or permanent visas, in addition to Australian citizens and New Zealand citizens.

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.

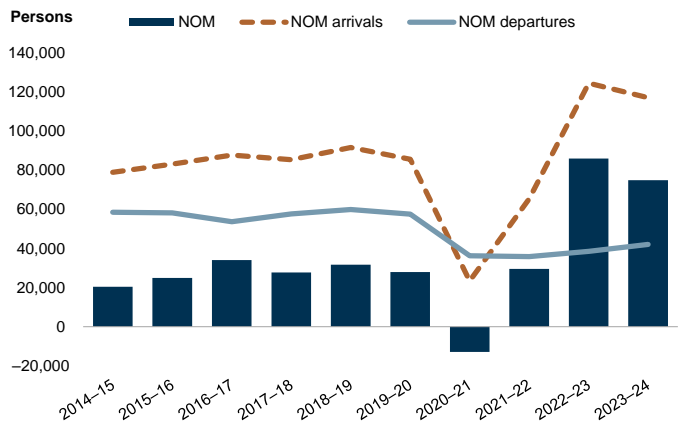
Migrant arrivals^{iv} and departures^v over time

After the opening of international borders, post pandemic, migrant arrivals increased rapidly, reaching a record 124,520 persons in 2022–23. In comparison, migrant departures have been much slower to recover and are yet to return to levels recorded prior to the pandemic.

Annually, migrant arrivals in 2022–23 were almost double the number recorded in 2021–22, while migrant departures were only slightly higher in comparison (Figure 4). Migrant arrivals in 2023–24 moderated from the record high, falling 6.0% to 117,070. In comparison, migrant departures were up by 9.4% to 42,130 from the previous year.

Nationally, a similar pattern was recorded with arrivals falling by 9.0% and departures increasing by 8.5% in 2023–24.

Figure 4 NOM, arrivals and departures, Queensland



Age and sex profile

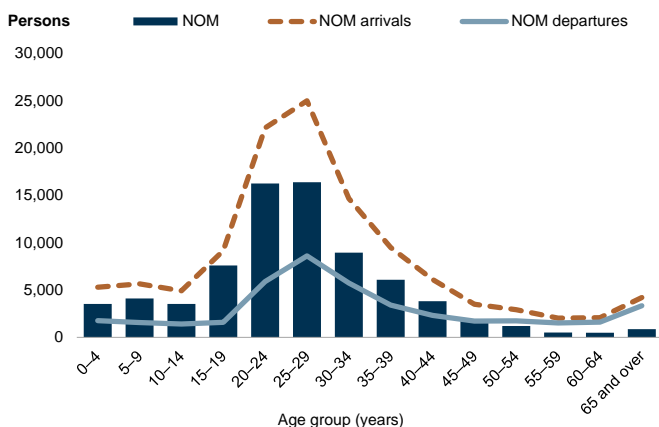
In 2023–24, persons aged 20–29 years contributed the largest numbers of migrants to Queensland’s NOM, with both migrant arrivals and departures peaking among 25–29 year olds, and decreasing rapidly with increasing age (Figure 5).

In 2023–24:

- migrant arrivals to Queensland were greatest among 25–29-year-olds (24,990 persons), followed by those aged 20–24 years (22,130)
- migrant departures were also greatest among 25–29-year-olds (8,600 persons), followed by those aged 20–24 years (5,890).

All age groups continued to experience NOM gains in 2023–24, ranging from 480 persons for those aged 60–64 years, up to a gain of 16,390 persons for 25–29-year-olds. However, compared with 2022–23 NOM among 20–39 year olds was around 15,040 persons lower, while NOM among all other age groups increased by varying amounts.

Figure 5 NOM by age group, Queensland, 2023–24



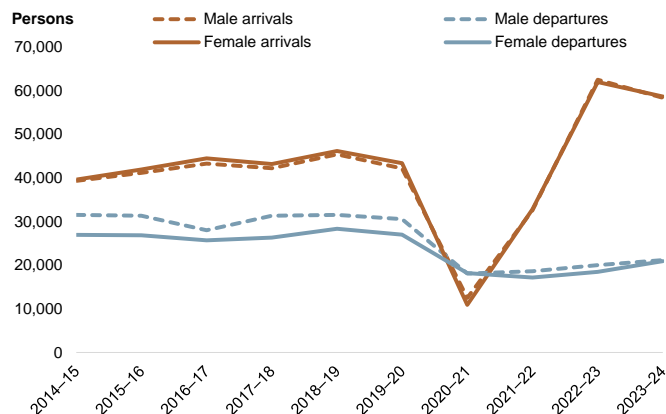
Females accounted for just over half (50.4%) of Queensland’s NOM gain in 2023–24. Since 2012–13, females have accounted for more than half of annual NOM gains (or losses), peaking in 2014–15 (61.8%).

The number of male migrant arrivals was slightly lower than those for females in 2023–24, while departures were

slightly higher, resulting in a larger NOM gain from females (37,730) than males (37,200) (Figure 6).

Since the period of disruption due to the pandemic related travel restrictions, the usual arrival pattern between males and females has been disrupted.

Figure 6 Migrant arrivals and departures by sex, Queensland



Major grouping and visa type

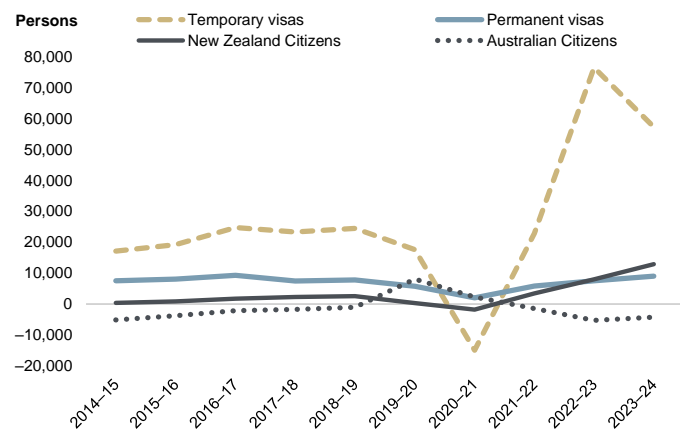
NOM estimates produced by the ABS are available for the following major visa and citizenship groupings:

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

Reporting on arrivals is based on the visa held at the time of the traveller's overseas arrival date, while reporting on departures is based on the visa held at the time of the traveller's departure date.

