

# Chapter 1

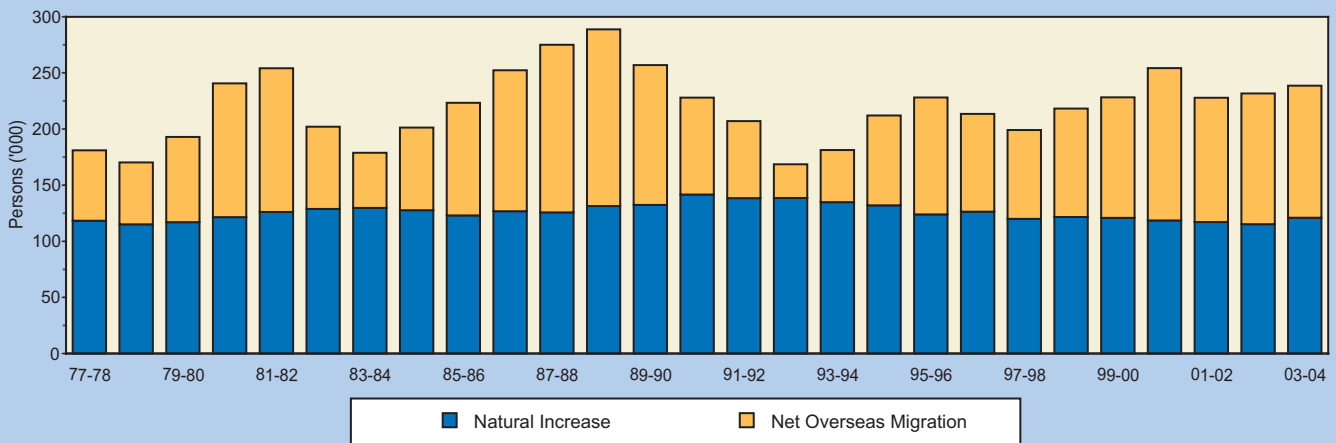
## Population Growth and International Movement

- Australia's population reached 20.1 million at the end of June 2004.
- Australia's population growth in 2003-04 was made up of 121,000 natural increase (births less deaths) and 117,600 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 148,884 in 2003-04, made up of 111,590 permanent arrivals and 37,294 permanent onshore visa grants (ie outcomes in both the Migration and Humanitarian programs).
- At 36 per cent, the New South Wales' share of total settler arrivals to Australia in 2003-04 was the smallest since 1983-84.
- Net long-term temporary movements in 2003-04 were the highest ever recorded.
- In 2003-04, 59,078 people left Australia permanently, the highest number ever.
- Permanent departures of the Australia-born were 29,140 in 2003-04, the highest ever.
- Australia lost 27,811 skilled people through permanent emigration in 2003-04, but gained 44,540 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

## Component of Population Growth

In the year ended 30 June 2004, Australia's population increased by 238,700 persons or 1.20 per cent to 20,111,300. Australia's population growth rate was about the same as the world's population growth rate in 2003-04.

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 1977-2004).

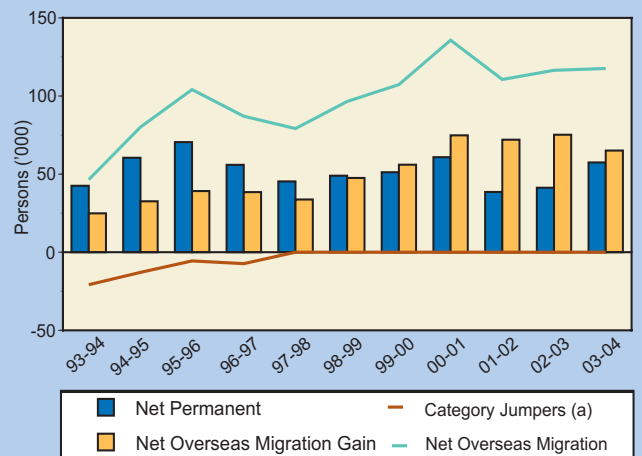
## Net Overseas Migration

In 2003-04, Australia's net overseas migration was 117,600, an increase of 1,100 on 2002-03. The relatively large number of net overseas migration in recent years reflects larger Migration Programs, growth in the number of overseas students and the strength of Australia's economy.

