



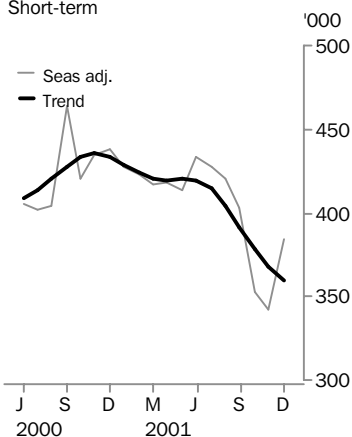
# OVERSEAS ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

AUSTRALIA

EMBARGO: 11:30AM (CANBERRA TIME) THURS 24 JAN 2002

## Visitor arrivals

Short-term



## DECEMBER 2001 PRELIMINARY

	Dec 2001 '000s	% change between Nov 2001 and Dec 2001	Jan 2001 to Dec 2001 '000	% change on previous corresponding period
<b>Short-term</b>				
Visitor arrivals				
Trend	359.1	-2.4	..	..
Seasonally adjusted	384.3	12.3	..	..
Original	504.9	..	4 816.6	-2.6

## KEY POINTS

- There were 504,900 short-term visitor arrivals to Australia during December 2001.
- The trend estimate for short-term visitor arrivals decreased in December 2001 by 2.4%, while the seasonally adjusted estimate increased by 12.3% compared to November 2001.
- The total number of short-term visitor arrivals for the year ended December 2001 amounted to 4.8 million, a decrease of 2.6% compared to the year ended December 2000 (4.9 million).
- New Zealand (15%) and Japan (14%) were the main source countries of short-term visitor arrivals to Australia for the year ended December 2001. Compared to the year ended December 2000, the number of visitor arrivals from New Zealand decreased by 11% while the number of visitor arrivals from Japan decreased by 5%.
- Short-term visitor arrivals from China (171,800) for the year ended December 2001 showed the largest increase (38%) over the year ended December 2000.

- For further information about these and related statistics, contact the National Information and Referral Service on 1300 135 070, or Amanda Dobson on Canberra 02 6252 5640.

## NOTES

### FORTHCOMING ISSUES

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) has yet to receive final Overseas Arrivals and Departures (OAD) data from August 2000 onwards from the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs (DIMIA).

Because of the use of overseas arrivals and departures data in population estimates which affects State and Territory Government funding, DIMIA is giving priority to processing passenger cards for July 2001 and subsequent months before finalising processing for earlier months - August 2000 through to June 2001. Firm release dates for final OAD data are not available. Further information on the expected release of final OAD data will be updated on the Demography Theme page on the ABS website <[www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)>, and in future issues of this publication.

Preliminary estimates of short-term visitor arrivals will continue to be published in this publication.

### ABS WORKING PAPER

A Demography working paper (2001/7) — *Statistical Requirements for Overseas Arrivals and Departures Data at September 2001* — is available from the ABS Website at <<http://www.abs.gov.au>>; from the navigation bar select Themes, Demography.

### CHANGES IN THIS ISSUE

This issue of 3401.0 contains preliminary estimates of short-term visitor arrivals in August 2000 through to December 2001. There is no final data on short-term visitor arrivals, short-term resident departures and permanent and long-term movements for these months. Only tables 1 and 6 of the standard publication are included.

### TREND REVISIONS

Each time new seasonally adjusted estimates become available, trend estimates of short-term arrivals are revised (see paragraphs 14 to 17 of the Explanatory Notes).

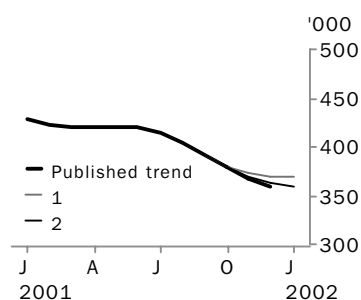
The example in the graph below shows the illustrative scenario and the consequent revisions to previous trend estimates of visitor arrivals.

