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MIGRATION

AUSTRALIA

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INQUIRIES

For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070 or Jodie Corby on Canberra (02) 6252 5516.

NOTES

- ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION** This publication brings together statistics on international migration into and out of Australia, internal migration (including interstate and intrastate) within Australia and information on overseas-born residents of Australia.
- STATUS OF DATA WITHIN THIS PUBLICATION** Estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth and interstate migration estimates are final for years up to and including 2005–06, revised for 2006–07 and 2007–08 and preliminary for 2008–09. Overseas migration estimates are final for years up to and including 2007–08 and preliminary for 2008–09. See paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes for further information.
- DATA NOTES** In this publication, figures 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 the sums of component items and totals. Analysis featured in this publication is based on unrounded data. Calculations made on rounded data may differ to those published.
- NET OVERSEAS MIGRATION** In 2007 the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) introduced improved methods for calculating net overseas migration (NOM). These methods have been used in calculating Australia's official estimated resident population (ERP) since September quarter 2006. As a result, a break in the NOM time series exists from the 2006–07 financial year. Caution should be taken when comparing estimates over time. In 2009, changes to the *Federal Financial Relations Act 2009* allowed the ABS to publish quarterly Estimated Resident Population (ERP) at the end of each scheduled month of release (March, June, September and December). These changes enabled the methodology used for preliminary NOM estimation to be improved. For further information, see Chapter 4 — Improving net overseas migration estimation — Recent changes.
- A time series of final NOM from 2004 onwards is available electronically as a data cube (in Supertable format) from the downloads tab of this publication on the ABS website.
- FEATURE ARTICLE** Housing Mobility in Australia explores aspects of mobility for people who have responded to the *Survey of Income and Housing, 2007–08*. It examines characteristics including frequency of moves, reasons for moving, mobility by age and sex, income and educational attainment.
- CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE** The content of this publication has been reviewed. Tables previously in the printed publication (PDF format) have been removed and are now available electronically as data cubes (in Supertable or Excel format) from this publication on the ABS website. Refer to the 'Additional tables available on the ABS web site' section on page 5.

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

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- 4** Estimated resident population, Country of birth, Median age—30 June 1996 to 2009
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MIGRATION IN CONTEXT

- Each year Australia's population increases as a result of both natural increase (births minus deaths) and net overseas migration (NOM). While natural increase has remained relatively stable, NOM has been far more volatile and in recent years has accounted for over half of the population growth at the national level.
- In 2008–09, the preliminary estimate of NOM was the highest on record for a financial year at 298,900 persons, representing 65% of Australia's population growth for the year.
- Net interstate migration (NIM) in 2008–09 was a major source of population loss for South Australia, New South Wales, and the Australia Capital Territory, subtracting 24% (4,700 persons), 17% (19,800 persons) and 14% (800 persons) respectively from their total population growth.

NET OVERSEAS
MIGRATION (NOM)

- Over the past three years, NOM has more than doubled from 146,800 persons in 2005–06 to a preliminary NOM estimate of 298,900 persons in 2008–09, the highest on record for a financial year. The increase is partially due to a change in methodology introduced after 30 June 2006. However, the main driver during this period has been the substantial growth in temporary visa arrivals to Australia's shores.
- Temporary migration has become increasingly important with more international students, business entrants, working holiday makers and other long-term visitors staying in Australia for periods up to four years or more.
- Australia's total population growth rate for 2008–09 was 2.1% with NOM contributing 1.4% to this growth.
- During 2008–09, NOM contributed the greatest number of people to the most populous states: New South Wales with a net of 89,500 persons, followed by Victoria (81,200) and Queensland (58,000). The Northern Territory had the lowest with a net gain of 1,900 persons.
- Population turnover due to overseas migration (gross overseas flows in relation to size of the population) was the highest in Western Australia in 2008–09 at 4.4%.
- In 2008–09, persons aged 15–34 years comprised 67% of NOM compared to 28% of Australia's total population. Persons aged 0–14 years comprised 16% of NOM and 19% of Australia's population, and persons aged 65 years and over comprised just 0.3% of NOM but 13% of Australia's population.
- An individual's actual true travel behaviour and associated characteristics are only available from final NOM data. Final NOM data can only be accurately recorded at the end of a 16 month reference period following a traveller's initial border crossing.

NET OVERSEAS
MIGRATION (NOM)
continued

- Based on final NOM data from 2007–08 (a net of 277,300 persons), temporary visa holders contributed by far the most to NOM with 67% (a net of 186,500 persons) of the total NOM figure for the year. At a distant second were permanent arrivals at 31% (a net of 86,400). New Zealand citizens contributed 13% (a net of 36,100) to NOM, whereas Australian citizens, with a negative input to NOM figures, contributed –7% (a negative net of –20,300) to NOM in 2007–08.
- Traditionally, Australian citizens have a net negative input to NOM figures as more Australians depart from the country each year than return.
- In 2007–08, international students made up the largest group of temporary visa holders contributing to NOM, resulting in a net of 108,700 students, or 39% of NOM for the year. Within this group of students, those travelling on higher education visas were the largest group contributing to NOM with 57,500 students representing 21% of the total NOM figure. The vocational education and training sector represented 10% (27,400 students) whereas all other student visas accounted for 9% (23,900 students) of the total NOM figure for 2007–08.
- Of the countries of birth contributing to self reported temporary NOM arrivals in 2007–08, India added the most to the population with 43,100 persons arriving, followed by China (37,900 persons), the United Kingdom (28,200 persons) and New Zealand (23,600 persons).
- Chapter 4 provides an overview of the recent changes undertaken to improve NOM estimation and reduce the large revisions to ERP.

AUSTRALIA'S DIVERSE
POPULATION

- Of the estimated resident population (ERP) of Australia at 30 June 2009 (22.0 million people), one quarter were born overseas (5.8 million people).
- At 30 June 2009, persons born in the United Kingdom continued to be the largest group of overseas-born residents, accounting for 5.4% of Australia's total population. Persons born in New Zealand accounted for 2.4% of Australia's total population, followed by persons born in China (1.6%), India (1.4%) and Italy (1.0%).
- Between 1999 and 2009, the number of Australia-born residents increased at an average rate of 1.0% per year, while the number of overseas-born residents increased at 2.9% per year.
- Of the top 50 countries of birth, the oldest median ages were recorded for Italy (67.0 years) and Greece (65.6 years). The lowest median ages were recorded for Nepal (25.2 years) and Sudan (25.9 years).
- Of the top 50 countries of birth, the highest sex ratio was recorded for Nepal residents (182 males per 100 females) followed by Bangladesh and Pakistan (both at 151). The lowest sex ratios were recorded by Thailand (54) and Japan (57).

INTERSTATE MIGRATION

- During 2008–09, there were an estimated 359,900 interstate movements, a similar number of movements to the previous year (360,800 movements).
- In 2008–09, Queensland again experienced positive net interstate migration (NIM), following the past 10 year trend with a net gain of 18,400 persons for the year. Queensland also had the largest number of interstate arrivals with 98,200 persons.
- In contrast, New South Wales, which recorded a net loss from interstate migration for the past 10 years, continued its trend by losing a net of 19,800 persons in 2008–09. New South Wales also had the largest number of departures in 2008–09 with 105,700 departures.

INTERSTATE MIGRATION

continued

- Over the last decade, Queensland, Western Australia and Victoria were the only states or territories to record average annual net gains due to interstate migration (26,700, 1,200 and 80 persons respectively).
- New South Wales and South Australia recorded the largest average annual net population losses due to interstate migration over the last 10 years to 2008–09 (24,000 and 3,000 persons per year respectively).
- The greatest proportional impact on a state's or territory's population from NIM continues to be experienced by the Northern Territory, although it has declined from that recorded in the early 1990's.
- Persons aged 20–34 years accounted for 39% of all interstate movers in 2008–09, while comprising 21% of the total population.
- In 2008–09, the median age of all interstate movers was 28.0 years.

HOUSEHOLD MOBILITY IN AUSTRALIA

- This chapter presents statistics on Australian housing mobility, using a representative sample compiled from the Survey of Income and Housing (SIH).
- In the five years leading to 2007–08, 43% of Australia's population moved their place of residence. The most common reason for moving was wanting a bigger or better home (15%), followed closely by people purchasing their own homes (14%).
- People aged 25–34 were the most likely to move, and 75% reported one or more moves in the five year period. Conversely, people aged 65 years and over were the least likely to move, with only 17% reporting any movement in the five year period.
- The main reason for moving amongst people aged 25–34 was purchasing their own home (20%). Meanwhile, people aged 65 years and over were most likely to move due to a change in lifestyle (14%).
- People living in a group household were the most mobile with 90% having moved at least once in the five year period to 2007–08.
- In the five years up to 2007–08, 61% of unemployed people moved at least once, whereas 48% of employed and 33% of people not in the labour force reported a move.
- Overseas-born people tended to move more than Australia-born in the five years prior to 2007–08, with 48% of overseas-born having made at least one move in contrast with 41% of Australia-born. People born overseas had reasons for moving similar to those of people born in Australia. These included wanting a bigger or better home or purchasing their own homes.
- Of the people who had moved in the five years prior to this survey, 90% had moved within the same state or territory in their last move, 5% had moved from interstate and the other 5% had moved from overseas.
- In the five years to 2007–08, 8% of the population of the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory had moved from other states or territories in their last move. In contrast, only 2% of the population in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia had moved from interstate.

INTRODUCTION

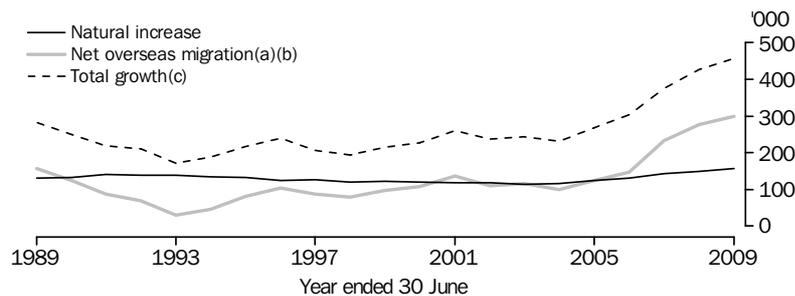
The provision of regular estimates of the growth, size and structure of the Australian population is one of the core functions of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). These official population estimates, termed the estimated resident population (ERP), are used for a wide variety of purposes including the distribution of Australian Government funds to state, territory and local governments, as well as in the determination of the number of seats for each state and territory in the House of Representatives.

At the national level there are two components of Australia's population growth: natural increase (the number of births minus the number of deaths) and net overseas migration (NOM — the net gain or loss of population through immigration to Australia and emigration from Australia). Population growth at the state and territory level has three components: natural increase, NOM and net interstate migration (NIM — the net gain or loss of population through the change of a person's place of usual residence from one state or territory to another state or territory).

MIGRATION AND POPULATION GROWTH

Each year Australia's population increases as a result of both natural increase and NOM. While natural increase has remained relatively stable, NOM has been far more volatile and in recent years has accounted for over half of the population growth at the national level (Figure 2.1).

2.1 GROWTH AND COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE, Australia



(a) Contains a break in time series at 30 June 2006—see paragraphs 26–27 of the Explanatory Notes.
 (b) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.
 (c) Up to 30 June 2006 estimates include intercensal discrepancy.

At 30 June 2009, the Australian population (ERP) was 22.0 million people. Over the preceding 12 months, the population increased by 456,700 persons, representing a growth rate of 2.1% (Table 2.2). In 2008–09, the preliminary estimate of NOM was the highest on record for a financial year at 298,900 persons, representing 65% of Australia's population growth for the year. The remainder (35%) of this growth was due to natural increase.

MIGRATION AND
POPULATION GROWTH
continued

Over the last 20 financial years, natural increase has generally contributed more to Australia's annual population growth than NOM. However in the past three years, NOM has increased to become the major contributor to population growth (Figure 2.1). The contribution of NOM to population growth reached highs of 65% in 2007–08 and 2008–09 and a low of 17% in 1992–93. The low coincided with an economic downturn in Australia in the early 1990s. Conversely, natural increase's contribution reached a high of 80% in 1992–93 and lows of 35% in 2007–08 and 2008–09.

The year ended 30 June 2009 showed a continuation of trends in population growth observed over the past two decades, with relatively stable natural increase and fluctuating NOM. These fluctuations were largely the result of changes in the Australian Government's immigration targets, movement of New Zealand citizens to and from Australia, movement of temporary migrants, continuing demand for skilled migrants, an increase in international students studying in Australia, and a relatively healthy economic condition in Australia despite the global financial crisis. For a more in depth analysis of NOM see Chapter 3.

In 2007, to better measure the changes in traveller behaviour and in particular to more accurately capture and measure temporary migration, the ABS introduced improved methods for calculating NOM. The key improvement was the introduction of the '12/16 month rule', whereby a traveller is included in the resident population if they are in Australia for a total of 12 months or more over a 16 month period, or conversely, subtracted from the population if they are away for a total of 12 months or more over a 16 month period. This has replaced the previous method (12/12 month rule) where a traveller had to be in, or away from, Australia for 12 continuous months. The change in method has therefore resulted in a break in the official NOM time series at 30 June 2006. For further information on the '12/16 month rule' and the '12/12 month rule' refer to the Glossary and paragraphs 28 to 45 of the Explanatory Notes. Additional information on the current methodology (12/16 month rule) and the reasons for the change in method can be found under the Explanatory Notes tab, available with the electronic release of this publication in the Technical Note — *'12/16 month rule' Methodology for Calculating Net Overseas Migration from September quarter 2006 and onwards*.

IMMIGRATION AND THE
STATES AND TERRITORIES

All three components of population change: natural increase, NOM and NIM, contribute in varying degrees to the growth, size and structure of the population of each state and territory. While natural increase generally has a positive effect, NOM and NIM can have a strong impact by either adding to the population or causing the population to decline.

All states and territories experienced positive population growth in the year ended 30 June 2009. New South Wales experienced the largest growth numerically at 119,500 persons (1.7%). However, Western Australia had the highest rate of growth at 3.1% with 68,100 persons (Table 2.2). The proportion that each component contributed to population growth varied between the states and territories. Natural increase was the major contributor to population growth in Tasmania and the Northern Territory for the year ended 30 June 2009 (Figure 2.3). For the Australian Capital Territory and the other states, NOM contributed the most to population growth.

2.2 COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE(a), Australia—Numbers and growth rates—2008–09

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
Number ('000)									
ERP 30 June 2008	7 014.9	5 327.0	4 308.6	1 604.0	2 177.0	497.9	220.5	346.3	21 498.5
Natural increase	49.9	34.3	40.1	7.0	18.1	2.6	2.8	3.1	157.8
Net overseas migration	89.5	81.2	58.0	17.3	45.2	2.1	1.9	3.7	298.9
Net interstate migration	-19.8	0.7	18.4	-4.7	4.8	0.7	0.7	-0.8	..
Growth	119.5	116.3	116.5	19.6	68.1	5.4	5.4	5.9	456.7
ERP 30 June 2009	7 134.4	5 443.2	4 425.1	1 623.6	2 245.1	503.3	225.9	352.2	21 955.3
Growth rate (%)									
Natural increase	0.71	0.64	0.93	0.43	0.83	0.51	1.28	0.88	0.73
Net overseas migration	1.28	1.52	1.35	1.08	2.08	0.43	0.85	1.06	1.39
Net interstate migration	-0.28	0.01	0.43	-0.29	0.22	0.13	0.34	-0.24	..
Growth	1.70	2.18	2.70	1.22	3.13	1.08	2.46	1.70	2.12

.. not applicable

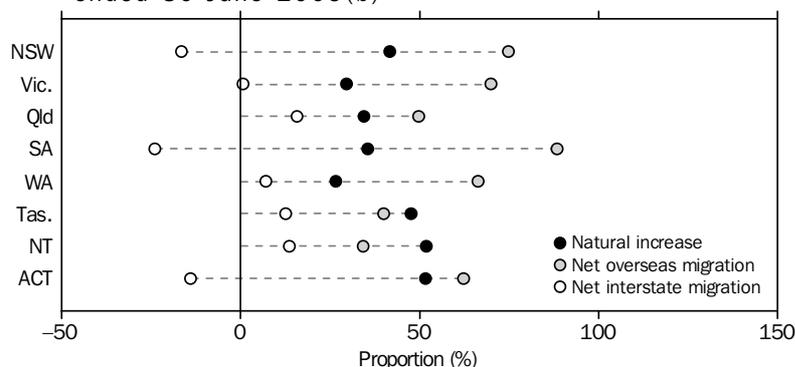
(a) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

Net overseas migration

For the year ended 30 June 2009, all states and territories experienced positive NOM (Figure 2.3). Net overseas migration was the major component of population growth in South Australia at 88% (17,300 persons), New South Wales at 75% (89,500 persons), Victoria at 70% (81,200 persons), Western Australia at 66% (45,200 persons), the Australian Capital Territory at 62% (3,700 persons) and Queensland at 50% (58,000 persons). Tasmania and the Northern Territory also gained population through NOM but it was not the major component of their population growth. Net overseas migration accounted for 40% (2,100 persons) of Tasmania's population growth in 2008–09, and 34% (1,900 persons) of the Northern Territory's growth.

As shown in table 2.2, Western Australia had the highest net overseas migration growth rate (2.1%) while Tasmania (0.4%) had the lowest.

2.3 POPULATION COMPONENTS, Proportion of total growth(a)—Year ended 30 June 2009(b)



(a) Each population component as a proportion of a state's or territory's population growth for the year ended 30 June 2009.

(b) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

Net interstate migration

Preliminary NIM was not the major component of population growth for any of the states and territories for the year ended 30 June 2009 (Figure 2.3). However, it was a major source of population loss for South Australia, New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory, subtracting 24% (4,700 persons), 17% (19,800 persons) and 14% (820 persons) respectively from their total population growth. Those states and territories where NIM contributed positively to population growth were Queensland at 16% (18,400 persons), the Northern Territory at 14% (750 persons), Tasmania at 13% (670 persons), Western Australia at 7% (4,800 persons) and Victoria at less than 1% (700 persons). Overall, estimates of interstate migration for Australia showed there were 359,900 interstate movements for the year ended 30 June 2009.

INTERNATIONAL
COMPARISON

Information in this section is from the Population Division of the United Nations' *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision*¹. International migration statistics presented therein are averaged over five years to improve comparability between countries. Note that NOM produced by the ABS differs from that provided by the United Nations, due to differences in methodology. The ABS estimates NOM at an average of 117,000 per year for 2000–05 and, using current estimates and projections, at 227,000 per year for 2005–10. The United Nations estimates Australia's NOM at an average of 128,000 per year for 2000–05 and 100,000 for 2005–10.

2.4 NET INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION, Selected countries(a)

	2000–05		2005–10		Percentage change 2000–05 to 2005–10
	Number	Migration rate (b)	Number	Migration rate (b)	
	'000	rate	'000	rate	%
Australia (c)	128	6.5	100	4.8	-21.9
Canada	218	6.9	210	6.3	-3.7
China	-412	-0.3	-346	-0.3	-16.0
India	-308	-0.3	-200	-0.2	-35.1
Japan	16	0.1	30	0.2	87.5
Korea, Republic of	-13	-0.3	-6	-0.1	-53.8
Malaysia	30	1.2	26	1.0	-13.3
New Zealand	21	5.1	10	2.4	-52.4
South Africa	140	3.0	140	2.8	—
United Kingdom	190	3.2	190	3.1	—
United States of America	1 135	3.8	1 010	3.3	-11.0

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Medium variant.

(b) Net overseas migration per 1,000 population.

(c) For more recent ABS data for Australia, see paragraph above.

Source: United Nations Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision*. Accessed 21 Jun 2010.

Table 2.4 illustrates selected countries that gain or lose population through net migration. As with Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States of America experienced high net international migration rates in 2000–05 (rates above 3.5 per 1,000 population). Some countries experienced lower rates of growth (e.g. Malaysia, 1.2 per 1,000 population) while others had negative rates (e.g. India, -0.3 per 1,000 population).

1 United Nations Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision*. Accessed 21 Jun 2010.

INTERNATIONAL
COMPARISON *continued*

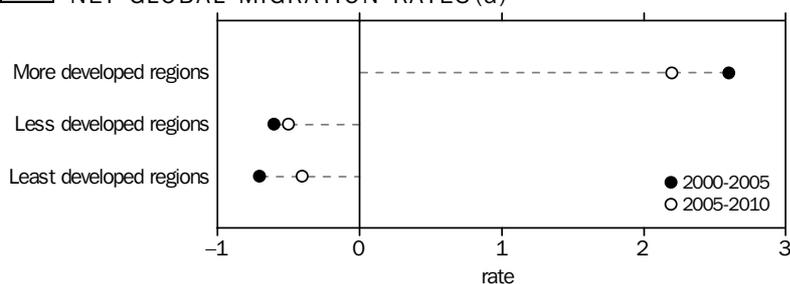
In numeric terms in the 2000–05 period, for the selected countries, the gains from net international migration ranged from an average 16,000 persons per year for Japan to 1.1 million persons for the United States of America. The losses ranged from 13,000 persons for the Republic of Korea to an average 412,000 persons per year for China.

In the 2005–10 period, the United Nations estimates that while some countries will continue to gain population from net international migration, the rate of gain will be reduced in most cases. For example, in 2005–10 New Zealand is estimated to gain an average of 10,000 persons per year from net international migration, a 52% decrease on the 2000–05 gain (21,000). Conversely, in 2005–10 period, Japan is estimated to gain an average of 30,000 persons from net international migration, an increase of 88% on the 2000–2005 figure (16,000 persons).

For the countries that experienced negative net international migration in the selected periods, the loss in 2005–10 is estimated to be less than that experienced in 2000–2005. For the Republic of Korea, the loss due to net international migration in 2005–10 was an average 6,000 persons per year, 54% less than the loss in the 2000–05 period (13,000 persons).

When examining the regions of the world (as defined by the United Nations Population Division) the estimates of international movements show the more developed regions gain population from migration whereas the less and least developed regions lose population from overseas migration (Figure 2.5). The medium projection suggests that there will be a decline in the migration rate for the more developed regions. Over time the migration rate is projected to drop from 2.6 per 1,000 population in 2000–05 to 2.2 per 1,000 population in 2005–10. This indicates that over time, a smaller proportion of people will leave the less developed and least developed regions for the more developed regions. The less developed regions will reduce their net migration rate from –0.6 to –0.5 per 1,000 population while the least developed regions will reduce their net migration rate from –0.7 to –0.4 per 1,000 population.

2.5 NET GLOBAL MIGRATION RATES (a)



(a) Net overseas migration per 1,000 population. Medium variant used.

Source: United Nations Population Division, *World Population Prospects: The 2008 Revision*. Accessed 21 Jun 2010.

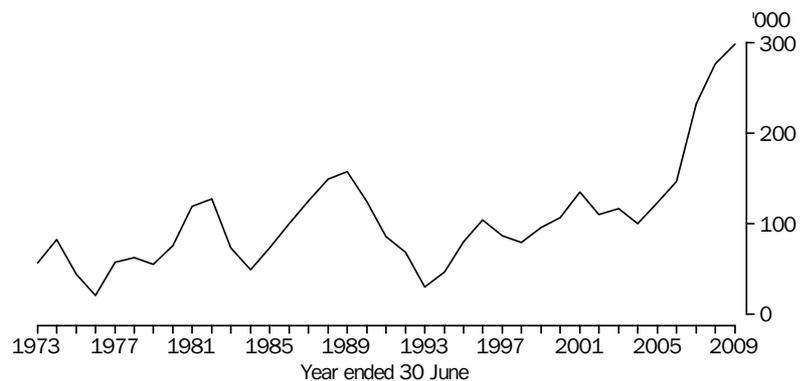
INTRODUCTION

Net overseas migration (NOM) is the net gain or loss of population through immigration to Australia and emigration from Australia. These flows of migration, in both directions, impact on issues such as Australia's skilled and unskilled labour supply, national income from the educational provision for international students, housing availability, cultural diversity, social cohesion and Australia's international obligations to assist refugees. Variations in volume and the characteristics of travellers who arrive in, and depart from, Australia impact on policy decisions and future planning at all levels of government.

Australian citizens and permanent residents wishing to emigrate from, or return to, Australia, have always been free to do so at any time. Since the formal introduction of the Trans-Tasman travel agreement in 1973, New Zealander citizens have also been free to cross Australia's borders at any time. However, for those people wishing to immigrate to Australia from other parts of the world, the Australian government has long-standing formal immigration programs which are managed by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC).

Over the past three years, NOM has more than doubled from 146,800 persons in 2005–06 to a preliminary NOM estimate of 298,900 persons in 2008–09, the highest on record (Figure 3.1). The increase is partially due to a change in methodology introduced after 30 June 2006. However, the main driver during this period has been the substantial growth in temporary visa arrivals to Australia's shores (see Figure 3.13).

3.1 NET OVERSEAS MIGRATION (NOM) (a) (b)—Australia



(a) Contains a break in series at 30 June 2006—see paragraphs 26–27 of the Explanatory Notes.
 (b) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

Temporary migration has become increasingly important with more international students, business entrants, working holiday makers and other long-term visitors staying in Australia for periods up to four years or more. Over recent years, there has also been a continued increase of temporary entrants applying for permanent residency or other

INTRODUCTION

continued

visas whilst onshore. These changing patterns in traveller behaviour over time have created challenges for the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in accurately measuring Australia's net overseas migration. In response to this challenge, the ABS has made some improvements to methodology and processing systems to more accurately capture these changes, and ultimately to improve the quality of NOM estimation. The Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship's ability to capture and process all traveller information combined with the ABS's improved methodology and additional processing, has placed Australia's measurement of NOM amongst the world's best practice.

*Change in methods to
improve NOM estimation*

INTRODUCTION OF THE 12/16 MONTH RULE FOR ESTIMATING NOM

In 2007, to better measure the changes in traveller behaviour and in particular to more accurately capture and measure temporary migration, the ABS introduced improved methods for calculating NOM. The key improvement was the introduction of the '12/16 month rule', whereby a traveller is included in the resident population if they are in Australia for a total of 12 months or more over a 16 month period, or conversely, subtracted from the population if they are away for a total of 12 months or more over a 16 month period. This has replaced the previous method (12/12 month rule) where a traveller had to be in, or away from, Australia for 12 continuous months.

