

Permanent Additions to Australia's Resident Population (through immigration)

Concept of Permanent Additions

"Permanent Additions" to Australia's resident population is the sum of permanent arrivals (settlers) and permanent onshore visa outcomes in both the Migration and Humanitarian programs. Outcomes are the number of permanent visas granted net of visas cancelled, but include any cancelled visas that have been re-issued in the reference period.

Historically, the usual measure of permanent immigration to Australia was permanent arrival data (ie permanent visaed migrants plus New Zealand citizens migrating to Australia). However, for many years, certain groups, particularly family members and refugees, have been granted resident status onshore.

More recently, there has been an increasing propensity for temporary entrants (both short and long term) to be granted permanent residence onshore on the basis of skills. This has been fostered by deliberate immigration policies, especially the decision in 1999 to allow foreign students graduating from Australian institutions to apply for Skill Stream visas onshore.

The number of onshore visa grants for Business Skills, Employer Nomination Scheme and the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme have also been rising strongly.

The result of these changes has been that Migration Program visas granted (ie outcomes) to people physically present in Australia have doubled in seven years, from 16,535 in 1996-97 to 31,330 in 2002-03.

Consequently, the ability of permanent arrival statistics to tell the full story about permanent immigration has diminished. In 1996-97, settler arrivals were 85,750. In 2002-03 they had risen to 93,910. By contrast, total onshore outcomes under the Migration and Humanitarian Programs had risen from 18,799 in 1996-97 to 31,946 in 2002-03.

This means that permanent settler arrivals accounted for only 75 per cent of all permanent immigration to Australia in 2002-03. And the permanent settler arrival share is likely to continue to fall. In 2000-01 onshore skill stream grants to students graduating in Australia were zero. In 2002-03 they were 7,920, and in 2003-04 we expect them to be over 10,000 and rising.

As a response, DIMIA has decided to publish data under the heading "Permanent Additions" to Australia's resident population.

Permanent Additions Data

Over the last seven years, permanent additions have averaged a little over 110,000 per year. In 2002-03, permanent additions were 125,860, an increase of 3.9 per cent over the 121,172 permanent additions in 2001-02.

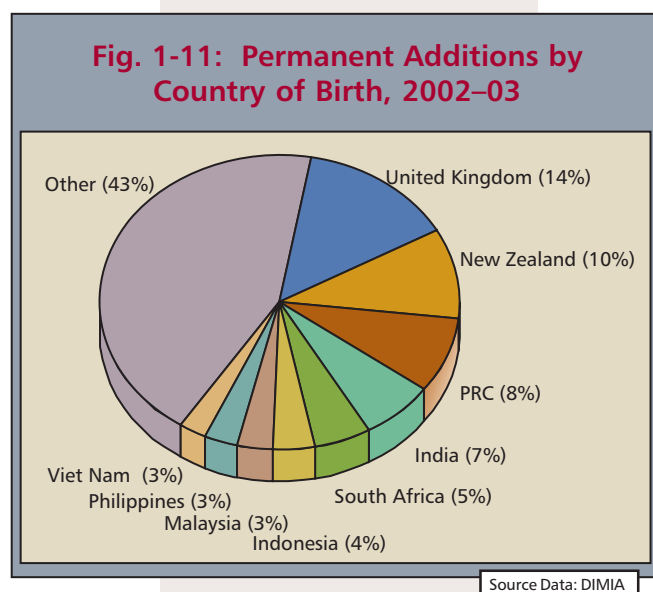
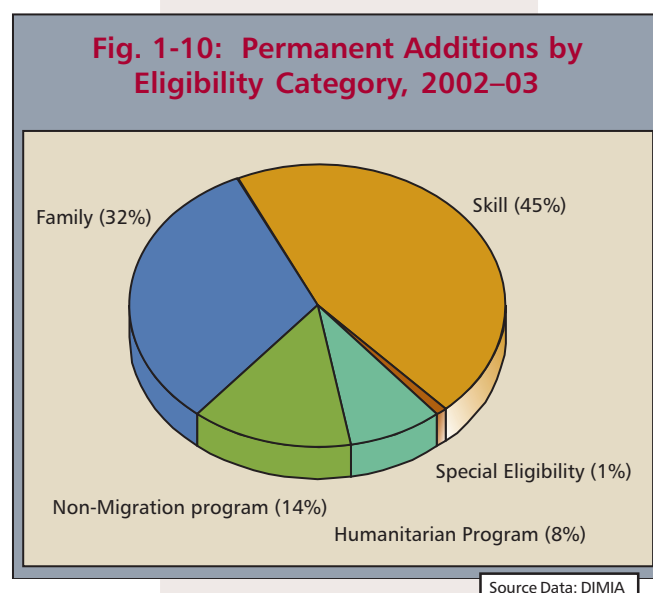
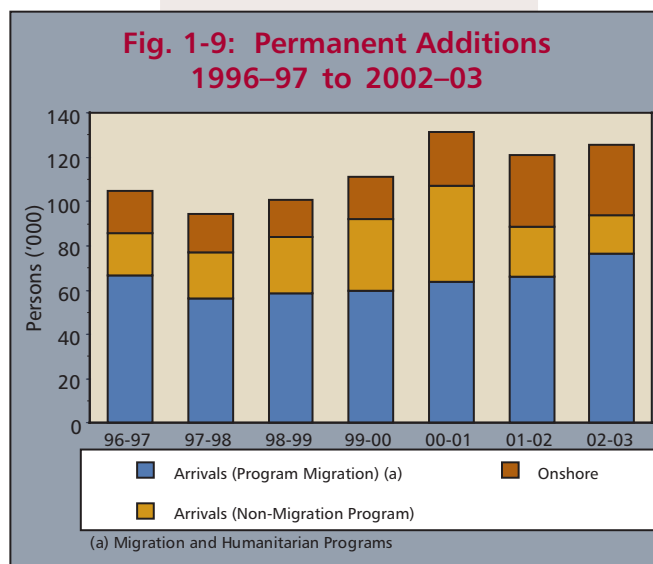
The 2002-03 figure for permanent additions was made up of 93,914 permanent settler arrivals, 31,330 onshore Migration Program outcomes and 616 onshore Humanitarian Program outcomes (ie grants of Permanent Protection Visas). Permanent settler arrivals was made up of 76,317 arrivals under the Migration and Humanitarian Programs and 17,597 non-program migrant arrivals (mainly New Zealand Citizens).