The seasonally adjusted estimate for:

1 January visitor arrivals is 2.90% higher than December, and

2 January visitor arrivals is 2.90% lower than December.

#### VISITOR ARRIVALS



The percentage change of 2.90 was chosen because it represents the average absolute monthly percentage changes between months for visitor arrivals over the last four years.

Dennis Trewin  
Australian Statistician

## MAIN FEATURES

### SHORT-TERM MOVEMENTS

#### VISITOR ARRIVALS

There were an estimated 504,900 short-term visitor arrivals to Australia in December 2001 bringing the total number of visitor arrivals for the year ended December 2001 to 4.8 million, 2.6% lower than the number of overseas visitor arrivals for the year ended December 2000 (4.9 million).

The major source countries of short-term visitor arrivals to Australia for the year ended December 2001 were New Zealand (15%), Japan (14%), the United Kingdom (13%), the United States of America (9%), Singapore (6%), China (4%) and Korea (4%).

Comparing the year ended December 2001 to the corresponding period ending December 2000, there were increases in the number of short-term visitor arrivals from only four out of the ten top source countries. The United Kingdom, the third main source country, increased by 6%, while Korea, the sixth main source country showed an increase of 13%. New Zealand, the main source country, decreased by 11%, Japan, the second main source country decreased by 5% and the United States of America, the fourth source country, decreased by 8%.

Of the top ten source countries for short-term visitor arrivals for the year ended December 2001:

729,900 short-term visitors came from New Zealand a decrease of 11%, compared to the year ended December 2000;

681,400 came from Japan, a decrease of 5%;

611,500 came from the United Kingdom, an increase of 6%;

445,800 came from the United States of America, a decrease of 8%;

267,500 came from Singapore, a decrease of 3%;

180,600 came from Korea, an increase of 13%;

171,800 came from China, an increase of 38%;

154,000 came from Germany, an increase of 7%;

152,900 came from Malaysia, a decrease of 0.4%;

115,500 came from Taiwan, a decrease of 15%.

**TABLE 1. TOTAL MOVEMENT—ARRIVALS: CATEGORY OF MOVEMENT**

Period	Long-term arrivals			Total permanent and long-term arrivals	Short-term arrivals (a) (‘000)				Total arrivals (a) (‘000)
	Permanent arrivals Settlers	Australian residents	Overseas visitors		Australian residents	Overseas visitors (original)	Overseas visitors (Seasonally adjusted b)	Overseas visitors (Trend estimate c)	
Year ended 31 December —									
1998	81,070	75,320	112,000	268,380	3,143.9	4,167.2	..	..	7,579.5
1999	87,140	76,130	125,730	289,000	3,226.1	4,459.5	..	..	7,974.6
2000 p	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	4,946.2	..	..	n.y.a
2001 p	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	4,816.6	..	..	n.y.a
Year ended 30 June —									
1999	84,140	67,910	119,890	271,950	3,191.6	4,288.0	..	..	7,751.6
2000	92,270	79,650	133,200	305,120	3,299.9	4,651.8	..	..	8,255.9
2001 p	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	5,061.3	..	..	n.y.a
2000 —									
August p	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	368.3	404.1	420.3	n.y.a
September p	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	406.5	463.5	427.3	n.y.a
October p	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	435.6	421.0	432.9	n.y.a
November p	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	460.9	434.4	435.1	n.y.a
December p	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	565.7	438.3	433.3	n.y.a
2001 —									
January p	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	425.9	427.1	428.7	n.y.a
February p	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	438.7	422.5	423.4	n.y.a
March p	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	434.5	417.4	419.9	n.y.a
April p	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	402.6	418.6	419.5	n.y.a
May p	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	328.0	412.9	420.4	n.y.a
June p	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	365.7	433.8	419.7	n.y.a
July p	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	447.0	427.0	414.5	n.y.a
August p	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	379.9	420.6	404.5	n.y.a
September p	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	358.0	403.5	391.7	n.y.a
October p	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	365.2	352.4	378.8	n.y.a
November p	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	366.4	342.4	367.8	n.y.a
December p	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	n.y.a	504.9	384.3	359.1	n.y.a

(a) Figures for short-term movement are based on a sample and are subject to sampling error. See paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Explanatory Notes for more detail.

