Australian Bureau of Statistics

2010–11

3412.0

MIGRATION

AUSTRALIA

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NOTES

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

This publication brings together statistics on international migration into and out of Australia, internal migration within Australia (including interstate and intrastate) and information on overseas-born residents of Australia.

STATUS OF DATA WITHIN THIS PUBLICATION

The status of estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth, and the components of population change (natural increase, net interstate migration (NIM) and net overseas migration (NOM)), are referred to as either preliminary, revised or final. For further information see paragraphs 9–10 of the Explanatory Notes.

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 known as the '12/16 month rule', 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, the methodology used for preliminary NOM estimation was further improved. For additional information see Explanatory Notes 35–37.

A time series of final NOM from 2004 onwards, based on the '12/16 month rule', is available electronically as a data cube from the downloads tab of this publication on the ABS website.

Brian Pink
Australian Statistician

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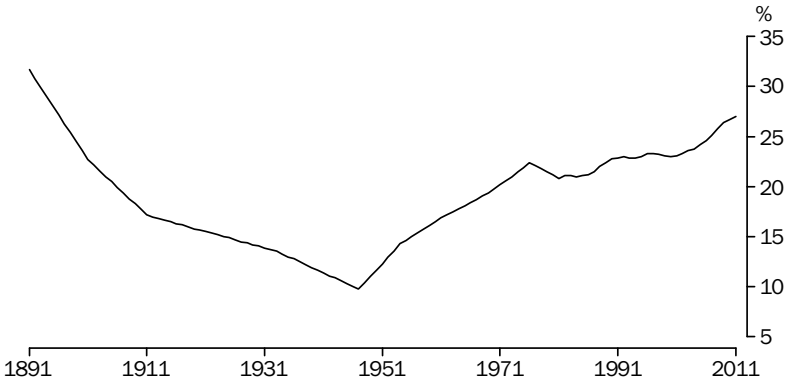
CHAPTER 1 AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH

AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH

The cultural and linguistic diversity of Australia's resident population has been reshaped over many years by migration. Historically, more people immigrate to, than emigrate from, Australia. At 30 June 2011, 27% of the estimated resident population was born overseas (6.0 million people). This was an increase from ten years earlier at 23.1% (4.5 million people).

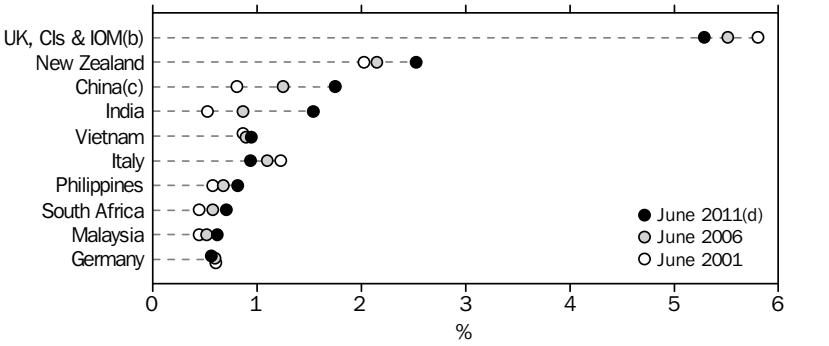
1.1 AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION BORN OVERSEAS(a)(b)



(a) Census years only until 1981. Post 1981 based on estimated resident population at 30 June.
(b) Estimates for 2010–11 are preliminary rebased—see Explanatory Notes 9–10.

Persons born in the United Kingdom continued to be the largest group of overseas-born residents, accounting for 5.3% of Australia's total population at 30 June 2011. This was followed by persons born in New Zealand (2.5%), China (1.8%), India (1.5%) and Vietnam and Italy (0.9% each).

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



(a) Based on the top 10 countries of birth (excluding Australia) at 30 June 2011.
(b) United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man.
(c) China (excludes SARs and Taiwan).
(d) Estimates for 2010–11 are preliminary rebased —see Explanatory Notes 9–10.

AUSTRALIA'S POPULATION BY COUNTRY OF BIRTH *continued*

Over the last 10 years, the proportion of the Australian population who were born in the United Kingdom decreased from 5.8% in 2001 to 5.3% in 2011. Conversely, the proportions increased for people born in New Zealand (from 2% to 2.5%), China (from 0.8% to 1.8%) and India (from 0.5% to 1.5%).

