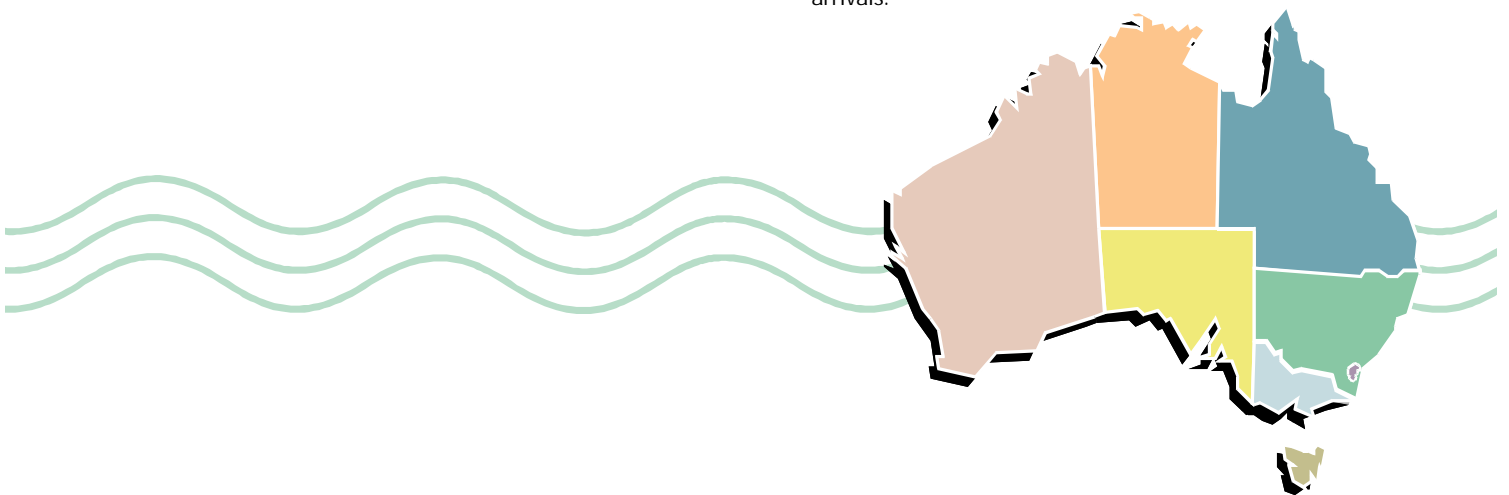


## Chapter 1

# Population Growth and International Movement

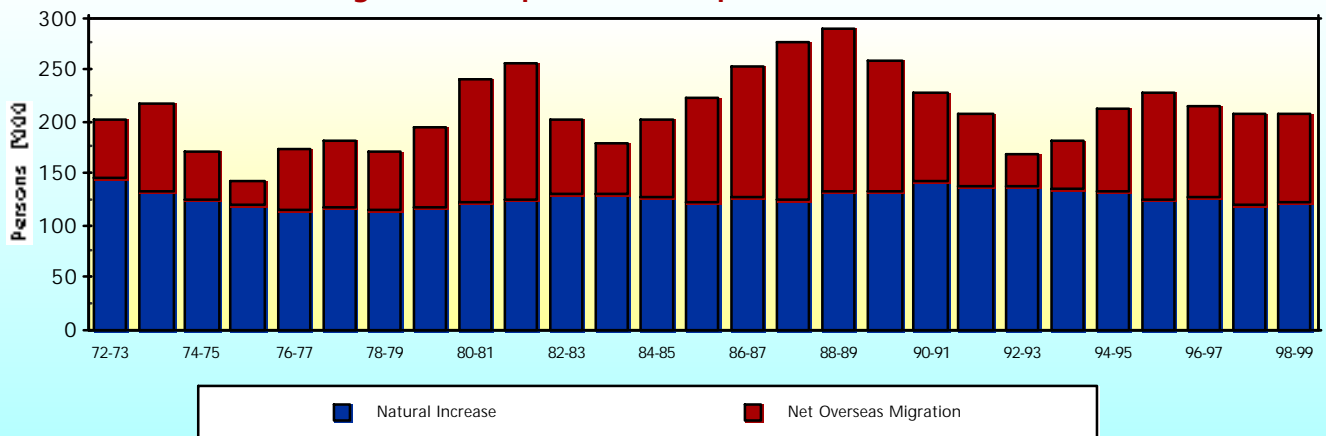
Australia's population was estimated to have reached 19 million in August 1999.

- Net long-term temporary movements outnumbered net permanent movements for the first time in 1999–2000.
- Net overseas migration fell slightly in 1998–99 to 85,120.
- The total fertility rate was estimated to have reached 1.76 in 1998–99.
- Projections suggest that Australia's population in 2050 may be around 24 million and stable.
- 23.3 per cent of Australians were born overseas — much the same proportion as in the year of Federation, 1901.
- 4.8 million people from overseas arrived in Australia temporarily either on a short-term or long term-basis during 1999-2000.
- 41,080 people left Australia permanently in 1999–2000, the highest number for 27 years.
- Australia lost 18,333 skilled people though permanent emigration in 1999–2000 and gained 33,447 skilled settler arrivals.