(b) See paragraphs 14 and 15 of the Explanatory Notes.

(c) See paragraphs 16 and 17 of the Explanatory Notes.

**TABLE 6. SHORT-TERM MOVEMENT(a) — ARRIVALS OF OVERSEAS VISITORS  
COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE(b)**  
(‘000)

<i>Country of residence(b)</i>	<i>Quarter ended 31 December</i>		<i>% change</i>	<i>Year ended 31 December</i>		<i>% change</i>	<i>Month of December</i>	
	<i>2000p</i>	<i>2001p</i>		<i>2000p</i>	<i>2001p</i>		<i>2000p</i>	<i>2001p</i>
<b>OCEANIA &amp; ANTARCTICA —</b>								
New Zealand	224.6	163.7	-27.1	821.1	729.9	-11.1	75.8	54.1
<i>Total</i>	264.4	197.4	-25.3	957.3	860.2	-10.1	92.0	67.7
<b>EUROPE &amp; THE FORMER USSR —</b>								
Germany	46.4	47.6	2.5	144.7	154.0	6.5	15.1	15.3
Italy	18.3	12.6	-31.2	58.2	47.4	-18.6	7.5	5.5
Netherlands	22.0	20.1	-8.6	61.2	59.9	-2.0	7.0	6.9
Sweden	14.3	12.4	-13.3	37.2	33.6	-9.8	6.3	5.9
Switzerland	16.4	16.6	1.1	48.4	49.2	1.6	6.5	6.6
United Kingdom	206.9	199.9	-3.4	578.0	611.5	5.8	88.4	88.7
<i>Total</i>	410.8	381.1	-7.2	1,201.9	1,197.5	-0.4	161.9	156.7
<b>MIDDLE EAST &amp; NORTH AFRICA —</b>								
<i>Total</i>	14.9	11.4	-23.6	56.7	59.1	4.4	6.5	5.2
<b>SOUTHEAST ASIA —</b>								
Indonesia	33.9	32.8	-3.2	101.6	100.4	-1.2	18.2	19.2
Malaysia	45.8	37.2	-18.8	153.5	152.9	-0.4	19.1	17.0
Philippines	9.2	7.7	-16.7	39.1	31.6	-19.3	3.1	3.0
Singapore	96.4	70.7	-26.7	276.1	267.5	-3.1	43.6	31.5
Thailand	21.6	18.4	-15.1	74.2	78.0	5.1	7.1	6.8
<i>Total</i>	211.9	172.3	-18.7	666.5	653.0	-2.0	93.2	79.8
<b>NORTHEAST ASIA —</b>								
China	39.3	43.9	11.7	124.3	171.8	38.2	15.1	14.6
Japan	195.0	138.8	-28.8	720.3	681.4	-5.4	71.5	56.0
Korea	43.5	53.1	22.2	160.2	180.6	12.8	17.7	25.3
Taiwan	26.0	21.5	-17.4	135.0	115.5	-14.5	8.2	8.1
<i>Total</i>	345.0	291.7	-15.5	1,295.5	1,307.9	1.0	129.4	119.3
<b>THE AMERICAS —</b>								
Canada	28.9	29.3	1.1	89.2	95.0	6.6	11.4	12.3
United States of America	126.5	104.3	-17.6	482.2	445.8	-7.5	46.3	42.2
<i>Total</i>	168.3	141.2	-16.1	616.9	577.3	-6.4	62.8	58.0
<b>AFRICA (excluding North Africa) —</b>								
South Africa	22.1	19.7	-11.2	65.5	66.6	1.7	9.9	9.0
<i>Total</i>	28.0	24.1	-13.8	85.7	84.1	-1.9	12.2	11.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,462.2</b>	<b>1,236.5</b>	<b>-15.4</b>	<b>4,946.2</b>	<b>4,816.6</b>	<b>-2.6</b>	<b>565.7</b>	<b>504.9</b>

(a) Figures for short-term movement are based on a sample and are subject to sampling error. See paragraphs 9 and 10 of the Explanatory Notes for more detail.

