

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 programmes. 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 Programme visas granted (ie outcomes) to people physically present in Australia have more than doubled in nine years, from 16,535 in 1996-97 to 43,363 in 2005-06.

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 2005-06 they had risen to 131,593. By contrast, total onshore outcomes under the Migration and Humanitarian programmes had risen from 18,799 in 1996-97 to 48,214 in 2005-06.

This means that permanent settler arrivals accounted for only 73 per cent of all permanent immigration to Australia in 2005-06. 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 2005-06 there were over 17,900 grants.

As a response, DIMA 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 been steadily increasing. In 2005–06, permanent additions were 179,807, an increase of 7.5 per cent over the 167,319 permanent additions in 2004–05.

The 2005–06 figure for permanent additions was made up of 131,593 permanent settler arrivals and 48,214 onshore Migration and Humanitarian programme outcomes. Permanent settler arrivals was made up of 106,495 arrivals under the Migration and Humanitarian programmes and 25,098 non-programme migrant arrivals (mainly New Zealand citizens).

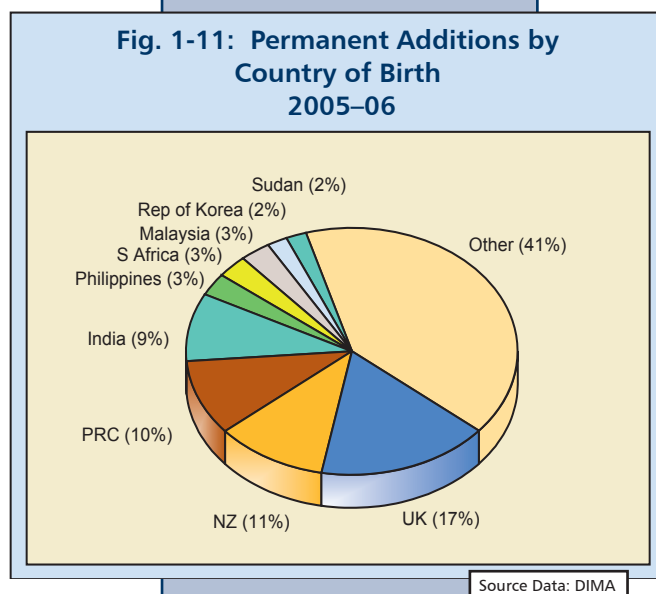
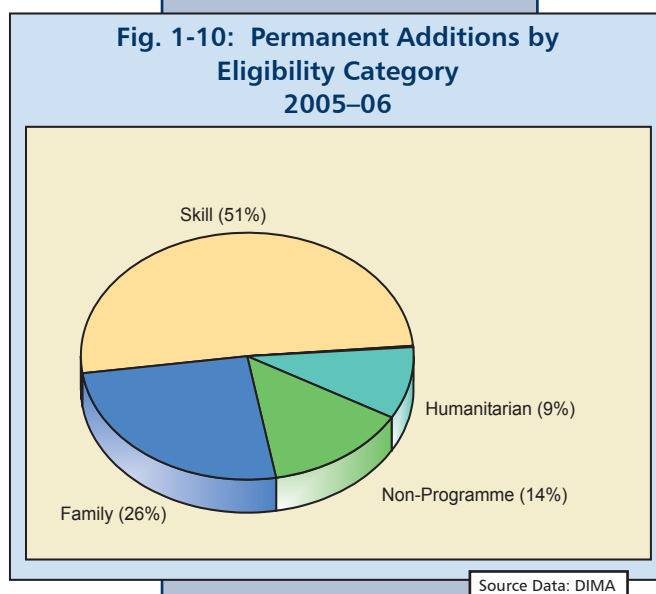
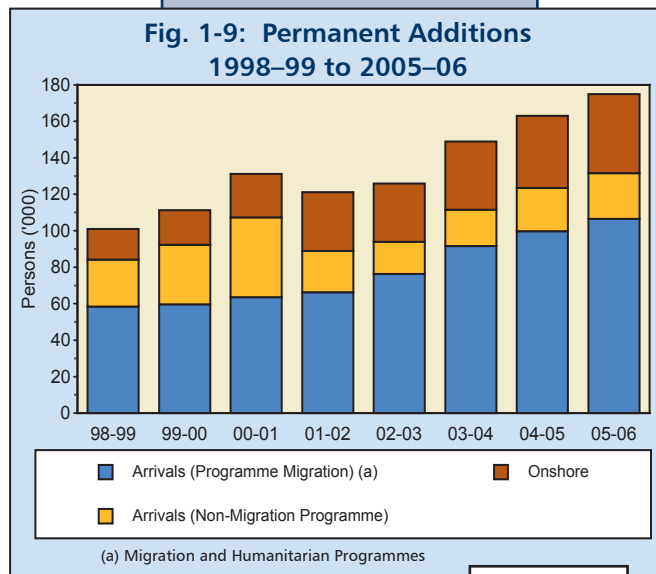
In 2005–06, 25.6 per cent of permanent additions were Family Stream, 50.9 per cent Skill Stream, 0.2 per cent Special Eligibility, and 9.4 per cent Humanitarian Programme while the remaining 14.0 per cent were non-programme migration (mainly New Zealand citizens). Excluding non-programme migration, 58.8 per cent of permanent additions were primary applicants and 41.2 per cent were secondary applicants.