In terms of Australia's population growth, for the top 50 countries of birth at 30 June 2011, persons born in Nepal had the highest rate of increase between 2001 and 2011 with an average annual growth rate of 27%. However, this growth began from a small base of 2,800 persons at 30 June 2001. The second fastest increase over this period was in the number of persons born in Sudan (17.6% per year on average), followed by those born in India (12.7%), Bangladesh (11.9%) and Pakistan (10.2%). Of the top 50 countries of birth, the number of persons born in Hungary decreased the most, with an average annual decrease of 1.4%, closely followed by both Italy and Poland, with an average annual decrease of 1.3% each. The next largest decreases were of persons born in Malta and Cyprus (0.8% each).

CHAPTER 2 NET OVERSEAS MIGRATION

NET OVERSEAS MIGRATION

Net overseas migration (NOM) is the net gain or loss of population through immigration to Australia and emigration from Australia. Data provided by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship (DIAC) is used by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) to calculate the official NOM estimates each quarter.

In 2010–11, NOM continued to decline since reaching its record high in 2008-09. Preliminary NOM in 2010–11 was estimated at 170,300 persons, which was 13% (25,800 persons) less than in 2009–10.

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

(a) Contains a break in series at 30 June 2006—see Explanatory Notes 26–27.
(b) Estimates for 2010–11 are preliminary—see Explanatory Notes 9–10.

In 2010–11, NOM contributed the greatest number of people to the most populous states: New South Wales with a net of 50,200 persons, followed by Victoria (45,700), Queensland (31,300) and Western Australia (30,800). The Northern Territory had the lowest with a net of 630 persons (see table 2.2). For the most up-to-date official estimates of NOM by state and territory produced by the ABS see *Australian Demographic Statistics Quarterly* (cat. no. 3101.0). For the most up-to-date forecasts of NOM produced by DIAC see *The Outlook for Net Overseas Migration: March 2012*.

NET OVERSEAS MIGRATION *continued*

2.2 NOM, Selected characteristics—State & territory—2010–11(a)

State or territory	NOM		NOM ARRIVALS			NOM DEPARTURES		
			Overseas arrivals	*Median age*	*Sex ratio*(b)	*Overseas departures*	*Median age*	*Sex ratio*(b)
	no.	%	no.	years	ratio	no.	years	ratio
NSW	50 186	29.5	141 161	27.4	99.4	90 975	28.7	103.5
Vic.	45 744	26.9	105 519	26.6	97.0	59 775	27.5	106.9
Qld	31 266	18.4	82 409	26.5	99.5	51 143	27.9	104.0
SA	8 667	5.1	19 658	26.1	97.8	10 991	27.4	106.1
WA	30 805	18.1	60 084	27.2	107.9	29 279	28.7	113.9
Tas.	995	0.6	3 396	27.5	101.5	2 401	28.7	103.8
NT	630	0.4	4 375	29.1	109.8	3 745	30.5	130.0
ACT	1 981	1.2	7 288	27.4	102.8	5 307	28.9	103.8
Australia(c)	**170 279**	**100.0**	**423 897**	**27.0**	**100.1**	**253 618**	**28.2**	**106.0**

(a) Estimates for 2010–11 are preliminary — see Explanatory Notes 9-10.
(b) Males per 100 females.
(c) Includes Other Territories.

An individual's actual travel behaviour and associated characteristics, including visa type, are only available from final NOM data, as these can only be accurately recorded at the end of the 16 month reference period following a traveller's initial border crossing.

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. In addition, travellers may also apply for, and be granted, a different visa whilst in Australia or overseas. However, without an additional border crossing within the reference quarter to capture a traveller's change of visa, the NOM system is unable to incorporate these occurrences.

Table 2.3 shows a breakdown of the types of visa groups which have contributed to final NOM. It shows that temporary visa holders are still the main contributors to NOM in 2009-10.

