In 2013, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) further improved the quality and supply of final and preliminary NOM statistics. These improvements include:

- improving the quality of input data used in estimating NOM due to a rebuild of the OAD system;
- improvements made to preliminary NOM estimation thereby improving quarterly preliminary ERP;
- improvements to the quality of various characteristics available from the final NOM data collection, in particular country of birth data; and
- a change to the revision cycle for publishing final NOM from a six monthly to a quarterly revision cycle.

For more information see Further Improvements to Net Overseas Migration (cat. no. 3412.0.55.002).
The ABS undertook a rebuild of the Overseas Arrivals and Departures (OAD) system in 2013. The primary aim was to improve the quality of OAD data, given its importance as input to a broad range of estimates, including the estimation of Net Overseas Migration and the Estimated Resident Population by country of birth, which are both featured within this publication. For more information refer to 'Fact Sheet: Rebuild of Overseas Arrivals and Departures System', which can be downloaded from the 'Downloads' tab of this release.

The country classification used within this publication is based on the latest version of the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2011, Version 2.2. For more information and codes see the Country Classification spreadsheet in the 'Downloads' tab of this publication online.

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Table Title</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Population change, Components, States and territories—June 1981 onwards (quarterly)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Estimated resident population, States and territories—June 1981 onwards (quarterly)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16A</td>
<td>Interstate arrivals, States and territories—June 1981 onwards (quarterly)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16B</td>
<td>Interstate departures, States and territories—June 1981 onwards (quarterly)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data cube: Australian demographic statistics, Electronic spreadsheets of all tables published in *Australian Demographic Statistics* (quarterly)

Data cube: Interstate migration, Arrivals and departures, States and territories, sex, Sep 1986 onwards (quarterly)

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Table Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Population size and growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Population distribution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Population age-sex structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Migration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Country of birth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Overseas arrivals and departures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Australia’s Population by Country of Birth

The cultural and linguistic diversity of Australia’s resident population has been reshaped over many years by migration. Historically, more people immigrate to, than emigrate from, Australia. At 30 June 2013, 27.7% of the estimated resident population (ERP) was born overseas (6.4 million people). This was an increase from 30 June 2012, when 27.3% of the ERP was born overseas (6.2 million people). In 2003, ten years earlier, 23.6% of the ERP were born overseas (4.7 million people).

Persons born in the UK continued to be the largest group of overseas-born residents, accounting for 5.3% of Australia’s total population at 30 June 2013. This was followed by persons born in New Zealand (2.6%), China (1.8%), India (1.6%) and Vietnam (0.9%).

Australia’s Population Born Overseas

COUNTRY OF BIRTH(a), Proportion of Australia’s population

(a) Based on the top 10 countries of birth (excluding Australia) at 30 June 2013.
(b) Excludes SARs and Taiwan.
(c) Estimates for 1992–2011 are recasted and estimates from June quarter 2012 onwards are preliminary—see paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes.
Over the last 10 years, the proportion of the Australian population who were born in the United Kingdom decreased from 5.7% in 2003 to 5.3% in 2013. Conversely, the proportions increased for people born in New Zealand (from 2.1% to 2.6%), China (from 1.0% to 1.8%) and India (from 0.6% to 1.6%).

In terms of Australia’s population growth, for the top 50 countries of birth (excluding Australia) at 30 June 2013, persons born in Nepal had the highest rate of increase between 2003 and 2013 with an average annual growth rate of 26.3%. However, this growth began from a small base of 3,000 persons at 30 June 2003. The second fastest increase over this period was in the number of persons born in India (12.0% per year on average), followed by those born in Pakistan (11.4%), Bangladesh (10.9%) and Sudan (9.2%). Of the top 50 countries of birth, the number of persons born in Serbia decreased the most, with an average annual decrease of 3.1%, followed by Hungary with an annual decrease of 1.3%.

Australia’s estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth at the state and territory level is only available for Census years, with the latest being 2011. Table 1.3 shows the composition by country of birth for each state and territory, for the top fifteen countries ranked at the national level.

Western Australia recorded the highest proportion of overseas born residents in their population at 33.4% (786,500 persons), and also the largest increase in the proportion of overseas born residents, up from 29.9% in 2006. Victoria recorded the second highest proportion with 28.7% of its residents born overseas (1,589,800 persons), up from 26.3% in 2006. Tasmania (12.6% or 64,200 persons) and the Northern Territory (18.8% or 43,600 persons) had the lowest proportion of overseas born residents, both well below the Australian level of 26.9% recorded in 2011 (6,018,200 persons).

In 2011, Western Australia had the highest proportion of people born in the United Kingdom (10.9%), more than double the Australian proportion of 5.4%. The highest proportion of New Zealand born residents was in Queensland (4.8%).

In Victoria, there were higher proportions of residents born in India (2.3%), Italy (1.5%), Vietnam (1.4%), Greece (1.1%) and Sri Lanka (0.9%) than any other state or territory. New South Wales had the highest proportion of people born in China (2.6%) and Lebanon (0.9%). The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of people born in the Philippines (1.9%), while Western Australia recorded the highest proportion of people born in South Africa (1.7%) and Malaysia (1.2%). The proportion of residents born in Germany, the Netherlands and the United States of America were fairly evenly spread across all states and territories.
### Estimated Resident Population, State and territory composition (a)—Top 15 countries of birth (b)—30 June 2006 and 2011 (c)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>4,955.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Vic.</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>3,729.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Qld</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>3,218.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>3,126.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>1,436.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Tas.</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>433.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>NT</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>176.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>256.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Aust. (d)</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>15,419.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>5,175.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Vic.</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>3,948.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Qld</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>3,471.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>SA</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>1,250.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>1,566.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Tas.</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>447.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>NT</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>187.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>272.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>Aust. (d)</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>16,321.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Notes

- **(a)** Country of birth is available at the state and territory level in census years only.
- **(b)** The top 15 countries of birth are at the Australia level for 2006 and again for 2011.
- **(c)** Estimates for 2006 have been recast—see paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes.
- **(d)** Includes Other Territories. See paragraphs 62 - 63 of the Explanatory Notes.
- **(e)** United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.
- **(f)** Excludes SARs and Taiwan.
Net overseas migration (NOM) is the net gain or loss of population through immigration to Australia and emigration from Australia. Data provided by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) is used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to calculate the official NOM estimates each quarter.

In 2012-13, NOM increased from the previous year reaching an annual estimate of 244,400 persons, which was 8.6% (19,300 persons) more than in 2011-12. NOM in 2011-12 was 225,100 persons, which was 24.8% (44,700 persons) more than the dip experienced in 2010-11 when NOM added 180,400 persons to Australia for the year.

In 2012-13, NOM contributed the greatest number of people to the most populous states: New South Wales with a net increase of 67,800 persons, followed by Victoria (60,600), Western Australia (51,800) and Queensland (45,100). Tasmania had the lowest net increase with 1,400 persons (see Table 2.2). For the most up-to-date official estimates of NOM by state and territory produced by the ABS see Australian Demographic Statistics Quarterly (cat. no. 3101.0). For the most up-to-date forecasts of NOM produced by DIBP see The Outlook for Net Overseas Migration: September 2013 at: http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/statistics/
An individual’s actual travel behaviour and associated characteristics, including visa type, are only available from final NOM data, as these can only be accurately determined at the end of the 16 month reference period following a traveller’s initial border crossing.

