

# Overseas migration, Queensland, 2024–25

Source: Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Overseas migration 2024–25*, released 19 December 2025; ABS Data Explorer: *Overseas migration, arrivals, departures, state/territory, visa and citizenship groups; National, state and territory population, June 2025*, released 18 December 2025, Department of Home Affairs, various sources.

## Key points

Queensland's net overseas migration (NOM) rose to 86,625 persons in 2022–23, before decreasing to 71,733 in 2023–24. A further decrease to 55,743 persons was recorded in 2024–25.

Temporary visa holders (35,870 persons) represented the largest component of Queensland's NOM in 2024–25, followed by New Zealand citizens (14,200) and permanent visa holders (8,390).

In 2024–25, the top five sponsor industries for primary temporary skilled visas granted for nominated positions in Queensland were: health care and social assistance (20.6%); accommodation and food services (18.1%); manufacturing (11.9%); professional, scientific and technical (9.3%); and other services<sup>i</sup> (8.6%).

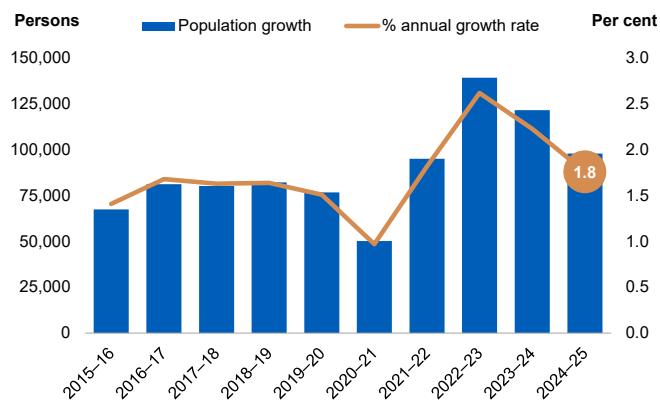
## Net overseas migration

### 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 2.2% adding 121,655 residents. Growth moderated further in 2024–25, down to 1.8% and 97,944 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

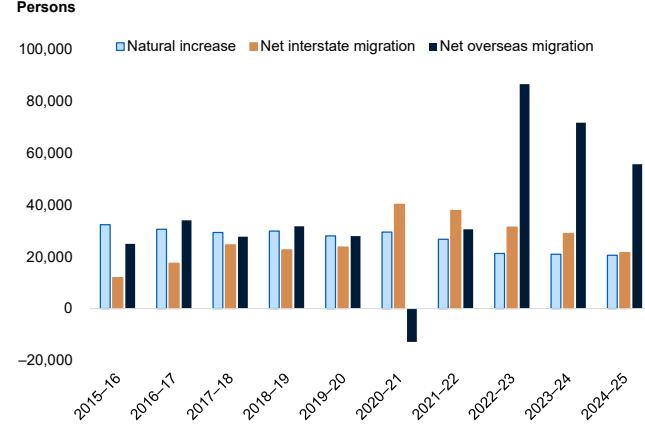


NOM was the most significant contributor to Queensland's population over the last three years, adding from 55,743 (2024–25) residents up to 86,625 (2022–23) residents<sup>ii</sup> annually. Around 3 in every 5 additional residents over the three years to 2024–25 were attributed to NOM (Figure 2).

Notably, while Queensland's overall NOM count moderated by around 22% in 2024–25, its share of Australia's NOM increased from 16.1% in 2022–23 to 18.2% in 2024–25.

*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



## Differences in migrant 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.

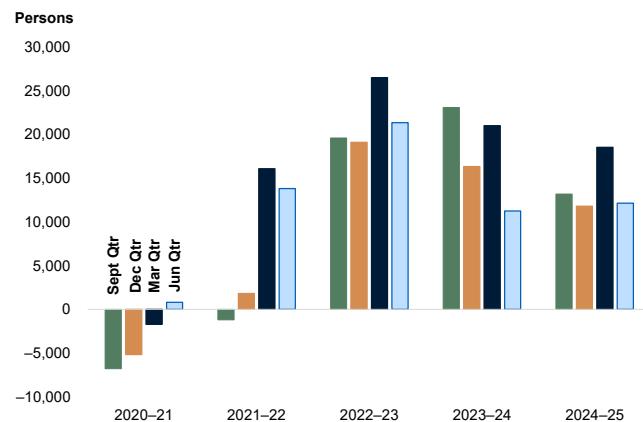
## Quarterly variability in NOM

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).

Following the removal of travel restrictions, Queensland's NOM recovered to reach 26,522 persons in March quarter 2023 — the highest

quarterly figure recorded in the current timeseries (since July 2006<sup>iii</sup>). Eight of the highest recorded quarterly NOM figures in the current time series occurred in the three years 2022–23 to 2024–25.

**Figure 3** NOM by quarter, Queensland



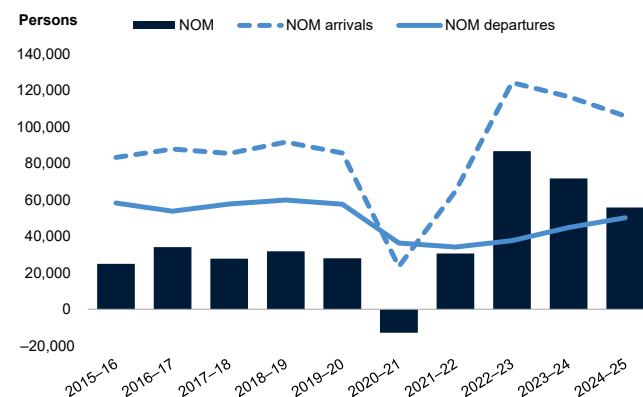
## Migrant arrivals<sup>iv</sup> and departures<sup>v</sup> over time

After the opening of international borders, post pandemic, migrant arrivals increased rapidly, reaching a record 124,284 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 2024–25 fell to 105,938, though still high relative to most years. In comparison, migrant departures continued to increase reaching 50,195 in 2024–25, up from 44,767 in the previous year — an increase of 12.1%.

