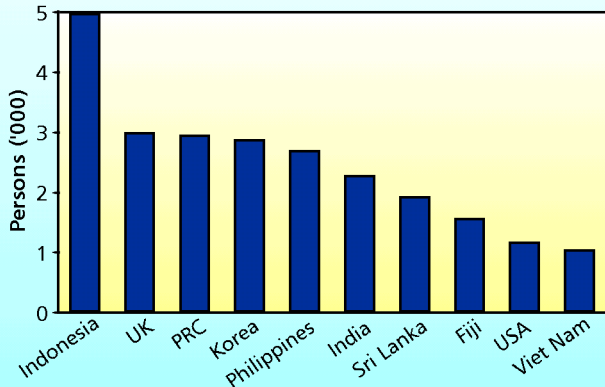


Bridging Visas

Fig. 4-24: Bridging Visas in Effect by Major Source Countries

30 June 2000



Bridging visas provide lawful status to certain non-citizens who would otherwise be unlawful and therefore liable to be detained. As at 30 June 2000, there were 43,878 bridging visas in effect, compared with 40,659 in June 1999. The majority of these were Bridging Visa A (74.0 per cent), followed by Bridging Visa E (13.4 per cent).

In general, the non-citizens covered by bridging visas are those who:

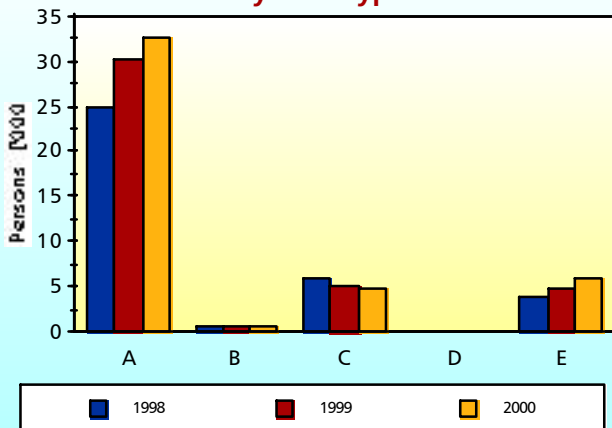
- have made (or plan to make) an application in Australia for a visa which can be granted while they are in Australia, and a decision on that application is being considered or reviewed; or
- are making arrangements to leave Australia.

Bridging Visa Classes

The main classes of bridging visas are:

- Bridging Visa A — available to non-citizens who apply for a visa within Australia and who hold another visa (other than a Bridging Visa or Criminal Justice Visa) at time of application (32,480 in effect at 30 June 2000, up 7.0 per cent from 30,359 in 1999).
- Bridging Visa B — available to Bridging Visa A holders who have a substantial reason for wanting to travel outside Australia while their visa application is being considered (684 in effect at 30 June 2000, up 28.1 per cent from 534 in 1999).
- Bridging Visa C — available to applicants who do not hold a visa when they apply for another visa while in Australia (4,818 in effect at 30 June 2000, down by 2.9 per cent from 4,961 in 1999).
- Bridging Visa D — a short term bridging visa available to people who want to make an application for a visa but are temporarily unable to do so; or, who do not want to apply for a visa but a compliance officer is not available to interview them (4 in effect at 30 June 2000 compared with 3 in 1999).
- Bridging Visa E — available to certain unlawful non-citizens who come to the attention of the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs and who may be applying for visas or making arrangements to depart Australia (5,892 in effect at 30 June 2000, up 22.7 per cent from 4,802 in 1999).

Fig. 4.25: Bridging Visas in Effect at 30 June by Visa Type



Source Data: IMIRS

The conditions attached to a bridging visa may vary according to the visa applied for, as well as the applicant's immigration status and personal circumstances at time of application.

Stock of Temporary Entrants

It is important to monitor the 'stock' of temporary entrants as it relates to the estimate of the population, that is, the number of temporary entrants physically present in Australia at any one time.

