



Fact Sheet:

The Continuous Survey of Australia's Migrants

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship is introducing a new survey of recent migrants to Australia.

The *Continuous Survey of Australia's Migrants*, or CSAM for short, will commence in late September 2009, with the first results published in early 2010.

The main objective of the CSAM is to provide timely information on the labour market outcomes of recent migrants. Qualifications assessment, housing issues and use of government services will also be included.

Why are we running the survey?

Over the years, the Department has run many migrant surveys. The last of these surveys is now four years old, and a lot has changed since then - there has been a change of administration and substantial changes in migration policy. The global economic crisis has also had a major impact on the Australian labour market.

In such a dynamic environment, there is a strong need for timely and regular information on migrant outcomes - the CSAM delivers on both counts. Every six months a new group of migrants will be surveyed. Reports on the outcomes of these recent migrants will be published on this website approximately three weeks after each round of the survey finishes.

As the survey is being run on an ongoing basis, there is scope to change the content of the survey over time in response to changing policy objectives.



Who will be surveyed?

The survey covers people who have been granted either a:

- permanent residence visa; or
- provisional visa (such as a provisional partner visa) and are on the pathway to permanent residence.

The CSAM is limited to migrants from the family and skilled streams. Humanitarian entrants have not been included in this survey, as they require a more specialised survey to assess how well their settlement objectives are being met.

The Department has also enlisted the assistance of the Translating and Interpreting Services (TIS National) to help clients from non-English speaking backgrounds complete the survey.

For a comprehensive list of visa subclasses included in the survey, please go to page 6.

How will the survey work?

The first CSAM survey will be run in late September 2009. This will consist of around 8000 Primary Applicants who either:

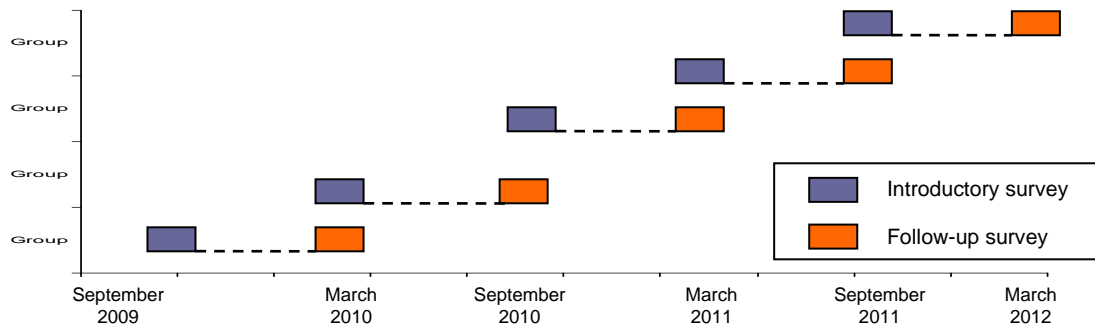
- came to Australia on an offshore visa within the last six months; or
- were granted a visa onshore within the last six months.

Six months later, the next survey will be run. This will be made up of two surveys:

- first, there will be a new survey of Primary Applicants who either arrived, or were granted their visa within the last six months; and
- there will be a follow-up survey of people who were surveyed six months earlier.

This process of introducing new migrants and following up migrants surveyed earlier will then be repeated every six months, as shown over page.

Timing of the CSAM



Why are we using this approach?

With a traditional one-off survey you only get one set of results, for example you might find out that migrant unemployment is 10 per cent. Such a result is of limited value as it will quickly be out of date and there is no way of telling whether the situation is improving or worsening.

With the CSAM, the outcomes of migrants can be looked at in two ways:

- **Cross-sectionally** – as the survey is run every six months, we will be able to compare the outcomes of different groups of migrants. For example, we could compare the unemployment rate of migrants who arrived in 2010, with that of migrants who arrived the previous year; or
- **Longitudinally** – as everyone is surveyed on two occasions, six months apart, we will be able to measure changes in outcomes for a particular group of migrants. For example, how the unemployment rate of migrants change in the six months between the first and the second survey.

How will the information be collected?

When surveyed for the first time, respondents will be given a written questionnaire to complete. The follow-up survey will be undertaken via telephone six months later.

A sample of the written questionnaire can be found at Attachment A. Questions for the follow-up survey are still being developed and will be available shortly.

What will the survey tell us?