NET OVERSEAS MIGRATION *continued*

2.3 NOM, by major groupings and visa(a)—Australia—2009–10

	NOM ARRIVAL		NOM DEPARTURE		NOM	
Major groupings and visa	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
Temporary visas	***211 458***	***48.3***	***104 951***	***43.4***	***106 507***	***54.3***
Vocational education and training sector	25 710	5.9	9 880	4.1	15 830	8.1
Higher education sector	56 494	12.9	24 205	10.0	32 289	16.5
Student other	25 039	5.7	8 268	3.4	16 771	8.6
Business long-stay (subclass 457)	26 225	6.0	14 599	6.0	11 626	5.9
Visitor(b)	40 319	9.2	16 241	6.7	24 078	12.3
Working holiday	33 031	7.5	15 034	6.2	17 997	9.2
Other temporary visas	4 640	1.1	16 724	6.9	–12 084	–6.2
Permanent Visas	***84 014***	***19.2***	***6 388***	***2.6***	***77 626***	***39.6***
Family	34 592	7.9	2 531	1.0	32 061	16.4
Skill	39 564	9.0	3 779	1.6	35 785	18.3
Special eligibility and humanitarian	9 858	2.3	78	—	9 780	5.0
New Zealand citizen (subclass 444)	***39 586***	***9.0***	***18 432***	***7.6***	***21 154***	***10.8***
Australian citizen	***79 042***	***18.0***	***83 339***	***34.5***	***–4 297***	***–2.2***
Other(c)	***23 828***	***5.4***	***28 762***	***11.9***	***–4 934***	***–2.5***
Total	**437 928**	**100.0**	**241 872**	**100.0**	**196 056**	**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.

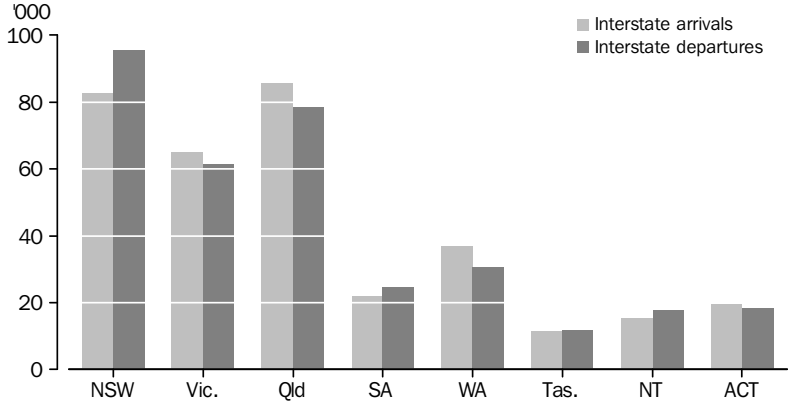
(c) Includes residents returning (i.e. non Australian citizens who are permanent residents), onshore visas and visa unknown.

CHAPTER 3 NET INTERSTATE MIGRATION

NET INTERSTATE MIGRATION

Net interstate migration (NIM) is the net gain or loss of population through the movement of people from one state or territory of usual residence to another. It is an important component required to calculate Australia's estimated resident population at the state and territory level, see *Australian Demographic Statistics Quarterly* (cat. no. 3101.0). During 2010-11, it was estimated that 337,900 people moved interstate. This is a 2% increase from the number of people who moved in the previous year (331,400 persons).

3.1 INTERSTATE MIGRATION FLOWS—2010–11(a)



(a) Estimates for 2010–11 are preliminary—see Explanatory Notes 9–10.

Net interstate migration can be a source of population gain or loss for a state. In the year ended 30 June 2011, it was a source of population loss for New South Wales, South Australia, the Northern Territory and Tasmania, with net losses of 13,200 persons, 2,600 persons, 2,500 persons and 50 persons respectively. Those states and territories where NIM contributed positively to population growth were Queensland (7,200 persons), Western Australia (6,200 persons), Victoria (3,800 persons), and the Australian Capital Territory (1,400 persons).

3.2 NET INTERSTATE MIGRATION(a)—2001–02 to 2010–11

	NSW	*Vic.*	*Qld*	*SA*	*WA*	*Tas.*	*NT*	*ACT*
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
2009–10	–10 540	2 555	9 576	–2 964	1 962	322	–842	–69
2010–11	–13 218	3 759	7 150	–2 613	6 163	–47	–2 549	1 355
Annual average 2001–02 to 2010–11	**–23 349**	**–323**	**24 574**	**–2 976**	**2 566**	**369**	**–739**	**–105**

(a) Estimates for 2006-07 to 2010-11 are preliminary—see Explanatory Notes 9-10.

