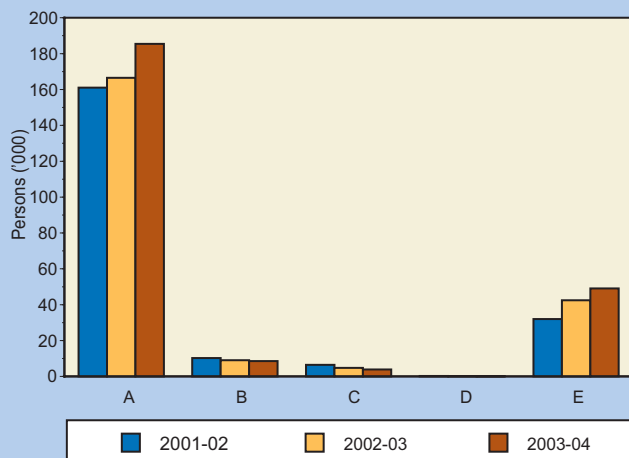


Bridging Visas

Fig. 5-28: Total Number of Bridging Visa Grants



Source Data: IMIRS

Bridging visas allow certain non-citizens, who would otherwise be considered unlawful and would therefore be subject to detention, to remain lawfully in Australia while their substantive visa application is assessed. In 2003-04, 247,169 bridging visas were granted, compared with 223,053 in 2002-03. The majority of these were Bridging Visa A (75%), followed by Bridging Visa E (20%).

In general, the non-citizens covered by bridging visas are those who:

- have made (or plan to make) an application in Australia for a visa which can be granted while they are in Australia, and the application has not been decided;
- are seeking review through an administrative review body (such as the Migration Review Tribunal, the Refugee Review Tribunal or the Administrative Appeal Tribunal) of a decision in relation to their substantive visa application have made an application for review to the courts; or
- are making departure arrangements to leave Australia.

Bridging Visa Classes

The classes of bridging visas are:

- Bridging Visa A (BVA) - available to non-citizens who apply for a visa within Australia and who hold another visa (other than a Bridging Visa or Criminal Justice Visa) at time of application. 185,432 were granted in 2003-04, compared to 166,514 in 2002-03.
- Bridging Visa B (BVB) - available to Bridging Visa A holders who have a substantial reason for wanting to travel outside Australia while their visa application is being considered. 8,575 were granted in 2003-04, compared to 9,007 in 2002-03.
- Bridging Visa C (BVC) - available to applicants who do not hold a visa when they apply for another visa while in Australia. 3,930 were granted in 2002-03, compared to 4,813 in 2001-02.
- Bridging Visa D (BVD) - a short term bridging visa available to persons who want to make an application for a visa but are temporarily unable to do so; or, who do not want to apply for a visa but a compliance officer is not available to interview them. 114 were granted in 2003-04, compared to 211 in 2002-03.
- Bridging Visa E (BVE) - available to certain unlawful non-citizens who come to the attention of DIMIA and who may be applying for visas or making arrangements to depart Australia. 49,118 were granted in 2003-04, compared to 42,508 in 2002-03.

The conditions attached to a bridging visa may vary according to the substantive visa applied for, as well as the applicant's immigration status and personal circumstances at time of application.

Stock of Temporary Entrants

An estimate of the temporary population in Australia at a particular point in time can be made by counting the stock of temporary entrants, that is, the number of temporary entrants physically present in Australia at a particular date.

At 30 June 2004, there were an estimated 590,566 people in Australia on temporary entry visas excluding New Zealand citizens. This estimate has increased by 1.0 per cent compared to the number at 30 June 2003. Of these people, 197,271 had been in Australia for less than three months; 227,940 had been here for between three and up to 12 months; and 165,355 had been here for more than 12 months. The median length of stay of the stock as at this date was just under five months. This includes temporary entrants who have recently arrived and have an actual stay of only a few days or weeks but intend to legally stay much longer.