In 2002-03, 31.9 per cent of permanent additions were Family Stream, 45.1 per cent Skill Stream, 0.9 per cent Special Eligibility, 8.1 per cent Humanitarian Program while the remaining 14.0 per cent were Non-Program Migration (mainly New Zealand citizens). Excluding Non-Program Migration, 61.5 per cent of permanent additions were primary applicants and 38.5 per cent were secondary applicants.

Comparing 2002-03 with 2001-02, Family Stream increased by 5.7 per cent, Skill Stream increased by 9.9 per cent and Humanitarian increased by 36.2 per cent. This large increase in Humanitarian Program permanent additions was due to the large number of Temporary Protection Visas (TPVs) issued in 2001-02, which are counted as part of the Humanitarian Program (but not as Permanent Additions). The much smaller number of TPVs in 2002-03 were offset by a larger number of offshore Humanitarian Program grants, hence the increase in permanent additions. New Zealand citizen permanent additions fell by 22.2 per cent.

People born in Total Asia made up 41.4 per cent of permanent additions in 2002-03, while 22.2 per cent were born in Europe. Those born in the United Kingdom and Ireland made up two-thirds of the Europe total.

Net permanent additions (ie permanent additions less permanent departures) was 75,397 in 2002-03, an increase of 2,464 on the 2001-02 figure of 72,933.



