

Permanent & Long-Term Movement

Permanent Movement

Until 1999–2000, permanent movement represented the major element of net overseas migration. Permanent arrivals (settlers) comprise persons visaed offshore under the Migration and Humanitarian Programs and New Zealand citizens (not part of the Migration Program) who intend settling in Australia permanently. Permanent departures comprise Australian residents (including former settlers) who, on departure from Australia, indicate that they do not intend returning.

Permanent arrivals increased in 1999–2000 to 92,270 from 84,140 in 1998–99, a rise of 9.7 per cent. This largely reflects a 28.1 per cent increase in permanent arrivals of New Zealand citizens.

Permanent departures increased by 16.8 per cent in 1999–2000 to 41,080 from 35,180 persons in 1998–99. This was the highest level of emigration since 1972–73. In 1999–2000 the overseas-born accounted for around 50.7 per cent of permanent departures, about the same level as 1998–99 and down from 60.1 per cent in 1997–98.

Net permanent movement totalled 51,190 persons in 1999–2000. This was 2,234 more than in 1998–99.

Long-term Movement

Another important element of net overseas migration is long-term movement. The level of long-term movements is strongly influenced by both domestic and international conditions, particularly economic conditions. Strong economic conditions in Australia are usually associated with high levels of long-term arrivals.

Long-term arrivals comprise overseas visitors who indicate an intention to stay in Australia temporarily, for 12 months or more, and Australian residents returning after an absence of 12 months or more overseas. Long-term departures comprise Australian residents who intend to stay abroad 12 months or more and overseas visitors departing who stayed 12 months or more in Australia.

For the first time long-term movement became the major component of net long-term temporary and permanent movements in 1999–2000, accounting for 52.3 per cent of these movements. There were 212,850 long-term arrivals in this year of which 37.4 per cent were Australian residents. The proportion of long-term arrivals who were Australian residents was not much higher than in 1998–99 (36.2 per cent of 187,800 long-term arrivals) but is still lower than the 1997–98 proportion of 44.8 per cent.

156,770 persons, 54.2 per cent of whom were Australian residents, left Australia as long-term departures. This compares with 140,280 departures in 1998–99, 59.1 per cent of whom were Australian residents.