(b) See paragraphs 4, 6 and 7 of the Explanatory Notes.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### INTRODUCTION

**1** This publication contains statistics of persons arriving in, and departing from, Australia, together with the major characteristics of travellers. More detailed statistics can be made available on request (see paragraph 21).

### SOURCE OF THE STATISTICS

**2** Persons arriving in, or departing from, Australia provide information in the form of incoming and outgoing passenger cards (see Appendix 1). Incoming persons also provide information in visa applications, apart from people travelling as Australian and New Zealand citizens. These and other information available to the Department of Immigration and Multicultural and indigenous Affairs (DIMIA) serve as a source for statistics of overseas arrivals and departures.

**3** In July 1998, DIMA revised the incoming and outgoing passenger cards and associated procedures as well as computer systems. Following these changes, some questions on the passenger cards were not compulsory and answers to these questions were not checked by Customs officers. The question on marital status was deleted. Data on marital status is now derived from visa applications (only for certain visa classes) and is therefore not available for Australian or New Zealand citizens. The changes also affect the data for 'Previous country of residence' which is imputed for Australian and New Zealand citizens. For more information see the May 1998 issue of this publication. Since July 1998, there have been additional minor changes to both passenger cards.

**4** The preliminary estimates of visitor arrivals by country of residence (see Table 6, page 7) are based on data from DIMIA's Travel and Immigration Processing System (TRIPS). The TRIPS system produces a limited range of data, including country of citizenship, which is used by ABS to produce preliminary estimates by country of usual residence. These preliminary estimates will be revised in the next issue of this publication, when final data is available. For more information see pages 3 and 4 of the June 1997 and the September 1998 issues of this publication.

### SCOPE

**5** The statistics in this publication 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 statistics exclude the movements of operational air and ships' crew, of transit passengers who pass through Australia but are not cleared for entry, and of passengers on pleasure cruises commencing and finishing in Australia aboard ships not then engaged on regular voyages. Similarly, these statistics exclude those persons not travelling under standard visa conditions, such as 'boat people' and the 1999 intake of Kosovo refugees.

### COUNTRY CLASSIFICATION

**6** The classification of countries in this publication is the *Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics* (ASCCSS). For more detailed information refer to the ABS publication *Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics* (Cat. no. 1269.0).

**7** The statistics on country of birth, citizenship, residence or main destination have certain limitations because of reporting on passenger cards. For instance, United Kingdom includes England, Scotland and Wales. Similarly Korea includes both the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### STATE AND TERRITORY CLASSIFICATION

**8** Following the 1992 amendment to the *Acts Interpretation Act* to include the Indian Ocean Territories of Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands as part of geographic Australia, population estimates commencing with the September quarter 1993 include estimates for these two territories. To reflect this change, another category of the State/Territory classification has been created, known as Other Territories. Other Territories includes Jervis Bay Territory, Christmas Island and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

### ESTIMATION METHOD

**9** Overseas arrival and departure statistics are derived from a combination of full enumeration and sampling. All permanent movements and all movements with a duration of stay of one year or more are fully enumerated. All movements with a duration of stay of less than one year are sampled. Statistics relating to these movements are therefore estimates which may differ from statistics which would have been obtained if details of all these movements had been processed.

**10** Since January 1997 variable sample skips have been used in the selection of records to be sampled. Separate skips are applied for each country of citizenship and the skips may vary for each processing month. Over a year about 3.5% of all short term movements are selected for sampling.

**11** The statistics in this publication have been rounded to the nearest 100 for short-term movements and to the nearest 10 for permanent and long-term movements. In tables showing both short-term and permanent and long-term movements the total movements have been rounded to the nearest 100. The sums of the components may, due to rounding, not add exactly to totals.