Temporary entrants include tourists, students, working holiday makers (WHM), business people and executives, and entrants for social, cultural, international relations and other purposes. They also include people holding bridging visas who have applied for a permanent visa eg. asylum seekers who have applied for Protection visas.

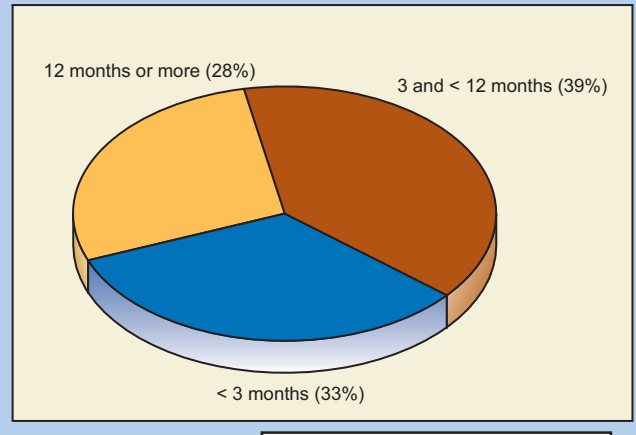
While the individuals are constantly turning over and there are seasonal fluctuations in the number and type of temporary entrants in Australia at any given time, the number of temporary entrants to Australia has increased consistently over the last five years. As is evident from the following graphs, seasonal fluctuations are most prevalent for individuals arriving in Australia on student and visitor visas. Student numbers increase in the March and September quarters each year reflecting the attendance requirements of the academic year. Visitor numbers are highest during the Australian summer, and are lowest in the middle of the year.

Of those here temporarily at 30 June 2004, the largest group were citizens of the United Kingdom (96,263 persons), followed by the PRC (59,105 persons), the USA (41,538 persons), Republic of Korea (35,978 persons) and Japan (35,163 persons). Compared with June 2003, the stock of citizens from the United Kingdom and the USA has decreased while the stock of citizens from Japan, PRC and Republic of Korea has increased. The stock of PRC citizens has increased by 11.8 per cent in the last year.

The median age of the total stock of temporary entrants was 27 years at 30 June 2004.

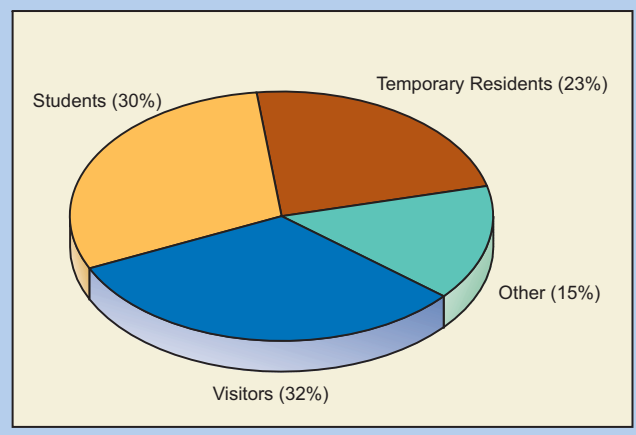
The stock of temporary entrants comprised 179,119 students, 172,193 visitors (excluding business visitors), 55,665 bridging visa holders, 58,170 long stay business entrants, 51,995 working holiday makers, 28,281 who entered for social, cultural or international relations purposes, 13,711 business visitors, and 30,095 who came for other purposes. (The remainder were in transit or not stated.)