The Australian Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) manages and grants visas each year in accordance with relevant legislation, government planning and policy. It is important to note that there is a difference between when and how many visas are granted by DIBP; and when and how they may impact on NOM, and therefore Australia’s estimated resident population (ERP). For example, for many visas there can be a lag between a visa being granted and the actual use of that visa by the applicant on entering Australia. Also, some travellers who have been granted permanent or long-term temporary visas may end up staying in Australia for a short period of stay or not at all. In addition, travellers may also apply for, and be granted, a different visa whilst in Australia or overseas. However, without an additional border crossing within the reference quarter to capture a traveller’s change of visa, the NOM system is unable to incorporate these occurrences.

Table 2.3 shows a breakdown of the types of visa groups which have contributed to final NOM. It shows that temporary visa holders are still the main contributors to NOM in the 2011 calendar year.

---

**Table 2.3: NOM, Selected characteristics—State & territory—2012–13**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State or territory</th>
<th>NOM ARRIVALS</th>
<th>NOM DEPARTURES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Overseas arrivals</td>
<td>Median age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NSW</td>
<td>67 784</td>
<td>27.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vic.</td>
<td>60 632</td>
<td>24.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Qld</td>
<td>45 104</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA</td>
<td>13 622</td>
<td>4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>51 809</td>
<td>21.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tas.</td>
<td>1 385</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NT</td>
<td>3 065</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>2 968</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Australia(c)**: 244 371 100.0  508 662 26.9  102.2  264 291 28.6  106.3

---

(a) Estimates from June quarter 2012 onwards are preliminary — see paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes.
(b) Males per 100 females.
(c) Includes Other Territories.
The visa category information in this table represents the number of visas based on the visa type at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM. Therefore, the number of visas in this table should not be confused with information on the number of visas granted by DIBP.

Visitor visas include tourists, business visitors, medical treatment and other.

Includes residents returning (i.e. non Australian citizens who have a permanent resident visa) and visa unknown.

### Major groupings and visa

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major groupings and visa</th>
<th>NOM ARRIVAL</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>NOM DEPARTURE</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>NOM</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Temporary visas</td>
<td>217 055</td>
<td>47.6</td>
<td>115 246</td>
<td>46.0</td>
<td>101 809</td>
<td>49.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocational education and training sector</td>
<td>10 720</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>10 476</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher education sector</td>
<td>41 886</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>30 894</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>10 992</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student other</td>
<td>21 386</td>
<td>4.7</td>
<td>8 478</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>12 908</td>
<td>6.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary work skilled (subclass 457)</td>
<td>42 015</td>
<td>9.2</td>
<td>12 459</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>29 556</td>
<td>14.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitor(b)</td>
<td>43 964</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>17 246</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>26 718</td>
<td>13.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working holiday</td>
<td>50 576</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>14 954</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>35 622</td>
<td>17.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other temporary visas</td>
<td>6 508</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>20 739</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>–14 231</td>
<td>–6.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent Visas</td>
<td>79 191</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>12 012</td>
<td>4.8</td>
<td>67 179</td>
<td>32.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family</td>
<td>33 700</td>
<td>7.4</td>
<td>4 058</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>29 642</td>
<td>14.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skill</td>
<td>36 231</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>7 869</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>28 362</td>
<td>13.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special eligibility and humanitarian</td>
<td>9 260</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>9 175</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Zealand citizen (subclass 444)</td>
<td>59 539</td>
<td>13.0</td>
<td>16 263</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>43 276</td>
<td>21.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian citizen</td>
<td>77 600</td>
<td>17.0</td>
<td>86 129</td>
<td>34.4</td>
<td>–8 529</td>
<td>–4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other(c)</td>
<td>22 873</td>
<td>5.0</td>
<td>20 929</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>1 944</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>456 258</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>250 579</td>
<td>100.0</td>
<td>205 679</td>
<td>100.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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- nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)
- The visa category information in this table represents the number of visas based on the visa type at the time of a traveller’s specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM. Therefore, the number of visas in this table should not be confused with information on the number of visas granted by DIBP.
- Visitor visas include tourists, business visitors, medical treatment and other.
- Includes residents returning (i.e. non Australian citizens who have a permanent resident visa) and visa unknown.
Net interstate migration (NIM) is the net gain or loss of population through the movement of people from one state or territory of usual residence to another. It is an important component required to calculate Australia’s estimated resident population at the state and territory level, see *Australian Demographic Statistics Quarterly* (cat. no. 3101.0). During 2012-13, it was estimated that 333,300 people moved interstate, a decrease of 1.8% from the number of people who moved in the previous year. In 2011-12 there were 339,500 people who moved interstate, an increase of 0.3% from the number of people who moved in 2010-11 (338,400 persons).

Net interstate migration can be a source of population gain or loss for a state or territory. In the year ended 30 June 2013, it was a source of population loss for New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory, with net losses of 15,500 persons, 4,200 persons, 2,200 persons and 1,800 persons respectively. Those states and territories where NIM contributed positively to population growth were Queensland (9,500 persons), Western Australia (8,000 persons), Victoria (4,700 persons), and the Australian Capital Territory (1,600 persons).
Over the decade ending June 2013, Western Australia and Queensland have consistently recorded annual NIM gains from the rest of the country. However, while the gain in NIM in Western Australia has gradually increased from 2,100 persons in 2003-04 to 8,000 persons in 2012-13, the gain in NIM in Queensland has gradually declined over the last 10 years, from 35,500 persons in 2003-04 to 9,500 persons in 2012-13.

In contrast to Western Australia and Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia have both recorded annual NIM losses each year for the past decade. New South Wales has continually recorded the largest annual losses, ranging between a loss of 31,100 persons in 2003-04 and 9,500 persons in 2009-10, with an annual average net loss of 20,600 persons. South Australia recorded an average net loss of 3,300 persons; with losses ranging between 4,400 persons in 2008-09 and 2,400 persons in 2011-12.

Over the past decade, Victoria recorded annual NIM losses in the five years from 2003-04 to 2007-08 and then annual NIM gains in the five years from 2008-09 to 2012-13, resulting in an annual average net gain of 280 persons. In 2012-13, Victoria recorded its largest NIM gain in the last ten years with 4,700 persons.

NIM in the remaining State and Territories has fluctuated throughout the past decade resulting in annual average net losses in the Northern Territory and Tasmania (520 persons and 10 persons respectively) and an annual average net gain in the Australian Capital Territory (430 persons).

### NET INTERSTATE MIGRATION—(a)—2003–04 to 2012–13

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NSW</th>
<th>Vic.</th>
<th>Qld</th>
<th>SA</th>
<th>WA</th>
<th>Tas.</th>
<th>NT</th>
<th>ACT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005–06</td>
<td>-25,576</td>
<td>-1,831</td>
<td>26,607</td>
<td>-2,711</td>
<td>3,933</td>
<td>-82</td>
<td>-553</td>
<td>258</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007–08</td>
<td>-20,780</td>
<td>-1,924</td>
<td>19,409</td>
<td>-4,221</td>
<td>4,991</td>
<td>730</td>
<td>1,389</td>
<td>260</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008–09</td>
<td>-18,667</td>
<td>1,523</td>
<td>14,702</td>
<td>-4,402</td>
<td>5,012</td>
<td>1,063</td>
<td>934</td>
<td>-309</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009–10</td>
<td>-9,458</td>
<td>3,314</td>
<td>6,172</td>
<td>-2,709</td>
<td>2,119</td>
<td>664</td>
<td>-661</td>
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<td>2010–11</td>
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<td>-3,357</td>
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<tr>
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<td>9,460</td>
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<td>7,992</td>
<td>-2,173</td>
<td>-1,797</td>
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</table>

**Annual average 2003–04 to 2012–13**

-20,557  275 18,419  -3,273  5,186  -9  -516  430

(a) Estimates for 2011-12 to 2012-13 are preliminary—see paragraph 9 of the Explanatory Notes.