Permanent & Long-Term Movement

Fig. 1-12: Permanent Arrivals vs Departures

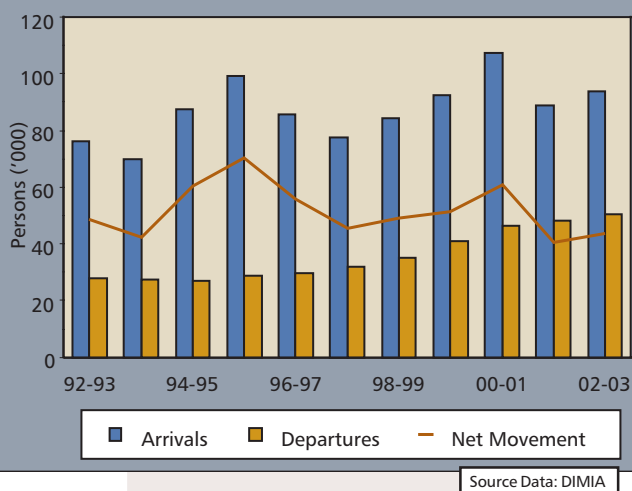


Fig. 1-13: Long-Term Arrivals vs Departures

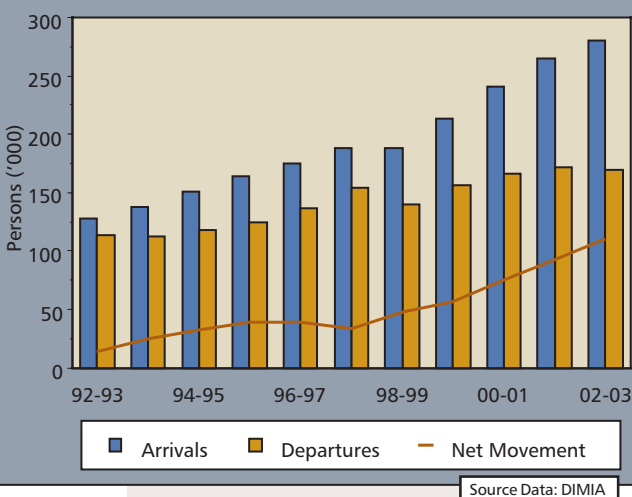
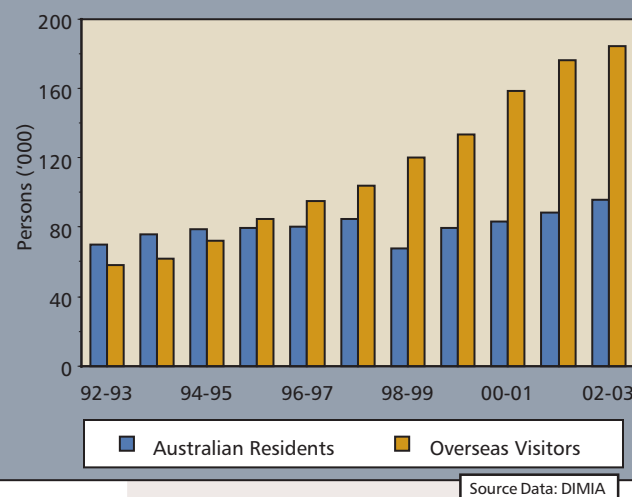


Fig. 1-14: Long-Term Arrivals by Residence Status



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 decreased in 2001–02 to 88,900 from 107,370 in 2000–01, a decrease of 17.2 per cent. This largely reflected a 37.8 per cent decrease in permanent arrivals of New Zealand citizens. Arrivals increased in 2002–03 to 93,910.

Permanent departures increased by 3.7 per cent in 2001–02 to 48,240 from 46,520 persons in 2000–01. They increased again to 50,460 in 2002–03. This was the highest level of emigration ever. In 2002–03, the overseas-born accounted for 49.2 per cent of permanent departures, about the same level as the past few years, but down from 60.1 per cent in 1997–98

Net permanent movement totalled 43,450 persons in 2002–03, up from 40,660 in the previous year.

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. Long term movements as a proportion of total net permanent and long term movements increased to 55.2 per cent in 2000–01 and to 69.6 per cent in 2001-02. This large increase was due to both an increase in the net inflow of overseas visitors and the decrease in New Zealand citizen permanent arrivals. In 2002–03, the ratio increased a little to 71.8 per cent.

There were 279,880 long-term arrivals in 2002–03 of which 34.2 per cent were Australian residents. The proportion of long-term arrivals, who were Australian residents, has fallen from 44.8 per cent in 1997–98.

In 2002–03, 169,100 persons left Australia as long-term departures, 51.0 per cent of whom were Australian residents. This compares with 154,290 departures in 1997–98, 51.5 per cent of whom were Australian residents.

There has been more net long-term movement of overseas visitors than of Australian residents. In 2002–03, net long-term movement totalled 110,780 people. The net long-term movement of Australian residents was -3,420 people as more were departing than had arrived back in Australia during the year.

As Fig. 1-15 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 visitor movement to Australia is for business or study purposes. The United Kingdom, the PRC, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Indonesia are the major source countries of long-term visitor arrivals.

The total net gain from net permanent and long-term movement in 2002–03 was 154,220 people.

Emigration by Birthplace

In 2002–03, 50,463 people left Australia permanently. Emigration has increased steadily in recent years and is now at its highest level ever.

Permanent departures of the Australia-born were 25,612, the highest number ever. The proportion of Australia-born departures to total departures was 50.8 per cent, which was the highest percentage ever.