Fig. 1-6: Permanent Arrivals vs Departures

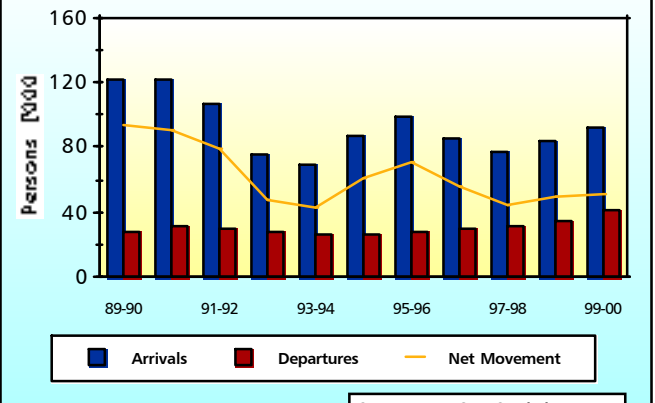


Fig. 1-7 Long-Term Arrivals vs Departures

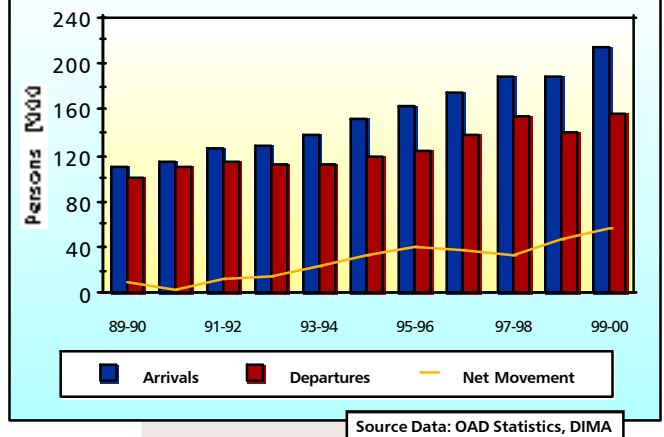


Fig. 1-8: Long-Term Arrivals by Residence Status

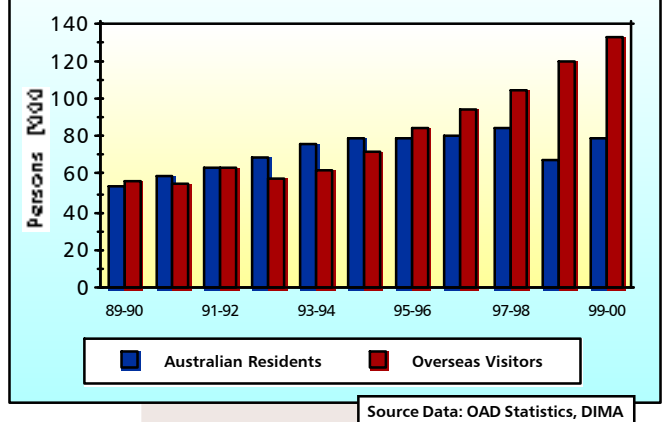
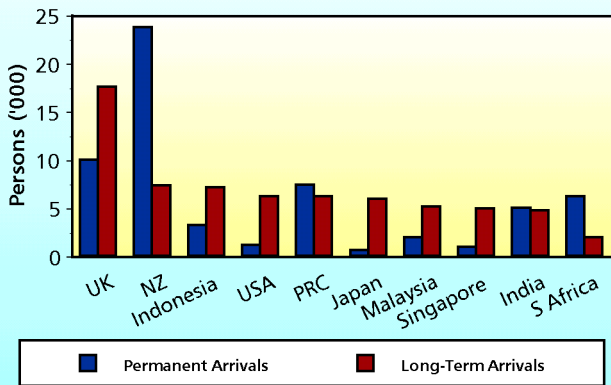


Fig. 1-9: Major Countries of Long-Term Arrivals vs Permanent Arrivals 1999-00



There has been more net long-term movement of overseas visitors than of Australian residents. In 1999–2000, net long-term movement totalled 56,080 people. The net long-term movement of Australian residents was -5,267 people as more were departing than had arrived back in Australia during the year.

As Fig. 1–9 shows, the major source countries of long-term visitor arrivals to Australia are somewhat different to the source of permanent arrivals. Much of long-term movement to Australia is for business or studying purposes. The United Kingdom, USA, Japan, the PRC and South Africa are major source countries of long-term temporary business entrants to Australia. The major source countries for students are Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, the PRC and India.

The total net gain from net permanent and long-term movement in 1999–2000 was 107,280 people.

Emigration by Birthplace

In 1999–2000, 41,080 people left Australia permanently. Emigration has increased steadily in recent years and is now at its highest level in 27 years.

Of the 41,080 persons, 49.3 per cent (20,234 persons) were born in Australia. Of the overseas-born departing, the New Zealand-born were the largest group accounting for 21.7 per cent of departures (4,526 persons), followed by the United Kingdom-born accounting for 19.0 per cent (3,959 persons). The Asia-born and Europe-born (excluding persons from the United Kingdom) accounted for around 16.2 and 6.8 per cent of overseas-born departures respectively.

The decision to leave Australia is a complex one. Overseas-born emigrants often return to their former country of birth because of feelings of homesickness or insecurity. Older emigrants often depart after they retire. Widowhood and divorce can also motivate departures. For Australian-born persons, emigration decisions are generally based on economic reasons, particularly employment. Some children born in Australia to former settlers eventually return with their parents to the country of origin.

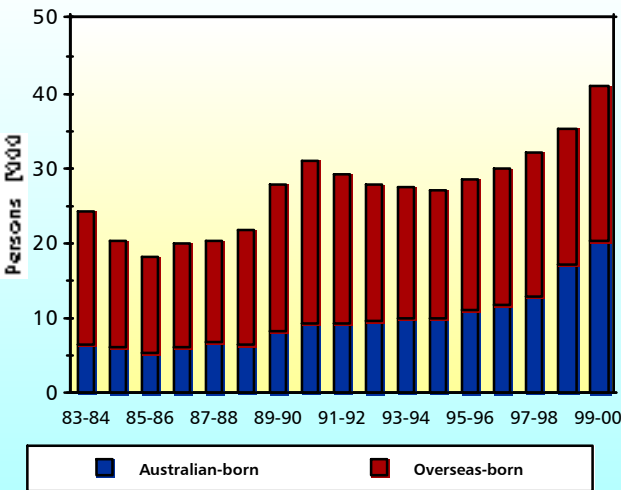
Historically, emigration levels of the overseas-born have been correlated with permanent arrivals two years earlier. The number of Australian-born emigrating has increased in recent years. This trend is likely to continue as a result of the increasing internationalisation of labour markets and ongoing global demand for skilled workers.

