

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 the Business Skills category, the Employer Nomination Scheme and the Regional Sponsored Migration Scheme has 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 39,600 in 2004-05.

Consequently, the ability of permanent arrival statistics to tell the full story about permanent immigration has diminished. In 1996-97, settler arrivals were 85,752. In 2004-05 they had risen to 123,424. By contrast, total onshore outcomes under the Migration and Humanitarian Programs had risen from 18,799 in 1996-97 to 43,895 in 2004-05.

This means that permanent settler arrivals accounted for just under 75 per cent of all permanent immigration to Australia in 2004-05. 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 2004-05 there were over 16,000 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 nine years, permanent additions have averaged over 120,000 per year. In 2004-05, permanent additions were 167,319, an increase of 11.6 per cent over the 149,992 permanent additions in 2004-05.

The 2004-05 figure for permanent additions was made up of 123,424 permanent settler arrivals and 43,895 onshore Migration Program outcomes. Permanent settler arrivals was made up of 99,712 arrivals under the Migration and Humanitarian Programs and 23,712 non-program migrant arrivals (mainly New Zealand citizens).

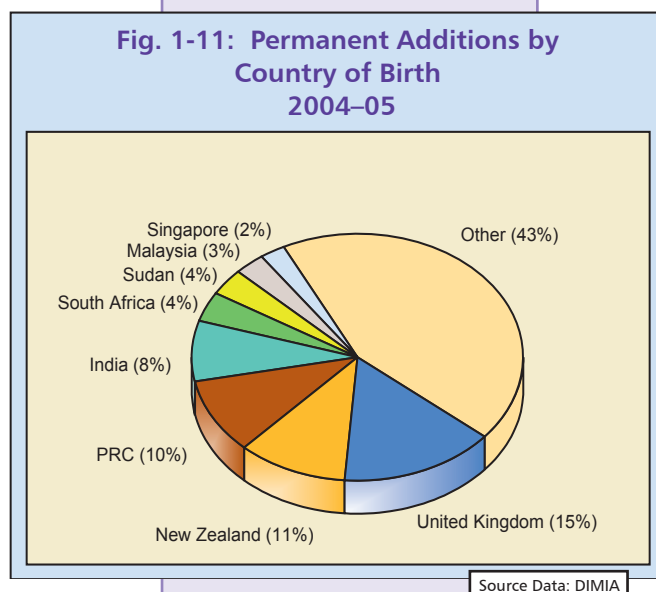
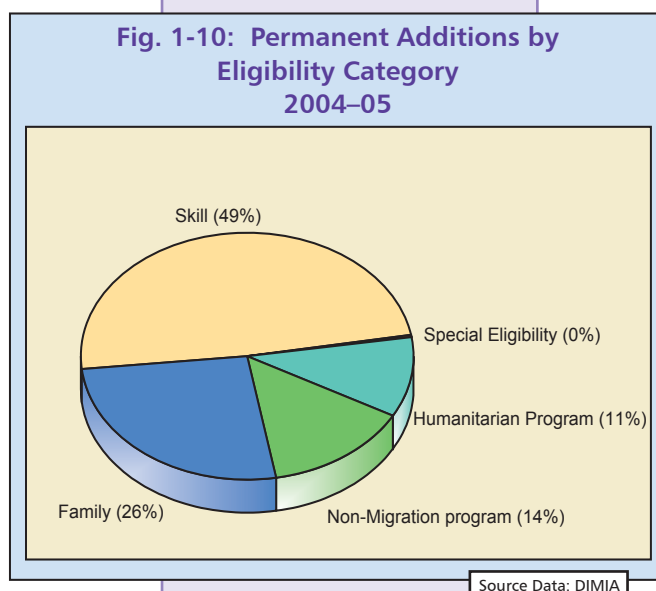
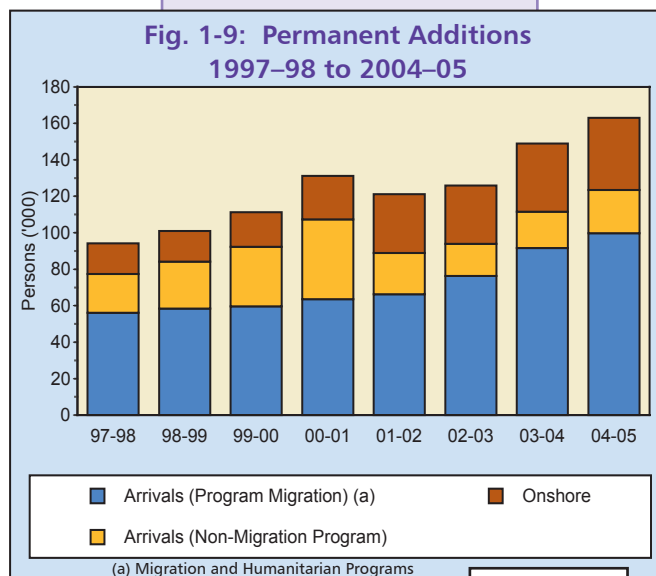
In 2004-05, 26.1 per cent of permanent additions were Family Stream, 48.9 per cent Skill Stream, 0.3 per cent Special Eligibility, 10.5 per cent Humanitarian Program while the remaining 14.2 per cent were Non-Program Migration (mainly New Zealand citizens). Excluding Non-Program Migration, 59.3 per cent of permanent additions were primary applicants and 40.7 per cent were secondary applicants.