**NET INTERSTATE MIGRATION continued**

Over the decade ending June 2013, Western Australia and Queensland have consistently recorded annual NIM gains from the rest of the country. However, while the gain in NIM in Western Australia has gradually increased from 2,100 persons in 2003-04 to 8,000 persons in 2012-13, the gain in NIM in Queensland has gradually declined over the last 10 years, from 35,500 persons in 2003-04 to 9,500 persons in 2012-13.

In contrast to Western Australia and Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia have both recorded annual NIM losses each year for the past decade. New South Wales has continually recorded the largest annual losses, ranging between a loss of 31,100 persons in 2003-04 and 9,500 persons in 2009-10, with an annual average net loss of 20,600 persons. South Australia recorded an average net loss of 3,300 persons; with losses ranging between 4,400 persons in 2008-09 and 2,400 persons in 2011-12.

Over the past decade, Victoria recorded annual NIM losses in the five years from 2003-04 to 2007-08 and then annual NIM gains in the five years from 2008-09 to 2012-13, resulting in an annual average net gain of 280 persons. In 2012-13, Victoria recorded its largest NIM gain in the last ten years with 4,700 persons.

NIM in the remaining State and Territories has fluctuated throughout the past decade resulting in annual average net losses in the Northern Territory and Tasmania (520 persons and 10 persons respectively) and an annual average net gain in the Australian Capital Territory (430 persons).
This publication contains statistics relating to the estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth, overseas migration and interstate migration.

Australia’s population estimates for the period since 1971 are compiled according to the place of usual residence of the population. An explanation of the place of usual residence conceptual basis for population estimates is given in Information Paper: Population Concepts, 2008 (cat. no. 3107.0.55.006) and also in Population Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2009 (cat. no. 3228.0.55.001).

The estimated resident population is an estimate of the Australian population obtained by adding to the estimated population at the beginning of each period the component of natural increase (on a usual residence basis) and the component of net overseas migration. For the states and territories, estimated interstate movements involving a change of usual residence are also taken into account. Estimates of the resident population are based on Census counts by place of usual residence, to which are added the estimated Census net undercount and the number of Australian residents estimated to have been temporarily overseas at the time of the Census. Overseas visitors in Australia are excluded from this calculation.

After each Census, estimates for the preceding intercensal period are revised by incorporating an additional adjustment (intercensal discrepancy) to ensure that the total intercensal increase agrees with the difference between the estimated resident populations at the two 30 June dates in the respective Census years.

Population estimates by country of birth are compiled and published annually as at 30 June for Australia as a whole. These estimates, produced by single year of age and sex, classify the population according to country of birth.

Annual population estimates by country of birth for post-censal years are compiled by updating the Census year estimates in accordance with births, deaths and overseas migration. Each component of change is first converted to financial year of birth. The population for each country of birth by birth cohort are then updated.

Population estimates by country of birth by state and territory are currently only available for Census years. These estimates, produced by single year of age and sex, classify the population for each state and territory according to country of birth.

For more detailed information see Chapter 2 - Estimating National and State Population in Population Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2009 (cat. no. 3228.0.55.001).

The status of quarterly ERP data changes over time from preliminary to revised to final as new component data becomes available. The table below shows the current status of ERP and the components of population change: natural increase (birth minus deaths), net overseas migration (NOM) and net interstate migration (NIM).
The ABS statistics on overseas migration are calculated using administrative data collected and compiled by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) under the authority of the Migration Regulations (Migration Act, 1958). The main source of data on overseas movements is incoming and outgoing passenger cards, matched with data from passports and visa permits. Information from these three data sources are collected, compiled and matched together by DIBP and stored with movement records on their Travel and Immigration Processing System (TRIPS). Each month these matched

According to recommendations of the United Nations an international migrant is defined as "any person who changes his or her country of usual residence" (United Nations 1998). For the purposes of estimating NOM, and thereby Australia's official ERP counts, a person is regarded as a usual resident if they have been (or expected to be) residing in Australia for a period of 12 months or more over a 16 month period. As such, NOM and ERP estimates include all people, regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status, who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families. However, with the improved NOM methodology, refinements to the NOM processing system have enabled this to occur through the use of visa information.

Conceptually, the term NOM is based on an international travellers' duration of stay being in or out of Australia for 12 months or more. It is the difference between the number of incoming travellers who stay in Australia for 12 months or more and are added to the population (NOM arrivals) and the number of outgoing travellers who leave Australia for 12 months or more and are subtracted from the population (NOM departures). With the introduction of the improved methods for estimating NOM, this 12 months does not have to be continuous and is measured over a 16 month reference period. For example whether a traveller is in or out of the population is determined by their exact duration of stay in or away from Australia over the subsequent 16 months after arrival or departure.

The ABS statistics on overseas migration are calculated using administrative data collected and compiled by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) under the authority of the Migration Regulations (Migration Act, 1958). The main source of data on overseas movements is incoming and outgoing passenger cards, matched with data from passports and visa permits. Information from these three data sources are collected, compiled and matched together by DIBP and stored with movement records on their Travel and Immigration Processing System (TRIPS). Each month these matched
During a reconciliation of 1996-2001 intercensal population growth estimates (including measures of immigration, emigration and NOM) with the results of the 2001 Census of Population and Housing, the ABS identified that inconsistent results were arising from a 1998 passenger card processing change and the measurement of temporary visitors’ duration of stay in Australia, or Australian residents’ temporary duration of absence from Australia.

The ABS noted that the precise measurement of duration of stay in Australia or absence from Australia using a comparison of border crossing transactions may lead to a misleading categorisation of frequent travellers to short-term, when their overall period of stay or absence in a broader context was long-term punctuated by short journeys. For example, an international student in Australia for a three or four year course of study, who leaves Australia briefly each year for holiday or other reasons, would incorrectly not be added to estimates of Australia’s population. This was because after the passage of time, they did not spend a continuous period of 12 months in Australia during their long-term period of stay in Australia (the previous method of measurement). This was inconsistent with the intention behind the definition of a long-term migrant as set out in the United Nations Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1 (1998, 18) and the ABS Estimated Resident Population conceptual definition. The use of single continuous periods of stay as the criteria (i.e. 12 continuous months) for classifying travellers into the non-permanent migration categories (e.g. short-term visitor, long-term visitor) was seen as a major shortcoming in the measurement of NOM and consequently estimates of Australia’s resident population.

Further, there were some travellers such as permanent immigrants and emigrants who were not asked their intended duration of stay or absence on Australian passenger cards, yet it was observed that after a passage of less than a year, some permanent immigrants departed Australia and some permanent emigrants returned to Australia. The ABS also identified a need to convert the multiple border movements information for frequent travellers within a reference period to individual person estimates together with their travel history over time to avoid double counting.

