

Country Report

Australia

by

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INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND LABOUR MARKETS IN ASIA: AUSTRALIA COUNTRY PAPER 2006

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1 INTRODUCTION

Australia differs significantly from most other Asian countries with respect to its international migration experience. In particular, Australia has an extended history of an immigration program managed by the federal government and which has focused for most of its history on the encouragement of permanent settlement of families. While there has long been provision for workers in specialised areas to enter Australia on a temporary basis, this situation has changed in recent years (Hugo 1999a; Birrell 1999; Birrell and Healy 1997) with greater provision being made for non-permanent migration of workers in the immigration program. Australia is one of the few countries in the region, however, that has had, and is likely to continue to have, a sustained official program of attracting migrants to settle in Australia, albeit on a planned and selective basis. It also is one of the countries in the region most affected by migration with 23.1 percent (4,105,444 persons) of its population in 2001 being born overseas, 24.2 percent (2,367,300) of its work-force being overseas-born and in 2001, 19.8 percent of its population being Australia-born but having at least one of their parents born overseas. In addition, in mid 2005 more than half a million visitors and temporary residents were in Australia. Also, although Australia is best known as a country of immigration, it has a diaspora of around a million living in foreign nations, equivalent to around 5 percent of the national resident population.

This paper outlines some of the major changes which have occurred in the patterns and levels of migration in Australia in 2005. It also examines some of the major developments which have occurred in migration policy over this period. Australian data on migration is comprehensive with stocks being covered by a suite of questions in the quinquennial census, the most recent of which was held in 2001 (Hugo forthcoming). Flow data are also comprehensive with all persons entering and leaving Australia completing a card, and moves being divided into short term (less than one year), long term (temporary but for more than one year) or permanent (Hugo forthcoming).

1 DOMESTIC ECONOMY AND LABOUR MARKET

Australia has experienced an extended period of economic growth since the recession of 1990-91 when there was a decline in GDP. Table 1 shows that annual growth was over 3.6 percent between 1992 and 1999. In line with the global recession the Australian GDP growth fell to 2.7 percent in 2000-2001. However it subsequently recovered to over 3 percent and is one of the fastest growing of the OECD economies although it grew by only 2.4 percent in 2004-05.

Australia is a developed market economy dominated by its services sector which accounts for around two-thirds of GDP. Its agriculture and mining sectors account for only 7 percent of GDP but 57 percent of exports of goods and services. The relative size of its

manufacturing sector has declined over the last three decades and now accounts for only around 12 percent of GDP.

Table 1: Australia: Percentage Change in Real GDP 1979-2005
Source: OECD

Year	Real GDP	Year	Real GDP
1979-89 (Average)	3.3	1998	5.4
1990	1.4	1999	4.2
1991	-0.7	2000	3.3
1992	2.3	2001	2.7
1993	3.8	2002	3.4
1994	4.7	2003	3.3
1995	3.9	2004	3.8
1996	4.0	2004-5	2.4
1997	3.6		

The second half of the 1990s saw Australia's economy not experience as substantial a negative impact from the Asian economic crisis as was anticipated. Strong economic growth was maintained and exports to non-Asian markets increased to compensate for decreases in exports to Asia. GDP per capita increased from A\$27,549 in 1995-96 to 32,735 in 1999-2000 and 34,667 in 2001, 36,521 in 2002, 38,374 in 2003, 40,647 in 2004 and 42,214 in 2005. Inflation rates in Australia have been low in recent years, at 3.1 percent in 2003 and 2.4 percent in 2004 and 3 percent in 2005.

In the strong Australian economic performance since the mid 1990s a stubborn problem was the high level of unemployment, which was at 8.1 percent in 1995, 8.5 in 1996 and 8.4 in 1997. However, in 1998 it fell to 7.9 percent and thereafter fell to 7 percent in 1999 and 6.2 percent in 2000. It thereafter steadied and rose slightly to 6.6 percent in 2001 and in 2002 was 6.0 percent but sank to a 14 year low of 5.5 percent in 2004 and again to 5.1 percent in 2005.

Australia's population in mid 2005 was 20,328,600 representing 0.32 percent of the global population and Australia is currently the 52nd largest country in the world. Australia's population is currently (2004-05) growing at a rate of 1.2 percent per annum – around the rate of global population growth and one of the fastest in OECD nations. Of the population growth of 237,100 persons, some 46.4 percent was attributable to net migration gain (ABS 2005a).

