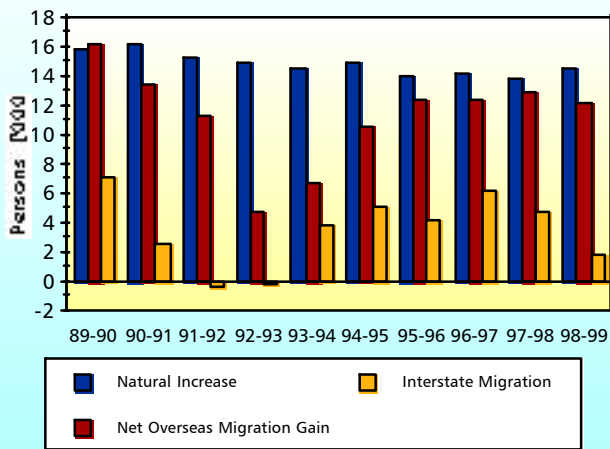


Western Australia

Population Size and Change

Fig. 6-52: Components of Population Change, WA



Source Data: ABS Australian Demographic Statistics (3101.0)

At the 1996 Census, around 9.6 per cent of Australia's population and 12.2 per cent of the overseas-born lived in Western Australia. At that time the overseas-born represented 23.3 per cent of Australia's total population and 29.3 per cent of the population of Western Australia.

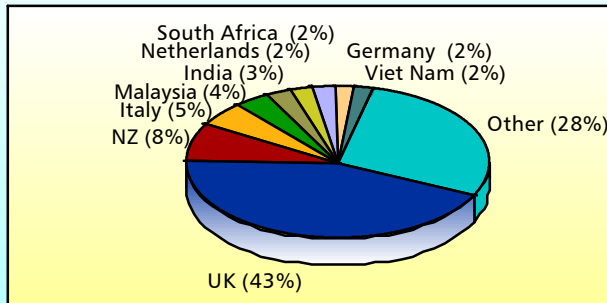
In 1998-99, the population of Western Australia increased by an estimated 28,441 people, giving Western Australia a 1.6 per cent growth rate in those 12 months. Western Australia gained 14,509 people through natural increase and 12,157 people through net overseas migration. There is estimated to be a gain of 1,775 people from net interstate migration.

Net overseas migration saw a substantial decline in Western Australia in the early 1990s but has increased steadily since 1991-92. Net interstate migration has been on the decline in the last two years. In 1998-99 the number had declined by 62.4 per cent compared with the previous year.

Interstate arrivals to Western Australia come mostly from New South Wales (26.0 per cent of arrivals in 1998-99), Victoria (22.6 per cent) and Queensland (21.3 per cent). Western Australian residents departing interstate move mainly to New South Wales (25.3 per cent), Victoria (24.6 per cent) and Queensland (23.8 per cent).

Fig. 6-53: Overseas-born Population by Major Countries of Birth, WA

1996 Census



Source Data: ABS 1996 Census of Population and Housing

Country of Birth of Settler Arrivals

At the 1996 Census, settler arrivals from the United Kingdom accounted for over a third of the State's overseas-born population (43.2 per cent). New Zealand and Italy were the next two largest birthplace groups.

Settler arrivals to Western Australia totalled 11,512 people. The proportion of settlers from the United Kingdom has decreased from 20.8 per cent to 19.6 per cent in 1999-2000.

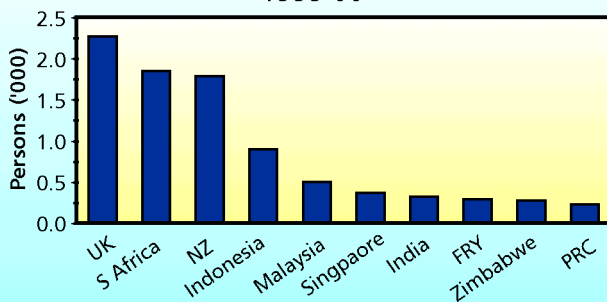
The proportion of settler arrivals from Asia increased from 24.9 per cent in 1986-87 to 34.0 per cent in 1991-92. In 1999-2000 the proportion was 26.7 per cent.

In 1999-2000, the top five countries of origin of settler arrivals to Western Australia were the United Kingdom (2,262 persons), South Africa (1,840 persons), New Zealand (1,775 persons), Indonesia (890 persons) and Malaysia (487 persons). This compares with the top source countries for Australia as a whole: New Zealand, the United Kingdom, the PRC, South Africa and India.