The method for estimating NOM was reviewed in 2004 in response to the issues arising with the previous estimation of category jumping, i.e. changes between stated intention and actual duration of stay of travellers to/from Australia. The review also addressed the changing patterns of travel into and out of Australia, in particular the increased propensity for travellers to interrupt longer periods of stay or absence with short-term trips.
21 The methodology and estimation system adopted by the ABS for measuring NOM and the contribution to Australia’s ERP more closely aligns with the international definitions set out by the United Nations. The ABS has not changed the statistical conceptual definition of net overseas migration. However, the method of measurement has changed.

22 The ABS developed and introduced an improved method, called the ’12/16 month rule’ methodology, for estimating NOM. It has been used in calculating Australia’s official ERP since September quarter 2006. The ’12/16 month rule’ methodology is a result of reviewing the treatment of temporary migrants (both long-term and short-term) who are away from or resident in Australia for a period of 12 months or more.

23 Estimates of NOM based on the previous methods and those based on the ’12/16 month rule’ methodology are not comparable. The key change is the introduction of the ’12/16 month rule’ for measuring a person’s residency in Australia, replacing the previous ’12/12 month rule’.

24 The current NOM estimation methods employ a ’12/16 month rule’ where the traveller can be added or subtracted from NOM if they have stayed in or been absent from Australia for a period of 12 months or more over a 16 month period. This period of 12 months does not have to be continuous. Although a traveller states their intended duration of stay on a passenger card, for NOM purposes the ABS now measures an individual’s actual travel behaviour (or models this behaviour for preliminary NOM).

25 To measure a traveller’s actual duration of stay the ABS uses a unique personal identifier provided with the administrative data supplied by DIBP. To be able to apply the ’12/16 month rule’, the personal identifier is used to match a traveller’s movements over time and construct a movement history for each arrival and departure record.

TRAVELLERS VS MOVEMENTS

26 Conceptually, NOM estimates should be based on counts of travellers, rather than counts of overseas movements, since travellers may have more than one movement in a particular reference period. Under the previous system of NOM estimation, a number of adjustments to overseas arrivals and departures were required. These mainly comprised adjustments designed to reflect differences between stated travel intentions and actual travel behaviour. However, adjustments were also required to transform numbers of overseas movements into numbers of travellers.

27 One of the central changes with the ’12/16 month rule’ methodology is that all estimation is based on actual individual travellers and their travel histories (using de-identified data), rather than in the previous methodology when an aggregation of movements represented travellers.

FINAL NOM ESTIMATES

28 It is with the final NOM estimates that the ’12/16 month rule’ can be fully applied. A traveller’s actual duration of stay can only be calculated when data on overseas movements become available for the 16 months following a reference period. Final NOM estimation methods use ERP flags to determine if a traveller, through their actual duration of stay in or out of Australia, should be included or excluded from NOM estimates and consequently ERP estimates.

PRELIMINARY NOM ESTIMATES

29 Preliminary estimates of NOM are required within six months after the reference quarter for the production of quarterly estimates of the population of Australia, and the states and territories. At that time, complete traveller histories for the 16 months following a reference quarter cannot be produced. Migration adjustments are calculated from changes in behaviour from final estimates one year earlier for the same groups of
Prior to 1 July 2006, NOM estimation methods used a '12/12 month rule' to determine if a traveller contributed to ERP. This meant that in order for a person to contribute to NOM they must stay in or be absent from Australia for a continuous period of 12 out of 12 months. It compared data on actual travel movements over a 12 month period with data on individual travellers' duration of stay as recorded on their passenger cards. In order to conduct such a comparison, data for a 15 month period (i.e. one year plus one quarter) were required. For more information see the Technical Note in Migration, Australia, 2006-07 (cat. no. 3412.0) - Measuring Net Overseas Migration, Method Used September quarter 2001 to June quarter 2006 and Demography Working Paper 2003/5 - Net Overseas Migration: Adjusting for Actual Duration of Stay or Absence (cat. no. 3137.0).

For further information on the improvements to preliminary NOM estimation and changes to the revision schedule for NOM, see:

- Information Paper: Improving Net Overseas Migration Estimation, Mar 2010 (cat. no. 3412.0.55.001), and

For further information on the '12/16 month rule' methodology see:

- Technical Note: '12/16 month rule' Methodology for Calculating Net Overseas Migration from September quarter 2006 onwards in the electronic version in this publication, under the Explanatory Notes tab.
- Information Paper: Statistical Implications of Improved Methods for Estimating Net Overseas Migration, Australia, 2007 (cat. no. 3107.0.55.005), and

Prior to 1 July 2006, NOM estimation methods used a '12/12 month rule' to determine if a traveller contributed to ERP. This meant that in order for a person to contribute to NOM they must stay in or be absent from Australia for a continuous period of 12 out of 12 months. It compared data on actual travel movements over a 12 month period with data on individual travellers' duration of stay as recorded on their passenger cards. In order to conduct such a comparison, data for a 15 month period (i.e. one year plus one quarter) were required. For more information see the Technical Note in Migration, Australia, 2006-07 (cat. no. 3412.0) - Measuring Net Overseas Migration, Method Used September quarter 2001 to June quarter 2006 and Demography Working Paper 2003/5 - Net Overseas Migration: Adjusting for Actual Duration of Stay or Absence (cat. no. 3137.0).

Many overseas travellers stay (or are away) shorter or longer periods than initially intended, as recorded on their passenger cards. From July 1982 to June 1997, NOM estimates included an adjustment for the net effect of category jumping. Category jumping is a measure of the discrepancy between movements recorded as short-term, long-term or permanent at the time of movement, and the category recorded at the
Due to changes in the methods used to adjust NOM estimates, caution should be used comparing estimates over time. The table below describes the adjustment methods and departures matched actual patterns of movement.

**ADJUSTMENT METHODS AND REVISION STATUS**

37 For example, some visitors on arrival may state that they intend to stay in Australia for more than 12 months. However, they may change their travel plans and depart the country after only six months. Since migration figures were affected by this change in travel behaviour, an adjustment was incorporated into the NOM estimate and ERP.

38 The method used to estimate category jumping up until June 1997 inclusive was based on aggregate flows of traveller movements rather than individual travellers. Until June 1998, the measurement of duration of stay or absence on the second leg of travel was based on passenger reporting on the arrival or departure card. This self reported duration was used to determine the time at which a person arrived (for visitors) or left Australia (for Australian residents). However, from July 1998 onwards, implementation of a new passenger card design and processing system enabled the DIMA (now DIBP) to derive actual duration of stay or absence for the second leg of travel by matching both the actual arrival and departure movement dates rather than relying on passengers reporting their duration of stay or absence.

**MATCHING TRAVELLER MOVEMENTS**

39 Despite this improvement in the quality of actual duration of stay or absence data for the second leg of travel, the above estimation method appeared incapable of producing acceptable estimates of category jumping. Given that category jumping had only a small effect on ERP and that estimates produced by the above method seemed highly volatile, the ABS decided to set category jumping estimates to zero until an improved estimation technique was developed. They were set to zero from September quarter 1997 to June quarter 2001.

40 Through the provision of additional data from DIBP, the ABS had the ability to match traveller movements over time. This enabled a movement history to be constructed for those arriving and departing and thus calculate an actual duration of stay. Matching traveller movements enabled the adjustment of permanent and long-term movement. This adjustment (termed ‘migration adjustment’) allowed for components of NOM to be presented on an adjusted basis.