Of the overseas-born departing, the New Zealand-born were the largest group accounting for 25.2 per cent of departures (6,251 persons), followed by the United Kingdom-born accounting for 15.8 per cent (3,928 persons). The Asia-born and Europe-born (excluding persons from the United Kingdom) accounted for around 33.1 and 11.7 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. 1-15: Major Countries of Long-Term Arrivals vs Permanent Arrivals 2002–03

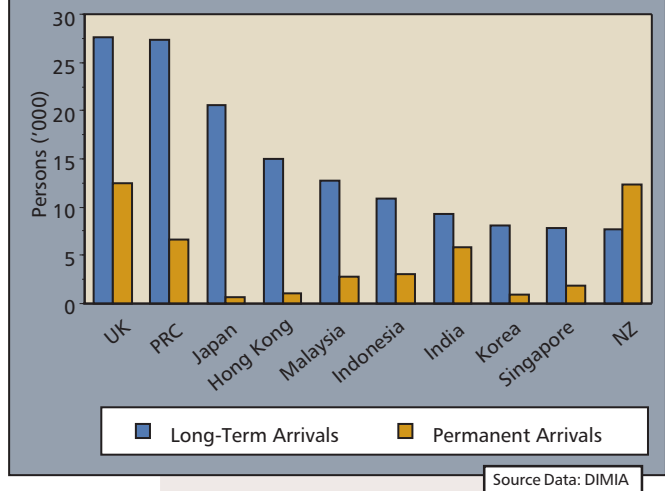


Fig. 1-16: Permanent Departures

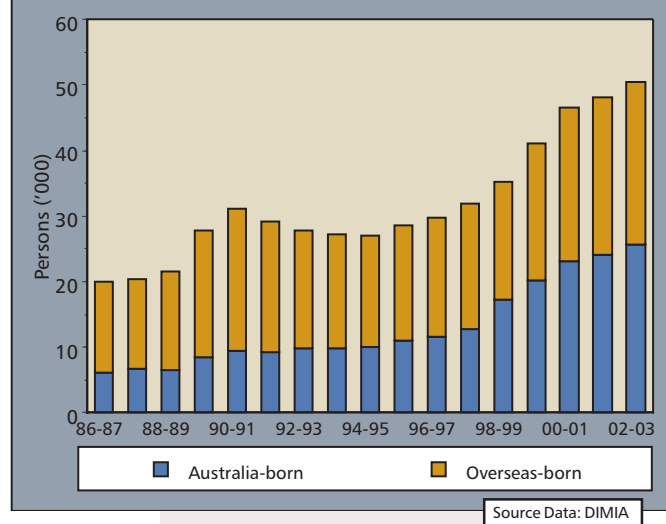


Fig. 1-17: Permanent Departures by Birthplace

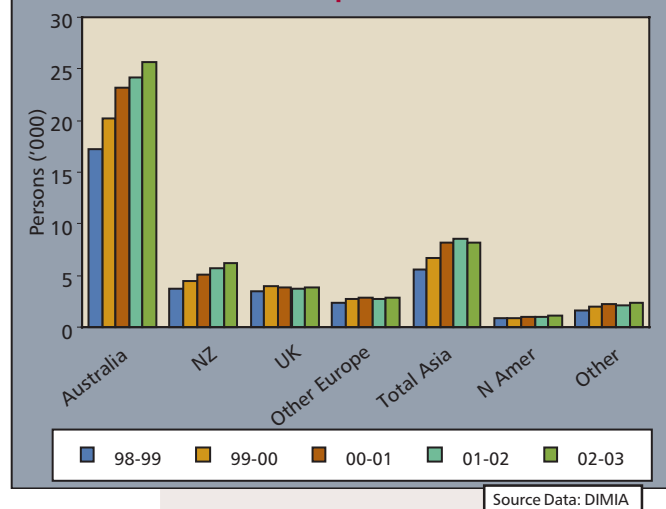
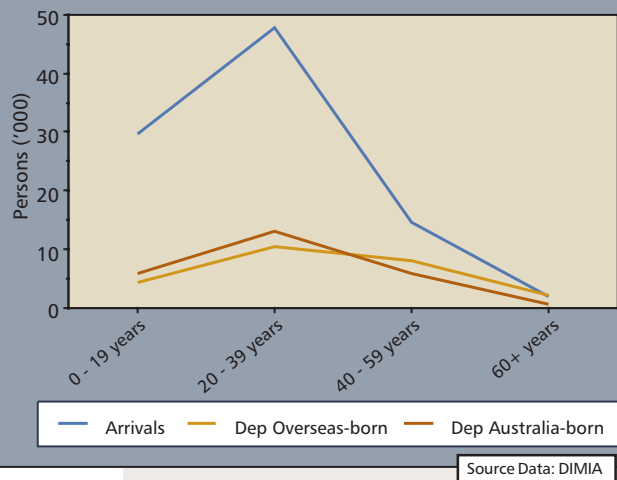