NET INTERSTATE MIGRATION *continued*

Over the decade ending June 2011, Queensland consistently recorded an annual NIM gain from the rest of the country. However, over the last 10 years the gain in NIM has gradually declined. In 2002-03, Queensland gained 38,000 persons compared with a net gain of 7,200 persons in 2010-11.

Western Australia recorded an average net gain in the past 10 years due to the gains recorded from 2003-04 onwards; gains which ranged between 2,000 persons in 2009-10 to 6,200 persons in 2010-11. In the first two years of the past decade, NIM losses ranging between 2,000 persons and 3,600 persons were recorded in Western Australia.

Tasmania's NIM fluctuated throughout the past decade with slightly more net gains than net losses. Tasmania experienced high net losses in the first year of the past decade and in 2006-07. Since 2002-03, Tasmania has generally had more positive flows into the state.

The remaining states and territories recorded NIM losses with New South Wales recording the largest annual average net loss (23,300 persons) followed by South Australia (3,000 persons), the Northern Territory (740 persons), Victoria (320 persons) and the Australian Capital Territory (100 persons).

CHAPTER 4 NET REGIONAL MIGRATION

NET REGIONAL MIGRATION

Net regional migration is the net gain or loss of population through the movement of people from one location to another location within Australia. For the first time, the Australian Bureau of Statistics has prepared a series of annual experimental estimates of regional internal migration. This was based on the 2011 edition of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). The following provides a brief analysis at three substate geographic levels: the Statistical Local Area (SLA), the Statistical Subdivision (SSD) and the Statistical Division (SD). For further information about the methodology used and the ASGC refer to Explanatory Notes 59 to 61.

Statistical Local Area

Just over two million people moved between Statistical Local Areas during 2010–11. This was 1.6% lower than the number of moves estimated in 2009–10 (2.04 million). Around 2.18 million people moved between SLAs in 2008–09, which was the highest number of inter-SLA moves for any year from 2006–07 to 2010–11.

The three SLAs with the highest gains in 2010–11 were all in the Melbourne metropolitan area: Whittlesea (C) - North (4,600 persons), Wyndham (C) - South (4,000 persons), and Casey (C) - Cranbourne (2,800 persons) in Melbourne's north, west and south-east respectively.

Canterbury (C) in Sydney (–2,600 persons), and Gr. Dandenong (C) - Dandenong (–2,000 persons) and Brimbank (C) - Keilor (–1,700 persons) in Melbourne were the three SLAs with the highest net internal migration losses in 2010–11.

Statistical Subdivision

At the Statistical Subdivision level, Melton-Wyndham in Melbourne's western suburbs had the highest positive net internal migration estimate in 2010–11 (9,600 persons). Most arrivals into Melton-Wyndham came from the neighbouring SSD of Western Melbourne (9,200 persons), which was well ahead of the next highest source SSDs, Inner Melbourne (1,700 persons) and Hume City (900 persons).

Eastern Middle Melbourne (–5,700 persons) had the highest net outflow of all SSDs in the country in 2010–11. Eastern Outer Melbourne received the most departures from Eastern Middle Melbourne (4,500 persons), followed by Southern Melbourne (2,800 persons) and Booroondara City (2,600 persons) SSDs.

Central Northern Sydney was the SSD with the highest number of net internal migrants aged 0–14 years in 2010–11 (1,700 persons), while Inner Sydney SSD lost the most 0–14 year olds (–2,000 persons).

Melton-Wyndham SSD gained a net 5,700 people aged 25–44 years from other parts of Australia in 2010–11, which was the highest net gain for any SSD in the country. The SSD of Inner Melbourne had the biggest loss of internal migrants aged 25–44, with 3,100 more departures than arrivals in 2010–11, the net outflow of females (–2,000 persons) much higher than males (–1,100 persons).