Comparing 2005–06 with 2004–05, the Family Stream increased by 5.0 per cent, the Skill Stream increased by 11.7 per cent and the Humanitarian Programme decreased by 3.2 per cent.

People born in North West Europe made up 19.9 per cent of permanent additions in 2005–06. Those born in the UK made up 83.2 per cent of the North West Europe total.

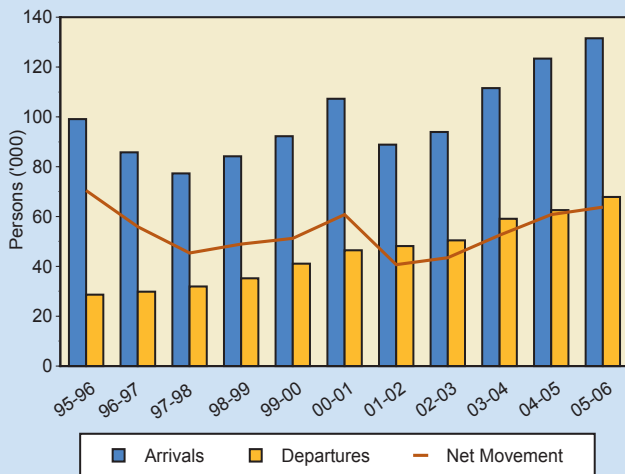
The next largest regions were North East Asia (15.3 per cent), Southern and Central Asia (14.1 per cent), South East Asia (13.6 per cent) and Oceania and Antarctica (13.3 per cent).

Net permanent additions (ie permanent additions less permanent departures) were 111,954 in 2005–06, an increase of 7,241 on the 2004–05 figure of 104,713.



