

# 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 more than doubled in eight years, from 16,535 in 1996-97 to 36,691 in 2003-04.

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 2003-04 they had risen to 111,590. By contrast, total onshore outcomes under the Migration and Humanitarian Programs had risen from 18,799 in 1996-97 to 37,294 in 2003-04.

This means that permanent settler that arrivals accounted for only 75 per cent of all permanent immigration to Australia in 2003-04. 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 over 8,000 and in 2003-04 there were over 13,000 grants.

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 eight years, permanent additions have averaged over 110,000 per year. In 2003-04, permanent additions were 148,884, an increase of 18.3 per cent over the 125,860 permanent additions in 2002-03.

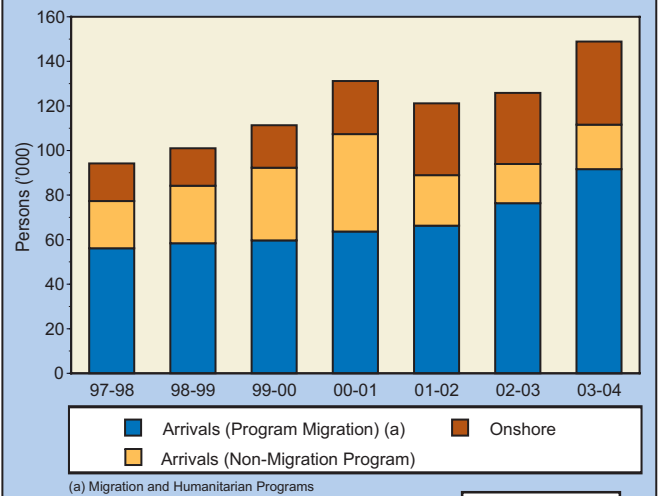
The 2003-04 figure for permanent additions was made up of 111,590 permanent settler arrivals, 36,691 onshore Migration Program outcomes and 603 onshore Humanitarian Program outcomes (ie. grants of Permanent Protection Visas). Permanent settler arrivals was made up of 91,619 arrivals under the Migration and Humanitarian Programs and 19,971 non-program migrant arrivals (mainly New Zealand Citizens).

In 2003-04, 28.3 per cent of permanent additions were Family Stream, 50.3 per cent Skill Stream, 0.6 per cent Special Eligibility, 7.3 per cent Humanitarian Program while the remaining 13.4 per cent were Non-Program Migration (mainly New Zealand citizens). Excluding Non-Program Migration, 59.9 per cent of permanent additions were primary applicants and 40.1 per cent were secondary applicants.

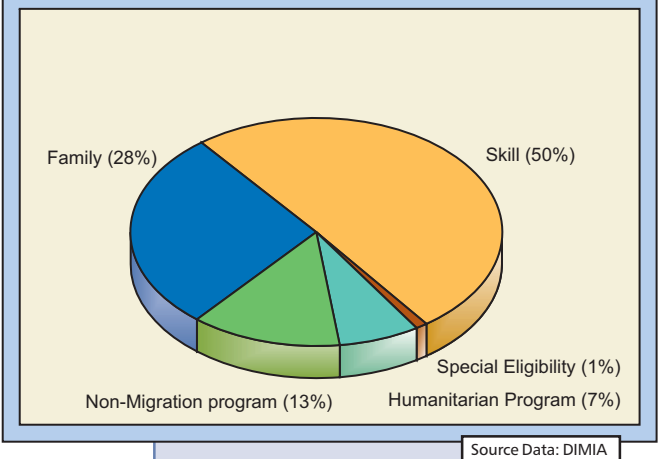
Comparing 2003-04 to 2002-03, Family Stream increased by 5.2 per cent, Skill Stream increased by 31.8 per cent and Humanitarian increased by 7.4 per cent.

People born in Asia made up 41.7 per cent of permanent additions in 2003-04, while 23.1 per cent were born in Europe. Those born in the United Kingdom and Ireland made up almost three quarters of the Europe total.