41 For more information on category jumping and the interim methods of adjusting NOM for the previous (12/12) method, see *Demography Working Paper 2003/5 - Net Overseas Migration: Adjusting for Actual Duration of Stay or Absence* (cat. no. 3137.0). Adjustments applied to overseas migration estimates have also been discussed in a special article in *Migration, Australia, 2002-03* (cat. no. 3412.0).

42 Due to changes in the methods used to adjust NOM estimates, caution should be used comparing estimates over time. The table below describes the adjustment methods that have been applied to NOM estimates from September quarter 1996 and onwards.
The ABS statistics on overseas arrivals and departures (OAD) are calculated using administrative data collected and compiled by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP) under the authority of the Migration Regulations (Migration Act, 1958). The main source of data on overseas movements is incoming and outgoing passenger cards, matched with data from passports and visa permits. Information from these three data sources are collected, compiled and matched together by DIBP and stored with movement records on their Travel and Immigration Processing System (TRIPS). Each month these matched overseas arrivals and departures (OAD) records are supplied to the ABS and then processed within the OAD system.

In July 1998, DIBP revised the incoming and outgoing passenger cards and associated procedures as well as computer systems. Following these changes, some questions on the passenger cards were not compulsory and answers to these questions were not checked by Customs officers. The question on marital status was deleted. Data on marital status are now derived from visa applications (only for certain visa classes) and are therefore not available for Australian or NZ citizens. The changes also affect the data for ‘previous country of residence’ which is imputed for Australian and NZ citizens. For more information see the May 1998 issue of Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia (cat. no. 3401.0). Since July 1998, there have been additional minor changes to both incoming and outgoing passenger cards.

From July 2001, DIBP adopted a new passenger card processing system which involved electronic imaging of passenger cards and intelligent character recognition of the data stored in the images. This process has yielded several improvements to the processing of passenger card data, most notably the detailed information about missing values. There have also been several changes to data quality. Further information on
The Census is one source of information, with people being asked where they lived one year ago and five years ago. However, as the Census is held only every five years, this is insufficient for producing quarterly interstate migration estimates. Another source of data is therefore necessary.

Interstate migration is a key determinant of the accuracy of state and territory population estimates. Data on interstate migration cannot be directly estimated unlike that of natural increase and net overseas migration. Instead, post-censal quarterly estimates of interstate migration are modelled using administrative by-product data.

Over time, the ABS has used a number of administrative data sources to produce quarterly estimates of interstate migration, including electoral roll registrations and family allowance payments. Currently the ABS uses information on interstate change of address advised to Medicare Australia and to the Department of Defence in the case of the military.

Due to incomplete coverage and the non-compulsory nature of available administrative (indirect) data sources, post-censal quarterly estimates of interstate migration have long been considered the weakest measure of a component of population change.
The classification of countries in this publication is the Standard Australian Classification of Countries, 2011, Version 2.2. For more detailed information, refer to the ABS publication Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2011 (cat. no. 1269.0) or the Country Classification excel spreadsheet in the Downloads tab of COUNTRY CLASSIFICATION.

Post-censal quarterly estimates of net interstate migration are created for the states and territories (excluding Other Territories) using interstate change of address advised to Medicare Australia and to the Department of Defence in the case of the military. Medicare data are adjusted by means of expansion factors. These expansion factors are used to account for an under coverage of Medicare data by various ages and sex. For example, it is known that some people, particularly younger Medicare card holders, do not register changes of address with Medicare, or do so long after the fact.

Expansion factors are used in the calculation of post-censal quarterly estimates of net interstate migration and remain constant throughout the intercensal period until once again they are reviewed after final data from the following Census of Population and Housing becomes available. They are calculated for each state and territory (excluding Other Territories), single year of age, sex and movement direction (i.e. arrivals or departures).

Adjustments to compensate for interstate defence force movements not covered by Medicare are applied to the quarterly interstate migration estimates. These adjustments are estimated using counts of defence force personnel by age, sex and state/territory, obtained from the Department of Defence, with 70% of any change in quarterly defence force numbers assumed to be due to interstate migration not otherwise covered by the Medicare model.

Due to the fact that the Medicare and Defence data source is an indirect measure of interstate migration, the post-censal quarterly estimates of interstate migration have long been considered the weakest measure of a component of population change at the state and territory level. For further information on the process of estimating interstate migration and the administrative data used, see

- Information Paper: Review of Interstate Migration Method, Mar 2009 (cat. no. 3106.0.55.001);
- Information Paper: Evaluation of Administrative Data Sources for Use in Quarterly Estimation of Interstate Migration, 2006 to 2011 (cat. no. 3127.0.55.001), and
- Population Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2009 (cat. no. 3228.0.55.001).

The classification of countries in this publication is the Standard Australian Classification of Countries, 2011, Version 2.2. For more detailed information, refer to the ABS publication Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2011 (cat. no. 1269.0) or the Country Classification excel spreadsheet in the Downloads tab of COUNTRY CLASSIFICATION.
COUNTRY CLASSIFICATION

continued

62 The statistics on country of residence or main destination, and country of embarkation or disembarkation have certain limitations because of reporting on passenger cards. For instance, the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man (UK, CI & IOM) includes England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man. Many travellers just list the UK. Similarly the United States of America includes 'America (undefined)'.

STATE AND TERRITORY CLASSIFICATION

63 Prior to the 1996 Census, no external territories were included in geographical Australia although Census data were collected for Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Following amendments to the Acts Interpretation Act 1901 effective from July 1992, the two external territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands became part of geographical Australia. Since the 1996 Census, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and the Jervis Bay Territory (previously linked to the Australian Capital Territory for statistical purposes) comprise a pseudo 'ninth state/territory' of Australia. They are included in state nine 'Other Territories'.

64 Although the Census and Statistics Act 1905 does not require quarterly estimation of the population for the territories, estimates for the Northern Territory, the Australian Capital Territory and the Other Territories are produced as these territories are included in the geographical area of Australia, and, with the states, sum to the Australian population.

CONFIDENTIALITY

65 The Census and Statistics Act, 1905 provides the authority for the ABS to collect statistical information, and requires that statistical output shall not be published or disseminated in a manner that is likely to enable the identification of a particular person or organisation. This requirement means that the ABS must take care and make assurances that any statistical information about individual respondents cannot be derived from published data.

66 Some techniques used to guard against identification or disclosure of confidential information in statistical tables are suppression of sensitive cells, random adjustments to cells with very small values and rounding. In these cases data may not sum to totals due to the confidentialisation of individual cells.

67 To minimise the risk of identifying individuals in aggregate statistics, a technique is used to randomly adjust cell values. This technique is called perturbation. Perturbation involves small random adjustment of the statistics and is considered the most satisfactory technique for avoiding the release of identifiable statistics while maximising the range of information that can be released. These adjustments have a negligible impact on the underlying pattern of the statistics. After perturbation, a given published cell value will be consistent across all tables. However, adding up cell values to derive a total will not necessarily give the same result as published totals. The introduction of perturbation in publications ensures that these statistics are consistent with statistics released via services such as Table Builder.

ROUNDING

68 In this publication, estimates have sometimes been rounded. Rounded figures and unrounded figures should not be assumed to be accurate to the last digit shown. Where figures have been rounded, discrepancies may occur between sums of component items and totals.

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS AVAILABLE

69 Additional demographic information is available on the ABS web site, Themes — Demography page. Users can also access the full range of electronic ABS data free of charge on the ABS web site <http://www.abs.gov.au>.
The ABS may have other relevant data available on request. Generally, a charge is made for providing this information. Inquiries should be made to the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070.

