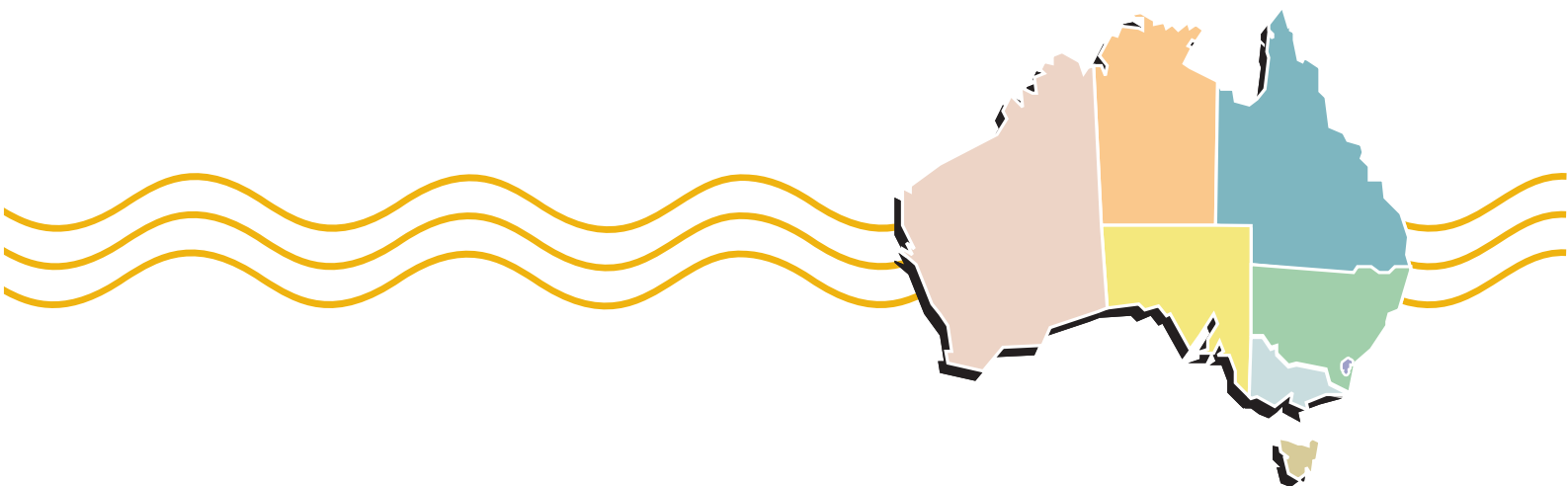


Chapter 1

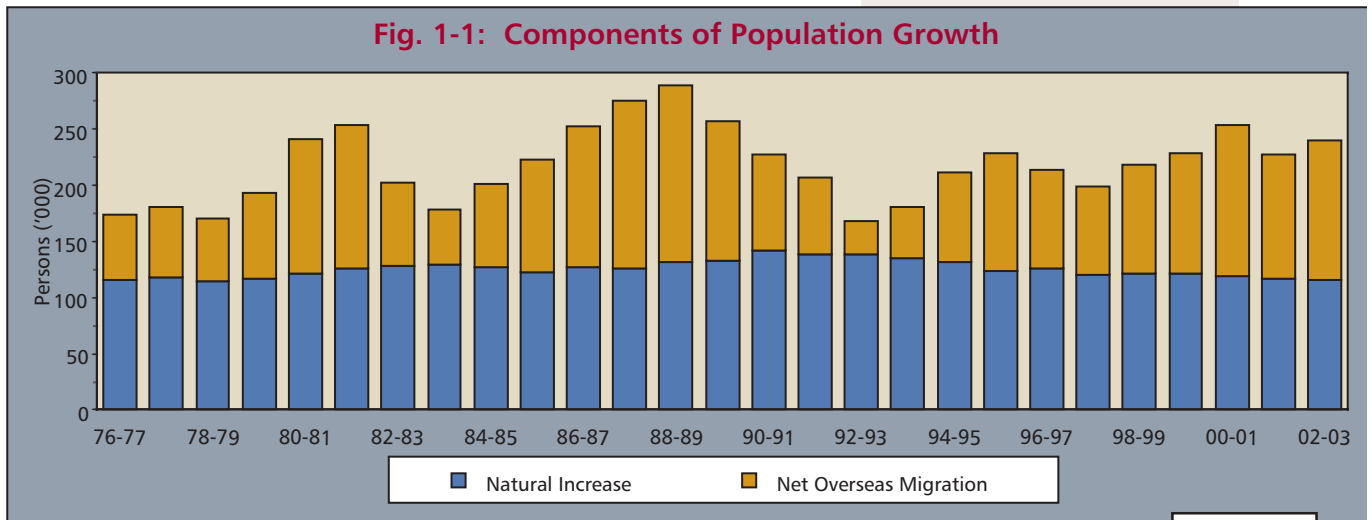
Population Growth and International Movement