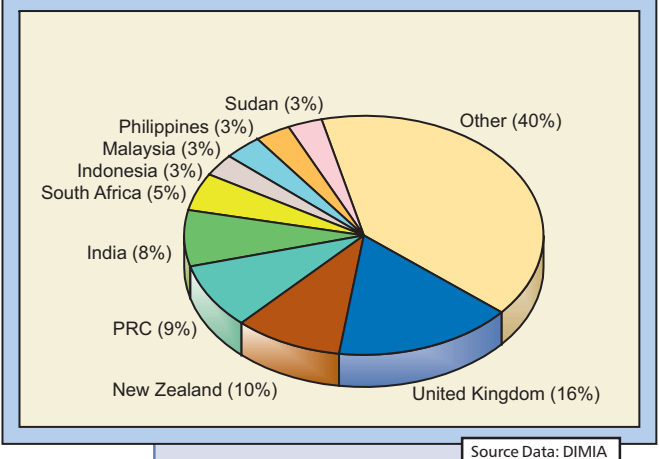
**Fig. 1-9: Permanent Additions 1997-98 to 2003-04**



**Fig. 1-10: Permanent Additions by Eligibility Category 2003-04**

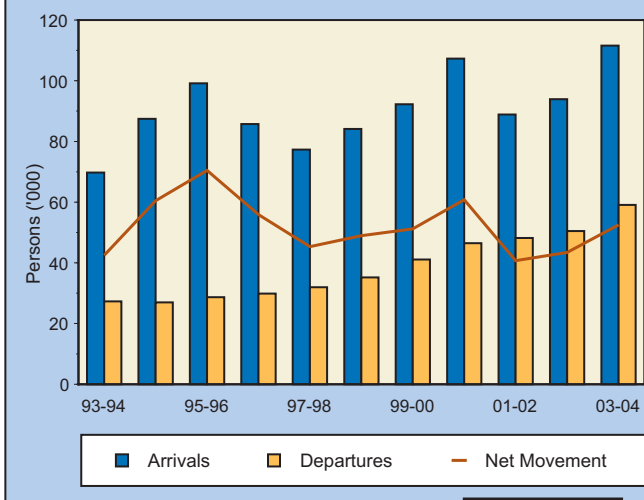


**Fig. 1-11: Permanent Additions by Country of Birth 2003-04**



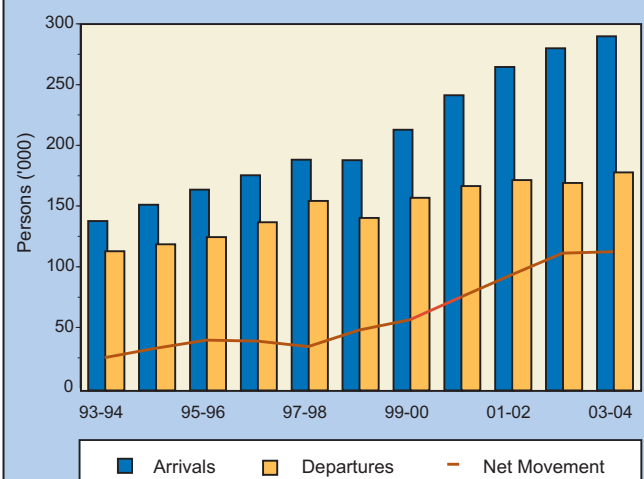
# Permanent & Long-Term Movement

**Fig. 1-12: Permanent Arrivals vs Departures**



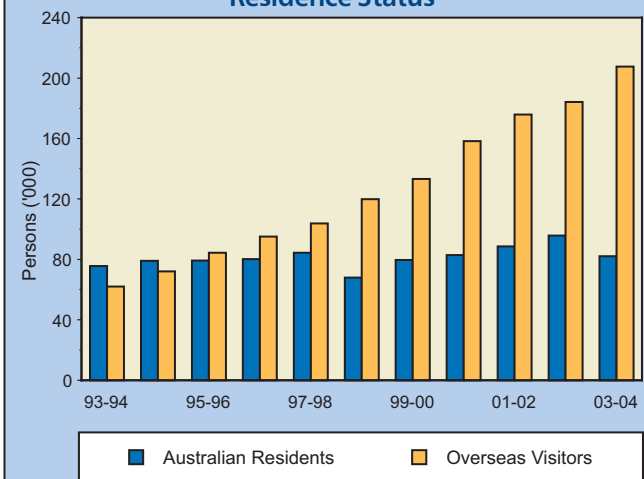
Source Data: DIMIA

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



Source Data: DIMIA

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



Source Data: DIMIA

## 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 and again in 2003–04 to 111,590.

At 36 per cent, the share of permanent arrivals to New South Wales in 2003–04 was the smallest since 1983–84. This decrease reflects the Australian Government’s efforts to encourage migrants to settle where they are needed most.

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. In 2003–04, permanent departures increased to 59,078 persons, the highest level ever. In 2003–04, the overseas-born accounted for 50.6 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 52,512 persons in 2003–04, up from 43,450 persons in 2002–03 and 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.