In 2023–24, increases in NOM gains compared with 2022–23 were recorded for two of the five major visa groups, namely permanent visa holders and New Zealand citizens (Figure 7 and Table 1).

Figure 7 NOM by major visa grouping^(a), Queensland



(a) Excludes unknown visa types

While down from the 2022–23 level, temporary visa holders were the largest contributor to Queensland's NOM gain in 2023–24, adding 57,310 persons, which continues to be considerably higher than the average annual of 20,300 over the 10 years to 30 June 2019, pre-pandemic.

Similar to 2022–23, higher education students contributed the largest share of the NOM gain overall (15,170 persons), followed by those on working holiday visas (13,390) and New Zealand citizens (12,880) (Table 1 and Figure 8).

Table 1 NOM by Visa type

Visa type	Queensland		Rest of Australia	
	2022–23	2023–24	2022–23	2023–24
	— persons —			
Permanent	7,480	9,020	52,770	63,000
Family	1,890	1,970	13,600	16,050
Skill	4,200	4,400	26,340	31,270
Special eligibility and Humanitarian programs	1,370	2,740	11,480	14,550
Other permanent	20	–70	1,350	1,120
Temporary	76,510	57,310	405,780	303,500
Vocational education and training	6,630	2,580	26,960	9,680
Higher education	19,850	15,170	149,620	115,080
Student other	14,530	8,090	44,680	25,630
Temporary skilled visas	6,490	7,950	37,130	34,000
Visitor ^(a)	11,860	10,080	78,090	62,400
Working holiday	14,080	13,390	56,630	55,440
Other temporary	3,080	60	12,670	1,270
New Zealand citizen^(b)	7,970	12,880	18,300	24,090
Australian citizen	–5,320	–4,290	–25,150	–19,880
Other^(c)	–620	–	–2,200	–
Total^(d)	86,010	74,940	449,510	370,700

Figures in table rounded to nearest 10.

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

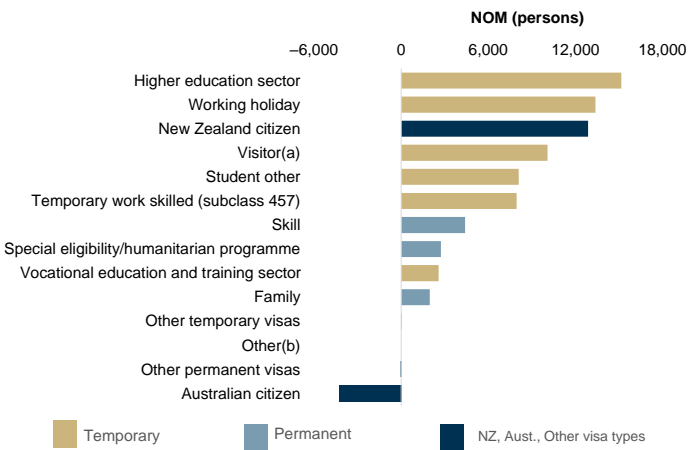
(b) Visa subclass 444 is granted to New Zealand citizens upon arrival in Australia if they have not already been granted another visa.

(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.

Of permanent visa holders in 2023–24, only 'other' permanent visa holders (–70 persons) recorded a NOM loss.

Figure 8 NOM by visa type, Queensland, 2023–24



- (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.

Temporary visa holders

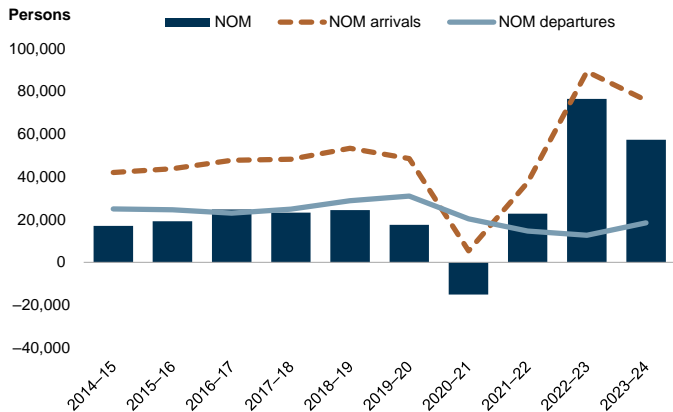
Temporary entrant visas permit people to come to Australia on a temporary basis for specific purposes.

With the exception of a net loss of temporary visa holders in 2020–21 (–15,010 persons), since 2012–13, temporary visa holders have contributed at least half of Queensland’s total NOM gain each year.

A record gain of 76,510 temporary visa holders was recorded in 2022–23, which was more than twice the previous highest gain recorded in the current timeseries (34,310 in 2008–09). A significant increase in arrivals (89,200 persons, up from 37,420 persons in 2021–22) and a continuation of the recent declines in departures (12,690 persons, down from 14,600 persons in 2021–22) contributed to this record NOM gain for temporary visa holders (Figure 9).

Since this record gain, temporary visa holder NOM moderated to 57,310 persons in 2023–24 — 76.5% of Queensland’s total NOM gain, down from 89.0% in 2022–23. Migrant arrivals on temporary visas decreased in 2023–24 (75,840 persons) compared with 2022–23 (89,200), while departures showed the first post pandemic increase (18,530 persons).

Figure 9 Contribution to NOM, temporary visa holders, Queensland



Notably, temporary work visas was the only temporary visa class to record an increase in NOM in 2023–24 (7,950 persons), compared with the previous year (6,490 persons).

The number of working holiday visa holders, while being the second highest contributor to NOM in 2023–24 at 13,390 persons, was 690 persons lower than recorded in 2022–23. The most recent year saw an increase in both arrivals and departures, with the arrival increase of 1,120 persons being more than offset by the change in departures (up by 1,810 persons).