With the introduction of ‘12/16 month rule’ methodology for estimating NOM, the ABS also developed an analytical data set called the Travellers’ Characteristics Database. The improvements allow the derivation of an individual’s actual true travel behaviour (using final NOM data) and record certain characteristics for any traveller who has contributed to NOM whether they are a NOM arrival or a NOM departure. The database provides for additional analysis on final NOM data that was not previously available. The following variables may be made available on request for final data only:

- Age;
- Citizenship (nationality);
- Country of birth;
- Initial category of travel;
- Marital status (not available for Australian and New Zealand citizens);
- Reference year (available from 2004 — final data only);
- Sex;
- Type of traveller i.e. NOM Arrival or NOM Departure (based on actual recorded duration of stay in or out of Australia);
- Visa type;
- Australian residents:
  - Country spent/intend to spend most time abroad;
  - Main reason for journey (only available for temporary resident departures);
  - State or territory of intended address/state or territory of residence;
- Overseas visitors:
  - Country of residence;
  - Main reason for journey (only available for temporary visitor arrivals); and
  - State or territory of intended address/in which most time was spent.

This publication draws extensively on information provided by DIBP, Medicare and the Department of Defence. The ABS also uses information provided freely by individuals, businesses, governments and other organisations. Their continued cooperation is very much appreciated; without it, the wide range of statistics published by the ABS would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the Census and Statistics Act 1905.
### ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>ABS</td>
<td>Australian Bureau of Statistics</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACT</td>
<td>Australian Capital Territory</td>
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<td>Aust.</td>
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<td>DIAC</td>
<td>Australian Government Department of Immigration and Citizenship</td>
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<td>DIBP</td>
<td>Australian Government Department of Immigration and Border Protection</td>
</tr>
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<td>DIMA</td>
<td>Australian Government Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs</td>
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<td>ERP</td>
<td>estimated resident population</td>
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<td>NIM</td>
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<td>rebuild of the OAD system</td>
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<td>South Australia</td>
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<td>Special Administrative Region</td>
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<td>Tasmania</td>
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<td>Travel and Immigration Processing System</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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Incoming passenger cards used from November 2012. This sample is not for public use.
Outgoing passenger cards used from October 2013. This sample is not for public use.
12/12 month rule
A method for measuring an overseas traveller’s duration of stay or absence in which the 12 month usual residence criterion in population estimates is measured across a 12 month period. Under a '12/12 month rule', overseas travellers must be resident in Australia for a continuous 12 month period or more to be included in the estimated resident population. Similarly, Australian residents travelling overseas must be absent from Australia for a continuous 12 month period or more to be removed from the estimated resident population.

12/16 month rule
A method for measuring an overseas traveller’s duration of stay or absence which takes an approach to measure usual residence that does not have to be continuous, as opposed to the continuous approach used under a '12/12 month rule'. Under a '12/16 month rule', incoming overseas travellers (who are not currently counted in the population) must be resident in Australia for a total period of 12 months or more, during the 16 month follow-up period to then be included in the estimated resident population. Similarly, those travellers departing Australia (who are currently counted in the population) must be absent from Australia for a total of 12 months or more during the 16 month follow-up period to then be subtracted from the estimated resident population.

The 12/16 month rule therefore takes account of those persons who may have left Australia briefly and returned, while still being resident for 12 months out of 16. Similarly, it takes account of Australians who live most of the time overseas but periodically return to Australia for short periods.

Australian resident
For estimated resident population statistics, the Census year population estimates classify a person as an Australian resident if the person has (in the most recent Census) reported a usual address in Australia where the person has lived or intends to live for six months or more in the Census year. The post-censal estimates, while based on the Census data, are updated with international migration data that have a criterion of one year or more of intended stay in or departure from Australia.

Average annual growth rate
The average annual growth rate, $r$, is calculated as a percentage using the formula:

$$r = \left( \frac{P_n}{P_0} \right)^{\frac{1}{n}} - 1 \times 100$$

where:
- $P_n$ is the population at the end of the period
- $P_0$ is the population at the start of the period
- $n$ is the length of the period between $P_n$ and $P_0$ in years.

Category jumping
Category jumping was the term used to describe changes between intended and actual duration of stay of travellers to/from Australia, such that their classification as short-term or as long-term/permanent movers is different at arrival/departure from that after 12 months. For more information see Migration, Australia, 2002-03, (cat. no. 3412.0), Chapter 6, 'Special article: Adjustments to overseas migration estimates'.

The Australian resident component of category jumping for a reference quarter was estimated by comparing the number of residents departing short-term in that quarter with all residents who left in that quarter and return in the following 12 months, to obtain the net number of Australian residents who 'jumped category'.

GLOSSARY

12/12 month rule
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Category jumping continued
Similarly, the number of overseas visitors arriving short-term in a quarter was compared with all overseas visitors who arrived in that quarter and depart in the following 12 months, to obtain the net number of overseas visitors 'who jumped category'.

Estimates of category jumping were derived by subtracting the Australian resident component from the overseas visitor component.

Category jumping is no longer used following the implementation of the '12/16 month rule' methodology for estimating net overseas migration.

Category of movement
Category of movement is of particular relevance to the overseas arrivals and departures (OAD) collection. OAD are classified according to length of stay (in Australia or overseas), as recorded by travellers on passenger cards or derived with reference to previous border crossings. There are three main categories of movement and 10 sub-categories:

- permanent movement:
  - permanent arrival (PA);
  - permanent departure (PD);
- long-term movement - has a duration of stay (or absence) of one year or more:
  - long-term resident returning (LTRR);
  - long-term visitor arrival (LTVA);
  - long-term resident departure (LTRD);
  - long-term visitor departure (LTVD);
- short-term movement - has a duration of stay (or absence) of less than one year:
  - short-term resident returning (STRR);
  - short-term visitor arrival (STVA);
  - short-term resident departure (STRD); and
  - short-term visitor departure (STVD).

A significant number of travellers (i.e. overseas visitors to Australia on arrival and Australian residents going abroad) state exactly 12 months or one year as their intended period of stay. Many stay for less than that period and on their departure from, or return to, Australia are therefore classified as short-term. Accordingly, in an attempt to maintain consistency between arrivals and departures, movements of travellers who report their actual or intended period of stay as being one year exactly are randomly allocated to long-term or short-term in proportion to the number of movements of travellers who report their actual length of stay as up to one month more, or one month less, than one year.

Census
The complete enumeration of a population or groups at a point in time with respect to well-defined characteristics (e.g. Population, Manufacturing, etc.). When the word is capitalised, 'Census' usually refers to the national Census of Population and Housing.

Census count
The Census of Population and Housing enumerates persons on the basis of where they were located on Census Night. The Census also compiles information on people according to their place of usual residence. This means that Census counts of people can be produced according to their location on Census Night as well as their place of usual residence. Characteristics of households are based on persons usually resident in a dwelling.

Country of birth
Country of birth refers to the country in which a traveller was born in. For Overseas Arrivals and Departures data and Net Overseas Migration data, the country of birth is usually collected from a traveller's passport or visa information.

The classification of countries is the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2011, Version 2.2. For more detailed information refer to Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC), 2011 (cat. no. 1269.0).

