

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 counted as 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 1990–2000 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 (including temporary residents and students) 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

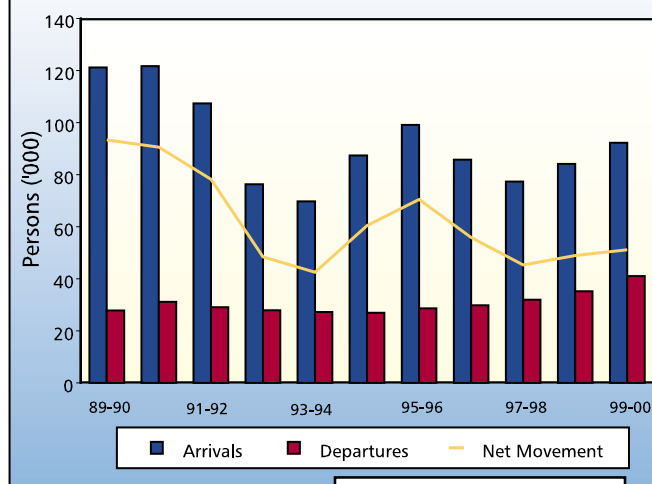


Fig. 1-7 Long-Term Arrivals vs Departures

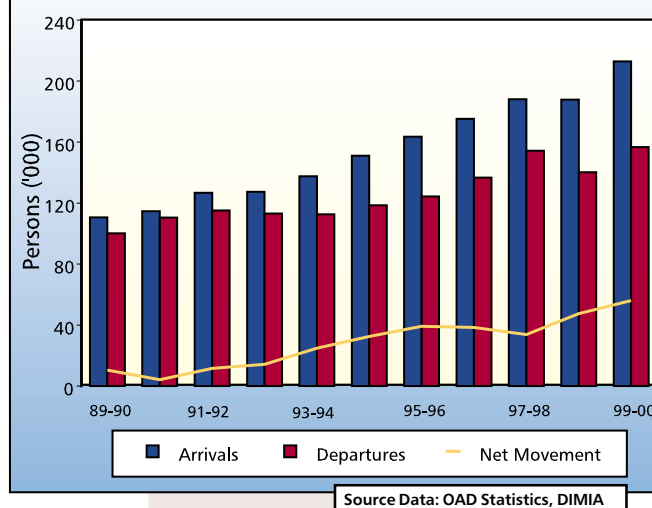


Fig. 1-8: Long-Term Arrivals by Residence Status

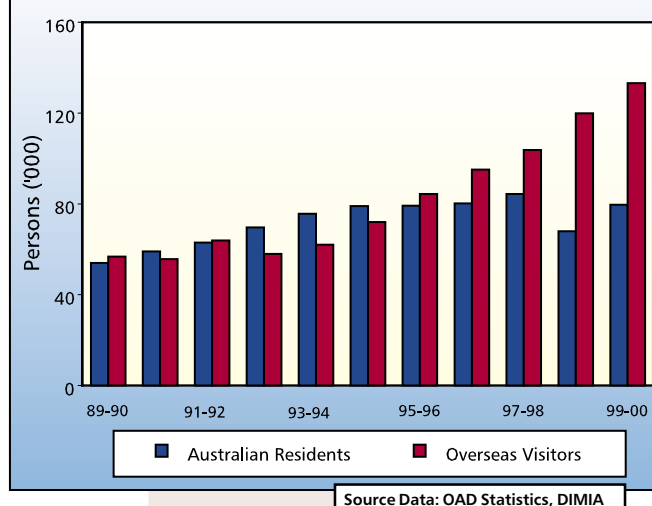
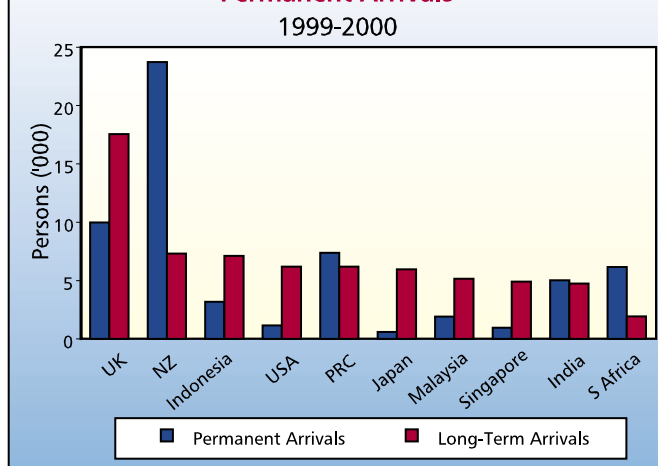