Comparing 2004-05 with 2003-04, Family Stream increased by 3.7 per cent, Skill Stream increased by 9.4 per cent and Humanitarian increased substantially as applications for permanent protection visas by temporary protection and temporary humanitarian visa holders were decided.

People born in North West Europe made up 18.0 per cent of permanent additions in 2004-05. Those born in the United Kingdom and Ireland made up 86 per cent of the North West Europe total.

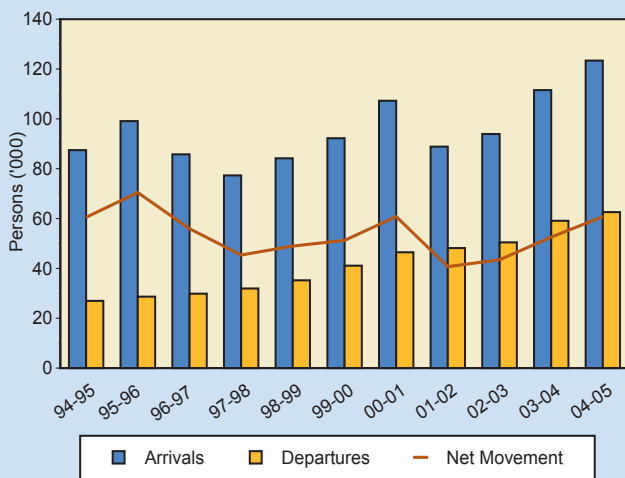
The next largest regions were North East Asia (15.1 per cent), South East Asia (14.2 per cent), Oceania and Antarctica (13.3 per cent) and Southern and Central Asia (12.8 per cent).

Net permanent additions (ie permanent additions less permanent departures) was 104,713 in 2004-05, an increase of 13,799 on the 2003-04 figure of 90,914.