Long-term movement became the major component of net long term temporary and permanent movements for the first time 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 a decrease in New Zealand citizen permanent arrivals. In 2002–03, the ratio increased a little to 71.8 per cent but fell to 68.1 in 2003-04.

There were 289,727 long-term arrivals in 2003–04 of which 33.9 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 2003–04, 177,618 persons left Australia as long-term departures, 47.4 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 2003–04, net long-term movement totalled 112,109 people, an increase of 1.2 per cent from the previous 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 PRC, the UK, Japan, India and Malaysia are the major source countries of long-term visitor arrivals.

The total gain from net permanent and long-term movement in 2003–04 was 164,621 people.

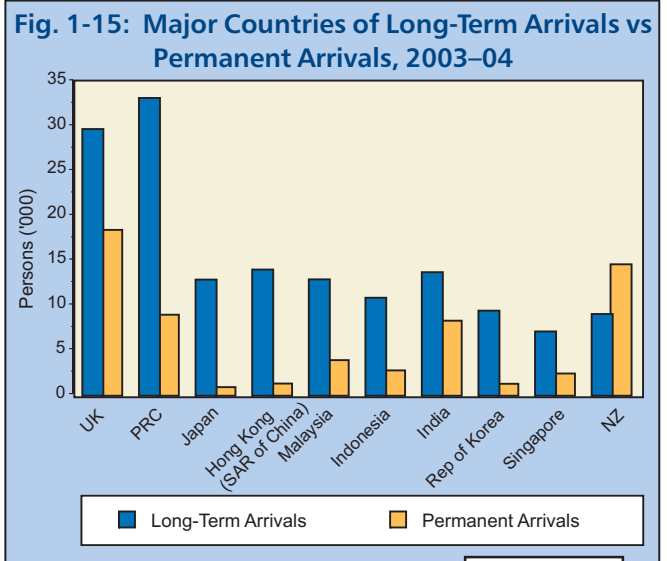
### Emigration by Birthplace

In 2003–04, 59,078 people left Australia permanently. Emigration has increased steadily in recent years and is now at its highest level ever.

