

Internal Migration

The Census collects data on place of usual residence census night, one year ago and five years ago. The information collected records the State/Territory and Statistical Local Area (SLA) of a persons usual residence at these times. Data can also be derived for geographic areas which are aggregations of SLAs. From these data net internal migration from 1996 to 2001 and from 2000 to 2001 can be determined. Data showing the characteristics of the migrants can also be output. For example age, birthplace of individual, marital status and occupation.

Net migration

Since the indicators are derived from usual residence at certain dates, only the net effects of any multiple movements between these dates can be derived. For example, John Citizen was living in a South Australian rural area at the time of the 1996 Census. Six months later he moved to Melbourne for two years, and then to Adelaide where he was living at the time of the 2001 Census. Census data would only show the net South Australian country to city movement.

No movement is shown in the internal migration data for 'Out and back' movements. For example, where a family move away from their place of usual residence to live elsewhere, then return before the end of the reference period to live at their previous address.

Net migration at State/Territory level

There are three variables:

- State of Usual Residence Census Night (STEUCP);
- State of Usual Residence One Year Ago (STEU1P); and
- State of Usual Residence Five Years Ago (STEU5P).

The following table was produced using STEUCP and STEU5P data from the 1996 Census for people whose State/Territory of usual residence in 1996 was different to their State/Territory of usual residence in 1991. It shows the number of people who left each State/Territory and the number of people who arrived in each State/Territory. For example, the table shows Queensland had 267,987 arrivals from interstate with the majority of people coming from New South Wales (127,704 persons) and Victoria (74,514 persons). It also shows 122,528 people left Queensland for other States and Territories with the majority of people going to New South Wales (59,941 persons) and Victoria (24,455 persons).

By using the variables STEUCP and STEU1P a similar table showing interstate movers 1995 to 1996 could be derived.

NET INTERSTATE MOVERS, 1991 to 1996

State or Territory of Departure.....

State or Territory of arrival	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Total arrivals
NSW	..	57 857	59 941	16 051	14 016	6 454	5 040	25 082	184 441
Vic.	42 578	..	24 455	16 529	11 153	7 707	3 343	4 969	110 734
Qld	127 704	74 514	..	19 578	14 960	9 590	11 726	9 915	267 987
SA	14 270	16 843	7 721	..	5 295	1 929	6 000	1 640	53 698
WA	19 587	19 223	12 573	8 226	..	3 969	5 797	2 364	71 739
Tas.	6 652	7 401	4 913	2 164	2 589	..	743	692	25 154
NT	6 221	6 563	7 396	6 869	4 379	696	..	840	32 964
ACT	26 225	6 961	5 529	2 572	2 066	1 060	985	..	45 398
Total departures	243 237	189 362	122 528	71 989	54 458	31 405	33 634	45 502	792 115

The above variables can also be used with other variables to identify the characteristics of the interstate movers.

Net migration at SLA level

There are three variables:

- SLA of Usual Residence Census Night (SLAUCP);
- SLA of Usual Residence One Year Ago (SLAU1P); and
- SLA of Usual Residence Five Years Ago (SLAU5P).

These variables can be used in a similar way to the State of Usual Residence variables. They can be used to create other geography that is based on SLAs including Local Government Areas, Statistical Divisions and Statistical Regions etc.

Other data on interstate migration

The ABS produces quarterly information on interstate migration in the publication Australian Demographic Statistics (Cat. no. 3101.0). The data are derived from a combination of information that is acquired from the census, and from unidentified information on interstate changes of address advised by the Health Insurance Commission.