The current methodology (12/16 month rule) has been calculated from December quarter 2003 to test systems and for quality assurance purposes. This was undertaken before the official release of these new NOM data from the 1 July 2006 when it was used in producing Australia's official estimated resident population (ERP) figures. Prior to this date, the previous methodology (12/12 month rule) had been used to produce the official ERP figures. The change in method has therefore resulted in a break in the official NOM time series at 30 June 2006. For further information on the '12/16 month rule' and the '12/12 month rule' refer to the Glossary and paragraphs 28 to 45 of the Explanatory Notes.

Analysis undertaken by the ABS comparing the previous method (12/12 month rule) to the current method (12/16 month rule) over a three year period (December quarter 2003 to September quarter 2006), shows the current method estimate to be on average 25% higher than the previous estimate. Additional information on the current methodology (12/16 month rule) and the reasons for the change in method can be found under the Explanatory Notes tab, available with the electronic release of this publication in the Technical Note — '*12/16 month rule' Methodology for Calculating Net Overseas Migration from September quarter 2006 and onwards.*

ENHANCEMENTS TO PRELIMINARY NOM ESTIMATION

In 2009, an opportunity arose when legislative changes were introduced in the *Federal Financial Relations Act 2009* which allowed the ABS to publish quarterly Estimated Resident Population (ERP) figures at the end of each scheduled month of release (March, June, September and December).

The later release date made it possible for the ABS to use an additional quarter of travellers' movement data (the quarter after the reference period), enabling the methodology used for preliminary NOM estimation to be improved. The two key changes to the methodology for estimating preliminary NOM were:

- changing from a 'two year ago' to a 'one year ago' propensity model; and

Change in methods to improve NOM estimation continued

ENHANCEMENTS TO PRELIMINARY NOM ESTIMATION *continued*

- reducing the pool of travellers used in the propensity model.

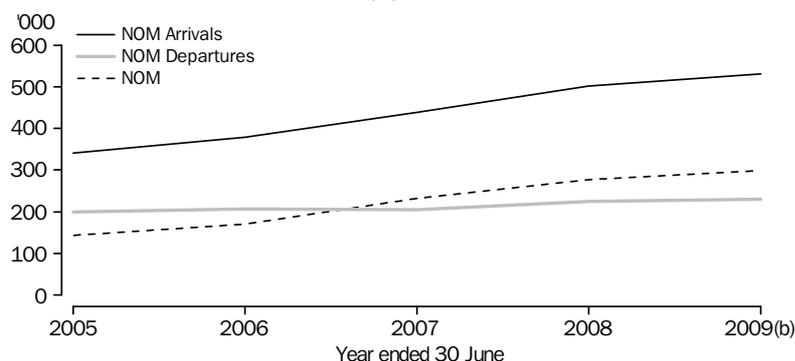
The preliminary NOM results discussed throughout this chapter are based on these improved methods. Additional information on these improvements is available in the following chapter.

NOM ARRIVALS AND NOM DEPARTURES

Based on the current methodology (12/16 month rule — see Glossary), NOM is calculated by counting incoming international travellers who stay in Australia for 12 months or more and have been added to the population (NOM arrivals) and counting those outgoing international travellers (Australian residents and long-term visitors to Australia) who stay away from Australia for 12 months or more and have been subtracted from the population (NOM departures). At the national level, NOM is traditionally positive, with more NOM arrivals than NOM departures, thereby providing a net increase and adding people to Australia's population each year.

Using data based on the current methodology, over the five years 2004–05 to 2008–09 (i.e. all NOM data currently available using the 12/16 month rule), NOM has increased by 110% (from a net of 142,500 to a net of 298,900 persons) with NOM arrivals increasing by 55% (from 341,400 to 529,700 persons) and NOM departures increasing by 16% (198,900 to 230,800 persons) as seen in Figure 3.2. The recent large increases in NOM arrivals has not been offset by similar increases in NOM departures thereby making a large increase to the net of overseas migration. The large increases in NOM arrivals have been mainly due to the large increase in temporary visa arrivals such as international students, business long-stay (subclass 457), working holiday makers and other long-term visitors which is discussed later in this chapter (see Figures 3.12 to 3.18). Therefore, the increase in the net of overseas migration during recent years is primarily due to the increase in temporary visa arrivals.

3.2 COMPONENTS OF NOM (a)—Australia



(a) These estimates use the '12/16 month rule' methodology for calculating NOM—see paragraphs 22–23 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

NOM AND POPULATION
GROWTH

Each change to the inward and outward flow of NOM contributes to changes in the growth, size and structure of Australia's population. The official measure of Australia's population is based on the concept of usual residence. As such it includes all people, regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status, who usually live in Australia (for 12 months or more), with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families.

Australia's population increases each year as a result of both natural increase (births minus deaths) and NOM (NOM arrivals minus NOM departures). In 2008–09, preliminary NOM estimates added a net of 298,900 persons to Australia's population. This is the highest ever recorded and represents 65% of Australia's total population growth for the year (456,700 persons). The remaining 35% was due to natural increase (the number of births minus the number of deaths) with 157,800 persons.

Table 3.3 shows the components of population change over the previous 20 years and the impact NOM has had each year on Australia's population growth. During the majority of this time period, the contribution of NOM to population growth was less than half, whereas in the last three years it has been the major contributor adding 62.2%, 65.1% and 65.5% respectively to Australia's total population growth for each year. This increase is partly due to improvements in methodology which better measures the actual true travel behaviour of migrants but also reflects the recent increases of temporary migrants arriving in Australia (see Figure 3.13).

3.3 NOM AND COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE—Australia

	COMPONENTS OF POPULATION CHANGE				POPULATION			
	<i>Net overseas migration</i> (a)	<i>Births</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Natural increase</i>	<i>At end of period</i>	<i>Growth</i> (b)	<i>Growth</i> (b)	<i>NOM proportion of total growth</i>
	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	'000	%	%
1989–90	124.6	257.5	125.1	132.4	17 065.1	250.7	1.49	49.7
1990–91	86.4	261.2	119.6	141.6	17 284.0	218.9	1.28	39.5
1991–92	68.6	259.2	120.8	138.4	17 494.7	210.6	1.22	32.6
1992–93	30.0	260.0	121.3	138.6	17 667.1	172.4	0.99	17.4
1993–94	46.5	258.3	123.5	134.8	17 854.7	187.6	1.06	24.8
1994–95	80.1	258.2	126.2	132.0	18 071.8	217.0	1.22	36.9
1995–96	104.1	250.4	126.4	124.0	18 310.7	239.0	1.32	43.6
1996–97	87.1	253.7	127.3	126.4	18 517.6	206.9	1.13	42.1
1997–98	79.2	249.1	129.3	119.9	18 711.3	193.7	1.05	40.9
1998–99	96.5	250.0	128.3	121.7	18 925.9	214.6	1.15	45.0
1999–2000	107.3	249.3	128.4	120.9	19 153.4	227.5	1.20	47.1
2000–01	135.7	247.5	128.9	118.6	19 413.2	259.9	1.36	52.2
2001–02	110.6	247.3	130.3	117.0	19 651.4	238.2	1.23	46.4
2002–03	116.5	246.7	132.2	114.4	19 895.4	244.0	1.24	47.7
2003–04	100.0	249.1	133.2	115.9	20 127.4	231.9	1.17	43.1
2004–05	123.8	255.9	131.4	124.6	20 394.8	267.4	1.33	46.3
2005–06	146.8	263.5	134.0	129.5	20 697.9	303.1	1.49	48.4
2006–07	232.8	277.7	136.0	141.7	21 072.5	374.6	1.81	62.2
2007–08	277.3	289.5	140.7	148.8	21 498.5	426.1	2.02	65.1
2008–09(c)	298.9	300.9	143.1	157.8	21 955.3	456.7	2.12	65.5

(a) Contains a break in series at 30 June 2006—see paragraphs 26–27 of the Explanatory Notes.

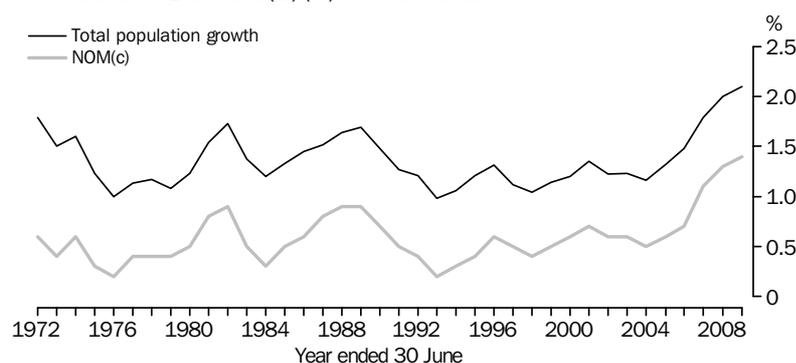
(b) Prior to 2006–07, differences between growth and sum of components are due to intercensal discrepancy.

(c) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

NOM AND POPULATION
GROWTH *continued*

Australia's total population growth rate for 2008–09 was 2.1% with NOM contributing 1.4% to this growth (see Figure 3.4). The peaks and troughs in Australia's annual population growth are clearly driven by NOM. Over time, however, the long-term trend shows that NOM has had an increasing contribution to Australia's population growth.

3.4 POPULATION GROWTH RATE & NOM
CONTRIBUTION (a)(b)—Australia



(a) Contains a break in series at 30 June 2006—see paragraphs 26–27 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

(c) The contribution that NOM makes to total population growth.

NOM BY AGE AND SEX

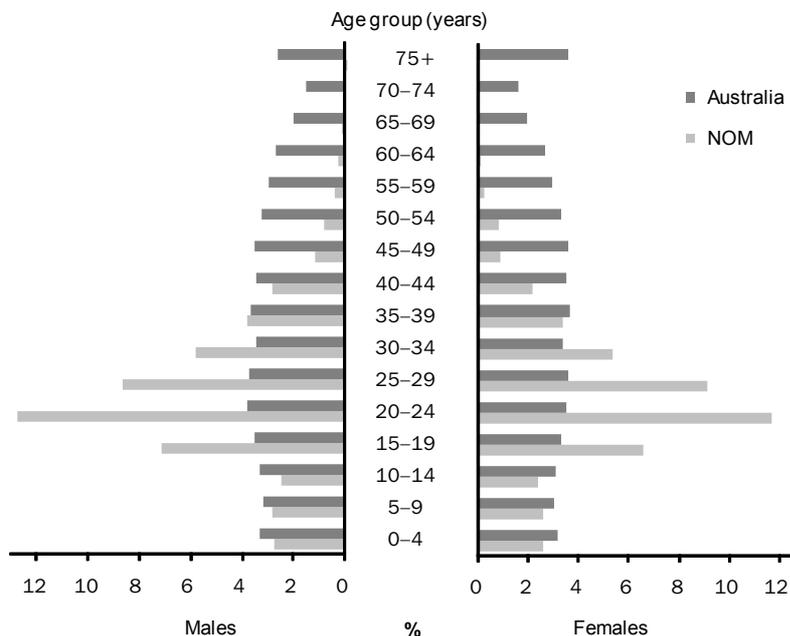
The net of overseas migration by age and sex is the difference between each arrival added to the population by age and sex (NOM arrivals) and each departure subtracted from the population by age and sex (NOM departures). For those travellers contributing to NOM in 2008–09, the sex ratio (the number of males per 100 females) was 107. For those contributing to NOM arrivals it was 106, whereas for those contributing to NOM departures it was 105 males per 100 females.

The main effect of NOM on the age structure of Australia's population is that it results in a larger proportion of persons of early working age (15–34 years) as shown in Figure 3.5. Each year, however, NOM has little effect on the overall age structure of Australia's total population when compared to the far stronger impact that an increase in the birth rate can provide, in particular to that of an ageing population. In addition, the impact temporary migration has on the NOM population age structure is substantial for persons aged 15–34 years (see Figure 3.17). However, once temporary migrants are removed from the age structure, those migrants left in Australia have very little impact on Australia's age structure.

In 2008–09, persons aged 15–34 years comprised 67% of NOM compared to 28% of Australia's total population. Persons aged 0–14 years comprised 16% of NOM and 19% of Australia's population, and persons aged 65 years and over comprised just 0.3% of NOM but 13% of Australia's population (see Figure 3.5).

Just three years earlier in 2005–06, prior to the large increase in temporary arrivals (with data also based on the 12/16 month rule — see Glossary), persons aged 15–34 years comprised 58% of NOM, nine percentage points lower than in 2008–09. The majority of this recent growth is mainly from international students aged in their early 20s.

3.5 AUSTRALIAN AND NOM POPULATION STRUCTURES, Age and sex—2008–09



(a) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

NOM AND THE STATES AND TERRITORIES

In 2008–09, NOM contributed the greatest number of people to the most populous states: New South Wales with a net of 89,500 persons, followed by Victoria (81,200) and Queensland (58,000). The Northern Territory had the lowest with a net of 1,900 persons.

MEDIAN AGE

For those contributing to NOM in 2008–09, the median ages varied between arrivals, departures and between each of the states and territories. Overall, travellers arriving in Australia were younger than those departing as was the case for each of the states and territories. The highest median ages for NOM arrivals were recorded from travellers migrating to the Northern Territory (29.5 years), Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory (27.0 years each). The lowest median age was recorded for NOM arrivals to Victoria (25.5 years). The median age for all NOM arrivals was 26.3 years.

In comparison, the highest median ages for NOM departures were for travellers from the Northern Territory (32.4 years), followed by Tasmania (29.6 years), New South Wales and the Australian Capital Territory (29.5 years each). The lowest median ages for NOM departures were from Victoria and Queensland (28.3 years each). This compares to an overall median age for NOM departures of 28.9 years, 2.6 years higher than arrivals.

SEX RATIO

The sex ratio of travellers who contributed to NOM in 2008–09 also varied between arrivals, departures and between the states and territories. Overall, more males travel across Australia's border than females. The highest sex ratios recorded for NOM arrivals were from travellers migrating to the Northern Territory (125 males per 100 females) and Western Australia (110). The lowest sex ratios were recorded for NOM arrivals to Queensland and New South Wales (103 each), and the Australian Capital Territory and

NOM AND THE STATES
AND TERRITORIES
continued

SEX RATIO *continued*

Tasmania (104 each). The sex ratio for all NOM arrivals to Australia in 2008–09 was 106 males per 100 females.

Conversely, the highest sex ratios recorded for NOM departures were from the Northern Territory (159 males per 100 females) and Western Australia (113). In contrast, the lowest sex ratios for NOM departures were recorded in New South Wales (102) and Queensland (103). The sex ratio for all NOM departures from Australia in 2008–09 was 105 males per 100 females.

3.6 NOM, Selected characteristics—State & territory—2008–09(a)

State or territory	NOM		NOM ARRIVALS			NOM DEPARTURES		
	no.	%	Overseas arrivals no.	Median age years	Sex ratio(b)	Overseas Departures no.	Median age years	Sex ratio(b)
NSW	89 474	29.9	174 781	26.5	103.4	85 307	29.5	102.5
Vic.	81 235	27.2	133 647	25.5	109.5	52 412	28.3	104.7
Qld	58 035	19.4	104 454	26.5	103.3	46 419	28.3	103.0
SA	17 327	5.8	27 382	26.1	105.8	10 055	28.5	104.0
WA	45 179	15.1	71 665	27.0	109.9	26 486	29.1	112.7
Tas.	2 144	0.7	4 249	26.9	104.4	2 105	29.6	104.2
NT	1 864	0.6	5 109	29.5	125.1	3 245	32.4	159.4
ACT	3 666	1.2	8 411	27.0	103.8	4 745	29.5	104.3
Australia(c)	298 924	100.0	529 700	26.3	106.1	230 776	28.9	105.0

(a) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

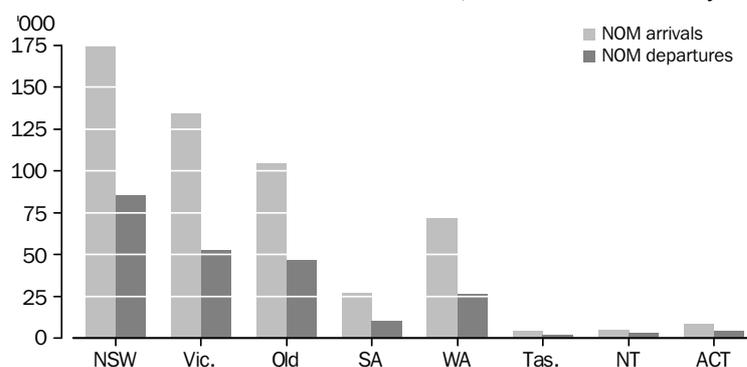
(b) Males per 100 females.

(c) Includes Other Territories.

OVERSEAS FLOWS

Much of the migration of travellers across Australia's border occurred within the more populated states as seen in Figure 3.7. New South Wales had the largest number of NOM arrivals (174,800 persons) and the largest number of NOM departures (85,300 persons). Conversely, Tasmania had the smallest flows with both the smallest number of arrivals (4,200 persons) and the smallest number of departures (2,100 persons).

3.7 OVERSEAS MIGRATION FLOWS, State and territory—2008–09(a)



(a) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

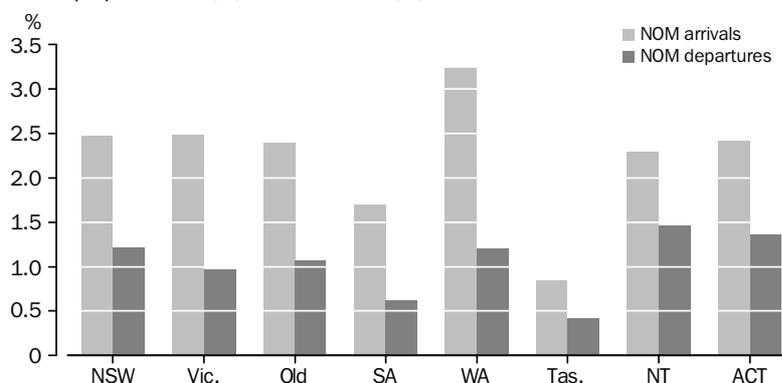
NOM AND THE STATES AND TERRITORIES
continued

OVERSEAS FLOWS *continued*

The combined flows of overseas migration (arrivals and departures) show there were 760,500 people crossing Australia's border who impacted on NOM in 2008–09. Of these, there were 529,700 arrivals contributing to NOM (NOM arrivals) and 230,800 departures contributing to NOM (NOM departures).

However, the effect of these flows varies for each state and territory. In order to assess this effect, it is useful to consider the size of each flow as a proportion of a state or territory's population (Figure 3.8).

3.8 OVERSEAS MIGRATION FLOWS, Proportion of population(a)—2008–09(b)



(a) Each flow as a proportion of a state's or territory's total population at 31 December 2008.
(b) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

Western Australia experienced the greatest effect proportionally from NOM arrivals in 2008–09, with a 3.2% increase to its population, while the Northern Territory showed a 1.5% loss from NOM departures, the largest loss of all the states and territories. In contrast, the effect NOM arrivals and NOM departures had on Tasmania's population was small at 0.8% and 0.4% respectively.

POPULATION TURNOVER

In 2008–09, the population turnover due to overseas migration (gross overseas flows in relation to size of the population) was the highest in Western Australia at 4.4% (i.e. NOM arrivals and NOM departures combined). This was followed by the Australian Capital Territory (3.8%), and then New South Wales and the Northern Territory (3.7% each). Of the remaining states and territories, Queensland's and Victoria's population turnover from overseas migration was 3.5% each and South Australia 2.3%. Tasmania had the lowest population turnover due to NOM in 2008–09 at 1.3%.

NOM RATES (QUARTERLY)

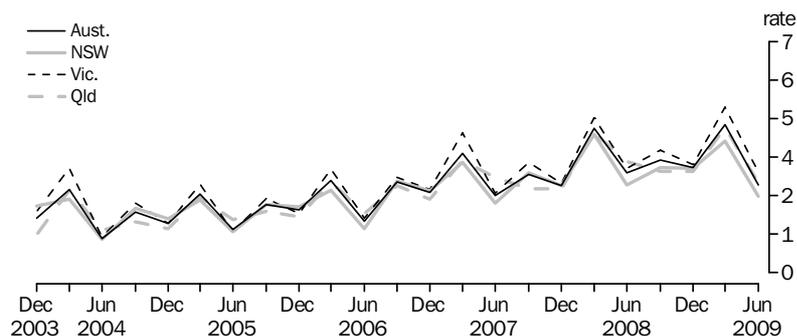
Net overseas migration has a notable impact on the population of Australia's states and territories. The net overseas migration rate (NOM per 1,000 population) shows how the impact varies between the states and territories and over time.

NOM AND THE STATES
AND TERRITORIES
continued

NOM RATES (QUARTERLY) *continued*

Using data based on the improved methodology for NOM with the time series starting from December quarter 2003 (i.e. all quarterly NOM data currently available using the 12/16 month rule), the quarterly NOM rates for each state and territory are presented in Figures 3.9 to 3.11.

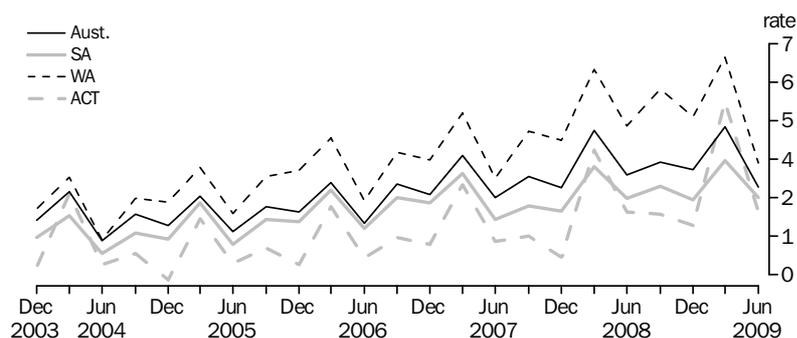
3.9 QUARTERLY NOM RATES (a)(b), NSW, Vic., Qld and Aust.



(a) NOM per 1,000 estimated resident population.
(b) These rates are based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology for calculating NOM—see paragraphs 26–27 of the Explanatory Notes. Estimates for September 2008 and onwards are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

The three graphs (Figures 3.9 to 3.11), clearly show the seasonality of overseas migration with the March quarter providing the highest rates each year for the majority of the states and territories.

3.10 QUARTERLY NOM RATES (a)(b), SA, WA, ACT and Aust.



(a) NOM per 1,000 estimated resident population.
(b) These rates are based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology for calculating NOM—see paragraphs 26–27 of the Explanatory Notes. Estimates for September 2008 and onwards are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

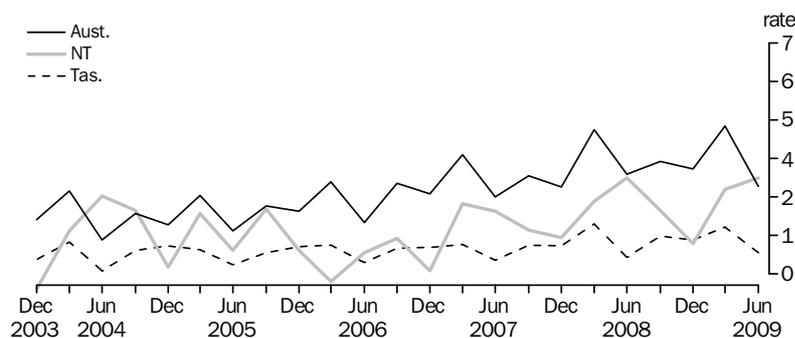
Figure 3.10 shows that the quarterly NOM rates for Western Australia displayed strong seasonality for the period between December quarter 2003 to June quarter 2009. During this time period the highest NOM rate was also recorded by Western Australia at 6.6 per 1,000 population in the March quarter 2009. In the same March quarter, the Australian Capital Territory had the next highest rate at 5.2 (Figure 3.10), whereas the national rate was 4.5. For Western Australia, the NOM rates over time were higher than the total Australian rate, whereas rates in New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland were fairly

NOM AND THE STATES
AND TERRITORIES
continued

NOM RATES (QUARTERLY) *continued*

consistent with that of Australia (Figure 3.9). The remaining states and territories were mainly below the national rate, with Tasmania and the Northern Territory (Figure 3.11) not displaying as strong seasonality as that shown by the other states and territories.

3.11 QUARTERLY NOM RATES (a)(b), NT, Tas. and Aust.



(a) NOM per 1,000 estimated resident population.
(b) There rates are based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology for calculating NOM—see paragraphs 26–27 of the Explanatory Notes. Estimates for September 2008 and onwards are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

TRAVELLER
CHARACTERISTICS
FROM FINAL NOM

An individual's actual true travel behaviour and associated characteristics are only available from final NOM data, as these can only be accurately recorded at the end of the 16 month reference period following a traveller's initial border crossing. However, a traveller may make a number of border crossings (movements) during the initial reference quarter (i.e. the quarter at the beginning of the 16 month period used to calculate NOM) and may have different characteristics linked to each crossing.

Characteristics of travellers are collected for each movement across Australia's border from a combination of passport, visa and passenger card information. Some of these characteristics are prone to variation with each movement due to the fact that the information on passenger cards are self reported.

Although traveller characteristics are recorded in the *Overseas Arrivals and Departures* (OAD) collection for each and every movement, the characteristics assigned to an individual traveller in the NOM system are based on the rules applied by the current methodology (12/16 month rule) for calculating NOM. To calculate NOM, this method uses the most appropriate 'initial category of travel' (see Glossary) and therefore must be assigned to one and only one movement for the reference quarter. It is from this one specific movement during a quarter that all characteristics for an individual traveller are compiled and recorded in the NOM data collection.

