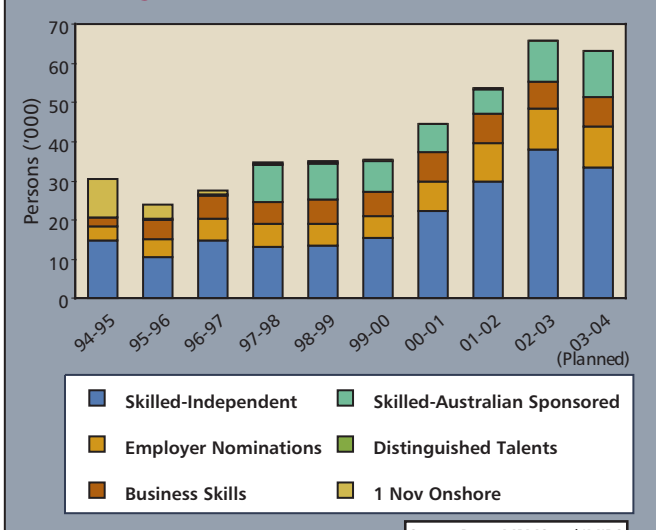


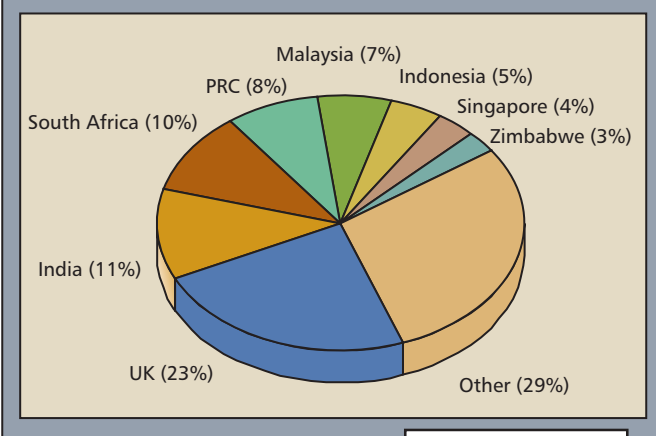
Skill Migration

Fig. 2-4: Skill Stream Outcomes



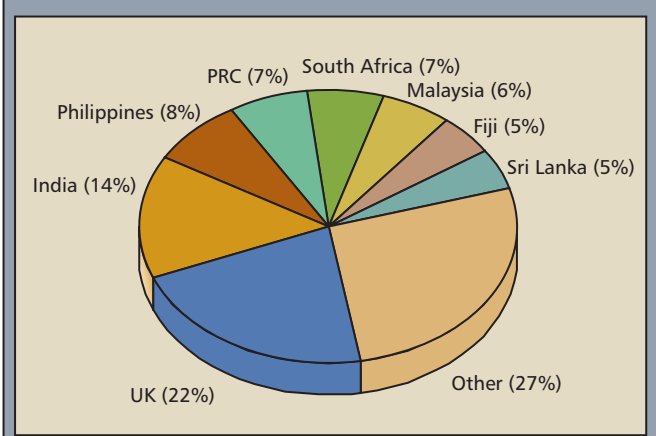
Source Data: MPMS and IMIRS

Fig. 2-5: Skill Stream Outcomes by Country of Birth 2002-03



Source Data: MPMS and IMIRS

Fig. 2-6: Skilled Australian Sponsored Outcomes by Country of Birth 2002-03



Source Data: MPMS and IMIRS

Skill Stream Outcomes

The Skill Stream of Australia's Migration (non-Humanitarian) Program is specifically designed to target migrants who have skills or outstanding abilities that will contribute to the Australian economy.

In 2002-03 there were 66,053 people granted Skill Stream visas, an increase of 12,533 (23.4 per cent) on 2001-02. Of total Skill Stream visas, 27.7 per cent (18,280) were granted to onshore applicants.

Skill Stream Visa Categories

The main categories of Skill Stream migrants include:

Skilled Independent (from 1 July 1999), Skilled Independent Overseas Student (from 1 July 2001) and Skilled Independent New Zealand Citizen (from 27 February 2001) - not sponsored by an employer in Australia or an Australian relative. They must pass a points test that includes skills, age, work experience and English language ability (37,735 visas in 2002-03).