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 is also 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. This adjustment was called category jumping.

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](http://www.abs.gov.au) - from the home page, select Themes, then People, Demography, and then ABS Demography working paper 2003/5). Since 2001-02, "migration adjustments" have been made separately to the data series for permanent and long-term arrivals and departures.

Fig. 1-2: Net Overseas Migration

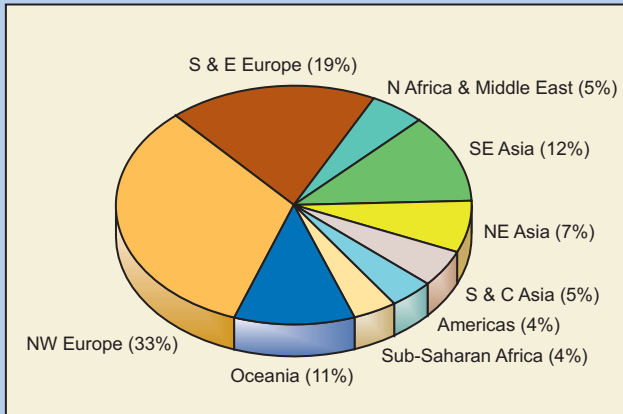


(a) From 1997-98 to 2000-01 inclusive, category jumping was assumed to be zero. From 2001-02, data for permanent and long-term arrivals and departures have each been adjusted by migration adjustments\* for the effect of changes in travel intentions

Source Data: ABS

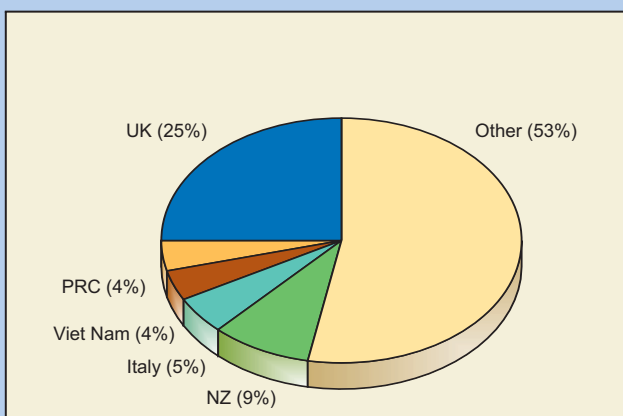
# Population Characteristics

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



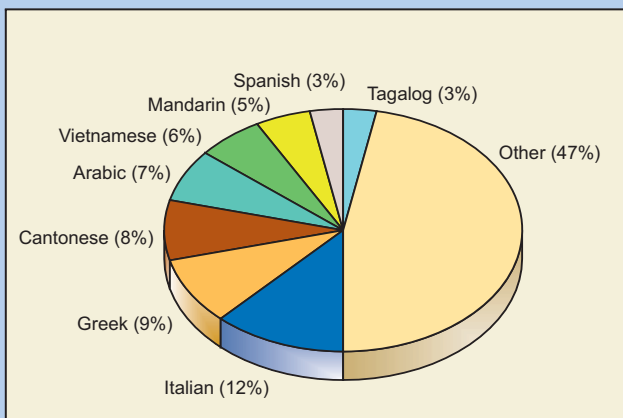
Source Data: ABS, 2001 Census

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



Source Data: ABS, 2001 Census

**Fig. 1-5: Language 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 five years before the 2001 Census. The next largest birthplace groups were Italy (5.4 per cent), Viet Nam (3.8 per cent), the PRC (excluding Hong Kong and Macau 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 increased significantly between 1996 and 2001 were the 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 between 1996 and 2001 were 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) between 1996 and 2001, 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 between 1996 and 2001 were 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 between 1996 and 2001 were 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 religion in the 2001 Census. The remainder was made up of Other Religion (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 between 1996 and 2001 include Melkite Catholic, Nature Religions and Maronite Catholic.