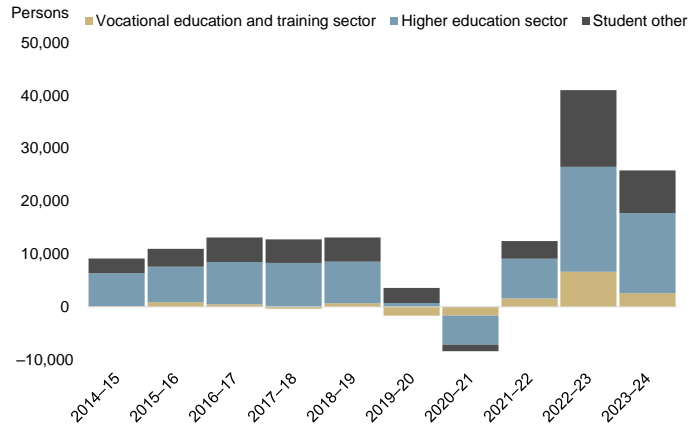
The NOM gain for people on Other temporary visas, decreased markedly between 2022–23 and 2023–24, from 3,080 to 60 persons. This was driven by a decrease in arrivals (from 8,750 to 7,260) and an increase in departures (from 5,670 to 7,200).

Student temporary visa holders

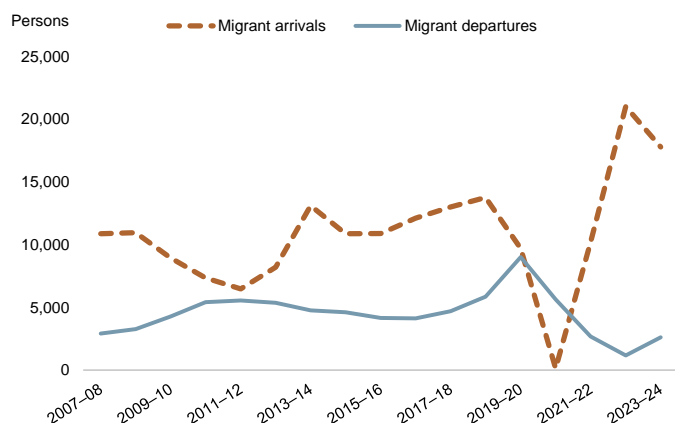
International border closures during the pandemic disproportionately affected international students, with NOM losses recorded for all student visa types in 2020–21, following a notable contraction in numbers in 2019–20. The recovery in international student numbers experienced in 2021–22 was surpassed in 2022–23, with a record NOM gain of 41,010 students for Queensland. This figure more than doubled the previous peak recorded in 2008–09 (18,280 persons).

The NOM gain through student visa holders decreased dramatically in 2023–24, to 25,840 persons, with falls in all three student visa categories — Higher education, Vocational education and training (VET), and Student other visa class (Figure 10).

Figure 10 NOM by type of student visa, Queensland



Higher education visa holders in NOM decreased by 23.6%, or 4,680 persons, to 15,170 in 2023–24 (Figure 10). Nevertheless, the number of higher education visa holders in NOM is yet to fall to pre-pandemic levels. Over the five years to 2018–19, there were an average of 12,130 arrivals in this visa category, compared with 21,020 in 2022–23 and 17,790 in 2023–24 (Figure 11). In comparison, while migrant departures are yet to recover to earlier levels, in the most recent year, departures more than doubled to 2,620, up from 1,170 in 2022–23.

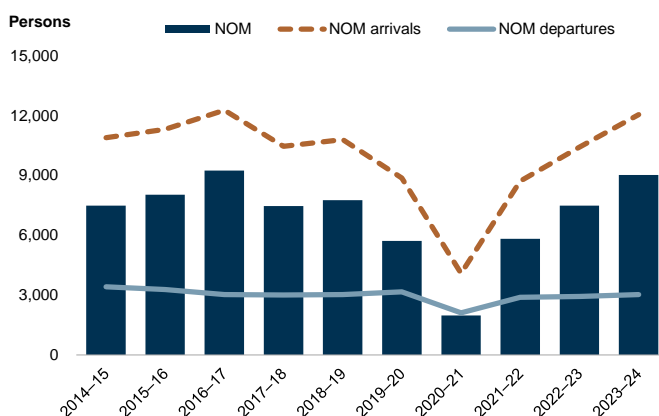
Figure 11 Higher education sector visa holders, Queensland

Both VET (2,580 persons) and student 'other' visas (8,090) also recorded falls in the year to 30 June 2024 due to a marked decrease in arrivals along with an increase in departures.

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.

Permanent visa holder NOM has increased each year since 2021–22, reaching 9,020 in 2023–24, up by 20.6% from the net gain in 2022–23 (7,480 persons) (Figure 12). While both migrant arrivals and departures increased in this visa class in 2023–24, the change in departures (90 persons) did not offset the increase in arrivals (1,630).

Figure 12 Contribution to NOM, permanent visa holders, Queensland

The NOM gain for permanent visa holders was primarily comprised of permanent skilled visa holders (4,400 persons or 48.8%), followed by special eligibility and humanitarian visa holders (2,740 or 30.4%) and by family visa holders (1,970 or 21.8%).

New Zealand citizens

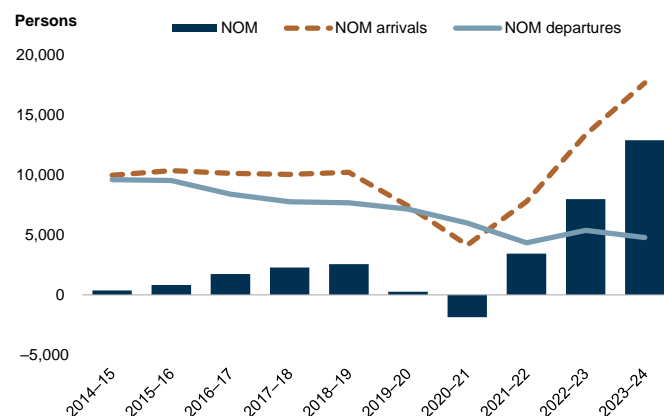
New Zealand citizens can travel to Australia without a visa and will usually be granted a Special Category visa (subclass 444) on arrival in Australia. This visa is unique under Australian migration law as it is a temporary visa that allows New Zealanders to remain in Australia indefinitely with no associated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

Queensland continues to be a destination of choice for New Zealand citizens, receiving 34.8% of the national NOM gain for New Zealand citizens in 2023–24.