There were slightly more female settler arrivals (50.2 per cent) than male arrivals. The distribution of females and males across most major source countries was relatively even, except for the PRC (85 males to 132 females), the Philippines (32 males to 115 females) and Viet Nam (32 males to 81 females).

Fig. 6-54: Top Ten Source Countries, WA

1999-00



Settler Arrivals to Western Australia by Migration Stream

The number of settler arrivals to Western Australia in each migration stream has changed significantly in recent years. Comparing settler arrivals in 1988–89 to those in 1999–2000, there were fewer Family, Skill, Humanitarian, Special Eligibility and other entrants.

Of the 11,512 arrivals in Western Australia in 1999–2000, Skill Stream settler arrivals were the largest stream, accounting for 56.5 per cent, followed by New Zealand citizens (18.8 per cent). The Family stream accounted for 16.2 per cent of arrivals and the Humanitarian Program for 7.4 per cent.

Just over half of the settler arrivals to Western Australia were female (50.2 per cent), which is marginally less than the Australian average (50.9 per cent).

Females were strongly represented in the Family Stream (62.2 per cent) but comprised less than half of the Skill and Humanitarian entrants (48.2 and 49.3 per cent respectively).

Family Stream Settler Arrivals

In 1999–2000, Western Australia received 1,864 Family settler arrivals, an increase of two people compared with 1998–99.

High proportions of Family settler arrivals who arrived in Western Australia came from the United Kingdom (21.9 per cent), the Philippines (6.1 per cent), Viet Nam (5.6 per cent) and South Africa (5.0 per cent).

Nearly two-thirds of Family Stream settler arrivals to Western Australia in 1999–2000 entered under either Spouse (309 persons) or Provisional Spouse (909 persons) categories. Significant numbers of Family settler arrivals also entered as Fiances (299 persons), Dependent Children (120 persons) and Designated Parents (68 persons).

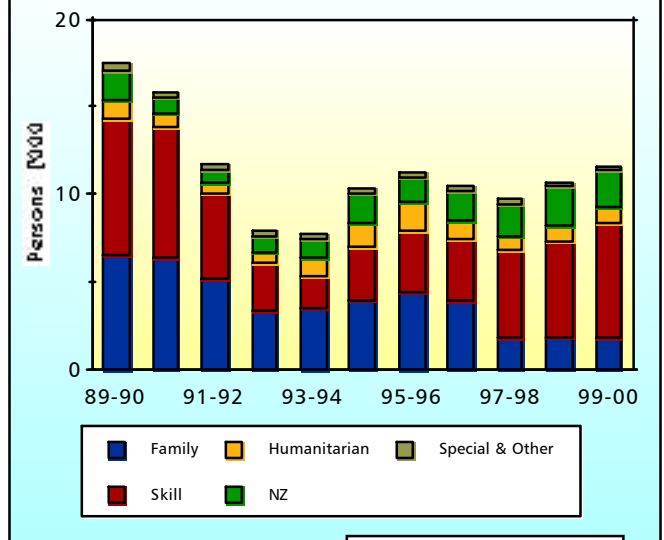
Humanitarian Settler Arrivals

In 1999–2000, Western Australia received 854 Humanitarian settler arrivals, a decrease of 6.2 per cent over 1998–99. Of the 1999–2000 Humanitarian entrants, 398 people (46.6 per cent) were accepted as Refugees, 100 people (11.7 per cent) under the Special Assistance Category and 356 people (41.7 per cent) were accepted under the Special Humanitarian Program.

Females comprised 57.0 per cent of Special Assistance Category entrants, 46.2 per cent of Refugees and 50.6 per cent of Special Humanitarian Program entrants.

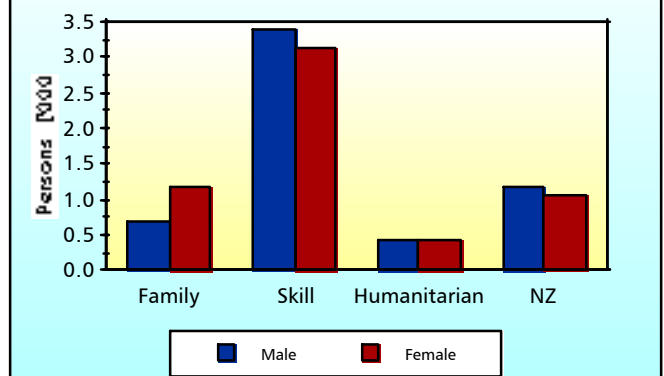
Refugees came predominantly from Croatia (28.6 per cent). Special Assistance Category arrivals came mainly from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (34.0 per cent) and Croatia (20.0 per cent). Special Humanitarian Program arrivals also came mainly from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (29.2 per cent) and Iraq (14.0 per cent). Twenty-eight people were settled under the Women At Risk category.