Fig. 5-29: Stock of Temporary Entrants by Duration of Stay 30 June 2004



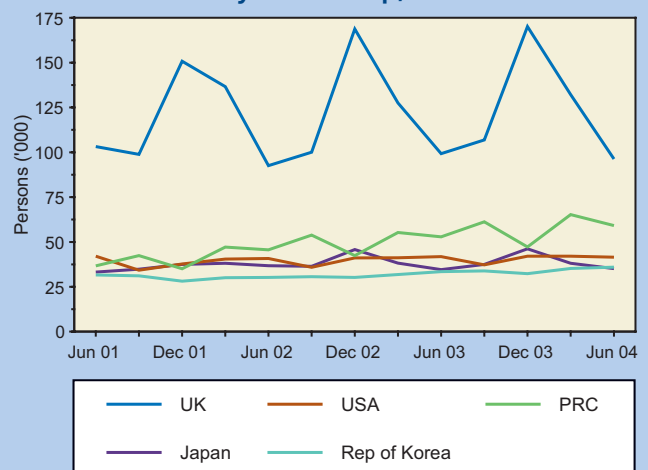
Source Data: Stock of Temporary Entrants, DIMIA

Fig. 5-30: Stock of Temporary Entrants by Entry Category 30 June 2004



Source Data: Stock of Temporary Entrants, DIMIA

Fig. 5-31: Stock of Temporary Entrants in Australia by Citizenship, 30 June 2004



Source Data: Stock of Temporary Entrants, DIMIA

Stock of Visitors

The number of visitors in Australia fluctuates throughout the year depending on the season. At 30 June, the stock of visitors in Australia is at the lowest point for the year, although they still comprise the largest visa group. The number of visitors (excluding business visitors) in Australia at 30 June 2004 was 0.4 per cent lower than the previous year, which was 5 per cent lower than the number in Australia at 30 June 2002.

Individuals on visitor visas do not stay in Australia for as long as other temporary entrants, with the median length of current stay at 30 June 2004 being 27 days.

The number of visitors present in Australia at 30 June 2004 represented 6 per cent of all visitor visas issued in 2002-03. The median age of visitors was 40 years at June 2004.

Fig. 5-32 shows the stock of visitors (excluding business visitors) in the five largest countries of citizenship from June 2001 to June 2004. Of the current top citizenship groups, citizens from the United Kingdom have the strongest seasonal trend.

Stock of Business Visitors

Business visitors comprised just over 19 per cent of all temporary business entrants in Australia at 30 June 2004. The median age of short stay temporary business residents was higher than for long-term business entrants at 39 years.

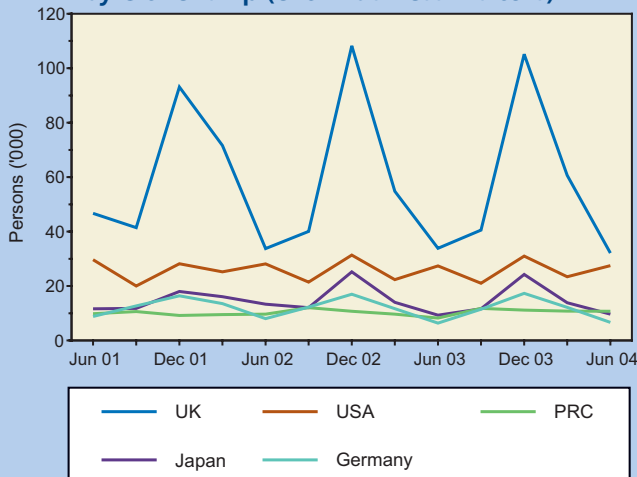
Fig. 5-33 shows the number of business visitors by country of citizenship in Australia at quarterly intervals since June 2001. At 30 June 2004 there was a total of 13,711 business visitors, up slightly compared with the previous year.

Although 298,839 Business Visitor visas were granted in 2003-04, the number in Australia at any time that year was low. This is consistent with the purpose of the Business Visitor visa, which is typically for pursuing business interests over a few days or weeks. The median duration of stay of business visitors in Australia at 30 June was eleven days.