Queensland's NOM gain through New Zealand citizens increased in 2023–24 to 12,880 persons, up from 7,970 persons in 2022–23, and was the highest recorded since 2011–12 (Figure 13). The 2023–24 increase was driven by an ongoing increase in arrivals (17,660 persons) and fewer departures (4,780 persons). The number of arrivals from New Zealand in 2023–24 was also the highest recorded since 2011–12, although still below the levels recorded over the years 2007–08 to 2011–12.

Queensland has experienced a NOM gain of New Zealand citizens every year in the current timeseries, with the exception of 2020–21 where migrant departures more than offset arrivals.

Queensland accounted for 34.8% of the national NOM gain of 36,970 New Zealand citizens in 2023–24.

Figure 13 Contribution to NOM, New Zealand citizens, Queensland

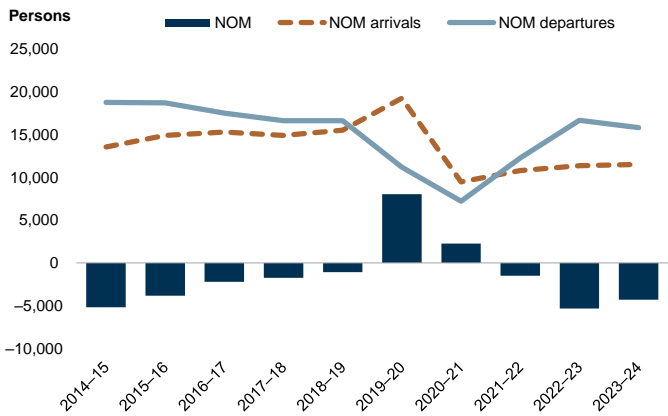
Australian citizens

Historically, Queensland has experienced a small net loss of Australian citizens in most years in the time series (from 2006–07). After two years of NOM gains during the pandemic affected period, NOM losses of Australian citizens in 2022–23 increased to –5,320 persons, the largest in the current time series (from 2006–07). In 2023–24, the NOM loss of Australian citizens moderated to –4,290 persons.

While arrivals of Australian citizens over the three years to 2023–24, post-pandemic, were below the levels experienced in the pre-pandemic period, departures have recovered to levels similar to the pre-pandemic years and,

in 2022–23, were the highest recorded (16,690) since 2016–17 (Figure 14).

Figure 14 Contribution to NOM, Australian citizens, Queensland



Country of birth

Key countries of birth for NOM have traditionally reflected the demand for higher education and both temporary and permanent employment. Following losses or substantial contractions in NOM in 2020–21 for the usual key source countries (India, New Zealand and China), the recovery commenced in 2021–22 and continued in 2022–23. Many countries experienced decreases in 2023–24 compared with levels recorded in the previous year (Table 2).

While the top 10 countries of birth of those contributing to Queensland’s NOM gain typically vary from year to year, India has dominated the rankings over the three post-pandemic years.

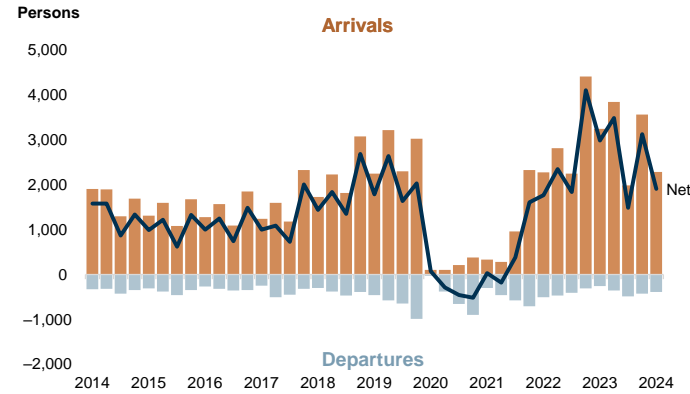
Table 2 NOM by country of birth, Queensland

Country of birth	Rank	2022–23	2023–24	Change
		— persons —	— persons —	— % —
India	1	11,290	10,020	–11.2
New Zealand	2	5,240	8,930	70.4
China	3	7,500	6,300	–16.0
Philippines	4	8,170	6,050	–25.9
UK, CIs & IOM	5	3,710	4,220	13.7
South Africa	6	2,420	2,710	12.0
Taiwan	7	2,590	2,340	–9.7
Brazil	8	3,960	2,100	–47.0
Vietnam	9	1,660	1,860	12.0
Japan	10	2,090	1,750	–16.3
Other	..	37,380	28,650	–23.4
Total	..	86,010	74,930	–12.9

NOM gain from people born in India peaked at 11,290 in 2022–23, before falling slightly to 10,020 in 2023–24, accounting for around 13% of Queensland’s total NOM gain in each of these years. However, this was a notably lower proportion than in 2018–19 (last full year pre-pandemic), when people born in India accounted for

almost 1 in 4 additions (24.2% or 7,680 persons). The increased NOM gain in recent years from Indian born persons was driven by an increase in arrivals, with comparatively little change in departure patterns (Figure 15). Arrivals of Indian born persons on student visas reached levels last seen in 2009, while temporary visitors and temporary skilled visa holders recovered to pre-pandemic levels.

Figure 15 NOM arrivals and departures, by quarter, people born in India, Queensland



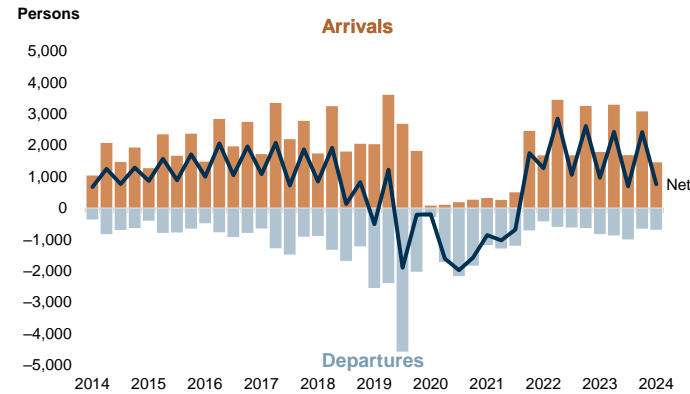
New Zealand born persons contributed the second highest number of people to NOM in 2023–24 (8,930 persons), a level last seen in 2012–13, and up from 5,240 persons (5th highest) in 2022–23.