Emigration by Age

Almost half of all emigrants (46.3 per cent) in 1999–2000 were between the ages of 20 and 39 years compared to 49.4 per cent of arrivals. 21.3 per cent were aged under 20 years, 26.4 per cent in the 40–59 year age group and only 5.9 per cent were 60 years or older.

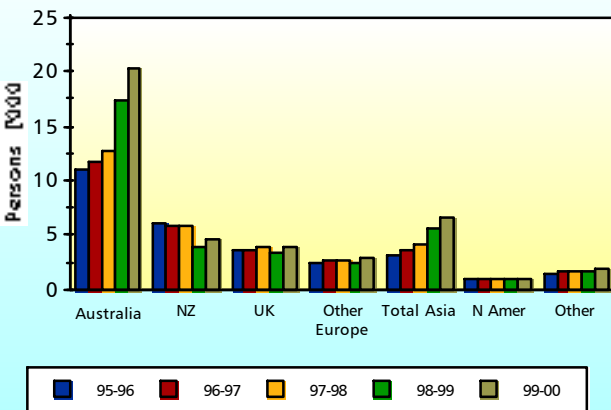
The Australian-born emigrants are more likely to be aged 39 years or under. Overseas-born emigrants are more prevalent in the older age groups.

Fig. 1-10: Permanent Departures



Source Data: OAD Statistics, DIMA

Fig. 1-11: Permanent Departures by Birthplace



Source Data: OAD Statistics, DIMA

Emigration by Occupation

Skilled emigrants are those permanently departing who, prior to leaving, were mainly employed in managerial, administrative, professional or associate professional occupations or as tradespersons.

A total of 18,333 permanent emigrants were skilled and 33,447 of permanent arrivals were skilled in 1999–2000. While the number of skilled emigrants is increasing over time, the net effect of the difference between skilled immigrants and emigrants is positive and increasing. The net gain of skilled people in Australia in 1999–2000 was 15,110, up from 13,680 in 1998–99.

In 1999–2000, the proportion of skilled emigrants who were in the workforce prior to leaving (as stated on out-going passenger cards) was 70.7 per cent. Of emigrants in the workforce, 17.8 per cent were managers or administrators, 45.8 per cent were professionals or associate professionals, and 7.1 per cent were tradespersons. Semi-skilled persons constituted 19.4 per cent of emigrants in the workforce, and unskilled 7.7 per cent. The remainder were not in employment (2.2 per cent).

The top five occupations of emigrants before they left the Australian workforce in 1999–2000 were managers and administrators (2,376 persons), general managers (1,151 persons), school teachers (1,102 persons), building and engineering professionals (893 persons) and accountants (891 persons).

There were more Australian-born skilled emigrants than overseas-born emigrants in 1999–2000 (9,563 persons compared with 8,770 persons). This difference is most evident in the professional occupations.

Emigration by Length of Residence

The majority of overseas-born persons leaving Australia permanently in 1999–2000 had lived here for five years or more (54.0 per cent). Those who had lived here for less than two years represented 22.5 per cent, and 23.5 per cent had lived in Australia for two or more but less than five years. Persons born in the United Kingdom accounted for 17.8 per cent of those emigrating within two years of residence, the PRC-born for 12.3 per cent and the Hong Kong-born for 7.3 per cent.

It would appear that the introduction of the two-year waiting period on Australian welfare payments in March 1997 has not had an impact on emigration levels. While the number of overseas-born who had been residing in Australia for less than two years and then have emigrated has increased steadily over time, since 1998–99 the number who have decided to leave permanently after residing in Australia between 2 and less than 5 years has been greater.

