



COUNTRY PROFILE

Republic of the Philippines

- 1. Overview
 - 2. Community in Australia
 - 3. Permanent migration and temporary entry
 - 4. Permanent departures
 - 5. State and territory summary
- Explanatory notes
Statistical tables

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



Capital city: Manila
Population 2011: 101.8 million
Official language: Tagalog
Monetary unit: Philippine Peso

1. Overview

The number of Filipinos migrating to Australia increased rapidly in the 1980s and Philippine-born migrants are currently the seventh largest migrant community in Australia. Early waves of migration mostly comprised women coming to Australia through the Family Stream. Since 2004, however, the majority of Filipino migrants have come to Australia through the Skill Stream. Skilled visas now account for nearly three-quarters of all permanent visas granted to Filipinos and, in absolute terms, the number of skilled visas issued is more than double 2007–08 levels.

Economic factors have contributed significantly to the continued increase in skilled migration from the Philippines. While the Philippines is a country rich in resources with a large and literate population, poverty levels remain high, infrastructure is poor and life expectancy is low. Also its per capita gross domestic product is less than a tenth of Australia's on a purchasing power parity basis. For these reasons, many skilled Filipinos work overseas to provide remittances for their families. Overseas remittance income accounts for more than 10 per cent of the Filipino economy.

A summary measure of wellbeing is the Human Development Index (HDI), produced by the United Nations. The HDI is a composite measure of three dimensions of human development—health, education and income. Australia ranks very high on this measure, with a 2011 score of 0.93, second only to Norway. Table 1

Comparatively, the Philippines currently ranks 112 out of 187 countries. Within its region it is reasonably placed, with an HDI of 0.64 compared to the East Asia and Pacific regional average of 0.67.

2. Community in Australia

At the end of June 2010, 177 390 Philippine-born people were living in Australia, 47 per cent more than was reported in the August 2006 Census of Population and Housing. This is the seventh largest migrant community in Australia, equivalent to 3.0 per cent of Australia's overseas-born population and 0.8 per cent of Australia's total population.

For Australia's Philippine-born migrants:

- The median age of 39.5 years was almost three years above that of the general population.
- Females substantially outnumbered males—63 per cent compared with 37 per cent.
- At November 2011, 115 000 Philippine-born people were working in Australia. Their main occupations were labourers (22 per cent), followed by professionals (21 per cent).
- The unemployment rate at November 2011 was 5.9 per cent—this was slightly higher than the national rate of 5.2 per cent.
- Their labour force participation rate of 77 per cent was well above the national average of 65 per cent.

3. Permanent migration and temporary entry

Summary 2010–11

Permanent additions to the Australian population

In 2010–11, there were 11 075 Philippine-born permanent additions to the Australian resident population. This made the Philippines the largest South East Asian source and the seventh largest source overall of new migrants to Australia for that year.

Among these new additions the:

- Skill Stream comprised 2851 skilled migrants and 4803 accompanying family members and accounted for 69 per cent of all permanent additions.
- The Family Stream comprised 2976 family migrants and accounted for 27 per cent of all permanent additions.
- Non-program migration of Philippine-born New Zealand citizens accounted for the bulk of the remainder, contributing 4 per cent of permanent additions.

Permanent migration visas granted

Table 2

A total of 10 825 Philippine nationals were granted a permanent visa through Australia's Migration Program in 2010–11. Among these new visa holders:

- Skill Stream accounted for 73 per cent (7849 visas) of the permanent visas granted, with nearly 80 per cent of grants going to Employer Sponsored applications.
- Family Stream accounted for 27 per cent (2963 visas), with more than 8 in 10 visas going to the partner (84 per cent) of an Australian resident.

Temporary entry visas granted, 2010–11

Table 3 & 4

In 2010–11, temporary entry visas granted to Philippine nationals included:

- 3390 Student visas, of which nearly half were granted to those intending to undertake a Vocational Education and Training course in Australia
- 5900 Business (Long Stay) (subclass 457) visas, with registered nurses, structural steel and welding workers and motor mechanics being the main occupations of sponsored migrants
- 36 937 Visitor visas.