Statistical Subdivision continued

In terms of people aged 85 and over, Inner Melbourne (200 persons), Eastern Adelaide (70 persons) and Eastern Outer Melbourne (60 persons) were the SSDs with the biggest net internal migration gains in 2010–11. Western Adelaide (–100 persons), Canterbury-Bankstown (–90 persons) in Sydney, and Southern Melbourne (–80 persons) were the SSDs with the highest net outflows of people aged 85 and over in 2010–11.

Statistical Division

Perth was the Statistical Division with the highest net internal migration gain of 15–24 year olds in 2010–11 (2,500 persons), with the figure for males (1,500 persons) around 50% higher than for females (1,000 persons). South-Eastern in NSW, which surrounds the Australian Capital Territory, had the highest net outflow of people aged 15–24 to other SDs (–1,100 persons).

For further information see the four experimental regional internal migration estimates spreadsheets under the Datacubes tab.

EXPLANATORY NOTES

INTRODUCTION

1 This publication contains statistics relating to the estimated resident population (ERP) by country of birth, overseas migration, interstate migration and regional migration.

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 20 June 2012

	Census base	*Natural increase*	*Net overseas migration*	*Net interstate migration*	*ERP STATUS*
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. 2010	Preliminary rebased — based on 2011 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	PRELIMINARY REBASED
Sep. 2010–Jun. 2011	Preliminary rebased — based on 2011 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 REBASED

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 country 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 three or four year course of study,

Reasons for change of methods used to estimate NOM continued

who leaves Australia briefly each year for holiday or other reasons, would incorrectly not be added to estimates of Australia's population. This was because after the passage of time, they did not spend a continuous period of 12 months in Australia during their long-term period of stay in Australia (the previous method of measurement). This was inconsistent with the intention behind the definition of a long-term migrant as set out in the *United Nations Recommendations on Statistics of International Migration, Revision 1 (1998, 18)* and the ABS Estimated Resident Population conceptual definition. The use of single continuous periods of stay as the criteria (i.e. 12 continuous months) for classifying travellers into the non-permanent migration categories (e.g. short-term visitor, long-term visitor) was seen as a major shortcoming in the measurement of NOM and consequently estimates of Australia's resident population.

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).

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

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

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.

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.

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

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)(c)
September 2006 – June 2010	Final	Actual duration of stay/absence, based at the individual traveller level (12/16 month rule)(c)
September 2010 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: '12/16 month rule' methodology for Calculating Net Overseas Migration from September quarter 2006 onwards.

(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.

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.

Sources of interstate migration data

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.

Sources of interstate migration data continued

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).

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.

Interstate migration method continued

58 For further information on the process of estimating interstate migration and the administrative data used, see 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).

Regional migration method

59 For the first time, the ABS has prepared a series of annual experimental estimates of regional migration. Data cubes attached to this product provide summaries of this experimental data for years ending 30 June 2007 to 2011, based on the 2011 edition of the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC), and have been compiled by age and sex.

60 The Medicare and Defence data used for estimating interstate migration had not previously been deemed suitable for estimating internal migration below the state/territory level as they are supplied to ABS by postcode, which is not directly compatible with the base spatial unit of the ASGC, the Statistical Local Area (SLA). The SLA is the boundary set that the ABS prepared estimates of population and its components until 2012 (from 2012 the Australian Statistical Geography Standard became the new standard).

61 However, the ABS has developed a method to convert the postcode-based Medicare and Defence migration data to SLA, which is summarised in *Discussion Paper: Assessment of Methods for Developing Experimental Historical Estimates for Regional Internal Migration* (cat. no. 3405.0.55.001). This paper also provides an overview of how some deficiencies in the Medicare and Defence data were accounted for, and how the estimates were constrained to published interstate migration estimates. Very small cells have been randomised. For some regions with very small populations and unreliable data, internal migration estimates were assumed to be zero. No 2011 Census data was used in the compilation of these estimates.

COUNTRY CLASSIFICATION

62 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), 2011* (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.

63 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

64 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'.

65 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

66 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>.

67 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.