THE TRAVELLERS'
CHARACTERISTICS
DATABASE

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. These 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 analysis on visas, temporary migration and main reason for journey has used

THE TRAVELLERS'
CHARACTERISTICS
DATABASE *continued*

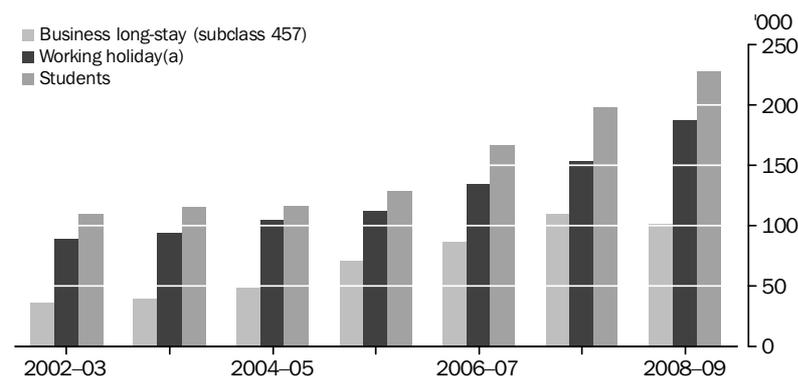
data extracted from the Travellers' Characteristics Database. All data from the Travellers' Characteristics Database is based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology. For additional information and the list of variables available, see paragraph 67 of the Explanatory Notes.

Factors that should be taken into account when analysing data from the Travellers' Characteristics Database include the impact of global and regional events, legislative changes in Australia and abroad, and economic activity, all of which can change traveller behaviour.

*NOM by Major groupings
and Visa*

The Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) manages and grants visas each year in accordance with relevant legislation, government planning and policy. In recent years, the number of temporary visas being granted by DIAC has increased substantially. For example, from 2002–03 to 2008–09 the number of student visas being granted increased by 108%. The number of working holiday visas granted increased by 111% over the same period. However, the number of business long-stay (subclass 457) visas granted increased 175% from 2002–03 to 2008–09 (Figure 3.12)².

3.12 TEMPORARY VISAS GRANTED IN RECENT YEARS



(a) These working holiday visas are the initial and subsequent visas granted onshore and offshore.

Source: DIAC, 2010. *Population flows: Immigration aspects 2008–09 edition, Ch 3.*

It is important to note that there is a difference between when and how many visas are granted by DIAC; 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 and therefore will not have contributed to NOM as they do not meet the '12/16 month rule' (see Glossary). 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. For example, a traveller who has already arrived in Australia on one type of visa (and recorded in the NOM system) may subsequently apply for, and be granted, a different visa by DIAC whilst onshore, which is not recorded in the NOM system until they leave Australia's shores for 12 months or more over a 16 month reference period (i.e. become a NOM departure).

1 DIAC 2010, *Population Flows: Immigration aspects 2008–09 edition, Ch 3.*

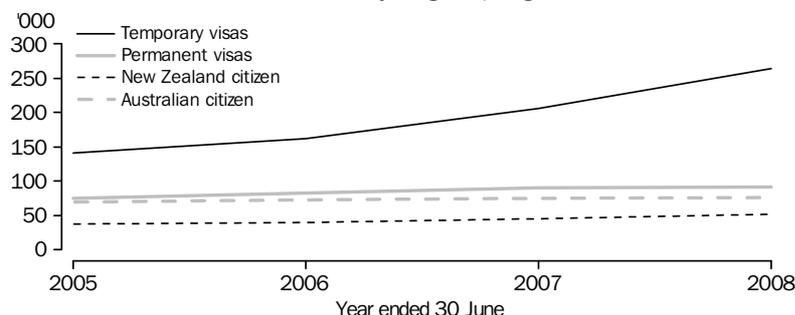
NOM by Major groupings and Visa continued

Figures 3.13 to 3.15 show NOM arrivals, NOM departures and NOM by major visa and non-visa groupings based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology. The four major groupings (temporary visa holders; permanent visa holders; New Zealand citizens; and Australian citizens) are all major overseas flows into, and out of, Australia and impact strongly on Australia's NOM estimates and therefore the official population estimates. Australian citizens do not require a visa to enter or exit Australia. In contrast, New Zealand citizens are not required to apply for a visa before arrival in Australia but are issued with a specific New Zealand citizen visa at the Australian border. Other visas that have a smaller impact on NOM estimates not identified in the following graphs include residents returning (i.e. non Australian citizen who are permanent residents), onshore visas and visa unknown.

The impact of the major groups on NOM estimates can be better explained by first comparing NOM arrivals to NOM departures (Figures 3.13–3.14). For the four years from 2004–05 to 2007–08 (i.e. all final NOM data currently available from the Travellers' Characteristics Database), temporary visa holders arriving in Australia increased 86% from 141,500 to 263,800 persons respectively. In comparison, temporary visa holders departing only increased by 30% or 59,500 to 77,200 persons respectively. This resulted in an increase of the net number of temporary visa holders contributing to NOM of 127%, from a net of 82,000 persons in 2004–05 to a net of 186,500 persons in 2007–08.

For the same years (2004–05 to 2007–08), arrivals for those holding a permanent visa increased 21% from 75,600 to 91,500 persons. Interestingly, there was a small proportion (under 6%) of permanent visa holders in 2007–08 who became NOM departures as they had left Australia. In 2004–05, 4,400 persons with a permanent visa had left Australia which had increased to 5,100 persons in 2007–08. In part, this could be due to a permanent visa holder returning to their home country for a number of months to finalise their affairs before then returning to Australia. In total, this resulted in an increase of the net number of permanent visa holders contributing to NOM of 21%, from a net of 71,100 persons in 2004–05 to a net of 86,400 persons in 2007–08.

3.13 NOM ARRIVALS (a), Major groupings (b)—Australia

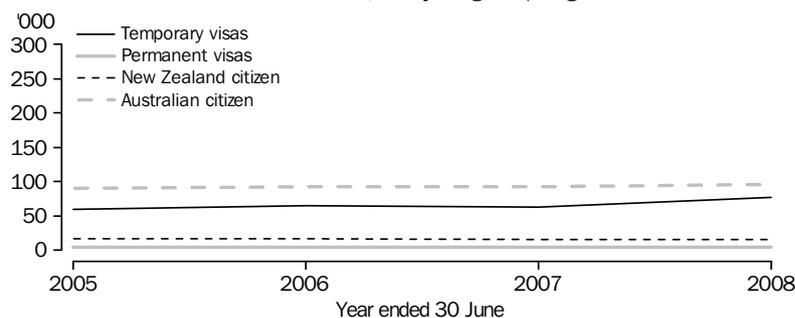


(a) These estimates use the '12/16 month rule' methodology for calculating NOM—see paragraphs 26–27 of the Explanatory Notes.
 (b) Does not include onshore and other visa types. The visa category information in this table represents the visa at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.

NOM by Major groupings and Visa continued

Over the same four year period, New Zealand citizen arrivals contributing to NOM increased 37% from 38,000 persons in 2004–05 to 52,300 in 2007–08, whereas New Zealand citizen departures declined by 7% from 17,400 to 16,200 persons respectively. This resulted in an increase of the net number of New Zealanders contributing to NOM of 75%, from a net of 20,600 persons in 2004–05 to a net of 36,100 persons in 2007–08.

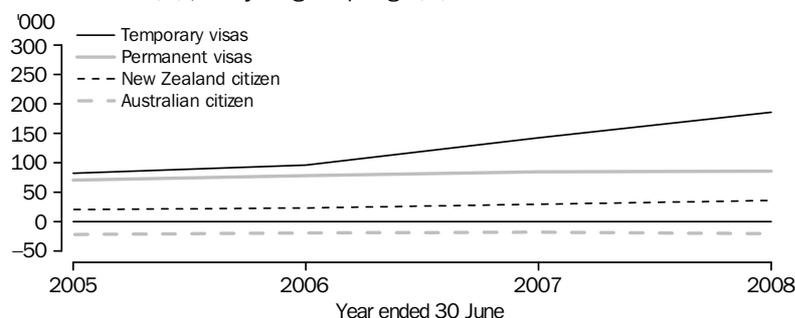
3.14 NOM DEPARTURES (a), Major groupings (b)—Australia



(a) These estimates use the '12/16 month rule' methodology for calculating NOM—see paragraphs 26–27 of the Explanatory Notes.
 (b) Does not include onshore and other visa types. The visa category information in this table represents the visa at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.

In comparison, Australian citizen arrivals and departures contributing to NOM changed little over the four years. Australian citizen arrivals contributing to NOM increased by 10% from 69,300 persons to 75,900 persons respectively, whereas Australian citizen departures increased by 6% from 90,800 departures in 2004–05 to 96,300 Australian citizens leaving in 2007–08. This resulted in Australian citizens contributing negatively to NOM of 5%, from a net of –21,400 persons in 2004–05 to a net of –20,300 persons in 2007–08. Traditionally, Australian citizens have a net negative input to NOM figures as more Australians depart from the country each year than return.

3.15 NOM (a), Major groupings (b)—Australia



(a) These estimates use the '12/16 month rule' methodology for calculating NOM—see paragraphs 26–27 of the Explanatory Notes.
 (b) Does not include onshore and other visa types. The visa category information in this table represents the visa at the time of a traveller's specific movement. It is this specific movement that has been used to calculate NOM.

*NOM by Major groupings
and Visa continued*

Over the four years from 2004–05 to 2007–08, the majority of growth in NOM has been the result of temporary visa holders increasing by 127%. During this same period, the net number of permanent visa holders contributing to NOM increased by 21% whereas the net number of New Zealand citizens increased by 75%. On the other hand, the net number of Australian citizens contributing negatively to NOM showed a decrease of 5%.

Proportionately in 2007–08, temporary visa holders contributed by far the most to NOM with 67% of the total NOM figure for the year. At a distant second were permanent arrivals at 31%. New Zealand citizens contributed 13% to NOM whereas Australian citizens, with a negative input to NOM figures, contributed –7% to NOM in 2007–08.

*NOM by Major groupings
and Visa—2007–08*

Table 3.16 shows a further breakdown of the types of visas groups which have contributed to NOM in 2007–08. It provides an insight into the main groups which contributed to the recent increases experienced in Australia's NOM figures.

3.16 NOM, by major groupings and visa(a)—Australia—2007–08

<i>Major groupings and visa</i>	NOM ARRIVAL		NOM DEPARTURE		NOM	
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Temporary visas	263 757	52.6	77 229	34.5	186 528	67.3
Vocational education and training sector	31 419	6.3	4 064	1.8	27 355	9.9
Higher education sector	73 149	14.6	15 629	7.0	57 520	20.7
Student other	30 597	6.1	6 730	3.0	23 867	8.6
Business long-stay (subclass 457)	43 950	8.8	10 596	4.7	33 354	12.0
Visitor(b)	50 049	10.0	21 040	9.4	29 009	10.5
Working holiday	29 120	5.8	7 765	3.5	21 355	7.7
Other temporary visas	5 473	1.1	11 405	5.1	–5 932	–2.1
Permanent visas	91 515	18.3	5 117	2.3	86 398	31.2
Family	32 231	6.4	2 164	1.0	30 067	10.8
Skill	49 843	9.9	2 885	1.3	46 958	16.9
Special eligibility and humanitarian	9 441	1.9	68	—	9 373	3.4
New Zealand citizen	52 302	10.4	16 212	7.2	36 090	13.0
Australian citizen	75 948	15.1	96 262	43.0	–20 314	–7.3
Other(c)	17 817	3.6	29 187	13.0	–11 370	–4.1
Total	501 339	100.0	224 007	100.0	277 332	100.0

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) 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 DIAC.

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

(c) Includes residents returning (i.e. non Australian citizens who are permanent residents), onshore visas and visa unknown.

TEMPORARY VISAS—2007–08

In 2007–08, the number of temporary visa holders arriving in Australia was 263,800 persons, representing 53% of all NOM arrivals. The number of temporary visa holders departing was 77,200 persons, representing 34% of all NOM departures for the year. This resulted in a net of 186,500 temporary visa holders contributing to NOM, or 67% of NOM in 2007–08. Just three years earlier in 2004–05 (also based on the '12/16 month rule'

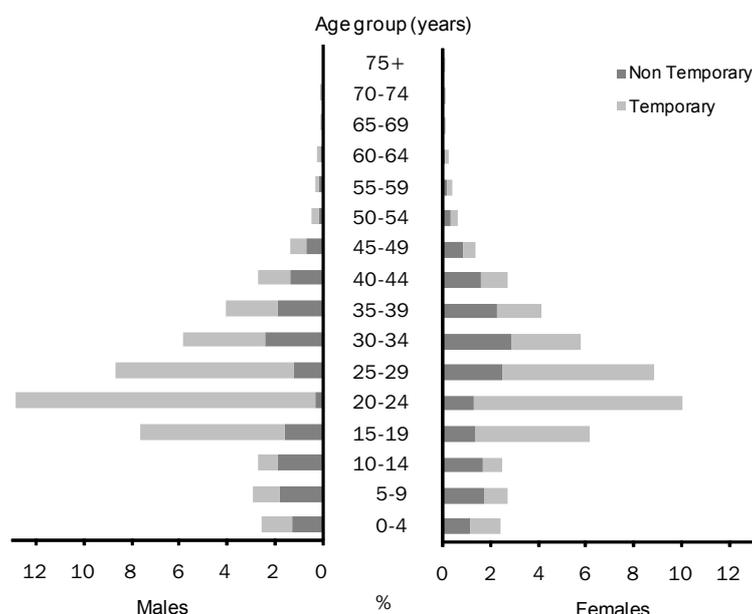
NOM by Major groupings and Visa—2007–08 continued

TEMPORARY VISAS—2007–08 *continued*

methodology), temporary visa holders accounted for 58% of the total NOM figure for that year.

When examining the population structure of NOM by age and sex in 2007–08 (Figure 3.17), temporary visa holders in the early working age group (15–34 years) contributed by far the most to NOM. With temporary visa holders contributing 67% of the total NOM figure for the year, those temporary visa holders aged 15–34 years contributed 52% of the total NOM figure. The remaining 15–34 year olds (non temporary visa holders) only contributed 14%. Temporary visa holders aged 35 years and over comprised 9% of NOM whereas non temporary visa holders for the same age group comprised 10%. For those aged 0–14 years, temporary visa holders and non temporary visa holders comprised 6% and 10% respectively of the total NOM figure for 2007–08.

3.17 NOM POPULATION STRUCTURE BY TEMPORARY AND NON TEMPORARY VISAS (a), Age and sex—2007–08



(a) 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.

International Student visas—2007–08

In 2007–08, international students made up the largest group of temporary visa holders arriving, with 135,200 student arrivals representing 27% of all NOM arrivals. The number of international students departing was 26,400 persons representing 12% of all NOM departures. This resulted in a net of 108,700 students contributing to NOM, or 39% of NOM in 2007–08. Within this group of students, those travelling on higher education visas were the largest group contributing to NOM for the year with 57,500 students representing 21% of the total NOM figure. The vocational education and training sector represented 10% (27,400 students) whereas all other student visas accounted for 9% (23,900 students) of the total NOM figure for 2007–08. The number of student visas

*NOM by Major groupings
and Visa—2007–08
continued*

International Student visas—2007–08 continued

granted by DIAC has increased strongly over recent years from 171,600 in 2003–04³ to 278,200 in 2007–08⁴.

The large difference between NOM arrivals and NOM departures for international students as seen in 2007–08 (Table 3.16), is, in part, the result of the time lag effect of a student's course duration. For example, a student arriving today will not necessarily become a NOM departure until the end of their course in two, three or four years' time.

However, the difference can also be due to a change of a student's circumstances at the end of their study time. For example, after completing their studies a student may apply for an onshore permanent residence visa or another visa such as a bridging or a temporary business long-stay (subclass 457) visa. Therefore, some students may change their visa and residency status whilst onshore. In these instances, the original student visa recorded as a NOM arrival has now changed to a new visa or residency status and therefore will not be recorded as the corresponding student visa with a NOM departure for this particular traveller. A NOM departure will not be recorded until they have left Australia and have remained away for 12 months or more in the 16 month reference period. It is only at this stage that the NOM system will record the change of visa by a traveller either to an onshore or other type of visa.

Care should therefore be taken with student visas when analysing the net figure (i.e. NOM) on its own, as should all other temporary visas such as business long-stay (subclass 457), working holiday makers and other long-term visitors. Over the last 10 years, onshore permanent visas granted by DIAC have increased fourfold from close to 15,000 persons in 1998–99 to nearly 63,400 in 2008–09⁵.

Business long-stay (subclass 457) visas—2007–08

In 2007–08, the number of temporary business long-stay (subclass 457) visa holders arriving in Australia ready for work was 44,000 persons representing 9% of all NOM arrivals. The number of business long-stay (subclass 457) visa holders departing was 10,600 persons representing 5% of all NOM departures for the year. This resulted in a net of 33,400 business 457 visa holders contributing to NOM, or 12% of NOM in 2007–08.

Whilst a business 457 visa holder can stay in Australia for up to four years, they too, like students, can apply for other visas during their stay. In 2007–08, just under 25,000 people who last held a business 457 visa were granted a permanent residence visa. The majority of these (88%) were granted a permanent residence visa under the Employer Nomination Scheme, the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme, a Labour Agreement or under the Skilled Independent visa program⁶. The strong representation of 457 visas in NOM figures is likely to be the result of Australia's buoyant economy over recent years with low unemployment and recognition of skill shortages for specific occupations. Temporary business long-stay (subclass 457) visas granted by DIAC increased strongly from 2006–07 to 2007–08 with 87,300 grants and 110,600 grants respectively.

2 DIAC 2005, Population Flows: Immigration aspects 2003–04 edition, Ch 5 p 62.

3 DIAC 2009, Population Flows: Immigration aspects 2007–08 edition, Ch 3 p 55.

4 DIAC 2010, Population Flows: Immigration aspects 2008–09 edition, Ch 2 p 45.

5 DIAC 2009, Population Flows: Immigration aspects 2007–08 edition, Ch 3 p 59.

*NOM by Major groupings
and Visa—2007–08
continued*

Visitor visas—2007–08

In 2007–08, over 3.6 million visitor visas were granted by DIAC. The vast majority of these were short-term, for stays of less than 12 months. However, the number of long-term visitors (i.e. staying 12 months or more) arriving in Australia in 2007–08 was 50,000 persons, representing 10% of all NOM arrivals. The number of long-term visitors departing was 21,000 persons, representing 9% of all NOM departures for the year. This resulted in a net of 29,000 long-term visitors contributing to NOM, or 10% of NOM in 2007–08. Of this net 29,000 visitors, 80% were tourist, 17% were business visitors and 3% were sponsored family visitors.

Working holiday visas—2007–08

Australia's strong economic standing during recent international financial events and low unemployment rates over the last few years have increased the appeal for international travellers to visit and work temporarily in Australia. Working holiday makers are permitted to stay for a period of up to 12 months from the date of initial entry to Australia. However, the fact that many working holiday makers stay more than 12 months and therefore contribute to NOM estimates can be, in part, the result of those working holiday visa holders who have undertaken seasonal work in regional Australia being eligible to apply for a second working holiday visa. For example, there were 11,800 second working holiday visas granted by DIAC in 2007–08⁷. It can also be that those who have arrived on a working holiday visa may have applied for, and been granted, a different visa whilst onshore.

In 2007–08, the number of working holiday visa holders arriving in Australia and staying 12 months or more was 29,100 persons, representing 6% of all NOM arrivals. The number of working holiday visa holders departing was 7,800 persons, representing 3% of all NOM departures for the year. This resulted in a net of 21,400 working holiday visa holders contributing to NOM, or 8% of NOM in 2007–08.

PERMANENT VISAS—2007–08

In 2007–08, the number of permanent visa holders arriving in Australia was 91,500 persons, representing 18% of all NOM arrivals. The number of permanent visa holders departing was 5,100 persons, representing 2% of all NOM departures for the year. This resulted in a net of 86,400 permanent visa holders contributing to NOM, or 31% of NOM in 2007–08. Just three years earlier in 2004–05 (also based on the '12/16 month rule' methodology), permanent visa holders accounted for 50% of the total NOM figure for that year.

Whilst a person may seek a permanent visa from DIAC (158,600 permanent visas were granted by DIAC in 2007–08)⁶, there can be a number of reasons as to why there is not a direct correlation with the number of permanent visas recorded by the NOM processing system (91,500 permanent visas holders were counted in NOM arrivals in 2007–08). First, a visa being granted may not necessarily result in a traveller actually arriving in Australia. Reasons for not arriving may include a change of mind or change of circumstances resulting in the traveller delaying or cancelling their planned permanent arrival. Second, a traveller with a permanent visa may initially stay for a short period (less than 12

⁶ DIAC 2009, Population Flows: Immigration aspects 2007–08 edition, Ch 3 p 53.

⁷ DIAC 2009, Population Flows: Immigration aspects 2007–08 edition, Ch 2 p 24.

*NOM by Major groupings
and Visa—2007–08
continued*

PERMANENT VISAS—2007–08 *continued*

months) in Australia before returning to their previous home to finalise their affairs overseas (with the intention of returning to Australia at later date). If they do not remain in Australia long enough to meet the requirements of the '12/16 month rule' (see Glossary) they are not included in the NOM counts for that period. Third, a person may already be in Australia using another visa (e.g. student or subclass 457) and be granted an onshore permanent visa. This change in visa to a permanent visa is not recorded in the NOM system until they leave Australia's shores for 12 months or more over a 16 month reference period (i.e. become a NOM departure).

Family visas—2007–08

In 2007–08, the number of permanent family visa holders (granted offshore) arriving in Australia was 32,200 persons, representing 6% of all NOM arrivals. The number of permanent family visa holders departing was 2,200 persons, representing 1% of all NOM departures for the year. This resulted in a net of 30,100 family visa holders contributing to NOM, or 11% of NOM in 2007–08.

Skilled visas—2007–08

The number of permanent skilled visa holders (granted offshore) arriving in Australia in 2007–08 was 49,800 persons, representing 10% of all NOM arrivals. The number of permanent skilled visa holders departing was 2,900 persons representing 1% of all NOM departures for the year. This resulted in a net of 47,000 skilled visa holders contributing to NOM, or 17% of NOM in 2007–08.

Special Eligibility and Humanitarian visas—2007–08

Special Eligibility visas referred to in this section mainly relate to any former citizens and residents requiring special visas to enter the country. It produces very small numbers and has therefore been combined with Humanitarian visas.

The Humanitarian Program and visas are managed by the Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship. The offshore resettlement component of the Humanitarian Program has two categories: refugees and a special humanitarian program⁸.

During 2007–08, the number of permanent special eligibility and humanitarian visa holders (granted offshore) arriving in Australia was 9,400 persons, representing 2% of all NOM arrivals. The number of special and humanitarian visa holders departing was 70 persons, representing 0.03% of all NOM departures for the year. This resulted in a net of 9,400 special and humanitarian visa holders contributing to NOM, or 3% of NOM in 2007–08.

NEW ZEALAND CITIZENS—2007–08

The number of New Zealand citizens arriving in Australia in 2007–08 was 52,300 persons, representing 10% of all NOM arrivals. The number of New Zealand citizens departing was 16,200 persons, representing 7% of all NOM departures for the year. This resulted in a net of 36,100 New Zealand citizens contributing to NOM, or 13% of NOM in 2007–08.

⁸ DIAC 2010, Population Flows: Immigration aspects 2008–09 edition, Ch 4 p 80.

*NOM by Major groupings
and Visa—2007–08
continued*

AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS—2007–08

In 2007–08, the number of Australian citizens arriving in Australia was 75,900 persons, representing 15% of all NOM arrivals. The number of Australian citizens departing was 96,300 persons, representing 43% of all NOM departures for the year. This resulted in a negative net of –20,300 Australian citizens contributing to NOM, or -7% of NOM in 2007–08.

*Self Reported Temporary
NOM Arrivals and Main
Reason for Journey*

The following analysis on temporary NOM arrivals is based on final data which have been self reported and collected from Australia's incoming passenger card (i.e. self identified by a traveller in box B of the incoming passenger card, see Appendix — Passenger Cards p 77). It uses the 'initial category of travel' (see Glossary) variable from the Travellers' Characteristics Database to extract those travellers who have ticked box B on the incoming passenger card. The data analysed below are not the same as the previous analysis on temporary visas although similar results can be found for most countries of birth listed in Table 3.18. The main reason for using self reported temporary NOM arrivals here, was to also capture information on the temporary status of New Zealanders which cannot be collected from visa information for this nationality.

A self reported temporary NOM arrival is any traveller who has identified themselves as a visitor or temporary entrant on Australia's incoming passenger card; who are not currently counted within the population; and then contributed to net overseas migration and the population by staying in Australia for 12 months or more over a 16 month reference period.

3.18 SELF REPORTED TEMPORARY NOM ARRIVALS (a), Main reason for journey & top 10 countries of birth(b)—Australia—2007–08(c)

Country of Birth	NOM ARRIVALS (d)		TEMPORARY NOM ARRIVALS (a)		MAIN REASON FOR JOURNEY OF TEMPORARY NOM ARRIVALS						
	no.	%	no.	%	Convention or conference	Business	Visiting friends or relatives	Holiday	Employment	Education	Other & not stated
India	56 127	77	43 112	77	2	20	3	2	5	58	10
China	48 944	77	37 919	77	1	7	6	3	5	71	7
UK, Cls & IOM(e)	52 369	54	28 207	54	1	8	14	33	22	5	17
NZ	48 538	49	23 613	49	3	5	26	21	21	3	22
Korea, South	17 046	90	15 260	90	1	2	8	34	4	41	10
USA	12 490	83	10 398	83	3	17	14	24	11	10	22
Malaysia	12 521	75	9 389	75	1	4	8	20	5	53	8
Philippines	14 853	60	8 918	60	11	16	8	6	27	15	17
South Africa	12 455	63	7 815	63	3	20	8	16	26	9	17
Nepal	8 098	94	7 589	94	1	30	3	1	1	61	5
Total	501 339	61	308 213	61	2	10	10	16	10	38	13

(a) A self reported temporary NOM arrival is any traveller who has identified themselves as a visitor or temporary entrant on Australia's incoming passenger card; and then contributed to NOM by staying in Australia for 12 months or more over a 16 month reference period; and has been added to the population.