Fig. 1-9: Major Countries of Long-Term Arrivals vs Permanent Arrivals 1999-2000



Source Data: OAD Statistics, DIMIA

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

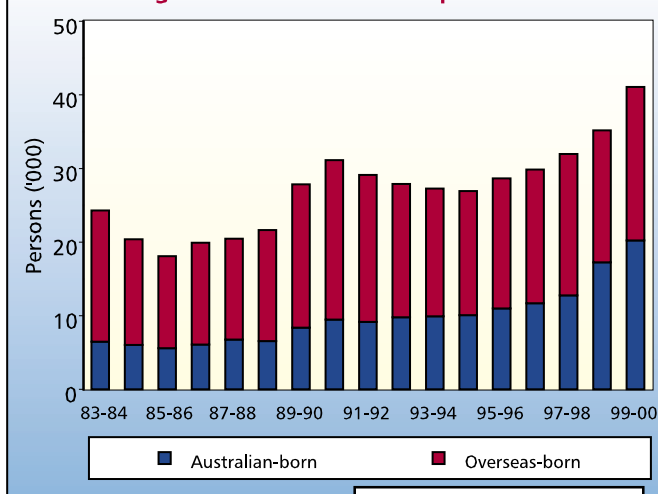
In 1999–2000, 41,080 people left Australia permanently. Emigration has increased steadily in recent years and is now at its highest level in 27 years.

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.

A range of circumstances may lead to the decision to leave Australia permanently. 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.

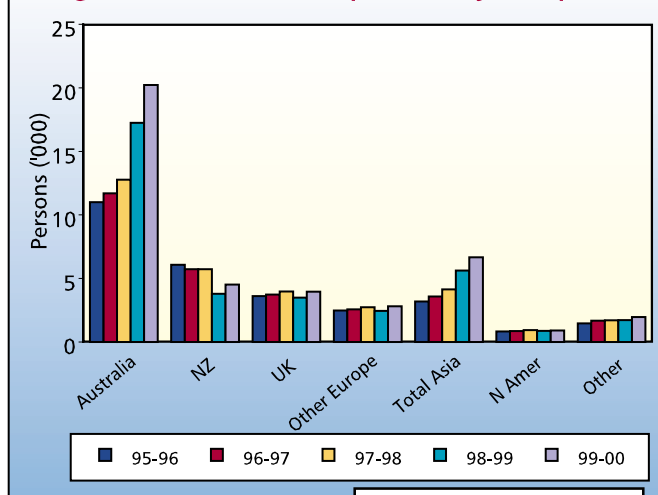
Historically, emigration levels of the overseas-born correlate with permanent arrivals two years earlier. The number of Australian-born emigrating has increased in recent years. This trend is likely to continue as a result of the increasing internationalisation of labour markets and ongoing global demand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

Fig. 1-10: Permanent Departures



Source Data: OAD Statistics, DIMIA

Fig. 1-11: Permanent Departures by Birthplace



Source Data: OAD Statistics, DIMIA

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.

Emigration by Occupation

Skilled emigrants are those permanently departing who, prior to leaving, were 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 15,114, 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.

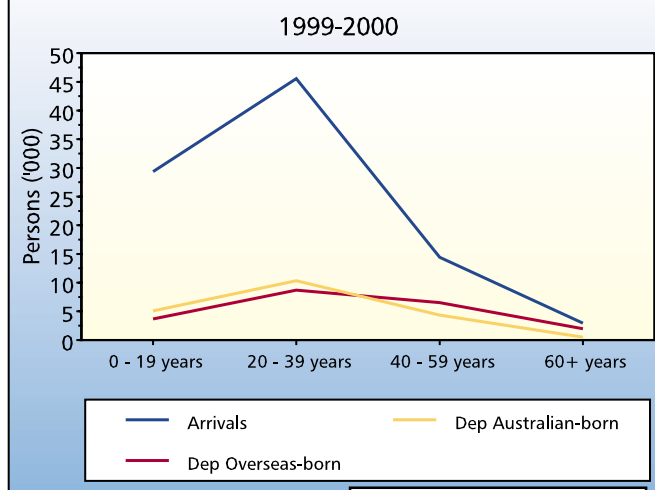
Emigration by Length of Residence

The majority of overseas-born people 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.

The introduction of the two-year waiting period on Australian welfare payments in March 1997 does not appear to have 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.