From February 2000, New Zealand citizens who settle in Australia are also subject to a two-year waiting period for income support payments. New Zealand-born comprised 18.3 per cent of all those overseas-born emigrating after less than two years residence in Australia. This proportion has risen from 16.7 per cent in 1998–99.

Fig. 1-12: Permanent Departures vs Arrivals by Age

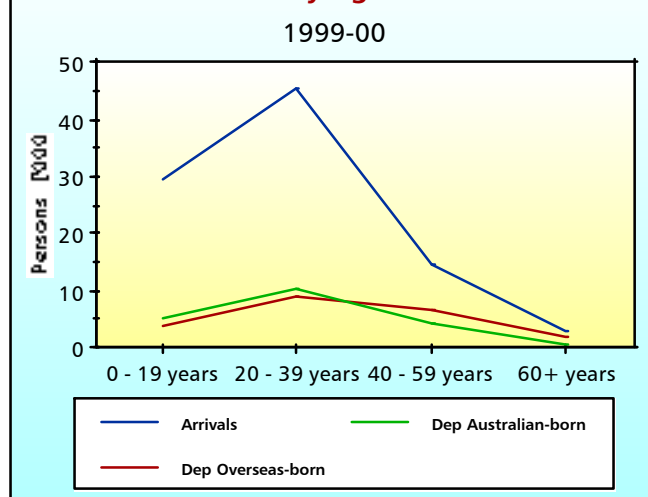


Fig. 1-13: Permanent Departures by Occupation

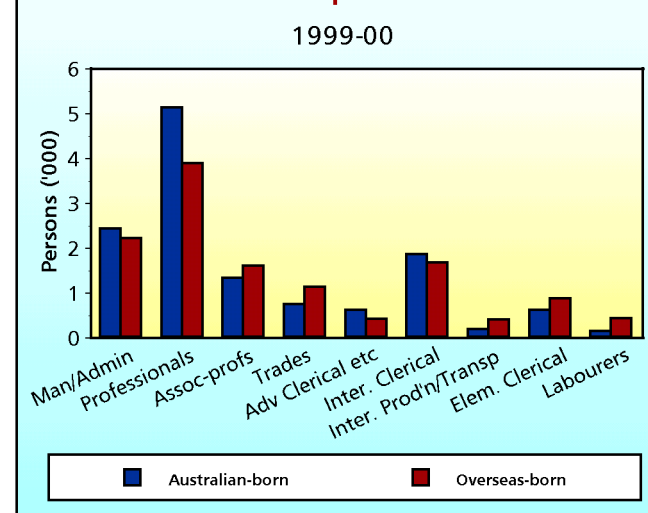
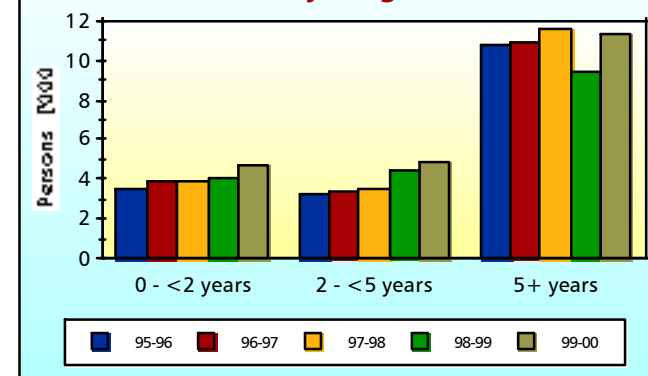
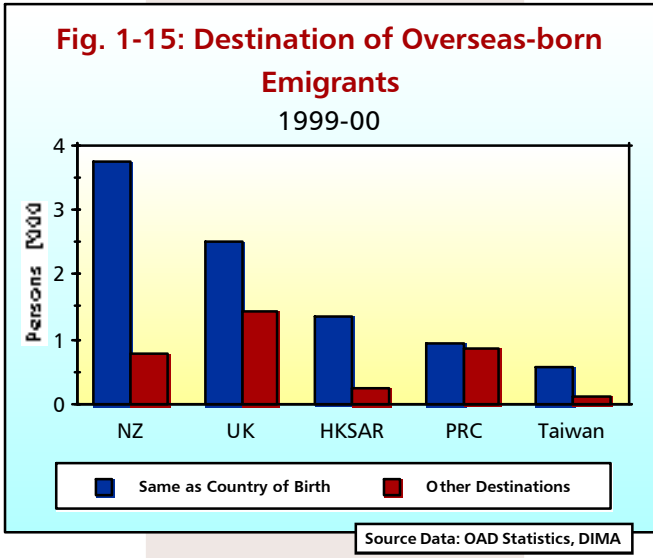