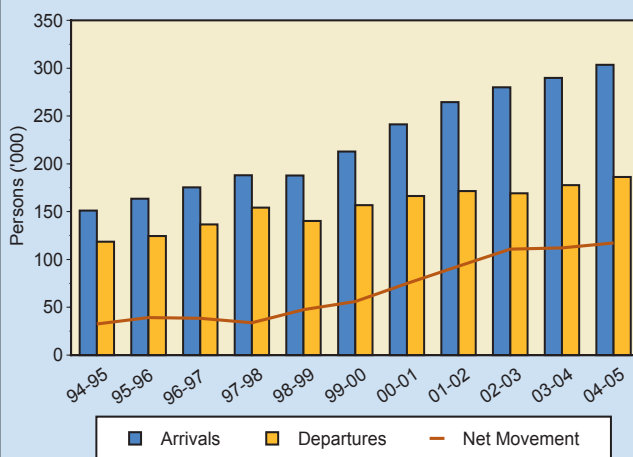
Permanent & Long-Term Movement

Fig. 1-12: Permanent Arrivals vs Departures



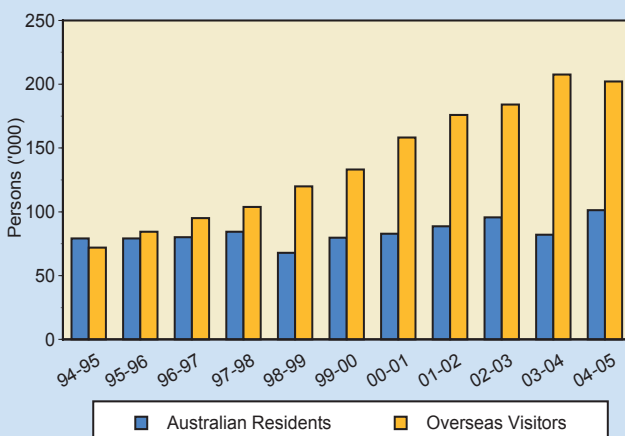
Source Data: DIMIA

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 have steadily increased from 93,910 in 2002–03 to 123,424 in 2004–05.

The number of permanent departures has been increasing steadily since the early 90s. In 2004–05, permanent departures increased to 62,605 persons, its highest level ever. In 2004–05, the overseas-born accounted for 50.4 per cent of permanent departures, about the same level as the past few years, but down from a peak of 60.1 per cent in 1997–98.

Net permanent movement totalled 60,819 persons in 2004–05, up from 52,512 persons in 2003–04 and 43,450 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 the decrease in New Zealand citizen permanent arrivals.

There were 303,496 long-term arrivals in 2004–05 of which 33.4 per cent were Australian residents. The number of long term arrivals who were Australian residents has remained relatively constant, while numbers of long term overseas visitors have been consistently higher this decade.

In 2004–05, 186,342 persons left Australia as long-term departures, 49.2 per cent of whom were Australian residents. The number of long term departures has been increasing steadily over the past 20 years, though the proportion of Australian residents has remained around half.

In 2004–05, net long-term movement totalled 117,154 people, an increase of 4.5 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. This year the People's Republic of China, United Kingdom, India, Republic of Korea, Japan and Malaysia were the major source countries of long-term visitor arrivals.

The total net gain from permanent and long-term movement in 2004–05 was 177,972 people.

Emigration by Birthplace

In 2004–05, 62,606 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 31,027, the highest number ever. The proportion of Australia-born departures to total departures was 49.6 per cent, slightly up from the previous year.

Of the overseas-born departing, the New Zealand-born were the largest group accounting for 21.8 per cent of departures (6,897 persons), followed by the United Kingdom-born accounting for 14.8 per cent (4,665 persons). Persons born in North-East Asia and South-East Asia accounted for 24.5 per cent and 12.2 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.