68 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

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

ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ASCCSS	Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics
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
LTRD	long-term resident departure
LTRR	long-term resident return
LTVA	long-term visitor arrival
LTVD	long-term visitor departure
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
Qld	Queensland
SA	South Australia
SACC	Standard Australian Classification of Countries
SAR	Special Administrative Region
SD	statistical division
SLA	statistical local area
SSD	statistical subdivision
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
USA	United States of America
Vic.	Victoria
WA	Western Australia

INCOMING CARD – FRONT

Incoming passenger card • Australia

PLEASE COMPLETE IN ENGLISH WITH A BLUE OR BLACK PEN

- Family/surname
- Given names
- Passport number
- Flight number or name of ship
- Intended address in Australia

State

- Do you intend to live in Australia for the next 12 months? Yes No
- If you are **NOT an Australian citizen**:
  - Do you have tuberculosis? Yes No
  - Do you have any criminal conviction/s? Yes No

YOU MUST ANSWER EVERY QUESTION – IF UNSURE, ✕ Yes

Are you bringing into Australia:

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? **Note**: If a customs or police officer asks, you must report travellers cheques, cheques, money orders or other bearer negotiable instruments of any amount.	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
10.	Have you been in contact with farms, farm animals, wilderness areas or freshwater streams/lakes etc in the past 30 days?	Yes	No
11.	Were you in Africa, South/Central America or the Caribbean in the last 6 days?	Yes	No

DECLARATION
The information I have given is true, correct and complete. I understand failure to answer any questions may have serious consequences.

YOUR SIGNATURE Day Month Year

TURN OVER THE CARD
English

INCOMING CARD - BACK

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS IN AUSTRALIA

Phone ( )
E-mail OR
Address State

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS (FAMILY OR FRIEND)

Name
E-mail, Phone OR Mail address

PLEASE COMPLETE IN ENGLISH

- In which country did you board this flight or ship?
- What is your usual occupation?
- Nationality as shown on passport
- Date of birth Day Month Year

PLEASE ✕ AND ANSWER A OR B OR C

A Migrating permanently to Australia

B Visitor or temporary entrant

- Your intended length of stay in Australia Years Months OR Days
- Your country of residence
- Your main reason for coming to Australia (✕ one only)

Convention/conference 1 Employment 4 Holiday 7
Business 2 Education 5 Other 8
Visiting friends or relatives 3 Exhibition 6

C Resident returning to Australia

- Country where you spent most time abroad

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE COMPLETED BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD. PRESENT THIS CARD ON ARRIVAL WITH YOUR PASSPORT.

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 *Safeguarding your personal information* is available at Australian ports and airports.

