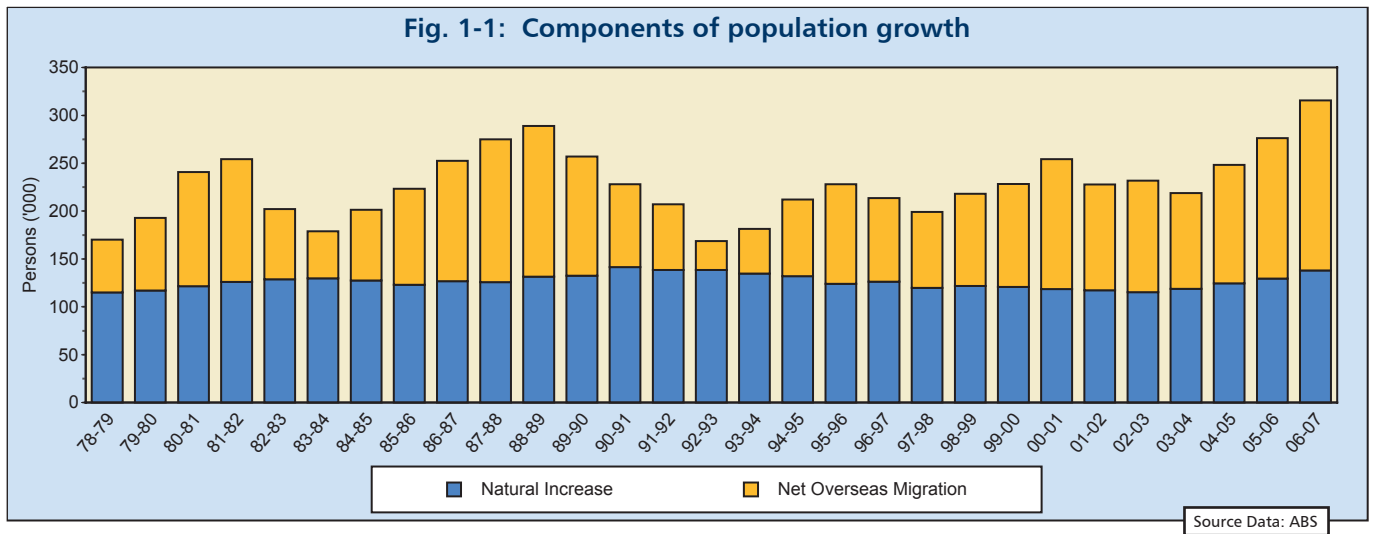


Population growth



Components of population growth

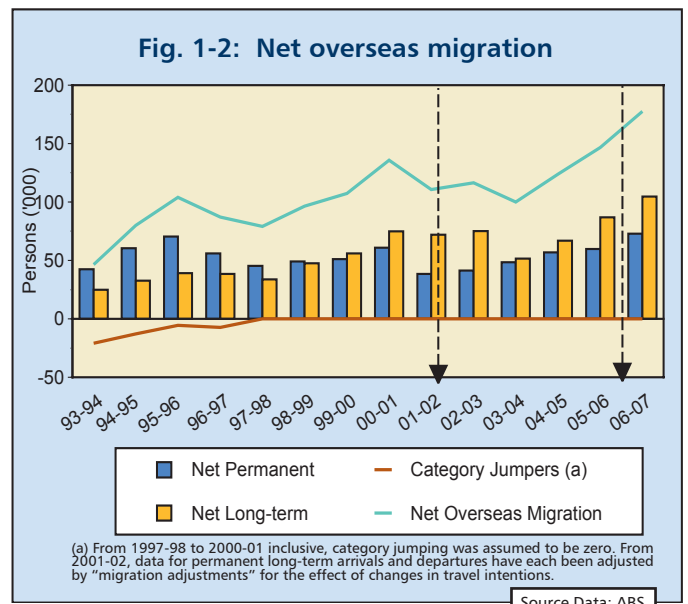
In the year ended 30 June 2007, Australia's population is estimated to have increased by 315 700 persons or 1.5 per cent to 21 017 200. Australia's population growth rate was higher than the world's population growth rate of 1.2 per cent in 2006-07.

Natural increase has usually been the main contributor to population growth, however in 2006-07 natural increase only accounted for 44.0 per cent of population growth. (See Appendix C - Components of Population Growth 1977-2007).

Net overseas migration

In 2006-07, Australia's net overseas migration is estimated to have been 177 600. This accounted for 56 per cent of population growth. The relatively large net overseas migration in recent years reflects larger Migration Programs, growth in the number of overseas students and the strength of Australia's economy.

Net overseas migration is the addition 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.

Recently, the ABS has developed an improved method for calculating NOM from September quarter 2006 onwards, hence estimates based on the previous method and 2006-07 are not comparable.

More detail is available from the ABS website at www.abs.gov.au (Catalogue number 3137.0). Since 2001-02, "migration adjustments" have been made separately to the data series for permanent and long-term arrivals and departures.