Skilled Australian Sponsored, Skilled Australian Sponsored Overseas Student (from 1 July 2001) and Skilled Australian Sponsored New Zealand Citizen (from 27 February 2001) - Unless sponsor resides in a designated area, applicants must pass points test that includes skills, age, work experience and English language ability, and receive additional points for sponsorship by an Australian relative (9,108 visas in 2002-03).

Independent Skilled and Skilled Australian Linked (no new applications after 30 June 1999) - residual applications from old points tested categories (1,743 visas in 2002-03).

Employer Sponsored - Employers may nominate (or 'sponsor') personnel from overseas through the Employer Nomination Scheme (ENS), Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme (RSMS), Labour Agreements and State/Territory Nominated Independent. These visas enable Australian employers to fill skilled permanent vacancies with overseas personnel if they cannot find suitably qualified workers in Australia. An outcome of 10,535 visas were granted in 2002-03.

Business Skills migration- encourages successful business people to settle permanently in Australia and develop new business opportunities (outcome of 6,738 visas in 2002-03).

Distinguished Talent - for distinguished individuals with special or unique talents of benefit to Australia (outcome of 179 visas in 2002-03).

The balance of 15 visas were 1 November onshore visas.

Impact of Changes to General Skilled Migration

Depending on their circumstances, applicants can apply in offshore and onshore categories including: Skilled Independent, Skilled Australian Sponsored and Skilled Designated Area Sponsored. Strengthened selection criteria in the General Skilled Migration (GSM) categories introduced on 1 July 1999 have been overwhelmingly successful in ensuring highly skilled migrants.

To be successful applicants in the GSM categories must meet core criteria for skill, work experience, age (under 45 at time of application), English language ability and, for the most part, pass a points test. Applicants with Australian qualifications who apply within six months of course completion are exempt from the recent work experience requirement. New onshore points tested visa subclasses introduced on 1 July 2001 enable recently completed students to be granted a General Skilled Migration visa without the need to leave Australia at the end of their studies.

The points-test recognises a range of skill-related factors. The number of points prescribed for each factor reflect their relative importance in the context of an applicant's potential contribution to Australia. The skill, age, English language and work experience components earn the highest number of points. Other recognised factors include Australian qualifications, spouse skills, Migration Occupations in Demand List (MODL) occupation, work experience obtained in Australia and fluency in a community language other than English.

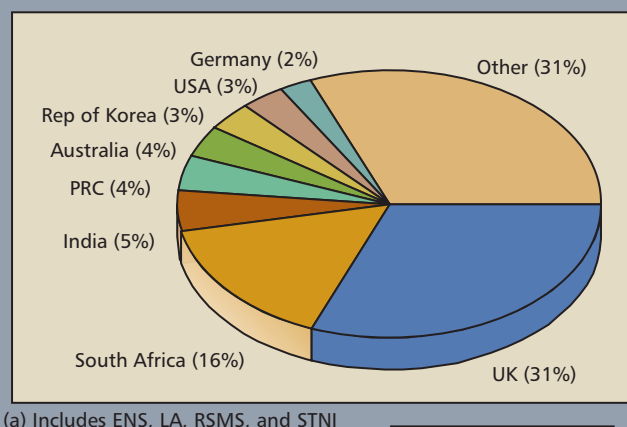
In 2002–03, more than 50 per cent of successful General Skilled Migration (points-tested) applicants claimed points for an Australian qualification, the large majority of whom have also taken advantage of the work experience waiver.

With the introduction of onshore points-tested visas for overseas students and the significant increase in demand in the offshore skilled points-tested categories, there were 46,843 visas granted in the GSM categories in 2002–03.

Of these, 37,735 were in the Skilled Independent category (29,819 offshore, 7,916 onshore). Of successful Skilled Independent migrants, 65 per cent were aged 18–29, and approximately 90 per cent scored maximum points for skill and English language proficiency. Approximately 25 per cent of Skilled Independent migrants had occupations in national shortage,

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) professions continued as the main occupational grouping, followed by Accountants, Engineers, Nurses and Teachers. However, the Government's responsiveness to global and domestic changes in the ICT sector ensured a greater degree of control over the ICT migrants selected. The reduction of ICT specialisations on the MODL, the suspension of priority processing for ICT applications and changes in skills assessment procedures followed by the Australian Computer Society reduced the number of successful ICT applicants while allowing Australian employers to continue to meet labour market shortages with overseas skilled workers.