Stock of Students

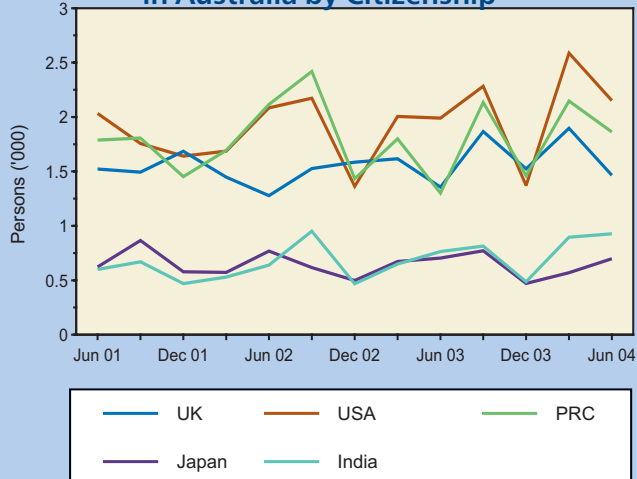
The stock of students in Australia is highest in the March quarter and lowest in the December quarter, consistent with the requirements for the academic year. Numbers are a little lower for the June quarter but pick up slightly for the September quarter of each year. At 30 June 2004 the stock of 179,119 students in Australia had increased by 3.6 per cent compared with the number at 30 June 2003. The median duration of stay at 30 June 2004 of this stock was just under five months. The median age of students was 22 years.

Fig. 5-32: Stock of Visitors in Australia by Citizenship (excl. Business Visitors)



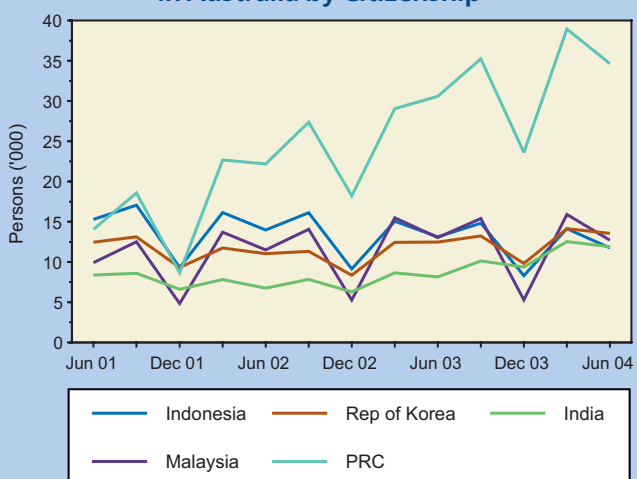
Source Data: Stock of Temporary Entrants, DIMIA

Fig. 5-33: Stock of Temporary Business Visitors in Australia by Citizenship



Source Data: Stock of Temporary Entrants, DIMIA

Fig. 5-34: Stock of Students in Australia by Citizenship



Source Data: Stock of Temporary Entrants, DIMIA

Fig. 5-34 shows the changes in numbers of the top citizenship groups for the last three years. The data suggest that students from neighbouring countries are more likely to return home for holidays at the end of the school year than other overseas students. Of particular note is the continued significant growth in the number of students from the PRC. The stock of PRC students more than tripled between June 1998 and June 2001, and increased by 58 per cent between June 2001 and June 2002 (from 14,037 to 22,184 persons). Between June 2002 and June 2004, the increase was 12,458 (56 per cent). This growth has been facilitated by enhancing and streamlining visa requirements. From 1 December 2003, these changes introduced more flexibility to the evidentiary requirements for higher risk student visa applicants, while ensuring that key integrity measures are maintained.

Stock of Working Holiday Makers

The stock of working holiday makers has increased from 49,100 at June 2003 to 51,995 at June 2004. Citizens from the United Kingdom continue to dominate this visa group. The median age of the stock of working holiday makers at June 2004 was 24 years, and their median duration of stay was a little over four months.