Fig. 1-15: Major Countries of Long-Term Arrivals vs Permanent Arrivals, 2004–05

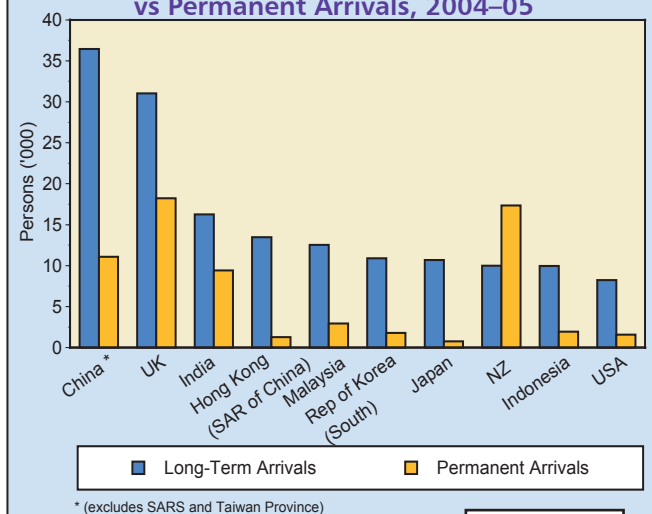


Fig. 1-16: Permanent Departures

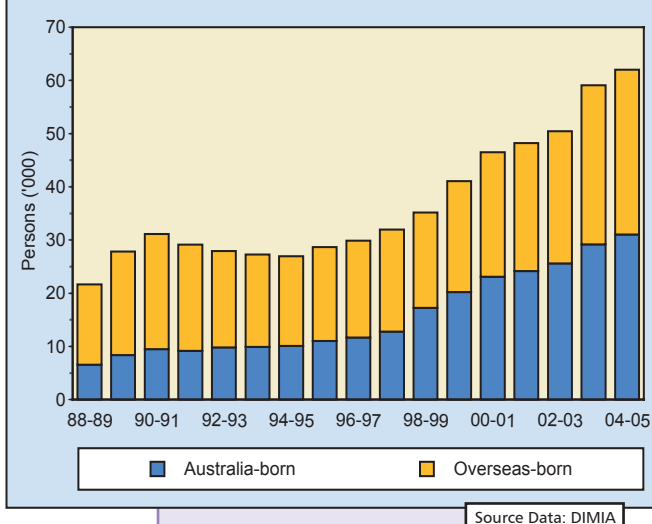
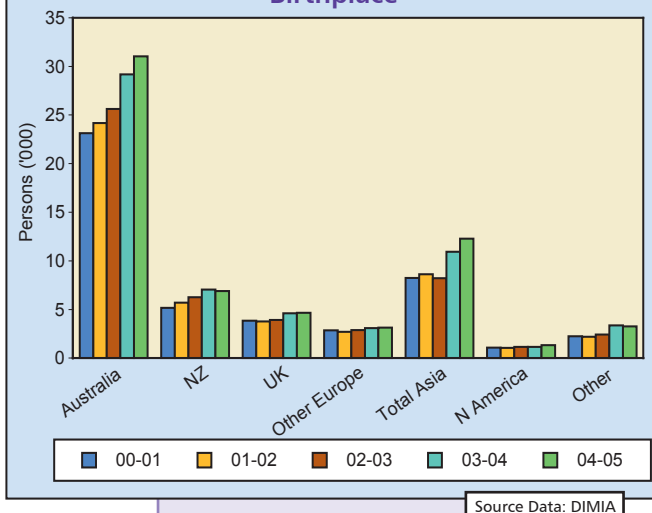
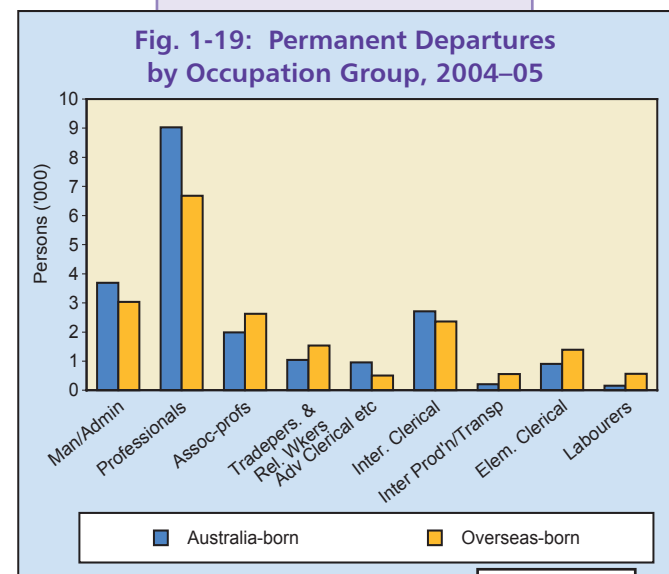
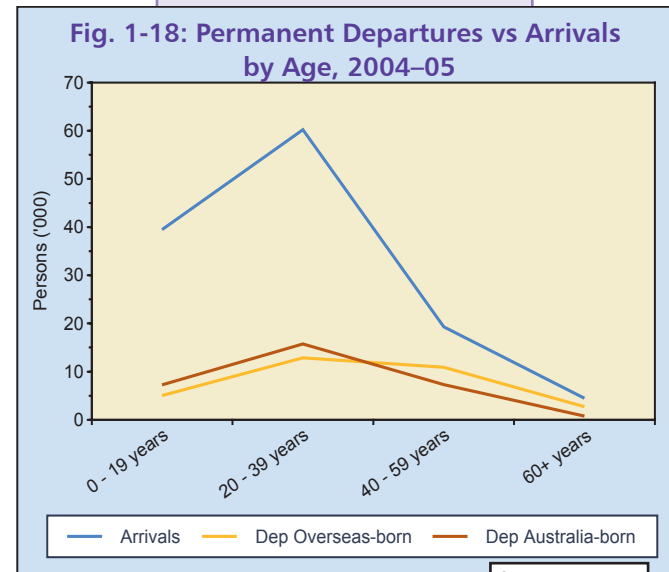


