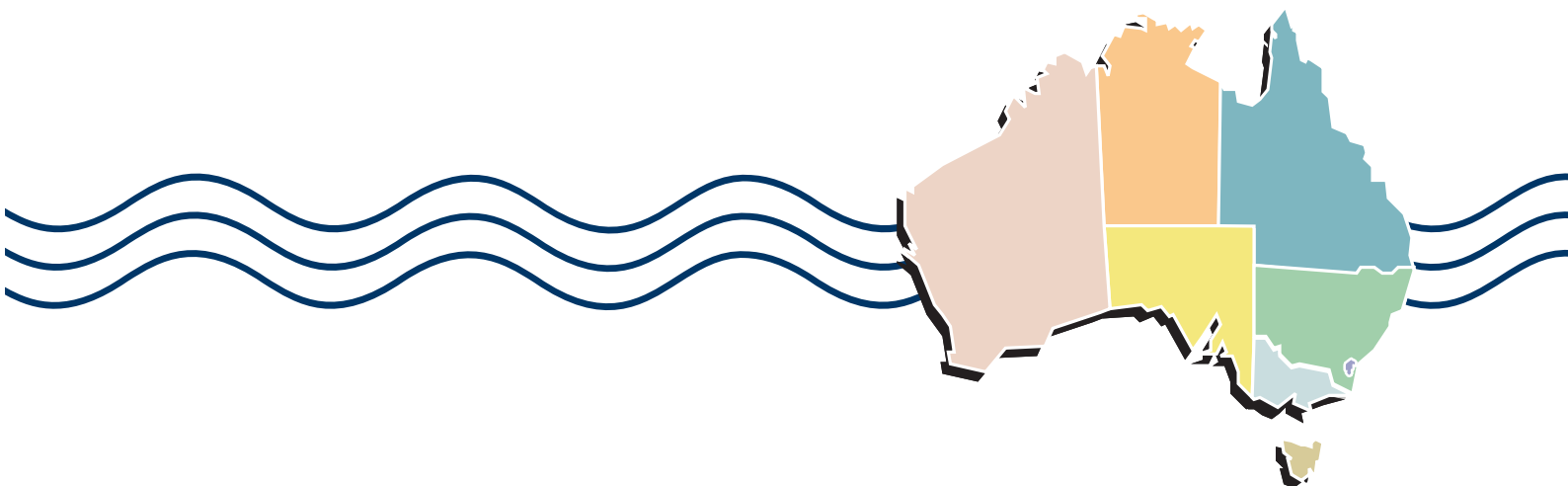


# Chapter 1

## Population Growth and International Movement

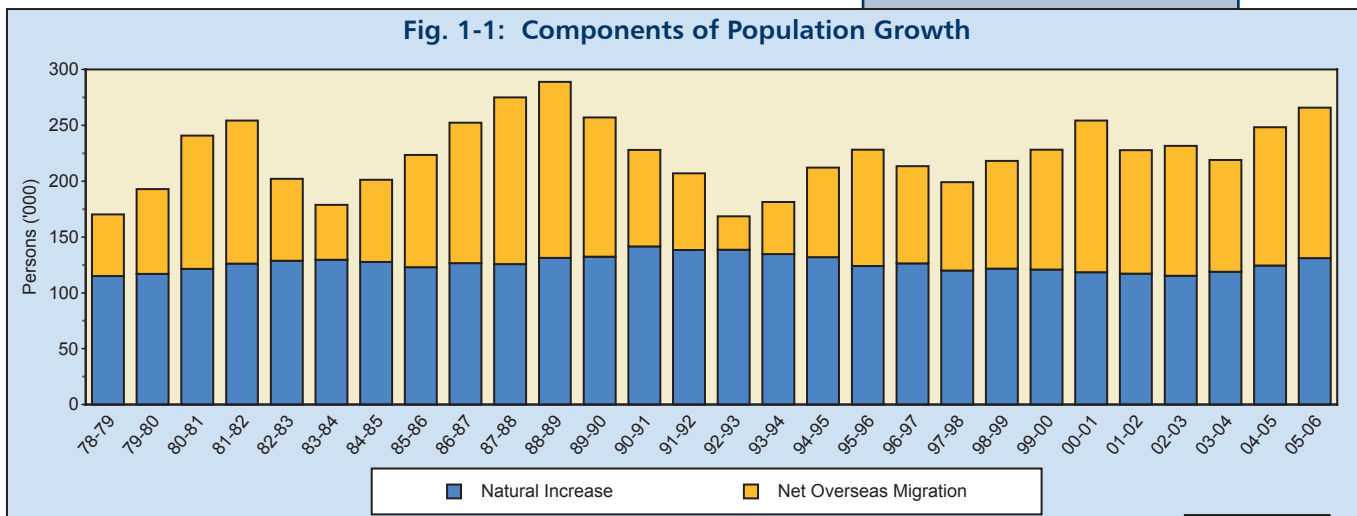
- Australia's population reached 20.6 million at the end of June 2006.
- Australia's population growth in 2005–06 was made up of 131,200 persons through natural increase (births less deaths) and 134,600 through net overseas migration.
- The United Kingdom (UK) remains the largest overseas-born group, 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 179,807 in 2005–06, made up of 131,593 permanent arrivals (settlers) and 48,214 permanent onshore visa grants.
- Net long-term temporary movements in 2005–06 were the highest ever recorded.
- In 2005–06, 67,853 people left Australia permanently, a record.
- Permanent departures of the Australia-born were 34,284 in 2005–06, the highest ever.
- Australia lost 32,647 skilled people through permanent emigration in 2005–06, but gained 48,865 skilled permanent arrivals (settlers).