Nationally, a similar pattern was recorded with arrivals falling by 14.1% and departures increasing by 13.2% in 2024–25.

**Figure 4** NOM, arrivals and departures, Queensland

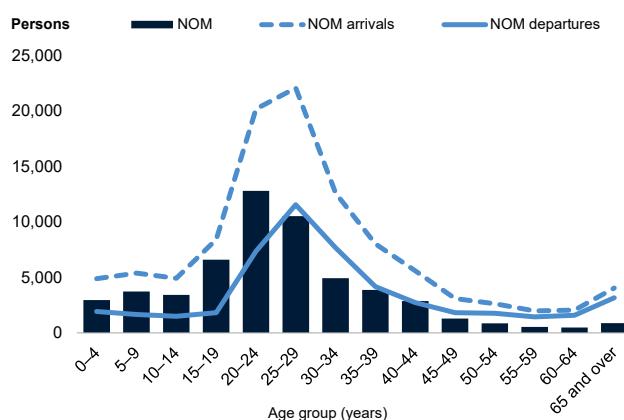


## Age and sex profile

In 2024–25, persons aged 25–29 years contributed the largest numbers of both migrant arrivals (22,100) and departures (11,570). Migrants aged 20–24 years contributed an additional 12,810 residents to Queensland, the largest NOM among all age groups. NOM then decreased rapidly with increasing age (Figure 5).

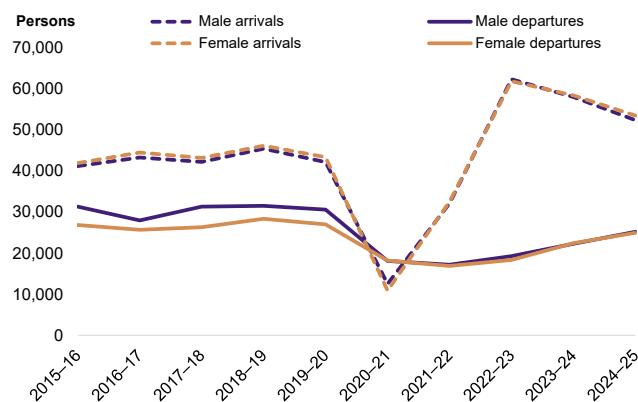
All age groups under 55 years experienced moderation in NOM in 2024–25 compared with 2023–24, ranging from 110 fewer persons for those aged 10–14 years, up to 5,330 fewer persons for 25–29 year olds. The largest proportional difference was among 30–34 year olds, where the NOM gain fell by 41.7% in 2024–25.

**Figure 5** **NOM by age group, Queensland, 2024–25**



Since 2021–22, females have accounted for just over half of Queensland's NOM gain, with 51.2% of NOM in 2024–25 female. Arrival and departure patterns and levels over this period among males and females were similar (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.

Temporary migrant NOM decreased in 2024–25, while NOM from New Zealand citizens increased in 2024–25, compared with the previous year, and Australian citizen NOM losses moderated (Figure 7 and Table 1).

**Figure 7** **NOM by major visa grouping<sup>(a)</sup>, Queensland**

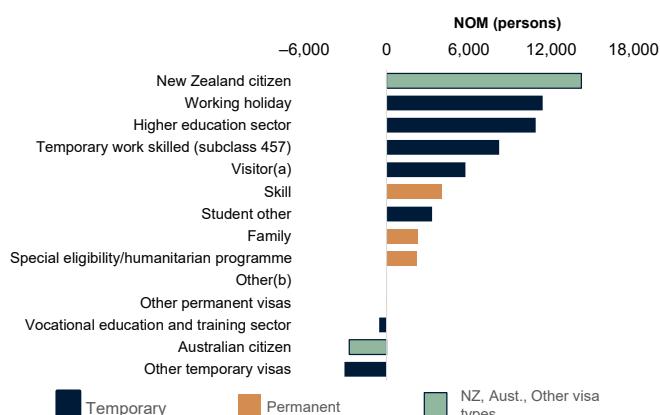


(a) Excludes unknown visa types

While down from the 2022–23 level, temporary visa holders were the largest contributor to Queensland's NOM gain in 2024–25, adding 35,870 persons, which continues to be considerably higher than the average annual gain of 20,300 over the 10 years to 30 June 2019, pre-pandemic.

In comparison to 2022–23 and 2023–24 where, higher education students contributed the largest share of the NOM gains, in 2024–25, New Zealand Citizens (14,200), followed by those on working holiday visas (11,370) were the largest visa groups (Table 1 and Figure 8). NOM gains from working holiday visa holders did moderate in 2024–25, down from 13,900 in 2023–24, and 14,070 in 2022–23.

**Figure 8** **NOM by visa type, Queensland, 2024–25**



(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.

Of permanent visa holders in 2024–25, only 'other' permanent visa holders (–50 persons) recorded a NOM loss.

## Temporary visa holders

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

Except for 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 76,520 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 (89,190 persons, up from 37,410 persons in 2021–22) and a continuation of the recent declines in departures (12,670 persons, down from 14,590 persons in 2021–22) contributed to this record NOM gain for temporary visa holders (Figure 9).

Since then, temporary visa holder NOM moderated to 54,420 persons in 2023–24, and further still to 35,870 persons in 2024–25 — 64.3% of Queensland's total NOM gain, down from 88.3% in 2022–23.

Migrant arrivals on temporary visas decreased in 2024–25 (62,940 persons) compared with 2023–24 (74,720), while departures continued to increase (27,070 persons).