### CORRECTIONS AND IMPUTATIONS

**12** The imprecision due to sampling errors should not be confused with errors arising from imperfections in reporting, which may occur in any data collection, whether sampled or not. Every effort is made to minimise such errors, both through careful design of the passenger cards and through checks on the information once it is received. During the edit process some items are corrected where they conflict with other known information. Missing replies to certain items such as age and country of birth are also imputed by reference to other related items.

**13** Errors of this kind differ from discrepancies arising from the fact that certain information reflects the travellers' intentions at the time the passenger cards were completed. These intentions are, of course, subject to change. Particularly affected is the distinction between permanent and temporary movement and in the latter case, length of intended stay, country in which most time will be spent and main reason for journey.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

### SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT AND TREND ESTIMATES

**14** Original and seasonally adjusted short-term overseas visitor arrivals are shown in Table 1. In the seasonally adjusted series, account has been taken of normal seasonal factors and trading day effects (arising from the varying numbers of Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays etc. in the month) and the effect of movement in the date of Easter which may, in successive years, affect figures for different months.

**15** Seasonal adjustment is a means of removing the estimated effects of normal seasonal variation from the series so that the effects of other influences on the series may be more clearly recognised. Seasonal adjustment procedures do not aim to remove the irregular or non-seasonal influences which may be present in any particular month, such as the effect of major sporting and cultural events, changes in airfares and the fluctuation of \$A relative to other currencies. Irregular influences that are highly volatile can make it difficult to interpret the movement of the series even after adjustment for seasonal variation.

**16** The trend estimates for short-term overseas visitor arrivals are shown in Table 1. These trend estimates are derived by applying a 13-term Henderson-weighted moving average to all months of the respective seasonally adjusted series except the first and last six months. Trend series are created for the last six months by applying surrogates of the Henderson weighted moving average to the seasonally adjusted series.

**17** While this technique enables smoothed data for the latest period to be produced, it does result in revisions to the smoothed series, principally of recent months, as additional observations become available. There may also be revisions as a result of the re-estimation of the seasonal factors. For further information, see *A Guide to Interpreting Time Series—Monitoring Trends, an Overview* (Cat. no. 1348.0).

### RELATED PUBLICATIONS

**18** Users of these statistics may also wish to refer to the following ABS publications:

- *Australian Demographic Statistics* (Cat. no. 3101.0)—issued quarterly
- *Migration, Australia* (Cat. no. 3412.0)—issued annually
- *Tourism Indicators, Australia* (Cat. no. 8634.0)—issued quarterly.
- *Demography working paper 2001/7 — Statistical requirements for Overseas Arrivals and Departures Data at September 2001*

**19** Related statistics are also published by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, the Department of Transport and Regional Services and the Bureau of Tourism Research.

**20** Current publications produced by the ABS are listed in the *Catalogue of Publications and Products, Australia* (Cat. no. 1101.0). The ABS also issues, on Tuesdays and Fridays, a *Release Advice* (Cat. no. 1105.0) which lists publications to be released in the next few days. Both are available from any ABS office or the ABS website.



## EXPLANATORY NOTES

ADDITIONAL STATISTICS AVAILABLE **21** As well as the statistics included in this and related publications, other relevant unpublished data are available for the following variables:

Citizenship (Nationality)

Country of birth

Age (Date of birth)

Sex

Marital status (not available for Australia or New Zealand citizens)

Category of travel

Permanent migrant

    Previous/future country of residence

    State of intended address/lived

Overseas visitor

    Intended/actual length of stay

    Main reason for journey

    Country of residence

    State of intended address/in which most time spent

Australian residents

    Intended/actual length of stay overseas

    Country spent/intend to spend most time abroad

    State or Territory of intended address/State or Territory lived

Occupation (not available for short-term movements)

Country of embarkation/disembarkation

Airport/Port of arrival/departure

Arrival/departure date

Intention to live in Australia for next 12 months (not available for short-term movements)

**22** This publication draws extensively on information provided by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. This continued cooperation is very much appreciated: without it, the statistics published would not be available. Information received by the ABS is treated in strict confidence as required by the *Census and Statistics Act 1905*.