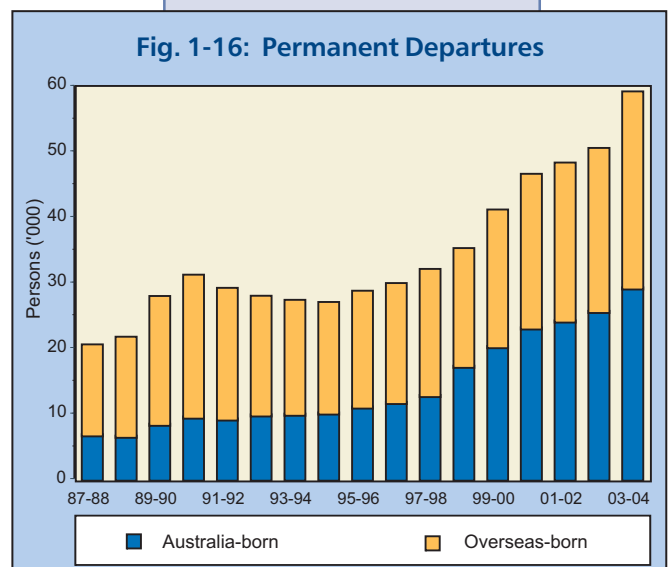
Permanent departures of the Australia-born were 29,140, the highest number ever. The proportion of Australia-born departures to total departures was 49.3 per cent, slightly down from the previous year.

Of the overseas-born departing, the New Zealand-born was the largest group accounting for 23.6 per cent of departures (7,063 persons), followed by the United Kingdom-born accounting for 15.4 per cent (4,622 persons). The Asia-born and Europe-born (excluding persons from the United Kingdom) accounted for around 36.5 and 10.3 per cent of overseas-born departures respectively.

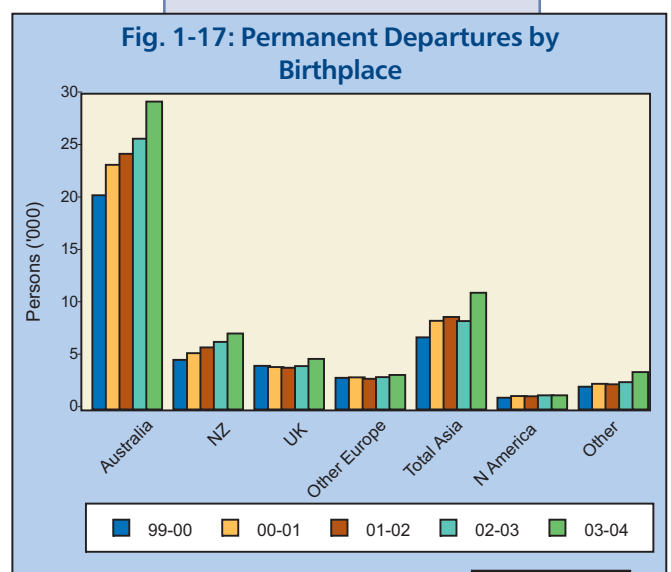
A range of circumstances may lead to the decision to leave Australia permanently. Overseas-born emigrants often return to their former country of birth because of feelings of homesickness or insecurity. Older emigrants often depart after they retire. Widowhood and divorce can also motivate departures. For Australia-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.