(b) The top ten countries have been calculated from final data on all self reported temporary NOM arrivals for 2007–08.

(c) Estimates for 2007–08 are final—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

(d) Includes permanent arrivals, residents returning and other.

(e) United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

*Self Reported Temporary
NOM Arrivals and Main
Reason for Journey
continued*

For 2007–08, there were 308,200 self reported temporary NOM arrivals who contributed to NOM (see Table 3.18). This was 61% of all NOM arrivals with the remainder being permanent arrivals, Australian residents returning and a few from other categories. Of the countries of birth contributing to temporary NOM arrivals, India added the most with 43,100 persons arriving, followed by China (37,900 persons), the United Kingdom (28,200 persons) and New Zealand (23,600 persons).

Travellers who contributed to NOM during 2007–08 were born in over 200 countries. The majority of the top ten countries of birth (of those who contributed to temporary NOM arrivals) recorded a higher proportion of temporary entrants than non-temporary entrants. For example, 94% of all NOM arrivals for Nepal were self reported temporary arrivals followed closely by Korea (90%) and the United States of America (83%). New Zealand was the only country in the top ten to record under half at 49%.

The main reason for journey is self reported by a traveller on Australia's incoming or outgoing passenger card and is only asked for two specific groups of people. One group is 'visitor or temporary entrants' and the other is 'Australian residents departing temporarily'. The following information is based on answers from the 'visitor or temporary entrants' group collected on the incoming passenger card.

Using final NOM data, Table 3.18 shows the main reason for journey of the top ten countries of birth for the self reported temporary NOM arrivals in 2007–08. When examining the main reason for journey of temporary NOM arrivals, 71% of China-born arrivals reported education as their main reason for journey, followed by Nepal (61%), India (58%) and Malaysia (53%). Education was also the most commonly reported reason of all temporary NOM arrivals with 38% indicating that it was their main reason for journey. This was followed at a distant second by holiday (16%).

Employment was reported as the main reason to travel to Australia by 27% of all self reported temporary NOM arrivals born in the Philippines, 26% for South Africa and 22% for the United Kingdom. Business was reported as the main reason was reported by 30% of temporary NOM arrivals from Nepal followed by South Africa and India (20% each), the United States of America (17%) and the Philippines (16%).

The highest proportion of self reported temporary entrants who stayed more than 12 months in Australia and had initially selected holiday as their main reason for journey were born in Korea (34%) and in the United Kingdom (33%). The largest proportion of travellers who stated they were visiting friends or relatives were born in New Zealand (26%).

SUMMARY

In 2007, the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) introduced new methods for the estimation of net overseas migration (NOM). With the annual revisions, released in March 2009 and 2010, there were large upward revisions in the estimates of NOM and consequently the estimated resident population (ERP) in Australia for 2006–07 and 2007–08. This was due mainly to the large revision from the preliminary to a final NOM estimate, which was much greater than previous revisions. However, it was also due to the cumulative impact of only releasing the revision to quarterly NOM estimates and ERP once a year, based on a scheduled annual revision cycle.

An opportunity to help address this issue arose in 2009 when the Australian Parliament passed the *Federal Financial Relations Act 2009*. The new legislation changed the date required for the Australian Statistician to make the yearly determination of the population of each state and territory (as at 31 December). It changed the due date from 'before 6 June' to 'before 31 August in the following payment year'.

In consultation with major stakeholders, this legislative change enabled the ABS to provide quarterly ERP at a later date in the scheduled month of release (i.e. at the end of March, June, September and December). In turn, this enabled an additional quarter of overseas arrivals and departures data to be used allowing the methodology for preliminary NOM estimation to be improved. As a result, the ABS implemented two key changes to the methodology: changing from a 'two year ago' to a 'one year ago' propensity model; and reducing the pool of travellers using the model.

In addition, the ABS changed the current annual revision cycle for publishing final NOM to a six-monthly revision cycle. While not impacting on the difference between preliminary and final NOM estimates, this change provides for the earlier progressive release of revised ERP figures.

The improvements outlined in this chapter are designed to capture some immediate gains to NOM estimation. However, additional investigations are being undertaken by the ABS to make further gains and build upon the improvements identified in this chapter.

This chapter provides an overview of the changes undertaken to improve NOM estimation and reduce the large revisions to ERP and includes:

- a review of changes being made to the methodology for estimating preliminary NOM;
- an outline of changes to the preliminary and revision timetables;
- implementation dates and schedules; and
- discussions on future directions the ABS is examining to make further improvements.

SUMMARY *continued*

Estimates of both the resident population (ERP) and NOM for Australia and each of the states and territories are published quarterly in *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0). The improvements outlined in this chapter were introduced from the September 2009 issue of *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0), released on the 25 March 2010.

BACKGROUND

Net overseas migration is one component of population change used to estimate the Australian resident population each quarter, as are births and deaths. The ABS bases ERP on the concept of usual residence in Australia. For the purposes of NOM and therefore ERP, a person is regarded as a usual resident if they have been (or were expected to be) residing in Australia for a period of 12 months or more. As such, the ERP includes all people, regardless of nationality, citizenship or legal status, who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families.

The quarterly peaks and troughs experienced in Australia's population growth are clearly driven by NOM, making it the major contributor to quarterly change in the ERP. In recent years, many factors have presented challenges in accurately estimating NOM, including:

- increasing volumes of international movements across Australia's borders. For example, in 2009, there were 24.7 million border crossings, up 56% since 1999;
- changes to the composition of international visitors and their duration of stay behaviour, such as that of international students;
- international travel patterns of Australian residents (including duration and frequency of travel); and
- more recently, changes in traveller behaviour due to the global financial crisis (GFC).

Each year, there are more than 20 million overseas arrivals and departures crossing Australia's borders, but the NOM is only about 1% of this figure. Accuracy in the measurement of NOM is crucial in determining accurate ERP for each of the states and territories each quarter. Currently, NOM accounts for well over half of Australia's population growth (65% for year ended 30 June 2009).

Clarification of data sources used to analyse overseas migration.

There are number of data sources that can be used in the analysis of overseas migration. However, there are three main data sources that can be often confused on the measurement of the event of overseas migration. They include:

- the number of travellers from the net overseas migration (NOM) collection;
- the number of movements from the overseas arrivals and departures (OAD) collection; and
- the number of visas being granted.

It is data on the number of travellers from the NOM collection that accurate migration estimates are based on. It is these NOM estimates that are used in the official estimates of Australia's resident population, not the number of OAD movements or the number of visas granted.

Statistics from the OAD collection relate to the number of movements of travellers rather than the number of travellers (i.e. multiple movements of individual persons during a given reference period are each counted separately). The OAD collection also relates to information self reported by most travellers on their intended duration of stay in, or away

Clarification of data sources used to analyse overseas migration. continued

from, Australia. Therefore, movement data from the OAD collection would always be different to the official estimation of the number of travellers from the NOM collection.

The Australian Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) 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 DIAC; 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 and therefore will not have contributed to NOM as they do not meet the '12/16 month rule' (see Glossary). In addition, travellers may also apply for, and be granted, a different visa whilst in Australia or overseas. Therefore, the number of visas granted would always be different to the official estimation of the number of travellers from the NOM collection.

Care should be taken when using either OAD movements data or the number of visas granted, as these sources are not the best suited for measuring overseas migration in the context of contributing to official population estimates for Australia.

CURRENT METHODS FOR ESTIMATING NOM

Conceptually, the term NOM is based on an international traveller's duration of stay being in or out of Australia for 12 months or more. With the introduction in 2007 of the new methods for the estimation of NOM, the key changes were:

- the introduction of a '12/16 month rule' for determining whether a person is a usual resident of Australia, where the 12 months do not have to be continuous and are measured over a 16 month reference period; and
- the shift from a movements-based approach to a traveller-based approach for estimating NOM. This is done through assembling administrative data using a unique personal identifier to create individual traveller histories.

For information on the reason for changing the method see paragraphs 21–27 of the Explanatory Notes. For detailed information on the methodology see the *Information Paper: Improved Methods for Estimating Net Overseas Migration, Australia 2006* (cat. no. 3107.0.55.003) and the *Information Paper: Statistical Implications of Improved Methods for Estimating Net Overseas Migration, Australia, 2007* (cat. no. 3107.0.55.005) or Chapter 6, Estimating Net Overseas Migration in *Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2009* (cat. no. 3228.0.55.001).

Final NOM

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 full 16 months following a reference period. Currently, the final NOM estimates based on the '12/16 month rule' are considered to be of high quality.

Processing the final estimation of NOM provides, for each traveller in the reference quarter, a 'migration adjustment' based on their initial category of travel.

The initial category of travel has a key role in making preliminary estimates of NOM. It is determined by a number of dimensions:

- direction of travel — either an arrival or departure;

Final NOM continued

- residence status — either a visitor or Australian resident (identified by the traveller themselves on the passenger card); and
- duration of stay in Australia (or overseas) which can be either:
 - permanent traveller;
 - long-term traveller — has an initial duration of stay (or absence) of one year or more; or
 - short-term traveller — has an initial duration of stay (or absence) of less than one year.

For a visitor arriving and resident departing, it is their intended duration of stay that is recorded, whereas for a visitor departing and resident returning it is their measured duration of stay since the previous Australian border crossing that is recorded.

The 'initial category of travel' is also determined at the time of the movement. However, all travellers are assigned to one, and only one, category of travel during a reference quarter. Further information and a list of the ten categories of travel are detailed in the Glossary.

The migration adjustment, created during final NOM processing, is the difference between the traveller's true behaviour (actual duration of stay and its effect on ERP status) as recorded in final NOM and what was deduced from their initial category of travel. In other words, an adjustment is made to correct if they should have initially been counted in or out of the population for the reference quarter. The 'migration adjustment' is not required to determine final NOM estimates, but is essential for estimating future preliminary NOM.

Preliminary NOM

Preliminary estimates of NOM are required within six months after the end of the reference quarter for the production of quarterly ERP of Australia and each of the states and territories. At that time, complete traveller histories for the 16 months following a reference quarter are not available.

To estimate preliminary NOM, the ABS developed a propensity model that uses the migration adjustments derived from final NOM during an earlier period. The migration adjustments are applied to travellers who are grouped according to their 'initial category of travel', age, country of citizenship and state or territory of usual/intended residence. The adjustment accounts for differences between a traveller's intended duration of stay and their actual duration of stay. The method is applied to each quarter and the preliminary estimate of annual NOM is the sum of the preliminary estimates for each quarter.

Preliminary NOM estimation is therefore modelled on patterns of traveller behaviours observed in final NOM during an earlier period. From September 2006 to June 2008 the migration adjustments used to estimate preliminary NOM were calculated from final NOM from the corresponding quarter two years earlier.

IMPROVEMENTS TO
PRELIMINARY NOM
ESTIMATION

The legislative changes in the *Federal Financial Relations Act 2009* provided the opportunity for the ABS to publish ERP, for 31 December each year, at a later date. After consultation with major stakeholders in 2009, the ABS now provides quarterly ERP at the end of each scheduled month of release (March, June, September and December). A new schedule is provided in Table 4.3 later in this chapter.

IMPROVEMENTS TO
PRELIMINARY NOM
ESTIMATION *continued*

*Changing from a 'two year
ago' to a 'one year ago'
propensity model*

This change has also made possible the use of one additional quarter of travellers movement data allowing the methodology used for preliminary NOM estimation to be improved. Using the additional one quarter of movement data (the quarter after the reference period) has enabled two key changes to the methodology:

- changing from a 'two year ago' to a 'one year ago' propensity model; and
- reducing the pool of travellers using the propensity model.

Under the 12/16 rule, it can take up to 16 months after the reference quarter to determine an individual traveller's ERP status of being counted in or out of Australia's population. Since full movement histories are not available within the required time frame, preliminary NOM estimates are modelled using the migration adjustments from final NOM for an earlier period. Previously, adjustments were made based on the corresponding quarter two years earlier. The final NOM from two years earlier was used as the method needed to allow a full 16 months of data to accumulate before the final NOM could enable production of exact migration adjustments for a corresponding quarter. With the previous release schedule for ERP (prior to 2010), only 12 months of movement data were available. This was insufficient to produce exact migration adjustments for the corresponding quarter one year earlier. To be able to produce an 'exact one year ago' model would require a full 16 months of data to accumulate to be able to calculate final NOM estimates and the migration adjustments necessary for use in the propensity model. Currently it would require an additional four months of movement data post reference period.

However, by using an additional three months (one quarter) of movement data post reference period, 15 months of movement records become available for the propensity model. Analysis showed that 15 months of movement data provide enough information to produce migration adjustments for the corresponding quarter one year earlier. The analysis revealed that using the full 16 months of movement records in an 'exact one year ago' propensity model only very marginally improved results (i.e. less than 1%) when compared to using 15 months of movement data in an 'approximate one year ago' model.

The 'approximate one year ago' propensity model uses a combination of 'one year ago' and 'two year ago' propensities. First, the 15 months of movement data available are used to resolve the ERP status of as many travellers as possible (almost all travellers) for the corresponding quarter one year earlier. Second, the model uses this group of travellers to calculate 'one year ago' propensities that are then used for the majority of travellers with similar characteristics in the current reference quarter. Each quarter there is a small number of travellers whose ERP status remains indeterminate after processing the 'one year ago' propensities. For this small group, a 'two year ago' propensity is calculated and then applied to travellers with similar characteristics in the current reference quarter.

For example, if processing September quarter 2009 (July, August and September 2009), using one additional quarter of movement data (October, November and December 2009) means the ERP status can be resolved for almost all travellers in the corresponding quarter one year earlier (September quarter 2008) using the 12/16 rule. Therefore, final NOM and migration adjustments necessary for the propensity model can be calculated for almost all of these travellers, including all travellers in the first two months in the quarter (e.g. July and August 2008). July 2008 has 16 months of movement records

Changing from a 'two year ago' to a 'one year ago' propensity model continued

available at November 2009, August 2008 has 16 months of movement records available at December 2009, whereas September 2008 only has 15 months of movement records available at December 2009. However, the ERP status of many travellers in the last month (e.g. September 2008) can also be resolved with only 15 months of movement records available (e.g. as at December 2009). For example, any overseas traveller who has already recorded a duration of stay in Australia for more than 12 months is considered in Australia's population as it would no longer be possible for them to be counted out of the population. Conversely, any overseas traveller who has recorded a duration of stay away from Australia for more than four months is considered out of Australia's population as it would no longer be possible for them to be counted in the population. For those travellers whose ERP status is still unresolved, a 'two year ago' propensity (e.g. from September 2007) is calculated and then used.

With the need to provide timely preliminary NOM estimates, the ABS now uses the 'approximate one year ago' model as there is very little improvement made (i.e. less than 1%) by waiting one additional month to complete the full 16 months to produce exact migration adjustments for the corresponding quarter one year earlier.

Reducing the pool of travellers using the propensity model

Many travellers' ERP status can be determined in a much shorter time frame than the full 16 months. With the availability of this additional one quarter of movement data and applying the conditions of the 12 out of 16 month rule, many of the travellers' ERP statuses can be resolved. For example, if processing the September quarter (July, August and September) using one additional quarter of movement data (October, November and December), then for the months of July and August a minimum of four months extra movement data have become available. July has four extra months of movement data by the end of November; and August has four extra months of data available by the end of December. In essence, any overseas traveller who has reached a recorded duration of stay out of Australia of four months or more is then considered out of Australia's population as it would no longer be possible for them to be in Australia for more than 12 out of 16 months. This reduces by around half, the number of travellers for which the propensity model needs to be applied to when estimating preliminary NOM.

Results of improvements to preliminary NOM estimation

For the purposes of this chapter, the 'one year ago' model refers to the 'approximate one year ago' propensity model that has been applied to a reduced pool of travellers.

As would be expected, the use of a 'one year ago' model is likely to be more closely aligned with capturing current changes in traveller behaviour than the 'two year ago' model. Investigations undertaken by the ABS have shown that substantial improvements are made in the estimation of preliminary NOM by the use of a 'one year ago' model compared with a 'two year ago' model.

For 2006–07, the difference between the original preliminary NOM estimation based on the 'two years ago' model and final NOM was 55,500 persons. In contrast, the difference between the new preliminary NOM estimation based on the 'one year ago' model and final NOM was 24,900 persons, a 55% improvement on the 'two year ago' model.

Results of improvements to preliminary NOM estimation continued

A similar improvement was also recorded for 2007–08, with a difference between the original preliminary NOM estimation based on 'two years ago' model and final NOM of 63,600 persons. The difference between the new preliminary NOM estimation based on the 'one year ago' model and final NOM was 32,500 persons, a 49% improvement on the 'two year ago' model.

Although there is fluctuation from quarter to quarter, a substantial improvement was made for each quarter between 2006–08 as is seen in Table 4.1.

4.1 COMPARISON BETWEEN PRELIMINARY NOM MODELS, 'two year ago' model & 'one year ago' (with reduced pool of travellers) model—Australia—2006–08

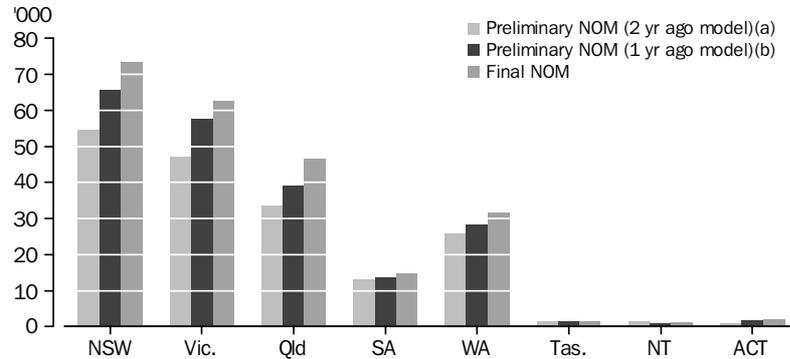
Ref Qtr	NOM Prelim 2(a)	NOM Prelim 1(b)	NOM Final(c)	Diff btw Prelim 2 & Final		Diff btw Prelim 1 & Final		Improvement made using Prelim 1(e)
	no.	no.	no.	no.	% (d)	no.	% (d)	%
Qtr3 2006	45 619	50 821	56 940	11 321	20	6 119	11	46
Qtr4 2006	38 358	44 701	50 618	12 260	24	5 917	12	52
Qtr1 2007	56 963	68 869	76 071	19 108	25	7 202	9	62
Qtr2 2007	36 430	43 498	49 195	12 765	26	5 697	12	55
2006–07	177 370	207 889	232 824	55 454	24	24 935	11	55
Qtr3 2007	47 143	58 639	62 810	15 667	25	4 171	7	73
Qtr4 2007	43 748	47 722	55 991	12 243	22	8 269	15	32
Qtr1 2008	71 787	80 835	93 462	21 675	23	12 627	14	42
Qtr2 2008	51 037	57 610	65 069	14 032	22	7 459	11	47
2007–08	213 715	244 806	277 332	63 617	23	32 526	12	49

- (a) NOM Prelim 2 is based on a propensity model using migration adjustments for the corresponding quarter two years earlier.
- (b) NOM Prelim 1 is based on a propensity model using migration adjustments for the corresponding quarter one year earlier with a reduced pool of travellers.
- (c) Final NOM estimates have been used in compiling Australia's official estimated resident population (ERP) for 2006–07 and 2007–08.
- (d) As a percentage of final NOM for the corresponding reference period.
- (e) Improvements made as a percentage when the preliminary estimate using the '1 year ago' model (with a reduced pool of travellers) is compared to the '2 year ago' model.

Comparing estimates produced by the two models at the state and territory level showed substantial improvements for the larger states when using the 'one year ago' model (see Figure 4.2). For the smaller states and territories, improvements were seen annually but some fluctuations were experienced on a quarterly basis. Much of this fluctuation can be the effect of very small numbers being calculated for the smaller states and territories. For example, Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory together represented less than 2% of Australia's total preliminary NOM estimate in 2006–07.

Results of improvements to preliminary NOM estimation *continued*

4.2 COMPARISON OF NOM, Preliminary models and final—State and territory—2006–07



(a) Preliminary NOM using all migration adjustments for the corresponding quarter 2 years earlier.
 (b) Preliminary NOM using the majority of migration adjustments for the corresponding quarter 1 year earlier and applied to a reduced pool of travellers.

CHANGES TO PRELIMINARY AND REVISION TIMETABLES

Following the legislative changes made in 2009 and consultation with major stakeholders, the ABS now publishes quarterly ERP at the end of each scheduled month of release. This includes the quarterly release of preliminary estimates for the three components of population change: net overseas migration (NOM), net interstate migration (NIM), and natural increase (births minus deaths).

Release dates have been changed to allow for the use of additional traveller movement data in the calculation of improved preliminary NOM estimates.

Table 4.3 shows the scheduled release dates for ERP and the components of population change to be published quarterly in *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0).

4.3 NEW SCHEDULED RELEASE DATES FOR AUSTRALIAN DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS (CAT. NO. 3101.0)

Issue (Quarter)	Release Date
Mar 2010	29 Sep 2010
Jun 2010	21 Dec 2010
Sep 2010	29 Mar 2011
Dec 2010	23 Jun 2011
Mar 2011	29 Sep 2011
Jun 2011	19 Dec 2011
Sep 2011	29 Mar 2012

Six-monthly revision cycle for NOM

The quarterly fluctuations experienced in Australia's population growth and thereby ERP are currently driven by NOM. To help reduce the impact of possible large revisions to population estimates from only revising NOM estimates once a year, as was the previous practice, the ABS has consulted with major stakeholders and has changed the current annual revision cycle for publishing final NOM to a six-monthly revision cycle. Table 4.4 shows the schedule of release for NOM estimates for the September quarter 2008 to June quarter 2012.

*Six-monthly revision cycle
for NOM continued*

With the implementation of the new six-monthly revision cycle for NOM it also means the annual revision for natural increase can be released six months earlier (reverting to the previous practice) to be published in the March quarter issue released in September each year of *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0) (see Table 4.4).

4.4 NEW RELEASE SCHEDULE, Net overseas migration and natural increase

<i>Reference quarter</i>	<i>Preliminary natural increase</i>	<i>Preliminary NOM</i>	<i>Revised natural increase(a)</i>	<i>Final NOM(b)</i>
	<i>Month of release</i>	<i>Month of release</i>	<i>Month of release</i>	<i>Month of release</i>
2008				
September	Mar 2009	Mar 2009	Sep 2010	Sep 2010
December	Jun 2009	Jun 2009	Sep 2010	Sep 2010
2009				
March	Sep 2009	Sep 2009	Sep 2010	Mar 2011
June	Dec 2009	Dec 2009	Sep 2010	Mar 2011
September	Mar 2010	Mar 2010	Sep 2011	Sep 2011
December	Jun 2010	Jun 2010	Sep 2011	Sep 2011
2010				
March	Sep 2010	Sep 2010	Sep 2011	Mar 2012
June	Dec 2010	Dec 2010	Sep 2011	Mar 2012
September	Mar 2011	Mar 2011	Sep 2012	Sep 2012
December	Jun 2011	Jun 2011	Sep 2012	Sep 2012
2011				
March	Sep 2011	Sep 2011	Sep 2012	Mar 2013
June	Dec 2011	Dec 2011	Sep 2012	Mar 2013
September	Mar 2012	Mar 2012	Sep 2013	Sep 2013
December	Jun 2012	Jun 2012	Sep 2013	Sep 2013
2012				
March	Sep 2012	Sep 2012	Sep 2013	Mar 2014
June	Dec 2012	Dec 2012	Sep 2013	Mar 2014

- (a) The annual revision cycle for natural increase used for 2006–07 and 2007–08 had revised estimates released in the month of March, 21 months after the reference year. The new annual revision cycle for natural increase is scheduled to start from September 2010 and then each September onwards. This will be 15 months after the reference year and will be six months earlier than the previous schedule.
- (b) The annual revision cycle for NOM used for 2006–07 and 2007–08 had revised estimates released in the month of March, 21 months after the reference year. A new six-monthly revision cycle is scheduled for NOM. The new quarter for release will start from September 2010 and then every six months onwards. This means the September and December quarters and therefore calendar year estimates of final NOM, will be available six months earlier than the previous schedule.

Implementation date

The improved methods for estimating preliminary NOM based on the 'one year ago' propensity model were published for the first time in ABS population estimates on 25 March 2010 in *Australian Demographic Statistics, September Quarter 2009* (cat. no. 3101.0).

The improved preliminary NOM methods were applied to estimates from September quarter 2008 onwards. For September quarter 2008 to June quarter 2009, the already published preliminary NOM estimates based on the previous methods using a 'two year ago' propensity model were replaced with the improved preliminary NOM estimates.

*Implementation date
continued*

September quarter 2009 preliminary NOM estimates were based on the improved methods and published for the first time.

As part of the previous scheduled annual revision cycle, the September 2009 issue of *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0) released on the 25 March 2010 also provided revised estimates for the 2007–08 financial year for births, deaths, natural increase, NOM and ERP.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The improvements outlined in this chapter are designed to capture some immediate gains to NOM estimation. However, additional investigations are being undertaken to make further gains and build upon the improvements identified in this chapter.

The ABS continues to investigate ways to improve the quality of the input data (i.e. overseas arrivals and departures data) used in the calculation of preliminary NOM. By using additional data provided by the Australian Government's Department of Immigration and Citizenship, improvements may be made to the quality of the 'initial category of travel' variable. It is on the 'initial category of travel' that the propensity model currently bases its migration adjustments to help estimate preliminary NOM. If successful, the ABS plans to implement these changes to further improve preliminary NOM estimation and publish in a future edition of *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0).

With a longer time series of final NOM estimates now available, the ABS is also undertaking an examination to improve the cross-classified groupings of travellers that are used by the propensity model. Currently, groupings are made by the following variables: initial category of travel, age, country of citizenship and state or territory of usual/intended residence. The effectiveness of additional variables such as visa class will be examined and other areas of research such as the use of time series analysis may be undertaken. However, their use for improving preliminary NOM estimation will depend on the operational feasibility for the ABS to implement.