People born in China and the Philippines both recorded NOM gains of over 6,000 persons in 2023–24, however levels from both countries were down from the year prior:

- China by 16.0%
- Philippines by 25.9%.

NOM arrivals of people born in China show a seasonal pattern (Figure 16) driven by temporary student visa holders. This group drove the post-pandemic recovery in NOM observed among people born in China, however, levels have been moderating since peaking at 2,410 persons in September quarter 2022.

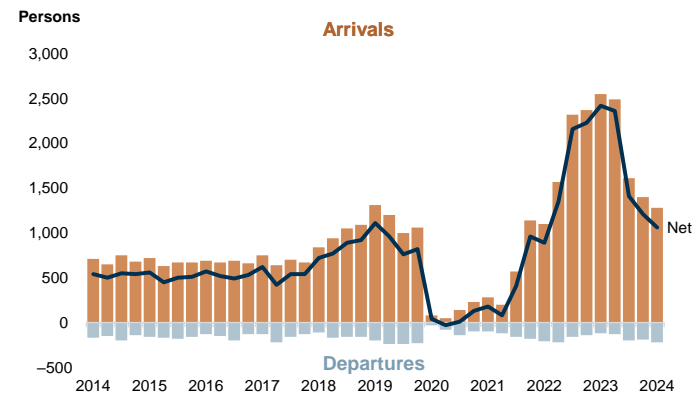
Figure 16 NOM arrivals and departures, by quarter, people born in China, Queensland



Levels of departures of people born in the Philippines have recovered to pre-pandemic levels, while arrivals appear to

have peaked in 2022–23, and have since decreased rapidly (Figure 17). This change was largely driven by student visa holder movements, and to a lesser extent by visitor visa holders.

Figure 17 NOM arrivals and departures, by quarter, people born in the Philippines, Queensland



While Japan recorded their highest number of persons in the time series (2,090 persons) in 2022–23, the NOM gain of people born in Japan decreased to 1,750 persons in 2023–24.

After a loss in 2020–21 (–250 persons) followed by a small gain in 2021–22 (920), the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man (UK, CIs and IOM) has returned to the top 10 countries of birth for NOM gain to Queensland, with a gain of 4,220 persons, the highest since 2012–13.

As a group, people born in countries in the ‘Rest of Asia’ (excluding India and China) contributed the largest proportion to Queensland’s NOM gain (33.8%), and when combined with India and China, the NOM gain from people with an Asian country of birth accounted for nearly 6 in 10 of the total NOM gain to Queensland (55.6%) in 2023–24.

Department of Home Affairs data

Temporary resident (skilled) visas

The Australian Government abolished the Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) and replaced it with the new Temporary Skill Shortage (subclass 482) visa from March 2018^{vi}. The time series for Temporary resident (skilled) visa data reported below includes both visa types.

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

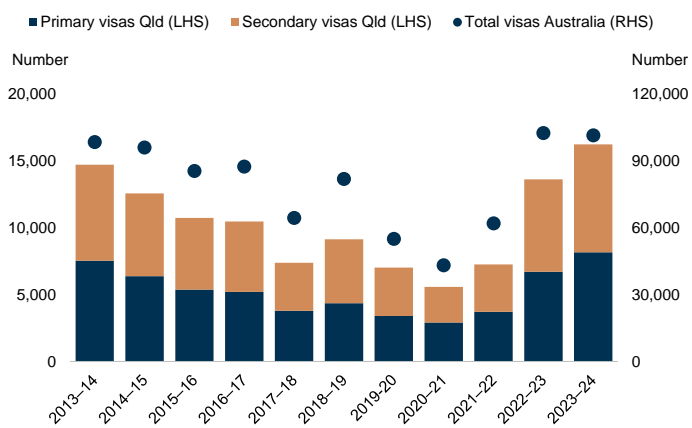
Note: not all visa grants result in people arriving to Queensland.

Visa grants

Annual grants of temporary skilled visas for both primary and secondary applicants^{vii} in Queensland increased by 19.3% between 2022–23 (13,627 visa grants) and 2023–24 (16,258). This was the third consecutive year of growth in visa grants, following a declining trend between 2012–13 and the low recorded in 2020–21. The number of

visa grants for temporary skilled visas in 2023–24 was the highest since 2012–13 and came despite a small national decrease (–1.0%) (Figure 18).

Figure 18 Temporary resident (skilled) visas granted, Queensland and Australia



Queensland was the fourth–highest nominated position location for primary visa grants in 2023–24 (15.7%), behind New South Wales (37.6%), Victoria (23.1%) and Western Australia (17.7%).

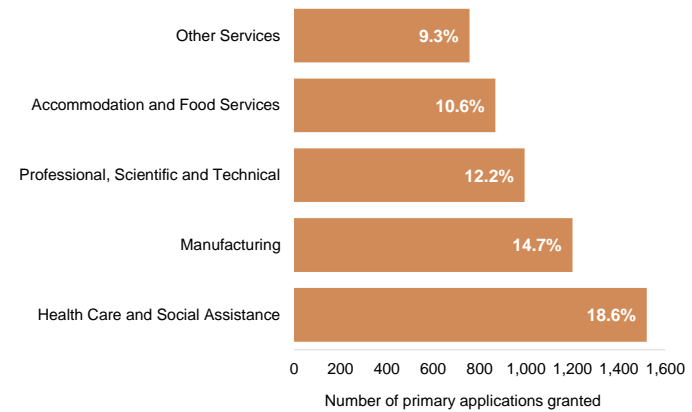
Primary applicant – temporary skilled visa grants

Sponsor industry

In 2023–24, the top five sponsor industries^{viii} for primary temporary skilled visas granted for nominated positions in Queensland (8,167 visa grants) were health care and social assistance (18.6%), manufacturing (14.7%), professional, scientific and technical (12.2%), accommodation and food services (10.6%), and other services (9.3%) (Figure 19).

While health care and social assistance has had the highest industry share each year since 2014–15, the 1,520 visa grants for this industry in 2023–24 was also the highest for any industry in the past 10 years, and 19.9% higher than recorded in 2022–23.

Figure 19 Top five nominated sponsor industries, nominated positions in Queensland, 2023–24



The 1,200 visa grants in manufacturing in 2023–24 represented a return to levels last seen in 2007–08 (1,224 visa grants) for this industry and were more than double the number in 2022–23 (529).