- Australia's population was estimated to have reached 19.9 million at 30 June 2003.
- Australia's population growth in 2002-03 was made up of 115,200 natural increase (births less deaths) and 125,300 net overseas migration.
- The United Kingdom was the largest overseas-born group, but as a proportion of the total overseas-born, it is declining. The second largest birthplace group is the New Zealand-born.
- Permanent additions to Australia's population were 125,860 in 2002-03, made up of 93,914 permanent arrivals and 31,946 permanent onshore visa grants (ie outcomes in both the Migration and Humanitarian programs).
- Net long-term temporary movements in 2002-03 were the highest ever recorded.
- In 2002-03, 50,463 people left Australia permanently, the highest number ever.
- Permanent departures of the Australia-born were 25,612 in 2002-03, the highest ever.
- Australia lost 24,166 skilled people through permanent emigration in 2002-03, but gained 36,122 skilled permanent settler arrivals.
- Projections suggest that Australia's population may be around 26 to 27 million by the middle of this century.



Population Growth

Fig. 1-1: Components of Population Growth



Source Data: ABS

Components of Population Growth

In the year ended 30 June 2003, Australia's population increased by 240,500 persons or 1.22 per cent to 19,881,500. Australia's population growth rate was the same as the world's population growth rate in 2002–03.

Natural increase has usually been the main contributor to population growth. Natural increase has not varied greatly 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. (See Appendix A - Components of Population Growth 1977–2003).

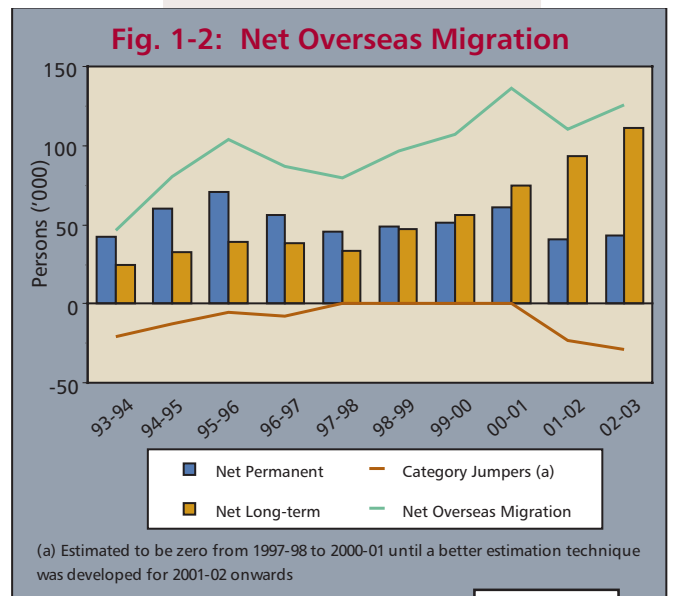
Net Overseas Migration

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 (12 months or longer) basis, and those arriving permanently or long-term. The annual net overseas migration figure can also be 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 2002–03 Australia's net overseas migration gain was estimated to be 125,300, an increase of 14,700 on the 2001–02 figure of 110,600. This increase reflects the larger Migration Programs of the last two years, growth in the number of overseas students and the strength of Australia's economy.

In the mid-1990s, the estimates of category jumping became highly volatile. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) set category jumping to zero from 1997–98 to 2000–01 until a better estimation technique was developed for 2001–02 onwards. (More detail is available from the ABS website www.abs.gov.au - from the home page, select Themes, then Demography, then Demography working paper 2003/5.)

Fig. 1-2: Net Overseas Migration

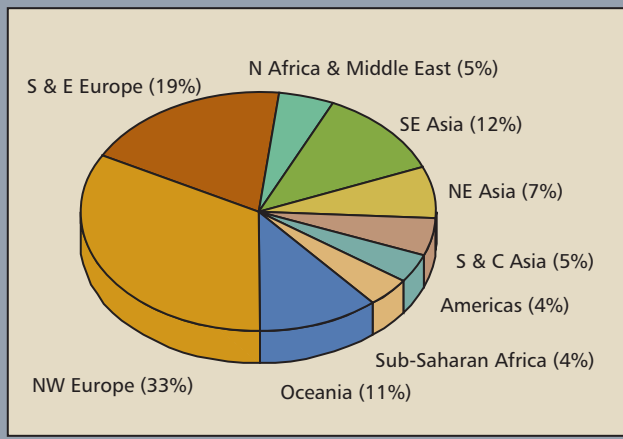


(a) Estimated to be zero from 1997-98 to 2000-01 until a better estimation technique was developed for 2001-02 onwards