Country of embarkation/disembarkation
Country of embarkation/disembarkation is collected from the country a traveller indicates on their passenger card from answering the following question:
Predominantly used to assist in the estimation of preliminary net overseas migration (NOM). Like category of movement, all overseas arrivals and departures are classified according to length of stay (in Australia or overseas), as recorded by travellers on passenger cards or derived with reference to previous border crossings. However, unlike the category of movement, all travellers are assigned to one, and only one, initial category of travel during the reference quarter. This removes the potential for a traveller to be included more than once in different categories of travel if they have made multiple overseas movements during the reference quarter.

For the purposes of estimating NOM, the rule used to assign an initial category of travel to each traveller is as follows:

- Travellers who have any permanent or long-term movement (one year or more) recorded during the reference quarter have their last permanent/long-term movement assigned as their initial category of travel; and
- Travellers who only have a history of short-term movements (less than one year) recorded during the reference quarter have their first movement assigned as their initial category of travel.

For the purposes of calculating NOM, there are three main initial categories of travel and 10 sub-categories:

- **Country of residence/stay**: The official measure of the population of Australia is based on the concept of usual residence. It refers to all people, regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status, who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families. It includes usual residents who are overseas for less than 12 months over a 16 month period. It excludes overseas visitors who are in Australia for less than 12 months over a 16 month period.

  Estimates of the Australian resident population are generated on a quarterly basis by adding natural increase (the excess of births over deaths) and net overseas migration (NOM) occurring during the period to the population at the beginning of each period. This is known as the cohort component method, and can be represented by the following equation:

  \[ P_{t+1} = P_t + B - D + NOM, \]

  where:

  - \( P_t \) = the estimated resident population at time point \( t \)
  - \( P_{t+1} \) = the estimated resident population at time point \( t+1 \)
  - \( B \) = the number of births occurring between \( t \) and \( t+1 \)
  - \( D \) = the number of deaths occurring between \( t \) and \( t+1 \)
  - \( NOM \) = net overseas migration occurring between \( t \) and \( t+1 \).

  For state and territory population estimates, an additional term is added to the equation representing net interstate migration (NIM) occurring between \( t \) and \( t+1 \), represented by the following equation:

  \[ P_{t+1} = P_t + B - D + NOM + NIM. \]

- **Initial category of travel**: Predominantly used to assist in the estimation of preliminary net overseas migration (NOM). Like category of movement, all overseas arrivals and departures are classified according to length of stay (in Australia or overseas), as recorded by travellers on passenger cards or derived with reference to previous border crossings. However, unlike the category of movement, all travellers are assigned to one, and only one, initial category of travel during the reference quarter. This removes the potential for a traveller to be included more than once in different categories of travel if they have made multiple overseas movements during the reference quarter.

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  - Travellers who have any permanent or long-term movement (one year or more) recorded during the reference quarter have their last permanent/long-term movement assigned as their initial category of travel; and
  - Travellers who only have a history of short-term movements (less than one year) recorded during the reference quarter have their first movement assigned as their initial category of travel.

  For the purposes of calculating NOM, there are three main initial categories of travel and 10 sub-categories:

- **Emigration**: The process of leaving one country to take up permanent or semi-permanent residence in another.

- **Estimated resident population (ERP)**: The official measure of the population of Australia is based on the concept of usual residence. It refers to all people, regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status, who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families. It includes usual residents who are overseas for less than 12 months over a 16 month period. It excludes overseas visitors who are in Australia for less than 12 months over a 16 month period.

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  \[ P_{t+1} = P_t + B - D + NOM + NIM. \]

- **Country of embarkation/disembarkation**: For someone arriving in Australia - In which country did you board this flight or ship? For someone departing Australia - Country where you will get off this flight.

- **Country of residence/stay**: Country of residence/stay is collected from the country a traveller indicates on their passenger card.

  - For Australian residents, it is the country they spent/intend to spend most time abroad (i.e. their country of stay)
  - For overseas visitors to Australia, it is their country of residence, recorded on their passenger card or visa.

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  \[ P_{t+1} = P_t + B - D + NOM + NIM. \]
Australian residents returning after an absence of 12 months or more overseas.

Long-term resident returns (LTRR)

Australian residents who state that they intend to stay abroad for 12 months or more (but not permanently).

Long-term resident departures (LTRD)

Long-term departures comprise:
- Australian residents who state that they intend to stay abroad for 12 months or more (but not permanently); and
- overseas visitors departing who stayed 12 months or more in Australia.

Intended length of stay

On arrival in Australia, all overseas visitors are asked to state their 'Intended length of stay in Australia'. On departure from Australia, all Australian residents are asked to state their 'Intended length of stay overseas'.

Intercensal discrepancy

Intercensal discrepancy is the final difference between two estimates at 30 June of a Census year population: the first based on the latest Census, and the second arrived at by updating the 30 June estimate of the previous Census year with intercensal components of population change. It is caused by errors in the start and/or finish population estimates and/or in estimates of births, deaths or migration in the intervening period which cannot be attributed to a particular source. For further information see *Population Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2009* (cat. no. 3228.0.55.001).

Intercensal error

Intercensal error is the preliminary difference between two estimates at 30 June of a Census year population: the first based on the latest Census and the second arrived at by updating the 30 June estimate of the previous Census year with intercensal components of population change. For further information see *Population Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2009* (cat. no. 3228.0.55.001).

The ABS is aware that the term 'intercensal error' is often misinterpreted, with the word 'error' being too commonly considered to be a synonym for 'mistake'. As a result, the ABS will use the terms 'preliminary intercensal difference' and 'final intercensal difference' in the 2016 rebasing cycle.

Interstate migration

The movement of people across a specified boundary within Australia for the purpose of changing their place of usual residence.

Long-term arrivals

Long-term arrivals comprise:
- overseas visitors who state that they intend to stay in Australia for 12 months or more (but not permanently); and
- Australian residents returning after an absence of 12 months or more overseas.

Long-term departures

Long-term departures comprise:
- Australian residents who state that they intend to stay abroad for 12 months or more (but not permanently); and
- overseas visitors departing who stayed 12 months or more in Australia.

Long-term resident departures (LTRD)

Australian residents who state that they intend to stay abroad for 12 months or more (but not permanently).

Long-term resident returns (LTRR)

Australian residents returning after an absence of 12 months or more overseas.
The difference between the number of persons who changed their place of usual residence by moving in to, and out of, a defined area within Australia. This difference may be positive or negative.

**Net internal migration:**
Excess of births over deaths.

Prior to September quarter 2006, the ABS applied a number of adjustments to overseas arrivals and departures data in order to produce estimates of net overseas migration (NOM). These mainly comprised adjustments designed to reflect differences between stated travel intentions and actual travel behaviour. Until recently, adjustments used by ABS to produce NOM estimates were collectively referred to as 'category jumping adjustments'. They are now referred to more simply as 'migration adjustments'.

**Migration adjustment**
The movement of people across a specified boundary for the purpose of establishing a new or semi-permanent residence. Migration can be international (migration between countries) and internal (migration within a country).

**Migrant - International**
An international migrant is defined as "any person who changes his or her country of usual residence" (United Nations 1998). The country of usual residence is the country in which a person lives, that is to say, the country in which he or she has a place to live where he or she normally spends the daily period of rest. A long-term international migrant is a person who moves to a country other than that of his or her usual residence for a period of at least a year (12 months), so that the country of destination effectively becomes his or her new country of usual residence.