Nominated occupation

The top five nominated occupations^{ix} for primary visas granted for Queensland in 2023–24 were:

- resident medical officer (779 visa grants or 9.5%)
- chef (459 or 5.6%)
- motor mechanic (general) (350 or 4.3%)
- fitter (general) (257 or 3.1%)
- welder (first class) (248 or 3.0%).

Two occupations have consistently ranked in the top five for Queensland over the past five years: resident medical officer and chef, with numbers increasing annually for both.

The number of visa grants to both fitter (general) and welder (first class) more than doubled since 2022–23, with both occupations in the top five for primary temporary worker visa grants in Queensland for the first time in the decade to 2023–24.

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

Location of visa applicant

Overall, 42.8% of Temporary resident (skilled) visa grants were made by applicants already in Australia (Table 3). There was variation by country of citizenship — among countries with at least 20 primary visa grants, the highest proportion applied for onshore was by citizens of Thailand and Argentina (both 85.5%), followed by Brazil (84.0%), Italy (83.9%) and Colombia (83.5%).

Variation by sponsor industry was also evident. While health care and social assistance was the top sponsor of visa grants for nominated positions in Queensland, this industry had the lowest proportion of onshore applicants (24.1%).

Country of citizenship

For the second year in a row, the Philippines was the country of citizenship most frequently cited in primary visas granted for nominated positions in Queensland, accounting for more than 1 in 5 primary visa grants (22.1%) in 2023–24, followed by the United Kingdom (13.1%) and India (8.7%) (Table 3).

These same countries have ranked in the top three for primary visa grants since 2017–18, although not always in the same order. Together, they accounted for 43.9% of primary visa grants in 2023–24, up from 38.0% in 2021–22.

Table 3 Top 10 citizenship countries, primary applicants, Queensland, 2023–24

Country of citizenship		Visas granted		Onshore
		— no. —	— % —	— % —
1	Philippines	1,808	22.1	48.2
2	United Kingdom	1,071	13.1	36.7
3	India	708	8.7	28.4
4	South Africa	442	5.4	19.2
5	Sri Lanka	407	5.0	12.8
6	China ^(a) , People's Republic of	402	4.9	29.9
7	Ireland, Republic of	206	2.5	61.7
8	Brazil	200	2.4	84.0
9	Korea, South	163	2.0	79.8
10	Zimbabwe	140	1.7	15.7
	Other	2,620	32.1	n.a.
	Total	8,167	100.0	42.8

(a) Excludes Special Administrative Regions and Taiwan.
Source: Department of Home Affairs BP0014 Temporary Work (Skilled) visas granted 2023–24 to 30 June 2024, September 2024.

Location within Queensland

More than 1 in 5 of Queensland's temporary skilled visas for primary applicants in 2023–24 were granted for nominated positions located in the Brisbane Inner City SA4¹ (20.2% or 1,648 visa grants) (Table 4).

In the same year, almost 2 in 5 temporary skilled visas were granted for nominated positions located outside of South East Queensland (39.6% or 3,232 visa grants)^x.

This included Mackay – Isaac – Whitsunday SA4 (9.1% or 741 visa grants), which has recorded notable recent growth increasing by 68.4% compared with visa grants in 2022–23 and nearly four times the level of 10 years earlier (198 visa grants in 2013–14).

Half (50.7%) of the visa grants for nominated positions in Wide Bay in 2023–24, were for health care and social assistance. Moreton Bay – North also had a high proportion of visa grants for this industry (42.6%). Other notably high levels for specific industries were seen in Darling Downs – Maranoa where, 50.2% of visa grants were for positions in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry, and Ipswich where 48.9% of visa grants were for positions in manufacturing.

¹ SA4 - Statistical Area Level 4

Table 4 Temporary resident (skilled) visa grants (primary applicants) by nominated position location, Queensland, 2023–24

Nominated position location ^(a)	Visas granted	
	— no. —	— % —
Brisbane Inner City	1,648	20.2
Mackay – Isaac – Whitsunday	741	9.1
Gold Coast	705	8.6
Central Queensland	535	6.6
Brisbane – South	477	5.8
Brisbane – North	435	5.3
Darling Downs – Maranoa	428	5.2
Sunshine Coast	419	5.1
Cairns	407	5.0
Ipswich	397	4.9
Townsville	397	4.9
Wide Bay	345	4.2
Logan – Beaudesert	271	3.3
Brisbane – East	260	3.2
Toowoomba	210	2.6
Queensland – Outback	169	2.1
Moreton Bay – North	148	1.8
Moreton Bay – South	89	1.1
Brisbane – West	80	1.0
Not Specified	6	0.1
Total	8,167	100.0

(a) 2016 Australian Statistical Geography Standard, SA4
Source: Department of Home Affairs BP0014 Temporary Work (skilled) visas granted 2023–24 to 30 June 2024, September 2024.

Visa holders living in Queensland

There were 13,418 primary temporary skilled visa holders with a nominated position location in Queensland on 30 June 2024, a notable increase from a year earlier (up by 43.7%) and the highest figure since 30 June 2015. Nationally, the number of temporary skilled visa holders increased by 29.7% over the same period. Queensland accounted for 14.7% of the national total of visa holders (91,298) on 30 June 2024, up from 13.3% at 30 June 2023.

In 2023–24, more than 2 in 5 (40.6%) temporary skilled visa holders in Queensland were in nominated occupations within the technicians and trades workers major grouping, while the most commonly nominated individual occupations were chef (7.8%), resident medical officer (7.2%), and motor mechanic (general) (4.3%).

The top two occupations were also the top two for the past five years, with ‘motor mechanic (general)’ retaining the position as the third-largest occupation for skilled work visas with a nominated location in Queensland, after surpassing ‘software engineer’ in 2022–23.