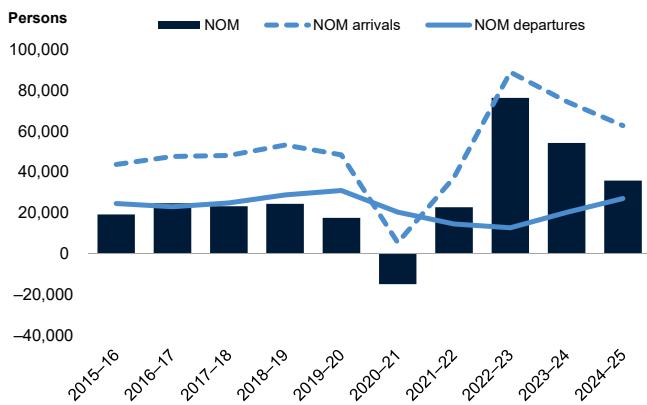
**Table 1** **NOM by Visa type**

Visa type	Queensland		Rest of Australia	
	2023–24	2024–25	2023–24	2024–25
— persons —				
Permanent	9,100	8,390	63,290	61,190
Family	1,940	2,260	16,070	17,290
Skill	4,480	3,990	31,510	31,220
Special eligibility and Humanitarian programs	2,750	2,200	14,670	12,490
Other permanent	–80	–50	1,050	180
Temporary	54,420	35,870	289,940	179,290
Vocational education and training	2,510	–550	9,550	–2,740
Higher education	14,810	10,860	112,900	86,770
Student other	7,460	3,320	24,080	10,410
Temporary skilled visas	7,890	8,200	33,640	27,500
Visitor(a)	9,140	5,740	59,000	32,000
Working holiday	13,900	11,370	54,490	42,020
Other temporary	–1,290	–3,070	–3,730	–16,680
New Zealand citizen <sup>(b)</sup>	13,030	14,200	24,370	24,090
Australian citizen	–4,830	–2,730	–20,150	–14,720
Other <sup>(c)</sup>	–	–	–	–
<b>Total<sup>(d)</sup></b>	<b>71,730</b>	<b>55,750</b>	<b>357,430</b>	<b>249,820</b>

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.

**Figure 9 Contribution to NOM, temporary visa holders, Queensland**



The number of working holiday visa holders, while being the highest contributor to NOM in 2024–25 at 11,370 persons, was 2,530 persons lower than recorded in 2023–24. The most recent year saw a record number of working holiday maker arrivals (17,030), while departures more than doubled, from 2,680 in 2023–24 to 5,660 in 2024–25.

Similar to the previous year, temporary work visas was the only temporary visa class to record an increase in NOM in 2024–25 (8,200 persons up from 7,890 persons). This was:

- the highest level of temporary work visa holders recorded in the time series back to 2004–05
- more than three times the average observed over the 10-years to 2018–19 (2,663 per year).

Queensland experienced NOM losses to people on Other temporary visas in both 2023–24 (1,290) and 2024–25 (3,070).

## Student temporary visa holders

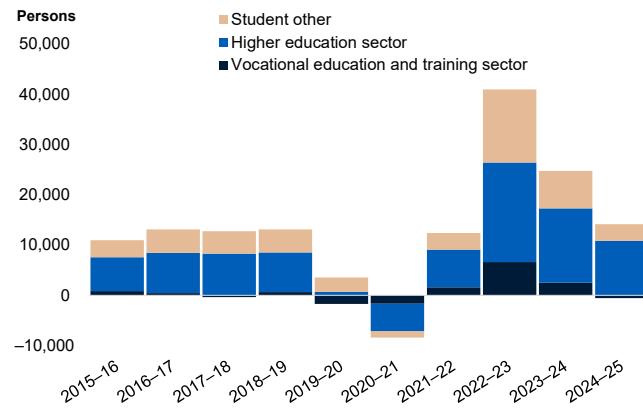
International border closures during the pandemic disproportionately affected international students, with NOM losses recorded for all student visa types in 2020–21, following a notable contraction in numbers in 2019–20.

The recovery in international student numbers experienced in 2021–22 was surpassed in 2022–23, with a record NOM gain of 41,000 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 24,780 persons, with falls in all three student visa categories — Higher education, Vocational education and training (VET), and Student other visa class (Figure 10).

Further decreases were seen in 2024–25 with student NOM returning to levels recorded in the years prior to Australia's international border closures.

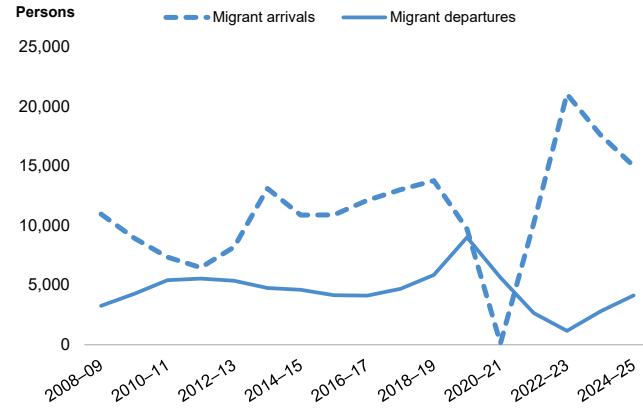
**Figure 10 NOM by type of student visa, Queensland**



Higher education visa holders in NOM decreased from a peak of 19,850 in 2022–23 to 10,860 in 2024–25 (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 each year, compared with 15,000 in 2024–25 (Figure 11). In comparison, migrant departures have almost recovered to levels seen in earlier years, up from 1,170 in 2022–23 to 4,140 in 2024–25.