Stock of Temporary Business (Long Stay) Residents

There were 58,170 long stay business entrants in Australia at 30 June 2004, 3 per cent higher than at the same time last year. This visa is for specialist workers in Australia for up to four years, but many on this visa travel in and out of Australia. As with many visas, this visa can be issued onshore. The median duration of long stay business entrants at June 2004 was a little under six months.

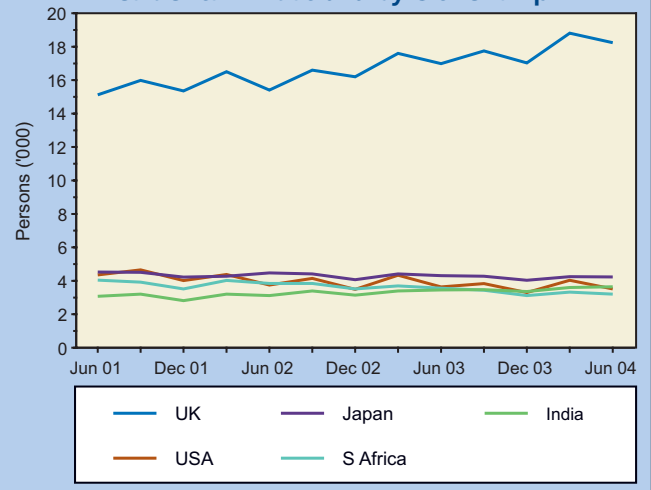
Fig. 5-35 shows the top five citizenship groups of those currently visaed as long stay business entrants in Australia since June 2001. The stock of United Kingdom citizens continues to grow and makes up 30 per cent of all long stay business entrants. In 2001–02, the stock of Japanese citizens overtook that of the United States of America by a clear margin for the first time. The median age of the Long Stay Business visa group at June 2004 was 31 years.

Stock of Entrants on Bridging Visas

The stock of entrants in Australia on Bridging visas at 30 June 2004 was 55,665, down by 5 per cent compared to June 2003. The median age of Bridging visa holders was 33 years.

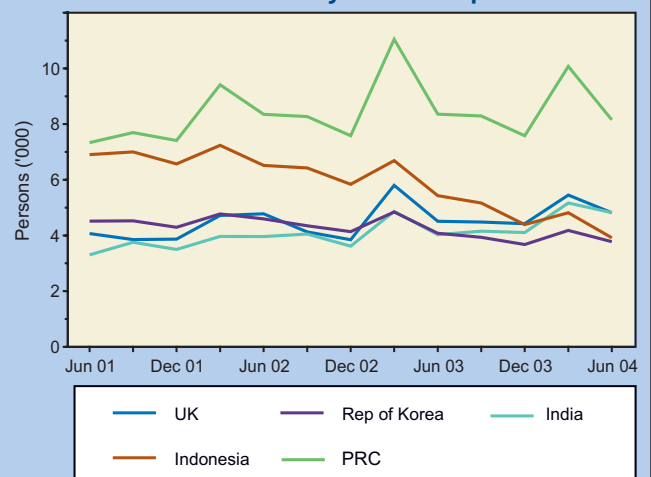
Fig. 5-36 shows the stock of bridging visa holders by country of citizenship in Australia over a three-year period. Citizens from the PRC and India, followed by the United Kingdom, Indonesia and Republic of Korea, hold larger numbers of Bridging visas than entrants from other countries.