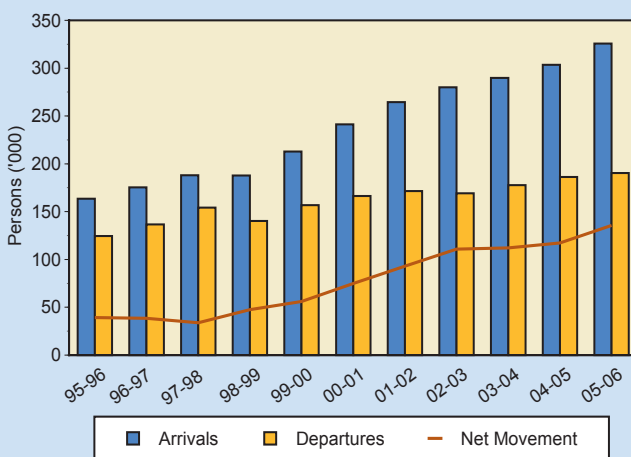
Permanent and Long-Term Movement

Fig. 1-12: Permanent Arrivals vs Departures



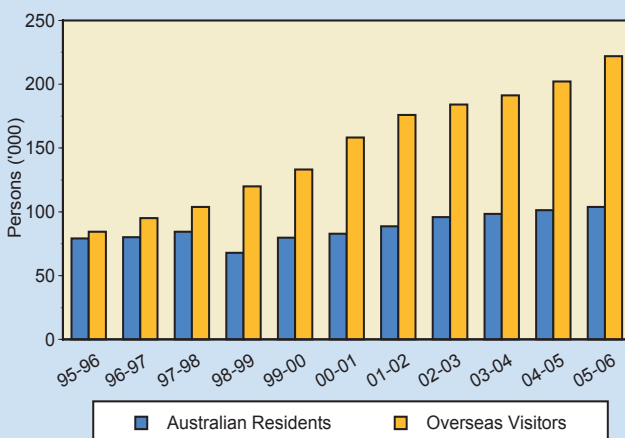
Source Data: DIMA

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



Source Data: DIMA

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



Source Data: DIMA

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 programmes, and New Zealand citizens (not counted as part of the Migration Programme) 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 107,366 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 131,593 in 2005–06.

The number of permanent departures has been increasing steadily since the early 90s. In 2005–06, permanent departures increased to 67,853 persons, its highest level ever. In 2005–06 the overseas-born accounted for 49.5 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 63,740 persons in 2005–06, up from 60,818 persons in 2004–05 and 52,512 in the previous year.

Long-term Movement

The major 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.

Net 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. Net 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 325,821 long-term arrivals in 2005–06 of which 31.9 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 increasing this decade.

In 2005–06, 190,288 persons left Australia as long-term departures, 51.6 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 2005–06, net long-term movement totalled 135,533 people, an increase of 15.7 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 countries of permanent arrivals. Much of long-term visitor movement to Australia is for business or study purposes. This year the PRC, the UK, India, Republic of Korea, Hong Kong (SAR of China), Malaysia and New Zealand were the major source countries of long-term visitor arrivals.

The total net gain from permanent and long-term movement in 2005–06 was 199,273 people (Note, this differs from NOM as it does not include migration adjustments which provide for changes in travel intention).

Emigration by Birthplace

In 2005–06, 67,853 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 34,284, the highest number ever. The proportion of Australia-born departures to total departures was 50.5 per cent, slightly up from the previous year.

Of the overseas-born departing, the New Zealand-born were the largest group accounting for 21.1 per cent of departures (7,099 persons), followed by the UK-born accounting for 15.9 per cent (5,353 persons). Persons born in North-East Asia and South-East Asia accounted for 24.1 per cent and 11.4 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, 2005–06