SYMBOLS AND OTHER USAGES

—	nil or rounded to zero
..	not applicable
p	preliminary
n.a.	not available
n.f.d.	not further defined
n.y.a.	not yet available
r	revised

## GLOSSARY

<b>Australian resident</b>	Australian residence is self-defined as reported by travellers when completing Incoming and Outgoing Passenger Cards.
<b>Category of movement</b>	<p>Overseas Arrivals and Departures are classified according to length of stay (in Australia or overseas), recorded in months and days by travellers on passenger cards. There are three main <i>categories of movement</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ permanent movements</li><li>▪ long-term movements</li><li>▪ short-term movements.</li></ul> <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 of them 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>
<b>Country of residence</b>	Country of residence refers to the country in which travellers regard themselves as living or as last having lived.
<b>Intended length of stay</b>	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'.
<b>Long-term arrivals</b>	Long-term arrivals comprise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ overseas visitors who intend to stay in Australia for 12 months or more (but not permanently); and</li><li>▪ Australian residents returning after an absence of 12 months or more overseas.</li></ul>
<b>Long-term departures</b>	Long-term departures comprise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Australian residents who intend to stay abroad for 12 months or more (but not permanently); and</li><li>▪ overseas visitors departing who stayed 12 months or more in Australia.</li></ul>
<b>Main destination</b>	Australian residents travelling overseas are asked on departure for the name of the country in which they intend to spend most time.

## G L O S S A R Y

**Main reason for journey** On arrival in, or departure from, Australia all overseas visitors and Australian residents are asked to state their main reason for journey. From September 1994, all statistics relating to *main reason for journey* have been published using the following categories:

- convention/conference
- business
- visiting friends/relatives
- holiday
- employment
- education
- other

In tabulations of data collected before September 1994, the 'Other' category includes 'In transit' and the 'Holiday' category includes both 'Student vacation' and 'Accompanying business visitor'.

**State/Territory of address/lived** Overseas visitors are asked on arrival in Australia for their State of intended address. On departure from Australia overseas visitors are asked the State where they spent most time.  
Australian residents are asked on departure for the State in which they live/lived. Residents returning to Australia are asked for their State of intended address.

**Overseas Arrivals and Departures (OAD)** Overseas Arrivals and Departures refer to the arrival or departure of Australian residents or overseas visitors, through Australian airports (or sea ports), which have been recorded on Incoming or Outgoing Passenger Cards. Statistics on Overseas Arrivals and Departures 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).

**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 settle; and
- those who are otherwise eligible to settle (e.g. overseas born children of Australian citizens).

This definition of settlers is used by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs. 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 the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.

**Permanent departures** Permanent departures are Australian residents (including former settlers) who on departure state that they intend to settle permanently in another country.

**Short-term arrivals** Short-term arrivals comprise:

- overseas visitors whose intended stay in Australia is less than 12 months; and
- Australian residents returning after an absence of less than 12 months overseas.

**Short-term departures** Short-term departures comprise:

- Australian residents who intend to stay abroad for less than 12 months; and
- overseas visitors departing who stayed less than 12 months in Australia.

## STANDARD ERRORS

### RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

**1** Estimates based on a sample are subject to sampling variability i.e. they may differ from those that would be obtained from full enumeration.

**2** The sampling error associated with any estimate can be estimated from the sample results and one measure so derived is the standard error. Given an estimate and the standard error on that estimate, there are about two chances in three that the sample estimate will differ by less than one standard error from the figure that would have been obtained from full enumeration, and about nineteen chances in twenty that the difference will be less than two standard errors. The relative standard error is the standard error of the estimate expressed as a percentage of the estimate.

**3** It would be impractical to publish estimates of standard errors for all figures in individual tables. However, the following tables of standard errors and relative standard errors give an indication of the magnitude of the sampling error associated with any estimate of a particular size for short-term and total movement.