11091507

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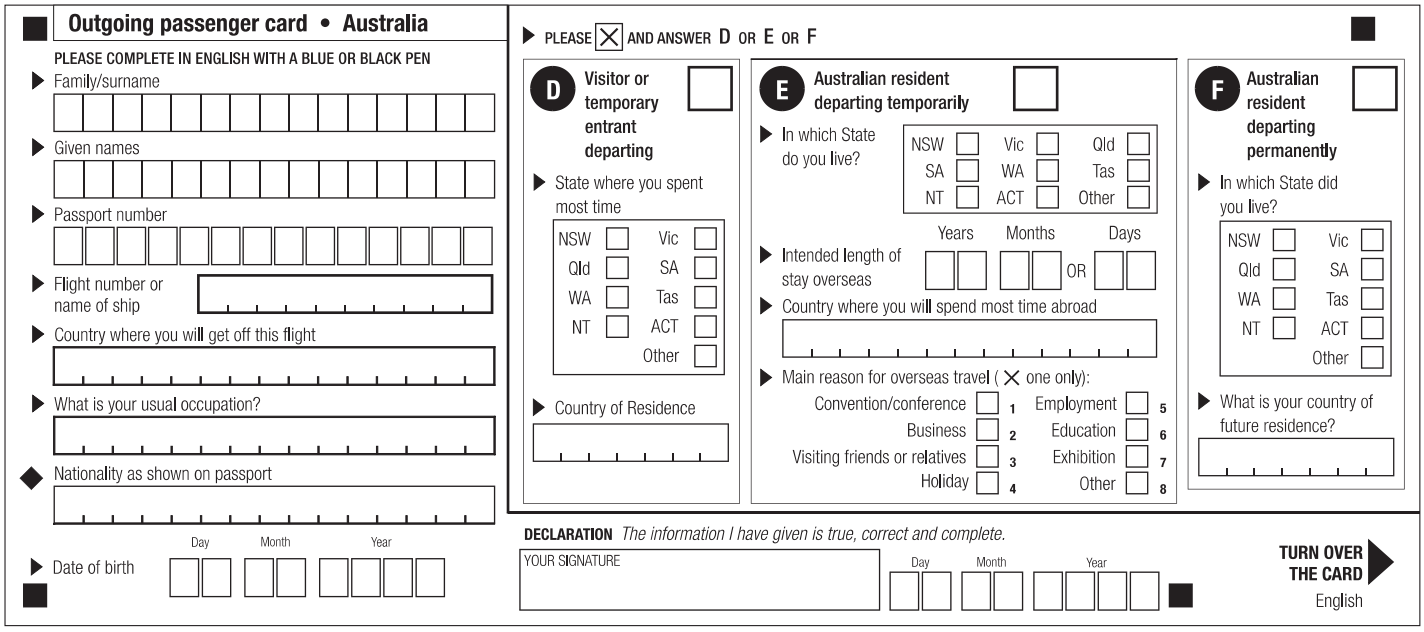
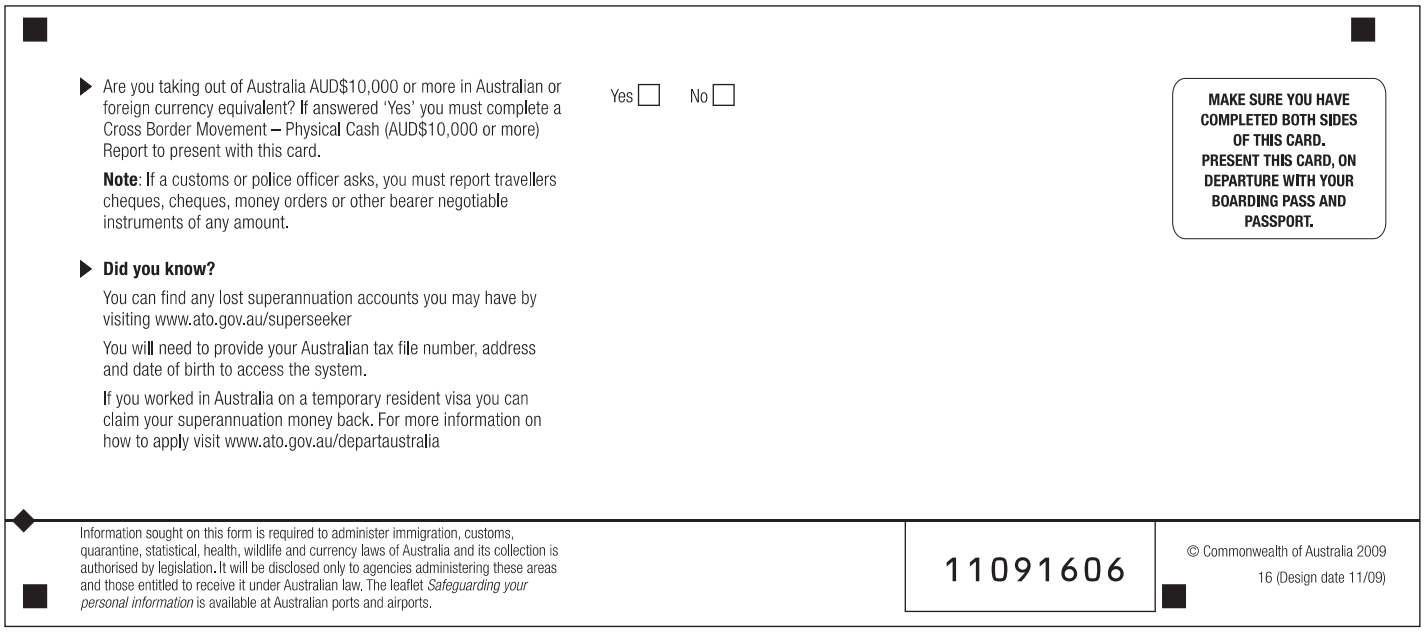
15 (Design date 11/09)

Incoming passenger card used from November 2009.

OUTGOING CARD - FRONT



OUTGOING CARD - BACK



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 *continued*

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

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

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

Category of movement

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

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

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

Census

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

Census count

The Census of Population and Housing enumerates persons on the basis of where they were located on Census Night. The Census also compiles information on people according to their place of usual residence. This 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.