At 30 June 2000, there were an estimated 513,900 people in Australia on temporary entry visas excluding New Zealand citizens. This estimate has increased by 10 per cent compared to the number at 30 June 1999. Of these, 181,900 had been in Australia for less than three months; 182,800 had been here for between three and up to 12 months; and 149,200 had been here for twelve months or more. The median length of stay of the stock as at this date was 5 months. This includes temporary entrants who have recently arrived and have a current stay of only a few days or weeks but intend to stay much longer.

Temporary entrants include tourists, students, working holiday makers (WHM), business people and executives, and entrants for social, cultural, international relations and other purposes. They also include people holding bridging visas who have applied for a substantive, that is permanent visa, e.g. asylum seekers who have applied for Protection visas.

While the individuals are constantly turning over and there are seasonal fluctuations in the number and type of temporary entrants in Australia at any given time, the number of temporary entrants to Australia has increased consistently over the last five years. As is evident from Fig. 4-27 seasonal fluctuations are most prevalent for individuals arriving in Australia on student and visitor visas. Student numbers increase in the March and September quarters each year reflecting the attendance requirements of the academic year. Visitor numbers are highest during the Australian summer, and are lowest in the middle of the year.

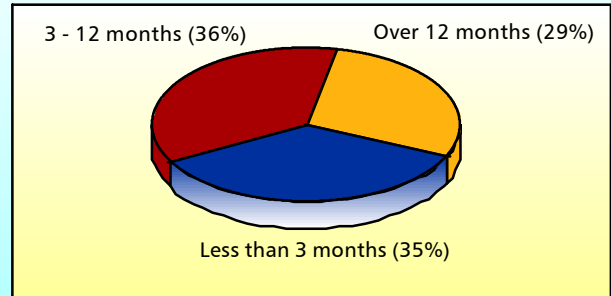
Of those here temporarily at 30 June 2000, the largest group were citizens of the United Kingdom (76,100 persons), followed by the USA (40,300 persons), the PRC (33,300 persons), Japan (32,000 persons) and Indonesia (31,300 persons). Compared with June 1999, the stock of citizens from all countries listed except Indonesia has increased.

The median age of the total stock of temporary entrants was 28 years at 30 June 2000.

The stock of temporary entrants comprised 184,270 visitors (excluding business visitors), 121,140 students, 61,220 bridging visa holders, 45,260 working holiday makers, 50,400 long stay business entrants, 13,910 business visitors, 24,590 who entered for social, cultural or international relations purposes and 13,100 who come for other purposes.