Fig. 1-14: Permanent Departures of Overseas-born by Length of Residence





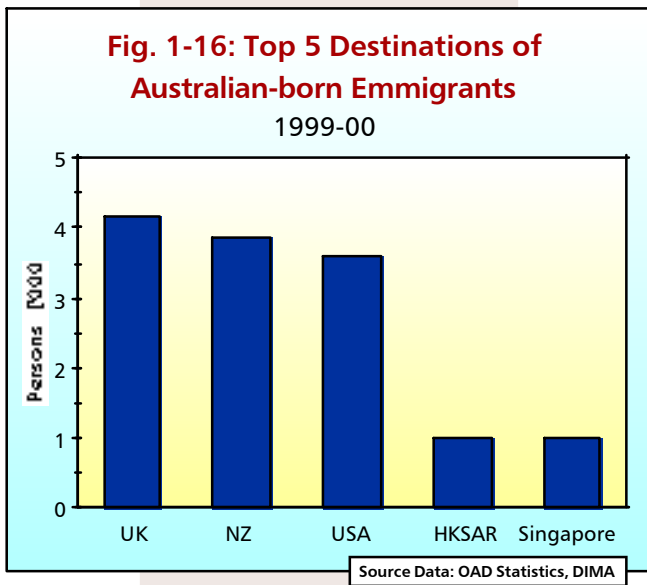
Those leaving after five years or more residence included the New Zealand-born (23.2 per cent), persons born in the United Kingdom (20.0 per cent), the Hong Kong-born (7.3 per cent) and the PRC-born (6.8 per cent).

Destination of Emigrants

The five largest groups of overseas-born emigrants in 1999–2000 were, by country of birth, New Zealand (4,526 persons), the United Kingdom (3,959), the PRC (1,802), Hong Kong (1,585 persons) and the USA (604 persons). A majority of all these emigrant groups returned to their country of birth: New Zealand (83.1 per cent), the United Kingdom (63.8 per cent), Hong Kong (85.4 per cent), the PRC (52.7 per cent) and the USA (78.1 per cent).

Other overseas-born emigrants in 1999–2000 with a high tendency to return to their country of birth included those born in Greece (85.0 per cent of 247 emigrants), Taiwan (84.9 per cent of 663 emigrants) and Indonesia (81.7 per cent of 447 emigrants).

Emigrants with a low propensity to return to their country of birth included those born in Western Samoa (12.2 per cent of 196 emigrants), Zimbabwe (14.0 per cent of 43 emigrants), India (15.3 per cent of 229 emigrants), Pakistan (26.3 per cent of 19 emigrants) and South Africa (26.3 per cent of 205 emigrants).



The most popular destinations for Australian-born emigrants were the United Kingdom (20.7 per cent), New Zealand (19.0 per cent), the USA (17.9 per cent), Hong Kong and Singapore (both 4.9 per cent). In some cases these emigrants may be the children of overseas-born parents who wish to return to their country by birth.

Population Projections

Factors Involved in Population Change

Change in the size of the population is the result of natural increase (births minus deaths) and net overseas migration (permanent and long-term arrivals minus permanent and long-term departures with an adjustment for category jumping). Changes have a wide range of important implications including:

- changes in the workforce growth rate;
- changes in GDP; and
- changes in the population structure with flow-on implications for health and welfare expenditures.

Projections of Australia's future population involve making assumptions about fertility rates, mortality rates and net overseas migration levels. Both the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) have made population projections for Australia to 2051 based on a range of fertility and net migration assumptions.

Fertility Rate

Australia's fertility rate (the average number of children a woman would bear throughout her lifetime) has declined steadily during the 1990s at a rate of around 0.02 children per woman per annum. In 1998–99 it was estimated to have reached 1.76. This downward trend, illustrated in Fig. 1–17, has been replicated in almost every developed country, as well as many developing nations.