Fig. 1-18: Permanent Departures vs Arrivals by Age, 2002–03



Emigration by Age

Less than half of all overseas-born emigrants (41.7 per cent) in 2002–03 were between the ages of 20 and 39 years compared to 50.8 per cent of permanent arrivals. 17.2 per cent were aged under 20 years, 32.6 per cent in the 40–59 year age group and only 8.5 per cent were 60 years or older.

The Australia-born emigrants are more likely to be young families, with 33.2 per cent of the total aged 25–34 years and 16.3 per cent aged under 10 years.

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 24,166 permanent emigrants were skilled and 36,122 permanent arrivals were skilled in 2002–03. While the number of skilled emigrants is increasing over time, the net effect of the difference between skilled immigrants and emigrants is positive.

In 2002–03, the proportion of skilled emigrants who were in the workforce prior to leaving (as stated on out-going passenger cards) was 75.3 per cent. Of emigrants in the workforce, 17.9 per cent were managers or administrators, 40.0 per cent were professionals, 10.6 per cent were associate professionals and 6.6 per cent were tradespersons. Semi-skilled persons constituted 18.5 per cent of emigrants in the workforce, and unskilled 5.1 per cent. The remainder were not in employment (1.2 per cent).

The top five occupations of emigrants before they left the Australian workforce in 2002–03 were managers and administrators (3,511 persons), school teachers (1,639 persons), building and engineering professionals (1,334 persons), general managers (1,047 persons), and accountants (1,085 persons). There were also 795 registered nurses emigrating from Australia.

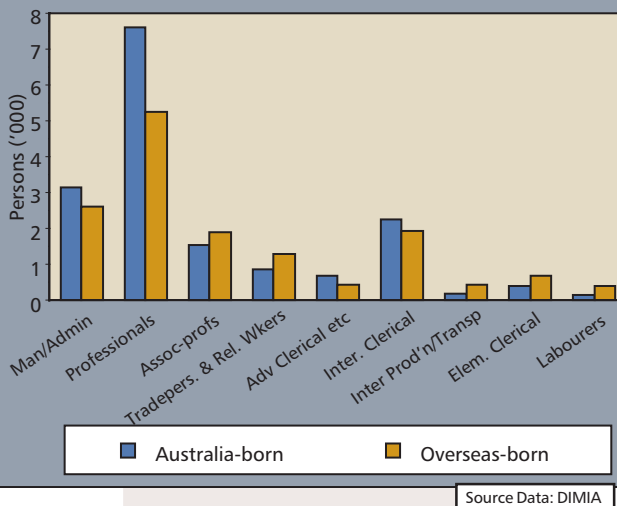
There were more Australia-born skilled emigrants than overseas-born emigrants in 2002–03 (13,145 persons compared with 11,021 persons). This difference is most evident in the professional occupations.

The skill level of the Australia-born departures (for those employed) was 77.8 per cent.

The most skilled Australia-born were leaving for Asian countries eg Malaysia (91.7 per cent), the PRC (91.3 per cent), Indonesia (89.6 per cent), India (89.5 per cent) and Taiwan (89.1 per cent skilled). Skill levels of those leaving for other countries included New Zealand (68.8 per cent skilled), UK (77.0 per cent) and USA (77.7 per cent).

Despite subdued economic conditions in most overseas countries, the upward trend in permanent departures of the Australia-born shows no signs of a decrease.

Fig. 1-19: Permanent Departures by Occupation 2002–03



Emigration by Length of Residence

The majority of overseas-born people leaving Australia permanently in 2002–03 had lived here for five years or more (62.7 per cent). Those who had lived here for less than two years represented 16.5 per cent, and 20.8 per cent had lived in Australia for two or more but less than five years.