#### APPROXIMATE STANDARD ERRORS ON ESTIMATES FOR STRATIFIED SAMPLE

<i>Estimated number of persons</i>	SHORT-TERM DEPARTURE OR ARRIVAL OF AUSTRALIAN RESIDENTS		SHORT-TERM ARRIVAL OR DEPARTURE OF OVERSEAS VISITORS		TOTAL ARRIVALS OR DEPARTURES	
	<i>Standard error</i>	<i>Relative standard error</i>	<i>Standard error</i>	<i>Relative standard error</i>	<i>Standard error</i>	<i>Relative standard error</i>
	no.	%	no.	%	no.	%
10 000	550	6	490	5	550	6
5 000	450	9	330	7	410	8
2 000	280	14	230	11	250	13
1 000	200	20	150	15	170	17
750	180	24	140	19	150	20
500	130	26	110	22	125	25
400	120	30	100	25	115	29
300	110	36	84	28	97	32
200	90	45	70	35	80	40
100	63	63	49	49	56	56

**4** An example of the use of this table is as follows. If the estimate of the number of Australian resident departures for short-term visits abroad is 500, then the standard error on this estimate is 130 i.e. there are two chances in three that the actual number of Australian resident departures for short-term visits abroad will lie between 370 and 630 and nineteen chances in twenty that it will lie between 240 and 760.

**5** The larger the size of an estimate the smaller the relative standard error. For any estimate of greater than 10,000 the relative standard error will be less than 6%.

## STANDARD ERRORS

---

### RELIABILITY OF ESTIMATES

*continued*

**6** The estimate of the difference between an estimate in two different periods or between different estimates from the same period is also subject to sampling error. The standard error on the difference between any two estimates which are subject to sampling error can be approximated by using the larger standard error of the estimates inflated by a factor of 1.4.

**7** An example of the use of this procedure is as follows. Assume the estimates of the number of arrivals to Australia from Taiwan during January 1994 and January 1995 are 1,500 and 750 respectively. The difference between the 1994 and 1995 figures is 750 and the standard errors on these estimates are approximately 190 and 140. The standard error on the difference is approximately 266 ( $1.4 \times 190$ ), and there are nineteen chances in twenty that the estimate of the difference between the two years will lie between 218 and 1,282.

# APPENDIX 1—PASSENGER CARDS (a)

## INCOMING CARD – FRONT

<p><b>Incoming passenger card • Australia</b></p> <p><b>PLEASE COMPLETE IN ENGLISH</b></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>▶ Intended address in Australia <input type="text"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">State <input type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Do you intend to live in Australia for the next 12 months? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>▶ If you are NOT an Australian citizen:</p> <p>Do you suffer from tuberculosis? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Do you have any criminal conviction/s? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p><b>YOU MUST ANSWER EVERY QUESTION – IF UNSURE, <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</b></p> <p>▶ Are you bringing into Australia:</p> <p>1. Goods that may be prohibited or subject to restrictions, such as medicines, steroids, firearms, weapons of any kind or illicit drugs? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>2. More than 1125ml of alcohol or 250gm of tobacco products? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>3. Goods obtained overseas or purchased duty or tax free in Australia with a combined total price of more than AUD\$400, including gifts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>4. Goods/samples for business/commercial use? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>5. AUD\$10,000 or more in Australian or foreign currency equivalent? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>6. Food of any type – includes dried, fresh, preserved, cooked, uncooked – anything you can eat or cook? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>7. Wooden articles, parts of plants, traditional medicines or herbs, seeds, bulbs, straw, nuts? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>8. Animals, parts of animals and products in contact with animals including equipment, eggs, biologicals, specimens, birds, fish, insects, coral, shells, bees, bee products, pet food? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>9. Soil, or articles with soil attached, i.e. sporting equipment, shoes, etc? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>▶ 10. Have you visited a farm outside Australia in the past 30 days? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>▶ 11. Have you been in Africa or South America in the last 6 days? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p><b>DECLARATION</b> The information I have given is true, correct and complete. I understand failure to answer any questions may have serious consequences.</p>	<p><b>YOUR SIGNATURE</b> <input type="text"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">DAY MONTH YEAR <input type="text"/></p>
<p><b>TURN OVER THE CARD</b> </p> <p>English</p>	