**Figure 11 Higher education sector visa holders, Queensland**



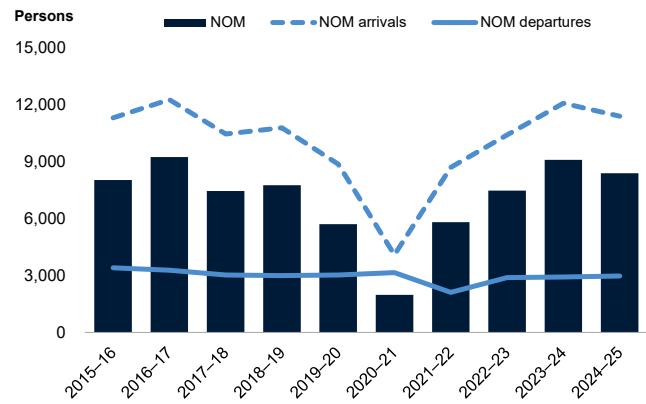
Both VET (-550 persons) and student 'other' visas (3,320) also recorded falls in the year to 30 June 2025 due to a marked decrease in arrivals along with an increase in departures.

## 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 gains increased in each of the three years 2021–22 to 2023–24, reaching 9,100 persons (Figure 12). A decrease in NOM arrivals in 2024–25 to 11,400 resulted in NOM for this visa class moderating slightly to 8,390 persons.

**Figure 12 Contribution to NOM, permanent visa holders, Queensland**



The NOM gain for permanent visa holders was primarily comprised of permanent skilled visa holders (3,990 persons or 47.6%).

## New Zealand citizens

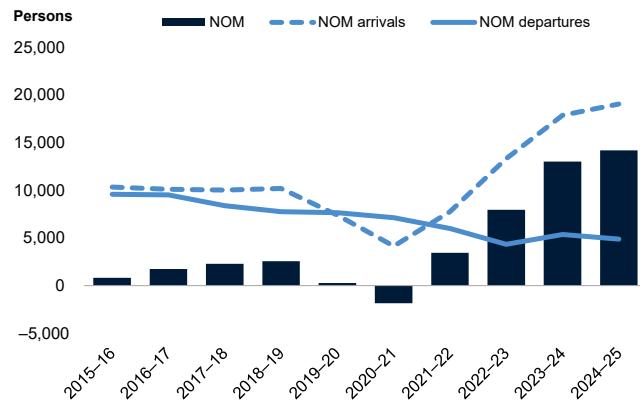
*New Zealand citizens can travel to Australia without a visa and will usually be granted a Special Category visa (subclass 444) on arrival in Australia. This visa is unique under Australian migration law as it is a temporary visa that allows New Zealanders to remain in Australia indefinitely with no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

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, and 37.1% in 2024–25.

Queensland's NOM gain through New Zealand citizens increased in 2024–25 to 14,200 persons, up from 7,960 persons in 2022–23, and was the highest recorded since 2011–12 (Figure 13). The 2024–25 increase was driven by an ongoing increase in arrivals (19,070 persons) and fewer departures (4,870 persons).

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

**Figure 13 Contribution to NOM, New Zealand citizens, Queensland**

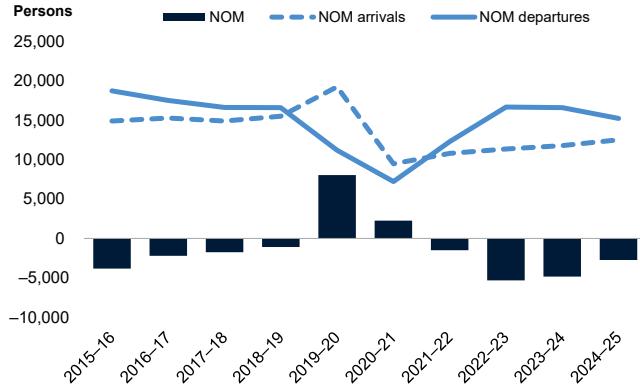


## Australian citizens

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 –4,830 persons, before decreasing further to –2,730 persons in 2024–25.

While arrivals of Australian citizens over the four years to 2024–25, post-pandemic, continue to be lower than levels experienced in the pre-pandemic period, departures have recovered and, in 2022–23, were the highest recorded (16,680) 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, which continued into 2024–25 (Table 2).

While the top 10 countries of birth of those contributing to Queensland's NOM gain typically vary from year to year and India has dominated the rankings over the years 2021–22 to 2023–24, New Zealand was the predominant country of birth for Queensland NOM in 2024–25.

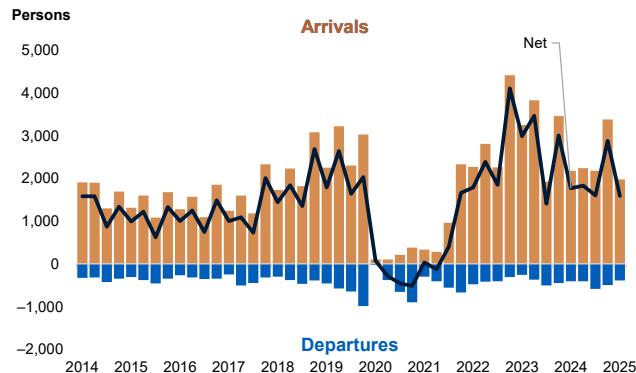
**Table 2** **NOM by country of birth, Queensland**

Country of birth	Rank	2023–24	2024–25	Change
		— persons —	— % —	
New Zealand	1	8,710	9,890	13.5
India	2	9,660	7,900	-18.2
UK, CIs & IOM	3	4,600	5,170	12.4
China	4	5,910	4,830	-18.3
Philippines	5	5,910	4,100	-30.6
South Africa	6	2,800	2,110	-24.6
Nepal	7	1,420	1,500	5.6
Taiwan	8	1,790	1,480	-17.3
Sri Lanka	9	1,750	1,400	-20.0
Vietnam	10	1,770	1,070	-39.5
Other	..	27,410	16,290	-40.6
<b>Total</b>	..	<b>71,730</b>	<b>55,740</b>	<b>-22.3</b>

NOM gain from people born in India peaked at 11,340 in 2022–23, before falling to 9,660 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**