2 INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND AUSTRALIA

The Stock of International Migrants in Australia

The main source of stock data on immigrants in Australia is the population census and recent census data were present in last year's report (Hugo 2005a, 3). The Australian Bureau

of Statistics (2005b) make annual estimates of the size of birthplace groups, the most recent of which are presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Australia: Estimated Resident Population, Country of Birth, 30 June 1996-2004

Source: ABS, 2005b, 35-36

Country of birth	1996	1998	2002	2003	2004	% CHANGE	
						2003-04	Average annual 1996-2004
Major regions							
Oceania and Antarctica	14 461 967	14 810 064	15 601 958	15 761 448	15 921 861	1.0	1.2
North-West Europe	1 520 841	1 504 859	1 477 198	1 478 995	1 485 422	0.5	-0.3
Southern and Eastern Europe	883 365	882 762	853 381	849 193	842 761	-0.8	-0.7
South-East Asia	497 811	515 528	560 273	580 144	599 453	3.3	2.3
North-East Asia	280 051	301 062	341 279	353 245	354 862	3.3	3.4
North Africa and Middle East	211 824	223 421	244 870	259 007	272 315	5.1	3.2
Southern and Central Asia	161 361	173 104	215 477	229 004	245 381	7.2	5.4
Sub-Saharan Africa	118 405	130 426	167 796	179 411	193 069	7.6	6.3
Americas	165 089	170 045	178 747	182 198	185 172	1.6	1.4
Total	18 310 714	18 711 271	19 640 979	19 872 646	20 111 297	1.2	1.2
United Kingdom	1 164 136	1 148 514	1 123 901	1 126 184	1 134 225	0.7	-0.3
New Zealand	315 054	331 540	413 734	428 025	442 189	3.3	4.3
Italy	259 126	251 165	235 168	231 616	227 942	-1.6	-1.6
China (excludes SARs and Taiwan Province)	121 145	134 994	184 939	173 067	181 987	5.2	5.2
Viet Nam	164 164	168 739	171 574	174 626	176 616	1.1	0.9
Greece	141 754	138 746	131 236	130 018	128 650	-1.1	-1.2
India	84 784	89 348	110 563	118 255	128 570	8.7	5.3
Philippines	102 675	105 515	115 792	120 087	125 144	4.2	2.5
Germany	120 755	119 684	117 051	116 605	116 066	-0.5	-0.5
South Africa	61 749	69 369	95 295	101 619	109 190	7.5	7.4
Malaysia	83 044	84 034	89 626	93 162	97 786	5.0	2.1
Netherlands	95 339	93 938	90 400	89 589	88 725	-1.0	-0.9
Lebanon	77 579	78 639	81 193	83 115	84 321	1.5	1.0
Hong Kong (SAR of China)	77 063	79 119	75 638	76 301	76 513	0.3	-0.1
Serbia and Montenegro	61 919	61 921	66 459	68 286	68 939	1.0	1.4
Sri Lanka	51 969	54 659	61 367	63 817	65 629	2.8	3.0
Indonesia	47 736	51 765	57 745	61 737	64 624	4.7	3.9
United States of America	54 308	56 642	60 155	61 485	62 553	1.7	1.8
Poland	70 897	68 496	63 260	62 238	61 272	-1.6	-1.8
Croatia	56 839	56 895	58 330	58 186	57 668	-0.9	0.2
Ireland	55 982	55 619	55 934	56 186	56 670	0.9	0.2
Fiji	40 489	43 028	50 849	53 062	54 949	3.8	3.9
Malta	55 630	53 924	51 090	50 593	50 063	-1.0	-1.3
Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	47 593	47 663	48 061	48 315	48 456	0.3	0.2
Korea, Republic of (South)	32 602	35 353	42 679	43 815	44 925	2.5	4.1
Singapore	31 393	33 621	37 916	40 332	43 057	6.8	4.0
Egypt	37 875	37 455	36 847	37 197	37 658	1.2	-0.1
Turkey	32 022	33 335	34 923	35 823	36 578	2.1	1.7
Iraq	15 459	21 157	28 809	32 981	35 413	7.4	10.9
Canada	27 432	28 747	31 050	31 693	32 182	1.5	2.0
Taiwan (Province of China)	21 244	23 919	28 754	30 083	30 705	2.1	4.7
Thailand	20 620	22 047	27 020	28 534	29 766	4.3	4.7
Japan	25 656	25 193	26 785	27 489	28 223	2.7	1.2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	19 174	25 433	27 384	27 459	27 445	-0.1	4.6
Cambodia	23 851	25 065	25 533	26 335	26 933	2.3	1.5
Papua New Guinea	26 376	26 005	25 988	26 138	26 213	0.3	-0.1
Chile	26 567	26 182	25 798	25 961	26 080	0.5	-0.2
Hungary	27 251	26 483	24 822	24 381	23 945	-1.8	-1.6
Iran	17 909	19 022	21 498	22 598	23 632	4.6	3.5
Cyprus	22 545	22 462	21 878	21 706	21 538	-0.8	-0.6