Source Data: DIMIA

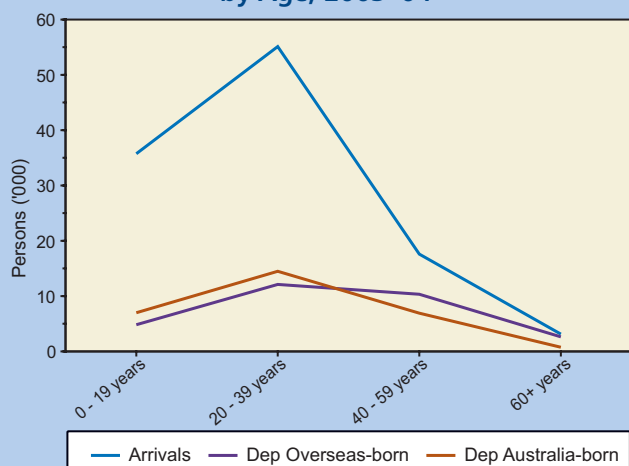


Source Data: DIMIA



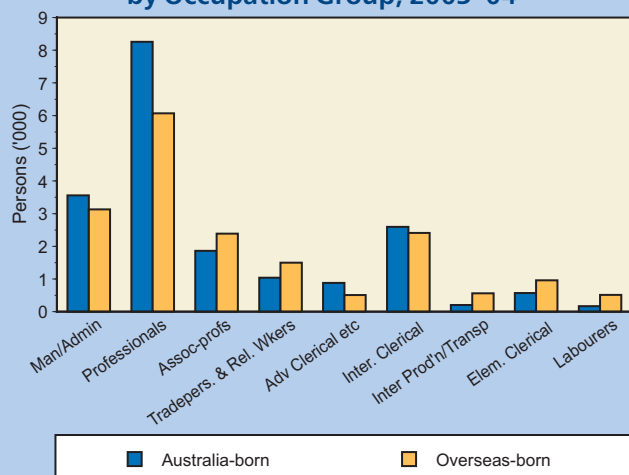
Source Data: DIMIA

**Fig. 1-18: Permanent Departures vs Arrivals by Age, 2003–04**



Source Data: DIMIA

**Fig. 1-19: Permanent Departures by Occupation Group, 2003–04**



Source Data: DIMIA

## Emigration by Age

Less than half of all overseas-born emigrants (40.4 per cent) in 2003–04 were between the ages of 20 and 39 years compared to 49.3 per cent of permanent arrivals. 16.2 per cent were aged under 20 years, 34.6 per cent in the 40–59 year age group and only 8.8 per cent were 60 years or older.

The Australia-born emigrants are more likely to be young families, with 31.2 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 27,811 permanent emigrants were skilled and 44,540 permanent arrivals were skilled in 2003–04. While the number of skilled emigrants is increasing over time, the net effect of the difference between skilled immigrants and emigrants is positive.

In 2003–04, the proportion of skilled emigrants who were in the workforce prior to leaving (as stated on out-going passenger cards) was 73.9 per cent. Of emigrants in the workforce, 17.8 per cent were managers or administrators, 38.1 per cent were professionals, 11.3 per cent were associate professionals and 6.7 per cent were tradespersons. Semi-skilled persons constituted 19.1 per cent of emigrants in the workforce, and unskilled 5.9 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 2003–04 were managers and administrators (4,046 persons), school teachers (1,905 persons), building and engineering professionals (1,444 persons), general managers (1,252 persons) and sales representatives (1,207 persons). There were also 844 registered nurses emigrating from Australia.

There were more Australia-born skilled emigrants than overseas-born skilled emigrants in 2003–04 (14,698 persons compared with 13,113 persons in 2002–03). This difference is most evident in the professional occupations.

Of the total Australia-born departures (for those employed), 76.4 per cent were skilled.

Most of the Australia-born leaving for Asian countries were skilled eg. Thailand (90.1 per cent skilled), the PRC (90.6 per cent), Malaysia (88.9 per cent) and Indonesia (86.7 per cent). Skill levels of those leaving for other countries included New Zealand (68.6 per cent skilled), the UK (75.9 per cent) and the USA (78.2 per cent).

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

## Emigration by Length of Residence

The majority of overseas-born people leaving Australia permanently in 2003–04 had lived in Australia for five years or more (65.3 per cent). Those who had lived in Australia for less than two years represented 15.8 per cent, and 18.8 per cent had lived in Australia for two or more but less than five years.