Detailed analysis

Permanent migration visas granted

Table 2 & 4

Skilled migration

Skilled migration focuses on facilitating the permanent entry of those who can make a positive contribution to Australia through their skills, qualifications, entrepreneurial spirit and employment potential. In 2010–11:

- The Skill Stream was the predominant route for Philippine nationals seeking permanent residency in Australia. Since 2007–08 permanent visas granted to Filipinos through the Skill Stream have more than doubled.
- 113 725 skilled visas were granted, with grants to Philippine nationals accounting for 7 per cent (7849 grants) of the total.
- Skilled visa grants grew 5.4 per cent overall, however skilled visa grants to Filipinos rose by 15 per cent.
- Skilled visas now represent 73 per cent of all permanent visas issued to Philippine nationals compared to only 55 per cent in 2007–08.
- Within the Skill Stream there continued to be substantial growth in Employer Sponsored visas among Filipinos, reflecting the shift towards demand-driven entry. The number of these visas granted was up 35 per cent on 2009–10 making this category more than three-quarters (78 per cent) of permanent skilled visas granted to Filipinos.
- The number of Filipinos granted General Skilled Migration visas decreased by 25 per cent. This fall was most pronounced among the State Sponsored category which went from 802 places in 2009–10 to 370 places.
- Accountants, software and applications programmers, and registered nurses were the main occupations among the primary applicants granted General Skilled Migration visas.

Family migration

Family migration facilitates the entry of close family members of Australian citizens, permanent residents and eligible New Zealand citizens. The program is currently dominated by Partners and dependent children, but also provides options for other family members, such as Carers, Parents and Aged Dependent Relatives. In 2010–11:

- 54 543 family visas were granted, with grants to Philippine nationals accounting for 5.4 per cent (2963 grants) of the total. This represents the fifth largest cohort of Family Stream migrants.
- Family visas granted to Philippine nationals fell 10 per cent, in line with the overall decrease in visas granted through the Family Stream (9.5 per cent).
- Partners of Australian residents accounted for 84 per cent of all family visas granted to Philippine nationals.

International students

The Student visa program consists of a range of visa categories that broadly correspond to education sectors. Students must study with an accredited education provider and in a course registered on the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students.

In 2010–11, Student visa grants fell for the second year in a row after 11 consecutive years of growth. The overall decline coincides with a number of factors including ongoing global financial uncertainty; college closures; the high value of the Australian dollar; the introduction of robust Student visa integrity measures; and changes to the Skilled Migration program. A consequence of this is that the stock of international students in Australia at 30 June 2011 fell by 13 per cent.

- In 2010–11, 3390 Philippine nationals were granted a Student visa, representing 1.4 per cent of the total granted that year. The Vocational Education and Training sector accounted for nearly half of all Student visa grants.
- Despite being a major source country for permanent migrants, the Philippines in 2010–11, ranked 19th as a provider of international students.
- In 2010–11, although overall student visa grants fell by 7.4 per cent, for Filipino nationals they rose 14 per cent (423 grants)—grants were 69 per cent higher than in 2007–08.
- At 30 June 2011, 4740 Filipino Student visa holders were in Australia, representing 1.4 per cent of all international students in Australia and making Filipinos the 16th largest group of international students.

Business (Long Stay) (subclass 457) workers

The subclass 457 visa program allows Australian employers to sponsor foreign workers for employment in management, professional, technical and skilled trades' positions. The program is demand-driven and highly responsive to Australian labour market conditions.

Business confidence returned in 2010–11 with an increase in the demand for foreign workers under this program despite the ongoing turbulence in the global economy. Grants for these visas increased by 33 per cent from 67 980 in 2009–10 to 90 120 in 2010–11.

In 2010–11:

- The Philippines was the fourth largest source of Australia's subclass 457 visa migrants after the United Kingdom, India and the United States of America. There were 5900 subclass 457 visas granted to Philippine nationals, representing 6.5 per cent of the total granted.
- While subclass 457 grants to Philippine nationals grew by 23 per cent, this recent increase among Filipinos did not offset the large decline that occurred in 2009–10. Grants are still 36 per cent lower than 2008–09 levels.
- Among the Filipino workers sponsored under this program, registered nurses, steel and welding trades workers and motor mechanics were the main occupations for which Australian employers recruited from the Philippines.