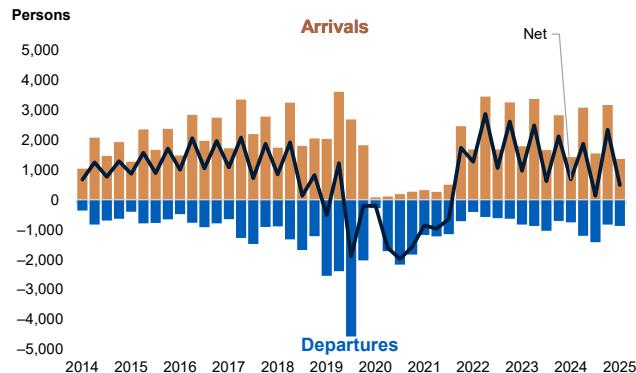
New Zealand born persons contributed the second highest number of people to NOM in 2023–24 (8,710 persons), and the highest in 2024–25 (9,890 persons).

People born in China and the Philippines both recorded NOM gains of over 4,000 persons in 2024–25, however levels from both countries were down from the year prior:

- China by 18.3%
- Philippines by 30.6%.

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, with continued high levels of arrivals.

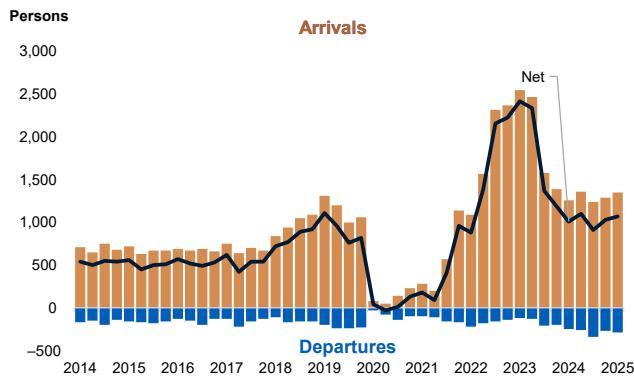
**Figure 16** **NOM arrivals and departures, by quarter, people born in China, Queensland**



Philippines has consistently been in the top 10 countries of birth for NOM over the last 10 years. 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



After a loss in 2020–21 (-250 persons) followed by a small gain in 2021–22 (1,020), the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man (UK, CIs and IOM) returned to the top 10 countries of birth for NOM gain to Queensland in 2021–22. A NOM gain of 4,600 persons was recorded in 2023–24, followed by 5,170 in 2024–25, 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 (30.4%), and when combined with India and China, the NOM gain from people with an Asian country of birth accounted for more than half of the total NOM gain to Queensland (53.2%) in 2024–25.

# Department of Home Affairs data

## Temporary resident (skilled) visas

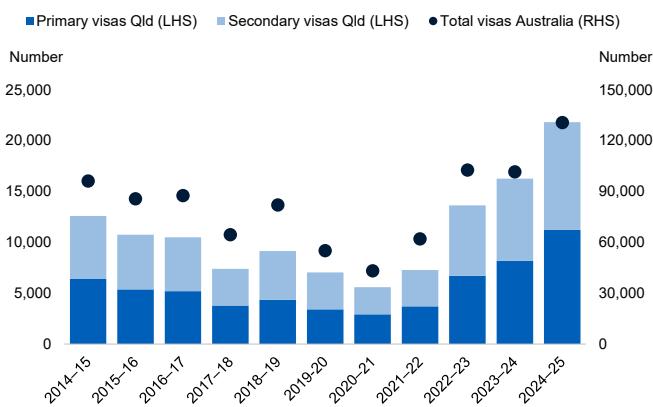
The Australian Government abolished the Temporary Work (Skilled) visa (subclass 457) and replaced it with the Temporary Skill Shortage (subclass 482) visa from March 2018<sup>vii</sup>. The time series for Temporary resident (skilled) visa data reported below includes both visa types.

Visa grant figures are sourced from Department of Home Affairs. Not all visa grants result in arrivals to Queensland.

## Visa grants

Annual grants of temporary skilled visas for both primary and secondary applicants<sup>viii</sup> in Queensland increased by 34.2% between 2023–24 (16,258 visa grants) and 2024–25 (21,816). This was the fourth consecutive year of growth in visa grants, following an overall declining trend between 2012–13 and the low recorded in 2020–21. The number of visa grants for temporary skilled visas in 2024–25 was the highest in the timeseries (from 2005–06), with Queensland's proportional increase higher than for Australia (28.6%) (Figure 18).

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



Queensland was the third-highest nominated position location for primary visa grants in 2024–25 (16.4%), behind New South Wales (37.7%), Victoria (23.3%) and slightly ahead of Western Australia (15.7%).

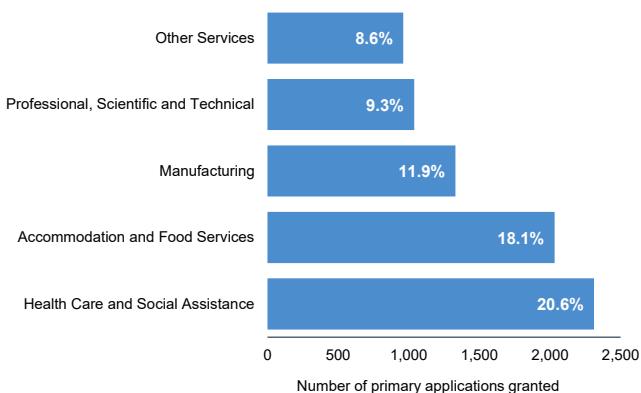
## Primary applicant – temporary skilled visa grants

### Sponsor industry

In 2024–25, the top five sponsor industries<sup>viii</sup> for primary temporary skilled visas granted for nominated positions in Queensland (11,214 visa grants) were health care and social assistance (20.6%), accommodation and food services (18.1%), manufacturing (11.9%), professional, scientific and technical (9.3%), and other services (7.4%) (Figure 19).