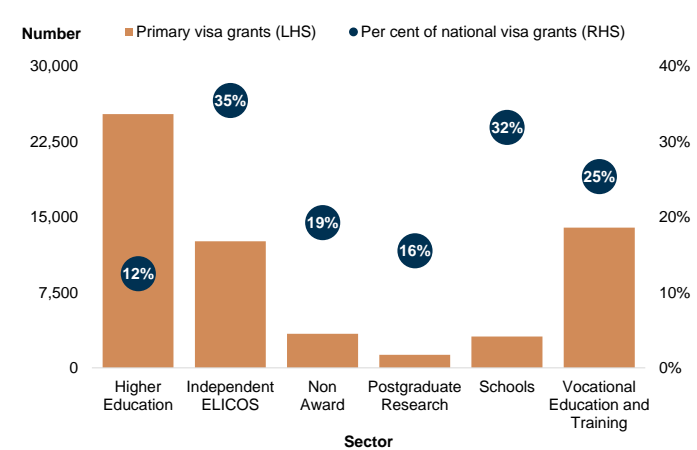
Student visas

In 2023–24, 65,169 student visas were granted for education providers registered in Queensland, and 91.4% of these were primary visa grants. Compared with 2022–23, this represented a 39.2% decrease in the number of student visas granted, following a peak of 107,250 student visa grants in 2022–23.

In 2023–24, the higher education sector accounted for the largest proportion (42.3%) of the primary student visa grants in Queensland, followed by the VET sector (23.4%). These two sectors combined accounted for around two-thirds of primary student visa grants.

Queensland’s primary visa grants for students in the higher education sector in 2023–24 accounted for 12.5% of the national total for this sector, slightly lower than in 2022–23 (13.0%). Compared with its share of the national population (20.5%) in 2023–24, Queensland was overrepresented in the independent ELICOS^{xi}, schools and VET sectors (35.4%, 31.9% and 25.3% respectively) (Figure 20).

Figure 20 Primary student visa grants and national share, by sector, for Queensland registered providers 2023–24



A comparison of Queensland’s student visa grants in 2023–24 with those made in 2022–23, shows decreases across all sectors, with the VET sector dropping to less than half the 2022–23 level. Except for the non-award and schools sectors, primary student visa grants decreased by more than 20% compared with the previous year, with the largest decreases recorded for VET (–56.7%), ELICOS (–40.8%) and higher education (–25.5%). Primary student visa grants for VET were around a third lower than the levels recorded in 2018–19, pre-pandemic. Grants for the non-award and higher education sectors were also below pre-pandemic levels (–20.2% and –7.7% respectively).

Over half (50.8%) of primary student visa grants in 2023–24 for study in institutions registered in Queensland were granted to citizens from just six countries (Table 5): People’s Republic of China; India; Brazil; Columbia; Philippines; and Japan.

All top 10 countries saw decreases in the number of primary visas granted for students compared with 2022–23. The largest percentage decrease in grants to students was to citizens of Nepal (down 62.2% or 2,223 visa grants).

Only three countries in the top 10 were higher than the pre-pandemic year levels, with Thailand (up 15.7%), Philippines (5.5%), and Colombia (5.2%) all recording numbers of primary student grants in 2023–24 that were higher than in 2018–19.

Table 5 Top 10 citizenship countries, temporary student visas granted^(a) in 2023–24, Queensland^(b)

Country of citizenship		Visas granted	
		— no. —	— % —
1	China ^(c) , People's Republic of	9,777	16.4
2	India	6,967	11.7
3	Brazil	4,514	7.6
4	Colombia	3,933	6.6
5	Philippines	2,735	4.6
6	Japan	2,325	3.9
7	Thailand	1,717	2.9
8	Korea, South	1,584	2.7
9	Spain	1,505	2.5
10	Nepal	1,350	2.3
	Other	23,145	38.9
Total		59,552	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 09/09/2024.

Of the countries with more than 500 primary visa grants in 2023–24, only Bangladesh, Türkiye and Ecuador recorded increases in primary student visa grants compared with both 2022–23 and 2018–19, with Ecuador's visa grants 8.4 times higher than 2018–19.

Bangladesh (up 311 primary visa grants) and Türkiye (296) recorded the largest increases from 2022–23 to 2023–24, while India (–7,599) and Colombia (–5,143) recorded the largest decreases.

In 2020–21, during the pandemic, the percentage of student visa grants for applicants in Australia peaked at 69.8%. Since then, levels have rapidly decreased, falling to 32.7% in 2022–23, and further to 27.2% in 2023–24.

Almost 1 in 4 (22.5%) of student visas were granted to applicants who had held a previous student visa. A further 12.2% were granted to applicants who had previously held a visitor visa.

Migration Program

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

Migration program outcomes consist of two components:

- Persons who were in Australia on a temporary basis and were granted a permanent visa while in Australia. These are referred to as 'In Australia'.
- Persons who made an initial arrival from overseas on a permanent visa granted while they were outside Australia. These are termed 'Outside Australia'.

The state of intended residence is derived from information given on passenger cards for those arriving to Australia and the current state of residence of persons within the 'In Australia'.

Onshore protection permanent visa grants are excluded.

Outcome by migration pathway^{xii}

In 2023–24, the total permanent Migration Program outcome for Queensland was 23,028 places, comprising 8,107 persons located outside Australia and 14,921 persons granted permanent residence while residing in Queensland on a temporary visa (Table 6 and Figure 21).

Table 6 Migration Program outcomes^(a) by pathway and client location², Queensland, 2023–24

Visa type	In Australia	Outside Australia	Total permanent additions	
	— persons —		— % —	
Family	3,992	2,692	6,684	29.0
Skill	10,929	5,415	16,344	71.0
	— % —			
Family	59.7	40.3	..	100.0
Skill	66.9	33.1	..	100.0
Total ^(d)	64.8	35.2	..	100.0

.. = not applicable
(a) Outcomes under the Migration Program only. Outcomes under non-program migration are not presented.
Source: Department of Home Affairs BP0068 Migration Program, Expert Panel (Family) and Child Outcomes, 2014–15 to 2023–24, December 2024.

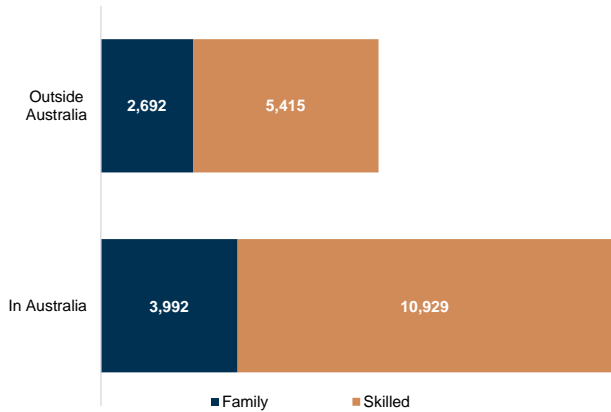
The skilled stream accounted for the largest proportion of the Migration Program in 2023–24 (71.0% or 16,344 persons), increasing from a low of 49.1% in 2020–21. There were 6,684 places delivered to Queensland for family visa holders during 2023–24, accounting for a further 29.0% of outcomes.