Country of birth

The classification of countries is the Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC). For more detailed information refer to *Standard Australian Classification of Countries (SACC) Second Edition* (cat. no. 1269.0).

Country of residence

Country of residence refers to the country in which travellers regard themselves as living or as last having lived.

Emigration

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

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.

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:

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

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

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

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

Interstate migration See net interstate migration.

Long-term arrivals Long-term arrivals comprise of long-term visitor arrivals (LTVA) and long-term resident returns (LTRR).

Long-term departures Long-term departures comprise of long-term resident departures (LTRD) and long-term visitor departures (LTVD).

Long-term resident departures (LTRD) Australian residents who state that they intend to stay abroad for 12 months or more (but not permanently).

Long-term resident returns (LTRR) Australian residents returning after an absence of 12 months or more overseas.

Long-term visitor arrivals (LTVA) Overseas visitors who state that they intend to stay in Australia for 12 months or more (but not permanently).

Long-term visitor departures (LTVD) 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:

- 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.

Natural increase Excess of births over deaths.

Net internal migration: The difference between the number of persons who changed their place of usual residence by moving in to, and out of, a defined area within Australia. This difference may be positive or negative.

Net interstate migration (NIM) The difference between the number of persons who have changed their place of usual residence by moving into a given state or territory and the number who have changed their place of usual residence by moving out of that state or territory. This difference can be either positive or negative.

Net overseas migration (NOM) Net overseas migration is the net gain or loss of population through immigration to Australia and emigration from Australia. It is:

- based on an international travellers' duration of stay being in or out of Australia for 12 months or more; and
- the difference between:
  - the number of incoming international travellers who stay in Australia for 12 months or more, who *are not* currently counted within the population, and are then added to the population (NOM arrivals); and
  - the number of outgoing international travellers (Australian residents and long-term visitors to Australia) who leave Australia for 12 months or more, who *are* currently counted within the population, and are then subtracted from the population (NOM departures).

Under the current method for estimating final net overseas migration this term is based on a traveller's *actual* duration of stay or absence using the '12/16 month rule'. Preliminary NOM estimates are modelled on patterns of traveller behaviours observed in final NOM estimates for the same period one year earlier.

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 *are not* currently counted within the population, and are then added to the population.

Under the current method for estimating final net overseas migration this term is based on a traveller's *actual* duration of stay 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 *are* currently counted within the population, and are then subtracted from the population.

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

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

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

Overseas migration See net overseas migration (NOM).

Overseas migration adjustment See Migration adjustment.

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:
- 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).

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 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.

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 of short-term visitor arrivals (STVA) and short-term resident returns (STRR).

Short-term departures — Short-term departures comprise of short-term resident departures (STRD) and short-term visitor departures (STVD).

Short-term resident departures (STRD) — Australian residents who intend to stay abroad for less than 12 months.

Short-term resident returns (STRR) — Australian residents returning after a stay of less than 12 months overseas.

Short-term visitor arrivals (STVA) — Overseas visitors who intend to stay in Australia for less than 12 months.

Short-term visitor departures (STVD) — Overseas visitors departing after a stay of less than 12 months in Australia.

Skill stream — 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.

This definition of skill stream is used by DIAC who administer the Migration Program.

State or territory of intended address/where lived — 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.

State or territory of intended address/where lived *continued*

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.

State or territory of intended stay

See State or territory of intended address/where lived.

State or territory of usual residence

State or territory of usual residence refers to the state or territory and SLA of usual residence of the estimated resident population.

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.

State or territory where spent most time

See Main state or territory of stay.

Student net overseas migration (student NOM)

Student NOM is the net number of passengers travelling on student visas who contribute to net overseas migration. For further information see net overseas migration (NOM).

Student NOM arrivals

Student NOM arrivals are NOM arrivals for passengers travelling on student visas. For further information see NOM arrivals.

Student NOM departures

Student NOM departures are NOM departures for passengers travelling on student visas. For further information see NOM departures.

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

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.

Under the current method for estimating final net overseas migration, this term is based on a traveller's *actual* duration of stay or absence using the 12/16 rule.

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.

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