In fact, the fertility rate is considerably lower in most other industrialised countries than in Australia. Many demographers consider that Australia's fertility rate will fall even further over the next ten years.

The ABS has based its population projections on two fertility rate assumptions. The first is that fertility rates will fall to 1.6 by 2008 and then remain constant. The second is that the fertility rate will remain at 1.75. The DIMA projections are based on average fertility rates for the whole period ranging from 1.4 to 1.7.

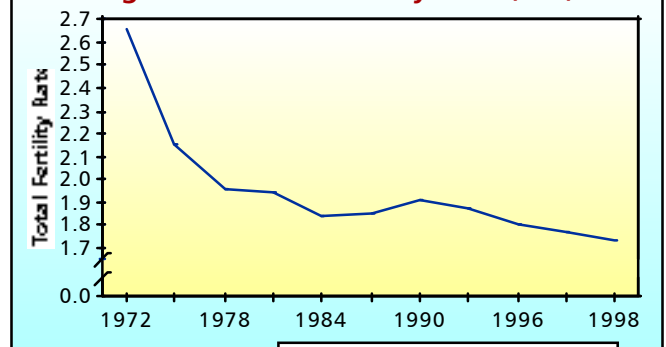
Mortality Rates

The ABS projections assume that by 2051 life expectancy would be 83.3 years for males and 86.6 years for females. The DIMA projections assume that male life expectancy may rise from 75.9 to 84.5 and female life expectancy may rise from 81.6 to 89.7 over the next 100 years.

Net Overseas Migration

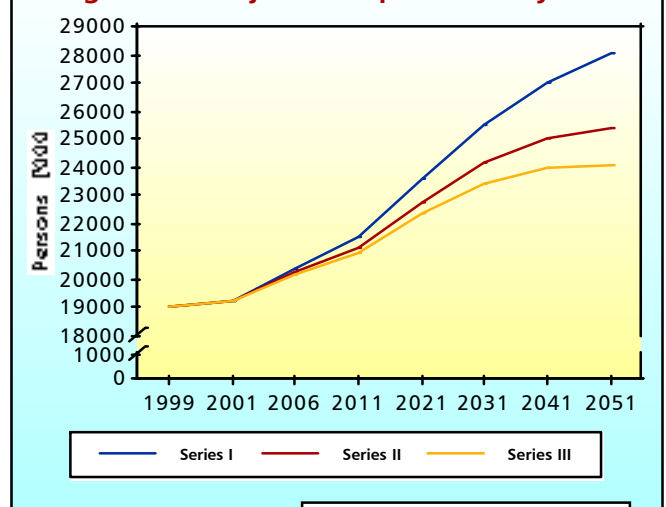
Net overseas migration over the past 15 years has ranged from a high of 157,000 in 1988–89 (reflecting the peak of the last economic cycle) to a low of 30,500 in 1992–93 (shortly after the last recession). For its population projections, the ABS has assumed net overseas migration of 70,000, 90,000 and 110,000 per annum over the

Fig. 1-17: Total Fertility Rate (TFR)



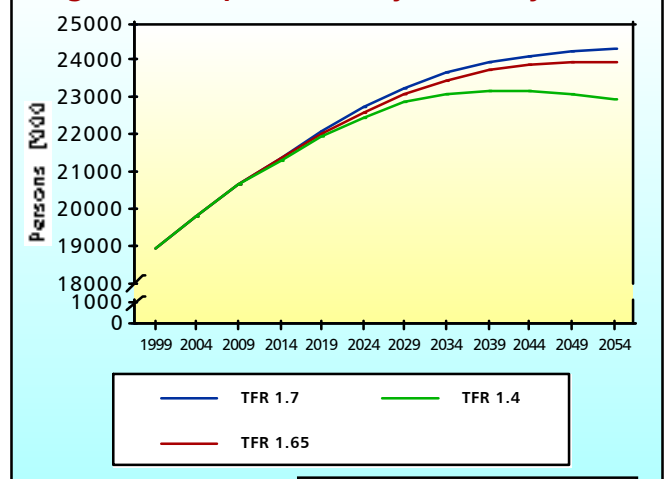
Source Data: ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (3101.0)

Fig. 1-18: Projected Populations by ABS



Source Data: ABS Population Projections, Australia 1999 2101 (3222.0)

Fig. 1-19: Population Projections by DIMA



Source Data: DIMA Population Projections

next 50 years. The DIMA projections assume that, if current immigration policies are maintained for the next 50 years, long-term net overseas migration may average around 75,000 per annum, after taking into account fluctuations due to economic cycles.