Fig. 4-26: Stock of Temporary Entrants by Duration of Stay in Australia

30 June 2000



Source Data: Temporary Entrants Statistics, DIMA

Fig. 4-27: Stock of Temporary Entrants in Australia by Temporary Entry Category

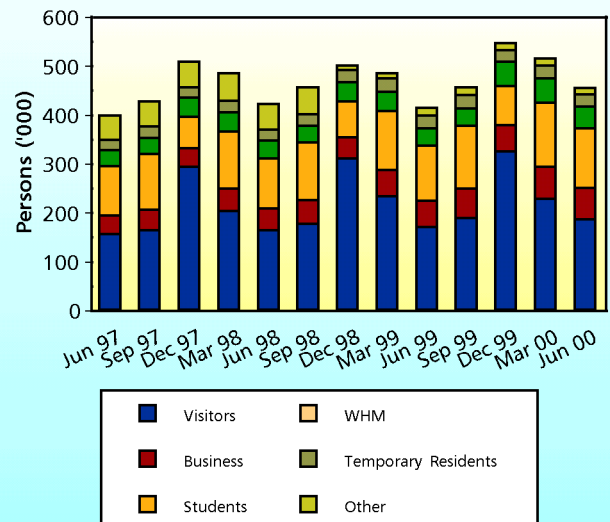
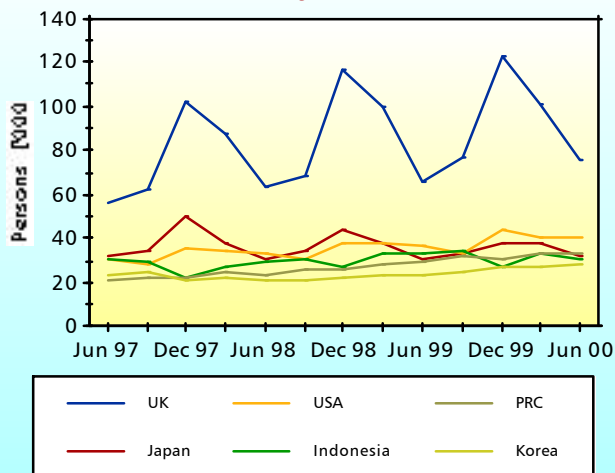
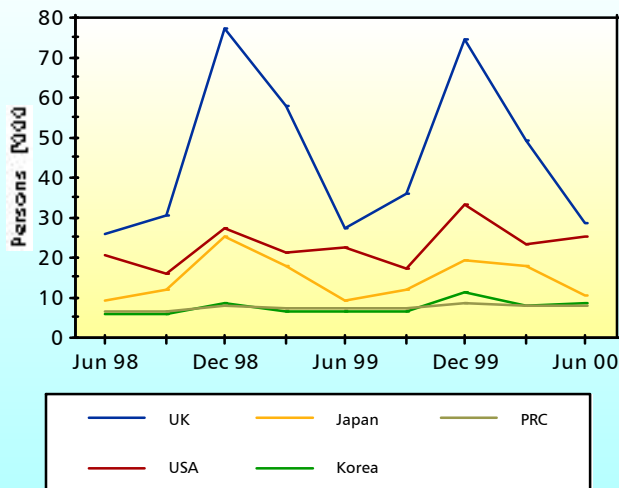


Fig. 4-28: Stock of Temporary Entrants in Australia by Citizenship



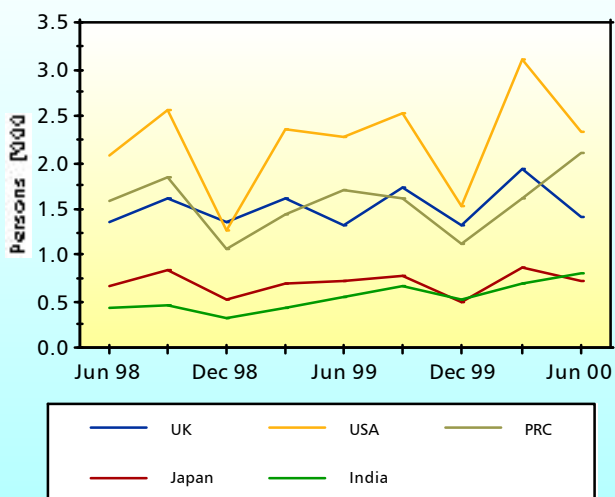
Source Data: Temporary Entrants Statistics, DIMA

Fig. 4-29: Stock of Visitors in Australia by Citizenship (excl. Business Visitors)



Source Data: Temporary Entrants Statistics, DIMA

Fig. 4-30: Stock of Temporary Business Visitors in Australia by Citizenship



Source Data: Temporary Entrants Statistics, DIMA

Stock of Visitors

The number of visitors in Australia fluctuates throughout the year depending on the season. At 30 June, the stock of visitors in Australia is at the lowest point for the year, although they still comprise the largest visa group. In addition individuals on visitor visas do not stay in Australia for as long as other temporary entrants, the median length of current stay being 43 days as at 30 June 2000. As such the number of visitors present in Australia at 30 June 2000 represented only 6.0 per cent of all visitor visas issued in 1999–2000. The median age of visitors is a little higher than for other visa categories, at 38 years for June 2000.