Table 2: Continued

Country of birth						% CHANGE	
	1996	1998	2002	2003	2004	2003-04	Average annual 1996-2004
Austria	22 664	22 129	21 138	20 963	20 735	-1.1	-1.1
France	17 037	17 863	19 257	19 534	19 795	1.3	1.9
Russian Federation	16 936	16 959	17 491	18 414	19 304	4.8	1.6
Mauritius	18 949	18 691	18 698	18 849	19 034	1.0	0.1
Zimbabwe	9 960	10 550	14 408	16 133	18 300	13.4	7.9
Portugal	18 533	18 379	17 625	17 575	17 494	-0.5	-0.7
Sudan	2 637	3 392	6 854	10 980	17 064	55.4	26.3
Samoa	10 924	12 073	15 351	15 923	16 641	4.5	5.4
Pakistan	9 162	10 134	14 127	15 195	16 583	9.1	7.7
Afghanistan	6 351	8 161	13 177	14 491	16 083	11.0	12.3
Romania	13 295	13 985	14 835	15 127	15 381	1.7	1.8
Ukraine	16 161	16 672	15 062	14 791	14 626	-1.1	-1.2
Spain	14 689	14 489	14 079	14 044	13 994	-0.4	-0.6
Czech Republic	13 816	13 417	13 131	13 019	12 865	-1.2	-0.9
Switzerland	10 945	11 586	12 293	12 474	12 569	0.8	1.7
Burma (Myanmar)	11 272	11 800	12 178	12 366	12 488	1.0	1.3
Argentina	11 909	11 866	11 894	12 066	12 447	3.2	0.6
Bangladesh	5 550	6 666	10 275	10 910	11 691	7.2	9.8
El Salvador	10 870	10 912	10 545	10 541	10 545	—	-0.4
Laos	11 079	10 795	10 434	10 437	10 448	0.1	-0.7
Uruguay	10 834	10 635	10 360	10 390	10 418	0.3	-0.5
East Timor	10 164	10 163	10 157	-0.1	—
Denmark	9 693	9 874	10 068	10 105	10 100	—	0.5
Kenya	5 924	6 280	8 068	8 887	9 684	9.0	6.3
Tonga	7 907	7 877	8 873	9 089	9 268	2.0	2.0
Finland	9 276	9 340	9 165	9 109	9 050	-0.6	-0.3
Syria	6 555	6 894	7 772	8 047	8 270	2.8	2.9
Israel	6 887	7 004	7 474	7 796	8 126	4.2	2.1
Sweden	6 527	6 954	7 616	7 768	7 969	2.6	2.5
Slovenia	8 256	7 899	7 273	7 135	6 993	-2.0	-2.1
Latvia	9 721	8 700	7 176	6 940	6 701	-3.4	-4.5
Peru	5 457	5 745	6 253	6 492	6 651	2.4	2.5
Ethiopia	2 662	3 240	4 475	5 301	6 301	18.9	11.4
Brazil	3 758	4 167	5 422	5 702	5 944	4.2	5.9
Slovakia	5 100	5 325	5 686	5 729	5 810	1.4	1.6
Australia	14 052 077	14 379 130	15 075 165	15 217 043	15 360 217	0.9	1.1
Total overseas-born	4 256 637	4 332 141	4 565 814	4 655 603	4 751 080	2.1	1.4
Total	18 310 714	18 711 271	19 640 979	19 872 646	20 111 297	1.2	1.2

.. not applicable

— nil or rounded to zero (including null cells)

The numbers of foreign-born persons in Australia was 4,751,080 in 2004 or 23.6 percent of the total population. One of the distinctive characteristics of Australia's immigrant intake is that no single birthplace tends to dominate that intake. Moreover, over the post-war period there have been a series of waves in which particular groups have made up a major part of the intake but then their numbers are substantially reduced and a new group becomes dominant. Underlying these waves has been a substantial flow from the United Kingdom but its significance has declined in recent years. Accordingly there are 112 different birthplace groups who have more than 100 residents in Australia.

Table 2 shows the patterns of change in the overseas-born population of Australia over the last decade. It will be noted that Europe and the former USSR account for 49.0 percent of

the Australian overseas-born and 25.1 percent were born in the United Kingdom and Ireland. A major milestone was reached in 2004 when for the first time for more than two centuries less than a half of Australia's overseas-born population was from Europe. It will be noted in Table 2 that both European groups have declined over the last decade although in recent years slow growth of the UK-born has resumed. On the other hand, the groups from Southeast Asia, Northeast Asia and Southern Asia grew by 2.3, 3.4 and 5.4 percent per annum respectively over the 1996-2004 period. The proportion of the Australian population born in Asia has increased from 1.78 percent (347,874 persons) in 1981 to 5.52 percent (1,070,900 persons) in 2001 and 6 percent (1,209,696 persons) in 2004. Hence a substantial change is occurring in the background of migrants settling in Australia.

Recent Trends in Settler Migration in Australia

Australia has an organised program for permanent settlement of immigrants. However people who enter Australia under its *Migration Program* are only one component of the contribution made by international migration to Australia's population growth. The other elements are:

- New Zealand migration, which refers to the arrival of New Zealanders under the Trans-Tasman Travel Agreement.
- Long-term visitors to the country.
- Emigration of residents.
- Category jumping from temporary and permanent residence.