Australia's Population Prospects by 2051

Using the assumptions outlined above, in August 2000, the ABS projects (Fig. 1–18) Australia's population to grow from 19 million in 1999 to between 24.1 and 28.2 million in 2051. According to the ABS projections, the rate of population growth in 2051 would be between 0.4 per cent and –0.6 per cent by 2051 compared with around 1.3 per cent for 1998–99. The three DIMA projections (Fig. 1–19) suggest that Australia's population may be around 23 million to a little over 24 million in about 40 to 50 years, with a population growth rate close to zero.

Stabilisation of the Population

Some commentators regard a population which is stationary at a particular size and age profile (zero population growth) as desirable, particularly on grounds of environmental sustainability. Research by Professor Peter McDonald and Ms Rebecca Kippen of the Demography Program at the Australian National University, indicates that the range of achievable stationary populations within the next 100 years is from 20 million to 36 million. Stationary populations of 12 million or 50 million within 100 years are unattainable under any reasonable mortality, fertility and migration assumptions. The fastest route to a stationary population of 50 million (230 years from now) would be a fertility rate of 1.3 and annual net migration of 350,000. The fastest route to a stationary population of 12 million (350 years from now) would be a fertility rate of 1.3 and net migration of 85,000.

In contrast, a fertility rate of between 1.65 and 1.8 and net migration of between 60,000 and 100,000 would result in a stationary population of between 24 and 26 million by around 2037.

State and Territory Population Projections

According to the ABS projections, the highest rates of population growth between 1999 and 2051 are expected to occur in the Northern Territory (between 36 per cent and 163 per cent), Queensland (between 53 per cent and 106 per cent) and Western Australia (between 44 per cent and 87 per cent). New South Wales is projected to remain the most populous state. Under the ABS Series II projection, its population is projected to increase by 29 per cent, from 6.4 million to 8.2 million.

Queensland is projected to replace Victoria as the second most populous State between 2026 and 2038, while the Australian Capital Territory could overtake Tasmania between 2041 and 2047. The Northern Territory could overtake the populations of both Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory by between 2044 and 2048. Under all three ABS projections, the population of South Australia is projected to decline by 2051 from 1.49 million to between 1.48 million and 1.42 million. Tasmania's population is also expected to decline under all of the ABS population projections by between 7 and 51 per cent, from 470,300 in 1999 to between 231,300 and 435,700 in 2051.

Capital City/Balance of State and Territory Projections

The populations of most capital cities are projected to increase over the period to 2051, with the largest proportionate increases in Darwin (between 38 and 176 per cent), Brisbane (between 57 and 107 per cent) and Perth (between 45 and 88 per cent). The population of Hobart, under all ABS scenarios, is projected to decline by between 4 per cent and 49 per cent by 2051.

Sydney is expected to remain the most populous city. Under the ABS Series II projection, Sydney is projected to increase by 45 per cent from 4.0 million to 5.9 million.

Population Ageing

Population projections for Australia show that the ageing of our population will continue. This is the inevitable result of fertility remaining at low levels over a long period and increasing life expectancy. As population growth slows, the population is projected to age progressively with the median age of 35 years in 1999 increasing to 40–42 in 2021 and to 44–47 years in 2051.

By 2051, between 24 and 27 per cent of Australia's population is projected to be aged 65 years or over, compared with 12 per cent in 1999. The highest annual rates of growth for this age group will occur in 2012 when the peak of the baby-boom generation (large cohort born in 1947) reaches retirement age.

Extensive research has concluded that immigration is a very inefficient means of reducing the impact of ageing. This is because massive levels of immigration would be needed to have any appreciable impact on the proportion of the population that is aged, remembering that ageing is a gradual process and that the migrants who come to Australia would themselves be part of the aged population in 30 to 40 years time.

At the same time, net overseas migration will influence the future size of the population. The ABS has projected that by between 2033 and 2046 natural increase will fall below zero. Beyond this point only net overseas migration will contribute to population growth and subsequently to achieving a stable level of population, ie a population that is neither increasing nor decreasing.