Fig. 4–29 shows the stock of visitors (excluding business visitors) in the five largest countries of citizenship from June 1998 to June 2000. Of the current top citizenship groups, citizens from the United Kingdom have the strongest seasonal trend. Those from Japan have historically shown strong seasonal trends, but in the past year this trend has not been as pronounced. While Japan may be the largest source country of visitors to Australia, the number present at any one time compared with either the United Kingdom or the USA is a reflection of their shorter period of stay. The median duration of stay of the stock of visitors from Japan in Australia at 30 June 2000 was 10 days.

Stock of Business Visitors (Short Stay)

Business visitors comprised just over 20 per cent of all temporary business residents in Australia at 30 June 2000. The median age of temporary business residents was a little higher than for long-term business entrants at 38 years.

Fig. 4–30 shows the number of business visitors by country of citizenship in Australia at quarterly intervals since June 1998. At 30 June 2000 there were a total of 13,910 business visitors.

Although 235,979 visas were granted in 1999–2000, the number in Australia at any time that year was low (between 10,300 and 14,700). This is consistent with the purpose of the Business Visitor visa which is typically for pursuing business interests over a few days or weeks. The median duration of stay of business visitors in Australia at 30 June was just less than 2 weeks.

Stock of Students

The stock of students in Australia is highest in the March quarter and lowest in the December quarter, consistent with the requirements for the academic school year. Numbers are a little lower for the June quarter but pick up slightly for the September quarter of each year. At 30 June 2000 the stock of 121,135 students in Australia had increased by 8.4 per cent compared with the number at 30 June 1999. The median duration of stay at 30 June 2000 of this stock was 5 months.

Fig. 4-31 shows the changes in numbers of the top five citizenship groups for the last two years. The trend suggests that more students from neighbouring countries are more likely to return home at the end of the school year than other overseas students. Also of note is the considerable increase in the number of students from the PRC. The stock of students has more than doubled between June 2000 and June 1998.

Stock of Working Holiday Makers

The stock of working holiday makers has increased from 36,167 in June 1999 to 45,264 in June 2000. Citizens from the United Kingdom continue to dominate this visa group comprising just over half of working holiday makers at June 2000. The other top citizenship groups include those from Ireland (19.9 per cent) and Japan (13.1 per cent). The median age of the stock of working holiday makers at 30 June 2000 was 24 years, and their median duration of stay was just less than 5 months.

Stock of Temporary Business (Long Stay) Residents

There were a total of 50,874 long stay business entrants at 30 June 2000. With this visa designed to engage specialist workers in Australia for up to 4 years, it is interesting to note that the median duration of stay of the stock of long stay business entrants at 30 June 2000 was 5.75 months. The number of long stay business entrants is highest at the September quarter and lowest at the June quarter.

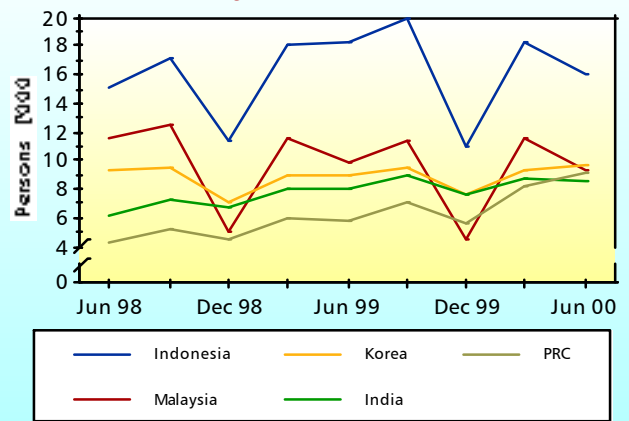
Fig. 4-32 shows the top five citizenship groups who entered as long stay business entrants to Australia since June 1998. The stock of United Kingdom citizens continues to grow at a greater rate compared to other groups. The median age of the Long Stay Business visa group at June 2000 was 30 years.

Stock of Entrants on Bridging Visas

The stock of entrants in Australia on Bridging visas at 30 June 2000 was 61,224, up by 15.1 per cent compared to June 1999. Of this group at June 2000, 60.2 per cent had arrived initially on Visitor visas and 14.2 per cent on Student visas. The median age of Bridging visa holders was 32 years.