While health care and social assistance has had the highest industry share each year since 2014–15, the 2,312 visa grants for this industry in 2024–25 was also the highest for any industry in the past 10 years, and 52.1% higher than recorded in 2023–24.

**Figure 19** **Top five nominated sponsor industries, nominated positions in Queensland, 2024–25**



The 1,331 visa grants in manufacturing in 2024–25 was the highest recorded in the timeseries (since 2006), and a 10.9% increase from the recent high of 1,200 visa grants recorded for this industry in 2023–24. Visa grants in manufacturing previously peaked in 2007–08 (1,224), however recorded less than half this level for most of the following years to 2023–24.

The government sector accounted for 9.9% of primary applications granted in 2024–25.

### Nominated occupation

The top five nominated occupations<sup>ix</sup> for primary visas granted for Queensland in 2024–25 were:

- chef (1,255 visa grants or 11.2%)
- resident medical officer (992 or 8.8%)
- motor mechanic (general) (507 or 4.5%)
- cook (341 or 3.0%)
- café or restaurant manager (287 or 2.6%).

Since 2017–18, two occupations have consistently ranked in the top five for Queensland: chef and resident medical officer, with numbers peaking in 2024–25 for both.

The number of visa grants to both chef and cook have more than doubled since 2023–24. Other occupations where visa grants doubled and with at least 50 visa grants were: carpenter (121 up from 52 in 2023–24), nursing support worker (87 up from <5), personal care assistant (74 up from 26) and child care worker (73 up from 15).

Chef returned to be the occupation with the largest proportion of primary visa grants for the first time since 2016–17, and grew from 2.2% of all occupations for visa grants to Queensland in 2014–15, to a high of 11.2% in 2024–25.

Visa grants to applicants where the position was specified in a labour agreement<sup>x</sup> have been steadily increasing since 2020–21, to account for 649 (5.8%) primary temporary resident skilled visa grants in 2024–25.

### Location of visa applicant

Overall, 57.0% of primary 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 Solomon Islands (100.0%), Estonia (95.0%), Colombia (94.1%), Brazil (91.6%), South Korea (91.1%) and Thailand (90.2%).

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 second lowest proportion of onshore applicants (35.4%) behind agriculture, forestry and fishing (34.6%).

## Country of citizenship

For the third 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 almost 1 in 5 primary visa grants (18.6%) in 2024–25, followed by India (12.0%) and the United Kingdom (10.6%) (Table 3).

These same countries have ranked variously in the top three for primary visa grants since 2017–18. Together, they accounted for 41.2% of primary visa grants in 2024–25, down from 43.9% in 2023–24.

Citizens of Nepal and Colombia recorded notable increases in temporary resident skilled visa grants for primary applicants in 2024–25, with grants more than trebling for Nepal, and more than doubling for Colombia — both entering the top 10 countries for the first time.

More than half (57.0%) of primary applicants were located onshore in Australia when granted a temporary resident skilled work visa in 2024–25. This varied by country of citizenship, with three top 10 countries recording levels of over 90%: Brazil, South Korea and Colombia.

**Table 3** **Top 10 citizenship countries, primary applicants, Queensland, 2024–25**

Country of citizenship	Visas granted		Onshore
	— no. —	— % —	— % —
1 Philippines	2,089	18.6	49.4
2 India	1,342	12.0	54.6
3 United Kingdom	1,185	10.6	43.7
4 China <sup>(a)</sup> , People's Republic of	563	5.0	27.0
5 Brazil	500	4.5	91.6
6 Nepal	475	4.2	84.0
7 Sri Lanka	457	4.1	41.8
8 South Africa	382	3.4	35.3
9 Korea, South	313	2.8	91.1
10 Colombia	273	2.4	94.1
Other	3,635	32.4	61.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,214</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>57.0</b>

(a) Excludes Special Administrative Regions and Taiwan.

Source: Department of Home Affairs BP0014 Temporary Work (Skilled) visas granted 2024–25 to 30 June 2025, August 2025.

## Location within Queensland

More than 1 in 6 of Queensland's temporary skilled visas for primary applicants in 2024–25 was granted for nominated positions located in the Brisbane Inner City SA4<sup>1</sup> (18.1% or 2,030 visa grants) (Table 4).

In the same year, more than 1 in 3 temporary skilled visas were granted for nominated positions located outside of South East Queensland (36.2% or 4,055 visa grants)<sup>xi</sup>. This included Central Queensland SA4 (6.4% or 713 visa grants), which has recorded notable recent growth increasing by 33.3% compared with visa grants in 2023–24 (535) and more than triple the level of five years earlier (220 visa grants in 2019–20).

**Table 4** **Temporary resident (skilled) visa grants (primary) by nominated position location, 2024–25**

Nominated position location <sup>(a)</sup>	Visas granted	
	— no. —	— % —
Brisbane Inner City	2,030	18.1
Gold Coast	1,244	11.1
Mackay – Isaac – Whitsunday	770	6.9
Central Queensland	713	6.4
Sunshine Coast	687	6.1
Brisbane – South	635	5.7
Brisbane – North	554	4.9
Ipswich	553	4.9
Townsville	548	4.9
Darling Downs – Maranoa	514	4.6
Cairns	491	4.4
Wide Bay	483	4.3
Logan – Beaudesert	478	4.3
Brisbane – East	373	3.3
Toowoomba	322	2.9
Moreton Bay – North	292	2.6
Queensland – Outback	214	1.9
Moreton Bay – South	157	1.4
Brisbane – West	150	1.3
Not Specified	6	0.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>11,214</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) 2016 Australian Statistical Geography Standard, SA4

Source: Department of Home Affairs BP0014 Temporary Work (skilled) visas granted 2024–25 to 30 June 2025, August 2025.