# Population Growth

Fig. 1-1: Components of Population Growth



Source Data: ABS

## Components of Population Growth

In the year ended 30 June 2006, Australia's population is estimated to have increased by 265,700 persons or 1.3 per cent to 20,605,500. Australia's population growth rate was slightly higher than the world's population growth rate of 1.2 per cent in 2005–06.

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 1977–2006).

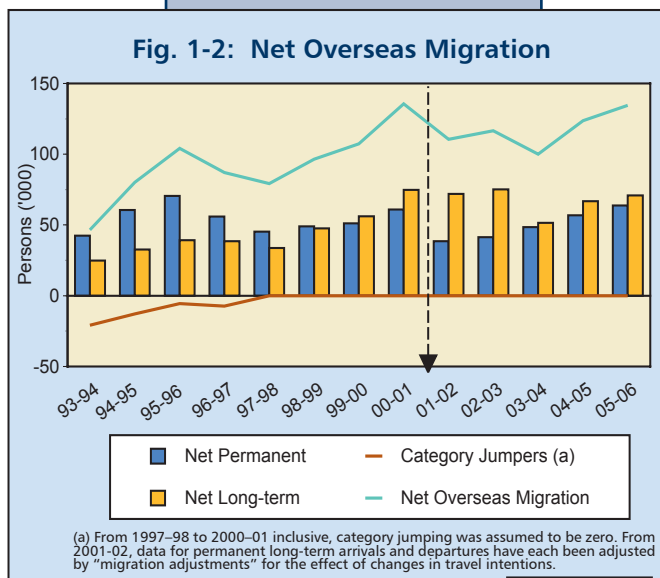
## Net Overseas Migration

In 2005–06, Australia's net overseas migration is estimated to have been 134,600, an increase of 10,800 on 2004–05. The relatively large net overseas migration in recent years reflects larger Migration Programmes, 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.

Fig. 1-2: Net Overseas Migration



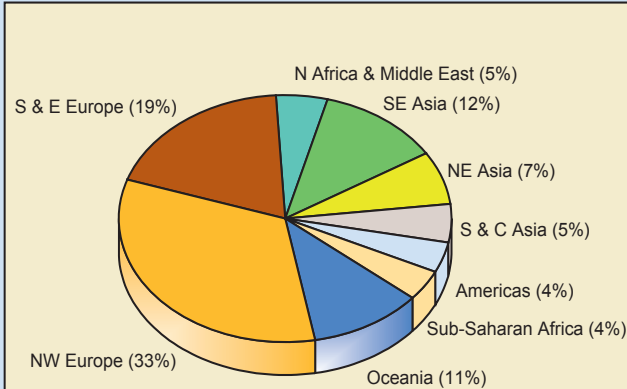
(a) From 1997–98 to 2000–01 inclusive, category jumping was assumed to be zero. From 2001–02, data for permanent long-term arrivals and departures have each been adjusted by "migration adjustments" for the effect of changes in travel intentions.