Caution

International migration is a volatile phenomenon caused by a wide range of demographic, social, economic and political determinants and consequences. With the improvements being implemented to estimate preliminary NOM, combined with the impact of the GFC and changes being observed in recent traveller behaviour, the ABS advises users to take care when making future assumptions based on the large upward revisions recently experienced between preliminary and final NOM estimates.

INTRODUCTION

Throughout history, migration has shaped the ethnic and cultural diversity of Australia's resident population. Every year more people immigrate to, than emigrate from, Australia, thereby adding to the ever changing mosaic of Australia's diverse population.

At 30 June 2009, of the estimated resident population (ERP) of Australia (22.0 million people) one quarter were born overseas (5.8 million people). This continues the historical trend of a high proportion of overseas-born among Australia's population. People born in the United Kingdom were the largest group of overseas-born Australian residents (1.2 million persons at 30 June 2009), followed by those born in New Zealand (529,200), China (351,000), India (308,500) and Italy (219,300).

HISTORY OF OVERSEAS-BORN IN AUSTRALIA

High levels of immigration to Australia in the years before 1891 resulted in 32% of the population being enumerated in the 1891 census as overseas-born. By 1901, this proportion had fallen to 23%, just below the current level (Figure 5.1). The proportion fell to a low of 10% in 1947, and then rose rapidly as a result of high levels of post-war migration. From the beginning of the 1970s until the late 1980s, the proportion of the population born overseas remained steady at about 20%, and following an increase in immigration levels at the end of the 1980s, rose to 23% in 1990. Further arrivals of migrants in the 1990s contributed to the increase in the overseas-born population, with their proportion of the overall resident population rising to 27% by 30 June 2009.

5.1 AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION BORN OVERSEAS (a) (b)



(a) Census years only until 1981. Post 1981 based on estimated resident population at 30 June.
 (b) Estimates for 2008-09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9-10 of the Explanatory Notes.

REGIONS OF BIRTH

The makeup of Australia's overseas-born population has been greatly affected by successive waves of migration to Australia since the Second World War. At first, most of these immigrants were those born in countries in North-West Europe, including the United Kingdom and Germany. These were followed by large numbers of migrants born in Southern and Eastern Europe, including Italy, Greece and Yugoslavia. In the 1970s,

REGIONS OF BIRTH

continued

many migrants arrived in Australia from South–East Asia, including Vietnam, the Philippines and Cambodia.

The proportion of immigrants born in North–West Europe has in recent years been in decline, falling from 7.9% in 1999 to 7.2% in 2009 as seen in Table 5.2. The share of Southern and Eastern Europe migrants is also in decline from 4.6% in 1999 to 3.8% in 2009. Over the past decade migrants from all other global regions increased within Australia's population indicating that Australia is becoming increasingly diverse.

During the 10 years ended 30 June 2009, there was some change in the ranking of regions of birth in terms of each region's proportion of Australia's population. Since 1999, Southern and Central Asia has moved from 7th to 6th position by 2009 swapping with North Africa and the Middle East. Similarly, Sub-Saharan Africa has moved from 9th to 8th position by 2009 placing the Americas in 9th position.

5.2 REGIONS OF BIRTH, Proportion of Australia's population—Selected years at 30 June

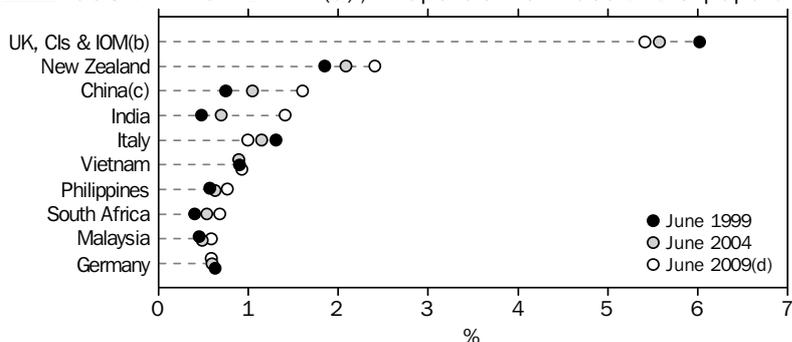
	1999	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009(a)
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Australia	76.9	76.2	75.8	75.4	74.9	74.2	73.5
Oceania and Antarctica (excl. Aust.)	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	3.0
North-West Europe	7.9	7.4	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.3	7.2
Southern and Eastern Europe	4.6	4.3	4.2	4.1	4.0	3.9	3.8
North Africa and the Middle East	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.5
South-East Asia	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.1	3.2	3.3	3.4
North-East Asia	1.6	2.0	2.1	2.3	2.4	2.6	2.8
Southern and Central Asia	0.9	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.8	2.1	2.3
Americas	0.9	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1
Sub-Saharan Africa	0.7	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3

(a) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

MAIN COUNTRIES OF BIRTH

At 30 June 2009, persons born in the United Kingdom continued to be the largest group of overseas-born residents, accounting for 5.4% of Australia's total population. Persons born in New Zealand accounted for 2.4% of Australia's total population, followed by persons born in China (1.6%), India (1.4%) and Italy (1.0%).

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



(a) Top 10 countries of birth (excluding Australia) at 30 June 2009.

(b) United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

(c) Excludes SARs and Taiwan.

(d) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

MAIN COUNTRIES OF
BIRTH *continued*

The proportion of the Australian population who had been born in the United Kingdom experienced a steady decline between 1999 and 2009 (6.0% in 1999 and 5.4% in 2009). This was also apparent for persons born in Italy (1.3% and 1.0%). Conversely, the proportions steadily increased for people born in New Zealand (from 1.9% to 2.4%), China (from 0.8% to 1.6%) and India (from 0.5% to 1.4%).

Between 1999 and 2009, persons born in Nepal had the highest rate of increase in Australia's population (of the top 50 countries of birth) with an average annual growth rate of 28.5%. However, this growth began from a small base of 2,000 persons at 30 June 1999. The second fastest increase over this period was in the number of persons born in Sudan (20.9% per year on average), followed by those from Bangladesh (13.4%), India (13.0%) and Zimbabwe (10.7%). Of the top 50 countries of birth, the number of persons born in Hungary decreased the most with an average annual decrease of 1.3%, closely followed by both Poland and Italy with an average annual decrease of 1.2% each. The next largest decreases were of persons born in Malta (0.7%) and Greece (0.6%).

Nepal recorded the greatest growth (44.3%) of the top 50 birthplaces between 2008 and 2009. High levels of growth were also recorded for migrants born in Japan (28.1%), the Republic of South Korea (19.8%), Taiwan (17.2%) and India (16.6%). Not surprisingly, the countries of birth that recorded the largest decrease in growth were Hungary (1.3%), Malta (1.2%), Greece (1.2%) and Poland (1.0%) which are all countries of origin for post-war migration.

AUSTRALIA-BORN AND
OVERSEAS-BORN

During the 10 years to June 2009, the number of Australia-born residents increased at an average rate of 1.0% per year, while the number of overseas-born residents increased at 2.9% per year. The age and sex structures of the two groups are distinctive, as reflected by the population pyramids, Figures 5.4 and 5.5.

*Age and sex of total
population*

The age structures of people born in Australia and people born overseas are markedly different. The population pyramid in Figure 5.4 contains the age and sex structure of Australia's total population and includes the proportions of Australia-born and overseas-born.

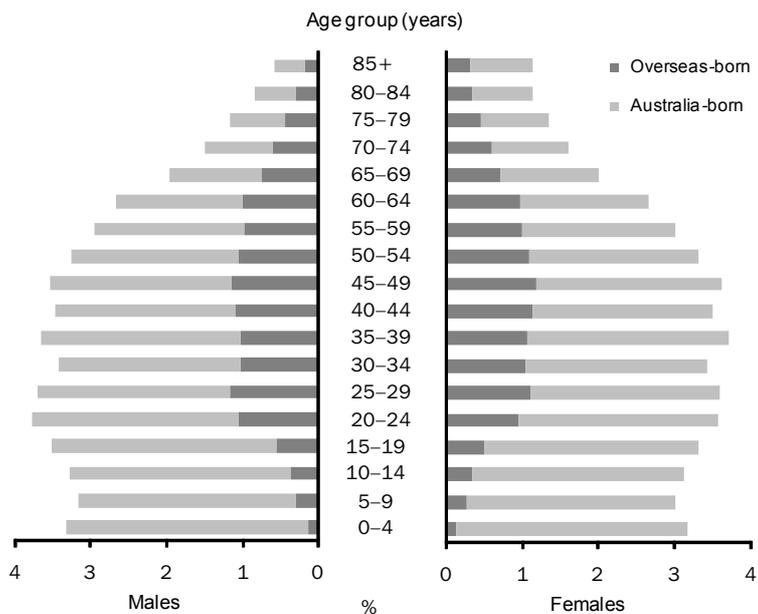
As shown in Figure 5.4, persons born in Australia dominate the population in the younger age groups, while overseas-born persons increase, relative to the Australia-born population, as the age groups become older. The main reason why there are fewer overseas-born in the younger age groups is that most people are far less likely to migrate with young families.

At 30 June 2009, the 25–29, 40–44 and 45–49 years age groups had the highest proportion of overseas-born persons, as a percentage of Australia's total population, for both males and females. In contrast, the largest age group for the Australia-born population was the 0–4 years age group, for both males and females. The older age groups (80–84 years, 85 years and older) had the lowest proportion of Australia-born persons.

Age and sex of total population continued

Between 2008 and 2009, the Australia-born proportion of the total population declined slightly within the age groups spanning from 5–9 years through to 50–54 years. This reduction is a combined effect of declining fertility rates from the mid to late 1970s and the optimum age for long-term overseas travel. Persons aged in their 20s to 30s are considered to be in their optimum age for making long-term overseas travel.

5.4 POPULATION STRUCTURES OF AUSTRALIA (a), Country of birth, age and sex—30 June 2009 (b)



(a) Australia-born and overseas-born persons as a proportion of Australia's total population.
 (b) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

Age and sex structures of people born in Australia and overseas

The age and sex structures of the Australia-born and the overseas-born show two very different populations. The following two population pyramids combined in Figure 5.5 show each group's age and sex structure as a proportion of their respective populations.

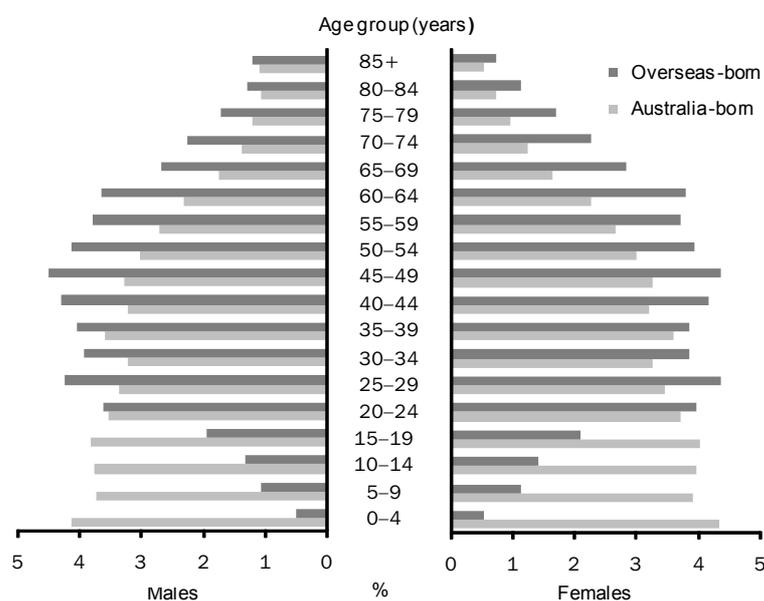
The age groups with the highest proportions of the male overseas-born population were 25–29 years, 40–44 years and 45–49 years, with 4.4%, 4.2% and 4.4% respectively of the total overseas-born population. The pattern was similar for females born overseas with age groups 25–29 years, 40–44 years and 45–49 years as the largest proportions of the population, accounting for 4.3%, 4.3% and 4.5% respectively of the overseas-born population.

The lowest proportions of male overseas-born were those aged 0–4 years (0.5%), 5–9 years (1.1%) and those aged 85 years and over (0.7%). For females, the same age groups represented the lowest proportions within the overseas-born population (0.5%, 1.1% and 1.2% respectively).

For Australia-born persons, the largest proportions for males were those aged 0–4 years (4.4%), 5–9 years (3.9%), 10–14 years and 15–19 years (4.0% each). For females, the largest proportions were for the same age groups (4.1%, 3.7%, 3.8% and 3.8% respectively). The lowest proportions were those aged 80–84 years (0.7% for males, 1.1% for females) and 85 years and over (0.5% for males, 1.1% for females).

Age and sex structures of people born in Australia and overseas continued

5.5 POPULATION STRUCTURES OF AUSTRALIA-BORN AND OVERSEAS-BORN (a), Age and sex—30 June 2009 (b)



(a) Age and sex of Australia-born persons as a proportion of all Australia-born persons. Age and sex of overseas-born persons as a proportion of all overseas-born persons.

(b) Estimates for 2008-09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9-10 of the Explanatory Notes.

Median age of persons born overseas

The median age of all Australian residents born overseas at 30 June 2009 was 44.8 years, compared to 33.3 years for those born in Australia as shown in Table 5.6. Migrants from certain source countries who were part of the major post-second world war migration streams in the late 1940s and the 1950s were now generally from older age groups. Of the top 50 countries of birth, Italy had the oldest median age at 67.0 years, followed by Greece (65.6), Hungary (65.4) and Austria (62.6).

Of the top 50 countries of birth, the largest groups of overseas-born residents with lower median ages include New Zealand (38.9 years), China (34.6 years), and India (30.2 years). The youngest median ages were for persons born in Nepal (25.2 years), Sudan (25.9), the Republic of South Korea (28.4) and Afghanistan (28.7).

A comparison on the median age for each country by sex as seen in Table 5.6, reveals that women had a much older median age than men for the Philippines (42.2 and 35.3 years respectively), Thailand (32.1 and 26.6 years respectively) and Hong Kong (37.9 and 33.8 years respectively).

Sex ratio

At 30 June 2009, the sex ratio (males per 100 females) of the overseas-born population was the same as the Australia-born population (99 males per 100 females) as seen in Table 5.6. However, the sex ratio varied for different countries of birth, with Nepal (182 males per 100 females), Bangladesh (151), Pakistan (151) and India (144) having the highest ratios of males to females. The lowest sex ratios were recorded for persons born in Thailand (54 males per 100 females), Japan (57) and the Philippines (60).

5.6 AUSTRALIA'S TOP 50 COUNTRIES OF BIRTH(a), Median age, sex ratio and estimated resident population—30 June 2009(b)

<i>Selected Countries of birth</i>	MEDIAN AGE			Sex Ratio(c)	ERP
	Persons	Males	Females		
Nepal	25.2	25.3	25.0	181.6	24 657
Sudan	25.9	25.8	26.1	117.1	25 662
Korea, Republic of (South)	28.4	27.7	29.2	91.3	94 698
Afghanistan	28.7	28.4	29.1	114.9	24 746
Thailand	29.7	26.6	32.1	53.8	48 661
India	30.2	29.2	31.8	143.6	308 542
Taiwan	30.2	29.6	30.7	74.8	36 527
Pakistan	30.6	30.6	30.7	151.0	27 888
Bangladesh	30.7	30.9	30.3	151.2	25 453
Japan	31.3	29.4	32.1	56.8	51 014
Indonesia	32.1	31.1	32.9	80.0	69 689
Singapore	34.3	33.5	35.0	83.4	56 479
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan)	34.6	33.8	35.2	84.7	350 979
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	35.8	33.8	37.9	94.0	88 527
Iraq	35.8	37.1	34.4	109.1	45 674
Zimbabwe	36.4	36.9	35.9	100.9	30 327
Malaysia	37.1	35.6	38.4	86.5	129 575
United States of America	37.4	38.3	36.4	103.1	81 134
Canada	37.9	38.4	37.4	90.9	43 036
South Africa	38.0	37.8	38.3	99.8	149 024
Iran	38.5	38.5	38.5	113.6	31 564
New Zealand	38.9	38.8	39.0	105.4	529 178
Papua New Guinea	38.9	38.4	39.3	85.0	30 720
France	39.5	38.3	40.8	109.4	29 269
Philippines	39.5	35.3	42.2	59.6	168 501
Fiji	40.2	40.1	40.3	89.1	61 437
Russian Federation	41.3	39.5	42.4	64.0	21 654
Cambodia	41.4	41.7	41.0	86.7	30 415
Sri Lanka	41.4	40.7	42.0	106.4	87 411
Vietnam	41.8	42.5	41.1	89.1	203 852
Turkey	44.0	44.2	43.8	107.3	39 472
Ireland	45.6	44.3	47.0	115.6	70 008
Mauritius	45.6	44.6	46.6	100.7	26 344
Bosnia and Herzegovina	46.2	46.3	46.1	101.2	37 643
Chile	46.2	45.4	47.0	94.2	28 539
Lebanon	46.4	46.3	46.4	111.5	89 860
Serbia (includes Kosovo)	53.1	53.3	52.8	102.1	42 086
UK, CI & IOM	53.3	52.7	53.9	103.4	1 188 247
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM)	53.8	54.4	53.2	103.7	49 736
Egypt	55.3	54.2	56.4	112.1	40 719
Poland	56.6	56.2	57.0	81.0	59 329
Cyprus	58.6	58.7	58.5	98.7	21 090
Croatia	58.8	59.5	58.0	104.5	69 065
Germany	60.6	60.6	60.7	92.7	128 834
Malta	62.3	62.3	62.3	104.9	49 533
Netherlands	62.3	62.3	62.4	105.3	89 905
Austria	62.6	63.0	62.2	113.1	20 727
Hungary	65.4	66.6	64.2	103.2	22 946
Greece	65.6	65.8	65.5	97.8	128 610
Italy	67.0	66.3	67.7	107.3	219 336
Total Overseas Born	44.8	44.5	45.2	99.1	5 816 407
Australia	33.3	32.3	34.3	99.2	16 138 849
Total	36.8	36.0	37.6	99.2	21 955 256

(a) Top 50 countries of birth (excluding Australia). Sorted by median age (persons) lowest to highest.

(b) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

(c) Males per 100 females.

MAJOR AGE GROUPS AND
THE OVERSEAS-BORN

At 30 June 2009, as shown in Table 5.7, the majority (76%) of all overseas-born Australian residents were of working age (15–64 years). In comparison, the proportion of overseas-born residents aged 65 years and older and 0–14 years was 18% and 6% respectively.

The overseas-born population from Asia, America and Africa had a proportionally larger young (aged 0–14 years) and working age population compared to those from Europe. Among the regions, Sub-Saharan Africa had the highest proportion aged 0–14 years (13%), followed by Oceania and Antarctica (excl. Aust.) (10%), the Americas (9%), North Africa and the Middle East and Southern and Central Asia (8% each) and South-East Asia (6%). The overseas-born population of Southern and Eastern Europe had the highest proportion (41%) in the resident population who were aged 65 years and over, followed by North-West Europe (28%).

5.7 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, Country of birth and age group—30 June 2009(a)

	POPULATION			PROPORTION		
	0–14	15–64	65 and over	0–14	15–64	65 and over
<i>Region of birth</i>	no.	no.	no.	%	%	%
Oceania and Antarctica (excl. Aust.)	64 611	550 409	49 202	9.7	82.9	7.4
North-West Europe	71 772	1 075 493	437 811	4.5	67.9	27.6
Southern and Eastern Europe	10 241	486 168	339 142	1.2	58.2	40.6
North Africa and Middle East	26 286	265 073	39 081	8.0	80.2	11.8
South-East Asia	46 130	654 164	51 879	6.1	87.0	6.9
North-East Asia	31 517	548 029	45 549	5.0	87.7	7.3
Southern and Central Asia	37 759	433 398	33 064	7.5	86.0	6.6
Americas	20 918	199 963	20 186	8.7	82.9	8.4
Sub-Saharan Africa	35 618	222 410	20 534	12.8	79.8	7.4
Total overseas-born	344 852	4 435 107	1 036 448	5.9	76.3	17.8
Total Australia-born	3 844 362	10 416 033	1 878 454	23.8	64.5	11.6
Total	4 189 214	14 851 140	2 914 902	19.1	67.6	13.3

(a) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

At 30 June 2009, of the top 50 countries of birth, Nepal-born, Taiwan-born and Bangladesh-born residents had the highest proportion (96%, 92% and 92% respectively) of all overseas-born residents aged 15–64 years. Following closely behind were those persons born in Hong Kong and Vietnam (90% each). The top five countries of birth with the highest proportion of their populations aged 65 years and older were: Italy (55%); Greece (52%); Hungary (51%); Austria (42%); and the Netherlands (41%). Among the overseas-born residents, Sudan-born had the highest proportion (21%) of residents aged 0–14 years, followed by the United States of America (16%), Afghanistan (14%), South Africa and Singapore (13% each), and Pakistan and Zimbabwe (12% each).

STATE AND TERRITORY
COMPOSITION BY
COUNTRY OF BIRTH

Australia's ERP by country of birth at the state and territory level is only available for census years. Table 5.8 shows the composition by country of birth for each state and territory, for the top ten countries ranked at the national level, for 30 June 2006.

STATE AND TERRITORY
COMPOSITION BY
COUNTRY OF BIRTH
continued

Western Australia recorded the highest proportion of overseas-born residents (30%) in their population. Tasmania (12%) and the Northern Territory (16%) had the lowest proportion of overseas-born residents, well below the Australian level of 25% recorded in 2006.

In 2006, Western Australia had the highest proportion of people born in the United Kingdom (11%), almost double the Australian proportion of 6%. The highest proportion of New Zealand-born residents was in Queensland (4%).

In Victoria, there were higher proportions of residents born in Italy (2%) and Greece, Vietnam and India (1% each) than any other state or territory. New South Wales had the highest proportion of people born in China (2%), while the Northern Territory had the highest proportion of people born in the Philippines (1%). Residents born in Germany and the Netherlands were fairly evenly spread across all states and territories.

5.8 ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION, State and territory composition(a)—Selected countries of birth—30 June 2006

	STATE OR TERRITORY OF USUAL RESIDENCE								
	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.(b)
<i>Country of birth</i>	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Australia	73.5	73.7	80.3	78.1	70.1	88.5	84.4	76.4	75.4
Overseas-born									
UK, CI & IOM(c)	4.3	4.4	5.2	8.2	11.3	5.0	3.5	5.0	5.5
New Zealand	1.8	1.4	4.2	0.8	2.7	1.0	1.9	1.3	2.2
Italy	0.9	1.8	0.4	1.6	1.2	0.2	0.3	0.7	1.1
Vietnam	1.1	1.3	0.4	0.8	0.6	—	0.3	0.8	0.9
China(d)	2.1	1.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.2	1.3	1.3
Greece	0.6	1.3	0.1	0.8	0.2	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.6
Germany	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.9	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.8	0.6
Philippines	1.0	0.6	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.2	1.1	0.6	0.7
India	1.0	1.2	0.3	0.5	0.9	0.2	0.4	1.0	0.9
Netherlands	0.3	0.5	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.3	0.4	0.4
Total overseas-born	26.5	26.3	19.7	21.9	29.9	11.5	15.6	23.6	24.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

(a) Country of birth is available at the state and territory level in census years only.

(b) Includes Other Territories. See paragraphs 63–64 of the Explanatory Notes.

(c) United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.

(d) Excludes SARs and Taiwan.

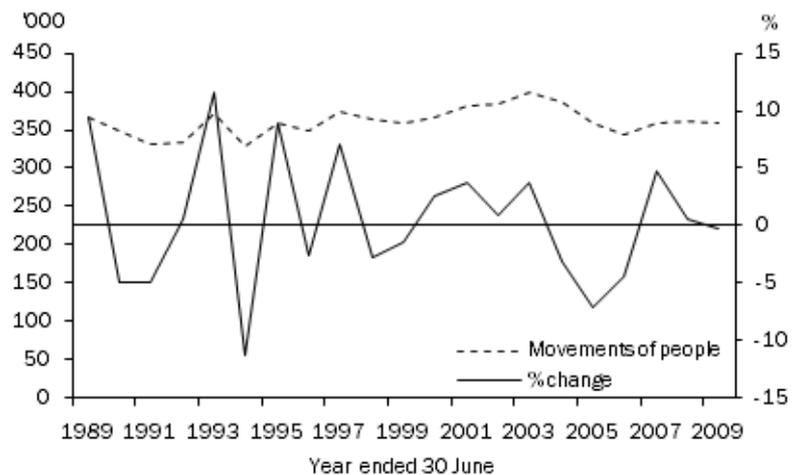
INTRODUCTION

Interstate migration is the movement of people from one state or territory of usual residence to another state or territory of usual residence. It is an important determinant of the population growth and distribution across Australia. This chapter examines interstate migration estimates as used in calculating the estimated resident population (ERP) of Australia's states and territories.

There is no direct measure of interstate migration within Australia on a quarterly basis, unlike that of natural increase (births minus deaths) and net overseas migration (NOM — NOM arrivals minus NOM departures). Medicare Australia data, which supplies change of address information, is the most effective source currently available from a range of potential sources of administrative data (see paragraph 58 of the Explanatory Notes). Therefore, estimates of interstate migration are modelled using Medicare change of address data. The model is reviewed and updated every five years using data from the latest Census of Population and Housing. For more information, see *Information Paper: Review of Interstate Migration Method, March 2009* (cat. no. 3106.0.55.001).

It is estimated that 359,900 people moved interstate during 2008–09. It is important to note that the total number of persons who moved is less than this, after return and repeat movements are taken into account. In addition, for each flow from one state or territory to another, there is a counter flow.

6.1 GROSS INTERSTATE MIGRATION, Australia(a)



(a) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

TRENDS IN NET
INTERSTATE MIGRATION
(NIM)

There were an average of 369,900 interstate moves per year over the 10 years to June 2009, with the pattern of movement being mainly northward to Queensland. Table 6.2 shows that Queensland (26,700 persons), Western Australia (1,200 persons) and Victoria (80 persons) were the only states to record average annual net interstate migration (NIM) gains over this period.