Fig. 1-17: Permanent Departures by Birthplace





Emigration by Age

In 2004-05, 40.8 per cent of all overseas-born emigrants were between the ages of 20 and 39 years compared to almost half (48.8 per cent) of permanent arrivals. 16.0 per cent were aged under 20 years, 34.6 per cent in the 40–59 year age group and only 8.6 per cent were 60 years or older.

The Australia-born emigrants are more likely to be young families, with 45.5 per cent of the total aged 25–39 years and 16.6 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 29,621 permanent emigrants were skilled and 47,171 permanent arrivals were skilled in 2004–05. While the number of skilled emigrants is increasing over time, the net effect of the difference between skilled immigrants and emigrants is positive.

In 2004–05, the proportion of those in the workforce who were skilled (as stated on out-going passenger cards) was 73.3 per cent. Of emigrants in the workforce, 16.6 per cent were managers or administrators, 38.8 per cent were professionals, 11.4 per cent were associate professionals and 6.4 per cent were tradespersons. Semi-skilled persons constituted 18.0 per cent of emigrants in the workforce, and unskilled 7.5 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 2004–05 were managers and administrators (4,324 persons), school teachers (2,011 persons), elementary clerical, sales and service workers (1,633 persons), building and engineering professionals (1,470 persons), and accountants (1,423 persons). There were also 944 registered nurses and 1,178 computing professionals who emigrated from Australia.

There were more Australia-born skilled emigrants than overseas-born emigrants in 2004–05 (15,746 persons compared with 14,708 persons in 2003-04). This difference is most evident in the professional occupations.

Of the total Australia-born departures (for those employed), 76.1 per cent were skilled.

Most of the Australia-born (employed emigrants) leaving for Asian countries were skilled, eg. 80.8 per cent of the 1,266 emigrants to Singapore were skilled, 83.6 per cent of the 1,055 emigrants to Hong Kong, and 84.5 per cent of the 407 that went to Japan. 78.0 per cent of the 5,360 emigrants to the United Kingdom were skilled, 66.9 per cent of 3,507 to New Zealand, and 76.4% of the 3,179 going to the USA.

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 2004–05 had lived here for five years or more (69.3 per cent). Those who had lived here for less than two years represented 14.1 per cent, and 16.6 per cent had lived in Australia for two or more but less than five years.