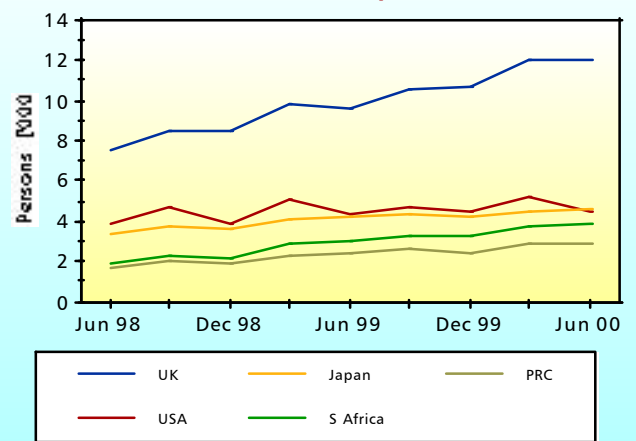
Fig. 4-33 highlights the stock of bridging visa holders by country of citizenship in Australia over a two-year period. Citizens from Indonesia and the PRC are more likely to hold a Bridging visa than entrants from other countries.

Fig. 4-31: Stock of Students in Australia by Citizenship



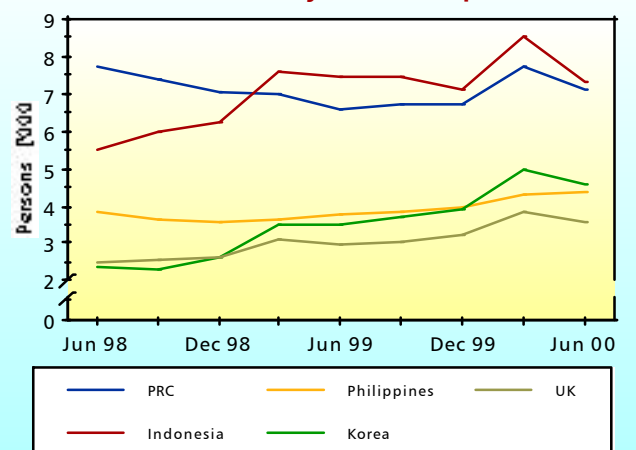
Source Data: Temporary Entrants Statistics, DIMA

Fig. 4-32: Stock of Temporary Business (Long Stay) Residents in Australia by Citizenship



Source Data: Temporary Entrants Statistics, DIMA

Fig. 4-33: Stock of Bridging Visas in Australia by Citizenship

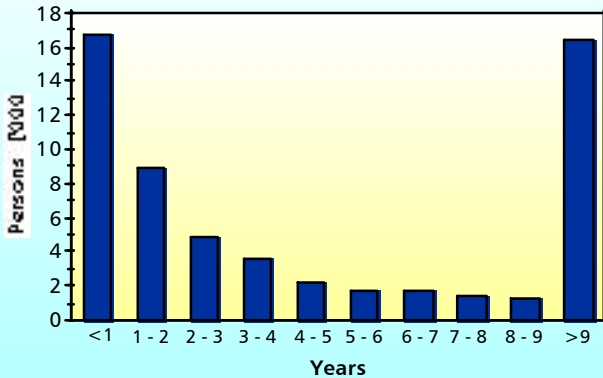


Source Data: Temporary Entrants Statistics, DIMA

Overstayers and Illegal Entrants

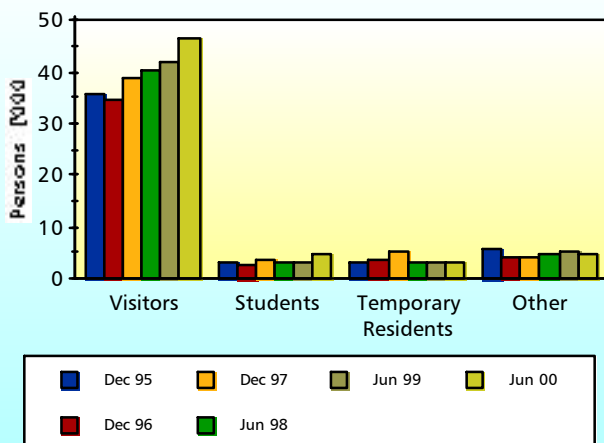
Fig. 4-34: Estimate of Overstayers by Length of Overstay