Over the decade, Queensland consistently recorded an annual NIM gain from the rest of the country. These annual NIM gains ranged from 18,400 persons in the current year (2008–09) to 38,000 persons in 2002–03.

Victoria's NIM fluctuated throughout the decade. For the first three years (ending June 2002) Victoria recorded gains from NIM, the peak gain being 5,200 persons in 1999–2000, before recording declines (between the years ending June 2003 and June 2008). The peak loss was 3,100 persons in 2004–05. By 2008–09 NIM, for Victoria, had returned to a positive 700 persons.

Western Australia recorded NIM losses for the years 1999–2000 to 2002–03, ranging between 2,000 persons and 3,600 persons. However, the state recorded an average gain in the ten year period (1,200 persons) due to the annual gains recorded from 2003–04 and onwards; gains which ranged between 2,100 persons and 5,200 persons.

For the 10 years to June 2009, the remaining states and territories recorded NIM losses with New South Wales recording the largest annual average net loss (24,000 persons) followed by South Australia (3,000 persons), the Northern Territory (650 persons), the Australian Capital Territory (200 persons) and Tasmania (140 persons).

New South Wales and South Australia recorded a net loss for each year of the 10 years ending June 2009. For Tasmania, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory NIM fluctuated between annual losses and gains.

6.2 NET INTERSTATE MIGRATION—1999–2000 to 2008–09(a)

	<i>NSW</i>	<i>Vic.</i>	<i>Qld</i>	<i>SA</i>	<i>WA</i>	<i>Tas.</i>	<i>NT</i>	<i>ACT</i>
1999–2000	-14 274	5 219	18 453	-3 531	-2 187	-2 632	-907	-91
2000–01	-16 315	5 163	20 024	-2 418	-3 110	-2 136	-1 592	407
2001–02	-25 102	3 609	30 035	-1 308	-3 582	-1 423	-1 998	-197
2002–03	-32 467	-743	37 984	-1 191	-1 972	1 993	-2 768	-802
2003–04	-31 098	-3 051	35 498	-2 910	2 095	2 574	-1 487	-1 586
2004–05	-26 321	-3 070	30 371	-3 226	2 241	267	610	-842
2005–06	-25 576	-1 831	26 607	-2 711	3 933	-82	-553	258
2006–07	-27 404	-2 418	27 044	-3 658	5 188	-926	253	1 921
2007–08	-21 937	-2 736	23 088	-4 499	4 808	344	1 197	-265
2008–09	-19 831	698	18 388	-4 676	4 825	672	746	-822
Annual average 1999–2000 to 2008–09	-24 033	84	26 749	-3 013	1 224	-135	-650	-202

(a) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

NET INTERSTATE
MIGRATION, 2008–09

During 2008–09, there were 359,900 movements of people interstate, a similar number of movements to those recorded in the previous year (360,800 persons). Table 6.2 shows that while Queensland continued to record a large net gain (18,400 persons in 2008–09), this was down by 52% from the 10 year peak gain of 38,000 persons in 2002–03.

NET INTERSTATE
MIGRATION, 2008–09
continued

In 2008–09, net gains were also recorded by Western Australia (4,800 persons), the Northern Territory (750 persons), Victoria (700 persons) and Tasmania (670 persons). For Victoria this was the first net gain after six consecutive years of net losses.

New South Wales continued to record the largest net loss due to NIM, 19,800 persons in 2008–09 down from the 10 year peak loss of 32,500 in 2002–03. In 2008–09, net losses continued to be recorded by South Australia (4,700 persons) and the Australian Capital Territory (820 persons).

POPULATION FLOWS,
2008–09

The most popular destination for Australians moving interstate continued to be Queensland, receiving the largest number of arrivals during 2008–09 (98,200 persons), followed by New South Wales and Victoria, with 85,900 and 67,400 arrivals respectively. The most common moves were between these three eastern states accounting for 47% of all interstate moves.

Table 6.3 shows that the most prevalent moves were from New South Wales to Queensland (49,100 persons or 14%). The counter flows from Queensland to New South Wales were the second largest (36,600 persons), followed by the flows from New South Wales to Victoria (23,900 persons) and Victoria to Queensland (21,000 persons). With the exceptions of Western Australia and Tasmania, all states and territories had higher flows to Queensland than from Queensland. Western Australia and Tasmania received slightly more people from Queensland than they lost to Queensland (70 persons and 40 persons respectively).

6.3 INTERSTATE MIGRATION FLOWS—2008–09(a)

DEPARTURES FROM:

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Total arrivals(b)
Arrivals to:									
NSW	..	20 774	36 645	5 361	7 893	2 283	2 579	10 369	85 904
Vic.	23 930	..	18 618	7 066	9 088	3 616	2 434	2 672	67 424
Qld	49 132	20 978	..	6 557	9 011	3 618	5 305	3 581	98 182
SA	5 102	5 908	4 411	..	2 780	652	2 155	640	21 648
WA	10 772	10 280	9 081	3 502	..	1 634	2 579	888	38 736
Tas.	2 703	3 216	3 654	899	2 016	..	420	310	13 218
NT	3 417	3 189	4 639	2 206	2 414	403	..	444	16 712
ACT	10 679	2 381	2 746	733	709	340	494	..	18 082
Total departures(b)	105 735	66 726	79 794	26 324	33 911	12 546	15 966	18 904	359 906
Net	-19 831	698	18 388	-4 676	4 825	672	746	-822	..

.. not applicable

(a) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

(b) Excludes Other Territories—see paragraphs 55–56 of the Explanatory Notes.

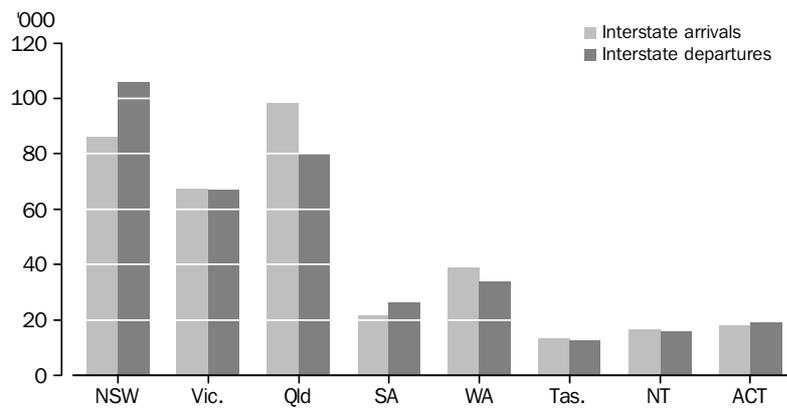
Flows of people between the other states and territories were smaller than those between the mainland eastern states. In 2008–09, the Australian Capital Territory received its largest inflow of interstate migrants from surrounding New South Wales (10,700 persons). The reverse outflow from the Australian Capital Territory was also largest to New South Wales (10,400 persons). The majority of interstate moves from the Northern Territory tended to be towards neighbouring Queensland (5,300) with smaller numbers going to New South Wales and Western Australia (2,600 persons to each). More

POPULATION FLOWS,
2008–09 *continued*

people moved from Western Australia to the eastern states than to neighbouring South Australia and the Northern Territory, with the highest number going to Victoria (9,100 persons). Most interstate moves from Tasmania were across the Bass Strait to Victoria and up to Queensland (3,600 to each).

The largest net flows in 2008–09 saw New South Wales recording net losses to Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia. In net terms, Queensland gained 12,500 persons from New South Wales while Victoria gained 3,200 persons and Western Australia gained 2,900 persons.

6.4 INTERSTATE MIGRATION FLOWS—2008–09(a)

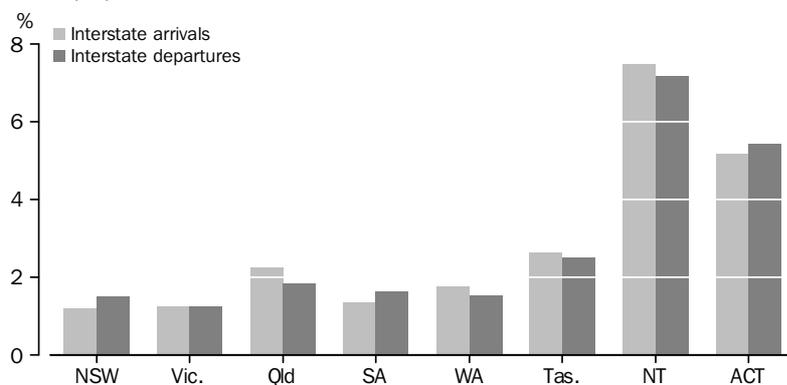


(a) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

Interstate flows as a proportion of population

The impact of interstate migration flows on each state and territory population varies. One way of measuring the effect is to calculate each flow as a proportion of each state or territory population (Figure 6.5).

6.5 INTERSTATE MIGRATION FLOWS, Proportion of population(a)—2008–09(b)



(a) Each flow as a proportion of each state or territory population at 31 December 2008.

(b) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

Interstate flows as a proportion of population continued

In 2008–09, the Northern Territory experienced the greatest impact from both interstate arrivals and interstate departures. These flows represented 7.5% and 7.2% of the Northern Territory's population respectively. Likewise, the Australian Capital Territory experienced a 5.2% increase in its population through interstate arrivals but also a 5.4% loss from interstate departures. Victoria's population felt the lowest impact from interstate migration flows with a 1.3% increase from interstate arrivals and a 1.2% decrease from interstate departures.

POPULATION TURNOVER, 2008–09

Population turnover measures the gross flow in each state or territory in relation to the size of the population and reveals the level of turnover experienced by a population. Gross flows can also be used to analyse population redistribution.

Table 6.6 shows that the level of population turnover for 2008–09 varied considerably between the states and territories. The highest population turnover occurred in the Northern Territory where the gross flows represented 15% of the Northern Territory's total population. This high level of mobility reflects the fact that the Northern Territory experiences a large number of temporary or short-term interstate moves. These moves are possibly driven by employment conditions and could include Defence Force personnel and workers involved in the mining and associated industries. The Australian Capital Territory also recorded a high population turnover (11% of the territory's total population) reflecting the large number of Commonwealth employees, Defence Force personnel, as well as interstate students studying in Canberra.

6.6 POPULATION TURNOVER AND MIGRATION EFFECTIVENESS RATIOS (MER) (a)—2008–09

	<i>Interstate arrivals</i>	<i>Interstate departures</i>	<i>Net interstate moves</i>	<i>Gross interstate moves</i>	<i>Population (b)</i>	<i>Population turnover (c)</i>	<i>Interstate (MER) (d)</i>
	no.	no.	no.	no.	'000	%	%
NSW	85 904	105 735	–19 831	191 639	7 075.7	2.7	–10.3
Vic.	67 424	66 726	698	134 150	5 381.8	2.5	0.5
Qld	98 182	79 794	18 388	177 976	4 366.4	4.1	10.3
SA	21 648	26 324	–4 676	47 972	1 612.6	3.0	–9.7
WA	38 736	33 911	4 825	72 647	2 211.6	3.3	6.6
Tas.	13 218	12 546	672	25 764	500.9	5.1	2.6
NT	16 712	15 966	746	32 678	222.8	14.7	2.3
ACT	18 082	18 904	–822	36 986	348.5	10.6	–2.2
Total	359 906	359 906	. .	719 812	21 722.8	3.3	. .

. . not applicable

(a) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes

(b) Estimated resident population at 31 December 2008.

(c) Gross interstate movements as a percentage of the population at 31 December 2008.

(d) Net interstate migration divided by gross interstate migration expressed as a percentage.

While Victoria had the third highest number of gross moves (134,200 moves) in 2008–09, it had the lowest population turnover (2.5% of the state's total population). Similarly, the 191,600 gross moves for New South Wales translated to only 2.7% of the state's population turnover.

Population redistribution

Another way of looking at interstate migration is to assess how effective migration has been in redistributing the population. This method, known as the migration effectiveness ratio (MER), compares the total net gain or loss to the gross moves and is expressed as a percentage (Bell, 1995)¹⁰. Table 6.6 shows that for 2008–09 Queensland had the highest MER (10.3%), gaining 10 persons for every 100 interstate moves in or out of Queensland. New South Wales and South Australia also recorded a high MER albeit negative (–10.3% and –9.7% respectively). This indicates that both states each lost 10 persons for every 100 interstate moves in or out of their state.

While Western Australia recorded a medium range MER of 6.6%, the remaining states and territories recorded positive or negative MERs below 3%.

Both the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory (each with similar numbers of arrivals and departures) demonstrate that high population turnover does not necessarily lead to population redistribution at the territory level. While the Northern Territory's population turnover was 15%, it gained just over two persons for every 100 interstate moves in or out of the territory. Similarly, the Australian Capital Territory with a population turnover of 11%, lost just over two persons for every 100 movements in or out of the territory.

AGE STRUCTURE OF
INTERSTATE MIGRANTS

The population pyramid in Figure 6.7 shows the age and sex structure of both interstate migrants and Australia as a proportion of their respective populations. The age structure of interstate migrants was younger than that of Australia's overall population, with young adults being the most mobile.

Young adults

In 2008–09, persons aged 20–34 years made up 39% of all interstate movers (compared with 21% of the total population). Of the total Australian population of this age, 3% made an interstate move during the year.

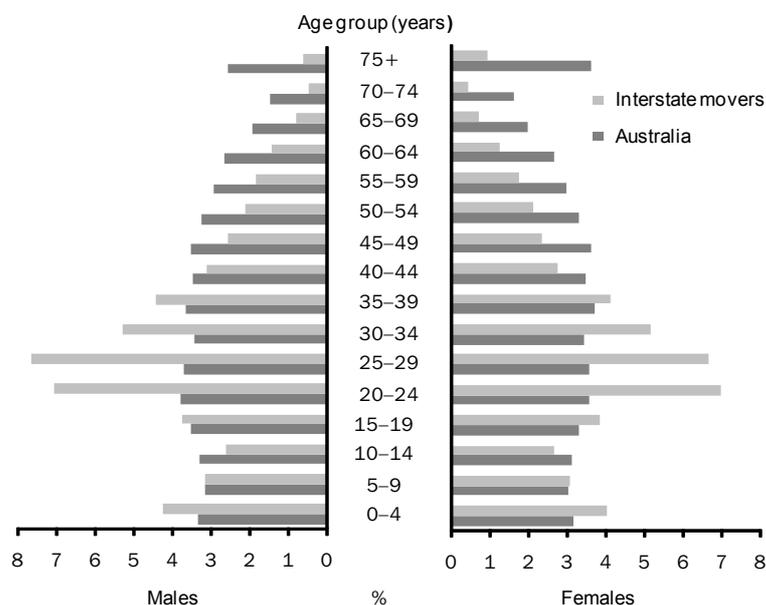
Queensland was the major beneficiary of interstate migration in this age group, with a net gain of 5,000 persons. This represented 27% of the state's total population gain from NIM. Western Australia gained 3,900 persons which represented 81% of the state's NIM gain. The Northern Territory's gain in the 20–34 years age group (1,200 persons) exceeded the total gain for the territory (750 persons) indicating large compensating losses in many of the territory's other age groups, particularly at the ages below 15 years and above 54 years. Victoria recorded a small gain of 190 persons representing 27% of the overall gain for the state. The gain for the Australian Capital Territory was insignificant.

The remaining states recorded net losses in this age group, with the net loss for New South Wales being the largest (7,100 persons; 36% of the state's overall loss from NIM), followed by South Australia (2,600 persons; 55%). While Tasmania recorded an overall gain from NIM (670 persons), just over that number (680 persons) was lost from the 20–34 years age group. This indicates that while the 20–34 year olds may be leaving Tasmania, possibly for study or work opportunities, those in the younger and older ages are choosing to live in Tasmania, suggesting that families may be migrating to Tasmania.

1 Bell, M. 1995, *Internal Migration in Australia 1986–91: overview report*, Bureau of Immigration Multicultural and Population Research, Canberra, p109.

Young adults continued

6.7 AUSTRALIA AND INTERSTATE MOVERS POPULATION STRUCTURES (a), Age and sex—2008–09



(a) Age and sex of interstate movers as a proportion of all interstate movers. Age and sex of all Australian residents as a proportion of the total Australian population.
 (b) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

Older persons

Persons aged 50 years and over (52,400 persons) were less likely to move interstate than younger persons, accounting for 15% of the total number of interstate moves in 2008–09 (compared with 31% of the total population). Of the total Australian population in this age group, less than 1% made an interstate move during the year.

In 2008–09, Queensland recorded the highest net gain of movers aged 50 years and over with 2,100 persons, 11% of the state's total population gain from NIM. Tasmania, which gained 750 persons, and Victoria, which gained 460 persons, were the only other states or territories to record NIM gains in this age group.

New South Wales recorded the largest NIM loss of people aged 50 years and over in 2008–09 (1,300 persons; 7% of the state's overall loss). In this age group losses were also recorded by the Australian Capital Territory (810 persons), South Australia (430 persons), Western Australia (420 persons) and the Northern Territory (290 persons).

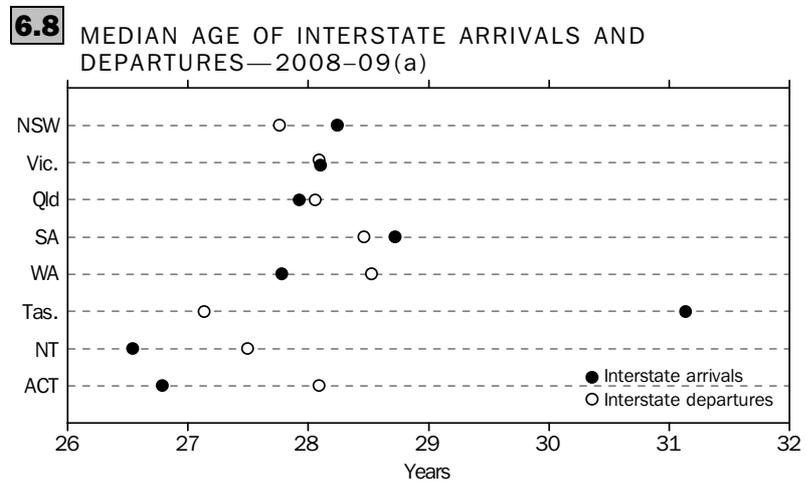
Persons aged 65 years and over (14,400 persons) accounted for 4% of all interstate movements in 2008–09 (compared with 13% of the total population). Victoria had the largest net gains from interstate movers in this age group (410 persons), followed by Queensland (320 persons) and Tasmania (140 persons).

New South Wales experienced a net interstate loss of 230 persons aged 65 years and over, followed by Western Australia (220 persons), South Australia (200 persons), the Northern Territory (110 persons) and the Australian Capital Territory (100 persons).

Median age of interstate migrants

In 2008–09, the median age of all interstate movers was 28.0 years. A high proportion of all interstate arrivals to the Australian Capital Territory (72%) and the Northern Territory (71%) were younger than 35 years of age. This high level of younger movers resulted in the two territories recording the lowest median ages of all interstate arrivals (26.8 years and 26.5 years respectively) as seen in Figure 6.8. Tasmania recorded the highest median age (31.1 years) for interstate arrivals. Arrivals to the remaining states had relatively similar median ages: South Australia (28.7), New South Wales (28.2), Victoria (28.1), Queensland (27.9) and Western Australia (27.8).

The median age at departure varied little between the states and territories: South Australia and Western Australia (28.5 years each), Victoria, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory (28.1 each), New South Wales (27.8), the Northern Territory (27.5) and Tasmania (27.1).



(a) Estimates for 2008–09 are preliminary—see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

The largest difference between the median ages of interstate arrivals and departures was for Tasmania, where the median age of arrivals was four years older than the median age of departures. This differential contributes to the faster aging of the Tasmanian population compared to other states and territories (for more information see *Population by Age and Sex, Australian States and Territories, June 2009* (cat. no. 3201.0)).

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents statistics on Australian housing mobility, compiled from the Survey of Income and Housing (SIH). Housing mobility refers to the movement of people due to a change in their place of usual residence. Such changes may result from changes in housing arrangements, such as moving from rental accommodation into home ownership, or moving from one geographical location to another for various family, employment or lifestyle reasons.

The SIH collects detailed information on income, housing and other characteristics of individuals and households from a representative sample of private dwellings throughout urban and rural areas of Australia (excluding very remote areas). People living in non-private dwellings such as hotels, boarding schools, boarding houses, nursing homes and institutions are excluded from the survey. The survey is conducted every two years, with additional housing topics collected every six years. These additional topics are determined through consultation with key users of housing statistics. For further information on the scope of the survey, refer to paragraphs 59–60 of the Explanatory Notes.

The latest SIH, conducted in 2007–08, collected additional data relating to housing mobility and the reasons that people move. Respondents were asked the number of times they had moved in the last five years, and if they had done so, the main reason for their last move. The SIH collects information from all persons aged 15 years and over within the selected dwellings and all analysis within this article relates to these individuals.

AUSTRALIANS ON THE MOVE

Frequency of moves

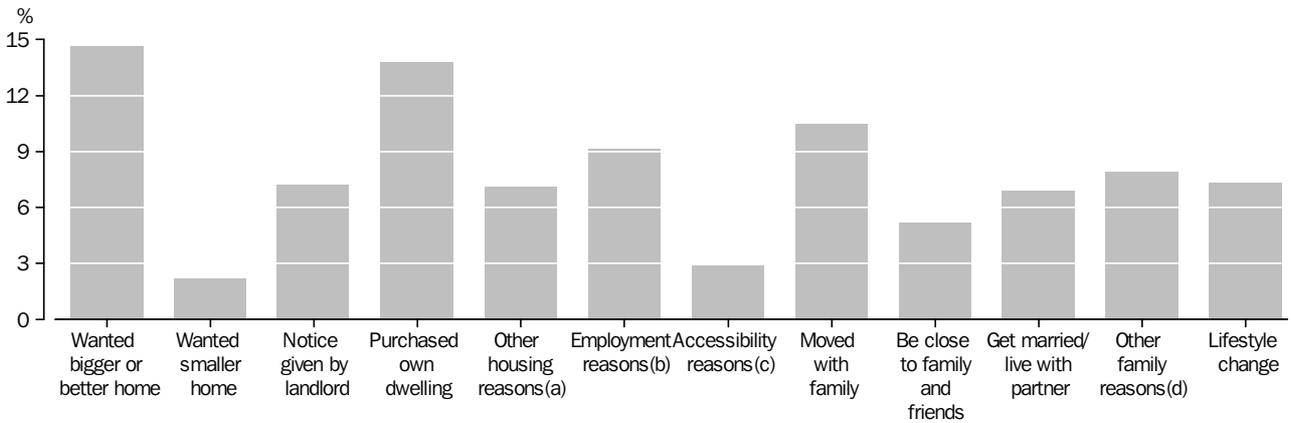
In 2007–08, 43% of Australians reported moving in the previous five years. During this period, 19% of Australians moved once, 8% moved twice and 15% moved three or more times. In the year prior to the survey, 16% of Australians moved at least once.

Main reasons for last move

There are many factors which influence why people move and the frequency with which they do so. Australians may choose to change their housing at particular points in their life cycle, for example, due to leaving the family home, studying, partnering, purchasing a home, having children or retirement. What is suitable housing at one stage of people's lives may not meet their needs at another.

The most common reasons for moving included wanting a bigger or better home (15%) and purchasing a home (14%) — see Figure 7.1.

7.1 HOUSING MOBILITY, By main reason for last move—Australia—2007–08



(a) Includes reduce rent/mortgage, allocated housing (e.g. public housing), renovations/re-building.
 (b) Includes gained/lost job, job transfer, closer to work or to improve job prospects.
 (c) Includes moves to be near facilities such as education and/or medical.
 (d) Includes family conflict, breakdown of marriage/relationship, to be independent.

Source: Survey of Income and Housing 2007–08.

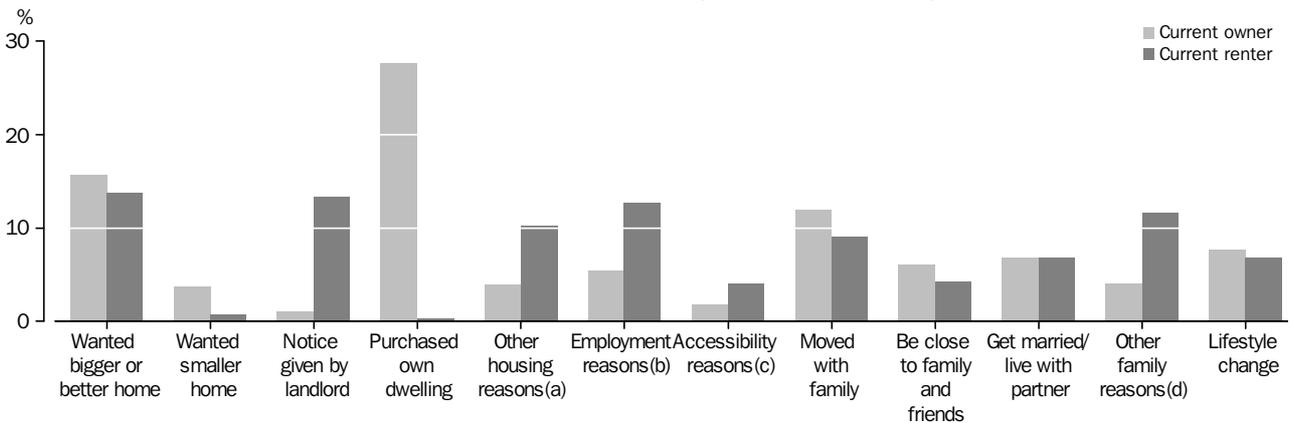
CHARACTERISTICS OF MOVERS

Tenure type

Whether people moved varied substantially with their tenure type, as reported at the time of the survey. People who were renting at the time of the survey, were more likely than owners to have moved, with 80% of renters having moved in the five years prior to the survey compared with 29% of current home owners (Figure 7.2).

For current home owners, the most common main reason for their last move was to purchase their own home (28%). The other reasons owners commonly reported for moving were wanting a bigger or better home (16%) or because they moved with family (12%).