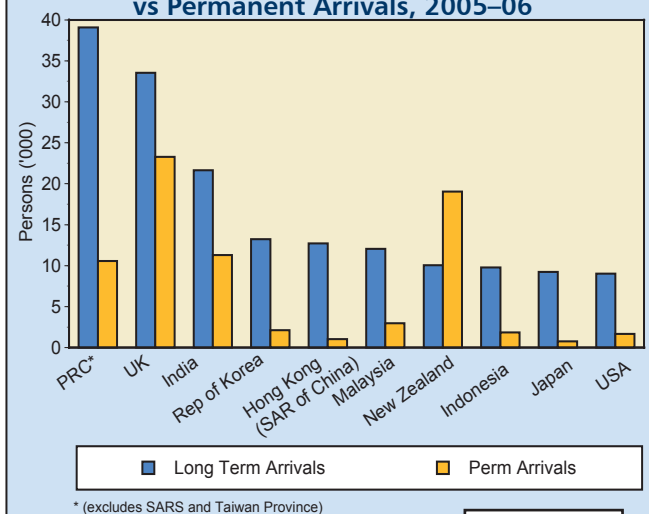


Fig. 1-16: Permanent Departures

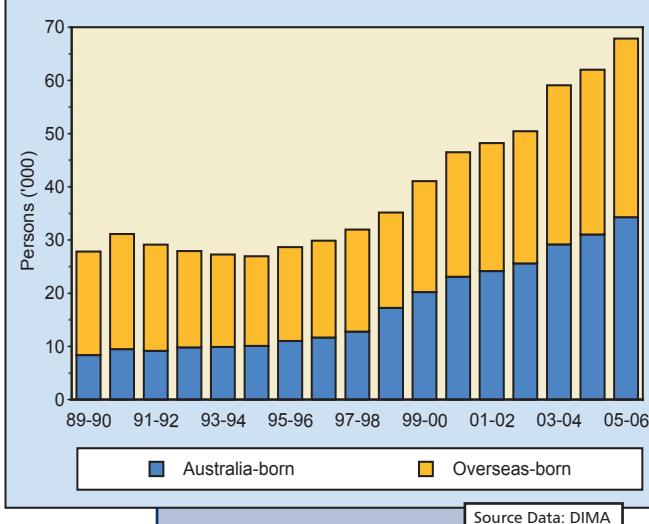


Fig. 1-17: Permanent Departures by Birthplace

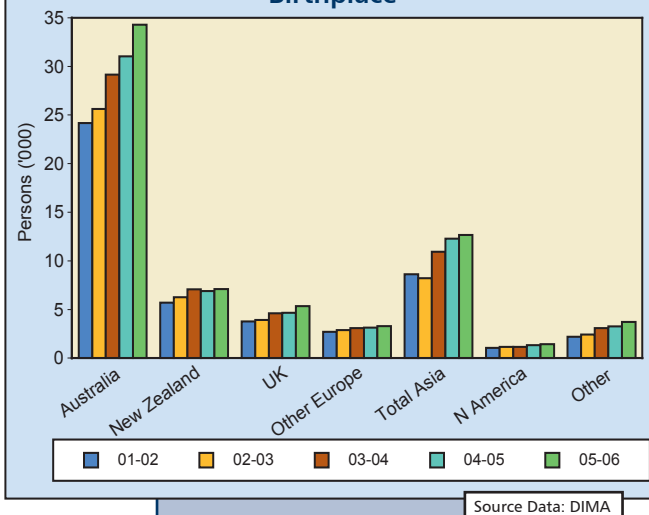


Fig. 1-18: Permanent Departures vs Arrivals by Age, 2005–06

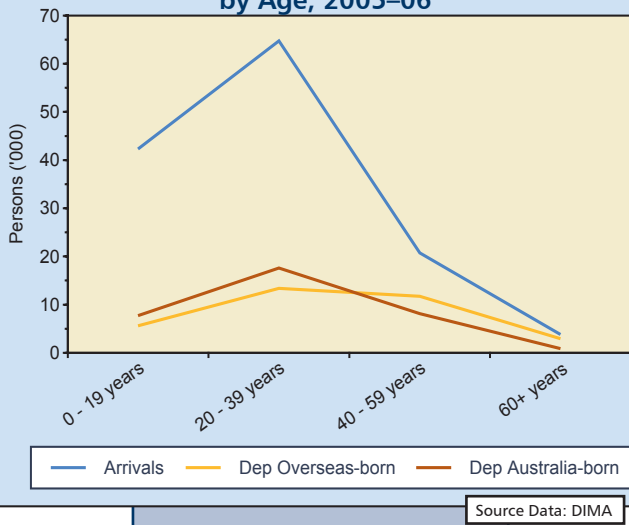
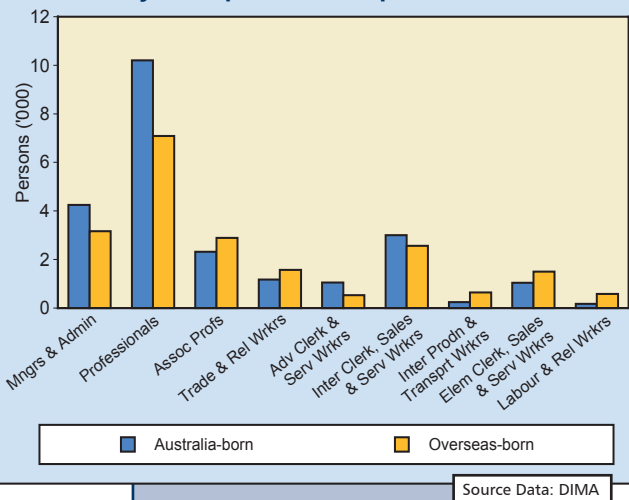