In Australia, for the purposes of estimating net overseas migration, and thereby the official population counts, a person is regarded as a usual resident if they have been (or expected to be) residing in Australia for a period of 12 months or more over a 16 month period.

**Migration**
The movement of people across a specified boundary for the purpose of establishing a new or semi-permanent residence. Migration can be international (migration between countries) and internal (migration within a country).

**Median age**
For any distribution the median age is that age which divides the relevant population into two equal parts, half falling below the value, and half exceeding it. Where the age for a particular record has not been stated, that record is excluded from the calculation.

**Main reason for journey**
Overseas visitors/temporary entrants arriving in Australia and Australian residents departing temporarily from Australia are asked to state their main reason for journey. All statistics relating to main reason for journey use the following categories:
- convention/conference;
- business;
- visiting friends/relatives;
- holiday;
- employment;
- education; and
- other.

In tabulations of data collected before September 1994, the ‘other’ category included ‘in transit’ and the ‘holiday’ category included both ‘student vacation’ and ‘accompanying business visitor’.

**Main state or territory of stay**
Overseas visitors are asked on departure for the name of the state or territory in which they spent the most time. This differs from ‘state or territory of clearance’ which is available on request.

**Natural increase**
Excess of births over deaths.

**Net internal migration**
The difference between the number of persons who changed their place of usual residence by moving in to, and out of, a defined area within Australia. This difference may be positive or negative.
Net interstate migration (NIM) The difference between the number of persons who have changed their place of usual residence by moving into a given state or territory and the number who have changed their place of usual residence by moving out of that state or territory. This difference can be either positive or negative.

Net overseas migration (NOM) Net overseas migration is the net gain or loss of population through immigration to Australia and emigration from Australia. Under the current method for estimating final net overseas migration this term is based on a traveller’s actual duration of stay or absence using the ‘12/16 month rule’. Preliminary NOM estimates are modelled on patterns of traveller behaviours observed in final NOM estimates for the same period one year earlier. NOM is:
- based on an international traveller’s duration of stay being in or out of Australia for 12 months or more over a 16 month period;
- the difference between:
  - the number of 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 the population (NOM arrivals); and
  - the number of outgoing international travellers (Australian residents and long-term visitors to Australia) 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 (NOM departures).

Net overseas migration rate The net overseas migration rate is the number of NOM travellers in a given period divided by the population sending or receiving the NOM travellers at a given period. It is calculated per 1,000 population.

NOM arrivals NOM arrivals are all overseas arrivals that contribute to net overseas migration (NOM). It is the number of 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 the population.

Under the current method for estimating final net overseas migration this term is based on a traveller’s actual duration of stay using the ‘12/16 month rule’.

NOM departures NOM departures are all overseas departures that contribute to net overseas migration (NOM). It is the number of outgoing international travellers (Australian residents and long term visitors to Australia) 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.

Under the current method for estimating final net overseas migration this term is based on a traveller’s actual duration of absence using the ‘12/16 month rule’.

Other territories Following amendments to the Acts Interpretation Act 1901 effective from July 1992, the two external territories of Christmas Island and Cocos (Keeling) Islands became part of geographical Australia. Since the 1996 Census, Christmas Island, Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and the Jervis Bay Territory (previously linked to the Australian Capital Territory for statistical purposes) comprise a pseudo ‘ninth state/territory’ of Australia. They are included in state nine ‘Other Territories’.

Overseas arrivals and departures (OAD) Overseas arrivals and departures (OAD) refer to the recorded arrival or departure of persons through Australian air or sea ports (excluding operational air and ships’ crew). Statistics on OAD relate to the number of movements of travellers rather than the number of travellers (i.e. the multiple movements of individual persons during a given reference period are all counted).

Overseas migration See net overseas migration (NOM).

Overseas migration adjustment See Migration adjustment.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glossary Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Passenger card</td>
<td>Passenger cards are completed by nearly all passengers arriving in, or departing from, Australia. Information including occupation, nationality, intended length of stay, main reason for journey, and state or territory of intended stay/residence is collected. An example of the current Australian passenger card is always provided with the monthly Overseas Arrivals and Departures (cat. no. 3401.0) publication under the Explanatory Notes tab.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage points</td>
<td>Units of difference between two percentages.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent arrivals</td>
<td>Permanent arrivals (settlers) comprise:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- travellers who hold permanent migrant visas (regardless of stated intended period of stay);</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- New Zealand citizens who indicate an intention to migrate permanently; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- those who are otherwise eligible to settle (e.g. overseas born children of Australian citizens).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>This definition of settlers is used by the Department of and Border Protection (DIBP). Prior to 1985, the definition of settlers used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) was the stated intention of the traveller only. Numerically, the effect of the change in definition is insignificant. The change was made to avoid the confusion caused by minor differences between data on settlers published separately by the ABS and the DIBP.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent departures</td>
<td>Permanent departures are Australian residents (including former settlers) who on departure state that they are departing permanently.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent visa</td>
<td>Permission to travel to, enter and/or remain in Australia for a period of time or indefinitely.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place of usual residence</td>
<td>See usual residence.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population growth rate</td>
<td>Population change over a period as a proportion (percentage) of the population at the beginning of the period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residents Temporarily</td>
<td>Residents temporarily overseas are outgoing international travellers (Australian residents and long term visitors to Australia) who are currently counted within the population and who leave Australia for less than 12 months over a 16 month period.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sex ratio</td>
<td>The sex ratio relates to the number of males per 100 females. The sex ratio is defined for total population, at birth, at death and among age groups by selecting the appropriate numerator and denominator of the ratio.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term arrivals</td>
<td>Short-term arrivals comprise:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- overseas visitors/migrants who intend to stay in Australia for less than 12 months; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Australian residents returning from overseas after an absence of less than 12 months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term departures</td>
<td>Short-term departures comprise:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Australian residents who intend to stay abroad for less than 12 months; and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- overseas visitors departing after a stay of less than 12 months in Australia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term resident departures</td>
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<td>(STRD)</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Short-term resident returns</td>
<td>Australian residents returning after a stay of less than 12 months overseas.</td>
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<tr>
<td>(STRR)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Short-term visitor arrivals</td>
<td>Overseas visitors who intend to stay in Australia for less than 12 months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(STVA)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Glossary

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Student net overseas migration</strong></td>
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</tr>
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<td><strong>Student NOM arrivals</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Temporary entrants</strong></td>
<td>See temporary visas.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Temporary visas</strong></td>
<td>Temporary entrant visas are visas permitting persons to come to Australia on a temporary basis for specific purposes which result in some benefit to Australia. Main contributors are international students, Temporary Resident visas (including temporary business entrants and working holiday makers) and visitors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Temporary NOM arrivals</strong></td>
<td>Temporary NOM arrivals are all temporary overseas arrivals that contribute to net overseas migration (NOM). It is the number of incoming international travellers who stay in Australia for 12 months or more over a 16 month period and are added to the population but are not migrating permanently. Under the current method for estimating final net overseas migration, this term is based on a travellers’ actual duration of stay or absence using the ‘12/16 month rule’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Usual residence</strong></td>
<td>Usual residence within Australia refers to that address at which the person has lived or intends to live for a total of six months or more in a given reference year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Visa  Permission or authority granted by the Australian government to foreign nationals to travel to, enter and/or remain in Australia for a period of time or indefinitely. Visas are managed by DIBP.

DIBP (Department of Immigration and Citizenship) statistical publications are available from their website <http://www.immi.gov.au>.


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