## Destination of Emigrants

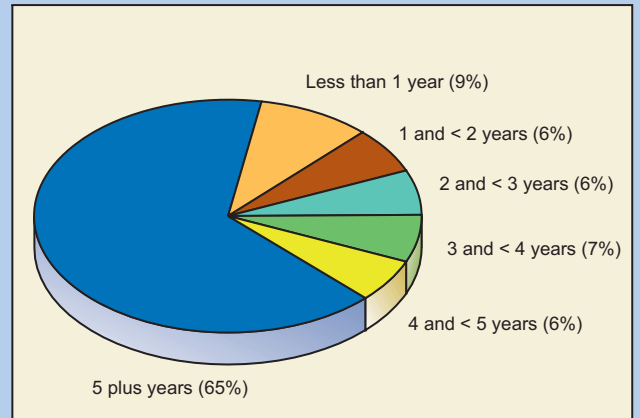
A majority of all overseas-born emigrant groups returned to their birthplace: New Zealand (85.0 per cent), Hong Kong (SAR of China) (81.8 per cent), Taiwan (81.8 per cent) and Thailand (80.0 per cent) were birthplaces which had high return rates. Other return rates were the USA (75.4 per cent), Viet Nam (62.5), the PRC (61.2) and the UK (58.0 per cent) in 2003–04.

Emigrants with a low propensity to return to their country of birth included those born in Zimbabwe (8.8 per cent of 57 emigrants), Samoa (24.3 per cent of 222 emigrants), India (18.9 per cent of 339 emigrants), and South Africa (25.6 per cent of 383 emigrants).

Two-thirds of all Australia-born emigrants leave for one of the top five destination countries. The most popular destinations were the UK (20.5 per cent), New Zealand (19.6 per cent), the USA (15.1 per cent), Singapore (5.8 per cent) and Hong Kong (SAR of China) (5.3 per cent). Other top destinations were Canada, the PRC and Japan.

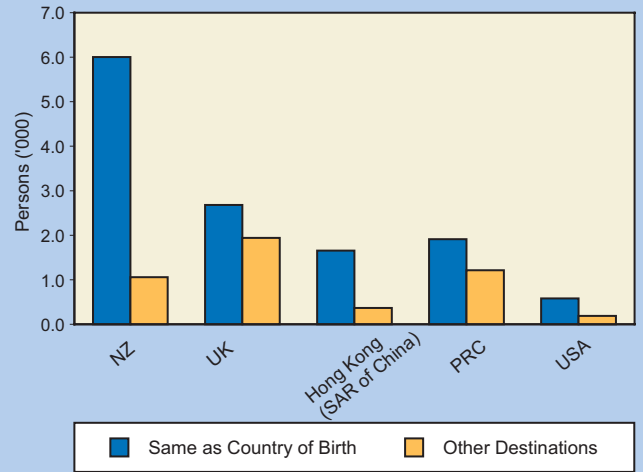
In some cases these emigrants may be the Australia-born children of overseas-born parents returning to the country of birth of their parent(s).

Fig. 1-20: Permanent Departures of Overseas-born by Period of Residence 2003–04



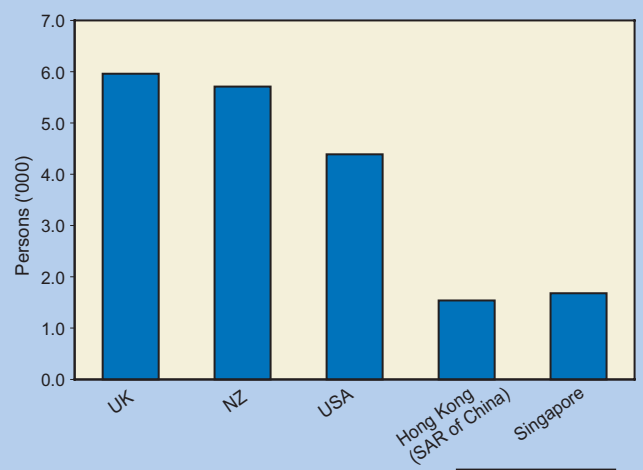
Source Data: DIMIA

Fig. 1-21: Destination of Overseas-born Emigrants, 2003–04



Source Data: DIMIA

Fig. 1-22: Top 5 Destinations of Australia-born Emigrants, 2003–04



Source Data: DIMIA