Source Data: ABS

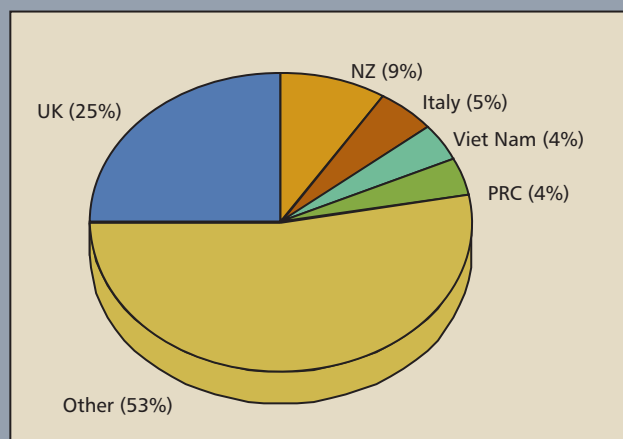
Population Characteristics

Fig. 1-3: Overseas-born Population by Region of Birth 2001 Census



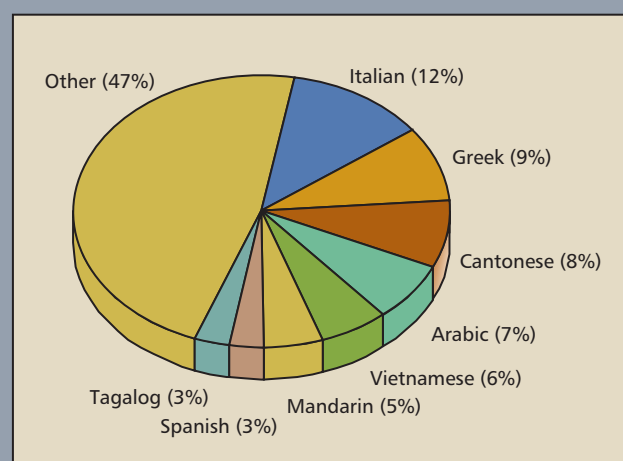
Source Data: ABS, 2001 Census

Fig. 1-4: Overseas-born Population by Country of Birth 2001 Census



Source Data: ABS, 2001 Census

Fig. 1-5: Languages Spoken at Home 2001 Census



Source Data: ABS, 2001 Census

Birthplace

Australia's population at the 2001 Census was 18.8 million, up 5.7 per cent from the figure of 17.8 million in 1996. There was a slightly higher proportion of the population born overseas, up to 23.1 per cent from 22.8 per cent.

The United Kingdom was the largest overseas-born group (25.4 per cent), but as a proportion of the total overseas-born, the United Kingdom is declining over time. The second largest birthplace group, the New Zealand-born, made up 8.7 per cent of all overseas-born. The number of New Zealand-born people has risen significantly in recent years, having increased by 22.1 per cent in the last five years. The next largest birthplace groups are Italy (5.4 per cent), Viet Nam (3.8 per cent), PRC (excluding SARs and Taiwan) (3.5 per cent), Greece (2.9 per cent), Germany (2.6 per cent), Philippines (2.5 per cent) and India (2.3 per cent).

Birthplaces that have increased significantly in the past five years are Sudan (4,911 persons, up 105 per cent), Afghanistan (11,264 persons, up 93 per cent), Somalia (3,726 persons, up 82 per cent), Bangladesh (9,077, up 79 per cent) and Iraq (24,819 persons, up 77 per cent).

Birthplaces that have decreased significantly in the past five years are Latvia (6,701, down 17 per cent), Estonia (2,397 persons, down 16 per cent), Lithuania (3,689 persons, down 13 per cent), Poland (58,093 persons, down 11 per cent) and Portugal (15,407 persons, down 10 per cent).

On a region of birth basis, Sub-Saharan Africa had the greatest increase (32 per cent) in the past five years, followed by Southern & Central Asia (27 per cent) and North-East Asia (18 per cent).

Language

In the 2001 Census, 2,933,512 persons (15.6 per cent of the population) reported they spoke a language other than English at home.

Italian was the most popular language (12.4 per cent), followed by Greek (9.2 per cent), Cantonese (7.9 per cent), Arabic (7.3 per cent), Vietnamese (6.1 per cent), Mandarin (4.9 per cent), Spanish (3.3 per cent) and Tagalog (Filipino) (2.8 per cent). Other popular languages spoken at home were German, Macedonian, Croatian, Polish, Turkish, Serbian and Hindi.