As a proportion of the total Migration Program, 35.2% of outcomes were to applicants located outside Australia, up from 2022–23, and higher than both 2019–20 and 2021–22 (25.2% and 26.3% respectively). Migration

² Location of client at time of application.

Program places for clients located in Australia have consistently been higher than those from outside Australia over the 10 years to 2023–24.

Figure 21 Migration Program outcomes by migration pathway and visa type, 2023–24, Queensland



Both family and skilled migration pathways recorded more Migration Program outcomes through the ‘In Australia’ pathway than the ‘Outside Australia’ pathway (59.7% and 66.9% respectively).

In 2023–24, most Migration Program places for family visa holders were given to people on partner visas — 80.4% or 5,371 persons — compared with 12.6% on parent visas (839 persons).

Skilled visa holders

Persons with a skilled visa type accounted for the largest proportion of Migration Program outcomes to Queensland, representing more than 7 in 10 (71.0% or 16,344 persons) of total Migration Program outcomes in 2023–24, down slightly from a peak in 2022–23 (72.4%) and the second highest proportion over the last decade.

Employer-sponsored visa holders in 2023–24 accounted for the largest share of the skilled visa category with 1 in 3 (34.7%) or 5,671 persons, followed by skilled independent visa holders 28.0% (4,577 persons).

Of the Migration Program outcomes for Queensland under the skilled independent visa type in 2023–24, 71.8% were in Australia, including 58.6% of primary applicants – the highest proportion of all the skilled visa types. Under this visa type, invited workers, eligible New Zealand citizens^{xiii} and eligible Hong Kong or British National (Overseas) passport holders can live and work permanently in Australia. Indian citizens accounted for 27.2% of the total outcomes for skilled independent visa holders in 2023–24, followed by Nepalese citizens (16.4%).

Queensland accounted for a larger proportion of the national skilled independent visa holder Migration Program outcomes in the last five years (15.1% in 2023–24), up from less than 9% in the five years to 2017–18, and coinciding with the introduction of the New Zealand stream in this visa type.

Notes

Student visas

A number of changes to student visa eligibility have been progressively introduced over time and will impact on the Student visa data in this report. Some of the more recent changes are outlined below.

In September 2023, changes were made to prevent students from enrolling in other concurrent courses during the first six months of study in their principal course. The Government has replaced the Genuine Temporary Entrant (GTE) requirement for Student visas with a Genuine Student (GS) requirement effective for student visa applications lodged on and after 23 March 2024. New English language requirements were also introduced on 23 March 2024 – these requirements do not apply to Student visa applications lodged before 23 March 2024.

From 10 May 2024, the financial requirement that applies to Student and Student Guardian visas will be set at \$29,710 for an individual student. The new financial requirement applies to any visas lodged on or after 10 May 2024.

Other changes have occurred effective 1 July 2024.

New Zealand citizens

From 1 July 2023, New Zealand citizens holding a Special Category (subclass 444) visa who have been living in Australia for more than four years — and arrived in Australia after 26 February 2011 — will be eligible to apply directly for Australian citizenship without having to apply for a permanent visa.

Temporary Skilled migration visas

Several changes to Temporary Skilled visas have been progressively introduced over time and will impact on the Temporary Skilled visa data in this report. Some of the more recent changes are outlined below.

From 1 July 2023, the Temporary Skilled Migration Income Threshold (TSMIT) increased significantly to \$70,000, and any new nomination applications must meet or exceed the new TSMIT.

From the end of 2023, the Temporary Residence Transition stream of the Employer Nomination Scheme (subclass 186 visa) was made available to all Temporary Skill Shortage (TSS) visa holders whose employers wish to sponsor them. Applicants need to continue to work in the occupation nominated for their TSS visa, with occupations not limited to the Medium and Long-term Strategic Skills List, and eligibility was reduced from three years to two years employment with the sponsoring employer.

End notes

- i 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.
- ii NOM data are rounded to the nearest 10. As such discrepancies may occur between sources.
- iii Due to changes in the methods used to measure overseas migration estimates, caution should be used comparing them over time. This is especially so for estimates based on the '12/12 month rule' method (prior to 1 July 2006) compared to those using the '12/16 month rule' method.
In Australia, for the purposes of overseas migration (or international migration), a person is added to the population if they have been (or expect to be) residing in Australia for 12 months or more (i.e. an overseas migrant arrival) thus becoming an Australian resident. Likewise, an Australian resident is removed from the population if they leave Australia for 12 months or more (i.e. an overseas migrant departure). The 12 months does not have to be continuous and is measured over a 16-month period.
Prior to 1 July 2006, overseas migration estimation methods used a '12/12 month rule' to determine if a traveller contributed to Australia's estimated resident population (ERP). For a person to have immigrated or emigrated, they must have stayed in, or been absent from, Australia for a continuous period of 12 months.
- iv Overseas migrant arrivals (immigrants) are incoming international travellers who stay in Australia for 12 months or more over a 16-month period, who are not currently counted within the population, and are then added to Australia's population.
- v Overseas migrant departures (emigrants) are outgoing international travellers who leave Australia for 12 months or more over a 16-month period, who are currently counted within the population, and are then subtracted from the population.
- vi <https://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Work/457-abolition-replacement>
- vii A secondary applicant is generally a dependant of the primary applicant and can work and study in Australia.
- viii Sponsors self-identify with an industry classification when lodging a nomination or sponsorship.
- ix Occupation that the primary visa holder will be filling — not the previous or usual occupation of the visa applicant.
- x 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.
- xi ELICOS is the common abbreviation for English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students.
- xii Data based on visa sub-class at time of arrival for settlers.
- xiii The Skilled Independent (subclass 189) (New Zealand stream) visa permanently closed to new applications on 1 July 2023.

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