Source Data: ABS

More detail is available from the ABS website at [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.

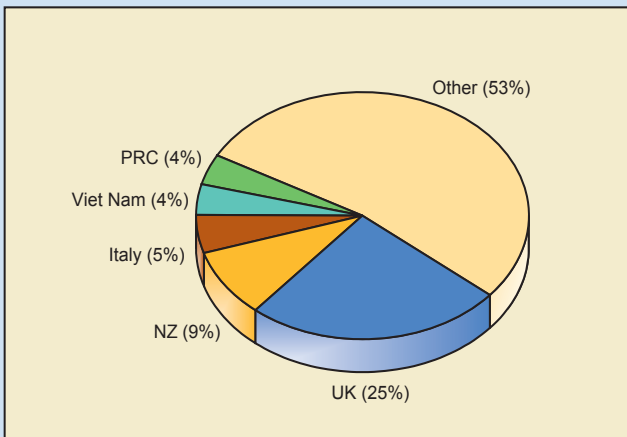
# Population Characteristics

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



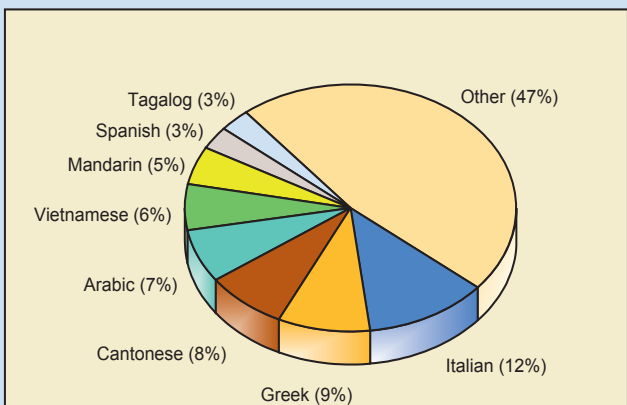
Source Data: ABS, 2001 Census

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



Source Data: ABS, 2001 Census

**Fig. 1-5: Language Other Than English 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 overseas-born population, up to 23.1 per cent from 22.8 per cent.

More recent statistics on Australia's diverse population by country of birth is available at Appendix D.

The UK was the largest overseas-born group (25.4 per cent), but as a proportion of the total overseas-born, the UK 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 last five years. The next largest birthplace groups were Italy (5.4 per cent), Viet Nam (3.8 per cent), the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) (3.5 per cent), Greece (2.9 per cent), Germany (2.6 per cent), the Philippines (2.5 per cent) and India (2.3 per cent).

People from birthplaces that have increased significantly between 1996 and 2001 were Sudan (4,911 persons, up 104.9 per cent), Afghanistan (11,264 persons, up 93.3 per cent), Somalia (3,726 persons, up 82.2 per cent), Bangladesh (9,077, up 79.3 per cent) and Iraq (24,819 persons, up 76.9 per cent).

People from birthplaces that have decreased significantly between 1996 and 2001 were Latvia (6,701, down 16.7 per cent), Estonia (2,397 persons, down 15.6 per cent), Lithuania (3,689 persons, down 12.6 per cent), Poland (58,093 persons, down 10.8 per cent) and Portugal (15,407 persons, down 10.1 per cent).

On a region of birth basis, Sub-Saharan Africa had the greatest increase (32.4 per cent) between 1996 and 2001, followed by Southern and Central Asia (26.9 per cent) and North-East Asia (17.6 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 of all languages other than English), 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 138.0 per cent), Afrikaans (8,021 persons, up 137.1 per cent), Somali (4,747 persons, up 108.2 per cent) and Kurdish (2,836 persons, up 92.7 per cent).

Languages that have decreased significantly between 1996 and 2001 were German (76,443 persons, down 22.6 per cent) and Tok Pisin (3,125 persons, down 18.6 per cent) and Hokkien (8,263 persons, down 18.5 per cent).

There were 50,933 persons who reported speaking an Australian Indigenous Language at home.