Languages that have increased significantly over the past five years are Norwegian (2,880 persons, up 138 per cent), Afrikaans (8,021 persons, up 137 per cent), Somali (4,747 persons, up 108 per cent) and Kurdish (2,836 persons, up 93 per cent).

Languages that have decreased significantly over the past five years are German (76,443 persons, down 23 per cent) and Tok Pisin (3,125 persons) and Hokkien (8,263 persons) both down 19 per cent.

There were 50,933 persons who reported speaking an Australian Indigenous Language at home.

English Proficiency

Of those who reported they spoke a language other than English at home, 1,566,397 persons (53 per cent) said they spoke English 'very well' while 777,785 (27 per cent) persons said they spoke 'well'.

There were 419,984 (14 per cent) who spoke English not well and 57,177 (4 per cent) who 'did not speak English at all'. The remaining 2 per cent were 'not stated'.

Religious Affiliations

Just over two-thirds (68.0 per cent) of Australia's population reported a Christian religions in the 2001 Census. The remainder was made up of Other Religions (4.9 per cent), No Religion (15.5 per cent) and Not Stated (11.7 per cent).

The most popular religions were Catholic (26.6 per cent, up 4.2 per cent on the number reported in the 1996 Census) followed by Anglican (20.7 per cent, down 0.6 per cent) and Uniting Church (6.7 per cent, down 6.5 per cent).

The most popular non-Christian religions were Buddhism (1.9 per cent, up 79.1 per cent), Islam (1.5 per cent, up 40.2 per cent), Hinduism (0.5 per cent, up 41.8 per cent) and Judaism (0.4 per cent, up 5.3 per cent).

Religions that have increased significantly over the past five years include Melkite Catholic, Nature Religions and Maronite Catholic.

Religions that have decreased significantly over the past five years include Worldwide Church of God, Christian and Missionary Alliance and Pentecostal.

Ancestry

The most popular response to the question on ancestry was Australian, which was 27.2 per cent of the total population. Of these, 90 per cent had both parents born in Australia.

The next most popular ancestries are shown in the adjacent chart.

Excluding Australian and European ancestries, the top ancestries were Chinese (2.5 per cent), Vietnamese (0.8 per cent), Lebanese (0.8 per cent), Indian (0.7 per cent) and Filipino (0.5 per cent).

Fig. 1-6: Proficiency in Spoken English 1996 and 2001 Census

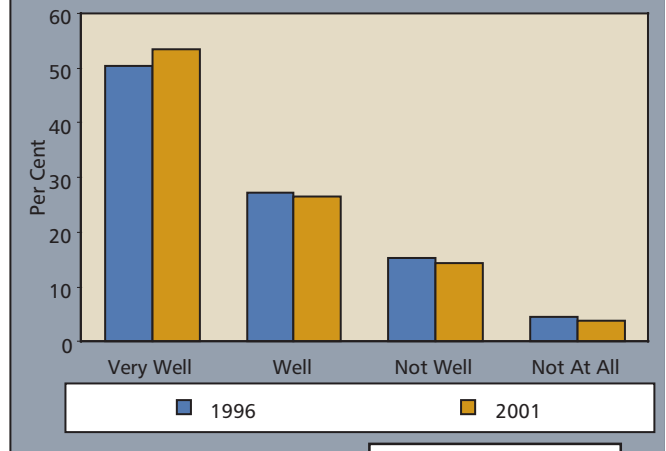


Fig. 1-7: Religious Affiliations 2001 Census

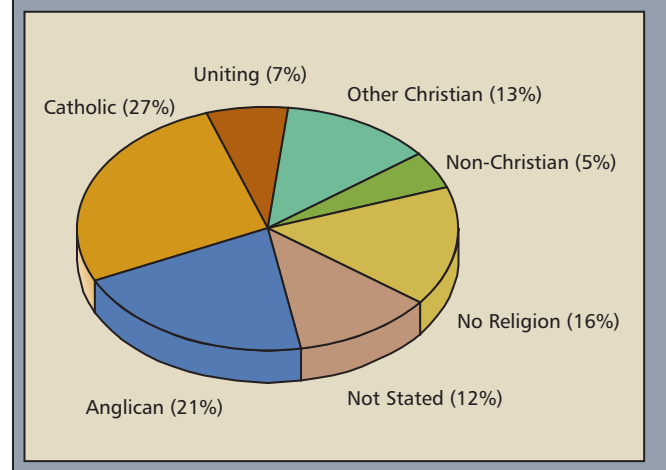


Fig. 1-8: Top Eight Ancestries in Australia 2001 Census