Destination of Emigrants

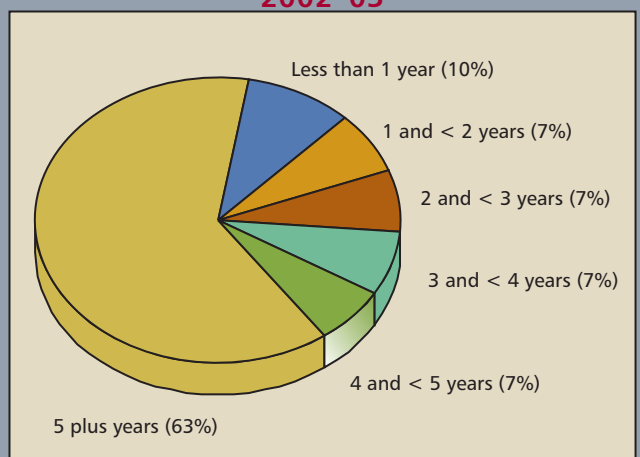
A majority of all emigrant groups returned to their country of birth: New Zealand (85.7 per cent) Hong Kong (84.6 per cent), and Taiwan (80.7) were birthplaces which had high return rates Other return rates were USA (73.8 per cent), the UK (56.7 per cent) and the PRC (55.7) in 2002–03.

Emigrants with a low propensity to return to their country of birth included those born in Zimbabwe (6.4 per cent of 47 emigrants), India (15.3 per cent of 268 emigrants), and South Africa (30.1 per cent of 336 emigrants).

The Philippines (26.0 per cent), India (17.5 per cent) and Viet Nam (12.0 per cent) were birthplaces with high rates of emigration to the USA. The South Africa-born had high rates of emigration to New Zealand (16.7 per cent) and the USA (11.6 per cent).

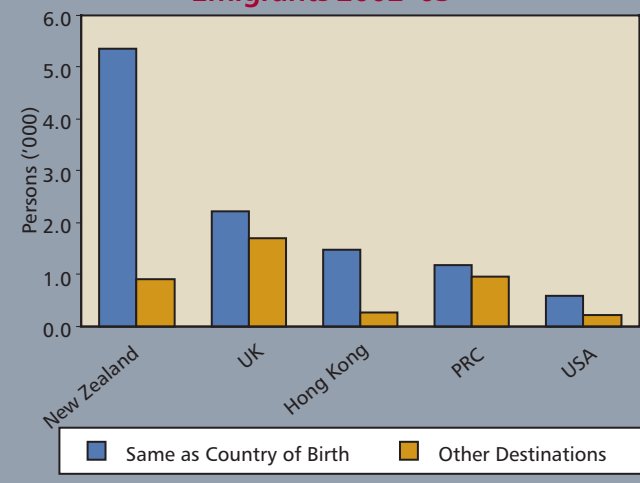
Two-thirds of all Australia-born emigrants leave for one of the top five destination countries. The most popular destinations were the United Kingdom (20.5 per cent), New Zealand (17.1 per cent), the USA (16.2 per cent), Hong Kong (6.4 per cent) and Singapore (6.1 per cent). Other top destinations were Canada, the PRC and Japan. In some cases these emigrants may be the Australia-born children of overseas-born parents who return to their country of birth.

Fig. 1-20: Permanent Departures of Overseas-born by Period of Residence 2002–03



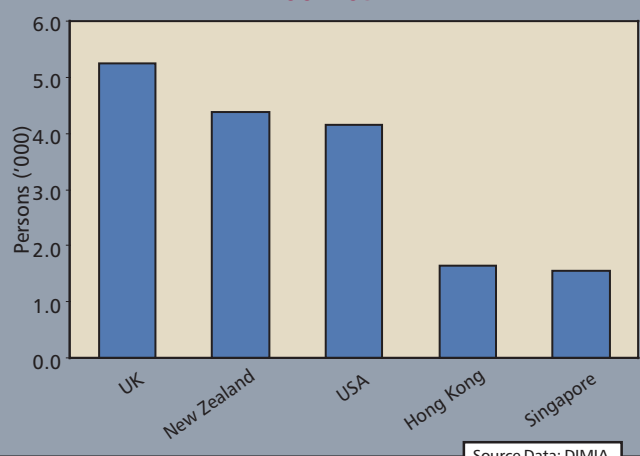
Source Data: DIMIA

Fig. 1-21: Destination of Overseas-born Emigrants 2002–03



Source Data: DIMIA

Fig. 1-22: Top 5 Destinations of Australia-born Emigrants 2002–03



Source Data: DIMIA