The Migration Program operates within set levels and is made up of humanitarian and non-humanitarian programs. The composition of Australia's humanitarian program in recent years is shown in Table 3. This indicates that the total intake in 2004-05 was 13,178; slightly less than in the previous year (13,851) but more than in 2002-03 (12,525). The number of Asylum applications has reduced substantially in Australia with only one boat load (from Vietnam)

Table 3: Outcomes of Australia's Humanitarian Program by Component and Category from 1997-98 to 2003-04

Source: Rizvi 2002, p. 29; 2003, p. 47; 2004, p. 42 and 2005, p. 37

Component	Category	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05
	Refugee	4,010	3,988	3,802	3,997	4,160	4,376	4,134	5,511
Offshore	SHP	4,636	4,348	3,051	3,116	4,258	7,280	7,668	6,585
	SAC	1,821	1,190	649	879	40	-	-)
Onshore		1,588	1,834	2,458	5,741	3,891	866	2,047**) 1,082
Temporary Humanitarian					164	6	3	2)
Total		12,055	11,360	9,960*	13,773	12,349	12,525	13,851	13,178

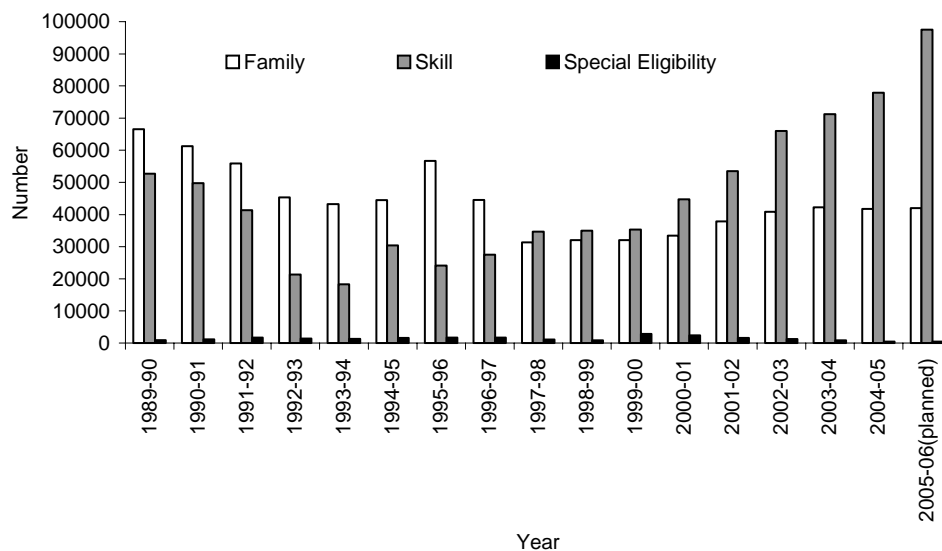
* In this year there were 5,000 temporary safe haven visas to Kosovars offshore (4,000) and Timorese (1,000).

** Includes 1,228 Onshore SHP visas granted to East Timorese under ministerial intervention powers.

arriving since December 2001, reflecting the impact of the government’s “Pacific Solution” and other deterrent policies. However there were 3,105 applications for Asylum from within Australia in 2004-05 (Rizvi 2004, p. 42).

The main elements in the non-humanitarian part of the program were outlined in the previous report (Hugo 2005a, 5). The 2004-05 migration program resulted in 120,060¹ non-humanitarian immigrants settling in Australia. This was the largest intake for over a decade and larger than 2003-04 (114,360). It was also the most number of skilled immigrants ever taken by Australia (Rizvi 2005, p. 13). The planning levels for 2005-06 have been set at 140,000 places (97,500 skill) (Rizvi 2005, p. 19). Figure 1 shows that there has been a substantial increase in skilled categories at the expense of family parts of the migration programme. This follows an increased national discourse on skill shortages.

Figure 1: Australia: Migration Program Outcomes by Stream, 1989 - 2005
 Source: DIMIA *Population Flows: Immigration Aspects*, various issues and Rizvi 2004, p. 14



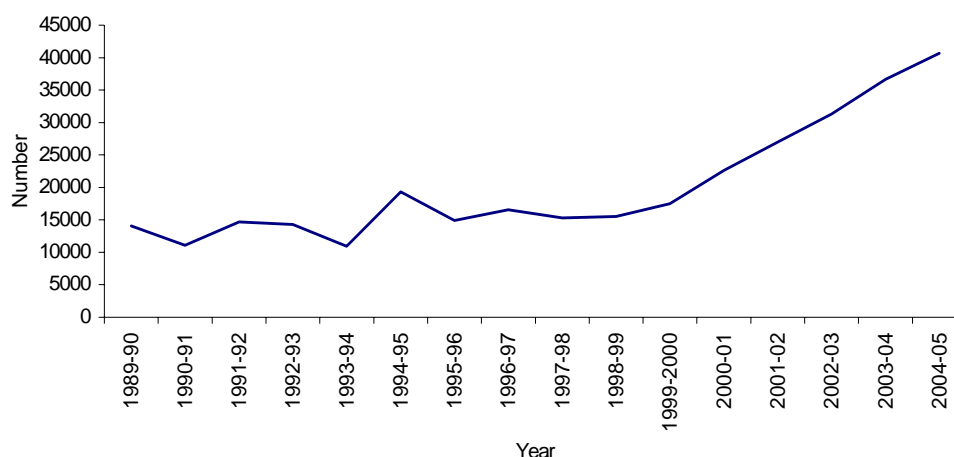
Another important aspect of Australia’s immigration programme in recent years is the increasing proportion of settlers to Australia who are “onshore” rather than “offshore” applicants. The conventional immigrant to Australia has applied for a settler visa at an overseas based Australian embassy or consulate, been assessed and granted a visa. However, in recent years there have been a number of major changes in the Australian immigration system. It is shown later in this report that there has been a major expansion of non