## INCOMING CARD – BACK

<p><b>PLEASE COMPLETE IN ENGLISH</b></p> <p>▶ In which country did you board this flight or ship? <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 DAY MONTH YEAR <input type="text"/></p>	<p><b>PLEASE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AND ANSWER A OR B OR C</b></p> <p><b>A Migrating permanently to Australia</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><b>B Visitor or temporary entrant</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>▶ Your intended length of stay in Australia YEARS MONTHS DAYS <input type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Your country of residence <input type="text"/></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>	<p><b>C Resident returning to Australia</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>▶ Country where you spent most time abroad <input type="text"/></p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;"><b>MAKE SURE YOU HAVE COMPLETED BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD. PRESENT THIS CARD ON ARRIVAL WITH YOUR PASSPORT.</b></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 Safeguarding your personal information is available at Australian ports and airports.</p>		
		<p>© Commonwealth of Australia 1999 15 (Design date 06/99)</p>

## OUTGOING CARD

<p><b>Outgoing passenger card • Australia</b></p> <p><b>PLEASE COMPLETE IN ENGLISH</b></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 DAY MONTH YEAR <input type="text"/></p>	<p><b>PLEASE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AND ANSWER D OR E OR F</b></p> <p><b>D Visitor or temporary entrant departing</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>▶ City or State where you spent most time <input type="text"/></p> <p><b>E Australian resident departing temporarily</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>▶ In which State do you live? 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> <p>▶ Intended length of stay overseas YEARS MONTHS DAYS <input type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Country where you will spend most time abroad <input type="text"/></p> <p>▶ Main reason for overseas travel (X one only)</p> <p>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>	<p><b>F Australian resident departing permanently</b> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>▶ In which State did you live? 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> <p>▶ What is your country of future residence? <input type="text"/></p>
<p>DECLARATION The information I have given is true, correct and complete.</p>		
<p><b>YOUR SIGNATURE</b> <input type="text"/></p> <p style="text-align: right;">DAY MONTH YEAR <input type="text"/></p>		<p><b>PRESENT THIS CARD ON DEPARTURE WITH YOUR BOARDING PASS AND PASSPORT.</b></p>

(a) Incoming card used from November 1999. Outgoing card used from July 2000 when a new question on currency was added to the reverse side. See paragraph 3 of the Explanatory Notes for information on passenger card changes.



## FOR MORE INFORMATION...

- INTERNET* **www.abs.gov.au** the ABS web site is the best place to start for access to summary data from our latest publications, information about the ABS, advice about upcoming releases, our catalogue, and Australia Now—a statistical profile.
- LIBRARY* A range of ABS publications is available from public and tertiary libraries Australia-wide. Contact your nearest library to determine whether it has the ABS statistics you require, or visit our web site for a list of libraries.
- CPI INFOLINE* For current and historical Consumer Price Index data, call 1902 981 074 (call cost 77c per minute).
- DIAL-A-STATISTIC* For the latest figures for National Accounts, Balance of Payments, Labour Force, Average Weekly Earnings, Estimated Resident Population and the Consumer Price Index call 1900 986 400 (call cost 77c per minute).

## INFORMATION SERVICE

Data which have been published and can be provided within five minutes are free of charge. Our information consultants can also help you to access the full range of ABS information—ABS user-pays services can be tailored to your needs, time frame and budget. Publications may be purchased. Specialists are on hand to help you with analytical or methodological advice.

- PHONE* **1300 135 070**
- EMAIL* **client.services@abs.gov.au**
- FAX* 1300 135 211
- POST* Client Services, ABS, GPO Box 796, Sydney 1041

## WHY NOT SUBSCRIBE?

ABS subscription services provide regular, convenient and prompt deliveries of ABS publications and products as they are released. Email delivery of monthly and quarterly publications is available.

- PHONE* 1300 366 323
- EMAIL* subscriptions@abs.gov.au
- FAX* 03 9615 7848
- POST* Subscription Services, ABS, GPO Box 2796Y, Melbourne 3001



2340100012014  
ISSN 1031-0495

RRP \$19.50