Visitors

In 2010–11, 36 937 Visitor visas were granted to Philippine nationals, representing a 7 per cent increase on the previous year.

4. Permanent departures

Table 5

In 2010–11, 646 Philippine-born permanent residents indicated at departure that they were leaving Australia permanently, with 41 per cent indicating they intended to return to the Philippines. Of these emigrants:

- 32 per cent were managers or professionals
- the largest proportion were emigrating from New South Wales (47 per cent) followed by Queensland (18 per cent).

5. State and territory summary

Table 5

New South Wales was the most common state of residence for Filipino-born persons, accounting for almost half (48 per cent) of Australia's Philippine-born population. This was double the number living in second-placed Victoria and triple the number living in third-placed Queensland.

Among more recent migrants the picture is more mixed. New South Wales leads the way with 35 per cent of family migrants, while Western Australia is most popular among the skilled migrant cohort, attracting 32 per cent of Skill Stream primary applicants in 2010–11.

Among temporary migrants a similar situation emerged. While nearly half of all international students from the Philippines were enrolling in an academic institution based in New South Wales, Western Australia attracted 4 in 10 subclass 457 visa workers from the Philippines.

Explanatory notes

- i. Unemployment rates for individual migrant countries are calculated from the monthly Australian Bureau of Statistics labour force survey (using published and unpublished data) and have been averaged across six months to account for monthly fluctuations and a small sample size. The national unemployment rate is the seasonally adjusted figure for November 2011.
- ii. Permanent additions are the sum of those granted a permanent residency visa while in Australia, and those granted a visa through an Australian mission abroad, who have entered Australia during the respective reporting period.
- iii. Australian residents are Australian citizens who reside in Australia and other permanent residents.
- iv. General Skilled Migration is the sum of total Skilled Family Sponsored, Skilled Independent and State/Territory Sponsored visas.
- v. Permanent departures are those who reported on their overseas departure card that they were leaving Australia permanently.

Further reading

This profile was prepared using information and statistics collated by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship from the following publications:

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

See: [Country, economy and regional information](#)

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

See: [Community Information Summaries](#)

International Monetary Fund

See: [Country Information](#)

Central Intelligence Agency

See: [World Fact Book 2011](#)

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

See: [Education at a Glance 2011: OECD Indicators](#)

United Nations Development Programme

See: [Human Development Report 2011](#)

World Bank

See: [The Migration and Remittances Factbook 2011](#)

Statistical tables—Philippines

Table 1: Economic and Human Development Indicators, 2011

	Australia	Philippines
Adult literacy (%)	99.0	92.6
Fertility rates (children per female)	1.8	3.2
GDP per capita, PPP (current international \$)	40 836	4 111
Life expectancy at birth (years)	81.9	68.7
Mean years of schooling	12	8.9
Human Development Index	0.93	0.64
Median age (years)	36.9	22.9
Population (millions)	22.6	101.8
Population growth, 2011 (%)	1.4	1.9

Source: Most data in this table comes from the UNDP *Human Development Report 2011*, the CIA *World Factbook* and, the International Monetary Fund, *World Economic Outlook Database September 2011*. Data on the size, growth and median age of Australia's population was sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Table 2: Number of persons granted a permanent Australian visa (by nationality), 2007–08 to 2010–11

	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11
Skilled migration				
Business Skills	4	10	7	2
Distinguished Talent	1	2	0	3
Employer Sponsored	1 172	3 078	4 509	6 097
General Skilled Migration				
Skilled Family Sponsored	1 279	987	304	588
Skilled Independent	1 152	1 196	1 210	789
State/Territory Sponsored	252	516	802	370
Total: Skilled visa grants	3 860	5 789	6 832	7 849
Skilled visas as a proportion of all permanent visas (%)	55	64	67	73
Family Migration				
Child	278	362	316	334
Partner	2 575	2 520	2 679	2 492
Parent	44	86	100	63
Preferential/Other Family	193	243	212	74
Total: Family visa grants	3 090	3 211	3 307	2 963
Family visas as a proportion of all permanent visas (%)	44	36	33	27
Special Eligibility				
Special Eligibility	6	1	21	13
Total - Permanent migrants	6 956	9 001	10 160	10 825