Fig. 6-55: Settler Arrivals by Stream, WA



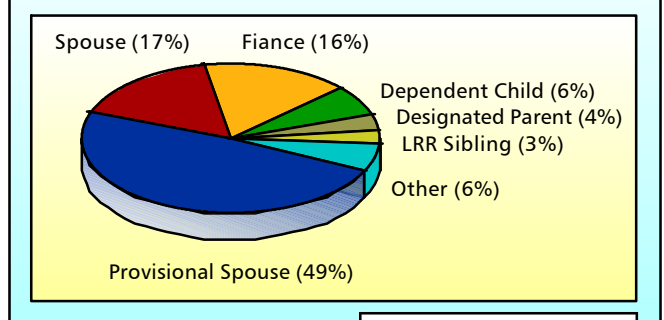
Source Data: OAD Statistics, DIMA

Fig. 6-56: Settler Arrivals by Stream and Sex, WA 1999-00



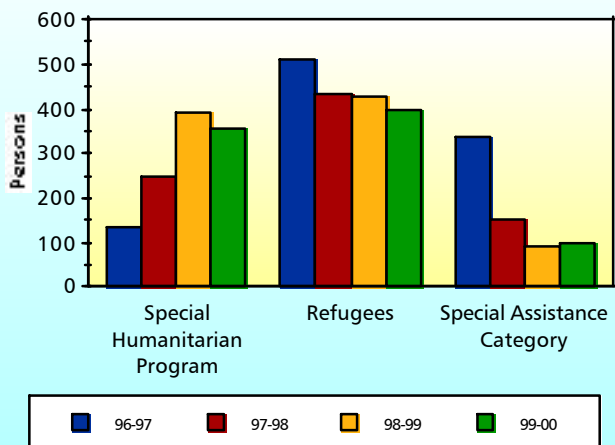
Source Data: OAD Statistics, DIMA

Fig. 6-57: Family Stream Settler Arrivals by Category, WA 1999-00



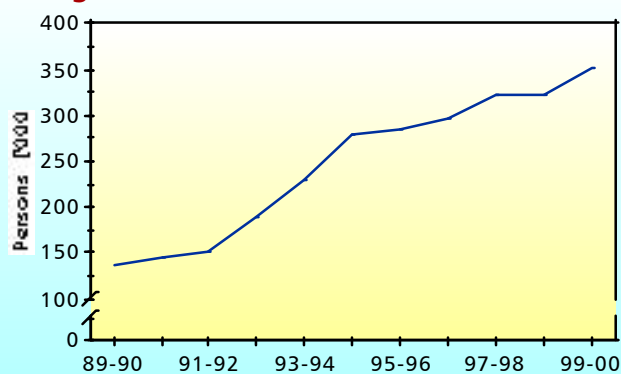
Source Data: OAD Statistics, DIMA

Fig. 6-58: Humanitarian Settler Arrivals by Category, WA 1999-00



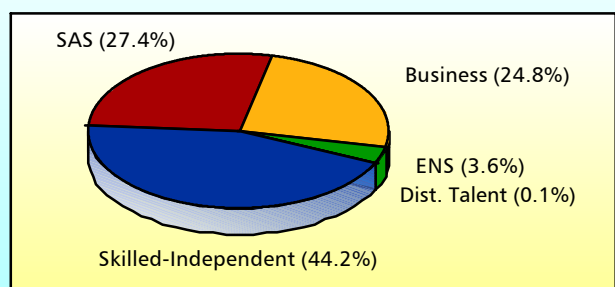
Source Data: OAD Statistics, DIMA

Fig. 6-59: Overseas Visitor Arrivals, WA



Source Data: OAD Statistics, DIMA

Fig. 6-60: Skill Stream Settler Arrivals by Category, WA 1999-00



Source Data: OAD Statistics, DIMA

Overseas Visitor Arrivals

In 1999–2000, Western Australia attracted 351,794 visitors or 10.4 per cent of visitors who nominated a main State of stay.

The proportion of total overseas visitor arrivals to Western Australia grew slowly from around nine per cent in the late 1980s and early 1990s to around 10 per cent in the mid-1990s. In 1999–2000 the number of overseas visitor arrivals to the State grew by 9.2 per cent on the previous year.

Skill Stream Settler Arrivals

Western Australia received 6,506 Skill Stream settler arrivals in 1999–2000, an increase of 19.3 per cent over 1998–99. The largest number of 1998–99 Skill Stream settler arrivals (2,876) were in the Independent category.