<sup>1</sup> SA4 - Statistical Area Level 4

More than half (58.2%) of the visa grants for nominated positions in Wide Bay in 2024–25, were for health care and social assistance. Moreton Bay – North also had a high proportion of visa grants for this industry (40.4%). Other notably high levels for specific industries were seen in Darling Downs – Maranoa where 47.1% of visa grants were for positions in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry, and Ipswich where 39.4% of visa grants were for positions in manufacturing.

## Visa holders living in Queensland

There were 19,542 primary temporary skilled visa holders with a nominated position location in Queensland on 30 June 2025, a notable increase from a year earlier (up by 45.6%) and the highest figure in the timeseries (since 30 June 2011).

Nationally, the number of temporary skilled visa holders increased by 30.8% over the same period. Queensland accounted for 16.4% of the national total of visa holders (119,443) on 30 June 2025, up from 14.7% at 30 June 2024.

In 2024–25, more than 2 in 5 (45.4%) temporary skilled visa holders in Queensland were in nominated occupations within the technicians and trades workers major grouping, while the most nominated individual occupations were chef (10.0%), resident medical officer (6.6%), and motor mechanic (general) (4.9%).

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, for the third straight year.

Visa holders living in Queensland under specified labour agreements (1,493) increased by 69.3% over the year.

## Student visas

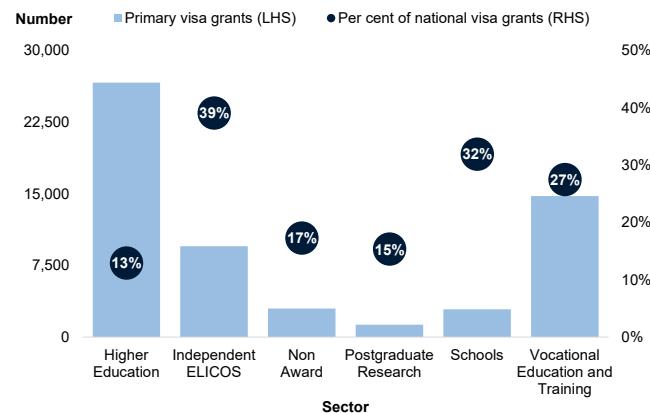
In 2024–25, 64,201 student visas were granted for education providers registered in Queensland, and 90.4% of these were primary visa grants. Compared with 2023–24, this represented a 1.5% decrease in the number of student visas granted and continued the decline from a peak of 107,250 student visa grants in 2022–23.

In 2024–25, the higher education sector accounted for the largest proportion (45.9%) of the primary student visa grants in Queensland, followed by the VET sector (25.4%). These two sectors combined

accounted for more than two-thirds of primary student visa grants.

Queensland's primary visa grants for students in the higher education sector in 2024–25 accounted for 12.9% of the national total for this sector, slightly lower than in 2023–24 (12.5%). Compared with its share of the national population (20.5%) in 2024–25, Queensland was overrepresented in the independent ELICOS<sup>xii</sup>, schools and VET sectors (39.1%, 31.9% and 27.5% respectively) (Figure 20).

**Figure 20 Primary student visa grants and national share, by sector, for Queensland registered providers 2024–25**



A comparison of Queensland's student visa grants in 2024–25 with those made in 2023–24, shows decreases across most sectors, except for higher education and VET (both increased by 5.7%). ELICOS recorded the largest decrease, down by 24.5%, from 12,581 to 9,501 visa grants. Overall student visa grants were below the level immediately prior to the pandemic in 2018–19.

Just over half (50.5%) of primary student visa grants in 2024–25 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; Bangladesh; and Nepal.

Half of the top 10 countries saw increases in the number of primary visas granted for students compared with 2023–24. The largest percentage increase in visa grants to students was to citizens of Bangladesh (up 216.1% or 2,070 visa grants), with Bangladesh in the top 10 countries of citizenship for student visa grants for the first time.

Of countries in the top 10, only Bangladesh was higher than the pre-pandemic year levels, recording 3,028 primary student visa grants in 2024–25 compared with 262 in 2018–19.

**Table 5** **Top 10 citizenship countries, temporary student visas granted<sup>(a)</sup> in 2024–25, Queensland<sup>(b)</sup>**

Country of citizenship	Visas granted	
	— no. —	— % —
1 China <sup>(c)</sup> , People's Republic of	9,720	16.7
2 India	6,472	11.1
3 Brazil	4,531	7.8
4 Colombia	3,200	5.5
5 Bangladesh	3,028	5.2
6 Nepal	2,383	4.1
7 Japan	2,137	3.7
8 Philippines	1,942	3.3
9 Spain	1,676	2.9
10 Korea, South	1,653	2.8
Other	21,313	36.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>58,055</b>	<b>100.0</b>

(a) Primary applications only.

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

(c) Excludes Special Administrative Regions and Taiwan.

Source: Department of Home Affairs *BP0015 Pivot Table: Student visas granted pivot table*. Accessed 28/08/2025.

Of the countries with more than 1,000 primary visa grants in 2024–25, only Bangladesh, Chile and Germany recorded increases in primary student visa grants compared with both 2023–24 and 2018–19, with Bangladesh's visa grants 11.6 times higher than 2018–19.

Bangladesh (up 2,070 primary visa grants) and Nepal (1,033) recorded the largest increases from 2023–24 to 2024–25, while Philippines (-793) and Colombia (-733) recorded the largest decreases.

In 2020–21, during the pandemic, the percentage of student visa grants for primary applicants already located in Australia peaked at 69.8%. Since then, levels rapidly decreased, falling to 27.2% in 2023–24, before increasing in 2024–25 to 36.1%.

In 2024–25, more than 1 in 4 (27.3%) of student visas were granted to primary applicants who had held a previous student visa. A further 10.2% were granted to applicants who had previously held a visitor visa. There was also a significant increase in student visas granted to applicants who had previously held a temporary resident (other employment) visa, 3,289 or 5.7% of all student visas granted, up from 481 visa grants (0.8%) in 2023–24.