30 June 2000



Source Data: IMIRS

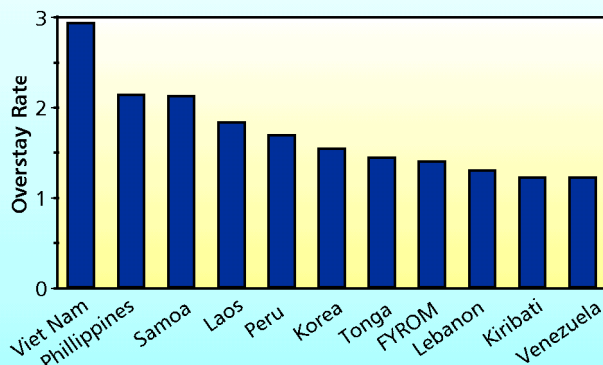
Fig. 4-35: Overstayers by Visa Category



Source Data: IMIRS

Fig. 4-36: Visitor Overstay Rate by Country of Citizenship

30 June 2000



Who are Overstayers?

Overstayers are those people who overstay the term of their visa and remain in Australia illegally. Overstayers arrive in Australia with valid temporary visas, mainly as tourists but also as working holiday makers, students and temporary residents. All but a small proportion of visaed visitors (around 0.2 per cent) leave Australia before their visas expire. The *Protecting the Border: Immigration Compliance* publication provides additional information on overstayers and related matters (see page 113 for details of this publication).

Profile of Overstayers

The overall visitor overstay rate at 30 June 2000 was 0.2 per cent, comprising 7,196 overstayers from 3,848,993 visitors with a 'lawful until' date between 1 July 1999 and 30 June 2000.

A total of 58,748 people were estimated to have overstayed their visas and were illegally in Australia at 30 June 2000, an increase of 10.5 per cent (53,143 in 1999). The largest group had been overstayers for up to one year (28.6 per cent). Those who had overstayed their visas for over nine years constituted 28.0 per cent, followed by those who had overstayed between one and two years (15.1 per cent). Short-term overstayers include a large proportion of people who overstay for just a few days and depart voluntarily.

At the end of 1999–2000, visitors comprised by far the biggest group of overstayers (79.5 per cent), temporary residents made up 5.4 per cent and students 7.5 per cent.

Nationality of Overstayers

At 30 June 2000, the largest number of visitor overstayers were from the United Kingdom (10.1 per cent of all overstayers), followed by the USA (8.1 per cent), Indonesia (6.8 per cent), the Philippines (6.5 per cent) and the PRC (6.4 per cent).

This ranking reflects, to a certain extent, the fact that many of these countries are also the source of the biggest number of visitors. The nationalities with the highest visitor overstay rate were Viet Nam (2.9 per cent of 5,016 visitors), the Philippines (2.1 per cent of 33,472 visitors), Samoa (2.1 per cent of 2,592 visitors), Laos (1.8 per cent of 525 visitors) and Peru (1.7 per cent of 850 visitors). The two countries with the highest number of visitors were Japan and the United Kingdom which had overstay rates close to zero.

The top countries by proportion of unlawful non-citizens to total temporary entrants since January 1995 is at Appendix C.

Illegal Entrants

Illegal entrants are generally people who arrive illegally (i.e. without a valid visa) on boats and at airports and those who try to enter Australia using fraudulent documents.

In 1999–2000 a total of 5,871 people attempted to enter Australia illegally, 1,695 by air and 4,176 by boat.