Population Characteristics of Other Countries

Populations of different countries grow at different rates, depending on the number of births, deaths, immigrants and emigrants. Other than Australia, three other countries operate planned migration programs, the USA, Canada and New Zealand. The characteristics of their populations are similar in some respects and quite diverse in others.

The annual average population growth rate between 1995 and 2000 for Australia was 1.0 per cent. This is equivalent to the average growth rates for Canada and New Zealand for the same period. The USA's annual rate of growth was a little lower at 0.8 per cent (United Nations World Population, 1998). As with many other developed countries the growth rate has slowed over time due to the decline in the number of children being born. The replacement level of 2.1 children per woman (that is, the number of children a woman will have in her lifetime that is required to replace the population) is not being met. In 1997 Australia had a total fertility rate (TFR) of 1.77 children per woman. The comparable rates for the other three migration countries were 1.55 for Canada, 1.96 for New Zealand and 2.03 for the USA.

Low fertility impacts on the ageing of the population and consequently impacts on the size of the labour force. As people retire there is no counterbalance of similar numbers of younger people moving into the labour force causing governments to look for workers overseas. In all migration countries the proportion of those people aged 65 years or more is increasing. As Fig. 1-20 shows the proportion of those aged 65 years or more was relatively similar for Australia and Canada. The proportion in the USA was a little higher, while New Zealand had the lowest proportion (11.6 per cent).

The proportion of the populations in the younger age groups are representative of the trends in fertility in each of the countries. New Zealand had the highest proportion with those aged less than 15 years accounting for 22.8 per cent (1996). This is followed by the USA (21.6 per cent) (1997). Both these countries have TFRs that are higher than Australia and Canada. The proportion of the Australian population aged 15 years or less was 21.2 per cent (1997) and for Canada it was 20.5 per cent (1996). If those aged less than 15 years are combined with those aged 65 years or more, together they are known as the dependent population, as they do not generally participate actively in the labour force.

Another component of population growth is life expectancy. All countries throughout the world have experienced a decline in mortality. For the migration countries the life expectancy at birth (that is, the age that a person is expected to reach when they are born) of males and females is depicted in Fig. 1-21. These four countries rank in the top 20 countries for life expectancy, with Canada and Australia ranking in the top 10.

The proportion of the Australian population born overseas is greater than in the other three migration countries. The overseas-born comprise 17.4 per cent of the Canadian population (1996), 17.5 per cent of the New Zealand population (1996) and 9.7 per cent of the population of the USA (1997). This compares with 23.4 per cent of the Australian population (1996) who were born overseas.

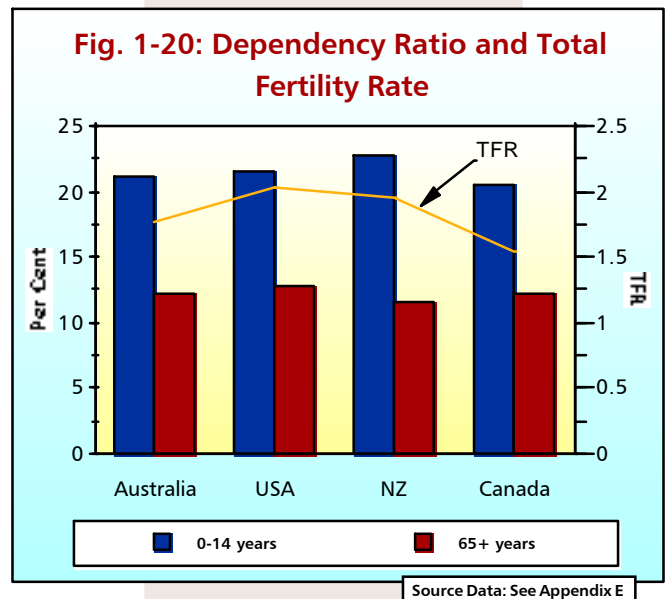


Fig. 1 21 Life Expectancy

	Male	Female
Australia (1995-97)	75.6	81.3
USA (1997)	73.6	79.4
New Zealand (1995-97)	74.3	79.6
Canada (1996)	75.7	81.4

Source Data: See Appendix E