Skill-Australian Sponsored migrants accounted for 1,780 people, Business settler arrivals for 1,612 and the Employer Nomination Scheme for 234. There were also four Distinguished Talents entrants.

Three countries accounted for 63.8 per cent of all Skill Stream settler arrivals in 1999–2000: the United Kingdom (1,670 persons), South Africa (1,699 persons) and Indonesia (780 persons). Skill Stream settler arrivals from the United Kingdom and South Africa entered largely under the Independent category (52.9 and 54.5 per cent respectively). 95.0 per cent of Indonesian Skill Stream settler arrivals were Business entrants.

Females accounted for 47.3 per cent of Independent settlers, 48.8 per cent of Skill-Australian Sponsored settlers, 49.7 per cent of Business arrivals and 45.3 per cent of Employer Nomination Scheme arrivals.

Occupation of Settler Arrivals

In 1999–2000, the top five occupations represented amongst settler arrivals to Western Australia were general managers (412 persons), accountants (191 persons), registered nurses (158 persons), secretaries and personal assistants (153 persons), and computing professionals (132 persons).

By comparison, the top five occupations represented among settler arrivals for Australia as a whole in 1999–2000 were general managers (1,943 persons), computer professionals (1,778 persons), accountants (1,694 persons), elementary clerical, sales and service workers (1,405 persons) and managers and administrators (1,264 persons).

Labour Market Profile

Of the total settler arrivals in Western Australia in 1999–2000, 48.0 per cent were not in the labour force prior to migration, but were retired, dependent children, students or performed home duties.

Most persons who were in the labour force prior to migration were skilled (72.0 per cent). A further 15.0 per cent were semi-skilled, 5.9 per cent unskilled and 7.1 per cent were not in employment.

Persons born overseas make up 31.2 per cent of the Western Australia labour force which is well above the Australian proportion of 24.5 per cent.

Unemployment Rates

Migrants from main English speaking countries (MESC) accounted for 19.5 per cent of the State's employed persons and 16.5 per cent of the unemployed. Migrants from non-English speaking countries (NESC) accounted for 11.7 per cent of the State's employed and 14.2 per cent of the unemployed.

In August 2000, Western Australia had an unemployment rate of 6.1 per cent, just lower than the Australian rate of 6.2 per cent.

Australian-born persons had an unemployment rate of 6.1 per cent, NESC-born 5.2 per cent and MESC-born 7.2 per cent.

Australian-born, MESC and NESC females all had a lower rate of unemployment than their male counterparts.

Fig. 6-61: Top Ten Occupations of Arrivals, WA 1999-00

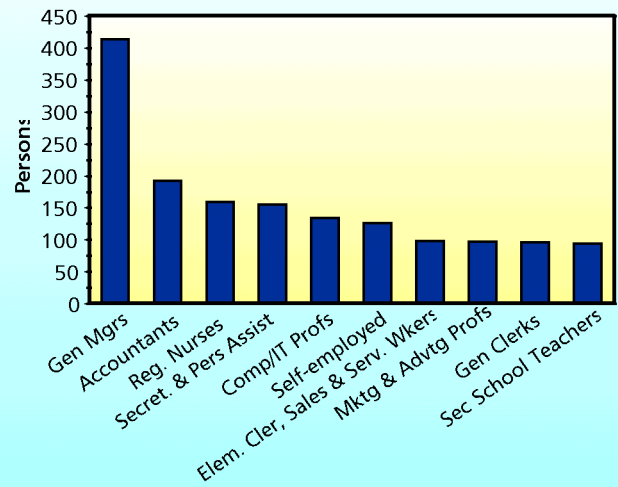
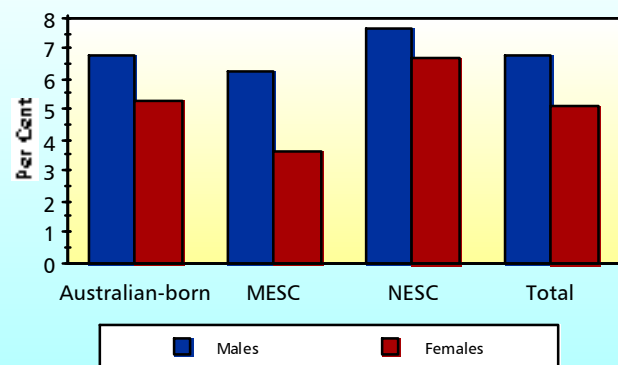


Fig. 6-62: Unemployment Rates by Sex and Birthplace Group, WA August 2000



Source Data: ABS Labour Force, unpublished statistics