# Population Growth

**Fig. 1-1: Components of Population Growth**



Source Data: ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (3101.0)

## Components of Population Growth

In the year ended 30 June 1999, Australia's population increased by 206,800 persons or 1.1 per cent to 18,937,200. Some 41.2 per cent of this growth was due to net overseas migration and the other 58.8 per cent to natural increase (births minus deaths).

Over the last 20 years, natural increase has been the main contributor to population growth. Natural increase has not varied greatly, in absolute terms, over the past 30 years (although it is projected to decline steadily over the next 30 years). In contrast, net overseas migration has fluctuated markedly. In only three years (1981-82, 1987-88 and 1988-89) has migration exceeded natural increase as the larger component of population increase. (see Appendix A — Components of Population Growth 1977-2000 on page 105).

## Overseas Migration

Net overseas migration is the addition (or loss) to the population of Australia arising from the difference between those leaving permanently or on a long-term basis, and those arriving permanently or long-term. The annual net overseas migration figure is also adjusted to account for the estimated number of people who change their travel intentions, for example, people who come to Australia intending to stay short-term (less than 12 months) but who decide to stay longer, or vice versa. These people are called category jumpers.

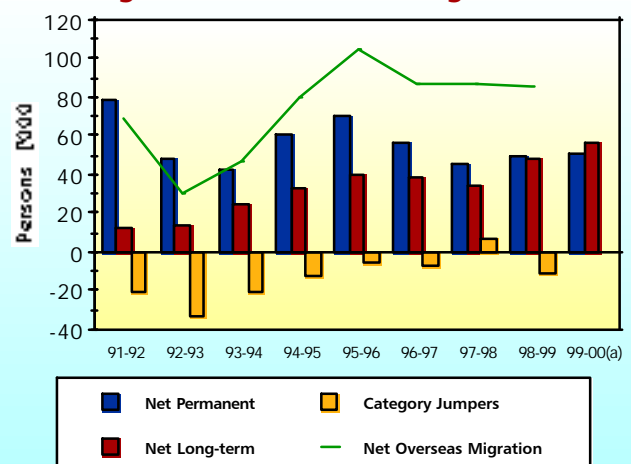
In 1998-99, Australia's net overseas migration gain was 85,120. This included a negative estimate of 11,363 net category jumpers.

In 1998-99, net overseas migration was 1,234 less than than 1997-98 figure of 86,354. Based on preliminary figures for 1999-2000, for the first time long-term movements comprised the major share of net long-term and permanent movements, accounting for 52.3 per cent.

Fig. 1-2 illustrates the cyclical nature of category jumping, which tends to move towards the positive in times of economic buoyancy.

Combined net long-term and permanent movement for 1999-2000 was 107,280. This does not take into account category jumpers, figures which were not yet available at the time of printing.

**Fig. 1-2: Net Overseas Migration**



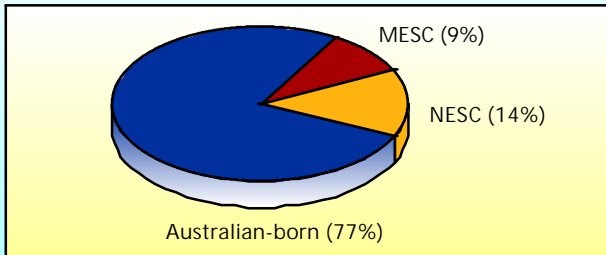
(a) Category jumper figures not yet available for 1999-00

Source Data: ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (3101.0)

# Population by Birthplace

## Overseas-born Population

**Fig. 1-3: Australian Population by Birthplace Group**  
30 June 1999

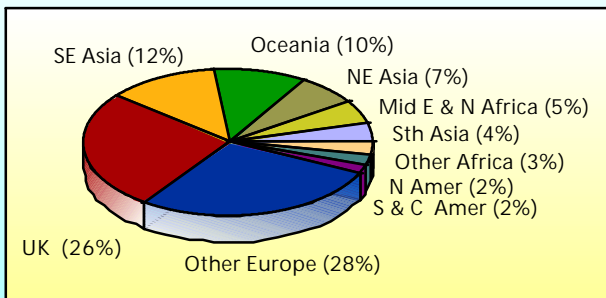


Source Data: ABS Australian Demographic Statistics, March Qtr 2000 (3101.0)

Australia's resident population at 30 June 1999 was an estimated 18.94 million persons, of which 23.3 per cent (or 4.4 million persons) were born overseas. This is around the same proportion as in 1901. Migrants born in the main English speaking countries (MESC) represented 9.1 per cent of the Australian population and migrants born in non-English speaking countries (NESC) 14.2 per cent.

Persons born in the United Kingdom comprised the major group of the overseas-born (26.2 per cent), but this share is diminishing over time. The second largest birthplace group, the New Zealand-born, made up 8.1 per cent of all overseas-born as at June 1999. The New Zealand-born group has risen in number quite significantly since 1994 up by 20.6 per cent in the 5 year period.

**Fig. 1-4: Overseas-born Population by Region of Birth**  
30 June 1999



Source Data: ABS Australian Demographic Statistics, March Qtr 2000 (3101.0)

**Fig. 1-5: Overseas Born: Major Birthplace and Sex**

30 June 1999