## 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.

The Migration program outcomes 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 'In Australia'.
2. 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' category.

Onshore protection permanent visa grants are excluded.

## Outcome by migration pathway<sup>xiii</sup>

In 2024–25, the total permanent Migration Program outcome for Queensland was 21,760 places, comprising 7,779 persons located outside Australia and 13,978 persons granted permanent residence while residing in Queensland on a temporary visa (Table 6 and Figure 21). This was 5.5% lower than in 2023–24.

The skilled stream accounted for the largest proportion of the Migration Program in 2024–25 (68.9% or 15,000 persons), down from a peak of 72.4% in 2022–23. There were 6,757 places delivered to Queensland for family visa holders during 2024–25, accounting for the remaining 31.1% of outcomes.

**Table 6** **Migration Program outcomes<sup>(a)</sup> by pathway and client location<sup>2</sup>, Queensland, 2024–25**

Visa type	In Australia	Outside Australia	Total permanent additions	
	— persons —		— % —	
Family	3,572	3,185	6,757	31.1
Skill	10,406	4,594	15,000	68.9
	— % —			
Family	52.9	47.1	..	100.0
Skill	69.4	30.6	..	100.0
Total <sup>(d)</sup>	<b>64.2</b>	<b>35.8</b>	..	<b>100.0</b>

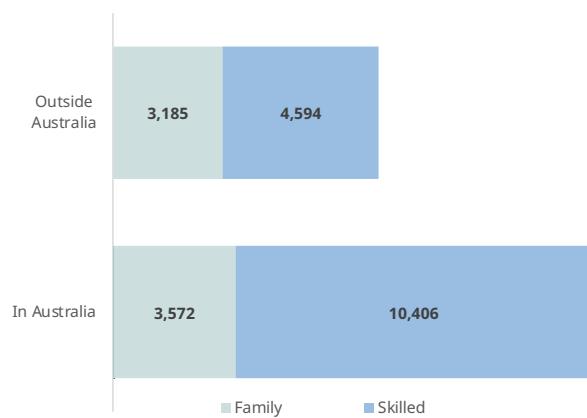
.. = not applicable

(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, 2015–16 to 2024–25, December 2025*.

As a proportion of the total Migration Program, 35.8% of outcomes were to applicants located outside Australia, the highest proportion since 2018–19 (40.1%) and more than 10 percentage points higher than the pandemic affected low in 2019–20 (25.2%). Migration Program places for clients located in Australia have consistently been higher than those from outside Australia over the 10 years to 2024–25.

**Figure 21** **Migration Program outcomes by migration pathway and visa type, 2024–25, Queensland**



Both family and skilled migration pathways recorded more Migration Program outcomes through the 'In Australia' pathway than the 'Outside Australia' pathway (52.9% and 69.4% respectively).

In 2024–25, most Migration Program places for family visa holders were given to people on partner visas — 80.1% or 5,411 persons — compared with 13.1% on parent visas (886 persons).

## Skilled visa holders

Persons with a skilled visa type accounted for the largest proportion of Migration Program outcomes to Queensland, representing around 7 in 10 (68.9% or 15,000 persons) of total Migration Program outcomes in 2024–25, continuing the decline from a peak in 2022–23 (72.4%), although still the third highest proportion over the last decade.

Employer-sponsored visa holders in 2024–25 accounted for the largest share of the skilled visa category with more than 2 in 5 (45.1%) or 6,768 persons, followed by regional visa holders 20.2% (3,030 persons).

Of the Migration Program outcomes for Queensland under the skilled independent visa type in 2024–25, 76.3% were in Australia, including 64.2% of primary applicants — the highest proportion of all the skilled visa types. Under this visa type, invited workers, and eligible Hong Kong or British National (Overseas) passport holders can live and work permanently in Australia. Indian citizens accounted for 24.9% of the total outcomes for skilled independent visa holders in 2024–25, followed by citizens of the People's Republic of China (11.6%).

Queensland accounted for a larger proportion of the national skilled independent visa holder Migration Program outcomes in the last five years (13.7% in 2024–25), 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.

<sup>2</sup> Location of client at time of application.

# Notes

## Student visas

Several 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.

Starting 1 July 2024, holders of certain visas, including Visitor and Temporary Graduate visas, are no longer be able to apply for Student visas while in Australia. Student visa applicants with a genuine intention to pursue studies in Australia will still be able to apply for a Student visa from offshore (outside of Australia).

Other changes have occurred effective 1 July 2024. Further details can be found on the Study Australia website<sup>xiv</sup>.

## 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 — are eligible to apply directly for Australian citizenship without having to apply for a permanent visa.

## Salary requirements for 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.

Annual increases now apply to the income thresholds for the Temporary Skilled, Core Skills stream and Special Skills stream visa applications, with indexation changes now applying from 1 July each year.

Australia has introduced a Skills in Demand (SID) (subclass 482) visa allowing holders to work in Australia for up to four years.

# 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 Some 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 Labour agreements enable approved businesses to sponsor skilled overseas workers when there is a demonstrated need that cannot be met in the Australian labour market and where standard temporary or permanent visa programs are not available. Labour agreements are developed between the Australian Government and employers, are generally in effect for five years and provide for visas to be granted under one or more of the following visa programs: Skills in Demand (SID) visa (subclass 482); Employer Nomination Scheme visa (subclass 186); or Skilled Employer Sponsored Regional (Provisional) visa (subclass 494).
- xi 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.
- xii ELICOS is the common abbreviation for English Language Intensive Courses for Overseas Students.
- xiii Data based on visa sub-class at time of arrival for settlers.
- xiv The Study Australia website provides additional information around onshore Student visa applications here:  
<https://www.studyaustralia.gov.au/en/tools-and-resources/news/changes-to-student-visa-applications-to-prevent-visa-hopping>

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