7.2 HOUSING MOBILITY, Main reason for last move by current tenure type—Australia—2007–08



(a) Includes reduce rent/mortgage, allocated housing (e.g. public housing), renovations/re-building.
 (b) Includes gained/lost job, job transfer, closer to work or to improve job prospects.
 (c) Includes moves to be near facilities such as education and/or medical.
 (d) Includes family conflict, breakdown of marriage/relationship, to be independent.

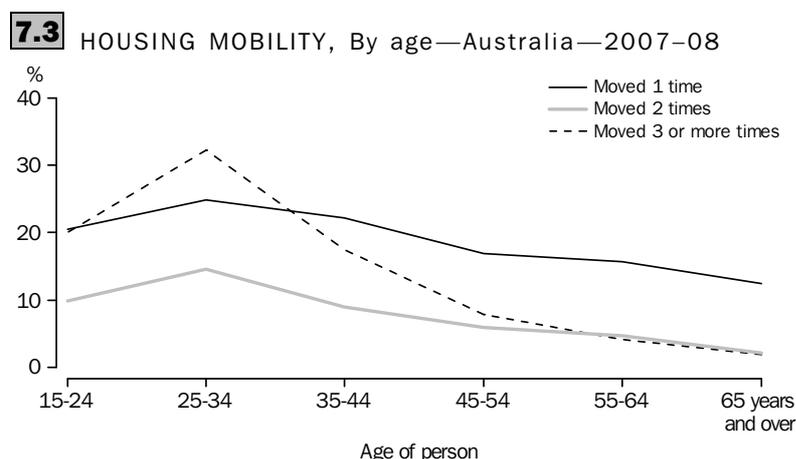
Source: Survey of Income and Housing 2007–08.

Tenure type continued

People who were currently renting often reported having moved due to wanting a bigger or better home (14%) or being given notice by a landlord (13%). They also often reported having moved for other housing reasons (10%), such as to reduce rent, being allocated housing (such as public housing), or for renovations. People who were currently renting were more likely than owners to have moved for employment reasons (13%) or family reasons (12%), such as family conflict, breakdown of marriage or relationship, or to be independent.

Mobility by age and sex

The number of times people move is strongly related to age. People aged 25–34 years at the time of the survey, were the most mobile age group, with 75% reporting that they had moved one or more times in the five years prior to the survey. The proportion of people who had moved decreased progressively for the older age groups. People aged 65 years and over were the least likely to have moved, with 83% reporting that they did not move in the five years prior to the survey.



Source: Survey of Income and Housing 2007–08.

For people aged 15–24 years at the time of the survey, the most common main reason for their last move was moving with family (36%), reflecting that many people in this age group are still living with their parents. For people aged 25–34 years, the most common reason for having moved was to purchase their own home (20%). This reflects the tendency for many young Australians to move into home ownership during this stage of their life. Other common reasons for having moved, reported by this age group were wanting a bigger or better home (15%) and employment reasons (12%).

People aged 35–54 years at the time of the survey, most commonly reported wanting a bigger or better home (20%) or purchasing their own home (18%) as the main reasons for their last move. This reflects the need to increase housing space as family size increases and children mature.

For those aged 55–64 years at the time of the survey, who had moved, 18% of people reported lifestyle change as the main reason for their last move. People aged 65 and over also often reported lifestyle change (14%) or downsizing to a smaller home (13%) as the main reason for their last move. This reflects movements into retirement and the downsizing of the family home as children move out.

*Mobility by age and sex
continued*

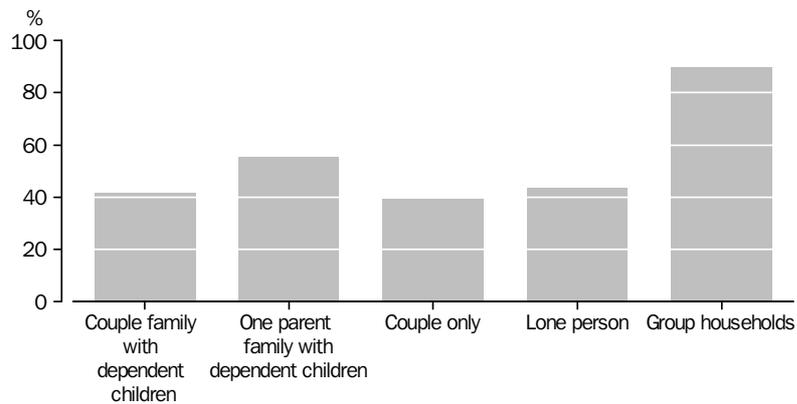
The overall mobility rates for men and women were not significantly different. There were, however, some differences across age groups. Females aged 15–24 years at the time of the survey (56%) were more likely to have moved than males of the same age (49%). Young females tend to leave home earlier than young males, which may in part explain this difference. However, males aged 35–44 years and 55–64 years were more likely to have moved than females of the same age (Figure 7.3).

Both men and women reported wanting a bigger or better home or having purchased a home as the main reasons for their last move. Men, however, were more likely to have moved for employment reasons (11%) than women (7%).

*Family composition of
household*

People living in group households at the time of the survey were the most mobile household type, with 90% of these people having moved one or more times in the five years prior to the survey. For people living in one parent households with dependent children, 55% reported having moved one or more times compared with 42% of people living in couple families with dependent children. Only 39% of people living in couple only households had moved in the five years prior to the survey.

7.4 HOUSING MOBILITY, By selected household types—Australia—2007–08



Source: Survey of Income and Housing 2007–08.

For people living in couple households with dependent children at the time of the survey, the most common main reason for their last move was wanting a bigger or better home (23%), which reflects the need to increase their housing space as family size grows. For people living in one parent families with dependent children, the most common reasons for their last move were moving with family (24%) and for other family reasons (21%) such as family conflict, breakdown of marriage or relationship, or to be independent.

People living alone at the time of the survey, often reported having moved due to other family reasons (17%) or due to purchasing their own home (15%). People in couple only households often reported purchasing their own home (20%) or getting married or living with their partners (17%) as the main reason for their last move.

Labour force status

Unemployed people surveyed in 2007–08, reported having moved more frequently in the previous five years than employed people, with 61% having moved at least once, compared with 48% of employed people, at the time of the survey. Only 33% of people not in the labour force had moved one or more times in this time period. Over 90% of these people were aged 65 years and over, which may explain the low mobility of this group.

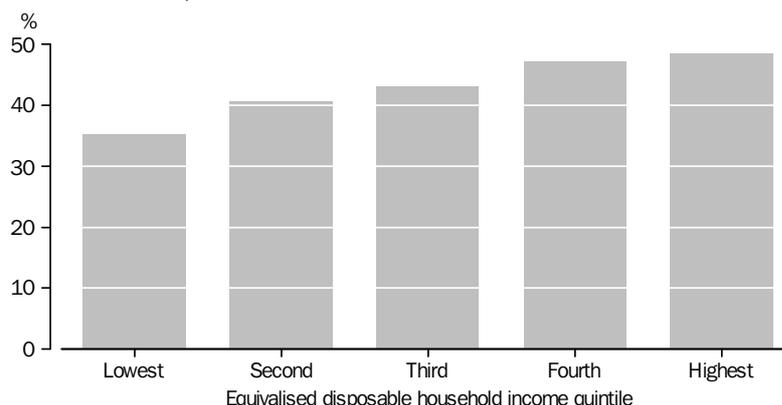
For people who were employed at the time of the survey, the main reasons reported for their last move were purchasing their own home (17%) or wanting a bigger or better home (15%). The main reasons for moving reported by unemployed people varied, with no significant main reason identified for this group. For people who were not in the labour force, when surveyed, 16% reported having moved with family and 13% reported wanting a bigger or better home as the main reasons for their last move.

Income

The following analysis by income quintile uses equivalised disposable household income (see Glossary) to enable comparisons of the relative economic well-being of households of different size and composition. The proportion of people who had moved at least once in the five years prior to the survey varied with the level of their current income. Nearly half of people in the highest income quintile when surveyed, had moved at least once compared to 35% of the people in the lowest quintile (Figure 7.5).

People in the lowest income quintile had the highest proportion of people aged 65 years or over (37%) which may in part explain the relatively low mobility (35%) of this income group. People in the highest income quintile were mainly aged 25–54 years with a high level of employed people and only 5% were aged 65 years and over.

7.5 HOUSING MOBILITY, By equivalised disposable household income quintiles—Australia—2007–08



Source: Survey of Income and Housing 2007–08.

People in the highest income quintile at the time of the survey were more likely to have moved due to purchasing a home (23%) compared to people in the lowest income quintile (5%). People in the lowest income quintile (11%) were more likely to have moved for other housing reasons, such as reducing rent or mortgage, allocated housing (e.g. public housing) or renovations or rebuilding than any other income group. Those in the lowest income quintile (11%) were also more likely than people in the highest

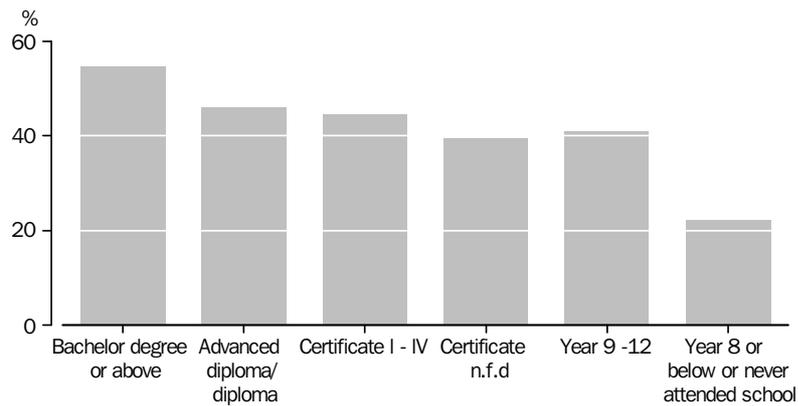
Income continued

income quintile (6%) to have moved for other family reasons such as family conflict, breakdown of marriage or relationship, or to be independent.

Educational attainment

People who had completed a bachelor degree or above as their highest level of educational attainment at the time of the survey, had been more mobile than people with lower educational attainment. Overall, 55% of this group had moved one or more times in the five years prior to the survey, in comparison to only 22% of people who had completed year 8 or below or never attended school. More qualified people attract higher incomes, with over 40% of those with a bachelor degree or higher being in the highest income quintile of equivalised disposable household income compared with only 5% of people who had completed year 8 or below or never attended school. People who had completed year 8 or below or never attended school, as their highest level of educational attainment were mainly older Australians, which influences the mobility of this group.

7.6 HOUSING MOBILITY, By highest level of educational attainment—Australia—2007–08



Source: Survey of Income and Housing 2007–08.

For people who had completed bachelor degrees or above at the time of the survey, the most common main reason for their last move included purchasing their own home (18%), wanting a bigger or better home (15%) or moving for employment reasons (14%). The most common reason reported by people who had completed year 9 to 12 as their highest educational attainment was having moved with their families (17%). The reasons reported by people who had completed year 8 or below or never attended school varied, with no significant main reason identified for this group.

Country of birth

Of people who were born overseas, 48% reported having moved one or more times in the five years prior to the survey, in comparison with 41% of people born in Australia. However, of the people born overseas who had arrived in Australia more than five years prior to the survey, only 38% had moved one or more times in the last five years.

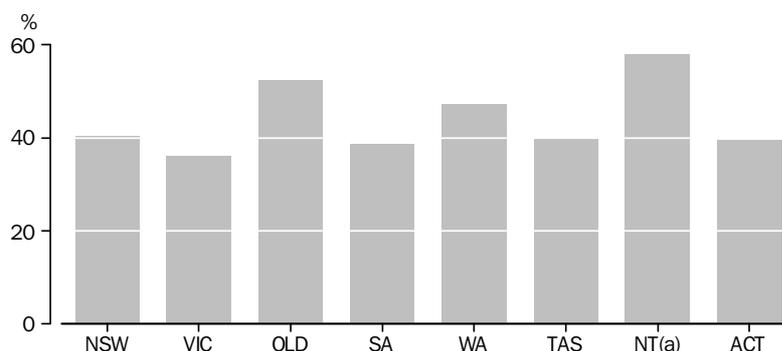
The reasons for moving for people born overseas were similar to those of people born in Australia. The main reasons for both groups were wanting a bigger or better home or purchasing their own dwelling.

MOBILITY ACROSS AUSTRALIA

State and Territory estimates

There was some variation in mobility when comparing estimates for the states and territories. The Northern Territory and Queensland had the highest rates of mobility. Over half of the people living in the Northern Territory and Queensland at the time of the survey had moved at least once in the five years prior to the survey. People living in Western Australia at the time of the survey were also relatively mobile with just under half having moved one or more times. The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of renters (39%) which could in part explain this high mobility rate.

7.7 HOUSING MOBILITY, By states and territories—Australia—2007–08



(a) Excludes people living in very remote areas, accounting for about 23% of the population in the Northern Territory.

Source: Survey of Income and Housing 2007–08.

The main reasons reported for moving were generally consistent across the states and territories. However, the number of people who moved due to a change in employment varied. More people living in the Australian Capital Territory (22%) and the Northern Territory (17%) at the time of the survey, reported moving for employment reasons than any of the states.

Types of moves

Of the people who had moved in the five years prior to the survey, 90% had moved within the same state or territory in their last move, 47% moved within the same suburb or locality and 43% moved from outside their suburb or locality but within the same state or territory. Of the remaining 10% of people who had moved, half had moved from interstate and half had moved from overseas in their last move.

In the five years prior to the survey, 8% of the population living in the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory at the time of the survey had moved from other states and territories in their last move. In comparison, 2% of the population living in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia had moved from interstate (Table 2.8).

Just over one fifth of people who had moved within the same suburb or locality in their last move reported wanting a bigger or better home as their main reason for moving. The other common reason reported by people in this group was purchasing their own home (16%). Those who moved outside their suburb or locality but within the same state or territory, were most likely to have moved due to purchasing their own home (14%). People who had moved from interstate most commonly moved for employment reasons (38%).

7.8 HOUSING MOBILITY, By type of move for last move—Australia—2007–08

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(a)	ACT	Aust.
PROPORTION OF PERSONS (%)									
Moved									
In same suburb/locality as current dwelling	19.7	15.7	25.9	20.1	20.1	20.6	34.5	16.1	20.1
In same State but different locality	17.4	19.7	20.8	14.9	21.5	15.6	14.4	11.6	18.7
From different State	1.6	1.6	3.9	2.3	2.2	3.2	7.8	8.0	2.3
From overseas	1.8	2.1	1.8	1.4	3.5	(b)0.6	(b)1.3	(b)3.8	2.0
Total people that moved	40.4	39.1	52.4	38.7	47.3	40.0	57.9	39.5	43.1
Did not move	59.6	60.9	47.6	61.3	52.7	60.0	42.1	60.5	56.9
Total	100.0								

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT(a)	ACT	Aust.
NUMBER OF PERSONS ('000)									
Moved									
In same suburb/locality as current dwelling	1 077.6	656.1	846.9	254.2	329.7	80.0	43.4	43.3	3 331.4
In same State but different locality	950.8	821.5	679.6	188.1	352.9	60.8	18.2	31.4	3 103.4
From different State	85.1	67.3	125.8	29.5	35.3	12.4	9.8	21.5	386.6
From overseas	98.8	89.3	57.3	17.3	57.6	2.5	1.6	10.3	334.7
Total people that moved	2 212.3	1 634.3	1 709.6	489.2	775.5	155.7	73.0	106.6	7 156.1
Did not move	3 260.6	2 542.8	1 554.3	773.9	863.6	233.0	53.0	163.2	9 444.5
Total	5 472.9	4 177.1	3 263.9	1 263.1	1 639.2	388.7	126.0	269.8	16 600.6

(a) Excludes people living in very remote areas, accounting for about 23% of the population in the Northern Territory.

(b) Estimate has a relative standard error of 25% to 50% and should be used with caution.

Source: Survey of Income and Housing 2007–08.

Types of moves continued

The main reasons reported by people who had moved from overseas varied. They included getting married or to live with a partner, employment reasons, accessibility reasons, moving with family, lifestyle change and to be closer to family and friends. However, they were more likely to have moved to get married or to live with a partner (15%) than the rest of the population.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information about the data included in this article see *Housing Mobility and Conditions, Australia 2007–08* (cat. no. 4130.0.55.002). For information on all data items available from the SIH, see Appendix 7 of *Survey of Income and Housing, Australia: User Guide, 2007–08* (cat. no. 6553.0).

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains statistics relating to overseas migration, interstate migration and the estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth. It also includes contextual information such as international migration statistics of other countries.

ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION

2 After the 1981 Census, the concept of what constitutes the population of Australia and the states and territories was changed so that it was defined in terms of the number of usual residents — these new estimates (termed the estimated resident population, or ERP) were adopted as the official population series. Prior to this the population had been defined as the number of people actually present at a given time — at the time of the Census this meant the number of people actually counted and therefore included foreign tourists but excluded Australians abroad. Population estimates based on the concept of usual residence were constructed back to 1971.

3 A detailed account of the introduction of the ERP series is available in *Methods and Procedures in the Compilation of Estimated Resident Population 1981 and in the Construction of the 1971–81 Time Series* (cat. no. 3103.0).

Method of estimation

4 Two main steps are involved in estimating the national and state/territory population:

- calculating the base population (Census year population estimates); and
- updating this base population (post-censal population estimates).

5 The post-censal population estimates are updated each quarter and derived by bringing forward the base population by ageing the base, then adjusting for subsequent components of population growth, i.e. births, deaths, overseas and interstate migration. This method is called the cohort component method.

6 The following equation is known as the demographic balancing equation (Shryock, Siegel and Associates, 1976) and is used to update the base population

$$P_{t+1} = P_t + B_{t,t+1} - D_{t,t+1} + NOM_{t,t+1} + NIM_{t,t+1} + e_{t,t+1}$$

P_t = the estimated resident population at the end of period t

P_{t+1} = the estimated resident population at the end of period $t + 1$

$B_{t,t+1}$ = births occurring during the period $t, t + 1$

$D_{t,t+1}$ = deaths occurring during the period $t, t + 1$

$NOM_{t,t+1}$ = net overseas migration during the period $t, t + 1$

$NIM_{t,t+1}$ = net interstate migration during the period $t, t + 1$

$e_{t,t+1}$ = residual error for the period $t, t + 1$

7 After each Census, estimates for the preceding intercensal period are revised by incorporating an additional adjustment for residual error (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.

Method of estimation continued

8 A complete explanation of the methods and conceptual basis for population estimates used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) in the production of population estimates is given in *Population Estimates: Concepts, Sources and Methods, 2009* (cat. no. 3228.0.55.001).

Status of quarterly ERP data

9 Population estimates are referred to as either preliminary, revised or final. Preliminary estimates are generally made available five to six months after the reference quarter. Revised estimates are generally published each March for the financial year ending 21 months previously, and each September for the calendar year ending 21 months previously. Final estimates are published for the previous five-yearly intercensal period after each Census.

10 The following table shows the current status of ERP and the components of population change: natural increase, net overseas migration (NOM) and net interstate migration (NIM).

STATUS OF QUARTERLY ESTIMATED RESIDENT POPULATION (ERP) DATA: as at 24 June 2010

	<i>Census base</i>	<i>Natural increase</i>	<i>Net overseas migration</i>	<i>Net interstate migration</i>	<i>ERP STATUS</i>
Sep. 1996–Jun. 1997	Final rebased — based on 2001 Census	Final	Final	Final — rebased to 2001 Census	FINAL
Sep. 1997–Jun. 2001	Final rebased — based on 2001 Census	Final	Final — category jumping set to zero	Final — rebased to 2001 Census	FINAL
Sep. 2001–Jun. 2006	Final rebased — based on 2006 Census	Final	Final — includes migration adjustment using matched passenger cards	Final — rebased to 2006 Census	FINAL
Sep. 2006–Jun. 2008	Revised estimate — based on 2006 Census	Revised — based on date of occurrence	Final — improved method of NOM introduced and used for Sep. quarter 2006 onwards. Final NOM estimates are based on actual traveller behaviour.	Preliminary — modelled - expansion factors based on 2006 Census	REVISED
Sep. 2008–onwards	Preliminary estimate — based on 2006 Census	Preliminary — based on date of registration	Preliminary — based on international movement data for the reference quarter, adjusted by information derived from travellers with the same characteristics from the corresponding quarter one year earlier.	Preliminary — modelled - expansion factors based on 2006 Census	PRELIMINARY

Population estimates by country of birth

11 Quarterly 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 countries of birth.

12 Quarterly 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.

13 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).

Diplomatic personnel

14 Australia's ERP and estimates of NOM include all people, regardless of nationality or citizenship, who usually live in Australia, with the exception of foreign diplomatic personnel and their families. Therefore, foreign diplomatic personnel and their families are considered out of scope and were removed from NOM estimates from 1 July 2006. The previous methodology for estimating NOM was unable to exclude 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.

NET OVERSEAS MIGRATION

15 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. 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.

16 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.

Source of overseas migration data

17 The ABS statistics on overseas migration are calculated using administrative data collected and compiled by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) under the authority of the Migration Regulations (*Migration Act, 1958*). At present, the main source of data on overseas migration is the incoming and outgoing passenger cards completed by all persons arriving in or departing from Australia. Data from passports and visa (entry permit) applications and approvals are also provided by DIAC's Travel and Immigration Processing System (TRIPS). Information from these three data sources are collected, compiled and matched together by DIAC.

18 Quarterly NOM estimates are sourced from the processed monthly overseas arrivals and departures (OAD) data (compiled using matched TRIPS data) and monthly extracts of unmatched TRIPS records. Unmatched TRIPS records are those where a movement has been recorded by DIAC within the TRIPS system but the data has not been able to be matched with either a passenger card, passport or visa permit.

19 Statistics on overseas migration exclude: multiple movements; the movements of operational air and ships' crew; transit passengers who pass through Australia but are not cleared for entry; passengers on pleasure cruises commencing and finishing in Australia and undocumented arrivals. From 1 July 2006 onwards, foreign diplomatic personnel and their families are also excluded.

20 Quarterly NOM estimates contribute to quarterly ERP and are released in *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0). Statistics on OAD and related data quality issues are published on a monthly basis in *Overseas Arrivals and Departures, Australia* (cat. no. 3401.0).

Reasons for change of methods used to estimate NOM

21 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.

22 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 3 or 4 year course of study, who

*Reasons for change of
methods used to estimate
NOM continued*

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.

23 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.

24 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.

25 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.

26 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.

27 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 a '12/16 month rule' for measuring a person's residency in Australia, replacing the previous '12/12 month rule'.

*Estimating NOM with the
'12/16 month rule'*

28 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.

29 To measure a traveller's actual duration of stay the ABS uses a unique personal identifier provided with the administrative data supplied by DIAC. 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.

Estimating NOM with the
'12/16 month rule' continued

TRAVELLERS VS MOVEMENTS

30 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.

31 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

32 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

33 Preliminary estimates of NOM are required five to 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 travellers. These migration adjustments are applied to travellers who are grouped according to their 'initial category of travel', age, country of citizenship and state/territory of usual/intended residence. The adjustments account for differences between their intended duration of stay and their actual duration of stay.

34 Preliminary estimates using the improved method for estimating NOM using a 'two year ago' propensity model were implemented in official ABS population estimates for September quarter 2006 with the release of the December quarter 2006 issue of *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0).

35 In 2009, changes to the *Federal Financial Relations Act 2009*, enabled the use of an additional quarter of travellers' movement data allowing for the methodology used in preliminary NOM estimates to be improved. Using the additional one quarter of movement data (the quarter after the reference period) has enabled two key changes to the methodology for estimating preliminary NOM:

- changing from a 'two year ago' to a 'one year' ago propensity model; and
- reducing the pool of travellers using the propensity model.

36 Preliminary estimates using the '12/16 month rule' methodology for estimating NOM using the 'one year ago' propensity model were implemented in the ABS' official NOM and population estimates for September quarter 2008 with the release of the September quarter 2009 issue of *Australian Demographic Statistics* (cat. no. 3101.0).

Estimating NOM with the
'12/16 month rule' continued

37 For further information on the improvements to preliminary NOM estimation and changes to the revision schedule for NOM, see the *Information Paper: Improving Net Overseas Migration Estimation, Mar 2010* (cat. no. 3412.0.55.001). For further information on the '12/16 month rule' methodology see the *Technical Note: '12/16 month rule' Methodology for Calculating Net Overseas Migration from September quarter 2006 onwards* in this publication. For more detailed information see *Information Paper: Statistical Implications of Improved Methods for Estimating Net Overseas Migration, Australia, 2007* (cat. no. 3107.0.55.005), and the *Information Paper: Improved Methods for Estimating Net Overseas Migration, Australia, 2006* (cat. no. 3107.0.55.003).

Estimating NOM with a '12/12
month rule'

38 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).

CATEGORY JUMPING

39 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 completion of a journey. Twelve months after a reference period it was determined whether the number of initially-recorded short-term, long-term and permanent arrivals and departures matched actual patterns of movement.

40 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.

41 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 DIMA (now DIAC) to derive actual duration of stay or absence by matching both arrival and departure cards rather than relying on passengers reporting their duration of stay or absence.

MATCHING TRAVELLER MOVEMENTS

42 Despite this improvement in the quality of actual duration of stay or absence data, 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.

Estimating NOM with a '12/12 month rule' *continued*

43 Through the provision of additional data from DIAC, 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.

44 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).

ADJUSTMENT METHODS AND REVISION STATUS

45 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.

NOM ADJUSTMENT METHODS USED—September quarter 1996 onwards

Period	Status of NOM	Adjustment method
September 1996 – June 1997	Final	'Category jumping' adjustments applied using previous methodology (12/12 month rule)(a)
September 1997 – June 2001	Final	No adjustments applied (i.e. 'category jumping' set to zero) (12/12 month rule)
September 2001 – June 2006	Final	Migration adjustments applied, based at the aggregate level (12/12 month rule)(b)
September 2006 – June 2008	Final	Actual duration of stay/absence, based at the individual traveller level (12/16 month rule)(c)
September 2008 and onwards	Preliminary	Migration adjustments applied, based at the individual traveller level (12/16 month rule) and a one year ago propensity model.(c)(d)

- (a) See Appendix 3 in *Demographic Estimates and Projections: Concepts, Sources and Methods* (cat. no. 3228.0).
- (b) See Technical Note: *Measuring Net Overseas Migration, Method Used September quarter 2001 to June quarter 2006* in *Migration, Australia, 2006–07* (cat.no.3412.0).