Fig. 5-35: Stock of Temporary Business (Long Stay) Residents in Australia by Citizenship



Source Data: Stock of Temporary Entrants, DIMIA

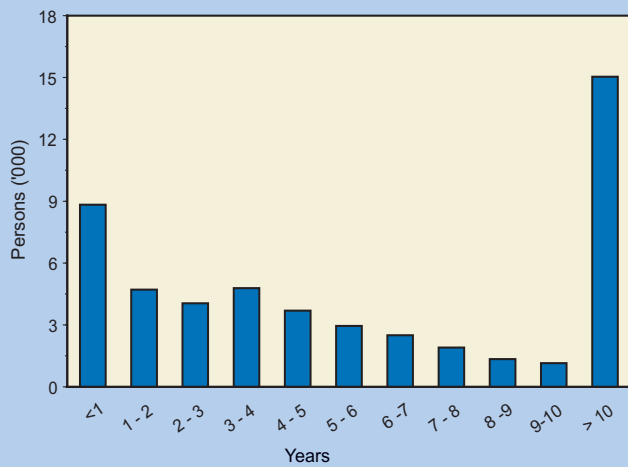
Fig. 5-36: Stock of Bridging Visas in Australia by Citizenship



Source Data: Stock of Temporary Entrants, DIMIA

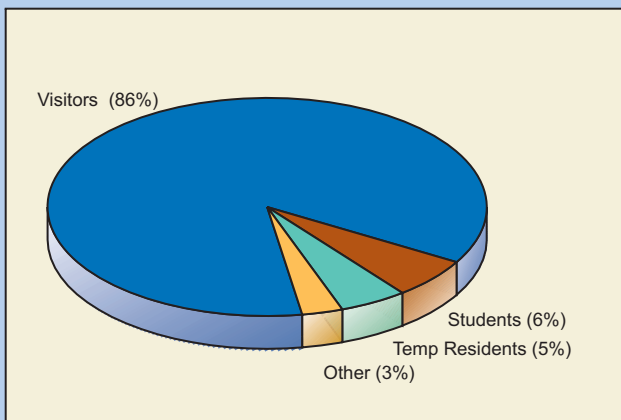
Overstayers

Fig. 5-37: Estimate of Overstayers at 30 June 2004 by Length of Overstay



Source Data: IMIRS

Fig. 5-38: Overstayers at 30 June 2004 by Visa Category



Source Data: IMIRS

Who are Overstayers

Overstayers are those non-citizens who do not depart by the expiry of their visa and remain in Australia illegally. They are people who arrive in Australia with valid temporary visas, mainly as tourists but also as working holiday-makers, students and temporary residents.

Profile of Overstayers

As at 30 June 2004, there were estimated to be just under 51,000 who had overstayed their visas and remained illegally in Australia. This is a significant decrease on the estimate of 59,800 as at 30 June 2004. This decrease has arisen largely because of improvements in data quality following the initiation of an overstayers project in August 2002. However, the reduction is also consistent with falling non-return rates and significantly increased compliance action in recent years.

Those who had overstayed their visas by more than 10 years made up 30 per cent of the total. Those who had overstayed their visas for less than one year constituted around 17 per cent, followed by those who had overstayed between one and two years and three and four years (at 9 per cent each).

Many people who are recorded as overstayers are simply extending a short stay in Australia by a few days or weeks, and leave of their own accord within a short period. Visitor visa holders comprise the greatest number of overstayers (around 43,600 or 86 per cent), followed by student visa overstayers (approximately 3,100 or 6 per cent), with temporary resident overstayers constituting around 2,500 or 5 per cent.

Nationality of Overstayers

The largest numbers of overstayers at 30 June 2004 were from the UK with approximately 5,500, the USA with approximately 5,200, the PRC with approximately 3,900, Indonesia with approximately 3,000 and the Republic of Korea with approximately 2,800.

This ranking reflects, to a certain extent, the fact that many of these countries are also the source of the biggest numbers of visitors. While visitors from countries such as the United Kingdom and the USA are the highest overstayers in absolute terms, as a percentage of the number of visitor and temporary visas issued to persons from those countries, they are a low overstay risk.

Age and Sex of Overstayers

As at 30 June 2004, approximately 40 per cent of recorded overstayers were females and 60 per cent were males. The largest age-group of overstayers is 31-40 years of age (approximately 11,400 overstayers) followed by 41-50 years of age (approximately 11,000 overstayers).