Source: Internal data collected by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

Table 3: Number of persons granted a temporary Australian visa (by nationality), 2007–08 to 2010–11

	2007–08	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11
International students				
English Language Intensive Course for Overseas Students	70	71	37	54
Schools	29	42	43	35
Vocational Education and Training	1 018	1 676	1 464	1 579
Higher Education	472	698	1 022	1 271
Postgraduate	41	44	82	55
Non-Award	12	44	38	75
AusAID/Defence	368	272	281	321
Total: International Student visa grants	2 010	2 847	2 967	3 390
Business (Long Stay) (subclass 457)	9 180	9 790	4 780	5 900
Visitors				
Tourist	25 167	23 329	26 469	28 467
Business visitor	7 409	5 766	6 144	6 923
Sponsored Family Visitor	1 702	1 780	1 879	1 539
Total: Visitor visa grants	34 278	30 875	34 492	36 937

Source: Internal data collected by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

Table 4: Main occupations among those granted a permanent (GSM) or temporary (subclass 457) visa, 2009–10 to 2010–11

	Business (Long Stay) (subclass 457)		General Skilled Migration	
	Temporary entry (employer sponsored)		Permanent entry (un-sponsored)	
2010–11	Registered nurses	250	Accountants	290
	Structural steel and welding trades workers	230	Software and applications programmers	90
	Motor mechanics	190	Registered nurses	50
	Software and applications programmers	140	Auditors, company secretaries and corporate treasurers	40
	Mechanical engineering draftspersons and technicians	90	Industrial, mechanical and production engineers	20
	Metal fitters and machinists	80	Other engineering professionals	20
	Sheetmetal trades workers	80	Civil engineering professionals	20
	Marine transport professionals	70	Electronics engineers	20
	Generalist medical practitioners	60	ICT business and systems analysts	10
	ICT business and systems analysts	50	Chemists, and food and wine scientists	10
2009–10	Registered nurses	220	Accountants	270
	Software and applications programmers	110	Software and applications programmers	150
	Structural steel and welding trades workers	100	Registered nurses	80
	Motor mechanics	70	Civil engineering professionals	50
	Metal fitters and machinists	60	Electronics engineers	40
	Generalist medical practitioners	50	Industrial, mechanical and production engineers	40
	Civil engineering professionals	30	Electrical engineers	30
	Ministers of religion	20	Chemical and materials engineers	20
	Mechanical engineering draftspersons and technicians	20	Pharmacists	20
	Marine transport professionals	20	Advertising and marketing professionals	20

Source: Internal data collected by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship.

Table 5: National geographical distribution, by country of birth and nationality

Philippines	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT
	Per cent							
Proportion of all persons counted in the Census, 2006	33	25	20	8	10	2	1	2
Proportion of all Philippine born counted in the Census, 2006	48	23	16	5	6	1	2	1
Geographical distribution, permanent additions 2010–11								
Skill Stream (primary)	19	15	20	5	32	1	6	2
Skill Stream (dependant)	16	14	20	4	37	1	6	2
Family Stream	35	19	22	8	12	1	3	1
Geographical distribution, temporary entrants 2010–11								
International students	48	18	15	5	7	0	4	4
Business (Long Stay) (subclass 457) visa	16	11	20	4	41	1	6	1
Permanent departures								
All Philippine-born permanent residents	47	17	18	3	12	0	2	2

Source: Information on migrants has come from internal data collected by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship. Information on the geographical distribution of the total population was sourced from the 2006 Census of Population and Housing.

Table 6: Philippines's migration ranking relative to other countries

	2009–10	2010–11
Philippine-born population in Australia	7	7
General Skilled Migration	7	7
Employer sponsored	4	2
Total Skilled Stream	5	4
Total Family Stream	4	5
International students	22	19
Business (Long Stay) (subclass 457) visa	5	4
Visitors	20	19

Source: All information refers to the number of visas granted that year and was sourced from internal data collected by the Department of Immigration and Citizenship, except for population in Australia which is sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics and refers to the stock of overseas-born persons in Australia at the time.