### English Proficiency

At the 2001 Census of those who reported they spoke a language other than English at home, 1,566,397 persons (53.4 per cent) said they spoke English 'very well' while 777,785 (26.5 per cent) persons said they spoke 'well'.

There were 419,984 (14.3 per cent) who spoke English not well and 112,169 (3.8 per cent) who 'did not speak English at all'. The remaining 2.0 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 religions which also includes religion not clearly described (6.8 per cent), No Religion (15.5 per cent) and Not Stated (9.8 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.

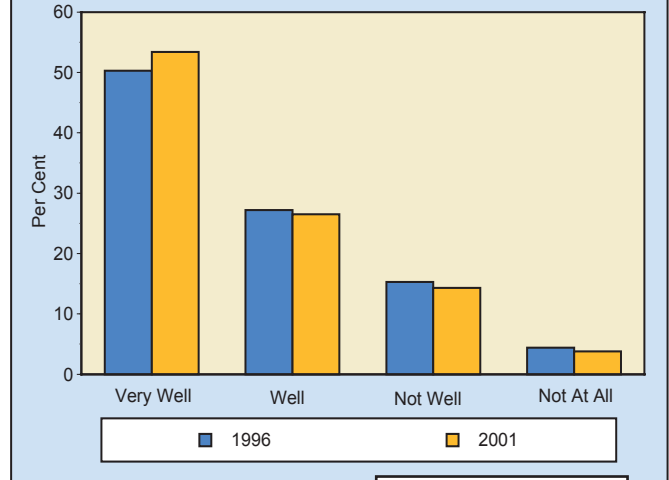
### Ancestry

At the 2001 Census, 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.

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).

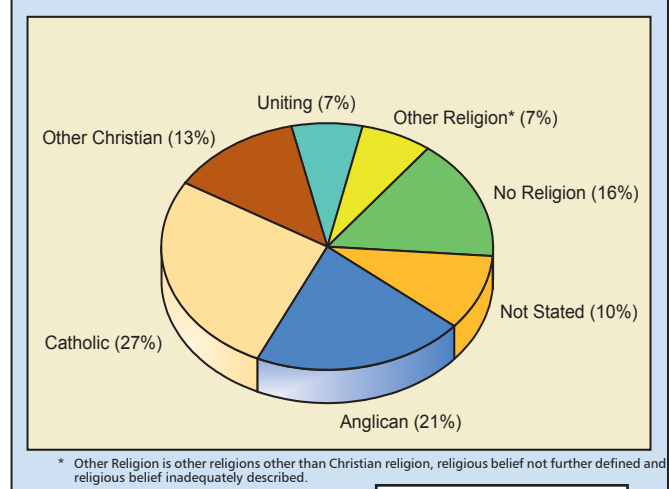
The top ancestries outside of Australian and European ancestries were Chinese (3.0 per cent), Lebanese (0.9 per cent), Indian and Vietnamese (both 0.8 per cent) and Filipino (0.7 per cent).

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



Source Data: ABS, 2001 Census

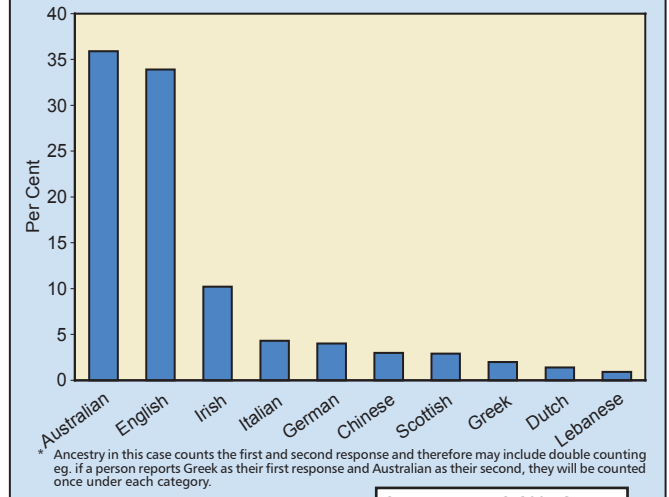
**Fig. 1-7: Religious Affiliations 2001 Census**



\* Other Religion is other religions other than Christian religion, religious belief not further defined and religious belief inadequately described.

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