¹ This excludes New Zealanders (22,379 compared with 19,971 in 2003-04) who have special access and Refugee-Humanitarian Arrivals (13,178).

permanent migration to Australia and with it a significant increase in the numbers of “category jumpers” whereby people in Australia on temporary resident visas apply to settle permanently in Australia. Accordingly, Figure 2 shows that there has been an increase in the numbers of “onshore” settlers to Australia, reaching a record 40,682 in 2004-05 (39,600 non-humanitarian and 1,082 humanitarian).

Figure 2: Australia: Onshore Residence Visa Grants, 1989-90 to 2004-05

Source: DIMIA *Population Flows: Immigration Aspects*, various issues and Rizvi 2003, 2004 and 2005



State Specific and Regional Migration Schemes (SSRM)

The last few years have seen a more concerted effort by the Australian government to influence *where* immigrants settle than at any time since the intake of Displaced Persons in the immediate post World War II period. A range of mechanisms have been introduced to attract migrants to settle away from the major metropolitan destinations on the East Coast and in South West Australia (Hugo 2004b). It is apparent from Table 4 that there has been an increase in the number of visas granted under the SSRM schemes since their introduction in 1997-98.

Table 4: Number of Immigrants with Visas Granted under the State Regional Specific Migration Mechanisms and Their Proportion of the Total Intake 1997-98 to 2004-05

Source: DIMIA *Population Flows: Immigration Aspects*, various issues; DIMIA *Immigration Update*, various issues; DIMIA unpublished data

Year	Number	Percent of Total Intake
1997-98	1,753	2.3
1998-99	2,804	3.3
1999-2000	3,309	3.6
2000-01	3,846	3.6
2001-02	4,136	4.6

2002-03	7,941	8.5
2003-04	12,725	11.4
2004-05	18,697	15.2

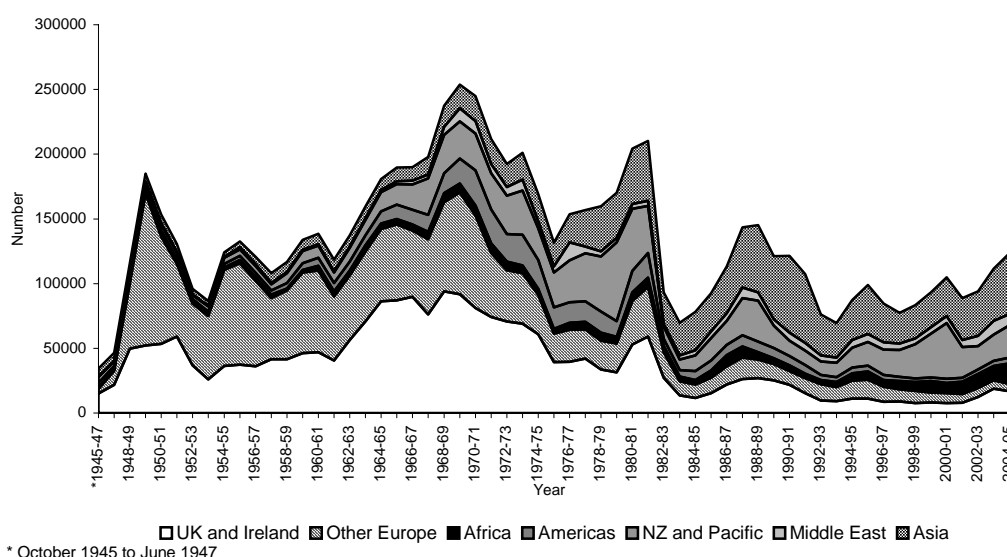
The proportion that they make up of the total program has also increased. The program has gathered particular momentum in the last two years with States like South Australia mounting substantial immigration activities. This marks two particular shifts from previous Australian immigration policy (Hugo 2005) ...

- The Australian states and territories are becoming increasingly involved in immigration which has in the past been almost totally a national government responsibility.
- Many of the SSRM migrants enter Australia as temporary residents then after a period (around 2 years) in which they demonstrate that they have adjusted to the labour market and more generally. They then are granted permanent residence. This system of people being initially granted temporary residence before being given permanent residence is increasing in significance in Australia.