Fig. 1-19: Permanent Departures by Occupation Group, 2005–06



Emigration by Age

In 2005–06, 39.8 per cent of all overseas-born emigrants were between the ages of 20 and 39 years compared to almost half (49.2 per cent) of permanent arrivals. 16.6 per cent were aged under 20 years, 34.9 per cent in the 40–59 year age group and only 8.7 per cent were 60 years or older.

The Australia-born emigrants are more likely to be young families, with 45.7 per cent of the total aged 25–39 years and 15.5 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 32,647 permanent emigrants were skilled and 48,865 permanent arrivals were skilled in 2005–06. While the number of skilled emigrants is increasing over time, the net effect of the difference between skilled immigrants and emigrants is positive.

In 2005–06, the proportion of those emigrants in the workforce who were skilled (as stated on out-going passenger cards) was 73.6 per cent. Of emigrants in the workforce, 16.7 per cent were managers or administrators, 39.0 per cent were professionals, 11.7 per cent were associate professionals and 6.2 per cent were tradespersons. Semi-skilled persons constituted 18.1 per cent of emigrants in the workforce, and unskilled 7.4 per cent. The remainder were not in employment (0.9 per cent).

The top five occupations of emigrants in 2005–06 before they left the Australian workforce were managers and administrators (4,879 persons), school teachers (2,059 persons), elementary clerical, sales and service workers (1,816 persons), building and engineering professionals (1,664 persons), and accountants (1,550 persons). There were also 1,204 computing professionals and 1,026 registered nurses who emigrated from Australia.

There were more Australia-born skilled emigrants than overseas-born emigrants in 2005–06 (17,934 Australia-born persons compared with 14,713 overseas-born persons). This difference is most evident in the professional occupations.

Of the total Australia-born departures (who were employed), 76.6 per cent were skilled.

Most of the Australia-born (employed emigrants) leaving for Asian countries were skilled, eg. 81.4 per cent of the 1,439 emigrants to Singapore were skilled, 84.2 per cent of the 1,237 emigrants to Hong Kong (SAR of China), and 84.1 per cent of the 473 that went to Japan. 77.4 per cent of the 6,119 emigrants to the UK were skilled, 67.3 per cent of 3,693 to New Zealand, and 77.7 per cent of the 3,446 going to the United States of America (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 2005–06 had lived here for five years or more (69.8 per cent). Those who had lived here for less than two years represented 14.0 per cent, and 16.2 per cent had lived in Australia for two or more but less than five years.