Religions that have decreased significantly between 1996 and 2001 include Worldwide Church of God, Christian and Missionary Alliance and Pentecostal.

## Ancestry

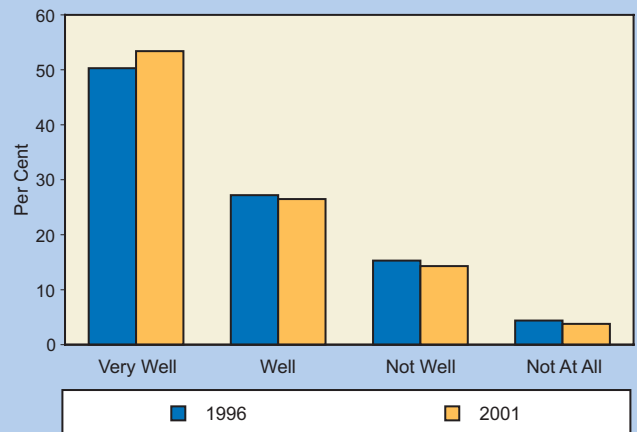
Almost 36 per cent of the Australian population reported Australian ancestry. Of these, 95.9 per cent were born in Australia, 1.4 per cent were born overseas and the remainder did not state their birthplace.

On the other hand almost 65 per cent of the Australian population reported a non-Australian ancestry. Of this group, 68.4 per cent were born in Australia, 29.3 per cent were born overseas and the rest did not state their birthplace.

The most popular ancestries after Australian were English (33.9 per cent), Irish (10.2 per cent), Italian (4.3 per cent) and German (4.0 per cent).

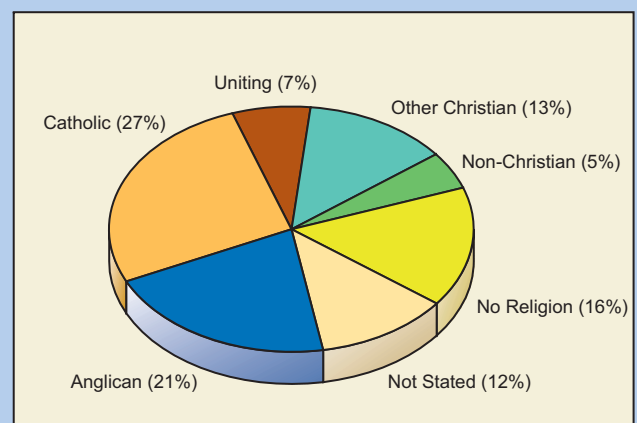
The top ancestries outside of Australian and the European ancestries were Chinese (3.0 per cent), Lebanese (0.9 per cent), Indian and Vietnamese (both 0.8 per cent) and Filipino (0.7 per cent).

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



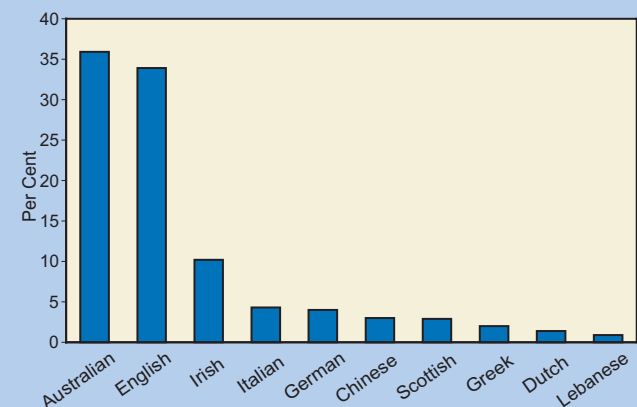
Source Data: ABS, 2001 Census

Fig. 1-7: Religious Affiliations 2001 Census



Source Data: ABS, 2001 Census

Fig. 1-8: Top Ten Ancestries\* in Australia 2001 Census



\* Ancestry in this case counts the first and second response and therefore may include double counting eg. If a person reports Greek as their first response and Australian as their second, they will be counted once under each category.

Source Data: ABS, 2001 Census