Changes in Composition of Migration

There has been a substantial change in the origins of permanent settlers to Australia over the post-World War II period as Figure 3 shows. This indicates that the proportion of settlers

Figure 3: Australia: Settler Arrivals by Region of Last Residence, 1947-2005
 Source: DIMIA *Australian Immigration Consolidated Statistics and Immigration Update*, various issues; DIMIA unpublished data



coming from Europe has undergone a significant decline and the share from Asia has increased. In 2002-03 visas were granted to persons from 186 different nationalities (Rizvi, 2003, 23) and the leading 10 nationalities in 2003-04 and 2004-05 are listed in Table 5. It will be noted that

7 of these are Asian countries and China and India have in recent years become the dominant countries of origin of immigrants from Asia. This represents a substantial change with at

Table 5: Australia: Non Humanitarian Migration: Top 10 Source Countries 2003-04 and 2004-05

Source: Rizvi, 2004, p. 16; 2005, p. 15

Country	Outcome		Percent of Total	
	2003-04	2004-05	2003-04	2004-05
United Kingdom	22,090	25,950	19.3	21.6
PRC	13,650	13,980	11.9	11.6
India	11,220	11,820	9.8	9.8
South Africa, Republic of	6,390	4,750	5.6	4.0
Philippines	4,620	4,570	4.0	3.8
Malaysia	4,190	4,490	3.7	3.7
Indonesia	3,690	2,900	3.2	2.4
Singapore	3,380	3,560	3.0	3.0
USA	2,940	2,880	2.6	2.4
Korea, Republic of	2,900	3,530	2.5	2.9

various times Vietnam, Malaysia, Philippines and Hong Kong being the largest contribution (Hugo 2003). The numbers among each Asian country are presented in Table 6. In 2004-05 there were 70,432 additions to the Australian population from Asia – 42.1 percent of the total for that year. They were made up of 48,384 permanent settler arrivals from temporary to permanent residence (50.1 percent of the total).

Table 6: Australia: Permanent Additions to the Population from Asia, 2004-05

Source: DIMIA, 2005

				South and							
Southeast Asia			Total Onshore Arrivals	Northeast Asia			Total Onshore Arrivals	Central Asia		Total Onshore Arrivals	
Burma	519	102	417	China	15,997	4,902	11,095	Afghanistan	1,557	26	1,531
Cambodia	699	69	630	Hong Kong	2,534	1,261	2,534	Bangladesh	1,432	662	770
Indonesia	3,932	2,002	1,930	Japan	1,863	1,114	749	India	12,878	3,464	9,414
Malaysia	4,796	1,860	2,936	Korea, Republic of	3,549	1,761	1,788	Nepal	566	264	302
Philippines	5,007	768	4,239	Taiwan	1,321	545	776	Pakistan	1,723	375	1,348
Singapore	4,087	1,051	3,036	Other	78	32	46	Sri Lanka	3,070	758	2,312
Thailand	1,865	588	1,277	Total	25,342	9,615	15,727	Other	159	27	132
Vietnam	2,519	316	2,203					Total	21,405	5,576	15,809
Other	261	61	200								
Total	23,685	6,817	16,868								

Trends in Long-Term and Short-Term Movement

Over recent times new visa types involving temporary migration have been created, especially those involving temporary migration for work (Birrell and Healy 1997). Table 7

shows that over the last two decades there has been a shift in overseas movement to Australia and it will be noticed that while there has been an increase in all categories of movement the

Table 7: Growth of Population Movement Into and Out of Australia, 1982-83 to 2004-05

Source: Bureau of Immigration and Population Research 1993; DIMIA, 2005

	1982-83	2004-05	Percent Growth 1982-2004
<i>Arrivals</i>			
Permanent	83,010	123,424	48.7
Long-term			
- residents	48,990	101,301	106.8
- visitors	30,740	202,195	647.8
- total	79,730	303,496	280.7
Short-term			
- residents	1,240,800	4,542,000	266.1
- visitors	930,400	5,408,000	481.3
- total	2,171,200	9,950,000	358.3
<i>Departures</i>			
Permanent	24,830	62,606	152.1
Long-term			
- residents	47,020	91,635	94.9
- visitors	25,440	94,707	272.3
- total	72,460	186,342	157.2
Short-term			
- residents	1,259,100	4,591,000	264.6
- visitors	907,500	5,458,000	501.4
- total	2,166,600	10,049,000	363.8

least substantial gain has been in the permanent arrivals. Most substantial gains were received in the various temporary categories. The level of participation of Asian countries in non permanent arrivals is shown in Table 8. Asians make up only 27.9 percent of temporary resident arrivals who are mainly long term temporary business entrants (Visa Category 457) and Working Holiday Makers. Moreover more than half of these come from Japan and Korea. This contrasts with the pattern for permanent arrivals. The picture is quite different among student arrivals, 75.6 percent of whom come from Asia – a fifth from China alone. Among visitor arrivals (many tourists and short term business visitors) around a half come from Asia (50.8 percent) with 17.8 percent coming from Japan alone.