- (c) See Technical Note: *Improved Methods for Calculating Net Overseas Migration from September quarter 2006 onwards* in *Migration, Australia, 2008–09* (cat.no.3412.0).
- (d) See Information Paper: *Improving net overseas migration estimation* (cat. no. 3412.0.55.001).

PERMANENT RESIDENCY GRANTS

46 A number of people arriving temporarily in Australia are subsequently granted permanent residency. These permanent residency grants contribute to the Australian Government's immigration targets but may be unrelated to the stated intentions of travellers on arrival. Accordingly, they are not included in unadjusted permanent arrivals as they did not arrive in Australia on a permanent basis but would be included in final NOM figures from 1 July 2006 onwards. The proportions of temporary arrivals subsequently gaining onshore grants of permanent residency are not estimated in ABS statistics.

47 For more information on onshore additions to the population see the DIAC publication *Immigration Update*, or *Population Flow: Immigration aspects* available on the DIAC web site, <<http://www.immi.gov.au>>.

NET INTERSTATE MIGRATION

48 At the national level, population change is the result of births, deaths and net overseas migration. At the state/territory level, an extra component of population change exists — net interstate migration (NIM). This is the net difference between arrivals to a state/territory from the rest of Australia and departures from that state/territory to the rest of Australia. Interstate migration is therefore an important determinant of population change and distribution of the states and territories.

NET INTERSTATE MIGRATION

*continued**Sources of interstate migration data*

49 Within Australia, there is no requirement for a person who changes their state of usual residence to register their move. Unlike overseas movements, which are recorded at Australia's borders, there are no direct quarterly measure of arrivals and departures between the states and territories. To be able to measure state/territory population change on a quarterly basis estimates of interstate migration are therefore required.

50 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.

51 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.

52 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.

Rebasing and re-derivation of interstate migration

53 The Medicare-based model used for generating post-censal estimates of interstate migration is largely superseded when new Census information becomes available. For example, every five years, after data from the following Census have been finalised, the modelled estimates are reviewed against, and potentially replaced by, the interstate migration estimates that are calculated from the Census (i.e. rebased to the Census). This is known as the re-derivation of interstate migration.

54 Part of the process of rebasing Census counts for the ERP of the states and territories is the re-derivation of interstate migration for the intercensal period. The overall approach is to minimise state intercensal discrepancy using information from the two Census questions on usual residence one year ago and five year ago to estimate interstate movements. Where this Census information does not reduce the intercensal discrepancy, the rebased interstate migration estimates remain largely unchanged from the Medicare-based model.

Interstate migration method

55 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.

56 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).

Interstate migration method
continued

DEFENCE FORCE ADJUSTMENT

57 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.

58 For further information on the process of estimating interstate migration and the administrative data used, see the *Demography Working Paper: 2004/1 Review of Interstate Migration Method* (cat. no. 3106.0.55.001) and the *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).

SURVEY METHODOLOGY —
HOUSING MOBILITY IN
AUSTRALIA
Scope

59 The Survey of Income and Housing (SIH) collects information by personal interview from usual residents of private dwellings in urban and rural areas of Australia (excluding very remote areas), covering about 97% of the people living in Australia. Private dwellings are houses, flats, home units, caravans, garages, tents and other structures that were used as places of residence at the time of interview. Long-stay caravan parks are also included. These are distinct from non-private dwellings which include hotels, boarding schools, boarding houses and institutions. Residents of non-private dwellings are excluded.

60 Usual residents excludes:

- households which contain members of non-Australian defence forces stationed in Australia; and
- households which contain diplomatic personnel of overseas governments.

COUNTRY CLASSIFICATION

61 The classification of countries in this publication is the *Standard Australian Classification of Countries*. For more detailed information, refer to the ABS publication *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) Second Edition* (cat. no. 1269.0). This replaced previous revision and the *Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics (ASCCSS)* used in earlier issues of this publication.

62 The statistics on country of birth, citizenship, residence or main destination 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. 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.

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS
AVAILABLE

65 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>>.

66 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.

67 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 (as at 30 June);
- 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 (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.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

68 This publication draws extensively on information provided by DIAC. 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

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ASGC	Australian Standard Geographical Classification
Aust.	Australia
DIAC	Australian Government Department of Immigration and Citizenship
DIMA	Australian Government Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs
ERP	estimated resident population
GFC	global financial crisis
LTRD	long-term resident departure
LTRR	long-term resident return
LTVA	long-term visitor arrival
LTVD	long-term visitor departure
MER	migration effectiveness ratio
NIM	net interstate migration
NOM	net overseas migration
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
NZ	New Zealand
OAD	overseas arrivals and departures
PA	permanent arrival
PD	permanent departure
PES	Census of Population and Housing Post Enumeration Survey
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SAR	Special Administrative Region
SD	statistical division
SIH	Survey of Income and Housing
SLA	statistical local area
STRD	short-term resident departure
STRR	short-term resident return
STVA	short-term visitor arrival
STVD	short-term visitor departure
Tas.	Tasmania
TRIPS	Travel and Immigration Processing System
UK, CIs & IOM	United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
USA	United States of America
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

INCOMING CARD – FRONT

<p>Incoming passenger card • Australia</p> <p>PLEASE COMPLETE IN ENGLISH WITH A BLUE OR BLACK PEN</p> <p>▶ Family/surname</p> <p>▶ Given names</p> <p>▶ Passport number</p> <p>◆ Flight number or name of ship</p> <p>▶ Intended address in Australia</p> <p style="text-align: right;">State</p> <p>▶ Do you intend to live in Australia for the next 12 months? Yes No</p> <p>▶ If you are NOT an Australian citizen:</p> <p>Do you have tuberculosis? Yes No</p> <p>Do you have any criminal conviction/s? Yes No</p>	<p>YOU MUST ANSWER EVERY QUESTION – IF UNSURE, X Yes</p> <p>▶ Are you bringing into Australia:</p> <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:80%;">1. Goods that may be prohibited or subject to restrictions, such as medicines, steroids, pornography, firearms, weapons or illicit drugs?</td> <td style="width:5%; text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="width:15%; text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. More than 2250mL of alcohol or 250 cigarettes or 250g of tobacco products?</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Goods obtained overseas or purchased duty and/or tax free in Australia with a combined total price of more than AUD\$900, including gifts?</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Goods/samples for business/commercial use?</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. AUD\$10,000 or more in Australian or foreign currency equivalent?</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> </table> <p>Note: If a customs or police officer asks, you must report travellers cheques, cheques, money orders or other bearer negotiable instruments of any amount.</p> <table style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:80%;">6. Any food - includes dried, fresh, preserved, cooked, uncooked?</td> <td style="width:5%; text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="width:15%; text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7. Wooden articles, plants, parts of plants, traditional medicines or herbs, seeds, bulbs, straw, nuts?</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>8. Animals, parts of animals, animal products including equipment, pet food, eggs, biologicals, specimens, birds, fish, insects, shells, bee products?</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9. Soil, items with soil attached or used in freshwater areas ie. sports/recreational equipment, shoes?</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Yes</td> <td style="text-align: center;">No</td> </tr> </table> <p>▶ 10. Have you been in contact with farms, farm animals, wilderness areas or freshwater streams/lakes etc in the past 30 days? Yes No</p> <p>▶ 11. Were you in Africa, South/Central America or the Caribbean in the last 6 days? Yes No</p>	1. Goods that may be prohibited or subject to restrictions, such as medicines, steroids, pornography, firearms, weapons or illicit drugs?	Yes	No	2. More than 2250mL of alcohol or 250 cigarettes or 250g of tobacco products?	Yes	No	3. Goods obtained overseas or purchased duty and/or tax free in Australia with a combined total price of more than AUD\$900, including gifts?	Yes	No	4. Goods/samples for business/commercial use?	Yes	No	5. AUD\$10,000 or more in Australian or foreign currency equivalent?	Yes	No	6. Any food - includes dried, fresh, preserved, cooked, uncooked?	Yes	No	7. Wooden articles, plants, parts of plants, traditional medicines or herbs, seeds, bulbs, straw, nuts?	Yes	No	8. Animals, parts of animals, animal products including equipment, pet food, eggs, biologicals, specimens, birds, fish, insects, shells, bee products?	Yes	No	9. Soil, items with soil attached or used in freshwater areas ie. sports/recreational equipment, shoes?	Yes	No
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9. Soil, items with soil attached or used in freshwater areas ie. sports/recreational equipment, shoes?	Yes	No																										
<p>DECLARATION</p> <p>The information I have given is true, correct and complete. I understand failure to answer any questions may have serious consequences.</p>	<p>YOUR SIGNATURE</p> <p>Day Month Year</p>																											
<p>TURN OVER THE CARD</p> <p>English</p>																												

INCOMING CARD - BACK

<p>YOUR CONTACT DETAILS IN AUSTRALIA</p> <p>Phone ()</p> <p>E-mail</p> <p>Address OR State</p>	<p>EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS (FAMILY OR FRIEND)</p> <p>Name</p> <p>E-mail, Phone OR Mail address</p>	
<p>PLEASE COMPLETE IN ENGLISH</p> <p>▶ In which country did you board this flight or ship?</p> <p>◆ What is your usual occupation?</p> <p>▶ Nationality as shown on passport</p> <p>▶ Date of birth Day Month Year</p>	<p>▶ PLEASE X AND ANSWER A OR B OR C</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 30%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>A Migrating permanently to Australia</p> </div> <div style="width: 35%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>B Visitor or temporary entrant</p> <p>▶ Your intended length of stay in Australia Years Months Days</p> <p>▶ Your country of residence</p> <p>▶ Your main reason for coming to Australia (X one only)</p> <p>Convention/conference <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Holiday <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Business <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Education <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Other <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Visiting friends or relatives <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Exhibition <input type="checkbox"/> 6</p> </div> <div style="width: 30%; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>C Resident returning to Australia</p> <p>▶ Country where you spent most time abroad</p> </div> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p>MAKE SURE YOU HAVE COMPLETED BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD. PRESENT THIS CARD ON ARRIVAL WITH YOUR PASSPORT.</p> </div>	
<p>Information sought on this form is required to administer immigration, customs, quarantine, statistical, health, wildlife and currency laws of Australia and its collection is authorised by legislation. It will be disclosed only to agencies administering these areas and those entitled to receive it under Australian law. The leaflet <i>Safeguarding your personal information</i> is available at Australian ports and airports.</p>	<p>11091507</p>	<p>© Commonwealth of Australia 2009 15 (Design date 11/09)</p>

Incoming passenger card used from November 2009.

OUTGOING CARD - FRONT

<p>Outgoing passenger card • Australia</p> <p>PLEASE COMPLETE IN ENGLISH WITH A BLUE OR BLACK PEN</p> <p>▶ Family/surname <input type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Given names <input type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Passport number <input type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Flight number or name of ship <input type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Country where you will get off this flight <input type="text"/></p> <p>▶ What is your usual occupation? <input type="text"/></p> <p>◆ Nationality as shown on passport <input type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Date of birth <table style="display: inline-table; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">Day</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Month</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Year</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="text"/></td> <td><input type="text"/></td> <td><input type="text"/></td> </tr> </table> </p>	Day	Month	Year	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<p>▶ PLEASE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AND ANSWER D OR E OR F</p> <p>D Visitor or temporary entrant departing <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>▶ State where you spent most time</p> <table style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <tr> <td>NSW <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Vic <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Qld <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>SA <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>WA <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Tas <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>NT <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>ACT <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Other <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> <p>▶ Country of Residence <input type="text"/></p>	NSW <input type="checkbox"/>	Vic <input type="checkbox"/>	Qld <input type="checkbox"/>	SA <input type="checkbox"/>	WA <input type="checkbox"/>	Tas <input type="checkbox"/>	NT <input type="checkbox"/>	ACT <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>		<p>E Australian resident departing temporarily <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>▶ In which State do you live?</p> <table style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <tr> <td>NSW <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Vic <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Qld <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>SA <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>WA <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Tas <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>NT <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>ACT <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Other <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> <p style="text-align: center;">Years Months Days</p> <p>▶ Intended length of stay overseas <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> OR <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Country where you will spend most time abroad <input type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Main reason for overseas travel (<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> one only):</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>Convention/conference <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td>Employment <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td>Education <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Visiting friends or relatives <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td>Exhibition <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Holiday <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td>Other <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> </tr> </table>	NSW <input type="checkbox"/>	Vic <input type="checkbox"/>	Qld <input type="checkbox"/>	SA <input type="checkbox"/>	WA <input type="checkbox"/>	Tas <input type="checkbox"/>	NT <input type="checkbox"/>	ACT <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Convention/conference <input type="checkbox"/>	1	Employment <input type="checkbox"/>	5	Business <input type="checkbox"/>	2	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	6	Visiting friends or relatives <input type="checkbox"/>	3	Exhibition <input type="checkbox"/>	7	Holiday <input type="checkbox"/>	4	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	8	<p>F Australian resident departing permanently <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>▶ In which State did you live?</p> <table style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> <tr> <td>NSW <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Vic <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Qld <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>SA <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>WA <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Tas <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>NT <input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>ACT <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2" style="text-align: center;">Other <input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table> <p>▶ What is your country of future residence? 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OUTGOING CARD - BACK

<p>▶ Are you taking out of Australia AUD\$10,000 or more in Australian or foreign currency equivalent? If answered 'Yes' you must complete a Cross Border Movement – Physical Cash (AUD\$10,000 or more) Report to present with this card.</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Note: If a customs or police officer asks, you must report travellers cheques, cheques, money orders or other bearer negotiable instruments of any amount.</p> <p>▶ Did you know?</p> <p>You can find any lost superannuation accounts you may have by visiting www.ato.gov.au/superseeker</p> <p>You will need to provide your Australian tax file number, address and date of birth to access the system.</p> <p>If you worked in Australia on a temporary resident visa you can claim your superannuation money back. For more information on how to apply visit www.ato.gov.au/departaustralia</p>	<p>MAKE SURE YOU HAVE COMPLETED BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD. PRESENT THIS CARD, ON DEPARTURE WITH YOUR BOARDING PASS AND PASSPORT.</p>
<p>Information sought on this form is required to administer immigration, customs, quarantine, statistical, health, wildlife and currency laws of Australia and its collection is authorised by legislation. It will be disclosed only to agencies administering these areas and those entitled to receive it under Australian law. The leaflet <i>Safeguarding your personal information</i> is available at Australian ports and airports.</p>	<p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">11091606</p>
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Outgoing passenger card used from November 2009.

GLOSSARY

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:

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

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'.

.....

Category jumping <i>continued</i>	<p>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'.</p> <p>Estimates of category jumping were derived by subtracting the Australian resident component from the overseas visitor component.</p> <p>Category jumping is no longer used following the implementation of the '12/16 month rule' methodology for estimating net overseas migration.</p>
Category of movement	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ permanent movement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ permanent arrival (PA); ■ permanent departure (PD); ■ long-term movement — has a duration of stay (or absence) of one year or more: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ short-term resident returning (STRR); ■ short-term visitor arrival (STVA); ■ short-term resident departure (STRD); and ■ short-term visitor departure (STVD). <p>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.</p>
Census	<p>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 <i>Census of Population and Housing</i>.</p>
Census count	<p>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 information is coded to Census collection districts (CDs). 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.</p>
Country of birth	<p>The classification of countries is the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC). For more detailed information refer to <i>Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) Second Edition</i> (cat. no. 1269.0).</p>
Country of residence	<p>Country of residence refers to the country in which travellers regard themselves as living or as last having lived.</p>
Dependent children	<p>All persons aged under 15 years; and persons aged 15–24 years who are full-time students, have a parent in the household and do not have a partner or child of their own in the household.</p>

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Disposable income	Gross income less income tax, the Medicare levy and the Medicare levy surcharge i.e. remaining income after taxes are deducted, which is available to support consumption and/or saving. Income tax, Medicare levy and the Medicare levy surcharge are imputed based on each person's income and other characteristics as reported in the survey. Disposable income is sometimes referred to as net income.
Emigration	The process of leaving one country to take up permanent or semi-permanent residence in another.
Equivalised disposable household income	Disposable household income adjusted using an equivalence scale. For a lone person household it is equal to disposable household income. For a household comprising more than one person, it is an indicator of the disposable household income that would need to be received by a lone person household to enjoy the same level of economic well-being as the household in question. For further information see Appendix 3 in <i>Household Income and Income Distribution, Australia, 2007–08</i> (cat. no. 6523.0).
Estimated resident population (ERP)	The estimated resident population (ERP) is the official measure of the population of Australia. It is based on the concept of usual residence. For the purpose of ERP, a person is regarded as a usual resident if they have been (or are expected to be) residing in Australia for a period of 12 months or more. As such, 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.
Family composition of household	Classifies households into three broad groupings based on the number of families present (one family, multiple family and non-family). One family households are further disaggregated according to the type of family (such as couple family or one parent family) and according to whether or not dependent children are present. Non-family households are disaggregated into lone person households and group households.
Family stream	Those categories of the Migration Program where the core eligibility criteria are based on a close family relationship with an Australian citizen or permanent resident sponsor. The immediate accompanying families of principal applicants in the family stream (e.g. children of spouses) are also counted as part of the family stream. This definition of family stream is used by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) who administer the Migration Program.
Household	A person living alone or a group of related or unrelated people who usually live in the same private dwelling.
Housing mobility	Housing mobility refers to the movement of people due to a change in their place of usual residence.
Humanitarian Program	The Humanitarian Program provides protection to refugees and resettlement to those for whom it may be the appropriate durable solution. The Humanitarian Program is administered by DIAC.
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. For the purposes of estimating NOM, the rule used to assign an initial category of travel to each traveller is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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



Initial category of travel <i>continued</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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. <p>For the purposes of calculating NOM, there are three main initial categories of travel and 10 sub-categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ permanent traveller: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ permanent arrival (PA); ■ permanent departure (PD); ■ long-term traveller — has a duration of stay (or absence) of one year or more: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ long-term resident returning (LTRR); ■ long-term visitor arrival (LTVA); ■ long-term resident departure (LTRD); ■ long-term visitor departure (LTVD); ■ short-term traveller — has a duration of stay (or absence) of less than one year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ short-term resident returning (STRR); ■ short-term visitor arrival (STVA); ■ short-term resident departure (STRD); and ■ short-term visitor departure (STVD).
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 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 which take account of information available from the latest Census. 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.
Intercensal error	Intercensal error is the 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 which do not take account of information available from the latest Census.
Immigration	The process of entering one country from another to take up permanent or semi-permanent residence.
Internal migration	The difference between the number of persons who have changed their place of usual residence by moving into a defined geographical area within Australia and the number who have changed their place of usual residence by moving out of that defined geographical area during a specified time period. This difference may be either positive or negative.
Interstate migration	See net interstate migration.
Long-term arrivals	Long-term arrivals comprise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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.

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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ convention/conference; ■ business; ■ visiting friends/relatives; ■ holiday; ■ employment; ■ education; and ■ other.
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.
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.
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).
Migration adjustment	The ABS applies a number of adjustments to overseas arrivals and departures data in order to produce estimates of net overseas migration (NOM). These mainly comprise adjustments designed to reflect differences between stated travel intentions and actual travel behaviour, but also include adjustments to transform numbers of overseas movements into numbers of travellers. Migration adjustments replaced the 'category jumping' adjustments previously applied to NOM estimates.
Migration effectiveness ratio (MER)	The net gain or loss of persons from or to a population divided by the total gross moves (i.e. arrivals plus departures) and expressed as a percentage. The lower the ratio, the less the effectiveness of migration as a process of population redistribution.
Migration Program	The annual planned (non-Humanitarian) permanent intake administered by DIAC which regulates the number of visas granted for permanent entry from offshore and for permanent resident status onshore. It does not include New Zealand citizens, Australian citizens returning after permanently departing, residents of external territories such as Norfolk Island, and persons granted Australian citizenship overseas.
Natural increase	Excess of births over deaths.
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. It is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ based on an international travellers' duration of stay being in or out of Australia for 12 months or more; and ■ the difference between: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ the number of incoming international travellers who stay in Australia for 12 months or more, who <i>are not</i> 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, who <i>are</i> currently counted within the population, and are then subtracted from the population (NOM departures).

Net overseas migration (NOM) <i>continued</i>	Under the current method for estimating final net overseas migration this term is based on a traveller's <i>actual</i> 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.
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, who <i>are not</i> 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 <i>actual</i> duration of stay or absence 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, who <i>are</i> 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 <i>actual</i> duration of stay or absence using the '12/16 month rule'.
Other territories	Following amendments to the <i>Acts Interpretation Act 1901</i> 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.
Owner (of dwelling)	A household in which at least one member owns the dwelling in which the household members usually reside. Owners are divided into two classifications — owners without a mortgage and owners with a mortgage. If there is any outstanding mortgage or loan secured against the dwelling the household is an owner with a mortgage. If there is no mortgage or loan secured against the dwelling the household is an owner without a mortgage.
Passenger card	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.
Percentage points	Units of difference between two percentages.
Permanent arrivals	Permanent arrivals (settlers) comprise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ travellers who hold migrant visas (regardless of stated intended period of stay); ■ New Zealand citizens who indicate an intention to migrate permanently; and ■ those who are otherwise eligible to settle (e.g. overseas-born children of Australian citizens).

Permanent arrivals <i>continued</i>	This definition of settlers is used by DIAC. Prior to 1985 the definition of settlers used by the 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 DIAC.
Permanent departures	Permanent departures are Australian residents (including former settlers) who on departure state that they are departing permanently.
Permanent visa	Permission to travel to, enter and/or remain in Australia for a period of time or indefinitely.
Place of usual residence	See usual residence.
Population age-sex pyramid	A population age-sex pyramid is a bar chart graphically representing the age structure of the population, usually in five-year age groups, for males and females separately. The age structure of the population usually approximates the shape of a pyramid because mortality progressively reduces the number in each birth cohort as it ages. The age pyramid is useful to show the existence of unusually large or small cohorts, and in this way, not only conveys a lot about a country's past demographic history, but also a great deal about its demographic future.
Population growth	For Australia, population growth is the sum of natural increase and net overseas migration. For states and territories, population growth also includes net interstate migration. After the Census, intercensal population growth also includes an allowance for intercensal discrepancy.
Population growth rate	Population change over a period as a proportion (percentage) of the population at the beginning of the period.
Population turnover	Population turnover is the sum of interstate arrivals and departures during a year expressed as a proportion of the resident population of the state or territory at the beginning of a time period. Population turnover can also incorporate overseas arrivals and departures (as used for net overseas migration estimates) to and from each state or territory during a year.
Quintiles	Groupings that result from ranking all households or people in the population in ascending order according to some characteristic, such as their household income, and then dividing the population into five equal groups, each comprising 20% of the estimated population.
Return migration	Return migration is the emigration of former settlers to their country of birth.
Self reported temporary NOM arrival	A self reported temporary NOM arrival is any traveller who has identified themselves as a visitor or temporary entrant on Australia's incoming passenger card; who <i>are not</i> currently counted within the population; and then contributed to net overseas migration and the population by staying in Australia for 12 months or more over a 16 month reference period.
Sex ratio	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.
Short-term arrivals	Short-term arrivals comprise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ overseas visitors who intend to stay in Australia for less than 12 months; and ■ Australian residents returning after a stay of less than 12 months overseas.
Short-term departures	Short-term departures comprise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Australian residents who intend to stay abroad for less than 12 months; and ■ overseas visitors departing after a stay of less than 12 months in Australia.

Skill stream	<p>Those categories of the Migration Program where the core eligibility criteria are based on the applicant's employability or capacity to invest and/or do business in Australia. The immediate accompanying families of principal applicants in the skill stream are also counted as part of the skill stream.</p> <p>This definition of skill stream is used by DIAC who administer the Migration Program.</p>
State or territory of intended address/where lived	<p>Overseas visitors are asked on arrival in Australia for their state or territory of intended address. On departure from Australia, overseas visitors are asked the state or territory where they spent most time.</p> <p>Australian residents are asked on departure for the state or territory in which they live/lived. Residents returning to Australia are asked for their state or territory of intended address.</p>
State or territory of intended stay	See State or territory of intended address/where lived.
State or territory of usual residence	<p>State or territory of usual residence refers to the state or territory and SLA of usual residence of the estimated resident population.</p> <p>In the case of overseas movements, state or territory of usual residence refers to the state or territory regarded by the traveller as the one in which he/she lives or has lived. State or territory of intended residence is derived from the intended address given by settlers, and by Australian residents returning after a journey abroad. Particularly in the case of the former, this information does not necessarily relate to the state or territory in which the traveller will eventually establish a permanent residence.</p>
State or territory where spent most time	See Main state or territory of stay.
Step migration	Step migration is the emigration of former settlers to a country other than their country of birth.
Temporary entrants	See temporary visas
Temporary visas	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.
Temporary NOM arrivals	<p>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 and are added to the population but are not migrating permanently.</p> <p>Under the current method for estimating final net overseas migration, this term is based on a traveller's <i>actual</i> duration of stay or absence using the 12/16 rule.</p>
Temporary resident visas	Temporary resident visas are visas issued to allow persons who intend to work or temporarily reside in Australia and can include working holiday makers, long term business entrants. These types of temporary resident visas are granted on the basis of there being an economic, social, cultural or sporting benefit to Australia. Initial stay in Australia is generally for more than three months but not more than four years.
Tenure type	The nature of a unit's (i.e. household's, income unit's or person's, where applicable) legal right to occupy the dwelling in which they usually reside. Tenure is determined according to whether the unit owns the dwelling outright, owns the dwelling but has a mortgage or loan secured against it, is paying rent to live in the dwelling or has some other arrangement to occupy the dwelling.
Usual residence	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.

- 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 DIAC.
- Visitor visas** Visitor visas are visas issued to persons who intent to stay in a Australia for a short period of time. Visitor visas include tourism, short stay business, visiting relatives and medical treatment.

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