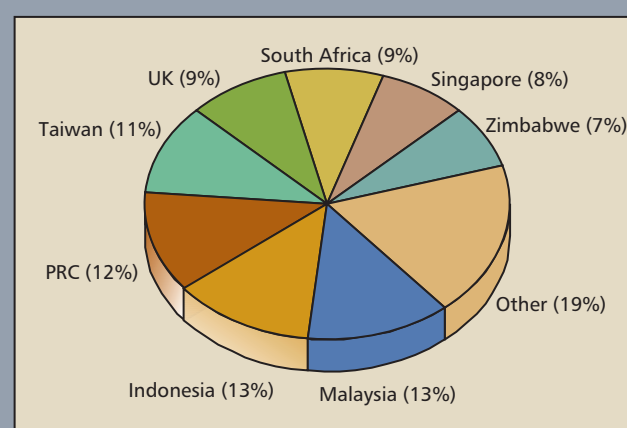
Fig. 2-7: Employer Sponsored^(a) Outcomes by Country of Birth 2002–03



(a) Includes ENS, LA, RSMS, and STNI

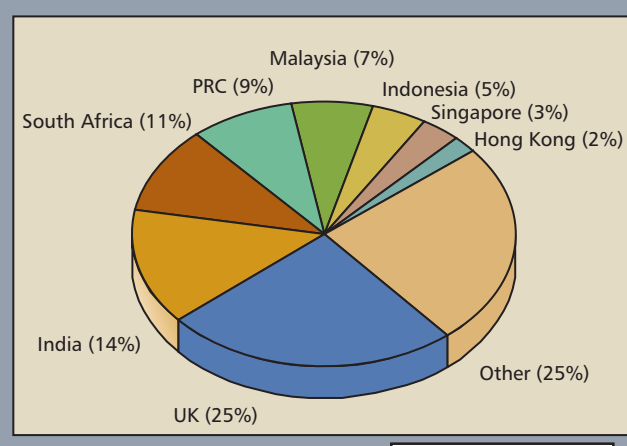
Source Data: MPMS and IMIRS

Fig. 2-8: Business Skill Outcomes by Country of Birth 2002–03



Source Data: MPMS and IMIRS

Fig. 2-9: Skilled Independent Outcomes by Country of Birth 2002–03



Source Data: MPMS and IMIRS

The MODL remains an important selection mechanism with record numbers of Accountants and Nurses selected in 2002–03. The recent addition to the MODL of certain health professionals is likely to provide further opportunities for employers to fill identified shortages.

Points-test Enhancements

Changes to General Skilled Migration selection criteria and the points test have been introduced to ensure that Australia's skilled migrant intake for 2003–04 meets identified demands in the Australian labour market, particularly in regional Australia.

New points introduced on 1 July 2003 encourage overseas students to live and study in regional Australia or a low population growth metropolitan area. As part of this measure, and to ensure that the skills of new migrants are relevant to Australia's changing labour market, the study-qualifying period, at an education provider in Australia, for the purposes of the work experience exemption was increased from one to two years on 1 July 2003.

The points available to applicants with Australian qualifications were adjusted on 1 July 2003. On the basis of at least two years of Australian study, applicants with an Australian qualification (degree, diploma, trade certificate) are awarded 5 points. Applicants with an Australian Masters or honours degree (at least at upper second class division one level) completed following an Australian undergraduate degree are awarded 10 points. Applicants with an Australian PhD obtained after at least two consecutive study years in Australia are awarded 15 points. A further five points is available if the two years study was at an education provider's campus in regional Australia or a low population growth metropolitan centre.

Australian labour market skills shortages are targeted by the Migration Occupations in Demand List (MODL). From 1 July 2003, the MODL-related points increased from 5 to 10 for having a MODL occupation and from 10 to 15 for applicants with a job offer in a MODL occupation.