Table 8: Australia: Non Permanent Arrivals from Asia, 2004-05
Source: DIMIA, 2005

	Temporary Residents		Student Arrivals		Visitor Arrivals	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Southeast Asia						
Indonesia	2,766	1.0	18,326	6.4	57,787	1.6
Malaysia	3,304	1.1	23,385	8.1	156,509	4.2
Philippines	2,510	0.9	-	-	32,123	0.9
Singapore	3,946	1.4	14,265	4.9	158,229	4.3
Thailand	1,869	0.6	13,098	4.5	56,199	1.5
Vietnam	579	0.2	3,846	1.3	-	-
Other	523	0.2	3,350	1.2	26,864	0.6
Total	15,497	5.4	76,270	26.4	487,711	13.1
Northeast Asia						
China	7,308	2.5	58,384	20.2	253,736	6.8
Hong Kong SAR	1,584	0.5	18,085	6.3	76,292	2.1
Japan	23,626	8.2	14,327	5.0	662,446	17.8
Korea	19,932	6.9	18,871	6.5	213,294	5.7
Taiwan	1,175	0.4	8,031	2.8	98,281	2.6
Other	11	-	673	0.2	2,286	0.2
Total	53,636	18.5	118,371	41.0	1,306,335	35.2
South and Central Asia						
Bangladesh	-	-	3,271	1.1	-	-
India	9,311	3.2	15,876	5.5	69,489	1.9
Sri Lanka	-	-	-	-	12,258	0.3
Other	2,155	0.8	4,549	1.6	10,503	0.3
Total	11,466	4.0	23,696	8.2	91,083	2.5
Total	289,394	100.0	288,425	100.0	3,714,149	100.0

Australia has long had an emphasis on attracting permanent settlers to the country and a strongly expressed opposition to attracting temporary and contract workers. During the labour shortage years of the 1950s and 1960s Australia's migration solution to the problem contrasted sharply with that of European nations like Germany and France when it opted to concentrate on attracting permanent migrants to meet worker shortages rather than contract workers. However since the mid 1990s attitudes have changed in Australia and it has been recognised that in the context of globalised labour markets it is essential to have mechanisms to allow non-permanent entry of workers in certain groups. Nevertheless, this form of entry has not been extended to unskilled and low-skilled areas and has been open to people with particular skills and entrepreneurs.

A key point is that in mid 2005 there were a stock of 599,629 temporary entrants in Australia and Table 9 shows that half of these were Asians. Almost half of them were students.

Table 9: Australia: Stock of Temporary Entrants from Asia, June 2005
Source: DIMIA, 2005

Country of Birth	Students	Temporary Residents	Visitors	Total
Southeast Asia				
Indonesia	9,827	1,080	5,172	19,148
Malaysia	11,795	1,678	6,552	21,914
Philippines	1,095	1,736	4,490	9,945
Singapore	5,224	1,528	4,500	12,090
Thailand	7,494	831	2,744	12,565
Vietnam	3,425	-	1,849	6,689
Other	1,129	689	769	2,805
Total	39,989	7,542	26,076	85,156
Northeast Asia				
China	39,742	3,868	13,609	65,064
Hong Kong	10,662	672	4,615	17,109
Japan	8,933	12,504	8,944	32,295
Korea	13,993	14,470	8,080	40,026
Taiwan	3,850	633	3,203	8,377
Other	484	19	153	807
Total	77,664	32,166	38,604	163,678
South and Central Asia				
India	17,034	5,947	5,952	32,838
Nepal	646	-	-	-
Pakistan	1,357	418	-	-
Sri Lanka	2,607	664	1,403	6,433
Other	5,118	477	1,279	11,676
Total	26,762	7,506	8,634	50,947
Total	144,415	47,214	73,314	299,781
Percent	74.9	31.5	40.2	50.0

Emigration

There is a tendency for Australia to be categorised as a purely immigration country but, in fact, it is also a country of significant emigration and over recent years departures on a permanent or long-term basis have been very substantial. In 2001-02 permanent departures numbered 48,241 compared with an average of 30,539 over the previous 14 years. In 2002-03 there was a further 4.6 percent increase in outflow, which reached 50,463 persons. In 2003-04 there was an even greater increase of 17 percent to 59,078 and in 2004-05 by a further 6 percent to 62,606. Moreover, the proportion of the departures made up of Australian born persons has increased more rapidly than the total inflow. The numbers of Australian born leaving permanently has doubled in the last five years and in 2004-05 they made up a half of permanent departures. A similar pattern is evident in long term emigration.

Future Immigration

Australia's immigration is a highly planned programme and Table 10 shows the planning levels for the various categories of non humanitarian settler entry in 2005-06. Again the increasing importance of skill and economic focus in the programme is evident. Whereas in 2003-04 the planning level was 106,500-116,500 and that for 2004-05 was 120,000, in 2005-06 it is 142,000. Family migration remains at 42,000 and there was an increase in the total skill program from 63,300 in 2003-04 to 72,100 in 2004-05 and 97,500 in 2005-06. This reflects the increasing tempo of discussion in Australia about skill shortage in Australia.