The CSAM is designed to provide timely information on the labour market outcomes of recent migrants and will give insights into the following:

- how migrants are faring in today's labour market, their unemployment rates, participation rates and earnings six months after arrival;

- how these outcomes change over time and how these outcomes compare with the general Australian population;
- if skilled migrants are working in skilled jobs;
- whether the Global Economic Crisis has had an impact on their outcomes; and
- how migrants perform relative to each other, for example, if sponsored migrants perform better than unsponsored migrants or if migrants with an occupation in demand perform better than other skilled migrants.

The survey also collects information on migrant qualifications and the assessment of these qualifications. This will tell us:

- whether migrants are generally satisfied with the assessment process, the areas where the assessment process is not satisfactory and whether there are widespread problems or if there are problems with particular assessing bodies;
- what skills recent migrants bring with them;
- the likelihood of migrants working in their nominated occupation;
- how overseas qualified migrants perform compared with Australian qualified migrants; and
- how many migrants are undertaking further study in Australia.

The ability to communicate in English is an important settlement factor. The CSAM will collect information on:

- the association between English proficiency and labour market outcomes;
- how English proficiency varies for different migrant categories;
- the gap in English proficiency between the Primary Applicant and their spouse; and
- which types of migrants are using the Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP).

There will also be a range of questions related to settlement: This will tell us:

- which visa subclass holders are more frequent users of TIS National;
- whether migrants have sufficient access to community services, schools and public transport and whether certain groups are encountering greater access issues;
- whether migrants are satisfied with their housing, the difficulties migrants face when looking for housing, which migrants are having issues with housing affordability and what are migrants' living arrangements - whether they are renting, living with relatives or buying a home.

When will the results be published?

The first report from the survey will be released in early 2010. Subsequent reports will be released every six months.

Results will be made available on the department's website.

See: www.immi.gov.au/media/research/projects

Further information

If you would like further information on this survey, please contact the Department's Economic Analysis area by email.

Email: economic.analysis@immi.gov.au

Visa subclasses held by participants in the survey

Business/Skilled Stream

GSM Offshore Permanent

- Independent (Migrant) visa (subclass 175)
- Sponsored (Migrant) visa (subclass 176)

GSM Provisional

- Regional Sponsored (Provisional) visa (subclass 475)
- Regional Sponsored (Provisional) visa (subclass 487)
- Graduate (Temporary) visa (subclass 485)

GSM Onshore Permanent

- Independent (Residence) visa (subclass 885)
- Sponsored (Residence) visa (subclass 886)
- Regional (Residence) visa (subclass 887)

Other Skilled Offshore

- Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (subclass 119)
- Labour agreement (subclass 120)
- Employer nomination (subclass 121)
- Distinguished talent (subclass 124)
- Business Talent (subclass 132)
- Business Owner (Provisional) (subclass 160)
- Senior Executive (Provisional) (subclass 161)
- Investor (Provisional) (subclass 162)
- State/Territory Sponsored Business Owner (Provisional) (subclass 163)
- State/Territory Sponsored Senior Executive (Provisional) (subclass 164)
- State/Territory Sponsored Investor subclass (subclass 165)

Other Skilled Onshore

- Established business in Australia (subclass 845)
- State/Territory sponsored regional established business in Australia (subclass 846)
- Labour Agreement (subclass 855)
- Employer Nomination Scheme (subclass 856)

Other Skilled Onshore (continued)

- Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (subclass 857)
- Distinguished Talent (subclass 858)
- Business Owner (Residence) (subclass 890)
- Investor (Residence) (subclass 891)
- State/Territory Sponsored Business Owner (Residence) (subclass 892)
- State/Territory Sponsored Investor (Residence) (subclass 893)

Family Stream

Family Offshore

- Partner (subclasses 100 and 309)
- Spouse* (subclasses 100 and 309)
- Interdependency* (subclasses 110 and 310)
- Child (subclass 101)
- Parent (subclass 103)
- Aged dependent relative (subclass 114)
- Remaining relative (subclass 115)
- Carer (subclass 116)
- Orphan Relative (subclass 117)
- Contributory Parent (subclass 143)
- Prospective marriage (subclass 300)

Family Onshore

- Partner (subclasses 801 and 820)
- Spouse* (subclasses 801 and 820)
- Interdependency* (subclasses 814 and 826)
- Child (Residence) (subclass 802)
- Aged parent (subclass 804)
- Remaining Relative (subclass 835)
- Carer (subclass 836)
- Orphan Relative (subclass 837)
- Aged Dependent Relative (subclass 838)
- Contributory Aged Parent (subclass 864)

* The Spouse and Interdependency visas were repealed on 1 July 2009.