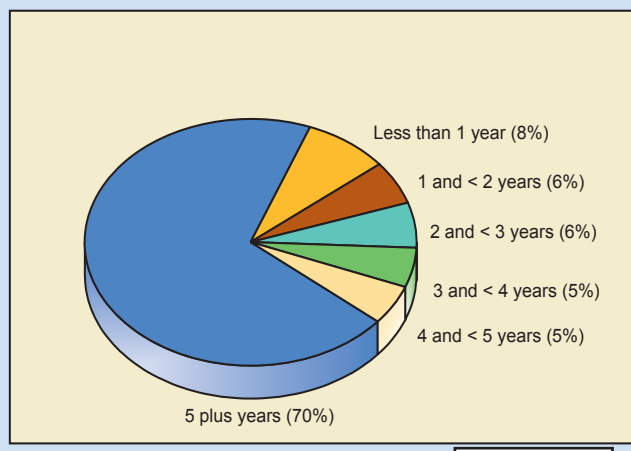
Destination of Emigrants

A majority of all overseas-born emigrant groups returned to their birthplace: Hong Kong (SAR of China) (81.6 per cent), New Zealand (81.2 per cent) and Taiwan (77.9 per cent) were birthplaces which had high return rates. Other relatively high return rates were the USA (73.3 per cent), the PRC (62.6 per cent), Viet Nam (59.4) and the UK (57.4 per cent) in 2005–06.

Emigrants with a low propensity to return to their country of birth included those born in Iraq (11.5 per cent of 287), South Africa (19.1 per cent of 533) and Sri Lanka (21.0 per cent of 138).

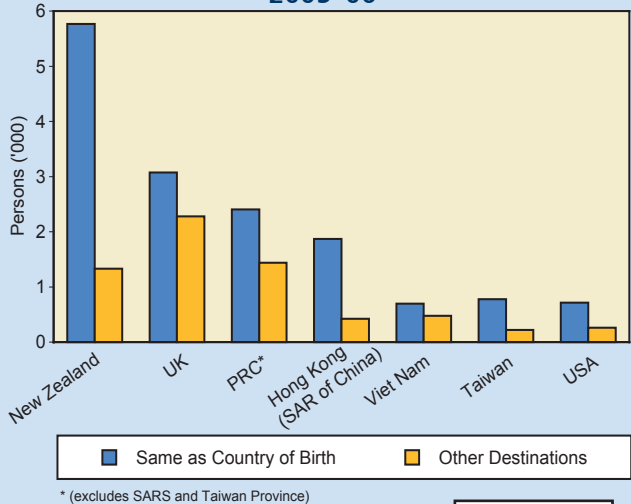
Two-thirds of all Australia-born emigrants leave for one of the top five destination countries. The most popular destinations were the UK (22.0 per cent), New Zealand (17.6 per cent), the USA (14.1 per cent), Singapore (6.3 per cent) and Hong Kong (SAR of China) (5.6 per cent). Other top destinations were the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the PRC, Canada and Japan. In some cases these emigrants may be the Australia-born children of overseas-born parents who return to their parents country of birth.

Fig. 1-20: Permanent Departures of Overseas-born by Period of Residence 2005–06



Source Data: DIMA

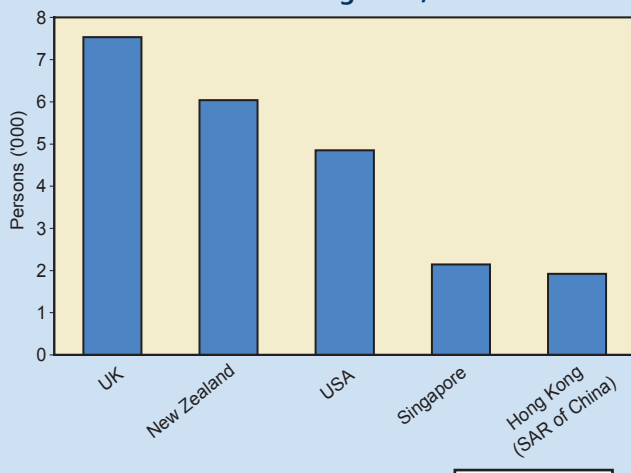
Fig. 1-21: Destination of Overseas-born Emigrants, 2005–06



* (excludes SARS and Taiwan Province)

Source Data: DIMA

Fig. 1-22: Top 5 Destinations of Australia-born Emigrants, 2005–06



Source Data: DIMA