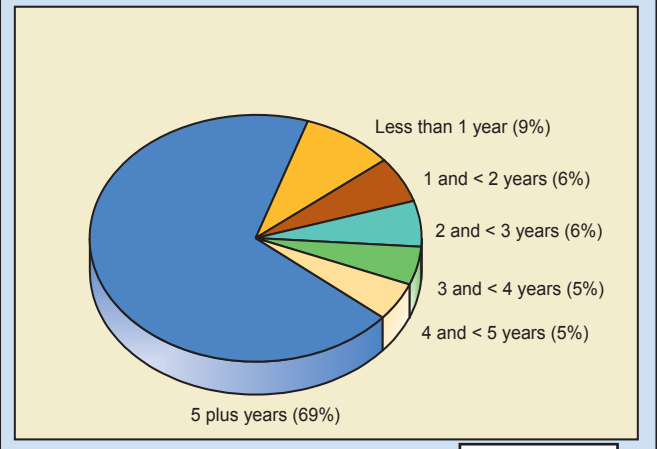
Destination of Emigrants

A majority of all overseas born emigrant groups returned to their birthplace: New Zealand (82.7 per cent), Hong Kong (SAR of China) (82.5 per cent), Taiwan (75.2 per cent) and Thailand (75.9 per cent) were birthplaces which had high return rates. Other return rates were USA (74.5 per cent), Viet Nam (62.1), the People's Republic Of China (61.2) and the UK (56.7 per cent) in 2004–05.

Emigrants with a low propensity to return to their country of birth included those born in Iraq (12.7 per cent of 212), Zimbabwe (12.5 per cent of 64), South Africa (20.7 per cent of 405), Cambodia (20.7 per cent of 135) and Sri Lanka (21.1 per cent of 152).

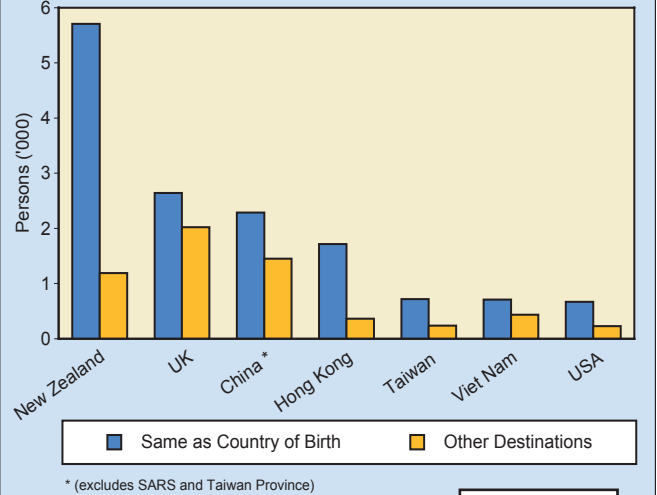
Two-thirds of all Australia-born emigrants leave for one of the top five destination countries. The most popular destinations were the United Kingdom (21.6 per cent), New Zealand (19.1 per cent), the USA (14.4 per cent), Singapore (6.0 per cent) and Hong Kong (SAR of China) (5.4 per cent). Other top destinations were Canada, the United Arab Emirates, the People's Republic of China 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 2004–05



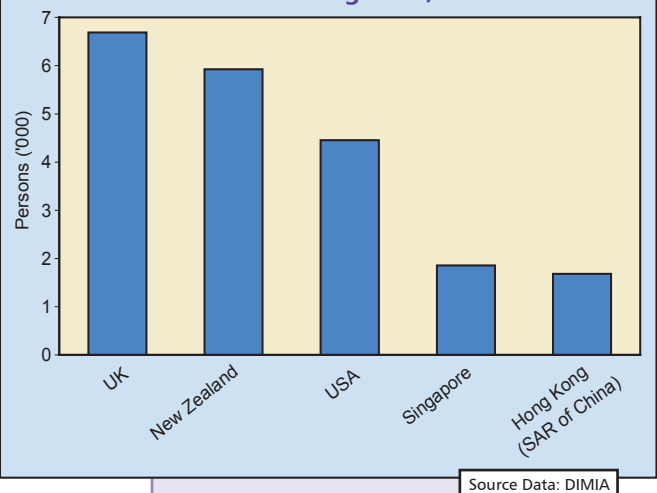
Source Data: DIMIA

Fig. 1-21: Destination of Overseas-born Emigrants, 2004–05



Source Data: DIMIA

Fig. 1-22: Top 5 Destinations of Australia-born Emigrants, 2004–05



Source Data: DIMIA