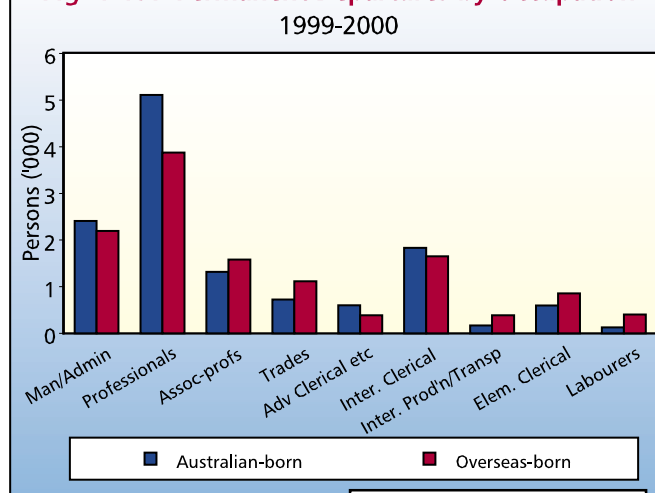
From February 2000, New Zealand citizens who settle in Australia are also subject to a two-year waiting period for income support payments. New Zealand-born comprised 18.3 per cent of all those overseas-born emigrating after less than two years residence in Australia. This proportion has risen from 16.7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

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



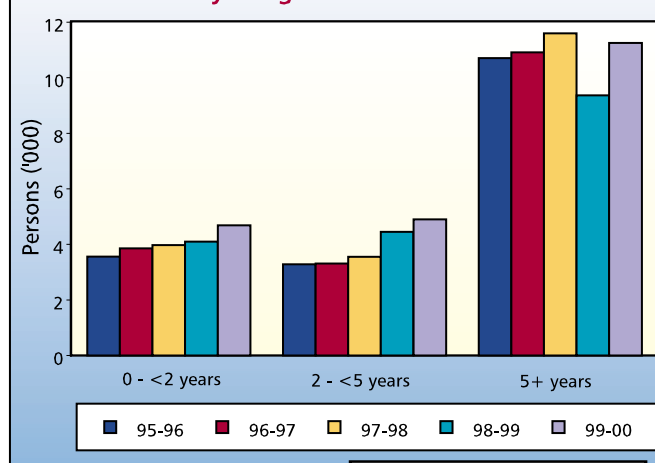
Source Data: OAD Statistics, DIMIA

Fig. 1-13: Permanent Departures by Occupation



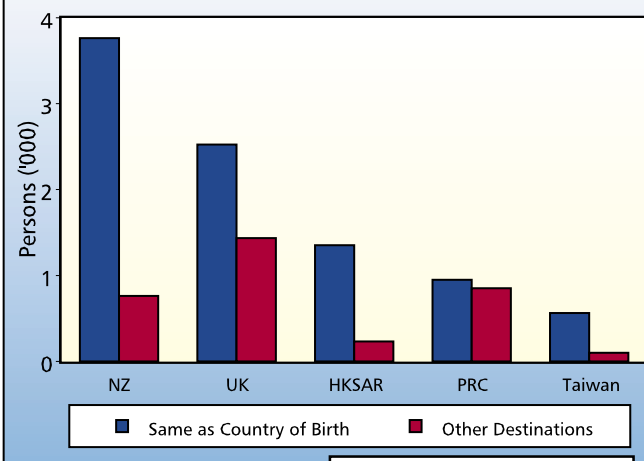
Source Data: OAD Statistics, DIMIA

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



Source Data: OAD Statistics, DIMIA

Fig. 1-15: Destination of Overseas-born Emigrants 1999-2000



Source Data: OAD Statistics, DIMIA

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

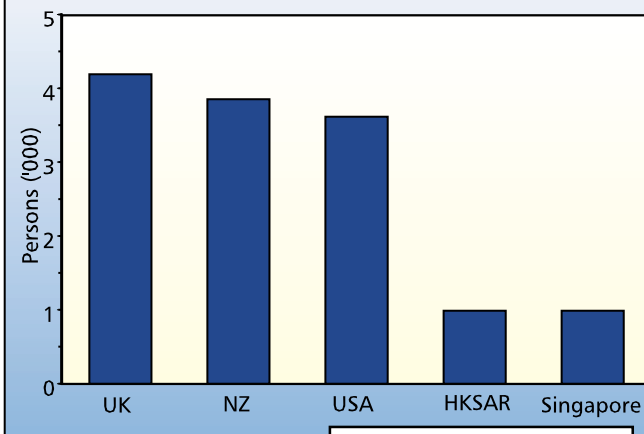
The five largest groups of overseas-born emigrants in 1999–2000 were, by country of birth, New Zealand (4,526 persons), the United Kingdom (3,959), the PRC (1,802), Hong Kong (1,585 persons) and the USA (604 persons). A majority of all these emigrant groups returned to their country of birth: New Zealand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

Fig. 1-16: Top 5 Destinations of Australian-born Emigrants 1999-2000



Source Data: OAD Statistics, DIMIA