Table 10: Planning Level for 2005-06 Migration (Non-Humanitarian) Program
Source: Rizvi 2005, p.19

Category	Top of the Planning Range Outcome
Spouse/Interdependent	27700
Fiancé	5600
Child	2500
Preferential/Other Family	1700
Parent	4500
Total Family	42000
Employer Sponsored	15000
Skilled Independent	49200
State/Territory Regional Sponsored	10000
Skilled Australian Sponsored	17700
Distinguished Talent	200
Business Skills	5400
Total Skill	97500
Special Eligibility	500
Program – Planning Range	130000 - 140000
Program – likely outcome	140000

In 2005 the Australian government requested the Productivity Commission to undertake a study of the impact that migration and population growth have on the nation's productivity and economic growth. It has produced a position paper (Productivity Commission 2006) for comment. Among other things, the study uses a general equilibrium model to simulate the impact of a 50 percent increase in skilled migration on productivity and economic performance over the next twenty years.

Labour Market Performance of Migrants

Some of the most influential research which has shaped the Australian immigration program over recent years is that relating to the labour market performance of migrants (Hawthorne 2005). Indeed one of the striking features of recent years has been that while the

labour market performance of recent immigrants in the other major “traditional” immigrant countries Canada and the United States of America has diminished, that of Australian recent immigrants has improved. Due to the age selection of immigrant settlers and the economic focus in immigrant selection the proportion of immigrants in the workforce has been greater than their proportion in the population as a whole for the bulk of the post-war years (NPI 1975). In August 2005 the overseas-born made up 24.9 percent of the workforce compared with 23 percent of the total population. However, as Table 11 indicates, their participation rates are lower than those of the Australia-born. However, because many of the children of the

Table 11: Australia: Labour Force Statistics August 2005
Source: Rizvi 2005, 49

Birthplace	Employed (‘000s)	Unemployed (‘000s)	Unemployment Rate (%)	Participation Rate (%)
Australia-born				
Male	4099.1	205.2	4.8	75.0
Female	3393.6	172.8	4.8	60.7
Total	7492.7	378.0	4.8	67.7
MESC-born				
Male	589.6	22.2	3.6	71.2
Female	455.9	16.7	3.5	56.7
Total	1045.5	38.9	3.6	64.1
NESC-born				
Male	809.4	44.1	5.2	63.1
Female	629.1	40.3	6.0	46.4
Total	1438.5	84.4	5.5	54.5
Total				
Male	5498.1	271.5	4.7	71.7
Female	4478.6	229.8	4.9	56.7
Total	9976.7	501.3	4.8	64.1

overseas-born are Australia-born the overseas-born represent a higher proportion of the workforce than of the total population. In the past, people with limited ability to speak English have had difficulty in entering the Australian labour market (Wooden *et al.* 1994) so it is of relevance to consider the overseas-born in terms of those from Mainly English Speaking nations and those from Non-English Speaking (NES) countries. The former make up 10.5 percent of the total Australian workforce while the latter are 14.4 percent. It is notable in Table 11 that the participation rates are lower among the NES than in the MES, reflecting their greater difficulty in entering the labour market. This is also reflected in higher levels of unemployment among the NES. Indeed, the MES had a lower level of unemployment than

the Australia-born workforce. There are, of course, considerable variations between individual birthplace groups in their labour force participation (Hugo 1999b; Richardson, Robertson and Ilesley 2001) as there are between different visa categories of settlers.

Migration and Development

A significant shift in the international discourse on migration in recent years. Until recently the overwhelmingly dominant discourse in relation to south-north migration has been of the “brain drain” of selective emigration from poor countries whose development suffers from the loss of scarce highly trained people (Adams 2003). The pejorative focus was strengthened by discussions of people smuggling and trafficking. However, there has been increasing acknowledgement that the effects of migration are more complex and indeed that emigration can have positive impacts in origin areas. Moreover, it is argued that policy interventions at both origin and destination can facilitate the positive effects and ameliorate the negative impacts on origin nations (Adams 2003; Ellerman 2003; Hugo 2003b; Asian Development Bank 2004; House of Commons 2004; Martin 2004; Lucas 2004; Newland 2004; Johnson and Sedaca 2004; IOM 2005; World Bank, 2005).

The focus in the migration and development literature is largely on what Less Developed origin countries can do to enhance the contribution of their expatriates to economic and social development at home. However, since OECD nations like Australia espouse a wish to encourage and facilitate the progress of less developed nations, it is important to ask whether in destination countries there are some policies and programs relating to migration and the diaspora which can facilitate and enhance their positive developmental impacts in origin areas. There are two particular barriers to destination nations becoming more “development friendly” in their immigration policy ...

- a strong tradition of immigration policy being conceived in relatively narrow national interest terms.
- the siloization of government policy making and practice which separates immigration and development assistance activities.

Nevertheless in line with the increasing global significance of migration and development discussions, the issue has been raised in Australia during 2005. The following issues have been especially prominent (Hugo 2005c) ...

- Whether Australia should consider modification of its immigration policy and allow temporary migration of particular groups of *unskilled* migrants. Such programs to be focused on neighbouring countries where it has been shown that remittances can and do have significant positive effects (especially the Pacific and East Timor).
- Whether the impacts of climate change effects on low lying countries needs to be factored into immigration policy.

It has been suggested that it may be that injecting a “development friendly” component into immigration decision making discussions could have “win-win” results for both origin and destination country.

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